



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 1

2nd of March 2012

Editorial Preface

Chess Evolution Weekly Newsletter (CEWN) is here!

In the beginning of February, during my stay in Budapest, I had a few nice dinners with my “old” friend Balogh Csaba. In our talks about the Chess Evolution books, and what changes could be made in the future for their improvement, we came to the idea to create a “light version” product for a larger audience, aiming to help the chess development of the “chess lovers” of all levels.

This is how the idea of CEWN was born. Of course the road from an idea to a complete product was long, it required a lot of work and will require even more in the future as it has to be updated every week. But we are both very enthusiastic about CEWN and we truly believe it is going to be a great addition to any chess player’s daily fun! For that we promise our readers a full dedication, bringing you the most exciting read in your email every week. You can judge for yourself whether our efforts are worthy by yourselves after the first issue of CEWN J

To make it especially enjoyable for our readers, we decided to start with six different languages, as we believe that reading in the mother language is a lovely extra for every chess fan.

In our weekly newsletter we will try to be creative and not only present “dry” chess material, but interesting articles, making the reading experience enjoyable for all. Readers will be able to find four of the most interesting games from the past week, a rare game from a World Champion

combined with a nice puzzle section, plus endgame lectures and a surprise section that will change every week.

Enjoy!

The most important events of the Chess Week

1. German Bundesliga, rounds 11 to 15

My club Baden-Baden continues its domination in the German Bundesliga with 1 point lead ahead of Bremen. Next weekend, March 17th and 18th, will take place the clash between the two teams and we can expect a very exciting battle for the pole position. The surprising team of Eppingen, which has been sharing until the last round the 2nd place with Bremen, lost surprisingly to the team of Hamburg and is now without chances to reach the golden medals.

1. OSG Baden-Baden 20
2. Werder Bremen 19
3. SC Eppingen 17
4. SG Solingen 15
5. SF Katernberg 15
6. SG Trier 13
7. SV Wattenscheid 13
8. SV 1930 Hockenheim 11
9. SF Berlin 11
10. Mülheim Nord 10
11. Turm Emsdetten 8
12. SK König Tegel 7
13. Hamburger SK 6
14. SC Hansa Dortmund 5

15. USV TU Dresden 4
16. SC Remagen 2

2. Polish Championships 2012

A particularly exciting event with a dramatic finish came to an end. Mateusz Bartel and Bartłomiej Macieja shared the first place with the amazing score of 7 out of 9. In the tiebreak luck was on the side of Bartel, who makes with this result his hat-trick at the Polish Championship. Just a few weeks ago Mateusz managed to win the Aeroflot Open and qualified with it for the Super Tournament in Dortmund. An amazing year for the Polish GM!! For that we have dedicated a special featured game by the champion in this first edition of CEWN.

The clear 3rd place in the tournament was taken by Miton Kamil with 6,5 and 4th is Radosław Wojtaszek with 6 points.

- 1-2. GM Bartel Mateusz 2658 and GM Macieja Bartłomiej 2617 — 7.0
3. GM Miton Kamil 2623 — 6.5
4. GM Wojtaszek Radosław 2706 — 6.0

In the female section the first place was shared as well. Rajlich Iweta and Majdan-Gajewska Joanna finished with 6 points from 9, the 3rd place went to Zawadzka Jolanta with 5,5.

- 1-2. IM Rajlich Iweta 2428 and WGM Majdan-Gajewska Joanna 2387 — 6.0
3. WGM Zawadzka Jolanta 2358 — 5.5

- 4-7. WGM Jaracz Barbara 2281, WIM Worek Joanna 2234, WFM Kulon Klaudia 2238 and WGM Szczepkowska-Horowska Karina 2377 — 5.0
8. WFM Iwanow Anna 2180 — 3.5
- 9-10. Chrzęszcz Malvina 2074 and WIM Matras-Clement Agnieszka 2305 — 2.0

Arkadij Naiditsch

4 best games of the past week

(1) Naumann,Alexander (2546) – Rapport,Richard (2547) [E62]

Schachbundesliga 2011/2012 (11), 26.02.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

After checking numerous games, Arkadij and I agreed without any doubts, that the following game was the best of the week. The White player is a solid GM from Germany, Alexander Naumann, while Black is the 2nd youngest grandmaster in the World, Richard Rapport! He is currently the prodigy of Hungary, and is only 16 years old. In a very complicated and difficult middlegame, both players found the strongest moves and the game finished with a spectacular perpetual check. Let's get it on!

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** g6 **3.♗f3** ♙g7 **4.g3** 0–0 **5.♙g2** d6 **6.0–0** ♘c6 **7.♘c3** The starting position of the King's Indian defence, 4.g3 system. Black has many different setups, from which, the main move is 7... a6, with the same idea as the text move, preparing for queenside action with b5.

7...♖b8 **8.h3** After preventing ♙g4, White wants to occupy the center with e4. [8.e4 ♙g4]

8...♙f5 A very rare move! According to my database, only 9 times it has been tried before. The idea is simply to stop e4. [The main move is 8...a6 9.e4 b5 with very long theory, and hundreds of games.]

9.d5 ♘a5 **10.♘d2** Logical reaction by White. He sends the knight to the edge of the board, where in general it is poorly placed, and at the same time, he wants to push e4

with tempo. **10...c5!** Black prepares for counterattack on the queenside with a6 and b5. He tries to give a role for his knight on a5.

11.e4 ♙d7 **12.♙c2** a6 **13.b3!** For White it is necessary to hold the c4 pawn. If Black could force him to take on b5, then he would achieve big advantage. However, if White manages to keep his structure, then the a5 knight will be out of the game forever.

13...b5 **14.♖b1** ♘h5 **15.♙b2** e5! After White successfully stabilized the queenside pawn structure, Black is forced to find another plan. Rapport finds an excellent way to do this, he organizes his play on the kingside.

16.♘e2 f5! **17.f4!**



The tension has grown to the maximum! All the pawns and pieces have prepared for the battle. So it is time for immediate action!

17...bxc4 **18.bxc4**



18... ♖xb2!! A fantastic intuitive exchange sacrifice by Rapport! He wants to clarify the situation and opens up the center for his bishops, in order to launch a mating attack. The value of the King's Indian bishop on g7 will be much higher than the rook on b2.

19. ♖xb2 exf4 20. gxf4 fxe4 21. ♘xe4 ♔h4!? Black could have reset the material equality, but he prefers to save his bishop for the attack! [21... ♗xb2 22. ♔xb2 would lead to more or less balanced position in both lines. 22... ♔e7 (22... ♘xc4 23. ♔c3 ♘b6 24. ♘xd6) 23. ♔c3 ∞]

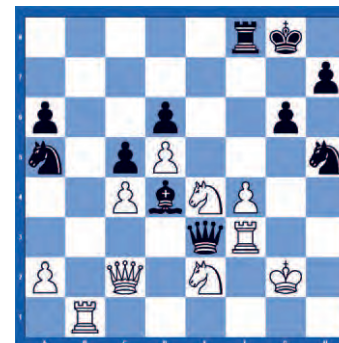
22. ♖bb1 Naumann tries to save his exchange advantage for the future, but with this he gives an important tempo to his opponent. **22... ♗xh3 23. ♗xh3 ♔xh3** Only the a5 knight seems to be out of the game, but it has a very important role, to prevent White from playing ♖b3, bringing in this way an important defender around his king.

24. ♖f2! The only move! Tries to protect the king. **24... ♔e3!?** Very talented and resourceful idea. He had to foresee his 26th move and, and also the consequences of it.

25. ♔g2 White threatens to trap the queen with ♖f3, however, Rapport had this idea in mind.

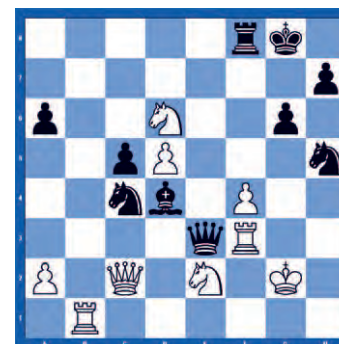
25... ♗d4! [25... ♘xf4+? 26. ♘xf4 ♖xf4 27. ♖b8+ suddenly Black king would get into danger.]

26. ♖f3 Seems like, Black can resign, but...



26... ♘xc4!! Lightning from a clear sky! White cannot accept any of the hanging pieces because he would lose more material. However, he also comes up with a brilliant idea!

27. ♘xd6!! Naumann tries to lure the knight, if he manages then the queen could be taken. Meanwhile, he threatens to take on c4 with both pieces, since e4 is not hanging anymore. So, Black needs to act urgently! [27. ♔xc4? ♔xe4--+; 27. ♖xe3?? ♘xe3+++]]



27...♖xf4!! Amazing! Another sacrifice!! Let's count! From White's point of view, his rook and knight are hanging, while on the other side queen, rook, and knight are in the air.

28.♘xf4! White chooses to take the right piece!

28...♘xf4+ 29.♖xf4 ♕xf4 30.♘xc4 ♕g4+! And after a plenty of only moves by both sides, White ended up with a rook more, but Black can give perpetual check with the cooperation of his remaining pieces.

31.♔h2 [31.♔f1 White cannot escape this way 31...♕g1+ 32.♔e2 ♕f2+ 33.♔d1 ♕f1+ 34.♔d2 ♕f2+ 35.♔c1 (35.♔d3 ♕f5+=) 35...♕e1+ 36.♕d1 ♕c3+ 37.♕c2=]

31...♕h4+ 32.♔g2 ♕g4+ 33.♔h2 ♕h4+ 34.♔g2 ♕g4+

Draw! A very exciting game, where both players deserved to get the full point, but unfortunately it was not possible for any of the sides, they had to share it. My experience strangely shows that in games likes this, when all the pieces are hanging, there is very high percentage for draws. But in any case a fantastic game, truly deserving to win the title game of the month! **1/2**

(2) Lauber,Arnd (2464) – Baramidze,David (2591) [E50]

BL 2011/2012 (11), 26.02.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

1.d4 We do not witness often a win for black in “Nimzo” in 24 moves! For this help from White is needed and of course a great play by Black. In the current game White problems are starting by being greedy with 9. dxe5 e 10. ♖xe5. On this Black reacts with the right idea, but a wrong concrete play giving White a chance for a great tactical blow 12. ♗xf7!!.. Instead White is choosing the wrong 12. ♗xd7 and getting very quickly under deadly attack. Let’s see details of how the game developed.

1...♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♕b4 4.e3 More usual is the move order 4...0–0, and at 5. ♗f3 c5. In the current game it makes no difference, but in general it could...

4...c5 Back to the main lines, another option for White is

5.♗f3 [5.♗ge2 cxd4 6.exd4 0–0 7.a3 ♕e7 8.♗f4∞]

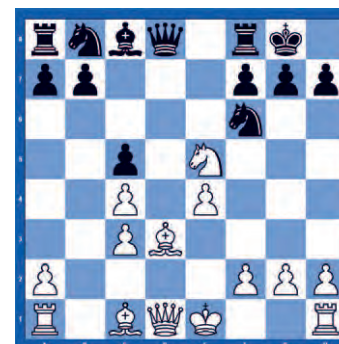
5...0–0 6.♕d3 ♕xc3+?! I don’t think this can be the right desicion. Black is giving away his bishop and White has not even asked Black for it by playing a3. We can find thousands of games played after [6...d5 7.0–0 ♗c6].

7.bxc3 d6 8.e4 White is too impatient. Better is first to wait for the Black knight to come out to c6 and then play e4, and at Black’s e5 to have d5 with a tempo. [8.0–0 ♗c6 9.e4 e5 (9...cxd4 10.cxd4 e5 11.d5 ♗b4 12.c5!± a very important move, in case Black would have managed to play ♗d7 and made the blockade on c5, Black would have been the one smiling) 10.d5 ♗e7 11.♗h4! In this type of

positions it is usually important to start first some action on the king side. 11...♗g6 12.♗xg6 hxg6 13.♕g5±]

8...e5 9.dxe5?! This is a very concrete play, but a serious mistake. Better would have been of course to move 9.d5 and White might be still a bit better. [9.0–0?! cxd4 10.cxd4 ♕g4 And only Black can be better; 9.d5 ♗bd7 10.0–0 ♗h5∞]

9...dxe5 10.♗xe5



Who said A must say B. [10.0–0 ♗c6 still probably with more or less equal position.]

10...♖e8?! The most logical, but not the correct one. Here we see a clear example of how vast the game of chess is. Probably almost all of us would have played here the move that we see in the game and eventually would have ended up with a 0 instead of having a stable advantage and push for a full point. [10...♔d6! a hard move to find over the board. 11.f4

a) 11.♗f3 ♖d8! Here we can see the idea of 10...♔d6 12.♕e2 (12.e5 ♔xd3 13.♔xd3 ♖xd3 14.exf6 ♖xc3± con With a big and clear advantage in the endgame) 12... ♔xd1+ 13.♕xd1 ♗xe4 14.♕c2 ♖e8 15.♕e3 ♗c6 16.0–

0 b6± White's position is really unpleasant and probably the pawn on c3 will fall soon. Not often we can see the case when the combination of ♖+♘ is dominating against ♖+♖, of course White's horrible pawn structure is heping that.

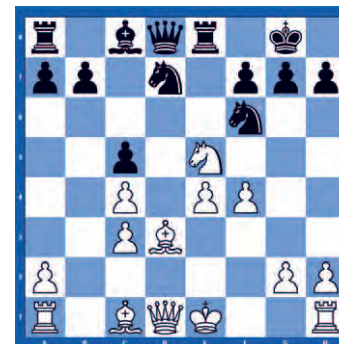
b) 11. ♖f4 ♖e8 12. ♖c2



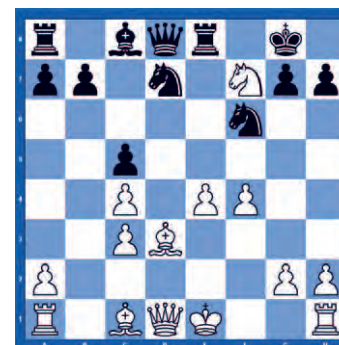
12...♖c7! A silent but very strong move. White cannot save the exchange of two light pieces against the Black's rook, which gives Black a clear advantage 13.0-0 ♖xe5 14. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 15. ♖d8+ ♖e8 16. ♖fd1 ♘c6 17. ♖c7 ♖g4 18.f3 ♖c8±; 11...♘c6 Black needs to act very quickly, not giving White a "free" move to castle. 12.0-0 (12.♘xc6 ♖xc6 13.0-0 ♘xe4±) 12...♘xe5 13.fxe5 ♖xe5 14. ♖e1 g5!± Amazing move! Not often we can see moves like that, but in the concrete situation it is giving Black a stable advantage. With the move 14...g5 Black is not letting White's bishop out of c1 to f4, which is disturbing White's development. Black's idea is easy, to be safe on the king-side and by playing ♖d7-c6, ♖ae8 eat away White's pawn on e4. But of course a move like "g5" is clearly a move from the category "don't try this at home".

11.f4 [11. ♖f4 ♖c7±]

11...♘bd7



12.♘xd7? Giving away a sudden chance. [12.♘xf7!



A fantastic move! White is giving away a piece for just a pawn, but getting in exchange enough time to castle and now be the one with dangerous threats! 12...♖xf7 13.0-0 Due to many tactical threats, Black is not able to keep a piece up, even to give it back for 2 pawns. Now we can feel clearly the power of White's bishop pair combined with White's central pawns! 13...♖g8 14.e5 b6± It might be that Black has chances for escaping, but White is doing clearly much better.]

12...♖xe4! A great move based on exact calculation. [12... ♖xd7? 13.e5 and White is just a pawn up.]

13. ♘e5 Probably better chances for escape would give [13.0-0 ♙xd7 14. ♖e1 ♙c6+ White's position is very bad, but still not lost.]

13... ♚h4+ 14.g3 ♘xg3 15.hxg3 [15. ♖g1 ♘e4++]

15... ♙xh1+ 16. ♔d2 ♙xd1+! The most simple win.
17. ♙xd1



17...f6! The key move of Black's idea started with 12... ♘xe4! White's knight does not have other squares for escape than to go back to f3, which is giving enough time to create deadly threats.

18. ♘f3 ♙g4 19. ♙e2 ♖ad8+ 20. ♙d2



20... ♖d7! White is not able to defend one of his bishops, which is leading to immediate loss of the game.

21. ♖b1 ♖de7 22. ♘g1 ♙xe2+ 23. ♘xe2 ♖xe2 24. ♖xb7 ♖g2 0-1

(3) Bartel,Mateusz (2658) – Markowski,Tomasz (2612) [B40]

Polish-ch Warsaw POL (9), 26.02.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

The second game that we will look into this edition of CEWN is from the last round of the Polish individual Championship. Bartel had to win, in order to win the event. His opponent was the strong and experienced GM Tomasz Markowski. Bartel played the game with huge self-confidence because he has just won the strongest open of the season - Aeroflot Open in Moscow. Let's enjoy the game!

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.♘c3 a6 4.g3 White decides to play a non-theoretical position to force his opponent into thinking right from the start of the game.

4...b5 5.♙g2 ♙b7 6.d3 d6 7.0-0 ♘f6 [Practice shows that it is better to start with 7...♙e7 to prevent White's next move.]

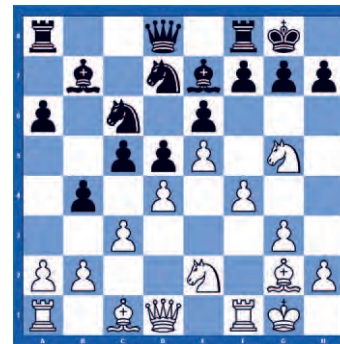
8.♘g5! White lunches immediate attack, frees the way for his f-pawn.

8...♘c6 9.f4 ♙e7 10.♘e2 White wants to occupy the center with his pawns. He is intending to play c3 and then d4.

10...0-0 11.c3 d5 Markowski wants to open up the position, but of course Bartel is not partner in this plan. White has to keep the center closed, in order to attack on the flank. This is an important rule!

12.e5! ♘d7 13.d4 Prevents Black from pushing d4 by doing it himself.

13...b4 Both sides have their plans. White needs to concentrate on kingside attack, while Black must try to find counterplay on the queenside, with a5, ♙a6 ideas.



14.h4! Protects the knight and But in any case a fantastic game, truly deserving to win the title game of the month that way creates the dangerous threat of f5! It forces Black to send away the attacker from g5, but with this he weakens his own kingside.

14...h6 15.♘h3 a5 16.f5! The attack is coming anyway, even if it is less dangerous than with the knight on g5. Now the knight might appear on f4, and later on h5 with potential sacrifices. White wants to play f6!, this forces Black to take on f5.

16...exf5! 17.♖xf5 bxc3 [In my opinion, here Black should have chosen a different direction for his bishop with 17...♘b6 18.♖f2 ♙c8! 19.♘ef4 (19.♘hf4 ♙g4!) 19... bxc3 20.bxc3 cxd4 21.cxd4 ♙f5! with double-edged position.]

18.bxc3 cxd4 19.cxd4 ♙a6 White protects his knight on e2, attacks the d5 pawn, and brings another piece into the attack. However, it might seem, that he closes the way back for his rook on f5, where it could be trapped.

20. ♖hf4! ♘b6 [interesting tactical lines arise after 20... g6!? 21. ♘xg6! fxg6 22. ♕xd5+ ♔h7 23. ♖xf8 (23. ♖d2 ♕g5!) 23... ♘xf8 24. ♕xc6 ♕xe2 25. ♖xe2 ♖xd4+ 26. ♖e3! ♕c5! (26... ♖xa1 27. ♖xh6+ ♔g8 28. ♕d5+ ♘e6 29. ♕xe6#) 27. ♔h2! which favours for White at the end.]



21. ♖b1!! Bartel prepares for a sacrifice with both of his rooks. Now, he is ready to take on b6, and then on d5.

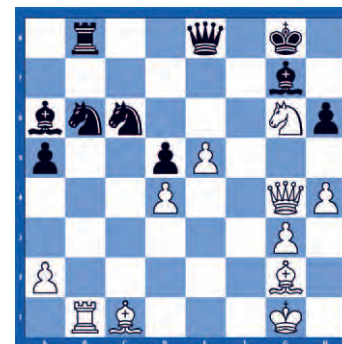
21... g6? [21... ♕c8 22. ♖xb6! ♖xb6 23. ♘xd5 ♖d8 24. ♖f2 would have given more than enough compensation for White, but still, this should have been the way for Black to play.]



22. ♘xg6! The fireworks begin with an intuitive knight offer which destroys the defenders of the king! **22... fxg6** **23. ♖xf8+ ♕xf8** **24. ♘f4!** Bartel is not in a hurry! He is a piece down and plays a quiet move. However, this kind of quiet moves are sometimes the most unpleasant. In one move White has created so many threats (♘xg6, ♘e6, ♖c2, ♖g4, ♖xb6) that Black is unable to defend himself. **24... ♖b8** [Even the computer's most stubborn move gives no chance to save the game: 24... ♕c8 25. ♘xg6! ♕f5 26. ♘xf8 ♕xb1 27. ♕xh6! ♖xb1, and ♖g4 threats 27... ♕f5 28. ♖f3! ♘xd4 29. ♖f2+-]

25. ♖g4 [25. ♖c2! was more precise, according to the computer as well 25... ♘e7 26. ♘xg6+- with winning attack.]

25... ♖e8 **26. ♘xg6 ♕g7** This allows White to finish the game beautifully. [26... ♔h7! would have been the only move, but still after 27. ♘f4 White has only a small material disadvantage (2 pawns for the piece), yet his strong attack continues. (27. h5!? also very interesting. 27... ♕d3 28. ♖xb6! ♖xb6 29. ♘f4 Despite being a rook down, the threat of ♘xd3 and ♘xd5 gives white better position.)]



27. ♖xb6!! After eliminating the defender of the d5 pawn, White's bishop enters the battle and decides the outcome of the game.

27... ♖xb6 28. ♗xd5+ ♔h7



29. ♔f5!! [29. ♔f5 and Black resigned because after 29... ♔xg6 (otherwise ♗f8+ double check and then ♔h7 mate) 30. ♗g8+! ♔xg8 31. ♔xg6+- and Black cannot do anything against the threats ♗xh6 and d5. Great victory from Bartel, who continued his winning streak! Right after winning the Aeroflot open, he became Polish Champion as well!] **1-0**

(4) Lenic,Luka (2641) – Zherebukh,Yaroslav (2580) [E81]

BL 2011/2012 (10), 25.02.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are facing a very interesting and exciting game with many culmination moments! It seems like the opening battle was won by Black, who managed to get a nice position. Afterwards in a very complex position Black made a mistake, instead of 23...♖e6 ? Black should have played the 23...♙xd4 with a better position. Then we see a rare position where White is material down, but is totally dominating the board. A great example of a typical game of a Kings-indian defence! Let's get it on!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.♙e3 c6 [6...c5 This is the main move of the theory.]

7.♖d2 a6 a relatively rare continuation. Black is avoiding a concrete play against White center for a while-instead they are trying first to create some pressure by playing b5 and only after to continue with e5 or c5 moves.

8.a4 a radical action against Black's plan, but it is leaving a whole on the b4 square and probably leaving White without any opening advantage. [8.♙d3 b5 9.♘ge2 is another way for White to continue the game.]

8...a5 [Why not 8...♘bd7 9.♙d3 e5, and the answer is because is probably because of the 10.d5! (10.♘ge2 exd4 11.♙xd4 ♘c5!? an interesting tactical try to get immediately a comfortable positions. (11...a5 this would lead us to a similar position as we can see later in the game) 12.♙c2 ♖b6! (Black is not in time to get the ideal posi-

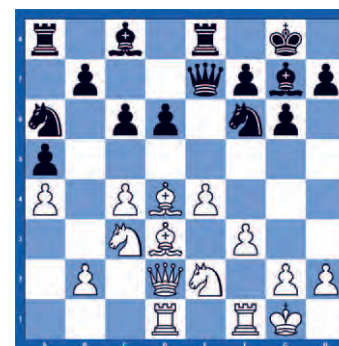
tion after 12...a5 a 13.e5!) 13.a5 now Black wanted to play a5 13...♖b4∞)]

9.♙d3 [9.g4 ♘a6 10.h4 (10.♙h6?! ♙xh6 11.♖xh6 ♖b6 12.0-0-0 ♖b3!) 10...h5 11.g5 ♘d7 12.0-0-0 With a very sharp play and chances on both sides. White will try to create an attack by pushing the f pawn forward, Black instead will search his counter chances by playing c5 or trying a break through by playing b5.]

9...♘a6 10.♖d1 A profilactical move against the Blacks threat ♘b4. [10.♘ge2 ♘b4 11.♙b1 To exchange the bishop for black's knight is not an option for White. After the exchange Black will do perfectly fine 11...e5= And White's rook on a1 is out of play.]

10...e5 11.♘ge2 ♖e7 To me this move is looking a little strange. Why not to choose the 11...exd4 or 11...♘d7, both of these moves seem to be more logical. **12.0-0 exd4 13.♙xd4** [13.♘xd4 ♘d7 and due to the weak field on b4, Black is doing well.]

13...♖e8



14.♙h1 White is putting the king on the safe square h1 and preparing for the future attack by plaining f4-f5.

14... ♖f8 Black is trying to get the knight to c5 without exchanging the bishops. A dangerous plan because it costs Black at least a tempo and White is fully prepared to start a strong play on the kingside. More safe was. [14... ♘d7 15. ♗xc5 ♗e5 20. ♖xe5 ♘e6 even if the position is still super complicated, it looks like Black's chances are not worse than of his opponent.) 19...dxc5 20.e5 White is trying their last hope, to bring the ♘ to f6, but it seems that White is too slow for that. 20... ♗e6 21.b3 (21. ♘ge4 ♖ed8 22. ♖e2 ♘xc2 23. ♘f6+ ♗h8 24. ♖xc2 ♖d4 and Black is dominating the game.) 21... ♖ad8 22. ♖f2 f5! a very important move, often used as a "blocker" against the White attacking attempts.]

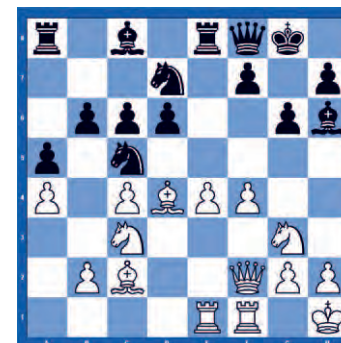
15. ♖de1 in my opinion an "over preparation" from White, it was time to start some action by playing [15. ♘g3 ♘d7 16.f4 and we are having a very unclear position. The first assessment says Black's position is looking very passive and dangerous, but Black's position has also many pluses. In case Black manages to develop pieces like: ♘dc5, ♘b4, ♗h6 Black will create a strong pressure on White's center, and each movement in the center will generate a hole in it which Black immediately would make use of. In fact, here we are facing a very typical king indian position with very good chances for both sides. May the stronger player win :)] **15... ♘d7 16.f4** Finally White is starting to march forward. **16... ♗h6 17. ♘g3**



17... ♘ac5?! [17... ♘dc5! letting also the bishop on c8 to participate in the game 18. ♗c2 ♘b4 and here we can clearly see why White should have not played 8.a4. 19. ♗xc5 (19.e5 dxe5 20. ♖xe5 ♘e6 even if the position is still super complicated, it looks like Black's chances are not worse than of his opponent.) 19...dxc5 20.e5 White is trying their last hope, to bring the ♘ to f6, but it seems that White is too slow for that. 20... ♗e6 21.b3 (21. ♘ge4 ♖ed8 22. ♖e2 ♘xc2 23. ♘f6+ ♗h8 24. ♖xc2 ♖d4 and Black is dominating the game.) 21... ♖ad8 22. ♖f2 f5! a very important move, often used as a "blocker" against the White attacking attempts.]

18. ♗c2 b6! absolutely correct play by Black, he needs to try to be as solid as possible in the center, and wait for the White's break through hoping to have enough resistance against it.

19. ♖f2 ♖f8



20.e5 White had enough of moving around and starts the concrete action — finally!

20...dxe5 21.fxe5 ♗g7 The culmination of the game. There is not a single major exchange until now, all pieces except a few pawns are on the board, and White has a

very wide range of attacking possibilities. It is very hard to take the right decision over the board.

22. ♖ce4?! White is choosing the wrong knight move [a very interesting sacrifice was 22. ♖f5!? gxf5 23. ♔xf5 ♖f6 24. ♔f4 ♖g4 25. ♖e4 ♖xe4 26. ♔xe4 With a strong attack.]

22... ♔xe5



And here White goes for a very spectacular move **23. ♖d6!?** Probably the decisive mistake of the game.

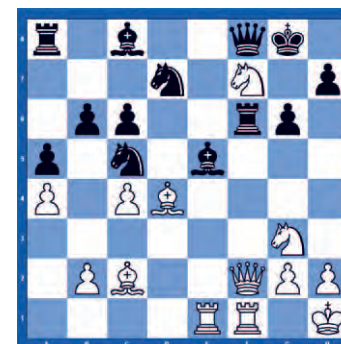


[Also 23. ♖xc5 would bring White no winning chances after 23... ♔xd4 (23... bxc5 24. ♔xe5 ♖xe5 25. ♖e4∞ for a pawn White has a strong initiative due to Black's bad

development.) 24. ♖xd7 ♖xe1 25. ♔xd4 ♖xf1+ 26. ♖xf1 ♔xd7 27. ♔xd7 ♔c5 In this a bit unusual position, probably only Black is the one who can fight for a win due to the bad White pawn structure plus very uncoordinated position of White pieces. In case Black manages somehow to get out the rook from a8 to d or e file, the position of White could get from dangerous into bad.]

23... ♖e6? [23... ♔xd4! would have been the correct reply, Black needs to change pieces and the more the better, for it the main goal is to reduce White's attacking power. 24. ♔xd4 ♖xe1 25. ♖xe1 ♖e6 We can see that Black is doing now very solid again. 26. ♔d2 ♔a6 27. b3 (27. ♖df5 ♖b4!) 27... ♖dc5 and it is quite unclear if White has anything for the pawn. Black is doing clearly better!]

24. ♖xf7 ♖f6



[24... ♔xd4 25. ♔xd4 and the mate on h8 is deadly.]

25. ♖xe5! Great play by White. White will be material down, having only Rook + piece against the Black queen, but the open position of the Black's monarch plus the under development of the ♖a8+♔c8 gives White enough time to create a deadly net around Black's King [Too

passive way to bring Black into trouble is 25. ♔e3?! ♖xf7
26. ♕xe5 ♘xe5 27. ♔xe5 ♕e6∞]

25... ♖xf2 26. ♖xf2 ♔e7 [26... ♔d6 This move is giving
White a chance for a very beautiful finish



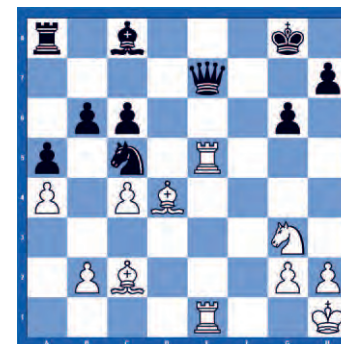
27. ♘g4! ♔xd4 28. ♖e8+ ♔g7 29. ♘h5+! gxh5 30. ♖e7+
♔g8 31. ♘h6+ ♔h8 32. ♖xh7#]

27. ♖fe2 ♘xe5 [27... ♔d6 28. ♘xc6 ♔xc6 29. ♖e8+ ♘f8
30. ♖1e7 ♘ce6



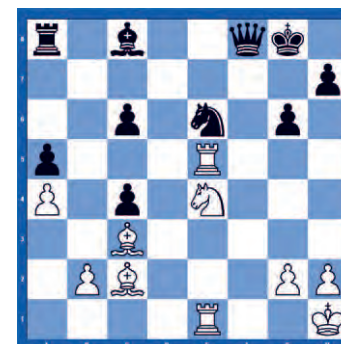
31. ♘h5!!±]

28. ♖xe5+-



Black is hopeless against the White attack.

28... ♘e6 Best way to fight in a lost position, more quickly the game would end after. [28... ♔d6 29. ♖e8+ ♔f7
30. ♕e5 ♔d2 31. ♕c3! With a deadly attack on the naked king.] **29.c5** a pretty move, White wants to bring an extra piece into the attack by playing ♕b3, but White's position is already strong enough to end the game even without it. [29. ♕c3 and the next White move is ♘e4 after which White threat will lead to a loss of some material for Black and the loss of the game consecutively.] **29...bxc5 30. ♕c3 c4** The only move to block the ♕ [immediately losing is 30... ♖b8 31. ♕d3! The bishop is reaching his final destination, the diagonal a2-g8] **31. ♘e4 ♔f8**



32. ♖b1 White is bringing the bishop to a2 where Black will not be able to protect his c4 pawn. [Another move with the same idea would have been 32. ♖d1 Black cannot defend against the multiple White threats like ♖g4 or ♖e2 and in case of 32... ♖c7 33. ♖e2 ♖d5 (33... ♖a6 34. ♖f1+-) 34. ♖xc4 ♖a6 35. ♖xd5 ♖xc4 36. ♖d7+- White is obviously winning.]

32... ♖c7 33. ♖a2 ♖d5 This move is losing immediately. [White would have a chance for a pretty combination now 33... ♖a6 34. ♖xa5 ♖d5 35. ♖xa6! a very typical, but anyway beautiful sacrifice 35... ♖xa6 36. ♖xc4 Black is a queen up for only 2 light White pieces, but nothing can save Black from a 0 in the tournament table 36... ♖xa4 37. ♖f6+ ♖f7 (37... ♖xf6 38. ♖xd5+ With just a piece up for White) 38. ♖xd5 ♖xc4 (38... cxd5 39. ♖xd5# a very nice mate!!) 39. ♖f1+ ♖e8 40. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 41. ♖f6+-]

34. ♖xc4 ♖b7



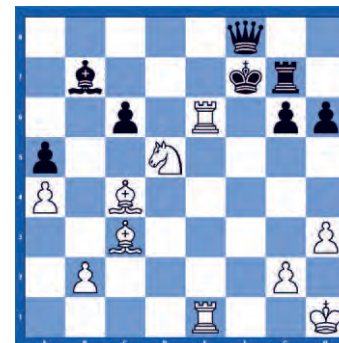
35. ♖g5 This move doesn't change much, but why not to finish the game immediately by playing [35. ♖f1! ♖h6 36. ♖f6+ ♖h8 37. ♖xd5+-]

35...h6 36. ♖e4 We can rarely see such a domination of the White pieces over the Black ones. Even losing

2 tempos in the last 2 moves doesn't help Black to have a chance for an escape.

36... ♖d8 37.h3 [37. ♖f1 Again the same winning move would end the game instantly, probably such an inaccuracy can be only explained by the deep time trouble.]

37... ♖d7 38. ♖e6 ♖g7 39. ♖f6+ ♖f7 40. ♖xd5



Too much is too much, Black resigns **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Vallejo Pons,F (2716) — Maiwald,JU (2459)

Schachbundesliga, 26.02.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

+—



(6) Wegener,D (2364) — Nisipeanu,LD (2638)

Schachbundesliga, 26.02.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

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(7) Henrichs,T (2473) — Fontaine,R (2552)

Schachbundesliga, 25.02.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

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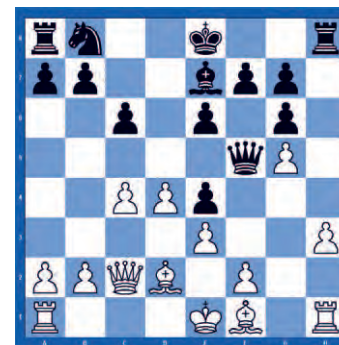


(8) Fontaine,R (2552) — Najer,E (2637)

Schachbundesliga, 26.02.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

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(9) Huschenbeth,N (2510) — Postny,E (2622)

Schachbundesliga, 26.02.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

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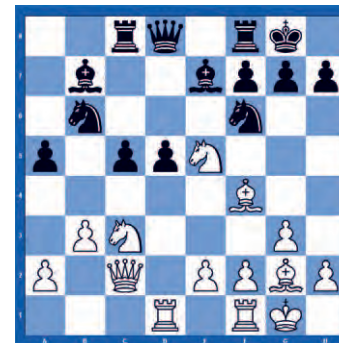


(11) Moranda,W (2568) — Gajewski,G (2616)

Warszawa, 23.02.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

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(10) Volokitin,A (2686) — Steingrimsson,H (2562)

Schachbundesliga, 25.02.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

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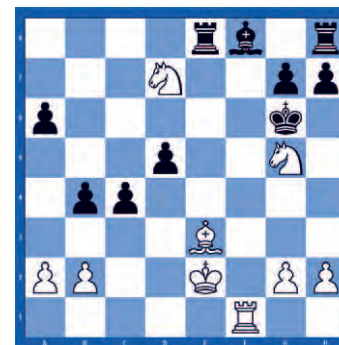


(12) Moranda,W (2568) — Mista,A (2587)

Warszawa, 26.02.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

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(13) Kempinski,R (2610) — Jaracz,P (2542)

Warszawa, 24.02.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

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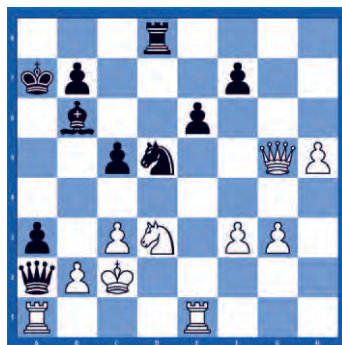


(14) Jaracz,P (2542) — Kuzmicz,K (2451)

Warszawa, 26.02.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

—+



Endgame section

(15)

[Balogh Csaba]

In the first month, we will study theoretical rook endgames. It is really useful to remember all these examples because despite the small amount of pieces on the board, we can very often meet these situations in practice! **1...♖h6** Occupying the 6th rank is a very important defensive method. This is the so-called Philidor position. White's only try to improve his position is to push his pawn, but then the king will have no shelter against the vertical checks, and Black holds the draw. **2.e6 ♖h1= 1/2**

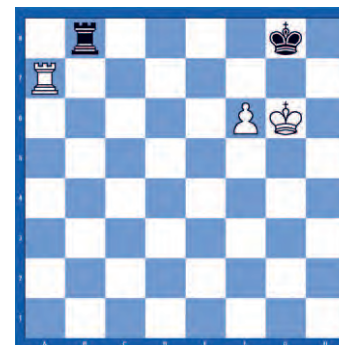


(16)

[Balogh Csaba]

In case the defensive side had no possibility to take the active position, and gives perpetual check vertically, then White has a winning position, if he has e- or f-pawn.

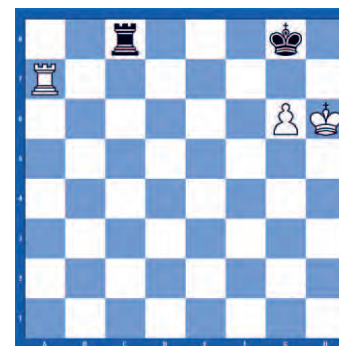
1.♖g7+ ♔f8 2.♖h7! The winning technique! Because of the mate threat, Black is forced to move into the f7 check, but then he quickly loses his rook. **2...♔g8 3.f7+ ♔f8 4.♖h8+ ♔e7 5.♖xb8 1-0**



(17)

[Balogh Csaba]

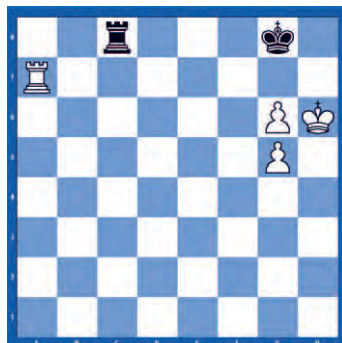
In contrast to the previous example, in case of g- and h-pawns, Black can hold the draw, even with passive defense. **1.♖g7+ ♔h8 2.♖h7+ ♔g8** White's only winning chance could be ♖i7, however the chess board is not wide enough to make this move. **1/2**



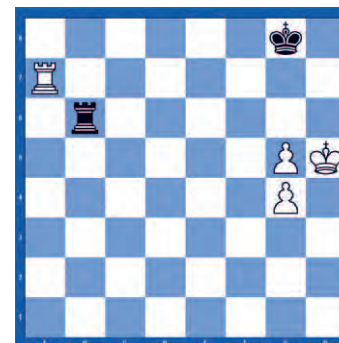
(18)

[Balogh Csaba]

Useful to know, if White has 2 g-pawns, and Black is forced to defend passively, then White can convert his advantage into winning. **1. ♖a6!** Very precise move to avoid stalemate! [After 1.g7? Black would survive in spectacular way 1... ♜c6+ 2.g6 ♜xg6+! 3. ♔xg6 stalemate] **1... ♜b8 2.g7!** This time, there is no danger of giving stalemate. **2... ♜c8 3. ♜f6! ♜b8 4. ♜f8+!** The 2nd g-pawn gets its role. This is the only way to win! **4... ♜xf8 5.gxf8Q+ ♔xf8 6. ♔h7 1-0**



have 5 pawns on the same file, against the Philidor defense, he could not win the game. **1/2**



(19)

[Balogh Csaba]

If Black has the chance to defend with the Philidor method, he holds the draw even against doubled pawns. White could have double e- or f-pawns as well, against the right defense, he can not win the game. **1.g6 ♜b1!** And, as we already know, Black holds the draw with vertical checks. **2. ♔h6 ♜h1+ 3. ♔g5 ♜b1 4.g7 ♜b6 5. ♔h5 ♜c6 6.g5 ♜b6 7.g6 ♜b1** The funny thing is, White could

Clash of the Titans

(20) Alekhine, Alexander — Opocensky, Karel [D10]

Paris Paris, 1925

[Balogh Csaba]

I would like to present you a game played by the 4th World Chess Champion, Alexander Alekhine. The game was played in 1925, when he was 43 years old. Two years later he won the Title against Capablanca. Alekhine played this game in his usual tactical style, bringing all his pieces into the attack, and when the moment arrived he made a final decisive blow.

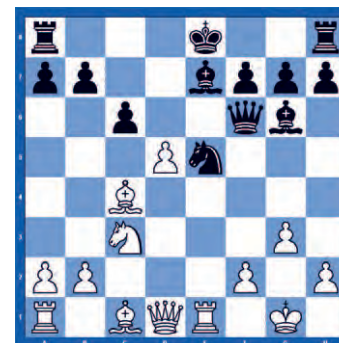
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 ♖f5 An inaccuracy in the Slav defence. Because of this, Black loses the fight for the center. Alekhine finds the best way to exploit it.

5.cxd5! ♞xd5 By taking with the knight, Black admits his mistake in the previous move, and enters a slightly worse position. [Still it is a better decision than taking with the pawn since after 5...cxd5 which would be the necessary reaction, if Black wants to equalize in the opening, White quickly attacks the weak b7 ♖ with 6.♙b3 and the typical defence with 6...♙b6 would not work, because of 7.♞xd5! ♙xb3 8.♞xf6+! check, and White wins a pawn.]

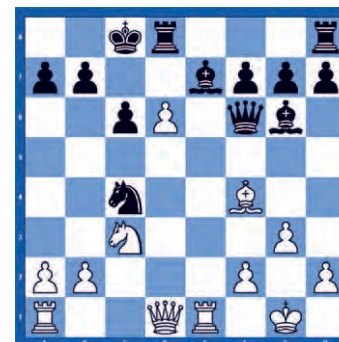
6.♖c4 e6 7.♞ge2! The right development of the knight. White's plan is to push e4 in the next move, since then after ♞xc3, he can take back with the knight, controlling the e4 square. **7...♞d7 8.e4 ♞xc3 9.♞xc3 ♖g6 10.0-0 ♙h4?!** Hard to explain this move, Black starts kingside action with his queen. However, he loses important time in development, which Alekhine effectively exploits. [10...

♙e7 should have been played, but still after 11.♙b3 0-0 12.♙e3 ♞f6 13.f3, White has a small advantage, thanks to his nice central pawns.]

11.d5!! The World Champion immediately opens the files on Black's king, which is stuck into the center. **11...exd5 12.g3!** This subtle in-between move is needed before taking back on d5, in order for the bishop on c4 not to hang **12...♙f6 13.exd5 ♖c5** Black decides to find shelter for his king on f8. [We will see, if he wants to castle, it would not help as well. 13...♙e7 14.♙e1 ♞e5 (14...0-0 15.dxc6!+-)]



15.♙f4! very nice temporary piece sacrifice 15...♞xc4 16.d6 0-0-0 (16...0-0 17.dxe7 ♙fe8 18.♙d7±)



Black has serious problems with activating his pieces, due to the e7 pawn.) 17.♘d5!! In order to be able to take on e7, White must first close the d-file. 17...cxd5 18.dxe7 ♖de8 19.♙xd5+- and mate is coming soon, all the lines are open in front of the Black king. Alekhine would definitely find all these hard moves, this kind of play was in his vain.]

14. ♖e1+ ♔f8 15. ♕f4! Developing, and defending the f2 square at the same time.

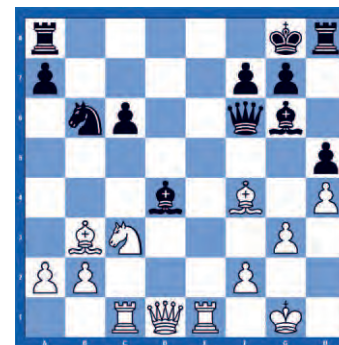
15... ♘b6 16. ♕b3 [16.dxc6!? bxc6 17.♘e4 ♕xe4 18.♖xe4 ♘xc4 19.♖xc4+- Would lead to big advantage for White, but Alekhine prefers to keep many pieces on board, in order to mate his opponent.]

16...h5 Black tries to push h4, trying to create some attack on the h-file. At the same time he opens the h7 square for his king. If he could reach there, then he could make some kind of artificial castling and connect the rooks. [16...♖d8 17.♙e2 ♘xd5 18.♘xd5 cxd5 19.♖ad1+-]

17.h4! Alekhine does not give any counterplay to Black.

17...♔g8 18. ♖c1! Great move, brings the last unemployed piece into the fight. This is a typical sign of a great player!

18... ♕d4 19.dxc6 bxc6

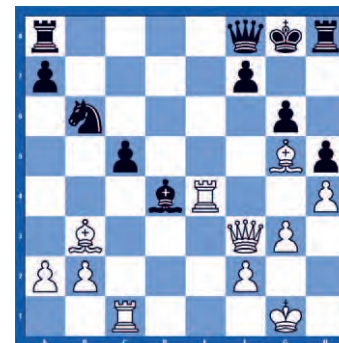


20. ♘e4! Forces Black to give up his defending bishop on g6. Of course, our hero happily sacrifices his b2 little pawn.

20... ♕xe4 21. ♖xe4 c5 [21... ♕xb2 22.♖c5+-]

22. ♙e2! Small, but brutal move. White wants to penetrate on the e-file with his rook. ♖e7 and ♖e8+ are the main threats, this forces Black to make another weakening around his king.

22...g6 23. ♕g5 ♙d6 24. ♙f3! White lunches decisive attack against the Black king, by attacking the f7 and g6 pawn. **24... ♙f8**



[24...♖h7 25.♖f4 ♖f8 26.♙h6! not the only possible win, but definitely the nicest 26...♖xh6 27.♖xf7 and the pin decides the game 27...c4 28.♖xc4!! to keep open the diagonal for the bishop on b3. 28...♖xf7 (28...♘xc4 29.♙xc4+- Black is a rook up, but simply unable defend his king from the mating attack.) 29.♖c8+! ♘xc8 30.♙xf7+ ♔h8 31.♙g8# A picturesque mate!]

25.♖xd4! White destroys the main defender, and opens the file for the other rook to finish the game. At this moments, we can realize how great was the Grandmaster's 18th move.

25...cxd4 26.♖c6!! The final blow. The rook unexpectedly stops on c6! Probably Black was waiting for ♖c7, which is also winning, but the text move is much stronger.

26...♔h7 [26...♖h7 27.♖xg6+ ♖g7 28.♙xh5+-]

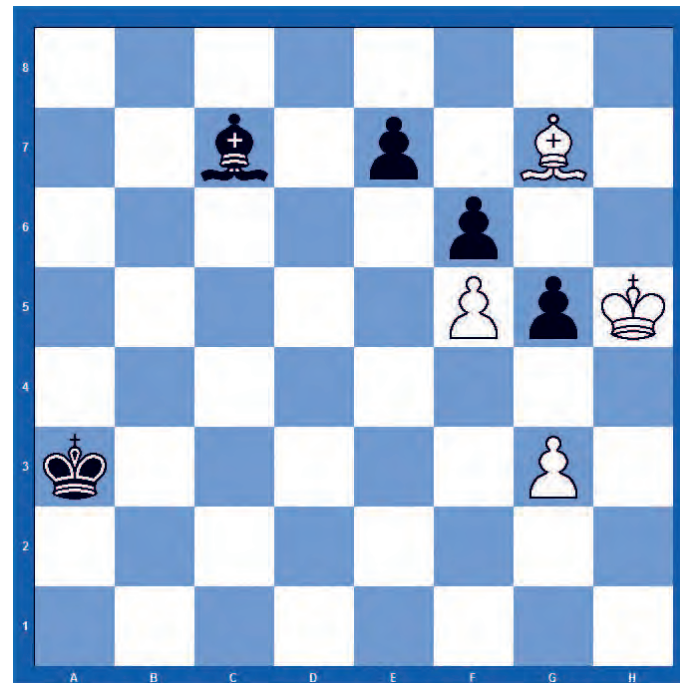
27.♙xf7 ♖c8 28.♖xg6 and ♙xh5 is coming with mate, so Black resigned. A beautiful crush by Alekhine, who showed in this game again how fantastic tactical abilities the great Champion had. **1-0**

Surprise section / study

(21) Evreinov

1971

+ -





Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 2

9th of March 2012

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Editorial Preface

A warm welcome to our premium subscribers of Chess Evolution Weekly Newsletter!

First of all, we would like to thank you for investing your trust into CEWN, we promise that we will be working hard to make it even better! We will also be very happy about any kind of feedback, we highly appreciate your opinion! First steps are not easy, but we are working hard to make out of our content a superb and useful combination of chess material.

In the current issue, we have a very nice study in the “surprising section”! In case You manage to solve it, it means You have quite nice tactical and imaginal skills!

In the end of the current issue are the solutions for the previous puzzle section that You can find in CEWN Nr 1.

With the slogan “less words-more chess” enjoy our CEWN Nr 2!!

*Arkadij Naiditsch
Balogh Csaba*

4 best games of the past week

(1) Volokitin, Andrei (2695)
— Jobava, Baadur (2704) [B12]

1. Bundesliga 2011/2012 (4), 01.03.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

This game was played between two great fighters, the Ukrainian GM Andrei Volokitin, and the Georgian GM Baadur Jobava. Both players like tactical struggles, so we could expect a very sharp duel. Right after the opening, the game entered into unreal complications, where both players could use their abilities! After a very nice battle, the position was simplified to a drawish endgame. Let's see the details from this exciting encounter.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♘f5 4.♗f3 e6 5.♙e2 Lately the most popular setup against the Caro-kan defence, both players are considered to be big experts of the variation.

5...c5 6.♙e3 cxd4 7.♗xd4 ♗e7 8.♗d2 ♗bc6 9.♗2f3 ♙e4 10.0–0 Until this moment there are plenty of games in the database, but here Black tries a really fresh idea, which has been played only once before.

10...♔d7!? Black's problem is his king, which is stucked into the center. White wants to play c4 now or in the near future, to open up the position. In general, the complications favour him. Therefore, Black's plan is to prepare for the fight in the center and bring his rook to d8, which could be very useful.

11.c4 Volokitin plays in his style, and goes into the complications. [It would also be interesting to see Jobava's

improvement on the previous game, where Bologan played in positional manner, and easily outplayed his opponent. 11.♖c1 ♖d8 12.c3 ♙xf3 (12...♗g6 could hardly be the Jobava's idea, since after 13.♗g5 ♗gxe5 14.f4 ♗g6 15.♗xe4 dxe4 16.f5 exf5 17.♗xf5± White gets very strong compensation for the sacrificed pawn.) 13.♗xf3 ♗g6 14.♔b3 ♗gxe5 15.♗xe5 ♗xe5 16.♙xa7± and White was slightly better, thanks to the pair of bishops in Bologan-Krush, Gibraltar 2012.]

11...♖d8 12.♗b5! White finds the most challenging move! He has to act urgently, before Black finishes development. Created double threats with ♗d6 and ♗xa7.

12...♗f5 Jobava gives a pawn for activity! [The passive defence with 12...♗c8 would lead to nice advantage for White after 13.♗g5! a6 14.♗xe4 dxe4 (14...axb5 15.cxd5 ♔xd5 16.♔c2 ♔xe5 17.♖ad1± and ♗c5 is coming in the next move, Black will be punished for being undeveloped.) 15.♗c3 ♗xe5 16.♗xe4±]

13.cxd5! [The immediate 13.♙xa7 would lead to very strong compensation for Black after 13...♗xa7 14.♗xa7 ♙c5 15.♗b5 0–0]

13...♗xe3 [However, on 13...♙xd5 White can already take the pawn with 14.♙xa7 since after 14...♗xa7 15.♗xa7 he has the very unpleasant threat of ♙b5!]

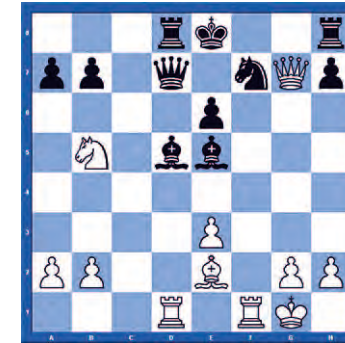
14.dxc6!? After long calculation, Volokitin chooses the most concrete way. [However, I think it was better to play simple 14.fxe3! to open the f-file for the rook, and launch an attack against the f7 square 14...♙xd5 15.♗g5! ♗xe5 (15...♙c5



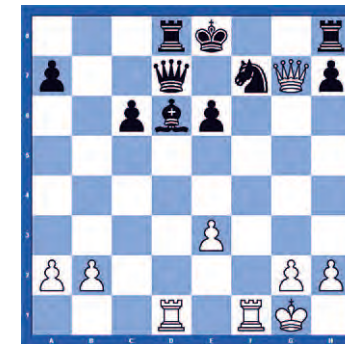
16. ♔c1! defends and attacks in the same time! (on 16. ♘xf7 Black has a nice response with 16... ♙xe3+ 17. ♖h1 ♔xf7! 18. ♗xf7 ♙xg2+ 19. ♖xg2 ♗xd1 20. ♗xd1 ♖xf7 21. ♗d7+ ♖g6=) 16... ♔e7 17. ♘xf7 0-0 18. ♘xd8 ♗xd8 19. ♘c3±) 16. ♔d4! Black's position is falling apart, the main line is beautiful! 16... ♙d6 (16... ♘c6 17. ♔c3±; 16... f6 17. ♙h5+! g6 18. ♗xf6!+-)



17. ♗ad1! very difficult move to find, but the idea is simple. White wants to push e4 and win a piece. 17... ♙b8 (17... 0-0 18. ♘xd6 ♗xd6 19. e4±) 18. ♘xf7!! ♘xf7 19. ♗xg7 ♙e5 (19... ♗f8 20. ♙h5+-)



20. ♘d6+!! A fantastic sacrifice! The kamikadze knight! 20... ♙xd6 21. ♙b5!! ♙c6 22. ♙xc6 bxc6



23. ♗xd6!! like in giveaway chess. :) 23... ♘xd6 24. ♔xh8+ ♖e7 25. ♗f6+ ♖e8 26. ♗f8#]

14... ♔xd1! [14... ♗xc6 would be a mistake because of 15. ♔a4! ♘xf1 16. ♘c7+! ♖e7 (16... ♖d7 17. ♙b5+-)



17. ♖b5! ♜c5 (17... ♜xc7 18. ♜b4+-) 18. ♜c1! ♜xc1
19. ♜b4+-]

15. ♜fxd1 ♞xd1 16.c7! This was the point of the 14th move!

16... ♞xb2!? Jobava preffers to give up the rook and save his knight, in order to get rid of the dangerous c7 pawn. [16... ♜c8 17. ♜xd1 ♞d5 18. ♞d6+ ♞xd6 19. exd6 ♞d7 20. ♞e5+ ♞xd6 21. ♞xf7+ ♞xc7 22. ♞xh8 ♜xh8= would lead to equality.]

17. ♞g5!? in the next moves, White simply ignores the rook. [17. ♞xa7 ♞xf3 18. ♞xf3 ♞c5 19. cxd8Q+ ♞xd8=]

17... ♞g6 18. ♞xa7!? Volokitin sets an amazing trap, but Black finds the only moves to survive!

18... ♞c5!



19. ♜c1! This is the point, seems like White is winning, but Jobava finds a very nice way to survive.

19... ♞a4! The only move! [19... ♞xa7 20. c8Q!± instead of taking the rook, he promotes queen, and so the h8 is also falling.]

20. cxd8Q+ Finally, he took it! [20. ♞b5+ ♞e7 21. cxd8Q+ ♜xd8 22. ♞xa4 ♞xa7=]

20... ♞xd8 21. ♞b5 b6 The position got simplified, they ended up in an even situation.

22. h4 Volokitin does not give up the fight for the advantage and finds a very nice trick. However, Jobava does not fall into it and finds the best defence again!

22... h6! [22... h5 23. ♞d1! ♞b2 24. ♞c2! this is the idea of the 22nd move. 24... ♞e7 25. ♞xg6 and Black cannot take back with the h-pawn. 25... fxc6 26. ♜c3↑ White could have still hope for some initiative.]

23. h5! ♞xh5 24. ♞xe6+ fxe6 25. ♞xh5 ♞e7 26. ♜c4 ♞b2 27. ♜f4 ♜f8 28. ♜xf8 ♞xf8 and after plenty of precise moves by both sides, the position became dead draw. The fight continued, but the rest is not interesting anymore because of the opposite colored bishops.

29. ♞e2 ♞e7 30. g3 g5 31. ♞g2 h5 32. ♞c3 h4 33. ♞e4 hxc3 34. fxc3 ♞d4 35. ♞xg5 ♞xe5 36. ♞g4 ♞a4 37. ♞xe6 ♞f6 38. ♞b3 ♞xg5 39. ♞xa4 ♞d4 Draw agreed! A very interesting game, full of beautiful ideas! Both players deserve congratulations! 1/2

(2) Negi,P (2639) – Wirig,A (2481) [C11]

Cappelle la Grande Helsinki (4), 05.03.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

The young Indian GM Negi Parimarjan (19 years old) has won a very nice game against his French GM opponent. We will see a very deep strategical idea in the opening, combined with nice tactical play and mating attack in the middlegame! Let's enjoy it!

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘fd7 5.f4 c5 6.♘f3 ♘c6 7.♙e3 Lately we see this position often, even on the highest level. Black has a number of different setups, all with very complicated fight.

7...cxd4 8.♘xd4 ♙c5 9.♙d2 0-0 10.0-0-0 ♙xd4 11.♙xd4 ♙a5 This move belongs to the very original Russian GM Vadim Zvjaginsev, who is famous for his weird openings. (For example, he beat some top players with 1. e4 c5 2.♘a3) He played this move successfully in 2010 against top GMs. After that, this variation enjoyed many followers. Let's understand the point of this move! First of all, Black's main problem is his bishop on c8. They call it „the bad French bishop”. In many systems Black would have a perfect position, if he could do something with his bishop. So, in the current position, the idea is to play ♖b8, followed by b5, b4 and then ♙a6 to exchange the bad piece.

12. ♙f2 White prepares for his next move. We will see the point soon. [Most of the games continued with 12.♙b1 ♖b8] **12...♖b8 13. ♙b5!** Very deep strategical idea by Negi! After the 11th move, we got familiar with Black's

ideas. After that, it is already very easy to understand this move. White stops the only plan of his opponent, to push b5. Black, has no choice, he must play a6, in order to continue his plan, but then after the bishop retreats to d3, the b5-b4 and ♙a6 idea is not working anymore since the pawn occupies the square!

13...a6 14. ♙d3 b5 15.♙b1 b4 16.♘e2 Here we are! The bishop is stuck on c8! It would cost too much time for Black to move away with his queen, then push a5, and prepare for ♙a6.

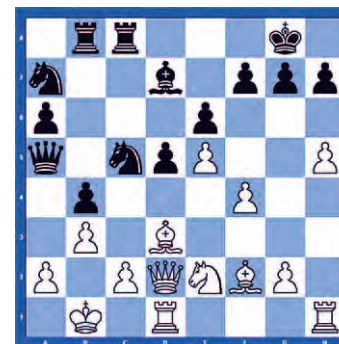
16...♘c5 17.h4! Negi took away his opponent's counterplay and launches kingside attack!

17...♙d7 [17...♘xd3 18.cxd3± This structure is always better for White. He can occupy the c-file with his rooks, and later the d4 square with the knight.]

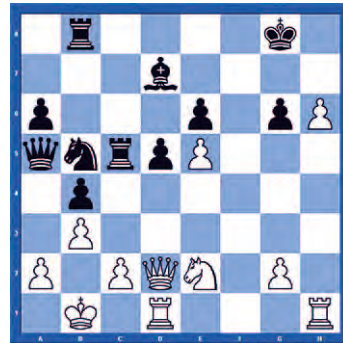
18.b3 [It was time to make a defensive move against ♘a4-c3, however I preferred 18.♘c1!± with the idea of ♘b3 and cxb3 or just continuing the attack on the kingside. The text move weakens the c3, a3 squares.]

18...♖fc8 This loses an important tempo! [18...♘a7 was the right move to use the inaccuracy of the previous mistake.]

19.h5 ♘a7



20. ♖xc5 [Negi should have kept his bishop on the board, as it is very useful in the following lines: 20.h6! g6 (20... ♘b5 21.hxg7) 21.f5! exf5 (21... ♘b5 leads to an incredible mate 22.fxg6 fxg6 23. ♖xc5 ♖xc5 24. ♖xg6! hxg6



25. ♖g5! leads to forced mate, but unexpectedly, White gives it! 25... ♘a3+ 26. ♖a1! ♘xc2+ 27. ♖b2! ♖a3+ 28. ♖b1+- and the king dances out from the checks, so mate is coming in the next moves.) 22.e6! in almost all the lines, Black's main problem is on the g1–a7 diagonal, where one of the knights is always hanging. 22...fxe6

a) 22... ♖xe6 23. ♖g5! ♘d7 (23... ♖d8 24. ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 25. ♖xc5+-) 24. ♖xa7+-;

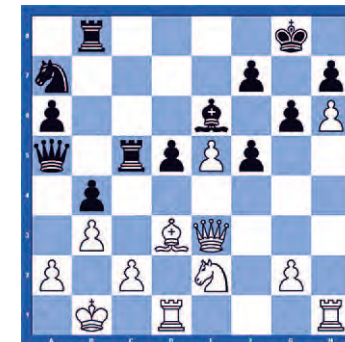
b) 22... ♘xe6? 23. ♖xa7; 23. ♖g5 ♖f7 (23... ♖d8 24. ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 25. ♖xc5+-) 24. ♖d4±]

20... ♖xc5 21.f5! White intuitively sacrifices a pawn in order to open up the position of the king.

21...exf5 22.h6 g6 23. ♖e3!? The Indian wants to play e6, to free the e5 square for the queen. [However 23.g4 was even better 23...fxg4 24. ♖f4 ♖d8 25.e6! such sacrifices people should play by heart. The quantity of the pawns does not matter much. It frees the e5 square for

the queen, and opens the e-file for the rooks. 25... ♖xe6 (25...fxe6 26. ♖xg6! hxg6 27.h7+ ♖g7 28. ♖df1 is the easiest mate.) 26. ♘d4 with incredible dangerous attack! Too many threats, ♖xg6 is just one of them.]

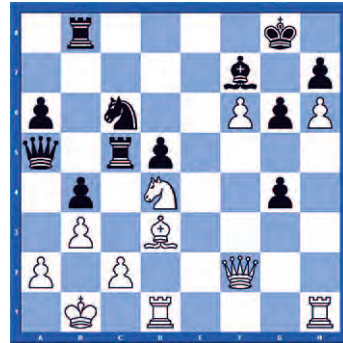
23... ♖e6 Wirig tries to block the pawn, but Negi has another way to access to the king! [Computer's recommendation 23... ♘c6 does not save Black neither, because of 24.g4! ♖e8 (24...fxg4 25. ♖f2! and ♖d8 does not prevent ♖f6, since the c5 rook is hanging.) 25.gxf5 ♘xe5 26. ♖he1! very difficult move to find for a human, which is directed against the opponent's back rank. Here even the machine admits that the attack will break through.]



24.g4! fxg4 25. ♖f2! And the point is the same as in the 23... ♘c6 line, the ♖d8 defence against ♖f6 is not working because c5 is in the air! Wirig finds the only move to avoid mate immediately, but he cannot save the game anyway.

25...f5 26.exf6 [26. ♘d4 was easier way to win 26... ♖e8 27. ♘xe6 ♖xe6 28. ♖xf5! gxf5 29. ♖xf5 with mating attack!]

26... ♖f7 27. ♘d4 ♘c6



28. Rde1! After the e- file has been opened, the White rook immediately occupies it. It might appear on e7 and support the coming move.

28... Kb6 [28... Nxd4 was the only move, but it does not give big chance to survive neither. 29. Rxd4 Kb6 30. Re7±]

29. Ne6! Negi transfers his knight to g5, from where it will help more in the attack! **29... Rc3** [29... Qxe6 30.f7+! Qxf7 31. Qf6]

30. Qf4! Mate is coming soon, too many threats are in the air. **30... a5** instead of resignation. White gets a chance to finish the game in style.

31. Qxg6! [31. Ng5 was also winning, but the text move is nicer!]

31... Qxe6 [31... Qxg6 32.f7+ Qxf7 33. Qf6+-; 31... hxg6 32.h7+ Qh8 33. Qh6+-]

32.f7+ and Black resigned, in view of 32... Qf8 33. Rxe6. An instructive game, where in the case of opposite side castling White was clearly faster in the attack! **1-0**

(3) Naiditsch, Arkadij – Kula, Robert [C61]

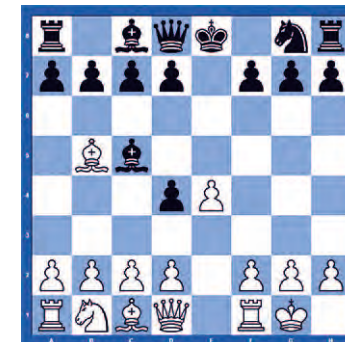
Dziedzic Memorial (3), 04.03.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

It is a recent game from my rapid tournament in Poland, so please no hard judgment about the mistakes on both sides:) It was an exciting game with chances on both sides and a pretty mating attack for White

1.e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nd4 my opponent is choosing a rare line in Spanish, which actually was played few times on a very high level by players like Radjabov or Morozevich

4. Nxd4 exd4 5. 0-0 Qc5



6.b4!? I like this move a lot and I think it fits quite well into the type of position. White is better developed and should try to make use out of it. [More often White is choosing here 6.d3 c6 7. Qc4 d5 8.exd5 cxd5 9. Qb5+ Qd7 10. Qxd7+ Qxd7 11. Nd2 Ne7 12. Nb3 Qb6 13. Qg5 With maybe a little bit better position for White]

6... ♖xb4 Most critical move, in my game against Rapport Black played more carefully [6... ♖b6 7. ♘a3! White's idea is to take away Black's bishop on b6, after which after the move ♖b2 the pawn on d4 is going to be very hard to protect 7...a6 8. ♖d3 ♘e7 9.e5 0-0 10. ♘c4 ♖a7 11.a4 Of course I didn't want to allow Black playing b5 11...d5 (11...b5 12.axb5 axb5 13. ♖e4± and the bishop on a7 is falling due to the open a-file) 12.exd6 cxd6 13. ♖a3± and I been clearly better]

7. ♖b2 ♖c5 8.c3! Here is the key of the White's move 6.b4 The current idea with sacrificing on b4 followed by ♖b2 and c3 taking control over the center is nothing new. For example in the Italian opening we have it as well 1.e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♖c4 ♖c5 4.b4!?

8...c6 Black is deciding to give immediately away the extra pawn, it would be bad idea to keep the pawn by playing [8...dxc3?! 9. ♘xc3 and I have reached exactly what I wanted, my all pieces are developed for „just“ a pawn down 9...c6 10. ♘d5! leading to a very dangerous position for Black; 8... ♖f6 9. ♖h5! It is important to have the Queen on h5 before playing cxd4, and soon we see why... 9... ♖b6 10.cxd4 ♖xd4? (10...c6 11.e5 and White is doing clearly better) 11.e5 ♖b6



12.e6! and White is totally winning after this beautiful move]

9.cxd4 now pawns are equal and it is clear that Black didn't solve the opening problems

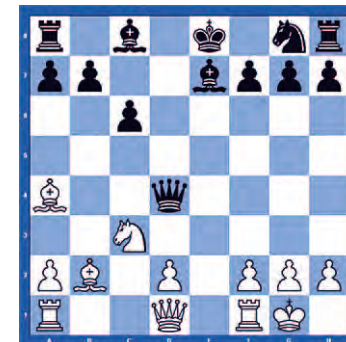
9... ♖e7 the idea of Black is to sort of „blockade“ the White Bishop on b2 by playing d5 move and then fulfill the development with ♘f6 and O-O.

10. ♖a4 [another choice is to play here 10. ♖d3 but it seems this move is too slow to give White any advantage 10...d5 11.e5 ♘h6 12. ♖c2 g6 and I think Black is doing fine here]

10...d5 11.exd5 looks ugly, but probably good play. During the game I was very happy with my position

11... ♖xd5 12. ♘c3! Of course! The continuation of the idea „no mercy for the undeveloped one“ :)

12... ♖xd4 this move I played very quickly, too quickly.



13. ♖f3?! a logical move, I wanted to continue doing moves that should target something in the Blacks position, now it is the pawn on c6 plus I always have the idea of playing ♘d5 in hand. [13. ♖e1! was the right one to continue White's initiative, Black is totally paralyzed, at

13...♙e6 14.♙b3! is very strong, White is taking the only protection figure of the e-file with a little hidden threat of playing ♘a4 and pawn on g7 is now a target 14...♚d7 15.♙xe6 fxe6 16.♚h5+ and it is obvious that just for a pawn White is achieving a very dangerous attack]

13...♚f6?! [13...♙g4! a very strong move based on an exact calculation 14.♙xc6+ ♚f8 15.♚e4 ♚xe4 16.♙xe4 ♘f6! The key idea of Black which me and my opponent both have missed. White is not able to take the pawn on b7 because of ♖b8, and after a 17.♙c2 ♖d8 Black is doing fine. The position is probably around equal]

14.♚g3 again not the best, stronger was 14.♚e3 with attack

14...♙d6 the move I was hoping for, but Black had a very hidden defence resource [14...♘h6! after this super strong move the game would be open again 15.♙c2 (15.♘d5 ♚xb2 16.♘c7+ (16.♖ae1 0-0 17.♘xe7+ ♙h8) 16...♙d7 17.♘xa8 ♙d6 and it seems that White's attack is coming to an end, Black is doing better) 15...♘f5 16.♙xf5 ♙xf5 17.♖fe1 ∞]

15.♖ae1+

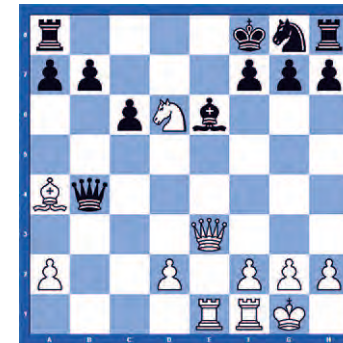


15...♚f8 [15...♘e7 16.♘e4! Finally the Knight is joining the attack 16...♙xg3 17.♘xf6+ gxf6 18.♙xf6±]

16.♚e3 again not the best, stronger was [16.♚d3! and Black is almost helpless against the Whites next move ♘e4]

16...♙e6 17.♘e4 This move I played very quickly again and actually exactly following the line that I calculated, but Black had a big improvement on the way... [17.♙b3 was clearly objectively the better move for White. The evaluation of the position would stay the same, Black is a pawn up but White has a strong initiative for that]

17...♚xb2 18.♘xd6 ♚b4 My opponent played this move very fast, maybe thinking I had blundered



19.♚e5 but this is what I was hoping for and answered almost instantly

19...♚xa4? logical play, especially for rapid chess, but a decisive mistake. What we again missed is another Black's move [19...♖d8! 20.♘f5 ♙xf5 21.♚xf5 g6! and Black is doing much better. How fast things can change in chess and what kind of difference a single move can make is amazing!]

20. ♖f5! now all my ideas are coming true! The Pawn g7 is hanging.

20... ♔g4 [and after 20... ♖f6 21. ♔d6+ ♔g8 22. ♖e7+ ♔f8 23. ♖g6+ ♔g8 24. ♔f8+ ♖xf8 25. ♖e7# game would end with a very beautiful check-mate] **21. ♔c5+** [21. ♔d6+ ♔e8 22. ♖xe6+ fxe6 23. ♔xe6+ ♔f8 would not bring White more than a draw]

21... ♔e8 22. ♖e4! White is bringing both rooks into the attack!

22... ♔g6 23. ♖b1! Black is hopeless against the White threats.

23... ♖b8 probably is losing on the spot, but what else to play? As a chess saying goes „in a bad position there are no good moves“.

24. ♔e5 ♖d8 25. ♖xb7 ♖f6 26. ♔c5 ♖d5 27. ♖e7+! a pretty finish of an exiting, not very high level but instructive game **1–0**

(4) Ragger,Markus (2655) – Bromberger,Stefan (2513)

(4.1), 01.03.2012

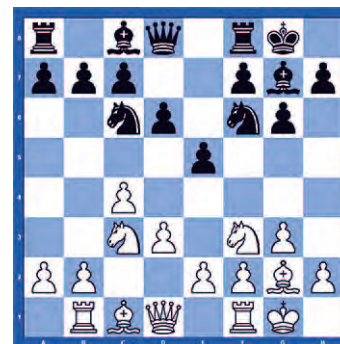
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

An interesting and fighting game was played in the Austrian league between the local number 1 and a German GM. After the opening Black was not accurate and got quickly into deep trouble. White played a great game until move 24 where instead of making a full point Markus Ragger let the advantage slowly slip away. From a strategic point of view, a very nice example of how to play this kind of structures with White.

1. ♖f3 ♖f6 2. c4 g6 3. g3 ♖g7 4. ♖g2 0–0 5. 0–0 d6 6. ♖c3 now it was the last chance for White to go into the main lines of the closed Kings indian by paying 6.d4. It seems like White is not very ambitious about the opening and wants to try to overplay the 150 ELO points lower opponent in the later parts of the game **6...e5** [6...c5 7.d4 cxd4 8. ♖xd4 and we are in a well known Maroczy structures]

7.d3 ♖c6 the most standard way of developing the pieces. Another possibility for Black is to play c6, h6, ♖e6, ♖bd7

8. ♖b1



White's plan is quite clear-try to develop a play on the Queen side **8...a5!** Absolutely good decision. By playing a5 Black is gaining an open a-file, as well an exchange of one pawn which can be useful in the future **9.a3 ♖d7** [9... ♘d4 is definitely an option as well for Black 10. ♙g5 h6 11. ♙e3 ♘g4 with a very fighting position]

10.b4 axb4 11.axb4 ♔c8!? A good multi-functional move! Black is doing two things in one - preparing the move ♙h3 with the exchange of the white square bishops and defending the pawn on b7

12.b5 ♘d4 13. ♙g5 the first critical moment of the game. Black is having a safe position, but to find the right way to play is not that simple.

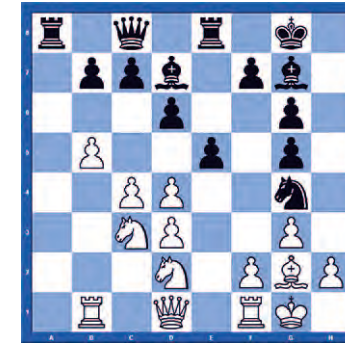
13...♖e8 [13...♘e6 could be the other Black's choice 14. ♙e3 ♖e8∞ (14...♘g4?! would be a typical way for Black to go wrong 15. ♙d2 f5 16. ♘g5! and White is doing better)]

14.♘d2 keeping the position complicated [a bit simple, but not a bad choice is now 14. ♘xd4!? exd4 15. ♙xf6 ♙xf6 16. ♘d5 ♙d8 (16... ♙g7 17.b6!±) 17. ♔d2 and White is keeping hopes for a small advantage]

14...♘g4?! Black's play is too aggressive [14... ♙g4 15. ♖e1 ♘d7∞ would have been a much safer way]

15.e3! strong move [15. ♘d5 an interesting position appears after 15...h6 (the logical 15...f6 is getting countered by 16.e3! fxg5 17.exd4 exd4 18. ♘e4 with very good play for White) 16. ♘e7+ ♖xe7 17. ♙xe7 ♘f5 18.h3 ♘xf2 19. ♖xf2 ♘xe7 20. ♙h2 the position still remains very unclear, but probably the preference should be on the White's side]

15...h6 16.exd4 hxg5

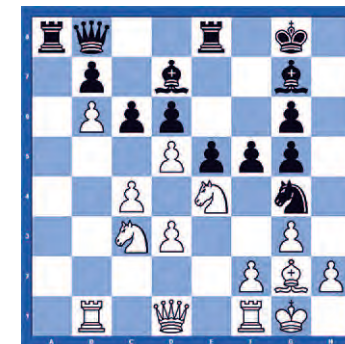


17.b6! an excellent play by White. With the 17.b6 White is crushing all Black's pawn structure which is making White's knights super dangerous. A very typical example of how to play this type of positions with the White pieces

17...c6?! [also to a worse position for Black leads 17...exd4 18. ♘d5 c6 19. ♘c7 ♙f5 20. ♘xa8 ♔xa8 21. ♖a1 ♔b8 (21... ♔d8 22. ♙xc6!) 22. ♘f3 and White is better, but Black remains with chances to save the game]

18.♘de4 ♔b8 19.d5 a great play by White until now, Black's position is getting more and more dangerous.

19...f5!? under pressure Black is making a decision to go into complications rather than continue to be passive.



[19...c5 20.♘b5! ♕xb5 21.♙xg4 ♕a4 22.♘xg5±]

20.♘xg5 [20.h3 was maybe a bit more accurate choice, now Black has to move back their only active piece, the knight on g4 20...♘f6 (20...fxe4? 21.hxg4 exd3 22.♙xd3 ♖a3 23.dxc6 bxc6 24.♙d2 and White is close to a win) 21.♘xg5± White is a clear pawn up]

20...e4! in a bad position Black is searching for chances in the complications. Absolutely right decision. [20...♕h6 21.dxc6 bxc6 22.h4±]

21.dxc6 [21.♙b3 would lead to a much better position for White as well... 21...♕xc3 22.♙xc3 ♙d8 23.h4 e3 24.c5 exf2+ 25.♖xf2 ♘xf2 26.♙c4!]

21...bxc6 22.♙b3 e3 23.c5+ ♔h8 White's position is totally dominating. An extra pawn plus a free pawn on b6 and a weak Black king is giving White almost a winning advantage.

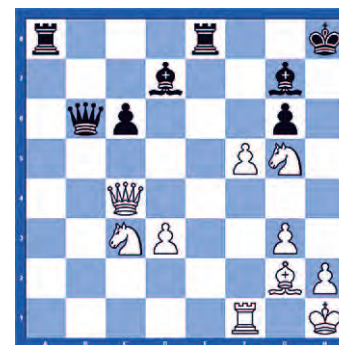
24.f3? a very passive move, exactly what Black was hoping for [much more in the style of the position would be 24.cxd6! exf2+ 25.♔h1 ♕f6 26.b7 ♖a7 27.♙f7 ♕xg5 28.♙xd7 and White is totally winning]

24...e2 25.fxg4 exf1Q+ 26.♖xf1 dxc5 still Black's position is dangerous but he is an exchange up and position is far away from „easy playing“ one **27.gxf5?!** another inaccuracy [27.b7! this move would have put big problems in front of Stefan Bromberger 27...c4 (27...♖a7 28.♙f7 ♖xb7 29.♙xg6 ♕d4+ 30.♔h1 ♖e7 31.♘d5!+-) 28.♙xc4 ♙xb7 29.♙f7±; 27.♙f7 ♙d6∞]

27...c4! Black is fighting very well and is back in the game [after 27...♕xf5 would lead to a better position for White after 28.♕xc6 c4 29.♙xc4 ♙xb6+ 30.♔g2±]

28.♙xc4? White is totally out of the position and making a „final“ inaccuracy after which position is equal. [better was 28.♙b4! a very difficult move to make during the game, but a very strong one as well 28...gxf5 29.♔h1! this prophylactical move is the key to White's success. White is preparing an attack on the Black's king 29...♕f6 30.♘ce4! bringing the last White piece into the attack 30...fxe4 31.♖xf6 ♖a1+ 32.♕f1→]

28...♙xb6+ 29.♔h1



29...♙d4! another good move by Black! White has nothing more than a perpetual check **30.♘f7+** [30.♙f7 ♕xf5 31.♖xf5 gxf5 32.♙h5+ ♔g8 33.♙f7+ ♔h8 34.♙h5+ would be just another way of making a draw] **30...♔g8 31.♘h6+ ♔h8 32.♘f7+ ♔g8 33.♘h6+ ♔h8 34.♘f7+ 1/2**

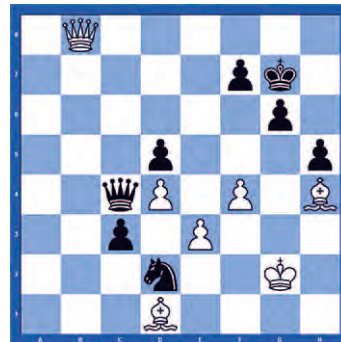
Puzzle section

(5) Arabidze,M (2337) – Romanko,M (2416)

Gazientep, 05.03.2012

[Chess Evolution]

+ -

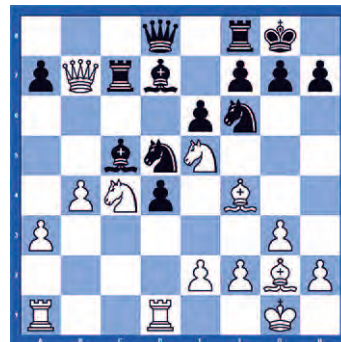


(6) Dzagnidze,N (2559) – Mammadova,G (2324)

Gazientep, 02.03.2012

[Chess Evolution]

+ -



(7) Koepke,C (2404) – Pinter,J (2546)

Austrian league, St. Veit, 04.03.2012

[Chess Evolution]

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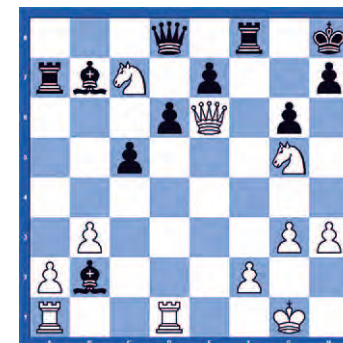


(8) Lalic,B (2468) – Vorobiov,E (2580)

Cappelle la Grande, 05.03.2012

[Chess Evolution]

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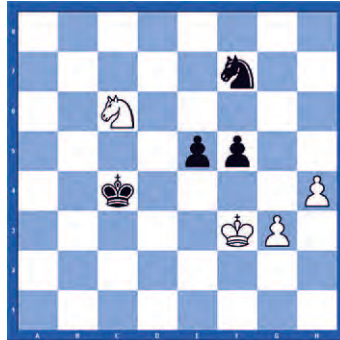


(9) Petrosian,T (2643) — Arutinian,D (2553)

Cappelle la Grande, 05.03.2012

[Chess Evolution]

+ -

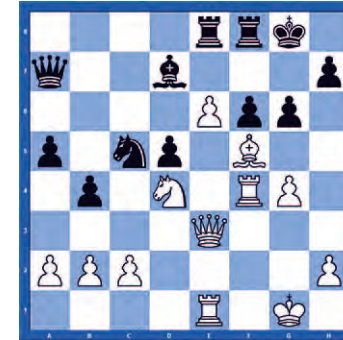


(11) Mammadova,G (2324) — Repkova,E (2416)

Gazientep, 03.03.2012

[Chess Evolution]

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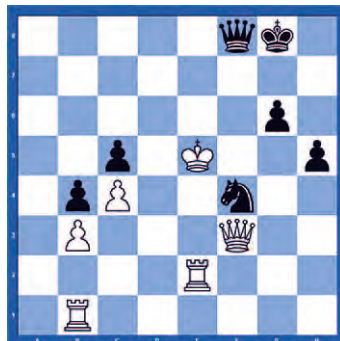


(10) Fauland,A (2452) — Bosiocic,M (2580)

Austrian league, St. Veit, 03.03.2012

[Chess Evolution]

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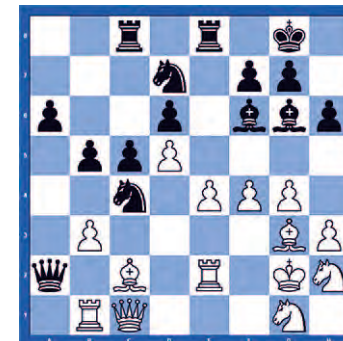


(12) Tazbir,M (2513) — Amin,B (2608)

Cappelle la Grande, 05.03.2012

[Chess Evolution]

- +

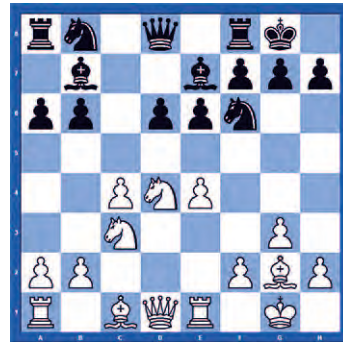


(13) Siebrecht,S (2463) – Dranischnikov (2327)

Osterburg, 03.03.2012

[*Chess Evolution*]

+ -



(14) Kaspret,G (2292) – Diermair,A (2429)

Austrian league, St.Veit, 04.03.2012

[*Chess Evolution*]

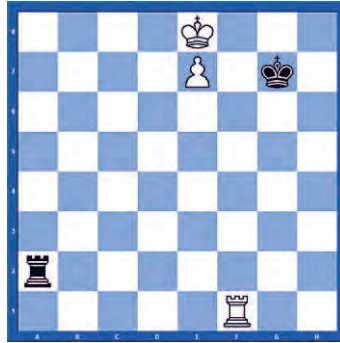
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Endgame section

(15)

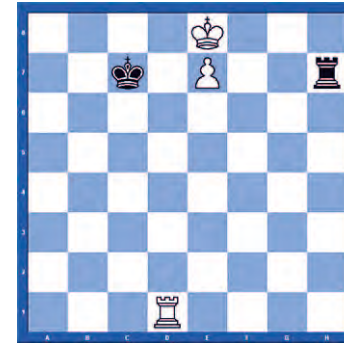
[Balogh Csaba]



This week we will study the kind of rook endgames where White's pawn has already reached the 7th rank and Black's king is squeezed out from behind the pawn. As we will see, the defensive side can only hold the draw, if his king stands on the „shorter” side of the board, and he gives checks with his rook from the „longer” side. 1... ♖a8+ 2. ♔d7 ♜a7+ 3. ♔d6 ♜a6+ 4. ♔d5 ♜a5+ 5. ♔c6 ♜a6+ 6. ♔b7 ♜e6= 1/2

(16)

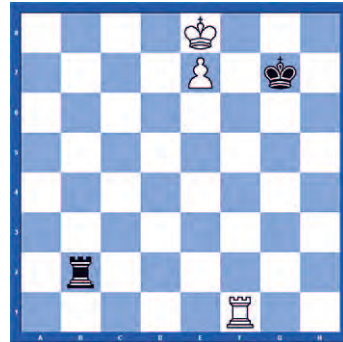
[Balogh Csaba]



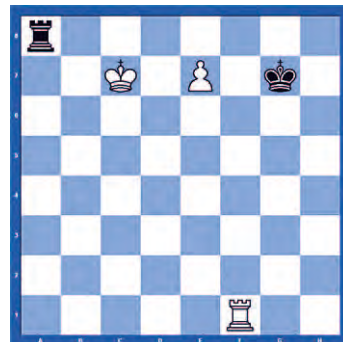
If the defensive side has not managed to set up the right defensive method, and his king gets to the „longer” side, then the „short” side is not wide enough for the rook to give checks. 1... ♖h8+ 2. ♔f7 ♜h7+ 3. ♔f6 ♜h8 4. ♔g7 ♜a8 5. ♔f7 1-0

(17)

[Balogh Csaba]



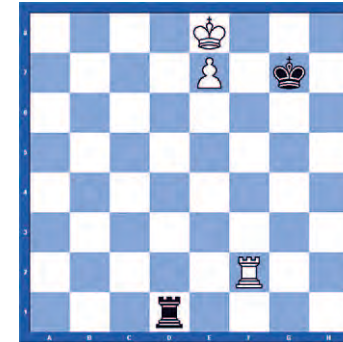
Black to move. Seemingly, he got the ideal setup, but his rook stands only on the b-file, which is not far enough for checks. **1... ♖b8+** [1... ♖a2 2. ♜f7+ ♔g8 (2... ♔g6 3. ♔f8+-) 3. ♜f8+ We often can see that in rook endgames with small number of pawns, to occupy the 8th rank with the rook is the key to win the game. 3... ♔g7 4. ♔d7 ♜a7+ 5. ♔d6 ♜a6+ 6. ♔c5+-] **2. ♔d7 ♜b7+** **3. ♔d6 ♜b8** [3... ♜b6+ 4. ♔c7 ♜e6 5. ♔d7+-] **4. ♔c7 ♜a8 5. ♜a1!**



Very important motif, the only way to win! White achieves, that the rook has to leave the „long” side. **5... ♜e8 6. ♔d7 1-0**

(18)

[Balogh Csaba]



In case Black wants to cut the king's way out from behind the pawn, White wins the game with the so-called „bridge building” method. **1. ♜f4!** We will see the idea of this great move soon! **1... ♜d2 2. ♜g4+ ♔h7** [2... ♔f6 3. ♔f8+-] **3. ♔f7 ♜f2+** **4. ♔e6 ♜e2+** **5. ♔f6 ♜f2+** **6. ♔e5 ♜e2+** **7. ♜e4** And the bridge has been built up. **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(19) Geller, Efim P — Spassky, Boris V [C79]

Moscow zt Moscow, 1964

[Balogh Csaba]

This week I would like to show you a game between two fantastic chess players! On the White side is the great Geller Efim, he has never been World Champion, but has positive score against Botvinnik and Smyslov, and finished even against Petrosian! Boris Spassky was leading the Black army. The 10th World Champion of the chess world! The game was played in 1964 when Boris was 27 years old. 5 years later he defeated Petrosian for the crown, and was wearing it until 1972, when he lost his match against Fischer. In this game Black did not play the opening part well and White achieved some advantage, but after small mistakes by Geller, Spassky took the initiative and won in a beautiful style.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 The Spanish opening, which is the most popular line by White against Black's 1...e5 move for more than 100 years, thanks to the complex positions which arise in all the lines!

3...a6 4.♙a4 d6 This is the so-called Steinitz system, which gets its name after the 1st World Champion, Wilhelm Steinitz. He played this line in 1894!

5.0-0 ♙g4 [But here, Steinitz preferred to develop with 5...♙d7 and then g6, ♙g7, which is a very solid system even nowadays. The move played by Spassky leads to sharper positions.]

6.h3 ♙h5 7.c3 ♘f6 8.d4 White threatens to play d5, forces Black to push b5, unpin his Knight, but with this he weakens his queenside pawn structure.

8...b5 [8...♘xe4? is taboo, because of 9.d5 b5 10.♙c2! winning a piece.]

9.♙b3 ♙e7 [9...♘xe4? is still taboo, because of 10.♙d5!]

10.♙e3 Geller develops his pieces to the best squares. Before bringing the Knight to d2, he protects his d4 pawn.

10...0-0 11.♘bd2 White obtained a small advantage from the opening. He could stabilize his pawn center, and after the knight arrives to d2, he can move out with the Queen from the annoying pin of the h5 Bishop.

11...d5!? Spassky realized, that he should take some immediate actions, otherwise White simply will have a very comfortable advantage. Now the game gets very interesting! Great players always find a way to make complications, where they could outplay their opponents!



12.g4! Excellent reaction by Geller! Unpins his knight with tempo, and after the bishop retreats to g6, the exchanges in the center will favour for him. Other moves

led to very unclear positions. [12.exd5 ♘xd5; 12.dxe5 ♘xe4 13.♘xe4 dxe4 14.♔d5!? exf3 15.♔xc6 fxg2]

12...♗g6 13.dxe5?! but here, White makes a mistake. He was pinning his hopes to the next move, aiming to win the pawn on d5. However, Black finds a great idea to counter White's plan. [13.♘xe5 should have been played 13...♘xe5 14.dxe5 ♘xe4 15.♘xe4 dxe4 16.♔xd8 ♖fxd8 17.a4± would have led to a small, but comfortable advantage for White. Suddenly the bishop on g6 is out of the game, and it is not easy at all to bring it back. Practically, it plays a role of a pawn right now.]

13...♘xe4 14.♘b1!? Very unnatural idea, going back with a developed piece to its initial square. Normally, we can say, that such moves are never good, but the point here is that Black cannot defend his d5 pawn and then his position is falling apart! But the great Champion finds a nice way to create counterplay.



14...♔c8! Freeing the d8 square for the rook, where it causes big problems for the White queen, in case he takes on d5.

15.♘d4 After Black's nice move, White changes his mind and instead of taking on d5, starts to play against the

g6 bishop. His idea is simply to play f4-f5, creating another difficult problem to solve for the Champion! [15.♗xd5 ♖d8! White cannot solve the problem on the d-file. 16.♔b3 ♘a5!; 15.♔xd5 ♘a5! and suddenly ♖d8 threatens to trap the queen! 16.♔d1 ♖d8 17.♘bd2 h5! and here we can see the other point of the 14th move! The g4 move becomes a big weakening. Black would have more than enough compensation for the pawn.]

15...♘xe5! Spassky's excellent tactical abilities pay off again! At first sight White can play f4 with tempo, and when the knight goes away, f5 wins a piece. But our hero has seen more!

16.f4 [16.♗xd5 c6±]



16...c5! What a counterattack! Instead of taking care of his own knight, Spassky counters the opponent's pieces. Amazingly resourceful idea!

17.fxe5 [17.♘e2 ♘xg4! 18.hxg4 ♔xg4+ 19.♔h2 ♗f5! and White's unharmonic pieces are unable to defend the king, despite being a piece up.; 17.♘c2 c4 traps the B.(17...♘g3!?)]

17...cxd4 18.cxd4 ♔d7 Suddenly White's king became very weak. The idea of Black is to play f6 and open up the position for all the pieces. Before this, he had to defend his d5 pawn.

19.♘d2 f6! Dark clouds are coming over the ♔!

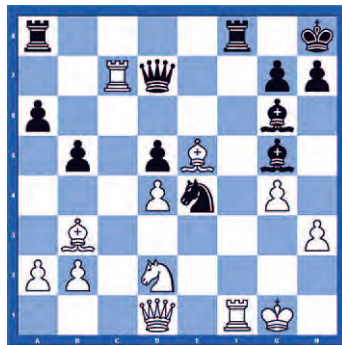
20.♖c1 [20.exf6 ♖xf6 21.♖xf6 ♙xf6=]

20...♔h8 Very patient! Black wants to use his queen in the coming complications, but the bishop taking on d5 with check was always too annoying.

21.♙f4?! Geller probably misses the 23rd move of his opponent, but anyway his position was very unpleasant.

21...fxe5 22.♙xe5 ♙g5! The bishop arrives to the battle, but it had to be very well calculated because Geller had something in his mind!

23.♖c7 When White made his 21st move, probably he stopped his analyses at this moment. He attacks the queen and if it goes away, then simply takes on g7 and wins the game. However, when you play against a World Champion life is not so easy.

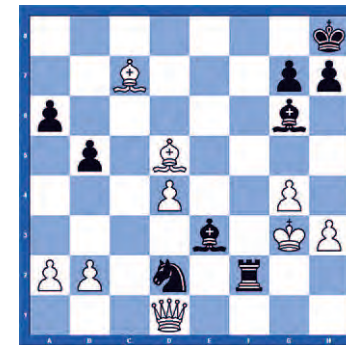


23...♙xc7!! Fantastic queen sacrifice, after which Black's minor pieces dominate the whole board. Let us enjoy the way they do this!

24.♙xc7 ♙e3+! Forces the king to move into a vulnerable square.

25.♔g2 ♘xd2 26.♖xf8+ ♖xf8 We can see now, that the rook might arrive to f2 with check, just as the bishop on e4, thanks to the 24th move.

27.♙xd5 ♖f2+ 28.♔g3 Geller decided to go into mating net, otherwise he would have lost his queen and the game as well. [28.♔h1 ♖f1+ 29.♙xf1 ♘xf1-+]



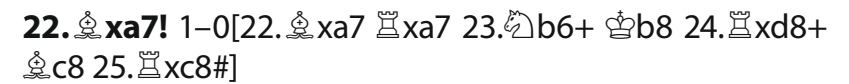
28...♘f1+! Hunting the king! White's queen has no chance to enter into the battle!

29.♔h4 h6! Creating the threat of ♙g5 mate!

30.♙d8 ♖f8! and White resigned, in view of the fact that he cannot prevent ♙f2 mate! Beautiful "team work" of the pieces. A fantastic victory for Boris Spassky who has mated many opponents in this same style. He is one of the biggest Masters of attacking chess! **0-1**

$+-$ 

[Solutions]



[Solutions]



27. ♖e6+!! ♙xe6 28. ♚f8+ ♔d7 29. ♚e7+ ♔c8 [29... ♔c6 30. ♚xe6+ ♔c5 31. ♚e7+ ♔b6 32. ♚d6+=] 30. ♚xe6+ ♔b8 31. ♚d6+ ♔a7 1/2:1/2[31... ♔a7 32. ♚d4+ ♔b8 33. ♚d8+ ♔a7 34. ♚d4+ ♔b6 35. ♚d7+=]

(23) Henrichs,T (2473) – Fontaine,R (2552)

Schachbundesliga, 25.02.2012

[Solutions]

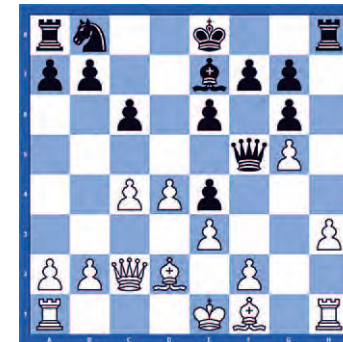


20...f3!! 21. ♖xf3 [21. ♙xf3 ♖xf3! 22. ♖xf3 ♗d4!! (22... ♗xb4 23. ♖xg5+! hxg5 24. axb4 ♙f3 25. ♖f1) 23. exd4 (23. ♖fxd4 exd4 24. ♙b2 ♗e5--+) 23... ♙xf3 24. ♖f1 exd4--+] 21... ♖xf3! 22. ♙xf3 ♗xb4! [22... ♗d4? 23. ♖xd4!] 23. ♙xb7? [23. axb4 ♙xf3 24. ♖f1 ♚h3+ 25. ♖e1 ♖f8!--+ ...26. ♖d2 ♙xe2 27. ♖xe2 ♖xf2+! 28. ♖xf2 ♚h2+--+] 23... ♗xc2 24. ♙e4 ♗xa3 25. ♖b3 ♚a4 0-1

(24) Fontaine,R (2552) – Najer,E (2637)

Schachbundesliga, 26.02.2012

[Solutions]

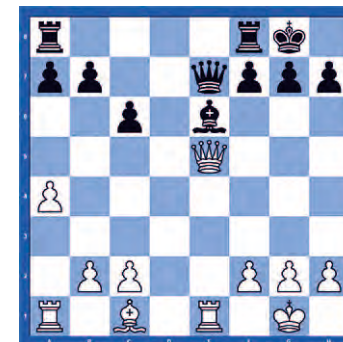


15.f4!! ♗a6 [15...exf3? 16.e4!+-] 16. ♙g2 ♙b4 [16... ♗b4 17. ♙xb4 ♙xb4+ 18. ♖e2±] 17.a3 ♙xd2+ 18. ♖xd2 e5 19. ♙xe4 ♚e6 20.fxe5±

(25) Huschenbeth,N (2510) – Postny,E (2622)

Schachbundesliga, 26.02.2012

[Solutions]

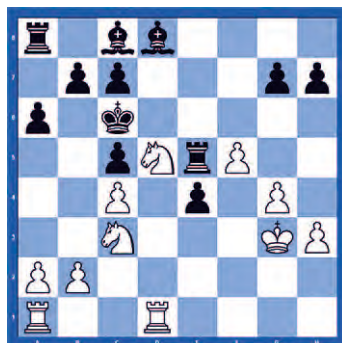


18. ♖h6! gxf6 [18...f6 19. ♔xe6+ ♔xe6 20. ♖xe6 gxf6 21. ♖d1 ♖ad8 22. ♖ed6 ♖xd6 23. ♖xd6 ♖e8 24. ♖f1±]
19. ♖a3! ♔g5 [19...f6 20. ♖g3+ ♖h8 (20...♖f7?? 21. ♔h5#) 21. ♔xe6 ♔xe6 22. ♖xe6±] **20. ♖g3 ♖g4 21. h3 ♔xe5 22. ♖xe5 ♖fe8 23. ♖xg4+ ♖f8 24. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 25. ♖f1 ♖e5 26. ♖d4 ♖e7 27. f4 ♖c5 28. c3±**

(26) Volokitin,A (2686) – Steingrimsen,H (2562)

Schachbundesliga, 25.02.2012

[Solutions]

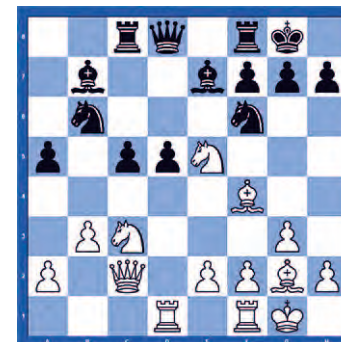


25. ♖b6! ♔xb6 26. ♖xd8 ♔a7 27. ♖d5 c6 28. ♖f4! cxd5 29. ♖xe5+- d4 30. g5 e3 31. f6 gxf6+ 32. gxf6 1-0

(27) Moranda,W (2568) – Gajewski,G (2616)

Warszawa, 23.02.2012

[Solutions]

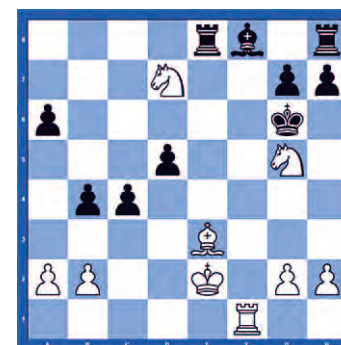


16. ♖c4! a4 [16...♖e8 17. ♖xb6 ♔xb6 18. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 19. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 20. ♖xd5±] **17. ♖xb6 ♔xb6 18. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 19. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 20. ♖xd5 axb3 21. axb3±**

(28) Moranda,W (2568) – Mista,A (2587)

Warszawa, 26.02.2012

[Solutions]



27. ♖f7! ♖g8 28. ♖de5+! ♖h5 29. ♖f3! 1-0

(29) Kempinski,R (2610) – Jaracz,P (2542)

Warszawa, 24.02.2012

[Solutions]

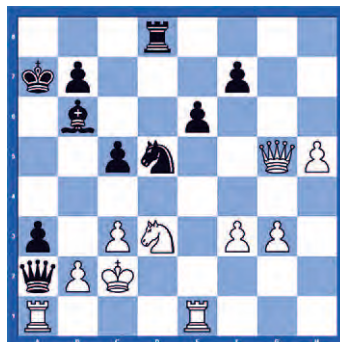


19. ♖f4!± ♘xe3?! [19... ♖ad8 20. ♘xd5+-; 19...c6 20. ♘xd5! ♙xd5 (20...cxd5 21. ♘c7+-; 20...cxb5 21. ♘c7+-) 21. ♘c7+-; 19... ♘xf4 20. gxf4 ♙xf4 21. ♘xc7±] 20. fxe3 c6 21. ♘a3! ♙b2 22. ♘c4 ♙xe2 23. ♘xe2+-

(30) Jaracz,P (2542) – Kuzmich,K (2451)

Warszawa, 26.02.2012

[Solutions]

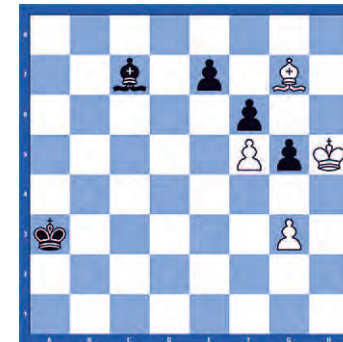


35... ♘b4+! 36. cxb4 [36. ♘xb4 ♙xb2#] 36... ♙c4+ 0-1 [36... ♙c4+ 37. ♖b1 ♙xd3+ 38. ♖a2 cxb4!-+]

(31) Evreinov,V

1971

[Solutions]



1. g4 ♙b4 2. ♙f8 ♙d8 3. ♙g6 ♙c5 4. ♙f7 ♙d6 5. ♙xe7+!! ♙xe7 6. ♙e8! 1-0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 3

16th of March 2012

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» 4 best games of the past week	3
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Editorial Preface

So we are already in the 3rd CEWN! We hope you have enjoyed the first editions and we continue with our promise to make every next edition better.

A few technical details in front for our readers:

For those who don't receive the email immediately on Friday evening: a small amount of emails are getting blocked by "spam" filters. In case somebody is not receiving the CEWN Nr 3 until Friday night — no panic, please write us an email and we will send it immediately one more time.

Puzzle section: thanks to valuable feedback, a few modifications were made, so now everything should be more easily visible and handier.

Starting next week we will play in the European Individual Championship in Plovdiv. Let's hope we will play some good games and we could also comment something from the "first person" perspective, which is of course the most valuable one.

*Arkadij Naiditsch
Balogh Csaba*

4 best games of the past week

(1) Cmilyte,Viktorija – Muzychuk,Anna

European Women's Championship GAZIANTEP, 12.03.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

A decisive battle between the former European Champion of 2011, Viktorija Cmilyte and the new bronze medalist Anna Muzychuk. Anna is leading the tournament with a half a point ahead and only 2 rounds till the end, so it is clear, it is going to be a sharp game. White needs the full point. And indeed, in a very complicated position White is getting her chance to make a full point with a fantastic tactical blow-but White is missing it and missing also the chance on the next move still to do better. In the second half of the game, probably being very happy to survive such "turbulences" Black is playing just great!

1. Nf3 d5 2. d4 Nf6 3. c4 c6 4. Nc3 lately the move 4... dxc4 got very popular here 4... e6 5. Bg5 h6 6. Bh4 dxc4 7. e4 g5 8. Bg3 b5

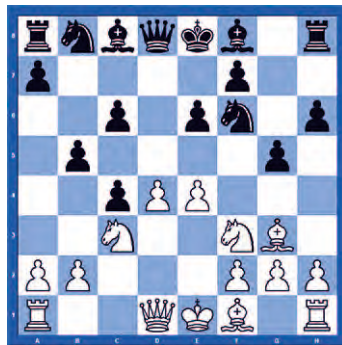
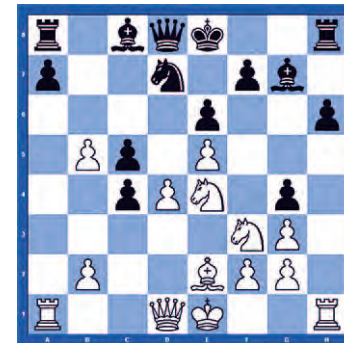


Diagram # so we are in the main line of the Moscow variation. White got a wide choice of continuations here 9. Be2 the main move [9. Ne5 ; 9. h4 are the 2 other main choices of White]

9... Bg7 a relatively rare line [You can find hundreds of games been played on the highest level in this position 9... Bb7]

10. Qc2 probably not the best. Seems like White been a bit surprised by Blacks move 9... Bg7 [a great game been played after 10. e5!? Nh5 11. a4 Nd7 12. axb5 Nxc3 13. hxg3 c5 14. Ne4 g4



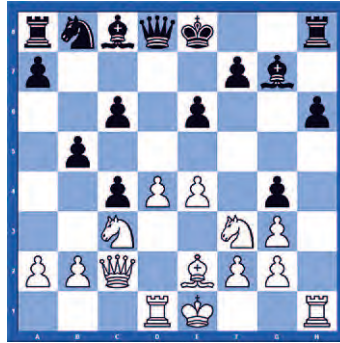
15. dxc5! gxf3 16. Nd6+ Kf8 17. Bxf3 Bb8 18. Rxa7+ Maletin,P 2617-Najer,E 2672 Ch-RUS 2010]

10... Nh5 a logical move, but now the break d5 is getting more effective [maybe 10... Na6 !? trying to make use out of the position of the White Q on c2]

11. Rd1 and of course White is playing for the d5 push! Now the question is will Black have enough time for consolidation to be prepared for the d5 move, or Blacks position will fall apart like a card house...

11...♘xg3 again I think it been good time to play 11...♘a6 [11...♘a6 12.a3 (12.d5 ♘xg3 13.hxg3 cxd5 14.exd5 ♘b4 15.♔d2 ♘xd5 and Black is doing good) 12...♘xg3 13.hxg3 ♙b7 and Black sort of half a tempo with by including the moves ♘a6-a3]

12.hxg3 g4



13.♘h2?! this is not the right direction for winning the game!! [13.♘e5 h5 (13...♙xe5 14.dxe5 ♔c7 15.♙xg4 ♔xe5 16.♔d2) 14.b3! with a very complicated position]

13...f5? [why not the simple 13...h5! White N on h2 is dead now, so White is having one piece less for the future attack which is a very positive news for Black]

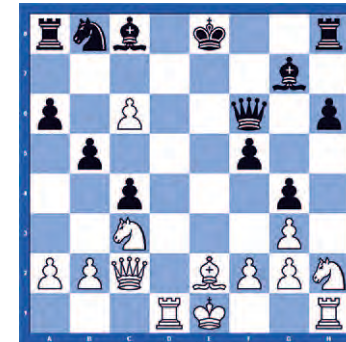
14.exf5 exf5 15.d5! finally we see the move d5! now we can also feel a big difference between the Black pawn on f7 and f5. Black king is now feeling himself very "naked"

15...♔f6?! in a very complicated position Black is making a mistake [15...♔c7 this move would lead to a crazy position, which is very hard to play with out the metal friend... 16.dxc6 ♘xc6! 17.0-0 (17.♘xb5 ♔a5+ 18.♘c3 ♙e6! hard to imagine, but it seems to be truth. Black is doing very

good here) 17...♔b8 18.♔fe1 ♙f8 (18...0-0? 19.♘xb5!+-) 19.♔c1! and position is not clear at all]

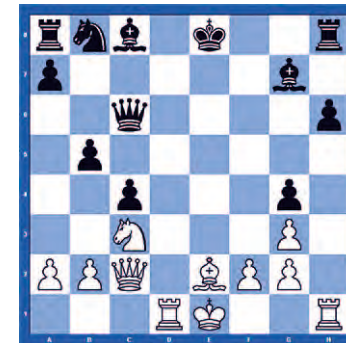
16.dxc6 Blacks position is falling apart. White got only one problem, the knight on h2, but here it is not playing any role, White got enough pieces to create deadly threats

16...♔xc6 [a very cool computer move is also not saving Blacks position any more 16...a6



17.♘xg4!! fxg4 18.♘d5 ♔xc6 19.♔e4+ with a deadly attack]

17.0-0?! White is missing their chance! [17.♘xg4! fxg4



18.♘xb5!! this is just an amazing combination! A double knight sacrifice on different parts of the board. This

kind of things we dont see very often 18...0-0 (18...♔xb5 19.♔g6+ ♕f8 20.♖d8+ ♖e7 21.♔d6+ ♕f7 22.♔c7+-) 19.♖d6 ♕f5 20.♖xc6 ♕xc2 21.♖xc4 ♕f5 22.♘c7± in case Viktorija would find this, she would truly deserve to be the winner of the European Championship!]

17...a6! bravo for Black, this move is showing good nerves and has a hidden idea in itself **18.♘d5** [18.a4! been the last chance for White to stay in the game 18...0-0 19.axb5 axb5 20.♘xb5 ♕b7 21.♔xc4+ ♖h8 22.♔xc6 ♘xc6 White is better, but Black got good drawing chances due to their bishop pair plus the knight on h2 who is completely out of game]

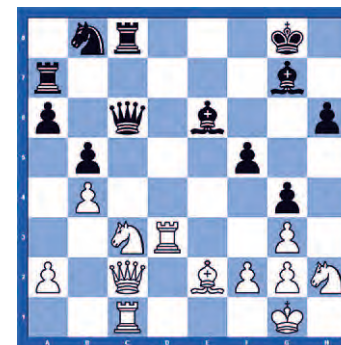
18...♖a7! and here we see it. Suddenly the rook from a8 came into the game with a very important effect, protection of the square e7, Black is doing better now

19.b3 c3 20.♖d3 White is getting greedy at the wrong moment. Whites chances are in the active play... [20.♖fe1 0-0 21.♘f1 followed by ♘fe3 next been still an option to continue the game in more or less unclear position]

20...0-0 from this moment Black is playing a great game!

21.♖c1 ♕e6 22.♘xc3 ♖c8 White won the pawn back but position is very bad. Blacks bishop pair is totally dominating the board and it is not easy for White to avoid immediate material losses

23.b4?! [23.♔d2 ♖d7 24.♕f1! would still give White some chances to fight for half a point]

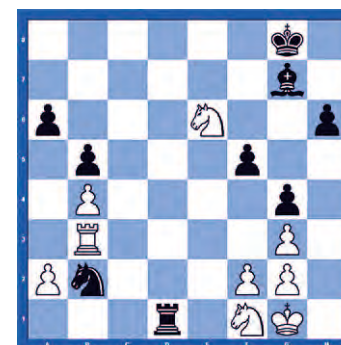


23...♖d7! 24.♖e3 ♖dc7 25.♔d2 ♘d7 White got no moves... Black knight is comming into game and the end is near...

26.♕d1 ♘e5 27.♘e2 ♘c4 28.♔e1 ♔d6! Black is playing excellent

29.♖b3 ♘b2 30.♖xc7 ♖xc7 31.♘f4 ♖c1! precise till the end!

32.♔xe6+ ♔xe6 33.♘xe6 ♖xd1+ 34.♘f1



34...♘c4 and it is time for White to resign. White can not avoid a loss of a knight on f1, next Black move is ♘d2

35.♘xg7 ♔xg7 36.♖c3 ♘d2 37.♖c7+ ♕f8 38.♖c6 ♘xf1 39.♖xh6 ♘xg3+ 0-1

(2) Brodsky,M (2558) – Jojua,D (2507) [D31]

Cappelle la Grande, 09.03.2012

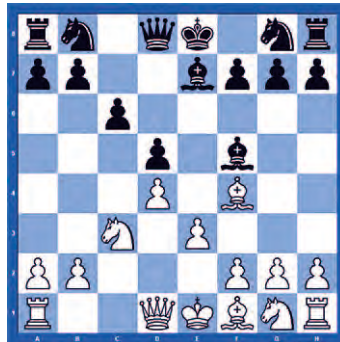
[Balogh Csaba]

In the following game, we will see an interesting strategical pawn sacrifice in the opening, which might be very unpleasant for Black in future. The experienced Ukrainian GM, Mikhail Brodsky, got really nice compensation, lead in development, powerful centre and a dangerous attack against the Georgian GM's king.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♕e7 Black plays the rock-solid Queen's Gambit, which is recently, definitely the most popular opening against 1.d4 on the highest level.

4.cxd5 exd5 5.♖f4 c6 [5...♘f6 is the other mainline.]

6.e3 ♖f5



7.g4 This great move belongs to Botvinnik, who tried it 3 times in the World Championship match against Petrosian, back in 1963. White is planning queenside castling, when he must organize his play on the kingside, and the centre.

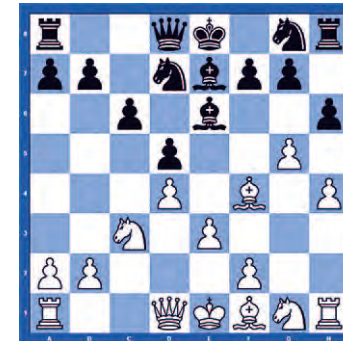
7...♖e6 In the aforementioned match, Botvinnik played 8.h3, however in 1970, he came up with a new idea against

Spassky: **8.h4!?** White continues the plan, started in the previous move.

8...♘d7 [Accepting the sacrifice would be a mistake, because of 8...♖xh4 9.♔b3 and ♔b6 does not work anymore, due to the h4 bishop. Black is forced to weaken his queenside decisively. 9...b6 10.♘f3 ♖e7 11.♘e5 with more, than enough activity for the pawn.]

9.g5 A beautiful strategical idea, introduced by Morozevich in 2012, instead of the 9.h5 line! At first sight, the text move seems to be a mistake, since after 9...h6 10.gxh6 ♘xh6, White only created weakness on h4, and helped Black to finish the development. As we will see, White has a different idea!

9...h6



10.g6! Shocking move! The idea is to create a stronghold on e5 for a minor piece. Lures the pawn from the f-file, when the attack in the centre with e4 will be very dangerous. In addition, if Black accepts the sacrifice, he must defend passively to keep his advantage.

10...fxg6 [Because of the last reason I mentioned before, Giri decided to not take on g6, rather to finish the development. In my opinion, this is the right approach from

Black point of view. 10...♘gf6 11.gxf7+ ♕xf7 12.♕d3 ♘h5 with an unclear position in Morozevich-Giri, Reggio Emilia 2012.]

11.♕d3 ♘f8 12.♖c2 g5 The most logical move, to get rid of the doubled pawns. [12...♕xh4 13.♕xg6+ ♘xg6 14.♖xg6+ ♕f7 15.♖xg7 ♕f6 16.♖g2 ♘e7 17.♘f3 and the e5 square yield White a comfortable advantage.; In an other game between two GMs, Barsov tried different move, but had no success for equalizing. 12...♕f6 13.0-0-0 ♘e7 14.♘ge2 ♕f5 15.e4 dxe4 16.♘xe4 ♕xe4 17.♕xe4± Peralta-Barsov, Catalunya 2012]

13.hxg5 ♕xg5 14.♕g3 [14.♕e5 was an alternative 14...♕f6 15.0-0-0 and the centre starts to march.]

14...♕f6 15.♘ge2 It is difficult to say, which development of the g1 knight was more advisable. Both has very big pluses, without minuses. The text move prepares for ♘f4 and e4. [15.♘f3 with the idea of ♘e5 has also guaranteed an edge.]

15...h5 Black wants to save his bishop pair, which he would have lost after the normal 15...♘e7 [15...♘e7 would strongly met by 16.♘f4 ♕f7 17.♘h5! getting the pair of bishops 17...♕xh5 18.♖xh5±]

16.0-0-0 h4



17.e4! Using the pin on the h-file. Brodsky does not waste time on bishop moves, and immediately opens up the center ahead of the king...

17...♘h6 18.♕f4 g5 [On 18...dxe4 I generally prefer 19.♕xe4 which helps White in further opening of the center with d5.; The computer's suggestion 18...♘g4 strongly met by 19.♖hf1! g5 20.exd5 ♕xd5 21.f3! when, even the machine realizes how bad his position is.]

19.♕d2 [19.exd5 led to promising positions as well. 19...♕xd5 20.♘xd5 cxd5 (20...♖xd5 21.♘c3) 21.♕e5±]

19...dxe4 20.♕xe4 Just as in the 18th move, I prefer the bishop take, in order to push d5 in the near future. Black must make a difficult decision, about where to put his king. As we will see, both ♖f7, or playing for 0-0-0, have their problems.

20...♖f7 The Georgian GM, decides to find shelter for his king on the kingside, where he has not too many pawns, but can use his minor pieces for defending. The next moves are all about d5! White wants to push it, while Black must prevent is at any cost. [20...♖c7 with the idea of 0-0-0 21.f4! g4 22.f5 ♕f7 23.♕f4 and d5 is coming in the next move; 20...♖d7 21.♖he1 ♖f7 has a nice refutation with diagram (21...0-0-0 22.d5!) 22.d5! cxd5 23.♘xd5 ♕xd5 24.♕c3!+-]

21.♕e3 ♖c8 Black pins two pieces in one move, White has to lose some time to refresh the threat.

22.♖b1 ♖d7 23.♖d2! ♖g8 24.♕c2! After the queen left the g5 without her protection, White rightly changes his mind, and frees the e4 square for the knight, which will attack the g5 pawn and f6 bishop in the same time.

[Black prepared a cold-blooded idea against 24.d5 cxd5 25.♘xd5 ♘f5! after which, it is not that easy to break through.]

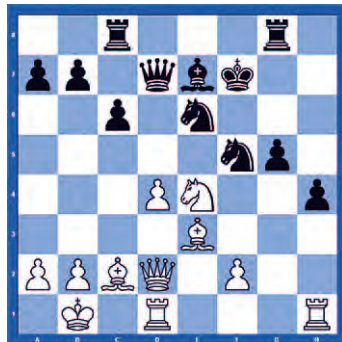
24...♙f5 25.♘e4 ♘e6 [25...♙xe4 26.♙xe4 without the white squared bishop, the d5 move is even more decisive!]



26.♘2g3! Parade of the knights!

26...♙e7 [26...hxg3 27.♖xh6+-]

27.♘xf5 ♘xf5



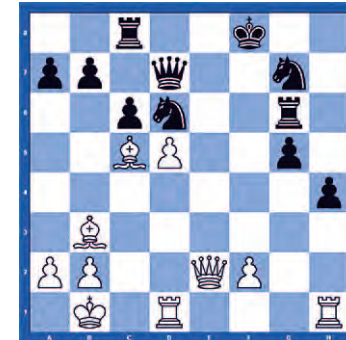
28.♙b3! It is clear, that Black has lost this battle. He can only wait, how his opponent is going to finish him. In the

following moves, White uses all the light squares, which became vulnerable after the bishop is taken.

28...♙f8 29.♙e2! heading to f3 or h5, in addition frees the way for the d1 rook, when d5 becomes even more crucial.

29...♖g6 30.d5 [30.♙f3 was also winning]

30...♘eg7 31.♘c5 ♙c7 [31...♙xc5 32.♙xc5+ ♘d6



33.f4! Opening the f-file. Not so nice position for players who prefers to knights to bishops.]

32.dxc6 bxc6 33.♙c4 and mate is coming soon! A great game by Mikhail Brodsky. It will be interesting to see, what the big guys, like Aronian, Kramnik and the others will find out against the 10.g6! move. In my opinion, they will search for new ideas in the other mainline with 5... ♘f6. **1-0**

(3) Hou,Yifan (2639) – Stefansson,Hannes (2531) [C26]

Reykjavik Reykjavik, 11.03.2011

[Balogh Csaba]

In our next example, we can enjoy a nice positional game with a neat finish by the current Women World Champion, Hou Yifan!

1.e4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.g3 This is the so-called Mieses variation. Black can decide now the character of the game. The text move leads to an opened position, while the ♙c5, d6 setup is rather for positional players.

3...d5 4.exd5 ♘xd5 5.♙g2 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♙d6 7.♘f3 0-0 8.0-0 ♘d7



9.d4 So far, Black played the most common moves of the variation, which is a bit strange to me, since I already don't see the way, how he could equalize.

9...c6 10.♖e1 exd4 [Black could not hold the tension in the center with 10...♖e8 since after 11.dxe5 he is losing material.]

11.cxd4 ♘b6 Logical play by the Icelandic GM. He tries to create a blockade on c4 with ♙e6. If he manages to do so, he would be fine. However, Hou Yifan finds a very nice idea, which allows her to push c4, before Black could set up his ideal position.



12.♙d3! A positional double threat! The main idea, what Black must parry is ♘g5, but after that, White is in time to play the important c4 move!

12...h6 [12...♙e6? 13.♘g5] **13.c4±** White achieved a small advantage from the opening. She has the better pawn structure, and more space, which gives her the possibility for more comfortable piece play.

13...♙b4 14.♙d2 By exchanging the dark squared bishops, White keeps the initiative, but in the same time eases Black's defending task. [The principled move was 14.♖e2± to keep all the pieces on board, since it is very hard for Black to coordinate them.]

14...♙xd2 15.♘xd2 ♙f6



16.a4! We must remember on this move, it is very typical for this pawn structure! White would like to play a5-a6, creating weaknesses on the queenside, where she is clearly better. The b7 and c6 pawns are too much vulnerable, Black can not hope in equality.

16...♗f5 17.♔c3 The human move, keeping the strong bishop on board. [However an interesting plan was suggested by the computer: 17.♕e4 after exact hanging the strong bishop, the knight arrives to the center with a tempo, and it can quickly create serious problems on the d6 square. 17...♕xe4 18.♘xe4 ♔g6 19.a5 ♘d7



20.♔a3!± very subtle move. ♘d6 is going to be really annoying for Black.]

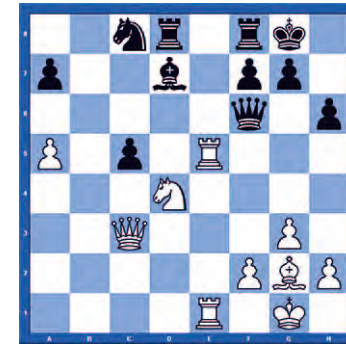
17...♖ad8 18.a5 ♘c8 19.♘b3 [19.♖e5± came into consideration]

19...b6 Black would like to exchange some pawns on the queenside, but he can not get rid of all of them! [19...♖fe8 was better chance]

20.♖e5! c5 This was the point of the previous move, White can not take on c5...

21.♖ae1 [21.dxc5? ♖d3]

21...cxd4 22.♘xd4 ♕d7 23.c5! bxc5



24.♔xc5 The a7 pawn remained on board, which actually causes all the problems of Black's positions. He can not escape to any kind of endgames, since a7 pawn might be hardly defendable. In addition, the c8 knight is forced into passivity.

24...g6 [24...♖fe8 25.♖xe8+ ♕xe8 26.♘c6 ♕xc6 27.♕xc6±]

25.h4 Opening the back rank, and trying to weaken the kingside.

25...h5



26. ♖e2! Very nice play by Hou Yifan! She transfers her knight to f4, where it might be sacrificed on g6 and on h5 with different kind of mating attacks, and also wants to jump to d5, when the f6 check could be decisive. [26. ♘c6!? was an alternative]

26... ♜fe8 [26... ♛d6 27. ♖f4 ♛xc5 28. ♜xc5 The exchange of the queens would only save Black from getting mated, but the endgame will be still lost for him.]

27. ♖f4 ♜xe5 28. ♜xe5 ♛d6 29. ♛c3? This a mistake, which gives Black a chance to survive. [29. ♛e3! should have been played, when Black is simple paralyzed. He has no useful move, while ♖d5 is coming.]

29... ♖e7! Thanks to the mistake in the last move, Black can finally activate his knight. Stefansson starts to find the only moves.

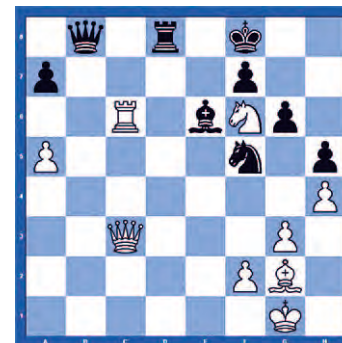
30. ♖d5 ♘e6! [30... ♖xd5? 31. ♜xd5 ♛e7 32. ♛d4 the pin would be deadly for Black.]

31. ♖f6+ ♜f8 32. ♖h7+ ♜g8 Probably, White was in time trouble, so now and in the next move, she repeats two times, to approach to the 40th move.

32... ♜g8 33. ♖f6+ ♜f8 34. ♜c5 White opens the diagonal for the queen, so she creates hidden threats after different knight jumps.

34... ♖f5? Black is aiming for further activation of the knight by jumping to d4, but it was already necessary for him to take care of his king, by offering exchange of the queens. [34... ♛d1+ 35. ♜h2 ♛d4 36. ♛xd4 ♜xd4 37. ♜c7 ♜d2 Black could have good chance to save the game.]

35. ♖h7+ ♜g8 36. ♖f6+ ♜f8



37. ♖d5!? [37. ♘d5! was even better 37... ♖e7 only move, but still after (37... ♘xd5 38. ♜xd5 ♛e7 39. ♖xh5+-) 38. ♘xe6 ♛xe6 39. ♖h7+ ♜g8 40. ♖g5! ♜d1+ (40... ♛d6 41. ♛c4 ♛f6 42. ♜c7+-; 40... ♛e2 41. ♛f6 ♜d1+ 42. ♜h2) 41. ♜h2 ♛e1 42. ♛xe1 ♜xe1 43. ♜c7 a6 44. ♜a7 the endgame must be winning.]

37... ♜g8?! This move allows to the World Champion to finish the game beautifully! [37... ♖e7 would have been the only move, which is practically impossible to find for a human. The position remains difficult for him anyway. 38. ♖f4!?

38. ♖c6! ♜b8 [38... ♜f8 39. ♘f6+ ♔h8 40. ♘xh5+ (40. ♖c7!?) 40... ♘d4 41. ♘f4±]

39. ♖f6+ ♔f8



40. ♖xe6 [Pretty finish! In the last move of the time trouble, when people usually commits the most foolish mistakes, Hou Yifan finds a brilliant way to finish the game. Black resigned immediately, seeing the line 40. ♖xe6!! fxe6 (40... ♖b1+ 41. ♖e1) 41. ♘d7+! ♖xd7 42. ♖h8+ ♔e7 43. ♖xb8+- An instructive game, about how to handle this pawn structure. In my opinion, Black is more clever, if he chooses the closed system against the Mieses variation with 3... ♟c5 and d6.] **1-0**

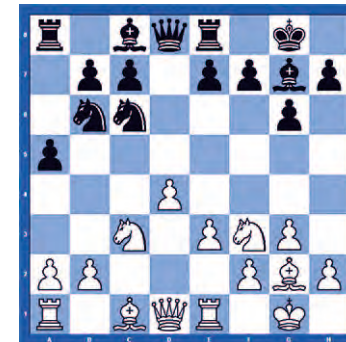
(4) Avrukh,Boris (2591)
— Navara,David (2700) [D76]

Reykjavik Open 2012 Reykjavik (4.2), 09.03.2011

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are facing an interesting game from one of the biggest opens in the world, the Reykjavik Open. The second seed David Navara is coming out with a slightly worse position out of the opening, due to a very interesting idea 11. ♔c2!?, I guess, we will see more often this move in the future games. Unexpectedly, White is losing the control over the game from move 19 and getting quickly in a lost position by a very nice tactic by Black

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7 4.♙g2 d5 5.cxd5 ♘xd5
6.♘f3 ♘b6 7.♘c3 ♘c6 8.e3 0-0 9.0-0 ♖e8 10.♖e1 a5
we are still in the opening part. Actually only in the be-
ginning of it!!



11.♔c2!? Avrukh is a very well prepared player and one more time he is showing it with his interesting idea 11.♔c2!? This move is almost a novelty!! [11.♔e2 is the main continuation for White 11...♙e6 (11...e5 12.dxe5 ♘xe5

13. ♖xe5 ♙xe5 14.e4 is the another main line) 12. ♘d2 ♘b4 13. ♖d1 c6 14.a3 ♘d4 15. ♘ce4 with a fighting position]

11...e5 a standard reply in this kind of positions **12. ♘xe5 ♘xe5 13.dxe5 ♙xe5 14.e4 c6** a move with a hidden trap [14... ♙e6 15.f4 ♙d4+ 16. ♙e3 ♙xe3+ 17. ♖xe3 ♙d4 18. ♙f2 and maybe White is doing little better]

15. ♙h6 [now 15.f4?! is not working cause of 15... ♙d4+ 16. ♙e3 ♙xe3+ 17. ♖xe3 ♘c4 18. ♖d3 ♙b6+! the key is the check on b6 that is now possible after Black played 14...c6]

15... ♙e7 Black continues to play against f4, to make it less effective **16.f4** [16. ♖ad1 ♙g4 17.f3 ♙e6 18.f4 ♙c5+ 19. ♙h1 ♙xc3 (19... ♙d4 20.f5!, typical break through for White) 20.bxc3 ♘c4 with a very complicated position]

16... ♙c5+ 17. ♙h1 ♙xc3 18.bxc3 [18. ♙xc3?! exchange of Queens is a bad idea for White 18... ♙xc3 19.bxc3 ♘a4! usually all the endgames are fine for Black]

18... ♘c4 [18... ♙h5 19. ♙g5 ♘c4 20. ♙h4 and again White is in time to avoid ♙h3 move]



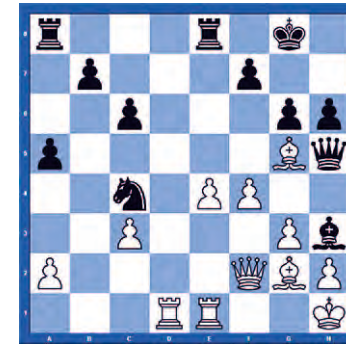
19. ♖ad1?! a too standard play, White should have been more careful [right would be 19. ♙g5! to avoid Blacks ♙

coming to h5 19... ♙e6 (19... ♙g4 20.h3 ♙e6 21. ♙f6 ♙h5 22. ♙h2 and White is doing better) 20. ♙f6 ♙h5 21. ♙g1! ♙h3 22. ♙h1 and White is in time to avoid the exchange of the bishops].

19... ♙h5! Black is using their sudden chance! A high class player like Navara, You don't need to ask twice

20. ♙g5 ♙h3 21. ♙f2?! quite a senseless move, White lost totally control over the position [much more solid has been 21. ♙f6 ♙xg2+ 22. ♙xg2±]

21...h6?! A very important moment in the game! White got 2 options, to take on h3 first and then to play ♙f6, or to continue with immediate ♙f6 [21... ♙xg2+! the correct move order for Black! 22. ♙xg2 (22. ♙xg2 ♘e3) 22... h6! (22... ♖xe4 23. ♖xe4 ♙xd1 24. ♖d4!) 23. ♖d4 (23. ♙f6 ♖xe4!± see the game) 23...hxg5 24. ♖xc4 gxf4 With a clear advantage for Black]



22. ♙f6? a blunder [22. ♙xh3! would be the right move 22... ♙xh3 23. ♙f6 ♙e6 24.e5 b5 25. ♖d4± Position is quite hard for an evaluation. White is controlling the d-file, what is of course super important and in case White manages to create any threats on the king side, it could get really dangerous for Black. On the other hand, Black

managed to exchange the White squared bishops, which is very good. The knight on c4 is having a great position. But what to do next for Black — this is hard to say... that's why the evaluation of the position should be with a small advantage for White]

22... ♗xg2+ 23. ♔xg2



23... ♖xe4! a very nice tactical trick!

24. ♖xe4 ♕xd1 25. ♖d4 ♖h5! probably White blundered this move. White again can not take the knight on c4

26. ♕e1?! [26.f5! the last chance to fight, and probably a good one!! 26... ♕xf5 27. ♕xf5 ♘e3+ 28. ♔f3 ♘xf5 29. ♖d7 ♖b8 30.c4! with good chances for a draw]

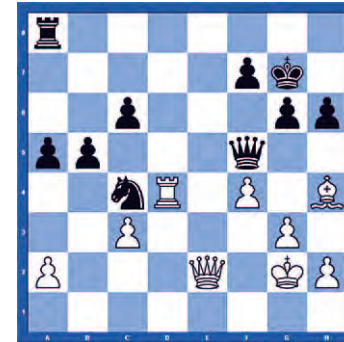
26... ♕f5 27. ♗h4? [27. ♕e7 ♘e3+! 28. ♕xe3 ♕xf6 29. ♖d7+ Whites position is bad, he is a pawn down, but still Black will have a long way to win this position. White always got the idea of playing ♕e5 after which a rook endgame is arising, and as we know, in rook endgames the drawing chances are increasing!]

27...b5! now Whites hopes are almost down to 0 to save the game. Black is not only a healthy pawn up, but having

a better knight against Whites bad bishop, which is taking a horrible position on h4

28. ♕e7 Maybe White is in a time trouble... anyway it would probably not make anymore a big difference

28... ♔g7 29. ♕e2



29...c5! a nice finishing move [29...g5 30.fxg5 hxg5 31.g4! Black is still much better, but White didn't loose the bishop]

30. ♖e4 g5! 31.fxg5 hxg5 32.a4 [now at 32.g4 ♕d5 is simply winning, that's why Black needed to include 29...c5]

32... ♖d8 [32...gxh4 would win of course as well]

33. ♖f4 gxf4 34. ♗xd8 f3+! easy but pretty

35. ♕xf3 ♕xf3+ 36. ♔xf3 bxa4 0-1

Puzzle section

(5) Barbosa,Ev (2399) – Andriasian,Z (2616)

28th Cappelle Open Cappelle la Grande FRA, 03.03.2012

[CEWN]

1...-+



(6) Cheparinov,I (2664) – Akshayraj,K (2422)

Reykjavik Open Reykjavik ISL, 08.03.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

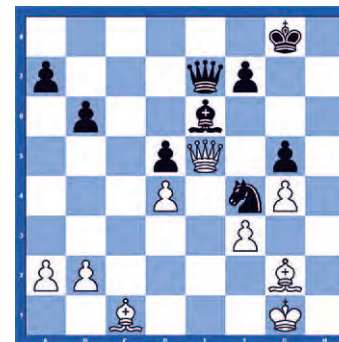


(7) Fridman,D (2653) – Huschenbeth,N (2509)

83rd ch-GER 2012 Osterburg GER, 06.03.2012

[CEWN]

1...=

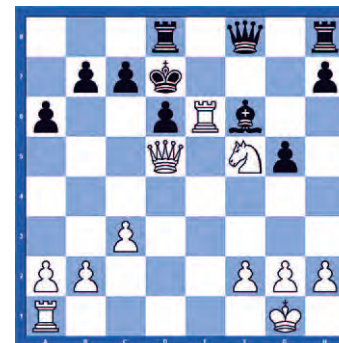


(8) Iordachescu,V (2644) – Saidov,B (2389)

6th Agzamov Memorial Tashkent UZB, 09.03.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

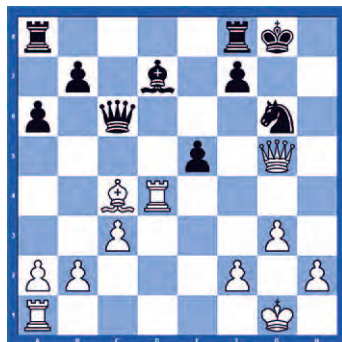


(9) Socko,B (2636) – Naumkin,I (2443)

Moscow Open 2012 Moscow RUS, 31.01.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

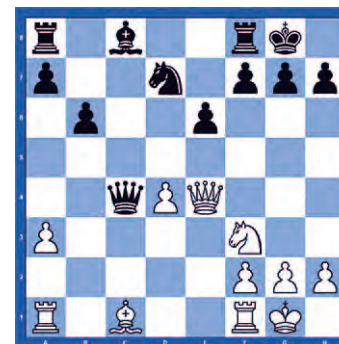


(11) Nguyen Ngoc Truong Son (2662) – Li Shilong (2549)

HD Bank Cup, 06.03.2012

[CEWN]

1.+/-

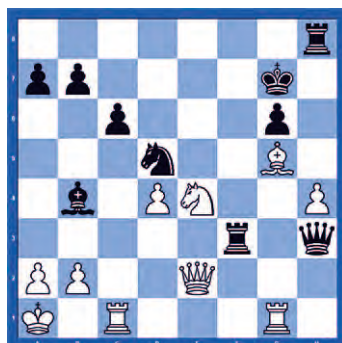


(10) Hoang Thanh Trang (2438) – Paehtz,E (2459)

Gazientep Gaziantep TUR, 12.03.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

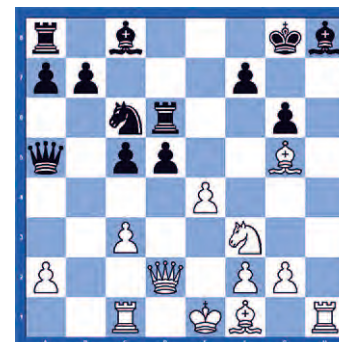


(12) Kozul,Z (2602) – Brkic,A (2587)

Zagreb, 10.03.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

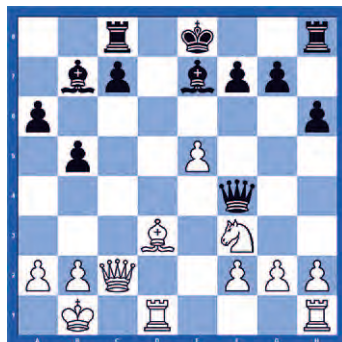


(13) Papin,V (2575) – Thorhallsson,T (2398)

Reykjavik Open, 11.03.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

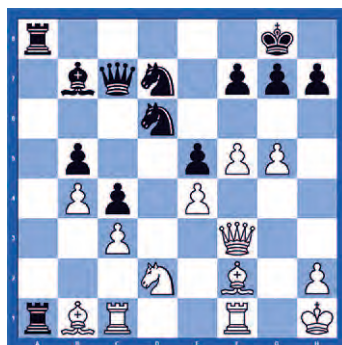


(14) Gunnarsson,J (2424) – Hess,Ro (2635)

Reykjavik Open, 08.03.2012

[CEWN]

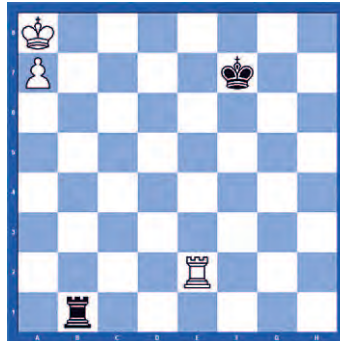
1...-+



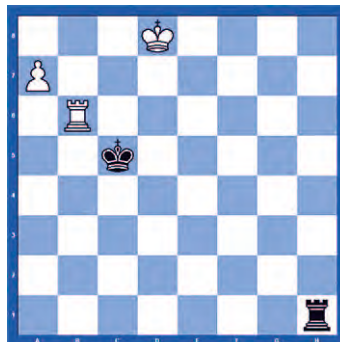
Endgame section

(15)

[Balogh Csaba]



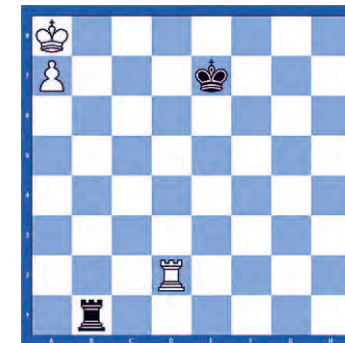
This week, we study rook endgames with a- or h-pawns! In these cases has the defensive side the biggest drawing chances. However, in this example, Black's king is too far, and White's rook has enough time to rescue the king from the corner. Black king should stay on e7, in order to make a draw, as we will see in the next diagram. **1. ♖c2 ♔e7 2. ♜c8** This is the winning technique! **2... ♔d7** [2... ♔d6 3. ♜b8 ♜a1 4. ♔b7 ♜b1+ 5. ♔c8 ♜c1+ 6. ♔d8 ♜h1 Black's trickiest try, but it does not save him. 7. ♜b6+ ♔c5



8. ♜c6+! ♔d5 (8... ♔b5 9. ♜c8 ♜h8+ 10. ♔c7 ♜h7+ 11. ♔b8+-) **9. ♜a6 ♜h8+ 10. ♔c7+-** **3. ♜b8 ♜a1 4. ♔b7 ♜b1+ 5. ♔a6 ♜a1+ 6. ♔b6 ♜b1+ 7. ♔c5 1-0**

(16)

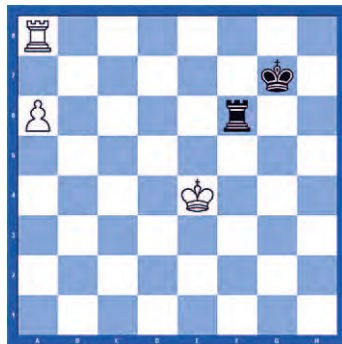
[Balogh Csaba]



In practice, we can very often meet with this endgame. Black's king is now close enough to the corner, White has no winning chance at all. **1. ♜h2** [1. ♜d3 ♜b2; 1. ♜c2 ♔d7] **1... ♔d7 2. ♜h8 ♔c7 3. ♜b8 ♜a1** White has managed to send away the rook from the b-file, but Black king has just arrived, and the king will remain squeezed into the corner. **1/2**

(17)

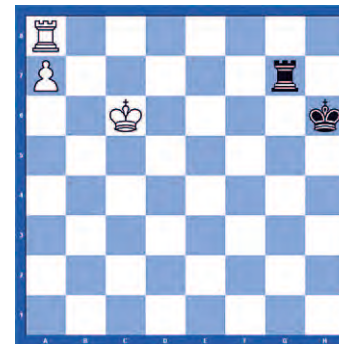
[Balogh,Csaba]



This is the so-called Vancura position. By attacking the pawn from the side, Black does not allow White to activate his rook, and get out from the corner. And when the white king is trying to approach to the pawn, he could not hide himself against the side checks. **1.♔d5** [1.a7 ♖a6 2.♔d5 ♜a1 If the pawn is pushed to a7, then Black can hold the draw with vertical checks, if his king is on g7 or h7! 3.♔c6 ♜c1+ 4.♔b6 ♜b1+ 5.♔c7 ♜c1+ 6.♔d6= (With rook on b8 and pawn on b7, the outcome is the same)] **1...♜f5+ 2.♔c4 ♜f6 3.♔b5 ♜f5+ 4.♔c6 ♜f6+ 5.♔b7 ♜f7+** If White does not push his pawn until a7, and so, keeps a square on a7 for his king against vertical checks, Black holds the draw, by giving horizontal checks. **1/2**

(18)

[Balogh,Csaba]



White pawn has reached the 7th rank, but there is no time for vertical checks, because of the bad position of Black's king. **1...♜g7+** [1...♜d1+ 2.♔c6 ♜c1+ 3.♔d5 ♜d1+ 4.♔e4 ♜e1+ 5.♔d3 ♜d1+ 6.♔e2 ♜a1 7.♜h8+-] **2.♔c6 ♔g5!!** Black hides his king behind his own rook from the treating check! [2...♔h7? 3.♜h8+-] **3.♔b6 ♜g6+ 4.♔b5 ♜g7 1/2**

Clash of the Titans

(19) Tal, Mihail – Gurgeni, Bukhuti [B15]

URS-ch36 Alma-Ata, 1968

[Balogh Csaba]

The next game, I would like to present, is played by the “magician of Riga”! Yes, yes, the 8th World Champion, Mikhail Tal! His amazing fantasy for combinations, has put him to the top of the chess world. He won the title against Botvinnik in 1960, when he was only 24 years old! Unfortunately for him, Botvinnik took a revenge on him in the next year, and he was not able to win back his crown, but anyway we will never forget his fantastic victories, from which I would like to show you one. His victim was Bukhuti Gurgeni, Grandmaster from Georgia.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 b5 A rare move in the Caro-kann defense, which the Georgian grandmaster has tried several times.

4.a3! White reacts precisely, after stopping his opponent's idea to push b4, the c5 square becomes a weakness in Black's camp.

4...dxe4 5.♘xe4 ♙f5 6.♙d3!? Typical Tal! He does not care about losing a pawn in the opening, if he gets 2 tempi for that. Gurgeni respected his opponent, and did not accept the “gift”.

6...♙xe4 [6...♙xd4 7.♘f3 ♙d5 8.♙e2 White gets very strong initiative for the pawn, Black's pieces are completely undeveloped.]

7.♙xe4 Black could not be too happy with his opening. He gave up his bishop pair, and weakened his queenside pawn structure might be a problem in the future.

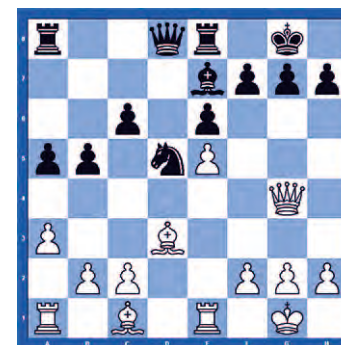
7...♘f6 8.♙d3!? Amazing! I think, almost everybody would have retreated the bishop on f3, and developed with ♘e2, to make pressure against the weakened c6 pawn, and having a better position. However, Tal was always thinking about giving mate. He played ♙d3, offering the same “gift” on d4, and he expects his opponent to castle short side, when his d3 bishop will eye dangerously on the h7 square. [8.♙f3±]

8...e6 [In my opinion, the sacrifice should have been accepted for the 2nd time. 8...♙xd4 9.♘f3 ♙d8 10.0-0 e6 11.♙e1 ♙e7 12.a4 b4 13.♘e5 when, White definitely gets strong compensation, but at least, Black could have said, that he was a pawn up!]

9.♘f3 ♙e7 10.♙e2 ♘bd7 11.0-0 0-0 12.♙e1 ♙e8 13.♘e5! After both players have developed their pieces to their logical places, it is time to have some action! Tal scares his opponent with the possibility of the sacrifice on f7.

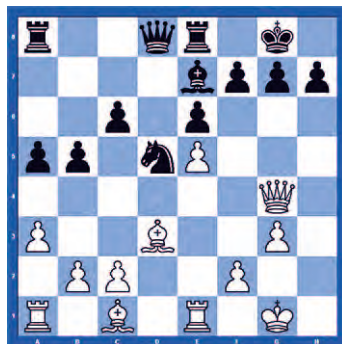
13...♘xe5 14.dxe5 ♘d5 15.♙g4! Of course, the pieces are going into the attack. Where also could have they gone, if Tal is leading them?! :-)

15...a5



16.h4!! What?! A blunder from the World Champion? Of course not! It is an intuitive pawn sacrifice, just as the d4 pawn in the opening phrase. This time, the Georgian decides to take it, otherwise h5, and the king is under mating attack.

16... ♟xh4 17.g3 ♟e7



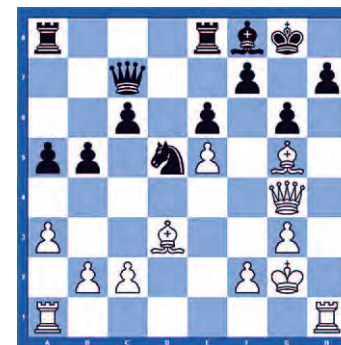
18. ♔g2!! And here we get the point of the sacrifice! The magician just wanted to get rid of his h-pawn, in order to use the h-file for mating with the rook.

18...g6 Black must try to close the diagonal of the d3 bishop.

19. ♖h1 ♟f8 Gurgienidze tries to bring defenders around his king, but he is just too late.

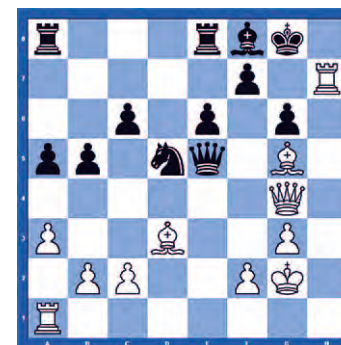
20. ♟g5! Developing with tempo, and opens the 1st rank for the a1 rook, to join into the attack.

20... ♔c7



21. ♖h7!! Tal does not want to waste time on doubling the rooks on the h-file. He is crushing immediately.

21... ♔xe5 [If Black takes the rook 21... ♔xh7 22. ♖h1+ ♔g8 23. ♖h4 ♟g7 24. ♟f6! ♖h8! threats with mate 24... ♟xf6 25.exf6 now ♖h7 threats with forced mate 25... ♔f8 26. ♖h8+! ♟xh8 27. ♖xh8# would have been another nice finish!]



22. ♖xf7!! When the Magician starts to sacrifice, then it is really hard to stop him! This time, Black has no other choice, must take the rook. [22. ♖ah1 ♟g7 would not be so easy.]

22... ♔xf7



23...♔g8 If the bishop is taken now or in the next move, Black loses his queen. [23...♔xg6 24.♕f4+ ♔f6 25.♖h4+! ♔f7 26.♕xe5+-]

25. ♖d7 [25. ♖xc6+-]

25...  **c7** **26.**  **xc6** Black has managed to not be mated, but he ended up with 2 pawns down and lost position. The rest is matter of technique.

26...♖f8 27.♔d1 ♕c5 28.♙f3 ♕xc2 29.♖d7 ♖f7
30.♖d8+ ♗f8 31.♙f6! Even is completely winning position, Tal is playing for the spectators!

31... ♖h7 32. ♙e4 ♖h6 33. ♙g5 ♕h8 The queen is pursued into the corner.

34. ♖d7 and Black resigned. Typical victory by Tal! When he had a good day, he won all his games in this style. And he had quite often a good day, luckily for chess fans! :-)
1-0

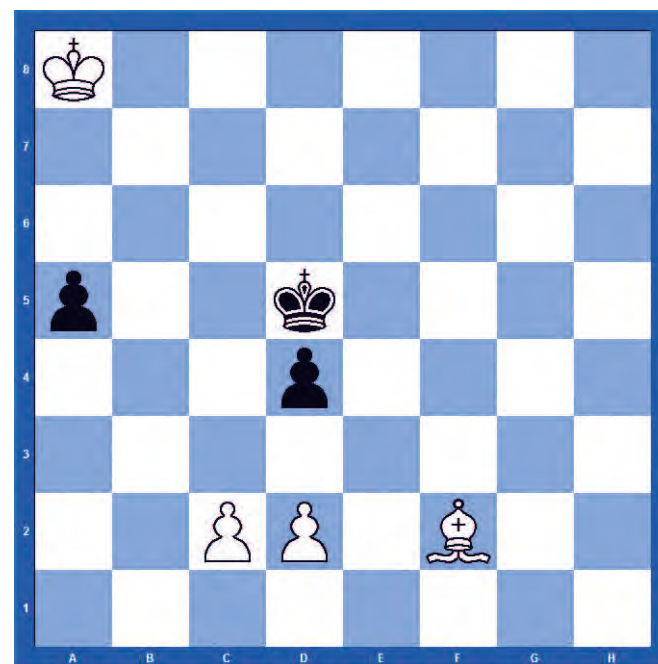
Surprise section / study

(20) Benko,P

1984

[Chess Evolution]

1.+-

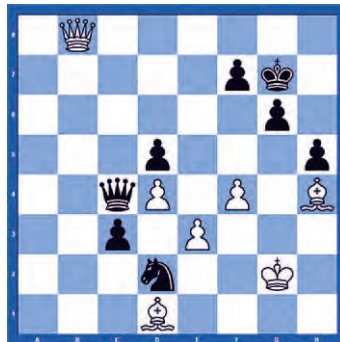


Solutions

(21) Arabidze,M (2337) – Romanko,M (2416)

Gazientep, 05.03.2012

[Solutions]

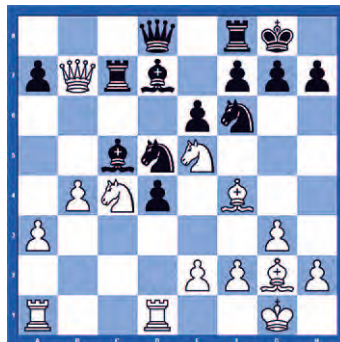


45. ♖f6+! 1-0 [45. ♖f6+ ♔xf6 46. ♔e5#]

(22) Dzagnidze,N (2559) – Mammadova,G (2324)

Gazientep, 02.03.2012

[Solutions]



16. ♘xf7!! [16. ♔a6 ♘xf4 17.gxf4 ♙e7 18. ♖xd4 ♙b5! 19. ♖xd8 ♙xa6 20. ♖xf8+ ♔xf8∞] 16... ♖xb7 [16... ♖xf7 17. ♙xc7 ♘xc7 18.bxc5+-; 16... ♘xf4 17. ♘xd8 ♖xb7 18. ♘xb7+-] 17. ♘xd8 ♖xd8 18.bxc5+-

(23) Koepke,C (2404) – Pinter,J (2546)

Austrian league, St. Veit, 04.03.2012

[Solutions]

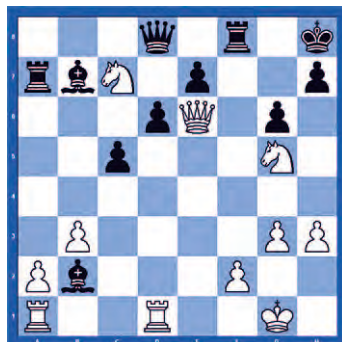


23. ♙xg5! ♔xg5 24. ♙xf7+! ♖xf7 25. ♔xg5 ♙xg5 26. ♖xe8+-

(24) Lalic,B (2468) – Vorobiov,E (2580)

Cappelle la Grande, 05.03.2012

[Solutions]

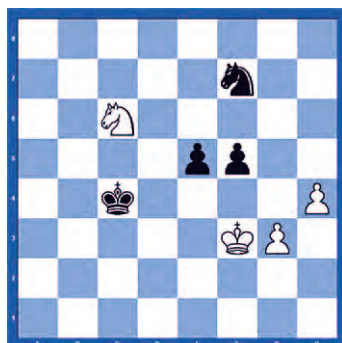


24. ♔f7!! [24. ♘f7+ ♖xf7 25. ♔xf7 ♙c6! 26. ♘e6 ♔g8 27. ♔xg8+ ♙xg8 28. ♖ab1 ♙e5∞] **24... ♖xf7** [24... ♙g7 25. ♘ce6!] **25. ♘xf7+ ♙g8 26. ♘xd8 ♙f3** [26... ♙xa1 27. ♖xa1+-] **27. ♘de6 ♙xd1 28. ♖xd1 ♖xa2 29. ♖d3** 1-0

(25) Petrosian,T (2643) – Arutinian,D (2553)

Cappelle la Grande, 05.03.2012

[Solutions]

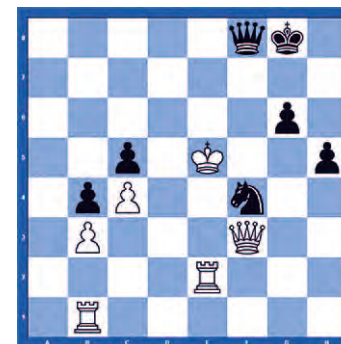


55. ♘xe5+! ♘xe5+ 56. ♔f4 ♔d5 [56... ♘f7 57. ♔xf5+-] **57. ♔xf5 ♔d6 58. h5!** [58. ♔f6? ♘g4+ 59. ♔g5 ♘e5 60. h5 ♔e6=] **58... ♘f7 59. ♔f6 ♘h6** [59... ♘e5 60. h6+-] **60. ♔g6! ♘g4 61. h6 ♔e7 62. h7 ♘e5+ 63. ♔g7 ♘f7 64. g4!** 1-0 [64. h8Q? ♘xh8 65. ♔xh8 ♔f6=]

(26) Fauland,A (2452) – Bosiocic,M (2580)

Austrian league, St. Veit, 03.03.2012

[Solutions]



58... ♔f5+? [58... ♔e7+!! 59. ♔xf4 ♔h4+ 60. ♔e5 (60. ♔e3?? ♔d4#) 60... ♔e7+ 61. ♔f4= (61. ♔d5? ♔b7+ 62. ♔xc5 ♔xf3#)] **59. ♔d6 ♔f6+ 60. ♔d7 ♔f5+ 61. ♔c6 ♘xe2?** [61... ♔c8+ 62. ♔b5 ♘xe2 63. ♔xe2 ♔d7+ 64. ♔xc5 ♔f5+ 65. ♔xb4 ♔xb1 66. c5±] **62. ♔xf5 gxf5 63. ♔xc5+-**

(27) Mammadova,G (2324) – Repkova,E (2416)

Gazientep, 03.03.2012

[Solutions]



23. ♖b3! gxf5 [23... ♙xe6 24. ♚xc5! ♚xc5+ 25. ♘xc5 ♙xf5 26. ♜xe8 ♜xe8 27. gxf5+-] **24. ♘xc5 ♙c6 25. ♜xf5+-**

(28) Tazbir,M (2513) – Amin,B (2608)

Cappelle la Grande, 05.03.2012

[Solutions]



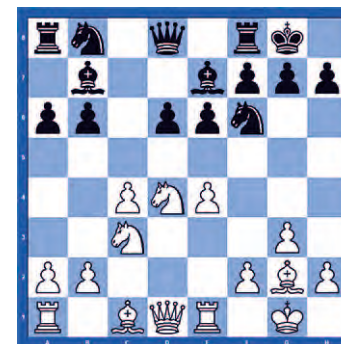
27... ♜xe4! 28.f5 [28. ♙xe4 ♙xe4+ 29. ♘hf3 ♚xb1-+; 28.bxc4 ♜xe2+ 29. ♘xe2 ♙xc2-+] **28... ♜xe2+ 29. ♘xe2**

♚xc2 [29... ♜e8!?-+] **30. ♚xc2 ♘e3+ 31. ♚f2 ♘xc2 32.fxg6 ♙e5 33.gxf7+ ♚xf7-+**

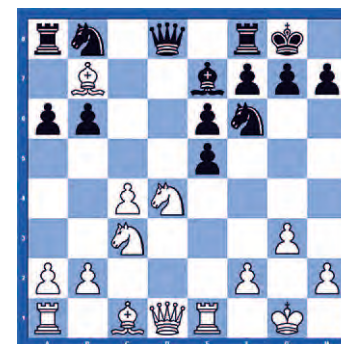
(29) Siebrecht,S (2463) – Dranischnikov (2327)

Osterburg, 03.03.2012

[Solutions]



11.e5! dxe5 [11... ♙xg2 12.exf6 ♙xf6 13. ♚xg2+-] **12. ♙xb7 ♜a7** [12... exd4 13. ♙xa8 dxc3 14. ♚xd8 ♜xd8 15.bxc3±]



13. ♘c6! ♚xd1 14. ♘e7+ ♚h8 15. ♜xd1 [15. ♘xd1! ♜xb7 16.b3! ♜xe7 17. ♙a3+-] **15... ♜xb7 16.b3! b5** [16... ♜xe7

17. ♖a3+-] 17. ♖e3! bxc4 [17... ♖e8 18. ♖c5±] 18. bxc4
♖e8 19. ♖c5 ♖c7 20. ♖d6 ♖xc4 21. ♖ac1+-

(30) Kaspret,G (2292) – Diermair,A (2429)

Austrian league, St.Veit, 04.03.2012

[Solutions]

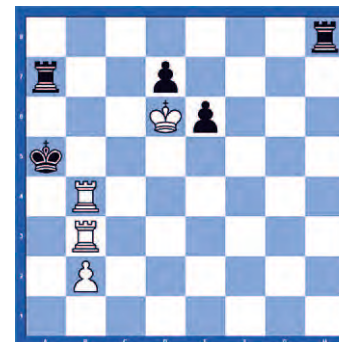


39. d6!! ♖xd6 40. ♖c3!! ♖xc3 [40... ♖xd2 41. ♖xd2 ♖xd2
42. ♖d5+ ♖e6 43. ♖e8+ ♖f8 44. ♖xe6+ ♖g7 45. ♖g6#]
41. ♖xd6 ♖xd6 [41... ♖c1+ 42. ♖g2 ♖xh1 43. ♖d5+ ♖e6
44. ♖xe6+ ♖f8 45. ♖d8+ ♖e7 46. ♖e8#] 42. ♖d5+ ♖e6
43. ♖e8+ 1-0

(31) Gurgenedze,D

1977

[Chess Evolution]



1. ♖b5+! ♖a6 2. ♖b6+! ♖a5 3. ♖3b5+! ♖a4 4. ♖b4+!
♖a5 5. ♖6b5+! [5. b3 ♖h5!=] 5... ♖a6 6. b3! ♖aa8 7. ♖b6+!
♖a7 8. ♖b7+! ♖a6 9. ♖4b6+! ♖a5 10. ♖b5+! ♖a6
11. b4! 1-0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 4

23rd of March 2012

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Editorial Preface

The most interesting moment of the week was the match between Baden-Baden and Werder Bremen in the German Bundesliga. The two strongest teams played together for the first place and they arrived with their heavy artillery. Baden-Baden won the battle to 4.5-3.5, with a decisive victory of Michael Adams over Laurent Fressinet. On the first board, spectators could enjoy a fantastic game, Anand drew against Eljanov, a game that is also central for this issue of CEWN.

Other games included in this edition are the fascinating finish of the Reykjavik Open between the young stars Caruana and Yifan Hou, the Efimenko-Gonda encounter from Schachbundesliga, and the EIWCC decisive game Gunina-Muzychuk.

The classic game is by the great Smyslov, while in the puzzle section you will find out how sometimes a silent move can be much stronger than an eye-catcher.

Meanwhile the European Individual Championship has just begun. We are playing there, so expect a nice report from the venue with the most interesting games in the weekly newsletter.

As usual, we wish you fun, and hope you will enjoy the new issue of CEWN!

*Arkadij Naiditsch
Balogh Csaba*

4 best games of the past week

(1) Anand,Viswanathan (2817)
— Eljanov,Pavel (2683)

Schachbundesliga 2011/2012 (12.1), 17.03.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the 12th round of Bundesliga, in the decisive match between the teams of Baden-Baden and Werder Bremen. Both teams arrived with an almost full line up. Anand-Eljanov was the most interesting and spectacular game of the round. The World Champion had a clear advantage after the opening, but slowly Eljanov managed to come back into the game and even had a chance to make a full point after the first time control.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 Another game in the Slav defense, which recently enjoys high popularity.

3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 dxc4 5.a4 e6 currently a very fashionable line

6.e4 ♗b4



7.e5!? Not the main move here. Much more often we can see 7.♗xc4 or 7.♗g5

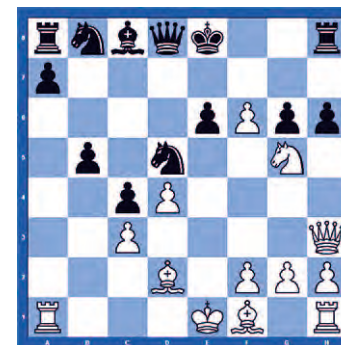
7...♘d5 8.♗d2 b5! Black needs to hold the c4 pawn!

9.axb5 ♗xc3 10.bxc3 cxb5 11.♘g5 h6 this move is almost a novelty [11...♘c6 12.♙h5 ♙e7 13.h4!? is the usual continuation here with a very sharp and unclear play]

12.♙h5 g6?!N this is already a novelty, but hard to say if Eljanov really prepared it... [in the game of the fresh woman European Champion Gunina.V happened: 12...0-0 13.♘e4 ♘c6 14.♗xh6 (14.h4!? with the idea ♗h3-g3 could bring Black in quite some danger) 14...gxh6 15.♙xh6 f5 16.♙g6+ with a draw]

13.♙h3 f5 Black needs to act quickly. It cannot let White play ♘e4

14.exf6



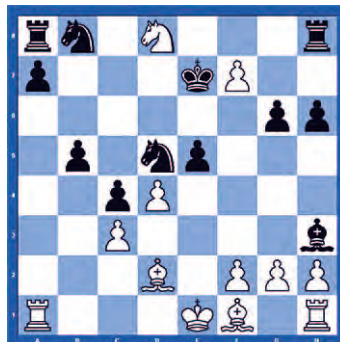
14...e5?! Black is trying to continue active play, but blundering one of the opportunities for White [more solid been 14...♘c6 15.g4 ♙xf6 16.♘e4 ♙e7 17.♗g2 with a strong initiative for the pawn]

15.f7+? White is missing his chance! Even the World Champions sometimes make a mistake :) [the right choice

would be 15.g4! Black cannot do anything against the deadly threat ♖g2... for example 15...exd4 16.♗g2 ♘c6 17.0-0 ♔f8 18.♞fe1 with a deadly attack]

15...♔f8 16.♘e6+ ♔e7! probably this move White underestimated [16...♗xe6 17.♞xe6 exd4 18.♞xg6 Would lead of course to a winning position for White]

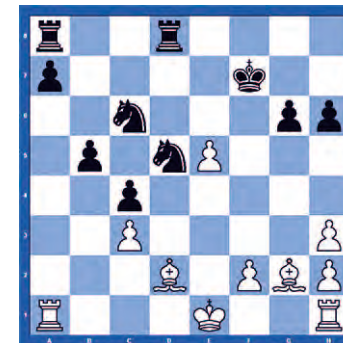
17.♘xd8 ♗xh3



We are facing a “crazy” position. Everything is totally unbalanced and the position is very hard to play. Every move White and Black have several choices how to continue and “the choice” is one of the hardest things in a chess game. Objectively speaking, White should still do better here

18.gxh3 [18.f8Q+!? pretty move, even if it is very unclear if it is the strongest one 18...♞xf8 19.♗xh6 ♞f5 20.gxh3 ♔xd8 (20...exd4 21.♘b7 ♞e5+ 22.♔d2 ♘c6 23.♗g2 dxc3+ 24.♔c1 in this very complex position probably White still has better chances) 21.dxe5 ♞xe5+ 22.♔d2 Black has a better pawn structure, but the White’s bishop pair plus the better development should bring them some edge.]

18...♞xd8 19.dxe5 ♔xf7 20.♗g2 ♘c6



21.0-0! strong play by White. In case Black manages to put: a5, ♔e6, ♘ce7, ♘f5 Black will be doing well. White needs to try to open the position as fast as possible to give the bishops space to act. Also the Black’s king position will be very open and dangerous.

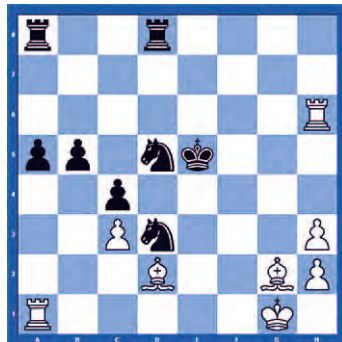
21...♘xe5 Black accepts the battle! [more careful would be 21...a5!? 22.f4 ♔e6 23.h4! White needs to destroy the blockade pawn on g6 at any costs 23...b4 24.h5 bxc3 25.♗xc3 ♘xc3 26.♗xc6 ♞a6 and it is hard to say even who is doing better here]

22.f4 a very human move [22.♞fb1! would be a choice of the computer. Black cannot hold the b5 pawn 22...a6 23.♞xb5 axb5 24.♞xa8 ♞d6 25.♔f1 and finally we have a “human” position. White is having a bit more pleasant endgame]

22...♘d3 23.f5 gxf5? this is a serious mistake by Black. Now White is getting what he was hoping for. A very open play where the bishop pair is turning into a deadly weapon [23...g5! Black needed to keep the position closed 24.♞a6 ♘3f4 25.♗xf4 gxf4 26.♞fa1 and again we continue to facing a very unbalanced game. One thing is sure, it is very hard for Black to play in such a position.]

24.♞xf5+ [24.♞a6 f4!]

24...♔e6 25.♖h5 a5 26.♖xh6+ ♔e5



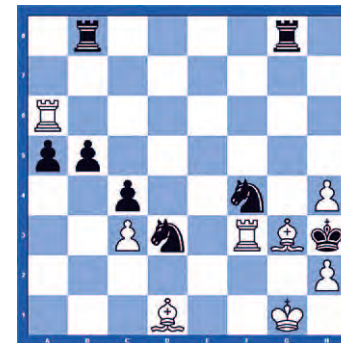
27.♗e1! another great move by the World Champion. White is bringing the bishop to g3. Black king is standing “naked” in the middle of the board, this cannot end well for him....

27...♘5f4 28.♗g3 ♔f5 29.♖f1! there is no reason for White to win the exchange by playing [29.♗xa8 ♖xa8 30.♖f1 ♔e4 and Black has some drawing chances because of the b4 push that will leave Black with very dangerous pawns...]

29...♔g5 30.♖b6 ♖ab8 31.♖a6 it is hard to give Black an advice here. And to play this position with out a “computer” help is almost impossible. From the human point of view, White position looks close to winning.

31...♖f8 32.h4+! ♔g4 33.♗f3+ ♔h3 Black king trapped, pieces are hanging and it seems that nothing could save Black anymore... but game of chess is unpredictable even at the highest level

34.♗d1? a big mistake, probably based on a miscalculation [the simple 34.♖xa5 ♖b6 (34...b4 35.♖g5) 35.♔h1 ♖g8 36.h5 and it is clear, this game will not last for a long time. White is winning] 34...♖g8 35.♖f3



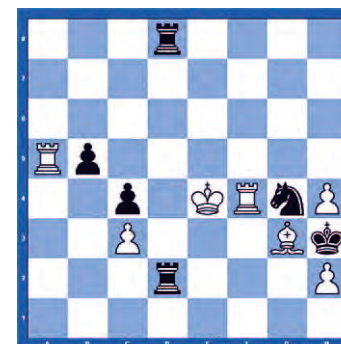
35...♖bd8! short on time, Black finds great defensive moves

36.♔f1? another big mistake by White [36.♔h1 ♘e5 37.♖f1 ♖xg3 38.hxg3 ♘d5 with a very unclear position]

36...♘e5! suddenly Black is the one who is doing better!

37.♖xf4 ♖xd1+ 38.♔e2 ♖gd8 39.♖xa5 ♖1d2+ 40.♔e3 ♘g4+ 41.♔e4 The time trouble is over. It is easy to see that Black is doing better, but it is by far not easy to convert this advantage

41...♖e8+



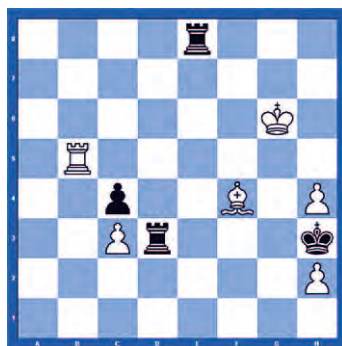
[41...b4! 42.cxb4 c3 43.♖c5 c2-- and probably Black would have won the game. The bad position of the White

king, plus the c2 pawn is giving Black decisive advantage. Funny to see that for the last 20 moves the Black king was on a run and all White pieces were around him, now the situation has changed and the White king is the one under attack in the centre of the board]

42.♔f5 ♘e3+? [still here it was not too late for the b4 push 42...b4 43.cxb4 c3 44.♖c5 ♘e3+ 45.♔g6 c2 and Black is keeping some winning chances]

43.♔g6 ♘d5 44.♖xb5! a nice idea to escape. White is giving the exchange, but getting rid of the dangerous b pawn. The position of the King on g6 plus the bishop, which will protect the White's king from checks plus will hold the Black's c pawn, is giving White almost a draw

44...♘xf4+ 45.♙xf4 ♖d3 [last try to play for a win been 45...♖f2!? 46.♙g5 ♖e6+ 47.♔g7 ♖a2 probably the position is close to a draw, but Black could still keep on trying...]



46.h5! last technical move. The white pawn is as dangerous as the Black c pawn, and as we know, a bishop on a long diagonal is as good as a rook in such endgames.

46...♖xc3 47.h6 ♖b3 a very exiting and interesting game! **1/2**

(2) Gunina,Valentina (2511)

– Muzychuk,Anna (2583) [D43]

European Women's Championship GAZIANTEP, 13.03.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

The following battle was the decisive game of the European Individual Women's Chess Championship in 2012 in Turkey. It was played in the last round, when Anna Muzychuk was a full point ahead of competition and just a draw was enough for her to secure the victory in the tournament. Her opponent was Valentina Gunina from Russia, who had the chance with this win not only to catch the leader, but to become champion with better tiebreak! So the stake was amazingly high and the players started a real fight!

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 e6 5.♙g5 h6 Anna is following the "old rule", if you need to make a draw, you must play actively, playing for the draw often leads to punishment...

6.♙xf6 White avoids the very sharp Moscow variation with 6.♙h4, the text move leads the game into more calm waters.

6...♙xf6 7.e3 ♘d7 8.♙d3 dxc4 9.♙xc4 g6 10.0-0 ♙g7 Nothing new so far, you can find hundreds of games in the database.



11. ♖e1 This move used to be a rare sideline, only GM Miso Cebalo played it a few times in the 90s. Then in 2010, Leko tried it against Gelfand, and achieved a comfortable advantage, which brought many high-class followers to the line. The move has a very subtle point (typical for Leko), what we can understand, if we take a look at the 11.e4 variation. [On 11.e4 Black's standard reaction is 11...e5 12.d5 ♘b6 13. ♕b3 ♕g4 when he takes on f3, swaps the queens, worsens the pawn structure, and with the help of the opposite color bishops makes a draw. With 11. ♖e1, White prepares for this plan to be able to play ♖e3 after ♕g4! In that way he could keep the queens on board, and achieve an edge due to the strong d5 pawn.]

11...0-0 12.e4 e5 13.d5 ♖d8 The whole fight is around the d5 square. White would like to install a piece there, while Black should try to force his opponent to take back with the e4 pawn. [13... ♘b6 14. ♕b3 ♕g4 15. ♖e3!± As we mentioned, this is the whole idea behind the 11th move.]

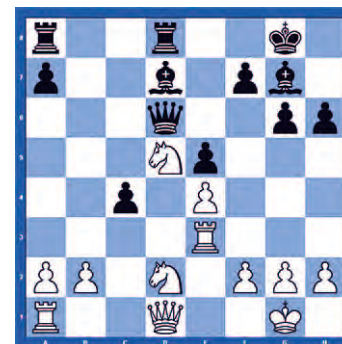
14. ♖e3 An interesting novelty to 14.h3. The rook stands well on e3, it might be doubled on the d- or c-file in the future, and prevents the ♕g4 counter plays forever.

14...b5! Very strong response! Black wants to play ♘b6, with the threat of b4 confusing the pieces around the d5 pawn.

15.dxc6! This is the only way to have a piece on d5, but after losing the c4 bishop, it already has much smaller effect. [15. ♕b3 ♘b6 and Black is fine.]

15...bxc4 16. ♘d5 ♖d6?! This is a mistake. It moves into ♘d2, when ♘xc4 is coming with tempo. [16... ♖e6 was the right move 17.cxd7 (17. ♘c7? ♖xc6) 17... ♖xd7! followed by ♕b7, when Black is completely fine.]

17.cxd7 ♕xd7 18. ♘d2! Gunina rightly points out the fault of the 16th move. Still, Black had a fantastic opportunity to maintain the balance...



18... ♕b5?! Too passive. [18... ♕f5!! A fantastic idea to get rid of the d5 knight. 19. ♘xc4 ♖c5 and White has no good way to parry the ♕xe4 threat.]

19. ♖c2 [19.a4! it was better to include the a4-Ba6 moves to avoid the 20th move. 19... ♕a6 20. ♖c2 ♖ab8 21. ♖c3 ♖dc8 22. ♖b1!± White is going to have a healthy pawn up in the next move.]

19... ♖ab8! 20. ♖c3 ♖a6! Very resourceful idea...

21.a4! [21.♘xc4 ♕xc4 22.♖xc4 ♖xb2!]

21...♕f8! Using the pin on the a-file, Black tries hold the c4 pawn by ♖dc8 and also wants to activate the bishop through c5-d4! Of course the later idea has a big disadvantage as well, that it leaves the king without its main defender. [21...♕c6 22.♞e7+ ♔h7 23.♞xc6 ♔xc6 24.♖xc4±]

22.♞f1 [22.♞f3! was the right move, immediately attacking the e5 pawn and on 22...♕d6 the same idea would work, what we will see in the game...]

22...♕c5 Allows a great move to her opponent... [It was time to exchange a pair of minor pieces and only then to activate the f8 bishop. 22...♕c6! 23.♞fe3 ♕xd5 24.♞xd5 ♕c5 25.♖b1 (25.♖xc4 ♖xb2! 26.♔xb2 ♔xc4) 25...♖dc8 with unclear position.]

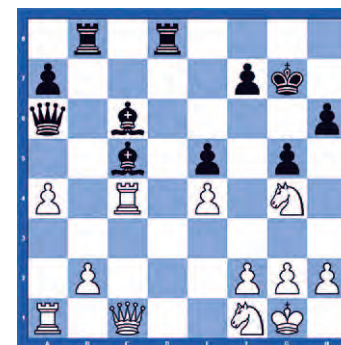


23.♔c1!! This great move was probably missed by Black, otherwise she would play 22...♕c6!. White protects the a1 rook, so the b5 is already hanging and at the same time attacks the h6. [23.♞c7 would lead to nowhere 23...♔a5 24.♞xb5 ♖xb5 25.♖xc4 ♕d4 Black has enough activity for the pawn.]

23...♕c6 24.♞f6+! another very strong move, other lines were not easy at all. [24.♔xh6 ♕xd5 25.♖h3 ♔f6 Black could have prevented the immediate threats; 24.♖xc4 ♕xd5 25.♖xc5 ♕xe4 26.♖xe5 ♕d3 the activity of the Black pieces would give him decent drawing chances.]

24...♔g7 25.♞g4 g5 Only move! [25...♕xe4 26.♔xh6+ ♔g8 27.♖h3+-]

26.♖xc4! And it seems that White won a piece and the game, but...



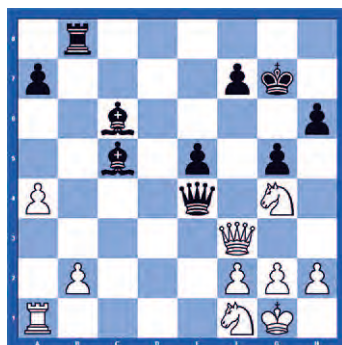
26...♖d1!! This beautiful idea forces White to find further strong moves to collect the full point. In general, we can say that if somebody defends in the most precise way in bad positions, he usually gets a chance from destiny...

27.♔xd1 ♔xc4 28.♔f3 and here it is! [Only 28.♞g3! would have won instantly, when the knights (and later the queen joins) would decide the game against the "naked" king... 28...♕xe4 (28...♕d4 29.♔f3+-)]



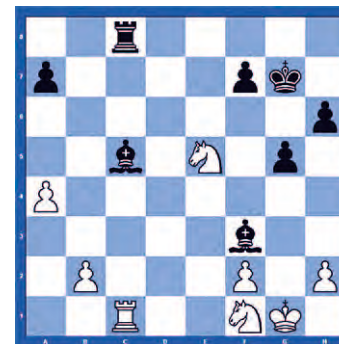
29. ♔e1!! A similar move to 23. ♔c1!!, which had to be foreseen before playing 28. ♖g3!]

28... ♔xe4 Black is too greedy and Gunina finds an excellent way for punishment. [28... ♔e6! would have given saving chances 29. ♖g3 ♖b3! 30. ♔e2 ♗d4 31. ♖f5+ ♔h7 32. ♖c1! When White is undoubtedly better, but still a long way to win the game...]



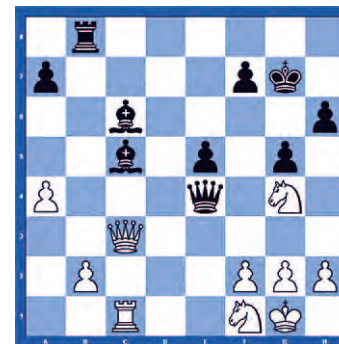
29. ♖c1! Just like in the 26th move, White uses the unfortunate situation of the bishops, but there are no moves like 26... ♖d1!! anymore. White is winning material in all the lines... [29. ♔f6+ would be a mistake to leave the g2 pawn without protection... 29... ♗g8! 30. ♖xh6+ ♔h7]

29... ♔g6 [There is an elegant win after 29... ♔xf3 30. gxf3 ♗xf3 (30... ♗xf2+ 31. ♖xf2 ♖xb2+ 32. ♖g3 ♗xa4 33. ♖c7±) 31. ♖xe5 ♖c8



32. ♖d3!+- wins a piece.; 29...h5 30. ♔f6+! ♔g8 31. ♔xg5+- check is a big difference to the 29. ♔f6+]

30. ♔c3 ♔e4



31. ♔xe5+! ♔xe5 32. ♖xe5 One of the bishops is falling, Black tries to get as many pawns as possible, but she cannot eliminate all of them.

32... ♗xf2+ 33. ♖xf2 ♖xb2+ 34. ♖e3 ♗xg2 35. ♖g3 ♗d5 36. ♖h5+ The king remains in mate net.

36...♔f8 37.♖d1 ♘e6?? A terrible blunder in a lost position... [37...♖xh2 38.♖xd5 ♖xh5 39.♖a5±]

38.♖d8+ And Black resigned, because of the ♘c6 mate. With this picturesque mate, Valentina Gunina became the new European Women Champion, while Anna Muzychuk took "only" bronze medal. The Russian Grandmaster, Tatiana Kosintseva finished second place. Congratulations to all of them! **1–0**

(3) Hou,Yifan (2639)

– Caruana,Fabiano (2767) [C78]

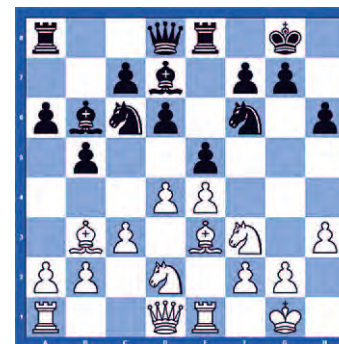
Reykjavik Open 2012 Reykjavik, 13.03.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

The following was the crucial game of the Reykjavik Open! In the last round Fabiano Caruana had half a point advantage, but he had to face Hou Yifan, and we already know how dangerous she is. In an interesting battle in Ruy Lopez, the Women World Champion outplays the Nr. 7 in the World in a complex middle game, but in the last moment she fails to convert the decisive advantage into full point.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0–0 b5 6.♙b3 ♙c5 This is the Modern Arkhangelsk Defense, which lately has become very popular.

7.c3 d6 8.d4 ♙b6 9.h3 0–0 10.♙e3 h6 11.♘bd2 ♖e8 12.♖e1 ♙d7



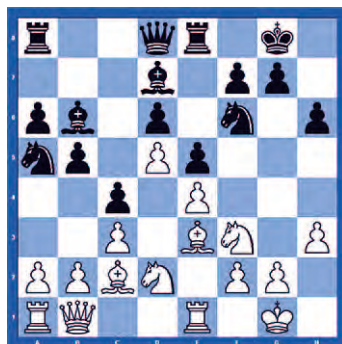
13.♔b1 Until this moment the players are following the Navara-Caruana game from Wijk aan Zee, 2012, which continued with 13.♙c2. Hou Yifan tries an interesting novelty. White had to protect the e4 pawn... We will un-

derstand the big plus of the move compared to Navara's idea in the 13...♔b8 line.

13...♘a5 [13...♔b8 This is the standard plan for Black, Caruana played it in the mentioned game. He transfers his queen to b7 to put the e4 pawn under pressure, and tries to invite White for pushing d5. That would be a big achievement for Black to provoke this move because after leaving with the knight, he could play c6 and obtain a perfect position. This is the whole idea behind Black's concept. 14.a3! And here we get the point of the 13th move, White does not want to leave the a2-g8 diagonal with the bishop. 14...♔b7 (14...♘a5 15.♙a2 c5 16.b4±) 15.♔d3 it seems that White's chances are slightly preferable.]

14.♙c2 c5 This is another typical plan in the Ruy Lopez, but now White can happily play d5, since he does not need to worry about c6 undermining the center.

15.d5 c4



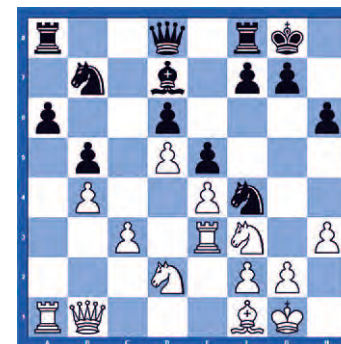
16.b4! White plays on the queenside, where he is better and has more space, thanks to the d5 pawn.

16...cxb3 [16...♘b7 17.a4± Here Black has serious problem with the terrible b7 "Ruy Lopez knight", which has no future.]

17.axb3 ♙xe3 18.♖xe3 ♘b7 19.b4! White got a small advantage out of the opening. He has a clear plan on the queenside, with ♙d3 and c4, while Black's only chance to create counter play is on the kingside by playing on f5. Of course, to prepare this will take some time, and also, it is not that effective with the poor knight on b7.

19...♘h5 [19...a5 White would not touch this pawn since that would bring back the knight to the game... 20.♙d3! ♔c7 21.♙f1±]

20.♙d3! ♘f4 21.♙f1 ♖f8



22.c4! Both players followed their plans. Now the game gets to more concrete fight with many interesting ideas.

22...bxc4 [22...f5 would be a mistake because Black loses his important central pawn. 23.c5! dxc5 24.♘xe5±]

23.♙xc4 White protects the d5 pawn (after f5 it might be weak), and attacks the a6 weakness, but on the other hand gives a chance to get rid of it. [In my opinion it was better to take 23.♘xc4 f5 (23...♙b5 24.♘fd2±) 24.♖ea3

fxe4 25. ♖xe4 ♕f5 26. ♖e1± Exchanging the d5 pawn for the a6, but even after that the d6 remains weak, the b7 knight is still terrible and White has a dangerous b4 passed pawn for the future, which guarantees an advantage.]

23...a5! [23... ♕b5 24. ♖ea3±]

24.bxa5 ♖xa5 25. ♖b4 Black did not solve all the problems, the d6 pawn causes him lot of headaches.

25...♗xc4 [25...♗xg2!? Trying to use the pin on the a-file, Black had an interesting piece sacrifice to complicate the matters. 26. ♖ea3! (26. ♖xg2? ♗xc4 27. ♖xa8 ♗xe3+ check!) 26... ♕xh3 (26...♗f4 27. ♖xa5 ♖xa5 28. ♖xa5 ♖f6 29. ♖h1 ♕xh3 30. ♖g1 followed by ♗h2. Black should not have enough compensation...) 27. ♖xa5 ♖xa5 28. ♖xa5 ♖d7 29. ♖a3! and ♗h2 in the next move.]

26. ♖xa8 ♖xa8 27. ♗xc4 ♖a1+ Caruana has no chance to save his d6 pawn, so he is looking for counter play around his opponent's king.

28. ♖e1 [28. ♖h2? ♖f1!] **28...♖a2**

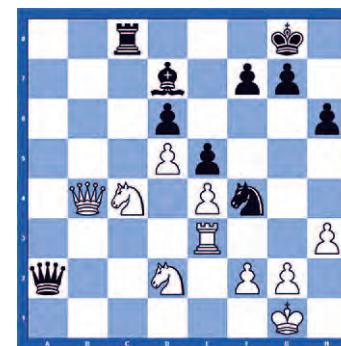


29. ♗fd2! Consolidating the pieces, using the fact that ♗d3 is not a real threat. [29. ♖xd6 ♗d3! (29... ♖xc4

30. ♖xd7±; 29... ♕xh3 30. ♗e3!±) 30. ♖d1 ♖c2! 31. ♖xd3 ♖xd3 32. ♗fxe5 ♖b1+ 33. ♖h2 ♕b5 would be very unclear.]

29...♖c8! Very strong play by the World Nr.7, in each move he prepares different trick against taking on d6... [29...♗d3? 30. ♖b1!±]

30. ♖e3 To control the d3 square. [30. ♖xd6? did not work 30... ♕b5!; 30. ♗xd6? ♗d3 31. ♖b1 ♖xd2]

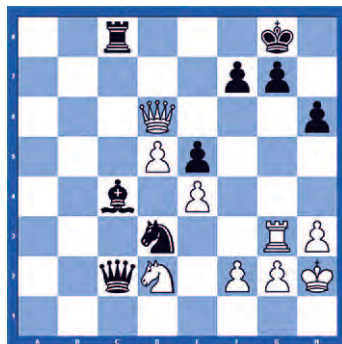


30...♖c2! Another devilish trick by Black, but he is facing a very strong opponent.

31. ♖h2! Hou Yifan is very patient, prevents the checks on the back rank... [31. ♗xd6? ♖d1+ 32. ♖h2 ♖c1-+; 31. ♖xd6? loses in a nice way 31... ♖xc4! 32. ♗xc4 ♖d1+ 33. ♖h2 ♖f1! 34. ♖g3 ♗e2! and ♖g1 mate.]

31...♗d3? In mutual time trouble Caruana blunders, he should have continued the plan he started... [31... ♖d1! when White has nothing better than 32. ♖b3 (32. ♖xd6? ♖xc4! 33. ♗xc4 ♖f1! 34. ♖g3 ♗e2!) 32... ♖a1! 33. ♖a3 (33. ♗b6 ♖c1 34. ♗xd7 ♖h1+ 35. ♖g3 ♖g1 36. ♖b8+ ♖h7 37. ♗f8+=) 33... ♖d1! 34. ♖b3! = to make a draw by repetition!]

32. ♔b7 This is the easiest win! [But 32. ♔xd6 is also very spectacular 32... ♙b5 33. ♖g3! ♙xc4



34. ♔f6! g6 35. ♖xg6+! fxg6 36. ♔e6+ ♙g7 37. ♔d7+! ♙f6 38. ♔xc8± ♔xd2?! 39. ♔f8+! White gives beautiful mate with a single queen! 39... ♙g5 40. ♔e7+ ♙f4 (40... ♙h5 41. g4#) 41. ♔h4#]

32... ♘c5 33. ♔b6 ♘d3 Now, Hou Yifan misses some easy wins, but we should not blame the players for the mistakes, since we know how hard is to play under the time pressure... especially when the stake is to win such a big tournament as Reykjavik!

34. ♘xd6 [Black could resign after 34. ♖g3! ♖xc4 35. ♔d8+ ♙h7 36. ♔f8+-]

34... ♖f8 35. ♘6c4 [35. ♘2c4 ♘xf2 36. ♘xe5+- was also winning.]

35... ♘xf2 36. ♔b1!? She simplifies the position into clearly better endgame. Black has problems with the e5 pawn and also the rescue of the f2 knight from the cage.

36... ♔xb1 37. ♘xb1 ♙b5 38. ♘ba3 ♙a6 [38... ♙xc4 39. ♘xc4 f6 40. d6 ♙f7 41. ♙g3 ♘d1 42. ♖d3+- The knight would be trapped.]

39. ♘xe5 ♖e8

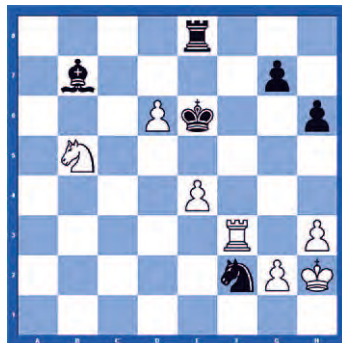


40. d6! A great last move of the time control, indirectly protecting the e5 knight.

40... ♙b7 Finally the time trouble is over! The players get extra 30 minutes, so it is time to calm down, relax a bit, and then find the way to win.

41. ♘xf7?? Hard to explain this move, White decides to force the draw, when she had a simple win after the most logical continuation. [41. ♘ac4! White ends in a piece up in all the lines: 41... f6 (41... ♘xe4 42. d7 ♖d8 43. ♘a5! This is always the key move. 43... ♙a8 44. ♘ac6 ♙xc6 45. ♘xc6 ♖xd7 46. ♖xe4+-) 42. ♘a5 the human win (computer suggest 42. ♘d7 which might be even stronger) 42... ♙xe4 (42... ♙a8 43. ♘ec6+- and the d-pawn promotes) 43. ♘g4! ♘xg4+ 44. hxg4 and Black cannot get rid of the d6 pawn without losing the bishop... 44... ♙f7 (44... ♙c6 45. ♘xc6! ♖xe3 46. d7 ♖d3 47. d8Q+ ♖xd8 48. ♘xd8+-) 45. d7 ♖d8 46. ♖xe4 ♖xd7 47. ♘c6+-]

41... ♙xf7 42. ♖f3+ ♙e6 43. ♘b5



b8! Probably, White missed this move, but it seems to me that 43...**e5** also held the draw.

44. f2 e4 45. e2 b5 46. xe4+ xd6 47. g3
Draw agreed! As first seed, Caruana won the event and gained further 5,5 points to his rating, with which he is already Nr. 6 in the World according to the live rating list!
1/2

(4) Gonda,Laszlo (2520) – Efimenko,Zahar (2703)

Schachbundesliga 2011/2012 (13.2), 18.03.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

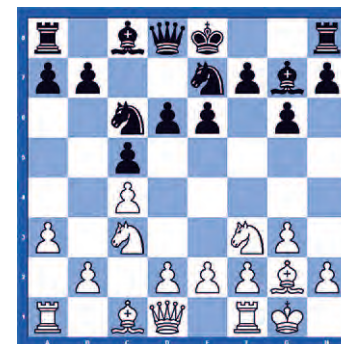
In this game we will see a great attack by White! Especially nice is the fact that in a very complex position White is managing to continue their play with silent moves, where it seems something concrete has to work out...

1. f3 c5 2. c4 c6 3. c3 The English opening has been played lately a few times by Vladimir Kramnik, who brought it back to fashion.

3...g6 [3...f6 4.e3 see Kramnik's games]

4.g3 g7 5. g2 d6 6.0–0 e6 7.a3!? in the English opening the move order is very relevant! White's plan is usually to push the b2-b4 or d2-d4 moves. Black is usually trying to be solid, avoiding or preparing against this threats

7...ge7 [7...a5 would have been a more careful move. Black should have tried to avoid White's b4 move]



8.b4! excellent move!

8...0-0 [seems not to work 8...cxb4 9.axb4 ♖xb4 10.♙a3 ♘bc6 11.♘e4! a very typical exchange sacrifice for this type of positions 11...0-0 12.♘xd6 ♙xa1 13.♚xa1 and White got more than enough compensation for the exchange down]

9.♖b1 White succeeded in the first step - to bring the pawn to b4, so we can clearly say: White is doing a bit better now

9...b6 10.e3 in my opinion the wrong plan, better was the immediate [10.♚b3 ♙b7 11.♙b2±]

10...♙b7 11.♚b3 ♚d7 12.♙b2



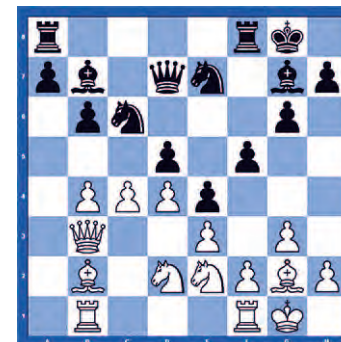
f5?! Black is trying to act against the White move ♘e4, but is it really a reason to weaken that much the pawn structure?! [12...♖ad8 13.d3 (13.♘e4 f5! and White would have nothing better than to go back to 14.♘c3) 13...♙a8 14.♖fd1±]

13.♘e2 [13.♖fd1 the d4 idea could have been another try for White...]

13...e5 14.d4 a very dynamic move. A positional solution could have been to play d3, ♘c3, ♘d2 with exploring the weak square d5

14...e4 15.♘d2 cxb4?! this is a mistake [15...cxd4 following the old chess rule, always exchange the pawns towards the center :). 16.exd4 d5 17.f3! a very important push for White. White can not allow Black to consolidate the center-after which Black would be better 17...♘d8! Black is of course trying to keep the central pawns at any cost! The position is very unclear]

16.axb4 d5



17.f3! also here this move is very strong. Black's center is falling apart...

17...♘d8 18.fxe4 dxe4 [18...fxe4 19.♖xf8+ ♙xf8 20.♖f1++-]

19.d5! again an absolutely correct play by White. The pawn on d5 will distract Black a lot in the development of their pieces. By exchanging the dark squared bishops, White chances for attack are increasing enormously!

19...♙xb2 20.♚xb2 ♖f7



21. ♖xe4!? The beginning of a very nice sacrifice, but from a practical point of view, there was no need for it... [21.b5! not giving Black any hopes for a b5 move, next ♘d4-c6 is coming. Black's position is very bad]

21...fxe4 22. ♖xf7 ♘xf7 23. ♘xe4 ♖f5 how to continue the attack now... seems not that easy at all, but White is finding a great continuation

24. ♘f6+ ♔h8 25. ♘g4+ ♔g8



26.h3!! the key move of the whole White's idea starting with 21. ♖xe4!! White wants now to play ♖f1 and then ♘f4-e6.

26... ♖g5 27. ♘f4 [27. ♘d4 was a bit more precise 27... ♖c8 28. ♘f3! ♖f5 29. ♖f1 and Black is collapsing under the White threats]

27... ♖c8 Black is trying to find some ways to fight. It is obvious, that in case White manages to play ♘e6 the game will be over

28. ♘e6 ♖xe6 29.dxe6 h5 [29... ♖f8 30. ♘f6+ ♔h8 31. ♘d7+ ♘e5 32. ♖xe5+ ♖xe5 33. ♘xe5 With a winning endgame for White]

30. ♖f1 [30. ♘f6+ ♔h8 31. ♘e4+ ♖e5 32.exf7 ♖xb2 33. ♖xb2+-]

30... ♘e5 31. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 32. ♘xe5+- White is 2 pawns up, plus having all the pieces standing perfectly. No hopes for Black...

32...a5 33. ♖f7! last exact move **33... ♘f5 34. ♘d7 ♔h8 35. ♘f6** even if Black made it a bit easy, a great strategical and tactical game by White! **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Berkes,F (2706) – Bogner,S (2534)

Schachbundesliga, 17.03.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-



(6) Medvegý,Z (2531) – Dinstuhl,V (2408)

Schachbundesliga, 17.03.2012

[CEWN]

1... -/+

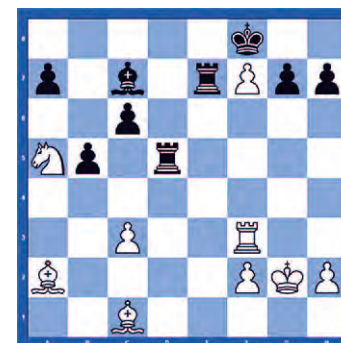


(7) Socko,B (2628) – Sandipan,C (2640)

Schachbundesliga, 17.03.2012

[CEWN]

1... =

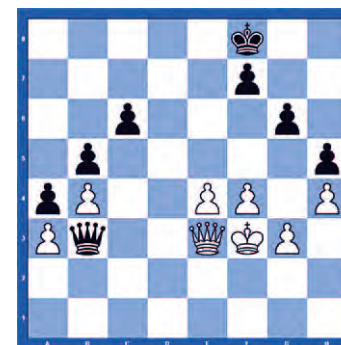


(8) Muse,D (2388) – Teske,H (2547)

Schachbundesliga, 17.03.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

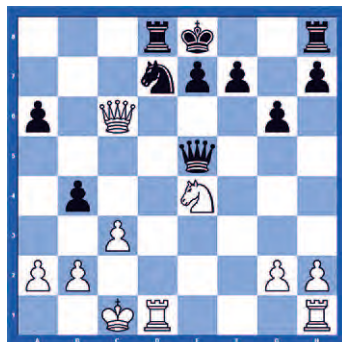


(9) Swiercz,D (2585) – Bacrot,E (2705)

Schachbundesliga, 18.03.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-



(10) Naiditsch,A (2707) – Brandenburg,D (2522)

Schachbundesliga, 18.03.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-

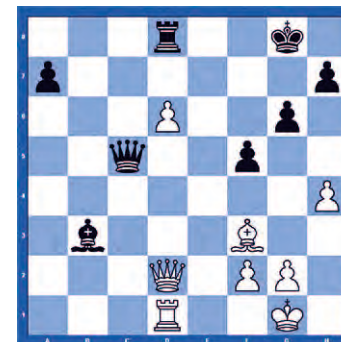


(11) Eljanov,P (2683) – Cyborowski,L (2543)

Schachbundesliga, 18.03.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-

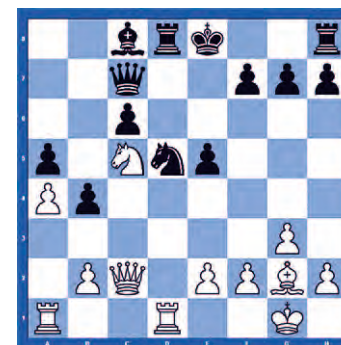


(12) Fressinet,L (2696) – Gordon,S (2535)

Schachbundesliga, 18.03.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-



(13) Gajewski,G (2607) – Goloshchapov,A (2580)

Schachbundesliga, 18.03.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

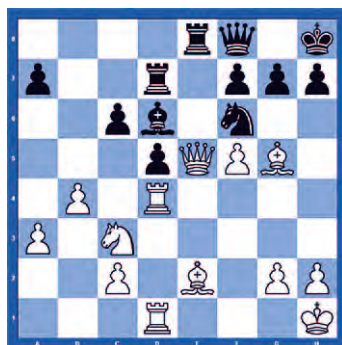


(14) Zherebukh,Y (2580) – Firman,N (2517)

Schachbundesliga, 18.03.2012

[CEWN]

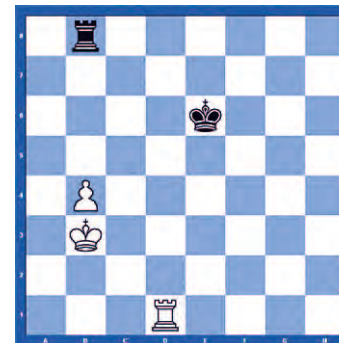
1. +-



Endgame section

(15)

[Balogh Csaba]

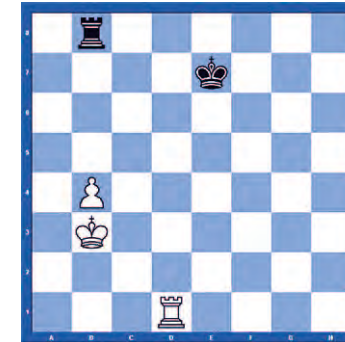


In this week's study we will take a look at rook endgames, where the pawn has not crossed the middle of the board yet (the 4th rank). In practice we meet quite often with this kind of examples. I can even show you a game from my own experience, where I could successfully use the knowledge, what I had from the given diagrams. The rook keeps the Black king 2 files away from the pawns, so he cannot approach them. However, in this seemingly hopeless position, Black can hold the draw thanks to the so-called „frontal attack“. In general, in rook endgames both attacking and defensive sides should aim for active play and staying with the rooks behind the pawn. However, in this case, the only way to survive is the passive defense from the front of the pawn. I would like to draw your attention to the position of the Black king, it must stay on e6 or on e5! Let us see, why it is so! **1. ♖d4** Defends the pawn and in that way prepares the march of his king. Without this

move it was not possible because the rook checks would have forced back the king behind the pawn. [1.♔c4 ♖c8+ 2.♔b5 ♖b8+ 3.♔c5 ♖c8+ 4.♔b6 ♖b8+=] **1...♔e5!** This is why it is so important that in the starting position the Black king must stay on e6 or on e5, to be able to attack the rook. In the initial position if Black king were on e7, we could see the win in the 2nd diagram, and with king on e4, in the 3rd diagram. **2.♔c3** [2.♖d7 ♔e6 3.♖a7 ♔d6 4.♔a4 ♔c6 The king arrives! 5.♔a5 ♖b5+ 6.♔a4 ♖b8=] **2...♖c8+** White must let Black king to come closer to the pawn. **3.♖c4** [3.♔d3 ♖b8=] **3...♖b8** **4.♖c6** ♔d5 **5.♖a6** White tries to prevent from the 6th rank that the king goes in front of the pawn. However, with the 2 very strong moves, Black saves the game. **5...♖c8+!** **6.♔b3** ♖c6! Forcing the rook to leave its good position, since the pawn endgames are drawn. **7.♖a7** [7.♖xc6 ♔xc6 8.♔a4 ♔b6=; 7.b5 ♖xa6 8.bxa6 ♔c6=] **7...♖b6** **8.♖c7** [8.♔a4 ♔c6=] **8...♔d6** **9.♖c4** ♖c6! Thanks to the drawish pawn endgame, the Black king gets in front of the pawn. **10.b5** ♖xc4 **11.♔xc4** ♔c7 Important to know, the „frontal attack“ works only if White has a- or b-pawns, and his king is cut off with less than 3 files from the pawn! **1/2**

(16)

[Balogh Csaba]

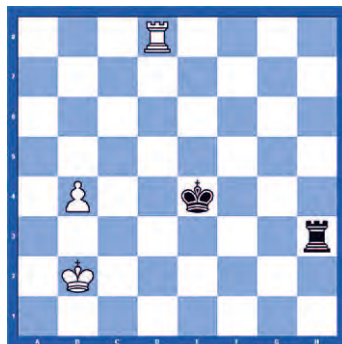


This time Black's king is not standing on the ideal e6 or e5 squares, he cannot hold the draw anymore. **1.♖d4!** [1.♔c4 would lead to nowhere 1...♖c8+ 2.♔b5 ♖b8+ 3.♔c5 ♖c8+ 4.♔b6 ♖b8+] **1...♔e6** **2.♔c4** Finally the king can help the pawn, he does not need to worry about the checks. **2...♔e5** [2...♖c8+ 3.♔b5 ♖b8+ 4.♔c6+-] **3.♖d5+** ♔e6 **4.b5** The pawn has crossed the middle of the board. **4...♖c8+** **5.♖c5** ♔d7 Black is hoping for the usual drawish pawn endgame, but this time it is too late. [5...♖b8 6.♖c6+ ♔d7 7.♔c5+-] **6.b6!** and the pawn endgame is winning **6...♖xc5+** **7.♔xc5** ♔c8 **8.♔c6** ♔b8 **9.b7** ♔a7 **10.♔c7** 1-0

(17) Balogh,Csaba — Kempinski,Robert

Warszawa, 2008

[Balogh Csaba]

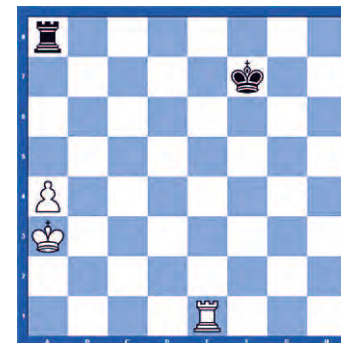


I played this game against the Polish Grandmaster Robert Kempinski. If Black defends well, he holds the draw, but as we will see, my opponent makes a mistake. White king cannot help the pawn because of the active position of Black's rook. If my opponent starts passing on the 3rd rank with his rook, I would have no chance to win the game. **1. ♖a2 ♜g3 2. ♜d2** [2.b5 ♜g5=] **2... ♜g8??** Robert decides to hold with „frontal attack”, but as we already know, his king should have been on e5 or on e6. Let us see how White can win in the case. [2... ♜h3 3.b5 ♜h5 4. ♜b2 (4.b6 ♜a5+ 5. ♖b1 ♜a8 and the pawn falls) 4... ♜d5 5.b6 ♜h8=] **3. ♖b3+- ♜b8 4. ♜d7!** This is the difference, Black should play ♖e6 now for the draw! **4... ♖e5 5. ♖c4 ♖e6** [5... ♜c8+ 6. ♖b5 ♖e6 (6... ♜b8+ 7. ♖c5 ♜c8+ 8. ♖b6 ♜b8+ 9. ♜b7 The usual method does not work anymore.) 7. ♜b7+-] **6. ♜d4** And we already know this position from diagram number 3! **6... ♜c8+** [6... ♖e5 7. ♜d5+ ♖e6 8.b5 ♜c8+ 9. ♜c5 ♖d7 (9... ♜b8 10. ♜c6+ ♖d7 11. ♖c5+-) 10.b6!+-] **7. ♖b5 ♖e5 8. ♜d7 ♖e6 9. ♜b7+- ♖d6 10. ♖a6**

From now on, White can push his pawn until b7 and then as we have already studied in the Chess Evolution Newsletter, 9th of March edition, he is winning with the technique of „bridge building” **10... ♜c1** [10... ♖c6 11.b5+ ♖c5 12.b6 ♖c6 13. ♖a7+-] **11.b5 ♜h1 12. ♜g7 ♜h2 13.b6 ♖c6 14. ♜c7+ ♖d6 15. ♜c1 ♖d7 16.b7** Black resigned, he did not want to wait until the bridge is built up.[16.b7 ♜a2+ 17. ♖b6 ♜b2+ 18. ♖a7 ♜a2+ 19. ♖b8 ♜a3 20. ♜d1+ ♖e7 (20... ♖c6 21. ♖c8+-) 21. ♜d4! ♜a1 22. ♖c7 ♜c1+ 23. ♖b6 ♜b1+ 24. ♖c6 ♜c1+ 25. ♖b5 ♜b1+ 26. ♜b4+-] **1-0**

(18)

[Balogh Csaba]



In case of a- and h-pawn, Black can hold the draw with the „frontal attack”, even if his king is cut with 4 files from the pawn, due to the drawish pawn endgames. **1. ♖b4 ♜e8! 2. ♜d1 ♖e7 3.a5 ♜d8! 4. ♜c1 ♖d7 5.a6 ♜c8! 6. ♜d1+ ♖c7** Just in time! **1/2**

Clash of the Titans

(19) Pytlakowski, Andrzej
– Smyslov, Vassily (2620) [D23]

Helsinki ol (Men) prel-C Helsinki (3), 1952

[Balogh Csaba]

This week I would like to present you a great attacking game from Vassily Smyslov, the 7th World Champion! It is not easy to say what was his biggest strength in chess. He was simply fantastic in all the parts of the game! He played three World Championship matches with Botvinnik. In 1954 the score was tied and the old Champion retained his title. However in 1957, at the age of 36, Smyslov managed to win and completely deservedly took the crown! Here is an interesting game by Smyslov, with a great pawn sacrifice, he forces the king of his Polish opponent to stay in the center, against which he launched a devastating attack. Let's sit back and enjoy!

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 [2...c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♚c2 dxc4 5.♚xc4 it is more common to reach the game's position, from this move order.]

3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♚a4+ c6 5.♚xc4 ♙g4 The popularity of this line is growing very fast recently. Even top grandmasters are trying to find new ideas for both sides. However, if White wants get some advantage out of the opening, he must definitely search it in the 6.♘c3 or 6.♘bd2 move.

6.♘e5 This move leaves the d4 pawn without its main guide, and in addition, Black will win very important time in the development by playing ♘bd7.

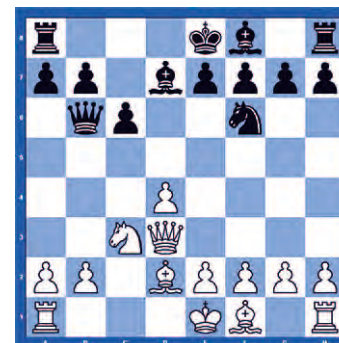
6...♙e6! Every tempo is very important to punish White for his inaccuracy.

7.♚d3 [7.♚b4 ♚b6 8.♚xb6 axb6 would lead to a really comfortable endgame for Black. This kind of changes of the pawn formation (with axb6), is something what White always should try to avoid.]

7...♘bd7 8.♘xd7 ♙xd7 9.♘c3 Despite being Black, Smyslov is ahead in development! But how to use this advantage?

9...♚b6! Black suggests that he wants to play a quick O-O-O, to set the d4 pawn under pressure. However, the main idea is different as we will see...

10.♙d2 White would be happy to exchange his b2 pawn for the opponent's b7, and on the other hand, he is ready to play O-O-O next move and then e4. However, our hero had a devilish idea, started in the previous move. [10.e3 was the only move to defend Black's idea, but this passive way of play was not in accordance to White's opening handling. 10...e6 11.♙e2 c5=; 10.e4 e5! 11.dxe5 ♘g4 12.♚g3 ♙c5!; 10.g3 e5! 11.dxe5 ♘g4=]



10...e5! Smyslov sacrifices a pawn in order to open the diagonal for his f8 bishop, for the b6 queen which is eyeing dangerously on f2, and the d-file for his rook. White has no choice, it is a “must accept offer”.

11.dxe5 ♘g4 **12.♔g3** White is too greedy, he does not want give back so easily the “gift”. His plan is to play h3 in the next move, and if the knight retreats to h6, Black would not have enough compensation... Let’s see what the great Champion had against it! [It would have been safer to play 12.e3 but still after 12...0-0-0 13.♔c2 ♘xe5 Black is fine, but at least he has enough time to O-O after ♙e2.]

12...0-0-0! It is logical, but what to do after h3? [12... ♙xb2? 13.♖b1 ♙c2 14.h3±] **13.h3**



13... ♙e6!! Black must act as fast as possible! With a harmless move, he would just spoil all his compensation. By giving up his knight, Smyslov prepares for another sacrifice!

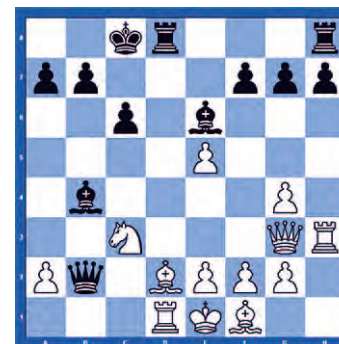
14.♖d1 [14.hxg4 ♖xd2! this was the point of the last move! Black is winning after taking on b2.; 14.0-0-0? ♘xf2; 14.♙c1! was the most stubborn continuation, according to computer. But who could play such a “the

house is burning, and he is cleaning the window” move?! 14...♘h6 15.e4 f5! 16.exf6 gxf6 with very big initiative for the pawn.]

14... ♙xb2! Black continues the fireworks! He does not want to waste important time with knight moves.

15.hxg4 ♙b4! Prepares for ♖xd2, against which White finds the only move!

16.♖h3! Remarkable defense, however, it does not help!



16... ♖d4! Smyslov brings all his pieces into the attack!

17.♙e3 ♖hd8 **18.f4!** The polish finds again the only move, against the treating 18...♖xd2 19.♖xd2 ♙c1! mate, but it is too late to save the game.

18... ♙xg4! The easiest win! Black does not want to give any counter chance, which might occur by pushing f5.

19.♖g3 ♙f5 ♙c2 is coming, White can in fact resign the game. **20.♖f3** ♙a5 [20... ♙c2-+]

21.g4 ♙c2 **22.e6 fxe6** **23.♙xe6+** At least, he could give an “angry check” before capitulation.

23... ♙b8 **24.♖d3** ♙xd3 **25.exd3** ♙xc3 **26.♙e5+** one more!

26...♔**a8** and finally White resigned! As you could see, just a very small inaccuracy by White in the opening (6.♘e5), was enough for Smyslov to take the initiative and use his brilliant fantasy! **0-1**

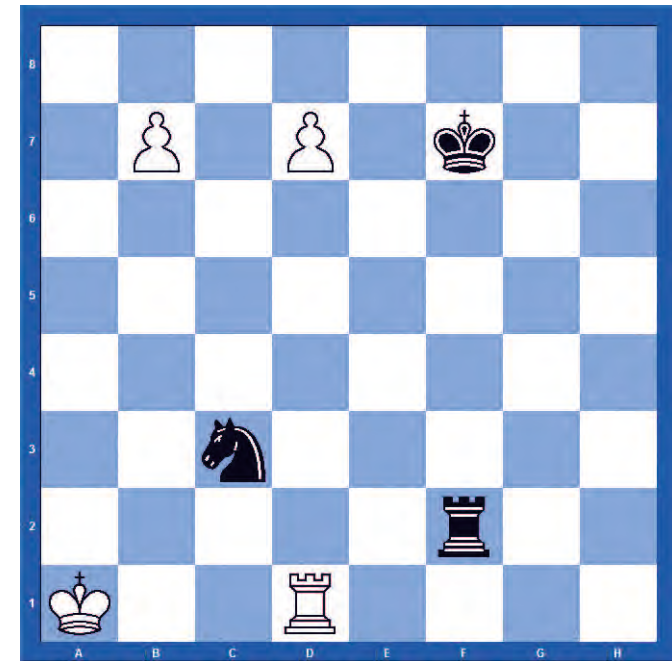
Surprise section / study

(20) Kalandadze,V

1964

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(21) Barbosa,Ev (2399) –Andriasian,Z (2616)

28th Cappelle Open Cappelle la Grande FRA, 03.03.2012

[Solutions]



20... ♖xb2+! 21. ♔xb2 ♖b8+ 22. ♔a2 ♘b4+! 23. ♙xb4
♜xb4 24. ♙d2 ♜hb8 0–1

(22) Cheparinov,I (2664) – Akshayraj,K (2422)

Reykjavik Open Reykjavik ISL, 08.03.2012

[Solutions]

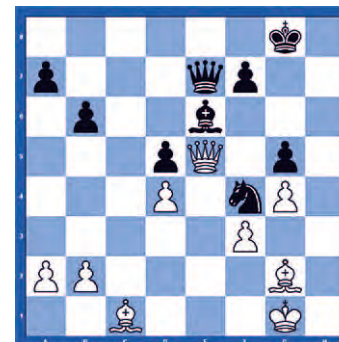


28. ♘xb6!! ♘xb6 29. ♙xa5 ♜b8 30. ♜xc6 ♜d6 31. ♜dc1!
♜b7 32. e5 1–0

(23) Fridman,D (2653) – Huschenbeth,N (2509)

83rd ch-GER 2012 Osterburg GER, 06.03.2012

[Solutions]

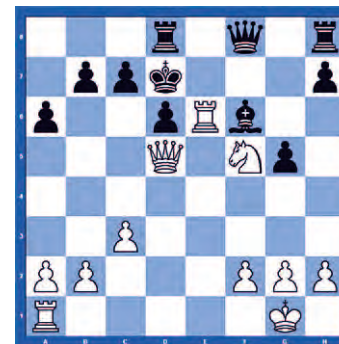


30... ♘xg2! 31. ♙xg5 [31. ♔xg2 f6=] 31... ♘e1! [31...
♘h4 32. ♙b8+ ♙f8 33. ♙xf8+ ♔xf8 34. ♙xh4] 32. ♙xe7
♘xf3+ 33. ♔f2 ♘xe5 34. dxe5 ♙xg4 35. ♔e3 1/2–1/2

(24) Iordachescu,V (2644) – Saidov,B (2389)

6th Agzamov Memorial Tashkent UZB, 09.03.2012

[Solutions]

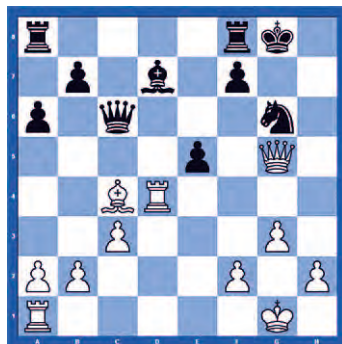


24. ♘xd6! cxd6 25. ♙f5! ♔c7 [25... ♙g7 26. ♜f6+!]
26. ♜xf6 ♙e8 27. ♙xg5+-

(25) Socko,B (2636) – Naumkin,I (2443)

Moscow Open 2012 Moscow RUS, 31.01.2012

[Solutions]

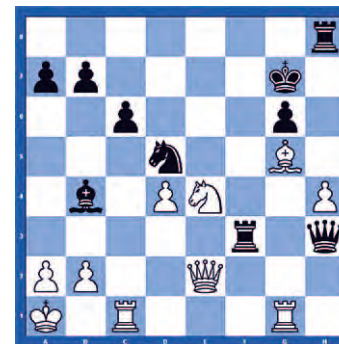


23. ♖xd7! ♜xc4 [23... ♜xd7 24. ♜xg6+ ♔h8 25. ♜f6+! ♔g8 26. ♜e1!+-] **24. h4! ♜b5** [24... ♔h7 25. ♜ad1! ♜ac8 26. ♜1d6 ♜e4 27. h5+-] **25. ♜ad1! e4 26. ♜7d5!?** [26. ♜1d5! ♜xb2 27. ♜5d6! ♜b1+ 28. ♔g2 e3 29. h5 exf2 30. ♜xg6+! fxf6 31. ♜d5+ ♔h8 32. ♜e5+ ♔g8 33. ♜g7#] **26... ♜e2 27. h5 e3 28. fxe3±**

(26) Hoang Thanh Trang (2438) – Paehtz,E (2459)

Gazientep Gaziantep TUR, 12.03.2012

[Solutions]



37. ♘g3! ♜hf8 [37... ♜xg3 38. ♜e5++-] **38. ♜e5+ ♔h7 39. h5!+- gxf5 40. ♜h1 ♜xg3 41. ♜xh3 ♜xh3 42. ♜g1 ♜f7 43. ♜e6 ♜hf3 44. ♜h6+ 1-0**

(27) Nguyen Ngoc Truong Son (2662) — Li Shilong (2549)

HD Bank Cup, 06.03.2012

[Solutions]

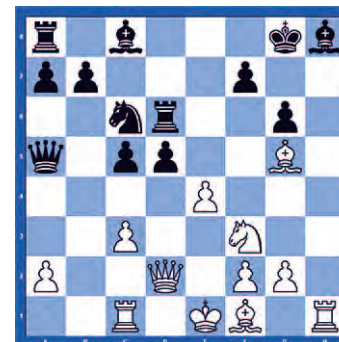


15. ♖h6!! [15. ♖xa8? ♖xf1+! 16. ♔xf1 ♖a6+ 17. ♔e1 ♖xa8±; 15. ♘g5? ♘f6! 16. ♖xa8 ♖xf1+ 17. ♔xf1 ♖a6+ 18. ♔e1 ♖xa8±] **15... ♖a6** [15... ♖d5 16. ♖g4 g6 17. ♖xf8 ♔xf8 18. ♖fc1±; 15... gxf6 16. ♖xa8±] **16. ♖g4! g6 17. ♖fc1 ♖d5 18. ♖xf8 ♖xf8 19. ♖g5 ♖d6 20. ♖g3+-**

(28) Kozul,Z (2602) — Brkic,A (2587)

Zagreb, 10.03.2012

[Solutions]



17. ♖xh8+! ♔xh8 18. ♖f4!! ♖c7 [18... ♖e6 19. ♖xf7 ♖xe4+ 20. ♔d2 ♖xa2+ 21. ♖c2+-] **19. ♖f6+?** [19. ♖h2+! ♔g7 (19... ♔g8 20. ♖f4!+-) 20. ♖h6+ ♔g8 21. ♖f4+-] **19... ♔g8 20. ♖h2? 1-0** [20. ♖h2? ♖h3!! 21. gxf3 (21. ♖xh3 ♖xf6+-) 21... dxe4±]

(29) Papin,V (2575) – Thorhallsson,T (2398)

Reykjavik Open, 11.03.2012

[Solutions]

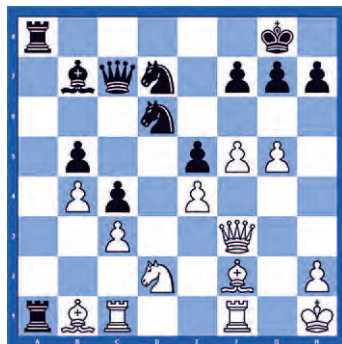


19. ♖xb5+!! axb5 20. ♖d4!+-

(30) Gunnarsson,J (2424) – Hess,Ro (2635)

Reykjavik Open, 08.03.2012

[Solutions]

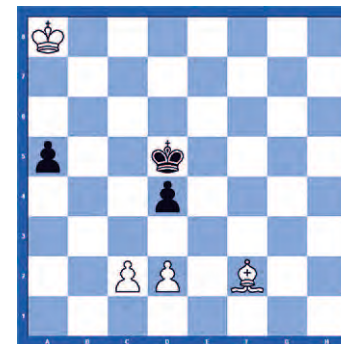


27... ♖xb1! 28. ♖xb1 ♖a2! 0-1 [28... ♖a2 29. ♖bd1 ♖xd2!
30. ♖xd2 ♖xe4--+]]

(31) Benko,P

1984

[Solutions]



1.d3!! [1. ♖h4? d3 2.c3 (2.cxd3 ♖d4) 2... ♖c4 3. ♖b7 a4
4. ♖e7 ♖b3 5. ♖b6 ♖c2 6.c4 ♖xd2 7.c5 ♖e2 8.c6 d2 9.c7
d1Q 10.c8Q=] 1...a4 2. ♖h4! a3 [2... ♖e6 3. ♖g5! a3 4. ♖c1
a2 5. ♖b2+-] 3. ♖f6! a2 4.c4+! ♖c5 [4...dxc3 5. ♖xc3+-]
5. ♖b7 a1Q [5... ♖b4 6. ♖xd4+-] 6. ♖e7# 1-0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 5

30th of March 2012

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Editorial Preface

Dear friends,

We are both playing on the European Individual Championship in Plovdiv. The tournament is very strong again, with 100 players above 2 600 rating. There are 23 qualification places for the World Cup. The finish will be very exciting, we both try to do our best to have a nice result.

As we have promised, we present You some of our games, so we can share with You not only analyses, but our feelings and calculations during the game as well.

The puzzle section was very difficult on the previous week, but we hope, that You managed to solve a few of them. This week we made a more „friendly“ selection.

From the next month in the surprise section, we will publish interviews with Super Grandmasters, stay tuned for them!

We would like to draw Your attention, that we launch a special newsletter about the Anand-Gelfand World Championship match. It is going to be 14 issues. One before the match, 12 after each game, and a final one with the conclusions. We offer for our yearly CEWN subscribers for 7 euros.

*Arkadij Naiditsch
Balogh Csaba*

4 best games of the past week

(1) Naiditsch, Arkadij (2702)
— Sokolov, I (2653) [C84]

ECC 2012 Plovdiv (6), 25.03.2012

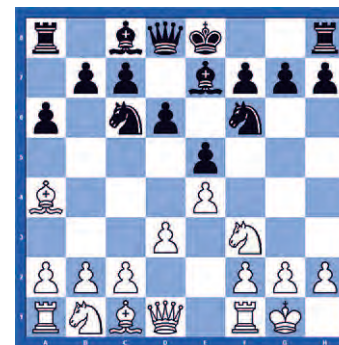
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the 6th round of the European Championship. Ivan and I have a good 4/5 points in the standings. I was preparing myself for a very fighting game — like every game of Ivan Sokolov, who is playing very exciting chess and is trying to „push” in almost any kind position.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 Ivan wrote a great book on „Spanish gambits” in which he introduced moves like 3... ♙f5, 3.... ♙c5. His latest invention against Caruana was 3... ♘ge7 4.c3 d5!?. From the practical point of view all these lines are playable — of course if we look objectively, White is doing better. Against me Ivan is going for the main Spanish, it was a small surprise for me...

3...a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.d3 Of course the main line here is 6.♖e1, but lately 6.d3 got very popular, especially often played by Magnus Carlsen and Anand. Personally, I like the 6. d3 already for many years

6...d6 [The main line starts with 6...b5 7.♙b3 d6 8.a4 ♙d7 (8...b4)]



7.c4!? a rare move, but interesting one. I already had some practice with this line in a few rapid games and was very happy about the outcome of it, so during the game I thought „Why not to try it in a normal game as well”? [7.c3 0-0!? 8.♖e1 b5 9.♙c2 d5 would lead us to one of the main positions. For those who want to check it, see games of Carlsen and Aronian]

7...0-0 [7...♙g4 is the other possibility for Black here 8.h3 (8.♘bd2?! The White knight on d2 will be very badly placed. 8...0-0 9.h3 ♙e6 10.♙xc6 bxc6 11.d4 exd4 12.♘xd4 ♙d7 With a very comfortable play for Black. (In case the White knight would be on c3, White would be a little better)) 8...♙xf3 9.♙xf3 0-0 10.♙xc6 bxc6 11.♘c3 ♘d7 12.♙e3 ♖e8 followed by ♘f8-e6. Maybe White is doing a bit better due to a better pawn structure, but Black is very solid]

8.h3 ♙e6 [seems that White has better play after 8...♖b8 9.♘c3 ♘d4 the point of 8...♖b8, now Black is having the b5 move a tempo 10.♘xd4 exd4 11.♘e2 b5



12. d4 ! a nice tactic 12... bxa4 13. c6 e8 14. xb8 b7 15. xa6 xa6 16. b4 ! and it seems that White is having a better play even if the position is very complicated]

9. c3 d7 first moment in the game, where I took some time for a thinking. Basically I have two opportunities. 10. e1 or the move from the game 10. e3 .

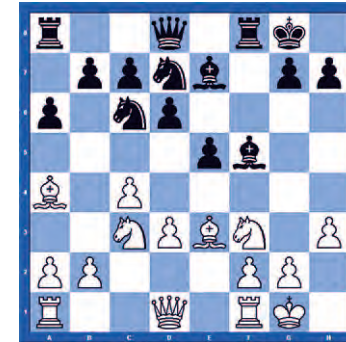
10. e3 [10. e1 c5 11. xc6 bxc6 12. d4 exd4 13. xd4 d7 I thought for a while about this position. Not easy to evaluate who is actually doing better. White has a better structure, but the bishop pair of Black could become very strong in the future. Also Black could try to play next moves f6 and e6 trying to take a control over the d4 square. All this was too unclear for me and I decided for the move in the game]

10... f5 in case Ivan can push something forward — you don't need to ask him twice :)

11. exf5 The most logical move in the position [11. d4 I spent quite some time calculating this move. Finally, I didn't want to make it from practical reasons. Black has too many different options and all of them are very complex and lead to positions which are very hard to evaluate 11... f4 ! (11... xc4 12. b3 ! a5 13. xc4 + xc4 14. dxe5

dxe5 15. d5 + h8 16. xe5 xe5 17. f4 d7 18. exf5 ∞) 12. d5 fxe3 13. fxe3 (13. dxe6 exf2 + 14. xf2 c5 +) 13... c5 14. dxe6 g5 and we have again a position that might be better for White, but could be the opposite as well...]

11... xf5



12. d4 ! of course I should not lose time and need to fight for the center. During the game I was very happy with my position and was sure, that I should do a bit better here [12. d5 would be the other option for White, but I wanted to search my chances in a more direct play]

12... f6 ? this is probably a mistake [12... exd4 ! would be the right reaction 13. xd4 (13. xc6 dxc3 !) 13... xd4 14. xd4 With a slight advantage for White]

13. d5 a5 ! a great move by Black to stay in the game. Black is trying to make the things tactically work — which is definitely their only chance now. In this position White is doing much better, in case White will manage to put a „blocker“ on e4 square, Black's position will get worse. [13... e7 14. c2 with a clearly better position for White (14. g4 ? a try to win the Black bishop would give White only troubles 14... g6 15. g5 h5 ! creating a deadly pin 16. e4 g6 ! 17. gxf6 h4 and Black is doing better)]



14. ♘d2! It is very important to cover the square e4 at any costs. With a knight on e4 White would block many of the Black's attempts and the dark squared bishop of Black would get very passive, Black's knight position on a5 could also get at some moment very dangerous, White's move b4 could be a serious threat in the future

14... ♙d3 15. ♖g4 [15. ♖e1!? would be another possible move 15... ♘xc4 16. ♘xc4 ♙xc4 17. ♖g4 (17. ♙xd7 a try to catch the bishop on c4 doesn't work 17... ♖xd7 18. b3 e4! Black is doing great) 17... b5 here I stoped my calculation — too early 18. ♙c2! a difficult move to find during the game. White is a clear pawn down, but the Black bishop is having a very dangerous position on c4 and could be potentially caught. In addition, White is having control over the e4 square and the knight will have just a great position on e4. All this is giving White clearly a better play; 15. ♙c2!? a very interesting positional exchange sacrifice 15... ♙xf1 16. ♖xf1 b6 it is clear that White has enough compensation for the exchange, but wether White is doing better here is under big question mark]

15... ♘b6 16. ♙xb6 cxb6



17. ♖fd1 [17. ♖fc1 would lead to unnecessary complications after 17...b5! (too early would be 17... ♙g5? 18. ♙c2! ♙xd2 19. ♙xd3 ♙xc1 20. ♖xc1 and White is almost winning!) 18. cxb5 ♙g5 19. ♙c2 ♙xb5 with an unclear position]

17... ♙h8 it is hard for Black to find a better move. The check on e6 is really unpleasant in many lines, so my opnents decides for a profylactical decision

18. ♘de4! Finally I reached the first step of my plan. The square e4 is blocked. But an exact calculation was needed. White is just in time to protect the pawn c4

18... ♙xe4 19. ♖xe4 g6 [19... ♖c8 20. ♙c2! The key move. White is using the tempo (the h7 pawn is hanging) to bring the bishop from a4 to d3 after which the knight on a5 will be in big danger. 20...g6 21. ♙d3 would lead to about the same 21... ♖c7 22. ♖ac1! The only way for White to protect the pawn on c4, but everything seems to work 22... ♘xc4 23. ♘e2 b5 24. b3+-]

20. ♙c2! I continue sticking to my plan. Next White's moves are ♙d3, ♖e2 and finally fulfilling my plan with ♘e4.

20... ♖g7 21. ♙d3 ♜f4 22. ♚e2 ♜d4 23. ♞e4



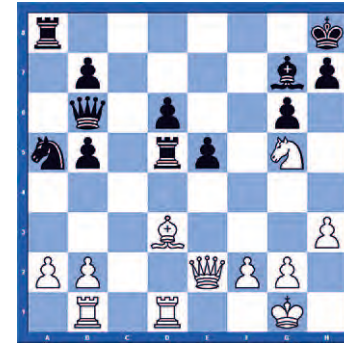
Finally I am done with my plan. All my pieces are standing at good places, Black is having a bad bishop on g7 and a knight on a5 which is very close to being caught by the b4 move.

23...b5 suddenly Black's position is very bad. Ivan is short on time, decides to give a pawn in hopes for any kind of play [23...♜c8 24.♜ac1 ♙h6 25.♜c3 would not change much as well].

24.cxb5 ♚b6 25.♜ab1?! in a winning position and having 25 minutes against my opponent's 1, I decided to make a small trap. But there was no need for that. [25.bxa6 bxa6 26.♞g5 would simply lead to a winning position]

25...axb5 26.♞g5! this was my idea. Now I want to play ♙xb5 and have the b4 move „in my pocket“.

26...♜xd5 Ivan is falling in my trap... [26...e4 27.♙xb5 ♜b4 28.a4 and White's position is of course winning as well...]



27. ♙xg6! easy but pretty

27... ♜xd1+ 28. ♜xd1 hxg6 29. ♜xd6! ♚c7 30. ♜xg6 ♜a6 the last trick of my opponent

31. ♜xa6 [31. ♚h5+?? ♙g8 32. ♜xa6 ♚c1+ 33. ♙h2 ♜f4+ with a perpetual check]

31...bxa6 32. ♚h5+ ♙g8 33. ♚h7+ and Black resigned because of the 33...♙f8 34.♞e6. A nice positional win and super important one because of the situation in the tournament. 1-0

(2) Balogh,Csaba (2664) – Sharafiev,Azat (2433) [B90]

Plovdiv, 20.03.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

In the first round of the European Individual Chess Championship in Plovdiv, I had a really tense fight against my Russian opponent Azat Sharafiev. I got a small positional advantage, but after a great bishop sacrifice, the game became amazingly complex...

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙e3 ♘g4 7.♙c1 [I wanted to avoid the very long theoretical lines arising after 7.♙g5 h6 8.♙h4 g5 9.♙g3]

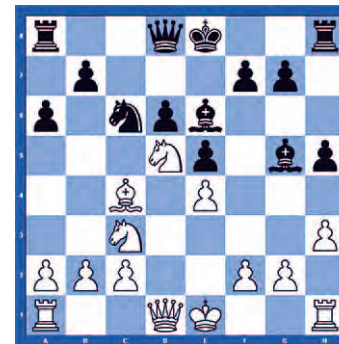
7...♘f6 8.h3 So I switched to the 6.h3 line against the Najdorf, which recently enjoys very big popularity, even on the highest level. White wants to play g4 and ♙g2 against almost all the setups.

8...e5 9.♘de2 h5!? This is considered to be one of the best option for Black, preventing the g4 plan.

10.♙g5 After Black weakened the d5 square, White tried to occupy it with the minor pieces, but first the f6 knight must be eliminated. On the other hand, Black gets the pair of bishops, which will compensate him for the structural deficit. [10.g3 is the other main move.]

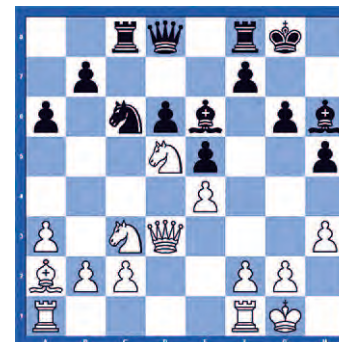
10...♙e7 11.♙xf6 ♙xf6 12.♘d5 ♙g5 13.♘ec3 ♙e6 14.♙c4 ♘c6 Both players are developing logically. The position might remind us of a typical game of the Sveshnikov variation. (1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e5 6.♘db5 d6 7.♙g5 a6 8.♘a3 b5 9.♘d5 ♙e7 10.♙xf6 ♙xf6) There is one relevant plus for Black, compared to

the mentioned position, that now the pawn is on b7! In the Sveshnikov variation White's main idea is to play a4 and playing on the queenside. Now this does not work.



15.a3 A novelty. Of course it was not prepared, I just wanted to keep the a2-g8 diagonal under control and preserve the bishop for the future. [15.0-0 ♖c8 16.♙b3 ♘d4 my 15th move was directed against this idea, when Black takes my other bishop as well.]

15...♖c8 16.♙a2 g6 17.0-0 0-0 18.♙d3 ♙h6 Black prepares to install his knight to d4. [It would have been very dangerous to do it immediately, since after 18...♘d4 19.f4 White can launch an attack with the quick f4-f5 against the king. The a2 bishop becomes very strong.]



19.♘d1!! Great regrouping of the pieces! Actually, I was surprised when I saw that this is the first move of the computer as well. The idea is to transfer the knight to e3 and then cover the d4 square with c3. [The most logical move 19.♖ad1 would meet by 19...♘d4! when all my pieces are tied, and the attack with f4 does not work anymore. 20.f4 ♙xd5! 21.♙xd5 (21.♘xd5 ♖xc2) 21...♚b6 Black is better.]

19...♚h4 20.♘1e3 ♖cd8 21.c3 ♙h8! My opponent plays correctly, he must organize his play on the kingside. Before playing f5, Black leaves with the king from the bishop's diagonal. [21...f5 would be premature, because of 22.exf5 gxf5 23.♘c7 ♙xa2 24.♖xa2 By exchanging the light-colored bishops, White could create many holes in Black's camp.]

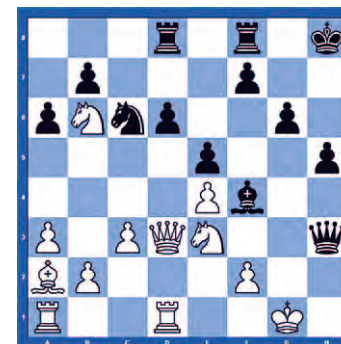
22.♘b6! White must try to exchange the bishops, to minimize the effect of the kingside attack. [22.♘b4 with the same idea would be a mistake because of 22...♙c8! when Black saves the important bishop.; On queenside play with 22.b4 and a4, b5, Black could already create counterplay with 22...f5 23.exf5 gxf5∞]



22...♙xh3!! A great sacrifice, which completely changes the character of the position! Actually, I was hoping for

it, since I prepared a hidden trick on the 25th move, but I underestimated the power of the 26th move of my opponent. [22...♙g7 23.♙xe6 fxe6 24.♖ad1± Despite solving the problem around the d5 square, Black is slightly worse due to the his worse structure. In the next moves, b4 and a4 are coming.; 22...♙xa2 23.♖xa2±]

23.gxh3 ♙xh3 24.♖fd1 ♙f4



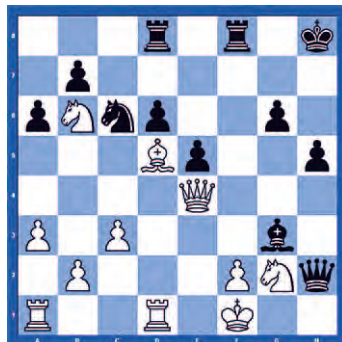
25.♘g2! This was my hidden idea, Black cannot win the knight because the queen will be trapped. [25.♘f1 ♙g4+= Black gives perpetual check.]

25...♙h2+ 26.♙f1 f5! Very strong reaction! I have seen this move, but for some reason I thought it should not be so dangerous... Black opens the f-file for the rook. [26...♙h1+ 27.♙e2 ♙xg2 28.♖g1 ♙h2 29.♖h1 ♙g2 30.♖ag1+- The queen is falling.]

27.♙d5 The bishop joins to defend, the knight remains indirectly protected. [27.♘xf4 would free the e5 square for the Black knight 27...exf4 28.♙f3 ♘e5 29.♙g2 ♙h4∞ with a very sharp position.]

27...fxe4 [27...♔h1+ 28.♔e2 ♕xg2 29.♖g1 ♕h2 30.♖h1 ♕g2 31.♖ag1 fxe4 32.♙xe4+- and the queen is trapped again.]

28.♕xe4 ♘g3!



29.♔e2! White tries to find shelter in the middle of the board and creates ♖h1 threat. [29.♖d2 ♘e7! After protecting the g6 pawn, Black could slowly continue the attack. All the White pieces are tied.]

29...♖xf2+ 30.♔d3 The king escaped from the direct threats, but still we could hardly say that it is safe. It would be great to play b4 and ♔c4-b3, but of course Black will have some words against it.

30...♕h3?! Black correctly avoided the ♖h1 threat, but he should have done it in a different way. At this moment, my opponent was already low on time, which made his task much harder to find the strongest moves. [30...♙f4! was the right move, when it is hard to explain what is happening. The computer shows some different lines which are leading to draw... 31.b4 ♘e7 (31...♕g3+ 32.♘e3 ♙xe3 33.♕xe3 e4+! 34.♙xe4 ♘e5+ 35.♔d4 ♘f3+ 36.♔c4 ♘d2+ 37.♕xd2 ♖xd2 38.♖xd2 is a draw according to computer.)

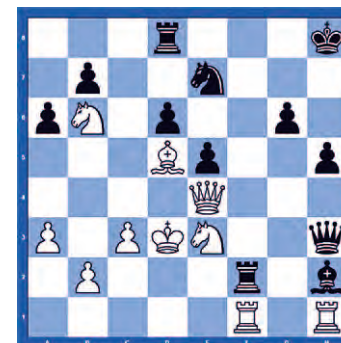
32.♘xf4 ♕g3+! 33.♕e3 exf4 34.♕xg3 fxg3 and Black should be fine.; 30...♖xb2? 31.♖h1+-]

31.♖h1! [31.♕xg6? would be a blunder to leave the e4 square, because of 31...e4+! vacating the important e5 square for the knight 32.♕xe4 ♘e5+ 33.♔d4 ♖e8--]

31...♙h2+ 32.♘e3! Keeping the blockade on e4. [32.♕e3 Of course, with such a king I would have wanted to get rid of the queens, but unfortunately at this moment, it was not possible. After the b2 pawn falls, in both lines the king remains in very big danger: 32...e4+! 33.♔c4 (33.♙xe4 ♘e5+ 34.♔d4 ♕xe3+ 35.♔xe3 ♖xb2) 33...♕xe3 34.♘xe3 ♖xb2]

32...♘e7 Black brings another piece into the attack through f5. [32...♖df8 33.♙xc6 bxc6 34.♕xg6+]

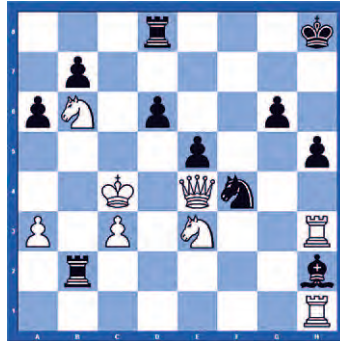
33.♖af1



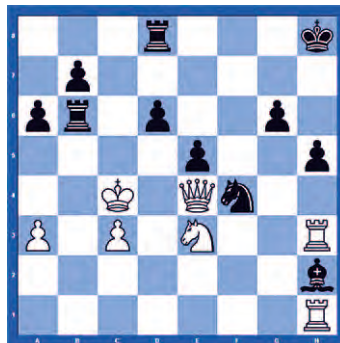
33...♖xb2? A terrible blunder in a worse position. [33...♖df8! was the only move, but after 34.♖xf2 ♖xf2 35.♘bc4! ♘f5 36.♙xb7± White can cold-bloodedly take on b7 to prevent the b5 move forever. Computer confirms, that White has a big advantage, but anyway this would have been the only chance for Black.]

34. ♖f3! The queen is trapped out of the blue, but my opponent tries a last a devilish trick...

34... ♘xd5 35. ♘bxd5! After this simple takeback, Black queen survives, but the position collapses. [To play for a big material advantage would be a decisive mistake 35. ♖xh3? ♘f4+ 36. ♔c4 (36. ♙xf4 ♕xf4 ∞)

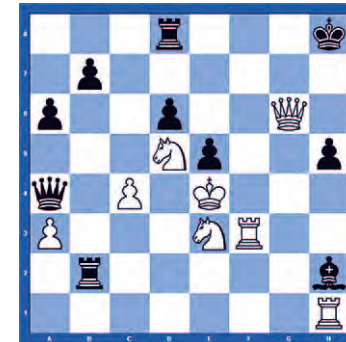


36... ♖c8+!! A fantastic move! Black is queen and rook down, but he gives pawnmate with b5! (36... ♖xb6 Actually, during the game I thought about this move, and ♖c8 mate is the next, but as usual the computer found a fascinating defense.



37. ♖xh5+!! gxf5 (37... ♔g8 38. ♙xf4 ♘xf4 39. ♖h8+ ♔f7 40. ♖xd8) 38. ♙f5! White could defend against ♖c8.) 37. ♘xc8 b5# I would not be happy to lose like this. :)]

35... ♙e6 [35... ♙d7 36. ♙xg6 ♙b5+ 37. ♔e4 ♙a4+ 38. c4+-



Suddenly, White king is protected by the knights and pawn, while Black will be mated.]

36. ♖f6 ♙e8 37. ♖xg6 ♙f8 38. ♖f1 Black resigned. A tough game right in the first round! **1-0**

(3) Shirov,A (2713) – Horvath,Cs (2517)

HUN-chT, 25.03.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

The next game is from the Hungarian league, where Alexei Shirov, aka „Mr. Fire on the board”, true to his name crushed his GM opponent. We can see an excellent novelty in the opening, which seems to refute the whole line.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 ♔c7 6.♙e3 ♘f6 7.f4 ♔b6 A recent novelty by the Georgian Javakashvili, which could be very dangerous, if somebody receives it over board. However, Shirov is always ready for such challenges... [7...♙b4 8.♘db5 ♔a5 9.e5 is the mainline, which is considered to be slightly better for White after long lines.]



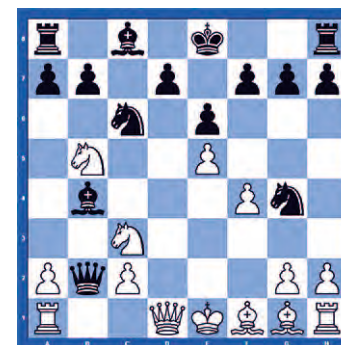
8.e5! From now on, all the pieces will start to hang. It is impossible to calculate all the variations until the end, it is more important to feel, that it must be good for White! [In the first test, Nadezhda Kosintseva avoided the complications, and Black easily equalized... 8.a3 ♙c5 9.♘a4 ♔a5+

10.c3 ♙xd4 11.♙xd4 ♘xd4 12.♔xd4 d6 Kosintseva,N-Javakhishvili, Gaziantep 2012]

8...♘g4 Black tries to lure the queen, when the b2 pawn could already be taken. [8...♙c5 leads to a clearly worse endgame for Black. 9.exf6 ♙xd4 10.♙xd4 ♔xd4 11.♔xd4 ♘xd4 12.fxg7 ♔g8 13.0-0-0 ♘c6 14.♘e4 ♔xg7 15.♘d6+ ♔e7 16.g3± too many holes in Black's camp; 8...♔xb2 is risky, because the queen will have serious problems to not be trapped 9.♘db5 ♙b4 10.♙d2! ♘d5 11.♘xd5 ♙xd2+ 12.♔xd2! exd5 13.♔b1 ♔xa2 14.♘c7+ ♔d8 15.♘xa8+- the queen survives, but rook is lost.]

9.♙g1! Shirov preserves his bishop, the pin might be deadly! Now Black must act concretely, otherwise the d4 jumps away and the g4 knight is also in the air. [9.♔xg4 ♔xb2]

9...♙c5 [After 9...♔xb2 White can choose between two tempting moves: 10.♘cb5 is the easier way to win (10.♘db5 this is the stronger move, but also the harder to find 10...♙b4



11.♙d2! ♔b1 threats, when the g4 knight is hanging 11...f5 12.h3 ♘h6 13.a3! A very important in-between move. (13.♔b1 ♙xc3+ 14.♘xc3 ♔a3 would not be that easy) 13...

♙a5 (13... ♙xc3+ 14. ♘xc3+-) 14. ♖b1 ♙xc3+ 15. ♔d3! ♙a2 (15... ♙xb1 16. ♙xb1+-) 16. ♙xc3+- Black cannot avoid losing huge material.) 10... ♙b4+ 11. ♔e2! 0-0 12. ♘xc6 bxc6 13. ♙d4 White traps the queen, but Black gets some pieces for it, which might give him some practical hopes. 13... ♙xa1 14. ♙xa1 cxb5 15. ♙b2±]

10. ♙xg4! After the f8 bishop left the g7 unprotected, Shirov already takes the knight. He makes no mistake in the calculations.

10... ♙xb2 [10... ♙xd4 loses as well after 11. ♙xd4 ♘xd4 12. ♙xg7 ♙xb2 (12... ♖f8 13. 0-0-0+-) 13. ♙xh8+ ♔e7 14. ♙f6+ ♔f8 Here are several ways to win, the easiest is probably: 15. ♙d3 ♙xc3+ (15... ♙xa1+ 16. ♘d1+-) 16. ♔f2 ♙d2+ 17. ♔g3 ♙e3+ 18. ♔h4+- when White has big material advantage and it would be hard to find a safer place for his king.]

11. ♘db5! ♙xa1+ **12. ♔d2** Black is an exchange up, but his position is hopeless. The g7 is hanging, the knight is threatening on d6 and on c7, and the queen might be also easily trapped.

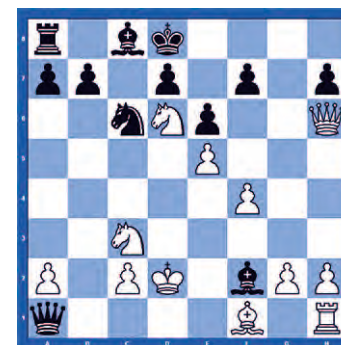
12... ♙xg1 [12... ♙f8 was probably the most stubborn, but also not big fun for Black. 13. ♙d3±; 12... ♙a3 13. ♙xg7 ♙c1+ 14. ♔e2 ♙xc2+ (14... ♖f8 15. ♘e4 ♙xc2+ 16. ♔f3+-) 15. ♔f3 ♖f8 16. ♘e4+-; 12... ♙xf1 13. ♙xc5 ♙xh1 14. ♙xg7+-]

13. ♙xg7 White wins back the rook. Both kings seems to be in danger, but actually it is only Black who has to worry, White can always slalom between the pieces.

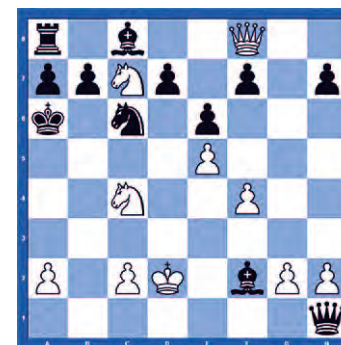
13... ♙f2 [13... ♖f8 14. ♘d6+ ♔d8 15. ♙xf8+ ♔c7 16. ♘cb5+ ♔b6 17. ♖xg1+-]

14. ♙xh8+ ♔e7 15. ♙f6+ [15. ♙e2! was the most precise win now or in the next move 15... ♙xh1 16. ♙f6+ ♔f8 17. ♘d6! Black can give only a few checks, while White is mating. 17... ♙e1+ 18. ♔d3 ♘b4+ 19. ♔e4+-]

15... ♔f8 16. ♘d1 Shirov does not even want to give the opportunity to Black to give any checks... [16. ♙e2! would lead to the 15. ♙e2! line.; I just have found a beautiful mate in 16. ♙h6+ ♔e8 (16... ♔e7 17. ♙e2 ♙xh1 18. ♙f6+ see again in 15. ♙e2!) 17. ♘d6+ ♔d8



18. ♙a6!! ♙xh1 19. ♙f8+ ♔c7 20. ♘cb5+ ♔b6 21. ♘c4+ here we get the point of the 18. ♙a6!! move, the b5 knight is protected. 21... ♔xa6 22. ♘c7#



We usually can only meet in studies with this kind of mates.]

16... ♖c5 17. ♖d3 The human win! White finishes the development.

17... ♔xa2 [17... ♖b4+ 18. ♔e2 ♘d4+ the exchange of the great b5 knight does not save Black 19. ♘xd4 ♕xd4 20. ♕d8+ ♔g7 21. ♖f1!+- and the rook joins to the battle through the 3rd rank, and decides the game.]

18. ♘dc3! ♕a5



19. ♘d6! The most precise win.

19... ♖xd6 20. exd6 ♕h8 threats.

20... ♔g8 21. ♕h6! f5 22. ♖e1! and Black resigned, since he has nothing against ♖e3-g3 mate. From Black point of view it is quite painful to look at the a8 rook and the c8 bishop... Great attacking game by Shirov, after which this 7... ♕b6 line will not have too many followers. **1-0**

(4) Vallejo Pons, Francisco (2693) – Nabaty, Tamir (2559) [D20]

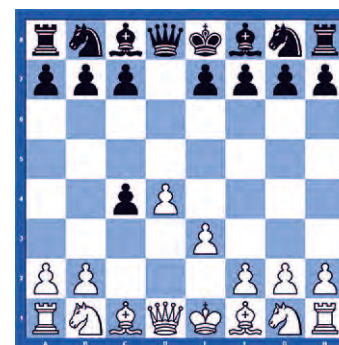
13th EICC Plovdiv BUL (4.32), 23.03.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Here we are facing an amazing game from the European Individual Chess Championship. From the 25 moves of the game, Black made 9 moves with their King and got mated finally on the a1 square! Let's take a look how this could happen!!

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 We are in the beginning of the Queen's Gambit lines. This opening is considered to be „ultra-safe“ and it is hard to imagine, Black king being mated in only 22 moves on the a1

3.e3 more often we see the move 3.e4 which considered to be „main“ here. Other option is 3. ♘f3



3... e5!? Black is going into a position with an isolated pawn

4. ♖xc4 [Of course 4.dxe5? would be a mistake 4... ♕xd1+ 5. ♕xd1 ♘c6 with a very nice endgame for Black]

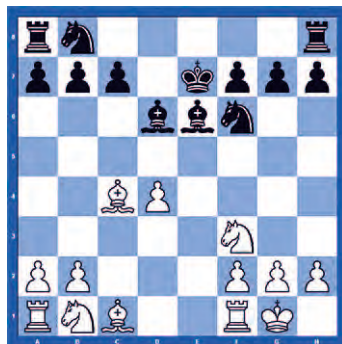
4...exd4 5.exd4 ♖d6 [More often Black is choosing this move order 5...♘f6 6.♘f3 ♖e7 7.♘c3 0-0 8.h3 (8.0-0 ♗g4) 8...♘bd7 9.0-0 ♘b6 10.♗b3 c6 with a complicated position]

6.♘f3 ♘f6 7.♖e2+ a rare move [more popular are this lines 7.0-0 0-0 8.♘c3 ♗g4 (8...♘c6 9.h3 h6 10.♖e1 ♗f5∞) 9.h3 ♗h5 10.g4 ♗g6 11.♘e5 c5∞]

7...♖e7?! in my opinion it is not a great idea for Black to go into an endgame, where they are not in time to fulfill their development. It is a big risk and there is absolutely no reason to take it [7...♗e7 this move is looking like a lost of a tempo, but it is not. The White Queen on e2 is not standing better than on d1, so Black is basically back into the main line with ♗e7 — with only small difference, White has his Queen on e2.]

8.♖xe7+ ♖xe7 [8...♗xe7 9.0-0 0-0 10.♘c3 ♘c6 11.♖e1 ♗d6 12.♗g5 seems to give White a plus in the endgame.]

9.0-0 ♗e6



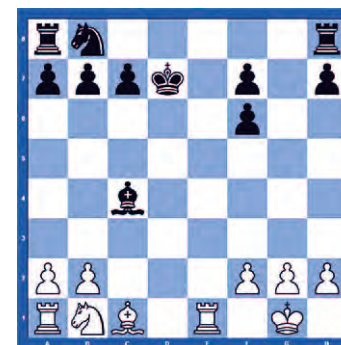
10.♖e1! White is trying to make use out of the shaky position of the Black king and choosing a forced continuation. An absolutely right choice — this is the way to play a po-

sition with a development advantage! [10.♗xe6?! Would be a clear positional mistake 10...fxe6 11.♘c3 ♘c6 Black next moves are clear, ♘b4-d5, then put the King on d7. This endgame is no way better for White]

10...♖d7 11.♘e5+! White is not giving Black any time for consolidation

11...♗xe5 a risky choice, already not an easy position [11...♖c8 12.♘c3 Would lead rly to a better position for White, but maybe it was the toughest way to continue the fight for Black]

12.dxe5 ♗xc4 13.exf6 gxf6



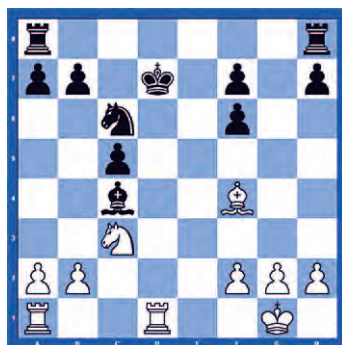
14.♘c3 White is a pawn down, but the Black king is feeling himself very uncomfortable on d7, plus the pawn structure is terribly demanaged. It is clear, that White is having a solid advantage. After the game, I asked Vallejo until which moment he was in his preparation, and he said until exactly here. The move 14...c5 was new for him

14...c5?! [14...♘c6 was the only way to continue the game in more or less normal conditions for Black 15.b3 ♗e6 16.♘e4 f5 17.♘c5+ ♖c8 18.♗f4! It is nice to see how much is white dominating in the position. Black's extra

pawn gives Black maximum some chances for a draw (18. ♖xe6? ♜e8) 18...♜e8 19.♜ac1 It is hard to find for Black a move, that would improve the position. A very typical example how to play in domination even in a position without Queens on the board]

15. ♕f4 [Another interesting move was 15.♜d1+ ♖e7 (15... ♖c6 16. ♕f4 b6 17.a4! a super strong move. White wants to play next ♜d6 and ♖b5. In case of 17...♖b7 18.♖b5! and Black is not in time to play Nc6) 16. ♕f4 ♜d8 17.♜xd8 ♖xd8 18.♜d1+ ♖d7 19.♖e4 Again the same story, White's activity and development advantage is playing a decisive role 19...♖e7 20.b3 ♕e6 21. ♕d6+ ♖e8 22.♜d3!± a great move! Now the threat is coming from the unexpected ♜g3-g8!]

15...♖c6 16.♜ed1+ [of course not 16.♜ad1+? ♖d4 17.♕e3 ♜he8 and the rook on e1 is hanging]



16...♖e6?? Black is starting their king march. It is hard to say what exactly Black had missed. [16...♖d4 the only move 17.♕e3 ♖e7 18.♕xd4 cxd4 19.♜xd4 ♕e6 20.f3 White is having a very comfortable advantage. The idea of playing such an endgame could be: To exchange one pair of rooks (best would be both pairs), put the pawns

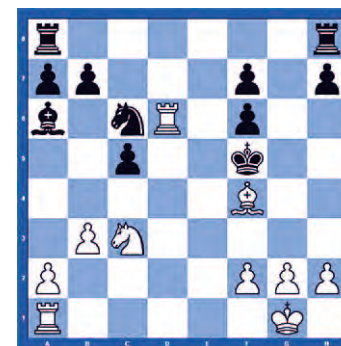
on a3, b2, f3,g3,h2, King to e3 and maybe knight to f4. Black's position is very unpleasant-not to say more. Probably a World Champion A.Karpov would consider it to be close to lost :.)]

17.b3 White is starting a series of forced moves. Step 1: to bring away Black bishop from the center

17...♕a6? this is leading already to a forced mate! [17... ♖f5 the only chance to fight 18.bxc4 ♖xf4 19.♜d5 would give White close to a winning position]

18.♜d6+ White is starting the step 2: The hunt at the Black's king begins

18...♖f5 [18...♖e7 is of course losing as well 19.♖d5+ ♖f8 20. ♕h6+ ♖e8 21.♜e1+ ♖e5 22. ♕g7+-]

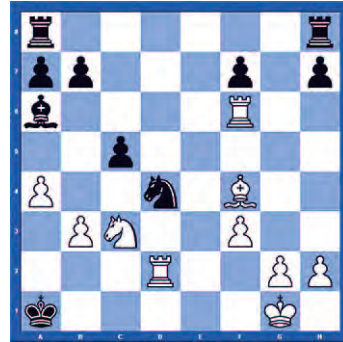


19.♖d5! Next White's move ♜xf6 is unstoppable

19...♖d4 20.♜xf6+ ♖e4 21.f3+! ♖d3 [21...♖xd5 22.♜d6# Would be a very beautiful mate]

22.♜d1+ Black king is fighting alone against the rest of the White pieces. This can't end good...

22...♖c2 23.♜d2+ ♖b1 24.♖c3+ ♖a1 25.a4



Just a fantastic final position ! **1-0**

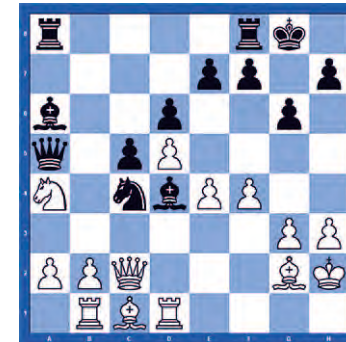
Puzzle section

(5) Movsesian,S (2702) – Kotronias,V (2597)

Plovdiv, 22.03.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

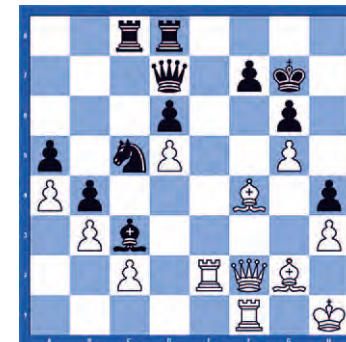


(6) Pancevski,F (2470) – Volokitin,A (2695)

Plovdiv, 20.03.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(7) Hovhannisyan,R (2600) – Codenotti,M (2328)

Plovdiv, 20.03.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

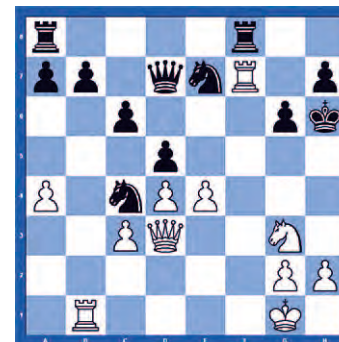


(9) Pap,Gy (2538) – Khenkin,I (2632)

Plovdiv, 21.03.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

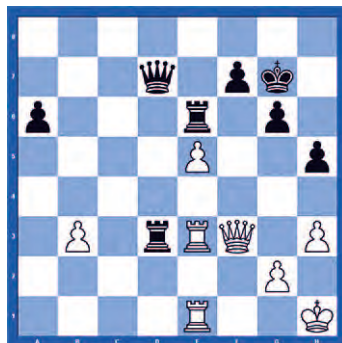


(8) Popovic,Du (2561) – Kryvoruchko,Y (2666)

Plovdiv, 21.03.2012

[CEWN]

1... -/+

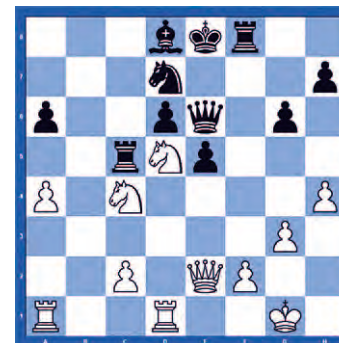


(10) Volokitin,A (2695) – Schiendorfer,E (2349)

Plovdiv, 21.03.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-

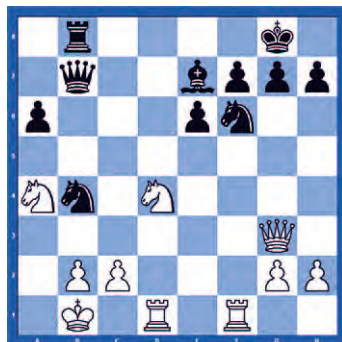


(11) Sutovsky,E (2700) – Kozul,Z (2602)

Plovdiv, 25.03.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

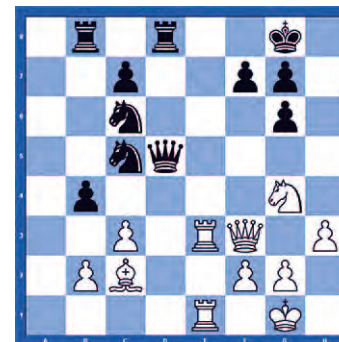


(13) Sutovsky,E (2700) – Grigoriants,S (2561)

Plovdiv, 23.03.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

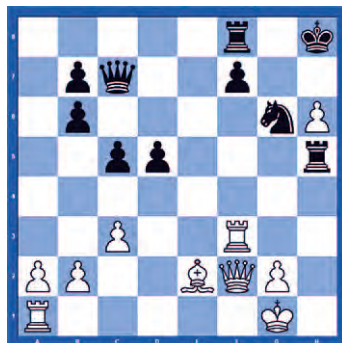


(12) Mchedlishvili,M (2626) – Michalik,P (2529)

Plovdiv, 25.03.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

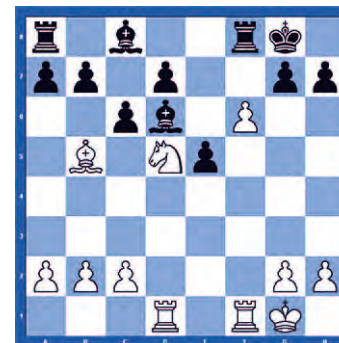


(14) Kulaots,K (2585) – Roiz,M (2652)

Plovdiv, 22.03.2012

[CEWN]

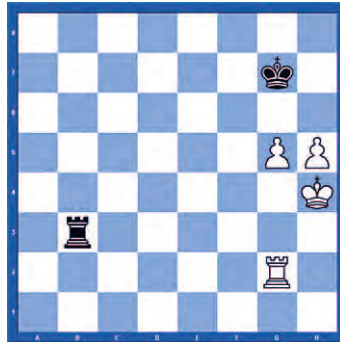
1. +/-



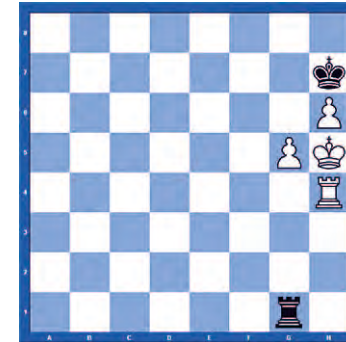
Endgame section

(15)

[Balogh Csaba]



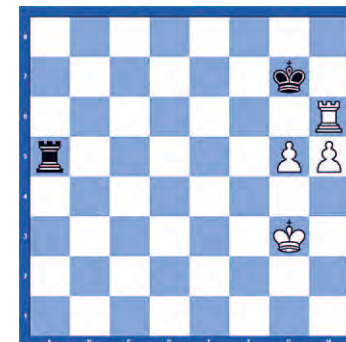
We have reached the last lesson of the month, when we will study those kind of rook endgames, where White has a connected g-h-pawn advantage. These kind of positions are winning in general, but as we will see, there might be exceptions. White must mainly take care of the Black king, not to let him stay between his pawns. First, let us see the winning technique! **74...♖b4+ 75.♖g4 ♜b1** Black tries to make the task harder by threatening vertical and horizontal checks. **76.♜f4** White must hold his rook close, so he can restrict Black's checks. **76...♜h1+ 77.♙g4 ♜g1+ 78.♙f5 ♜a1 79.h6+!** Finally we could push our pawn, but the continuation remains difficult. **79...♙h7 80.♙g4!** Tries to find shelter on h5! **80...♜g1+** [This time, it would only make the job easier, if the king goes between the pawns with **80...♙g6** because of **81.♜f6+ ♙h7 82.♜f7+ ♙g8 (82...♙g6 83.♜g7#) 83.♜d7+-]** **81.♙h5 ♜h1+ 82.♜h4 ♜g1** Here we are! How should White continue?



83.♜h2! Very important move, which puts Black into zugzwang! He has only one way, in which he could prevent the g6 move: **83...♜g3** however with this move, the rook gets too close to the king, and the checks will not be threatening anymore. **84.♜e2! ♜h3+ 85.♙g4 ♜a3 86.♜e7+** When Black's king is forced back to the back-rank, the win is very close. **86...♙g8 [86...♙g6 87.♜g7#] 87.g6 ♜a4+ 88.♙f5 ♜a5+ 89.♙f6 ♜a6+ 90.♜e6 ♜a8** Due to the threatening mate on the 8th rank, the rook is forced into passive defense. **91.♜d6 ♜c8 92.♙e7!** And White exchanges the rooks in the next move, and wins the game. **1-0**

(16)

[Balogh,Csaba]

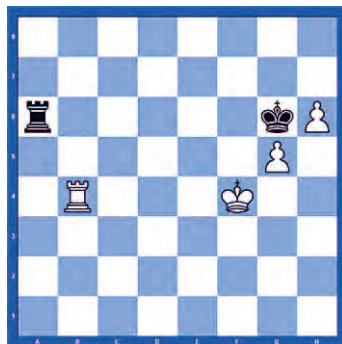


Black holds the draw, even without staying with his king between the White pawns. The rook is obliged to defend passively the pawns, however in this case his king remains unprotected from the side checks! **1. ♖g6+** [1. ♔f4 ♖a4+=] **1... ♔h7** White must settle for the draw! **1/2**

(17) Kling,Josef

1851

[Balogh Csaba]

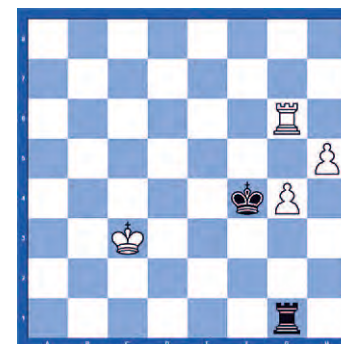


The following example is probably the most important defensive position, where Black can hold the draw by several exact moves. Kling and Horwith have published this endgame in 1851, 161 years ago! Let us see, why White can not win! **1. ♖d4 ♖b6** Black defends against the 6th ranked checks, and by passing with his rook, wait for White to find a plan. **2. ♖d8!** The best chance! The point is that after the check, the g5 pawn cannot be taken, since the h-pawn is promoting. At the same time, he threatens ♖g8 check! **2... ♖b4+** **3. ♔e5 ♖b7!** An extremely important move, controls the h7 square, so the g5 pawn is hanging now. [3... ♔xg5?? 4.h7+-; Instructively loses 3... ♖g4? 4. ♖g8+ ♔h7 because of 5. ♔f5!+- (5. ♖g7+? would have been a mis-

take 5... ♔h8 6. ♔f5 ♖f4+! 7. ♔g6 ♖f6+! 8. ♔h5 ♖xh6+! due to this nice stalemate idea!) ; 3... ♖b5+ also draws, but in a more difficult way, than 3... ♖b7! 4. ♖d5 (4. ♔e6 ♖xg5) 4... ♖b7 5. ♔e6 ♖a7 6. ♖d7 ♖a6+ 7. ♖d6 (7. ♔e7 ♔xg5 8.h7 ♖a8 9. ♔f7 ♔h6=) 7... ♖a7= as Dvoretzky showed it in his book.] **4. ♖g8+ ♔h7 5. ♖e8 ♔g6** [With the help of a nice trick, Black has the chance to force draw immediately 5... ♖b5+ 6. ♔f6 ♖xg5!]=] **6. ♔f4 ♖b4+ 7. ♖e4 ♖b6=** And we are back into the initial position. **1/2**

(18)

[Balogh Csaba]



Finally, let us get acquainted with this kind of self-helper pawns. The h-pawn promotes to queen, even without the help of the king. Black cannot stop him. Anything could happen, White's next moves are h6, g5, ♖g7, and then, h7, g6, ♖g8, and finally h8♔. **1.h6 ♖h1 2.g5 ♔f5 3. ♖g7** Black has no chance to get closer with his king. With this example, we have finished our first month rook endgame lesson, from the next week, we arrive with a new theme! Stay with us! **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(19) Petrosian, Tigran V — Yudovich, Mikhail Jr [A05]

Moscow Spartak-Iskra Moscow, 1953

[Balogh Csaba]

The next game, I would like to present you is played by Tigran Petrosian! The 9th World Champion, who had the nickname of „Iron Tigran” because of his positional style and his intention to be as safe as possible! It was incredibly hard to beat him. He became the Champion by defeating Botvinnik in 1963, when he was 34 years old, and owned the crown for six years, until 1969! Afterwards, Spassky managed to win over him, in his second attempt, since in 1966, Tigran could hold his throne. This game perfectly shows his inimitable style! Let's see how he broke the resistance of the Russian master Yudovich Mikhail Jr! The opening part was not so exciting, but after Black's mistake on move 9, Petrosian starts to improve his position move by move until he wins the game.

1. ♘f3 ♘f6 2. g3 g6 3. ♖g2 ♖g7 4. 0-0 Right from the beginning, he secures the position of his king.

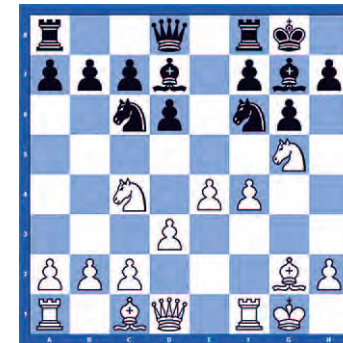
4... 0-0 5. d3 d6 6. e4 He needed six moves to finally reach the 4th rank!

6... e5 Black plays symmetrically, but this is not a great idea against the Champion. It was more advisable to have a more open position against him, let's say with 6... c5.

7. ♘bd2 ♘c6 8. ♘c4 ♖e6 9. ♘g5!? Forces Yudovich to decide the character of the game. He has three options

now: to allow White to take on e6 with a possible improvement on the pawn structure after fxe6, to take on c4, or to save his bishop for the future.

9... h6? Black chooses the worst one. He wants to improve his structure, but actually he just makes the opposite. [I don't like 9... ♗xc4 neither, because of 10. dxc4 h6 11. ♘h3! when the knight on h3 is slightly misplaced, but after ♗e3, ♖d2, f3 and ♘f2, white has some advantage.; 9... ♗g4! should have been played, with perfect position for Black in all lines 10. f3 (10. ♖d2 h6 11. ♘f3 ♖d7=; 10. ♖e1 ♘d4) 10... ♗d7 11. f4 exf4 12. gxf4



12... d5! very important to break the pawn chain in the center **13. exd5 ♗g4! ♖**

10. ♘xe6 fxe6 11. c3 ♖h7 [11... d5 12. ♘e3 ±]

12. ♘e3 ♖e7 13. f4! The most ambitious move, White wants to push f5, to create a very dangerous attack.

13... ♘d8 [13... exf4 was better, but Black did not want to open the position for the bishop pair. 14. gxf4 ±]

14. a4 A bit strange decision from Petrosian, he does not continue the plan started with the previous move. Instead of the mating attack, he prefers to win the game

in a positional way. What to do, that is his style! Creates a very strong square on c4 for his knight. [14.f5!±]

14...c6 15.fxe5!? Creates fixed doubled pawns for Black, which are sometimes quite useful because they are controlling all the central squares. But this is not the case. [15.f5± was still possible]

15...dxe5 16.b4 Taking ground on the queenside. White is better on all the parts of the board, in addition, he has the bishop pair.

16...f7 17.e2 e2ad8 18.c4 Tigran can organize the ideal setup for his pieces, since his opponent is without counterplay. He has no chance to activate his bishop on g7, and the knights have no squares to occupy.

18...d7 19.f3! Such kind of „ugly“ moves are normally very difficult to play, but not for Petrosian!

19...e8 Trying to exchange the powerful knight on c4.

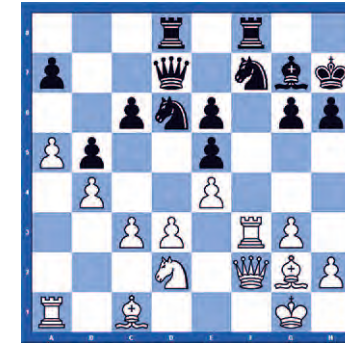
20.f2! White forces further weakening on the queenside and creates an unpleasant pin on the f-file.

20...b6 [in case of 20...a6 21.e3± the bishop would arrive on the b6 and c5. 21...xd3 22.b6! xc4 23.xd8+-]

21.a5! Forcing to push b5, but then Black's camp remains full of holes!

21...b5 22.d2 heading to c5!

22...ed6 connects his rooks, so he threatens to play g5. Watch how the World Champion destroys this attempt for a counterplay!



23.e2! White leaves the f-file and prepares for his next move.

23...g5 24.e3!! White had other good possibilities as well, but I like the idea of this move so much, that I decided to give it „!!“ mark. The point is, Black's position is so cramped that Petrosian wants to keep all the pieces on board. Currently the rook is only a defender of the d3 pawn, but in the future it might penetrate on the f-file. [24.xf8 xf8 25.b3 e8 26.xg5 hxg5 27.f1± was also fine of course.]

24...h5 Tries to activate the bishop from h6.

25.h4! The only good piece of Black, has to retreat as well.

25...gf7 26.b3 e7 27.f3 And the rook is back to the f-file, so he frees the e3 square for the bishop. Very interesting, that White only with his a5 pawn has crossed the middle of the board, but his position is completely winning.

27...h6 Finally, there is a hole in White's base, so the knight tries to settle there. [27...h6 28.xh6 (28.a6!?) 28...xh6 29.af1 xf3 30.xf3+- and in the next to move, c5 and h3 will decide the outcome of the game.]

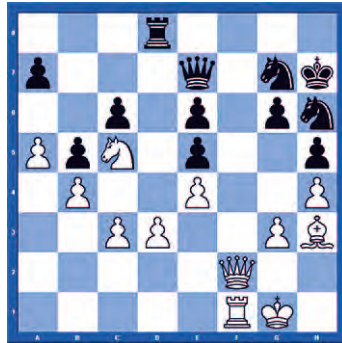
28.g5 f6 29.xf6! creates deadly pin for the g5 bishop.

29...♖xf6 30.♙h3! The target is the e6 pawn.

30...♘e8 31.♘c5 ♘g7 32.♙e3! The weakness of the e6 and e5 doubled pawns is deciding the game.

32...♘f7 [32...♘g8 33.♙xf6 ♘xf6 34.♙g5!+- and the e5 falls.]

33.♙xf6 ♙xf6 34.♖f1 ♙e7 35.♙f2 ♘h6



36.♙f6! I think Petrosian really enjoyed to play this position. He can do whatever he wants, while Black is out of counterplay.

36...♙xf6 37.♖xf6 ♖d6 [37...♖e8 38.♘d7+-]

38.♖f8 and Yudovich resigned, as he found himself in complete zugzwang in material equality! White can simply go for the a7 pawn, and then promote the queen. It was very instructive to see, how after the 9th move mistake by Black, the great Champion crushed his opponent! He created many holes and weaknesses with „small“ moves, and Black was unable to defend all of them. Typical victory from Petrosian, where he has slowly „choked“ his opponent. **1-0**

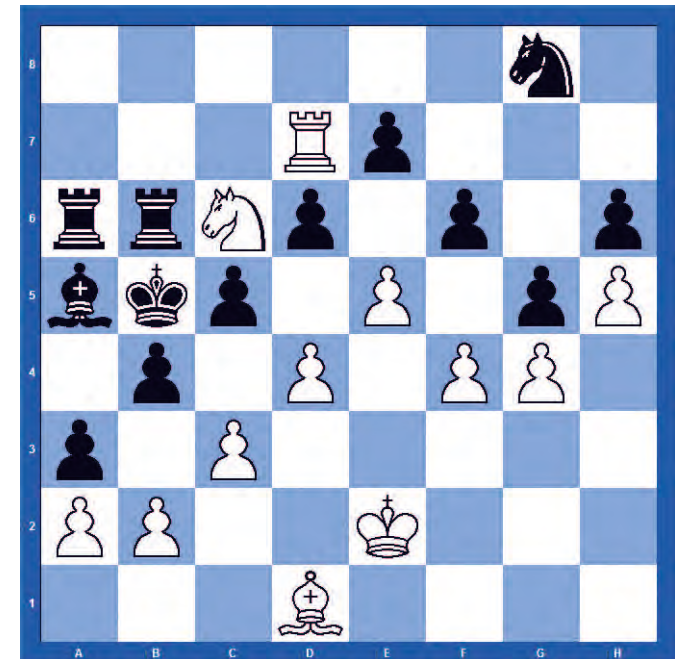
Surprise section / study

(20) Amaker,N

1973

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(21) Berkes,F (2706) – Bogner,S (2534)

Schachbundesliga, 17.03.2012

[Solutions]

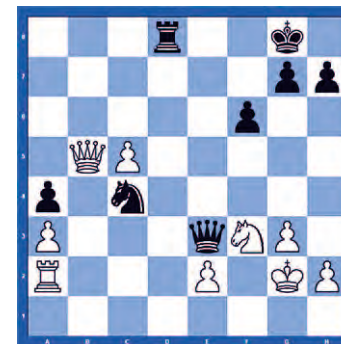


34. ♖g5!! hxg5 [34... ♗e6 35.f5! ♔f6 (35... hxg5 36.fxe6 ♔xe6 37.h6±) 36. ♖xe6! fxe6 37. ♖g6+ ♔xf5 38.e4++-] **35.h6 ♗f5** [35... ♖f6 36.fxg5+-] **36.e4! ♖xf4?** [36... gxf4 37.exf5 ♖f6 38.h7 ♖xh7 39. ♖xh7 ♖xa3 (39... ♖xf5 40. ♗h5±) 40. ♗h5±] **37.exf5 ♔f8?** [37... ♔f6 38. ♖g8+-] **38.f6** 1-0

(22) Medvegy,Z (2531) – Dinstuhl,V (2408)

Schachbundesliga, 17.03.2012

[Solutions]

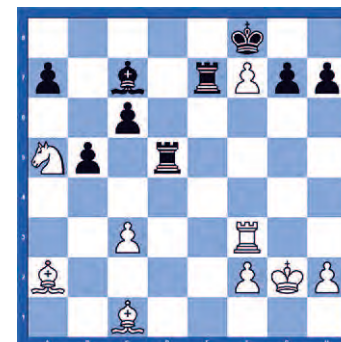


34... ♔b3!! 35. ♔xb3 axb3 36. ♖a1 ♖c8 [36... b2! 37. ♖b1 ♔f7 38. ♔f2 ♖a8 39.c6 ♔e7--+] **37. ♖b1 b2 38. ♖e1 ♖xc5 39. ♖d3 ♖b5?** [39... ♖a5! 40. ♖xb2 ♖b5 41.a4 ♖xb2 42. ♖xb2 ♖xb2 43.a5 ♖a4 44.a6 ♔f7 45.a7 ♖b6±] **40.a4 ♖b3 41.a5** 1/2-1/2

(23) Socko,B (2628) – Sandipan,C (2640)

Schachbundesliga, 17.03.2012

[Solutions]



30...♖d1? [30...♙xa5? 31.♙xd5 cxd5 32.♙a3+-; 30...♖h5!! 31.♘xc6 (31.♙a3 c5) 31...♖xh2+ 32.♙f1 ♖h1+ 33.♙g2 ♖h2+=] **31.♘xc6!+- ♖e2** [31...♖xc1 32.♘xe7+-] **32.♙a3+ ♙d6 33.♙b3! ♖dd2 34.♙c1! ♖c2 35.♙xc2 ♖xc2 36.♘d4 1-0**

(24) Muse,D (2388) – Teske,H (2547)

Schachbundesliga, 17.03.2012

[Solutions]

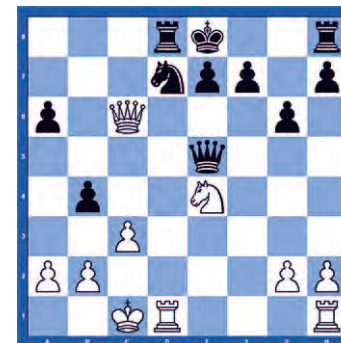


37...c5! 38.bxc5 b4! 39.c6 ♖e7! 40.c7 ♖d7 0-1

(25) Swiercz,D (2585) – Bacrot,E (2705)

Schachbundesliga, 18.03.2012

[Solutions]

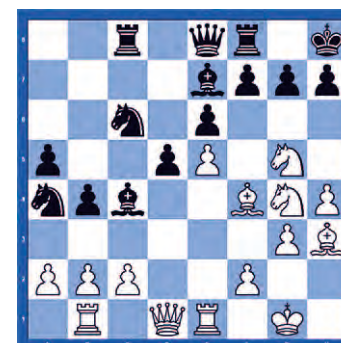


19.♘d6+! [19.♖he1 0-0 20.♖xd7 ♖xd7 21.♙xd7 f5∞] **19...exd6** [19...♙f8 20.♘b7±] **20.♖he1 0-0 21.♖xe5 ♘xe5 22.♙xa6 bxc3 23.bxc3?** [23.b3!± d5 24.♙b5] **23...♖c8 24.♙xd6 ♖xc3+ 25.♙b1 ♖e3± 26.♙c7 ♖g7 27.a4 ♖a8 28.a5** [28.♖d5] **28...♖b3+ 29.♙c2 ♖b5 30.♖a1 ♖a6 31.♙d1 ♖d5+ 32.♙e1 ♘c6=**

(26) Naiditsch,A (2707) – Brandenburg,D (2522)

Schachbundesliga, 18.03.2012

[Solutions]

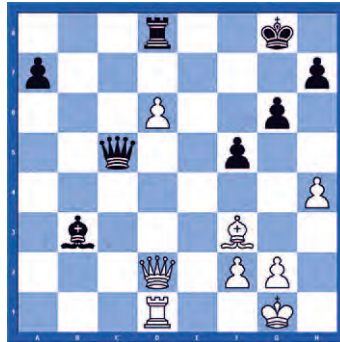


20. ♖e3∞ [20. ♘f6!! gxf6 21. exf6 ♙xf6 22. ♚h5! ♙xg5 23. ♙f5!! exf5 24. ♙xg5 ♚e6! 25. ♖xe6 fxe6 26. b3 ♘c3 27. bxc4 ♘xb1 28. ♚h6+-; 20. ♘xh7 ♙xh7 21. ♘f6+ gxf6 22. ♚h5+ ♙g8=]

(27) Eljanov,P (2683) – Cyborowski,L (2543)

Schachbundesliga, 18.03.2012

[Solutions]

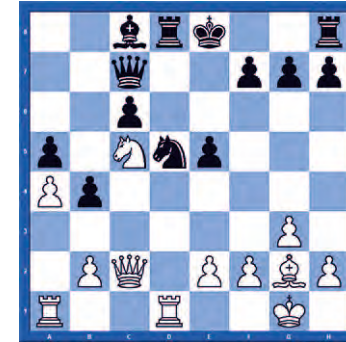


32. ♖b1 [32. ♚e2!! ♙xd1 33. ♚e6+ ♙g7 34. ♚e7+ ♙h6 35. ♚xd8 ♙xf3 36. gxf3+-; 32. ♚e1!!] **32...** ♖xd6∞

(28) Fressinet,L (2696) – Gordon,S (2535)

Schachbundesliga, 18.03.2012

[Solutions]

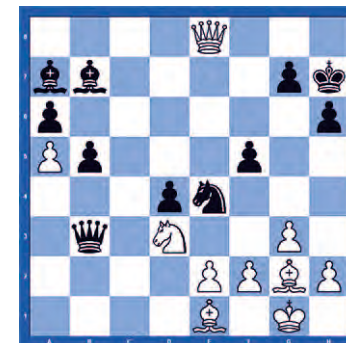


21. ♘b3!! ♚b6 [21... ♙e6 22. ♚c5+-] **22.** ♘xa5! ♚xa5 **23.** ♚xc6+ ♙e7 **24.** ♖xd5 ♖xd5 **25.** ♙xd5+- ♙a6 **26.** ♙b3 ♖d8 **27.** ♚f3 1-0

(29) Gajewski,G (2607) – Goloshchapov,A (2580)

Schachbundesliga, 18.03.2012

[Solutions]



35. ♚e7! [35. ♘e5 ♚d1; 35. ♚d7 ♚d5] **35...** ♚d5 **36.** ♘f4 1-0 **36...** ♚c6 **37.** ♘e6

(30) Zherebukh,Y (2580) – Firman,N (2517)

Schachbundesliga, 18.03.2012

[Solutions]

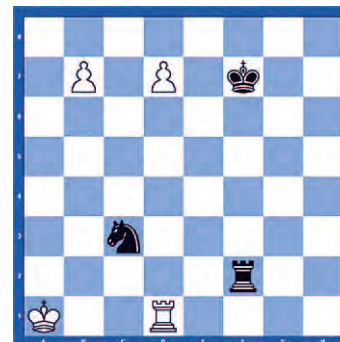


27. ♔xf6! 1–0

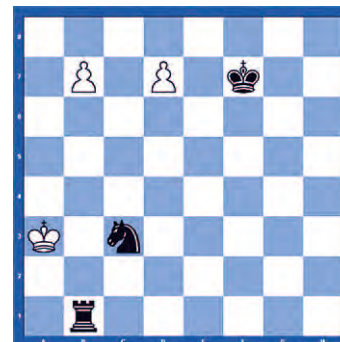
(31) Kalandadze,V

1964

[Solutions]



1. ♖f1!! ♜xf1+ 2. ♔b2 ♜b1+ 3. ♔a3



3... ♜d1! [3... ♔e7 4.d8 ♔+ ♔xd8 5.b8 ♔+ ♜xb8] 4.d8N+!!
[4.d8 ♔? ♜b1+! 5. ♔b4 ♜xd8 6. ♔c5 ♔e7 7. ♔c6 ♜c3+]
4... ♜xd8 [4... ♔f6 5. ♜c6 ♜a1+ 6. ♔b2 ♜b1+ 7. ♔xc3
♜xb7=] 5.b8 ♔ ♜xb8



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 6

6th of April 2012

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Editorial Preface

The European Individual Chess Championship came to a dramatic end. In the last round Jakovenko won the final battle against the leader Laurent Fressinet and took the clear first place with 8,5/11. Second place was shared by 14 players, after tiebreak Fressinet was second, 3rd place went to Malakhov.

One of Your favorite commentator has probably qualified for the World Cup as well: after a disastrous start, Csaba Balogh managed a great come back with 4/4 in the round 6-9 and then with 2 draws against Caruana and Vitiugov completed a perfect second half.

Now it is time for yet another issue of CEWN. The game of the week should be clearly the Jakovenko-Fressinet, a battle for the Title of European Champion!

From the current issue, we start with "practical endgames". Enough of knowledge and theory, time for practice! We discuss only one bishopendgame, but hopefully You will find it very instructive.

We wish You as usual a lot of fun and good reading!

Don't forget to reserve some free time from May 12th on. We will comment live the World Championships games on Chessdom.com, a fantastic match between the World Champion Anand and the great Match player Boris Gelfand!!!

*Arkadij Naiditsch
Balogh Csaba*

4 best games of the past week

(1) Jakovenko,Dmitry (2729) — Fressinet,Laurent (2693) [D38]

Plovdiv, 31.03.2012

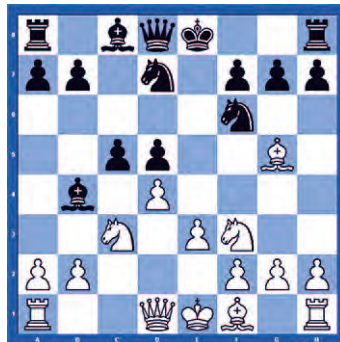
[Balogh Csaba]

The decisive game of the European Individual Championship. We are in the last round, when Laurent Fressinet is leading by a half point, but he had to face the Russian Super GM, Dmitry Jakovenko with Black. Let's see what happened...

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♘b4 4.♘f3 ♘f6 Black chose the Ragozin defense.

5.cxd5 exd5 6.♙g5 lately this is considered to be the most ambitious setup against Black's opening.

6...♘bd7 7.e3 c5



8.dxc5 This move was a rare sideline until Kramnik won a nice game against Ponomarev back in 2009. Since then this is already one of the most critical lines for Black from

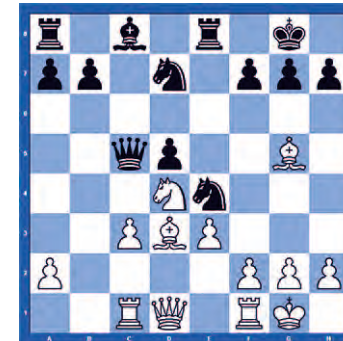
the opening point of view. [8. ♙d3 is the most often seen in practice.]

8...♙a5 9.♖c1 ♙xc3+ [The mentioned game continued with 9...♘e4 10.♙xd5 ♘xc3 11.bxc3 ♙xc3+ 12.♙d1 0-0 13.♙c4 ♘f6 14.♙xf6 ♙xf6 15.♙e2 when Kramnik obtained a small advantage.]

10.bxc3 0-0 11.♘d4 ♙xc5 [The other line is 11...♘e4 12.♙f4 with several games in the database, but it is not clear, how Black should play to equalize.]

12.♙d3 ♖e8 A novelty, which does not solve Black's problems. [Players tried before 12...♘e4 but after 13.♙f4 ♘b6 14.♙h5 ♖e8 15.0-0 g6 16.♙h6± White got and edge in Vitiugov-Alekseev, Saratov 2011.]

13.0-0 ♘e4



14.♙f4 Lets make a summary of the opening. White has the bishop pair, powerful knight on d4 and a small weakness on c3, while Black tries to compensate it with active pieceplay with his knights. White threatens to play c4 now, to get rid of the weakness and open the position for the bishops to make their strength even more effective. Black must prevent it at any cost.

14...♘e5?! Black wants to occupy the c4 square with a tempo, otherwise he manages to get one of the bishops. However, Fressinet probably underestimated the strength of White's response. [14...♘b6 was the better way to prevent c4, which transposes to the 12...♘e4 line.]



15. ♖xe5! Jakovenko rightly decides to give up his bishop, in order to be able to play c4.

15...♖xe5 16.c4! Black got into trouble, which is bigger than it might seem at first sight. By playing c4, White solves the problem of his isolated pawn, opens the c-file for the rook, which will become the most important line and also destroys the fortress of the e4 knight. Black has problems with the development of his c8 bishop, while all the White pieces have a clear future.

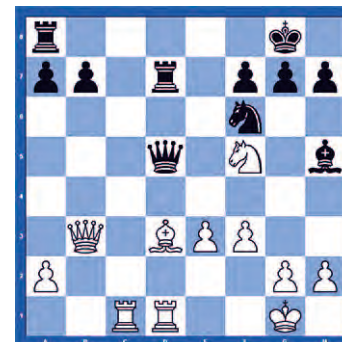
16...♘f6 [16...♘d7 would lose a pawn after 17.♘b3! ♖e7 18.f4! ♖f5 19.♘d4±]

17. ♖b3 ♖e7 Black protects the b7 pawn, to be able to put out his bishop.

18. ♖fd1 All the pieces are working now.

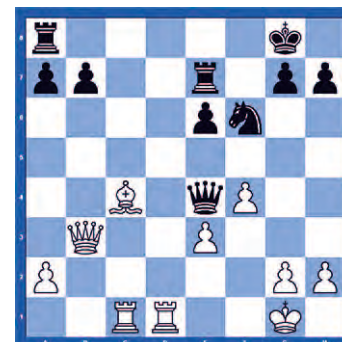
18...♘g4 [18...dxc4 19.♘xc4±]

19.f3 ♘e6 Black not only goes for a bad knight vs good bishop position, but also worsens his pawnstructure. However, it was already very difficult to recommend something else for him. [19...♘h5 has a nice refutation 20.cxd5 ♖xd5 21.♘f5 ♖d7]



22. ♘e7+! ♖xe7 23. ♘xh7+! ♖xh7 24. ♖xd5 ♘xd5 25. ♖xd5+- White is a queen up.]

20.cxd5 ♖xd5 21. ♘c4 ♖e5 22.f4! ♖e4 23. ♘xe6 fxe6 Here we are! Jakovenko plays now according to the classical Russian school, but he misses a forced way to win a pawn.



24. ♘e2?! White wants to transfer his bishop to f3, but he gives small hope for Black to survive. Actually, this was

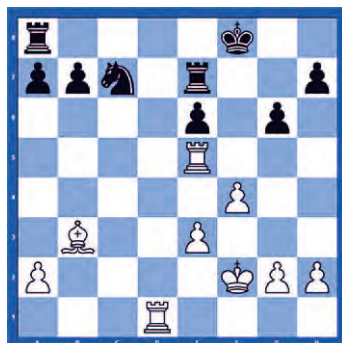
the only inaccuracy by Jakovenko in the whole game. [24.♖d4! ♔f5 25.♖d6 ♖ae8 26.♙d3! ♔a5 27.♙b5! ♖f8 28.♖xe6 white could have won a pawn.]

24...♘d5 25.♔f2! White brings his king closer to the center, since he sees that his opponent has no choice and must go for a bad endgame due to the ♙f3 threat.

25...♔b4 26.♙c4! White transfers the bishop back to the a2-g8 diagonal, when it will make a strong pressure on the e6 weakness.

26...♔xb3 27.♙xb3 ♘c7 28.♖c5! The rook goes to e5, where it ties the Black pieces.

28...♔f8 29.♖e5 g6

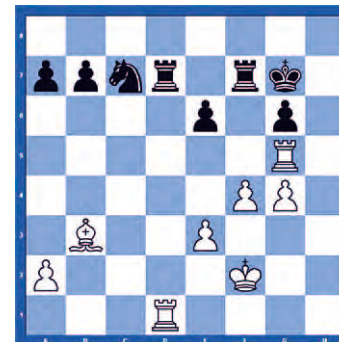


30.h4! Please notice Jakovenko's play on the kingside, the way he plays according to the two weaknesses rule. Black has enough force to defend the e6 pawn, so White creates another target.

30...♔g7 31.h5 ♖f8 32.g4! ♖ff7 33.♖g5 White awaits the best moment for exchanging on g6.

33...♖d7? A blunder in a terrible position. [33...♖f8 34.♙f3±]

34.hxg6 hxg6



35.♙c2! wins a pawn and also the game.

35...♔f8 [35...♖xd1 36.♖xg6+ ♔h7 did not save Black, since after 37.♖xe6+! Black has no good square to leave from the check 37...♔h8 38.♖h6+ ♔g7 39.♖g6+ ♔h7 40.♖g5+! ♔h6 41.♙xd1 after collecting all the pawns, White takes back the rook!]

36.♖xg6 ♖xd1 37.♙xd1 ♖h7 [37...♖d7 38.♙b3+-]

38.♙b3 The situation has not changed, White still has the strong bishop against the bad knight and already an extra pawn, which means Black is hopeless.

38...♔e7 39.f5 Creates connected passed pawns.

39...exf5 40.gxf5 ♘e8 41.e4 ♘d6 42.f6+ and e5 in the next move and one of the pawns will promote soon. Black resigned. Jakovenko deservedly took the 1st place, Fressinet finished 2nd and Malakhov 3rd. Congratulations! **1-0**

(2) Fressinet,Laurent (2693) – Akopian,Vladimir (2684) [E43]

Plovdiv, 30.03.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

Laurent Fressinet won a great game in the 10th round of the European Individual Championship. White achieved an edge from the opening. It created strong pressure, which Black could not handle and allowed White to finish the game with a nice combination.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 e6 3.c4 b6 4.e3 ♙b7 5.♘c3 ♙b4 6.♙d3 0–0 7.0–0 We are in one of the main positions of the Nimzo Indian, 4.e3 variation.

7... ♙xc3 Black wants to avoid long theory and goes for a positional battle. [7...c5 and; 7...d5 are the main moves.]

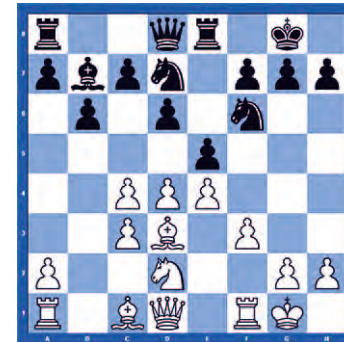
8.bxc3 d6?! Despite being the main line according to the database, in my opinion this is a mistake. Black goes in a wrong direction with the knight. [Black should have organized his play against the doubled pawns on the c-file 8...c5 9.♘d2 ♘c6 later ♖c8, ♘a5, ♙a6 and d5 could be a plan.]



9.♘d2! Typical plan in the Nimzo, White wants to occupy the center with e4. The mentioned plan in the 8th move (8...c5) was directed also against this setup.

9... ♘bd7 10.e4 e5 11.f3 By overprotecting the e4 pawn, White prepares for the idea, which we will see in the next move.

11... ♖e8



12. ♖f2! The first step is done, White occupied the center. Thanks to this he enjoys space advantage. The second step is to improve the pieces. The most important question, what to do with the knight, which currently disturbs the development? With his last move, White gives place for the knight to transfer it to the ideal g3 square.

12...c6 Black prepares for a central break, however, it cannot be a good idea since it opens the center and the position, when after that the bishop pair starts to work. Other plans do not equalize either, but anyway one of the knight moves should have been tried. [12...♘h5 13.g3 and then ♘f1–e3 gives White a small advantage.(13.♘f1? ♘f4 14.♙c2) ; 12...♘f8 13.♘f1 ♘e6 14.♙c2 with the initiative of White.]

13. ♖f1 d5

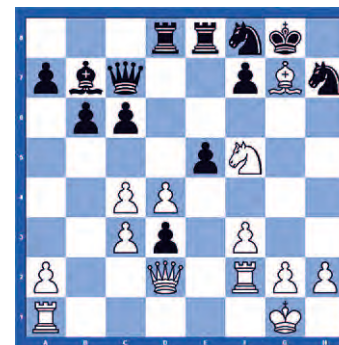


14. ♘g3! Very strong play by Fressinet! He holds the tension and does not „touch“ any of the pawns. He uses the fact, that all the pawn takes by Black would only improve White's position. In addition, by the c6, d5 plan, Black weakened the d6 square, where the knight is heading to.

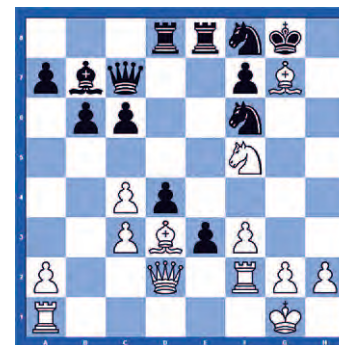
14... ♔c7 [Both 14...dxc4 15. ♕xc4; and 14...exd4 15.cxd4 would just allow White to get rid of the doubled pawns; while 14...dxe4 15.fxe4 would open the f-file for the rook.]

15. ♕g5! Very deep idea by Fressinet! The bishop on g5 confuses the Black's pieces, so it should be sent away. However, the move h6 weakens the kingside very much. The knight arrives to f5 with even bigger effect, all the sacrifices on g7 and h6 will hang in the air.

15...h6 16. ♕e3 ♖ad8 17. ♘f5! dxc4? Akopian desperately tries to complicate the matters, but it still just improves White's position. [17...♘f8 was probably the only chance, but still after 18. ♔d2! and Black cannot prevent the different sacrifices 18...dxe4 (18...♕c8 19. ♘xg7! ♕xg7 20. ♕xh6+ ♔h7 21. ♕xf8 ♖xf8 22.exd5+-) 19. ♕xh6! (19.fxe4 ♘g4) 19...exd4 (19...exd3 20. ♕xg7 ♘6h7



21. ♕f6!! prevents f6 and threats with ♘h6 mate 21...♘xf6 22. ♔g5+ ♘g6 23. ♔xf6+-) 20. ♕xg7 e3



21. ♕xf6! ♘g6 (21...exd2 22. ♘h6# picturesque mate) 22. ♔c1 exf2+ 23. ♕xf2 ♘f4 24. ♕xd8 ♖xd8 (24...♘xd3+ 25. ♕f1) 25. ♕f1 and White has an advantage.]

18. ♕xc4 b5 19. ♕b3 ♘c5



20. ♖d2! Fressinet calculates precisely. White wins now in a more or less forced way...

20... ♘b3 21. axb3 Now, Black must waste an important tempo on defending the a7 pawn.

21... a6 22. dxe5! Forces Black to take on d2, which invites the White queen to its ideal square!

22... ♖xd2 23. ♕xd2 ♕xe5 24. ♙d4! ♕e6 25. ♘h6+! ♙h7 [25... gxf6 26. ♕xf6 The mate is unavoidable on the long diagonal.]

26. ♘f5 and Black can not prevent the ♕g5 and ♘xg7 threats, so he resigned. An easy, but very instructive game. **1-0**

(3) Akopian,Vladimir (2684) – Khalifman,Alexander (2649) [B90]

13th EICC Plovdiv BUL (11.12), 31.03.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the last game of the European Championship. Both players have 7/10 points, and a victory would mean good money and sure qualification to the World Cup. It is a funny coincidence that exactly these two players were fighting for the World Chess Crown in 1999 and the Russian player came out as a winner and was announced FIDE World Champion.

1.e4 c5 a clear sign already on the first move, that there is going to be a fighting game. Usually Khalifman prefers more solid openings like „Petrov“.

2. ♘f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4 ♘f6 5. ♘c3 a6 We are in the Najdorf. Probably in one of the most popular openings in the chess game. Hundreds and thousands of hours have been spent on analysing this opening and still we see in many games with new ideas or positions where no concrete „solution“ has been found on „how to get better for White“

6. ♙e3 One of the main moves, another main move is **6. ♙g5**

6... e6 [6... e5; 6... ♘g4 were the 2 other main options for Black]



7.f3 [7.g4 this move got lately very popular, but it is leading to very forced positions, where both White and Black need to remember very well their analyses. Here one example of what can happen in case Your analyses are bad or You just forget something 7...e5 8.♘f5 g6 9.g5 gxf5 10.exf5 d5 11.♚f3 We are in a well known forced position 11...♘e4!? a rare move with a huge preparation behind it! 12.♘xe4 dxe4 13.♚xe4 ♘c6 14.♙c4 ♚d7 15.g6 fxg6 16.fxg6 ♚f5 17.♙f7+ ♙e7



18.♙c5+?? this move almost loses the game. But how to play such a position without a computer support. Almost impossible... (18.♚h4+ ♙d6 19.♙b6 would lead to a craziness on the chess board :) 18...♙f6 19.♚h4+ ♙g7

20.♙xf8+ ♙xf8 21.♙d5 ♙g7 22.♙xc6 bxc6 23.♚e7+ At this moment White had only 10 minutes left on their clock and Black even managed to gain some time!!! 23...♙xg6 24.♚g1+ ♙h5 25.0-0-0 ♙e6-- Sutovsky,E 2700-Zhigalko, A 2590 ECC 2012 Black managed to get a totally winning position with out doing any moves himself!]

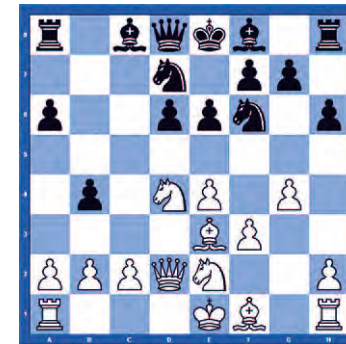
7...b5 8.♚d2 [8.a4]

8...♘bd7 9.g4 [9.a4 another main line in the position]

9...b4!? beginning of quite a tricky line ... [9...♘b6; 9...h6]

10.♘ce2 [10.♘a4 h6!? this small differences of move orders in the opening are sometimes very hard to understand. For this deep analyses are needed and from time to time players prefer to have one line more than another...]

10...h6 White wanted to push g5 which has to be stopped

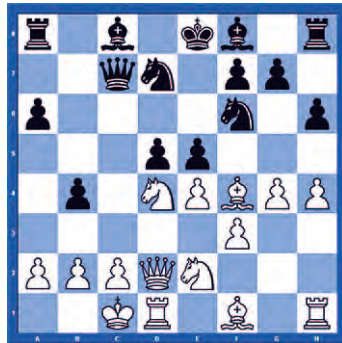


11.0-0-0 ♚c7 12.h4 White's play is clearly on the king side. It is all about the question: Can White be on time to push g5 and just smash Black defence lines, or Black will be quicker in the center to create a big counterplay

12...d5! No time to lose, White wanted to play ♖h3 followed by the deadly g5

13. ♕f4!? [13. ♖g3 a pretty move, but not an effective one 13...e5! (13... ♖xg3?? 14. ♕f4 not often we can see the Black Queen having no moves) 14. ♖b3 (14. ♖df5 d4 15. ♕f2 g6+ and the White knight is caught on f5) 14...d4 15. ♕g1 a5 16. ♖f5 a4 17. ♖bxd4 a very typical piece sacrifice for Najdorf positions 17...exd4 18. ♕xd4 b3! a very good move! White was one move late to play ♔b1. Black was faster this time]

13...e5



14. ♕h2! a great idea by White! Bishop on h2 is attacking the center, at the same time White is ready now for the g5 move.

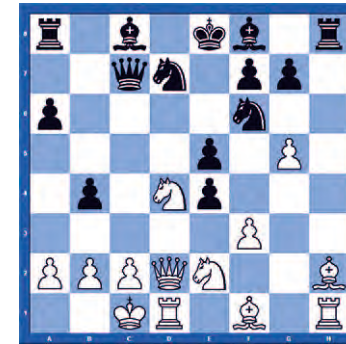
14...dxe4? hard to blame Black for such a logical move like 14... dxe4. But it is probably a serious mistake in this very concrete position. Every loss of tempo, even such a move as taking a pawn, can change radically the whole evaluation [14... ♖b6!? Black should not lose any time! Development is everything 15.b3 (15.exd5 ♖fxd5 16. ♖e1 ♕e7 leads to a clearly good play for Black) 15... ♕d6 16.g5 (16. ♖f5 ♕xf5 17.gxf5 0-0! and Black seems to be the faster

one) 16... ♖h5 17. ♖f5 ♕xf5 18.exf5 with a very complicated and unclear position]

15.g5! An excellent move, even if a logical one. Suddenly Black's position is getting very dangerous

15...hxg5 This logical move is leading to a bad position for Black. But what else to do? [15...exf3 16. ♖xf3 (16.gxf6 fxe2 17. ♖xe2 gxf6 18. ♕h3 ♖b8 19. ♖hf1 with a strong attack for White) 16... ♖g4 17. ♕h3 ♖xh2 18. ♖xh2 All the White pieces are attacking the Black's position. It cannot have a happy end for Black...]

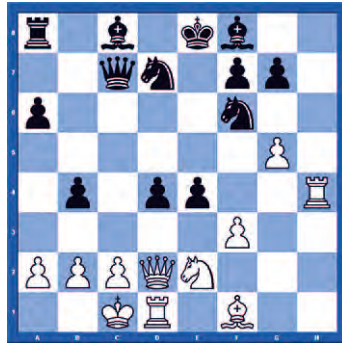
16.hxg5



16... ♖xh2! Searching for practical chances [16... ♖h5 17.fxe4 With an equal material on the board Black's position is clearly very bad. White has million threats for no compensation for that. Next White moves could be g6, ♕h3, ♖f5.]

17. ♖xh2 exd4 18. ♖h4?! a bit strange decision for White, or maybe he just underestimated next Black's move?! [More logical was 18. ♖h8! ♖d5 19. ♖xd4 Black has 2 pieces for the rook, but all White pieces are in the attack and Black cannot avoid serious material losses 19... ♕b7

20.fxe4 ♘e7 21.♔h3 (21.♔xd7+ ♔xd7 22.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 23.♖xd7 with a clearly better endgame for White) 21... ♘c5 22.♔c4 And probably the game will end soon with a mate!; 18.♘xd4 This move would not be the best one. 18...♘d5 19.♘f5 ♔f4! Black is changing the main attacking piece, White's Queen 20.fxe4 ♔xd2+ 21.♖dxd2 ♘f4 22.♖h8 g6 Probably White is still doing better, but the position remains very unclear]

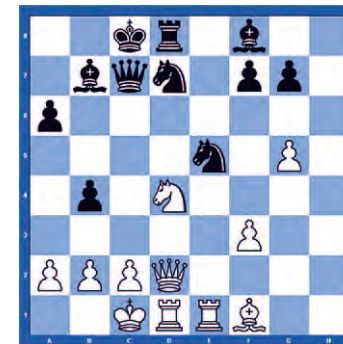


18...♘g4! a great move by Black [Black would not solve their problems after 18...♘c5 19.gxf6 b3!? 20.♔b1! a very cool and strong move 20...g5 21.♖h8 bxc2+ 22.♔xc2 d3 23.♔d2! and it seems White is having almost a winning position 23...dxe2?? is leading to a pretty mate after 24.♔d8+ ♔xd8 25.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 26.♖xd8#]

19.♘xd4 [19.♖xg4!? would be probably objectively the best choice for White, even if we have to say that Black is already doing fine 19...♘c5 20.♘xd4 ♔xg4 21.fxg4 0-0-0 and Black is doing fine; 19.♔xd4 ♘ge5 20.♖xe4 ♔c5 21.♔d5 (21.♔d2 f5!) 21...♔b7 22.♔xd7+ ♔xd7 23.♖xd7 ♔xd7 24.♖xe5 ♔d6 in this endgame only Black can be better]

19...♘ge5 20.♖xe4 ♔b7 Black is just in time to complete development. Now things are looking much brighter for them

21.♖ee1 0-0-0 Black managed to solve their main problem — to get away with the king from e8. Now Black is having a slight material advantage which gives him at least even chances. I personally would say, Black is doing better



22.f4 ♘g6? wrong direction. From here on things start to go very badly for Black [22...♘c4! 23.♔xc4 (23.♔f2 ♘db6) 23...♔xc4 24.g6 ♘c5 with a good position for Black]

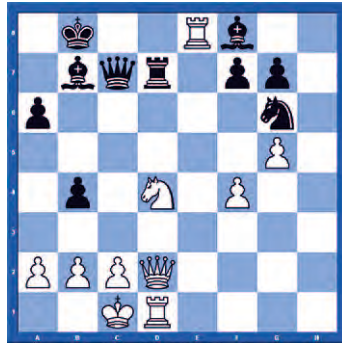
23.♔h3! White is using their chance!

23...♔b8 Black has to do something about the pin [23...♔xf4? is losing because of 24.♔xd7+ ♖xd7 25.♔xf4 ♘xf4 26.♖e8+ and Black is simply an exchange down]

24.♔xd7! another great move by White, based on exact calculation

24...♖xd7 [not working is 24...♔xd7 25.f5 ♘h8 26.♘b5!! What a great trick 26...♔xd2+ 27.♖xd2 ♖c8 28.♘d6 with big chances for a win for White]

25. ♖e8+

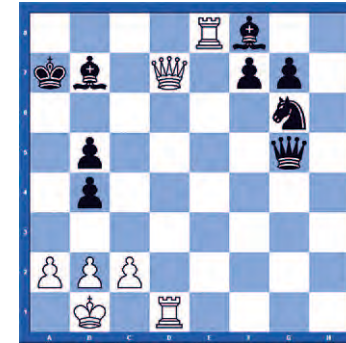


25... ♔a7? Black's panics in already very dangerous position [The only chance to continue the game was 25... ♕c8 26. ♖xf8 (26.f5 is a bad move now because of 26... ♕c5 27.fxc6 ♖xd4 and Black is doing well) 26... ♘xf8 27. ♖xb4+ ♔a8 28. ♖xf8 ♖d8! a very strong and only move, probably Black has overlooked it 29. ♖b4 ♖xf4+ 30. ♔b1 ♖xg5 31.c3 Material is equal, but it is clear that White is doing better due to the very open position of Black's king. Black can save this, maybe, but still a lot of work in front of him]

26. ♘b5+! axb5 27. ♖xd7 White got material advantage plus an attack. The game is basically over

27... ♖xf4+ 28. ♔b1 Black can not do much here anymore, especially in a practical game. White has simply too many threats

28... ♖xg5



29. ♖c7! Akopian is finishing the game in a great style

29... ♔a6 30. ♖xf8! The last exact move **1-0**

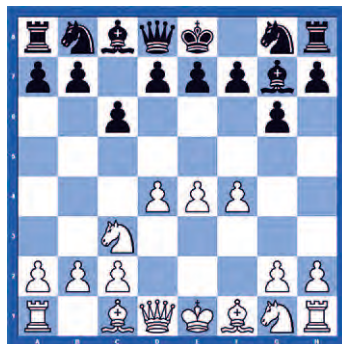
(4) Nisipeanu, Liviu-Dieter (2643) – Azaladze, Shota (2419) [B06]

13th EICC Plovdiv BUL (11.24), 31.03.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

1.e4 We are again in the last round of the European Championship. Blacks needs to make a draw to qualify to the World Cup because of the great tiebreak, for White only a win is an option. We will see a great attacking game by Nisipeanu, who loves to give mates and proves one more time how good he is in that

1...g6 2.d4 ♖g7 3.♘c3 c6 4.f4 [4.♘f3 is the other main option, now at 4...d5 5.h3 dxe4 6.♘xe4 ♘d7 7.♙c4 ♘gf6 8.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 9.0-0 0-0 10.♔e1 with a small, but stable advantage for White]



4...d6 seems like Black doesnt want to go into the main lines [Clearly the main would be 4...d5 5.e5 h5 6.♘f3 ♙g4 with long theoretical lines to follow]

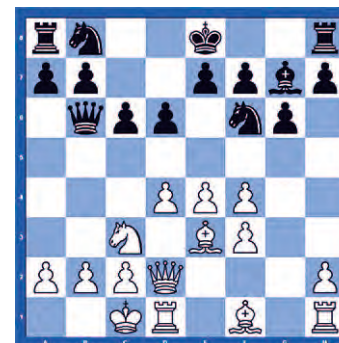
5.♘f3 [To avoid a double pawn structure, White could start gere with 5.♙e2!? and only at 5...♘f6 6.♘f3 followed by ♙e3, Qd2, long castle or just a short castle. For sure White is doing a bit better]

5...♙g4!? Black is playing according to the idea of the opening — attacking White's center

6.♙e3 ♙b6 This is the idea of Black's 5...♙g4. Now White cannot avoid a small destruction of their pawn structure, which is clearly good for Black

7.♙d2 ♙xf3 8.gxf3 ♘f6 White has a strong center and a bishop pair. For this Black has a better pawn structure and quite a safe position. It is clear, that White must search their chances in attack in the center, Black has to hurry to finish their development in castle long if possible

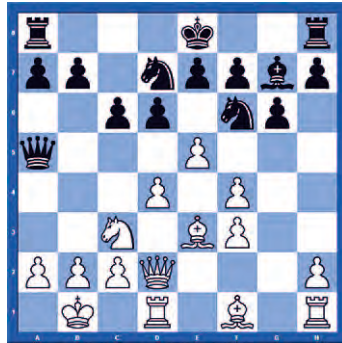
9.0-0-0 Of course the long castle! White needs to act quickly



9...♙a5?! Black obviously was afraid of White's d5 push, but in my opinion there is no reason for that. 9...♘bd7 would have been a better choice

10.♙b1 a good prophylactic move before starting the real action

10...♘bd7 11.e5 White is statring concrete action in the center [11.♔g1!? with the idea ♔g5 would have been another interesting option for White]



11...Nf5? this is a big mistake [11...Nd5! this move is almost always the right way to go for this kind of structures! 12.Ne4 (12.Nxd5 ♔xd2 13.♔xd2 cxd5 in this endgame Black should be doing fine. White pawn structure f4,f3 is very bad and not letting White with big hopes for any advantage) 12...♔xd2 13.♔xd2 b5! Black should try to keep their beauty on d5 alive at any costs, White threatened to play c4 14.exd6 f5 15.Ng5 ♔xd4 With quite an unclear position]

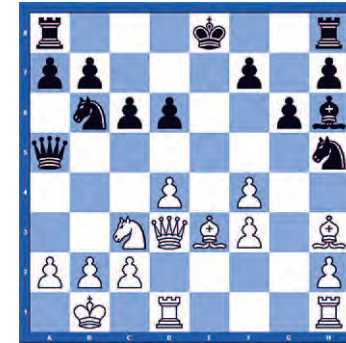
12.♔h3 a move with multiple threats. White wants to push f5, attacking the knight on d7 and at the same time wants to play silent ♔g4 and take on h5 after which Black's position would be a disaster

12...Nb6 13.♔d3 Of course White should not allow the Black knight to jump to c4

13...♔h6 a very risky move in already a hard position [13...♔b4 not solving the problems 14.♔g4 Nc4 15.b3 Nxe3 16.♔xe3 and because of ♔xh5 next White is doing much better]

14.exd6! White is opening the Black's king position

14...exd6



15.f5! ♔g7 16.♔e4+ To be sure that Black will not castle in this game anymore

16...♔f8 17.♔he1 Every move of White is looking very logical and strong. White is putting all their pieces in the center, preparing for the final blow

17...d5!? probably the best chance to fight [not helping much 17...♔e8 18.♔h4 Nc4 19.♔c1! silent but very effectfull move. White is making a use out of their „extra“ rook in the attack 19...♔xe1 20.♔xe1 Nf6 21.Ne4! and probably Black is lost!]

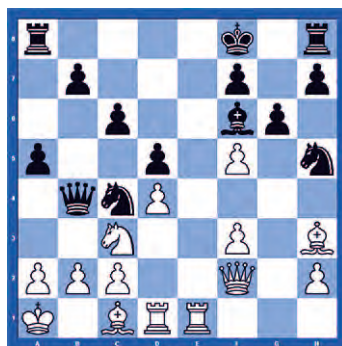
18.♔h4 Nc4 19.♔c1?! [why not 19.♔g5! ♔g8 20.♔d3 protecting against the ♔b4 move 20...♔b4 21.b3 and White is having a huge advantage because of the Black rook on h8 which will probably never come into the game anymore]

19...♔b4! Black is almost back in the game.

20.♔a1 such a move is hard to play in a position where White should look for a direct attack. But probably there is nothing better. Black wanted to make a draw by playing ♔a3 check

20...♙f6 21.♚f2 Somehow Black survived the very hard moments, but still their position is clearly worse. They need to solve the huge problem with the rook on h8

21...a5 [21...♖g7!? Is leading to a clearly better position for White, but with some chances for Black. It is not an option to play with the rook on h8 22.♙g4 ♜he8 23.♙xh5 gxh5 24.♘e2!±]



22.♘e4!? a typical Nisipeanu move. When there are 2 choices, to make a position pressure and a chance to sacrifice something for the attack, it is an easy choice for Liviu-Dieter! [22.♙f1 with a better position for White]

22...dxe4 23.fxe4 Probably one of the critical position of the game. Black is a piece up for just a pawn, but in case White manages to bring their pawn in movement, the game can have a quick end. Black needs to act very quickly!

23...a4?! Beginning of an end [23...♙g5! been the only way to continue the game 24.fxg6 (24.c3 ♚e7) 24...hxg6 25.♙e6 ♙f6! looks like a loss of a tempo, but no! Black managed to activate the rook on h8 by forcing White playing fxg6 fxg6 26.c3 ♚b5 27.♙g4]

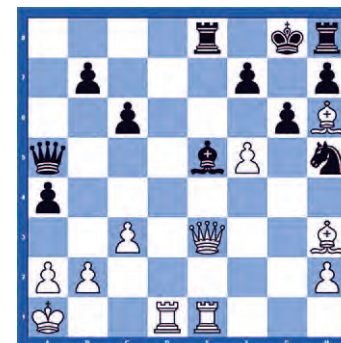
24.c3! ♚a5 25.e5! really a beautiful position! Black is a piece up but totally lost. All White pieces are standing just perfect!

25...♘xe5 Nothing helps already [25...a3 26.b4 ♚d8 27.exf6 ♘xf6 28.♚h4 With a mating attack]

26.dxe5 ♙xe5 27.♙h6+ getting the king in a deadly corner

27...♖g8 28.♚e3! [28.♜d7 would win immediately as well, Black cannot defend the weakness of f7 28...♙f6 29.♚e2 ♘g7 30.♚c4 ♜f8 31.♜e8! would have been a pretty end of a nice game]

28...♜e8



29.♚xe5! A great finish by Nisipeanu!

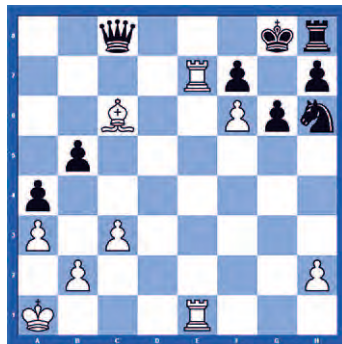
29...♜xe5 30.♜xe5 ♚a8 White is practically material up. Black rook on h8 will never play a role in this game anymore

31.a3?! a strange inaccuracy by White — of course White is still winning [31.♜e3 followed by ♜ed3 and Black resigns]

31...♘f6 32.♖e7 Black is totally paralyzed. And earlier or later White will connect their rook on the d file and the game will end

32...b5 33.♙g2 [33.♖d6+-]

33...♘g4 34.♙xc6 ♔c8 35.♖de1 ♘xh6 36.f6!



Just a fantastic end position! **1-0**

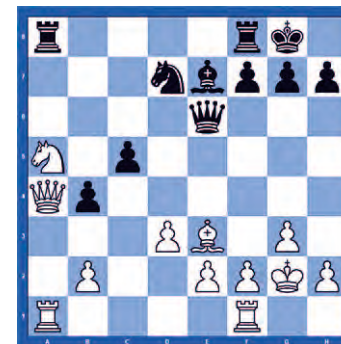
Puzzle section

(5) Roiz,M (2651) – Rechlis,G (2467)

Israeli league, 03.02.2012

[CEWN]

1...-+

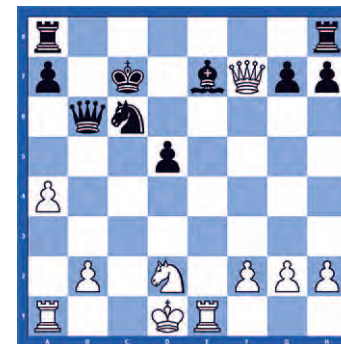


(6) Sutovsky,E (2696) – Finkel,A (2499)

Israeli league, 03.02.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

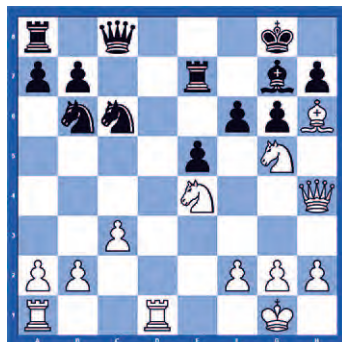


(7) Godena,M (2548) – Gershon,A (2499)

Israeli league, 24.02.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

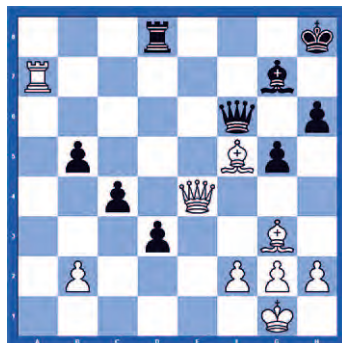


(8) Li Shilong (2549) – Lu Shanglei (2514)

Xinghua, 27.03.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

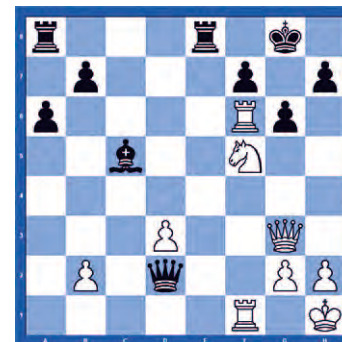


(9) Hou Yifan (2639) – Zhou Jianchao (2625)

Xinghua, 30.03.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

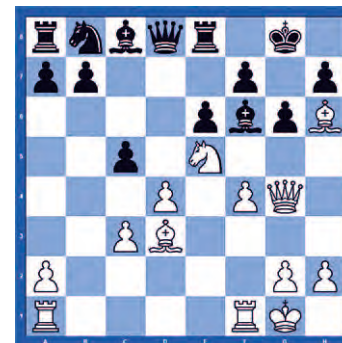


(10) Ding Liren (2660) – Lu Shanglei (2514)

Xinghua, 31.03.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

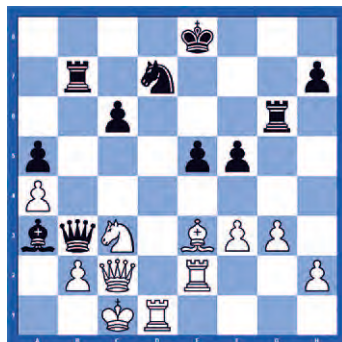


(11) Wang Yue (2702) – Bu Xiangzhi (2668)

Xinghua, 02.04.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–

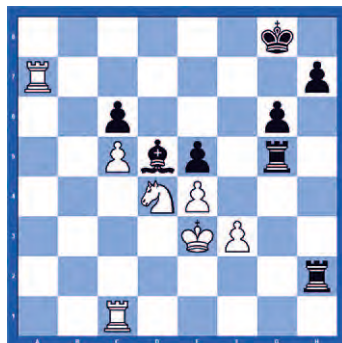


(12) Navara,D (2700) – Jianu,V (2497)

Plovdiv, 27.03.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–

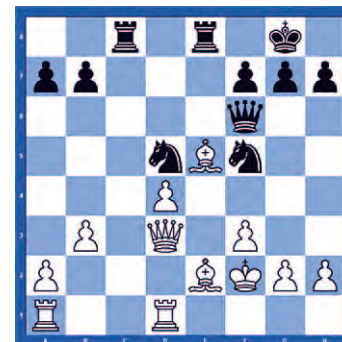


(13) Can,E (2476) – Nyback,T (2636)

Plovdiv, 27.03.2012

[CEWN]

1.–+

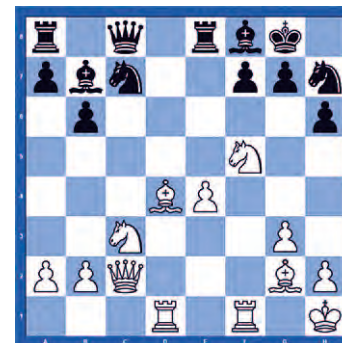


(14) Erdos,V (2636) – Perunovic,Mio (2481)

Plovdiv, 29.03.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–

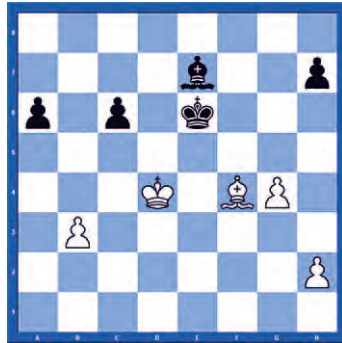


Endgame section

(15) Khalifman,A (2649) – Laznicka,V (2702)

Plovdiv, 29.03.2012

[Balogh Csaba]



At this moment, I was walking around the boards and I saw this position. I thought that the players will agree to draw soon, since there are almost no pieces on the board. Later, when I checked the results, I was shocked to see, that White won this game. I suspected some terrible blunder, or losing on time. .. Then I downloaded the game and I just had to realize, that the former FIDE World Champion Alexander Khalifman simply outplayed his 2700+ opponent. Let us study, what happened...

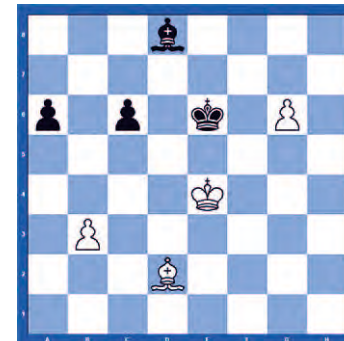
37. ♖g3 First of all, let's summarize what we see. White has a passed pawn on the kingside, which is in every endgame a big plus for the attacking side, while Black's a and c pawns are well blockaded by the b3 pawn. If Black pushes any of his pawns, that will get to a dark square, when it becomes a potential target. In addition, White king

stands on a more active place. These are all the pluses of the White side, however the position should be drawish of course, since there are only 3-3 pawns on board without any crucial damage on Black's side. White prepares for creating the passed pawn on the kingside, while Black has nothing better than to wait.

37... ♜f8 38.h4 ♜e7 39.h5 ♜f8 40. ♜f4 ♜e7 41. ♔e4 ♜d8 Black rightly expects that his opponent will push g5 and he wants to keep that pawn under attack. As we will see, this does not prevent White from creating a passed pawn. [Occupying the long diagonal would lead to the same position after 41... ♜b4 42.g5 ♜c3 43. ♜e3 ♜b2 44. ♜f4 (44. ♜d4 leads to forced draw 44... ♜xd4 45. ♔xd4 ♜f5 46.g6 hxg6 47.hxg6 ♜xg6 48. ♜c5 ♜f5 49. ♜xc6 ♜e4 50. ♜b6 ♜d4 51. ♜xa6 ♜c3=) 44... ♜c3 45. ♜g4 ♜b2 46.g6! hxg6 47.hxg6 ♜f6 48. ♜h5 ♜g7 49. ♜g5 we will see this position later.]

42.g5! ♜e7 43. ♜d2 ♜d8 44.g6! At first sight White blunders the pawn, but of course, there is a trick behind the move.

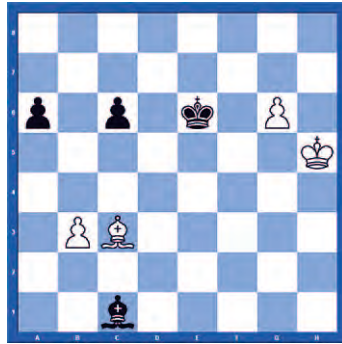
44...hxg6 45.hxg6 There are only 2-2 pawns left on the board, but White saved all the advantages, what we discussed before.



45... ♖e7 [45... ♔f6 does not work 46. ♗g5+! White wins.]

46. ♗c3 ♖a3 Sooner or later, Black had to change the diagonal... [46... ♗d8 47. ♔f4 ♗e7 48. ♔g4 due to the threat of ♗h5-h6, Black must transpose to the game with ♖a3.]

47. ♔f4 ♗c1+ 48. ♔g4 ♗e3 49. ♔h5 ♗c1



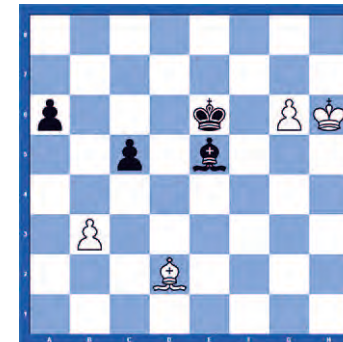
50. ♗a5 [50. ♗g7 would have been a very tricky continuation as well 50... ♔e7! Only move! Black king must go behind the pawn. (50... ♗d2 would lose instructively 51. ♗h6 ♗c3 52. ♗e3 White threatens to play ♔h6 and transpose to the game 52... ♗g7 53. ♔g5 Now, Black can only move with his king, but he soon gets into zugzwang... 53... ♔e5 54. ♗d2 ♔e6 55. ♗b4 Here is the zugzwang! Black must allow ♔f5, after which White transfers his bishop to f6. 55... ♗d5 56. ♔f5 c5 57. ♗d2 ♔d6 58. ♗g5 ♔d7 (58... ♗d5 59. ♗f6 ♗h6 60. ♗e5!+- Black has nothing against the plan of ♔f6, ♗b2, ♔f7 and ♗c1.) 59. ♗f6 ♗h6 60. ♗e5+- and ♔d5 collects the pawn.) 51. ♗h6 ♗b2 52. ♗e3 ♔f8 53. ♔h6 ♔g8 54. ♔g5 ♔g7 55. ♔f5 ♗c3 56. ♗c5 ♗b2 This is the only way for Black to hold. The passive defense, which is very hard to find for many players in general. Here, I did not find any plan for White to improve his position.]

50... ♗e3? Decisive mistake, he should have gone with his king to g7, and get the position we mentioned in the 50. ♗g7 line. [50... ♔f6 51. ♗d8+ ♔g7]

51. ♗d8+- Suddenly, it seems to be over. White manages to play ♗g5 and ♔h6, after which his position is winning.

51... ♗f4 52. ♗g5 ♗e5 53. ♔h6 Laznicka realized, that he lost, he tries his last chance to create a passed pawn, but he is too far...

53... c5 54. ♗d2



54... ♔d5 [54... ♗d4 55. ♔h7 ♗e5 56. ♗h6 ♗d4 57. ♗g7! ♗e3 58. ♗c3 and the g-pawn promotes.]

55. ♔h7 c4 56. bxc4+ ♔c5 57. ♔g8! Not the only way to win, but the prettiest. White plays ♔f7 and ♗g5-f6 in the next moves.

57... ♗d4 58. ♔f7 ♔xc4 59. ♗g5 Black resigned. A very instructive endgame! I guess players on each level has learnt a lot from this. **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(16) Botvinnik, Mikhail — Ragozin, V [C16]

Leningrad, 1927

[Balogh Csaba]

The next game I present you, is from my big idol, Mikhail Botvinnik! His incredible understanding of chess, very deep opening and psychological preparation for the game, and the ability never to run out of energy to study chess, have altogether made him the 6th World Champion! He took the title in 1948, when he was 37 years old, and was fighting for the crown through 15 years against the strongest chess players in the world! In 1951 and 1954, he defended his Title against Bronstein and Smyslov, but in 1957, Smyslov defeated him. However, in 1958 he took a revenge and owned the throne until 1960, when Tal was able to beat him. However, Botvinnik has managed to win the rematch again in 1961. At the end, only Petrosian could stop him in 1963. I know Botvinnik's games very well, and I have wide choice of them to present from. I decided to show you a game from his young years. You can see that being 16 years old, he understood well the principles of chess! (At that time 16 years old without computers, I could only compare to a guy from today, around 9–10 years old!) The game is very instructive, it is about the center.

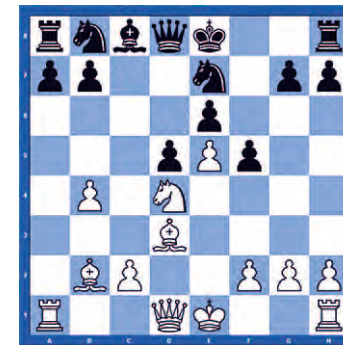
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘b4 4.e5 f6?! At that time, theory was just about to develop. Sometimes people tried unsuccessful ideas. The plan itself is correct, to undermine White's central pawns, but Black chooses wrong target.

The textmove weakens the position of the king too much. [4...c5 is the main move of recent theory.]

5.♘f3 c5 Consequent move, which leads to further weakenings.

6.a3! White would like to stabilize his center with 7.bxc3.

6...♙a5 [On 6...cxd4 White has a pleasant choice between 7.axb4 (or 7.♙xd4 ♘c6 8.♙b5 ♙d7 9.♙xc6 ♙xc3+ 10.♙xc3 ♙xc6 11.0–0±) 7...dxc3 8.♙d3!? cxb2 9.♙xb2 in both lines, with a nice advantage. Here, we can see a pawn sacrifice aiming quick development and two strong bishops. 9...f5 10.♘d4 ♘e7



11.♙h5+! trying to create some holes in the Black camp. Later there might be two promising plans for White, one is to open the center with c4 immediately, the other is to play b5 with the idea of activating the bishop on a3, and only then c4.]

7.b4! Nowadays, it is an obvious and well-known move, but 85 years ago, only with knowing principles well, players could find such moves. With this pawn sacrifice, White saves his very strong center, which guarantees him a huge advantage.

7...cxb4 [7...cxd4 8.♘b5! ♕c7 9.♙xd4 ♘c6 10.♙g4 with very strong attack!]

8.♘b5! This is the point of the previous move. The d6 hole is very unpleasant from Black's point of view.

8...♘c6 [8...bxa3+ 9.c3 and ♕xa3 is coming in the next move! Black could not hold the pressure.]

9.axb4 ♕c7 Black continues the game in the same spirit, tries to force White to take on f6, and obtain a nice central pawn-chain, at the same time he wants to keep the e7 square for the knight. [9...♕xb4+ 10.c3 ♕e7 11.♕d3 Despite being a pawn up, Black suffers with the development, due to the strong e5 pawn.]

10.c3 ♘ge7 [10...fxe5 would be bad as well, because of 11.♘xc7+ ♙xc7 12.b5 ♘d8



13.♙b3! e4 14.b6!± White could use the pin on the a-file.]

11.exf6 gxf6 Finally Black achieved his aim! He has strong center, and wants to make it even stronger with e5. However, we will see, that in the next moves, he must prepare for this.

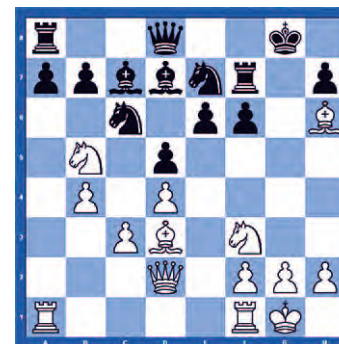
12.♕d3 [12.♘h4!? was also very dangerous.]

12...0-0 [The direct 12...e5? has a nice refutation with 13.♘xe5! fxe5 14.♙h5+ ♔d7 15.♕f5+ ♘xf5 16.♙xf5+ ♔e8 17.♙h5+ ♔d7 18.♙g4+ ♔e8 19.♙g7!+-]

13.0-0 ♕d7 [13...e5 is still premature, because of 14.♘xc7 ♙xc7 15.b5! e4 (15...♘d8 16.dxe5 fxe5 17.b6! ♙xb6 18.♘xe5) 16.bxc6 bxc6 17.♕c2 exf3 18.♙xf3±]

14.♕h6 Developing with tempo.

14...♖f7 15.♙d2



15...e5 Black succeeds to continue his whole idea, but soon it becomes clear, that it was bad, right from the beginning. In spite that he managed to create nice center, the pawns will be rather vulnerable than strong because of their immobility (they cannot move, since after e4, White will have the very strong resource f3, which destroys the center), and it is already White who can undermine the central pawns with c4, or the other one with f3 (after pushing e4). The main creator of all these problems for Black is the king! There is no pawn left to defend his royalty! Please look at the position after the 18th move, to understand, what I mean.

16.dxe5 ♘xe5 [16...fxe5? 17.♘g5]

17. ♖xe5 fxe5 18. ♖xc7 ♔xc7 Let's stop for a moment! Here we can understand much easier the problems, which I explained after the 15th move.

19. ♔g5+ ♔h8

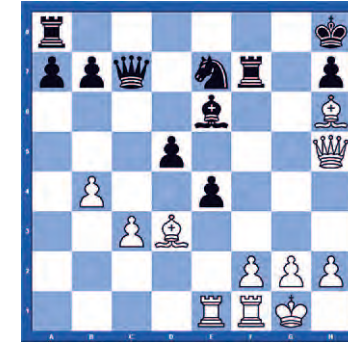


20. ♔h5! Very subtle play! Prepares for the next move, and creates complications in Black's camp, due to the fact that the f7 rook cannot leave its square because of the necessity to defend the h7 pawn. [The direct 20. ♖ae1? would be a big mistake 20... ♖g8!! Black takes the initiative!]

20... ♗e6 [On 20... ♔g8 21. ♖a3! is very strong, with the idea to push c4, and use the rook on g3!]

21. ♖ae1! The f1 rook might be very useful in the future by playing f3 or f4, and the f-file opens.

21... e4

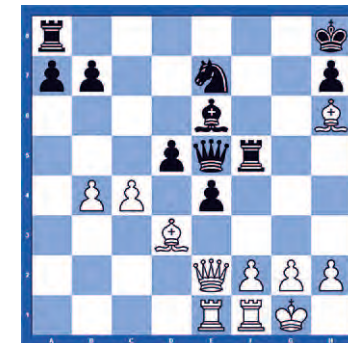


[21... ♖f5 does not work 22. ♗f4! and after Black is forced to give up his center, his position collapses! 22... exf4 23. ♖xe6+-]

22. c4! Using the pin on the e-file, Botvinnik immediately undermines the center!

22... ♖f5 [22... exd3 23. ♖xe6+-; 22... ♖g8 would have been the only chance, but after some exact moves by White, the position remains terrible. 23. cxd5 ♖xd5 24. ♗xe4 ♖f6 25. ♖f3! ♖g4 26. ♔h3+-]

23. ♖e2 ♖e5 Black tries to protect the center with his full army, he knows if it collapses, he can resign the game.

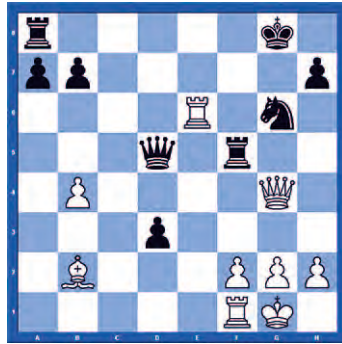


24. ♖c1! Not the only win, but definately the nicest! The great Champion transfers the bishop to the long diagonal, against what Black has no defence. [24.cxd5 was also winning 24... ♖xd5 25. ♖xe4 ♜h5 26. ♖f4! ♜xf4 27. ♜xh5 ♖xe4 28. ♜c5!+-]

24... ♜d6 25.cxd5 exd3 [25... ♖xd5 26. ♖xe4+- The center falls apart!]

26. ♖b2+ ♜g8 27. ♜g4+! The most precise move, which leads to forced and spectacular mate!

27... ♞g6 28. ♜xe6 ♜xd5



29. ♜xg6+! hxg6 30. ♜xg6+ ♜f8 31. ♜g7+ ♜e8 32. ♜e1+ ♜d8 33. ♜e7+ ♜c8 34. ♜c1+ Black resigned! We can see how people played chess 85 years ago! Without any serious theory, they tried to play according to principles. Ragozin's idea in itself is fully justified, that center is very important! But there is one very important thing, that Botvinnik nicely demonstrated to us, that the center must be supported by pieces, otherwise it might collapse! **1-0**

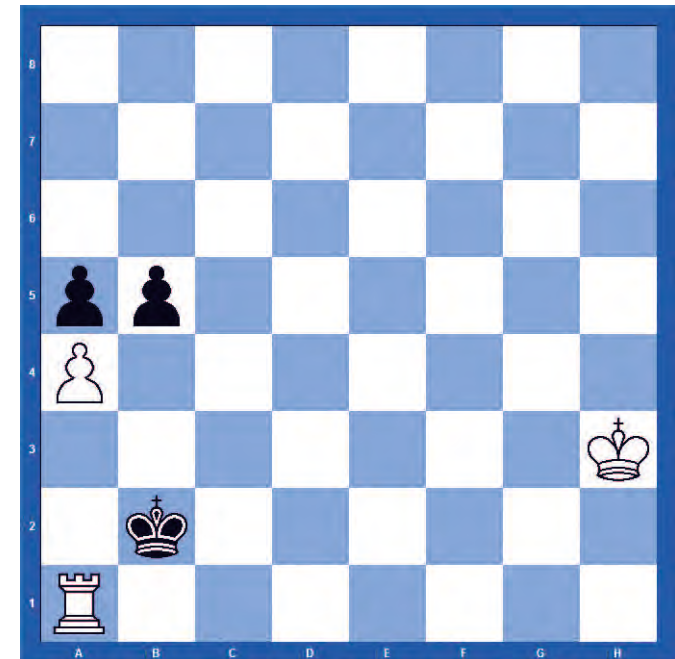
Surprise section / study

(17) Grinfeld,M

1903

[CEWN]

1.+-



Solutions

(18) Movsesian,S (2702) – Kotronias,V (2597)

Plovdiv, 22.03.2012

[Solutions]



21.b4! cxb4 [21... ♖c7 22.b5!+-] 22. ♖xd4 ♜fc8 23. ♖b3+-

(19) Pancevski,F (2470) – Volokitin,A (2695)

Plovdiv, 20.03.2012

[Solutions]



41. ♙xd6! ♞b7 [41... ♜xd6 42. ♜xf7+ ♔h8 43. ♜e7+-]
42. ♙e7 ♜f8 43. ♙f6+ ♔g8 44. ♜xh4 ♙xf6 45. gxf6 1-0

(20) Hovhannisyan,R (2600) – Codenotti,M (2328)

Plovdiv, 20.03.2012

[Solutions]

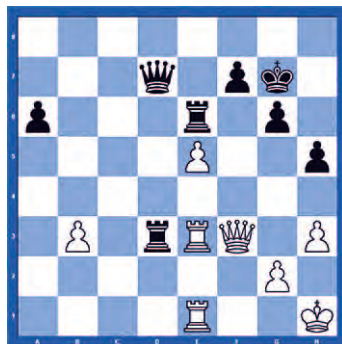


23.fxe6! fxe6 24. ♞xe6! ♜xe6 25. ♙xd5 ♜ae8
26. ♙xe6+ 1-0 [26. ♙xe6+ ♜xe6 27. ♜d8+ ♔f7 28. ♜f4+ ♔e7 (28... ♔g6 29. ♜f5+ ♔h6 30. ♜h5#) 29. ♜f8#]

(21) Popovic,Du (2561) – Kryvoruchko,Y (2666)

Plovdiv, 21.03.2012

[Solutions]



40...♖xe5!±

(22) Pap,Gy (2538) – Khenkin,I (2632)

Plovdiv, 21.03.2012

[Solutions]



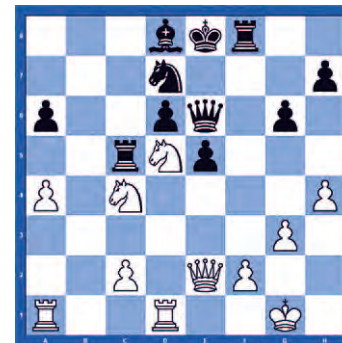
22.♘f5+! ♔xf5 [22...gxf5 23.♔h3+ ♕g6 24.♔xh7+ ♕g5 25.♔g7+ ♕f6 26.♔h6+] 23.♔xf5 gxf5 24.♔xb7+- ♔f7

[24...♔ae8 25.e5+-] 25.♔g3 fxe4 26.♔xe7! ♔af8 [26... ♔xe7 27.♔h4+-] 27.h4! 1-0

(23) Volokitin,A (2695) – Schiendorfer,E (2349)

Plovdiv, 21.03.2012

[Solutions]



30.♔g4!! ♔f7 [30...♔xg4 31.♘xd6#; 30...♔f5 31.♘de3+-] 31.♘xd6+! ♔xd6 32.♘e3! ♘f6 33.♔xd6 ♘xg4 34.♘xg4±

(24) Sutovsky,E (2700) – Kozul,Z (2602)

Plovdiv, 25.03.2012

[Solutions]

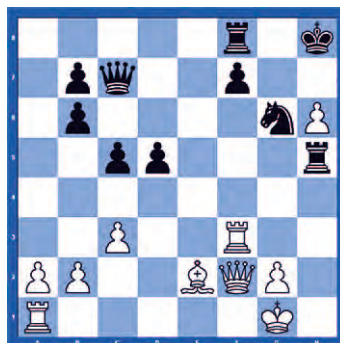


28. ♖xf6! ♜xf6 29. ♘c5! ♜h4 [29... ♙c8 30. ♘d7!+-]
30. ♙xh4+-

(25) Mchedlishvili,M (2626) – Michalik,P (2529)

Plovdiv, 25.03.2012

[Solutions]

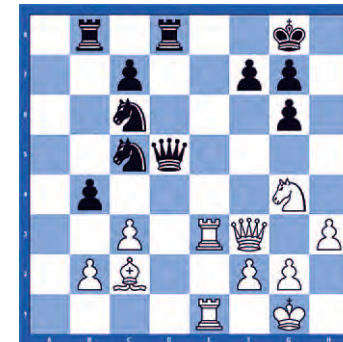


27. ♖h3! 1-0[27. ♖h3 ♜xh3 28. ♙f6+ ♜h7 29. ♙g7#]

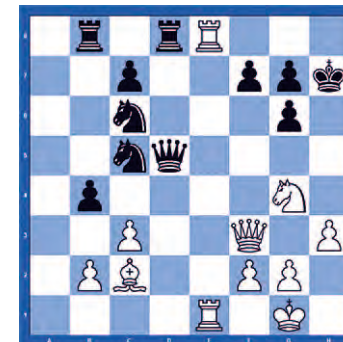
(26) Sutovsky,E (2700) – Grigoriants,S (2561)

Plovdiv, 23.03.2012

[Solutions]



32. ♖e8+! ♜h7



33. ♖1e5!! ♘xe5 [33... ♙xf3 34. ♖h5#] 34. ♘f6+!! 1-0[34. ♘f6+!! gxf6 (34... ♜h6 35. ♘g8+ ♜h7 36. ♙h5#) 35. ♙h5+ ♜g7 36. ♙h8#]

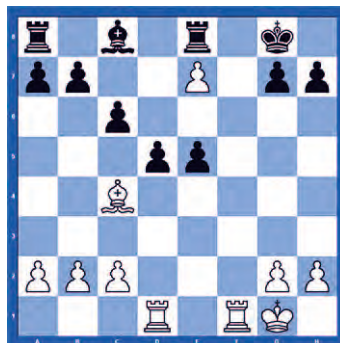
(27) Kulaots,K (2585) – Roiz,M (2652)

Plovdiv, 22.03.2012

[Solutions]



18. ♖e7+! ♙xe7 [18... ♖h8 19. ♖xd6 cxb5 20. fxg7+ ♙xg7 21. ♘f5+±] 19. fxe7 ♜e8 20. ♙c4+ d5



21. ♜xd5!! cxd5 22. ♙xd5+ ♙e6 [22... ♖h8 23. ♜f8+-] 23. ♙xe6+ ♖h8 24. ♜f7± h5 25. ♖f2! ♖h7 26. ♖e3 ♖g6 27. ♖e4+- ♜ac8? 28. ♜f5! 1-0

(28) Amaker,N

1973

[Solutions]



1. ♙a4+!! ♖xa4 [1... ♖c4 2. ♙b3+] 2. b3+ ♖b5 3. c4+ ♖xc6 4. d5+ ♖xd7 5. e6+ ♖c7 6. f5=



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 7

13th of April 2012

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Editorial Preface

Right after finishing the European Individual Championship, Arkadij took part in the Neckar-open Deizisau, from where he comments two of his nice victories. He scored 7/9, which sounds good, but actually was a bit disappointing for him.

Meanwhile, the Russian Team Championship has just started. The cream of the chess world is playing there. Next week we will collect our examples from this event and as usual present you the most interesting part of it.

This week we include a really funny study in the surprise section. We hope you manage to solve it, use your imagination!

We also analyse two instructive practical endgames. The examples of the puzzle section are easier than the previous weeks. Enjoy!

As usual, we wish You lots of fun with the new edition of CEWN!

*Arkadij Naiditsch
Balogh Csaba*

4 best games of the past week

(1) Naiditsch,A (2702)
— Kurmann,O (2458) [A15]

16th Neckar Open Deizisau GER (9.6), 09.04.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the last round of Neckar Open. It is the biggest and probably the hardest German open, with close to 800 participants, 5 days — 9 games schedule. It was a disappointing tournament for me having at the current moment 6/8 and no chances to fight for the first places. Anyhow, in order to not to lose too many ELO points I tried at least to make a „pretty operation“ and to win my last game having then not that terrible 7/9 points.

1.c4 it was the second game of the day and I had only 30 minutes break between my games. I had no idea what my opponent is playing and decided that it would not be a bad idea of having a „silent“ opening

1...f6 2.f3 c5 3.c3 e6 4.e3 [of course the main move here is 4.g3 d5 (4...b6 is the other main option for Black which is leading to hedgehog structures 5.g2 b7 6.0-0 e7 7.e1 e4 the only way to avoid Whites e4 push (7...0-0 8.e4 d6 9.d4 cxd4 10.exd4 c7 11.b3 a6 12.b2 bd7 13.c1 And we are in the double fianchetto hedgehog, which is usually evaluated as a promising one for White) 8.ex4 ex4 9.d3 b7 10.e4 with a little bit better position for White) 5.cxd5 exd5 6.d4 c6 7.g2 e7 8.0-0 here we are in the main line of Tarrasch]

4...d6?! First when I saw my opponent making this move, I thought he just has missed the field d5 — which is very possible after such a tough schedule :). After the game I asked my opponent what went wrong?! He told me, that he didn't want to go against me for the main lines appearing after 4...d5



5.d4 bd7 6.d3 a6 7.0-0 of course White should not go for the e4 move, after which we would be again in the hedgehog with just a tempo down for White

7...g6?! This is a very dangerous way to develop pieces for Black. It gives White enough time to start some action on the queenside. [Much more solid was 7...e7 8.b3 White has many plans of developing, the most simple one is with b3-Bb2, another one could be to try to play b4 by: a3,Bd2,b4 8...0-0 9.e2 b6 10.c1 b7 11.e2 c7 12.f1 With small, but stable plus for White]

8.b1 Here I was already very happy with my opening outcome. To play for the b4 push is definitely making sense now

8...c7 Quite quickly played by my opponent. Is it a real defence against the White's push b4?!

9. ♖d2?! generally a useful move, but now too careful [Of course I should have played 9.b4! cxb4 10. ♖xb4 d5 in case Black doesn't try something forced, it is clear that White has very big advantage 11.c5 b6 12.cxb6! a nice tactical solution, that I actually saw during the game — just after playing 10 hours of chess, it is hard to be 100% sure in any calculation 12... ♞xb6 (12... ♞xc3 13.b7! the key move of the line 13... ♖xb7 14. ♖xb7±) 13. ♖b3 ♖d6 14.e4! and Black's position is falling apart]

9...b6



10.b4 One move too late — still better than never

10... ♖g7 Black is trying to fulfill their development, but one tempo is missing until castle and it gives me just enough time to reach almost a decisive advantage

11.bxc5! it's time for some concrete action

11...bxc5 12. ♞a4 cxd4?! [The only way to fight was 12... ♖b7 13.d5! 0-0 14.e4 with a clear advantage for White]

13. ♞e4! Probably this is what my opponent has missed [for some time I was not sure if White can play 13. ♞d5 a spectacular piece sacrifice, but not a good one 13...exd5

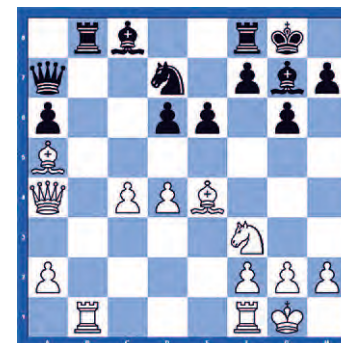
14. ♖a5 ♞a7 15. ♖b6 ♞b8 16. ♖xd4 ♖b7 and it seems that Black is doing fine]

13...0-0 [13... ♞xe4?? loses on the spot 14. ♖xe4 ♖b8 15. ♖a5 ♞a7 16. ♖xb8 ♞xb8 17. ♖b1 ♞a7 18. ♖b6 ♞b8 19. ♖xd4+-]

14. ♖a5 ♞a7 15.exd4 White is dominating in the centre and in development, which gives me a big advantage

15... ♞xe4 not a nice move to make, but there was no other way to defend the pawn d6

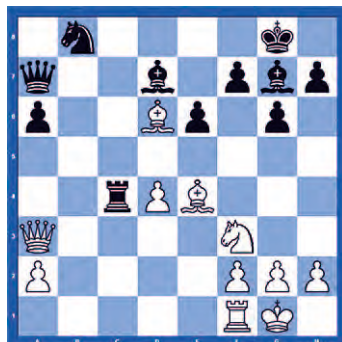
16. ♖xe4 ♖b8



17. ♖xb8 ♞xb8 [At 17... ♞xb8 White has a very nice continuation 18. ♞c6 d5! a great move by Black to stay in the game 19. ♖b1 (the most natural 19.cxd5? would give Black good chances for escape 19... ♞f6 20. ♖b1 ♞f4 21. ♖d3 ♞xd5 White should be still better, but the position is far from clear) 19... ♞f4 20. ♖c2!+- an amazing move! White wants to trap the Black Queen by playing ♖d2 — and there seems to be no escape! White is close to winning here 20...dxc4? 21. ♖b4! ♖e8 22. ♖d2 ♞g4 23. ♖b8+-]

18. ♖b4 ♖d7 [18... ♖d8?! 19. ♖xd6! a little, but nice combo 19... ♖xd6 20. ♞e8+ ♖f8 21. ♞xc8+-]

19. ♔a3 ♖c8 20. ♙xd6 ♜xc4 [20... ♙xd4 Would lead as well to a very bad position 21. ♘xd4 ♚xd4 22. ♙b7 ♜e8 23. c5± White has bishop pair, a passed c pawn, plus all the pieces are centralized — this should be enough for a big advantage]



21. ♜b1! Suddenly the Black's 8th rank is very weak

21... ♙b5 [21... ♖c8 22. ♙b7 ♜e8 23. ♙c5 ♙f8 24. ♘e5!+- What a domination on the board!; 21... ♘c6 22. ♙d3 White wins an exchange]

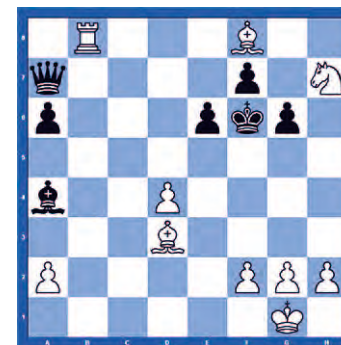
22. ♙d3! The last precise move. The game is over [Definitely I would be not happy after 22. ♜xb5?? axb5 23. ♚xa7 ♜c1+ 24. ♘e1 ♜xe1#]

22... ♜a4 allows me to finish the game in a beautiful way

23. ♚xa4 ♙xa4 24. ♜xb8+ ♙f8 25. ♘g5 ♚g7 [would lose of course as well 25... ♚xd4 26. ♜xf8+ ♚g7 27. ♜xf7+ ♚h6 28. h4+- with a very soon mate]

26. ♙xf8+ At this moment my opponent looked at me, smiled and played

26... ♚f6 27. ♘h7#



One of the rare cases in my chess career, when I could finish the game with a mate on the board :) **1-0**

(2) Naiditsch,A (2702) — Bluebaum,M (2407) [B13]

16th Neckar Open Deizisau GER (7.9), 08.04.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Here we face a typical game of Caro-Kann Panov variation. My opponent was a young German talent. The first surprise of the game he made when he arrived to the board in just a T-Shirt, when I was freezing even with warm clothes on. The second one, when he started to bang from time to time on the clock — to be honest not very impressive... The third surprise was a nice one though, he gave me an extra tempo in the opening :)

1.c4 c6 2.e4 My opponent plays the Slav on 1.d4 and the French on 1.e4. So I made a little trick in the opening by playing 1.c4

2...d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.d4 and we are in the Caro-Cann, Panov line which was obviously not very known to my opponent.

4...f6 5.g3 c6 6.g5 dxc4 The very main move. [Just 2 weeks ago, D.Solak tried against me quite a dubious plan 6...e4?! 7.fxe4 dxe4 8.d5 f6?! what a crazy idea... When I was learning chess, I think my trainer would have adviced me to change the sport after intentionally playing f6!? in my preparation :) 9.gd2 e5 10.f4 g6 11.c2 and White is doing clearly better; 6...e6 7.f3 e7 8.c5 0-0 9.b5 e4 10.xe7 xe7 11.c1 is the other main line]



7.gxc4 e6?! Now White got a very good version of Panov or some others would say Queen's Gambit. Big specialists in this positions are for example: Rublevsky and Dreev, who have been playing it almost through their whole chess career. [7...xd4 8.xd4 xd4 9.0-0-0 e5 10.f4 g4 11.f3 This is the main position of a very forced and sharp line started with 6....dxc4. For long time it seemed like Black is ok, but lately probably White is doing better]

8.f3 [The early wish to win the game would not bring anything 8.d5 exd5 9.fxd5 e7! Black is doing perfectly fine]

8...e7 9.0-0 0-0 So we are in a very often appearing position with an isolated pawn on d4. A few basic ideas: Black will try to make a blockade on the d5 square, by bringing their knight from c6 in best case over b4 to d5, or over e7 to d5. Also b6-Bb7 would be a normal development. An exchange of any piece is very positive for Black. White should try to create pressure on the center and combine it with the attacking ideas on the Black king. In the best case e2-Rad1, b1, e5 would be perfect places for the pieces. Another White's idea is to break through with the d5, but this is very hard to manage.



10. ♖e1 a standard move. White is putting more pressure on the center and letting Black decide if they go for ♘b4 or play b6

10...b6 [10...♘b4?! would let White put the pieces to perfect positions 11. ♘e5 ♘bd5 12. ♖c1 Next White's moves could be ♕d3-b1, ♖d3 with a very dangerous pressure on the Black's king]

11.a3 [again too early would be 11.d5?! ♘xd5! The only move, but more than enough 12. ♕xd5 exd5 13. ♖xd5 (13. ♘d4 ♕xg5 14. ♘xc6 ♖d6 15. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 16. ♘xd5 ♕b7 and the bishop pair gives Black at least equal chances in this endgame) 13...♖xd5 14. ♘xd5 ♕xg5 15. ♘xg5 ♕b7 also here White has no objective chances to hope for an advantage]

11... ♕b7 Here was the first moment, when I thought for a while. I had a choice of two moves that seemed to be very logical to me, 12. ♖d3 and 12. ♕a2. Both moves follow the same idea, but still there is little difference between them

12. ♕a2 [12. ♖d3! in my opinion the better move 12...♖c8 13. ♖ad1 (Logical 13. ♕a2 is not the best because of the 13...h6! in general this move is very dangerous for Black

because it weakens the pawn structure, but here everything seems to be working for Black. Chess is a forced game :) 14. ♕h4 (14. ♕e3 ♕d6 15. ♖ad1 ♘e7 16. ♘e5 ♕xe5 17. dxe5 ♖xd3 usually an exchange of Queens is always good for Black — here as well 18. ♖xd3 ♘fd5 with at least an equal position) 14...♘h5! the key idea of Black's play 15. ♕xe7 (15. ♕b1 g6 16. ♖xe6 ♘f4! a very cool defence) 15...♘xe7 and Black reached what they wanted. The Black knight from c6 is going to d5, plus one piece has been exchanged. This means good position for Black) 13...h6 14. ♕f4! By this exact move order, 12. ♖d3, 13. ♖ad1, 14. ♕f4 White seems to reach a very pleasant position. During the game, not easy moves to play!]



12... ♘d5?! this is generally not a good move [12...♖c8 13. ♖c1 would lead us to a complicated position which I personally prefer to play with White]

13. ♕xd5! This is the right way to act at moves like 12...♘d5

13... ♕xg5 [13...exd5 14. ♕xe7 ♘xe7 15. ♖d3 We have another typical position here. White is doing clearly better and even if the position is looking like „should be somehow OK for Black” it is by far not. The bishop on b7 is very

bad and the clear advantage in the development is giving White very good chances to bring the full point home]

14. ♖e4 another typical type of position. Black has the bishop pair but White is better developed and it is not going to be easy for Black to manage the coordination of the pieces. Now it is all about the time. In case Black manages to consolidate — their position is fine

14... ♗f6 15. ♔a4! very logical. White is putting pressure and at same time developing their pieces very naturally. Next White moves are easy, ♖ad1, ♘e5 and hope to make d5 working

15... ♘a5 16. ♘e5 ♔e7 [16... ♗xe5 17.dxe5 ♗xe4 18.♘xe4± Would lead to a position with "good White knight" against the "bad Black knight". Also the square d6 secures White a solid advantage]

17. ♖ad1 Probably here was the critical moment of the game. Can Black somehow hold their position?! [a mistake would be 17.b4? ♗xe4 18.♘xe4 ♗xe5 19.dxe5 ♘c4 and Black's knight finally gets into the game]

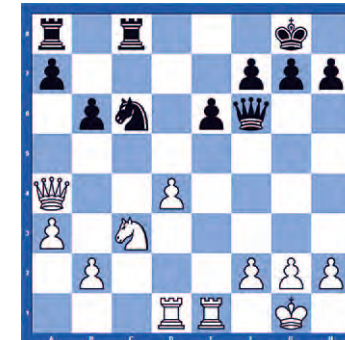


17... ♖fc8 [17... ♖fd8 seems not to solve all problems 18.♘g4 ♗xe4 19.♖xe4 ♗g5 20.d5! and Black's position is quite dangerous]

18. ♘d7! before playing 18.♘d7 I took a lot of time for thinking. Many options to continue the game and I needed to make quite an exact calculation

18... ♗c6 Very quickly played by my oponent, and exactly the move I was hoping for.... [18... ♗xe4 19.♘xe4 ♗h4! only move! Very unhuman 20.♘e5 Would lead to a better position for White, but maybe still Black would be a bit in the game]

19. ♗xc6 ♘xc6 20. ♘xf6+ ♔xf6



21.d5! This is the decisive move! White is using the temporarily unlucky position of the Black pieces

21... exd5 [The game would last longer after 21... ♘e5 22.♔e4 ♘g6 23.dxe6 fxe6 24.♔xe6+ ♔xe6 25.♖xe6 and White is just a pawn up in the endgame]

22. ♘xd5 ♔g5 [22... ♔xb2 23.♖c1+- This had been my calculation starting with 18.♘d7! It was very important to see 23. ♖c1 move because it is the only winning move and fundamental for White's advantage]

23. ♖e3! a precise move. White wants to play ♖c3 or just h4 making a „hole“ for the King and after taking some more forced action. Black cannot avoid loss of material

23...h6? this makes the win easy [23...♔f8 would have been one of the computer's suggestions here, but also after 24.b4 Black's position is probably lost]

24. ♖c3 Quite a nice example of play of position with isolated pawn and what can happen to Black in case of inaccurate play...



[24. ♖c3 ♘e7 25. ♖xc8+ ♖xc8 26.h4 ♔e5 27. ♔d7+-] **1-0**

(3) Dominguez Perez,L (2730) – Ibragimov,I (2539) [C02]

Russian league, 09.04.2012

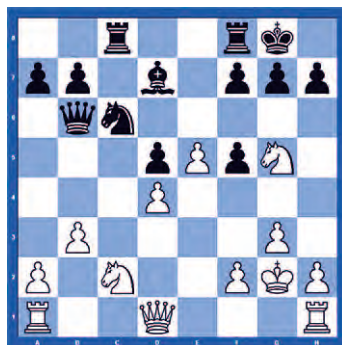
[Balogh Csaba]

We are facing a typical battle in the French advance variation. Black gets a good position out of the opening, but does not find the right plan. With nice maneuvering White overtakes the initiative and finishes the game with a pretty mating attack.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 ♘c6 5. ♘f3 ♘ge7 The third most common move after [5... ♖b6 and; 5... ♔d7]

6. ♘a3 cxd4 7.cxd4 ♘f5 8. ♘c2 ♖b6 9. ♔d3 There are still many games for the given position, but now Black deviates from the mainline with a logical move.

9... ♔d7 Prepares to bring the rook to c8. [One of the biggest experts in the French defense, the Armenian GM Rafael Vaganian, has played an instructive game against Nigel Short 9... ♔b4+!? 10. ♔f1 in this opening, it is not a big problem for White to move with the king, since the position is closed and in a few moves he can make an artificial castling with g3 and ♔g2 (10. ♘xb4 would lose a pawn 10... ♖xb4+ 11. ♔d2 (11. ♔f1 ♘fxd4) 11... ♖xb2) 10... ♔e7 11.g3 the d4 pawn is always poisoned in this line, now after exchanging all the pieces on d4, ♔b5 checks the queen 11... ♔d7 12. ♔g2 ♖c8 (12... ♘fxd4? loses again after 13. ♘fxd4 ♘xd4 14. ♔e3! ♔c5 15.b4!+- winning a piece) 13. ♔xf5 exf5 we will see this structure in our game as well 14.b3 0-0 Black equalized and after 15. ♔g5? big mistake, he already has a big advantage 15... ♔xg5 16. ♘xg5



16...f4!! the bishop moves to f5 and the d4 pawn cannot stay for a long time on the board 17.gxf4 ♘e7! ♔g6 threatens to win one of the knights 18.♘e3 and at this moment Black missed the win in the Short-Vaganian, Montpellier 1985 game 18...h6! 19.♘f3 ♔g6+ 20.♖f1 ♕b5+ 21.♖e1 ♔e4 Black is completely winning.]

10.0-0 a5 Strong move, Black should organize his play on queenside. [10...♘cxd4? just as in the previous line, the d4 pawn is indirectly protected: 11.♘fxd4 ♘xd4 12.♕e3! ♕c5 13.b4! ♘xc2 14.♕xc5+-]

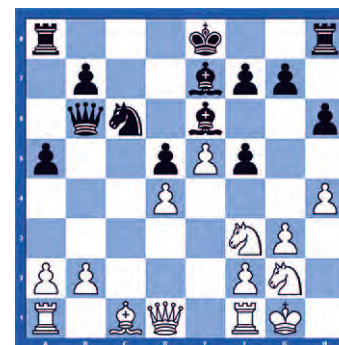
11.♕xf5 exf5 Here we have this structure. Generally, we can say it is fine for Black, and the fans of the French defense should never be worried about this slightly strange pawn structure, but still the position requires exact play.



12.♘e3! Dominguez plays logically. He has a nice square on f4, which he is going to occupy with the knight.

12...♕e6 13.g3! ♕e7 14.♘g2! h6 A useful move. Black should keep his dark squared bishop, not letting White to exchange it in a given moment with ♕g5.

15.h4



15...0-0 [I have seen some games in this structure, where Black kept his king in the center. It is in complete safety there. 15...♖d7!? 16.♘f4 ♔hc8]

16.♘f4 ♔fc8 Black prepares for the invasion on the c-file after ♘b4, something that White must prevent...

17.♔e1! Just to have ♔e2 on ♘b4. Until this point Black played well, but now he chooses a wrong plan...

17...♔c7 It is logical to double on the c-file, but White can easily neutralize the threats there... [In my opinion, it was better to play 17...a4 to install the knight to c4 18.♔e2 ♘a5 Black seems to be completely fine 19.♕d2 (19.♔xa4? is not working 19...♘b3!; 19.♖g2 ♘c4 20.♘e1 ♔c7) 19...♘c4 20.♕c3 and now we can see a typical plan for the structure, which could be a bit scary for somebody 20...g5! 21.♘xe6 ♔xe6 with a comfortable game.]

18. ♖e2 White defends the b2 pawn in order to develop with ♗e3.

18... ♖ac8 19. ♗e3 The position of the Black's rook seems to be nice, but in fact it does not do anything. Black does not have anymore the a4, ♘a5-c4 plan. It is already not easy to suggest something for him, while White has a clear idea now, what we will see in the game...

19... ♘b4 20. ♘e1! The plan was anyway to transfer the knight to d3.

20... ♔b5 [20...g5!? was possible again, but now it is more risky than before 21. ♘xe6 ♔xe6 22.hxg5 hxg5 23.a3 ♘c6 24.f4! could be slightly better for White.]

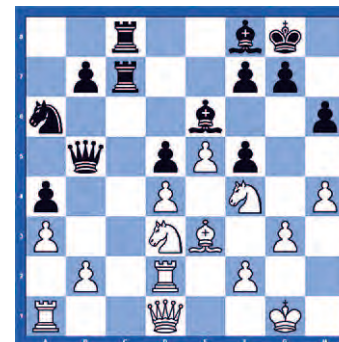
21.a3 ♘a6 22. ♘ed3 Black is out of counterplay. He tries to maneuver with the pieces, but there is no weakness in White's camp.

22...a4 it is already too late, the knight has no chance to arrive to a5.



23. ♖d2! Very deep move! It opens the diagonal for the queen, so White prepares for kingside attack with g4!

23... ♗f8?! Another bad idea, but the position was already quite unpleasant. Black underestimates the g4 plan... The bishop was better placed on e7, where it was looking at the h4 pawn. [Even after the logical 23... ♖c4 24. ♘xe6 fxe6 25.g4! was working. White is better anyway.]



24.g4! Creates two threats. The direct one is to take on e6 then on f5 and attack with ♔h5, ♘f4. The positional idea is to push g5, disturbing Black's king.

24... ♗d7 [24... ♔d7 was more logical, but the position is bad anyway 25.g5! hxg5 26.hxg5 g6 27. ♔g2 White prepares to bring the rooks to the h-file, just as in the game and 27... ♔e7 would drop a pawn 28. ♘xe6 fxe6 29. ♔xa4]

25.g5! hxg5 Black did not want to open the h-file, but to receive gxh6 is not much fun either. [25...g6 26. ♔f3 ♗e6 27.gxh6+- 27... ♗xh6 loses to ♘xe6]

26.hxg5 g6 27. ♔f3 Developing with a tempo.

27... ♗e6



28. ♔g2! Prepares for ♖h1. You can notice that the Black rooks on the c-file still don't do anything.

28... ♖c4 [28... ♗g7 29. ♖h1 ♖c2 White only gives up his strong knight for the bad bishop, when it is winning on the spot. 30. ♘xe6! fxe6 31. ♖xc2 ♖xc2 32. ♘f4 ♗e8 33. ♗h3+-]

29. ♖h1 ♗c7 30. ♖dd1! Really nice maneuvering! Dominguez prepares for doubling.

30... ♗g7 31. ♖h4 ♗d7 [31... ♔f8 The king has no chance to run away from the dangerzone 32. ♖h7! say stop to the king! 32... ♘e8 33. ♘xe6+ fxe6 34. ♘f4+-]

32. ♖dh1 ♗d8 33. ♗g3! White has time for everything. First he defends the g5 pawn and wants to play ♖h7, ♗h4. Black cannot do anything against it...

33... ♗b5 34. ♖h7 ♗xd4 35. ♗h4 Black resigned! Very nice game by Dominguez... It is really enjoyable to watch his games because all his moves are very easy to understand. **1-0**

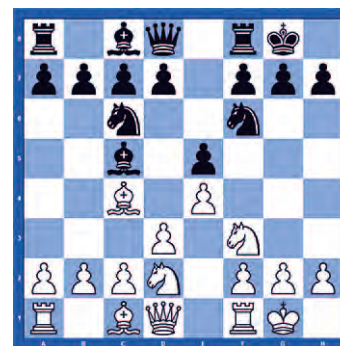
(4) Shanava,K (2586) – Bacrot,E (2706) [C50]

Deizisau, 09.04.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

This game is from the 8th round of the Deizisau open, where the top seed Super GM Etienne Bacrot had run into a painful defeat.

1.e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♗c6 3. ♗c4 ♗c5 4.0-0 ♗f6 5.d3 0-0 6. ♘bd2



6...d5 Bacrot's favorite move, which recently became an alternative of the standard d6 setup. He played it 4 times in 2011.

7.exd5 ♗xd5 8. ♖e1 ♗f6 9.h3 a6 A strong improvment on the first try... [His first game went with 9... ♗d6 10.a3 a6 11. ♗a2 ♗f5 12.b4 ♖e8 13. ♗b2 h6 14. ♗e4 (14. ♗c4±) 14... ♗e6 15. ♗xe6 ♖xe6 16.c4 ♗xe4 17.dxe4± White achieved a small advantage, which later manged to convert into full point in Radjabov-Bacrot, Khanty Mansiysk 2011.]

10. ♗xe5 A tricky novelty. [The expert of the Italian opening, Sergei Movsesian has played 10.a3 but after 10...b5

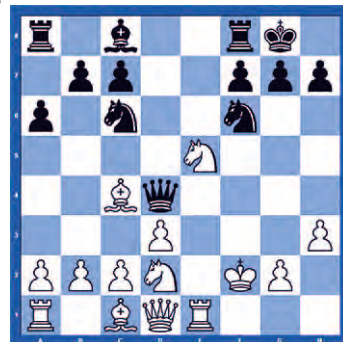
11. ♖a2 ♖b7 12. ♘f1 e4! 13. dxe4 ♔xd1 14. ♖xd1 ♘xe4= Black easily equalized and soon they agreed to draw, Movsesian-Bacrot, Rogaska Slatina 2011]

10... ♖xf2+? A terrible reaction. Probably also affected by the fact, that the game has started at 9 in the morning, which is generally still sleeping time for most of the top players. [10... ♖d4! would have been the only move, but enough to maintain the balance 11. ♖e2 (11. ♘xc6 ♖xf2+ 12. ♖h1



12... ♖g4!! Maybe Black missed this great move, which actually wins on the spot. 13. ♘f3 (13. hxc4 ♖h4#) 13... ♖xf3 14. gxf3 ♘h5--+) 11... ♘xe5 12. ♘b3! ♖xf2+! 13. ♖xf2 ♖xf2+ 14. ♖xf2 ♘xc4 15. dxc4 ♖f5 and the game would have simplified to a drawn endgame.]

11. ♖xf2 ♖d4+



12. ♖g3! This brave run with the king is based on exact calculation... [12. ♖f1 with the same idea as in the game is not that effective 12... ♘xe5 13. ♘b3 ♖d6 14. ♖f4 ♘fd7 Black has the important ♖f6! resource and the f4 bishop is not protected by the king 15. ♖xe5 seems to win at first sight, but after (15. ♖h5 ♖f6!) 15... ♘xe5 16. ♖h5 b5! 17. ♖xe5 ♖d8 the c4 bishop is trapped]

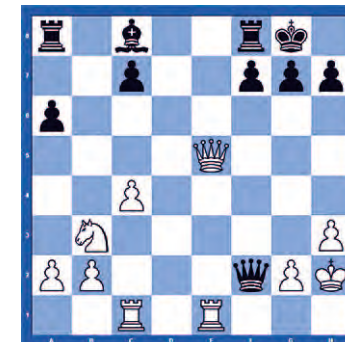
12... ♘xe5 13. ♘b3! ♖d6 14. ♖f4 ♘fd7 [14... ♖e8 15. ♖e2+- wins a piece]

15. ♖h5! b5 Black finds the only moves to not lose a piece immediately, but his position remains terrible. [15... ♖e8 16. ♖xf7+!+-]

16. ♖xe5 ♘xe5 17. ♖xe5 ♖g6+ [The endgame with a pawn down was hopeless after 17... ♖xe5+ 18. ♖xe5 bxc4 19. dxc4+-]

18. ♖h2 bxc4 19. dxc4 ♖xc2 Black maintains the material equality, but we will soon realize the main defect of his position... [19... ♖e6 Black would not have any compensation for the pawn 20. ♘d4 ♖xc4 21. b3 ♖b5 22. ♖xc7±] **20. ♖ac1** to protect the c4 pawn with tempo.

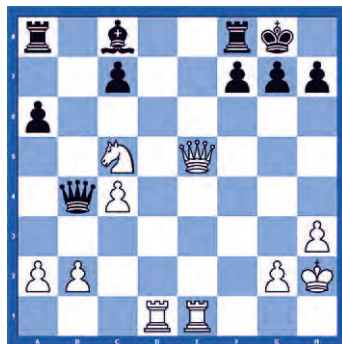
20... ♖f2 On other retreats of the queen, White could simply take on c7. Now the b2 pawn would hang as well.



21. ♖c5! After the big mistake by Black in the 10th move, we got this position by more or less forced way. Black's position is actually much worse than it might seem at first sight. With the last move White created the threat of ♖e2 and after any queen moves ♔xc7. The main problem is that the bishop on c8 is practically dead. The c5 knight dominates it completely. There is not even a small chance to develop it in order to connect the rooks.

21... ♔d2 [21... h6 22. ♖e2+- and ♔xc7; 21... ♖a7 would be too ugly 22. ♖cd1 with serious problems on the backrank.]

22. ♖cd1 ♔b4 [22... ♔a5 has a refutation 23. ♔e7! with the threat of ♔xf8 or ♖d8 23... ♗f5 24. ♖d5!+- and White wins material, after the knight jumps away to d7]



23. ♖d8!! Excellent move! The mate on the backrank can only be avoided with ♗b7, but it gives up the d7 square.

23... ♗b7 [23... ♖xd8 24. ♔e8+ ♖xe8 25. ♖xe8#]

24. ♖d7 and Black cannot do anything against ♘e6! [The direct 24. ♘e6 would lead winning position as well, but the text move wins even bigger material 24... fxe6 25. ♖d7 ♖f6 26. ♔xc7 and the bishop falls because of the mate threat on the 7th rank.]

24... ♔xc4 Black sacrifices his bishop, it means he resigns the game...The rest is easy. [24... ♗c6 25. ♘e6!+- mate is coming soon.]

25. ♘xb7+- ♔xa2 26. ♖xc7 h6 27. ♘d6 ♖ab8 28. ♘f5 [28. ♘xf7!? was also good 28... ♖xf7 29. ♖xf7+- and the b8 is hanging.]

28... ♔xb2 29. ♖c3! Of course no exchange this time.

29... f6 30. ♔g3 Black resigned. A very annoying loss from Black's point of view, since he made only one mistake right after the opening and in fact he had no chance anymore to come back in the game. On the other hand, the Georgian GM Shanava showed very nice performance, you can rarely beat a 2700+ player in this fashion. **1-0**

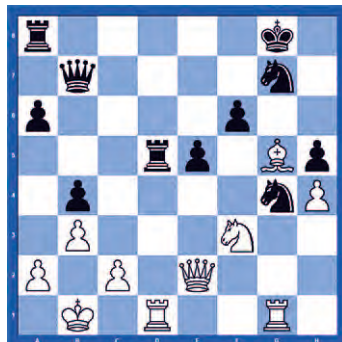
Puzzle section

(5) Motylev,A (2683) – Geller,J (2544)

Russian league, 09.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Li Shilong (2549) – Bu Xiangzhi (2668)

Xinghua, 04.04.2012

[CEWN]

1...-/+

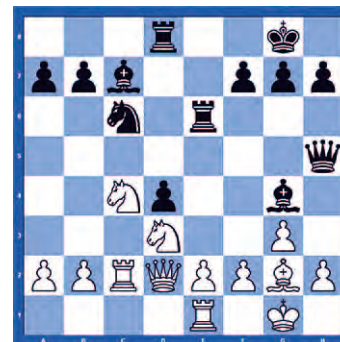


(7) Hauser,C (2209) – Perunovic,M (2582)

Deizisau, 06.04.2012

[CEWN]

1... -/+

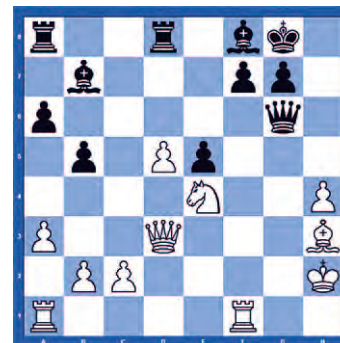


(8) Naiditsch,A (2702) – Mladenov,S (2419)

Deizisau, 07.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Baramidze,D (2612) – Grandadam,N (2361)

Deizisau, 09.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-

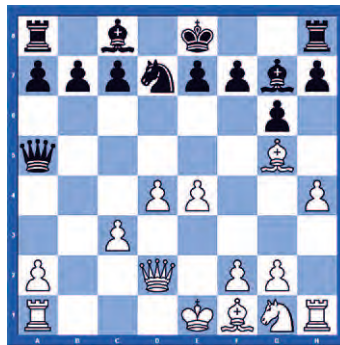


(10) Bosch,J (2386) – Shishkin,V (2464)

Deizisau, 09.04.2012

[CEWN]

1... -/+

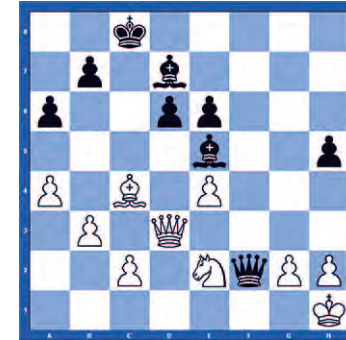


(11) Burg,T (2464) – Bischoff,K (2521)

Deizisau, 09.04.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

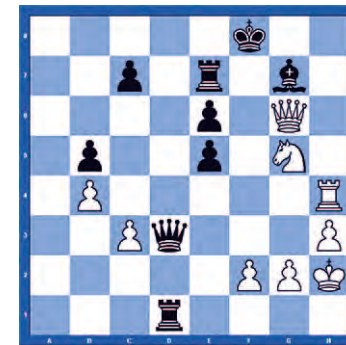


(12) Gopal,G (2572) – Baron,T (2497)

India-Israel rapid match, 03.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

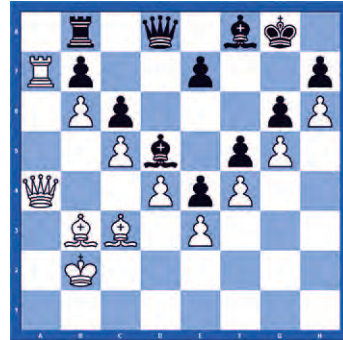


(13) Shankland,S (2580) — Prasca Sosa,R (2420)

Philadelphia, 06.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

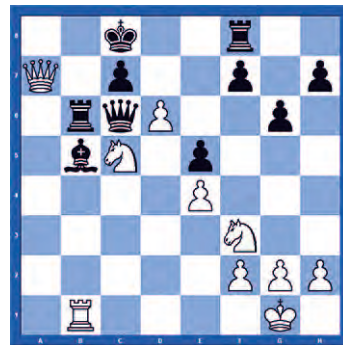


(14) Vajda,L (2597) — Zeng,C (2435)

Doeberl Cup, 08.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Riazantsev,A (2710) – Macieja,B (2605)

Plovdiv, 30.03.2012

[Balogh Csaba]



This interesting endgame arose in the 10th round of the European Championship. White has an extra pawn and more active pieces, but the appearance of the opposite colored bishops always increases the chances of the defending side. In addition, the only way for White to make progress is on the kingside, but after pushing forward the pawns, the Black queen might give perpetual check. The exchanging of the queens always leads to drawn endgame. Riazantsev plays this game with excellent technique, but still in one moment, by very accurate defense, Black could have hold the draw.

35. ♔e7! White tries to squeeze Black's king into the corner by centralizing the pieces.

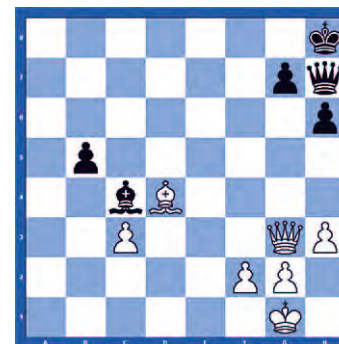
35... ♙c4 With the idea to play ♔f7.

36. ♔e4+! The only way to avoid ♔f7. [36.f4 ♔f7 Black eases his defense.]

36... ♙h8 37. ♔f4 White approaches to the timecontrol. 37. ♔g6 could have come immediately...

37... ♙h7 38. ♔f5+ ♙h8 39. ♔g6! Black has only one way to prevent ♔xh6.

39... ♔h7 40. ♔g3



40... ♔g8! The only move! Black must transfer his queen to f7, otherwise the f4-f5-f6 is crushing. The bishop moves along the a2-g8 diagonal would give up the b5 pawn after ♔b8, while 40... ♙d3 loses to 41. ♙xg7. [40... ♙e2 41.f4! ♙c4 (41... ♙d3 42. ♙xg7+ ♔xg7 43. ♔xd3+-) 42.f5 and mate is coming after f6.]

41. ♔e5! After confusing a bit Black's pieces, White is in time to push up his pawn to f5!

41... ♔f7 42.f4! ♙h7 [42... ♙d3 would just temporarily prevent f5 43. ♙f2 and g4, f5 in the next moves would transpose to the game...]

43.f5! ♙d5 [43... ♔f6 The opposite colored bishop endgame with two pawns down is already losing... 44. ♔xf6

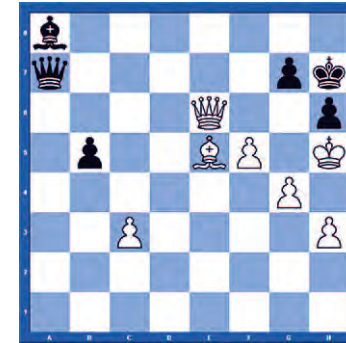
gxf6 45. ♖xf6 here is one line to demonstrate it: 45... ♗d3 46.g4 h5 the same would happen if Black waits for ♔f2-g3-f4, h4 and g5. 47. ♔f2 hxcg4 48.hxcg4 ♗c4 49. ♔e3 ♔g8 50. ♔f4 ♔f7 51.g5 ♗d5 52. ♗d4 ♔g8 53.g6 ♗c4 54.f6 White wins the bishop after f7 and due to his remaining c3 pawn, wins the game as well.]

44. ♔h2 ♔d7 45.g4 ♗a8 If we compare the current position to the initial one, we can clearly see, how big progress White has already made. The threat is now to play h4-g5, creating mating net against the squeezed king.



46. ♔g3! ♔b7! The correct defense against h4-g5, but now White can occupy the important f7 square. [46... ♗c6 47.h4! ♗b7 48.g5 would be decisive]

47. ♗e6! ♔c7+ 48. ♗e5 ♔c6? and this is the losing move, White shows flawless technique. [However, I was unable to break the computer's stubborn defense: 48... ♗a7!! 49. ♔h4 ♔f2+ 50. ♔h5 ♗a7



I tried many different ways for break through, without success: 51. ♗g6+ ♔g8 52. ♗e8+ (52.f6 always lead to opposite colored bishop endgame with two pawns up, but now with the ideal version for Black.. 52... ♗d5! 53. ♗xg7+ ♔xg7 54.fxg7 ♔h7! and the king manages to stay between the pawns, White cannot make progress.; 52. ♗xg7 is not working, because the c3 pawn is hanging at the end. 52... ♗xg7 53. ♗xh6 ♔xc3) 52... ♔h7 53. ♗d4 (53. ♗xb5?? would be too greedy, suddenly Black creates the mating net 53... ♗e3! 54.h4 ♗e4!! g6 threats and on 55. ♗xg7 ♗c6! with ♗e8 mate!; 53.f6 ♗d5! leads to the same drawish endgame 54. ♗g6+ ♔g8 55. ♗xg7+ ♔xg7 56.fxg7 ♔h7=) 53... ♗c7 54. ♗g6+ (54. ♗xb5?? here again is a blunder 54... ♗e7-+; 54.f6 ♗d5! draws again; 54. ♔h4 ♗d5) 54... ♔g8 55.f6 ♗d5 56. ♔h4 ♔f7 57. ♗xg7+ ♔xg7 58.fxg7 ♔h7 Black holds the draw, but I must say, I would wonder if any human could find all these moves!]

49. ♗f7! ♔b7 50. ♗g6+ ♔g8 51. ♗e8+! ♔h7



52. ♔h4! Black can resign now. Incredible, in the 48... ♔a7 line, the king was on h5 and it was draw, now with the king on h4 Black is in sort of zugzwang, cannot prevent the f6 threat. Black queen has too many defensive tasks, it must control the g7 square against ♔g6-g7 and also has to protect the bishop. Now Black is not in time to play ♙d5...

52... ♔c6 [52... ♔a7 53. ♙d4 ♔b7 54.f6! after destroying the king's main defender, the computer shows forced mate in all the lines.]

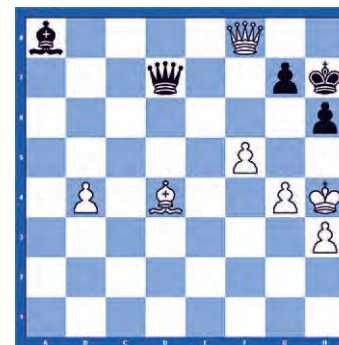
53. ♔f7! ♔b7 54. ♔g6+ ♔g8 55. ♔e8+ ♔h7 Until this moment, White played perfectly, but now and a few more times later on, he misses the f6 possibility. However, the way he plays is also winning.

56. ♙d4 [56.f6!+-]

56... ♔c6 57. ♔f7 ♔b7 58. ♔g6+ ♔g8 59. ♔e8+ ♔h7 60. ♔f8 This was White's idea instead of the mate after f6. Black got into zugzwang. He has no piece to move with. The a8 bishop or the g7 pawn is hanging. [60.f6!+-]

60...b4 61.cxb4 [61.f6+- was still mate.]

61... ♔d7 was the only way to get out of the zugzwang, but now Riazantsev elegantly transposes to a winning endgame.



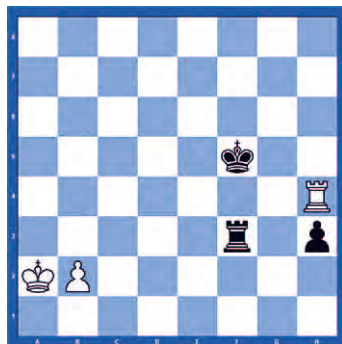
62. ♔xg7+! ♔xg7 63. ♙xg7 ♔xg7 64.b5! Important to push the b-pawn as far as possible, before creating other passers on the kingside.

64... ♔f6 65. ♔h5 ♔g7 66.b6 ♙d5 67.g5! hxg5 68. ♔xg5 ♔f7 69.h4 ♙b7 70.h5 ♙h1 71.h6 ♙g2 72.f6 and Black resigned. ♔g8 would have been the only move to stop the h-pawn, but then the king might calmly go to promote the b-pawn. A very instructive endgame! **1-0**

(16) Drenchev,P (2499) – Balogh,Cs (2664)

Plovdiv, 25.03.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

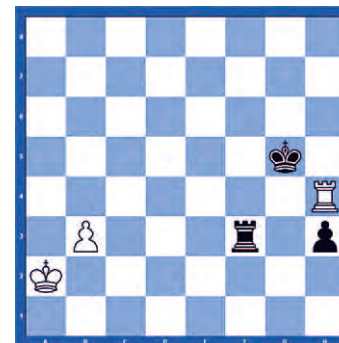


In the 6th round of the European Championship, I got this seemingly easy, but very difficult rook endgame. The mutual timetrouble also made our task much harder... The position should be drawn because White seems to be in time to sacrifice his rook for the h-pawn and then with the help of the king promote his own pawn. Right in the beginning my opponent is facing a very difficult decision. To play slowly with b3, ♔a3-a4 and b4, or the quick b4, which cuts his own king from the support. After b5, Black will be able to win the pawn with ♜f5...

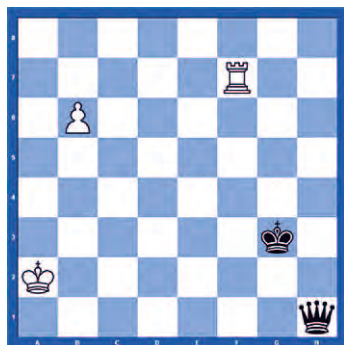
63.b3? The wrong plan, but still after some accurate moves, White could have held... [63.b4 was the precise move 63...♔g5 64.♜h8 ♔g4 65.b5 ♜f5 Seems to win because White's king is too far from the h-pawn, but... 66.♜g8+! Very important to force the king behind the pawn! 66...♔f3 (66...♜g5 67.♜xg5+ ♔xg5 68.b6=) 67.♜h8 ♔g2 68.♜g8+ ♔h1 69.b6! ♜a5+ (69...♜b5 70.♜g6 is easy draw. Black rook cannot help for the king to escape from

the corner.) 70.♔b3 ♜b5+ 71.♔c3 ♜xb6 72.♔d2 ♜e6= and as we already know from the 3rd CEWN, the position is a theoretical draw.(72...♜b1 would be winning with the pawn on h2. This is also known from the 3rd CEWN. 73.♔e2 ♜g1 74.♜h8 h2 75.♔f2 but now it is just a draw.)]

63...♔g5 An amazing moment! Normally in such positions we don't need to think and save some time for the rest of the game. Who could believe, that we are in the critical position of the game...



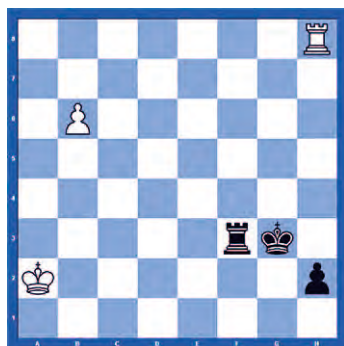
64.♜h8? The losing move, only 64.♜h7! would have save the game. We will soon understand the difference... [64.♜h7!! ♔g4 65.b4! White has no time to play ♔a3, it would lose in the same way as the game. 65...♔g3 66.b5 h2 (66...♜f5 leads to the same draw as in the 63.b4 line.. 67.♜g7+! ♔f2 68.♜h7 ♔g2 69.♜g7+ ♔h1 70.b6 ♜a5+ 71.♔b3 ♜b5+ 72.♔c2 ♜xb6 73.♔d2 ♜e6=) 67.b6! and here comes the difference... 67...♜f7! This is the winning idea, the 64.♜h8 line, but now... (67...♜f6 is easy draw after the known technique 68.♜g7+ ♔f2 69.♜h7 ♔g2 70.♜g7+ ♔h1 71.b7=) 68.♜xf7! h1Q



69.b7 White pawn reaches to b7 square after which Black has no chance to win 69...♔d5+ 70.♔b2 ♔b5+ 71.♔c3 ♔g4 72.♔d7!! and the king cannot approach the the pawn because of the rook checks along the d-file. A study-like escape by White.]

64...♔g4 Black is winning now!

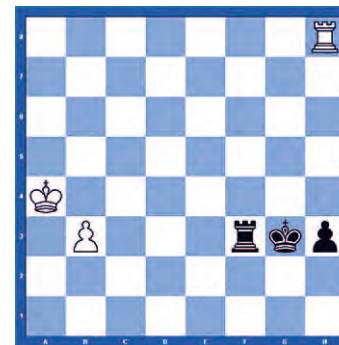
65.♔a3 [65.b4 ♔g3 66.b5 h2 67.b6



67...♔f8! is the big difference 68.♔h7 (68.♔xf8 h1Q-- The pawn can not reach the b7 square.) 68...♔a8+ 69.♔b2 ♔b8 70.♔g7+ and here Black is not forced to go behind the pawn 70...♔f4! 71.♔h7 (71.♔f7+ ♔g5! 72.♔h7 (72.♔g7+ ♔h6--+) 72...♔xb6+ 73.♔c2 ♔h6!--+) 71...♔xb6+ 72.♔c2 ♔g3 73.♔g7+ ♔f2 74.♔h7 ♔g2 75.♔g7+ ♔h1

and now compared to the mainline of the 63.b4 line, the pawn has reached the h2 square and Black is winning 76.♔d2 ♔b1 77.♔e2 ♔g1 ...and the king escapes in time, as it was mentioned in the 3rd CEWN.]

65...♔g3 66.♔a4



66...♔f4+! The easiest win.

67.b4 ♔h4 68.♔c8 [68.♔g8+ Black king could control the 1st rank and hide himself behind the b-pawn... 68...♔f2 69.♔f8+ ♔e2 70.♔e8+ ♔d2 71.♔d8+ ♔c2 72.♔c8+ ♔b2--+ and the h-pawn promotes.]

68...h2 69.♔c1 h1Q 70.♔xh1 ♔xh1 The king is too close to the pawn.

71.♔b5 [71.b5 ♔f4 72.b6 ♔b1 73.♔a5 ♔e5 74.♔a6 ♔d6 75.b7 ♔c7--+]]

71...♔f4 72.♔c6 ♔c1+ 73.♔d6 ♔b1 White resigned. An interesting endgame. Good example of why it is relevant to know theoretical endgames. **0-1**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Fischer, Robert James — Rinaldo, John [C97]

USA-ch op 58th Cleveland (4), 08.08.1957

[Balogh Csaba]

We dedicate the rest of the month of April to probably the most popular World Champion of all times, Robert Fischer! He was the one who managed to break the Soviet hegemony in chess! Fischer took the crown in 1972 after defeating Spassky. The first game that we will see from the World Champion is from his childhood, we will see how deeply he understood chess already at the age of 14.

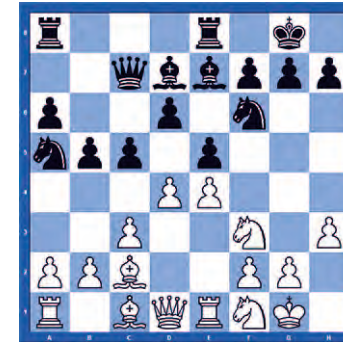
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 One of the most complex openings of the chess game is the Spanish. Fischer played it all his life and was one of the biggest experts of it.

3...a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♙b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 The initial position of the main lines. Black can choose between many setups. All of them lead to different kind of positions. Here Black chose probably the most famous, the Chigorin variation.

9...♘a5 10.♙c2 c5 11.d4 ♕c7 12.♘bd2 ♙d7 Now or in the next move cxd4 is the mainline.

13.♘f1 ♖fe8 Standard place for the rook in the Spanish! A multipurpose move, it prepares for the g6, ♙f8-g7 plan, protects the e5 pawn to free the queen and in some moments, Black can take exd4 and press the e4 pawn. Now, White must choose between two plans. One is to

play 14.b3, in order to exclude the a5 knight from the game, followed by ♘g3. This is what I would prefer, but Fischer and the theory considers the other direction of the f1 knight to be stronger.



14.♘e3 This move has two aims. The main is to organize a play against the a5 knight, connected with b4. This is what we will see in the game. The other idea, which I consider to be less dangerous is dxe5 and on dxe5 ♘h2-g4, trying to create a stronghold on d5 for the knight.

14...g6 15.♙d2 White slowly prepares for the b4 plan.

15...♙f8 16.♖c1! The last preparation. A bit strange that four years later Fischer deviated from this game and pushed b4 immediately, which was premature... [16.b4 cxb4 17.cxb4 ♘c4 18.♘xc4 bxc4 19.♖c1 and here Matanovic found a very strong plan and equalized right away.. 19...exd4 20.♘xd4 d5! 21.exd5 ♖xe1+ 22.♙xe1 ♕d6 Fischer-Matanovic, Bled 1961]

16...♙g7 Black was not impressed by the great preparation and allowed White to continue his plan... [16...♘c6 was the principled move in my opinion 17.d5 ♘e7 18.c4! and white is slightly better due to his space advantage.]



17.b4! Black is facing a very difficult decision now...

17...♘c6?! and he fails... There was only one way to stay in the game, but it was against the character of the Chigorin players. In general, the players who play this opening with the Black color prefer to have a closed position. However, the only move was to take twice on d4 and open the position. [17...♘b7? the Hungarian grandmaster also failed to find the correct move

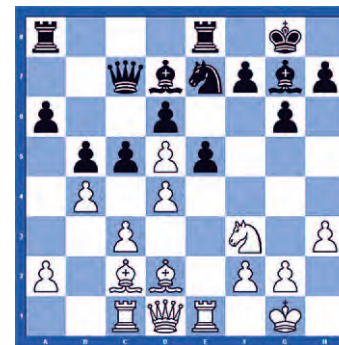


18.bxc5! Black is forced now to take out of the center and with this he does not destroy White's central pawns. This is a very bad sign for him... 18...exd4 19.cxd4 dxc5 20.e5! ♘h5 21.♘d5! ♔d8 22.♙e4! c4 23.♙g5 ♔a5 24.g4!+- and White won soon in Smyslov-Barcza, Zagreb 1955; 17...

cx d4 18.cxd4 exd4! was the only way to play (18...♘c4 including the ♖c1 and ♙g7 moves, this does not work anymore because of 19.♘xc4 bxc4 20.dxe5 dxe5 21.♙b3 ♙e6 22.♘g5±) 19.♘xd4 (19.bxa5 is interesting 19...dxe3 20.♙xe3 ♔xa5 21.♔xd6 ♙e6 22.a4 could be slightly better for White.) 19...♘c4 20.♘xc4 bxc4 And the computer defends Black's position, even if it seems quite bad for me after ♙b1. (20...♔xc4? 21.♘f3±) 21.♙b1 I would be happy to stay like this, but the position is unclear.(21.♙b3 ♙b5 22.a4 ♘xe4)]

18.♘d5! An excellent move by Fischer! He foresees the consequences of the exchanges in the center...The position opens up and White is much better prepared for that.

18...♘xd5 19.exd5 ♘e7



20.dxc5! I like the way how White handles the position! This is rather positional way, while the computer move 20.dxe5 is a tactical solution. [20.dxe5 ♘xd5 (20...dxe5 21.♙e3± this could arise after 20.dxc5 dxc5 as well..) 21.♙e4 ♙c6 22.♙g5! ♔b7 23.exd6 h6! when White should be better, but he needs to play precisely, otherwise the Black bishops might be unpleasant...]

20...♘xd5 [20...dxc5 21.♙e3±]

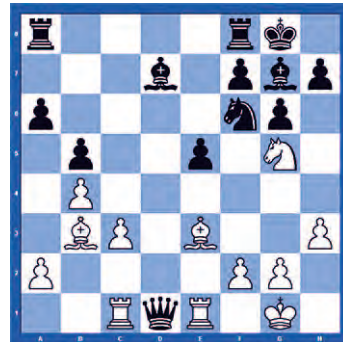
21. ♖b3! He chooses the right diagonal for the bishop! There might be some problems around the f7 square, ♘g5 is in the air. [21. ♖e4 would lead to rather unclear situation after 21... ♙c6 22. ♙g5 ♚b7 23.cxd6 ♖e6!]

21... ♘f6 [21... ♙e6 was the best chance, but White is better after both 22.cxd6 (22. ♘g5 dxc5 23. ♘xe6 fxe6 24.bxc5 ♚xc5 25.c4 bxc4 26. ♖xc4±) 22... ♚xd6 23. ♘g5±; 21... ♙c6 the same defense as after 21. ♖e4 does not work because 22. ♙g5 ♚b7 23.cxd6 ♖e6 24.c4! is probably the strongest move 24...bxc4 25. ♖xc4 ♖xd6 26. ♘xe5+-]

22.cxd6 ♚xd6 23. ♘g5! ♖f8 [23... ♖e7 24. ♙e3! similar to the game]

24. ♙e3! Creates the ♙c5 threat and a small tactical trick!

24... ♚xd1



25. ♖exd1! This is much stronger, than the other take-back. Fischer sees, that the other rook will be very useful on the c-file after pushing c4!

25...h6 There was no other move to prevent ♙c5, but this allows a small combination for White.

26. ♘e4! White either wins the h6 pawn, or he takes the bishop pair.

26... ♘xe4 [26... ♙f5 27. ♘xf6+ (27. ♘d6± also very unpleasant...) 27... ♙xf6 28. ♙xh6±]

27. ♖xd7 ♖ac8 28.c4!+- It is easier to understand the 25th move now, why the e-rook took on d1. Black collapses, too many weaknesses in his position. The power of the bishops is also deadly.

28... ♘g5 [28... ♖fd8 29. ♖a7+-]

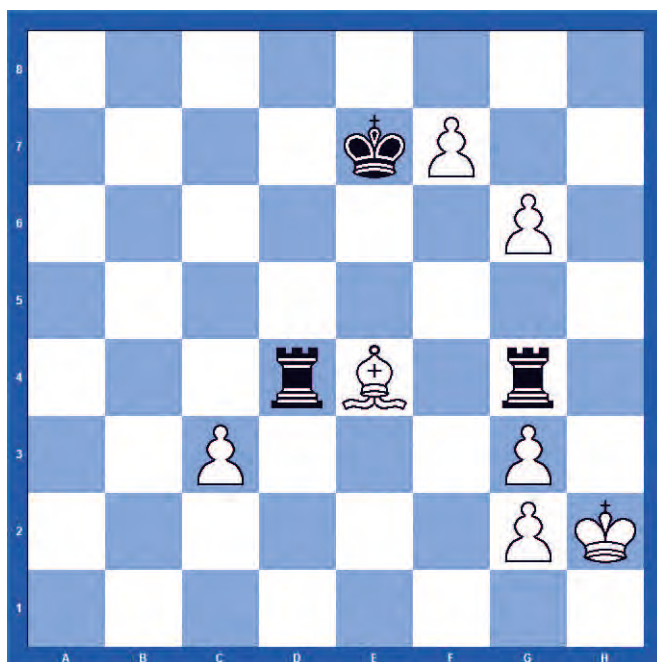
29. ♙xg5 Not bad, but I would have kept the bishop... [29.c5+-]

29...hgx5 30.c5 [and Black resigned. It might seem a bit premature, but he has nothing against c6-c7 and then ♙d5-b7. Just for demonstration: 30.c5 e4 (30... ♙f6 31.c6 ♚g7 32.c7 ♙d5-b7 next) 31.c6 ♙b2 32. ♖c2 ♙a3 33.c7 ♙xb4 34. ♙d5+- A great positional achievement from a 14 years old! Please don't forget, that there were no computers at that time, that 14 years old chess player is like 9–10 now. This game shows how great was Fischer and what talent he had from early age. Next two weeks we will study tactical crushes by Fischer!] **1–0**

1940

[CEWN]

1. =

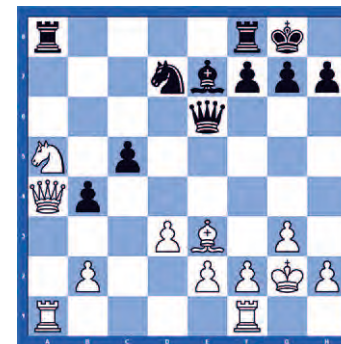


Solutions

(19) Roiz,M (2651) — Rechlis,G (2467)

Israeli league, 03.02.2012

[Solutions]

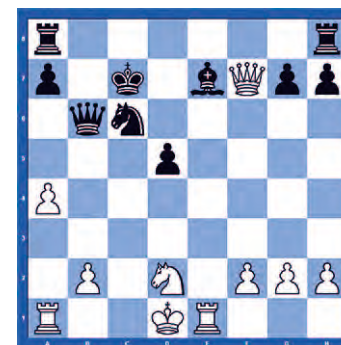


19... ♖d8! **20.** ♔b5 ♖xa5! 0-1 [20... ♖xa5 21. ♖xa5 ♗xa5
22. ♗xa5 ♗c6+ 23. ♔g1 ♖a8-+]]

(20) Sutovsky,E (2696) – Finkel,A (2499)

Israeli league, 03.02.2012

[Solutions]



21. ♖xe7+! ♞xe7 22. ♔xe7+ ♚b8 23. ♖a3!! 1-0

(21) Godena,M (2548) – Gershon,A (2499)

Israeli league, 24.02.2012

[Solutions]



24. ♖xh7!! ♔xh7 25. ♕xg7+ ♔xg7 26. ♖xf6+ ♔g8 [26... ♕h7 27. ♖d3+-] 27. ♖xg6+ ♖g7 28. ♗f6+ ♔f8 29. ♗h7+ ♔g8 30. ♗f6+ ♔f8

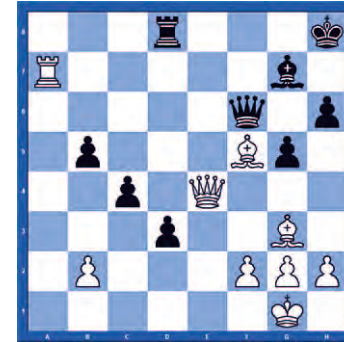


31. ♖h6! ♖e6 [31... ♔f7 32. ♗h5+-] 32. ♖d3! ♗e7 33. ♗h7+ ♔f7 34. ♖f3+ 1-0

(22) Li Shilong (2549) – Lu Shanglei (2514)

Xinghua, 27.03.2012

[Solutions]

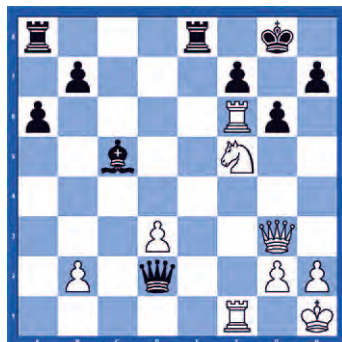


30. ♖xg7! d2 [30... ♔xg7 31. ♕e5 d2 32. ♕xf6+ ♔xf6 33. ♖e6+ ♔g7 34. ♖e7+-] 31. ♖h7+! ♔g8 32. ♕e6+! ♔f8 [32... ♖xe6 33. ♖xe6+ ♔xh7 34. ♖f7+ ♔h8 35. ♕e5#] 33. ♖h8+! 1-0 [33. ♖h8+ ♖xh8 34. ♖f5+ ♔e7 35. ♖f7#]

(23) Hou Yifan (2639) – Zhou Jianchao (2625)

Xinghua, 30.03.2012

[Solutions]

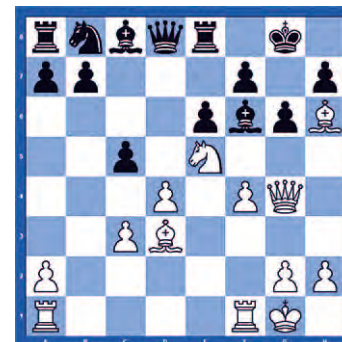


26. ♖xf7! ♜f8 [26... ♔xf7 27. ♔c7+ ♕e6 28. ♘g7+! ♔d5 29. ♘xe8 ♖xe8 30. ♔d7+-] **27. ♘h4** [27. ♔h4! ♔xf7 (27... h5 28. ♔f6+-) 28. ♘e7+! ♕e6 (28... ♔g7 29. ♔f6+ ♔h6 30. ♘f5+ ♔h5 31. ♔h4#) 29. ♔e4+ ♔d7 30. ♔xb7+ ♔d6 31. ♔d5+ ♔c7 (31... ♔xe7 32. ♖f7#) 32. ♔c6+ ♔b8 (32... ♔d8 33. ♔d6#) 33. ♔b6#; 27. ♖xb7+-] **27... ♜g7**∞

(24) Ding Liren (2660) – Lu Shanglei (2514)

Xinghua, 31.03.2012

[Solutions]



14. ♜xg6! fxg6 15. ♘xg6! hxg6 [15... ♔c7 16. ♘e5+ ♜g7 17. ♖f3+-; 15... e5 16. ♔g3+-] **16. ♔xg6+ ♔h8 17. ♜g5!** [17. ♖f3! ♖g8 (17... ♜xd4+ 18. ♔h1+-) 18. ♔h5 ♜xd4+ (18... ♔e8 19. ♜g7+! ♔xg7 20. ♖g3+ ♜g5! 21. ♖xg5+ ♔f6 22. ♔h7!+-) 19. ♔h1 ♔e8 20. ♔h4! ♖g6 21. cxd4+-] **17... ♜xg5 18. fxg5 ♖e7 19. ♔h6+ ♔g8** [19... ♖h7 20. ♖f8+] **20. g6!** ♘d7 **21. ♖f3 ♘f8 22. ♖af1 ♘xg6 23. ♖g3 ♖g7 24. ♖xg6** 1-0

(25) Wang Yue (2702) – Bu Xiangzhi (2668)

Xinghua, 02.04.2012

[Solutions]

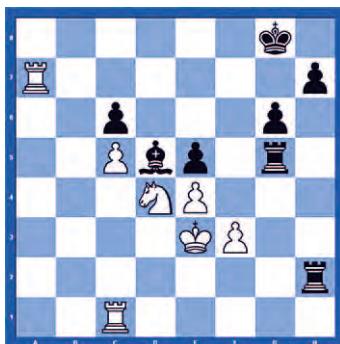


28. ♔xb3! ♖xb3 29.bxa3! ♖xc3+ 30. ♔b2 ♖xe3 [30... ♖c4 31. ♔b3+-] 31. ♖xe3+-

(26) Navara,D (2700) – Jianu,V (2497)

Plovdiv, 27.03.2012

[Solutions]



34. ♖b1! exd4+ 35. ♔f4! ♗f7 36. ♔xg5+-

(27) Can,E (2476) – Nyback,T (2636)

Plovdiv, 27.03.2012

[Solutions]



27... ♖xe5! 28.dxe5 ♖b6+! 29. ♔e1 [29. ♔f1 ♗de3+-+] 29... ♗f4! 30. ♖e4 [30. ♖xf5 ♗xg2+ 31. ♔f1 (31. ♔d2 ♖e3#) 31... ♗e3+-+] 30... ♗xg2+ [30... ♖c2!! 31. ♖xc2 (31. ♖xf4 ♖g1+ 32. ♔f1 ♖f2#) 31... ♗xg2+ 32. ♔d2 ♖e3#] 31. ♔d2 g6+

(28) Erdos,V (2636) — Perunovic,Mio (2481)

Plovdiv, 29.03.2012

[Solutions]



22. ♖xg7! ♜xg7 23. ♘d6! ♚b8 [23... ♛e6 24. ♖xf7!+- (24. ♘xb7±)] 24. ♖xf7! ♘g5 [24... ♛e6 25. ♖xg7+ ♜xg7 26. ♘xb7 ♚xb7 (26... ♘f6 27. ♘d6+-) 27. ♖d7+ ♜h8 28. e5+-]

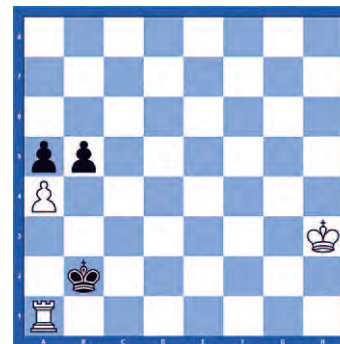


25. ♖xg7+! ♜xg7 26. ♘xb7 ♘f7 [26... ♚xb7 27. ♖d7+ ♘f7 28. ♛f2 ♖f8 29. e5+-] 27. ♖d7 ♘e6 28. ♘d6 ♚xd6 29. ♖xd6 ♘xd6 30. e5+-

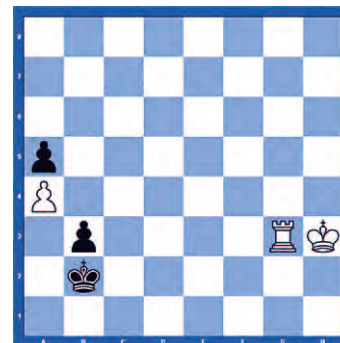
(29) Grinfeld,M

1903

[Solutions]



1. ♖a3!! [1. axb5? ♜xa1 2. b6 a4 3. b7 a3 4. b8Q a2=; 1. ♖e1 bxa4=] 1... ♜xa3 [1... b4 2. ♖g3 b3



3. ♖g5! ♜a3 4. ♖xa5 ♜b4 5. ♖a8 b2 6. ♖b8+-] 2. axb5 ♜a2 3. b6 a4 4. b7 a3 5. b8Q ♜a1 6. ♛e5+ ♜b1 7. ♛e4+ ♜b2 8. ♛b4+ ♜a2 9. ♜g3+-



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 8

20th of April 2012

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Editorial Preface

Probably, the two strongest leagues have come to an end this weekend. In Germany, the favorite Baden-Baden won the Championship again. There was a big sensation when Anand lost his game against Tiviakov. He is definitely focusing now on the World Championship match. Second was Werder Bremen and the bronze went to Solingen.

The Russian league had a dramatic finish. Before the last round, the Team of St. Petersburg was leading, but had to face against the top seed ShSM-64 Moscow. The victory of either team would grant them the gold medal, but in case of a 3–3 score, Tomsk — 400 would get the sudden chance to be ahead of them thanks to a better tiebreak. After an amazing fight, the main match finished 3–3, and Tomsk was the happy winner of the Championship!

The average rating of the 1–5 Teams was over 2700!! We could enjoy many interesting battles, so we have collected our main games from this event and we hope You will enjoy them.

As usual, we wish You lots of fun with the 8th CEWN!

*Arkadij Naiditsch
Balogh Csaba*

4 best games of the past week

(1) Svidler,P (2744)
— Jakovenko,D (2729) [D37]

Russian league (3), 11.04.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

The new European Champion Dmitry Jakovenko has proved that his success was not accidental. Peter Svidler chose a very sharp line against the Queen's Gambit, but the complications clearly favored Black!

1.d4 ♖f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♗f3** d5 **4.♗c3** ♕e7 **5.♖c2** The main-lines are 5.♕g5 and 5.♕f4. Two days later Svidler drew in a fantastic game against Morozevich in the 5.♕f4 line. We analysed this game for you as well...

5...c5 **6.dxc5** This is the sharp handling of the position. [The calm 6.cxd5 leads to equality after 6...cxd4 7.♗xd4 0-0! 8.♕g5 ♗xd5 9.♕xe7 ♗xe7 10.♖d1 ♖b6=]

6...d4 **7.♗b5**



7...e5! A great sacrifice, which is actually well-known. We explain the point of it in the 8.♗xe5 line.

8.e3 Practically a novelty. White has accepted the sacrifice in the previous games. [8.♗xe5 a6! Black pushes back the knights, since the standard reaction with ♗d6+ loses a piece. 9.♗a3 After such an ugly move it is obvious that Black gets more than enough compensation for the pawn. (9.♗d6+? ♕xd6 10.cxd6 ♖a5+ is the idea of the 7...e5! move.) 9...0-0! 10.g3 ♖a5+! 11.♕d2 ♖xc5 12.♗d3 ♖c6! By three precise queen moves, Black prevented ♕g2. White is already in danger. 13.♖g1 (13.f3 ♕f5) 13... ♕f5 14.♕g2 So far we were following the Khalifman-Topalov, Dubai rapid 2002 game, where Black could have played even stronger. 14...♖d7! and ♗c6, ♖fe8 are coming with an advantage.]

8...♗c6! Logical developing. [8...a6?! would be a mistake now 9.♗d6+ ♕xd6 10.cxd6 ♖xd6 11.c5! ♖e7 12.exd4 exd4+ 13.♕e2± followed by O-O, White is better.]

9.exd4 exd4 **10.♕f4** White has to act directly, since after the normal developing moves Black gets an advantage. [10.♕e2 0-0 11.0-0 ♕xc5± a6 is next.]

10...0-0 **11.♕c7** Svidler found a really unusual idea, but it was not working well for him... neither I found equality for White after other moves. Probably that is why White decided to complicate the matters. [11.♗c7 runs into the very strong 11...♗h5! 12.♕d6 (12.♗xa8? ♗xf4 the a8 knight is trapped.) 12...♖b8± and Black takes on d6 and gets an advantage.; 11.0-0-0 ♕xc5 The b1 king is unsafe.]

11...♖d7 **12.♗e5** [On 12.♕d6 Black has 12...b6!± followed by bxc5, creating a protected passed pawn on d4.]

12...♔e6!

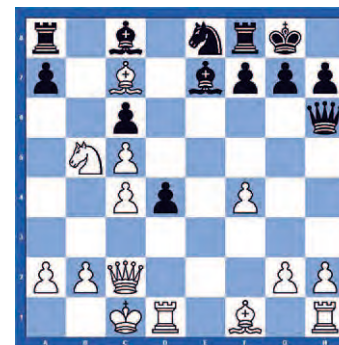


13.0-0-0 This was the idea behind 11.♙c7. Now ♘xe5 would be a mistake because of ♖xd4 and the next move ♙xe5. Unfortunately for him, Jakovenko found its refutation! [13.♙e2 with the same idea as 13.O-O-O 13...♙xc5!± (13...♖xe5? 14.♖xd4! ♙a6 15.♙xe5±)]

13...♖e8!! Svidler probably missed this move! Suddenly all his pieces get confused. Each defends another, but all of them are on vulnerable places. Black is winning now, after only 13 moves. [13...♖xe5? 14.♖xd4 ♙a6 15.♙xe5 ♙xa2 16.♙d3±; 13...♙xc5?! 14.♖xc6 bxc6 15.♖xd4]

14.f4 ♙h6? but this is a mistake. Now White could have come back to game. [14...♙xc5!? 15.♖d3 b6-+ is one way to win.; It would be interesting to know, why Jakovenko rejected to play this move. Seems like winning a piece. He definitely saw it, but who knows what was he afraid of... 14...a6 15.♖xc6 bxc6 16.♖xd4 ♙e3+! after this important check, Black can take on c7. 17.♙b1 ♖xc7 18.♙d3 (18.♖xc6 ♙f6-+) 18...g6 19.♖xc6 ♙f6-+]

15.♖xc6! bxc6



16.♙e4? Human move, but losing one. [The computer suggested an amazing move: 16.♙e5! The position becomes amazingly complex with many different options. Finally I found only one way for an advantage. 16...d3!! This is of course another move, which is almost impossible to play for a human.

a) 16...♙g4 17.♖xd4 f6! (17...♙xd1 18.♙xd1 White gets very strong initiative for the exchange. 18...♙xc5 19.♖f5 ♙e6 20.♙d3,) 18.♖xc6 ♙xc5 19.♙d4! ♙xd1 20.♙xd1 ♙xf4+ 21.♙d2 ♙d6 22.♙xc5 ♙xc5 23.♙d5+ ♙xd5 24.cxd5 White has only one pawn for the exchange, but the c6 knight is really powerful. Black is slightly better, but the logical outcome should be draw;

b) 16...♙xc5 17.♙xd4! (17.♖xd4? f6! would trap the bishop out of the blue) 17...♙xf4+ 18.♙d2 ♙xd2+ 19.♙xd2! (19.♙xd2 would be a mistake because of 19...♙e7! 20.♖c3 ♙g5 21.♙c5 ♙f5 22.♙xf8 ♙d8! with attack!) 19...♙e7 20.♖c3 ♖c7 with a small initiative for Black, but probably White can hold.; **c)** 16...cxb5 17.♙e4 White traps the a8 rook! 17...♙g4 (17...♙f6 18.♙xa8 ♙xe5 19.♙xc8 ♙xf4+ 20.♙b1 This is a position which we would like to get in the 16...d3!! line, but without the d-pawn which closes the diagonal of the bishop. Without the d-pawn ♙f2 wins im-

mediately, now White is fine.) 18. ♖xa8 ♙xd1 19. ♔xd1 bxc4 20. ♙xc4 ♘d6 21. ♖d5 ♘xc4 22. ♖xc4 ♖c6 with approximately even position.; 17. ♙xd3 (17. ♖xd3 cxb5 18. ♖e4 ♙f6! Black goes for the same line as in 16... cxb5, but now he managed to get rid of the d-pawn. 19. ♖xa8 ♙xe5 20. ♖xc8 ♖xf4+ 21. ♔c2 (21. ♔b1 ♖f2--+ This is the big difference and also the idea of 16...d3!!) 21...bxc4--+ 17...cxb5 18. ♙e4 f6! a more or less forced line is coming 19. ♙d6 (19. ♙xa8 fxe5+) 19... ♙xd6 20. cxd6 ♖xf4+ 21. ♔b1 ♘xd6 22. ♖xd6 (22. ♙xa8? ♙f5--+ 22... ♖xd6 23. ♙xa8 bxc4 24. ♙e4 (24. ♖xc4+ ♙e6) 24...h6 25. ♖xc4+ ♙e6+ When Black has a clear advantage. He can create many problems against the White king.; 16. ♙d6 would have probably been the best practical decision 16... ♙xd6 17. ♘xd6 ♘xd6 18. cxd6 c5!+ and try to defend this worse position. (18... ♖xf4+ 19. ♖d2 ♖xd6 20. ♖xd4)]

16... ♙xc5! Black is winning again now.

17. ♙e5 [17. ♙a5 was better, but also not much fun. 17... ♙g4+]]

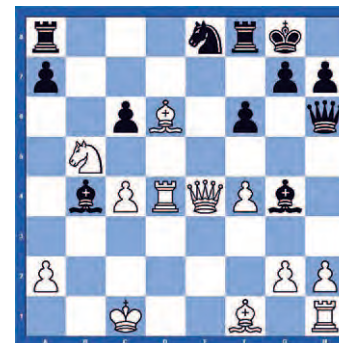


17... ♙g4! with the idea of f5!, when the queen has to leave the diagonal and then the b5 knight is hanging. Black is winning big material now.

18.b4!? Desperate attempt. [18. ♖d2 f5!--+; 18. ♘xd4 ♙xd1 19. ♘f5 ♖g6 20. ♔xd1 ♘f6!--+]

18... ♙xb4 19. ♖xd4 f6 [19...f5!? was winning as well.]

20. ♙d6 Black is winning by force after the most natural moves. [20. ♖xc6 fxe5 21. ♖xa8 exd4--+]



20... ♘xd6 21. ♘xd6 ♙xd6 22. ♖xd6 ♖ae8! and the Black rook invades to the backrank and decides the outcome of the game. The queen has only one square to cover the f4 pawn, but it moves into another idea...

23. ♖d4 ♖e1+! 24. ♔c2 ♖d1! 25. ♖c5 ♖xf4! Black finished the game with a small combination. An impressive win by Jakovenko, after which probably the 5. ♖c2 c5 6.dxc5 line will not enjoy too many followers.[25... ♖xf4 26. ♖xd1 ♙xd1+ 27. ♔xd1 ♖d8+ 28. ♔c2 (28. ♔e2 ♖d2+ 29. ♔e1 ♖c2!--+ after this subtle move, mate is coming soon.) 28... ♖d2+ 29. ♔b3 ♖b8+--+] **0-1**

(2) Svidler,P (2744) – Morozevich,A (2765) [D37]

Russian league (5), 13.04.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

Two days after the defeat against Jakovenko, Svidler had to face the same opening, this time against Alexander Morozevich. A fantastic battle which ended in draw after excellent moves of both sides.

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 d5 4.d4 ♙e7 5.♙f4 It was enough from 5.♙c2.

5...0–0 6.a3 A very small sideline, which was tried by Carlsen and Topalov as well. [6.e3 is the mainline with thousands of games in the database.]

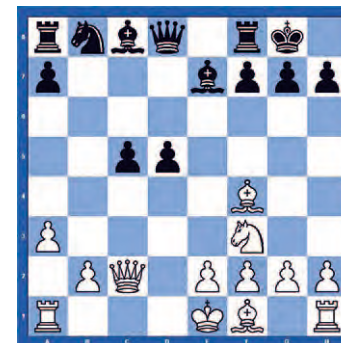
6...b6 The most common move, however Anand and Kramnik played 6...dxc4 in 2011. Now, Black wants to occupy the center with pawns and prepares for c5.

7.cxd5 [7.♙c2 happened on the highest level in a quite recent game 7...c5 8.♖d1 ♘c6 9.cxd5 ♘xd5 10.dxc5 bxc5 11.e3 (it would be interesting to know Aronian's idea after 11.e4 Black gets compensation in both lines, but not obvious if it is enough or not. 11...♘xf4 (11...♘d4!? 12.♘xd4 cxd4) 12.♖xd8 ♖xd8) 11...♙a5 12.♘e5 ♘xe5 13.♙xe5 ♖d8 14.♙d3 ♙a6! 15.0–0 (15.♙xh7+ ♙h8 White loses too much time in the development.) 15...♙xd3 16.♙xd3 ♘xc3 17.♙xc3 ♙xc3 18.♙xc3 ♙f8 Black equalized and the players soon agreed to draw in Topalov-Aronian, Wijk aan Zee 2012.]

7...♘xd5 8.♘xd5 exd5 9.♙c2 Svidler prepares to undermine Black's strong central pawns... [Carlsen beat Anand in a blitz game back in 2009, but it was definitely

not because of the opening 9.e3 c5 10.♙d3 ♘c6 11.♙c2 h6 12.dxc5 bxc5 13.0–0 c4 14.♙e2 ♙e6 15.♖fd1 ♙b6 16.♖ab1 ♖ac8 17.h3 ♙f6 and Black was completely fine.]

9...c5 10.dxc5 bxc5



11.e4 The point behind the 9.♙c2 move. If Black could consolidate his center, he quickly overtakes the initiative. There were two games in the database for this position, in both Black equalized quite easily... However Morozevich came up with a very interesting novelty.

11...dxe4! Of course, it is very logical to open the center against the e1 king, but what happens with the a8 rook? [11...♙b7 12.exd5 ♙xd5 13.♙c4 ♙h5 14.♙b3 ♙xf3 15.♙xf3 ♙xf3 16.gxf3 ♘c6 with more or less balanced endgame in Gyimesi-Naiditsch, German league 2010.; 11...d4 12.♙d3 ♙a6 13.♙xa6 (13.0–0 could be an improvement on White's play.) 13...♙a5+ 14.♘d2 ♙xa6 15.♙xb8 ♖axb8 16.♘c4 d3! 17.♙xd3 ♖fd8 18.♙e2 ♙g5 Black got very strong initiative for the sacrificed pawn. Wojtaszek-Roiz, Lublin 2011.]

12.♙xe4 Just as in the game against Jakovenko, Svidler tries to trap the a8 rook. Such coincidence happens sometimes in chess.

12...♖e8! Well played by Morozevich. It would be interesting to know, until which move it was the preparation of the players...

13. ♖d3 Prepares for O-O-O and ♖xh7. Seems like White is crushing, but... [Let's see what happens if he accepts the sacrifice: 13. ♖xa8 ♖f6+



14. ♖e3 is the only move

a) Really nice lines arise after 14. ♖e2 ♖xe2+!! Black must keep the king in the center, but it costs to him the other rook! 15. ♖xe2 ♖a6+ 16. ♖e1 ♖e8+! Very important to have the ♖b5 option on ♖e3! 17. ♖e3 (17. ♖e5 ♖xe5 18. ♖xe5 ♖xe5+ 19. ♖d1 ♖xb2+; 17. ♖e5 ♖xe5) 17... ♖b5! Three pieces are attacking the king and White has no defense. 18. ♖g1 ♖xb2 19. ♖d1 ♖c3+ and ♖f1 mate,;

b) 14. ♖e5 ♖xe5 15. ♖xe5 ♖a5+! Black is winning in both lines despite being currently a rook down. 16. b4 (16. ♖d1 ♖d8+ 17. ♖d3 ♖xd3+ 18. ♖e2 ♖d2+ 19. ♖f1 ♖a6!-+ this is the point! Black has too many threats and on 20. ♖xb8 ♖d8 is check.) 16... cxb4 17. ♖xb8 b3+ 18. ♖d1 ♖g4+-+; 14... ♖b6! with the idea of ♖b7, trapping the queen. (14... ♖xb2? would give enough time for White to solve the problems around his king 15. ♖c4! ♖xa1 16. 0-0+-) 15. ♖d5

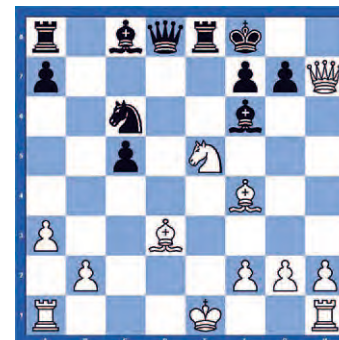
(15. ♖c4 ♖b7) 15... ♖xb2 16. ♖d1 ♖b7! All the pieces are joining now to the attack, but strangely Black has only draw on White's best moves. 17. ♖xc5 ♖xf3 18. ♖c1! the only way to avoid ♖c3! (18. gxf3? ♖c3+-+) 18... ♖h4!? 19. ♖c2 ♖b1+ 20. ♖c1 ♖b2= with repetition,; 13. ♖e5 ♖f6 14. ♖d3 would be a transposition to the game.]

13... ♖f6 Now it is all about the calculation. Chess principles don't help here. Both players find the best moves until the end.

14. ♖e5! [14. ♖e5 would be a mistake because of 14... ♖d7! 15. ♖xh7+ (15. ♖xa8 ♖xe5 16. ♖xe5 ♖xd3!-+) 15... ♖f8 16. 0-0-0 ♖xe5 17. ♖b5 ♖f5! Only, but good! White is in trouble. 18. ♖h8+ (18. ♖xf5 ♖b6) 18... ♖e7+]

14... ♖c6 It is an interesting moment of the game. Black has two choices, both lead to draw. One is a very simple and short line, while the other is amazingly sharp, and one mistake could be fatal for both sides. Most of the people would prefer the first one, but Morozevich faithful to his style goes for the complications. [14... ♖f5 was the calm reaction 15. ♖xf5 g6 16. ♖e4 ♖d7! 17. 0-0 ♖xe5= with an equal position.]

15. ♖xh7+ ♖f8



16. ♔h8+! Svidler also calculates precisely! [The tempting 16.0-0-0 would be bad in view of 16... ♕xe5 17. ♔h8+ (17. ♕xe5 ♖xe5) 17... ♖e7 18. ♕g5+ ♔d6!! and Black is about to be winning. Any moves of the d3 bishop would met by ♘d4! 19. ♕e4+ ♘d4]

16... ♖e7 17. ♘xc6+ Check-Queen!

17... ♔d7+ Countercheck-Queen! Incredible position!

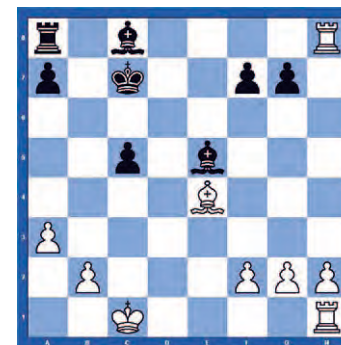
18. ♕e5! [18. ♖f1 ♔xc6 19. ♔h7 g6! 20. ♖d1 Black wins with a nice queen sacrifice 20... ♕f5! 21. ♕b5+ ♔xb5 22. ♖xd8 ♖axd8-+ White's pieces are not coordinated.]

18... ♔xc6! Other moves were bad. [18... ♖xe5+? 19. ♘xe5+ White takes back with check.; 18... ♖xh8 19. ♘xd8 ♕xe5 20. ♘xf7±]

19.0-0-0! There is no time to take care about such small things like the h8 queen. :) White had prepared for ♕e4! [19. ♕e4+? ♖b6-+]

19... ♕xe5 [19... ♖xh8 would be similar to the game 20. ♕e4+ ♖b6 21. ♖xd8 ♕xe5! (21... ♖xd8? 22. ♕xf6 gxf6 23. ♕xa8±) 22. ♖xh8 ♕f4+! and we have the same position as in the game, only the king is on b6 and not on c7, but does not make any difference...]

20. ♕e4+ ♖c7 21. ♖xd8 ♖xh8 22. ♖xh8 Maybe at this moment some of the „Moro“ fans gave up their hopes today, he is an exchange and a pawn down. But here comes the cold shower, which had to be foreseen after the 18th move!



22... ♕f4+! and the king has no good square, it has to move into a motif.

23. ♖c2 23. ♖b1 was the same. [23. ♖d1 ♕g4+=]

23... ♕b7!! This was the whole point! White has nothing better, than to go for a drawn endgame.

24. ♕xb7 [24. ♖xa8? ♕xe4+]

24... ♖xh8 25. ♕d5 ♖d8 The most accurate draw, Black holds the material equality. [25... ♖xh2 26. ♖xh2 ♕xh2 27. ♕xf7 ♕g1 was of course also easy draw, but at least White could have said, that he was a pawn up.]

26. ♖d1 [26. ♕xf7 ♖d2+ 27. ♖b3 ♖xf2=]

26... ♕xh2 27. ♕xf7 [27.g3 ♕g1=] **27... ♖f8!** Black sets back the balance.

28. ♕d5 ♖xf2+ 29. ♖d2 ♖xd2+ 30. ♖xd2 ♕e5 31.b3 ♕f6 What a game! Both players deserve congratulations! 1/2

(3) Morozevich,A (2765) – Jakovenko,D (2729) [D16]

19th TCh-RUS 2012 Sochi RUS (2), 10.04.2012

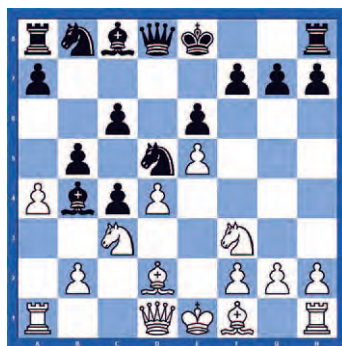
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Another spectacular game by Morozevich, who just mated his opponent in the middle of the board. In this game White will show us a great example of how to fight for the initiative, and afterwards a great way of finishing the game. The chess of Morozevich is a bit „unusual“, but truly creative and very strong!

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 Another game on the Slav. This opening is really the hit of the last 6 month.

3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 dxc4 5.a4 e6 6.e4 ♙b4 7.e5 And we are in the relatively rare line, which got lately attention of top players of the world. We already have commented the game Anand-Eljanov in CEWN Nr4 from German Bundesliga where White manages very quickly to reach almost a winning position from the opening.

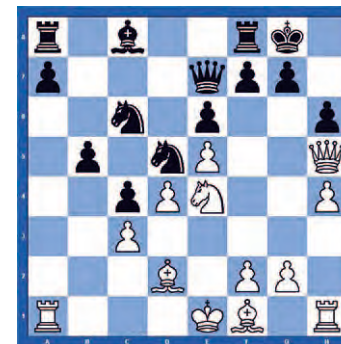
7...♘d5 8.♙d2 b5 In case White manages to get the c4 pawn, of course the advantage of White will be sure.



9.axb5 ♙xc3 10.bxc3 cxb5 11.♘g5 ♘c6 [11...h6 12.♙h5 g6 13.♙h3 f5 14.exf6 e5 was in the game Anand-Eljanov where White could almost immediately end the game by playing 15.g4! With a big advantage]

12.♙h5 ♙e7 13.h4 a good move! White is bringing the rook over h3 into the game. It is clear that in case Black manages to consolidate, he will have just a pawn up. White should act fast. On the White's side, at some moment, a move like ♘e4 followed by ♘d6 can be very unpleasant for Black. At the current position, at ♘e4 Black would escape into a short castle

13...b4 a beginning of quite a forced play with extremely dangerous position for Black [Would be a mistake 13...h6?! 14.♘e4 0-0]



15.♙h3! followed by ♙xh6 with a mating attack; **13...♙b7** Would have been more of a safe choice, even if the position remains very unclear and sharp **14.♙h3 a5** It is hard for Black to find a move better than 14...a5 even if it is like a lost of a tempo. In the future this move will allow Black to be more prepared for the b4 push, and also in many lines the rook on a8 will be more free for action **15.♙f3 g6 16.♙h6 f5!** a great move to protect the pawn on f7 **17.h5**

♔d7 18. ♖h3 gxh5 19. ♕e2 We are facing a crazy position in which it is very hard to say, who is doing better]

14. ♕xc4! [14. ♘e4?! a try to keep the pawn would bring White absolutely nothing 14...0-0 15. ♕xc4 bxc3 16. ♘xc3 ♘xd4 And Black is doing fine]

14...bxc3 15. ♕c1 the bishop is going to a3, where he will avoid Black's short castle in the future

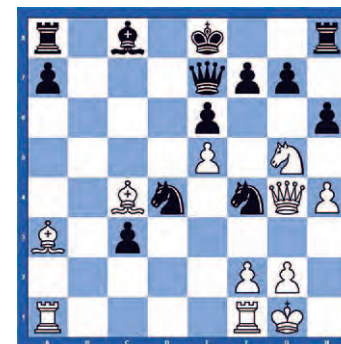
15... ♘xd4



16.0-0! a great play by White. First it seemed as if White is going for ♖h3, and suddenly White castles short. The explanation is easy: White is trying to do everything to avoid Black's short castle. For that White played h4, but now there is no need anymore for the rook to go over h3 to f3, nor the bishop from c1 is taking over. The White's threat ♕a3 is not letting Black any hopes for a short castle anymore

16...h6 What else to do?! White wanted to play ♕a3 followed by ♘e4

17. ♕xd5! White is not falling into Black's trap [This logical move would lead to nothing for White after 17. ♕a3? ♘f4 18. ♖g4



18...hxg5!! a very beautiful move! Black is a Queen down for just a piece, but the position is a draw!! 19. ♕xe7 ♖xh4 20. ♖d1 c2! the key move! Black needs the White Queen to get away from d1 to gain control of the f3 square 21. ♖e1 ♘h3+ 22. ♖h2 (of course losing is 22.gxh3? ♘f3+ 23. ♖g2 ♘xe1+) 22... ♘f4+ with a perpetual check. What an amazing line!]

17...exd5 18. ♕a3 ♖c7 19.e6! another great move by Morozovich! White should not let the „emotions“ down and even is giving another pawn away just to open the position to the maximum

19... ♕xe6 The only move

20. ♘xe6 ♘xe6 21. ♖xd5 White is 2 pawns down, but the Black King is in the center of the board, plus the rook on h8 is out of play. This gives White a clear advantage, but further energetic play is required



21...Rd8 [21...Rc8 22.Rab1! would put a huge problems in front of Black. Another funny thing, the h4 move is now extremely useful for White. We can see a typical Morozovich style, everything is a bit strange, but fits together!]

22.Rb3 h5 Black is trying to bring his rook from h8 into the game. To play without the rook is not really an option

23.Rfe1 Rh6 White is mating Black from every side!

24.Rb4! Rd7 25.Rac1 Rb8 26.Ra4+ Rc8 27.Rb4



An amazing final position! The white pieces are taking all perfect position, meanwhile the Black ones are standing extremely bad. It is not a game from a simul, but from the Russian Team Championship against an opponent of 2730 ELO. What a great win by Morozovich! **1-0**

(4) Tomashevsky,E (2736) – Landa,K (2645) [D02]

19th TCh-RUS 2012 Sochi RUS (7), 15.04.2012

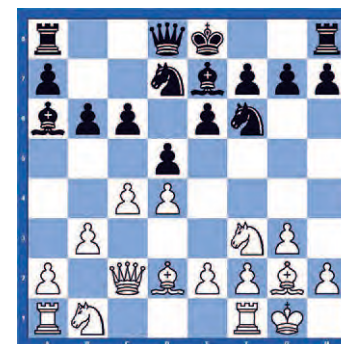
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Usually we are trying to comment games with a lot of action and sacrifices, but this time let's take a look on a great positional win of the Russian Super GM Tomashevsky. From this game we will be able to learn a lot of „how to play“ few structures and what is definitely needed to be avoided by Black

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.g3 We are in a Catalan. Landa is actually a big expert in the opening

4...Bb4+ [4...dxc4 Is the other main line]

5.Bd2 Be7 6.Bg2 c6 7.Qc2 b6 8.0-0 Ba6 9.b3 Nd7 We are in one of the oldest theoretical lines. The position is looking symmetrical. White is standing a bit more „free“ and Black is having basically one „main“ plan, to castle short, then to play Rxc8 and c5, after which the exchanges in the center will be not possible to avoid, which normally is leaving White with nothing.



10.a4!? A nice plan by Tomashevsky to active the rook from a1

10...c5 Don't ask Landa twice for the main ideas, he knows them for sure :)

11.a5 0-0 12.♖d1!? I like this White's move a lot! White is keeping the tension in the center, meanwhile bringing their rook to the d file which is not very „typical“, much more standard is the move ♖c1. Let's see how this will affect the game

12...cxd4?! this is a mistake. It was too early for Black to release the tension in the center and bring the White knight with a tempo into the very hot place [a very solid 12...♖c8! 13.cxd5 ♘xd5 14.♘c3 with quite a solid position for Black; or a more risky 12...b5!? 13.dxc5 bxc4 14.b4 ♘e4 with a very unclear position, were clearly the better options for Black]

13.♘xd4 ♙c5 14.♙e1 a logical move by White, but not the best one. It is easy to understand White, who wants to prove that ♖d1 was a very „deep“ move, but a more concrete action would be the right one at this moment [14. ♘c6! ♖c8 15.♘b4 and White is having clearly a better position — Black can't avoid an exchange of one of his bishops]

14...♖c8

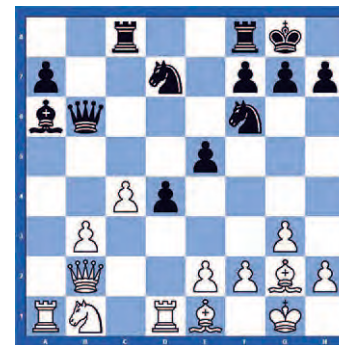


15.♙b2! White is taking away the Queen from the dangerous c file and preparing for concrete action. At first sight, the position looks optimistic for Black, but in fact things are by far not that good. White has 2 concrete threats: to play cxd5 or to play axb6, it forces Black to take some decision. We are only at move 15, until now Black has only one little inaccuracy 12...cxd4 and this inaccuracy leads already to difficult decisions.

15... ♙xd4? A move called „don't try it at home“! Never give away a black squared bishop! [of course 15...dxc4? 16.♘c6 ♖c7 17.b4! Would lead to a much better position for White; Amazingly 15...♖e8! Would keep Black in the game! A typical computer move, almost impossible to do at the board. What we learn from that, to keep the tension in the center is usually a good decision — in case if it is possible]

16.♙xd4 e5 17.♙b2 d4? Black continues their strategy — which is very wrong. [17...dxc4 18.bxc4 ♙xc4 19.♘a3! would lead to a worse, but playable position for Black]

18.axb6 ♙xb6



19.♙a3! just few moves have passed, and from an unclear position we can give a completely different evaluation

ation to the game — probably lost for Black! And White demonstrates very well why it is so.

19...♖b8 The only move to keep the pawn on a7 alive

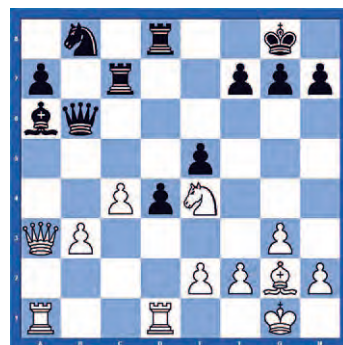
20. ♗b4! Another important moment, White is bringing his Black squared bishop into the game

20...♖fe8 21. ♗d6 ♗fd7 22. ♗xb8! White is just playing a great game! A very untypical, but great decision to play 22. ♗xb8! Black is basically hopeless against the White's next knight maneuver. It is great to see, all the material is equal at the board, but Black is having almost a lost position. From moves like 22. ♗xb8! we can learn

22...♗xb8 23. ♗d2 ♖c7 Black is hoping to play next ♗c8 and finally free a bit the knot around the a file

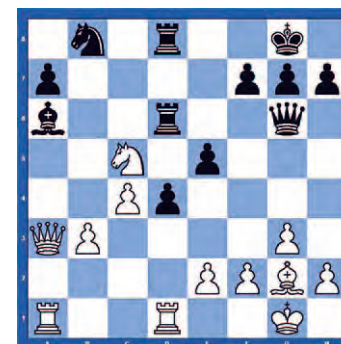
24. ♗e4 The white knight came it wants to be. White wants by playing ♗d6 or just ♖d6 to reach a position with a huge advantage. It seems that Black is already in time trouble, which is very easy to explain. It is hard to play a position with equal material, but with no moves that could save the game

24...♖d8?!



25. ♗c3! basically after this move the game is over. When we look back at the game, White won it without calculating much and by doing logical moves, unsing Blacks misunderstanding of the position. Not often we can see such a clear example of „how to play with White and what to avoid doing with Black”

25...♖cd7 26. ♗a4 ♖g6 27. ♗c5 ♖d6



28. ♖a5! the last precise move, Black is totally pinned and the loss of material is very visible

28...♖e8 29. ♖c7 ♗c8 30. ♖xb8 h5 31. ♖xa7 A great example of how to play a Catalan with „dynamic” centre. **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Moskalenko,A (2451) – Andreikin,D (2689)

Russian league, 11.04.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(6) Ibragimov,I (2539) – Savchenko,B (2580)

Russian league, 11.04.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

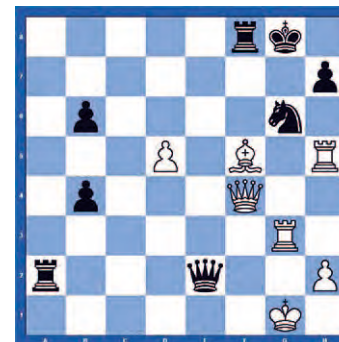


(7) Matlakov,M (2632) – Khismatullin,D (2656)

Russian league, 12.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

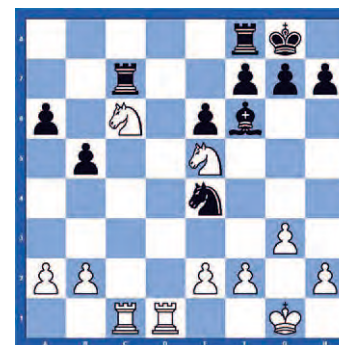


(8) Grachev,B (2705) – Poluljahov,A (2505)

Russian league, 13.04.2012

[CEWN]

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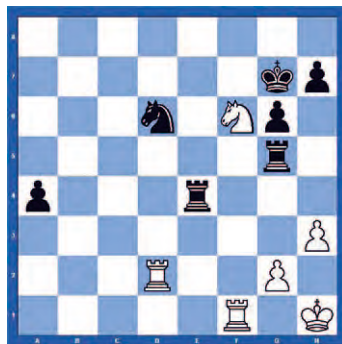


(9) Tregubov,P (2599) — Morozovich,A (2765)

Russian league, 15.04.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(10) Mozharov,M (2474) — Malakhov,V (2705)

Russian league, 15.04.2012

[CEWN]

1... =

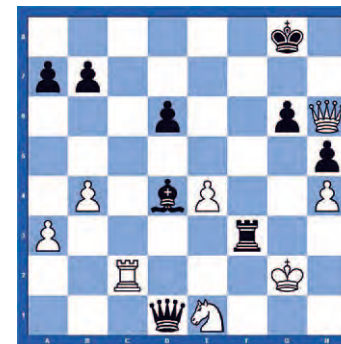


(11) Kempinski,R (2604) — Berg,E (2575)

German league, 14.04.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

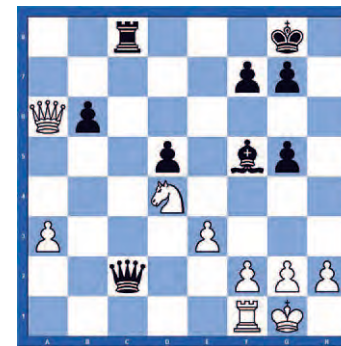


(12) Gustafsson,J (2642) — Venkatesh,M (2509)

Bangkok Open, 15.04.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(13) Margvelashvili,G (2547) — Finegold,B (2505)

Saint Louis, 11.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(14) Young,An (2321) — Sevillano,E (2502)

Saint Louis, 12.04.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

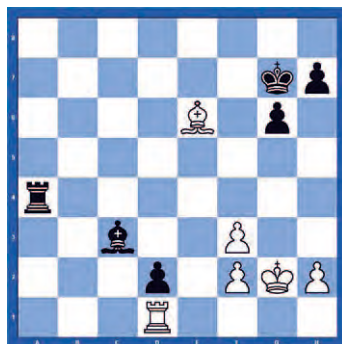


Endgame section

(15) Jakovenko,D (2729) – Karjakin,S (2766)

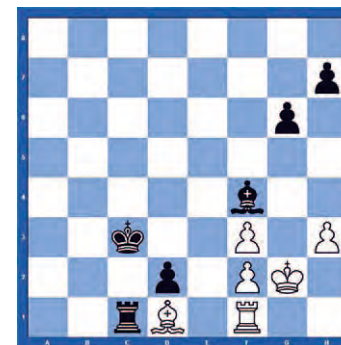
Russian league, 13.04.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]



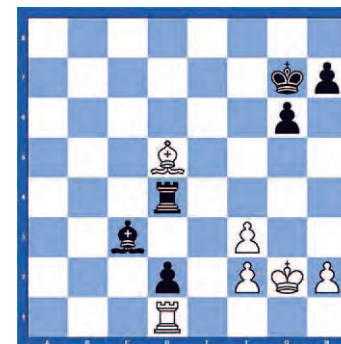
We are in an opposite color bishop endgame that normally should be a draw, but the appearance of rooks on the board gives Black some winning chances. Is it so?! The Russian Top GM did not manage to find a way to make a fortress. It sounds a bit unreal, but the current endgame might be winning for Black! A great endgame to analyse for You, dear reader. We would be happy about Your feedback on this endgame!

45. ♖d5 With this move White is starting their plan, which is to put the bishop on e4, King to e2 and wait — this was a bad idea. This plan is leading to a lost position and Karjakin is showing us why in the game. [let's take a look if another „fortress would bring White a draw” 45. ♖b3 ♜b4 46. ♖c2 ♜f6 47. ♜f1 ♜b2 48. ♖d1 ♖e5 49. h3 ♜b1 50. ♜g1 ♜c1 51. ♜f1 ♖f4 52. ♜g1 ♖e5 53. ♜f1 ♖d4 54. ♜g1 ♖c3 55. ♜f1



55... ♜xd1! 56. ♜xd1 ♖c2 and Black is winning; 45. ♖f1 ♖f6 46. ♖d7 ♜a7 47. ♖c8 ♜e7—+ In case Black manages to bring the rook to e1, the game is immediately over; 45.f4 a radical decision. By giving away the f pawn, White will try to build a fortress by having their bishop on squares f3-e2 45... ♜xf4 46. ♖d5 ♖f6 47. ♖f3 ♖e5 48. ♖e2 ♜b4 49. ♖f3 ♜b2 50. ♖e2 ♜c2 51. ♖f3 ♜c1 52. ♖f1 ♖a5 53. ♖g2 ♖d4 54. ♖f1 ♖d3 followed by ♖c2, and Black is winning again]

45... ♜d4! a nice move by Black. No reason to give White even a small hope to free the rook from d1. Also Black will bring now the bishop from c3 to the perfect position on f4



46. ♖e4 ♖b4 The bishop is going to f4

47.♔f1 ♚d6 48.♔e2 ♚f4 49.h3 It would be nice for White to keep the pawn on h2, let's see if this is possible to manage [49. ♚c6 ♔h6 50. ♚e4 ♔g5 51. ♚b7 ♔h4 52. ♚c8 ♖d8 followed by ♔h3 and the pawn h2 is getting lost, with it the game]

49...♔h6 50.♖g1



50...♖c4! Another precise move by Black. No reason to give White a chance for ♚c2-d1 even if the position is probably lost anyway

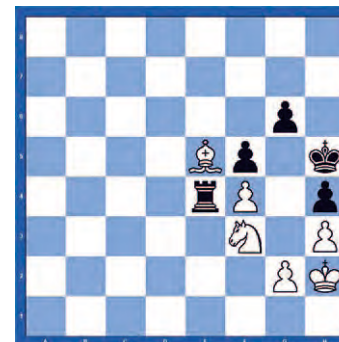
51. ♚d3 ♖c1 52. ♖d1 ♔g5 The Black King is going to h4 and the pawn h3 is going to fall. White's position is hopeless

53. ♚b5 ♔h4 Now at 54. ♚d7 ♖c7! is coming. **0-1**

(16) Holzke,F (2506) – Ftacnik,L (2570)

German league, 15.04.2012

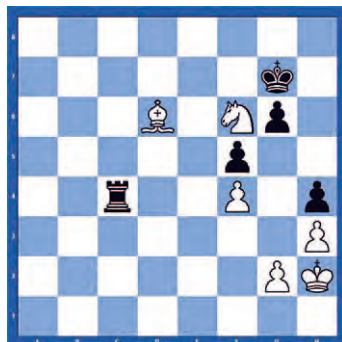
[Balogh Csaba]



We are facing a very interesting endgame from the German league. After analysing it deeply, I came to the conclusion that the position is objectively drawn, but in a practical game, White has more chance to win, than Black to hold the draw. I must admit, that GM Holzke played with excellent technique.

52. ♚d6 First, let's summarize what we have! White has material advantage, a target on h4 and a weakness on f4. White cannot use his king to convert the advantage because its duty is to protect the g2 pawn. The g5 would be an ideal square for the bishop, where it protects the f4 pawn and attacks the h4, but there are technical difficulties to transfer there because it must guard the f4 pawn. In addition, with bishop on g5, Black has a potential stalemate possibility with ♖xg2 or ♖h1. White has only one plan, try to squeeze out the Black king from h5 with the knight.

52...♖a4 53.♘g5 ♖a8 54.♙e7 ♖a4 55.♙d6 ♖a8 [Black could not hold for long the rook on the 4th rank 55...♖d4 56.♙e5 ♖a4 57.♘h7 ♙h6 58.♘f6 and now the rook must leave, because on 58...♖c4 59.♙d6! ♙f8 threats with mate. 59...♙g7



(59...g5 we will analyse this idea in the game at 57...g5) 60.♘d7! ♖a4 61.♙f8+! ♙h7 (61...♙f7 62.♙h6+- White has managed to transfer the bishop to g5 and also squeezed out the Black king from h5. This is the winning plan!) 62.♘f6+ ♙h8 63.♙h6+-]

56.♘h7 ♙h6! Only move. [On 56...♖c8 57.♙e7 with the threat of ♙g5 57...♙h6 (57...♖c7? 58.♘f6+ ♙h6 59.♙f8++) 58.♘f6 First White rescues the knight, then he occupies the g5 square. Black can not avoid this. 58...♖a8 59.♘d7 ♖a4 60.♙g5+ ♙g7 (60...♙h5 61.♘f6#) 61.♘e5+- and ♘f3 wins the pawn and the game.]

57.♘f6 ♙g7 [57...g5 Black could get rid of one pawn, but then the target on h4 becomes more vulnerable. 58.fxg5+ ♙xg5 59.♘d7! ♖a6 (59...♙h5 60.♘e5+- Sooner or later White will get his knight to f3 and attack the h4 with the bishop.) 60.♘e5! Small tactical trick in order to

transfer the knight to f3. 60...♙f6 (60...♖xd6? 61.♘f7+ 61.♙c7 ♖a7 62.♙b6 ♖a6 63.♙d4+- and ♘f3 is next.)

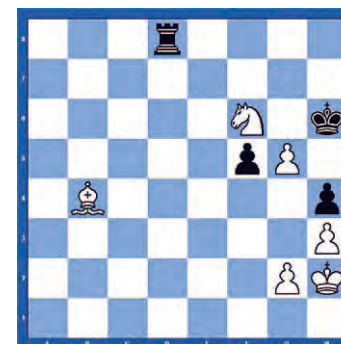
58.♙e5 White had to change his plan for a while. [58.♙e7 did not work because of 58...♙f7 59.♘d5 ♖a5 60.♘b4! ♖b5 61.♘c6 ♖b6 62.♘b4 ♖b5 draw.]

58...♙h6 59.♙c3 ♙e1 is the threat now.

59...♖d8!? A tricky move, Black does not want to let the knight escape. [However, I did not manage to find a win after 59...♖a6 60.♘g8+ (60.♘d7 ♖a4 61.♙e5 ♖a7) 60...♙h7 61.♘e7 ♙h6 White can maneuver for long, but I don't see the way of progress. Of course the position requires accurate defense from Black point of view.]

60.♙b4! [60.♙e1 would meet by 60...g5 and White has problems with the knight.]

60...♙g7 This logical move seems to be the decisive mistake. Black could have held the draw with the computer's suggestion. [60...g5! 61.fxg5+



61...♙g6!! The problem is still the same, hard to rescue the knight. (but not 61...♙xg5 62.♙e7+- because we get the position that we discussed in 57...g5.) 62.♙c5 ♖d3 63.♘e8 ♖d2! The knight is on the way to get out from

the cage, but the f4-f3 plan gives enough counterplay for Black to save the game.]

61. ♖e1!! Probably Black missed this move! Even with so little material on board, we must look for tactical motifs.

61... ♖d4 [The passive defense cannot be good. 61... ♖h8 62. ♘d7 and ♘e5-f3.]

62. ♖c3! and the bishop is back to the long diagonal. White can use the pin for winning an important tempo to transfer the knight to a better position. The computer still tries to hold, but I think it is already too late.

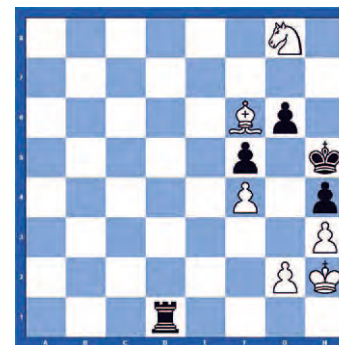
62... ♖d3 [62... ♖c4 63. ♘d5+ ♔f7 Black tries to prevent ♖f6. It is already a big achievement for White to get the king to f7, but the win still requires very exact play. (63... ♔h6 64. ♖f6+-) 64. ♖e5 ♖a4 65. ♘c3! This is the shortest way for the knight to f3. 65... ♖b4 66. ♘e2 with the idea of ♘g1-f3. 66...g5 67. ♘d4! (67.fxg5? ♖e4) 67...gxf4 (67...g4 68.hxg4 fxg4 69. ♘f5 h3 70.gxh3 gxh3 71. ♔xh3+- I was not sure about this position. But thanks to the „Tablebase“ we know the correct evaluation. White gives mate in 48 moves. :) I am sorry for the readers, I will not demonstrate it. The point is, the bishop and the knight cover the pawn and the king and White can promote his pawn without giving a chance to Black to sacrifice the rook for the pawn and one of the pieces.) 68. ♘f3± White collects all the pawns.]

63. ♖e5 ♔h6 64. ♘g8+! ♔h7 [64... ♔h5 65. ♖f6+- transposes to the game.]

65. ♘e7 The end is near now.

65... ♔h6 66. ♖f6 ♔h5 67. ♘g8! [67. ♖g5? is premature because 67... ♖d2 and stalemate threat on g2.]

67... ♖d1 Black realized, that he is lost, he tries his last trick.



68. ♖e7! But of course, White does not fall into that and sets up a new mate threat with ♘f6 and ♖f8, what could only avoid by playing g5, which is kind of resignation as well. [68. ♖g5?? ♖h1+ 69. ♔xh1]

68... ♖f1 69. ♘f6+ ♔h6 70. ♖f8# Very nice play by the German grandmaster! It was very instructive also for me, I have never studied such kind of endgames. **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Fischer, Robert James
– Myagmarsuren, Lhamsuren [COO]

Sousse Interzonal+ (3), 1967

[Balogh Csaba]

As I promised, we study two nice tactical crushes by Robert Fischer. In this week, White nicely builds up his attack and finishes the game in a beautiful fashion! Please, forgive me for showing some computer lines, which are sometimes hardly understandable for me as well. The correct analysis of the position requires it.

1.e4 e6 2.d3 The King's Indian attack. Fischer liked playing this opening, since in many lines it is similar to the King's Indian defence, which was his favorite choice against 1.d4 as Black. He often played against 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6, 3.d3 as well.

2...d5 3.♘d2 ♘f6 4.g3 c5 5.♙g2 ♘c6 6.♘gf3 ♙e7 7.0–0



7...0–0 The main continuation, however, some experts consider it to be an inaccuracy. After castling short, White can organize his attack on the kingside quite comfortably (as we will see in the game). [It is more careful to develop the queenside first and see, what White is going to do 7... b6 8.♙e1 ♙b7 9.e5 Black has an extra option here 9...♘d7 10.♘f1 ♙c7 11.♙f4 h6 12.h4 0–0–0! to castle queenside and prepare a counterattack with g5. For example: 13.c3 ♙dg8 14.h5 g5 15.hxg6 fxg6; 7...♙c7 8.♙e1 b6 is another possibility, if Black is afraid of the e5 plan...]

8.e5 ♘d7 9.♙e1 Both sides have their clear ideas. White plays on the kingside with ♘f1, h4, ♙f4, ♘g5 and ♙h5, while Black must create his counterplay on the queenside with b5, a5, b4, ♙a6 etc... Actually, I would always prefer White, but the machine gives plus for Black in almost all the positions, suggesting unhuman moves and saves him. It is amazingly hard to convince the computer... So, from this point of view, I recommend you to try this opening with White, but never against a machine... :-)

9...b5 [The main move is 9...♙c7 10.♙e2 to include is pair of moves, when later the typical ♘d4 plan for Black might come with a tempo... 10...b5 11.♘f1 a5 12.h4 b4 13.♙f4 ♙a6 with many games in the database.]

10.♘f1 b4 [10...a5 11.h4 b4 is just a transposition.]

11.h4 a5 12.♙f4 a4 [12...♙a6 13.♘e3 a4 14.a3 would also be a transposition.]



13.a3! Strong reaction by Fischer, which was at that time a novelty! Recently, if somebody is familiar with this opening, he knows the rule that when Black plays a4, push a3 immediately! But of course it is much easier to copy than to create the right plans... Fischer understood that if he allows his opponent to push a3 himself, Black's counterplay could come much faster. [13.♖h2 a3 14.b3 ♗a6 with the idea to play ♜c8 and in the right moment ♖d4 and c4. Black won many nice games this way.]

13...bxa3 14.bxa3 ♘a5?! I did not manage to find the idea behind this move. [There was a very instructive game between two great players 14...♗a6 15.♘e3 ♖d4 logical plan, but White countered it elegantly! 16.c4! ♘b3



17.cxd5! ♘xa1 18.♔xa1 exd5 19.♘xd5 White got one pawn for the exchange and all his pieces stand perfectly. 19...♗xd3 20.e6! Nice tactical shot! 20...♖f6 (20...fxe6 21.♗c7! ♔e8 22.♜xe6 ♜f7 23.♔e1+-) 21.♘xe7+ ♔xe7 22.♘e5 ♗g6 23.♘c6! the queen is almost trapped 23...♔b7 (23...♔e8 24.e7+-) 24.♗d6 ♘e7 threats 24...♗e4 25.♜xe4! ♔xc6 (25...♘xe4 26.♗xe4+-) 26.♗xf8 ♜xf8 Black did not wait 27.♔xf6!! gxf6 28.♜g4 and resigned the game. Gheorghiu-Uhlmann, Sofia 1967]

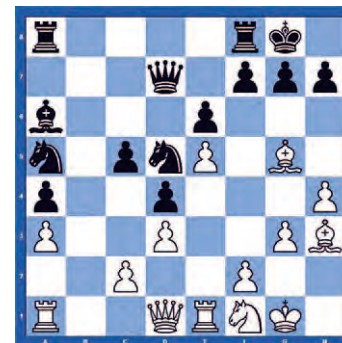
15.♘e3 ♗a6 16.♗h3? The bishop was doing fine on g2. This gives enough time for Black to generate counterplay. [White should have continued the attack 16.♘g5! with the idea of ♔h5 and on 16...h6 17.♘h3! ♔h5 and ♘g4 are coming with mating attack.]

16...d4 17.♘f1 White did not want to close the Queen's way to h5 with ♘g4.

17...♘b6 Logical decision to transfer the knight to d5. [17...♗b7!? came into consideration 18.♘g5 c4 with counterplay.]

18.♘g5 ♘d5 19.♗d2 ♗xg5 Sooner or later Black had to take the knight. [19...c4 20.♔h5 ♗xg5 21.♗xg5 ♔d7 would be a transposition to the 21...c4 line.]

20. ♗xg5 ♔d7



21. ♖h5 ♜fc8 Black frees the f8 square. As we will see in the game, the queen went there to protect the g7 pawn and in some other variations, it might be useful a square for the king as well to run away from the checks. [I could not convince the computer about the attack after the principled 21...c4 22. ♘g2 seems to be the most dangerous

a) 22. ♘f6 was premature 22...gxf6 23.exf6 ♔h8 24. ♘g2 ♜g8 25. ♘xd5 (25. ♘e4 ♜g6) 25...♜xd5 26. ♞e5 unusual way of winning back the piece, but Black is fine anyway 26...♜b7 27. ♞xa5 cxd3 28.cxd3 ♘xd3;

b) 22. ♞d2 I only managed to give perpetual check, for example: 22...cxd3 23. ♞e4 dxc2 The computer is not impressed, that all the pieces are attacking :-) This is what I called, un-human moves. 24. ♘f6 gxf6 25. ♞xf6+ ♞xf6 26. ♜g5+ ♔h8 27. ♜xf6+ ♔g8 28. ♞e4 ♘d3 29. ♜g5+=; 22...cxd3



23. ♘e4 with initiative in all the lines: 23...h6

a) 23...f5 24.exf6 gxf6 25. ♘h6 ♜f7 26. ♞d2 (26.cxd3) ;

b) 23...g6 24. ♜h6 f5 25.exf6; 24. ♞h2! and try to mate him after ♞g4!(24. ♘xh6? f5!)]

22. ♞d2! Fischer brings the knight into the attack through the e4 square.

22... ♞c3 Black naturally prevents is.

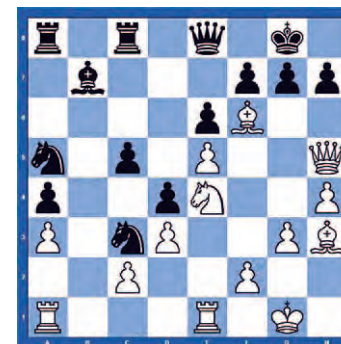


23. ♘f6! Seems to be over, but Black found resourceful defense.

23... ♜e8! In order to neutralize the ♜g5 threat by ♜f8! [23...gxf6 would lose quickly after 24.exf6 ♔h8 25. ♞f3! ♜g8 26. ♞e5!+- wins the queen]

24. ♞e4 The 22...♞c3 was not successful enough because after taking the knight on e4, ♜xe4 decides the game.

24...g6 This is the first moment when computer finally admits White's attack. [24...♞xe4 25. ♜xe4+-; However after 24...♘b7! it is still very hard to convince the machine. Most of the lines lead to unclear positions, but...



25. ♖xg7!! (25. ♘g5 h6 26. f4 hxg5 27. ♖xg5 ♖f8 28. ♖e7 ♖e8 29. ♖f6 ♖f8=; 25. ♘xc3 dxc3 26. ♖g4 ♖f8; 25. ♘d6 ♖f8 26. ♘xc8 ♖xc8) 25... ♖xg7!

a) 25... ♘xe4 loses to the great 26. ♖h6!! ♘d2 27. ♖g2! the only way 27... ♖xg2 28. ♖xg2 ♖c6+ 29. ♖h3 ♖f3 30. ♖f6 ♖f5+ 31. ♖g2 ♖g6 (31... ♖f3+ 32. ♖g1 ♖g4 33. ♖xd2+-) 32. ♖xd2±;

b) 25... ♖xe4 has another nice refutation 26. ♖xe4! f5 (26... ♘xe4 27. ♖h6+-) 27. exf6!! ♖xh5 28. ♖xe6+ ♖f7 29. ♖xf7+ ♖xf7 30. ♖e7+ ♖g6 31. ♖ae1+-; 26. ♖g5+ ♖f8 27. ♘f6 ♖c6 28. ♖h2! and the computer confirms White's advantage]

25. ♖g5 ♘xe4 26. ♖xe4 c4 It is clear that now the counterplay is not coming in time.

27. h5 cxd3 28. ♖h4! Threats with hxg6 fxg6 ♖xh7 ♖xh7 ♖h4 and mate in two moves. By leaving the d3 pawn on the board, Fischer avoids the Black's bishop joining of the defense through d3.

28... ♖a7 Horizontal defense with the rook. [28... dxc2? 29. hxg6 fxg6 30. ♖xh7 ♖xh7 31. ♖h4+ ♖g8 32. ♖h8+ ♖f7 33. ♖g7#; 28... ♖c7 was better chance to counter the textmove 29. ♖g2 by ♖b7. However, the machine suggests an unreal winning line: 29. ♖c1!! (29. ♖g2 ♖b7!) 29... ♖ac8 (29... dxc2 30. ♖xc2! ♖xc2 31. hxg6 fxg6 32. ♖xh7+-) 30. ♖h6! to lure the queen from the defense of the e6 pawn. 30... ♖f8 31. ♖d2! ♘b3 32. hxg6! fxg6 33. ♖xe6+! ♖f7 34. cxb3+- Of course, if somebody finds all these moves he will be disqualified for cheating with computer! It is impossible to play like this for a human.]



29. ♖g2!! Fantastic winning move! Using the fact, that ♖b7 does not work now.

29... dxc2 [29... ♖b7 would close the 7th rank. 30. hxg6! fxg6 31. ♖xh7+-]

30. ♖h6! ♖f8 [On 30... c1Q+ 31. ♖xc1 ♖xc1+ 32. ♖h2! and the same finish as in the game...]

31. ♖xh7+!! Beautiful finish of a great game! Mate is coming in two more moves. The game demonstrated very well the plans in the opening for both sides. [31. ♖xh7+ ♖xh7 32. hxg6+ ♖xg6 (32... ♖g8 33. ♖h8#) 33. ♖e4#] **1-0**

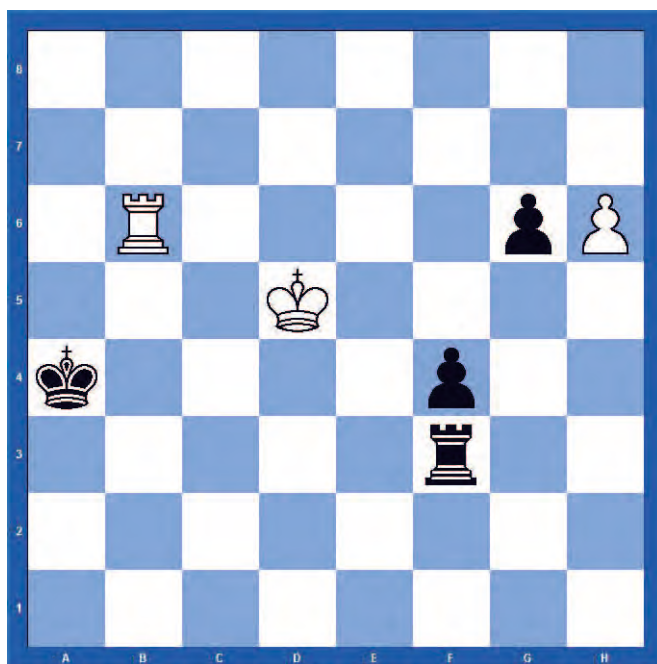
Surprise section / study

(18) Troitzky,Cheron

1962

[CEWN]

1. +-

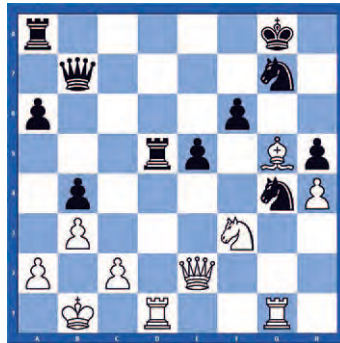


Solutions

(19) Motylev,A (2683) – Geller,J (2544)

Russian league, 09.04.2012

[Solutions]



28. ♖c4! ♜ad8 29. ♜xd5 ♜xd5 [29... ♜xd5 30. ♜d1+-]
30. ♜d1! ♜xc4 31. ♜xd8+ ♔h7 32. bxc4+-

(20) Li Shilong (2549) – Bu Xiangzhi (2668)

Xinghua, 04.04.2012

[Solutions]

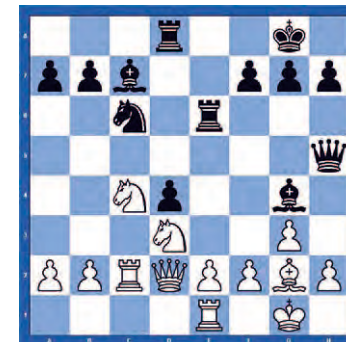


20... ♞xf3+! 21. ♜xf3 [21.gxf3 ♜g3+ 22. ♔e2 ♜xg5+-]
21... ♜xg5+

(21) Hauser,C (2209) – Perunovic,M (2582)

Deizisau, 06.04.2012

[Solutions]

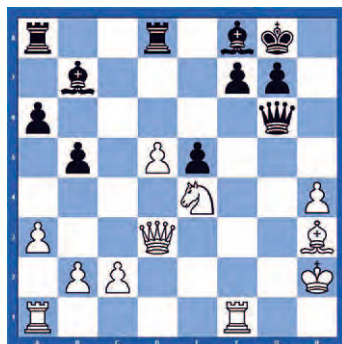


22... ♜g5!! [22... ♜h6 23.h4] 23.h3 [23. ♘f3 ♜h6 24.h4 ♘xf3
25.exf3 gxh4 26.g4 ♜g6+] 23... ♘xh3 24. ♘xh3 ♜xh3
25. ♜xg5+ ♜g6 26. ♞f4 ♘xf4 27. ♜xf4 ♜h6 28. ♜f3
♜h2+ 0-1

(22) Naiditsch,A (2702) – Mladenov,S (2419)

Deizisau, 07.04.2012

[Solutions]



24. ♖e6! ♔h8 [24...fxe6 25. ♘f6+! ♚xf6 26. ♖xf6 gxf6 27. ♚g6+ ♙g7 28. h5! ♜xd5 29. ♖g1 ♜d7 30. h6+-] 25. ♘g5 [25. ♖xf7!+-] 25...e4 26. ♘xf7+ ♚xf7 27. ♖xf7 ♙d6+ 28. ♔g2 exd3 29. ♖xb7 dxc2 30. ♖c1±

(23) Baramidze,D (2612) – Grandadam,N (2361)

Deizisau, 09.04.2012

[Solutions]

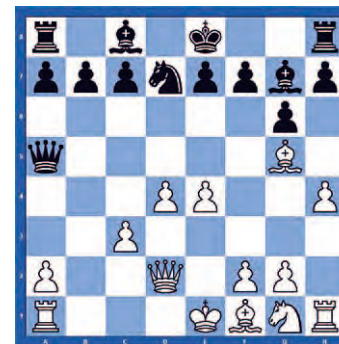


23. ♖xh7! ♔xh7 [23...fxg5 24. ♚h3 ♚xh3 25. ♖xh3±] 24. ♚h5+ ♔g8 25. ♚xg6+ ♘g7 26. ♚h7+ ♔f7 27. g6+! [27. ♙g6+ ♔e7 28. ♚xg7+ ♔d8∞] 27...♔e8 [27...♔e7 28. ♚xg7+ ♔d6 29. ♘e2!?±] 28. ♚xg7 ♜g8 29. ♚h7 ♘f8 30. ♚c7 ♘d7 31. ♘e2! ♔e7 32. ♘g3 1-0

(24) Bosch,J (2386) – Shishkin,V (2464)

Deizisau, 09.04.2012

[Solutions]



10...♘c5!! 11. ♙d3 [11. ♚c2 ♙xd4!±; 11.dxc5 ♙xc3--; 11. ♚e3 h6! 12. ♙f4 ♘e6±] 11...♘b3! 12. axb3 ♚xa1+-+

(25) Burg,T (2464) – Bischoff,K (2521)

Deizisau, 09.04.2012

[Solutions]

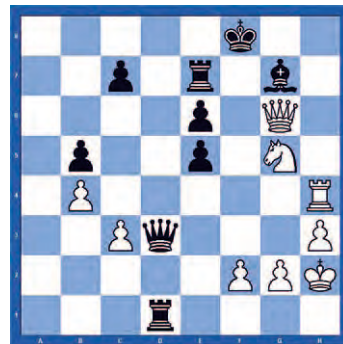


30...b5! 31.♘g1 [31.axb5 axb5 32.♙xb5 ♙xb5 33.♚xb5 ♚f1+ 34.♘g1 ♚xb5–+] **31...bxc4 32.♚xc4+ ♔d8–+**

(26) Gopal,G (2572) – Baron,T (2497)

India-Israel rapid match, 03.04.2012

[Solutions]



41.♘h7+! ♔g8 42.♘f6+! ♔f8 43.♚h8+! 1–0[43.♚h8+ ♙xh8 44.♚g8#]

(27) Shankland,S (2580) – Prasca Sosa,R (2420)

Philadelphia, 06.04.2012

[Solutions]



53.♚xb7! ♚xb7 54.♚xc6! ♙xb3 [54...e6

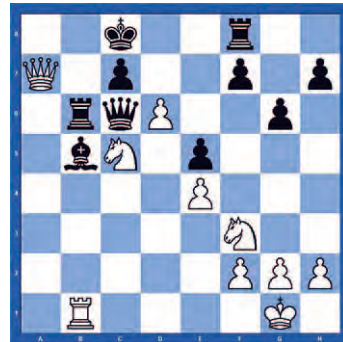


55.♚xb7!! ♙xb7 56.♙xe6+ ♔h8 57.d5++–] 55.♔xb3! 1–0[55.♔xb3! ♚d7 (55...♚b8 56.♚e6+ ♔h8 57.d5++–) 56.♚xd7 ♚xd7 57.c6+–]

(28) Vajda,L (2597) – Zeng,C (2435)

Doeberl Cup, 08.04.2012

[Solutions]

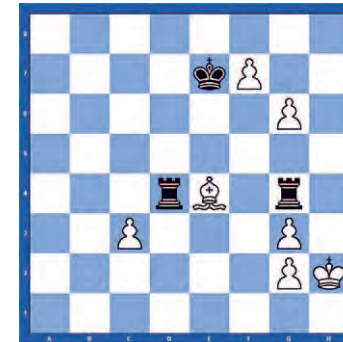


31. ♖xe5! [31. d7+ ♔d8∞] **31... ♕xd6** [31... ♕xc5 32. ♖a8+ ♜b8 33. d7+! ♔d8 34. ♖xb8+ ♔e7 35. ♖xf8+! ♔xf8 36. d8Q++-] **32. ♖cd7!** [32. ♖ed7+-] **32... ♕xd7** [32... ♕xd7 33. ♖a8+ ♜b8 34. ♖xb8#] **33. ♖a8+** 1-0 [33. ♖a8+ ♜b8 34. ♖xb8+! ♔xb8 35. ♖xd7+ ♔c8 36. ♖xf8+-]

(29) Simkovitch,F

1940

[Solutions]



1. ♕f5! [1. ♕f3 ♜a4! 2. ♕d1 ♔f8! 3. ♔h3 ♜a1! 4. ♕xg4 ♜h1#] **1... ♜c4** [1... ♜a4 2. ♕d7!!] **2. ♕e6!** ♔f8! **3. ♔h3!** ♜ge4 **4. ♕d5!** ♔g7 **5. ♔h2!** ♜a4 **6. ♕c6!** ♜ec4 **7. ♕b5!** ♜g4 **8. ♕d7!** ♜ae4 **9. ♕f5!** 1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 9

27th of April 2012

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Editorial Preface

Clearly, the main event of the week is the match between Aronian and Kramnik. The match is taking place at the neutral territory of Zürich. It is the first match in history between 2 players with an ELO rating higher than 2800. Even if the match is considered to be friendly, it is ELO counted, so we can be sure that both players are giving their best!

A very strong open in Dubai came to an end with 5 players sharing first place, Ni Hua winning on tiebreak. It had a dramatic last round.

The Austrian League had also its last weekend, and the team of one of Your commentators Balogh Csaba, the "Advisory Invest Baden", took the first place again, on better tiebreak.

In the "surprise section" of the newsletter, we are presenting for the first time a short interview with the Spanish number one Francisco Vallejo. Please don't judge the interview for being too short, it's not easy to make this GMs answer the questions :).

As usual, we wish You a lot of fun with this edition of the Chess Evolution Weekly Newsletter.

*Arkadij Naiditsch
Balogh Csaba*

4 best games of the past week

(1) Kramnik,Vladimir (2801)
— Aronian,Levon (2820) [D43]

Zurich Chess Challenge Zuerich SUI (1), 21.04.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the first game of a “friendly” match between world’s number 2 and 3, Levon Aronian and Vladimir Kramnik. It is the first match in the history of chess between 2 players with an Elo rating higher than 2800. We can be sure about one thing, both players want to win this match like hell! We will see probably one of the worst games of Kramnik in a long time. Bad preparation, bad play, resignation. On the other hand, great play by Aronian. Let’s see how it is possible to beat a 2800+ Elo player with the Black pieces!

1.♘f3 One of Kramnik’s favourite first moves.

1...d5 2.d4 ♘f6 3.c4 c6 Maybe Black’s 3...c6 was a little surprise for Kramnik. 3...e6 was most likely to be played by Aronian.

4.♘c3 e6 5.♙g5 h6 6.♙xf6 Just like in his previous matches, Kramnik usually chooses “silent” lines in his first games. [6. ♙h4 would be the move to get a “real” fight. 6... dxc4 7.e4 b5 And we are in the very sharp Botvinnik lines.]



6...♙xf6 7.e3 ♘d7 8.♙d3 dxc4 9.♙xc4 g6 10.0-0 ♙g7
Until here both players were playing pretty fast. And of course, nothing new. We are in a well known position.

11.♖e1 [11.e4 could be the other choice here. 11...e5 12.d5 ♘b6 13.♙b3 ♙g4 with almost an equal position.]

11...0-0 12.e4



12...e5! In my opinion, the right way to play here. [12... b6 is also a possible continuation, with evaluations that are by far less clear. 13.e5 ♙e7 14.♙d3 ♙b7 15.♙e4 ♖fd8 Could be the other main position for analysis.]

13.d5 ♖d8 The first moment of the game where Aronian had his first small thought. [The wrong plan would be

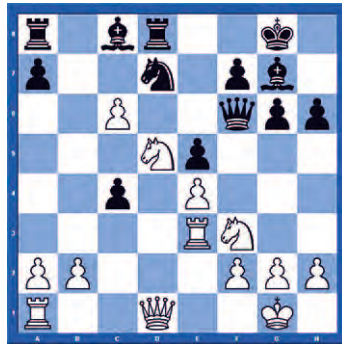
now to play 13...♘b6 14.♙b3 ♕g4 15.♖e3 ! += and we can clearly see why White included the 11.♖e1 move before playing e4.]

14.♖e3 Quickly played by White. We are in the game Gunina-Muzychuk, that was analyzed in the CEWN Nr4. It was practically the final battle for the Female European Title.

14...b5! A good move, now things are getting forced.

15.dxc6 After this move, White is not doing better, but what else to play?! [15.♙b3 ♘c5 and only Black can hope for an advantage.; 15.♙e2 ♘b6 is clearly not an option for White, as well.]

15...bxc4 16.♘d5



16...♙e6! N This novelty was played after Black took some time to think, but I'm quite sure that Aronian knew it, and the readers of CEWN knew it as well! We suggested this move in one of the analysis of CEWN Nr4, and evaluated it as "giving an equal position for Black". [16...♙d6 was played in the ladies' game. 17.cxd7 ♕xd7 18.♘d2 with some advantage for White.]

17.cxd7 Before making this move, Kramnik thought for almost 30 minutes. I don't think that he was evaluating "what to play next", but asking himself "how could I have missed 16...♙e6 in my analysis?". A very unpleasant feeling — especially when 16...♙e6 is the first choice of the computer. [17.♘b4 a5! would be definitely a bad choice for White.]

17...♖xd7 An easy move, but a nice one! This is why the Queen has to stand on e6 and not on d6, in order not to be under "attack" after White's ♘d2-c4.

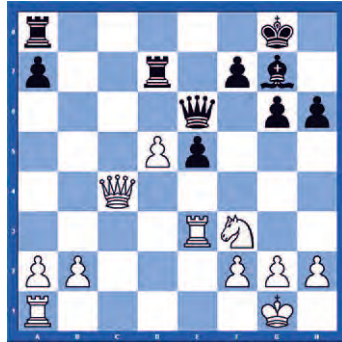
18.♙a4?! One thing is clear, White is not doing better. In fact, he needs to be quite precise to make a "correct" draw. The move in the game is not working towards getting it. [18.b3! In my opinion the right way to play for a draw was 18...cxb3 19.♙xb3 ♕b7 20.♖d1 ♖ad8 21.♖ed3 Black might be doing a bit better, but White definitely has a very solid position.; 18.♙e2 would not equalize. 18...♕b7 19.♖d1 ♖ad8 20.♙xc4 ♕xd5 21.exd5 ♖xd5 And we are again in a typical endgame, where Black is doing a bit better.]

18...♕b7 19.♙xc4 [19.♖ae1 ♖c8! and Black is doing better. The plan for Black should be to play ♕f8-c5, or to try to develop the bishop by playing h5-Bh6.]

19...♕xd5 [Another interesting option would have been 19...♖c8!? 20.♙a4 Probably because of this move, Aronian didn't want to play it, but I think here Black clearly has a very strong initiative. 20...♕xd5 21.exd5 ♖xd5! (Of course not 21...♙xd5 22.♘xe5! with a draw.) 22.♙xa7 e4! Black is a pawn down, but all the pieces are perfectly placed. Plus, he has reached the dream structure with the

“pawns on e4-f5”. All these factors clearly give Black more than enough compensation for the sacrificed pawn.]

20.exd5



20...♔xd5! A good estimation of the position by Black. The endgame is looking drawish, but by far it is not! Black is doing better, and maybe some optimist would say “much better”.

21.♔xd5 ♖xd5 22.♖ae1 ♔e8 We are in a typical position. Black’s idea is clear, to play f5 followed by e4. In case White doesn’t do something quick, the game could be over pretty soon. The White knight on f3 could stay without squares to go, Black rooks could take over the 2nd rank — a lot of bad things could happen to White. That’s why Kramnik’s next move is very logical!

23.g4! Good play by White! The only way to stop the direct f5 push. Besides, the White King feels a bit better having a place to escape on g2.

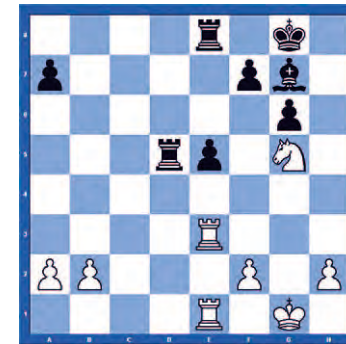
23...♔h7! Not falling into a deep trap. [Why not to play 23...f5?! 24.♘h4! This is White’s idea. 24...♖d4 (24...fxg4 25.♘xg6 ♕f6 26.♘f4 and again White’s chances to get

a draw are huge.) 25.♘xg6 ♖xg4+ 26.♖g3 and White almost escaped with a draw.]

24.g5!? A very risky move from a human point of view, even if most of the engines are happy with it. [A waiting move would leave White in a bad position. 24.h3 f5 25.gxf5 gxf5 26.♘h2 e4 with a big advantage for Black.]

24...hxg5 Of course Black should not let White play h4.

25.♘xg5+ ♔g8



26.f4?? What a terrible move by White. Such a mistake is even hard to explain, but let’s try to understand it from his point of view. Of course by playing 24.g5, White didn’t help his pawn structure at all. In case the game would go on with this “slow play”, Black will be just much better and will have good winning chances. So, the only way for White to be back in the game is to do something concrete, this makes sense! ...But not by playing 26. f4?? [26. ♖a3 f6 27.♘e4 f5 with a clearly better position for Black, but anyway White is still in the game.]

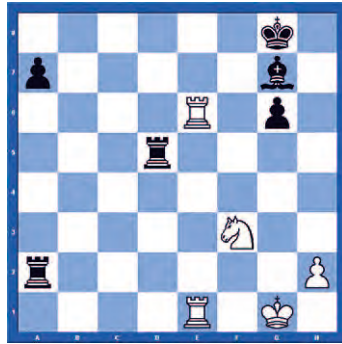
26...♖b8! Exactly! Now White is simply losing a pawn.

27.fxe5 [27.b3 exf4 28.♖e8+ ♜xe8 29.♜xe8+ ♚f8 30.h4 ♔g7 and we can evaluate the position as winning for Black.]

27...♜xb2 28.♘f3 What else to do? At [28.♜3e2 ♜xe2 29.♜xe2 ♚xe5 Black is a pawn up, and he has the advantage of bishop vs knight. The position is winning!]

28...♜xa2 29.e6! The only chance. White needs to exchange as many pawn-pieces as possible.

29...fxe6 30.♜xe6



30...♜f5! Black is really playing a great game. A very exact move, killing almost any hope Kramnik might have had. The White knight doesn't have a better move than to go to the corner of the board, where it will have to face its destiny in about 10 moves :).

31.♘h4 ♜f4 [A very nice computer way of winning would be 31...♚d4+ 32.♔h1 ♜ff2! 33.♜xg6+ ♔f7 34.♜g2 a5 A great position! White is totally hopeless against Black's a4-a3-a2 and Queen.]

32.♜6e4 ♜f6 This move surprised me a lot during the live transmission. Why to leave 4 rooks at the board, have a running king and have a theoretical chance of blun-

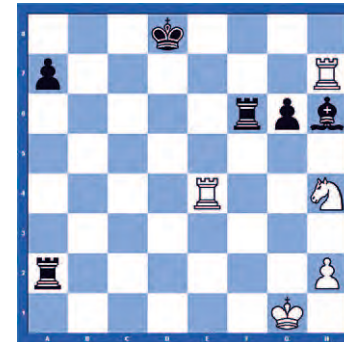
dering something big?! On the other hand, it shows the great self-confidence Aronian has regarding himself and his play! [The simple 32...♜xe4 33.♜xe4 ♔f7 would probably lead to a winning position. The a-pawn will Queen and White can't do much about it.]

33.♜g4! Getting the Black king to "free-waters".

33...♔f7 To put the king on h7 was also possible, but then after White's 34.♘g2, he would be under constant attack on the h-file. White could also try the maneuver 34.♜g3 with the idea of ♘f3 and ♘g5 check.

34.♜c1 ♚h6! No fear in Black's moves! Black continues his strategy, to keep the White's knight on h4 out of play, even if he will need to run a bit with his king by doing so.

35.♜c7+ ♔e8 36.♜e4+ ♔d8 37.♜h7



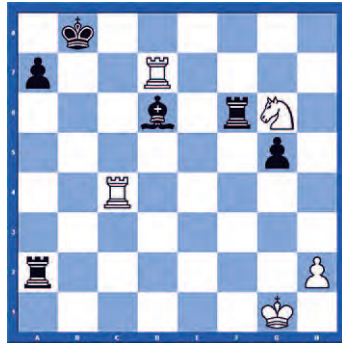
37...♚f8! Another very precise move by Black. Now we can already call the position winning! The White's rooks can not create any serious threat against the Black king. At the same time, the White king on g1 is in big danger of getting mated. The knight on h4 is still out of play and Black's a-pawn will start to move eventually.

38. ♖d4+ ♔c8 39. ♖c4+ ♔b8 The king march has ended in a safe square, b8!

40. ♖d7 Allowing Black's strategy to show its glory.

40...g5! Trapping the White knight!!

41. ♘g6 ♙d6



What a perfectly played game by Black! **0-1**

**(2) Aronian, Levon (2820)
– Kramnik, Vladimir (2801) [C67]**

Zurich Chess Challenge Zuerich SUI (2), 22.04.2012

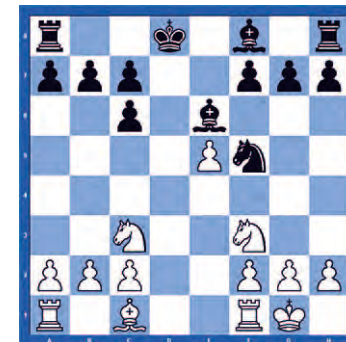
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

The second game of the match was also very interesting. Aronian started with 1.e4, a very unusual first move for him, and Kramnik answered with the usual unbreakable weapon of his, the Berlin defence. It seemed like after the opening Kramnik managed to get an almost equal position, but suddenly he had to face a few difficulties. A great game on how to defend a worse position!

1.e4 Is really Aronian playing White?! :)

1...e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♙b5 ♘f6 The beginning of the Berlin!

4.0-0 ♘xe4 5.d4 ♘d6 6. ♙xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♘f5 8. ♖xd8+ ♔xd8 9. ♘c3 ♙e6!? Quite a rare move [9... ♔e8 10.h3 h5 We can find this position in almost every game featuring the Berlin, and it seems like Black is doing pretty well here.]



10. ♖d1+ Immediately played by Aronian — so he seemed to be well prepared. [10. ♘g5 is the other possible move for White.]

10...♔e8 11.♘g5 ♘c8 12.h3 So we have reached one of the main positions in the current line. The Berlin Wall is a very complex opening, and sometimes it is very hard to say who is actually doing better. If White manages to play g4, f4 and f5, we can usually say that White should be better. Of course, Black won't allow these pawns to advance so fast. On the other hand, if Black manages to force the exchange of knights, he should be doing very fine.

12...♙e7 13.♙f4 N This is an official novelty by White. The move is very logical: White develops a piece, threatens to play ♖d2, ♗ad1, or to break through with the e6 push at the right time!

13...♘h4! A very atypical, but very strong, reaction by Black. [The more typical 13...h6 14.♘f3 ♙e6 15.g4! ♘h4 16.♘xh4 ♙xh4 17.f3 would lead to a position with a small plus for White.]

14.e6! White needs to do something, Black intended to play ♘g6. [14.♘ge4 is usually not the right place for the White knight. It doesn't support in any way the g4 move, and it takes away the e4 square from his colleague on c3. 14...h6! Avoiding White's ♙g5 — Black is doing very fine.]



14...f6! [The risky 14...♘g6 15.exf7+ (15.♘xf7 ♘xf4 16.♘xh8 ♙xe6 would lead to a crazy position, I have no idea who is doing better.) 15...♔f8 16.♙e3 h6 17.♘ge4 ♔xf7 It seems like Black managed to reach what he wanted, but... 18.f4! A very strong move! Black can not stop White from playing f5 in the next move, which would lead to a clear advantage for White! Chess is a tactical game after all :); 14...fxe6? This would be a big position mistake. 15.♘ge4 followed by ♙xc7 the next move, with a big advantage for White.]

15.♘f7 ♗g8 Another exact move. Now the rook won't be under attack in case of 15... ♗f8.

16.♙xc7 ♙xe6 17.♘d6+ ♙xd6 18.♙xd6 ♔f7 It seems like Black got the maximum out of his chances, and the game is coming to an end, but no! White still has a few tricks in his magic box.

19.f3 A harmless looking move, but with a nice idea behind it.

19...♘f5 20.♙c5 b6 This kind of move is never easy to play. The Black pawns are fixed on dark squares, becoming potential victims. Now we can see the idea behind White's f3 move. [If Black looks for an immediate draw with 20...♗gd8 21.♗xd8 ♗xd8 22.♙xa7 ♗d2 23.♗c1 ♘g3 (23...♘h4 24.♙f2) 24.b3! A great move, White needs to take away the c4 square from the Black bishop. 24...♘e2+ 25.♘xe2 ♗xe2 26.♔f1 White keeps good winning chances with just an extra pawn.; Of course 20...a6? 21.♙b6! and White gets control over the d-file forever.]



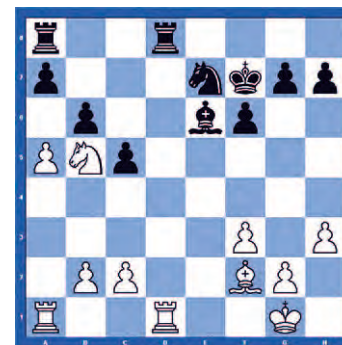
21. ♖f2 ♜gd8 The Black rook has to be placed on the d-file.

22.a4! White's key idea! Suddenly, a position that looked very calm and safe for Black is getting very dangerous. How to prevent the a5 move?!

22...♞e7! The beginning of a series of 12 moves, which leads to a forced draw. Fantastic calculation by Black, or just good calculation with some luck?! We will never know.

23.a5 c5 A very forced and almost only move that gives Black a clear draw. [23...♞xd1+ 24.♞xd1 bxa5 25.♞a1 would lead to a clearly better position for White.]

24.♞b5 White accepts Black's challenge and goes for direct play. [24.g4!? is a very tricky suggestion of the computer. White keeps the pieces back, improves the position of his King, and at the same time takes control over the f5 square. I guess Black would need to continue very precisely to achieve a draw.]

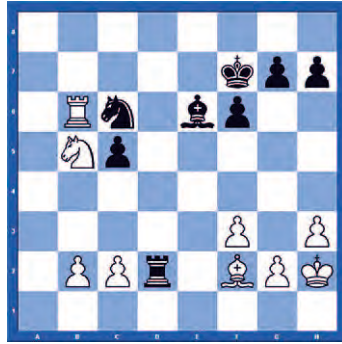


24...♞c6! Only move. [24...♞d5? would be countered by 25.c4! ♞b4 26.♞xd8 ♞xd8 27.♞xa7 bxa5 28.♞xc5 and White is a clear pawn up.]

25.♞xd8 [25.♞c7 would have been a trickier move for White. 25...♞ac8 26.♞xd8 ♞xd8 27.axb6 axb6 28.♞a6 ♞d1+ 29.♞h2 ♞d2 Black is on the edge, but surviving. 30.♞xb6 (30.♞xe6 also leads to nothing more than a draw. 30...♞xf2 31.♞xc5 bxc5 32.♞xc6 ♞xc2 33.b4 c4 =) 30...♞d7! Only move to hold the position! I wonder if Kramnik had seen this move when he played 22...♞e7!? 31.♞xc5 ♞xc2 32.b4 ♞xb4! making the draw official.]

25...♞xd8 26.axb6 [A wrong decision would have been 26.♞xa7?! ♞xa7 27.axb6 ♞c6 28.♞xc5 The White pawns are blocked and only Black can be better here.]

26...axb6 27.♞a6 ♞d1+ 28.♞h2 ♞d2 29.♞xb6 ♞xc2! It is very important to take on c2 first. [29...♞xf2? 30.♞xc6 ♞xc2 31.♞c7+ ♞g6 32.♞d4 and White is winning.]



30. Nxd6+ [The draw would be unstoppable after 30. Rxc6 Rxf2 31. Nxd6+ Ke7 32. Ne4 Rxb2 33. Rc7+ Kf8 34. Nxc5 Qf7 = and there is nothing left to play with.]

30... Ke7 31. Ne4 Nd4! Another key move that Kramnik should have seen when he played 22... Ne7, or no later than 24... c5. What a great calculation!!

32. Rb7+ [At 32. b4 Qd5! is very strong.]

32... Qf8 33. Rc7 No more chances left for White, the position is drawn.



33... Rxb2 34. Rxc5 Nf5 35. Ng3 Rxf2 36. Nxf5 Qxf5 37. Rxf5 Ra2 A great defense by Black based on very exact calculation! **1/2**

(3) Balogh,Cs (2664) – Bromberger,S (2513) [B12]

Austrian league, 19.04.2012

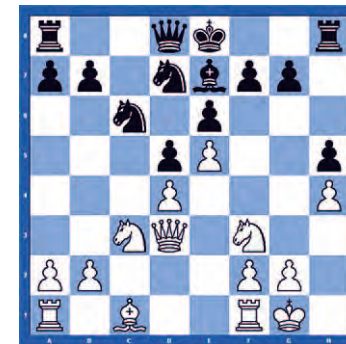
[Balogh Csaba]

I played a short, but nice, attacking game in the Austrian league.

1.e4 c6 A surprise from my opponent, who generally plays the Najdorf. I was sure that he was prepared for some of my recent games in the Caro-Kan, so I decided to try my old line...

2.d4 d5 3.e5 Qf5 4.h4 I used to play this until 2009. Nowadays I use it only occasionally, when I try to surprise my opponents.

4...h5 5.c4 e6 6. Nc3 Qe7 [Currently 6... Ne7 is considered to be the best, when White has a choice between 7. Nge2 (and 7. Qg5); I remember that I started playing the 4.h4 line after I saw the following game: 6... Nd7 7.cxd5 cxd5 8. Qd3 Qxd3 9. Qxd3 Ne7 10. Nf3 Nc6 11.0-0 Qe7



12. Qg5! White plays on the weakened dark squares, g5 and f4. **12...a6 13. Rac1 Nb6 14. Ne2! Qd7 15. Nf4 Nc4**

16.b3 ♘a3 17.♖fd1 ♜c8 18.♙xe7 ♚xe7 19.♞c5 Improving all the pieces to the maximum. 19...♞c7 20.♞dc1 g6 21.♘g5 Now, all pieces have reached perfect positions and Nigel Short finishes the game with great style. 21...♞d7 22.♞xc6! bxc6 23.♘xg6! fxg6 24.♚xg6+ ♔d8 25.♞xc6 and Black resigned the game. Short-Johannesen, Torino 2006. This victory impressed me a lot!]

7.cxd5 cxd5 8.♙d3 The move enjoys popularity since Gulko beat Karpov back in 1994. White exchanges the strong f5 bishop and goes for a slightly better position with a space advantage due to the e5 pawn. The current game is already my 4th win in this position.

8...♙xd3 9.♚xd3 ♘c6 10.♘f3 ♞c8



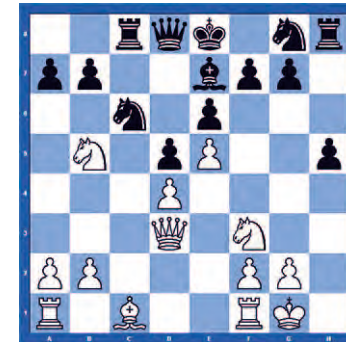
11.0-0! White tries to win a tempo by sparing g3, but it leaves the h4 pawn unprotected. [11.g3 is the main move, but here Black has 11...♙b4 and developing with ♘ge7.]

11...♙xh4 [11...♘h6 12.♙xh6 ♞xh6 13.g3 This is a standard position of the line. White has a small positional advantage. The h6 rook is out of the game. Black must play ♔f8, g6, ♔g7 and ♞h8 to bring it back, but this gives enough time for White to organize his play on the queenside with a3, ♞fc1, b4 and ♘a4-c5. Actually, this is

how I won my previous 3 games.; Now on 11...♙b4 I have 12.♘e2! trying to play like Nigel Short!]

12.♘b5! A strong novelty, based on the next move! [12.♘xh4 ♚xh4 13.♘b5 ♔f8 Black was fine in the Perunovic-Ruck, Vogosca 2007 game.]

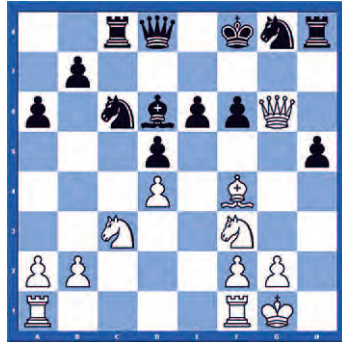
12...♙e7 [On 12...♞b8 13.♘d6+ ♔f8 14.♚c3!? ♙e7 15.♘xb7! ♞xb7 16.♚xc6 White balances the material and enjoys a small advantage.]



13.♙g5!! A spectacular move, which forces the creation of big weaknesses in Black's camp.

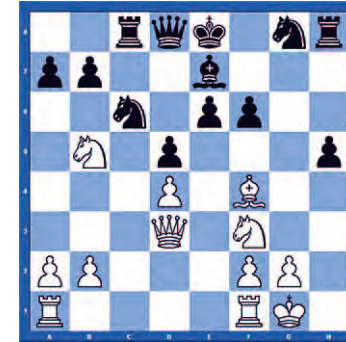
13...f6 I had to make a very difficult decision, to include ♚g6 check or to play without that. After thinking for 40 minutes, I managed to come to the right conclusion. [13...♔f8 14.♘d6 ♞c7 15.♙xe7+ ♚xe7 The powerful knight on d6 gives more than enough compensation for the sacrificed pawn. Here, the computer recommends a very strong plan: (15...♘gxe7? 16.♘g5 ♘c8 17.♘dxf7! ♞xf7 18.♘xe6+ +-) 16.♞fc1! ♘h6 17.b4 +/- with huge pressure on the open file.; 13...♙xg5? does not work, because of 14.♘d6+ ♔f8 15.♘xg5 ♚xg5 (15...♞c7? 16.♘dxf7! ♞xf7 17.♘xe6+ +-) 16.♘xc8 +/- with an exchange up.]

14.exf6! [14.♔g6+ gave no advantage 14...♔f8 15.exf6 gxf6 (15...♙xf6!? is also possible.) 16.♙f4 a6! 17.♘c3 This is the critical position of the 14.♔g6 line. Seemingly the queen on g6 is very annoying for Black and ♖ae1 is a serious threat, but... 17...♙d6!

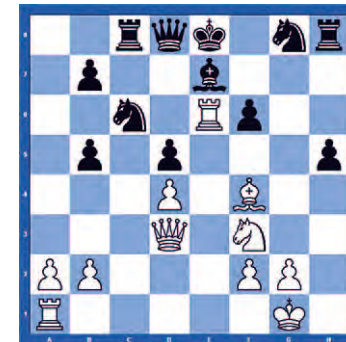


(In case of the logical 17...♔e8 18.♔g3! with the threats of ♖ae1 and ♘h4.) 18.♘xd5!? exd5 19.♘g5! A double knight sacrifice! 19...fxg5 20.♙xd6+ ♘ce7! It's very important to free the c6 square for the rook! (20...♘ge7 would lose nicely to 21.f4! g4 22.f5 +-) 21.♖ae1 (Now on 21.f4 g4 22.f5 Black has 22...♖h6!) 21...♖c6! 22.♔f5+ (22.f4 g4 23.♔f5+ => 22...♔e8 23.♔g6+ = with perpetual check.)

14...gxf6 15.♙f4 The most logical move, but it gives Black a chance... [The passive looking 15.♙d2! would have given White a very big attack 15...a6 16.♘c3 The point is that Black can not play ♙d6 with a tempo (when the bishop is on f4) freeing the e7 square for the knight. This half tempo gives White enough time to build up an enormous attack! 16...♔f7 17.♖ae1! and ♘h4 or ♘e2-f4 are coming!]



15...♙d7? Black tries to find shelter for the king in the center. Logically it can not be good. The position might seem to be lost for a human, but as usual, the computer finds an amazingly stubborn defense. [15...a6! Trying to send away the active knight. 16.♖fe1!? I was about to play this move and felt the attack to be decisive! But... (On 16.♘c3 Black has 16...♙d6! 17.♔g6+ ♔f8 which transposes to the 14.♔g6 line.) 16...axb5 17.♖xe6



17...♙d7! (17...♔f7 18.♖ae1 Probably this is where my opponent had stopped his calculations of the 15...a6 line and chose another move due to ♔f5 in the next move, with the threat of ♘g5. Actually he was right, but the computer shows some unreal lines: 18...♙b4 19.♖1e2! (On

the direct 19. ♖g5+ Black has 19... ♔g7! (19... fxg5 20. ♕g6+ ♔f8 21. ♕f5+ +-) 20. ♖1e3 ♕d7 21. ♖g3 ♘ce7! Seemingly Black is completely lost, but according to the machine, he is just winning. Incredible!) 19... ♘ge7 20. a3! ♘g6 (20... ♘a5 21. ♘d6 +/-) 21. ♘g5! ♘e7 22. ♕f5 Increasing the pressure to the maximum. 22... ♖c7 23. ♖xe7+! and striking at the right moment! 23... ♘cxe7 24. ♕xf6+ ♔g8 (24... ♔e8 25. ♕xg6+ +-) 25. ♕e6+ ♔g7 26. ♘f6+ ♔f8 27. ♘g5 +- Black can not defend himself.) 18. ♖ae1 Normally, this is a moment when humans turn to another move due to the ♘h4 threat. However, once again, the machine shows a brilliant cold-blooded only move, which I was unable to refute... 18... h4!! Simply prevents ♘h4... 19. ♕f5 ♔f8 and I did not find more than draw after 20. ♘e5 ♖h6 21. ♘f4 ♖h8 =]

16. ♖fe1! The e6 pawn is too vulnerable. Now the threat is the simple ♕e3.

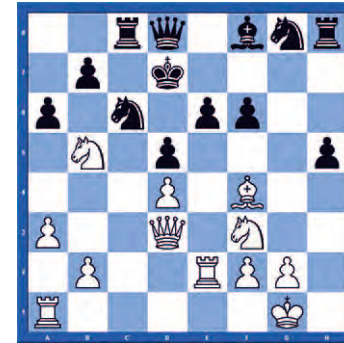
16... ♘b4 [On 16... a6 White retreats with the knight. 17. ♘c3! +- Black has no defense against ♕e3. Now the knight on c3 is well placed, because it's threatening a sacrifice on d5.]



17. ♖e2! On the other hand, White starts to double the rooks on the e-file. Now the threat is to play a3, sending away the bishop, and then to bring the rook to e1.

17... a6 18. a3!! The best move. Of course 18. ♘c3 also gave a big advantage, but the text move is much better! Black loses in all the lines.

18... ♘f8 [18... ♘a5 19. ♘d6 +-; 18... axb5 19. axb4 +-; I felt 18... ♕a5 to be the critical, but correctly saw the winning move 19. ♕g6! +- The checks on the 7th rank are decisive!]



19. ♖ae1! axb5 20. ♖xe6 and Black resigned. [20. ♖xe6 ♘e7 (20... ♘ge7 21. ♖d6+ +-; 20... ♘h6 21. ♕xb5 +-) 21. ♕f5 ♔e8 22. ♖d6! +-] **1-0**

(4) Wojtaszek,R (2706) — Fedorov,A (2609) [E62]

Czech league, 23.04.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

Radoslaw Wojtaszek, one of Anand's seconds has won a nice game in the Czech league. We will study typical maneuvers of the King's Indian defense combined with great tactical elements at the end.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** g6 **3.♗c3** ♕g7 **4.♘f3** d6 **5.g3** The g3 system is one of the most popular setups against this opening.

5...0-0 **6.♖g2** ♘c6 **7.0-0** ♕f5 A "sideline", but still almost 1500 games in the database. On neutral moves, Black wants to play ♘e4. [7...a6 is the most often seen move.; Another sideline is 7...♖b8 We analyzed a game like this in the 1st edition of the CEWN.]

8.d5 ♘a5 **9.♘d2** Logical reaction, White defends the c4 pawn and intends to occupy the center with e4. [The mainline is 9.♘d4 ,though it would fall into the idea of 7...♕f5. 9...♕d7! Black retreats with the bishop to d7 and after White protects the c4 pawn, he pushes c5 and achieves a comfortable position.]

9...c5 **10.e4** ♕d7



11.♖c2 Standard plan. White prepares to fianchetto his c1 bishop.

11...e5 [11...a6 would lead us to the main pawn structure of the King's Indian g3 system. 12.b3 b5 13.♕b2 ♖b8 14.♖ab1 e5 With thousands of games in the pawn formation. In general, theory considers White's chance to be slightly better.]

12.b3 ♘g4 Instead of creating tension on the queenside with a6 and b5, Fedorov — who played this opening his whole life — initiates direct play on the kingside.

13.♕b2 f5 Black wants to push f4 with a very dangerous attack, which has to be prevented. In the game of the 1st CEWN, in a similar structure, White reacted with a typical response by pushing f4 himself. It is clear that now White is not prepared well for this move, so Wojtaszek plays the other known method of countering the f4 threat.



14.exf5! gxf5 Black, of course could not give up control over the e4 square.

15.h3 ♘f6



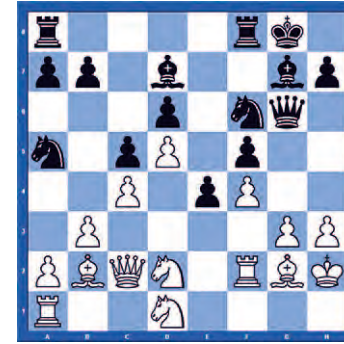
16.f4! Forces Black to close the center, and the maneuvering part of the game might start.

16...e4 [16...exf4 Opening the position would be punished in an instructive way: 17.♘e2!! fxg3 18.♘f4!! With this double pawn sacrifice, White completely paralyzes Black's pieces. The next move would be ♖ae1 or ♜f3-g3. Very nice picture, how the White pieces are dominating the whole board!]

17.♘d1! The knight is a great blockading piece, which is heading to e3. In general, White has a really long-term idea, to play on g4! It would open the position of his own king, so it needs huge preparation. However we can see in the game, how effective it could be if White pushes it in the right moment.

17...♙e8! Black plays logically as well. He transfers his queen to its ideal square on g6. It temporarily prevents the ♘e3 idea, due to the concrete ♙g6, ♘h5 threat. The next two moves by White will be prophylactic against this idea.

18.♙h2! ♙g6 19.♜f2! [19.♘e3 ♘h5]



19...♙f7? A logical move, which is actually a serious mistake. Black should have forced the knight to go to f1, we will soon understand why... [19...♘h5! 20.♘f1 ♜f7 21.♘de3 ♙h8 22.♙h1 ♜g8 23.♜g2 With a really sharp, double-edged position.]

20.♘e3 ♜g8 21.♜g1! This is the point! That is why, the 19th move was a mistake. By having the rook on g1, White's chances to push g4 in the right moment increase a lot.

21...♙h6? Another mistake, after which the g4 push becomes deadly. White was already better anyway. Let's see what happens, if Black fights differently against g4. We will see a really nice regrouping of the pieces in both cases. [21...♙h8 22.♙f1! ♙h6 23.♙e2 ♜g6 Black pins the king and doubles his rooks on the g-file, which was actually the idea behind the 19th move. However, White has a great knight maneuver! 24.♘df1! ♜ag8 25.♘g2! One knight is going to h4 and the other one to e3. The f5 pawn becomes a real weakness!; 21...h5]



White uses the same plan that we saw in the other line: 22. ♕f1! ♖e7 23. ♕e2 b6 24. ♘df1 ♜ae8 25. ♘g2! ♖d8 The Black king would like to run away from the “battlefield”, but as we will see, there is no safe place for him in this game. 26. ♘h4 ♜h7 27. ♘e3 ♖c7 28. a3! += After paralyzing Black’s pieces, White can organize a queenside attack.]

22. ♕h1! Wojtaszek already foresaw his next two moves. We understand soon why the bishop went to h1!

22...b6 [On 22...♖e7 happens the same that did in the game...]



23.g4!! Seems like committing suicide, but in reality it leads to winning the e4 pawn — that is why the bishop

has to stay on h1 now — which means the collapse of Black’s position!

23...fxg4 24. ♜g3!! This was the brilliant idea! Stops the g3 threat, and Black is helpless against ♘xe4.

24...♜ae8 [24...♜h5 25. ♘xe4 ♘xe4 26. ♕xe4 gxf3 27. ♕f3! +- opens the diagonal for the queen to take on h7!; 24...♘h5 does not work, because of 25. ♕xe4 +-]

25. ♕xf6! White wins huge material now on all the lines.

25...♜xf6 26. ♘xe4 ♜e7 To protect the d6 pawn.

27. ♘xg4 [27. ♘g5+ was even easier 27...♖f8 28. ♘f5 +-]

27...♕xg4 28.hxg4 and g5 is coming, Black is hopeless.

28...♜h4+ 29. ♜h3 ♜xg4 30. ♘g5+! ♕xg5 31. ♜xh7+ Very instructive game. We learned many ideas on how to play this pawn structure. **1–0**

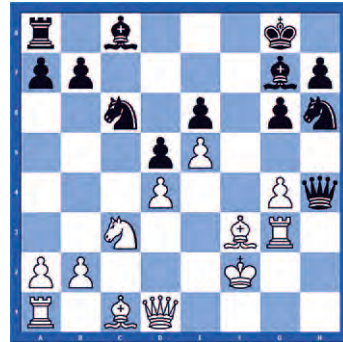
Puzzle section

(5) Ahmadinia,E (2379) – Amin,B (2608)

Dubai Open, 22.04.2012

[CEWN]

1... -/+



(6) Baklan,V (2612) – Sachdev,T (2414)

Dubai Open, 23.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(7) Vysochin,S (2550) – Grinev,V (2404)

Nabokov memorial, 19.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(8) Hamitevici,V (2436) – Nyzhnyk,I (2585)

Nabokov memorial, 22.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-

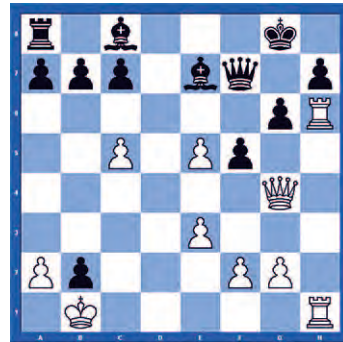


(9) Belous,V (2524) – Predke,A (2461)

Sochi, 21.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-

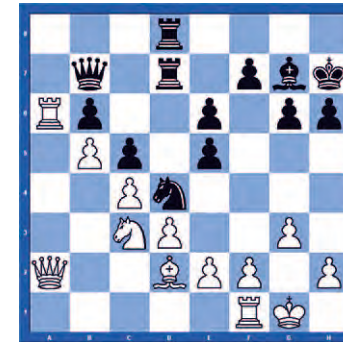


(11) Thiede,L (2458) – Siebrecht,S (2468)

Austrian league, 22.04.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

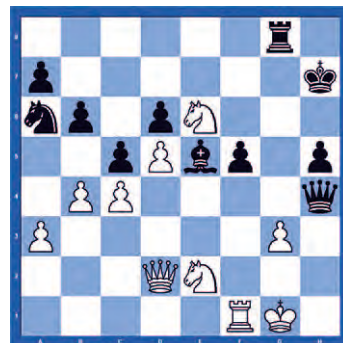


(10) Bromberger,S (2513) – Likavsky,T (2486)

Austrian league, 21.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

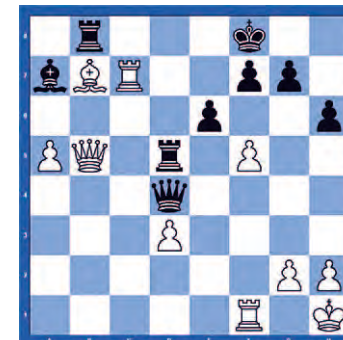


(12) Bacallao Alonso,Y (2550) – Gonzalez Garcia,J (2529)

Catalanian league, 17.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Movsesian,S (2715) – Swiercz,D (2585)

Czech league, 22.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

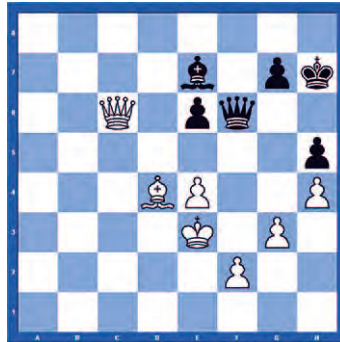


Endgame section

(15) Balogh,Cs (2664) – Baramidze,D (2612)

Austrian league, 21.04.2012

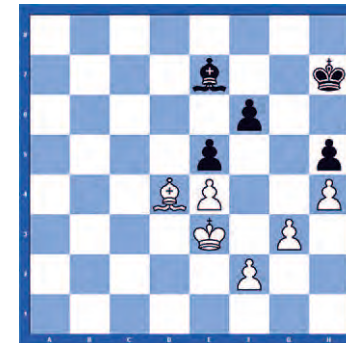
[Balogh Csaba]



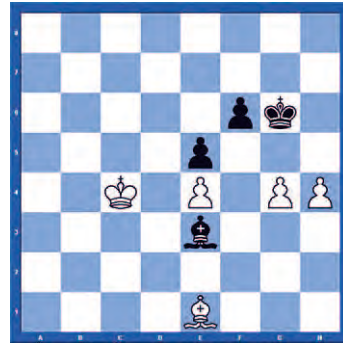
After a long and tough middle game, I got this endgame with an extra pawn. However, converting the advantage was still going to be really difficult due to the relatively small amount of material on the board. In order to make progress, White has to push his pawns forward, but this would lead to further exchanges. At this moment, both me and my opponent were living on the 30 seconds increments, which made our tasks even harder. After my last move 79. ♕d4, Black was facing a critical decision, to defend passively or to transpose to a bishop endgame.

79...e5? Short on time, Black chooses the wrong direction... [79...♔f7 was the correct move. I don't know who has better chances, White to win or Black to hold the draw.]

80. ♔xf6 gxf6! This is the critical moment of the game! White has to find the right plan to win the game, which I missed with 30 seconds on the clock. Unfortunately, two moves later, when I realized which was the right path, it was already too late... [Of course not 80...♕xf6? 81. ♕c3 ♔g8 82. ♔d3 ♔f7 83. f4 +- wins another pawn, since Black can not go for the pawn endgame.]



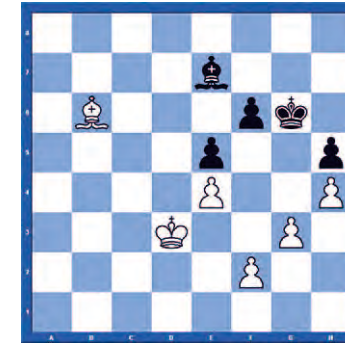
81. ♕b6? [81. ♕c3! ♔g6 82. f3! ♕c5+ 83. ♔e2 ♕b6 84. g4! This is the winning position, but it still requires good technique. Black has nothing else than passing with the bishop. 84... ♕c5 85. ♕e1! White prepares the plan with ♔d3-c4-d5, but first he had to prevent ♕f2. 85... ♕b6 86. ♔d3 ♕a7 87. ♔c4 At this moment, due to the gxh5, ♔d5-e6 threat, Black is forced to take on g4, which is clearly an improvement for the attacking side. 87...hxg4 (87... ♕e3 88. gxh5+ ♔f7 (88... ♔xh5 89. ♔d5 ♔g6 90. ♔e6 +- White is going to exchange his h-pawn for the f6 pawn, after that, e5 will fall as well.) 89. ♔d3 ♕h6 90. ♕d2 Unfortunately for Black, the pawn endgame loses with just one tempo... 90... ♔g7 (90... ♕f8 91. ♔c4 +-) 91. ♕xh6+ ♔xh6 92. ♔c4 ♔xh5 93. ♔d5 ♔xh4 94. ♔e6 ♔g5 95. ♔f7! f5 96. ♔e6 fxe4 97. fxe4 ♔f4 98. ♔d5 +-) 88. fxc4 ♕e3



(88...♔f7 89.h5 ♕e3 90.♔d3 transposes to the main line.)
 89.♔d3 Here it's another important moment to find the right plan. After forcing Black to take on g4, the King must change his direction! (89.♔d5 ♔f7 90.h5 ♕c1 would be hard to make progress, but of course with 91.♔c4! White can change his mind at any time.) 89... ♕f4 90. ♕d2 ♕g3 91.h5+ ♔f7 92.♔e2 ♔g7 93.♔f3 ♕h4 94.♔g2 ♔f7 95.♔h3 ♕f2 96.g5! This is the point. White penetrates through the f5 square and collects the e5 pawn as well. The position is winning, thanks to the dark square bishop, which corresponds to the promoting square in h8. 96... fxf5 97.♔g4 ♕d4 (97... ♕c5 98. ♕xg5 ♔e6 99.h6 ♕f8 100. h7 ♕g7 101. ♕h4 ♕h8 102.♔g5 ♔f7 103.♔f5 ♕g7 104. ♕g3 +-) 98. ♕xg5 ♔g7 (98... ♔e6 99.h6 ♔f7 100.♔f5 +-) 99.♔f5 ♕c3 100. ♕f6+ ♔h6 101. ♕xe5 ♕e1 102.♔g4 +- and the two extra pawns secure an easy win.]

81...♔g6! Now the position is drawn! Black can push f5!

82.♔d3!? At this moment, I already saw the f3-g4 plan, so I tried this tricky move, trying to lure the Black king to e6, which again would give me time to play f3 and g4. [On 82.f3 f5! is in time!; 82. ♕c7 does not stop neither 82... ♕c5+ 83.♔e2 f5! with a draw. We will discuss this positions below!]

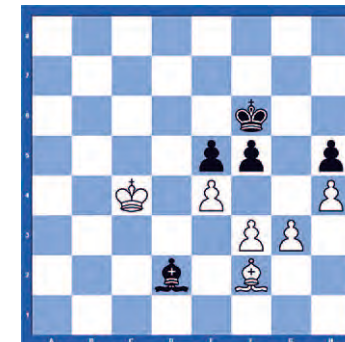


82...f5! [82...♔f7? 83.f3 +-]

83.f3 [83.exf5+ ♔xf5 84.f3 (84. ♕e3 e4+ = Despite being a healthy pawn up, White has no chance to bring home the full point, because Black succeeded to set up an ideal blockade position with the pawns. Any sort of pawn moves lead to exchanges and soon White gets out of material...) 84... ♕b4 85. ♕f2 ♕a5 = White can not make progress. He must cover the e1 square with the bishop, the pawns are immobile, while on 86.♔c4 Black can simplify with e4.]

83... ♕b4 [83...♔f6 was also draw 84.♔c4 ♔e6 85.exf5+ ♔xf5 86.♔d5 ♕b4! Accurate move! 87. ♕c7 ♕c3 = and again, Black has managed to build a fortress!]

84. ♕f2 ♔f6 85.♔c4 ♕d2



86.♔d5 Now, my king has reached the nice looking d5 square, but still after a great only move, Black holds the draw.

86...f4! Other moves were losing easily, but now unfortunately, I could not play 87.g4, which means that Black builds up a successful fortress again. [86...♙c1 87.♙b6 fxe4 88.♔xe4 ♔e6 89.♙d8 ♙d2 90.g4 +-; 86...♙a5 87.♙e3 +-]

87.gxf4 [87.g4 hxg4 88.fxg4 ♙e3! This is the key move to save the game. 89.♙e1 f3=]

87...♙xf4 88.♙b6 ♔e7 89.♙c7 ♔f6 90.♙d8+ ♔f7 91.♔d6 ♙g3 92.♙g5 ♙h2! = and White has no chance to improve his position. Black is either passing with ♙g3-h2 or with ♔f7-f6. I tried several more moves, then a bit disappointedly, agreed to a draw.

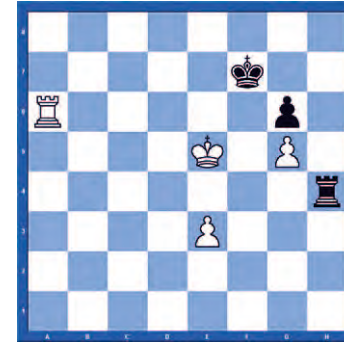
93.♔d7 ♙g3 94.♔d6 [94.f4 leads to a draw as well 94...♙xf4 95.♙xf4 exf4 96.e5 f3 97.e6+ ♔g7 98.e7 f2 99.e8Q f1Q 100.♔xh5 ♔f7+ =]

94...♙h2 95.♔d5 ♙g3 96.♙d8 ♙f4 97.♔d6 ♙g3 98.♙g5 ♙h2 99.♔d5 ♙g3 1/2

(16) Socko,B (2636) – Kraemer,M (2492)

Austrian league, 22.04.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]



In this position Black suddenly resigned. Lets take a look, if he was right or not!

1...♖b4 2.♖f6+! The only move, which is leading to a win for White. [Looks logical, but would throw away the full point. 2.♖a7+ ♔f8 Black wants to give a check on b5, the only chance for White to play for a win is 3.♖d7 (3.♔f6 ♖b6+ draw) 3...♖b5+! a very important check, all Black moves are forced and only 4.♖d5 (4.♔f6 ♖b6+ 5.♔e5 ♖b5+) 4...♖b3! attacking the pawn e3, by this Black wins an important tempo 5.e4 ♔e7! and Black is just in time to put the king to e7, the only way to save the game 6.♖a5 ♖b7! 7.♖a6 ♖b5+ 8.♔f4 ♔f7 with a draw.]

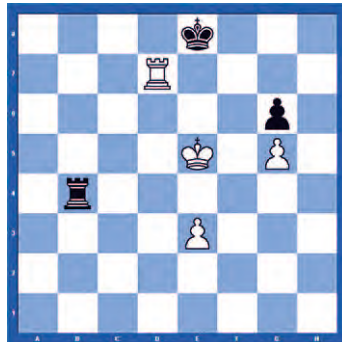
2...♔g7 3.♖d6! Again the only way for White.

3...♔f7 Black is trying to block with his King the route of the opponent's King — it is the only chance. In case, if it was Black's move, ♖b5-Rd5 and ♖b7 would hold the draw. [3...♖b5+ doesn't leave any hopes for Black 4.♖d5 ♖b4 5.♖d7+ ♔f8 6.♔e6! ♖b5 7.♖d5 (7.e4 would be a mistake 7...♖xg5 8.♔f6 ♔e8! 9.♖e7+ ♔d8 10.♖g7 ♖g1 11.e5 ♖f1+ 12.♔e6 ♖e1

13. ♖xg6 ♔c7 with theoretical drawn position.) 7... ♖b3 8.e4 and White wins easily. Lets check one line: 8... ♖f3 9. ♖d8+ ♔g7 10. ♖d7+ ♔f8 11.e5 ♖f5 (11... ♖f1 12. ♖d8+ ♔g7 13. ♔d7 ♖d1+ 14. ♔e7 ♖a1 15.e6 ♖e1 16. ♔d7 ♖d1+ 17. ♔e8 ♖a1 18.e7 ♖a7 19. ♖d6+-) 12. ♖d8+ ♔g7 13. ♔d6 ♖xg5 14.e6 ♖g1 15.e7+-; 3... ♖g4 4. ♖d7+ ♔f8 5. ♔f6+-]

4. ♖d7+ [A terrible mistake would be 4.e4? ♖b5+ 5. ♖d5 ♖b7! 6. ♖c5 (6. ♔d6 ♖b6+ 7. ♔d7 ♖b7+ 8. ♔c6 ♖e7 9.e5 ♔e6 draw) 6... ♔e7! and we are back to our drawish lines 7. ♖c6 ♖b5+ 8. ♔f4 ♔f7 9. ♖c7+ ♔f8 White can not make progress... 10. ♖d7 ♖a5 11. ♖d5 ♖a7 12. ♔e5 ♔e7]

4... ♔e8 [4... ♔f8 doesn't save Black 5. ♔e6 ♖a4 6. ♖d4! always the winning technique — ♖d4! 6... ♖a6+ 7. ♖d6 ♖a4 8. ♔f6+-]



5. ♖d4! ♖b3 6. ♔f6! ♖xe3 7. ♔xg6 And we reached a well known winning rook endgame. Lets us demonstrate the way to promote the pawn:

7... ♔f8 8. ♖d8+ ♔e7 9. ♖g8 ♖g3 10. ♔h7 ♔f7 11.g6+ ♔e7 12. ♖b8 ♖h3+ 13. ♔g8 ♖g3 14.g7+- and White wins with the help of the “bridge building”, what we already discussed in the 2nd CEWN. So, the resignation of the game was premature, it would have been worth a try, if White finds all the only moves to win the game... **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Nikolic, Emil – Fischer, Robert James [E61]

Vinkovci, 1968

[Balogh Csaba]

We will enjoy a fantastic victory of Robert Fischer. An intuitive piece sacrifice, followed by many silent moves...

1.c4 g6 2.♘c3 ♗g7 3.g3 e5 4.♗g2 d6 5.e3 ♘f6 Black's setup might remind us of the previous Fischer game against Myagmarsuren, except this time he leads the opposite color.

6.♘ge2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.d4



8...♖e8 Black shows a clear intention to push e4, White did not consider important to prevent it. In my opinion, this was a bad idea...

9.♖b1?! The plan itself is correct, to play b4-b5. White should play on the queenside, while Black will launch an attack against the king. [9.♙c2 was better, but still after 9...♘a6 Black should be fine... 10.♖b1?! moves into ♗f5.

(10.a3 and b4 is the right move.) 10...exd4! 11.♘xd4 (11.exd4? ♗f5)



11...c5! An unusual motif to win a pawn. 12.♘db5 ♗f5 13.e4 ♘b4! 14.♙e2 a6 15.♘a3 ♘xe4! 16.♘xe4 ♗xe4 17.♗xe4 f5]

9...e4! 10.b4 [10.f3 would be the principled reaction by White in order to undermine the center, but now he does not have enough pieces to control the e4 square... 10...exf3 11.♗xf3 ♗f5 and Black is better, since White has no e4 move.]

10...♗f5 [10...♗e6 was another idea to force White to open the diagonal for the g7 bishop. 11.d5 (11.♘xe4 ♘xe4 12.♗xe4 ♗xc4 and d5 in the next move, would be fine for Black.; 11.♙b3? does not work 11...b5 12.d5 bxc4) 11...cxd5 12.cxd5 ♗g4 13.h3 ♗xe2 14.♙xe2 ♘bd7 Black is OK after ♖c8, ♘b6.]

11.h3 Sooner or later the h3-h5 pair of moves had to be included. If Black plays h5, White anyway must play h3 in order to push g4 on the h4 move. [On 11.b5 the game could continue with 11...♘bd7 12.bxc6 bxc6 13.♙a4 This is premature because of 13...♘b6! 14.♙xc6 ♖c8 =+]

11...h5 12.♘f4 ♘bd7 Please notice, that Fischer puts his pieces in the same squares as in his game against Myagmarsuren.

13.a4?! In my opinion, this seems to be a loss of tempo. [13.♚b3 was more logical. 13...♘f8 14.b5 (14.d5 ♘8d7! After White gave up the control over the e5 square, Black changes the direction of his knight.) 14...♘8h7 15.bxc6 bxc6 16.♚b7 ♖c8 The a7 pawn is not that relevant, Black must focus his play on the kingside. 17.♚xa7 ♘g5 18.♖b7 ♘d7 with a really unclear position.]

13...♘f8



14.c5? This is a terrible positional mistake. White closes the center, after which it is much easier for Black to develop his attack. The move is also against the old chess rule, which says: against a flank attack, in case of same side castling, you should aim to open the center! [14.♙b2 was the correct plan, followed by d5 in the next move.]

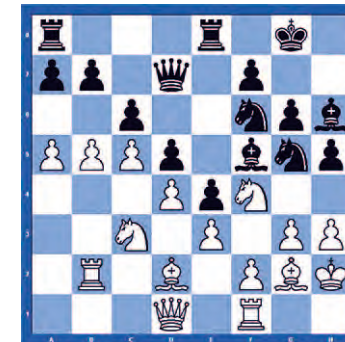
14...d5 15.b5 ♘8h7 16.♙d2 ♘g5



17.♖b2 White prepares for the invasion on the b-file. [17.bxc6 bxc6 18.♖b7? runs into a double attack: 18...♚c8]

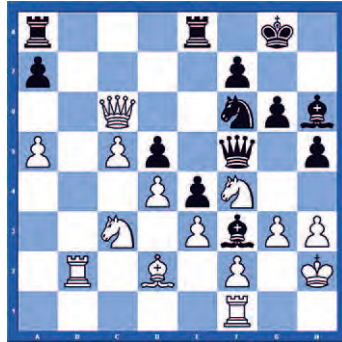
17...♚d7 18.♙h2 [18.h4?! is never an option for White. It would give up the light squares. 18...♙g4! 19.♚b3 ♘f3+]

18...♙h6 19.a5



19...♙g4!! I wanted to give more exclamation marks to this move :). A brilliant idea. We can not see any concrete threats yet, but soon we will understand what it is for...

20.hxg4 [The attack remains dangerous, even if White ignores the bishop. 20.♚b3!? ♘f3+ 21.♙xf3 ♙xf3 22.bxc6 bxc6 23.♚b7 ♚f5 Of course, Black needs the queen. 24.♚xc6]

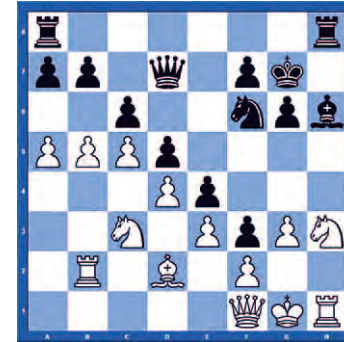


24... ♖xf4 25.gxf4 (25.exf4 ♘g4+! 26.hxg4 hxg4 and mate is coming soon.) 25... ♘g4+ 26.♔g1 (26.hxg4 ♕xg4) 26... ♘e5! and Black mates after ♕xh3!]

20...hxg4 21.♖h1 The only defensive way, trying to run away with the king. [21.a6 would be a bit optimistic. 21... ♘f3+ 22.♕xf3 gxf3 23.axb7 Black does not even need to waste time on rook moves... 23... ♘g4+ 24.♔g1 ♕xf4 25.exf4 ♕f5 26.bxa8Q ♖xa8 and ♕h5 decides the game.]

21...♘f3+! 22.♕xf3 gxf3 This pawn formation was the point of 19... ♕g4!! White has no chance to sacrifice his knights for the f3 pawn. Otherwise, Black can slowly play ♔g7, ♖h8, doubling the rooks on the h-file and giving mate.

23.♔g1? [The computer move 23.♘h3!? was the only chance, but 23... ♔g7! 24.♔g1 ♖h8 25.♕f1



Here I found a fantastic move. The point is, White's only chance for counterplay is a6, but Black can stop it before continuing his own plan. (25.a6 ♕xe3 26. ♕xe3 ♖xh3) 25... a6!! (25... ♖h7 26.a6 ♖ah8 27.axb7 ♕xb7 28.b6 might be also good for Black, but I think 25...a6 is easier.) 26.bxc6 bxc6 27.♘a4 ♖ag8 Black has to lose another tempo before doubling on the h-file, but this has no significance, since White's pieces are completely paralyzed...]



23... ♕xf4! Precise calculation! After eliminating the knight, Black saves a tempo to bring the rook to the h-file. White is not in time to run away with the king.

24.exf4 ♔g7! 25.f5 A desperate try to open the bishop's diagonal. [25.♔f1 ♖h8]

25...♖h8! 26.♙h6+ White temporarily closes the h-file.
 [26.♔c1 ♜xh1+ 27.♙xh1 ♜h8+ 28.♙g1 ♔xf5]

26...♜xh6 27.♜xh6 ♙xh6 28.♔d2+



28...g5! Black does not give the chance for playing ♔f4.

29.bxc6 ♔xf5! ♔h3 threatens with mate on g2, White has only one way to prevent it.

30.♘d1 ♔h3 31.♘e3 But now again, the rook comes to the h-file...

31...♙g6! 32.cxb7 ♜h8 A brilliant victory! **0-1**

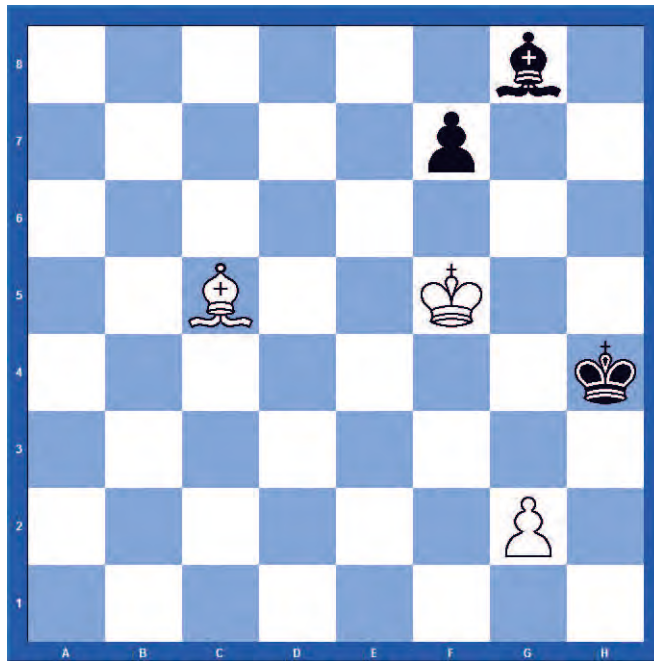
Surprise section / study

(18) Horwitz,B

1884

[CEWN]

1. +-



Interview with Vallejo Pons

GM Vallejo, you have just become champion of Germany with Baden Baden. In how many countries have you already won the Team Championship?

For now I have won just Spanish, French and German league, but also true that I played only at these championships, plus the Italian, where we became second :)

Is Spain a good country for being a chess professional?

I don't think it is a bad one, but of course now with the big economic crisis many tournaments are collapsing. To be honest I don't even remember the last time I gave a simul, 15-20 years ago, things were much easier.

But I still like what I do, it is paid decently, and you travel a lot, I think I don't have the right to complain.

Would You advice a young kid who has talent to continue the chess career or better switch to the usual, school, university ?

It depends on his level, nowadays you need at least 2600 to have a nice future in the chess world, otherwise for sure University is a better option. So if you are talented and have 2600 perspective in the future, go ahead.

Everyone knows chess at top level is exhausting. What is your favorite food and drink before the game and during?

Fresh juice is clearly my favorite drink, and for eating in general I like any kind of food if it is a good quality one. Let's say my favorite is Lobster Soup (typical from Menorca) and during the games I like bananas and chocolate.

Solutions

(19) Moskalenko,A (2451) – Andreikin,D (2689)

Russian league, 11.04.2012

[Solutions]



32...♖g6!! 33.♔h5 [33.♔f4 ♔xh3+!! 34.♖xh3 ♖g1+ 35.♔e2 ♖e1#] **33...♖e5** 0-1

(20) Ibragimov,I (2539) – Savchenko,B (2580)

Russian league, 11.04.2012

[Solutions]

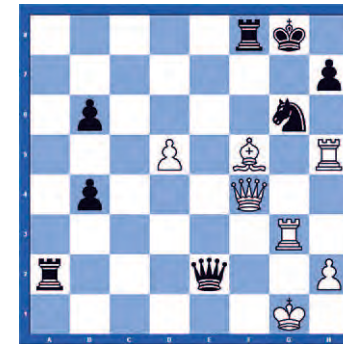


33...♔xf1+! 34.♔xf1 ♕xg2+! 0-1

(21) Matlakov,M (2632) – Khismatullin,D (2656)

Russian league, 12.04.2012

[Solutions]



32.♖xg6+! [32.♕e6+ ♔xe6 33.♔xf8+! ♔xf8 34.dxe6±] **32...hxg6 33.♖h8+!! ♔g7** [33...♔xh8 34.♔h6+ ♔g8 35.♔xg6+ ♔h8 36.♔h7#] **34.♔h6+ ♔f6 35.♖xf8+ ♔e7 36.♔g7+** [36.d6+ ♔xd6 37.♔f4+--] **36...♔d6 37.♖f6+--** [37.♔f6+! ♔c5 38.♖c8+ ♔b5 39.♔c6+ ♔a5 40.♖a8+--]

(22) Grachev,B (2705) – Poluljahov,A (2505)

Russian league, 13.04.2012

[Solutions]

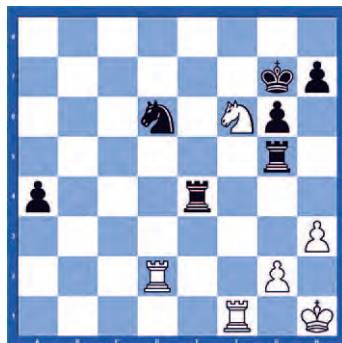


24. ♖d7! 1-0[24. ♖d7 ♜fc8 (24... ♜e8 25. ♗e7+!+-)
25. ♗xf6+! qxf6 26. ♗e7+!+-]

(23) Tregubov,P (2599) – Morozevich,A (2765)

Russian league, 15.04.2012

[Solutions]

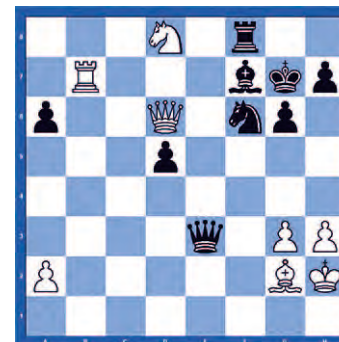


37... ♖f5!! [37... ♖e6? 38. ♖xd6!±] **38. ♖fd1** [38. ♖xf5 ♖e1+ 39. ♔h2 ♘xf5-+] **38... ♖xf6** **39. ♖xd6 ♖xd6** [39... a3! 40. ♖d7+ ♖f7-+] **40. ♖xd6 a3** **41. ♖a6 ♖e3±**

(24) Mozharov,M (2474) – Malakhov,V (2705)

Russian league, 15.04.2012

[Solutions]

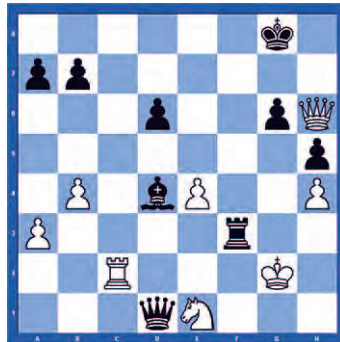


41...♘g4+!! 42.hxg4 ♖h6+ 43.♔g1 ♗e3+! [43...♗c1+?
44.♙f1 ♗e3+ 45.♔g2 ♗d2+ 46.♙f3! ♗c3+ 47.♔e2 ♗c2+
48.♔e3+...] **44.♔f1 ♗c1+** [44...♗d3+=] **45.♙f2 ♗d2+**
46.♔g1 ♗e3+ 47.♔h2 ♗h6+ 48.♙h3 ♗d2+ 49.♔g1
♗e3+ 50.♔h2 1/2-1/2

(25) Kempinski,R (2604) – Berg,E (2575)

German league, 14.04.2012

[Solutions]

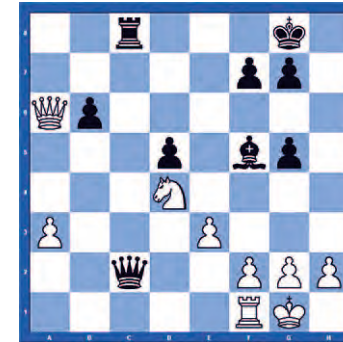


41... ♖g3+!! 42. ♔xg3 ♚xe1+ [42... ♚g4+!? 43. ♔h2 ♚e5+! 44. ♔h1 ♚h3+ 45. ♔g1 ♚d4+ 46. ♖f2 ♚g3+ 47. ♔h1 ♚xf2+!] 43. ♔h3 ♚f1+ 44. ♖g2 [44. ♔g3 ♚e5+--+] 44... ♚f3+ 45. ♔h2 [45. ♖g3 ♚h1#] 45... ♚e5+ 46. ♔g1 ♚d1+ 47. ♔f2 ♚d4+ 0-1 [47... ♚d4+ 48. ♔g3 ♚g4+ 49. ♔h2 ♚xh4#]

(26) Gustafsson,J (2642) – Venkatesh,M (2509)

Bangkok Open, 15.04.2012

[Solutions]



27... ♚d3! 28. ♘xc2 [28. ♚b7 ♚c1!-+] 28... ♚xa6 29. ♘b4 [29. ♖c1 ♚d3-+] 29... ♚xf1 30. ♔xf1 ♖c5+-

(27) Margvelashvili,G (2547) – Finegold,B (2505)

Saint Louis, 11.04.2012

[Solutions]



17.a3!! [17. ♖xd4? ♖xd4 18.a3 ♚d6!] 17... ♚c5 18. ♖xd4! ♖xd4 19. ♚e3 ♖ed8 20. ♘xd4 [20.b4+-] 20... ♖xd4 21. ♖d1 ♖xd1 22. ♚xc5+-

(28) Young,An (2321) – Sevillano,E (2502)

Saint Louis, 12.04.2012

[Solutions]

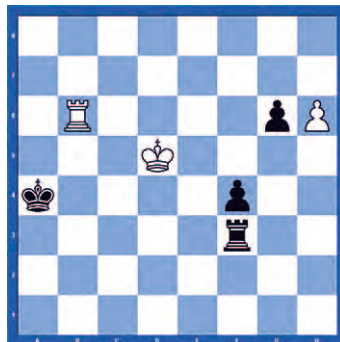


16...♔a5+!! 17.b4 [17.♘c3 exd4 18.♔xd4 ♕f6 19.♔d2 ♖xc3!-+] **17...♔xa2!! 18.♘b3** [18.♖xa2 ♖c1+-+; 18.f3 ♔xa1+ 19.♔f2 ♕d7-+] **18...♔xa1+! 0-1**

(29) Troitzky,Cheron

1962

[Solutions]



1.♔c4! ♔a5 [1...♔a3 2.h7 ♖h3 3.♖b3+! ♖xb3 4.h8Q+-] **2.♖b5+! ♔a6 3.♖h5!! gxh5 4.h7+- 1-0**



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 10

4th of May 2012

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Editorial Preface

The great match between Kramnik and Aronian finished with a “friendly” outcome of 3–3. This was the first match in history that featured two 2800+ rated opponents. We saw great fighting spirit from both players! You will find 4 out of 6 games in the 9th and 10th editions of the Chess Evolution Weekly Newsletter.

After offering a very hard selection of puzzles in the first editions, we have switched to a selection of easier ones.

In less than 10 days, the battle for the World Championship between Anand and Gelfand will begin. Don’t forget that You can subscribe to the special Chess Evolution Newsletter that will be provided for this match with a 50% discount (7 Euro!), only available to CEWN subscribers.

As usual, we wish You lots of fun and we hope you make the most out of the 10th edition of the Chess Evolution Newsletter!

*Arkadij Naiditsch
Balogh Csaba*

4 best games of the past week

(1) Kramnik,V (2801)
— Aronian,L (2820) [C47]

Zurich Chess Challenge Zuerich SUI (3), 24.04.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the 3rd game (out of 6) of the friendly match between Kramnik and Aronian. The first match in history between two players with a 2800+ ELO rating. This game was, probably, one of the most spectacular ones in the match!

1.e4 We don't see Kramnik playing 1.e4 often, but maybe he chose to change his first move after losing a horrible game in the 1st round, when he played 1.d4.

1...e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 What a surprising choice of opening by White! Who could expect that such an opening Guru like Kramnik would choose this „boring“ line?

3...♘f6 4.d4 exd4 5.♘xd4



5...♘c5 This came as a huge surprise to me. Why not 5...♘b4 going into the old lines, where nobody has been

able to show how to play for an advantage in the last 30 years? Usually, White chooses this line to make a draw out of the opening. In the interview after the game, Aronian said that he wanted to create some „action“ — well, he achieved his goal!

6.♗e3!? Yes, finally we see something out of Kramnik's preparation. [The main choice would be 6.♘xc6 bxc6 7.♗d3]

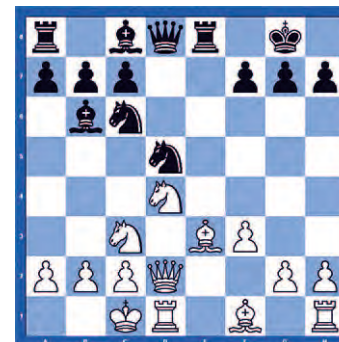
6...♗b6 7.♔d2 From here on we are in an almost totally unknown position, only after 7 moves! [Sort of a main line here is: 7.♘xc6 bxc6 8.e5 ♗xe3 9.fxe3 ♘d5 with a crazy position.]

7...0–0 8.0–0–0 ♖e8 Very logical play by Black.

9.f3 d5!? From here on the game is getting forced. [If black chooses a slow move 9...d6 10.g4 White is doing better.]

10.exd5 [10.♘xc6?! clearly wouldn't give White any advantage 10...bxc6 11.g4 ♗e6 Black finished his development and got active in the center — everything is looking very nice for him!]

10...♘xd5

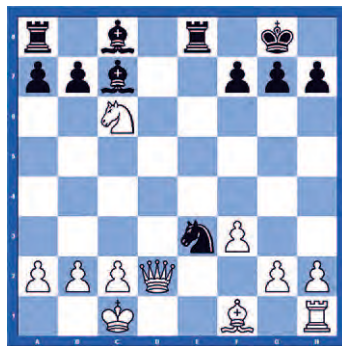


11. ♖g5! A very strong move by White! Probably the only chance to fight for the advantage.

11... ♜xc3!? A very interesting move by Aronian, which leads to a very crazy position! [Leads to a worse endgame 11...f6 12. ♖c4 A lot of pieces are hanging in the center, and all the coming moves seem quite forced 12... ♜xd4 13. ♜xd5 ♖e6 14. ♖xf6! A very nice tactical blow! 14...gxf6 15. ♜xb6 axb6 16. ♔xd4 ♔xd4 17. ♖xe6+ ♖xe6 18. ♖xd4 ♖xa2 19. ♖b1 and we are in an endgame where White is clearly doing a bit better due to the pawn structure.]

12. ♖xd8 ♜xd1 13. ♖xc7! Kramnik is howing once again his great calculation skills in a position that's not easy at all! [13. ♖h4 ♜xd4 14. ♖xd1 and we are in a position where Black has at least 3 moves that make the evaluation completely unclear: 14... ♖f5, 14... ♖e6 or 14... ♜f5. Yes, White is a Queen up, but all the Black pieces are standing in great positions, clearly giving him good counterplay. For the computer fans it is important to know that almost all engines evaluate the advantage of the queen as „too strong“.]

13... ♖xc7 14. ♜xc6 ♜e3

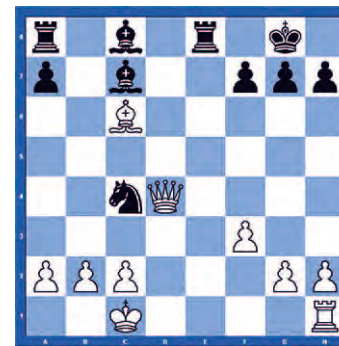


15. ♖b5! A very important, and very strong, move by White! It is very difficult to calculate all the lines here... [A mistake would be 15. ♜d4? ♖f4! 16. ♖b5 ♜f1! and White is losing his Queen!]

15... ♖xc6!? [15... ♖f5!? This is the first choice of the engines, but it's almost impossible to make this move during a practical game. 16. ♜d4 ♖f4 and again we are facing a long forced line. 17. ♖xe8 ♜xg2 18. ♖xf7+ ♔xf7 19. ♜xf5 ♖xd2+ 20. ♖xd2 ♖d8+ Probably Black has good chances to save this endgame.; A very interesting human move would be 15...a6 16. ♖a4 ♜c4 but it seems not to work because of 17. ♖b4! b5 18. ♖b3 and it looks like White's material advantage is too big]

16. ♖xc6 ♜c4 [Doesn't work 16... ♖f4 and White needs to make 3 amazingly cool moves. 17. ♖b1! ♖f5 18. ♖xa8! ♖xa8 19. ♖e1! White is winning, but this sequence is far from obvious!]

17. ♔d4 Other queen moves were also possible, but probably the move in the game is the best one — Why? Hmmm, probably it's just a feeling :)



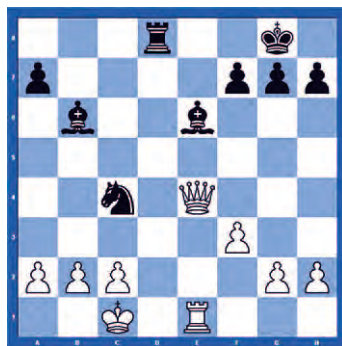
17... ♖e6! Good and logical

18. ♖xa8 [18. ♖xe8?? ♖e5! and the White queen doesn't have any good squares. 19. ♔h4 ♖xb2+ 20. ♔d1 ♖xe8 with a mating attack!]

18... ♖b6 [18... ♖e5 19. ♔xa7!]

19. ♔d3 [If White tries to hold the piece on a8, he could end up creating ugly complications for himself. 19. ♔e4 ♖e3+ 20. ♔d1 ♖xb2+ (A bit optimistic would be 20... ♖d8+ 21. ♔e1 ♖b6 The position looks super dangerous for White, but the computer finds great defensive resources. 22. ♖b7! An amazing move that's hard to find in a practical game. 22... ♖e3 23. ♖a6! and probably White is doing better.) 21. ♔e1 ♖d7 If somebody is better here, probably it's Black!]

19... ♖xa8 20. ♖e1 ♖d8 21. ♔e4 Somehow, the position seems to have stabilized. Black has 3 pieces for a queen and 2 pawns. All of Black pieces are standing very active giving a lot of chances for tactical ideas. How to evaluate such a position? It's very hard to say. I would say about equal, maybe just a little bit better for White.



21...g5? In my opinion, a terrible mistake by Black. He's weakening the king for no reason, and the g-pawn would stand much better on g6! [21...g6 would be the right move

here! And it's hard to say what's going to be White's next move. In case of: 22.b3 ♖c5 23.bxc4 ♖a3+ 24. ♔b1 ♖b8+ the position is drawn.]

22.c3! Whites keeps on playing great chess! 22.c3 A very important multi-functional move. The White king gets an escape square on c2, and the b3 move becomes a potential threat from now on.

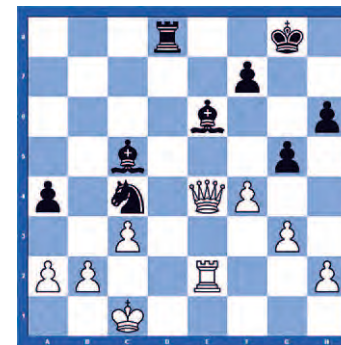
22... ♖c5 Reacting against the b3 move.

23. ♖e2 White keeps on improving his position.

23...h6 24.g3 [24.h4 was another way to weaken the pawn structure around the Black king.]

24...a5 Black has nothing to improve anymore, the a-pawn is the „last hero“.

25.f4 a4



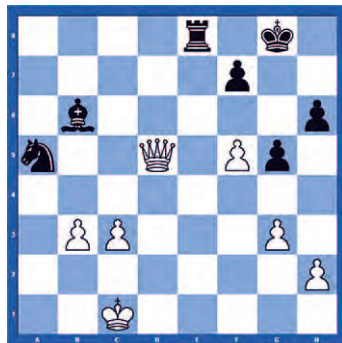
26.f5! Another important moment, White solves in a great way.

26... ♖d5 27. ♔d3 ♖b6 28.b3! Finally the pawns are starting to move.

28...axb3 29.axb3 ♖a5 30. ♖e8+! White continues with his great play. [The computer move: 30. ♔b5 ♖xb3+

31.♔b2 ♘a5 leads to a very strange position. 32.♖e8+ ♜xe8 33.♚xe8+ ♙h7 34.♚d7 ♙b3 35.♚b5 and the computer gives White a clear win, but don't ask me why! This is very strange, it's a very funny thing. Imagine the position: Black gives his knight for the pawn on c3. Is the position winning for White?!. Let's see, Black has: ♙g7, ♙f6 and ♙e4. White has: Queen, King, and pawns. Can White win this? Doesn't seem likely!]

30...♜xe8 31.♚xd5 Now Black has only one chance to make a draw, to give a piece for 2 pawns. Is it possible to do?! Let's see the game.



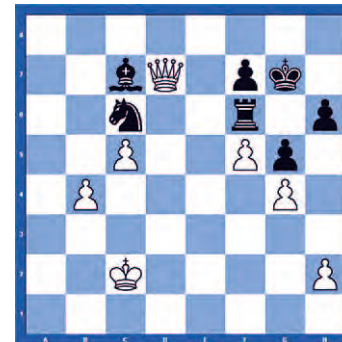
31...♜d8 32.♚b5 ♜d6 Black is getting the rook to the 6th rank, more precisely to f6, where it will be protected by the King on g7. At the same time, he will try to give one of his pieces for the 2 pawns, precisely on this 6th rank.

33.♙c2 ♙g7 34.b4 ♘b7 35.c4 ♜f6 36.g4! White has no reason to hurry and to risk giving away the f5 pawn. [A big mistake would be 36.c5? ♙xc5 37.bxc5 ♜xf5! 38.♚xb7 ♜xc5+ The Black rook is going to e6, and the position becomes a theoretical draw!]

36...♘d8 Black is trying to fight, but the position is hopeless. He can't coordinate his pieces correctly.

37.c5 ♙c7 [The last chance to fight would have been 37... ♘c6! 38.♚a4 ♙c7 39.b5 but it seems that here White will probably win the game, as well.]

38.♚d7 ♘c6



39.b5! The last precise move!

39...♘a7 40.♚xc7 ♘xb5 41.♚e5 ♘a7 42.♚d3 The White king is going to g3, then White will play h4, hxg, hxg, and ♚e3. Black is totally paralyzed against this plan. A very interesting game and a well deserved winner! **1-0**

(2) Aronian, Levon
— Kramnik, Vladimir

Zuerich (6), 27.04.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

We are in the last round of the historical match between two 2800+ players. The score is 2.5–2.5 and Aronian has the White pieces. It was obvious that he would press hard to win the match, but on the other hand, he had to be careful not to go too far.

1.e4 This is the 3rd time that Aronian played 1. e4 on the match. I guess it was quite a big surprise for everybody.

1...e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 Kramnik had no reason to deviate from his pet Berlin line. It was Aronian who had to show something more.

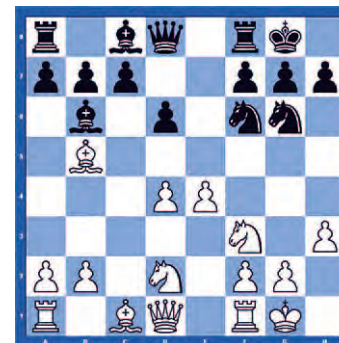
4.d3 Here we are! In their previous games, Aronian went for the mainline with 4.0–0. Now, he is aiming for a more complex middlegame with more pieces on the board.

4...♙c5 5.♘bd2 d6 6.c3 0–0 7.0–0 The first critical moment of the game. In a well-known theoretical position, Kramnik practically comes up with a novelty.



7...♞e7!? Typical idea in the Ruy Lopez — to transfer the knight to g6. It was considered as premature, since after 8.d4 Black has to give up his center.

8.h3 Aronian does not try to refute Kramnik's idea. [8.d4 was the critical test of 7...♞e7. Let's check what could have been Black's preparation. 8...exd4 9.cxd4 ♙b6 10.h3 White has to prevent ♙g4, it would have put big pressure on the central pawns. (10.♞e1 ♙g4 11.h3 ♙h5 Black is fine.) 10...♞g6



11.♞e1 The critical position. The computer suggests slow plans, but I don't like it at all. However, a quick break in the center might solve Black's opening problems. **11...d5!?** **12.e5 ♞h5!** I like this move a lot, with the idea of quickly undermining the e5 pawn with f6! **13.♞b3!** (The logical **13.♞f1** is probably a mistake. **13...c6 14.♙d3 (14.♙a4 f6 =+ 15.e6 ♞e8) 14...♞hf4 15.♙c2 f6 =+ Everything works as expected for Black.) 13...c6 14.♙d3 ♞hf4 (14...f6? is too rush. 15.♙xg6 hxg6 16.♞h4 +/-) 15.♙xg6 (White can't keep his important bishop with 15.♙c2 because 15...f6! arrives in time.) 15...fxg6! 16.♙xf4 ♞xf4 and I like Black's position. He has two bishops, the e5 passer will be blockaded with ♙e6 and the heavy pieces might cause prob-**

lems on the f-file. A potential idea in the future could be g5-g4, with an attack.]

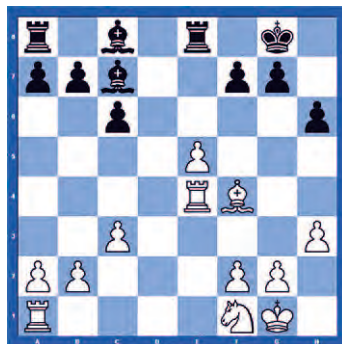
8...♘g6 9.♖e1 White also prepares for the standard plan of driving his knight to g3.

9...c6 Kramnik decides to go back to one of the main lines by transposition. [In my opinion 9...a6 is worth a try in the future. 10.♙a4 b5 11.♙c2 ♙b7 12.♞f1 (12.d4 ♙b6 13.♞f1 c5) 12...♙b6 13.♞g3 d5 Black is fine in both lines.]

10.♙a4 ♖e8 11.d4 ♙b6 We usually get this position from the 7...♙b6 move order.

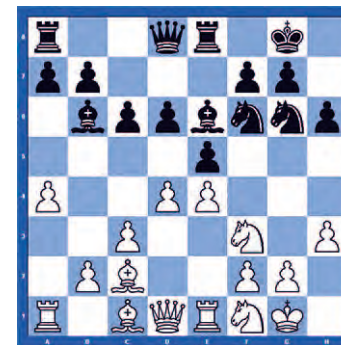
12.♙c2 White must overprotect the e4 pawn in order to transfer the knight to g3.

12...h6 13.a4!? is considered to be the critical move. White keeps his knight on d2 in order to prevent the 13.♞f1 d5 possibility. [13.♞f1 There was already a blitz game of Kramnik in this position. 13...d5 14.♞xe5 ♞xe5 15.dxe5 ♖xe5?! was a mistake. (15...♞xe4 would have equalized comfortably. 16.♙xe4 dxe4 17.♚xd8 ♙xd8 18.♖xe4 ♙c7 19.♙f4 White can keep his extra pawn, but the activity of Black's pieces will give more than enough compensation.



(19.f4 f6) 19...f5! 20.♖e2 g5! 21.♙h2 f4! Closing the bishop out of the game. 22.♖ae1 ♙f5 with initiative.) 16.♙f4 ♖e8 17.e5 ♞h7 18.♚d3 ♞f8 Radjabov-Kramnik, Kazan 2011 (blitz). White could have gotten an advantage after 19.♚g3]

13...♙e6 14.♞f1



14...exd4! Very strong novelty! Black begins concrete actions in the center. [In the previous game Black got into trouble very soon. 14...♚c7 15.♞g3 ♖ad8 16.♙e3 d5 and the central break ran into a strong refutation: 17.♞xe5! ♞xe5 18.♙f4! ♞fd7 19.a5! ♙xa5 20.exd5 ♙xd5 21.dxe5 +/- and White soon won in Alekseev-Jumabayev, Moscow 2012; 14...d5? 15.exd5]

15.♞xd4 It was a difficult decision, to obtain a strong center with 15. cxd4 or to play the f4 plan after 15.♞xd4. Black had his ideas after both captures. [15.cxd4 d5! 16.e5 ♞e4 17.♞1d2 (White wins a pawn only temporarily. 17.♙xe4? dxe4 18.♖xe4 ♙d5) 17...f5! Very important move, either to keep the powerful e4 knight or to break White's center. 18.exf6 ♞xd2! 19.♙xd2 (19.♙xg6 ♚xf6! 20.♙xe8 ♞xf3+ 21.♚xf3 ♚xf3 22.gxf3 ♖xe8 =+ This exchange sacrifice was the whole point of 14...exd4!) 19...♚xf6 Black is fine.]

15...♙d7 Again, Black is ready for the d5 break.

16.f4! In order to have 17.e5 on 16...d5.

16...d5! If White had enough time to play ♘g3, he could have prevented the d5 break forever.

17.e5 ♘e4 18.♙xe4 dxe4 Another critical position. White has to choose between three options. Black's main idea is f6 or f5.

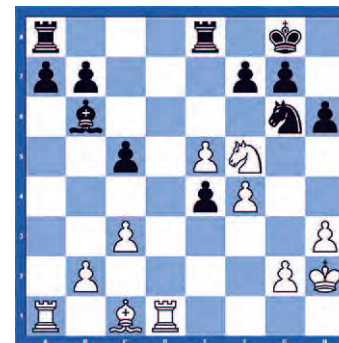


19.a5!? A really creative pawn sacrifice. We will get the point a few moves later. [19.♘g3 was the most logical move to take the e4 pawn with the knight. 19...f5! 20.exf6 ♙xf6 Here we get the point of Aronian's 19.a5 move. He wanted to avoid this recapture, because the bishop would hang on a5. 21.a5! (21.♘xe4?! ♙h4 again with very strong compensation) 21...♙xd4+ 22.♙xd4 ♙xd4+ 23.cxd4 ♘h4! 24.♙xe4 ♘f5 25.♙xe8+ ♙xe8 26.♘xf5 ♙xf5 White is a pawn up, but due to the appearance of opposite colored bishops and the activity of Black's pieces, a draw would be the logical outcome of the game; 19.♙xe4 was the least promising alternative, Black gets very strong initiative after 19...c5 20.♘f3 ♙c6 21.♙e1 c4+ 22.♙h2 (22.♘d4? ♙h4 causes huge problems around the f4 pawn.) 22...f6 Black is fine.]

19...♙xa5 20.♘g3 ♙b6 21.♙h2! Prophylactic against the ♙h4 ideas. [21.♘xe4?! would be a mistake. 21...♙h4! 22.♘d6 ♘xf4! 23.♙xf4 ♙xf4 24.♘xe8 ♙xe8 Despite only having one pawn for the exchange, Black is clearly better due to his bishop pair and the weak e5 pawn.]

21...c5!? [In my opinion 21...♘h4 was a safer way to equality. 22.♘xe4 c5 23.♘f3 ♘xf3+ 24.♙xf3 ♙c6 with a balanced position.]

22.♘df5 ♙xf5 23.♘xf5 ♙xd1 24.♙xd1



24...♙ad8 Black is still a pawn up, but it is him who must be careful not to stay worse, due to the weaknesses of the e4 and b7 pawns, the bad b6 bishop and the hole on d6. When Aronian played 19.a5, he was hoping to get an advantage thanks to these factors. On the other hand, Kramnik is playing on f6, which could solve his problems.

25.♙e3 [On 25.♙e1 ♙d5! 26.♘d6 ♙e7 and f6 is coming next.; 25.♘d6 f6! 26.♙e3 ♙f8 Black seems to equalize.]

25...♙d3! Very strong move, to complicate the matters. [The principled 25...f6 was premature. 26.♙xd8 ♙xd8 27.exf6 gxf6 28.♙a4! += with a clear advantage.]

26.♙e1 Aronian refreshes the threat of ♘d6.

26...f6! Black had to undermine the center, even if it costs him the h6 pawn. With this, he also gets rid of the d6 stronghold.

27.exf6 gxf6 28.♘xh6+ ♔f8? The first mistake of the game! Black should have sent the knight to f5, we will soon understand why. [28...♔g7 was the right move. 29.♘f5+ ♔f7 30.♖a4 ♘e7! The exchange of knights was an important idea, which leads to complete equality!]

29.♖a4! Really strong move, Black has serious problems with his e4 pawn, due to the f5 threat! That's why he should have forced the knight to f5 first.

29...♖d5 30.c4? A miscalculation by Aronian. [30.f5! would have given White a big advantage. 30...♕c7+ (30...♘h4 31.c4! and the knight is trapped.) 31.♔g1 ♕g3 32.♖f1 ♘e5 33.♖xe4 +/-]

30...♖d3! 31.b4?! The previous move was based on this idea. Aronian was hoping for 31...cxb4, but Kramnik found a brilliant idea!



31...♖xe3!! Black gets two very dangerous passers after this great exchange sacrifice. Suddenly, Black has a winning advantage. What a turn in the game! [31...cxb4

32.♕xb6 axb6 33.♖xb4 ♘xf4 34.♖xb6 ♔g7 35.♘g4 += This unpleasant endgame was Aronian's idea.]

32.♖xe3 cxb4 33.♖g3 There was no increment of 30 seconds in the match, and the time pressure made the tasks of both players even harder. [33.♖e1 ♘xf4]

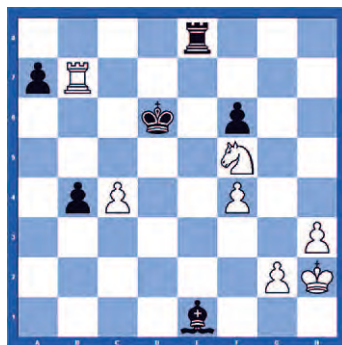
33...e3 Logical move, but White survives. [33...♘e7!! was the winning move. Of course for computers this is an easy one. The next moves of the line are also amazingly hard to find for a human. 34.♘g4 (34.♖xb4 ♕c7 is the idea. White's pieces are really poorly placed, he can not avoid losing big material.) 34...♘f5 35.♖b3 (35.♘xf6 ♘xg3 36.♔xg3 (36.♘xe8 ♘f1+ An important „zwischenzug“!) 36...♖e7 37.♘d5 ♖g7+ 38.♔h2 e3 White can not stop the pawns.) 35...e3 36.♖b1 e2 37.♘xf6 (37.♖e1 b3 38.♘xf6 ♕f2) 37...♖e7 38.♘d5 ♘e3! 39.♘xe7 ♘d1! Black promotes a queen after this nice rank closing combo!]

34.♖xg6 e2 35.♖a1 [35.♖g8+ ♔e7 36.♖xe8+ ♔xe8 37.♖a1 ♕f2 of course was not the way to play for White. The queenside passers decide the game.]

35...♕f2! [But not 35...e1Q?? 36.♖g8+ ♔e7 37.♖xe1+]

36.♖g8+ Aronian logically goes for the b7 pawn. But at the same time, he helps the Black king to support his own pawns. [36.♖xf6+ ♔g7 37.♖d6 e1Q 38.♖xe1 ♖xe1 Black's a- and b-pawns seem more dangerous than the f-g-h trio.]

36...♔e7 37.♖g7+ ♔d6 38.♖xb7 e1Q 39.♖xe1 ♕xe1 40.♘f5+ [40.♖xa7 ♕c6 41.♘f5 transposes to the 40.♘f5+ ♔c6 line.]



40...♔c5 The last move of the time trouble. An inaccuracy. Kramnik could have checked a bit more Aronian's defensive abilities. [On 40...♔c6! 41.♖xa7 b3 42.♘d4+ ♔b6 White has to find the only move to hold the draw. 43.♖a1! (However 43.♖a3 seems to lose after 43...b2 44.♖b3+ ♔c5 45.♘c2 (45.♖xb2 ♔xd4 46.♖b6 ♖e3!! ♕g3 threatens with mate. (46...♕h4 47.g3!) 47.g4 ♕h4 and on g5, Black always has f5.) 45...♕c3! 46.♘a3 ♖a8! 47.♘b1 (47.♖xc3 ♖xa3!) 47...♕d4 48.♘d2 ♖a4! and the ♖b4 idea decides the game. Here is one line to demonstrate: 49.h4 ♖b4 50.♖xb4 ♔xb4 51.h5 ♔c3 52.♘b1+ ♔c2 53.♘a3+ ♔b3 54.♘b1 ♔a2 55.c5 ♔xb1 56.c6 ♕b6 57.h6 ♔c2 58.h7 b1Q Black should win.) 43...♕c3 44.c5+! ♔b7 45.♖b1 ♕xd4 46.♖xb3+ ♔c6 47.g4 and White will be able to exchange the f6 pawn, and hold the draw.]

41.♖b5+! Thanks to this small tactical trick, White forces a draw.

41...♔c6 [41...♔xc4?? 42.♘d6+]]

42.♘d4+ ♔c7 43.♖c5+ Draw agreed after a very interesting battle. We could see that both players had their chance to win the match, but it finished with a 3–3 result after all.[43.♖c5+ ♔b7 44.♖b5+ ♔c7] **1/2**

(3) Sutovsky,E (2700) – Olszewski,M (2539) [B43]

Italian league, 29.04.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

A typical Sicilian battle, with lots of tactical ideas. On the White side Emil Sutovsky, one of the biggest expert of attacking chess.

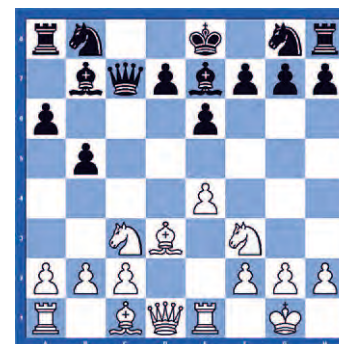
1.e4 c5 2.♘c3 e6 3.♘f3 a6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♘xd4 b5 We are in the Paulsen variation.

6.♕d3 ♖b6 Black wants to develop his queen to c7, but first he sends away the active d4 knight. This is a well-known motif in this line.

7.♘f3 Theory considers this retreat of the knight as best. [7.♘b3 ♖c7 and; 7.♕e3 ♕c5 are the other mainlines.]

7...♖c7 8.0–0 ♕b7 9.♖e1! White must stay in the center. The game does a good job in showing the ideas of this setup.

9...♕e7 [9...♕c5 is an alternative for Black.]



10.♕d2! In the Sicilian defense, we can sometimes meet with this move. The idea is always the same, White wants to push a4, so he prepares for the b4 response.

10...d6 Black would like to develop his knight to d7 and prepare for ♖f6. [10...b4 11.♘a4 ♘f6 12.c3! bxc3 13.♘xc3 and the rook comes to c1, which is going to be really annoying.; The direct 10...♘f6 would run into the dangerous 11.e5 ♘d5 12.♘xd5 ♙xd5 13.♘g5 when ♔h5 might cause serious problems.]

11.a4! bxa4 Black can rarely be happy with this capture. The optimal answer would be b4, but thanks to the 10. ♙d2 move, White can build a very strong position. [11... b4 12.♘a2 Black is forced to weaken his structure with 12...a5 13.c3 bxc3 14.♘xc3 and the knight on b5 creates big problems.(In this case the direct 14.♔c1! is even stronger. 14...♘f6 15.♙xc3 ♔d8 16.♔b3 White is already close to winning.)]

12.e5! I like this move a lot. White does not want to allow ♘d7 to his opponent. [12.♔xa4 ♘d7 13.♔e2 ♘c5 14.♔c4 ♔d8 would be unclear, if Black manages to finish his development with ♘f6, he is completely fine.]

12...dxe5 [12...♘d7 is met with 13.exd6 ♙xd6 14.♘e4! ♙xe4 15.♙xe4 and White gets the bishop pair. 15...♔d8 16.♔xa4 ♘c5 loses the a nice queen sacrifice. 17.♙a5!! ♙xh2+ 18.♘xh2 ♔xd1 19.♔xd1 ♔c8 20.♔c4 +-]

13.♘xe5 ♘f6 [13...♘d7 14.♙f4 +/-]

14.♔xa4



14...0-0 Black finally managed to finish his development, but as You can see, due to the ♙d2-a4 idea, the rook joins the attack.

15. ♙f4 Strong move, but I feel 15.♔h4 was more principled. The text move cuts the rook from the attack. [15.♔h4!? ♘c6 (15...♘bd7? 16.♙f4! ♔d8 17.♘xd7 ♔xd7 18.♙xh7+ +- wins the queen.) 16.♙f4 ♔d8 and here, from the many good-looking options 17.♔h3 is the one I like the most, with the main idea of ♙xh7 and ♔h5 mate, and ♔g3 might be also very unpleasant.]

15...♔d8 16.♔d4? I don't like this at all. It moves into the ♘c6 move, with tempo. I think Sutovsky had already seen his 18th move and could not resist the temptation. [16.♔e3! ♘c6 17.♔h3! should be a winning attack.]

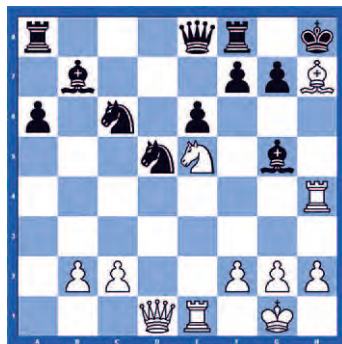
16...♔e8 17.♙g5 ♘c6! Here comes the idea:



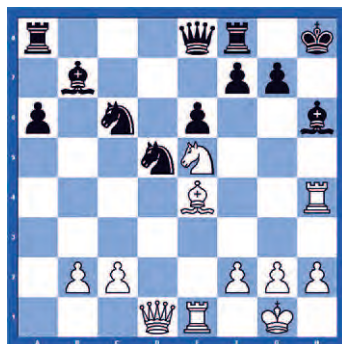
18.♘d5!? Beautiful move, but unfortunately only leads to a draw. [18.♔h4 ♘xe5 19.♔xe5 g6 Black has enough time to reduce the power of the attack.]

18...♘xd4! Only move! [After 18...♘xd5 the nicest part of the game is coming: 19.♙xh7+! ♙h8 (19...♙xh7? leads to a quick mate. 20.♔h5+ ♙g8 21.♔h4 +-) 20.♔h4! (Strange-

ly, White has nothing after 20. ♖h5 ♗xg5! The bishop defends everything from h6.) 20... ♗xg5 Critical moment. Where to jump with the h7 bishop?

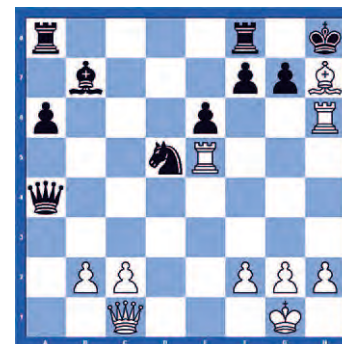


21. ♗e4+!! (21. ♗d3+ ♗h6 and on the winning idea 22. ♖c1 ♗g8 23. ♖xh6 Black has 23... f5!! with an extra piece.) 21... ♗h6 (21... ♗g8? 22. ♖h5 ♗h6 23. ♗g4 +-)

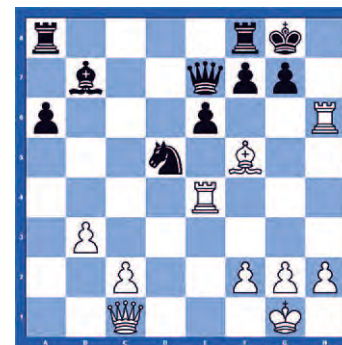


22. ♖c1!! An incredibly hard move to find. The idea itself is obvious, but why not 22. ♖d2 ?? The answer is, White must protect his backrank! Who could care about it in this position?... (22. ♖d2 ♗xe5 23. ♖xh6+ ♗g8 24. ♗h7+ ♗h8 25. ♖xe5 Black has 25... ♗a4!! and the same win seen after 22. ♖c1 does not work anymore. White must give perpetual check. 26. ♗d3+ ♗g8 27. ♗h7+ ♗g8 28. ♗f5+ ♗g8 29. ♗e4+ ♗g8 30. ♗h7+ ♗g8 31. ♗h7#)

23. ♖xh6 f5 Here we get the point. We realize why the bishop had to retreat to e4 in the 21st move. 24. ♗xd5! ♗xe5 (24... exd5 25. ♗xc6 +-) 25. ♗xe6+ ♗f7 26. ♖g6 +- White wins.) 23. ♖xh6+ ♗g8 24. ♗h7+ ♗h8 25. ♖xe5 ♗a4 Another very important moment. The Black queen wants to join the battle through f4, how to avoid it? (25... gxf6 26. ♖xh6 +-; 25... ♗f6 26. ♗d3+ ♗g8 27. ♖xf6! gxf6 28. ♖g5+ fxf6 29. ♖xg5+ ♗h8 30. ♖h6+ ♗g8 31. ♖h7#)

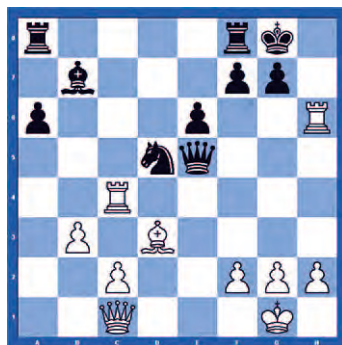


26. ♗e4+! ♗g8 27. b3!! and this is why the queen must stay on c1. There is no mate on a1 now. 27... ♖d4 (On 27... ♖b4 28. ♗h7+ ♗h8 29. ♖e4! ♖e7 30. ♗f5+ ♗g8 31. ♖eh4! Nice position, but it still requires accurate moves. 31... g6 (31... gxf6 32. ♖g4+!) 32. ♖h7!! with the idea



31. ♖eh4! Nice position, but it still requires accurate moves. 31... g6 (31... gxf6 32. ♖g4+!) 32. ♖h7!! with the idea

of ♖h6, and on 32...exf5 (32...gxf5 33. ♖h8+ ♔g7 34. ♖h6#) 33. ♖h8+ ♔g7 34. ♖b2+!! Black must push f6, when mate follows.) 28. ♕h7+ ♔h8 29. ♕d3+ ♔g8 30. ♖e4 Here again the same idea: to transfer the rook to the h-file with tempo. 30... ♖c3 (30... ♖xe4 31. ♕xe4 gxh6 32. ♖xh6 f5 33. ♖xe6+ +-) 31. ♖c4! ♖e5



As usual, White can win another big tempo with the bishop check: 32. ♕h7+! ♔h8 33. ♕g6+! This time to g6 33... ♔g8 34. ♖h5!! ♖f6 (34... ♖e2 35. ♕h7+! ♔h8 36. ♖h3 +-) 35. ♕h7+ ♔h8 36. ♖ch4 +- And mate is coming. Wonderful line! Of course, it is quite impossible for us human beings to find it, but we can still enjoy the accuracy of the machines!; 18...exd5 leads to a bad position. 19. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 (19... ♕xc6 20. ♕xf6 +-) 20. ♖xe7 +/-]

19. ♕xf6! ♕xd5! The young Polish grandmaster finds all the only moves! [19... ♕xf6 would lose to 20. ♖xf6+ gxf6 21. ♖g4+! ♔h8 22. ♖h4 f5 23. ♖f6+ ♔g8 24. ♖e3! Black has nothing, other than 24... ♖f3+ 25. ♖xf3 ♖d8 26. ♖h6! ♕xf3 27. ♖xf3 ♖d4 28.c3! ♖e5 29. ♖e3! and White wins the queen or gives mate.]

20. ♕xh7+! Who says A must say B as well!

20... ♖xh7 21. ♖h5+ ♔g8 22. ♕xg7! Destroying all the defenders, although there is nothing more than perpetual check.

22... ♖xg7 23. ♖g4+ ♔h7 24. ♖h5+ [24. ♖e3?? would be too optimistic. 24... ♖f3+! 25. ♖xf3 ♖g8 The king finds shelter on f8 and Black wins the game.]

24... ♖g7 25. ♖g4+ ♔h7 26. ♖h5+ ♔g7 27. ♖g4+ 1/2

(4) Sanikidze,T (2587)
— Naiditsch,A (2702) [A61]

Nancy,Rapid, 29.04.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

This is my game from a recent rapid tournament in Nancy. We will see a big fight in the Benoni with many interesting tactical motifs and, of course, a lot of mistakes — which are difficult to avoid when you play with a time control of 15 min + 3 sec.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 c5 My first attempts to play the „Benoni” went quite horribly wrong. I was simply losing in all of my games. Lately, things are getting better and, of course, it is a great fighting opening to use in rapid chess, especially when You are looking for an open fight against an specific opponent!

4.d5 d6 [4...exd5 would not be precise now. 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4! and White uses a pleasant move order.]

5.♘c3 exd5 6.cxd5 a6 I like to include the moves a6-a4, some players don't, I guess it's matter of taste.



7.a4 g6 8.♗f4 This is already quite a rare move. Usually White plays ♗f4 when Black doesn't include the moves a6-a4.

8...♗g7 9.e3 0-0 [An attempt to trap the bishop doesn't work out well here. 9...♘h5 10.♗g5 f6 11.♗h4 0-0 12.♘d2! This is a typical move for many different kinds of structures. White's next move is ♗e2 or g4, and the knight on h5 is going to face big trouble.]

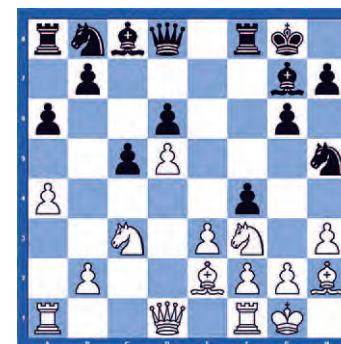
10.h3 A profilactic move against ♘h5.

10...♘h5 [10...♖e8 11.♗d3 against Black's ♘e4. 11...♘bd7 The attempt to develop the pieces in a „standard way” is not going good. 12.♗xd6! ♖b6 13.♗h2 ♖xb2 14.♖c1! The key move! Now White is doing clearly better. (14.♖c1 ♘g4!)]

11.♗h2 f5 12.♗e2 It's usually hard to say what's the best place for the bishop, e2 or d3. In this position I also think that 12.♗e2 looks very logical and human.

12...f4 In case You play the Benoni, there is no time to lay back! No hesitations are allowed!

13.0-0 [13.e4 ♘d7 and Black is doing very fine.]



13...fxe3?! A very risky move by me. [13...♔e7 would have been the right choice. I was a bit afraid of 14.♔d2 ♕h6! This is the move I underestimated, White is now basically forced to play e4 and the bishop on h2 is almost dead, besides the center is stable — which is definitely a big achievement for Black. (14...fxe3 15.♔xe3! and White has a big advantage.) 15.e4 ♖d7 with a very fighting position.]

14.fxe3 ♔e7 If I was in time to play ♖d7-e5 my position would be very nice!

15.♔h1 ♖d7 Just one move left to get the ♖e5 move.

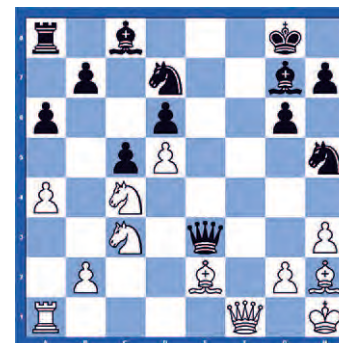
16.♖d2! Good move by my opponent. White acts with concrete play, now things are getting very sharp.

16...♖xf1+ Before playing ♖xf1 I thought for some time. I didn't know if I should go for the immediate 16... ♔xe3, but this looked too dangerous, so I decided to play the move in the game first.

17.♔xf1 ♔xe3 A dangerous move that leaves White with a big choice of interesting moves, but once again, the Benoni is not the right opening if You want to be safe. [17...♖e5 This move looks more solid, but Black has to face some problems. 18.g4 (18.♕xh5 Usually this kind of move doesn't give White any advantage, Black is in time to develop his pieces nicely. 18...gxh5 19.♖f3 ♕d7 The development is finished. 20.♖xe5 ♕xe5 21.♕xe5 ♔xe5 with a good position for Black. ♖e8 will be the next move, then the exchange of Queens if possible. Only White is taking a risk here.) 18...♖f6 19.♕xe5 ♔xe5 20.♖c4 ♔e7 21.♔f4 ♖e8 22.♔e4 ♔d8 23.♖f1 ♕d7 24.a5]

18.♖c4! [18.♖de4 I spent some time before playing 17...♔xe3, because I could not find what to do against

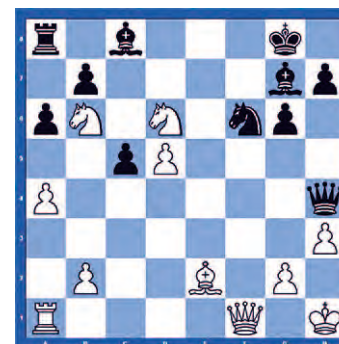
18.♖de4. 18...♕xc3! But then I found this move, not an easy one. It is hard to give away such a piece. 19.♖xc3 ♖g3+ 20.♕xg3 ♔xg3 21.♕g4 ♖e5! 22.♖e4 ♔h4 With an unclear position.]



18...♖g3+ I'm taking away my opponent's strongest piece, the black square bishop.

19.♕xg3 ♔xg3 20.♖e4 ♔h4 21.♖exd6 ♖f6 I calculated up to this position, and was quite happy with it, waiting for my opponent to play ♖b6.

22.♖b6 And indeed 22.♖b6 was played, I had the feeling that my opponent blundered my next move.



22...♙xh3! A nice and typical tactical idea! Black is sacrificing a piece for a direct attack on the king!

23.gxh3! [23.♘xa8? After the game Tornike asked me what would I have played against 23.♘xa8? and I told him 23...♙f5+ 24.♔g1 ♘g4! Black is winning thanks to the double mate threat on h2 and d4. A very beautiful position!]

23...♖d8! Nothing else seems to work for Black. [23...♖f8 would be a mistake because of 24.♔g2 ♘h5 25.♙xh5 ♖f2 26.♔g4! and of course White is winning, although a move like ♔g4 is not easy at all to see in a rapid game!]

24.♘bc4 What else to do for White?!

24...b5 [24...♙f8 This move was the other option I had considered during the game, but somehow I felt that it looked very unnatural. Maybe it would have been a good option for Black. 25.♘xb7 ♘e4 26.♖a3 ♖d7! This is the key move, Black is attacking the knight on b7 and at the same time preparing to play ♖f7!]

25.axb5 axb5



26.♘xb5! It's hard not to panic with White, all the Black pieces are placed in perfect attacking positions. [26.♘e5?

doesn't give anything for White. 26...♖xd6 27.♖a8+ ♙f8 28.♘g4 h5 and Black is close to winning.]

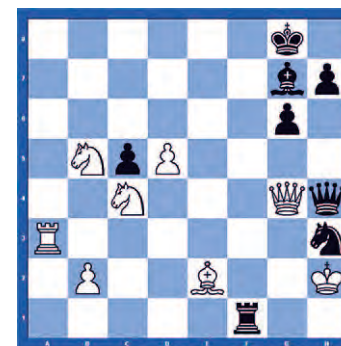
26...♘e4 27.♖a3 A very logical move — and a mistake. [27.♔g2! ♖f8 28.♔g1!! The computer evaluates this position as almost winning for White. Well, in a practical rapid game, it doesn't look clear at all. And of course, to find 27.♔g2 and 28. ♔g1!! in the next move is very very hard.]

27...♖f8 28.♔g1 [28.♔g2? ♖e1+ 29.♔h2 ♖f2]

28...♘f2+ [28...♙h6!? was an interesting option here, but short on time, I decided to go for more concrete play where I thought, I was almost winning.]

29.♔h2 At first, I thought this move loses for White [29.♔g2 ♖f5! with a very strong attack.]

29...♙h6 [29...♘xh3! Of course, I wanted to play it. 30.♔g4 but after I saw 30.♔g4 I could not find anything for me... too bad, I missed an amazingly beautiful win! (30.♖xh3 ♖f2+) 30...♖f2+ 31.♔h1 ♖f1+! 32.♔h2



32...♖h1+!! This is the move I blundered! 33.♔xh1 ♘f2+ and of course Black is winning.]

30. ♔g2 From here on the game became completely hectic. Both of us had less than 2 minutes on the clock.

30... ♘e4 [30... ♖f5!? was probably the right move here!]

31. ♖f3 ♙f4+ 32. ♔g1 ♘g5? [It wasn't too late to play 32... ♖f5! Again, the right move, why didn't I play it!? :)]

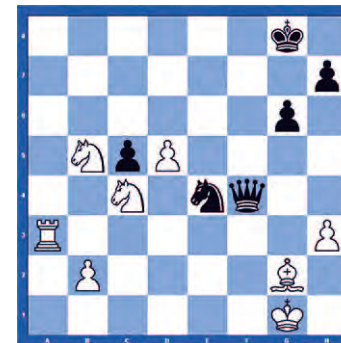
33. ♖a3 ♚e1+ 34. ♙f1



34... ♘e4 [I was afraid of playing 34... ♙h2+ 35. ♔xh2 ♖f2 36. ♔g1 ♖xg2+ 37. ♔xg2 and here I thought I should be clearly worse, but 37... ♚e4+ 38. ♔g1 ♚f4 probably gives Black good drawing chances, even if it looks a bit strange.]

35. ♚e2? My opponent panics and it's hard to blame him, he was short on time and under the attack of all the Black pieces. The cool [35.d6! ♙g3 36.d7 ♙f2+ 37. ♔h2! +- would have probably given the full point to White, even though everything is still more or less open, and there's such a little amount of time left ,til the end of the game.]

35... ♙h2+ 36. ♔xh2 ♖f2+ 37. ♚xf2 ♚xf2+ 38. ♙g2 ♚f4+ 39. ♔g1



39... ♚c1+ 40. ♙f1 ♚f4 41. ♙g2 And we reached a drawn position.

41... ♚c1+ 42. ♙f1 ♚f4 43. ♙g2 ♚c1+ I think it a very interesting game with a lot of tactical motifs for both sides. A typical game in the Benoni! **1/2**

Puzzle section

(5) Collutiis,D (2493) – Brunello,M (2263)

Italian league, 28.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

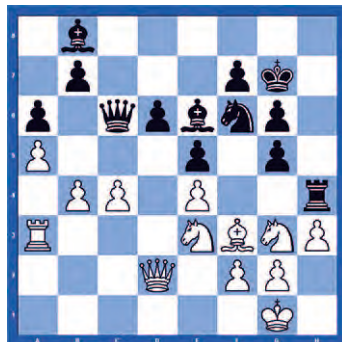


(6) Antoniewski,R (2559) – Olszewski,M (2539)

Italian league, 28.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

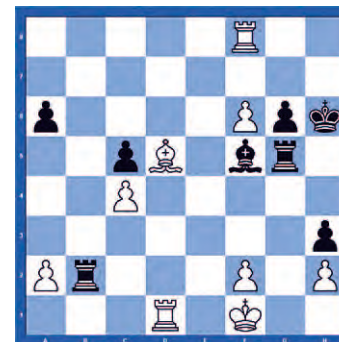


(7) Safarli,E (2645) – Rasulov,V (2526)

Nakhchivan Open, 29.04.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

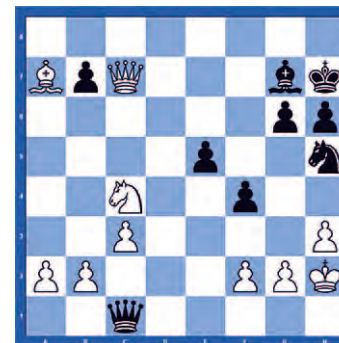


(8) Mammadov,Z (2378) – Guseinov,G (2616)

Nakhchivan Open, 29.04.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(9) Czebe,A (2477) – Arun Prasad,S (2517)

Melaka Open, 29.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

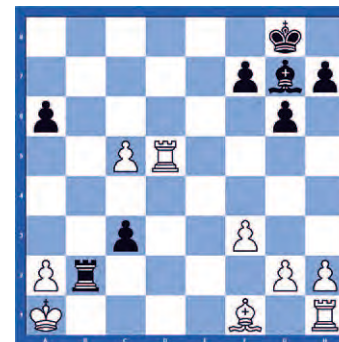


(11) Xiu Deshun (2492) – Wen Yang (2549)

Chinese league, 29.04.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(10) Vaibhav,S (2494) – Maze,S (2577)

Lille Open, 25.04.2012

[CEWN]

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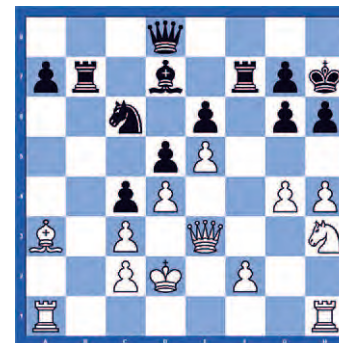


(12) Motylev,A (2683) – Wan Yunguo (2441)

Chinese league, 28.04.2012

[CEWN]

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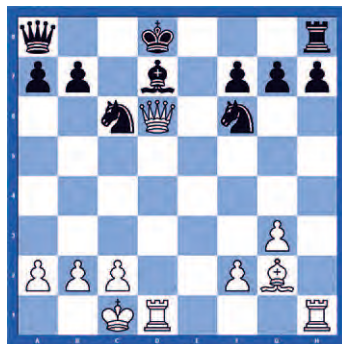


(13) Nozdrachev,V (2449) – Stukopin,A (2485)

Sochi, 26.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(14) Bukavshin,I (2504) – Fedoseev,V (2548)

Sochi, 26.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Brunello, Sabino — Caruana, Fabiano

CIS 2012 — Serie Master (3), 28.04.2012

[Chess Evolution]

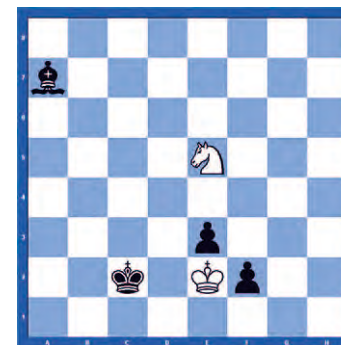


Black has been better throughout the game, but White fought relentlessly. So it took Black quite some time to reach this winning endgame. Let us take a look at it.

62...e3 63.a7 The only move.

63...xa7! 64.e5 The last chance for White to try to blockade the Black pawns on the black squares. [64.♞xa7 f2+ 65.♔e2 ♔f1 ♕+ 66.♔xf1 ♔d2]

64...f2+ 65.♔e2 We reached a position which doesn't like a simple win, but in fact it is! White has no chance to hold the fortress and the position of zugzwang will arrive inevitably.

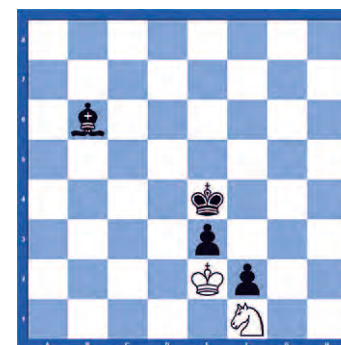


65...♔c3 The Black king starts his march to g1.

66.♞g4 ♕b6 A waiting move, now White needs to move the knight away from g4, allowing Black to start the king march.

67.♞h2 [67.♞e5 Wouldn't get anything 67...♔d4 68.♞c6+ ♔e4 69.♞b4 and Black can finish with a nice mating idea. 69...f1 ♕+! 70.♔xf1 ♔f3 71.♞d3 e2+ 72.♔e1 ♕a5+ 73.♞b4 ♕xb4#]

67...♔d4 68.♞f1 ♔e4 White is hopeless and can only watch the Black king going to g1.

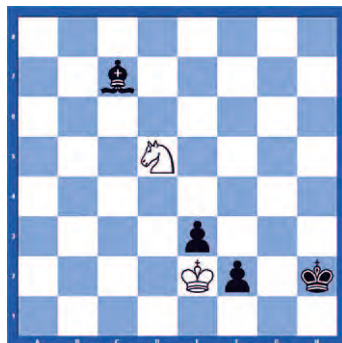


69.♞g3+ ♔f4 70.♞h5+ ♔g4 71.♞f6+ ♔h3 72.♞d5 ♔h2! Of course, some level of accuracy is needed. [72...

♔g2? 73. ♖f4+ ♔g1 74. ♖h3+ and White keeps on fighting.]

73. ♖f4 Black wanted to play ♔g1.

73... ♖c7! 74. ♖d5



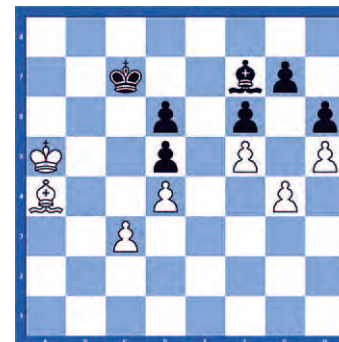
74... ♔g1! The Black king has reached his final destination.

75. ♖xe3 ♖f4 76. ♖f1 ♔g2 Great technique by the young Italian Super GM! **0–1**

(16) Yu Yangyi (2615) – Wang Rui (2407)

Chinese league, 30.04.2012

[Chess Evolution]



We took this bishop endgame from the Chinese Team Championship. Is it a draw or is it winning? The White king should squeeze out the opponent's king to get access to the pawns. We can quickly realise that it is only possible with the help of zugzwang.

56. ♔a6 ♖g8 Black would like to see the winning plan and starts passing with the bishop. [If Black transfers his king to e7 and, only then, starts the waiting policy: 56... ♔d8 57. ♔b7 ♔e7 58. ♔c7 ♖g8 59. ♖c6 ♖f7 60. ♖d7 ♖g8 61. ♖e6! White can transpose to a pawn endgame with precise calculation. 61... ♖xe6 62. fxe6 ♔xe6 63. ♔c6! f5 (63... ♔e7 64. ♔xd5 ♔d7 65. c4 Due to the paralyzed king-side pawns, the endgame is hopeless for Black. 65... ♔e7 66. c5 dxc5 67. dxc5 ♔d7 68. c6+ ♔c7 69. ♔c5 +-) 64. gxf5+ ♔xf5 65. ♔xd5 g5 66. hxg6 Black has to lose an important tempo to take back the g-pawn... 66... ♔xg6 67. ♔xd6 h5 68. ♔e5! The only way to win! 68... ♔g5 (68... h4 69. ♔f4 +-) 69. d5 h4 70. d6 h3 71. d7 h2 72. d8 ♔+ +-]

57.♔a7 In the next few moves, White is thinking about his plan. This is the right technique, if you have time for everything, don't hurry to a decision!

57...♙f7 58.♙b5



58...♙g8 At this moment, White found the way to win, realising the existence of the zugzwang position.

59.♔a6! The king must stay on a6, we will soon understand why... [59.♙e8 ♔d8 60.♙g6 Now the Black bishop is paralyzed, but Black can block the king's route, using the opposition. 60...♔c7 61.♔a6 ♔c6]

59...♙f7 60.♙a4! ♙g8 61.♙e8! ♔d8 [61...♙h7 62.♙f7! +-]

62.♙g6! ♔c7 63.♔a7! Here we are! Black has to move with his king, but this opens the path for White. Just like in a pawn endgame, White wins with the opposition.

63...♔c6 [63...♔c8 64.♔b6 +-]

64.♔b8! ♔b5 65.♔c7 ♔c4 66.♔xd6 ♔xc3 67.♔e7! ♔xd4 68.♔f8 The poor Black bishop is trapped.

68...♔c3 69.♔xg8 d4 70.♙e8 Black resigned.[It's quite funny that White wins even after allowing Black to pro-

mote a queen. 70.♔xg7 d3 71.♔xh6 d2 72.♔g7 d1♙ 73.h6 +- Black has no chance to stop the h-pawn, while the bishop covers the king from the checks on both sides. But of course, there was no need for such a big amount of „risk“.] **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Bolbochan, Jacobo – Euwe, Max [E86]

Mar del Plata Mar del Plata, 1947

[Balogh Csaba]

In the next two editions, we will study the games of the 5th World Champion, the one who could defeat Alekhine, Max Euwe. He got to the top of the chess world in 1935 at the age of 34 and kept his title for 2 years, when Alekhine beat him in the rematch.

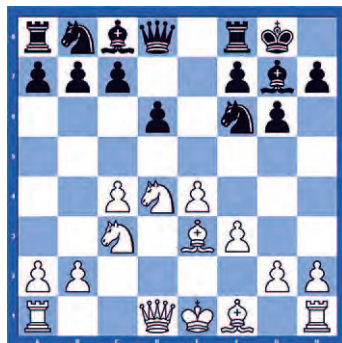
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 The Saemisch system of the King's Indian defense enjoys big popularity even in our days!

5...0-0 6.♙e3 Black can choose between several different setups. Theory considers 6...c5 as the best option.

6...e5 7.♘ge2 [7.d5 is the other mainline.]

7...exd4 A rare sideline compared to 7...c6 for example, but don't forget that we are in 1947 now.

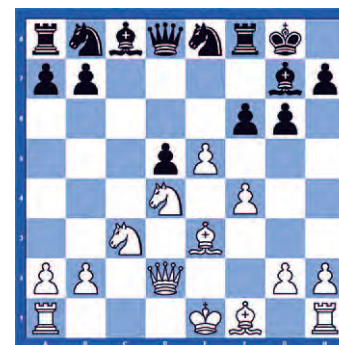
8.♘xd4



8...c6 Black's opening strategy is clear. He wants to open the center while the White king is stuck on e1.

9.♙d2 d5 10.cxd5! cxd5 11.e5 The Argentinian Master reacts correctly! This is the only way to fight for the advantage. He creates a blockaded isolated pawn on d5... if he can solve the position of his king, he gets a clear edge.

11...♘e8 12.f4 f6! Of course, Black must try to open the position as quickly as possible.



13.♘f3?! This is a mistake. [The correct way of handling the position was showed by the great Hungarian Grandmaster, Lajos Portisch, 20 years after the current game! **13.e6! ♘c6** (On **13...f5 14.e7 ♙xe7 15.♘xd5 ♙d8 16.♘c3 ♘f6 17.0-0-0** White enjoys a big advantage: his pieces are much better placed and the bishop arrives to c4 soon.) **14.f5!** White blocks the g7 bishop and disturbs the pawn structure. **14...gxf5 15.0-0-0 ♘xd4 16.♙xd4 ♙xe6 17.♙b1!** White sacrificed two pawns and made a silent move. He is much better due to the superiority of his pieces. **17...♘c7** (Opening the long diagonal does not solve the problems. **17...f4 18.♙xf4 f5 19.♙e5 ♙xe5 20.♙xe5 +/-** The king remains vulnerable.) **18.♙d3 ♙d7 19.♙h4 a6 20.♘a4** (The positional **20.♘e2 +/-** followed by **♘d4**

was also good, but the text move is even better.) 20...♔f7 (20...d4 21.♘c5 ♕d5 22.♘xe6 ♘xe6 23.♙c2! was the idea behind 20.♘a4!) 21.♘c5 ♙c8 22.g4 +- White won in an excellent style, Portisch-Bouaziz, Sousse 1967. After this defeat, strong players never repeated Euwe's idea.]

13...♘c7 14.0-0-0 Too brave. White should have preferred castling kingside. [14.exf6 ♙xf6 15.♙e2 ♘c6 16.♖d1 ♖e8 17.0-0 ♕e7 18.♘e5 with counterplay.(Or 18.♙d4)]

14...♘c6! Development is more important than the d5 pawn! White consequently goes for the challenge.

15.♘xd5 ♘xd5 16.♕xd5+ [16.♙c4 would give up the bishop pair. 16...♘ce7 17.♙xd5+ ♘xd5 18.♕xd5+ ♕xd5 19.♖xd5 ♙f5! with more than enough compensation for the pawn. The rooks are joining the battle and ♙e4 is also a threat.]

16...♕xd5 17.♖xd5 fxe5 18.fxe5 [The saying „less pieces, less problems” does not help this time. 18.♘xe5 ♘xe5 19.fxe5 ♙e6 20.♖a5 b6 21.♖a4 ♙xe5 Black wins back the pawn. It's easy to feel the difference between the bishops of each side.]

18...♙e6! Developing with tempo is something that should never be missed. :)

19.♖b5



19...♖ac8! Despite having no queens on the board, the White king is under a serious attack.

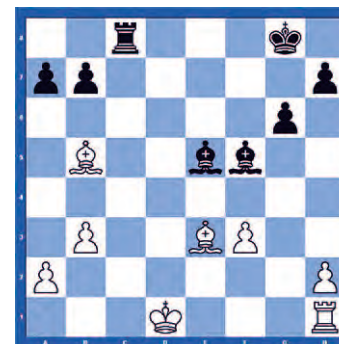
20.♙b1? [20.♙d2 The only safe place for the king was f2, even if he needed to run through the board after doing this. 20...b6 21.♙e2 ♖fd8+ 22.♙e1 Here, the computer suggests the subtle 22...♖d5! (22...♙xa2 =+ Black can, of course, take back the pawn at any moment.) 23.♖xd5 ♙xd5 24.♙f2 ♘xe5 with a big advantage.]

20...♖xf3!! Great tactical idea! We soon understand why Euwe eliminated the knight. [20...♙f5+? 21.♙a1 White is fine.]

21.gxf3 ♙f5+ 22.♙c1 [And now on 22.♙a1 Black has 22...♘d4!! It is over now, that was the reason for the exchange sacrifice.]

22...♘d4+ 23.♙d1 ♘xb5 24.♙xb5 ♙xe5 Black restored the material balance and preserved the superiority of his pieces.

25.b3 [On 25.♙xa7 Black has a very strong response with 25...♙f4! 26.♖e1 ♖c1+ 27.♙e2 ♖c2+ 28.♙f1 ♙h3+ 29.♙g1 ♙xh2+ 30.♙h1 ♙g3 Everything was more or less forced, and now the h-pawn joins the attack and decides the outcome of the game.]



25...♖c2! Activity is the most important factor!

26.♙c4+ ♔g7 27.a4 ♖a2 From now on, we can enjoy the spectacular domination of the Black pieces.

28.♖e1 ♙c3! Euwe does not give a chance for counter-play.

29.♖f1 [29.♖e2 ♖a1+ 30.♙c1 ♙b4! followed by ♙a3.]

29...♖xh2 30.♙xa7 ♖d2+! Black wins a tempo due to the mating net.

31.♔c1 ♖a2 32.♔d1 h5! There is nobody that can stop the h-pawn!

33.f4 ♙c2+! Improving the bishop with the same mating net trick.

34.♔c1 ♙e4 35.♔d1 h4 And White resigned! A nice game by Euwe, showing a great use of the activity of his pieces. **0-1**

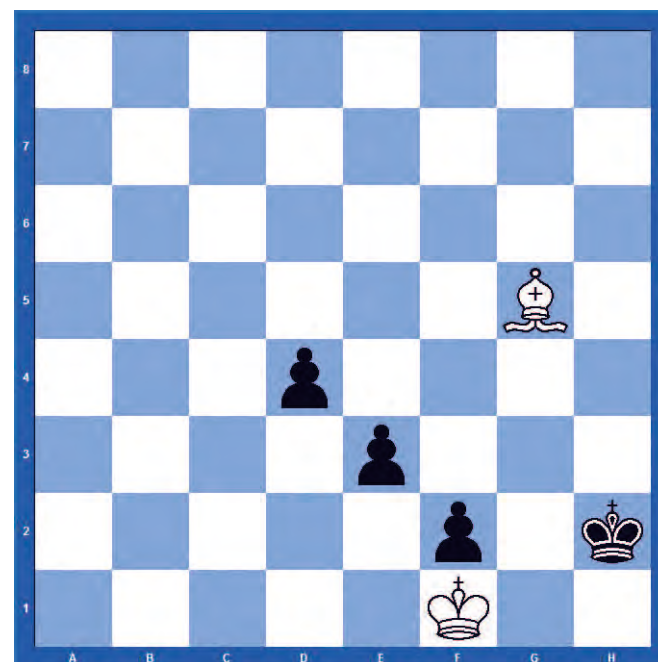
Surprise section / study

(18) Weenink,H

1918

[CEWN]

1. =

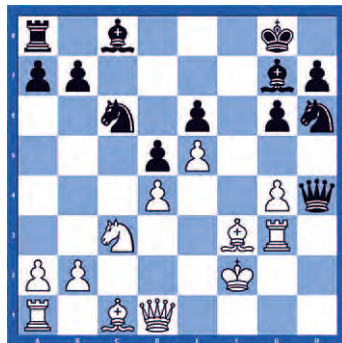


Solutions

(19) Ahmadinia,E (2379) – Amin,B (2608)

Dubai Open, 22.04.2012

[Solutions]



18... ♖xd4!! 19. ♔xd4 [19. ♔g2 ♖xf3 20. ♔xf3 ♕d7+] 19... ♖f5! 20. ♔f4 g5!-+

(20) Baklan,V (2612) – Sachdev,T (2414)

Dubai Open, 23.04.2012

[Solutions]

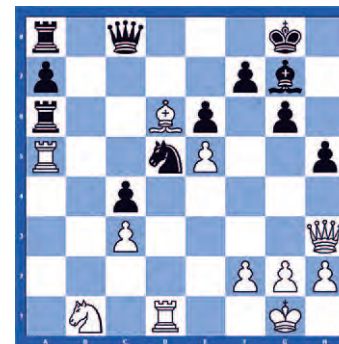


27. ♖xf7! ♔xf7 28. ♔g6+ ♔f8 29. ♔g3! ♕d6 30. ♕xf6+-

(21) Vysochin,S (2550) – Grinev,V (2404)

Nabokov memorial, 19.04.2012

[Solutions]



25. ♖dxd5! ♔b7 [25...exd5 26. ♔xc8+ ♖xc8 27. ♖xa6+-] 26. ♖db5! ♔e4 27. ♔e3 ♔c2 28. ♔e1 1-0

(22) Hamitevici,V (2436) – Nyzhnyk,I (2585)

Nabokov memorial, 22.04.2012

[Solutions]



36. ♖xe7!! ♔xe7 [36... ♔d8 37. ♖c6 ♖xd5! 38. ♖xd5 ♖xc6 39. ♔b7±] 37. ♖e4! ♔xd5 38. ♖xd6! ♔d1+ [38... ♔xd6 39. ♕c5+-] 39. ♕h2 ♕f8 [39... ♕d7 40. ♖e4+-] 40. ♖e4+-

(23) Belous,V (2524) – Predke,A (2461)

Sochi, 21.04.2012

[Solutions]



21. ♖xh7! ♜xh7 [21...fxg4 22. ♖h8+ ♔g7 23. ♖1h7#]
22. ♜c4+ ♜f7 23. ♖h8+! ♔xh8 24. ♜xf7 ♙xc5 25. e6!
b6 [25... ♙xe6 26. ♜xe6+-] 26. ♜e8+ ♔g7 27. ♜c6 ♙xe6
28. ♜xa8+-

(24) Bromberger,S (2513) – Likavsky,T (2486)

Austrian league, 21.04.2012

[Solutions]

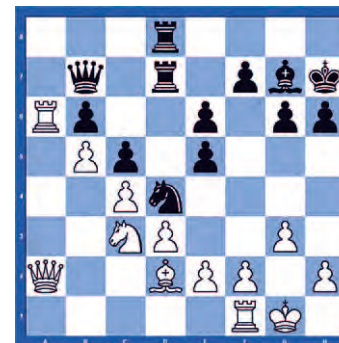


27. ♘f8+! 1-0 [27. ♘f8+ ♔h8 (27... ♜xf8 28. gxh4+-)
28. ♜h6#]

(25) Thiede,L (2458) – Siebrecht,S (2468)

Austrian league, 22.04.2012

[Solutions]

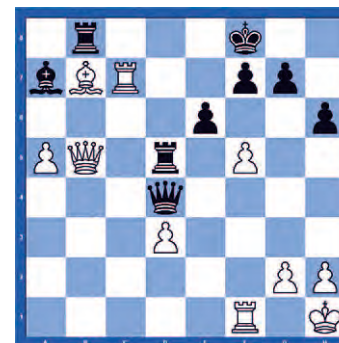


25...e4!! 26. ♙e3 [26.dxe4 ♘xe2+ 27. ♘xe2 ♜xd2-+;
26. ♘xe4 ♘xe2+ 27. ♔g2 f5-+] 26...exd3 27. ♙xd4 dxe2
[27...cxd4-+] 28. ♘xe2 cxd4-+

(26) Bacallao Alonso,Y (2550) – Gonzalez Garcia,J (2529)

Catalanian league, 17.04.2012

[Solutions]



33. ♜xf7+!! ♔xf7 [33... ♔g8 34. ♜c6!+-] 34. fxe6+ ♔xe6
35. ♙xd5+ ♜xd5 36. ♜e1+ ♔d6 37. ♜a6+-

(27) Movsesian,S (2715) – Swiercz,D (2585)

Czech league, 22.04.2012

[Solutions]



29. ♔xh7+! ♔xh7 30. ♕d5+!! ♖f7 [30... ♕f7 31. ♖h8+ ♕g7 32. ♖1h7#] 31. ♕xf7+! 1-0 [31. ♕xf7+ ♕xf7 32. ♖h8+ ♕g7 33. ♖1h7#]

(28) Radulski,J (2552) – Rusev,K (2516)

Bulgarian Championship, 22.04.2012

[Solutions]

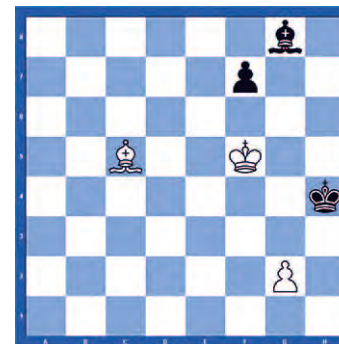


16... ♕xh3!! [16... exd4?? 17. ♕xe8+ ♖xe8 18. ♖xe8#] 17. gxf3 exd4 18. ♕f1 ♖xe1 19. ♕xe1 d3! [19... ♖e8? 20. ♕f1!] 20. ♕b3 [20. ♕d1 ♖e8 21. ♕f1 ♖e4-+] 20... ♕f3 21. ♕e3 ♖e8 22. ♖d2 ♕xh3 0-1

(29) Horwitz,B

1884

[Solutions]



1. ♕f2+! ♔h5 2. g4+! ♔h6 3. ♕f6! ♔h7 [3... ♕h7 4. ♕e3#] 4. g5 ♔h8 5. ♕d4! ♔h7 [5... ♕h7 6. ♕xf7#] 6. ♕a1 ♔h8 7. g6! fxg6 8. ♕xg6# 1-0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 11

11th of May 2012

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Editorial Preface

A great month of chess is ahead of us. The Gelfand-Anand WCC match, a super-tournament in Malmo, the US Championships, the Capablanca Memorial. All events of high interest and great chess!

In the current 11th issue of CEWN, we made a little exception: instead of the usual 4 games from the past week, we selected only 3, and Balogh Csaba commented his game from 2011 against Delchev — it was a request from a CEWN subscriber.

In the current issue, we advise You to pay more attention to the endgame section, we have put together a very interesting one this time.

Dear subscriber, in case You have a special request, or a wish too see a commented game of one of your “heroes”, please don’t hesitate to drop us an e-mail. We cannot promise to fulfill every wish, but we will try.

As usual, we wish You a lot of fun with the CEWN Nr 11!

*Arkadij Naiditsch
Balogh Csaba*

4 best games of the past week

(1) Caruana, Fabiano (2767)
— Genov, Petar (2463) [B12]

TCh-ITA 2012 Arvier ITA (5), 30.04.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We will be now spectators of a great game by the current number 7 in the World showing us how to crush the Caro-Kann. Fabiano demonstrates many typical ideas with his almost perfect play! This game is like a lecture!

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♟f5 4.♟f3 e6 5.♟e2 ♟e7 6.c3!?

This is Caruana's specialty! The position is not easy to play at all! There are many tricks that we will discover in the coming moves. [6.0-0 is another main line here.]



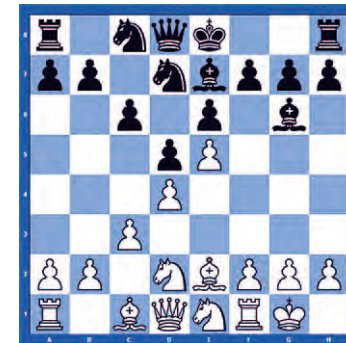
6...♟d7 7.0-0 [Can White give an early try to exchange the bishop on f5?! 7.♟h4 ♟e4! . Black should not give the bishop away for "free" 8.♟d2 ♟g6! . Here we see a typical "Caro-Kann trick". 9.♟xe4 (9.♟hf3 ♟f5 and Black managed to save the bishop.) 9...♟xh4 10.♟g5 ♟xg2+ 11.♟f1 ♟b6 with a very unclear position.]

7...♟c8 This move has pros and cons. The con is that after c6-c5, Black will be never able to develop the knight nicely to c6. The pro is that White can't play ♟h4 anymore.

8.♟bd2 ♟e7 Black managed reach a very solid position, ♟h4 doesn't work anymore. Black will try to use this time to castle short, play c5, and have a very normal position.

9.♟e1! A very strong move by White with a "double" idea! He wants to play g4 followed by f4-f5, and at the same time, the ♟d3-f4 maneuver is always possible.

9...♟g6?! The first clear inaccuracy. [9...h6 10.g4 ♟h7 11.f4 ♟b6! would lead to a slightly worse, but normal position for Black.]



10.♟d3 If the first idea doesn't work, you always have the second one :).

10...c5 11.♟f4 cxd4 12.♟xg6 White completed his first mission, to exchange the knight for the strongest Black piece, the White square bishop.

12...hxg6 13.cxd4 In this position, White is doing a bit better — maybe even more than a bit better. His idea is clear, to block the queenside, and try to develop some

play on the kingside. Caruana is doing it impressively good.

13...♔b6?! Probably, this move is not really necessary for Black. [13...a6 14.♘f3 ♘a7 The Black knight's place is on c6, and Black should get there as soon as possible.]

14.♘f3 a6 Finally, the right plan.

15.g3! Against the Black pawn structure with d5-e6-f7-g7-g6, it is very good to put the pawns on g3-h4!

15...♘a7



16.h4 The second part of White's plan is done: the pawn structure is perfect. Now it is important not to give Black any counter play on the queenside.

16...♖c8 17.♖b1 A very good preventive move. White is not in a hurry to play b3 or a3, which would immediately create a weakness in the pawn structure. He prefers to stay flexible.

17...♘c6 18.♔g2 ♘b4 Black has basically no plan. To castle short is always too dangerous because White's ♖h1 and h5.

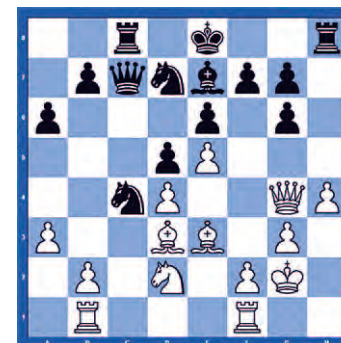
19.a3 ♘c6 Black managed to create a little attacking spot on White's pawn structure, but lost 2 moves doing this ♘b4-c6 maneuver.

20.♙e3 ♘a5 21.♘d2! and White is again just in time to block the b3 and c4 squares.

21...♔c7 Now we can clearly see that 13...♔b6 was not the best Black could do.

22.♙d3 Now that everything is "safe" on the queenside, White starts with the final step — to attack the Black king.

22...♘c4 23.♔g4 We can immediately see how dangerous Black's position suddenly is. Now Black has to be always very careful with moves like ♙xg6, or ♖h1 and h5.



23...b5 [23...♘xe3+ 24.fxe3 would only lead to a deadly attack for White. Black has no "entry" path on the queenside.]

24.♘f3! White is bringing another piece into the attack, now ♙xg6 is already a threat!

24...♘db6 25.♙g5 Another good move by White. The Black knights are standing very nicely, but are quite useless! White doesn't only have the attack options now, but

also b3 could be a very dangerous for Black in the right moment.

25...a5 This move allows White to finish the game in style. [25...♔d7 26.♖h1 with a big advantage for White.]



26. ♗xg6! The beginning of Black's end.

26...fxg6 27. ♔xe6 a4 It is amazing, but Black has no moves! White just wanted to play b3 and after ♗xa3 win the game with ♖bc1. Black is totally paralyzed.

28.b3! +- A nice finishing move! White brings another piece into the attack.

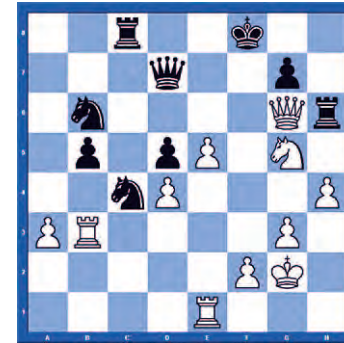
28...axb3 [28...♗xa3 29.♖bc1! ♔d7 30.♔xg6+ ♔f8 31.♗xe7+ ♔xe7 32.♔xb6 +-]

29. ♖xb3 And the rook will end the game soon with the ♖f3 check. Funny to see a rook from a1 on f3 in a Caro-Kann!

29...♔d7 30. ♔xg6+ ♔f8 31. ♖e1 Bringing the last piece into the attack. Great, and very cool, play by White.

31...♗xg5 This move loses immediately, but other choices would just make the game longer, without any effect on the result.

32. ♗xg5 ♖h6



33. ♗h7+! A great game by White! **1-0**

(2) Postny,E – Stojanovic,D [D19]

Saraevo, 07.05.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

A very interesting game from Sarajevo. White sacrificed a pawn to get the bishop pair. Almost during the whole game, he had to play with a material disadvantage, but the activity of his pieces gave very strong compensation. The position was really sharp, so we will see serious mistakes from both sides.

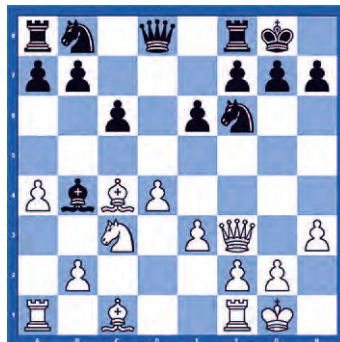
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 dxc4 5.a4 ♙f5 The Slav defense with 5... ♙f5. This is the mainline, but recently we see more often 5...e6.

6.e3 [6.♘e5 is the other option for White, which usually leads to a more sharp game.]

6...e6 7.♙xc4 ♙b4 8.0-0 0-0 9.♙e2 We are at the beginning of the line, Black has a wide choice of moves now. It is a matter of taste to choose one or another.

9...♙g4 [Theory considers 9...♘bd7 to be the main move 10.e4 ♙g6 11.♙d3 ♙h5 12.e5 ♘d5 13.♘xd5 cxd5 14.♙e3 with many games, even on the highest level.]

10.h3 ♙xf3 11.♙xf3



11...♘bd7 Black gave up the bishop pair, but has a very solid position. His future plans are connected with the e5 and c5 pushes, while White should try to play e4 in the right moment to open the diagonal for the c1 bishop, and gain space in the center.

12.♙d1 [12.e4 is premature because of the standard reaction 12...e5!]

12...♙c8 The most frequent move used in practice. Black prepares for the c5 break. [12...e5 was played by Carlsen in 2008, but after 13.d5 ♙xc3 14.dxc6 e4 15.♙e2 ♙e5 16.cxd7 ♙e7 Black usually has to suffer for a draw against the two bishops, and he has no chance to win at all.]

13.♙e2 White prepares for the e4 push, but it seems to be too slow. [13.e4 e5! 14.♙e3! is the critical line, Black has to show some new ideas, because the previous games gave an advantage for White.(14.dxe5 ♘xe5! was the tactical explanation of the move.)]

13...♙e7 This is the novelty in this current game, but I think it was not a good one. It's always a big question for Black in the opening, where to develop his queen, to a5 or e7. Due to concrete lines, we will see that 13...♙a5 was preferable in this situation. [13...♙a5 14.♘a2 ♙e7 15.♙d2 ♙c7 16.b4 e5 17.♘c1 ♘b6 18.♙b3 e4 19.♙e1 ♘bd5 20.♘e2 ♙d6 Black was fine in Ljubojevic-Bareev, Monte Carlo 2003 rapid game.]

14.♙b3 Another slow move. White does not use his chance to punish his opponent for the previous inaccurate move. [14.e4! was correct, and on the standard 14...e5 15.d5 ♘b6 16.♙b3 cxd5 White has the important 17.a5!]. If White to take with the knight on d5, he obtains a clear

advantage, while after 17...♙xc3 18.bxc3 White wins an exchange with ♙a3!]

14...e5 This is the sharp way to handle the position. [14...c5 was safer.]

15.dxe5 ♙xe5 16.♙c2 Only the e4, f4 and e5 idea could give an advantage, but it needs serious preparation. The c3 pawn is indirectly defended now.

16...♘b6 [On 16...♖fe8 White plays the same plan as in the game 17.e4 ♙xc3 18.bxc3 ♘c5 19.f4 ♙xc3 20.♞a3! ♙b4 21.e5! with very strong compensation for the pawn. The rook on g3 joins the bishops for the attack.; 16...♙xc3?! 17.bxc3 ♙xc3? is a big mistake, because of 18.♙b2! ♙a5 (18...♙xb2? 19.♙xh7+ +-) 19.♞xd7! ♘xd7 20.♙d3! +- . This is the point.]



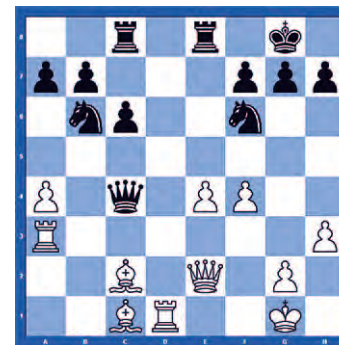
17.e4! No choice, White has to play this move, even if it costs him a pawn.

17...♙xc3 18.bxc3 ♖fe8 Well played! Black prepares for central actions. [18...♙xc3 19.♞b1 and ♙b2 is coming next with more than enough compensation.]

19.f4! ♙xc3 We have reached a critical moment in the game:

20.♞a3? It is logical to throw the rook into the attack, but it moves into concrete tactical ideas. As we will see, the a3 rook becomes vulnerable. [20.♞b1! with a really unclear situation. I personally prefer White, but the machine suggests unnatural moves that balance the evaluation.]

20...♙c4 [20...♙c5+!? was very strong as well, with the idea of 21.♙h2 ♘bd5! and it is hard to deal with the different threats of the knight on c3 and f4. 22.e5 is met with 22...♘xf4! 23.♙xf4 ♙xa3 Black takes too much material.]



21.♙d3 ♙c5+? Black included the ♙c4-Bd3 maneuver into the 20...♙c5 and ♘bd5 idea, but it gives an extra possibility for White! [21...♙d4+! was logical and strong, to keep the pressure over the e4 pawn 22.♙e3 ♙b4! with a double attack on e4 and a3.]

22.♙h2 ♘bd5 23.e5! ♘xf4 [23...♘d7 24.♙e4 with an attack.]

24.♙xf4 ♙xa3 25.♙f3! This is the point! White leaves the pin of the rook and pins the queen himself. Black is forced to give up his knight, but he still maintains some material advantage.

25...♙e7 26.exf6 ♙xf6



27. ♔g3! How to evaluate the position? Black has a rook and three pawns for the two bishops, but the presence of the queens and the d1 rook on the board gives very good attacking chances for White. As we will see, Black has serious difficulties to defend.

27... ♖e6 Black would like to control the open files. He wants to play ♖cd8, which was not possible before due to ♗g5.

28. ♗c2! Very strong move! White wants to transfer his bishop to b3, where it could create decisive threats on f7 with the help of the rook.

28...c5 In order to have c4 on ♗b3.

29. ♖d6! Improving the pieces to the maximum!

29... ♔e7 [29... ♔e1 The exchange of the queens does not save Black. The power of the bishops would tell in the endgame as well. 30. ♔xe1! ♖xe1 31. ♖d7 +/-]

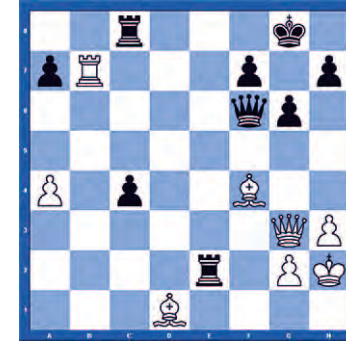
30. ♗d3! Forcing weaknesses and preparing for ♖d7.

30...g6 31. ♖d7 ♗f6 32. ♔g3! Powerful play by White. He had to get away from the ♖cd8 threat. The exchange of the rooks would have eased Black's task a lot. White wins a pawn now.

32...c4 [32...b6 33. ♖xa7 +/-; 32... ♔c6? 33. ♖d6 +- wins the queen!; 32... ♖e7? 33. ♗g5 +-]

33. ♖xb7 Materially, Black is still fine, but his main problem with the bishops and the rook are still not solved.

33... ♖e2 34. ♗d1!



34... ♖e4 White played excellent chess in the last stage of the game and obtained a winning position, but it took all his time. In the time trouble he makes a serious mistake, which remained unpunished by his opponent.

35. ♗d6?? Black gets a sudden chance. [35. ♗h6 c3 (35... ♔e5 36. ♔xe5 ♖xe5 37. ♖xa7 +-) 36. ♖xa7 +- White is completely winning. The Black king is too weak under the pressure of the bishops. Black can not promote his c-pawn due to the weak back-rank.]

35... ♔f1? But he missed it. Now, White is winning again. [35...h5!! Incredible, but suddenly Black is better. What a turn of it would have been. White can not hold the h2-b8 diagonal after the threatened h4 move. 36. ♗xh5 (36. ♗b4 h4!) 36...c3! is the point. White does not have ♗b3 anymore.; Not 35...c3 36. ♗b3 +-]

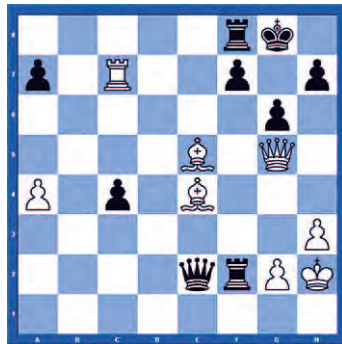
36. ♖f3 ♜e6 37. ♙d5 [37. ♞f4 +- would lead to immediate resignation.]

37... ♜f6 38. ♙e5 ♜f5 39. ♙e4 ♜f2 40. ♞g5 Black can not hold the threats, ♞h6 is the idea now.

40... ♞e2 Tricky move against 41. ♞h6, but after move 40, White got some extra time, so he was able to find a way to win.

41. ♜c7!? White wants to play ♙d4-♞e5, which was not working immediately. [41. ♜d7 +- was the most precise according to the computer.; 41. ♞h6? ♜xg2+! was the idea. 42. ♙xg2 ♞xe5+; 41. ♙d4?? ♞xe4 42. ♙xf2 ♞xb7]

41... ♜f8 [41... ♜xc7 42. ♞d8#]



42. ♙d4! Black loses a huge amount of material.

42... ♞xe4 [42... ♜f1 43. ♞e5 +-]

43. ♙xf2 This is the first moment in the game when it is White who enjoys the material advantage. This is of course a decisive one.

43... ♙c3 44. ♜xc3 ♞xa4 45. ♞f6 An interesting game! **1-0**

(3) Iordachescu Viorel (2643) — Shanava Konstantine (2596)

Naxcývan OPEN Naxcývan — AZERBAIJAN (3), 30.04.2012

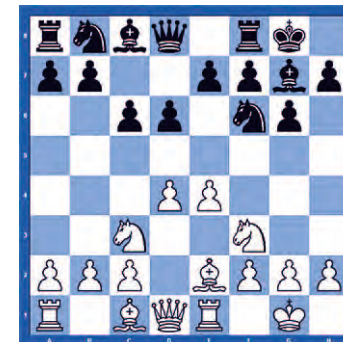
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

A very interesting and fighting game in the "Pirc". At first, it looked like White was taking over, then Black came back, but with the sacrifice of a piece, White managed to develop a deadly attack. From there on, all moves were perfect. A very useful game to collect some new ideas and plans.

1.e4 g6 The Georgian player Konstantin Shanava is a big specialist in the "Pirc".

2.d4 ♙g7 3. ♘f3 White chooses the 3. ♘c3 move more often.

3...d6 4. ♙e2 ♘f6 5. ♘c3 c6 6.0-0 0-0 7. ♜e1 We are in a more or less "safe" position. White has a bit more space due to his pawn structure. As usual, in the "Pirc", Black will try to compensate by playing ♞bd7 and e5, or b5-b4.



7... ♜c7 A dangerous move. [7... ♞bd7 looks more typical and logical to me. 8.e5! The only way to avoid Black from playing e7-e5, after which Black's position should be fine.

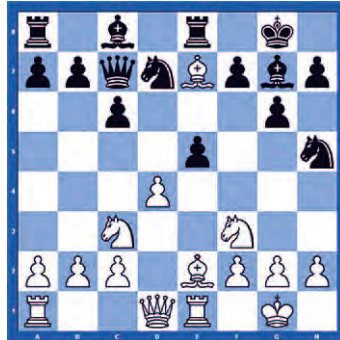
8...dxe5 9.dxe5 ♘g4 10.e6 White can not hold the pawn on e5, so he employs a typical sacrifice. 10...fxe6 We face quite an unclear position. The pawn on e6 will fall, but now the Black bishop on g7 is very strong, and compensates for a lot of Black structural minuses.]

8. ♖f4 ♘bd7 9.e5 ♘h5 The most fighting move! [Doesn't seem to work 9...dxe5?! 10.♘xe5 (Of course not 10.dxe5 ♘h5 and White loses the pawn on e5.) 10...♘xe5 11.dxe5 ♘d5 12.♘xd5 cxd5 13.♔xd5 and it looks like White should be doing better.]

10. ♖g5 [10.exd6 would lead to no advantage for White. 10...exd6 11.♖e3 ♘b6 and Black should be OK.]

10...dxe5 The beginning of a sharp position.

11. ♖xe7 ♖e8



12.d5! Maybe this is the first critical moment of the game.

12... ♖f6? In my opinion this is a big mistake, Black should never give up his "beauty". [12...♘b6! looks quite interesting. 13.d6 ♔d7 and even though White's position looks quite dominating, it is by far not that clear. In case Black manages to play ♔e6 or ♔f5, followed by ♖d7, it would be not clear who is doing better ... The bishop on e7 is

standing very pretty, but on the other hand, the Black pieces could go "around" him, and after ♔f5-Bd7, the e7 bishop could become a target with ♘c8 coming next.]

13. ♖a3?! Not a bad move, but it's too "slow". [Looks much more energetic to play 13.d6! 13...♔b6 14.♖xf6 ♘hxf6 15.♖c4! . White is trying to make use of Black's bad development, and a clearly weak king — his main guardian is gone from g7. 15...♔xb2 16.♔d2 and in my opinion, White should be able to create a very dangerous attack.]

13... ♘f4 [13...e4 would be the wrong moment to open the position for Black. 14.d6 ♔b6 15.♖c4 White is doing clearly better.]

14.d6 ♘xe2+ 15. ♔xe2 ♔d8 White's position is looking clearly better, but things are not "clear" at all. Black got the bishop pair, and the knight on d7 is a great blockading piece. Most likely White is doing better, but not "much" better at all.

16. ♖ad1 ♖g7 17.h4 [17.♘e4 h6 18.♘g3 with the idea of h4-h5 would have been another option for White. It is clear that the Black king is the target for White.]

17...a5! Black starts a tricky development on the queen-side.

18. ♘e4 b5



19.b3?! This logical move probably lets the rest of White's advantage slip away. [19.c3!? Same idea — but a better version.]

19...f5 20.♘g3 ♙a6? This is a big mistake. [Black could have tried to play the very risky 20...e4 21.♘d4 ♙xd4 . It's never a good feeling to give away the bishop from g7. 22.♖xd4 ♙xh4 Black is a pawn up, but after 23.♙b2 all the black squares are very weak and White has clearly more than enough compensation for the lost pawn.; 20...a4! After this move, it wouldn't have been easy for White to find a good move, at: 21.♙b2 axb3 22.axb3 ♖a2 23.♙a1 ♘f6! Black would be suddenly the one that gets the active pieces.]

21.♙b2 e4 22.♘d4 [22.♙xg7 exf3 23.♙d2 ♙xg7 24.♖xe8 ♙xe8 25.♖e1 ♘e5]

22...♙b7 In this not that clear looking position, Whites starts to play just great! [22...b4 23.♙d2 ♙b7]



23.♘dxf5! [23.c4 would probably leave White with some advantage as well.]

23...♙xb2 [23...gxf5 24.♙xg7 ♙xg7 25.♘xf5+ is, of course, just losing for Black.]

24.♘e7+ ♖xe7 Black needs to give back some of the material. [If Black plays 24...♙h8 25.♘xe4 White gets a deadly attack.]

25.dxe7 ♙xe7 26.♘xe4 ♘f8 [Also doesn't help 26...♙g7 27.♘d6! and White exchanges the queens, but due to the very unlucky position of the Black pieces, White is in time to make use of it. 27...♙xe2 28.♖xe2 The bishop on b7 is hanging. The White rook will go to e7 next. Black can't hold such a position for a long time..]

27.c3! White is playing just perfect, no reason to be greedy now and play [There's no reason to be greedy now and play 27.c4?! ♙g7 28.cxb5 cxb5 29.♙xb5 and even though White is better, Black has chances to get the draw.]

27...♙a3



28.♙f3! Another great move by White! ♘f6 is threatened now.

28...♙f7 The only move that doesn't lose immediately.

29.♙g3! Now ♘d6 or b4 is threatened. At 29...♙e7, 30.♙c7 is coming!

29...♙g7 30.b4! White is uses the fact that after 30...axb4? 31. cxb4 ♙xb4 32. ♙b3! check, and the bishop on b4 falls.

30...♔h8 31.♚d6 The finishing move of White's great sequence! Black is totally paralyzed, the bishop on a3 is out of the game and all the White pieces are just standing perfectly. The direct threat now is ♘g5.

31...axb4 32.cxb4 c5 Black starts to give away the material, but what to do?! It is better to die fighting!

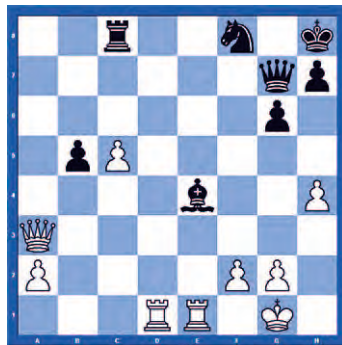
33.bxc5? [33.♘xc5! ♙xb4 34.♖e7 would finish the game immediately.]

33...♖c8 [33...♖a6 would leave Black some chances — of course, the position is very bad.]

34.♚d3 Probably both players were already in big time trouble.

34...♙xe4? [34...♙xc5 and again, it would not be so easy for White to bring home the full point.]

35.♚xa3! White is has 2 pawns and a rook for 2 Black's pieces, which gives him a small metrial advantage. But the dangerous position of the Black king, plus the perfect position of White's pieces, finish the game quickly.



35...♙b7 36.♖d6 g5 37.h5 g4 38.h6 ♚c7 39.c6 It was too much even for Shanava:). A nice fighting game! **1–0**

(4) Balogh,Cs (2662) – Delchev,A (2628) [C41]

European Team Championship, 11.11.2011

[Balogh Csaba]

Listening to the wish of one of our subscribers, I would like to present you my game against Delchev from last year.

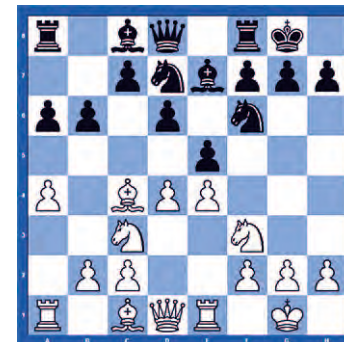
1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 e5 4.♘f3 ♘bd7 This is the so-called Philidor defense. The opening is a bit passive, but it requires careful handling by White, otherwise Black can "jump out" and create very strong counter play.

5.♙c4 ♙e7 6.0–0 0–0 7.a4 White prolongs the decision of playing the setup with ♖e1 or the one with ♚e2-Rd1. Anyway on 7...c6 or 7...a6, White has to prevent b5, so it is just a transposition.

7...a6 [7...c6 8.♖e1 Here Black has a choice between 4–5 more or less equivalent moves. The main one is 8...b6 which could lead to our current game through a different move order... 9.♙a2 a6 10.h3 ♖b8 11.♙e3]

8.♖e1 I think this is the right place for the rook, and not d1 after ♚e2. At least I prefer this one.

8...b6



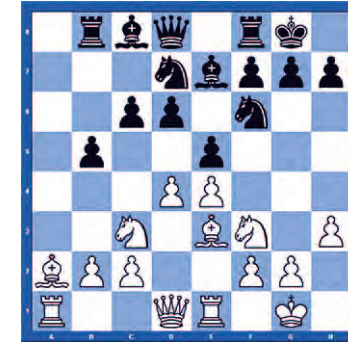
9.h3 A very useful move. White prepares to develop the bishop to e3. [In my previous game, I played the other setup, but after all, I believe it is less effective 9.b3 ♘b7 10.♘b2 c6 11.♘d3 ♖e8 12.♞e2 . This is the point of the 9.b3 system. White plays the position like in the Ruy Lopez and transfers the knight to its ideal g3 square. Black has enough time to make the correct regroupings as well, and equalizes. 12...♙f8 13.♞g3 g6 14.c3 ♔c7 15.♚c2 ♙g7 = Black has also reached his optimal position. He is ready to push d5. Balogh-Alvarez Pedrasa, Pamplona 2010.]

9...c6 Black's idea is to gain space with ♖b8 and b5. [On 9...♘b7 I consider 10.d5! to be the strongest move, in order to close the bishop. White enjoys a huge space advantage and starts to organize his play on the queenside. Black's position is cramped, he can only hope for some counter play on the kingside, but in my opinion, it is quite harmless. A possible plan could be ♙f1, with the idea of a5 and on b5, ♞a2-b4 and c4.]

10. ♙a2 A very useful move to avoid giving b5 with tempo. It prepares again for ♙e3, which could have been met with ♞xe4 ♞xe4 and d5, fork. This is a typical trick of the Philidor.

10...♖b8 [10...♘b7 The bishop stands better on c8, where it controls the f5 square. White should immediately use this inaccuracy. 11.♞h4! with the idea of ♞f5. The other typical tactical trick with 11...♞xe4 does not work, because of 12.♞xe4 ♙xh4 13.dxe5! (but not 13.♞xd6 ♙xf2+! 14.♙xf2 ♚f6+ 15.♙g1 ♚xd6) 13...dxe5 (13...♞xe5 14.♚xd6 +/-) 14.♚g4 with a winning attack.]

11. ♙e3 b5 12.axb5 axb5



13.b4! This is a very important move to stop b4. After this, I don't see how Black could equalize. He might have two plans, one is to play for the d5 push with the idea of ♙xb4, but this idea somehow never works tactically. The second one is to try to make use of the weakening of the c4 square, this is what my opponent tried. In both cases, he must overprotect the e5 pawn first.

13...♚c7 14. ♙b3 Improves the piece and opens the a-file for the rook. There are 18 games in the database with terrible statistics for Black.

14...♞b6 [The central break with 14...d5 is met with 15.dxe5! ♞xe5]

a) 15...♞xe4 White has the very strong 16.♖a7! ♙b7 (16...♞xc3 17.♖xc7 ♞xd1 18.♖xd1 ♙xb4 19.♖xc6 +-) 17.♞xe4! dxe4 18.e6! exf3 19.♚xd7 +- with a winning advantage. 19...♚xd7 20.exd7 ♙xb4 21.♖d1 Black can resign.;

b) On 15...♙xb4 16.exf6! ♙xc3 17.fxg7 ♖e8 18.exd5 +- Black collapses.; 16.♞xe5 ♚xe5 17.♙d4 +/- and White takes on d5 the next move.]

15. ♔d3! Logical development, controlling the c4 square. It is quite hard to suggest an idea for Black due to his space disadvantage.

15... ♕d7 Logical, but takes the d7 square from the knight. White immediately makes use of it!

16.dxe5! dxe5 17. ♕c5! The position has opened up a little bit, now we can clearly see the superiority of the White pieces, especially the difference between the light-squared bishops.

17... ♕e8 Ugly move, but it was hard to advice something better. It frees the d7 square for the knight. Actually, only this was the novelty of the game, but we both already spent about 1–1 hour. [17... ♖fe8? loses right away 18. ♘g5!; 17... ♕xc5 18.bxc5 ♘c8 19. ♘a2 +/- Black has no moves.]

18. ♖ed1 A small mistake, which gives my opponent some “freedom”, after exchanging a pair of rooks. The idea itself, that the e-rook should occupy the d-file, was correct. The a1 rook can penetrate sometimes on the file. [18. ♕e3! was better 18... ♕xc5 19.bxc5 ♘c8 (After 19... ♘bd7 Black cannot move his pieces.) 20. ♘a2 ♘e7 21. ♘b4 +/-]

18... ♖d8 19. ♔e3 ♖xd1+

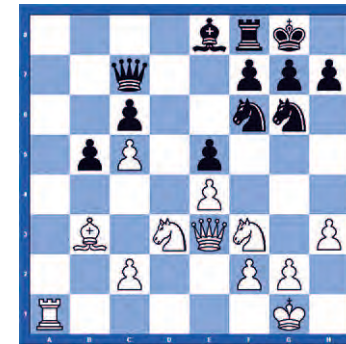


20. ♘xd1! There was only one piece that could be improved, the c3 knight. Now it is heading to d3!

20... ♘c8! Black finds the only chance to transfer his knight to g6.

21. ♘b2 ♕xc5 22.bxc5 White should not be afraid of the doubled pawns, because it limits the movement of Black's pieces. In addition, White gets the b4 square for the knight.

22... ♘e7 23. ♘d3 ♘g6



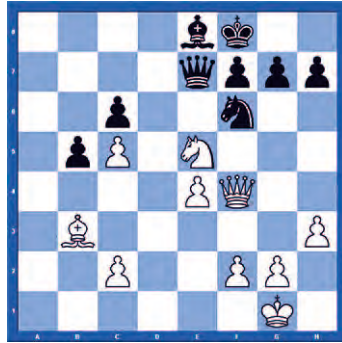
24. ♖a8!? I set up a small trick... I knew, that my opponent would be happy with any kind of exchanges, since it improves his chances to survive. As the principle says, “don't exchange pieces if you have a space advantage”. With this seemingly illogical move, I invited him to exchange a pair of rooks, but as we will see, it falls to my trap.

24... ♕d7?! Delchev falls into my idea. [24...h6 should have been played, but White has an obvious advantage anyway. 25.c4 bxc4 26. ♕xc4]

25. ♖xf8+ ♔xf8 26. ♘fxe5! This was the trick! White takes the most important pawn. I thought, that the game

was over, but Delchev found a way to restore the material equality.

26...♞xe5 27.♔f4 ♚e8! 28.♞xe5 ♔e7 White cannot protect the c5 pawn, but suddenly an attack against the king creates huge problems.



29.g4! ♔xc5 Invites me to make a spectacular combination, which would spoil the win. However there was another solution... [29...g6 30.♔g2 +/-; 29...h6 30.h4 +-]

30.g5! ♞h5 31.♔f5! White creates too many threats. The knight checks or ♚xf7 would decide the game. [31.♔xf7+ wins a pawn, but 31...♚xf7 32.♞d7+ ♔e7 33.♞xc5 ♚xb3 34.♞xb3 ♞f4 and Black gets very good drawing chances.; 31.♞d7+ ♔e7 32.♔xf7+ is the same as 31.♔xf7]

31...♔a7? This loses in a nice way. [31...♔d4 would have been the only move, but White has a clear advantage anyway after 32.g6! (But not 32.♚xf7? because 32...♞g3! would save the game!) 32...♔d1+ 33.♔g2 hxg6 34.♞xg6+ ♔g8 35.♞e5 +/-; 31...♔d6 32.♞xf7 +-]

32.g6! The pins are deadly.

32...♞f6 [32...hxg6 33.♞xg6+ ♔g8 34.♔xh5 +-]

33.gxf7 ♚d7 Of course, there are many different wins, but the nicest was definitely:

34.♔xh7!! I must admit that it was really a good feeling to be able to finish the game with this move. I rarely have the chance of doing such things.[34.♔xh7 ♞xh7 (34...♔a1+ 35.♔g2 ♔xe5 36.♔h8+ ♔e7 37.f8Q#) 35.♞g6#] **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Antipov,M (2433) – Jankovic,A (2564)

Saraevo, 07.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Predojevic,B (2637) – Bistic,F (2383)

Saraevo, 07.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

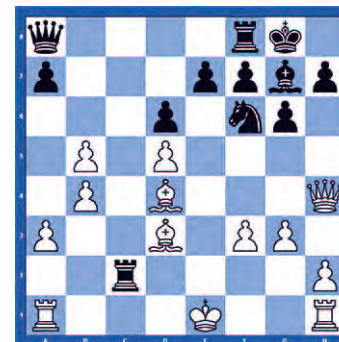


(7) Le Quang Liem (2703) – Xiu Deshun (2494)

Asian Continental Championship, 05.05.2012

[CEWN]

1... -/+

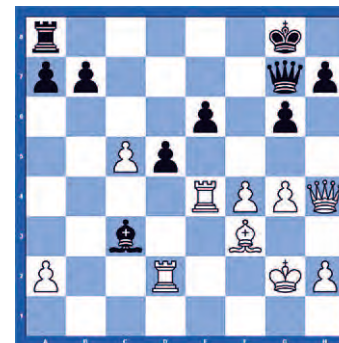


(8) Volkov,S (2623) – Iskandarov,M (2305)

Nakhchivan, 05.05.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

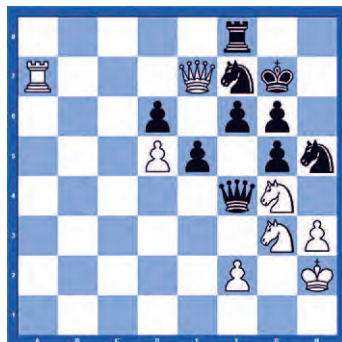


(9) Babaev,T (2344) — Aleksandrov,A (2604)

Nakhchivan, 04.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. =

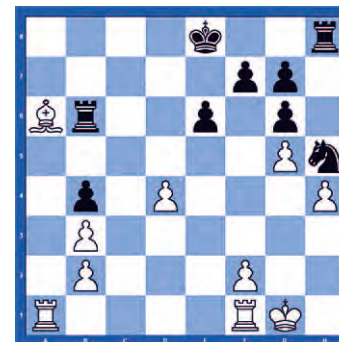


(11) Miralles,G (2471) — Schiendorfer,E (2349)

Suisse league, 29.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

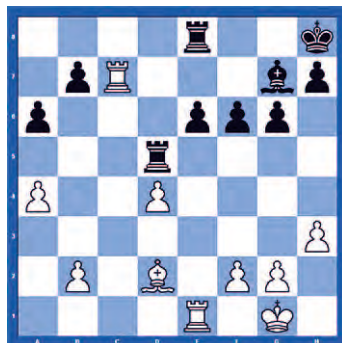


(10) Popovic,Du (2561) — Milanovic,D (2520)

Serbian Championship, 04.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

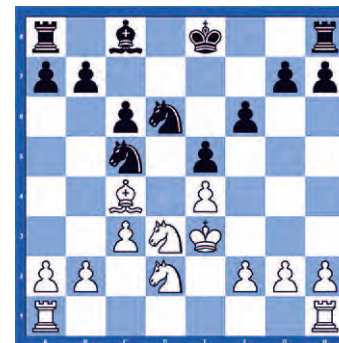


(12) Borgo,G (2397) — Bindrich,F (2542)

Suisse league, 29.04.2012

[CEWN]

1. -+



(13) Szymanski,M (2416) – Gajewski,G (2622)

Polish league, 05.05.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

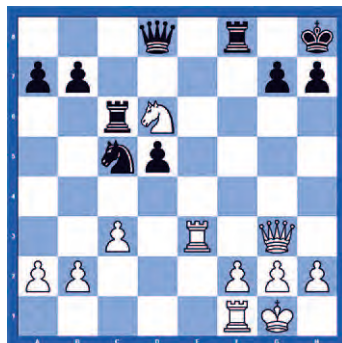


(14) Tomczak,J (2549) – Mista,A (2538)

Polish league, 05.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

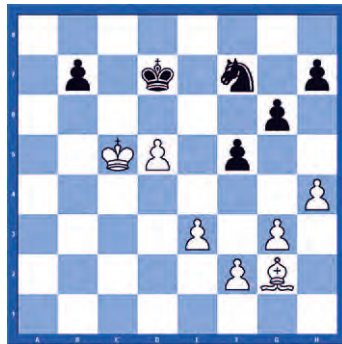


Endgame section

(15) Lenic,L (2637) – Jones,G (2635) [A15]

TCh-ITA 2012 Arvier ITA (2), 28.04.2012

[Chess-Evolution]



34...♞e5 We are in a very interesting endgame. It is clear that White has very good winning chances. On the other hand, it is not an easily winning position, the Black's b-pawn is giving him some counter play.

35.f4 This move gives Black very good chances for a draw. But, how to win here? Does White have a better choice? [35.f3! looks much stronger, but at the same time, it's not easy to see a clear winning plan. 35...♞c7! Only move, Black needs to get his king to d6. 36.e4

a) 36.d6+ ♞d7 37.f4 (37.e4 ♞f7) 37...♞f7 38.♙xb7 ♞xd6 39.♙d5 ♞e7 and again, Black has good drawing chances;

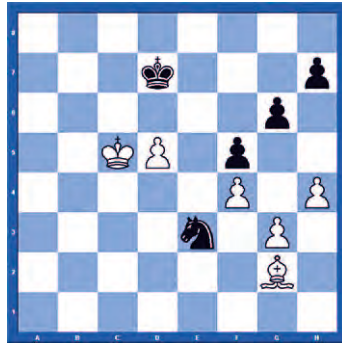
b) 36.g4? The attempt to get free central pawns is not working either. 36...fxg4 37.f4 b6+ 38.♞d4 ♞f3+! and already Black is winning.; 36...♞d7+ (36...fxe4 37.d6+!)

37.♞d4 fxe4 38.fxe4 ♞d6 39.♙f1 ♞e5 and probably the position is a draw!; 35.♞d4 ♞d6 36.e4 Doesn't seem to bring White anything good either. (36.♙f1 ♞f3+ with a draw.) 36...fxe4 37.♙xe4 ♞g4! It's very important for Black to bring the knight to f6. 38.f3 ♞f6 39.g4 b5 and probably the position is a draw.; 35.♙f1 ♞g4! Black is winning a pawn. 36.♙b5+ ♞e7 37.d6+ (37.f3 ♞xe3 38.♞d4 f4! The only saving move, if White would manage to put his king on e5, the game would be over.) 37...♞e6! Black's position looks very dangerous, but everything seems to work out. 38.♙c4+ ♞d7 39.♙b5+ ♞e6 40.f3 ♞xe3 41.d7 ♞e7 42.♞b6 ♞d8 and again, White has reached nothing more than a draw.; 35.e4! ♞d3+! The only move to keep on fighting. (35...fxe4 36.♙h3+! followed by ♞d4, and it seems that White should win here.) 36.♞d4 fxe4 37.f4 ♞f2 38.♞e3 (38.♙xe4 ♞xe4 39.♞xe4 h5) 38...♞g4+ 39.♞xe4 ♞d6 and again, Black has good chances to make a draw.]

35...b6+? A terrible mistake [35...♞d3+! This move would probably give Black a draw. 36.♞d4 ♞f2 37.e4 White needs to do something, if Black manages to play ♞d6, everything should be fine. 37...fxe4! (Losing is 37...♞xe4? 38.♙xe4 fxe4 39.g4! not allowing Black to fix the structure with h5.) 38.♞e3 ♞g4+ 39.♞xe4 ♞d6 with good drawing chances.]

36.♙xb6 [36.♞d4!? ♞f7 (36...♞g4 Black is not in time for the usual maneuver ♞g4-f6. 37.e4! +-) 37.e4 fxe4 38.♙xe4 ♞d6 39.g4 The Black knight should be on f6 and the king on d6. The combination of ♞d7-Nd6 doesn't give Black big hopes. White is winning.]

36...♞c4+ 37.♞c5 ♞xe3



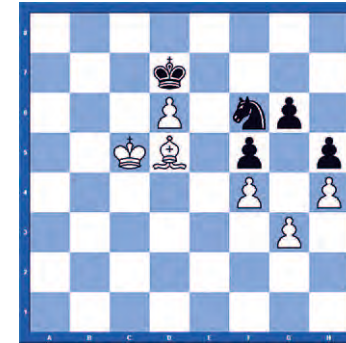
38. ♖h3! It looks like Black got some drawing chances here, but that's not the case, the position is totally winning for White. Why?! Because all the Black pawns are standing on White squares, making them easy target for the bishop. White only needs to get the bishop to g8.

38... ♖d1 White wanted to play ♖d4-e5 with a winning position.

39. ♖f1 ♖f2 40. ♖g2 [40. ♖b5+ ♖d8 41. ♖d4 ♖h1 42. ♖e5 ♖xg3 43. d6 and White is winning because Black can not hold the pawns h7-g6-f5. White will play ♖c4-g8 or ♖f6-g7.]

40... ♖g4 41. d6 ♖f6 42. ♖f3? This move is a bit strange... and practically gives Black a draw. [42. ♖d5 ♖h5 43. ♖c6+ ♖d8 44. ♖d5 ♖xg3 45. ♖e5 Seems to win immediately because Black has no defense against the maneuver ♖d5-g8.]

42...h6? [42...h5! could have been Black's last chance 43. ♖d5



43... ♖e4+!. This is why the h5 move is necessary. 44. ♖xe4 fxe4 45. ♖d4 ♖xd6 46. ♖xe4 ♖e6 with a drawish pawn endgame.]

43. ♖c6+ ♖e6 44. ♖g2 ♖d7 45. ♖c6+ ♖e6 46. ♖g2 ♖d7 After repeating moves twice, finally White makes the right choice.

47. ♖d5 ♖h5 [47... ♖e4+ doesn't give Black a draw now 48. ♖xe4 fxe4 49. ♖d4 ♖xd6 50. ♖xe4 ♖e6 51. g4 ♖f6 52. ♖d5 h5 53. g5+ ♖f5 54. ♖d6 ♖xf4 55. ♖e6 with an easy win for White.]

48. ♖c6+ ♖e6 [48... ♖d8 49. ♖d5 ♖xg3 50. ♖e5 and we have comeback to the usual winning position.]

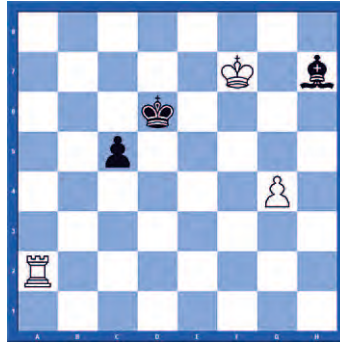
49. ♖f3 ♖f6 50. ♖c6! White is totally winning — the rest of the game needs no comments.

50... ♖f7 51. ♖c7 ♖e8+ 52. ♖d7 ♖f6+ 53. ♖c6 h5 54. ♖g2 ♖e6 55. ♖f1 ♖f7 56. ♖c4+ ♖f8 57. ♖e6 ♖e8 58. ♖c7 We saw a very interesting endgame with a lot of mistakes on both sides, which clearly shows that endgames are really difficult to play! **1-0**

(16) Yu Yangyi (2626) – Laylo,D (2502)

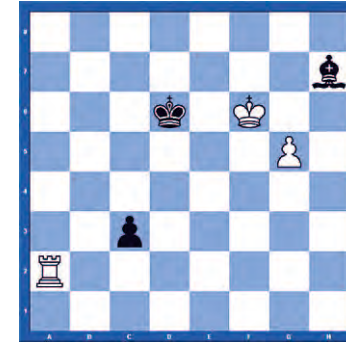
Asian Continental Championship, 06.05.2012

[Chess Evolution]



Despite the little amount of material on the board, the position is amazingly complex. These kind of positions are very useful to improve our calculating abilities!

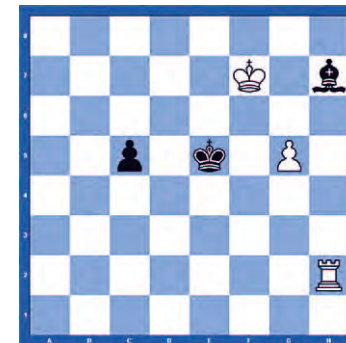
57.g5? Here is the next question: How to defend with Black? [57.♔f6!! We must calculate really deeply to be able to find this move! The idea is to give a check on the d-file and then to approach with the king to the c-pawn. 57...c4 (57...♔d5 58.♖d2+! ♔c4 (58...♔e4 Trying to block the route of the White king would block the diagonal for the bishop. 59.g5 c4 60.♖d7 ♕g8 61.♖d8 ♕d5 (61... ♕h7 62.♖h8 +-) 62.♖xd5! and the pawn promotes with check.) 59.g5 ♔b3 60.♖d7 ♕c2 61.♔e5 +-) 58.g5 c3 (58... ♔d5 59.♖d2+ ♔c5 60.♖d7 ♕b1 61.♔e5 +-; 58...♔c5 59.♖a7 ♕b1 60.♔e5 The technique is always the same. Practically, if you find 57. ♔f6, the win is already in your pocket.)



59.♖a3! The last important move. White is a tempo ahead. 59...c2 60.♖c3 ♕e4 (60...♔d5 61.g6 +-) 61.g6 ♔d5 62.g7 +-; 57.♖a5 Trying to cut the king along the 5th rank does not help. 57...♔d5! First, the king crosses the line and then Black can push his c-pawn. (But not 57...c4? 58.g5 c3 59.g6 ♕xg6+ 60.♔xg6 c2 61.♖a1 +-) 58.g5 ♔d4 59.g6 ♕xg6+ 60.♔xg6 c4 61.♔f5 c3 with a draw.]

57...♔e5!! Very strong reaction. Black does not allow the cut along the 5th rank, and at the same time, he blockades the path of the White king. [57...c4? 58.♖a5 +- transposes to 57.♖a5.]

58.♖h2! [58.g6 ♕xg6+ 59.♔xg6 c4 leads to a draw.]



58...♙d3! The most logical, which is, actually, the only move to save the game. [58...♙e4? is not an option. 59.♖e2 c4 60.g6 +-; 58...♙f5 loses to the great 59.♗h5!! ♙g4. Only move, otherwise g6 decides the game. 60.♗h1 ♙f5 61.♖e1+! ♙d4 62.♙f6 Very important tempo, which allows the same win that we saw in the 57.♙f6 line. 62... ♙h7 63.♗d1+ ♙e4 (63...♙c3 64.g6 ♙xg6 65.♙xg6 c4 66.♙f5 ♙b2 67.♙e4 c3 68.♙d3 c2 69.♗d2 +-) 64.♗d7 +-]

59.♗h5 [59.g6 ♙xg6+ 60.♙xg6 c4 There is no win... 61.♖e2+ ♙d4 62.♙f5 c3 =]

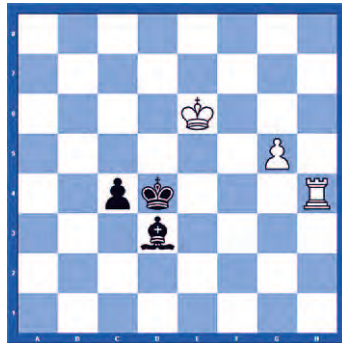
59...♙d4 60.♗h4+ White tries all his tricks, which takes away Black's energy.

60...♙d5! It was another moment to go wrong, but Black defends precisely. [60...♙e5? 61.g6 ♙xg6+ 62.♙xg6 ♙d5 63.♙f5 c4 64.♙f4 ♙d4 65.♗h8 +- White is in time.]

61.♗h5 [61.g6 ♙xg6+ 62.♙xg6 c4 63.♙f5 c3 =]

61...♙d4 After Black found the important 60...♙d5, White tries a different plan.

62.♙e6!? c4 63.♗h4+



63...♙c5?? and suddenly Black blunders. After finding a couple of difficult moves, he fails in an easier moment. [63...♙e3 would have secured the half point. 64.♙d5 c3 65.♗h3+ ♙e2! is the last required exact move. (65...♙d2? 66.♙d4 +-) 66.♙d4 c2 67.♗h2+ (67.♗h1 ♙d2 =) 67...♙f3 68.♗h1 ♙g6 = and the handshake is coming soon.]

64.♙e5! c3 65.♗h8! We arrive again to the winning position. The White king catches the pawn, while the rook supports the g-pawn.

65...♙a6 [65...c2 66.♗c8+ ♙b4 67.♙d4 ♙f5 68.♗c7 ♙b3 69.♙e3 +-]

66.g6 c2 67.♗h1 It is all over now.

67...♙b4 68.♙d4 ♙b3 69.♗c1 ♙c8 [69...♙b2 70.♗xc2+ ♙xc2 71.g7 +-]

70.g7 ♙e6 71.♙d3 ♙f5+ 72.♙d2 ♙h7 73.♗xc2 1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Speijer, Abraham — Euwe, Max [A48]

Amsterdam Amsterdam, 1923

[Balogh Csaba]

We will see a great positional exchange sacrifice by Max Euwe. A nice example for recognizing when a bishop is stronger than a rook...

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.** ♘f3 **d6** Euwe is heading for the King's Indian defense.

3.b3 Of course, we don't want to study theory by watching this game. This move is not as bad as it might look, a few moves later we get a completely "natural" position.

3...g6 4. ♖b2 ♖g7 **5.** ♘bd2 **0-0 6.e3** ♘bd7 **7.** ♖e2 White already has a normal position, the defect of the 3.b3 move has disappeared.



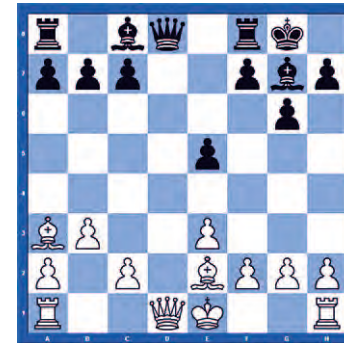
7...e5 After finishing the development, Black starts to fight for the center with this typical King's Indian break.

8.dxe5 [On 8.0-0 ♖e8 we would reach a similar structure to the Nikolic-Fischer game, discussed in the 9th CEWN.]

8...♘g4! This is the point of the previous move. Black equalizes after successfully undermining the center.

9. ♘c4 White does not handle the opening too ambitiously, he wants to get rid of the pieces. [9.0-0 ♘dxe5 10. ♘xe5 ♘xe5 = with the idea of ♘f3+, getting the bishop pair.]

9...♘gxe5 10. ♘cxe5 ♘xe5 **11.** ♘xe5 **dxe5 12.** ♖a3 [12.0-0 = leads to complete equality.]



12...e4!! Brilliant idea! An intuitive exchange sacrifice for long-term compensation. [12...♖e8 13. ♖xd8 ♖xd8 14.e4 = was White's idea, with a draw soon.]

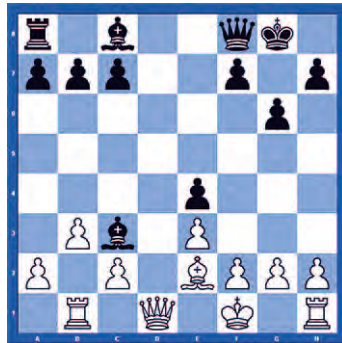
13. ♖xf8 White accepts the challenge, which was a mistake in my opinion. [13.0-0! was much safer, but accurate calculation was needed. 13...♖g5!? (13... ♖xa1 14. ♖xf8 = gives nothing.) 14. ♖xf8 ♖h3 15. ♖f3! . Strong move, followed by a forced line which leads to equality. (15.g3 ♖xf8 is very unpleasant for White.) 15...♖d8 16. ♖e2 exf3 17. ♖xf3 ♖xg2! 18. ♖xg2 ♖xg2+ 19. ♖xg2 ♖xa1 20. ♖e7! It's very important to fight for the only open file. (20.

♖xa1? ♔xf8 =+) 20...♖d7 21.♖xa1 ♖xe7 22.♖d1 f5 23.c4 ♔f7 = with an even endgame.]

13...♗c3+! An important intermediate check to take away the short castle.

14.♔f1 ♕xf8 Here we are! Black gave an exchange for the c3 bishop, which disturbs the communication between White's pieces. It's hard to find a future for the heavy pieces, not only for the rooks, but for the queen as well.

15.h4? White would like to get rid of the strong bishop by giving back the material advantage, and wants to generate play for the h1 rook, but it gives Black too much time. He will be able to activate his rook. [15.♖b1 was the best move, with the idea of ♔g1, ♕f1 and ♖d1, developing artificially, which is actually not easy to refute with Black.



15...c6! with the idea of paralyzing the White pieces, by pushing b5. It prevents the important ♗c4 plan. (On 15...♗e6 16.♔g1 ♖d8 17.♕f1 and ♖d1 or ♗c4 is coming.) 16.♔g1 (16.a4 a6!) 16...b5! 17.a4 a6! Black seems to have more than enough compensation. Even the materialistic computers like this idea.]

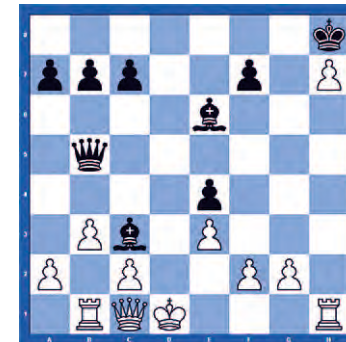
15...♗e6! Another strong move. Of course, Euwe keeps his c3 bishop!

16.h5 At least consequent, but it gives an important tempo for Black. Even after opening the h-file, the h1 rook remains out of the game.

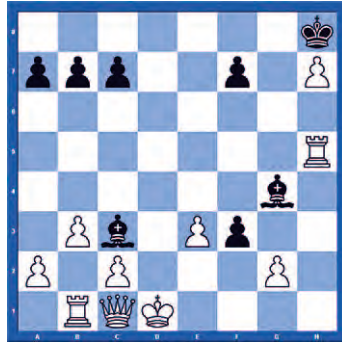
16...♖d8 17.♕c1 ♕c5 It is never a question whether to take on a1 or not. [17...♖d2!? was also good.]

18.♖b1 ♖d2! Black is ready for concrete threats now. ♖xe2 is in the air.

19.b4 Trying to "breathe". [19.hxg6 loses in a spectacular way 19...♖xe2! 20.gxh7+ ♔h8 21.♔xe2 ♕b5+!.. It's important to prevent the king from going to f1. 22.♔d1



22...♗g4+ (I was shocked by the 2nd strongest move of the computer: 22...♕h5+!? 23.♖xh5 ♗g4+ 24.f3 exf3



with mate in three!!! An amazing position.) 23.f3 exf3 Take a look at the White pieces and at the Black bishops.; 19.a4 to prevent ♖b5 check. The rook sacrifice would meet with 19...♔d6! refreshing the same threat, but now it is followed by ♔a6!]

19...♔e5 20.♖b3 White could not live with the bishops anymore and decided to give back the exchange, even at the cost of some pawns.

20...♔xb3 Euwe plays simple chess, although there was a more spectacular way to get the victory. [20...♖xe2! 21.♖xc3 (21.♔xe2 ♔c4+ 22.♔d1 ♔d6+) 21...♔g4!! due to the double threat of ♖xc3 and ♖f6, it is over now. 22.♖c5 ♖f6]

21.axb3 ♔xb4 22.hxg6 hxg6 Black is completely winning anyway. He is not only a pawn up, but his pieces are superior as well.

23.♖h4 ♔c3 24.♖xe4 ♖xc2 An instructive win by Max Euwe that shows how the quality of the pieces can overcome a material disadvantage. **0-1**

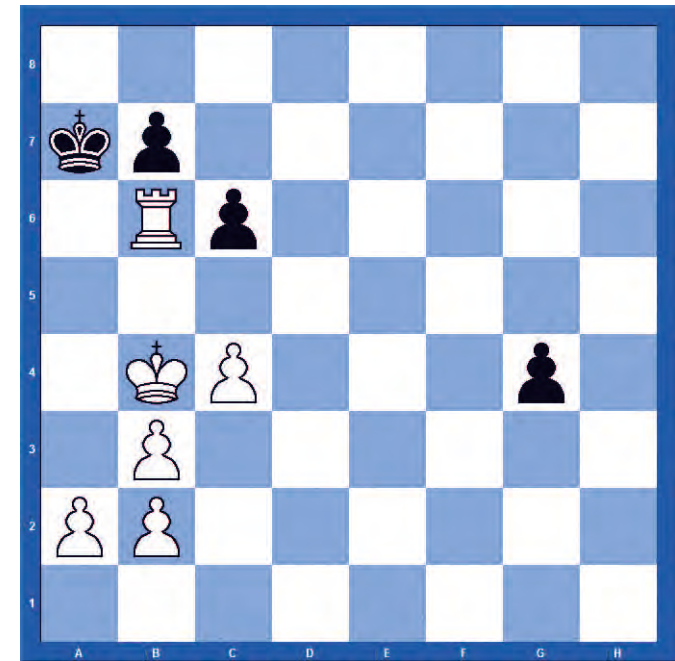
Surprise section / study

(18) Liburkin,M

1981

[CEWN]

1. =

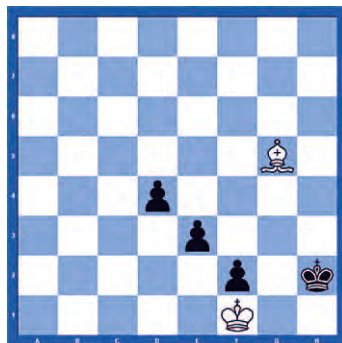


Solutions

(19) Weenink,H

1918

[Solutions]



1. ♖h4! d3 2. ♖xf2! d2 3. ♖e1!! d1R [3...d1♚=] 4. ♚e2
♜a1 5. ♖h4 1/2

(20) Collutiis,D (2493) – Brunello,M (2263)

Italian league, 28.04.2012

[Solutions]

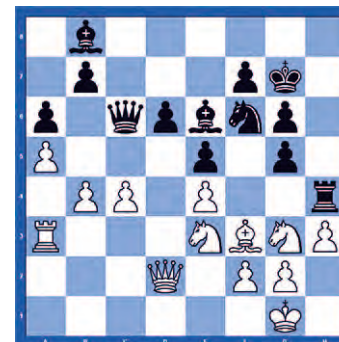


20.b4!! ♚xb4 [20...♚c7 21.♘cd5!+-] 21.♘cd5! [21.♘ed5!]
21...exd5 22.♘xd5 ♚c5 23.♘xe7+ ♚h8 24.♚d5 ♚c7
25.♘xc8 ♜xc8 26.c5!+-

(21) Antoniewski,R (2559) – Olszewski,M (2539)

Italian league, 28.04.2012

[Solutions]

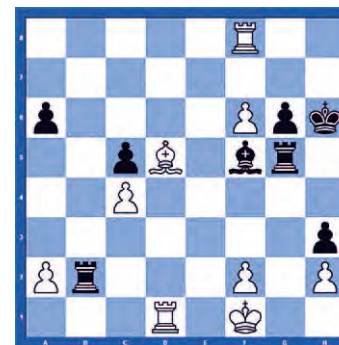


38.♘ef5+! ♜xf5 [38...gxf5 39.♚xg5+ ♚f8 40.♚xh4+-]
39.♘xf5+! gxf5 40.♚xg5+ ♚f8 41.♚xh4+-

(22) Safarli,E (2645) – Rasulov,V (2526)

Nakhchivan Open, 29.04.2012

[Solutions]

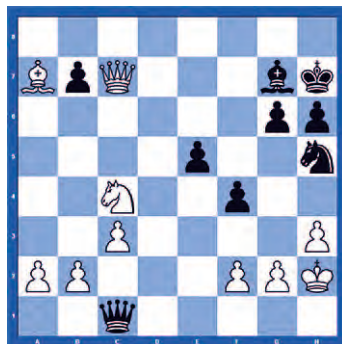


36...♚d3+!! 37.♚xd3 ♜g1+!! 0-1 [37...♚g1+ 38.♚xg1
♜b1+ 39.♚d1 ♜xd1#]

(23) Mammadov,Z (2378) – Guseinov,G (2616)

Nakhchivan Open, 29.04.2012

[Solutions]



28...♘g3!! 0–1 [28...♘g3 29.fxg3 fxg3+ 30.♔xg3 ♚f4#]

(24) Czebe,A (2477) – Arun Prasad,S (2517)

Melaka Open, 29.04.2012

[Solutions]

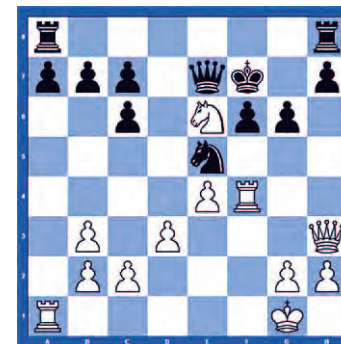


24.♖d8+! 1–0

(25) Vaibhav,S (2494) – Maze,S (2577)

Lille Open, 25.04.2012

[Solutions]

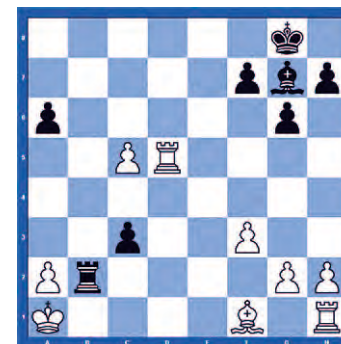


17.♖xf6+! ♚xf6 18.♖f1 ♚xf1+ 19.♔xf1+-

(26) Xiu Deshun (2492) – Wen Yang (2549)

Chinese league, 29.04.2012

[Solutions]

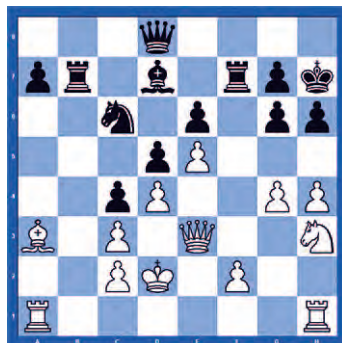


24...♖b8!! [24...♖d2? 25.♔b1!! ♖xd5 26.c6! ♖d1+ 27.♔c2 ♖d2+ 28.♔b3=] **25.♖d8+ ♖xd8 26.♔b1 ♖d2 27.g3** [27. c6 ♖b2+ 28.♔c1 ♔h6+ 29.♔d1 c2+-+] **27...♔d4** 0–1 [27... ♔d4 28.c6 ♖b2+ 29.♔c1 ♔e3+ 30.♔d1 c2+-+]

(27) Motylev,A (2683) – Wan Yunguo (2441)

Chinese league, 28.04.2012

[Solutions]



25. ♖g5! hxg5 26. hxg5+ ♔g8 27. ♖h2! ♘xd4
28. ♖ah1 ♘f3+ 29. ♔xf3 1-0 [29. ♔xf3 ♖xf3 30. ♖h8+
♔f7 31. ♖xd8+-]

(28) Nozdrachev,V (2449) – Stukopin,A (2485)

Sochi, 26.04.2012

[Solutions]



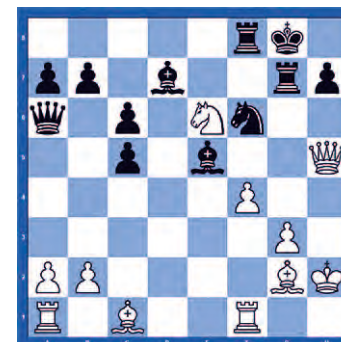
18. ♖h6!! [18. ♘h3 ♔b8 19. ♔d2+] 18... ♔c8 19. ♖xf6!
gxf6 20. ♘h3! ♘b8 21. ♔xf6+ ♔c7 22. ♔e5+ ♔b6
23. ♘xd7 [23. ♖d6+-] 23... ♘xd7 24. ♔d6+ ♔b5 [24...]

♔c6 25. ♔d4+-] 25. ♔xd7+ [25. ♖d5+! ♘c5 26. a4+-]
25... ♔xd7 26. ♖xd7+-

(29) Bukavshin,I (2504) – Fedoseev,V (2548)

Sochi, 26.04.2012

[Solutions]



26. fxe5! ♔d3 [26... ♘xh5 27. ♖xf8#; 26... ♔xf1 27. exf6+-]
27. ♔h4 [27. ♖f3+-] 27... ♖g4 28. ♔h3+-



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 12

18th of May 2012

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Editorial Preface

The main event of the month is definitely the World Championship Match between Anand and Gelfand. After the first four games, the score is 2–2. Anand missed a serious chance to win in game 3, we show you this game in the current CEWN. We analyze all games in details and give predictions for the coming rounds in our special WCC newsletter. You can see more information about it on our website: www.chess-newsletter.com.

Meanwhile, the Capablanca memorial has come to an end. As it's already usual, Ivanchuk won the event with 6.5/10, this was his 6th victory in a row in Havana.

The US Championship is just getting to an end. As it was expected, there will be a very interesting run for the first place between the two favorites, Nakamura and Kamsky.

The tournament in Malmo has come to an end as well. The top seed Italiano, Fabiano Caruana, has convincingly won the event!

As usual, we wish you lots of fun with the 12th edition of the Chess Evolution Weekly Newsletter!

*Arkadij Naiditsch
Balogh Csaba*

4 best games of the past week

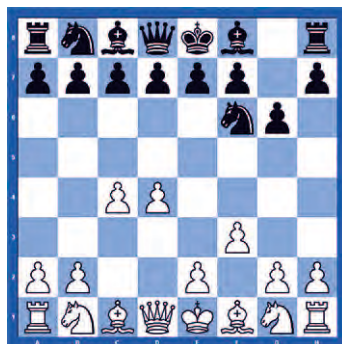
(1) Anand,V (2791)
— Gelfand,B (2727) [D70]

WCC 2012 Moscow, 14.05.2012

[Chess Evolution]

We are in the 3rd game of the WCC match and, just like in the first round, Anand opens with 1.d4.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** g6 **3.f3** and here comes the change in comparison to game 1, where White played 3.♘c3.



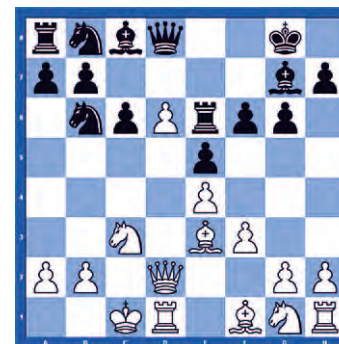
3...d5 Maybe in the next games Black could try the 3...♗g7 4.e4 d6 line going into the King's Indian, where Anand usually chooses the lines with ♘f3 and not f3!

4.cxd5 ♘xd5 **5.e4** ♘b6 **6.♘c3** ♗g7 **7.♗e3** 0-0 **8.♔d2**
This is the very main position of the Grünfeld with 3.f3.

8...e5!? This move is not the main option. [8...♘c6 is the usual choice with long and sharp lines.; 8...♔d6!? 9.f4 ♖d8 10.♘f3 ♔b4 ~ happened in the recent game between Jobava-Caruana from 2012.]

9.d5 c6! Black needs to start his play in the center immediately. In case White manages to castle long and play h4-h5, Black's position will be very bad.

10.h4 Let the actions begin! [10.d6? doesn't work now because of 10...♖e8 11.0-0-0 ♖e6 12.♗g5 Black wanted to play ♗f8 and the pawn on d6 would be lost 12...f6 13.♗e3



13...♗f8! a great sacrifice! 14.♗xb6 axb6 15.♗c4 b5! 16.♗xe6+ ♗xe6 White is an exchange up, but he's doing clearly worse! There is no decent defense against Black's b4 move. Besides, all of Black pieces are perfectly in the game and the knight from b8 will take a very good square on d7.]

10...cxd5 11.exd5 ♘8d7 [11...f5 Of course it would be very nice for Black to get the pawn to f5, but it seems like White is just too fast 12.h5 ♘8d7 13.hxg6 hxg6 14.♗h6 White's threats over the Black King are very dangerous already.; 11...h5 This move is quite interesting and deserves attention, Black blocks his opponent's play on the file, and wants to continue his development in a normal way by playing ♘8d7-Nf6. White has quite a big range of moves here, for example: 12.♘h3 then ♘g5, or maybe

the direct 12.0-0-0 followed by g4 is possible as well. We can be sure of one thing: this position has been very well analyzed by Gelfand's team as well as, of course, by Anand's team, so we should just simply believe them that 11...♖bd7 is the best move here :).]

12.h5 ♘f6 13.hxg6 fxg6 Both players have played their moves very fast until this point. It's a bit strange that almost all the engines give White quite a big advantage — which is not obvious at all with "human eyes"! This makes the position very tricky and hard to analyze. [13...hxg6 14.♙h6 with a mating attack.]

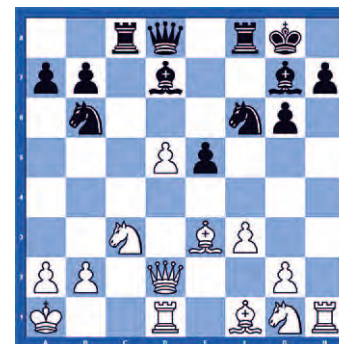
14.0-0-0 ♙d7 After this move Anand had his first thought. Let us take a look at the position from the logical point of view: 1) It is clear that positionally White is doing better. A strong pawn on d5 gives White a clear advantage in the center. Also, in case White manages to develop his pieces by playing, for example, ♘h3-g5, he will be better as well. 2) It is clear that Black's chances lie in creating dynamic play.

15.♔b1 A standard prophylactic move. The White king will have to move away from the c-file eventually.

15...♖c8 I think we are at the first critical position. White has a huge range of moves that need to be considered, Anand took around 25 minutes of thinking before playing his next move.

16.♔a1 [One of the options should definitely be 16.d6 ♙e6 This is why d6 might not be the best, the bishop on e6 is standing perfectly, even if it looks like a lost tempo, just 2 moves ago ♙c8-d7 was played. 17.♙g5 Black wanted to play ♘fd5. 17...♔d7 The Black queen is going to f7 and, at the same time, Black keeps his desire to play

♘fd5. Once again, White had a lot moves to consider. As we can see, the position is super complicated and it is really hard to say who is doing better.; Another interesting move is 16.♘h3 e4 (A typical sacrifice doesn't work now 16...♖xc3?! 17.♔xc3 ♘fxd5 18.♙c4! and some of Black's pieces will be lost on the d-file.) 17.♘f4 and we are again in a totally messy position, but I feel that White might be better here. The knight on f4 is in a very powerful position.]



16...e4! An excellent move by Black! And it was very quickly played by Gelfand. Great preparation by the Gelfand team.

17.♙d4! After another long thought, Anand finds what is probably the best reaction! [A mistake would be 17.fxe4? ♖xc3! this time works: 18.♔xc3 ♘xe4 19.♔e1 ♘a4 and the Black pieces are going for the White king 20.♙d4 ♘xb2! and this is the finishing move. The White King is going to be mated soon.; Would also be a mistake 17.♘xe4? ♘xe4 18.fxe4 ♖xf1! a pretty move that Anand can see immediately 19.♖xf1 ♘c4 and again the b2 pawn is the troublemaker, Black is winning.]

17...♘a4 This move was also quickly played by Black, and it seems like it leads to a forced draw — amazing preparation! [17...♘c4 This move gives White the chance to develop completely 18.♙xc4 ♖xc4 19.♘ge2 and White should be doing a bit better, he managed to keep his strong d pawn, and will have dangerous attacking chances in the future with his king in a very safe position.; 17...♖e8!? Personally, I like this move a lot, now Black wants to play e3 18.fxe4 and the sacrifice on c3 is a constant threat 18...♖xc3! 19.♙xc3 ♘xe4 We are in a totally unclear position. A very deep analysis would be necessary to know who is doing better here. Computers probably don't give a correct evaluation in many lines, which makes it even harder to find the truth, but again, we should just believe in Gelfand's team and conclude that 17...♘a4 is the better choice.]

18.♘ge2 [An interesting move would be 18.♘xe4!? ♘xe4 starting a long forced line, it's possible that instead of 18...♘xe4 Gelfand planned to do something else!? but it's not easy to understand what's the plan actually... 19.fxe4 ♙xd4 20.♙xd4 ♙g5 Of course Black's chance lies in his the development! 21.♙b1 The white King plays a role in the game, protecting c1! 21...♖xf1 What else?! 22.♖xf1 ♙xg2 23.♘e2! Maybe Anand blundered this nice protective move?! 23...♙xe2 24.♙a1 We are in a very crazy position. From the material point of view, Black is doing better, but probably in a practical game, Black's position can be very dangerous. White has good attacking chances plus 2 central pawns that can start advancing very soon. I think White's position is even objectively better.]

18...♙a5! A very good move by Black, practically forcing White to go into a drawn endgame.

19.♘xe4 It is difficult to find something better for White. [19.fxe4? doesn't work again 19...♘xc3 20.♙xc3 (20.♘xc3 ♘xe4 21.♘xe4 ♙xd2 22.♘xd2 ♙xd4) 20...♙a4 and White can not protect the pawn on e4 — so Black should be doing great.]

19...♙xd2 20.♘xf6+



20...♖xf6! A very precise move by Gelfand. [In case of 20...♙xf6 21.♖xd2 ♙xd4 22.♖xd4 ♖c2 23.b3 Black would still have to fight for a draw.]

21.♖xd2 ♖f5! Black's target is the lonely d5 pawn, and it is very difficult for White to find anything to protect it.

22.♙xg7 ♙xg7 23.d6 Black simply wanted to win the pawn back by playing ♘b6 and, if ♘c3 ♘xd5 comes.

23...♖fc5?! The first inaccuracy by Gelfand after a great sequence of moves. [The not very difficult 23...♘b6 24.♘c3 ♖d5! = leads immediately to a draw 25.♖xd5 ♘xd5 and White has nothing better than allowing Black to take twice on c3.]

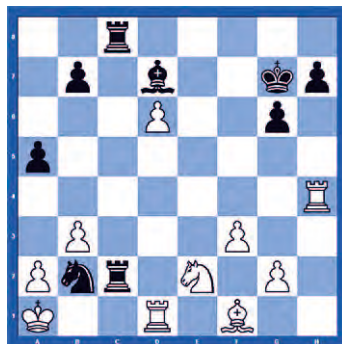
24.♖d1 += The beginning of what looks like the end for Black...

24...a5 [Still 24...♘b6 25.♘c3 ♘d5 probably would have been the best option for Black.]

25.♖h4! Finally, the White rook from h1 joins the game. White wants to play ♖e4-Re7.

25...♖c2 Probably the last chance for Black to start some action.

26.b3 ♘b2!? A very risky move by Black, but probably the best chance to fight. [In case of the silent 26...♘b6 27.♖e4 a4 28.♖e7+ ♔f6 29.♘g3! White seems to be close to winning. The knight on e4 is going to become a beast!]



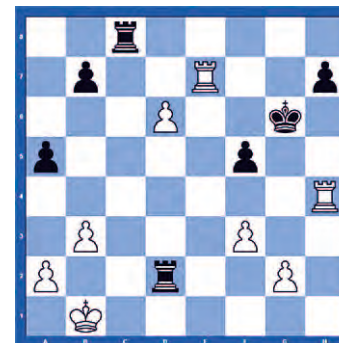
27.♖b1! [The tempting 27.♖dd4 leaves the Black knight without moves, but 27...a4 28.bxa4 Black wanted to play a3 28...b5! leads to quite a complicated position. Especially in a practical game, it is very hard to evaluate!]

27...♘d3 28.♘d4 ♖d2 29.♙xd3 ♖xd3 30.♖e1! So, White is a pawn up, and ♖e7 is a very dangerous threat. Black's only hope seems to be the White King.

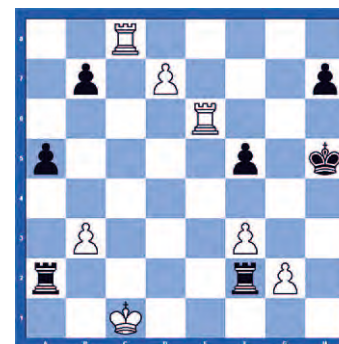
30...♖d2! Black tries to use all the tricks in the fight for survival. To have both rooks on the 2nd rank is the best chance.

31.♔b1 ♙f5+ The only move

32.♘xf5+ gxf5 33.♖e7+ ♔g6 And we are in a position where Anand made a terrible miscalculation. Having only 5 minutes for 6 moves, Anand makes a very strange decision — practically agrees to a draw.



34.♖c7? [34.d7 ♖cc2 35.♖c4! It is clear that Anand saw this move 35...♖xa2 (35...♖xc4 is not saving the game either 36.bxc4 h5 37.♔c1 ♖d4 38.♔c2 ♔f6 39.♖h7 ♔e6 40.♔b3! ♖xd7 If Black doesn't take on d7, the White king will anyway go to b5. 41.♖xd7 ♔xd7 42.♔a4 b6 43.♔b5 followed by c5 with a totally winning pawn endgame.) 36.♖c8 ♖db2+ 37.♔c1 ♖f2 38.♖e6+ ♔h5



39.g4+! and this is the key move! Not an easy move to foresee, especially with so little time on the clock. White promotes the queen with check 39...fxg4 40.♖c5+ ♔h4 41.d8♔+]]

34...♖e8 35.♖h1? It was not too late to play 35.♖e7, and probably Black has nothing better than to come back with 35...♖c8 and pray for a repetition.

35...♖ee2! Now the game is just a draw!

36.d7 ♖b2+ 37.♔c1 ♖xa2 A very interesting game. Black was clearly better prepared, but strangely enough, missed a very easy draw and found himself in a very difficult endgame. It still looks like Anand is not in his top shape. 1) Today, he got into a little bit of time trouble and 2) He missed quite an easy win with 34. d7. Usually, the World Champion does not miss such opportunities! **1/2**

(2) Nakamura,Hi (2775) – Robson,R (2614) [B75]

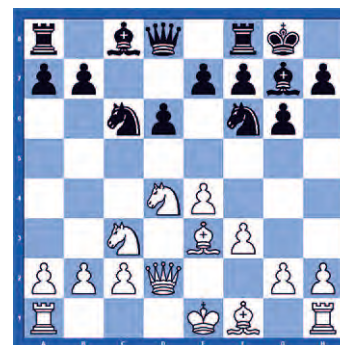
ch-USA 2012 Saint Louis USA (3), 10.05.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

A very interesting — typical for the Dragon — battle between the top US player Nakamura Hikaru and the rising star Ray Robson.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6 The starting position of the Dragon variation in the Sicilian.

6.♙e3 ♙g7 7.f3 ♘c6 8.♔d2 0–0



9.g4!? Recently, the 9.g4 line has enjoyed a lot of popularity. Still, the mainlines are 9.♙c4 and 9.0–0–0.

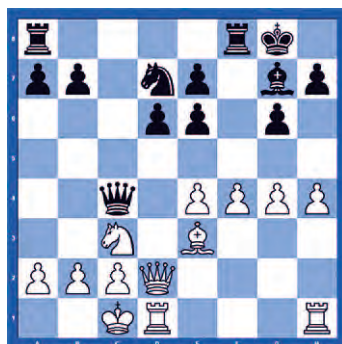
9...♙e6 The main move, which tries to use the fact that White has weakened his f3 pawn in the previous move. Creating doubled pawns and taking the bishop pair has its drawback as well, it opens the f-file. In addition, after playing 9.g4, White has no longer the option of 0–0, and castling queenside moves into the diagonal of the strong “dragon bishop”.

10.♘xe6 fxe6 11.0–0–0 White is of course ready for the complications and prepares for a kingside attack with h4-h5.

11...♘e5 12.♙e2 ♚c8 Black prepares for ♘c4. Both players knew the position very well, since Robson already had a game on this position in 2012. Nakamura deviates from that game, which continued with 13.♙h6.

13.h4 ♘fd7 Before playing ♘c4, Black opens the diagonal of the bishop and attacks the f3 pawn.

14.f4 ♘c4 15.♙xc4 ♚xc4



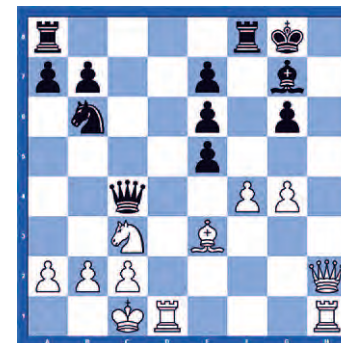
16.e5! By temporarily closing the bishop's path, White wins enough time to push h5.

16...♘b6? A novelty, but definitely a bad one. [It would be very interesting to know what was Nakamura's improvement over the previous game, in which Black found the strongest move and played 16...♖ad8 17.exd6 (I suspect Nakamura's novelty to be somewhere around this point 17.h5 but after 17...dxe5 I could not find a convincing way to continue. For example: 18.hxg6 hxg6 19.♚h2 ♘f6 20.♖df1 (20.fxex5 ♖xd1+ 21.♘xd1 ♘xg4 22.♚h7+ ♙f7) 20...e4 Black seems to be fine.) 17...exd6 (17...♘b6!? is also interesting 18.dxe7 ♖xd2 19.exf8Q+ ♙xf8 20.♙xd2 ♙xc3 21.♙xc3 ♚xf4+ 22.♙b1 ♚xg4 and the knight becomes a very strong blocking piece on d5.) 18.h5 ♙xc3 19.♚xc3 ♚xc3 20.bxc3 ♘f6 21.hxg6 hxg6 The position

was about equal in Cornette-Delgado Ramos, Montcada i Reixac 2011.]

17.h5! dxe5 18.hxg6 hxg6 [18...exf4 is refuted nicely by 19.♚h2! h6 20.♙d4! e5 21.♙xe5! +-]

19.♚h2 Seems to be all over, but Robson finds the best practical chance to stay in the game!



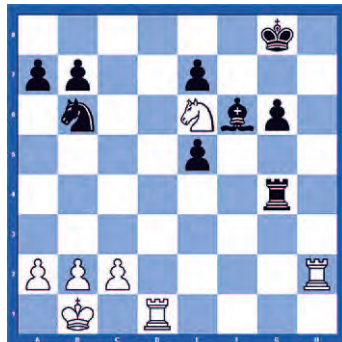
19...♖xf4! Nice exchange sacrifice. Black gets 2 pawns, which would be fine materially, but of course, with the tripled pawns on the e-file, Black can not pretend to have achieved equality. [On 19...exf4 White can choose between two spectacular wins 20.♖d4! and after the check on h7, the rook takes on f4!(20.♙d4!)]

20.♙xf4 ♚xf4+ 21.♙b1! Naturally, White does not solve his opponents structural problems.

21...♚xh2 22.♖xh2 ♖f8 23.♘e4 +/- White is better, but the win requires good technique. As we will see in the game, small mistakes might give Black good counter play.

23...♖f4 24.♘g5 Here is the first inaccuracy. In my opinion, it would have been more important to take the b7 pawn, in order to create a passed c-pawn. [24.♘c5 ♖xg4 25.♘xb7 +/-]

24...♖xg4 25.♘xe6 ♕f6



26.b3! Strong positional move. White wants to restrain the movement of the b6 knight.

26...♘c8! Of course, Robson immediately finds another path to activate his knight. [26...e4 27.c4 +/-]

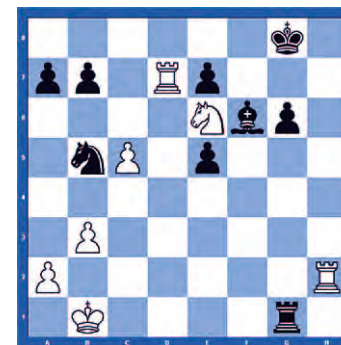
27.c4?! A mistake, after which the game opens up again. [Obviously 27.♖d8+ does not win a piece 27...♕f7; 27.♖f2! would have been a great prophylactic move against ♘d6, after this White could start his play on the queenside with c4, ♕c2. 27...♘d6? 28.♖xd6! is the whole point! 28...exd6 29.♖xf6 +/-]

27...♘d6 Now the knight is back in the game.

28.c5 ♘b5! Probably Nakamura underestimated the strength of this move. Now the game becomes amazingly complex. [28...♘e4 29.♕c2 +/-]

29.♖d7 White pinned his hopes to this move, but leaving the 1st rank with the rook gives Black many tactical possibilities.

29...♕f7?! Robson misses the sudden chance he got. [A study-like draw could have appeared after 29...♖g1+



30.♕c2 e4! 31.♖xb7 ♖a1! This was the idea of the previous moves. White gets an opportunity to queen his c-pawn with check, however it is only enough for the draw. Let's see how it happens! 32.♖xb5 (32.♖h3!? ♖xa2+ 33.♕c1 Here, White could probably still hope to get some advantage.) 32...♖xa2+ 33.♕c1 ♖xh2 34.c6 e3 35.c7 ♖h1+ 36.♕c2 e2 37.c8 ♖+ ♕h7 Here we are! White is a queen up, but the draw is inevitable. 38.♖b8 (38.♖e5!? ♕xe5 39.♘g5+ ♕g7 40.♘f3 e1Q 41.♘xe1 ♖xe1 Black is safe.) 38...♖c1+! 39.♕xc1 e1♖+ 40.♕c2 ♖e2+ 41.♕c1 ♖e1+ = Perpetual check.]

30.♖xb7 ♖g1+ A couple of only moves are coming from both sides. Nakamura calculated precisely that the cooperation between Black's pieces is not enough to create real threats. [30...♖b4 is refuted by the silent 31.♘d8+! ♕e8 32.♕c1! ♕xd8 33.a4! +/-]

31.♕c2 ♘a3+ 32.♕b2 ♘b1! Spectacular move, which prepares for e4.

33.♘d8+ ♕e8 34.♘c6 e4+ 35.♕c2 ♘a3+ 36.♕d2 ♘b1+ 37.♕e3 Due to the very sharp middle game, the players got into time trouble, which affected their play in this difficult position.



37...♖e1+? Somehow, Robson misses the logical ♘c3 now, and a few moves later as well. [37...♘c3 At the end, I came to the conclusion that White's best option is 38.♖c2 followed by a forced line 38...♗g3+ 39.♕f2 ♖f3+ 40.♕g1 e3 41.♖xc3 ♗xc3 42.♖xe7+ ♕f8 43.♖e4 += White is better, but it is not obvious if he can win after 43...♖f5!]

38.♕f2



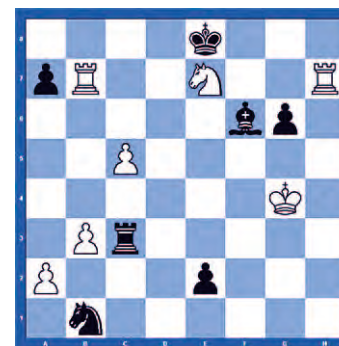
38...♖c1 39.♖h7! ♖c2+ We have reached the most critical position of the game, and as it happens so often, we are in the last move of the time trouble! [39...♖xc5 40.♘xe7 +-]

40.♕g3? This mistake could have cost the full point to Nakamura, but Robson didn't make the most out of his

chance. [40.♕e3 would have easily won 40...♘c3 41.♘e5!! is definitely the best, and the nicest move of the position, with the threat of ♖b8 mate. 41...♗xe5 42.♖bxe7+ ♕d8 43.♖xe5 +-]

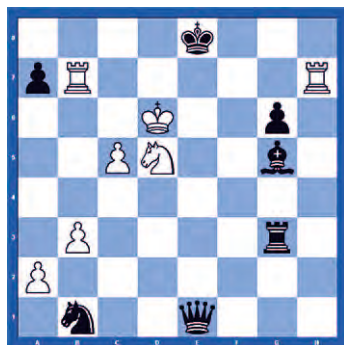
40...♖c3+? Finally, the players got extra time and Nakamura found a really beautiful way to win. I am quite sure that he had already foreseen the final position! [Just as in the 37th move, Black missed 40...♘c3! The subtle point is that 41.♘xe7?? loses the h7 rook after (41.♖hxe7+ ♗xe7 42.♖xe7+ ♕f8 should be draw.) 41...♗e5+! 42.♕g4 ♖g2+ 43.♕h3 ♖h2+]

41.♕g4 e3 42.♘xe7 e2



43.♘d5!! [43.♖b8+ ♕d7 44.♘xg6+ ♕c6 45.♖e8 +- was less spectacular.]

43...♖g3+! 44.♕f4! ♗g5+ 45.♕e5!! e1Q+ 46.♕d6 Just as in the 29...♖g1 line, one side promotes a queen with check and obtains huge material advantage. In that case, it was only enough for draw, while now he can not avoid being mated. Robson gives a few checks, but soon, he runs out of them.



46... ♖f4+ 47. ♘xf4 ♜d3+ 48. ♘xd3 ♙g3+ 49. ♘e5 1-0

(3) Nepomniachtchi, I (2716) – Quesada Perez, Yu (2625) [A18]

47th Capablanca Mem Elite Havana CUB (6), 10.05.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

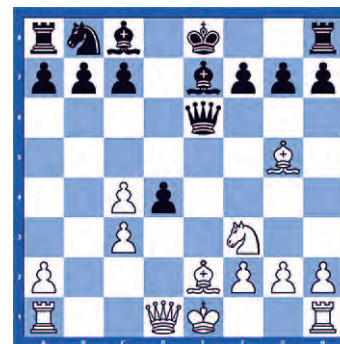
A highly impressive performance by Ian Nepomniachtchi, who is known for his fast playing style, spending between 30 and 60 minutes for the whole game!

1.c4 ♘f6 2. ♘c3 e6 3.e4 Generally, White plays this move order to avoid the Nimzo-Indian variation (1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♘c3 ♙b4), but it gives some extra options for Black.

3...d5 [3...c5 is the other move.]

4.e5 d4 A well-known push with thousands of games in the database.

5.exf6 dxc3 6.bxc3 ♙xf6 7.d4 e5 8. ♘f3 exd4 9. ♙g5 ♙e6+ 10. ♙e2 ♙e7 We are in the first critical position of our current game. We can still meet with more than hundred games that include players like Kasparov, Aronian, Kramnik and Karpov. Anyway, Nepomniachtchi deviates from the mainline, which was played by all of the top guys; a move that seems to give White an advantage.



11. ♖xe7!? [Let's first take a look at a very instructive rapid game from the highest level. 11.cxd4 ♖xg5 12. ♘xg5 ♜f6 13. ♜d2 0–0 14.0–0 White is better developed and has the advantage in the center. However, Black's idea in the whole line is to quickly put pressure on the d4 pawn, forcing the center to move, giving him different kinds of counter play. For example, in case of d5, Black gets the possibility to undermine it with c6. 14... ♘c6 15.d5 ♘d4 16. ♘e4 ♘xe2+ 17. ♜xe2 ♜g6?! This seemingly logical move got punished by Aronian in a really nice fashion! (I found 17... ♜e5 to be an improvement, and on 18. ♜fe1 ♖f5 Black seems to equalize. Probably this is the reason why Nepomniachtchi looked for an alternative for White, and found the 11. ♖xe7 move.) 18. ♜fe1 ♖f5 Black seems to be fine, but Aronian comes up with a temporary pawn sacrifice.



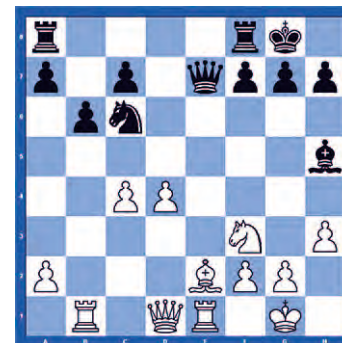
19. ♘g3! ♖d3 20. ♜e5 ♖xc4 21. ♘f5! White threatens with ♘e7, and on 21... ♖h8 (21... ♜f6 22. ♘e7+ ♖h8 23. ♜xc7 +/-) 22. ♘e3! This move was the point of the maneuver that started with 19. ♘g3! White obtains a very strong passed pawn on d5 after taking on c7. 22... ♖d3 23. ♜xc7 ♖e4 24. ♜f4 ♜fe8 25.f3 ♖d3 26. ♜ad1 Black could be only fine, if he had a blockader knight on d6. 26...h5 27. ♜d2 ♖b5

28. ♜ed1 ♜ad8 29.d6 +/- Black has huge problems. The end of the game was also very spectacular: 29... ♖c6 30.d7 ♜e6 31. ♘c4 ♜f6 32. ♜xf6 gxf6 33. ♘a5 ♖g7 34. ♜d4 f5 35. ♖f2 b6 36. ♘xc6 ♜xc6 37. ♖g3 The White king is going to support the d7 pawn, and also would like to collect weak kingside pawns. 37... ♜c2 38. ♖f4! ♖g6 39. ♖e5! ♜e2+ 40. ♖d6! Great run! 40... ♖f6 41. ♜d5 ♜xg2 42. ♖c7 ♜gg8 43.f4 ♜gf8 44. ♜g1 ♖e7 45. ♜d6 1–0 Aronian-Kramnik, Moscow 2011. It is very rare to see Kramnik losing in such a way, even if it was "just" a rapid game!]

11... ♜xe7 12.cxd4 0–0 13.0–0 Just as it was explained in the previous line, Black has to put pressure on the center.

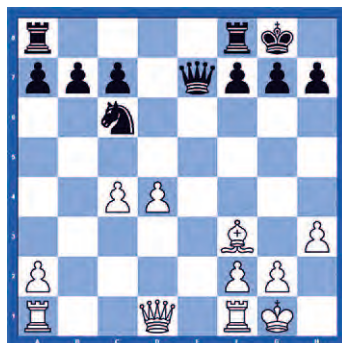
13... ♖g4 The most logical move to eliminate the defender. [13... ♜d8 seems to be a bit too slow 14. ♜b1! White provokes weaknesses, and after 14...b6 15. ♘e5! is very strong 15... ♖b7 16. ♖f3 c5 17. ♖xb7 ♜xb7 18.d5 +/- with a clear advantage, thanks to the protected passed pawn on d5 and the powerful knight.]

14.h3 ♖xf3 Black decides to force matters, but as we will see, he is not in time to consolidate the position. [If Black decides to hold the tension with 14... ♖h5 White must react energetically 15. ♜b1! b6 16. ♜e1! ♘c6



17. ♖a4! I think that this concrete move is the only way to get an advantage. (On 17.d5 ♙xf3 18. ♙xf3 ♘e5 Black is fine! This is what he is aiming for in this opening.) 17... ♙f6 18. ♘e5! ♙xe2 (18... ♘e5 19.dxe5 ♙g5 (19... ♙xe5? 20. ♙f3 +-) 20. ♙xh5 ♙xh5 21. ♙c6 += with an obvious advantage.) 19. ♘xc6 +/- Just as in the Aronian-Kramnik game, the knight becomes much stronger than the bishop. The knight restrains Black's pieces, while the bishop has no real target.]

15. ♙xf3 ♘c6



16. ♖b1! [16. ♙xc6 bxc6 Black does not need to worry about the doubled pawns, they are holding well the c4-d4 pawn, so he can start to attack the d4-pawn.]

16... ♖ad8 [16... ♖ab8 would cost a pawn 17. ♙xc6! bxc6 18. ♖xb8 ♖xb8 19. ♙a4 +/-]

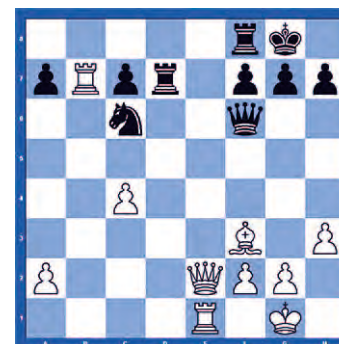
17. ♖e1 ♙f6 Things are developing very logically, but unfortunately for Black, complications are working badly for him.

18. ♖xb7! By exchanging the pawns, White opens the position favoring the bishop against the knight.

18... ♖xd4 [18... ♘xd4 19. ♖xc7 ♘xf3+ 20. ♙xf3 ♙xf3 21.gxf3 +/- The endgame looks quite promising for White, he is not only a pawn up, but also has an active rook on the 7th rank.]

19. ♙e2 It is very hard to hold the c7 pawn, Black is in serious trouble.

19... ♖d7 [19... ♙d6 met with the very strong 20.c5! ♙xc5 21. ♖xc7 ♖d6 22. ♙e8!! winning the c6 knight!]

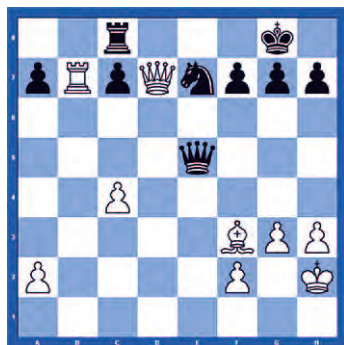


20. ♙e8!! Nepomniachtchi play is extremely strong! He uses the weak back-rank. Imagine how bad it would be to have around 10 minutes, while your opponent makes such moves with 1 hour and 30 minutes on his clock. Black has to find only moves to avoid losing immediately.

20... ♖e7! [20... ♙d6 would not solve the danger on the 8th rank 21. ♙xc6 ♙xc6 22. ♙xf8+ ♙xf8 23. ♖b8+ +-]

21. ♖xe7 ♘xe7 22. ♙d7! Black can not keep the material balance for long. White pieces are dominating the board, while the c7 and a7 pawns are just falling.

22... ♙a1+ 23. ♙h2 ♙e5+ 24.g3 ♖c8 [24... ♘g6 25. ♖xc7 ♙f6 26. ♙c6 +/-]



25. ♖b3! Not the only winning move, but the best practical one for sure. Black is forced to exchange queens due to the ♖e3 threat, transposing into a losing endgame.

25... ♕d6 [25... ♕e6 26. ♖xe6 fxe6 27. ♖b7 +/-]

26. ♖d3! ♕xd7 27. ♖xd7 ♖f8 28. ♙b7! The first pawn falls. Black is lost.

28... ♖b8 29. ♖xc7 ♖e8 30. ♙a6 ♖d8 31. ♖xa7 ♖b2 32. ♙b5! The f2 pawn does not play an important role with queens off the board. Black cannot create any threats around the king, while the a- and c-pawns start to run.

32... ♖xf2+ 33. ♖g1 ♖e2 34. c5 ♖e5 35. a4! Black resigned, since he can not take on c5 due to ♖d7! I am pretty sure, that after this convincing victory by White, we will see the move 11. ♙xe7 more often in practice. **1-0**

(4) Onischuk, Al (2660) – Nakamura, Hi (2775) [A40]

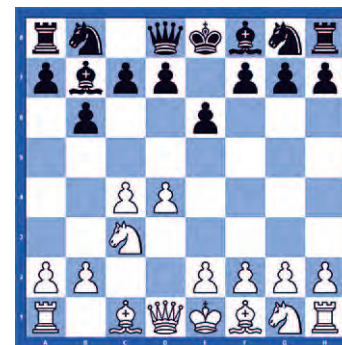
ch-USA 2012 Saint Louis USA (4), 11.05.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

From the first moves of the game, it is clear that Nakamura wants to win today, provoking White a lot during the opening phase. On the other hand, Onischuk does everything he can to keep the position as calm as possible, finally reaching a draw in a clearly worse position. A good example on how dangerous it can get when You play for a draw in a better position.

1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 From Nakamura it is possible to expect almost any opening — sometimes it is even hard to call “opening” to what he is doing. The b6 move, of course, does nothing but tells his opponent, “I am ready to play a worse position against you — I will win anyhow, because I am the better player”.

3. ♘c3 ♙b7



4.e4! Why not to take over the center!?! [4. ♘f3 f5 This is usually the idea of 2...b6, instead of the usual development of the knight to 2... ♘f6]

4...♙b4 5.f3 A bit too passive — this is not the way to play for the advantage, even if the move is super solid. [The main move in the position is 5.♙d3 In case White manages to play ♘ge2 now, the Black's position is going to be very problematic. In chess, to play without a pawn center usually is not a smart choice. 5...f5!? Probably this is the move that Onischuk was afraid of. It is a very rare line — almost never played on the high level -, probably for good reasons, but as a surprise weapon it is not a bad try. For example, Caruana (the current Nr.7 in the World) founded no way to get an advantage in his game against Erdos 6.♙h5+ g6 7.♙e2 ♘f6 8.♙g5 fxe4 9.♙xf6 ♙xf6 10.♙xe4 ♙xe4 11.♙xe4 0-0 = Caruana-Erdos 2011]

5...♘e7 Black keeps the pawn structure as flexible as possible. White has to take care of d7-d5, and f7-f5 as well

6.♙d3 A very standard way to develop the pieces. Another possible choice for White is to play ♘h3-f2.

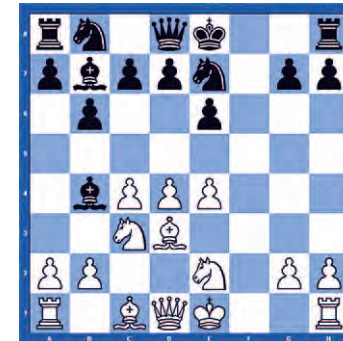
6...f5 [6...d5 could have been another option for Black 7.♙a4+! It is very important to block Black's c7-c5 move 7...♘bc6 8.cxd5 (8.♘ge2 dxe4 9.fxe4 0-0 gives Black good play.) 8...exd5 9.♘ge2 White is keeping the center, and that means he should be better (9.e5 ♙d7 Seems like Black is totally fine here. 10.♘ge2? would give Black the chance to show a pretty trick 10...♘xe5!); 6...c5 7.d5 This type of position is always better for White. The bishop on b7 is now very badly placed.]

7.♘ge2 [Seems like White is not in time for 7.e5 c5! and Black's dream came true — White can not hold the center 8.a3 ♙a5 and probably Black is already doing better.]

7...fxe4 Good move. White wanted to castle short, and Black would be in trouble again. Black needs to show

very dynamic play, if White manages to develop the pieces normally, Black's position will be clearly worse.

8.fxe4



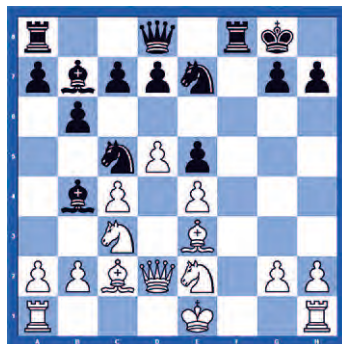
8...0-0 9.♙e3 White is planning to castle long.

9...e5!? Very original play by Black. He is clearly going to play on the dark squares. On the other hand, he takes a very big positional risk, the bishop on b7 is not going to play anymore in this game.

10.d5 ♘a6 11.♙d2 White wants to get "everything": to castle long, to keep all the pieces on the board, and to play a3-b4. Well, this would be perfect, but Black has an Ace in the hole. [11.a3 ♙c5 (11...♙xc3+ 12.♘xc3 ♘c5 13.♙c2 followed by the b2-b4 move. White has a very clear advantage) 12.♙xc5 (12.♙d2 ♙xe3 13.♙xe3 ♘c5 14.♙c2 a5 The only move. In case White manages to play b4, he is going to be better 15.b3 Black wanted to play a4 15...♘g6 16.g3 d6 followed by ♙c8-Bd7. Maybe White still has a small advantage, but the position is quite unclear. This is exactly what Nakamura was trying to reach with his opening choice.) 12...bxc5! This move was probably Nakamura's idea. Black is blocking the b4 move, having exchanged the Black squared bishops — which is very

good. In the next moves, Black is going to play d6 and ♖b8-Nd7, with about an equal position]

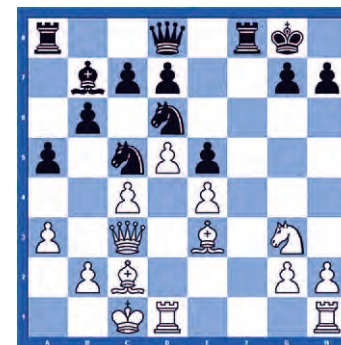
11...♘c5 12.♙c2



12...♘c8! Very inventive and strong play by Black, in a position that seemed to be clearly worse for him. [12...a5 would be too slow 13.0-0-0 White's next move is ♖hf1 and we can clearly see: White has a strong center, space advantage, and in the future, the bishop pair (the Black bishop on b4 will take the knight on c3), White is doing clearly better]

13.a3 ♙xc3 14.♙xc3 [14.♘xc3 ♘d6 Black is attacking the c4 pawn, and he wants to double take on e4, with ♙h4+ winning back the piece. White has no decent defense against Black's threats — Black is doing perfectly fine.]

14...♘d6 15.♘g3 a5 16.0-0-0



16...a4! Black has reached his maximum. The Whites pawns on the queenside are blocked, and the pawns on c4 and e4 are potential weaknesses. The bishop from b7 will finally come into the game via a6. Suddenly we have to say that White needs to act accurately not to be worse... [16...♙a6 17.b4!]

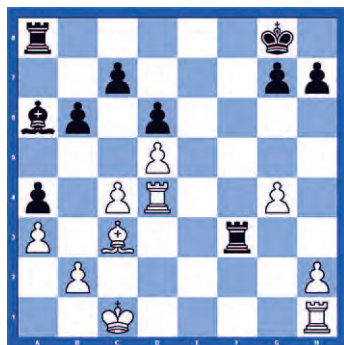
17.♘f5 White goes into a clearly worse position, trying to make a draw.

17...♘cxe4! 18.♙xe4 ♘xf5 [Of course not 18...♘xe4? 19.♙xe5 ♙f6 20.♘e7+! ♙h8 21.♙xe4 ♖fe8 22.♙f4 and only White can be better here, even if the position is close to equality.]

19.♙xf5 ♖xf5 20.g4 ♖f3 21.♙xe5 ♙e8! Suddenly White is in big danger, the pawn chain c4-d5 that was so strong has become the weakness of the position, and the bishop on b7 has become the hero! Black wants to play ♙a6 and it is very hard for White to find a way to defend the central pawns.

22.♙d4 ♙xe5 [22...♙g6 would deserve attention here.]

23.♙xe5 d6 24.♙c3 ♙a6 25.♖d4



25...Rxe8 Black has both open files (f- and e-) under control, which gives him a big advantage. Now, he only needs to play Rxc8-d7, and I guess it would be very hard for White to save the position. It is strange how quickly things can change in chess; a very safe and better position got into big trouble just by doing natural moves...

26.c5! I think this was a good decision by Onischuk, to stand and wait for Black to improve would lead to a "slow death".

26...bxc5 [26...dxc5 27.Rxa4 Bb5 28.Ra7 Rf7 29.Rd1 White wants to play d6, getting excellent drawing chances.]

27.Rxa4 Bb5 [It's not better to play the logical 27...Bf1 28.Ra7 Re7 29.Ba5! and Black can not defend the pawn on c7 29...Qf7 30.Rxc7 Rxc7 31.Bxc7 Qe7 32.Ba5 Of course in this endgame only Black can be better, but at the same time, his advantage is too small, and objectively is nothing more than "a bit more pleasant for Black, but a draw".]

28.Ra7 Rf7?! Black probably underestimated White's next move. [28...Rc8 Would keep some advantage for Black.]



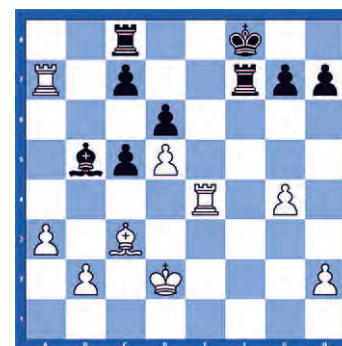
29.Re1! Another very important move by White. Onischuk is very strong if it comes to technical positions, especially if he is defending slightly worse ones.

29...Rc8 [29...Rxe1+ 30.Bxe1 with only one rook on the board, Black has no real winning chances.]

30.Re4 Black wanted to play Bc4.

30...Qf8 It seems like the position should be an easy draw, but in fact it is far from "easy". The pawn on d5 continues to be a potential victim and White needs to play quite precisely to hold.

31.Qd2



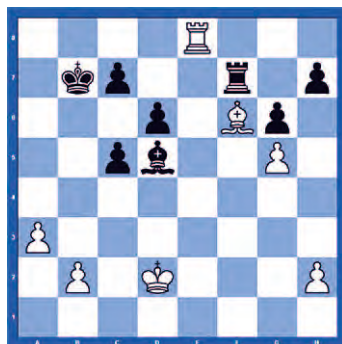
31...Bf1! The bishop is going to g2

32. ♖ea4 ♔e7 33. ♖a8 ♔d7! Again, Black gets very tricky! [Not enough for a win would be 33... ♖xa8 34. ♖xa8 ♙g2 35. ♖g8! White exchanges the last pair of rooks 35...g6 36. ♖g7 ♖xg7 37. ♙xg7 ♙xd5 38.g5! White should not let Black play g5, fixing the pawns on light squares. 38...♔e6 39.b4!]

34. ♖xc8 ♔xc8 35. ♖a8+ ♔b7 36. ♖h8 [Not enough for a draw would be 36. ♖g8 ♙c4! 37. ♖xg7 ♖f2+ 38.♔e3 ♖xh2 and Black continues pushing.]

36...g6 37.g5! With a very nice idea of trapping the Black's rook.

37... ♖f5?! This move allows the smallest winning chance to slip away. [37... ♙c4 38. ♙f6 ♙xd5 39. ♖e8



White wants to play ♖e7 next. Objectively, the position is a draw, but still Black could push a little in the opposite-colored bishops endgame. In comparison to the game, Black is at least 2 tempi up.]

38.h4 A cool and good move.

38... ♖f7 [38... ♖xd5+ 39.♔e1 ♙d3 40. ♖xh7 makes no sense for Black]

39. ♙f6 ♙g2 40. ♖e8 ♙xd5 41. ♖e7 ♖xe7 Black played clearly better in the middle game and had some chances in the end, but White took over and showed great play in a worse endgame to get a clear draw. **1/2**

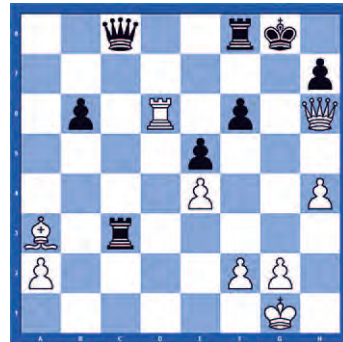
Puzzle section

(5) Cordova,E (2566) – Papin,V (2570)

Capablanca memorial B, 07.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

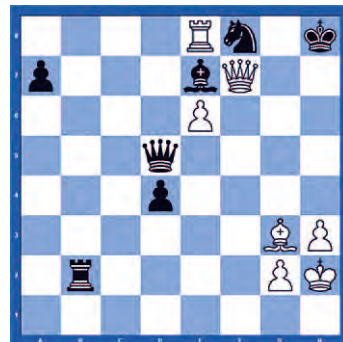


(6) Kamsky,G (2741) – Onischuk,A (2660)

USA Championship, 10.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

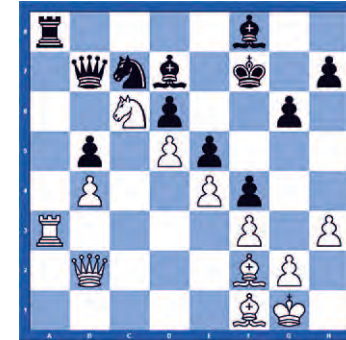


(7) Navara,D (2706) – Lechtynsky,J (2382)

Czech Championship, 13.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

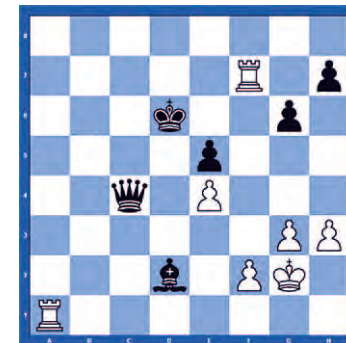


(8) Predojevic,B (2637) – Kovacevic,A (2557)

Sarajevo, 10.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

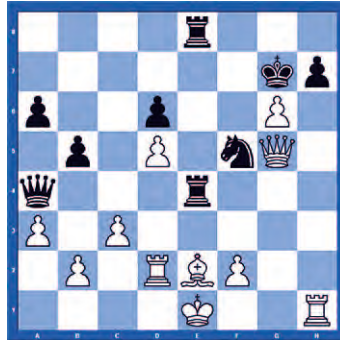


(9) Lajthajm,B (2493) – Kozul,Z (2593)

Saraevo, 11.05.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

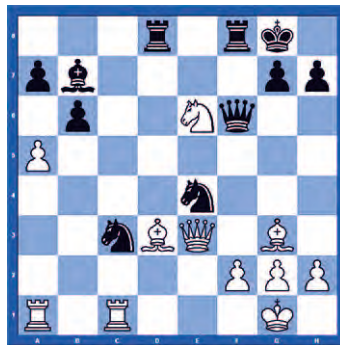


(10) Xiu Deshun (2494) – Lu Shanglei (2522)

Asian Continental Championship, 09.05.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(11) Wen Yang (2550) – Dao Thien Hai (2514)

Asian Continental Championship, 11.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

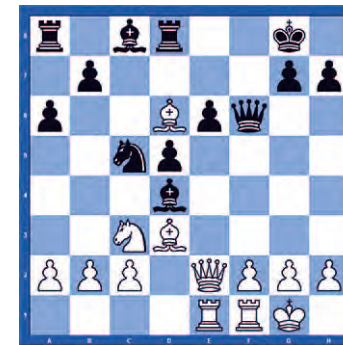


(12) Ibarra Jerez,JC (2523) – Larino Nieto,D (2469)

Salou Open, 10.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-

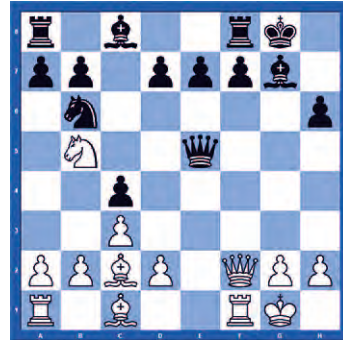


(13) Kislinsky,A (2532) – Voloshin,L (2434)

Czech Championship, 14.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-



(14) Stojanovic,Da (2485) – Sutkovic,D (2357)

Saraevo, 11.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-

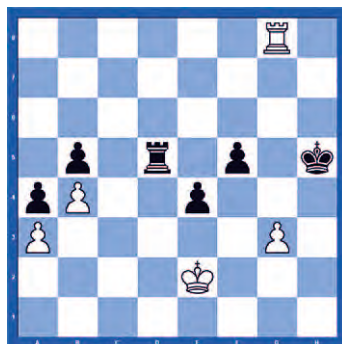


Endgame section

(15) Kraemer,M (2505) — Meier,G (2639)

Norderstedt, 12.05.2012

[Chess Evolution]



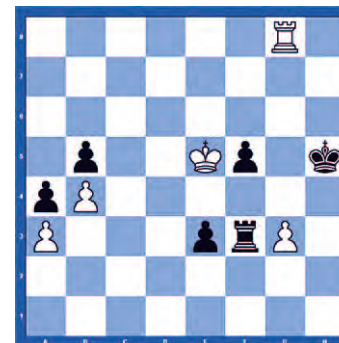
An interesting rook endgame was played in the German Cup. Seemingly, White is completely lost, but as we will see, the misplacement of the h5 king gives him good counter chances.

54.♔e3! The move might look like it is equal to resignation, but in reality there is a deep idea behind that... Black must find the only move to win the game!

54...♖d3+? Black played the most obvious move, but it throws away the win. [54...♖d1!! was the winning move! In rook endgames, we can meet many times with the fact that occupying the 1st (or 8th) rank with the rook is very important, because it supports the promotion of a pawn. This is the case in our current example as well. 55.♔f4 ♖f1+ 56.♔e5 e3 57.♔f6 e2]

55.♔f4 ♖f3+ [55...♖xa3 56.♔xf5 ♖f3+ 57.♔xe4 =]

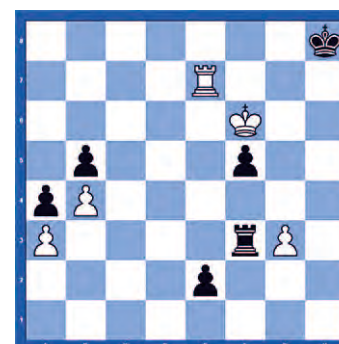
56.♔e5 e3



57.♔f6! This was the point! We can see that even in the endgames, activity is sometimes much more important than material! White can create different kinds of threats against the unfortunately-situated king of Black.

57...e2 58.♖g5+ ♔h6 59.♖g6+ ♔h7 60.♖g7+ ♔h8 The king is squeezed to the corner!

61.♖e7



61...♖xg3 [A really nice line arises after 61...♖xa3 62.g4!! and on the too greedy 62...fxg4?? 63.♔g6 +- White suddenly mates!]

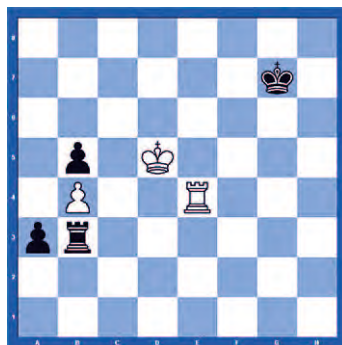
62. ♔xf5 [62. ♖e8+! was the most precise way to draw, giving Black not even the smallest hope to convert his advantage. 62... ♖h7 63. ♖e7+ ♖h6 and only now 64. ♖xe2 when White creates a mate threat on the h-file. 64... ♖h5 65. ♖xf5 ♖f3+ 66. ♖e6 ♖xa3 67. ♖e5+ =]

62... ♖xa3 63. ♖xe2 ♖b3 64. ♖e4?! After this inaccurate move, the position remains drawn. [But the active defense combined with a small tactical trick was much easier 64. ♖e5! ♖xb4 65. ♖g6! as usual, White uses the poor placement of his opponent's king. 65... ♖g4+ 66. ♖f5 = and White takes on b5 with a draw.]

64... ♖g7! Black had to be really happy to finally escape from the corner.

65. ♖e5 a3 [65... ♖d3 Going behind his own pawn might be a better try, but White should be able to hold the draw anyway 66. ♖e6 ♖d8 67. ♖e7 ♖a8 68. ♖g4+ ♖h6 69. ♖d6 = Still, Black's main problem is his cut king.]

66. ♖d5?! [66. ♖d6 would have secured the draw, as we can see in the lines: 66... ♖f6 (66... a2 67. ♖e7+ ♖f6 68. ♖a7 ♖b2 69. ♖c5 =) 67. ♖e6+ ♖f5 68. ♖e5+ ♖f4 69. ♖xb5 ♖e4 70. ♖a5 ♖d4 71. b5 =]



66... ♖f7! Black prevents the check on the 7th rank to go behind the a-pawn! Now a2 threatens with a win. White has only one move to save the game, which is already very difficult to find...

67. ♖f4+? He fails. [67. ♖d6!! Refreshing the ♖e7 idea was the correct move! 67... ♖f8 (67... a2 68. ♖e7+ ♖f6 69. ♖a7 =; After 67... ♖d3+ 68. ♖c6 a2 69. ♖e1 Black does not have ♖b1 anymore.) 68. ♖f4+ ♖g7 (68... ♖e8 69. ♖e4+ ♖d8 70. ♖f4 =) 69. ♖e4 =]

67... ♖g6! Black is winning now! Let's see the differences:

68. ♖f2 [68. ♖e5 is met with 68... ♖g5! with the same problem as 68. ♖e4.; On 68. ♖e4 ♖f5 White can not take the b5 pawn after check, like we saw in the previous lines...]

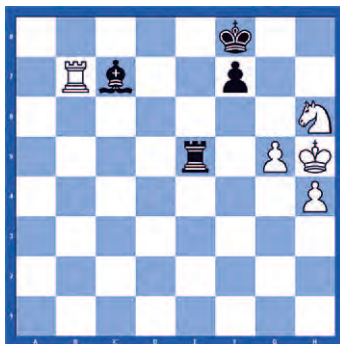
68... ♖xb4 It is over now! Black obtained the "self-helped" pawn, what we already discussed in the 5th edition of the CEWN newsletter. Black can promote the pawn without the help of his king!

69. ♖a2 ♖b3 70. ♖d4 b4 71. ♖c4 ♖b2 72. ♖a1 a2 0-1

(16) Seirawan,Y (2643) – Ramirez,Alej (2593) [D11]

ch-USA 2012 Saint Louis USA (4), 11.05.2012

[Chess Evolution]



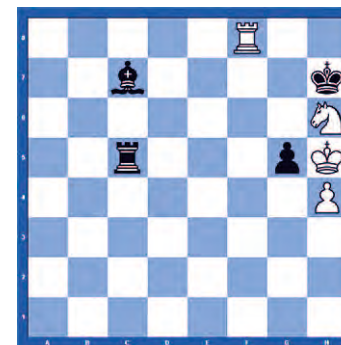
We are in a very interesting endgame from the US Championship. This game was already quite a long one, we are at move 77. All game long, White was pushing but never could find a concrete way to finish the game. Let us evaluate if the current position is a winning one!

77...♖c5 78.♖a7! White starts with a perfectly good move: the White rook is going to the 8th rank, and the Black King is getting into a mating net.

78...♔g7 79.♖a8 f6 Probably the only move. [In case Black keeps waiting, White has a very simple way of finishing the game 79...♖c4 80.♖g8+ ♔h7 81.♖f8 and the f7 pawn. Of course, with 2 extra h- and g-pawns, Black's position is hopeless.]

80.♖g8+ ♔h7 81.♖f8! A good move! White continues building a mating net around the Black king.

81...fxg5



82.♖f7+? The check came too early [82.hxg5! would have been the right play, now White wants to play ♘f5 with the deadly threat of g6. 82...♔g7 83.♖f7+ ♔h8 84.♘f5! and again the move ♘f5 decides the game! 84...♔g8 85.♖f6 White will play ♔g6 and the mate is coming very soon.]

82...♔h8 83.hxg5 Can Black find a way to give up the bishop for the g5-pawn?! Usually it should be possible, but the Black king on h8 is under constant mating threats!

83...♙a5! Black is planning to play ♙d2.

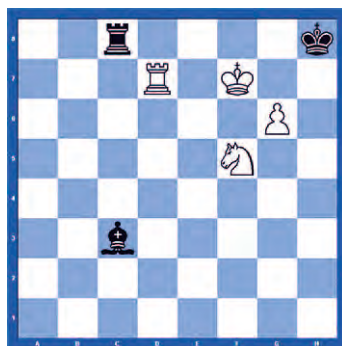
84.♖d7 At first sight, this is a very good move. White defends against the ♙d2 move, and at the same time, if Black plays ♖c7, he can play ♖d8. On the other hand, White gives the Black king a chance to escape from the "corner of death". [If White tries to avoid the escape of the Black king 84.♘f5 ♔g8 85.♔g6 (In case of 85.g6 ♙b4! it is very hard for White to make progress.) 85...♖c6+! 86.♖f6 ♖xf6+ 87.gxf6 At first sight, it looks like the position is winning, but it is a draw. 87...♔h8 88.f7 ♙b4 From now on White can not make any kind of progress, the position is a draw.]

84...♙c3! The only right diagonal for the Black bishop. Black has to be prepared against White's maneuver ♖g4-f6

85.♙g6 Giving Black an amazing chance to draw! [The logical 85.♘g4 ♜c6 86.g6 could be met with 86...♙g8! Black King is starting the run 87.♘h6+ ♚f8 88.♘f5 ♙e8 89.♞b7 ♙d8! and the position seems to be a draw. In case of g7, Black will always have the ♙xg7 resource, with a theoretically drawn position of R+N versus R.]

85...♞c6+ 86.♙f7 After playing 3 great moves in a role, Black makes a terrible mistake — and the draw was sooo close already.

86...♙e5? This move allows White to win by force. [Black had here a study looking draw 86...♞c5! The first step is to bring the White pawn to g6 87.g6 ♞c8 88.♘f5



It looks like the position is totally lost, White wants to play ♜d2 with mate on the h-file, but 88...♙g7!! gets a very beautiful draw! 89.♘xg7 ♞c7!! (Of course not 89...♞f8+? 90.♙e6 and White is winning.) 90.♞xc7 The Black King is in stalemate.]

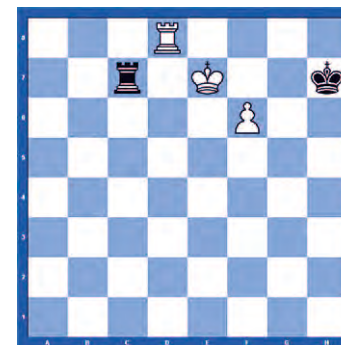
87.♘g4! Now, White has just enough time for the ♘g4-f6 maneuver.

87...♙c3 88.♘f6 ♙xf6 [88...♞c8 89.♞d3 +-]

89.gxf6 ♙h7 If Black rook would be on a6, the position is a theoretical draw! But the rook is on c6, and White makes use of it.

90.♙e7 ♞c8 White wanted to play f7.

91.♞d8 ♞c7+



92.♙d6! And here we see the difference, if the Black rook would be on a7, Black could have played ♙g6 with a draw.

92...♞f7 [92...♞a7 93.♞d7+ +-]

93.♙e6 We faced another very interesting endgame. As we could see, it is quite hard to defend a worse endgame, so from the practical point of view: to win such an endgame is much "easier" than holding the draw. **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Stein, Leonid — Spassky, Boris V [C09]

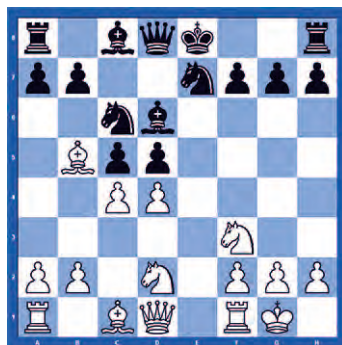
URS Soviet Union, 1967

[Balogh Csaba]

The “Titan section” is back with a great fight between the 10th World Champion, Boris Spassky, and Leonid Stein, who was clearly a top 10 player in the 60s!

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 c5 4.♘gf3 ♘c6 5.exd5 exd5 Black goes for the Tarrasch line in the French defense. In this variation, Black accepts to play with an isolated pawn, but he tries to compensate with active piece play.

6.♙b5 ♙d6 7.0–0 ♘ge7 8.c4 [White should definitely prefer 8.dxc5 ♙xc5 9.♘b3 when we reach the starting position of the whole line. Black can choose between two retreats of the bishop, to d6 or b6.]

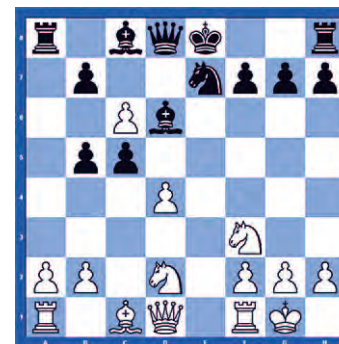


8...a6!? An excellent idea based on a positional pawn sacrifice! [The before-mentioned game continued with 8...0–0 9.dxc5 ♙xc5 10.♘b3 ♙b6 11.♙xc6 bxc6 12.c5

♙c7 13.♘fd4 White created nice squares for the knights, but the bishop pair compensates for Black.]

9.cxd5? White falls into the positional trap. [9.dxc5 should have been played 9... ♙xc5 10.cxd5 axb5 11.dxc6 An important moment: 11...0–0! (But not 11...bxc6 because of 12.♘e4! ♙xd1 13.♙xd1 and Black has problems with his king.) 12.cxb7 ♙xb7 Black sacrificed a pawn, but due to the open position where the pair of bishops can work with full effectiveness, he does not need to worry about staying worse.]

9...axb5 10.dxc6



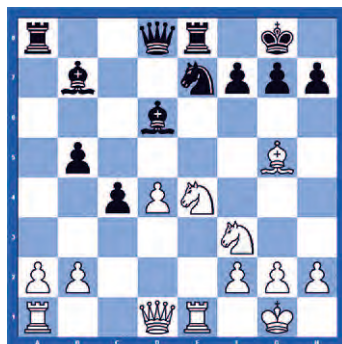
10...c4! This was Spassky's idea when he played 8...a6!

11.cxb7 ♙xb7 Let's summarize what we have for the small material deficit... Black has the bishop pair, the bishop on b7 controls the relevant long diagonal, the d5 square might be occupied by any of the pieces, an excellent pawn structure on the queenside — the b5, c4 pawns are clearly dominating the a2, b2 counterparts — and an isolated pawn on d4 which becomes a real target. After analyzing all this factors, we come to the conclusion that Black's compensation is not only enough to secure a draw, but he already overtook the advantage as well!

White is missing his light squared bishops, which could reduce the power of the bishops with ♗e4!

12. ♖e1 0-0 13. ♘e4 ♖e8!? This move is a matter of taste. Spassky decides to give up his “weaker” bishop, it is more important to save the one on b7 for the long-term. However, it was possible to keep both bishops as well. [13... ♗c7 gave an advantage as well.]

14. ♗g5 [After 14. ♘xd6 ♖xd6 Black is better anyway, but maybe the “less pieces, less problems” strategy could help White to survive.]



14...f6! Taking the e5 square under control to reduce the movement of the White knight. Without the light squared bishop, White can not make use of this weakness.

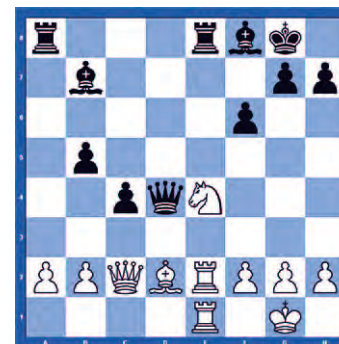
15. ♗d2 ♘f5! Going for the d4 target!

16. ♖c2 [16. ♘xd6 would have been the last chance to take the bishop, but position the remains quite bad... 16... ♖xd6]

16... ♗f8! White cannot defend the pawn...

17. ♖e2 [17. ♗c3 is refuted nicely by 17...b4! 18. ♗d2 (18. ♗xb4 does not work 18... ♗xb4 19. ♖xc4+ ♖h8 20. ♖xb4 ♗xe4) 18... ♖d5! 19. ♘g3 ♘xd4 Nicely illustrates the power of the b7 bishop!]

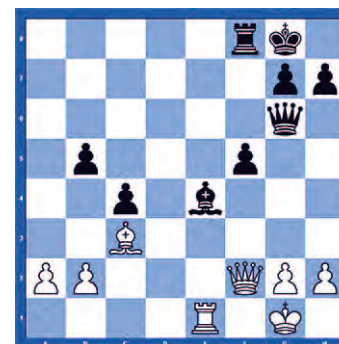
17... ♘xd4 18. ♘xd4 ♖xd4 19. ♖ae1 By giving back the pawn, White at least could activate his pieces. Unfortunately for him, Spassky finds a nice combination to obtain material advantage:



19...f5! At first sight it might look like a blunder, but **20. ♘f6+ ♖xf6 21. ♖xe8 ♖g6!** with this double attack, Black wins back the exchange.

22. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 23.f3 Only with this sacrifice, White could prevent the mate. [23.g3? ♖c6]

23... ♗xf3 24. ♗c3 ♗e4 25. ♖f2 Until this moment, Black played a perfect game, but now he blunders a small tactic, which could have cost him the victory...



25...f4? [25...♖d8 Black is up a pawn and has the more active bishop, which is a really important factor at the appearance of the opposite colored bishops.]

26.♖d1? White logically tries to activate his rook, but it throws away the sudden chance! [26.♙xg7! Both players missed this small tactical trick. White restores the material equality and saves the game.]

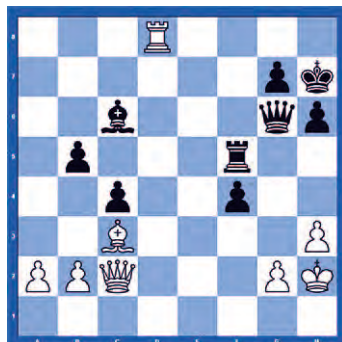
26...♙c6 Now Black is winning again.

27.h3 [27.♙b4 ♖e8]

27...h6 Both players opened their back-ranks. [27...f3 was another way to victory 28.g3 ♖e8! 29.♖e1 ♖e2! 30.♖xe2 fxe2 31.♙xe2 ♙xg3+ 32.♙f1 ♙xh3+ 33.♙e1 h5 should be easily winning.]

28.♙h2 ♖f5! Black continues the attack by transferring the rook to g5! White can not hold the threats.

29.♖d8+ ♙h7 30.♙c2



30...♙g3+! Clever way to unpin the b1–h7 diagonal.

31.♙g1 [Of course not 31.♙h1 ♙xh3+!] **31...♙e3+!** And on every possible king move, ♙e4 decides the game!

32.♙f2 ♖g5 Now, finally White survives getting mated by exchanging the queens, but it costs him another pawn, which is already too much to have any hopes...

33.♙xe3 ♖xg2+ 34.♙f1 fxe3 35.♖d6 ♙e4 36.♖d4 [36.♖e6 loses to 36...e2+ 37.♙e1 ♙d3]

36...♙f3 37.♖f4 e2+ [White resigned in view of 37...e2+ 38.♙e1 ♖g1+ 39.♙f2 ♖f1+ 40.♙g3 ♙c6 and the pawn promotes! A fantastic achievement by Spassky, even if there was a blunder in the 25th move.] **0–1**

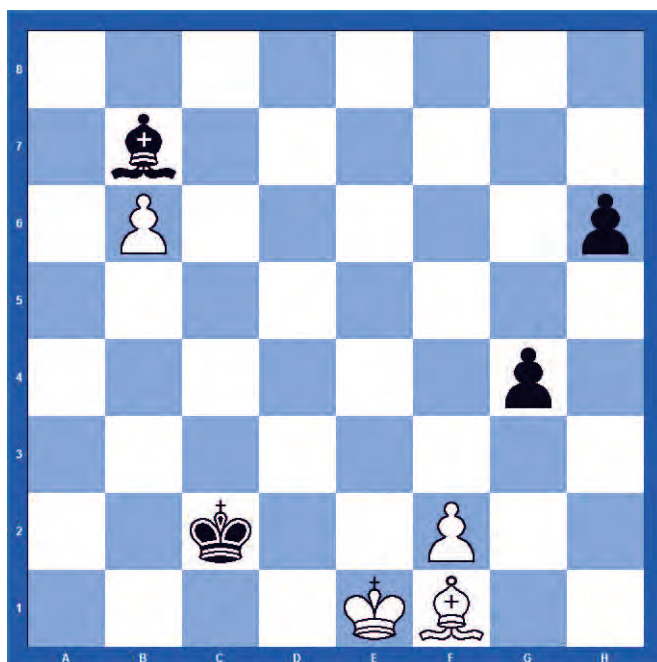
Surprise section / study

(18) Weenink,H

1918

[CEWN]

1. +-

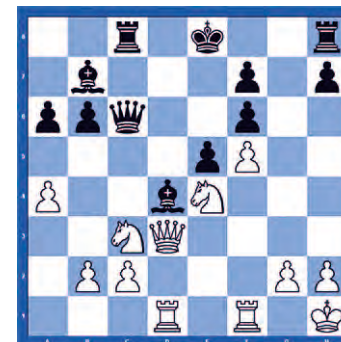


Solutions

(19) Antipov,M (2433) – Jankovic,A (2564)

Saraevo, 07.05.2012

[Solutions]

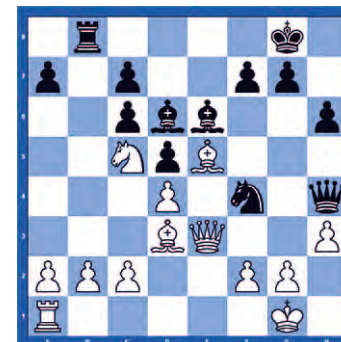


27. ♖d5! ♔d8 [27... ♙xc2 28. ♘dxf6+ ♔d8 29. ♙g3+-; 27... ♙xd5 28. ♘xf6+-] **28. ♘dxf6 ♙xc2 29. ♙g3 ♙xb2 30. ♙xe5 1-0 Line**

(20) Predojevic,B (2637) – Bistric,F (2383)

Saraevo, 07.05.2012

[Solutions]



18.g3! ♖xh3+ 19.♔g2 1-0[19.♔g2 ♔g4 20.♙xd6 cxd6 21.♙xe6 fxe6 22.f3+-] **Line**

(21) Le Quang Liem (2703) – Xiu Deshun (2494)

Asian Continental Championship, 05.05.2012

[Solutions]

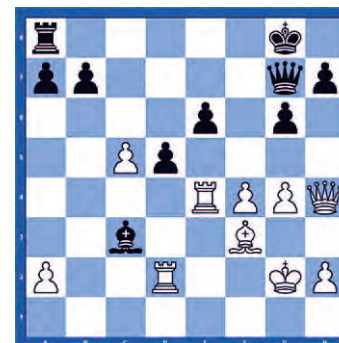


20...♙xd5!! 21.♙xc2 g5! 22.♙h3 [22.♙e4 ♔xd4 23.♙xh7+ ♖xh7 24.♙xd4 ♙xd4+ 22...♙xd4 23.♙e2 [23.♙d1 ♔e3+ 24.♙f1 ♙xf3+ 25.♙g1 ♙xa3!?!-+] **23...g4! 24.fxg4 ♙b2** [24...♙c8-+] **25.♙ac1 ♙c8 26.♙d1 ♖e4! 27.♙xh7+ ♙xh7 28.♙xe4+ ♙h6 29.♙xc8 ♙d4+ 0-1** **Line**

(22) Volkov,S (2623) – Iskandarov,M (2305)

Nakhchivan, 05.05.2012

[Solutions]

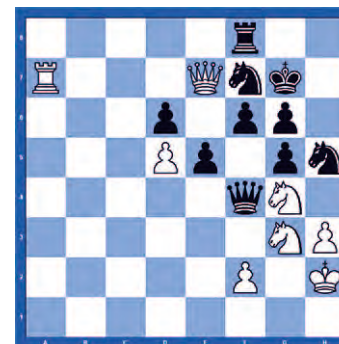


30...g5! [30...dxe4? 31.♙d8+!] **31.♙xe6** [31.fxg5 dxe4-+] **31...gxh4-+ Line**

(23) Babaev,T (2344) – Aleksandrov,A (2604)

Nakhchivan, 04.05.2012

[Solutions]

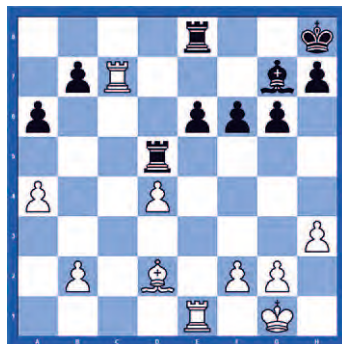


44.♙a4!! ♙f3 [44...♙xa4 45.♙xh5+ gxh5 46.♙xf6+ ♙h7 47.♙f5+ ♙h8 48.♙f6+=] **45.♙a3!! ♙f4 46.♙a4 ♙f3 47.♙a3 ♙f4 48.♙a4 ♙f3 49.♙a3= ♙e8?? 50.♙xf7+! ♙xf7 51.♙xf3+- Line**

(24) Popovic,Du (2561) – Milanovic,D (2520)

Serbian Championship, 04.05.2012

[Solutions]

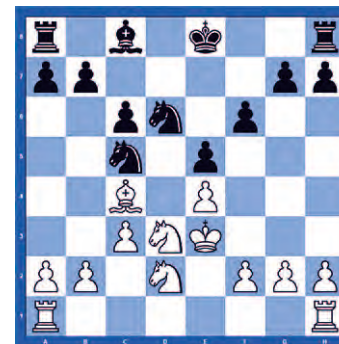


26. ♖xe6! ♜ed8 [26... ♖xe6 27. ♖c8+ ♜f8 28. ♜h6!+-]
27. ♜ee7+- Line

(26) Borgo,G (2397) – Bindrich,F (2542)

Suisse league, 29.04.2012

[Solutions]

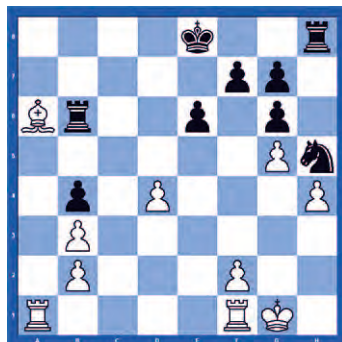


15... ♞cxe4! 16. ♜b3 [16. ♞xe4 ♞xc4+-+] **16... ♞xd2**
17. ♜xd2 ♜f5-- Line

(25) Miralles,G (2471) – Schiendorfer,E (2349)

Suisse league, 29.04.2012

[Solutions]

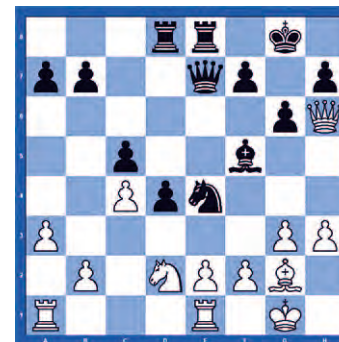


27. ♜b5+! ♜e7 [27... ♖xb5 28. ♖a8+ ♜e7 29. ♖xh8+-]
28. ♖a7+ ♜d8 [28... ♜d6 29. ♖d7#] **29. ♖a8+ ♜e7**
30. ♖xh8 ♖xb5 31. ♖a1+- Line

(27) Szymanski,M (2416) – Gajewski,G (2622)

Polish league, 05.05.2012

[Solutions]

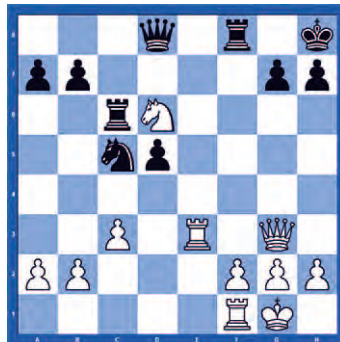


19... ♞xf2! 20.g4 [20. ♜xf2 ♜e3+! 21. ♜xe3 dxe3+
22. ♜f1 exd2+-] **20... ♜e3 21. ♜xe3 dxe3 22. ♞b3 ♜e6**
23. ♞xc5 ♜xc4 24. ♞xb7 ♜d2-- Line

(28) Tomczak,J (2549) – Mista,A (2538)

Polish league, 05.05.2012

[Solutions]

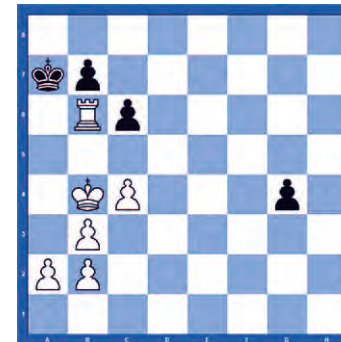


27. ♖e8!! ♜xe8 [27... ♜xe8 28. ♘f7+-; 27... ♜xd6 28. ♜xd6 ♜xd6 29. ♜xf8#; 27... ♜f6 28. ♜xf8+ ♜xf8 29. ♜e1! ♜xd6 30. ♜xd6 ♜xd6 31. ♜e8+-] **28. ♘xe8 ♜xe8 29. ♜d1+-**

(29) Liburkin,M

1981

[Solutions]



1. ♔a5! g3 2. ♜b5!! cxb5 3.cxb5 g2 [3...b6+ 4. ♔a4 g2 5.b4 g1 ♜ 6.b3 ♜g2 7.a3=] **4.b6+! ♔b8 5.b4! g1Q 6.b5!=** Black cannot avoid stalemate. **6... ♜g8** [6... ♜e1+ 7.b4=; 6... ♜b1 7.a4 ♜xb2=] **7.a4 ♔c8 8.b4 ♔d7= 1/2**



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 13

25th of May 2012

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Editorial Preface

The World Championship match between Anand and Gelfand is still tied 4-4. We have seen 1 victory for each side. We present you one of them. The tension is growing from round to round, since there are only 4 games left, and a small mistake could be decisive.

The US Championship has come to a dramatic end! The two favorites, Nakamura and Kamsky, were dominating the field, scoring one win after another. After the 9th round, Kamsky had the lead with 7 points, while his rival was just a half point behind him. In the penultimate round, they faced each other and Nakamura won a very interesting battle with the Black pieces. In the last round, he secured the first place with a fine win over Seirawan! In the current CEWN, we demonstrate 3 critical games from this event.

In the “surprise section”, try to calculate as long as you can. The final strike — the whole point of the puzzle — comes only after a long and forced line.

We wish you lots of fun with the 13th edition of CEWN!

*Arkadij Naiditsch
Balogh Csaba*

4 best games of the past week

(1) Gelfand,B (2727)
— Anand,V (2791) [D45]

WCC (7), 20.05.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

So long we've been waiting for this day, and finally THE day has arrived. Gelfand has won the 7th game of the match very solidly. Anand helped him to get the full point — where he could.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 e6 5.♘f3 a6 Another game on the Slav, and probably some of the spectators thought here „another short draw...”. Gelfand had different plans

6.c5 ♘bd7



7.♙c2!? A very rare move in a well known position. [7.♙d3; 7.b4 are the main moves here.]

7...b6 Basically, Black only has 2 major ideas here, to push b6 or to push e5. In case of e5 now, the Queen on

c2 might be very useful. [7...e5 8.dxe5 ♘g4 9.♘a4! and here we see why the Queen on c2 is a useful piece, to protect the pawn on c5! 9...♘dx5 (9...♘xc5?! 10.♘xc5 ♙a5+ 11.♙d2 ♙xc5 12.♙c3 followed by h3-g4 cutting out the Black knight from the game. White is doing clearly better here.) 10.♘xe5 ♘xe5 11.♘b6 ♖b8 12.b4 and it seems like White got a small advantage. I guess this „advantage” is not enough to have real hopes of getting the full point...]

8.cxb6 ♘xb6 [8...c5 would have been the other option for Black, but in case of 9.♙d2 ♘xb6 we would go back to the game.]

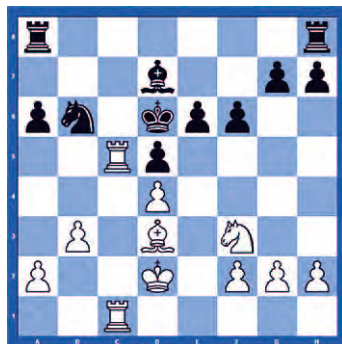
9.♙d2 c5 10.♖c1!? Until this oment, Gelfand blitzed out his moves while Anand had been spending some time starting from 7.♙c2. [10.dxc5 looks very tempting but doesn't work 10...♙xc5 11.♘b5 ♘e4! and, of course, Black is doing more than fine.]

10...cxd4 Here we had the first very interesting moment, to take on 10...cxd4 or to play 10...c4, both seem to lead to a slightly worse position, but which one too choose? [10...c4 11.b3! Of course White needs to open the queen-side immediately. (Moves like 11.e4 ♙b7! 12.e5 ♘e4 usually lead nowhere for White) 11...cxb3 12.axb3 += Black would give a lot to have the knight not on b6, but on c6! This is the right place for the knight. Now White will play ♙d3, 0-0, ♘e5, with some pressure]

11.exd4 ♙d6 The first move after which Gelfand started thinking.



12. ♗g5! In my opinion a very good move, showing a deep understanding of the position. [First it seemed like 12. ♘a4 ♘xa4 White wanted to play ♗a5 13. ♔c6+ ♗d7 14. ♔xd6. This looks clearly better for White, but Black can improve his situation by playing 14... ♘e4 15. ♔a3 ♘xd2 16. ♔xd2 ♗f6! . This move is super important and typical for many types of positions. Black doesn't allow the White knight to jump to e5. (16... ♔e7?! would be too early 17. ♔xe7+ ♔xe7 18. b3 ♘b6 19. ♘e5! The White knight managed to reach his destination on e5 19... ♗f6 20. ♘xd7 ♔xd7 21. ♔c5 += . The a6 pawn is weak, White controls the c-file, and the bishop is better against the knight — all these factors give White a clear advantage.) 17. ♗d3 White can't do anything better than to play ♗d3 17... ♔e7! and only now comes the exchange of queens 18. ♔xe7+ ♔xe7 19. b3 ♘b6 20. ♔c5 ♗d6 21. ♔hc1



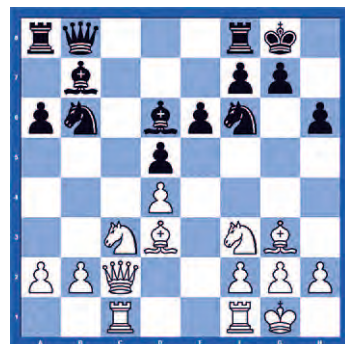
21... ♘c8! This fantastic move solves all Black's problems. The knight has finally reached the right square, c6, and we get to an endgame where only Black could claim to have an advantage.]

12...0-0 13. ♗d3 h6 14. ♗h4 From the first look, the position looks very harmless for Black. But things are by far not so clear here... Black has a big problem, the bishop on c8. Eventually, White could be better in the endgames due to the pawn structure and the weak Black pawn on a6.

14... ♗b7 A logical move by Anand. [It's hard to say if 14... ♗f4 15. ♔d1 ♗b7 would be the right way for Black to react, in order to include the moves ♗f4-Rd1.]

15.0-0 ♔b8 A very risky move. [15... ♘bd7 Here, it looks much more solid to play 16. ♗g3 ♗xg3 17. hxg3 and we would be back to a position similar to the one in the game.]

16. ♗g3 White continues his opening strategy, to play with as less risk as possible. Maybe here White had a good chance to try to play a bit more active. [16. ♗xf6!? From a positional point of view, this move is clearly a „bad choice“ for White. Anyway, chess is a tactical game and the Black king is open now, which usually gives a lot of tactical opportunities. 16... gxf6 17. ♘e2! This is the key move of 16. ♗xf6, the White knight is going to h5! (Of course, in case of 17. ♔e2 ♔c8 followed by ♗f8-g7, only Black can be better.) 17... ♔c8 18. ♔d2 ♗f8 19. ♘g3 and I think White has very dangerous play on the kingside. The knight is going to h5, attacking the f6 pawn, which will be very hard to defend. If Black plays f5, the e5 square will be free for White to play ♘e5, followed by ♔f4.]



16...Rc8 Another risky move by Black that gives White an extra opportunity. [16...g3!? 17.hxg3 Rxd6 leaving Black with a much wider range of possibilities for the next move. Black could try the Nbd7-Rfe8 and e5 idea, which would lead, in the worst case, to a slightly unpleasant position.]

17.Rxe2 [Why not 17.Ne5!? Ne4! This is clearly what Gelfand might have been afraid of. (17...Nbd7 18.Rxe2!? would have clearly been an interesting choice for White. In case of 18...gxe5 19.dxe5 Ne8 20.f4! followed by f5, White has a dangerous attack.) 18.gxe4 dxe4 19.Rxe2 f6! Black has an open king, but he got the d5 square. In my opinion, we are in a very complicated position.]

17...g3 18.hxg3 Rxd6 19.Rc2 Nbd7



20.Rfc1 At first look, this position should be equal, but what can Black do here. How to get rid of the bishop on b7, how to get the guy into the game?!

20...Rab8!? I think this was a very strong move by Black, forcing White to act. [20...Rc7 21.Na4 Rxc2 22.Rxc2 and White is doing a bit better. On 22...Rc8 23.Rxc8+ gxc8 24.Qc2 we get to a typical position which is quite unpleasant to play for Black. Even if the queens are exchanged, the game would not be a draw at all, due to the pawn structure, that always gives White some edge.]

21.Na4 Ne4? From here on, Anand starts to do very strange moves... We can rarely see the World Champion (maybe never) in this shape. Did he drink or eat something wrong during the game?! [21...Rxc2! During the live game, I thought this might be Black's idea 22.Rxc2 (22.Qxc2 doesn't bring any advantage either 22...Rc8 23.Qd1 Rxc1 24.Qxc1 Ne4 and Black is just in time to block White from playing Nc5.) 22...gxc6! Black is getting rid of the bad bishop, the troublemaker 23.Nc5 gxb5 and in my opinion, Black should be doing fine here. I don't see any reason for White to claim an advantage.]

22.Rxc8+! This logical move leads to a big advantage for Black.

22...gxc8 23.Qc2 [Another very good option for White was 23.Qe1!



23...♙b7 24.♚a5 and White places the queen just in a perfect place! Black got no ♖c8 because of ♗xc8 and ♙d8. The next White move will be ♚c7 or ♖c7. The position is a clear +/-; 23.♙xe4? would be too greedy 23...dxe4 24.♚xe4 ♙b7 and due to the great bishop on b7, Black shouldn't have any problems. There's enough compensation for the pawn.]

23...g5? What a shocking move by Black... It's hard to say what was the idea of Anand, but in any case, this kind of moves should not be played at all. [23...♘df6! was probably the only way to continue the game, even though White is doing already better 24.♘c5 ♘xc5 25.dxc5 ♚c7 26.♚c3 blocking the dark squares. White will play b4 next, it will be possible to play a4-b5, otherwise, just ♘e5 followed by f4. It's clear that White is doing better, but how much better? Well, this would have been seen had Black played 23...♘df6.]

24.♚c7! Excellent answer by Gelfand, who just probably said „thanks” to the g5 move. White reaches an endgame with a huge advantage.

24...♚xc7 25.♖xc7

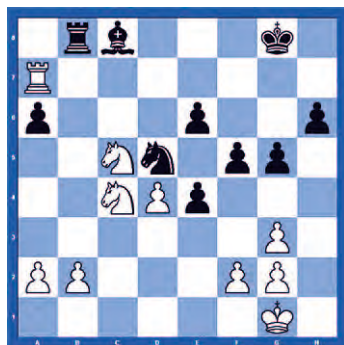


25...f6?? An amazing mistake by Anand. After this move, Black can basically resign. It's interesting that at this point Anand only had 15 minutes left until the time control. This is clearly a very bad sign, we can rarely see the World Champion spending more than an hour for the whole game! Probably Anand was very tired, or maybe he was pretty disappointed with his play?! We will never know, but one thing is clear, something is very wrong with V. Anand... [25...♘df6 26.♘e5 ♘d6 was the only choice not to lose immediately. Of course, Black is doing very bad here.]

26.♙xe4! The winning move! We cannot imagine how Gelfand felt like at this moment. Since 1993, he hadn't won a game against Anand with a normal time control, and to go ahead and win in the 7th round of the WCC match... Well, better than a dream! :)

26...dxe4 27.♘d2 White's knights are dominating the board and Black is still „sitting” with his bad bishop on c8.

27...f5 28.♘c4 ♘f6 29.♘c5 ♘d5 30.♖a7 For a while I thought that Anand would just resign the game. It is really a „disgusting” position from Black's point of view. No moves...

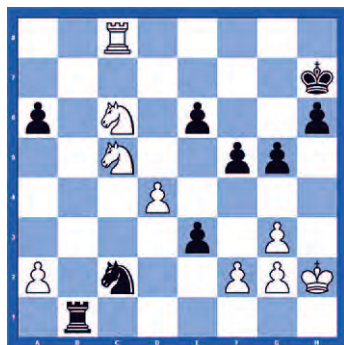


30...b4 31. e5 c2!? In a lost position, Anand finds some practical chance, even though White is still totally winning and it is not easy to go wrong...

32. c6 xb2 33. c7! The easiest winning move. Of course 33. e7 and 33. a8 were winning as well.

33...b1+ Allowing White a very beautiful finish. [Of course, 33...e3 34. xc8+ h7 35. c7+ h8 36. fxe3 xe3 37. e5 clearly doesn't save Black from a 0! 37... xg2+ 38. h1 f2 39. cd3 and White should easily convert with a piece up.]

34. h2 e3 35. xc8+ h7



36. c7+! A move that's too easy to be missed.

36...h8 [36...g6 37. e5+ h5 38. xe6 +-]

37. e5 e2 38. xe6 Followed by g6, g8, and g7 mate. Black is hopeless! A very solid game by White, and an incredible performance by Black. **1-0**

(2) Kamsky,G (2741)
– Seirawan,Y (2643) [B19]

ch-USA 2012 Saint Louis USA (9), 17.05.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

Gata Kamsky won a nice game against the Caro-Kann defense. The game is interesting from a theoretical point of view as well.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 Recently, the Caro-Kann lives its best period ever. We very often meet with this opening, even on the highest level. The advance variation with 3.e5 is White's favorite nowadays, but fashion changes from time to time.

3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♗xe4 ♘f5 5.♘g3 ♘g6 6.h4 h6 7.♗f3 ♗d7 8.h5 ♘h7 9.♙d3 ♙xd3 10.♙xd3 e6 11.♙d2 ♗g6 12.0-0-0



12...♙e7 This is considered to be the basic position of the 3.♘c3 line, where White can choose between 3 big setups. Black's other main option with 12...♙c7 followed by 0-0-0 is out of fashion now.

13.♗e4 [13.♙b1 and; 13.♙e2 are the two other setups.]

13...♗xe4 14.♙xe4 ♗f6 15.♙d3 0-0 [For the Caro-Kann fans, I would probably suggest 15...♗g4 this is how the big opening expert, Alexey Dreev, played few month ago. 16.♙e2 0-0 The knight is very annoying on g4. It prevents the typical g4 pawn sacrifice, which we will see in our current game as well. 17.♗e5 ♗xe5 18.dxe5 ♙b6 19.♙b1 ♗fd8 20.g4 20...♙b5! This is Black's defensive resource. 21.♙xb5 (If White wants to keep the queens on the board with 21.c4 ♙c5 22.f4 b5! Black creates his counterplay against the provoked weakness with c4.) 21...cxb5 22.♙e3 b6 23.c3 ♗ac8 Black was more or less fine in Guseinov-Dreev, Plovdiv 2012.; The standard 15...♙d5?! is not advisable here 16.c4 ♙e4 because of 17.♙b3! b5 18.♗he1 ♙f5 19.♗e5! and Black has serious problems on the queenside.]

16.♙b1 Preparation for the g4 sacrifice. [On 16.g4, a theoretically very important game was played 2 months ago 16...♗xg4 17.♗hg1 ♗xf2 18.♙e2 ♗xd1 19.♙xh6 ♙f6 20.♙xg7 ♙xg7 21.h6 ♙f6 22.♙h2 (22.♗xg7+ ♙h8 23.♗g5 ♙xh6 24.♗h7+ ♙xh7 25.♗xh7 ♙xh7 26.♙h5+ leads to draw as well.) 22...♙xf3 23.hxg7 ♙e3+! 24.♙b1 (24.♙xd1 ♙xd4+ 25.♙c1 ♙xg1+ 26.♙xg1 ♗fe8 =) 24...♗c3+! The only way to avoid mate 25.bxc3 ♙xg1+! 26.♙xg1 ♗fd8 Everything was more or less forced until this moment. I remember, that I was watching this game live, and both players were blitzing out the moves until this moment. This is what we call computer chess. 27.♙g5 ♙h7 28.♙f6 ♗d7 29.♙b2 ♗g8 30.♙h4+ ♙xg7 31.♙g3+ ♙f8 32.♙b8+ ♙g7 33.♙g3+ ♙f8 34.♙b8+ ♙g7 35.♙g3+ 1/2-1/2 Hovhannisyan-Akopian, Plovdiv 2012.]

16...c5 Black's main strategy in this opening is to open the position with this c5 break, and in the endgames (after the heavy pieces get exchanged on the d-file) the h5

pawn might become a real weakness. Black won many games this way...

17.g4! And this is White's strategy! He must launch an attack against the Black king, which is also very natural in case of opposite side castling. Of course, giving mate has higher value than one pawn. :)

17...♘xg4 Black must accept the sacrifice. Allowing White to play g5 is too dangerous. [17...cxd4 18.g5 hxg5 19.♙xg5 followed by an attack on the g-file.]

18.♙e2! Kamsky protects the f2 pawn before playing ♖hg1. Seirawan reacts with the first move of the machine, probably they were both still in their preparation.

18...♙h8 Moving out of ♙xh6 after ♖hg1–Nf6. [Another idea could be 18...♙b6 to defend the e6 pawn after 19.♖hg1 f5 but here, White plays the energetic 20.♘e5! ♘xe5 21.dxe5, with huge pressure on the g-file.]

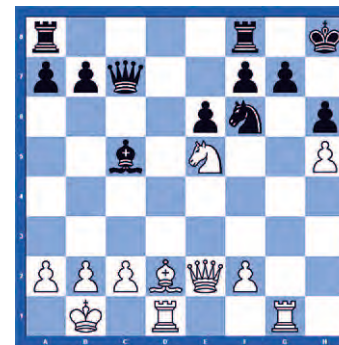
19.♖hg1 ♘f6 20.dxc5 [20.♙xh6 would have been premature 20...gxh6 21.♙e3 ♖g8 22.♙xh6+ ♘h7 23.♘e5 ♙f8 Black defends against the concrete threats and preserves the extra piece.]

20...♙c7 Black had to leave from the pin on the d-file.

21.♘e5! Kamsky brings his pieces into the attack, but Caro-Kann players know that Black's defensive possibilities are excellent in this opening.

21...♙xc5? [21...♖ad8! should have been played, when it is not easy at all to continue the attack 22.b4 might be the strongest move for White, but of course it has its minuses as well. (22.♖de1 ♙xc5; 22.f4 does not work with the idea of ♙g2 22...♙xc5 The bishop controls the g1 square; 22.♖g3 ♙xc5 23.♖dg1 ♖xd2! 24.♙xd2 ♙xe5) 22...a5 23.a3

axb4 24.axb4 followed by ♙f4. White's prospects seem to be slightly preferable.]



22.♙xh6!! gxh6 23.♖d7!! A fantastic tactical shot, to lure the knight from the defense! [23.♙d2? ♙xe5 24.♙xh6+ ♘h7 White has nothing.]

23...♙xd7! Only move to avoid mate, but it loses material. [23...♘xd7 24.♙d2! ♙h7 25.♘g4!! This is the whole point! The mate is unavoidable.]

24.♘xd7 ♘xd7 25.♙d2! This double attack finishes the game.

25...♙h7 26.b4 [There was nothing wrong with 26.♙xd7 +-]

26...♖ad8 27.bxc5 ♘f6 [27...♘xc5 28.♙f4 +- with the threat of ♙f6.]

28.♙f4 Black could resign at this moment, Seirawan tries for few more moves.

28...♘e8 [28...♘xh5 29.♙e4+ ♙h8 (29...f5 30.♙xe6 +-) 30.♙e5+ +-]

29.♙e4+ [29.♖g6! was the computer finish!]

29...♙h8 30.♙xb7 ♘g7 31.♙xa7 ♖c8 32.♖d1 ♘f5 33.♖d7 ♙g7 34.a4 ♙f6 35.a5 1-0

(3) Kamsky,Gata (2741) – Nakamura,Hikaru (2775) [B90]

ch-USA 2012 Saint Louis USA (10), 18.05.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Only 2 rounds to go in the US Championship. The usual battle between Kamsky and Nakamura for the tittle. Before the game, Kamsky was a half point ahead. As we know, playing for second place is definitely not Nakamura's style. We will see a fighting game, with a lot of mistakes, and a lot of emotions!

1.e4 c5 Nakamura is playing a lot of different openings against 1.e4, and it's hard to guess his first move. In the current game he chose the Najdorf, maybe a bit surprising for Gata, because he didn't seem to be well prepared in the opening.

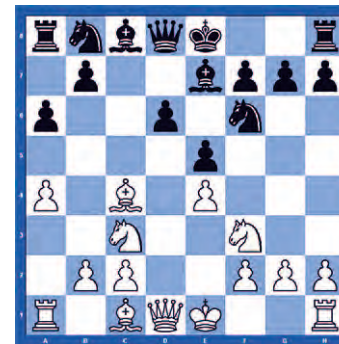
2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 Is Gata playing for a win?! 3.♙b5 would be a very safe move, and the draw is enough to be half a point ahead before the last round.

3...cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.a4!? And Gata plays his favorite move, 6.a4, which he already used in his World Championship match against Topalov.

6...e5 In my opinion, 6...e6 or 6...g6 are make more sense now. Now, in the game, White is sort of „half a tempo“ up in comparison to the 6.♙e3 e5 7.♘f3 line.

7.♘f3 ♙e7 8.♙c4 And we can see that the a4 move is a very useful one, it stops Black from playing b5. The idea of the whole system for White is to exchange the bishop on c1 for any Black piece by playing ♙g5, and then start to take over the d5 square. The only problem could be

that the knight on f3 is out play. So, in the best case, White will transport the knight via ♘d2-Nf1–Ne3 and ♘d5. This would be the perfect scenario.



8...0–0 9.0–0 [It would be too early to play 9.♙g5 ♙e6! White wanted to play ♙xf6 and ♘d5 with a slightly better position 10.♙xf6 ♙xc4 11.♙xe7 ♔xe7 and Black is doing perfectly fine. The pawn on d6 is a little weak, although White cannot create any serious threats. Black will play ♘c6, ♖d8 and will probably push through with d5.]

9...♙e6! Here we see the weak point of the a4 move. In case of the usual ♙b3, Black will take ♙xb3; White doesn't have the usual option of axb3, and will have to take with the c-pawn.

10.♙b3?! Maybe the usual answer. [10.♔e2!? looks interesting to me, trying to save a tempo on ♙b3 10...♘c6 11.♖d1 and maybe White will be able to avoid playing ♙b3.]

10...♘c6! Another very important move that clearly shows the weakness of White's play, the bishop on b3!

11.♙g5 ♘a5 The idea of Black is to force White to take with ♙xe6 fxe6, and of course White's hopes for an advantage just disappear.



12. ♖xf6 White continues with the plan, but he had to lose one tempo with ♖b3, and another one on the next move with ♖d5. 2 tempi in the opening are just too much to have hopes to get the advantage.

12... ♖xf6 13. ♖d5 [13. ♖d5 ♖xb3 14. cxb3 ♖c8 would lead to no advantage for White. The knight on f3 is standing very badly, and it's not clear why the knight is better than the bishop on f6.]

13... ♖c8 Black is preparing the ♖c4 jump.

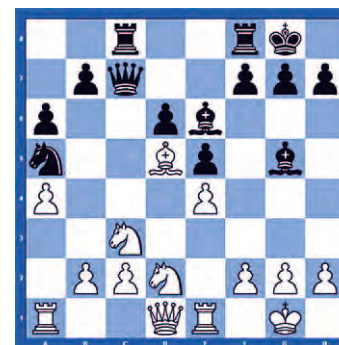
14. ♖d2 If we look at this position from a logical point of view, we can easily figure out that something went very wrong in the opening for White. He managed to block the d5 square with a piece, but with the wrong one, a knight should be standing there. The bishop on d5 has no options except to take on e6, which would lead to a better position for Black.

14... ♖c7!? A very interesting move. Black fixes the c2 pawn as a potential victim, and at the same time, he frees the d8 square for ♖d8. Also, ♖xd5 could be a threat given that White would not be able to play ♖xd5 because of ♖xc2, and of course, in case of exd5, Black would be doing very good. [Also possible would be 14... ♖b6 15. ♖b1

(Of course not 15. ♖b3 ♖c4!) 15... ♖g5 and we are in a position similar to the game.]

15. ♖e1 White continues to follow the opening plan...

15... ♖g5! Until now, Black is playing a great game. Attacking the knight on d2, he wants to win control over the c4 square, and finally get the knight from a5 into the game.



16. ♖f1 [16. ♖f3 ♖h6 would have no effect on Black.]

16... ♖b6 Black tries to keep the position complicated. [The simple 16... ♖c4 17. ♖xc4 is the only move for White. On 17. ♖b1, ♖xb2 would follow 17... ♖xc4 18. ♖e3 ♖e6 and Black is doing at least equal — probably a bit better. White finally covered the d5 square, but had to give up both bishops.]

17. ♖b1 ♖c4 18. ♖e2 Not an easy task to find a useful move for White. [A clear mistake would be 18. ♖xc4? ♖xc4 19. ♖e3 ♖d4 and White will not be able to avoid some material losses.]

18... ♖h6 A good positional move by Black. Nakamura is bringing the bishop „just in case“ to a safe position. And indeed, Black has no need to hurry. White has no obvious ways to continue. [18... ♖xb2? 19. ♖d1! and Black is a piece up.]

19.h4 A clear sign that Kamsky could not find a clear plan.

19...♔b4 Black continues to improve his position.

20.g3



20...♖c7! The rook on c7 is standing just great. In case of ♕xe6 fxe6, Black will have the move ♖cf7! with big pressure over the f2 pawn. Also, ♖fc8 could be a future response.

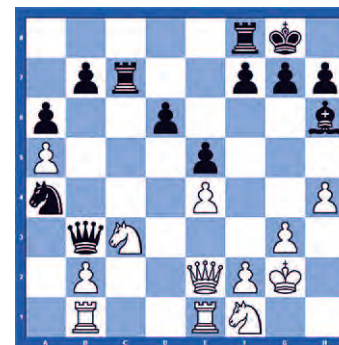
21.♔g2 ♖b6 Time for action. Black wants to play ♖xa4.

22.♕b3!? Probably the only way to get some counter chances in a bad position. [22.♖ed1 ♖xa4 23.♖xa4 ♕xa4 24.c3 ♕d7 looks like a pawn down for nothing.]

22...♕xb3? In my opinion, this is too greedy. [22...♖c4!? Now Black really wants to take with ♖xb2 23.♕xc4 ♖xc4 24.♖e3 ♕xe3 25.♕xe3 f5 with a very dangerous initiative. All Black pieces are standing on very good positions. And suddenly White can get in big trouble.]

23.cxb3 ♕xb3 24.a5! Suddenly, things aren't clear at all. White is going to have a fantastic knight on d5, plus the bishop on h6 could be in danger after ♖h2-g4.

24...♖a4



25.♖h2?! What a strange decision. [Why not 25.♖d5! . What can be more logical than to play ♖d5? 25...♖c2 26.♕d1! Maybe this is the move that White missed?! 26...♖xb2 27.♖e7+ ♔h8 28.♕xd6 and White is already taking over the game. ♖g6 is a big threat. Black's pieces are pinned and the bishop on h6 is out of play.]

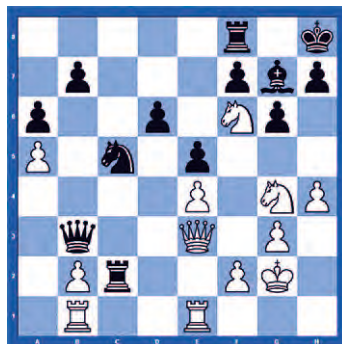
25...g6 [In case of 25...♖xc3?! 26.bxc3 ♕xc3 27.♖g4 ♕xa5 28.♖ed1! , we are facing a very funny position. Black is 3 pawns up, but things are not that clear at all. White has many potential ideas for an attack. Besides, the d6 pawn could fall after ♖d5 and ♖bd1. In my opinion, the position is very unclear here.]

26.♖g4 ♕g7 27.♖d5 ♖c2 Black needs to force the exchange of queens as fast as possible. With 2 strong knights, White always has good chances for an attack.

28.♕e3 [28.♕d1 doesn't work now 28...♖xb2 29.♖e7+ ♔h8 30.♕xd6 ♕a4! and Black can simply move the Queen away from the b-file, threatening ♖d3. The bishop on g7 takes away White's idea of ♖xg6.]

28...♖c5 This allows White to get a forced draw. [Probably, after 28...♕xe3 29.♖gx3 ♖xb2 30.♖xb2 ♖xb2 31.♖b1 White has a clearly better endgame.]

29.h5? What a mistake! Could it be that White was playing for a win?! [29.♘df6+! would have been the correct decision 29...♙xf6 (29...♔h8



30.♘d7! Probably, this move was blundered by White 30...♔d8 (30...♙xe3? 31.♘xe3 and Black is losing an exchange.) 31.♘xc5 ♙xe3 32.♘xe3 ♔xc5 33.b4 and we have reached a typical position, something White wanted to get from the first moves of the opening. The White knight on d5 will totally dominate the Black bishop, and even being a pawn down, White has a clear advantage here!) 30.♘xf6+ ♔g7 31.♘h5+! and Black cannot avoid the perpetual check.]

29...♙xe3 This move starts a very long line of forced moves. It's hard to say if Black calculated it all, or just was a bit lucky...

30.♘gxe3 ♔d2 31.♘c4 White needs to do something regarding the pawn on e4.

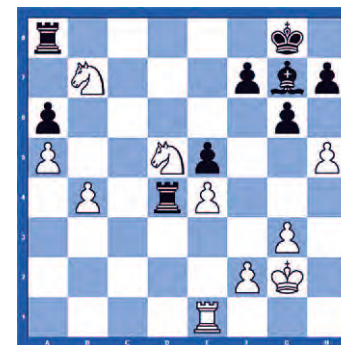
31...♔d4 32.♘xd6 ♔d8 Another forced move. White wants to play b4.

33.b4 ♘d3! The first moment when Black had 2 choices. [The good looking 33...♘xe4? 34.♘e7+ ♔f8 35.♘xb7! would lead to big trouble for Black 35...♙xe7 36.♘xd8 ♔xd8 37.b5 ♘c5 38.hxg6 hxg6 39.♔ec1 and due to a very

dangerous a pawn, White is doing clearly better here. Yes, 2 pieces aren't always a winning combination, especially when they are so uncoordinated.]

34.♘xb7 ♘xe1+ 35.♔xe1 White has a pawn and 2 very strong knights for the exchange, it's very hard to say who is doing better here. Probably, the position should be about equal. We can imagine both players suffering here, in big time trouble and with the pressure that was there from move 1. Blacks needs to win, but I guess Kam-sky was also quite ambitious and wanted to win the US Championship with one round to spare.

35...♔a8



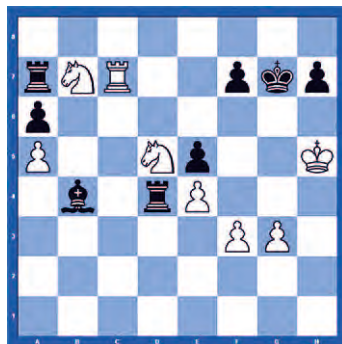
36.f3? This move allows Black to cut the knight on b7. [36. hxg6 hxg6 37.♘d6! would have been the correct idea. And probably Black has nothing better than to make a draw by repeating moves with ♔d8-Nb7-Ra8-Nd6.]

36...♙f8! The White knight on b7 has no moves, plus the b4 pawn is hanging.

37.♔c1 White can not keep the b4 pawn. [37.♔b1 ♔b8]

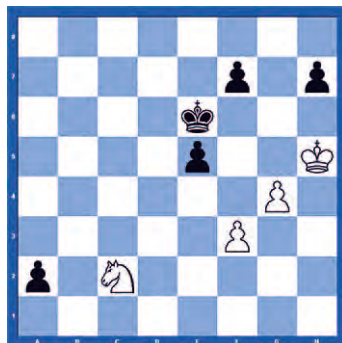
37...♙xb4 38.♔c7 gxh5 39.♔h3 ♔g7 40.♔h4 ♔a7 Time trouble is over. Black is a clear exchange up, plus the knight on b7 and ♔c7 are pinned. Seems like White's only chance for a draw is the knight on d5, which could jump to f5 via ♘e3-f5.

41. ♔xh5



41... ♖xd5! From a human point of view, a logical decision. Black kills the main enemy, but White gets a few tactical chances. Also 41... ♖xd5 shows big confidence in his own calculation, which was not easy at all. [41... ♖d3! would end the game immediately 42. ♘xb4 ♖b3 Black is winning the piece back, getting 2 rooks against rook and knight. White is totally hopeless.]

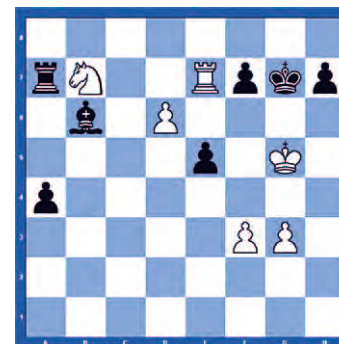
42. exd5 ♙xa5 43. ♖e7 [43.d6 is a losing move, but the variation is not obvious at all 43... ♙xc7 44. dxc7 ♖a8 45. ♘d6 a5 46. c8 ♖xc8 47. ♘xc8 a4 48. ♘d6 a3 49. ♘f5+ ♔f6 50. ♘e3 a2 51. ♘c2 White is just in time to stop the a-pawn, but Black has a few more pawns 51... ♔e6 52. g4



52...f5! and Black is in time to make a new passed pawn. Great calculation by Nakamura!]

43... ♙b6 44.d6 a5 45. ♔g5 White looks for chances, but there aren't any. [Black also wins after 45. ♘d8 ♔f8! Again, we have the same idea, the White knight cannot stop Black's a-pawn 46. ♖xa7 ♙xa7 47. ♘c6 ♙b6 48. ♘xe5 a4 49. ♘c4 ♙c5 50. d7 ♔e7 51. ♔h6 ♔xd7 52. ♔xh7 ♔e6 53. g4 ♔d5 and again, White cannot stop Black from queening the a-pawn.]

45...a4 The winner of the game is: the a-pawn



46. ♔f5 a3 47. ♘d8 a2 48. ♘e6+ ♔h6 49. ♘g5 a1Q 50. ♘xf7+ ♔g7 In the last round of the US Championship, Nakamura completed his victory with a win over GM Seirawan. Anyway, in the current game he had a few „difficult“ moments. The luck of a champion :). **0-1**

(4) Nakamura,Hi (2775) — Seirawan,Y (2643) [C00]

ch-USA 2012 Saint Louis USA (11), 19.05.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

Nakamura had a half point advantage over Kamsky in the last round. Let's see how he handled the tension.

1.e4 e6



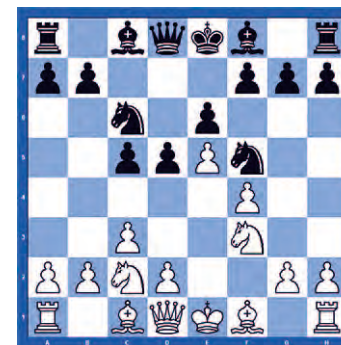
2.f4!? Nakamura likes pretty weird openings. These are especially good against players who can get into time trouble, because they must start to think right from the beginning.

2...d5 3.e5 c5 4.♘f3 ♘c6 5.c3 White would like to get a „healthy“ pawn structure with d4.

5...♞ge7 Standard developing of the knight, f5 is its ideal square.

6.♞a3 Before playing d4, White overprotects it with his knight from c2, in order not to get under a quick attack with ♞f5 and ♙b6.

6...♞f5 7.♞c2



7...h5 Seirawan stabilizes his knight on f5. [Two years ago, Nakamura himself had to face this opening against Stripunsky. He reacted with 7...d4 8.♙d3! White immediately makes use of the previous move and transfers his bishop to e4. 8...♙b6 9.♙e2 (It was better to play 9.cxd4 cxd4 10.0-0 ♙d7 11.b3 += followed by ♙b2. White should be better.) 9...♞fe7 10.♙e4 ♞d5 11.g3 (Here again, White should have taken on d4 11.cxd4! ♞xf4 (11...cxd4 12.d3 +=) 12.♙f2 cxd4 13.0-0 with the initiative.) 11...♙d7 12.c4 ♞db4 13.d3 ♞xc2+ 14.♙xc2 f5! 15.exf6 gxf6 16.♞h4 f5 17.♙g2 0-0-0 Black was fine and later won the game.; I like the most, how the big expert of the French defense has handled the position: 7...♙d7 8.♙d3 and here, I like the idea of (8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 ♙b6 Black would be fine. He has a very good version of the advance variation (3.e5 line), where the only difference is that the pawn is on f2 and not on f4. Now, the pawn on f4 restricts the mobility of White's pieces.) 8...♞h4 9.0-0 ♞g6! The position is very unusual and it requires unusual handling as well 10.g3 ♙c7 followed by 0-0-0 and f6.]

8.♙d3 g6 9.0-0 ♙e7 White ran out of useful moves, he must take a concrete decision.

10.♙xf5 gxf5



11.d4 White gave up the bishop pair, but the position is closed, where the knights are not worse.

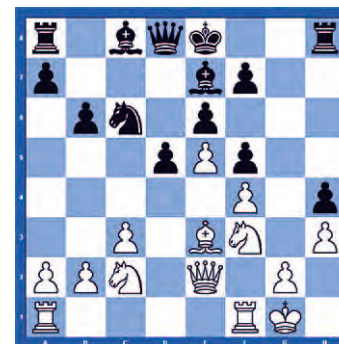
11...h4? A serious positional mistake by Seirawan, who is a great player, but in this tournament was definitely in a terrible form. [11...b6! Black should have kept his center! He can play a5 and ♖a6 next with a perfectly fine position.]

12.dxc5! Excellent decision by Nakamura! By taking on c5, he obtains the important d4 square for his knights!

12...♙xc5+ 13.♙e3 ♙e7! Black must keep his dark squared bishop to control the weakened Black squares (h4, g5, f6, d6, d4). [13...♙xe3+ would be another serious mistake 14.♘xe3 +/- and we get the typical bad „French bishop” against a good knight position.]

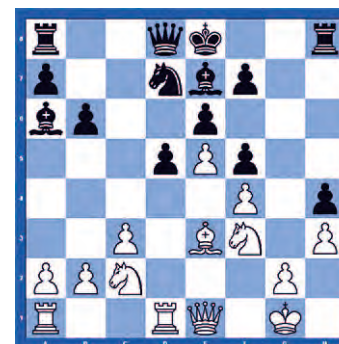
14.h3 I like this move! White fixes the h4 weakness. It might restrict the movement of Black's pieces after ♙f2 and ♙e1, as we will see in the game.

14...b6 15.♙e2



15...♘b8? A very nice idea, but unfortunately for Black, White is ready to counter it. The move supports ♙a6 and intends to drive the knight to e4 through d7 and c5. [15...a5 should have been played, followed by ♙a6. 16.♙f2 ♖b8 17.♖fd1 ♙a6 with a playable position for both sides, but White's chances should probably be slightly preferable.]

16.♖fd1 ♙a6 17.♙e1 ♘d7



18.b4! White wants to play on the queenside with a4. Seirawan has definitely seen this when he played his 15th move, but probably he thought that he could make use of the c4 hole with the bishop.

18...♘f8 We can see now that the h4 weakness has annoyed Seirawan a lot, and he transfers his knight to g6. [18...♖c8 is met with 19.a4 ♔c7 (19...♙c4 20.♘cd4 is similar to the game.) 20.a5! The rook is going to penetrate on the a-file.]

19.a4 ♙c4 Otherwise, a5 would have been unpleasant.

20.♘cd4 ♔d7 21.b5! The knight on c6 becomes a beast.

21...♘g6 22.♘c6 ♔f8

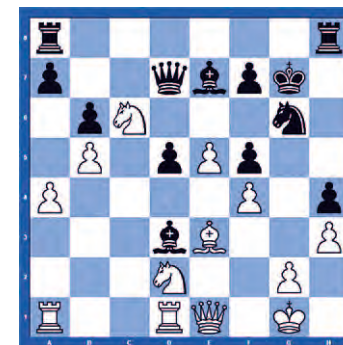


23.♘d2! Probably this was the whole concept that was missed, or at least underestimated by Black. He hoped that the c4 bishop would stop White's play on the queen-side, but actually the case is exactly the opposite. It becomes a target, which just supports White's plans.

23...♙d3 24.c4! Nakamura demonstrates with perfect play the deficiency of Black's strategy. The c6 knight is the key of the position, it paralyzes Black's pieces.

24...♔g7 [24...dxc4? 25.♘xc4 Black can not hold the pin.]

25.cxd5 exd5 [25...♔xd5 would have been met with 26.♘xe7 ♘xe7 27.♘f3 +-]



26.♘b1! Nice regrouping of the pieces, using the unfortunate situation of the bishop.

26...♙c4 [26...♙e4 27.♘c3 +-]

27.♔c3! Black can parry the double threat of ♔xc4 and e6.

27...♔e6 28.♘d2! And the bishop is trapped.

28...♖hc8 A tactical blunder in a hopeless position. The c8 square should have been preserved for the queen to retreat. [28...♔h7 29.♘xc4 dxc4 30.♖ac1 +- It is over. Black's main problem remains the same, the c6 knight neutralizes all hopes for counterplay.; 28...♙e2 29.♘d4 +-]

29.♘d4! ♔d7 30.e6! Black resigned! A nice victory by Nakamura, who completely deserved to win the US Championship. **1-0**

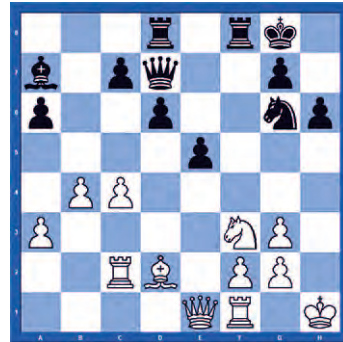
Puzzle section

(5) Dimitrijevic,I (2125) — Milanovic,D (2532)

Serbian Cup, 14.05.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

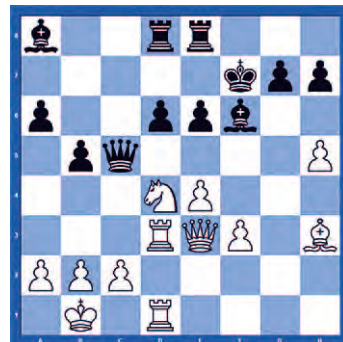


(6) Hagen,A (2445) — Maksimenko,A (2554)

Odense, 19.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-

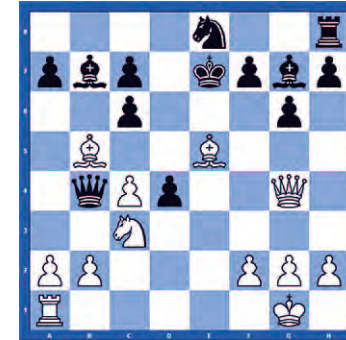


(7) Szabo,K (2540) — Fodor,T (2502)

Baia Mare, 21.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-



(8) Danielsen,H (2498) — Rusev,K (2525)

Odense, 20.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-

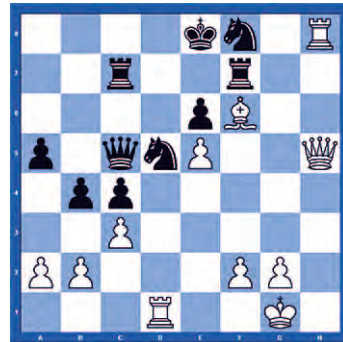


(9) Rogic,D (2577) — Zecevic,D (2275)

Croatian Cup, 19.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

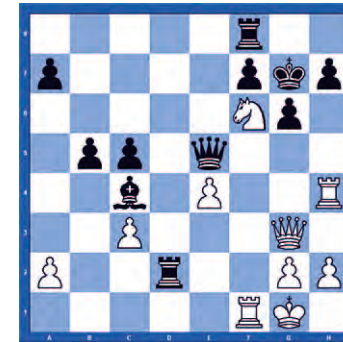


(11) Biolek,R (2412) — Bernasek,J (2476)

Czech Championship, 19.05.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

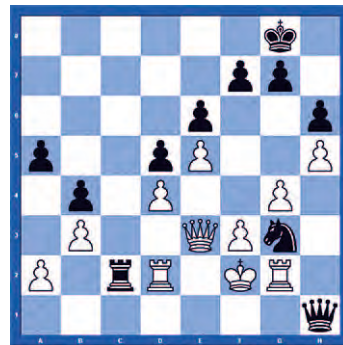


(10) Al Zendani,Z (2377) — Jumabayev,R (2556)

Asian Nations Cup, 19.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. -+

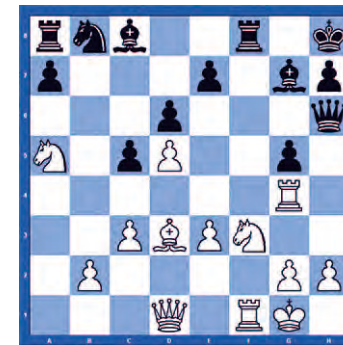


(12) Akobian,V (2625) — Ramirez,A (2593)

USA Championship, 16.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

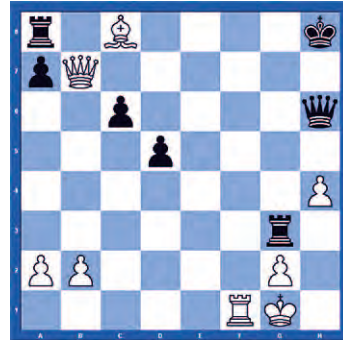


(13) Ramirez,A (2593) – Kaidanov,G (2594)

USA Championship, 15.05.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+



(14) Brkic,A (2569) – Cvitan,O (2541)

Croatian Cup, 17.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Seirawan,Y (2643) – Robson,R (2614) [A16]

ch-USA 2012 Saint Louis USA (6), 13.05.2012

[CE Team]



We are in a practical endgame, White is probably doing a bit better, but nothing more. During the next moves we can clearly see how fast things can change...

16... ♖xf3? In my opinion, a terrible mistake. Now White is doing clearly better. [16... ♖fe8! could have been the right move, with the idea of e5! After all the exchanges on e5, we would most probably reach a rook endgame which is just slightly better for White, but clearly a draw 17.a4 White's idea is, of course, to push a5 17...e5! forcing the major exchanges on e5 18. ♘xe5 ♘xe5 19.fxe5 ♖xe5 20. ♙xb7 ♖xb7 21.a5 ♖be7! White puts pressure on the b6 pawn, and Black on the e2 pawn. The position is close to a draw.; 16... ♖fd8 could have been another idea for Black, in order to play next ♘f8-Ne6 and f5! next. This is, as well, a typical structure of the pieces.]

17. ♙xf3 ♖fc8 This move is also hard to understand, it seems like Black has chosen a passive approach.

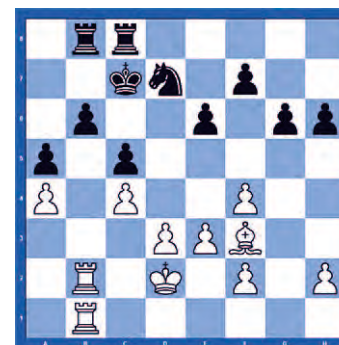
18. ♔g2 A solid move, but a waste of time. White could have immediately played ♖fb1–Kf1–e3–Ke2.

18...e6 19.a4 a5 Black continues to be ultra passive. After 19.. a5 Black's only chance to have some play is to get the knight to b4, but this is practically impossible.

20. ♖fb1! Good move. Black pieces ran out of moves now.

20... ♔f8 21. ♔f1 And White is back in the right path.

21... ♔e7 22. ♔e1 ♔d6 23. ♔d2 ♔c7 24.e3 h6



25.h4! There is no reason to give Black any counterplay with g5.

25... ♖g8 26. ♖g1 Blocking against the g5 move and threatening to play h5 eventually...

26...h5 Black is closing the only possible play they had, but the position remains, of course, very solid.

27.d4! Seirawan plays the endgame really good. He has nothing to fear now, the Black knight almost has no moves from d7, except to f6, where it's not well placed. The White pawns at f4 and h4 are going to look weak

now, but like the chess saying goes: „A weak pawn is a pawn that can be attacked”.

27...cxd4 Black is trying to protect himself against White's d5 move. After the exchange on d4, White will never be able to play d5 because of ♖c5, but some other ideas are coming ahead! [27...♖be8 28.d5! As we can see, the d5 move was really a powerful threat 28...e5 29.fxe5 ♖xe5 30.♕h1 with the idea of f4 and e4 next. Black's position is really bad.]

28.exd4 ♕d6 Now it is clear, White is going to play for the c5 push...

29.♖c3 ♖gc8 30.♖gb1 ♕e7 31.♖d3

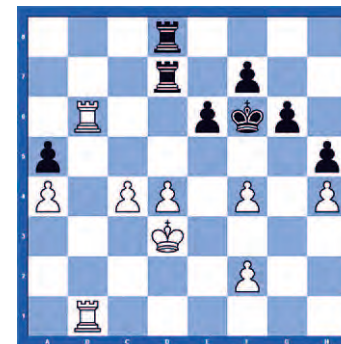


31...♖d8? This move is almost losing immediately. [Black should have continued what he started: a passive defence, and it is not easy at all to break through for White 31...♕d6 32.♖b5 (32.f5 White always has the idea of the f5 push, but it seems like it never works 32...gxf5 33.♕xh5 ♖h8 34.♕f3 ♖xh4 35.c5+ ♕c7! and the Black king protects the pawn on b6.) 32...♕e7 33.c5 (33.f5 This time f5 doesn't work for a different reason 33...gxf5 34.♕xh5 ♖h8 35.♕f3 ♖xh4 36.c5 e5! The White King on d3 is under check...; 33.♕e2 ♕d6 34.♕d2 ♕e7 35.c5 bxc5 36.♖xb8

♖xb8 37.♖xb8 ♕xb8 38.dxc5 ♕d7! and we can see again that White is clearly not in time) 33...bxc5 34.♖xb8 ♕xb8 35.dxc5 ♕a6 and Black saves the position thanks to the ONLY move ♕a6! Yes, Black is lucky, but as we can see, it is very hard to win a game if the opponent doesn't commit major mistakes. On the other hand, it is super difficult to just move ♕d6-Ke7 for the next 30 moves, and White might find a winning plan eventually. Maybe it could be to put the rook on h1 and then try to push f5!]

32.♕c6! And here comes the immediate punishment. Black is losing the b6 pawn, and the game.

32...♕f6 33.♕xd7 ♖xd7 34.♖xb6 ♖bd8



35.d5! Maybe the young Robson has blundered this move?!

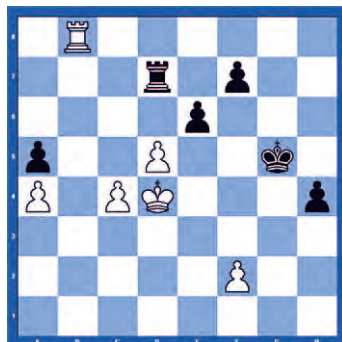
35...♕f5 36.♖b7! The most accurate. With one rook on the board, White's win is almost automatic.

36...♕xf4 37.♖xd7 ♖xd7 38.♕d4 White wants to play ♖b6.

38...g5 [In case of 38...♕g4 39.♕e5! is the winning move. 39...exd5 40.c5 ♕xh4 41.c6 ♖c7 42.♕d6 ♖xc6+ 43.♕xc6 d4 44.♕b5 +-]

39.hxg5 h4 40.♖b8! The best way to hold the free pawn on Black is to attack it from „behind“.

40...♔xg5



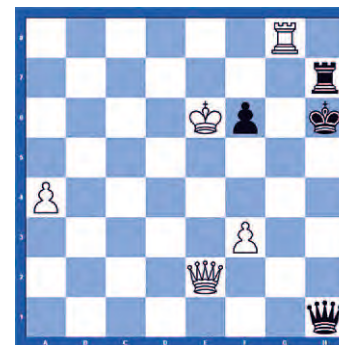
41.♔e5! another very strong move. The White king joins the action at the right moment — when the Black king is badly placed on g5.

41...exd5 42.♖g8+ ♔h5 43.cxd5 Black can not stop White's d-pawn from queening.

43...h3 44.d6 White combines the mating threats to the Black king with queening the d-pawn. Black is totally hopeless.

44...f6+ A desperation move.

45.♔e6 ♖h7 46.♖g1 [46.d7 would win as well, with a very nice „computer finish“ 46...h2 47.d8♖ h1♖ 48.♖xa5+ ♔h6 49.♖d2+ ♔h5 50.♖e2+ ♔h6



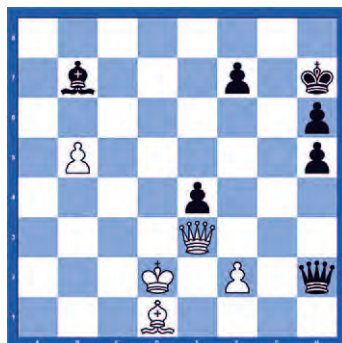
51.f3!! Of course, the position is winning anyway, but 51.f3 is just fantastic.]

46...♔h4 47.♖h1 ♔g4 48.d7 ♖h8 49.♔xf6 Really well played by Seirawan. From such instructive endgames we can learn a lot! **1-0**

(16) Acs,P (2587) – Horvath,Ad (2473)

Hungarian league, 20.05.2012

[Chess Evolution]



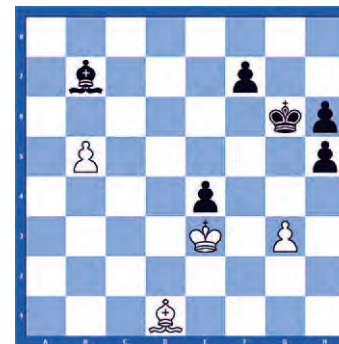
What would you think about this seemingly hopeless position? White is two pawns down and it is only Black who can create different kind of threats. However, the Hungarian GM held the draw, not even giving the smallest hope for his opponent to score. Let's see how could this happen!

42. ♖g3!! White transposes into a bishop endgame and, at the same time, improves his pawn structure.

42... ♜xg3 Black had no choice... [42... ♜h1 would be too passive 43. ♜f4 with an easy draw.]

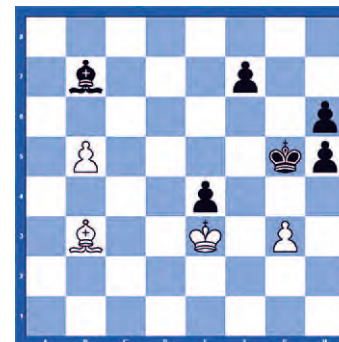
43. fxg3 White built up an excellent blockading position. The pawn on g3 stops the h- and the f-pawn, while the king goes to e3 or, if Black allows it, to f4. However the key factor is the pawn on b5, which allows White the relevant counterplay, to transfer his bishop to c6. All this facts make it possible for White to save the game with accurate play.

43... ♜g6 44. ♜e3



44... ♜g5 [After the game, GM Horvath told me that his original intention was to play 44...h4!? and by sacrificing one of the h-pawns, Black frees the path for the f-pawn 45.gxh4 ♜f5 The idea is ♜e5 and f5-f4, but Horvath realized his opponent's saving resource: 46. ♜h5!! The only move! (46. ♜b3 f6) 46...f6 (46... ♜e6 is met with 47. ♜f4 = We will see similar position later in the game.) 47. ♜e8! This is the point, White generates counterplay 47... ♜e6 (47... ♜e5 48. ♜c6! ♜xc6 49.bxc6 ♜d6 50. ♜xe4 ♜xc6 51. ♜f5 =) 48. ♜f4 (Of course not 48. ♜c6? ♜xc6 49.bxc6 f5) 48...f5 49. ♜g6 =]

45. ♜b3!

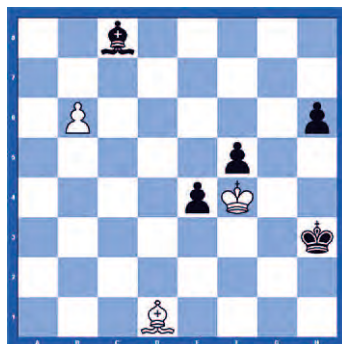


45...f5 Another important moment, where it is very easy to go wrong. [On 45...f6 White has enough time for the usual plan with 46. ♖e6 f5 (46...h4 47.gxh4+ ♔xh4 48.♗f4 h5 49.♕f5 =) 47. ♕d7! Only move, but good enough. 47... ♖g4 48.b6 and Black cannot make progress. 48...♗g5 49.♕e8 =]

46. ♕d1! Black cannot use his bishop to increase the advantage, since it must take care of the b-pawn, while in other cases, Black must allow the White king to occupy the f4 square. [The tempting 46. ♕e6? would lose after 46...h4! 47.gxh4+ ♔f6! and Black is in time to mobilize his passers in the center by putting his king to e5. 48.♕d7 ♖e5]

46...♗c8 Black protects the f5 pawn before pushing h4. [46...h4 47.gxh4+ ♔xh4 48.♗f4 ♖h3 49.♗xf5 ♖g3 50.b6 e3 51.♗g6 =]

47.b6 h4 48.gxh4+ ♔xh4 49.♗f4 ♖h3



50. ♕h5! e3 [50...♗g2 could have been the last try, but White is just in time 51.♕g6 ♖f2 52.♕xf5! e3 53.♕xc8! and the pawns promote at the same time. 53...e2 54.b7]

51. ♕f3 From now on, Black has no more chance to win...

51...♗a6 52.♕e2 ♗b7 53.♕f3 ♗c8 54.♗xe3 ♖g3 55.b7 f4+ 56.♗e2 ♗xb7 57.♕xb7 f3+ 58.♕xf3 h5 59.♕xh5 1/2

Clash of the Titans

(17) Alekhine,Alexander — Bogoljubow,Efim [E11]

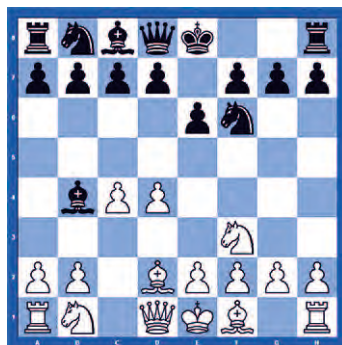
Budapest Budapest, 1921

[Balogh Csaba]

This week we'll study once again a heavyweight battle between Alexander Alekhine and Efim Bogoljubow. The players faced each other twice for the World Champion title, both times Alekhine came out victoriously, just as in our current game.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 e6 3.c4 ♙b4+ This is the so-called Bogoljubow Indian defense, which got its name after the Black player.

4.♙d2 Here Black has a wide choice of moves. 4...♙e7 is the mainline, but 4...a5, 4...c5 or the text move are also moves with huge theory.



4...♙xd2+ 5.♙xd2 d5 6.e3 0-0

7.♘c3 This setup is in its heydays, two 2700+ GMs play it frequently successfully nowadays. For whom is interested, I recommend to check Jobava and Vitiugov games.

7...♘bd7 [7...♙e7! is the right setup, and also how the mentioned experts are playing. The idea is ♙d8, and a quick dxc4 and c5. White has to work hard to prove some advantage.]

8.♙d3 This move is always questionable, since it allows dxc4 with a tempo. White usually makes some useful moves like ♖c1 before developing the bishop. [Anatoly Karpov won a nice „squeezing game” against Andersson in 1984 with his usual style: 8.cxd5 exd5 9.♙d3 ♙e8 10.0-0 ♘e4 11.♙c2 ♘df6 12.b4 White launches a minority attack to create weaknesses on the queenside 12...c6 13.♘e5 ♙f5 14.♘a4 g6 15.♙b2 a6 16.♖fc1 ♙e7 17.♘c5 ♘xc5 18.bxc5 ♙xd3 19.♘xd3 += and Karpov got a small but stable advantage, which he converted in 84 moves. First, he transferred his king to a1, then started to move with his kingside pawns, which were supported by his heavy pieces, then as usual, he preferred to bring back his king to g1 :, and slowly but surely brought home the full point.]

8...c6 [8...dxc4 9.♙xc4 c5 would have been logical after 8.♙d3, with the idea of ♘b6 and cxd4.]

9.0-0 Black must do something in the center, otherwise e4 arrives, which guarantees a small advantage for White.

9...dxc4 10.♙xc4 e5! Excellent reaction by Bogoljubow based on a small tactical trick.

11.♙b3 Typical reaction. Black's idea is to take exd4, and on exd4, create a blockade on the d5 square with ♘b6. White is moving out from this tempo. [On 11.dxe5 ♘xe5! was Black's idea, with equality.]

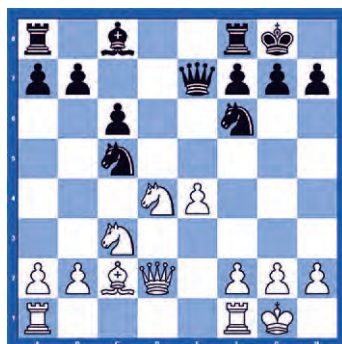
11...♔e7? [11...exd4 should have been played anyway 12.exd4 ♘b6 13.♖fe1! followed by ♘e5 with some initiative for White, although the position is playable for both sides.]



12.e4! Excellently played! But the move had to be calculated precisely. Black must accept the challenge and needs to go for the complications, otherwise, he cannot develop his pieces.

12...exd4 13.♘xd4 ♘c5 [After 13...♘xe4? 14.♔e3 Black loses a piece due to the pin.]

14.♙c2



14...♖d8 This was the critical line. At first sight, White can hardly handle this pin, since he cannot escape with 15.♔e3, because of ♘g4. However Alekhine has pre-

pared his next move and evaluated the consequences perfectly! [The pawn on e4 is indirectly protected in the same way 14...♘fxe4? 15.♘xe4 ♘xe4 16.♔e3 f5 17.f3 +-]

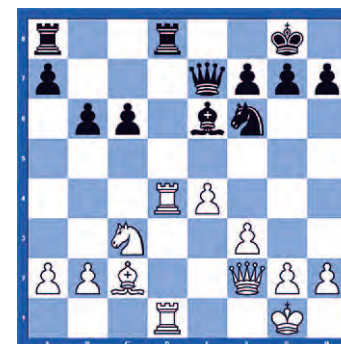
15.♖ad1! ♙g4 Bogoljubow is aiming to finish his development, but this gives enough time for White to consolidate his center, which secures an advantage. [On 15...♘e6 White has 16.♘f5! and the queen is hanging with check! 16...♔c7 17.♔e3 +/- with a clear advantage.]

16.f3 ♘e6 This was the point behind the previous move, but White keeps his calmness.

17.♖f2! There is a hidden weakness in Black's camp, the small a7 pawn. Black cannot take control over the d-file, because this pawn is hanging.

17...♘xd4 18.♖xd4 ♙e6 [18...♖xd4 19.♔xd4 ♖d8 20.♔xa7! Black must waste an important tempo on protecting this guy.]

19.♖fd1 b6 White got enough time to control the d-file. Black has no chance to change all the heavy pieces, which could give him real hopes for the draw. This is all very nice, but how to improve on White's position? Alekhine shows us!



20.h3! +/- Another excellent move, White prepares for f4 and prevents the ♘g4 ideas. If White manages to mobilize his central pawns, they can very quickly decide the game, as we will see in the present case. From Black's point of view, the big problem is that he cannot do anything against it, he must wait and watch how the pawns swap him away.

20...c5 21.♖4d2! Of course, White must keep the d-file under control! This was the only way to do that.

21...♖xd2 22.♔xd2 c4 It is very hard to suggest something clever for Black.

23.f4! Now e5, and when the knight moves, f5 comes with concrete threats.

23...g6 Black tries to prevent the f5 push, but he only manages to do it temporarily.

24.♔d4! Centralizing the queen, Black is in a kind of zugzwang anyway.

24...♖c8 Tries to ease his suffering with ♔c5.



25.g4!! It is practically over! The pawn-storm decides the outcome of the game. Bogoljubow tries a desperate sac-

rifice, but of course, against Alekhine, it is not a serious try.

25...♗xg4 [25...♔c5 does not help, because of 26.f5 ♗d7 27.♔xc5 ♖xc5 28.g5 +- winning a piece.]

26.hxg4 ♘xg4 27.♔g2! The easiest, in order to meet ♔h4 with ♖h1.

27...h5 28.♘d5 ♔h4 29.♖h1 ♔d8 30.♗d1 A real positional masterpiece by Alekhine, who clearly showed that, despite being considered a brilliant tactician player, his positional strength was also outstanding! **1-0**

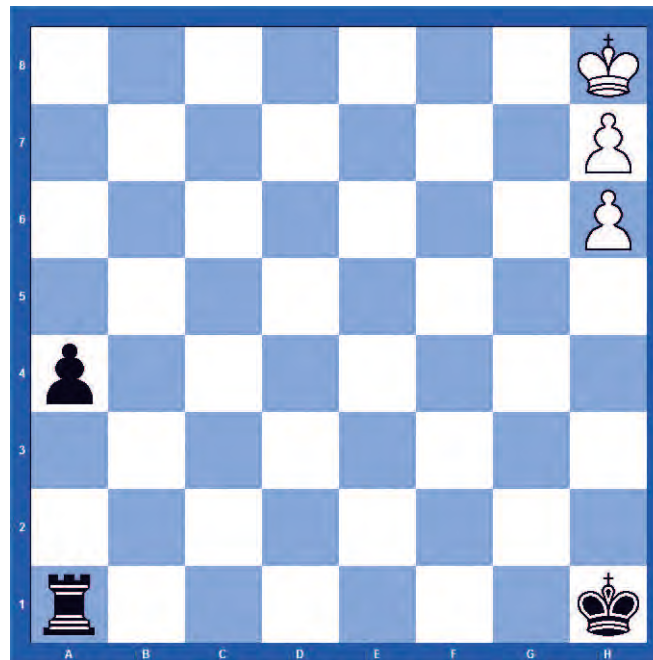
Surprise section / study

(18) Kurjatnikov,A

1965

[CEWN]

1. +-

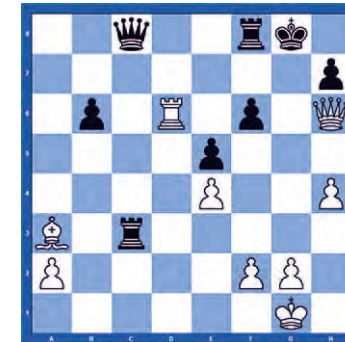


Solutions

(19) Cordova,E (2566) – Papin,V (2570)

Capablanca memorial B, 07.05.2012

[Solutions]

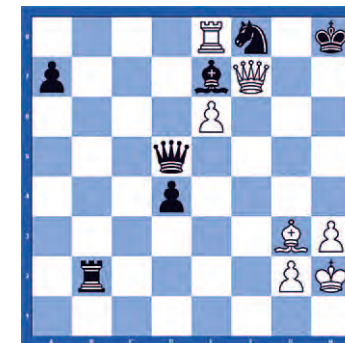


33. ♖d7 1-0 [33. ♖d7 ♔xd7 34. ♔xf8#]

(20) Kamsky,G (2741) – Onischuk,A (2660)

USA Championship, 10.05.2012

[Solutions]



45. ♖xf8+! ♙xf8 46. ♔xf8+ ♔h7 47. ♔f7+ ♔h8
48. ♔e8+! 1-0 [48. ♔e8+ ♔h7 49. ♔d7+! ♔xd7 50. exd7+-]

(21) Navara,D (2706) – Lechtynsky,J (2382)

Czech Championship, 13.05.2012

[Solutions]

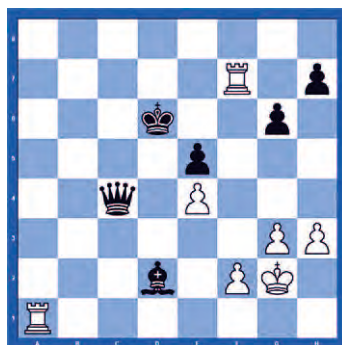


30. ♖a7! ♜xa7 [30... ♛c8 31. ♛a2 ♜xa7 32. ♛xa7+-]
31. ♞d8+! ♚e8 32. ♞xb7+- ♜xb7 33. g3! g5 34. h4! ♙e7
 [34... h6 35. hxg5 hxg5 36. ♚h2 ♙e7 37. ♙h3+-] **35. hxg5**
♙xg5 36. ♙c5! ♙e7 [36... dxc5 37. ♛xe5+-] **37. gxf4**
dxc5 38. ♛xe5 ♜b6 39. ♛xc7+-

(22) Predojevic,B (2637) – Kovacevic,A (2557)

Sarajevo, 10.05.2012

[Solutions]

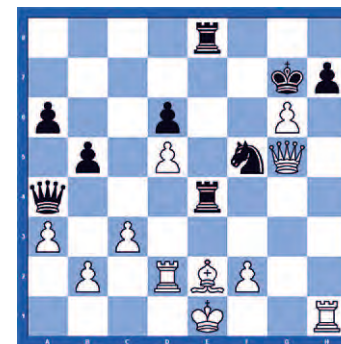


42. ♜a6+ 1-0[42. ♜a6+ ♛xa6 (42... ♚c5 43. ♜c7+-)
 43. ♜f6+-]

(23) Lajthajm,B (2493) – Kozul,Z (2593)

Sarajevo, 11.05.2012

[Solutions]



30... ♜xe2+! 31. ♜xe2 ♜xe2+ 32. ♚xe2 ♛e4+! 33. ♚d2
♛xd5+! 34. ♚c2 [34. ♚c1 ♛xh1+-+] **34... ♞d4+! 35. cxd4**
♛xg5-+

(24) Xiu Deshun (2494) – Lu Shanglei (2522)

Asian Continental Championship, 09.05.2012

[Solutions]



26...♖xd3! 27.♔xd3 ♘xg3! 0-1[27...♘xg3 28.♔xg3 (28. hxg3 ♔xf2+-) 28...♘e2+-]

(25) Wen Yang (2550) – Dao Thien Hai (2514)

Asian Continental Championship, 11.05.2012

[Solutions]

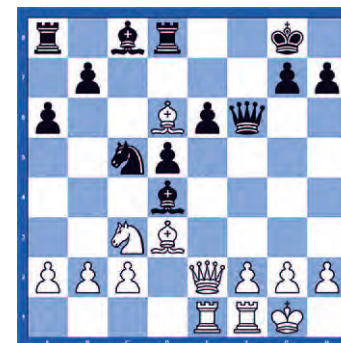


33.♘xh6+! ♔g7 [33...♔xh6 34.♔xf7+ ♔h8 35.♔g8#]
34.♔xf6+ ♔xf6 35.♘xf7+-

(26) Ibarra Jerez,JC (2523) – Larino Nieto,D (2469)

Salou Open, 10.05.2012

[Solutions]

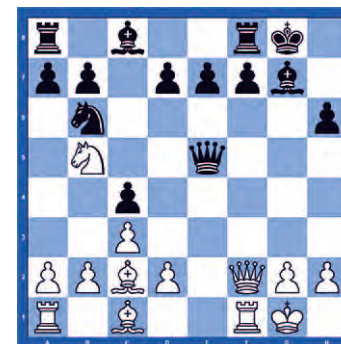


16.♘xd5! ♔g5 [16...exd5 17.♙e7 ♖e8 (17...♔b6 18.♙xd8 ♔xd8 19.♙xh7+! ♙f8 (19...♙xh7 20.♔h5+ ♔g8 21.♖e8+-) 20.♙g6+-) 18.♙xf6 ♖xe2 19.♙xd4 ♖xe1 20.♖xe1 ♘xd3 21.cxd3±] **17.♘e7+ ♔h8 18.h4!** 1-0[18. h4! ♔xh4 19.♘f5! exf5 (19...♔f6 20.♙e7+-) 20.♔e8+ ♖xe8 21.♖xe8#; 18.♘xc8+-]

(27) Kislinsky,A (2532) – Voloshin,L (2434)

Czech Championship, 14.05.2012

[Solutions]



17.♘c7! ♖b8 [17...♔xc7 18.♔f5+-] **18.♘e8!** [18.d4! cxd3 19.♙xd3±] **18...d6 19.♘g7 ♔xg7 20.d3 f5** [20...cxd3 21.♙xd3±] **21.dxc4 e5 22.c5 dxc5 23.♙e3+-**

(28) Stojanovic,Da (2485) – Sutkovic,D (2357)

Saraevo, 11.05.2012

[Solutions]



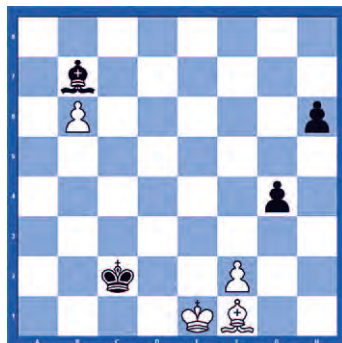
18. ♔h6!! ♕xc2+ 19. ♖xc2 ♘f5+ 20. ♙d3! gxh6
21. ♙xf5 hxg5 22. ♖de1! ♖fe8 23. ♖e3 [23. ♙xc5 dxc5
24. ♙d7+-] 23... ♖f8 24. ♖h3+-

h3 6.f8Q h2 7. ♕f5+ ♖b2 8. ♕e5+ ♖b1 9. ♕b5+! ♔a1
10. ♕a5+ ♖b1 11. ♕b4+ ♔a1 12. ♕d4+ ♖b1 13. ♕d1+
♖b2 14. ♕d2+ ♖b1 15. ♕xg2+- 1-0

(29) Weenink,H

1918

[Solutions]



1. ♙g2!! ♙xg2 2.f4!! g3 [2...gxf3 3. ♖f2!+-; 2...h5 3.f5
h4 4.f6 h3 5. ♖f2! ♙d5 6. ♖g3+-] 3.f5 h5 4.f6 h4 5.f7



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 14

1st of June 2012

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Editorial Preface

The World Championship has finished with a dramatic rapid tie-break. The score after the normal games was 6–6. So, 4 games of rapid with the time control of 25 minutes, with additional 10 seconds per move, have decided the title. Vishy Anand won the match with a score of 2.5–1.5 and retained his crown! We must admit that Gelfand dominated through the whole tie-break. He always had the upper hand in the games, but being short on time, missed his chances. Anand used the mistakes of his opponent in the time trouble extremely well, and managed both to win a drawn endgame and to save lost and clearly worse positions.

Congratulations for both players. I am sure that in the next few months they will not even look at a chessboard, and will enjoy their well-deserved vacations.

In the current CEWN, our special guest GM Georg Meier, has analyzed his fine positional victory over Sergei Tiviakov, which he needed to win the very strong rapid tournament in Pfaffikon.

There is a real “pearl” in the puzzle section this week, please pay attention to the game Chighlidze-Lomsadze, where Black won after a beautiful combination.

We wish you lots of fun with the 14th edition of the CEWN!

*Arkadij Naiditsch
Balogh Csaba*

4 best games of the past week

(1) Gelfand,B (2727)
— Anand,V (2791) [E54]

WCC Moscow 2012 (9), 23.05.2012

[Naiditsch Arkadij]

1.d4 [It's interesting that we can get the game's position from a completely different line as well 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e6 6.♘f3 ♙b4 7.♙d3 dxc4 8.♙xc4 0-0 9.0-0 b6 This is the Caro-Kann „Panov” move order.]

1...♘f6 Anand is changing his opening, no more Slavs. Is it because he lost the previous Black game or just because he had enough of defending slightly worse positions?!

2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.e3 The starting position of the Nimzo with 4.e3. A very complex opening with a lot of different setups for both sides. If there is a huge preparation behind it — and Gelfand definitely did it — it is a very dangerous weapon.

4...0-0 5.♙d3 [5.♘ge2 is the other option.]

5...d5 6.♘f3 c5 7.0-0 Thousands of games have been played here and we still don't know if White is better or not... This time it is Black's turn to decide which continuation to choose.

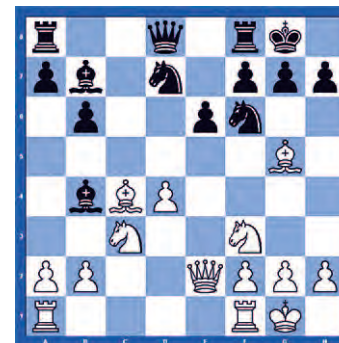
7...dxc4 [7...♘c6 is the most popular line at the moment.]

8.♙xc4 cxd4 9.exd4 b6 Until now both players have been playing very quickly. This position is very well

known and has been analyzed and played by almost all the Top players.

10.♙g5 ♙b7 White has many possibilities. All are similar, many of them lead only to transpositions. For example, most often we get the game's position from the 11.♖c1 ♘bd7 12.♚e2 move order.

11.♚e2!? ♘bd7 [I think 11...♙xc3!? should be the main line for Black. In comparison to the game, Black does not include the ♖c8-Rc1 moves — which I think should favor him 12.bxc3 ♘bd7 13.♙d3 ♚c7 14.c4 h6 15.♙d2 ♘g4! A very typical idea that can be seen in many lines. It forces White to make an unpleasant decision. Either he must weaken the long diagonal with g3, or exchange his strong light-squared bishop 16.♙e4 ♙xe4 17.♚xe4 ♘gf6 with an equal position in Giri-Nakamura Dortmund 2011.]



12.♖ac1! Very quickly played by Gelfand. I think it is a very good move. Black now has to count on 12...♙xc3 13.♖xc3! and suddenly the position could become dangerous. White can continue with ♘e5 followed by ♖g3. Another thing, Black has no ♚c7 so he needs to lose time for ♖c8 — which clearly is not the best move here.

12...♖c8 13.♗d3 General ideas: White is planning to play on the kingside by playing ♘e5 next and searching for tactical blows. Black has 2 major ideas, either to make a blockade on d5 or to play ♗xc3 and then try to create pressure against the central pawns, or to break them with an e5 push.

13...♗xc3 Anand chose the latter idea.

14.bxc3 ♖c7 15.c4 We reached a standard pawn structure. White got the center and the bishop pair, on the other hand Black would like to make holes in it with e5. In general, such structures are evaluated as a bit better for White but it is very difficult to increase the advantage. Black's position is stable, always ready for counterplay.



15...♗xf3? It is very hard to explain this move... Maybe the World Champion missed that he has no e5 in the next move? We will never know. One thing is for sure, this is a move with a „don't try it at home" sign! [15...♖d6; 15...♖c6 Both moves would give Black a normal game.]

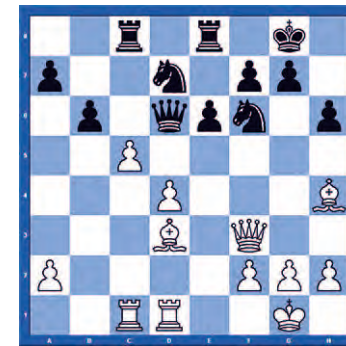
16.♖xf3 ♖fe8 Probably now Anand realized that after [16...e5 17.♗f5! is not the most difficult move to blunder — winning the exchange 17...exd4 (17...♖ce8 18.♖g3 and

all the pieces are pinned.) 18.♗xf6 ♘xf6 19.♗xc8 ♖xc8 20.♖fd1 +/- and Black can hold only by miracle!]

17.♖fd1 White got the bishop pair and very pleasant play. The Black knights are getting nicely blocked by White's center and the move e5 almost never works.

17...h6 18.♗h4 ♖d6 So we have probably reached „the critical" position of the game.

19.c5? In my opinion, a big mistake! Gelfand is going for the queen which guarantees him the possibility of „torturing" Anand for the next 30 moves, with no real winning chances. [19.♗g3 would have been the right choice here 19...♖e7 20.♖e1 No reason to give Black any hopes for e5. White's next move could be ♖cd1, then maybe h4-h5 and ♗h4 back. White should not hurry with anything and enjoy the position. Black has basically no idea how to improve and is forced to wait for White's actions.]



19...bxc5! Only move, still it deserved the !. You can have my queen, Anand says it with pleasure :).

20.dxc5 ♖xc5 21.♗h7+ ♖xh7 22.♖xd6 ♖xc1+ 23.♖d1 So White is a queen up, but of course it is easy to see that Black got very good chances for a fortress. Idea of Black:

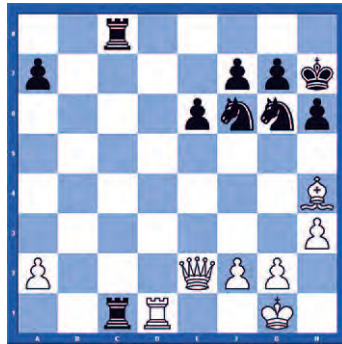
to exchange one rook, to exchange one knight for the bishop, then to put the knight on d5 and the rook on c7, which should guarantee a draw. Ideas of White: the major goal is to keep the bishop of h4 alive. In case it is possible, Black will have big problems defending the pawn a7; with both knights on the board, only one of them can occupy the square d5.

23...♖ec8 Of course no need to hurry with ♖xd1.

24.h3 White needs to make the first rank safer.

24...♞e5! Following the main goal, the exchange of the bishop on h4.

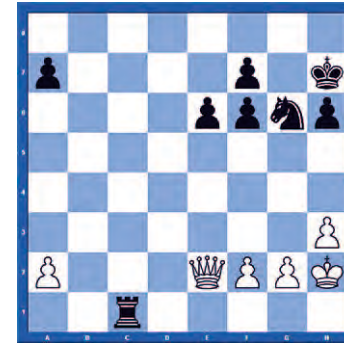
25.♞e2 ♞g6! White can not keep the bishop on the board.



26.♙xf6 [26.♙g3 ♞e4! The bishop is going to be taken!]

26...gxf6 27.♖xc1 ♖xc1+ 28.♙h2 If the Black pawn was on g7, both players would agree to a draw, but with a damaged pawn structure, White is getting some chances. Besides, the Black knight hasn't arrived to d5, so White has a few „free“ moves to try to prevent it. Another relevant fortress idea could be a setup, when Black plays a5

and puts his rook on d5. It would be impossible to break through.



28...♖c7! The fortress with a5 would cost that pawn after ♞b5, so Black protects the pawn and the 7th rank.

29.♞b2 ♙g7 30.a4 Sooner or later, White needs to push his pawn to a6 to tie Black pieces. [30.♞b8!? was a tricky idea 30...♖d7 31.♞c8! trying to force the rook to e7, and after 31...♖e7 White plays (31...♖d5! Here comes the other fortress idea. Black wants to push a5 to secure the draw. 32.♞a6 is the only way to avoid it, but now 32...♖d7 and the knight is heading to d5 again.) 32.g3! taking away the f4 square which could bring the knight to d5, while the other route, through e7, is also blocked 32...f5 33.h4 ♞f8 34.♙g2 ♖d7 35.a4 ♖e7 36.a5 ♖d7 37.a6 ♖e7 Even if this position is a draw — and probably it is — it is clearly better for White to have the Black knight on f8 instead of on d5.]

30...♞e7! The knight is heading to its ideal position!

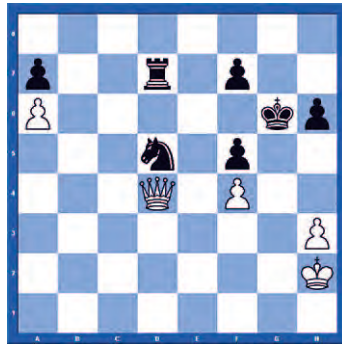
31.a5 ♞d5 32.a6 Of course, pawn on a6 is standing very good. White got now the idea of ♞b7, but at the moment this idea brings nothing for White, since Black can simply start passing with the king on g7-g8.

32...♔h7 Black is asking White „do you want to play g4?“

33.♚d4 I think this is an absolutely correct try from White, seems like after 33.g4 Black holds the draw by „doing nothing“. [33.g4 ♖g7 34.♚g3 ♔h7 35.♚h4 The only plan for White is to go with the king to h5 and attack the h6 pawn. (35.h4 ♖c3+ 36.f3 ♖c7 37.f4 ♖c3+ 38.♚f2 ♖c7 and again White can not break through.) 35...♖c3! 36.♚b7 ♔g7 with a deadly threat: ♜f4.]

33...f5 Black puts the pawn on f5. Why? Very simple reason: the exchange of all the pawns brings Black closer to a draw, and now White has no other idea to win than to play g4, which would mean the exchange of one pawn.

34.f4 ♖d7 35.♚g3 [35.g4!? would have been a better try to win the game 35...♚g6! Probably the only move (35...fxg4 36.hxg4 ♔g8 37.♚g3 ♖c7 38.f5 and maybe White has some chances to win the game) 36.♚g3 (36.gxf5+ exf5!



followed by the next move ♜f6, here White is hopeless, the position is a draw) 36...♜f6! and probably also here White can not reach anything better than a draw. The Black pieces are too stable.]

35...♔g6 36.♚h8 ♜f6 37.♚b8 h5! Black prevented the g4 option forever.

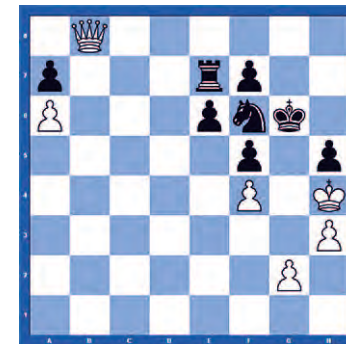
38.♔h4 ♔h6 As we will see further in the game, Anand has switched to 38...♖e7 which gives a draw as well.

39.♚b2 [39.g4 hxg4 40.hxg4 ♜xg4 41.♚h8+ ♔g6 42.♚g8+ ♔h6 is just a draw.]

39...♔g6 40.♚c3 ♜e4 The time trouble is over, Gelfand had a long thought here, tried to find a winning plan, but there is no objective chance to score.

41.♚c8 [It was not too late to lose the game by playing 41.♚f3 ♜f6 42.♚g3+ ♔h7 43.♚g5 and it seems like White is winning the h-pawn — this is correct, but by losing the h-pawn, the White king gets into a mating net! 43...♜e4! 44.♚xh5+ ♔g7 and White cannot do anything against ♖d8-Rh8! Black is winning.]

41...♜f6 42.♚b8 ♖e7 Of course 42...♔h6 would lead to a draw as well.



43.g4 The last try.

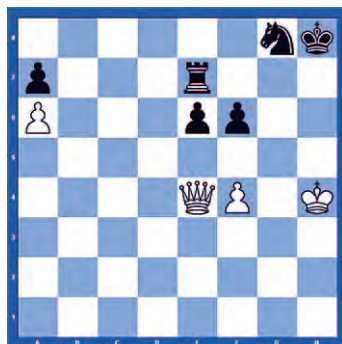
43...hxg4 44.hxg4 fxg4 [Of course not 44...♜xg4? because of 45.♚g8+ ♔h6 46.♚g5+ ♔h7 47.♚xe7]

45. ♔e5 At first sight it seems to be dangerous, but Anand prepared the cold blooded

45... ♘g8! [The active 45... ♘d5? loses to 46. ♔g5+ ♕h7 47.f5! exf5 48. ♔xf5+ and the knight on d5 falls.]

46. ♔g5+ ♕h7 47. ♔xg4 f6 Another precise move leaving White with no hopes.

48. ♔g2 ♕h8 49. ♔e4



49... ♕g7 An interesting game! Objectively judging the game, the move 19.c5? gave out the advantage, but it gave us a very instructive example on how well can the R+N cooperate in endgames to create fortresses! **1/2**

(2) Nguyen Ngoc Trungson (2656) – Harikrishna,P (2693)

Asian Nations Cup ZaoZhuang, China, 24.05.2012

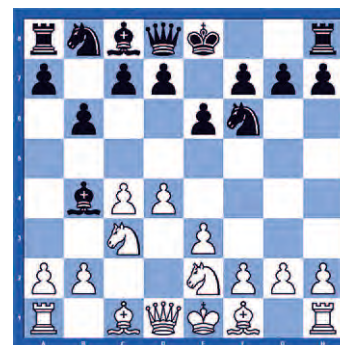
[Balogh Csaba]

An impressive win in the Asian Nations Cup! Black probably mixed up something in his preparation and got into deep trouble right after the opening.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♘c3 ♙b4 4.e3 The Nimzo with 4.e3 is getting really popular again. Probably the fact that Gelfand obtained an advantage with it in two games against Anand in the WCC match will also improve the opening's popularity.

4...b6 [4...0-0 and; 4...c5 are more common moves.]

5. ♘ge2



5... ♙a6 This is the old main line. Probably Harikrishna wanted to surprise his opponent, but White was prepared perfectly for it. [However recently, if somebody plays 4... b6 it usually continues with 5...c5 6.a3 ♙a5 7. ♖b1 ♘a6 with very sharp lines to follow.]

6.♘g3 [6.a3 is the other way to handle the position in order to keep a healthy pawn structure.]

6...♙xc3+ 7.bxc3 d5 This is Black's idea! Otherwise the move ♙a6 loses its point. Black had to take on c3 before playing this move, because of the check on a4. Fischer played a few games on the 60s with this setup.

8.♙a3! The young Vietnamese GM knows the theory well. White prevents 0-0. [There was a giant game on move 8.♙f3 0-0 9.e4 dxe4 10.♘xe4 ♘xe4 11.♙xe4 in this moment, Fischer came up with a fantastic idea. 11...♙d7!! Prepares for the ♘c6-a5 maneuver, launching an immediate attack against the weak doubled pawns. White has a chance to obtain 2 rooks for the queen, but in this case as well, the weakness of the queenside pawns will tell 12.♙a3 ♖e8 13.♙d3 Developing and forcing some weaknesses before taking the rooks 13...f5 14.♙xa8 ♘c6 15.♙xe8+ ♙xe8 16.0-0 ♘a5! This is the point, White loses a pawn and in addition, the black knight is going to dominate the a3 bishop 17.♖ae1 ♙xc4 18.♙xc4 ♘xc4 and Black won later in the game Portisch-Fischer, Santa Monica 1966]

8...♙xc4 9.♙xc4 dxc4



10.e4! White tries to make use of the fact that the Black king is still stuck in the center. [White could have taken back the pawn, but this would give enough time for Black to solve his opening problems 10.♙a4+ ♙d7 11.♙xc4 ♙c6 White has to exchange the queens and the end-game is about even.]

10...♙d7 Black wants to castle queenside, and also would like to keep his extra pawn on c4. We are still in theory.

11.0-0 ♙c6? This is a terrible novelty, which just helps White to initiate an attack against the king. [11...♘c6?! is less exact, because of 12.♙e2 ♘a5 13.♙b4 when White is going to win back the pawn and enjoy a comfortable advantage due to his superior pawn formation.; 11...♙b5! is definitely the right move, with the idea of ♘c6 and 0-0-0. White must act quickly here with 12.e5! ♘d5 13.♙g4 creating holes in Black's camp, and the knight could use them from e4 13...g6 14.♘e4 ♘d7 15.♙c1! h6 16.a4 with a complex position. I personally prefer White's position. I think this is more than enough compensation for the pawn.]

12.d5! Of course, White opens the position with tempo.

12...♙b5 White has to play energetically, otherwise after ♘bd7 and 0-0-0 Black enjoys a pawn up. [12...exd5? would be too optimistic to open the e-file 13.exd5 ♙xd5 14.♙e2+ ♙e6 15.♙f3 +- Rooks are joining the game with a winning attack.]

13.dxe6 fxe6



14.e5! The amount of pawns does not count now! White has to open the lines at any cost! Unfortunately for Black, he must cooperate with his opponent because against any moves with the knight, ♔g4 is decisive.

14...♔xe5 [14...♘d5 15.♔g4 +/-]

15.♖e1 ♔d5 Black defends well, but his mistake in the 11th move was too grave. White cruelly punishes him for that.

16.♔e2! Of course, White needs the queens for the attack.

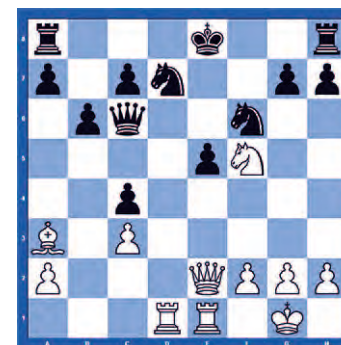
16...♘bd7 [The logical 16...♔f7 is met with 17.♖ad1 ♔c6 18.♖d4! is the „key“, which is necessary for the advantage. White brings another piece into the attack 18...b5 (18...♖e8 19.♖xc4 ♔b7 20.♘e4! +/-)]



19.♘e4! ♘xe4 20.♖xe4 ♖e8 and here White gets the opportunity for a nice finish with 21.♔f3+ ♔g8 22.♖xe6! +- with mate on f8.]

17.♖ad1 ♔c6 18.♘f5! White creates many different threats (Nxc7, ♘d4, ♘e7) using the fact that Black has no 0-0-0, due to ♘e7. [18.♔xe6+ ♔xe6 19.♖xe6+ ♔d8 20.♘f5 +/- is also very good, but why to exchange queens?!]

18...e5 [On 18...♔f7 19.♘e7 +/- is the strongest. Black can not hold the e6 pawn.]



19.g4!! A fantastic move, with a double threat, that Black cannot prevent! The obvious threat is g5 and the knight has no good square to escape, while the hidden idea becomes clear in the 19...h6 line.

19...♔f7 [19...h6 20.♔xe5+!! great queen sacrifice! 20...♘xe5 21.♖xe5+ ♔f7 22.♖e7+ +- followed by ♖xc7 mate. Thanks to the excellent 19.g4!!, the knight on f5 is protected.]

20.g5 ♖he8 Black preferred to give up the piece, which is basically equal to resignation. [20...♘d5 21.♔f3 +/-; 20...♘g8 21.♖xd7+ ♔xd7 22.♔xe5 +/-]

21.gxf6 ♖xf6 Black has 3 pawns for the piece, but his pawns are weak and White pieces are standing perfectly.

22.♖e3 b5 23.♖g4 ♖xg4 24.♔xg4 ♖e6 25.♔e4 White simplifies the position to a winning endgame. From now on, all the moves are winning, Black just continues playing on, because in a team tournament it is especially a bad feeling to resign a game...

25...♔xe4 26.♖xe4 ♖a6 27.♙c5 ♔f6 28.a3 ♔f5 29.f3 ♖g6+ 30.♔f2 c6 31.♖d7 a5 32.♖f7+ ♖f6 33.♖xg7 b4 34.cxb4 axb4 35.♙xb4 c5 36.♙c3 ♖e6 37.♖xc4 ♖xa3 38.♖xh7 ♖a2+ 39.♔e3 ♔g6 40.♖hh4 ♔g5 41.♖h8 Finally Black resigned. A nice attacking game, I especially liked the 19.g4 move with the idea of ♔xe5. **1-0**

**(3) Korobov,A (2678)
– Socko,B (2635)**

Lublin, 26.05.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

A really high-level performance by the Ukrainian GM with the White pieces.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 Black chose the Queen's gambit accepted and White reacts with the most aggressive move.

3.e4 e5 The most forcing line. Other possibilities like 3... ♖f6 or 3... ♖c6 are also playable. Black can choose his setup according to his style.

4.♖f3 Theory is developing very quickly recently, due to the arising sharp positions, where the computers are coming up with many new ideas.

4...♙b4+ [4...exd4 is the mainline. It's interesting that Socko won a nice game with this just a few weeks ago, and now he deviates from that game.]

5.♙d2 ♙xd2+ 6.♔xd2 A sideline compared to the main 6. ♖bxd2. The move was considered to be harmless, but maybe after the present game, it will be time to take it seriously.

6...exd4 7.♖xd4 ♔e7 Black could have started with 7... ♖f6, the difference will be only in the move order.

8.♖c3 ♖f6

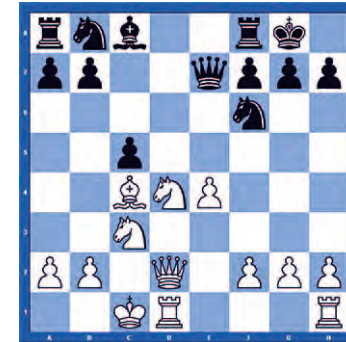


9.0-0-0 and this is the novelty! I must say, a very logical one. [In the previous game, between two great players, White played much more carefully with 9.f3 0-0 10.♙xc4 c5! (10...♖d8 is a mistake! Seems like Black pins the queen, but after 11.0-0-0! it is not easy at all to avoid the ♘f5 threat. Suddenly Black finds himself in a pin.) 11.♘de2! The knight is heading to the weakened d5 square, but Black has an important resource to parry the threat 11...♖d8 12.♙e3 ♙e6! and after 13.♙xe6 fxe6! 14.0-0 ♘c6 15.♖ad1 b6 with a more or less even position in Andersson-Seirawan, Tilburg 1990.]

9...0-0 10.♙xc4 This is the point! White does not waste time on defending the e4 pawn and wants to rush Black in the center with ♖he1 and e5. It is very unpleasant to face such a novelty. Taking on e4 looks very suspicious and also the opponent might have prepared something. This is how Socko was probably thinking, and decided to avoid complications.

10...c5 [However, after analyzing the position, I came to the conclusion, that the only way to fight for equality was in taking the „poisoned” pawn. 10...♘xe4! White has two options: 11.♙e3 (On 11.♘d5 Black must react precisely with 11...♙h4! (After 11...♙c5 12.♙c2 Black is in deep

trouble. The threat is b4 and the knight is hanging on e4.) 12.♙e3 (12.♙e1 ♘d6! Black can sacrifice an exchange 13.♘xc7 ♘xc4 14.♘xa8 ♘c6 15.♘xc6 ♙h6+! This is the key! 16.♙b1 ♙xc6 and the knight is trapped in the corner.) 12...♘xf2 and Black is fine.) 11...♙c5! Another only move 12.♙xf7+ ♖xf7 13.♙xe4 ♘a6 and the position seems to be around even, but of course, without the computer, it is very hard to find these moves.]



11.♘db5! Thanks to 0-0-0, White supports the invasion on the d-file with his rook. A positional threat could be ♙d6, transposing to a better endgame. White had to evaluate the consequences well since the move might meet with a quick a6-b5 attack, when all the moves are coming with tempo.

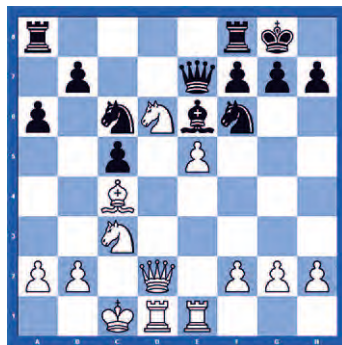
11...a6 [On 11...♘c6 the most accurate is 12.♖he1! ♘e5 13.♙e2 and ♙d6 is coming in the next move, even after 13...a6, with a clear advantage for White.]

12.♘d6 ♘c6 Black also tries to use his d4 square. [12...b5 does not work 13.♙xf7+ ♖xf7 14.♘xc8 +/-]

13.♖he1! Very well played! Black has no good way to prevent e5, after which his position might immediately collapse if he doesn't find something clever now.

13...♙e6 The best chance, but it does not solve the problems. [13...♖d8 is punished elegantly by 14.e5! ♘xe5 15.♖xe5! ♙xe5 16.♘xf7 +/- winning material.; 13...♘e5 just temporarily stops e5, because after 14.♙b3 White is going to push f4-e5 with tempo.]

14.e5

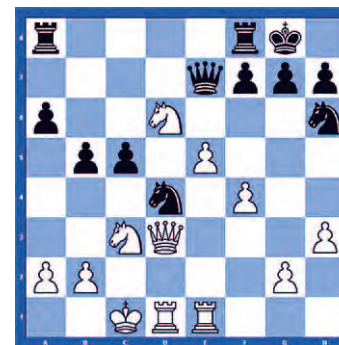


14...♘g4 Black must try to complicate matters, otherwise White's active pieces in the center quickly swaps him away. [14...♘d7 15.♘d5! ♙xd5 16.♙xd5 with a huge advantage 16...♘cxe5 loses to 17.♘xf7! ♖xf7 18.f4! +/- Black cannot hold the pins...]

15.f4 ♙xc4 16.♘xc4 ♘d4 At least Black temporarily pushed back the pieces, but it costs him to get a really poor knight which lands on h6 soon.

17.h3 ♘h6 18.♙d3 White would like to play g4 to exclude the knight on h6 forever from the game. First he had to leave from the ♘f3 fork. [A rather positional way would have been 18.♘d6 and after 18...♘hf5 19.♘xf5 ♘xf5 20.♙d7 +/- White has a clearly better endgame.]

18...b5 19.♘d6

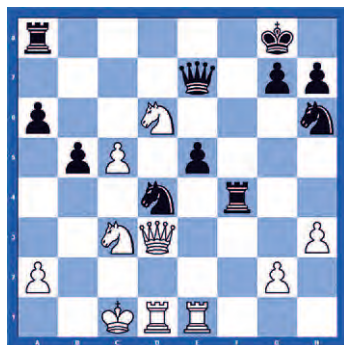


19...f6 Black tries to stay in the game. He wants to play ♘f7 to get rid of the strong d6 knight, which paralyzes his pieces. White must play really energetically, otherwise his advantage can quickly spoil.

20.b4!! I really like this move! White wants to keep his d6 knight at any cost, and at the same time wants to get rid of the strong d4 knight. [Once again, there was a more positional way to keep the advantage 20.♙e4 ! 20...fxe5 21.fxe5 ♘f7 22.♘xf7 ♙xf7 23.e6! +/- and White supports his e-pawn with all his forces. The knight on c3 also joins through d5.]

20...fxe5 21.bxc5 [The tactical solution 21.♖xe5 was also good enough 21...♙f6 (21...♙xd6 22.bxc5 White takes back the piece on d4.) 22.♘d5! this is the key 22...♙xd6 23.♘e7+! ♙h8 24.bxc5 +/- and again White takes on d4 next.]

21...♖xf4



22. ♔e3! White creates some threats using the pin on the e-file, f4 and the d4 are hanging, Black must leave with the queen. [The tempting 22. ♘d5? would change the outcome of the game 22... ♔e6! 23. ♘xf4 ♔xa2! and suddenly White is in trouble.]

22... ♔g5 [22... ♖af8 23. ♖xd4 ♖xd4 24. ♔xd4 exd4 25. ♖xe7 dxc3 26. c6]

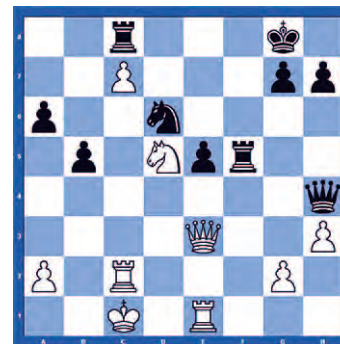
23. ♖d2 By unpinning the king along the c1–h6 diagonal, White creates again many different kind of threats, like ♘d5, g3 or ♔xe5. The move covers the important c2 square, where Black could set some tricks. [23. ♘d5? would be a blunder again 23... ♔xg2 and mate threat on c2...; On 23.g3 Black had 23... ♔g6]

23... ♘f7 24. ♘d5 ♘f5 [24... ♘xd6 25. cxd6 ♖c8+ 26. ♔b2 +- White wins. The knight takes some big material on f4 or through e7.]

25. ♘xf5 ♖xf5 26. c6 [26. ♔xg5 It would have been more practical to exchange the queens first, then there is no chance to blunder anymore. 26... ♖xg5 27. c6 +- and thanks to the powerful d5 knight, the pawn promotes soon.]

26... ♔h4 27. c7 White is winning anyway.

27... ♖c8 28. ♖c2 ♘d6



29.g3! Black resigned since he cannot cover the e7 square. A really great achievement by White, who combined the positional ideas with strong tactical play! **1–0**

(4) Tiviakov, Sergei (2656)
– Meier, Georg (2637) [C10]

Pfaeffikon rapid, 28.05.2012

[Meier, Georg]

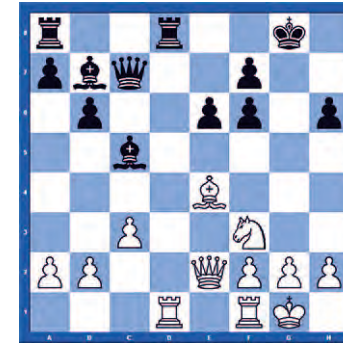
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 dxe4 No, I am not playing for a draw. In this opening, I usually try to get to some equal endgame, where I hope to outplay my opponents. To be honest I was expecting a higher level of resistance than usual in this game, but it turned out to be easier than expected.

4.♘xe4 ♘d7 5.♘f3 ♘gf6 6.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 7.♙d3 c5 8.0–0 cxd4 9.♘xd4 ♙c5 10.♘f3 0–0 11.♙g5 Tiviakov made all these moves quickly, confidently aiming for the ensuing endgame.

11...h6 [11...b6 12.♙e2 ♙b7 13.♖ad1 ♙c7 14.♙xf6 gxf6 15.♙e4 ♖fd8 16.g3 ♙xe4 17.♙xe4 f5 18.♙e2 ♙e7 19.c3 ♙f6 20.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 21.♖d1 ♖xd1+ 22.♙xd1 In principle, this is the best White can get. With ♙+♘ vs. ♙+♙ he is hoping to prove that the Black king is weak. Although Tiviakov succeeded 15 years ago, I don't think that black has any serious problems. 22...♙c4 23.a3 b5 24.♘e1 a5 25.♘d3 e5 26.♙d2 ♙d5 27.♙e2 ♙g7 28.g4 ♙g5? (28...♙f8 = would have led to equality 29.gxf5 e4) 29.♘xe5 f6 30.♘f3 fxg4 31.♘d4 f5 32.♘xb5 and later White managed to convert his advantage Tiviakov-Speelman, Beijing 1997.]

12.♙h4 b6 13.♙e2 ♙b7 14.♖ad1 ♙c7 15.♙xf6 gxf6 16.♙e4 I guess my opponent was happy, and I was too!

16...♖fd8 17.c3



17...♖ac8 Here I realized White could exploit my extra move h7-h6.

18.g3?! [18.♙xb7 ♙xb7 19.♖d2 ♖xd2 20.♙xd2 and Black must lose a tempo to protect the h6 pawn, but anyway it seems to be fine after 20...♙g7 21.♖d1 ♙e7 followed by ♖d8.]

18...♙xe4 19.♙xe4 ♖d7! = After this move, I take the d-file under control, which guarantees equality.

20.♖xd7 [White could have forced an immediate draw with 20.♙g4+ ♙h7 21.♙h4 ♙g7 22.♙g4+ =]

20...♙xd7 21.♖e1 ♖d8 22.♙g2 b5 I start to improve my pawn structure, giving White chances to create problems for himself.

23.a3 a6 24.♖e2 ♙d1 25.♙c2 ♙f8 The endgame is approaching, so the right place of the king is in the center.

26.♙xd1 [On 26.c4 my intention was to push 26...b4 and Black has no reason to worry.]

26...♖xd1 27.♖c2



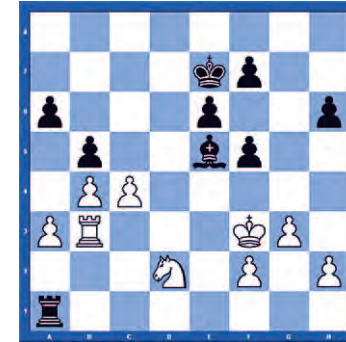
27...Ke7 I started to feel that I was going to outplay my opponent, who is famous for his strong play in technical positions. By now I reached the maximum Black can hope for: R+B vs. R+N, a centralized king and a few white pawns on dark squares. Nothing has gone seriously wrong yet for White, his structure is flexible enough. But Tiviakov didn't realise that it was time to play for a draw, as only White can possibly lose this kind of positions...

28.Nd2 f5 29.Kf3 Ke1! Cutting off the White king! I had no intention to force a draw with 29...Kh1, I wanted to see if White assesses the position correctly or if he still thinks that he can be better... [29...Kh1 30.Kg2 Kh1 =]

30.b4? A serious mistake, now White has a chronic weakness on a3. White had to find a way to exchange pawns to get closer to a draw. [30.c4?! is inaccurate 30...b4 31.Nb3 (31.axb4 Bxb4 I am going to push a5-a4 and put my king on c5.) 31...bxa3! Important tactical motif to keep the advantage 32.Nxc5 a2 33.Nb3 a5! 34.Rc3 a4 35.Na1 Rxa1 36.Ra3 Rc1 37.Rxa2 Rxc4 with a winning endgame.; 30.Nb3! was the right move, and only after 30...Bb6 31.c4! bxc4 32.Rxc4 Bd6 is still comfortable for Black, but objectively equal.]

30...Bd6 31.c4 Ra1 32.Rc3 Be5 Due to the weakness on a3, White's pieces are getting tied up.

33.Rb3



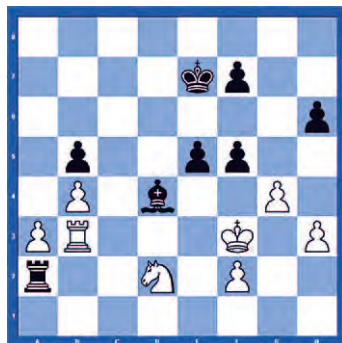
33...Bd4! I begin to play for domination. This was the most important decision I had to take in this endgame. [The straight forward 33...Ra2 34.Kf3 Bb2 35.cxb5 axb5 36.Nb1 e5 37.Nc3 Bc1+ 38.Kf3 Rxa3 39.Rxa3 Bxa3 40.Nxb5 Bxb4 would have allowed White to exchange too much material. With all the pawns on one side, White should be able to make a draw after 41.Nc7 when the knight gets out of danger.]

34.cxb5? Another huge mistake by Tiviakov! He was probably hoping to get to an endgame like in the last line and exchange pawns, but I was not planning on letting him get out of the box! White had to create a protected passed pawn with c4-c5, which promises him a lot of saving resources. Obviously White was afraid too lose all his queenside pawns in that case though, as they would all be fixed on dark squares. [34.c5 e5 35.Kf3 Ra2 36.Rd3 It's obviously very nice for Black, but with the entry square d6 for the White rook, there will be counterplay when Black decides to go Bb2]

34...axb5 Now Black gets a free hand and will gradually squeeze out the win.

35.h3 Looks miserable, but its hard to find any saving chances for White by now. [35.♔g2 ♖a2 36.♞d3 e5 I need to keep the bishop on d4, which paralyzes White's pieces. (36... ♙b2? 37.♞f3) 37.♔f1 ♙e6 38.♔e1 ♙d5; 35.♔e2 ♖a2 36.f4 Due to the pin on the 2nd rank, I have enough time to collect the a3 pawn 36... ♙b2 37.♔d3 ♙xa3 38.♞f3 ♙b2 and the bishop gets back to the game in time. 39.♞d4 ♙xd4 40.♔xd4 ♜c2]

35...e5 36.g4 ♖a2



37.♔e2 f4 The more natural and elegant way to conclude the game was 37...e4! but I was sure that White could not stabilize on the light squares. [37...e4! 38.gxf5 ♔f6]

38.♞d3 ♙e6 39.f3 [39.h4 f5 40.gxf5+ ♔xf5]

39... ♙e3 40.♔e1 ♙xd2+ 41.♞xd2 ♖xa3 42.♔f2 ♜b3
White could have resigned with a clear conscience here.

43.♞d8 ♜xb4 44.♞h8 ♜b2+ 45.♔f1 ♙d5 46.♞xh6 ♙d4 47.♞h5 f6 48.g5 fxg5 49.♞xg5 b4 50.h4 b3 51.♞g8 ♜c2 0-1

Puzzle section

(5) Jobava,B (2721) – Shanava,K (2589)

Georgian Championship, 13.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

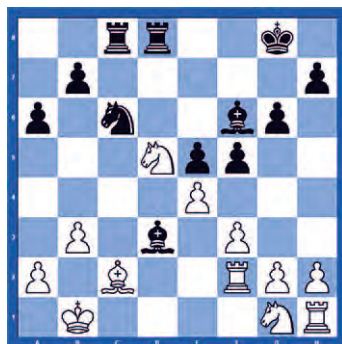


(6) Chighladze,I (2390) – Lomsadze,D (2345)

Georgian Championship, 22.05.2012

[CEWN]

1... +-

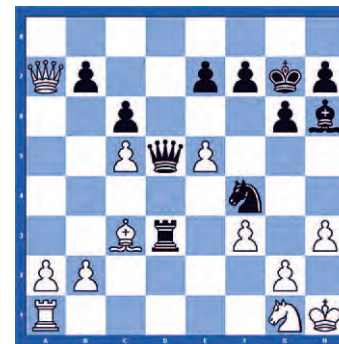


(7) Mammadov,Z (2393) – Akopian,V (2697)

Albena Open, 27.05.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

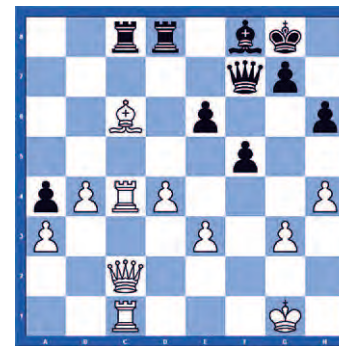


(8) Zhou Jianchao (2609) – Kazhgaleyev,M (2595)

Asian Nations Cup, 24.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Amanov,Z (2401) — Adams,M (2728)

Chicago Open, 26.05.2012

[CEWN]

1... -/+



(10) Shulman,Y (2571) — Amanov,Z (2401)

Chicago Open, 27.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

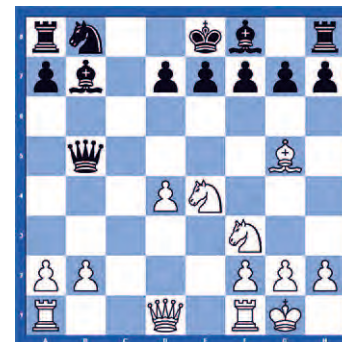


(11) Dambacher,M (2484) — Knol,G (2130)

Limburg Open, 27.05.2012

[CEWN]

1, +-

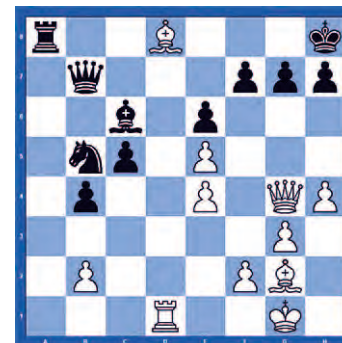


(12) Mogranzini,R (2461) — Naumkin,I (2472)

Gallipoli Open, 25.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Zherebukh,Y (2632) – Macieja,B (2614)

Lublin, 26.05.2012

[CEWN]

1... -/+

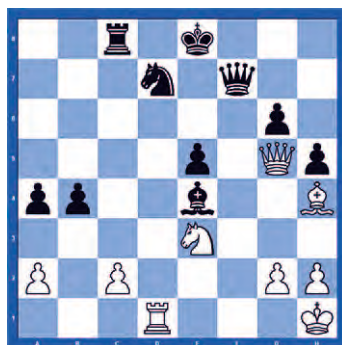


(14) Swiercz,D (2585) – Korobov,A (2678)

Lublin, 28.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

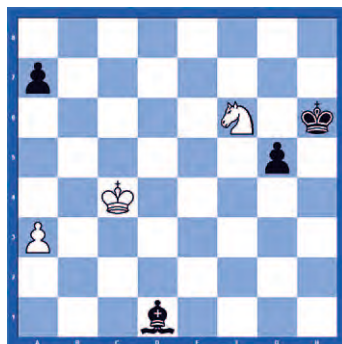


Endgame section

(15) Shabalov,A (2523) — Sargissian,G (2679)

Chicago Open, 27.05.2012

[Chess Evolution]



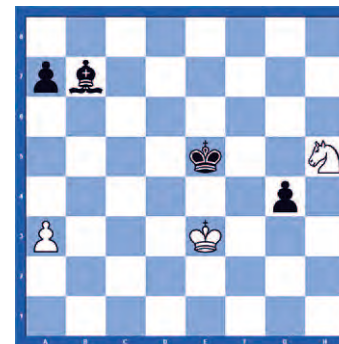
63...Kg6! Of course, Black must preserve his g-pawn. Otherwise, if White can sacrifice his knight, the a1 corner would be the wrong one for the Black bishop.

64.Ne4 g4 65.Kd4 Bf3! Forces White to decide the direction of the knight. [65...Kf5? would run into 66.Nf2! when White could finally give his knight for the pawn, since 66...g3? does not work because of 67.Nxd1! g2 68.Ne3+]

66.Ng3 Kg5 67.Be3 Seems like everything is fine, but with the help of zugzwang, Black can improve his position.

67...Bb7 White is in zugzwang! He must allow Black to transfer his king to the ideal e5 square. We'll understand soon why this is so important.

68.Ne2 Kf5 69.Ng3+ Ke5 70.Nh5

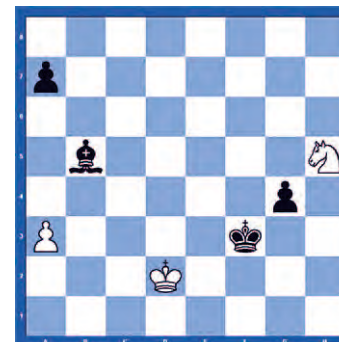


70...Bc6! Before starting action, Black improves a bit on his bishop.

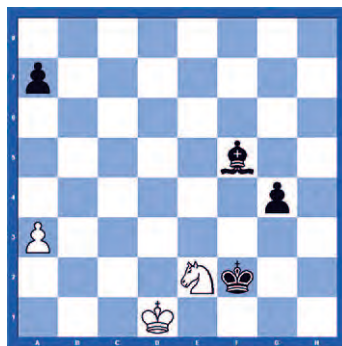
71.Ng3 Kd5! Black wants to go for the a-pawn!

72.Kd3 Bb5+! and this is the point! White is facing a really unpleasant decision, he must give a free way to his opponent's king! This could be a very important moment because many times in similar situations, one move draws, while the other one is losing. In this particular case, I came to the conclusion that Black is winning in both cases.

73.Ke3 [73.Kc3 Ke5! 74.Kd2 Kf4 75.Nh5+ Kf3



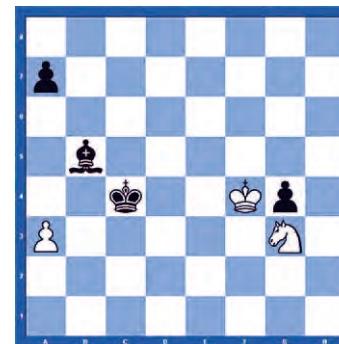
76.♖g7 Black must play accurately to convert the advantage. As we will see, the knight is very tricky... This is positive from Black's point of view, it's not a problem if he doesn't find the win, since he can try as long as he wants. White can only pass with the knight anyway 76...♙c4 (76...g3? is of course premature 77.♖f5 g2 78.♖h4+ =) 77.♖f5 (77.♖h5 ♙f7 78.♖g7 ♖f2 79.♖f5 and here Black has a nice maneuver to transfer the bishop to b1, which is actually not the only way to win, but the fastest one. 79...♙a2 80.♖d4 (80.♖g7 ♙b1 81.♖h5 ♖f3 to control the f4 square. 82.♙e1 ♙d3! and White is in zugzwang 83.♙d2 ♙g6 and then again, the pawn promotes.; 80.♖h6 loses quickly after 80...g3 81.♖g4+ ♖f3 82.♖e5+ ♙e4 and the pawn promotes.) 80...♙b1 81.♖e2 ♙f5 transposes to 77.♖f5.) 77...♙f2 78.♖d6 (78.♖g7 ♙f7 79.♖f5 ♙g6 and g3 next, except on ♖e7 ♙e4.) 78...♙d5 79.♖f5 ♙e4 80.♖d4 (80.♖g7 ♙g6 81.♖e6 g3 82.♖f4 ♙f5 White always finds himself in zugzwangs.) 80...♙h7 81.♖e2 ♙f5 82.♙d1 (82.♖f4 g3 83.♙d1 ♙f3 84.♖e2 g2 85.♙e1 ♙e3 86.♖g1 ♙g4; 82.♖d4 g3)



82...♙e3! This is the key square for the king. Now again, Black can sometimes just go for the a3 pawn 83.♙e1 ♙d3 84.♖g3 ♙f3 85.♖h5 and here again, White has no moves.

Black only needs to waste a tempo, and then the pawn promotes automatically. 85...a6 86.♙d2 ♙g6 87.♖g7 g3 Of course, it is very hard to find this shortest way to win, but Black cannot spoil the advantage, probably even accidentally, he would employ the winning concept.]

73...♙c4 74.♙f4 We reached the critical moment, where Sargissian, who is very strong in technical positions, made a very strange decision...



74...♙b3?? [74...♙d7 Why to give up the pawn? Black could have postponed going for the a3 pawn. First improving the position to the maximum 75.♖e4 a5! 76.♙g3 a4 and after pushing the pawn to a4, Black collects the pawn 77.♙f4 ♙b3 is the elegant win (77...♙c6 is also easily winning.) 78.♖c5+ ♙xa3 79.♖xd7 ♙b4 80.♖e5 ♙c3 and the next 3 Black moves will be made by the a-pawn.]

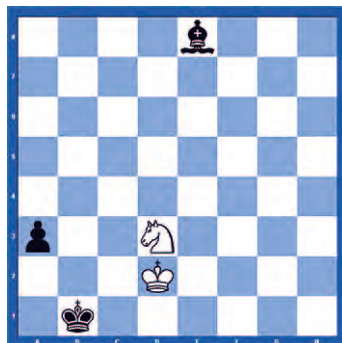
75.♙xg4 ♙xa3 Suddenly we reached a theoretical drawn position, but White must defend precisely. First he must obviously approach to the pawn.

76.♙f4 a5 77.♖e4 ♙b4 78.♙e3 a4 79.♙d2! Naturally the king should try to reach the corner.

79...a3 80.♘c3 ♕e8! Black needs to cut the king along the b1–h7 diagonal.

81.♗a2+ [81.♖c1 ♕g6 82.♔d2 is the same.]

81...♖b3 82.♗c1+ ♖b2 83.♗d3+ ♖b1



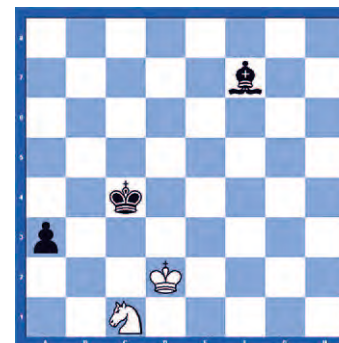
84.♗b4 The knight is standing perfectly on b4, where the king cannot disturb him in one move. White is going to play ♖c3–d2. Black tries for a while, then changes to a more tricky plan.

84...♕f7 85.♖c3! This is important. White must only use the c3 and d2 squares for passing. [85.♖d1? loses to 85...♕g6 86.♖d2 ♖b2 This is the winning position and ♖b3 is coming next. That is why the king must stay on c3, to have the ♖b3 option if the bishop stops controlling that square. 87.♖d1 ♖b3]

85...♕e6 86.♖d2 ♕g4 87.♖c3 ♕d1 88.♖d2 ♕b3 89.♖c3 ♕a4 90.♖d2 ♕d7 91.♖c3 ♕e6 92.♖d2 ♕g8 93.♖c3 ♕f7 94.♖d2 Black realized that there is no break through, so he tries another idea.

94...♖b2 This move must always be met with...

95.♗d3+! ♖b3 96.♗c1+ ♖c4! We came to another very tricky position, where only one move saves White.



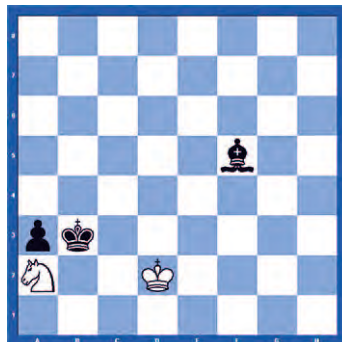
97.♗a2! The knight must go to c3, otherwise White gets into zugzwang and loses. [97.♖c2? ♕g6+ 98.♖d2 ♕b1! This is the winning position. White must allow ♖c3, slowly squeezing out the c1 knight. You can see the win in the game's 98...♕b1 line.]

97...♕g6 98.♗c1?? After making only moves during an hour, White gets out of energy and makes a losing move. [98.♗c3 was the way to draw, but White had to see that after 98...♖b3 he has 99.♗e2! Only move! 99...♖b2 100.♗c3 and the position is drawn.]

98...♕f5?? Black spoils the win! [He could have taken control of the a2 square with 98...♕b1 99.♖d1 ♖c3 100.♗e2+ ♖b2 101.♗c1 and Black wins by transferring the bishop to c4. White gets into zugzwang again! 101...♕e4 102.♖d2 ♕g6! Losing a tempo to force the king to d1. (102...♕c2?? seems to win on the spot, but White has 103.♗a2!! and the knight gets to c3, which is a draw as we already know.) 103.♖d1 and now the bishop goes to c4 103...♕f7! 104.♖d2 (104.♗d3+ ♖c3 105.♗c1 ♕c4) 104...

♙c4 105.♔d1 ♔c3! This is the winning position. White is in zugzwang, he must allow ♔c2 in the next move.]

99.♘a2 ♔b3



100.♘c1+?? Shabalov fails to play ♘c3 again, but this time he gets punished for the mistake. [100.♘c3 =]

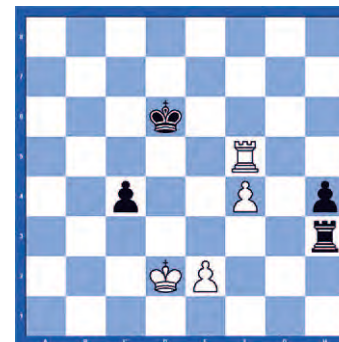
100...♔b2 101.♔d1 and as we know, the bishop must go to c4.

101...♙e6 102.♔d2 ♙c4 and White resigned. A tough endgame! [102...♙c4 103.♔d1 ♔c3 104.♔e1 ♔c2] 0-1

(16) Zarkua,D (2446) – Jobava,B (2721)

Georgian Championship, 14.05.2012

[Chess Evolution]



An instructive rook endgame. At first sight, the game is unclear, but in reality Black is easily winning. Jobava plays with excellent technique and gives a nice lesson for us.

48...♖h1! Obviously Black needs to support his h-pawn.

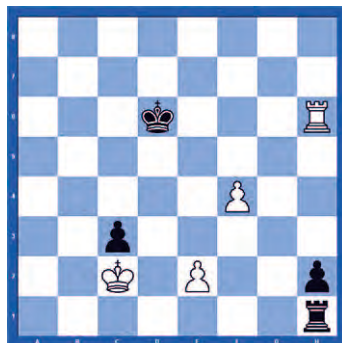
49.♖h5 [Trying to create counterplay by using the central pawns is a bad idea here. The pawn cannot leave the e2 square, we will soon understand why... 49.e4? h3 50.♖h5 h2 followed by ♖a1 next move.; 49.♖f6+ ♔d5 50.♖f5+ ♔e4 51.♖c5 ♔xf4 52.♖xc4+ ♔g3 53.♖c7 h3 54.♖g7+ ♔f2]

49...h3! 50.♔c3 h2! We must always think twice before making this move. It is a committing move, since from now on the king cannot help in promoting the queen. If he goes to g3 for example, White gives a check on the g-file and on ♔f2, ♖h7. While with the pawn on h3, Black can temporarily hide his king to h2 and escape his rook from behind the pawn. In our present game, Black per-

fectly realizes that he wins all the pawns with the help of zugzwang.

51. ♔c2 c3 The White king cannot move anymore. On any kind of e-pawn moves, ♖a1 decides the game. White can only pass with his rook on the h-file, or push his f-pawn, which is useless without the e-pawn.

52. ♖h6+



52... ♔d5 Whatever White does, Black is going to win the f-pawn soon.

53. f5 ♔e5 54. f6 ♔e6 and here we are in zugzwang! Not a mutual one, since Black can pass with ♔f7 in any case.

55. f7+ ♔xf7 The next step is to take the e-pawn with the same method.

56. ♖h3 ♔g6 57. ♖h8 ♔g5 White has no chance to save it...

58. ♖g8+ ♔f4 59. ♖h8 ♔g3 60. ♖g8+ ♔f2 61. ♖f8+ ♔xe2 Mission complete! The last step to conclude the game is to leave the 2nd rank with the king and to play ♖a1. Again, White can only watch this.

62. ♖e8+ ♔f3 63. ♖f8+ ♔e4 64. ♖e8+ ♔d5 White resigned, since he soon gets out of checks! It's very important to mention that Black is winning only because he has the c-pawn. If it was on the b- or a-file, and the White king is on b2 or a2, the position would be a theoretical draw, since the only winning idea with ♖a1 does not work anymore! **0-1**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Tal, Mihail – Wade, Robert Graham [B77]

Palma de Mallorca Palma de Mallorca (1), 1966

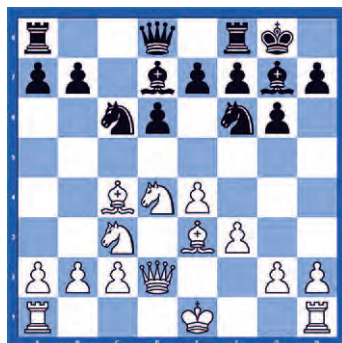
[Balogh Csaba]

We are going to study an interesting game by Tal! As we will see, there will be many mistakes from both sides, but on the other hand, the game is full of nice tactical ideas.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6

Black chose the Sicilian Dragon defense, which guarantees us a very sharp fight. We must admit that this was a really brave decision by Black, to go for this opening against Tal!

6.♙e3 ♙g7 7.f3 ♘c6 8.♚d2 0-0 9.♙c4 ♙d7



10.h4 This move was played by Fischer in 1956, but it usually just leads to a transposition of the 10.0-0-0 mainline.

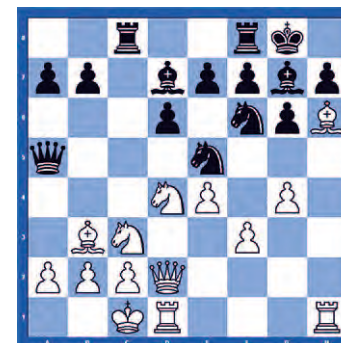
10...♖c8 11.♙b3 ♚a5 [11...h5 is considered to be the main recently 12.0-0-0 ♘e5 was played by Carlsen and Radjabov.]

12.h5 Of course, in case of opposite side castling White happily sacrifices his h-pawn in order to open the file for his rook. As we will see, it is more effective after some preparation with 12.0-0-0. [White could have transposed to a very good line, but of course, at that time theory had just started developing. Let's see what happens in case of the standard „Dragon moves“ from both sides 12.0-0-0! ♘e5 13.♙b1 ♘c4 14.♙xc4 ♖xc4 15.h5 The same pawn sacrifice like in the game, but this time it works in a much better version 15...♘xh5 16.g4 ♘f6 and here comes the difference: 17.♘b3! it is another standard idea in the Dragon, which sometimes wins the game on the spot. After each move of the queen, White plays the same 17...♙a6 18.e5! dxe5 19.g5 +- is the point! White wins a piece.]

12...♘xh5 13.g4 ♘f6 [13...♘xd4!? was an interesting alternative to make some simplifications before retreating with the knight 14.♙xd4 ♙xd4 15.♙xd4 ♘f6 16.0-0-0 ♙e6 17.♙b1 with chances for both sides.]

14.0-0-0 ♘e5 In most of the lines against the 9.♙c4 setup of the Dragon, Black has to neutralize the strong b3 bishop with the maneuver ♘e5-c4.

15.♙h6



15...♙xh6! Excellent decision by Black, who uses the fact, that White cannot take back with the queen.

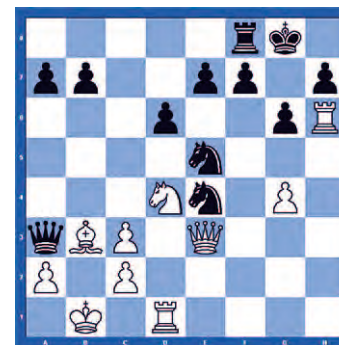
16.♖xh6 [16.♙xh6?! is met with the typical exchange sacrifice 16...♙xc3! 17.bxc3 ♙xc3 18.♖b1 ♖c8 with a perfect position for Black! He can slowly push a5-a4. It might seem a bit strange but the f6 knight holds all the threats. White cannot get rid of it, while g5 is met with ♘h5, closing the h-file.]

16...♙xc3! Another typical motif in the Dragon! Black takes the c3 knight, which plays a very important role in the attack. It was the only piece that could have taken away the f6 defender with ♘d5. In addition, Black destroys the pawn structure. [16...♘c4 meets the same motif, which we have already seen in the 12.0-0-0 line 17.♙xc4 ♖xc4 18.♘b3! But the lack of the dark squared bishop gives an additional option for Black 18...♙e5! is the only move to stay in the game, although White gets a dangerous attack anyway (18...♙a6 19.e5! dxe5 20.g5 +-) 19.f4! ♙e6 20.g5 ♘h5 (20...♘xe4? 21.♙h2! wins.) 21.♘d4 ♙g4 22.♘d5 ♖e8 23.♖h1 with a complicated position, although White's chances should be preferable.]

17.bxc3? Of course, Tal would like to keep the queens on the board with the hope of a mating attack, but it could have cost him to the game.... [17.♙xc3 ♙xc3 18.bxc3 ♖c8 19.♖b2 This is one of the typical endgames in the Dragon. Black has only one pawn for the exchange, but his superior pawn structure and pieces give him enough compensation for the material deficit 19...g5 The position should be evaluated around even.]

17...♖c8 A „reflex“ move after the sacrifice on c3, but it spoils a beautiful win! [I think, if Tal was on the Black side,

he would have played 17...♙xg4!! 18.fxg4 ♘xe4 19.♙e3 and here comes the fantastic idea 19...♙a3+ 20.♖b1



20...♘c4!! White is forced to accept this sacrifice as well 21.♙xc4 ♘xc3+ 22.♖a1 ♙b2+!! This is the whole point! 23.♖xb2 ♘xd1+ Black got 4 pawns for the piece, which guarantees him a big advantage, maybe even a winning one.]

18.♖b2 b5? Too slow! [18...♙xg4 should have been played again, but now we are in a different story 19.fxg4 ♘xe4 20.♙h2! The only way to save the game. Otherwise, White loses in a study-like way again. (the logical 20.♙e3 loses after 20...♘xc3 21.♖dh1 ♘c4+! 22.♙xc4 ♖xc4 23.♖xh7 Black's attack arrives on time 23...♙xa2+ 24.♖c1 24...♙a1+ 25.♖d2 ♘e4+! 26.♖e2 (26.♙xe4 ♖xd4+) 26...♙xd4! Black is safe against all the threats and he has obtained a decisive material advantage...) 20...♙xc3+ (20...♙xg4 21.♙h4 ♘xh6 22.♙xe4 Black has 5 pawns for the piece, but with the queens on board, White has good attacking chances.) 21.♖b1 ♘c4 22.♙xc4 ♖xc4 23.♖xh7 ♖xd4 and White has nothing better than perpetual check. Optimistic attempts might cause problems only to himself. 24.♖h8+ ♖g7 25.♖h7+ (25.♙h7+

The Black king runs away 25...♔f6 26.♖f1+ ♔e6 27.♙xf7+ ♔d7 28.♙e8+ ♔c7 29.♙d8+ ♔c6 30.♙c8+ ♔b6 31.♙xc3 ♘xc3+ and Black is better.) 25...♙g8 =]

19.♖dh1 ♘c4+ 20.♙xc4 bxc4 Black was hoping for this position when he played 18...b5 and hoped that the f6 knight would defend him from any trouble.

21.♖xh7! Tal, probably without too much hesitation, sacrificed his rook...

21...♘xh7 22.♙h6 e6? [Black was still fine after 22...♙e5! controlling the h8 square 23.♙xh7+ ♔f8 24.♙h6+ (White cannot transpose to an endgame, because 24.♙h8+ ♙xh8 25.♖xh8+ ♔g7 26.♖xc8 ♙xc8 27.♘c6 ♔f6 28.♘xa7 ♙d7! and the knight is trapped, while the Black king soon collects the kingside pawns.) 24...♙g7 25.♙h4 with a very complex position. Probably the correct evaluation is about even.]



23.f4!! Incredibly strong move! White prevents the ♙e5 and ♙g5 defensive ideas and prepares for g5, when he creates the threat of ♙xh7 ♔f8 ♙h8 ♔e7 ♙f6! ♔e8 ♖h8 mate. Black has two „free” moves, but he cannot prevent this threat. [23.♙xh7+ is nothing after 23...♔f8]

23...e5 [The counterattack doesn't give any hope 23...♖b8+ 24.♔c1 ♙xa2 (24...♙xc3 25.♙xh7+ ♔f8 26.♙h8+ ♔e7 27.♘c6+ wins the queen.) 25.♔d2! ♖b1 26.♙xh7+ ♔f8 27.♙h8+ ♔e7 28.f5! gxf5 (28...♖xh1 29.f6# Nice mate!) 29.gxf5 exf5 30.♖h6 +- with a mating attack.; 23...♙e8 is the computer's recommendation, but it does not help 24.g5 ♖c7 25.♙xh7+ ♔f8 26.f5 +- White is going to mate.]

24.g5 ♙e8 [24...exd4 25.♙xh7+ ♔f8 26.♙h8+ ♔e7 27.♙f6+ followed by mate.]



25.♘e6!! The only winning move! [Black resigned in view of 25.♘e6 fxe6 26.♙xh7+ ♔f8 27.♙h8+ ♔e7 28.♖h7+ ♙f7 29.♙f6+ ♔d7 30.♙xf7+ ♔c6 31.♙b7+ +- An instructive game that demonstrates many typical ideas in the Sicilian Dragon variation!] **1-0**

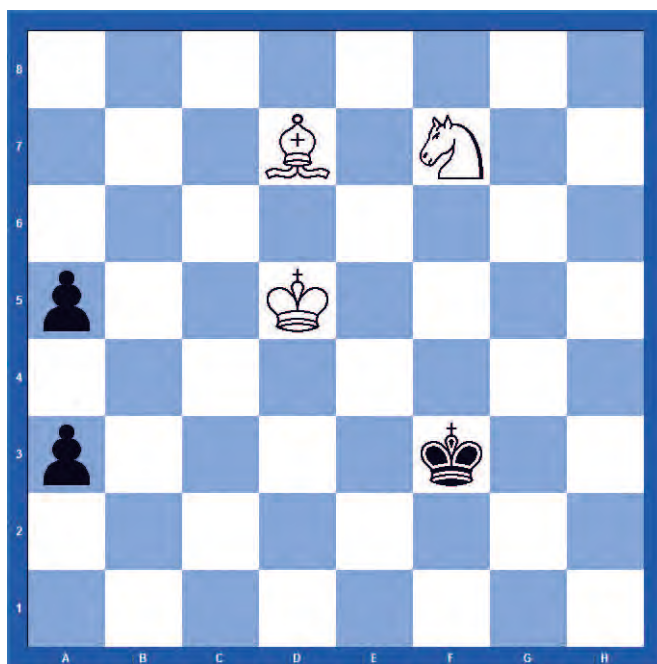
Surprise section / study

(18) Kivi,V

1936

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(19) Dimitrijevic,I (2125) – Milanovic,D (2532)

Serbian Cup, 14.05.2012

[Solutions]



24...♖xf3! 25.gxf3 ♕h3+ 26.♔g1 ♕xg3+! 0-1

(20) Hagen,A (2445) – Maksimenko,A (2554)

Odense, 19.05.2012

[Solutions]

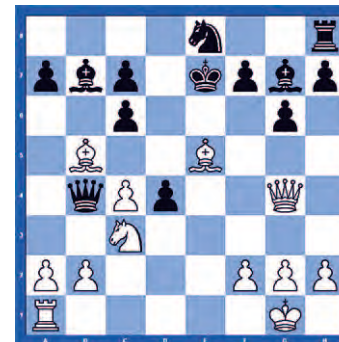


26.♘xe6! ♕xh5 [26...♕xe3 27.♘xd8+ ♖xd8 28.♖xe3+-; 26...♖xe6 27.♘xe6+ ♔xe6 28.♕xc5 dxc5 29.♖xd8+-] 27.♘xd8+-

(21) Szabo,K (2540) – Fodor,T (2502)

Baia Mare, 21.05.2012

[Solutions]

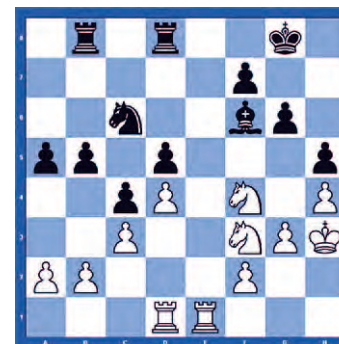


18.♘d5+! 1-0 [18.♘d5+ cxd5 19.♕d7+ ♔f8 20.♕xe8#]

(22) Danielsen,H (2498) – Rusev,K (2525)

Odense, 20.05.2012

[Solutions]



25.♘xg6! fxg6 26.♖e6 ♘xd4! 27.♘xd4 ♔f7 [27...♘xd4 28.♖xd4±] 28.♖a6 b4 [28...♘xd4 29.♖xd4±] 29.♘c6 bxc3 30.bxc3 1-0

(23) Rogic,D (2577) – Zecevic,D (2275)

Croatian Cup, 19.05.2012

[Solutions]

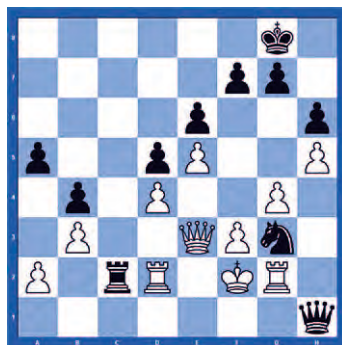


34. ♖xd5!! exd5 [34... ♕xd5 35. ♖xf8+! ♔xf8 36. ♕h8#]
35. e6 ♕d6 36. exf7+ [36. e7!? ♖cxe7 37. ♖xf8+! ♔xf8
 38. ♕h8#] **36... ♖xf7 37. ♘g7+-**

(24) Al Zendani,Z (2377) – Jumabayev,R (2556)

Asian Nations Cup, 19.05.2012

[Solutions]

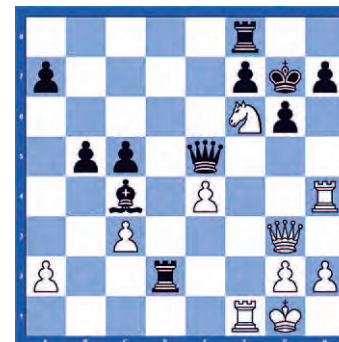


52... ♘f1!! 53. ♖xc2 ♕xg2+! 0-1

(25) Biolek,R (2412) – Bernasek,J (2476)

Czech Championship, 19.05.2012

[Solutions]

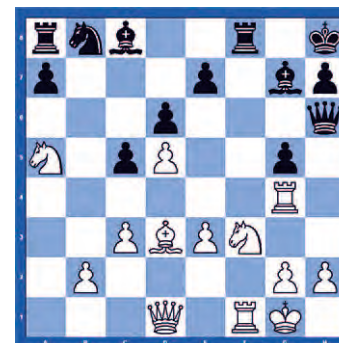


28... ♖xg2+!! 29. ♕xg2 [29. ♔xg2 ♘xf1+--; 29. ♔h1
 ♕xf6!-+] **29... ♘xf1! 30. ♕f2** [30. ♖xh7+ ♔xf6 31. ♕xf1+
 ♔e7 32. ♕xb5 ♖b8-+] **30... h6--+**

(26) Akobian,V (2625) – Ramirez,A (2593)

USA Championship, 16.05.2012

[Solutions]

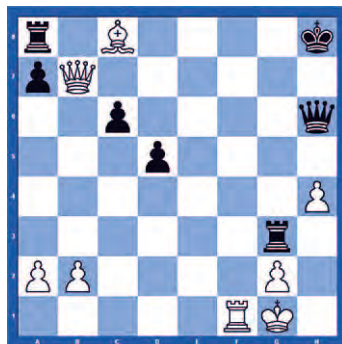


19. ♖xg5! ♕f6 [19... ♕xg4 20. ♖xf8+ ♕xf8 21. ♖xg4+- ♖g7 22. ♖h3 h6 23. ♖e6 ♖f7 24. ♖c7+-] **20. ♖g3** [20. ♖e6!? ♕xe6 21. dxe6 ♖xe3+ 22. ♖h1 ♖xe6 23. ♕xh7! ♖xh7 24. ♖d3+ ♖h8 25. ♖h3+-] **20... ♕xg5 21. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 22. ♖xg5+-**

(27) Ramirez,A (2593) – Kaidanov,G (2594)

USA Championship, 15.05.2012

[Solutions]

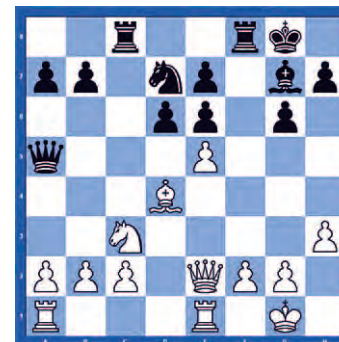


32... ♖g8!! [32... ♖e3+ 33. ♖f2 ♖g8 34. ♕f5∞] **33. ♕h3** [33. ♖xa8 ♖e3+ 34. ♖f2 (34. ♖h1 ♖g3+-) 34... ♖f8!+-] **33... ♖af8 34. ♖xf8 ♖xf8+-**

(28) Brkic,A (2569) – Cvitan,O (2541)

Croatian Cup, 17.05.2012

[Solutions]

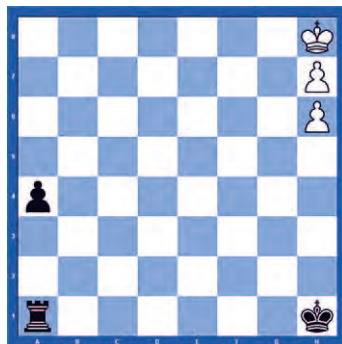


16. exd6!! ♕xd4 17. ♖xe6+ ♖g7 [17... ♖h8 18. dxe7! ♕xf2+ 19. ♖h1 ♕xe1 20. exf8 ♖+ ♖xf8 21. ♖xe1+-] **18. ♖xd7! ♕xf2+ 19. ♖h1 ♕xe1 20. ♖xe1+-**

(29) Kurjatnikov,A

1965

[Solutions]



1.♔g7! [1.♔g8? ♖b1 2.h8♔ ♖b8+ 3.♔g7 ♖xh8 4.♔xh8 a3 5.h7 a2=] 1...♖g1+ 2.♔f7 ♖f1+ 3.♔e7 ♖e1+ 4.♔d7 ♖d1+ 5.♔c7 ♖c1+ 6.♔b7 ♖b1+ 7.♔a7 a3 8.h8Q a2 9.♔a1!! ♖xa1 10.h7+- 1-0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 15

8th of June 2012

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Editorial Preface

The biggest ongoing event is definitely the French Team Championship. A lot of top GMs are participating and it has a very interesting format, they play on 8 boards and the teams can mix up the order of their players in each round. They publish the pairings only an hour before the game, to avoid long preparations.

Arkadij plays for the team of Marseille. He had a great start, scoring two nice wins, which he is going to demonstrate in this edition. The other two games, and both endgames, are also from this event.

Right after the World Championship match, all eyes will be focused on Moscow again, because from the 8th of June, the Tal Memorial is going to start. Take a look at the list of players:

1	Carlsen, Magnus	GM	NOR	2835
2	Aronian, Levon	GM	ARM	2825
3	Kramnik, Vladimir	GM	RUS	2801
4	Radjabov, Teimour	GM	AZE	2784
5	Nakamura, Hikaru	GM	USA	2775
6	Caruana, Fabiano	GM	ITA	2770
7	Morozevich, Alexander	GM	RUS	2769
8	Grischuk, Alexander	GM	RUS	2761
9	Tomashevsky, Evgeny	GM	RUS	2738
10	McShane, Luke J	GM	ENG	2706

The next two CEWNs will be mainly dedicated to this tournament!

This week, the "Titan section" goes back to the 19th century with a nice game by Lasker.

Once again, we wish you lots of fun with the 15th edition of CEWN!

*Arkadij Naiditsch
Balogh Csaba*

4 best games of the past week

(1) Naiditsch, Arkadij (2698)
– Schlosser, Philip (2596) [D24]

Top 12 France (1), 31.05.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

In the first round of the French League I had to face my teammate from Baden Baden. Philipp is a good chess player, but he's mainly dedicated to teaching, giving a lot of lessons to young players. In Baden Baden, he is famous for playing with his cap! Once we asked him to take it off but he refused, he said he had achieved a score of 15,5/17 with it. Respect! Luckily, in this game, he didn't have it on :).

1.d4 d5 Usually Philipp doesn't play the Queen's Gambit, so I was a bit surprised.

2.c4 dxc4 And for sure, never the Queen's Gambit Accepted!

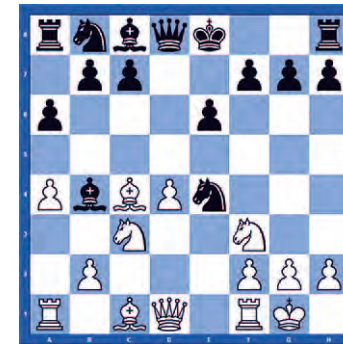
3.♘f3 a6 In my opinion, this is a very interesting line! In the main lines after 4.e3 b5, Black is doing quite well.

4.a4 This is a rare move, but this is exactly what I wanted. By now I was quite sure that my opponent was out of his book, or would be soon...

4...♘f6 5.♘c3 e6 6.e4 ♕b4 [6...c5 is probably the most concrete continuation here. It seems like White doesn't get any advantage here.]

7.♕xc4!? We are in a very well known position, except that it usually appears without the a4-a6 moves included.

7...♘xe4 8.0-0



8...♘f6!? After a bit of thinking, my opponent played an interesting move. This move makes a lot of sense. In comparison to the main line without a4-a6, White got no ♕a4 check! [8...♘xc3 This would be the other main move 9.bxc3 ♕e7 10.♘e5 0-0 11.♖g4 and again we are in a very well known position, without a4-a6. It's very hard to say who benefits from these 2 moves!]

9.♕e2 0-0! 10.♖e2 We have quite a strange position. It seems like White is just a pawn down, but things are not that simple. White has a big advantage in development, and it's not easy for Black to find an adequate place for the bishop on c8!

10...c6 Philipp decides to stop White's d4-d5 push forever. Well, it's a logical decision, but White gets some extra squares.

11.♖ad1 ♕e7 12.♘e5 ♘d5 13.♕c1 Of course, White should avoid any kind of exchanges.

13...♘d7 14.♖fe1 In my opinion this is the critical moment of the game. Black needs to make a decision, what to do next? No more easy moves. [Looks tempting but it's too early, now Black can play 14.♖d3 ♘7b6! 15.♕b3 f6 and White has no ♘d3-Nc5 maneuver.]



14...♘xe5 The wrong choice, in my opinion. [It would also be wrong to play 14...♘7f6 15.♖d3! and the White rook will stand very dangerously on g3, becoming very helpful in a future attack!; 14...♔c7!? A silent move that allows White to act first! I think a move like ♔c7 is needed anyway, and why not to make it now?! The position is very complicated and White has a lot of different ideas; the main one is, of course, to play 15.♖d2 or 15.♙a2-Bb1, bringing the bishop to the attack. A great position for practical games, with a lot of options for both players!]

15.dxe5 White has a very strong pawn on e5, which gives him excellent attacking chances! Black's main defensive move, f7-f5, is not that effective anymore, White is always ready to take with exf6.

15...♔c7 16.♖d3 White needs more material for the attack and the rook will be perfectly placed on h3 or g3!

16...♖d8? This is already a serious mistake. Black doesn't feel the danger. It was already time to think about „how to avoid getting mated“. [16...f5! Not a nice move to make, but probably the only chance to continue the game. White's mating threats are very dangerous! 17.exf6 ♙xf6 18.♘e4 It's obvious that White has a very comfortable position despite being a pawn down. Black's pawn struc-

ture is very bad, plus he's not completely out of danger, White's next moves could be ♖h3, ♙d3 and the Black king would be under attack once again.]



17.♖h3! White threatens to play ♔h5 and in case of h6, ♙xh6 would finish the game.

17...g6 18.♙f3! Philipp told me after the game that he had blundered this move. Indeed, this move is almost decisive! Whites wants to play ♖xh7 now.

18...♘xc3 19.bxc3 [Here I thought for a while if I should play the direct 19.♖xh7 but I found the resulting position very unclear, and there is no reason for me to go for such crazy complications 19...♘e2+!? (Would lead to a very unclear position 19...♙xh7 20.♙xf7+ ♙h8 21.♙h6 (21.♙g5!? See below.) 21...♘e2+! and again the ♘e2 move! (21...♖g8?? gives White the chance to give a pretty mate 22.♖e3 ♙d8 23.♙g7+ ♖xg7 24.♖h3+) 22.♙xe6 ♖g8 23.♙d3 ♙d8 24.♙f4 Black is a rook up, but White intends to play ♖e3-Rh3, the position is very unclear.) 20.♙xe2 ♙xh7 21.♙xf7+ ♙h8 22.♙g5 ♖d7 23.♙e8+ ♙g7 24.♙h6+ ♙h7



25. ♖h5! gxh5 26. ♔xh5 and it's hard to say if White has more than a draw here.]

19... ♖f8 White wanted to take on h7.

20. ♖g5 ♖d5 [Also loses 20... ♖e7 21. ♖xh7! ♖xg5 22. ♔h3 ♖f8 and it seems like the Black king has escaped from the dangerous corner, but White has 23. ♖d3!! An amazing move! White wants to play ♖xg6 and Black doesn't have any defense against it 23... ♖xd3 24. ♔xd3 and White is winning due to the big amount of threats.]

21. ♖f6 The mating net around the Black king is getting tighter.

21... ♖d7



22. ♖e4 Black resigned because of ♖eh4.[Here I missed a chance to give a nice mate 22. ♔h5 gxh5 23. ♖g3+ ♖g7 24. ♖xg7+ ♖f8 25. ♖xh7 with ♖h8 mate.] 1-0

(2) Naiditsch,A (2698) – So,W (2659) [C42]

Top 12 France (2), 01.06.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the 2nd round of the French Team Championship. I am playing for the current champion, „Marseille“, while my opponent plays for the strongest club rating-wise, „Clichy“. We lost the match but I managed to win a nice game against my young and talented opponent.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 The opening choice surprised me a little bit, Wesley is playing a lot of different openings, but he's not choosing the „Russian“ very often.

3.♘xe5 d6 4.♘f3 ♘xe4 5.d4 d5 6.♙d3 ♙e7 7.0-0 ♘c6 8.♘c3 We are in the very main line. There are a lot of games by Gelfand, Kramnik and other top GMs here.

8... ♙f5 [8... ♘xc3 9.bxc3 ♙g4 is the usual main line, but of course, the move in the game is not a surprise.]

9.♖e1 ♘xc3 10.bxc3 ♙xd3 11.♙xd3 0-0



12.♖e2!? This is a novelty that I had in mind for a long time, and never had a chance to use it! So finally, the time

has come! The move 12.♖e2 is quite tricky. The idea is to get control over the e-file.

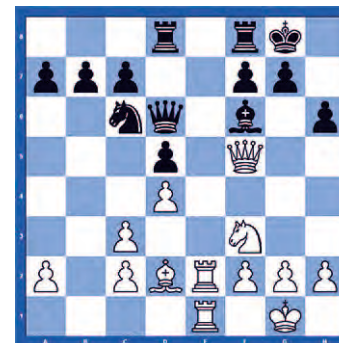
12... ♖d6 [Black is not in time to exchange both rooks on e8 12... ♖d7 13.♙f4 ♖ae8 14.♖ae1 The fight for the e file! 14... ♙d8 15.♖xe8 ♖xe8 16.♖xe8+ ♙xe8 17.♙b5! and we see a typical double attack, on b7 and d5, which gives White the advantage.]

13.♙d2 ♙f6 14.♖ae1 I managed what I wanted, to control the e-file, which will always give me dangerous play on the kingside.

14...h6 Seems like my opponent is not really impressed with my play and feels nodanger.

15.♙f5 Transferring the queen closer to the Black king.

15... ♖ad8



16.♙h5 [Another tempting move was 16.♙f4 ♖d7 17.♙h5 Now White fixes the Black pawn on c7 17... ♘e7!? Black needs to transfer the knight to g6, where it will defend the king. Another important factor is that Black will be able to finally play c7-c6. White needs to act quickly! 18.♘e5!? It's hard to find a better move for White 18... ♙xe5 19.♙xe5 with a double attack, on e7 and c7. Black

needs to give away the pawn 19...♘g6 20.♔xc7 ♔xc7 21.♙xc7 ♖c8 22.♙a5 b6 23.♙b4 ♖fd8 24.♖e3 In this endgame, White is a clear pawn up, but Black keeps excellent chances for a draw. The doubled pawns on c2 and c3 are weak, and in case of an exchange of bishop and knight, Black will probably manage to make a draw in the rook endgame.]

16...♔d7 [After the game my opponent told me that probably the immediate 16...♞e7 would have been a much better move. Yes, this is true, but White still keeps some advantage 16...♞e7 17.h3 (17.♔g4 ♔d7) 17...♞g6 18.♞h2 The usual maneuver! White is clearly the one putting pressure.]

17.h3 ♞e7

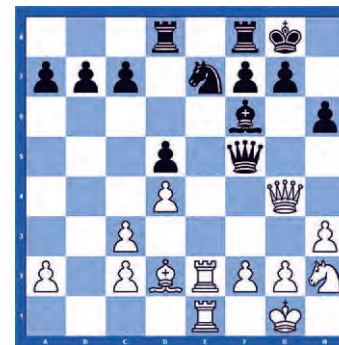


18.♞h2! My opponent clearly underestimated this move. White wants to play ♞g4 and it is very hard to find any defense against it! Wesley thought here for more than 30 minutes, and found nothing better than to give his queen away.

18...♔f5 [18...♞g6 19.♞g4 ♔c6 would have been another option, but now Black is totally pinned and has no moves 20.g3! A very cool and strong move. White wants

to play f4-f5 with a devastating attack, Black is hopeless. (20.f4 would give Black some chances 20...♙h4! This is the point 21.f5 ♙xe1 22.♖xe1 ♖de8! Probably, White is still doing better, but things are by far not that clear.)]

19.♔g4! This is the key move! During the game I was very happy to find this ♞h2-Qg4 idea.



19...♔xc2 My opponent finds nothing better than to give his queen. Probably the best practical choice. [It's easy to miss White's win after 19...h5 20.♔xf5 ♞xf5 21.g4! winning the whole piece! Not often we see the bishop getting trapped on f6 21...hxc4 22.hxc4 ♞h4 23.g5 and White is winning the bishop.; 19...♖d7 20.♙xh6 is winning now; Doesn't help either: 19...♔xc4 20.♞xc4 ♞f5 21.♞xf6+ gxf6 22.g4 and White is winning the h-pawn 22...♞h4 23.♙xh6 ♞f3+ 24.♙f1 ♞xe1 25.♙xf8 ♔xf8 26.♖xe1 and of course, this rook endgame should be winning.]

20.♙g5 ♔xe2 I have to make a choice, to play ♔xe2 or ♖xe2. Both seem to be close to winning.

21.♖xe2 I think this was not the best, I need my queen on the other side, to attack Black's pawns and king. [21.♔xe2! ♙xg5 22.♔b5 and it is almost impossible for Black to find a defense against ♔xb7, and against f4, at

the same time 22...b6 23.f4 ♖h4 24.g3 ♖f6 25.♘g4 and White's position should be completely winning!]

21... ♖xg5 22.h4 ♖f6



23. ♖h5 Another imprecise move, blundering Black's next defense. [23. ♖g3! would have been the right decision. Of course, I saw this move but somehow I didn't want to give Black any counterplay. Well, next time I should not be so lazy and calculate until the end 23...♘f5 Only move, White wanted to play ♘g4 24. ♖xc7 ♖c8 25. ♖d7 ♘xh4 Here I stopped my calculation, thinking: I am much better, why to let Black have some play? 26. ♘g4 ♖g5 27. ♖xd5 ♖xc3 28. ♖xb7 and in fact, Black's play is not dangerous at all and White should be easily winning here.]

23... ♖h8! A great defense by my opponent, probably the only move to stay in the game.

24.g3 [24. ♘g4 ♘g8! and Black continues the fight!]

24...c5! Another good move, Black needs to fight! If White manages to play ♖f3 and ♘g4, Black's position would be totally lost.

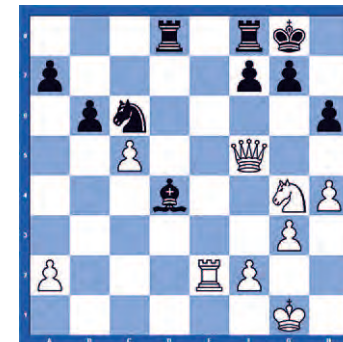
25.dxc5 ♘c6 26. ♖e3 d4 27.cxd4 ♖xd4 With every exchange, even of a pawn, Black's chances to get a draw increase.

28. ♖e2 b6 Continues with the plan of exchanging as much as possible.

29. ♘g4! Now I felt that it was time for me to be very careful. A few more inaccurate moves and the position could already be a draw. If Black manages to force the exchange of knights, I think the position should be a draw! The good thing is that if I can keep the knights on the board, I should probably be winning. [This line shows how easy it is to make a draw 29.cxb6 ♖xb6 30. ♘f3? ♘d4! and the position is a draw!]

29... ♖h7 [Of course not 29... ♖xc5 30. ♘xh6! My idea is coming true 30...gxh6 31. ♖xh6+ ♖g8 32. ♖xc6 and White is totally winning.]

30. ♖f5+ ♖g8



31. ♖e4! A good move. I want to force the exchange of a pair of rooks and play ♖+♘ against ♖+♖+♘, which should be winning.

31... ♖c8 Only move, otherwise White would play c5-c6.

32.cxb6 ♖xb6 33. ♖c2 And I am close to completing my plan.

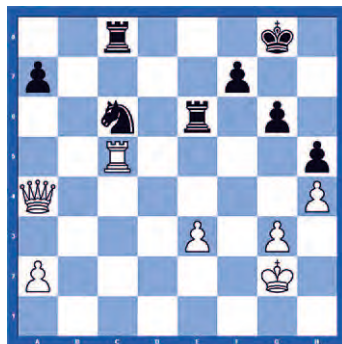
33...♖fe8 34.♔a4 h5! Again, a good move by my opponent! [In case of 34...♘d4 35.♖xc8 ♖xc8 36.♘e5 we are in a position where I think it's impossible for Black to hold 36...♖d8 37.h5! It is important to fix the Black pawn structure. Now White wants to attack the f7-pawn, to exchange the knight for the bishop, and to bring the a-pawn to a6. All these factors give White a winning position!]

35.♘e3! [35.♖xc6 hxg4 leads to a position where it's very hard to say if it's winning or not... I decided better not to try it...]

35...♙xe3 Nothing else to do, the knight on c6 is hanging and I wanted to play ♘d5 next.

36.fxe3 ♖e6 37.♔g2 g6 Here I felt I was already very close to winning. Black's pieces cannot move and the arrangement of the pieces is winning for me.

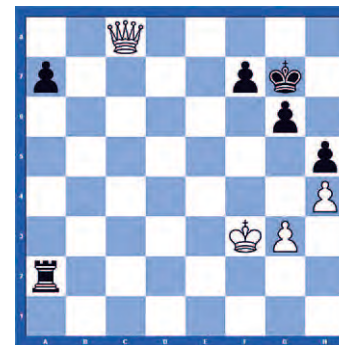
38.♖c5 I didn't have much time here and played this move quite fast. [38.e4 This was more exact, not giving Black any chances. White plans to play ♖c5, to bring the White a-pawn to a6, or to open the kingside with g4. The position should be winning.]



38...♖xe3!? This move leads to a lost position, but it is a good practical chance!

39.♖xc6 ♖xc6 40.♔xc6 ♖e2+ 41.♔f3 ♖xa2 We made the time control and I had enough time to figure out a nice way to win. If Black manages to put the rook on e6 or f5, the position is a draw! So I must be very careful...

42.♔c8+ ♔g7



43.♔c4! A good move, now the Black rook will remain passive, while the White king advances one line up, closer to his target.

43...♖a3+ Any other move would lose the rook.

44.♔f4 Now White's idea is to combine the threats of winning the rook and creating a mating attack.

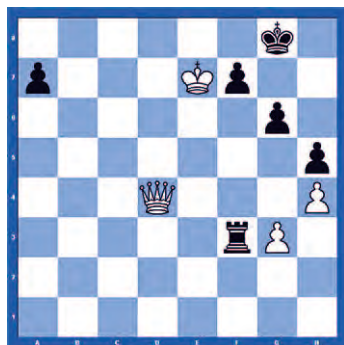
44...♔g8 Black has no moves

45.♔g5! The king is a strong piece in the endgame!

45...♔g7 Black can not allow the White king to go to h6.

46.♔d4+ ♔h7 47.♔f6 If not to h6, then to f8!

47...♖f3+ 48.♔e7 ♔g8 Black just needs one more move to play ♖f5, but...

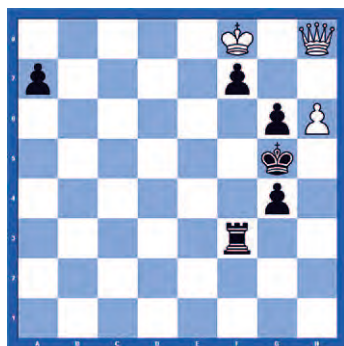


49.g4! This is the winning move! White crushes Black's pawn structure, getting a mating attack or a material advantage!

49...hxg4 50.h5! ♔h7 [In case of 50...gxh5 51.♔e5 followed by ♔g5 and ♔f8, with mate.]

51.♔f8 And the White king reaches his final destination!

51...♔h6 52.♔h8+ ♔g5 53.h6 The second queen is coming.



53...♔b3 54.♔g7 A very nice fighting game! My opponent's play was not very fortunate in the first 20 moves, but then he was very inventive in the defense! **1-0**

(3) Le Quang Liem (2703) – Navara,D (2706) [D90]

French league, 03.06.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

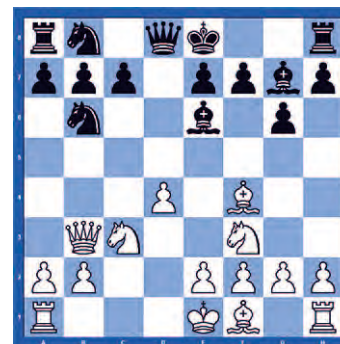
A perfect game by Le Quang Liem. After achieving a small advantage, White found all the strongest moves — which were not easy at all — and took home the full point.

1.♘f3 Recently everybody is facing serious difficulties against the Grünfeld, so people are trying to create different tricks, using various move orders right from the beginning of the game.

1...♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 Navara sticks with the Grünfeld anyway.

4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.♔b3 This is one of the characteristics of keeping the pawn on d2. Now in case of the typical ♘xc3, White takes back with the queen, attacking the rook.

5...♘b6 6.d4 ♘g7 7.♘f4 ♘e6



8.♔a3 We are just at the start of the lines, when Black comes up with an interesting pawn sacrifice, which is actually not a novelty, just a rare move. Navara had to be

well prepared, because his opponent already played this in 2012.

8...c5!? Black wants to get some important tempi in development to compensate for the pawn. This idea really makes sense, since White needs a lot of moves to castle short. [8...c6 is considered to be the main line 9.e3 0-0 10.♟e2 a5 11.0-0 ♞b4 12.♞fc1 c6 with a complex position.]

9.♞xc5 [9.dxc5 It's not really an option to open the diagonal for the g7 bishop 9...♞c4 Black is fine.]

9...♞c6 10.e3 ♞c8 11.♞a3 White had to make 2 queen moves, while Black put out his pieces, and as the famous saying goes, „two tempi in the opening have the same value of a pawn“.

11...0-0 12.♟e2! White has no more time to waste. [A nice illustration of what could happen if White makes some careless moves 12.♞d1 a5! Black would like to play ♞b4 in some occasions 13.♞e5 ♞d5 14.♞xc6 ♞xc6 White is facing serious problems 15.♟b5 ♞b6 ! 16.♞xa5 ♞xf4 17.exf4



17...♟b3!! Black won an exchange due to the ♞e6 threat and obtained a winning position in Sadorra-Ganguly, Subic 2009.]

12...♞c4 Black must also play actively, otherwise he'll just end up a pawn down.

13.♞a4! Excellent decision to give back the pawn, trying to achieve a positional advantage. [13.♟xc4 would have been too greedy 13...♟xc4 when White must forget about castling short, which does not predict a nice future for him.]

13...♞xb2 14.♞b5 ♞c4! As a Grünfeld player, you must always stay focused on tactical ideas. Black uses a small trick to escape with his knight. [14...♞b6 15.♞xb6 axb6 16.♞b1 += is slightly better for White, due to the weaknesses on the b-file.]

15.0-0 Finally the king is safe. From a positional point of view, White has a beautiful position. The e3-d4 pawn structure neutralizes the g7 bishop. Black has no chance to use the typical break with e5. The bishop on f4 stands perfectly, it restricts the movement of Black's pieces. White can start to put pressure on the queenside and in the center. [The piece is immune, since after 15.♟xc4? ♟xc4 16.♞xc4 ♞xd4 Black wins.]

15...♞a5 Actually this is the novelty of our present game, and this had to be Navara's preparation, but it seems like White can keep a small advantage. [The passive 15...♞b6 was played before 16.♞ac1 (16.♞fc1 would have more logical, since the a-rook could be used effectively after a4-a5, or on the b-file...) 16...♞d5 17.♞xd5 ♟xd5 (17...♞xd5 was better, but still after 18.a4 += White has the advantage. Black doesn't have any active plans, while White

puts pressure on the queenside.) 18. ♖c5 e6 19. ♖fc1 +/- White enjoyed a clear advantage. Shchekachev-Safarli, Zuerich 2009]

16. ♖fc1 And again White correctly brings his f-rook to c1, because the other one is needed on the a- and b-files to get good queenside play.



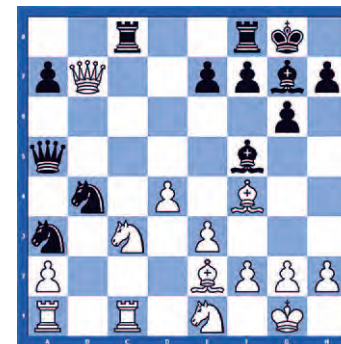
16... ♖a3? As a real Grünfeld player, Navara plays dynamic chess, but unfortunately for him, complications favor White this time. [Black should have gone into a slightly worse endgame 16... ♖xb5 17. ♖xb5 ♖b6 18. ♖g3 += After removing the bishop from the ♖d5 threat, White can start his play with a4. He enjoys a small, but long-term advantage.]

17. ♖xb7! Not afraid of anything! Le Quang Liem had very deep defensive ideas in mind. An important detail is that the bishop on f4 is still standing perfectly, it covers the b8 square and the ♖c7-Rfc8 plans.

17... ♖b4 18. ♖e1! A necessary retreat against the ♖c2 threat.

18... ♖f5 [I tried to on Black's play with doubling on the c-file, but it does not help. After some accurate moves,

White gets a big advantage 18... ♖c6 19. ♖f3 ♖c4 20. ♖e4! ♖xc1 21. ♖xc1 ♖xa2 22. ♖a1 +- and White is going to take on e7, or to play ♖c5.]



19.g4!! White defends resourcefully. Black has no way to make use of this weakness and the bishop on g3 is going to be a great guard of the king.

19... ♖ac2 [On the passive 19... ♖e6 20. ♖xe7 White simply collects the 2nd pawn.]

20. ♖xc2 ♖xc2 [20... ♖xc2 White can choose between two wins: 21. ♖d5 is the computer's suggestion (21.gxf5 ♖xa1 22. ♖b2 +- is the human way.) 21... ♖xa1 22. ♖xe7+ ♖h8 23. ♖xc8 +-]

21. ♖b5! White continues to play a perfect game, he is not giving any chance to his opponent.

21... ♖xa2 [On 21... a6 the strongest move is 22. ♖d6!! exd6 23. ♖xd6 +- and too many pieces are hanging.]

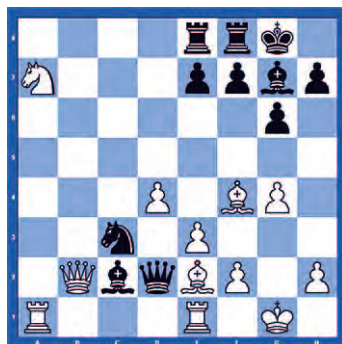
22. ♖xa7 A cold-blooded capture. Attacking the c8 rook and intending to play ♖c6.

22...♔d2 23.♖e1! White had other winning move as well, but he does not want to give any chance for counterplay. [23.♘xc8 ♘xc1 24.♘xe7+ ♔h8 25.♕f3 +-]

23...♖ce8 [23...♘c3 24.♕f3 +- Suddenly Black's pieces got confused, and remained without any targets.]

24.♖b2! Black is not only clear a pawn down, but he also must worry about his pieces on the queenside.

24...♘c3



25.♕f3 e5 Finally Black manages to open his „Grünfeld bishop“, but it is already too late. Anyway, we must be aware of this idea against the e3-d4 pawn structure.

26.dxe5 ♖xe5 A desperate attempt. [26...♕xe5 27.♕xe5 ♖xe5 28.♖ac1 +-; 26...♖b8 27.♖c1 +-]

27.♕xe5 ♕xe5 28.♘c6! It seems like Le Quang decided to play this game without any mistakes. Even in this completely winning position, he plays the most precise moves.

28...♖b8 A last trick. [28...♘e2+ 29.♖xe2 ♕xb2 30.♖xd2 ♕xa1 31.♖xc2 +-; 28...♘e4 29.♘xe5! ♖xf2+ is just one check 30.♖h1 +- White is a rook up.]

29.♖c1! [Black wanted to lure the knight 29.♘xb8 to have 29...♘e4! and the bishop on f3 is not protected after ♘xe5, but still White has a win: 30.♖e2! ♕xb2 31.♖xd2 ♘xd2 32.♖a2 ♘xf3+ 33.♖h1! ♕e4 34.♖xb2 +- and the knight doesn't have any good squares, so White wins with the exchange up.]

29...♕xh2+ 30.♖g2 Black resigned. A typical battle in the dynamic Grünfeld defense, which this time ended with an impressive victory by White. **1–0**

(4) Fedorchuk,S (2634) – Bauer,C (2672) [B01]

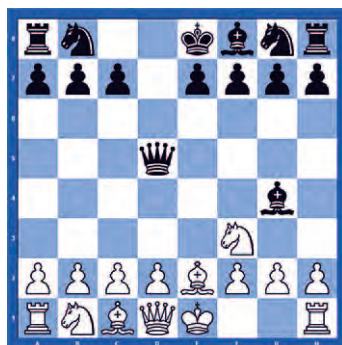
French league, 04.06.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

Christian Bauer, one of the biggest experts in the Scandinavian defense, got into serious trouble against a harmless-looking setup.

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 ♖xd5 And here, instead of the standard 3.♘c3 and 4.d4, White played calmly.

3.♘f3 ♘g4 4.♙e2

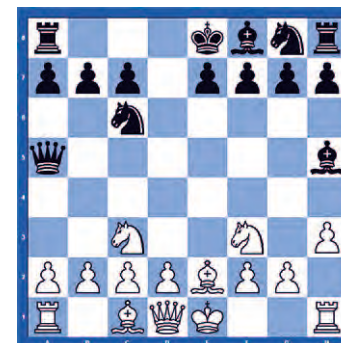


4...♘c6 [The idea of White's concept becomes clear after 4...♘f6 5.d4 e6 6.0–0 ♙e7 and before developing with ♘c3, White creates a much more favorable pawn structure with 7.c4! ♖d8 8.♘c3 followed by ♙e3, with a small but long-lasting advantage.]

5.♘c3 ♖a5 Compared to the main Scandinavian (3.♘c3 ♖a5 4.d4), White can make use of having the pawn on d2. Therefore, I believe this time the queen should have gone to d7. [5...♖d7 6.h3 ♙h5 7.d4 d5 is a threat now 7...e6 and here White has the very strong 8.♘e5! ♙xe2 9.♖xe2 We

reached the critical position where Black can choose between 3 moves. It seems to me that White has some advantage in any case 9...♘xe5 a) 9...♖xd4 10.♘xc6 bxc6 11.♙e3 White is seriously ahead in development and the c6 pawn is a real weakness 11...♖d7 (11...♖b4 12.♖a6 ♘e7 is the only move to defend the c6, but now the knight blocks the bishop, so it is going to be very difficult to finish the development. White can continue in „gambit style“ 13.0–0 ♖xb2 14.♙d4 with an attack.) 12.♖d1 Another piece comes with tempo 12...♙d6 13.♘e4 ♘f6 14.♘xf6+ gxf6 15.c4! with big problems for Black. He cannot leave the pin with 15...♖e7 because of 16.♖f3!; b) 9...♘xd4 10.♖d3 ♖d8 (10...♖d6 just steps into 11.♙f4) 11.♙e3 ♘c6 12.♖b5 a6 13.♖a4! with a very strong compensation once again.; 10.dxe5 ♙b4 11.♙d2 += followed by 0–0–0. I think White should be slightly better due to the space advantage with the e5 pawn, but possibly Black can hold with accurate play.]

6.h3 ♙h5



7.♖b1!! A great idea! Suddenly the Black queen feels uncomfortable, because of the b4 threat.

7...e6 [7...0-0-0 is met with the sacrifice 8.b4! ♖xb4 9.a3 The idea is to win the h5 bishop after 9...♗c6 10.♖b5. 9...♗d5 10.♗xd5 ♕xd5 (10...♖xd5 11.c4 +/- with serious problems.) 11.♖b5! +/- forcing the crucial weakening of the king with c5.]

8.a3! White calmly prepares the b4 push, after which the queen has no good square to retreat. After ♕b6 ♗a4 traps it, and ♖f5 is met with g4. Therefore, Black was forced to make a really unpleasant decision.

8...♗xf3 This is generally the last thing Black wanted to do, but there was simply nothing better.

9.♗xf3 ♗ge7 10.b4 ♕e5+ The Black queen does not find its place on the board. It is clear that White has won the opening battle.

11.♗e2 0-0-0 12.0-0 ♖d6 Black frees the e5 square for the knight to get rid of the powerful light-squared bishop.



13.g3 A logical move, but probably White could have played much more energetically. [13.d4! White threatens to play c3, where Black has practically no moves, so he is forced to accept the sacrifice 13...♗xd4 (13...♗e5 is met with 14.♗xb7+! ♕xb7 15.♗f4! wins.) 14.♗xd4 ♕xd4

15.♕e2! with an amazing dangerous attack. White simply wants to play ♗e3 or ♗b2, followed by ♖fd1 or ♕b5. Black can hardly hold the threats.]

13...h5 14.b5 ♗d4 Black was hoping for „less pieces less problems“, but he can never equalize in this game. [On 14...♗e5 White simply wanted to react with 15.♗g2 h4 16.g4 Black could only temporarily push back White's pieces. Now it is White's turn, he is going to play d4 and Black has to retreat.]

15.♗g2 ♗ef5 16.a4 A logical move again, but maybe here White could have played in similar style to the 13.d4 line. [16.♗xd4 ♕xd4 Bauer probably wanted to take back this way (16...♗xd4 is met with 17.c3 ♗f5 18.d4 +/- with a big advantage.) 17.♗b2! ♕xd2 18.♖f3 ♕d5 19.♕xd5 exd5 20.♖fd1 leads to a very unpleasant endgame, where the 2 bishops start to work on the long diagonals, while defending the pawn with 20...c6 leads to dangerous attack after 21.bxc6 bxc6 22.c4! opening the diagonal 22...dxc4 23.♖dc1! White needs to keep all his remaining pieces in order to lead an effective attack.]

16...♕b6 Creating some small trick on g3, but of course, White easily parries it.

17.♕h1 ♗xe2 18.♕xe2 White simply wants to play c3 and d4 with a big advantage, and Black cannot prevent it... At least, I don't see the way to do it.

18...♖d4?! 19.♖a1 After this calm response, the c3-d4 plan is coming with tempo.

19...a5 White could have transposed to a superior endgame, but he preferred to keep the queens on board. It is up to our style, which one we like more...

20.c3 [20.bxa6!? ♔xa6 21.♔xa6 bxa6 22.c3 ♖d8 23.♖b1 +/- The weak a6-pawn is Black's main problem.]

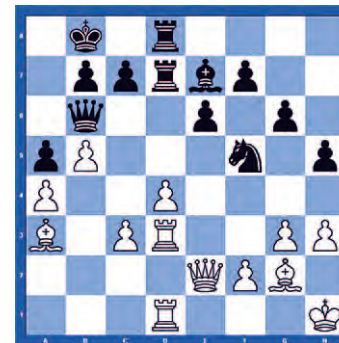
20...♖d7 21.d4



21...♗e7 White has many tempting plans. In fact, he can do whatever he wants, because Black will soon get out of moves. Fedorchuk decides to overprotect the d4 pawn, in order to swap Black off the board with c4-c5.

22.♗b2 ♔b8 23.♖ad1 g6 24.♖d3 ♖hd8 25.♖fd1 ♗f6? Black fights against the c4 push, but this is the start of a blunder. [Passing with the bishop on f8-e7 was probably the only plan, but it cannot lead to anything good 25...♗f8 26.h4!? ♗e7 27.♔f3 +/- followed by c4, when the d4 pawn is not hanging anymore.]

26.♗a3! ♗e7? [26...♔a7 was the only move, but after 27.♗c5 ♔a8 the queen ends up in the corner, which does not mean anything good.]



27.♗c5! Suddenly the queen is trapped! White wins a huge amount of material.

27...♗xc5 28.dxc5 ♖xd3 29.♖xd3! ♖xd3 30.cxb6 Nice positional game, and an interesting line to avoid the complications of the Scandinavian defense. **1-0**

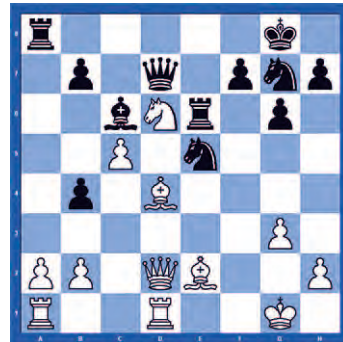
Puzzle section

(5) Bogner,S (2569) – Nataf,IA (2544)

French league, 03.06.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

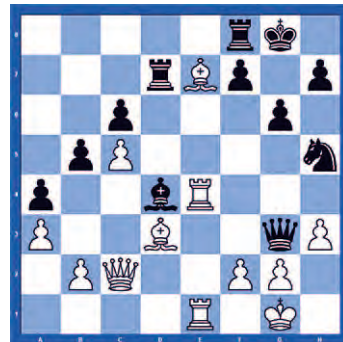


(6) Battaglini,G (2412) – Bogner,S (2569)

French league, 04.06.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

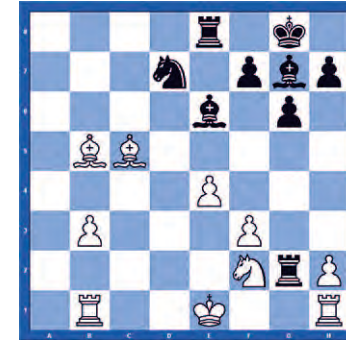


(7) Dubessay,B (2384) – Skoberne,J (2535)

Mitropa Cup, 02.06.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

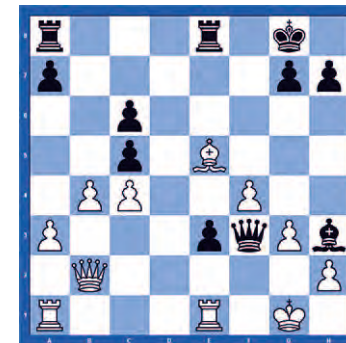


(8) Tan Zhongyi (2430) – Zhao Xue (2549)

Women's World rapid Championship, 31.05.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

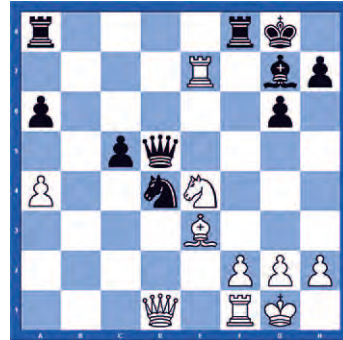


(9) Guo Qi (2360) – Ushenina,A (2454)

Women's World rapid Championship, 01.06.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

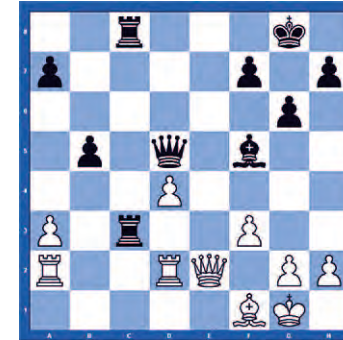


(11) Cramling,P (2478) – Harika,D (2508)

Women's World rapid Championship, 02.06.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

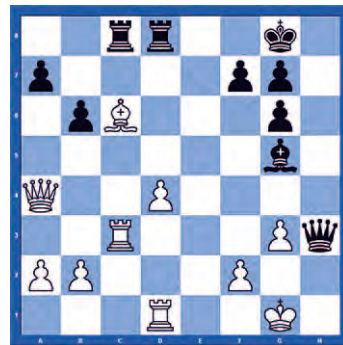


(10) Khurtsidze,N (2456) – Gunina,V (2530)

Women's World rapid Championship, 02.06.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

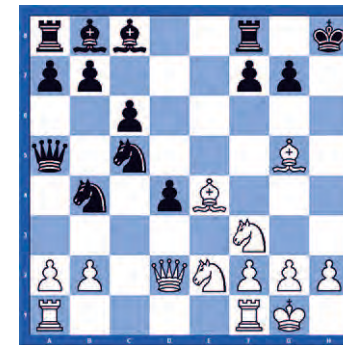


(12) Ovsejevitsch,S (2572) – Kuijf,R (2419)

Liechtenstein Open, 18.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Flores,D (2604) – Molina,R (2423)

Panno Masters, 21.05.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

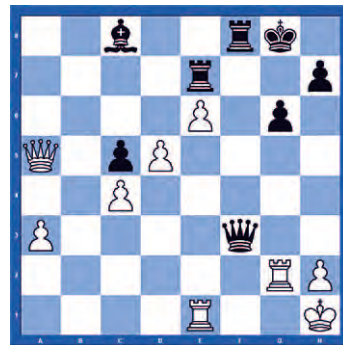


(14) Nanu,C (2520) – Shishkin,V (2492)

Baia Mare, 26.05.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

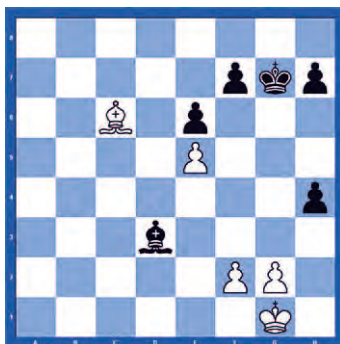


Endgame section

(15) Fargere,F – Miton,K [B30]

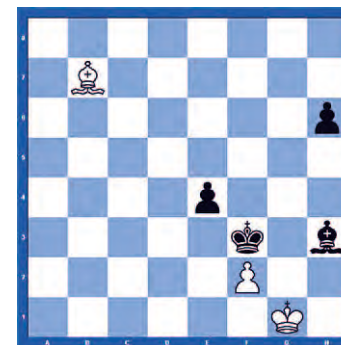
Top12, 2012

[Chess Evolution]



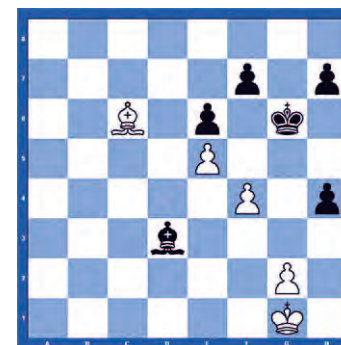
We are in a drawn-looking bishop endgame, but it is by far not an easy draw...

39...♔h6 40.f4?! This seems to be the first inaccuracy of White. [40.♙e8 would be the right way to continue 40...♙g6 41.♔h2 ♔g5 42.♔h3 ♙f5+ (42...♔f4 43.♔xh4 ♔xe5 44.g3 = The White king is going back to g2 next, and Black cannot do anything about it. It's always very important for White to keep the pawn on f2!) 43.♔h2 ♔f4 44.♙xf7 ♔xe5 45.♙e8 ♔f4 46.♙c6 Again, a very important moment. White chooses a passive tactic to keep the pawn on f2! 46...e5 47.♙b7 e4 48.♙c6 h6 49.♙b7 h3 50.gxh3 ♔f3 51.♔g1 ♙xh3



52.♙c6 ♙g4 53.♙b7 h5 54.♙c6 h4 55.♙b7 h3 56.♙c6 ♙f5 57.♙b7 = Black has no chances to achieve any more progress, the position is a draw.]

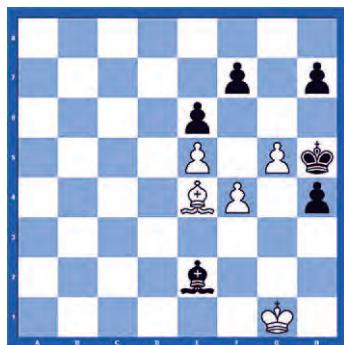
40...♔h5 [A very interesting try to play for a win would have been 40...♔g6



41.g4! An amazing resource for White

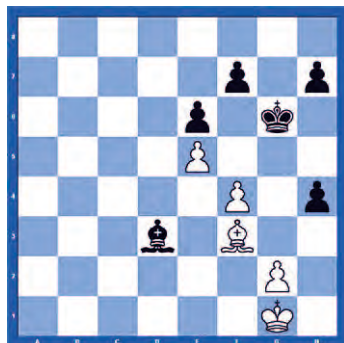
a) 41.♙e8 ♔f5 42.♙xf7 ♙c4 and both the f4 and e5 pawns are going to fall;

b) 41.♔f2 ♔f5 42.♔f3 (42.♔e3 ♙c4) 42...h5 43.♙b7 ♙c2 with the idea of ♙d1, and Black is winning.; 41...h5 (41...♙e2 Also after this move, it looks like White has a study looking draw 42.♙e4+ ♔h6 43.g5+ ♔h5



44. ♖f2! White needs to stop Black from playing ♔g4 44... ♙d1 45. ♖e1! ♙g4 46. ♖f2 ♙f5 47. ♙f3+ ♔g6 48. ♖g2 h6 49. gxh6 ♔xh6 50. ♖f2 = and Black can not make any further progress.; 41...hxg3 42. ♖g2 ♖f5 43. ♖xg3 h5 44. ♙e8 and it seems like White is just in time to hold the draw.) 42. ♙f3 hxg4 43. ♙xg4 ♙f5 44. ♙f3 f6 45. exf6 ♔xf6 46. ♖f2 ♖e7 47. ♙a8 ♖d6 48. ♙b7 ♖c5 49. ♙a8 ♖d4 50. ♙b7 (50. ♙g2? h3) 50... ♙e4 51. ♙c8 ♙d5 52. f5 e5 53. f6 e4 54. ♙g4 e3+ 55. ♖e2 ♙c4+ 56. ♖f3 =]

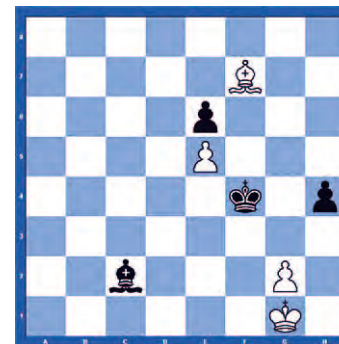
41. ♙f3+ ♔g6



42. ♙g4?! [42. ♖f2 ♖f5 43. g3! = would give White a draw now. (43. ♖e3?? ♙c4)]

42... ♙f5 43. ♙f3 ♙c2 44. ♙g4 h5 45. ♙f3 [45. ♙h3 ♙f5]

45... ♖f5 46. ♙xh5 ♔xf4 47. ♙xf7



47... ♙f5! 48. ♖f2? Decisive mistake! White could have held the position after: [48. ♖h2! ♙g4! (48... ♖xe5 49. g3 h3 50. ♙h5 followed by g4, with a draw.) 49. ♙e8 ♖xe5 50. g3 h3 51. ♙b5 White wants to play ♙f1 and ♙xh3 51... ♖d4 52. ♙d7! This is the point! Anyway, it's not easy to see this idea during a practical game. (52. ♙f1 e5 53. ♙xh3 ♙xh3 54. ♖xh3 e4 and Black is queening first.) 52... ♖e4 53. ♙c8 ♖f5 (53... ♖f3 54. ♙b7+ ♖f2 55. ♙c8 =) 54. ♙d7 ♖g5 55. ♙b5 e5 56. ♙f1 and only now. the bishop is going to f1 56...e4 57. ♙xh3 =]

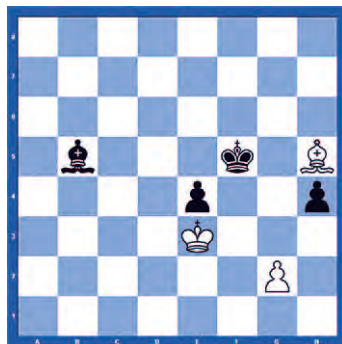
48... ♙g4! 49. ♙e8 ♖xe5 50. ♖e3 Black's task is to achieve a zugzwang position in order to get the f4 square for his king.

50... ♖f5 51. ♙a4 The bishop controls d1 and doesn't allow ♖g4-Kg3.

51... ♖g5 52. ♙b3 ♙f5 53. ♙d1 ♙b1 The idea is ♙a2-Bd5.

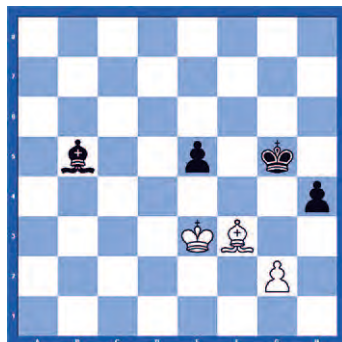
54. ♙b3 e5 55. ♙d1 ♙f5 [55...e4 An interesting idea to play for a zugzwang that seems to win as well 56. ♙e2

♔f5 57. ♖d1 ♖d3 58. ♖h5 ♖f1 59. ♔f2 ♖b5 60. ♔e3 (60. g3 h3 61. ♔g1 e3 62. ♔h2 ♔g5 63. ♖f3 ♖d7)



60... ♖d3 wins a tempo 61. ♖d1 ♔g5 and White is in zugzwang. He is forced to let the Black king penetrate.]

56. ♖f3 ♖g6 57. ♖e2 ♖e8 58. ♖f3 ♖b5 Finally Black takes control of the h1–c6 diagonal, or is able to win the g4 square for his king!

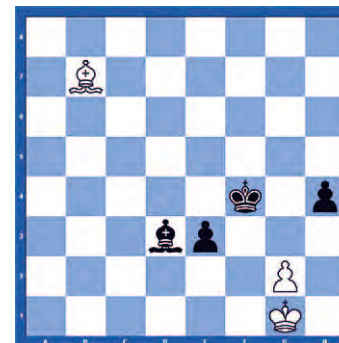


59. ♖d5 [59. ♔e4 ♖c6+]

59... ♔g4 60. ♔f2 [Doesn't help 60. ♔e4 ♔g3 61. ♔xe5 ♖f1 62. ♔d4 ♖xg2 63. ♖e6 ♖h3! 64. ♖d5 (64. ♖xh3 ♔xh3 65. ♔e3 ♔g2) 64... ♖g4 65. ♔e3 h3 with the plan of h2-Bh3-Bg2 –+.]

60... ♔f4 And Black is winning very easily.

61. ♖b7 ♖d3 62. ♖c6 e4 63. ♖b7 e3+ 64. ♔g1

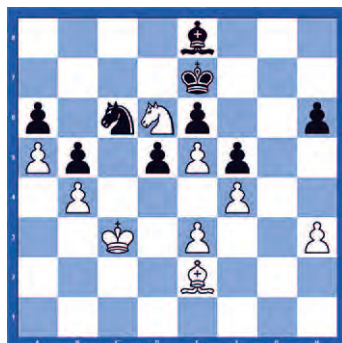


64... ♔g3 0–1

(16) Fressinet,L (2715) – Nanu,C (2520)

French league, 03.06.2012

[Chess Evolution]



From a positional point of view, White is clearly better because of his superior pawn structure, stronger pieces, and the a6 and e6 weaknesses. Of course these are all very nice, but how to break through Black's rock solid position? The knight on c6 is an excellent blockading piece, which also prevents the penetration of the king through d4-c5. After a long maneuvering without being able of cracking Black's defense, White found a last trap...

91. ♖b7 [91. ♖xb5? is not enough 91...axb5 92. ♗xb5 ♔d7 Black easily stops the pawns.]

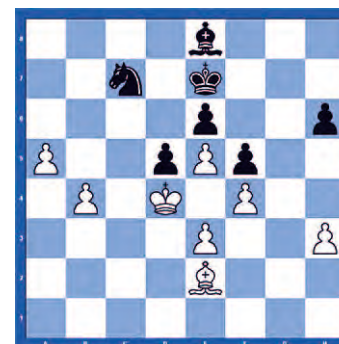
91... ♗f7? Black blunders, or underestimates his opponent's idea, and makes a decisive mistake. [91... ♗d7! 92. ♖c5 ♗c8 would have held the draw. White cannot improve his position.]

92. ♖c5 ♖b8 93. ♖xa6!! After this great sacrifice White is winning, but converting still requires perfect technique. Compared to the 91. ♖xb5 possibility, Black is not in time

to block ideally the pawns, and what is even more important, he cannot avoid ♔d4-c5.

93... ♖xa6 94. ♗xb5 ♖c7 95. ♗e2 ♗e8 Black finds the best chance. [95... ♔d7 96.b5 is hopeless. Black's pieces are standing horribly. In fact, he can only watch how White promotes his pawns.]

96. ♔d4!



96... ♖b5+ This is again the best chance. Black cannot create any counterplay, while random moves are losing after ♔c5 and b5. [96... ♗b5 loses after 97. ♗xb5 ♖xb5+ 98. ♔c5 and the pawns start to march.]

97. ♗xb5! Excellent decision! We will soon understand why the knight had to be eliminated. [It would have been easy to go wrong with 97. ♔c5 but after 97... ♖c3! 98. ♗d3 ♖a4+! 99. ♔d4 ♔d8! 100.b5 ♔c7 Black has built up an unbreakable fortress, due to the knight on a4, which prevents all the king maneuvers.]

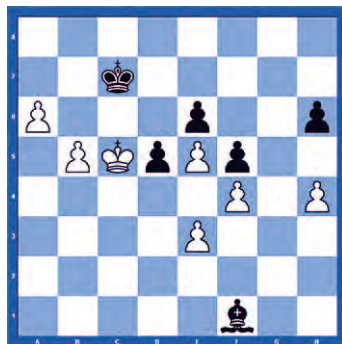
97... ♗xb5 98. ♔c5 ♗f1 We are in the critical position of the game. After more than 5 hours and 99 moves of fighting, Fressinet wanted to play for a win without taking any risk, but it could have cost him the full point.

99.h4? This gives a very important tempo for Black. [99. ♖b6! was the way to win 99... ♙xh3 (99... ♔d7 100.a6 d4 Black must sacrifice this pawn to be able to stop the a-pawn, but it does not save the game 101.exd4 ♙xh3 102.b5 White's main idea is ♔a7 followed by the unstoppable b6-b7-b8 102... ♙f1 (102... ♙g2 103. ♔a7 +-) 103.d5! White closes the diagonal and wins.) 100.a6 ♙g2 101. ♔c7! Now, both pawns are promoting at the same time, but at the end White collects the e6 pawn with check, which decides the outcome of the game. 101...h5 102.b5 h4 103.b6 h3 104.b7 h2 105.b8Q h1Q 106. ♔d8+! ♔f7 107. ♔f6+! This is the point! 107... ♔g8 108. ♔xe6+ ♔g7 109. ♔f6+ ♔h7 110.e6 +- and Black cannot stop the pawns.]

99... ♔d7 Now the position is drawn, but Black needs to defend precisely.

100.b5 [100. ♔b6 was an alternative 100... ♔c8 101.b5 h5!! The key move! We will understand its point in the 102... ♙c4 line. 102.a6 ♔b8 103. ♔c6 ♙c4 104. ♔d6 ♔a7 Black holds, as the 102... ♙c4 line shows.]

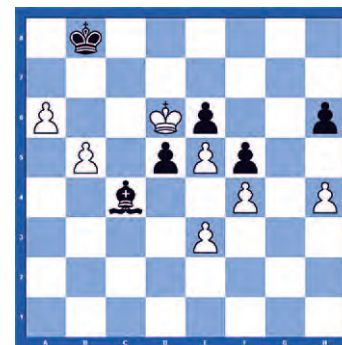
100... ♔c7 101.a6



101... ♔b8? Probably because of tiredness, Black loses the game in 2 moves. [101...d4! was the easiest, and also

the best practical way, to hold the draw. This sacrifice is very logical because the bishop could have held the a-b pawns from g2, and White cannot make use of his extra pawn after exd4... 102.exd4 ♙g2 103.b6+ ♔d7 White cannot improve his position, he must settle for draw.; 101... h5! was the other way to draw, but we'll discuss it again in the 102... ♙c4 line.]

102. ♔d6 ♙xb5? The position was lost anyway, but after this move, White in fact cannot spoil the win. [102... ♙c4 A very interesting position. Who would guess that the right evaluation of the position is set around the h5 move. If White plays it, he wins; if Black does it, he draws. It is much easier to understand the idea behind it than to find this move with any color. It is all about the h6 weakness. White would like to fix it and then take it, while if Black puts it to h5, he can defend it with the bishop



103.h5!! (The logical 103.b6 trying to exchange the a6 pawn for the e6 one would spoil the win after the excellent response by Black 103...h5!! 104. ♔e7 (104. ♔d7 ♔a8!! When the White king is on the d-file, the bishop cannot leave the c4 square, where it fulfills two functions: it protects the e6 square and on a7, ♔b7, a8Q, ♔xa8, ♔c7,

Black must have the ♖a6 resource.) 104... ♖a2 105. ♔d7 (105. ♔f6 ♖c4 106. ♔g5 ♖e2 =) 105... ♖c4! 106.a7+ ♔b7 107. ♔d6 White tries to create some zugzwang, but Black is ready to hold (107.a8Q+ ♔xa8 108. ♔c7 ♖a6!) 107... ♔a8 (107...d4!? is also completely fine now 108.exd4 ♖d5 109. ♔e7 ♖c4 110. ♔f6 ♖d5 111. ♔g5 ♖f3 with a draw, since the overoptimistic breakthrough 112.d5?? loses after 112... exd5 113.e6 d4 114.e7 ♖c6) 108. ♔c6 ♖a6 109. ♔c7 ♖b7 110. ♔d7 d4! 111.exd4 ♖d5 = See the 107...d4 line.) 103... ♔a7 104. ♔e7 ♔b6 105. ♔f6 ♖xb5 106. ♔g6 Black's bishop is really unfortunate. He cannot win any tempi when catching the h-pawn, he can only take it on h5, otherwise it would be too late 106... ♖e8+ 107. ♔xh6 ♔xa6 108. ♔g5 ♖xh5 109. ♔xh5 ♔b5 110. ♔g6 ♔c4 111. ♔f6 +-]

103. ♔xe6 ♖xa6 [103... ♖d3 104. ♔f7 +-]

104. ♔xf5 +- It is over now. [Black's last hope was in the too direct 104. ♔f7 ♔c7 105.e6 ♔d6 106.e7 ♖b5 107.e8Q ♖xe8+ 108. ♔xe8 when Black can hold the pawn endgame after the strong 108...d4! 109.exd4 ♔d5 110. ♔f7 ♔xd4 111. ♔g6 ♔e4 112. ♔xh6 ♔xf4 = with a draw.]

104... ♔c7 105. ♔g6 ♔d7 106. ♔xh6 ♔e6 107.h5 Too many pawns are running. The king and bishop cannot stop all of them.

107... ♔f7 Otherwise, ♔g7 and h6.

108.f5 ♖d3 109. ♔g5 ♔g7 110.e6 ♔h7 111.f6 1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Porges,M – Lasker,Emanuel [C67]

Nuremberg Nuremberg, 20.07.1896

[Balogh Csaba]

We go back to the 19th century! A nice game from the 2nd World Champion, Emanuel Lasker. He won his title in 1894 at the age of 26, by defeating Steinitz, and held it through 27 years, which is a record in chess history.

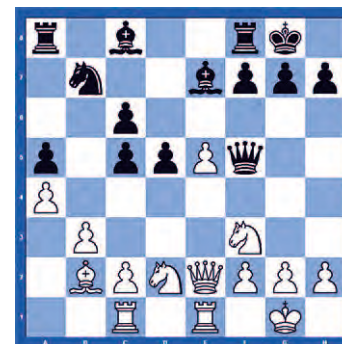
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 4.0-0 ♘xe4 5.d4 ♙e7!? This is the so-called Rio de Janeiro variation of the Spanish opening, which was the favorite weapon of the famous 19th century chess player Adolf Anderssen. He played it for the first time in 1862!

6.♙e2 ♘d6 7.♙xc6 bxc6! 8.dxe5 ♘b7 This is the point behind Black's idea. Usually the knight has a hard time trying to find a safe place on the board, while now it is heading to e6. Black has a bit cramped position, but he has gained the bishop pair as compensation. This opening went out of fashion due to the passive middlegame positions, but since the Russian top GM Malakhov started to play it in 2009, the variation is alive again! Many strong players tried to refute it, but it's still not clear how to achieve an advantage for White. Now White can choose between at least 6 different setups, I doubt that the text move can create real problems for Black.

9.b3 0-0 10.♙b2 d5



11.exd6?! This cannot be a good idea. Black gets rid of his doubled c-pawns and the position opens up, which favors the bishops. [I think 11.♖d1 is the only way to fight for an advantage, with the idea of c4 and ♘c3.; Lasker won another nice game as Black after 11.♘d4 ♙d7! prepares for c5, but first prevents ♘c6 12.♘d2 c5 13.♘4f3 ♙f5 14.♖ac1 c6 Black is already completely fine, but let's see how Black outplays his opponent 15.♙fe1 a5 16.a4



16...♘d8! Generally the Black knight lands on e6 in this opening, but usually it goes through the c5 square 17.♘f1 ♘e6 18.♘g3 ♙g6 19.♙d2 h5 20.♘e2 ♙f5 21.♙a3 ♖e8 22.♙e3 h4 23.h3 ♙a6 White already has serious problems. A nice lesson from Lasker, against Teichmann, who

was also one of the best players during that time 24.♔h1 d4 25.♚d2 ♖ed8 26.♘eg1



26...♘f4 and in this completely cramped position, White thought that the World Champion had blundered a tactical motif, but Lasker calculated one move further... 27.♙xc5 ♙xc5 28.♘xh4 ♚g5 29.♘gf3 Seems like White wins back the piece and ends up with material advantage, but... 29...♙b4!! (29...♚h6? 30.♘f5 +-) 30.♚xb4 ♚xh4! 31.♚d2 ♚h6 and Black kept his extra piece. Teichmann-Lasker, Nuremberg 1896.]

11...cxd6 12.♘bd2



12...♖e8! 13.♖fe1 ♙d7! Both players are developing logically. Black needs to slowly put out his pieces and then the bishop pair will automatically start to work.

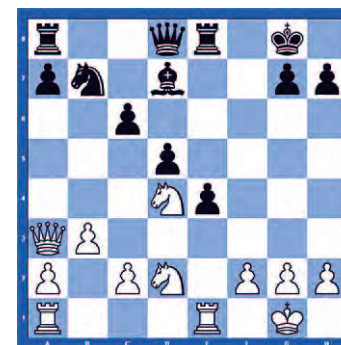
14.♘e4? A serious mistake, which might be called as decisive against a player like Lasker. [Let's see what happens after some „normal“ moves: 14.♘c4 ♘c5 15.♖ad1 ♙f8 16.♚d2 ♖xe1+ 17.♖xe1 d5 18.♘ce5 ♙e8 Black has the initiative: he has a healthy pawn structure, the bad b7 knight turned out to be a strong piece on e4 or e6, and the bishops start to work soon as well, let's say after f6 and ♙g6.]

14...d5! Probably White just missed this move. He is lucky not to lose immediately...

15.♘ed2 ♙a3 Seems to be over, but White finds a way to stay in the game.

16.♙e5 f6 17.♚a6! The only way not to lose material, but it improves Black's pawn structure so much, that the position becomes close to winning.

17...fxe5 18.♚xa3 e4 19.♘d4



19...♚f6! A very strong positional idea. Lasker forces White to play c3, which is another crucial weakness in his

position. It gives up the control over the d3 square, and the knight is going to occupy this square soon.

20.c3 ♖f8 Another very unpleasant move. White is facing a difficult decision again. The only move not to lose material is 21.f3, but it is another weakening move.

21.f3 [21.♖f1 loses to 21...♔g5 and White cannot parry the ♕h3 threat.]

21...♔g5! Small but brutal moves. Black creates the threat of c5, and after the knight goes away, the f3 pawn is hanging. White has only one move to avoid losing a huge amount of material, but again it has its drawbacks...

22.♔c1 Only move, but it gives up the c5 square. Black immediately activates his knight. [22.♖e2 c5]

22...♘c5! [22...c5 is tempting, but White can hold after 23.♘c2 ♕h3 24.♖e2 Ugly, but White is alive.]

23.♘f1 White is defending tenaciously, but his 14th move was so bad that he can never get back into the game.

23...♔g6 Of course, against such a weak king Black needs to keep the queens on board.

24.♖e3 ♘d3 25.♔d1 [25.♔d2 would be met with 25...c5! 26.♘c2 ♖xf3! 27.♖xf3 exf3 and Black wins.]



25...♘f4 In the last four moves, Black managed to transfer his b7 knight to f4! A remarkable achievement!

26.♘g3 h5! With each move, Black creates a threat. Lasker does not give a „free“ move for White to consolidate his position.

27.♘de2 The time has come the finish the game with a nice combo!

27...♘xg2! 28.♔xg2 exf3+ 29.♖xf3 ♕h3+! This is the point.

30.♔xh3 Black wins by force now: [30.♔f2 ♖xf3+ 31.♔xf3 h4 The White king is too naked.]

30...♔g4+! 31.♔g2 ♖xf3+ 32.♔g1 [On 32.♔h3 h4 is coming anyway 33.♔xh4 ♖f6 and mate soon.]

32...h4 33.♘h1 [33.♘f1 ♖f2+ 34.♔h1 h3]

33...♔e3+! [White did not want to wait 33...♔e3+ 34.♔g2 h3# Nice mate! At the beginning of the game Lasker showed great positional understanding, while in the middlegame he proved his excellent tactical abilities. Anyway, the most remarkable thing is that this game was played 116 years ago!] **0-1**

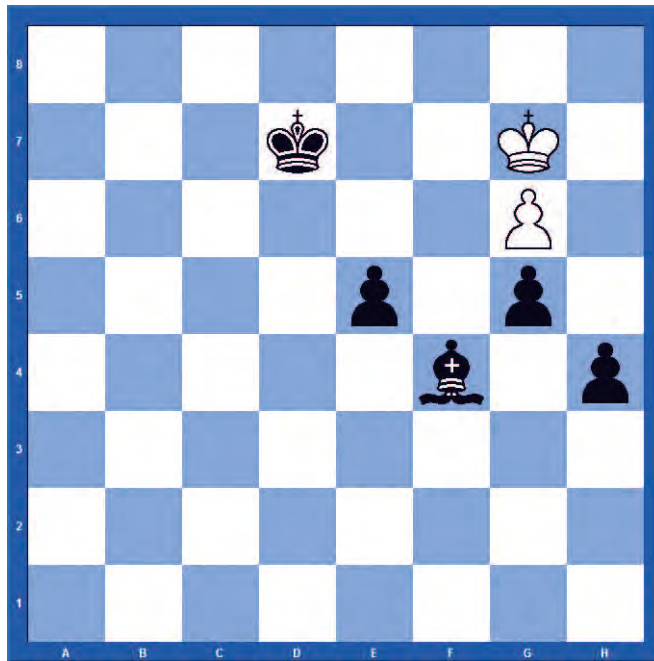
Surprise section / study

(18) Neuschwander,B

1989

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(19) Jobava,B (2721) – Shanava,K (2589)

Georgian Championship, 13.05.2012

[Solutions]

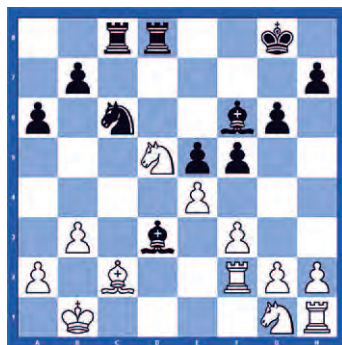


13. ♖xd6! cxd6 14. ♘c7! b6 [14... ♖b8 15. ♙xa7+-] 15. ♘xa8+-

(20) Chighladze,I (2390) – Lomsadze,D (2345)

Georgian Championship, 22.05.2012

[Solutions]



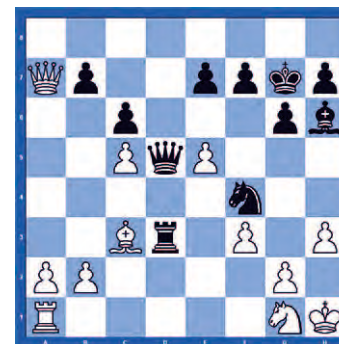
21... ♖xd5!! 22. exd5 ♘b4! 23. ♙xd3 ♖c1+!! 24. ♔xc1 ♘xd3+ 25. ♔d2 ♘xf2 26. ♔e2 ♘xh1 27. ♔f1 ♙d8

28. ♘h3 ♙b6 29. g4 fxg4 30. fxg4 e4 31. d6 [31. ♔g2 e3+-] 31... e3+-

(21) Mammadov,Z (2393) – Akopian,V (2697)

Albena Open, 27.05.2012

[Solutions]

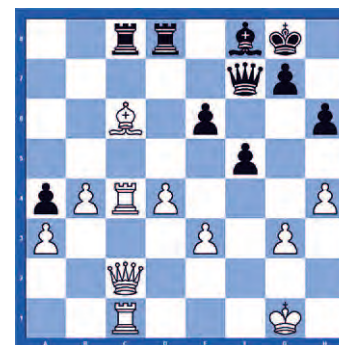


27... ♖xc3! 0-1 [27... ♖xc3 28. bxc3 ♔d2+-]

(22) Zhou Jianchao (2609) – Kazhgaleyev,M (2595)

Asian Nations Cup, 24.05.2012

[Solutions]



43. ♙e8! ♖xe8 44. ♖xc8+-

(23) Amanov,Z (2401) – Adams,M (2728)

Chicago Open, 26.05.2012

[Solutions]

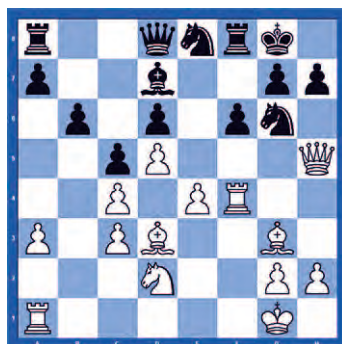


20...♖xe2+! 21.♙xe2 ♖e8 22.♙e3! [22.0-0 ♖xe2 23.♙d1 ♙g6+ 24.♙h2 ♙d5-+] 22...♖xe3 23.fxe3 ♙d5! 24.♖g1 ♙e6 25.♖g3 [25.♙f2 ♙xh3-+] 25...♙b6! 26.♖d1 ♙a5±

(24) Shulman,Y (2571) – Amanov,Z (2401)

Chicago Open, 27.05.2012

[Solutions]



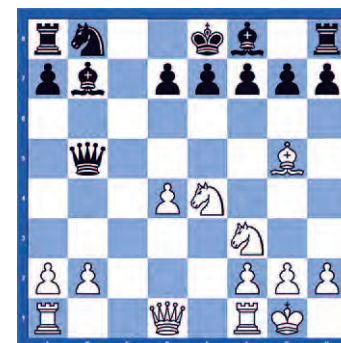
24.e5! dxe5 [24...fxe5 25.♙xg6 hxc6 26.♖xf8+ ♙xf8 27.♙h8+ ♙f7 28.♙e4!+-] 25.♖h4!! f5 [25...♙f7 26.♖f1+-]

26.♙xh7+ ♙f7 27.♙f3! ♖h8 28.♙xh8 [28.♙xg6+!? ♙xg6 29.♙xe5+ ♙f6 30.♖xh8+-] 28...♙xh8 29.♙xe5+ ♙f6 [29...♙g8 30.♖xh8+! ♙xh8 31.♙f7+-] 30.♖xh8+-

(25) Dambacher,M (2484) – Knol,G (2130)

Limburg Open, 27.05.2012

[Solutions]

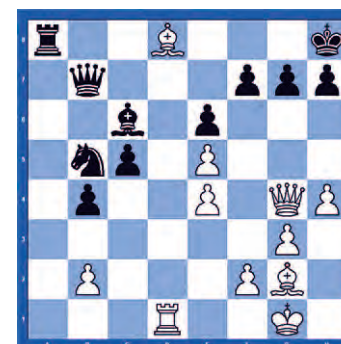


11.♙d6+! 1-0[11.♙d6+ exd6 12.♙e1+-]

(26) Mogranzini,R (2461) – Naumkin,I (2472)

Gallipoli Open, 25.05.2012

[Solutions]



25. ♖f6! gxf6 26. exf6 ♖g8 27. ♔xg8+! 1-0 [27. ♖d8!+-; 27. ♔xg8+ ♔xg8 28. ♖d8++-]

(27) Zherebukh,Y (2632) – Macieja,B (2614)

Lublin, 26.05.2012

[Solutions]

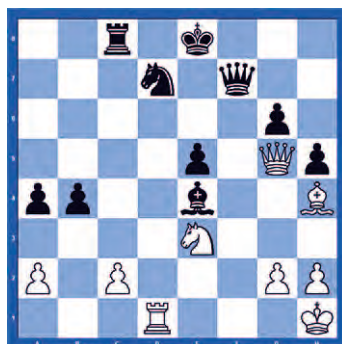


25...h4! 26. ♖xh4 ♖b6! 27. cxb5 [27. ♖g3 ♔a7-+; 27. ♖g5 f6-+] **27... ♖xh4 28. bxa6 ♖a8** ♖

(28) Swiercz,D (2585) – Korobov,A (2678)

Lublin, 28.05.2012

[Solutions]

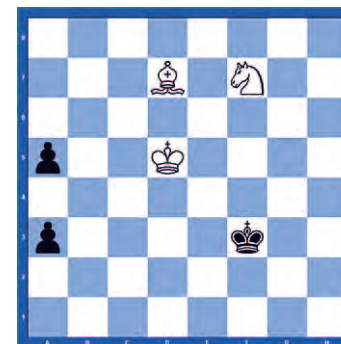


34. ♖c4!! ♔f8 [34... ♖xc4 35. ♔d8#; 34... ♔xc4 35. ♔e7#]
35. ♖d6+-

(29) Kivi,V

1936

[Solutions]



1. ♖g5+! ♔g2! [1... ♔e3 2. ♖e6! a2 3. ♖d4 ♔d3 4. ♖b3 ♔c3 5. ♖a4= (5. ♔c5 ♖xb3 6. ♖e6+ ♔b2 7. ♖xa2 ♔xa2 8. ♖b5=)] 2. ♖h3+! ♔h1 3. ♖f3! a2 4. ♖g2+! ♔xg2 5. ♖e1+ ♔f2 6. ♖c2 ♔e2 7. ♔c4 ♔d2 8. ♔b3= 1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 16

15th of June 2012

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Editorial Preface

The main event of the past few weeks came to an end: the French Top 12 tournament. The team Clichy totally dominated the league with Ivanchuk playing the top board, and won the French Team Championship with a perfect score! Congrats.

The Tal Memorial is being played with an amazing lineup this year. The only player that doesn't fit in terms of ELO is McShane, but he got in thanks to a poll that was done over the Internet. In this super-tournament, we will see a battle between world's number 1, Magnus Carlsen, and number 2, Levon Aronian, who is just 10 ELO points behind in the rating list. The tournament is super exciting.

Another stage of the Women Grand Prix has begun as well, with both Koneru and Hou Yifan participating. If the young Chinese super star can prove once again that she is the number one (after Polgar, who doesn't participate in female tournaments), we are going to see this news during the next few weeks.

At the moment, we are trying to get some small interviews with the seconds of the Anand-Gelfand match, but it seems not as easy as it sounds. Such a match is really exhausting.

As usual, we wish You lots of fun with the CEWN Nr16!

*Arkadij Naiditsch
Balogh Csaba*

4 best games of the past week

(1) Kramnik,V (2801) – Grischuk,A (2761) [E97]

Tal memorial (2), 09.06.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

A great novelty based on very deep ideas by Kramnik against the King's Indian defense...

1.♘f3 Kramnik starts the game with the „Anti-Grinfeld move order.

1...♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♘g7 By not playing 3...d5, we transpose back into the King's Indian defense.

4.e4 d6 5.d4 0-0 6.♘e2 e5 7.0-0 ♘c6 8.d5 ♘e7



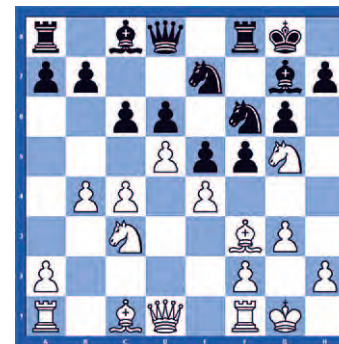
9.b4 The 9.b4 line is the so-called Bayonet attack. Kramnik is definitely the biggest expert of this opening. Usually all the developments with White are based on his games.

9...♘h5 10.g3 White prevents the ♘f4 idea.

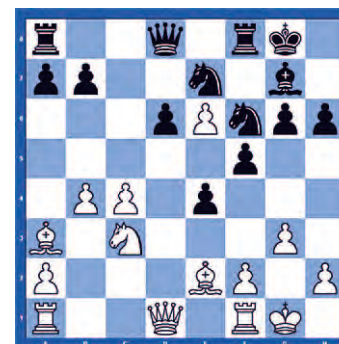
10...f5 11.♘g5 This maneuver connected with the ♘e6 jump is a well-known idea in this line. We will see it in this game as well.

11...♘f6 12.♘f3 This is a fresh approach by White. By far the main move is 12.f3, but Kramnik introduced this idea in another nice victory against Giri in 2011.

12...c6



13.♘g2! Kramnik improves on his own game! [13.♘a3 was played before 13...cxd5 14.exd5 This takeback is quite a risky move in general, since it allows to open the diagonal of the King's Indian bishop. 14...e4 15.♘e2 In my opinion, Grischuk's novelty was in this moment 15...♘e8? Kramnik brutally punished this move (15...h6 seems to lead to a more or less forced draw in a tactical line 16.♘e6 ♘xe6 17.dxe6



17...d5! Black would like to push d4, this forces White to go for the simplifications 18.cxd5 ♖fxd5 19.♗xd5 ♔xd5 20.♔xd5 ♗xd5 21.♕c4 It is very hard to improve on the play with any color. (21.♖ac1 es met with the very unpleasant 21...♗c3! 22.♕c4 ♖fc8 White cannot control the e2 square with the bishop.) 21...♗b6 22.♕b3 ♕xa1 23.e7+ ♖f7 24.♖xa1 ♖e8! 25.b5 ♗g7 Black already threatens to take on e7 26.♕xf7 ♗xf7 27.♖d1 ♗c8 28.♖d7 b6 = and we reached a drawish endgame. Black is going to play ♗e6 and take on e7. Probably, Grischuk had analyzed this line and decided to go for it...) 16.♖c1 h6 17.♗e6 ♕xe6 18.dxe6 ♗c7 This was the idea behind the 15th move, but White is in time to organize counterplay in the center 19.b5 ♕e5



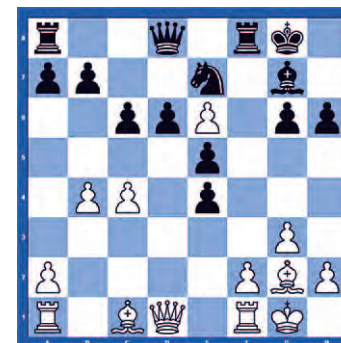
20.♔b3! ♗g7 (20...♗xe6 21.♖fd1! ♗d4 22.♖xd4 ♕xd4 23.c5+ might be a transposition into the game, since on 23...d5 24.♗xd5! 24...♔xd5 loses the queen 24...♗xd5 25.♖d1! and White wins.) 21.♖fd1 ♗xe6 22.c5! ♗d4 23.♖xd4! A necessary exchange sacrifice, but of course, after foreseeing the ensuing position, White joyfully gives the material 23...♕xd4 24.cxd6 ♗g8 25.♗d5 The game is practically over. The White rook invades on the 7th rank. 25...♗h8 26.♖c7 ♕e5 27.♕b2 (27.♖e7 was even easier

27...♕g7 (27...♕xd6 28.♕b2+ +-) 28.♗f4 +-) 27...♔xd6 28.♖xb7 +- and White won a few moves later. Kramnik-Giri, Hoogeveen 2011.]

13...h6 Grischuk reacts the most logical way, but actually I did not find a way to equalize after this move. [13...fxe4 is the computer's recommendation, but it is not in the spirit of the King's Indian, because White manages to consolidate his center. 14.♗gxe4 ♗xe4 15.♗xe4 (15.♕xe4 The best was if White could take back with the knight on d5, but Black has the concrete 15...♕h3 16.♖e1 ♔b6 with a double attack on f2 and b4 17.♕e3 ♔xb4) 15...cxd5 16.cxd5 ♗f5 I personally think White should be slightly better, mainly because of the bad g7 bishop, which has no future in this game, but the machine believes in Black's position.]

14.♗e6 ♕xe6 15.dxe6 ♗xe4 Grischuk is a King's Indian specialist and plays the position in style, but unfortunately for him, Kramnik knows all the details of the position... [15...fxe4 Keeping 2 knights on the board is met with the same 16.b5! preparing for ♕a3 16...d5 17.♕a3 ♖e8 18.cxd5 cxd5 19.♔b3 followed by ♖d1, with an advantage for White. Black cannot hold his center.]

16.♗xe4 fxe4



17.b5! The situation has changed. A few moves ago, Black was fighting to undermine White's strong center. He successfully fulfilled his plan, so this time it is White's turn to do the same. He already has no pawns to go for this plan, but he can focus all his pieces into the attack. White wants to continue the game with ♖a3, trying to force the d5 move and then launch a quick attack against it with ♙b3 and ♖d1. If Black cannot hold his center, his position collapses very fast. [After 17. ♖xe4 the opening would end with Black's triumph 17...d5 ! 18.cxd5 cxd5 19. ♖g2 ♙d6 collecting the e6 pawn.]

17...♖f6 [Protecting the e4 pawn would help White to continue his plan 17...d5 18.cxd5 cxd5 19. ♖a3 ♖e8 20. ♙b3 followed by ♖d1.]

18. ♖xe4 ♖xe6 Black is a pawn up, but he has serious problems with the coordination of his pieces, and his pawns are vulnerable in the center.

19. ♙a4! White develops with a tempo in order not to waste any time. He attacks the c6 pawn and prepares for ♖d1 in the next move.

19...d5 [19... ♙e8 20. ♖d1 += and ♖a3 is coming next.]

20. ♖d1 ♙h7 [20...d4 Black could have saved his extra pawn, but only in a really anti-positional way. Please compare the g7 bishop and the one on e4, after this, there is no need to think about White having enough compensation for the pawn or not... 21.bxc6 bxc6 22. ♖a3 ♖c8 23. ♖ab1 with complete domination.; The best option could have been to give back the pawn and try to save a worse endgame after 20... ♙e8 21.cxd5 cxd5 22. ♖xd5! This is why Black played 20... ♙h7. 22... ♘xd5 23. ♖xd5 ♖d8 24. ♖xe6+ ♙xe6 25. ♖e3 += Black has weaknesses

on the queenside and an isolated pawn on e4 (it had to be pushed there sooner or later to activate the bishop) is also a potential target.]

21.cxd5! White must be precise. [The tempting 21. ♖a3 would spoil the advantage 21... ♙e8! 22.cxd5 cxd5 23. ♖xe7 dxe4 24. ♖c5 a6 Black gets counterplay.]

21...cxd5 22. ♙b3! And only in the next move ♖a3. Of course, the d4 push for Black is always bad, because of the same reasons as in the 20th move.

22...♖b6 Grischuk tries a trick, but such things do not work against Kramnik... [22... ♙d7 23. ♖a3 d4 24. ♖ac1 and again White's pieces are dominating the board.]

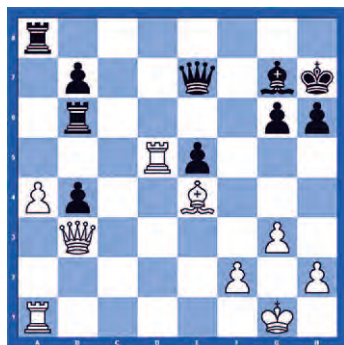
23.a4! One more tempo had to be „wasted“ before playing ♖a3. [23. ♖a3? would fall into Black's trap 23... ♙e8! leaving the pin on the d-file and attacking b5 at the same time.]

23...a6 Black tries to get counterplay by opening the a-file, but it is too late.

24. ♖a3 Finally!

24...axb5 25. ♖xe7 ♙xe7 26. ♖xd5 In case of opposite colored bishops in middlegames, the principle says, that side with the more active bishop is better, and material is not that important. Now it is impossible to compare the two bishops, Grischuk collapses in a few more moves.

26...b4



27.a5! Another excellent decision. White wants to have the ♖b5 option.

27...♔f7 This loses, but objectively the position was hopeless anyway. [27...♖f6 28.♖b5! ♖a7 is very passive 29.♖d1 +-]

28.h4! h5 29.♔d1! The triple threat of axb6, ♖d7 and ♔xh5 was too much for Black, so he resigned the game. Kramnik showed, once again, his deep understanding of the Bayonet attack! **1-0**

(2) Mamedyarov,S (2726) – Shanava,K (2589) [D45]

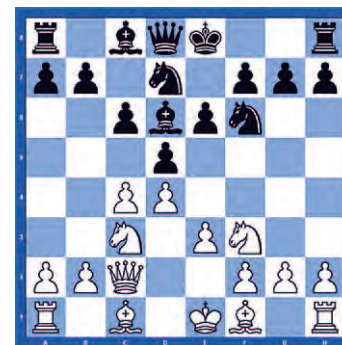
Tbilisi, 09.06.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

The game is taken from the Georgia-Azerbaijan friendly match. However, as we will see, the only friendly thing about it is the name — they played really sharp chess. We are facing a very interesting game, especially knowing the circumstances. Mamedyarov „improved” on his previous game in the 13th move with a dubious novelty, which seemed to be a great bluff, but Black fell right into its beautiful idea. If Black would’ve reacted better, he would have obtained a clear advantage.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♘f3 e6 5.e3 ♘bd7 The starting position of the Meran. White goes for one of its sharpest lines...

6.♔c2 ♖d6



7.g4!? This is Mamedyarov’s favorite move, which enjoyed huge popularity around 5-6 years ago, even on the highest level. Recently it went a bit out of fashion, mainly because of the strong computers that are suggesting

very good ideas for Black. He can choose between many sharp options, and all of them lead to complex positions.

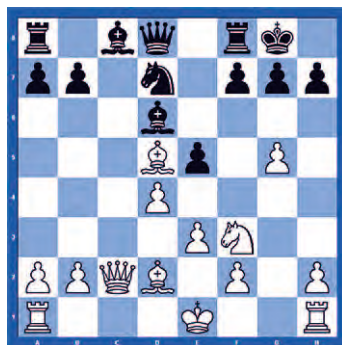
7...dxc4 [7...h6 is another move that is considered to be fine for Black.; White gets very strong compensation if Black accepts the sacrifice 7...hxg4 8.♖g1 ♘xh2 9.♘xh2 ♙xh2 10.♖xg7 ♘f8 11.♖g2 ♙d6 12.e4 followed by ♙g5 and 0-0-0. White gets a very strong initiative for the pawn. Black's pieces are undeveloped and the lines are opening towards the king.]

8.g5 [8.♙xc4 is just a transposition to the game after 8...e5 9.g5 ♘d5]

8...♘d5 9.♙xc4 e5 Actually, this is a very logical response. Black opens the center against the attack on the flank.

10.♙d2 [Giving up the light squared bishop for a pawn is not an advisable idea 10.♙xd5 cxd5 11.♘xd5 0-0 12.♙d2 ♖e8! with the threat of e4. The White king gets in trouble.; 10.♘xd5? cxd5 11.♙xd5? does not work because of 11...♙a5+]

10...0-0 11.♘xd5 cxd5 12.♙xd5



12...exd4 Shanava was well-prepared, since Mamedyarov had a game not so long ago in this theoretical position.

13.♘xd4 White deviates from his previous game, but this is not a novelty yet. [13.♙e4 dxe3 14.♙xe3 ♙a5+ 15.♙f1 (On 15.♙d2 ♙b4 Black is fine according to the machine.) 15...f5 could be a very strong improvement for Black (probably this was Shanava's idea). (15...♘e5 happened in the game Mamedyarov-Zherebukh, Khanty-Mansiysk 2011.) 16.♙b3+ is probably the best, but still after (16.♙d3 meets with 16...♘e5 17.♘xe5 ♙xe5 followed by f4 or the simple ♙e6 and ♖ac8. Black has a big advantage.; To open the f-file and the diagonal of the c8 bishop would be a serious mistake 16.gxf6? ♘xf6 with a big attack.) 16...♙h8 17.♙d5 f4 18.♙d2 ♙c7 only Black can be better. His pieces are coming out with tempo, first the d7 knight, then the c8 bishop.]

13...♙xg5 14.♙f5 This is the novelty of the game. White would like to transpose into a superior endgame, but of course, Black keeps the queens on the board.

14...♙e7! [14...♙xf5? 15.♘xf5 ♙e5 White wins a pawn after 16.♙b4 ♖d8 17.♘e7+ ♙h8 18.♙xf7 +/-]

15.♖g1 Very suspicious move. The White queen is pinned. At first sight White could immediately make use of it.

15...♘b6 [After 15...♙e5 I think, Black has a clear advantage... 16.♙g5 is probably White's best option to go for a worse endgame (16.♙e4 g6 and the d7 knight jumps in the next move.; 16.♙c3 ♘f6) 16...♙xg5 17.♖xg5 h6 18.♖g1 ♘f6 =+]



16. ♕c3!! This great queen sacrifice is the start of Mamedyarov's ingenious play, but it was not too late for Black to obtain a good position.

16... ♖e5? Just as in the previous move, Black plays the most logical move. After the shocking 16. ♕c3, Black would like to exchange the queens... [16... ♕xf5? simply loses after 17. ♘xf5 The best that Black can achieve is 17... ♖e5 18. ♕xe5 ♕xe5 19. ♘h6+ ♔h8 20. ♘xf7+ +/-; Just as in the previous move, Black should have played 16... ♕e5! 17. ♖xe5!! (The elegant 17. ♘c6? would win, if taking on c3 didn't come with check! 17... ♕xc3+ and Black takes the knight.) 17... ♖xe5 18. ♘e2! and Black has nothing better than giving back the queen and simplifying to a drawish endgame 18... ♖xc3+ 19. ♘xc3 ♘xd5 20. ♘xd5 ♕e6 Black is slightly better, but the game should end in a draw.]

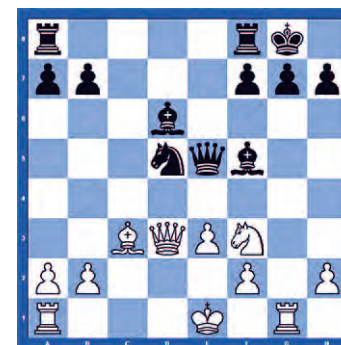
17. ♖d3!! After this fantastic and completely unexpected move, White is winning. Black cannot neutralize the power of the c3 bishop connected with the threats around the g7 square.

17... ♘xd5 [17...g6 18. ♕b3! Too many threats are in the air. One of the possible winning sequences could be 18... ♖h5 19. ♘f3! ♖d4 and ♖xd6 are threats 19... ♖xf3 20. ♖xg6+! hxg6 21. ♖xg6#; White wins the queen af-

ter 17... ♖xd5 18. ♖xg7+! ♔xg7 19. ♘f5+! ♔g6 (19... ♔g8 20. ♘h6#) 20. ♘e7+ +-]

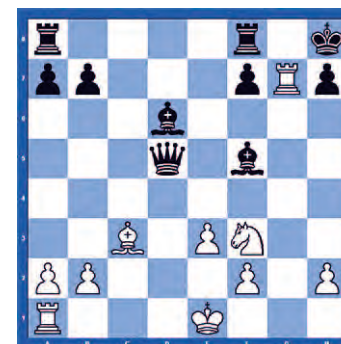
18. ♘f3!! The 3rd incredibly strong move in a row, but not the last one. Only with this double attack against the queen, White can continue pressing the g7 pawn.

18... ♕f5 [18... ♘xc3 19. ♘xe5 +-; On 18... ♘f4 White has many different wins, but the nicest is definitely 19. ♖xd6!! ♖xd6 20. ♖xg7+ ♔h8 21. ♖xf7+ ♔g8 22. ♖g7+ ♔h8 23. ♖g6+ +-]



19. ♖xd5!! This final decisive blow „puts the dot over the i“. White ends up with material advantage after a forced line.

19... ♖xd5 20. ♖xg7+ ♔h8



21. ♖xf7+! First, the f-pawn had to be eliminated to avoid the f6 resource.

21... ♗e5 [21... ♔g8 22. ♖g7+ ♔h8 23. ♖g5+ ♗e5 24. ♘xe5! is the most precise way to win 24... ♖f6 25. ♘d7!! +-]

22. ♗xe5+ ♔g8 23. ♖g7+ ♔h8 24. ♖g5+ Maybe Black could have continued a bit more with two pawns down, but he was so impressed with White's play that he resigned immediately. **1-0**

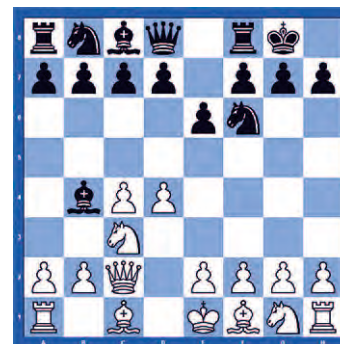
(3) Kulaots, K (2578)
– Naiditsch, A (2698) [E32]

Top-12 French league (11), 10.06.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the last round of the French league. My team was quite unlucky, so we finished in 4th place. The first move of my opponent was a bit surprising to me, his main move is 1.e4

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♘c3 ♗b4 4. ♔c2 0-0 Lately, I've been playing 4...d5 more often, maybe this is what he was hoping for...



5.e4 The beginning of a sharp line. The main line is of course 5. a3 ♗xc3 6. ♔xc3 d5.

5...d5 6.e5 ♘e4 7. ♗d3 c5 8. ♘f3 cxd4 9. ♘xd4 ♘d7 10. ♗f4 ♔h4 I like this line with ♔h4. Lately, it seems to lead to a force draw, but things are quite complicated.

11.g3 ♔h5 It seems like 11... ♔h3 is very playable for Black as well.



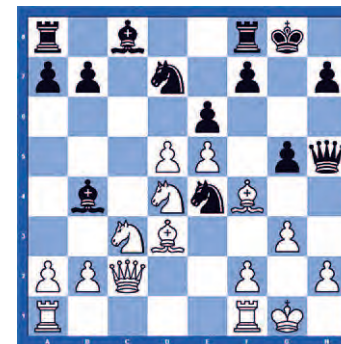
12.0-0 Castling looks a bit dangerous for White, but it is the correct move. About a year ago I played a game against Parligras where he continued: [12.♖e2 ♔g6 Blacks wants to play ♘xc3 13.a3 It is already a clear sign that things went wrong for White. He hasn't castled yet, giving Black some tactical ideas! 13...♙c5 14.♖d1



14...f6! A very nice move. Black is crushing White in the center and the e5 pawn is the key one, without it White's position is falling apart 15.♘xe4 dxe4 16.♘xe6 ♙xf2+ 17.♔d2 ♖e8 18.♘c7 fxe5 19.♘xa8 exf4 and Black is close to winning.]

12...g5 Until here, both me and my opponent played quite quickly. It is a well known line which appears almost by force.

13.cxd5



13...gxf4!? Before this move I started to think. I could remember the famous game Mamedyarov-Efimenko, where Black managed to make an easy draw after: [13...♙xc3 14.bxc3 exd5 15.♙xe4 dxe4 16.e6 gxf4 17.exd7 ♙xd7 18.♔xe4 fxg3 19.fxg3 b6 and the position seems to be equal, but I was in a rather fighting mood, and wanted to play an interesting game. I didn't want to get a draw by force.]

14.♙xe4 Before playing 14.♙xe4 my opponent thought for about 15 minutes and I think he made the wrong choice. [14.dxe6! This is the critical move! 14...♘xe5 (14...fxg3 15.hxg3 The inclusion of these 2 moves doesn't give anything for Black.) 15.♘xe4 and here we see the main idea, White forces Black to take on e6 with the pawn, so the bishop on c8 becomes a very bad piece that cannot support Black's attack 15...fxe6 White has a lot of moves here and the position is very complicated. Anyway, I feel that this should be better for White.]

14...♘xe5 15.dxe6



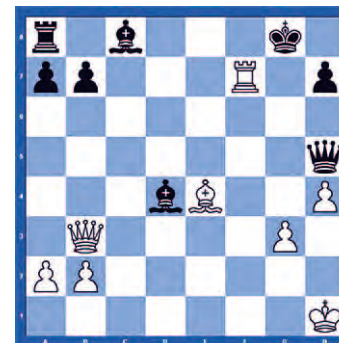
15...♘g4! A very important move that needed a very precise calculation! Let's take a look at few lines, some of them very beautiful!

16.♘f3?! [The main move here should be 16.exf7+ ♖xf7 17.h4 White is a pawn up and the Black king is quite open as well — the position is very forced! 17...fxg3 18.fxg3 Black has 2 options here 18...♙c5! A very difficult move to make during a practical game (18...♘e3 This is the move I wanted to play 19.♙b3 White needs to give up the exchange, but the pin on f7 is super dangerous! 19...♘xf1 20.♖xf1 ♙xc3!



Black is just in time for 20...♙xc3. Anything else would lose immediately due to White's ♖xf7 threat 21.♘e2!! An amazing move, which I have blundered during the game!

a) 21.♖xf7? looks logical, but I saw that it loses due to 21...♙xd4+ 22.♙h1



22...♙e6! The only move, but a winning one! Black is simply a rook up. (22...♙xf7 23.♙d5) 23.♙xe6 ♙xf7;

b) 21.bxc3 ♙g7! Escaping from the pin 22.♖xf7+ ♙xf7 White got some counterplay, but it is clear that Black is doing better;

21...♙f6 and here we see the idea of 21. ♘e2!, in case of 21.bxc3 White had no use for the a1–h8 diagonal, and the knight on d4 is useless. With 21.♘e2! White brings the knight to f4 and, at the same time, wants to play ♖xf7 and ♙xc3! leaving the Black king under checks! An amazingly strong move, but almost impossible to find during a practical game! 22.♖xf6 ♙g7 23.♖xf7+ ♙xf7 24.♙c3+ and White is out of danger because of the open Black king. 24...♙f6 25.♙c7+ ♙f7 26.♙c3+ The position seems to be a draw.) 19.♘ce2 White needs to protect the knight on d4 19...♘e3 and now the ♘e3 wins a lot of strength 20.♙b3 ♘xf1 21.♖xf1 Black is an exchange up, and in

comparison to the previous lines, the bishop on b4 is not hanging, so Black has time for: 21...♔g7! 22.♖xf7+ ♔xf7 23.♔c3 ♖b6 The position remains quite complicated, but Black should be doing better.; 16.h4 During the game I was mainly afraid of this move... The position is super complicated but my bishop on c8 is still out of play... 16...♗xe6! Black needs to go for the White king, but to do this, a complete development is needed 17.♘ce2 (17.♘xe6 fxe6 18.♔b3 fxg3! and Black is the one who starts the mating attack first.) 17...fxg3 18.fxg3 ♘e3 19.♔a4



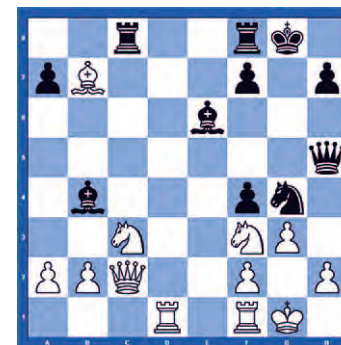
19...♗c5 According to the computer, Black is doing very good here, and probably it is true, but during the game I was not that sure. If White managed not to lose immediately, Black's position could become very bad. Luckily, it seems like White is going to lose some material in the next moves.]

16...♗xe6! I was so happy with my position here! All my pieces are very well placed and things are getting „darker“ around the White king.

17.♖ad1 White wants to play ♘d5.

17...♖ac8 A very logical move. I am avoiding the ♘d5 move, plus I want to play the ♖c5-Qh3-Rh5 maneuver, which could be deadly for White.

18.♗xb7? This move was a shock. Such greediness in a very dangerous position, this can't be good for White. [18.♔c1! it was really time for some defensive actions 18...fxg3 19.hxg3 White wants to play ♔g5+ with the exchange of queens. Probably Black should be doing somehow better here, but the position remains quite unclear.]



18...♖c7! Now Black is in time to put the queen on h3, where it will be perfectly placed!

19.♗e4 Nothing else to do...

19...fxg3 20.hxg3 ♔h3 Now Black has multiple mating ideas. Here are a few: to play ♗c5 followed by ♔xg3, or to play ♖c5-h5, also the f5-f4 push is very dangerous. White's position is on the edge.

21.♔c1 The right idea, but 2 moves too late...

21...f5! No time for hesitations! I am starting a direct mating attack. [21...♖c5! This move would be an easier way to victory, but again, it's not easy to find 22.♗d5 h6!! This is the key move! To take with 22...♗xd5 23.♔g5 ♔h8 24.♖xd5 brings nothing for Black, but after 22...h6!! White is totally hopeless.]

22.♗d5 The only move...

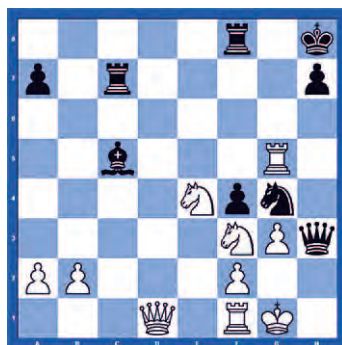
22... ♖xd5 23. ♖xd5



23...f4 Black starts a mating attack with all his pieces against the poor White king. This can't end well...

24. ♖g5+ ♔h8 25. ♖d1 [I was expecting 25. ♖d2 with the same idea of checking on d4 25... ♖c5 26. ♖e4 ♖b6! and I thought that somehow I will mate White during the next few moves. And indeed, it was a correct feeling, White has no defense against fxg3.]

25... ♖c5 26. ♖e4 [26. ♖xc5 doesn't work because of 26... ♖xc5 27. ♖d4+ ♖e5! White can't win back the exchange because of the mate on h2. Black should be winning here.]



26... ♖e3! [26... ♖b6 would win as well, but why not to take the queen by force?]

27. fxe3 ♖xe3+ 28. ♖f2 ♖c1 29. ♖xc1 ♖xc1 White's position is totally hopeless. A nice attacking game! **0-1**

(4) Aronian,L (2825) – McShane,L (2703) [D15]

Tal Memorial (3), 10.06.2012

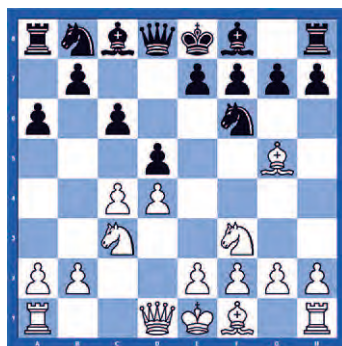
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We will see an amazing game! I can't remember Aronian losing with White and especially being crushed in the opening like this! It is the 3rd round of the Tal Memorial, McShane started with a double 00, and Aronian with the solid 1,5/2. Not many would have put money on a victory by the talented Englishman, but things went far from what was expected!

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 c6 4.♘c3 And we have another game in the Slav.

4...a6 McShane chooses a very solid line with a6.

5.♖g5 [5.e3 is the main move in the position.]



5...dxc4!? McShane is going for the most forced line! Strangely, after 5...dxc4 almost no games were played on the high level, so it's hard to say if Aronian knew this move or not, maybe he knew it and made a mistake in

the variation?! [5...♘e4; 5...e6 would be the other 2 possibilities.]

6.a4 [6.e4 b5 and we are in the usual unclear positions that appear in a lot of lines, where Black takes on c4 and protects it with b5. White will develop his play in the center, while Black will try to be solid]

6...h6! A very important move that will be very helpful for Black soon. White needs to decide what to do with the bishop on g5.

7.♙h4 The most natural reply. [7.♙xf6 exf6 These positions can never be better for White even if he manages to recover the pawn on c4. Black's bishop pair will always give enough counterplay!; 7.♙d2 Can this be the right move?! 7.♙d2 looks just ugly. Why did White play 5.♙g5?]

7...b5! I don't know if McShane knew this idea or just found it over the board, in any case, it's a very strong move.



8.axb5 this move is a clear sign of huge self confidence of the White player. It was still not too late to switch to moves like 8.e4 with quite an unclear position.

8...cxb5 9.♘xb5 axb5! Otherwise, White is doing much better.

10.♖xa8 ♕b7 Can it be that Black is doing already better in just 10 moves?... Amazing!

11.♖a1?! [11.♖a7 would bring nothing for White 11...♔b6 12.♔a1 e6 and White is not in time for ♖a5.; 11.♖a2!? Maybe this move would have been a better option for White. The rook on a1 will be under attack (Na5-Nb3), so why not to put the it on a2?]

11...g5!? And here we see why 6...h6 was such an important move. [Anyway, after 11...e6 12.♕xf6 ♕b4+ 13.♘d2 ♖xf6 14.e3 0-0 it seems like Black has more than enough compensation for the exchange. His next move could be e6-e5.]

12.♕g3 e6 13.e3 White doesn't have any other defense against the ♕b4 threat.



13...♕b4+ 14.♔e2 White's position looks very ugly. For just an exchange Black managed to put the White king on e2 in front of the bishop on f1 (I can't remember seeing this kind of lack of construction before on the high level), the Black pawn structure is just great and all the

pieces are well placed. All Black needs to do is to open some extra lines and the game will be over.

14...♘c6 A good choice, McShane brings his knight to b3 where it will be perfectly placed!

15.♘e1 White is trying to develop his pieces a little bit, at least. White's idea is to play ♘c2 forcing the ♕b4 to go away and then develop by playing ♔e1-Be2. But all this plan looks very slow — in fact, too slow...

15...♘a5 16.♕e5?! This move probably already leads to big trouble. Much better was: [16.♘c2 ♕e7 17.f3! A very logical move. White blocks Black from playing ♘e4 and, at the same time, the White king will finally find a more or less safe square on f2 17...0-0 18.♔f2 ♘d5 Black wants to play f5-f4. The position is quite complicated but we can feel that it should be very nice to play for Black, even if a lot of engines might probably disagree.]

16...0-0! No time to waste, Black needs to play actively.

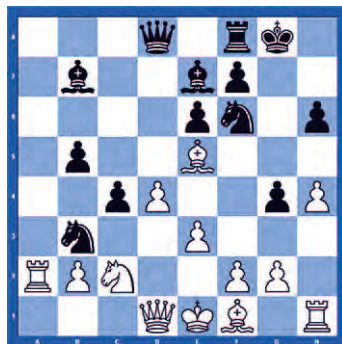
17.h4 [17.♕xf6 would not solve White's problems 17...♖xf6 18.♘c2 ♘c6 Black is still very active and White has a horrible development. I would prefer to play with Black here.(18...♖e7?! 19.♘xb4 ♖xb4 20.♖c2!)]

17...g4 It's hard to say if the inclusion of 17.h4-g4 is good for White — probably not. Aronian is a very optimistic player and I am sure that in the current position he was not thinking about „how to escape today?“, instead „how to trick my opponent?“.

18.♘c2 ♕e7 Of course there is no reason for Black to give away the bishop on b4.

19.♔e1 ♘b3! McShane is playing a great game. [19...h5 would have been possible as well.]

20. ♖a2 [At 20. ♖a7 ♔b6 White would have no better move than to come back to a2.]



20...h5 Looks like an easy move, and in fact it is! White is slowly getting into deep trouble. Black's pieces keep on rolling forward, and it's hard to say how to stop them!

21. ♘e2 White is trying to develop anything he can, but it is too late!

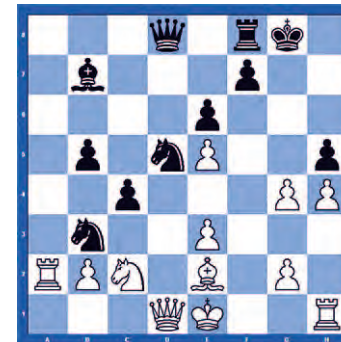
21... ♙d6! Another great move by Black. White only has one active piece, so it is time to exchange it! There is no reason for Black to even look at 21... ♙xg2, which would give White some play on the g-file. Black has to stick to the main idea: to play for domination. McShane is doing it perfectly!

22.f3 White is trying to create something... [22. ♙xd6 ♔xd6 and White simply has no moves!]

22... ♘d5 McShane sees it well, after 22.f3 the weakness is the pawn on e3!

23.fxg4 Maybe this move is already losing, but what else to do? White is trying to search for chances with his activeplay [23. ♙xd6 ♔xd6 24. ♔f2 f5 and White's position simply looks horrible.]

23... ♙xe5! 24.dxe5



24... ♔b6 White is hopeless against the Black threats. Black wants to play ♘xe3, or ♖d8, winning the Queen on d1. The White rook on a2 is totally out of the game.

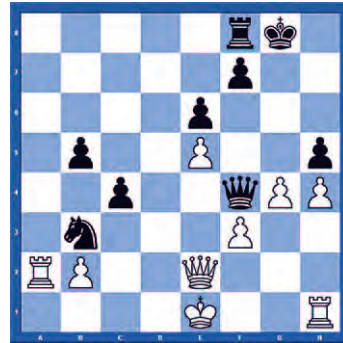
25. ♙f3 [25. ♖h3 ♖d8 White has no defense against ♘f4 26.gxh5 ♘f4]

25... ♘xe3?! This move gives White some hopes... [25... ♖d8! would have been the correct play, and it is a bit strange that McShane got away from his mainidea 26. ♙xd5 White has no other move... In case of 26. ♔e2, ♘c1 wins the rook on a2 26... ♖xd5 27. ♔f3 ♖d2 and White's position is lost.]

26. ♘xe3 ♔xe3+ 27. ♔e2 ♔c1+ 28. ♔d1 ♔e3+ 29. ♔e2 ♔c1+ Probably Black was in time trouble and decided to repeat the moves.

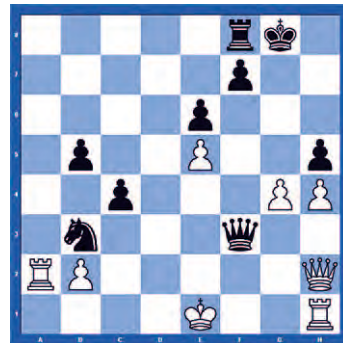
30. ♔d1 ♙xf3! Of course, continuing the game. White's position is still very very bad.

31.gxf3 ♔e3+ 32. ♔e2 ♔c1+ 33. ♔d1 ♔e3+ 34. ♔e2 ♔f4 Black wants to play ♖d8 next. The White king is still in the center, and the rook on a2 is always in danger of getting caught!



35. ♔h2 [35. ♔f2 would have been a better way to fight, but also here Black is close to winning 35... ♖d8 36. ♖d1 ♔h2+ 37. ♔e3 ♔xe5+ 38. ♔f2 ♔h2+ 39. ♔e3 ♔xh4! Black got 2 pawns for the exchange, and probably the knight on b3 is worth more than the rook on a2. The position should be winning for Black.]

35... ♔xf3! As Kasparov once said, greediness is a positive characteristic in a chess player.



36. ♖f1 ♔e4+ 37. ♔f2 ♔d2 38. ♖g1 ♔f3+ White resigns because of 39. ♔e1 ♔e3! What a game by McShane, I think he will not forget it soon. The same goes for the World's Number 2, this was Aronian's toughest lost in maybe a couple of years... **0-1**

Puzzle section

(5) Aronian,L (2825) — Nakamura,H (2775)

Tal memorial, 08.06.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-

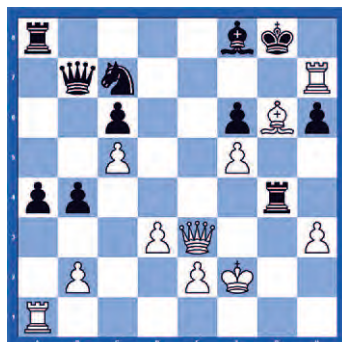


(6) Grischuk,A (2761) — Morozevich,A (2769)

Tal memorial, 10.06.2012

[CEWN]

1. -/+

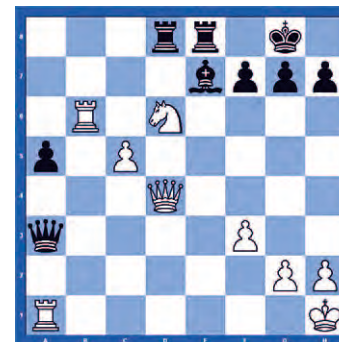


(7) Carlsen,M (2835) — Aronian,L (2825)

Tal memorial (blitz), 07.06.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

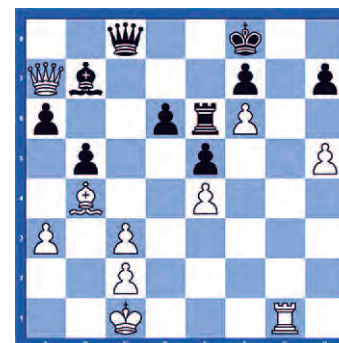


(8) Vallejo Pons,F (2697) — Topalov,V (2752)

Leon (rapid), 09.06.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

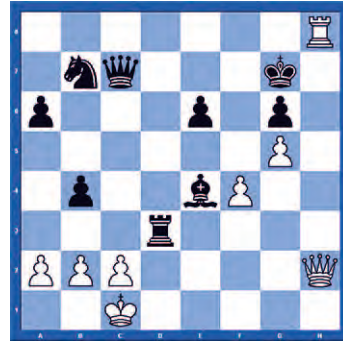


(9) Brochet,P (2383) – Le Quang Liem (2703)

French league, 10.06.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

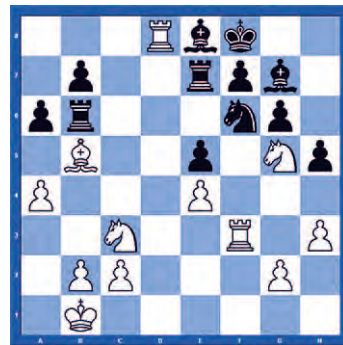


(10) Swiercz,D (2585) – Akshat,K (2400)

Golden Sands Open, 05.06.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-

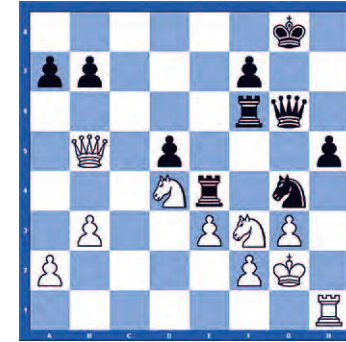


(11) Wang Yue (2690) – Yu Yangyi (2626)

Danzhou GM, 06.06.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

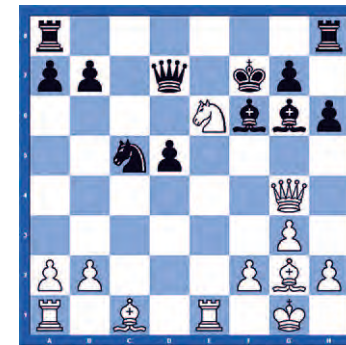


(12) Martinovic,S (2504) – Straka,J (2373)

Mitropa Cup, 04.06.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-

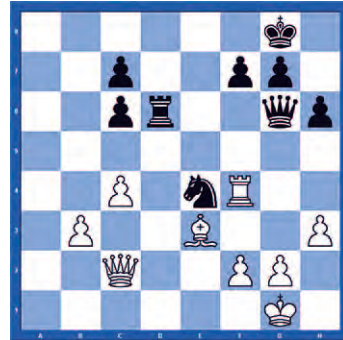


(13) Delgado Ramirez,N (2591) – Cubas,J (2534)

Luque GM, 08.06.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

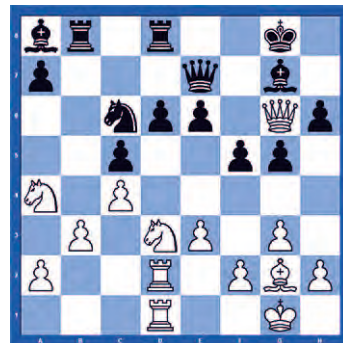


(14) Miskovic,I (2186) – Kovacevic,A (2557)

Bosnian league, 04.06.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

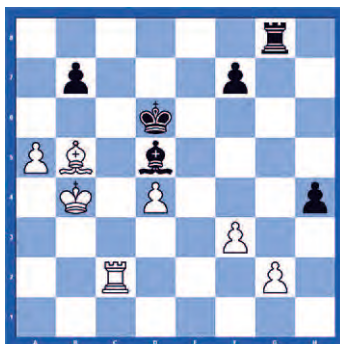


Endgame section

(15) Morozevich,A (2769) – Carlsen,M (2835)

Tal memorial (2), 09.06.2012

[Chess Evolution]

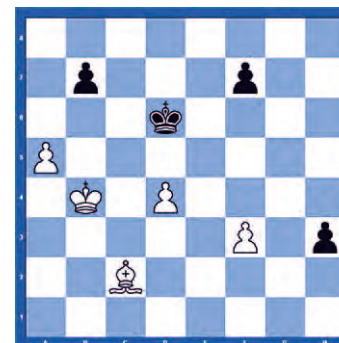


Morozevich outplayed Carlsen in the middlegame, but he allowed the World Nr.1 to escape into this endgame with a pawn down, where the active position of Black's pieces and the limited number of pawns guarantee very good chances for survival. It's important to mention that we are in serious time trouble, only 2 moves left, but Morozevich makes a terrible mistake in the calculation...

39. ♖c4 This must be the right approach. White should eliminate the strong d5 bishop.

39... ♗xc4 [Probably Morozevich has only calculated that the bishop endgame is winning for him in a study-like way... 39... ♖c8 40. ♗b3 ♖xc2? (40... ♗g8 leads back to a similar position like in the game. 41. ♖e2 f6 (41... ♗xb3 42. ♗xb3 ♗d5 43. ♗c3)) 41. ♗xc2 ♗xf3 This could be the

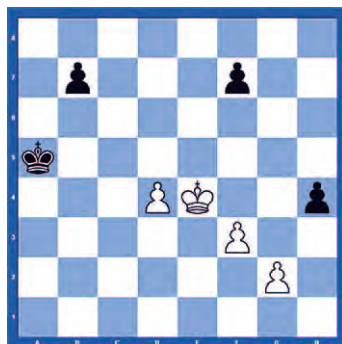
only reason for Black to go into the bishop endgame, otherwise ♗e4 wins easily... 42.gxf3 h3



43.f4! The only way to stop the h-pawn. (43. ♗e4 would spoil the win after 43...f5! 44. ♗xb7 f4! and the h-pawn promotes, but White is lucky to hold the draw with 45.a6 ♗c7 46.d5! h2 47.d6+ ♗xd6 48.a7 h1 ♗ 49.a8 ♗ ♗e1+ = and the game ends with perpetual check. Black gives the checks on the e-file. White's pieces are standing poorly to protect the king.) 43... ♗d5 44. ♗d1! ♗e4 Seems like Black can control the diagonal, but... 45. ♗g4! h2 46. ♗c8! +- wins for White.]

40. ♖xc4?? This kind of blunders are possible on any levels. Morozevich had only seconds left on his clock, when Carlsen took ♗xc4. He realized, that after the planned takeback with the king, the pawn endgame might be losing for him. In this kind of shock, he decided to go for a worse rook endgame, that he can hold... [Lets see what happens after 40. ♗xc4 ♗g5! Probably Carlsen would have continued to stay in the rook endgame and save it with an active defense. (Let's examine what would happen after 40... ♖c8+ 41. ♗d3 ♖xc2 42. ♗xc2 ♗c6 This was the sudden fear of Morozevich. Black intends to take the

a-pawn and obtain a pawn endgame with a far advanced passed pawn, which could be easily winning for Black. But... 43.♔d3 ♖b5 44.♔e4 White king must run to support the d-pawn 44...♙xa5



45.♔e5! In this moment, the d-pawn promotes with check, but things are by far not that clear... 45...b5 (45...♙b4 is the other option, when White must react precisely 46.♔d6!! Only this way (46.d5 ♔c5 wins for Black.) 46...♔c4 47.d5 ♔d4!? Tricky move. Black tries to win the d-pawn. (47...b5 leads to a queen endgame with a pawn up for White. 48.♔c6 b4 49.d6 b3 50.d7 b2 51.d8♙ b1♙ 52.♙xh4+ +/- Probably White's winning chances are bigger than Black's drawing possibilities.) 48.f4! ♔c4 49.f5! b5 (Black cannot wait longer with 49...♔d4 50.f6 ♔c4 51.♔e7 and the f-pawn promotes faster.) 50.♔c6 b4 51.d6 b3 52.d7 b2 53.d8♙ b1♙ 54.♙d5+ ♔c3 55.♙xf7 +/- Again with a pawn up with good winning chances.) 46.d5 ♔b6 (46...b4 47.d6 ♔b6 48.♔f6! A well known motif in pawn endgames, how the king helps his own pawn 48...♔c6! The only way to promote in the same time, otherwise White queens with check. 49.♔e7 b3 50.d7 b2 51.d8♙ b1♙ 52.♙d6+ +/-) 47.♔d6! Only this way! White only temporarily blocks the route of the pawn. Now again, the d-

pawn arrives with check and the usual queen endgame with a pawn up arises 47...b4 48.♔e7 b3 49.d6 b2 50.d7 b1♙ 51.d8♙+ +/- Of course, it was impossible to calculate all these lines with a few seconds. Now we can understand Morozovich's shocking take-back in move 40.) 41.♖a2 ♖f5 Black pins the White rook to a passive defense on a2, while the a6 push leads to further exchanges of the pawns, which increases the probability of the draw...]

40...♖xg2 Black is better now. He has the better king, a dangerous h-pawn and the d4, f3 pawns are weak. What a turn of the game! But Morozovich received his extra hour after move 40, so he got the time to calm down and save the game with good technique.

41.♖c5! The rook must stop the h-pawn from behind. Besides, it cuts the Black king along the 5th rank!

41...h3 42.♖h5 h2 43.♔c4! [To go for the b7 pawn would be decisive 43.♔b5? ♖g5+]

43...♖c2+ [If Black tries to approach to his h-pawn, White's d-pawn becomes dangerous as well. 43...♔e6 44.d5+ ♔f6 45.♔c5 ♔g6 46.♖h3 ♔f5 47.♔b6 =]

44.♔d3 ♖a2 45.♔e4 [45.♔c4 should also be enough to draw.]

45...f5+!? Carlsen tries a last trick. By exchanging his f-pawn for the d-pawn, he manages to „breakthrough“ on the 5th rank. But on the other hand, this gives White a free f-pawn, which allows him to hold the draw.

46.♔f4 ♔d5 47.♖xf5+ ♔xd4 48.♖h5 ♖g2 ♔g3 had to be prevented. [48...♔d3 49.♔g3 =]

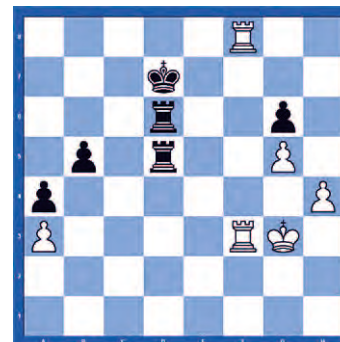
49.♖h7 ♔d3 50.♔e5 The rest of the game is forced and obvious...

50...♔e2 51.f4 ♔f1 52.f5 ♖a2 53.f6 ♖xa5+ 54.♔e6 ♖a6+ 55.♔e7 ♖xf6 56.♔xf6 ♔g1 57.♔e5 h1♔ 58.♖xh1+ ♔xh1 59.♔d4 The game contained 3 different kind of instructive endgames. One rook endgame, one bishop endgame and a pawn endgame. **1/2**

(16) Naiditsch,A (2698) – Edouard,R (2625) [A37]

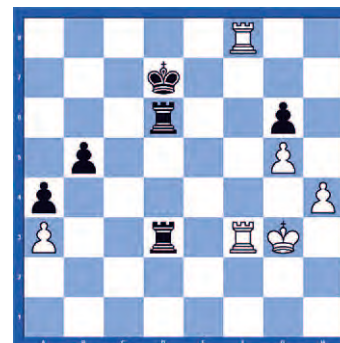
TCh-FRA Top 12 2012 Belfort FRA (7.2), 06.06.2012

[Chess Evolution]



After a long and not very good game, my opponent finally gives me a chance.

59...♖d3?



60.h5! The only chance for White to play for a win is to get a passed pawn and there is no other way to do it than to play h5.

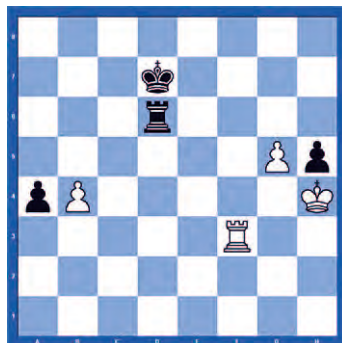
60...gxh5 Of course Black can't allow White to play h6.

61.♔h4 Of course, I need my king to support the g-pawn.

61...♖xf3 A risky move, but it gives a draw for White. The one-rook endgame is going to be super forced and very hard to play for Black during a practical game. [61...♖d1 would probably give Black a draw... not an easy one, though. 62.♖h3 (62.♙xh5? would be too greedy 62...♖h1+ 63.♙g4 ♖g1+ 64.♙h5 ♖h1+ with a draw.) 62...b4!? 63.axb4 ♖1d4+ 64.♙xh5 ♖xb4 with good chances for a draw, even if the position is not so simple.]

62.♖xf3 b4! The only move! Black's idea is to exchange the b-pawn for White's a-pawn and to give the rook for the g-pawn, trying to queen the a-pawn with the support of the king. It is very important for Black to be in time to cross the 5th rank, otherwise, the White rook alone will be able to stop the a-pawn.

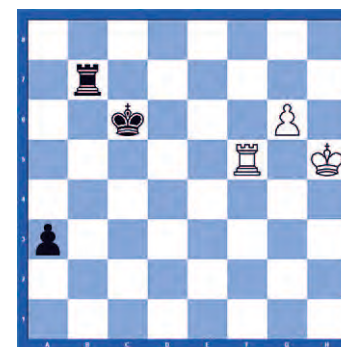
63.axb4



63...♙c6! Another very good move by my opponent. Black's dream is almost coming true...

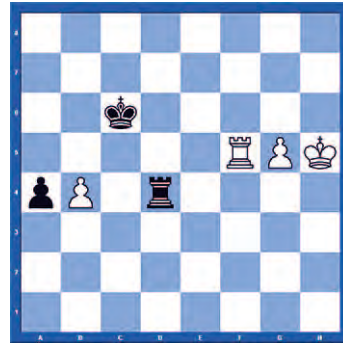
64.♖f5! The only chance to win the game is to cut the Black king. [64.♙xh5? leads to a forced draw after: 64...♙b5 65.g6 ♖xg6 66.♙xg6 ♙xb4 67.♙f5 a3 68.♙e4 a2 69.♖f1 ♙b3 70.♙d3 ♙b2 =]

64...♖d4+? The first imprecise decision. [64...♖d5! would be the easiest way to a draw, and a very logical move. Black needs to open the possibility of crossing the 5th rank with his king 65.♖f8 ♖d4+ From here on, all the lines are very forced 66.♙xh5 ♖xb4 67.g6 ♖b7 68.♖f5 (68.♖a8 ♙b5 69.♙h6 ♙b4 70.g7 ♖xg7 71.♙xg7 a3 72.♙f6 ♙b3 73.♙e5 a2 74.♙d4 ♙b2) 68...a3

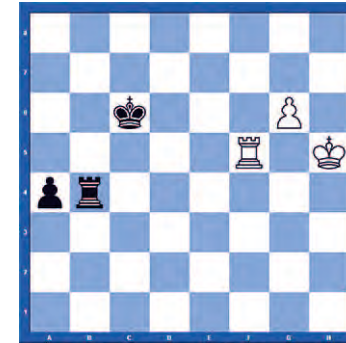


69.♙h6 a2 70.♖a5 ♖b2 71.g7 ♙b6 72.♖a3 ♖g2 73.♙h7 ♖h2+ 74.♙g6 ♖g2+ 75.♙f7 ♖f2+ with a draw. The White king has no place to escape from the Black rook.; 64...♖d1 gives Black a draw as well, but a very difficult one 65.g6 a3 66.♖a5 ♖a1 67.♙g5 (67.g7 ♖g1 68.♖g5 ♖xg5 69.♙xg5 a2 70.g8 ♖a1 ♙b7 71.♖c4+ ♙b7 and of course, this queen endgame is a draw.) 67...h4! An amazing move, and the only one that leads to a draw. Black needs to get rid of the h-pawn to be able to check the White king on the h-file 68.g7 h3 69.♙g6 ♖g1+ 70.♖g5 ♖xg5+ 71.♙xg5 a2]

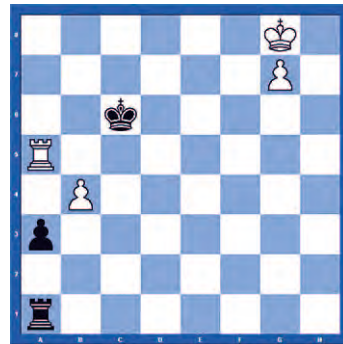
65.♙xh5



65...♖xb4?? After this move, it's all over. [65...♖d1! would still give a draw for Black 66.♖a5 (66.g6 ♖h1+ 67.♔g5 a3 68.g7 a2) 66...♖h1+! The only move (66...♖a1? would be the losing move 67.g6 a3 68.g7 ♖h1+ 69.♔g6 ♖g1+ 70.♔f7 ♖f1+ 71.♔g8 ♖a1



66...♖b1 67.g7 An easy drawn-looking endgame turns into a fierce battle. Once again, we can see how complicated rook endgames are. Every mistake could be the last one, and a lost position can suddenly become a draw!
1-0



72.♖g5! and we see a very typical maneuver, the White rook is going from a5 to g2, and then to f2, in order to free the White king from g8 72...a2 73.♖g2 ♔b5 74.♖f2 ♔xb4 75.♔f7 and White is just in time to win the game!) 67.♔g6 ♖a1 68.♔h6 a3 69.g6 a2 70.g7 ♖h1+ 71.♔g6 a1 ♖ 72.♖xa1 ♖xa1 73.g8 ♖ ♖g1+ 74.♔f7 ♖xg8 75.♔xg8 ♔b5 Draw.]

66.g6

Clash of the Titans

(17) Tal,M – Matanovic,A [C97]

Alekhine Memorial Moscow, 1963

[Balogh Csaba]

The next game is a nice example of the main line in the Ruy Lopez. White got a positional advantage by some strong (already quite typical) maneuvering. And when the moment came, Tal made a decisive blow in his usual style.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7
6.♖e1 b5 7.♙b3 d6 8.c3 0-0



9.h3 The initial position of the main Spanish, where Black has a wide choice between around 10 big continuations. Each of them lead to different kinds of structures. This is the reason why this opening is so complex and popular, rich in positional and tactical ideas.

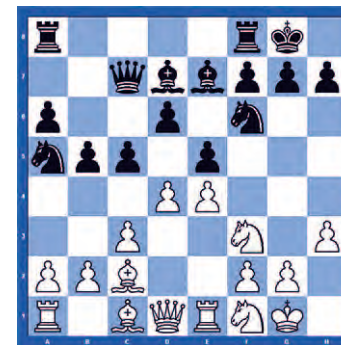
9...♘a5 This is the Chigorin variation, considered to be the main line of all Spanish.

10.♙c2 c5 11.d4 ♙c7 This is the main move again. [Recently 11...♘d7 12.♘bd2 exd4 13.cxd4 ♘c6 is more common and very sharp. But of course, fashion is always changing. „The best setup” doesn’t exist.]

12.♘bd2 The typical Spanish maneuver, transferring the knight to the kingside through f1.

12...♙d7 [12...cxd4 13.cxd4 ♘c6 leads to more opened positions. The Black player can choose a setup according to his style, this is the best part of the Spanish.]

13.♘f1



13...♖fe8 We are still in quite a big line of theory. Black would like to achieve the typical transfer of the bishop to g7, after g6 and ♙f8.

14.b3! I like this move very much! The main idea is to get the a5 knight out of the game, White prevents the ♘c4 possibilities. White never wants to develop his bishop to b2, it is strictly against the a5 knight. There is a very deep idea behind the move as well. White does not want to decide where the f1 knight should go. It usually jumps to g3, but as we will see, it has a different direction as well.

14...g6 Black continues his plan. [14...♙f8 would meet with the unpleasant 15.♙g5! Black has problems with the knight.]

15. ♖g5! And here comes the point of the 14th move. White wants to play ♖e3 using the weakened d5 square and Black cannot prevent it with ♘c4-b6, for example.

15... ♘h5 The exchange of the dark-squared bishops is always a hard decision. White would miss this piece in the future and it is his stronger bishop, but on the other hand, Black's kingside might become really weak.

16. ♖xe7 ♖xe7 17. ♘e3! The knight goes to e3 and is ready to jump to d5.

17... ♘f6 18. ♘g5?! This is typical in the style of Tal. He immediately wants to launch an attack against the king... but this time it would have been more advisable to continue the game in a positional manner, as GM Stein demonstrated one year later against the same opponent... [18. ♖c1! White prepares for the b4 push and the opening of the c-file. 18... ♘b7 19. b4! White managed to create the „typical bad spanish knight“ on b7, which cannot join the game 19... c4 20. a4! ♖ae8 21. axb5 axb5 22. ♖a1 White slowly improves his position. Black remains without counterplay, since 22... exd4 is met with 23. ♖xd4. 22... ♖c6 23. ♖a6 ♖c8 24. d5! ♖d7



after 21.♔d2 ♘c6 22.dxe5 dxe5 23.♘f3 White has a small plus anyway. He is going to install his knight to d5 and if Black takes it, he recaptures with the pawn.]

21.dxe5! dxe5 Black should try to keep his center, but it has concrete problems. [21...♖xe5 22.♘f3 ♜ee8 23.♔d4 +/- is also very unpleasant.]

22.♘d5! ♘xd5 23.exd5 With the use of the d6 threat, White created many dangerous ideas that Black cannot really parry. Let's see a few lines:

23...♞b7 Black tries to block the d-pawn, but this allows White to use the pin on the c-file. [On 23...♔b6 24.d6 ♜ee8



25.♙xg6!! White wins in all lines. Probably the most spectacular is after 25...hxg5

a) 25...♖xc1 26.♙xf7+ ♔f8 27.♔xc1 hxg5 28.♙xe8 +/-;

b) 25...fxg6 26.♔d5+ ♔h8 27.♖xc8 ♙xc8 (27...♖xc8 28.♔xe5+) 28.♔f7 +/-;

26.♔h5! Everything is forced now 26...fxg6 27.♔xg6+ ♔f8 28.♖xc8 ♙xc8 (After 28...♖xc8 The White rook joins and decides the game. 29.♔f6+ ♔g8 30.♖xe5 +/-)

29.♔f6+ ♔g8 and here comes the fantastic strike: 30.d7!! A really unusual motif 30...♔xf6 31.dxe8 ♔+ ♔f8 32.♖xe5 +/- White wins.; 23...hxg5 24.d6 +/-]

24.♘xf7! ♖xf7 [24...♔xf7 25.♙xg6+ +/-]

25.♙xg6 White wins material and continues attacking.

25...♔d6 [25...♔xc1 26.♙xf7+ ♔xf7 27.♔h5+ ♔f8 28.♖xc1 ♖xc1+ 29.♔h2 +/- White takes more pawns. Black cannot coordinate his pieces.]

26.♙xf7+ ♔xf7 27.♖xc8 ♙xc8 Here, of course, White can choose between many different wins. Tal finds the most effective solution:

28.♔c2 ♙d7 29.♔h7+ ♔f8 30.♖e3 and Black resigned. 1-0

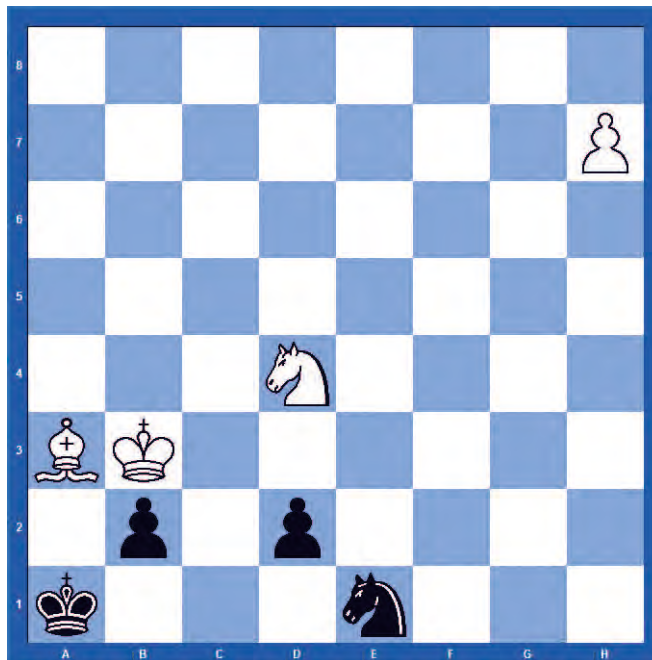
Surprise section / study

(18) Osintsev,S

1988

[CEWN]

1. +-

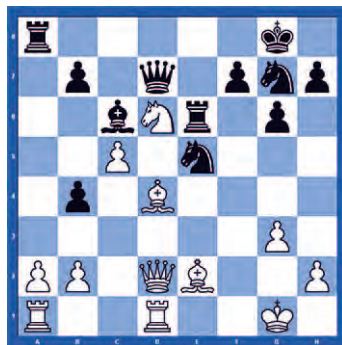


Solutions

(19) Bogner,S (2569) – Nataf,IA (2544)

French league, 03.06.2012

[Solutions]

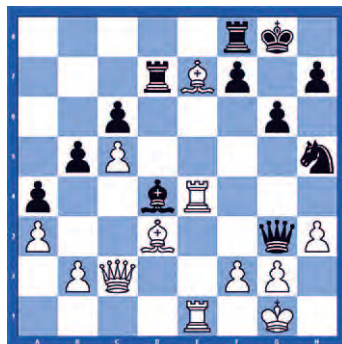


25...♖xd6! 26.cxd6 ♔h3! 27.♕h5 [27.♕f1 ♖f3+-+] 27...♔xh5 28.♕xe5 ♔xe5 29.♔d4 ♔e2 0-1

(20) Battaglini,G (2412) – Bogner,S (2569)

French league, 04.06.2012

[Solutions]

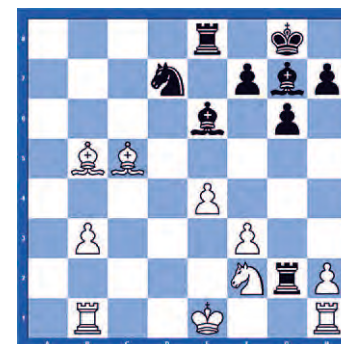


24...♖xe7! 25.♖xe7 ♖f4! 26.♕e4 [26.♕f1 ♖xh3+ 27.♕h1 ♖xf2+ 28.♕g1 ♖g4+-+] 26...♕xf2+! 27.♕f1 [27.♔xf2 ♖xh3+-+] 27...♕xe1-+

(21) Dubessay,B (2384) – Skoberne,J (2535)

Mitropa Cup, 02.06.2012

[Solutions]

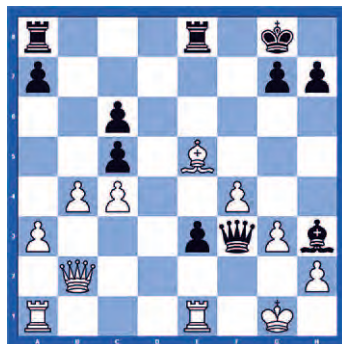


26...♖xc5! 27.♕xe8 ♕d4! 28.♖g4 [28.♖f1 ♕xf2+ 29.♖xf2 ♖d3+-+] 28...♕xg4 0-1 [28...♕xg4 29.fxg4 ♖d3+ 30.♕d1 ♕e3-+]

(22) Tan Zhongyi (2430) – Zhao Xue (2549)

Women's World rapid Championship, 31.05.2012

[Solutions]

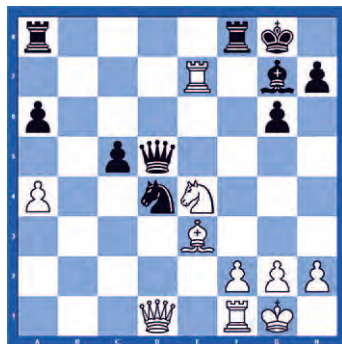


26...♖xe5!! 27.♖f1 [27.fxe5 ♖f8! 28.e6 (28.♖e2 ♖f2+ 29.♔h1 ♕g2#; 28.♖e2 ♖f1+ 29.♖xf1 ♖xf1#) 28...♖f2+--+] **27...♕xf1 28.♖xf1 e2!?--+**

(23) Guo Qi (2360) – Ushenina, A (2454)

Women's World rapid Championship, 01.06.2012

[Solutions]

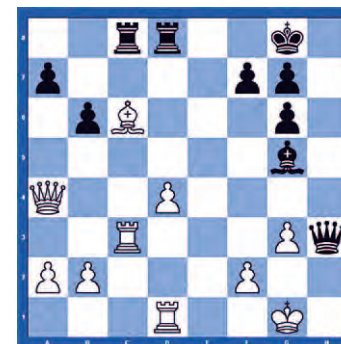


23.♖xg7+!! [23.♘xc5 ♕f6 24.♖d7 ♖xc5 25.♕xd4±] **23...♔xg7 24.♘xc5! ♘f3+** [24...♖ad8 25.♖xd4+ ♖xd4 26.♕xd4+ ♖xd4 27.♘e6++-] **25.gxf3 ♖xd1 26.♖xd1+-**

(24) Khurtsidze, N (2456) – Gunina, V (2530)

Women's World rapid Championship, 02.06.2012

[Solutions]



27.♕d7! ♖xd7 [27...♖xd7 28.♖xd7 ♖xd7 29.♖xc8++-; 27...♖xc3 28.♕xh3+-] **28.♖xc8++-**

(25) Cramling,P (2478) – Harika,D (2508)

Women's World rapid Championship, 02.06.2012

[Solutions]

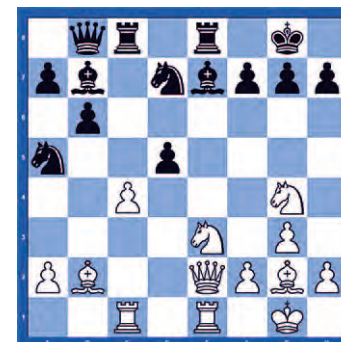


28...♔d3!! 29.♖xd3 [29.♔f2 ♕xf1 30.♔xf1 (30.♔xf1 ♖c1 31.♖d1 ♖xd1 32.♔xd1 ♔xa2–+) 30...♖c1+ 31.♔e2 ♖e8+–+] **29...♖xd3 30.♔xd3 ♔xa2–+**

(27) Flores,D (2604) – Molina,R (2423)

Panno Masters, 21.05.2012

[Solutions]

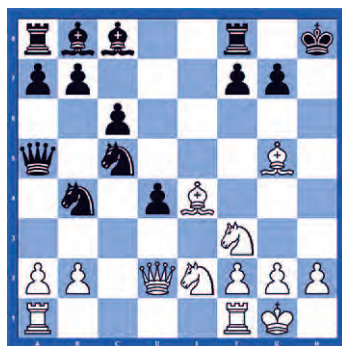


21. ♕xg7! ♕g5 [21...♔xg7 22.♖f5+ ♔h8 (22...♔f8 23.♔b2! f6 24.♔d2!+–) 23.♖xe7+–] **22. ♕h6 ♕xh6 23. ♖xh6+ ♔f8 24. ♔g4** [24.♔h5+–] **24...♖f6 25. ♔g5 1–0**

(26) Ovsejevitsch,S (2572) – Kuijfer,R (2419)

Liechtenstein Open, 18.05.2012

[Solutions]

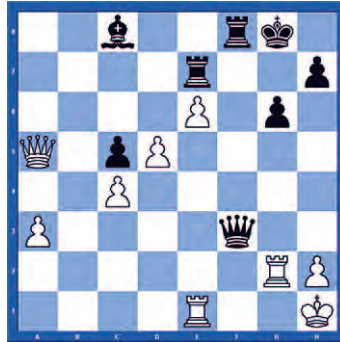


17. ♕f6! 1–0

(28) Nanu,C (2520) – Shishkin,V (2492)

Baia Mare, 26.05.2012

[Solutions]

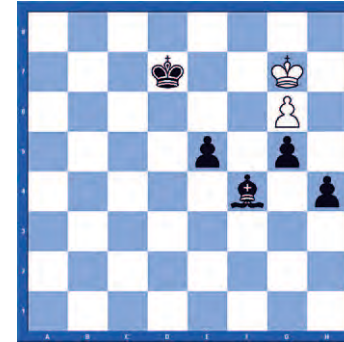


49...♖xe6!! 50.♖xe6 [50.dxe6 ♔f1+! 51.♖xf1 ♖xf1+ 52.♖g1 ♘b7#] 50...♘xe6 51.dxe6 ♔e4! 52.h3 ♖f1+ 53.♔h2 ♔f4+ 0-1

(29) Neuschwander,B

1989

[Solutions]



1.♔f6! h3 2.g7 h2 3.g8♔ h1♔ 4.♔h7+! ♔xh7 1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 17

22nd of June 2012

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Editorial Preface

The very exciting and amazingly strong “Tal Memorial” has come to an end with the second consecutive victory of Magnus Carlsen, who managed to win his last game with Black against McShane, while at the same time Aronian won his game against the tournament leader till then, Caruana. We saw a lot of very interesting games, and sometimes the result was very unpredictable. Who would’ve bet before the tournament that McShane would beat Aronian, Morozevich and Kramnik!

We comment a few games from the Tal Memorial for You, we hope You will enjoy these very high level games.

The Female Grand Prix is still being played. The most exciting part is still to come and the winner will be decided in the last rounds.

In this issue we want to present You one study from GM Sergey Grigoriants, who has sent his composition to us. We are really grateful for this! It is totally crazy, and in case You can find a winning idea-don’t get dizzy!

As usual, we have a couple of interesting practical endgames and the puzzle section.

Enjoy the CEWN Nr 17!

*Arkadij Naiditsch
Balogh Csaba*

4 best games of the past week

(1) McShane, Luke J (2706)
— Carlsen, Magnus (2835) [C85]

7th Mikhail Tal Memorial Moscow RUS (9), 18.06.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

The last round of maybe the most prestigious event of 2012, the Tal Memorial. Magnus Carlsen is on +1, and needs badly a full point to get at least the shared lead in the tournament. His opponent McShane had won 2 games in a row, against Morozevich and Kramnik! In this game the World's number 1 gives us a great example of how to play structural positions!

1.e4 e5 It's a bit funny that Carlsen chooses 1...e5 to play for a win. All his wins in the Tal Memorial were with Black, and with 1.e4 e5.

2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.♙xc6 McShane likes to play „slow“ positions and this is exactly what he is getting after 6.♙xc6, but of course, probably White accepts not getting any opening advantage.

6...dxc6 7.d3



7...♘d7 We are in an often played position, and 7...♘d7 is probably the best way for Black to continue. The Black knight is going to d4!

8.b3 The usual setup for White as well. White develops the bishop on b2 to provoke Black's f6 move in order to play ♘h4 later...

8...0-0 9.♙b2 f6 10.♘c3 This is something new. Usually, White was trying to continue with 10.♘bd2. Then, he would have 2 different plans, to play for f4 or to play with ♘c4-a4-a5 trying to fix Black on the queenside. On the other hand, Black usually chooses to play ♖e8-Nf8-Ne6 or c5-Nb8-Nd4, in any case. The key in this line is to bring the knight to d4! [10.d4 exd4 This kind of moves bring nothing at all for White.]

10...♖e8 This move is hard for me to understand. Why does Black want to play ♘f8-Ne6 and not the immediate 10...♘c5 followed by Ne6? [10...♘c5 In my opinion, the most logical move. 11.♘h4 In case of any other move, Black just plays ♘e6 11...g6! A very typical reaction. Black blocks the White knight on h4 and threatens to play f6-f5 at some moment 12.f4 exf4 13.♖xf4 f5 and Black is doing very good.]

11.♙h1 This is a useful prophylactic move, but why not to go immediately for ♘e2-Nh4 and f4...

11...♘f8 12.♘e2 c5 Probably 12... ♘e6 was also possible, because 13.d4 can never bring White any advantage, but why to make an extra calculation? 12...c5 is definitely a good move and will be needed in the future

13. ♖h4 ♜e6 [13...g6? would be to passive now 14.f4 exf4 15.♜xf4 and the White knights are getting very dangerous!]



14. ♜f5?! I don't like this move at all, McShane brings the knight to e3, but what for? [14.f4!? If You say A, sometimes it's good to say B as well 14...♜d4 (Of course doesn't work: 14...exf4? 15.♜xf4 ♜xf4 16.♜xf4 g5 17.♜f5! and White is almost winning.) 15.fxe5 (15.f5 This move looks quite interesting as well. The idea of White could be just to play ♜xd4 next, then, ♜f3-Rh3-Qh5 and try to give mate...) 15...fxe5 16.♜f5 with maybe a slight advantage for White. Now we can see very well that the Black rook has nothing to do on e8. It would be better placed on f8!]

14... ♜f8 Of course Black doesn't give White the chance to play ♜xe7 followed by f4, with a slightly better position for White.

15. ♜e3 ♜d4 The Black knight reached his final destination!

16.f4



16... ♜e6! An easy-looking move that is very important. From this moment on, Black completely takes over the game.

17.fxe5 [17.f5 ♜f7! This is the key idea. It's very important for Black to have the bishop on f7 after White's f5. The bishop will protect the Black king and support Black's play on the queenside. 18.g4 b5 with good play for Black.]

17...fxe5 18. ♜g1 Still, the position remains about equal, although White is in big positional danger. It's funny to see how many moves McShane made with his knights! The knight from b1: ♜c3-e2-g1. The knight from g1: ♜f3-Nh4-Nf5-Ne3. A total of 7 out of 18 moves!

18...g6! A great move by the World's number one! It's not easy at all to understand why the Black bishop's best square is on g7! I think the idea is quite simple, it is clear that Black will start playing on the queenside very soon, so White's only chance is going to be to play on the kingside. As we know from the King's Indian structures, the king on g8 is very safe if the bishop is on g7!

19.c3?! I think this is a serious positional mistake. Now Black is getting a clear target in White's pawn structure. [19.♜f3 would have been a better move. The next Whites

moves could be ♖c1–Bd2. Of course White has no advantage, but it's time to think „how to make a draw“]

19...♘c6 20.♘f3 ♖g7 Black is not in a hurry and starts by putting his pieces in good squares.



21.♔e1 McShane had less than 15 minutes for the last 20 moves! And the position is already very hard to play for White, Black has the very unpleasant threat of playing a5-a4. Usually, White can block the a-pawn by playing a4, which doesn't work now because the pawn on b3 is hanging. This is why 19.c3?! was a very risky decision. Black has a clear target now!

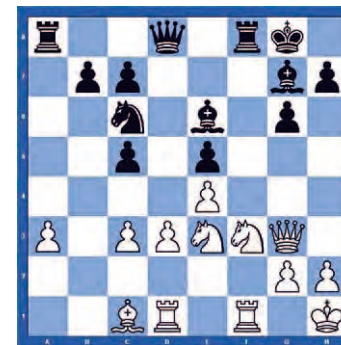
21...a5! Don't ask Carlsen twice!

22.♖d1 It's already hard to give an advice for White... The position is quite unpleasant.

22...a4 23.bxa4 ♖xa4 24.a3 ♖f8! Another very good move by Black. His best scenario is to exchange one pair of rooks and the queens, to get a clearly better endgame. The rook on f8 supports that idea and protects Black from any attacking ideas of his opponent.

25.♖c1 ♖a8! Another easy-looking and very strong move. Carlsen doesn't give McShane even a slight hope for a successful attack.

26.♔g3 It's hard to blame White for doing this move with only 10 minutes left on the clock and in a position that is very hard to play...



26...♖b3! And probably this is already a winning move. It's really amazing to see that until now Carlsen hasn't done any „difficult“ moves, and seems to be winning! This is real high class chess!

27.♖de1 White panics and starts a last attack... [27.♖d2 ♖h6! 28.♔e1 would still be playable for White, but of course, Black is doing much better.]

27...♔xd3 And Black is just a pawn up

28.♘g4 ♖e6 A very solid move. Black's position looks a bit dangerous, but again, the structure with the pawns on h7-g6 and the bishop on g7 is almost indestructible!

29.♘h6+ ♔h8 30.♔h4 ♖f6 Maybe this move is not the most effective one, but it's very logical from a human point of view. Black exchanges one piece and takes away the g5 square for the White knight...

31. ♖g5 ♗xg5 32. ♔xg5 ♙g7 33. ♔c1



33... ♖f4?! In a winning position and with his opponent having no time on the clock, Black takes a very risky decision. [33... ♔d6! By bringing back the queen, Black gives White no chances for any tricks, the game is basically over. ..]

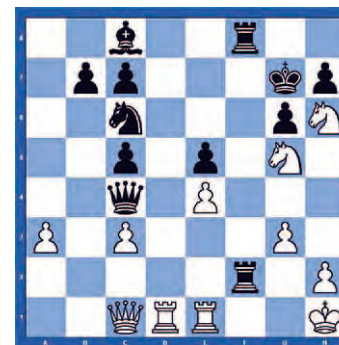
34. ♖d1 [34. ♗g5! The first and only chance of White in this game. Suddenly the game would become quite complicated 34... ♗c4 (34... ♖xf1+ 35. ♖xf1 ♗c4 36. ♖d1 and the White rook enters on d7.) 35. ♖xf4 exf4 36. ♗g4 Black's probably still doing better, but the position is very sharp! This is definitely a very unnecessary risk!]

34... ♔c4 35. ♖fe1 ♖af8 And the game is totally over. Black is not only a pawn up, but now he controls the f-file as well.

36. ♗g5 [36. ♗f5+ doesn't work for White 36... gxf5 37. ♗xe5 ♗xe5 38. ♔xf4 ♗g6 39. ♔xc7+ ♖f7 and Black is winning.]

36... ♗c8 The knight on h6 is going to drop.

37. g3 ♖f2 I guess this was the right moment to resign, but McShane decided to make 3 more moves.



38. ♗f5+ gxf5 39. ♗h3 ♖e2 40. ♔g5+ ♙h8 Magnus Carlsen managed to win this game almost without calculating anything. A really great positional game of the World's Nr.1! This game brought him a clear first place, after Caruana lost his last game against Aronian. This is the game we are going to analyze next. **0-1**

(2) Aronian,L (2825) – Grischuk (2761) [E15]

Tal memorial, 16.06.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

Despite the fact that the game finished in only 28 moves, we are facing a very interesting and eventful draw. Actually, it seems like both sides played perfect chess.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 Recently Grischuk plays all the openings. This time he chose the Queen's Indian defense.

4.g3 And Aronian went for his favorite 4.g3 system.

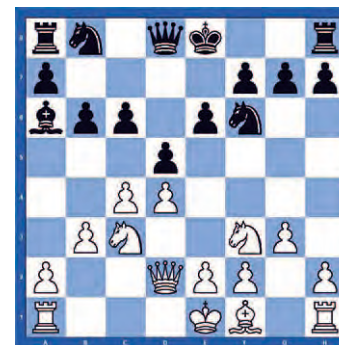
4...♙b4+!? This was probably the first surprise. The move is a sideline compared to the 4...♙a6 and 4...♙b7 options. However, in my opinion, we will see this more often, because Aronian played the critical line and Grischuk seems to have refuted it.

5.♙d2 ♙xd2+ 6.♚xd2 This is the right capture. The ideal development of the b1 knight is to c3.

6...♙a6 7.b3 c6 Black would like to build a strong center with d5, but first he prepares for a possible capture with the c-pawn.

8.♘c3 This is considered to be critical. [A normal development leads to equality after 8.♙g2 d5 9.0-0 0-0 (9...dxc4 is not good, because of 10.♘e5) 10.♘e5 (10.♖c1 ♘bd7=) 10...♘fd7 11.♘xd7 ♘xd7 12.cxd5 cxd5= with complete equality and a lot of draws in the database.]

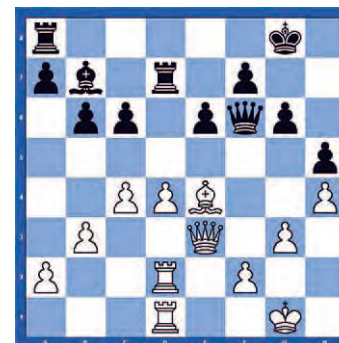
8...d5



9.e4! This temporary pawn sacrifice is a typical motif in the Queen's Indian to undermine Black's center.

9...♘xe4 10.♘xe4 dxe4 11.♘g5 This is the point. Black cannot protect his e4 pawn and if he doesn't do something concrete, he'll end up in a bad position...

11...c5! At first sight it's a very risky move, since it weakens the h1-a8 diagonal, where the White bishop could penetrate. However, in our current era, computers make many dubious-looking moves possible. [11...♘d7 happened more often 12.♘xe4 ♘f6 13.♙g2 ♘xe4 14.♙xe4 ♙b7 15.0-0 0-0 16.♖fd1 and White has a small, but long-lasting advantage. Black must stay in passivity. 16...♗f6 17.♗e3 ♖fd8 18.♖d2 ♖d7 19.♖ad1 g6 20.h4 h5



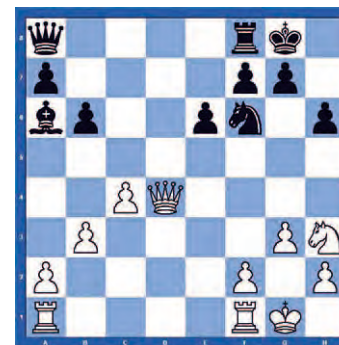
21.c5! This is a well-known motif to increase the advantage. White fixes the weakness on c6, stops Black's counterplay with c5 and kills the b7 bishop. 21...♖c8 22.a4 ♘a6 23.♖c1 with a clear advantage in Tkachiev-Bauer, France 2007.]

12. ♘g2 [12.♘xe4 is White's other option, but probably Grischuk prepared a nice exchange sacrifice 12...cxd4 13.♘g2 0-0! White has two different ways to win the exchange, but Black gets enough counterplay in both lines



14.♘f3 (14.♘f6+ ♖xf6 15.♘xa8 ♖e5+! and if White wants to avoid the perpetual check, he must give up his right to castle 16.♖e2 (16.♖f1 ♖c5! In order to put the knight to c6. If White needs to give up his bishop, Black punishes him on the light squares, so he must retreat, 17.♘f3 ♘c6 and Black got only one pawn for the exchange, but the d4 passer and the superior pieces give more than enough counterplay. In addition, Black cannot connect his rooks with 18.♖g2 because of 18...♘e5 and White either give up his bishop, or allows Black to occupy the long diagonal.) 16...♖a5+ 17.♖d2 ♖e5+=) 14...♘d7! White must give up his strong bishop, so Black will be able to use the weak light squares with accurate play.

15.♘xa8 ♖xa8 16.0-0 h6! Forcing the knight to the unfortunate h3 square. 17.♖xd4 ♘f6 18.♘h3



18...♘b7! This is Grischuk's point! Very deep preparation! Black doesn't even get a pawn for the exchange, but he doesn't need to worry about being worse. Let's examine some concrete variations to understand why it is so... 19.f3 This strange move is probably the best option, but after this, it becomes clear that White cannot be better.

a) 19.♘f4 ♘e4! with the idea of ♘g5! 20.♖fd1 (20.h4 e5! 21.♖xe5 ♘d2 with serious threats on the diagonal.) 20...♘g5 with very unpleasant threats.

b) The most logical 19.♖fd1 is met with 19...♖c8!! with the double threat of e5 and ♖c6. White is already in deep trouble.

19...♘xf3 20.♘f4 ♘b7 Black already got a pawn, and wants to play ♖c8-c6, ♖d8 or ♘e4. The position is unclear, but from a practical point of view, it is much easier to play with Black.]

12...♘c6 13.dxc5! Only move, otherwise Black gets a decisive advantage. [After 13.♘xe4 Black can sacrifice the exchange in an even better version 13...♘xd4! 14.♘d6+

♔xd6 15. ♘xa8 0-0 16. ♘g2 ♔e5+! and Black wins due to the tactical trick: 17. ♖f1 ♘xb3!; 13. ♘xe4 is refuted in similar fashion 13... ♘xd4! 14. ♘xa8 ♔xa8 White has an extra option now: to castle queenside, but it doesn't help either. 15. 0-0-0 h6 16. ♘h3 ♘b7! 17. ♖hg1 ♘f3! The bishop sends both rooks to bad squares. 18. ♖de1 ♘g4! 19. ♘f4 0-0 and ♘f3 will be the next move, with a big advantage.]

13... ♔xd2+ 14. ♔xd2 The e4 pawn is the key in Black's position, he must protect it at any cost.

14... f5! 15. ♘xe6 Actually, only this was the novelty of the game. [There was only one game before with the 11...c5! idea, which continued with 15.cxb6 ♔e7! 16.bxa7 ♖hd8+ 17. ♔c1 White is a pawn up, but all his pieces are terribly placed and the pawns on the queenside are immobile. Obviously, Black should have enough compensation. 17... h6 (17... ♖xa7 is also fine for Black 18. ♖d1 ♖xd1+ 19. ♔xd1 ♘d4↗) 18. ♘h3 ♘d4 19. ♖d1 e5 20. ♔b2 ♖xa7 21. ♖d2



21...g5! Black's kingside pawns are looking much more dangerous than the ones on the queenside. White tried to improve his knight on h3, but he missed a nice tactical blow: 22. ♘g1? ♘xc4!! 23.g4 (With the idea of 23.bxc4

♖b8+ 24. ♔c1 (24. ♔c3 ♖a3#) 24... ♘b3+ wins) 23... ♘xb3! 24. ♘e2 (24. axb3 ♖xa1 25. ♔xa1 ♘xb3+) 24... ♘a4 and Black won soon in Saric-Riazantsev, Budva 2009.]

15... ♔f7 16. ♘f4 Aronian wanted to control the d3 square in order to be able to move to c3 with the king after the check. [16. ♘c7 was an alternative, but Black has no reason to complain after 16... ♖ad8+ 17. ♔c1 (17. ♔c3 ♖d3+) 17... ♘b7 18.cxb6 axb6 with a similar position to the 15.cxb6 line. White is a pawn up, but Black has enough compensation, mainly due to the g2 bishop and the forthcoming ♘d4 move.]

16... bxc5 Finally Black restored the material equality, but he still needs to play precisely to equalize. Aronian sets very difficult problems to solve.

17.f3! Very logical move, trying to activate the poor bishop on g2. If White manages to open the diagonal, suddenly the bishop on d5 would start to dominate the position. Black cannot allow this.

17... ♖ad8+ 18. ♔c3



18...e3! Excellent decision! Of course it's very logical to close the g2 bishop, but it had to be deeply calculated,

because White gets access to the c5 pawn and the e3 pawn might become weak as well. [18...exf3? 19.♙xf3 ♘d4 20.♙d5+ ♔f6 21.♞ae1 ♙c8 22.b4+/- White's dream would have come true.]

19.♘d3 [19.♞he1 ♞he8; 19.♘d5 was an alternative, but Black seems to be fine after 19...♞he8 20.♞he1 e2 21.f4 ♙b7 followed by ♘d4.]

19...♞he8!! Of course, Grischuk had to foresee all these lines and its consequences before pushing e3.

20.♘xc5 [20.f4 was an alternative again, but just as in the opening part, Black sacrifices an exchange and gets enough compensation 20...e2!! 21.♙d5+ (21.♙xc6 ♞e3! 22.♙d5+ ♞xd5! This is the point! 23.cxd5 ♞xd3+ 24.♔b2 ♞xd5 Black has only one pawn, but with such a protected e2 pawn, he cannot be worse. It's important for Black to keep his rook on the board so that the most probable outcome of the game will be a draw.) 21...♞xd5! leads to a position similar to the one in the previous line 22.cxd5 ♞e3 23.dxc6 ♞xd3+ 24.♔c2 ♔e7 and again, the game should end in a draw.]



20...e2! The most precise again. [20...♞d2 was a tempting alternative, but White can obtain a small advantage

after the subtle 21.♙f1! ♙c8 22.♞e1! ♞xa2 23.♞e2! ♞xe2 24.♙xe2+ =]

21.♘xa6 ♞e3+ 22.♔c2 [22.♔b2 loses after 22...♞d2+ 23.♔a3 ♘d4! ♘c2 is coming 24.♘b4 a5 ! 25.♘d5 e1 ♔ 26.♞hxel ♞xe1 27.♞xe1 ♘c2+ wins.]

22...♞ed3!! Grischuk had to calculate until this moment when he played his 18th move! Already now, Aronian is the one that has to make only moves to achieve a draw.

23.♞ae1! Of course Aronian is also a great player, and finds the only way to draw.

23...♞d2+ 24.♔c1! [24.♔b1 leads to problems for White after 24...♞d1+! 25.♔b2 ♞8d2+! and after both king moves, ♘d4 sets huge problems for White. For example: 26.♔c3 ♘d4 27.f4 (27.♘c5 ♞c2+ 28.♔b4 ♞cc1) 27...♞d3+ 28.♔b2 ♞xe1 29.♞xe1 ♞d1]

24...♞xa2! Preparing for the invasion of the 2nd rank. Aronian has to find another only move...

25.f4! [25.♘c5? loses elegantly to 25...♞dd2 26.f4 ♘b4! 27.♙d5+ ♘xd5 28.cxd5 ♞ab2! with a mate threat.]

25...♞dd2! 26.♙xc6 ♞ac2+ [26...♞ab2 leads to draw as well 27.♘b4 a5 28.♙f3 axb4 29.♞xe2 and Black gives perpetual check again 29...♞bc2+ 30.♔b1 ♞b2+ =]

27.♔b1 ♞b2+ 28.♔a1 ♞a2+ A fantastic game! All the lines after 11...c5 are more or less forced and at the end it seems to be perfectly fine for Black. This means that the 4...♙b4 setup is playable! Congratulations to both players! **1/2**

(3) Morozevich,A (2769) – McShane,L (2706) [D15]

Tal Memorial Moscow RUS, 17.06.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

A sensational comeback from McShane, who lost 3 games in the tournament, but after defeating Aronian (the game was analyzed in the previous CEWN), Kramnik and Morozevich, he came back to 50 percent. On the other hand, a disaster for Moro, who seemed to be unstoppable after 5 rounds (he had 4 points at that point), but after losing 3 games in a row, ended up „catching up” with McShane at 50 percent.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 a6 The Slav with 4...a6 is considered to be a very solid opening, Black is fighting for the draw. However, it seems to be a very dangerous weapon in the Englishman's hands, because he beat Aronian in the same line.

5.e3 In the mentioned game, Aronian played 5.♙g5.

5...b5 6.b3 ♙g4 This is a well-known theoretical position, where the main move is 7.♙e2, although Morozevich tried another setup in this game.

7.h3 ♙xf3



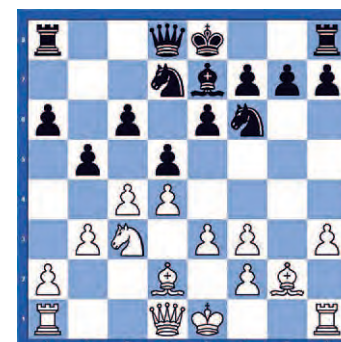
8.gxf3!? White's general plan with this capture is to limit Black's chances to get counterplay in a number of ways — with c5 and f4. This way, White closes the position and enjoys a nice space advantage. Anyway, it's usually really difficult to break Black's rock-solid wall. [8.♙xf3 is the other variation. Here the fight becomes extremely sharp right from the beginning. 8...e5 9.dxe5 ♙b4 with many games in the database, some of them even on the highest level. The outcome of the whole line is still not clear, the players are searching and finding many new ideas even nowadays.]

8...♘bd7 9.♙g2 This is practically the novelty of the game. Morozevich's idea is to keep the position open, which is a principled one, due to his bishop pair. [9.f4 e6 10.c5 is how the games usually proceed.]

9...e6 White wanted to play f4, but he was reasonably afraid of ♙b4...

10.♙d2 [10.f4 ♙b4! 11.♙d2 bxc4 12.bxc4 ♘b6 This is a typical way to activate the knight, we will see it in the game as well. In this particular position, White has the possibility to win the pawn, but Black gets very strong counterplay: 13.c5 ♘c4 14.♙a4 ♖b8! 15.♙xc6+ ♘d7 and White is facing serious problems.]

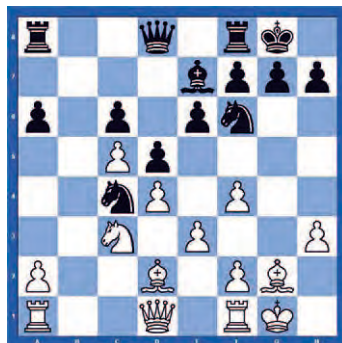
10...♙e7



11.f4 0-0 [11...bxc4 12.bxc4 ♘b6 13.c5 ♘c4 was an option here as well, but McShane delayed it by one move, giving White an extra chance to obtain the usual slightly better but closed position with c5.]

12.0-0 [On 12.c5 Black probably reacts with 12...a5! 13.♔c2 ♘e8! followed by f5! Black closes the position on both flanks and waits for White to find a breakthrough. Usually this kind of games end up in 100 moves draws, when White maneuvers for 50 moves, then tries something, Black easily neutralizes, and they agree to a draw.]

12...bxc4 13.bxc4 ♘b6 14.c5 ♘c4

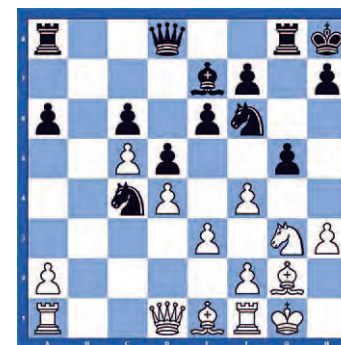


15.♗e1 White would like to preserve his bishop pair, a longterm idea could be to play ♗f1 and the knight could not easily escape from c4. Let's summarize some general ideas about the doubled pawns on the f-file. The f4 pawn is standing perfectly, since it prevents Black's main idea for counterplay with the e5 push. A lot of times White can use the g-file for an attack with the rooks (this is not the case in the current game). However, it gives Black the „famous“ plan to undermine it with g5, because White cannot hold it with the g3 pawn anymore. McShane was clearly familiar with this idea and he effectively executed it in the game.

15...♔h8! Prepares for ♖g8 and g5! White cannot prevent this plan, the question is how to make it the least effective.

16.♘e2! Morozevich sees that the kingside is going to be opened soon, therefore, he brings a defender.

16...♖g8 17.♘g3 g5



18.♔f3?! Probably this was not the best idea by White. [He should have kept the g-file closed with 18.f5! g4 19.h4! ♘d7 (19...e5 is an alternative for Black, but here again White has an important resource 20.e4!! opening the position for the bishops. ♗c3 is coming soon and White controls both diagonals.) 20.♖c1!! This extremely strong move, with the idea of an exchange sacrifice, keeps the position open for all 3 results. (20.h5 meets by 20...♗h4! ♔g5 and ♘f6 are the next moves. Black leads a very dangerous attack.) 20...♗xh4 (20...♖c8 protecting the c6 pawn does not prevent the sacrifice. 21.♖xc4! dxc4 22.♔a4 ♗xh4 23.♗xc6 ♘f6 24.♗g2+= White has very strong compensation. He is going to take the c4 pawn, the g2 bishop dominates on the board and also defends the king from any kind of attacks.) 21.♖xc4! dxc4 22.♔a4+= and White's chances seem to be preferable for me, but of course, the position remains sharp.]

18...g4! 19.hxg4 ♘xg4 Black wants to create mate threats by transferring his queen to the h-file.

20.♖c1 Morozevich had the same exchange sacrifice in mind, the one we examined in the 18.f5 line, but there, it was a much better version. [20.♕h3 f5! Black locks the position and enjoys a clear advantage. 21.♖c1 ♔e8! protects the c6 pawn and brings the queen to the attack.]

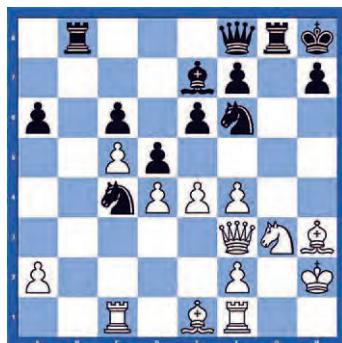
20...♔f8! 21.♕h3 [21.♖xc4? ♔h6! is over.]

21...♘f6! Excellent decision. Black has an important resource against ♖c4. [Now on 21...f5 22.♖xc4! dxc4 23.♔xc6 and White gets strong counterplay.]

22.♔h2 [22.♖xc4 dxc4 23.♔xc6 ♔h6! 24.♔g2 (The bishop cannot occupy its ideal position because of 24.♕g2? ♘g4) 24...♘d5! This is the point of 21...♘f6, the queen gets out of the game. Black plays ♕h4 and the attack is very dangerous.]

22...♖b8! The last passive piece joins the game as well. [Helps White now, because after 22...♔h6?! 23.♖h1! he might launch an attack on the h-file.]

23.e4? [23.♕c3 was the right move to prevent ♖b2 23...♕d8 with a possible exchange of the dark squared bishops. The position remains complex, but objectively it's about even.]



23...♖xg3!! A very tempting sacrifice. It's strange that Morozevich allowed it... McShane was down on time, and probably White hoped that he would be unable to continue the attack precisely, so he could preserve his material advantage in the future.

24.fxg3 [is not an option, since the f4 pawn falls soon 24.♔xg3 ♘xe4 25.♔d3 ♔h6]

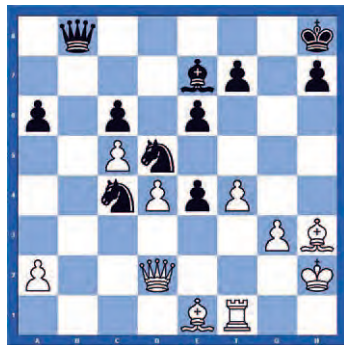
24...dxe4 White is in trouble.

25.♔c3 [25.♔e2 ♖b2 26.♖c2 ♖xc2 27.♔xc2 ♘e3 wins back the exchange.]

25...♘b2? This gives sudden counter-chances for White. [25...♔h6!! would have been extremely strong, but McShane failed to find it with only 1 minute on his clock. 26.♖h1 (26.♔xc4 ♘g4+ wins because of 27.♔g2 (27.♔g1 ♔xh3) 27...♘e3+) 26...♘e3!! 27.♔g1 ♘fd5 28.♔d2 ♔g7 followed by ♕f6. It's easy to see that Black has complete domination with his knights.]

26.♖b1! [Another very strong idea could have been 26.d5! exd5 27.♕f2! McShane pointed out this idea as his fear during the press conference. 27...♘d3 28.♕d4 ♖b2+! is the best for Black, the game seems to lead to a draw after: (28...♔h6? 29.♖b1! Black is suddenly in trouble. 29...♖g8 30.♖b7+-) 29.♖c2 ♖xc2+ 30.♔xc2 ♔h6 31.♔c3 ♔g8 32.♖b1 White seems to win, but... 32...♘g4+! 33.♔g2 f5! giving air to the king on f7 34.♖b7 ♔f7 35.♔a5 ♔h5! 36.♔d8 ♘e1+ 37.♔g1 ♘f3+ 38.♔g2 ♘e1+ with perpetual check. This was a more or less forced line, which was of course impossible to find for a human, especially with 30 seconds on the clock.]

26...♘d5 27.♔d2 ♘c4 28.♖xb8 ♔xb8



29. ♖e2 [29. ♖c1! should have been played, with the idea of 29... ♘ce3 30. ♖f2 ! activating the rook along the b-file. White is suddenly better, due to the serious mistake in the 25th move.]

29... ♘ce3 30. ♖h1 ♘f6 Black's position is much easier to play in time trouble and Morozevich collapses in a few moves. However, the position was still very unclear...

31. ♘g2? White blunders a tactical motif. [31. ♘c3!? An ugly move, but it saves the important d4 pawn.]

31... ♘xd4 32. ♘xe4?! This loses immediately, but position was already very bad. [After 32. ♖d2 Black would have had to find a study-like win, which is actually the only way to win the 32... ♘g4+! 33. ♖h3



33... ♖f8!! Brilliant move! Two pieces are hanging, but White gets mated. **34. ♖xd4+** (34. ♘xg4 ♘f6+ 35. ♘g5 ♖g7+ 36. ♘h4 ♖h6#; 34. ♘xe4 ♘de3!! 35. ♖xd4+ ♘g8 and ♖h6 mate next.) **34... ♘g8!!** Only move again! (34... e5 35. fxe5 ♖h6+ 36. ♘xg4 ♖g6+ 37. ♘h4 ♖h6+ is just a draw.) **35. ♘xg4** (35. ♖xe4 ♘de3) **35... f5+** 36. ♘g5 ♖e7+! **37. ♘h5** (37. ♘h6 ♖f7) **37... ♖f7+** 38. ♘h4 ♖g6!! Black is a rook and a piece down and continues the game with subtle moves... **39. ♖d1 ♖f6+!** **40. ♘h5** (40. ♘h3 ♖h6+) **40... ♘e3!!** **41. ♖e2 ♖g6+** **42. ♘h4 ♘g4!!** is the final blow! Fantastic line. Of course, only for computers.]

32... ♘xf4! Killing.

33. gxf4 [33. ♖d2 ♘g4#! is a picturesque mate!]

33... ♖xf4+ 34. ♘g3 ♖xe4 Black is already ahead in material, the fact that his pieces are standing perfectly is even more important.

35. ♖e1 ♖f5 White is practically in zugzwang. [35... f5 followed by f4 was an even easier win.]

36. ♘d6?! A mistake, but it was already over anyway.

36... ♘g4+ 37. ♖g2 ♘e3+ A time trouble repetition.

38. ♖h2 e5! The bishop is excluded from the game.

39. ♖g1 ♖f4+ 40. ♘h3 ♖h6+ [White resigned in view of 40... ♖h6+ 41. ♘g3 ♘f5+ 42. ♘g4 ♖f4+ 43. ♘h3 ♖h4+ 44. ♘g2 ♖g3+ 45. ♘h1 ♖xg1# A great fighting game.]
0-1

(4) Aronian,Levon (2825) – Caruana,Fabiano (2770) [D70]

7th Mikhail Tal Memorial Moscow RUS (9), 18.06.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

In this game, the World's number 2 player gave a hand to the number 1, allowing him to win the tournament. Aronian, with this victory, helped Magnus Carlsen to get the title. We'll see another great prepared line by Aronian, who was quite unlucky in this tournament. However, he didn't conclude the game for a long time, until Black collapsed under big time and positional pressure.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** g6 **3.f3** We saw this line being played twice by Anand in his WCC match against Gelfand, so probably we'll see a lot of new games following this line in the future .

3...d5 The beginning of a long forced line. Black has 2 more options: 3...c5 with a sort of Benoni and 3...♙g7 4.d4 d6, going back to the King's Indian

4.cxd5 ♘xd5 **5.e4** ♘b6 **6.♘c3** ♙g7 **7.♙e3** 0-0 **8.♙d2**



8...♘c6 The beginning of a quite forced line. [8...e5 9.d5 c6 10.h4 cxd5 11.exd5 ♘8d7 12.h5 ♘f6 13.hxg6 fxg6 14.0-0-0 with very unclear play. Anand,V — Gelfand,B WCC Moscow 2012.]

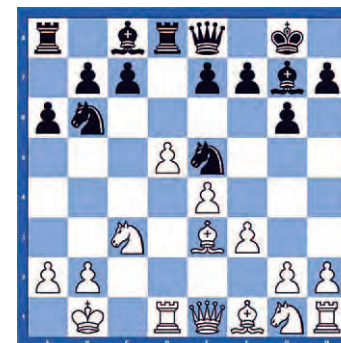
9.0-0-0 ♙d6 **10.♙b1** This is the main move given by the theory, and don't ask me why... Only a lot of hours of analysis can prove such things.

10...♖d8 **11.♘b5** ♙d7 **12.d5** a6 **13.♘c3N** And here comes the novelty! [13.dxc6 This move seems to lead by force to an equal endgame 13...♙xd2 14.♖xd2 ♖xd2 15.♙xd2 axb5 16.cxb7 ♙xb7 17.♙xb5 f5 18.exf5 ♙d5 19.♘e2 ♙xa2+ 20.♙c2 gxf5 with an about equal endgame, Vituigov,N — Giri,A 2011.]

13...♙e8 The most natural move for Black. [13...♘e5?! seems to lead to a bad position 14. ♙xb6 (14.b3!? might also be interesting, with the positional idea of ♘ge2-Nd4 next.) 14...cxb6 15.f4 and the knight from e5 doesn't have the d7 square. 15...♘g4 16.h3 ♙xc3 It never feels right to give up the bishop from g7, but Black has no choice here. 17.bxc3 ♘f6 18.♙d3 and White should be doing better.]

14.♙e1 This move was also very quickly played by Aronian.

14...♘e5



15. ♖e2!? This move clearly shows how deep the preparation of the current World's Number 2 is. This move is hard to understand and it looks more like a question for Black: „What do You want to do next?“ At the same time, 15. ♖e2 is a move that develops a piece, and in some lines, White will be able to play f4 without being afraid of ♘g4. Let us take a look at a few lines that could happen in this very complex position.

15...e6?! After a long think, Caruana takes the wrong decision. [15...♘ec4 In my opinion this move should be critical 16. ♖d4 (16. ♖c1 is too slow now 16...e6! and Black will crush White's center.) 16...e5! (Of course doesn't work: 16...♖xd4? 17. ♖xd4 e5 18. ♖xc4; 16...e6 The exchange of the g7 bishop is a very dangerous idea for Black. Usually, this can only lead to a better position for White. 17. ♖xg7 ♖xg7 18. ♖xc4 ♘xc4 19. ♘ge2 and White should be doing clearly better. The Black king can get in big trouble very soon, after White advances with h4-h5. Besides, the black squares around the Black king are quite weak. This can be useful for White as well...) 17. ♖xb6 (17. ♖f2 ♖f8!? leads to a very unclear position, but I feel that Black should be doing fine here...) 17...♘xb6



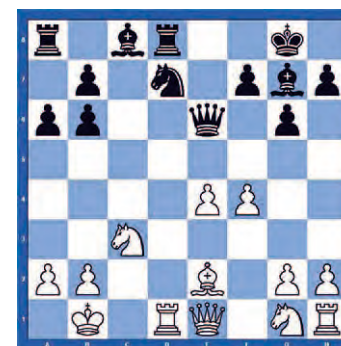
18.h4 At first sight, Black should be doing fine here, but things are not that simple. White is very quick on the king-side. The Queen on e1 is perfectly placed after White's h5, and can join the attack immediately through h4. 18...c6 Black is trying to do something active on the queenside. (18...h5?! 19.g4→) 19. ♖f2 ♘d7 20.h5 ♘f6 21.hxg6 hxg6 It's hard to say who is doing better... further analysis are needed. But we can be sure that Aronian knew who is better here.]

16. ♖xb6! And here comes the immediate punishment.

16...cxb6 17.f4 Indeed, 15. ♖e2!? is a useful move now.

17...♘d7 Ugly move, but where else to go?! [17...exd5 It doesn't look very promising for Black to give away a piece. 18.fxe5 dxe4 19. ♖h4 Probably White has different ways to achieve an advantage. 19...♖xd1+ 20. ♖xd1 ♖xe5 21. ♘ge2 e3 22. ♖c2 Black has 3 pawns and the bishop pair for White's extra piece, but it's hard to imagine Black being OK here. I think White is doing much better.]

18.dxe6 ♖xe6



19. ♘f3?! An interesting moment. It's very obvious that White is doing better. White has few ways to proceed

here: [19.♔f3 followed by ♘d5 looks very tempting. White is doing much better, but Aronian chooses a different way.]

19...♖e8 Obviously, after this reply White is close to winning. Then, 19.♘f3 should have !! marks.. . But Black had a different choice, and even though it looks very dangerous, it was preferable to take it. [19...♙xc3 The only way to go on 20.♖xc3 ♖xe4+ 21.♙d3 ♖xf4 and we reach a critical position. Computers are happy with Black here, but from a human point of view, Black is fighting on the edge. Let's take a look to a few lines... 22.♖hf1 (22.♙c4 ♖f8! An ugly, solid and protective move! 23.♖hf1 ♘c5 24.♘e5 ♖e4+ 25.♙a1 ♙e6 and it looks like Black is in time to protect the f7 pawn.) 22...♖f8 Again, the usual defensive move! 23.♙c2 It's clear that White has very good play here, but it's hard to say if he has more than that.



Maybe 19. ♘f3!? was just a bluff by Aronian. At least after the simple 19. ♙f3, White would be doing very good without any risk.]

20.♖h4! A very strong move.

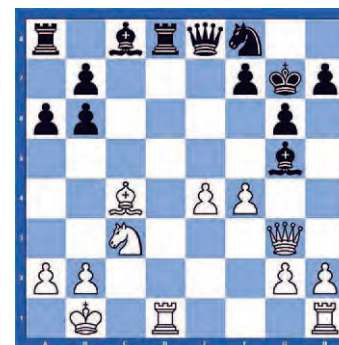
20...♙f6 [20...♙xc3 21.bxc3 ♖xe4+ 22.♙d3 and White is winning.]

21.♘g5 ♘f8 The only move to defend h7.

22.♙c4 [It's very tempting to play 22.♘d5? ♖xd5! A great counter move! (22...♙xg5 23.fxg5+-) 23.♖xd5 ♙e6 24.♖d3 ♖c8 and Black is totally back into the game! The White king will get under a heavy attack in the next moves.]

22...♙g7 23.♖g3 This move has a great idea behind it. [23.e5?! ♙e7 and Black wins the f5 square for the bishop.]

23...♙xg5 Black is practically forced to take on g5 because of the hanging pawn on f7.



24.fxg5!! A great idea by White, very original and strong play. Of course, after 24. ♖xg5 White would be doing better, but now he's probably close to winning. White will use the f-file for the mating attack, and the f6 square is controlled by the pawn on g5.

24...♙e6 25.♘d5 White is forcing Black to give away the bishop. ♖e5 is a deadly threat now.

25...♙xd5 26.♙xd5 Let's take a look at the position. The White bishop on d5 is a beast, the Black king is weak and White has many different ideas to develop a deadly

attack. The position should be already evaluated as winning for White.

26...♖d7 27.h4 ♖c8 28.a3 A nice prophylactic move, but why not to end the game immediately by playing the logical: [28.h5 gxh5 29.♙f3 followed by ♖h5-Rdh1 with a quick mate...]

28...♙d8 29.♙f2?! Once again onian doesn't play h5... this is really strange. In my opinion, after 29.h5 the game would end very quickly. It would be really interesting to know why Aronian didn't play the most obvious move in the position.

29...♞e6 30.♙a2 Of course, White is doing much better and Black is still quite hopeless, but it's time to finish the game...

30...♙e7



31.♖hf1?! White could just take with 31.♙xb6 ♖c2 32.♖hf1 and get a winning position.

31...b5 If White doesn't want to take, why to give then...

32.♖d3 Black's position remains very bad... but he's still fighting and doesn't have a material disadvantage.

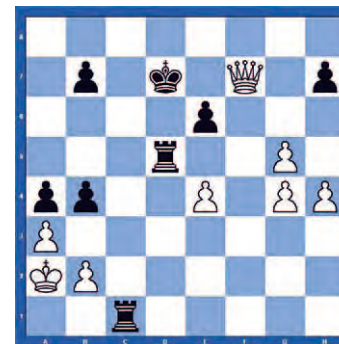
32...♖cc7 33.♙b1 This is already a clear sign that White doesn't really have a plan...

33...a5 34.g4 a4 [34...b4 would maybe give Black slightly better chances to survive.]

35.♖f3 ♙d6 36.♖f6 And finally White is entering Black's position.

36...♙c5 37.♙g3 White doesn't go for a much better endgame, but wants to end the game on the spot.

37...b4 38.axb4 A human decision by Aronian, but a forced winning line would be: [38.♙e5 ♙c2+ 39.♙a1 ♙c1+ 40.♖xc1 ♖xc1+ 41.♙a2 ♖xd5! The only resource Black has! 42.♖xg6+! Of course White can't take on d5 because of b3 mate! 42...♙f8 43.♙h8+ ♙e7 44.♖xe6+ fxe6 45.♙f6+ ♙d7 46.♙f7+



46...♙c8 47.♙xe6+ ♙c7 48.♙e7+ ♙b8 49.♙xb4+-]

38...♙c2+ 39.♙a1 a3 40.bxa3 It seems like the White king is a bit open, but everything is under control. White still wants to play ♙e5, or ♖xf7 followed by ♙e5.

40...♖xd5 Black tries his last chance.

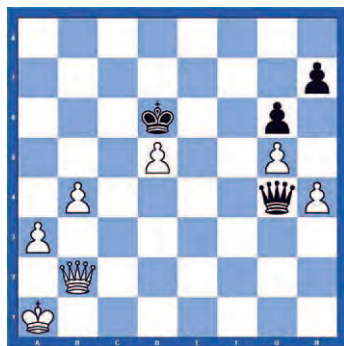
41.exd5 ♞d4



42. ♖xf7+! The finishing move.

42... ♜xf7 43. ♚e5+ ♔f8 44. ♚b8+ ♔g7 45. ♖xf7+ ♜xf7 46. ♚xb7+ ♔e8 47. ♚b8+ ♔d7 48. ♚a7+ ♔d6 49. ♚xd4 White is in a queen endgame with 3 extra pawns...

49... ♚c1+ 50. ♔a2 ♚c2+ 51. ♚b2 ♚c4+ 52. ♔a1 ♚xg4 [52... ♚f1+ 53. ♚b1 and there are no more checks... The next White moves could be ♔b2-Qc2 and the position is totally winning.]



53. ♚f2! The most precise move.

53... ♔xd5 54. ♚c5+ Aronian showed great preparation and maybe a nice bluff, playing 19. ♘f3 and giving Black

the chance to play 19... ♙xc3!, with unclear play. After that, Black never had a real chance to comeback to the game. An interesting game and a very important one for the current theory! **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Morozevich,A (2769) – Nakamura,H (2775)

Tal memorial, 14.06.2012

[CEWN]

1... -/+



(6) Bezgodov,A (2508) – Andreikin,D (2700)

Russian Higher league, 16.06.2012

[CEWN]

1.=

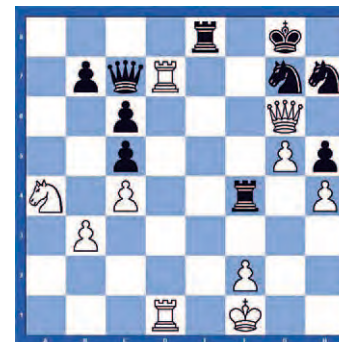


(7) Swapnil,S (2445) – Esen,B (2568)

Golden Sands Open, 11.06.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

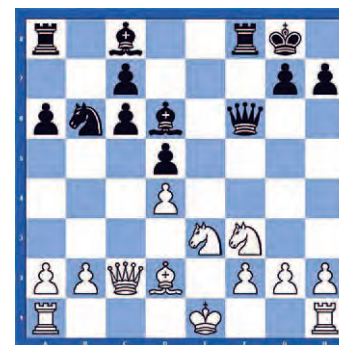


(8) Hayrapetian,A (2372) – Grigoryan,A (2581)

Asrian memorial, 18.06.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

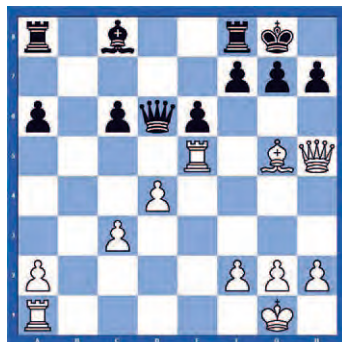


(9) Lenderman,A (2587) – Zierk,S (2483)

Las Vegas Open, 16.06.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

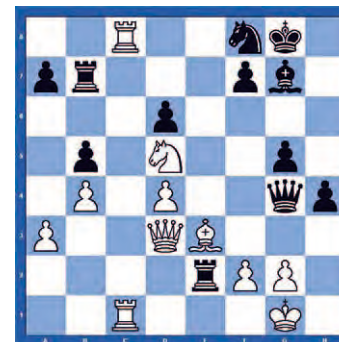


(11) Koneru,H (2589) – Stefanova,A (2518)

Kazan, 18.06.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



(10) Perunovic,M (2577) – Lenderman,A (2587)

Las Vegas Open, 16.06.2012

[CEWN]

1. -/+

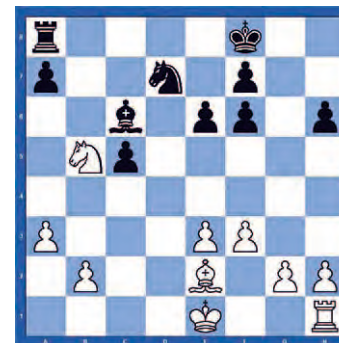


(12) Al Sayed,M (2525) – Georgiev,K (2689)

Golden Sands Open, 12.06.2012

[CEWN]

1... -/+

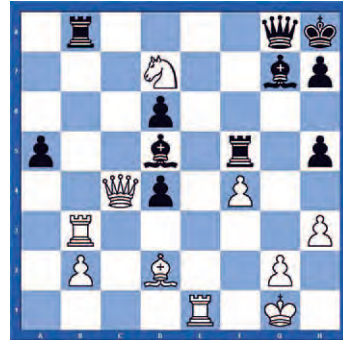


(13) Romero Holmes,A (2521) – Zelbel,P (2377)

Pula Open, 15.06.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

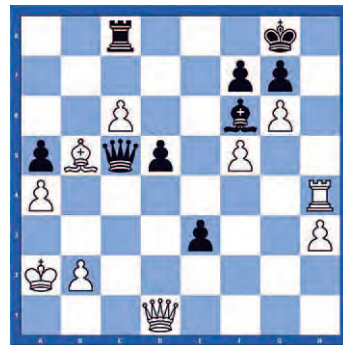


(14) Gabuzyan,H (2457) – Cheparinov,I (2673)

Golden Sands Open, 12.06.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

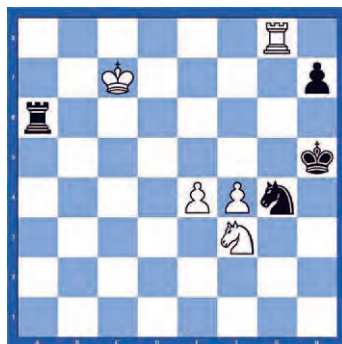


Endgame section

(15) Kramnik,V (2801) — Tomashevsky,E (2738)

Tal memorial, 14.06.2012

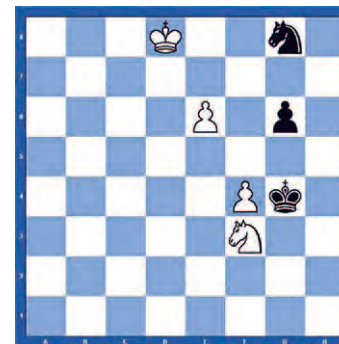
[Chess Evolution Team]



We are in move 60, when the players have just passed the 2nd time control. They received their extra 15 minutes. Despite the small amount of pieces, the position is full of beautiful ideas, and requires very deep play from both sides. It was practically impossible to continue the game flawlessly... The position is objectively drawn, but probably in a practical game, White has bigger chances to win, than Black to hold it.

60...h6! Tomashevsky finds the only move. He prevents the ♖g5 threat. [Exchanging the rooks would win for White with very precise play 60...♖g6 61.♖xg6 hxg6 (61...♔xg6? 62.♗e5+- The pawn endgame is hopeless.) 62.e5 ♗h6 63.e6 ♗g8! The critical move, where the knight is quite safe against the attacks from his White counterpart. (63...♗f5 64.♔d7 ♔g4 65.♗d4! White easily promotes the

pawn. 65...♗g7 66.e7 ♔xf4 67.♗e6+-) 64.♔d8! White must give up all his pieces to send away the g8 knight. 64...♔g4



65.♔e8!! ♔xf4 (65...♔xf3 66.♔f7 ♗h6+ 67.♔xg6 ♗g8 68.f5+- wins.) 66.♔f8 ♗f6 (On 66...♔f5 White can first protect the pawn, then take the knight. 67.♗d4+-) 67.e7! ♔xf3 68.♔f7 ♗e4 69.♔e6!+- The last exact move to prevent ♗d6.; The double attack with 60...♗f6 loses after 61.♖g5+ ♔h6 62.♗d4!+- with a picturesque mate.]

61.e5 Obviously, White should push his passers.

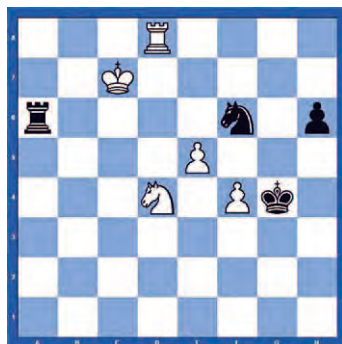
61...♗f6 After this move, the position is still drawn, but it becomes much more difficult to hold... [61...♗e3! with the threat of ♗d5. 62.♔d7 (62.♖d8 This allows the Black king to approach... 62...♔g4! 63.♗d4 ♔xf4 64.e6 ♖a7+! The only move. 65.♔d6 ♗c4+ 66.♔c5 ♗e5 and Black saves the game.) 62...♖a7+ 63.♔d6 (63.♔e6 ♖a6+ The White king has no shelter to hide.) 63...♖f7! wins the f-pawn and at the same time the knight catches the e-pawn 64.e6 ♖xf4



65.e7 ♖f5+! 66.♔e5 ♗xe7!= and the rook on g8 hangs as well.]

62.♖d8 Kramnik uses his imagination greatly and sets up very difficult tricks for Black to solve. [62.exf6? did not come into consideration 62...♖xf6 White cannot defend the f4 pawn.; 62.♖f8 ♗d5+ 63.♔d7 (63.♔b7 ♖b6+ 64.♔a7 ♖b3 65.♗d4 ♖b4 66.♗e6 ♔g4=) 63...♔g4]

62...♔g4 63.♗d4



63...♖a7+! Tomashevsky defends very well, but it takes all his time and energy to stay focused until the end of the game. [The tempting 63...♔xf4 loses immediately 64.♔b7!+- and the rook has no square on the 6th rank to defend the knight.]

64.♔d6! [64.♔b6 is met with 64...♖d7! 65.♖xd7 ♗xd7+ 66.♔c7 ♔xf4 This was the point of the check in the 63rd move.]

64...♗e4+ 65.♔d5 ♗c3+! [65...♔xf4 loses the knight by force... 66.♖f8+ ♔e3 67.♖f3+ ♔d2 68.♔xe4+-]

66.♔c4 ♔xf4! Black chose the right moment to take the pawn. [66...♖c7+? would move into the e6 check. 67.♔d3+- 67...♔xf4? 68.♗e6+]

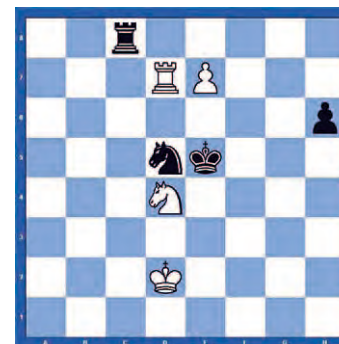
67.e6 ♖c7+ 68.♔d3 Until this moment, Tomashevsky defended tenaciously, but he failed to find the last exact move to secure the draw. We must add that the players were already fighting for 7 hours, were completely exhausted and lived only with the 30 seconds of increments.

68...♔e5? White wins in a study-like way after this move. [68...♗a4 followed by ♗c5 was the way to draw.]

69.♖d7! ♗d5 [69...♖c8 70.e7+- followed by ♖d8 wins.]

70.e7! After this great move, it is a bit strange, but Black is simple unable to stop the pawn.

70...♖c3+ 71.♔d2 ♖c8



72. ♖c6+!! Tomashevsky has missed this motif in the 68th move. Of course, we cannot blame him for this mistake, especially with only seconds on his clock. [72. ♖d8? ♖xe7 was a draw.]

72... ♖e6 **73.** ♖xd5!! ♖xc6 [73... ♖xd5 74. ♖d8! was the whole point, and the pawn promotes.]

74.e8 ♖+ ♖xd5 We reached a winning endgame, but it still requires some accurate moves. Of course, such technical task is not a challenge for a player like Kramnik.

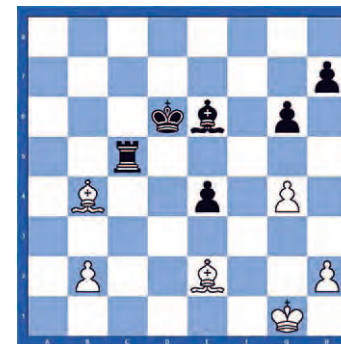
75. ♖d3 ♖e6 **76.** ♖b5+ ♖d6 **77.** ♖d4 ♖e7 **78.** ♖f5! The White king and queen cooperate well to squeeze the Black king to the 8th rank.

78... ♖f6 **79.** ♖h7+ ♖f8 **80.** ♖e5 ♖a6 **81.** ♖b7 ♖g6 **82.** ♖h7 ♖a6 **83.** ♖d3! Black resigned because he must give up the 6th rank with his rook and will lose his h-pawn soon. [83. ♖d3 ♖a7 84. ♖d6+ ♖g7 85. ♖e6! The shortest way to win. Black has serious problems with his rook to avoid being checked by the queen. 85... ♖f7 86. ♖g3+ ♖f8 87. ♖g6 ♖e7+ 88. ♖d6+- White wins the h-pawn, and the game. A very interesting endgame with many study-like motifs.] **1-0**

(16) Stefanova,A (2518) — Yildiz,B (2333) [A09]

4th WGP Kazan 2012 Kazan RUS (9), 20.06.2012

[Chess Evolution Team]



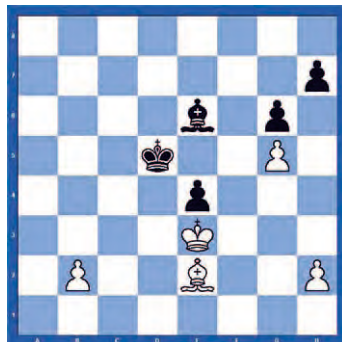
After not playing a great game, the players reach a quite interesting bishop endgame. The position looks like a draw, but not an easy one. White's b-pawn gives White some chances.

45. ♖f2! [Of course not 45. ♖xc5+? This move is nothing but a tempo lost. 45... ♖xc5 46. ♖f2 ♖d4 With the Black king on d4, it should be easy not to make a draw...]

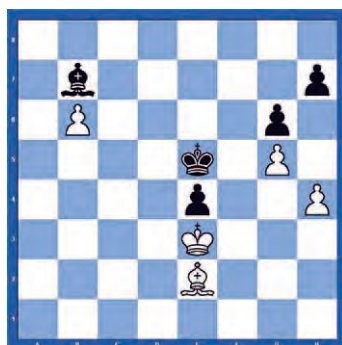
45... ♖c6 Black needs to get rid of the pin.

46. ♖xc5 ♖xc5 **47.** ♖e3 ♖d5 And we are at the first critical moment of this endgame. White has a couple of choices. The first question is if White should play 48.g5!? blocking the black pawns on the White squares, which can be in general a very good idea. Another question is, what is the best place for the White bishop?!, but this of course is not an urgent task. Another serious question could be, if 48.g5 is not the best option, maybe 48.h4!?, and if none of them are good, does Black want to play g5 next?! Let's take a look!

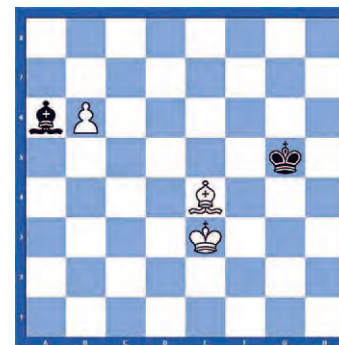
48.b4 Of course the right idea, but could White maybe try to be a little more tricky to accomplish this?! [48. g5! I feel this is the right move, and it's the right one even if the position probably remains a draw! White blocks the Black pawn on h7-g6 and the h7 pawn becomes a target!



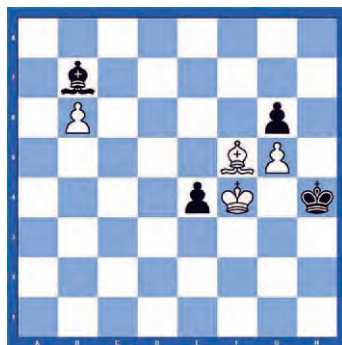
48...♔e5 49.b4 ♕f5 (49...♕d5 50.b5 ♕b7 (50...♕a8 51.b6 ♕b7 52.h3 ♕c8 53.♕c4 ♕b7 54.♕g8 ♕f5 55.h4 ♕g4 56.♕xh7 goes back to the main line.) 51.b6 ♕f5 52.h4 ♕e5 53.♕c4 ♕f5 54.♕g8 goes back to the main line.) 50.h4 ♕e5 51.b5 (Doesn't help much: 51.♕a6 ♕d5 52.b5 ♕c4! and White has pinned himself.) 51...♕d5 52.b6 ♕b7 This seems to be a central position in this line...



53. ♕c4 It seems like White cannot get a better move order or a better version than this. (53. ♕g4 ♕a6 54. ♕d7 ♕b7) 53...♕f5 54. ♕g8 ♕g4 55. ♕xh7 ♕h5! Amazing move that might save the draw! (55...♕xh4 seems to loose by force, but again we have a position where each tempo matters 56. ♕xg6 (56.♕f4? e3=) 56...♕xg5 57. ♕xe4 ♕a6

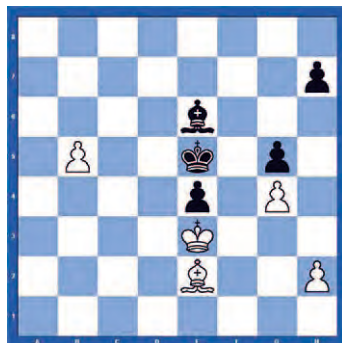


58.♕d4! The White king is just fast enough to get to the c6 square. 58...♕f6 59.♕c5 ♕e7 60.♕c6! White wants to play ♕c7 next with a winning position. 60...♕d8 61. ♕f5! creating a freeway to a7 for the White king! 61... ♕e2 Black has no moves and needs to remove the bishop from a6. 62.♕b7! ♕f3+ 63.♕a7 and we reached an easy winning theoretical position. The winning idea is to bring the bishop to b7 getting control over the diagonal a8-h1 63... ♕d5 64. ♕d3 ♕f3 65. ♕a6 ♕e4 66. ♕b7! The rest is easy 66... ♕f5 67. ♕f3 ♕c8 68. ♕g4) 56.♕f4 ♕c6! Probably the only waiting move that saves the game! Amazing — yes, impossible to see — yes! 57. ♕g8 ♕xh4 58. ♕e6 e3 (58... ♕b7! 59. ♕f5



59...e3! seems to give Black a draw as well...) 59. ♖xe3 ♜xg5 60. ♜d4 ♜b7! A really very nice move, White wanted to play ♜d5 and b7 61. ♜c5 ♜f4 62. ♜d5 ♜a6 63. ♜c6 63... ♜e5! Another only move! (63...g5? 64. ♜c4 ♜c8 65. ♜c7 and White is winning.) 64. ♜b3 g5 65. ♜a4 g4 66. ♜b5 g3 67. ♜xa6 g2 68. b7 g1 ♚ 69. b8 ♚+ ♜e4 White is a piece up, but of course it is a theoretical draw. Quite an amazing end to an amazing line!]

48...♜e5?! [48...g5! would lead to quite an easy draw! 49. b5 ♜e5



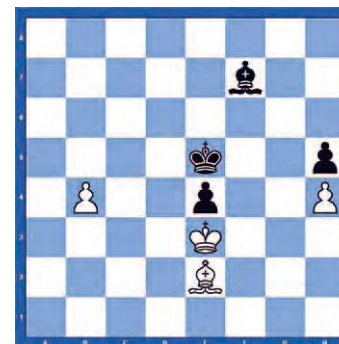
50. b6 ♜c8 51. ♜c4 ♜b7 White is not able to make any further improvement. 52. ♜g8 h6 53. ♜c4 ♜c8 54. ♜e2 ♜b7 55. ♜b5 ♜d5]

49.h3?! Still, 49.g5 would give good practical chances.

49...h5?! With this move, Black is risking quite a lot. Of course the idea is right: to exchange as many pawns as possible. But again, 49...g5 would lead to a much safer draw.

50.gxh5! The only chance for White is to block the Black pawn on white squares.

50...gxh5 51.h4 ♜f7



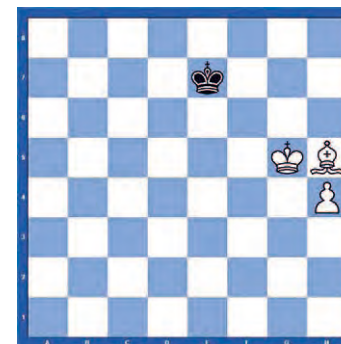
52. ♜b5 [52.b5!? would have been a better try, even though it leads to a forced draw 52...♜d5! A really difficult move to make over the board. (The logical 52... ♜e8 and Black wants to give the bishop for a pawn, reaching an easy draw because of the wrong colored bishop and the h pawn. 53.b6 and Black loses by a single move 53... ♜d6 54. ♜f4! White needs the king as close as possible to the h7 square. 54...♜c6 (54...e3 55. ♜f3! and White is winning the e-pawn for free, and with it, the game.) 55. ♜b5+



55...cxb6 56. dxe8 c7 57. dxe5 d6 58. g5 e7
59. g6 f8 60. h7+- and White is just in time!) 53. cxf4



53...e3! The only move . By sacrificing the e-pawn, Black pushes the White king one step back, giving him just enough time to bring the king to g8! 54. cxe3 dxe8 55. b6 (55. cxf4 dxb5 56. dxb5 e6 57. g5 f7 58. h6 g8 Draw.) 55...c6 56. b5+ cxb6 57. dxe8 c7 58. cxf4 d8 59. dxh5 e7 60. g5



60...f8 61. h6 g8 and again Black is in time.]

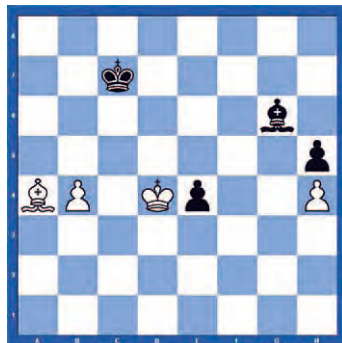
52...d5 53. d7 d6? [53...c4 would be the easiest way to make a draw 54. b5 d5 White will need to give away the b-pawn to be able to take the h-pawn in exchange. And this would mean of course no winning chances. 55. dxe8 c5 56. dxh5 cxb5 57. g6 c5 58. h5 d6 59. h6 g8 60. cxe4 e6 with a draw.]

54. a4! And suddenly White is winning!

54...g6 [54...e5 55. c6 g6 56. b5 and Black is losing the e-pawn and with it, the game!]

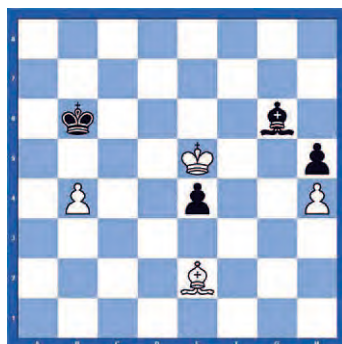
55. d4! White managed to make a huge improvement, to put the king on d4. Now there's only one precise move left to win the game.

55...c7



56. ♖b5? [56. ♖c2! This move would win on the spot! 56...e3 (Also loses: 56...♖b6 57. ♖xe4 ♖xe4 58. ♖xe4 ♖b5 59. ♖f5 ♖xb4 60. ♖g5 ♖c5 61. ♖xh5 ♖d6 62. ♖g6 ♖e7 63. ♖g7 and White is in time to put the king on g7.) 57. ♖d1 ♖b6 58. ♖e2 The e-pawn s gonna drop, and with it the game. White would bring the king to g5 next, and win another pawn by playing ♖xh5.]

56...♖b6 57. ♖e2 ♖c6 58. ♖e5 ♖b6 59. ♖d5 ♖f5 60. ♖e5 ♖g6

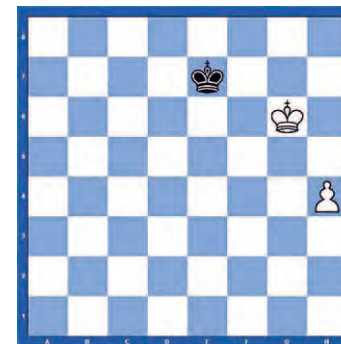


61. ♖f6? It is quite amazing, but the position is still winning for White! [61. ♖c4! would have been the right move. Black is in zugzwang and needs to take away the square c6 with his king. 61...♖c6 62. ♖f6 and only now, ♖f6 is

winning the game 62...♖e8 63. ♖f5 The Black e-pawn is getting lost. Black has no more life saving ♖c6! 63...e3 64. ♖f4+-]

61...♖e8! Now the Black bishop is going to b5 next, securing a draw.

62. ♖f5 ♖b5 63. ♖xb5 ♖xb5 64. ♖xe4 ♖xb4 65. ♖f5 ♖c5 66. ♖g5 ♖d6 67. ♖xh5 ♖e7 68. ♖g6



68...♖f8 And Black is as usual „just“ in time.

69. ♖h7 ♖f7 70. h5 ♖f8 A super interesting endgame! A lot of draw and winning motifs! Really something to learn from. It was a bit fun to analyze this endgame, hopefully without any major mistakes! This endgame is really a super complicated one! **1/2**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Petrosian, Tigran V — Pirtskhalava, A [A90]

Tbilisi Tbilisi, 1947

[Balogh Csaba]

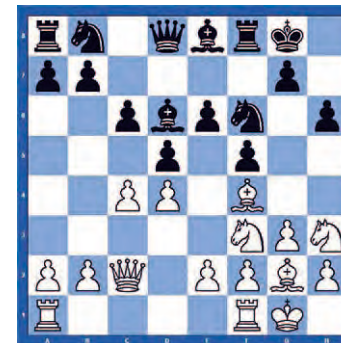
A typical victory against the Stone Wall setup, where Petrosian has managed to execute all the basic principles, obtaining the strong knight against the poor light squared bishop.

1.d4 f5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 ♘f6 4.♙g2 d5 This is the Stone Wall. Black builds a very solid and hardly breakable structure in the center with c6. This has its drawbacks as well, Black practically gives up the fight for the dark squares. That's why White's main plan is to exchange the dark squared bishops and occupy the weakened e5 and f4 squares with the knights, playing against the remaining c8 bishop.



5.♘f3 This obvious move is not the best setup for White. [5.♘h3! is already a well-known move in this position. The point is that White wants to occupy the e5 square with the knight. Of course, you can ask the logical question, why

not ♘f3 then? The answer is, if White develops the knight to f3, Black can control the e5 square with a knight from d7, however with ♘h3 White prepares for the long term maneuver: ♘f4-d3 and the other knight goes to ♘d2-f3. Due to the closed position, White has time for this strategy... Let's examine a nice game by Anand: 5...c6 6.0-0 ♙d6 7.♙c2 0-0 8.♘d2 The knight is going to f3. 8... ♙d7 Black generally has two plans to develop the bishop on c8. One is with b6-Bb7 and the other is ♙d7-e8 and later activate it from g6 or h5. In this game, Nikolic chose the latter idea. 9.♘f3 ♙e8 10.♙f4! Before transferring the h3 knight to d3, White exchanges the dark squared bishops to make the hole on e5 even „bigger”. 10...h6



11.♙b3! Anand creates a weakness on the queenside. After the c8 bishop left that part of the board, it might become vulnerable. (Of course there was nothing wrong with 11. ♙xd6 ♙xd6 12.♘f4+=) 11...b6 12.♙fc1 (12. ♙xd6 ♙xd6 13.♘f4+= was, of course, still fine.) 12... ♙e7 A typical move. Black tries to confuse White's pieces. He threatens with g5-g4. (Black could have only temporarily excluded the h3 knight from the game with 12...g5 because after 13. ♙xd6 ♙xd6 14.♘e5+/- the knight might come back any time through f2.) 13.cxd5! ♘xd5 Usually, if Black

cannot keep his strong center with a pawn capture on d5, it's very bad news for him. (13...cxd5? 14.♙c7+/-; 13...exd5 14.♘e5+/-) 14.♙d2 g5 15.♘e5 It's clear that something went wrong with Black's position. White's pieces are dominating. Only the h3 knight is out of the game, but soon it also joins... 15...a5



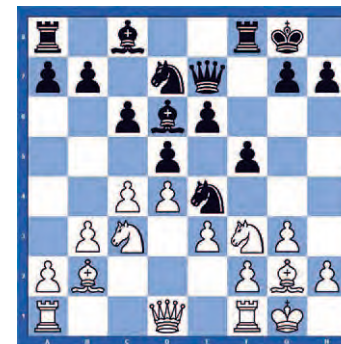
16.e4! White opens the center against his opponent's weak king. 16...fxe4 17.♙xe4 ♖a7 18.f4!+/- White changed the character of the game. After opening the position, he launched an attack against the king, instead of playing positional chess on the queenside. White won later in Anand-Nikolic, Wijk aan Zee 2000.]

5...♙d6 6.0-0 c6 7.♘c3 0-0 8.b3 Fianchettoing the bishop on b2 followed by the knight maneuver that we will see in the game is the classical way of handling the position. Theory already knows that here Black can achieve his „dream position“, but at that time people were not that familiar with the positional finesses of the opening... After a few developing moves, Black chose the wrong plan...

8...♙e7 9.♙b2 ♘bd7 10.e3 This is the preparation for the mentioned knight maneuver. White is going to trans-

fer his c3 knight to d3. We can see now that compared to the 5.♘h3 move, White is 2 tempi down and at the same time, he cannot exchange the dark squared bishops.

10...♘e4



11.♘e2! With the idea of ♘f4-d3. We might know this motif from the Queen's Indian defense as well. In some lines, Black plays d5, jumps with his knight to e4 and protects it with f5, weakening the e5 square.

11...♙f6?! Black tries to organize some attack, but it cannot be effective since the White king is very safe. [11...b6! is the right plan 12.♖c1 ♙b7 13.♘f4 a5!? (13...♖ac8 is also possible. The idea is to push c5 and then hold the tension in the center. This leads to very complex positions, which are completely playable for both sides. In general, this is what Black is playing for when he plays the Stone Wall.) 14.♘d3 c5 with counterplay.]

12.♘f4 ♙h6 [12...g5 is definitely a better try for Black, with the idea of stabilizing the knight on e4 13.♘d3 g4 Now, White cannot get rid of the knight with f3, but he can simply ignore it and continue his plans on the queenside... 14.♘fe5 ♙g7 15.♖c1 followed by b4, with better prospects for White.]

13. ♘d3 ♘df6 Black leads some kind of „shadow attack“, allowing White to execute all the good plans.

14. ♘fe5 White prepares for ♔e2 (to protect the e3 pawn) and f3. Black realized that he cannot hold his e4 knight anymore and decided to exchange it for the one on e5.

14... ♘g5



15.f3! After successfully occupying the e5 square, the next goal in White's strategy is to push e4. This is also a well-known method of increasing the advantage in such kind of positions. Petrosian presents us a model game on how to handle this structure.

15... ♘f7 16. ♔e2 The e4 move needs to be well prepared.

16...g5 [Developing the pieces with 16... ♘d7 does not help 17.e4! and the Black position collapses soon, unless he does something concrete... 17...dxe4 18.fxe4 ♘xe5 19.dxe5 ♘g4 but White counters it with very strong play 20.h3! ♔e3+ (20... ♘e3? 21. ♘c1) 21. ♔f2! fxe4 (21... ♔xe2 22. ♔xe2+- with such a bad bishop on d7, Black is hopeless.) 22. ♔xg4 exd3 23. ♘d4! ♔h6 24. ♔af1+/- followed by ♘e4 with serious problems for Black.]

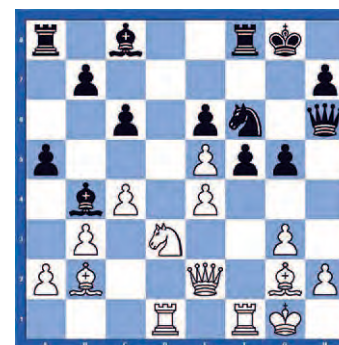
17. ♔ae1 Petrosian is not in a hurry, since Black has no useful plan. [17.e4+/- was fine as well.]

17...a5 [17... ♘d7 18.e4+/-]

18.e4! It's always a bad sign for Black to receive this move. White has many concrete threats like ♘xf7 and e5, for example, and if Black takes everything on e4, his king will be under a mating attack (even if he had his pawn on g7). Practically, Black plays without the c8 bishop and the a8 rook, which cannot bring anything good for him.

18... ♘b4 19. ♔d1! Petrosian does not even give the smallest hope for counterplay by opening the a-file. From a positional view, the game is over. Black tries to create some complications but with such bad pieces, he just accelerates his defeat...

19...dxe4 20.fxe4 ♘xe5 21.dxe5!



21... ♘xe4 22. ♘xe4 fxe4 23. ♘f2! Of course, the e4 square should be occupied by the knight.

23... ♘c5 Black tried to escape to some opposite colored bishop endgame (which should be also lost with heavy pieces on the board), but probably White's reply came without thinking...

24. ♖d4! Keeping the strong knight on the board.

24... ♖e7 25. ♘xe4 ♖d7 Finally, Black starts to develop and to connect his rooks, but it is too late...

26. ♖c5!+- The e7 bishop was the last piece that held Black's position together. After exchanging it, Black cannot hold the dark squares... Game over. The rest is a matter of technique.

26... ♖xf1+ 27. ♖xf1 ♖xc5+ 28. ♘xc5 ♖e8 29. ♖f6 ♖g6 Black definitely made a huge improvement in the last 5 moves by transferring his c8 bishop to g6, but White already starts collecting the pawns.

30. ♘xe6 g4 31. ♘f4 ♖g5 32. ♘xg6 hxg6 33. ♖f4 ♖g7 34. ♖e3 ♖d8 35. e6 ♖e8 36. ♖f7+ 1-0

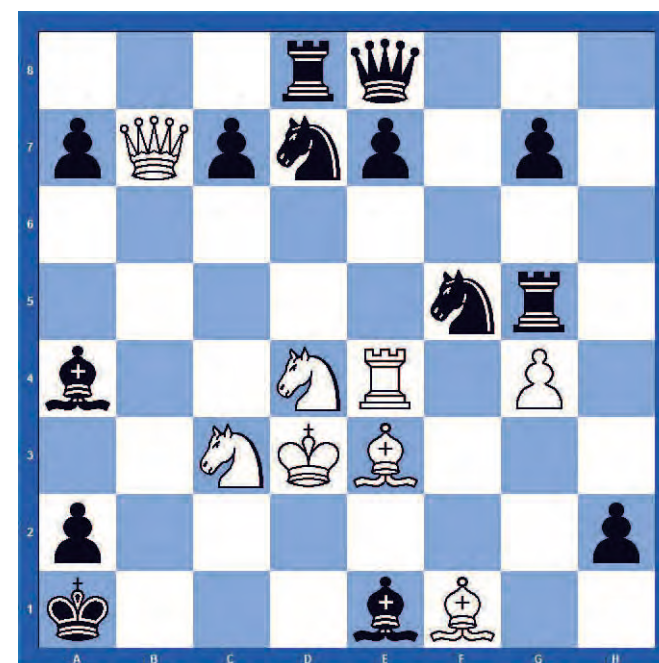
Surprise section / study

(18) Grigoriants, Sergey

2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



Solutions

(19) Aronian,L (2825) – Nakamura,H (2775)

Tal memorial, 08.06.2012

[Solutions]

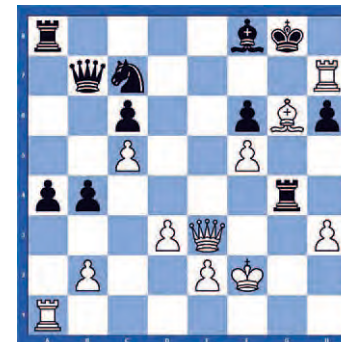


22. ♔d7!! ♖e6?! [22... ♖ed8 23. ♔xc6 bxc6 24. ♖xc6! (24. ♘xb6 ♖ab8 25. ♖xc6 g4 26. ♘h4 ♔xh4 27. gxh4 g3∞) 24... ♔xd5 25. exd5 ♖xd5 26. ♗b3 ♖ad8 27. d4!± exd4 28. ♗xd5!+-] 23. ♔xe6 ♔xe6 24. ♘xf6 ♗xf6 25. ♖xc6! bxc6 26. ♗a1! a5 27. ♗xe5 ♗xe5 28. ♘xe5+-

(20) Grischuk,A (2761) – Morozevich,A (2769)

Tal memorial, 10.06.2012

[Solutions]

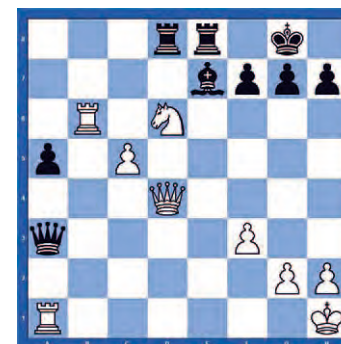


50... ♖xg6! [50... ♖g5 51. ♗d4!+-] 51. fxg6 ♗c8!! 52. ♖g1 [52. ♗f3 ♔g7+-] 52... ♗f5+ 53. ♔e1 ♖e8 54. ♗g3 ♘e6+-

(21) Carlsen,M (2835) – Aronian,L (2825)

Tal memorial (blitz), 07.06.2012

[Solutions]



31... ♔f6!! 32. ♖xa3 ♔xd4 33. ♘xe8 ♔xc5!-+ 34. ♖d6 ♖xe8! 0-1

(22) Vallejo Pons,F (2697) – Topalov,V (2752)

Leon (rapid), 09.06.2012

[Solutions]



31. ♖b6!! [31. ♖g8+?? ♔xg8 32. ♖g1+ ♔f8 33. ♖g7+ ♔e8 34. ♖g8+ ♔d7 35. ♖xf7+ ♔c6] **31... ♙c6** [31... ♖c6 32. ♖d8+ ♖e8 33. ♙xd6+-] **32. ♖g8+!** 1-0 [32. ♖g8+ ♔xg8 33. ♖g1+ ♔f8 34. ♖g7+ ♔e8 35. ♖g8+ ♔d7 36. ♖xf7+ ♔d8 37. ♙a5+-]

(23) Bacrot,E (2695) – Svetushkin,D (2597)

French league, 05.06.2012

[Solutions]

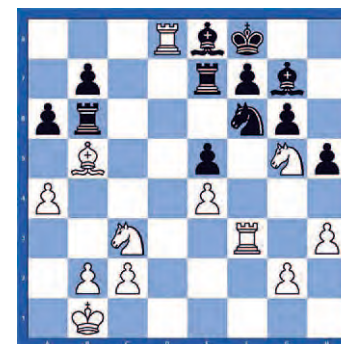


45. ♖d6! [45. ♖xb8+? ♔xe7 46. ♖c7+= (46. ♖xa7+?? ♔f6 47. ♖d4+ ♖e5+) ; 45. ♘g6+! ♖xg6 46. ♖xb8+ ♔e7 47. ♖xa7+ ♔e8 (47... ♔f6 48. ♖d4+-) 48. ♖b8+ ♔d7 49. b6!! d1 ♖ 50. ♖c7+ ♔e8 51. b7+-] **45... d1 ♖?** [45... ♔e8! 46. ♘c8!! ♖g5 47. ♖xd2±] **46. ♘g6+!** ♔g8 **47. ♖xb8+ ♔h7** **48. ♘e7!!** 1-0

(24) Swiercz,D (2585) – Akshat,K (2400)

Golden Sands Open, 05.06.2012

[Solutions]



28. ♘d5! ♘xd5 [28... axb5 29. ♘xb6+-] **29. ♖xf7+!** ♔g8 [29... ♖xf7 30. ♖xe8#] **30. ♙xe8** 1-0 [30. ♖xe7+-]

(25) Wang Yue (2690) – Yu Yangyi (2626)

Danzhou GM, 06.06.2012

[Solutions]

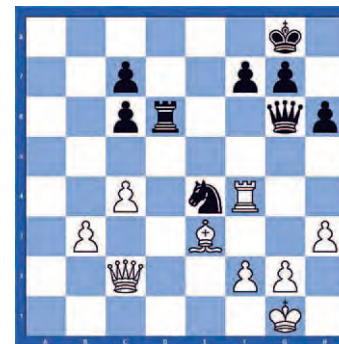


31...♖xd4! 0–1[31...♖xd4 32.exd4 (32.♘xd4 ♖xf2+–+) 32...♔e4–+]

(27) Delgado Ramirez,N (2591) – Cubas,J (2534)

Luque GM, 08.06.2012

[Solutions]



31...♞g3!! 0–1[31...♞g3 32.♔xg6 ♖d1+ 33.♙h2 ♞f1+ 34.♙g1 ♞xe3+ 35.♙h2 ♞f1+ 36.♙g1 fxg6–+]

(26) Martinovic,S (2504) – Straka,J (2373)

Mitropa Cup, 04.06.2012

[Solutions]

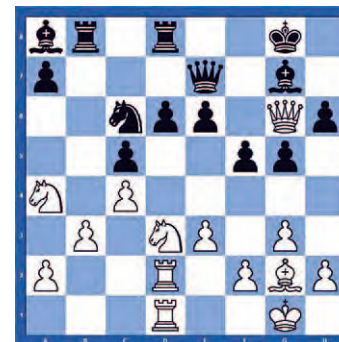


19.♙xd5!! ♔xd5 20.♔xg6+! ♙xg6 21.♞f4+ ♙f7 22.♞xd5±

(28) Miskovic,I (2186) – Kovacevic,A (2557)

Bosnian league, 04.06.2012

[Solutions]



26.♙xc6!! ♙xc6 27.♞dxc5! ♙f3 [27...dxc5 28.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 29.♖xd8+ ♔xd8 30.♔xe6+ ♙h7 31.♔xc6+–] **28.♞xe6! ♙xd1 29.♞xd8+–**

(29) Osintsev,S

1988

[Solutions]



1. ♖c2+! ♜xc2 2. h8 ♔ ♞d4+! 3. ♚xd4 d1 ♚+ 4. ♚xd1+ b1 ♚+ 5. ♙b2#!! 1-0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 18

29th of June 2012

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Editorial Preface

The main event of the female chess came to an end. The Grand Prix in Kazan had 2 winners, Muzychuk and Koneru, they both scored 7,5/11. Third came Hou Yifan and Cmilyte with 7/11.

Another interesting event is in progress. The qualification tournament for the Russian Super Final with players like Nepomniactchi, Jakovenko, Vitiugov and many other strong GMs participating in it.

Peter Svidler won his match against David Navara 3–1. From this event we comment the two decisive games.

In the “special” section of the newsletter, we present You a 3 vs 3 pawn endgame. Try to calculate till the end, there is only one winning way. Such kind of exercises help a lot to improve the calculating abilities!

Have fun and enjoy the CEWN Nr18!

*Arkadij Naiditsch
Balogh Csaba*

4 best games of the past week

(1) Svidler,P (2741)
— Navara,D (2706) [C65]

Prague match Prague CZE (2), 21.06.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

Svidler comes up with a new plan against the rock-solid Berlin defense, but it appears to be just a „one-game idea“. If Black would have reacted well, he seems to be completely fine.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 A surprise by Navara, who is not really a Berlin specialist, he plays it only occasionally. Therefore, Svidler prefers to avoid the endgame that arises after the main move 4.0–0, and goes for a line, where all the pieces remains on the board — he hopes to outplay his opponent by being more familiar with the middlegame ideas.

4.d3 ♙c5 5.c3 0–0 6.0–0 d6 7.♘bd2 a6 8.♙xc6 [8.♙a4 was the standard move, but Berlin players already worked out the right setups to achieve a comfortable position.]

8...bxc6



9.♖e1 This is the novelty. A really harmless-looking move, with the typical Spanish plan to transfer the knight to g3. It has the poison inside, that Black calms down, because he successfully equalized the opening part of the game, makes some „handy“ moves and suddenly finds himself in trouble. This happened in this game as well. [9.d4 is a very sharp continuation with many recent games even on the highest level. Navara was definitely very well prepared for this.]

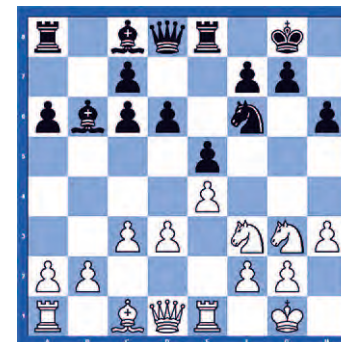
9...♖e8 10.h3 Another typical move to avoid the ♘g4 and ♙g4 ideas.

10...♙b6 Black quits from the d3-d4 tempo, this is also a known plan.

11.♘f1 [11.♘c4 h6 12.♙e3 ♙e6 seems to be nothing for White.]

11...h6 Black also prevents the pin with ♙g5. Both sides made their useful moves so far.

12.♘g3



12...♙e6?! I don't like this move. Black decides the placement of his bishop too early. [I would clearly prefer the standard 12...a5 13.♙e3 (13.d4 Probably Navara wanted

to avoid this move by 12...♙e6, but Black seems to be in time for undermining the center. 13...exd4 14.cxd4 c5 15.d5 ♙b7 This plan is also known in the 9.d4 line. Black needs to play c6. 16.♚c2 (16.♙f4 c6 17.dxc6 ♙xc6 18.♚xd6 ♚xd6 19.♙xd6 ♞xe4 with equality.) 16...c6 17.dxc6 ♙xc6 18.♙f4 By playing c6, Black weakened the d6 pawn, but also got a target on e4. From this point of view, the next move suggests itself: 18...♖e6! 19.♖ad1 ♚f8! followed by ♖ae8, pushing the e4 pawn. Black has no problem.) 13...c5! This is another typical „Spanish” idea. Black fights against the d4 push. On the other hand, it is always hard to make this move, because the b6 bishop gets out of the game, but all other pieces are doing well. Black can play on d5, White will avoid this by pushing c4, closing the position. But after c4, Black has good maneuvering possibilities with the transfer of the knight to e6, or preparing for an f5 push. Also the b6 bishop could be improved by a4-Ba5.]

13. ♙e3 [13.d4 was an alternative 13...exd4 14.cxd4 d5 15.e5 ♞e4 Probably this pawn sacrifice is the reason for 12...♙e6, if White accepts it, Black plays c5 and ♙d5 and obtains a comfortable position. But after 16.♙e3! I think White has some advantage, because of the poor b6 bishop and the weakness on the c-file.]

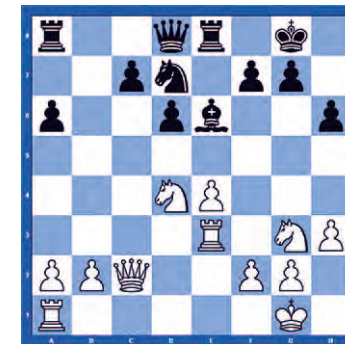
13... ♙xe3?! After this move, I think White is better. Black is not able to react well against the d4 push. [13...c5 was the right move again. I am sure that Navara saw it, but psychologically it is a difficult decision to close the b6 bishop.]

14. ♖xe3 c5 15. ♚c2 [15.d4 was possible immediately as well 15...cxd4 16.cxd4 exd4 17.♞xd4 White is slightly better. He has better pieces and a superior pawn struc-

ture. As the principle says: „It’s better to have the smallest amount of pawn islands”. Now White has two against three. 17...♙d7 18.♖c1 c5 19.♞de2 followed by ♞c3 and pushing the d6 pawn.]

15... ♞d7 [The prophylactic 15...♙d7 was probably more advisable, but still after 16.d4 (16.♖d1 one more preparation is also possible.) 16...cxd4 17.cxd4 exd4 18.♞xd4 White is better.]

16.d4! cxd4 17.cxd4 exd4 18. ♞xd4 White is clearly better now. We must admit that the e3 rook is excellently placed. It might be useful all along the 3rd rank. We can see how difficult it is to play the Spanish opening. After the novelty in the 9th move, Black made very logical moves and got into trouble, in 5 moves, right after 14.♖xe3.



18...a5 [Fighting against the c6 square with 18...c5 would weaken the d6 pawn too much. 19.♞df5; Computer suggests a nice idea on 18...♞e5 19.♚c3! eying at the g7 square after ♞df5 and f4. 19...♚f6 20.f4!! ♚xf4 21.♖f1 ♚g5 22.♞gf5 ! and the rook arrives to g3. 22...♙xf5 23.♞xf5 ♚f6 24.♖g3 g5 25.♚xc7 +/-]

19.b3 [19.♖d1 was probably even better. Svidler did not want to allow a4 to fix his pawn structure on the queen-side, but he could have launched a quick attack after that: 19...a4 20.♘gf5 ♙xf5 (20...♙xa2 21.♖g3) 21.♘xf5 and ♖g3 next.]

19...♘c5 20.♖d1 ♙d7 This was Black's aim, to consolidate his position with ♙f6, but Svidler found a very strong idea. It is not difficult to see the move, it is much harder to judge its consequences correctly...



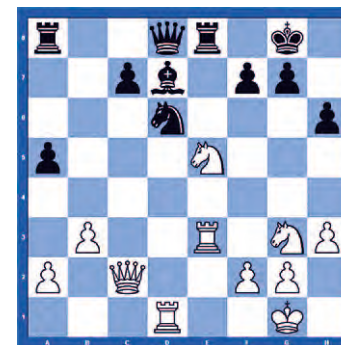
21.e5! White creates a lot of concrete threats connected with ♘df5.

21...dxe5 [21...g6 22.♘f3 +/-]

22.♘f3 Really subtle play, but.. [The computer move 22.♘df5! was even better 22...♙xf5 (22...♘e6 23.♘h5! too many threats are in the air and if Black wants to ease his task by 23...♘d4 24.♘xd4 exd4 25.♖g3 wins, because of 25...g6 26.♖xg6+ +-) 23.♘xf5 ♙f6 24.♘xg7! ♙xg7 25.♙xc5 +- Despite the material equality, Black is lost. His pawns and the king are just too weak.]

22...♘b7! Only move! Black needs to block the d-file.

23.♘xe5 ♘d6



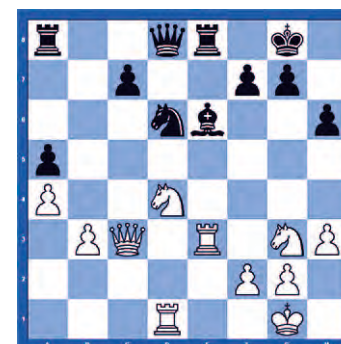
24.a4 Another human move. Fixing the weakness on a5, Black has no useful move. [24.♙c3 with the idea of ♘h5 was also good.]

24...♙e6 [24...f6 in order to get rid of the strong e5 knight 25.♘xd7 ♙xd7 26.♖c3 ♖a7 27.♘e2 and the knight goes to d4 with a big advantage.]

25.♙c3 ♙g5 26.♘f3! Svidler does not want to give any counter-chance. [26.♙xc7 ♖ec8 was Navara's idea 27.♙b6 (27.♙xd6? ♖d8) 27...♘f5 28.♘xf5 ♙xf5 to get some activity for the pawn. Still, after 29.♘c6! White is better.]

26...♙d8 [26...♙e7 27.♘d4 +/-]

27.♘d4 Black is in big trouble. The only „normal“ move 27...♙d7 in order to simplify the position, loses.



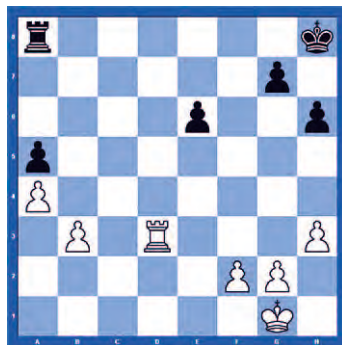
27...♔h8 [27...♙d7 28.♘df5! +- White wins due to the pin along the d-file.]

28.♘h5! White wins material now.

28...♙g5 29.♘xe6 ♖xe6 30.♙xe6 fxe6 31.♙xc7 ♙xh5 32.♙xd6 [32.♖xd6 +- was better, White is a pawn up, he has more active pieces and better pawns.]

32...♙e2 33.♙d3 After playing a perfect middlegame, Svidler transfers into a winning rook endgame.

33...♙xd3 34.♖xd3



34...♖c8?! This eases White's task, because the Black rook gets into passivity soon. [34...♖b8 was a better chance, but White seems to be winning after transferring the king to the queenside. 35.♖e3 ♖b6 36.h4 gaining some ground before starting the action. 36...♙g8 37.♙f1! (37.♖e5?! would be a bad idea. 37...♖xb3 38.♖xa5 ♙f7 Black has very good chances to survive. White has to exchange the b3 pawn for a5 in a much better version.) 37...♙f7 38.♙e2 g5 39.hxg5 hxg5 40.♙d2 ♙f6 41.♙c2 ♖b8 (41...♙f5 moves into 42.♖c3! followed by ♖c5.) 42.♖e4! ♖b6 43.b4! This is the key, and the White king supports the a-pawn. 43...axb4 44.♙b3 +-]

35.♖e3! ♖c1+ 36.♙h2 ♖c2 37.f3 Now Black is forced into passivity, otherwise he ends up two pawns down.

37...♖c6 [37...♖b2 38.♖xe6 ♖xb3 39.♖e5 +-]

38.♖e5 ♖a6 and now the position is easily winning. Svidler demonstrates it with perfect technique. [38...♖b6 39.♖b5!]

39.♙g3 ♙g8 40.♙f4 ♙f7 41.♖b5 First, he activated his pieces.

41...♙f6 42.h4 ♖a8 43.g4 Then he limited Black's counterplay on the kingside.

43...♖a7 44.♙e4 g5 45.hxg5+ hxg5 46.♙d4 ♖d7+ 47.♙c4 And he went to support his extra pawn on the queenside.

47...♖a7 48.b4! and the final breakthrough decides the game.

48...axb4 49.♙xb4 ♙e7 50.♖xg5 ♙d6 51.a5 ♖f7 52.a6 ♙c6 53.♖a5 ♖f4+ 54.♙c3 ♖xf3+ 55.♙d2 A fantastic performance by White! Congratulations! **1-0**

(2) Navara,David (2706) – Svidler,Peter (2741) [A15]

Cez Trophy 2012 Prague CZE (3), 23.06.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the third of the 4-game mini match played in Czech Republic between Navara and Svidler. This event is already traditional; Navara plays different Super GMs each year. Svidler is leading at the moment with his nice win in the second game and it's clear that Navara has to show something with White, so we will see a very sharp game, where Svidler shows once again how strong his „Grunfeld” is!

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 And we are in the Anti-Grunfeld. The Grunfeld has been Svidler's favorite defense for as long as I play chess, and he shows great results in it.

4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.♔b3 Lately, White is trying a lot of different lines, trying to break Black's defense, but probably the Grunfeld is one of the best standing openings nowadays. During the WCC it was also Gelfand's favorite choice.



5...♘b6 6.d4 ♘g7 7.e4 Quite a funny thing: not so long ago Navara played this position against Aronian with Black and managed to win!

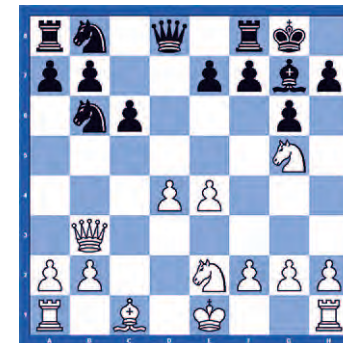
7...♘g4 The new trend of this line, not so long ago the main line was: [7...0-0 8.♘e3 ♘g4 9.♖d1 This is a very complicated and interesting position. 9...e6 (9...♘xf3?! 10.gxf3 This would be just good for White. Now White would have an extra plan with f4-f5 next, which is quite unpleasant for Black.) 10.♘e2 ♘c6 11.♘g1! A nice tactical trick to protect the d4 pawn, the main attacking pawn in White's pawn structure. 11...♘xe2 12.♘gxe2 ♔e7 13.0-0 ♖fd8 We are in the game Aronian-Kamsky, where White managed to win. Probably White is doing a bit better here, but of course, Black has a very fighting position.]

8.♘b5+!? A tricky move. White uses the chance to force Black to play c6 — and to avoid ♘c6 in the future.

8...c6 9.♘g5 This is the main point of 8.♘b5. White, of course, can't allow Black to play ♘xf3 with ♘xd4 to follow.

9...0-0 10.♘e2 We are still in the game Aronian-Navara from Wijk ann Zee 2012.

10...♘xe2 11.♘xe2



11...e5!? This is Svidler's novelty. [11...♘a6 12.♘e3 ♔d6 13.0-0 ♖b4 and Black managed to reach an endgame,

which is usually a good thing in the Grünfeld. This is how Navara managed to win not so long ago. But we can be sure that both players analyzed this position for some time. I think that in case of 11...♘a6, an option is to play 12.0-0 c5!? 13.d5 with a very complicated position.]

12. ♔h3?! [12.dxe5! seems to be the critical move here. 12...h6! (12...♙xe5? 13.♔h3! The winning move 13...h5 14.♘e6! and Black loses material) 13.♘h3! (13.♘f3 ♘8d7 and it looks like Black is doing fine. The e5 pawn will fall and with it, the advantage of White.) 13...♘8d7 14.f4 and White is in time to defend the e5 pawn. 14...♘c5 15.♔c2 ♘d3+ 16.♙f1 The position looks a bit dangerous for White, but I think that the extra pawn should give White better chances. 16...f5 17.exf6 ♙xf6 18.♙e3 The position remains quite forced, but White should be doing better.]

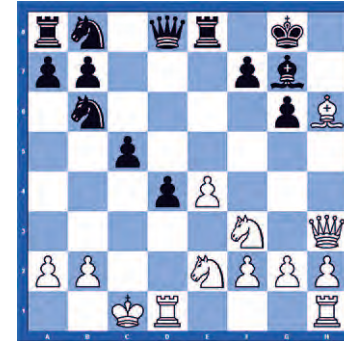
12...h6 Now the position becomes very forced, but I clearly prefer Black.

13. ♘f3 exd4 Black managed to get the most important pawn — this can't be good for White.

14. ♙xh6 ♖e8! A very strong and cool move. Black is not afraid to start defending his king immediately. The White pawn on e4 is hanging, and in some lines, the Black king could use the f8 square to escape.

15.0-0-0 White starts to go all-in, which is logical. No way back anymore... [In case of the simple 15.♙xg7 ♙xg7 16.♘fxd4 ♖xe4 17.0-0-0 ♔f6 the position seems to be equal to me, but it's clear that Navara needed the full point, and an equal position with a draw as the most likely result was definitely not an option for the top Czech player.]

15...c5! Black remains very cool, again. Of course, this move seems to be easy and logical, but things are by far not that easy over the board. White has direct threats and Black needed to calculate precisely to know that he won't get a lost position.



16. ♘g5 The last chance to create something...

16... ♔d7 17. ♔h4 Of course White needed to avoid the exchange of queens. In case of an endgame, Black would be doing much better.

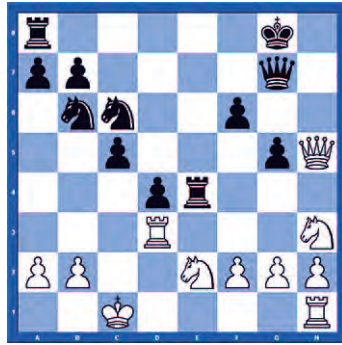
17...f6! This is the key move, which I think Navara blundered. The Black queen from d7 is now protecting the bishop on g7! Not an easy thing to see from far away, but Svildner seems to be in great shape.

18. ♙xg7 ♔xg7 It's hard to give White an advice now. Black got the central pawns, plus White's attack came to an end, and the pawn on e4 can fall any moment. Black is doing clearly better now.

19. ♘h3 ♘c6 20. ♖d3 White decides to „die with a scream“. The position looks quite sharp now, but actually, it is quite easily winning for Black.

20...g5 Why not to win the pawn on e4 if it's possible...

21. ♔h5 ♖xe4



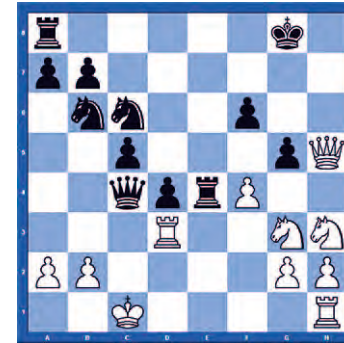
22.f4! The only chance for White. White tries to open the position of the Black king at any costs. [22. ♖g3 ♖h4 and Black kicks out the White queen, keeping his extra pawn.]

22... ♗f7 Black is suddenly losing the coolness, and the full point was so close already. [22... ♖b4! would have been the right choice. 23. ♖g3 ♗f7! and only now ♗f7. The knight on b4 is now the killer around the White king. 24. ♖xg5+ ♔f8! (Of course not 24... fxg5 25. ♗xf7+ ♔xf7 26. ♖xg5+ and the rook on e4 is falling.) 25. ♗h8+ ♔e7 and Black is winning.]

23. ♖g3! Excellent move. White looks for chances in a bad position. To take on f7 is not an option, to go for an endgame with a pawn down would be similar to resigning the game.

23... ♗c4+ [A more solid, though not a better choice would be 23... ♗xh5 24. ♖xh5 ♖f8 I have to admit that this looks quite dangerous, but everything seems to work. Black should be doing better. 25. ♖g3 (25. fxg5 fxg5 26. ♖g3 ♖e5! A critical move which is hard to see... 27. ♖xg5 ♔h8 and the Black king is suddenly very safe on h8. Black is doing clearly better, even though the position remains

dynamic and complicated.) 25... ♖e3! and Black should be better again.]

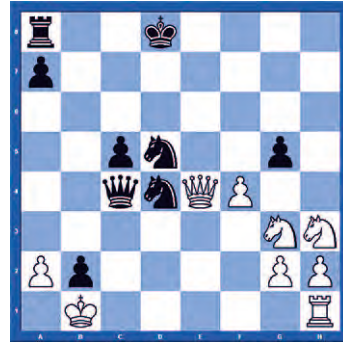


24. ♖c3! [24. ♔d2? would be a mistake 24... ♖b4! A very beautiful move! Black gives mate first. 25. ♗g6+ ♔f8 26. ♗xf6+ ♔e8 The Black king escapes and White can't do anything against the double threat of ♗xd3 and ♗c2-Nxd3.]

24... dxc3 We see a couple of forced moves.

25. ♗g6+ ♔f8 26. ♗xf6+ ♔e8 27. ♗g6+ ♔d7 28. ♗xe4 cxb2+ 29. ♔b1 Everything was forced until here. How to evaluate this position? It's not that easy. The only thing we can say is that probably Black is still doing better thanks the pawn and the dangerous position of the White king, that is surrounded by the Black knights... However, things are very complicated and an exact calculation is needed.

29... ♖e8?! This logical human move is a mistake. [29... ♖d4! would have been the right choice. The Black knight on d4 dominates the game. 30. ♗xb7+ (30. ♖e1 ♖d5 It's amazing how strong the knights can be in the center.) 30... ♔d8 31. ♗e4 ♖d5



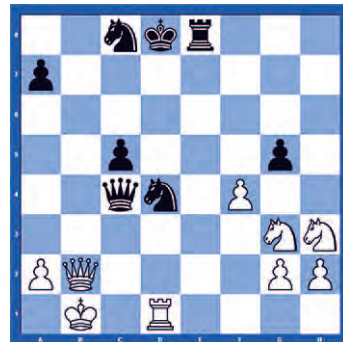
and Black is winning.]

30. ♖d1+ White takes his chance.

30... ♘d4 31. ♙xb7+ ♔d8 32. ♙b8+ ♔d7 33. ♙b7+ ♔d8

34. ♙b8+ ♘c8 Great fighting spirit by Black. It would be a pity for Black to make a draw in this game, after having a clearly winning position earlier. The main point is that the White knights on h3-g3 are totally out of the game.

35. ♙xb2

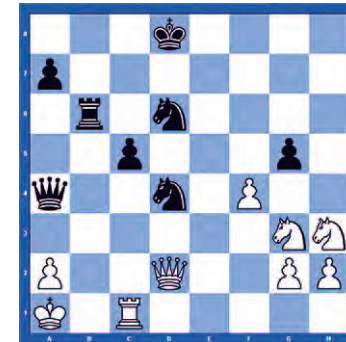


35... ♙e6! Black continue the attack. Of course, it is a pity to have the knight on c8 instead of on d5, but it might still be enough to mate the White king.

36. ♖c1 A losing move in a position that was probably lost anyway. [36. ♙a1 would have been a better chance 36... ♖b6 37. ♙c1 ♘d6! Finally, the Black knight is coming into the game, but Black has to exchange queens... 38. ♙xc4 ♘xc4 39. a3 ♔c7 and probably Black should be winning here. Two knights and a rook should be enough to mate the White king.]

36... ♙a4! Black is taking the last preparation steps. It's getting very dark around the White king.

37. ♙a1 ♖b6 38. ♙d2 ♘d6 The mate is unstoppable.



39. ♖c3 ♘c4 40. ♙d3 ♙b4 41. ♖b3 ♙e1+ A slightly crazy game where White clearly didn't have his best day, getting into big trouble almost out of the opening and not managing to come back into the game. It would be very interesting to know what Svidler actually planned to do after his novelty 12...e5, 13.dxe5... **0-1**

(3) Kosteniuk,A (2457) – Danielian,E (2484) [C13]

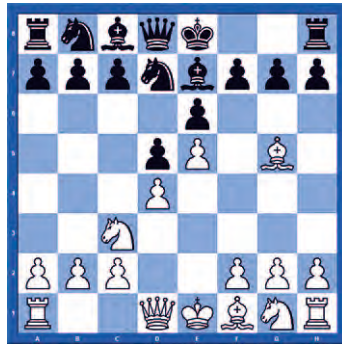
FIDE Women GP Kazan 2012 Kazan, RUS, 20.06.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

We are in the 9th round of the Women's Grand Prix in Kazan, when the current leader, Danielian (with 6/8), faced the former World Champion, Alexandra Kosteniuk.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♙g5 Recently, 4...♙b4 and 4...dxe4 are more popular.

4...♙e7 5.e5 ♘fd7



6.h4 This very interesting gambit line is known since the beginning of the 1900's. It was the favorite of Euwe and Alekhine. [6.♙xe7 ♙xe7 7.f4 is the main line, with a small advantage for White.]

6...c5 This is the most principled move. It tries to undermine White's center and also to open the center against the flank attack, but it has concrete problems... [6...h6 7.♙xe7 ♙xe7 is the way the specialists of this line play with the Black pieces nowadays.; It is not advisable for Black to accept the pawn sacrifice. 6...♙xg5 7.hxg5 ♙xg5

Here White has many different options. The following line seems to be the best to me: 8.♙d3 g6 (Black quickly collapsed after 8...♘c6 9.♘f3 ♙g6 10.♙xg6! Black probably missed this „simple“ move, since it is not obvious at all to exchange queens while being a pawn down. 10...fxg6 11.♘b5! and Black cannot protect the c7 pawn. 11...♙e7 (11...♙d8? 12.♘g5 +- wins.) 12.♘xc7 ♖b8 13.♘b5+/- with a big advantage in Kasparov-Kortschnoj, Zuerich (rapid) 2001.) 9.♘f3 ♙e7 10.0–0–0 White already finished the development, enjoys a nice space advantage due to the e5 pawn and has a very simple plan against the h7 pawn... At the same time, Black is stuckedn his camp and needs a lot of time to secure the king's position. 10...♘b6 11.♙e3 ♙d7 12.♖h6! ♘c6 13.♙d3 0–0–0 14.♖dh1 +/- Finally, Black finished his development, but White wins back the pawn and holds a nice positional advantage.]

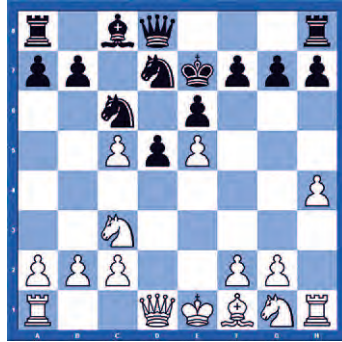
7.♙xe7 This is the defect of the 6...c5 move. Black cannot take back with the queen. However, White's center is under attack, the position is very far from clear.

7...♙xe7 Black quickly wants to play ♙b6, ♘c6, so White doesn't have enough time to consolidate his center. [7...♙xe7?! is met with 8.♘b5! and if Black does not want to give up the right for castling, then he must play 8...0–0 9.♘c7 and Black does not get enough compensation.]

8.dxc5 We are sti ll in theory. I don't know whether the next move was still preparation or not, but it seems to be an inaccuracy.

8...♘c6 [Black should have taken 8...♘xe5 9.♙e2 ♘bc6 10.0–0–0 is the start of the line. Sakaev won a nice game against French defense specialist Ulibin in Dubai 2000. He analyzed this position in details over many pages. At

the end he comes to the conclusion that position is very unclear with chances for both sides. That game continued with 10...♔f8, but 10...♔a5 is an alternative as well.]

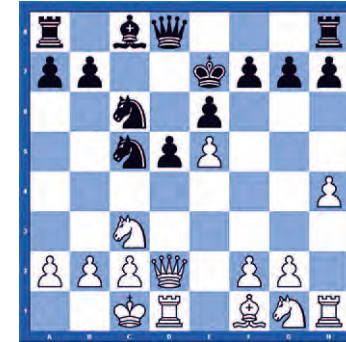


9.♔d2 White gives back the favor. [It would have been logical to protect the pawn on e5 and achieve a typical French defense structure, where generally White has a small advantage. 9.f4 ♔a5 10.♔d2 ♖xc5 11.♖f3 ♔d8 and here White has the important resource to stop Black's counterplay with d4. 12.♗d4! +=]

9...♗xc5? This is a clear mistake. From now on White's strategy starts to dominate. [Black could have gotten a better version than the 8...♗xe5 line, because now the queen is on d2 and it does not pin the king along the e-file. 9...♗dxe5 10.0-0-0 ♔a5 11.f4 and in this position, a very „inhuman“ move leads to a more or less forced draw: 11...♗g4! (11...♗d7 12.♗b5! creates real problems, because of the threat ♗xc6 and ♗xd5.) 12.♗b5 ♗b4! This is the point. It is hard to deal with the ♗a2 threat. It arrives even after 13.a3 and Black takes the bishop on b5. 13.♔e2 Attacking the knight on g4 and preparing for a3, but Black has... (13.a3 ♗a2+; 13.♔b1 a6 14.♗a4 ♔xc5) 13...♗xa2+! 14.♗xa2 ♔xa2 15.♔xg4 ♔a1+ 16.♔d2 ♔a5+

17.♔c1 ♔a1+ = and the one who avoids the perpetual gets into an inferior position.]

10.0-0-0



10...♗a5 [Now 10...♗xe5?! is simply answered with 11.♔e3! and Black cannot hold the threats. ♗xd5 is in the air.]

11.♖h3! Very nice and strong move! I personally was always a fan of the h4-Rh3 or a4-Ra3 plans in the middle-game. The rook causes serious problems in Black's camp along the 3rd rank.

11...h6 Against the annoying ♔g5 check. [11...d4 is countered by 12.♔g5+ ♔f8 13.♗b5! ♔xa2 14.♖a3! You see the 11.♖h3 move. :) 14...♔d5 15.♗c7+- White wins.]

12.♗ge2! Another spectacular and strong move. White brings a blockader to d4 and keeps the 3rd rank open for his rook.

12...♖d8 [12...♗d7 13.♗d4 is also horrible for Black. He cannot even ease his position with 13...♗xd4 because of 14.♗xd5+! +-]

13. ♖f4 Prepares for an attack against the kingside pawns with ♖f3 or ♖g3.

13... ♘d7 This is a kind of desperation in a really bad position. [After the „normal“ 13... ♙d7 White simply plays 14. ♖g3 ♖g8 15. ♘d4 ♘xd4 16. ♙xd4+/- with a big advantage. The king became really vulnerable on e7.]

14. ♖g3 ♖g8



15. ♖e3 Kosteniuk had the right idea in mind, to play ♘d4. First she protects the e5 pawn, but as we will see, it was not necessary. [The tactical 15. ♘d4! was even stronger 15... ♘dx5 (15... ♘cxe5 is refuted elegantly by 16. ♖e3 f6 17. ♘xe6! ♙xe6 18. ♙c4!! Not the only win, but definitely the nicest. 18... dxc4 19. ♙xc4+ ♙e7 20. ♙xg8 +/-) 16. ♘f5+! exf5 17. ♖xd5 ♙c7 18. ♖xe5+! This is the point. White wins the queen in both cases. 18... ♙xe5 (18... ♘xe5? 19. ♘d5+) 19. ♖e3 ♙xe3+ 20. ♙xe3+ ♙e6 21. ♙d3 and Black cannot avoid losing material, while his king is still in the danger zone.]

15... ♖b8 A waiting move, because b5 did not work immediately. The position looks really terrible for Black, but actually White must play powerfully to convert the advantage. [15... b5? 16. ♘xd5+! exd5 and now the „silent“

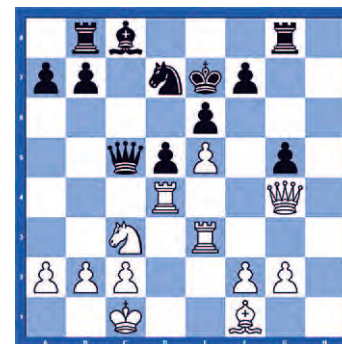
17. ♘c3! and Black cannot escape if the knight arrives to d5, while 17... ♘b6 loses after 18. e6! ♙xe6 19. ♙c7+ ♙f8 20. ♙xc6 +/-]

16. ♘d4 ♘xd4 17. ♖xd4 g5 Black's only chance is to complicate the matters. [Stabilizing the d5 square with 17... ♘b6 is met with 18. b4! ♙a3+ 19. ♙b1 +/- and the queen is trapped on a3. ♘b5 is coming next.]

18. hxg5 hxg5 19. ♙g3 [It was better to play 19. ♙g4 but the text move does not spoil the advantage.]

19... ♙c5 Now Black improved a bit with a tempo.

20. ♙g4



20... b5 [20... f5 temporarily pushes back White's pieces 21. exf6+ ♘xf6 22. ♙d1 +/- but the king remains in the center.]

21. b4! Very strong response! Depriving Black of his only counterplay with b4!

21... ♙c6 22. ♙h5 White prepares for the tactical blow, which she managed to play in the game.

22...a5? [The ugly 22... ♖a6 was the only move according to computer, but still after 23.f4 White launches an enormous attack against the f7 pawn.]

23. ♘xd5+! exd5 24.e6! It is over now. Black cannot survive the opening of the lines.

24... ♖g6 [24...fxe6 is simply met with 25. ♔h7+ +- and the rook falls.]

25.exd7+ ♔xd7 White restored the material equality, and continues the attack. The only question remains, how long can Black prolong the resignation?

26. ♖d3 ♖g7 27. ♔h8 ♔f6 28. ♖xd5+ ♔c6 29. ♖c5+ ♔d6 30. ♔f8+ A nice attacking game, after which Danielian collapsed and lost the last 2 games as well, dropping back to the 6th place. **1-0**

(4) Lahno, Kateryna (2546) – Kosintseva, Tatiana (2532) [E56]

4th WGP Kazan 2012 Kazan RUS (11), 22.06.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the last round of the Grand Prix. Both players are out of contention for the medals, but this game was very exciting anyway. After a good opening outcome, Lahno made a great combination and... lost the game. Let us take a look at what exactly happened.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♘c3 ♖b4 4.e3 We are in the main line of the Nimzo.

4...0-0 5. ♖d3 c5 6. ♘f3 d5 7.0-0 ♘c6



8.cxd5 [8.a3 ♖xc3 9.bxc3 dxc4 10. ♖xc4 ♔c7 would lead to the very main position of the Nimzo.]

8...exd5 White has opened the bishop on c8, but the idea is to play against the isolated pawn on d5 now.

9.dxc5 ♖xc5 [9... ♖xc3 10.bxc3 ♖g4 This is another typical way of handling these positions, but not with this move order. Here White is a tempo up compared to the main lines, so even after an easy move like 11. ♖e2 White is doing a bit better.]

10.h3 This is an often played position. Lahno will demonstrate perfectly White's main idea. On the other hand, Black's play will not be great at the beginning. Usually, Black looks for a fast d4, trying to force a draw by exchanging a lot of material, and exploiting the isolated pawn.

10...a6 [10...♔e7 this should be the best way of handling this position. 11.b3 ♖d8 12.♙b2 ♘e4 13.♘e2 ♘b4 14.♙b1 ♙f5 with a fighting position, Roiz-Fressinet, 2011.]

11.b3 White needs the bishop on b2, this is clearly its best place.

11...♙e6 12.♙b2 ♙a7 13.♘e2 Another correct strategic decision. White needs to take care of the d5-d4 threat, and to keep the option of putting a „blocker“ on d4 is never a bad idea.

13...♖c8 From this moment on, the game starts to get exciting. We can already say that White should be quite happy with the outcome of the opening. If the White player is not creative, by playing 14.♘ed4, he would get a typical slightly better position.

14.♘g5!? White uses the chance for tactical play! Suddenly, the Black king is quite in danger! White wants to play ♙xf6 and the pawn on h7 drops.



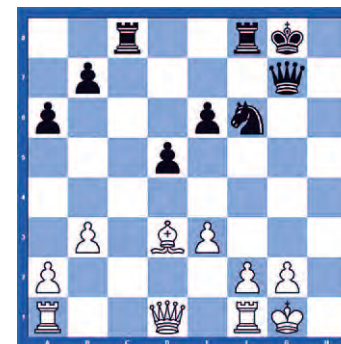
14...g6 [14...h6? would not help because of 15.♙xf6 ♔xf6 16.♘h7 and White is a clear exchange up.]

15.♘f4 All the light White pieces are in the attack!

15...♔e7 16.h4! I like this move a lot! White's h-pawn is going to be „the“ little extra White needs to make the attack even stronger. [16.♔f3 would have been another logical continuation. 16...d4 Black is forced to act, to close the bishop on b2 is the first priority. 17.♘gxe6 fxe6 18.♙c4 ♔h8 White is doing better, but the position is still a fighting and quite complicated one.]

16...♙b8 A nice move by Black! It's clear that he needs to do something about the bishop on b2, and will simply try to play ♙e5 next.

17.h5 ♙d7? This is a real surprise. A shocking move by Black, giving White a few interesting opportunities. [17...♙e5! would have been the only move. 18.♙xe5 ♘xe5 White needs to act quite fast as well... If Black gets a „free“ move now, White wouldn't be doing better at all. 19.hxg6 This leads to the forced win of a pawn, but it's not evident that it leads to a clearly better position. 19...hxg6 20.♘gxe6 fxe6 21.♘xg6 If You say A, You need to say B and get the pawn. 21...♘xg6 22.♙xg6 ♔g7 It looks like Black is simply a pawn down, but things are by far not that simple. 23.♙d3



23...♔h6! A very important move, now White doesn't have 23.♖c1? because of 23...♗xc1 24.♕xc1 and ♘g4! The next Black's move will be ♙f7 followed by ♖h8. In my opinion, Black has enough compensation for the pawn.]

18.hxg6 With this move, White starts a very beautiful combination. However, she had many different moves as well. Let's take a look at a few of them! [The typical 18.♘xh7! would be a very interesting option. 18...♘xh7 19.hxg6 fxg6 20.♘xg6 The Black position looks really dangerous, but it seems that White doesn't have any forced win. 20...♗f7 (20...♗d6 21.♕h5 ♖f7 22.f4! A key move here, White wants to play ♖f3-Rg3 next with a basically killing attack. I would not like to be Black here...) 21.f4 And again, the f4 move! The position doesn't look simple at all, but I think in a practical game it is almost impossible to hold this with Black. White's play is so simple — just to go for the Black king with all you got. Objectively, I think White is doing clearly better.]

18...hxg6 19.♘xd5!? This is what White wanted by playing 18.hxg5. A great tactical blow, very beautiful.

19...♘xd5



20.♕h5! What a great tactical mating idea!

20...f6! I have the feeling that Kosintseva was very lucky — and happy — when she saw the move f6. Any other

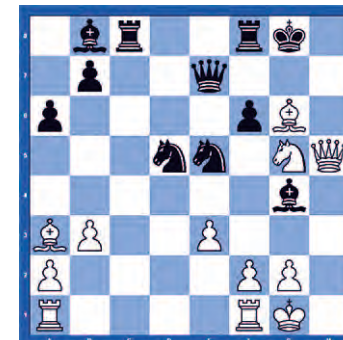
move would lose the game on the spot, and by accident the game gets quite unclear now... [20...gxh5 21.♕h7# What a mate!]

21.♕xg6 [21.♕xg6+!? ♗g7 22.♕h5! It looks like White is winning, but Black has a great defensive move: 22...♗fd8! and we are in a really crazy position. I feel White should be doing better, but to prove this would still be very hard.]

21...♗e5?! [21...♗e5 This move looks quite logical, but it leads to some super deep complications as well. 22.♕h7+ ♗g7 23.♕g6+ Of course, White tries to play for the mate. 23...♗h8 24.♕h6 ♗g7 The only defense, White wanted to play ♕e4. 25.♕h1! The only square for the queen. An easy move to blunder. When was the last time you saw the h-file open and the White Queen on h1?! 25...fxg5 26.♕e4+ ♗g8 27.♕xd5+ ♖f7 with a very strange and unbalanced position. The game would just begin here, all 3 results are possible.]

22.♕a3! A beautiful move! Seems like White is close to get the full point!

22...♕g4 The only move, freeing the d7 square for the Queen, any other move would lose on the spot.



23. ♔h1?? A horrible mistake. [23. ♕h7+ This would have been the other option 23... ♖g7 (23... ♔h8 is losing on the spot due to the usual 24. ♔h1! ♕g7 25. ♕e4+) 24. ♕xe7 ♕xh5 25. ♕xf8+ ♖xf8 26. ♕e4 fxg5 27. ♕xd5 The end-game is still not a simple one, but only White can be better here.]

23... ♔d7 And suddenly White is very bad, probably close to lost... How to avoid the loss of material? White is already a piece down... This is really a tragic end, and a very beautiful combination.

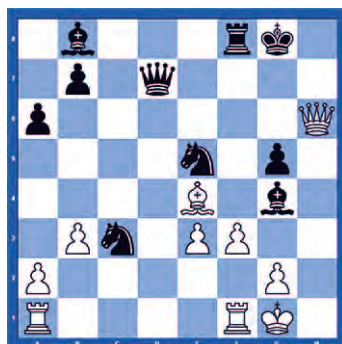
24. ♕e4 What to do? White tries to keep some pieces on the board, in order to have practical chances. [Doesn't help 24. ♕xf8 fxg5 White will lose one more piece on the next move, which would give Black 3 pieces for a rook and 2 pawns, this is clearly easily winning.]

24... ♘c3! Another very strong move by Black! Suddenly, Kosintseva is the one who wants to give mate by playing ♘e2, and after ♔h2, ♘f3!

25. ♔h6 This move saves White from a direct mate, but not from a lost position.

25... fxg5 And another White piece has been taken.

26. ♕xf8 ♖xf8 27. f3



27... ♔g7!? The safest move, Black forces White to exchange queens and get in a position where the best choice is to resign.

28. ♔xg7+ ♖xg7 29. ♕xb7 ♘d3 The game is over! What a position... The next 8 moves need no comments...

30. ♖fd1 ♘e2+ 31. ♔f1 ♘g3+ 32. ♔g1 ♘e2+ 33. ♔f1 ♘g3+ 34. ♔g1 ♖h8 35. ♖xd3 ♖h1+ 36. ♔f2 ♖xa1 37. e4 ♖xa2+ 38. ♔e1 ♕e6 We saw a very interesting game with quite an interesting opening for those who are playing the Nimzo with White. From this game we have to learn that not every beautiful tactical blow leads to a full point... Chess is a cruel game :). **0-1**

Puzzle section

(5) Prizant,J (2524) – Nepomniachtchi,I (2716)

Russian Higher league, 24.06.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-



(6) Mokshanov,A (2429) – Inarkiev,E (2707)

Russian Higher league, 24.06.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

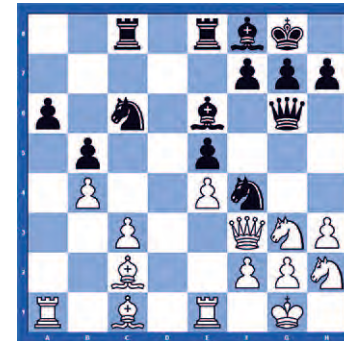


(7) Ziska,H (2450) – Hebden,M (2512)

Svein memorial, 25.06.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

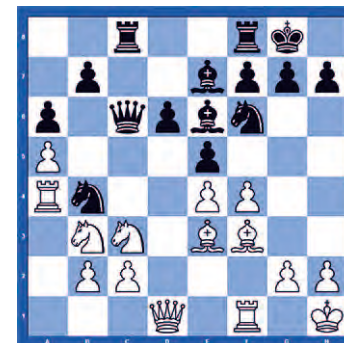


(8) Gusain,H (2271) – Paragua,M (2521)

Mumbai Open, 08.06.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(9) Ram,S (2303) – Stupak,K (2513)

Mumbai Open, 10.06.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(10) Gomez,J (2507) – Chadaev,N (2563)

Mumbai Open, 14.06.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(11) Gabrielian,A (2573) – Grigoriants,S (2557)

Voronezh Open, 15.06.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

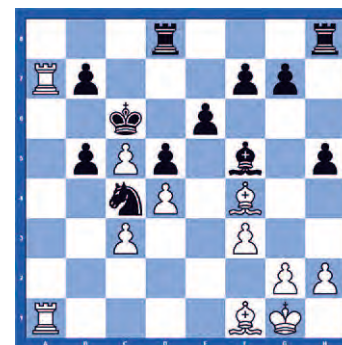


(12) Kovalenko,I (2560) – Dmitriev,I (2393)

Voronezh Open, 15.06.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Fedoseev,V (2546) – Zubov,A (2617)

Voronezh Open, 16.06.2012

[CEWN]

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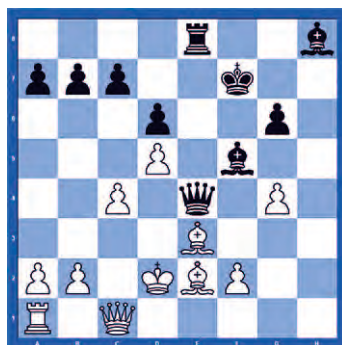


(14) Lysyj,I (2644) – Tihonov,J (2446)

Voronezh Open, 19.06.2012

[CEWN]

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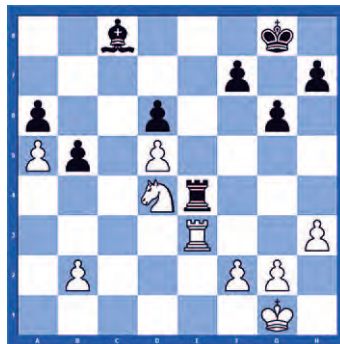


Endgame section

(15) Galliamova, A (2484)
– Hou Yifan (2623)

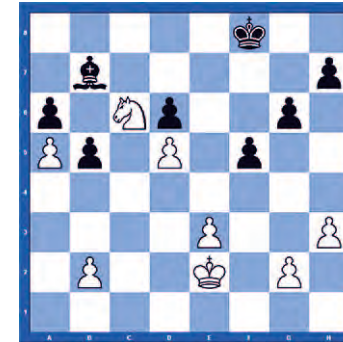
WGP Kazan, 20.06.2012

[Chess Evolution]



At this seemingly drawn position, Hou Yifan, the Women's World Champion, found very good practical chances to win.

27...♖xd4! [27...♖xe3?! with the idea of transposing into a pawn endgame. This doesn't work well for Black. 28.fxe3 f5!! In order to prevent e4 and prepare for ♕b7. 29.♕f2 ♕b7 30.♘c6! By precise calculations, White enters into the simplifications. Now the correct defense is 30...♔g7-f6 and then start passing with the bishop. Probably the game would end in a draw in this case. 30...♕f8 31.♕e2!



31...♕xc6? Still, 31...♔g7 would hold the draw. 32.dxc6 ♕e7 33.♕d3 The king arrives just in time. 33...♕d8 (33...d5 34.♕d4 ♕d6 is met with 35.c7! ♕xc7 36.♕xd5+- when the superior position of White's king decides the outcome.) 34.♕d4 ♕c7 35.♕d5 This had to be calculated beforehand. Both sides can only move with their pawns, but as we will see, Black loses the fight for a tempo. 35...b4 (35...g5 36.g4! is the easiest win. 36...f4 (36...fxg4 37.hxg4 b4 38.b3 h6 39.e4 +- and zugzwang.) 37.exf4 gxf4 38.♕e4+- and White wins with the help of the kingside pawns. Black must hurry to catch them with the king, but this leaves the queenside unprotected. Passed pawns are very important factors in all the endgames, especially in pawn endgames.) 36.b3 g5 37.g4! f4 38.exf4 gxf4 39.♕e4 ♕xc6 40.♕xf4 +- White wins as it was explained in the 35...g5 line.]

28.♖e8+ ♔g7 29.♖xc8



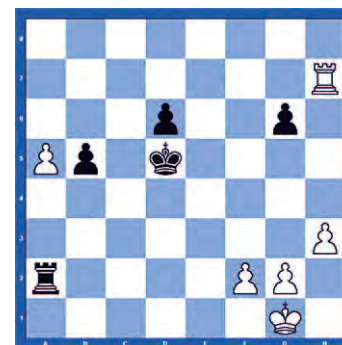
29...♔f6! Black uses the more active situation of his king and tries to save the important pawns on the queenside, sacrificing the less useful ones on the kingside. [29...♖xd5 leads to a more or less forced draw after 30.♖c6 ♖d1+ 31.♔h2 ♖d2 Black takes one more pawn, but his complete queenside is vanishing. 32.b4 ♖xf2 33.♖xa6 ♖b2 34.♖xd6 ♖xb4 35.a6 ♖a4 36.♖b6 b4 37.a7 ♖xa7 38.♖xb4 with an easy theoretical draw.]

30.♖c6 ♔e5 31.♖xa6



31...♖b4 Here we can get the point of Black's play. He wants to save either the d- or the b-pawn, which could become very dangerous with the support of the king. The position is still drawn, but time trouble is approaching and White must make a difficult decision.

32.♖b6 [Creating counterplay by obtaining a kingside passer would have been the right idea, but Galliamova was afraid of losing too many tempi with the rook moves, allowing the b-pawn to promote. 32.♖a7! ♖xb2 (32...f5!? is an alternative, but White can hold the draw here as well. 33.♖xh7 ♖xb2 34.a6 ♔xd5 35.a7 ♖a2 and here, I think the best way to save the half point is to stop the b-pawn with the king. 36.♔f1 b4 (36...♔c6 37.♔e1 ♔b6 does not win a pawn, because of 38.♖d7 =) 37.♔e1 ♔c4 (37...b3 38.♔d1 = Just in time, the a-pawn gives enough counterplay. 38...♖a1+ 39.♔d2 b2 40.♖b7 ♖xa7 41.♖xb2=) 38.♔d1 ♔d3 39.♔c1 and the b-pawn is stopped, while going for the kingside pawns is not dangerous. 39...♔e2 40.g4 ♔xf2 (The tempting 40...f4? is too optimistic. Black causes problems only to himself. The h-pawn runs very fast. 41.h4 f3 42.h5 gxh5 43.gxh5 ♔xf2 44.h6 ♔e2 45.♖f7+- and White wins.) 41.gxf5 gxf5 42.♖f7 =) 33.♖xf7 ♖a2 Probably, Hou Yifan would have tried this way, because now the a-pawn does not reach the 7th rank, so it's not that dangerous. Anyway, White holds the draw. 34.♖xh7 ♔xd5

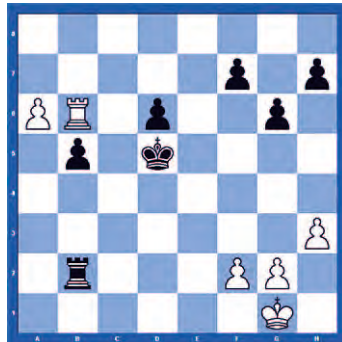


35.h4 Not the only way, but it seems to be the easiest one to create a passer on the h-file. 35...b4 36.g4 b3 37.♖b7 ♔c4 38.h5 gxh5 39.gxh5 ♖xa5 (On 39...b2 White

must deal with the ♖a1 threat first. 40.♔g2 ♕c3 and here comes a very important and often-seen motif in the rook endgames. Black defended the b2-pawn and is ready to activate the rook, but 41.♖c7+! White sends the king away 41...♔d3 42.♖b7 and attacks the pawn again. Black cannot make progress.) 40.h6 ♖h5 41.h7 Just as in the 32...f5 line, White reaches the 7th rank. This always gives very good counterplay, since it restricts the mobility of the rook. 41...♔c3 (41...d5 42.♔f1 ⇒) 42.f4 b2 43.♖c7+! The same motif as before. 43...♔d3 44.♖b7 ♔c2 45.♖c7+ = and again, there is no way to progress.]

32...♔xd5?! This is an inaccuracy, which could have led to an immediate draw. [32...♖xb2 33.a6 h5! evacuating the 7th rank 34.♖b8 ♖a2 35.♖xb5 ♖xa6 Despite the material equality, Black still has chances because of the weak d5 pawn. 36.♖b7 Here we get the point of the 33...h5 move. Black can save all his pawns. 36...f6 37.♖g7 ♔f5 38.♖d7 h4 and Black still can press for a while, but the objective result should rather be a draw.]

33.a6 ♖xb2



34.a7? The most logical move, but it is a big mistake. We'll soon understand the subtle point... [34.♖b8! was the way to draw. The a-pawn threatens to promote, so Black has no choice. 34...♖a2 35.♖xb5+ ♔c6 (35...♔e6 36.♖b6 ⇒)

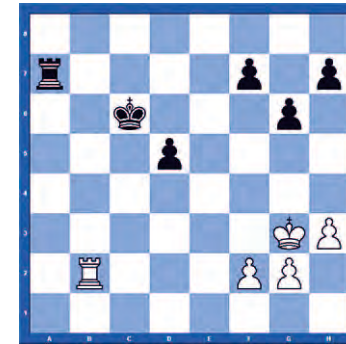
36.♖b7! = and this move is the point! In the game, with the pawn on a7, White did not have this option.]

34...♖b1+ [34...♖a2 is also good.]

35.♔h2 ♖a1 36.♖xb5+ [On 36.♖b7 ♔e6 sooner or later White has to exchange his a-pawn for the one on the b-file.]

36...♔c6 37.♖b2 ♖xa7 And Black is winning with the extra pawn, which is supported by the king.

38.g4 [38.♔g3 d5



39.♔f4 ♖e7! Very important move, to cut the White king along the e-file. Now the d-pawn is practically unstoppable. 40.♔g5 d4 41.♔f6 ♖d7 wins in similar fashion to the game.]

38...d5 39.♔g3 ♖e7 Again, the same cut, but Black could have delayed it by one move. The rest comes automatically. [39...d4 40.♔f4 ♖e7!]

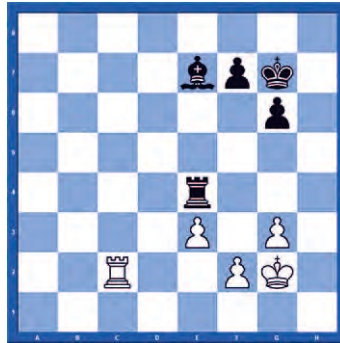
40.♔f4 d4 41.♔g5 ♔c5 42.f4 [42.♔f6 ♖d7]

42...d3 43.f5 ♖d7 44.♖b1 d2 45.♖d1 ♔c4 46.f6 ♔d3 47.♔h6 ♔e2 48.♖xd2+ ♔xd2 Another instructive rook endgame. **0–1**

(16) Lahno, Kateryna (2546)
– Koneru, Humpy (2589) [A25]

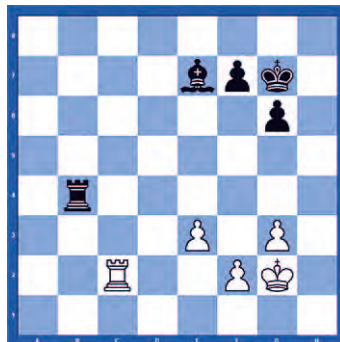
4th WGP Kazan 2012 Kazan RUS (9), 20.06.2012

[Chess Evolution]



The position looks totally winning for Black, but is it so?! The only attacking point in the White structure is the pawn on f2, and it's really hard to get a triple attack on that square. An exchange of rooks would, of course, win the game on the spot, but it is hard to achieve. Koneru shows good technical play. Let's take a look at the winning plan.

43... ♖b4

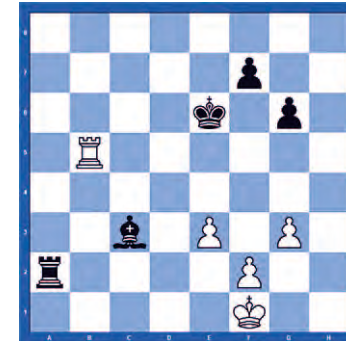


44. ♔f1 ♘f6 45. ♔g2 The best White can do is to wait — every pawn move only creates weaknesses in the structure.

45... ♖b2 Of course, the Black rook belongs in b2! This is the right place for the rook.

46. ♖c4 ♘e7 The second step of the Black plan should be to bring the king to e1 or e2. This is the only way for Black to create some threats.

47. ♔f1 ♘d6 48. ♖c6 ♘b4 49. ♖a6 ♖d2 50. ♖b6 ♘c3 51. ♖c6 ♘e5 52. ♖a6 ♖d6 53. ♖a7 ♔f6 54. ♖b7 ♖a6 55. ♔g2 ♔e6 56. ♖b4 ♘c3 57. ♖c4 ♘e5 58. ♖b4 ♔f5 59. ♖b5 ♖a2 60. ♔f3 ♔e6 61. ♔g2 ♘c3 62. ♔f1



62... ♔d6 The last 15 moves were not too exciting and Black didn't make any progress, but now finally Koneru decides to move the king forward. Probably, Black wanted to keep the f7-g6 pawn structure, but this is not possible. Another option for Black is to put the pawns on f5-g4, but it would make the f5 pawn weak, so there is no sense in doing that either.

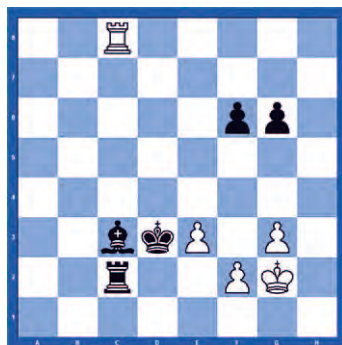
63. ♖b7 White uses the chance to put the pawn on f6, which can be useful in the future. The g6-pawn is getting

weak and White will have some ideas connected with ♖g7 g5, and now f4 trying to exchange as many pawns as possible.

63...f6 64.♖b3 ♖c2 65.♖b5 ♔c6 66.♖b8 ♔d5 Finally, the Black king crosses the 5th rank.

67.♖c8 The only move to fight. White can't take the king away from f1, because ♔e1 would win the pawn on f2 on the spot. With the move ♖c8, White finally gets the possibility of freeing the king.

67...♔e4 68.♔g2 ♔d3



69.♔f1 Again, the only move. In case of 69.♔f3, ♔e1 is winning.

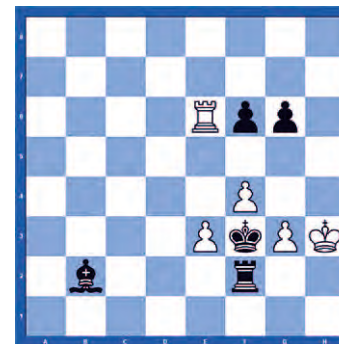
69...♖c1+ 70.♔g2 ♔e2 Finally, Black managed to bring the king to e2. Half way is done! Now Black needs to get rid of the pin on the c-file and threaten to play ♔e1 or ♖f1.

71.♖c6 [71.♖g8 ♖f1 loses for White immediately.]

71...♔b2 Black is ready for the final action. ♖f1 and ♖c2-Ke1 are the main ideas.

72.♖e6 White is trying to get as ready as he can to face the ♖f1 move.

72...♖c2 [Anyway 72...♖f1! 73.f4 ♖f2+! 74.♔h3 ♔f3



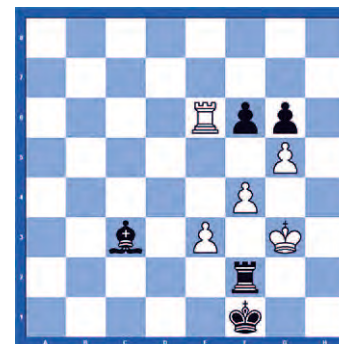
The entrance of the Black king decides the game. Black is winning.]

73.f4 Black wanted to win the pawn on f2 by playing ♔e1.

73...♔e1+ 74.♔f3 ♔f1 Black slowly enters White's defense lines. Now Black wants to play f5, followed by ♖f2 mate.

75.g4 ♖f2+ 76.♔g3 ♔c3! A nice move. Suddenly, the White king is in a deadly mating net!

77.g5



77...f5! A great way to finish the game.

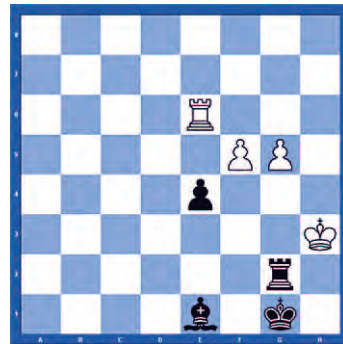
78. ♖xg6 ♜g2+ **79.** ♔h3 [79. ♔f3 ♙e1]

79... ♔g1 Black wants to mate by playing ♜h2-Be1-Rf2.

80.e4 The only chance, but nothing helps anymore.

80...fxe4 81. ♖e6 ♙e1! The last precise move. Black wants to play ♙f2 followed by e2. White has no moves. Against 82.g6, ♜g3 83. ♔h4 ♜xg6 is coming.

82.f5



82... ♜h2+ Followed by ♜h4 mate. What can we say about the endgame? It's quite easily winning for Black, but it's important to know the plan! **0-1**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Martinez,D – Steinitz,W [C45]

Philadelphia Philadelphia, 1883

[Balogh Csaba]

This week, we'll examine a game from the first undisputed World Champion, Wilhelm Steinitz. He was the one who established the positional play in chess. He was the first who outplayed his opponents in a mainly positional manner. However, in our present game, Steinitz decided to play in „19th century style“. ..

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 White goes for the Scotch. [3.♗b5 d6 was the favorite of Steinitz, and it was also named after him.]

3...exd4 4.♗xd4



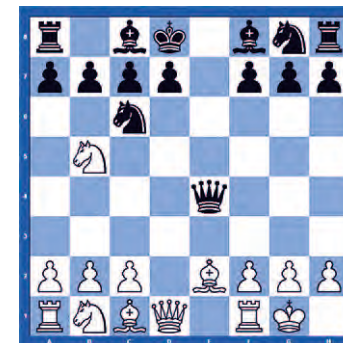
4...♔h4 A tricky sideline compared to the two main moves: 4...♗c5 and 4...♗f6.

5.♗b5 [5.♗c3 is probably the reason why we don't see this queen rush on the highest level. Black has to play

concretely, otherwise the queen gets to be misplaced on h4. 5...♗b4 6.♗e2! A pawn sacrifice for development. 6...♔xe4 7.♗db5 ♗xc3+ 8.bxc3! and Black has serious problems with the c7 pawn, he has nothing better than 8...♔d8 but after 9.0–0 White has very strong initiative for the small material deficit. It's very important for White to have the bishop pair in such positions.]

5...♔xe4+?! A bit too greedy, but 139 years ago, theory was just about to develop. [5...♗b4+ is the right approach, and Black seems to be fine after every move. The main idea is to defend the c7 pawn with the bishop. 6.♗d2 (6.c3 ♗a5 7.♗e3 ♗f6 8.b4 a6! A nice in-between move, which solves Black's problems.; 6.♗1c3 ♗a5) 6...♔xe4+ 7.♗e2 ♔d8! 8.0–0 ♗xd2 9.♗xd2 ♔f4 and compared to the 5.♗c3 line, Black managed to exchange the dark squared bishops, which clearly improves his defensive chances. After one mistake by White, he might remain without any compensation.]

6.♗e3?! A logical developing move, White intends to play ♗1c3 and a quick 0–0–0, but after this, Black seems to be fine. [6.♗e2 is the critical move. 6...♔d8 7.0–0



7...a6 and here 8.♘1c3! At first sight, a slightly suspicious move, because the b5 knight has no retreating square, but who said it has to come back in any case?! 8...♙e5 Black pinned his hopes to this move, but... (8...♙g6 9.♘d4 would be very nice for White. Black has no time to consolidate.; 8...♙h4? 9.g3! and the queen has no square, it must move into the ♘d5 tempo.) 9.♘d5! axb5 10.♙f4 ♙d4 11.♙xc7+ ♙e8 12.♘b6 +- and the game is over. This could have been another very typical game for the 19th century.]

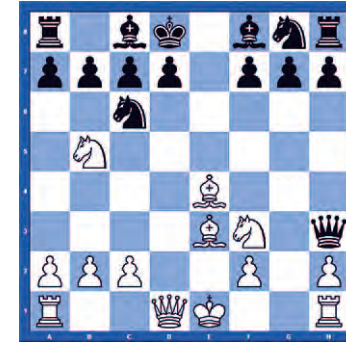
6...♙d8 It sounds a bit strange, but now Black seems to be all right.

7.♘d2 [7.♘1c3 was definitely more logical, but Black is alive after 7...♙b4 8.♙d2 (8.a3 forcing Black to give up his good bishop 8...♙xc3+ 9.♘xc3 ♙g6 10.♙d2 d6 11.0-0-0 ♘ge7 and undoubtedly White has compensation, but the Black king soon finds a safe shelter on c8.) 8...♙e7 9.0-0-0 ♘f6 and here again, it is not clear how should White continue...]

7...♙g6 8.♙d3 White plays in „Morphy style“! The legendary Paul Morphy has mated all his opponents in this style (giving away his pieces) in the middle of the 19th century, but at that time people could not defend very well. Against Steinitz, such kind of chess did not pay off. [8.♘f3 was an alternative, but Black can calmly finish his development 8...d6 9.♙d2 ♘f6 10.0-0-0 ♙d7 and the Black pawns are safely guarding the king.]

8...♙xg2! Steinitz is not afraid. He lures the bishop to e4, in order to develop his g8 knight with tempo.

9.♙e4 ♙h3 10.♘f3 [10.♙e2 ♘f6]



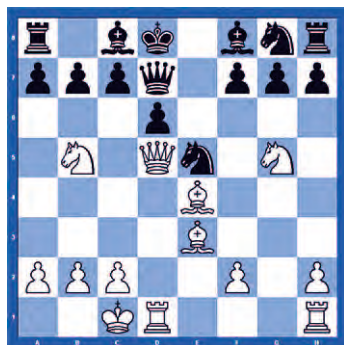
10...d6 A bit ugly, but effective defense. [10...♙h5 was the computer's suggestion 11.♘g5 (11.♘c3 ♘f6) 11...♙xd1+ 12.♙xd1 ♘h6 White doesn't have enough compensation.]

11.♘g5 ♙d7 That is why I called it ugly. All the White pieces look dangerous, but actually, Black threatens to send them away one by one. First a6, then h6 and then ♘f6.

12.♙d5 [12.♙d5 was probably the only chance to stay in the game, but Black has an advantage anyway after 12...♘e5 13.♘xa7 ♙e7 14.♘xc8 ♙xc8 15.♘xf7 ♘xf7 16.♙xf7 White won back both sacrificed pawns, but suddenly, his king gets in danger. 16...♘h6! with an advantage for Black.]

12...♘e5 With his last move, White made an aggressive move once again. One more time losing time in a number of ways, like c6 or ♘f6. At first sight, it might be hard to believe, but the objective evaluation of the position is that Black is completely winning.

13.0-0-0



13...Nf6 14. Qxe5 White goes for a forced line, after which the endgame clearly favors Black. [14. Qb3 was not much better either, but definitely with queens on board, White has more practical chances to set some tricks against the d8 king. 14...h6 15. Nf3 Nge4! After this strong defensive move, Black pushes back the remaining attacking pieces and comfortably enjoys his two extra pawns.]

14...dxe5 15. Nxf7+ [15. Qf5 is not better 15... Qxd1+ 16. Rxd1+ Qd6 17. Nxf7+ Qe7 and White has no good piece to take. 18. Nfxd6 (18. Nfh8 Qxf5; 18. Qxc8 Rxc8) 18... cxd6]

15...Qe8 16. Rxd7 Qxd7 17. Nfh8 Qxb5 [17... Nxe4?? 18. Nxc7+]

18. Qxb7 Rb8



19. Qf3 After the big melee, White managed to restore material equality, but his knight got trapped in the corner.

19... Qd6 Qe7 is the threat.

20. Rg1 [20. Qxa7 Rd8]

20... Qf8 Now Qg8 is the threat.

21. Qg5 [21. Qxa7 Rd8]

21... Qc4 [21... Qe7 was much easier. White cannot save the knight.]

22. Qxf6 gxf6 23. Qe4 Qc5 [Again, Black could have won in a more accurate way: 23... f5! 24. Qxf5 Qe7! and by getting rid of the f-pawn, Black has the Qf6 move against 25. Rg7. Black wins a piece.]

24. b3 [24. Qxh7 would have been more resistant, but Black is winning anyway. The following line nicely demonstrates the power of the bishop pair: 24... Qxf2 25. Rg2 Qe3+ 26. Qb1 Rd8 Black has good alternatives in each move, but this line seems to be the most straight forward. 27. b3 Rd1+ 28. Qb2 Qd5 29. Rg3 Qf2 White must be very careful not to lose immediately 30. Rg4 and here probably the easiest is to play 30... Rh1 31. h4 Qd4+ 32. c3 Rh2+ 33. Qc2 Qf3! 34. Rg3 Qe4]

24... Qg8 25. Rg2 Rd8! Qa3 threatens with mate.

26. c3 Rd7! The last strong move of the game. Rg7 is coming next and the knight falls.

27. Ng6+ Instead of resignation.

27... hxg6 28. Rxc6 Qh7 29. Rxf6+ Qg7 30. Re6 Qa3+ 0-1

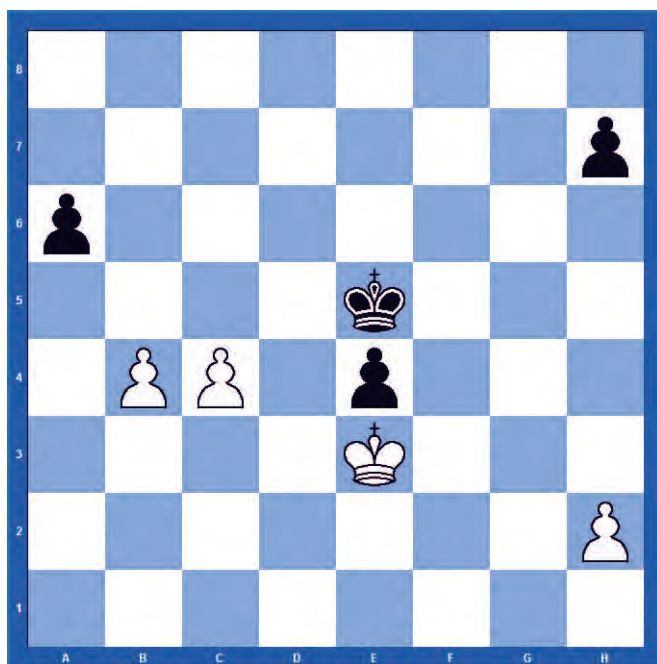
Surprise section / study

(18) Damele

1966

[CEWN]

1. +-



Solutions

(19) Morozevich,A (2769) – Nakamura,H (2775)

Tal memorial, 14.06.2012

[Solutions]

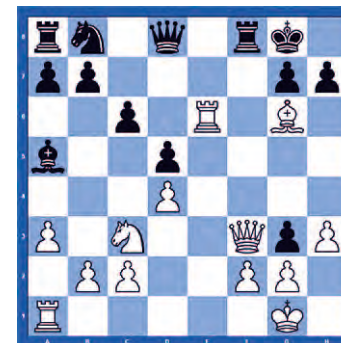


38...c3!! 39.bxc3 ♖e3! 40.♔e2 [40.♔f3 ♔a4--+] 40... ♘d5! [40...♔xg6 41.♔d3 ♔xd3 42.♔xd3 ♔] 41.♔d3 a4!! 42.♔b2 [42.c4 ♔b3--+; 42.♔h2 ♔d7! 43.♔xh6 ♘xf6!--+ (43...♘xc3+? 44.♔a1!!+-)] 42...♔xb2+ 43.♔xb2 ♔b8+ 44.♔c1 ♔b3--+ 45.♔a6 ♔xc3+ 46.♔d1 ♘e3+ 47.♔e2 ♔c4+ 0-1

(20) Bezgodov,A (2508) – Andreikin,D (2700)

Russian Higher league, 16.06.2012

[Solutions]

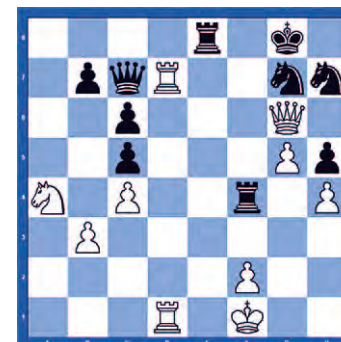


17.♔xh7+! ♔xh7 18.♔h5+ ♔g8 19.♔h6! gxf2+ 20.♔f1! [20.♔h2? ♔c7+ 21.g3 gxf6--+] 20...gxf6 21.♔g6+ ♔h8 22.♔xh6+ ♔g8 23.♔g6+ ♔h8 24.♔h6+ ♔g8 1/2-1/2

(21) Swapnil,S (2445) – Esen,B (2568)

Golden Sands Open, 11.06.2012

[Solutions]



36...♔xf2+! [36...♔e5? 37.♔xg7+! ♔xg7 38.♔xe8++-] 37.♔xf2 ♔h2+ 38.♔f3 [38.♔f1 ♔f8++-] 38...♔e2+ 39.♔g3 ♔e3+ 0-1

(22) Hayrapetian,A (2372) – Grigoryan,A (2581)

Asrian memorial, 18.06.2012

[Solutions]

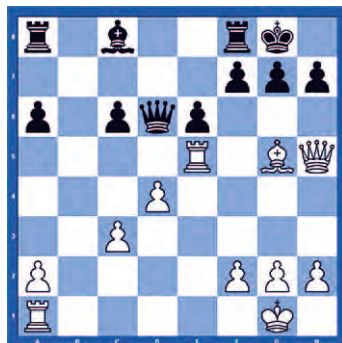


15... ♖h3!! 16. ♖g1 [16.0-0-0 ♖xg2! 17. ♘xg2 ♙xf3--+] 16... ♖xg2 17. ♖xg2 ♙xf3 0-1

(23) Lenderman,A (2587) – Zierk,S (2483)

Las Vegas Open, 16.06.2012

[Solutions]

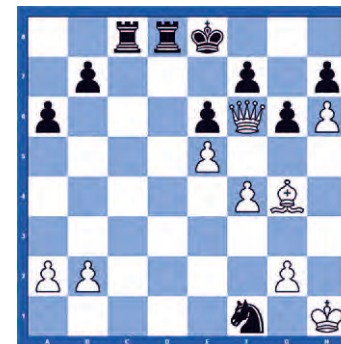


17. ♖f6!! gxf6 18. ♖e3! e5 [18... ♖h8 19. ♖h3+-; 18... ♖d8 19. ♙h6!+-] 19. ♙h6! [19. ♖g3+? ♖h8 20. ♙h6 ♖g8] 19... ♖h8 20. dxe5! ♙d8 21. ♖d3!! 1-0

(24) Perunovic,M (2577) – Lenderman,A (2587)

Las Vegas Open, 16.06.2012

[Solutions]

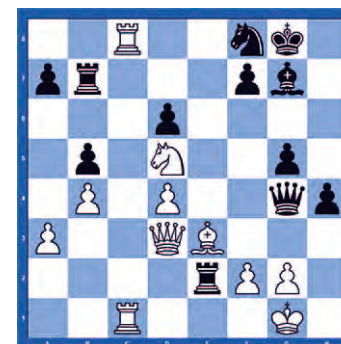


36... ♘g3+! 37. ♖h2 ♘e4! 38. ♙h4 [38. ♙g7 ♖e7!!-+ 39. ♙xh7 ♖h8 40. ♙g7 ♖cg8-+] 38... ♖c2+

(25) Koneru,H (2589) – Stefanova,A (2518)

Kazan, 18.06.2012

[Solutions]



32. ♖xf8+! ♖xf8 [32... ♖xf8 33. ♘f6++-] 33. ♙xe2!! ♙e6 [33... ♙xe2 34. ♖c8#] 34. ♘c3+-

(26) Al Sayed,M (2525) – Georgiev,K (2689)

Golden Sands Open, 12.06.2012

[Solutions]



20...♖b8! 21.♘xa7 ♕a4! 22.b4? [22.♔f2 ♖xb2+] 22...cxb4 23.axb4 ♖b7 24.♘c8 ♖c7 0-1

(27) Romero Holmes,A (2521) – Zelbel,P (2377)

Pula Open, 15.06.2012

[Solutions]

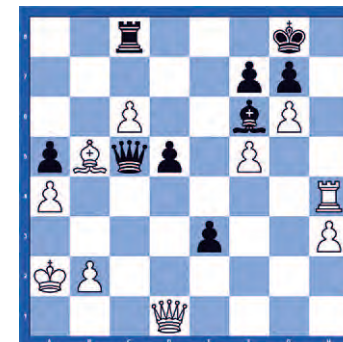


29.♙xd5! [29.♖xb8? ♕xc4] 29...♙xd5 [29...♖xb3 30.♙xf5+-; 29...♖xd5 30.♖xb8+-] 30.♖xb8+ ♕f8 31.♘xf8+-

(28) Gabuzyan,H (2457) – Cheparinov,I (2673)

Golden Sands Open, 12.06.2012

[Solutions]



65.♙h5! [65.♖h8+? ♔xh8 66.♙h5+ ♔g8 67.♙h7+ ♔f8 68.♙h8+ ♔e7 69.♙xc8 ♕xb2!! 70.♔xb2 a) 70.♙d7+ ♔f6 71.♙xf7+ (71.♙d8+ ♔e5; 71.gxf7 ♙a3+ 72.♔b1 ♙a1+ 73.♔c2 ♙c1+ 74.♔b3 ♙c3+=) 71...♔g5; b) 70.f6+ ♔xf6!; 70...♙b4+ 71.♔c2 ♙d2+ 72.♔b3 ♙d1+=] 65...♕xh4 66.♙h7+ ♔f8 67.♙h8+ ♔e7 68.♙xc8+-

(29) Grigoriant,S

2012

[Solutions]



1. ♔b2+!! ♕xb2 2. ♖c1+! ♔a1 [2...♕xc1 3. ♖xe1+ transposes to the game] **3. ♖b2+! ♕xb2 4. ♖e2+! ♔c1 5. ♖xe1+ ♔b2 6. ♖e2+! ♔a3** [6...♕c1 7. ♘xa2+ ♔b1 8. ♘c3+ ♔c1 9. ♖e1+ ♔b2 10. ♘xa4+ ♔a3 11. ♕c3 (11. ♖a1+ ♔b4 12. ♖b1+ ♔xa4 (12...♕a5 13. ♘c6+ ♔xa4 14. ♕c3!!+-; 12...♕a3 13. ♕c3+-) 13. ♕c3!!+-) 11...♖f7 12. ♖a1+ ♖a2 13. ♘c2+ ♔xa4 14. ♖xa2#] **7. ♖xa2+ ♔b4 8. ♖xa4+ ♔c5 9. ♖c4+ ♔d6** [9...♔b6 10. ♖b4+! ♔a6 11. ♕e4+ ♔a5 12. ♘c6#] **10. ♖c6+ ♔e5 11. ♖e6+ ♔f4 12. ♖e4+ ♔g3 13. ♘ce2+ ♔f2** [13...♔h4 14. ♘f3#] **14. ♖f4+ ♔e1 15. ♘c2+ ♔d1 16. ♘c3+ ♔c1 17. ♘a2+ ♔b2 18. ♖b4+ ♔xa2 19. ♕c3!!+-**



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 19

6th of July 2012

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Editorial Preface

As usual, we had quite an interesting week of chess. The Russian Semifinal tournament came to an end with one very big surprise: Daniil Dubov managed to qualify for the Super Final sharing the first place after losing his last game! The other 3 qualifiers are: N. Vitiugov, S. Sjugirov and D. Andreikin, all with 7.5/11.

The yearly and already traditional match between Russian and China has started. As usual, 5 men and 5 women from each country are participating in it. It's going to be exciting! We already have commented a game from this event.

As usual, in this issue we have nice puzzle and practical endgames for You. Sometimes things seem to be easy, especially when using an engine. In a practical game it is often much harder to make a decision. We would advise You to watch all the CEWN without any computer assistance. We try to explain the most critical moments as good as we can.

We want to get Your attention one more time: In case You **do not** receive the CEWNs till Saturday morning, please do not panic and just write an email to us. We will immediately resend it.

The PDF files are around 5 MB big, so sometimes they are getting blocked by the spam filters. There's nothing we can do about it.

Have fun with the CEWN Nr. 19!

*Arkadij Naiditsch
Csaba Balogh*

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Alekseev,E (2677)**
 – **Dubov,D (2569) [B67]**

65th ch-RUS HL Tyumen RUS, 27.06.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

We are in the last round of the Russian Higher League, where the first 5 players qualify to the Russian Super Final. The young Russian talent Daniil Dubov (16 years old) surprisingly led the field with half a point, and already had a guaranteed place in the „Super Final“. However, to get the tournament victory, he still needed to make at least a draw, while Alekseev had to win at any cost to have some chances of qualifying. (Alekseev was 1.5 points behind the leader).

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6
 This is the starting position of the Sicilian Rauzer defense.

6.♙g5 e6 7.♚d2 a6 8.0–0–0 ♙d7 A very sharp and tactical line, where the Black king usually stays in the center. This is where White organizes his play, while Black tries to attack on the queenside.

9.f4 b5



10.♙xf6 White uses the fact that the queen cannot recapture. This is just the beginning of theory, with more than a thousand games in the database.

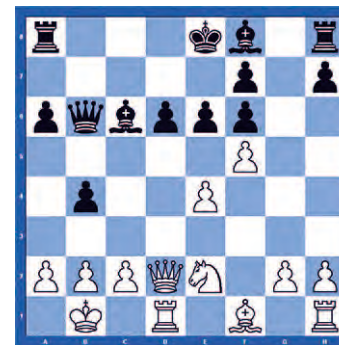
10...gxf6 [10...♙xf6? 11.e5 dxe5 12.♘dxb5+/-]

11.♙b1 A prophylactic move. The king stands safer on b1 and White wants to push f5, which would have been a mistake if played immediately. [11.f5? ♘xd4 12.♙xd4 ♙h6+! 13.♙b1 ♙f4 and Black obtains a powerful bishop on e5.]

11...♙b6 12.♘xc6 ♙xc6 In this line, White's main idea is to put pressure on the e6 pawn, forcing it to do something. Usually, when Black cannot hold his pawn anymore, he needs to push e5, which weakens the d5 square. In an optimal scenario for White, he can jump to d5 with the knight and after the bishop takes it, he has better prospects in the opposite colored bishop middlegame thanks to his stronger bishop.

13.f5 White follows his plan, which involves a pawn sacrifice. It is not advisable to accept it since it opens the center against the Black king.

13...b4 14.♘e2



14...e5 This is the right moment for Black to push e5 because the White knight has no way to occupy the d5

square. Otherwise, White would have played Nf4 , and e5 would be met with Nd5 , reaching the ideal position. [14... Nxe4 is a mistake. 15. Ng3 ! is probably the most precise. 15... Nb7 (15... exf5 ? 16. Nd3+/- Black is temporarily 2 pawns up, but his position will collapse soon.; 15... Nd5 ?! moves into a tempo 16. Nh5 Ne7 17. Nf4 ! with a big advantage.) 16. fxe6 fxe6 17. Nd3 0–0–0 The king must escape from the danger zone, but this gives White enough time to harass the e6 and f6 pawns, and if one of them falls, Black gets in trouble. A nice triangle by the queen is coming: 18. Qf4 ! Ne7 19. Qg4 ! White must act quickly. 19... f5 (19... Nd5 is nicely refuted by 20. Nf5!+-) 20. Qe2 and due to the pin on the e-file, White wins back the pawn in the next move.]

15. Ng3 White would like to play Nh5 and Nc4-d5 obtaining a good knight vs. bad bishop middlegame. Black has only one way to prevent both.

15... h5 ! Now the e4 pawn hangs after 16. Nc4 h4.

16. h4 ! White fixes the weakness on h5 and refreshes the threat of Nc4 . We are still in a theoretical position.

16... Qc5 17. Qe2 ! White wins a pawn now, because the queen protects the e4 pawn. In this line it's quite normal for White to win the h5 pawn, but Black usually finds strong counterplay on the queenside.

17... Ke7 ! The king defends the f6 pawn and connects his rooks after developing with Nh6 . This is the right place for the king in this line.

18. Nxf5 Nb5 We have reached an important position, where it's easy to go wrong...

19. Qg4 ! [Michael Adams went wrong with the logical 19. Qf3 Rc8 ! The rook cannot protect the pawn because

of Nh6 . 20. Nxb5 Qxc2+ 21. Ka1 axb5 22. g4 and White seemed to be in control, but after 22... Rc3 ! 23. Qf1 (23. bxc3 ? loses to 23... b3 ! 24. axb3 Nh6 and Ra8 mate.) 23... Rc5 24. Qd3 Qxd3 25. Rxd3 Rg8 26. Rhd1 Rxc4 27. Rxd6 Rc1+ 28. Rxc1 Qxd6 29. Rd1+ Qc6 30. Nxf6 Rxf4 the game finished with a draw soon in Adams-Czarnota, Germany 2009]

19... Nh6 [The same doesn't work now because of 19... Rc8 20. Nxb5 ! Qxc2+ 21. Ka1 axb5 and here is the key move: 22. Nxf6!+- and the knight reaches the excellent d5 outpost.]

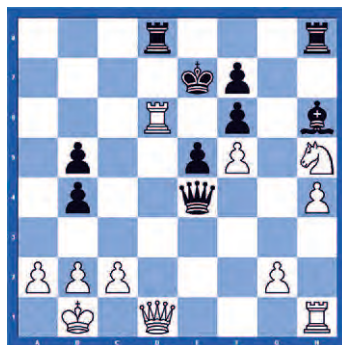
20. Rd5 Actually, only this move is the novelty of the game, which seems to be very unpleasant from Black's point of view. White wants to consolidate his position with Qd1 in any move. [Earlier 20. Nd3 was played, but Black could have gotten strong counterplay with 20... Ne3 ! transferring the bishop to d4, followed by the a5-a4-a3 plan. This is a typical method to deal with the loss of the h5 pawn.]

20... Qe3 ? Dubov wanted to find counterplay against the e4 pawn (in this line, Black must always look for counterplay) and definitely missed the 24th move. [Otherwise, he would have played 20... Qc7 21. Qd1 ! White could not open the a-file. 21... Qc6 ! 22. Nc4 ! White should sacrifice an exchange instead of giving up the e4 pawn. 22... Rac8 (22... Nxd5 23. Qxd5) 23. g4 (23. b3 !? is also interesting, in order to be able to recapture with the queen on d5. 23... Nxd5 24. Qxd5 Rh7 25. g4 with strong compensation on the light squares, in exchange of a small material deficit.) 23... Nxd5 24. Nxd5 with very strong compensation again. White should play on g5. The d5 bishop has the value of a rook.]

21. Qd1 ! [21. Nxb5 ? is a mistake at this moment 21... axb5 22. Rxb5 Qa7 !]

21... ♖xe4 Dubov trusts his calculations that started from 20... ♖e3 and continues walking into Alekseev's trap. [Black cannot protect the d6 pawn, because of 21... ♖hd8 22. ♕xb5! axb5 23. ♖d3! This is the big difference. White is in time to play ♖b3 and enjoys a clear extra pawn. 23... ♖a7 24. ♖b3+-]

22. ♕xb5 axb5 23. ♖xd6 ♖ad8 This was Black's idea. He seems to be more than fine in all the lines. However, one move was missed in his mind...



24. ♖d7+!! After this excellent trick, White gets a winning endgame with two extra pawns. However, converting this advantage is still difficult. [24. ♗xf6 ♖xf5; 24. ♖xd8 ♖xd8 25. ♖f3 ♖xf3 26. gxf3 ♖d2 In both lines Black is more than fine! The two b-pawns blockade well the three pawns on the queenside. White has no chance to create a passer there, while on the kingside it's clear that only Black can be better.]

24... ♖xd7 25. ♖xd7+ ♖xd7 26. ♗xf6+ ♖c6 27. ♗xe4 White is two pawns up, but he has technical difficulties because of the e5 passer which is supported by the bishop and the king. Another problem for White is his king, which is cut off from the game.

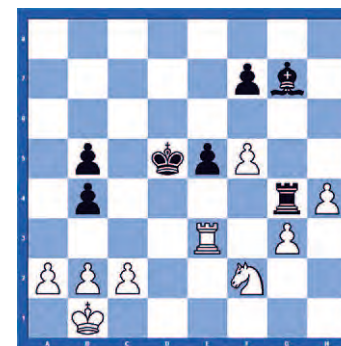
27... ♖g8 [27... ♖d5 is not good immediately. 28. ♗f6+ ♖d4 29. ♖d1+ ♖e3 30. ♖d3+ and here Black cannot follow his plan of supporting the e-pawn with 30... ♖f4 because of the spectacular mate with (30... ♖e2 31. h5+-) 31. ♖f3#]

28.g3 ♖g4 29. ♖e1 ♗g7! Dubov fights very well. He temporarily goes to passivity with the bishop in order to be able to play ♖d5. The f6 square had to be taken under control.

30. ♖e3! White protects the g3 pawn after the retreat of the knight.

30... ♖d5 [30... ♗h6 is met with 31. ♗f2! and the endgame after 31... ♖xh4 32. gxf4 ♗xe3 33. ♗g4 is winning. 33... ♗f4 34. c3! White needs to bring his king to e4, and on 34... bxc3 35. bxc3 ♖d5 36. h5+- the pawn promotes.]

31. ♗f2

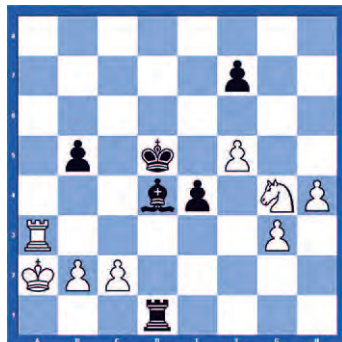


31... ♖d4 White played a perfect game until this moment, but now he starts to go wrong. Probably, time trouble was also affecting his play.

32.a3?! [32. ♖e1! was the precise technique in order to have 32... e4 33. ♗g4! with an easy winning position. Black cannot support his pawn.]

32...e4 33.♘g4? With the same idea as before, but now Black can occupy the d4 square with the bishop. Objectively speaking, despite being two pawns down, Black is completely fine after this mistake. [The most logical 33.axb4! was still winning. White wants to play c3 and bring his king, so Black must do something quickly 33...♙h6 34.♖e1 e3 35.♘d1 ♔e4 was probably what Alekseev was afraid of, but 36.g4! ♙f4 37.g5! ♔f3 (37...♔xf5 leads to a winning rook endgame with 2 vs. 1 by force. 38.♘xe3+ ♙xe3 39.♖xe3 ♖xh4 40.♖f3+ ♔xg5 41.♖xf7 ♖xb4 and here White collects the b5 pawn. 42.♖b7 ♔f6 43.c3+-) 38.g6 fxg6 39.fxg6 should be winning.]

33...♖d1+ 34.♔a2 ♙d4 35.♖b3 bxa3 36.♖xa3



36...♖d2? Black spoils his sudden chance. Actually, the superiority of the Black pieces and the dangerous e4 pawn give more than one way to draw. [36...b4 37.♖b3 and now

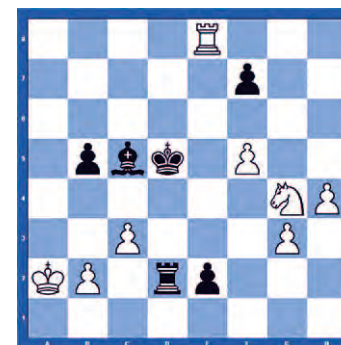
a) 37.♖a5+ ♔d6 38.♖a8 ♖g1=;

b) 37.♖a8 ♖g1!= and after Black takes on g3, he does not need to worry anymore. (Of course not 37...e3?? 38.♘xe3+ ♙xe3 39.♖d8+-);

37...♖d2 when c3 does not work anymore. 38.h5 (38.♖xb4 e3! 39.♘xe3+ ♙xe3 with 4 pawns for the piece, but they are not far advanced yet.) 38...♖xc2 39.h6 ♔c4 Black had other moves to draw as well. Strangely, it's already White the one that needs to secure the draw somehow. The d4 bishop and the e4 pawn dominate the game. 40.h7 ♔b5 41.♘e3 (41.f6 ♖c8) 41...♖h2 42.♘d5 ♖xh7 43.♘xb4 ♔c4 Only Black can be better.; 36...♖c1 is probably the „easiest“ draw. On 37.c3 e3! 38.cxd4 e2 and in comparison to the game, Black controls the promoting square. 39.♘e3+ ♔xd4 40.♘g2 ♖g1! 41.♘e3 ♖c1!= with a repetition.]

37.c3 ♙c5 [37...♙f2 38.♖a8+- with the unpleasant threat of ♖d8.; Now 37...e3? loses to the simple 38.cxd4 e2 39.♖e3+-]

38.♖a8 e3 39.♖e8 e2 Black still creates some problems for White to solve, but Alekseev does not let the win slip away.



40.h5 b4 The time trouble is over! White gets some time to avoid the last traps of his opponent.

41.♔b3! It's necessary to control the a1–h8 diagonal, to keep the bishop off. Now the h-pawn has the same value as the one on e2. [41.cxb4? would lead to another turn in the game. 41...♙d4! Black is fine again.]

41...♖d3 Black sets up a last clever trick...

42.♖xe2 bxc3 43.♘f6+! But Alekseev does not fall into it. White can protect his c3 pawn with ♘e4 now. [43.bxc3 was the last chance for a blunder. 43...♙d4 Black gets very good chances to survive. He starts collecting pawns, and the g4 knight is really poorly placed now.]

43...♙c6 44.bxc3 Now it is over!

44...♖xg3 45.♘e4 Alekseev decides to simplify the game into a winning rook endgame... [45.♖e8 ♖h3 46.♖c8+ ♙b5 47.♘e4+- was also good.]

45...♖h3 46.♘xc5 ♙xc5 47.♖e7 ♖xh5 48.♖xf7 And Black has no hopes against these two pawns.

48...♖g5 49.♖f8 ♙d6 50.f6 Black resigned. A nice fighting game. At the end, Dubov finished 2nd place with a worse tiebreak than GM Andreikin, and Alekseev finished in the most annoying 6th place. (1st-5th qualified to the Super Final.) [50.f6 ♙e6 51.c4+-] **1-0**

(2) Kamsky,G (2741) – Istratescu,A (2636) [A40]

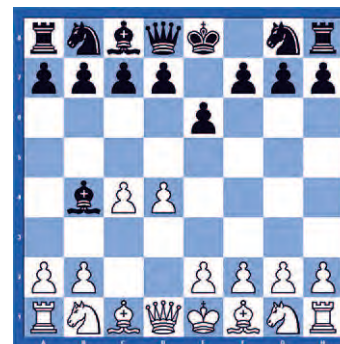
40th TCh-GRE 2012 Achaea GRE (1.2), 30.06.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

1.d4 In this game we will see how easily White outplays Black in quite a strange position. Gata Kamsky still remains one of the best chess players in the world, after he stopped playing chess in 1996, when he was number 2 in the world. He returned to professional chess in 2004.

1...e6 By playing 1...e6, Istratescu is ready to play the French after White's 2.e4, but it's clear that Kamsky is a 1. d4 player and most probably his choice will not be 2.e4

2.c4 ♙b4+ Here we see the little difference with the main lines, Black retains the possibility of playing f5 and only then ♘f6. Usually it is not a great setup in any case, so Black returns to the main lines by playing ♘f6.



3.♙d2 [3.♘c3 f5 Maybe this was the idea of Istratescu?!]

3...a5 [3...♙xd2+ 4.♖xd2! For White it's important to put the knight on c3, in case of 4. ♘xd2, the White knight will be badly placed. Black usually plays d6-e5 later, after

which White would give a lot to have the knight on c3, to be able to play ♖d5.]

4.g3 d5 5. ♖g2 dxc4 6. ♗f3 ♘c6 In case of 6... ♗f6 we would be back in the main Catalan. With the 6... ♗c6 move, Istratescu tries to make a difference by keeping the knight on g8, where it can still develop to e7 as well. We'll see if this is a good idea.



7. ♖c3!? Nice and logical. White protects the pawn on d4, and against 7... ♗f6, 8. ♗bd2! seems to be strong.

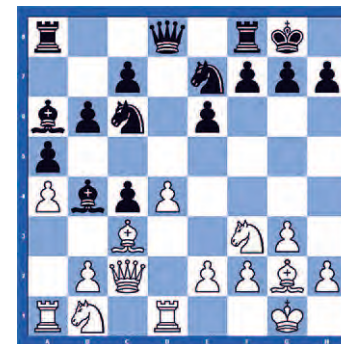
7... ♗ge7 8.0-0 [In case of 8. ♗bd2 b5!? Black needs to try to hold the pawn at any costs. 9.a4 Usually, such positions are better for White, but here it seems like Black has counterplay. 9... ♖xc3! 10.bxc3 b4 with a very unclear position.]

8...0-0 The Black knight, instead of his usual square on f6, is now standing on e7. Usually, White's play is connected with the e4 move, but here it doesn't seem to make much sense. So probably Gata is making the best choice: to try to win the c4 pawn.

9.a4!? White wants to play ♗bd2-Nxc4 and the position would be clearly better for White.

9...b6 10. ♖c2 Another typical move in the Catalan. White doesn't hurry with ♗bd2. First, he puts the rook on d1, to keep a wider range of options in the future. Maybe even the idea of e4-d5 could be dangerous eventually.

10... ♖a6 11. ♖d1



11... ♖e8 A logical move, but it gives White a chance to spoil Black's pawn structure on the kingside. [11...f6!? This move doesn't look great, but maybe it's not that bad. It's clear that White has enough counterplay for the pawn, but a pawn is a pawn. The next Black's moves could be ♖e8 and ♖d8.]

12. ♗g5!? I like this move a lot. It's clear that White's play should be on the kingside, and to weaken the pawn structure is definitely a good idea!

12...g6 [12... ♗g6 would be countered by a typical 13.h4! h6 14.h5 hxg5 15.hxg6 and Black's position looks very dangerous.]

13.e4 ♖d8 14. ♗a3 All the White pieces are developed, Black's king structure is weak and White has a strong and stable center. This is too much for just a pawn. We have to say that the experiment of putting the knight to e7 was

not successful. Black needs to do something now. White has a lot of useful moves like: h4-h5 or ♖d2-Rad1, with the idea of d5.

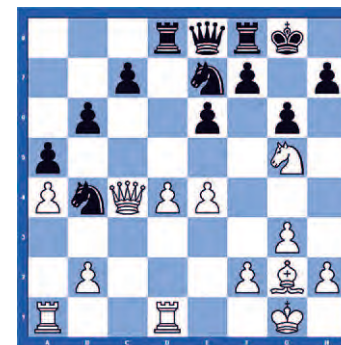
14... ♗xc3 And Black panics. After this move, White gets a big advantage. It doesn't matter what Black should do, he should not give up the c4 pawn — the only plus he has in the position. [14...h6!? was probably the best way to fight. 15. ♘f3 (15. ♘h3 would give Black a chance for 15... ♖d7 16. ♘b5



16... ♗xc3! This move is only possible with the White knight on h3. If the knight would stand on f3, White would have the move ♗e5. 17.bxc3 (17. ♖xc3 ♗b4! and White doesn't have ♗e5.) 17...e5 with a very unclear position.) 15... ♖d7 16. ♘b5 and White is doing better.]

15. ♖xc3 ♗b4 16. ♘xc4 The pawns are equal, White's position is clearly better.

16... ♗xc4 17. ♖xc4



17...c5 Black is trying to look for complications in a difficult position. [17... ♖c6 18. ♖e2! Of course, White should keep the queens on the board. 18... ♖c2 19. ♖d2+/-]

18.dxc5 [18.d5? This move would be a big positional mistake. 18...exd5 19.exd5 ♗f5! and the Black knight takes a perfect place on d6.]

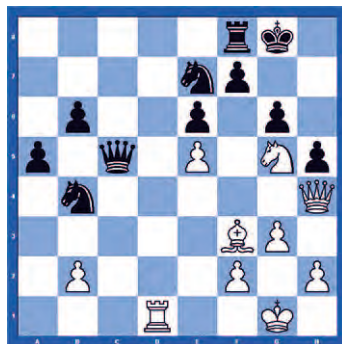
18... ♖xd1+ 19. ♖xd1 ♖xa4 20. ♗f3! A good move. White had a couple of choices here: [20. ♖d6 This move looks nice, but it doesn't seem to bring anything for White. 20... ♖a1+ 21. ♗f1 ♖xb2 22.cxb6 ♗c8! Black is winning the b6 pawn, which almost means a draw. 23. ♖d1 ♗xb6 24. ♖b5 ♖c2! The last exact move. The position is a draw.]

20... ♖c6? After this move, White's attack will be decisive. [20...bxc5 21. ♖xc5 ♗bc6 22.e5 leads to a much better position for White.; 20...h6! This move is the only one for Black. It looks super dangerous but maybe it just works. In any case, Black had to try it. 21. ♗xf7 White needs to give a piece. In case of 21. ♗h3 ♖c6, Black is doing fine (21. ♗xe6 b5) 21... ♖xf7 (21... ♗xf7 22. ♖d6) 22. ♖d8+ ♗g7 23. ♖c3+ ♖f6 White has a lot of moves here. Here's one of the logical long lines that probably leads to a draw:

24.cxb6 ♖bc6 25.b7 ♔b5 26.e5 ♖xf3 All the moves are forced. 27.♔xf3 ♘xd8 28.♔f6+ ♔g8 29.♔xe7 ♘xb7 30.♔xe6+ ♔f8 31.♔f6+ ♔e8 32.♔xg6+ Maybe White is better, but I think the position should objectively be a draw.]

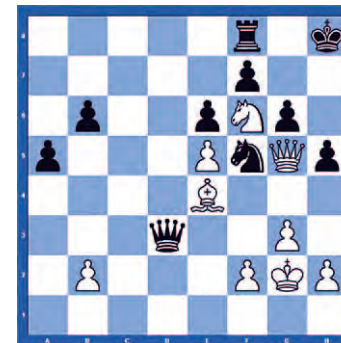
21.e5! White is going for a mate!

21...♔xc5 22.♔h4 h5



23.♘e4 Very good play by White! The knight is going to f6, the Queen to g5. [Of course it doesn't work to play 23.♙xh5? gxh5 24.♔xh5 ♔c2!]

23...♘f5 24.♔g5 ♔xe5 This move is losing immediately. [24...♔c2! A strange looking move, but probably the only one. 25.♘f6+ ♔h8 This is the critical position. Seems like White should mate somehow, but things are by far not that easy. Black wants to start some counterplay by playing ♘d3. 26.♔g2! A nice move, White is preparing to play ♙e4. (The direct 26.♙xh5 ♘d3 27.♖xd3 ♔xd3 28.♙g4 ♔b1+ 29.♔g2 ♔g7 30.♘h5+ ♔g8 31.♘f6+ ♔g7 seems to only lead to a draw.) 26...♘d3 27.♖xd3! ♔xd3 28.♙e4 Probably, every human player would stop the calculation saying: „Black is lost“, but in fact, White still needs to fight to get the full point.

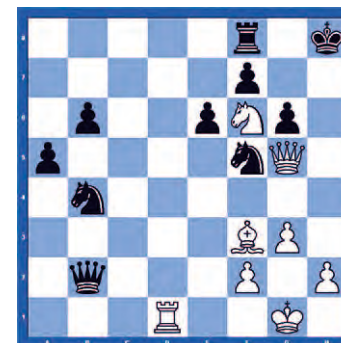


28...♘e3+! What a move! 29.♔h3! (29.fxe3 After the logical 29...♔e2+ 30.♔h3 ♔g7 the position might even be close to equal!) 29...♔f1+ 30.♔h4 ♘g4 31.f3 and White is probably winning! A very nice line :).]

25.♘f6+ ♔g7 [25...♔h8 26.♘d7]

26.♘xh5+ ♔h8 27.♘f6 White wants to play ♘d7 and g4. There is no defense against this double threat.

27...♔xb2



28.g4! The Black knight is falling.

28...♔g7 29.♘h5+ ♔h7 30.gxf5 exf5 [30...gxh5 leads to a mate 31.f6 ♖g8 32.♙e4+ ♔h8 33.♔xg8+ ♔xg8 34.♖d8#]

31. ♖f4 The game is over. White is a piece up and has a deadly attack.

31... ♔g7 **32.** ♖d7 ♖e8 **33.** ♔g2 ♔g8 **34.** ♕d5 A very nice game by White. Slow opening, good positional play and an excellent mating attack! Gata Kamsky, like in his best years! :). **1-0**

(3) Motylev, A (2683)
– **Wang Hao (2733) [B94]**

Chinese league, 28.06.2012

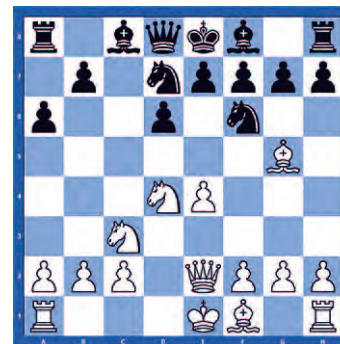
[Balogh Csaba]

A very interesting theoretical battle, which should have finished in perpetual check, but ended with a blunder by Black.

1.e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 ♖f6 5. ♖c3 a6 6. ♕g5 The sharpest and the most aggressive setup against the Sicilian Najdorf defense. Alexander Motylev is an excellent theoretician, who used to be the main second of the Russian team at the Olympiad, and is currently the second of GM Sergei Karjakin.

6... ♖bd7 A modern line, instead of the main 6...e6. Black waits for a while with his e-pawn, because in some lines, he can counter White's f4 with e7-e5, which could save a tempo. In this game, the Chinese Nr.1 gives a new idea for keeping the pawn on e7...

7. ♔e2



7...b5 Wang Hao is a real specialist of this rare move. In 2012, it's already his 3rd game in this position, except that once he was playing with the White pieces. For the players that

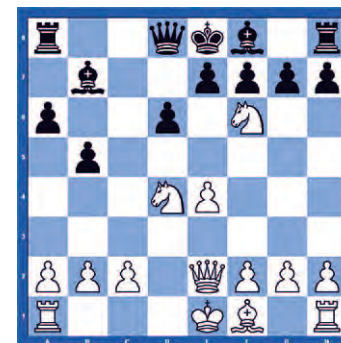
are interested in the Najdorf defense, I really recommend to use this setup with Black. It looks easy and it's good! [7...e6 8.f4 would transpose back to one of the main lines.]

8.♘d5 There was only one game with this move. We will see Motylev's deep preparation in the main line at 10...gxf6. [8.0-0-0 happened in the first Wang Hao game. 8...♙b7 9.♙xf6 (Here is an example where Black uses the tempo he saved by not playing e6. 9.f4 e5! 10.♘f5 ♖b6 followed by ♖c8 with the unpleasant threat of the typical Sicilian exchange sacrifice ♖xc3. Black is completely fine!) 9...♘xf6! Keeping the healthy pawn structure seems to be a strong improvement on Black's play. (9...gxf6 10.♖h5 ♖c8 11.♘d5 with a very sharp position in Kokarev-Wang Hao, Russian league 2012.) 10.e5 This was White's idea, otherwise there was no reason to give up the g5 bishop, but now Black has the calm reply 10...dxe5! and on 11.♘dxb5 ♘d7! At first sight, this looks dangerous, but White has nothing better than to retreat with the knight. 12.♘a3 g6! the right way to develop the bishop. 12...e6 would have weaken the d6 square after ♘c4. 13.♘c4 ♙g7=+ and Black already overtook the initiative.; Wang Hao as White played 8.a4 and according to computer analysis, a more or less forced line is coming, which was known by both players. 8...b4 9.♘d5 ♙b7!



10.♖c4! Trying to force Black to take the d5 knight, after which the d5 pawn would paralyze Black's development and the c6 square would be critically weakened. However, Black reacts with a powerful pawn sacrifice: 10...♖c8! 11.♖xb4 ♖b8! White should probably settle for a draw with 12.♖c4 ♖c8, because the concrete 12.♘xf6+ gxf6 13.♙e3 ♙xe4 seems to work well for Black. 14.♖c4 ♖a5+! 15.♙d2 ♖c5 16.b4 ♖xc4 17.♙xc4 ♙xg2 18.♖g1 ♙b7 Black had the initiative in Wang Hao-Le Quang Liem, Chinese league 2012.]

8... ♙b7 9. ♙xf6 ♘xf6 10. ♘xf6+



10...exf6!! A really unusual and unexpected recapture. The idea is simple, Black would like to play g6, ♙g7, 0-0 and ♖e8, putting pressure on the e4 pawn. Later on, Black can easily solve the problems of his pawn structure with d6-d5 or f6-f5, and the diagonals open for the bishop pair. White must do something concrete, otherwise Black gets a big advantage. [10...gxf6 happened before. 11.0-0-0 ♖c7 12.♖b1 0-0-0 and here Motylev prepared a great novelty instead of 13.g3. 13.h4! ♖b8 14.♖h3! with a dangerous attack. The bishop stands excellently on f1, it is going to be a strong attacker after an a2-a4 push.]

11.a4! White must act while the king is stuck into the center. [The most logical 11.0-0-0 would allow Black to obtain his dream position. 11...g6! 12.h4 Probably, this is not the best idea, Black is fine anyway. 12...g7 13.h5 0-0 14.hxg6 hxg6 15.g4 e8! and White's attack is easily neutralized by this move. Now the move h4 has no threat at all. After the check on h7, the king is going to be completely safe on f8! 16.f3 d5! Now the diagonals start to open for the bishops. 17.exd5 f5=+ followed by xd5 with an advantage.]

11...bxa4 12.c4! [12.Rxa4 gives enough time to continue the plan with 12...g6]



12...a3! An excellent decision. Trying to worsen White's pawn structure, otherwise the rook moves into the pin of the f8 bishop. [The e4 pawn is taboo 12...xe4? 13.c6! d5 14.xa4 d7 seems to hold, but 15.b5! is very strong.; 12...g6 leads to a worse endgame for Black. 13.xa4+ d7 14.xd7+ xd7 15.c4 White would like to play d5 and exchange the strong bishop, getting a big advantage, so the next move is forced: 15...xe4 16.f3 b7 17.xf7+= followed by 0-0-0, with a small advantage. The Black king and the d6 pawn are weak

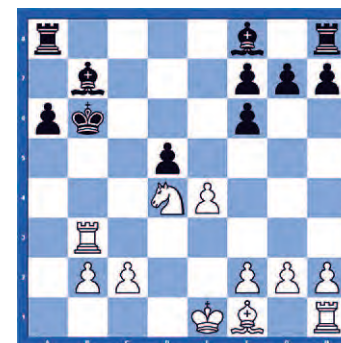
and the bishops have no target. If White could exchange the light colored bishops, his advantage would grow to a very big one.]

13.Rxa3 Anyway, this is White's best option. [13.a4+ d7 14.xd7+ xd7 15.Rxa3 d5 transposes to the game.]

13...d5! 14.a4+ d7 15.xd7+ [15.b5? is spectacular, but it leads to a bad endgame for White 15...axb5 16.xa8+ xa8 17.Rxa8+ e7 18.Ra7! This was the point of the combination, but the knight is going to have problems to escape from a7... 18...xa7 19.c6+ d6 20.xa7 c5! 21.exd5 d6=+ and the knight escapes through c6, but Black preserves a positional advantage with the superior bishop after taking the d5 pawn.]

15...xd7 16.Rb3! The concrete fight continues...

16...c7 17.Rc3+ b6 18.Rb3+



18...a7?? Wang Hao got overoptimistic with the bishop pair and blundered a beautiful tactical blow. [18...c7 was the correct move with a perpetual check to follow. It could have been a flawless game.]

19. ♖xa6!! After this shocking move, Black resigned! [19. ♖xa6 ♔xa6 (19... ♖xa6 20. ♘c6#) 20.0-0 20. ♖e2 or 20. ♖d2 are equally good. Black cannot avoid getting mated. 20... ♖a7 21. ♘c6+!! This check was the point of the sacrifice! 21... ♖xc6 22. ♖a1+ followed by mate.] **1-0**

(4) Vitiugov, Nikita (2703) – Ding, Liren (2680) [E81]

8th RUS-CHN Summit Men Classical St Petersburg RUS (1),
02.07.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

This is the first game of what has become almost a traditional yearly training match between Russia and China. We'll see a nice and typical attacking game by White. This is a good example of what Black should clearly avoid...

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3. ♘c3 ♖g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 Lately, a few Russian players have started playing 5.f3 against the King's Indian. We can see a lot of games of Tomashevsky and Vitiugov in this line. Maybe they work together?

5...0-0 6. ♖e3 c5



7. ♘ge2 [7.dxc5 dxc5 8. ♖xd8 ♖xd8 9. ♖xc5 ♘c6 10. ♘ge2 ♘d7 11. ♖a3 with a fighting position.; 7.d5 are the other 2 main moves here 7...e6 8. ♖d2]

7...b6 To be honest, this move looks a bit strange to me. White wanted to play d5 anyway, and it's not clear how the pawn on b6 helps Black. Also, the knight on b8

doesn't look great at all, especially if we compare it to the 7...♘c6 8.d5 ♘e5 line, where it takes a central position. [7...♘c6 8.d5 ♘e5 9.♘g3 a6 10.a4 e6 11.♙e2 exd5 12.cxd5 h5 13.0-0 ♙d7



14.♘h1!? This is the game Vitiugov-Cheparinov from the ECC 2012, where after some sharp play, White managed to get the advantage and win the game. A few more moves of this exciting fight: 14...b5 15.♘f2 b4 16.♘b1 c4 17.♙d4 ♖c8 18.♘d2 c3 19.bxc3 bxc3 20.♘b3 ♘c4 21.♙c2 The c-pawn is blocked and the bishop on d4 is standing very well; White is doing clearly better.]

8.d5 A very logical move, why not to take the center if You can...

8...e6 9.♘f4 White switches from the usual 9.♘g3. [In case of the logical 9.♘g3 ♘a6!? and maybe this was Black's main idea when he played 7...b6. Now the Black knight goes to c7, where it can support the b5-push. 10.♙d3 exd5 11.cxd5 ♘c7 12.a4 a6 13.0-0 ♙d7 followed by b5. In my opinion, White should be doing better anyway.]

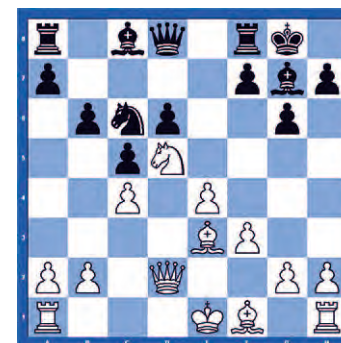
9...exd5 Black has to act. If White gets 2 more moves, he would play ♙d3 and 0-0 and Black's position could become clearly worse.

10.♘fxd5 Of course, White takes on d5 with a knight, using the fact that Black can't play 10...♘xd5 11.♙xd5! because the rook on a8 would fall.

10...♘c6 White has only one weakness in his structure, the d4 square. So, of course, Black is going to make use of it and place his knight there.

11.♙d2 This move is a play against Black's ♘xd5, now the pawn on b2 is not hanging anymore...

11...♘xd5 12.♘xd5 It's hard to say who is doing better here. Probably White has a very small advantage, but the position is very playable for both sides. From this moment on, Black starts making „positional” mistakes that lead to a deadly attack against his king.



12...♙e6 [Why not 12...f5!? This move looks much more logical to me. Black uses his better development and starts to play actively. 13.♙g5 White has many different moves here, but the position is very complicated. 13...

♔d7 14.exf5 ♕xf5 15.0-0-0 and we are in a very sharp and complicated position.]

13. ♖d3 ♖xd5? This move is a serious positional mistake. It looks like Black will have a huge knight on d4, but this gives White too much play on the kingside. Black had clearly better options: [13... ♖d4!? At first sight, this is a strange-looking move, but also quite a tricky one. In case of the logical 14.0-0 ♖xd5! 15.cxd5 ♖xe3+ 16.♔xe3 ♖d4

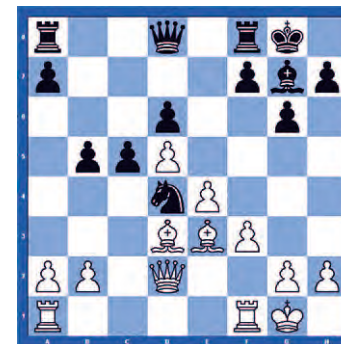


Black gets a great position! The bishop on g7 was exchanged for the e3-bishop, which is great. Now nothing can move the knight from d4 and all of White attacking chances on the kingside are not as effective without the bishops on the board. From a practical point of view, I would probably choose Black here.; 13...b5!? This tactical option is a good choice as well. 14.cxb5 ♖xd5 forcing White to take on d5 with the e-pawn, which is usually good for Black. 15.exd5 (15.bxc6 ♖xc6 looks like an equal position to me.) 15...♖e5! This is the key move! Not so easy to see during a practical game. In case of 16.0-0 ♖xd3 17.♔xd3 ♖xb2 or 17...♖e8 first, Black is totally fine. 16.♖e2 It seems like White defended everything,

but... 16...♖c4! Black uses the unfortunate position of the White king on e1. A nice tactical trick. 17.♖xc4 ♖h4+ 18.g3 ♖xc4 and only Black can be better here.]

14.cxd5 ♖d4 15.0-0 Now White's plan is clear: attack the Black king. Black's plan is clear as well: try to create something on the queenside while not getting mated.

15...b5?! Black clearly underestimates his opponent's plan. It was time to think about how to stop White from playing f4-f5. [15...f5!? This move is not as good as it was before, but it still leads to a slightly unclear position. Probably White is doing a bit better and can continue with 16.♖h1 threatening to play ♖xd4 and exf5 next, but the game remains quite unclear.]

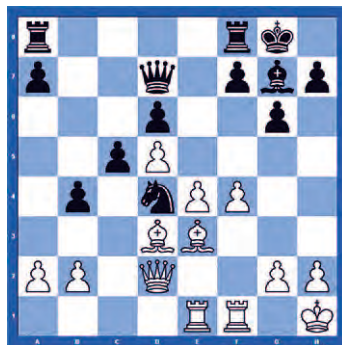


16. ♖h1 White is preparing the deadly f4-f5 push.

16... ♖d7 17. ♖ae1! There is no need to hurry. Black's play on the queenside is clearly too slow. [17.f4?! The right move, but in this unprepared version, it doesn't work that well. 17...f5! Black cannot allow White to play f5. 18. ♖xd4 ♖xd4 19.exf5 gxf5 20. ♖ae1 ♖ae8 and Black is just in time to stop White from playing ♖e6. The position might be a bit better for White, but it's nothing special, and the game would probably end in a draw.]

17...b4? This move is a serious mistake. [17...♖ae8! Black prepares to counter White's f4 with f5. 18.b4!+/- This strong positional move gives White a clear advantage. Black's central pawns look shaky, and White's f4 move might become very dangerous now.]

18.f4! Finally!

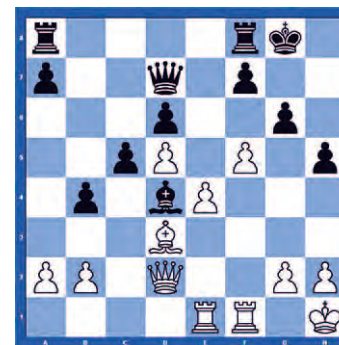


18...h5 It's difficult to give an advice in such a bad position. [Doesn't work 18...f5 19.♙xd4! ♙xd4 20.exf5 gxf5 21.♖e6! and White is in time to put the rook on e6, which almost gives him a winning position.; If Black tries to „do nothing“: 18...a5 19.f5 ♙e5 20.f6 would also lead to a very bad position.]

19.f5 White wanted to play f6.

19...♙e5 20.♙xd4! It's never nice to give up such a bishop, but this move seems to win by force.

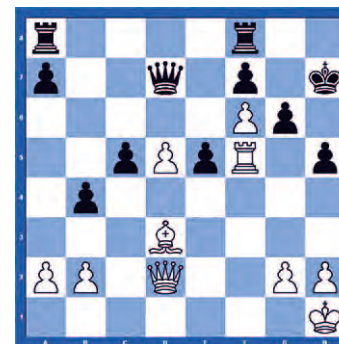
20...♙xd4 Now White can show his tactical skills. [In case of 20...cxd4 21.♖f3 White is going to mate the poor Black king with all his pieces... It's hard to imagine how Black would survive this.]



21.e5! A small and pretty final combination.

21...♙xe5 22.♖xe5 dxe5 23.f6 White wants to play ♙h6.

23...♙h7 24.♖f5! A beautiful last move!



White is mating Black. In case of 24...gxf5 25.♙g5 mate. We saw quite an instructive game; Black played badly and White played well. Let's hope that we don't make the same mistakes that the Chinese player Ding Liren made.

1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Kosteniuk,A (2472) – Ju Wenjun (2518)

Russia-China match, 02.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–

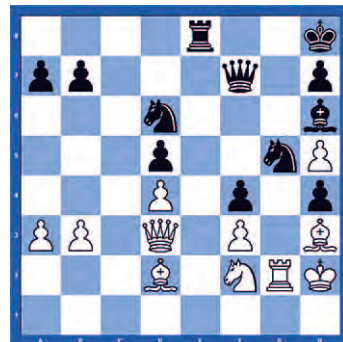


(6) Khismatullin,D (2664) – Khairullin,I (2631)

Russian Higher league, 17.06.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

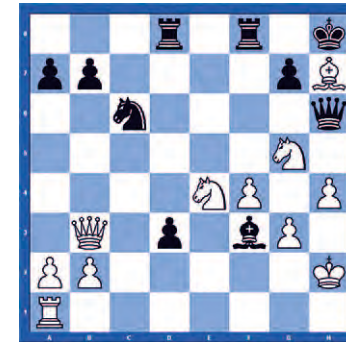


(7) Papadopoulos,I (2417) – Berg,E (2587)

Greek league, 01.07.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

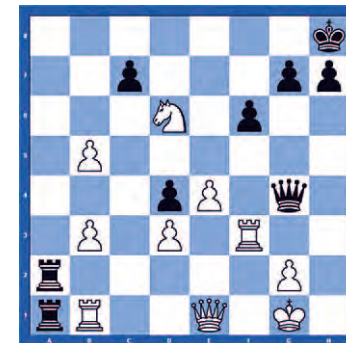


(8) Berg,E (2587) – Hagen,A (2445)

Svein memorial, 22.06.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–

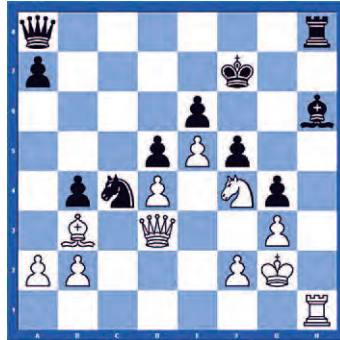


(9) Gupta,A (2644) — Sarkar,J (2411)

Philadelphia Open, 29.06.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

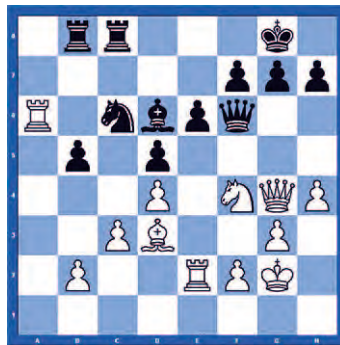


(10) Zapata,A (2484) — Battaglini,G (2412)

Philadelphia Open, 01.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

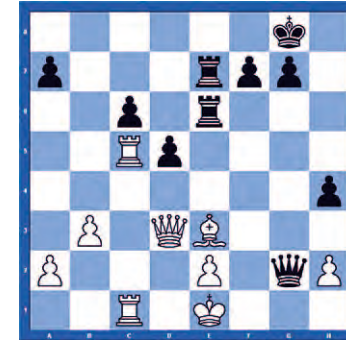


(11) Pelletier,Y (2589) — Heimann,A (2480)

Suisse league, 24.06.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

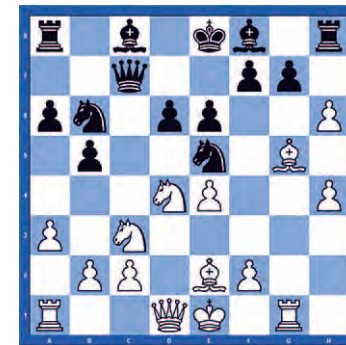


(12) Istratescu,A (2633) — Mohajerin,P (2429)

Suisse league, 24.06.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

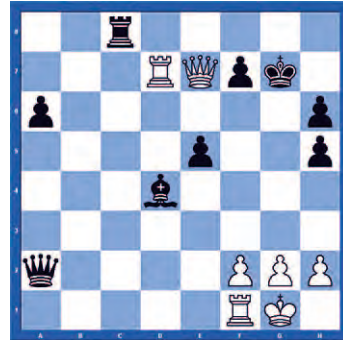


(13) Yu Ruiyuan (2511) – Zhao Jun (2583)

Chinese league, 27.06.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

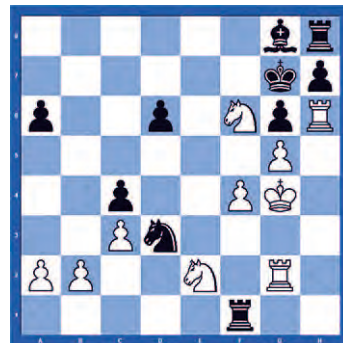


(14) Caruana,F (2767) – Godena,M (2508)

Suisse league, 24.06.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

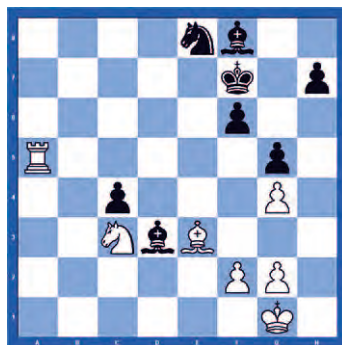


Endgame section

(15) Nepomniachtchi, Ian (2718)
— Li, Chao b (2687) [D10]

8th RUS-CHN Summit Men Classical St Petersburg RUS (1),
02.07.2012

[Chess Evolution]



Let's take a look at this practical endgame. The position seems to be winning for White, but the protected pawn on c4 and the fact that there are only 3 White pawns left make the task not that easy.

39. ♖c5! A good move by White. The exchange of bishops is very good for him and it follows a golden rule in chess: „Simplify the winning position as much as possible“.

39... ♙xc5 40. ♖xc5 ♘d6 What is the best chance for Black to survive?! Of course, an exchange of pawns would be nice, so the move f6-f5 is sort of a little threat. Can it be that Black also wants to play ♞e4 now?! In order to ex-

change the knight by giving away the c-pawn, let's take a look

41.f3 [This is not the best move, but we want to reach the position with Rook vs. Bishop. 41. ♖c6 ♞e4 42. ♞xe4 ♙xe4 43. ♖xc4 ♙d3 Is the position winning and what can be White's plan? Yes, this is quite an easy winning position and White has a couple of plans. The easiest one might be to put the pawn on f5, then to give a check on the 7th rank with the rook and finally bring the king to e6 and win the f-pawn. 44. ♖d4 ♙b1 45.f3 ♙c2 Black can't do much more than wait... On ♔g6, White always has ♖d6, not allowing h5. 46. ♔f2 ♙b1 47. ♔e3 ♙c2 48. ♖d6 ♙b1 49. ♖b6 ♙g6 50.g3 ♙c2 51. ♖b4 (51.f4 ♙d1 and the g4 pawn is going to fall.) 51... ♔g7 52.f4 ♔f7 53.f5 ♙d1 54. ♖d4 ♙b3 55. ♖d7+ ♔g8 56. ♔d4 and the White king is going to e7, the game is over.]

41...f5!? The best chance for Black. It doesn't make sense to wait, the White king could go to d4 and ♖c6 would decide the game.

42.gxf5 ♞xf5 43. ♞e4?! Not the most precise move, but still winning. [43. ♔f2 would be the easiest technical way. 43...h6 White wanted to play g4 and win the g5 pawn. 44. ♞a4! and the c4 pawn drops, and with it, the game. 44... ♞d4 45. ♞b2]

43... ♙xe4 44.fxe4 ♞d6! Another White pawn is falling.

45. ♖xg5 [45.e5? would be a serious mistake that would probably lead to a draw. 45... ♞f5 46. ♖xc4 ♔e6 47. ♖c5 g4! 48. ♔f2 h5 and it seems like the position is a draw. Black will exchange a pawn by playing h4-h3 next, then he'll play ♞e7-Ng6 and ♞xe5.]

45...♘xe4 [45...c3 46.♖c5 ♘xe4 47.♖c4 would lead to the same type of position.]

46.♖e5! A good move by White. The Black knight will be badly placed on d6 and any other knight moves would lose the c-pawn immediately.

46...♘d6 47.♖c5 ♔f6 48.♔h2 Is this position winning?! Probably it is, but it's simple at all. If White manages to win the c-pawn, the position is winning, but it's not an easy task. White's plan is not to play ♔h3-Kh4-Kh5 and eat away the h7 pawn. Black can never play ♔g6 because of ♖c6, winning the piece.

48...h5! A very inventive idea.

49.♔h3 ♔e6 50.♔h2 White is too afraid to go into a forced line, and this is easy to understand. In a long calculation it's not difficult to make a mistake. [50.♔h4! Anyhow, this move is winning by force. 50...♘f5+! This is Black's main idea, the knight is going to e3. 51.♔xh5 ♘e3 52.g4 ♔d6 53.♖a5! The White rook is going to a1 to hold the Black pawn. 53...c3 54.g5 c2 55.♖a1 and White is winning. But to go for this line in a practical game is a difficult decision.]

50...♔f6 51.g3 ♔e6 52.♔g2! White changed the plan and now tries to bring the king to f4.

52...♘f5 The Black knight is freeing itself, but this doesn't help.

53.♔f2 h4 The last chance. [53...♔f6 is not saving now. 54.♖xc4 ♔g5 55.♔f3 ♘g7 56.♖c5+ ♘f5 57.♖a5! and Black is in zug-zwang. 57...♔g6 58.♔f4+-]

54.g4 Of course, White doesn't exchange the last pawn.

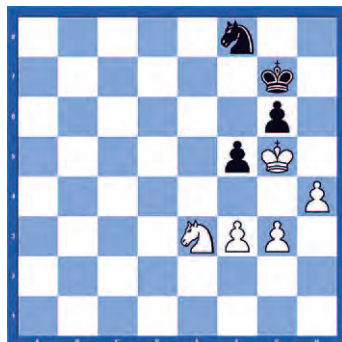
54...♘d6 55.♔g2! And the king is going back to collect the h-pawn.

55...♘e4 56.♖xc4 ♘g5 57.♖f4! The last precise move. The next moves of White will be ♖f5 followed by ♔h3. The endgame must have looked like an easy winning one, but in a practical game it's not so simple! All in all, good technique by White. **1-0**

(16) NN – Balogh,Cs

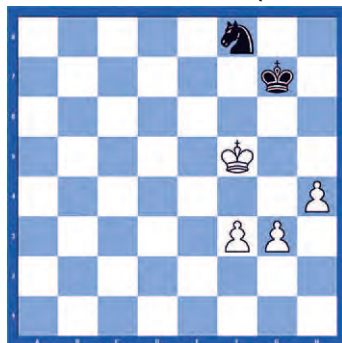
Training blitz game, 30.06.2012

[Chess Evolution]

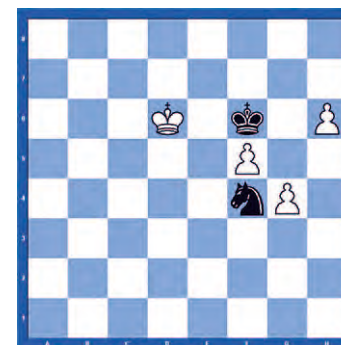


I got this incredibly difficult endgame in a training blitz game against my friend, who asked me to not reveal his name... We only had a couple of seconds left to finish the game...

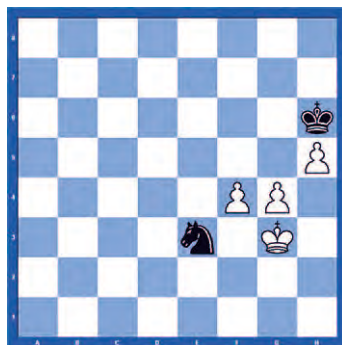
1. ♔f4?! A mistake, which allowed me to hold the draw comfortably. [We had no idea about what is the correct evaluation of the critical move, sacrificing the knight for the pawns. It was very instructive to analyze this (probably theoretical) position. After all, it became clear that Black can hold the draw by extremely precise defense. 1. ♘xf5+! gxf5 2. f4!? A very tricky attempt, in order to prevent the ♔h6 move after 2. ♔xf5. (2. ♔xf5



2... ♔h6! The only way to draw! The Black king should try to get between the pawns. If it was his move, ♔h5 would easily secure the half point. (First, let's examine why other moves are losing... 2... ♘g6 3. f4 The waiting policy is not a good idea, White slowly advances his pawns. 3... ♘f8 (3... ♘e7+ 4. ♔e6 ♘c6 5. f5 ♘d4+ As we will see, this idea of going around with the knight is correct, but now Black gave too many tempi for White to advance his pawns... 6. ♔e5 ♘f3+ 7. ♔f4 ♘d4 8. g4+- followed by g5 and then h5.) 4. g4 ♘g6 5. h5 ♘h4+ (5... ♘f8 6. g5 ♘d7 7. h6+ ♔h7 and here the easiest is to transfer the king to h5, and the pawns promote automatically. 8. ♔g4+-) 6. ♔e6 ♘g2 The right strategy is to create a hole between the pawns and then occupy it with the king. Unfortunately for Black, he is already too late to arrange the correct setup. (6... ♔h6 7. f5+- Black cannot stop the f-pawn.) 7. f5 Black should play now ♔g5, but it is illegal. That is why it is so important to play 2... ♔h6! 7... ♘f4+ 8. ♔d6! ♔f7 has a very nice refutation. (8... ♘h3 9. ♔e7 ♘g5 10. f6+ ♔g8 11. h6+- and Black is in zugzwang!; 8... ♔f6 9. h6 ♘h3 is also late by just one tempo. 10. h7 ♔g7 11. f6+ ♔xh7 12. f7 ♔g7 13. ♔e7+-) 9. h6 ♔f6 (9... ♘h3 10. h7 ♔g7 11. f6+ ♔xh7 12. f7 ♔g7 13. ♔e7+-)

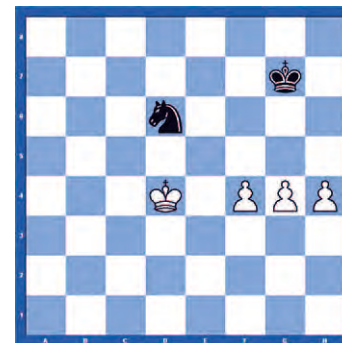


10.♔d7! and the king goes around to support the h-pawn. 10...♞d3 (10...♞f7 11.g5+-) 11.♞e8! ♞e5 12.♞f8! The king arrived in time to control the g7 square. 12...♞xg4 13.h7+-) 3.g4 (3.♞f6 ♞h5 White cannot make progress.) 3...♞g6! Another only move! As it was mentioned before, Black should try to create holes between the pawns and occupy it with the king! 4.h5 ♞h4+ 5.♞f4 ♞g2+ 6.♞g3 (6.♞e4 ♞g5= Black reaches the ideal blockading position.) 6...♞e3 7.f4



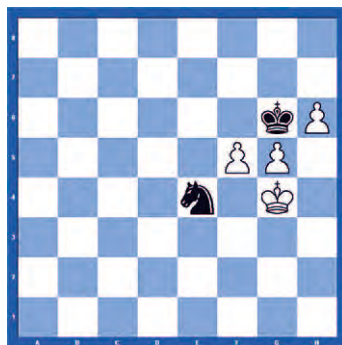
7...♞d5! This is a very important defensive method! Black must prevent the ♞h4, g5 plan... 8.♞f3 ♞f6! and using the fact that the pawn endgame is drawn, Black ties the king to his pawns. This motif also works well if we move all the pieces one rank up. 9.g5+ ♞xh5 10.gxf6 ♞g6 11.♞e4 ♞xf6=) 2...♞e6+! This and the following two moves are the only way to survive! 3.♞xf5 ♞d4+! The knight must disturb White's plan of pushing his pawns. 4.♞e4 (4.♞e5 ♞f3+! 5.♞e4 ♞h2! This is a nice achievement for Black. This way he gets enough time to rush with the king to h5. 6.f5 ♞h6 (But not 6...♞f6? because of 7.♞f4+- and the pawns are rolling.) 7.♞f4 ♞h5 The draw seems to be close, but White can still create some problems... 8.♞e5! ♞f3+ 9.♞d5 The king must control the d4 square. (9.♞e6

♞d4+=) 9...♞h6! and the White king got far from the h-pawn, so the Black king must also turn back to stop the f-pawn. I know that this is very difficult! 10.♞e6 (10.♞e4 ♞h2 11.♞f4 ♞h5= We already saw this.) 10...♞g7! (After the tempting 10...♞d4+? White gets his winning position again. 11.♞e5! ♞f3+ 12.♞f4+- and g4 next.) 11.f6+ ♞f8 and White cannot improve his position. 12.h5 (12.♞f5 ♞f7=) 12...♞d4+ 13.♞e5 ♞c6+ 14.♞f5 ♞f7 15.g4 ♞d4+ 16.♞e5 ♞c6+=) 4...♞b3! Probably the most difficult only move in this whole endgame. Of course, it would be amazingly hard to play it over the board without computer assistance. 5.g4 ♞d2+ 6.♞e3 (6.♞f5 would ease Black's defensive task. 6...♞f3 7.h5 ♞h6= with an easy draw. 8.♞f6 ♞h2) 6...♞c4+ 7.♞d3 White should try to keep the knight away from bothering his h-pawn. (7.♞d4 ♞d2 8.h5 ♞h6= The same as before.) 7...♞d6 8.♞d4 Everything seems to go well for White. He is progressing with the pawns step by step without making a hole, but Black has an amazing difficult only move again... (8.h5 ♞h6=)



8...♞f6! 9.h5 Trying to make use of the fact that Black has no ♞h6. (9.♞d5 ♞b5 10.h5 ♞c3+ 11.♞d4 (11.♞d6 White cannot let the pawns alone... 11...♞e2=) 11...♞b5+ transposes to the main line.) 9...♞b5+ 10.♞e3 ♞d6 11.♞f3

♞c4 All the Black moves have a goal. The knight is heading now to the e3 square... 12.h6 (12.♔g3 ♞e3 This is the ideal position for the knight. It attacks one of the pawns and prepares for the ♞g2 check after ♔h4.) 12...♔g6 13.g5 ♞d6 14.♔g4 and again, it seems to be over, but... 14...♞e4! (Of course not 14...♞f5? 15.h7+-) 15.f5+



15...♔h7 and just like in the 12.♔g3 ♞e3 line, Black has managed to get his ideal setup. The king is ahead of the h-pawn, while the knight attacks the g-pawn and prevents the ♔h5 move by ♞g3. 16.♔f4 (16.♔h5 ♞g3+=) 16...♞d6 17.♔e5 The last attempt to make progress. 17...♞f7+ 18.♔f6 ♞d6 and White must settle for a draw. 19.♔e6 (19.g6+ ♔xh6 20.g7 ♞e8+=) 19...♞e4 20.g6+ ♔xh6=; 1.h5?! Trying to win another pawn would lead to an immediate draw after 1...♞e6+ 2.♔h4 f4=]

1...♔f6 With the threat of ♞e6.

2.♞d5+ ♔e6 The knight must move now, and the king will retreat to f6, refreshing the threat of ♞e6.

3.♞c7+ ♔f6 ...White is practically in zugzwang, he must either allow me to play ♞e6 or exchange a pair of pawns. Black has quite an easy draw from now on. We continued blitzing, but the moves had no real value. **1/2**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Botvinnik,M — Makogonov,V [E06]

URS-ch semifinal Leningrad, 1938

[Balogh Csaba]

A nice positional masterpiece by Botvinnik. The game nicely illustrates his playing style.

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.d4 d5 4.♘c3 ♙e7 5.g3 A rare system against the Queen's gambit, which usually transposes into the Catalan opening.

5...0-0 6.♙g2



6...c6 [6...c5 7.cxd5 exd5 is a transposition to the Tarrasch defense, which is only good for the players who like playing with the isolated pawn on d5.; 6...dxc4 is the right move against the 5.g3 system, and against 7.♘e5 Black can choose between two different setups: 7...♘c6! This is a known pawn sacrifice, we can meet it in other openings as well. (7...c5 8.dxc5 ♔xd1+ 9.♘xd1 ♙xc5 leads to a slightly better position for White, but with accurate

play, Black usually manages to equalize.) 8.♙xc6 bxc6 9.♘xc6 ♔e8 10.♘xe7+ ♔xe7 11.♔a4 White wins a pawn, but he gave up his strong bishop on the long diagonal, which gives Black strong compensation. 11...c5 12.♔xc4 cxd4 13.♔xd4 e5 14.♔h4 Otherwise, ♙h3 and the king is stuck in the center. 14...♖b8 Black prepares for the very unpleasant ♖b4 move. This theoretical position is objectively evaluated as even.]

7.0-0 We transposed to the closed system of the Catalan, with the difference that there the bishop is on d2 and the knight is on b1. This is obviously a better version for White. Now the bishop can develop to b2 and the d2 square is free, which allows the plan of ♘d2 and e4.

7...b6 This is an inaccuracy, which Botvinnik makes use of. [Black should have started with 7...♘bd7 to prevent ♘e5, and only then b6-Bb7. At that time, even strong players were sometimes unfamiliar with the subtleties of the move orders.]

8.♘e5! White immediately wants to open the long diagonal and break Black's strong center with e4!

8...♙b7 [8...♘fd7? would fall into a theoretical trap: 9.cxd5! ♘xe5 (9...cxd5 10.♘xd5! exd5 11.♙xd5 ♘xe5 12.dxe5+- and White wins.) 10.dxe5 exd5 and here again the same 11.♘xd5!+- wins a pawn.]

9.e4! dxc4 Black cannot be happy to give up the tension in the center, but the logical 9...♘bd7 would fall into another trap. [9...♘bd7?



10. Nxc6! This elegant trick was missed even by strong GMs. 10... Bxc6 11. exd5 exd5 12. cxd5 Bb7 13. d6! This is the point! White wins back the sacrificed piece and ends up with an extra pawn. 13... Bxc6 14. dxe7 Kxe7 15. Bxc6 Bg2+/-

10. Nxc4 Ba6 Black needs to take some concrete operations, otherwise, White's big space advantage in the center would tell.

11. b3 Nbd7 [Black could have won a pawn by playing 11... b5 but after 12. Ne3 b4 13. Ne2 Bxe2 14. Kxe2 Kxd4 15. Bb2 White gets more than enough compensation. Black destroyed his own pawn structure (created many holes in his camp) and gave up his strong bishop. 15... Kb6 16. Nc4 Kb5 17. Bxf6! White wants to squeeze Black with e5 , but it would have immediately given up the d5 square. 17... Bxf6 18. e5 Be7 19. Rad1 followed by doubling on the d -file. Black is doomed.]

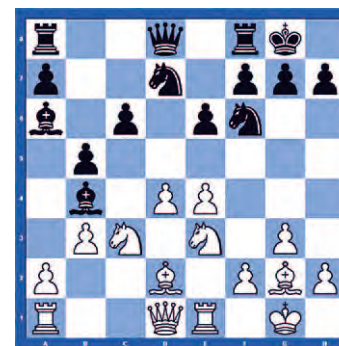
12. Re1 White quits forever from the b5-b4 motif.

12... Bb4?! Makogonov realized he was in trouble and tries to confuse a bit the development of White's pieces. Objectively, unless Black has something concrete, such moves can never be good. [12... Rc8 13. Bf4 looks terrible

from Black's point of view.; 12... b5 was the only chance to fight for equality. 13. Ne3 (13. Ne5? would be a positional mistake, Black would immediately overtake the advantage. 13... Nxe5 14. dxe5 Nd7=+ Such Ne5 ideas can be good only with the pawn on e2 , when the long diagonal would be opened and the knight could jump to d6 through e4 .) 13... Kb6 Thanks to the b5 move, Black got some space to develop his pieces, but still after 14. Bb2 Rfd8 15. Kc2 followed by Rad1 , White should be better.]

13. Bd2 b5 Too late. The bishop on b4 got into tactical ideas.

14. Ne3



14... Nb6 [Now on 14... Kb6 White has e5! and Black must give up his important bishop, after which all the dark squares become weak in his camp. 15... Bxc3 16. Bxc3 Nd5 17. Kd2 will be similar to the game.]

15. e5! Black has the same problem as in the 14... Kb6 line.

15... Bxc3 [15... Nfd5 does not work because of 16. Ncxd5 Nxd5 17. Nxd5 Bxd2 18. Nf6+! This great in-between check prevents Black from consolidating his pawn struc-

ture with cxd5. 18...gxf6 19.♔xd2+/- White is close to be winning.]

16. ♖xc3 ♞fd5 17. ♔d2+/- [17. ♖a5 was also possible.]

17... ♞d7 This allows White to take the last triumph of Black, to get rid of the knight on d5. Anyway, his position was already critical. [17... ♖c8 18. ♖a5 ♔d7 19. ♖ac1 with a big antage. Black has only one good piece, the knight on d5, but White can easily maneuver around it with, for example, ♖c5-Rc1 or a4.; Taking the bishop does not solve any of the problems. 17... ♞xc3 18. ♔xc3 ♖b7 19. a4+/- It's easy to see that something went wrong for Black.]

18. ♞xd5 cxd5



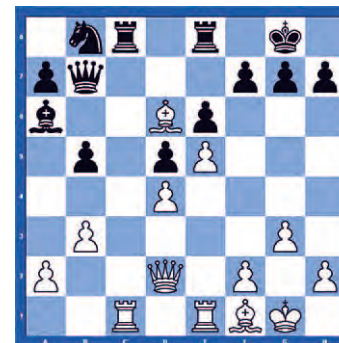
19. ♖b4 ♖e8 20. ♖ac1 It's hard to find something positive in Black's position. White can do whatever he wants. Botvinnik converts his advantage with perfect technique.

20... ♖c8 21. ♖a5 ♔e7 [21... ♞b6 is not much better 22. ♖xc8 ♔xc8 23. ♖xb6! axb6 and White soon collects the weak b5 pawn 24. ♖c1 ♔d7 25. ♖f1! with the simple threat of ♔b4 and a4. 25... ♖c8 26. a4 ♖xc1 27. ♔xc1 White wins the pawn.]

22. ♖f1 After Black stabilized his center, the g2 bishop had no role anymore on the long diagonal. Botvinnik immediately improves it by pressing the b5 pawn. Another idea could be to play ♖d3-b1 and ♔d3 in the future, creating a very dangerous attack. [22. ♖c7 was equally good to transfer the bishop to d6.]

22... ♞b8 Black threatens with ♞c6, so Botvinnik quickly transfers his bishop to d6.

23. ♖b4 ♔b7 24. ♖d6



24... h6 Black has no useful plan, since the only idea of exchanging the rooks leads to the loss of a pawn. [24... ♖xc1 25. ♖xc1 ♖c8 26. ♖xc8+ ♔xc8 27. ♖xb8! ♔xb8 28. ♔b4+ followed by a4.]

25. a3 White enjoys the situation. He sees that Black is suffering, so he gives back the right to move. White has many other moves like h4-h5.

25... ♖c6 This leads to a concrete defeat. [On 25... ♞c6 I like the idea of 26. b4 ♞e7 27. ♖xe7! followed by installing a rook on c5. Despite the material equality, Black is completely lost.]

26. ♖xb8! A very strong and concrete move, which was not obvious at all. It exchanges the nice-looking d6 bishop-op for the poor knight on b8.

26... ♖xb8 **27.** ♖xc6 ♖xc6 **28.** ♖c1 ♖b6 On other moves, ♖a5 would have come.

29. ♖b4! Black is in zugzwang. He has nothing better than passing, but the outcome of the game is already decided.

29... ♖c8?! This quickens the resignation. [For example, on 29... ♖e8 White can improve his position on the kingside, but he can also win a pawn by 30. ♖c5 ♖xc5 31. ♖xc5 ♖b8 32. ♖c7 ♖b7 33. ♖xb7 ♖xb7 34. ♖xb5+-]

30. ♖e7! And the rook enters the Black camp, so he resigned. **1-0**

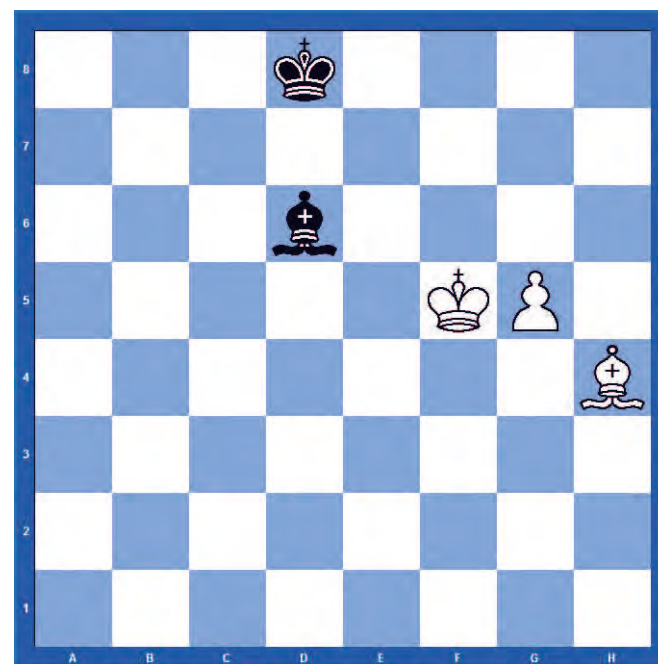
Surprise section / study

(18) Taniev,R

1986

[CEWN]

1.+-



Solutions

(19) Prizant,J (2524) – Nepomniachtchi,I (2716)

Russian Higher league, 24.06.2012

[Solutions]

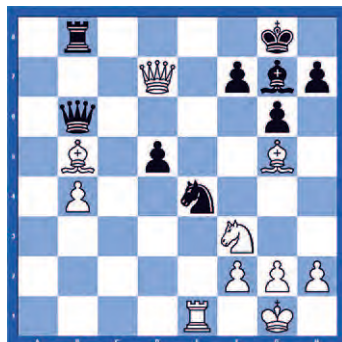


21. ♖xc6! ♔xc6 22. e5 ♔c7 23. exf6 ♕xf6 24. ♖d5 [24. ♕d4! ♕xd4 25. ♔xd4+-] 24... ♕xd5 25. ♔xd5 ♖xe1 26. ♖xe1 ♖b8 27. ♕a7 ♖a8 28. ♕d4 ♕xd4 29. ♔xd4±

(20) Mokshanov,A (2429) – Inarkiev,E (2707)

Russian Higher league, 24.06.2012

[Solutions]

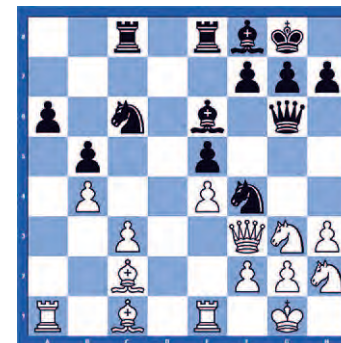


27. ♔xd5! [27. ♕d3 ♔xf2+ 28. ♖h1 ♖xg5] 27... ♖c3! [27... ♔xf2+ 28. ♖h1+-] 28. ♔xf7+!! ♖xf7 29. ♕c4+ ♖f8 30. ♕e7+ ♖e8 31. ♕c5+ ♖d7 32. ♕xb6 ♖xb6 33. b5! ♖xb5 34. ♖b1 [34. ♖g5! h6 35. ♕xb5+ ♖xb5 36. ♖e6 ♕c3 37. ♖f8+-] 34... ♖c6 35. ♖g5 h6 36. ♖e6±

(21) Ziska,H (2450) – Hebden,M (2512)

Svein memorial, 25.06.2012

[Solutions]



23... ♕xb4! [23... ♖xb4? 24. ♕b1!∞] 24. ♕xf4 [24. cxb4 ♖d4+-] 24... exf4 25. ♖e2 ♖e5! 26. ♔xf4 ♕xh3 27. ♔g3 [27. g3 ♕xc3+-] 27... ♔xg3 28. fxg3 ♕xc3 0-1 [28... ♕xc3 29. ♖xc3 ♖xc3 30. gxh3 ♖xc2+- 31. ♖xa6 ♖xh2!]

(22) Gusain,H (2271) – Paragua,M (2521)

Mumbai Open, 08.06.2012

[Solutions]

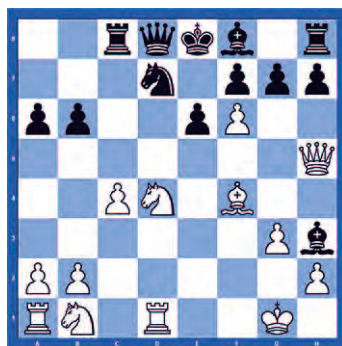


15... ♖xc2! 0-1 [15... ♖xc2 16. ♔xc2 ♔xa4!-+]

(23) Ram,S (2303) – Stupak,K (2513)

Mumbai Open, 10.06.2012

[Solutions]



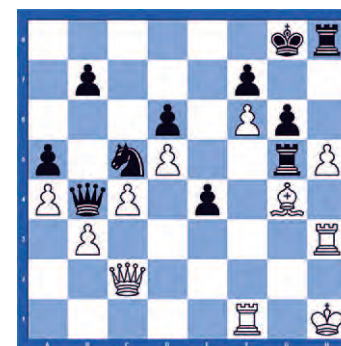
16... ♖xf6! 17. ♔xh3 ♖xc4! 18. ♔e5 [18. ♔e3 ♔c5 19. ♖a3 ♖xd4! 20. ♔xd4 ♔xd4+ 21. ♔f1 ♖d5! 22. ♔g2 ♖xg2+]

23. ♔xg2 ♔xb2-+; 18. ♔g2 ♖xd4 19. ♔c6+ ♖d7+ 18... ♔c5 19. ♔h4 ♖d5! 20. ♖a3 [20. ♔f4 ♖h5! 21. ♔e3 f6-+] 20... g5-+ 21. ♖xc4 gxh4 22. ♔xf6 ♖g8-+

(24) Gomez,J (2507) – Chadaev,N (2563)

Mumbai Open, 14.06.2012

[Solutions]



35. ♔h2!! [35. hxc6? ♖xh3+ 36. ♔xh3 ♖xg6∞] 35... ♖xg4 [35... gxh5 36. ♔xh5+-] 36. hxc6 ♖xh3 37. gxf7+ 1-0 [37. gxf7+ ♔xf7 38. ♔xh3+-]

(25) Gabrielian,A (2573) – Grigoriants,S (2557)

Voronezh Open, 15.06.2012

[Solutions]



30. ♘fxh6+! 1-0[30. ♘fxh6+ gxh6 31. ♘f6+ ♔h8 32. ♕xh6+-]

(26) Kovalenko,I (2560) – Dmitriev,I (2393)

Voronezh Open, 15.06.2012

[Solutions]

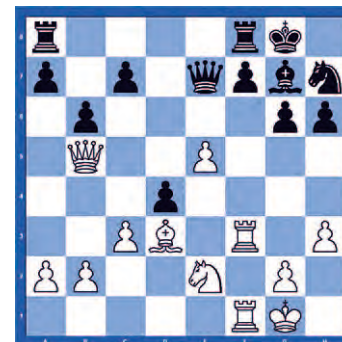


30. ♖1a6+! 1-0[30. ♖1a6+ bxa6 31. ♖c7#]

(27) Fedoseev,V (2546) – Zubov,A (2617)

Voronezh Open, 16.06.2012

[Solutions]

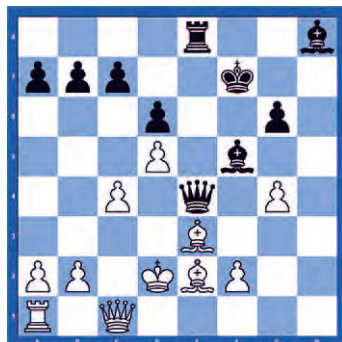


19. ♖xf7! ♖xf7 20. ♖xf7 ♔c5 [20... ♔xf7 21. ♕c4+! (21. ♕d5+ ♕e6) 21... ♔f8 22. ♕d5!+-; 20... ♕xf7 21. ♕c4+-] **21. ♕d7!** [21. ♕xc5 bxc5 22. ♕c4+-] **21...dxc3+ 22. ♔h1 ♕xe5** [22... ♕xe5 23. ♖xg7+! ♕xg7 24. ♕d5+ ♕f7 25. ♕xa8+-] **23. ♖xh7 ♖f8 24. ♕e6+!** 1-0[24. ♕e6+ ♔xh7 25. ♕xg6+ ♔h8 26. ♕h7#]

(28) Lysyj,I (2644) – Tihonov,J (2446)

Voronezh Open, 19.06.2012

[Solutions]

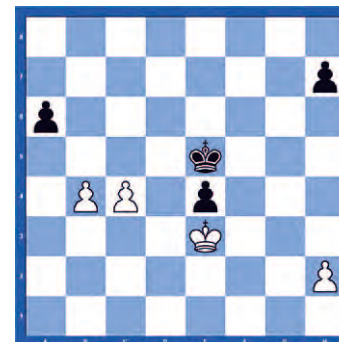


24...♔d4! 25.♚g1 [25.gxf5 ♔xe3+ 26.fxe3 ♚xe3+ 27.♔c2 ♚xe2+ 28.♔b3 gxf5–+; 25.♔e1 ♚h8! 26.gxf5 ♚h1+ 27.♔f1 ♚d3!–+] **25...♔c3+!** 0–1[25...♔c3+ 26.bxc3 (26.♔xc3 ♚c2+ 27.♔b4 ♚xb2+ 28.♔a5 ♚a3+–+) 26... ♚c2+ 27.♔e1 ♚xc3+ 28.♔f1 ♚xa1+–+; 25...♔xe3+ 26.fxe3 ♚c2+ 27.♔e1 ♚xb2 28.♚d1 ♔c2–+]

(29) Damele

1966

[Solutions]



1.h3!! [1.b5 axb5 2.cxb5 ♔d5 3.b6 ♔c6 4.♔xe4 ♔xb6 5.♔f5 ♔c6 6.♔g5 ♔d6 7.♔h6 ♔e7 8.♔xh7 ♔f7=; 1.h4 h5! 2.b5 (2.c5 ♔d5=) 2...axb5 3.cxb5 ♔d5 4.b6 ♔c6 5.♔xe4 ♔xb6 6.♔f5 ♔c6 7.♔g5 ♔d6 8.♔xh5 ♔e7 9.♔g6 ♔f8=] **1...h6** [1...♔f5 2.b5! axb5 3.cxb5 ♔e5 4.b6 ♔d6 5.♔xe4 ♔c6 6.♔f5 ♔xb6 7.♔g5! ♔c6 8.♔h6 ♔d6 9.♔xh7 ♔e6 10.♔g6! (10.♔g7 ♔f5=) 10...♔e7 11.♔g7 ♔e6 12.h4+–; 1...h5 2.h4 ♔f5 3.b5 axb5 4.cxb5 ♔e5 5.b6 ♔d6 6.♔xe4 ♔c6 7.♔f5 ♔xb6 8.♔g5 ♔c6 9.♔xh5 ♔d6 10.♔g6 ♔e7 11.♔g7+–] **2.b5 axb5 3.cxb5 ♔d5 4.b6 ♔c6 5.♔xe4 ♔xb6 6.♔f5 ♔c6 7.♔g6 ♔d6 8.♔xh6 ♔e6 9.♔g6+–** 1–0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 20

13th of July 2012

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Editorial Preface

First, we have to say that this was a especially exciting week. The match between Russian and China came to an end. The Russian men managed to win their match, and the women lost. The overall match, with rapid and blitz games included, was won by Russia.

Now we come to the main events of the past few days, the World Rapid and Blitz Championships in Astana. The line-up was amazingly strong with Magnus Carlsen on the very top.

Rapid: After a lead of 1,5 points over his nearest rival, Magnus Carlsen suddenly started to lose games and found himself on the second place, leaving the gold for Sergey Karjakin who scored 4,5/5 in his last games. Congrats to the young and very talented Russian, second was Magnus Carlsen followed by Veselin Topalov.

The World Blitz Championship was dominated and finally won by Alexander Grischuk. The second place was for Magnus Carlsen again, who managed to win his last 8 games! Karjakin took the third place.

We saw a lot of very exciting and nerve-wrecking games — for those who like to see action on a chessboard, it definitely makes sense to download the games in a pgn and replay them.

In the special section of the newsletter we have a game from Paul Morphy for You! In my opinion, this is one of the greatest chess players in the history who, for many years, was ahead of his rivals, playing “almost modern” chess. As usual, we wish You a lot of fun with Your weekly CEWN!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Svidler,P (2749)
– Carlsen,M (2837) [A10]

World Rapid Championship Astana KAZ, 06.07.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

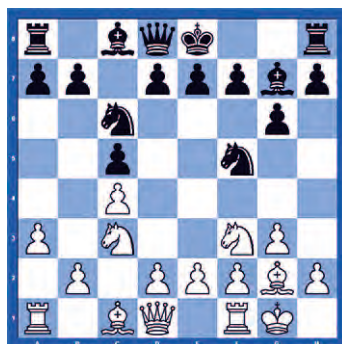
A very interesting and high quality game. Both sides played great chess despite the 15 minutes time control.

1.c4 g6 2.♘f3 ♘g7 3.g3 c5 4.♙g2 ♘c6 5.0–0 In rapid chess, it is absolutely normal that top players try to hide their real openings and just play something harmless to obtain a playable middlegame.

5...♘h6 The knight is going to f5, where it controls the central action very well. Other setups are e6-Nge7, e5-Nge7 or ♘f6. All of them are playable and have different strategies.

6.♘c3 ♘f5 White's ideas connected with d4 are not possible. The e4 move would give up the d4 square, so he must play on the queenside.

7.a3



7...0–0 [7...b6 8.b4 ♙b7 is a very stable reaction by Black, in order to continue controlling the central squares.]

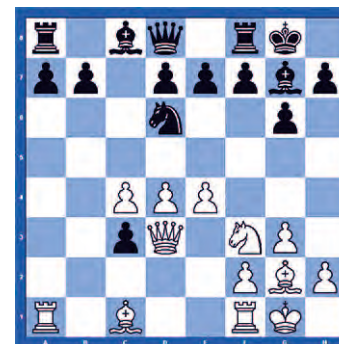
8.b4!? This is a well-known pawn sacrifice against which Carlsen prepared a very strong blow! White's plan is to take control over the center by giving a pawn. It would have been more careful to start with 8.♙b1.

8...♘xb4! Black accepts the sacrifice, but by doing it this way, he exchanges a pair of knights, which clearly favors him. [8...cxb4 9.axb4 ♘xb4 10.d4! This was Svidler's idea, trying to swap off Black from the board in the center with e4. 10...♘c6 11.♘b5!? e4 is coming next.]

9.axb4 cxb4 10.d4! White continues his strategy and occupies the center. [10.e4 is met with the very strong 10...♘d4! and Black will win the piece back anyway.]

10...bxc3 11.e4 ♘d6! [11...c2 would just help White to protect the c4 pawn with 12.♙d3]

12.♙d3 At this moment Black is two pawns up, but we cannot count the one on c3 to be a „long-living“ one... Despite the material disadvantage, it might look like the opening part has finished with a clear triumph for the White side, but Carlsen came up with a very strong plan.



12...b5! Black immediately undermines the central pawns. Slow development would have led to a quick defeat.

13.cxb5 [13.c5 looks tempting, but 13...♘c4 14.♙xc3 d6! and Black can put the pawns under pressure.]

13...♙b6 The game becomes really concrete now, but according to my analysis, the complications favor Black.

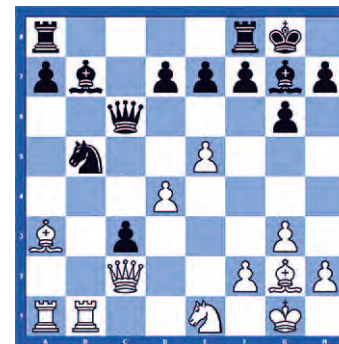
14.♙a3! The bishop stands excellently on a3, the pressure on the e7 pawn is really unpleasant.

14...♙xb5! 15.♙c2! [15.♙xb5? ♘xb5 16.♙xe7 ♖e8 17.♙c5 d6! and Black wins the key pawn on d4.; 15.♙xc3? ♘xe4 followed by d5! Black will end up with an extra pawn.]



15...♙a6?! Carlsen could not calculate the variations precisely, which would have been really difficult even with a normal time control. Now White gets the initiative. [The very suspicious 15...♙b7! was the right move. 16.♖fb1 (16.e5 ♙e4! is an important in-between move (16...♘f5 is wrong immediately because of 17.♖fb1 ♙c6 18.♘e1!) 17.♙xc3 ♘f5 Now the queen has a nice square on d5, Black is better.) 16...♙c6 17.e5 (17.d5 The a8-h1 diagonal

is closed after this move, but it opens the other one on a1–h8! 17...♙c8 18.e5 ♘c4 19.♙xe7 ♖e8 20.♙f6 ♘xe5 and Black is better thanks to his small material advantage.) 17...♘b5 18.♘e1 and compared to the 16.e5 ♘f5 line, Black has a very strong possibility:



18...d5!! 19.exd6 ♘xa3! 20.♖xa3 ♙xd6! and Black survives the loss of a piece with the counter-attack against the a3 rook. Black is much better.]

16.e5! ♘f5 17.g4! Very well played by Svidler, creating serious problems to solve. With the bishop on b7, Black could take on f3 and the d4 pawn is hanging.

17...♘xd4! Another great decision! Black gets many pawns for the piece (he already was 2 pawns up) and his bishops get alive. [After the passive 17...♘h6 18.♙xe7 ♖fe8 19.♙c5 ♘xg4 20.h3 ♘h6 21.♙xc3 White is better, because of the poor placement of Black's pieces.]

18.♘xd4 ♙xe5



19. Rfd1! White should keep his pieces on the board to be able to win back the pawns... [19. Qxa8 Qxf1 20. Rxf1 Rxa8 Four pawns would be too many to hold.]

19... Rac8 20. Qc1! White collects the a7 pawn. He would have a very big advantage if his pawn was on g3. Now, he must continue playing flawlessly. [20. Qb4 was more active, but it allows Black to play 20... Rxc4! 21. Qxc3 Qc5! creating strong counterplay.]

20... Qc4 21. Rxa7 d5 So far, things were going well for Svidler, but here he spoils his advantage. It was almost impossible to find the strongest move (especially with this time control)... White should have realized Black's very strong idea with Qd6 and e5.

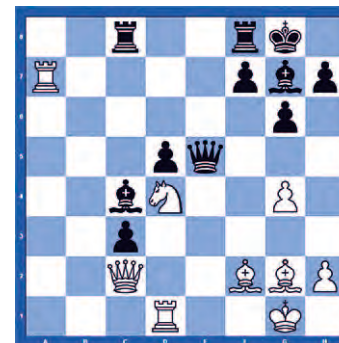
22. Qe3 The most human move to stabilize the important blockading piece on d4. [22. Rd7!! to prevent Qd6 would have preserved White's advantage. 22... Rfe8 23. Qe3+= The Black pawns are less mobile now, the one on d5 is also under pressure.]

22... Qd6! Carlsen lives with the chance and prepares for e5-d4... White must prevent it at any cost.

23.f4! Of course! On the other hand, it leads to the exchange of a pawn.

23...e5 24.fxe5 Qxe5 [24... Qxe5 was also possible. 25.h3 Rfe8 The position is about even, the three pawns compensate for the piece.]

25. Qf2



25... Rfe8 26. Ra3! Svidler happily gets rid of the annoying c3 pawn.

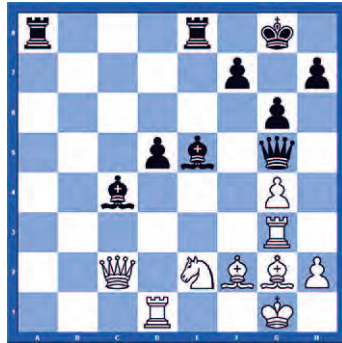
26... Qf4! 27. Rxc3 Qe5?! [Black should have simply restored the „3-pawns against piece“ position. 27... Qxg4=]

28. Rg3! Maybe Carlsen overlooked this ugly move. Now he has only 2 pawns, so he must search for activity.

28... Ra8 Both players are in serious time pressure. The complex middlegame has taken all their time.

29. Ne2?! A very nice and natural move planning to transfer the knight to c3, where it controls the a2 square and attacks the pawn on d5. [The cold-blooded 29. Qe3 suggested by the machine, was better. 29... Qf6 30. Rf3 Qd6 31.h3 Ra2 32. Qc1+= and everything is under control!]

29... Qg5



30. ♖c3! ♙xg3 31. hxg3 Svidler was probably happy that he managed to neutralize all the concrete threats, and that he can slowly press the d5 pawn. On the other hand, after taking the exchange, Black should not be worse.

31... ♜ac8?! Carlsen creates some tricks on the c-file, but Svidler easily parries them with only seconds on his clock... [After the correct **31... ♜xg4! 32. ♘xd5 ♙xd5 33. ♙xd5 ♜a3** the game should end in a draw. Black wants to sacrifice on g3.]

32. ♜d4! ♜e5 33. ♚d2! Exchanging the queens to reduce the tension.

33... ♚xd2 34. ♜xd2 ♜d8 35. ♙d4 ♜e6 36. g5! Creating a blockade on the dark squares. Black has to suffer in an unpleasant endgame, but objectively it should be a draw due to White's limited number of pawns on the board.

36... ♜de8 37. ♙xd5 ♙xd5 38. ♘xd5 Black's main aim should be to exchange a pair of rooks, and White would not be able to create any serious threats with his minor pieces. But of course, this is not an easy task...

38... ♜c8 From now on, I don't want to comment the game in details, because the players had just seconds

on their clocks. [38... ♜d8 could be met by **39. ♘f6+ ♙g7 40. ♘d7+! ♙g8 41. ♙b2** followed by ♘f6, solving the problem of the pin.]

39. ♘f6+ ♙g7 40. ♘g4+?! This was the only serious mistake in the game. Svidler missed a small tactical trick... [40. ♘xh7+! ♙g8 (40... ♙xh7 41. ♜h2+ ♙g8 42. ♜h8#) 41. ♘f6+ ♙g7 42. ♙g2 with a very unpleasant endgame. Anyway, I'm not sure if it's objectively winning.]

40... ♙f8 41. ♙f2 ♜ec6 42. ♙f3 ♜d8 A deep trick by Carlsen to imitate a blunder...

43. ♙g7+ Svidler falls in the trap. [43. ♘f6 was still possible, to continue pressing.]

43... ♙xg7 44. ♜xd8 ♜c5 White cannot protect his pawn and after g5 falls, the game is a dead draw.

45. ♘e3 ♜xg5 46. ♜d7 h5 47. ♜a7 ♜c5 48. ♜b7 ♙f6 49. ♜b6+ ♙g5 50. ♜d6 ♜c3 51. ♜d5+ f5 52. ♜d6 ♜a3 53. ♜b6 ♜d3 54. ♜a6 ♜b3 55. ♜c6 ♜a3 56. ♜b6 ♜c3 57. ♜a6 ♜b3 A „cool“ fighting game. There were some mistakes of course, but we should not blame any of the players. The hard moves that both managed to find with so little time were rather remarkable. **1/2**

(2) Topalov,Veselin (2752)
– Radjabov,Teimour (2788) [E94]

World Rapid Final Astana KAZ (7), 07.07.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Another very exciting game from the World Rapid Championship. Shortly after the opening, it looked like Black had clearly managed to outplay his opponent, but then White found great counter-chances and managed to give mate. A very fighting and exciting game!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.♘f3 0-0 6.♙e2 e5 7.0-0 As usual, we see Radjabov playing his favorite King's Indian! It's amazing but I think that for a couple of years he obtained a clearly positive score with Black, and this against the absolute elite!

7...exd4 The main move of Radjabov is usually 7...♘c6, but of course, the move in the game is not a surprise at all.



8.♘xd4 ♙e8 9.f3 c6 10.♙h1 Lately, this line has become quite popular. White is trying to get a position like: ♙e3, ♙d2, ♖ad1, ♖fe1, ♙f1, ♙f2, and Black usually tries to play

for a d5 push or to move his pieces in this manner: ♘bd7-a5-Nc5-Qe7, ♙d7-Rad8-Bc8.

10...♘h5!? This move is still theory. Lately, there was a game Gelfand-Grischuk 2011.

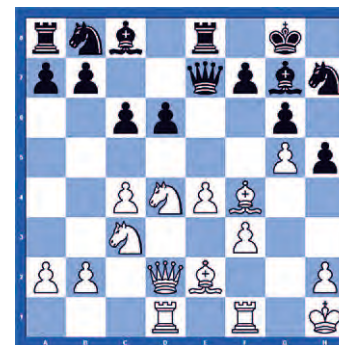
11.g4 The idea of Black was simple, to play ♙h4.

11...♘f6 Now it looks like Black has lost 2 tempi with ♘h5-Nf6 back, but in fact, things are not that simple. By playing g4, White created huge weaknesses in his structure, and right now, it's not easy for White to make use out of his better development.

12. ♙f4 White stops Black from playing the natural ♘bd7. Besides, a move like ♘b3 could be a threat now.

12...h5 This is still theory...

13.g5 ♘h7 14.♙d2 ♙e7 15.♖ad1



15...♘d7 So, I guess that from this moment, both players were out of book. Let's take a look at the position. First, I have to say that the position is very complex with many interesting ideas for both colors. White has a clear target, the d6 pawn. Black will clearly search for counter-play on the kingside, trying to get White's g5 pawn. The

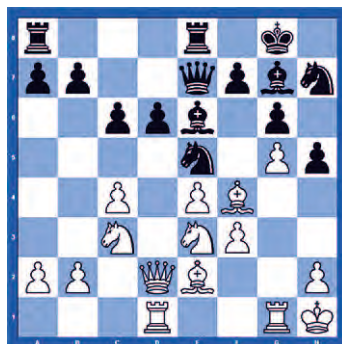
Black knight maneuver ♖df8-Ne6 could be dangerous for White as well.

16. ♖g1?! A strange move, in my opinion. [An option was the natural looking 16. ♖c2 ♘e5 ...Very often this move saves the d6 pawn. 17. ♘e3 Of course, the exchange of bishops is good for Black. 17... ♖c5 18. ♖f2! with the idea on ♖e6 to have ♖g1! In my opinion, White should have good play here.]

16... ♘e5! Black shows very good understanding of the position. The Black knight is standing much better on e5 than on c5. Now, the other one could come into the game via ♖f8-Ne6. The only problem is the d6 pawn, but Black is just in time to protect it.

17. ♖c2 ♘e6 The White pawn is hanging on c4 and this gives Black enough time for ♖ad8.

18. ♘e3



18... ♖ad8 Black stands perfectly. All the pieces are in the right places. Now Black's idea is to start shaking the White central pawns. Usually, he does it by playing a6-b5, or by trying to break through with d5. The negative side for White is that he has no clear play. To play for the f4-f5

push is a very hard task because the e4 pawn e4 will become very weak.

19. ♖e1 White brings the queen to the kingside. All of this all is a preparation for the f4-f5 push, but is it a realistic plan...?

19... a6 Black wants to play b5.

20. ♖g3 This move was made to avoid Black's b5.

20... ♘c8 [20... b5 would be too early, due to 21. c5!]

21. h4 [If White would try to block the b5 move with 21. a4 ♖f8! he would get in big trouble. Black wants to play ♖e6 and ♖xf4 getting an obvious advantage. We can see how well Radjabov understands what he is doing! So, for the King's Indian fans, I think this game is very productive! (For now...)]



21... b5 Black's dream came true, the b5 move is made and White's center is falling apart.

22. cxb5 axb5 23. a3 It's already hard to give an advice for White! Suddenly, things are going very bad. White is still very far away from playing f4-f5 and Black has already begun to crush White's position.

23...♘f8! Radjabov brings the last piece that was standing a bit out of play. It's clear that Black is doing much better here.

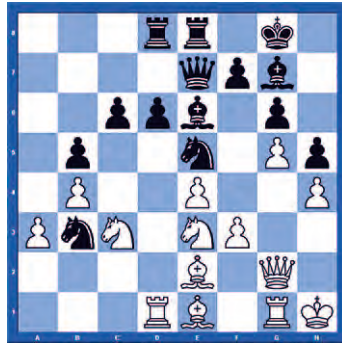
24.♔h2 As I mentioned before, to give away the bishop from f4 is not an option.

24...♞e6 25.♙g3 ♞c5 Slowly, the Black pieces are taking perfect positions and White's f4 is still nothing more than a dream.

26.♔g2 What we'll see in the next 5 moves is horrible from White's point of view, but it's impossible to propose an improvement. The White pieces are very badly placed.

26...♙e6 Black wants to play ♞c4, or ♙b3 and d5.

27.b4 ♞b3 28.♙e1



28...♔a7! Black kicks another White piece away from the center. The a3 pawn is hanging.

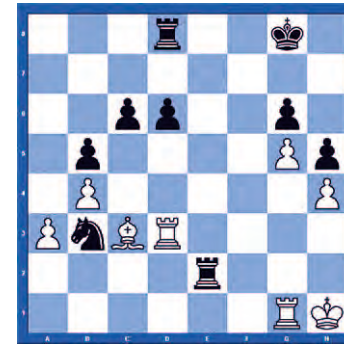
29.♞c2 Until this moment, Black almost played a perfect game!

29...♞c4?! This gives White some theoretical chances. There was no need for that. [29...♙c4! This move would lead to a huge advantage for Black and much less attack-

ing chances for White. I guess it would be a nice conclusion to a very well played game by Black.]

30.f4! Finally, the pawn has moved. Better late than never.

30...♞xa3 The correct move. [30...♞e3 This move seems to lead to quite a forced line: 31.♞xe3 ♔xe3 32.f5! White has no time to waste! 32...♙xf5 Any other move leads to very unclear play. 33.exf5 ♙xc3 34.fxg6 fxg6 35.♔d3 ♔xe2 36.♔xe2 ♔xe2 37.♙xc3



and probably this endgame is about equal.]

31.♞xa3 ♔xa3 32.f5! Don't ask Topalov what to do twice in a dynamic position...

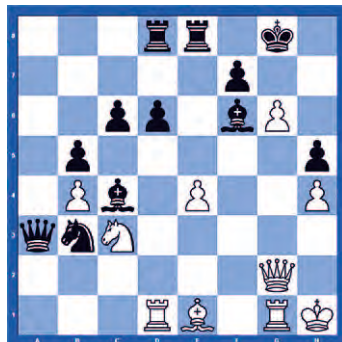
32...♙c4?! A very logical move, but a mistake. [32...♙c8 would have been the right option. Black needs the bishop on the c8-h3 diagonal to protect his king.]

33.♙xh5! Another great move by White. What a turn in the game. Instead of having a much better position without any risk of losing, suddenly things got very very sharp.

33...gxh5 34.f6! White is just playing great. The queen on g2 and the rook on g1 are standing perfectly.

34...♙h8 [34...♚a6 with the idea of ♚c8-Qg4 35.g6! would not change much in comparison to the game.]

35.g6 ♙xf6



36.♘d5!? And another very strong move by White. Especially in rapid chess, such a move is a killer! [Another option was the direct 36.gxf7+ ♔xf7 37.♚g6+ ♔e7! Only move. (37...♔e6 a mistake would be 38.♚xd6+! Pretty move! 38...♔xd6 39.♚xf6+ Now White is mating by force: 39...♔c7 40.♚g7+ ♚d7 41.♙g3+ ♔b6 42.♚xd7 And Black can't escape from the „multi-mating“ ideas of White.) 38.♘d5+! The usual knight sacrifice. 38...cxd5 39.♚h7+ ♔e6 40.♚f5+ ♔e7 41.♚h7+ ♔e6 42.♚f5+ ♔e7 with a draw.]

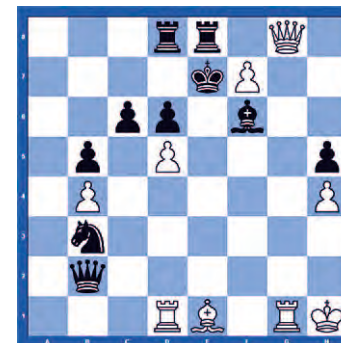
36...♙xd5?? [In case of 36...cxd5! 37.gxf7+ (37.exd5 ♘d4 Black is winning.) 37...♔xf7 38.♚g6+ ♔e7 39.♚h7+ ♔e6 40.♚f5+ ♔e7 we would return to the already known draw.]

37.exd5 [Also possible would have been 37.gxf7+ ♔xf7 38.♚g6+ ♔e7 39.exd5! with a mating attack!]

37...♚b2 This move loses, but nothing seems to save Black anymore.

38.gxf7+ ♔f8 [38...♔xf7 39.♚g6+ ♔e7 40.♚h7++-]

39.♚g8+ ♔e7



40.f8♚+! A pretty end to a slightly undeserved victory. Black managed to outplay his opponent in the first 30 moves and, by being imprecise, gave White great chances to attack. In chess, things can really turn very quickly and every move is decisive! **1-0**

(3) Morozevich,Alexander (2770) – Bologan,Viktor (2732) [B12]

World Rapid Final Astana KAZ (3), 06.07.2012

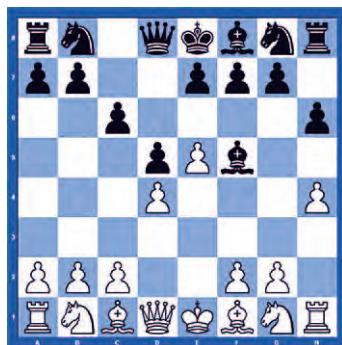
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

The World Rapid and Blitz Championships in Astana were clearly the 2 main events of the past week. The line-up was amazingly strong, with Magnus Carlsen leading the pack. We will now see a very exciting game in the Caro-Kann where Morozevich was the one who had the better insight. It's really great to see Morozevich playing „strange” positions!

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♘f5 Right now, this is the most played line in the Caro-Kann. We saw an amazing amount of games lately, especially in games from the very top played by Anand, Karjakin, Grischuk, Morozevich...

4.h4!? This is not the main move, but it's quite a tricky one. For many years, it was one of the main weapons of Your CEWN author Csaba Balogh.

4...h6 [4...h5 5. ♘d3 ♘xd3 6. ♔xd3 is the main position in this line.]



5.g4 Now White starts looking for „space” domination.

5... ♘d7 [The logical 5... ♘h7 gives White quite an interesting chance with 6.e6!? fxe6 7. ♘d3 White wants to play ♘xh7 followed by ♔d3-Qg6. Another idea is to play ♘f3-Ne5 fixing Black's pawn structure. The position is quite dangerous for Black...]

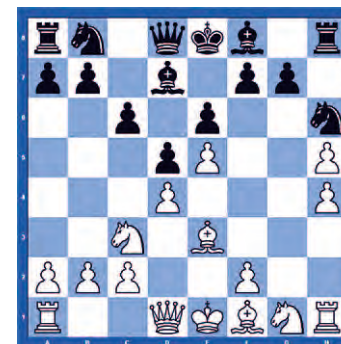
6. ♘e3 Now the ideas of White and Black are clear. White will try to do everything to keep the center, and Black will try to rip White's central pawns apart with a dynamic play against the center, usually by playing c6-c5.

6...e6 7. ♘c3!? A really unusual move by Morozevich. He is not trying to protect the central pawns but wants to have ♘b5 against Black's c5 move. Interesting idea! [7.h5 is too slow now. 7...c5! 8.c3 ♔b6 and Black is starting the action on the queenside first.; 7.c3 h5! and again White gets countered with 8.gxh5 ♘h6 and probably Black is doing fine.]

7...h5!? The usual idea, Black destroys White's pawn structure.

8.gxh5 Of course not a nice move to do, but it was the only option...

8... ♘h6



9. ♖h3!? I guess a lot of players would have played 9. ♖d3 almost automatically, forgetting to fight against the main threat, the c5 move!

9...c5 [In case of 9... ♖xh4 10. ♖f3! White has this nice way of developing the pieces. It's especially important that the White knight goes to ♗ge2! where it will support his colleague on c3. 10... ♖d8 11.0-0-0 ♖a5 12. ♗ge2 and White is doing clearly better. The c5 push would lead nowhere for Black. White is too active and the Black center would fall after some sacrifice on d5.]

10.dxc5 [Another option was to play 10. ♗f3!? waiting for the Black move... 10... ♗c6 and now 11.dxc5 avoiding the tricky lines in the game.]

10... ♗c6!? Black uses this chance to put the bishop on c6 and the knight on d7!

11. ♖d4 [11. ♗f3! This is a hard move to make during a practical game, but it seems to work

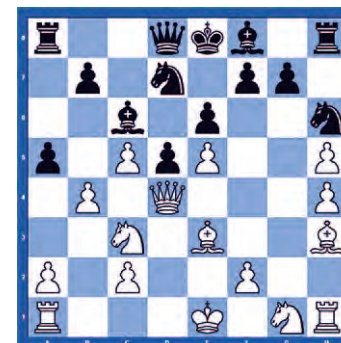


11...d4 (In case of 11... ♗d7 12. ♖e2! White is preparing to castle long 12... ♗xc5 13.0-0-0 and White is doing better. The next move, ♖g1, will be very unpleasant for Black. Black still needs to think where to go with the king.)

12. ♗xd4 ♗xf3 13. ♖xf3 ♖xd4 14. ♖xb7 ♗xc5 15.0-0 A great move that's not easy to see at all... The position looks dangerous, but all seems to work out for White 15...0-0 16. ♖xa8 ♖xh4 17. ♖g2 White defended the kingside. The extra exchange should bring the full point home.]

11... ♗d7 12.b4 The only move to defend the c5 pawn, but now White is too „open“.

12...b6?! The right idea but a wrong way to use it. [The right move would have been 12...a5! Black loses a piece but gets a lot of pawns and very dangerous play.



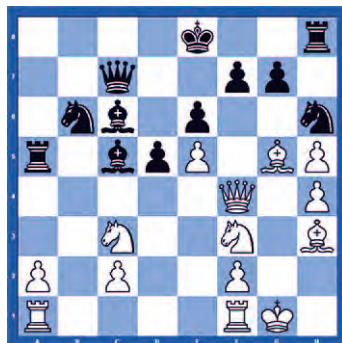
13.b5 The only move... 13... ♗xc5 14. ♖d2 (Doesn't work 14. ♖f4 ♗b4! 15. ♗ge2 ♗xb5) 14... ♗xe3 15.fxe3 (Of course not 15. ♖xe3?? d4) 15... ♖xh4+ and here we can see why it's extremely dangerous to make too many pawn moves in the opening. All of them could fall if Black finds a way to play actively. 16. ♗f1 ♖xh5 17.bxc6 bxc6 Black got 3 pawns for the piece, and the White pieces are uncoordinated. The position is very unclear.]

13.cxb6 ♗xb6 Black wants to play ♗c4 or a5, White should act very quickly now.

14. ♖g5!? A logical move, taking the bishop from e3 with tempo.

14... ♖c7 15. ♘f3 And here we have probably reached the critical moment of the game. Black continued with the standard 15... ♘c4 and will soon get in big trouble.

15... ♘c4 [15... a5! and again, Bologan misses the a5 move. 16.bxa5 (At 16.b5 ♖d7 White has no decent defense against ♖b4 or ♖c5.) 16... ♖xa5! (Too slow is 16... ♘c4 17.0-0 ♖xa5 18. ♘e2 and White is in time to put the pieces all together.) 17.0-0 ♖c5 18. ♖f4



18... ♖a3 By making 5 very dynamic moves in a roll, we get to a very unclear position. Black has great play in exchange of the 2 pawns; all the pieces are active and the position of the White king could become very dangerous.]

16.a3! A cool and very strong move!

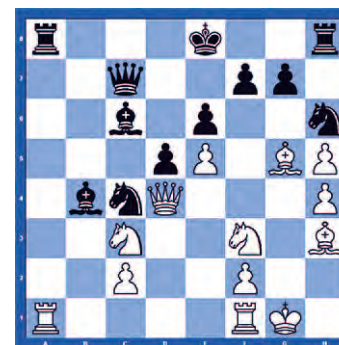
16... a5 The right idea, but it came too late.

17.0-0! Another strong move by White, taking the king away from the center. Suddenly, the Black king could become a target. Castling short is not an option because of

♖xh6 and staying on e8 forever might not be the best idea...

17... axb4 [Doesn't help 17... ♖b8 18. ♖fb1 axb4 19.axb4 ♖xb4 20. ♖xb4! A nice little combination. 20... ♖xb4 21. ♖c5 and White is winning]

18.axb4 ♖xb4



19. ♘b5! Nice tactic. White brings the knight from c3 to d6, creating a mating attack.

19... ♖d7 20.c3 [The easy 20. ♖xa8+ ♖xa8 21. ♘d6+! forces Black to give White a strong pawn on d6: 21... ♖xd6 22.exd6 0-0 23. ♘e5 ♘xe5 24. ♖xe5 An extra pawn, standing on d6. The coming kingside attack gives White a much better position.]

20... ♖e7 21. ♘d6+ ♖xd6 22.exd6 [22. ♖xa8+ ♖xa8 23.exd6 0-0 24. ♘e5 would lead to the already known better position for White.]

22...0-0 23. ♖h1! White is preparing a mating attack.

23... ♖h7 The Black king can't stay on the g-file. White wants to play ♖xh6 followed by ♖g1 and ♖g7 mate.

24. ♖xa8 ♜xa8 [24... ♙xa8 would lead to about the same.]

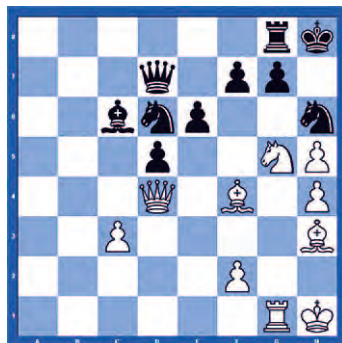
25. ♖g1 The g7 pawn is White's target!

25... ♜g8 26. ♙f4 White is a pawn up, and the Black pieces almost have no moves. The position is close to winning.

26... ♘xd6 This move allows White to end the game in a beautiful way. [Of course doesn't help 26...f5 27. ♜g6]

27. ♘g5+ A pretty move but there was no reason to go for it... [Simpler would have been 27. ♘e5 ♜b7 28. ♜c5 and White is winning a piece.]

27... ♔h8



28. ♘xe6 fxe6 [28... ♘df5! would have been the only move to fight here. 29. ♘xg7! A nice tactic. 29... ♘xd4 30. ♙xd7 ♙xd7 31.cxd4 ♘f5 32.h6! and White has good chances to win this endgame.]

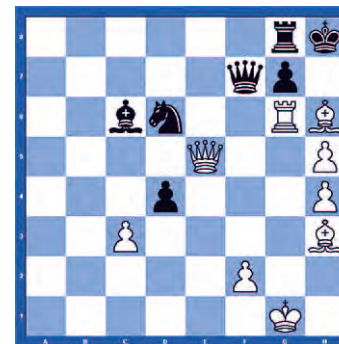
29. ♙xh6 Now the game is over... The Black king is not going to live very long.

29... ♜f7 [29... ♔h7 30. ♙f4+-]

30. ♜g6! A nice final move..

30...e5 [30... ♙d7 31. ♙f4 and the rook is going to give mate on h6.]

31. ♜xe5 d4+ 32. ♔g1 Black's position is totally hopeless...



32... ♜a8 33. ♙xg7+ ♔g8 1-0

(4) Jakovenko,D (2736) — Yu Yangyi (2656) [E11]

RUS-CHN match, 04.07.2012

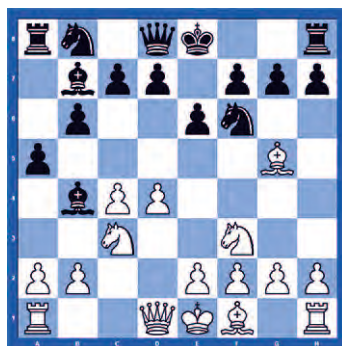
[Balogh Csaba]

Jakovenko nicely outplays his young Chinese opponent in positional style...

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♘f3** ♙b4+ The Bogó-Indian Defense. [3...b6 4.♘c3 ♙b4 5.♙g5 ♙b7 6.e3 h6 7.♙h4 is a huge main line of the Queen's Indian defense. In comparison to the game, the Black pawn stands on a5. As our game flows, we will understand who benefits from this difference.]

4.♙d2 a5 **5.♘c3** [5.g3 is the main line. Recently, strong players have tried 5...d6 6.♙g2 ♘bd7 and the theory is developing nowadays.]

5...b6 **6.♙g5** ♙b7



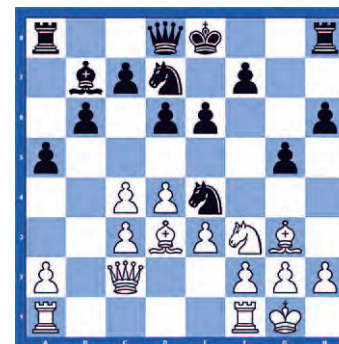
7.e3 h6 **8.♙h4** Here we are! In the Queen's Indian defense with an extra tempo: a5. In my opinion this clearly favors White, since all of Black's best setups are connected with 0–0–0, where the pawn on a5 is a serious weak-

nesses of the queenside pawn structure. Of course, despite this fact, the position remains very complex.

8...d6 Black tries to make use of the fact that the bishop is protected on b4. In the other line, ♙a4 would win a piece. [8...g5 9.♙g3 ♘e4 is the start of the lines without the a5 move.]

9.♙d3 ♘bd7 **10.0–0** After White unpins himself, Black must give up the bishop pair, otherwise, the c3 knight jumps away and the bishop is trapped.

10...♙xc3 **11.bxc3** ♙e7 [Another nice game that demonstrated well the ideas of this opening... 11...g5 12.♙g3 ♘e4 (12...h5 is not dangerous now, because of 13.h4!) 13.♙c2



13...♘g3 (13...f5 is usually met with the powerful 14.d5! breaking Black's pawn structure and freeing the d4 square for the knight. 14...exd5 15.cxd5 ♙xd5 16.♘d4 ♙f6 17.f3! ♘xg3 18.hxg3 and White is going to win back the sacrificed pawn.) 14.fxg3! This is another known motif in this opening. White can use the f-file effectively with his rooks. Note that if you want to study these positions in detail, it's better if you search for games with the pawn on a7. 14...♙e7 15.♙f2 0–0 Because of the a5 weakness,

Black did not dare to castle queenside. 16.g4! Fixing Black's pawn structure. 16...♘f6 17.h3 ♘e8 In such positions, there exists a strong re-grouping with ♘h2-f1-g3, but Navara decided to play another plan. 18.♖af1 ♘g7



19.♙h7+! ♔h8 20.♙e4 Exchanging the light squared bishops usually favors White. Black's standard reaction is c6-d5 in such situations, but now thanks to the pawn on a5, White could quickly attack the b6 weakness with ♖b1! 20...♙xe4 21.♖xe4+= 21...♖ae8? This allows a beautiful strike: 22.♘e5!! ♘f5 (On 22...dxe5 the best is the calm 23.dxe5!+- followed by ♖f6. Black can only avoid being mated by giving up huge material.(23.♖f6 would not be that clear, because of 23...♘f5! 24.dxe5 ♖xf6! 25.exf6 ♘g3)) 23.gxf5 exf5 24.♖c6 1-0 Navara-Polak, Czech Republic 2012.]

12.♘d2 White's strategy is to occupy the center with e4 and f3.

12...g5 13.♙g3 0-0-0 Black plays the position like his pawn was on a7.

14.f3 h5 [I would personally prefer 14...♘h5 15.♙f2 f5! We will understand how important is to have the pawn on f5 if we continue following the game.]

15.♙f2! A necessary prophylactic move against the h4-h3 threat.

15...h4 [15...g4? is always a mistake because of 16.♙h4! the bishop gets very strong on h4.]

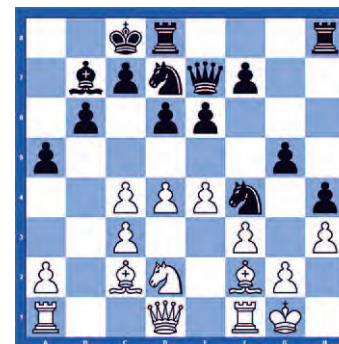
16.h3! Black's attack is stopped now.

16...♘h5! Black would like to play f5, followed by ♖g8 and g4 with a very dangerous attack. White must do something against it!

17.e4! The only way to fight against f5, even if it gives up the f4 square.

17...♘f4 If it was possible, the bishop should go to f1, but White had no time to evacuate the rook from f1.

18.♙c2



18...♘f8 In my opinion, this logical plan to improve the knight is a mistake. It defends well against White's main idea with c5. On the other hand, it is very difficult to suggest something clever for Black. He can't attack on the kingside and White is clearly better in the center. The only useful plan seems to be to play on f5... [18...f6 with the idea of ♖f7 and f5. 19.♖e1! White prepares for the

typical maneuver ♖f1–e3. 19...♔f7 and now on 20.♘f1?! (20.♔b1! is definitely the right move. It continues fighting against f5. The queen stands well on the b-file because his main idea is to push c5 with an attack on the queen-side.) 20...f5! 21.♘e3 (21.exf5 exf5 22.♘e3 g4! Suddenly, Black got a pretty strong attack.) 21...fxe4 22.fxe4 ♖hf8 23.♘g4 (23.♔f1 ♔g6 By harassing the e4 pawn, White is forced to move his center, which creates holes in the position.) 23...♘f6=+ By opening the f-file, Black achieved a perfect position.]

19.♖e1! Jakovenko prepares for the regrouping of the knight.

19...♘8g6 20.♘f1! ♔d7 21.♘e3 Just in time. White achieved the maximum. Black is out of useful ideas, or at least I don't find any...

21...e5?! Giving up the control over the f5 and d5 squares can't be an advisable idea. Black wants to create some concrete tricks connected with ♘xh3, but White can easily neutralize them.

22.♔h2! ♔b8?!

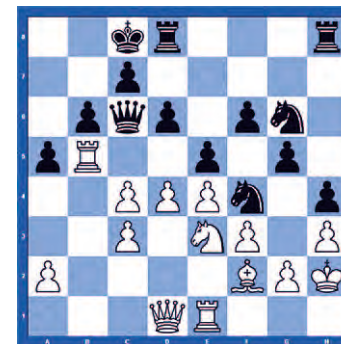


23.♘a4! A strong concrete decision. By exchanging the light squared bishops, the Black king gets significantly weakened. White is in time to open the lines against it. [23.♖b1 was also good.]

23...♘c6 24.♘xc6 ♔xc6 25.♖b1 ♔c8 Now it became clear that the 22nd move was not the best... [25...♔a8 would have been met with 26.♖b5! followed by ♔a4.]

26.♖b5! An excellent place for the rook, where it supports the c5 breakthrough.

26...f6



27.♖b1! The last preparation for concrete actions. Jakovenko protected his rook on b5.

27...♔d7 [27...♘e7 can be met with the typical break 28.d5!? (28.♖d1 is also very strong.) 28...♔a8 29.c5! dxc5 (29...bxc5 30.♘c4+/- creating a powerful knight on c4. White will recover the a5 pawn soon.) 30.♘c4+/- and d6 is coming next, destroying the king's guards...]

28.c5! The game is practically over. Black cannot stand the pressure...

28...dxc5 [28...bxc5 is not better. 29.dxc5 ♖e8 30.♖d1
For example: 30...♔f7 31.cxd6 ♖xd6 (31...cxd6 32.♘f5+-)
32.♖xd6 ♔xd6 33.♘f5+- White can do whatever he
wants. The least is simply to take the a5 pawn.]

29.dxc5 ♔e7 [29...bxc5 30.♖d1+ ♔e8 31.♖xd8+ ♔xd8
32.♘d5+- followed by ♖xc5.]

30.cxb6 ♖d2 The last tricks, but of course, against a play-
er like Jakovenko, these are not serious attempts.

31.♘d5+! ♘xd5 32.exd5 ♔e8 The only square to pro-
tect the g6 knight.

33.b7 Jakovenko demonstrated very well the deep ideas
in this opening. **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Karjakin,S (2779) – Grischuk,A (2763)

World Rapid Championship, 06.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

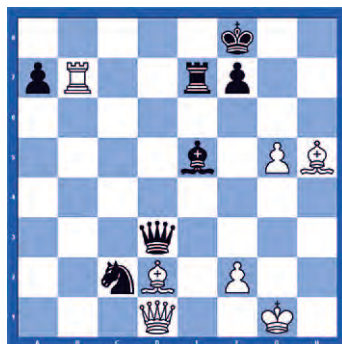


(6) Svidler,P (2749) – Kurnosov,I (2663)

World Rapid Championship, 06.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

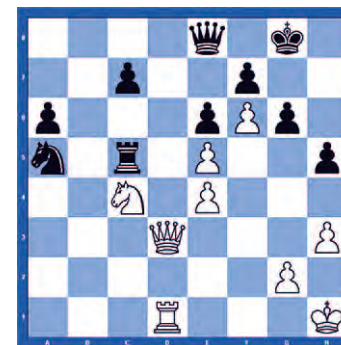


(7) Kazhgaleyev,M (2589)
– Ismagambetov,A (2471)

World Rapid Championship, 07.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

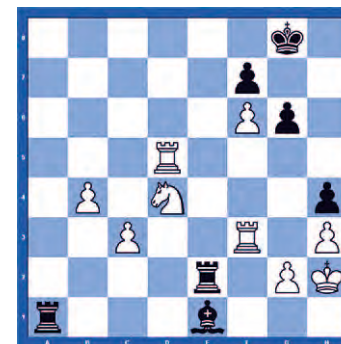


(8) Kurnosov,I (2663) – Topalov,V (2752)

World Rapid Championship, 07.07.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

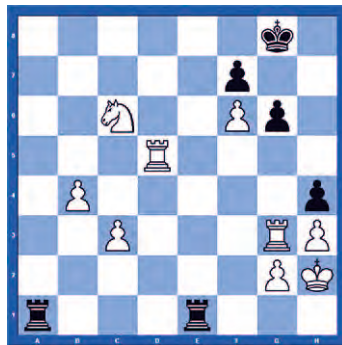


(9) Analysis of Kurnosov,I (2663) – Topalov,V (2752)

World Rapid Championship, 07.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.=

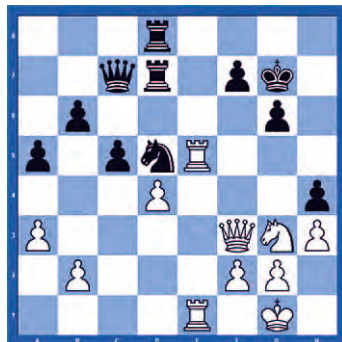


(10) Topalov,V (2752) – Carlsen,M (2837)

World Rapid Championship, 08.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+

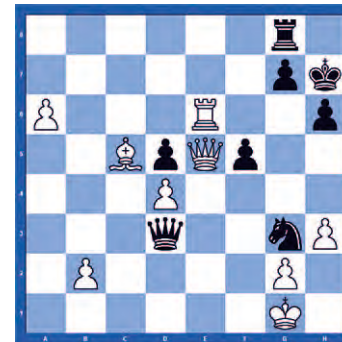


(11) Matlakov,M (2668) – Wang Yue (2697)

Russia-China match, 03.07.2012

[CEWN]

1...=

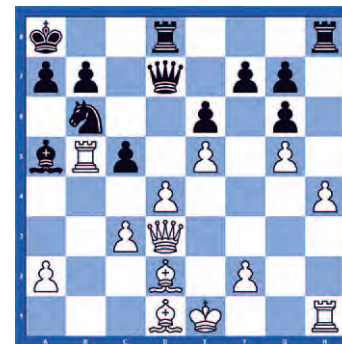


(12) Wang Hao (2739) – Jakovenko,D (2736)

Russia-China match (rapid), 07.07.2012

[CEWN]

1... -/+



(13) Li Chao (2687) – Matlakov,M (2668)

Russia-China match (rapid), 07.07.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

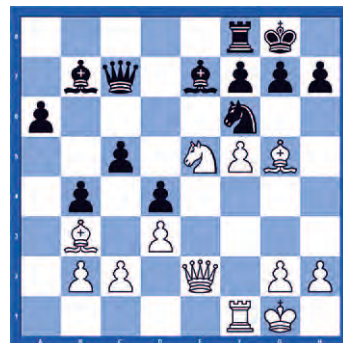


(14) Erenburg,S (2624) – Friedel,J (2503)

Philadelphia Open, 07.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



Endgame section

(15) Carlsen,M (2837) – Bologan,V (2732)

World Rapid Championship, 06.07.2012

[Chess Evolution]



Carlsen obviously has a completely winning position with an extra pawn, and the days of the a3 pawn are also numbered. However, while converting the advantage, White allowed a miraculous escape to his opponent...

43. ♖f5+? In my opinion, Carlsen had already seen the final position of the game. Everything seemed to be quite forced, so the World's Nr. 1 had to be confident with his calculations. [43. ♖b4! was probably the easiest way to victory. 43... ♘a6+ 44. ♔xa3 ♘xc5 45. dxc5 ♖b8 46. ♖b4+- and there is nothing that can stop the pawn avalanche on the queenside, supported by the bishop and the king.]

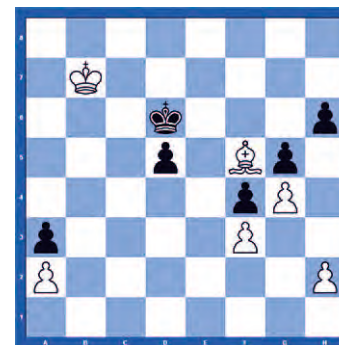
43... ♔d6 44. ♖b4? Continuing with the wrong plan. [44. ♙d3! Repeating the moves would have been objectively better.]

44... ♘a6+ 45. ♔a5 ♘xc5 46. ♖xb6 ♘b3! Bologan finds the only chance to stay in the game. Black collects the d4 pawn. I don't think that Carlsen blundered this move, since after the coming moves, it all seems to be over.

47. ♖a7? Still following the wrong path... [47. ♖a6 should have been played, even tough after 47... ♘xd4 48. b6 ♘c6 49. ♙b1 ♘b4+ 50. ♖b5 ♘c6 I don't see the winning plan for White.]

47... ♘xd4 48. b6 ♘c6+ 49. ♖a8 This was Carlsen's idea when he played 43. ♙f5. White promotes the b-pawn soon and the bishop covers the a2 and f3 pawns, which might give some counter-chances for Black. I'm sure that at this moment, both players accepted that White won the struggle. But chess is a more difficult game...

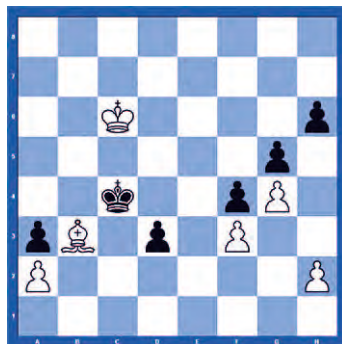
49... d4? [49... ♘a5!! would have led to an amazing position... 50. b7 ♘xb7 51. ♖xb7 In my opinion, many players would just resign here after a short hesitation. Who would believe that Black is close to be winning in this position!!! At first sight, I thought it was a mistake of the computer. Then, after checking a few logical lines, everything became clear...



51... ♖c5! Let's summarize the main ideas: The White king has no access to the d-pawn, Black simply wants to pro-

mote the d-pawn with the help of the king. It seems like even if he manages to do it, White will sacrifice his bishop, capture the a3 pawn and his a-pawn will queen automatically. But in this case, Black is in time to collect the f3 pawn and promote his own f-pawn... 52.♔a6 Trying to catch the pawn and approaching to a3 seems to be the most logical attempt.

a) 52.♔c7 is a tricky option to rush to the e-file with the king. 52...d4 53.♙c2 ♔c4 54.♔c6 (54.♔d6 requires precise moves by Black. 54...d3 55.♙d1 ♔d4! in order to keep the king away from the e5-e4 path. Black wins an important tempo to push d2 in the next move, and only then he goes with the king. 56.h3 d2 57.♔e6 ♔e3) 54...d3 55.♙b3+



55...♔d4! Again, it is very important to prevent the ♔d5-e4 idea. (55...♔c3? is a mistake because of 56.♔d5! d2 57.♔e4 ♔b2 58.♔d3 ♔c1 59.♔e2+- just in time.) 56.♔b5 (56.♔d6 d2) 56...♔c3 and again White has nothing better than transposing to the main line with 52.♔a6.

b) 52.h3 d4 53.♙c2 White needs to move into this tempo to control the promoting square on d1. 53...♔c4 54.♔b6 d3 55.♙b3+ ♔c3 This is a transposition to our main line.

52...♔b4! A necessary move. The idea is to block to king's route on the a-file and save an important tempo to push d4. (52...d4? immediately is a mistake. 53.♔a5 ♔c4 54.♔a4 d3 55.♔xa3 ♔c3 56.♙e6+-) 53.h3! White must already understand that „this ship is gone” and try to defend the inferior endgame, where the pawn must stay on h3. (53.♔b6 d4 White can achieve the same queen endgame, but with his pawn on h2. Everything is forced from now on... 54.♔c6 (54.♙c2 ♔c3 55.♙b3 d3 56.♔b5 d2) 54...♔c3 55.♔c5 d3 56.♙e6 d2 57.♙b3 ♔b2 58.♔b4 ♔c1 59.♔xa3 d1♔ 60.♙xd1 ♔xd1 61.♔b4 ♔e2 62.a4 ♔xf3 63.a5 ♔xg4! That is why the pawn should be on h3. 64.a6 f3 65.a7 f2 66.a8♔ f1♔ with a winning endgame.) 53...d4 The next moves are ♔c3 and d3. White cannot do anything against it... 54.♙c2 ♔c3 55.♙b3 d3 56.♔b5 d2 57.♔a4 ♔b2 58.♔b4 ♔c1 59.♔xa3 d1♔ 60.♙xd1 ♔xd1 61.♔b4 ♔e2 62.a4 ♔xf3 63.a5 ♔g3 64.a6 f3 65.a7 f2 66.a8♔ f1♔ and in the coming endgame, Black's winning chances are better than White's drawing ones. Most probably, a ♔+1 pawn against a ♔ endgame will arise, which could continue for 100 moves. A shocking endgame which shows excellently how difficult chess is.; 49...♔d8! is also fine, with the same idea.]

50.b7 ♔c7 51.♙d3! The bishop is heading to b5 and the knight cannot hold the b-pawn.

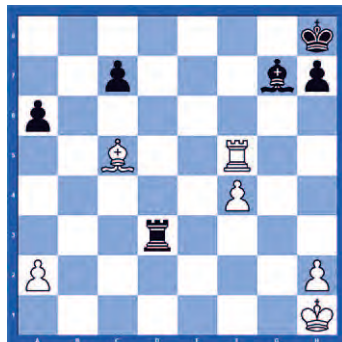
51...♔b8 52.♙b5 Black is in zugzwang.

52...d3 53.♙xd3 ♔d7 54.♔a7! Black resigned in view of 54...♔b8 55.♙b5. Everything went like Carlsen expected, but there could have been a big surprise for him... **1-0**

(16) Carlsen,Magnus (2837) – Karjakin,Sergey (2779) [C65]

World Rapid Final Astana KAZ (10), 07.07.2012

[Chess Evolution]



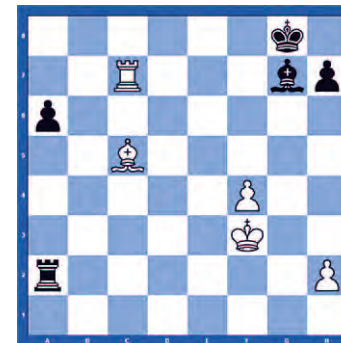
34. ♖f7 This game could have been the most decisive in the tourney. Carlsen was leading the tournament and a victory would have given him a 1.5 points lead ahead of Karjakin. This endgame looks like a total draw, but Carlsen managed to win it quite easily. Let's take a look at how this could happen.

34... ♖d1+? This move is hard to understand. Why to bring the White king out of the corner?! [34... ♗d4! would have been the right decision here! The game is immediately a draw. Maybe Black blundered that White can't play 35. ♖xc7 (35. ♖d7?? ♖d1+ 36. ♗g2 ♖g1+! leaving Black a piece up. 37. ♗f3 ♗xc5) 35... ♗xc5 36. ♖xc5 ♖d1+ 37. ♗g2 ♖d2+ 38. ♗g3 ♖xa2 with an easy draw.]

35. ♗g2 ♖d2+ It wasn't too later for 35... ♗d4

36. ♗f3 ♖xa2 37. ♖xc7 And things are not as simple as before.

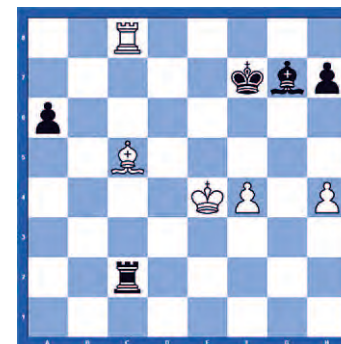
37... ♗g8



38.h4! White's idea is to bring the pawn to h6, and try to get the h7 pawn, winning the game.

38... ♖c2! This is a very good move by Black! Now White is pinned on the c-file and Black just wants to play ♗f8, or move the a-pawn.

39. ♖c8+ ♗f7 40. ♗e4



40... ♖c4+? Another very strange move by Black. [40...a5! followed by a4-a3 with a total draw.]

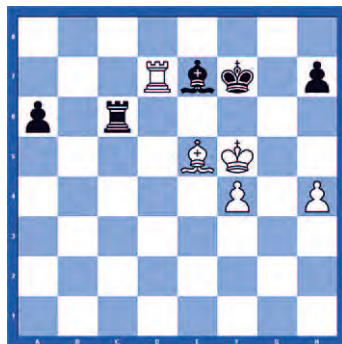
41. ♗f5 ♗d4 Again, it was not too late for 41...a5

42. ♖f8+! Could it be that Black blundered this move!?

42...♔g7 43.♙d6 ♖c6 44.♖d8! Suddenly, Black is facing some serious trouble. White wants to play ♖d7 or h5-h6 first.

44...♙c5?! Black should not remove the bishop from the long diagonal. [44...♔f7! would still hold the draw. 45.♖d7+ ♔e8 46.♖e7+ ♔d8 and Black is holding.]

45.♙e5+ ♔f7 46.♖d7+ ♙e7



47.h5! Black is clearly under pressure but the position is still a draw...

47...♔e8 48.♖a7 ♖h6?! Another little mistake that allows White to put the pawn on h6. [48...♔f7 A passive defense would have been a better choice, even if things are getting sharper than Black would have wanted. 49.♔e4! White finds a new plan, to play f5-f6. 49...♖h6 50.f5 ♔e8 The Black king needs to leave the 7th rank. 51.♔d5 ♖b6 52.♙d4! And the game would continue. The position is still a draw, but to hold this it not easy at all...]

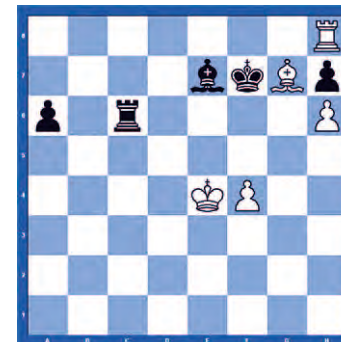
49.♙g7! White uses this chance to put the pawn on h6.

49...♖c6 [49...♖xh5+?? 50.♔e6 and White is winning.]

50.h6 ♔f7 51.♔e4! With the already known idea of f5-f6.

51...♔e8 52.♖a8+?! Played a bit too quickly. [52.f5 would have put bigger pressure on Black.]

52...♔f7 53.♖h8



53...♖c4+? The losing move. [53...♙f6! would have been the only move to save the game. 54.♙xf6 ♔xf6 55.♖xh7 ♔g6 56.♖h8 ♖c4+ with an easy draw.]

54.♔f5! And Black's position is lost.

54...♖c5+ 55.♙e5 The h7 pawn is falling.

55...♙f8 56.♖xh7+ ♔g8 57.♖h8+ ♔f7 58.♖xf8+ Followed by 58...♔xf8 59.h7 ♖xe5 60.fxe5 ♔g7 61.e6. Probably, in the beginning of this endgame every club player would announce that he would hold this endgame easily, which would be a big mistake. Endgames tend to look very „easy“ and are not „easy“ at all! We just saw a 2779 player losing such an endgame, in a rapid game. White showed nice technique and good winning ideas which led, step by step, to a better and better position! **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Morphy, Paul – Muarian, C [C37]

New Orleans New Orleans, 1866

[Balogh Csaba]

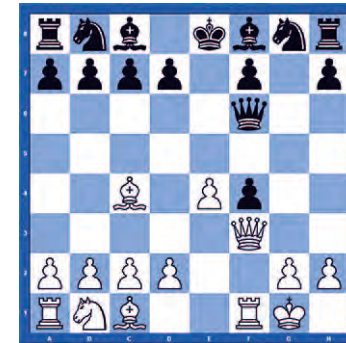
This week we give a big jump in time. We'll examine a game from the strongest player of the mid 19th century, Paul Morphy. He is known as the first unofficial World Champion, since at that time this title didn't exist. Murphy has crushed the whole chess world, with his „romantic“ style. He sacrificed all his pieces and mated his opponents in very short games. We must admit that 150 years ago, the defensive abilities were quite poor. After a while, it was not a challenge for him to mate his opponents, so he started to play handicap matches, starting the games without the a1 rook and things like this. Still, his opponents were unable to resist against his incredible attacking fantasy.

1.e4 e5 2.f4 At the time, only two openings existed against 1.e4 e5. The King's gambit and [2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4 ♙c5 4.b4 the Evans Gambit.]

2...exf4 3.♘f3 g5 This is still the most popular setup from the Black side. He would like to preserve his material advantage for the future.

4.♙c4 g4 Not a bad move, but very risky. [4...♙g7 5.d4 d6 6.h4 h6 followed by ♘c6 is a solid and safe system for Black.]

5.d4!? This brave crifice is typical of Murphy. He tries to use the fact that Black is completely undeveloped and gaining 2 tempi (d4 and ♙xf3) is worth a piece for him. [A similar game was played by Alexei Shirov, who is also famous for his brilliant attacking skills 5.0–0 with the same idea as in 5.d4. 5...gxf3 6.♙xf3 ♙f6



7.e5!? Opening the central lines. Material does not matter anymore, the question is whether the attack breaks through or not... 7...♙xe5 8.♙xf7+! Shirov lures the king into the danger zone and his pieces join the attack with tempo. This is all nice and good, but it is already the 2nd piece... 8...♙xf7 9.d4! ♙xd4+ (9...♙f5 would have been a more tenacious defense 10.♙xf4 ♘f6 11.♘c3 d6 and Black has good defensive possibilities.) 10.♙e3! White cannot waste more time. 10...♙f6 11.♙xf4 This is what Shirov was playing for. The f-file seems really dangerous and the remaining pieces are also coming fast (Nc3 with the threat of ♘d5, and ♖ae1). 11...♙e8 12.♘c3 ♘c6 13.♘d5 ♙g6 Black has enough material to give back. The question is whether he can defend the mate. 14.♖ae1+



14... ♖e7? This loses nicely! (14... ♘ge7! 15. ♙xc7 (15. ♘xc7+ ♙d8 16. ♘xa8 d6 is rather good for Black.) 15...d6 and here I didn't find more than perpetual check. 16. ♘f6+ ♙f7 17. ♘d7+ ♙e8 18. ♘f6+= (18. ♘xf8 ♙f5 would be fine for Black.)) 15. ♙d6!! and Black has no good defense against the threat ♙f8! 15...♙d8 (15...cxd6 16. ♙f8#) 16. ♙f8+! ♙xf8 17. ♙xc7# A picturesque final position. 1–0 Shirov-Lapinski, Daugavpils 1990.]

5...gxf3 6. ♙xf3 ♘c6?! [Computers easily neutralize such attacks, but chess is a game of humans... 6...d6 7. ♙xf4 ♙h4+! 8. ♙g3 On other moves, ♙g4 would come. 8...♙f6 9. ♙d3 ♘c6 It is already a bad sign if Black can develop with tempo...]



7. ♙xf7+! With the same method as in the Shirov game. Murphy makes the king more vulnerable...

7...♙xf7 8. ♙h5+ ♙e7?! It's pretty hard to understand this move, unless Black was playing for a win, but I doubt it... [After the logical 8...♙g7 White has nothing better than settle for the draw with 9. ♙g4+ ♙f7 10. ♙h5+= (I am quite sure that Murphy would have played 10.0–0 and mate his opponent in a few moves, but against the correct defense, he cannot hope for a real attack. 10...♘f6 11. ♙xf4 d6 12. e5 (12. ♙h4 ♙g7 followed by ♙f8 and ♙g8.) 12...dxe5 13. dxe5 ♙d4+ Black exchanges the queens by giving back a piece, but he still has an extra piece.)]

9. ♙xf4 Suddenly, the ♙g5 threat is very unpleasant, but it was still not too late to save the game.

9...♘f6? This is the decisive mistake, Murphy cruelly punishes his opponent... [9...♙g7 should have been played, in order to meet ♙g5 with ♙f6. 10. ♙g5+ (10. e5 ♙e8! 11. ♙g5+ ♙f6! 12. ♙xf6+ ♘xf6 13. ♙h4 ♙g6 14. 0–0 ♙g8 15. g3 d5 and the king has avoided the main danger.) 10...♙f6 11. ♘c3 ♙e8!↵ An important defensive resource to free the d8 square for the king.]

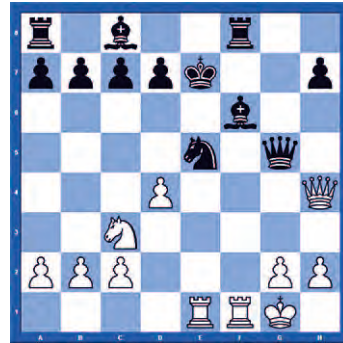
10. ♙g5 ♙g7 11. e5 ♙e8! 12. ♙h4! Similar to the 9... ♙g7 line, but with the bishop on f6, it was more forcing for White to take on f6. Now White takes only when it hurts the most...

12... ♙g6 [12...♙d8 loses to 13.0–0! with the threat of exf6 13...h6 14. ♙xf6+ ♙xf6 15. ♙xf6+ ♘e7 16. d5!+- Crushing.]

13.0–0! White increases the pressure to the maximum.

13...d5 [13...♙f7 14. ♙xf6+-; 13...♙f8 leads to the nicest mate in this game... 14. exf6+ ♙xf6 15. ♘c3! ♙xg5

16. ♖ae1+ ♘e5 White can choose between many winning lines, but the nicest is definitely (16... ♔d8 17. ♙xg5 ♙xg5 18. ♖xf8#)



17. ♖xf6! ♙xh4 (17... ♙xf6 18. ♘d5++-) 18. ♘d5+! and mate in a few moves. 18... ♙e8 19. ♖xe5+ ♙d8 20. ♖xf8#]

14.exf6+ White wins the sacrificed pieces and the mating attack continues. The game is over.

14... ♙f7 15.fxg7+ ♙xg7 16. ♖f6 ♙f5 17. ♖xg6+ hxg6 18. ♙f6+ A nice victory, but this kind of chess would hardly pay out nowadays. **1-0**

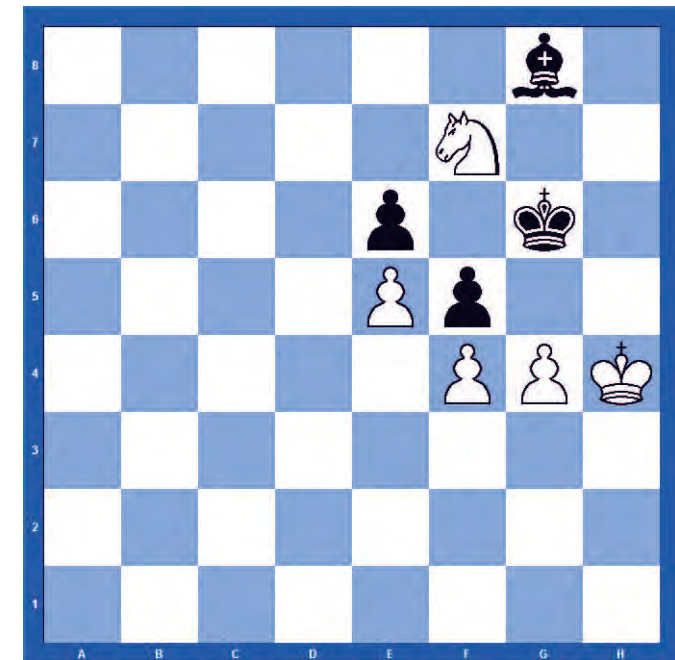
Surprise section / study

(18) Bondar, I

1987

[CEWN]

1.+ -



Solutions

(19) Kosteniuk,A (2472) – Ju Wenjun (2518)

Russia-China match, 02.07.2012

[Solutions]

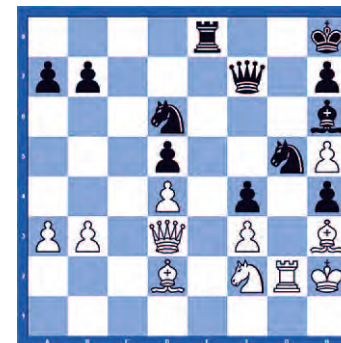


41. ♖xa5! [41. ♔h8+ ♕e7 42. ♔xg7 ♔g8!∞] **41... ♖c7** [41... ♖xa5 42. ♔xf7#; 41... ♔xa5 42. ♔xg5 ♕g8 43. ♔h5 ♕f8 44. ♔h8+ ♕e7 45. ♔xb8+-] **42. ♔h8+ ♕e7 43. ♔xg7 ♔g8 44. ♖h7??** [44. ♔xg8 ♖xg8 45. ♕f1+-] **44... ♔xg7 45. ♖xg7 ♕f6 46. ♖h7 ♖xb3=**

(20) Khismatullin,D (2664) – Khairullin,I (2631)

Russian Higher league, 17.06.2012

[Solutions]

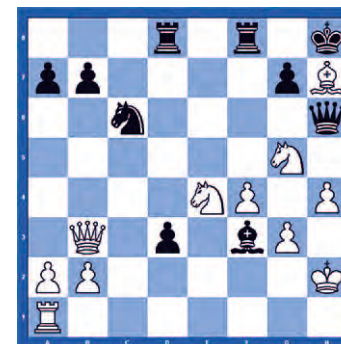


33... ♖e3! 34. ♕xe3 fxe3 35. ♘g4 [35. ♔xe3 ♘xf3+-+] **35... ♔f4+ 36. ♕h1 ♘h3--+**

(21) Papadopoulos,I (2417) – Berg,E (2587)

Greek league, 01.07.2012

[Solutions]

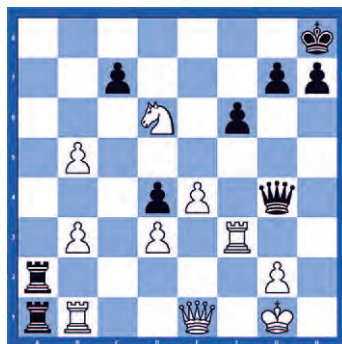


25... ♖xf4! 26. gxf4 ♔xh4+ 27. ♘h3 [27. ♕g1 ♔h1+ 28. ♕f2 ♔g2+ 29. ♕e3 ♔e2#] **27... ♘d4! 28. ♔xd3 ♔xh7!--+ 29. ♘ef2** [29. ♖e1 ♔g6 30. ♘hg5 ♔h5+ 31. ♘h3 ♕xe4 32. ♔xe4 ♘f3+-+] **29... ♔h4! 30. ♖e1** [30. ♖g1 ♕c6+-] **30... ♕c6 31. ♖e3 ♔h5--+**

(22) Berg,E (2587) – Hagen,A (2445)

Svein memorial, 22.06.2012

[Solutions]



36. ♖f7+! ♔g8 37. ♖h6+! gxf6 38. ♖g3! 1-0

(23) Gupta,A (2644) – Sarkar,J (2411)

Philadelphia Open, 29.06.2012

[Solutions]

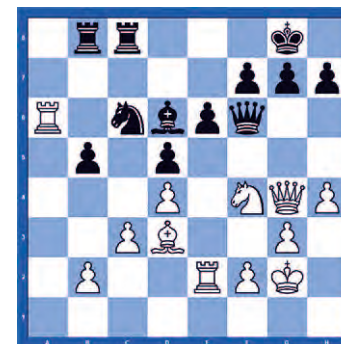


31. ♖xe6! ♔xe6 32. ♖h5! ♔f8 [32... ♔e7 33. ♖xf5 ♔f8 34. ♖xg4+-] 33. ♖xc4 dxc4 34. ♖xc4+ ♔d7 35. e6+- [35. d5!+-]

(24) Zapata,A (2484) – Battaglini,G (2412)

Philadelphia Open, 01.07.2012

[Solutions]

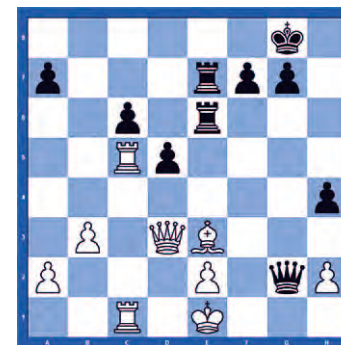


25. ♖xe6! [25. ♖h5 ♔h6] 25...h5 [25...fxe6 26. ♖xe6 ♔f8 27. ♖h5 g6 28. ♖xg6 ♔b7 29. ♖xd5+-] 26. ♖xh5! [26. ♖h3+-] 26...fxe6 27. ♖e3! g6 [27... ♖h6 28. ♖xh6 gxf6 29. ♖xe6+-] 28. ♖xg6 ♔c7 29. ♖f3 ♔h8 30. ♖f7+-

(25) Pelletier,Y (2589) – Heimann,A (2480)

Suisse league, 24.06.2012

[Solutions]

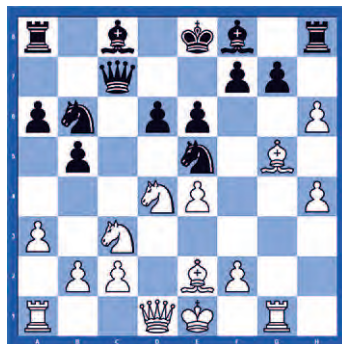


34. ♖xc6! g6 [34... ♖xe3 35. ♖c8+ ♔e8 36. ♖xe3!+-] 35. ♖xe6 ♖xe6 36. ♖c8+ ♔h7 37. ♖d4+-

(26) Istratescu,A (2633) – Mohajerin,P (2429)

Suisse league, 24.06.2012

[Solutions]

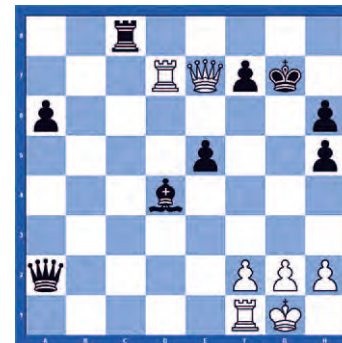


16. ♖dxb5! [16.hxg7 ♙xg7 17. ♖dxb5! is the same.]
16...axb5 17. ♖xb5 ♔d7 18.hxg7! ♙xg7 19. ♖xd6+
♔f8 20. ♙b5! ♖c6 [20...♔c7 21. ♖e8!! ♔c5 22. ♖xg7+-]
21. ♖f5? [21. ♙e3! ♙e5 22. ♙c5+-; 21. ♖c4! ♔xd1+ (21...
 ♖xc4 22. ♙xc6 ♔xc6 23. ♔d8+ ♔e8 24. ♙e7+-) 22. ♖xd1
 ♖xc4 23. ♙xc6+-] **21...exf5?** [21...♙xb2!∞] **22. ♙xc6**
♔xd1+ [22...♔xc6 23. ♔d8+ ♔e8 24. ♙e7+-] **23. ♖xd1+-**

(27) Yu Ruiyuan (2511) – Zhao Jun (2583)

Chinese league, 27.06.2012

[Solutions]

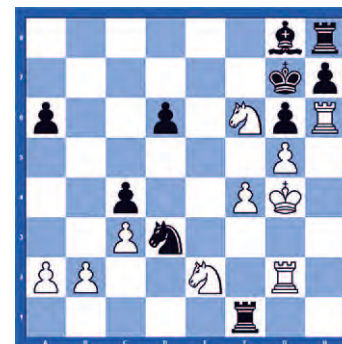


33... ♔xf2+! 0-1 [33... ♔xf2+ 34. ♖xf2 ♔c1#]

(28) Caruana,F (2767) – Godena,M (2508)

Suisse league, 24.06.2012

[Solutions]

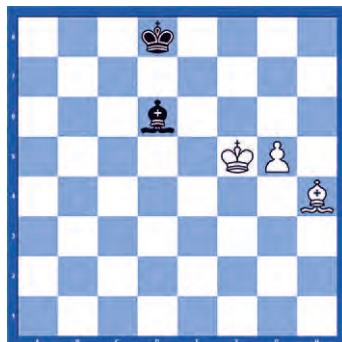


43... ♖e1! [43... ♙e6+? 44. ♔g3 ♖e1 45. ♖d4!±] **44. ♔g3**
 [44. ♖gh2 ♙e6+ 45. ♔h4 (45. ♔g3 ♖f3+ 46. ♔h4 ♖g2+!
 47. ♖xg2 ♖h3#) 45... ♖f3+-+; 44. ♖g3 ♙e6+ 45. ♔h4
 ♖h1+-+] **44... ♖xg2 45. ♔xg2 ♖b1+-**

(29) Taniev,R

1986

[Solutions]



1. Ke6 [1.g6+? Ke8 2. Ke6 Kf8!=]

1... Re7 [1... Rf8 2. Kf7 Re7 3.g6 Rxf6 4.g7+-]

2.g6! Ke8! 3. Rg5!! [3. Rf6? Rxf6 4. Kxf6 Kf8=; 3.g7? Rf8!! 4.g8 Rxc5=]

3... Ra3 [3... Rf8 4. Re7 Rh6 (4... Rg7 5. Rd6 Rh6 6. Rf6 Rd7 7. Rf4+-) 5. Rc5 Rg7 6. Rd6! Rh6 (6... Rd4 7. Re5! Rxe5 8. Kxe5 Kf8 9. Rf6 Rg8 10.g7+-) 7. Rf6! A theoretical winning position, but it is instructive to see the technique. 7... Re3 8. Rg7! Rd4+ 9. Rg8 Rc3 10. Rf8 Rd4 11. Rg7 Re3 12. Kh7 Rc5 13. Rc3 Rf8 14. Rb4+-]

4.g7 Rf8 5.g8 R!! Ra3 6. Rf7+ Kf8 7. Rh6# 1-0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 21

20th of July 2012

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Editorial Preface

The main story of the week is definitely the Dortmund Chess Festival. The system is back to a 10 players single round-robin, instead of the 6 players double round-robin. For the first time, 4 German players are participating in the event, exactly the 4 players that won the European Team Championship 2011.

As usual, many Top 10 players are invited as well, with Kramnik, Karjakin, Caruana, Leko, Ponomarev making the tournament super strong. M.Bartel, who qualified in the Aeroflot Open, seems to be in a bad shape. Until now, there have been a lot of fighting and exciting games, it's a clear must for a chess fan to have a look at a few of them. Of course, we comment games from the event for You.

Another female Grand Prix has started, Koneru is a clear favorite to take the first place.

The Turkish league is another chess event with a few super starts participating, like Adams, Mamedyarov and Polgar.

The Dutch Chess Championship has begun, Giri is dominating the tournament until now.

Instead of Arkadij Naiditsch, this week Kamil Miton commented the 2 games for You. He is the usual analyst in the Chess Evolution book issues, so we hope You will enjoy his comments as well. Also, we hope that you understand that Arkadij is playing the Dortmund Super Tournament, and in such events, full concentration is required.

Another important announcement, please keep around **6MB of free space** in Your email box! Every CEWN issue is around this size. In case there is no way to make this space free, please contact us. We will send out "Zip" files.

As usual, have fun with the new material included in the CEWN Nr. 21!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Gustafsson,J (2629)
– Kramnik,V (2799) [E94]

Dortmund, 14.07.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

In this game, we can see the fruits of Kramnik's great re-search work.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** g6 **3.♘c3** ♙g7 What a surprise! Kramnik plays the King's Indian defense. He employed it in 3 normal time control games during his whole career (according to my database at least). The last time he used it was in 1997.

4.e4 d6 **5.♘f3** 0–0 **6.♙e2** e5 **7.♙e3** Gustafsson does not like deviating from his well analyzed lines. This, of course, made Kramnik's task much easier.

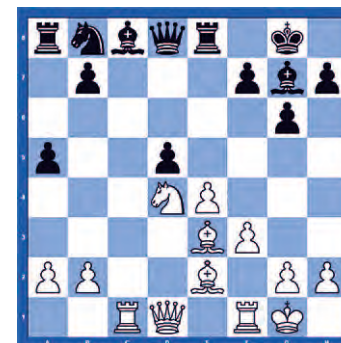
7...c6 **8.0–0** exd4 **9.♘xd4** ♖e8 **10.f3**



10...d5 A very concrete line, in which Gustafsson came up with a nice novelty in 2011, which was analyzed in many articles as the new way to go.

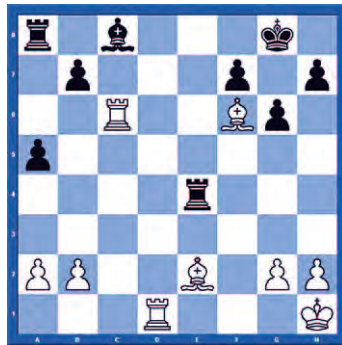
11.cxd5 ♘xd5 **12.♘xd5** cxd5 **13.♖c1!?** This is the „new way“. [13.♖b3 was the old line, but after 13...♘c6 14.♖ad1 ♘xd4 15.♙xd4 ♙xd4+ 16.♖xd4 ♖f6! Black solves his problems according to the theory.]

13...a5!! [13...♘c6 This natural developing move happened in Gustafsson's first game. 14.♘xc6 bxc6 15.♖xc6 ♙b7 16.♖c1 dxe4 17.♖xd8 ♖axd8 18.f4! and White got a small advantage. He has a great blockade on e3 and he can slowly use his pawn majority on the queenside. 18...♙d4 19.♙f2 ♙xe3+ 20.♙xe3+= Gustafsson-Maze, Aix-les-Bains 2011.; 13...dxe4 14.fxe4 ♖xe4 (14...♙xd4 15.♙xd4 ♘c6 After analyzing the game, it's an interesting question what White can do here...) 15.♘e6!! is White's point behind 13.♖c1, the bishop on c8 is hanging.]



14.♖b3 Objectively not a bad move, but from a psychological point of view, it was exactly what Kramnik expected. [14.♙b5 was my first idea, using the b5 square, but after 14...♙d7 Black develops comfortably. 15.a4 dxe4 16.♙c4 ♙xd4! As we will see, this is always Black's defensive idea. 17.♙xd4 (17.♖xd4 ♘c6 18.♖c3 ♖c8 19.fxe4 ♘e5 Black is fine.) 17...♙e6 18.fxe4 ♘c6 After exchanging the queens, Black does not need to worry about getting mat-

ed.; 14.♘b5 Black can easily parry the threats around the c7 square. 14...♘c6 15.♙f4 ♙e5 is the easiest. 16.♙xe5 ♖xe5 followed by ♙e6 and dxe4. ♔b6 check is also annoying in many lines.; 14.♖h1 is the machine's recommendation. Probably Kramnik prepared 14...dxe4 15.fxe4 (15.♙c4 is met with the usual 15...♙xd4 16.♙xd4 ♘c6) 15...♙xd4! 16.♙xd4 ♘c6 17.♙f6 ♔xd1 18.♖fxd1 ♖xe4 and Black holds the material balance in a miraculous way. 19.♖xc6 (19.♙f3 ♖e8 should be a draw after ♙xc6.)



19...♙f5!! Two pieces are hanging, and on 20.♖c2 ♖e6! Black recovers the bishop.; 14.♔d2 would be a very logical response. The idea is simple: to protect the e3 bishop. White wants to take on d5, followed by, for example, ♔xd5 ♙c4. 14...dxe4 15.fxe4 (15.♙c4 ♙xd4 16.♙xd4 ♘c6) 15...♙xd4 16.♙xd4 ♘c6 And in comparison to all the lines we examined before, White has a very dangerous alternative: 17.♖xc6! bxc6 18.♖xf7!! A really spectacular double rook sacrifice, unfortunately it only leads to a draw. 18...♙xf7 19.♔f4+ ♙f5! Only move! Black has enough material to give back. (19...♙g8 20.♙c4+! followed by ♔e5 after both possible blockading moves on e6...) 20.♙c4+ (20. exf5? is not good. 20...♖xe2 21.fxg6+ ♙xg6 22.♔g4+ ♔g5 23.♔xe2 ♔c1+! After this important check, White is forced

to exchange queens, which was clearly not his intention.) 20...♙e7! 21.exf5 The pair of bishops have an incredible power against the e7 king, but Black is lucky to save the game. (21.♙c5+ is also possible 21...♙f6 22.exf5 ♔d1+ 23.♙f1! (23.♙f2 loses to 23...♖e5! 24.♙d4 ♔e1+ 25.♙f3 g5!) 23...♖e1 24.fxg6+ ♙xg6 25.♔g3+ ♙f7 26.♔c7+ is probably a draw.) 21...♔d6! 22.♙e5! (22.f6+ ♙d7 The king is heading to safety.) 22...♔d1+ 23.♙f2 and here, according to the machine (I think, we can believe it in this kind of positions), Black has nothing better than to settle for a draw with 23...♔c2+ 24.♙g3 ♔xf5 25.♔d4! ♔g5+ 26.♙h3 ♔h5+ 27.♙g3= I am pretty sure that Kramnik has also analyzed until this moment, but his analysis were going much deeper and detailed.]

14...a4! 15.♔xd5 ♔xd5 16.exd5 White proves the point of his 13.♖c1 move again. The e3 bishop is not hanging.

16...a3!? [16...♘c6!? was an interesting alternative, after which White must be very careful not to stay worse. 17.♘c2! Only move. 17...♘b4! 18.♘xb4 ♖xe3 White is a pawn up, but the Black bishops start to work. 19.♙f2 ♖e8 20.♖fd1 The check on d4 had to be prevented. 20...♙xb2 21.♖c7 and the d-pawn gives enough counterplay for White to hold the draw. For example_ 21...♖d8 22.d6 ♙a3 23.d7 ♙xb4 24.dxc8 ♔ dxc8 25.♖xb7=]

17.b3? [Following the „less pieces, less problems” principle with 17.bxa3! would have been the right decision to try to make a draw. This was much more principled from a practical point of view as well, because Gustafsson has already spent all his time. He only had about 15 minutes, while Kramnik had around 1 hour and 30 minutes. 17...♖xa3 18.♙f2 ♖xa2 19.♖fe1 with a drawn position.]



17...♞c6! From now on Kramnik shows no mercy.

18.♞c2! Just as in the previous case, this is the only move. [18.♞xc6 ♜xe3; 18.dxc6 ♜xe3 19.♞fd1 ♞xd4 20.♞xd4 ♜xe2 21.♞d8+ ♔g7 might seem a bit suspicious, but Black is winning.]

18...♜xe3! Probably Gustafsson missed this move when he played 17.b3.

19.♞xe3 ♞b4 Black is going to take the a2 pawn and his a-pawn will be amazingly dangerous, thanks to the support of the dark squared bishop and the rook. In addition, the ♞d4 threat is also in the air.

20.♞c4 Gustafsson went under 5 minutes, not a good sign in such positions... He made the most logical move again, but it was bad once again. White prevented the ♞d4 threat... [The computer could still have saved the game by playing 20.♞c7! ♞d4! (20...♞xa2 21.d6 The d-pawn compensates again. Strangely, the computer shows a White advantage here.) 21.♞e7 ♞xd5 22.♞e8+ ♔g7 23.♞d1! This kind of chess is, of course, not for human beings. Especially with so little time on the clock. 23... ♞xe3+ (23...♞c3 24.♞f1 ♞xe3 transposes.) 24.♞f1 ♞c3

25.♞xe3 ♞xd1 26.♞xd1 ♞f5 27.b4! and White holds the draw after putting the bishop on b3.]

20...♞xa2 21.♞a4?! [21.♞c2 gave better practical chances, but still, after 21...♞c3 22.♞d3 a2 the position does not look great.]

21...♞xa4 22.bxa4 ♞d4 23.♞f2? The final mistake! Once again, White made the most obvious move (chess is sometimes a strange game). [The machine's 23.♞h1! would have forced Kramnik to show his excellent technique. 23...♞b4! (23...♞xe3 is not precise, because of 24.♞a1) 24.♞c4 ♞xe3 25.♞a1 ♞c5 26.♞xa3 ♞xd5 when Black is clearly better, but White has very good chances to get rid of the queenside pawns with a5-a6, which definitely increases his chances to survive.]

23...♞b4 Now the a-pawn promotes! It made a nice career in this game.

24.♞c1 a2 Kramnik was in sacrificing mood today. [24... ♞d7 was also good enough.]

25.♞xc8+ ♔g7 26.♞c1 ♞xd5! And White cannot avoid ending up with a huge material disadvantage...

27.♞d1 ♞xe3 It will be interesting to follow this line in the future, to see how the players try to refute the 13...a5 move. **0-1**

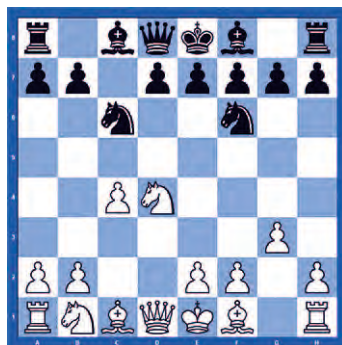
(2) Kamsky,G (2744) – Le Quang Liem (2693) [A31]

Amsterdam, 14.07.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

Recently, all the top players are varying their first moves. Theory is already so huge that they must bring the surprise factor in their games.

1.c4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.g3

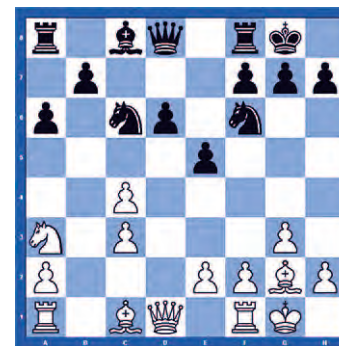


5...e5!? It was a forgotten sideline until 2011, when Grischuk successfully employed it against Kramnik. It gives up the d5 square, but in our computer era, the machines find concrete sense behind all the moves. It was impossible to meet such a move from a top player 20 years ago...

6.♘b5 ♘b4+ 7.♘1c3 [The point of the 5...e5 move excellently comes out after 7.♘d2 a6 8.♘5c3 d5! Despite that seemingly White did everything well, Black overtook the initiative. 9.cxd5 ♘xd5 10.♘g2 ♘e6↑]

7...a6?! A dubious novelty to the mentioned game. I hardly believe this was a prepared one by the strong Vietnamese GM, I think he mixed up something in his memory. [7...d6 8.♘g2 (8.a3!? could be Kamsky's improvement. 8...♘xc3+

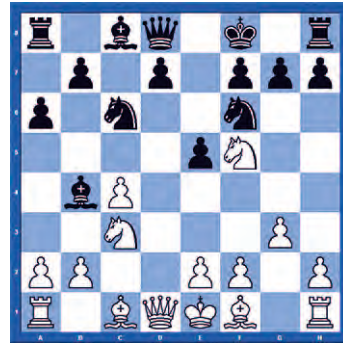
9.♘xc3 (After the concrete 9.bxc3 0–0 10.♘xd6 ♔a5 Black gets very strong counterplay.) 9...♘e6 Black must act. He attacks the c4 pawn and prepares for the break with d5, which could solve his opening problems. At this moment, maybe Kamsky has prepared a pawn sacrifice, which would fit his style. 10.♘g5!? ♘xc4 11.♔c1 ♘e6 12.♘g2 creating very strong counterplay on the light squares. I don't think White can be worse, the question is whether he can be better if Black plays correctly. Probably future games will show us.) 8...a6 9.♘a3 ♘xc3+ 10.bxc3 0–0 11.0–0



11...h6 An interesting position. Both sides have their pluses and minuses. White is doing well on the light squares, but the doubled pawns on the c-file are weak. Black has a backward pawn on d6, but has a quick counterplay against c4 with ♘e6 and ♘a5. The a3 knight is standing poorly, White must waste some important tempi to improve it. 12.♘c2 ♔c7 13.♘e3 ♘e6 14.♘a3 ♔fd8 with a more or less balanced position in Kramnik-Grischuk, Kazan 2011.]

8.♘d6+ ♔e7 9.♘f5+! White wants to consolidate his position and organize his play around the d5 square. [9.♘xc8+ would allow a quick counterplay against the c4 pawn. 9...♔xc8 10.♘g2 ♘a5!]

9...♔f8



10. Nxe3! Otherwise, Black had the d5 break. Now, it's Black's turn to do something quickly, otherwise he'll get a much worse version than the Kramnik-Grischuk game. The White knight stands excellently on e3 and Black has lost the right to castle.

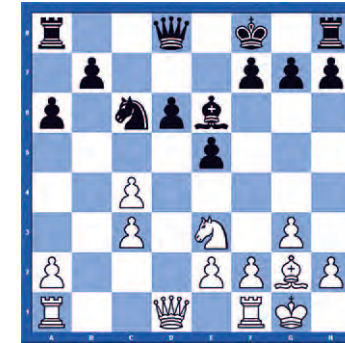
10... Nxe4 11. Nxd5 Nxc3 Black preserves his bishop and creates the usual weaknesses on the c-file.

12. bxc3! [12. Nxc3 would allow a quick counterattack against the c4 pawn. 12... d6 13. g2 e6]

12... Bc5 13. g2 d6 14. Be3! The right decision! White must exchange the strong dark squared bishops, after which the d6 and b7 pawns, and the b6 square, are more vulnerable. [14. 0-0 was also good, but the next move should be Be3 anyway.]

14... Bxe3 [On other moves, like 14... Be6 White wanted to play 15. Bxc5! dxc5 16. Bb1 Bb8 17. 0-0 followed by Bb3, Bfd1 with big pressure.]

15. Nxe3 Be6 16. 0-0

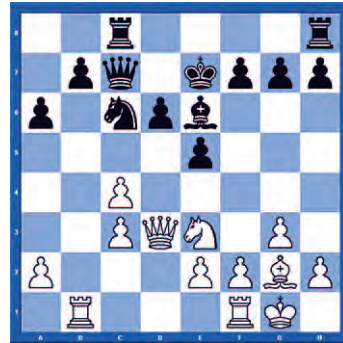


16... Ke7 [On 16... Na5 White probably prepared an intuitive sacrifice 17. c5! 17... dxc5 18. Ba4! and Black cannot avoid the invasion of the rooks on the d-file. 18... g6 19. Bfd1 Bc7 20. Nd5 Bxd5 21. Bxd5 Kg7 22. Bd7+/-]

17. Bd3! I really like this move, despite it's not the only one that gets a big advantage. White develops logically, and at the same time, sticks the h8 to defend h7, which will cost another important tempo to Black. [17. Bb1!? Bc7 18. Ba4 was in a completely different style, but also very good. 18... Rac8 19. Bfd1 with a big advantage. Black cannot finish his development with 19... Bhd8 because of 20. Nd5+! Bxd5 21. cxd5 Na7 22. Bh4+! and h7 falls. This kind of hidden checks are very easy to blunder.]

17... Rc8 18. Bb1! Developing with a tempo against the opponent's weakness is always nice.

18... Bc7



19.f4! This attack was in Kamsky's mind when he played 17.♔d3. For such decisions, you must have strong intuitions, because if the attack does not break through, White just creates weaknesses on his own camp. Now the concrete threat is f5, winning a piece because of ♘d5.

19...♘a5 [19...exf4 20.♘d5+ ♕xd5 21.♕xd5 will be similar to the game.; 19...f6 loses to the nice 20.♕h3! and Black has no move.]

20.♘d5+! ♕xd5 21.♕xd5 It will be bad for Black to neutralize the power of the d5 bishop. Note that the h8 rook is still paralyzed because of the ♔d3 move. Any kind of attempt to activate it with h6 or g6 would just create new weaknesses.

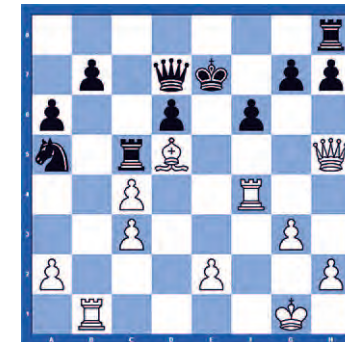
21...f6 22.♔f5! A very nice regrouping. Kamsky simply plays this game perfectly.

22...♔d7 23.♔h5! The new threat is fxe5 opening the lines against the Black king, against which Black cannot do anything. The game is practically over.

23...exf4 This had to be really hard difficult to make, since Black should have kept the position closed at any cost. But Le Quang could not find a way to deal with fxe5

and decided to open the position himself. [For example, after 23...♔d8 24.fxe5! and either the rook invades on f7 or the opening of the d-file decide the game.; On 23...♔e8 24.♔g4+- wins.]

24.♔xf4 ♔c5 [24...♔d8 in order to find shelter for the king on the queenside would be refuted by 25.♕e6! ♔xe6 26.♔xa5+ followed by ♔xb7. This is the reason why Black played 24...♔c5.]



25.♔xf6!! This beautiful tactical blow puts the point at the end of the game.

25...gxf6 [Black loses even more material after 25...♔xf6 26.♔f1+ ♔e7 27.♔f7+ ♔d8 28.♔g5+! The most accurate way to win. 28...♔c8 29.♔xd7 ♔xd7 30.♔xg7+-]

26.♔f7+ ♔d8 27.♔xf6+ ♔c7 28.♔xh8 The game is over! White has a huge material advantage and his pieces continue dominating.

28...♔e7 29.e4 It is always a pleasure for an 1.e4 player, to play e2-e4 in the later period of the game.

29...♔d7 30.♔f1 ♔b6 31.♔f7 ♔a4 32.♔d8+ ♔a7 33.♔xd6 ♔a3 34.♔g2! Of course, all the moves were win-

ning, but I like this a lot, to avoid giving the smallest hope of some kind of perpetual check.

34... ♔**xa2+** **35.** ♔**h3** ♖**c8** **36.** ♔**b4** An impressive victory by Kamsky, although it's a pity for him that it didn't count for the rating. **1-0**

(3) Karjakin, Sergey (2779)
– **Fridman, Daniel (2655) [B12]**

40th GM Dortmund GER (5), 17.07.2012

[Kamil Miton]

We are in the 5th round of the tournament. Lately, I would say that playing the Caro-Kann against Karjakin is similar to have a race at 1 km/hour against a Bugatti Veyron. He is simply winning all his games in it... We see another great attacking game of White! Bravo Sergey.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♙**f5 4.** ♘**f3 e6 5.** ♙**e2 c5** Another option is: [5... ♘e7 The favorite move of A.Karpov, with the idea of playing the thematic c5 a bit later.]

6. ♙**e3** ♔**b6** A very sharp move that leads to complex positions. The queen is very well placed on b6 because it immediately puts pressure on b2 and d4. The problem for Black is that White gets much better development. A more quiet alternative is: [6... cxd4 7. ♘xd4 ♘e7 but Fridman already tested it in the same tournament against Caruana with a bad result, so probably he wanted to change the line.]

7. ♘**c3** We know that usually in this structure the c3 square is reserved for the pawn to support the central pawns on d4-e5, but in this case, the development is more important.

7... ♘c6 8.0-0 If you said A you have to say B. Black has no choice and has to take the pawn because ♘a4 is a threat. After **8... cxd4 9.** ♘**xd4**, White gets strong activity.

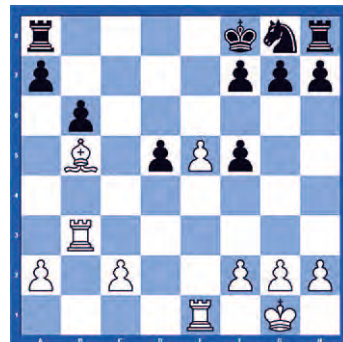
8... ♔**xb2 9.** ♔**e1** [9. ♘b5



9...c4! 10.♘c7+ ♔d7 11.♘xa8 ♙xc2 ∞ The king can feel safer now because Black managed to close the position. Black will win the knight on a8 anyway, and thanks to the strong pawns on the queenside, he should have enough compensation.]

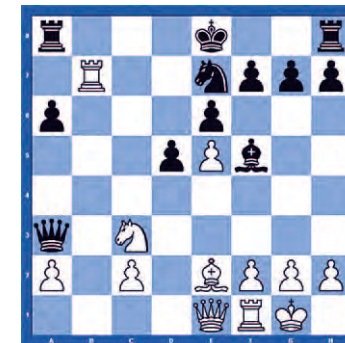
9...cxd4 [9...c4 The same idea in order not to allow the White pieces to get stronger activity. 10.♖b1 ♔xc2 11.♖xb7 Now, White should try to improve the pieces with ♙d1–Ba4 or ♔a1–Rb1, getting a guaranteed initiative.]

10. ♙xd4 ♘xd4 11. ♘xd4 ♙b4 12. ♘db5 In the previous games, White played: [12.♖b1 ♙xc3 13.♖xb2 ♙xe1 14.♖xe1 b6 15.♙b5+ ♔f8 16.♘xf5 exf5 17.♖b3 In this endgame, Gashimov and Svidler managed to score the full point, but objectively, after deep analysis, the position is probably drawish.]



17...♘e7 18.♖c3 ♖c8 19.♖xc8+ ♘xc8 20.♖d1 ♘e7 21.f4 g5 22.fxg5 h6 23.c4 hxg5 24.cxd5 ♘g6 25.♖f1 f4 26.d6 ♔g7 27.♖e1 ♘f8 28.♙d3 ♘e6 29.♙f5+= 1–0 Svidler,P-Postny,E/ Ningbo CHN 2011 (37).]

12... ♙a5 Logical move. Black avoids the ♘c7 threat and maintains the unpleasant pin. In the previous Karjakin game, his opponent played: [12... ♙xc3 13.♘xc3 but now, the problem is that Black will not castle on time. 13...a6 (13...♘e7 14.♖b1 ♔xc2 15.♖xb7+/-; 13...♘h6 14.♖b1 ♔xc2 15.♙b5+ ♔f8 16.♔e3+/-; 13...♔xc2 14.♖b1↑) 14.♖b1 ♔a3 15.♖xb7 ♘e7



16. ♙b5+! Thanks to this trick, Black will need to lose time in order to secure the king. 16...♔f8 17.♙d3 ♖c8 18.♘e2 ♙xd3 19.cxd3 g6 20.♔d2 ♔g7 21.♖fb1 ♖he8 22.h4+/- The Black position is very bad. 1–0 Karjakin,S-Tukhaev,A/ Plovdiv BUL 2010 (30).]

13. ♖b1 ♔xc2 14. ♖b3 ♘e7 [14... ♙g6 is too slow. 15.♘d4 ♙xc3 16.♖xc3 ♔b2 (16...♔e4 17.♔d1 ♔xe5 18.♔a4+ ♔f8 19.♔b4+ ♘e7 20.♖fc1+-) 17.♙b5+ ♔f8



18.f3 and the Black queen is trapped! 18...a5 19.a3+-]

15.♘d6+ ♔f8 16.♘xb7 ♙b6



17.♘d6 N [17.♙d1 This move was played a few weeks ago during the Greek Team Championship. I spoke about this interesting game with Postny (he played in my team). He told me that the engines show all the time an almost equal position, and that Black should be fine here, but of course, from a practical point of view, it's much easier to play with the White pieces. 17...♙c1 18.♘a4 ♙c7 The most human move. Finally, the Black queen escaped from the trap and found a safe place. (18...♙d4 Black saved the bishop and puts pressure on the e5 pawn. 19.♘d6 ♙f4∞) 19.♘d6 ♙g6 20.♙b4 ♔g8 21.♘xb6 axb6 22.♙c3 ♙d8

The strong knight on d6 and the time to play h6-Kh7 gives White compensation, but nothing more. 23.♙a4 h5 24.♙fc1 ♔h7 25.♙c7 ♘f5 26.♘xf5 ♙xf5 27.♙xf7 ♙c8 Finally, White recovered the pawn, but Black solved all his problems. 28.♙xc8 ♙xc8 29.h3 ♙c1+ 30.♔h2 ♙c8∞ 1/2-1/2 Caruana,F-Postny,E/Achaea GRE 2012 (40).]

17...♙a5 [17...♙g6 18.♙d1 ♙c1 19.♘a4 It's very important to eliminate this strong bishop for White to get pressure on the dark squares. 19...♙c7 Similar to the Caruana-Postny game. (19...h6 20.♙c3 ♙f4 21.♘xb6 axb6 22.♙c7↑; 19...♙d4 20.♘b5 ♙b6 21.♘xb6 axb6 22.a4↑ with the idea of ♙c3-Rc7-Qb4.; 19...♙d8!?) 20.♘xb6 axb6 21.♙b4 h6 (21...♘c6 22.♙c3 (22.♙f4



22...♙a5! Very nice move! The rook on the 5th rank is perfectly placed to create counterplay against the e5 pawn, and the knight on d6 after d4. Besides, it defends against the White pressure on the c-file, because after 23.♙c3, Black can play 23...♙c5.) 22...d4 23.♙c4 ♙a5 24.f4 ♙c5 25.♙a6 ♔e7 26.♘b5 ♙b8 27.♘xd4 ♘xd4 28.♙xb6+-) 22.♙xb6 (22.♙c3=∞) 22...♙xb6 23.♙xb6 ♔g8 24.a4 ♔h7=]

18.♙f3 Logical move. White is going to improve his pieces after ♙e3-Rc1. The threat against d4 is stopped

because the rook on a8 is hanging. [18.♔c1?! After the queen exchange, White still has some initiative but it's not as strong. 18...♕xc1 19.♖xc1 g5∞]

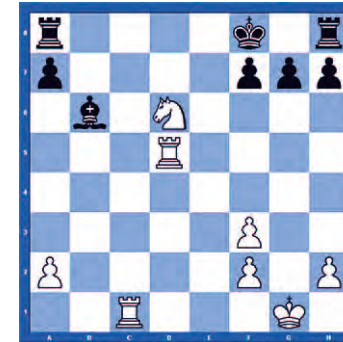
18...♕d3 This move forces White to exchange queens.

19.♔c1 ♕xc1 20.♖xc1 ♘g6? A mistake, Black immediately looks for counterplay on e5. I'm sure that Fridman saw the next Karjakin's move but I suppose he missed something in his deep calculation. He should play: [20...♕g6 escaping from the ♘xd5 threat. 21.h4 (21.♖b5 ♕b6 22.♘a4 ♕d4 It's not easy to exchange the bishop! 23.♘c5 ♖g8 24.♘d7 h5 A logical move that we saw already many times. The rook on h8 is also out of play. 25.♖b4 ♖d8 26.♖c7 ♕a1! ∞; 21.♖b7 ♕d3!? with the idea of keeping the possibility of taking out the rook from the 7th rank after ♕a6. 22.♕d1 ♕a6 23.♖d7? ♕c8 24.♘xc8 ♖xc8=+) 21...h5 (21...♘c6 22.♘xd5 ♘xe5 23.♘c7 ♘xf3+ 24.gxf3 ♖d8 25.♘b7 ♕xc7 26.♖xc7+/-) 22.♖b7 ♕d3 (22...♘f5!?) 23.♕e2 The bishop didn't play on f3. 23...♕xc3 24.♖xc3 ♕xe2 25.♖cc7 and now both options lead to a draw. 25...♘f5 (25...♕a6 26.♖xa7 ♖xa7 27.♖xa7 ♕c8 28.♖c7 ♕a6=) 26.♖xf7+ ♖g8 27.♘xf5 exf5 28.♖xg7+ ♖f8=]

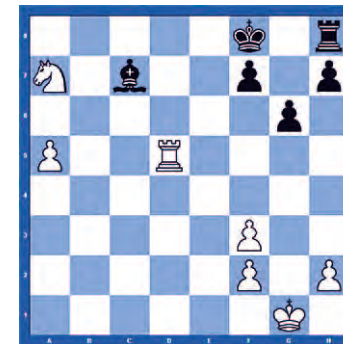


21.♘xd5!+/-

21...♘xe5 [21...exd5 22.♖xd3 ♘xe5 23.♖xd5 ♘xf3+ 24.gxf3 ♕b6 The more active pieces and the badly placed king on f8 give White a strong initiative. 25.a4! White is going to take out the bishop from its nice square.



25...g6 26.a5 ♕d8 27.♖b5 (27.♖c8 ♖xc8 28.♘xc8 ♕c7 29.♖c5 (29.♘xa7

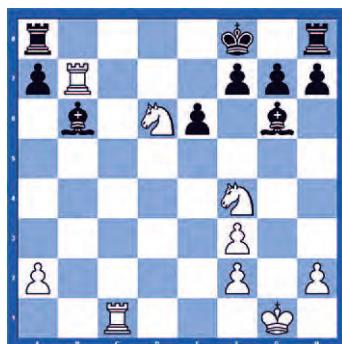


29...♕e7! Black gets good counterplay against the pawn. 30.♘c6+ ♕e6 31.♖d1 ♖a8=; 29.♖d7 ♕xa5 30.♘d6 ♕b4 31.♘xf7 ♖g8 32.♘g5 ♕e7 33.♘h7+ ♕e8 34.♖xa7 g5=X♘h7) 29...♕b8 30.♖b5 ♕f4 31.♘xa7 ♖g7 32.♘c6 ♖a8) 27...♕g7 28.♖b7 ♖f8 (28...♕xa5 29.♖xf7+ ♖h6 30.♖c4→) 29.♖c5+= The Black position is very passive, but he still has drawish chances.]

22. ♖f4 ♗xf3+ [22... ♖d8 23. ♗b7+-]

23. gxf3 ♕g6 [23... ♕d2 24. ♖c7 (24. ♗xd3 ♕xc1 25. ♗xc1 ♖e7 26. ♗e4 ♖hd8 ∞) 24... ♕xf4 25. ♖xf7+ ♖g8 26. ♖xf4 ♕g6 Maybe this was a better option for Black. Anyway, the White position is much better thanks to his very active pieces.]

24. ♖b7 ♕b6



25. ♖c8+! After this exchange, White can create additional threats on the 8th rank.

25... ♖xc8 26. ♗xc8 The next moves in the game are quite forced. Black is lost...

26... ♕d4 27. ♖b8 ♕e5 28. ♖a8 [28. ♗xg6+ hxg6 29. ♗d6+ ♖e7 30. ♖xh8 ♕xd6 31. ♖a8 ♕c5 If this end-game is winning for White, it's quite unclear...]

28... ♕xf4 29. ♗xa7+ ♖e7 30. ♖xh8 ♖d7 31. ♗b5 ♕e5 The two bishops are always strong pieces. In this case, a pawn guarantees the victory for White.

32. a4 ♖c6 33. ♗c3 Good move. White is going to play ♗e4 eventually, in order to limit the bishop on g6. The knight is not hanging because of ♖c8.

33... ♕c2 34. a5 ♕g6 [34... ♖b7 35. ♗e4 ♖a6 (35... h6 36. ♗c5+-) 36. ♖xh7 ♕d4 37. ♖h8 ♖xa5 38. ♗g5+- The Black king is too far away.]

35. ♗e4 ♖b5 36. ♖a8 h6 37. ♖g2 f5 Now the e6 pawn is weak. White can win in many ways, the rest needs no comments. We can watch and enjoy.

38. ♗d2 ♕d6 39. a6 ♕f4 40. ♗c4 ♕h5 41. a7 ♖a6 42. ♗a5 ♕c7 43. ♖c8 ♖xa7 44. ♖xc7+ ♖b6 45. ♖xg7 ♖xa5 46. ♖h7 An interesting game and the second Fridman lost with the Caro-Kann. We can see that 12. ♗db5 recently played in two occasions is an important theoretical moment, so probably You can expect more about this line in Your next Chess Evolution book! **1-0**

(4) Leko, Peter (2730) – Gustafsson, Jan (2629) [C84]

40th GM Dortmund GER (3), 15.07.2012

[Kamil Miton]

1.e4 In this game, we will see Leko demonstrating many useful motifs on how to play the great „Spanish“, and what should White try to reach, and Black to avoid!

1...e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0! ♙e7 6.d3 The idea of this line is to slowly prepare the d4 move. For example, White plays first ♖e1–Nbd2–Nf1–Ng3 according to the Italian game and eventually takes advantage in the center with d4. The main line is 6.♖e1.

6...d6 More often black plays 6... b5 to disturb White so that he can't put the bishop on c2 in one move.

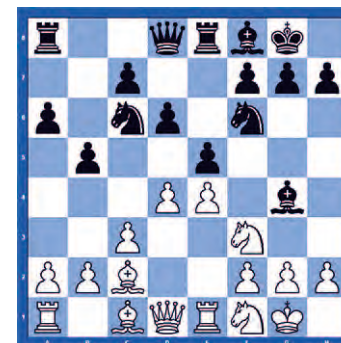
7.c3 0-0 8.♖e1 ♖e8 9.♘bd2 ♙f8 The idea of this thematic plan (Re8-Bf8) is to improve the bishop by g6–Bg7. Also, the rook on e8 is well placed to fight in the center (pressure on the e4 pawn) after White pushes d4.



10.d4 b5 11.♙c2 ♙g4!? The bishop on g4 is not perfectly placed, but the Black idea is to force White to start some

action in the center. It seems more logical to develop this way: [11...♙b7 which leads to very similar positions as the Zajcev Variation. The difference is that White didn't play h3. On the other hand, he played d4 in 2 moves. 12.d5 (12. a4 exd4 13.cxd4 ♘b4 14.♙b1 c5 15.d5; 12.♘f1 exd4 13.cxd4 ♘b4= Xe4) 12...♘e7 13.b3 c6 14.c4+=]

12.h3 Important move. If White plays 12.d5 first, then the Black bishop can go back to d7. [12.♘f1

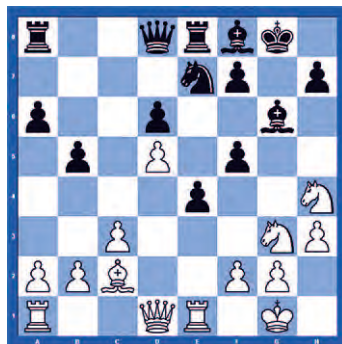


12...d5! The Black pieces are ready to hit the center, now Black easily equalizes the position. (12...♙xf3 13.gxf3 ♘h5 ∞ Black should be fine thanks to the counterplay on the dark squares. Especially, the f4 square can be weak.) 13.exd5 ♙xd5 14.♘e3 ♙xf3 15.♘xd5 ♙xd1 16.♘xf6+ gxf6 17.♖xd1 exd4 18.cxd4 ♘xd4=+]

12...♙h5 13.d5 ♘e7 14.♘f1 After closing the center, White's idea is to gain a space advantage on the queen-side. Black should look for counterplay with f7–f5 (but in this case, the Black pieces are very badly placed to do it), or with c6.

14...h6 [14...♘d7 15.♘g3 ♙g6 16.a4+=; 14...c6 15.dxc6 (15.♙g5 cxd5 16.♙xf6 gxf6 17.♘g3 ♙g6 18.exd5 White wants to create a blockade on the light squares. (18.♘h4

dxe4 19. ♖xe4 ♗g7 20. ♖xg6 hxg6 21. ♖xd6 ♔f8= with the idea of f5-e4, activating the bishop.) 18...f5 19. ♖h4 f4 (19...e4

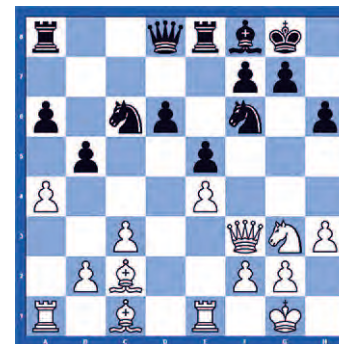


20.f3! ♔b6+ (20...e3 21.f4+= and the Black pawns on e3 and f5 are weak.) 21. ♖h2 exf3 22. ♔xf3 f4 23. ♖e4 ♗g7 24. ♔xf4 ♗e5 25. ♖f6+ ♗xf6 26. ♔xf6 ♖xd5 27. ♔f3 ♗xc2 (27...♖e3 28. ♖xg6 hxg6 29. ♗e4 d5 30. ♔xe3 dxe4 31. ♔xe4 ♔xe4 32. ♔xe4+=) 28. ♔xd5 White should be better thanks to his better structure.) 20. ♖e4 ♗g7 The Black position is fine, the next plan is f5-e4 with good play according to the Sveshnikov ideas.) 15...♖xc6 16. ♖g3 ♗g6 17. ♖h4 White can exchange the bishop on g6 or play the typical plan in this structures: ♖hf5-Qf3. 17...♖a5 (17...d5 18. ♖xg6 hxg6 19.exd5 ♔xd5 20. ♔xd5 ♖xd5 21. ♗g5+= White has an stable advantage thanks to the bishop pair.) 18. ♖xg6 hxg6 19. ♖f1+= After hxg6, there's nothing to do for the knight on g3. The White position is much more pleasant because of the two bishops and the weak d5 square.]

15.a4 Logical move, with the idea of creating some weaknesses on the queenside.

15...c6 Black has to make some space for his pieces.

16.dxc6 ♖xc6 17. ♖g3 ♗xf3 18. ♔xf3+=



18...b4 Black looks for some chance to get counterplay on the c-file against the c3 pawn.

19. ♖f5 bxc3 20. bxc3 It's obligatory for White to recapture on c3 with a pawn to control the important squares d4 and b4.

20...♖a5 Not a bad place for the knight, which doesn't allow to put the bishop on b3 (to pressure f7) and makes the c-file useful for the rook.

21. ♔d1 White starts creating pressure against the d6 pawn.

21...♔e6 22. ♗a3 g6 [22...♖c4! Why not this natural move? 23. ♗b3 (23. ♗b4 a5 ∞) 23...♔c8 24. ♖e3

a) 24. ♗b4 a5 Otherwise, White will play a5. 25. ♔e2 ♔c7 26. ♗xc4 ♔xc4 27. ♔xc4 ♔xc4 28. ♗xa5 ♖xe4 29. ♖e3 ♔c6 Thanks to the control over the d5 square, it's hard to improve the Black bishop. White's position is slightly better;

b) 24. ♔d3 ♔c7 25. ♖e3 ♖xa3 (25...♖xe3 26. ♗xe6 ♖xd1 27. ♗xc8 ♖xf2 28. ♔xf2 ♔xc8 29.a5+=) 26. ♗xe6 fxe6

27. ♖xa3 ♔c6 Black has compensation, the pawns on e4 and c3 are weak. Besides, d5 is a threat, but the most important factor is that the character of the position has changed, which can have a psychological meaning as well.;

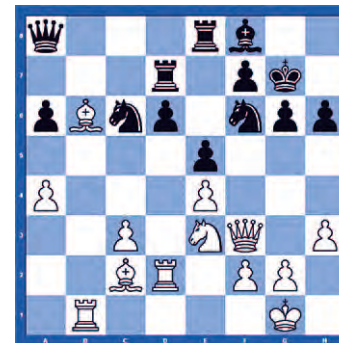


24... ♘xa3! Probably, the German player missed this nice practical chance! 25. ♙xe6 fxe6 26. ♖xa3 d5 27. ♖aa1 (27. ♖b3 ♘xe4 28. ♔xe4 dxe4 29. ♖xd8 ♖xd8 30. ♖b6 ♖d3=) 27... ♘xe4 28. c4 ♘c3 29. cxd5 ♘xd1 30. ♖xd1 exd5 31. ♘xd5 White has some small advantage thanks to the weak light squares, but Black should draw this position without serious problems.]

23. ♘e3+/- The knight is very well placed on e3 because it controls the important d5 and c4 squares. Now Black is out of counterplay. The ♖c8 idea to pressure the c3 pawn is not really dangerous.

23... ♔g7 [23... ♖c8 24. ♙b4+/-]

24. ♙b4 ♖a7 25. ♖ab1 ♖e8 26. ♖d2 ♘c6 27. ♙c5 ♖d7 28. ♙b6 ♔a8



29. a5 Step by step, Leko improves his position. He doesn't need to hurry because Black cannot do anything. Now the a6 weak pawn is fixed and there's an additional useful square on a4 for the bishop.

29... ♖c8 30. ♖bd1 ♘b8 31. ♘d5 ♘xd5 32. ♖xd5 ♔c6 33. ♖5d3 ♖b7 34. ♙b3 ♔e8 35. ♙d5 ♖e7 36. ♔e2 White is dominating the whole board. He has a few winning plans: the c4-c5 break, penetrating on the b-file with the rooks, or just win the a6 pawn after, for example, ♖f3-Bc4.

36... ♘d7 37. ♖f3 ♘c5 Black activates his knight but this doesn't change the evaluation. We can agree that one of the reasons for Black to lose this game is the bishop on f8, which was very limited during the whole game. This kind of the bishops can be called „big pawn“.

38. ♖a1 [38. ♙xc5 would win as well... 38... ♖xc5 39. ♔xa6 ♔d8 40. ♖a1+/-]

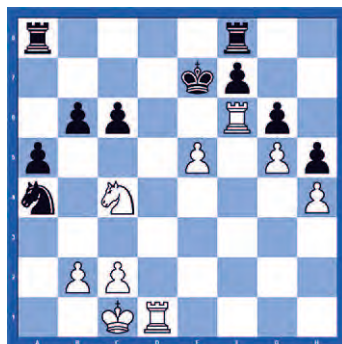
38... ♘a4 39. ♔c2 ♘c5 40. ♔e2 ♘a4 41. ♔xa6 ♘xc3 42. ♔d3 ♘xd5 43. ♔xd5 ♔c6 44. ♖b3 ♔xd5 45. exd5 Finally, Black changes the structure, but it's too late now. The a-pawn is winning the game. A good technical game of Leko. 1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Mamedov,R (2628) – Gagunashvili,M (2578)

Turkish league, 14.07.2012

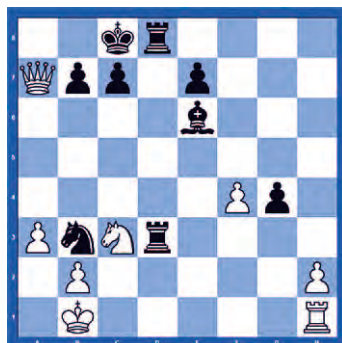
1.+–



(6) Shimanov,A (2606) – Safarli,E (2623)

Turkish league, 15.07.2012

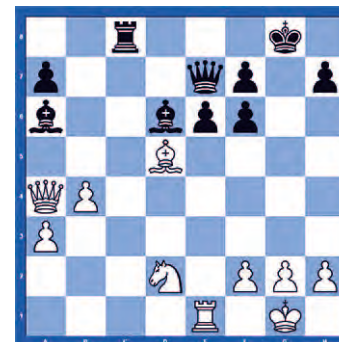
1...=



(7) Ipatov,A (2581) – Firat,B (2408)

Turkish league, 11.07.2012

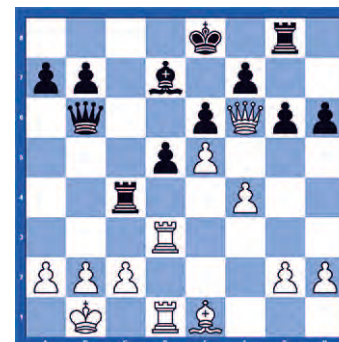
1... –+



(8) Grandelius,N (2570) – Cramling,P (2486)

Swedish Championship, 13.07.2012

1.+–



(9) Dunnington,A (2386) — Hera,I (2586)

Scottish Championship, 15.07.2012

1... -+



(10) Kalezic,B (2439) — Kosic,D (2536)

Montenegro Championship, 12.07.2012

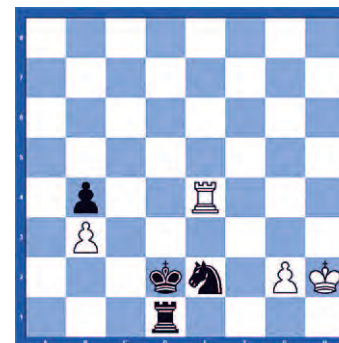
1.+-



(11) Stany,G (2393) — Sargissian,G (2685)

Rethymno Open, 09.07.2012

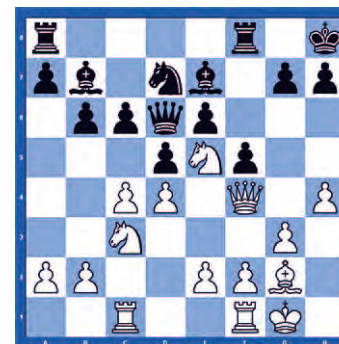
1... -+



(12) Sargissian,G (2685) — Kryvoruchko,Y (2672)

Rethymno Open, 10.07.2012

1.+/-

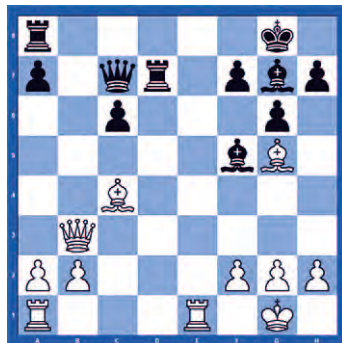


1... -/+



(14) Sandipan,C (2618) – Baron,T (2452)

1.+/-

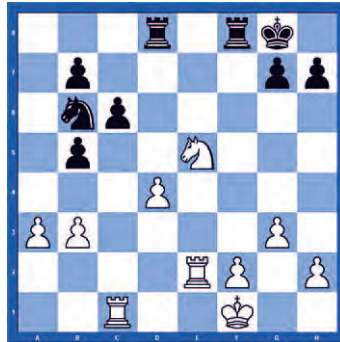


Endgame section

(15) Kramnik,V (2799) – Bartel,M (2674)

Dortmund, 15.07.2012

[Chess Evolution]



White is a pawn up, but the weakness of the d4 and a3 pawns give Black very good surviving chances... Black's queenside pawns seem to be pretty safe, while exchanging all of them and playing a 3 vs 2 on the kingside would be theoretically drawn. In this position, where Black felt to be close to a draw, Kramnik came up with a shocking idea!

32. ♖d3!! Kramnik would like to exchange his d4 weakness for Black's key pawn on b7, which holds the whole position together. If b7 falls, the life of the c6 pawn would be also limited. [After the passive 32. ♖e4 ♖a8 33. ♖a1 ♘d5 followed by doubling on the a-file, Black should objectively hold the draw.]

32... ♜xd4?! The most natural, but a bad decision by Bartel. His best chance would have been to win the a-pawn

and keep the d4 as a potential target in the future. [32... ♖a8! 33. ♘c5! (33. ♖e7 leaving the 2nd rank gives Black additional possibilities for an active defense. 33... ♘d5 34. ♖xb7 ♖xa3 35. ♖xc6 ♖xb3 36. ♘e5 ♖b2! Black is close to survive.) 33... ♖xa3 (33... ♖f7 34. ♖ce1 ♖xa3 35. ♖e8+ ♖f8 36. ♖1e7!+/- Exchanging a pair of rooks is always clearly in White's favor. This reduces Black's chances for a successful counterplay.) 34. ♘xb7 ♖xb3 35. ♖xc6 ♘d5 White must lose an important tempo because of the ♘e3 threat. 36. ♖g2 ♖b4 37. ♘c5! White is obviously better, but it is not clear if his winning chances or Black's drawing ones are better...; 32... ♖f7 would have been also logical, trying to save the important b7 pawn, but White has a concrete way to increase the advantage. 33. ♘c5! The d4 pawn is indirectly protected now. 33... h6 (33... ♖xd4? 34. ♖e8+ ♖f8 35. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 36. ♘e6++-) 34. ♖ce1! and just as in the game, White manages to exchange d4 for b7. 34... ♖xd4 35. ♖e8+ ♖h7 36. ♖1e7!+/- White retains excellent winning chances.]

33. ♘c5 ♖b8 [33... ♖a8 is met with 34. ♖e7 ♖xa3 35. ♖xb7 ♘d5 36. ♘e6! Black collapses.]

34. ♖e7 The c5 knight is excellently placed. It not only attacks the b7 and threatens with ♘e6, but also prevents Black's main counterplay against the queenside pawns with ♜d3.

34... ♘d5 35. ♖xb7 ♖xb7 36. ♘xb7 ♘e7 [After 36... ♖d3 it is important to protect the b3 pawn. 37. ♘a5 (37. ♘c5 is also fine.; 37. ♖xc6?! would leave Black much closer to a draw. 37... ♖xb3) 37... ♘e7 38. ♖e2+/- White consolidated his position, he can start to slowly convert his advantage.]



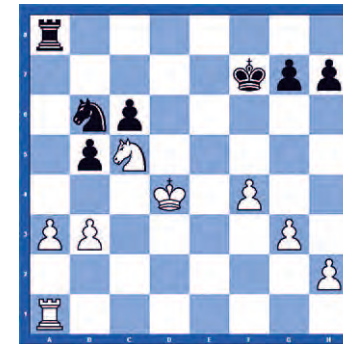
37. ♖e2+/- If we compare this position to our initial one, it is clear that White has done a great job. He seriously increased his advantage. The next step is to create a passed pawn on the a-file, something that Black cannot really prevent.

37... ♜d7 38. ♞c5 ♜a7 39. ♜a1 Kramnik decided to delay the a4 pawn. First he wants to improve his king's position. [39.a4+/- was perfectly fine as well.]

39... ♞d5 40. ♔d3 ♞b6 It is not clear what was the aim of this move.

41. ♔d4 ♔f7 42. f4 White improves on his kingside pawn structure as well.

42... ♜a8?! [42...h6 43. ♞e4 frees the c5 square for the king **43... ♞d7 44.a4+/-** Black cannot resist long.]



43. ♞b7!+/- Great technique by Kramnik. [43.a4?! bxa4 44.bxa4 ♜a5! was Black's hope. White pieces are stuck to defend each other.]

43... ♞d7 [43... ♜b8 loses to **44. ♔c5!** Tactics are present even in endgames with a small amount of pieces. **44... ♜xb7 45. ♔xc6 ♜b8 46. ♔c7+/-** White wins back the piece.]

44.a4 bxa4 45.bxa4 Black cannot stop the pawn. It automatically goes to a6. The game is over!

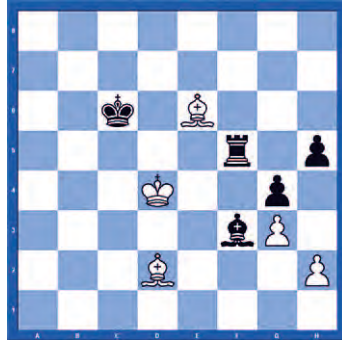
45... ♔f6 46.a5 ♔f5 47.h3 It was not necessary at all, but Kramnik even prevented the ♔h4-h3 plan.

47...h5 48. ♞d6+ ♔e6 49. ♞e4 ♔f5 50.a6 Black resigned. **1-0**

(16) L'Ami,E (2615) – Sokolov,Ivan (2676) [C78]

ch-NED 2012 Amsterdam NED (3), 17.07.2012

[Kamil Miton]



65... ♖b5 Logical move. Black prepares ♖b2 with the idea of putting pressure on the h2 pawn and not allowing the White king to come to f6. [65... ♖f8 This move looks worse. 66. ♖e5 ♖e8 67. ♖f6 ♖d5 68. ♖f5 ♖e2 69. ♖f4 ♖xh2 70. ♖g6 ♖f3 (70... h4 71. gxh4 ♖xh4 72. ♖g5=) 71. ♖g5 ♖a2 72. ♖xh5=]

66. ♖c4 [66. h3 h4!]

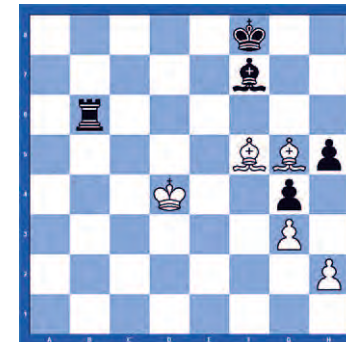
66... ♖b2 67. ♖c3 ♖b7 68. ♖f4 ♖d5 The idea of this move is to put the bishop on f7 to protect the h5 pawn. If Black tries to attack the h2 pawn immediately, White will get counterplay attacking the h5 pawn (Bf7). [68... ♖a7 69. ♖g5 ♖a1 70. ♖f7 ♖h1 71. ♖xh5 ♖xh2 72. ♖f7 ♖d6 73. ♖d4=]

69. ♖d3 Of course, after the bishop exchange, the Black position is simply winning.

69... ♖b3+ [69... ♖c5 70. ♖e3+ ♖d6 71. ♖f4+ ♖e7 72. ♖g6 ♖f7 73. ♖e4 ♖b3+ 74. ♖c2 ♖f6 Black improves the position.]

70. ♖d4 ♖f7 71. ♖e4+ ♖d7 72. ♖c1 Not allowing ♖b2. An interesting alternative was to play with an active king. [72. ♖e5 ♖b2 73. h4 ♖e2 (73... gxh3 74. ♖f5+ ♖e7 75. ♖g5+ ♖e8 76. ♖xh3 ♖b3 77. ♖f4 (77. ♖f4 h4)) 74. ♖f5 ♖g6+ (74... ♖e6+ 75. ♖e5 ♖e7 76. ♖g5+ ♖f7 77. ♖f4 ♖c8 78. ♖d4 ♖b2 79. ♖d5+ ♖e6 80. ♖e4 To win this position, Black has to try exchange the light-squared bishops, but it's not an easy task.) 75. ♖xg6 ♖xe4 76. ♖g5 (76. ♖xh5 ♖xf4; 76. ♖b8 ♖b4 77. ♖e5 ♖e6 78. ♖c7 ♖b5 79. ♖f4 It's not easy to say how to improve the position.) 76... ♖e6 77. ♖xh5 ♖f5 78. ♖h6=]

72... ♖b6 73. ♖f5+ ♖e7 74. ♖g5+ ♖f8



75. h3 White reduces the material on the board. It's very logical to get rid of the weak h2 pawn, which was the main Black target.

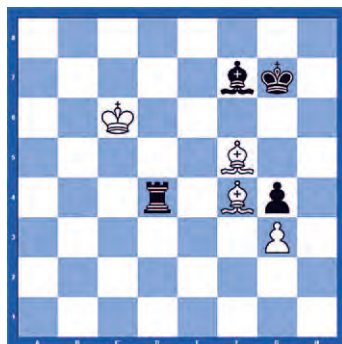
75... ♖b4+ 76. ♖c5 [76. ♖e3 ♖b3+ and White loses the pawn.]

76... ♖c4+ 77. ♖d6 [77. ♖b5 gxh3 78. ♖xh3 ♖g7 The White king is cut very far from the kingside. Black has two ideas to win this position: to exchange the light-squared bishops, which is not an easy task, or win the g3 pawn and promote the h-pawn in the bishop endgame.]

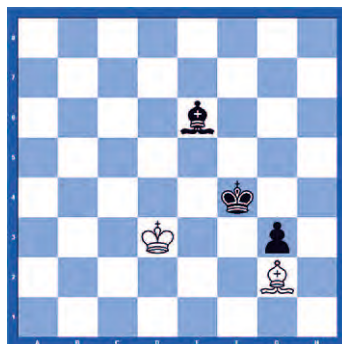
77...♖d4+ 78.♔c6? [78.♔c7 More accurate to avoid the ♖d6 check (look at the line below).]

78...♔g7? Black missed an easy win after: [78...♖d5 79.hxg4 hxg4 80.♙h6+ ♔e7 White loses the bishop.]

79.hxg4 hxg4 80.♙f4



80...♖c4+ [80...♖xf4 81.gxf4 g3 82.♙h3 (82.♙e4 ♔f6 83.♔c5 ♙g6 84.♙g2 ♔f5 85.♔d4 ♔xf4 In this line, the Black win is even easier because White doesn't have ♔d2-Kd3. 86.♙c6 ♙h5 87.♙g2 ♙f3 88.♙f1 ♙b7) 82...♔f6 83.♔c5 ♙e6 84.♙g2 ♔f5 85.♔d4 ♔xf4 86.♔d3

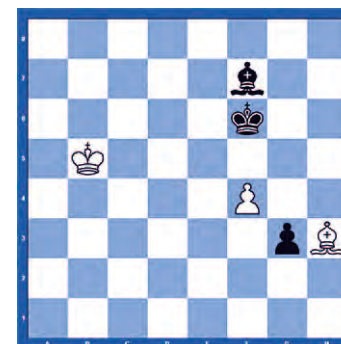


86...♙g4 ! 87.♔d2 ♙f3 88.♙h3 (88.♙f1 ♙c6 89.♔e1 ♔e3 90.♙h3 ♙b5 91.♙g2 ♙d3 White will play ♙e4 next with

a simple win.) 88...♔g5 89.♔e3 ♔h4 90.♙f1 (90.♙e6 ♙g4 with an easy winning plan: the king goes to h2, then Black puts the bishop on g2 winning control of the h1–a8 diagonal.) 90...♔g4 91.♔d2 ♙d5 92.♔e3 ♙c6 Zugzwang, the Black king can get to f3.]

81.♔b5 This is the beauty of chess! Black's idea was very logical, to put the king farther and then get to the bishop endgame. Paradoxically, the White king will be on time compared to the 80...♖xf4! line.

81...♖xf4 82.gxf4 g3 83.♙h3 ♔f6



84.♔b4! With the king placed on c6, this move is not possible!

84...♙e6 85.♙g2 ♔f5 86.♔c3 ♔xf4 87.♔d2 And if now:

87...♙c4 [87...♙g4 88.♔e1 ♙f3 89.♔f1= and White is on time!]

88.♙c6 ♙f1 89.♙b7 Black can't improve the position because it's not possible to get the h1–a8 diagonal. The White king is very close and ♔e1–Kf1 always guarantees a draw.

89...♔g4 90.♔e1! White can't allow Black to put the king on h2.

**90...♘b5 91.♘g2 ♘c4 92.♔d2 ♔h4 93.♔e1 ♔g5
94.♔d2 ♔f4 95.♘c6 ♘a6 96.♘d5 ♘f1 97.♘c6 ♘h3
98.♔e2 ♘g4+ 99.♔f1 ♘f3 100.♘b5 ♔e5 1/2**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Capablanca,J – Chajes,O [C83]

New York New York, 1915

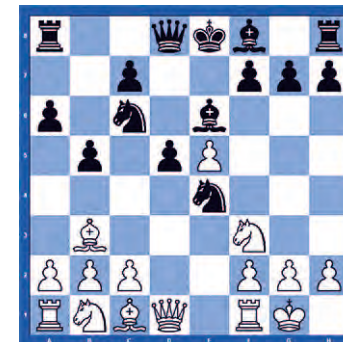
[*Balogh Csaba*]

A fine positional achievement by Capablanca. Curiously, the game was played 97 years ago, and it is still interesting from a theoretical point of view.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘b5 a6 4.♘a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♘xe4

The Opened Spanish variation, which has belonged to many World Champions' repertoire because of its complex middlegames. Nowadays, it went a bit out of fashion.

6.d4 b5 7.♘b3 d5 8.dxe5 ♘e6 This is basically the starting position in this opening. From now on, both players can choose between several playable continuations in each move.



9.c3 Currently 9.♘bd2 and 9.♘e3 are more popular. If somebody wants to play the 9.c3 system, it is advisable to start with 9.♘bd2 to avoid the complications of 9.c3 ♘c5, other lines usually lead to transpositions.

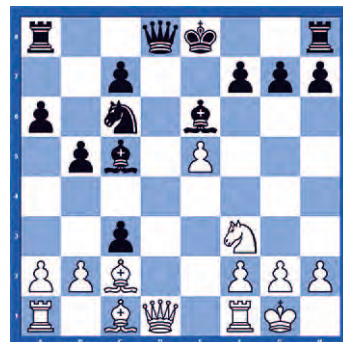
9...♙e7 [A very concrete and sharp line arises after 9...♙c5 10.♘bd2 0-0 11.♙c2 ♘xf2! 12.♖xf2 f6 13.exf6 ♙xf2+ 14.♔xf2 ♚xf6 when Black has a small material disadvantage, but the activity of his pieces, the undeveloped White queenside and the shaky king's position give very good compensation for Black. There are still hundreds of games in the database, for the ones who are interested, I recommend to check Jussupow's games.]

10.♘bd2 ♘c5 11.♙c2 d4 This is probably Black's best option, but it is pretty much about playing for a draw with simplifications in all the lines. 11...♙g4 was more often tried, but theory considers it to be better for White.

12.♘e4 [More precise is 12.♘b3 d3 13.♙b1 ♘xb3 14.axb3 ♙f5 is the start of the critical line about the correct evaluation of the variation. Currently, it is given to be equal, but the position is rich in resources.]

12...dxc3 White is back to the fight for the advantage after this move. [12...d3! is the right move, which almost leads to a draw by force. 13.♘xc5 dxc2 14.♚xd8+ ♖xd8 15.♘xe6 fxe6 16.♙e3 ♖d5 17.♖fc1 ♘xe5 18.♘xe5 ♖xe5 19.♖xc2 White is a tiny better because of his pawn structure, but it should not be enough for the full point.]

13.♘xc5 ♙xc5



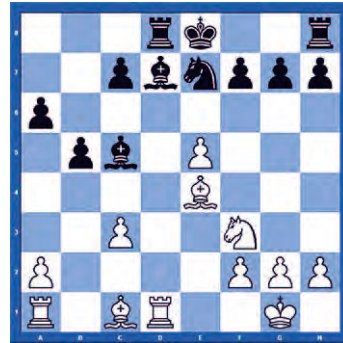
14.♙e4! Very strong in-between move, which confuses the coordination of the Black's pieces.

14...♚d7! Black wins a very important tempo in comparison to the 14...♚xd1 move. [14...♚xd1 15.♖xd1 ♙d7 16.bxc3 is a much better version to the game.]

15.bxc3 ♖d8! Another strong move! [15...0-0-0 suggested to connect the rooks, but despite the fact that the queens will soon get off the board, White can launch a very dangerous attack with 16.♚xd7+ ♙xd7 17.a4! The e4 bishop plays a key factor in the position.]

16.♚xd7+ ♙xd7 17.♖d1 Capablanca played this twice, but maybe it is not the best... Black has a healthy position, the only problem to solve is the situation of his minor pieces (c6 knight and d7 bishop). Of course, it would be great for him to get rid of the e4 bishop, but it will not be easy. [17.a4 could be an improvement, to bring the a1 rook into the game. If White is better, the advantage is minimal.]

17...♘e7 [17...♘b8 happened in the 2nd game of Capablanca just one year after this one, but 18.♘d4 ♙e7 White could have get an edge with 19.♘f5! ♙xf5 20.♖xd8+ ♙xd8 21.♙xf5 pressing in the long-term with the bishop pair.; After connecting the rooks with 17...0-0! I could not find any way to fight for an advantage. It's important to mention that 18.♖xd7 does not work because of the mate on the back-rank. 18.♙g5 simply meets by (18.a4? in order to improve the a1 rook is a mistake now. 18...♙f5!) 18...♘e7! and Black can unpin himself by playing h6 next. For example 19.♘d4 h6 20.♙e3 ♙b6 Black is OK!]



18. ♖d4! The move is mainly against ♗c6, but it also creates the unpleasant threat of ♘b3 and the bishop retreats with ♗a3!

18...h6 This is a mistake. Black was afraid of the ♗g5 ideas, but the c1 bishop wants to develop in another direction... Black's position was already a bit unpleasant. [18...0-0 19. ♘b3! ♗b6 20. ♗a3! (20. ♗g5 Probably that is why Black played 18...h6, but it was not dangerous because of 20...f6! 21. exf6 gxf6) 20...♖fe8 21. ♗xe7 ♖xe7 22. ♗c6 and White doubles his rooks on the d-file.; 18... ♗f5 19. ♗f3! White must keep his strong bishop for the advantage!; 18... ♗g4 is a tricky move. The idea is to provoke f3, after which ♗f5 and the White bishop cannot retreat to f3 anymore. But White reacts calmly with 19. ♖d2! (19. f3 ♗f5) 19...0-0 20. a4 and he enjoys a small advantage.; 18... ♗c6 is the most principled move to exchange the bishops, but White has a strong tactical response 19. ♗xc6+ ♘xc6 20. ♗g5! ♘e7 21. ♘f5 !! 21... ♖xd1+ 22. ♖xd1 with a comfortable position.]

19. ♘b3! ♗b6 20. ♗a3 Suddenly, Black feels a bit uncomfortable, but he starts to defend resourcefully.

20...h5! Black wants to bring his rook along the 6th rank and also restrict White's pawn mobility on the kingside, where White has a majority.

21. ♖d3 White wants to double on the d-file, so the d7 bishop must move to exchange one pair of rooks. [On 21. ♘c5 the simple 21... ♗c8 and it's not easy to increase the advantage.]

21... ♗g4 I don't like this move. The passive 21... ♗c8 was clearly better, because White gets a very useful tempo by playing h3. [21... ♗c8 22. ♖xd8+ ♗xd8 23. ♖d1+ ♗e8 24. ♘c5 ♖h6 25. ♗f1 with the intention to play f4. White is a bit better, but it is playable for Black.]

22. ♖xd8+ ♗xd8 23. ♘c5 ♖h6! The idea of 20...h5 came out.

24. h3 [24. ♘xa6?! is a contradictory move, because it takes the bishop pair, but, on the other hand, it gives up the f2 pawn, which significantly worsens White's pawn structure. 24... ♗xf2+ 25. ♗xf2 ♖xa6]

24... ♗c8 25. ♖d1+ ♗e8



26. ♗f1! Capablanca prepares to play f4. First, he removes his king from the pin. After achieving f4, White could

28.exf6 ♖xf6



**39.♞xe5 ♔xe5 40.h5 c5 41.g4 ♔f6 42.♔e2 c4 43.f4
♞f7 44.♔f3 ♚d8 45.♔e4 a5 46.♔d5 ♚e7 47.g5 ♞g8
48.f5 1-0**

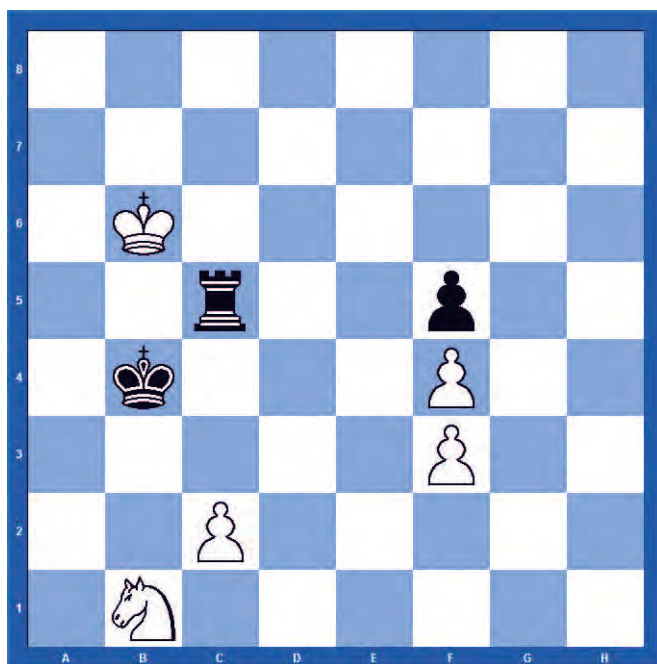
Surprise section / study

(18) Kubbel,L

1927

[CEWN]

1.+-



Solutions

(19) Karjakin,S (2779) — Grischuk,A (2763)

World Rapid Championship, 06.07.2012

[Solutions]



32. ♘xf5! gxf5 33. ♔xf5!! 1-0 [33. ♔xf5 ♔xf5 34. ♖g8+ ♔h7 35. ♖1g7#]

(20) Svidler,P (2749) — Kurnosov,I (2663)

World Rapid Championship, 06.07.2012

[Solutions]

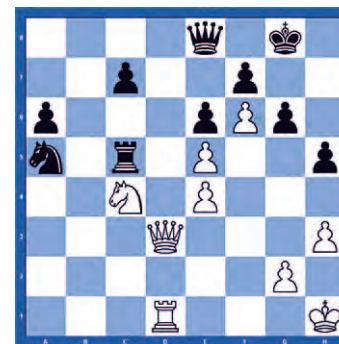


30. ♔g4?? [30. g6!! ♖xb7 (30... ♘e3 31. fxe3 ♖xb7 32. ♔b4+!+-) 31. ♔h6++-] 30... ♔xd2! 31. ♔c8+ ♔g7 32. ♖xe7 ♔e1+? [32... ♔c1+! 33. ♔g2 ♘e1+--+] 33. ♔g2 ♔e4+ 34. ♔g1 ♔e1+ 35. ♔g2 ♔e4+ 36. ♔g1 ♔e1+ 1/2-1/2

(21) Kazhgaleyev,M (2589) — Ismagambetov,A (2471)

World Rapid Championship, 07.07.2012

[Solutions]

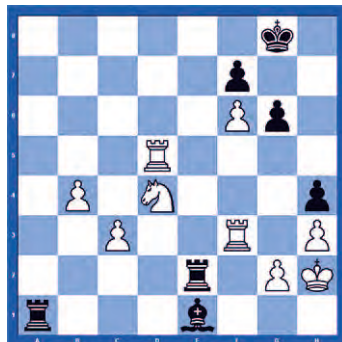


35. ♔e3? [35. ♘xa5! ♖xa5 36. ♔d2! ♖b5 37. ♔h6 ♔f8 38. ♔xf8+ (38. ♖d8+-) 38... ♔xf8 39. ♖d8#] 35... ♔f8! 36. ♘xa5 ♖xa5=

(22) Kurnosov,I (2663) – Topalov,V (2752)

World Rapid Championship, 07.07.2012

[Solutions]

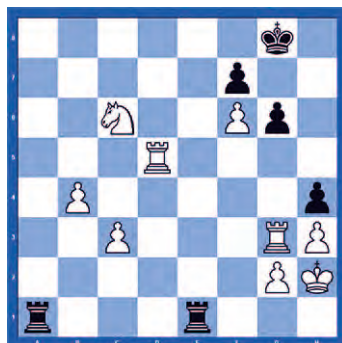


40... ♖g3+! 41. ♜xg3 ♜ee1! 0-1

(23) analysis of Kurnosov,I (2663) – Topalov,V (2752)

World Rapid Championship, 07.07.2012

[Solutions]

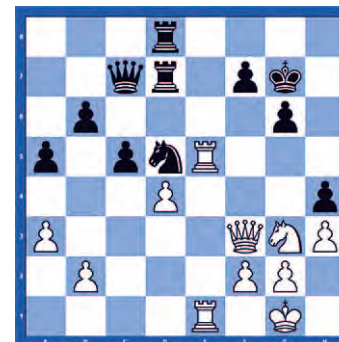


41. ♞e7+! ♔h7 42. ♜h5+!! gxf5 43. ♜g7+ ♔h8
44. ♜g8+=

(24) Topalov,V (2752) – Carlsen,M (2837)

World Rapid Championship, 08.07.2012

[Solutions]



40. ♞h5+!! gxf5 [40... ♔f8 41. ♞f6 ♞xf6 42. ♜xf6+-]

41. ♜xh5? [41. ♜g5+ ♔f8 42. ♜xh5+-]

41... ♜d6? [41... ♞f4! 42. ♜g5+ ♞g6 43. ♜e6! ♔g8! (43... ♜d6 44. ♜gxf6+ fxf6 45. ♜e5+ ♔f8 46. ♜xg6! ♜xg6 47. ♜xc7±) 44. ♜exg6+ fxf6 45. ♜xg6+ ♜g7 46. ♜h6 ♔f8 47. ♜f5+ ♔g8! 48. ♜h5=]

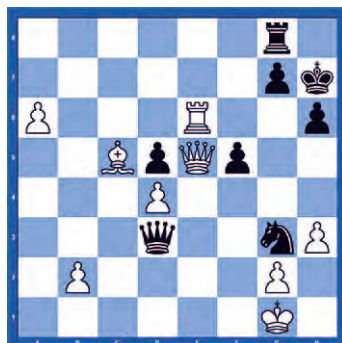
42. ♜g5+ [42. ♜1e4!±]

42... ♜g6 43. ♜xd5±

(25) Matlakov,M (2668) – Wang Yue (2697)

Russia-China match, 03.07.2012

[Solutions]



37...f4!! [37...♔d1+? 38.♔e1+-; 37...♔f1+? 38.♔h2+-]

38.♔xf4 [38.♔e1!? ♘e4↗]

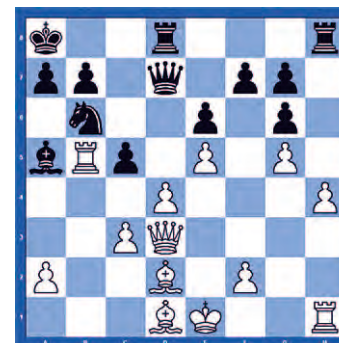
38...♔d1+ 39.♔h2 [39.♔f2? ♘h1+! 40.♔e3 ♔e1+ 41.♔d3 ♔xe6--]

39...♘f1+ 40.♔g1 ♘g3+ 41.♔h2 ♘f1+ 42.♔g1 1/2-1/2

(26) Wang Hao (2739) – Jakovenko,D (2736)

Russia-China match (rapid), 07.07.2012

[Solutions]



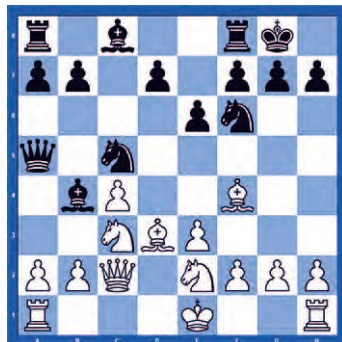
22...cxd4!! 23.♔xa5 dxc3! 24.♔xd7 [24.♔xc3 ♔xd2+ (24...♘c4!?↗) 25.♔xd2 ♔xd2! 26.♔xa7+ ♔xa7 27.♔xd2 ♘c4+ 28.♔c3 ♘xe5↗]

24...cxd2+! 25.♔xd2 ♔xd2 26.♔xd2 ♘c4+ 27.♔c3 ♘xa5↗

(27) Li Chao (2687) – Matlakov,M (2668)

Russia-China match (rapid), 07.07.2012

[Solutions]



9...e5! 10.0-0 [10.♔xe5 ♖xd3+ 11.♔xd3 ♔xe5-+;
10.♔g3 e4!-+] **10...exf4-+**

(28) Erenburg,S (2624) – Friedel,J (2503)

Philadelphia Open, 07.07.2012

[Solutions]

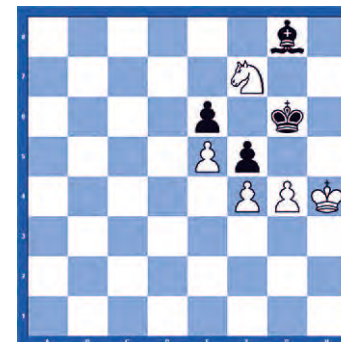


21.♔xf6! ♔xf6 [21...gxf6 22.♔g4+ ♔h8 23.♖xf7+-]
22.♖xf7!+- ♔b8 [22...♖xf7 23.♔e8#] **23.♔h5** 1-0

(29) Bondar,I

1987

[Solutions]



1.♖h8+!! [1.♖g5 fxg4 2.♔xg4 ♔h6=]

1...♔g7 2.g5!! ♔h7 [2...♔xh8 3.g6 transposes to the game.]

3.♔h5! ♔g8 [3...♔xh8 4.♔h6! (4.g6 ♔g7! 5.gxh7 ♔xh7=) 4...♔g8 (4...♔g8 5.g6 ♔h8 6.♔g5! ♔g8 7.♔f6+-) 5.♔g6! (5.g6? ♔f7! 6.gxf7= (6.♔g5 ♔e8=)) 5...♔h7+ 6.♔f6! ♔g8 7.g6+-]

4.g6 ♔xh8 5.♔h4!! [5.♔h6 ♔f7=]

5...♔g7 6.♔g5 ♔f8 [6...♔h8 7.♔f6+-]

7.♔h6! [7.♔f6? ♔f7]

7...♔e7 [7...♔f7 8.gxf7 ♔xf7 9.♔h7 ♔f8 10.♔g6 ♔e7 11.♔g7 ♔e8 12.♔f6 ♔d7 13.♔f7+-]

8.♔g7+- 1-0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 22

27th of July 2012

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Editorial Preface

Another very interesting week full of high-class chess games.

The Dortmund Super Tournament came to an end, with Caruana and Karjakin sharing the first place with 6/9. Four players shared the 3rd-6th places with 5.5 points: Kramnik, Ponomarev, Naiditsch and Leko.

We saw a very dramatic last round with 5 players fighting for the victory of the tournament.

The ACP Chess Tournament, with adjournments, came to an end. Ivanchuk clearly dominated the event. It's hard to see the idea of the ACP with the adjourned games. This gives the players a chance to make very exact computer analysis.

The FIDE Woman Grand Prix is on the way, some interesting chess games were seen here as well...

The Biel Super Tournament has begun. Of course, the main focus is on Magnus Carlsen. Can he win this tournament as well?!

Next to the Super Tournament, we have a very interesting Open section, with a lot of GMs participating in it. It's going to be very interesting.

I think this week we have very exciting analyzed games for You! As usual, we wish You a lot of fun with the CEWN Nr 22.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Naiditsch, Arkadij (2700) – Leko, Peter (2730) [B12]

40th GM Dortmund GER (9), 22.07.2012

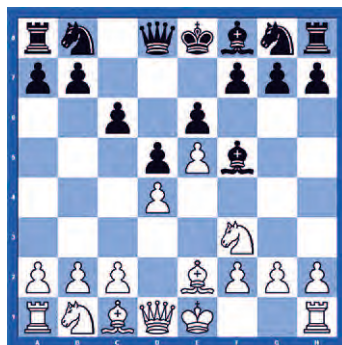
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the last round of the Dortmund Super-Tournament. Five players with 5/8 are in the lead. What a dramatic last round! Among these 5 players are my opponent and me.

1.e4 c6 Usually, Leko is using the Marshall as his main weapon. I was a bit surprised with his opening choice...

2.d4 d5 3.e5 My main opening against the Caro-Kann is the Panov Attack, but I felt that I would not be able to create any problem for Black. It's very well known that Leko's preparation is extremely good.

3... f5 4. f3 e6 5. e2

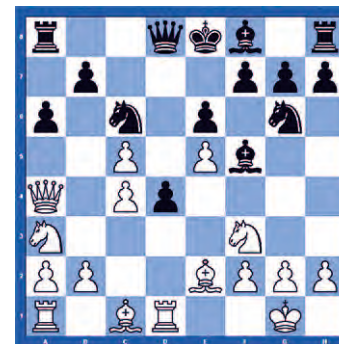


5... e7 A relatively rare move. We see the line with 5...c5 more often.

6.0–0 c5 7.c4 Before this move I had to think a little bit and try to remember some lines. Luckily, I analyzed this position for one of my Chess Evolution books, but the funny thing is that the game on which I based my analysis was Leko-Roiz! During the game I really hoped that Leko didn't have a big trick in his pocket.

7... bc6 8. a3 This move is the idea behind the c4 push. Now 8... dxc4 9. xc4 d5 10. g5 probably leads to a slightly better position for White.

8... a6 9. dxc5 d4 10. a4 g6 11. d1 Until here, both Peter and me made our moves quite quickly and were still following the game Leko-Roiz.



11... d3!? And here comes the change that disappointed me. I expected Leko to repeat his own game, in which I had some improvement in mind. [11... xc5 12.b4 a7 (12... xb4 13.g4! seems to bring a serious advantage for White.) 13.c5 0–0 14. c4 e4 15. e3 d3 16. e1 d5 17. d6 gxe5 with a complicated, but probably equal position. Leko-Roiz, 2011 World Team Championship.]

12.b4 N I thought for a long time before playing b4. [12. e3!? could be another interesting choice...; 12. xd3 This move doesn't give White any advantage. 12... xd3

13. ♔b3 ♕xc5 14. ♖xd3 ♔c7 Black is winning back the e5 pawn, the position should be equal.]

12... ♕e7 Played quite quickly by Peter. So, my opponent was not really surprised by my move 12. b4, and it seems that 12.b4 is a novelty!. Amazingly deep preparation by Leko!

13. ♕xd3 The most logical move and the beginning of some exchanges. [13. ♔b3 This move gives away the e5 pawn and with it, probably any chances to be better. 13... ♖gxe5 14. ♗xe5 ♖xe5 15. ♕b2 ♕f6 and Black is doing perfectly fine.]

13... ♕xd3 14. ♔b3 White is winning back the piece.



14... ♖cxe5 15. ♗xe5 ♖xe5 16. ♕b2 ♔c7 17. ♕xe5 [Of course not 17.f4? ♕xc5+! 18.bxc5 ♔xc5+ 19.♔h1 ♖g4 and Black is winning.]

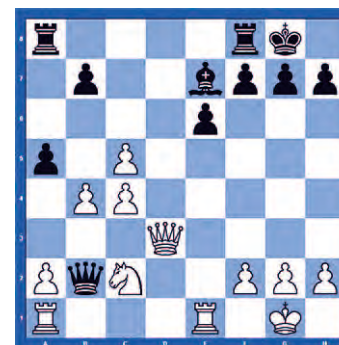
17... ♔xe5 18. ♖xd3 After a massive exchange of pieces, White seems to be a pawn up. But everything not clear at all. The Black bishop is a very strong piece and the White knight still needs to find a good place. Besides, Black will start to play against the White pawns on the queenside quickly.

18...0-0 19. ♗c2 Here I had no choice, I need to bring my knight back into the game.

19...a5 Black needs to open the a-file.

20. ♖e1!? It took me a while to realize that maybe I was not doing better at all. Take a look at the logical [Let's take a look at the logical 20.a3 ♖fd8! and Black brings the rook to the important d-file with a tempo. 21. ♔b3 Not a nice place for the White queen, but where else to go?! 21...axb4 22.axb4 ♖xa1 23. ♖xa1 ♕f6 I am still a pawn up, but what to do next? My queenside pawns are blocked and it seems almost impossible to mobilize them. The Black pieces are all very active and Black has a clear plan of improvement with h5-h4, starting to put pressure on my king. I think only White is in risk of getting in trouble here. Black is perfectly fine!]

20... ♔b2! A very strong move by Leko! The idea of this move is to bring the White rook from the a- to the b-file, in order to free the a-file for the Black rook. [20... ♔f6 would be a normal move too. 21.a3 ♖fd8 22. ♔e3 ♔b2 23. ♔e4 would maybe lead to the same position that we got in the game.]



21.a3 I had no choice. I needed to maintain my pawn structure.

21... ♖fd8 22. ♔e4 [In case of 22. ♔e2?! ♔c3! Black enters into the second rank. 23. ♖ad1 axb4 24. axb4 ♖a2 and probably Black is doing better.]

22... axb4 23. ♖ab1 Not a nice move to make, but a necessary one. [23. axb4? would have been a horrible blunder. 23... ♖xa1 24. ♖xa1 ♔xa1+! 25. ♘xa1 ♖d1+ and I would get mated.]

23... ♔f6 24. axb4 ♖a2 Another interesting moment. Where to put the White rook from e1, to e2 or to f1? The position is getting very sharp and every move could be decisive. It looks like I will get the b7 pawn, and Black is clearly going to base his counterplay on the strong rook on a2.

25. ♖f1 [25. ♖e2 ♔c3! This strong move gives Black great play. He wants to play ♖d2. 26. ♘e1 It looks like I have nothing better than this. 26... ♖xe2 27. ♔xe2 ♖d4 Black is winning the c4-pawn, getting a good position.]

25... ♖d2 Things start to look quite dangerous for White, but on the other hand, if I get the b7 pawn I might just be winning.

26. ♘e3 ♖xf2 27. ♔xb7 After some thinking I took the b7 pawn. I thought I needed one more move to be perfectly fine: to play ♔b8 followed by ♔g3 and it seems like all my pieces are protected. In case of winning this game I would share the first place in the tournament and get the first prize after the tie-break! However, Leko crushed my dreams with an amazing idea!

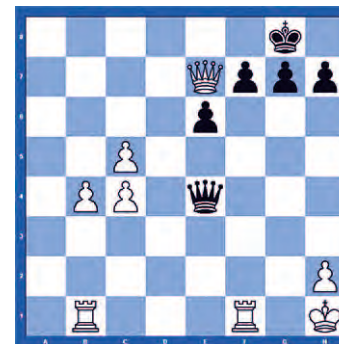
27... ♔f4!! what a fantastic move, with a very spectacular drawing idea.

28. ♔xe7 I played this with a slightly sad feeling, but what to do... [Doesn't get anything: 28. ♖xf2 ♔xf2+ 29. ♔h1 ♖e2! It's important for Black to push the White knight to f1 first. 30. ♘f1 and only now to play 30... ♖b2! Too many things are hanging in White's position, and probably, I will lose all my extra pawns on the queenside. It's clear that I have no chances to play for a win!]

28... ♖xg2+! The key move of Black's drawing idea.

29. ♘xg2 ♖xg2+ 30. ♔xg2 ♔g4+ My king can't escape from the checks on the 4th rank. What a beautiful draw.

31. ♔h1 ♔e4+



32. ♔g1 ♔g4+ 33. ♔f2 ♔f4+ 34. ♔e2 ♔e4+ 35. ♔d2 ♔d4+ 36. ♔e2 ♔e4+ 37. ♔d2 ♔d4+ 38. ♔e2 With this result, we both shared the 3rd-6th place.

1/2

(2) Kramnik,V (2799)
– Meier,G (2644) [A16]

40th Dortmund GER (9), 22.07.2012

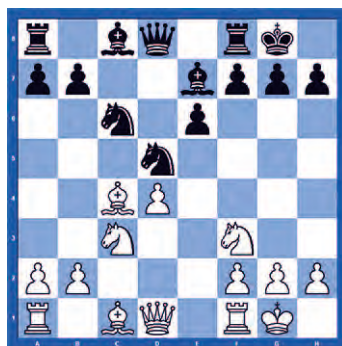
[Balogh Csaba]

We are facing a spectacular victory by Kramnik from the final round. There is a funny part in the opening, because the same position might arise after 3 completely different move orders.

1.c4 [1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 c5 5.cxd5 ♘xd5 6.e3 ♘c6 7.♙c4 cxd4 8.exd4 ♙e7; 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e6 6.♘f3 ♙e7 7.cxd5 ♘xd5 8.♙c4 ♘c6]

1...♘f6 2.♘c3 c5 3.♘f3 e6 4.e3 ♘c6 5.d4 d5 6.cxd5 ♘xd5 7.♙c4 cxd4 8.exd4 ♙e7 Here we are! :)

9.0–0 0–0

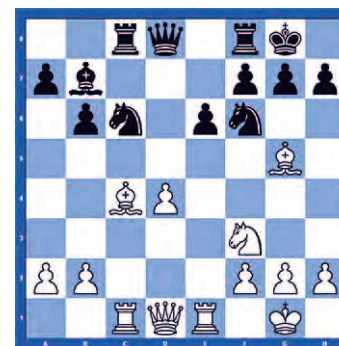


10.♙e1 This is the starting position of the line. A typical middlegame with the d4 isolani. Both sides have their own plans. White is generally aiming for active piece play in order to compensate for the d4 weakness, while Black wants to finish his development and secure a safe

blockade on the d5 square, in order to avoid White from getting rid of it with a d4-d5 push. In general, any kind of piece exchange that doesn't alter the pawn structure favors Black, because then, he can more comfortably organize his play against the d4 pawn. He does not need to worry about different kinds of active counterplay. Black has many different setups, but practice gives preference to two of them.

10...♙f6 Black has two ideas after this move. One is to quickly put pressure on the d4 pawn with ♘de7 and an occasional ♘f5 (of course in this case he must count with the d5 push), or to develop with ♘ce7 and b6-Bb7. The move's disadvantage is that it gives White the opportunity to obtain the bishop pair with ♘e4, taking the strong bishop. However, Black believes in the principle mentioned above (all exchanges favor him). [10...♘f6 11.a3 b6 is the alternative.]

11.♙b3 A very rare and tricky move by Kramnik, who definitely wanted to get his opponent out of his preparation. [There was a fresh high-level game on the main line: 11.♘e4 b6 12.♘xf6+ (12.♙xd5 exd5 13.♘xf6+ ♔xf6 is nothing.) 12...♘xf6 13.♙g5 ♙b7 14.♙c1 ♙c8



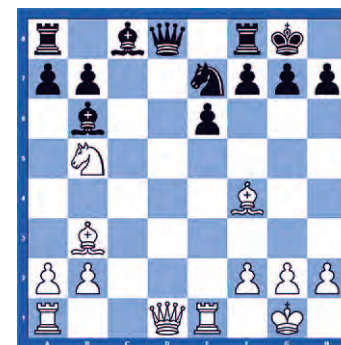
15.♖c3 Both sides developed logically and here comes a typical regrouping that we should remember. 15...♘e7! Of course, the move is obvious, but the point is that Black shouldn't worry about ♙xf6 gxf6, because if White is not able to launch a concrete attack, it only improves Black's position. 16.♙b3 (16.♙xf6 gxf6) 16...♚d6 17.♘e5 We were following the game Tomashevsky-Sasikiran from Sochi 2012, and here Black should have continued with 17...♖xc3 This move solves the problem of the d4 pawn, but creates another weakness on c3. The fact that he can exchange a few more minor pieces is more important for Black. 18.bxc3 ♘e4!= getting a comfortable equality. 19.♚f3 f6!]

11...♘de7! Meier chose the right plan! [11...♘ce7 is the other plan, but here Kramnik probably prepared a very strong idea. 12.♘e4 b6 13.♘e5! ♙b7 14.♚g4! This is how White should play, activity is very important for him. The idea is ♙g5, which can't really be prevented. 14...♘g6 15.♙g5! ♘xe5 (15...♙xg5 16.♘xg5 and the knights are looking very dangerous.) 16.dxe5 ♙xg5 17.♘xg5+= and White achieved an advantage. He kept his attacking possibilities, but the d6 square is more important, where the White knight is heading to. It's going to become really annoying there.; It's important to note that after 11...b6 Black seriously weakens his queenside if he can't take back on d5 with a piece. 12.♘xd5! exd5 13.♘e5+= Thanks to the b6 weakness, White has a small but stable advantage. Later, ♙a4 and ♖c1 may come, the knight has no stability on c6, while taking on e5 improves White's pawn structure. There is also no point in putting the bishop on b7 anymore.]

12. ♙f4!? This involves a very deep pawn sacrifice with long-term positional compensation! I don't think this gives any advantage, but as we will see, the shocking ef-

fect brought Kramnik a nice point. Black must accept the pawn. I think both captures are possible and good, it's hard to choose between them. [On 12. ♙e3 ♘f5 Black is fine.]

12... ♙xd4 Meier prefers to have a knight on d4, which cannot be disturbed by ♘b5, but on the other hand, it gives up the bishop pair. [12...♘xd4 White has two options: 13.♘xd4 (13.♘e4 Here, Black should take the correct piece 13...♘xb3! to make the d5 square safer for the knight. (13...♘xf3+ 14.♚xf3 White gets more than enough compensation here. For instance 14... ♙xb2 15.♖ad1 ♘d5 loses to 16.♖d2! and the bishop has no good square. 16... ♙f6 17. ♙xd5 exd5 18.♖xd5!+- White wins.) 14.♘xf6+ gxf6 15.♚xb3 ♙h8! to prevent the mating ideas with ♙h6 and ♚g3, followed by ♘d5. Black is fine.) 13... ♙xd4 (13...♚xd4 is a bit scary, but also possible. 14.♚xd4 ♙xd4 15. ♙d6 ♖e8 16. ♙a4 ♘c6 17.♘b5 The White pieces are coming dangerously. 17... ♙b6 Black holds his extra pawn. White will retreat his bishop from d6 to free the square for the knight, but the compensation should only be enough for a draw.) 14.♘b5 ♙b6



15.♚f3 Meier might have been afraid of something like this, which seems really dangerous for the human eye, but the machine, as usual, shows great defending possi-

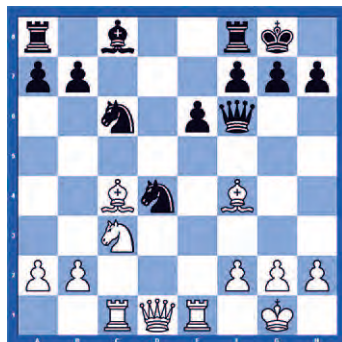
bilities. 15...♔d7! 16.♖ad1 ♘g6! 17.♙g3 It looks like Black can't hold the pins, but 17...♚e7!! and Black sacrifices an exchange for activity and an attack. 18.♙d6 ♙c6!! 19.♚g3 (19.♙xe7 ♙xf3 20.♙xf8 ♙xd1=+) 19...♚f6 20.♙xf8 ♖xf8 21.♘d6 h5 with a huge attack. Both bishops are pressing, the knight will also join through f4, and h4 is the concrete threat. White is in trouble.]

13.♘xd4 ♘xd4 14.♙c4! This is really calm play. White preserves his two bishops. This shows the deepness of Kramnik's idea, he gives a pawn and then just continues the game like nothing happened...

14...♘ec6 Black wants to hold his d4 knight. [14...♘g6 was also possible 15.♙g3 (15.♙e3 leads to draw. I don't believe this was Kramnik's desire. 15...e5 16.♙xd4 ♚xd4 17.♚xd4 exd4 18.♘b5 ♙d7 19.♘xd4=) 15...b6 and Black tries to finish the development.]

15.♖c1! Keeping the calmness. Bringing the last missing piece to the game.

15...♚f6! [Trying to force a draw with 15...e5 leads almost to equality, but 16.♙xe5 ♘xe5 17.♖xe5 ♘c6 18.♖e1↑ and White still can press a little bit; his pieces are more active.]



16.♙c7! To prevent ♖d8.

16...e5? Very tempting move, but Kramnik was ready to counter it, thanks to the ♘d5 tempo. White can initiate concrete play to open the position. [16...♚e7 Black should have brought his rook to d8 first. 17.♙g3 ♖d8 18.♚h5 ♘f5! Trying to take the bishop and also to prevent the ♙h4 ideas. 19.♙f4 White must keep his main triumph. 19...♙d7! Black finally manages to connect his rooks, and after 20.♙g5 he manages to consolidate his position. 20...f6 21.♙f4 ♘cd4 with a complex position, but Black's chances are not worse.]

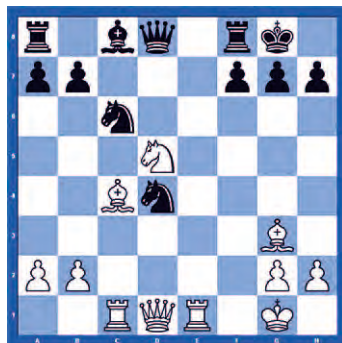
17.♘d5! ♚g5 The only place to defend the e5 pawn.

18.f4! There was no more time for calm moves, Black wanted to develop his c8 bishop. The move is justified by principles as well. White must open the position for the bishop pair and had to break the stronghold of the d4 knight as well. Without proper support, it might become a potential target for White.

18...exf4 19.♙xf4 White has freed the c7 square for the knight with tempo.

19...♚h4?! After this, there's no more equality for Black. [Exchanging the queens seems to be very suspicious as well, but it looks like Black could have kept his position together. 19...♚g4 20.♙d6 (20.b4!/? is also possible, trying to win a piece with b5. Black cannot prevent it with a6 because of the b6 hole, but still: 20...♚xd1 21.♖exd1 ♙g4! and on 22.b5 ♘xb5 23.♙xb5 ♙xd1 24.♖xd1 seems to be playable, even though White should be slightly better.) 20...♖d8 21.♘e7+ ♘xe7 22.♖xe7 looks like a win, but Black just survives after 22...♚xd1+ 23.♖xd1 ♙e6! 24.♖xd4 ♙xc4 25.♖xc4 ♖xd6=]

20. ♖g3 ♔d8? [20... ♖g5 was the last chance, but after 21. ♖e4! White achieves a better position. 21... ♖e6 22. ♖xd4! ♘xd4 23. ♖f4! to protect the c1 rook 23... ♖g4 24. ♖xd4 ♖ad8 25. ♖f1+= and Black retains practical chances.]



21. ♘c7! Kramnik already foresaw the final blow!

21... ♖b8 22. ♘b5! ♖a8 23. ♖d6! Finally, the dark squares caused too many problems for Black. He should have sacrificed an exchange, but the outcome of the game would have been clear anyway.

23... ♖e8 [23... ♘xb5 24. ♖xf8+-]

24. ♖xf7+!! ♔xf7 25. ♖h5+ The king must run into the center, but too many pieces are hunting him there.

25...g6 26. ♖xh7+ ♔f6 White can choose between many different wins. Kramnik found a spectacular mate. His opponent kindly allowed him to show it over the board.

27. ♘xd4 ♘xd4 28. ♖h4+ ♔f7 29. ♖c7+ [29. ♖xd4+-]

29... ♖d7 30. ♖h7+ ♔f6 31. ♖f1+ ♔e6 [31... ♘f5 32. ♖xd7 ♖b6+ 33. ♖h1+-]

32. ♖xg6+ ♔d5 33. ♖c5# Not an ordinary mate, which finishes a great game. **1-0**

(3) Bartel,Mat (2674) – Caruana,F (2775) [D85]

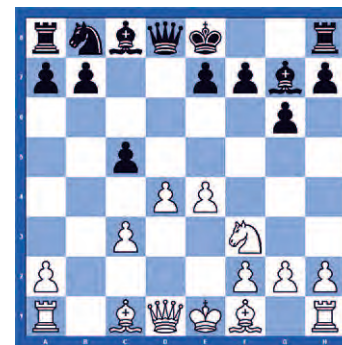
40th GM Dortmund GER (9), 22.07.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

The decisive game of the Dortmund tournament! With this victory in the last round, Caruana took the first place. This is probably the biggest success so far for the young Italian GM. His opponent, Mateusz Bartel, is a strong fighting player with a very sharp style, but when he is out of form he can run into some quick defeats.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3. ♘c3 d5 In the Aeroflot Open in February, Caruana lost to Bartel in 22 moves in the Slav defense. This time, he decided to try the Grunfeld.

4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♖g7 7. ♘f3 c5



8. ♖b1 Bartel realized in his preparation that Caruana was suffering against the 8. ♖b1 system. In 2012, he already ended up twice in practically losing positions right after the opening. He managed to save both games, but it was mainly due to his tenacious defense. This time the Italian seemed to find a decent way to equality.

8...0-0 9. ♖e2 cxd4 [Against Li Chao in May he tried 9... ♘c6 10.d5 ♘e5 11. ♘xe5 ♙xe5 12. ♔d2 e6 13.f4 ♙c7 The point of this system is that White cannot stabilize his central pawns with c4 because of ♙a5. Actually, I find this setup a bit artificial, but many strong players use it. 14.0-0 exd5 15.exd5 ♙a5 This is the starting position of the line, where White can choose between at least 8 different moves... 16.d6 This is the new wave to follow with White. 16... ♖b8

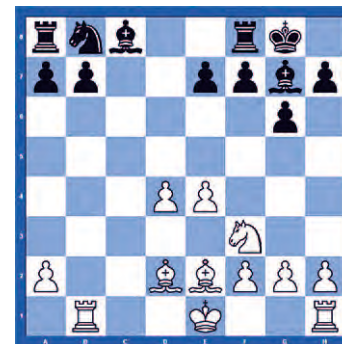


17. ♖b5!! White wants to sacrifice the exchange and launch a very dangerous attack with f5. 17... ♙d7 (17... a6 is also met with 18. ♖xa5! ♔xa5 19.f5!+/- and the Black king is really missing the dark-squared bishops...) 18.f5!! It's really unpleasant to face such preparation over the board. 18... ♙xb5 19. ♙xb5 White threatens with f6 and ♔h6. The bishop stands excellently on b5, where it covers the e8 square. 19... ♔h4 20. ♖f4 ♔g5 21. ♔e1 ♔d8 22. ♔e5 ♔e8 23. ♔d5! White doesn't even want to win back the exchange, the light squared bishop has a very important role in the attack. 23... ♖e1+ 24. ♙f2 g5 (24... ♖xc1 25.fxg6+-) 25.f6! h6 26. ♔f5 and White was winning, because of the ♙d3 threat, but in the time-trouble, he failed to finish the game. Li Chao-Caruaa, Malmo 2012.]

10.cxd4 ♔a5+ 11. ♔d2 This is a solid sideline. [The main line is 11. ♙d2 ♔xa2 12.0-0 ♙g4 with several hundreds

games. Currently, theory considers it to be drawish. The only problem is that Black has to remember many forced lines until move 30 to hold the draw.]

11... ♔xd2+ 12. ♙xd2



12...e6! This is Caruana's new approach. [Just a month ago, he unsuccessfully tried 12... ♖d8 13.d5 ♘a6 14. ♖c1 ! White controls the movement of the a6 knight. 14...f5 This is a typical break of White's pawn chain, but now White can react with 15.e5! The d5 pawn is indirectly protected by ♙c4. 15...h6 16. ♙c4 ♔h8 17.0-0 g5 18. ♖fd1 f4 19. ♙xa6 bxa6 20. ♙a5 ♖g8 21.e6+/- and Black was lost due to his c8 bishop. The White rook invades on c7. Radjabov-Caruana, Moscow 2012.]

13.0-0 b6! The idea is the same, trying to put pressure on the central pawns, but this time with the pieces.

14. ♖bc1 This is the main move to penetrate with the rook on c7.

14... ♙b7 We are in the critical position of our game, White has plenty of choices to continue the game, but only one of them can create problems for Black.

15. ♖c7? A very concrete pawn sacrifice based on a concrete line, but Caruanacalculated one move further than

his opponent! [15.♖fe1!? I found this very deep alternative in order to fight for the initiative. Black must be careful. 15...♘a6! Black simply prevents ♖c7 and prepares to occupy the c-file.

a) 15...♖d8 is met with 16.♙g5! a typical move, after which it's not easy to find a good square for the rook;

b) In case of the greedy 15...♙xe4 White's idea is shown in a very nice variation. 16.♙b4 ♖d8 (16...♘c6 Maybe it was better to sacrifice an exchange: 17.♙xf8 ♖xf8 and Black has good chances to hold the draw.)

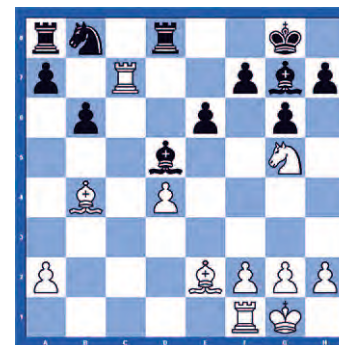


17.♙e7! The line gets very concrete now. 17...♖e8 18.♙b5! Everything is based on the undeveloped b8 knight. 18...♙c6 (18...♖xe7 19.♖c8+ ♙f8 20.♖xe4 Black can hardly survive the pin along the 8th rank.) 19.♖xc6! White seems to win now, but Black has a hidden resource. (19.♙xc6? ♘xc6 20.♖xc6 ♖xe7 is a pawn up for Black.) 19...a6! Suddenly, Black seems to be more than fine, but this time White comes up with a great response. (19...♘xc6? 20.♙xc6+-) 20.♖cxe6!! White protects the e7 bishop with the e1 rook. (20.♙a4 b5) 20...axb5 21.♖xb6 ♖xa2 22.♙f1! with serious initiative for White. The b-pawn is weak, while the d-pawn might cause real problems. (Not 22.♖xb5?! because of 22...♘c6); 16.♙b5 ♖ac8 17.a4 ♖xc1 18.♖xc1 ♖c8 19.♖xc8+

♙xc8 and the position is equal.; 15.♙d3 is too passive. 15...♘c6 16.d5 exd5 17.exd5 ♘a5!? The Black bishops are getting stronger, while the d-pawn is rather weak.; 15.e5 is a sign of success of Black's strategy. After this move, the White pawns lose their mobility and the holes on the light squares start to tell. 15...♘c6 followed by ♖fd8, ♖ac8, ♙f8 and ♘a5 or ♘e7. Black is fine.; 15.♙b4 is a concrete attempt to catch the rook. 15...♖d8 16.♙b5 with the idea of ♙e7. The position looks very suspicious, but Black is in time to play 16...♙a6! (16...♙xe4 17.♙e7) 17.a4 ♙xb5! 18.axb5 a6!= which solves all his problems.]

15...♙xe4 16.♘g5 Bartel follows his plan that started with 15.♖c7. [16.♙b4 is similar to the game, but Black is fine here as well. 16...♖d8 17.♙e7 (17.♘g5 ♙d5 transposes to the game.) 17...♖e8 18.♘g5 (18.♙b5 ♘c6! This kind of concrete tactical play is typical in the Grunfeld.) 18...♙d5 19.♙b5 ♘c6! 20.♙xc6 ♙xc6 and Black ends up with an extra pawn, or after 21.♘xf7 ♖ec8 22.♖xc8+ ♖xc8 23.♘e5 ♙d5=+ he ends up with an endgame with very good perspectives thanks the bishop pair and the occupied open file...]

16...♙d5 17.♙b4 ♖d8



18. ♖b5 This was the idea of the Polish grandmaster when he sacrificed his e4 pawn. White threatens to take with ♗xf7 or to trap the rook with ♖e7. The b8 knight still can't develop, Black seems to be in deep trouble, but Caruana has calculated one move further! [18. ♗xf7 ♖d7! 19. ♖xd7 ♗xd7]

18...a6!! With the same idea as in the 15. ♖fe1 ♖xe4 line, but what to do now?

19. ♗xf7 [19. ♖a4 b5]

19...axb5! 20. ♗xd8 ♗a6 This is the point! Suddenly White collapses! Right now he is an exchange up, but three of his pieces are hanging.

21. ♖xg7+ ♔xg7 22. ♖e7 This was the only way not to lose a lot of material, but Black is winning here as well.

22...b4 White cannot hold the a2-square for long, so the b-pawn will fall as well. The situation of White's minor pieces is not too fortunate either.

23. ♖c1 [23. ♖a1 ♗c7]

23... ♖xa2 24. ♖c6 b5 The rest is easy.

25. h4 [After 25. ♗xe6+ ♖xe6 26. ♖xe6 Black has many ways to win, but the nicest is the strongest as well: 26... ♗c5! 27. ♖e1 ♗d3 28. ♖d1 b3]

25...b3 26. ♖a3 ♗b4! And Black wins material.

27. ♗xe6+ [27. ♖xb4 b2]

27... ♔g8 0-1

(4) Muzychuk, Anna (2606) – Ivanchuk, Vassily (2769) [C45]

ACP Golden Classic Amsterdam NED (7), 22.07.2012

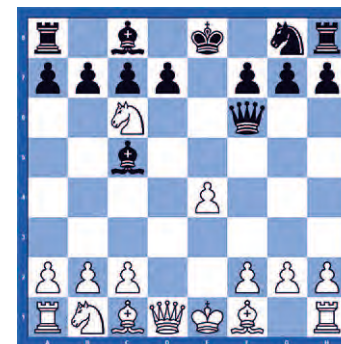
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Here we will see Ivanchuk at his best! A short, very intense and beautiful game!

1.e4 e5 2. ♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 Lately, the Scotch has become quite popular. We saw a couple of games played by Radjabov, Karjakin and Caruana. This might have something to do with the fact that people can't find any advantage for White in the Spanish game. It's hard to say... but it's a fact that the Scotch has returned to the highest level.

3...exd4 4. ♗xd4 ♖c5 [4... ♗f6 This is Kramnik's favorite move.]

5. ♗xc6 ♔f6



6. ♔f3 This line h as been played many times by Radjabov and Rublevsky. These players made it popular again.

6...bxc6 [6...dxc6 This is another possible move which leads to an unclear position. Once, I tried it to play it myself against the already mentioned Rublevsky. The game continued with 7. ♖c4 ♗e7 This move looks slightly strange, but it's the main one. 8. ♖xf6 gxf6 9. ♖f4 ♖b6 10. ♗c3

♘g6 11.♙g3 h5 12.h4 ♘e5 13.♙e2 ♙e6 14.♘a4 ♙a5+ 15.c3 0-0-0 16.♘c5 ♙b6 17.♘xe6 fxe6 with a quite complicated position.]

7.♘d2 d6 8.♘b3 ♙b6 9.♙g3 This move seems to be a novelty! The main moves are 9.a4 and 9.♙d2.

9...♘e7 A very logical reply by Black. The knight gets into the game and Black prepares to castle short.

10.♙e2 A normal move, but how can such an opening bring White any advantage? To me, the idea with ♙g3 remains unclear. [If White would try to save a tempo and develop the bishop to c3 as fast as possible, Black should remain cool and eat away all the pawns. 10.♙d2 ♙xb2 11.♙d3 (11.♙c3? ♙xc2 Two pawns up and ♙xf2 is being threatened!) 11...♘g6 12.0-0 ♙e5 Black is in time to return the Queen and remain a clear pawn up.]

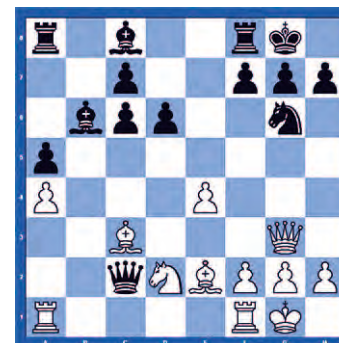
10...0-0



11.♙d2 We can clearly see that White's opening was, at least, not great, not to say „non sense“. Black is fully developed and probably already doing a bit better. [On 11.♙g5? Black always has 11...♙xf2+]

11...a5!? Ivanchuk is famous for his creative and strong play. [11...♙g6 followed by f5 looks solid for Black.; 11...♘g6?! would be a clear mistake: 12.0-0! (12.♙c3 ♙e7 and

it's not easy to protect the pawn on e4.) 12...♙xb2 A very risky move, but if Black doesn't take on b2, the ♘g6 move makes no sense. 13.a4! A very strong reaction! 13...a5 and only after a5, White plays 14.♙c3 ♙xc2 15.♘d2



and the Black queen is trapped. Now we can see why the move a2-a4 is needed. White took away the a4 square from the Black queen.]

12.♙c3 ♙g6 13.♙d3 [I think it was time to think about safety and play 13.♙xg6 ♘xg6 Of course, Black is doing pretty well here, but White is solid as well. 14.0-0 ♙e8! A strong move, White doesn't have any nice way to protect the e4 pawn. Against 15.♙d3, ♘f4 is coming, and Black will have the advantage of the bishop pair.]

13...f5!? Black starts the action and, of course — why not? He's better developed and can put big pressure on White's position.

14.f3? One of the best female players in the world doesn't feel the danger coming. [It was the last chance to take away the queens from the board. 14.♙xg6 ♘xg6 The Black knight is going to f4 where it will have almost a perfect position. 15.0-0 ♘f4 Black wants to take on d3, after which Black is doing clearly better. Also, White needs to be careful,

in many lines, the a5-a4 push could be dangerous. 16. ♖c4+ ♙h8 17.e5 d5 and of course, Black is doing better.]



14...♙h6! After this move, the White king remains in the center under the attack of all the Black pieces. This can't be good...

15.♘d4 This move probably loses by force, but it's already hard to give White any advice.

15...f4! Usually, a move like 15...f4 is not a good one. It closes the position, but it can be made only in one case, if there's a concrete win! And Ivanchuk calculates a nice winning line until the end! Try to find it yourself! :).

16.♙f2 c5 17.♖c4+ The only move to avoid Black from playing c4 and winning a piece.



17...d5! Black prepared this move before playing 15...f4. [A big mistake would be 17...♙h8 18.♘e2 and White is back in the game.]

18.exd5 cxd4 A nice forced line.

19.d6+ White is winning back the piece, and will be even an exchange up, but...

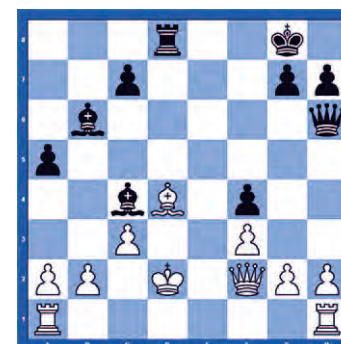
19...♙e6! The quickest finishing move! Great play by Black.

20.dxe7 ♖xc4 21.exf8 ♙+ ♖xf8 Black is an exchange down, but White is under a mating attack. The bishop on c3 is hanging and a loss of material is unstoppable.

22.♙xd4 [22.♙d2 ♖e8+ 23.♙d1 d3 and the White queen on f2 has no squares! Rarely, we see a queen being caught so easily.]

22...♖e8+ The last exact move.

23.♙d2 ♖d8 24.c3



24...c5 White misplayed the opening, didn't feel the danger and got under a crushing mating attack. Don't make the same mistake in your own games! :) **0-1**

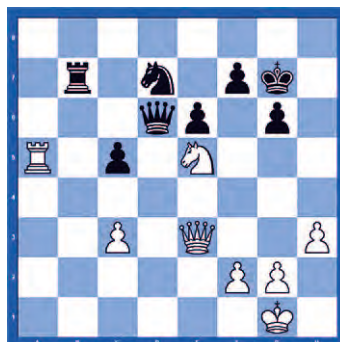
Puzzle section

(5) Morozevich,A (2770) – Giri,A (2696)

Biel, 23.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



(6) Muzychuk,A (2606) – Ivanchuk,V (2769)

Amsterdam, 22.07.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

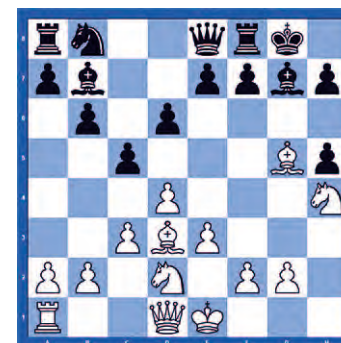


(7) Kohler,A (2229) – Antal,G (2511)

Amsterdam Open, 18.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

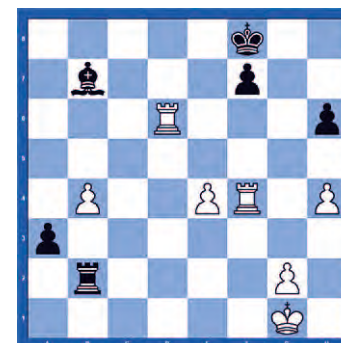


(8) Mamedyarov,S (2726) – Inarkiev,E (2707)

Turkish league, 18.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



(9) Zhao Xue (2556) – Kosintseva,N (2516)

Jermuk, 18.07.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

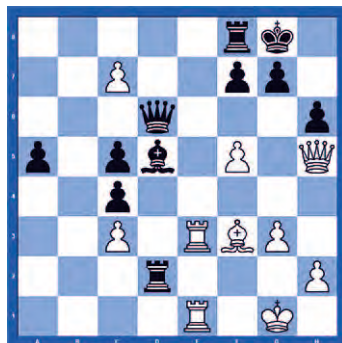


(10) Danielian,E (2480) – Koneru,H (2598)

Jermuk, 19.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

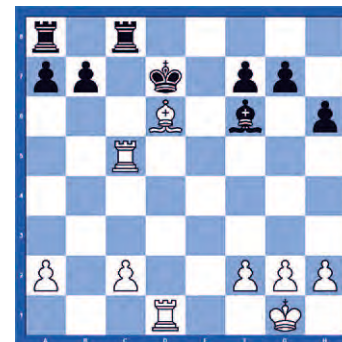


(11) Tomczak,J (2556) – Przybylski,W (2330)

Gniota memorial, 19.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

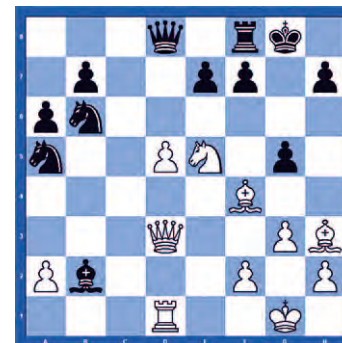


(12) Shomoev,A (2582) – Dzhangobegov,V (2360)

Izhevsk, 17.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



(13) Ibragimov,I (2539) – Shomoev,A (2582)

Izhevsk, 23.07.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+



(14) Milosiev,T (2216) – Georgiev,V (2562)

Macedonian league, 17.07.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

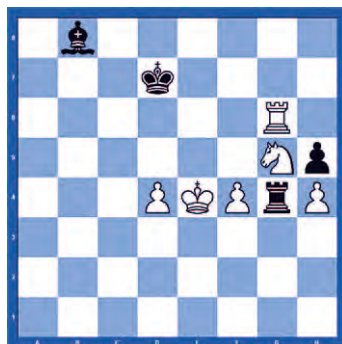


Endgame section

(15) Kramnik,V (2799) – Leko,P (2730)

Dortmund, 20.07.2012

[Chess Evolution]



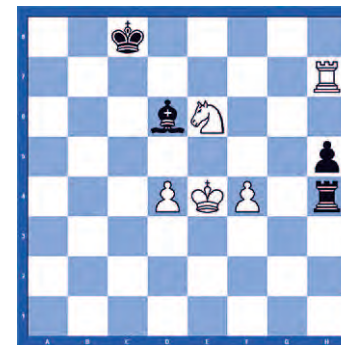
White is currently two pawns up, but he must give back one of them. Still, his position remains completely winning. As the game proceeds, we will see many instructive motifs. We must say that the game was in progress for 7 hours, and both players spent most of their energy. At this moment, Kramnik had about 15 minutes, while Leko was living from the 30 seconds increments...

75. ♖g7+! Forces the king to the back rank, which is clearly an achievement for White. [The tricky 75. ♘e6 does not change much. 75... ♖xh4]

75... ♔c8 [75... ♔c6 loses more easily, White simply promotes his d-pawn. 76.d5+ ♔b6 77. ♖g6+ ♔b7 78.d6! ♖xh4 79. ♘f7! Black cannot stop the pawn.]

76. ♘e6 ♖xh4 77. ♖h7 Black is in a kind of zugzwang. If Black moves his rook along the h-file, White simply pushes his f-pawn. [77. ♖f7+- was also perfectly fine. After defending the f4 pawn, White simply wants to go to c6 with his king.]

77... ♔d6

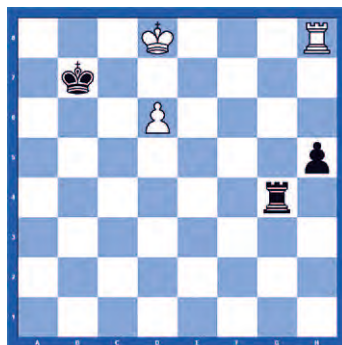


78. ♔d5! Instead of the simple ♖f7 followed by ♔d5, Kramnik sacrifices his f-pawn. This was the strongest move in the position, but maybe from a practical point of view, it was more clever to keep the f-pawn. After Black takes on f4, one mistake by White can spoil the full point and after 7 hours of tough fight, we cannot blindly trust ourselves.

78... ♔xf4 79. ♔c6! This is the point! White creates a mating net with his pieces.

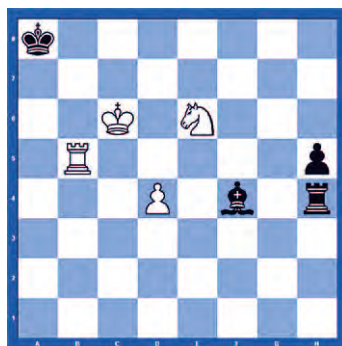
79... ♔b8 80. ♔b6 The sign of tiredness. White repeats moves in his opponents time trouble. [The most precise way to win was 80. ♖d7! and Black is simply unable to parry the threat of ♔b6 and ♖d8 mate. The Black rook should go down to be able to give checks, but it leaves the bishop unprotected... 80... ♖g4 81. ♔b6 White wins.; Of course, it was possible to miss ♖d7, it is not an easy

move at all. What was a bit strange to me is that Kramnik didn't go to the rook endgame, which is easily winning for him. We might have thought that players on Kramnik's level know this kind of theoretical positions „by heart“... 80. ♖xf4 ♜xf4 81. ♜h8+ ♔a7 82. d5 Black cannot prevent the winning method: 82... ♜c4+ 83. ♔d7 ♔b7 84. d6 ♜g4 85. ♔d8



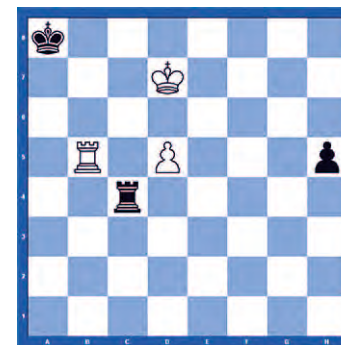
85... ♜g7 (85... h4 86. d7 The king wants to leave from ahead of the pawn, and after 86... ♜e4 87. ♜e8 ♜g4 88. ♔e7 White wins.) 86. d7 ♔c6 87. ♜h6+ ♔b7 88. ♔e8+- The pawn promotes.]

80... ♔c8 81. ♔c6 ♔b8 82. ♜b7+ ♔a8 83. ♜b5



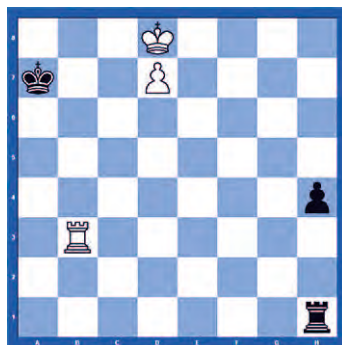
83... ♜g4! To be able to give checks on the g-file. [83... ♔g3 84. ♖c7+ ♔xc7 85. ♔xc7+-; 83... ♔a7 is refuted by 84. ♖c5! Now the threat is ♜a5 ♔b8 ♖d7 ♔c8 and ♜a8 mate. 84... ♔d2 85. ♖d7! and the same mate follows after every move: 85... ♜xd4 86. ♜b7+ ♔a6 87. ♖c5+ ♔a5 88. ♜b5#]

84. ♜a5+?? This check spoils the win. Black successfully escaped from the mating nets, but the rook endgame was still losing for him. [84. ♖xf4! ♜xf4 85. d5 ♜c4+ 86. ♔d7 White has the same winning strategy that we saw in the 80. ♖xf4 line, but Black has an extra option to defend.



86... h4! A very important moment, White has to find the only move to win. 87. ♜b3! As we already know, simply to wait is hopeless for Black, he must try to make use of his h-pawn. (The most logical 87. d6 would spoil the win because of 87... h3! 88. ♜h5 Usually, in rook endgames, the right place for the rook is behind the pawn, but here is an exception! 88... ♜c3 and the position is drawn. 89. ♔e7 ♔b7 90. d7 ♜e3+ 91. ♔d8 ♜g3 The winning idea would be to escape from d8, with the help of the rook (as we have seen in the 80. ♖xf4 line), but now the Black pawn is too far advanced. 92. ♜h8 ♜e3 93. ♜e8 h2! and Black holds the

draw.) 87...♖c1 (87...♖g4 88.d6 ♖g3 White has 89.♖xg3! which is the only win, otherwise the pawn reaches the 3rd rank. 89...hxc3 90.♔c6! Another only move. After other king moves there is simply no mate... 90...g2 91.d7 g1♗ 92.d8♗+ ♔a7 93.♗e7+ ♔a6 94.♗a3#) 88.d6 ♔a7 89.♔d8 ♖h1 90.d7



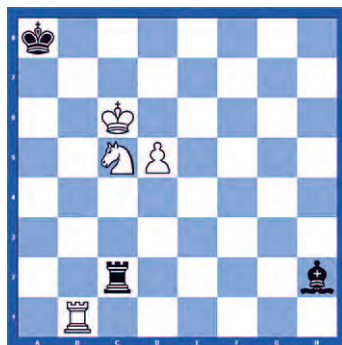
90...h3 Very often, we meet the following motif in practice. It's useful to remember it! 91.♖e3! White prepares for ♔e7 and prevents the checks. At the same time, it attacks the h-pawn, paralyzing Black's rook. 91...h2 92.♖e2! followed by ♔e7, White wins.]

84...♔b8 85.♖xh5 ♕g3 This position is quite an easy draw. There are no mates anymore, while Black will be able to sacrifice his bishop on d6, but there was one more big turn in the game!

86.♖h8+ ♔a7 87.♖h7+ ♔b8 88.♖b7+ ♔c8 89.♖f7 ♔b8 90.d5 ♖c4+ 91.♗c5 ♖c2 92.♖b7+ ♔a8 93.♖b5 We are in a critical moment again. Black's pieces are optimally defending, only the king is standing suspiciously in the corner...

93...♕h2?? [After 93...♔a7 we'll soon reach the position of the game. 94.d6 ♕xd6 95.♔xd6 ♖h2 96.♔c7 ♖h7+ 97.♗d7 ♔a6= The king escapes from the corner.]

94.♖b1?? Kramnik allows Black to correct his last mistake. [94.d6! ♕xd6 95.♔xd6 and White wins in a study-like way because of the unfortunate situation of the Black king. 95...♔a7 It's too late now... (95...♖h2 96.♔c7 ♖h7+ 97.♗d7+- Black should play ♔a6 for the draw...) 96.♔c7 and Black's rook is forced into passivity. 96...♖a2 White has the following winning strategy: to transfer his knight to c6, so that Black cannot prevent the mate either on b6 or on b8. There is one technical difficulty to prevent Black's check on the c-file, but White is able to solve this. 97.♖b4! ♔a8 (After 97...♖a5 there are no more checks on the c-file. 98.♗d7! ♖a2 99.♗b8!+- and the knight arrives to c6.; 97...♖a1 moves into a tempo. 98.♗b3! covering the c1 check. 98...♖a3 99.♗d4!+- wins) 98.♖c4!! Ugly, but effective! 98...♔a7 (98...♖a7+ 99.♔b6 ♖a2 100.♗d7! There are only two ways to prevent the mate: 100...♖a6+!? (100...♖b2+ 101.♔c7 ♖b7+ (101...♖a2 102.♗b8! ♖a7+ 103.♔c8+- The same as the 100...♖a6 line.) 102.♔c8 ♖a4 threats. 102...♖a7 103.♗b8+-) 101.♔c7! White simply ignores the stalemate trick. 101...♖a7+ 102.♔c8 ♖a5 103.♗b8!! and again, the knight arrives to c6. 103...♔a7 104.♔c7! in order to squeeze the king 104...♔a8 105.♗c6! and there are no stalemate ideas. 105...♖a6 106.♖b4+-) 99.♗d7! White wants his usual ♗b8-c6. 99...♔a6 100.♖c5! and the king is stuck in the mating net. 100...♔a7 101.♗b8! ♖a1 102.♖c2 (102.♗c6+ is also good 102...♔a6 103.♗b4+ ♔a7 104.♖b5+-) 102...♖a3 103.♖b2 ♖c3+ 104.♗c6+ ♔a6 105.♖b6#]



94...♔a7! 95.♕b7+ ♔a8 96.♖g7 ♔b8! Again, the right move, leaving from the corner!

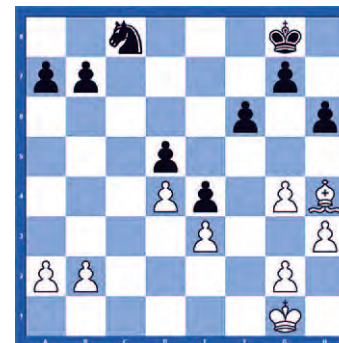
97.♖g8+ ♔a7 98.♖g7+ ♔b8 99.♖g6 ♔a7 100.d6 ♗xd6 101.♖xd6 ♖c1 And the rest is easy for Black. There are many good defenses, in fact, it's impossible to go wrong. Kramnik continues playing on, because he hoped for a blunder after 7 hours and 30 minutes, or just couldn't accept that he managed to spoil the win...

102.♖d2 ♔b8 103.♖a2 ♖c3 104.♖b2+ ♔c8 105.♖e2 ♔d8 106.♔d6 ♖c1 107.♗b7+ ♔c8 108.♖e7 ♖d1+ 109.♔c6 ♖c1+ 110.♗c5 ♔d8 111.♖e2 ♖c3 112.♔d6 ♖c1 113.♗e6+ ♔c8 114.♖d2 ♖c3 115.♗c5 ♖c1 116.♖e2 ♔d8 117.♖e3 ♖c2 118.♗e6+ ♔c8 119.♖d3 ♖c1 120.♖d5 ♖c2 121.♖d1 ♖c3 122.♗f4 ♖b3 123.♖c1+ ♔b7 124.♗d5 ♖b2 125.♖c7+ ♔b8 126.♖h7 ♖b1 127.♗c3 ♖b6+ 128.♔c5 ♖b3 129.♗e4 ♖b7 130.♖h8+ ♔c7 131.♗d6 ♖b1 132.♖h7+ ♔d8 133.♗b7+ ♔e8 134.♔c6 The longest game of the tournament, which lasted 7 hours and 40 minutes. **1/2**

(16) Gustafsson, Jan (2629) – Ponomarev, Ruslan (2726) [D45]

40th GM Dortmund GER (8), 21.07.2012

[Chess Evolution]

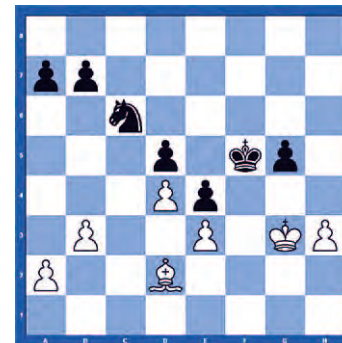


This endgame looks like an easy draw. But... it's much trickier than it looks. We will see how quickly Gustafsson managed to lose it...

30.♔f1 Gustafsson decided to put the king on e2. I'm not sure if this was a good idea. It's clear that Black will start his play on the kingside, so there's no reason to move the king away to e2?! The White bishop has to control the knight — mainly the b4 square. The pawns on the queenside should stand on a2-b3 and, for example, the bishop on d2 or maybe on d6. Let's take a look at a few options. [30.♗e1 ♗e7 31.♗d2 ♗c6 32.b3 ♔f7 33.♔f2 Now Black 2 plans, to play with g5 or without it. Maybe another idea could be to play b5-a5-a4, but right now it wouldn't achieve anything at all. White would just keep on waiting... 33...♔g6 (33...g5 34.g3 ♔g6 35.♔g2 h5 seems to be the only way to break through... (35...f5 36.gxf5+ ♔xf5



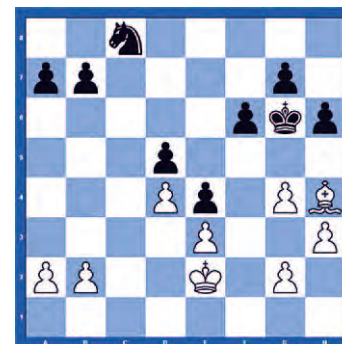
37.♔f2! (37.g4+?! White has to be careful until the end. This logical-looking move could get White in some trouble. 37...♔g6 38.♔f2 h5 39.♔g2 hxg4 40.hxg4 ♔f7 The Black king is going to b5, and Black will try to play a5-a4, trying to create weaknesses in White's pawn structure. If the White king goes to b2, Black could react very fast with ♞e7-Ng8-Nf6, winning the g4 pawn. Probably, the position is still a draw, but it would get tricky...) 37...h5 38.♔e2 By keeping the pawns on g3-h3, White is ready to react against Black's g4 with h4, and against Black's h4 with g4. 38...g4 39.h4 ♔e6 40.♔d1 ♞e7 41.♙e1 ♞f5 42.♙f2 ♔d6 43.♙c2 ♔c6 44.♙b2 ♔b5 45.♙c3 with a draw.) 36.gxh5+ ♔xh5 37.g4+! (37.♔f2?! Now the waiting strategy could lead to a lost position. 37...f5 38.♙c3 ♔g6 39.♔e2 ♞d8! Black brings the knight to e6 before starting the action with f4. 40.♔f2 ♞e6 followed by f4 with good winning chances.) 37...♔g6 38.♔g3! White wants to play h4 trying to exchange both pawns on the kingside. 38...f5 39.gxf5+ ♔xf5



40.h4! g4 41.h5 with a draw.) 34.g3 h5 (34...f5 35.gxf5+ ♔xf5 36.♔g2 and we already know that White makes a draw just by waiting and keeping the pawns on g3-h3.) 35.gxh5+ ♔xh5 36.g4+! allowing Black to play f5. 36...♔g6 37.♔g3 followed by h4, with an easy draw..]

30...♔f7 31.♔e2 The White king goes in the wrong direction.

31...♔g6



32.♙g3? White is playing completely without any plan. [32.♙e1 followed by ♔f2, with a draw.]

32...h5 33.gxh5+ ♔xh5 And it's too late. g4 is no longer possible, so Black is in time to put the pawns on g5-f5.

34. ♖c7 ♞e7 There is no hurry to play f5 because against White's g4, Black now has ♔h4.

35. ♙d6 ♞c6 36.b3 g5?! A logical move, but not the most precise. [36...f5 37.♖f2 ♞d8 38.♖e2 ♞e6 39.♖f2 ♞g5!? Black could try to keep the g5 option in mind. In case of White's g3, Black would have the winning maneuver ♞g5-Nf3. 40. ♙e7+ ♖g6 41. ♙d6 ♖f7 The Black king is going to b5. In comparison to the game, the Black pawn is standing very well on g7 or g6. White has no h4 push, which would give him a free passed h-pawn in case of Black's g5.]

37.g3 f5 We can clearly see that it's not going to be easy to make a draw anymore...



38. ♖d2? [38.♖f2 White should not let Black play f4. 38... ♞d8 39.♖g2 ♞e6 40.♖f2 ♖g6 41.♖g2 It looks like Black doesn't have the f4 move, and to find another idea seems to be a difficult task. Probably the position is a draw, but a very tricky one. If Black manages to find an idea, White could simply be lost.]

38...f4! Of course! A very typical move.

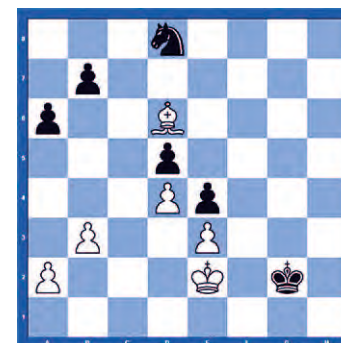
39.gxf4 [39.exf4 g4! A very strong reaction! 40.hxg4+ ♖xg4 41.♖e3 ♖xg3 42.f5+ ♖g4 43.f6 ♞d8 Black is in time to stop the f-pawn. Now the Black king is going to e6, and White would lose the f-pawn. The position is lost for White.]

39...gxf4 40. ♙xf4 ♖h4 41. ♙d6 [Doesn't work: 41.♖e2 ♞b4! and White is probably lost.]

41...♖xh3 42. ♖e2 ♖g2! We have a very interesting position. Black's winning idea is clear: to bring the knight to g3 or g1, and the White king would have to move, allowing Black to get to f2, getting the full point. Can White stop the Black knight from jumping to g3 or g1? Let's take a look.

43. ♙c5 a6 44. ♙d6 Gustafsson tries to use the passive tactic, and of course, there's nothing else to do.

44...♞d8 The knight starts getting closer.



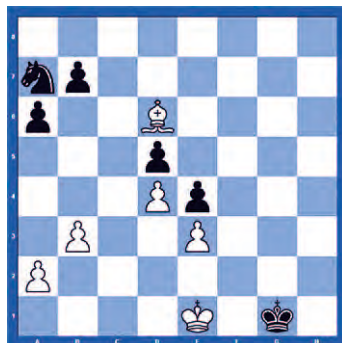
45. ♙e5! A very good defensive move. White cuts the knight with the bishop.

45...♞f7 [45...♞e6 46. ♙f6 ♖g1 47.♖e1 ♖g2 48.♖e2 ♖g3 49. ♙e5+ ♖g2 50. ♙f6 would bring nothing for Black.]

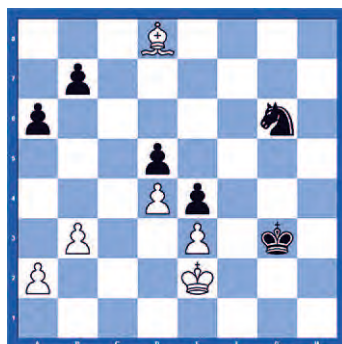
46. ♖f4 Again, the knight is cut.

46... ♞d8 47. ♙e5 ♔g1 48. ♚e1 ♞c6 49. ♙d6 It looks like Gustafsson managed to create a fortress...

49... ♞a7 The last try for Black. As we saw before, ♞d8 didn't achieve anything.



50.a4? What a terrible mistake... Why didn't White just continued with his „standing“ strategy? [50. ♙c5 ♞b5 51. ♙b4 b6 (51... ♞c7 If Black would try to go back, the position seems to be a draw. 52. ♙e7 ♞e6 53. ♙f6 ♔g2 54. ♙e2 ♞f8 The only attempt to do something new. 55. ♙e7 ♞g6 56. ♙d8 ♔g3

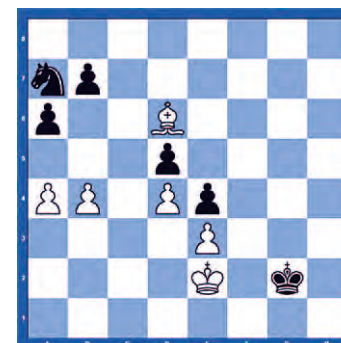


57. ♙c7+! kicking out the Black king from the control of the f2 square. 57... ♔h3 58. ♙f2 ♞h4 59. ♙d6 ♞f3 60. ♙c7 Black managed to put the knight of f3, but in exchange, had to give the f2 square. The position is still a draw. 60... ♞h2 61. ♙f4 ♞g4+ 62. ♙f1) 52. ♙e2 a5 53. ♙e1 ♔g2 54.a4! fixing the Black pawns on the squares b6-a5. 54... ♞d6 55. ♙h4 with an easy draw. Now the White bishop is not worse than the Black knight, the pawn on b6 is a nice target.]

50... ♞c6! Black provoked the White pawn to come forward...

51.b4 What else to do? Black wanted to play ♞a5 and against ♙c7, ♞b4 would finish the game.

51... ♔g2 52. ♙e2 ♞a7! What a great move! Black wants to play ♞c8 and the White bishop is hopeless. Black would have 2 threats, ♞b6 and ♞e7-Nf5-Ng3. The only way to avoid it is to keep the bishop on c5. In this case White is in zugzwang after Black's ♔g3. Probably, the position is lost!

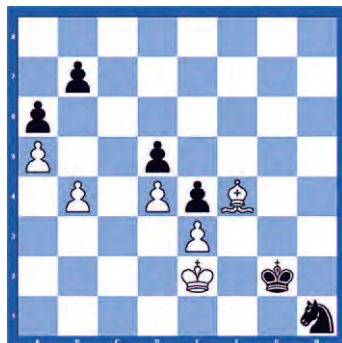


53. ♙c5 ♞c8! 54.a5 ♔g3 And White is in zugzwang.

55. ♙f8 Nothing else to do...

55... ♖a7 **56.** ♕d6+ ♔g2 **57.** ♕c5 Full attention to the Black knight.

57... ♖b5 **58.** ♕f8 ♖a3 **59.** ♕e7 ♖c4 **60.** ♕c5 ♖b2 **61.** ♕e7 ♖d3 **62.** ♕d6 ♖f2 **63.** ♕f4 ♖h1 and the final destination has been reached!



64. ♔d2 ♔f3 **65.** b5 axb5 **66.** ♔c3 ♖f2 **67.** ♕g5 ♖d1+ **68.** ♔b4 ♖xe3 **69.** ♔xb5 ♖c4 **70.** ♔c5 e3 What an end-game...

0–1

Clash of the Titans

(17) Rubinstein, Akiba — Alekhine, Alexander [E16]

Semmering Panhans Semmering (8), 17.03.1926

[Balogh Csaba]

An interesting, but far from flawless, game by two great players.

1.d4 ♖f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.** ♖f3 b6 **4.g3** The 4.g3 system is, even nowadays, the most popular setup against the Queen's Indian defense.

4... ♕b7 **5.** ♕g2 ♕b4+ This check went a bit out of fashion. Recently, people prefer the main 4... ♕e7 or the tricky and sharp sideline with 4...c5. The point of the move is either to get rid of the dark squared bishops or to lure the White knight to an unfortunate place.

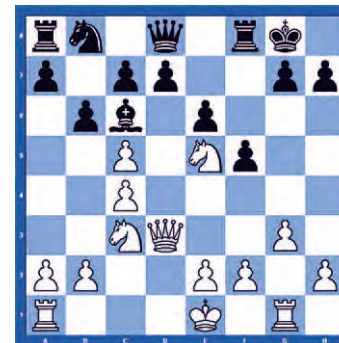
6. ♖bd2 This probably gives away the opening advantage. Generally, this knight belongs to c3, but now it would damage White's pawn structure. [White should play 6. ♕d2 I have recently seen a very nice game by Polugaevsky... 6... ♕xd2+ An interesting modern alternative for Black is 6...c5. 7. ♔xd2 0–0 8. ♖c3 White would like to occupy the center with d5 followed by ♖d4 or e4. This would give White a comfortable game with the space advantage. The bishop on b7 could be closed as well. 8... ♖e4 This is a typical move. Black fights for the center on the light squares, but now it runs into the strong



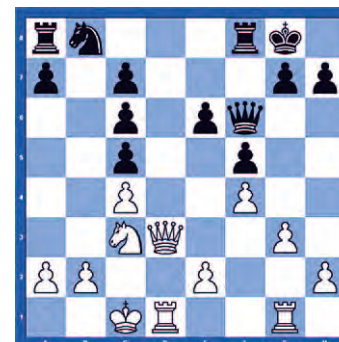
9. ♖d3! f5

a) The point is that 9... ♖xc3? is refuted by 10. ♘g5!! This is a comm on motif in this system, but still sometimes strong players might blunder this trick. Black cannot avoid losing an exchange. 10... ♖xg5 (10... ♖e4 is better, but White gets and advantage in this case as well. 11. ♕xe4 ♕xe4 12. ♖xe4 ♖xg5 13. ♖xa8 ♖c6 14. ♖b7 ♖xd4 and here, after 15. ♖d1!+= Black doesn't have enough compensation.) 11. ♕xb7+/-;

b) 9...d5 is the best, but after 10.cxd5 exd5 11. ♖e5 White is slightly better.; 10. ♖e5! A strong positional move based on tactical ideas. White tries to force a crucial weakening with d5, and the Black position stays with a lot of holes. 10... ♖c5 (This is the first move that White had to check before playing ♖e5, but he has 10...d6? 11. ♖xe4! fxe4 (11...dxe5 12. ♖f6+!+- The undeveloped b8 knight causes serious problems in all the lines.) 12. ♕xe4+- and again, the a8 rook is hanging at the end.) 11.dxc5 ♕xg2 12. ♖g1 After the d-file has being opened, d7 became a real target. It seems to be a nice achievement to gain control over the long diagonal, but in fact, the bishop does nothing there, White is playing on the dark squares. 12... ♕c6 (12... ♖c6 is refuted tactically: 13. ♖xd7! ♖xe5 14. ♖xe6+/-; 12... ♕b7 13.0-0-0+/-)



13.0-0-0 Now, ♖xc6 threatens to win a pawn that's very hard for Black to deal. 13... ♖f6 (13...bxc5 14. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 15. ♖xd7+/- The endgame with the weak c5 pawn looks terrible...) 14.f4! This great move leaves Black in some kind of zugzwang. (14. ♖xc6 looks good, but after 14...dxc6 and ♖a6 is coming next.) 14...bxc5 (Now on 14... ♖a6 White can simply take the pawn. 15. ♖xd7 ♕xd7 16. ♖xd7 ♖xc5 17. ♖xc7 ♖fc8 18. ♖e5 Black doesn't have enough compensation.) 15. ♖xc6 dxc6 A picturesque pawn structure! Black is a pawn up, but his position is close to being hopeless. Beside his pawns, he has real problems with the knight, which has no future in this game. (15... ♖xc6 16. ♖xd7 is a similar story to the 13...bxc5 we saw before. 16... ♖d4 17.e3+/-)



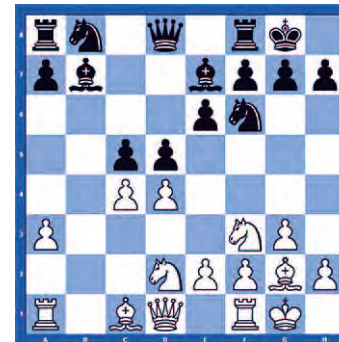
16.e4! White takes even more space. 16...♞a6 17.e5 ♔e7 18.♚f3 ♔e8 19.♚g2! Doubling the rooks. The a6 knight is just watching the events, Black is practically a piece down... 19...♞f7 20.♚gd2 h6 21.♞a4 ♔h7 22.a3! Further paralyzing the knight. 22...♞b8 23.♚c3! It's time to catch it with ♚a5, White can do whatever he wants. 23...♚c8 24.♚a5 ♞b3 25.♞d3! ♞xd3 26.♞xd3 The game is over, but let's see the conclusion... 26...♚b7 27.♔c2 ♞e7 28.♞d8 ♔g6 29.♚d2 ♔f7 30.♚d1! Polugaevsky changes the direction, creating mating threats, because the queen and the knight have no chance to defend. 30...♔g6 (30...g6 31.♞h8+- followed by ♚d8.) 31.g4 fxg4 32.♚xg4+ ♔h7 33.f5 exf5 34.♚xf5+ 1-0 A great game! Polugaevsky-Dokhoian, Beograd 1988.]

6...0-0 7.0-0 d5 8.a3 ♞e7! Of course, Black has to keep his bishop. It might seem like Black lost a tempo, but the bishop has done a great job! The knight on d2 stands poorly. White's ideal setup in such structures is the knight on c3 and the bishop on f4, but now he's far from getting this.

9.b4 c5 Black is well developed and is ready for the challenge in the center. [9...a5 10.b5 c5 is another standard reaction in such situations. Black equalizes here as well.]

10.bxc5 [It's important to mention that after 10.cxd5 ♞xd5 is the only way to take back! Black continues controlling the long diagonal and the e4 square, while keeping the tension in the center.(10...♞xd5 11.bxc5 bxc5 12.♞b2↑ White is ready for an e4 push.; 10...exd5 is the worst. 11.bxc5 bxc5 12.♞b1 followed by dxc5 and ♞b3 with a clear advantage for White against the isolated pawn.)]

10...bxc5



11.dxc5 [White should have played 11.♞b1 This move is very unpleasant. It is hard to hold the long diagonal with the bishop, because ♞c6 is met with ♞e5. In this particular case, Black has 11...♚c7! 12.♚b3 ♞c6! followed by ♞bd7. On 13.♞e5 dxc4! is coming with tempo. 14.♚xc4 ♞xg2 15.♔xg2 ♞bd7= with an equal game, but White should have played like this anyway.]

11...♞xc5?! This is an inaccuracy. [11...♞bd7 It was better to take with the knight on c5. A typical trick in such cases is 12.c6!? ♞xc6 13.♞d4 but now it doesn't lead anywhere... 13...♞b7 Black is fine.]

12.♞b2?! This allows Black to finish his development comfortably. [Rubinstein should have played 12.♞b1 ♚e7 13.♚b3 and the bishop must leave the diagonal. 13...♞a6 (13...♞c6 14.♞e5 works now.) 14.♞b2 looks slightly better for White.]

12...♞bd7 13.♞e5 ♞xe5 14.♞xe5 Things were developing more or less logically, but suddenly, Alekhine takes over the initiative with concrete tactical play.

14...♘g4! A quick attack against the f2 weakness creates unexpected difficulties for White.

15.♙c3



15...♖b8 Alekhine must have miscalculated something leave his plan. The move he made is also logical, after defending the b7 bishop. He wants to push d4 and e5, improving his pawn structure. [15...♙b6! 16.e3 (16.♙e1 is really ugly, but probably the only move. Black is more than fine after, for instance 16...♖ab8)]



16...♘xf2!! would have been the point. 17.♙xf2 (17.♖xf2 ♙xe3 18.♙f1 dxc4 Black is even materially ahead, but he has an attack as well.) 17...♙xe3+ 18.♙e1 (18.♙e2 is met

with the unpleasant 18...♙h6! with the threat of ♙e3 mate.) 18...d4! and on 19.♖b1 dxc3!! Great queen sacrifice! Black takes back the pieces one by one after this. 20.♖xb6 ♙xg2 Black wins. For example 21.♖d6 ♙xd2+ 22.♙e2 ♙xf1+ 23.♙xf1 ♖ab8 ♖b2 is coming next.]

16.♖b1 [16.cxd5 was more logical, to avoid d4. Black is fine, justified by tactical play. 16...♙xd5 and on 17.e4 ♘xf2! this is a worse version than the 15...♙b6 line, but the attack is still very dangerous. 18.♖xf2 ♙xf2+ 19.♙xf2 ♙b6+ 20.♙f3 An unpleasant necessity, to run with the king. (20.♙f1 ♙b7 ♙a6 is threatened. 21.♙f3 f5! with a huge attack.) 20...♙a8 followed by f5 looks more than fine!]

16...d4 17.♖xb7? A tactical oversight! Rubinstein did not feel the danger... [17.♙b4 was the right move. 17...♙xg2 18.♙xg2 ♖c8 Black has a healthier pawn structure, but probably the objective evaluation is rather equal.(Somehow, White can create a quick threat after the more logical 18...♙c7 19.♘f3! e5 20.♙c2 with the idea of ♙f5 and ♙e4, with counterplay.)]

17...♖xb7 18.♙xb7 Black can choose between two very nice ways to win.

18...♘xf2!! A great in-between move! [18...dxc3 is also good, if Black sees 19.♘e4 ♘e3!! Another pretty combination. The c-pawn queens in all the lines. 20.♙xd8 (20.fxe3 ♙xd1 21.♖xd1 ♙xe3+ 22.♙g2 c2 is the point!) 20...♖xd8 21.fxe3 (21.♘xc5 ♘xf1; 21.♖c1 c2 and ♖d1 next.) 21...♙xe3+ 22.♙g2 c2 23.c5 ♖d1!]

19.♙xf2 This is equal to resignation. [A „counter twin move” would have been really nice, but Black is winning if he finds the right moves... 19.♙a5!? ♘xd1! 20.♙xd8

d3+! Black wants to take on e2 with tempo, and take back the piece afterwards. 21.e3 (21.♔h1 dxe2 22.♖e1 ♖xd8 23.♖xe2 Black will end up with two extra pawns after taking the one on a3.) 21...♘xe3 A funny moment, the d8 bishop is trapped. 22.♙g5 (22.♙c7 ♘d5+) 22...♘xf1+ 23.♔xf1 ♖b8 and after every bishop move 24.♙e4 f6 25.♙f4 e5]

19...dxc3+ 20.e3 cxd2 The game is practically over! Black is a pawn up, has a strong attack and can preserve his d2 pawn.

21.♔e2 ♖b8 [21...♖g5 was even stronger 22.♖xd2 ♖d8 followed by ♖h5!]

22.♙f3 ♖d8 23.♖b1 ♖d6 24.a4 f5 25.♖d1 ♙b4 26.♖c2 ♖c5 27.♔f2 a5 28.♙e2 g5 29.♙d3 f4 0-1

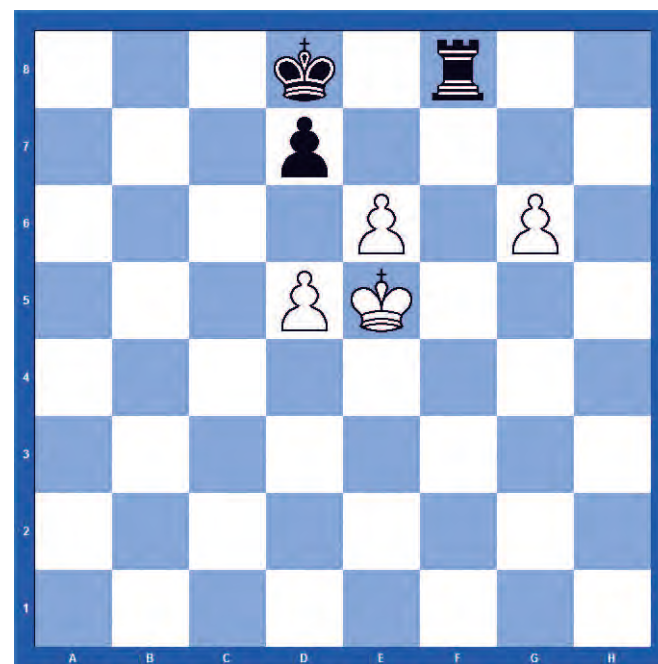
Surprise section / study

(18) Prokes,L

1942

[CEWN]

1.+-



Solutions

(19) Mamedov,R (2628) – Gagunashvili,M (2578)

Turkish league, 14.07.2012

[Solutions]

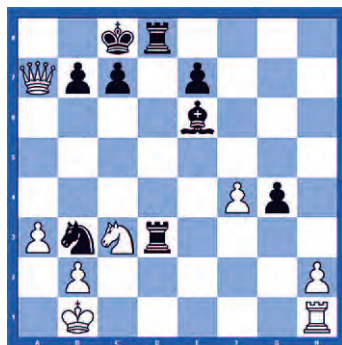


31.e6! fxe6 32.♘e5! ♖xf6 33.♞d7+! ♔f8 34.gxf6+-

(20) Shimanov,A (2606) – Safarli,E (2623)

Turkish league, 15.07.2012

[Solutions]

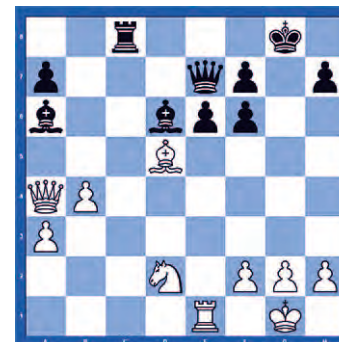


27...♞d1+!! 28.♞xd1 ♞xd1+ 29.♘xd1 ♙f5+ 30.♔a2
♘c1+ 31.♔a1 1/2-1/2

(21) Ipatov,A (2581) – Firat,B (2408)

Turkish league, 11.07.2012

[Solutions]

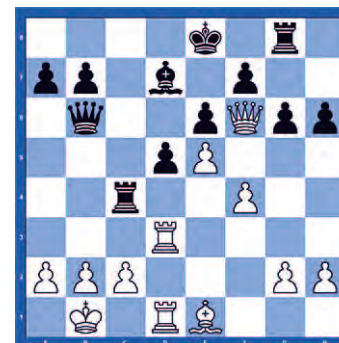


24...exd5! 25.♘f3 [25.♞xe7 ♞c1+--+] 25...♙e2 26.♘d4
♞e5 27.g3 [27.♘xe2 ♞xe2--+] 27...♞xd4--+

(22) Grandelius,N (2570) – Cramling,P (2486)

Swedish Championship, 13.07.2012

[Solutions]

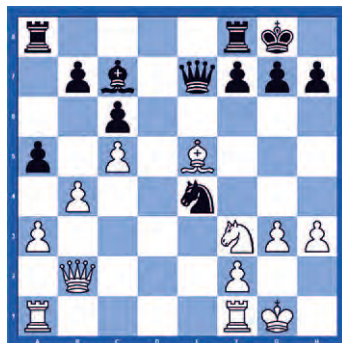


22. ♙h4! g5 23.fxg5! ♞xh4 24.g6! ♞xg6 25.♞xh4+-

(23) Dunnington,A (2386) – Hera,I (2586)

Scottish Championship, 15.07.2012

[Solutions]

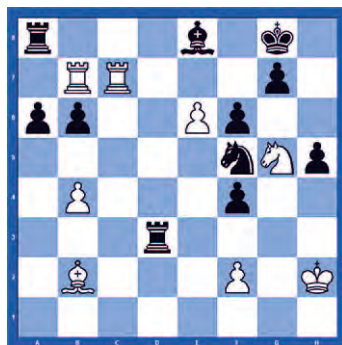


22...♘g5! 23.♙xc7 [23.♘xg5 ♙xe5--+] 23...♘xf3+ 24.♔g2 ♚e4! 0-1 [24...♚e4 25.♙h1! ♚e6!? (25...♘d2+?! 26.f3 ♘xf3 27.♚g2 26.♙g2 (26.g4 h5--+ (26...f5--+)) 26...♚d5! 27.♙h1 ♘d2--+]

(24) Kalezic,B (2439) – Kotic,D (2536)

Montenegro Championship, 12.07.2012

[Solutions]

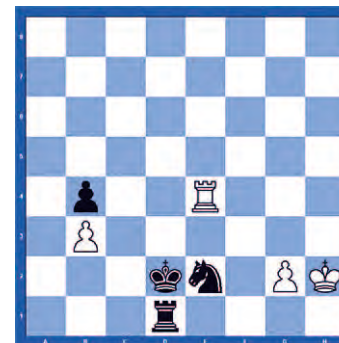


35.♙xf6! gxf6 36.♘h7 [36.♘e4+--] 36...♘h6 37.♚g7+ ♔h8 38.♘xf6 1-0

(25) Stany,G (2393) – Sargissian,G (2685)

Rethymno Open, 09.07.2012

[Solutions]

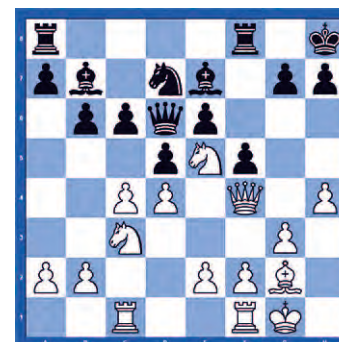


60...♖h1+! 0-1 [60...♖h1+ 61.♙xh1 ♘g3+--+]

(26) Sargissian,G (2685) – Kryvoruchko,Y (2672)

Rethymno Open, 10.07.2012

[Solutions]



15.cxd5! exd5 [15...cxd5 16.♘b5+--] 16.♘xd5!! cxd5 17.♘xd7 [17.♚c7! ♘xe5 (17...♙c8 18.♘xd7+--; 17...♚xc7 18.♘f7+ ♚xf7 19.♚xc7+--)] 17...♚xf4 18.gxf4±

(27) Hracek,Z (2624) — Margvelashvili,G (2552)

Benasque Open, 13.07.2012

[Solutions]

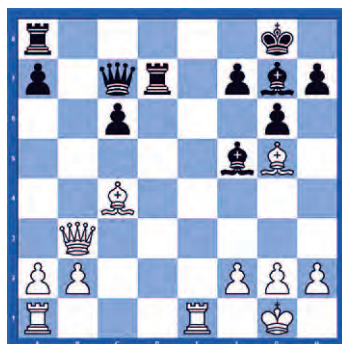


13... ♖c3! 14. ♖a2 ♖xd4! 15. ♔xd4 ♖xc1±

(28) Sandipan,C (2618) — Baron,T (2452)

Benasque Open, 13.07.2012

[Solutions]

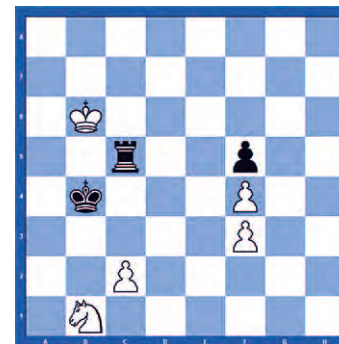


20. ♖xf7+! ♔h8 [20... ♖xf7 21. ♖e7!+-] 21. ♖e8! ♖d3
22. ♖c4 ♖c8 [22... ♖xb2 23. ♖ab1 ♖g7 24. ♖xc6±] 23. ♖e7
♖d6 24. h3!±

(29) Kubbel,L

1927

[Solutions]



1. c3+! ♔c4 2. ♖a3+! [2. ♖d2+? ♔d5--]

2... ♔d5 3. c4+! ♔d4 4. ♖b5+! [4. ♖c2+? ♔xc4 5. ♖e3+
♔d3 6. ♖xc5 ♔xe3 7. ♖d5 ♔xf3! 8. ♖e5 ♔g4--]

4... ♔xc4 5. ♖c7!! ♖d5 [5... ♖xc7 6. ♖xc7 ♔d3 7. ♖d6 ♔e3
8. ♖e5+-; 5... ♔d4 6. ♖e6++-; 5... ♔b4 6. ♖a6++-]

6. ♖xd5 ♔xd5 7. ♖c7! ♔d4 8. ♖d6 ♔e3 9. ♖e5+- 1-0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 23

3rd of August 2012

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Editorial Preface

Clearly, the main focus during the last week was on Biel. Carlsen and Wang Hao are crushing their opponents round by round. Giri is in the fight for the first place as well, but this is more due to luck than to his good play. Etienne Bacrot is playing a very sad tournament, losing a lot of positions with good perspectives. Nakamura is not having a great tournament either, a double 00 against Wang Hao was clearly not what he imagined. Morozevich had to leave the Biel Chess Festival after losing his first 2 games. Viktor Bologan joined the elite group to replace him. For Bologan, it's just a horror what's going on; from the first 6 games, he managed only to get a draw against Etienne Bacrot...

Only 2 rounds left, the situation is very exciting!

The traditional Biel Open is very strong as well. At the moment, two French players: Romain Eduard and his colleague in the National Team, Vachier-Lagrave have the best chances to get the 7 000 CHF first prize.

The Ukrainian National Championship is on the way with all the top players (except Ivanchuk) participating in it. A lot of good and fighting games were produced there. After the 5th round, Eljanov is on top.

Another very strong open is on the run, the Politiken Cup. Here, the number 1 ranked is V. Malakhov.

Another change in the FIDE rating list was made. Now, it comes out monthly instead of every 2nd month.

Probably the biggest story of the week is the suspension of S. Feller, Hauchard and Marzolo, who got banned for cheating during the 2010 Chess Olympiad. A very sad sto-

ry, especially for S. Feller, who cannot participate in any FIDE event for the next 2 years and 9 months. For a young player like him, it means the end of his chess career.

As usual, we wish You a lot of fun with the games from Biel and the Ukrainian Championship that we commented for You! And don't forget to make the weekly puzzle section, it'll keep Your brain alive!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Bacrot,E (2713)
— Morozevich,A (2770) [D31]

Biel, 24.07.2012

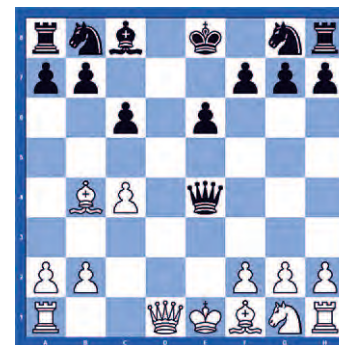
[Balogh Csaba]

A very complex game! Morozevich introduced a novelty in a very sharp line, which seems to lead to a fine position for Black. Due to his opponent's time trouble, he was over-pressing and instead of getting a perpetual check, he allowed Bacrot to finish the game with a fantastic combination.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c6 A complex setup, which might transpose to many openings. Black can usually decide between playing a Stone Wall structure with f5, or to transpose to the Meran with ♘f6...

4.e4!? This is the only way for White to avoid the transpositions to the main lines, but here White has to sacrifice a pawn and agree to play for compensation. Otherwise, White should play 4.e3.

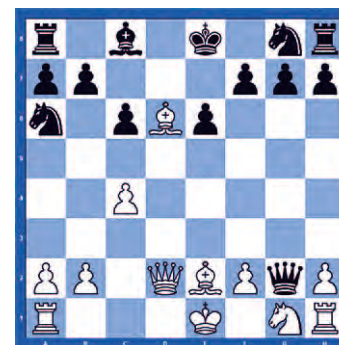
4...dxe4 5.♘xe4 ♙b4+ 6.♙d2 ♚xd4 7.♙xb4 ♚xe4+ This is the starting position of the Marshall Gambit, who played this opening for the first time in 1902! White sacrifices a pawn for the bishop pair and the Black king usually has serious difficulties to find safety, mainly because of the strong dark-squared bishop. Of course, such kind of positions are ideal for modern computer chess. We have seen many great novelties for both sides recently. The materialistic machines stubbornly help Black to hold his advantage...



8.♙e2 [8.♘e2 was considered to be less dangerous, but after Ian Nepomniachtchi beat the specialist of this opening, Dusko Pavasovic, this move had to be taken seriously as well. The idea is 8...♘a6 9.♙f8! A really nice move, but this is just the beginning of the whole story...]

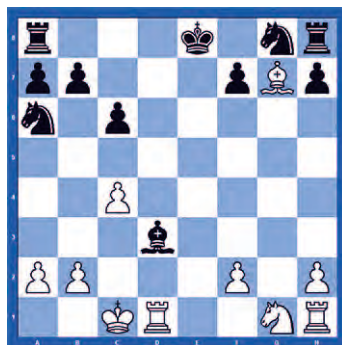
8...♘a6 9.♙d6 Bacrot goes for the second most popular continuation. [The mainline is 9.♙a5 ; 9.♙f8?! is still nice, but less effective here, because of 9...♚xg2 10.♚d6 with the idea of a quick 0–0–0. Black can calmly play 10...♙d7 11.0–0–0 0–0–0 and Black is better.]

9...♚xg2 10.♚d2! [10.♙f3 ♚g5 followed by ♘e7, is known as good for Black.]



10...e5!? This is practically a novelty, but of course, one of the computer's main advice. Black frees the way for his bishop in order to develop it quickly and play 0-0-0. [However, there were almost a hundred games with 10...c6 11. f3 g6 and Black's results are really good with it. It's rather White who usually avoids this line. I, unsuccessfully, tried to refute this line over many pages, but the computer holds for Black. The maximum that I could reach was a draw. It would be interesting to know what Morozevich and Bacrot knew here... In my opinion, Morozevich just wanted to try another move (with 10...e5), because it seems playable. The bigger question is why Bacrot went for this line, especially when he spent 40 minutes on c2?!; 10...c6? would be too greedy. 11.0-0! f3 threatens to trap the queen, and after 11...e4 12. e7! wins.]

11. e5 [11.0-0-0 is an interesting alternative, Black must react precisely with 11...e4! with two ideas. The main is to exchange the queens with f4, or develop f5 with tempo. 12. e5 The following moves are forced. (12. g5 f4+) 12... f5! 13. d3! cxd3 14. cxd3 exd3 15. xg7



15...b4! The critical position of this line. White seems to be better, he will be an exchange up after taking on h8, and the Black knight is intending to jump to a2, where it is questionable if it will come out. Despite all these facts, concrete variations show that Black is OK! (15...xc4 16. xh8 xa2 17. f3+= is probably slightly better for White.) 16.b3

a) 16.a3 b2+! 17. d2 0-0-0 Just in time! This solves all of Black problems. 18. f3 Otherwise e4. 18...xc4+ 19. c2 h6! 20. xh8 (20. xh6 does not work, because of 20...xd1 21. xd1 e2!; 20. e5 with the idea of taking on h6, but mainly, it avoids the e2 threat. 20...e6 21. xh6 f6! and the knight has no good square to retreat, since d3 is met with f5, while 22. f3 xd1 23. xd1 g4) 20...xd1 21. he1 d5 White will only be able to win the knight if he sacrifices the exchange on d5, but of course, then he can't dream about an advantage.;

b) White should not hurry with 16. xh8 b2+ 17. d2 xc4 getting two pawns for the exchange, and only Black can be better. The knight will be rescued via b4 later.; 16...e4 17.f3 f5 is the easiest. (17...d3+ is also possible. 18. d2 f2 19. f1 xh1 20.fxe4 0-0-0+ 21. e3 e7 22. xh8 xh8 23. e2 and the game should end in a draw.) 18. xh8 d3+ 19. xd3 xd3= with an even position.]

11... f5 12. f3 [12.0-0-0 e4 is a transposition to the 11.0-0-0 line.]

12... g6 13.0-0-0 White wanted to avoid d8, but it moves into some dangerous threats after c5. [13. e2 was possible, but it allows 13...d8 14. f4 (14. e3 e7 15. f4 h6 is a transposition.) 14...h6 15. e3 e7

Black is ready to castle kingside, White has to force a draw with 16.♘h5! (16.♖g1 is refuted by 16...♘b4!) 16...♔xe3+ 17.fxex3 f6 18.♘xg7+ ♔f7 19.♘xf5 ♘xf5 20.♙f4 ♘c5= After a couple of only moves from both sides, a drawn position arose.]

13...♘c5! Black must continue to play concretely! ♘d3 is the threat. [Calm developing moves like 13...♘e7? give enough time for White to build up an attack. 14.♘e2! f6 15.♙d6 0-0-0 16.♚f4+/- White is doing great here. Concrete moves don't save Black anymore. 16...♙b1 17.♖d2 ♙xa2 ♚b1 is the threat, but 18.♘c3!+/-]

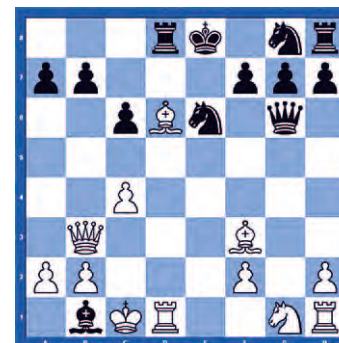
14. ♔e3



14... ♖b1! A really spectacular move, creating the threat of ♔c2! [Of course, now 14... ♘d3+? doesn't work: 15. ♖xd3 ♙xd3 16. ♙xg7+-]

15. ♖d2 [15. ♕d6+!? ♞e6 16. ♚b3! was a very tricky alternative, because the most logical move for Black is a mistake. It's really hard to play the position correctly with both sides. Training to calculate such positions are very useful to improve our skills. 16... ♖d8! (I think most of us would be happy to finally leave with the king from the center, but White can get an advantage here after couple of very strong moves. 16... 0-0-0 17. ♕xc6! (17. ♞e2 seems to win,

because of the simple threat of ♖hg1, but 17... ♙xa2! An unexpected blow! 18. ♖xa2 ♖g5+ and Black wins the f3 bishop with ♖f5 check.) 17... ♘c5! (17... bxc6 18. ♖b8+ ♔d7 19. ♙c7++-) 18. ♙xc5 ♖xd1+ 19. ♖xd1! It's very important to have the ♖g4 resource. 19... ♖xc6 (19... bxc6 20. ♘f3+/-) 20. ♖g4+! f5 21. ♖xg7 and White has the same points on both lines. 21... ♙e4!? This in-between move doesn't help. (21... ♖xh1 22.f3!+/- protecting the knight on g1, to be able to take the rook.) 22. ♖c3 ♖xh1 23.f3! White is a rook down at the moment, but he is doing better.)



17. ♖h3!? (17. ♖e2 moves to the same trick. 17... ♙xa2! but here White has an extra option: 18. ♙xc6+! (18. ♔xa2 ♕g5+ and ♔f5 next.; 18. ♖xb7 loses to 18... ♖b1+ 19. ♙d2 ♔xd6+ 20. ♙c3 ♖xd1) 18... bxc6 19. ♖xa2 and, for example, after 19... ♘e7 20. ♙xe7 ♙xe7 21. ♖xa7+ ♙f6 the position is about even. Both kings are equally safe now.) 17... ♘f6! (The difference is that after 17... ♙xa2 White has 18. ♖xb7!! (18. ♖xa2 ♕h6+ would be fine for Black.) 18... ♖b1+ 19. ♙d2 ♔xd6+ 20. ♙c3! and the d1 k is protected in comparison to the position where the knight is on e2. 20... ♕f5 21. ♖b8+! ♔d8 22. ♖xd8+ ♘xd8 23. ♖e1+ ♘e7 24. ♙xc6+!+- „Doublepin“, and mate to follow.) 18. ♙a3 An interesting situation. The computer evaluates the first

4 moves as 0.00, but for human eyes, one mistake could decide the game... (18.♖he1 ♜xd6! 19.♞xd6 0–0 Suddenly, the White king became really weak.) 18...c5 seems to be the most logical to me, closing the bishop on a3. 19.♞xd8+ ♔xd8 20.♞d1+ ♜d7! White can force a draw by 21.♜f4 (21.♞d2 leads to draw as well. 21...b6 22.♞a4 ♜d4 23.♞xa7 ♞e8 White seems to be in trouble, but he can survive with 24.♞a8+! ♔e7 25.♞d5! with the threat of ♞xd4! 25...♜xf3 26.♜f4! ♞f5 27.♞d6+ ♔d8 28.♞b8+ ♔e7 29.♞d6+=) 21...♜xf4 22.♞xd7+! ♔xd7 23.♞xb7+ with perpetual check. Even after the brave attempt, White holds the draw 23...♔e6 24.♞c6+ ♔f5 25.♞xc5+ ♔f6 26.♞e7+ ♔f5 27.♞c5+=]

15... ♞xa2! Black creates the double-threat of ♞b1 and ♜b3. So, White has to play:

16. ♞d6+ ♜e6 17. ♞e4

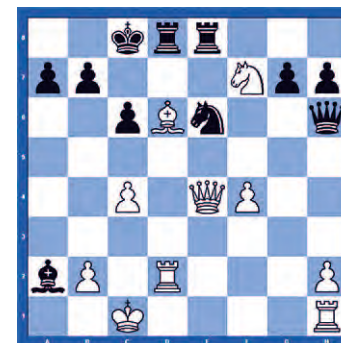


17... ♞h6 Both sides have parried the concrete threats. Black is a pawn up, but his king is still in the center and 0–0–0 is always met with ♞xa7.

18.f4 Of course, White cannot exchange queens.

18... ♜f6 19. ♜f3! Strong play by Bacrot, even though he had only a few minutes on the clock. He calmly started to develop his pieces and intends to play ♞e1 and f5. [The bishop could not be trapped with 19.b3? ♜xe4 20.♞xe4 ♞xb3]

19... ♞xc4 [19... ♜xe4 leads to a perpetual check as well, if both players find the best moves. 20.♞xe4 0–0–0 21.♜e5 with the threats of ♜xc6 and ♜xf7. 21... ♞he8! 22.♜xf7! (22.♜xc6 leads to a slightly better endgame for Black after the forced line 22... ♞xd6! 23.♞xd6 ♞xf4+ 24.♞xf4 ♜xf4 25.♜xa7+ ♔b8 26.♜b5 ♞xc4↑ with some advantage.)



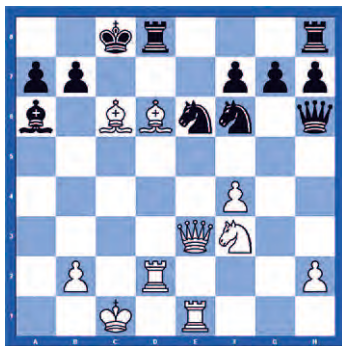
22... ♜d4! Another spectacular move! 23.♞xd4 (23.♞xe8?! ♜b3+ 24.♔d1 ♞h5+ 25.♞e2 ♞xf7 Black has a strong attack.) 23... ♞g6 refreshing the mate on b1 idea. 24.f5 ♞xf7! (Black should not be too greedy with 24... ♞xf5 25.♞f2! ♞b1+ 26.♔d2 ♞e4! 27.♞xb1 ♞xd4+ 28.♔e3 R8xd6 29.♜xd6+ ♞xd6 30.♞f8+ ♔c7 31.♞f7+ and White has some advantage.) 25.♞xa7 ♞xd6! The only move, and the game ends with a perpetual check. 26.♞a8+ (26.♞xd6? ♞xc4+) 26... ♔c7 27.♞a5+ ♔c8=]

20. ♖e1 White wants to win a piece with f5. Here, both players had just a few minutes left, which increases the tension to the maximum.

20... 0-0-0! [20... ♘d5? loses to 21. ♕xd5 ♕xd5 22. ♖xd5! cxd5 23. ♔c5! The Black pieces are unable to defend the king. For example 23... ♖d8 24. ♔b5+ ♖d7 25. ♘e5 ♔xf4+ 26. ♔b1+-]

21. ♕xc6! Excellent calculation and nerves! Now the game should end in a perpetual check again, but Morozevich got over-optimistic... [On 21. ♔xa7? Black has 21... ♖xd6! followed by ♔xf4.]

21... ♕a6? [21... bxc6! 22. ♔xa7 ♖xd6! 23. ♔a8+ and draw. The player who tries to avoid that, loses... (23. ♖xd6? ♔xf4+) 23... ♔c7 (23... ♔d7? 24. ♔b7+ ♔e8 25. ♔b8+) 24. ♔a7+ ♔c8]



22. ♘g5! This extremely strong move was missed by Morozevich! White is attacking on the queenside and suddenly he makes a move on the other flank. The point is to avoid the usual ♖xd6 and ♔xf4 check ideas! White is winning now. [22. ♔xa7? ♖xd6 23. ♖xd6 ♔xf4+ was again in Black's mind!]

22... ♘xg5 The final mistake, but it was over anyway. Now, there are many different way to win the game, but Bacrot played the most spectacular one!

23. ♕d7+! And mate to follow in all lines.

23... ♔xd7 [23... ♖xd7 24. ♔c5+ ♔d8 25. ♕e7+ ♔e8 26. ♔c8+-; 23... ♘xd7 24. ♔c3+-]

24. ♔e7+ ♔c6 25. ♔c7+ [25. ♔c7+ ♔b5 26. ♔c5+ ♔a4 27. ♔b4# A very hard fight with a lot of tension!]

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(2) Moiseenko, Alexander (2711)
– Ponomarev, Ruslan (2726) [D58]

81st ch-UKR 2012 Kiev UKR (2.2), 28.07.2012

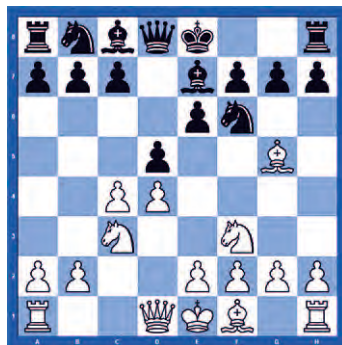
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We will now see a great game with many typical ideas and nice tactics. Already, more than 10 years have passed since Ponomarev became the youngest FIDE World Champion — he was 18 years old. It's a little strange to me not to see him in the World Top 10...

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 [2...dxc4 Right now, the „Queen's Gambit Accepted" is super popular and hard to break.]

3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 ♙e7 [4...dxc4 5.e4 ♙b4 6.♙g5 leads to the main lines of the well-analyzed „Vienna".]

5.♙g5 we are in the classical lines of the Queen's Gambit. This opening is very old and can be clearly considered to be one of the „classical" openings in chess. If we open any chess book from the 60s, 70s, 80s or even 90s, it's sure that we'll find some games on it.



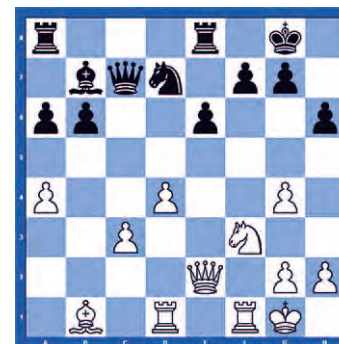
5...h6 6.♙h4 [Another option is 6.♙xf6 ♙xf6 7.e3 0-0 8.♖c1 c6 9.h4!? This is sort of a „fashionable" move that

leads to an extremely unclear position. White's next moves are usually g4-g5, which makes the game extremely unbalanced.]

6...0-0 7.e3 b6 We are in the very main lines...

8.♙d3 ♙b7 9.0-0 ♘bd7 White has quite a wide range of choices here.

10.♙g3 [The main move is 10.♙e2 ♘e4 (10...c5 is another possible way of playing for Black 11.♙g3 cxd4 12.exd4 dxc4 13.♙xc4 a6 This position is very complicated. Only 2 pawns are exchanged, which gives a wide range of ideas for both sides. Usually, in a position with the isolated pawn, White should try to create some attack or to push d5, and Black should try to exchange as many pieces as he can and make a blockade on the d5 square. 14.a4 ♖e8 A few moves of a very interesting game: 15.♖ad1 ♙b4 16.♙d3 ♘h5 17.♙b1 ♘xg3 18.fxg3 ♙xc3 19.bxc3 ♙c7 20.g4



Cheparinov-Adams, ECC 2011. The game ended in a draw after a great fight.) 11.♙g3 (11.♙xe7 ♙xe7 12.cxd5 exd5 13.♖ac1 c5 probably leads to an almost equal position.) 11...♘xg3 (11...c5 is also possible.) 12.hxg3 and Black needs to be quite precise to equalize the position completely.]

10...♘e4 11.♙xe4?! A very rarely played move that I don't like. White gives his opponent a very concrete play. [11.♚e2 would take us back to the main lines.]

11...dxe4 12.♘d2 f5 The game is getting quite forced now! If White can't do something quick, Black will be simply better. In spite of the bishop pair, the attacking ideas on the kingside should be more than enough of a threat.

13.♘b5 This move is clearly the main idea of White, after he played 11.♙xe4.



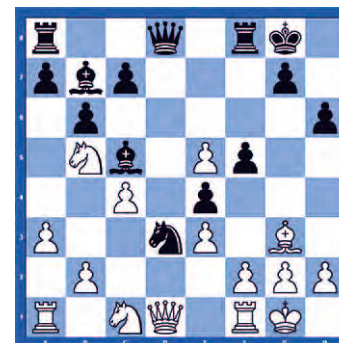
13...e5! Strong and correct play. Actually, we are still in the game Gelfand-Topalov from 2000. It's hard to say if Moiseenko went intentionally for this line or just forgot something...

14.dxe5 [14.♙xe5 This is a very safe move, but clearly not to play for an advantage. 14...♘xe5 15.dxe5 c5 shouldn't give any advantage for White. Black will slowly capture the extra White pawn on e5, which would probably lead to some exchanges, and to a draw.]

14...♘c5 15.♘b3 This move is probably a novelty. [15.♘d4 ♚c8 16.♚h5 ♙h7 and I think Black has good play, Gelfand-Topalov, Monaco 2000.]

15...♘d3 Logical and good. [Of course not 15...♚xd1? 16.♚fxd1 ♘d3 17.♘xc7 ♚ac8 18.♘d5 and White is just 2 pawns up.]

16.♘3d4 White is not fighting against the main Black piece, the knight on d3. This will bring him a lot of troubles very soon. [16.♘c1!? would have been a decent move. White wants to play ♘d4 next. 16...♙c5!? This move stops White from playing ♘d4, and f3 as well. (16...g5 looks logical but is not the best. 17.♘xd3 exd3 18.f3! The position remains very complicated, but I feel White should be doing better here.) 17.a3! A cool move that makes Black think twice about what to do next. White wants to provoke Black's a6, to make the position of the knight on b5 safe — no more a6. If Black does nothing, White wants to play b2-b4.]



17...a6 (Doesn't work: 17...f4 18.♘xd3! exd3 19.♙xf4) 18.♘c3 a5! It's hard to say if White can be better here, maybe... But I think Black should be fine. (Black should not try to win the pawn back: 18...♘xb2 19.♚b3! ♘d3 20.♘xd3 exd3 21.♘d5 and White is doing better.)]

16...♚c8 A typical move. Actually, there aren't many options here... White wanted to play ♘e6.

17. ♔b3 ♕c5! We already know this idea, but anyway, it's a strong move. Black wants to play a6 now, and after ♖c3, to continue with ♕xd4 exd4 and f4.

18. ♘e2 [Maybe 18.f4 could be a possible move here, but it's hard to make such an ugly move...]

18...g5 Of course! Now f4 is a very serious threat. The game is getting very tactical.

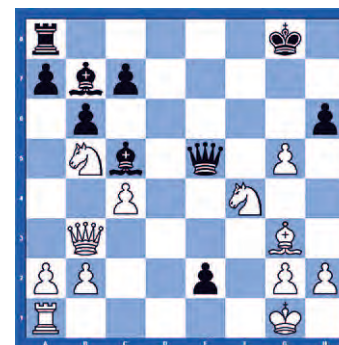
19.e6 White accepts the challenge, and actually there is no choice. The Black pieces stand very dangerously and the f4 threat can be a killer.

19...f4! The tactical battle begins! [Another option was 19...c6 but of course, this move doesn't seem „right“ even if it leads to a very unclear play. 20. ♘c7 (Slow moves like 20. ♘bd4? f4 21.exf4 gxf4 22. ♕h4 ♕xd4 23. ♘xd4 c5 lead to a very bad position for White.) 20...f4 21. ♘xa8 fxf3 22. ♘xg3 ♔xe6 23. ♘c7 ♔e5 and it is hard to say who is doing better here. The position is very unclear]



20.exf4 a6 A good move. Black probably had another interesting option. [Of course not 20...gxf4 21. ♘xf4! and White is winning. 21...♘xf4 22. ♕xf4 ♔xf4 23. ♔g3+; 20...♔xe6! A crazy looking move, but probably a very strong

one as well. In a practical game, it's very difficult to calculate all the lines, but let's take a look at some of them: 21.fxf4 (21. ♘xc7 ♔g4! What a domination of the Black pieces! White is in big trouble... ♘e2 is hanging, gxf4 is a threat and all the Black pieces are looking in the direction of the White king...) 21...♘xf2!! Not an easy move to find! The idea is typical, but a very long and precise calculation is needed. 22. ♔xf2 (22. ♘ed4 ♘d3 23. ♔h1 ♔g6 and Black's initiative should be decisive.; 22. ♕xf2 e3! followed by ♔e4 with mate on g2!) 22...♔xf2 23. ♕xf2 e3! Black is opening the deadly bishop on b7. 24. ♘f4 Probably the only move. 24...♔e5 (24...exf2+ 25. ♔f1 ♔f5 should be better for Black as well.) 25. ♕g3 e2+



26. ♔h1 hxf4! looks like a computer line. Yes, it is! :) 27. ♘d5 ♔f8 and White can't stop Black from mating on f1. Of course, to see such a line is almost impossible — at least before playing 20...♔xe6.]

21. ♘bc3 [Doesn't help: 21. ♘bd4 gxf4 22. ♘xf4 (22. ♕h4 ♔e8 with a very strong attack.) 22...♔xf4! 23. ♕xf4 ♕xd4 Black has a clear advantage: 2 pieces for the rook plus a monster knight on d3. What else can be needed?]

21...gxf4 I think Moiseenko was very upset about his opening choice. And indeed, it's already quite unclear how to save the position...

22. ♖xf4 The only move to fight.

22... ♗xf4 23. ♕xf4 ♖xf4 24. ♖d5



24... ♖f5! A very precise move! [A less good move would have been 24... ♖f8 25. ♗g3+ ♔h7 26. ♗e5! White is getting the 3rd pawn for the piece. 26... ♗xd5 27. cxd5 ♗d8 The Black queen needs to come back to the game. 28. ♗xe4+ ♔g7 29. b4 ♗d6 30. f4 Black probably still has an advantage, but the fight would continue here!]

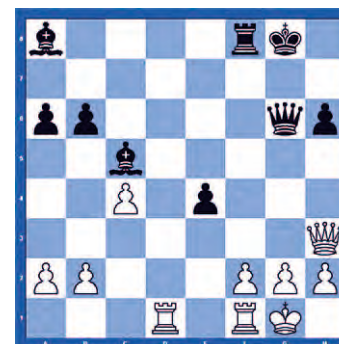
25. ♗h3 [25. ♗g3+ would bring nothing 25... ♔h7 26. ♖ad1 ♗d6]

25... ♗xe6! Black doesn't care about giving back some material. The amazingly strong bishop pair combined with big attacking possibilities will make Black's victory perfect.

26. ♖xc7 ♗g6 27. ♖xa8 ♗xa8 A logical human move, leaving Black with a very stable advantage. [27... e3 is a computer move, which is probably winning on the spot, but for a human, such a move is very hard to play. 28. fxe3

♖h5! This is the idea of the e3 push. The g2 square is very hard to protect. 29. ♖f6! (29. ♗g3 ♗xe3+! would lead to a nice finish of the game.) 29... ♗xe3+ 30. ♔h1 ♗g7 All this looks a bit scary, but it seems to be winning for Black. 31. ♗e6+ ♔h7 and White has no decent way to protect the g2 square.]

28. ♖ad1 ♖f8



29. ♖d7? This move loses immediately. [The best way to fight would have been to play 29. ♗g3 ♗xg3 30. hxc3 ♗c6 Of course, Black is much better, but there's still a lot of work to be done in order to get the full point.]

29... e3! And, of course, a nice finishing move!

30. ♔h1 [30. fxe3 ♗xe3+ 31. ♗xe3 ♗xg2#]

30... e2 31. ♖g1 ♗xf2 A very nice game by Ponomarev!

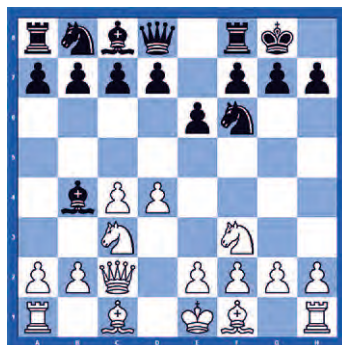
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(3) Carlsen,M (2837) – Wang Hao (2739) [E32]

45th Biel GM Biel SUI (2), 24.07.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.♚c2 0–0 5.♘f3!?



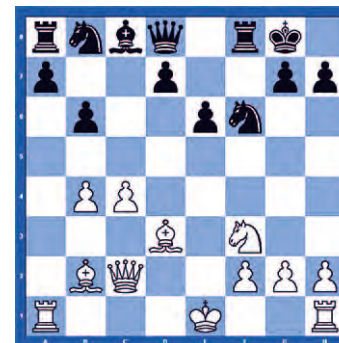
5...b6?! The Chinese Nr.1 wanted to avoid theory and long preparation, so decided to get Magnus out of book with a strange move. I must say that this is not a clever idea in general. [5...c5! is the critical move. 6.dxc5 ♘a6 This was considered to be completely fine for Black, but in 2008 Morozevich introduced a very interesting novelty: 7.c6!?. There are many possibilities with playable positions for both sides. Ponomarev, who was facing this novelty, reacted really badly and lost in a few moves. 7...dxc6 8.a3 ♙xc3+ 9.♚xc3 ♘c5 10.♙e3! White is already slightly better, but just in two moves White won a piece! 10...♘ce4 11.♚e5 b5 12.g4!!+- and Black could, in fact, resign the game. Morozevich-Ponomarev, Moscow 2008]

6.e4! White achieved a much better version in comparison to the 5.e4 line. Now the knight stands well on f3, it protects the central pawns, while Black just gave a tempo

with b6, because he should have already put pressure on the center with d5 and c5.

6...c5 [6...d5 is the right move in the 5.e4 line, but now it's just bad, because of 7.e5 ♘e4 8.♙d3]

7.e5 ♘e8 Black's idea is to undermine the center with d6 or f6. White must play accurately. [7...cxd4 is an alternative, but White gets a dangerous attack here as well. 8.a3! This well-known idea works here as well, in order to unpin the knight! 8...dxc3 9.axb4 cxb2 10.♙xb2 ♘e8 Black is a pawn up, but his pieces are standing poorly. 11.♙d3 with the threats of ♙e4 and ♙xh7. 11...f5 12.exf6 ♘xf6



13.♘g5! This is the most effective way to increase the advantage. 13...h6 (13...g6 14.♙xg6+- wins.) 14.♘h7! ♘xh7 15.♙xh7+ ♚h8 We were following the Shabalov-Naumkin, Vilnius 1988 game, where White missed the direct win with 16.♙xg7+! ♙xg7 17.♚g6+ ♚h8 18.♚xh6 Black has no defense. 18...♙f6 (18...♚e7 19.♙e4+-) 19.♙g6+ ♚g8 20.♙a3! and the rook joins the attack and decides the game. 20...♚e7 21.♙g3 ♚xb4+ 22.♙f1+-]

8.d5?! I don't like this move. It allows Black to get a successful counterplay in the center. [8.a3! was the right move, after which Black is in a difficult situation. 8...♙xc3+

(8...♘a5 trying to keep the bishop. 9.♙e3 ♔e7 (9...cxd4?! 10.♘xd4 and Black must give up his bishop.) 10.dxc5! Not the only move, but I like this the most. The arising weakness on c5 is really annoying from Black's point of view. 10...bxc5 11.♙d3 f5 Now, either opening or keeping the position closed is very good for White. 12.exf6 (12.0-0 ♙b7 13.♙e2+= c5 is weak.) 12...♘xf6 13.0-0 ♙b7 14.♘e4! ♘xe4 15.♙xe4 ♙xe4 16.♔xe4 ♘c6 17.♖ad1+= White has clearly better perspectives.) 9.♔xc3 It's a nice achievement for White to gain the bishop pair, because nothing compensates for Black. For example 9...cxd4 10.♘xd4 ♙b7 11.♙e3! f6 (11...d6 12.♖d1+=) 12.♖d1! ♘xe6 threats 12...♔e7 13.♘b5! White takes the d6 square under control. 13...fxe5 14.♔xe5 ♘c6 15.♔g3+=]

8...exd5 9.cxd5 d6! Black came back to the game. The fight is open again.

10.♙g5 Black could have easily parried the concrete threats after [10.♘g5 g6 or; 10.♙d3 h6]

10...f6 11.exf6 White, at least, managed to hold his d5 pawn, which squeezes Black a bit. Also, the e6 hole might be weak later on.

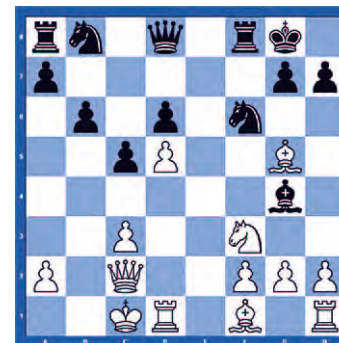
11...♘xf6



12.0-0-0 Probably Carlsen put his hopes on this move when he played 8.d5. Black has to give up his b4 bishop, because of the ♘e4 threat. But I think he underestimated Black's counter-chances. [On 12.♙d3 ♔e7+! It's not easy to deal with this check. 13.♔f1 ♙a6! Black is OK!]

12...♙xc3 13.bxc3! It's important for White to control the b1-h7 diagonal, and also the b4 square. [On 13.♔xc3 h6 14.♙h4 ♘a6 (14...♙f5 is also possible.) 15.♙d3 ♘b4! 16.♙b1 ♙f5! Black solves all his problems by exchanging the light squared bishops. White cannot build up a successful attack without that. 17.a3 ♙xb1 18.♔xb1 ♘a6 with counterplay.]

13...♙g4 [Now on 13...♙a6 14.c4 White can preserve his bishop.; 13...♘a6 came into consideration, transferring the knight to c7.]



14.♖e1! A high-class move! By leaving the pin, Carlsen wants to play ♘h4 followed by an attack with h3 and g4. [The thematic 14.♙d3 helps Black to create counterplay. 14...h6 15.♙h4 ♘bd7 16.♖de1 ♙xf3 (16...b5!? is also interesting. 17.♙xb5 ♔a5) 17.gxf3 c4! This is the main problem of ♙d3. Black puts his knight to e5 and, suddenly, his attack starts to roll as well. 18.♙xc4 ♘e5⇐]

14...♙xf3 [14...♘bd7 would be met with 15.♘h4! h6 16.♙d2 Because of this, Wang Hao decided to take on f3.]

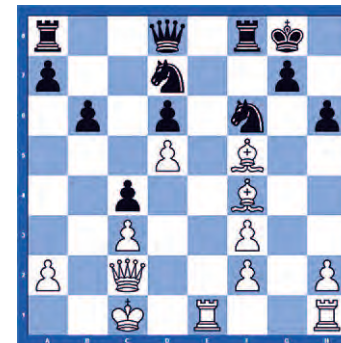
15.gxf3+ = White has worsen his structure, but the g-file is open, and the bishop has a nice square on e6. White has good attacking possibilities.

15...♘bd7 16.♙d3?! Carlsen wanted to create a weakness in the Black camp, with the threat of ♙xh7, but just like in the 14th move, it helps to create counterplay for Black. [16.f4! Controlling the e5 square, followed by ♖g1 and ♙h3-e6 was promising. At the end, the rook transfer ♖e3-h3 could be really dangerous.]

16...h6 17.♙f4 [17.♙xh6 is not enough. 17...gxh6 18.♖hg1+ ♔h8 19.♙d2 ♘h7! 20.♙xh6 ♖f7 Black has enough material to defend.; 17.♙h4 c4 transposes to 14.♙d3.]

17...c4!? [17...♘e5!? was another way to create counterplay. 18.♙xe5 dxe5 19.♖xe5 (19.c4 ♘h5 Black has very nice control over the dark squares. The game is unclear.) 19...c4! I like this move a lot, even if the computer suggests other move. Black has great play on the dark squares. 20.♙xc4 (20.♙f5 ♘d7 21.♙e6+ ♔h8 22.♖e3 ♘c5↗) 20...♙c7 21.♙e2 ♖fc8 with a double edged position.]

18.♙f5! [18.♙xc4 ♙c7 followed by ♘e5 and ♖ac8, and Black gets activity.]

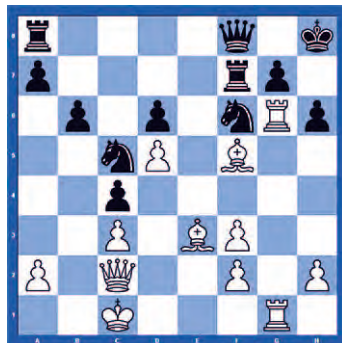


18...♘c5?! Now White has some „handy“ moves. [The text move is slower than 18...♘e5! Even tough Black's position looks a bit shaky, it looks like he can still hold it together. Wang Hao was afraid of one of the following lines: 19.♙e6+ (19.♖hg1 ♔h8 20.♙d2 is very nice, but probably only leads to a draw after a forced line. 20...♘xf3 21.♙xh6! ♙c7! Only move! (21...♘xd2? 22.♙xg7+ ♔g8 23.♙xf6+ ♔f7 24.♙xd8+-) 22.♙xg7+! ♙xg7 23.♖xg7 ♘xd2 24.♖ee7 and here, two moves lead to a draw. 24...♘f3 (24...♖ae8 25.♙xd2 ♖xe7 26.♖xe7 ♘xd5 27.♖h7+ ♔g8 28.♖h5=) 25.♖g3 ♘e5 26.♖h3+ ♔g8 27.♖g3+=) 19...♔h8 20.♖xe5!? dxe5 21.♙xe5 This looks really scary for Black, but 21...♘xd5! 22.♖g1 (22.♙g6 ♖f6! Black happily gets rid of one of the powerful bishops. 23.♙xf6 ♙xf6 24.♙xf6 ♘xf6=) 22...♘f6 23.♙g6 ♙e7! 24.♙d6 ♙b7! After some only moves, it's not easy to break through for White, while taking the rook is not necessarily enough to win the game.]

19.♖hg1! ♔h8 20.♖g6! ♖f7 21.♖eg1 ♙f8 After some good attacking and defensive moves, we reached another critical position.

22.♙e3 Carlsen wanted to leave the dangerous f-file, and also to transfers his bishop to d4. But this allows Black to

get back to the game, once again. [22. ♔d2! was the right move! Because of the ♕xh6 threat, Black probably has to play 22... ♖d3+ 23. ♕xd3 cxd3 24. ♔xd3 and White is better now, because the Black pieces are pinned to the defense, and the knight can't leave from f6 because of the d6 pawn.]

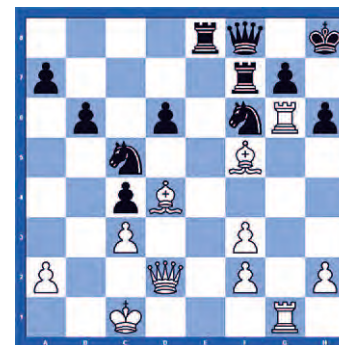


22... ♖d3? This is the decisive mistake. Black's position was looking awkward, but in reality it was very far from clear. [22... ♖h5! 23. ♕e4 ♖f4! was the right plan. 24. ♕xf4 (24. ♕d4 ♖xg6 25. ♔xg6 ♔g8 Black can take on e4 any time he wants.) 24... ♔xf4 Black is compensating well on the dark squares. 25. ♔d2 (25. ♔xg7 ♔xg7 26. ♔xg7 ♔xg7 ∞) 25... ♔f6 After 26. ♔xg7 ♔xg7 27. ♔xg7 ♔xg7 I can't believe in White's advantage.]

23. ♕d4 [23. ♕xc5 dxc5 24. ♕e6+- was also good.]

23... ♖f6 24. ♔d2! ♔xg7 is too big a threat to deal with!

24... ♔e8 [Now it's too late for 24... ♖d3+ 25. ♕xd3 cxd3 26. ♔f4! and ♔xg7 is coming next!]



25. ♔xg7! ♔xg7 This was a must! [25... ♔xg7 26. ♔xh6+ ♔g8 27. ♕h7+!! was the point! 27... ♔h8 28. ♕xf6+-]

26. ♔xg7 ♔xg7 27. ♔f4! The d4 bishop is dominating the board. Black cannot even sacrifice his rook for it.

27... ♖d3+ 28. ♕xd3 cxd3 29. ♔d2+-

29... ♔g6 30. ♔xd3 ♔e6 31. h4! A brutal move with the simple threat of h5! Black cannot parry this. If he takes it with the king, ♔f5 comes, and in case of ♖xh5, ♔g4 wins a lot of material.

31... ♔fe7 32. h5+! Here again.

32... ♔f7 33. ♔f5 [There was nothing wrong with 33. ♔xh6+-]

33... ♔e5 34. ♔g6+ ♔e6 35. f4! Black resigned in view of [35. f4 ♔f5 36. ♕xf6! White only gives up his bishop when it's concretely winning. 36... ♔xf6 37. f5+ ♔e5 38. f4+ ♔xf4 39. ♔xf6+- A nice game, but a closer look showed us that it was not without mistakes!]

1-0

(4) Bacrot, Etienne (2713)
– Nakamura, Hikaru (2778) [D45]

45th Biel GM Biel SUI (9), 01.08.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Usually we try to comment a decisive game where a player works to get the victory from the beginning, or if there was a big fight. But let's take a look at a very normal thing in chess: „You play good, You outplay your opponent, You blunder-You lose“. Chess can be a very cruel game sometimes and I think here is an excellent example of it!

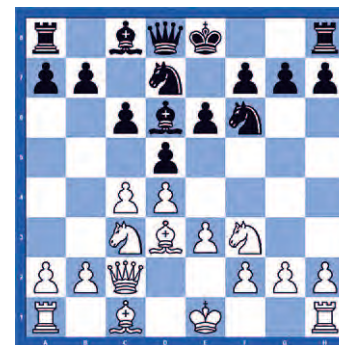
1.d4 Just the day before, Etienne Bacrot started his game with 1.e4 and lost in a winning position against A. Giri.

1...d5 I think this is a surprising opening choice of Nakamura. Usually, he prefers to go for a more dynamic opening, especially when he feels he can win. For example, he played 1...f5 many times.

2.c4 c6 An interesting psychological moment. White can make a draw now by playing 3.cxd5, which would not be a bad decision if we take into account the terrible tournament he had, but Etienne decides to go for a „full“ game, and I guess this is exactly what Nakamura hoped for.

3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♘f3 And we are in one of the main lines of the Slav.

4...e6 5.e3 ♘bd7 6.♙c2 ♙d6 7.♙d3



7...dxc4 Why to take first with 7...dxc4 without castling? Actually, I have no idea. I think it should lead to about the same position if White wants too... [The normal move order would be 7...0–0 8.0–0 dxc4 with thousands of games played before. (8...e5)]

8.♙xc4 b5 9.♙d3 ♙b7 10.e4!? White tries to get an improved version of the line. [Would lead to normal lines: 10.0–0 0–0 11.e4 e5 and we are back to the known paths.]

10...e5 The only right reaction against White's e4 push. Black can't allow White to play e5.

11.dxe5 ♘xe5 12.♘xe5 ♙xe5 This is where the „real“ game begins!

13.f4 An interesting move, but I think it gives Black quite a good play. [13.♘e2!? I think this move could have made a difference! White wants to play the quick f4-e5 with a clearly better position. 13...♙c7 14.0–0 (Against the logical 14.♙e3 Black is in time to 14...♙a5+!) 14...0–0 15.♙d1 ♙e7 16.a4 The position is very normal but it might have been a decent try for White.]

13...♙d4 Of course, Black has to stop White from castling.

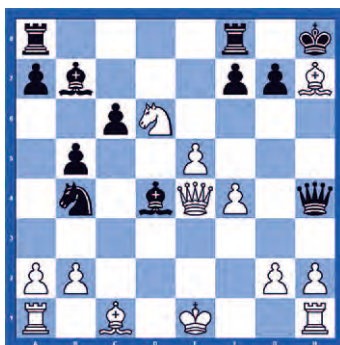
14.e5 White needs to act dynamically. [A slow move like 14.♘d2? ♘g4! and Black is doing great.]

14...♘d5 [Leads to a clearly better position for White: 14...♘g4 15.♘e4! 0-0 16.♘d6 The monster knight on d6 gives White a clear edge.]

15.♘e4 The White knight is going to d6, clearly the best place to be. [15.♘xd5 would lead to nothing. Black is in time to push c5. 15...♙xd5 16.♙e4 ♙d7! It's important to cover the bishop on b7, now c5 is unstoppable. 17.♙d2 c5 and Black is perfectly fine.]



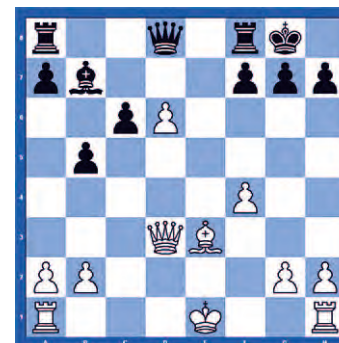
15...♘b4! Nakamura takes an absolutely correct decision. [A normal move like 15...0-0 16.♘d6 ♘b4 gives White an extra option: 17.♙xh7+!? (17.♙b3 This would lead to the same position we got in the game. 17...♘xd3+ 18.♙xd3 ♙c5) 17...♙h8 18.♙e4 ♙h4+



19.♙d1! The key move of the line. White needs to protect the square c2. 19...♙xh7 20.♙xh7+ ♙xh7 21.♘xb7 ♖ab8 Probably, Black is doing fine here as well, but there's no need to calculate such a long line.]

16.♙b3 ♘xd3+ 17.♙xd3 0-0 18.♘d6 ♙c5! Black has to exchange the strongest White's piece, the knight on d6. [In case of 18...♙b6 19.♙e3 c5 20.0-0 I think White is doing clearly better. The knight on d6 is just standing perfectly! And White will develop a strong attack by playing f5-f6 soon, or bringing the rook to g3.]

19.♙e3 ♙xd6 20.exd6 We are entering a very interesting position. The main question is, can White be better here?! It's obvious that if Black does „nothing“, White will castle, play ♙c5 and ♖e1-Re7, with a big advantage. [Of course not 20.♙xd6? ♙h4+ 21.g3 ♙g4 22.0-0 ♖fd8 followed by c5 next. The light squares are terrible weak, which would give Black a great attack.]

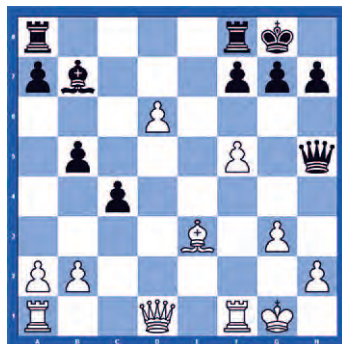


20...♙h4+?! Nakamura chooses a risky plan... Probably, the American started to play for a win, but I don't see many reasons to do this. [20...c5!? In my opinion this was the objectively correct way to go. 21.0-0 Finally, White managed to castle... 21...c4 22.♙d2 ♖e8! If possible, Black

should aim to exchange the rooks! 23. ♖fe1 ♔d7 24. ♙c5 f6! Black wants to play ♕f7 next, followed by ♖xe1 and ♗e8, exchanging both rooks, which automatically leads to a draw. Probably, we can say that White's experiment with 13.f4 doesn't bring much.]

21.g3 ♗h5 Black should not allow White to castle long, which would make the d6 pawn much stronger immediately. [21... ♗h3?! 22.0-0-0! To castle long is a great present for White. 22...c5 23. ♖he1 and due to the very strong d6-pawn, White is doing clearly better.]

22. ♖c1?! [Why only not to play 22.0-0! c5 The last chance for Black to play c5 and free the bishop from b7. White wanted to play ♖c1, or b4, or f5. 23.f5 c4 24. ♗d1 White is trying to force an endgame.]



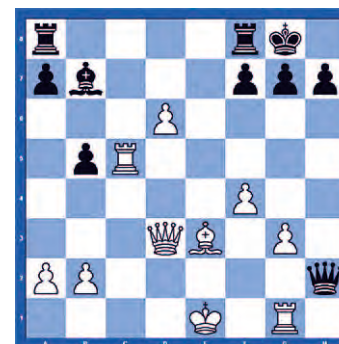
24... ♗xd1 (24... ♗h3 25. ♖f2 and I think Black is in some trouble! The Black queen should be on d7 and not on h3.) 25. ♖axd1 ♙c6 26. ♖fe1 White may try to win this — probably the position is closer to a draw — but in any case, White is playing with 0 risk and with some winning chances.]

22...c5?! Black misses a great opportunity! [22... ♗h3! This apparently shocking move is actually an extremely

strong one. White can't castle long anymore and the king is stuck on e1. 23. ♖c5 White has to try to stop the c5 move, but it's not easy to do it... (23. ♙c5 ♖fe8+ 24. ♕f2 ♙c8 and suddenly, the White king is in a lot of danger. Black will play ♙g4 next, followed by ♖e2. The d7 move is blocked. A draw would now be a fantastic outcome for White.) 23... ♗g2 (23... ♖ad8 24. ♕f2 and White is safe.) 24. ♖g1 ♗xb2 and I think only White is risking here.]

23. ♖xc5 Why not to take a pawn with tempo?

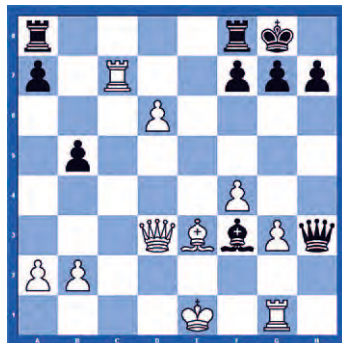
23... ♗h3 24. ♖g1 ♗xh2 take a look at this position. White has a free passed pawn but the opposite colored bishops clearly increase the drawing chances for Black. The king is badly placed on e1, but it can be quickly removed to a safer place on the queenside. If White manages to exchange the Queens, the endgame could be very bad for Black. All in all, White is clearly with a plus, Black has a tough defense ahead. But not today, the game will end in only 6 moves...



25. ♖c2! A very strong move. Before entering into the 7th rank, White pushes the Black queen from her nasty position on h2. [An attempt to reach the endgame with 25. ♗e2 ♗h6 would get Black back in the game.]

25...♔h3 26.♖c7 The rook on c7 is just perfectly placed!

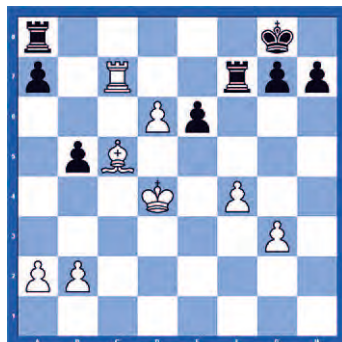
26...♙f3



27.♔d2! Another very good move by White. The king is going to b2 where he will be in full safety. Slowly, Black is getting in trouble...

27...♔e6?! I don't see any idea behind this move. [27...♖fd8 with a tough defense, but it's clear that the position is very unpleasant.]

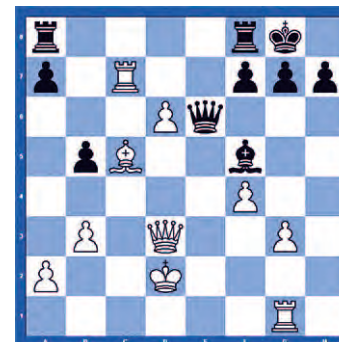
28.♙c5 ♙g4 [Another option was to play 28...♙e4 29.♖b3 (29.♖e1?! This interesting exchange sacrifice doesn't seem to work for White. 29...♙xd3 30.♖xe6 fxe6 31.♔xd3 ♖f7 32.♔d4 (32.♔e4? ♖xc7! Now, the White king is not in time to go to the c6 square. 33.dxc7 ♖c8 34.♙d6 ♔f7 35.♔e5 g6 and only Black can be better here.)



32...♖d8! A fantastic defensive idea! (A losing move would be 32...♖xc7? 33.dxc7 ♖c8 34.♙d6 ♔f7 35.♔c5 and the White king reaches the c6 square and gets the full point.) 33.♖c6 with quite an unclear endgame.(33.♔e5? ♖xc7 34.dxc7 ♖d5+)) 29...♙d5 30.♖e3! White doesn't care about the a2-pawn, it's much more important to reach the end-game. 30...♙xa2 31.♖xe6 ♙xe6 32.g4! and we can clearly see that Black is in big trouble! White's next moves are f5 and ♖e1–Re7. Things are really looking bad for Black.]

29.b3! As planned, White creates an escape road for the king to b2. ♖e1–e7 is the next move. It seems like Black is really bad.

29...♙f5 [Doesn't help much to play 29...♖fe8 30.♖e7! blocking the e-file. 30...♖xe7 31.dxe7 ♖c6 32.♖d8+ ♖e8 33.♖d6 and it's easy to see that White is clearly better.]



30.♖e1?? What a blunder after 10 great moves in a roll!

30...♖xe1+ Nakamura just says „thank you“. Such games give a chess player sleepless nights! You play good, get a better position step by step, and suddenly, blunder and lose... This happens much more often than it should, even to high class professionals! **0-1**

Puzzle section

(5) Vachier Lagrave,M (2686) – Meins,G (2475)

Biel Open, 24.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–



(6) Wang Hao (2739) – Nakamura,H (2778)

Biel, 25.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+/-

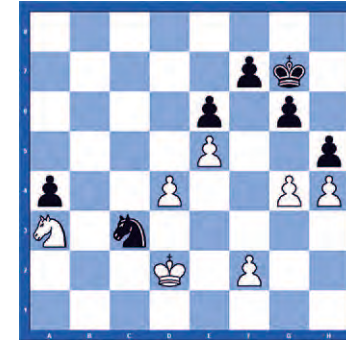


(7) Vovk,Y (2562) – Volokitin,A (2704)

Ukrainian Championship, 27.07.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+



(8) Fedorchuk,S (2634) – Eljanov,P (2693)

Ukrainian Championship, 28.07.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

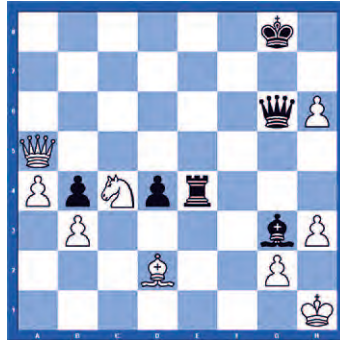


(9) Efimenko,Z (2689) – Ponomariov,R (2726)

Ukrainian Championship, 30.07.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

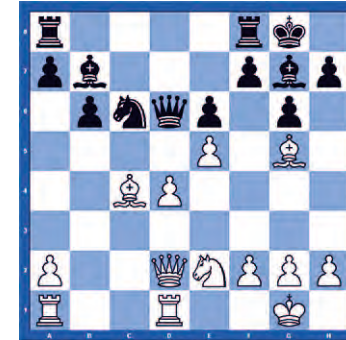


(11) Koneru,H (2598) – Lahno,K (2537)

Jermuk, 25.07.2012

[CEWN]

1... -/+



(10) Zhao Xue (2556) – Mkrtchian,L (2450)

Jermuk, 25.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+/-



(12) Lillo Ferrer,J (2127) – Georgiev,K (2680)

Andorra Open, 21.07.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

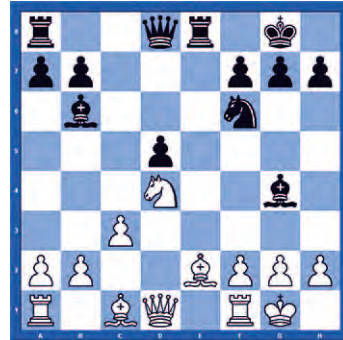


(13) Baches Garcia,G (2389) – Marin,M (2548)

Andorra Open, 24.07.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

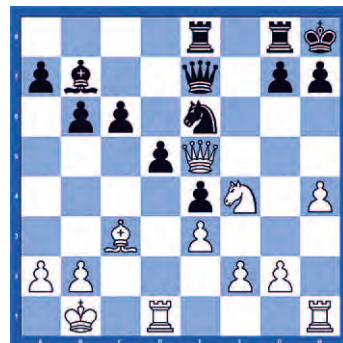


(14) Toth,E (2477) – Pap,G (2566)

Pardubice Open, 25.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–

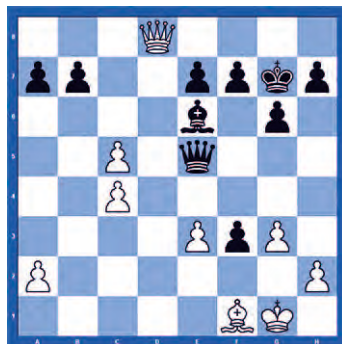


Endgame section

(15) Ponomariov, Ruslan (2726)
— Volokitin, Andrei (2704) [E60]

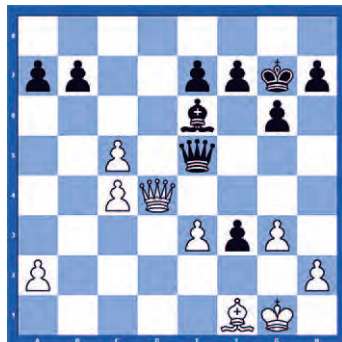
81st ch-UKR 2012 Kiev UKR (5.4), 31.07.2012

[Chess Evolution]



This endgame would not win a price for its precision, but it would clearly win a beauty contest. I think I never saw such an end position! Black is a pawn up and, of course, wants to win the game.

27. ♔d4



27... ♔xd4! A move based on good calculation. [The more silent 27...f6 28. ♔xe5 fxe5 29. ♔d3! is the only move to stay alive. (29.e4 g5 and the game is over.) 29... ♔f5 Black can't allow White to play ♔e4. 30.e4 ♔e6 31. ♔f2 It seems like the position is a draw, but the Black king has a different opinion. 31... ♔f7 32. ♔xf3 ♔e8! The Black king is going to c7-c6-c5. 33. ♔c2! not allowing the king to go to c6. 33... ♔xc4 34. ♔a4+ ♔d8 35.a3 ♔c7 36. ♔e3 It's hard to say if this position is winning or if it's a draw. I think White has good chances to hold]

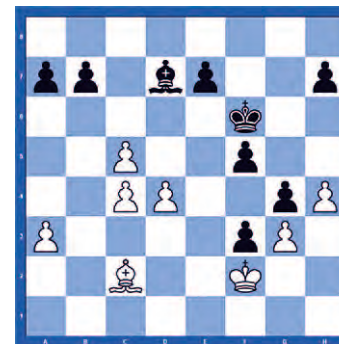
28. exd4 g5 Of course, Black is not going to give away his f3 pawn.

29. ♔d3 g4 30. a3 [30. ♔e4 would not change much. 30... ♔c8 31.c6 b6 Next, Black would bring the king to d6 and get the pawn c6. If White plays d4-d5, Black would go with the king to c5. I think the position should be easily winning.]

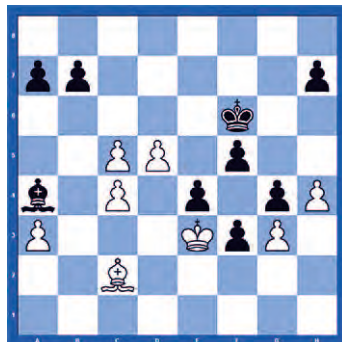
30...f5! The beginning of a very nice plan.

31. ♔f2 ♔f6 32. h4 This move doesn't change anything because Black's idea is to play e5!

32... ♔d7 33. ♔c2



33...e5 34.d5 h6? It's not easy to understand this move...
[The logical 34...e4 35. ♖b3 (35. ♔e3 Now Black has a couple of winning ideas, which are focused on the f4 push, but the simplest one is: 35... ♗a4!]



36. ♗xa4 f4+! The Black pawns are unstoppable! 37.gxf4 g3 38.c6 bxc6 39.dxc6 g2 40. ♕f2 e3+ 41. ♕g1 e2 and queen!) 35...f4 36.gxf4 ♕f5 37. ♕e3 g3 38. ♗c2 f2 39. ♗xe4+ ♕g4 40. ♗g2 ♕xh4 and the future moment of the h pawn decides the game.]

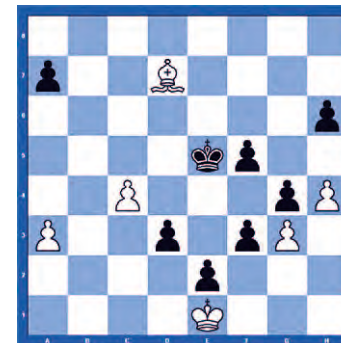
35. ♕e3 e4 And Volokitin continues with the right plan.

36.c6 A move of desperation...but the game is lost.

36...bxc6 37. ♗a4 Black has a lot of winning moves here, but Volokitin chooses the most beautiful one!

37...cxd5 38. ♗xd7 d4+ Have You ever seen so many pawns around the White king?!

39. ♕d2 e3+ 40. ♕d3 e2 41. ♕d2 d3 42. ♕e1 ♕e5! And again, Volokitin is going for the beauty price!



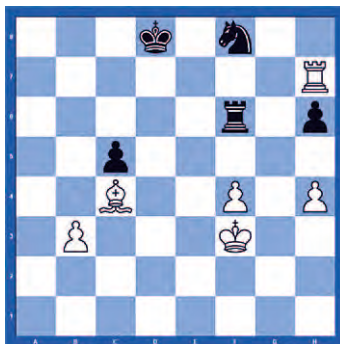
43.c5 ♕d4 Just an amazing end position! Chess can be really beautiful!

0-1

(16) Eljanov,P (2693) – Moiseenko,A (2706)

Kiev, 29.07.2012

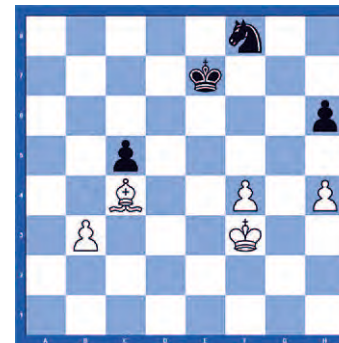
[Chess Evolution]



White is winning with his extra pawn and more active pieces, but right in the beginning, Eljanov makes a dubious decision. He decided to exchange his active rook, and the position still remains winning for him, but Black gets excellent chances to save the game.

65. ♖f7 [From a practical point of view, the best move was 65. ♖h8! ♔e7 66. ♕e4 ♖d6 (On 66... ♖g6 it's very important to take the king away from its good place with 67. ♖h7+! ♔f8 (67... ♔d6 68. ♖xh6 ♖xf4+ 69. ♕e3 ♖f6 70. h5+-) 68. f5! ♖xh4 69. ♕e6+- ♔e5 next.) 67. h5+- and the rook is coming out from the corner through g8. White should easily convert his advantage.; 65. ♖b7 is not good, because of 65... ♖g6!]

65... ♖xf7 66. ♕xf7 ♔e7 67. ♕c4

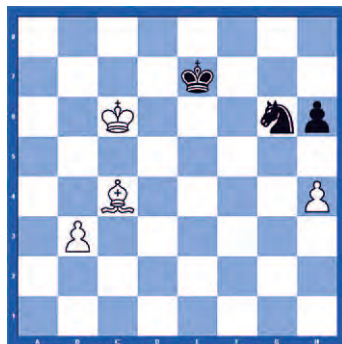


67... ♔f6 Suddenly, things are not easy at all. The two main problems are to deal with the concrete threats of the knight and the wrong color of the promoting square on h8. If Black takes the f-pawn, he only needs to sacrifice his knight for the b-pawn and run with the king to the h8 corner to secure the draw.

68. ♕e4 White probably still remains winning after this move, but there was a better solution... [68. h5! in order to prevent the counterplay with ♖g6. 68... ♕f5 (68... ♖d7 69. ♕e4 ♖b6 Black controls the squares of the breakthrough right now, but White can always try to make progress with zugzwang. 70. ♕b5 ♕e6 71. ♕e2 ♕f6 72. ♕g4+- and the White king will advance to e5 or d5.) 69. ♕a6 ♕f6 70. ♕e4 ♖e6 71. ♕c8 ♖c7 White can break the fortress with the help of zugzwang, once again. 72. ♕g4 ♕f7 73. ♕e5 ♕e7 The win is still not obvious, but after some maneuvering, Black cannot prevent the invasion of the king on d6 or on g6. 74. ♕f3 ♖e8 (74... ♖e6 75. f5 ♖d4 76. ♕d5+- f6 is next.) 75. ♕f5 ♕f7 76. ♕d5+ ♕g7 77. ♕e6 ♖f6 78. ♕f3+- White soon collects the c5 pawn.]

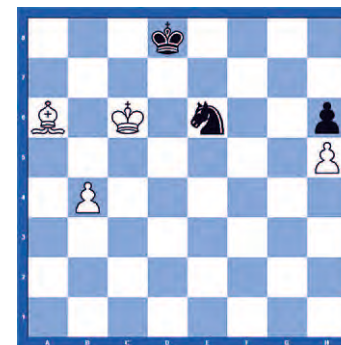
68... ♖g6 We reached nother critical moment, where the most obvious move could have cost the full point to Eljanov.

69.h5? I think White is not winning anymore, if his opponent creates a correct defense. The problem of this move is that Black is always in time to attack the f4 pawn, and after taking it, h5 is hanging. Of course, only deep and detailed analysis can show us the correct evaluation of the position. Over the board, we can only trust in our intuitions, which unfortunately sometimes lead us in the bad direction. [69.♔d5! ♖xf4+! This is more tenacious. (69...♗xh4 70.♔xc5+- In this case, sacrificing the knight for the b-pawn is not enough for Black to save the game.) 70.♔xc5 ♔e7 (70...♗g2 is too slow. 71.b4 ♗xh4 72.b5 Black can't stop the pawn... 72...♔e7 73.b6 ♔d7 74.♕e6+! ♔xe6 (74...♔d8 75.♔d6+-) 75.b7+-) 71.♔c6! Trying to keep the king away from the pawn... (71.b4 ♔d7) 71...♗g6 It's a nice moment to improve our calculation. The question is, which one is better, to take the pawn on h4 or on h5?



72.h5! (72.b4 would spoil the win 72...♗xh4 73.b5 ♗f5 74.b6 ♗d6= d6 is the best square for the knight. Black only wants to push his pawn and if the bishop leaves the f1-a6 diagonal, ♗c4 b7 ♗a5 draws the game.) 72...♗f4 73.b4 ♔d8 (73...♗xh5 Black is in time to catch the pawn, but it reaches the 7th rank, which is enough for the win. 74.b5 ♗f6 75.b6 ♗d7 76.b7 The Black pawn is not ad-

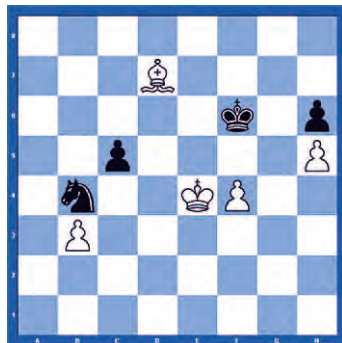
vanced enough. 76...h5 77.♔c7 h4 78.♕b5+- Just in time.) 74.♕a6! Another very precise move! 74...♗e6 (74...♗xh5 loses again, after 75.b5 ♗f6 76.b6 ♗d7 77.b7 h5 78.♕e2 h4 79.♕g4 ♗b8+ 80.♔b6 and Black is in zugzwang. 80...♔e7 81.♔c7 ♗a6+ 82.♔c8 ♔f6 83.♕h3!+- White keeps control of the h3 square and his next move will be ♕f1!)



75.♔d6! ♗g7 (75...♗f4 76.b5+-; 75...♗c7 76.♕e2) 76.♕e2! The last accurate move! White now simply wants to collect the h6 pawn. (76.b5? was the last moment to make a mistake. The game is drawn after 76...♗e8+! 77.♔c6 ♗c7= with the threat of ♗xb5 and ♔e7.) 76...♗f5+ (76...♔c8 77.♔e5+-) 77.♔e5+- It was really difficult to find this win over the board.]

69...♗e7 I think the position is objectively drawn now. White should try to create zugzwang, but each bishop move allows Black to activate his knight.

70.♕d5 [70.♕a6 is probably the most critical. 70...♗c6! (70...♗f5 is a mistake now, because of 71.♔d5 ♗d4 72.b4!+- In comparison to the 70.♕b5 line, the bishop is not hanging now.) 71.♕b5 (71.♔d5 ♗a5= 72.♕c4 transposes to 70.♕b5.) 71...♗b4! 72.♕d7



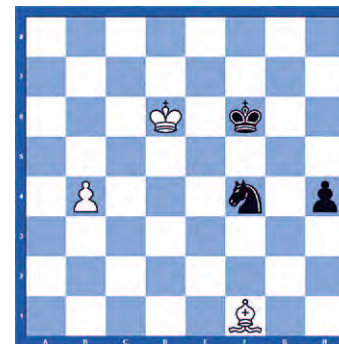
72...d2! A very important resource! White can hardly disturb the knight there, which either wants to pass on b4 (where it controls the d5 square), or after c5, is ready to play c1. 73.c3 (73.c5 d1 74.c4 is the same.) 73...c1+ 74.c4 e2 and here, the problem of the 69.h5 move becomes clear. Black wins a very important tempo by taking the f4 pawn, which allows him to make a draw... 75.xc5 dxf4 76.d6 (76.g4 e5!= is a draw, since b4 is met with d3, followed by dxb4 and f6.) 76...d5 77.b4 d3! 78.b5 (78.c6 d5+ 79.c5 e7 80.b5 d8=) 78...e4+ 79.c6 e7 80.b6 d6= and the knight reached the ideal d6 square. We have already met with this in the 69.c5 line.; 70.b5 d5! 71.c5 d4 72.c4 f5 73.xc5 dxb3+! 74.xb3 dxf4 Black is in time to get back to the corner. 75.d4 g5! An important tempo. 76.d1 f6=; 70.e2 d6 71.d5 d5 with the same draw as in the 70.b5 line.]

70...d5! 71.c4 d3+ [71...e7 was also possible. White wanted to improve on his play, but of course, taking the pawn should be easier.]

72.c5 d5 73.xc5 dxf4 [73...e7 was also possible. 74.f5 d3 75.e6 h5 76.b4 h4 77.b5 d4+ 78.d4 h3! 79.b6 d6= Everything is under control.]

74.c5d6! The bishop and the king give a perfect support for the b-pawn, but here comes the role of the h-pawn.

74...h5! 75.b4 h4 76. f1!



76...h3? [76...e6! was the only move. 77.b5 d8! is the only move, again. White cannot win... 78.g2 A last attempt to prevent the d7-a5 ideas, but...

a) 78.b6 d7+ 79.c7 (79.c6 d5+ 80.b5 d7=) 79...d5= A good place for the knight, where the bishop can't disturb it. The king is also far away;

b) 78.c7 d7 79.b6 e5 80.c7 d5=; 78...f7+! 79.c7 e7 80.b6 d6= and we reached the drawn position with the knight on d6.]

77. f3! White is winning now!

77...d3 [77...d5 78.b5 d3 79.b6 d4+ 80.c6!+-]

78.b5 The knight cannot be sacrificed for the pawn.

78...b2 [78...e5 79.e6+- Controlling all the squares!]

79.e6! d4 80.f3 d3 [80...b6 81.c7 d8+ 82.b7+-]

81.b6 d4+ 82.c6 Black resigned.

1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Tal, Mihail — Kolarov, Atanas 5 [B15]

EU-chT (Men) 04th Kapfenberg (3.6), 12.05.1970

[Balogh Csaba]

In this game, we meet with a typical intuitive exchange sacrifice in the hands of Mikhail Tal!

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 g6 This is quite a passive system. White has two promising ways to fight for the advantage.

4.♘f3 This leads to an open position, where White is in time to develop his pieces ideally. [4.e5 is an alternative, followed by f4, when White obtains a position with a huge space advantage and a long maneuvering fight begins.]

4...♙g7 5.h3 An important prophylactic move against Black's active counterplay with ♙g4.

5...dxe4 6.♘xe4



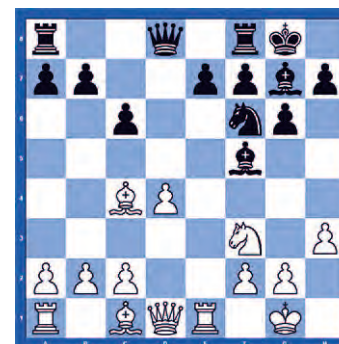
6...♘d7 Black prepares for ♘gf6 to be able to recapture with the knight. [6...♘f6 immediately would leave Black with an unpleasant choice after 7.♘xf6+ exf6 is a bad structure, while ♙xf6 is clearly a bad place for the bishop.

Later on, the management of the Black pieces is going to be difficult... White can develop his pieces the same way as in the game.]

7.♙c4! Before I started analyzing this game, I thought for some reason that the right place for the bishop was on d3. Now I clearly see that Tal's setup is preferable.

7...♘gf6 8.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 9.0-0 0-0 10.♖e1 The Black position is worse than it seems. White has a space advantage with his d4 pawn. Besides, he has a very easy development, for example: c3, ♙e2, ♙g5, ♖ad1 and ♘e5. At the same time, Black will get out of useful moves. He should undermine the d4 pawn with a c5 push to gain more space for his piece play, but this always leads to an inferior position for him. The first question is, what to do with the c8 bishop?

10...♙f5 [10...b6 is the other option, but White achieves an advantage after a logical development. 11.♙e2 e6 12.♙g5 ♙b7 13.♖ad1 ♙c7 14.♘e5+= White is better. The two most obvious moves for Black are close to being losing... 14...c5 would ease Black's task, but... (14...♖ad8 is met with 15.♙f3! c5 16.♙f4+/- and Black loses material.) 15.♘xf7! ♖xf7 16.♙xe6+- and Black can't parry the simple threat of ♙xf6.]



11. ♖e5 Tal immediately starts to harass the f7 pawn. [11. c3 is more calm and also good.]

11... ♗e4 Black wants to neutralize the c4 bishop by playing ♗d5. [11... ♗d5 was possible, but White is better anyway. 12. c3 ♖c7 13. ♖f3 ♗ad8 14. ♗b3+= White has a clear plan with ♗d2, ♖e2 and ♖ae1, while it's very difficult to suggest something for Black.; 11... ♗d7? would close the bishop's way back. 12. ♗xf7! ♖xf7 13. g4!+-]

12. ♗g5!? Tal plays in his usual style, allowing his opponent to get different kinds of risky counterplay with ♖b6. [12. c3 was safer. 12... ♗d5 13. ♗d3! Just as in e game, White has to keep the pieces on the board to maintain his advantage. 13... ♗d7 14. ♗g4 ! Any exchanges would just give space for Black to maneuver. 14... ♗f6 15. ♗g5! ♗xg4 16. ♗xe7]

12... ♗d5 13. ♗d3! Without the light-squared bishops, Black would be fine. Now, he must always reckon with a potential c4 threat. The bishop is misplaced on d5.

13... ♗e6 [On 13... ♖b6 Tal probably wanted to reply with 14. c4 ♗e6 15. ♗e3 ♖xb2 (15... ♖a5 is the right move, but White is slightly better anyway.) 16. ♖b1 ♖xa2 17. ♖xb7+/- with a big advantage. The Black pawns are hanging and there is still no future for his minor pieces.]

14. c3 ♗d7



15. ♗f3! Black got seriously tricked! He cannot move with his e6 bishop because of the e7 pawn, and all the other moves are met with the same sacrifice...

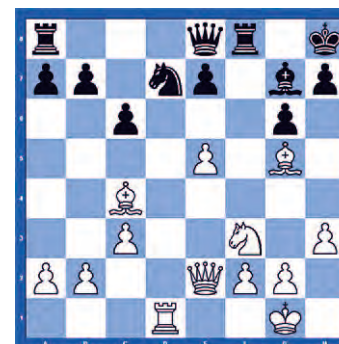
15... ♖e8 16. ♖xe6! A great, but on the other hand, typical exchange sacrifice, which seriously weakens the Black king, and crushes his pawns structure. Black has no chance to create any kind of counterplay, his rooks are completely useless. I am quite sure that Tal took on e6 without any hesitation.

16... fxe6 17. ♖e2 White does not need to hurry. Calm moves simply smother Black.

17... e5 Black tries to breathe... [After the passive 17... ♗f8 White has a lot of good moves. I like the computer's suggestion: 18. ♗f4 (18. ♗c4 ♖d6 19. ♖e4 followed by ♗f4 and ♗e5 is also very good.) 18... ♖d5 19. ♗e5 followed by ♗c4 and ♖e1, or just h4-h5.]

18. ♗c4+ ♖h8 19. dxe5 White got a pawn, but materially he's still behind. His main triumph is still the superiority of the pieces.

19... ♖c7 [19... ♖f8 has a fantastic refutation. 20. ♖d1 ♖e8 and here



21. ♖f7!! White was better after other moves as well, but this is just great. 21... ♜xf7 22.e6 ♜f5 23.exd7 The d7 pawn decides the game, but some accurate moves are still needed. 23... ♖f6 (23... ♜fd8 24. ♜xe7+-) 24.g4! ♜b5 25. ♖xf6+ exf6 26. ♜e7 White is winning. His knight will arrive to e6 soon. 26... ♜b6 (26... ♜ad8 27. ♜d6 ♜c5 28. ♖d4+-) 27. ♖d4+-]

20. ♖f7! ♜f8 21.e6 The f7 bishop would not be necessarily strong, but in this particular case, it helps a lot in the attack. The game demonstrates it well.

21... ♖f6 [21... ♖e5 Exchanging some pieces would have been more logical, but it leaves the e7 pawn hopeless. Black will be unable to protect it from e8 or d7 with the rooks. So, White needs to slowly attack it. 22. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 (22... ♜xe5 23. ♜xe5 ♖xe5 24. ♖xe7+-)



23. ♜e3! Now, ♖xe7 is already a threat. (23. ♖xe7? would be a serious oversight. 23... ♖h2+! 24. ♖h1 ♜xe7 25. ♖xh2 ♜xf7! It's so easy to lose in 3 moves from a winning position.) 23... ♖g7 24. ♖h4! ♜ad8 25. ♜g5 and e7 falls, since after 25... ♖f6 26. ♜xf6+! exf6 27. ♖xf6#]

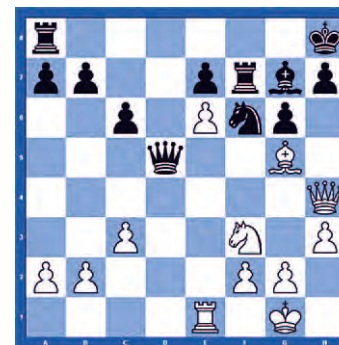
22. ♜c4! The queen is heading to h4, when ♖xg6 threatens to win on the spot.

22... ♜a5 [22... ♜ad8 23. ♜h4+-]

23. ♜e1 [There was nothing wrong with 23. ♜h4 ♜f5 24. ♜e1+-]

23... ♜d5 A desperate try either to exchange queens or to give back the exchange on f7, but Tal counters it nicely...

24. ♜h4 ♜xf7 [24... ♜f5 25. ♖e5+-]



25. ♖e5! Great tactical play, after which Black can practically resign. [25.exf7 ♜xf7 26. ♜b4 wins as well, but the text move was much stronger.]

25... ♖h5 [25... ♜ff8 26. ♖xg6+ ♖g8 27. ♖xe7+- and the queen falls. This was the point.]

26. ♖xf7+ ♖g8 27. ♖xe7+- White ended up with two extra pawns. From now on, many moves are winning in each position.

27... ♜e8 28. ♖d6 ♖f6 29. ♖xf6 ♜xd6 30. ♖g5 [30. ♖d4 c5 31. ♖e3 ♜xe6 32. ♜c4+-]

30... ♜xe6 31. ♜c4 White gave back one of the pawns, but the Black king became vulnerable with the absence of the dark squared bishops.

31... ♖g7 32. ♜b3! Preparing for ♜d1!

32...♔f8 33.♖d1 ♕e5 34.♗h6 ♖d6 35.♖xd6 Black resigned because of ♕xb7. An easy but instructive victory by Tal.

1-0

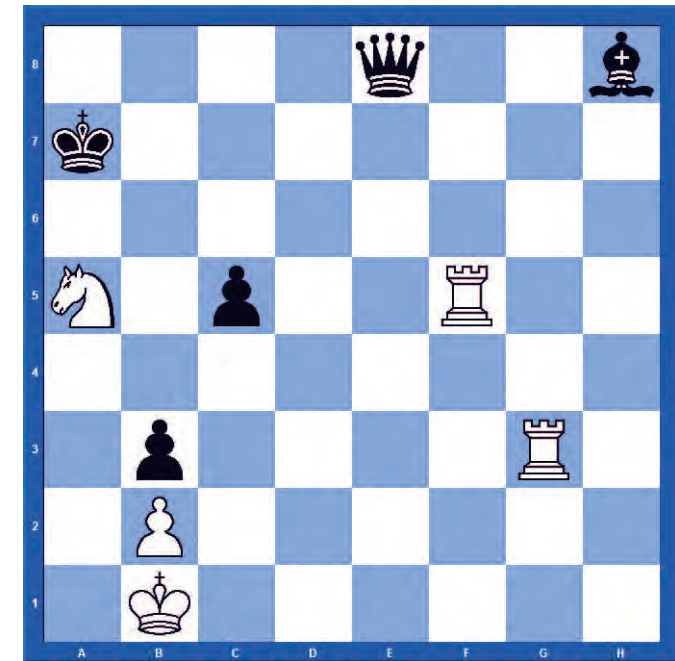
Surprise section / study

(18) Kubbel,L

1926

[CEWN]

1.=



Solutions

(19) Morozevich,A (2770) – Giri,A (2696)

Biel, 23.07.2012

[Solutions]



33.f4?∞ [33.♔h6+!! ♕g8 (33...♕f6 34.♔f4+-; 33...♕xh6 34.♖xf7+ ♕g7 35.♖xd6+-) 34.♔h8+! ♕xh8 35.♖xf7+ ♕g7 36.♖xd6+-]

(20) Muzychuk,A (2606) – Ivanchuk,V (2769)

Amsterdam, 22.07.2012

[Solutions]

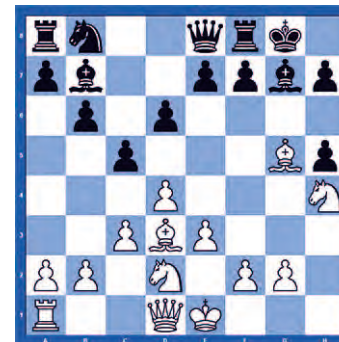


15...f4! 16.♔f2 c5! 17.♕c4+ [17.♖f5 ♕xf5 18.exf5 c4 19.♕xc4+ d5-+] 17...d5! 18.exd5 cxd4! 19.d6+ ♕e6 20.dxe7 ♕xc4! 21.exf8♖+ ♖xf8-+ 22.♕xd4 ♖e8+ 23.♖d2 ♖d8 24.c3 c5 0-1

(21) Kohler,A (2229) – Antal,G (2511)

Amsterdam Open, 18.07.2012

[Solutions]

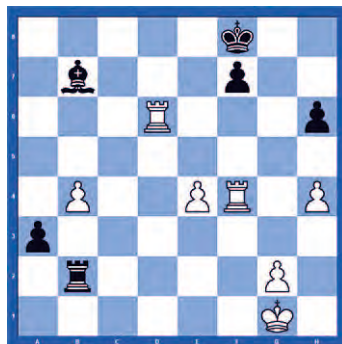


12.♔xh5? [12.♕f6!! ♖d7 (12...exf6 13.♔xh5 h6 14.♔f5+-) 13.♕xh7+! ♕xh7 14.♔xh5+ ♕g8 15.♕xg7 f6 (15...♕xg7 16.♔g5+ ♕h7 17.♖f5+-) 16.♔h8+ ♕f7 17.♔h7+-] **12...f5**∞

(22) Mamedyarov,S (2726) – Inarkiev,E (2707)

Turkish league, 18.07.2012

[Solutions]



34. ♖d7! a2 35. ♖xf7+! ♔g8 36. ♖g7+! ♔h8 [36... ♕f8 37. ♖df7+ ♕e8 38. ♖xb7 a1 ♕+ 39. ♔h2+- is the same as the game.]

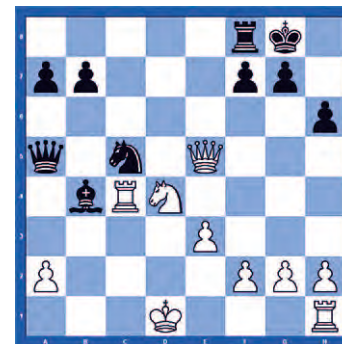
37. ♖h7+ ♔g8 38. ♖dg7+! ♕f8 39. ♖xb7! a1 ♕+ 40. ♔h2 ♖xg2+ [40... ♕g8 41. ♖hg7+ ♔h8 (41... ♕f8 42. ♖bf7+ ♕e8 43. ♖a7+-) 42. ♖ge7 ♕a8 43. ♖h7+ ♔g8 44. ♖bg7+ ♕f8 45. ♖h8+ ♕xg7 46. ♖xa8 ♖xb4 47. ♖e8 ♕f7 48. ♖e5 ♕f6 49. ♖f5+ ♕g7 50. ♖f4+-]

41. ♔xg2+- ♕b2+ 42. ♔f3 ♕f6+ 43. ♔e2 ♕b2+ 44. ♔d3 ♕b3+ 45. ♔d4 ♕b2+ 46. ♔d5 ♕b3+ 47. ♔d6 ♕g3+ 48. ♔d7 ♕h3+ 49. ♔c7 ♕c3+ 50. ♔b8 ♕e5+ 51. ♔a8 ♕a1+ 52. ♔b8 ♕e5+ 53. ♖hc7+-

(23) Zhao Xue (2556) – Kosintseva,N (2516)

Jermuk, 18.07.2012

[Solutions]

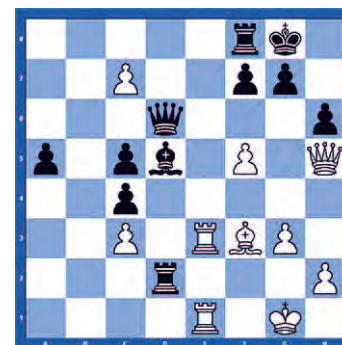


19... ♕xa2! [19... ♕a4+? 20. ♔e2 ♕xa2+ 21. ♖c2∞] **20. ♖xb4 ♖d3! 21. ♕b5 ♖xb4 22. ♖e1** [22. ♕xb4 ♕a1+-+] **22... ♖c6 0-1**

(24) Danielian,E (2480) – Koneru,H (2598)

Jermuk, 19.07.2012

[Solutions]



30.f6? [30. ♖e8!! ♕xc7 31. ♖xd5! ♖xd5 32. ♖1e7!+-] **30... ♖xf3 31. ♕xf3 ♕xc7 32.fxg7 ♔xg7∞**

(25) Tomczak,J (2556) – Przybylski,W (2330)

Gniota memorial, 19.07.2012

[Solutions]



20. ♖b8+! 1-0

(26) Shomoev,A (2582) – Dzhangobegov,V (2360)

Izhevsk, 17.07.2012

[Solutions]



22. ♘f3!! gxf4 [22...h6 23. ♖xg5! hxg5 24. ♘xg5+-; 22... ♔xd5 23. ♔xd5 ♘xd5 24. ♖xd5 gxf4 25. ♖xa5+-] 23. ♘g5!

f5 24. ♖xf5! ♔e8 [24...♖g7 25. ♘e6++-] 25. ♖e6+ ♔g7 26. ♔xh7+ ♔f6 27. ♔h6+ [27. ♘e4+ ♔e5 28. ♔g7+ ♔xe4 29. ♔xb2+-] 27... ♔e5 28. ♘f3+ ♔e4 [28... ♔d6 29. ♖f7+-] 29. ♔h7+ 1-0

(27) Ibragimov,I (2539) – Shomoev,A (2582)

Izhevsk, 23.07.2012

[Solutions]



32... ♖xb5!! 33. ♔xb5 ♘xe4 34. ♖g2 [34. ♔e2 ♔xa4+-] 34... ♔xf2+ 35. ♔h1 [35. ♔h2 ♔xg3+ 36. ♔g1 ♘f2+-] 35... ♘xg3+ 36. ♔h2 ♘e2 0-1

(28) Milosiev,T (2216) – Georgiev,V (2562)

Macedonian league, 17.07.2012

[Solutions]

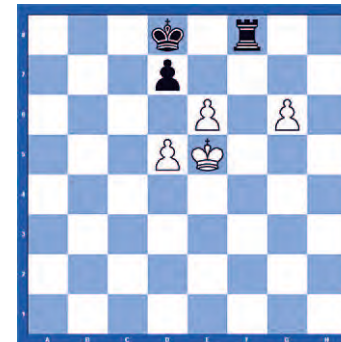


15...♘g3+! 0–1[15...♘g3+ 16.hxg3 ♔h5#]

(29) Prokes,L

1942

[Solutions]



1.e7+!! [1.g7? d6+! 2.♔xd6 ♖g8 3.e7+ ♔e8 4.♔e6 ♖xg7 5.d6 ♖g6+–+]

1...♔xe7 2.d6+ ♔e8 [2...♔d8 3.g7 ♖e8+ 4.♔f6 ♖e6+ 5.♔f7 ♖xd6 6.g8♔+ ♔c7 7.♔g3! ♔c6 8.♔c3+ ♔b5 9.♔e7+–]

3.g7 ♖g8 4.♔f6 ♖f8+ [4...♔d8 5.♔f7 ♖e8 6.g8♔ ♖xg8 7.♔xg8 ♔c8 8.♔f8 ♔b7 9.♔e8 ♔c6 10.♔e7+–]

5.♔g5!! [5.gxf8♔+ ♔xf8=; 5.♔g6 ♖g8]

5...♖g8 [5...♔f7 6.gxf8♔+ ♔xf8 7.♔f6+–] **6.♔g6 1–0**



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 24

10th of August 2012

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Editorial Preface

One of the main events of the week came to an end with a big surprise. Anton Korobov became the new Ukrainian National Champion with a score of 8/11, a full point ahead of Volokitin and Areschenko. There were disappointing results for the Top favorites: Ponomariov, Eljanov and Efimenko.

The Biel Tournament had a dramatic finish. At the end, Wang Hao made use of the tournament system (3 points for a win, 1 for a draw) winning his last game against his direct rival Giri, and finishing the tournament with 19 Points (6,5/10). Carlsen didn't manage to beat Etienne Bacrot with White and obtained the best score with the Classical Scoring System (7/10), but just got the second place with the Football Scoring System (18 total points). The 3rd-4th place was shared by Giri and Nakamura. After the dramatic last round in the Open Section, the tournament had 3 winners: Kurnosov, Movsesian and Edouard, all with 8/11.

The Russian Super Final is on the way with a lot of draws. It's hard to predict who is going to be the winner at the end.

In the female section, there are a lot of decisive results, and it's also hard to say who is the favorite, probably Pogonina and Gunina.

As usual, we wish You a lot of fun with Your new issue of CEWN!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Eljanov,Pavel (2693)
— Areshchenko,Alexander (2691) [D70]

81st ch-UKR 2012 Kiev UKR (7.4), 03.08.2012

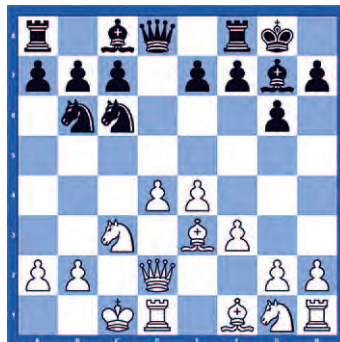
[Balogh Csaba]

A very sharp game following the real spirit of the Grünfeld defense.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 Eljanov was a second in the Gelfand team during the WCC match against Anand. As Anand tried the 3.f3 system twice, Eljanov must be very well prepared for this variation. However, he fell against a nice novelty anyway.

3...d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘b6 6.♘c3 ♙g7 7.♙e3 0-0 8.♙d2 Gelfand played 8...e5 in the third game of the match, but Eljanov goes for the main line.

8...♘c6 9.0-0-0 A typical Grünfeld position, where White has a huge center and Black tries to create counterplay against it.

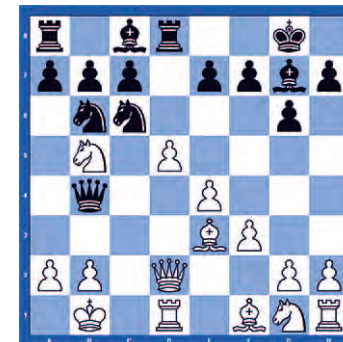


9...♙d6 This is the new „wawe“! Black wants to play ♙d8 to put quick pressure on the d4 pawn. Theory is just about to develop here. The biggest specialists play like this nowadays. The two main lines: 9...e5 and 9...f5 are in some crisis now.

10.♙b1 [The pawn sacrifice with 10.♘b5 ♙d7 11.♙h6 ♙xh6 12.♙xh6 a6 13.♘c3 ♘xd4 14.f4! followed by ♘f3 is a very interesting alternative.]

10...♙d8 White has to deal with the d4 pawn. He cannot protect it with 11.♘ge2 because of ♘c4.

11.♘b5! We are still following some high level games. [11.d5 opens the diagonal for the „Grünfeld bishop“. 11...♙b4! Black wants to play ♘e5-c4, and the tempting 12.♘b5? loses to a fantastic queen sacrifice...]



12...♘xd5! 13.exd5 (13.♙xb4 ♘cxb4! Only move, but good enough. 14.exd5 ♙f5+ 15.♙c1 ♘xa2+ 16.♙d2 ♙xd5+ 17.♙e1 ♙xd1+ 18.♙xd1 ♙xb2 and the queenside pawns start to march. The White pieces are „a bit undeveloped“.) 13...♙xd5! 14.♙xb4 ♙xd1+ 15.♙c2 and now 15...♙xf1!! followed by ♙f5 and ♙d8. Black has a winning attack; 11.e5 would give up the light squares. 11...♙f5+ 12.♙a1 ♙d7 Black is more than fine.]

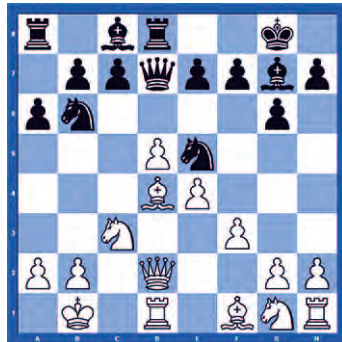
11...♔d7 12.d5 Just now d5, because ♖b4 does not work anymore. White sets a nice trap with this move...

12...a6 [Mamedyarov fell into the trick against Anand in a rapid game. 12...♘e5? 13.♔c2! and Black is lost, because after 13...c6 14.♘xa7! wins. Anand-Mamedyarov, Corsica 2011.]

13.♘c3 Aronian scored a very important victory over Caruana a few months ago with this move. Areshchenko, as a big expert of the Grünfeld, had to be well prepared for this. That game was analysed by Arkadij in the CEWN Nr.17. [13.dxc6 leads to a draw after some complications. 13...♔xd2 14.♖xd2 ♖xd2 15.♙xd2 axb5 16.cxb7 ♙xb7 17.♙xb5 White is a pawn up, but Black can quickly activate his pieces, obtaining enough counterplay for a draw. 17...f5! 18.exf5 ♙d5 19.♘e2 ♙xa2+ 20.♔c2 gxf5= Vitiugov-Giri, Reggio Emilia 2011. This game was very deeply analysed by Kamil Miton in the January 2012 Chess Evolution edition.]

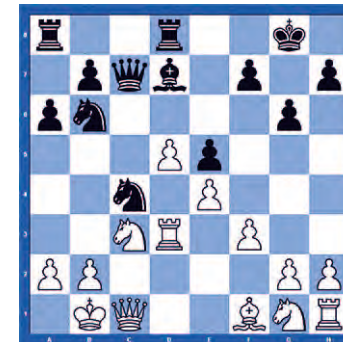
13...♘e5 The biggest drawback in Black's position is the pawn on a6. His ideal move would be c6, in order to undermine the d5 pawn, but this never works because of the b6 knight.

14.♙d4



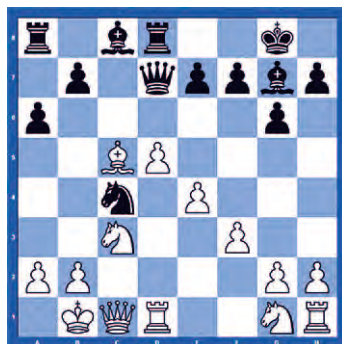
14...c5! A great intuitive sacrifice by Areshchenko! This was the only way to preserve the strong bishop. I cannot recall, but I have seen somewhere the same idea before, so for a Grünfeld player such things should automatically come to mind. In the next few moves, we will get all the ideas behind the move. [14...e6 is another I attempt to undermine the center, but White achieves some advantage after 15.f4 ♘ec4 16.♔f2+=]

15.♙xc5 ♘ec4 16.♙xc4?! I don't like this move at all. I agree that White is undeveloped and this is a chance to get rid of one of the pieces with tempo. But on the other hand, he gives up the bishop pair and what is more important in this case, Black finally solves his problem with his b6 knight, which had no moves before. Suddenly, the c4 knight becomes powerful and it might be supported by a pawn on b5. [16.♔c1! was the right move in my opinion, to protect the c3 knight. 16...♔c7 17.♙d4 ♙xd4 (17...e5 is completely different to the game, because of the poor b6 knight. 18.♙f2+/-) 18.♖xd4 ♔c5 Black must play actively, otherwise he'll simply end up a pawn down. (I tried 18...e5 but the computer refuted it nicely with 19.♖d3! ♙d7



20.♘d1! Beautiful regrouping! The rook will stand perfectly on c3! 20...♖ac8 21.♖c3+/-) 19.♘ge2 ♘d7 Black needs to bring his pieces as fast as possible. Still, his main problem is the b6 knight, because this avoids him from launching an attack with b5-b4. It's not easy for White either, because his pieces are still undeveloped, but suddenly, he can start an effective attack. 20.h4! e5 (20...h5 just helps White. 21.g4! hxg4 22.h5! White wins. For example, after the greedy 22...gxf3 23.hxg6 fxe2 24.♖h8+! ♔xh8 25.♔h6+ ♔g8 26.♔h7+ ♔f8 27.♔h8#) 21.dxe6 ♘xe6 and now a hidden point of the 20.h4 move comes out with 22.♔g5!+= White has the advantage, but Black has compensation.; 16.♔f2 is countered by 16...♘xc3! 17.bxc3 ♘a4! A temporary piece sacrifice, which leaves the White king a bit „naked“. 18.♘xc4 ♔c7!♗ wins back the piece with counterplay.]

16...♘xc4 17.♔c1



17...♔c7!? Areshchenko found an interesting plan to preserve his dark-squared bishop. [17...b5 was also playable. 18.♘ge2 ♘b7 followed by ♖ac8 and b4, using the unfortunate situation of the c1 queen, with a very sharp posi-

tion. The game might continue with 19.b3 ♖ac8 20.♘d4 b4 21.bxc4 ♖xc4♗]

18.♘d4 e5! This is the point! Black does not want to exchange pieces. At first sight, this move „kills“ the g7 bishop, but it might easily join the fight in the future, from f8 or from h6.

19.♘f2 b5 White can hardly make use of his extra pawn, while Black has a very easy attack with ♘d7 and b4. White is forced to do something, otherwise he'll get crushed.

20.b3! A small weakening, but it pushes back the knight, getting some space for maneuvering.

20...♘d6 21.♔e3 White wants to occupy the c-file, and to create some threats connected with ♔b6 and ♘c5 could be also dangerous. Now, it's Black's turn to act!

21...f5! This is the way to play the Grünfeld! Actively! The e4 pawn seemed to be the safest square for White, but actually it's weak. Black wants to push b4, and after the knight moves, take twice on e4 and ♘f5!

22.♖c1 ♔e7 23.♔b6? A huge mistake in the calculation, which gets cruelly punished. [23.♘h3 It was time to finish the development. 23...♘d7! refreshing the threat of b4 and the double-take on e4. A double edged position. (23...b4 immediately did not work, because of 24.♘a4! fxe4 25.fxe4 and on 25...♘xe4? White has 26.♖xc8!)]

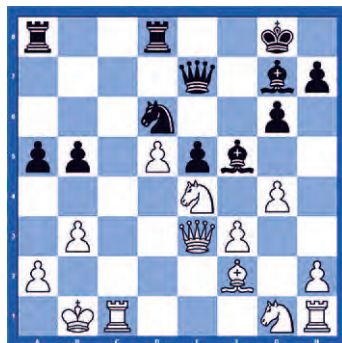
23...fxe4 24.♘xe4 A sad necessity. [Eljanov definitely wanted to take back with the pawn, but he missed something in the following line: 24.fxe4 ♘xe4! 25.♘xe4 ♘f5 26.♖e1 ♔b4! Only move, but strong! 27.♔e3 ♖xd5 and Black wins. For example, after 28.♘f3 ♘xe4+! 29.♔xe4 ♖d1+! ♔xe4 and ♖xh1 next.]

24...♙f5 It's clear Black is doing great now, but he still needs to play very strongly if he wants his attack to break through!

25.♖e3 Admitting the mistake of 23.♖b6.

25...a5! Because of the mistake on the 23rd move, Blacks get enough time to make use of the b3 weakness! It's very difficult to deal with the a4 threat.

26.g4 This loses, but it was hard to advice something clever.



26...♘xe4! [26...♙xe4+ 27.fxe4 a4 is also good.]

27.fxe4 ♙h6! Nice combo! Black wins an exchange!

28.♖xh6 ♙xe4+ 29.♖b2 ♙xh1 30.♙h4 ♖a7! 31.♘e2 [White cannot balance the material with 31.♙xd8 ♖d4+ This was the point of the combination. White gets mated. 32.♖a3 b4+ 33.♖a4 Black has only one winning move here! 33...♖xd5! and ♖c6! with mate to follow.]

31...a4! You must push until your opponent collapses! Black doesn't lay back with his material advantage, he continues playing for mate!

32.b4 Only move. Taking pieces was losing. [32.♙xd8 axb3; 32.♖xh1 axb3]

32...a3+ 33.♖a1 ♙f3! Black wants to get the d4 square for the queen.

34.♘c3 [34.♙xd8 ♙xe2 Double threat of ♖d4 and ♖xd8.]

34...♖d4! 35.♙xd8 ♖xd8 White resigned! Too many threats to parry. The main ones are ♖c8 and ♖xb4. A great game for the topic: How to play the Grünfeld!

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(2) Korobov, Anton (2678) – Miroshnichenko, Evgenij (2621) [D43]

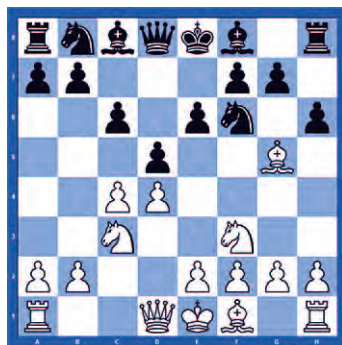
81st ch-UKR 2012 Kiev UKR (8.6), 04.08.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We'll follow a nice game played by the surprising winner of the Ukrainian National Championship, which was amazingly strong, with a rating average over 2660! All the best players participated, except Ivanchuk.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 Like we've seen so often in the latest games, the Slav defense is played. I have no idea why, but this opening got extremely popular, especially in the last 2–3 years. Almost all the Top players have it in their Black repertoire.

3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♗f3 e6 5.♙g5 h6



6.♙xf6 This move was very popular around 10 years ago, but it seems like Black found a way to get a good position afterwards. In the latest games, the 6.♙xf6 line is having a sort of comeback, showing new and fresh ideas! [6.♙h4 dxc4 7.e4 and we are in the very forced lines of the Meran.]

6...♙xf6 7.e3 ♘d7 8.♙d3 This move looks like a „tempo lost“, but in fact we are in a very well known line. White gets a strong center; Black gets the bishop pair and tries to react against his opponent central position. The game will get much sharper very soon!

8...dxc4 9.♙xc4 g6 This move is still the main line...

10.0–0 ♙g7 We are in a position where White gets a wide range of possibilities.

11.♙c2 With this move, White wants to put all the pieces in the center before playing the e4–e5 idea. [11.♖e1 0–0 12.e4 e5 was seen in one of the latest games between Kramnik-Aronian. This game was analyzed in a previous issue of the CEWN.]

11...0–0 12.♙b3 Another prophylactic move. Now, if Black pushes e5, White will be able to play d5 and Black will not have the move ♘b6, attacking the d5 pawn and the bishop on c4 at the same time.

12...♙e7 Black needs to do something with the bishop on c8. While the queen stands on f6, the b6 move is never possible because of White's ♘e4, and Black's e5 push would be countered by White's d5 counter-punch.

13.♖ad1 [13.e4 is still a bit too early. 13...e5 14.d5 ♘c5 and Black is in time to develop his pieces nicely.]

13...b6 14.e4 ♙b7 Black and White managed to fulfill their plans. White made the e4 push, while Black managed to develop the bishop to b7 and will start his play against the White center. Usually, Black's ideas are connected with the c5 push. White will try to develop an attack on the kingside by playing e5, using the idea of h4–h5. It's important to note that the Black pawn is stand-

ing on h6! A small but very important detail. If the pawn would be standing on h7, Black would be doing very fine.



15. ♖fe1 This move was only made to prepare the e5 push. But was it really necessary? [In case of the immediate 15.e5 c5! Most of the times, this is the correct reaction for Black. 16.d5 ♘xe5 17.♘xe5 ♙xe5 18.dxe6 c4! This is the trick! 19.exf7+ ♔g7 and Black is doing very good. In case of 20. ♙xc4?? ♚h4 Black is simply winning a piece. We can say that 15. ♖fe1 is, in fact, necessary.]



15... ♖ad8?! I have some doubts about this move, I don't see what's the idea behind it. It's obvious that White wants to play e5, so why not to try to act against it? [15... c5!? The most logical move in the position. 16.d5 White

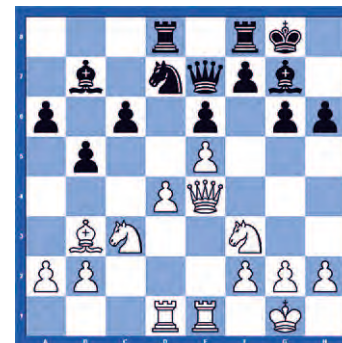
doesn't have any other reaction. If he does „nothing“, Black will just play cxd4 and get a better position. 16... ♘e5! and Black uses the same idea once again, to play ♘e5. 17.♘xe5 ♙xe5 In this position, I would prefer to play with the Black pieces.]

16.e5! Obvious and strong!

16...a6?! Black reacts too passively, giving time for White to develop a strong attack. [Of course not 16...c5 17.d5 and White gets what he wanted.; 16...b5!? This move might be an idea for Black here. He wanted to play c5-c4, and sometimes b4 can be a good plan as well. 17.♘e4 c5! The position is not that clear. Of course, the idea behind the move 15... ♖ad8 remains a bit unclear.]

17. ♚e4 White chooses the right plan: to attack the Black king. The queen leaves the c2 square for the White bishop, and the „wall-breaker“ h-pawn will come into the action soon. But the move order is wrong. Clearly, to play h4 first would have been the right decision.

17...b5 Finally the b5 move, but it's clear that a6 was just a loss of tempo.



18.h4?! And here comes the h-pawn. What to do now for Black? The h5 threat is super unpleasant, and to play h6-h5 is definitely not a great idea because of ♘g5 followed by g4, with a mating attack. However, Black has an easy move which could totally change the whole evaluation of the position. [18. ♔f4 with the idea of ♘e4 next would have been the right solution for White, and only then to play h4-h5.]

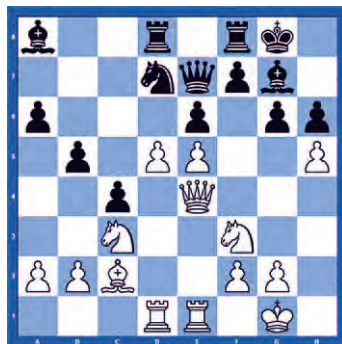
18... ♘a8? Preparing the move c5, but giving White the possibility to push d5. [18... ♘b6! This easy-looking and logical move would have been clearly the strongest one. Black wants to play c5 and White can't stop black from playing it. 19. ♔e3 The only move, trying to avoid the c5 push. 19...c5! Probably Black missed this move in the game. 20.dxc5 ♖xd1 21. ♖xd1 ♙xf3 22.gxf3 ♘d7 and both White pawns, on c5 and e5, are hanging. Black is doing better here.]

19.h5! White is doing a good calculation job.

19...c5 20.d5 The game is getting very sharp.

20...c4 Black closes the bishop on b3 forever, but it finds a nice place on c2.

21. ♙c2



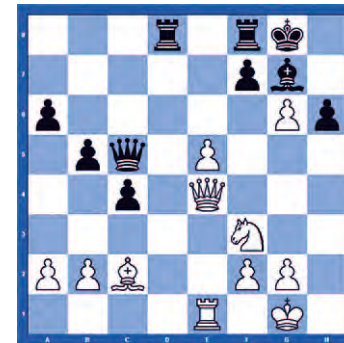
21...exd5 [21...b4 looks dangerous, but White can simply take with 22.hxg6 and Black is clearly too late.]

22. ♘xd5 It doesn't feel good to give away the bishop, but Black doesn't have any other choice. hxg6 is a deadly threat.

22... ♙xd5 23. ♖xd5 ♘c5 Sid Black solve his problems?! [Of course 23... ♘xe5 24. ♖xe5 ♙xe5 25. ♘xe5 is just losing for Black.]

24. ♖xc5! No, he didn't. A typical and strong exchange sacrifice crushes Black's hopes.

24... ♔xc5 25.hxg6



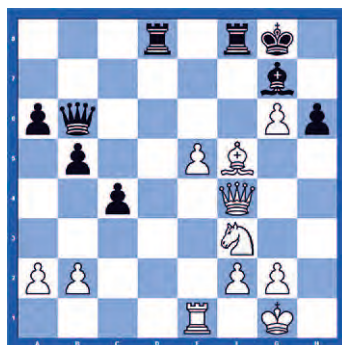
25...f5?! A clear miscalculation in a difficult position. [25... f6! would have been the only way to fight. 26.e6 (26.exf6 ♖xf6 Black is fine here.) 26...f5! The Black bishop is freeing itself. 27. ♔f4!? (27. ♔b7 brings nothing but a draw for White. 27... ♖b8 28. ♔d7 ♖bd8 29. ♔b7; 27. ♔e2 ♔e7 28. ♘h4 A nice tactic, but it's not clear if it'll bring the full point. 28... ♔xh4 29.e7 ♔f6 30.exf8 ♔+ ♖xf8 White is still better, but is it really enough to win the game? This is very unclear, the position should be closer to a draw.) 27... ♔d6 28. ♔e3 Even being an exchange down, the very strong e6 pawn plus the tactical ideas on the kingside give White a clear

edge, but Black is far away from resigning. The fight has just begun.]

26. ♔f4! Black can't defend the f5-pawn.

26... ♖b6 Black kills one of the biggest dangers, the g6-pawn, but loses more material while doing so. [In case of 26... ♖b4 27. ♙xf5 ♖xb2 28.e6 White would be winning immediately.]

27. ♙xf5



27... ♖xg6 The game is getting forced again. [27... ♖de8 would not lose on the spot, but would lead to a horrible position. 28. ♖e4 and Black is going to suffer before resigning.]

28. ♙xg6 ♖xf4 29.e6! White will get a full piece for the e-pawn.

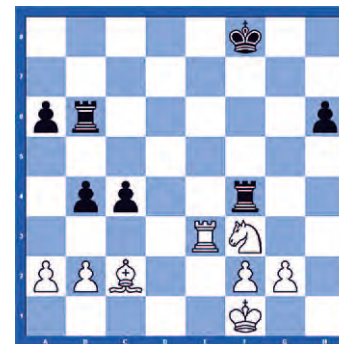
29... ♙f6 Black has no other way to stop White from playing e7-e8 ♖.

30.e7 ♙xe7 31. ♖xe7 We can easily say that White is winning here. Korobok finished the game in a smooth way.

31... ♖d6 32. ♙c2! Good technical move, not allowing any of the Black rooks to enter through the d-file, in order to attack the b2 pawn.

32... ♔f8 33. ♖e2 [33. ♖e3 would have been a slightly better solution, but a tempo doesn't matter anymore.]

33...b4 34. ♔f1 ♖b6 35. ♖e3 White brings the king to e2 and the knight to e5. Black will lose some of his pawns or more material. The game is over.



35...a5 36. ♞e5 ♖d4 37. ♔e1 White wants to play g3, and f4 next.

37...b3 This move forces some exchanges, but nothing changes in the evaluation of the position.

38.axb3 cxb3 39. ♙xb3 a4 40. ♙xa4! The last simple tactic.

40... ♖xb2 [40... ♖xa4 41. ♞d7+-]

41. ♙d1 The first time trouble is over. White is totally winning. Actually, it's a good moment resign, but Black decided to make a few more moves.

41... ♖a2 42.g3 ♙g7 43. ♙b3 ♖b2 44. ♔f1 h5 45. ♞f3 Not a great game, but one with many typical ideas and nice tactics.

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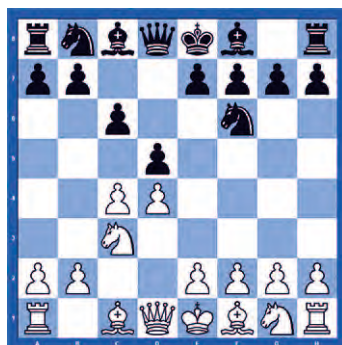
(3) Laznicka,V (2683) – Shirov,A (2706) [D47]

Shirov-Laznicka m Novy Bor CZE (4), 06.08.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

In this mini-match of 6 games, the score was equal before this game, 1,5–1,5. We see another Slav, but this time a very sharp line. Shirov keeps a clearly superior perspective of the position and gets a perfect victory.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6



4.e3 In the Slav, we often see many different move orders that lead to the same position.

4...e6 [4...a6; 4...♙f5; 4...♙g4 are other main moves.]

5.♘f3 ♘bd7 6.♙d3 dxc4 [6...♙d6 is another main move.]

7.♙xc4 b5 8.♙d3 ♙b7 Shirov chooses a very sharp line. [8...♙d6 and here, Black usually chooses this move.]

9.0–0 a6 Black's idea is clear: to play c5, getting a perfectly fine position.

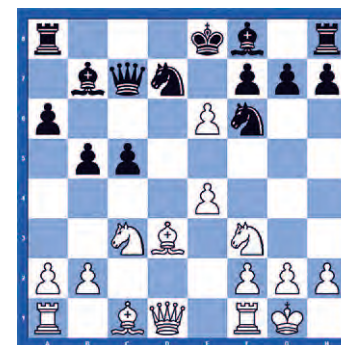
10.e4 This is just the beginning of a very forced and sharp line.

10...c5 Black doesn't have time to waste and needs to play c5.

11.d5 The only move that makes sense for White. In case of moves like 11.e5 ♘d5, Black is doing perfectly fine.

11...♙c7! This is the key idea of Black's play. He's going to castle long! [11...e5? 12.b3! leads to a bad position for Black. The next White's move could be a4, in order to provoke Black's b4, and then to play ♘b1–Nbd2–Nc4 with a clear positional domination.]

12.dxe6 I think this is the best move order for White. [12.♙c2 is the other option in the position. It's hard to say what's the difference... Black has the option to play 12...♙d6 here as well, but other forced moves don't look bad at all either. 12...0–0–0!? 13.♘g5 (It's too late for White to take: 13.dxe6 ♘e5! with a fine position for Black.) 13...♘b6 14.a4 h6 15.♘xf7 ♙xf7 16.axb5 a5! The position remains very sharp, but Black should be doing better here. A. Giri-M. Ragger, Bundesliga 2012.]



12...fxe6 13.♙c2 [13.♘g5 This move was tried in a couple of games on a not very high level. It seems like Black has good play after 13...♙c6]

13...♔d6 All of this was played before. 14...♔d6 is made against the White threat of playing ♖g5. [The immediate 13...0-0-0 14.♖g5! with the double threat of ♖xe6 and ♖f7 14...♖e5 15.♔e2 leads to a better position for White.]

14.♖g5 White needs to act quickly, in order to avoid Black from castling long, which would make his position almost perfect.

14...♖f8 15.f4 And we are still following theory. It's easy to see how sharp the position already is, and it's going to get even sharper.

15...0-0-0 16.♔e2 Not so long ago, this position was seen in the game Mamedyarov-Esen in the Turkish league. I guess both players knew this game well.

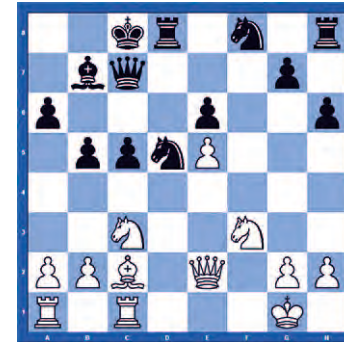
16...h6 White wanted to play the deadly e5...



17.♖f3!? A move that leads to a super sharp position! [17.♖h3 e5 is another way to continue the game, but the White knight is now totally out of play, so Black should be doing good here.]

17...♔xf4 We can feel the tension increasing! And as we know, Shirov usually feels like a fish in the water in such crazy positions!

18.a4!? A very interesting novelty by Laznicka! [18.e5 This move been made by Mamedyarov. He managed to win the game but the position was very unclear. 18...♔xf3 (18...♔xc1 looks dangerous for Black as well. 19.♖fxc1 ♖d5



20.a4!?

A typical idea. White breaks the pawn structure with the a4 push. 20...b4 21.♖xd5 exd5 22.♔d3 and I think Black is in a lot of danger.) 19.♖xf3 ♔xe5 Black's position looks very dangerous, but the 2 extra pawns plus the solid central pawns make everything very complicated. 20.♖a8+ ♔d7 21.♖xa6 ♔e7 22.♔h1 Personally, I would choose White here. The Black king has a too dangerous position on e7!]

18...b4 Black doesn't really have a choice, axb5 was a very strong threat.

19.e5 And we see the exact same idea as in the Mamedyarov game, with the only difference that now the queen from e2 can take immediately on a6.

19...♔xf3 [The other main option in the position is 19...♔xc1 20.♖axc1 ♖g4 (20...bxc3?! looks bad for Black. 21.exf6 cxb2 22.♖b1 gxf6 23.♖xb2 followed by ♖fb1, with a mating attack.) 21.♖a2! Rarely, a move like ♖a2 is the

right one, but in this case, everything seems to work for White. The knight on g4 is very badly placed... (21. ♖e4!? is a possible option as well. 21... ♖xe5 22. ♖xe5 ♔xe5 23. ♕d3! A strong and important move. 23... ♔d4+ 24. ♖f2 ♔d6 25. ♖fd1 The position is not that clear, but White is risking nothing here.)



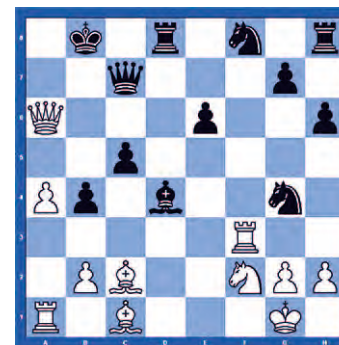
21... ♖b8 22. ♕e4]

20. ♖xf3 He takes with the rook on f3 now because he has the direct ♔xa6 next.

20... ♕xe5 21. ♔xa6+ ♖b8 [Doesn't help 21... ♔b7 22. ♔e2! and White's attack is going to decide the game.]

22. ♖xf6? A clear miscalculation by White in a very interesting position. A lot of time is needed to create a clear opinion about who is actually doing better here, but I think that from a practical point of view, it's easier to play with White. [22. ♖e4!? This is clearly one of the main moves to analyse. 22... ♖g4 (A wrong decision would be to get greedy with 22... ♕xh2+?! 23. ♖h1 ♖xe4 24. ♕xe4 ♔d1+ 25. ♖f1 ♖xf1+ 26. ♔xf1 ♖d7 27. ♕e3 and White gets a very strong initiative for the 2 pawns. It's always the Black king the one that is in big trouble.) 23. ♖f2! A great move! At the same time defending from ♕d4 and forcing

the exchange of the Black knight on g4. 23... ♖xf2 (Doesn't work 23... ♕d4



24. ♕f4! White is just in time. 24... e5 25. ♕e4 ♔a7 26. ♔b5+ ♔c7 27. ♔c6+ ♖b8 28. ♕g3 The knight on f2 is protected and the ♕e4+ ♔c6 combination is deadly.) 24. ♖xf2 The position is very forced again. (24. ♖xf2 ♕d4) 24... ♕d4+ 25. ♕e3 ♕xe3+ 26. ♖xe3 ♔d2+ 27. ♖e2 ♖xe2+ 28. ♖xe2 Another line that ends with an unclear position, but we can say that only Black is risking here.; 22. ♔b5+ A check on b5 is not stupid at all, but seems to lead to a forced draw. 22... ♖a7 23. ♕e3 White develops a piece with a tempo. 23... ♕d4 24. ♖e4 ♖8d7 Finally, Black brings the knight from f8 back into the game. 25. ♕xd4 cxd4 26. ♔xb4 This move leads to a draw, but does White have something better? It's quite unclear. 26... ♔xc2 27. ♔a5+ ♖b8 28. ♔b5+ ♖a7 with a perpetual check.]

22... gxf6 23. ♕e4 This is White's idea, but it doesn't work!

23... ♔a7 24. ♔b5+



24...♔c8! [Of course not 24...♔c7 25.♚c6+ ♔b8 26.♞b5 and White is winning.]

25.♙e3 White can't find a way to keep the attack, and goes „all in“ giving one more piece. [25.♚c6+ looks logical but doesn't bring much either. 25...♚c7 26.♚a6+ ♔d7 All the moves are forced but Black is „luckier“. 27.♞b5 (In case of an attempt to play slowly 27.♞e2 ♔e7 the king finds a very safe position on e7 and Black is just an exchange up.) 27...♙xh2+ 28.♔f1 ♚e5 29.♚b7+ ♔e8 ♙g6 would give mate, but the knight on f8 is covering this square. Maybe this is what Laznicka blundered?!]

25...bxc3 Why not to take a piece when you can...

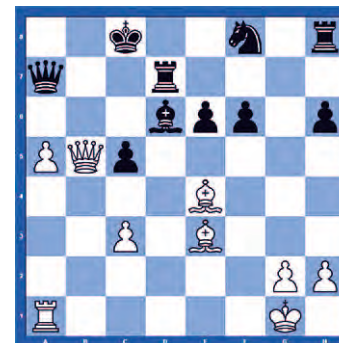
26.bxc3 [26.♙xc5 ♙d4+! would end the game in Black's favor on the spot.]

26...♙d6! Cool and strong play by Black. The position looks totally winning, but Black still needs to be quite careful. The king isn't safe yet and the dangerous open b-file can be nicely used by White to get some action.

27.a5 [27.♚b1 would not save the game, but would give White some practical chances. 27...♚d7! The Black king escapes through ♔d8-e7 into safety. 28.♙c6 ♔d8 The

last precise move.(28...♚c7 This would be a horrible mistake. 29.♚d1! and White is back in the game!)]

27...♚d7! Making place for the Black king.



28.a6 ♔d8 And here we can clearly say that the game is over. From now, if Black doesn't make any big mistake, nothing should happen.

29.♚c6 f5 Making the move ♚h7 possible.

30.♙f3 ♞g6 All the Black pieces are out, and with an extra rook, it's too much even to continue the game. White could have resigned here, but Laznicka decided to make a few more moves.

31.♙e2 ♞e7 32.♚f3 ♞d5 33.♙f2 ♚b8 The Black pieces slowly take over, because they're just more in number. A full rook up!

34.c4 ♞f6 35.♚a3 ♚hh7 Super safe until the end.



36. ♖h4 ♗e5 37. ♔xc5 ♔a7 And finally, it was too much even for Laznicka. A very interesting game for the theory of this sharp line. I think that Laznicka's novelty 18.a4!? is very interesting and we'll see more games with it in the top level!

0-1

(4) Wang,Hao (2739) – Giri,Anish (2696) [A15]

45th Biel GM Biel SUI (10), 02.08.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

The decisive game of the Biel Tournament. The player who wins this game will finish in first place, ahead of Magnus Carlsen.

1. ♘f3 Wang Hao starts with the Anti-Grünfeld move order. Recently, it has become very difficult to find something against the Grünfeld on the highest level, so the White players are trying different opening move orders to trick their opponents. [We can reach the game's position from the „normal“ move order as well. 1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3. ♘c3 d5 4. ♘f3 ♗g7 5. ♔b3 dxc4 6. ♔xc4 0-0 7.e4 a6 8. ♗e2 b5 9. ♔b3 c5 10.dxc5 ♗e6 and we are in the game.(However, in this move order, Black has an extra option: to play 10... ♗b7)]

1... ♘f6 Due to the huge amount of interesting possibilities for White, many Grünfeld players prefer to play 1...c5 against 1. ♘f3.

2.c4 g6 3. ♘c3 d5 4. ♔a4+ [The other option is 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 and here as well, White has many alternatives to keep the pawn on d2. 5. ♔a4+!? (5. ♔b3!?!; 5. ♔c2!?)]

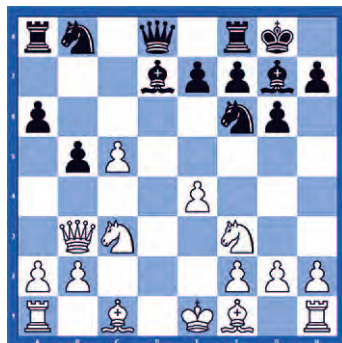
4... ♗d7 5. ♔b3 dxc4 6. ♔xc4 a6 This is the precise move! [After the obvious 6... ♗g7 White gets a good position with 7.e4 0-0 8.e5! with many games in the database, however, the outcome is fine for White.]

7.d4 [If White wants to play the same as after 6... ♗g7, Black has 7.e4 b5 8. ♔e2 c5 taking quick control over the d4 square with ♘c6. 9.e5 ♘h5 Here are some games as well, and Black is doing fine.]

7...b5 8.♔b3 [Kramnik recently tried 8.♔d3 which is also very interesting.]

8...c5 As usual, in the Grünfeld, Black needs to undermine the center, even at the cost of a pawn. Active piece play should compensate for the small material deficit.

9.dxc5 ♘g7 10.e4 0-0



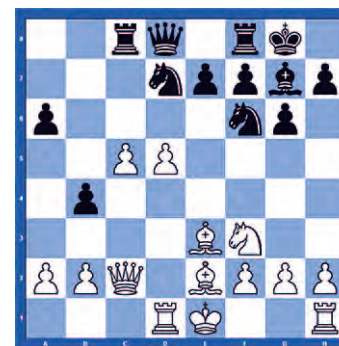
11.♘e2 ♘e6 Now we got the same position as in the 1.d4 line, but we avoided the ♘b7 setup. Until this position, you could see how many alternatives White had with the Anti Grünfeld, so it's easier to understand the players who play 1...c5. On the other hand, after 1.♘f3 c5, Black must be ready to play the Sicilian after 2.e4, which isn't necessarily in everybody's repertoire. [If Black puts his bishop on the h1-a8 diagonal, it would occupy the knight's square on c6. 11...♘c6 White gets an advantage after 12.e5 ♘fd7 13.♘e3 ♘xe5 14.♘xe5 ♘xe5 15.0-0 The knight cannot develop to c6 now. 15...e6 16.a4!+= with a clear initiative on the queenside.]

12.♔c2 ♘bd7 Recently, we have seen many high level games on this position. White can't hold his pawn, it's better for him to give it back and try to get the initiative with a quick development.

13.♘e3 [13.b4 is met with 13...a5! White's queenside collapses.; 13.c6 is an interesting try. 13...♘b8 14.♘g5 ♘xc6 15.♘xe6 fxe6 looks nice for White, but the holes on the dark squares are telling. ♘d4 is the threat and the concrete line leads to a draw: 16.♘xb5 ♖c8 17.♘c3 ♘d4 18.♔d3 ♘d7! Black has huge compensation, the Grünfeld bishop starts to work as well. 19.0-0 ♘c5 20.♔d1 ♘xe2+ 21.♔xe2 ♔d3 After the simplifications, a drawn end-game arises. 22.♖e1 ♔xe2 23.♖xe2 ♘d3 24.♙f1 ♘xb2 25.♘xb2 ♘xc3= Meier-Le Quang Liem, Dortmund 2011.]

13...♖c8 14.♖d1 Black must act urgently, because White wants to defend the pawn with b4! [White can get the bishop pair with 14.c6 ♖xc6 15.♘d4 ♖d6 16.♘xe6 ♖xe6 but Black creates quick counterplay 17.f3 ♔c7 18.♖c1 ♖c8 19.♔b1 ♖c6 20.0-0 ♘b6 Black has no problems. He can jump to c4 with his knight, or just open the diagonal for the bishop with ♘fd7, which is also good.; Now 14.b4 is met with 14...♘xe4!]

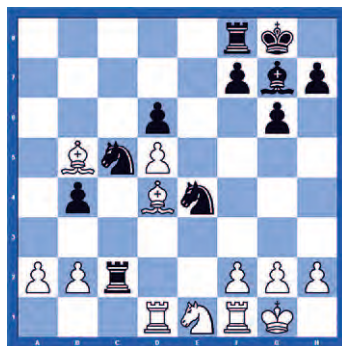
14...b4! 15.♘d5 ♘xd5 16.exd5 Black seems to collapse, but as it's usual in the Grünfeld, he has a tactical idea...



16...♘xc5! 17.0-0 This is the starting position of this opening. It's not clear yet if White can hope for an advan-

tage, or if Black has enough counterplay. The big plusses of White are the bishop pair and the c6 square, where a knight or a bishop could be really powerful. Black, on the other hand, is very active. [Black easily wins back the piece after 17. ♗xc5? ♔a5 18. ♖c1 ♘d7=+]

17...a5 A double-edged move. Black would like to transfer his knight to d6 and the pawn on a6 is not hanging anymore, but the drawback is that it gives up the b5 square, and the bishop could arrive to c6. The game becomes concrete now. .. [Recently, Svidler played twice 17... ♘ce4 but just one day after our current game was played, he got a slightly worse endgame against Jakovenko. 18. ♔d3 All the following moves are the recommendation of the computer. It's clear that both players were following their preparations. 18... ♔d6 19. ♔xa6 ♖c2 20. ♗d4 ♘c5 21. ♔xd6 exd6 22. ♗b5 ♘fe4 23. ♘e1

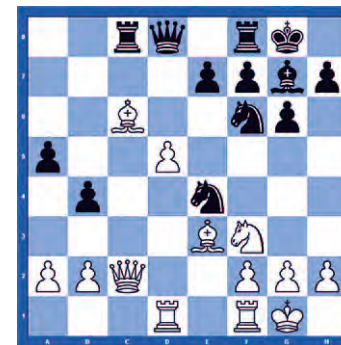


23... ♘d2! Of course, it's very hard to find all these moves without the machine... 24. ♗xg7 ♖xd1 25. ♗xf8 ♔xf8 26. ♘f3 ♖xd5 27. ♗c6 ♖d3 28. ♖a1 This is what the computer suggests to get an even position (yes, this is how the top GMs are prepared today — the first 28 moves without thinking, but actually, I think that White should be slightly

better. The bishop is better than the knight and he can create a passer with a4. 28...g5 29.h3 h5 30. ♖e1!+= White was doing better, but Svidler managed to hold the draw. Jakovenko-Svidler, Moscow 2012.]

18. ♗b5 White had other moves, but this one is the most principled.

18... ♘ce4 19. ♗c6 And here comes the very strong and deep novelty of Giri, which seems to solve all of Black's problems.



19... ♔c7! Black creates some concrete threats against the c6 bishop. He wants to play e6 now. The other point is quite hidden... As we will see, White has some problems with his dark squared bishop. Black took control over the h2-b8 diagonal, and the bishop has no good square if it gets attacked. We will soon understand what is going on... [19... ♘d6 was played before, but after the strong novelty 20. ♗f4! White seems to be better. 20... ♔b6 21. ♔a4!+= with the plan of ♘d2, playing against the a5 weakness.]

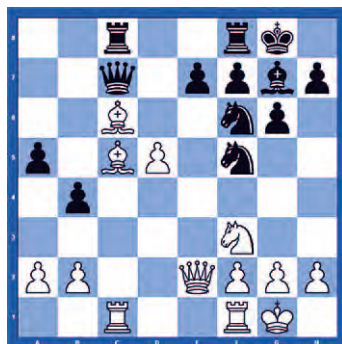
20. ♖c1! White had to defend the bishop against the e6 threat.

20...♘d6! Black creates another concrete threat: ♘xd5! It didn't work before, since the e4 pawn was hanging. The White queen must leave the pin now, but then, after ♘f5, White has problems with his bishop.

21.♔e2 Black must play concrete chess. If White manages to consolidate, he'll enjoy a stable advantage. [21. ♔a4 ♘f5! 22. ♕d2 (22. ♕c5 is met with 22...♘e4!) 22... ♔b6 and the bishop stands poorly on d2. It occupies the knight's „transfer square“. Black wants to play ♘e4 in the next move.]

21...♘f5 White is facing the same problem with the bishop, once again.

22. ♕c5! We are in the critical position of the game, where Giri makes a serious mistake, probably based on a miscalculation. [22. ♕d2 was worse 22...♔d6! and it's not easy to protect the d5 pawn, and e6 is also in the air to undermine the fortress of the c6 bishop. 23. ♔b5 ♘e4 Black is OK!]



22...♕h6? Black initiates concrete play against the d5 pawn with ♔fd8 and e6, but as we will see, the complications favor White here. Black had two good alternatives instead. [22...♘d7 was the easiest move, taking the c5

bishop next move, achieving equality easily. 23. ♕xe7? doesn't work, because of 23...♔fe8 24.d6 ♔xd6! A very nice combo! 25. ♕xd6 ♔xe2 26. ♕xd7 ♔xc1 27. ♔xc1 ♘xd6 Black ends up with a superior endgame.; 22...♔fd8 is objectively the strongest move, but it's more complex. 23. ♔fd1 (23. ♔a6 ♘d7) 23...e6 Black plays the same as in the game, without including the ♕h6-Rc2 pair of moves. White must show very strong chess to avoid getting in trouble. 24.dxe6! Black has two concrete possibilities: 24...♔xc6 (24...♔xd1+ 25. ♔xd1 ♔xc6 26.exf7+ ♔h8 and here 27.g4! the Black knight has no good square and the pawn can't be taken. In addition, White opens the back-rank. 27...♔d7!? Black must accept to lose the knight and should eliminate the dangerous f7 pawn. (27...♘xg4? loses to 28.f8 ♔+! ♕xf8 29. ♕d4+! This check is the point of the g4 move. 29...♘xd4 30. ♔xd4+-) 28.f8 ♔+ ♕xf8 29. ♕xf8 ♔xd1+ 30. ♔xd1 ♘xg4 31. ♕d6= with an even position.) 25.exf7+ ♔h8 26. ♔xd8+ ♔xd8 And here, just as in the previous line: 27.g4! An amazingly hard move to be found by a human brain. (27.♘g5 has a nice refutation, using the weakness of the weak back-rank. 27... ♔d5! 28. ♘e6 ♘d4! 29. ♘xd4 ♔xc5! Black is better. 30. ♔xc5 ♔xc5 31. ♔e8+ ♕f8=+) 27...♘xg4 28. ♔c4! This frees his c5 bishop to move, since the rook is protected now. Black has to give back the piece for the f7 pawn again. 28...♔d7 29. ♔xg4 ♔xf7 and Black is slightly better, but objectively, the game should probably end in a draw.]

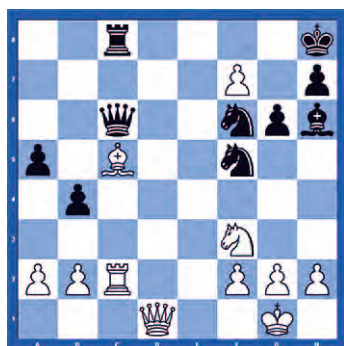
23. ♔c2 ♔fd8 24. ♔d1 e6? [24... ♕f4 was the best chance, but White is better anyway. 25.g3 ♕d6 26. ♔dc1 ♕xc5 27. ♔xc5+= Obviously, it's a much better version for Black if he takes this bishop with the f6 knight (like in the 22... ♘d7 line) and enjoys the game with his strong g7 bishop.]



25.dxe6! Here, pure calculation was needed+ some intuition!

25...♖xd1+ [25...♔xc6 26.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 27.exf7+ ♔h8 White has other moves as well, but again, the strongest one is 28.g4! ♔d5 (28...♘xg4 29.♕e7+-) 29.gxf5 ♔xf7 and here White has 30.♘e5! followed by fxe6, with a winning advantage.]

26.♔xd1 fxe6 Of course, this was not Giri's intention... [But 26...♔xc6 loses to 27.exf7+ ♔h8 Giri has missed either the next move



28.♕e7! ♘xe7 (28...♔xc2 29.♕xf6+ Black must lose control over the f8 square. 29...♕g7 30.♔xc2 ♖xc2 31.f8♔#) 29.♖xc6 ♘xc6 or the following pretty combination:

30.♔d6! ♕g7 31.f8♔+!+- and one of the knights is falling.]

27.♕a4! Suddenly White is about to be winning. The c2 rook is protected, the concrete threat is ♕e3, and Black is positionally lost with his e6 pawn...

27...♔d8 28.♔e2! Black has no good way to deal with the e6 pawn. There is only one move to protect it, but it's really ugly.

28...♘g7 There was simply no other move.

29.♘e5!+- The domination continues! It's not easy to deal with the ♘c6-e7 threat.

29...♘e4 Black tries some desperate trick connected with the weak back-rank... [29...♔d5 loses to 30.♘c6! ♖xc6 31.♕xc6 ♔xc6 and White can choose which piece he wants to win. 32.♕e3+- (32.♕d4+-)]

30.♘c6! ♖xc6 31.♕xc6 ♘xc5 32.♖xc5 With this victory, Wang Hao won the tournament!

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Puzzle section

(5) Melkumyan,H (2639) – Meins,G (2475)

Biel Open, 31.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

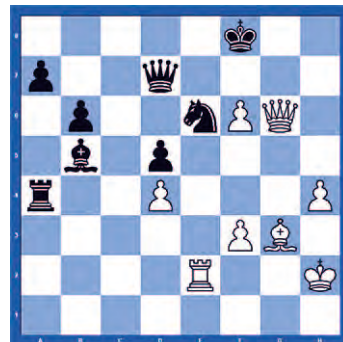


(6) Jones,G (2655) – Hawkins,J (2499)

British Championship, 31.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

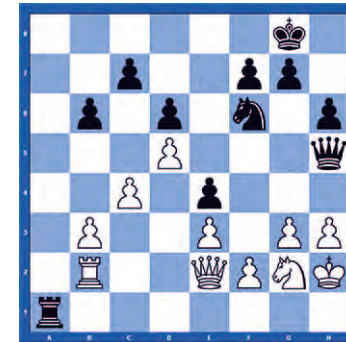


(7) L'Ami,A (2372) – Timman,J (2575)

Politiken Cup, 01.08.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

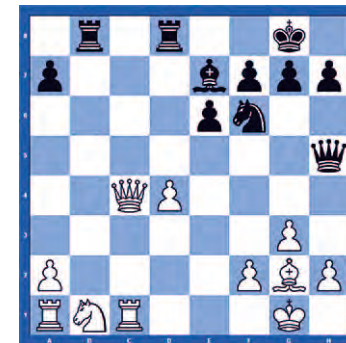


(8) Albur,L (2550) – Gulko,B (2532)

Platonov memorial, 30.07.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(9) Hernandez Carmenates,H (2570) – Guerra Mendez,J (2434)

Montcada Open, 27.06.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–

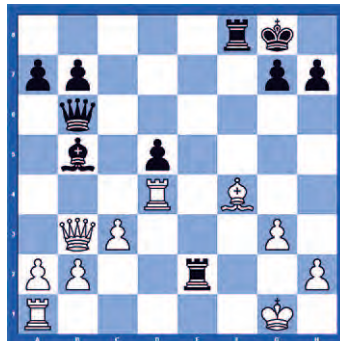


(10) Perez Mitjans,O (2471) – Peralta,F (2590)

Montcada Open, 28.06.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

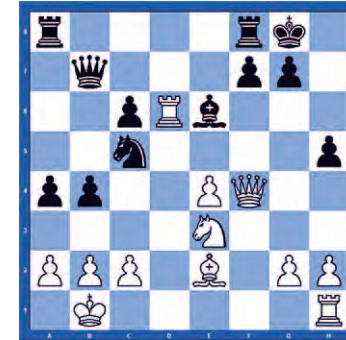


(11) Llaneza Vega,M (2424) – Korneev,O (2577)

Spanish league, 30.07.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

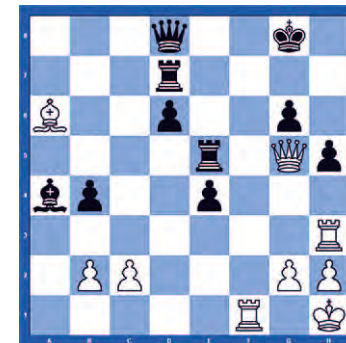


(12) Smirnov,P (2592) – Geller,J (2555)

Polugaevsky memorial, 08.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–



(13) Ivekovic,Z (2320) – Grandelius,N (2562)

World Junior Championship, 05.08.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+



(14) Battaglini,G (2419) – Nanu,C (2528)

Arad Open, 29.07.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–

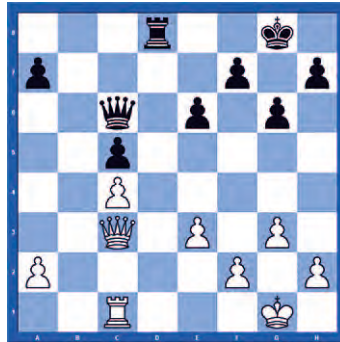


Endgame section

(15) Zubov,A (2617) – Ponomariov,R (2726)

Kiev, 04.08.2012

[Chess Evolution]

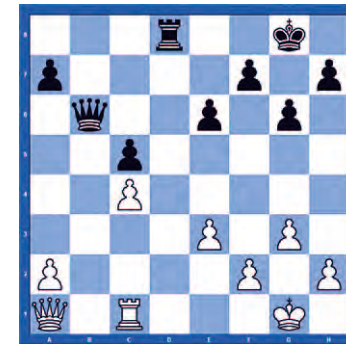


A very nice example, where Ponomariov outplays his strong opponent step by step from a dead drawn position.

29. ♔f6?! The first inaccuracy, which allows Black to occupy both open files. [29. ♔a5 with the idea of playing ♔b5 would have led to a quick draw.; If White sticks to his ♔f6 idea, he should have included 29.h4 h5 and now 30. ♔f6 ♔b6 The difference is 31.g4! White opens the king's position with a temporary sacrifice. 31...hxg4 32.h5 gxh5 33. ♔g5+ ♔f8 34. ♔xh5 with an equal position. On ♔b2, ♔xc5 hangs with check!]

29... ♔b6! White has definitely missed this move. Suddenly, he must be a little careful, since his rook cannot be activated. [29... ♔d2 30. ♔b1! was in White's mind.]

30. ♔a1?! [On 30.h4 Black is not obliged to the line above with h5, but he has 30... ♔d2! 31.h5 ♔b2! and Black has a better rook endgame due to his more active rook.; 30. ♔c3 was probably the right move, to prevent ♔b4. 30...a5! refreshing the threat of ♔b4. After ♔xb4 axb4, the rook endgame with the a2 and c4 weaknesses would be very bad for White. 31.a3! in order to control the b4 square again. Black is pressing a bit, but it's not easy to increase the advantage. 31...a4 32. ♔c2]



30... ♔b4! c4 is hanging after both rook moves (Rd1 or ♔b1). Just in two moves, Black achieved serious progress, but of course, the position is still close to a draw.

31.g4?! It's not easy to stop when a series of inaccuracies start. White wants to take ground on the kingside, but he makes serious weakening moves. [31.h4 h5 32. ♔c2 Trying to control the invasion on the 2nd rank. 32...a5 Black's best chance to improve on his position is to push the a-pawn to a3. 33. ♔c1! with the idea of ♔b2, after protecting the c4 pawn. 33... ♔b8 34. ♔d2 a4! Black keeps his initiative.]

31... ♔d2 The Black pieces are dominating. The concrete threat is ♔e2 and on h3, ♔f3! [31...a5 was also possible.]

32.h3 a5 By pushing the pawn to a3, all the endgames become unpleasant for White. The a2 pawn gets really vulnerable.

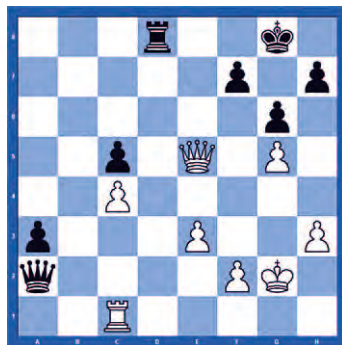
33.♔g2 a4 34.g5 As far as I remember, Steinitz said that every pawn move should be considered twice, because they cannot retreat anymore. In this case, White creates another small weakness. [White can only temporarily activate his rook, because after 34.♖b1 ♕d3 the rook should retreat to c1.]

34...e5! I like this move a lot! It prevents the only active plan with ♕f6. Now, if Black could transfer his queen to f5, the g5 pawn would fall immediately.

35.♕c3?! A mistake again, but the position was already very unpleasant. [35.♕b1 a3 White is too passive.; 35.♖b1 ♕c2 with the idea of ♕f5 and ♕xc4.]

35...♕xa2 Ponomarev happily exchanges his e-pawn for the one on a2, now the a4 becomes very dangerous. On the other hand, White at least got some activity.

36.♕xe5 a3



37.♕f6 [Quality is more important than quantity. The a-pawn decides the game after 37.♕xc5 ♕b2; White does

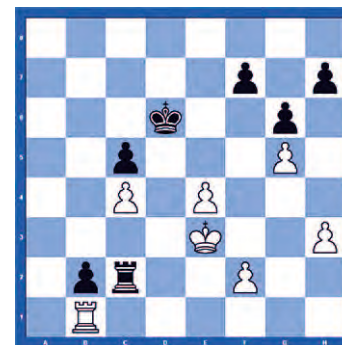
not have perpetual check after 37.♖d1 ♖xd1 38.♕e8+ The king escapes after plenty of only moves 38...♔g7 39.♕e5+ ♔f8 40.♕b8+ ♔e7 41.♕c7+ ♔e6! 42.♕c8+ ♔e5! One queen won't be enough to make a miracle this time. 43.♕e8+ ♔f5 44.♕xf7+ ♔e4 White will soon get out of checks. 45.♕f3+ ♔d3 46.♕xd1+ ♔xc4 and once again, the a-pawn wins the game for Black.]

37...♖d2 38.♔g3 ♕b2! Black transposes to a winning rook endgame! White cannot avoid the exchange of queens.

39.♕xb2 axb2 40.♖b1 ♔f8 It's time to bring the king. The Black rook is very active, it can harass all the White pawns.

41.♔f3 ♔e7 42.e4! The only way to have access to the b2 pawn.

42...♔d6 43.♔e3 ♖c2

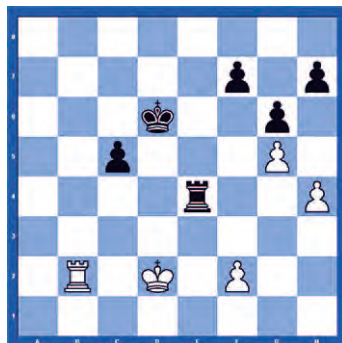


44.h4 Black has the possibility to win a pawn. The question is, which is the most favorable moment to do it... [44. f4 ♖c3+ 45.♔d2 ♖xh3 leads to the same pawn endgame as in the 44.♖d1 line.; 44.♖d1+ ♔e5 45.f4+ ♔e6 ♖c1 is threatened. 46.♖b1 ♖h2 Black wins a pawn, since the

pawn endgame is winning for him. 47.h4 ♖xh4 48.♖xb2 ♖h3+ 49.♔d2 ♖h2+ 50.♔c3 ♖xb2 51.♔xb2 f6! Only this move wins! 52.gxf6 (52.♔c3 fxg5 53.fxg5 ♔e5 54.♔d3 ♔f4) 52...h5 The White king is too far away!]

44...♖c3+ [44...♔e5!? was an alternative, provoking the f4 move. 45.f4+ ♔e6 46.♔f3 f5 47.gxf6 ♔xf6 48.♔e3 and at this moment, winning the pawn with 48...♖c3+ 49.♔d2 ♖xc4 50.♖xb2 ♖xe4 looks quite good for Black.]

45.♔d2 ♖xc4 46.♖xb2 ♖xe4



47.h5 White loses another pawn now. [47.♖b6+ seems to be a better chance, but still after 47...♔e5 48.♖c6 c4! it's not easy for White. (48...♖xh4 is a mistake, because of 49.♖xc5+ ♔f4 50.♖c7 White reaches a 2 vs 1 endgame, which is drawn.) 49.♖c7 ♖f4 50.♔e3 Black seems to have problems with the defense of both the c4 and f7 pawn, but here comes the key move: 50...♔d6! 51.♖a7 ♖f5 with the idea of ♔c5 should be winning for Black.]

47...♖g4! 48.♖b6+ [48.hxg6 hxg6 49.♖b7 ♖xg5 50.♖xf7 ♖f5! is the point, f2 is hanging with check, while the pawn endgame is winning for Black. 51.♖g7 ♖xf2+ 52.♔d3 ♖g2 with the same position as in the game.]

48...♔d5 49.hxg6 hxg6 50.♖f6 ♖xg5 51.♖xf7 ♖f5! Black wins the pawn just as in the 48.hxg6 line.

52.♖d7+ ♔c6 53.♖g7 ♖xf2+ 54.♔d3 ♖g2! This endgame is completely winning. The two pawns are too far from each other, the White king cannot hold both of them. Black only needs to bring his king and help the opposite pawn, where the White king is.

55.♖g8 ♖g3+ 56.♔c4 ♖g4+ 57.♔d3 g5 58.♖d8 ♖g1 59.♖c8+ ♔d6 60.♖d8+ ♔e5 [White resigned in view of 60...♔e5 61.♖c8 ♖g3+ and now the Black king decides its direction. It depends on where White goes... 62.♔c4 (62.♔e2 ♔d4) 62...g4 63.♖xc5+ ♔f4 The White king is standing poorly, he cannot hope for a draw. It was nice to see how easily Ponomarev brought home the point from the initial position.]

0-1

(16) Moiseenko, Alexander (2711)
— Vovk, Yuri (2562) [E70]

81st ch-UKR 2012 Kiev UKR (9.4), 05.08.2012

[Chess Evolution]



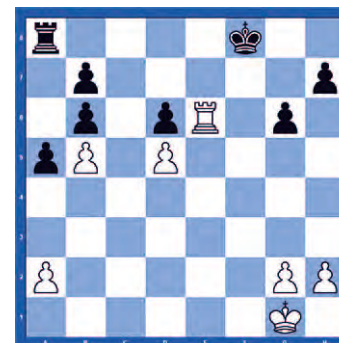
We are in an interesting starting position. It's clear that White wants to try to win this game. A 150 ELO difference and the White pieces give at least a psychological advantage. But how to continue here?! Black wants to play ♖d7 followed by ♔e8, with a draw.

24.b6! The only chance to play for a win! White has no other idea in the position.

24...♙d7 [of course not 24...cxb6? 25.♘b5 The d6 pawn is falling, leaving White with a winning position.]

25.♘b5! A great idea of White — and probably the only way to play for a win! Another option was: [25.♘e6+ but this move simply leads to a draw: 25...♙xe6 26.♔xe6 ♖c8 ! A precise move which forces the exchange of pawns, making the result quite clear. 27.bxc7 ♖xc7 28.♔xd6 ♖xc4 with a clear draw.]

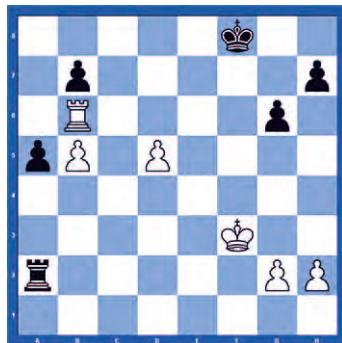
25...♙xb5 26.cxb5 cxb6 27.♔e6 And now we can see the main idea of 25.♘b5!?. White has no pawn on c4, which would fall after Black's ♖c8. The position on b5 is, of course, much better.



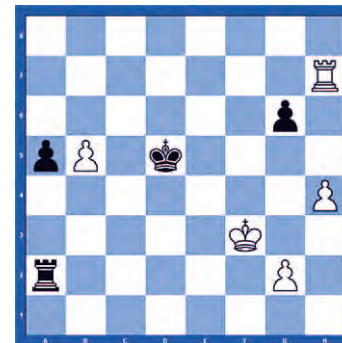
27...♖c8! Black is trying to find a way to escape with active play. Let's take a look at what would happen if Black would keep the passive defense. [27...♔d8 28.a4! White should not allow Black to play a4. 28...♙f7 29.♙f2 Black has no moves to improve his position. This is usually a bad sign. 29...♖d7 30.♙g3 h6 31.h4 followed by h5 or ♙h3, g4-h5. It's clear that Black's position is close to being lost.]

28.♔xd6 The critical moment of the endgame. Can Black hold this position?! There are no simple ways and a mistake could mean the loss of the game.

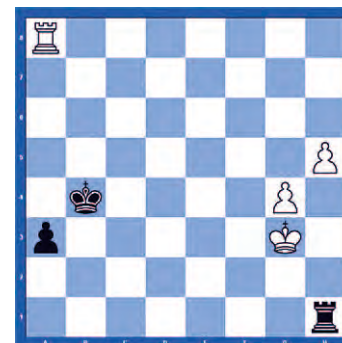
28...a4?! Not the best decision in an extremely complex rook endgame. [It looks like this move also leads to a very difficult position for Black. 28...♖c1+ 29.♙f2 ♖c2+ 30.♙f3 ♖xa2 31.♔xb6



31...♔e7! Black needs to get the king out of the 8th rank. (31...♖d2? To keep the Black king passive would be equal to resignation. 32.♖xb7 ♖xd5 33.♔e4! and it's the White king's show! 33...♖h5 34.♔d4! The White king is going to support the movement of the b-pawn and is just in time to stop Black from moving the a-pawn too far. 34...a4 35.♔c4 followed by ♖a7 and b6-b7. White is winning.) 32.♖xb7+ ♔d6 33.♖xh7 ♔xd5 Can Black hold this? I don't think so. The position is very forced and very complicated, with a lot of winning and drawing ideas. Let's take a look at a few lines. This is a great position for further analysis for the endgamefans! 34.h4! White has to start pushing his pawns. (If White tries to win the pawn immediately, Black has a nice drawing idea: 34.♖g7 ♖a3+! getting the White king away from the pawns. 35.♔f4 ♖a4+ 36.♔g5 ♖a2 Now, the White king on g2 is blocking his own rook... 37.g4 ♖xh2 38.♖xg6 ♔c5 39.b6 ♖b2 and Black is just in time to make a draw.)



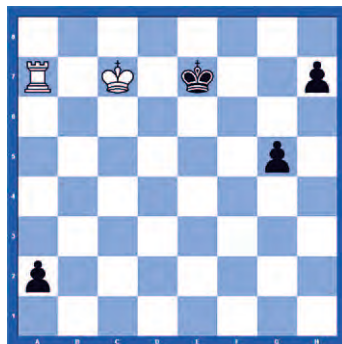
34...a4 35.♖g7 ♔c5 36.♖xg6 ♔xb5 We have a move by move position. It looks like White is in time to win the game. 37.♖g8 ♖a1 38.h5 From now on, everything is forced! 38...♖h1 39.g4 a3 40.♖a8 ♔b4 41.♔g2! This moves win a tempo. 41...♖h4 42.♔g3 ♖h1



43.♖a6! White is in time to bring the pawn to h6, and then to g5! 43...♔b3 44.h6 a2 45.g5 ♔b2 46.♔f4 a1 ♖ 47.♖xa1 ♔xa1 48.♔f5 ♔b2 49.♔g6 ♔c3 50.♔h7 ♔d4 51.g6 ♔e5 52.g7 ♖g1 53.g8 ♖ ♖xg8 54.♔xg8 ♔f6 55.h7 White is winning,;

28...♖c5!? I have no idea whether this move leads to a winning or to a drawing position. A lot of drawing and winning ideas make this rook endgame extremely complex!

29. ♖xb6 ♜xd5 30. ♖xb7 ♜d1+ 31. ♔f2 ♜d2+ 32. ♔e3 ♜xa2 33. ♔d4 a4 34. b6 ♜b2 (34... ♜xg2? 35. ♜xh7 and White is winning.) 35. ♔c5 a3 36. ♜a7 a2 37. g3! An important move, Black is not in time to get both White pawns. (The beginning of a very forced line which leads to a draw! 37. ♔c6 ♜c2+ 38. ♔d7 ♜d2+ 39. ♔c8 ♜c2+ 40. ♔b8 ♜xg2 41. b7 (Doesn't change much 41. h3 ♜h2 42. b7 ♜xh3 43. ♔a8 ♜b3 44. b8 ♔+ ♜xb8+ 45. ♔xb8 and we are back to the main line.) 41... ♜xh2 42. ♔a8 ♜b2 43. b8 ♔+ ♜xb8+ 44. ♔xb8 g5 45. ♔c7 ♔e7 and here comes the Black king!

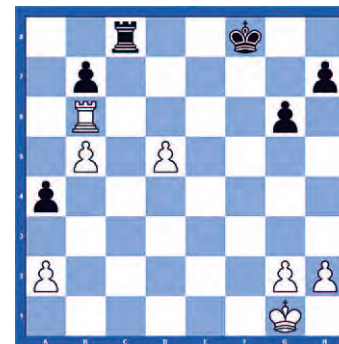


46. ♔c6+ ♔e6 47. ♔c5 ♔e5 48. ♜xa2 g4 with an easy draw!) 37... ♔e8!! What an amazing drawing idea! (37... ♜xh2 38. b7! forcing the Black rook to go back to b2. 38... ♜b2 39. ♔c6 ♜c2+ 40. ♔d7 ♜d2+ 41. ♔c8 ♜c2+ 42. ♔b8 ♜b2 43. ♔a8 and White is easily winning.) 38. ♔c6 ♜c2+ 39. ♔b7 ♔d8!= Black is in time to stop White from playing ♔b8 and b7. 40. ♔b8 ♜c8+ 41. ♔b7 ♜c2 An amazing draw.;

28... ♜c2 Another interesting option for Black, but it seems to lose. 29. ♖xb6 ♜xa2 30. ♖xb7 ♜b2 31. d6 ♔e8! Again, we see the typical idea. The Black king takes an active part in the defense. 32. ♜e7+! (32. b6 ♔d8 and draw.;

32. ♜xh7 It's quite unclear if this move is winning or not, but it's just a worse version than the move ♜e7, so it doesn't make a lot of sense for White. 32... ♜xb5 33. ♜g7 a4 34. ♜a7 ♜d5 35. ♜xa4 ♜xd6 36. ♜f4) 32... ♔d8 33. ♜xh7 ♜xb5 34. ♜g7 a4 35. ♜a7 ♜d5 36. ♜xa4 ♜xd6 37. ♜e4! Cutting the Black king from the g-pawn. The position is easily winning for White!]

29. ♜xb6 Now Black is not in time...

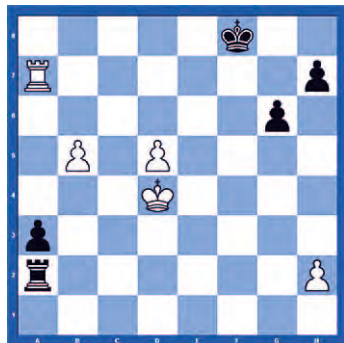


29...a3? This move is already clearly losing. [29... ♔e7 would be the best way to fight, even though the position is lost. 30. ♖xb7+ ♔d6 31. ♜xh7 ♜c1+ 32. ♔f2 ♜c2+ 33. ♔f3 ♜xa2 34. ♜g7 ♔xd5 35. ♜xg6 and as we saw already, White is winning here.]

30. ♜xb7 ♜c1+ [Black is too late for cutting the White king. 30... ♜c2 31. ♜xh7! White doesn't take the pawn... 31... ♜xa2 32. ♜a7 with an easy win for White.]

31. ♔f2 ♜c2+ 32. ♔e3 ♜xg2 33. ♜a7 [33. ♜xh7 would win as well.]

33... ♜xa2 34. ♔d4 and White wins with an already well-known idea.



34...♖d2+ 35.♔c5 a2 36.b6 As we saw in the lines above, the White king is going to a8! And the extra d-pawn of White gives him an easy win.

36...♖xh2 37.b7 ♜b2 38.♔c6 White wants to take on a2, so Black is forced to check.

38...♖c2+ 39.♔d7 ♜b2 40.♔c8 ♜c2+ 41.♔b8 ♜b2 42.♔a8 a1♚ 43.♖xa1 ♔e7 44.♖a6! The last precise move! What a complex rook endgame. Great play by Moiseenko, even though Black made it slightly too easy!

1–0

Clash of the Titans

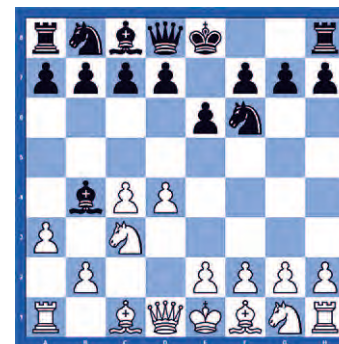
(17) Simagin,Vladimir – Petrosian,Tigran V [E24]

Moscow-ch Moscow, 1950

[Balogh Csaba]

I consider the following game to be very important from a theoretical point of view. Petrosian showed the right way to play against the 4.a3 system of the Nimzo-Indian defense more than 60 years ago.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.a3 A tricky setup, which should not be underestimated. The idea is to gain the bishop pair and to create a big center with bxc3 and f3-e4, which can be very dangerous if Black doesn't react correctly. The obvious drawback is the doubling of the pawns on the c-file. Black should quickly put pressure on the c4 pawn.

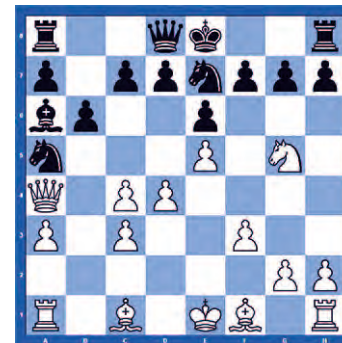


4...♙xc3+ 5.bxc3 ♘c6 Despite that it's a rare sideline, I believe this is the easiest and maybe the best way for Black could play. The idea is a quick b6, ♙a6 and ♘a5. The main move is 5...c5.

6.f3 [6.e4!? is an interesting alternative, even though it was only played once in a high-level game. Jobava beat Carlsen in 2010 in a nice game, but it was definitely not because of the opening. 6...♞xe4 7.♞g4! This double attack is the point. 7...f5 8.♞xg7 ♞f6 9.♞xf6 ♞xf6 I don't believe that in the endgame that arose, White could objectively hope for an advantage. 10.♞f3 b6 Black continues his plan against the c4 pawn. 11.d5 (On 11.♞f4 ♞a6! is very strong. 12.♞xc7 ♞c8 13.♞f4 ♞a5 Black wins back the pawn and overtakes the initiative.) 11...♞a5 (11...exd5 is also possible. 12.♞g5 (12.cxd5 ♞xd5 13.c4 ♞de7 14.♞b2 ♞g8 followed by ♞a6 and 0-0-0, White does not have enough compensation.) 12...0-0 13.♞xf6 ♞xf6 14.cxd5 ♞a5 Black is OK!) 12.♞d4 ♞f7 13.dxe6+ dxe6 14.♞f4 and here, for example, Carlsen could have forced a draw with 14...e5 15.♞xe5 ♞e8 16.f4 ♞g4 17.♞e2 ♞xe5 18.fxe5 ♞xe5=]

6...b6! 7.e4 ♞a6 Both players have accomplished their plans. White got the center, while Black is pressing the c4 pawn. It's time for White to develop his pieces.

8.♞g5 [8.e5 is the other move. 8...♞g8! A standard reaction, which might look a bit passive, but Black has no need to worry, the knight goes to e7 and he is still far ahead in development. 9.♞h3 (On 9.♞d3?! ♞a5 10.♞e2 c5 Black is better. He threatens to take on d4 followed by ♞c8 and after 11.d5? Black wins a pawn with a small combination: 11...♞xc4! 12.♞xc4 ♞h4+) 9...♞a5 10.♞a4 A sad necessity, but this was the only way to protect the pawn. 10...♞e7 11.♞g5 By transferring the knight to g5, White wants to counter the main counterplay with c5-Rc8, by occupying the d6 square with his knight. But there is another nice motif to increase the pressure on the c4 pawn:



11...♞c8! with the idea of ♞b7-c6. 12.♞e4 ♞b7 13.♞g5 ♞g6 14.h4 h6 15.♞e3 ♞e7 Black is ready to play ♞c6 again, and White can't avoid it anymore. 16.h5 ♞c6 17.♞xc6 ♞exc6 18.♞d2 d6 19.f4 ♞e7 20.g4 d5! Nice play on the light squares. 21.c5 ♞xf1 and here, suddenly, the game Jobava-Khairullin, Martuni 2011 ended in a draw, but Black was already slightly better.]

8...♞a5! Petrosian correctly realized that e5 is not a real threat, he can calmly continue his plan. [8...h6 9.♞h4 ♞a5! is the same.]

9.e5 [9.♞a4 meets with the same motif that we have seen before. 9...h6 10.♞h4 ♞c8! The queen goes to c6 again. 11.♞xf6 gxf6 12.♞h3 ♞b7=+ Black is better. He has the option to castle queenside as well.]

9...h6! We can meet this idea in many different openings. Black can solve the problem of the pin by attacking the bishop.

10.♞h4 Provoking a g5 weakening move, against which White can start to create counterplay. [10.exf6 hxg5 11.fxg7 ♞g8 Black is better.]

10...g5 11.♞f2 ♞h5



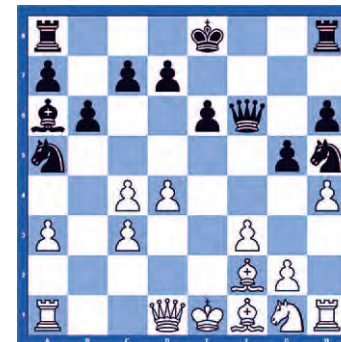
12.h4! Here it is! Finally, White also got a target. Black must react accurately, otherwise he might get into deep trouble.

12...f5! A very strong positional move, which restricts White's possibilities on the kingside. [The greedy 12...gxc4 would lead to the triumph of White's opening strategy. 13.hxg5 ♖xg5 14.♘h3 in order to control the f4 square to be able to push g4. 14...♔g6 15.♙xc4 ♘xc4 16.g4! ♘g7 This is a really sad place for the knight. It's a sign that something went wrong in Black's position. 17.♔e2 ♘a5 18.♘f4 ♔h7 (18...♔g5? loses to 19.♔e4 ♙h4 traps the queen.) 19.♙h4!+/- White installs the bishop on f6.]

13.exf6? A very bad decision which gives Black a big advantage. It helps in the development, but the biggest drawback is that it allows the h8 rook to be protected. Now on hxg5, Black has the „healthy“ recapture with the pawn. [The main 13.hxg5 has concrete problems. 13...♔xg5 Black wants to play ♘g3. 14.♘h3 ♔g6! 15.g4 fxg4 16.♙d3 (White's whole idea with 16.fxg4? is refuted by 16...♔e4+!) 16...♔f7 17.fxg4 Now the knight has a much better place than on g7. 17...♘f4! 18.♘xf4 ♔xf4 19.♙g6+ ♙d8! Looks ugly, but the next moves are ♙c8-b7... artificial castling. 20.♔e2 ♙c8 Black was better in Agrest-

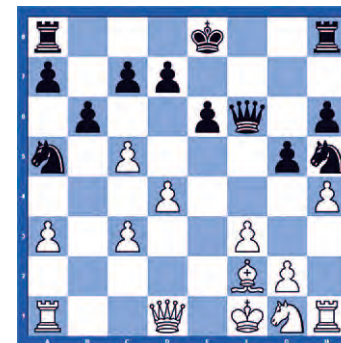
Sokolov, St Petersburg 1993.; 13.g3 was met with very strong play. 13...f4! 14.hxg5 (14.g4 ♘g3 This might cost a pawn on g3, but Black will recover it soon on c4.) 14...♔xg5 15.♘h3 ♔g8 16.gxf4 and here after (16.g4 ♘g3 17.♙xc4 fxg3=+) 16...♔f7! Black could have obtained an advantage in Berkes-Almasi, Kazincbarcika 2005 game.]

13...♔xf6



14.c5 White gets rid of the doubled pawns, but he gives up the bishop pair and remains with his bad bishop on f2. His queenside pawns remain weak and new holes are created on the light squares. White's only hope could be on the kingside, but after a nice move by Petrosian, Black overtakes the initiative on that flank as well. [14.hxg5 hxg5 with the idea of 0-0-0. 15.g4 ♘f4 16.♔xh8+ ♔xh8 White cannot hold the c4 pawn for long.]

14...♙xf1 15.♙xf1



15...g4! White is in big trouble. All his pieces are poorly placed and without future, while taking the pawn would cost a rook.

16.♔d3 White threatens to take on g4 after controlling the g3 square, but Black protects it indirectly again, without changing the pawn structure. [16.fxc4? ♘g3+]

16...0-0! 17.♖e1?! Giving a free tempo in such a squeezed position cannot be a good idea, but the position was already quite hopeless. [17.♔e4 was probably the most resistant, but Black can choose between two good moves: 17...♔f5 transposing into a much better endgame. (Or keeping the queens on the board with 17...♔g7) 18.♔xf5 ♖xf5; 17.♖a2 refreshing the idea of fxc4. 17...bxc5 18.dxc5 ♖ab8! and now on 19.fxc4 ♘g3+! 20.♔xg3 ♖b1+ 21.♔e2 Black has many winning moves. One of them is 21...♘b3]

17...♘f4! 18.♔c2



18...♘c4! Petrosian brings his knights to the game. If you look at the position, it's easy to feel that the end is near!

19.g3 [19.fxc4 loses to 19...♘d3! 20.♖e2 ♘e3+! 21.♖xe3 ♔xf2+ 22.♔xf2 ♖xf2#; Probably 19.♘g3 was the best, but still after 19...♘d5 20.♔d3 b5 White has no moves. The next moves could be simply ♖f7 and ♖af8. Black can do whatever he wants.]

19...♔f5! Black takes full control over the light squares with the help of a fantastic mate.

20.♖c1 [20.♔xf5 ♘d2# Not bad. :-)]

20...♔d3+ Petrosian decides to win the game in the endgame... [A player with different style, for example Mikhail Tal, would have played 20...♘d3 21.♖d1 ♘xf2 22.♔xf2 (22.♔xf5 ♘e3+! is the point, White loses big material. 23.♔xf2 ♘xd1+) 22...gxf3 keeping the queens on the board and Black wins.]

21.♔xd3 ♘xd3 22.♖d1 ♘db2! Black wins a pawn and continues dominating.

23.♖a1 gxf3 In the whole game, cxb6 would have been met with axb6, leaving the a3 pawn alone.

24.♘h3 bxc5! 25.♔g1 [25.dxc5 e5 followed by e4-e3.]

25...♘d3 The game is practically over, White is two pawns down and has many weaknesses... The rest is a matter of technique....

26.♔h2 ♖ab8 27.♖a2 ♖b3 28.dxc5 e5 Nothing can stop the e-pawn.

29.g4 e4 White should have resigned showing respect to his opponent. It might be that Petrosian was in some small time pressure and his opponent decided to wait until the time control.

30.g5 e3 31.gxh6 exf2 32.♘xf2 ♘xf2 33.♖xf2 ♔h7 34.♖d1 ♖f7 35.c6 d6 36.♖d3 ♖b2 37.♔g3 ♖xf2 38.♔xf2 ♘e5 39.♖d4 ♘xc6 40.♖a4 ♔xh6 White resigned. A nice lesson by Petrosian. We must add that his opponent was a very strong grandmaster.

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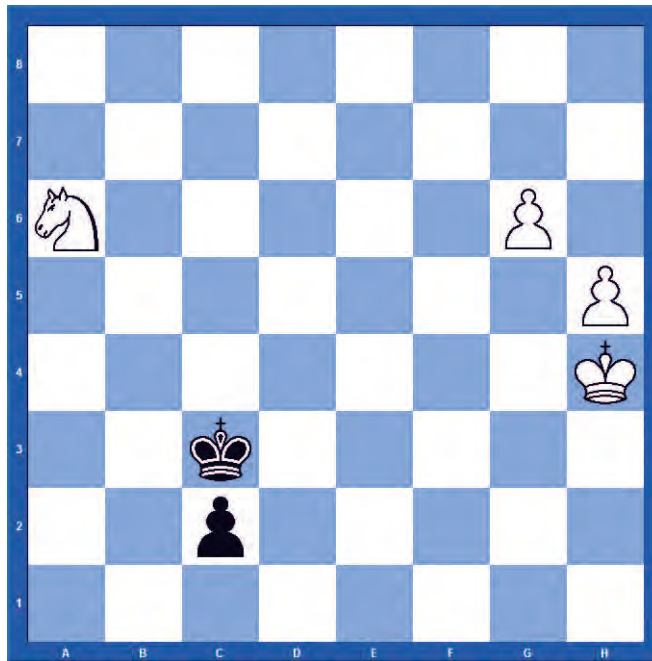
Surprise section / study

(18) Holm,E

1917

[CEWN]

1.=

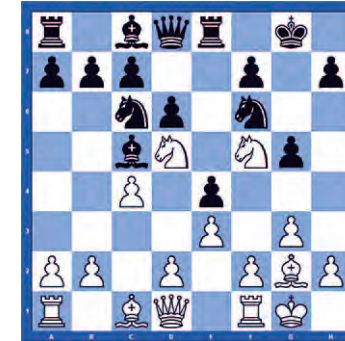


Solutions

(19) Vachier Lagrave,M (2686) – Meins,G (2475)

Biel Open, 24.07.2012

[Solutions]



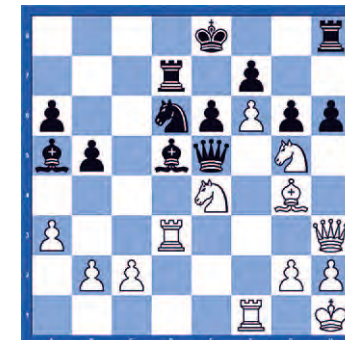
11. ♘fe7+!! ♔xe7 [11... ♘xe7 12. ♘xf6++-]

12. ♘xf6+ ♔g7 13. ♘xe4+-

(20) Wang Hao (2739) – Nakamura,H (2778)

Biel, 25.07.2012

[Solutions]



27.♖xd5!! ♕xd5 28.♙xe6! fxe6 29.f7+! ♔d8 [29... ♘xf7 30.♘f6++-; 29...♖xf7 30.♘xd6+ ♕xd6 31.♘xf7 0-0! 32.♖f3! ♕e7 33.♘h6+ ♔g7 34.♖xf8+ ♕xf8 35.♖xf8 ♔xf8 36.♘g4±; 29...♔e7 30.♖xh6!! ♖dd8! 31.f8♖+! ♖dx8 32.♖g7+ ♔d8 (32...♔e8 33.♘f6+ ♖xf6 34.♖xh8++-) 33.♖xf8+ ♖xf8 34.♖xf8+ ♔c7 35.♖xd6+ (35.♖f3!?) 35...♖xd6 36.♘xd6 ♔xd6 37.g3±]

30.♘xe6+ ♔c8 31.f8♖+ ♖xf8 32.♖xf8+ ♙d8 [32... ♔b7 33.♘6c5++-]

33.♘xd6+ ♔b8 [33...♖xd6 34.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 35.♘xd8+ ♔xd8 36.♖d3!+-]

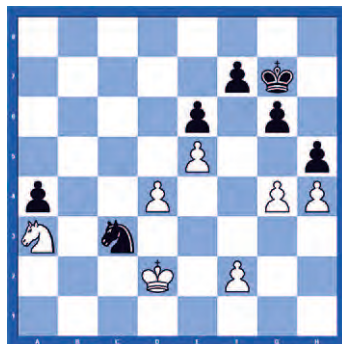
34.♖f1 ♖xd6 35.♘xd8 ♖c4 [35...♖xd8 36.♖xh6+-]

36.♖g1 ♖xd8 37.♖g3+ ♔b7 38.♖xg6+-

(21) Vovk,Y (2562) – Volokitin,A (2704)

Ukrainian Championship, 27.07.2012

[Solutions]



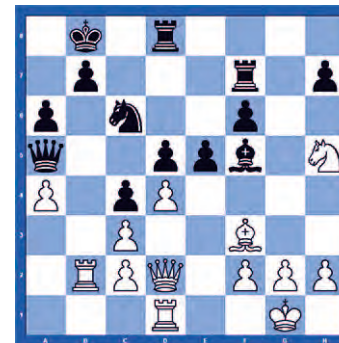
35...g5! 36.hxg5 [36.♔xc3 gxh4--+]

36...h4! 37.♔e1 h3 38.♔f1 ♔g6 39.f4 ♘d5 40.♔f2 ♘xf4 0-1

(22) Fedorchuk,S (2634) – Eljanov,P (2693)

Ukrainian Championship, 28.07.2012

[Solutions]

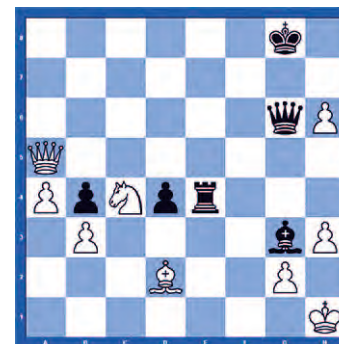


27...♘xd4! 28.♖db1 [28.cxd4 ♖xd2! (28...c3? 29.♖e1!) 29.♖xd2 c3--+] **28...♘xf3+ 29.gxf3 d4--+**

(23) Efimenko,Z (2689) – Ponomariov,R (2726)

Ukrainian Championship, 30.07.2012

[Solutions]



45...♖f4!! [45...♖e8 46.♖d5+ ♖e6=; 45...♖e6 46.♖d8+ ♖e8 47.♖d5+ ♖e6=; 45...♖e5? 46.h7+! ♔h8 (46...♖xh7 47.♖d8+ ♔g7 48.♖d7+ ♔g8 49.♖xh7+ ♔xh7 50.♘xe5)

47.♔d8+ ♖e8 48.♔xd4+] **46.♔d5+** [46.♙xf4 ♔b1+--+] **46...♙h7** 0-1[46...♙h7 47.♔d7+ ♖f7--+]]

(24) Zhao Xue (2556) – Mkrtchian,L (2450)

Jermuk, 25.07.2012

[Solutions]

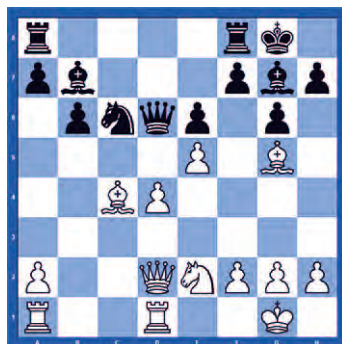


16.♘cxd5! ♘xd5 **17.♘xd5** ♔d6 **18.♘e3±**

(25) Koneru,H (2598) – Lahno,K (2537)

Jermuk, 25.07.2012

[Solutions]

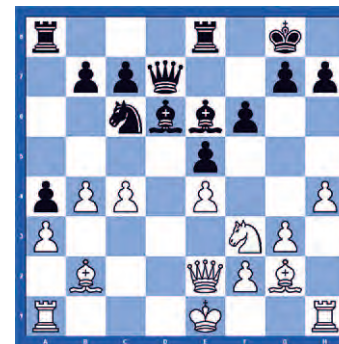


15...♘xe5! 16.dxe5 ♔c6! **17.f3** ♔xc4±

(26) Lillo Ferrer,J (2127) – Georgiev,K (2680)

Andorra Open, 21.07.2012

[Solutions]

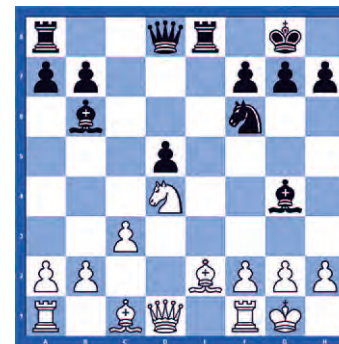


19...♘xb4! **20.0-0-0** [20.axb4 ♙xb4+ 21.♔f1 a3 22.♙c1 ♙c3 23.♖xa3 ♖xa3 24.♙xa3 ♔a4--+] **20...♘a6--+**

(27) Baches Garcia,G (2389) – Marin,M (2548)

Andorra Open, 24.07.2012

[Solutions]



13...♖xe2!! **14.♘xe2** ♔e7! **15.♖e1** [15.♙e3! ♙xe3 16.fxex3 ♔xe3+ 17.♖f2 ♘e4 18.♔d4 ♔xf2+ 19.♔xf2 ♘xf2 20.♔xf2+]]

15... ♖e8! 16. ♔f1 ♘e4!-+ 17. ♙e3 [17.f3 ♚h4-+]

17... ♙xe3 18.fxe3 ♚f6+ 19. ♔g1 ♚f2+ 20. ♔h1 ♚xe3
[20... ♘g3+!? 21.hxg3 ♖e6-+; 20... ♙f3!? 21.gxf3 ♖e6!
22.fxe4 ♖h6-+]

21. ♚d4 ♘f2+ 22. ♔g1 ♘d3+ 23. ♚xe3 ♖xe3 24. ♖ed1
[24. ♔f1 ♘xe1 25. ♖xe1 ♖xe2 26. ♖xe2 ♙xe2+ 27. ♔xe2 f5
28. ♔e3 ♔f7-+]

24... ♙xe2-+

(28) Toth,E (2477) – Pap,G (2566)

Pardubice Open, 25.07.2012

[Solutions]



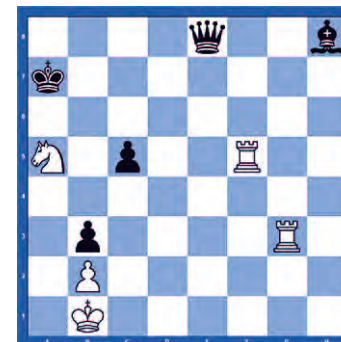
25. ♘g6+!! hxg6 26.h5 g5 27.h6 ♔h7 28.hxg7+ ♔g6
29. ♖h6+!! ♔xh6 30. ♚f5! ♘xg7 [30...d4 31. ♖h1+ ♔xg7
32. ♖h7#]

31. ♖h1+ ♘h5 32.g4! 1-0

(29) Kubbel,L

1926

[Solutions]



1. ♖xb3! ♚e4+ 2. ♔a2 ♚xf5 3. ♘c6+ ♔a6 4. ♘b8+
♔a5 5. ♘c6+ ♔a4 6. ♖b4+!! cxb4 7.b3+! ♔b5 8. ♘d4+!
♙xd4 1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 25

17th of August 2012

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Editorial Preface

The main event of the past weeks came to an end, the Russian Super Final, with a very surprising conclusion. Six players shared the first place with only 5/9! I think it never happened before that it was only needed to score plus one to share the first place in the Russian Super Final.

On the next day, a tie-break that looked like a round robin — 5 rounds — was played: Andreikin managed to score 4/5 in the rapid games and was officially declared the Russian Champion of 2012. The 2nd place went to Sergey Karjakin with 3,5/5 and the 3rd place to Peter Svidler with 3/5.

The World Junior Championship came to an end. Rapport, Ipatov and Ter-Sahakyan dominated it. Ipatov ended up winning the gold medal.

The French National Championship is on the way with all the best players participating in it. It's a very interesting event with a lot of exciting games!

The next 2 weeks will be a bit more "silent", all the Top Nationals are preparing for the event of the Year, the Chess Olympiad in Istanbul, which starts on 27.08. We will see almost all the Top players participating in it, and of course, your 2 commentators as well. We'll write directly from the heat of the battles with the most interesting games and maybe even some stories.

As usual, we wish You a lot of fun with this edition of CEWN!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Svidler,P (2749) – Vitiugov,N (2705) [C02]

65th ch-RUS Moscow RUS (8), 11.08.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

In this game we'll see that even top players sometimes can miss a mate in 4 moves! Vitiugov, who is probably one of the current biggest experts on the French (although his results have not been that great lately), shows us how dynamic this opening can be. Svidler, evidently misunderstands the position from the beginning and falls quickly under a mating attack. Let's take a look at this very interesting game!

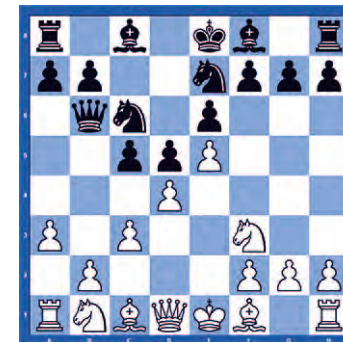
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Svidler tries a move that he hasn't played lately. [3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘fd7 5.f4 c5 6.♘f3 ♘c6 7.♙e3 This is clearly the most popular line at the moment. Vitiugov and Potkin showed that things here are by far not that clear. For those who are interested in the line, the game from the current Russian Championship Grischuk-Potkin is very interesting from the opening point of view.]



3...c5 4.c3 ♙b6 5.♘f3 ♘c6 We are in the main position of the 3.e5 line.

6.a3 The main move as well. The ideas of both White and Black are quite easy. White tries to be solid in the center, usually trying to push b4 and to hold the central pawns, while Black tries to play against the White center, especially against the pawn on d4.

6...♘ge7!? An interesting and rare move which leads to a very fighting position. [Black usually plays 6...♘h6 7.b4 cxd4 8.cxd4 ♘f5 9.♙b2 and the results show that White is doing a bit better here.; 6...c4 This is another option in this position, but I think that White should be doing better here.]



7.dxc5!? I guess Svidler was very surprised by 6...♘ge7 and tried to make use of it immediately. It would be interesting to see what Vitiugov had in mind against 7.b4 cxb4 8.cxb4. In case of 8...♘f5, we would be back to the main position with a slightly different move order.

7...♙c7! A strong reaction. [If he simply took: 7...♙xc5 8.b4! A typical move in these French structures. White quickly gets active with 8...♙b6 9.c4 ♙c7 10.♙b2 and White is in time for ♙b2, which is very important. We can

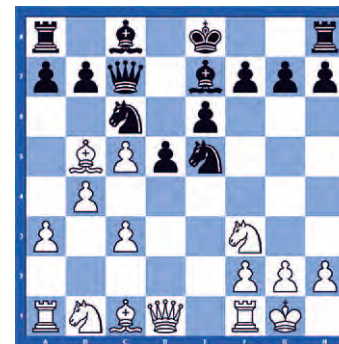
see that White is more active here and even though the position is far from clear, the advantage should be on his side.]

8. ♖b5 The only move for White to hold the pawn on e5.



8...♖d7!? Another strong move by Vitiugov. Black doesn't care about winning the pawn back immediately, but instead tries to play with a better development. [8...♘g6 This was the other choice Black had. Now the pawns on e5 and c5 are hanging... one of them is going to fall. 9.b4! It's very typical for this structures to hold on to the c5 pawn. If White allows Black to take with ♖xc5, Black would be perfect. (9.♙d4 An attempt to hold both pawns would end in nothing. 9...b6! At first sight, it's a very strange move, but a typical motif as well. Black uses the bad position of the White queen on d4 to develop all his pieces and have a flexible and accelerated play. 10.cxb6 axb6 Black creates a double threat: to play ♖c5 and win the c5 pawn, or to play ♖a6 and force White to play ♖xc6, after which all the white squares would feel very empty. 11.b4 ♖a6 12.♖xc6+ ♙xc6 And we reached a position where Black has good compensation for the pawn. The next Black's moves could be ♖e7 0-0 and f6! The White

king on e1 will feel quite uncomfortable very soon.) 9...♘gxe5 10.0-0! (Doesn't work 10.♖f4 ♘d3+! 11.♙xd3 ♙xf4 12.0-0 ♖e7 and Black has a nice position.) 10...♖e7



11. ♖f4 and I think White is more active.]

9. ♙e2 If you want to protect the extra pawn, then do it until the end! [The devolution of the pawn would lead to a not very comfortable position for Black. 9.0-0 ♘xe5 10.♖xd7+ ♘xd7 11.b4 g6! and the Black bishop finds a way out through g7. 12.♘d4 a6 Black is doing fine here, moreover, I think White needs to be quite careful to avoid getting in trouble. If Black manages to play ♖g7, 0-0 and e5, his center will be just huge!]

9...f6 Very creative play by Black, but I think that a simpler and more logical move would leave him with a great position : [9...♘g6! There's no reason not to attack the pawn on e5 one more time! 10.♖xc6 The only move to hold the e5-pawn. In all other cases Black would play ♘ce5 or ♘ge5 with a great position. 10...♖xc6 11.b4 ♖e7 12.0-0 0-0 13.♖b2 It seems that White is just a pawn up. Where is Black's play?! 13...f6! Black is crushing the rest of what's left of the White center. All the Black pieces are suddenly

standing on just the right positions. Black is clearly the one who is pushing here!]

10.exf6 gxf6



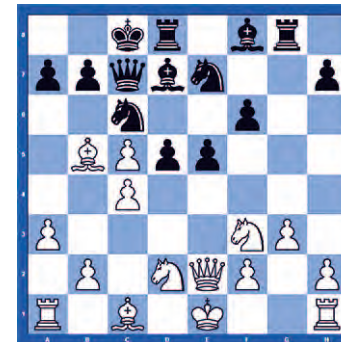
11.♘bd2?! The right idea, but clearly the wrong move order. [11.c4! This is the right way to act against the Black central pawns. 11...0-0-0 12.♘c3! and we can clearly see why the move 11.♘bd2 was wrong. The White knight on c3 is a beast! If Black pushes d4, White always has the maneuver ♗e4-Nd6.] 12.♘bd2 followed by ♗e4-Nd6. The position remains complicated, but in my opinion, the advantage should be on White's side.]

11...0-0-0 Black is going to play for the initiative.

12.c4 ♖g8! A very nice move by Black going against the White pawn structure in a very unpleasant way. The White knight on d2 is suddenly a very bad piece that only has one move: ♘b3, which looks quite senseless. To castle short is very dangerous, Black could counter with e5! We can see how, in 2 moves, White got in trouble out of a better position.

13.g3 [13.0-0 e5! The Black central pawns are very strong now. 14.cxd5 ♗xd5 15.♘b3 ♕h3 and White is on the edge of being very bad.]

13...e5! Of course! Black shows why he played 9...f6.



14.cxd5 Not a pleasant move to make, but there's no other way to defend against Black's e4 threat..

14...♗xd5 It's amazing to see what happened to White's position in merely 5 moves!

15.♘b3 ♕g4 Not a bad move, but Black had another nice attacking option. [15...e4! Black uses the bad position of the White king with immediate action. 16.♘fd2 (16. ♕xc6 Not making place for the knight on d4 doesn't work due to 16...exf3! 17. ♕xd7+ ♖xd7 18. ♖xf3 ♖e8+ and Black is winning.) 16... ♕h3! keeping the White king in the center. All the Black pieces are ready to attack. It's hard to imagine White surviving it.]

16.♖c2?! This was the last moment to think about castling. [A good move in a bad position. 16.0-0 a6 17. ♕c4 ♕xc5 18. ♖d1! and White is still in the game, even if the position is very dangerous. (18. ♗xc5 ♗d4)]

16...♘f4! Black had a lot of nice moves here, but Vitiugov chooses the most spectacular one, and probably one of the best options as well. [The simple 16...♖b8 17.♙e2 ♚f7 would lead to a horrible position for White as well.]

17.♘bd2 What a position! We can rarely see Black crushing White like this after just 17 moves! [17.♙xf4? would allow Black to play 17...♙xf3 and the game is over.; It isn't much better to play 17.♘fd2 ♘g2+ 18.♖f1 ♙h3 19.♖g1 ♚d7 and White is in a total bad situation. It's even hard to find a move for White! Black should be just winning here.]

17...♖xd2! „No mercy for White” says Vitiugov, in a position with at least 10 moves which lead to a clear advantage for Black!

18.♘xd2 ♘d4 It's really beautiful to see how the Black pieces dominate the game.



19.♖a4 ♙xc5 Black continues his very „pretty” play. Sometimes it's one of the hardest things to choose a move in a position where it looks like everything should win. [19...♘g2+! This move would finish White's suffering on the spot. 20.♖f1 ♙h3 21.♖g1 ♘f4! The mate on e2 decides the game. 22.♖d1 ♚c6! would be a fantastic finish of the game!]

20.gxf4 If the death is inevitable, then at least with a rook up!

20...exf4! Now Black wants to finish White with a check on the e-file.

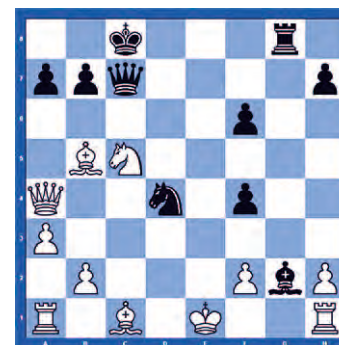
21.♘e4 ♘f3+? This move let the whole advantage of Black slip away. [21...♚e7! following the correct plan of using the e-file. 22.♙d3 f5 Cool and strong. Black is winning some material back, and continues attacking the White king. 23.♙xf4 fxe4 24.♙c4 ♖f8 Just an exchange down for such an attack — a dream position for every attacking player. Objectively, Black should win very soon.]

22.♖f1 Only move.

22...♙h3+ 23.♖e2 Only move.

23...♘d4+ 24.♖e1 Only move.

24...♙g2 25.♖c4?? After 4 only moves, White makes a terrible mistake. [25.♘xc5! The only move to continue the fight! It looks very dangerous of course, but I think White should not think about cakes and candies.



25...♖xc5 (25...♖e5+ 26.♖d2 and it seems like White is doing good!; 25...♙xh1?? 26.♙d7+ ♖b8 27.♖xd4+-) 26.♖c4! Probably the only move that saves White. 26...

♖e8+ 27.♔d2 A rook move is a rook move, and this is what gives White just enough time to escape. 27...♕xc4 (27...♖e2+ It seems that White is doing fine in this forced line as well. 28.♔d1 ♕xc4 29.♙xc4 ♖c2 30.♙d3 ♙f3+ 31.♔e1 ♙xh1 32.♔f1 ♙d5 33.♙xf4 with about an equal endgame.) 28.♙xc4 ♙xh1 29.♔c3! and again, just in time to recover the pawn on f4, probably with a draw.]

25...♖d8! And the evaluation is: Black is winning! White can't escape from a deadly net around the White king. Besides, Black just wants to play ♙xe4 winning the material back.

26.♘xc5 The only move for White, but it gives Black a chance for a very beautiful mate!

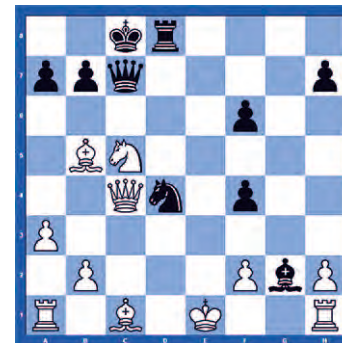
26...♘f3+? Oh no! With only a few minutes on the clock, Vitiugov misses again how to finish his opponent! [26...♕a5+! Not a difficult but a very spectacular combination. 27.b4 ♕xb5 28.♕xb5 ♘c2+ 29.♔e2 f3#



Wow, what a mate!]

27.♔e2 ♘d4+ 28.♔e1 ♘f3+ And a double: oh noooo! Still, it was not too late for ♕a5.

29.♔e2 ♘d4+ 30.♔e1



An amazingly lucky draw for Peter Svidler. All in all, Black clearly dominated the game and played in a great style, but couldn't finish his opponent. I guess Vitiugov got a few extra gray hairs after he came back to his room, turning on his computer which told him: You missed a mate in 4! I can only repeat myself: Chess is a tough game! **1/2**

(2) Andreikin,D (2715) – Sjugirov,S (2635) [B17]

65th ch-RUS Moscow RUS (6), 09.08.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

A beautiful attacking game! We might think that computers have killed such kind of games from the highest level, but as we will see, they are still seen occasionally. White caught his opponent with a slightly forgotten line in the opening. Black made some normal-looking moves, which appeared to be decisive mistakes.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♘d7 This was Karpov's favorite move in his best years. Recently, it went a bit out of fashion. Caro-Kann players prefer the 4...♙f5 line.

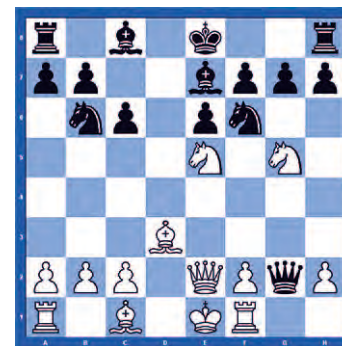
5.♙c4 Probably this move caught Black as a surprise. 5.♘g5 is considered to be the only critical line for Black, but of course, if somebody plays an opening, he/she must be familiar with the subtleties of the sidelines as well, otherwise he can face such painful defeats as in this game.

5...♘gf6 6.♘g5 e6 7.♙e2 Quite a concrete line, Black must react precisely against the direct threat of ♘xf7!

7...♘b6 8.♙d3 [8.♙b3 is another move with a huge theory, where Black should play the same way as in the game. 8...h6 9.♘5f3 c5...]



8...h6! Black should not take the poisoned pawn... [8...♙xd4 is very risky 9.♘1f3! with the idea of ♘e5 and Black cannot protect the f7 pawn. 9...♙d5 Only move! (9...♙b4+? has a nice refutation: 10.c3! and on 10...♙xc3+ 11.♙f1! An intermediate move, followed by bxc3 with a piece up.) 10.♘e5! At least Black can take another pawn here, but his position remains shaky... 10...♙xg2 11.♙f1 with a strong initiative. The game may continue with 11...♙e7



12.♘ef3! Due to the threat of trapping the queen with ♙g1, Black must move into another motif. 12...♙g4 13.♘xf7! ♙f8 (13...0-0 could have been Black's idea, but it doesn't work. 14.♘h6+! gxh6 15.♙g1+-) 14.♙g1 ♙h5 15.♘7e5→ Followed by ♙d2 and 0-0-0 with a strong attack. The e5 knight dominates the position, Black cannot get rid of it with an f6 push.]

9.♘5f3 c5 10.dxc5 ♙xc5 Probably Sjugirov knew the theory until this moment and thought Black was fine. From now on, he can play with his own mind, since they have reached a comfortable middlegame... But the subtleties are just about to come...

11.♘e5 0-0?! This most logical move is the first inaccuracy... As the famous saying of GM Evgeny Bareev says:

„Castling is a waste of tempo“. This should only be done if you cannot improve any of your pieces. Actually, in this case, that's exactly the situation. [I think we can believe Karpov that 11...♘bd7 is the most exact move, forcing White to castle kingside by pressing the e5 knight. White should hold it there at any cost if he wants to hope to get an advantage. 12.♘gf3 ♔c7 13.0-0 ♕d6 14.♖e1 and only now 14...0-0 followed by b6-Bb7 with an equal position. Note that ♕f4 is usually met with ♘h5. White cannot hold his e5 knight that way...]

12.♘gf3 a6? [12...♘bd7 was better again, but here White already has time to castle queenside. 13.♕d2 ♘xe5 14.♘xe5 I prefer White's position.]



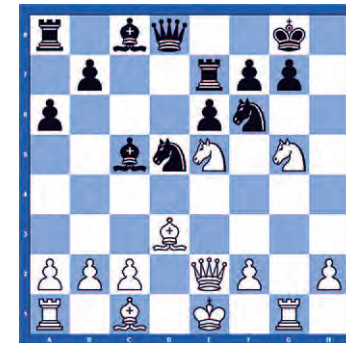
13.g4!! Great move, which shows another drawback of Black's 0-0. White makes use of the serious weakening of h6, which helps White attack to roll. After this move, White has very easy play, while Black's defensive task is extremely difficult.

13...♘bd5 I have tried other moves as well, but they don't help either. [13...♘bd7 Black can eliminate one knight on e5, but the other one jumps to its place... 14.g5 hxg5 15.♕xg5 The open g-file hides too many threats

to hold.. 15...♔a5+ Against the check, White can always calmly respond with (15...♕e7 16.♖g1 ♘c5 17.0-0-0+- If Black eliminates the strong d3 bishop, the rook will join the attack along the 3rd rank.) 16.♔f1! The king is safe here, while ♖g1 is coming in the next move.; 13...♘fd5 trying to keep the g-file closed, but this brings other problems. 14.g5 h5 15.♔e4! with deadly threats again. 15...g6 16.♘xg6+- wins.; 13...♔c7 14.g5 hxg5 15.♕xg5 ♘fd7 16.♖g1 White is crushing.]

14.♖g1! This move is even more precise than the direct g5. White has not decided yet with which piece he wants to recapture on g5. Black cannot prevent the g5 threat anyway. [14.g5 hxg5 15.♕xg5 was also good.]

14...♕b4+ [I tried 14...♖e8 with the idea of hiding the king on f8, but of course it did not work in the end 15.g5 hxg5 16.♘xg5! is the strongest. (16.♕xg5 ♔f8 17.0-0-0) 16...♖e7 And here, similarly to the game, White wins with a great tactical firework.



17.♘h7!! Opening the g-file, the threat is ♕h6! 17...♘xh7 18.♕xh7+ ♔xh7 19.♔h5+ ♔g8 20.♖xg7+!! These moves are already automatic after ♘h7. 20...♔xg7 21.♕h6+ ♔h7 and here the fastest way to mate is 22.♕e3+! ♔g8

23. ♖g5+ ♔f8 24. ♜h6+ ♔g8 (24... ♕e8 25. ♜h8#) 25. 0-0-0! ♕xe3+ 26. fxe3+- and mate in a few moves.]

15. ♔f1! The king is completely safe here, while the attack continues with g5!

15... ♕e7 [15...g5 does not help. 16.h4! White is crushing anyway.; On 15... ♕d6 16.g5 hxg5 17. ♕xg5 b5 the strongest is 18. ♜d2! The idea is to take the queen to h6. Black has no good defense against the following threat: 18... ♕b7 19. ♕h6! ♖e8 20. ♕xg7! ♖xg7 21. ♜h6+- and mate.]

16.g5 hxg5 17. ♖xg5! This is even stronger now! Black cannot parry the fantastic threat that we have already seen in the 14... ♜e8 line.

17... ♕d6 [17... ♜c7 is refuted in the same way. 18. ♖h7!! ♖xh7 (18... ♜d8 19. ♕h6+-) 19. ♕xh7+ ♔xh7 20. ♜h5+ ♔g8 and the mate is forced after 21. ♜xg7+! ♔xg7 22. ♕h6+ ♔h7 (22... ♔g8 23. ♜g4+ ♔h7 24. ♜g7#) 23. ♕xf8+ ♔g8 24. ♜xf7+-]

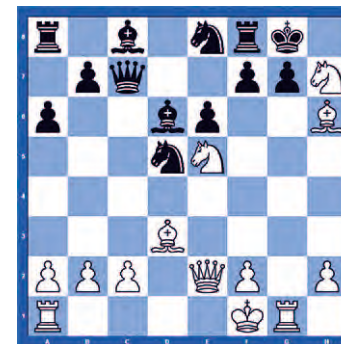


18. ♖h7!! The usual motif. The simple threat is ♕h6. Black cannot prevent it...

18... ♜c7 [18... ♖xh7 leads to the same mate we saw in the 17... ♜c7 line. 19. ♕xh7+ ♔xh7 20. ♜h5+ ♔g8

21. ♜xg7+! ♔xg7 22. ♕h6+ ♔h7 (22... ♔g8 23. ♜g4+-) 23. ♕xf8+ ♔g8 24. ♜xf7+-; 18... ♜e8 19. ♕h6+-; 18... ♖e8 Black tries to survive with an exchange sacrifice, but actually, White can play for more... 19. ♖xf8 ♔xf8 20. ♖xf7! After this strike, Black has no chance to fight back in the game. 20... ♔xf7 21. ♜h5+ ♔e7 22. ♕g5+! and Black gets mated in both cases. 22... ♖ef6 (22... ♖df6 23. ♕xf6+ gxf6 24. ♜h7+- ♜g8 next.) 23. ♕xf6+ ♖xf6 24. ♜xg7+ ♔f8 25. ♜f7#]

19. ♕h6! ♖e8 Try to find the final blow of the game! Everything is forced, it only requires some spectacular calculation... [19...g6 Here the sacrifice on g6 screams for itself. 20. ♖xf6+ ♖xf6 21. ♖xg6! fxg6 22. ♜xg6+ ♔h8 and the easiest is 23. ♕xf8 ♕xf8 24. ♜xf6+- Material advantage and mating attack.]



20. ♕xg7! ♖xg7 21. ♜xg7+! ♔xg7 22. ♜g4+ ♔h8 [22... ♔h6 23. ♜g5#]

23. ♖f6!! Worthy finish to a great game! [Black resigned in view of 23. ♖f6 ♖xf6 24. ♜h4+ ♔g7 25. ♜g5+ ♔h8 26. ♜xf6+ ♔g8 27. ♜g5+ ♔h8 28. ♜h6+ ♔g8 29. ♜h7# Bravo!] **1-0**

[Balogh Csaba]

A huge duel between two „big guns“ in the last round of the Russian Superfinal. It's very nice for them, that despite being very good friends, Svidler and Grischuk always play „bloody“ games against each other. It happened this time again.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.d3 The game had a calm start in the Spanish opening. Recently, the 6.d3 system became very popular, mainly because it avoids the Marshall gambit, against which nobody is able to prove anything. The 6.d3 system has no real theory, and it keeps all the pieces on the board. It allows the players to use their strength to play for the win with both colors. Black can choose between various setups. It's not clear yet which one is the best.

6...d6 7.c3 0-0 8.♖e1 White plays like in the standard Spanish games, he prepares for the transfer of the knight to g3 (Nb1-d2-f1-g3) and later on, when the time comes, he'll push d4.

8...b5 9. c2

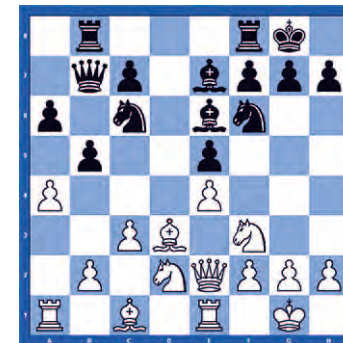


10.  **bd2 dxe4** **11.dxe4**  **e6** Many games were played on the highest level in this position. Grischuk follows the latest attempt of White and plays...

12. ♔e2 White generally wants to play on the queenside, mainly against the b5 weakness, with a4 and ♗d3. For Black the optimal would be to hold his structure (b4 or bxa4 would be another weakening moves), but to do this he must concentrate his pieces on the queenside. This allows White two different kind of plans, either to continue pressing on the queenside, or quickly transfer the pieces to the kingside. Let's take a closer look...

12... ♔**8** I think this is the right plan! Black needs to transfer his queen to b7 in order to hold his b7 pawn.

13.a4 ♔b7 14. ♕d3 ♖ab8! We are in the critical moment of the game. White can either fix the b5 weakness with b4 or continue the knight's journey to g3. We often face this question in the Spanish and usually, it's very difficult to decide. [If Black pushes 14...b4?! White has more ways to get an advantage 15. ♕c4 (or 15. ♖c4 ♘d7 16. ♘g5+= gaining the bishop pair.) 15... ♕xc4 16. ♖xc4+=]

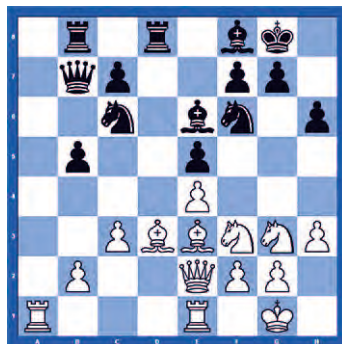


15.b4 In my opinion, in the current position, this is the less dangerous plan. [15.♖f1 Black also has different plans. At the end I found only one of them to be playable. 15...♖fd8

a) 15...♘d7 with the idea of ♘c5-b3 is met with 16.b4! and White can change his mind and play ♘e3 next, since the d5 square became weak.;

b) 15...♙d6 This is the standard plan. Black's idea is to play ♘c6-e7-g6, after which he can solve the problem of the b5 pawn with c6. If he achieves this, he is completely fine, but White can play aggressively here: 16.♘h4! with the idea of ♘f5 or ♙g5 first, and only then ♘f5. 16...♘e7 17.axb5 axb5 18.♙g5! ♘d7 19.♘f5! and White obtained a small advantage. 19...♘g6 (19...♘xf5 20.exf5 ♙d5 21.♘e3! White either takes the bishop or pushes f6 with a dangerous attack.) 20.♖a5! Concrete and strong play, Black cannot consolidate with c6. 20...b4 21.♘xd6 cxd6 22.♖b5+= and ♖xb4 next.;

16.♘g3 h6! Very useful move against the potential ♘g5 or ♙g5 moves. 17.h3 Another useful move. White wants to develop his bishop to e3 and prevent ♘g4. 17...♙f8 Black prepares against the ♘f5 threats. 18.axb5 (White needs to include axb5, since 18.♙e3 is met with 18...bxa4 ! and b2 is hanging.) 18...axb5 19.♙e3 and here comes another typical Spanish plan.



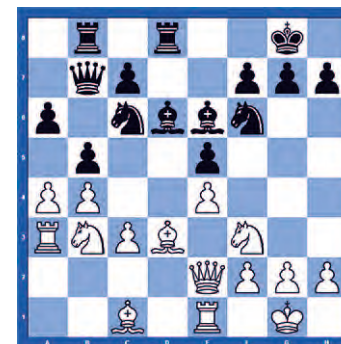
19...♘e8! Black transfers his knight to d6, trying to use the c4 square in the future. We could see many interesting maneuvers, and the fight is just about to begin, all the pieces are still on the board. The stronger player wins the game...]

15...♙d6 Svidler prepares for the ♘e7-g6 maneuverer, that we have already discussed in the previous note. [15...♖fd8 was also possible.]

16.♖a3?! The beginning of the wrong plan. The plan itself is very logical and looking nice, but he underestimates something... [16.♘f1 was even better.]

16...♖fd8! Svidler recognized White's idea and trickily improved his rook before starting the knight's trip... Grischuk falls to the trap. [After 16...♘e7 the previous rook move would get its point. 17.axb5 axb5 18.♘b3! followed by ♙e3. The c5 and a5 squares are weak.]

17.♘b3? This allows Black to grab the initiative with a nice sacrifice!



17...♘xb4! 18.cxb4 ♙xb4 Suddenly both rooks are hanging. I don't believe that Grischuk has blundered this, he rather underestimated the strength of the next move...

19.♘bd2 c5! Great play by Svidler! To mobilize the queenside pawns is much more important, than taking the rook. White is in trouble suddenly. [Grischuk probably expected 19...♙xa3? 20.♙xa3+= and despite having a small material disadvantage, White is better. He threatens to take on e5 and to play ♙e7. Black cannot use his pawn majority.]

20.axb5 axb5 21.♖a1 Black has only 2 pawns for the piece, but it's clear that the b- and c-pawns give more than enough compensation. The only thing he must be careful about is to avoid White's attempt to sacrifice one of the pieces for the pawns and survive with a draw.

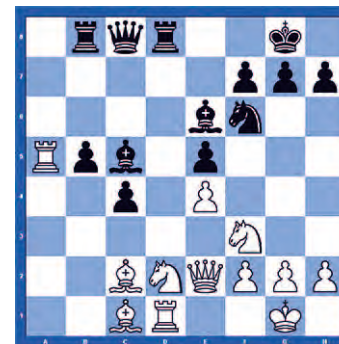
21...c4 22.♙c2 ♔c7! Black does not need to hurry, White has no moves anyway. Svidler protected the e5 pawn. [The direct 22...♙c3 was not good, because of 23.♖a3 b4 24.♖xc3! bxc3 25.♘xc4 White gets a good blockading position.]

23.♖d1 ♙c5 Giving free way for the b-pawn. [23...h6! was even more circumspect, depriving White's from his only counterplay with ♘g5, and only the next move will be ♙c5. 24.♘f1 ♖xd1 25.♔xd1 ♙c5 with a big advantage.]

24.♖a6? Grischuk tries to sacrifice an exchange, but this is easily parried with a tempo. [24.♘g5!? ♙g4 25.♘gf3 Here the best is 25...h6! preventing ♘g5 after h3-Be6. 26.h3 ♙e6 27.♙b2 ♘d7 After consolidating the position, Black can start advancing his pawns.; On 24.h3 h6 is the best again, followed by b4.]

24...♔c8! Taking on h6 could have been a good business only if it would have destroyed the pawn structure. Now the rook must retreat.

25.♖a5 Here again, Black could have continued playing slowly with h6, but Svidler found a direct way to obtain a winning advantage.



25...♘g4! 26.♖f1 c3! Of course, this move only is good if it's winning. Otherwise, it gives White a perfect blockading position on b3.

27.♘b3 ♙c4 This was the point!

28.♔e1 ♙b6 Black preserves the bishop to prolong the problems around the f2 square.

29.h3 A desperate attempt to complicate matters. [29.♖a1 ♙xf1 30.♙xf1 ♔c4+ 31.♔e2 and here the best is 31...♖a8 White cannot avoid the penetration of the rook on a2. 32.♖xa8 (32.♖b1 ♖a2) 32...♖xa8]

29...♙xf1 30.♙xf1 [On 30.hxg4 the nicest is 30...♙xg2! 31.♙xg2 ♔xg4+ 32.♙f1 ♔xf3 with a huge material advantage and a mating attack.]

30...♙xa5 [30...♘xf2! was even stronger, but its beautiful point had to be foreseen... 31.♖xb5]



31...♔a6! (31...♔c4+ 32.♔e2 White is OK!) 32.♔e2 Only move and now: 32...♘h1!! This great move would have been the fair way to finish the game. 33.♔c4 All the moves are winning. For example: 33...♔a2]

31.hxg4 ♔c4+ 32.♔g1 [32.♔e2 ♘c7]

32...♘c7 The complications are over. Black ended up with a material advantage: 2 rooks and 2 pawns for 3 minor pieces. The pawns are temporarily blocked, but White has no active plan, while Black sooner or later will invade with his rook on a2!

33.♘g5 ♖d7 34.♘e3 ♘d6! Black does not give any chance for activity with ♘c5 and ♘b3. ♖a8-a2 is coming soon.

35.♔a1 ♔c6! Refreshing the plan, White cannot prevent it anymore.

36.g5 ♖a8 37.♔b1 b4 White has no moves. Black only needs some support to invade on the a-file.

38.g3 ♖dd8! Nice prophylactic move to control the back rank.

39.♔g2 ♔a6! ♔a2 is coming.

40.♔h1 ♔a2 41.♘e1 Grischuk still tries to hold the blockade, but with his next move, Svidler mobilizes his pawns.

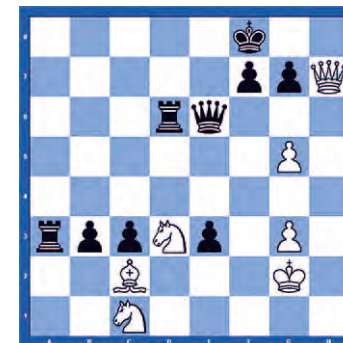
41...♖a3! The knight must leave, sad news for White.

42.♘c1 ♔e6 43.f4 A last desperate attempt, but of course, Black has many ways to score the win. Svidler continued to play a bit for the spectators.

43...exf4 44.e5 [44.gxf4 ♔g4+ and ♘xf4.]

44...fxe3! 45.♔xh7+ White has only 2 checks there...

45...♔f8 46.exd6 ♖xd6 47.♘ed3 b3! A spectacular position with the pawns on the 3rd rank.



48.♘f4 [48.♘c5 ♖d2+ 49.♔g1 ♔d5]

48...♖d2+ 49.♔h1 ♔c6+ 50.♘e4 And the final blow was:

50...♖a1! Nice game!

0-1

(4) Rapport,R (2605) – Grandelius,N (2562) [E30]

51st World Juniors Athens GRE (11), 13.08.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the 11th round out of 13 in the World Junior U-20 Championship. Around 10 years ago, the best Juniors stopped to compete in this event, which of course lost a lot of prestige. Nevertheless, a few of the Top Juniors still arrived and one of them is Rapport, who is just 16 years old. In the current game, he was leading the event with a half point, and a victory in this game would have put him as close to the gold medal as one can be. We'll see a very interesting game with a lot of tactical motifs!

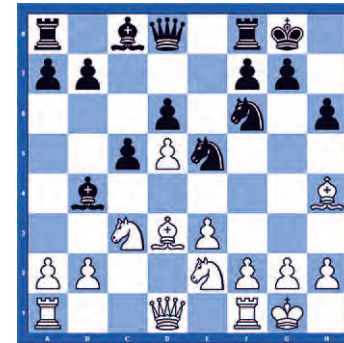
1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♘c3** ♙b4 The Nimzowitsch variation has remained as one of the main openings for at least 100 years!

4.♙g5 A relatively rare move which usually leads to quite a sharp game.



4...c5 The main move for Black. He starts to play against the White central pawns.

5.d5 ♙xc3+ I'm not sure about this move and as the game will show, it can turn out as quite a bad choice for Black in just a few moves. As we saw in the latest games, Black can play trickier moves. [5...exd5 6.cxd5 0-0 7.e3 d6 8.♙d3 ♘bd7 9.♘ge2 h6 10.♙h4 ♘e5 11.0-0



11...♘g6! 12.♙g3 ♘h5 with a very unclear position Moissenko,A-Bacrot, E 2012.; 5...h6 6.♙h4 0-0 7.e3 b5 8.cxb5 exd5 9.♙d3 ♙b7 10.♘ge2 d6 11.0-0 ♘bd7 and here Black is doing fine as well. Ivanisevic, I-Naiditsch,A 2011.]

6.bxc3 d6 We have a strategical position in which both sides have a clear plan. The White plan is to start some active play on the kingside; he has a bit more space in the center, and the bishop pair gives sort of a guarantee, that if the game opens up, he's clearly going to dominate. In case of Black, the plan is to hold the position as closed as possible, making White's bishop pair look „stupid”. Usually Black also tries to castle long making use of the bad White pawn structure: c3-c4.

7.e3! A good move! Rapport will show during the next moves exactly how White should play in this type of posi-

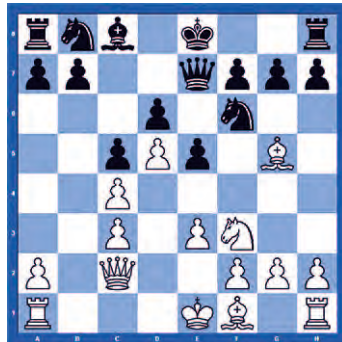
tions. The idea of 7.e3 is to keep the 2 development options for White: ♖d3, ♗e2 and f4; and ♘f3-Nd2 and f4

7...♗e7?! Black decides to force White to play ♘f3. I'm not sure if it was the best choice. In the game, it looks more like a lost tempo. I think the simple 7...e5, followed by ♘bd7-Nf8-Ng6, should be the right approach in this position.

8.♘f3 Black wanted to play exd5 and ♗e5.

8...e5 The e5 move needs to be done eventually — no choice here.

9.♗c2! Another good positional move by White which stops Black from castling long. [In case of the immediate 9.♘d2 h6 10.♖h4 g5 11.♖g3 ♖f5! followed by ♘bd7 and 0-0-0, Black gets quite a comfortable position.]



9...h6 This move should be questioned as well. I think it was better for Black to play ♘bd7-Nf8-Ng6, and only then h6. I guess White is doing a bit better but the game is quite open.

10.♖h4 ♘bd7 11.♘d2! White is again showing Black he understands the opening clearly better. Now against Black's 11...♘f8, White is ready for 12.♖d3!

11...e4?! And this is the move where we can say: never try it in Your own games! A big positional mistake. Now White gets an extra attacking spot, the d6 pawn! [11...g5 12.♖g3 ♘h5 13.♖d3 ♘df6 would lead to a forced, but quite decent position for Black.]

12.♖e2 White is preparing the devastating f3 or f4 push, and Black can only observe how his position gets crushed.

12...g5 13.♖g3 ♘f8



14.0-0! The safest and best for White. The next move f4 is unstoppable. Of course, optional moves like 14.h4!? were interesting as well, but why not to follow the main plan?

14...♘g6 15.f4! Until this moment, White has played great game!

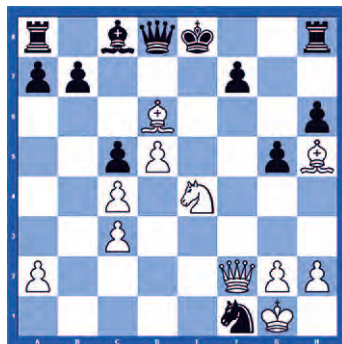
15...exf3 [15...gxf4 16.♖xf4 and the Black position is falling apart.]

16.♖xf3! A correct decision by Rapport. Actually, White could take on f3 with any piece keeping an advantage, but 16.♖xf3 is the most forced and dynamic way of showing that there are big problems in Black's position.

16...♘g4 Only move, Black is trying to hold his position with the strong knight on e5.

17. ♖e4 ♜6e5 18. ♖af1! There is no stop sign for Richard Rapport. Really a fantastic game by the young Hungarian GM.

18... ♔d7 Grandelius is trying to escape with his king [In case of 18... ♖xf3+ White needs to calculate precisely, but the position is winning! 19. ♔xf3! ♜xe3 (19... ♜e5 20. ♔h5 and game over.) 20. ♖f2! Chess can be beautiful. 20... ♜xf1 21. ♔xd6 ♖d8 22. ♔h5



What a fantastic final position! White is winning even though he has a huge material deficit;

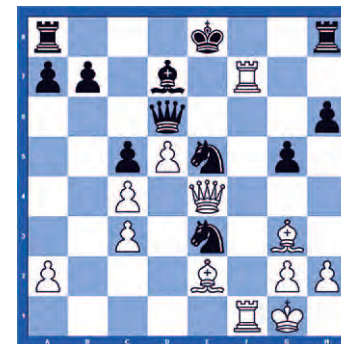
18...f5 is countered by 19. ♖xf5! ♔xf5 20. ♜xd6+ ♖xd6 21. ♖xf5 and Black is hopeless against ♔xg4. He'll start losing material from the next move. 21... ♖e7 (21... ♖d7 22.h3; 21... ♜xe3? 22. ♖xe5+ ♖xe5 23. ♖g6+-) 22.d6! and again we can see how nicely all the White pieces dominate the board.]

19. ♜xd6+?! This spectacular move is not the best. [Why not to simply play... 19. ♔xe5! ♖xe5 (19... ♜xe5 20. ♖f6) 20. ♖g3 and suddenly the knight on g4 is in trouble. 20...f5 21. ♔xg4 Maybe White has other choices, but this is the simplest one. 21... ♖xe4 22. ♖xe4+ fxe4 23. ♔xd7+ ♔xd7 24. ♖f7+ and we can clearly see that this rook endgame is easily winning!]

19... ♖xd6 20. ♖xf7 This was the White's idea of White, but Black is fighting.

20... ♜xe3! The only move! Like the saying goes: „If you suffer, at least get some material in exchange”. [Immediately loses 20...0-0-0 21. ♔xg4! Nice little tactic. 21... ♔xg4 22. ♖e4 with a double attack on e5 and g4. 22... ♖he8 23. ♔xe5 ♖xe5 24. ♖xg4+ and White's advantage of two pawns should be enough to win the game.]

21. ♖e4 Correct play by White [21. ♔h5 Funny-looking move that doesn't work. 21... ♜xc2 Cold and hungry move! (21...0-0-0 gives White quite a good play. 22. ♖e2 N3xc4 23. ♖f6 with a big initiative.) 22. ♖h7+ ♔d8 23. ♖xh8+ ♔c7 24. ♖xa8 ♜e3 and Black is clearly doing better.]



21... ♜xf1 22. ♔xe5 [It's not enough for White to play: 22. ♖xf1 0-0-0! and the Black king escapes. 23. ♔xe5 ♖he8 and Black's still an exchange up.]

22... ♜d2 23. ♖e3! Again, the only move that allows White to try to win the game. [It's not enough to play 23. ♔xd6+ ♜xe4 24. ♖e7+ ♔d8 25. ♖xe4 ♖e8! It's very important for Black to exchange the last White rook. 26. ♖xe8+ ♔xe8 27. ♔xc5 ♔f5 and we are in an endgame which is better for White, although I think it should be a draw.]

23...♔g6 24.♖f2 ♕b1+ The only move. [24...♕e4? loses by force. 25.♗h5+ ♖d8 26.♗f6+ ♖c7 27.♕xc5+ ♗c6 28.h3! and White starts to take away the material.]

25.♗f1 We are still in a forced line.

25...♞xf1 26.♞xf1

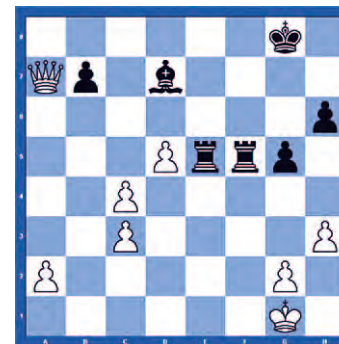


26...♕xf1+ 27.♞xf1 0-0+ 28.♞g1 The forced line that started with 19. ♞d6 finally ended with 28.♞g1! Almost 10 moves of forced action. Did Rapport calculate all until here? I think it's very doubtful. We can clearly say that White is doing better but Black has good chances to hold the position.

28...♞ae8 29.h3?? What a shocking move. If White wanted to make a draw, he could have played 29.♕d3 ♞xe5 30. ♕g6 with a perpetual check, but I think he should have tried to play for a win. [29.♕g3 The only move to continue the fight 29...b5 Black is searching for counter-play. 30.h4 ♞f5 31.♗b8! A typical computer move which is very hard to make during a practical game — leaving White some winning chances. With the Black king open, White should have no risk of losing, thanks to the perpetual check ideas.]

29...♞f5 Just winning a full piece!

30.♕xc5 ♞exe5 31.♕xa7



31...♞e2? Black seems to have so much respect for White that a draw seems to be the best possible result he can achieve. But why? To play for a win would be a normal choice here. [31...♞e1+! 32.♗h2 ♞b1 protecting the very important b7 pawn. 33.♕b8+ ♖g7 34.♕c7 ♞f7 Black managed to put all his pieces together. The White pawns don't have a clear way forward and Black will slowly start to get closer to the White king or to attack the White pawns. Maybe White can hold a draw here, but it's clear that Black is risking nothing at all and even might get a chance to get a full point.]

32.♕xb7 ♞ff2 33.♕xd7 ♞xg2+ A really interesting game. In the first 19 moves, White showed a really fantastic play which can be copied on any level! With a small miscalculation 19.♞d6?! White gave Black good chances for a draw, and then with a big blunder 29.h3, he should be happy to reach a draw.

1/2

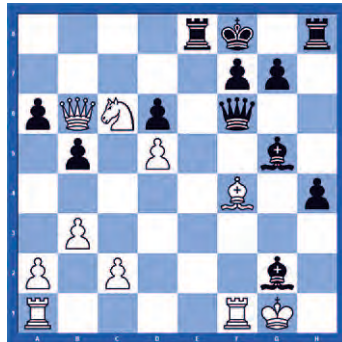
Puzzle section

(5) Kovanova,B (2408) – Ubiennykh,E (2367)

Russian Woman Championship, 07.08.2012

[CEWN]

1.+/-



(6) Galliamova,A (2465) – Ovod,E (2419)

Russian Woman Championship, 07.08.2012

[CEWN]

1.+/-

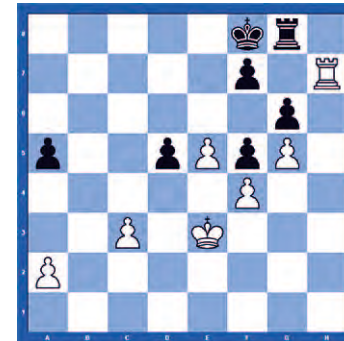


(7) Karjakin,S (2785) – Potkin,V (2651)

Russian Championship (rapid tiebreak), 13.08.2012

[CEWN]

1.+/-

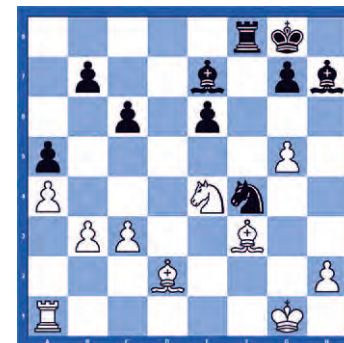


(8) Svidler,P (2749) – Potkin,V (2651)

Russian Championship (rapid tiebreak), 13.08.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(9) Potkin,V (2651) — Alekseev,E (2673)

Russian Championship (rapid tiebreak), 13.08.2012

[CEWN]

1.=

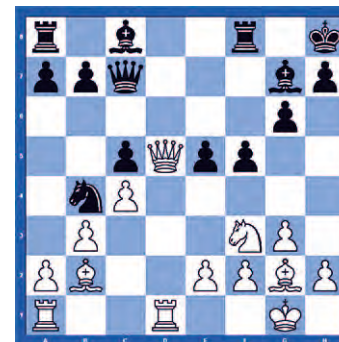


(11) Markos,J (2559) — Ehlvest,J (2601)

Riga Open, 10.08.2012

[CEWN]

1.+/-



(10) Fier,A (2582) — Rausis,I (2507)

Riga Open, 09.08.2012

[CEWN]

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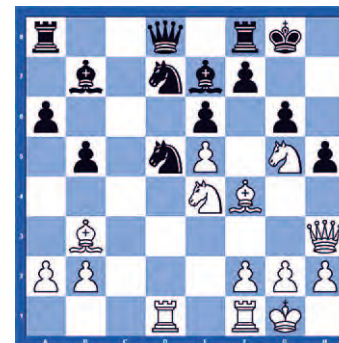


(12) Ehlvest,J (2601) — Neiksans,A (2537)

Riga Open, 11.08.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

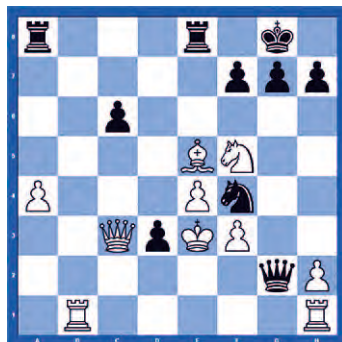


(13) Simantsev,M (2526) – Krejci,J (2503)

Olomouc GM, 02.08.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

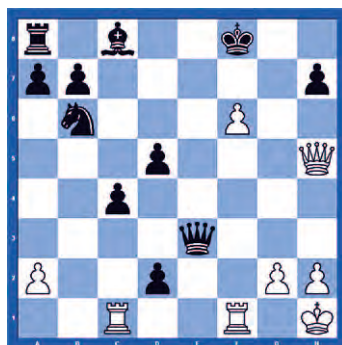


(14) Shimanov,A (2596) – Wei Yi (2418)

World Junior Championship, 11.08.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–

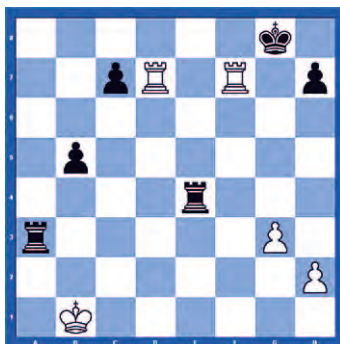


Endgame section

(15) Karjakin,S (2785) – Alekseev,E (2673)

Moscow, 10.08.2012

[Chess Evolution]



At the moment, White is a pawn down, but his rooks on the 7th rank allow him to enter into a 2 vs 1 endgame practically by force.

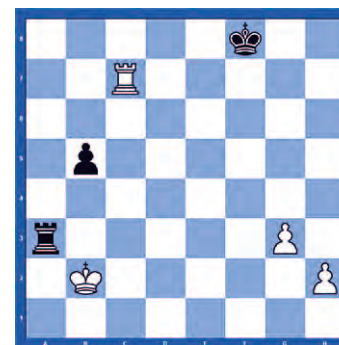
32. ♖g7+ ♔h8 [32... ♕f8 will transpose to the game after 33. ♖xh7]

33. ♖xh7+ ♔g8 34. ♖dg7+! ♔f8 35. ♖xc7 The rooks have cleared the 7th rank, but now Black got the chance to get rid of one of the rooks, solving all the threats on the back rank this way.

35... ♖b4+! 36. ♔c2 ♖c4+ 37. ♔b2! Very good decision to allow Black to trade the rooks. [37. ♖xc4?! bxc4 would seriously increase Black's defending chances, because of the potential checks on a2.]

37... ♖xc7 38. ♖xc7 Here we are! Despite the small number of pieces, this endgame is very complex. It's very

hard to evaluate correctly the position. When I started to analyze, I was pretty sure that the game should be drawn, however, as I dug deeper into the position, the more I thought that this is winning for White. As the game proceeds, we will face the critical positions. The point of Black defense would be to sacrifice the b5 pawn and to get his king between the White pawns. We have already analyzed such kind of connected g-h pawns rook endgames in CEWN Nr.5.



38...b4 [38... ♖f3 will lead to more or less the same as in the game. 39. ♖c3 ♖f2+ 40. ♖c2 ♖f3 41. ♔a2! This is the right plan! White wants to play ♖b2 and then he can take on b5, given that the rook might retreat to the 2nd rank to protect the pawn. 41... ♔g7 42. ♖b2 ♖f5 43. ♔a3 White will win the pawn with ♔b4-a5 and ♖xb5.]

39. ♔b1! I like this move a lot. It frees the b2 square for the rook. The same plan could have been achieved with a different move order as well...

39... ♖b3+ [39... ♖e3 does not change much. 40. ♖c4 b3 (40... ♖e2 41. ♖c2 ♖e3 42. ♖b2 will be the same as the game.) 41. ♖f4+ ♔g7 42. ♖f2 ♔g6 43. ♔b2 will also transpose to the game.]

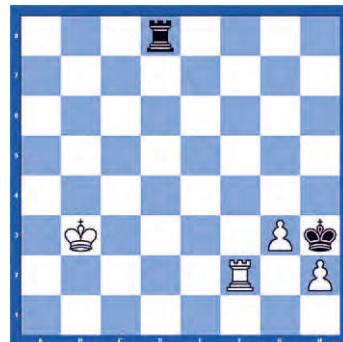
40.♔c1 ♖a3 [Black can try to hold his pawn more trickily: 40...♖e3 41.♖c4 ♖e1+ 42.♔b2 ♖e3 But now again, White has a subtle maneuver: 43.♔b1! Now the threat is to take on b4. 43...♖e1+ 44.♖c1! ♖e3 45.♖c2 followed by ♖b2, leads us to the game.]

41.♖c2 Finally the rook leaves the 7th rank, so it's time for Black to bring his king closer to the pawns...

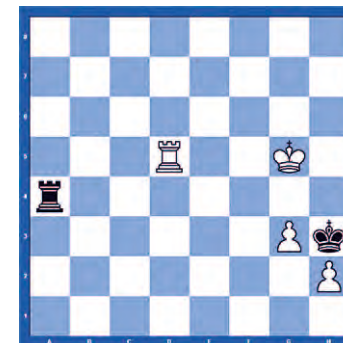
41...♔g7 42.♖b2 ♖f3 43.♔b1! Black is forced to push his pawn, otherwise White will simply take it.

43...b3 44.♖e2 ♔g6 45.♔b2 ♔g5 46.♔a3 The game proceeded logically until now, and we have reached the critical position. White will soon win the b-pawn, while Black has some different options to stay between the pawns. I did not manage to find the right setup for Black, but I still have the feeling that I missed something. Maybe you can find a way to survive!

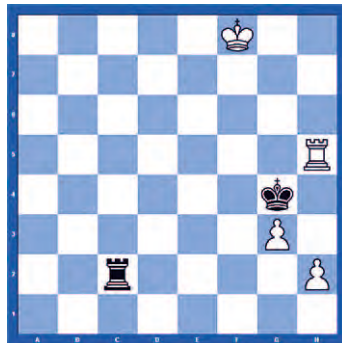
46...♔g4 This way the Black king does not reach the h3 square and will have to defend on the 5th rank... [46...♖d3 is also interesting, but... 47.♖b2 ♖d8 48.♔xb3 ♔g4 49.♖f2 ♔h3 White is winning in this position! Black cannot prevent the king reaching the f-file. With the help of the rook, White can bring it closer to the pawns.



50.♔c4 ♖d7 51.♔c3! White wants to play ♖d2 and come closer rank by rank with this technique... 51...♖d8 52.♖d2! ♖e8 53.♔d3 ♖e7 54.♖e2 ♖d7+ 55.♔e3 ♖f7 White has completed the first part of the plan! The next steps are the following: White occupies the ideal d2 square with the rook and then he can run forward with the king to the 6th or 7th rank. Black has nothing better than watching all this. 56.♖d2! ♖f8 57.♔e4 ♖e8+ 58.♔f4 ♖f8+ 59.♔e5 ♖e8+ 60.♔f6 ♖f8+ 61.♔e7 These would have been White moves even if Black does not give any checks. The 2nd step is done. The next one needs precise calculation. White has to improve his rook, using the fact that Black cannot take on h2 because the g-pawn is too fast. 61...♖a8 This defense is more tenacious than the continuous cutting of the king along the f-file. (61...♖f1 is met with 62.♖d4! followed by ♖h4, and on 62...♔xh2 63.g4! ♖g1 64.♔f6! White is easily winning.) 62.♖d5! White plays with the same technique, threatening with ♖h5, but now Black can complicate matters with side-checks. 62...♖a7+ (62...♔xh2? loses again to 63.g4) 63.♔f6 ♖a6+ 64.♔g5 ♖a4 This could be another blockade for Black, but White can break it through!



65.♔h5! With the threat of g4! Black cannot take it because of ♖d3. So the next move is forced. 65...♞a8! 66.♞b5 ♞c8 67.♔h6! Refreshing the idea of ♞h5. 67...♞c6+ 68.♔g7 ♞c7+ 69.♔f8 ♞c2 (69...♔xh2? is still hopeless. 70.g4; Black quickly loses the control over the h-file after 69...♞h7 70.♔g8 ♞h6 71.♔g7 followed by ♞h5.) 70.♞h5+ ♔g4



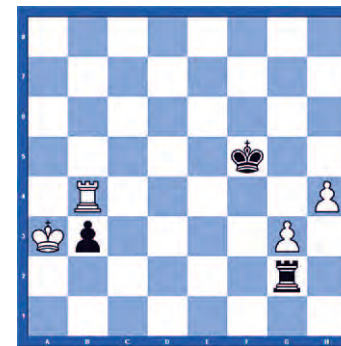
71.♞h4+ White made s by squeezing the king out from h3. Now the pawns become mobile, although they must be pushed carefully after both king moves. 71...♔f3 (71...♔g5 72.h3! ♞c3 73.♞g4+ ♔h5 74.♞g8 and this position is winning for White! It's important to mention that if both White pawns are standing on the 4th rank, the position is drawn. We will see it in the 72.g4 line. 74...♞b3 75.h4 White brings his king back and it has an important shelter on h3 against the checks. 75...♞b5 76.♔e7+-) 72.♔e7! White needs to active his king again! (The tempting 72.g4? would spoil the win. The defensive technique is quite instructive... 72...♔f4 73.h3 ♔g5 74.♞h5+ ♔g6 As we have seen, the position with the pawns on h4-g3 is winning. Let's see the difference... 75.h4 (75.♔e7 The king could have a shelter on h4, but it can't reach it now. 75...♞e2+ 76.♔d6 ♞e3 77.♔d5 ♞d3+ 78.♔e4 ♞c3 and White can't make progress. 79.h4 ♞c4+ 80.♔f3 ♞c3+ 81.♔e2 ♞c4

82.♞g5+ ♔h6 with a theoretical drawn position. We have examined a similar situation in the 5th CEWN. The big difference to the 71... ♔g5 line, when the pawns were on the 3rd rank, that now on 83.♞g8 with the idea of h5 and ♞g6, Black has 83...♔h7! 84.♞g5 ♔h6=) 75...♞c4 76.♞g5+ ♔h6 77.♞g8 ♞f4+ 78.♔e7 ♔h7 79.♞g5 ♔h6= As it was explained in the previous line.) 72...♞c6 73.♞d4 ♔g2 74.♔f7 and White simply wants to push his g-pawn. Black is helpless against it. 74...♔h3 75.♞h4+ ♔g2 76.g4+- and the king is not in time to go to f4.]

47.♞e4+! ♔f5 [47...♔h3 doesn't work now because of 48.♞h4+ ♔g2 49.g4 ♞f4 50.♔xb3 ♔f3 51.h3 and Black could only hold with his king on g6 and the rook on the 3rd rank, like we have seen before. Now he's too far to reach this position. 51...♞e4 52.♔c3 ♔g3 53.♞h5 ♔f4 54.g5 ♔f5 55.h4+- The pawns are too far advanced, ♞h6 and ♔d3 are coming next, followed by g6-h5.]

48.♞b4 ♞f2 [The tricky 48...b2+ does not change much 49.♔a2! and the pawn will be taken by the rook.]

49.h4 ♞g2 We have reached our next critical position. White needs to play precisely again!



50.♞b5+! To avoid the king reaching the g4 square.

50...♔e4 [50...♔g4 51.♖g5+ and the „se lf-pushing“ pawns are arising, when they are promoting even without the help of the king. Step by step, h5-g4 and ♖g6, then h6-g5 and ♖g7...; 50...♔f6 51.♖xb3 White wants to bring his king and after 51...♔f5 52.♖b5+! transferrin g the rook to g5, followed by bringing the king, is winning easily with the g3-h4 pawns.]

51.♖xb3 ♖c2 [On 51...♔f5 White again would play 52.♖b5+! ♔g6 53.♖g5+ ♔h6 54.♔b3+-]

52.♖b4+ ♔e5 [52...♔f5 53.♖b5+ will be the same as in the game...; 52...♔f3 53.g4+- is hopeless.]

53.♔b3 ♖f2 54.♖b5+! The rook goes to g5 again.

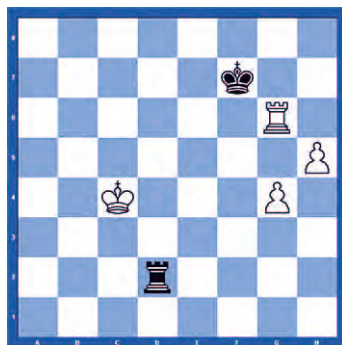
54...♔f6 55.♔c4 ♖g2 56.♖g5 White wants to get his king to f3. The only chance for Black is to cut it.

56...♖d2 57.♖g8! Using the fact that Black can't use his rook. White can advance his pawns by one rank, which is definitely an achievement!

57...♔f7 58.♖g4 ♔f6 [58...♖h2 59.♔d3+-]

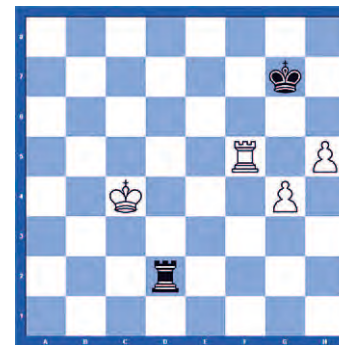
59.h5! ♖h2 60.♖g6+ ♔f7 61.g4 Here we are! White wants to bring his king again, so Black needs to cut the way...

61...♖d2



62.♖g5 The White pawns are advanced enough to leave the g-file with the rook. The main idea is to advance one rank at a time with the same technique.

62...♖d1 An inaccuracy, which could have accelerated the loss.. [More tenacious was 62...♔f6 63.♖f5+ ♔g7



64.g5! White must always be careful with such moves, because the king can get between the pawns after 64... ♖h2 White is forced to push one of the pawns. Be careful, because only one of them is winning. We already know this from the 5th CEWN... 65.g6! (65.h6+ ♔g6 is the famous theoretical drawn position.) 65...♔h6 66.♔d5 Black must prevent ♔e6-f7 now 66...♖e2 and here 67.♖f8! Black cannot take the pawn. 67...♖e1 68.♖h8+ ♔g7 69.♖h7+ ♔g8 70.♖c7 followed by h6, while after 70...♖h1 we get the same final position as in the game...]

63.♖d5 Not the shortest win, but of course also good... [63.h6 was easier, but Karjakin had calculated the same win as we examined in the previous line. 63...♖h1 64.♖g7+ ♔f8 65.g5+-]

63...♖g1 64.♖f5+ ♔g7 65.♖g5+ ♔h6 66.♖g6+ ♔h7 67.♔d5! The king got one rank closer.

67...♖e1 and now the king is close enough to force matters.

68.g5! ♖a1 [68...♖h1 is met with 69.♔e6! ♖xh5 70.♔f7 and Black can't avoid the following threat: 70...♖h4 71.♖g7+ ♔h8 72.♖g8+ ♔h7 73.g6+ ♔h6 74.♖h8++-]

69.♖c6 ♖g1 70.♖c7+ ♔g8 71.g6! The final blow! White wants to play ♔e6-f6 and hide the king on h6 against the checks...

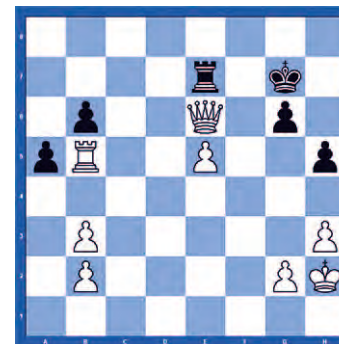
71...♖g5+ 72.♔e6 [Black resigned in view of 72.♔e6 ♖xh5 73.♔f6!+- Great technique by Karjakin!]

1-0

(16) Potkin,V (2651) – Vitiugov,N (2705) [B42]

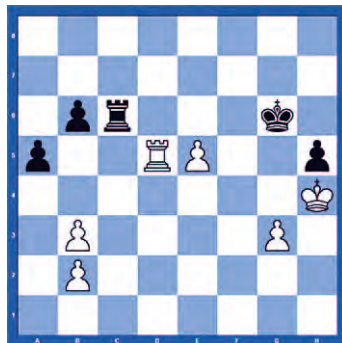
65th ch-RUS Moscow RUS (7), 10.08.2012

[Chess Evolution]



61...♖xe6 After a fighting game where White was trying to win already for around 30 moves, we finally reached a rook endgame. White is a pawn up and the rook on b5 is standing very well. This should give White great winning chances.

62.♔g3! White is wasting no time. It's the first priority to bring the king into play! [In case of 62.h4? g5! would give Black good chances to save the game. Now Black is in time to bring his king out. 63.hxg5 ♔g6 64.♔h3 White is trying to get to the h4 square with his king — which Black, of course, tries to avoid. 64...♔xg5 65.g3! Zugzwang. Black needs to let the White king pass the 4th rank. 65...♔g6 66.♔h4 (It's not dangerous for Black: 66.♖d5 ♔g5 67.♖d6 ♖xe5 68.♖xb6 ♖d5 and even though White is a pawn up, Black has very good drawing chances.) 66...♖c6! The only move that saves the game. White wanted to play ♖d5-Rd6 next. 67.♖d5



67...Rc1! and Black is holding! Suddenly the mating threat on h1 forces the White king to go back to h3 — which obviously can only lead to a draw. In case of 68. Rd6+ Qf5 the mating threat of Rh1 gives Black enough counterplay to hold the draw.]

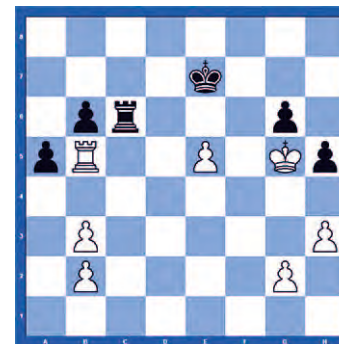
62...Rc6 The only move to continue the fight. Black is using the typical motif: to block the free pawn with the king to free the rook. [62...g5 now comes too late. The White king is in time to get to e4. 63. Qf3 Qg6 64. Qe4 Rc6 65. g4 and Black is hopeless. White's Qd5 is a deadly move.]

63. Qf4 White wants to play Qe4-d5.

63...Qf7 64. Qg5 Now Qe4 would be blocked by Qe6, so the White king takes another great place on g5. The idea of White is quite simple, to play Rd5-Rd6 forcing the Black rook to move from the 6th rank, which would lead to a loss of the g6 pawn... and the game.

64...Qe7 [Would give better chances for Black to play 64...Rc2 65. g4 hxg4 66. hxg4 Re2! The main enemy of Black. The e5 pawn is falling — but the position remains lost. 67. Rxb6 Rxe5+ 68. Qh6 g5 69. b4! The last precise move. White extra pawn plus the weakness of the g5 pawn give an easy win. 69...axb4 70. Rxb4 The next White

moves are simple: Rb8 followed by b4-b5-b6, which wins almost instantly.]



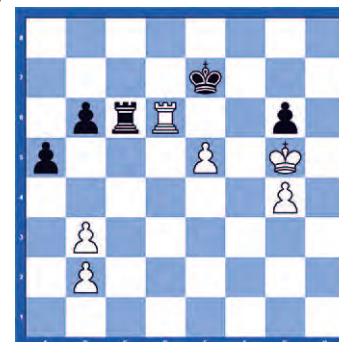
65.g4 A nice move. White controls the situation to 100% and there is no need for fast action.

65...hxg4 66. hxg4 Qf7 Black is totally paralyzed and the best he can do is to „wait“.

67. Rd5! White starts the final winning plan.

67...Qe7 [At 67...Rc2 68. Rd7+! finishes the game quite fast. 68...Qe6 69. Rd6+ Qxe5 70. Rxb6 Rxb2 71. Rb5+ Qe6 72. Qxg6 and we are in a theoretical easy winning position.]

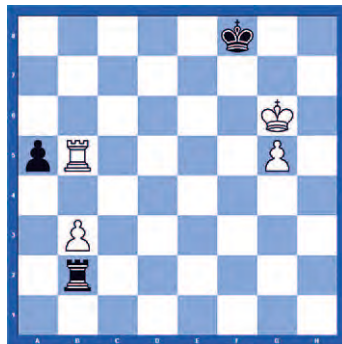
68. Rd6 Of course Rd6: the key idea of everything White has been doing.



68...♖c5 69.♖xb6 ♖xe5+ 70.♔xg6 Two pawns up plus a free g-pawn is more than enough. Black is totally hopeless.

70...♖e2 71.g5 ♖xb2 72.♖b5 Great technique until the end. Black wanted to play a4.

72...♔f8



73.♖f5+! White forces Black to play 73...♔e7, after which 74.♖xa5 ♖xb3 75. ♔g7 gets the game into an easy theoretical winning position. Great endgame play by Vladimir Potkin! Things that look so natural and easy, and sometimes are far more difficult over the board, specially in rook endgames!

1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Spassky, Boris V — Foguelman, Alberto [B18]

Mar del Plata Mar del Plata, 09.04.1960

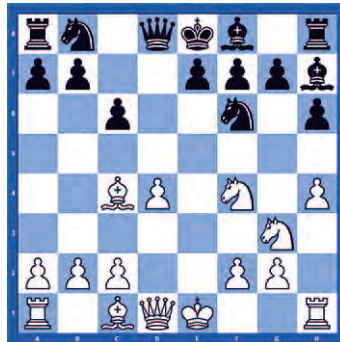
[Balogh Csaba]

A nice attacking game by Boris Spassky. The game was based on an intuitive pawn sacrifice in the opening.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 Black chose the Caro-Kann defense.

3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♘xe4 ♕f5 5.♘g3 ♕g6 6.h4 h6 7.♘1e2
A tricky sideline, which could be dangerous if you don't know a lot of theory. And 52 years ago, these positions were not explored at all. [7.♘f3 is considered to be the only critical line nowadays.]

7...♘f6 8.♘f4 ♕h7 9.♕c4



9...e5!? In my opinion, this is an interesting move. Due to some nice victories that White has scored against it, mainly due to the big difference in strength. This line has very bad reputation. But in my view it's completely fine

for equality... [Recently all the games continue with 9...e6 followed by ♕d6, which is also an equalizer.]

10.♔e2! A fantastic pawn sacrifice, which shows great feeling for chess. White invites Black to take on d4, when the queen moves into some logical developing moves. Spassky follows the principle that 2 tempi in the opening have the value of a pawn. [10.dxe5 leads nowhere after 10...♔a5+! White should play 11.♔f1 now, but he is very far from penetrating with a rook on e1 after ♔xe5. (10...♔xd1+ is also tempting, but it's bad because of 11.♔xd1 ♘g4 Black wins back the pawn, but after 12.♔e1! ♘xf2+ 13.♔e2 White will push e6 and suddenly the e8 king gets into big danger despite the fact that the queens are off the board... 13...♘e4 (13...♘g4 14.e6!) 14.♘xe4 ♕xe4 15.e6! with an attack.) 11.c3 ♔xe5+ The position has simplified a bit. Black can calmly finish his development and achieve a good position.]

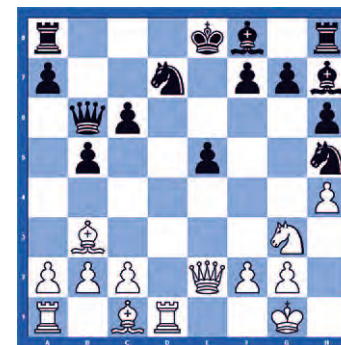
10...♔xd4 A calm response after the sacrifice. [4 years later, Foguelman improved on his play against Mikhail Tal with 10...♘bd7 11.0–0 And at this moment, Black should have played the normal developing move (On 11.dxe5 ♔a5+ works again.; 11.♕d3 ♔e7! is good now, because White must trade queens. 12.dxe5 ♔xe5) 11...♕d6! Black needs only one move to secure his king's position and obtain a completely fine position. White must do something urgently, until the king is in the center. (11...♔e7 This strange-looking move happened in the game, and after many mistakes by both sides, Tal managed to trick his opponent and win the game at the end...) 12.dxe5 ♘xe5 13.♕d3 This seems to be the best chance after all, creating some threats with the knight on the f5 square. (13.♘d3 could win the bishop pair, but the active e5 knight

fully compensates. 13...♙xd3 14.♙xd3 0-0 15.♙f5 ♖e8 Black has no problems at all. In this case, the h4 move became a huge weakening move as well.) 13...0-0 14.♙xh7+ ♔xh7 15.♖d1 White creates some concrete threats with energetic play, but Black can parry them. (On 15.♘f5 simply 15...♙c7 followed by ♚c8 or ♖e8.) 15...♙c7 16.♘f5 ♙c5 17.♘h5 and here Black has different options, but from a human point of view, the easiest seems to be 17...♘xh5 18.♙xh5 f6! followed by ♙f7! with equality.]

11.0-0! With the idea of ♖d1 and ♙e3, bringing the pieces with tempo. Black needs to protect the e5 pawn and should also hurry to castle.

11...b5? I believe this was a serious mistake, which deprives Black from castling queenside forever. White can always destroy the pawn structure with a4. [11...♘bd7 was the right move, which leads to a very unclear position after 12.♖d1 ♙c5 13.♙e3 ♙e7 14.♘fh5 ♘xh5 15.♘xh5 White definitely has serious compensation for the pawn, but Black has good defensive potential as well. For example 15...♙f5! with the idea of ♙e6 or g6-Bg7.]

12. ♙b3 ♙c5? Another mistake, which objectively speaking is the decisive one. It was already quite difficult to suggest something good, White has excellent attacking chances. [After 12...♙e7 White plays similarly to the game. 13.♖d1 ♙c5 14.♙e3 ♙b4 15.a3! to prevent the queen's „jump“ to the kingside along the 4th rank. 15...♙a5 16.♘fh5↑ with a huge attack.; 12...♘bd7 13.♖d1 ♙b6 (13...♙c5 14.a4! is very unpleasant.) 14.♘fh5 Black is in deep trouble, since he cannot finish the development... 14...♘xh5



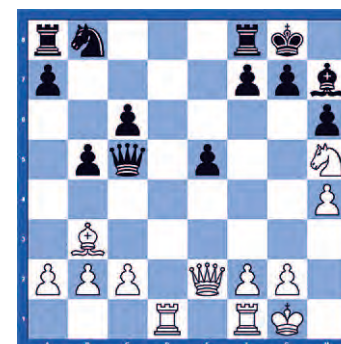
15.♙xf7+! ♔xf7 16.♖xd7+ ♔e8 (16...♙g8 17.♙xh5 g6 18.♙f3 with mate to follow.) 17.♙g4! c5 18.♘xh5+- White won back the piece and continues attacking.]

13. ♙e3! ♙d6 14. ♖ad1! These two moves were the fruits of the d4 pawn sacrifice!

14...♙e7 15. ♙xc5 [It was even better to keep the bishops. It gives additional possibilities for White. 15.♘fh5! ♘xh5 16.♘xh5 0-0 and the difference is 17.♙xh6! White wins, due to the pin of the b3 bishop... 17...gxh6 18.♙g4+ ♙g6 19.♙xg6+-]

15...♙xc5 16. ♘fh5! The attack is breaking through here as well.

16...♘xh5 17. ♘xh5 0-0

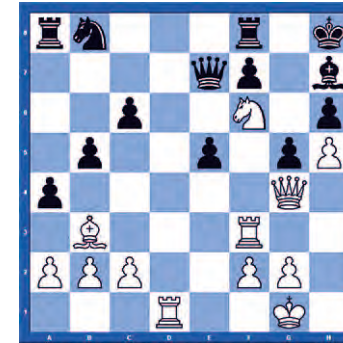


18. ♔g4! Forces Black to a very sad move, since ♗g6 loses again due to the pin on the a2-g8 diagonal.

18...g6 As they usually say, the bishop on h7 is a strong pawn. It has no chance to be activated. White has no direct win, but he has all the time to bring all his pieces into the attack, since Black is totally undeveloped. The only good thing for Black is that he's up a pawn.

19. ♖d3! Spassky prepares for doubling his rooks on the d-file. [19. ♖fe1! was probably even stronger with the same idea: to use the last unemployed piece. Black cannot hold his e5 pawn, ♔g3 is one of the threats. 19...♔h8 (19...♔e7 20. ♔g3+-) 20. ♖f6 a5 The best chance is to bring the rook into play via a7. Black hopes that he'll win an important tempo with the a4 threat, but White stands so well that he can focus on his plans and ignore the opponent's ideas... (20...♔e7 Black is trying to provoke some exchanges, but this is elegantly refuted by 21. ♗f4! exf4 (21...♔g7 22. ♖xh7 ♔xh7 23. ♖xe5+-) 22. ♖xe7 Even without the queens on the board, Black is just lost. For example after 22...♔g7 23. ♖e8+- and ♖c7 next.) 21.h5! a4 loses nicely to (On 21...♔e7 22. ♗f4! again! 22...exf4 23. ♖xe7+-; 21...g5 22. ♖xh7 ♔xh7 23. ♗f5+ ♔g7 24. ♖xe5+-) 22. ♖xf7! ♖xf7 23. ♖d8+ ♖f8 24.hxg6! ♖xd8 25.g7# A picturesque mate.]

19...a5 Black tries to defend with the same ideas, as it was mentioned in the previous line. [19...♔h8 20. ♖f6 ♔e7 ♗f4 does not work now, but White can still keep his knight on f6. 21. ♖f3! a5 22.h5 Black cannot hold the attack. Some illustrative examples: 22...g5 (22...a4 23. ♖xh7 White only takes on h7, if it's winning on the spot! 23...♔xh7 24. ♖xf7+ ♖xf7 25.hxg6+-) 23. ♖d1 a4 and here again, this is the right time for the final strike!



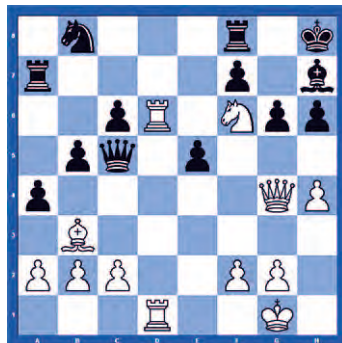
24. ♖xh7! ♔xh7 25. ♔e4+ ♔h8 26. ♖xf7! ♖xf7 27. ♖xf7 ♗g6 is threatened, and on 27...♖xf7 28. ♖xe5+! ♔h7 29. ♖d8 the mate is coming soon.]

20. ♖fd1! Here again, White doesn't need to waste time on preventing a4.

20...♖a7 [20...a4 All the pieces are working, it's easy to feel that something works now. 21. ♖xf7+! ♔xf7 (21...♖xf7 leads to a forced mate. 22. ♖d8+ ♖f8 23. ♔e6+ ♔h8 24. ♗f6+ ♔g8 25. ♗g7#) 22. ♖f3+ Not the only way to win, but probably the easiest. 22...♔e7 (22...♔g8 23. ♔e6+ ♔h8 24. ♖f7 Here again, this is just one of many ways to win. 24...♖xf7 25. ♗xf7 gxh5 26. ♖d8+-) 23. ♖xf8 ♔xf8 24. ♗f3+ ♔e8 25. ♗f6+- with the double threat of ♖d8 and ♖g7.]

21. ♖d6! ♖xg6 is the new threat.

21...♔h8 22. ♖f6 a4 The time has come to finish the game. Spassky, of course, did it in style!



23. ♘xh7! Just because it's winning.

23...axb3 [23...♔xh7 24. ♕xf7! ♖axf7 25. ♔xg6+ ♔h8 26. ♔xh6+ with mate in a few moves.]

24. ♘xf8 bxc2 This is where Black pinned his hopes to, but of course, it does not save him...

25. ♘xg6+! fxg6 26. ♖d8+ ♔g7 [On 26...♔h7 simply 27. ♖c1!+- with a winning advantage.]

27. ♖g8+! ♔xg8 28. ♔xg6+ ♖g7 [28...♔f8 29. ♔f6+!+- followed by forced mate with ♖d8.]

29. ♖d8+ ♔f8 30. ♖xf8+ ♔xf8 31. ♔xc2 ♔g8 32. ♔c5
Nice attacking game. Spassky's excellent intuition has again paid off!

1-0

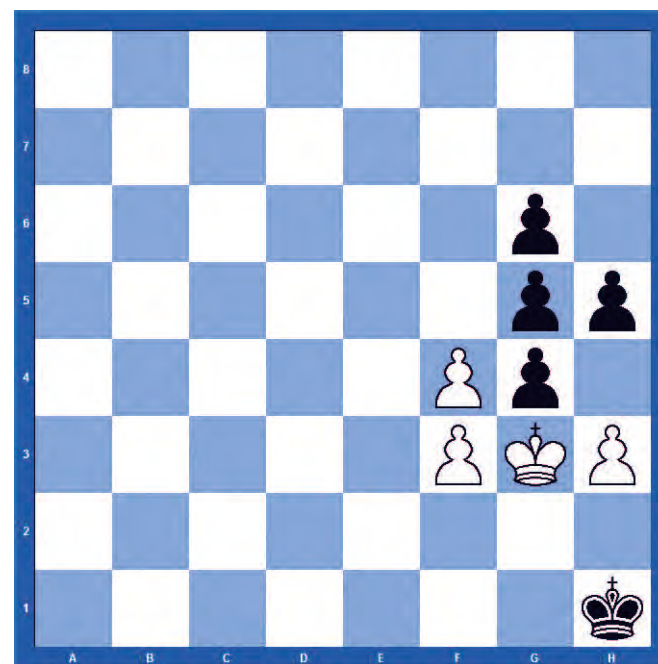
Surprise section / study

(18) Perelman,M

1930

[CEWN]

1.=



Solutions

(19) Melkumyan,H (2639) – Meins,G (2475)

Biel Open, 31.07.2012

[Solutions]

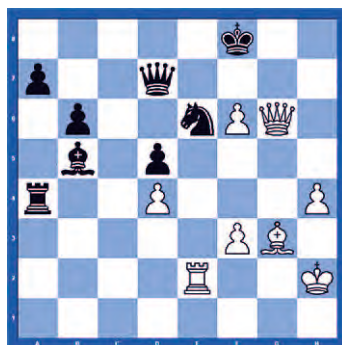


26. ♖xe6! fxe6 27. ♔xg6 1-0 [27. ♔xg6 ♔f7 (27... ♔e7 28. ♔xg7+ ♔d6 29. ♘b5+-) 28. ♖f3+-]

(20) Jones,G (2655) – Hawkins,J (2499)

Brittish Championship, 31.07.2012

[Solutions]

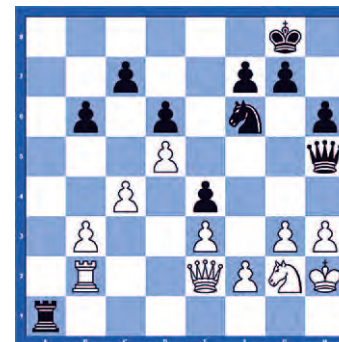


43. ♕f4! ♘xf4 44. ♖e8+! ♔xe8 45. ♔g7# 1-0

(21) L'Ami,A (2372) – Timman,J (2575)

Politiken Cup, 01.08.2012

[Solutions]

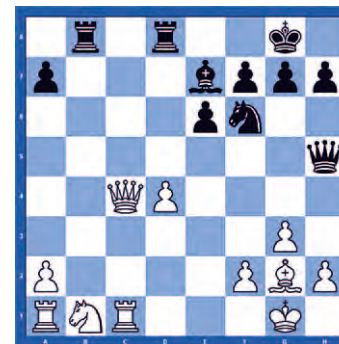


29... ♔xh3+! 0-1 [29... ♔xh3+ 30. ♔xh3 ♖h1#]

(22) Alburt,L (2550) – Gulko,B (2532)

Platonov memorial, 30.07.2012

[Solutions]



19... ♘g4! 20. h3 ♘xf2! 21. ♔xf2 ♕f6!-+ 22. ♕f3 ♖b2+ 23. ♕e2 ♕xd4+ 24. ♔e1 ♔e5 0-1

(23) Hernandez Carmenates,H (2570) – Guerra Mendez,J (2434)

Montcada Open, 27.06.2012

[Solutions]

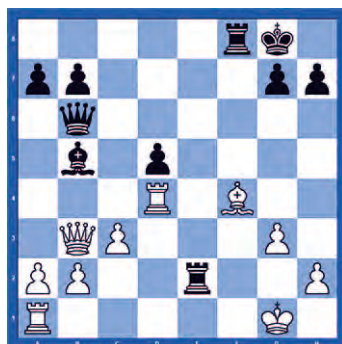


31. ♖d5! ♜xd5 [31... ♜f3 32.d7+-] **32. ♜xd5** 1-0 [32. ♜xd5 ♞xd5 33.d7+-]

(24) Perez Mitjans,O (2471) – Peralta,F (2590)

Montcada Open, 28.06.2012

[Solutions]

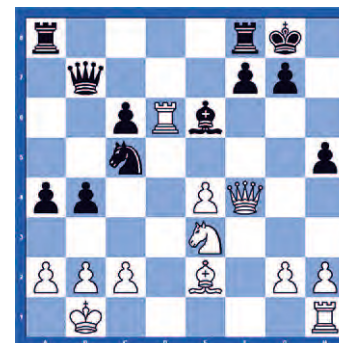


24... ♜xf4! 25. ♜xd5+ [25.gxf4 ♜g6+ 26. ♞h1 ♜g2#]
25... ♜f7!-+ 26. ♜f1 ♜g2+ 0-1

(25) Llaneza Vega,M (2424) – Korneev,O (2577)

Spanish league, 30.07.2012

[Solutions]



23... ♜xa2+! [23...b3 24.a3! bxc2+ 25. ♞xc2 ♜ab8 26. ♞b4↗]

24. ♜xa2 b3+ 25. ♜a3 [25. ♜b1 a3!-+]

25...bxc2 26. ♜c4 ♜ab8! [26... ♜fb8? 27. ♜xf7+! ♜xf7 28. ♜xf7+ ♜xf7 29. ♞xc2=]

27. ♜e5 ♜b4+ 28. ♜a2 ♜b3+!! 29. ♜xb3 [29. ♜a1 ♜xe3-+]

29...axb3+ 30. ♜a3 ♜b7! 0-1 [30... ♜b6!; 30... ♜b5!]

(26) Smirnov,P (2592) – Geller,J (2555)

Polugaevsky memorial, 08.07.2012

[Solutions]

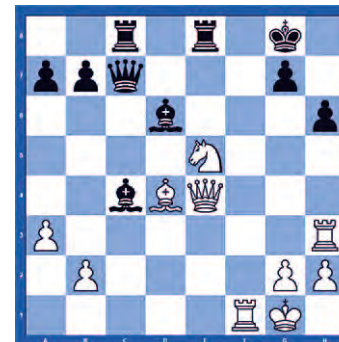


32. ♖c4+! [32. ♔xg6+ ♖g7∞] 32...♔g7 [32...d5
33. ♔xe5+-] 33. ♖f7+! ♖xf7 34. ♔xd8+-

(28) Battaglini,G (2419) – Nanu,C (2528)

Arad Open, 29.07.2012

[Solutions]



24. ♖xh6! gxf6 25. ♔g6+ ♔g7 26. ♔xg7+! ♔xg7
27. ♖xc4+ 1-0

(27) Ivekovic,Z (2320) – Grandelius,N (2562)

World Junior Championship, 05.08.2012

[Solutions]

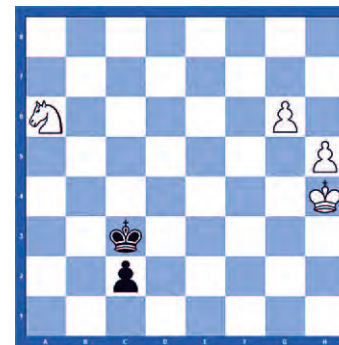


26...♔e5! 0-1 [26...♔e5 27. ♖xe5 ♖d1#]

(29) Holm,E

1917

[Solutions]



1. ♖b4! ♔xb4 2.g7 c1♔ [2...c1♖? 3.h6] 3.g8♔ ♔h1+
4. ♔g5 ♔g1+ 5. ♔h6 ♔xg8 1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 26

24th of August 2012

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Editorial Preface

With this issue of CEWN, we are celebrating half a year of our Newsletter! In the beginning, it was not easy for us, but now it's almost a routine job which we do with great pleasure. We love to present the best games of the week and other great chess material. We hope You enjoyed the first 6 month with us, because we are not going to stop! 😊.

The main event of the past week is clearly the French National Championship. All the French elite players are participating in it. As expected, we see the usual players on the Top. The tournament is going to have a very exciting conclusion.

The Husek Wien Open was won by the "Austrian National Hero" Markus Ragger, who has more sponsor logos than his T-shirt can take!

Chess Olympiad: as we found out in the press, Morozovich and Gashimov canceled their participation due to health reasons. Also, Magnus Carlsen is not going to play.

With the usual "enjoy the CEWN Nr 26", we say goodbye. Our next report will come directly from Istanbul, Turkey where the Chess Olympiad will take place!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Vachier Lagrave,M (2686)
— Lagarde,M (2505) [A19]

87th ch-FRA 2012 Pau FRA (3), 15.08.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

We are facing a sharp battle, definitely not without mistakes, but full of nice and instructive motifs.

1.c4 ♖f6 **2.** ♘c3 e6 **3.e4 c5** **4.** ♘f3 ♘c6 **5.** ♙e2 This line enjoys quite a big popularity nowadays. Despite looking completely harmless, there is no obvious way for equalizing with Black. White's idea against random moves is to play 0–0 and d4, obtaining a slightly better middlegame with a space advantage.

5...e5!? In my opinion, this is quite a decent system. Black closes the position and normally a long maneuvering fight begins, where White's extra tempo does not count that much because of the symmetrical position. [5...d5 is the mainline, but I am not sure if the text move is a worse continuation.]

6.d3 h6 There is no need for this move... [Black should develop with 6...d6 and after 7.0–0 decide where he wants to put his f8 bishop... 7...♙e7 is the main, but 7...g6 and ♙g7 are also possible. Now White has two plans, either to initiate some play on the queenside with ♖b1, a3, b4 — Black has to prevent this with a5 -, or opening the position with f4, but Black is ready to face it. 8.♘e1 (8.a3 0–0 9.♖b1 a5) 8...0–0 9.f4 exf4 10.♙xf4 and here for example 10...♙e6 followed by ♘d7-e5. The game is about even.]

7.0–0 g6? [7...d6 should have been played again.]



8.b4!! A famous motif. Black is facing a difficult decision. He can exchange his central pawn for the one on the b-file, which is by principle not a great idea. The value of a central pawn could easily be the same as two side pawns (for example a- and b-pawns). The effect of cxb4 is also similar, Black takes out from the center, which gives White many possibilities. The analysis below demonstrates them well.

8...♘xb4 [8...cxb4 9.♘d5 White's main idea is to attack the b4 pawn and provoke an a5 weakening. Soon, he will manage to do so if Black wants to keep his extra pawn (otherwise, if White wins back the pawn, he is just better) and then with the a3 move, White creates many holes in Black's camp. His pieces are excellently prepared to be used. We must note that Black can hardly touch the powerful knight on d5, it always leads to serious difficulties after cxd5. 9...♙c5 The most logical move, playing on the d4 square with d6 and ♙g4 and also to keep the b4 pawn protected. However, it has a concrete refutation.. (After 9...♙g7 White can execute the basic ideas connected with the b4 pawn sacrifice. 10.♙d2 Black is forced to create

the weakness. 10...a5 11.♔a4! Provoking further weakening moves due to the threat of ♖xb4. 11...♖a7 (11...0-0 12.♗xb4+=) 12.a3! bxa3 13.♔xa3 This is a clear triumph of White's strategy. The game might continue with 13...d6 14.♕e3! ♖a6 15.♗fb1! 0-0 16.♕b6+/- with a clear advantage.) 10.♗xe5!! This is another famous motif that can be seen in many different openings. The idea is to avoid Black's consolidation in the center! 10...♕d4 is met with the fantastic (10...♗xe5 11.d4 White wins back the piece and the center pawns are rushing Black; f4 can also join them... An illustrative line is 11...♗xd5 12.exd5 ♕d6 13.c5! White does not need to hurry to take the knight. 13...♕b8 14.d6! closing the bishop. Black cannot save his knight with (14.♕b2!? is also possible, since the knight is trapped in the middle of the board.) 14...♗c6 15.d5! ♗e5 (15...♗a5 16.♔d4+- and 16...0-0 loses to ♕xh6.) 16.f4+- trapping the knight again.) 11.♗xc6 dxc6



12.♕e3!! Precise calculation was needed. 12...♗xe3 (12...♕xa1 13.♔xa1 cxd5 14.♕d4! This is the point. White wins back a piece, he still remains an exchange down, but the dark squared bishops and the strong central pawns give him more than enough compensation... 14...0-0 Only move. 15.♕xf6 ♔d6 16.cxd5+/- White has a strong attack,

for example with f4-f5. The ♕h8-Qg7 trick is also always in the air.) 13.♗xe3+= White has a clear advantage, since he won the fight in the center. Those pawns can easily swap off Black from the board...]

9.♗xe5+= White achieved his goal! The extra pawn in the center gives him a clear edge.

9...d6 [On 9...♕g7 White can simply retreat with 10.♗f3 0-0 (The tactical idea 10...♗xe4 does not work 11.♗xe4 ♕xa1 12.♕e3! followed by ♕xc5. White is winning.) 11.♖b1+= with a positional edge.]

10.a3?! Vachier plays the whole game with a very tactical style. The idea itself is correct, but White could have done it in a much more favorable version... [10.♗f3 Here again White could have retreated the knight and enjoyed a comfortable advantage. 10...♕g7 11.♖b1+=; Probably the best was 10.♔a4+ ♗d7 and here comes the same idea that White employed in the game... 11.a3!! This is an intuitive pawn sacrifice. Arises a similar position to the one we saw in the 8...cxb4 line. 11...dxe5 12.axb4 cxb4 13.♗d5 In order to keep the material advantage, Black needs to make the same huge weakness with 13...a5 14.♕e3! ♕b6 is threatened. 14...♖a6 15.f4!→ with a very strong attack. Black still needs a lot of time to secure the king's position.]

10...dxe5 11.axb4 cxb4 12.♗d5 The difference is that Black can exchange the knights, and then finish the development. Of course, White has very strong compensation in the center in this case as well, but with the absence of the knights, Black has more resources to defend...

12...♗xd5 13.cxd5 ♔b6?! [13...♕d7! was the right move, preparing for ♕g7 and to prevent ♔a4... The game should

continue with 14.d4! ♖g7 15.♗b2 ♔e7 with a double-edged position.]



14.d4!! Just fantastic! This mobilizes the center again. White could not allow his opponent to consolidate his position, because he would simply end up a pawn down.

14...exd4 [14...♔xd4 15.♗b5+! and the king must lose its right to castle. White will have a very strong attack after avoiding the exchange of queens.]

15.♗f4! ♗e5 is the threat.

15...♗c5! Black tries his best to hold his position. [The handy 15...♗g7 is met with the really unpleasant 16.♖c1! 0-0 17.♗c7! ♔f6 18.f4! and e5 next. Despite being two pawns up, Black is in trouble.]

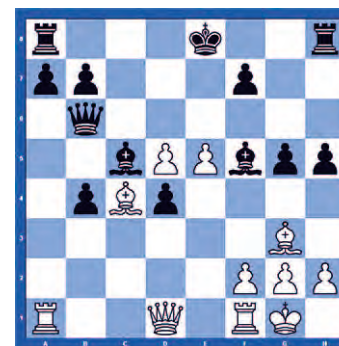
16.e5! The power of the center is increasing! By developing the bishop to c5, Black must lose further tempi to castle kingside, since the h6 pawn is unprotected.

16...♗f5 [16...h5 is too slow, White can build up a very strong attack with 17.♗d3! 0-0 18.♔f3! With the idea of ♗h6 and e6, crushing Black's defense. Black would really need a bishop on g7 now. An illustrative line is 18...♗d7 19.♗h6 ♖fe8 20.♖fe1! to make the e6 break more

effective. 20...♗f8 21.e6! fxe6 (21...♗xh6 22.♔xf7+ ♔h8 23.♔xg6+- wins.) 22.♗xg6 ♖e7 and here for example: (22...♗xh6 23.♔f7+-) 23.dxe6 ♗xe6 24.♔xh5+- with deadly threats.]

17.♗c4 White prepares for the e6 move. [17.♗d3!? It was also possible to exchange the good defender and then again play for the e6 break. 17...♗xd3 18.♔xd3→]

17...g5 18.♗g3 h5 [18...0-0 Probably the most dangerous continuation is 19.d6 ♔g7 20.♔f3! ♗g6 21.h4 The attack should break through. Even for the stubborn computers this is too much. For a human, this is kind of impossible to defend.]



19.e6! White continues his plan and also prevents h4, trapping the bishop.

19...fxe6 [19...h4 is refuted by 20.♔a4+! ♔f8 21.♔d7! ♖h7 22.♗c7+- trapping the queen out of the blue.; 19...0-0-0 is a bit risky... White wins, for instance, after 20.♔f3 ♗g6 21.♖fc1+-]

20.dxe6 ♗e7 Black tries to create a blockade, but of course, any kind of check is going to be decisive.

21. ♔f3 [21. ♖e1 It was also good enough to bring another piece into the attack.]

21... ♜af8 22. ♔d5 Black must parry the ♔d7 threat and ♜d8 does not work because of the f5 bishop.

22... ♜c6 23. ♔e5! Very nice position. The direct threat is ♔g7, but there are also more hidden ideas to attack the Black king.



23... h4? This eases the job, since it allows ♔g7, but the game was already objectively over. [23... ♜f6 The easiest and most logical win is 24. ♜fc1! White needs the other rook on a1. The hanging a7 pawn is the key in many lines. (Now on 24. ♜a5 ♜c8 works, since the f5 pawn is protected in comparison to the 23... ♜h7 line.; 24. h4 should also be enough to win...) 24... ♔d6 (24... ♔d6 25. ♔xd4; 24... h4 25. ♔b5 ♔xb5 26. ♜xc5+-) 25. ♜xa7!! This is a very important point! 25... ♔xe5 26. ♜xb7+ ♔d6 27. ♜d7+ ♔c6 28. ♔xe5+-; 23... ♜h7 The strongest is 24. ♜a5! using the fact that b6 does not work because of the a7 pawn. 24... ♔b6 (24... ♔d6 25. ♔xd4+-) 25. ♜d5+- and ♜d7 decides the game.]

24. ♔d5 ♔b5 White can choose between many winning moves... [24... ♔c8 25. ♔xb7! ♔xb7 26. ♔g7+-; 24... ♔b6 25. ♔g7+ and mate on d7.]

25. ♔c7+ ♔f6 26. ♔e5+ ♔g6 27. ♔xh8 White already has a material advantage, but after ♔f7, Black will lose even more pieces.

1-0

(2) Bacrot,E (2713) — Istratescu,A (2647) [D10]

87th ch-FRA 2012 Pau FRA (6), 18.08.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We'll see an interesting game which was very important for the standings in the French Championship. Etienne Bacrot with White was a clear favorite. However, Istratescu is in quite a good shape, so he's not an easy opponent to beat.

1.c4 c6 This move takes the game into a Slav. It's amazing how often we've seen this defense lately.

2.d4 [2.e4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.d4 would lead to the Panov attack of the Caro-Kann with a different move order.]

2...d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6



4.e3 A silent but tricky line in the Slav, and I think it's a bit strange to see Istratescu choosing to play this line with a6 against Bacrot, who's one of the biggest specialists in this opening with Black.

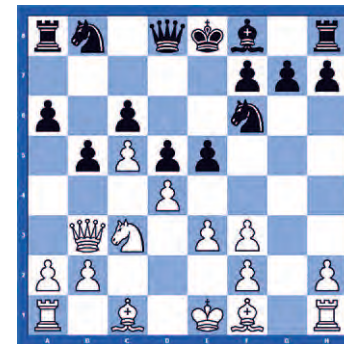
4...a6 5.♘f3 b5 [5...♙f5 would lead us to the „very main position“.]

6.c5 ♙g4 A rare move by Black. I don't think this is a serious try to equalize in the opening. Bacrot himself preferred to play 6...♘bd7, which is clearly the main move in the position.

7.♙b3 A very natural move with a few ideas in it. First, of course, White is forcing Black to take on f3, which could take Black to a very dangerous strategic position (we'll see it in the game) and the second idea is to start something on the queenside with a4 — which is a very standard plan here.

7...♙xf3 [7...♘bd7 8.a4 and Black will have to take on f3 anyway.]

8.gxf3 e5 This is the idea of Black's 6...♙g4 — to push e5 as quick as possible.

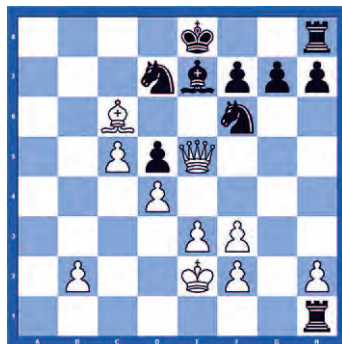


9.a4 Of course, White proceeds with the standard plan.

9...♘bd7 10.♘a2! A very good move! ♘b4 is almost a deadly threat in this kind of positions. Bacrot knew this knight maneuver from his game against Bologan where Black got in deep trouble very quickly.

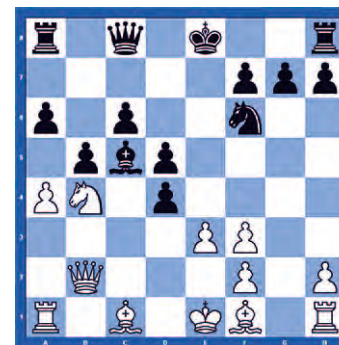
10...♙c8 [10...♙e7 11.♘b4 ♙c8 would just lead to a different move order.]

11. ♔a3! Strong play by White! Black is not in time to keep his pawn structure in a solid order. [11. ♘b4 An interesting option for White as well. 11...a5! What else... (In case of 11... ♖e7 12. ♔a3 White can get back into the game. (12. ♘xc6!? This time, the knight sacrifice deserves some attention. 12... ♔xc6 13. axb5 axb5 and now comes the slightly unexpected 14. ♔xb5!? (14. ♖xb5 just leads to a draw. 14... ♖xa1 15. ♖xc6 ♖xc1+ 16. ♔e2 ♖xh1 17. ♔b8+ ♖d8 18. ♔xe5+ ♖e7



19. ♔b8+ With such a material disadvantage, White should be happy with a draw...) 14... ♔xb5 Other moves are possible for Black as well, but this one should be the main option. 15. ♖xa8+ ♔b8 16. ♖xb8+ ♘xb8 17. dxe5! Important move! 17... ♘fd7 18. b4 ♘xe5 19. f4 and we can clearly see that White is doing better here. Can Black can hold the position? Maybe...)) 12. ♘d3 (12. ♘xc6 A typical blow, but this time it's not the best. 12... ♔xc6 13. axb5 ♔e6 The strong c5-b5 pawns are not enough compensation for a full piece.) 12...exd4 13. exd4 b4 14. ♖g1!? Disturbing Black from developing in a normal manner. I think White should be better here — more space plus the bishop pair.]

11... ♖e7 Not a nice move to do, but it looks like other moves don't really help Black. [This move that tries to solve the problems in a tactical way doesn't seem to work. 11... ♘b6 12. ♘b4 ♘xa4 The pawn on a4 is not tasty... but what's left?! 13. b3 Now Black got 2 ways to give the piece. 13... ♘xc5 (13...exd4 14. bxa4 ♖xc5 15. ♔b2



Black has some counterplay, but I think the White pieces should dominate the game.) 14. dxc5 ♖xc5 15. ♔a5 Only move for White, and it leads to a better position for him. 15...0-0 16. ♘d3 ♖d6 17. ♖a3! It's very important to exchange the Black bishop so that the Black squares get highly weakened. White is better here as well.; 11...exd4 12. exd4 An attempt to be tricky, exchanging first on d4 and only then playing ♘b6 doesn't work. 12... ♘b6? 13. ♔e3+! winning a full piece.]

12. ♘b4 Black can't avoid the destruction of his pawn structure. To take back with axb5 is simply impossible.

12...0-0 13. axb5 cxb5 The first step for White is done — Black's pawn structure is destroyed. Now it's time to avoid some tactical tricks and bring the king to a safe place.



14. ♖h3 Easy and good. White develops the bishop and opens the possibility of castling.

14...a5 It's hard for Black to find a better move.

15. ♘d3 exd4 [15...e4 16.fxe4 dxe4 17. ♘e5 doesn't help Black at all...]

16. exd4 ♜b7 I think this was a good move by Black. It's clear that White is much better, but Black finds interesting ideas to fight.

17. 0-0 ♞b8! An excellent move. Black can't stand with the knights on f6 and d7 forever. The Black knight belongs on c6!

18. ♞e5



18... ♞d8?! The right idea, but why not to start with... [18... ♞c6 Black needs to avoid White from keeping the knight on e5. 19. ♞xc6 (19. ♞e3 is a possibility here, but somehow this move looks strange. Maybe Black can try to play 19... ♞d8.) 19... ♜xc6 20. ♜d3 ♜fe8 21. ♞d2 White is clearly better, but Black can fight!]

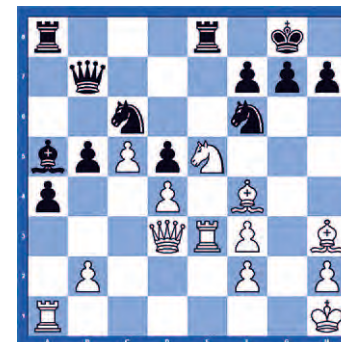
19. ♜d3! White recognizes very well what to do. However, White is not going to exchange the knight in e5, of course.

19... ♞c6 20. ♜e1 A solid move. [20. ♞f4 would have been another option.]

20...a4 21. ♜h1 This prophylactic move might be „too deep“. It was simpler to finish the development by playing 21. ♞f4.

21... ♜e8 Both players are putting their pieces on the center, which is definitely the right plan. The action will happen there.

22. ♞f4 ♞a5 23. ♜e3



23... ♞h5!? Black is using this chance to try to get rid of one White bishop.

24. ♖g3 I think this move is an inaccuracy. White is still better, but Black gets good chances for a draw. [24. ♘xc6!? White should have accepted Black's invitation see „who could eat more“. 24... ♘xf4 (24... ♖xc6 25. ♖d6 and Black is just completely pinned!) 25. ♘xa5 ♖a6! The only move, any other move loses material. 26. ♖f5 ♘xh3 27. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 28. ♖xh3 ♖xa5 29. ♖d7 After a big „feast“, nobody got any material advantage. 29... ♖d8 30. ♖e7 and White dominates the only open file. 30...g6!? 31. ♔g2! White doesn't need to hurry. The passed c-pawn and the domination on the e-file give a clear advantage.]

24... ♘xg3+ Of course, you don't need to ask Black twice.

25. hxg3 ♘xe5 [To put more pressure on e5 doesn't work. 25... ♖c7 26. ♘xf7! A nice tactical blow. 26... ♖xe3 27. fxe3 ♔xf7 28. ♖xh7 White only has two pieces on the attack, but here it's more than enough. 28... ♘e7 29. ♖h5+! White is close to winning.]

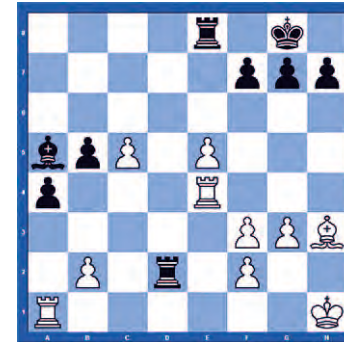
26. dxe5 After two pieces have been exchanged, we have to take a sober look at the position. The material is equal, but it's clear that White's play is better. The e6 push can be very dangerous and as the chess saying goes: „If there are opposite colored bishops, the attack is always going to be stronger“.

26...d4!? Black is trying to force a draw by sacrificing the d-pawn and reaching an endgame! [In case of a passive move like 26... ♖c6 27. ♖d4 b4 28.e6! fxe6 29. ♖ae1 White gets a decisive initiative.]

27. ♖xd4 ♖ad8 28. ♖e4 White would have liked to keep the queens, but there is no place for them.

28... ♖xe4 29. ♖xe4 Black reached the endgame, but the troubles have no end.

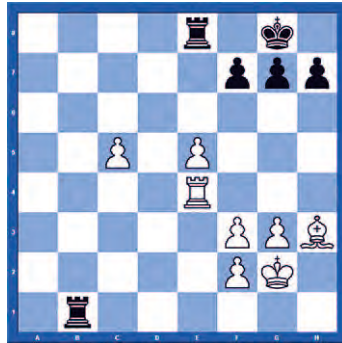
29... ♖d2 [Doesn't help much to play 29... ♖c7 30.f4 ♖d5 31.c6 White is a clear pawn up, and the next move, ♖d7, is quite unpleasant for Black.]



30.b4! Everything just seems to work for White! If Bacrot calculated everything when he played 24. ♖g3, we will never know :).

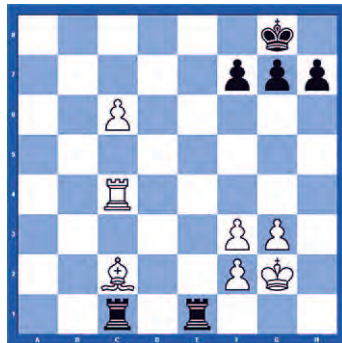
30...axb3 Black is going into an endgame with an exchange up, but White's two extra pawns plus the pawn on c6 seem to be enough to win the game. [30... ♖c7 A double attack on e5 and f2 would probably give Black better chances to escape. 31. ♖f1! Both of the Black pawns, on b5 and a4, are going to fall. 31... ♖xe5 32. ♖xb5 ♖xe4 33. fxe4 ♖xf2 34.g4! This strange move gives White good chances to win the game.(34. ♖xa4 h5! and Black has some chances to escape!)]

31. ♖xa5 ♖d1+ 32. ♔g2 b2 33. ♖xb5 b1 ♖ 34. ♖xb1 ♖xb1



35. ♖c4?? What a blunder by White in an almost winning position. [It was not hard to see 35.c6 ♖c1 36. ♗d7 ♜b8 37.f4 followed by the f5-e6 push, or just by ♖a4-Ra7-c7, with an easily winning position for White.]

35... ♜b7? What a present for White! [35... ♜xe5! It's strange that Black could not find this 2-moves combination. 36.c6 ♜ee1! Black is threatening to give mate with ♜g1, and... 37. ♗f5 ♜bc1 38. ♗c2



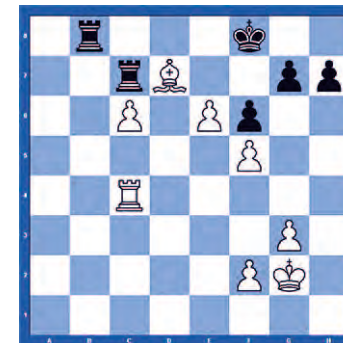
38...f5! Protecting from the ♗h7 check and, at the same time, threatening to play ♜g1 with mate. 39.f4 and only now 39... ♜e8 and Black is just in time to get a draw. 40. ♜c5 ♗h8 41.c7 ♜c8 42. ♜d5 ♜g8! Black is holding!]

36.c6 ♜c7 37. ♗d7! ♜b8 [Black can't take on e5. 37... ♜xe5 38. ♜b4! threatening a mate on b8 and ♜b7 at the same time. 38... ♗f8 39. ♜b7 ♜xd7 40. ♜xd7 ♗e8 41. ♜c7 with an easily winning rook endgame.]

38.f4 We reached a position that I don't think Black can save. White will slowly improve by playing f5-e5, or g4 creating another weakness on the kingside.

38...f6 39.e6! Now White got a second passed pawn.

39... ♗f8 40.f5



40... ♜b5?! Another unlucky move by Black. Would give better chances just to wait with [40... ♗e7 and Black is still fighting...]

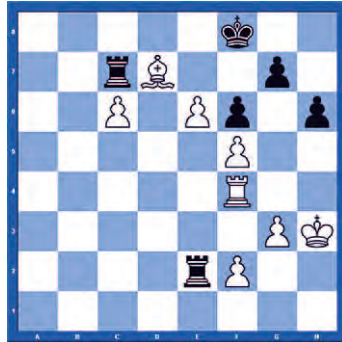
41. ♜a4! Forcing Black to go back, White wants to play ♜a8-Re8 and e7.

41... ♜b8 42. ♜h4! Creating a very important weakness in the Black structure.

42...h6 43. ♜a4 ♗e7 44. ♗h3! White shows a great way to win a winning position, which is not that easy sometimes. The White king is going to g6.

44...♖b2 45.♖g4 The last exact move, even though it didn't matter anymore.

45...♔f8 46.♖f4 ♖e2



47.♔h4 The White king finally gets into the game. It was too much for Black and Istratescu resigned the game. We saw quite a good game with a very interesting opening and middle game!

1-0

(3) Fressinet,L (2714) – Tkachiev,V (2644) [C15]

87th ch-FRA 2012 Pau FRA (3), 15.08.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

An important game from the French Championship where both players have a decent chance to fight for the top places... The game has started with a mutual surprise... Fressinet, who clearly became a 1.d4 player in the last few years started with.

1.e4 And Tkachiev, who almost always plays 1...e5, decided to go for the French defense.

1...e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♖b4 4.exd5 A harmless looking, but very tricky sideline. [The main move is 4.e5]

4...exd5 5.♙d3 Here Black can choose between various setups. Tkachiev went for the one which was recently played by the expert of the French defense, GM Nikita Vitiugov.

5...♘c6 6.a3 ♙e7 [6...♙xc3+ is by far the most common move, but by all means not the best one...]

7.♙e3 Fressinet goes for the critical continuation. [In the mentioned game, White played 7.♘ge2 ♙f6! Black's best setup is to get his bishop to f6 and develop the knight to e7, then he wants to exchange the light-squared bishops with ♙f5. White allowed all of this, and Black equalized comfortably. 8.♙e3 ♘ge7 9.0-0 0-0 10.♔d2 ♙f5= Alekseev-Vitiugov, Moscow 2012.]

7...♙f6! [On 7...♘f6 White has a very strong plan: 8.h3! not only to prevent the ♘g4 and ♙g4 ideas, but also to prepare for the following idea... 8...0-0 9.♔f3! followed by ♘ge2 and ♘f4, putting unpleasant pressure on the d5 pawn. 0-0-0 and g4 could also be very good for White.]



8. ♖h5! White knows the subtleties of the position. By temporarily leaving the knight on g1, White can arrange a much better development of his pieces. Again, the idea is to play ♘ge2 and ♘f4 later. White wants to castle queenside in this line. I believe he managed to retain the initiative.

8... ♙xd4 Black tries to equalize directly, but White is better prepared for the simplifications... [8... ♙e6 9. ♘ge2; 8... ♘ge7 9. ♘ge2 In both lines, White has a small, but stable advantage.]

9. ♙xd4 ♘xd4 10. ♖xd5! A strong move due to the fact that the endgame is better for White. It's interesting that Fressinet already had a game in 2001 against Apicella... but in that game he offered a draw at this moment. Now the fight continues. [10. ♘xd5 with the idea of a quick 0-0-0 does not work, because of the concrete 10... ♙f5! 11. ♘e3 Only move! (11. ♙xf5? loses to 11... ♖xd5!) 11... ♙xd3 12. cxd3 ♘e7 and Black is slightly better.]

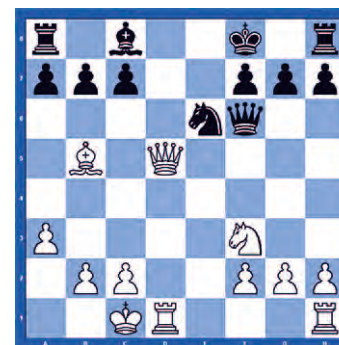
10... ♙e7+! Unfortunately for Black, he's forced to avoid the exchange of the queens, which should normally be his intention, since he is behind in development. [After 10... ♖xd5 11. ♘xd5 Black cannot solve the problems around the c7 pawn. 11... ♘e6 is met with 12. ♙f5!+/-; 10... ♙e6? doesn't work. 11. ♖xb7+/-]

11. ♘e4! The only way to fight for the advantage. The other move, 11. ♘ge2, would lead to equality after ♘xe2, followed by ♘f6. Now the d4 knight must retreat, which means an extra tempo for White.

11... ♘e6 12. 0-0-0 ♘f6 13. ♙b5+! This is the advantage of being ahead in development!

13... ♖f8 [13... c6? is refuted by 14. ♙xc6+!+- and the a8 rook hangs.]

14. ♘xf6 ♖xf6 15. ♘f3 White seems to be really fine, but actually he only has a small advantage. Black has no weaknesses and he wants to solve the problems of castling with an artificial maneuver: g6 and ♖g7. White cannot prevent this. As we'll see, the main problem of Black is his bishop on c8, which is very difficult to develop, because the e6 knight is forced to stay there for a while. This means that also the a8 rook can hardly join to the game.



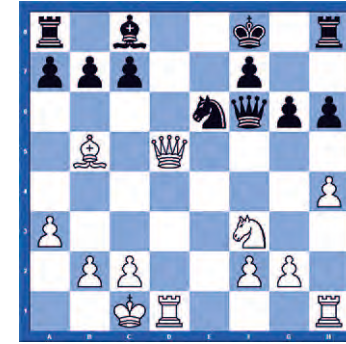
15...g6 [15... c6 still loses to 16. ♙xc6! bxc6 17. ♖xc6 ♖f4+ Only move, but doesn't help. (17... ♖b8? 18. ♖d6++-) 18. ♖b1 ♖b8 This is already very suspicious, but the refutation is very nice. (18... ♖b8 and the point is 19. g3!+- Black cannot control the d6 square, his rook is going to be lost.) 19. ♘g5! h6



20. Rxe1!! This nice combo had to be foreseen before playing 19. Ng5! 20... hxc5 21. Rxd8+! Qe7 (21... Nxd8 22. Re8#) 22. Rxe8+-]

16.h4 Very logical move! Of course, Black can simply prevent this attack. White just wanted to improve his pawn structure.

16...h6 [16... Qg7 is not advisable 17.h5 Rxd8 and here 18.h6+! A very unpleasant move, after which Black's back-rank starts to tell. 18... Qg8 19. Qe4+/-; At first I thought that Black could solve most of his problems by 16... Rf4+ 17.Qb1! looks like a mistake, because of (17. Qd2 this would be a more favorable way to exchange the queen, in comparison to the game... But of course, White still keeps some initiative.) 17...c6 but White is still doing fine after the concrete 18. Qxc6! bxc6 19. Qxc6 Rb8 20. Qc3! This is the key move of the sacrifice. White had to prevent the Qg7 move. (Now on 20.g3? Black has 20... Qc7) 20... Qg8 21.h5 with a serious attack. Rf4 could be very unpleasant. White is materially behind, but the two pawns and the h8 rook, which has no chance to return to the game, fully compensate him.]



17. Qe5! Very well played! Psychologically a difficult move because White could have had the urge to punish Black's king somehow. Fressinet realized that in the endgame his advantage is bigger than in the middlegame.

17...Qg7 18. Rxe1 It's not easy for Black now. The c8 bishop and the a8 rook are stuck...

18...Rf8 A slightly mysterious move, but it's not easy to recommend something... [18...a6 19. Qc4 b5 White can simply take the pawn with 20. Qxe6 Qxe6 21. Qxc7 and Qe5 is coming next.; 18... Rxd8 19. Rxd8 Qxe5 20. Rxe5 Nxd8 21. Re8 doesn't look great for Black either.]

19. Re3 White continues improving his pieces. The rook is ready to harass the queenside pawns along the 3rd rank and to double them on the d- or e-file... [19. Qc4 was even stronger, the bishop had already nothing to do on b5.]

19...a5 [19... Qxe5 20. Nxe5+= is also better for White.]

20. Qc4! This is the best place for the bishop! Black is still without any useful plans, so White has time for maneuvering. However, Black's position is still very stable, it's not easy to create a weakness in it.

20...♖e8 There are two ways to treat the position: one is to press in a superior endgame, or White can also preserve the queens and launch a dangerous attack. [20...♙xe5 21.♘xe5+ =]

21.♙xf6+!? [21.♙g3+/- was probably even stronger with the idea of ♘e5 and ♖f3.]

21...♔xf6 22.♖de1 [22.♘e5 ♖e7 23.♖de1 transposes to the game.]

22...♖e7 Black defends against the ♘e5, ♖f3 threat, however, he should have done it with the rook on f8. Now Black moved into tactical motifs...

23.♘e5 [23.h5! would have pointed out the inaccuracy of the previous move 23...g5 (23...gxh5 24.♘d4! with the threat of ♖f3 and ♘f5.) 24.♘d4! and again it's not easy to parry the ♖f3 — ♘f5 idea.]

23...a4! A resourceful idea! Black wants to get his rook into the game through the 5th rank, but Fressinet manages to keep the rook in passivity.

24.♘g4+ ♔g7 25.♖e5! Not only prophylactic against ♖a5, but also preparing to play h5! Black was already in time trouble. Usually, defending such a bad position consumes a lot of time and energy...

25...c6?! This allows White to execute his plan. [25...h5 should have been played, but it doesn't solve all the Black problems either. 26.♘h2 ♖d7 27.f4! For example, after (27.♘f3 also gives a small advantage.) 27...♖ee8 28.f5! gxf5 29.♖xf5+ =; 25...♖d7 26.h5+ =]

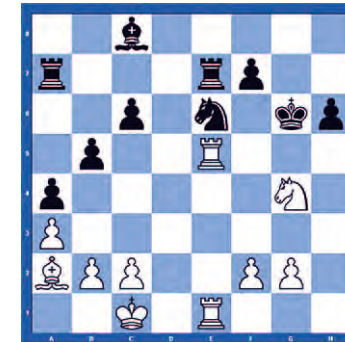
26.h5! Black is in much bigger trouble than it might look at first sight.

26...b5 [26...g5 is met with 27.♘e3! The h6 pawn is weak. For example, ♘f5-Kh7 and ♖d3, or ♘d6 are winning threats.]

27.♖a2! Fressinet holds the pressure on the e6 knight. This makes the threat of hxg6 decisive. Despite the material equality, Black is probably lost.

27...♖aa7 [27...gxh5 was more tenacious, but after 28.♖xh5 the h6 pawn falls.]

28.hxg6 ♔xg6



29.f4! This wins on the spot! Nothing to do against f5.

29...f6 [29...f5 30.♖xe6+ -]

30.♖xe6! Some calculating job at the end of the game.

30...fxe5 [30...♖xe6 Now the most precise is 31.f5+! (31.♖xe6 ♖xe6 32.♖xe6 ♔f5 is also winning for White, but Black can prolong the resignation a bit.) 31...♖xf5 32.♖xe7 ♖xe7 33.♖xe7 ♖xg4 34.♖c7+ -]

31.♘xe5+ ♔f6 32.♖xc8+- White ended up with a huge material advantage.

32...h5 33.♖d1 ♖g7 34.♖h3 Nice positional game!

1-0

(4) Mullan,J (2404) – Fressinet,L (2714) [B04]

87th ch-FRA 2012 Pau FRA (5), 17.08.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Usually, we analyze games between two chess giants, but this time I want to make a small exception. We are in the game between the player who is in last place and the one with the lowest Elo rating in the tournament, Jean Baptiste Mullan (the boss of the French League Champion, Clichy), and one of the pretenders for the French Title, Laurent Fressinet, rated more than 300 Elo points higher. We'll see a game with the topic: „How to beat a much weaker opponent“, something that's very usual in any big open tournament.

1.e4 ♘f6 Fressinet doesn't play the „Alekhine“ very often, but for today's special situation, it's not a bad choice at all...

2.e5 ♘d5 **3.d4** d6

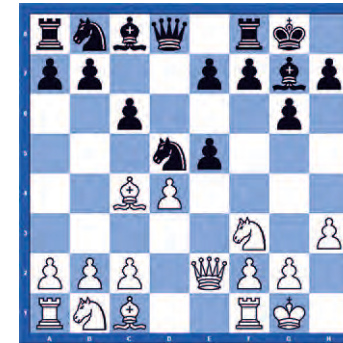


4.♘f3 White chooses the most solid line, which makes perfect sense. As a weaker player, you should try to be as solid as possible avoiding complications as far as possible. In an „easy position“, the 300 Elo points difference is less effective than in a position with a lot of different possible moves.

4...g6 We are still in one of the main lines, with many games that were previously played.

5.♘c4 c6 6.h3 ♘g7 7.0-0 0-0 8.♔e2 Not a bad move, but a bit usual here. [8.exd6 ♔xd6 9.♘bd2 leads to a normal slightly better position for White.]

8...dxe5



9.♘xe5? A bad move. Actually, almost a blunder. [9.dxe5 and we are in a very normal position.]

9...♘b6! Of course, Black tries to make use of the situation with a double attack. If White tries to defend the d4 pawn, Black will simply get the bishop pair after ♘xc4.

10.♘b3! What a great play by White. Not because the move is good — the move is bad -, but because this is the only move that gives practical chances. In case of 10. ♔d1 ♘xc4 11. ♘xc4, there is no way J.B.Mullan would save this position against such a strong opponent. A slightly worse position with a lot of play usually equals a slow and unpleasant death...

10...♘8d7?! What an interesting psychological moment. Black doesn't take on d4! He's afraid to blunder something. If Fressinet would be playing against an equal opponent, I have no doubts he would take on d4, but play-

ing the lower rated Mullon, Black thinks that he will win the game without risking anything. [10...♔xd4! It looks like Black can just win the pawn! 11.♘xf7 In case of any other move, Black is just a pawn up. 11...♖xf7 12.♖d1 ♔f6! The only square for the black queen. Black needs to have the e6 move in the future.



13.♖d8+ ♕f8 14.♕xf7+ Not a great move to do, but Black wanted to play e6 next. 14...♔xf7 15.♘c3 e5 Two pieces for the rook and an equal number of pawns, this should be enough to be better. Yes, White still has some tricks in the position, but objectively, the position is better for Black.]

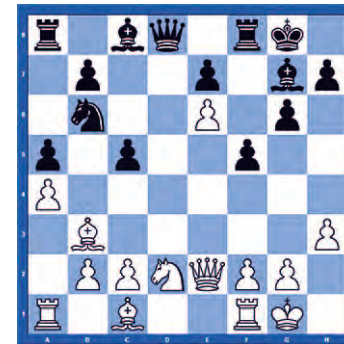
11.♘d2 A bit too passive. 11.♘c3 would have been a better solution.

11...a5! A typical positional move. Black is provoking White to play a4. And to include the a5-a4 moves is definitely good for Black.

12.a4 ♘xe5 13.dxe5 c5?! An ugly move. [It's not much better to play 13...♖c7 14.e6! f5 15.♖e1 The bishop on c8 is completely blocked. This gives White very good chances for a future attack. In my opinion, White should be clearly better here.; 13...♘d5! This would be the most normal reaction for Black. 14.♘f3 Now we can see why

a5-a4 was so useful for Black. White has no c4 push anymore. 14...♖b6 with a very normal position.]

14.♘f3? White has too much respect for his opponent. [Why not to play the most logical? 14.e6 f5 (14...♕xe6 15.♕xe6 fxe6 16.♖xe6+ ♔h8 17.♘f3 After these obvious moves, we can clearly see that Black has quite a few problems. The pawn configuration with a5-b7-c5-e7 is just a disaster, the knight on b6 is badly placed and all that White needs to do is to play ♕g5. White is clearly better here.)



15.♘c4 If this would've happened in the game, I think Fressinet would have regretted a lot not having taken the pawn on d4 before... Black's position is just horrible and there's no risk for White at all.]

14...♖c7! And here comes the immediate punishment, Black wants to play c4 now.

15.e6 Too late for an active play. [A normal move like 15.♕e3 e6 16.c3 would still lead to a slightly more pleasant position for White, but of course, the best part of the advantage has already passed away.]

15...f5 Black doesn't take on e6 because this would give White a clearly better position. Now the game becomes very concrete.

16. ♖e1?! This move has the right intention, to keep the e6 pawn at any cost, but it doesn't seem to work tactically. [It was much better to play the simple 16.c3 The White bishop belongs on c2. 16...c4 17. ♗c2 ♖a6! We can see again how important was the a5 move for Black. The rook is attacking the e6 pawn. The position is very complicated.]

16...c4 Of course!

17. ♗a2 ♞xa4! This time Fressinet takes the „free” pawn.



18. ♗xc4? White totally lost control over the game. This move already leads to the loss of more than just a pawn, and it was not too late to start playing „normal chess”. [18. ♞e5! and the position is still totally unclear. Black has a lot of options here. To hold on to the c4 pawn doesn't work. 18...b5?! 19. ♗xc4! bxc4 20. ♖xa4 and even Black has the bishop pair. The defense of the c4 pawn is not an easy task. The position should be around equal here.]

18... ♞xb2 19. ♗b3 ♞c4! Strong move by Black. [In case of 19... ♞d3 20.cxd3 ♗xa1 21.d4! probably Black's position is winning, but White will get some counterplay on the kingside, which is really unnecessary for Black.]

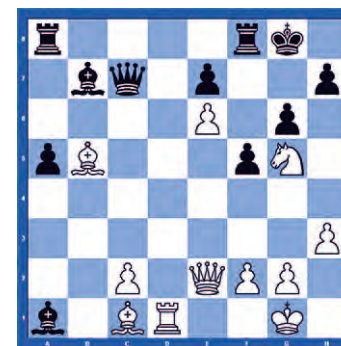
20. ♗xc4 [20. ♖b1 b5 would lead to a position with a clear pawn up for Black. J.B. Mullon thought that here he had

zero practical chances and decided to sacrifice the exchange expecting to get some tricks in exchange.]

20... ♗xa1 21. ♞g5 b5 Black gives a pawn to develop the bishop from c8 — not a bad thing to do being a clear exchange up!

22. ♗xb5 ♗b7 Not the most precise move by Black. [22... ♗f6 23. ♞f7 a4 pushing the a-pawn as far as possible would give Black a winning position on the spot. The White knight on f7 is well placed, but it can't create any dangerous threats to the Black king. Also, just in case, Black has the move ♖a5 to protect the 5th rank.]

23. ♖d1?! The idea of ♖d7 is nice, but it's more like a dream for White... [The only chance to continue the game would have been to play 23. ♞f7 ♗f6 24.c4! protecting all the pieces. 24...a4 25. ♗b2! and White has some small hopes for tactical tricks — even if the position remains lost.]



23... ♗e5?! What is Fressinet doing? It seems like White managed to get Black to play badly by playing badly himself. [23... ♗c6 This simple move just gives Black a winning position. 24. ♖c4 White needs to play for tricks... 24... ♖ac8 25. ♗f4 (25. ♖h4 h5) 25... ♗xb5! It's not a difficult line to calculate for a 2700 ELO player. 26. ♖xc7 ♖xc7 27. ♗xc7

♙f6 28.♘f3 a4 and we are in quite an easily winning end-game for Black.]

24.♔f1! Easy and good, White is back in the fight.

24...♖ab8?! Another strange move by Black... but it seems like both Fressinet and Mullon just dropped their chess level to a minimum.

25.♙d7? [After the easy 25.♙a3 ♔f6 Black already needs to find „only“ moves. Luckily, it's good enough to keep the advantage. 26.♘xh7 ♔xh7 27.♖xa1 and we can clearly see that the game is by far not over. White got the bishop pair plus an extra pawn for the exchange.]

25...♔c7! In chess, it's very important to recognize the mistakes one has done, and Fressinet is doing it. The Black bishop belongs on f6 to cover the king. The Black queen should attack the White pieces.

26.h4 White is starting a suicidal attack, but there's not much else to do. Black wants to play ♙f6 followed by a4-a3-a2 and queen.

26...♙f6 Finally, the Black bishop has reached his destination.

27.h5



27...♔xc2! Black is back, playing cool and strong moves.

28.hxg6 hxg6 29.♙f4 ♙a6! Easy but nice tactic. Now the position is completely winning.

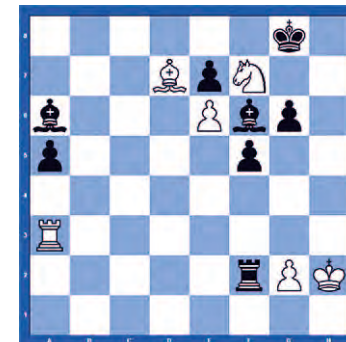
30.♔e1 ♔e2! The most technical way to end the game. There were many others winning moves, but Black decides to give away the exchange, leaving him in a totally winning endgame anyway. The a-pawn will be worth at least a full piece!

31.♙xb8 ♔xe1+ 32.♖xe1 ♖xb8 33.♘f7 [33.♘f3 ♖b4 would lead to about the same.]

33...♖b4 The a-pawn starts to move.

34.♖e3 ♖b1+ [Would lead to a nice winning line: 34...♙d4 35.♖a3 ♖b1+ 36.♔h2 ♙xf2 37.♖xa5 ♙g1+ Black starts to build a mating net around the White king. 38.♔g3 ♖b3+ 39.♔f4 ♔g7! What a nice mating motif! 40.♖xa6 ♔f6 and the mate is coming from all sides!]

35.♔h2 ♖b2 36.♖a3 ♖xf2



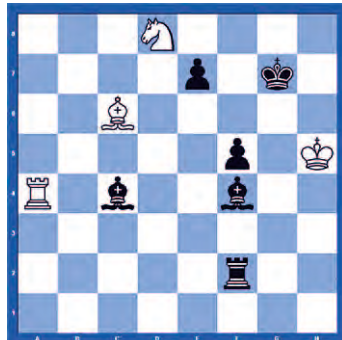
37.♙c6 [37.♖xa5 ♙b7 and the g2-pawn is gonna fall.]

37...♙c4 38.♖xa5 ♙xe6 Now it was a good moment to resign, but White decided to make a few more moves.

39.♘d8 ♖c4 40.♖a4 ♗e5+ 41.♔h3 ♜f1 42.g4 ♜f2!

A nice mate!

43.♔h4 ♗f4 44.gxf5 gxf5 45.♔h5 ♔g7



And finally the game has finished with a predictable result. What can we learn from this game? It happens very often, and to any kind of player: You drop Your level of play to the one of Your opponent. It's very important to stay focused even in a winning position against a much weaker opponent!

0-1

Puzzle section

(5) Tkachiev,V (2644) – Maze,S (2573)

French Championship, 18.08.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–



(6) Hansen,E (2472) – Grigoryan,K (2529)

World Youth Championship, 14.08.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–

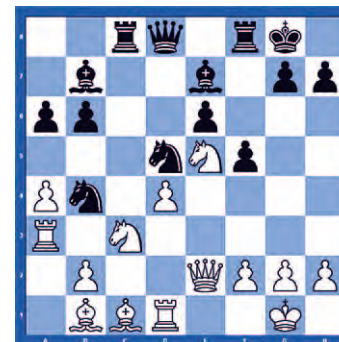


(7) Cori,J (2487) – Huschenbeth,N (2532)

World Youth Championship, 15.08.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

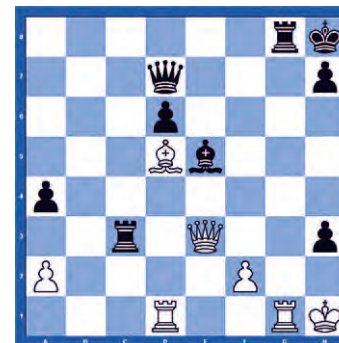


(8) Ivekovic,Z (2320) – Salem,AR (2546)

World Youth Championship, 13.08.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+



(9) Beckhuis,G (2288) – Horvath,J (2536)

Vienna Open, 18.08.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(11) Fedorchuk,S (2639) – Markidis,K (2351)

Ishtmia Open, 18.08.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



(10) Gajewski,G (2628) – Antoi Royo,J (2398)

Sants Open, 19.08.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

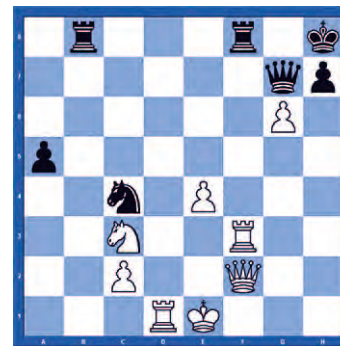


(12) Pruijssers,R (2514) – Broekmeulen,J (2410)

Roosendaal Open, 17.08.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

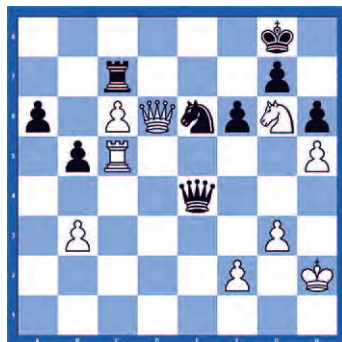


(13) Fier,A (2582) – Kulaots,K (2558)

Riga Open, 12.08.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



(14) Romanishin,O (2509) – Nguyen,P (2388)

Najdorf memorial, 14.08.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

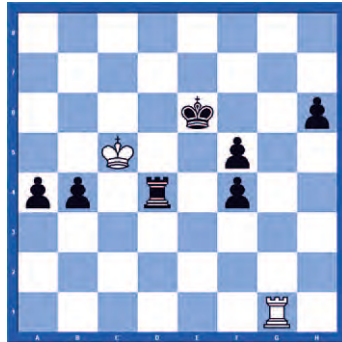


Endgame section

(15) Lagarde,Max (2505) — Vaisser,A (2556) [A40]

87th ch-FRA 2012 Pau FRA (6), 18.08.2012

[Chess Evolution]

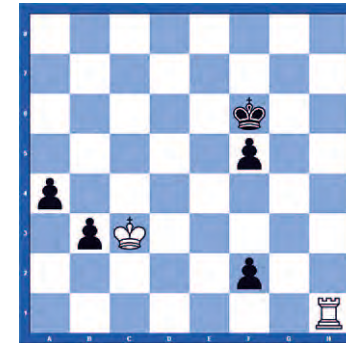


What an endgame! Rarely we see such a constellation: 5 pawns for a rook. It's clear that White is doing better, but is this position winning? And what's the best way to fight for a win with White? To leave the rook on the first rank, or to start attacking from „behind“ in order to allow the king to help on the queenside, or to leave the king controlling Black's f-pawns... Let's take a closer look.

58. ♔xd4 Black chooses the most natural move, but it actually leads to a very tricky draw.

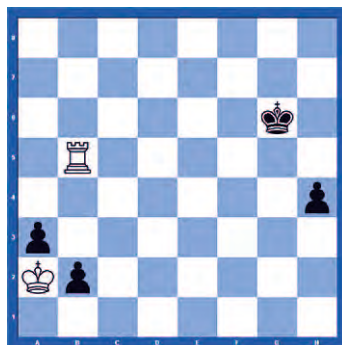
58...b3 [58...f3! It seems that this move makes the easiest draw... The idea of Black is to leave the White king busy with the a- and b-pawns, and to start pushing the f-pawn together with the king as far as possible. 59. ♖g6+ White needs to try to get the Black king on a distance, any other attempt would lead to an immediate draw. (59. ♔e3? To

try to hold the f-pawn with the king would even lead to a losing position for White! 59...a3! 60. ♖a1 Black wanted to play a2-b3-b2 and queen. 60...♔d5! The Black king is on the way to help his pawns on the queenside. 61. ♔xf3 ♔c4 62. ♔e3 ♔b3 63. ♔d2 ♔b2 with an easy win for Black.) 59...♔f7 60. ♖g3!? The only chance to fight for a win. (60. ♖xh6 It could be important to help the h-pawn, but again White is just not in time to achieve more than a draw. 60...b3 The usual b3... 61. ♔c3 The White king has to get away from the f-pawn. 61...f2 forcing White's rook to leave the 6th rank. 62. ♖h1 ♔f6 and here comes the Black king.



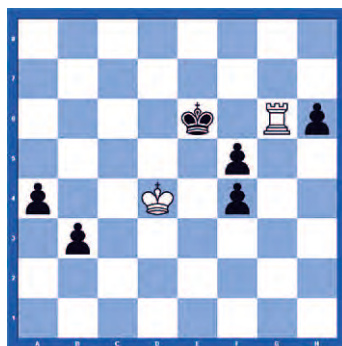
63. ♖f1 f4 64. ♖xf2 ♔f5 White is clearly not in time to capture the a- and b-pawns and to return back with the king to help the rook in its lonely fight. 65. ♔b4 ♔g4 66. ♔xa4 ♔g3 with a draw.) 60...b3! This b3 that we see in almost all the lines tends to be the best move. 61. ♖xf3! White is holding the Black pawns for a second with the rook. 61...♔f6 (61...b2?! still leads to a miraculous draw, although it would be a bad move for the heart :). 62. ♖xf5+! The f-pawn is gone. 62...♔g6 63. ♖b5 a3 64. ♔c3! The White king is going for Black's a- and b- pawns. 64...h5 65. ♔c2 h4 66. ♔b1 ♔h6 67. ♔a2 ♔g6 and we have a very funny position. Black has no other moves than ♔h6-Kg6, but how

can White improve the position?! There is no way except to play ♔xa3, which leads to a „move by move” draw.

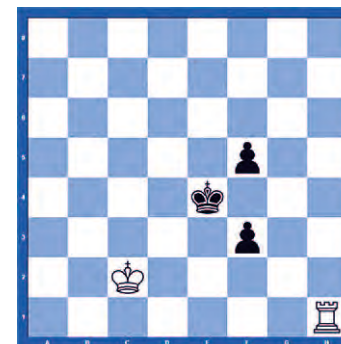


68. ♔xa3 b1♚! Black needs to cross the 5th rank with the king at any cost. 69. ♖xb1 ♔g5 70. ♔b3 ♔g4 71. ♔c4 ♔g3 The run of the king ends with Black being on time. 72. ♔d4 h3 73. ♔e3 h2 Draw.) 62. ♖f1 ♔g5 63. ♔c3 and again White can do nothing better than to play ♔c3... and this is exactly what Black wants... 63...f4 64. ♔b4 ♔g4 65. ♔xa4 f3 66. ♔xb3 ♔g3 67. ♔c3 ♔g2 68. ♖a1 f2 and once again, Black is just in time to make a draw.]

59. ♖g6+! Absolutely correct. White needs to cut the Black king on the 7th rank. [59. ♔c3 ♔d5]



59...♔d7? A natural move, which is a losing mistake! [59...♔f7! would be the right way to go. For a human this is not an easy move to make. It's very hard to calculate all the lines until the end, and this move has to be done more intuitively. 60. ♖b6! White stops the advance of the Black pawns with the rook, which gives White a chance to keep the king in the center — the f-pawn just can't move! (An attempt to capture the h-pawn ends in a draw as well. 60. ♖xh6 b2! As usual, Black gets the White king away from the center, which gives him time to bring his own king and to advance the f-pawn as far as possible. 61. ♖h1 (61. ♖b6 a3 62. ♔c3 f3) 61...a3 62. ♔c3 ♔f6 63. ♔b3 We have another move by move position. 63...f3 64. ♔xa3 ♔e5 65. ♔xb2 ♔e4 66. ♔c2

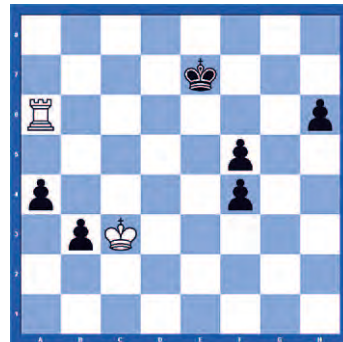


66...f2! It's a bit funny that the second Black pawn on f5 secures a draw. Without it, the position would just be lost. 67. ♔d2 ♔f3 68. ♖a1 f4! 69. ♖b1 ♔g2 70. ♔e2 f3+ and this is why Black needed the second f-pawn. What a nice line!) 60...h5! It's amazing but this is probable the only move that saves Black's position. And what else to do!? Against f3, White is always in time for ♔e3. 61. ♖b4 The rook can capture both pawns by itself! 61...h4 62. ♖xa4 h3 63. ♖a1 It looks like White has some winning chances, but the po-

sition is a draw. 63...♔f6! The Black king starts his movement. 64.♖h1 b2! forced White to move the king close to the b-pawn, which of course means a draw. 65.♔d3 (65.♔c3 We already saw many times that this leads to a draw. 65...♔g5 66.♔xb2 ♔g4 67.♔c3 ♔g3 68.♖g1+ ♔f2 69.♖g5 h2 70.♖h5 ♔g2 71.♖g5+ Draw.) 65...f3! It's very important to be careful until the end! (It was not too late to make a huge mistake by playing 65...♔g5 ?? 66.♔e2! and White is winning! The White king is getting to f3, and all the Black pawns are gonna fall!) 66.♔e3 ♔e5! The Black king is going to c2! 67.♖d1 cutting on the d-file. 67...h2 68.♔xf3 h1 ♕+! Typical, but anyway a nice move. 69.♖xh1 ♔d4 70.♔e2 ♔c3 The Black king reached the c2-square. Draw!]

60.♔c3! This is exactly why Black should not have played ♔d7?. Now White just wants to play ♖xh6-Rf6 and capture all the Black pawns. Black has nothing better to do than to lose a very important tempo and to go back with the king.

60...♔e7 61.♖a6! Very good play by White! The game is over, White is in time to capture both pawns and to go back with the king to stop the f-pawn.



61...f3 62.♖xa4 ♔d6 63.♖b4 ♔e5 Here the game was stopped with the result of 0–1. First I thought it must have been a mistake. White is completely winning! Later on I found out that White lost on time! With a 30 second increment per move, it's amazing! How unfortunate for the young French player. Of course, 64.♔d2 wins on the spot.

0–1

(16) Saric,I (2638) – Fischer,AK (2244)

Vienna Open, 15.08.2012

[Chess Evolution]

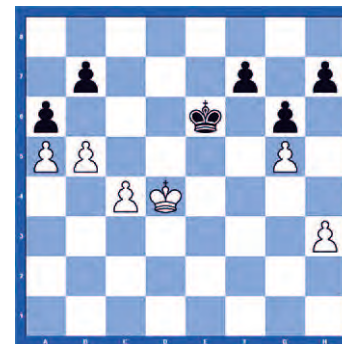


In the first rounds of an open tournament, a strong GM was facing a much lower rated opponent, but the game was always about even. Suddenly, they simplified the game to this amazingly complex pawn endgame. The position is full of fascinating motifs. One of the best ways to improve your calculating abilities is to solve pawn endgames. This is also an excellent example. First of all, let's try to find out who is better and why... Black has a seemingly more active king, but his pawns are squeezed down, they cannot move. The a5 pawn blocks excellently the queenside and if the Black king goes to take it, White appears to be faster to collect the kingside pawns and promote his own pawns. White's only winning attempt is the following: to play g5, ♔f5 and h4-h5-h6, making an „entrance square” on f6 for the pawns.

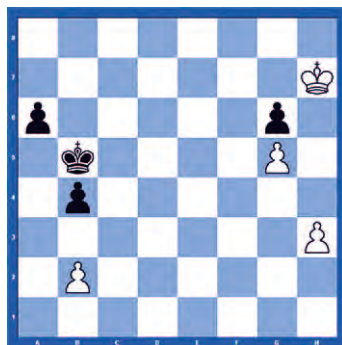
30.g5! Very strong move. Just like the a5-pawn on the queenside, the g5-pawn completely restricts the mobility of the kingside pawns. [Other moves with the same idea

were not so dangerous. For example: 30.♔f5 h6! Black prevents g5 and starts moving with his king on the d-file.]

30...♔e6! Only move! Black needs to create a passed pawn, he intends to play f5 next. [30...g6? is probably the most logical move to prevent ♔f5 and the h4-h5-h6 plan, but it has a huge drawback as well: it gives up the f6 square. The a5 pawn does such a good blockading job that White can lure the king to the queenside and he will be still ahead in time to promote his g-pawn... 31.c4+! ♔xc4 White gets a winning queen endgame by force after the big pawn race. (31...♔e6 This is too passive, it cannot lead to anything good for Black... 32.b4 ♔d6 33.♔e4 ♔e6 34.b5! White has a well-known breakthrough in this kind of 3 vs 2 situations, which he can comfortably execute here... 34...♔d6 35.♔d4 ♔e6



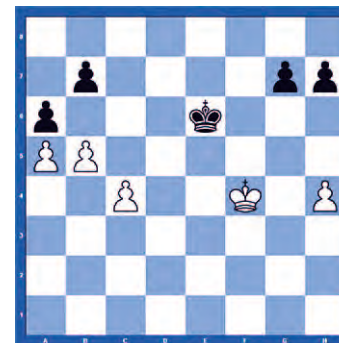
36.c5! with the idea of 36...axb5 37.c6! This is the point. 37...bxc6 38.a6+-; After 31...♔d4 32.h4!+- Black is in zugzwang. He must allow White to play ♔e5.) 32.♔e5 ♔b4 33.♔f6 ♔xa5 34.♔xf7 b5 35.♔g7 b4 36.♔xh7 ♔b5



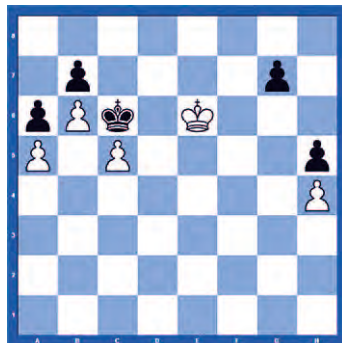
37.h4! White will do up with a g5 pawn, which is clearly much better than the one with h3, after ♔xg6, and promoting the g-pawn. 37...a5 38.h5 a4 39.hxg6 a3 40.bxa3 bxa3 41.g7 a2 42.g8 ♔ a1 ♔ 43.♔d5+- with a theoretically winning endgame.; 30...♔d4? 31.♔f5 ♔e3 The active try had to be calculated precisely, but if we do a good job, we come to the conclusion that White wins by one tempo... (31...♔d5 The waiting policy of passing on the d-file is a very bad idea now. White can simply execute his winning plan. 32.h4 ♔d6 33.h5 ♔e7 34.h6 gxh6 35.gxh6+- and by pushing the queenside pawns, White lures the king and he can simply penetrate with the king.) 32.h4! ♔d2 33.h5 ♔xc2 (33...g6+ does not help. 34.hxg6 fxg6+ 35.♔f6 ♔e3 (35...♔xc2 36.♔g7+- The a5-pawn is an excellent blockader.) 36.♔g7 ♔f4 37.♔h6+- followed by pushing on the queenside again.) 34.h6 The usual winning technique. 34...gxh6 35.gxh6 ♔xb2 36.♔f6 ♔c3 37.♔xf7 ♔b4 38.♔g7 ♔xa5 39.♔xh7 b5 40.♔g6 b4 41.h7 b3 42.h8 ♔+-; 30...♔c5? is too slow. 31.♔e5 ♔b5 32.♔d6 ♔xa5 33.♔e7 f5! Black wins a few tempi with this, but still fails to save the game. 34.gxf6 gxf6 35.♔xf6 b5 36.h4 b4 37.h5 ♔b5 38.h6 a5 and here comes the key move: 39.b3!+- This stops the a-pawn. Black needs to go around with his king, but of course, White is much faster here.]

31.c4 White correctly advances the queenside pawns. Other moves like b4 and h4 will lead to the same positions as in the game.

31...f5! Principled defense! Black needs to make use of his pawn majority on the kingside. [The passive defense is not recommended here either, but the refutation is really difficult now: 31...♔d6? 32.b4 ♔e6 33.h4 f5! Only chance. (Black could not wait any longer with 33...♔d6 34.♔f5 ♔e7 35.h5+- and h6 next.) 34.gxf6 ♔xf6 35.b5 ♔e6 We are at another critical moment, where we really need to use our calculating skills.



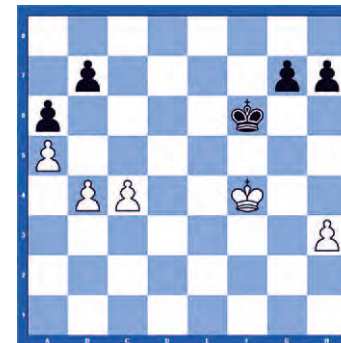
36.b6!! Pure calculation is needed. With the help of the c5-c6 threat, White wants to enter in the opponent's camp. It's important to notice that if Black goes for the a5-pawn, it's enough for White to reach the c7-square with the king and he'll still queen faster with his b-pawn. 36...♔d6 37.♔f5 ♔e7 (37...♔c5 is not an option. 38.♔e6 ♔xc4 (38...♔b4 39.♔d6 ♔xa5 40.c5+-) 39.♔d6 ♔b5 40.♔c7+-) 38.♔e5 ♔d7 39.c5! Despite being with a plus on the kingside, Black cannot create a passed pawn. The move h6 is always met with h5, and he doesn't have enough time for g6 and h6, because of ♔f6... 39...♔c6 (39...h6 40.h5+- is easy.) 40.♔e6 h5! (40...♔xc5 41.♔d7+-)



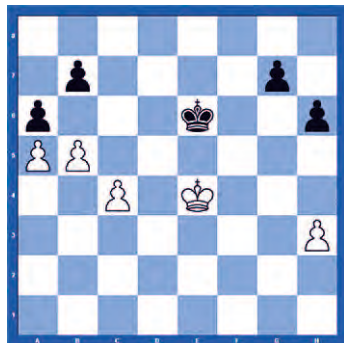
41.♔e7!! A similar ending arises after 41. ♔f7, but there will be a huge difference... 41...g5 Black needs to play this move, otherwise White just plays ♔d8-c8. 42.hxg5 h4 43.g6 h3 44.g7 h2 45.g8♔ h1♔ and here White has the fantastic 46.♔d8!! The idea is simply to collect the b7 pawn. He can go with the king to a7 if it's needed and then the pawn automatically falls. 46...♔xc5 47.♔b3!! is the most precise, but not the only move here. Next is ♔c7 or in case of 47...♔c6 48.♔c4+ ♔d6 49.♔c7+ ♔e6 50.♔c8+- wins.]

32.gxf6! White has no choice of course. If Black manages to create a protected passed pawn with g6, he cannot have any more problems in this game... [32.b4? g6]

32...♔xf6 33.b4 And we have reached another critical moment, The most critical one, from the game point of view. After finding a few only moves, Black makes a mistake and loses. There was only one way to save the game...

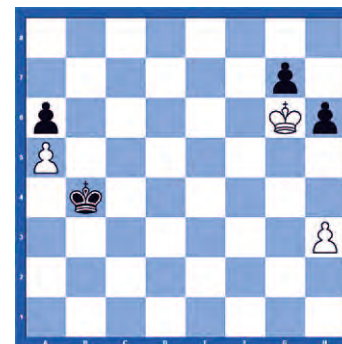


33...g5+? [33...♔e6? will lead us back to the previous line with 31...♔d6. 34.h4! ♔e7 (34...♔f6 35.b5 ♔e6 36.b6+- We transposed to 31...♔d6.) 35.b5 ♔d6 36.b6! ♔e6 and here again, we end up in the same position after 37.c5! ♔d5 38.♔f5 ♔xc5 39.♔e6 h5 40.♔d7 g5 41.hxg5 h4 42.g6 h3 43.g7 h2 44.g8♔ h1♔ and again White has some good possibilities, but the strongest is 45.♔b3! ♔c6+ 46.♔d8+- with the threat of exchanging the queens. Black must allow the king to have access to the b7 pawn. The game is practically over.; 33...h6!! The only move to draw! Black's idea is to get rid of the kingside pawns, after which he can calmly walk to the other side with the king. At any moment, when White plays h4, he needs to push g5 and White is forced to take it. As we saw in the 31...♔d6 and 33...♔e6 lines, the key was that White managed to get his pawn to h4 and was ready to play h5 against h6... 34.b5 (34.♔e4 ♔e6; 34.h4 g5+!) 34...♔e6! Otherwise, the c5-c6 break works... 35.♔e4 (35.c5?? would be a terrible blunder. 35...axb5 36.c6 ♔d6! 37.cxb7 ♔c7 Black stopped the pawns and the passers on both flanks to win the game. 38.a6 g5+)



35...♔d6! Another only move! (After the other candidate move 35...g6 White wins again with subtle play. 36.♔d4! g5 (36...♔d6 loses by one tempo. 37.c5+ ♔d7 38.bxa6! bxa6 39.♔e5 ♔c6 40.♔f6 ♔xc5 41.♔xg6 ♔b4 42.♔xh6 ♔xa5 43.♔g6+- and both pawns are promoting at the same time, but White does it first and controls the a1 square...) 37.♔e4 h5 Black seemingly manages to finish his plan and exchanges the kingside pawns, but White is in time again. Now he wins even by two tempi... 38.b6! ♔d6 39.♔f5 g4 40.hxg4 hxg4 41.♔xg4 ♔c5 42.♔f5 ♔xc4 43.♔e6 ♔b5 44.♔d7 ♔xa5 45.♔c7 ♔b4 46.♔xb7 a5 47.♔c6 a4 48.b7 a3 49.b8 ♔++-) 36.♔f5 (36.♔d4 would ease Black's task. 36...axb5 37.cxb5 g5 Now the draw is clear. The two kings will remain alone on the board soon... 38.♔e4 h5 39.♔f5 g4 40.hxg4 hxg4 41.♔xg4 ♔c5 42.a6 bxa6 43.bxa6 ♔b6=) 36...♔c5 37.b6 (After 37.bxa6 it is White who needs to be very careful to hold the draw. The way he does this is very instructive, again! 37...bxa6 38.♔g6 ♔b4! By not wasting time on the c4 pawn, Black promotes his queen first and controls the h8 square. However, with a pawn on h7 and the king on g8 against the queen, the position is a theoretical draw, with a well-known stalemate trick. Yes, but this stalemate does not exist with the exist-

ence of the c4 pawn. After all, it's clear what White has to do... (38...♔xc4?? is a blunder 39.♔xg7 ♔b4 40.♔xh6+-) 39.♔f5!! (39.♔xg7? ♔xa5 40.♔xh6 ♔b4 41.h4 a5 42.h5 a4 43.♔g7 a3 44.h6 a2 45.h7 a1 ♔+ 46.♔g8 ♔a8+ 47.♔g7 ♔b7+ 48.♔g8 ♔c8+ 49.♔g7 ♔d7+ 50.♔g8 ♔d8+ 51.♔g7 ♔g5+ 52.♔f7 ♔h6 53.♔g8 ♔g6+ 54.♔h8 and here, due to the c4 pawn, Black wins with 54...♔f7! and there is no stalemate. 55.c5 ♔f8#) 39...♔xc4 (39...♔xa5 also leads to a draw. 40.♔e6! White goes to support the c-pawn. 40...♔b6! Only move. 41.♔d6 ♔b7! Only move again. Black wants to play ♔c8, so White is also forced 42.♔d7! ♔b6 43.♔d6= with a repetition.) 40.♔g6! After the c-pawn disappeared, White can go for the mentioned endgame, but the execution still needs precision! 40...♔b4



41.h4!! White has to push his pawn to h5 first! (41.♔xg7? loses to 41...h5! lures away the White king. 42.♔g6 ♔xa5 43.♔xh5 ♔b6 44.♔g6 a5 45.h4 a4 46.h5 a3 47.h6 a2 48.h7 a1 ♔) 41...♔xa5 42.h5! ♔b4 43.♔xg7 a5 44.♔xh6 a4 45.♔g7 a3 46.h6 a2 47.h7 a1 ♔+ 48.♔g8 ♔g1+ 49.♔h8= with a theoretical draw.) 37...h5! This is the most precise! (37...♔xc4 also leads to a draw, but Black needs to suffer for a long time. 38.♔e6! g5 39.♔d7 h5 40.♔c7 g4 41.hxg4 42.♔xb7 g3 43.♔xa6 g2 44.b7 g1 ♔ 45.b8 ♔ This is

theoretically drawn, but of course, I don't wish anyone to have this kind of queen endgame. Usually, it lasts for about 100 moves.) 38.h4 ♔xc4 39.♔e6! Only this direction! (39.♔g6 is too slow. 39...♔b5 40.♔xh5 ♔xa5 41.♔g6 ♔xb6 42.♔xg7 a5 The Black pawn arrives with check!) 39...♔b5 40.♔d6 ♔xa5 41.♔c7 g5! 42.hxg5 h4 43.g6 h3 44.g7 h2 45.g8♔ h1♔ = This is our final position! If both sides play flawlessly from this initial position, they will reach this position and agree to a draw soon. An excellent exercise for practicing calculation, but I believe that to find all these moves with a limited time control is only possible with some luck... (maybe even with an unlimited time control :-).)]

34.♔g4 ♔g6 35.b5 And White is breaking through!

35...h5+ 36.♔g3 ♔f5 37.c5! Black resigned because of 37...axb5 38.c6! A very instructive endgame!

1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Letelier Martner, Rene
– Fischer, Robert James [E70]

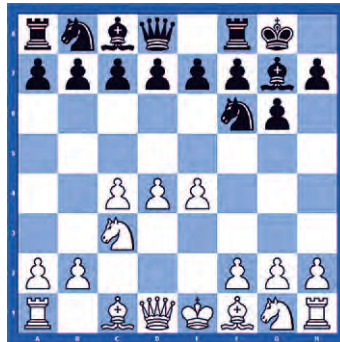
Leipzig ol (Men) Leipzig, 24.10.1960

[Balogh Csaba]

This week, we'll examine Fischer's immortal mate from the 1960's Olympiad. He was only 17 years old and already was the leader of the US Team.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** g6 **3.♘c3** ♙g7 The King's Indian defense was Fischer's favorite weapon against 1.d4.

4.e4 0-0



5.e5 White goes for it, but in my opinion it's better to avoid this kind of complications.

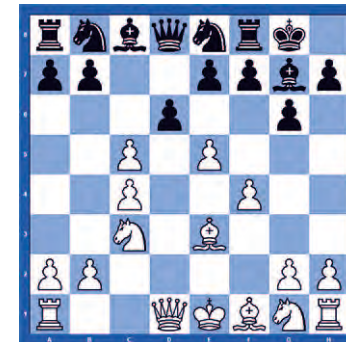
5...♘e8 Looks ugly. That's why White could not resist the temptation. However, the position is more tricky. White went forward with his pawns, which is very nice, but they should be supported by the pieces. Black's idea is to undermine the center, and he has various ways to do it. For

example d6, later c5-Nc6, or even f6 is possible sometimes. White must try to consolidate his pawns...

6.f4 d6 7.♙e3 This is the right way to develop. [The logical 7.♘f3 would allow Black to increase the pressure on the center by pinning the knight with ♙g4... 7...dxe5 8.fxe5 and here probably the best is 8...c5 and on 9.d5 ♙g4↑ followed by ♘d7. White's center collapses.]

7...c5! Consequent play, otherwise it's hard to „breath“.

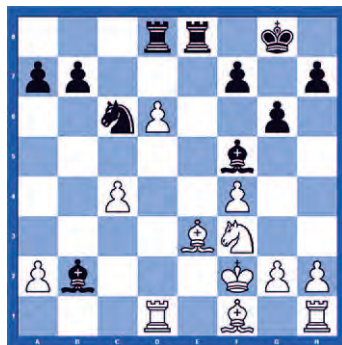
8.dxc5



8...♘c6! Fischer knows that the number of pawns doesn't matter, he must open the files on his opponent's king. Black must play energetically to prove the compensation.

9.cxd6 exd6 10.♘e4? This is a bad decision! Making a second move with a piece, instead of developing. [10. ♘f3 should have been played, when it's not obvious if Black can reach more than equality. 10...♙g4 11.♙e2 ♙a5 (The problem is that after 11...dxe5 White has 12.♙xd8 ♖xd8 13.♙c5!) 12.0-0 (12.exd6 is met with 12... ♙b4! with a double attack on b2 and d6. Black is OK!) 12... dxe5 13.fxe5 ♘xe5 14.♘xe5 ♙xe5!= and the position is about even.]

11. ♖g3 [11. ♖xd6 White should have gone for the exchange of queens. 11... ♗xd6 12. ♔xd6 ♕xd6 (12... f6!? is also possible. 13. ♔xd8 ♖fxd8) 13. exd6 ♙xb2 14. ♖d1 ♖fe8 15. ♔f2 ♖ad8 16. ♗f3

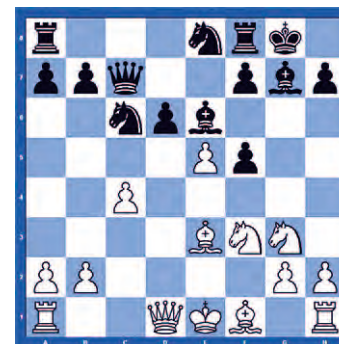


11...♙e6 12.♘f3 Finally White takes out a piece.

12...♔c7 Trading queens was not Fischer's intention! [12...dxe5!? However, it would have probably been objectively the strongest move. 13.♔xd8 ♖xd8 14.♙c5 exf4 15.♘e4 and now (15.♙xf8 loses to 15...♙xb2! 16.♖d1 ♙c3+ 17.♙e2 ♙xc4+) 15...♙f5 16.♙xf8 ♙xf8 17.♘c3 ♘b4 18.♖d1 ♘c2+ 19.♙e2 ♖c8 Black installs a knight on

e3 and enjoys a big advantage, but his attack still needs some time to break through.]

13.♔b1 White wants to avoid the opening of the lines and intends to push f5 after dxe5. As we will see, he doesn't succeed. [13.exd6 ♘xd6 is kind of hopeless for White. All the lines and diagonals are open only for one pawn.; 13.f5! was the only chance for White. 13...gxf5



14. ♖d3 Here Black has several ways to achieve some advantage, but none of them is completely clear. I believe the best option is the elegant play. Probably, Fischer would have played it as well. 14... ♗xe5 15. ♗xe5 f4!! Nice intermediate move, which allows Black to occupy the center. 16. ♖xf4 dxe5 taking with tempo and f5 is coming next! Black must be better!]

13...dxe5 14.f5 Diagonal

14...e4! A great move again, probably arrived without thinking again. The e-file and the a1–h8 diagonal has to open up.

15.fxe6 [15.♔xe4 gxf5 and White cannot capture on f5, due to ♔a5!]

15...exf3 16.gxf3 Here Black has many tempting moves, one of them is better than the other... Fischer continued to play instyle!

16...f5!? 16...fxe6, 16...♘e5 or 16...♙e5 were also good.

17.f4 ♘f6! ♘g4 and ♖e8xe6 are in the air! The White king cannot find shelter, the end is near.

18.♙e2 ♖fe8 19.♙f2 ♖xe6 Game over! But the end is just fantastic!

20.♖e1 ♖ae8 21.♙f3 And here comes the fantastic blow!

21...♖xe3! Not the only way to win, but definitely the nicest!

22.♖xe3 ♖xe3 23.♙xe3 And...

23...♙xf4+!! White resigned! [23...♙xf4+!! 24.♙xf4 (24. ♙e2 ♘d4+; 24.♙f2 ♘g4+ 25.♙g2 ♘e3+ 26.♙f2 ♘d4 27.♙h1 ♘g4+) 24...♙h6# Amazing mate!]

0-1

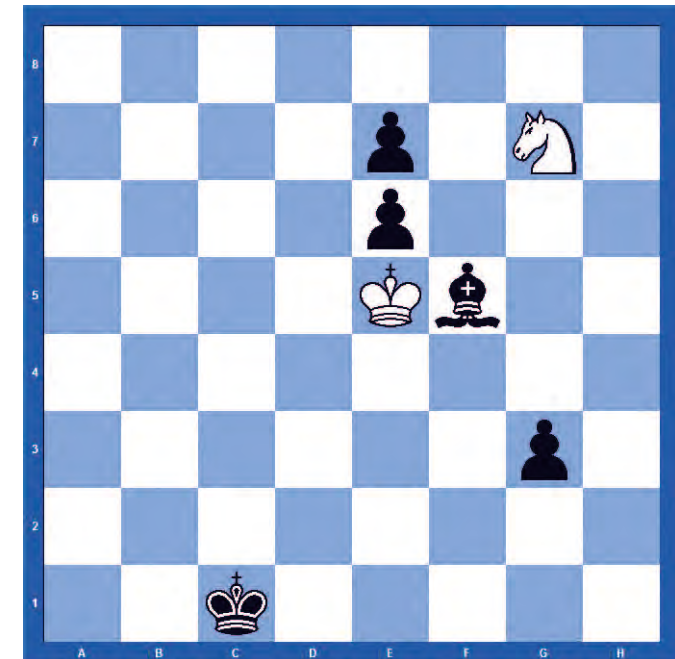
Surprise section / study

(18) Selesniev,A

1921

[CEWN]

1.=



Solutions

(19) Kovanova,B (2408) – Ubiennykh,E (2367)

Russian Woman Championship, 07.08.2012

[Solutions]



23. ♖ae1!! [23. ♖fe1? ♖xe1+ 24. ♖xe1 ♔g8–+]

23... ♜a8?! [23... ♙xf1 24. ♖xe8+ ♔xe8 25. ♚b8+ ♔d7 26. ♚b7+ ♔e8 27. ♚c8+ ♚d8 28. ♙xd8+–; 23... ♖xe1! 24. ♚b8+ ♜e8 25. ♙xd6+ ♚e7! (25... ♔g8 26. ♚xe8+ ♔h7 27. ♚xh8+ ♔xh8 28. ♖xf6+–) 26. ♙xe7+ ♙xe7 27. ♚c7 ♙xf1 28. d6 h3! (28... ♙xd6 29. ♚xd6+ ♔g8 30. ♙e7+ ♔h7 31. ♙xf1+–) 29. dxe7+ ♔g8 30. ♙h2! ♙g2 31. ♙e5 (31. ♙d8!?±) 31... f6 32. ♚d7±; 23... ♙xf4 24. ♖xe8+ ♔xe8 25. ♚b8+ ♔d7 26. ♚b7+ ♔e8 27. ♚c8++–]

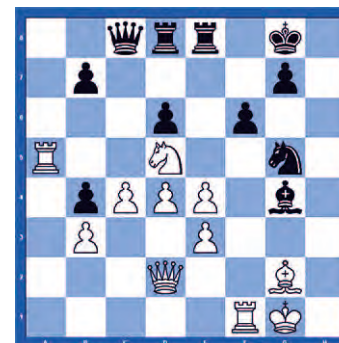
24. ♚b7! ♔g8 25. ♙xg5! [25. ♚xa8+? ♔h7]

25... ♚xg5 26. ♖f5!! 1–0 [26. ♖f5!! ♚xf5 (26... ♚g4 27. ♚xf7+ ♔h7 28. ♖h5++–) 27. ♙e7++–; 26. ♚xf7+? ♔h7 27. ♖f5 ♙xd5+!]

(20) Galliamova,A (2465) – Ovod,E (2419)

Russian Woman Championship, 07.08.2012

[Solutions]



26. ♖xf6!! [26. ♙xf6+ gxf6 27. ♖xf6 ♙h7!∞]

26... gxf6 27. ♙xf6+ ♔f7 [27... ♔g7 28. ♙xe8+ ♔g6 (28... ♖xe8 29. ♖xg5++–) 29. ♙g7+–]

28. ♚f2! [28. ♙xe8!?!]

28... ♙h3+ [28... ♔g6 29. ♚h4+–]

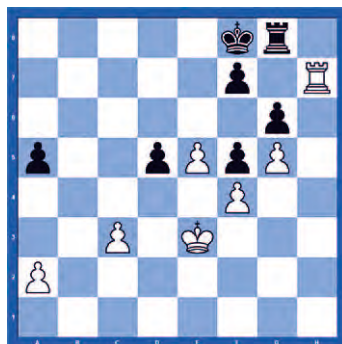
29. ♙xh3 ♙xh3 30. ♙g8+! ♔e6 [30... ♔xg8 31. ♖g5+ ♔h8 32. ♚h4#]

31. d5+ 1–0 [31. d5+ ♔d7 32. ♚f7++–]

(21) Karjakin,S (2785) – Potkin,V (2651)

Russian Championship (rapid tiebreak), 13.08.2012

[Solutions]



35.e6! [35.♔d4? ♕e7 36.♔xd5 ♖d8+ 37.♔c4 ♖d2∞]
35...fxe6 36.♔d4 ♖g7 37.♖xg7! ♕xg7 38.♔e5 ♔f7
39.♔d6 a4 40.a3 1–0

(22) Svidler,P (2749) – Potkin,V (2651)

Russian Championship (rapid tiebreak), 13.08.2012

[Solutions]

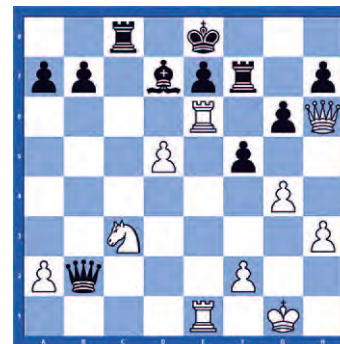


31...♘h3+? [31...♘d3! 32.♙g2 (32.♔g2 ♙xe4 33.♙xe4 ♖f2+--; 32.♖f1) 32...♙xe4 33.♙xe4 ♙c5+ 34.♔h1 (34.♔g2 ♖f2+--+) 34...♘f2+--+] **32.♔g2 ♙xe4** 33.♙xe4
♘xg5 34.♙xg5 ♙xg5 35.♖d1

(23) Potkin,V (2651) – Alekseev,E (2673)

Russian Championship (rapid tiebreak), 13.08.2012

[Solutions]



30.♖xe7+! ♖xe7 **31.♖xe7+ ♔xe7** **32.♙g7+!** ♔d8 [32...
 ♔d6? 33.♘e4++-; 32...♔e8 33.♙g8+ ♔e7 34.♙g7+=]
33.♙h8+! [33.d6? ♖c1+ 34.♔h2 ♖f4+ 35.♔g1 ♖xd6--+]
33...♔e7 [33...♔c7 34.♙e5+ ♔d8=(34...♔b6? 35.♘a4++-);
 33...♙e8 34.♙f6+ ♔d7 35.♙e6+ ♔c7 36.♙e5+=]
34.♙g7+ ♔d8 **35.♙h8+ ♔e7** 1/2–1/2

Riga Open, 09.08.2012

(25) Markos,J (2559) – Ehlvest,J (2601)

Riga Open, 10.08.2012

(26) Ehlvest, J (2601) – Neiksans, A (2537)

Riga Open, 11.08.2012

(27) Simantsev,M (2526) – Krejci,J (2503)

Olomouc GM, 02.08.2012

25...♞d5+! 26.exd5 ♖xe5+! 27.♔xe5 [27.♔f4 ♖xf5+ 28.♙xf5 ♜xf3+ 29.♙e5 ♜f6+-+] 27...♜e2+ 28.♙f4 [28. ♙d4 c5+-+] 28...g5+! 29.♙g4 ♜xe5 0-1

(28) Shimanov,A (2596) – Wei Yi (2418)

World Junior Championship, 11.08.2012

[Solutions]



25. ♖c3!! [25. ♖cd1 ♘h3!! 26. ♙xh7 ♘xg2+ 27. ♔xg2 ♙e4+ 28. ♙xe4 dxe4∞]

25...d1♙ [25... ♙xc3 26. ♙h6+ ♔e8 (26... ♔f7 27. ♙g7+ ♔e6 28. ♙e7#) 27.f7++-]

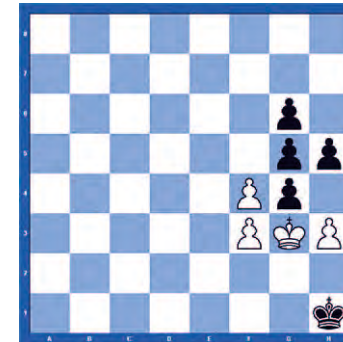
26. ♖xd1 ♙xc3 27. ♙h6+ ♔f7 [27... ♔e8 28. ♙g7+-]

28. ♙g7+ ♔e6 29. ♙e7+ ♔f5 30. ♖f1+ ♔g4 31. ♙g7+ ♔h5 32. ♙xh7+ 1-0[32. ♙xh7+ ♔g5 33.h4+ ♔g4 34. ♙g6+ ♔xh4 35. ♖f4++-]

(29) Perelman,M

1930

[Solutions]



1.f5!! [1.fxg4? h4+! 2. ♔f3 gxf4 3. ♔xf4 ♔g2-+; 1.hxg4? h4+ 2. ♔h3 gxf4 3.g5 (3. ♔xh4 ♔g2-+) 3... ♔g1 4. ♔g4 (4. ♔xh4 ♔f2 5. ♔g4 ♔e3--+) 4... ♔f2 5. ♔xf4 h3--+]

1...gxf5 2.hxg4! hxg4 [2...h4+ 3. ♔h3 fxg4+ 4.fxg4 ♔g1=; 2...f4+ 3. ♔h3 h4= (3...hxg4+ 4.fxg4 f3 5. ♔g3=)]

3.fxg4 f4+ 4. ♔h3! ♔g1= [4...f3 5. ♔g3=] **1/2**



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 27

31st of August 2012

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Editorial Preface

The 40th Chess Olympiad in Istanbul, Turkey has begun! Almost all the teams came with their best possible line-up, including Kramnik playing for Russia on board 1. There are also a few that are missing: Anand, Carlsen, Gashimov and Morozevich.

Like most of the players, we are staying at the WOW Hotel, a good 4**** star hotel. The food is very average and if you want to have a coffee in the bar, you have to be ready to spend 6 Euro.

The opening ceremony was nice, with a lot of traditional music and dancers.

The first round of the Olympiad got very chaotic, the entry to the playing hall is much too small for 3000 people wanting to get inside at the same time, so the round was postponed to 15.20 to avoid the zero-tolerance rule (it means that when You are even 1 second late at your board, you get a 0 immediately). This rule makes no sense to me at all. Another rule is that both players are not allowed to agree to a draw before move 30! Why to have it in a team event?

The playing hall is quite big, so the playing conditions are quite good, but another big disadvantage is that it's impossible to get any water or coffee during the game.

While I am writing this, only the 1st round has passed, the favorites made their job, so the big fights will begin on the second round.

Already now, in the 4 commented games, You can find 2 games from the recent Chess Olympiad.

Stay updated with us, enjoy the games and in the next issue we will report about the chess activities, plus the famous traditional "Bermuda Party"!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Jakovenko,D (2736) — Fernandez,F (2287) [B90]

Olympiad 2012, 28.08.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

First round of the Olympiad and we already see a nice fighting game! Jakovenko playing board 4 for Russia with an ELO of 2736 managed to win in great style a typical Najdorf game.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♙e3 The Najdorf with 6.♙e3 has always been one of the main chess openings. Millions of hours of analysis have been made here and we still have no clear conclusion...



6...e5 [6...e6 7.f3 and we would go back to other main lines.]

7.♗b3 ♙e6 8.♙d2 Lately, White started not to hurry with the usual 8. f3 to keep in his pocket the immediate f4 move.

8...♘bd7 9.f4 Jakovenko is following the latest fashion...

9...♖c8!? An interesting move. More often we see Black playing 9...exf4 10.♙xf4 ♘e5.

10.0-0-0 [To hurry with f5 would be a mistake now: 10.f5?! ♙xb3! A very atypical move, but a very strong one in this concrete situation. (10...♖xc3? 11.fxe6) 11.axb3



11...d5! This is the key move! Black is crushing the White position in the center. In case of 12.exd5, Black will play 12...♙b4 and ♗e4. In case of 12.♗xd5, ♗xe4.]

10...b5 Black continues the attempts to create direct play against the White king combined with a pressure on the e4 pawn.

11.♙b1 Jakovenko stays cool!

11...♙e7 Probably the best move for Black... he will need to castle short in the future, and move likes 11... b4, of course, don't work because of 12.♗d5.

12.f5 White starts to play for the light squares.

12...♙c4



13.g4! This move is still theory! And it was even played on the highest level. White's idea is simple: by giving a pawn, he wants to create a quick play on the kingside and combine it with the weakness of the d5 square „bad“ Black bishop on e7. The position is very complex.

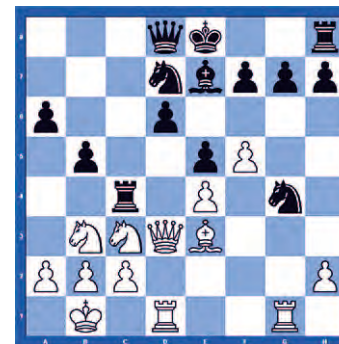
13... ♖xf1N This move is a novelty, but I think Black played it because he didn't know the position. [13... ♘xg4 is clearly one of the main moves here. 14. ♖g1 ♘xe3 15. ♔xe3 ♔b6 16. ♔g3 ♘f6 with a very unclear position.]

14. ♖hxf1 Black is following the plan he started with 13... ♖xf1.

14... ♖c4 15. ♔d3 A slightly strange-looking move. Why to give away the pawn when it was possible to keep it? [15. ♔g2! Simple and good. Never give away material if you don't really need to :). 15...b4 Probably, Jakovenko been a bit afraid of this move, but everything seems to work out very well for White. 16. ♘d5 ♘xd5 (16... ♘xe4 17. ♔e2! Important move. 17... ♖c6 18.g5! All the White pieces are in the attack and he has a very strong knight on d5. It's clearly too much play for just a pawn.) 17. ♖xd5 ♘f6 Maybe White stopped his calculation here, but it's one move too early. 18. ♘d2! protecting everything and attacking the rook on c4. White is doing clearly better.]

15... ♘xg4 Of course, Black takes the pawn. If there's no ♘xg4, White wanted to play g5.

16. ♖g1 following the usual ideas.



16... ♘xe3?! I think this move leads to big trouble. Black should have tried to play: [16... ♘df6! The only way to stay in the game. White now has a lot of moves, 17.h3, or 17. ♘d2 followed by ♘f1 and h3, or maybe just something crazy like 17. ♖a7! with the idea of h3 next. Everything is very playable and this is a nice position for future analysis.]

17. ♔xe3 Now Black is getting in trouble with the g7 pawn. How to solve it? To play g7-g6 looks very ugly, then the short castle will never be possible again...

17...h6 Black tries to cover the g-file with the bishop on g5. It's a try, but the pawn on d6 can become weak.

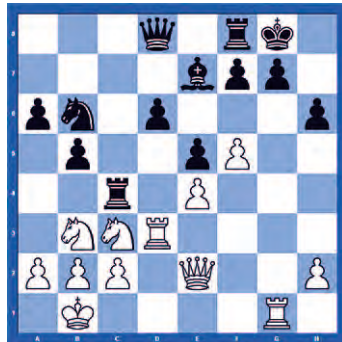
18. ♔e2 A preparation for ♖xg7. [On 18. ♖xg7 Black has prepared a little trap. 18... ♔g5 19. ♔d3 ♔f8! The White rook on g7 is falling, which leads to a very unclear position.]

18... ♔b6 A very difficult position for Black to play. White has a very simple plan and Black needs to be careful with

a lot of tactical motives. The move 18...♘b6 defends the pawn on d6 and, at the same time, Black acts against White's ♘d5 move.

19.♖d3! A very nice move by Jakovenko. White is not in a hurry to start action on the kingside — and why to be? Black can't solve his problems easily with the g7 pawn easily, and now in case of a move like ♕f6, White will always have ♖d1 with a very unpleasant attack on the d6 pawn.

19...0-0 This move is the start of a tactical battle which doesn't end in Black's favor. If Black can't castle short, his position with the king on e8 can't be promising. White is clearly dominating the game.



20.♖d3?! A logical move, but White is missing a nice tactic. [20.♘a5! After this, White's position is winning immediately. The key idea is that the Black rook doesn't have any good squares and White has a crushing move: De3, with a double attack on b6 and on h6. 20...♖c8 (A much better place for the rook would be on c7, but 20...♖c7 21.♕e3! and White is winning on the spot.) 21.♘b7 The knight is going to die, but this will give White a mating attack. 21...♖c7 22.♕h5 The queen is coming into the attack. 22...♗h7 23.♘xd6 ! and the game is over. By sacrificing the

knight on d6, White's attack becomes decisive. 23...♕xd6 24.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 25.♖g3+ ♔h7 26.♖h3 with mate.]

20...♕f6 The only way to defend g7.

21.♖g2 ♔h8 22.♖xg7 White managed to take the pawn and the holes around the Black king are very dangerous, but chess is a forced game and we are in a tactical position.

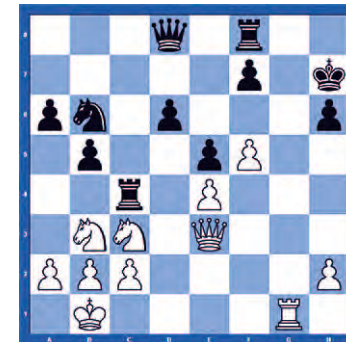
22...♕g5! And suddenly we see that White needs to give up an exchange. The game is sharp!

23.♖xg5 ♖xg5? This move loses by force. [The only way to continue would be 23...hxg5 24.h4! A small but nice tactic. 24...♖g8! leaving the Black king with the escape square f8. 25.hxg5 ♔g7 We can see that White is doing better, but there's still a lot to fight for in the position!]

24.♖f2 Attacking the knight on b6.

24...♖d8 25.♖e3 The pawn on h6 and the knight on b6 are under attack.

25...♔h7



26.f6! Black is losing material!

26...♖g8 Nothing else is left. Against 26...♖xf6, 27.♖xb6 and White has a simple winning position.

27. ♖xg8 ♔xg8 28. ♕g3+ The White queen is entering with a crucial effect.

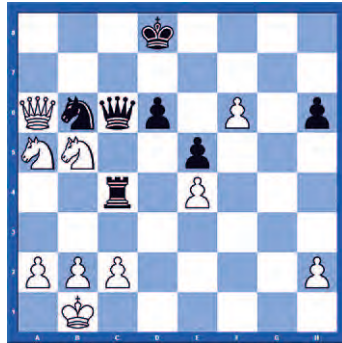
28... ♖f8 29. ♕g7+ ♔e8 30. ♕g8+ ♔d7 31. ♕xf7+ ♔c8 Black is still an exchange up, but White is winning. The super-strong pawn on f6, plus the weakness of the Black king make it possible.

32. ♕a7! White quickly spots another weakness in Black's position. The a6 pawn! The Black position is falling apart.

32... ♖c7 Nothing helps anymore...

33. ♕xa6+ ♔d8 34. ♖xb5 And here comes the 3rd pawn!

34... ♕c6 35. ♖a5 I think this would be a great moment for resignation. What a nice position! All the light pieces are collected in 9 squares :).



35... ♕xe4 36. ♕xb6+ ♔d7 37. ♕xd6+ And this was too much even for Fernandez. An interesting game on the Najdorf, where of course, the 450 Elo points difference made Jakovenko a big favorite in any kind of positions!

1-0

(2) Edouard, Romain (2652) – Tkachiev, Vladislav (2644) [E47]

87th ch-FRA 2012 Pau FRA (9), 22.08.2012

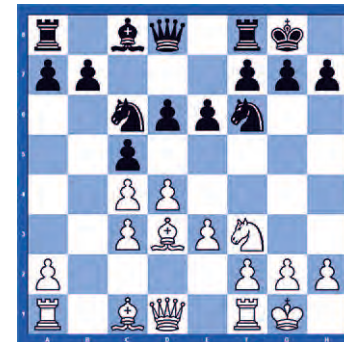
[Balogh Csaba]

An instructive game with many mistakes.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♘c3 ♙b4 4.e3 The Rubinstein variation of the Nimzowitsch defense enjoys big popularity, after Gelfand successfully gained an advantage with it in 2 games in the WCC match against Anand. Black has plenty of different setups here, in this game he went for the Hübner variation...

4... 0-0 5. ♙d3 c5 Recently the main lines are considered to be the setups with d5. Here, Black has another idea in mind..

6. ♘f3 ♘c6 7. 0-0 ♙xc3 8. bxc3 d6 This is the initial position of the Hübner variation. Black would like to build up a safe wall in the center with e5 and then slowly create his counterplay against the c4 weakness, which is typical for the Nimzo Indian. White has the bishop pair and he should try to open the position to make it more efficient.



9.e4 e5 10.d5 ♞e7 After the position got closed, both sides start to organize their play on the kingside. White should definitely play f4 with the intention to push f5 followed by an attack with g4-g5. The exchange with exf4 ♟xf4 always favors White... Black must prevent this at any cost. His main resource is connected to ♞g6 and in the future the ♞e8 — followed by f5 — idea could yield the initiative for him...

11.♞h4! Well known motif! White prepares for the f4 push and gets ready to counter the ♞g6 move.

11...♔h8?! Black misses a tactical idea... [11...h6! is the right move, which was demonstrated in a very famous game... 12.f4 This move is already known as an inaccuracy...



12...♞g6!! This great move, which seemingly completely destroys Black's pawn structure gives a comfortable game for Black. White is forced to take on g6, otherwise Black takes twice on f4. 13.♞xg6 fxg6 14.fxe5 dxe5 15.♟e3 b6 This position arose in the Spassky-Fischer, Reykjavik 1972 game. It's instructive to follow how the game proceeded. 16.a4 a5 White has no chance to activate his light-squared bishop. 17.♞b1 ♟d7 18.♞b2 ♞b8 19.♞bf2 ♔e7 20.♟c2

After some defensive moves, Black overtakes the initiative. 20...g5! 21.♟d2 ♔e8! 22.♟e1 ♞g6 Black has clear targets on e4, a4 and c4, while White cannot improve his position. 23.♞d3 ♞h5 24.♞xf8+ ♞xf8 25.♞xf8+ ♟xf8 26.♟d1 ♞f4 and in this endgame where Black has a minimal advantage, Spassky horribly blundered and lost the game in one move: 27.♞c2?? ♟xa4 White resigned in view of 28.♞xa4 and ♞xe4.0-1 Spassky-Fischer, Reykjavik 1972.; 11...♞g6?! is met with 12.♞f5! This is a very important reaction, which deprives Black from any kind of counterplay. White can slowly continue with g3, ♞f3 and h4...]

12.g3?! White prepares for the f4 move, but he fails to make use of the mistake. [12.f4! would have pointed out the mistake of the previous move. 12...♞g6 and here comes the big difference, the idea of the 11...h6 move. (12...exf4 13.♟xf4 is not an option for Black.) 13.fxe5! ♞xe5 14.♟g5! This works now, as the legendary Svetozar Gligoric has demonstrated. He passed away last week. A strong attack follows: 14...h6 15.♟xf6 gxf6 16.♞d2 ♟g7 Gligoric-Keene, Hastings 1973 and now the easiest would have been to play 17.♞f2 +/- and doubling on the f-file.]

12...♟h3 13.♞e1 ♔d7?! Too slow. [Black should have prepared for the f5 move with 13...♞fg8 Suddenly avoiding the h6 move is a big advantage for Black, since there is no hole on g6 after f5... 14.f4 (14.g4? Trying to trap the bishop does not work because of 14...♞xd5! and h4 is hanging.) 14...♞g6! 15.♞f5 Black can take the advantage by playing (15.♞xg6+ fxg6 is an even better version for Black, since the h3 bishop is standing excellently.) 15...exf4 16.gxf4 ♟xf5! 17.exf5 ♞h4 followed by ♞f6 and ♞h6, winning the pawn.]

14.f3! Excellent preparation. White's general plan in such position is to play ♘g2 and then to execute the f4 break. Black must act quickly... [14.f4 would have been met again with 14...♘g6!]

14...♘fg8 The difference in comparison to the previous move is that White has



15.g4! Suddenly this anti-positional move traps the bishop on h3. Black must weaken his position in order to save it. White threatens to play ♔h1 and ♖g1–g3.

15...♘g6 White has a pleasant choice now. Both continuations lead to a promising position. [15...h5 is not good because of the simple 16.gxh5! and on 16...♘f6 17.f4! preserving the extra pawn. 17...♙g4 18.♙e2 +=; 15...♘f6! should have been played, with the idea of h5. 16.♔h1 h5 17.gxh5 ♘xh5 18.♖g1 Looks very dangerous for Black, but with a nice pawn sacrifice, he can obtain very good compensation on the f4 square. 18...♘g6! 19.♘xg6+ fxg6 20.♖xg6 ♖f6! with mutual chances. 21.♖g5 (21.♖xf6 gxg6 Opening the g-file is too risky for White.) 21...♙f7↗]

16.♘xg6+ [16.♘f5 was also good. 16...h5 (16...♘f4 was probably what Black was intending to play and White was afraid of, but after 17.♙xf4 exf4 18.♙d2! g6 both play-

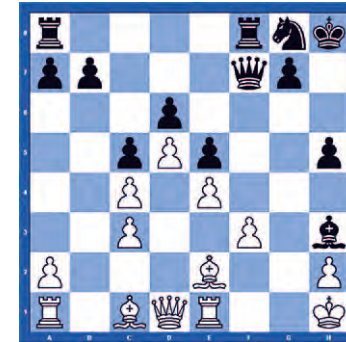
ers probably missed (18...g5 19.e5! is very bad for Black.) 19.♙xf4! gxh5 20.exh5 +/- A temporary piece sacrifice, but Black can't save his bishop against ♔f2–g3 or ♙g3.) 17.gxh5 ♘6e7 18.♘h4 and we transposed to the 15...h5 line.]

16...fxg6 17.♔h1 h5 A sad necessity to save the bishop. [17...♙e7 18.♖g1 ♙h4 19.♖g3 also looks bad for Black.]

18.gxh5! The h3 bishop is safe now, but suddenly Black king is facing a strong attack.

18...♙f7 [18...gxh5 19.♖g1 will be similar to the game.]

19.♙e2 gxh5



20.♖g1! Black's position is much worse than it looks! He cannot prevent the upcoming plan with ♙e1–h4. The h5 pawn is the only reason for Black's bad position. If it was on h7, he could simple play ♘e7–g6 obtaining a small advantage.

20...♘f6 Black tries to consolidate his position, but the attack is rolling very fast. [20...♘e7 21.♙e1 ♘g6? does not work now, because of 22.♙g3!]

21.♙e1! ♘h7 22.♙h4 ♙d7 23.♙e3! Very well played! The idea is simple: ♖af1 and f4! Black has no good way to prevent it... The h5 pawn also restricts the mobility of the pieces.

23...g6 24.♖af1! ♔f6 The exchange of queens would solve all the problems. Of course, White is not going to accept it.

25.♔g3 ♖g8 26.h4! Excellent prophylactic move, depriving Black from his only counterplay. Black cannot prevent the f4 push anyway, so White pushes it when all his pieces have reached their ideal squares. [26.f4 h4! Black can decrease the pressure on the e5 pawn. Still, of course, White has the initiative after 27.♔g2 but the text move is much better.]

26...♔e7 [26...♖af8 27.f4; 26...♖ae8 27.f4]

27.f4! Black's position collapses now, but the mutual time trouble starts to affect the quality of the moves.

27...♖ae8 [27...exf4 28.♔xf4 ♔xe4+ 29.♔f3 ♔xc4 30.♔xd6 +- The loss of the d6 pawn means the end of the game. Black gets mated on the long diagonal.]

28.fxe5 dxe5 When I was watching this game live, I also came to the conclusion of the following move. [After 28...♔xe5 Black cannot save the d6 pawn. 29.♔d3! is the easiest, and ♔f4 is coming next. 29...♔xg3 30.♖xg3 +- Black can actually resign, because of ♔f4...]



29.♔h2!? A prophylactic move! The point is clear: White wants to play ♔h6, occupying the f-file and leaving the opponent without his potential counterplay that might appear after the direct ♔h6... [29.♔g5!? would have been in Karpov's style. 29...♔xg5 30.♔xg5 ♔xg5 31.♖xg5 ♖g7 32.♖f6 ♔h7 After reaching this position by force, Black has practically no other moves than passing with the rook on e8-e7. But how to break through with White?! 33.♔d1! ♖ee7 34.♔g2 ♖e8 35.♔f2 ♖ee7 36.♔e3 ♖e8 37.♔d2 ♖ee7 38.♔c1 ♖e8 39.♔b2 ♖ee7 40.♔a3 ♖e8 41.♔a4! ♔xa4 42.♔xa4 and White easily wins the endgame after ♔b5!; 29.♔h6 ♔f6!? was probably what White was afraid of. Black eases on the pressure by putting a piece on g4, and after 30.♔g5? ♔xe4 and the queen on g3 is hanging with check. This is the reason why White played 29.♔h2.]

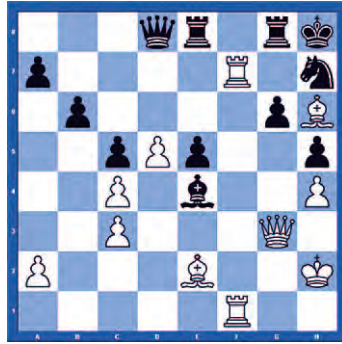
29...b6 30.♔h6! ♔f6 does not work because of ♔g5, so White simply wants to double his rooks on the f-file. [30.♔g5 would lead to the same Karpovian win.]

30...♔a4 The last desperate attempt to create some counterplay.

31.♖f2 ♔c2 32.♖gf1! The attack is too strong, White does not need to worry about losing the e4 pawn.

32...♔xe4 [32...♔d7 trying to control the 7th rank with ♖e7 does not help. 33.♔g5! refreshing the ♖f7 threat. (33.♖f7 ♖e7) 33...♔g7 and here the easiest is 34.♔xh5! ♔xe4 (34...gxh5 35.♖xc2 +-) 35.♔g4 +- followed by ♔h6 and ♔e6.]

33.♖f7 ♔d8 White can choose between many winning moves.



34. ♖xh5 [The best and the nicest way to victory was 34. ♖xh7+!! ♗xh7 35. ♖f7+ ♗xh6 (35... ♗h8 36. ♖g5 +- wins.) 36. ♖e3+ g5 37. ♖xe4 Black can't prevent the threats! ♖d3 is coming in case of 37... ♖g7 38. ♖d3! ♗h7 is the threat! 38... ♖h8 (38... ♖xf7 39. ♖g6#) 39. ♖xe5! ♖xf7 40. hxc5+ ♖xc5 41. ♖xh8+ ♖h7 42. ♖xh7# But of course, finding this with around 2 minutes on the clock was not easy at all.]

34... ♖e7 [34... gxc5? 35. ♖g7+ +-]

35. ♖g4? This is the moment when White starts to go wrong... Usually, it's not easy to stop when a bad series starts... [35. ♖d1! was the hidden winning move. 35... ♖c7 and here comes out the difference that made the bishop retreat to d1 and not to e2. (35... ♖f5 does not work now, because of 36. R1xf5! gxf5 37. ♖g7+ +-) 36. ♖xe7 ♖xe7 37. ♖e1! +- wins.]

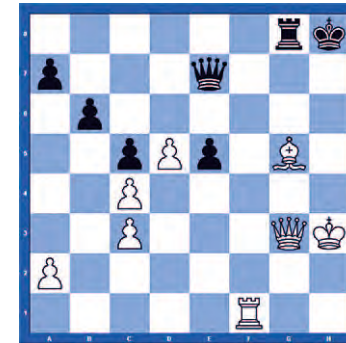
35... ♖f5! Suddenly the win is not obvious at all, but Edouard built up the winning advantage again with several precise moves...

36. ♖xe7 ♖xe7 37. ♖h3! White prepares to play ♖e1. [37. ♖e1 would be met with 37... ♖f6 and the g4 is hanging with check.]

37... ♖xh3 38. ♖xh3 g5! Tkachiev tries to use his best chance in the time trouble to confuse his opponent.

39. hxc5? This mistake could have spoiled the win. [39. ♖f5! was the winning move. 39... gxc4 40. ♖xe5+ ♖xe5 41. ♖xe5 +-]

39... ♖xc5+ 40. ♖xc5



40... ♖xc5? The last mistake of the time trouble belongs to Black... [40... ♖xc5 41. ♖xc5 ♖xc5 The big difference compared to the game is that the White king is cut along the g-file. This allows Black to hold the draw. His task is to take his king in front of the d-pawn (even if it costs a pawn), then his rook can start attacking the weak White pawns. 42. ♖h4 (42. ♖f7 ♖g8 43. ♖xa7 ♖f8 44. ♖a6 looks winning, but Black is just in time 44... ♖f5! 45. ♖xb6 ♖f4 Black collects the pawns.; The d-pawn can be easily stopped after 42. d6 ♖g8) 42... ♖g7 43. ♖f5 e4 44. ♖e5 ♖g8! 45. ♖xe4 ♖f7 The Black king is close enough, now he can start to activate his rook. Black should be able to hold the draw. 46. ♖g4 (46. d6? ♖f6 ♖d7 will be played next.) 46... ♖h7+ 47. ♖g3 ♖e7]

41. ♖h4+ ♖g8 [41... ♖g7? loses on the spot. 42. ♖f5! ♖g6 43. d6! ♖d8 44. ♖xc5+ +- and the d-pawn promotes.]

42. ♖f5! ♜g7 43. ♔xe7 ♜xe7 44. ♔g3! Now the White king has a safe path to the center, while the Black one is unable to get closer. Black collapses in a few moves, but he still could have put up some resistance.

44...e4 [44...♔h7 would have given some chance for survival. 45.♔f3 ♕h4 46.♔e2! After this subtle move, White is able to protect his pawns. 46...♔g7 (46...♕xc4? is untouchable. 47.d6 +-) 47.♕xe5 ♔f7 48.♔d3 +/- and White should be winning.]

45. ♔f2 ♖h7? This is equal to resignation. With the help of the king, the d-pawn easily promotes. [45... ♔g7 46. ♔e3 ♔g6 47. ♖f4 looks quite hopeless as well.]

46.♙e3 ♖h3+ 47.♙xe4 ♖xc3 48.d6 ♖xc4+ 49.♙d5 ♜d4+ 50.♙c6 c4 51.d7 Black resigned in view of ♜d5.

1-0

(3) Hertneck,G (2521) – Ganguly,S (2629) [D00]

Dresden Open, 23.08.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

2600+ GMs are rarely crushed in miniatures.

1.d4  **f6** **2.**  **g5** Ganguly is a known theoretician, one of the main member of Anand's team. His experienced opponent cleverly decided to avoid a long theoretical battle.

2...d5 3.e3 Not an ambitious line, but perfect to avoid preparation.

3...c6 Very solid reaction, I think the easiest one to achieve equality.

4. d3



4...h6!? How to punish the opponent is in Black's mind. He already wants to overtake the initiative. [4...♙g4 is the most common move. 5.♘e2 (5.f3 ♙h5) 5...♘bd7 6.0-0 (6.c4?? This incredible blunder happened on the highest level in a rapid game. 6...dxc4 7.♙xc4 ♔a5+ Black won a piece on move 7! Aronian-Radjabov, Monaco 2007.) 6...e5 Black is OK!]

5. ♖h4 [5. ♖xf6 exf6 is also fine for Black. He develops his pieces with ♖d6, f5 and ♘d7-f6.]

5... ♖b6 Very interesting play by Black. Such kind of ♖b6 or ♖b3 moves are quite unpleasant when the the c1 or c8 bishop leaves its initial position.

6.b3 ♘bd7 Another good move, Black prepares for the e5 push. [6...e5?! is a common trick in some openings, but it doesn't work well here. 7.dxe5 ♖b4+ This would be the point, but White gets a huge lead in development. 8.♘d2 ♖xh4 9.♘gf3 Black obtained the bishop pair, but his pawn structure starts to crumble. 9...♖g4 10.exf6 gxf6 11.0-0 and White opens the position with e4 or c4. 11...♖g8 12.g3↑]

7.♘f3 g5 Black wants to take the advantage of the bishop pair. This is absolutely correct, but he could have done it in a much better version, combining with great tactical play. [7...♘h5! Quite an unusual move, Black wants to play g5 now. White should try to prevent it by using the pin of the queen on d1. 8.♘fd2 (8.♘e5? doesn't work because of 8...♘xe5 9.♖xh5 (9.dxe5 ♖b4+) 9...♘xd3+)]



8...♘f4!! With this great move, Black overtakes the initiative. 9. ♖f1 is the best, but of course, such move can't be

good. (9.exf4? loses material after 9...♖xd4 10.♘a3 (10.0-0 ♖xa1 White has no chance to trap the queen.; 10.c3 ♖xd3) 10...g5! 11. ♖g3 gxf4 12. ♖h4 e6! This subtle move is the point! White can't do anything with his knight on a3.) 9...♘g6 10. ♖g3 e5↑]

8. ♖g3 ♘h5 Here White has an extra option to get compensation for losing the bishop pair.

9. ♖e5! ♘xe5 10.♘xe5 White got a very strong knight on e5 and he can think about a very dangerous attack in the near future with f4.

10...♘f6 11.0-0 ♘d7?! A logical move in order to get rid of the strong knight, using the fact that after 12.f4 gxf4, White can't take back ideally with the e-pawn. Everything seems to be great for Black, but he missed something... [11... ♖g7 should have been played. 12.♘d2 with mutual chances.]

12.f4! gxf4? Following the plan.



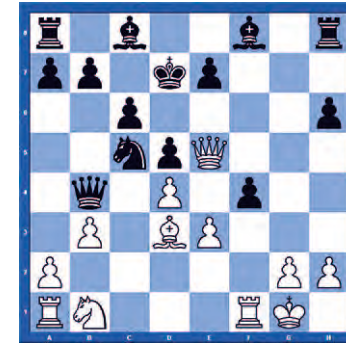
13.♘xf7!! A brutal blow, which was probably completely missed by Black. Or maybe he just blundered the upcoming silent move?!

13...♔xf7 14.♚h5+ ♔e6 [14...♔g8 loses after the forced line: 15.♚g6+ ♕g7 16.♚e6+ ♔f8 17.♕g6 ♘e5 18.♖xf4+ ♕f6 19.♖xf6+! is the best. (19.♚xe5 also wins.) 19...exf6 20.♚xf6+ ♔g8 21.♚xe5 +- with the threat of ♚e8-f7 mate or just the simple ♘c3 and ♖f1 is also decisive.]



15.c4!! With the idea to push c5, cutting the route of the king. [15.♚f5+ ♔d6 16.♚xf4+ looks winning, but 16...e5! 17.dxe5+ ♔c7! and Black saved his extra piece, because (17...♘xe5? 18.♚f6+ +-) 18.e6+? leads nowhere. 18...♕d6!]

15...♖g8? This is equal to resignation. Black had only one move to stay in the game... at least for a while. [15...♕g7 leads to the line above. The only difference is the pawn on c4, but it does not affect the evaluation. 16.♚g4+ ♔f7 17.♕g6+ ♔f8 18.♚e6 ♘e5 19.♖xf4+ ♕f6 20.♖xf6+ (20.♚xe5 +-) 20...exf6 21.♚xf6+ ♔g8 22.♚xe5 +- wins.; 15...♘f6 16.♕f5+ ♔d6 17.c5+ +- wins the queen with check!; 15...♔d6 16.c5+ ♘xc5 17.♚e5+ ♔d7 18.♚xh8 ♘xd3 19.♚xf8 +- is also hopeless for Black.; 15...♚b4! could set up resistance. White's win requires precise play. 16.c5! ♘xc5 17.♚e5+ (17.dxc5 ♚xc5 is not clear.) 17...♔d7 White must avoid a very hidden trap!



18.♕f5+! (The tempting 18.♚xh8? would fall into the trap 18...♘xd3 19.♚xf8 fxe3! 20.♚f5+ ♔c7 21.♚xd3 This is where most of the players stop their calculations before taking 18. ♚xh8, but the cold shower comes with 21...e2!! and Black suddenly has no problems. 22.♚xe2 ♚xd4+ ∞ A new game starts, with mutual chances.; 18.dxc5 ♖g8) 18...e6 19.♚xh8 White has a winning advantage, but Black can still hope to create some complications... 19...♕e7 20.♕g6 ♘e4 21.♕xe4 dxe4 22.exf4 +-]

16.♚f5+ ♔d6 17.♚xf4+ e5 18.c5+! Game over! The mate is more or less forced.

18...♘xc5 19.♚xe5+ ♔d7 20.♖f7+ ♔d8 21.♚f6+ ♔e8 22.♕g6! White had many other wins as well, but this is the shortest one.[Black resigned in view of 22.♕g6 ♖xg6 23.♖xf8+ ♔d7 24.♖f7+ ♔e8 25.♚e7#]

1-0

(4) Naiditsch,A (2712) – Dive,R (2337)

Olympiad 2012, 28.08.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

First round of the Olympiad. Germany is playing New Zealand, and we are a big favorites to win the match. My opponent is an international Master, who lost a lot of ELO points during the last few years... which can be due to lack of chess activity. I could only find a few games of his in my database.

1.c4 I like to start with 1.c4 against opponents whose opening repertoires I'm not sure about.

1...c6 2.e4 e5 After this move White is already a bit better, but probably my opponent didn't want to play... [2...d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.d4 would take us to my favorite „Panov”.]



3.♘f3 d6 4.d4 We are in a sort of King's Indian structure, but the move order is clearly a good one for White. Black still has the bishop on f8 and to put the bishop on g7 is not always possible.

4...♘d7 5.♙d3 5.♙d3 — a tricky move. Usually White develops his pieces with 5.♘c3 followed by ♙e2 but

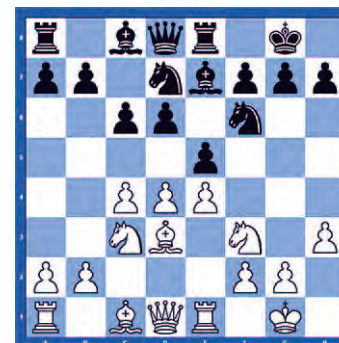
I wanted to try a different idea, and a weaker opponent can sometimes become a good training-partner :).

5...♘gf6 The usual development, but I think it might be more interesting to play 5...g6 followed by ♙g7 creating pressure against the d4 pawn.

6.0–0 ♙e7 Black gets completely developed — but not in the best way...

7.♘c3 0–0 8.♖e1 A very usual way of developing pieces for White. The rook on e1 can be very useful in many lines.

8...♖e8 9.h3 Another useful move for White. Now Black will not have ♙g4 in the future.



9...♙f8?! I think this is already a small mistake. Now Black gets into a clearly worse position. [9...exd4 10.♘xd4 ♘c5 11.♙c2 Now we can see that putting the bishop on d3 was a useful move. 11...a5 and even though White is doing better, Black can still fight.]

10.d5! A good moment to close the center. The bishop on f8 is going to be now a bad piece, and all the White pieces are standing on the right places..

10...a6? This is a very serious mistake. [10...♘c5 11.♙c2 a5 Black needs to keep White from playing b4 at any cost.

12. ♖e3 and again we see how useful was ♖d3 instead of ♖e2 in the opening. The bishop is protecting the pawn on e4 which gives me the possibility of developing my other bishop to e3. Of course, White is doing clearly better here.]

11. ♖e3 The basic idea of White is to put the bishop on e3 and to play ♘d2, then to start playing on the queenside. In the usual King's Indian, Black would already push f5-f4-g5 so we can clearly see how much better I am in this game.

11... cxd5 Black continues a very wrong plan with b5...

12. cxd5 b5 13. b4! This is a dream for every White player in a closed position: to always have b4 against Black's — typical and strong. Black's position is already on the edge of being completely lost!

13... ♘b6 Nowhere else to go...

14. a4 [Another option was to play 14. ♘d2 ♖d7 stops White from playing a4. 15. ♖e2 and again White got a huge advantage, but with no direct play, that's why I thought 14. a4 looks simpler.]

14... ♘xa4 All the sacrifices on d5, of course, don't work.

15. ♘xa4 bxa4 16. ♖xa4 White's idea is very simple, to attack the pawn on a6 with all the army — it's going to be almost impossible to defend.



16... ♖d7 Black is using the fact that I can't take on a6 because my pawn on e4 is hanging, and bringing his bishop to b5 — but it doesn't help much.

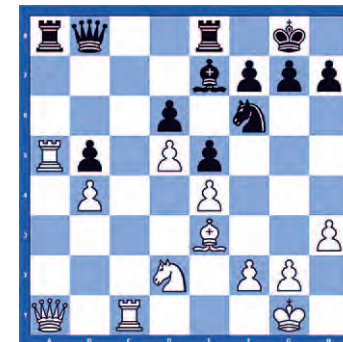
17. ♖a5 ♖b8 18. ♖a1 [Also 18. ♖d2 ♖b5 19. ♖e2 forcing Black to take on d3 19... ♖xd3 20. ♖xd3 ♖b7 21. ♖ea1 would bring White a big advantage, but I wanted to bring my knight from f3 into the game, and the right square to do this is d2, which is not available now.]

18... ♖e7 [18... ♖xb4?? 19. ♖b1 and Black is losing a full queen.]

19. ♘d2 The easiest way to play for White. I continue putting my pieces in the most logical squares.

19... ♖b5 [Would not be much better to play 19... ♖d8 20. ♖xa6 I need to exchange the a6 pawn for the one on b4, which is usually not a good deal, but this time things are quite forced and I'm in time to create big troubles to my opponent. 20... ♖xa6 21. ♖xa6 ♖xb4 22. ♖b1! An easy but important move. The d6 pawn is very weak now. 22... ♖c3 23. ♖b3 and White is crushing on the queenside!]

20. ♖xb5 axb5 21. ♖c1 last free file. My next moves are simple, to play ♖c6 followed by ♖c3 and to force Black to take on a5. Then, after bxa5, get a passed a pawn and probably a winning position.



21...♘d7? A mistake in a bad position. [21...♔b7 22.♖c6 ♜eb8 23.♔c3 and Black could suffer a bit longer...]

22.♜xa8 The easiest winning move. I'm going into an endgame with a clear pawn up.

22...♔xa8 23.♔xa8 ♜xa8 24.♖c7 Forcing Black to go back to d8.

24...♖d8 25.♘b3!? I like this move, the right place for the White knight is on c6! [25.♖b7 Of course, I could have been greedy and just get the b5 pawn, it would be good as well, but I like when all my pieces are standing perfectly...]

25...♔f8 Black can't find a much better move.

26.♘a5 ♔e8 27.♘c6 Finally, my knight got from the starting g1 square to c6! What a beautiful place for a knight!

27...♖a8 28.♖b7 And now it's time to collect the b5 pawn. The game is over, but my opponent kept on playing for many more moves.

28...g6 It's too late to look for any counter-chances...

29.♖xb5 ♜a1+ [29...f5 30.♖a5 and Black can't even get an active rook.]



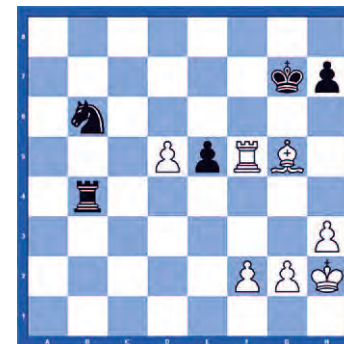
30.♔h2 f5 31.♜a5 The simplest win. I didn't want to calculate other moves in detail.

31...♖b1 32.♘xe7 Again, I chose the simplest solution which leads almost by force to a 2 pawns advantage for me — I thought it should be enough, at least for one game :).

32...♔xe7 33.♙g5+ ♔e8 34.♜a8+ ♔f7 35.♜d8 And I am winning the second pawn.

35...♘b6 36.♜xd6 ♜xb4 37.exf5 [37.f4 would have been the most beautiful solution, but at this moment of the game, I just wanted to win and go back to the hotel. I don't enjoy much playing totally winning endgames, and I was a bit surprised that my opponent didn't want to resign the game.]

37...gxf5 38.♜f6+ ♔g7 39.♜xf5 White is 2 pawns up, Black has no chance to get a draw, or to create any kind of counterplay...



39...♘d7 [39...♘xd5 40.♜xe5 is completely hopeless for Black.]

40.♙e7 ♜d4 41.d6 The winning plan was easy to me. I need to get the kingside pawns as far as possible,

then bring the rook to c7, which would force the Black king to stand on e6. Afterwards, I have to create another free pawn on the kingside. I did this very smoothly in the game.

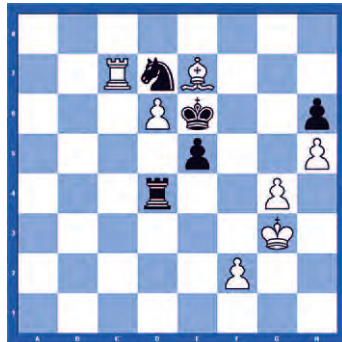
41...h6 42.g4 I need to put my pawns on g4-h5.

42...♔g6 43.♔g2 ♖d3 44.h4 ♖d4 45.h5+ ♔g7 46.♔g3

The first stage of the plan is done, now comes the second part.

46...♖d3+ 47.♖f3 ♖d4 48.♖c3 I'm threatening to play ♖c7, so the Black king has no other choice than to go to e6.

48...♔f7 49.♖c7 ♔e6



50.g5! And my second passed h-pawn decides the game.

50...hxg5 51.h6 ♖d1 [Also loses 51...♖h4 52.♙xg5 ♖h1 53.♖c1 and one of the pawns is going to become a queen :).]

52.♔h2 I don't allow the Black rook to take the h-file.

52...e4 53.♖xd7 A very easy game for me this time, I almost had to make no calculations which is nice — saving energy for the next rounds. Also in this game, we saw

very clearly what Black should avoid in this kind of pawn structures!

1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Tiviakov,S (2674) – Bezgodova,M (2206)

Botvinnik memorial, 25.08.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Grigoryan,A (2579) – Kukhmazov,A (2154)

Botvinnik memorial, 25.08.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

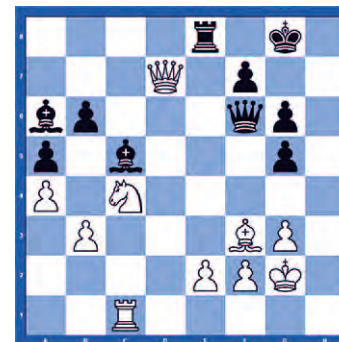


(7) Hungaski,R (2486) – Gajewski,G (2628)

Sants Open, 20.08.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

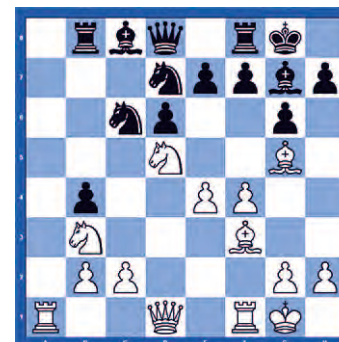


(8) Lillo Castay,V (2303)
– Cifuentes Parada,R (2496)

Sants Open, 21.08.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

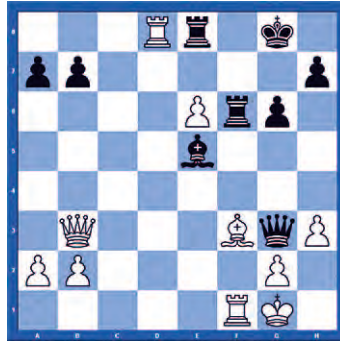


(9) Georgiadis,I (2445) – Svetushkin,D (2569)

Isthmia Open, 22.08.2012

[CEWN]

1... =

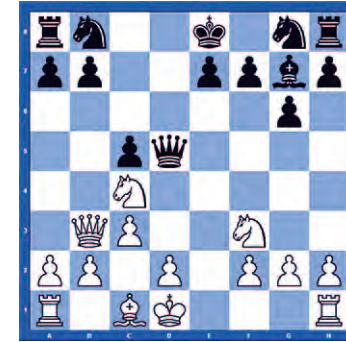


(11) Janev,E (2457) – Arun Prasad,S (2531)

Bratto Open, 22.08.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

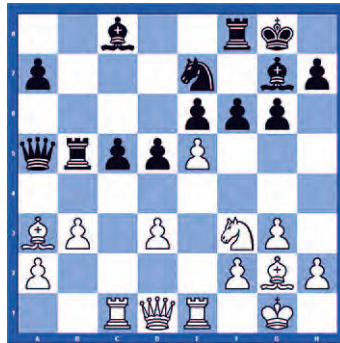


(10) Svetushkin,D (2569) – Sethuraman,S (2546)

Isthmia Open, 23.08.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-

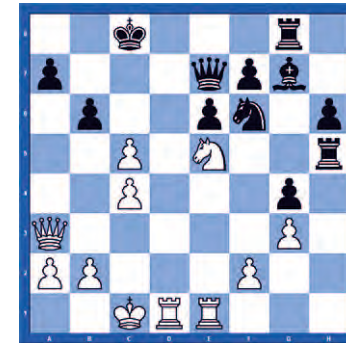


(12) Burg,T (2471) – Kuzmich,K (2464)

Haarlem GM, 25.08.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-



(13) Hess,R (2624) — Arnold,M (2540)

Metro GM, 07.08.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

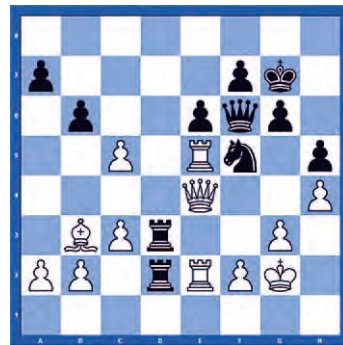


(14) Guido,F (2409) — Zelcic,R (2552)

Schwarzacher Open, 25.08.2012

[CEWN]

1... -/+

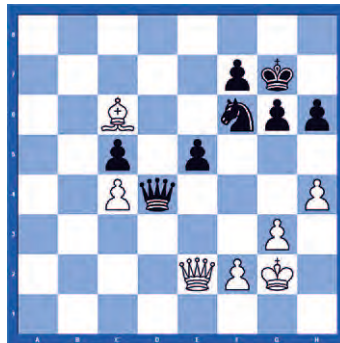


Endgame section

(15) Fressinet,Laurent (2714)
— Bauer,Christian (2682) [E15]

87th ch-FRA 2012 Pau FRA (8), 21.08.2012

[Chess Evolution]



We are in the 8th round of the French Championship in a very important game for the medals. After a slightly strange game, Black managed to achieve this „almost winning” endgame. Let’s take a look at how good is Christian Bauer in a technical position.

51...h5 This move can’t be bad. The Black pawn structure is very good, the Queen on d4 is very powerful and the knight is clearly a better piece than the bishop. Everything is great, but how to win the position? An exchange of queens would lead most probably to an easy win, but how to take the ladies away from the board?

52.♔g1 With this move, White is showing that the next moves are going to be ♔g2-Kg1 — passive defense. Time for Black to show some play...

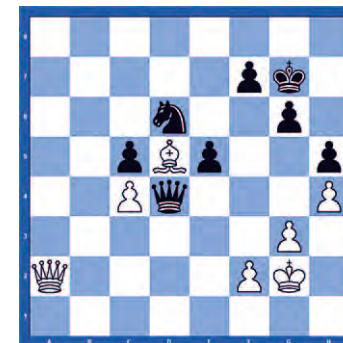
52...♞g8! A very nice move by Black. The knight has nothing else to do on f6, so Black starts a knight maneuver to the d6 square, and he is getting the option of playing f5-e4 in the future.

53.♔g2 ♞e7 Black brings the knight to d6. If Black would hurry with f5, it could lead to unnecessary complications. [53...f5?! The right idea, but executed too early. 54.♔a2! (To stand passively would be wrong because of 54.♔g1 ♞f6 55.♔g2 e4 followed by ♞g4-Ne5 and I think Black should be easily winning.) 54...♔d6 55.♞d5 and White is still fighting because of the relatively weak Black king.]

54.♞b7 White can’t do anything about it. Against 4. ♞e4, ♞c8 would come.

54...♞f5 55.♞d5 ♞d6 The knight is standing perfectly. Now Black wants to start moving the f-pawn forward.

56.♔a2 Fressinet can’t keep doing „nothing”, and he tries to bring the queen to a7.



56...♞e4! Another good move by Black. Now the exchange of light pieces is forced. White can’t allow Black to play ♞c3 followed by e4.

57. ♖xe4 ♜xe4+ 58. ♔g1 This queen endgame looks like a very easily winning one. Black got a super queen placed in the middle of the board, and a clear pawn up. Besides, the White king position can't be great and leads to the loss of another pawn...

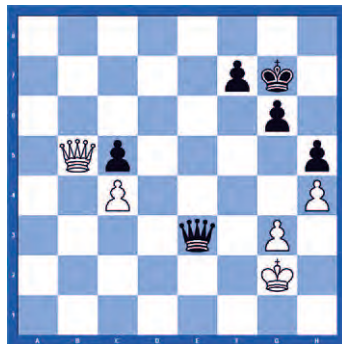
58... ♜e1+ 59. ♔g2 ♜e4+ 60. ♔g1 Probably Black was in a slight time trouble, so he decided to repeat the moves once.

60... ♜d3 Black has to start moving the pawns, specially the e- one. So ♜d4 or ♜d3 are clearly the best moves.

61. ♜a4 e4 62. ♜b5 ♜d1+ 63. ♔h2 ♜d4 64. ♔g2 What to do next for Black? Can he win without playing e3? It doesn't seem so. In case of the f5 move, the Black king gets under White checks.

64... e3! Until here, Bauer is playing a great game.

65. fxe3 ♜xe3



66. ♜b2+ What is the next plan for Black?! Very often we see such a queen endgame without the c- pawns. It's a draw, but not an easy one. Black usually tries to bring the king to e2 and White gives a lot of checks hoping to get a perpetual. In our situation, the c-pawns are still on

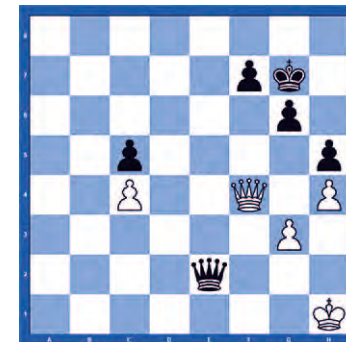
the board, which makes a big difference. If Black could bring the king to d3, the game would be over immediately because White would lose the c-pawn. So, we can expect Black to go out with his king in the next moves.

66... ♜g8 67. ♔h2 White puts the king in a position with no checks.

67... ♜d3 [67... ♜e4 Before going with the king to the center, Black should try to put his queen to an optimal position, and this is usually in the middle of the board — e4 or d4. 68. ♜b3 ♜d4 followed by ♔g7-Kf6 with an easily winning queen endgame]

68. ♜b8+ ♔h7 69. ♜f4! A good move by White, who is not allowing Black to win the game „too easily“. Now the White queen took the best possible square on f4, which makes it a bit more complicated for Black.

69... ♜e2+ 70. ♔g1 ♜g7 71. ♔h1



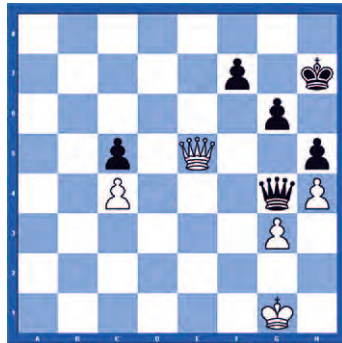
71... ♜g4 Black has to start from the beginning. Getting the White queen out of f4 is the first step. Of course, all the pawn endgames are winning for Black.

72. ♜f1 ♜e4+ [72... ♜xg3?? 73. ♜xf7+ Draw...; 72... ♜d4! followed by a king walk should bring an easy victory to

Black, but it seems like Bauer, for some strange reason, tries to win without his king...]

73. ♔h2 ♕c2+ **74.** ♔g1 ♕f5 **75.** ♕e2 [The exchange of queens loses, of course! 75. ♕xf5 gxf5 76. ♔f2 ♔f6 77. ♔f3 ♔e5 78. ♔e3 f4+ 79. gxf4+ ♔f5 80. ♔f3 f6]

75... ♕g4 **76.** ♕e5+ ♔h7



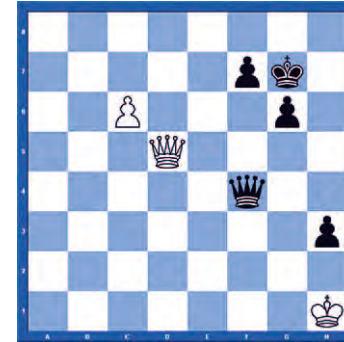
77. ♕xc5?? White panicked! But only because... Black made no improvements at all in the last 15 moves. [77. ♕c3 and we are back in a position which we already saw. 77... ♕d4+?? would of course lose for Black. 78. ♕xd4 cxd4 79. c5 and White makes a queen...]

77... ♕xg3+ **78.** ♔f1 ♕xh4 This position is very easily winning. Probably White was hoping for the c-pawn, but even an exchange of the c-pawn for the Black h-pawn would lead to a lost endgame...

79. ♕d5 ♕f4+! Black is putting his queen in the best possible position!

80. ♔g1 h4 And here comes the Black pawn...

81. c5 ♔g7 **82.** c6 h3 **83.** ♔h1



83...g5! The second Black pawn decides the game immediately.

84. ♔g1 [It doesn't help to play 84. c7 ♕c1+ 85. ♔h2 ♕xc7+ and Black takes the c-pawn with check.]

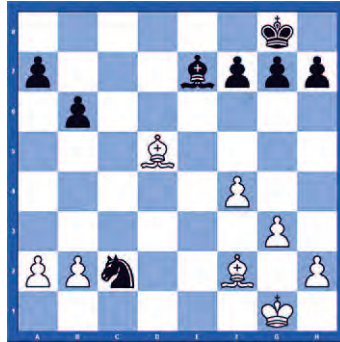
84...g4 85. c7 g3 We saw a very nice play by Bauer in the endgame. We can learn a lot from it!

0-1

(16) Meier,G (2667) — Prohaszka,P (2562)

Dresden Open, 25.08.2012

[Chess Evolution]



White has a really promising endgame with the two bishops — probably in Karpov's hands we could say it is winning — , but Black had a concrete way to exchange the dark-squared bishops and achieve a drawish endgame. After he spoiled this chance, White nicely converted his advantage.

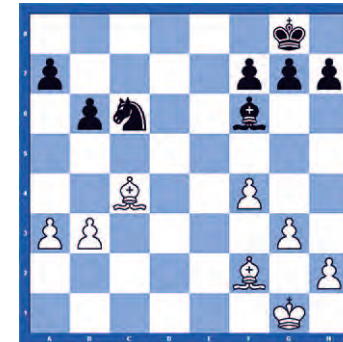
32...♖b4! [32...♗f6 with the idea of exchanging the bishops with ♗d4 fails to 33.♗e4! ♖b4 34.a3 White preserves both bishops.]

33.♗c4 ♗f6! Very well played! Even in such an „easy“ endgame, precise calculation is very important. White is forced to help his opponent. [33...♗c5 would achieve the main goal, but it's still bad, since it worsens the pawn structure. 34.♗xc5 bxc5 35.♖f2 ♖f8 36.♖e3 White is probably winning here. The threat is to play ♖e4, followed by a3 and ♖d5. 36...f5 is the only move to stop White's plan, but he still has access to the c5 weakness... (36...♖e7 37.♖e4 f6 38.a3 +/- ♖d5 is coming next.) 37.a3

♘c6 38.♗d5 Clearing the way for the king to c4. The bishop simply dominates the knight. 38...♘d4 (38...♘e7 39.♗e6 +/- ♖d3-c4 is coming.; After 38...♘b8 39.♖d3 ♖e7 40.♖c4 ♖d6 White suddenly wins the other weakness by 41.♗g8! h6 42.♗h7 +/-) 39.♖d3 ♖e7 40.♖c4 ♖d6 41.b4 +/- Black is in trouble.]

34.a3 A sad necessity by White, who could not play 34.b3 immediately. [34.♗e1 is met with 34...♘c2!]

34...♘c6 35.b3 We reached the first critical position, where Black successfully found a subtle move!



35...♗b2!! Black provokes the a4 push before exchanging the bishops. It's very difficult to feel that the b4 square has such a big importance in this endgame. [It's interesting to see that even after exchanging the bishops, White retains his initiative due to the dominance of the bishop over the knight. The chess principle is right again, that in case of pawns on both flanks, the bishop is stronger than the knight. We must add that the White king is closer to reach the important squares in the center. 35...♗d4 36.♖g2 with the idea of saving the bishop with ♗e1– 36...♗xf2 37.♖xf2 ♖f8 38.♖e3 ♖e7 (38...f5 can't really stop the invasion of the king. 39.♗d5 ♘b8 40.♖d4

♔e5 will be played next.) 39.♔e4 and here I have very bad feelings for the position. Maybe he could save the game with some amazing plan, but I don't see it. He must allow ♕d5, because ♕d6 would drop the f7 pawn. 39...f6 (39...g6 40.♙b5 ♘d8 (The pawn endgame is easily winning for White after 40...♕d6 41.♙xc6 ♕xc6 42.♔e5 +-) 41.♕d5 Black will get in zugzwang.) 40.♙g8 h6 41.♕d5 with good winning chances.]

36.a4 White had nothing better.

36...♙c3? But this is very strange! Why didn't Black continue his plan and played ♙d4? Even if it's losing, he must go for that, since suffering against the two bishops is pretty much hopeless. [36...♙d4! Let's see the difference with the previous line. 37.♕g2 ♙xf2 38.♕xf2 ♕f8 39.♕e3 ♕e7 40.♕e4 and here ♕d5 is not a threat, because of ♘b4. Black can play for instance 40...♘b4 followed by f6 and ♕d6. The endgame may continue with 41.g4 f6 This is not necessary, but it looks the most logical to me 42.♙g8 h6 43.h4 ♕f8 44.♙c4 ♕e7 and White cannot invade on the queenside, while on the other flank, Black can easily parry the threats... 45.♙f5 ♘c6 46.♕g6 ♕f8 The game should end in draw.]

37.♕g2! No more chances to exchange the bishops.

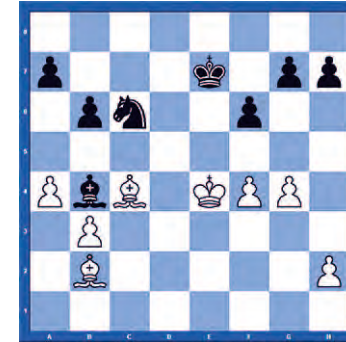
37...♙d4 Too late!

38.♙e1! I believe this endgame is objectively lost. Let's see how the game proceeds.

38...♙c5 39.♕f3 ♕f8 [39...♙b4 40.♙f2 ♙c5 doesn't work. The c5 pawn becomes too weak. 41.♙xc5 bxc5 42.♕e4 ♘b4 43.♕e5! +- and ♕d6 next.]

40.♕e4 ♕e7 41.g4! It's time to improve the pawn structure on the kingside. Black can only watch...

41...f6 42.♙c3 ♙b4 43.♙b2!

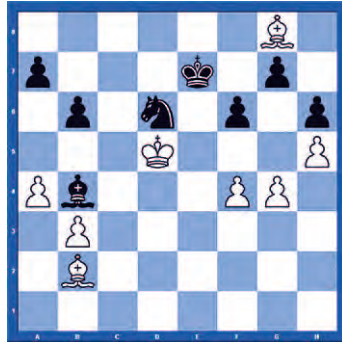


43...♘d8 [I tried another kind of defense with 43...♘b8 but it slowly fails. 44.♕d5 ♙d6 45.♙c1 ♙b4 46.h4 Black can only pass with the bishop. ♘d7 is always met with ♕c6. 46...♙d6 47.♙d2 ♙c5 48.h5 ♙d6 White has strengthened his position to the maximum, it's time to finish the game. 49.♙d3! h6 50.g5! +- White wins. Black cannot parry the simple threat of taking on h6, followed by f5!]

44.♙g8! Good technique! Creating a hole on g6, where the White king can penetrate soon.

44...h6 45.h4 [45.♕f5! would have allowed even less counterplay for Black. 45...♕f8 46.♙d5 ♘f7 (46...♙d6 47.h4! +- with the idea of pushing to g5, and after the exchanges, Black cannot prevent ♕g6 and g7 falls.) 47.♕g6 ♘h8+ 48.♕h7 ♘f7 49.h4! with the same idea again. White will play g5 next. Both ♙d2 and ♙e1 lose to ♙a3!]

45...♖b7 [45...♖f7 was probably more resistant, but still quite hopeless. 46.h5 (46.♔f5!? is also possible. 46...♔f8 47.♙h7) 46...♖d6+ 47.♔d5



47...♔d2! Black has more chances to survive, if he blocks one flank. 48.♙a3! (48.f5?! would allow Black's idea. 48...♔d7 preventing ♔c6. 49.♙e6+ ♔c7 50.♙a3 ♙f4 It seems like Black successfully built a fortress. He starts passing with the bishop, and ♙g8, with the idea of invading with ♔e6 is always met with ♔d7.) 48...♙xf4 49.♔c6 The White king has access to the queenside pawns. 49...♙e5 50.♔d5 ♙g3 51.♔c7 ♙f4 52.♔b8 ♔d7 53.♔xa7 ♔c7 54.♙b4 White simply wants to create a passer on the queenside. 54...♙e3 55.♙e1! with the idea of playing ♙g3, and on ♙f4, ♙f2 pressing the b6 pawn. 55...b5+ 56.♔a8 bxa4 57.bxa4 +/- The a-pawn should bring the victory for White.]

46.♔f5 ♖c5 [46...♙e1 with the same idea as before. Trying to block the kingside was a better practical chance, but 47.♙a3+ ♖c5 48.h5 ♔d2 49.a5! A small tactical trick to improve the pawn structure. 49...♙e3 50.a6! ♔e8 51.♙c4 and b4 is coming next. Black cannot stand the pressure.]

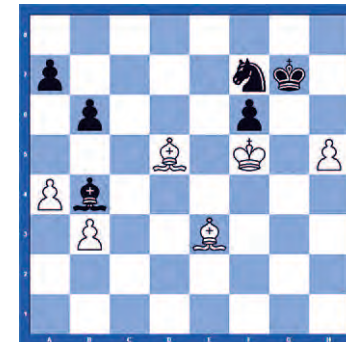
47.g5! The final phase of the game, collecting the full point.

47...hxcg5 48.fxcg5 ♖d3 [48...fxg5 loses a pawn. 49.hxcg5 ♔f8 50.♙c4 +- ♔g6 is next.]

49.♙d4 ♖e5 Black tries to escape to an opposite colored bishop endgame, but of course. White is not obliged to take the knight.

50.gxf6+ gxf6 51.h5 [51.♔d5! was more circumspect, and h5 only in the next move!]

51...♔d2 [51...♔f8! gave some practical chance. 52.♔d5 ♔g7 53.♙e3 ♖f7 would have at least stopped the pawn, but the upcoming endgame instructively wins for White.



54.♙xf7! ♔xf7 55.♔d4 ♙e7 56.♙c3! Black is in zugzwang! 56...a6

a) 56...♔d8 loses easily to 57.h6! ♙e7 58.h7 ♔g7 59.h8 ♔+ ♔xh8 60.♙xf6+ ♙xf6 61.♔xf6 +-;

b) 56...♔g7 allows 57.♔e6! ♙c5 (57...♔d8 58.♔d7 +- traps the bishop.) 58.♙xf6+ ♔h6 59.♔d5 ♔xh5 60.♔d4! The Black king is too far, White collect the pawns. 60...♙b4 61.♔c6 +-;

57. ♖d4 b5 58.a5! After fixing the a6 weakness, the White king can go to collect it... 58...b4 (58... ♖b4 59. ♖xf6 ♖xa5 60.h6! ♖g8 61.♖g6 +-) 59.h6 ♖f8 60.h7 ♖g7 61.h8 ♔+ ♖xh8 62. ♖xf6+ ♖h7 63.♖e6 Black cannot resist anymore. 63...♖g6 64. ♖d8 +-]

52. ♖d5 The game is over now. White nicely finishes the game.

52...♖d6 53. ♖c4 ♖e7 54. ♖b2! ♖a3 is threatened and on ♖b4, the h-pawn runs.

54...♖d6 55. ♖a3+ ♖c6 56. ♖e2 ♖d5 57. ♖e7 1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Toran Albero,Roman — Tal,Mihail [A21]

EU-cht (Men) 02nd Oberhausen (1.2), 21.06.1961

[Balogh Csaba]

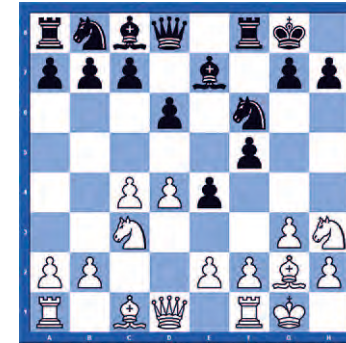
In this game, Tal plays a sharp and risky setup against the English opening. White has different ways to get an advantage, but on the other hand, as the game shows, a few inaccuracies are enough to pass the initiative to Black.

1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 d6 3.g3 f5 This aggressive move is a clear sign that Black wants to win this game.

4.d4 I like this move a lot. It leads to an open position, where White's chances are preferable. [4.♙g2 is also possible. 4...♘f6 5.d3 g6 6.e3 ♙g7 7.♘ge2 with a different type of position.]

4...e4 I believe this is a mistake, because Black is unable to hold his pawn on e4. It's probably better to play 4...♘f6 or 4...♙e7 first.

5.f3 Sooner or later, White must undermine this pawn. Why not to do it immediately?! [Kramnik showed another promising way to play: 5.♘h3 ♘f6 6.♙g2 White finishes the development before playing f3. The only thing he must take care of is that if Black plays c6, with the idea of consolidating his central pawn with d5, White must always play d5 himself. 6...♙e7 7.0-0 0-0]



8.d5! Very nice and logical, creating problems around the e6 hole. 8...c5 9.♘f4 ♘a6 10.f3! exf3 11.exf3 ♘c7 12.♙e1 White got a huge advantage. The best that Black can do is to retreat the f5 pawn to f7. Now he must suffer. Black has managed to win this, but it only happened because it was a blitz game. Kramnik-Svidler, Moscow 2008.]

5...♘f6 [5...exf3 will transpose to the game.]

6.♙g2 Forcing Black to give up his main triumph in the center. [6.fxe4 could only be advisable if White would win the pawn. Black is ready to protect it now, 6...♘xe4! (Not 6...fxe4 because of 7.♙g2 ♙e7 8.♙g5 and the e4 pawn falls.) 7.♘xe4 fxe4 8.♙g2 d5! looks really suspicious, but Black is just in time to hold everything together. 9.cxd5 ♙b4+! 10.♙d2 ♙xd2+ 11.♙xd2 ♙xd5 12.e3 ♙g4! This is the key move! Otherwise, after ♘e2-c3, White gets a big advantage. 13.♘e2 ♙xe2 14.♙xe2 0-0 The plan is ♘d7-f6, with mutual chances.]

6...exf3 7.♘xf3 With this recapture, White wants to use his big lead in development. [7.exf3!? is also possible, with the idea of obtaining the same position that Kramnik had in his blitz game. 7...♙e7 8.♘h3 0-0 9.0-0 followed by ♘f4 and d5.]

7...g6 8.0-0 ♖g7



9.e4 The most tempting move, but an inaccuracy, after which Black solves all his problems. [The idea itself was correct, but White should have prepared it with 9. ♖g5! 0-0 (9...h6 10. ♖xf6 and e4 is next.) 10.e4! Black is forced to unpin... 10...h6 but this seriously weakens the g6 square, and White is ready to make use of it with the ♘h4 resource... 11. ♖xf6 ♙xf6 (11... ♖xf6 is met with 12.exf5 ♖xf5 13. ♘h4! with a big advantage, because 13... ♖xh4 loses to 14. ♖xb7 +/-) 12.exf5 ♖xf5 13. ♘d5 ♙d8 14. ♘h4! White not only takes the light-squared bishop, but also destroys Black's pawn structure. 14... ♘c6 Black's only chance to create some counterplay against the d4 pawn. 15. ♘xf5 ♖xf5 Black wins the pawn, but White gets more than enough compensation for it. (15...gxf5 16. ♖f4 +/-) 16. ♙d3! ♘xd4 17. ♘f4 +/- followed by ♖e4 with a big attack.]

9...fxe4 10. ♘g5 0-0 11. ♘gxe4 After this, the initiative passes to Black. [11. ♘cxe4 was more dangerous, but here Black is able to solve his problems with 11... ♘c6! 12. ♘xf6+ ♖xf6 and 13. ♖d5+ looks only scary, but 13... ♖g7 is safe.]

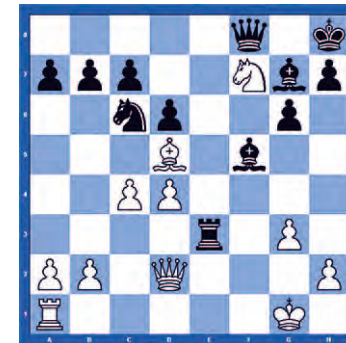
11... ♘xe4 12. ♖xf8+ ♙xf8 13. ♘xe4 ♘c6! White cannot continue playing actively, while Black's undeveloped kingside is coming out with tempo.

14. ♖e3! White must hold his d4 pawn at any cost. Of course, it would have been much better to do it with a c3 move, but it was not possible. [14.d5? closes the diagonal of the g2 bishop and allows Black to occupy nice squares with his pieces as well. 14... ♘e5 c4 is under attack and ♖g4, ♖e8 are coming.]

14... ♖f5 15. ♙d2 ♖e8 16. ♘g5! This allows a very nice tactical motif — of course, Tal did not miss it. Still, this is the best chance. [16. ♘f2 would be met with 16... ♙e7! and White is in trouble, since ♖e1 drops the d4 pawn.]

16... ♖xe3! The game is not over, it's just starting! [16...h6 17. ♘f3 would stabilize the d4 pawn.]

17. ♖d5+ ♙h8 18. ♘f7+

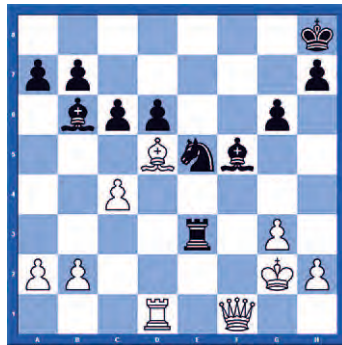


18... ♙xf7!! Tal sacrifices his queen and gets two pieces and a pawn for it, but the activity of his pieces give him a risk-less compensation. Objectively the game remains drawn, but it's much more difficult to find the correct moves with White. [18... ♖g8 White doesn't have more than draw.]

19. ♖xf7 ♖d3! A very tricky move that gives White a wide range of choices. Most of the moves are bad. You must

always give the opportunity to your opponentstogowrong! [Black could have forced a draw with 19...♙xd4 20.♖g2 ♙e4+ 21.♖h3 ♙f5+ 22.♖g2 ♙e4+ = with a perpetual check.]

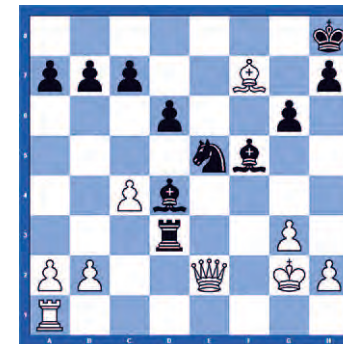
20. ♔e2 The most logical move, but it objectively leads to a bad endgame... [20. ♔e1! was the right move, but I believe that for a human it's only possible to find this move with luck. 20... ♙xd4+ 21.♖g2 ♘e5! This is Black's main resource in all lines, the reason why Tal continued to play on instead of agreeing to draw. The knight joins the attack with tempo and the bishop has no good square to go... 22. ♙d5 c6 23. ♖d1! Black gets 3 pieces for the queen, with a seemingly big advantage, but somehow White gets very good counterplay with his single queen... (23. ♙e4? loses to 23... ♖e3) 23... cxd5 (23... ♖e3 is also possible, but it leads to a draw after a fantastic line. 24. ♔f1 ♙b6



25. ♙e6! Black seems to get in trouble, but... 25... ♙e4+ 26.♖h3 ♖f3 27. ♔e2 and now 27... ♖f2!! 28. ♔xe4 ♘f3! with a double threat of ♘g5 and ♖h2. White is forced to sacrifice his queen. 29. ♔xf3 ♖xf3 30. ♖xd6 =) 24. ♖xd3 ♙xd3 25. ♔b4 ♙e4+ 26.♖f1 White has good chances to save the game after taking either on d6 or on b7; 20. ♔f4? los-

es to 20... ♙xd4+ 21.♖h1 (21.♖g2 ♙e3 22. ♔h4 with the threat of ♖f6, but it suddenly leads a loss of the queen. 22... ♖g7! 23. ♙d5 ♖d4 Black wins.) 21... ♙e3! and White must move into a fork to control the e4 square. 22. ♔f3 (22. ♔h4 g5) 22... ♘e5!; 20. ♔g2? is refuted by 20... ♙xd4+ 21.♖h1 ♘e5! and White should give up his bishop, because 22. ♙d5 loses to the nice 22...c6 23. ♙e4 ♖d2! Black ends up with a winning material advantage.]

20... ♙xd4+ 21.♖g2 ♘e5!

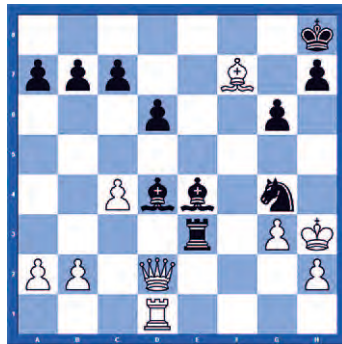


22. ♖d1! [22. ♙d5 is also possible, but it leads to a worse position after 22... ♙g4! (22...c6 is similar to the 20. ♔e1 line... 23. ♖d1! cxd5 24. ♖xd3 ♙xd3 25. ♔d2! and the queens creates good counterplay for a draw. The problem is that 25...dxc4? doesn't work because of 26. ♔f4! and suddenly White wins.) 23. ♔f1 (23. ♔c2 ♖e3! It's not easy to parry the ♖e2 threat.) 23... ♖d2+ 24.♖h1 ♖f2 25. ♔e1 ♖xb2 with a very unpleasant position for White.]

22... ♖e3! We are in the critical moment of the game. The queen has 3 squares to go, but only one of them is good.

23. ♔f1? White miscalculates and fails... [23. ♔d2! was the only move 23... ♙e4+ 24.♖h3 ♘f3 25. ♔f2 White survives by miracle. 25... ♖d3!? A nice attempt to win. (25... ♘g5+

It's worth it to try to repeat the moves once. 26.♔h4! (26.♔g4? loses to 26...♙f3+ 27.♔xg5 ♖e5+ 28.♔f4 ♜f5#) 26...♘f3+ 27.♔h3) 26.♞e2 ♜xd1 27.♞xd1 Even without the rook, the minor pieces create nice threats. 27...♘g1+! 28.♔h4! Black has nothing better than (28.♔g4? Trying to escape into an opposite-colored bishop endgame after ♙f3, but Black has a much better continuation. 28...♙f5+! 29.♔f4 and now (29.♔g5 ♘h3+ 30.♔h6 ♙e3#) 29...♘h3+! 30.♔f3 ♙g4+! 31.♔xg4 ♘f2+ wins.) 28...♙f6+ 29.♔g4 ♙f3+ 30.♞xf3 ♘xf3 31.♔xf3 ♙xb2 As we know, in opposite-colored bishop endgames the defensive side has good chances to hold even with a big material disadvantage. I believe that White can successfully build up a fortress here... 32.♙e6 ♔g7 33.♙c8 b6 34.♙e4 ♔f6 White controls the light squares in order to avoid the Black king to access the pawns. White should be able to hold, but of course, there are still many moves ahead of him to achieve success.; 23.♞f2? loses in a fantastic line. 23...♘g4! 24.♞d2 (24.♞f1 ♜e7! It's easy to miss this retreat with both sides. It frees the e3 square for the knight.) 24...♙e4+ 25.♔h3



25...♜d3!! 26.♔xg4 (26.♞xd3 ♘f2+) 26...♙f5+! 27.♔f4 and here (27.♔h4 ♜xd2 28.♜xd2 ♙f6#) 27...♙e5+! 28.♔g5

♔g7!! and Black wins in both lines. 29.♞xd3 (29.♙xg6 ♜xd2 30.♜xd2 hxg6) 29...h6+ 30.♔h4 ♙f6#]

23...♙e4+! 24.♔h3 ♜f3! Black will end up with a big material advantage soon.

25.♞e2 [25.♞e1 does not change anything. 25...♙f5+ 26.♔g2 ♜f2+ 27.♔h1 ♘f3 and White is forced to give up his queen.]

25...♙f5+ [White resigned in view of 25...♙f5+ 26.♔g2 ♜f2+ 27.♞xf2 ♙xf2 28.♔xf2 ♘xf7]

0-1

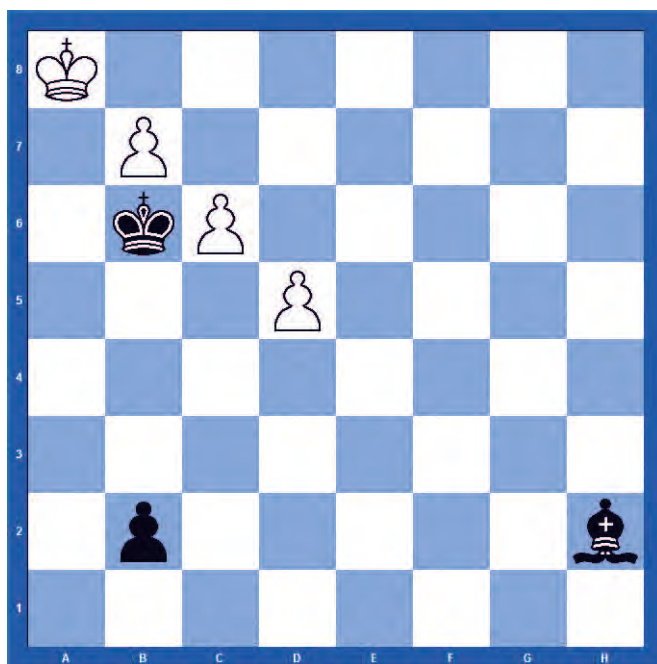
Surprise section / study

(18) Rubesamen,H

1938

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(19) Tkachiev,V (2644) – Maze,S (2573)

French Championship, 18.08.2012

[Solutions]



39. ♔h1+!! ♕g5 40. ♔h4+ ♕f5 41.g4+ 1-0[41.g4+ ♕e6 42. ♖d6+!+-]

(20) Hansen,E (2472) – Grigoryan,K (2529)

World Youth Championship, 14.08.2012

[Solutions]

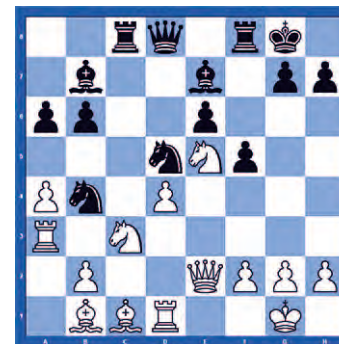


35. ♖e1! ♗d5 [35... ♕xb3 36. ♖xe8+ ♕f7 37. ♖e7+ ♕g8 38.axb3+-] 36. ♖xe6+-

(21) Cori,J (2487) – Huschenbeth,N (2532)

World Youth Championship, 15.08.2012

[Solutions]

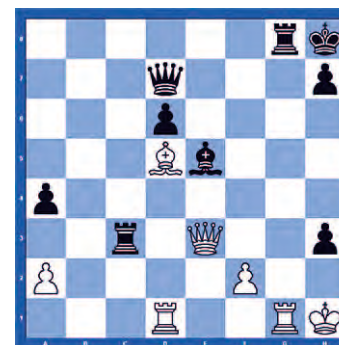


17... ♘c2! 18. ♖a2 [18. ♕xc2 ♕xa3-- 19. ♘xd5 ♖xd5 20.bxa3? ♖xg2#] 18... ♘xd4! 19. ♖xd4 ♘xc3! 20.bxc3 [20. ♖xd8 ♘xe2+-] 20... ♖xd4! 21.cxd4 ♖xc1+ 22. ♖f1 ♖xf1+ 23. ♖xf1 ♖d8--

(22) Ivekovic,Z (2320) – Salem,AR (2546)

World Youth Championship, 13.08.2012

[Solutions]



32... ♖g2!! 0-1[32... ♖g2 33. ♕xg2 hxg2+ 34. ♖xg2 ♖xe3--]

(23) Beckhuis,G (2288) – Horvath,J (2536)

Vienna Open, 18.08.2012

[Solutions]

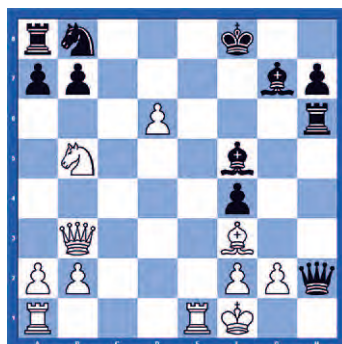


15...♘e4! 16.♙xb4 ♘f6!! 17.♚h4 ♜e4!-+

(24) Gajewski,G (2628) – Antoi Royo,J (2398)

Sants Open, 19.08.2012

[Solutions]

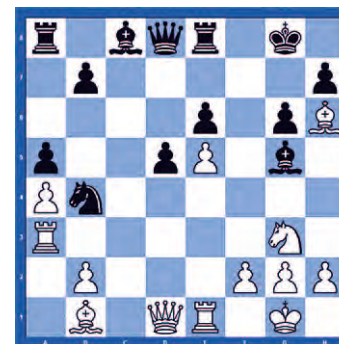


26.♜e8+! 1-0[26.♜e8+ ♔xe8 27.♚g8+ ♙f8 (27...♔d7 28.♚xg7+ ♔d8 29.♚e7+ ♔c8 30.♚c7#) 28.♜e1+ ♙e6 29.♜xe6+ ♜xe6 30.♚xe6+ ♔d8 31.♚f6+-]

(25) Fedorchuk,S (2639) – Markidis,K (2351)

Ishtmia Open, 18.08.2012

[Solutions]

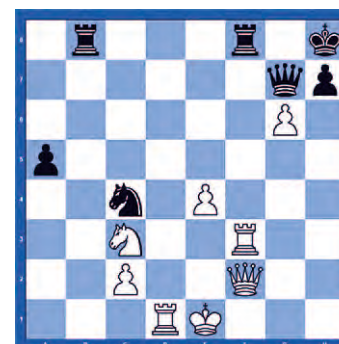


20.♙xg6! ♙xh6 [20...hxg6 21.♚g4! ♙xh6 22.♚xg6+ ♙g7 23.♘h5 ♜e7 24.♘f6+ ♔f8 25.♜f3+-] 21.♙xe8 ♚xe8 22.♘h5! ♔h8 23.♘f6 ♚f7 24.♜h3+-

(26) Pruijssers,R (2514) – Broekmeulen,J (2410)

Roosendaal Open, 17.08.2012

[Solutions]

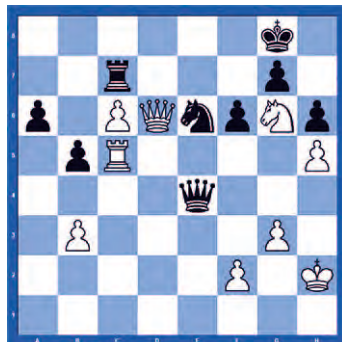


35.♜d7!! ♜xf3 36.♜xg7 ♜xf2 37.♜xh7+ ♔g8 38.♘d5!! [38.♔xf2 ♘e5±] 38...♜g2 [38...♜f3 39.♘e7+ ♔f8 40.g7+-] 39.♘f6+ ♔f8 40.♜f7# 1-0

(27) Fier,A (2582) – Kulaots,K (2558)

Riga Open, 12.08.2012

[Solutions]



40. ♖e5! fxe5 41. ♔xe6+ ♔h7 42. ♔e8 1–0

(28) Romanishin,O (2509) – Nguyen,P (2388)

Najdorf memorial, 14.08.2012

[Solutions]

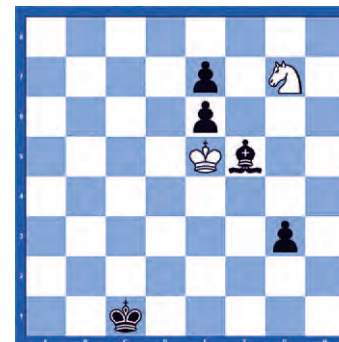


16. ♘f4!! exf4 17. ♖h7! ♘c7 [17... ♘c5 18. ♖xg7 ♘e6 19. ♖xg6 ♘xg5 20. ♖xg5+-; 17... ♖g8 18. ♙xd5+- (18. ♖xg7+-)] 18. ♘xc7 ♔xc7 19. ♙xf4+ ♔c6 20. ♖xg7+-

(29) Selesniev,A

1921

[Solutions]



1. ♘h5! g2 2. ♘f4! g1N! 3. ♘e2+!! ♔d2! [3... ♘xe2=] 4. ♘xg1 ♔e3 5. ♘h3!! ♙xh3 1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 28

7th of September 2012

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Editorial Preface

Chess Olympiad, this is what it's all about now! The best teams of all around the world fighting for their goals.

After the 8th round, it seems like nothing is going to stop the Russian team from taking the gold medal. With an overwhelming team and 2 killing boards (2nd Grischuk and 3rd Karjakin), the Russian players seem to be simply unstoppable! It would be a great achievement for Russia since it's been quite a long time since they are very unlucky at team events. The fight seems to be much tougher for the second place. 4 teams are sharing it with 13 Points.

In the 8th round it came to a collusion between Hungary and Germany. Balogh Csaba didn't get more than a draw against Jan Gustafsson and I managed to win my game against Peter Leko, so the overall result was 2,5–1,5. These are sad news for the 4th seeded team of Hungary, who spoiled a great tournament in just 2 rounds by not winning against Philippines and losing against Germany.

In the female section, everything is still open. Probably it will be a fight between the Russian and the Chinese girls for the gold medals.

Side events of the Olympiad: This time the famous Bermuda party was clearly not a success. Everything started at around 22h and the party was over at around 1.30am. Somehow, the organizers in Turkey don't really care at all about the chess players. A very disappointing thing is of course that we have no water or coffee in the playing hall, and not even toilets! The organizers decided that "Dixie toilets" should be enough, well...

Still 3 rounds to go at the Olympiad and many things could happen! As usual, we wish You a lot of fun with the CEWN Nr28, which includes fresh games from the Olympiad.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Kramnik,V (2797) – Aronian,L (2816) [D10]

Olympiad, 03.09.2012

[Csaba Balogh]

The game between the current World Nr.2 and Nr.3. I must say that Aronian clearly had a day off today, but it doesn't take anything from Kramnik's glory.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 Here comes the first surprise of the game...

4.cxd5 White goes for the exchange Slav, which is generally considered to be an opportunity to make a draw, however, as we'll see this is a dangerous weapon in Kramnik's hands.

4...cxd5 5.♙f4 ♘c6 6.e3 a6 [6...♙f5 is the other main move.]

7.♙d3



7...g6? This is a real shocking move by a player of Aronian's level. He probably wanted to avoid Kramnik's preparation, but the bishop has nothing to do on g7 in this opening.

Black has no chance to open the long diagonal and he can't put pressure on the d4 pawn. The best he could do is to transfer it back to f8-d6, exchanging the strong White bishop... [7...♙g4 8.f3 (8.♘ge2 e6) 8...♙h5 is the start of the lines. Kramnik definitely had some deep idea in mind, but anyway Aronian should have gone for this.]

8.h3 A prophylactic move against ♙g4 which also frees the h2 square for the bishop against ♘h5 in the future.

8...♙f5 A logical move to get rid of the bishop, but it could have had some direct problems. However, Kramnik prefers to lead the game to calm waters... [8...♙g7 9.♘f3 0-0 10.0-0+= White is better because of his superior dark-squared bishop. He's going to initiate his play on the queenside.]

9.♘f3 [9.♙xf5! This kind of move is always questionable, since it helps Black to bring a pawn towards the center, but White has concrete reasons to take it. 9...gxf5



10.g4! This is the point! Suddenly Black's position is really unpleasant 10...♙d7 (10...fxg4 11.hxg4+= The exchanges on the kingside clearly favor White. He wants to push g5, followed by developing with ♘f3.) 11.♙e5! Without this move, the whole idea would be wrong, but now Black

is in trouble. White wants to destroy the pawn structure with gxf6 , and on $11... \text{g7}$ loses a piece after ($11... \text{xe5}$ $12.\text{dxe5}$ e4 $13.\text{xd5}+/-$ with a pawn up.) $12.\text{g5}$ xe5 $13.\text{gxf6}!+/-$

9... xd3 10. xd3 $\text{g7}?!$ This is another strange decision by Aronian. [Black should have played $10... \text{e6}$ followed by exchanging the other bishops. Black is very close to equalizing. $11.0-0$ d6 $12.\text{h6}$ f8 $13.\text{g5}$ e7 The Black bishop always follows its counterpart.]

11.0-0 0-0 12. fc1 e6 13. a4 White plays in typical exchange-Slav fashion. He tries to make use of the weakened dark squares on the queenside.

13... e4 14. c5 [$14.\text{d2}$ was principled as well, to exchange the strong knight, but Kramnik did not want to allow any kind of counterplay. Aronian definitely wanted to react with $14... \text{f5}!$ on ($14... \text{xd2}$ $15.\text{xd2}+=$) $15.\text{f3}$ xd2 $16.\text{xd2}$ $\text{g5}!$ $17.\text{h2}$ f4 Black gets counterplay against the d4 pawn.; $14.\text{b3}!?$ was quite unpleasant as well.]

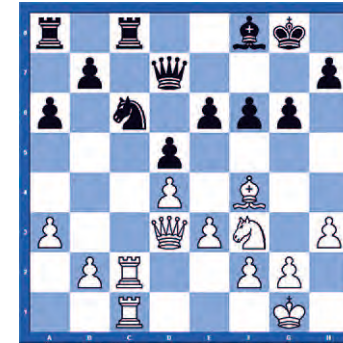
14... xc5 15. xc5 White secures the control over the only open file.

15... d7 [$15... \text{b6}$ was another defending option, but White keeps an edge here as well. $16.\text{c2}$ fc8 $17.\text{c1}$ f8 $18.\text{c3}$ with the idea of playing e5 next. Black cannot fight for the c-file with $18... \text{b4}$ because of $19.\text{b3}!$ a5 $20.\text{c3c2}+=$ White is better, the b7 pawn is also vulnerable.]

16. ac1 fc8 17. $\text{a3}!$ Depriving Black from any kind of counterplay connected to f8 and b4 , and the plan with b4-b5 might increase his advantage in the future as well.

17... f8 18. 5c2 f6 [$18... \text{d6}$ does not solve Black's problems either. $19.\text{xd6}$ xd6 $20.\text{b3}$ White has

a big pressure on the queenside. $20... \text{c7}$ $21.\text{b6}!$ ac8 $22.\text{e5}+=$]

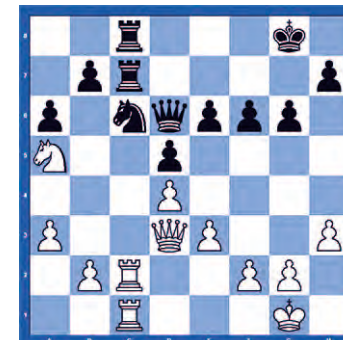


19. $\text{d2}!$ Another excellent positional move. The knight has nothing to do on e5 anymore, Kramnik takes it to the c5 square.

19... d6 20. xd6 xd6 21. b3 c7 [$21... \text{b6}$ would be a serious weakening of the queenside. The knight loses its stability on the c6 square and the a6 pawn becomes very weak! $22.\text{d2}!$ After the knight provoked the weakness, it gives a freeway for the b-pawn. $22... \text{g7}$ $23.\text{b4}$ White is much better.]

22. $\text{a5}!$ With the threat of xb7 and on

22... ac8 Black is close to a draw, but...



23. ♖xb7!! Kramnik had a really good day! The pins on the c-file and the 6th rank allow White to gain a decisive advantage.

23... ♖xb7 24. ♔xa6 ♖bc7 25.b4! ♔d7 Only move, but it doesn't help...

26. ♔b6! This is the most accurate move, Black cannot prevent b5! [26.b5 was also good enough 26... ♖e7 (On 26... ♖d8 the point is 27. ♔xc8!! ♖xc8 (27... ♔xc8 28. ♖xc7 ♔b8 29. ♖c8 wins.) 28. ♖xc8+- The rooks and the b-pawn are dominating.) 27. ♖xc7 ♖xc7 28. ♖xc7 ♔xc7 29. ♔xe6+ White already has three pawns for the piece, but his pawns are also rolling. Black cannot create counterplay. 29... ♔f8 (29... ♔g7 30.a4+-) 30. ♔xf6+ ♔e8 31.a4+-]

26... ♔e8 Aronian has a fantastic creativity, but now it doesn't take him out of trouble... Other moves were hopeless as well. [26... ♔f7 27.b5 ♖b7 Now the best is 28. ♔xc6! ♔xc6 (28... ♖xc6 29.bxc6+-) 29. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 30.bxc6+- is easily winning.; 26... ♖b7 is refuted by 27. ♖xc6! ♖xb6 28. ♖xc8+ ♔f7 29. ♖1c7+-; 26... ♖b8 doesn't help either. 27. ♔xb8+! ♖xb8 28. ♖xc7 ♔b5 (28... ♔d6 29.b5+- The knight is trapped. White simply wants to play ♖b7 with a mate on the back-rank.) 29. ♖1c5 ♔b6 30. ♖e7+-]

27.b5! Kramnik calculates precisely!

27... ♖xd4 28. ♖xc7 ♖e2+ 29. ♔h1! It's important not to allow any checks.

29... ♖xc1 This was Aronian's idea, but...

30. ♖xc8 ♔xc8 31. ♔c6! The b-pawn promotes soon.

31... ♔d8 [31... ♔xc6 32.bxc6+-]

32.b6! White does not even need to take back the knight. Black cannot stop the pawn and it also promotes with check. [32. ♔xc1 was also good, of course.]

32... ♔f7 33. ♔c7+ [33.b7+- was also good.]

33... ♔e8 34. ♔a7! d4 35.b7 Nice game by Kramnik!

1-0

(2) Aronian, Levon (2816) – Ivanchuk, Vassily (2769) [E15]

40th Olympiad Open Istanbul TUR, 01.09.2012

[Csaba Balogh]

We are facing the decisive encounter between two potential medalists, Armenia and Ukraine.

1. ♘f3 The big advantage of the 1.d4 players is that they can confuse their opponent's preparation by starting with 1.c4 or 1.♘f3. A lot of times these first moves lead the same positions, just with a different move order. With 1.e4 there are no such transpositions.

1... ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.d4 b6 We ended up in the Queen's Indian defense and Aronian played his favorite:

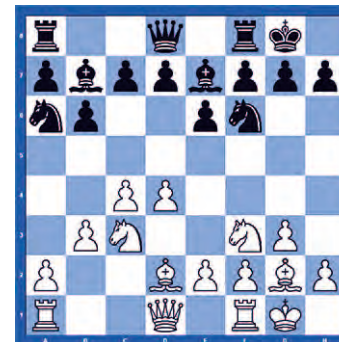
4.g3 ♘a6 5.b3 ♘b4+ 6. ♘d2 ♘e7 Ivanchuk goes for the old main line. Black has lured the bishop to d2, which is not a great place. It should normally develop to the long diagonal, but now the move ♘c3 would occupy the b1 knight's ideal square. [6... ♘xd2+ 7. ♔xd2 c6 is a modern approach for Black. We have analyzed the game Aronian-Grischuk, Moscow 2012, in the CEWN Nr.17.]

7. ♘c3 The critical line, and it's still not clear how to play with Black to equalize... He has a wide range of setups, but the solution is not obvious yet. [The most common move 7. ♘g2 is considered to be harmless nowadays after some very long theoretical lines. 7...c6 ...]

7... ♘b7 Black stops the e4 plan, which was the main idea of the previous move. [7...c6; 7...d5 and; 7...0-0 are also possible.]

8. ♘g2 0-0 9.0-0 ♘a6 [9...d5 is probably a better start, or at least it avoids the game continuation. 10.cxd5 exd5

This is an important theoretical position with hundreds of games. Personally, I slightly prefer White's position... 11. ♔c2 (11. ♘c1 transferring the bishop to b2 is another plan.) 11... ♘a6 12. ♔fd1 followed by ♘f4 and ♘e5 is the main line.]



10.d5!? This is a well-known idea in the g3 system of the Queen's Indian, however in this particular position, I found only one good game in the database. White wants to occupy the center with e4, so Black is forced to accept the challenge.

10... exd5 11. ♘d4 Usually, the d5 break comes after Black's c5 move, and ♘h4 is the usual way to recover the pawn. With the pawn on c7, Black can keep his pawn, at least for a while. Actually, he's forced to fight for it, since if White simply takes back on d5 and plays e4, he achieves the maximum from the opening.

11... ♘c5 [11...c6 happened in the earlier game, but White gets an advantage after 12.cxd5 ♘xd5 13. ♘xd5 cxd5 Black is temporarily a pawn up, but it cannot be long-lasting. 14. ♘f5! The idea is ♘f4 and ♘e3. After the d5 pawn falls, White obtains a better pawn structure because of the d7 isolated pawn. 14... ♔e8 15. ♘f4 ♘f8 16. ♘xd5

♙xd5 17.♚xd5 ♔f6 (17...♖xe2? did not work, because of 18.♚c4 Double attack.) 18.♘e3 White was better in Kanstler-Psakhis, Israel 1999. The knight was heading to d5.]

12.♘c2 As we have seen in the previous line, to win back the d5 pawn, White needs to take his knight to e3. [12.♙f4 was also possible. 12...c6 (White recovers the pawn after 12...♘e4 13.♘xd5! looks like a blunder, but... 13...♙xd5 14.cxd5 ♘c3 15.♚d3 ♙xd4 does not win the piece, because of 16.♚xa6+=) 13.cxd5 ♘xd5 14.♘xd5 cxd5 15.♘f5 followed by ♘e3 with the usual small advantage.]

12...c6 13.cxd5 cxd5 Actually it seems to be a slightly dubious decision to allow White his next move... [13...♘xd5 was more logical. 14.♘xd5 cxd5 15.♙f4 ♘c7 16.♘e3 ♖c8 (It's not advisable to keep the extra pawn with 16...♙xe3 17.♙xe3 Black must suffer with his passive pieces. White simply develops with ♚d2, ♖ac1 and ♖fd1 with an unpleasant pressure.) 17.♘xd5 ♘xd5 18.♙xd5 ♙c6 with a small but stable advantage for White.]

14.♙g5! Suddenly this pin becomes very annoying. That's why it would have been better to get rid of a pair of knights.

14...♘c7 15.♘e3 Black is facing a difficult choice now, but he can still fight for equality...



15...d4? Probably Ivanchuk pinned his hopes to this move when he took on d5 with the pawn, but he blundered one of the following moves... [15...h6 leads to a worse position after 16.♙xf6 ♚xf6 17.♘cxd5 ♘xd5 18.♘xd5 ♚e5 19.♘f6+! ♚xf6 20.♙xb7 ♖ab8 21.♙g2+= This opposite colored bishop position is unpleasant for Black, as lacks an active plan. White plays e3 and ♚e2 followed by doubling the rooks on the d-file.; This illogical move, giving up the bishop, was the best chance. 15...♙xe3! Ivanchuk was probably afraid of 16.fxe3 (16.♙xe3!? ♘e4 17.♖c1 gives decent compensation for White, but he must still fight for the advantage.) 16...♚e8! This is the key resource in Black's defense. (16...♘ce8 17.♙xd5! is good for White.) 17.♙xf6 ♚xe3+ 18.♖f2 gxf6 Black has some really ugly pawns, but at the moment he's two pawns up. 19.♘xd5 ♘xd5 20.♙xd5 ♙xd5 21.♚xd5 After the simplifications, Black has good chances to hold...]

16.♙xb7 ♖b8 Black wins back the piece, but his kingside pawn structure gets destroyed... [16...dxe3 17.fxe3! (Not 17.♙xa8? exf2+ 18.♙g2 ♚xa8+ Black is better.) 17...♖b8 18.♙xf6 gxf6 19.♙e4 The exposed Black king becomes vulnerable. A simple but strong idea is ♙c2 followed by ♚d3! 19...♙xe3+ 20.♙h1+/-]

17.♘g4! dxc3 [17...♖xb7 is also bad. 18.♘e4 ♘cd5 19.♘exf6+ ♘xf6 20.♙xf6! The knight causes much bigger problems on the holes around the king. 20...gxf6 21.e3! The most precise way to increase the attack. 21...dxe3 22.fxe3 ♙e7 Here comes a really spectacular way to win



23. Nf6+ Kh8 24. Nxf7+!! Rxf7 25. Qd5! wins an exchange with this unexpected double attack.]

18. Qxf6 gxf6 19. Qe4! White is a pawn down, but the exposed Black king gives more than enough compensation for the pawn.



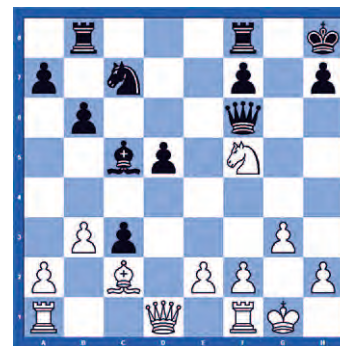
19... d5 [19... Re8 is met with 20. Qf5 Black cannot prevent Qc1, which threatens with Qh6 and Qxc3 at the same time. 20... h5 doesn't change anything. 21. Qc1! Qf8 (21... hxc4 22. Qh6+- wins.) 22. Nf6+ Kg7 23. Qb1!+- This is the most precise, creating the decisive threat of Qc2-h7.]

20. Qc2 Qd3 is the threat. Black is forced to give back his pawn in order to gain some time to defend his king.

20... f5! Only move.

21. Nf6+! White retains the idea of Qd3 by taking the f5-pawn with the knight. [21. Qxf5 Qg5]

21... Kh8 22. Nxf5 Qf6



23. a3!! Just a fantastic move, opening a new front to battle! White wants to send the only Black active piece into passivity by b4. [23. Qd3 Rg8 24. a3 is the same.]

23... a5 The most logical move, but it supports White's idea. [23... Rg8 is also quite hopeless. 24. b4 Qf8 25. Qd3 The days of the c3 pawn are counted. 25... Rg6 Now the easiest is probably 26. e3 Qd8 27. Nd4+/- winning the pawn and keeping all the advantages of the position as well.]

24. Qd3 Rg8 25. b4! Aronian found the fastest way to bring his rook into the attack with this great pawn sacrifice.

25... axb4 [25... Qf8 26. Nd4+- wins the c3 pawn.]

26. axb4 Qxb4 27. Ra7! The game is practically over. Black cannot stand the attack.

27... Ne6 [27... Rbc8 also loses to 28. Ne7!+-]

28. ♖e7! White wins material now!

28... ♔g7 [28... ♖g7 loses even bigger material after 29. ♘xd5 ♕d4 30. ♕xd4 ♘xd4 31. ♘xb4+- protecting the c2 bishop.]

29. ♘xg8 ♔xg8 30. ♕xd5 Black could have calmly resigned here. Besides being an exchange up, White retains his attacking chances. The c- and b-pawns are perfectly neutralized by the bishop.

30... ♖c5 31. e3 Not giving any chance for counterplay.

31... b5 [31... ♖d8 32. ♖a8+-]

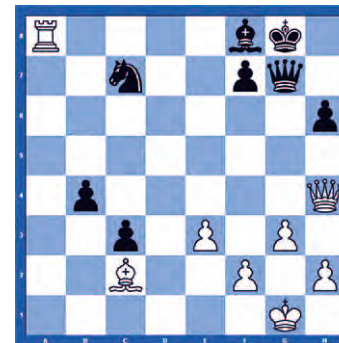
32. ♖a8 ♖xa8 33. ♕xa8+ ♕f8 34. ♕e4! Of course, White has no reason to exchange the queens, since he can continue his very dangerous mating attack.

34... ♕h6 35. ♖a1 b4 36. ♖a5 [36. ♖a8+ was even more precise. 36... ♘f8 (36... ♖f8 37. ♕xb4+-; 36... ♔g7 loses the queen after 37. ♕e5+ ♕f6 38. ♖g8+!) 37. ♖c8 ♖d6 38. ♖c6+- wins the bishop soon.]

36... ♖f8 37. ♕g4+ ♕g7 [37... ♔h8 38. ♖h5+- was the idea of 36. ♖a5.]

38. ♕h4 h6 39. ♖a8! Black cannot protect his hanging b4 pawn.

39... ♘c7 This allows an elegant little combination to finish the game.



40. ♖xf8+! White wins the knight in all lines. [40. ♖c8+-]

40... ♕xf8 [40... ♔xf8 is refuted by 41. ♕xb4+ ♔e8 (41... ♔g8 42. ♕b8+-) 42. ♖a4+ ♔d8 43. ♕b8+-]

41. ♕g4+ ♔h8 [41... ♕g7 42. ♕c8+-]

42. ♕f5! Ivanchuk resigned after this great quiet move, in view of the following lines: [42. ♕f5 ♕g7 (42... ♕g8 43. ♕e5+; 42... ♔g7 43. ♕e5+) 43. ♖c8+ With this nice victory by Aronian, Armenia won the match 2.5–1.5, taking a big step towards the medals.]

1–0

it. 15.g4 ♖xd3 16.♔xd3 Black can't stop f5. White will get a strong initiative. 16...♔d7

a) 16...♖e8 17.f5 (17.♘f3 b5 18.cxb5 c4 19.♔xc4 ♘exd5 with ♔b6-Rc8 next, Black gets some nice counterplay.) 17...g5 18.h4 gxh4 19.♔h3 ♖g7 20.♘f3→;

b) 16...h5 Black is fighting for the light squares. 17.♔g3 (17.f5 hxg4 18.hxg4 ♘xg4 19.♘e4 ♘xf5 20.♔h3 ♔h4 21.♔xh4 ♘xh4 22.♘xd6 ♘f5 23.♘xf5 gxf5 24.♔xf5 f6=) 17...hxg4 18.hxg4 ♔d7 19.f5 ♖g7 20.♘f3 ♖h8 21.♘g5 gxf5



22.♘e6++-;

17.f5 (17.♘f3 h5 18.g5 ♔xh3 19.gxf6 ♔g3+=) 17...♔h7 18.♘e4 ♘xe4 19.♔xe4 g5 20.h4 f6 21.♖d2+/- Black can't avoid the transfer of the rook to e6. After that, Black's position will be very unpleasant.]

15.♘f3 h5 Correct. The most important thing for Black is not to allow the g4-f5 break. The g6-h5 setup weakened the dark squares and White can't take advantage of this because the a1-h8 diagonal is not available for the bishop. [15...♖e8 Provoking the g4 move. Let's see if White's main task works at this moment. 16.g4 ♘g3 (16...♘e3 17.♖xe3 ♖xe3 18.♖xg6+/-) 17.♖f2 ♘fe4 18.♖g2 f5 An original idea. Black manages to stop f5, but the knight

on g3 is very badly placed. 19.♖e3 (19.♖h2 fxg4 20.hxg4 ♖xg4 21.♖xg3 ♘xg3 22.♖xg3 ♖xf3 23.♖xf3 ♔h4 24.♔g2 ♔h5+ 25.♖f2 ♔h4+ 26.♔g3 ♔xg3+ 27.♖xg3 ♖e1∞ and Black is not worse.) 19...fxg4 20.hxg4 h5 21.gxh5 ♖f5 It's very important for Black to get control of this square. 22.♖f2 (22.hxg6 ♔f6∞=) 22...♘xh5 23.♖h4 Finally the bishop comes into play this way. 23...♔d7 24.♘d2 and Black can't hold the e4-f5 squares. White is winning. 24...♘xf4 25.♘xe4+/-; 15...♘g3 16.♖e1 ♖f5 17.♖xf5 gxf5 18.♖e3 ♔d7 19.♖f2 ♘ge4 20.♖h4 ♖ae8 21.♖h2]

16.♖d2 ♖e8 17.♖fe1 ♖d7 18.♘h2 White is playing according to the main plan of activating the dark-squared bishop after the g4-f5 break.

18...♖xe1+ [18...h4 This was a promising option for Black. After h4, White is not able to advance the king-side pawns anymore. Probably Mchedlishvili was afraid that the pawn on h4 could become weak but it won't be easy for White to create pressure against it. 19.♖xe8+ (19.♘f3 ♘h5=) 19...♔xe8 20.♖e1 (20.♘g4 ♖g7 21.♖e1 ♔f8 22.♘e3 ♔c8 Again, fighting for the f5 square! If White manages to take out the Black pieces from f5 and push the pawn to this square, then his position will be very good. 23.♘xf5+ ♖xf5 24.♖xf5 ♔xf5 25.♔xf5 gxf5 26.♖e7 ♖e8 This is not the only move for Black, but it leads to an interesting endgame by force. 27.♖xe8 ♘xe8 28.♖e1 ♘c7 29.♖xh4 f6 Not allowing ♖e7. 30.♖f1 ♘a8 31.♖e2 ♘b6 32.♖d3 a5 This is very important. We'll understand why soon. 33.♖f2 ♘a4 34.♖c2 ♘b6 35.♖b3 a4+ This is the point. 36.♖a3 ♖g6=) 20...♔f8 21.♘f3 ♖e8 22.♔c1 ♘h5 23.♖xf5 ♖xf5 24.♘xh4 ♖d3∞=]

19.♖xe1 ♔f8 [19...h4 It was the last chance to disturb White's main plan.]



20.g4!↑ Now White starts putting pressure.

20...hgx4 21.hxg4 ♘g7 22.f5 gxf5 23.gxf5 Finally the bishop on d2 is happy.

23...♖e8 24.♖f1! Of course, White will need the rook to attack.

24...♙e7 [24...♘gh5 25.♖f2 ♙h8 26.♘f3 ♙e7 27.♘g5 ♖g8 28.♖e2 ♙d8 29.♖g2 ♖g7 30.♙d1+/- White improved his pieces step by step. The Black king is in danger.]

25.♙g5 [25.♘f3 This natural move gives Black some counterplay: 25...♘g4 with idea ♘e3 26.f6 ♘xf6 27.♙g5



27...♙h3! (27...♘gh5 28.♙h2+-) 28.♙h7+ (28.♖e1 ♙d7 29.♙xf6 ♙g4+; 28.♖f2 ♘gh5 and now White has no

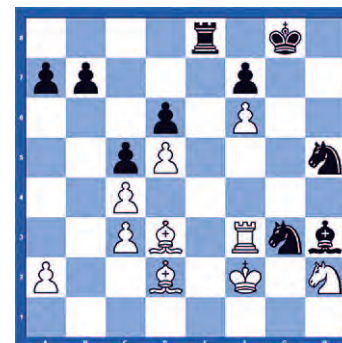
♙h2.) 28...♙h8 29.♙h2 ♙xf1 30.♙h6 ♘g4 31.♙h4 ♘f6= This is a draw because of 32.♙xf6 ♙e3+ 33.♙h2 ♙e2+ 34.♙g3 ♙g2+ 35.♙f4 ♙h3]

25...♙e5 26.♙f4 ♙e7 White wins a tempo

27.♙g2 ♘fh5 28.♙d2 ♙h4 [28...f6 29.♘g4+-]

29.f6? White is winning but the position is still complicated and it's easy to make some mistake. [This option was a simpler way to win: 29.♖f3 and Black can't do anything! One threat is ♖h3.]

29...♙h3 30.♙f2 ♘g3?? The losing mistake! [Black missed a chance to save the game: 30...♙g3+ 31.♙xg3 ♘xg3 32.fxg7 (32.♖f3 ♘7h5 33.♙f2



33...♘h1+ Thanks to this move, Black survives. 34.♙g1 ♘1g3=) 32...♘xf1 33.♘xf1 ♙xf1 (33...♙xg7 34.♘g3+/- Thanks to the fact that the knight is still on the board, White is better.) 34.♙xf1 ♙xg7 35.♙f4 ♖d8= Usually a pair of bishops is much stronger than a rook, but in this case, without the knight and with the doubled-pawns, White doesn't have any chance to improve.]

31.♖e1 ♖xe1+ 32.♙xe1 ♙f5 33.♙xf5 N7xf5 34.♙e8+ ♙h7 35.♙xf7+ ♙h8 36.♙e8+ 1-0

(4) Naiditsch,A – Leko,P [E54]

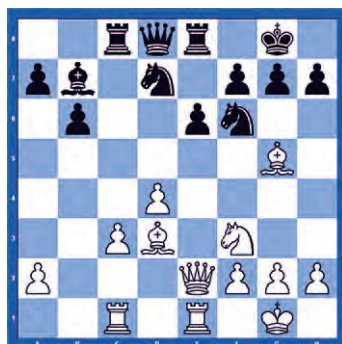
Chess Olympiad, 2012

[Kamil Miton]

1.d4 ♖f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♘c3** ♙b4 **4.e3** 0-0 **5.♙d3** d5 **6.♗f3** c5 **7.0-0** cxd4 Leko decides to play a line where White plays with an isolated pawn. The other option is: [7...♗c6]

8.exd4 dxc4 **9.♙xc4** b6 **10.♙g5** ♙b7 We know that the positions with an isolated pawn can occur in a lot of openings. In this case, compared to the Panov System, Black already managed to solve his main problem, he's controlling the d5 square. The disadvantage is that the bishop is placed on b4.

11.♖c1 In the next move Leko decides to put the knight on c6. More often the knight goes to d7. Let's see some examples. [11.♖e1 ♘bd7 12.♙d3 ♖c8 13.♖c1 ♖e8 14.♙e2 Both sides put the pieces on their optimal squares. 14... ♙xc3 Now the structure has changed. Black gives the bishop and helps White to improve his structure, but it wasn't easy to find a better option. (14... ♙e7 15.♙a6 ♙xa6 (15... ♖c7 16.♗d5+-) 16.♙xa6 ♙b4 17.♙f4+= Black has uncoordinated pieces and some problems with the a7-pawn.) 15.bxc3



15...♖c7 This setup is very solid. It's very hard for White to take advantage of the pair of bishops and his better center. Usually those pawns get under pressure. **16.♙h4** (16. c4 h6 17. ♙d2 ♖d6 18. ♙c3 ♗g4 19. h3 ♙xf3 20. ♙xf3 ♙h2+ 21. ♖f1 ♗gf6 22. ♙g3 ♙xg3 23. fxg3 ♖ed8 24. ♖ed1 ♖e8 25. ♖e1 ♖ed8 26. ♖ed1 ♖e8 27. ♖e1 1/2-1/2 Wojtaszek,R-Meier,G/Mulhouse FRA 2011.) **16...♗h5** 17. ♗g5 g6 Creates a weakness around the king, but now the White knight will be out of play. **18.♗h3** ♖d6 **19.♙g5** e5 **20.f3** ♗g7 **21.♙f2** exd4 **22.♖xe8+** ♖xe8 **23.cxd4** ♗e6 **24.♙e3** ♗f6 **25.♙c4** ♗d5 **26.♙xd5** ♙xd5= 1/2-1/2 Potkin,V-Harikrishna,P/Wijk aan Zee NED 2012 (66).]

11...♗c6 Usually the knight is placed on d7 to allow the bishop from b7 to control the important d5 square.

12.♖e1 I saw some games in the database where White plays a3. Well, I'm not sure if it's a good idea because Black has to play ♙e7 anyway, to solve the problems with the pin. You can say that the a3 move is made in order to avoid the typical maneuver ♗b4-Nbd5, but it doesn't seem to be very dangerous. [12.d5 The break doesn't work. 12...♗a5]

12...♖c8 **13.♙d3** ♙e7 **14.♙b1** ♖e8 [14...♗b4 15. ♗e5 ♗bd5 (15... ♗fd5 16. ♙d2) 16. ♙d3 g6 17. ♙h6 Yes, in the isolated pawn positions, the attack and the pressure should be done on the kingside! 17... ♖e8 18. ♙f3 ♗xc3 19. ♙xb7 ♗xb1 20. ♗c6 ♖xc6 21. ♙xc6 ♙xd4 22. ♖xb1+/-]

15.h4 This kind of moves always create some weaknesses.

15...g6 **16.a3** Finally White decides to play this move not only because of ♗b4-Nd5 but to make the a2 square useful for the bishop and just give Black the move.



16...Rc7 Logical, Black is looking for counterplay against the weak pawn. So White responds:

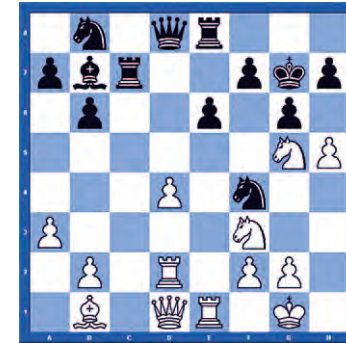
17.Rc2 Nf7 18.Ne4 Of course White keeps the pieces on the board in order to support attack. Black has less space, so for them it's good to exchange some pieces. [18.Nxd5 Qxd5 19.Rc3 Qxg5 20.hxg5 Qd6 (20...Rd8 21.Qe4 Qd6 22.Qc1 Rdc8 23.Rd1) 21.d5 Rd8 22.Qa2 exd5 23.Qxd5 Rcd7 24.Rd3 Qf4=]

18...Nb8 [18...Rd7 19.Qc1+/-; 18...f6 Of course this kind of moves are not easy to make during the game. This move weakens the king a bit but Black takes control over the important e5 and g5 squares. 19.Qh6 Qd7 With the idea of Nd8-Nf7 in order to bring the knight to the king-side to give some more protection to the king. 20.h5 (20.Nc3 Nd8; 20.Qd3 Nd8 21.Rxc7 Nxc7 22.h5 Nf7 23.Qf4 Qa6 24.Qc2 Nd5 25.Qg3 f5) 20...g5 21.Nexg5 fxe5 22.Rxc6 Qxc6 23.Ne5 Ne3 24.Nxc6 Nxd1 25.Nxe7+ Rxe7 26.Rxd1 Qd5=+]

19.Rd2 [19.Qa2 Rxc2 20.Qxc2 Na6 with the idea of supporting knight on d5 after Nc7. (20...Nd7? 21.Nd6+-) 21.Ne5 Nac7 22.Nc6 Qxc6 23.Qxc6 Qxg5 24.hxg5 Qg7=]

19...Qg7 [19...f5 20.Qxe7 Rxe7 21.Neg5 h6 22.Nh3 The knight on h3 is temporarily badly placed. The e6 pawn and the e5 square should be weak in the long-term. 22...Nd7 23.Qa2 N7f6 24.Ne5+=]

20.h5 Qxg5 21.Nexg5 Nd7 [21...Nf4 It's interesting that Leko didn't play this active move. Maybe because of:



22.d5 Famous motif. White gets rid of the pawn to activate his pieces (rook and queen). 22...exd5 (22...Qxd5 23.Qa4 Rxc4 24.h6+ Qg8 25.Qxc4 Qxc4 26.Rxd8 Rxd8 27.Ne5 f6 28.Nxc4 fxe5 29.g3 Nd5 30.Rxe6+/-) 23.h6+ Qxh6 24.Rd4 Rxe1+ 25.Qxe1 f6 (25...Nh5 26.Rh4 Qg7 27.Qe5+ Qg8 28.Rxh5 gxe5 29.Qxh7+ Qf8



30. ♖c2 Very nice trick. Otherwise, Black will play ♖c1 and ♖c7 exchanging the queens. 30... ♖xc2 31. ♖h7+ ♖g8 32. ♖f6+ ♖g7 White is a rook down but the knights and the queen create a killing team! (32... ♖f8 33. ♖g5+-; 32... ♖h8 33. ♖xh5+ ♖g7 34. ♖h7+ ♖f8 35. ♖h6+ ♖e7 36. ♖e3+ ♖f8 37. ♖g5+-) 33. ♖xh5+ ♖f8 34. ♖h8+ ♖e7 35. ♖f6+ ♖e8 36. ♖g7+ ♖d7 37. ♖xf7+ ♖c8 38. ♖f5+ ♖d7 39. ♖xc2+-) 26. ♖xh7 ♖c4 (26... g5 27. ♖fxg5 fxg5 28. ♖xf4 gxf4 29. ♖e6+ ♖g7 30. ♖g6+ ♖h8 31. ♖f6 ♖f8 32. ♖h5+ ♖g7 33. ♖e8+-) 27. ♖xf4 ♖xf4 28. ♖e3 ♖xh7 29. ♖xf4 ♖d7 White has the initiative thanks to his very active pieces. 30. ♖h4 ♖f8 31. ♖h2 ♖g7 32. ♖xg6 ♖xg6 33. ♖f5+ ♖g8 34. ♖h6 ♖f7 35. ♖g7+ ♖e6 36. ♖xg6 d4 37. ♖g4↑]

22. ♖c2 White decides to make this move because he needs to activate the queen.

22... ♖xc2 [22... ♖f8 The knight on this square is a good defender (it protects many potential threats like h7 or e6). 23. ♖xc7 ♖xc7 24. hxg6 hxg6 25. ♖d2 ♖f4=]

23. ♖xc2 ♖e7 [23... ♖f8 24. ♖d2 Good place for the queen. White controls f4 and eventually, the queen can join the attack though the dark squares. (24. ♖a4 ♖e7=) 24... h6 25. ♖xf7 We'll see this blow a few times! 25... ♖xf7 26. ♖xh6 (26. ♖xg6+ ♖xg6 27. ♖xh6 ♖g4 28. ♖g5+ ♖xg5 29. ♖xg5 ♖g8) 26... ♖f6 27. ♖xg6+ ♖g8 28. ♖e4 ♖xg6 29. ♖g4 ♖de7 30. ♖e5 ♖g7 31. ♖e3→]

24. ♖d2 ♖f8 Leko unders tands well which square is the best for the knight. Other options are worse. [24... h6 25. ♖xf7 Again! 25... ♖xf7 26. ♖xg6 ♖e7 27. ♖xe8 ♖xe8 28. ♖e2 ♖f4 29. ♖e3 ♖f7 30. ♖c1+=; 24... ♖5f6 After this move, White gets a huge initiative on the dark squares. 25. ♖e5 ♖xe5 26. h6+ (26. dxe5 ♖xh5 27. g4 ♖d8

28. ♖e3 h6 29. ♖h3 (29. ♖e4 ♖xe4 30. ♖xe4 f5 31. exf6+ ♖xf6=+) 29... ♖h4 and Black takes the initiative. 30. gxh5 ♖d2 31. ♖e4 ♖xe4 32. ♖xe4 ♖xh3 33. hxg6 ♖h5 34. gxf7 ♖xf7=+) 26... ♖g8 27. dxe5 ♖g4 28. ♖f4 ♖xh6 29. ♖h4 ♖g7 30. ♖e3 When I flip the board and see the position from the Black side, it looks really ugly! This might be good for an engine because Black is a pawn up. It's strange but I didn't find a win for White here. 30... ♖h8 31. ♖f4 (31. ♖h3 ♖g8) 31... ♖g8

a) 31... ♖f5 Bad move. White is winning by force now. 32. ♖xf5 exf5 33. e6 f6 34. ♖f7 ♖c8 35. ♖h6+ ♖g8 36. ♖h3 ♖xe6 37. ♖xh7+ ♖f8 38. ♖d8 ♖c1+ (38... ♖xd8 39. ♖h8+ ♖g8 40. ♖xf6+ ♖e8 41. ♖h8+-) 39. ♖h2 ♖d6+ 40. ♖g3 ♖xd8 41. ♖h6+ ♖f7 42. ♖xc1+-;

b) 31... ♖d5 32. ♖c3 ♖g8 33. ♖e4 h6 34. ♖f3 ♖xe4 35. ♖xe4 ♖d7=;

32. ♖e4 h6 33. ♖xe6+ ♖xe6 34. ♖xb7 h5]

25. ♖b3 White's idea is to eliminate the knight on d5 and bring the queen to the attack. [25. hxg6 hxg6 26. ♖e5 f6 27. ♖xg6 ♖xg6 28. ♖xg6 ♖xg6 29. ♖xe6 ♖xe6 30. ♖xe6 ♖xe6 31. ♖d3+ f5= and the three pieces are better than the queen.; 25. h6+ ♖g8 26. ♖e4 ♖d8 27. ♖b3 ♖d7 28. ♖e5 ♖5f6 29. ♖xf7 ♖xe4 30. ♖xe4 ♖xe4 (30... ♖xf7 31. ♖xe6 ♖xe6 32. ♖xe6+ ♖xe6 33. ♖e3+↑ In this case, the queen is stronger because White has extra two pawns, the Black pieces are not coordinated and Black has a weakness on h7.) 31. ♖xd8 ♖xd8 32. ♖xe6+ ♖f8 33. ♖xd7 ♖xd7 34. ♖f4+ ♖f5 35. ♖d6+ is only a draw. 35... ♖f7 36. ♖c7+=]

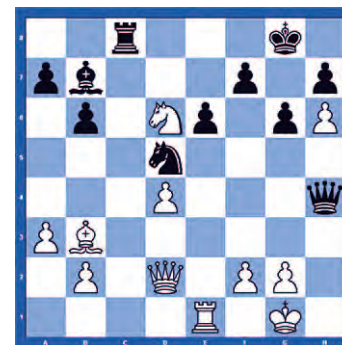


25...Rc8?! Very strange move! It's hard to say what was Leko's idea. [He could have played 25...h6!? with the idea of fighting for the dark squares. 26.♘e4 g5 Of course, you could say that black should not advance the pawns weakening the king even more, but in this case it's most important not to allow White to develop pressure on the dark squares. 27.♘e5 ♖d8↔]

26.♘e4 [26.h6+ ♔g8 27.♘e4↑]

26...♘d7 27.♘fg5 [White could develop a very promising attack after: 27.♘e5 ♘5f6 (27...♘7f6 28.♘g5 ♖f8 29.♘exf7 ♖xf7 30.♘xe6+ ♔h8 31.hxg6 hxg6 32.♘g5 ♖f8 33.♘xf7+ ♖xf7 34.♖g5+/-) 28.h6+ ♔g8 (28...♔f8 29.♘g5+/-) 29.♖g5 ♔f8 (29...♖e8 30.♘xd7 ♘xd7 31.d5+-) 30.♘c3 The d5 break is coming. 30...♘xe5 31.♖xe5 ♖d8 32.g4 (32.d5 exd5 33.♘b5 ♖c6) 32...♔e7 33.g5 ♘h5 34.d5 ♖d6 35.♖xd6+ ♔xd6 36.dxe6 fxe6 37.♖xe6+ ♔d7 38.♘e4 ♘xe4 39.♖xe4 ♖c5 40.f4 ♘g3 41.♖d4+ ♔e7 42.♔f2 ♘f5 43.♖d2+/- The weak h7 pawn should decide the game in White's favor.]

27...gxh5? This move can't be good! [27...♘7f6 28.h6+ ♔g8 29.♘xf6+ ♖xf6 30.♘e4 ♖h4↔ Black has counterplay, White can't play 31.♘d6 because of



31...♘f4 and if White wins the bishop, but after ♖g5, White is not able to stop both threats: ♖g2 and ♘h3.; 27...h6 28.♘xf7 ♖xf7 (28...♔xf7 29.♖xh6+-) 29.♘d6 ♖f4 30.♖xf4 ♘xf4 31.♘xc8 ♘xc8 32.♘xe6 ♔f6 33.♘c4+/- and Black can't take on h5. 33...gxh5 34.♖e8 ♘b7 35.♘b5+/-]

28.♘g3 ♔h8 The final mistake. Black could still fight after: [28...♔g8 Looks very an but compared to the game, the king now protects the f7 pawn. Anyway, White is very close to get a winning position. 29.♘xh5 (29.♘f5 ♖f8 30.♘xd5 ♘xd5 31.♖f4 exf5 32.♖xf5 ♘f6 33.♖xf6 ♖g7) 29...♔h8 30.♘xd5 ♘xd5 31.♖f4 f6 32.♘e4 (32.♘xe6 ♘xe6 33.♖e4 ♘f8 34.♘f4 f5 35.♖e5+ ♖g7 36.♘xe6 ♖xe5 37.♖xe5 ♘xe6 38.♖xe6 ♖c1+ 39.♔h2 ♖c2=) 32...♖f8 33.♘c3↑]

29.♘f5 ♖f6 [29...♖f8 30.♘d6 Anyway!]

30.♘d6 ♖g8 31.♘dxh7+ ♔g7 32.♖xe6 ♖f4 33.♖xf4 ♘xf4 34.♖e7 1-0

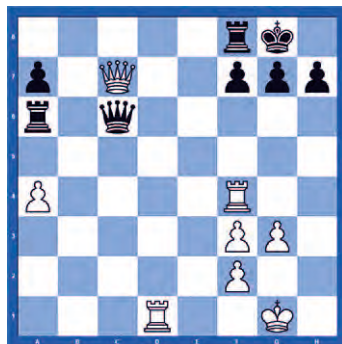
Puzzle section

(5) Aronian,L (2816) – Rahman,Z (2516)

Olympiad, 29.08.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–



(6) Ziska,H (2469) – Radjabov,T (2788)

Olympiad, 30.08.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

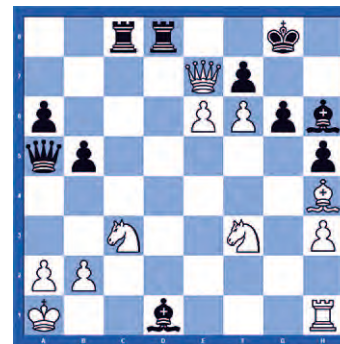


(7) Stellwagen,D (2630) – Shanava,K (2569)

Olympiad, 30.08.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

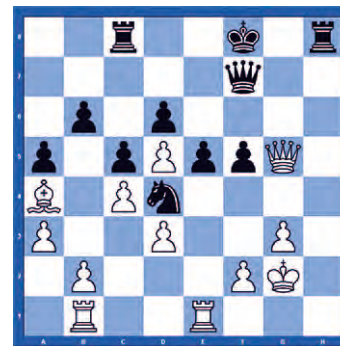


(8) Wang Yue (2685) – Grischuk,A (2763)

Olympiad, 31.08.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

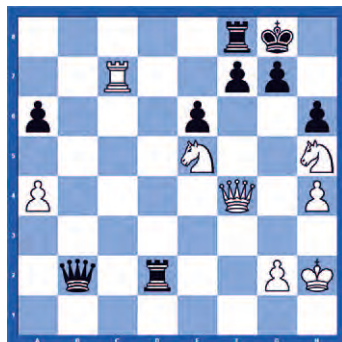


(9) Ivanchuk,V (2769) – Wojtaszek,R (2717)

Olympiad, 31.08.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

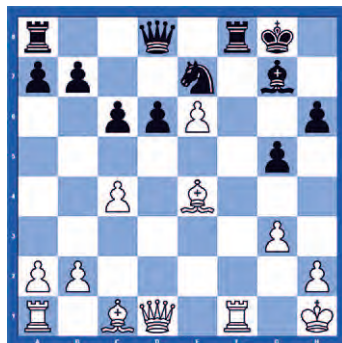


(10) Berkes,F (2685) – Pacher,M (2442)

Olympiad, 31.08.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

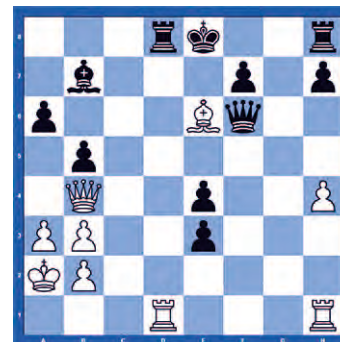


(11) Bologan,V (2734) – Munoz,L (2428)

Olympiad, 31.08.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

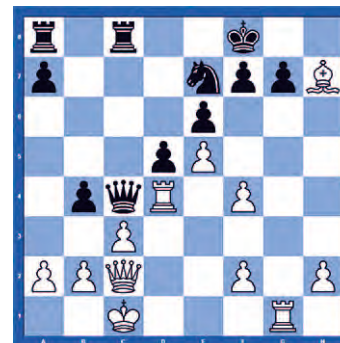


(12) Cubas,J (2507) – Illescas Cordoba,M (2601)

Olympiad, 01.09.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(13) Muzychuk,M (2466) – Zhao Xue (2549)

Olympiad Women, 30.08.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–

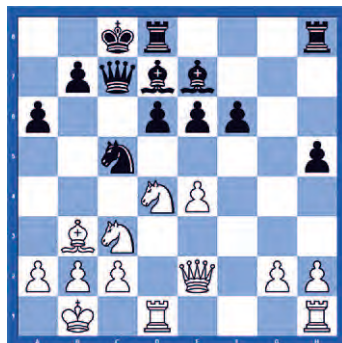


(14) Cheparinov,I (2681) – Leiva,G (2283)

Olympiad, 01.09.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–

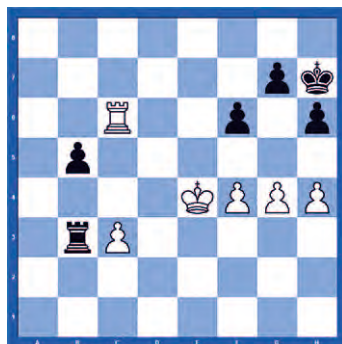


Endgame section

(15) Kramnik,V (2797) – Shirov,A (2706)

Olympiad, 30.08.2012

[Chess Evolution]



This easy looking endgame brings us many surprises even on the highest level. White has more active pieces, but of course, the limited material should allow Black to hold the draw...

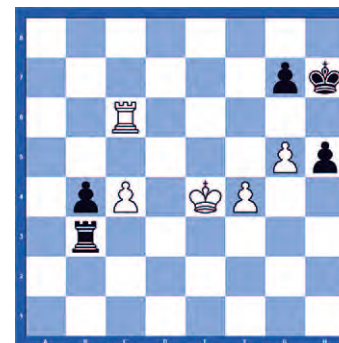
40...b4 Logical move. Black either exchanges the queen-side pawns, after which there is no reason to continue the game, or creates a passed pawn for himself.

41.c4 White has a theoretical advantage. His king can support the c-pawn and be close enough to stop the b-pawn...

41...h5?! This is the first inaccuracy. Shirov probably underestimated White's reaction... [41...♖b1 was the right way to draw 42.c5 b3 43.♔d4 and here Black can execute Shirov's idea in a much better version. (43.♖b6 is noth-

ing after 43...b2 44.♔f5 ♖c1=) 43...h5! Not the only way to draw. 44.g5 (44.gxh5 ♔h6 with an easy draw.) 44...fxg5 45.fxg5 (In comparison to the game 45.hxg5 is risky now, because of 45...h4) 45...b2 46.♔c3 ♖h1 47.♔xb2 ♖xh4 Everything developed logically and the players should shake hands soon... 48.♔c3 ♖h1 49.♖e6 h4= The draw is inevitable.]

42.g5! fxg5 43.hxg5! This is what Shirov probably underestimated. Suddenly White creates very dangerous mating threats, which neutralizes the power of the h-pawn. From now on, Black must be really careful to avoid losing.



43...♖a3 Defending against the mate... [43...h4? leads to a forced mate after 44.g6+ ♔h6 45.♔f5! and Black is simply unable to prevent ♖c8-h8. 45...♖a3 46.♖c8 ♖a5+ does not help 47.c5+-]

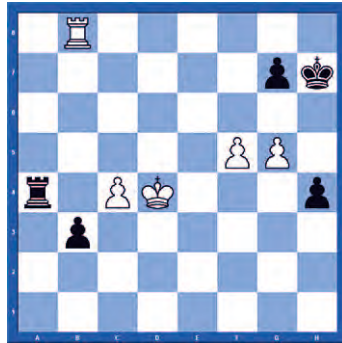
44.♖b6! By realizing that Black can parry the concrete threats, Kramnik stops the b-pawn and frees the way for his c-pawn... [44.g6+ ♔h6 45.♔f5 ♖a8! This was the point behind 43...♖a3, Black solves all his problems. 46.♖b6 ♖a5+ 47.♔e4 h4= The game will soon end in a draw.; 44.♔f5 is also met with 44...♖a8!]

44...b3 45.f5 Squeezing the Black king into the corner. White has a tactical solution to stop the h-pawn.

45...h4 46.♖b8! Kramnik creates another kind of mating net: 47.g6 ♔h6 48.♔f4 and ♖h8 are inevitable. [46.♔f4 with the same idea as the game, but Black can play once again 46...♖a4; 46.♖b7 with the idea of f6 is too slow. 46...h3]

46...♖a4 Black has to lure the king to prevent ♔f4...

47.♔d4

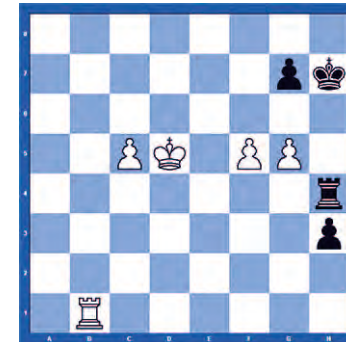


47...♖a5? According to my analysis, this is the losing move. [47...h3? is also bad. 48.♖xb3+-; 47...♖a1! should have been played and the position is suspicious, but Black seems to hold in all lines. The move itself is pretty principled, since generally, in rook endgames, the weaker side should look for an active defense! 48.c5 (48.♖xb3 ♖d1+ 49.♔e5 ♖c1 Black starts to harass the pawns... 50.♔d5 ♖f1 White cannot improve because he must take care of the h-pawn as well.) 48...♖d1+ 49.♔e5 ♖c1 We'll see a typical defending technique now. 50.♔d6 ♖d1+ Black tries to force the king ahead of the pawn in order to block its way... 51.♔e6 (51.♔c7 ♖d3 followed by h3!) 51...♖c1 and the maximum that White can get is 52.♖xb3 ♖xc5 53.♖b4

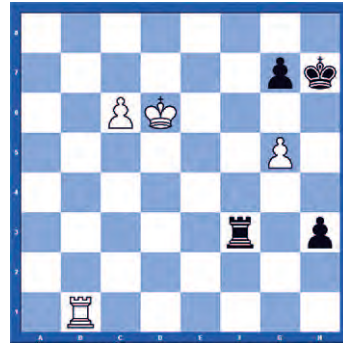
♔g8 54.♖xh4 A pawn up, but of course, the game is easily drawn. 54...♖c6+=]

48.c5! It's objectively winning now, but it requires precise calculation and technique. ..

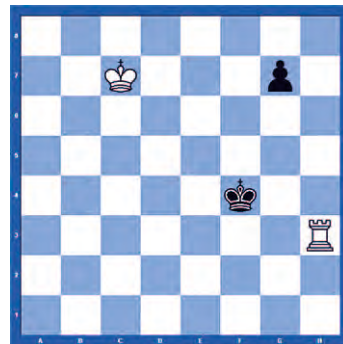
48...♖a4+ [48...h3 is the other attempt, but it also fails to hold. 49.♖xb3 ♖a4+ 50.♔d5 ♖h4 51.♖b1 White goes into passivity, but the c-pawn is even more dangerous... The main problem is the Black king, which stands awfully still.



51...♖f4 Black's only chance to save the game is to take the f- and g-pawns and sacrifice the rook for the c-pawn. Then, with the help of the king, to promote his own g-pawn. (51...h2 just helps White. 52.♖h1 ♖h3 53.c6 ♔g8 54.c7 ♖c3 55.♔d6 ♖d3+ Black must send the king in front of the pawn, but this does not help here. (55...♖c2 56.♖xh2!+- is a well-known trick!) 56.♔c6 ♖c3+ 57.♔d7 ♖d3+ 58.♔c8 ♖d2 59.♖b1!+- followed by ♔b8.) 52.c6 ♖xf5+ 53.♔d6 ♖f3 Black could not waste time on taking g5, this is his king's job. Now it's White's turn to find the way to win. White has two candidate moves, but only one of them is winning. It's very easy to go wrong...



54. **Rxc1!!** This move order wins the missing tempo in comparison to the 54.c7 line. (54.c7 fails to win by one tempo. The following couple of moves are forced... 54... **Rd3+** 55. **Qc6** **Rc3+** 56. **Qb7** **Qg6** 57. **Rh1** White must go for the h-pawn, otherwise it's just an easy draw. 57... **Qxg5** 58. **Rxh3!** **Rxc7+** 59. **Qxc7** **Qf4** Here we are! Black miraculously survives in all the lines.



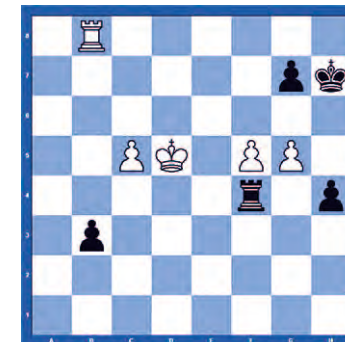
60. **Qd6** **g5** 61. **Ra3** (61. **Rh8** is less dangerous. 61... **g4** 62. **Rf8+** **Qe4** 63. **Rg8** **Qf4** 64. **Qd5** **g3** 65. **Qd4** **Qf3** 66. **Qd3** **g2=**) 61... **g4** 62. **Ra4+** **Qf3** 63. **Qe5** **g3** and we reached a theoretical drawn position with the help of a stalemate idea... 64. **Ra3+** **Qf2** 65. **Qf4** **g2** 66. **Ra2+** **Qg1!** 67. **Qg3** **Qh1!** this is the point! 68. **Rxg2=**) 54... **Qg6** (54... **Rd3+** does not affect the result. 55. **Qe5** **Re3+** (55... **Rd8** 56. **c7**

Rc8 57. **Qf5!** transposes to 55... **Re3.**) 56. **Qf4** **Re8** 57. **c7** **Rc8** (57... **h2** 58. **Rh1+-**) 58. **Qf5!** Suddenly Black is facing different kind of mating threats again... 58... **h2** (58... **Rf8+** 59. **Qg4** **h2** 60. **Rh1+-**; 58... **Qg8** 59. **g6!** **Qf8** 60. **Qe6!+-** squeezing the king to the back-rank, followed by **Rb1-b8.**) 59. **g6+** **Qh6** 60. **Rh1!** **Rxc7** 61. **Rxh2#**) 55. **c7** **Rf8** 56. **Rh1!** **Qxg5** (56... **Rh8** 57. **Rxh3** **Rxh3** 58. **c8** **Q** White is winning here, because he can transfer his king behind the g-pawn. 58... **Rg3** 59. **Qb7!** This is the most precise way. 59... **Rxg5** 60. **Qe4+** **Qh6** 61. **Qe6+-** followed by **Qf7**. It's important to mention that if the Black king was on h8 and his rook could pass to the f6-h6 squares, the position would be a theoretical draw!) 57. **Rxh3** **Qf4** 58. **Rh1!** The key move! White is winning, because of the **Rf1** threat. This allows White to force the Black king closer to the g-pawn. 58... **Ra8** (58... **Rc8** 59. **Rf1+** **Qg5** (59... **Qe4** 60. **Rg1+-**) 60. **Qd7+-**) 59. **Rf1+** **Qg5** (59... **Qe4** doesn't work. 60. **Rg1** and **g7** falls.) 60. **Qd7+-** Black cannot push his pawn.]

49. Qd5 Rf4! Shirov tries the same idea, to eliminate the f-pawn followed by giving up the rook for the c-pawn... [49... **h3** 50. **Rxb3** **Rh4** 51. **Rb1** transposes to the 48... **h3** line.]

50. Qe6 Kramnik repeats once.

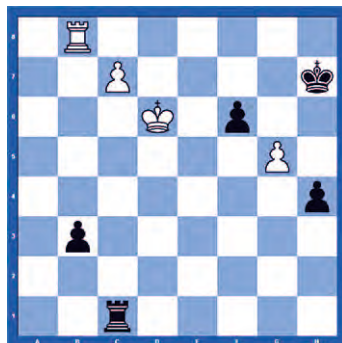
50... Re4+ 51. Qd5 Rf4



52.f6!! Brilliant calculation! In such kind of positions, there are no principles, pure calculation is needed. [52.c6 ♖xf5+ 53.♔d6 ♖f7! This is the point that White avoided by pushing f6. Black is in time to take the king to support his pawns... 54.c7 ♖xc7 55.♔xc7 ♔g6 56.♖xb3 ♔xg5 57.♔d6 ♔g4 58.♔e5 h3 59.♔e4 h2 60.♖b1 ♔g3=]

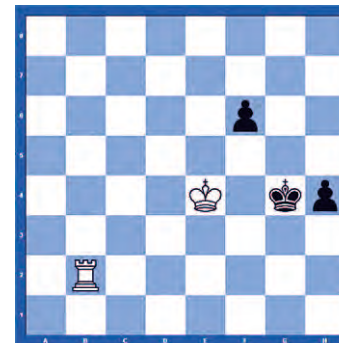
52...gxh6 53.c6 ♖f5+! Another great technical move! The White king must be sent as far as possible from the king-side pawns before sacrificing the rook. [53...h3 54.♖xb3+- wins easily.]

54.♔d6 ♖f1 55.c7 ♖c1 We are at the last critical position of the game, where Kramnik spoils the win after playing such an excellent endgame...



56.gxf6? [56.c8 ♖! would have won the game. 56...♖xc8 57.♖xc8 ♔g6 58.♔d5! White is simply ahead with this tempo in comparison to the game. Still the win is quite instructive.. . 58...b2 The best chance. This prevents White from squeezing the Black king to the h-file as we'll see in the other lines. (58...♔xg5 59.♔e4 ♔g4 60.♖g8+ ♔h3 61.♔f3+- is easy.; 58...h3 59.♖c1! ♔xg5 60.♔e4 ♔g4 61.♖g1+! ♔h4 62.♔f3 h2 63.♖b1 ♔h3 Black gets out of moves. White only needs to pass with his rook on the 1st

rank and when the moment comes, play ♔g2... 64.♖h1+-) 59.♖b8 ♔xg5 60.♔e4 ♔g4 61.♖xb2



61...h3 and White is winning only because of the appearance of the f6 pawn. Let's see why it is so... 62.♔e3 ♔g3 63.♖b8 ♔g2! Without the f-pawn, this move would lead to a theoretical draw! (63...h2 loses easily. 64.♖g8+ ♔h3 65.♔f2 h1N+ The only move, but the knight is trapped in the corner. 66.♔f3 ♔h2 67.♖g2+ ♔h3 68.♖g6 ♔h2 69.♖xf6+-) 64.♔e2 (64.♖g8+ ♔f1! would be the point without the f-pawn.) 64...h2 65.♖g8+ ♔h1 and now we see the difference. Black would be stalemated without the f-pawn, but now he gets simply mated in 3 moves... (65...♔h3 66.♔f2 h1N+ 67.♔f3+- wins as we saw in the 63...h2 line.) 66.♔f2 f5 67.♖a8 f4 68.♖a1#]

56...♔g6! 57.♖xb3 [57.c8 ♖! leads to a draw as well. 57...♖xc8 58.♖xc8 b2 59.♖b8 ♔xf6 60.♔d5 h3 61.♖xb2 Otherwise h2... 61...♔f5 The Black king blocks the route of the White monarch to approach the corner... 62.♖b8 ♔f4 63.♖h8 ♔g3 64.♔e4 h2 65.♔e3 ♔g2 66.♖g8+ ♔f1 67.♖h8 ♔g2=]

57...♔xf6 Black is safely in time to secure the draw, the rest is easy for him.

58. ♖b8 ♜d1+ **59.** ♔c6 ♜c1+ **60.** ♔d7 ♔f5 **61.** c8 ♜xc8
62. ♜xc8 h3 **63.** ♔d6 ♔f4 **64.** ♜c3 [64. ♜h8 ♔g3 65. ♔e5
 h2 66. ♔e4 ♔g2=]

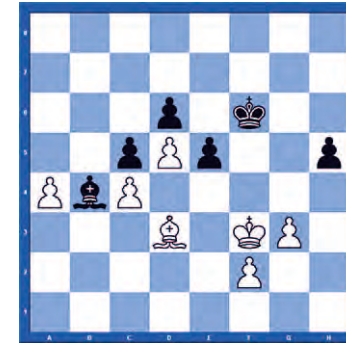
64... ♔g4 **65.** ♔e5 h2 **66.** ♜c1 ♔f3 **67.** ♔f5 ♔g2 **68.** ♔e4
 h1 ♜ An instructive endgame with many nice motifs.

1/2

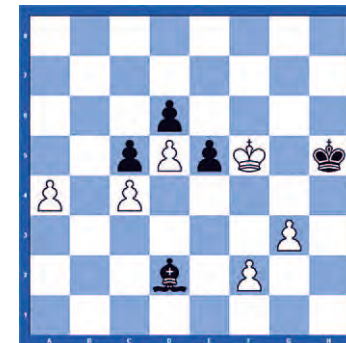
(16) Fridman, Daniel (2653)
 – Guseinov, Gadir (2613) [E91]

40th Olympiad Open Istanbul TUR (4.3), 31.08.2012

[Chess Evolution]



50... ♔e1 [50... ♔g5 51. ♔e4 ♔d2 (51... h4 52. gxh4+ ♔xh4
 53. ♔f5+-) 52. ♔e2 ♔g6 53. ♔d1 (53. ♔xh5+ ♔xh5 54. ♔f5



54...e4! A very strong move which gives Black a draw. Now if the White king captures the d6 pawn, Black has counterplay against the f2 pawn. If White wins the e4 pawn, then the Black king will successfully blockade the advance of the White side-pawns. 55.g4+ (55. ♔xe4 ♔g4 56.f4 (56. ♔d3 ♔a5 57. ♔e2 ♔b4 58. ♔f1 ♔f3! Otherwise,

White might have a plan with ♖g2-f3-Kh3-f4, but I'm not sure if it's enough to win.) 56...♙c3 57.f5 ♖g5 58.g4 ♙a5= and White can't improve his position.) 55...♖h6 (55...♖h4? 56.g5 ♙xg5 57.a5 ♙d8 58.a6 ♙b6 59.♖e6 ♖g4 0. 60.♖xd6 ♖f3 61.♖c6 ♙a7 62.♖b7 ♖xf2 63.♖xa7 e3 64.♖b7 e2 65.a7 e1 ♖ 66.a8 ♖+- and the endgame is easily winning for White.) 56.g5+ (56.♖e6 ♙e1 57.♖xd6 ♙xf2 58.a5 e3 59.a6 e2 60.a7 e1 ♖ 61.a8 ♖ ♙d4 ∞ and it's hard to say who is better.; 56.♖xe4 ♖g5=) 56...♖g7 57.♖xe4 ♖g6 58.f4 ♙b4 59.♖f3 ♖f5= Not allowing ♖g4 with a draw.) 53...♙c3 54.f4 exf4 55.gxf4 The chance to win this position. (55.♖xf4 ♙d2+ 56.♖e4 ♙e1 57.♙xh5+ ♖g5 (57...♖xh5 Of course, Black can't allow ♖f5-Ke6. 58.♖f5+-) 58.♙e8 ♙b4= and Black simply keeps the g-pawn instead of the f-pawn. White can't improve the position.) 55...h4 56.♙g4 ♙b4 57.♖f3 ♙c3 (57...♙e1) 58.♙c8 ♙b4 59.♖g4 ♙d2 60.♙d7 (60.♖xh4 ♙xf4 61.a5 ♙g5+ 62.♖g4 ♙d8 63.a6 ♙b6= and Black is on time.; 60.f5+ ♖f6 61.♖xh4 The f-pawn is too far advanced. Black has an easily drawn position because he can't improve the king. 61...♙c3 62.♖h5 ♙d2 63.♙e6 Otherwise, ♖h6-Kh7 and White wins. 63...♖g7 64.♖g4 ♖f6=) 60...♙e1 Only move! (60...♖h6 61.♖xh4 ♙xf4 62.a5 ♙g5+ 63.♖g4 ♙d8 64.a6 ♙b6 65.♖f5+- and the king is coming.; 60...♖f6 61.♖xh4 ♙xf4 62.a5+- There's no ♙g5.) 61.♙c8 ♙d2 (61...♖f6 62.♖h5 ♖e7 (62...♖g7 63.♖g5 ♖f7 64.♙g4 White is winning after some small maneuvers. 64...♖g7 (64...♖e7 65.♖g6 ♙d2 66.f5 ♙c3 67.f6++-) 65.♙e6 ♖f8 66.♖f6 ♙c3+ 67.♖g6 ♙e1 68.♙h3 ♙c3 69.f5 ♖e7 70.f6+ ♖f8 71.f7 ♙e1 72.♖f6+-) 63.♖g6 ♙d2 64.♙g4 ♙xf4 65.a5 ♖d8= In this case, the king catches the pawn.) 62.♙d7 ♙e1 63.♙e8+ ♖f6= 64.♖h5 h3 65.♙g6 h2 66.♙e4 ♖f7 (66...h1 ♖+? 67.♙xh1 ♖f5 68.♖h6 ♖xf4 69.♖g6 ♖e5 70.♙g2 White is

winning because the king will leave the back-rank with ♖f8-Ke8-Kd7-Kc6. 70...♖d4 71.♙f1+-) 67.♖g5 ♖g7=]

51.♙e2 ♖g5 52.♖e4 ♙a5? A blunder! [Black should play: 52...♖g6 and we have more or less the same position that we saw in the previous comment. 53.f4 exf4 54.gxf4 (54.♖xf4 ♙d2+ 55.♖e4 ♖g5=) 54...h4 55.♙g4 ♖f6]

53.f4+ exf4 54.gxf4+ ♖f6 [54...♖g6 55.♙xh5+ ♖xh5 56.♖f5+- and in the endgame, the king is a very strong piece!]

55.♙xh5+- The position is simply winning because Black can't avoid the transfer of the White king to the queenside!

55...♙b4 56.♙e2 ♙a5 57.♙d3 ♙b4 58.♖f3 ♙c3 59.♖g4 ♙a5 60.♖h5 ♙b4 61.♖h6 ♙c3 62.♖h7 ♙d2 [62...♖f7 63.♙g6+ ♖e7 64.f5+-]

63.♖g8 ♖e7 64.f5 ♙c3 [64...♖f6 65.♖f8+-]

65.♙c2 ♙d2 66.♖g7 ♙c3+ 67.♖g6 f6 is coming next and the White king will go to e6.

1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Savon,Vladimir A — Spassky,Boris V [B47]

URS-ch30 Yerevan (14), 11.12.1962

[Csaba Balogh]

We are facing a typical Sicilian battle, with a lot of nice tactical motifs.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 e6 5.♘c3 ♔c7
Spassy went for the Taimanov variation and his opponent chose a very safe setup against it.

6.g3 [6.♙e3 a6 7.♔d2 ♘f6 8.0-0-0 is definitely the sharpest and the most critical line for Black. Current theory shows that White's attack is faster on the kingside, but still, the opening hides many unexplored ideas...]

6...a6 7.♙g2 ♘f6 [7...d6 8.0-0 ♙d7 followed by ♘f6 and ♙e7 is considered to be the safest system for equality nowadays.]

8.0-0



8...♙e7 This is the old main line, however, it's facing some difficulties against White's best reaction now.

9.b3 Quite a common move in the g3 systems. White wants to fianchetto his other bishop too, and his plan in the future involves to play ♘ce2 and c4, obtaining a hedgehog type of position with a space advantage. [The concrete 9.♔e1! is followed by 9...d6 and this is met with 10.♘xc6! bxc6 11.e5! dxe5 12.♔xe5! White obtains a better pawn structure. 12...0-0 (12...♔xe5? 13.♙xc6+ 13.♙f4 White gets the initiative.)]

9...0-0 10.♘ce2?! White chooses the wrong move order, Spassky nicely makes use of it... [10.♙b2 should have been played 10...d6 (The difference is that now on 10...b5 White has 11.e5! ♔xe5 12.♘cxb5! and Black loses material 12...♘xd4 (12...axb5? 13.♘xc6 ♔xb2 14.♘xe7+ ♔h8 15.♙xa8+-) 13.♙xd4+/-) 11.♘ce2 and here, instead of going into a slightly inferior hedgehog with 11...♙d7 12.c4, Black has a strong move to counter White's idea: 11...e5! 12.♘xc6 (While the knight was on c3, White always had 12.♘f5 ♙xf5 13.exf5 and the knight would jump to d5. However now Black is in time to play 13...♔c8 With knight on c3, White could play g4! 14.♔d3 d5! Black is OK.) 12...bxc6 (12...♔xc6!? is also interesting here. 13.♔d3 ♙e6 with the idea of playing ♔ac8 and ♔fd8, and on 14.c4 (14.♘c3 ♔ac8) 14...b5! with counterplay.) 13.c4 a5 with a comfortable position for Black. His next move is going to be ♘d7 and continue the minority attack on the queenside. It's important to mention that if White plays f4, Black simply ignores it and follows his plans.]

10...b5! Black can develop his bishop to its ideal square on the long diagonal.

11. ♖b2 [11. ♘xc6 The bishop stays on c8, and Black always takes back by 11...dxc6 followed by e5 in the next move.]

11... ♖b7 12. ♖c1 White prepares to play c4, but of course, such move shows that Black has solved the opening problems. [12. ♘xc6 when the bishop is developed. 12... ♖xc6 is usually the right way to take back. Pressing the e4 pawn and preparing for the typical central break with d5.]

12... ♘e5! In the Sicilian, you must always play actively! Spassky immediately overtakes the initiative. White must accept the challenge and go for the complications, since he cannot really prevent the e4 pawn.

13.f4



13... ♘eg4! White must waste an important tempo on preventing ♘e3, which allows Black to execute a typical Sicilian break! Black had to calculate the next 3 moves precisely, otherwise if he gets an h3 and needs to retreat to h6, it would be a huge trouble for him.

14. ♖d3 e5! It looks like Black destroys himself, first he drove his knight to g4, than he gave up the f5 square, but the point is just coming...

15. ♘f5 [15.fxe5 leads to a very bad position for White. 15... ♘xe5 16. ♖e3 ♘eg4 17. ♖d3 ♖fe8! attacking the weakness on e4 and preparing for the d5 break. White is in trouble... 18.h3 ♘e5 19. ♖e3 d5!; 15.h3! was the right move! This way White can preserve his central pawns. 15...exd4 16.hxg4 ♘xg4 17. ♘xd4 Black anyway keeps some initiative. 17... ♖b6 18. ♖f3 h5! The knight is very well placed on g4, White cannot get rid of it with h3. Black needs to put pressure on the e4 pawn, trying to provoke the e5 push, after which he can start to undermine it by d6 or f6 in some occasions. 19. ♖g2 ♖f6 20.e5 (20. ♖h1 g6) 20... ♖e7 21. ♘f5 ♖c5 Black is objectively slightly better. He'll push back the knight with g6 next.]

15... ♖c5+ 16. ♖h1



16...d5! This was the whole point that Spassky had to foresee before playing 13... ♘eg4. Everything looked so well for White, but suddenly his position collapses.

17.exd5 [17.fxe5?! is met with 17...dxe4 18. ♖d1 (18. ♖c3 ♘d5) 18... ♘xe5 with a pawn up and a better position.]

17...e4! After the previous moves, this is already an obvious one. Black recovers the pawn.

18.♔d2 [18.♔c3 b4! Black sends the queen away from the dangerous diagonal.; 18.♕xe4 simply loses to 18...♖xe4 19.♔xe4 ♖ae8 20.♔f3 ♕xd5! 21.♔xd5 ♖xe2 wins.]

18...♔d7 Black wants to get rid of the annoying f5 knight, before taking back the pawn, but it allows a sudden chance to create counterplay. [After 18...♕xd5! Black has a big advantage. The game could, for example, proceed with 19.h3 e3! 20.♔c3 b4 21.♔e1 ♖f2+ 22.♔h2 ♕xg2 23.♔xg2 and here Black already has a direct win: 23...♔c6+ 24.♔h2 ♔e6! and the knight cannot move, because of ♔xh3, while on 25.g4, Black simply takes twice with the knight and plays ♔xf5.]

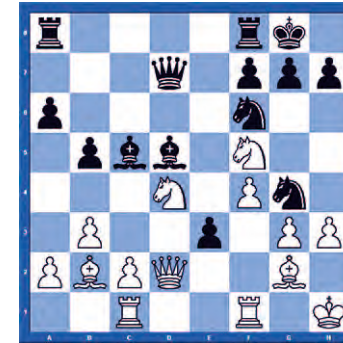
19.♖ed4 White fails to use the chance. [19.♖xg7! would lead to a big mess, but if Black finds the strongest moves, he can still keep some advantage. 19...♖xd5! (19...♔xg7? would turn the game. 20.h3! ♖f2+ (20...♖e3 loses to 21.♕xf6+ ♔xf6 22.♔c3+ ♔g6 23.f5+!+- and Black gets mated after freeing the f5 square.) 21.♖xf2 ♕xf2 and here comes the whole point of White's action! 22.♖c3! if White takes on f2, his amazingly strong dark squared bishop would give more than enough compensation for the exchange, while 22...e3 is met with 23.♔d4! with the idea of playing ♖e4. Black cannot stand the pressure.) 20.c4!? (20.f5 ♖f2+ 21.♖xf2 e3! 22.♔d3 exf2 A bit suspicious. Black is all right! 23.♖h5 f6! Black prevents the direct threats and enjoys a material advantage.) 20...♕e3! 21.♔d1 ♕xc1 22.♖xc1 (22.♔xc1? ♖de3) 22...f6! It's time to close the a1-h8 diagonal. (22...♖df6? 23.♔xd7 ♖xd7 24.♖f5! with the threats of ♖e7 and ♖d6, gives White the advantage. 24...♖fe8 25.♖d6) 23.cxd5 (23.♖h5 ♔f5!]

23...♔xg7=+ White has compensation, but I doubt that it's enough.]

19...♕xd5 e3 is coming in any case.

20.h3 [20.♔e2 e3]

20...e3!



21.♔c3 Black has two good ways to continue.

21...♖f2+ [21...♕xd4 was the other move. 22.♔xd4 (22.♖xd4 loses to 22...♖f2+ 23.♖xf2 Otherwise, ♕xg2 and ♔xh3 win, but now 23...♔xh3+! decides the game. We'll see this motif a few times in the game... 24.♔g1 exf2+ 25.♔xf2 ♔xg2+) 22...♕xg2+ 23.♔xg2 Now the strongest is 23...♔b7+ 24.♔g1 ♖ad8 and Black's attack is faster 25.♔c5 (25.♔c3 ♖d2) 25...♖f2! The attack should break through.(The tempting 25...♖d2 is not clear yet, because of 26.♖e7+ ♔h8 27.♖c6! with a double threat on f8 and g4.)]

22.♖xf2 A forced sacrifice. [22.♔h2 is refuted by 22...♕xd4 23.♖xd4 (23.♔xd4 ♔xf5) 23...♕xg2 and ♔xh3 next.]

22...♙xd4? A miscalculation, which led to a quick victory for Spassky. [22...exf2! 23.♙xc5 ♖fe8! was the way to go. ♜e1 is the direct threat. 24.♜f1 ♘e4! and after every queen move, the same sacrifice wins the game. For example 25.♙b4 ♘xg3+! 26.♘xg3 ♙xh3#]

23.♙xd4 exf2 24.♘h6+?? The GM playing with White pieces thought that he was winning with a great queen sacrifice, but right after he gave this check, he realized his blunder and resigned the game.[24.♘h6+?? gxf6 (24...♙h8 25.♙xf6 was Savon's idea, but here again Black has 25...♙xh3#) 25.♙xf6 but White missed 25...♙xh3# A painful blunder!; 24.♙xd5 is also bad. 24...♜ae8 25.♙h2 ♙xf5; However 24.g4! would have given a good chance for White to survive. 24...♙xg2+ 25.♙xg2 ♙xd4 26.♙xd4 ♜fe8 27.♙xf2 Black is obviously better, but White has one pawn, active pieces and no weaknesses, which give him real hopes for a draw. 27...♘e4+ (27...♜ad8) 28.♙f3 g6 29.♘h6+ ♙f8 30.g5=+]

0-1

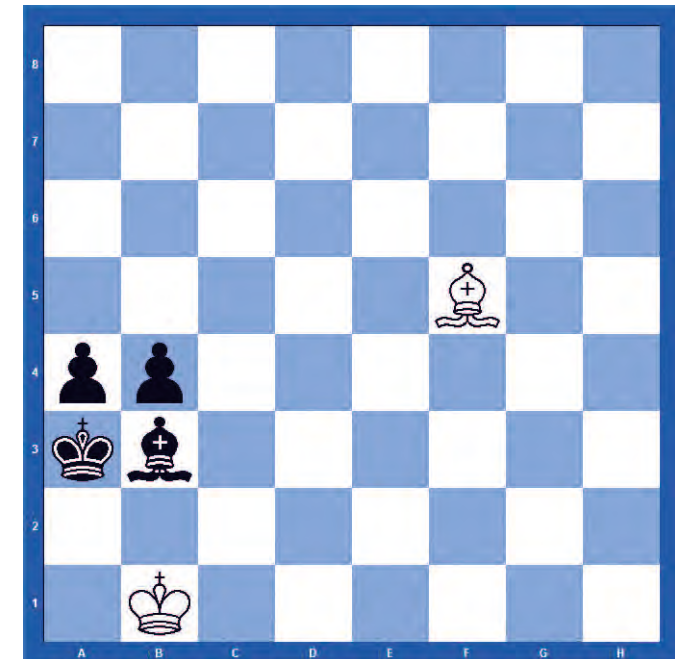
Surprise section / study

(18) Moravec,J

1929

[CEWN]

1.=



Solutions

(19) Tiviakov,S (2674) – Bezgodova,M (2206)

Botvinnik memorial, 25.08.2012

[Solutions]



17. ♖xh6! gxh6 18. ♔d2 ♘b3 [18... ♔g7 19. ♘h5+-]

19. ♔xh6 f5 20. exf6 ♙d6 [20... ♙xf6 21. ♔xf6 ♘xa1
22. ♖e5+- (22. ♘h5+-)]

21. ♘e5 ♙xe5 22. ♖xe5 ♘h7 23. ♖h5 1-0

(20) Grigoryan,A (2579) – Kukhmazov,A (2154)

Botvinnik memorial, 25.08.2012

[Solutions]

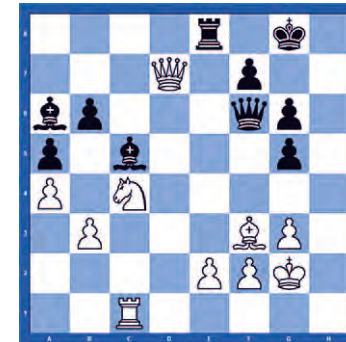
25. ♘e5! g5 [25... fxe5 26. ♔g6+ ♔d7 27. ♖f7+-; 25... ♔c7
26. ♔g6+ ♔d8 27. ♘f7+ ♔d7 28. ♘xh8 ♖xh8 29. ♖xg7+-]

26. ♖h3 1-0 [26. ♖h3 fxe5 27. ♖xe6+-]

(21) Hungaski,R (2486) – Gajewski,G (2628)

Sants Open, 20.08.2012

[Solutions]

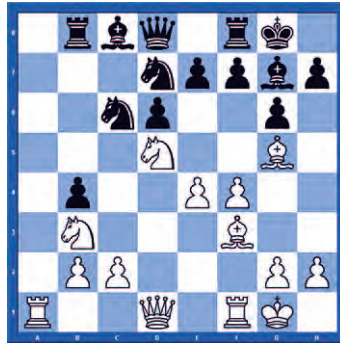
32... ♖xe2! 33. ♙xe2 ♖xf2+ 34. ♔h3 [34. ♔h1 ♖xg3!
(34... ♖xe2+) 35. ♖f1 (35. ♙g4 ♙b7+! 36. ♖xb7 ♖h4+
37. ♔g2 ♖xg4+ 38. ♔f1 ♖g1+ 39. ♔e2 ♖xc1-) 35... ♙b7+!
36. ♖xb7 ♖h3#]34... ♖xe2-+ 35. ♖d8+ ♔h7 36. ♖xg5 ♙c8+ [36...
♙b7-+]

37. g4 ♖f3+ 38. ♔h2 ♙f2! 39. ♖e5 ♙b7 0-1

(22) Lillo Castay,V (2303) – Cifuentes Parada,R (2496)

Sants Open, 21.08.2012

[Solutions]



15. ♘a5!! ♘xa5 16. ♘xe7+ ♔h8 17. ♘xg6+ fxg6
18. ♙xd8+- Line

(23) Georgiadis,I (2445) – Svetushkin,D (2569)

Isthmia Open, 22.08.2012

[Solutions]



23... ♔h2+! 24. ♔f2 ♖xf3+!! 25. ♔xf3 ♗f4+ 26. ♔e2
♗e4+ 27. ♔f2 [27. ♔d2?? ♖xd8+]

27... ♗f4+ [27... ♙d4+ 28. ♖xd4 ♗xd4+ 29. ♔g3 ♗e5+=]

28. ♔e2 ♗e4+ 29. ♔f2 ♗f4+ 1/2–1/2

(24) Svetushkin,D (2569) – Sethuraman,S (2546)

Isthmia Open, 23.08.2012

[Solutions]



17. ♘d4!! ♗xa3 [17... cxd4 18. ♙xe7+-]

18. ♘xb5 ♗b4 19. ♘c3 [19. exf6! ♙xf6 20. ♘d6 ♙d7
21. ♙h3±]

19... fxe5 20. ♘a4±

(25) Janev,E (2457) — Arun Prasad,S (2531)

Bratto Open, 22.08.2012

[Solutions]



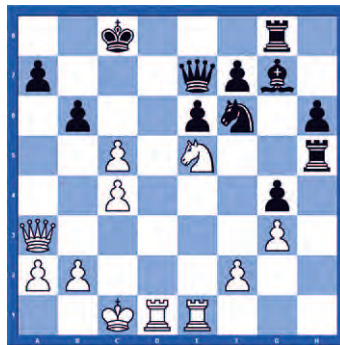
10. ♖b6!! ♔c6 [10... ♕xb3+ 11. axb3+-]

11. ♘xa8+-

(26) Burg,T (2471) — Kuzmich,K (2464)

Haarlem GM, 25.08.2012

[Solutions]



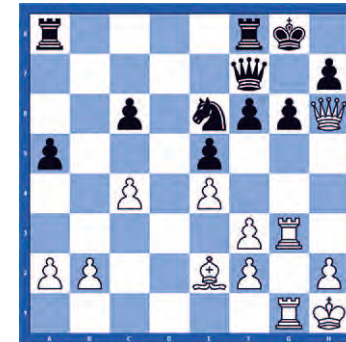
26. ♖d7!! ♔xd7 [26... ♘xd7 27. ♕a6+ ♔c7 (27... ♔d8 28. ♘c6+-) 28. ♕xa7+ ♔c8 29. ♕a6+ ♔c7 30. cxb6+! ♘xb6 31. ♕a7+-; 26... ♖xe5 27. ♖xe7 ♖xe1+ 28. ♔d2+-]

27. ♘xd7 ♘xd7 28. c6! ♘c5 29. ♕xa7+-

(27) Hess,R (2624) — Arnold,M (2540)

Metro GM, 07.08.2012

[Solutions]



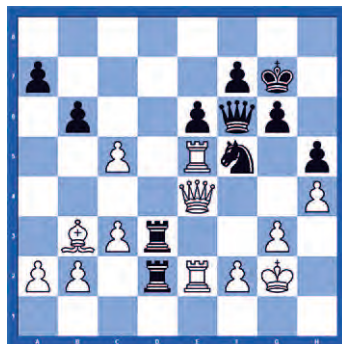
26. ♖xg6+!! [26.c5 ♘f4]

26... hxg6 27. ♖xg6+ ♘g7 28. c5!! ♖a7 29. b3! ♖e8 30. ♔c4 1-0 [30. ♔c4 ♖e6 31. ♖xf6+-]

(28) Guido,F (2409) – Zelcic,R (2552)

Schwarzacher Open, 25.08.2012

[Solutions]



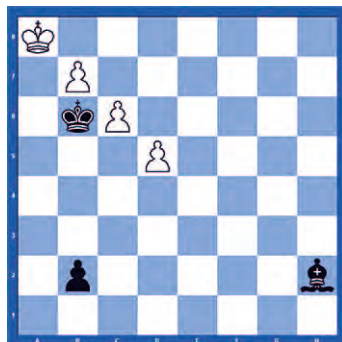
38...♘e3+! 39.♚xe3 [39.♖xe3 ♚xf2+ 40.♙h3 ♚h2#]

39...♖xe3 40.R5xe3 ♖xe2 41.♖xe2 bxc5±

(29) Rubesamen,H

1938

[Solutions]



1.d6! ♙xd6 2.b8 ♚+! ♙xb8 3.c7! ♙xc7= [3... ♙xc7=]

1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 29

15th of September 2012

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Editorial Preface

The Chess Olympiad came to an end. And again it is the Armenian team who holds the gold! From the last 4 Olympiads, they took gold 3 times. Just an amazing achievement. Congratulations to them.

Second came Russia who had a little bit worse tie-break. The Russian team played great chess and only a very unnecessary lost in the round 9 against the Americans took away the gold medal. 3rd came the team from Ukraine who managed to beat China in the last round, a bit unlucky for the Chinese team-would they have won, they would have taken gold. The teams of Your 2 "hard workers" lost in the last round and became 9th and 12th. Sad results for Hungary and Germany... but what to do. The fight on the top is very tight, and the difference between a loss and win in the last round can mean more than 10 places in the standings.

In the female section, it was a fight between China and Russia. Both teams clearly dominated the event and finally Russia was the team with a clearly better tie-break to take the gold medal. As in the open section, the 3rd place goes to the team from Ukraine.

All in all, I think this Olympiad was a big disappointment for the majority of the participants. Playing directly at the airport was really not a good idea, but we are happy and look forward to 2014 when the Chess Olympiad will go to Norway!

As usual we give in this issue the freshest games from the Top matches! Have fun reading the CEWN Nr 29.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Mamedyarov,S (2729) – Brkic,A (2587) [D45]

40th Olympiad Open Istanbul TUR (6.2), 03.09.2012

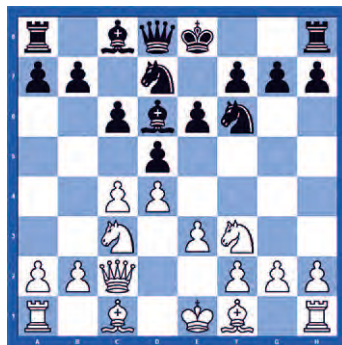
[Balogh Csaba]

A great attacking game by Mamedyarov, who made the highest performance of the Olympiad. He scored 8.5 point out of 10 games against a 2585 average rating, which was equal to a 2880 performance.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 e6 5.♘f3 ♘bd7 We are at the starting position of the Meran.

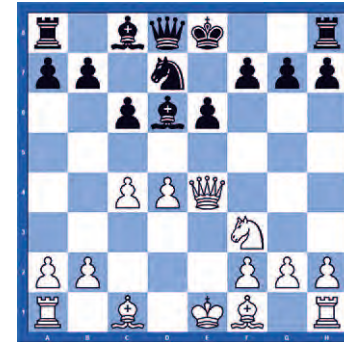
6.♔c2 [6.♙d3 is the other main line.]

6...♙d6



7.e4!? This is a tricky sideline. If somebody is not familiar with its subtleties, that could easily end up in a bad position out of the opening.

7...dxe4 8.♘xe4 ♘xe4 9.♔xe4



9...e5!? Black decided to accept the challenge and went for the most concrete line. He's aiming for a simplification in the center, which would yield a completely drawn position. White must do something extraordinary if he wants something... [9...c5 is a more calm reaction, which usually continues with 10.♙g5 ♙e7 11.♙xe7 ♔a5+! 12.♔e2 ♔xe7 13.g3 White intends to castle artificially with ♙g2, ♖hd1 and if necessary ♔f1. 13...♖d8 14.♙g2 cxd4 15.♔xd4 ♘f6 This is just the start of the lines, but it's considered to be equal at the end.]

10.dxe5 0-0! This is the point! Black wants to take twice on e5, followed by ♖e8.

11.exd6! This queen sacrifice is the only chance to fight for the advantage. [11.♙d3 is met with 11...f5! 12.♔e2 (12.exf6?? ♖e8) 12...♘xe5 13.♘xe5 ♙xe5=; On 11.♙e2 the easiest is 11...♘xe5 12.♘xe5 ♔a5+ with equality.]

11...♖e8 12.♔xe8+ ♔xe8+ 13.♙e3 Let's summarize what we see. White has a rook, bishop and pawn for the queen. Additionally, the bishop pair and the dangerous passed pawn on d6 are also important factors. On the other hand, Black can build up an excellent blocking position on d7 and has very good chances to create

counterplay on the queenside. It's very hard to judge who is better objectively. The computer clearly favors Black's position, but for a human eye, things are much more complicated.

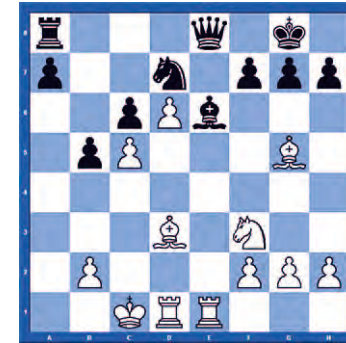


13...Nf6 14. Bb3? This is a rare, but clever move order. White wants to castle queenside in any case, but he prevents the bishop's development to f5 first. [14.0-0-0 Bf5 is a good alternative for Black, compared to 14...Be6 which would transpose to the game.]

14...Be6 15.0-0-0 b5 This is a double edged decision, since it allows White to protect d6 safely, with a pawn being given for another pawn. [A much safer choice is 15...c5 16.b3 (16. Bxc5 is not good because of 16...Kc8 and the exchange of the c-pawns is good for Black.) 16...Kc6 Black can later create his counterplay with a6-b5, for example. The position is unclear.]

16.c5! Bxa2 According to the computer, Black's advantage is close to be decisive, but I think that's very far from reality. Actually, it's clear that both players were following their preparations, since there were still some games played according to my database.

17. Bg5 Nd7 18. Rhe1 Be6



19. Be3! This is the novelty. Quite a logical one, White simply protects his c5 pawn, which was not possible with 19.b4 because of a5! [In the previous game 19.Nd4 was played, but Black was much better after 19...Nxc5 20. Bf5 Kd7 Ivkov-Panchenko, Sochi 1983. Still it was a nice achievement to reach this position 30 years ago without any computer assistance.]

19...h6 Black prevents Ng5.

20. Bc2 White prepares for the action that we'll see in the game.

20...Kc8! Leaving the pin on the e-file. [20...a5!? would have also made sense. The idea is to make use of the pawn majority by advancing with a4-b4-a3. Probably Mamedyarov planned to play in a similar style as in the game. 21.Nd4!? Nxc5 22.Nxe6 Nxe6 23.d7 Kd8 with a very unclear position. White should kick out the blockading e6 knight with f4-f5 in order to penetrate with the rook. (23...Ke7? 24. Bb6)]

21. Nd4 White tries to mobilize his d6 pawn even if it'll cost him the one on c5.

21...♖xc5 22.♘f5!? White wants to exchange the minor pieces, after which the d-pawn would become unstoppable. Black is forced to give up his knight because of the ♘e7 threat, but he can still keep his bishop.

22...♙xf5 23.♙xc5 ♙e6 Mamedyarov continues the game in brilliant style! [23...♙xc2? loses to 24.d7+-]

24.f4! With the idea of playing f5, followed by ♖e7.

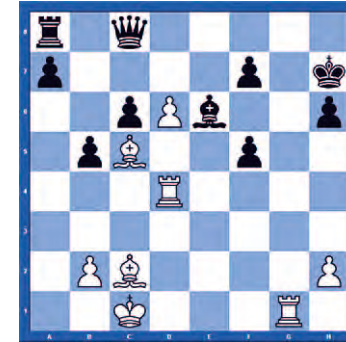
24...g6 25.g4!! This is a really fantastic move. White had to foresee all the forthcoming complications. Black is forced to accept the sacrifice, otherwise White will play f5.

25...♙xg4 26.♖d4! The rook occupies the 4th rank, which is key in the game! The threat is ♖e7, and Black must react against it.

26...♙e6 27.f5!! Really energetic play! The number of pawns doesn't matter, Mamedyarov wants to explode the blockade.

27...gxf5? This is a decisive mistake. White can create crucial threats against the king on the opened g-file. [27...♙xf5 would have been the only chance. 28.♖e7 ♙e6 (28...♙xc2 is met with 29.d7 ♖f8 30.♙xc2) 29.d7 ♖d8 and White can obtain a superior endgame with 30.♖e8+ ♖xe8 31.dxe8 ♖+ ♖xe8 32.♖d6+= Black has a lot of pawns for the piece, but they are weak. White can start to collect them with the harmony of the bishop pair and the rook.]

28.♖g1+ ♙h7 [28...♙h8 is refuted with 29.♖h4! ♖f8 30.♙d4+ f6 (30...♙h7 transposes to the game.) 31.♖g6! Black can't hold the threats. For example: 31...♙h7 32.♖xf6 ♖g7 33.♖xf5!+- White ends up with a winning advantage.]



29.♖dg4! Now and in the previous line we can understand why the rook had to stay on the 4th rank! Black can't escape from the mating ideas.

29...♖f8 30.♙d4! f6 [30...h5 doesn't change much. 31.♖g7+ ♙h6 32.♙e3+-]

31.♖g6! Black is hopeless against ♖xf6.

31...♖d8 32.♖xf6 Black resigned in view of [32.♖xf6 ♖xd6 33.♙xf5+ ♙xf5 34.♖f7# White played like Mikhail Tal!]

1-0

(2) Ivanchuk,V (2769) – Wang Hao (2726) [E52]

40th Olympiad Open Istanbul TUR (11.1), 09.09.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

We are examining a very important game from the last round. The Chinese team was leading the tournament, but they were facing the 2nd seed Ukraine, and only a win would have given them the gold medal. However on the top board, Ivanchuk won a very nice game against Biel winner Wang Hao.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♘c3** ♙b4 **4.e3** The Rubinstein variation of the Nimzowitsch Defense enjoys of a really high popularity now.

4...0-0 **5.♙d3** d5 **6.♘f3**



6...b6 This is quite a rare move, but by no means a bad one. I personally believe it's a good alternative if somebody doesn't want to learn theory and wants to obtain a playable position. [6...c5 is the main line.]

7.a3 Ivanchuk also reacts with a sideline. [7.0-0 is the most common move. 7...♙b7 8.cxd5 exd5 9.a3 ♙d6 10.b4 a6

11.♙b3 ♙e7 is the start of the critical lines, but recently Black achieved good results in some high level games.]

7...♙xc3+ 8.bxc3 c6 This move was played without thinking. Clearly a prepared novelty by Wang Hao, however after Ivanchuk's strong response, White retains the initiative. Black's idea is to play ♙a6, and after exchanging the bishops, to take back on d5 with the c-pawn. [I would personally prefer 8...♙a6 9.cxd5 ♙xd3 10.♙xd3 ♙xd5! 11.c4 ♙e4! as it was played in Aleksandrov-Tomashevsky, in Moscow 2012. If White has something, it's really symbolic.]

9.cxd5! Great prophylactic move by Ivanchuk! [After the natural 9.0-0 Black's novelty would reach its point. 9...♙a6! 10.♘d2 (10.♘e5 is met with 10...♘fd7! exchanging the strong knight.; 10.cxd5 ♙xd3 11.♙xd3 cxd5 12.c4 ♘c6 with equality.) 10...c5! 11.♙e2 ♘c6 12.cxd5 ♙xd3 13.♙xd3 ♙xd5= with a comfortable position for Black.]

9...cxd5 10.♙e2! The previous move was connected with this one. White preserves his strong light-squared bishop.

10...♘c6 Black changes his mind and tries to create an outpost on the c4 square, but I think he should have continued with his original plan. [10...a5 with the idea of ♙a6 is a huge weakening move. The b5 square and the b6 weakness will tell in the future... 11.0-0 ♙a6 12.♙xa6 ♘xa6 13.c4! followed by ♖b1, ♙d2, ♖fc1 and ♘e5. White has an advantage.; 10...♙b7 11.0-0 ♙c8 was the right move in my opinion, even though White can achieve some edge with energetic play. 12.a4! ♙a6 Black successfully exchanges the bishops, but he spent too many tempi doing it. White is in time to retain the initiative by play-

ing (The c3 pawn is poisoned 12...♔xc3 13.♙a3 ♖c8 14.♖fc1 ♔a5 (14...♙b3? 15.♙c2! Black loses material. 15...♖xc2 (15...♙c4 16.♙xh7+-) 16.♖xc2+-) 15.♖xc8+ ♙xc8 16.♙c2! White is penetrating on the c-file. It's easy to see that White has more than enough compensation for the pawn. 16...♙a6 (16...♙b7 17.♙c7+-) 17.♘e5 Black has serious problems on the back rank, so the following line is more or less forced. 17...♘bd7 (17...♙xd3? 18.♙c8+) 18.♘xd7 ♘xd7 19.♙c6! ♖d8 20.♙c7 White wins material. Black can still resist a bit with 20...♖c8 21.♙xd7 ♙c3 but it doesn't save him, because of 22.♙xa6! ♙xa1+ 23.♙f1+/-) 13.♙a3 ♙xd3 14.♙xd3 ♖e8 15.♖fc1 ♘c6 16.c4↑ White is slightly better, but Black still should have gone for this line.]

11.0-0 ♘a5



12.a4! White wants to activate his bishop by ♙a3.

12...♖e8 Black prepares for ♙a3, but I think it would have been more advisable to wait until White plays that move, because now he gets a strong alternative. However, other continuations were also quite unpleasant for Black. [12...♘b3 gaining the bishop pair. 13.♖b1 ♘xc1 14.♖fxc1 is also better for White. He has a big initiative on the queen-

side. His plans are connected to the a5 and c4 moves, which could be supported well by the knight transfer to ♘d2-b3, or by the simple ♘e5.; 12...♙d7 meets by 13.♙a3 ♖e8 14.♙b4+= is also better.]

13.♘e5! Ivanchuk activates the knight, using the fact that Black can't get rid of it by ♘d7, because the f7 pawn stays unprotected...

13...♘e4 Black wants to send away the knight with f6. [13...♘d7? is refuted elegantly by 14.♘xf7! ♔xf7 15.♙h5+ The king cannot stand the pressure of the bishops and the queen. 15...♔f8 16.♙a3+! ♖e7 17.♙xh7+- wins. If Black manages to parry the direct threats, f4-f5 is killing.]

14.f3 An inaccuracy! Actually the only one in the game by White. [14.♙c2! was much stronger, forcing the Black knight to go back to f6. 14...f6 (14...♙b7 is met with 15.f3 ♘f6 16.e4!+/- with a huge attack. ♙g5 is the main idea now.) 15.f3! is the key move! 15...fxe5 16.fxe4 Opening the position clearly favors White. The Black king becomes vulnerable!]

14...♘d6 [Of course not 14...♘xc3? and the knight has no way out. 15.♙c2+-]

15.♙a3! Great play by White! Ivanchuk found a very dangerous attacking possibility, which he managed to execute in the game. [15.e4 is not the same as before. Black can simply play 15...♘b3! 16.♖b1 ♘xc1 17.♖bxc1 ♙b7! with a double edged position. 18.exd5 is always met with exd5 and Black is ready to kick out the knight with f6.]

15...♙b7 [On 15...f6 Ivanchuk probably wanted to play the same as in the game: 16.♙xd6 (16.♘g4 ♘dc4 17.♙b4 is also possible.) 16...♙xd6



17.f4!! with the idea of ♖h5, while accepting the sacrifice leads to a crushing victory for White. 17...fxe5 18.♔h5! The following moves are forced. 18...g6 19.♙xg6! ♖e7 20.fxe5 ♕d7 and now, White can slowly build up his attack. Black is too passive to neutralize... 21.♙d3! ♖g7 22.♖f6 ♕e7 23.♖af1 ♙d7 24.♖1f3! bringing all the pieces. Black can't hold the attack. I am pretty sure, that Ivanchuk had foreseen this line. One illustrative finish could be 24...♖c8 25.♖h6 Black is hopeless against the threats. 25...♖xc3 (25...♖f8 loses to 26.♙xh7+ ♖xh7 27.♖xh7 ♕xh7 28.♖xf8+ ♕xf8 29.♕xh7+-) 26.♙xh7+! ♖xh7 27.♖xh7 ♖c1+ 28.♙f2 ♕xh7 29.♕g5+ White wins, for example with 29...♕g7 30.♕d8+ ♙h7 31.♖h3+ ♙g6 32.♖g3++-]

16.♙xd6! ♕xd6 17.f4! Suddenly there is a big difference between the minor pieces. The White ones are extremely well placed, while Black's are standing passively. Black must parry ♙xh7 now, followed by ♕h5-Qxf7 and ♖f3.

17...g6 Good move, but on the other hand creating a new weakness. Without the dark-squared bishop, the f6 and h6 squares might cause huge problems.

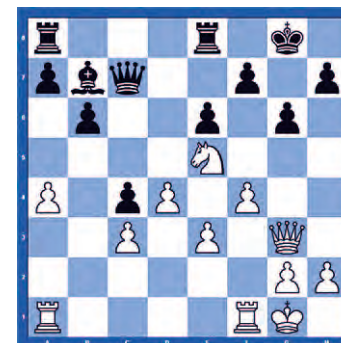
18.♕g4 White wants to continue his attack by playing f5!

18...♘c4? Black tries to open the c-file and gain counter-play there, but White is not obliged to accept the pawn, since ♘xe5 is not a threat for him because of fxe5 followed by ♖f6 and h4-h5. [18...♖ac8 allows 19.f5! exf5 20.♖xf5→; 18...f5!? would have been the only move. 19.♕e2 ♖ec8 followed by doubling the rooks on the c-file. White should continue the attack with g4! Black seems to be safe now, but actually the attack is rolling very fast. White takes on f5, when the opening of the g-file would be dangerous after the heavy pieces occupy it, while exf5 leaves the g6 pawn vulnerable. White will push h4-h5.]

19.♕g3 [19.♙xc4 dxc4 20.♕g5! was an alternative, with the idea of ♘g4!]

19...♕c7? This is the decisive mistake, but in a bad position there are no good moves! Ivanchuk finishes the game in style.

20.♙xc4 dxc4



21.f5! f6 The last try to kick out the knight, but it loses due to a nice combination. [21...exf5 does not change the outcome of the game. 22.♖xf5 ♙d5 23.e4! ♙e6 24.♖f6+- with a decisive attack after ♖af1 and h4-h5.]

22.fxg6! fxe5 23.♖f7! [But not 23.gxh7+? ♔h8 and the Black king is safe behind the h7 pawn.]

23...♔c6 [23...♔e7 loses to 24.gxh7+ ♔xf7 25.♖f1+ ♔e8 26.h8 ♔++-]

24.gxh7+! Small calculating job, which was perfectly done by White.

24...♔xf7 25.♖f1+ ♔e7 26.h8♔! A strong intermediate move, but it could have been played anytime in the following moves as well...

26...♖xh8 27.♔g7+ ♔d6 28.dxe5+! Black resigned in view of the forced mates in all lines...[28.dxe5+ ♔c5 (28...♔d5 29.♖d1+ ♔e4 30.♖d4+ ♔xe3 31.♔g3+ ♔e2 32.♔f2#) 29.♔e7+ ♔d5 30.♖d1+ ♔xe5 (30...♔e4 31.♖d4+ ♔xe3 32.♔g5+ ♔e2 33.♔d2#) 31.♔g5+ ♔e4 32.♔f4#]

1-0

(3) Movsesian,S (2698) – Almasi,Z (2713) [C84]

40th Olympiad Open Istanbul TUR (11.2), 09.09.2012

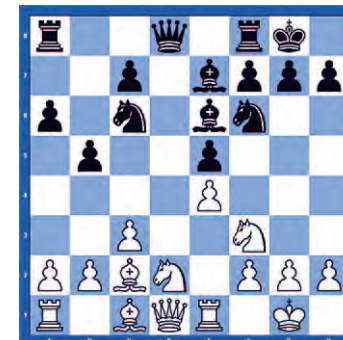
[Balogh Csaba]

The most decisive game of the last round. We are examining the second board of the Armenia-Hungary match. Armenia had to win for the first place, while my teammate Almasi was fighting to bring the bronze for Hungary. The stakes were really high!

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.d3 We can say that this is the „main line” of the Spanish opening nowadays. All the top players prefer this to the real main move 6.♖e1. The idea is simply to avoid long theoretical battles and the computer hasn't been able to suggest a clear way for Black to equalize, while White can use more or less the same plans that he learned from the complex Ruy Lopez structures.

6...d6 7.c3 0-0 8.♘bd2 Black has many different setups here. Almasi follows the one that looks for the most direct way to equality.

8...b5 9.♙c2 d5 10.♖e1 dxe4 11.dxe4 ♙e6 The big drawback of Black's position is the pawn on b5. It's a clear target for White in this opening.



12.a4 Movsesian immediately tries to make use of the b5 weakness. [The game Grischuk-Svidler continued with 12.♔e2 and we have analyzed it in details in the 25th CEWN.]

12...b4?! Black gives up the c4 square... It's very strange that the same mistake was made by Ivanchuk against Kamsky last year. Black got rid of the b5 weakness, but created a new one on a6, which could be attacked by ♕e2 and ♖d3. [Black must try to hold his pawn on b5, even if it decoys his heavy pieces. 12...♔c8! 13.♔e2 ♔b7 14.♖d3 ♖ab8 is the right way to play with Black, as it was shown in the afore-mentioned Grischuk-Svidler game.]

13.♔e2 ♔c8 14.♖c4 ♖d7



15.a5 This is a typical move in the Spanish, when Black has played b4. It has two main ideas: one is to fix the weakness on a6, and the other is to create the threat of ♖a4 which can be very annoying in a lot of situations. [Kamsky played 15.♖g5 and gained the advantage of the bishop pair. 15...♖xg5 16.♖xg5 ♖b6 17.♖d2 and White was slightly better.; 15.♖e3 and the same idea we'll see in the game also came into consideration.]

15...f6 16.♖e3! Very well played! White transfers his knight to d5.

16...b3 A questionable move. Black wants to win some space on the queenside, and this pawn could be very disturbing in many endgames. However, White has many potential ways to attack it, by for example ♖d3-c4, ♖d2, ♔d1, ♖d5 (closing the defender bishop), or sometimes ♖a3... In my opinion, this pawn is rather a weakness. But other moves also lead to better positions for White. [16...♖c5 17.♖d5+= followed by ♖e3.; 16...♖d6 17.♖d5 ♖b8 18.♖e3 White has a much easier play in all the lines.; In general, Black should wait as long as he can with 16...bxc3 since the opening of the b-file usually disfavors him. 17.bxc3+=]

17.♖b1 [17.♖d3!? had its point of exchanging the light-squared bishops. 17...♖c5 18.♖c4 White has the advantage, because 18...♖xe4 ?! doesn't work. 19.♖d5! ♖d6 (19...♖c5 20.♖e3! ♖xe7 threatens to win a piece and on 20...♖d6 21.♖xc5 ♖xc5 22.♖xc7! ♔xc7 23.♖xe6+ ♔h8 24.♖xb3+/- with a clear pawn up!) 20.♖d4! White had to foresee this, when he played 17.♖d3. 20...♖xd4 (20...exd4 21.♖xe7++-) 21.♖xe7+ ♔f7 22.cxd4 ♖xe7 23.♖d3!+/- The Black king ended up in the center and has to face a strong attack now.]

17...♖d6 18.♖d5! ♖xd5 This move is definitely a mistake, but the position was already worse for Black. [18...♖e7 suggested itself, but White gets an edge after 19.♔c4! ♖c5 20.♖e3 c6 21.♖xe7+ ♖xe7 22.♔e2! White's next move is the same in any case, for instance 22...♔b7 23.♖xc5! ♖xc5 24.♖d3+= followed by ♖c4 and ♖d2, b3 is a real weakness.]

19.exd5 ♖e7 **20.♗d3!** Almasi has missed this plan. White transfers his bishop to c4, the d5 pawn is indirectly protected. [20.c4 ♖c5 was in Black's mind, when he took on d5. Black is doing well in the dark-squares. Even if White wins the b3 pawn after ♗e3-c5, the Black bishop will compensate well for the material deficit.]

20...♔b7 [20...f5 21.♗c4 Black's main problem is that he can't use his nice looking center, since he just creates holes in his own camp. For instance 21...e4 is met with 22.♘d4 and the knight jumps to e6.]

21.♗c4 ♖xd5 [21...♔h8 22.♖d1 ♖c5 23.♗e3+= followed by ♘d2 is also better for White.]



22.♘d4!! It's possible to blunder such moves. White is penetrating on the light squares, demonstrating well the drawback of 18...♗xd5.

22...exd4 [If Black leaves the pin 22...♔h8 the idea was 23.♗e4! c6 24.♘xc6 !+/- with a big advantage.]

23.♗e6+ ♔h8 24.♗xd5 c6 25.♗xd6 cxd5 26.cxd4 After a couple of forced moves, the position has simplified a bit. White is close to being winning. Black's main problem is the poor knight on d7, which can't move, while all

the efforts to activate it will cost some material as the game will show...

26...♖fe8 27.♗f4 Black has 3 critical weaknesses on a6, b3 and d5.

27...♔b5 [27...♘f8 is always met with 28.♗b6!+/-]

28.h3! Opening the back rank!

28...♖ac8 [28...♘f8 29.♗b6 ♗d3 30.♖ac1+/- is also horrible for Black.]

29.♖xe8+! ♖xe8 30.♖c1! White is dominating, Black has no chance to create any kind of counterplay.

30...♘f8 31.♗b6! As usual.

31...♗d3 32.♗c6! Suddenly Black's back rank got into serious trouble.

32...♗e4 [Black had to leave the a6 pawn, since after 32...♗d8 33.♗c7! ♖c8 34.♗b7! ♖e8 35.♗d6! ♗f7 and ♖c8 is the double threat. Black loses a lot of material. 35...♘g6 36.♖c8+-]

33.♗e3 ♘g6 Finally the knight is activated, but White will soon destroy all hope...

34.♗xa6! ♘h4 35.♗f1! As easy as that, there is no way to continue. The game is practically over.

35...h6 [35...♘f5 is met with 36.♖c3 ♘xd4 White can choose between two ways to win. 37.a6+- (or 37.♗d3+- with a winning endgame.)]

36.♖c3! White prepares his next two moves...

36...♖a8 37.f3! and ♗f2 is coming next, sending back the pieces. [The last trick was 37.a6? ♖xa6]

37...♔e6 [37...♖g6 38.♙f2+-]

38.♙f2 ♘g6 39.♖b5 ♘f4 Black tries some new tricks, but the bishop neutralizes them easily once again.

40.♙e3! ♖f5 41.♔h2 ♘g6 [41...♖g5 is refuted with 42.g3+-]

42.♖xb3 [42.a6 would have won as well.]

42...♘h4 43.♙f2 ♖g5 44.♙g3 White does not even want to exchange his bishop.

44...♘f5 45.f4 ♖g6 46.♖xd5 Finally all three weaknesses are falling.

46...♖e8 47.a6 h5 48.a7 h4 49.♙f2 With this victory, Armenia won the match 2.5–1.5, taking the 3rd gold medal from the last 4 Olympiads! Congratulations forthem!

1–0

(4) Ivanchuk,Vassily (2769)

– Vachier-Lagrave,Maxime (2686) [B96]

40th Olympiad Open Istanbul TUR (9.1), 06.09.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

A game between two players as creative as these is always exciting. And this time as well, !we won't be disappointed!

1.♘f3 c5 2.e4 We are back in the Sicilian. It's hard to say why did Ivanchuk decide to start the game with 1. ♘f3?!. Vachier-Lagrave is playing exclusively the Sicilian against 1.e4.

2...d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙g5 e6 7.f4 We are in one of the main position of the Sicilian Najdorf. Thousands of games have been played here. The position is very sharp and was analyzed for generations without any concrete results!



7...♖c7 Lately, this move went out of fashion. Black has been trying more often to play 7...♖b6, or 7...h6 8.♙h4 and ♖b6 now. Of course, one of the main moves is 7...♘bd7.

8. ♗xf6 This is the main option to „punish“ Black. White is losing the bishop pair, while getting a very clear plan: to play against Black’s central pawn structure. Usually, they play f5-g3-Bh3 applying maximum pressure.

8...gxf6 9. ♔d2 Another move can be 9. ♔d3 with the idea of bringing the Queen to h3, where it would increase the pressure against the e6 pawn, plus the ♗e2-Bh5 maneuver could be unpleasant for Black.

9...b5 Quite a risky move by Black. [9...♘c6 10.0-0-0 ♗d7 leads to well known positions.]

10. ♗d3!? Very creative play by Ivanchuk. I think almost everyone would castle long without thinking much! To put the bishop on d3 is very unusual in these structures. More „main stream“ would be ♗e2, forcing Black to play h5 — Black can’t allow White to put his bishop on h5, it’s a well known rule in the Najdorf.



10... ♗b7 11.0-0 The key of hite’s idea — to castle short. It’s difficult to say if the idea gives some advantage — but it’s clear that it’s very interesting. Black doesn’t have his usual play on the queenside anymore.

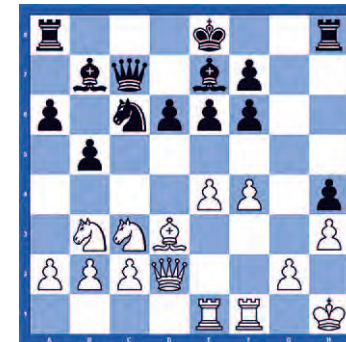
11...♘c6 [Of course not 11...♔b6?! 12.♔h1! protecting the knight on d4 indirectly. 12...♔xd4 13. ♗xb5+]]

12.♘b3 White needs to keep as many pieces on the board as possible to support his future attacking plans. Another plan for White could be connected with playing a4.

12...h5?! I don’t like this move too much, even though it’s a „standard“ plan for Black. Why not to hurry with h5 now? White’s bishop is on d3 and not on e2. I think that moves like 12...♗e7 followed by b4 or ♖c8 would be a better reaction here. The position is very complicated of course, but I think Black should be doing fine.

13.♔h1 h4 14.h3 Of course, White doesn’t allow Black to play h3.

14... ♗e7 15.♖ae1 White prepares everything for the action in the center.



15...b4 Black says with this move: either You play ♘d5 now, or you’ll never do it.

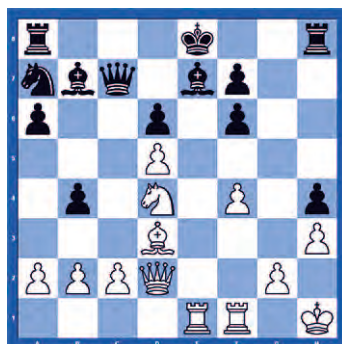
16.♘d5!? A very interesting and sharp sequence is beginning. The White pieces are standing almost at their

maximum best, but Black has a full extra piece, which is huge material advantage. Let's see how things develop.

16...exd5 Anything else than taking on d5 would just lead to a bad position, 16...♔d8 17. ♘xe7 and White is much better.

17.exd5 ♘a7! Nice move by Black. The knight from a7 can always jump to c8 if there's a need to protect the bishop on e7 urgently.

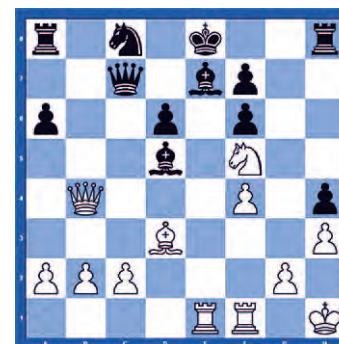
18.♘d4! I like this move a lot. White doesn't care about giving away the d5 pawn for immediate action. This is the way to play the Sicilian — no slow play!



18...♙xd5 Black needs to take the pawn on d5. [In case of a passive defense with 18...♔f8 19.♘f5 ♘c8 20.♖e3 White creates extra pressure on the e-file by doubling the rooks. 20...♙xd5 21.♖fe1 ♙e6 22.♖xe6! A strong and typical sacrifice on e6. 22...fxe6 23.♘d4 Even though White is a full rook down, White's attack is more than dangerous here. Black can't stop White from playing ♘xe6, and White will combine the threats against the Black king with the weakness of the white squares to create some super-dangerousplay!]

19.♘f5 Where will the Black knight go now? To c8 or c6...

19...♘c6?! [19...♘c8! Sometimes the more passive move can be the better one — but a move like ♘c8 is very hard to play. 20.♙xb4 (20.♖f2 doesn't bring much now. 20...♙c5! The Black queen is perfectly placed. 21.♖fe2 ♖a7 The e7 bishop is very well protected as well. Black should be doing better here.)



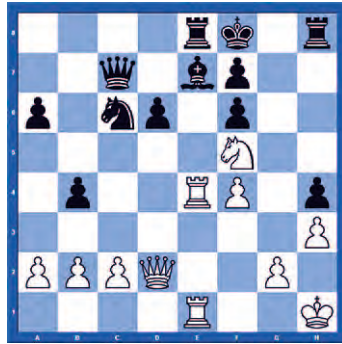
20...♔f8 21.♖f2 ♙c5 and I think that Black is fine. Of course, the position is stills complex with a lot of tactical motifs, which always give White good practical chances.]

20.♙e4 [Another option was 20.♙b5!? axb5 21.♙xd5 A lot of Black pieces are hanging, but Black has a defensive move: 21...♖d8! protecting from a lot of threats at the same time. 22.♖e2 ♔f8 23.♙f3 with quite a similar position to the one in the game, except that the rook on e2 is better placed than on e4. There's no d5 push with tempo.]

20...♙xe4 21.♖xe4 Black is a full piece up, but the position remains very unclear. The White knight on f5 is worth at least „half a piece“.

21...♔f8 The Black king finally escapes from the dangerous position on e8 — now the Black rook is going to stand there.

22.♖fe1 ♜e8



23.♕e2 White brings the Queen to g4, where it will create additional threats.

23...♖h7 [23...d5 24.♕g4 ♜h7 25.♖4e2 would lead to the position in the game.]

24.♕g4 d5 25.♖4e2 We are facing a funny position. White has no „direct“ threats, but Black has no „direct“ plan to get rid of the nasty pin on the e-file either. It's sort of a double-zugzwang position. The question for Black is: What can I do to get out of the pin? For White: How can I improve my position?

25...♕b6?! This move already gives away the material, but strangely enough, Black seems to have no plan! Very rarely we see someone with a piece up, having an almost hopeless position — but that seems to be the current situation. White's idea is to play g3 next, getting the g-file to have some extra mating threats. [25...♕d7 Black is

preparing to give away a full knight in order to exchange queens — but I could not find a better defense. 26.g3! Opening the g-file. 26...♘d4 It's never great to give the full piece for „nothing“. 27.♘xd4 ♕xg4 28.hxg4 hxg3+ 29.♔g2 ♜h2+ 30.♔xg3 ♜xe2 31.♜xe2 with a very big advantage for White in the endgame.]

26.g3 Following the already known idea, but why not to win the piece back immediately? [26.♘xe7 This move is too simple not to see it. It's strange that both players thought the position is fine for Black. I think White is doing much better. 26...♘xe7 27.♜xe7! Easy but nice 27...♜xe7 28.♕c8+ ♔g7 29.♜xe7 ♕f2 30.♕g4+ ♔f8 31.♜d7! With this horrible pawn structure, it's hard to imagine Black surviving here.]

26...♘d4 Black's only hope [26...hxg3 27.♕xg3 and Black has no defense against ♜g2-Qg8 mate.]

27.♘xe7! Nice calculation by White! Now everything is forced.

27...♘xe2 28.♕g8+ ♔xe7 29.♜xe2+ ♔d6



30.♜xe8! [30.♕xe8? ♕d4! And Black is back into the game. It's very difficult to mate the Black king, and the

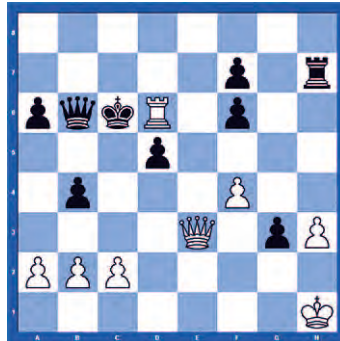
White king is suddenly open as well. Of course, White's still better, but the game could end very easily with a draw.]

30...hxg3 31.♔f8+! The only winning move! [The logical looking 31.♖d8+? leads to nothing more than a draw. 31...♔c7 32.♖c8+ ♔d6 33.♖d8+ ♔c7]

31...♔c6 32.♖c8+ ♔d7 33.♔e8+! White is playing just perfectly.

33...♔d6 34.♖d8+ ♔c5 35.♔e3+ And finally Black loses his Queen.

35...♔c6 36.♖d6+



What an interesting game! Great play by White. We saw a typical knight sacrifice on d5 followed by the „usual“ attacking motifs with the great additional idea of opening the g-file by playing g3! Let's hope we can use some of these principles in our own games!

1-0

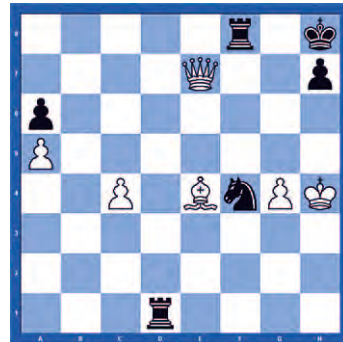
Puzzle section

(5) Georgiev,K (2682) – Barbosa,O (2554)

Olympiad, 03.09.2012

[CEWN]

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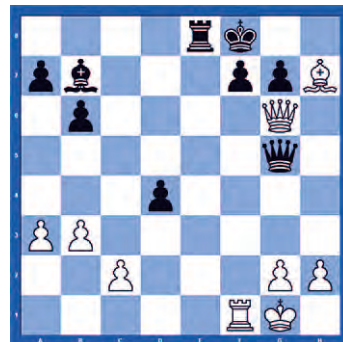


(6) Kotic,D (2526) – Eljanov,P (2693)

Olympiad, 03.09.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

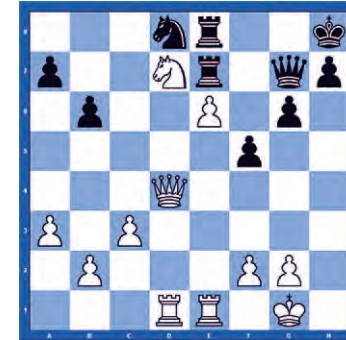


(7) Negi,P (2664) – Rodshtein,M (2642)

Olympiad, 03.09.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–



(8) Navara,D (2691) – Dizdarevic,E (2499)

Olympiad, 04.09.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–

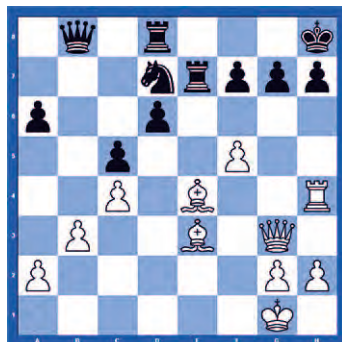


(9) Stellwagen,D (2630) – Nikolov,M (2563)

Olympiad, 04.09.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

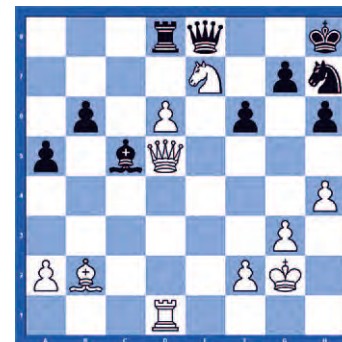


(11) Tikkanen,H (2570) – Sharavdorj,D (2446)

Olympiad, 06.09.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

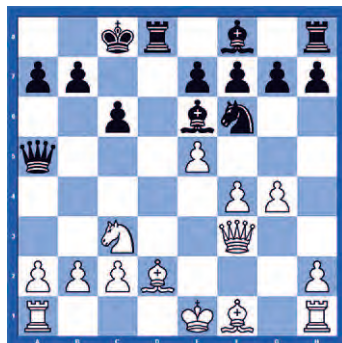


(10) Sutovsky,E (2687) – Van Wely,L (2691)

Olympiad, 06.09.2012

[CEWN]

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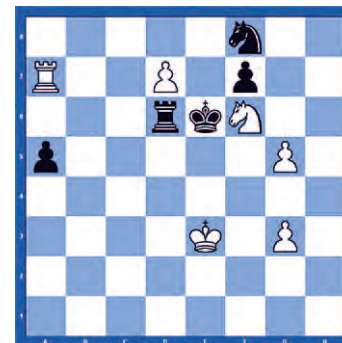


(12) Macieja,B (2594) – Babula,V (2595)

Olympiad, 07.09.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

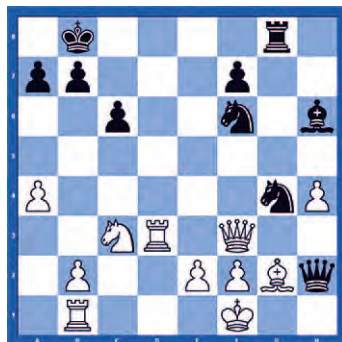


(13) Milos,G (2593) – Carlsson,P (2511)

Olympiad, 09.09.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

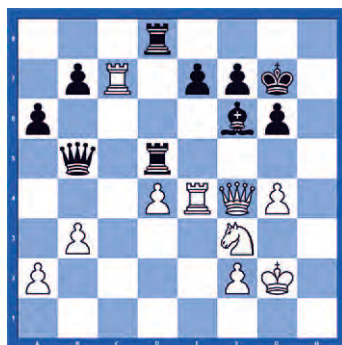


(14) Kozul,Z (2616) – Abdel Razik,K (2448)

Olympiad, 06.09.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

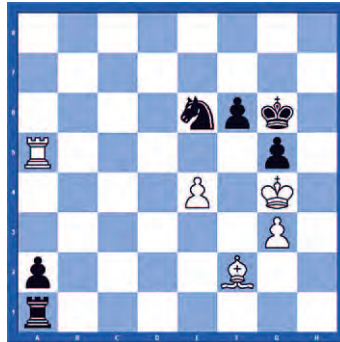


Endgame section

(15) Hansen,S (2577) – Leko,P (2737)

Olympiad, 07.09.2012

[Chess Evolution]



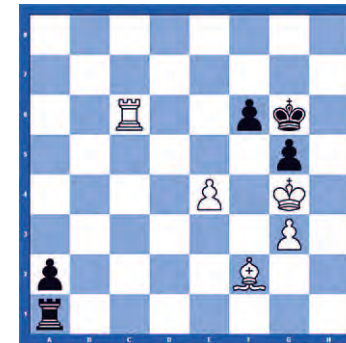
Black has a winning advantage, but converting it requires very good technique. Normally Leko makes no mistakes in such positions, but at this moment both players were living from the 30 seconds increments, which made their tasks much more difficult.

61...♞d8!! Leko would like to take his knight to e5, which was the only way to improve his position. [The same idea with 61...♞f8 was less effective, because of 62.♙d4 ♞e1 63.♙b2! White collects the a2 pawn. 63...♞xe4+ (63...♞e2 64.♞xa2 White holds, because if Black brings his knight to e6 or d7, the rook can leave the unpleasant pin on the 2nd rank by attacking the knight.) 64.♙f3 ♞c4 65.♞xa2 ♞c2 66.♞a8! White is again able to leave the pin. Objectively the position is drawn, but of course, Black can still create some problems...]

62.♞a6 White tries to restrict the knight and prepares the ♞xf6 or ♙d4 ideas. [In comparison to the previous line, now on 62.♙d4 Black has 62...♞e1 63.♙b2 ♞e2! 64.♙a1 (64.♞xa2? ♞f7! This is the difference. Now the knight is protected, White cannot leave the pin with ♞a7. ♞e5-d3 is coming next. 65.♙f3 ♞c2 66.g4 ♞e5+ 67.♙g3 ♞d3) 64...♞c6 65.♞a6 ♞c2 Black has good winning chances, anyway this would have been the only try for White.]

62...♞c6! This great move was probably missed by Hansen. White is forced to take the knight.

63.♞xc6



63...♞d1?! I thought this move spoils the advantage, but as we'll see, it just makes it much harder to convert it. [The study-like 63...♞e1!! would have won on the spot. 64.♙d4 (64.e5 is probably the best practical chance, but it also leads to a theoretical losing position after 64...a1 ♞ 65.♞xf6+ ♙h7 66.♙xe1 ♞xe5! 67.♞f5 ♞xe1 68.♞xg5 ♞e4+ 69.♙h3 ♙h6 Black has a long-term winning position, by using zugzwangs in the future...; 64.♙xe1 a1 ♞ White should be able to hold the draw here, if his king was not in a mating net. 65.♙c3 ♞d1+ 66.♙h3 ♞h1+

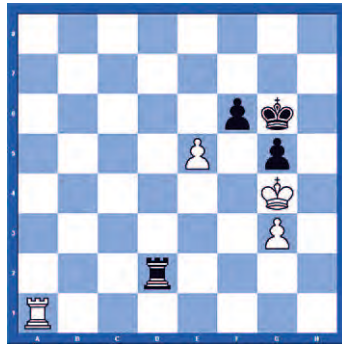
67.♔g4 ♚h5#!) 64...♖xe4+ 65.♔f3 ♖xd4 66.♖a6 ♖d2 is hopeless for White.]

64. ♖d4! Only move.

64...♖xd4 65.♖a6 ♖d2! [65...♖xe4+ is much weaker 66.♔f3 ♖b4 67.♖xa2 White has an easy draw here.]

66.e5 Any exchange of the pawns generally favor the defending side, but now it doesn't help White to survive.

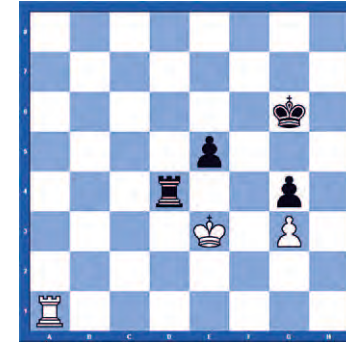
66...a1 ♚! 67.♖xa1



67...♖d4+? This is a mistake, which could have cost him the victory... [With only 30 seconds on the clock, Leko missed the opportunity to play 67...f5+! 68.♔f3 g4+! 69.♔e3 ♖g2! Black wins the g3 pawn, and obtains a winning rook endgame. 70.♔f4 ♖f2+ 71.♔e3 ♖f3+ 72.♔d4 ♖xg3 White's last chance is to create counterplay with the e-pawn, but both attempts fail as we will see. 73.♖e1 (73.♖a8 ♔g5! 74.e6 ♔f6 Black wins.) 73...♖b3! 74.e6 ♖b8 75.♔e5 (75.e7 ♖e8) 75...♔g5! Both sides are focused on his own pawns. 76.e7 f4! 77.♔d6 and now (77.♔d4 ♖e8 is hopeless.) 77...g3! 78.e8 ♚ ♖xe8 79.♖xe8 f3! As the rule says, if two pawns reach the 3rd rank, the rook can't stop

them. This case is not an exception... One of the pawns promotes. 80.♔e5 f2 81.♖g8+ ♔h6]

68.♔f3 g4+ 69.♔e3 fxe5 We have reached a very drawish rook endgame. White has various defensive options...



70. ♖f1?! White tries to cut the king, but this was not the most accurate move. [Probably the easiest would have been 70.♖a8 trying to keep the g4 pawn under attack. 70...♖b4 71.♖g8+ ♔f5 72.♖f8+ ♔e6 73.♖g8= Black can't improve his position.]

70...♖a4 71.♖f8 ♖a3+ 72.♔f2! Only the passive defense saves the game! [72.♔e4? ♖xg3 wins for Black, because after 73.♖g8+ (73.♔xe5 ♖e3+! Black cuts the king with two files from the pawn, which means an easy win for him. 74.♔d4 (74.♔f4? ♖f3+) 74...♖e1) 73...♔f6 74.♖f8+ ♔g7 75.♖f5 ♔g6 76.♖xe5 ♖f3! This is a known position from rook endgame books. The winning line is the following: 77.♖a5 White tries to cut the king along the 5th rank, otherwise the Black king goes ahead of the g-pawn and wins with the „bridge building“ method. 77...♔f6 78.♖b5 ♖f1! 79.♖a5 g3! Black wins because of the g2 threat, which forces White to allow the king to come with ♖a2 and ♔g5...]

72...♖a2+ 73.♔f1! Generally it's not a good sign if the king is squeezed to the back rank, but here this is the only move to survive. [73.♔e3? ♜g2]

73...♖a6 Leko frees his king from the cut, with the idea of ♜f6...

74.♔e2 ♖a2+ Black makes some time-winning random moves. This is the right technique when we play with the 30 seconds increment time control.

75.♔f1 ♜b2 76.♔g1 ♜b6 77.♔g2 ♜d6 78.♔g1 ♜f6 79.♖a8 ♔f5 Finally the king is out, but the position is still drawn...

80.♖a4 [The idea introduced in the 70th move was good enough here as well. 80.♜g8 ♜d6 81.♔f2 ♜d2+ 82.♔f1 ♖a2 with the idea of playing ♔e4! (Would be the winning move, but here White has the concrete 82...♔e4 83.♜xg4+! ♔f3 84.♔e1!= avoiding the mate on the back rank.; 82...e4 83.♜e8= Black can't make progress.) 83.♔g1! Avoiding the trap of ♔e4 ♜xg4 ♔f3! The only try for Black is to give up the pawn with 83...♔e4 84.♜xg4+ ♔f3 85.♜g8 e4 but White makes a comfortable draw after 86.♜f8+ ♔e3 (86...♔xg3 87.♔f1=; 86...♔e2?? 87.♜f2+) 87.g4 ♔d3 88.♜d8+ ♔e2 89.♔g2! The idea is to sacrifice the rook for the e-pawn and promote the g-pawn with the help of the king. Black has nothing against it. 89...e3 90.♔g3 ♔e1 91.g5 e2 92.♜e8=]

80...♜d6 81.♔f2 ♜d2+ 82.♔f1 ♜d4 [82...e4 83.♖a5+ ♔f6 Without the king, Black can't make progress. 84.♜b5=]

83.♜a2 ♜d3 84.♔f2 ♔e4 85.♜a4+ ♜d4 86.♜a2 White found a very safe defensive setup. Black can't really break it, but of course he can try as long as he wants.

86...♜c4 87.♔e2 [87.♜e2+ ♔d5 88.♜d2+ ♜d4 89.♜a2= was completely fine.]

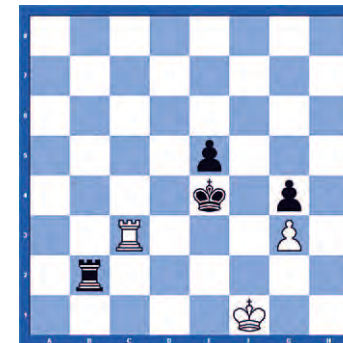
87...♜b4 88.♜c2 ♜b3 89.♜c4+ ♔f5 90.♔f2 ♜f3+ 91.♔g2 ♜d3 92.♔f2 ♜d2+ 93.♔f1 ♜d4 Leko is trying to confuse his opponent by maneuvering, and suddenly, after a stubborn defense, Hansen decides to defend differently... It was a slightly strange decision...

94.♜c3?! [94.♜c2 was the right move!]

94...♜b4 [94...♔e4 95.♔e2]

95.♔e2? Black is winning after this move. [95.♜c2! was still the right move. Probably the only one to save the game.]

95...♜b2+ 96.♔f1 ♔e4 Black wants to play ♜d2-d3, followed by penetrating with the king on the 3rd rank. White can't avoid this threat.



97.♜a3 [97.♜c4+ is met with 97...♔e3! (97...♔f3 98.♜c3+ Black has to retreat.) 98.♜c3+ (when the pawn is untouch-

able 98. ♖xg4? because of 98... ♔f3) 98... ♔d4 and e4 is the next.]

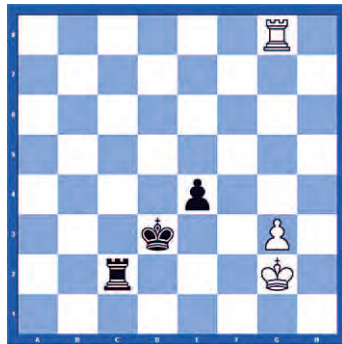
97... ♖d2 98. ♖a4+ ♖d4! Black gets his king to e3 in any case, then he can calmly advance his e-pawn.

99. ♖a2 [99. ♖a3 ♖d3 100. ♖a5 ♔f3! wins.; 99. ♖a5 ♖d5! 100. ♖a4+ ♔e3! We already know this trick well, e4 is coming next. 101. ♖xg4 ♔f3]

99... ♖d3? This is a strange mistake, which would never happen if the players had more time or if the game would have been played for less than 6 hours already. Now the game is drawn again! [99... ♔e3! would have easily won.]

100. ♔f2 ♖f3+ 101. ♔g2 ♖c3 102. ♖a4+ ♔d3 Leko tries his last attempt, giving up the g-pawn...

103. ♖xg4 e4 104. ♖g8 ♖c2+

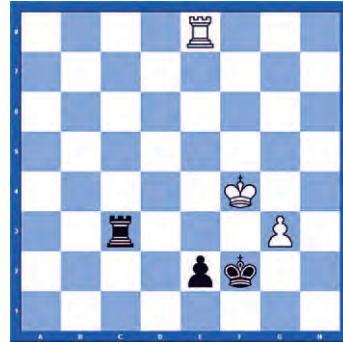


105. ♔f1!! Excellent move! I must say, pretty much an illogical one. Most of us would have gone with the king to h3, where it can support the g-pawn. [However Black is winning after 105. ♔h3 e3 106. ♖d8+ ♔c3 107. ♖e8 e2 108.g4 (108. ♔g4 ♔d2 109. ♔f5 e1 ♔ 110. ♖xe1 ♔xe1 111. g4 This is very similar to the final position of the game. The huge difference is that the rook is on the 2nd rank,

which leaves the g3 square free for the Black king. The only win is 111... ♖f2+! 112. ♔e6 ♖g2 113. ♔f5 ♔f2! 114.g5 ♔g3! 115.g6 ♔h4 116. ♔f6 ♔h5 117.g7 ♔h6) 108... ♔d2 109. g5 (109. ♔g3 transposes to the previous line. 109... e1 ♔+ 110. ♖xe1 ♔xe1 111. ♔f4 (111.g5 loses to 111... ♖c4! An important motif, cutting the king and when White pushes his pawn, the Black rook attacks and wins it.) 111... ♖g2! 112.g5 ♔f2 113. ♔f5 ♔g3 114.g6 ♔h4 115. ♔f6 ♔h5 116. g7 ♔h6) 109... ♖c3+ (109... ♖c4 cutting the king works as well. 110.g6 e1 ♔ 111. ♖xe1 ♔xe1 112.g7 ♖c8 and ♖g8 next.) 110. ♔g4 ♖e3 wins.]

105... ♖c1+ 106. ♔g2 e3 107. ♖d8+ ♔e2 108. ♖a8?! This is just a waste of time, but not a decisive mistake. [108.g4 leads to an easy draw. 108... ♔e1 109. ♖e8 e2 Here White has different ways to draw. The easiest one is 110.g5 ♔d2 (110... ♖c5 is met with 111. ♔f3! ♖f5+ 112. ♔g4=) 111. ♔f3 e1 ♔ 112. ♖xe1 ♖xe1 113. ♔f4! and Black must give up his rook for the pawn. 113... ♖g1 114. ♔f5 ♔e3 115.g6=]

108... ♔e1 At this moment, White lost on time, but right after it happened, Hansen admitted that the game was over anyway. However, White has a study-like way to draw..[108... ♔e1 109. ♔f3! (109.g4? loses to 109... e2 110.g5 ♔d2 111. ♖d8+ ♔c3 112. ♖c8+ ♔b2 113. ♖b8+ ♔a3 The Black king seems to be very far from the g-pawn, but it's still on time to catch it. 114. ♖e8 e1 ♔ 115. ♖xe1 ♖xe1 116. ♔f3 (116.g6? ♖e6) 116... ♖g1 117. ♔f4 ♔b4 118. ♔f5 ♔c5 119.g6 ♔d6 120. ♔f6 ♖f1+ 121. ♔g7 ♔e7 122. ♔h7 ♖g1 123.g7 ♔f7) 109... e2 110. ♖e8 ♖c3+ 111. ♔f4 ♔f2 This is the position that both players had foreseen. Unexpectedly, White can save the game with



112. ♖xe2+! (Not 112.g4? because of 112... ♜f3+! 113. ♔g5 ♜e3) 112... ♔xe2 113.g4! The following line confirms the evaluation: 113... ♜f3+ This is generally the principled method.

a) 113... ♜c4+ 114. ♔f5 ♔f3 115.g5 ♜c5+ 116. ♔f6 ♔g4 117. g6 ♜c6+ 118. ♔f7 ♔h5 119.g7 ♜c7+ 120. ♔f8=;

b) 113... ♔d3 114.g5 ♔d4 115.g6 ♔d5 (115... ♜c1 116. ♔f5 ♔d5 117.g7 ♜g1 118. ♔f6=) 116.g7! ♜c8 117. ♔f5=;

c) 113... ♔f2 114.g5 ♜g3 115. ♔f5;

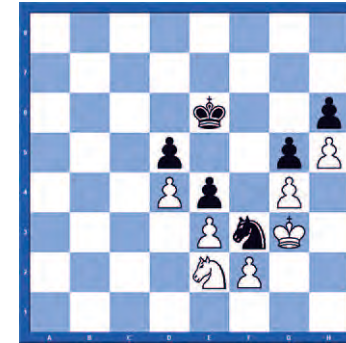
114. ♔e5 ♜g3 115. ♔f5 ♔f3 116.g5 and now, compared to the 105. ♔h3 line, Black doesn't have ♔g3, he must waste a decisive tempo on it. 116... ♜g2 117.g6 ♔g3 118. ♔f6 ♔h4 119.g7 ♔h5 120. ♔f7= White is just on time!]

0-1

(16) Gustafsson, Jan (2610) – Stupak, Kirill (2523) [A40]

40th Olympiad Open Istanbul TUR (10.4), 07.09.2012

[Chess Evolution]



After a long fight, Gustafsson could reach nothing more than this knight endgame. This game was very important for the match outcome — so there was no choice for White, he had to win. It was a must! Let's take a look at how Jan managed to do this.

52. ♔h3 ♔f6 Black can't do much more than just keep waiting.

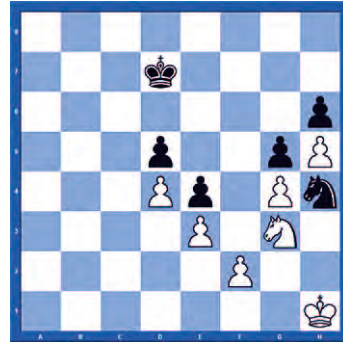
53. ♘g3 White is threatening to place the knight on f5, attacking the pawn h6.

53... ♘h4 And of course, Black doesn't allow him to do it.

54. ♔h2! The beginning of the right plan!

54... ♔e6 55. ♔h1! White is preparing to play f3.

55... ♔d7



56.f3! Here comes the breakthrough. Black still can't play Nxf3 because of Nf5 , with an easily winning position.

56...exf3 57.Kg1 White is going to collect the f3 pawn now.

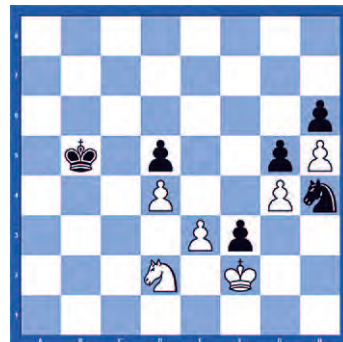
57...Kd6 58.Kf1 This move makes no sense. Of course, Kf2 was possible immediately.

58...Kd7 59.Kf2 Kc6! Black needs the king on b4!

60.Nf1 Kb5! 61.Ng3 Gustafsson repeats moves to win some time — they got 30 seconds every additional move.

61...Kc6 62.Nf1 [Of course not Nf5 Nxf5?? gxf5 g4]

62...Kb5 63.Nd2



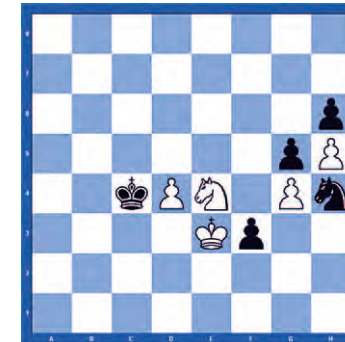
63...Kb4! Now the question is: if White plays Nxf3 , will he have a winning or a drawn pawn endgame? Let's take a look:

64.e4! [Nxf3? would have been a terrible mistake! $\text{64...Nxf3 65.Kxf3 65...Kc4!}$ Only this move gives Black a draw! The White king can't get to the d2 square. 66.Kc2 Kc3 and White can't do anything. Against e4, Black always has Kxd4 .]

64...dxe4 [64...Kc3? 65.e5]

65.Nxe4 Kc4 Black did the maximum he could. The pawns are still equal and every exchange of pawns gets closer to a draw.

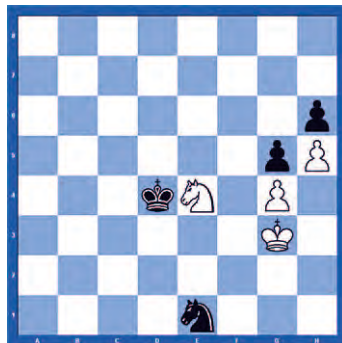
66.Kc3



66...Ng2+? A terrible mistake, and the draw was so close. [66...f2! would give Black the result he expected. $\text{67.Kxf2 at 67.Nf2 Ng2}$ with an immediate draw. $\text{67...Kxd4 68.Nf6 Ke5 69.Ng8 Kf4 70.Nxh6 Nf3 71.Nf7 Nh2!}$ Probably Black blundered the move Nh2 in this long forced line. But now the position is a complete draw!]

67.Kxf3 Ne1+ 68.Kg3! Black is losing both pawns now.

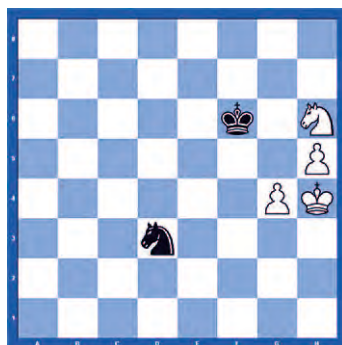
68...Kxd4



69. ♖xg5! And Black, unfortunately, will lose the h6 pawn as well.

69... ♔e5 **70.** ♖f7+ [Of course not **70.** ♖f3+? ♖xf3 **71.** ♔xf3 ♔f6 **72.** ♔f4 ♔e6 and this pawn endgame is a draw.]

70... ♔f6 **71.** ♖xh6 ♖d3 **72.** ♔h4 he rest needs no comments. It's too easy, the h- and g- pawns are just too much to give Black any chance for a draw.



72... ♖e5 **73.** g5+ ♔e6 **74.** ♔g3 ♖d7 **75.** ♔f4 ♖e5 **76.** ♖g4 ♖d3+ What an interesting endgame with a dramatic finish! I guess both players will remember this game because of its importance...

77. ♔e3 1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Pirc,Vasja – Alekhine,Alexander [D32]

Bled Bled, 31.08.1931

[*Chess Evolution*]

A classical attacking game by Alekhine.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c5 4.cxd5 cxd4 A tricky sideline of the Tarrasch defense, where Black sacrifices a pawn right in the 4th move in order to gain some tempi in the development. At that time, without the computers, it had the shocking effect even on such good players as Pirc.



5.♔a4+!? [5.♔xd4 leads to the game by transposition after 5...♘c6! 6.♔d1 exd5 7.♔xd5 ♕d7]

5...♕d7 6.♔xd4 exd5 7.♔xd5 ♘c6 This is the starting position of the line. Black's next move is ♘f6, followed by a quick development with ♕c5 and 0–0. Sometimes castling queenside is also possible.

8.♕g5?! This logical developing move is already a big mistake, after which Black probably already has enough

compensation for the pawn. [As practice showed later, White should play 8.♘f3 ♘f6 9.♔d1 ♕c5 and here a new generation top GM, Wang Yue, came up with a strong novelty 10.a3 The idea is to have ♘a4 against the ♔b6 attempts in order to prevent the ♕b4 check. 10...0–0 (10...♔b6 11.e3 ♕e7 Black had to retreat with an active piece to prevent ♘a4. (11...0–0–0? loses to 12.♘a4) 12.♕e2+= White successfully finishes the development.) 11.♕g5 (The computer's suggestion 11.♕f4!? is also good 11...♔b6 12.e3 and White is better. 12...♔xb2? 13.♘a4+-) 11...♔b6 12.e3 ♕e7 (12...♔xb2? 13.♕xf6 gxf6 14.♘a4 traps the queen.) 13.♕d3 ♕g4 14.♔c2 h6 15.♕h4 ♖fd8 16.0–0 ♕xf3 17.gxf3+= White had a healthy extra pawn. The game showed well that such kind of chess doesn't work anymore in the 21st century.]

8...♘f6 9.♔d2 h6! Leaving White in a very difficult situation. Both possible continuations have their big drawbacks...

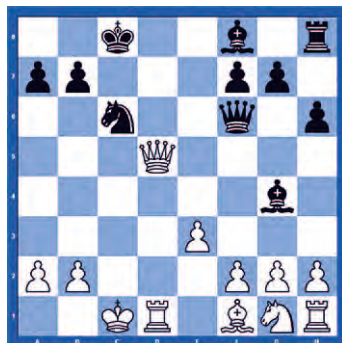
10.♕xf6 White decided to gave up the bishop pair and help Black to finish the development with 0–0–0. [However 10.♕h4 is not much better either. Black plays 10...g5 11.♕g3 ♔a5 followed by 0–0–0, with strong counterplay.]

10...♔xf6 11.e3 0–0–0! We can clearly see that Black won the opening battle. His position is clearly worth a pawn.

12.0–0–0? This is objectively the decisive mistake. White probably blundered the 14th move of the World Champion. However a move like 12. ♔c1 doesn't look much better either.

12...♙g4! 13.♘d5 This intermediate move was White's hope, but Alekhine nicely out-calculated his opponent.

13...♖xd5! 14.♙xd5



14...♙a3!! Probably came as a thunder from the blue sky for Pirc. The Black rook is coming to d8. White has to pay for his undeveloped pieces on the kingside.

15.♙b3 White starts to defend resourcefully, but his position is already hopeless. [15.bxa3 loses to 15...♙a1+ 16.♙c2 ♙xd1+ 17.♙xd1 ♙xa2+ 18.♙c3 ♖d8! Black is winning. A nice finish could be 19.♙d3 ♙xa3+! 20.♙b3 ♖xd3+!]

15...♙xd1 16.♙xa3 [16.♙xd1 doesn't help either because of 16...♙xf2 Black equalizes the material and his attack continues to roll. 17.♘f3 ♖d8+ 18.♙c1 ♙xb2+! 19.♙xb2 ♖d1+ 20.♙xd1 ♙xb2]

16...♙xf2! With the double threat of ♙c2 and ♙xf1, White has only one move to keep resisting.

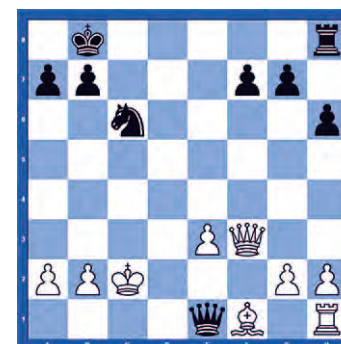
17.♙d3 ♙g4 [On the most obvious 17...♖d8 White prepared 18.♘h3!; However 17...♙a4 was also winning. 18.♘f3 (18.b3 ♖d8 19.♙e2 ♙f6! penetrating on the weak-

ened diagonal.) 18...♖d8 19.♙f5+ ♖d7! Black wins.(But not 19...♙b8 20.♙f4+! and the bishop falls on a4.)]

18.♘f3 ♙xf3! No mistakes in the attack by Alekhine! [It was not too late to spoil the advantage with 18...♖d8 19.♙e2 forcing the exchange of queens.]

19.♙f5+ [19.gxf3 ♙xf3 20.♖g1 ♖d8 is equally hopeless.]

19...♙b8 20.♙xf3 ♙e1+ 21.♙c2 [21.♙d1 was objectively better, but 21...♙xe3+ 22.♙d2 Black has an extra pawn and keeps his attacking chances with 22...♙e5]



21...♖c8! Blundering White's idea?!

22.♙g3+ ♙e5+!! Of course not! Alekhine prepared this great counter-check! White gets mated soon.

23.♙b3 ♙d1+ 24.♙a3 ♖c5! It was enough for White. Too many shocking moments in only 24 moves.

0-1

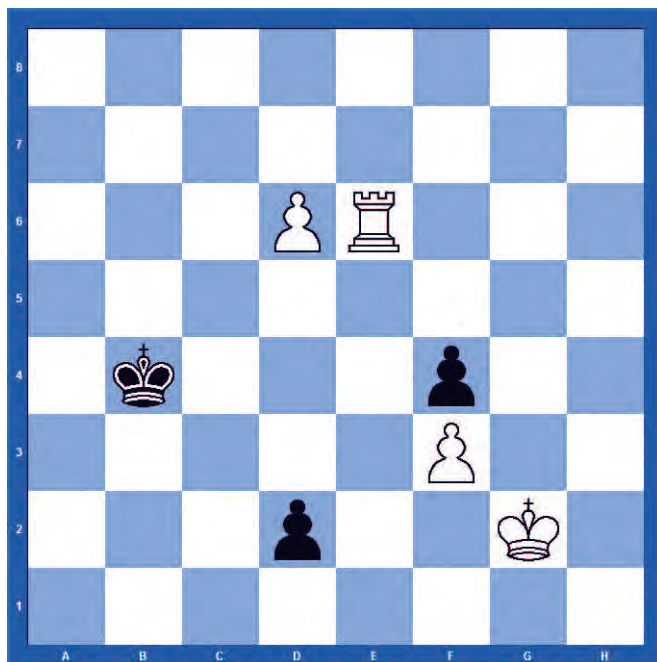
Surprise section / study

(18) Rinck,H

1920

[CEWN]

1.+-

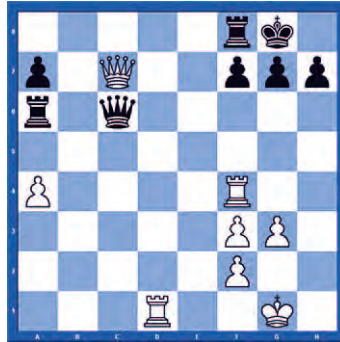


Solutions

(19) Aronian,L (2816) – Rahman,Z (2516)

Olympiad, 29.08.2012

[Solutions]

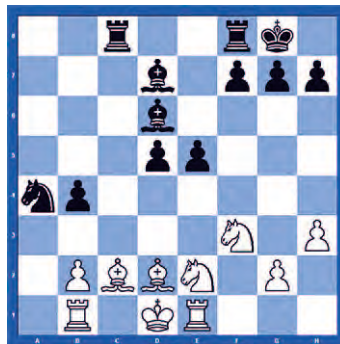


35. ♔xf7+! 1-0 [35. ♔xf7+ ♖xf7 36. ♖d8++-]

(20) Ziska,H (2469) – Radjabov,T (2788)

Olympiad, 30.08.2012

[Solutions]



30... ♖xc2! 31.b3 [31. ♔xc2 ♗f5+ 32. ♔b3 (32. ♔c1 ♖c8+-) 32... ♗c5+ 33. ♔xb4 ♖b8+ 34. ♔a3 (34. ♔c3

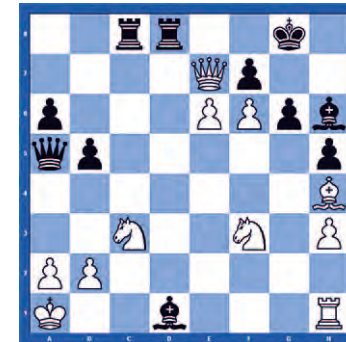
♖b3#) 34... ♖a8+ 35. ♔b4 ♖a4+ 36. ♔b5 (36. ♔c3 ♖c4#) 36... ♗d7+ 37. ♔b6 ♖a6#]

31... ♖cc8 0-1

(21) Stellwagen,D (2630) – Shanava,K (2569)

Olympiad, 30.08.2012

[Solutions]



27... ♖xc3!! 28.exf7+ [28. ♔xf7+ ♔h8--]

28... ♔h8 29. ♗g5 ♗b3 [29... ♗f8--]

30.a3 ♗f8! 31. ♗e5 ♗c2 0-1

(22) Wang Yue (2685) – Grischuk,A (2763)

Olympiad, 31.08.2012

[Solutions]



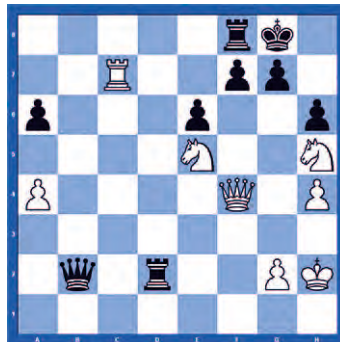
25... ♖h2+! 26. ♔f1 [26. ♔xh2 ♘f3+-+]

26... ♖h1+ 27. ♔g2 ♖h2+ 28. ♔f1 ♔h7! 0-1 [28... ♔h7 29. ♔f6+ ♔g8 30. ♔g5+ ♔f7-+]

(23) Ivanchuk,V (2769) – Wojtaszek,R (2717)

Olympiad, 31.08.2012

[Solutions]



35. ♘f6+! gxf6 [35... ♔h8 36. ♘g6+! fxg6 37. ♔xh6+! gxh6 38. ♖h7#]

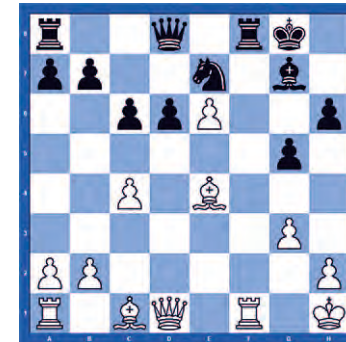
36. ♔g3+ ♔h7 [36... ♔h8 37. ♘xf7+ ♖xf7 38. ♖c8+ ♔h7 39. ♔g8#]

37. ♖xf7+ 1-0 [37. ♖xf7+ ♖xf7 38. ♔g6+ ♔h8 39. ♘xf7#]

(24) Berkes,F (2685) – Pacher,M (2442)

Olympiad, 31.08.2012

[Solutions]



19. ♙xg5!! d5 [19... hxc5 20. ♔h5+-; 19... ♖xf1+ 20. ♔xf1 hxc5 21. ♔f7+ ♔h8 22. ♔h5+ ♔g8 23. ♔h7+ ♔f8 24. ♖f1+-+]

20. ♙c2 ♖xf1+ 21. ♔xf1 dxc4 [21... hxc5 22. ♔f7+ ♔h8 23. ♔h5+ ♔g8 24. ♖f1+-]

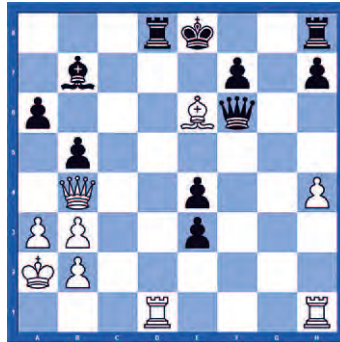
22. ♖d1 [22. ♔f7+ ♔h8 23. ♖d1!+-]

22... ♔e8 23. ♙xe7 ♔xe7 24. ♔f5+-

(25) Bologan,V (2734) – Munoz,L (2428)

Olympiad, 31.08.2012

[Solutions]

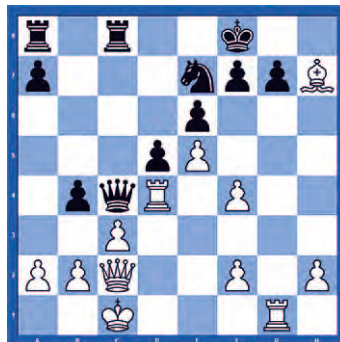


28. ♖xf7+! ♜xf7 [28...♜xf7 29. ♖df1+-]
29. ♖xd8+ ♜xd8 30. ♜d4+ [30. ♖d1+ ♜e8 31. ♜d4+-]
30...♜c7 31. ♖c1+ ♜b8 32. ♜xh8+-

(26) Cubas,J (2507) – Illescas Cordoba,M (2601)

Olympiad, 01.09.2012

[Solutions]

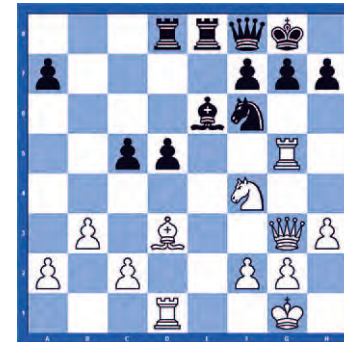


23... ♜xd4! [23... ♜xa2 24. ♖xb4]
24. cxd4 g6! 25. ♜d2 ♖xc2+ 26. ♜xc2 ♖c8+ 27. ♜d3
♜g7 0-1

(27) Muzychuk,M (2466) – Zhao Xue (2549)

Olympiad Women, 30.08.2012

[Solutions]

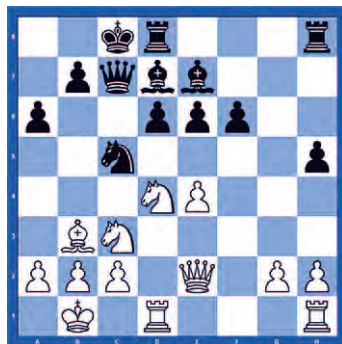


22. ♘h5! ♘xh5 23. ♖xh7+!! ♜h8 [23...♜xh7 24. ♖xh5+
♜g8 25. ♜h4+-]
24. ♖xh5+-

(28) Cheparinov,I (2681) – Leiva,G (2283)

Olympiad, 01.09.2012

[Solutions]



17. ♖xe6 [17. ♖xe6!]

17... ♖xe6 [17... ♖xe6 18. ♖d5+-]

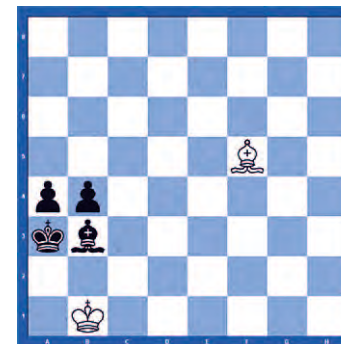
18. ♖xe6+ ♖xe6 19. ♖d5 ♖c5 [19... ♖d7 20. ♖b6+-]

20. ♖xe7+-

(29) Moravec,J

1929

[Solutions]



1. ♖a1! ♖c4 [1... ♖a2 2. ♖c2! b3 3. ♖xb3!=]

2. ♖d3! ♖d5 [2... ♖xd3=; 2... ♖b3 3. ♖c2+! ♖xc2=]

3. ♖e4! ♖g8 4. ♖h7 ♖xh7= 1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 30

21st of September 2012

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Editorial Preface

The week after the Olympiad seems like an empty one. But of course, this is not true. Many exciting tournaments are going on all around the world.

From the main events, the female Grand Prix is definitely the most important. Once again, the best female players are fighting for prizes and the possibility to qualify to the WCC match against the current World Champion Hou Yifan.

The Balkan Grand Prix Final is a new event and immediately got a lot of attention. The first seed, Baadur Jobava, had a bad tournament, but the Bulgarian Ivan Cheparinov showed some really great chess!

During the next week, a lot of league events are starting: the Bulgarian league, the Serbian league, the Croatian league (where both of Your commentators are playing).

The Bilbao Final Masters starts on September 23rd and in a little more than 10 days, the male Grand Prix begins in London.

A lot of events where we will certainly see very exciting games!

As usual, we wish You a lot of fun with the current issue of CEWN!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Jobava,Ba (2734) – Malakhov,V (2700) [C53]

Black Sea Countries Burgas BUL (1), 12.09.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Baadur Jobava is a very creative and aggressive player, especially when he has the White pieces. On many of his games we can find new ideas and some great fighting middlegames. In this game, from a position that was about equal, Baadur tries to keep a lot of tension in the center and blunders a great tactic by Malakhov. We'll see a short and very spectacular game.

1.e4 Jobava's main move is 1. d4, but he likes to play 1.e4 against players that mainly answer with 1...e5.

1...e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4 Jobava's favorite Italian.

3...♙c5 4.c3 [4.b4 In a few of his previous games, Baadur tried this move, but it seems that he had enough of it, and instead goes for one of the main lines.]

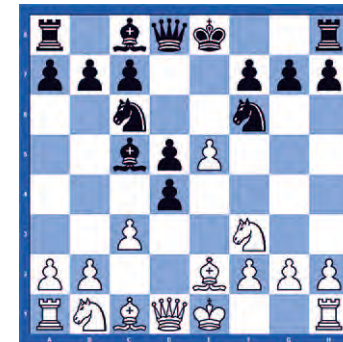


4...♘f6 5.d4 exd4 6.e5 Probably the only try for White to get an advantage. [6.cxd4 ♙b4+ 7.♙d2 ♙xd2+ 8.♘bxd2

d5! 9.exd5 ♘xd5 and White has nothing better than to make a draw by playing 10.♙b3 ♘a5 11.♙a4+ ♘c6 12.♙b3 ♘a5]

6...d5 The main move for Black.

7.♙e2!? This move was tried before as well, by Vallejo. [7.♙b5 ♘e4 8.cxd4 ♙b6 This is the main line which is considered to be OK for Black.]



7...♘e4 8.cxd4 ♙b6 [8...♙b4+ 9.♙d2 ♘xd2 10.♘bxd2 0-0 11.0-0 Black got the bishop pair, but White's much better pawn structure gives him a slightly better position. This was seen in the game Vallejo,P-Ponomarev 2011]

9.♘c3 Jobava is improving on his own game that was played just a few months ago against Kamsky. [9.0-0 ♙g4 10.♙e3 f5! Typical and important move for Black in many lines. 11.exf6 ♙xf6 12.♘c3 0-0-0 and Black was doing fine, and even managed to win the game. Jobava, B-Kamsky, G. Amsterdam 2012.]

9...0-0 [9...♙g4 10.♙e3 and we can see a clear difference, Black doesn't have the f5 move because after exf6, Black can't take back with the queen due to the simple ♘xd5.]

10.0-0

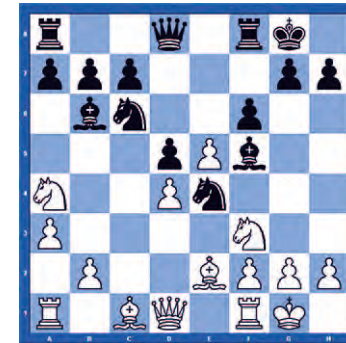


10...♘f5 A slightly unusual play by Black. More normal is 10...♘g4 or maybe even 10...f5. [10...♘g4 11.♘e3 and now the very important! 11...f6! (The usual 11...f5 would be the wrong choice now. 12.♙c1! This is what White was hoping for! Now he's threatening to play ♘xd5 and at the same time stopping Black from pushing f5-f4. 12...♘xf3 The only chance for Black is to force matters. 13.gxf3! ♘xd4 14.fxe4 White is a piece and doing clearly better, but some tension still remains in the position.) 12.exf6 ♘xf6 I think this position should be close to equal. But here we find an important psychological moment: usually White has this position a tempo down, because instead of 7.♘e2, the main move is 7.♘b5, but I think that a tempo shouldn't matter much here and that Black should be doing fine.]

11.♘a4 As usual, Jobava is being very creative — the main idea for White is to try not to exchange the knight from c3 for the bishop on b6. The usual move 11.♘e3 would lead to about an equal position after 11...♘g6, followed by f5.

11...f6!? Of course! White takes away a piece from the center, to a4 — and Black immediately starts his play in the center.

12.a3 Wow, what a move! Baadur is telling Malakhov: „You don't have any move to improve Your position and I'm not afraid of fxe5". Well. .. of course, objectively, a move like 12.a3 can't be good, but from a practical point of view, it makes some sense — it's really hard to find the right continuation for Black. [12.exf6 ♙xf6 would just lead to some good play for Black.]



12...fxe5?! White's dreams are starting to come true. It would be very interesting to see what Baadur had prepared against 12...♙e7!, basically forcing White to play 13.exf6, after which White's position can never be better.

13.♘xb6 [Of course not 13.dxe5? ♘xf2+! 14.♙xf2 ♘xf2 15.♙xf2 ♘xe5 A rook and two pawns plus an attack are clearly more than enough to be very well here with Black.]

13...axb6 14.♘xe5 Black has to face his first small problems.

14...♘xe5 Malakhov is going for a very sharp position. [In case of the usual 14...♙f6 15.♘xc6 (15.f4 ♘d6 followed by ♘e4 and ♘f5 is good for Black.) 15...bxc6 16.♘f4 The White bishop is going to occupy a perfect square on e5. White will develop good play on the kingside in the future with g3 and f4. I think that White's position should be

better here. However, probably this better is just „a little better“.]

15.dxe5 ♞c5! The right place for the Black knight is on e6, but the question is: is Black in time to do it?

16. ♞e3 ♞e6 We are at a critical position. If Black doesn't lose anything during next move, his position will be very good, but it's still White's turn...



17.g4? White is starting the action, but on the wrong side! [17. ♞b3! would have been a very unpleasant move for Black. White wants to win the d5 pawn by playing ♞ad1 next. 17... ♞h8 It's hard to find a better way to defend the d5 pawn. 18. ♞ad1 d4! Now we see why ♞h8 was necessary. It's never good for Black to push d5-d4. Now the Black bishop will be under attack on e4. 19.f4 The position is very complex, but I think that White should be doing a bit better here. White's idea of playing g4 followed by f5 is strategically very dangerous for Black.]

17... ♞g6 [17... ♞e4 18.f3 ♞g6 19.f4 ♞e4 would lead to the same position as in the game.]

18.f4 ♞e4! White's center is dangerous, but at the same time, in danger. The Black bishop on e4 is a beast and any

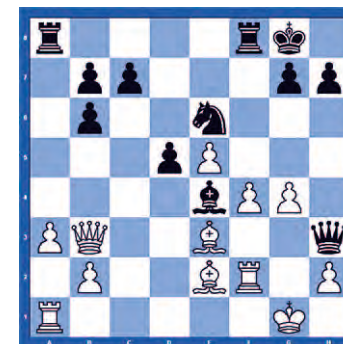
weakening of the White king could almost lead to mate! White needs to be very careful now.

19. ♞b3? White doesn't feel the danger and doesn't realize he needed to stay „alive“. [19. ♞f3! To get rid of the bishop on e4 should be clearly the first priority. 19... ♞xf3 20. ♞xf3 d4 21. ♞ad1 ♞a5! The Black rook is coming into the game through a5. The position is very complex, but from a practical point of view, it's much easier to play for Black... White has a lot of things hanging and it's very easy to blunder a tactical blow.]

19... ♞h4! The beginning of White's end! Black is of course bringing his queen closer to the White king. Suddenly, the threat of playing ♞h3 has become deadly...

20. ♞f2 Nothing else to do, White can't stop Black from playing ♞h3 next. In case of 20. ♞d2?, ♞d4! almost finishes the game.

20... ♞h3! The Black queen takes a perfect position. The bishop on e3 is pinned. Black is just threatening to play ♞d4 or ♞xf4 next.

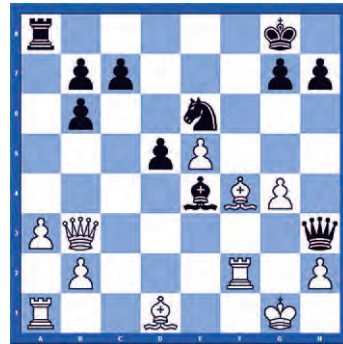


21. ♞d1 This logical move is already losing. White blunders a very nice tactic. [21. ♞c3 was the only way to con-

tinue the game — even if to do such a move is very difficult because it just leads to a bad position. 21...d4 Easy and good. 22. ♖xd4 ♘xf4 23. ♖f1 ♔xg4+ 24. ♔g3 Black is a pawn up, but White is still fighting. The bishop pair gives White good chances for a draw.]

21... ♖xf4! What a beautiful tactic!

22. ♖xf4



22... ♘xf4 White is completely paralyzed.

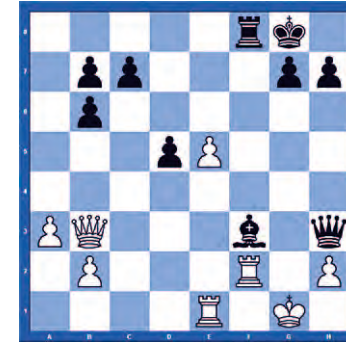
23. ♖f3 Giving Black a chance to finish the game in great style. [Of course, it doesn't help to play 23. ♔xh3 ♘xh3+ 24. ♖f1 ♘xf2 25. ♖xf2 ♔f8+ and Black is totally winning.]

23... ♘e2+! Malakhov is in good tactical shape and doesn't allow any chance to slip away from him.

24. ♖xe2 ♖xf3 And we can clearly see that Black is just destroying White. Just a few moves ago, the whole position was very unclear.

25. ♖f2 ♔xg4+ 26. ♖f1 ♔f8 Bringing the last piece into the game. Black has two pawns for the exchange plus a very strong attack. White is just hopeless.

27. ♖e1 ♔h3+ 28. ♖g1



28... ♖f4 What a final position! I think Jobava was very upset after losing this kind of game, but he had his chances. All in all, the line with c3-d4 is not a real attempt to get an opening advantage, and probably we won't see Baadur playing it again for a while...

0-1

(2) Kotic,D (2517) – Balogh,Cs (2668) [D05]

Hungarian league, 16.09.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

I played an interesting game in the Hungarian team championship. My opponent is a very safe, hard-to-beat GM, but today he was in sacrificing mood.

1.d4 ♘f6 2. ♘f3 e6 3.e3 My opponent's favorite opening. I have already lost a game against him, where I played 3...b6. This time I was much better prepared, and I believe I managed to find a very solid setup against this whole system.

3...d5 4. ♘d3 c5 5.b3 White's general idea is to develop with ♘b2, ♘bd2, 0-0, ♘e5 and f4, building an aggressive attacking position. I decided to allow all this.

5... ♘c6 6.0-0 ♘d6 7. ♘b2 0-0 8. ♘bd2 b6 9. ♘e5 ♘b7 10.f4 Here we are, both sides have finished developing, it's time to find good plans in the middlegame. In my preparation, I met with a great game played two years ago by the Russian Super-GM Evgeny Tomashevsky. When I saw the game, I immediately decided to follow it. A very important detail is that Black must keep the tension in the center, waiting for cxd4 until the right moment. We'll understand the subtleties soon.



10... ♖c8! Black threatens to take with cxd4 and on exd4, ♘b4, capturing the strong light-squared bishop. White must parry this by:

11.a3 ♘e7! Black plays on the weakened light squares, e4 and f5. The drawback of White's setup is that if Black installs a knight on e4, he can't kick it out with f3, while on the other hand, Black will be ready to play f6. So, the plan is to play ♘e4 and now we understand why it was so important not to include the moves cxd4 exd4. In that case, White could simply play ♖e2 or ♖f3, preventing Black's idea.

12. ♖e2 [The whole point of Black's strategy comes out after 12. ♖f3 b5! with the threat of c4, which forces White to make unfavorable exchanges. White generally would like to avoid changing the pawn structure in the center. 13. ♘xb5 (13.dxc5 ♘xc5 14. ♘xb5 Black wins a pawn and obtains a better position with 14... ♖b6!) 13...cxd4 14. ♘xd4 ♖xc2 =+ with a slightly more comfortable position for Black.]

12... ♘e4! Black successfully finished his plan.

13.dxc5 At this moment, it was already clear to me what was my opponent's intention, but I was not afraid of the attack. [13. ♘xe4 dxe4 14. ♘c4 happened in the „ideal game”, but Tomashevsky overtook the initiative with 14... cxd4 15.exd4 ♘f5! =+ Black is better, the e4 pawn is very strong. The White bishops are not well coordinated (if he had a pawn on c4 and a bishop on c2, White would enjoy a big advantage), while the knight will be soon sent away from e5. 16.a4 ♖e7 By protecting the e6 pawn, Black prepares to play f6 in the near future. First, he can activate his rook with ♖fd8 or ♖c7-Rfc8. 17. ♘g4?! This is definitely

not a good move, White should have waited until Black pushes f6, creating a small weakness on e6. Now Black has a „free hand“ on the position. 17...♖c7 18.g3?! White protects the f4-pawn in order to win the e4-pawn with ♘f2, but this seriously weakens the h1–a8 long diagonal. 18...♖fc8 with the idea of playing ♕d5 and the c2-pawn falls. 19.c3 ♖d8 20.♘f2 And here Tomashevsky obtained a decisive attack with



20...e3! 21.♘g4 ♖xc4! 22.bxc4 ♕a8! Followed by ♖b7 next. White is in deep trouble. 23.♖ad1 ♖b7 24.d5 ♕c5! White can't hold the e3 pawn and the bishop on c5. Black simply wants to take on d5. 25.♖g2 exd5 26.cxd5 ♖xd5 Black is completely winning, but the finishing line was also nice: 27.♖h3 ♖c8 28.♖xd5 ♕xd5 29.c4 ♕e6 30.♖g2 ♘h4+! 31.gxh4 ♕xg4 32.♖d3 ♕h3+ 33.♖f3 ♖g4+ 0-1 Cori-Tomashevsky, Khanty-Mansiysk Olympiad 2010.]

13...♘xc5! [13...♕xc5 was also possible 14.b4 ♘xd2 15.♖xd2 ♕d6 = with equal chances.]

14.♕xh7+!? This was the point of 13.dxc5, otherwise Black simply takes on d3, getting an obvious advantage with the bishop pair and a better pawn structure. [14.

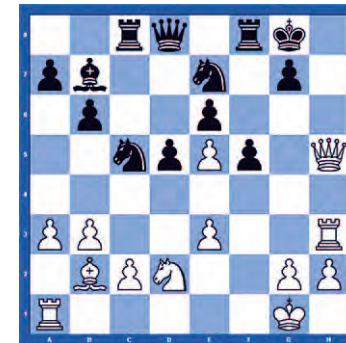
♘df3 f6 15.♘g4 ♘xd3 16.cxd3 ♖d7 =+ with a dreamed position for Black.]

14...♖xh7 15.♖h5+ ♖g8 16.♖f3 At first sight, it looks scary, but there are many resources to defend.

16...f6 Black must give „air“ for the king on f7.

17.♖h3! Who says „A“ must say „B“ as well. [17.♘g4 is completely harmless after 17...♖e8! and the sacrifice doesn't bring anything. 18.♘h6+ gxh6 19.♖xh6 ♘f5! dealing with the ♖g3 threat.]

17...fxe5! [I gave an exclamation mark to the text move because during the game I thought 17...♕xe5 was also promising, but the machine found a brilliant idea: 18.fxe5 f5 This is the idea, closing the b2 bishop, and on ♘f3, with the threat of ♘g5, Black can simply play ♘e4. However, the computer found a really deep move:



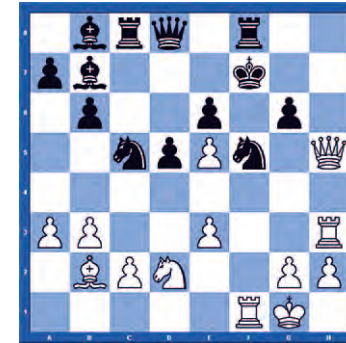
19.a4!! Only move! Completely unexpected, but after all, it's very logical. White wants to play ♕a3. According to the machine, Black has nothing better than forcing a draw with 19...♖e8 Normally, Black should avoid playing this move, since it blocks the escape route of his king.

20. ♖h7+ ♔f7 21. ♖h5+ = and draw by perpetual check, since g6 is a selfmate after ♖h7.]

18. ♘f3?! Very aggressive, but objectively the losing move. Black found some cold-blooded defensive moves later. [The critical line starts with 18.fxe5



18... ♕c7!! The whole line is practically forced for White. (I'm pretty sure that 99 GMs from 100 would play 18... ♕b8 without thinking, keeping the c-file open for the rook. Of course, I would have also played this, but it probably spoils the advantage after 19. ♖h7+! (19. ♘f3 is White's other attacking idea, but this is less dangerous. 19... ♖e4 20. ♖f1 with the idea of ♖h8 and ♘g5 giving a double check. 20... ♖f5! and on 21. ♖h7+ ♔f7 22. g4 Black has a big enough material advantage to give something back from. 22... ♖g8! 23. ♖xg8+ ♔xg8 24. gxf5 ♘xf5 wins.) 19... ♔f7 20. ♖h5+! White wants to give a perpetual check... 20... ♘g6 The only try for the win. (20... g6? is bad in view of 21. ♖f1+ ♘f5 (21... ♔e8 22. ♖xf8+ ♔xf8 23. ♖h8+ ♘g8 24. ♖f3+ +/-)



22. ♖xf5+! White has no choice, he must sacrifice, but now everything works well for him. 22... exf5 23. ♖h7+ ♔e6 (23... ♔e8 24. ♖xg6+ and the rook penetrates on the h-file.) 24. ♖xg6+ ♖f6 25. exf6 White already has 3 pawns for the piece and his attack continues.) 21. ♖f1+ ♔e7 22. ♖xg6 ♖xf1+ 23. ♘xf1 During the game, I saw this position, but I stopped here because my intuition told me that White can't have enough compensation for the piece (also the b2 bishop is out of play). However, I was wrong... Black must protect the g7 pawn... 23... ♖g8 24. ♖h7 ♔f8 White still has energy to improve his position by 25. ♘g3! and against the computer's suggestion 25... ♖f7 26. ♖g5 ♔g8 27. ♖h4 ♖g6 A really nice defense, not afraid of anything, but... 28. ♖h8+ ♔f7 29. ♖xc8 ♕xc8 30. ♖d8! This is the difference. This is why the machine suggests 18... ♕c7!1 as the only move, which leads to an advantage. Just an incredibly deep calculation! 30... ♖xc2 31. ♖xc8 ♖xb2 32. ♖xb8 ♘d3 Black has a tiny edge, but the game should end in a draw.) 19. ♖h7+ ♔f7 20. ♖h5+ ♘g6! 20... g6 would have been bad, just as the 18... ♕b8 line showed. 21. ♖f1+ (After 21. ♖g3 Black preserves his extra piece with 21... ♖e8 22. ♖xg6+ ♔e7) 21... ♔e7 22. ♖xg6 ♖xf1+ 23. ♘xf1 ♖g8! 24. ♖h7 ♔f8! 25. ♘g3 The whole line

goes like the variation with 18...♙b8, but now the cold-blooded defense bares its fruits. 25...♚f7! 26.♚g5 (26. ♖h8+ ♙e7 27.♚g5+ ♙d7 28.♖h7 ♖g8) 26...♙g8! 27.♚h4 ♚g6! and White's counterplay has ran out of strength.]

18...♘e4! To prevent ♘g5.

19.♙xe5 Still, it looks a bit dangerous. White wants to take on g7 followed by mate, and ♙xe5 loses to ♘xe5, but the knights are excellent defenders now.

19...♘f5! In order to protect the g7 pawn. The knight also might go to h6 to close the h-file, in some situations.

20.g4 [20. ♙xd6 ♚xd6 21.♘e5 Black prevents the mate with 21...♘h6!]



20...♘f6! My opponent told me after the game that he had missed this move when he played 18.♘f3. The game is over now. White only has a few checks...

21.♚h8+ Other moves are equally hopeless: [21. ♙xf6 ♚xf6; 21.♚g6 ♚e8; 21.♚g5 ♘xe3]

21...♙f7 22.♘g5+ ♙e7 The queen is trapped. White is forced to give up one of his attacking piece to save it.

[But not 22...♙e8 because of 23.♘xe6! would complicate matters.]

23.♙xf6+ ♚xf6 24.♚h7 Black is two pieces up and completely winning. The last trick is that he should not be greedy and give back one of the pieces.

24...♙d7 [24...♚g8 25.gxf5 ♖xf5 is also winning.; However, it was not too late to blunder the game away with 24...♘h6?? 25.♚xg7+ ♘f7 26.♖h6!! +- and the game is over again, but suddenly White wins.]

25.gxf5 exf5 26.♚xg7+ ♙e7 White is forced to exchange queens.

27.♖h7 ♚xg7 28.♖xg7+ ♙e7 The rest is not interesting anymore. The extra piece decides the game.

29.♖c1 ♖c3! 30.♘h7 [On 30.♙f2 the best is 30...♖h6 31.h3 d4! 32.exd4 ♖h4 The king falls into a mating net 33.♖e1 ♖xf4+ 34.♙g1 ♖g3+ 35.♙h2 ♖g2+ 36.♙h1 ♖xg5+]

30...♖h6 31.♘f8+ ♙d6 32.♘g6 ♙f6 33.♖xb7 ♖xg6+ 34.♙f2 ♙h4+ 35.♙f3 d4 0-1

(3) Wojtaszek,R (2713) – Jakubowski,K (2511) [E42]

Polish league, 16.09.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

A real fighting game from the Polish league. Anand's second, Radoslaw Wojtaszek, nicely outplayed his opponent positionally, but Black resourcefully succeeded to create counterplay and save the game.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♘c3** ♙b4 **4.e3** Wojtaszek definitely had analyzed this opening very deeply, because this was Gelfand's main weapon on the WCC match against Anand. He must have analyzed it over many sleepless nights. Black bravely goes for one of the sharpest lines...

4...b6 **5.♗ge2** c5 **6.a3** ♙a5 **7.♖b1** ♘a6 This is the initial position of the whole line. Both sides have made some artificial moves around the a5 bishop. Black needs to preserve it and quickly create tension in the center, otherwise his pieces get out of play.

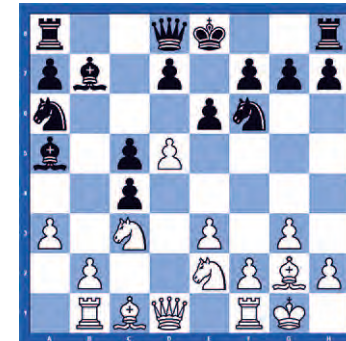


8.g3!? This is the new direction. Earlier, ♙d2 was the mainline.

8...♙b7 **9.d5** A known temporary pawn sacrifice idea from the Queen's Indian with 4.g3.

9...b5! Black needs to undermine the strong central pawns. There is nothing new so far, they are following the theory. [9...exd5 leads to a better position for White. 10.♙g2 0-0 11.0-0 White wants to take on d5 with the knight and the a5 bishop is stuck out of play. Black is forced to take on c3. 11...♙xc3 12.♗xc3 ♘c7 13.cxd5 += White achieved the maximum, e4 is coming next.]

10.♙g2 bxc4 **11.0-0**



11...exd5 Black introduced this novelty here, but I'm not sure if it was a prepared one... [11...0-0 happened mainly in the previous games. 12.e4 d6 (12...exd5!? seems to be the critical move here. 13.e5 ♗g4 14.♙xd5 Looks very good for White with human eyes. He's going to protect the e5 pawn with f4 and the g4 knight is out of play, but on the other hand, the machine doesn't feel any danger for Black. I'm quite sure that the Anand team has a huge analysis in the position, and it means something: they preferred to play it with White.) 13.♙g5 exd5 happened in a Gelfand-Anand rapid game in 2011, but then, this was a quite unexplored territory. White could have gotten an edge with 14.♗xd5 ♙xd5 15.♙xf6 ♖xf6 16.♖xd5 +=]

12.♗xd5 ♗xd5 [12...♖b8 was the alternative, but White keeps his initiative with energetic play: 13.♗xf6+ ♖xf6

14. ♖xb7 ♜xb7 15. ♔d5 White wants to restore the material balance and create a blockade on the d5 square with ♘f4 and ♜d1. Black must try to do something against it. 15... ♖c6 16. ♔xc4 d5 seems to be great for Black, but a small tactical trick changes everything: 17. ♘d4! dxc4 18. ♘xc6 ♖c7 19. ♖d2! ♔d7 20. ♘a5 += with a better end-game for White.]

13. ♖xd5 ♖c8 Here again, White recovers the pawn.

14. ♖xb7 ♜xb7 15. ♔a4 ♖b6 16. ♔xc4 Black is facing a difficult decision, he must choose between two bad lines. One is to allow White to create a fortress on the d5 square, achieving his maximum potential, and the other is to push d5, losing the right to castle.

16...d5 I agree that in a practical game this is the correct decision. [16...0-0 17. ♘c3 ♘c7 18. ♜d1 += is also good for White.]

17. ♔a4+ ♔f8 18.b4! A strong positional move, creating weaknesses and holes in Black's position. The bishop will find its ideal place on the long diagonal. Another difficult choice for Black: to take on b4 or to push c4.

18...cxb4 [18...c4 is also ugly. 19. ♘f4 ♜d8 20. ♖b2 ♘c7 White can execute a brilliant regrouping idea.



21. ♔d1!! +/- First, White transfers his queen to g4 or h5 and only then puts pressure on the d5 pawn with his rooks.]

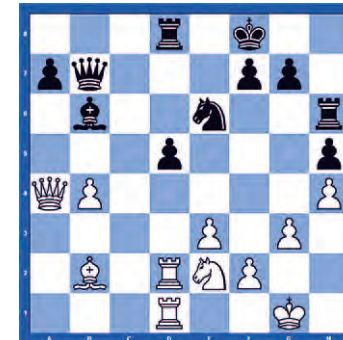
19.axb4 h5! Black pinned his hopes to this move when he played 16...d5. He tries to bring his rook to the game along the 6th rank.

20.h4 Obviously, the h4 threat had to be prevented.

20... ♜d8 21. ♖b2 ♘c7 White has a clear advantage. His minor pieces are standing perfectly, it's time to activate the rooks.

22. ♜bd1 ♜h6 23. ♜d2! White focuses his forces against the d5 pawn with ♜fd1 and, if necessary, ♔a2. Black must try to find some counterplay.

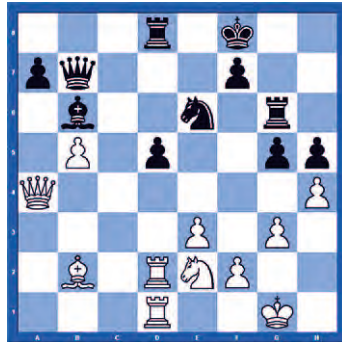
23... ♘e6 24. ♜fd1



24...g5! Black found his best chance. A passive waiting policy would have led to a slow defeat. He wants to open the king's position with gxh4. hxg5 would be met with ♘g5 and the f3-h3 squares are weak. Another idea could be to open the long diagonal with a d4 pawn sacrifice.

25.b5! Very nice move, neutralizing all the direct threats along the 4th rank.

25...♖g6 We have reached the critical position from White's point of view. Wojtaszek found the right plan, but executed a wrong version of it. White could seriously increase his advantage with hxg5 ♘xg5 and ♖f4, but this would be met with ♘f3 at the right moment. [The tempting 25...d4 doesn't work now because of 26.♘xd4 ♙xd4 27.♙xd4 and the original idea 27...gxh4 loses to 28.♙c5+! +-]



26.♙f1? Black's situation looks quite bad here as well, since 26...d4 doesn't work, and hxg5 ♘f4 is in the air. What can he do? [According to the machine, the strongest move was 26.♖d3! +/- and hxg5 ♘f4 is coming next with a big advantage.; In my opinion, a more human solution would have been 26.♙b4+! ♔g8 27.♙c3 and Black must try to close the diagonal, but 27...d4 28.♘xd4 ♙xd4 29.♖xd4! By sacrificing an exchange, White can preserve his battery! 29...♘xd4 30.♖xd4 ♖xd4 31.♙xd4 f6 The only defense. 32.hxg5 ♖xg5 33.♙xf6 ♙xb5 34.e4! +/- White is much better. Over the board, it's practically hopeless to stand the pressure with such a weak king.]

26...♙g8!! After this fantastic cold-blooded move, Black has no problem at all. The idea is to push d4 and

avoid the ♙c5 check... [26...d4 did not work immediately 27.♘xd4 ♙xd4 28.♙xd4 and White wins because of the ♙c5 threat!]

27.hxg5 There was nothing better already, but now

27...d4! 28.♘xd4 ♙xd4 29.♙xd4 ♘xg5! The Black king is completely safe, thanks to the great 26th move.

30.♙a1 White is forced to allow a perpetual check.

30...♙h1+ 31.♙e2 ♙f3+ 32.♙e1 ♙h1+ [Black can't dream with more after 32...♖e8 33.♖d8 and this is the last moment to finish the game with a perpetual check. 33...♙h1+ 34.♙e2 ♙f3+]

33.♙e2 ♙f3+ 34.♙e1 ♙h1+ Great escape by Jakubowski!

1/2

(4) Muzychuk, Anna — Ju, Wenjun

FIDE Women's Grand Prix Ankara, 16.09.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Anna Myzychuk is one of the few female chess players that managed to get an ELO rating over 2600 points. Her opponent is a young Chinese prodigy with an ELO already close to 2550. We can expect an interesting battle!

1.e4 I don't know why, but the most female players prefer 1.e4 than the more closed systems that arrive after 1.d4, 1.c4, 1.♘f3.

1...c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 We are in the Najdorf.

6.♙e3 is definitely one of the main moves.



6...♘g4 [6...e5; 6...e6 are the other two main continuations.]

7.♙g5 h6 8.♙h4 g5 9.♙g3 ♙g7 Until here nothing exciting has happened. But we can already see that both players are ready to fight! The position is very sharp, but there's still a lot of theory to come.

10.♙d2 Quite a rare move for White. 10.h3 was much more often played, and should be considered the „main“ choice here.

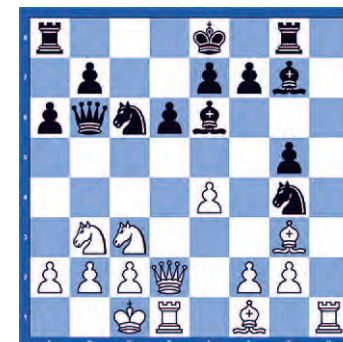
10...♘c6 11.♘b3 ♙e6 12.h4 White is following the game Carlsen-Grischuk from the rapid WCC 2012. [In case of 12.0-0-0 ♙b6 we could have a similar position to the game, but with the h-file closed, which is clearly favorable for Black.]

12...♙g8!? In the game, Grischuk played 12...gxh4 13.♙xh4 and had a worse position. I think 12...♙g8 is an interesting move which keeps a lot of tension.

13.hxg5 Of course, White opens the h-file. This can be useful before castling long.

13...hxg5 14.0-0-0 I think we arrived at the first critical position of the game. Black has a lot of moves...

14...♙b6 A standard move. The Black queen is standing nicely on b6, attacking the f2 pawn, defending from White's f3 because of ♘e3 coming. At the same time, Black can escape by castling long if needed... [Maybe an interesting option is: 14...♙xc3!? This paradoxical move is better than it looks. The usual rule of „never give up the Black square bishop“ is right of course, but chess is a tactical game, so rules can be broken sometimes :). 15.♙xc3 ♙b6 winning a tempo. Now the pawn on f2 is hanging and Black's next move could be ♙c8 followed by ♘b4 with a very quick attack.]



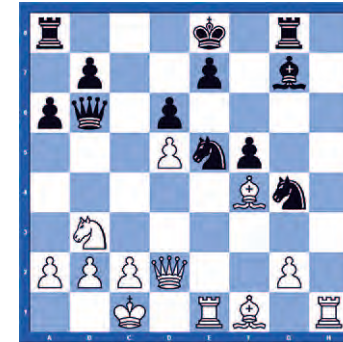
15.♘d5! This is the main reason why 14...♔b6 might not be the right move.

15...♙xd5 16.exd5 ♘ce5 Computers like a lot White's position, but things are much more unclear than they seem. The bishop on g7 is a very strong piece which could compensate a lot. Black's main problem is that both of his knights don't seem to be doing well. If Black manages to solve this problem, her position should be perfectly fine.

17.♖e1 White is preparing the f3 move. [17.♔b1!? Probably this simple move would put Black in front of some difficult decisions. White doesn't want to force anything, but in many lines ♔xg5 can be a real threat, or ♘d4-Nf5. 17...♘d7! Black is leaving the e5 square for the g4 knight. 18.♙d3 with the threat of ♙h7 and ♔xg5. I think White should have an advantage here even though things are far from clear!]

17...f5?! The wrong answer, as we saw in the previous explanation. Black should just play 17...♘d7 followed by ♘ge5.

18.f3? White misses a big chance to get an almost decisive advantage after. [18.f4! Of course, White shouldn't allow Black to play f4. 18...gxf4 19.♙xf4 (19.♔xf4 looks very strong. White wants to take on f5 or to give a check on a4, leaving Black's king without the possibility to castle, but Black has some counter-chances. 19...0-0-0! (19...♖f8 20.♔a4+ and White is clearly better.) 20.♔xf5+ ♔b8 21.♔b1 ♖df8 White is a pawn up, but all the Black pieces are in the game. The position seems to be very unclear.)



19...0-0-0 20.♔b1 Now things are different. White wants to play ♙d3 or ♘d4-Ne6. The position is complex, but I think that the advantage is clearly on White's side.]

18...f4! Absolutely correct! Strategically, it's very important for Black to exchange White's black-squared bishop.

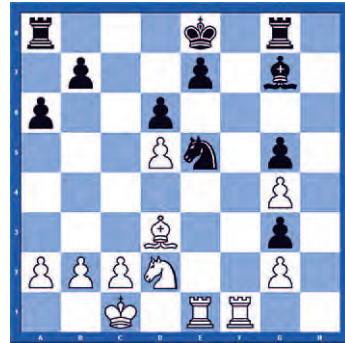
19.fxg4 fxg3 Black managed to get rid of the main enemy, the bishop on g3. Now we can clearly see how much better is the bishop on g7, than White's on f1. I think that White needs to be very careful not to fall behind here.

20.♙d3! Development is first priority! [If White gets greedy: 20.♔xg5 ♔f2 21.♖e4 0-0-0 as we often see, castling long is a very strong idea in a lot of cases. 22.♔f5+ ♔b8 and I think only White risks being worse.]

20...♔f2 Of course, Black tries to reach an endgame — his main idea in this opening.

21.♖hf1 Already it's hard to find anything better for White. At least Anna is bringing her knight from b3 back into the game.

21...♔xd2+ 22.♘xd2 And we are at another critical moment. Can Black be better here? It's hard to say, the position is still very dynamic. White wants to play ♙f5 followed by ♘e4-Nxg3.

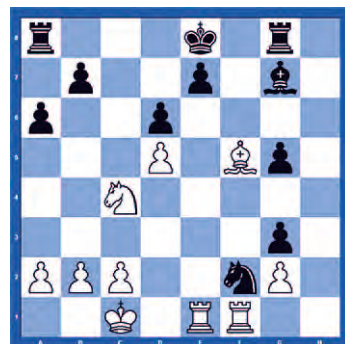


22... Nc4?! The Chinese talent doesn't choose her best possibility. [22... Nxd3+! Why not to create another doubled-pawn in White's camp... 23.cxd3 Rxc8+ putting the Black king on b1! 24.Rb1 Rxc5 and the Black rook comes into the game. 25.Rf5 Re5 The position is forced... 26.Nf3 Rxd5 27.Nxe5 (Doesn't work 27.d4? e6!) 27... Rxe5 28.Rxe5 dxe5 29.Rc2! The exact move that probably secures a draw.(It was not too late to make a mistake with 29.Rxe5? Rf8! and White would have a long fight ahead to reach a drawish result.)]

23. Re5 The White bishop is going to take a very nice position on e6.

23... Nf2 Blocking the f-file and not allowing White to play Nxe4 or Rh1–Rh7.

24. Nc4



24... Kd8! Important and good move. [24... Rxd8 25.Rxe3! would lead to nothing good for Black. The king on e8 is very badly placed and is a clear target for the White pieces.]

25. Nb6 Rf8! Probably the last precise move — reaching equality.

26. Re6 [26.Nxa8? Rxf5 Black already got a pawn for the exchange, plus she has a very strong knight on f2 and a great bishop. We have quite a typical position for the Sicilian, where Black sacrificed an exchange and this sacrifice was clearly a good one!]

26... Ra7 Black wants to play Rd4 or Rc7 with a clearly better endgame — White has nothing better than to make a perpetual attack against the a rook.

27. Nc8 Ra8 28. Nb6 Ra7 29. Nc8 Ra8



30. Nb6 Ra7 31. Nc8 An interesting fighting game in the Najdorf, with a funny ending!

1/2

Puzzle section

(5) Jamrich,G (2311) – Borocz,I (2365)

Hungarian league, 16.09.2012

[CEWN]

1... -/+



(6) Malakhov,V (2700) – Nisipeanu,LD (2648)

Black Sea Cup, 14.09.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(7) Malakhov,V (2700) – Jobava,B (2734)

Black Sea Cup, 16.09.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

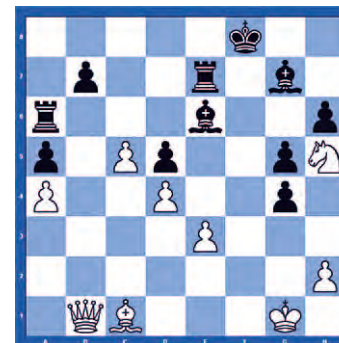


(8) Castellanos Rodriguez,R (2491) – Zhou,Y (2414)

Livigno Open, 17.09.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Gajewski,G (2622) – Tomczak,J (2549)

Polish league, 14.09.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

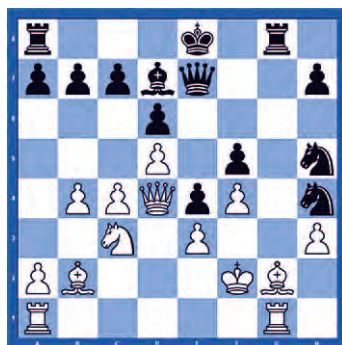


(10) Dziuba,M (2590) – Jakubowski,K (2525)

Polish league, 14.09.2012

[CEWN]

1. +/-

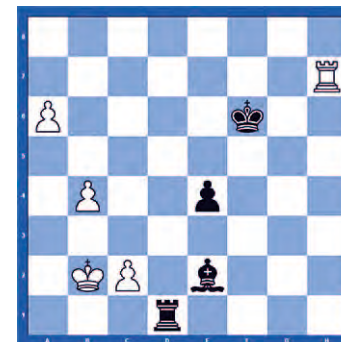


(11) Leniart,A (2458) – Bartel,M (2677)

Polish league, 14.09.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

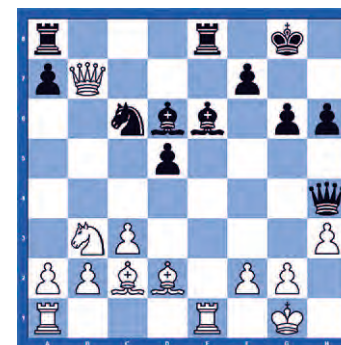


(12) Maksimenko,A (2554) – Szelag,M (2470)

Polish league, 15.09.2012

[CEWN]

1... =



(13) Gelashvili,T (2578) – Matikozian,A (2411)

US league, 10.09.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

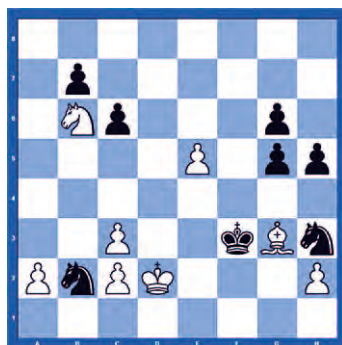


(14) Pap,M (2513) – Popovic,D (2583)

Serbian league, 17.09.2012

[CEWN]

1... =



Endgame section

(15) Rozentalis,E (2570) – Jaracz,P (2543)

Polish league, 16.09.2012

[Chess Evolution]



Obviously the position is dead drawn, but let's take a look at how easily it can be lost even on the GM level...

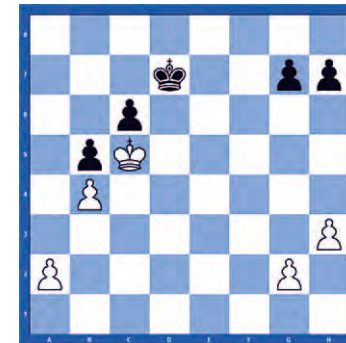
32. ♖a3 ♜e6 [Black has various ways to achieve the draw. One of them is 32... ♜e6+ 33. ♔d4 ♔d6 34. ♜a7 ♜g6 35. g4 and here Black can choose between two direct draws: 35... h5 (Or 35... ♜h6 36. ♜xg7 ♜xh3 ⇒) 36. gxh5 ♜g5 = and the kingside vanishes soon.]

33. ♜a7 ♜f7?? This could have been the decisive mistake, but the idea itself is already dubious. Why to take the unnecessary risk of transposing into a pawn endgame, where one possible calculation mistake could be crucial?!

34. ♜xf7! White feels his chance.

34... ♔xf7 35. ♔d4 ♔e6 36. ♔c5 ♔d7 We have reached a critical position. White is winning and it would have

been possible to find the solution with some logical thinking. White's only plan to make progress is to get his king behind the c-pawn with the help of zugzwang. White should play ♔b6, and on ♔d6 ♔b7 ♔d7, a3 puts Black in zugzwang. Black is forced to play ♔d6, which is met with ♔c8 ♔d5 ♔c7. The game will be forced to continue with c5 bxc5 ♔xc5 and ♔b7, and here again, Black will be forced to push b4, clearing completely the queenside, after which a race to collect the kingside pawns will begin. When we have foreseen this, we must think about how to improve our chances in the final stage of the game: the race to the kingside. If we reach this point, we easily come to the conclusion that both sides should aim to advance their pawns on the kingside before the action on the queenside begins...



37. ♔b6?? White is the first one who fails... [37.h4! +- was the winning move. All of Black's possible reactions will be discussed after 38.h4.]

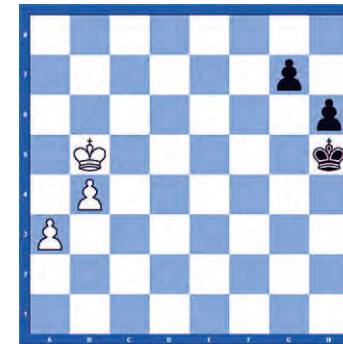
37... ♔d6?? Black gives back the chance, but from now on, White plays perfectly... [37...g5! was the right move, as it was explained above. 38. ♔b7 ♔d6 39. ♔c8 (39.g4 ♔d7 40.a3 h6 = The same story as after 39.a3.; 39.a3 would

spoil White's extra tempo, and there will be no zugzwang anymore... 39...♔d7 40.g3 h5 => 39...c5 40.bxc5+ ♔xc5 41.♔c7 Now Black can reach a draw in different ways. One of them is 41...b4 keeping the decision open regarding which direction should the king take. 42.g3 h5 43.g4 hxg4 44.hxg4 ♔d5 ! is the right direction. (However 44...♔b5? loses very instructively. 45.♔d6 ♔a4 46.♔c5 ♔a5 Black seems to control the situation, but White can set him into zugzwang by triangulation. (46...♔a3 47.♔b5 +- is over.) 47.♔d4! ♔a4 (47...♔b5 48.♔d5 will be the same.) 48.♔c4! ♔a5 49.♔c5! ♔a4 50.♔b6! ♔a3 51.♔b5 +- White successfully finished his plan.) 45.♔b6 ♔e4 46.♔c5 ♔f4 47.♔xb4 ♔xg4 48.a4 ♔f4 = The pawns promote at the same time.]

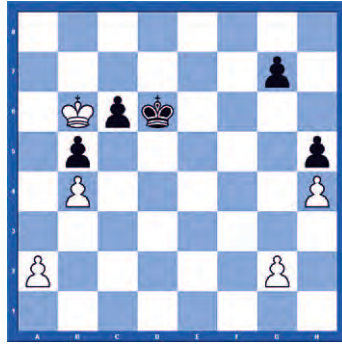
38.h4! White has found the right idea! From now on he has a very easy task. The winning method is the same in all the variations!

38...h5 It's time for White to execute the winning method again, but the move order is really important! [38...♔d7 39.g4! ♔d6 40.g5 advancing the pawns as far as possible. 40...g6 (40...♔d7 41.h5 ♔d6 and now White can execute the usual plan: 42.♔b7 ♔d7 43.a3 ♔d6 44.♔c8 ♔e5 45.♔d7 ♔f5 46.♔xc6 ♔xg5 47.♔xb5 ♔xh5 48.♔c4! g5 White wins because his king is close enough to catch the g-pawn, while the Black one is too far away from the b-pawn. 49.♔d3 ♔g4 50.b5 ♔h3 51.b6 g4 52.b7 +-) 41.a3 ♔d7 42.♔b7 ♔d6 43.♔c8 c5 44.bxc5+ ♔xc5 45.♔c7 ♔c4 46.♔c6 +- White wins.; 38...g6 is met with 39.g4! h6 40.g5! Black has two choices, but both of them lead to the same result. 40...hxg5 (40...h5 41.a3 ♔d7 42.♔b7 ♔d6 43.♔c8 c5 44.bxc5+ ♔xc5 45.♔c7 ♔c4 46.♔c6 White wins.) 41.hxg5 ♔d7 42.♔b7 ♔d6 43.♔c8! (43.a3? ♔d7) 43...♔e6 (43...

c5 44.bxc5+ ♔xc5 45.♔d7 ♔b4 46.♔d6 +- is hopeless.) 44.♔c7 ♔f5 45.♔xc6 ♔xg5 46.♔xb5 ♔f5 (46...♔h4 47.a4 +- White queens first and he can exchange the queens with ♔h8 and ♔g8 at the end.) 47.♔c4 The White king catches the g-pawn. 47...g5 48.♔d3 ♔f4 49.b5 +- and b8♔ arrives with check.; 38...h6 is the worst, because after 39.h5 White preserves 3 extra tempi for the following fight. 39...♔d7 40.a3 ♔d6 41.g4 This is not necessary, but wins easily. 41...♔d7 42.♔b7 ♔d6 43.♔c8 ♔e5 Black loses by one tempo. (43...c5 44.bxc5+ ♔xc5 45.♔c7 ♔c4 46.♔c6 +- with the usual win.) 44.♔c7 ♔f4 45.♔xc6 ♔xg4 46.♔xb5 ♔xh5 The pawns seem to promote at the same time, but White has a well-known and instructive winning method:



47.♔c4 g5 48.b5 g4 49.♔d3! The White king threatens to catch the pawn. Black is forced to support it with his king. 49...♔h4 50.b6 g3 51.♔e3 Black must use his king again. 51...♔h3 52.b7 g2 53.♔f2! and after 53...♔h2 White promotes with check. 54.b8♔+ +-]



39.a3! This is the only way to win. [39.♔b7? with the same plan would spoil the win, because of 39...c5 ! 40.bxc5+ ♔xc5 41.♔c7 (41.a3 is not the same anymore. 41...b4 42.axb4+ ♔xb4 Black is a tempo ahead in comparison to the game, which is enough to save the game. 43.♔c6 ♔c4 44.♔d6 ♔d4 45.♔e6 ♔e4 46.♔f7 ♔f4 47.♔xg7 ♔g4 =) 41...b4! 42.♔d7 ♔b5 43.♔d6 ♔a4 44.♔c5 ♔a3 45.♔b5 ♔xa2 46.♔xb4 and the race ends with a draw. 46...♔b2 47.♔c4 ♔c2 48.♔d4 ♔d2 49.♔e4 ♔e2 50.♔f4 ♔f2 =]

39...♔d7 40.♔b7 ♔d6 [40...g6 does not change much after 41.g3 +-]

41.♔c8 Everything is easy and forced from now on...

41...♔e5 42.♔c7 ♔d5 [42...♔f4 is very slow now. 43.♔xc6 ♔g4 44.♔xb5 ♔xh4 45.a4 ♔g3 46.a5 +-]

43.♔d7 c5 44.bxc5 ♔xc5 45.♔c7 ♔c4 46.♔c6 b4 47.axb4 ♔xb4 48.♔d5 ♔c3 49.♔e6 ♔d3 50.♔f7 ♔e3 51.♔xg7 ♔f4 [51...♔f2 52.♔g6 ♔xg2 53.♔xh5 +-]

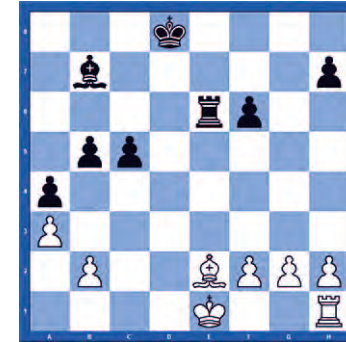
52.♔g6 [And Black resigned in view of 52.♔g6 ♔g4 53.g3! +- The final subtlety!]

1-0

(16) Zhao,Xue — Stefanova,Antoaneta

FIDE Women's Grand Prix Ankara, 16.09.2012

[Chess Evolution]



We are in the 1st round of the female Grand Prix. After the opening, White had a totally winning position, but somehow, Black managed to come back and get to this endgame.

28.f3 ♖e3 Black chooses a very forced continuation which doesn't lead to anything good. [28...♔c6 followed by ♔c7-b4-Re8-Rb8. It's important to bring the rook to the b-file, which would lead to about an equal endgame. If there's a side that can try to play for a win, it would probably be Black.]

29.♔f2! A very difficult move to make for White, and the right choice! It's hard to say if White was lucky or if Zhao Xue calculated everything until the end. In any case, a strong play by the Chinese! [Less good would be 29.♔d2 ♖b3 30.♖b1 (30.♔c2 c4! followed by c3 and Black can try to push a bit in this position.) 30...c4 31.♔d1! No fear from c3. 31...c3+ 32.♔c1 cxb2+ 33.♖xb2 ♖xa3 34.♖xb5 and the position should be a draw.]

29...♖b3?! [29...♖e7 It wasn't too late to return to e7 and play an almost equal position, but it seems that Stefanova had a positive attitude after surviving the first 20 moves of the game in a very critical position for her.]

30.♖d1+! White is taking the rook to d2, after which the Black rook on b3 is suddenly trapped!

30...♔e7 31.♖d2 White wants to play ♕d1.

31...b4!? The best try and actually everything still looks quite tricky! [31...c4? is of course very bad. 32.♕d1 ♖d3 33.♖xd3 cxd3 34.♔e3 with an easily winning bishop endgame.]

32.♕c4 [32.axb4? ♖xb4 and Black is OK.]

32...bxa3 33.♕xb3 axb3 34.bxa3 c4 Until here, every move was quite forced. Black has two very dangerous pawns, but White is in time to stop them!

35.♔e3! The White king has to support the rook.

35...c3 36.♖e2! Whites is playing very well. Her idea is to bring the rook to e1 and, by playing ♔d3 or ♔d4, start attacking the Black pawns.

36...♔d6 [36...b2 37.♔d3+ ♔d6 38.♖e1 +-]

37.♖e1 The last precise move! Now White's position is winning. Black is just one move too late to stop White from playing ♔d4 or ♔d3, which will easily block the dangerous Black pawns.

37...♔c5 38.♔d3 The White plan came to a successful conclusion.

38...c2 39.♔c3 ♕d5 40.h4 h5 41.♔b2 The White king is blocking both Black pawns, giving her a very easy winning position.

41...♔d4 42.♖e8 Combination of threats: the advance of the a-pawn, the attack on the h-pawn by playing g4, this is just too much for Black...

42...f5 43.♖d8 ♔c5 44.♖c8+ ♔d4 45.a4 Finally the a-pawn starts to roll.

45...♔e3 46.a5 f4 47.a6 ♔f2 48.♖c5 ♕a8 49.♖g5 This would be a good moment for resignation, but Black decided to continue the game. No more comments are needed from here...

49...♕c6 50.a7 ♕b7 51.♔c1 ♕c6 52.♔d2 ♕a8 53.♖g8 ♕d5 54.a8 ♖ ♕xa8 55.♖xa8 ♔xg2 56.♖h8 ♔xf3 57.♖xh5 ♔g4 58.♖h8 f3 59.♖f8 And again we saw how quickly an equal endgame can turn in one side's favor. That happens when the losing side starts to feel too safe and doesn't pay full attention to the opponent's possibilities.

1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Tolush, Alexander V — Botvinnik, Mikhail [D83]

URS-ch11 Leningrad (2), 1939

[Balogh Csaba]

A great game by Botvinnik, which shows that despite being considered a master of positional chess, he was a genius to attack as well.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** g6 **3.♘c3** d5 The Grünfeld defense. This is the first sign that we will see an exciting game.

4.♗f4 ♗g7 **5.e3** 0–0 **6.♖c1** White concentrates his forces in the center, where the fight will begin soon.

6...c5 At the time, this was a novelty. The move is in the true spirit of the Grünfeld. Black sacrifices a small amount of material to open the position, by breaking the solid central pawns. [White's setup went a bit out of fashion nowadays because of the 6...♗e6!? continuation. The critical line starts with 7.♙b3 c5! 8.♙xb7 ♙b6! and theory considers it to be equal in 25-30 moves lines.]

7.dxc5 ♙a5 A standard move in the Grünfeld. Black must play actively, otherwise, he'll end up in a bad position.

8.cxd5 ♖d8! White's already two pawns up, but if Black starts recovering the central pawns, White might collapse quickly because of his undeveloped kingside.



9.♙d2?! Black overtakes the initiative after this mistake. [9.♗c4! ♗e6! The d5 pawn must be re-captured before the one on c5. The move had to be carefully calculated, because at first sight it's tactically refuted by (Not 9...♙xc5 10.♗b3 and White consolidates his position.) 10.b4! ♙xb4 11.♙b3 White leaves the pin on the d-file with tempo. 11...♙xb3 12.♗xb3 ♘xd5 13.♘xd5



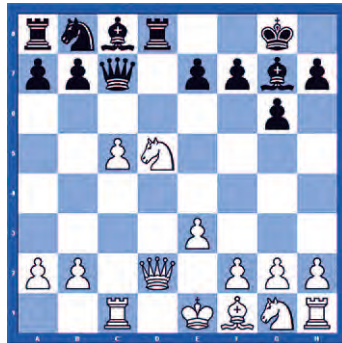
13...♖xd5!! This is the point! Black sacrifices an exchange, but the two bishops are dominating the board. Black will probably win the a2 pawn, and the a-pawn will start to run supported by all the Black pieces. White can hardly block it. (13...♗xd5? drops a piece after 14.♖d1 e6 15.e4 +-) 14.♗xd5 (14.♘f3 ♖d7 15.♗xe6 fxe6 =; 14.♗xb8 ♖xb8

15. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 16. ♘f3 ♖xa2 followed by the advance of the a-pawn.) 14... ♖xd5 15. ♘f3 ♘c6! This is an important detail! (On the direct 15... ♖xa2 White can neutralize the „Grünfeld bishop” with 16. ♖e5!) 16.a3 ♖b2 17. ♖d1 e6 18.a4 ♖a3↗ The position is objectively about even.]

9... ♘xd5 White seems to be in deep trouble, but Tolush had a nice idea in mind.

10. ♖c7! [10. ♘xd5 leads to a horrible endgame after 10... ♖xd2+ 11. ♖xd2 ♖xd5+ and b2 falls.]

10... ♖xc7 11. ♘xd5



11... ♖xd5!! Just brilliant! Botvinnik plays the whole game like the biggest experts of the opening, even though the Grünfeld never belonged to his main weapons. Black sacrifices an exchange for quick development of the pieces. The idea is to develop the pieces with tempo (Nc6, ♖e6, ♖d8) combining with the threat of the ♖a5 unpleasant check. White's undeveloped kingside guarantees Black the capture of the a2 and b2 pawns at least, which is already enough to restore the material balance. [11... ♖d7 12. ♖d1 ♘c6 was also possible. (But not 12...e6? because of the tactical blow 13. ♘c7! +-)]

12. ♖xd5 ♖e6 [Black should not be in a hurry to collect the pawns. 12... ♖xb2 13. ♖c2 White would get a free tempo to develop.; However, to start with 12... ♘c6! would have been a bit more accurate 13. ♖e2 giving a free square on f1 for the king. (13. ♘f3? is just bad, because of 13... ♖e6 14. ♖d2 ♖d8 and ♖a5 next.) 13... ♖e6 14. ♖d3 This is always the correct square to retreat, otherwise, Black gets too many tempi. (14. ♖d2 ♖d8 15. ♖c2 ♖a5+ 16. ♖f1 ♖d2 White collapses.) 14... ♖xb2 15. ♖d1 ♖a5+ 16. ♖f1 ♖xc5 17. ♘f3 ♖xa2 with better prospects for Black.]

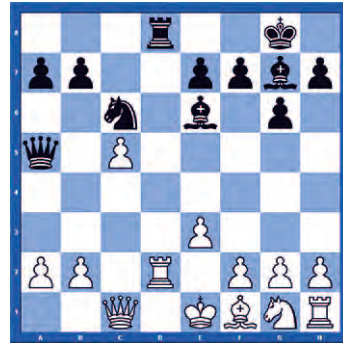
13. ♖d2 This completely logical move to protect the b2 pawn is probably the decisive mistake. [13. ♖d3! ♖xb2 (On 13... ♘c6 the idea of ♖d3 comes to life. 14. ♖a3! After parrying the ♖a5 threat, White will be able to finish his development.) 14. ♖c2 ♖f6 15. ♘f3 ♘c6 16. ♖a3! White seems to survive, but Black can still increase the pressure with 16...a5! 17. ♖e2 ♘b4 18. ♖d2 ♖xc5 =+ Only Black can be better with such bishops.]

13... ♘c6 White cannot prevent ♖d8 and ♖a5 now. He can only try to focus on reducing its damage.

14. ♖d1 This is the best try, where Black has the biggest chance to go wrong... But of course, Botvinnik does not let his opponent out of the cage. [14. ♖c4 loses to 14... ♖d8 15. ♖c2 ♖a5+ 16. ♖f1 ♖d2]

14... ♖d8 15. ♖c1 Now, at least, the queen cannot be harassed by ♘b4 or ♖f5...

15... ♖a5+ 16. ♖d2 [16. ♖e2 is not better either. 16... ♖xd1 17. ♖xd1 ♖xa2 Even without the rooks, the attack is rolling. In the worst case, Black just takes on b2 with the bishop and pushes his a-pawn.]



16...Rd5!! Another great move! After taking on c5, the queen has no good square to leave.

17.Ne2 White always finds the best chance, but in this game it's not enough to save the day. He wants to put his knight on c3 in order to get rid of the dangerous g7 bishop.

17...Rxc5 18.Nc3 Other moves are even worse: [18.Qd1 Qxb2; 18.Qb1 Nb4]

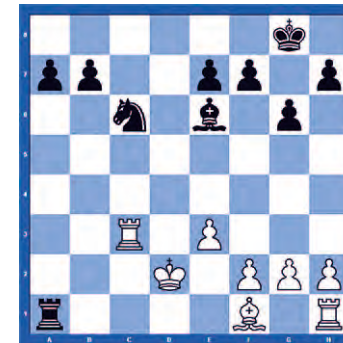
18...Qxc3 [18...Qf5 was even more precise according to the machine. 19.Qe2 (19.Qd3 Qxc3 20.bxc3 Rxc3 and the bishop will fall on the next move.) 19...Qxc3 20.bxc3 Rxc3 21.Qd1 Rc2 This was the idea of Qf5. White can escape from the pin, while Black simply wants to play Qc3 and Rc1, or Rxa2 and Ra1. 22.g4 Qe4 23.f3 Rxa2 24.fxe4 Ra1 with a winning material advantage.]

19.bxc3 Rxc3 20.Qb2 Ra3 The game seems to be over because of the Rxa2 crucial threat, but White finds a chance again, at least to unpin his rook.

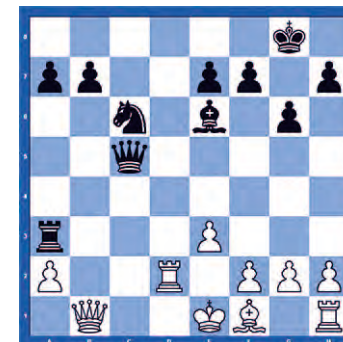
21.Qb5! Of course, White would be happy to get rid of the queens, but Botvinnik is not going to help with this.

21...Qc3 22.Qb2 Qc5! Refreshing the Rxa2 threat.

23.Qb1 [White can't chase the queen with 23.Qb5 anymore, because of 23...Qc1+ 24.Rd1 Qc3+; 23.Rd3 was recommended by the computer as the only move, but Black is winning here as well. 23...Rxa2 24.Qc3 It's a pleasant choice now: 24...Qxc3+ simplifying to a winning endgame (24...Qf5 or keeping the queens on board is also good enough.) 25.Rxc3 Ra1+ 26.Qd2



26...Na5! White can't prevent Qc4. **27.g3 Qd5!** First, sending the rook to a bad square in order to avoid Qg2. **28.Rg1** and only then **28...Qc4!**



23...Qxa2! The final little tactical shot!

24.Rxa2 [24.Qb2 Qe6! is equally hopeless for White.]

24...♔a5+ 25.♖d2 ♖a1 Black ended up in a completely winning endgame. The rest is a matter of technique. In this part of the game, Botvinnik never made mistakes.

26.♙d3 ♖xb1+ 27.♙xb1 ♘e5 28.♔e2 ♚b5+ 29.♙d3 ♘xd3 30.♖xd3 Black only needs to push his connected passed pawns. There's nothing that can stop them.

30...a5 31.♖hd1 ♚c4 32.♔f3 b5 33.♖d7 b4 34.♖a7 [34.♖xe7 is not an important pawn. 34...b3]

34...a4! 35.♖d8+ [35.♖xa4 ♚c6+]

35...♔g7 36.♖da8 a3 37.g3 ♚b5 White finally resigned. A great illustration of how to play the Grünfeld. You must always increase the tension to the maximum in the position. Otherwise, your opponent will slip away.

0-1

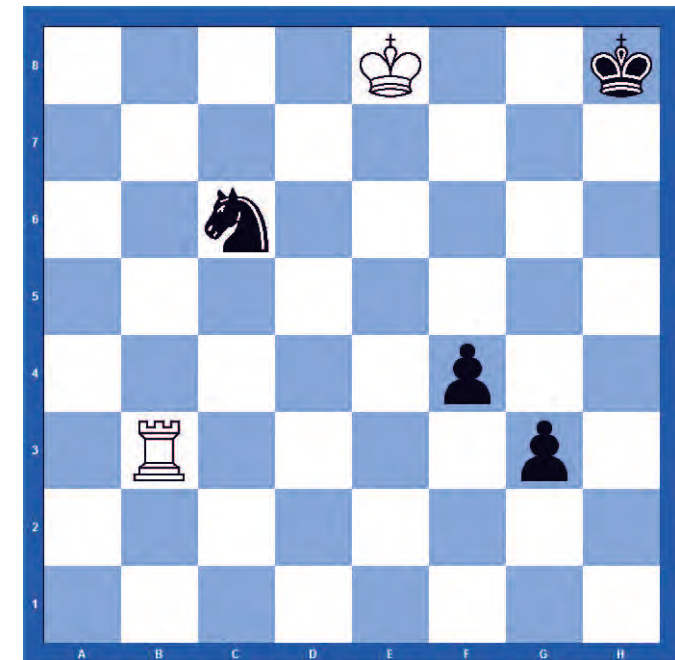
Surprise section / study

(18) Mattison,H

1914

[CEWN]

1. =

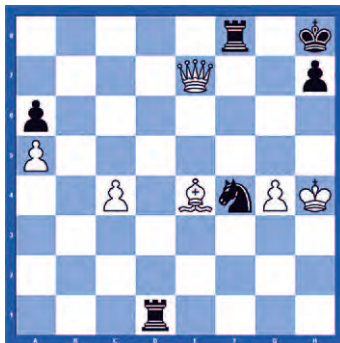


Solutions

(19) Georgiev,K (2682) – Barbosa,O (2554)

Olympiad, 03.09.2012

[Solutions]



57... ♖h1+!! 58. ♔g3 [58. ♙xh1 ♞g6+--+; 58. ♔g5 h6#]
58... ♖h3+ 59. ♔f2 ♞g6+ 0-1

(20) Kotic,D (2526) – Eljanov,P (2693)

Olympiad, 03.09.2012

[Solutions]



27... ♖e3+! 28. ♔h1 ♖f4! [28... ♖f2?? 29. ♖d6+!]

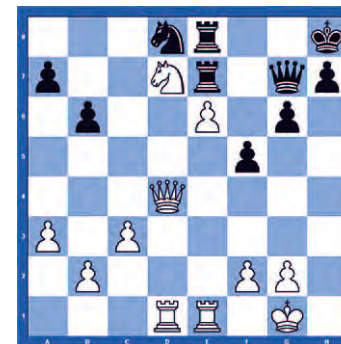
29. ♖d3 [29. ♖xf4 ♖e1+--+]

29... ♖g5 0-1 [29... ♖g5 30. ♖g3 ♖xg3 31. hxg3 ♖e2--+]

(21) Negi,P (2664) – Rodshtein,M (2642)

Olympiad, 03.09.2012

[Solutions]



34. ♞f6! ♖f8 35. ♖xd8! ♖xf6 36. ♖d4! ♔g7 37. ♖c4!
♖fe8 38. ♖d6+-

(22) Navara,D (2691) – Dizdarevic,E (2499)

Olympiad, 04.09.2012

[Solutions]

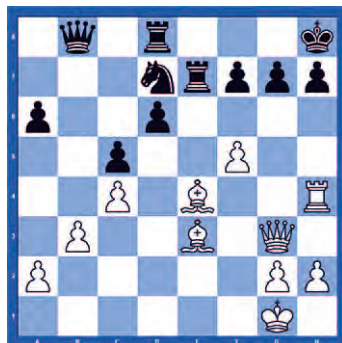


39. ♖xd7! ♔c1+ [39... ♘xd7 40. ♔xf7+ ♕h8 41. ♔xe6+-]
40. ♔g2 ♔d2 41. ♖xe6 fxe6 42. d7 1-0 [42. d7 ♘xd7
43. ♔f7+-]

(23) Stellwagen,D (2630) – Nikolov,M (2563)

Olympiad, 04.09.2012

[Solutions]

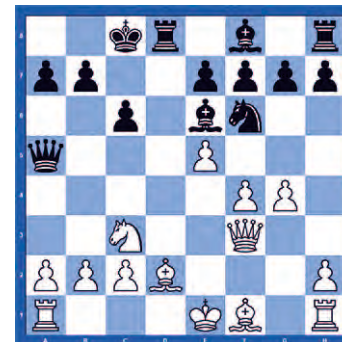


29. ♖xh7+! ♔xh7 30. f6+! g6 [30... ♖xe4 31. ♔xg7#]
31. fxe7 ♖h8 32. ♔h3+ ♕g7 33. ♔xd7+-

(24) Sutovsky,E (2687) – Van Wely,L (2691)

Olympiad, 06.09.2012

[Solutions]

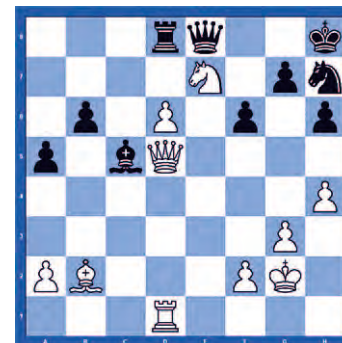


11... ♖xd2!! 12. exf6 [12. ♔xd2 ♖d5! 13. ♔d3 ♘e4+
14. ♔c1 ♘xc3 15. bxc3 ♖xh1-+]
12... ♖xc2-+ 13. ♖d3 ♖xb2 14. ♖c1 exf6-+

(25) Tikkanen,H (2570) – Sharavdorj,D (2446)

Olympiad, 06.09.2012

[Solutions]

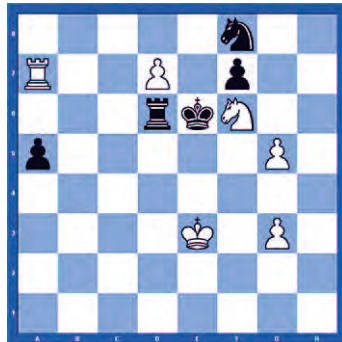


31. ♔g8+! 1-0 [31. ♔g8+ ♔xg8 32. ♘g6#]

(26) Macieja,B (2594) – Babula,V (2595)

Olympiad, 07.09.2012

[Solutions]



72. ♖e4?! [72. ♖a8!! ♘xd7 73. ♖e8+ ♔f5 74. g4+ ♔xg5 (74... ♔g6 75. ♖g8#) 75. ♖e4+++]

72... ♖d5

(27) Milos,G (2593) – Carlsson,P (2511)

Olympiad, 09.09.2012

[Solutions]

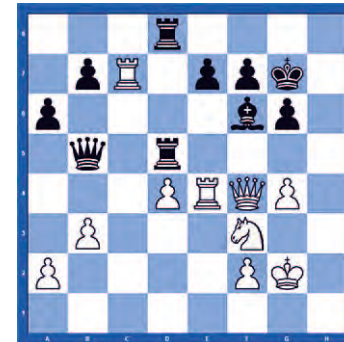


25... ♖h1+!-+ [25... ♖h1+ 26. ♔xh1 ♘h2+ 27. ♔e1 ♖g1#]

(28) Kozul,Z (2616) – Abdel Razik,K (2448)

Olympiad, 06.09.2012

[Solutions]



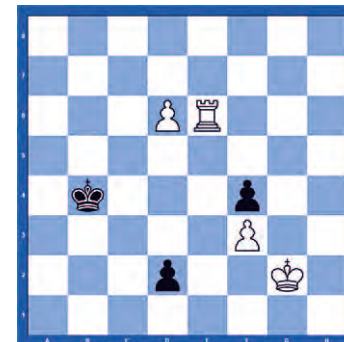
29. ♖ex7! ♔xe7 30. ♖xe7 ♖f8 31. ♘e5! ♖d6? [31... ♖xe5 32. dxe5+-]

32. ♖xf7+ 1-0

(29) Rinck,H

1920

[Solutions]



1. ♖e4+! ♔c3 2. ♖d4! ♔xd4 3. d7 ♔e3 4. d8♖! [4. d8♖ d1♖! 5. ♖xd1=]

4... ♔e2 5. ♔h3 d1♖ 6. ♖xd1 ♔xd1 7. ♔g4+- 1-0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 31

28th of September 2012

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Editorial Preface

Chess, chess and chess! A crazy amount of strong tournaments are going on.

The first tournament of the new FIDE Grand Prix is going on with a lot of Top games, new ideas and very touching wins. We bring You a few examples from this great tournament in our analysis.

The Bilbao Chess Masters Final with Carlsen, Aronian, Anand... Do we need to say something else?! If you don't follow this tournament, You are not a chess fan!

The Chinese League with the best Chinese players, and some very good Europeans competing, is also going on.

Serbian, Bulgarian, Croatian leagues... (we are both playing in Croatia).

I guess we could find enough material to work on chess for the whole year in these events, but we are only able to take a small piece from them, with their most sparkling moments.

As usual we wish You a lot of fun with this edition of CEWN!

P.S. Again, for those who didn't receive or just got a full mail box: please don't panic, just write us an email and we'll resend You the issue of CEWN that is missing! :)

*Best regards
Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh*

4 best games of the past week

(1) Avrukh,B (2596) — Naiditsch,A (2712) [E04]

Croatian Team Ch (1), 23.09.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the 1st round of the Croatian league, and my opponent is the Israeli player Boris Avrukh. During the last few years, Boris dedicated to be a trainer and a book author... this is clearly visible on his ELO. Just 3 years ago he was over 2650. It's been a very long time since I haven't made a „Jackpot” opening, so here comes one finally. I knew everything until the 25th move! Welcome to modern chess.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 In my preparation I guessed we would play a Nimzo, but this is another game on the Catalan. Luckily, just before the game, I had reviewed my lines...

3.g3 d5 **4.♙g2** dxc4 **5.♘f3** a6 This is my 3rd game in a roll with 5...a6. Actually, I tried almost all the lines for Black — suffering a bit in the worse positions I was getting, so maybe Boris expected some other line.



6.♘e5 And this is the 3rd time that I get the answer **6.♘e5**, which is strange to me. Clearly the main move is [6.0-0 ♘c6 7.e3 with thousands of games played...]

6...♙b4+ [6...c5 is another option for Black, but according to the current evaluation of this line, White is doing slightly better.]

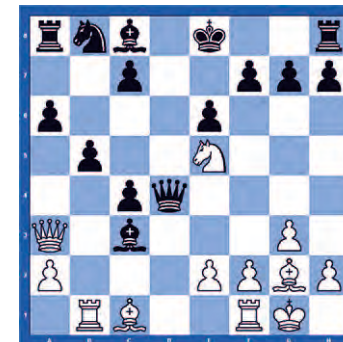
7.♘c3 [Aronian once tried 7.♙d2 ♙xd4 8.♙xb4 ♙xe5 but two pawns were too much and Mamedyarov managed to win this game.]

7...♘d5 8.0-0 The beginning of a very sharp and forced line. Over the board, I was a bit scared that Avrukh had a big novelty in his pocket. Just a few months ago, I had already played this position against Fridman.

8...♘xc3 9.bxc3 ♙xc3 10.♖b1 ♙xd4 I have to take what I can...

11.♙a4+ [The exchange of queens brings doesn't give White any advantage. 11.♙xd4 ♙xd4 12.♘xc4 ♘d7 Black is ready to give away some of his pawns to fulfill his development. 13.♘a5 ♙b6 14.♘c4 ♙c5 15.♘a5 with a draw.]

11...b5 12.♙a3 This looks crazy, but it's all well analyzed with the help of our metal friends.



12...♔xe5 13.♙f4 ♔f6 14.♙xc7 b4 Both of us played quickly until here. We are at the first critical moment. White has two moves: 15.♔a5 and 15.♖xb4.

15.♔a5 N [This move lead to a forced draw in my game with Fridman: 15.♖xb4 ♙xb4 16.♔xb4 a5! An important move to remember. 17.♔b5+ ♙d7 18.♔xc4 ♘a6 19.♙xa8 ♘xc7 20.♔xc7 ♔d8! and Black is just in time to be fine. 21.♔a7 0-0 22.♙f3 ♙a4 not giving White the chance to play ♖d1 and ♔d2. The position is very close to a draw.]

15...0-0 Of course I knew the 15.♔a5 line. That's the first suggestion of the computer and I've been preparing this line of the Catalan for a while...

16.♙xa8



16...e5! Black has quite a few moves here, but 16...e5 is the best. It's very important to get the bishop from c8 into the game. For the fans of „long lines“, please push the middle button on Your keyboard :) .

17.♔d5! White's best chance to play for an advantage, which was quickly played by my opponent. I started to really hope that my lines were fine... The position is extremely forced and Black is „just“ holding.

17...♙e6 Please don't ask me why 17...♙e6 is the best move after my considerations. We are living in the computer Era, so we follow his suggestions :).

18.♔d6 Before playing the absolutely correct 18.♔d6, my opponent started to think a bit. I was very surprised and started to have some hopes that he didn't know the 17...♙e6 line. This is a little strange to me because it's clearly the main move, but sometimes wonderful things happen! :).

18...♙f5 Another move that I just had to remember.



19.♖bc1?! After a quite long thought, Boris plays „not the best move“. [19.e4 This was the main move on which I focused my attention during my analysis. 19...♙h3 20.♔xf6 gxf6 21.♖fc1 The position remains very forced, but it's clear that Black is fighting for a draw. (21.♖fd1 ♘d7 22.♙d5 ♘c5 and Black is perfectly fine.) 21...♘d7 22.♙d5 ♘c5 23.♙a5 ♘d3 24.♖c2 ♖c8 25.a3 ♙d4! Everything seems to work for Black. 26.♙xb4 c3 with the threat of ♙xf2 next. Black is holding the position.]

19...♙g4 I could remember this move only because I had repeated my lines just before the game — it seems like this was my lucky day :).

20. ♖c2 [20.f3 ♘h3 21. ♖fd1 ♔g5 looks dangerous for White.]

20... ♔f5 And this is the key move! Black's play looks so strange: the last 4 moves were ♘e6, ♘f5, ♘g4 and ♔f5, but probably they are the best! Does it have any logic? — NO!

21. ♖fc1 My opponent already spent around 45 minutes of his time here. I didn't spend anything until this moment.

21... ♘d4 I played 21... ♘d4 quickly because I remembered it was the right move. [Another option was to play 21... ♘d7 22. ♘b7! Very strong!(The logical 22. ♘c6 ♘f6 23. ♖xc3 White tries to give back the exchange hoping to return to a more normal position. 23... bxc3 24.f3 ♘h3 25. ♔xe5 ♔c8! Thanks to the crazy move 25... ♔c8, Black might still have some hopes of being better. Of course, the position remains very forced.)]

22.e3 [Of course 22. ♘xb8? ♔xf2+ 23. ♔h1 b3 and Black is just winning.]



22...b3 White can't hold the b-pawn and Black is getting the exchange back.

23.axb3 cxb3 24.exd4 bxc2 25.dxe5 The position seems to be close to equality. If White manages to get the c2 pawn, maybe the bishop pair could even give him some advantage, but Black has the very strong:

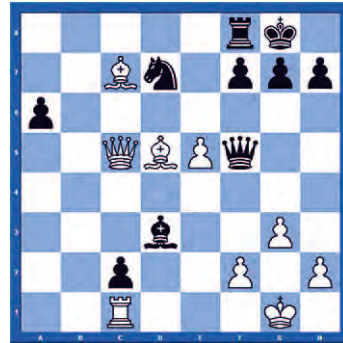
25... ♘e2! This was the last move I remembered with the evaluation of an equal position. During the game I started to think why the position was actually equal... I'm a pawn up, want to play ♔d3 and always have the option of playing ♘d3, protecting the c2-pawn. My opponent had only 30 minutes left, and he spent 20 in his next move:

26. ♔c5? This is already a mistake. [26. ♔g2! This computer move would crush most of Black's hopes to win the game. 26... ♔d3!? The best chance for Black to achieve something in a very slightly better endgame. 27. ♔xd3 ♘xd3 28. ♘d6 ♖c8 29. ♔f3 (29. ♘d5 ♘f5 not allowing White to play e6.) 29... ♘d7 30. ♔e3 ♘f5 31. ♘b7 How to play like this during a practical game?! Impossible! 31... ♖c3+ 32. ♔d2 ♖d3+ 33. ♔e1 ♖d4! and Black is still a little better, even though the position is close to a draw; 26. ♘xb8 loses to 26... ♔d3! and White can't stop Black from playing ♔d1. In case of 27. ♔xd3 ♘xd3, one of the White bishops on the 8th rank is going to fall, leaving Black in a winning situation.]

26... ♘d3 Of course I have to keep my c2 pawn. [26... ♘d7? would have been clearly the wrong choice. 27. ♔xc2 ♔xc2 28. ♖xc2 ♖xa8 29. ♖xe2 would lead us to a typical equal endgame. The passed Black a-pawn is compensated with a strong bishop on d6. Black still keeps some practical chances, but of course, the position is a draw.]

27. ♘d5 White is trying to play for the e6 push. This is the right plan if it works...

27...♞d7



28. ♞e7? With less than 10 minutes on his clock, my opponent makes the decisive mistake. [28. ♞d6 This was the only move. 28... ♞h5 Black wants to give mate by playing ♞d1–Kg2–Bf1–Kg1–Bh3. 29.f3 ♟f5! stopping the e6 push. Objectively, the position is still quite unclear, but it's very hard to play with White. The Black pawn on c2 is very annoying. (It doesn't help to play the logical 29... ♞g5 30.f4 ♞g4 31. ♟xf7+! ♜xf7 32. ♞xd3 and White is close to winning.) 30.e6? An immediate attempt to force a draw leads nowhere. 30... ♟xe6 31. ♟xe6 ♞xf3! Nice tactic. Black is winning]

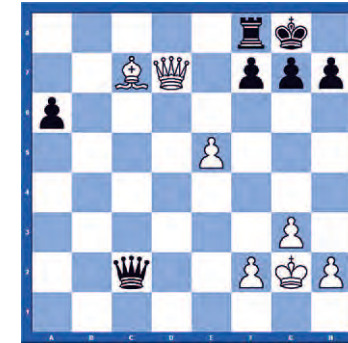
28... ♞g4! No more f3 for White because of ♞d4 check. The position is lost.

29. ♟b3 Defending from ♞d1

29... ♞f3 With the deadly threat of ♟e4.

30. ♟xc2 [Nothing helps anymore. 30.e6 ♟e4 31.exf7+ ♜h8 32.♟f1 ♞h1+ 33.♟e2 ♞xc1]

30... ♟xc2 31. ♜xc2 ♞d1+ 32.♟g2 ♞xc2 33. ♞xd7 Black's exchange advantage and the passed a-pawn absolutely secure a win.



33... ♞e4+ 34.♟h3 [34.♟g1 ♞b1+ 35.♟g2 ♞b7+ 36.♟g1 ♜c8 and the bishop on c7 is falling.]

34... ♞f3 Fixing the Black king on h3. Now Black's plan is easy: to start pushing the a-pawn. White is completely hopeless. Against e6, Black always plays ♞f5+, followed by ♞xe6.

35. ♞d4 h5 36. ♞b6 ♜a8 37. ♟d6 a5 After the game I could not say I „won“ the game, because I just had to make 5 moves and my position was already winning. However, it was a good feeling that the work that mostly stays „undiscovered“, sometimes gets rewarded :).

0–1

(2) Aronian,L (2816) – Karjakin,S (2778) [E15]

5th Final Masters Sao Paolo Bilbao ESP (1), 24.09.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

Aronian scored another important win in his pet line. If somebody just goes through this game, he might think it was a very easy one. However if we take a closer look, we realize how difficult it was in reality. It would be interesting to know when the players left their preparations.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.g3 ♖a6 5.b3 ♖b4+ 6.♙d2 ♙e7 7.♘c3 Just as against Ivanchuk in the Olympiad, Aronian plays the 7.♘c3 line, which we have analyzed for you in a previous issue of CEWN. Karjakin was definitely well prepared.

7...0-0 That game continued with 7...♙b7, but Karjakin went for the main line.

8.♙g2 c6 A typical move in the Queen's Indian. Black would like to recapture on d5 with the c-pawn to achieve complete equality. [8...d5 9.cxd5 exd5 is a playable position, but White is considered to be slightly better.]



9.e4! This is the critical test of Black's setup and it also is the main idea of the 7.♘c3 move. [9.0-0 d5 would be fine for Black.]

9...d5 10.exd5 This was probably a small surprise for Karjakin, since it happened only once before according to my database. [10.♙e2 c5 This is how the games proceed usually. We can guess whom it's good for, given that Aronian avoided it, while Karjakin was ready to play it. They both definitely had huge analysis here.]

10...cxd5 This is the novelty. A very interesting one. [On the previous 10...exd5 Aronian probably had prepared the novelty 11.0-0! dxc4 12.♙e1! A very strong pawn sacrifice, based on the undeveloped Black queenside. The g2 bishop might become really strong after ♘e5. Accepting the pawn is very risky: 12...cxb3 (12...♙e8 13.♙c2 cxb3 14.♙xb3 Even with the rook on e8, Black is facing difficulties because of the approaching ♘e5.; On 12...♘bd7 White can win back the pawn with 13.♙e2 ♙e8 14.bxc4 ♙f8 15.♙d3 with an advantage.) 13.♙xb3 followed by ♘e5 promises excellent chances for White.]

11.♘e5! The only move to fight for the edge. Otherwise, Black finishes his development ideally with ♘c6 and ♙c8.

11...♘fd7!? This knight had to go to d7 to cover the c6 square. Black gets rid of the strong e5 knight. The idea involves a typical exchange sacrifice in many lines. [The alternative 11...♙b7 would lead to a slightly favorable game for White. 12.0-0 ♘bd7 13.♙e1 ♙c8 14.♙c1 White improves all his pieces, waiting for the best moment to trade everything on d5, achieving a better position with the strong e5 knight.]



12.0-0 Human decision! Aronian cares about the safety of his king. [The computer's suggestion might be objectively better. 12.cxd5!? but of course it's very risky to play materialistic chess and leave the king stuck in the center. 12...Nxe5 13.dxe5 exd5 14.Nxd5 (On 14...Qxd5 Nd7! is very strong, followed by Nc5 or Nxe5. Taking the exchange would be a kind of suicide with such a weak king.)



14...Nd7 Probably at this moment both players finished their calculations with the conclusion that Nxe5 or Nc5 are coming and that Black is fine. However the computer advises a cool defense! (14...Nc6 White defends calmly with 15.Qc3 Re8 16.f4!+/- It's very hard to increase the pressure with Black.) 15.Qb4!! Nc5 (15...Qxb4+? loses to 16.Nxb4 Qb5 17.a4) 16.Qxc5 Qxc5 17.b4! Re8 It still

looks very dangerous, but White continues with the cold-blooded moves: 18.f4! (18.bxc5 Rxe5+ 19.Ne3 Qg5! and Re3 is in the air, so Black still can increase the pressure with Qae8.) 18...Qf8 19.Qf2 After castling artificially, White has preserved his extra pawn. After this more or less forced line, I doubt that Black has enough compensation.]

12...Nxe5 Black has no choice, he must go for the complications, otherwise he will lose material on the h1-a8 diagonal soon.

13.dxe5 Nd7! 14.Re1 Unpinning the rook and protecting the e5 pawn. Black is forced to sacrifice the exchange, and it also looks very promising at first sight!

14...dxc4! [14...d4 is a much worse version of the exchange sacrifice. 15.Nb5! An important intermediate move. 15...Qxb5 16.Qxa8 Qxa8 17.cxb5 Qd5 18.Qe2! Black doesn't have enough compensation without the light-squared bishop.]

15.Qxa8 Qxa8 This looks very promising for Black. He has many different resources, for example Qc6-Bb7, Qb7-Bh1, or Rd8 and Nc5. White must find out something clever, otherwise he might quickly collapse. Aronian had to use his imagination!



16. ♖h6!! Very spectacular move. The only chance to generate counterplay.

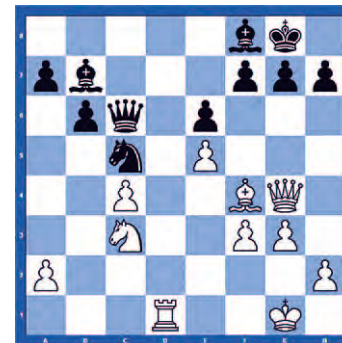
16... ♖d8! Karjakin correctly keeps the tension! [16...gxf6 17. ♕xd7 ♖b4 18. ♕d4! White holds his advantage in all the lines after very precise moves: 18... ♖b7 (The other attacking idea is 18... ♕c6 19. ♖e4! ♖b7 (19... ♖xc3 20. ♖g4+ ♔h8 21. ♕xc3 ♖b7 22.f3 White preserves his material advantage.) 20. ♖g4+ ♔h8 21. ♘e4+/- successfully closing the long diagonal.) 19. ♕xc4 ♖h1 White should transpose into a favorable endgame by giving back the material: 20. ♕g4+ ♔h8 21. ♘e4! ♖xe1 22. ♖xe1 ♖xe4 23. ♖xe4+= The Black king is weak!]

17. ♕g4 ♖f8 18. ♖ad1 ♘c5! Both players show their best in a very difficult position. Calculation is the crucial factor in such kinds of positions. [18... ♖b7 was tempting, with the idea of ♖f3, but White has a very strong response: 19. ♖g5! ♖f3 20. ♕d4! ♖xd1 21. ♖xd8 with material advantage!]

19. bxc4 ♖b7! Finally the bishop appears where it belongs. Black doesn't even have a pawn for the exchange, but objectively this single bishop solves all his problems.

20. ♖xd8 ♕xd8 21. ♖d1 ♕c7 22. ♖f4 The less pieces there are, the better chances White has to convert his advantage.

22... ♕c6 23.f3 We have reached the most critical moment of the game. White finally seems to consolidate his position. The Black threats seem much less dangerous than before. I'm sure that Karjakin also had the feeling that he messed something up earlier, however, with a fantastic blow, Black could have saved the game.



23... ♘d7 [23... ♘d3!! Just amazing, giving a piece for nothing. 24. ♖xd3 ♕xc4 If Black takes on c3, he gets a fine position, so White must play ♖d8, ♖d7 but both moves are met with 25. ♖d8 ♖a6!! This is the whole idea! White must play (25... ♕xc3? loses to 26. ♖h6! ♕xe5 27. ♕b4+- wins.) 26.h4 allowing the perpetual check. 26... ♕f1+ 27. ♖h2 ♕f2+=]

24. ♘e4 Creating the threat of ♖xd7! Black collapses.

24... ♕a4? [24... ♕c8 controlling the d8 square. This still gave some practical chances, even though White is already doing well after 25. ♘g5!]

25. ♖xd7! ♖xe4 [25... ♕xd7 26. ♘f6++-]

26. ♖d8! That's why the queen should have gone to c8. Black can't even give a check, his back-rank is weak and his bishop needs to leave the h1–a8 diagonal to prevent the ♖h6 threat.

26... ♖g6 27. ♖g5?! The only mistake in the game by Aro-nian. He could have given unexpected practical chances for Black. [After 27. ♖e3 followed by ♕e3-d6, Black has to resign.]



27...Qa3? Karjakin thought that the game was over, but the machine still found some hidden idea... [Black could have tried 27...h6! 28.Qd4! This is the precise move! (Against the most obvious 28.Qe7 Qd3!! there's an incredible resource: 29.Rxd3 (29.Rxf8+ White is a rook up, but he must be satisfied with the draw. 29...Qh7 30.f4 Otherwise, Qd1. 30...Qc2 Qc1 Qf2 Qd2 is the threat. 31.Qf3 Qe4! 32.Qf2 Qd1+ 33.Qf1 Qd4+ with perpetual check.) 29...Qxe7 30.Rd2 White is better, but he must work hard to convert his advantage.) 28...h6 29.Qd6 Qh7 30.Qxf8 Qh6 and now White has to find 31.h4!! Qxc4 (The point of the previous move becomes clear after 31...gxh4 32.Qh8+ Qh7 33.Rd4!+- The rook delivers mate.) 32.hxg5+ Qxg5 33.Qd6+- with the threat of Qd2. White is ready to exchange the queens. If Black accepts this, then the endgame is winning for White.]

28.Qd4! The queen goes to d6 in any case.

28...h6 29.Qd6 Qh7 30.Qxf8 1-0

(3) Li Shilong (2549) – Ni Hua (2637) [D85]

Chinese league Hangzhou CHN, 23.09.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

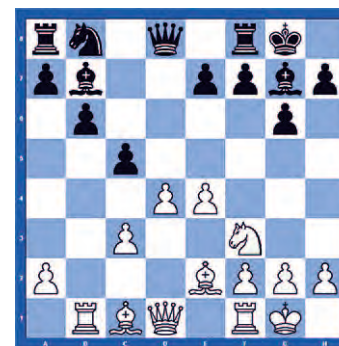
A nice attacking game that was played in the Chinese league.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 Black chose the Grünfeld defense.

4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 c5 8.Qb1 A very sharp system. Its point is to develop with Bg7, which is less accurate directly, because of Nc6! And on d5 Bxc3, the a1 rook is hanging.

8...0-0 9.Qe2 b6 A solid system, which tries to avoid the long computer lines after [9...cxd4 10.cxd4 Qa5+ 11.Qd2 (11.Qd2 is much safer. Black has to react with 11...Qxd2+ 12.Qxd2 e6 as Caruana played against Bartel in Dortmund this year. The game was commented in a previous CEWN.) 11...Qxa2 12.0-0 According to theory, Black is fine after all, but he must remember exactly some 25–30 moves in many lines.]

10.0-0 Bb7



11.d5!? A very interesting pawn sacrifice in order to get a strong center and create a dangerous attack. Black must accept the material, or otherwise White will consolidate his center with c4 and will achieve his dreamed position. [11.♔d3 is the mainline, and it continues with 11...e6 12.♘g5 ♕c7 13.♕e3 ♖d7 with a double-edged game.]

11...♙xc3 12.♙c4 White's main ideas in general are to strengthen his center, prepare for the advance with e5, exchange the dark-squared bishops because it's an important defender of the Black king, and launch an attack with, for example, h4-h5. Black usually exchanges the light-squared bishops with ♙a6 and if he manages to protect his king, to convert his material advantage.

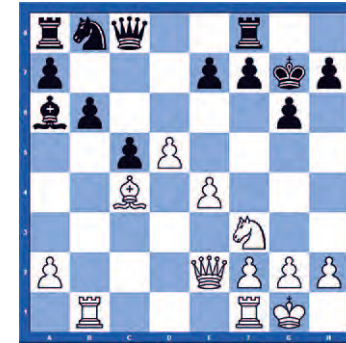
12...♙g7 13.♕e2 A useful developing move, which prevents ♙a6 temporarily.

13...♕c8! Black also continues with his plan.

14.♙b2! GM Vitiugov had introduced this idea back in 2008 against Morozevich. I think it's much more logical than the previously played ♙g5.

14...♙a6 This is the novelty. [Morozevich played similarly with 14...♙xb2 15.♖xb2 ♙a6 but White got very strong compensation after 16.e5! ♙xc4 17.♕xc4 e6 18.d6 ♘d7 Black has pinned his hopes to this blockading position and wants to continue with ♕c6, followed by the mobilization of his queenside pawns. 19.h4 h6 and here White should have played 20.h5! g5 21.♖e2! protecting the e5 pawn, in order to execute the knight maneuver ♘h2-g4, followed by f4 with a strong attack.]

15.♙xg7 ♖xg7



16.♖fc1 A deep attacking plan. White prepares for the exchange of bishops and he intends to take back with the rook on c4 and to push e5, after which the rook switch to h4 could be very dangerous. I must say that the computer stubbornly defends Black's position and prefers it with his extra pawn, but with human eyes it's much better and easier to play with White. [16.e5!? seriously came into consideration with the same ideas as in the Vitiugov-Morozevich game.]

16...♖d8 Black prevents the e5 move by attacking the d5 pawn. [The freeing attempt 16...e6 creates a huge weakening. 17.♙xa6 ♕xa6 (17...♘xa6 18.dxe6 fxe6 19.♖d1 ♖d6 is coming next. The Black king becomes really vulnerable after ♕b2 and ♘e5-g4, for example.) 18.♕b2+ ♖g8 19.dxe6 fxe6 20.♘g5 with a strong attack.]

17.♙xa6 [17.e5? ♖xd5]

17...♕xa6 This is the right way to take back. The Black knight should try to defend his king via d7-f6.

18.♕b2+ ♖g8



19. ♔e5! White leads the attack aggressively. He transfers the queen to the kingside with tempo (attacking the e5 pawn). [19. ♘e5 was tempting as well, but Black can successfully defend with 19... ♘d7 20. ♘g4 (20. ♘c6 ♔e8 The knight is only looking nice on c6, but it should rather participate in the attack.) 20... ♘f6! (20... f6 is probably also possible.) 21. ♘xf6+ exf6 22. ♔xf6 ♔xa2 Black has no problems. The attack is not dangerous anymore without the knight.]

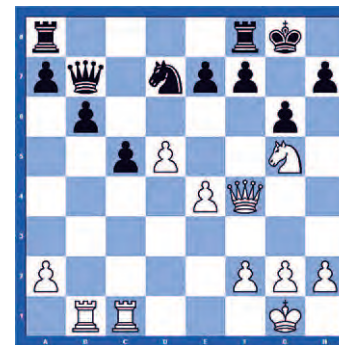
19... ♔b7?! This is a mistake according to the machine, who suggests some very deep defensive resources. [19... ♔e8 should have been played. White should play like in the game: 20. ♔f4 ♘d7 21. ♘g5 ♔f8 In comparison to the game, the queen stands on a6 and it could be transferred much easier to the defense as the following lines show: 22. e5 (The game's move 22. ♔b3 is less effective now. 22... ♔xa2! 23. ♔h3 h5! and Black plays ♔b2 next. The queen suddenly becomes an excellent defender.) 22... h6 23. ♘f3 ♔g7 with an unclear position. White definitely has compensation, but it's not easy to lead the attack.]

20. ♔f4! [Black was probably hoping for 20. ♔xc5 which leads to simplifications and a drawish endgame 20... ♘d7

21. ♔c7 ♘xe5 22. ♔xb7 ♔d7! This was his key resource to neutralize the rook on the 7th rank. 23. ♔xd7 ♘xd7=]

20... ♘d7 It's time to bring the knight.

21. ♘g5 ♔f8 Ugly, but only move!



22. ♔b3! White concentrates all his forces on the kingside! [The direct 22. ♔h4 h5 23. g4 could be easily parried with 23... ♘f6!]

22... ♔b8 This was Ni Hua's idea with 19... ♔b7, but he probably missed or underestimated the following two moves. [Black can't send the knight away with 22... h6 because of 23. ♔h3 ! 23... hxg5 24. ♔xg5 and the mate is coming soon after ♔h6.]

23. ♔h4 h5 24. f4! Very strong move. It's attacking and it's prophylactic against ♔e5 at the same time.

24... ♘f6 [The queen can't be driven to the kingside with 24... ♔d6 25. ♔g3 ♔f6 because of 26. e5! ♔f5 27. ♔e1!+/- with the simple, but strong threat of ♘e4 and ♔g5, trapping the queen.]

25. ♔g3 c4 Black's only chance is to create some counter-play on the queenside, but it's too slow. The White pieces

are well concentrated for the attack. [25...♘h7 Exchanging one of the main attackers doesn't help anymore. 26.f5! ♔e5 27.♘f3! Black is facing too many problems. 27...♔g7 (27...♔f6 is refuted with 28.♔xh5!) 28.e5 Black can't stand the pressure for long.]

26.♖f1 Bringing the last piece into the attack. [White should not be greedy with 26.♖xc4 ♖c8 Black achieved the counterplay he wanted.; However 26.f5! was the most precise move. 26...♔e5 27.♖e1! protecting the e4 pawn in order to move with the knight. The threats are ♘f3, or fxg6 and ♘e6. 27...♔d4+ (27...♔g7 protecting g6 doesn't help. 28.fxg6 fxg6 29.♘e6+ ♔h7 and White must keep his strong attacking knight and continue the attack with 30.♖g5! followed by e5, wherever the queen moves.) 28.♔h1 ♔f2 This tricky resource fails to 29.♘f3! creating a new threat of ♖xg6 besides e5.]

26...♔c7 This loses nicely. # White elegantly concludes the attack! [The only move would have been 26...b5 with the idea of having ♔b6 against the combination which was executed in the game. White's best option is to turn back to the previous line with 27.f5! ♔e5 28.♖e1! The b-pawn is advanced, but it doesn't save the Black king.]



27.e5! ♘xd5 28.♘e6!! ♔c6 [28...fxe6 loses to 29.♔xh5! with mate in a few moves.(But not 29.♖xg6+? ♔f7 30.♔xh5 ♔e8! and the king runs away.)]

29.f5! No mistakes by White. Obviously, the great e6 knight has much bigger value than the rook on f8.

29...♘c7 The last desperate attempt, but White nicely finishes the game. [29...fxe6 loses again to 30.♔xh5+-]

30.♔xh5! ♘xe6 31.fxg6 A nice attacking game by the Chinese GM!

1-0

(4) Mamedyarov,S (2729) – Giri,A (2730) [D11]

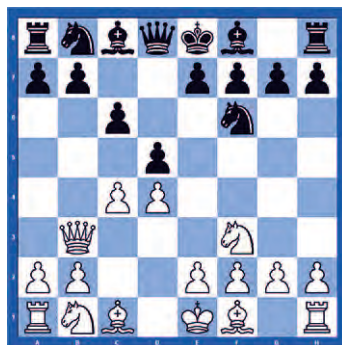
1st FIDE GP London 2012 London ENG (3), 23.09.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We will see a great win by Mamedyarov over the young Dutch talent Anish Giri. It's nice to see Shakhriyar back with his usual super-aggressive style!

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 Again and again, I can only say: „And another game on the Slav” :).

3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♙b3 A relatively rare but tricky line. White wants to stop the development of the bishop on c8, protecting the pawn on c4 at the same time, while keeping in mind the possibility of playing ♗g5. A lot of positive ideas are connected with 4.♙b3, but there's one huge disadvantage: The queen will have to make at least 3 moves, and this in the first 8 moves — can this be good?!



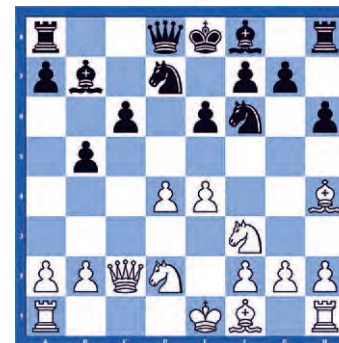
4...e6 5.♗g5 h6 6.♗h4 dxc4 A logical move by Black, and probably the most critical one as well.

7.♙xc4 b5 Black's idea is simple: to play ♗b7, ♘bd7 and c5. Let's see how White will fight against it.

8.♙c2 ♗b7 9.♘bd2 White probably only has one idea in this position, to play e4 or Black is totally fine. [In case of the immediate 9.e4 g5 10.♗g3 g4 Black is winning the pawn on d4. The position remains dynamic, but a pawn is a pawn...; 9.♘c3!? I like this move a lot personally. I think that White's play should always be connected to the e4-d5 push, and of course, the knight supports this idea better from c3 than from d2. 9...♘bd7 10.e4 ♙b6 11.♗e2 A silent but nice move. White still keeps both options open: to castle short or long... 11...♘h5 12.d5! and White is doing clearly better, Jovaba-Potkin, ECC 2011.]

9...♘bd7 Black is ready for the c5 push.

10.e4 We are probably at the first critical moment of the game. [10.e3?! ♖c8 followed by c5 or a6, and then c5. Black solved all his opening problems.]



10...♖c8 N It's hard to say if Black had prepared this novelty or if he just played this logical move over the board... [10...♙b6 This move counts as the main choice here, 11.♗e2 and now Black has a lot of options. Let's take a look at the most concrete one: 11...c5 The situation is clear. White has to do something urgently, or position will become equal. 12.a4! Typical and very strong! It's hard for

Black to find the right reaction. 12...cxd4 (12...a6 13.axb5 axb5 14.♖xa8+ ♕xa8 15.0-0 White's advantage in development gives him better play.) 13.♗xb5 ♖c8 14.♙b3 with the threat of playing a5 or ♘c4 next. I think that White should be doing clearly better here.; 10...a6!? Maybe this simple move is the strongest one. Black wants to play c5 next and save a tempo on the „not really“ needed move ♖c8.]

11. ♗e2 Preparing to castle short. Black can't play c5 still.

11...a6 [It doesn't work to play 11...c5? 12.d5! exd5 13.♗xb5



and everything is hanging in Black's position. Let's not forget that White can still castle long on the next moves, in order to increase the pressure on the d-file.]

12.0-0 c5 Finally... but too late. White has already castled and is ready for:

13.d5! This move basically crushes the Black position.

13...exd5 Black is opening the e-file, and what else is there to do?! [13...e5 14.a4! White starts his play on the queenside. Black's position looks very bad.; 13...♗d6 doesn't look very dangerous, but it is dangerous! 14.a4

The usual push. (It would be a bit too early to start forcing things. 14.dxe6 fxe6 15.e5 ♗xe5 16.♘xe5 ♘xe5 17.♗g3 ♘f7 and Black is somehow holding.) 14...c4 15.axb5 axb5 16.dxe6 fxe6 17.♖fd1 Black's position is falling apart due to the huge amount of threats.]

14.e5! This is the exact way to play the positions with an advantage in development: fast, aggressive and in the center!



14...g5 The only move that saves the piece.

15. ♗g3 Good move! [The very tempting 15.exf6?! gxh4 16.♖fe1 ends with nothing after 16...♙xf6! and the Black king will feel more or less safe on d8.]

15...♘e4 [15...♘h5 16.e6! and the game is over.]

16.♘xe4 dxe4 17.♘d2! Mamedyarov hurry to finish his opponent and takes one step back to make a jump during the next moves. White wants to play the deadly ♘xe4 and Black is hopeless against it. [17.♖fd1!? could also be an option for White, with the idea of playing e6 next.]

17...h5 Black wants to bring the rook from h8 into the game, and at the same time to play h4. A good idea, but

it came too late. White has enough time to finish what he started.

18. ♖xe4 ♜h6 [18...h4 19.e6! What else?! 19...fxe6 20. ♘d6+ ♙xd6 21. ♚g6+ ♔e7 22. ♚g7+-]

19. ♜ad1 bringing one more piece into the attack. White wants to play ♘f6 next.



19... ♙e7 **20.** ♙xh5! And a nice tactic at the end!

20... ♜xh5 **21.e6** Now against 21...fxe6, 22. ♘d6+ is coming, followed by ♚g6 with mate. A great game by White, even though Black made it a bit too easy. The questions about the opening — regarding Black's options to equalize — remain. I guess that we'll see some games on this line in the future. It looks very interesting to me!

1-0

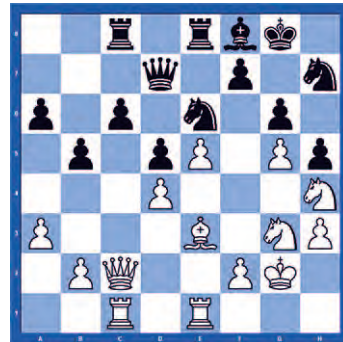
Puzzle section

(5) Grischuk,A (2754) – Mamedyarov,S (2729)

London GP, 24.09.2012

[CEWN]

1.+/-

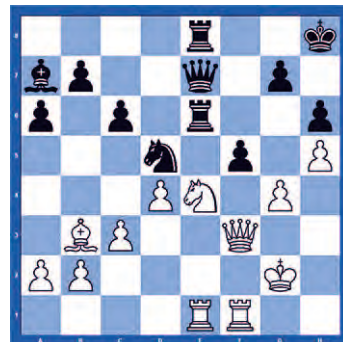


(6) Mamedov,R (2634) – Nasri,A (2319)

Baku Open, 22.09.2012

[CEWN]

1.+/-

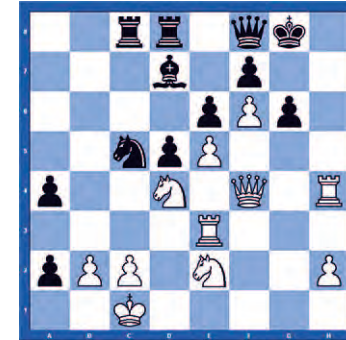


(7) Guseinov,G (2613) – Bajarani,U (2436)

Baku Open, 23.09.2012

[CEWN]

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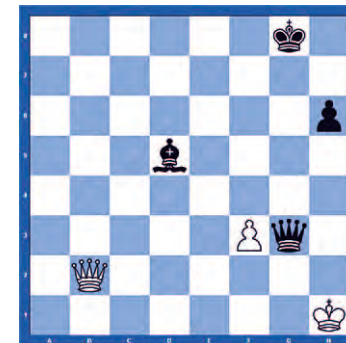


(8) Socko,M (2463) – Ju Wenjun (2528)

Ankara WGP, 18.09.2012

[CEWN]

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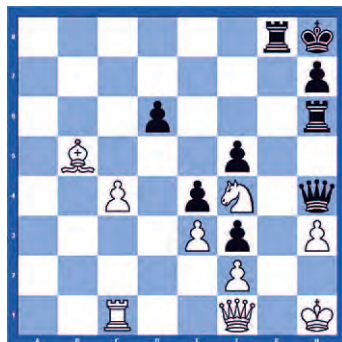


(9) Zhao Xue (2549) – Cmylite,V (2520)

Ankara WGP, 18.09.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

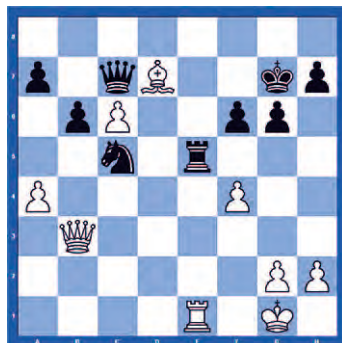


(10) Xiu Deshun (2524) – Wan Yunguo (2474)

Chinese zonal, 19.09.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



(11) Bogosavljevic,B (2497) – Antic,D (2476)

Serbian league, 19.09.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

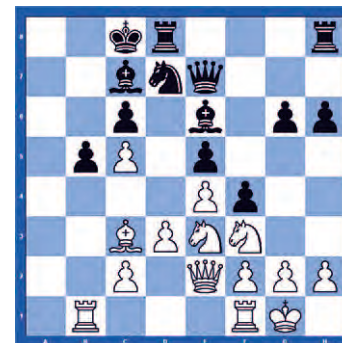


(12) Pavlovic,M (2531) – Sargissian,G (2693)

Serbian league, 21.09.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

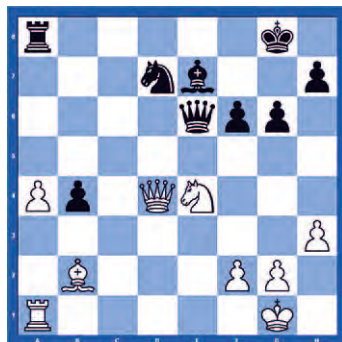


(13) Saric,I (2637) – Roiz,M (2618)

Croatian league, 23.09.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



(14) Mu Ke (2286) – Malakhov,V (2705)

Chinese league, 23.09.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

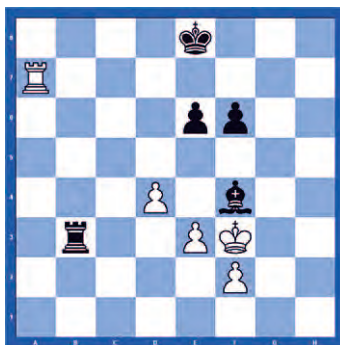


Endgame section

(15) Gelfand,B (2738) – Wang Hao (2742) [E10]

1st FIDE GP London 2012 London ENG (4), 24.09.2012

[Chess Evolution]



After a long and tiring defense, Wang Hao finally reached a rook endgame of 3 vs 2. As we all know, the rook endgames can be very tricky, but the drawing chances are pretty good! Let's take a look at White's and Black's plans. White: to get the king to g6 or d6. Maybe also to push e4-e5, followed by ♔g5-Kf6. This can be very dangerous for Black sometimes. Black: to keep the rook on the 5th rank or to start attacking the White pawns, not allowing the White king to move, or to force the White rook to leave the 7th rank, which would allow the Black king to leave the 8th rank.

43. ♔xf4 ♖b2 The beginning of a nice defensive idea!

44. f3 ♖h2! Great play by Black. Now against White's e4, Black always has a check on h4. On ♔g4, there's always

♖g2. At d5, exd5 ♔f5 ♖h3! and moves like ♔g3 don't bother much because of ♖h1.

45. ♔e4 White wants to play d5 or ♔d3-Kc4-Kc5.

45... ♖h3! Stopping all of White's attempts!

46. ♖b7 ♔f8 Black is waiting...

47. ♖d7 ♔e8 48. ♖c7 ♔f8 White sees no chances of improving his position and tries the last trick...

49. f4 f5+? What a mistake! [49... ♖h5 50. ♔d3! White wants to play ♔c4. 50... ♖a5 (50... ♖h3 51. d5!? using all the practical chances. 51... exd5 52. ♔d4 ♖g3 53. ♖c3 It's a pity to leave the 7th rank, but what else is there to do... 53... ♔f7 54. ♔xd5 The position should still be a draw, but White has some practical chances...) 51. ♔c4 f5 and I don't see how White wants to improve his position. It should be an easy draw.]

50. ♔e5! Gelfand's king is reaching his final destination. [50. ♔d3 ♖h1! This is Black's idea! White doesn't have any way to push d5 because of ♖d1, and on ♔c4, the check on c1 is always there. The position is a simple draw.]

50... ♖xe3+ 51. ♔f6 ♔g8 52. ♖g7+?? Once again a good example of how complicated rook endgames are. Even on the very Top level, such „easy looking“ mistakes happen a lot of times. [52. ♖c8+ ♔h7 53. ♔f7! should have been the right way to go on for White. The position is simply winning. Black can't do anything against ♖c1 in the next move. 53... ♖e2 54. ♖c1 threatening mate on h1. 54... ♖h2 55. ♔xe6 winning both Black pawns, and with it, the game!]

52... ♔f8 53. ♖h7 It was still not too late to come back to c7, or b8, or a7, or even d7 :).

53...♔g8 **54.**♖h1? Gelfand follows the wrong plan...

54...♖e4! And the position is a draw! But...

55.♖d1 ♔h7?? Do wonders happen?! :) [Why not just to take a pawn... 55...♖xf4! 56.♔xe6 ♖f2 57.d5 ♔f8 58.♔d7 ♔f7 59.d6 f4 with a simple draw. White is going to win the rook for the d-pawn, but Black's f-pawn supported by the king is going to be worth a full rook as well...]

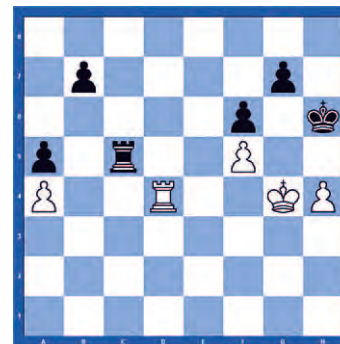
56.♔f7 And the next move will be ♖h1 mate! An amazing endgame. I guess that after checking this endgame at home, both players were quite depressed...

1-0

(16) Wang Hao (2742) – Adams,M (2722)

Grand Prix, London, 21.09.2012

[Chess Evolution]



Black is a pawn up, but in the rook endgames, the defensive side has good drawing chances with active play. This happens in the following game as well. Adams tries his best, but Wang Hao safely holds the draw.

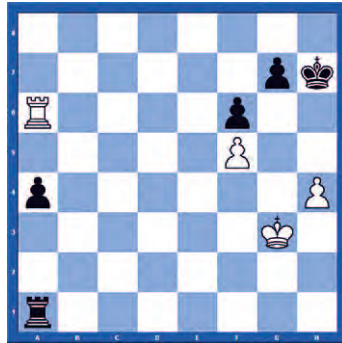
48.♖d7 White should exchange his a4 pawn for the b7 one. The rook is perfectly placed on the 7th rank, where it keeps g7 under attack. [48.♖d8 was also possible. 48...♖c4+ 49.♔g3 ♔h7 50.♖d7 This will transpose to the game.]

48...♖c4+ **49.**♔g3 ♖c3+ Black just repeats once to get closer to the 60 moves time-control.

50.♔g4 ♖c4+ **51.**♔g3 ♖b4 **52.**♖f7 White is passing now, until Black decides what he wants to do.

52...b6 53.♖f8! An important intermediate move to lure the Black king from the h5 square. [53.♖b7 ♖xa4 54.♖xb6? would lose after (54.♖b8! is still possible.) 54...♔h5!]

53...♔h7 54.♖b8 g6 Adams tries to rescue his king from the corner, but this reduces the material, which usually helps the defensive side. [The alternative was 54...♖xa4 55.♖xb6 ♖a1 (55...♖b4 is not a good try, because 56.♖a6 a4 57.♖a8 Black can't improve his position.) 56.♖a6 a4 This is a very tricky attempt, White has only one way to draw.

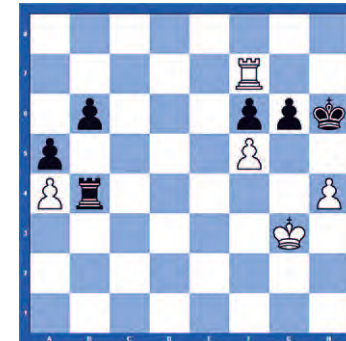


57.♔g4! White hides his king in front of his h-pawn against the threatened check. Then the pawn reaches the 2nd rank. (Passively waiting with 57.♖a8? leads to a defeat after 57...a3 58.♔g2 a2! 59.♔h2 g6! It's very important that Black ends up with an f-pawn, which is an easy theoretical win shown here: 60.fxg6+ ♔xg6 61.♔g2 f5 62.♔h2 f4 63.♔g2 f3+! and the White king must leave the key h2-g2 squares. 64.♔f2 ♖h1 If Black had an h- or g-pawn, the game would be theoretical drawn, even without White's h4 pawn, because White keeps his king on g2 or h2 and starts passing with the rook.) 57...♔h6 (57...a3 58.♔h5 with a draw. The maximum Black can do is to exchange his a-pawn for the f-pawn, but the arising 2 against 1 endgame is also drawn.) 58.♖a8 g6 White must still be very careful. 59.fxg6 a3 and now the unexpected (59...♔xg6 White can't hide his king now. He must use his h-pawn and de-

fend actively to hold the draw. 60.h5+ ♔h7 61.♖a7+ ♔h6 62.♖a6! taking the f-pawn with check. 62...a3 63.♖xf6+ ♔g7 Now the easiest draw is 64.♖a6 a2 65.♖a7+ giving thousands of checks. 65...♔f6 66.♖a6+ ♔e7 67.♖a7+ ♔d6 68.♖a6+ ♔c7 and when the king is far enough... 69.h6 ♖g1+ 70.♔f5 a1 ♖ 71.♖xa1 ♖xa1 72.h7= draw) 60.h5! a2 61.♖a7! A nice tactical solution even with a small amount of material. 61...♖g1+ 62.♔h4 ♖h1+ 63.♔g4 Black must give up his a-pawn to prevent the mate on h7. 63...♖xh5 (63...f5+ 64.♔xf5) 64.♖xa2=]

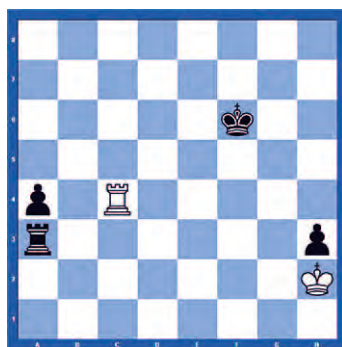
55.♖b7+ [55.fxg6+ was a bit more accurate to avoid Black's extra possibility in the 56th move. 55...♔xg6 56.♖b7 transposes to the game.]

55...♔h6 56.♖f7



56...gxf5 [I believe that both players had missed 56...g5!? which was objectively the best chance. 57.♖xf6+ ♔h5 White must be very careful now. 58.♖g6 !! Other moves with the rook on the 6th rank lead to the same. (However, the most logical 58.hxg5? is a decisive mistake. 58...♔xg5 The rook must move into another tempo. 59.♖c6 ♔xf5 60.♔f3 ♔e5 61.♔e3 ♔d5 This is the important tempo, and Black wins. 62.♖h6 ♔c4) 58...gxh4+ (58...♖g4+ is less dan-

gerous. 59.♔f3 ♖xh4 60.♖xb6 ♖xa4 61.♔g3 leaving from ♖f4. White has quite an easy draw, he can exchange his f-pawn for the g-pawn. 61...♖a3+ 62.♔g2 g4 63.f6 ♔g6 and now, for instance 64.♖e6 a4 65.♖e4 ♔xf6 66.♖xg4= This kind of theoretical endgames were studied in the 3rd CEWN.) 59.♔h3 ♖xa4 60.♖xb6 ♖a3+ 61.♔h2 ♔g5 62.f6 ♔g6 At first sight, this seems to be a win, but White can achieve another known theoretical drawn position by 63.♖c6 a4 64.♖c4! The right method of holding the draw is to keep the a-pawn under attack with the rook from the side. 64...h3 65.♖f4 ♔f7 White is in zugzwang, but it's not a problem if the f6 pawn falls. 66.♖c4 ♔xf6

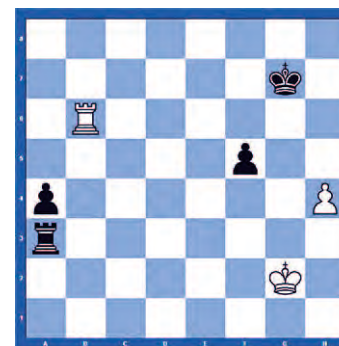


67.♖d4 This is the so-called Vancura position, which we have studied in the 3rd CEWN. 67...♔e5 68.♖g4 ♖a1 69.♔xh3 a3 70.♔h2 White wants to attack the pawn from the side and when it reaches the a2 square, then go behind it. If the Black king goes to support the pawn, White can always give side-checks. Black has an extra option now to rescue his rook with 70...♖b1 (70...a2 71.♖a4=; 70...♔d5 71.♖g3!=) 71.♖a4 ♖b2+ 72.♔g3 a2 but the game is drawn after 73.♔f3 ♔d5 74.♔e3 ♔c5 75.♔d3 ♔b5 76.♔c3! ♖h2 77.♖a8=]

57.♖xf6+ ♔g7 The following moves are more or less forced.

58.♖c6 ♖g4+ 59.♔h3 Black can't improve his position. He must exchange the a4 pawn for the b6 one.

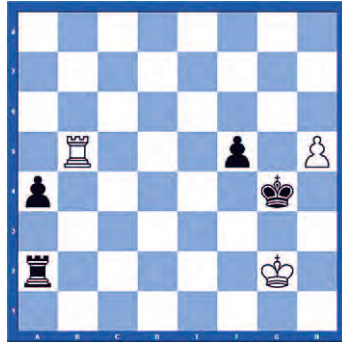
59...♖xa4 60.♖xb6 ♖a3+ 61.♔g2 a4 Adam's last attempt is to play ♖a1, push the pawn to a2 and advance his f-pawn. So, the waiting policy doesn't work. White must find an active plan.



62.♖b7+ The way Wang Hao played was a bit risky, but good enough for a draw. Anyway, it's a bit illogical to send the opponent's king forward, but he has calculated everything until the end. [Much less calculation was needed on 62.h5! ♖a1 (62...♖b3 is not dangerous. 63.♖g6+ ♔f7 (63...♔h7 64.♖f6 ♖b5 65.♖a6=) 64.♖a6 a3 65.♖a7+ ♔f6 66.h6= and Black gives up his a-pawn to stop h6.) 63.♖g6+ ♔f7 Now it's very important to play (63...♔h7 64.♖f6=) 64.♖g5! ♔f6 65.♖g6+! and Black must retreat to f7, otherwise the h-pawn runs quickly. 65...♔f7 66.♖g5=]

62...♔g6 63.♖b6+ ♔h5 64.♖b5 ♔g4 65.h5! White must sacrifice his h-pawn in order to force Black to exchange it for one of his pawns.

65...f4 [The last chance would have been 65...♖a2+ White must find the correct square.]



66.♔f1! Only move, but at this level it's not a problem to find. (66.♔g1? loses to 66...♔g3! 67.♔f1 (67.♖xf5 ♖a1+ 68.♖f1 ♖xf1+ 69.♔xf1 a3 Black is faster.) 67...♖a1+ 68.♔e2 a3 69.♖a5 a2 70.h6 ♖h1 Black is in time to promote a queen and to catch the h-pawn.) 66...f4 67.h6 White must give up his a-pawn. The best try is 67...♔f3 (67...♖h2 68.♖a5=) 68.♔g1 ♖g2+ 69.♔h1 ♖g8 70.♖a5 ♖h8 71.♖xa4 ♖xh6+ 72.♔g1= with an easy draw. White has the correct setup with the king on the shorter side of the board and the rook giving check from the long side. Such endgames were studied in our first issues.]

66.h6 Adams had to accept that Wang Hao defended well, but he found the most elegant way to finish the game.

66...♖h3 67.♖b4 a3 68.♖a4 a2 69.♖xa2 f3+ 70.♔g1 ♔g3 71.h7 ♖xh7 And now comes the famous motif!

72.♖g2+! fxg2 Stalemate!

1/2

Clash of the Titans

(17) Alekhine,Alexander — Wolf,Heinrich [A31]

Bad Pistyan Bad Pistyan, 14.04.1922

[*Chess Evolution*]

We'll examine a convincing victory by Alekhine.

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 c5 At that time, the theory was just about to develop. Black wanted to simplify the position right from the beginning with the hope of getting a draw.

3.c4 cxd4 4.cxd5! White finds the best challenge to his opponent's play. He's ready to open the position, as he's ahead in development.

4...♘f6 Logically, k wants to take with the knight on d5, not allowing White to develop with tempo... [4...♙xd5 moves into 5.♘c3! ♙d8 6.♙xd4 ♙xd4 7.♘xd4 Black can't hope for equality even though he managed to exchange the queens.]

5.♘xd4 [5.♙xd4 ♙xd5 6.♘c3 ♙xd4 7.♘xd4 is another story in comparison to 4. ..♙xd5 line. Black would be a full tempo ahead here.]

5...a6?! The idea its elf is very clever: to make a useful waiting move and to take on d5 according to the circumstances in the next move. However, Black probably missed the following great move. [The drawback of 5...♘xd5 is 6.e4 Black wanted to prevent this move by playing 5...a6 and, for example, after 6. ♘c3 ♘xd5, White can't play e4. Now the game could continue with 6...♘f6 7.♘c3 e5 8.♘db5 White's lead in the development guar-

antees him a small advantage. 8...♙xd1+ (8...a6 9.♙xd8+ ♙xd8 10.♘a3 The king is unsafe on d8, White wants to play ♘c4 and ♙e3 occupying the b6 hole, and 10... ♙xa3 doesn't solve the problems 11.bxa3+= followed by ♖b1, putting pressure on the b7 pawn. Whenever Black plays b5, White gets rid of his doubled pawn with a4.) 9.♘xd1 ♘a6 Black had to prevent ♘c7, but this has a huge disadvantage: Black can't kick the b5 knight out with a6 anymore, because it paralyzes the pieces a lot. 10.♘dc3+=]



6.e4!! Excellent move! Alekhine realized that the d5 pawn causes Black a big headache, since it hinders his development.

6...♘xe4 7.♙a4+! White needs to secure his d5 pawn first. In order to do this, he lures a piece to d7.

7...♙d7 [On 7...♘d7 probably the strongest is 8.♙e3 g6 9.♘b3! Whenever Black plays g6 (since he can't develop his bishop to e6, because of the d5 pawn), he must reckon with the temporarily unprotected rook on h8. White can make use of this in many occasions. 9...♘d6 The knight belongs to this square, blockading well the d-pawn, but now this is met with (On 9...♘ef6 the simple 10.♘c3 ♙g7 11.♙e2 0-0 12.♖d1 and White is better. The d5 pawn is

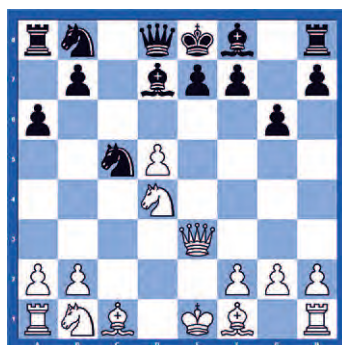
very strong.) 10. ♖d4! forcing a huge weakness.; 7... ♔d7? loses nicely to 8. ♘b5!+/-]

8. ♔b3! It's not easy to deal with the b7 pawn.

8... ♘c5 [8... ♔c7 moves into the c-file. 9. ♖e3 followed by ♘a3 and ♖c1 is very unpleasant.; 8... ♘d6 is met with 9. ♖f4 The problem around b7 are still not solved.]

9. ♔e3! Great maneuvering with the queen. The knight on c5 is misplaced, and Black must be careful to avoid getting it trapped. It has no way back to d6...

9...g6 How else could Black finish his development?! But now, he must face the same problem on the long diagonal as before.



10. ♘f3! All the moves are very concrete and perfectly executed.

10... ♔c7 11. ♔c3!? [11. ♖d2 was also very strong, with the idea of 11... ♖g7 12. ♖c3! and the only „normal” move 12...0-0 drops a piece after 13. ♖xg7 ♔xg7 14. ♔c3+!+- and b4 next.]

11... ♖g8 Black could not be happy at this moment. At least he prevented 12.b4, because of ♖g7. [11... ♖f5 was

an interesting alternative, but White can get a big advantage here as well, with some powerful play. 12. ♖e3! (Not 12. ♔xh8? because of 12... ♘d3+! 13. ♖xd3 ♔xc1+ 14. ♖e2 ♖xd3+ 15. ♖xd3 ♔xh1)



12... ♘d3+ and now 13. ♖d2! is very strong. Black has serious problems to rescue the knight. 13... ♔xc3+ 14. ♘xc3! (14.bxc3 ♘b2 is not convincing.) 14... ♘xb2 15.a4!+/- and ♖a2 will trap the knight.]

12. ♖e3 b6 [Black ends up with a material disadvantage in the line with 12... ♖g7 13. ♔xc5 ♔xc5 14. ♖xc5 ♖xb2 15. ♖d4! The key move that had to be foreseen. 15... ♖xa1 16. ♖xa1+/- The minor pieces will dominate the rook.]

13. ♘bd2 ♖g7 14. ♖d4 ♖xd4 15. ♔xd4 Black has managed to hold the material balance, but he's still very far from finally laying back on his chair. New problems have come up. All his pieces are completely uncoordinated and his king is stuck in the center.



15... ♖b5? „Less pieces, less problems“ was probably in Black’s mind, but the doubled b-pawns become really vulnerable. This also helps White to finish his development. [15...a5 with the idea of developing the knight to a6 is also bad in view of 16. ♘c4 ♗ba6 17.d6! and Black collapses.; 15... ♙f5 was probably the best chance, but White is much better anyway if he can save his face. 16. ♙e2 ♗bd7 17.0–0! followed by ♖fe1.(White should not be too greedy with 17.g4 because of 17...e5!)]

16. ♙xb5+ axb5 17.0–0 ♖a4 [17... ♗bd7 18. ♖fe1 is also horrible.]

18.b4! The queen is excellently placed on d4, White wants to keep it there at any cost.

18... ♙d8 Black leaves the ♖ac1 threat.

19.a3 Alekhine is not in a hurry to finish the game. Of course, this move was not obligatory at all, ♖fe1 was probably slightly more accurate.

19... ♗bd7 20. ♖fe1 ♙f8 [20... ♗b7 doesn’t change too much. 21.d6 e6 22. ♙d5 ♖a7 23. ♗d4+- followed by sacrifices on e6, or just ♗c6.]

21.d6 ♗e6 This allows a small tactical blow, but objectively the game was already over. [21...e6 loses as well, for instance, to 22. ♙c3 ♗b7 23. ♙c6 ♖a7 24. ♗d4+-]

22. ♖xe6! This probably was played without thinking.

22...fxe6 23. ♗g5 ♙b8 24. ♗xe6+ ♙f7 25. ♗g5+ ♙f8 [25... ♙e8 26. ♖e1+- is equally hopeless.]

26. ♙d5 [There was nothing wrong with 26.dxe7+- and ♖e1 next.]

26... ♖g7 27. ♗e6+ ♙g8 28. ♗xg7+ ♙xg7 29.dxe7 The rest is a matter of technique. I think that Alekhine was disappointed because his opponent didn’t resign here, so he lost his concentration a little bit. Otherwise, he would have finished the game much faster...

29... ♗f6 30. ♙xb5 ♖a7 31. ♖e1 ♙d6 32.e8N+ ♗xe8 33. ♙xe8 ♙xd2 34. ♙e5+ ♙f7 35.h4 ♖xa3 36. ♙e8+ ♙g7 37. ♖e7+ ♙h6 38. ♙f8+ ♙h5 39. ♖e5+ ♙g4 40. ♖g5+ [Finally Black resigned in view of 40. ♖g5+ ♙xh4 41. ♙h6#]

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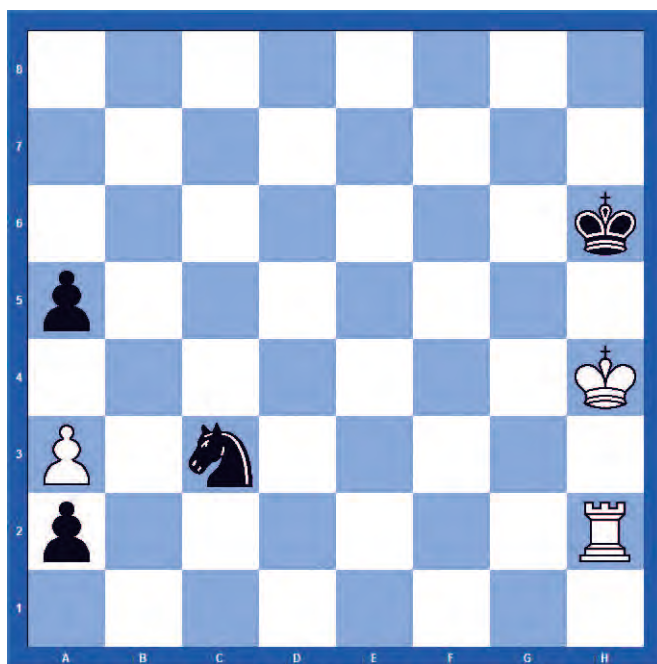
Surprise section / study

(18) Gurvitch,A

1927

[CEWN]

1.=



Solutions

(19) Jamrich,G (2311) – Borocz,I (2365)

Hungarian league, 16.09.2012

[Solutions]



22...♖xe3! 23.♔xe3 ♘g4 24.♔g3 [24.♔e2! ♔a7+ 25.♔h1 (25.♔f1 ♘xh2+ 26.♔e1 ♕h4+ 27.♔d1 ♔g1+--+) 25...♖f2+ 26.♔g1 ♖xe4+ 27.♔h1 (27.♔f1 ♖xd2+ 28.♔xd2 ♕c4+ 29.♔e1 ♔g1#) 27...♖f2+ 28.♔g1 ♖d3+ 29.♔h1 (29.♔f1 ♖xf4 30.♔f2 ♔a6+ 31.♔g1 ♖e2+ (31...♕d5--+) 32.♔h1 ♖xc1 33.♖xc1 ♔c6--+) 29...♖xf4! (29...♖xc1 30.♖xc1 exf4+) 30.♔f1 (30.♔e1 ♕d5 31.♖f3 ♖h3!--+) 30...♔e3 31.♖f3 g5!±; 24.♔b6 ♕d8! 25.♔xd6 ♔a7+ 26.♔h1 ♖f2+ 27.♔g1 ♖h3+ 28.♔h1 ♔g1+ 29.♖xg1 ♖f2#]

24...exf4 [24...♔a7+ 25.♔f1 (25.♔h1 ♖f2+ 26.♔g1 ♖xe4+--+) 25...exf4 26.♔xf4 ♕g5! 27.♔xg5 ♔f2#]

25.♔f3 [25.♔xf4 ♔a7+ 26.♔h1 ♖f2+ 27.♔g1 ♖h3+--+]

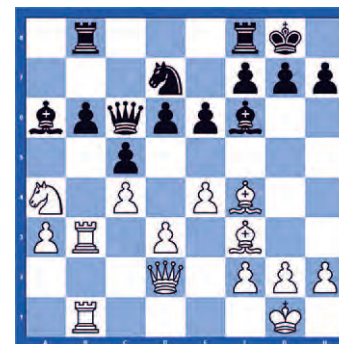
25...♔a7+ 26.♔h1 ♖f2+ 27.♔g1 ♖h3+ [27...♖xe4+ 28.♔h1 ♖xd2 29.♔xf4 ♖c4--+]

28.♔h1 ♕g4!--+

(20) Malakhov,V (2700) – Nisipeanu,LD (2648)

Black Sea Cup, 14.09.2012

[Solutions]



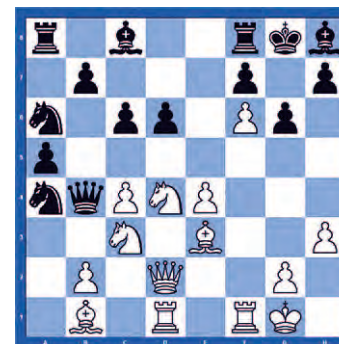
20.e5! ♔xa4 21.exf6 e5 [21...♖xf6 22.♕xd6+--]

22.♕h6! 1-0[22.♕h6 ♖xf6 (22...gxh6 23.♔xh6 ♖xf6 24.♔g5+ ♔h8 25.♔xf6+ ♔g8 26.♕d5+--+) 23.♕xg7! ♔xg7 24.♔g5+ ♔h8 25.♔xf6+ ♔g8 26.♕d5+--]

(21) Malakhov,V (2700) – Jobava,B (2734)

Black Sea Cup, 16.09.2012

[Solutions]



18.♖c2!! ♔b3 19.♕a2 [19.♖xa4!? ♔xa4 20.♔c3 c5 21.♖xd6+--]

19...♔xb2 20.♘xa4 ♕xa2 21.♘b6! ♖e6 22.♖a1 ♔b3
[22...♔b2 23.♙d4! ♕b3 24.♖a3+-] **23.♖fb1 1-0**

(22) Castellanos Rodriguez,R (2491)
– Zhou,Y (2414)

Livigno Open, 17.09.2012

[Solutions]



30.c6! ♖xc6 31.♙a3 1-0

(23) Gajewski,G (2622) – Tomczak,J (2549)

Polish league, 14.09.2012

[Solutions]



29.♖xd6! ♕xd6 30.♙e4!!+- [30.♘xf5 ♕g6]

30...♕a6 [30...♕d4 31.♙xf5 ♕d5+ 32.♔g1 ♕d4+ 33.♔g2 ♕d5+ 34.♔h3+-]

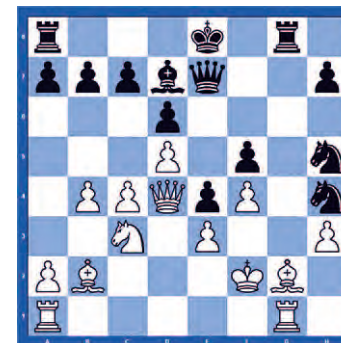
31.♖f2 h6 32.♘xf5! ♖xf5 [32...hxg5 33.♘d6! ♖xf2 34.♕h7#]

33.♙xf5 ♕c6+ 34.♔g1+-

(24) Dziuba,M (2590) – Jakubowski,K (2525)

Polish league, 14.09.2012

[Solutions]



19.♙xe4! [19.♙h1? ♔f7! ♖]

19...♖xg1 [19...♖f8 20.♙d3±]

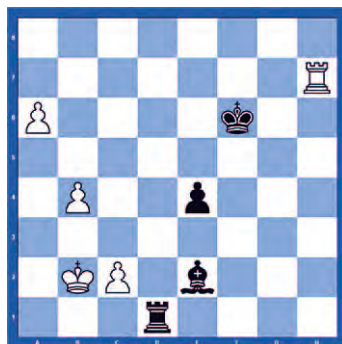
20.♖xg1 fxe4? [20...♘g6 21.♖g5+-]

21.♕h8+ ♕f8 22.♖g8+-

(25) Leniart,A (2458) – Bartel,M (2677)

Polish league, 14.09.2012

[Solutions]



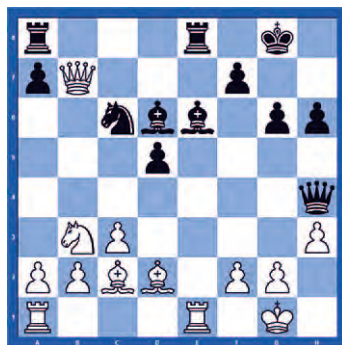
42... ♖xa6! 43. ♜h6+ ♔f5! [43... ♔e5? 44. ♜xa6 e3 45. ♜a8!]

44. ♜xa6 e3-- 45. ♜a8 e2 46. ♜f8+ ♔g6 47. ♜e8 e1 ♚0-1

(26) Maksimenko,A (2554) – Szelag,M (2470)

Polish league, 15.09.2012

[Solutions]



19... ♙xh3! 20. ♚xc6 ♙h2+!! 21. ♔f1! [21. ♔xh2 ♙d7+-+; 21. ♔h1 ♙g4!! 22. ♜xe8+ ♔g7!-+]

21... ♙d7? [21... ♙xg2+! 22. ♔xg2 ♚g4+ 23. ♔xh2 ♚h4+ 24. ♔g2 ♚g4+ 25. ♔f1 ♚h3+=]

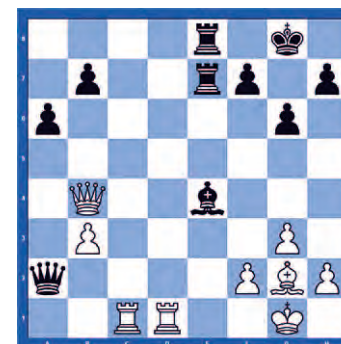
22. ♚xd5 ♙c7 23. ♜e4±

[23.f4!+-]

(27) Gelashvili,T (2578) – Matikozian,A (2411)

US league, 10.09.2012

[Solutions]



23. ♜d8? [23. ♜d2!+- a5 24. ♚xe7!]

23... ♜xd8! [23... ♙xg2? 24. ♚xe7!+-]

24. ♚xe7 ♚d2! 25. ♜c7! ♚d1+! 26. ♙f1 ♚d5! 27. ♜xb7=

(28) Pap,M (2513) – Popovic,D (2583)

Serbian league, 17.09.2012

[Solutions]



35...h4!! 36.e6 hxg3! 37.hxg3 [37.e7? gxh2]

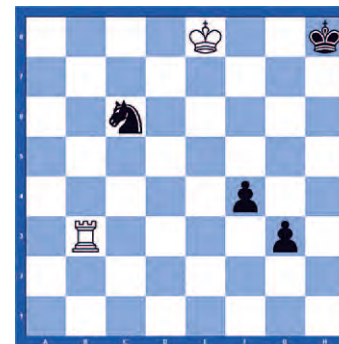
37...f2! 38.e7 ♖e4+ **39.♔c1** ♖d6 **40.♔xb2** ♔xg3
41.♔c1! g4 42.♖c4! ♖e8 **43.♖e5?!** [43.♔d2! ♔f2 (43...
 ♔f4 44.♔e2 ♔f5 45.♖a5) 44.♖e5 g3 45.♖xg6 g2 46.♖f4
 g1N (46...g1♔? 47.♖h3+ ♔g2 48.♖xg1 ♔xg1 49.♔e3)
 47.♔d3 ♔f3 48.♖e6 ♔g4 49.♖d8=]

43...♔f4 44.♖xg6+ ♔f5 45.♖h4+ ♔f6 46.♔d2 ♔xe7 ♞

(29) Mattison,H

1914

[Solutions]



1.♖f3!! [1.♔f7 f3! 2.♖b5 ♖d8+! 3.♔f8 ♔h7-+; 1.♖b5
 ♔h7 2.♖g5 ♔h6 3.♖g4 ♖e5!-+]

1...g2 2.♖xf4 ♖e5 [2...g1♔ 3.♖h4+ ♔g7 4.♖g4+!
 ♔xg4=]

3.♖f5! g1♔ 4.♖h5+ ♔g7 5.♖g5+! ♔xg5= 1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 32

5th of October 2012

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Editorial Preface

We saw a lot of great games on the highest level during the past week. Almost every Top chess player is somewhere in action: Bilbao Final Masters, Grand Prix in London, Poikovsky. There are 30 GMs with a 2700+ Elo participating in these 3 tournaments!

Compared to these Top events, the Croatian league — where both of Your commentators were playing — looks pretty unimportant. Anyhow, the Team of Arkaidj Naiditsch (Liburnja Rijeka) won the Championship for 3rd time in a row. The team of Balogh Csaba was less successful and didn't manage to stay in the league.

The player of the week is definitely Fabiano Caruana. He is just smashing the Bilbao Masters having got some serious luck in some of his games. In the first round, he won his game against the World's Number 1 Magnus Carlsen in an endgame with a pawn down.

In the FIDE Grand Prix there were 3 winners: Mamedyarov, Gelfand and Topalov. All of them showed great chess and great fighting spirit. Mamedyarov was the sole leader for quite a while, but his peaceful play during the last round gave his opponents a chance to catch him. With wins in the last round, Topalov and Gelfand joined him on the podium.

In Poikovsky, the Russian Super GM Dmitri Jakovenko is dominating the event.

As usual, we bring You some games from the most recent events with great chess from the very Top! Enjoy the CEWN Nr 32.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Jakovenko,D (2724) – Onischuk,A (2672) [D37]

Poikovsky GM Poikovsky RUS, 01.10.2012

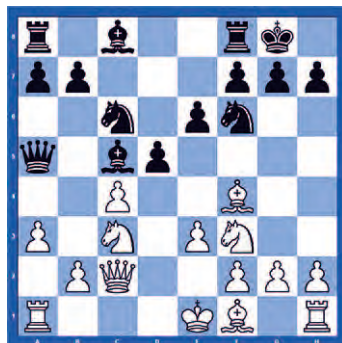
[Balogh Csaba]

Dmitry Jakovenko continues his impressive performance this year. He's on the way to get back to his peak rating of 2760.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♘e7 4.♘f3 ♘f6 Onischuk chose the rock-solid Queen's Gambit.

5.♙f4 0-0 6.e3 c5 This is the most common move. [However, all the top players prefer 6...♘bd7 nowadays.]

7.dxc5 ♙xc5 8.♙c2 ♘c6 9.a3 ♙a5 We are still following the main line, with hundreds of games played. White goes for the fashionable positional move:



10.♖d1 Jakovenko himself is a great specialist of this opening, and plays it with both colors. [10.0-0-0 is the main line with very sharp continuations.]

10...♙e7 11.♙e2 White has more active pieces. He's aiming to finish the development and get a small advantage.

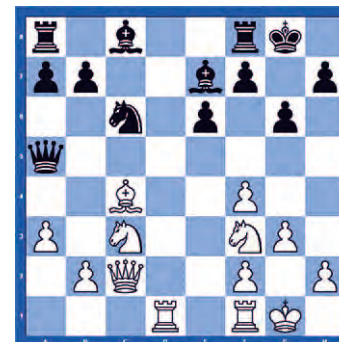
11...dxc4 [11...♘e4 is the other move, but it doesn't equalize either. 12.cxd5 ♘xc3 13.bxc3 exd5 14.0-0 ♙e6 15.♖b1! Black has problems with the protection of his b7 pawn, while after 15...b6 the queen might get into some danger. 16.a4+= The threat is ♖b5.]

12.♙xc4 ♘h5 This is how Carlsen tried to equalize against Kramnik in 2009.

13.0-0! A known motif from many 1.d4 openings that allows Black to take the f4 bishop. Black's main problem is the undeveloped bishop on c8. The White knights start to jump dangerously on the central squares (Ne4-d6 or ♘e5). [The only way to avoid losing the bishop pair is 13.♙d6 but it leads to a drawish position after 13...♙xd6 14.♖xd6 ♘f6 followed by ♖d8.]

13...♘xf4 14.exf4 g6 Black fixes the pawn structure in order to prevent any f5 plan in the future, which would open the diagonal of the c4 bishop and would free the d5 square for the knight.

15.g3



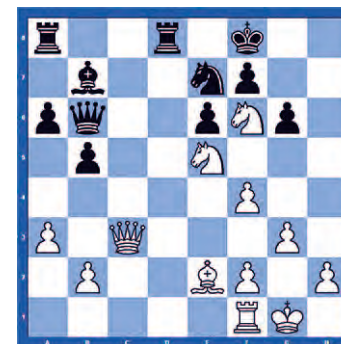
15...a6 This is Black's improvement, with the idea of b5 and ♖b7. [Carlsen played 15...♖d8 16.♖xd8+ ♔xd8 17.♖d1 ♕d7 18.f5!? A brave decision, which had its fruits in the game, but it leads only to a draw. (Objectively, stronger was 18.♘g5! ♔e8 (18...♖c8? is nicely refuted by 19.♘xf7! ♔xf7 20.f5! gxf5 21.♔xf5+ ♔g7 22.♔g4+ White wins in both lines. 22...♔f7 (22...♔h8 23.♖xd7! ♔xd7 24.♕xe6+-) 23.♔h3! decoying the king from the e6-pawn. 23...♔g7 24.♖xd7! ♔xd7 25.♕xe6+-) 19.♘b5! The knights are dominating the weak squares in Black's camp. 19...♖c8 20.♘e4!) 18...gxf5 (18...exf5 19.♔b3 with a double attack.) 19.♔d2 ♔b6?! Carlsen set a trap, but made a mistake. (After 19...♕e8 20.♔h6 ♔b8 with the idea of ♘e5, Black has no problems at all. 21.♘g5 ♔e5! is very strong 22.♔xh7+ ♔f8 Black starts exchanging pieces with ♔g7 or ♖d8. He's doing fine.) 20.♔h6! (Of course not 20.♔xd7?? ♖d8; The tempting 20.♘a4 is met with 20...♘e5!! was in Carlsen's mind.) 20...♕e8 21.♘g5 ♕xg5 22.♔xg5+ ♔f8 23.♔h6+ ♔g8 24.♔g5+ ♔f8 25.♖d6! ♔c7? (25...♔c5 was still playable according to Kramnik.) 26.♔h6+ ♔e7 27.♔h4+! ♔f8 (27...♔xd6? 28.♘b5+-) 28.♔h6+ ♔e7 White can play for more than a draw with 29.♘b5! ♔a5 30.b4! ♘xb4 (30...♔a4 loses in similar fashion. 31.♖xe6+! fxe6 32.♔xe6+ ♔d8 33.♔d6+ ♕d7 34.♕e6!+-)



31.♖xe6+! wins on the spot (31.axb4? ♔a1+ 32.♔g2 ♕xb5 ∞) 31...fxe6 32.♔xe6+ ♔d8 (32...♔f8 33.♔f6+-) 33.♔f6+ ♔c8 34.♔xf5+ ♔d8 35.♔f6+ ♔c8 36.axb4 Black resigned in view of 36...♔xb4 37.♕e6+ ♕d7 38.♔h8+ 1-0 Kramnik-Carlsen, Dortmund 2009.]

16.♘e4 The knight is heading to the holes again.

16...b5 17.♕e2 ♔b6 Black doesn't want to give up the control over the d7 square. He intends to consolidate his position first, but this allows White to increase the pressure. [17...♕b7 was suspicious, but possible. 18.♖d7 ♔b6 19.♔c3! The direct threat is ♖xe7 followed by ♘f6-d7, winning the queen. 19...♖ac8! Cold-blooded defense, counter-attacking the c3 queen. White has nothing better than (19...♖fd8 allows the combo: 20.♖xe7! ♘xe7 21.♘f6+ ♔f8 22.♘h7+ ♔g8 23.♘f6+ ♔f8 24.♘e5! ♘d7 is the threat, Black has to play



24...♔d4 25.♔c7! ♕d5 26.♘fd7+ ♔g7 27.♘b6!+- White wins material, since ♔e4 can easily be parried with ♕f3!) 20.♘f6+ ♕xf6 21.♔xf6 ♘b8! kicking off the rook, otherwise ♘g5 decides the game. 22.♖d2 ♔c6 23.♖fd1 White's chances seems to be preferable, but Black also has some potential. For instance, with ♔e4-f5.]

18. ♔c3! White immediately shows the drawback of the previous move.

18...f6?! With human yes, the weak dark squares looked too dangerous, but this seriously weakens the pawn structure, especially the e6 pawn. [18... ♖b7 should have been played. 19. ♘f6+ is less dangerous. (Probably Jakovenko wanted to play 19. ♖d7 which transposes to the 17... ♖b7 line.) 19... ♖xf6 20. ♔xf6 ♖ad8 Black wants to simplify the position with ♖xd1 and ♖d8, while the concrete threats don't break through. 21.h4 (21. ♔h4? with the idea of ♘g5, but 21... ♘d4!) 21... ♔c5 and ♔f5 next.]

19.b4! Black successfully solved the problem with the f6 hole, but the e4-knight has a new direction to c5, where it immediately attacks the e6 weakness. The critical test of the move is

19...a5 [19... ♖a7 was probably the best, but White is better anyway after 20. ♖c1 ♖c7 21. ♖fd1+; 19... ♖b7? is very bad now. 20. ♖d7 ♖ac8 21. ♖xe7! ♘xe7 22. ♘xf6+ ♔h8 23. ♔b2!+- Black can't hold the long diagonal.]

20. ♖c1! A subtle intermediate resource! It's very important for White to keep his b4 pawn in order to occupy the c5 hole with the knight! [20. ♘c5 didn't work, because of 20...axb4 21.axb4 ♘xb4!]

20...♖a6 Ugly, but what else?! [20... ♖b7 is met with the same 21. ♘c5 axb4 22.axb4+/-]

21. ♘c5 White successfully holds the b4 pawn.

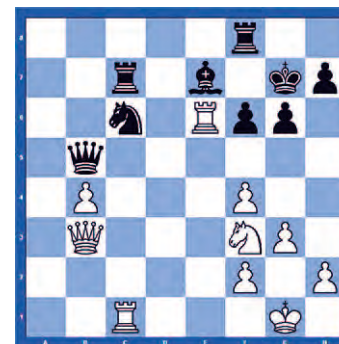
21...axb4 22.axb4 ♖a7 23. ♔b3! White puts the maximum pressure on the e6 pawn.

23...♔f7 A sad necessity, but other moves to protect the pawn were even worse. [23... ♘d8 24. ♘d4! b5 is another

weakness. 24... ♖d7 25.f5! gxf5 26. ♘xf5 Black's position collapses.]

24. ♖fe1! All eyes on e6.

24...♖c7 25. ♖f1? Jakovenko prefers to hold the tension. [The direct 25. ♖xb5!? ♔xb5 26. ♘xe6 was also possible. The main idea is really fantastic. 26... ♖xe6 (26... ♔xb4 is the best, but White gets a clear extra pawn after 27. ♔e3! (27. ♔xb4 is less accurate. 27... ♖xb4 28. ♘xc7 ♖xe1 29. ♘xe1 ♘d4 Black has saving chances.) 27... ♖xe6 28. ♔xe6+ ♔g7 29. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 30. ♔xc6+/-) 27. ♖xe6 ♔g7 And here comes the point!



28. ♘d4!! Brilliant! 28... ♘xd4 29. ♖xc7 ♘xb3 30. ♖xe7+ White mates with the rooks. 30... ♖f7 (30... ♔h6 31. ♖xh7#; 30... ♔g8 31. ♖g7+ ♔h8 32. ♖xh7+ ♔g8 33. ♖cg7#) 31. ♖xf7+ ♔g8 32. ♖fd7+/-]

25...♘d8 26. ♘d2 White wants to stabilize his c5 knight and sets a very deep trick. Oniscuk falls into it.

26... ♖xc5? [26... ♔g7 27. ♘de4+/- is also very bad.]

27.bxc5 ♖xc5



28. ♖e3! Black loses a lot of material in all the lines. Jakovenko has calculated until the end!

28... ♘b7 [28... ♖c6 29. ♕xb6 ♖xb6 30. ♖xc8+-; 28... ♖xc1 29. ♕xb6 ♖xe1 30. ♕c7+- The bishop falls.]

29. ♘e4! ♖c6 30. ♖xc6 ♕xc6 31. ♖c1 ♕d7 The only place to control the c7 square, but it moves into another trick.

32. ♘xf6! Black resigned in view of [32. ♘xf6 ♕xf6 33. ♕e5+ ♔e7 34. ♖c7+-]

1-0

(2) Karjakin, Sergey (2778) – Caruana, Fabiano (2773) [C78]

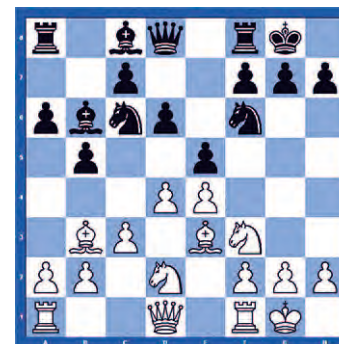
5th Final Masters Bilbao ESP (2), 25.09.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

A very impressive game by Caruana, who overtook the initiative right after the opening and converted his advantage with a spectacular double exchange sacrifice.

1.e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♖b5 a6 4. ♖a4 ♘f6 5. 0-0 b5 6. ♖b3 ♖c5 A very complex opening, which is excellent to play for the win. Its only problem is that weaker players have various different ways to force a draw with White in some long lines. But of course, top players try to play ambitiously.

7.c3 d6 8.d4 ♖b6 9. ♖e3 0-0 10. ♘bd2 This was considered to be one of the main options, but I believe that after this game it's better to forget about it as White. Caruana deviates with a sideline from his previous games.



10... ♖b7! [Theory suggested to play subtle chess with 10...h6 11.h3 ♖e8 12. ♖e1 ♖d7 but Hou Yifan introduced a strong novelty against Caruana: 13. ♕b1! This seemed

to give an edge. The game was analyzed in detail in the CEWN Nr 4.]

11. ♖e1 exd4 Another very rare move. Generally it's better to keep the tension in the center, but now Black seems to be excellently prepared to gain a strong counterplay. [11...h6 was the main line.]

12. cxd4 ♘b4 A typical reaction after exd4. Black must immediately put pressure on the central pawns.

13. ♔e2 This is the novelty. White prepares a pawn sacrifice that gives him more than enough compensation, but Black is not forced to accept it, he can calmly continue his plan. [The move 13.d5 must always be countered by undermining it: 13...c6! 14.dxc6 ♕xc6 with a balanced position.; 13. ♖b1 leads to a similar position to the game after 13...c5 14.a3 ♘c6 15.d5 ♘e7]

13...c5! [13...♘xe4?! is what Karjakin was hoping for 14.♘xe4 ♕xe4 15.♕d2 Black is forced to give up his strong bishop and his knight gets out of the game. 15...♕xf3 16. ♖xf3 c5 17. ♖g3!+= with a promising position.]

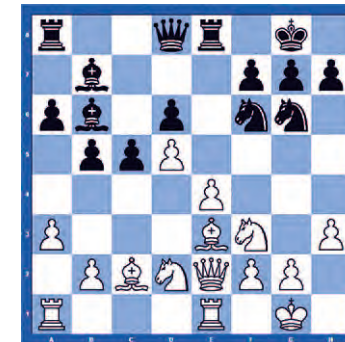
14.a3 White is forced to send away the knight, because it was threatening to occupy the d3 square after c4. [14. d5? c4!]

14...♘c6 15.d5 Karjakin plays the most ambitious way. If he gets to transfer his d2 knight to g3, he'll get a comfortable position. However, Black is just in time to put enough pressure against e4. [The most direct 15.dxc5 dxc5 16.e5 is always a question, but now Black is ready to play 16... ♘g4! trapping the bishop, since ♕f4 loses to c4.]

15...♘e7 16.h3 White must use an important tempo to prevent the ♘g4 threat. [16.♕c2 would be the princi-

pled move, protecting e4 followed by the knight maneuver, but Black has 16...♘g4! 17. ♕f4 c4! The dark squared bishop becomes really powerful. 18. ♕g3 ♘g6 19.h3 ♘f6 Black is fine!]

16... ♖e8 17. ♕c2 ♘g6 Probably it was all analyzed by Caruana, he's already slightly better. White must search for another plan than the knight transfer. It could only work on the queenside.



18.b3 White wants to play a4, but it allows Black to improve his position seriously. [18.a4 immediately, would have been met with 18...c4 Black is OK!]

18... ♕a5! Very well played! Caruana installs his bishop on c3, where it completely confuses the coordination of the White pieces.

19. ♖ab1 [19.a4 leads to a similar position like in the game. 19... ♕c3 20. ♖ac1 b4 Karjakin preferred to get his e1 rook out of the pin to free his play a bit.]

19... ♕c3 20. ♖ec1 b4! Stabilizing the bishop. White can't make use of the c4 square, because both the d2 knight and the c2 bishop must protect the e4 pawn.

21.a4 [21.axb4 is not much better. 21...♗xb4 22.♗d3 h6 The bishop is equally well placed on b4 and on c3.]

21...a5 Black wants to improve his bishop and White needs to prevent this.

22.♗d3 h6 A very useful waiting move. It's hard to suggest a plan for White.

23.♔d1? This is clearly a mistake, but in a bad position it's hard to be clever. White wanted to play ♔c2 to over-protect the e4 pawn in order to execute the knight transfer to g3. [On 23.♗b5 Black has two good options: 23...♖xe4! I like this exchange sacrifice a lot. According to the game, we can be quite sure that Caruana was also intending to play it. Black will collect the d5 pawn soon as well. (23...♖e7 is also good.) 24.♗xe8 ♔xe8 25.♖c4 ♔e7 26.♖d1 ♖f6 White's rooks have no future in this game.]

23...♗a6! Probably Ka rjakin underestimated this move. White can't exchange his bishop, since he will be unable to protect the e4 weakness.

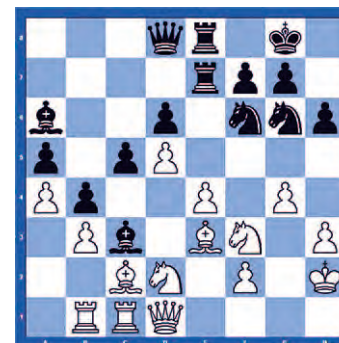
24.♗c2 If we look at the White pieces, we get a terrible picture. It's all because of the monster on c3 and the weak e4 pawn. Everything goes perfectly for Black, but he must work hard to convert the advantage. [24.♔c2 ♗xd3 25.♔xd3 ♖a7! followed by ♖ae7. White collapses.]

24...♖a7! Activating the rook through e7. This is a famous plan from the Benoni structures.

25.♔h2 What else?

25...♖ae7 26.g4?! Of course, such a weakening move only helps Black, but White had no useful moves anyway. [Probably the best was passing with the king on g1 and

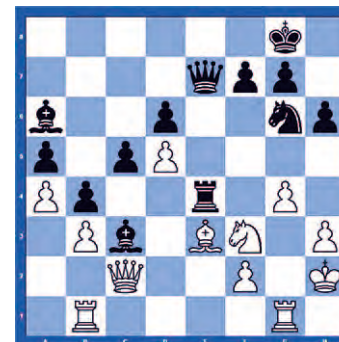
h1, but it would lead to the same result as in the game. 26.♔h1]



26...♖xe4! A great exchange sacrifice, using the fact the the White rooks are completely dominated by the Black bishops. White's position simply collapses. [Actually, Black could also have waited for a better moment, since 26...♔d7 27.g5 only helps Black. 27...hxg5 28.♗xg5 ♖xe4! 29.♖xe4 (29.♗xe7 ♖xf2 and h3 falls.) 29...♖xe4 30.♗xe4 ♖xe4 followed by ♔f5. The game is over.]

27.♖xe4 ♖xe4 28.♗xe4 ♖xe4 29.♔c2 ♔e7 What to do as White? Actually, Black wants to play the same against any move.

30.♖g1



30...♖xe3!! Just brilliant! Another exchange sacrifice destroys White's position.

31.fxe3 ♖xe3 32.♖bf1 White would like to get rid of one of the bishops, but their values are much bigger than the rooks, so Black increases the pressure.

32...♘e2! Caruana wants to break the stability of the f3 knight, since the ♘e5 check would be decisive.

33.♖f5 Black can already choose between many different ways to win.

33...♘d3 [33...♘h4 was also very nice. 34.♘xh4 ♘e5+! and mate is coming soon. 35.♔g2 (35.♔h1 ♖xh3#) 35...♖g3+]

34.♖d7 ♘e5+ Black only gives up one of his bishops because it leads to a forced win.

35.♔h1 [35.♘xe5 ♖xe5+ 36.♔h1 (36.♖g3 ♘xf1) 36...♘e4+ 37.♖g2 ♘f4 finishes the game.]

35...♘e4 36.♖e8+ ♘f8 A brilliant victory by Caruana. It's rarely seen that a player of Karjakin's level gets crushed this way.

0-1

(3) Caruana, Fabiano (2773) – Vallejo Pons, Francisco (2697) [C02]

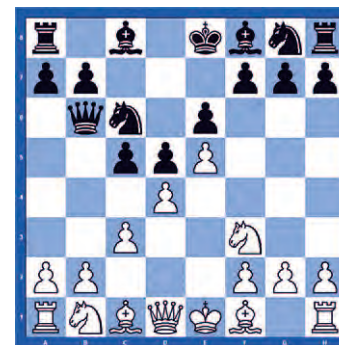
5th Final Masters Bilbao ESP (4), 28.09.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Another crush by Fabiano Caruana, who seems to be in a great shape lately. After the opening, things in the game got quickly sharp and far from being unclear as the result shows us. Let's take a look at what exactly happened and why did Black lose in only 24 moves...

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Lately, Vallejo has started to play the French Defense more and more often, especially the line with 3.♘c3 ♘b4 4.e5 c5, going for very crazy lines. It seems like Caruana himself had been analyzing this — watch his game against Leko from Dortmund — and decided not to go for it, and played the more solid 3.e5

3...c5 4.c3 ♘c6 5.♘f3 ♖b6 5...♖b6 is the most played move, but maybe not the most popular one currently. A lot of games have been played lately in the 5...♘d7 line, with the slightly original idea 6.♘e2 f6!?



6.a3 ♘h6 The main move as well. One of the biggest French experts, Nikita Vitiugov, tried 6...♘ge7, but after

7.dxc5!?, he didn't get a great position against Svidler. Later on, Black was winning the game, but it was not because of the opening outcome.

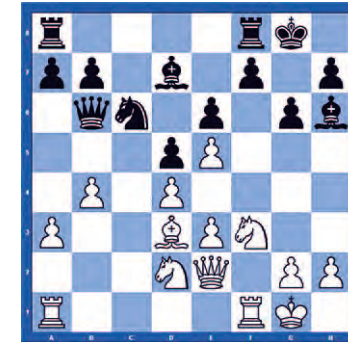
7.b4 cxd4 8.cxd4 ♘f5 9.♙e3 Still thousands of games were played here. Black's idea is to act against the strong White center with f6 or a5. White's ideas, on the other hand, are to develop ♙d3, 0–0, and hope to keep a space advantage, which would certainly give him some edge.

9... ♙d7 [9...f6 10.exf6 gxf6 11. ♙d3 is probably the main line here.]

10. ♙d3 ♘xe3 11.fxe3 g6!? This move seems to be Vallejo's preparation, at least he is by far the strongest player that ever did it. And indeed, it mostly looks very bad from a logical point of view. Black creates a huge „hole“ on f6, and gives White time for development. But still 11...g6!? has a point. If Black is in time to play ♙e7, followed by 0–0 and f6, everything should be fine. Another idea could be to develop the bishop to h6 to stop White from playing ♙e1–Qh4 in the future.



12. ♘c3! I like White's move a lot! He's taking immediate action against Black's ♙h6 plan — White would just defend on e3 and play ♘a4–Nc5, which is strategically very important. [In case of the usual... 12. ♘bd2 ♙h6 13. ♙e2 0–0 14.0–0



14... ♙d8! A very strong move, Black is preparing to play b6 against White's ♘b3, and maybe to push f6 at the right moment. I think the position is unclear, but it could be very playable for Black.]

12... ♘xb4!? Black accepts the challenge. A brave choice, but not the best. It looks like White's play is just crushing! [12... ♙h6 13. ♙e2 and I think White is doing slightly better. The knight on c3 is better placed than on d2.]

13.axb4 ♙xb4 Of course it's not possible to keep the piece on c3. Black can attack it two more times if needed, with ♖c8 and ♙c7 or ♙a5.

14.0–0 ♙xc3 We are facing a very interesting position. White sacrificed two pawns for the initiative. White's play will be clearly connected with the ♘g5 move and an attack against the Black king, meanwhile Black should try to bring back the bishop from c3 to e7. A very interesting battle begins!

15. ♖c1 [The immediate 15. ♘g5 ♙xa1 16. ♘xf7 ♖f8 (It was also possible to play 16... ♙xd4) 17. ♘d6+ ♙e7 doesn't seem to work for White.; Too slow would be 15. ♖b1?! ♙d8! and Black has covered the g5 square.]

15...♖c8 Correct play by Black! [In case of 15...♙b4 16.♘g5 0-0! 17.♙g4 with ideas like ♙h3 followed by g4, or ♖f3-Rcf1. I wouldn't like to be Black here...]

16.♘g5 0-0



17.♙g4?! Probably Caruana made this logical move instantly, but a better choice would have been to think for a while. Black can now exchange a pair of rooks — which is very good for the defensive side, of course. [17.♖b1! would have been the right way to continue for White. Now against a future ♙d2 move by Black, White will not be obliged to the exchange on c8. 17...♙d8 18.♙g4 ♙d2 and now White got a nice tactical blow! 19.♘xh7! Quite typical and not too difficult, but pretty anyway! 19...♙xe3+ 20.♔h1 ♔xh7 21.♖xf7+ ♖xf7 22.♙xg6+ ♔h8 23.♙xf7 and White is close to have a winning position.]

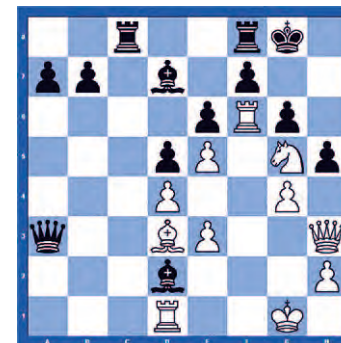
17...♙d2! Of course Black uses his chance to exchange a pair of rooks! This can be very important. Now all of White's sacrifices will just be half as efficient.

18.♙h3 [An attempt to comeback to the ♖b1 line would fail. 18.♖b1 ♙xe3+ 19.♔h1 ♙xd4]

18...h5 [The interesting 18...h6? would give White a winning position after 19.♖xc8! (The incorrect move order:

19.♙xh6 ♙xe3+ 20.♔h1 ♙xg5 21.♙xg5 ♖xc1 22.♖xc1 ♙e8!) 19...♙xc8 20.♙xh6 ♙xe3+ 21.♔h1 ♙xg5 22.♙xg5 and White has a mating attack. The threat of h4 followed by ♖f6 or h5 is too much for Black to handle.]

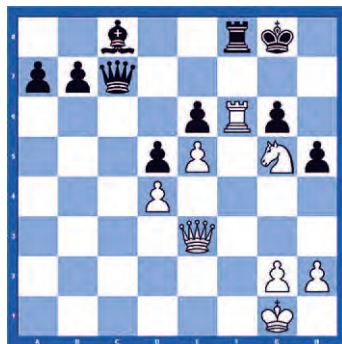
19.♖xc8?! [Again, it would be a better choice to keep the rooks on the board. 19.♖cd1! ♙b4 White wanted to play g4 next. 20.g4 We are in a quite forced line that leads to a winning position for White. 20...♙e7 21.♖f6 ♙a3



22.♖xd2! Who cares about an exchange when you play for mate?! 22...♙c1+ 23.♙f1 ♙xd2 24.gxh5 and White's attack should finish the game quickly.]

19...♙xc8 20.♙f3 [It doesn't work to play 20.g4 ♙b3!]

20...♙d8?? A terrible blunder by Black when it seems that most of the danger is already in the past... [The easy 20...♙c7 would have been the right choice. 21.♙xg6 (21.♔h1 ♙b4 and Black protected the rook on f8.) 21...♙xe3+ 22.♙xe3 fxg6 23.♖f6

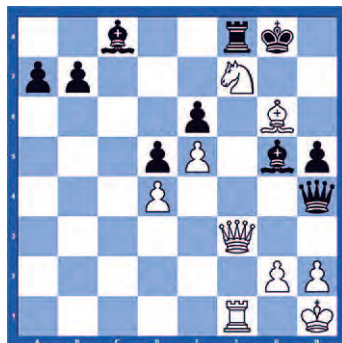


We face quite a strange position. Black is two pawns up, but White should still be doing a bit better. The queen and the knight are cooperating very well together and the Black bishop on c8 is not much more than just a pawn. From a practical point of view, clearly White is the side to choose, even if the computer would probably hold a draw here with the Black pieces...]

21. ♖xf7 And the game is completely over...

21... ♗xe3+ 22. ♔h1 ♕h4 23. ♗xg6 It's hard to say what did Vallejo blunder... The position is completely lost and it even seems that there are no tricks...

23... ♗g5



24. ♗h7+ Against 24... ♔g7, 25. ♕d3 finishes the game. I think this game might be important from an opening point of view. I doubt that anybody else will try 11... ♗g6 in the future. **1-0**

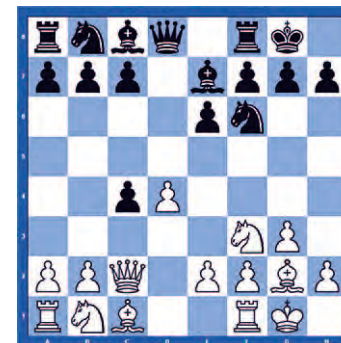
(4) Ponomarev,R (2729) – Short,N (2698) [E06]

13th Karpov GM Poikovsky RUS (5), 02.10.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Ruslan Ponomarev became the youngest World Champion in the World, with just 18 years. He definitely was one of the most talented chess players in history. Somehow, during the last few years he has not been fighting for the chess crown. In the current game, he shows once again how great his technique is. From almost a drawish looking position, he manages to create some pressure first, and then to secure a full point with a nice tactical blow. If we could all play like him... :)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♘f3 d5 4.g3 ♗e7 5. ♗g2 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7. ♕c2 We are in the very main line of the Catalan!



7...a6 8.a4 [8. ♕xc4 is the very main here.]

8...b6 Short is trying something new. [8... ♗d7 9. ♕xc4 ♗c6 leads us to a well known position with thousands of games. The latest Karjakin-Leko game could be important for the evaluation of this line...]

9. ♘e5!? I would say: if I were White, I would have played it too! [Black prepared a little trick: 9. ♙xc4 ♘b7 10. ♘c3 b5! and of course, Black is doing more than fine.]

9... ♖a7 10. ♙xc4 White is playing for a small plus, Black is trying to equalize. This is a very normal story for the Catalan. Black's main idea is usually connected with the c5 push, and White's with being prepared for it. White also hopes to get a small plus in some endgame. More often than not, the knight on e5 is Black's main enemy because of the weakness of the c6 square.

10... ♘b7 [Maybe 10... c5 11. ♖d1 and now 11... ♘fd7! getting rid of the knight on e5. I think Black should be very close to equality.]

11. ♘xb7 ♖xb7 12. ♘c3 c5



13. ♖d1 We face quite a typical position with a small plus for White. Black needs to play quite precisely to achieve complete equality.

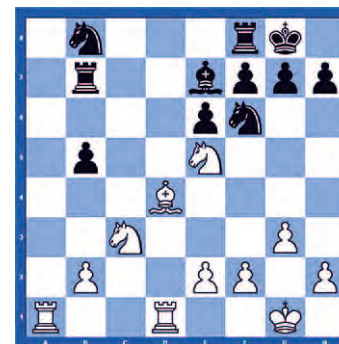
13... cxd4 14. ♘e3 b5?! I think this is a small positional mistake. [14... ♙c8!? This move is quite typical. Again, I want to point that Black needs to get rid of the knight on e5. While knight is „alive“, White has objective chances

of being better. 15. ♙xd4 ♘c6! forcing the exchange of knights. 16. ♘xc6 ♙xc6 17. ♖ac1 ♖bb8! A cool and strong move! Black is recovering the coordination of his pieces. ♙b7 is to follow and then ♖fc8. I think Black should be very close to equal here...]

15. axb5 axb5 16. ♙xd4 White is doing slightly better and we'll soon understand why.

16... ♙xd4 [Again 16... ♙c8 with the idea of ♘c6 was probably a better choice for Black.]

17. ♘xd4 How to proceed now for Black?! The position is much trickier than it looks like. Some would say, it has to be a draw. I would say, not at all. White has a small plus, which is very unpleasant for Black.



17... b4 It's not great to allow the White knight to go to a4, but what else to do... [At 17... ♘fd7 18. ♘xd7 ♘xd7 19. ♖a7! and White would win a pawn.]

18. ♘a4 ♘fd7 Finally Black exchanges the White knight from e5, but the suffering continues.

19. ♖ac1 f6 [In case of 19... ♘xe5 20. ♘xe5 ♘d7 White has 21. ♖c7! ♖xc7 22. ♘xc7 ♘f6 23. ♘b6 and the draw is far

ahead again. White will play f3-e4 next. It's really an unpleasant endgame for Black.]

20. ♖c6 [20. ♖d3! I like this move better. Why to exchange a piece? The Black knights don't have enough squares! I think White should be doing clearly better here.]

20... ♗xc6 21. ♖xc6 It's not an easy job to equalize completely with Black here.

21... e5 [21... ♖f7 22. b3 ♖d8 23. ♖dc1 White is controlling the c-file, which gives him some advantage.]

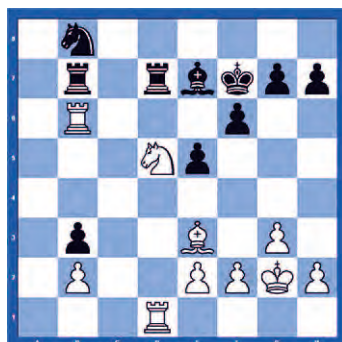
22. ♕e3 b3?! Black allows the White knight to go to d5. This is clearly the wrong idea. It was better to play 22... ♖f7. This move is necessary in any case.

23. ♖c3! Of course, White brings his knight to d5.

23... ♖f7 24. ♖d5 ♖d8 25. ♖g2 White has no reason to hurry things up, Black has no counterplay at all.

25... ♖b8 26. ♖b6! A good move by White once again.

26... ♖dd7? And as it happens so often in chess, after some bad play, a blunder occurs. [26... ♖xb6 was probably the only move. 27. ♕xb6 ♖d7 28. e4 with an already very unpleasant position for Black. White will win the b3 pawn, sooner or later.]



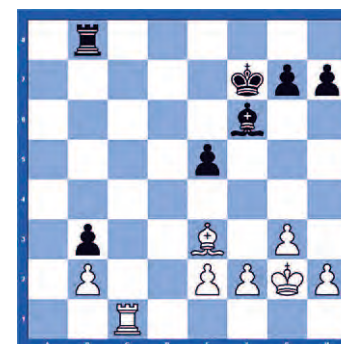
27. ♖xf6!! What a pretty tactical blow! We don't see such a motif so often!

27... ♖xb6 [It doesn't help to play 27... gxf6 28. ♖xd7 ♖xb6 29. ♖xe7+ ♖xe7 30. ♕xb6 with a winning endgame for White.]

28. ♖xd7 ♖b5 White is winning, but there's still some job to do. Ponomarev shows us how things should be done.

29. ♖xb8 ♖xb8 30. ♖c1! White has a very nice plan. He'll put the rook on the 7th rank, after taking the bishop from e3 to c3.

30... ♕f6



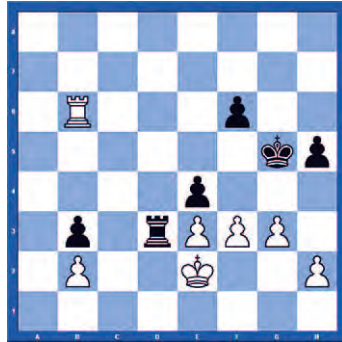
31. ♕d2 Black wanted to play e4.

31... e4 32. ♖c7+ ♖e6 33. ♕c3 Now Black can't avoid the rook endgame.

33... ♖d8 34. ♖c6+ ♖f7 35. e3! Another nice technical move, fixing Black's pawn structure.

35... ♖d3 36. ♕xf6 gxf6 37. ♖b6! And the Black rook can't move from d3. Now White will just come to e2 with his king and play f3.

37...h5 38.♔f1 ♔g6 39.♔e2 ♔g5 40.f3 The game is completely over.



40...♖d5 [40...f5 41.h4# Nice checkmate :)]

41.fxe4 ♖c5 42.♔f3 It's strange that Black continues playing. With 3 pawns up, Ponomariov is very very strong :).

42...h4 43.gxh4+ ♔xh4 44.♖xb3 A great game by White on the Catalan!

1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Carlsen,M (2843) – Aronian,L (2816)

Sao Paulo, 28.09.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(6) Safarli,E (2620) – Korobov,A (2705)

Baku Open, 26.09.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

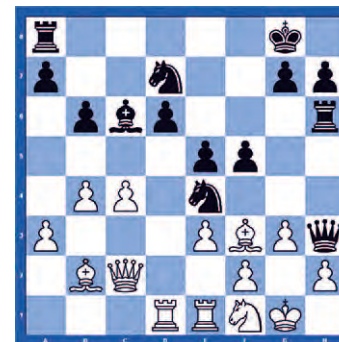


(7) Korobov,A (2705) – Zhigalko,S (2667)

Baku Open, 28.09.2012

[CEWN]

1. -+

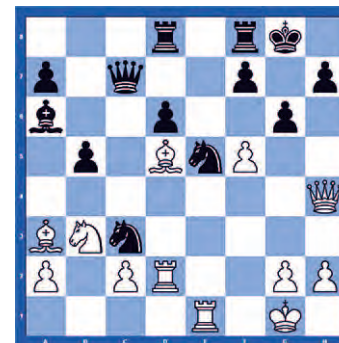


(8) Mamedov,R (2634) – Esen,B (2588)

Baku Open, 28.09.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

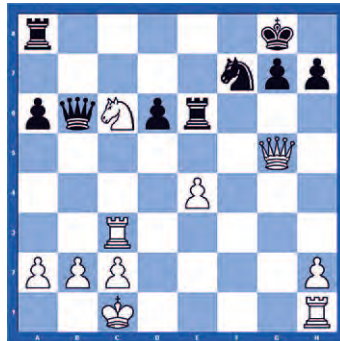


(9) Kosintseva,T (2524) – Ju Wenjun (2528)

Ankara WGP, 27.09.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–

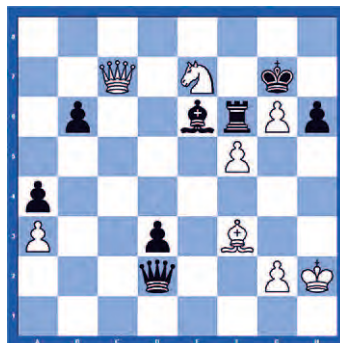


(10) Beliavsky,A (2609) – Dobrov,V (2481)

San Cristobal Open, 26.09.2012

[CEWN]

1...=

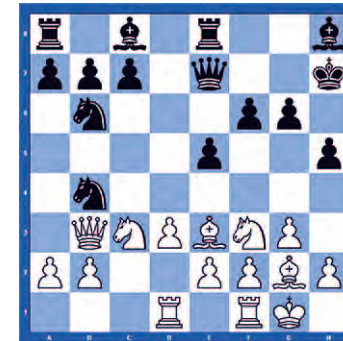


(11) Flores,D (2593) – Blanco Ronquillo,H (2430)

San Cristobal Open, 27.09.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–

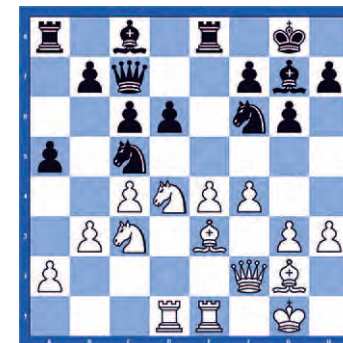


(12) Cordova,E (2554) – Martinez Romero,M (2368)

San Cristobal Open, 28.09.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–



(13) Shankland,S (2597) – Bhat,V (2511)

Konig memorial (rapid), 23.09.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

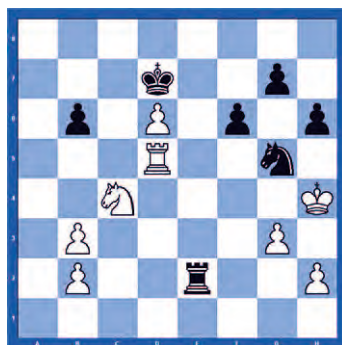


(14) Navara,D (2691) – Sax,G (2451)

Croatian league, 29.09.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

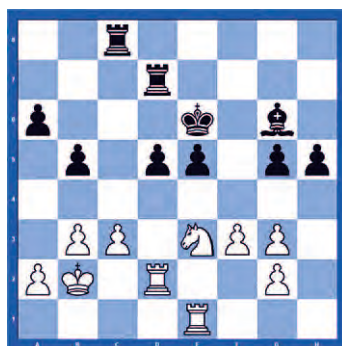


Endgame section

(15) Vallejo Pons,F (2697) – Carlsen,M (2843)

Sao Paolo, 25.09.2012

[Chess Evolution]



Black has some space advantage, a better pawn structure and his bishop is stronger than the knight. However, White has built up a very solid defensive wall, which seems to be unbreakable. As a real number 1, Carlsen finds his only chance.

26...d4!! At first sight, it's slightly suspicious to open the e-file against his own king, but the knight doesn't have any good way to jump with discovered check. Black tries to create a passed d-pawn.

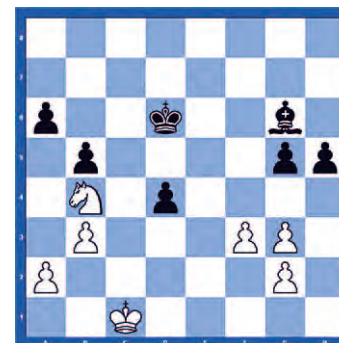
27.cxd4 ♖xd4 28.♖xd4? I believe it's a mistake to allow Black to obtain a strong d-pawn. Also, White will face problems to cover the c2 invading square. [Passively waiting with 28.♖de2 was better. 28...♙f6 Black's position remains preferable, but he must work hard to make progress. 29.♘d1! looks like a good defensive plan, trans-

ferring the knight to f2, followed by waiting moves with the rooks. White has good drawing chances.(29.g4 is always met with 29...h4 fixing the weakness on g2.; 29.♘c2 ♖d6)]

28...exd4 29.♘c2+ ♔d5 Black made serious achievements in comparison to the initial position.

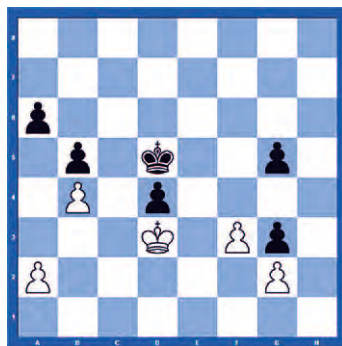
30.♘b4+ ♔d6 31.♖c1? This logical move is objectively the losing mistake, although White's position was already very difficult. Black was threatening to push a5 and to penetrate with the rook on c2. [31.♖d1 should have been played, when Black must react precisely with 31...♙e5! (On the tempting 31...a5 White has a hidden resource: 32.♖xd4+ ♙e5 33.♖d8! This tactical trick seems to solve all problems. 33...♖xd8 34.♘c6+ ♙f6 35.♘xd8 ♙d3 Black regains the pawn with ♙f1, but White builds up a fortress with 36.♙c3 ♙f1 37.♙d2 ♙xg2 38.♙e3 The knight starts to harass the queenside pawns.) 32.♖e1+ ♙f6 Black is better. 33.♘d5+ leads nowhere. 33...♙f7 The c2 square and the d-pawn are very dangerous together.; 31.♘xa6 loses to 31...♖c2+ 32.♙a3 ♖xg2 Black gets too many passed pawns.]

31...♖xc1 32.♙xc1



32...h4! Excellent calculation by Carlsen, who had to foresee his 37th move. Black fixes the weakness on g2 and is winning now. The bishop dominates the knight.

33.gxh4 [33.♖c2!? could have been the last chance. 33...♔c5! keeping the minor pieces on the board. (Black should not be greedy and go for the pawn endgame with an extra pawn. 33...♙xc2 34.♔xc2 hxg3 35.b4! White blocks all the invading squares. All he needs to do is to meet ♔d5 with ♔d3, and hold the draw. 35...♔d5 36.♔d3



36...♔e5 37.♔d2=) 34.gxh4 gxh4 ♙d3-f1 is threatened. 35.♖e1 b4! fixing more weaknesses on the queenside. The king must cover the b1 square and the knight must cover d3, while Black simply wants to march with his king to g3.]

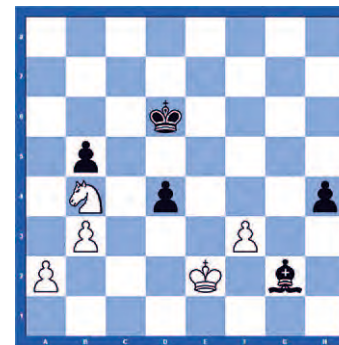
33...gxh4 Black threatens to play a5 and the arising pawn endgame is winning for him, since in comparison to the 33.♖c2 line, he has an invading square on g3 for the king.

34.♖xa6 [34.♖c2 ♙xc2 35.♔xc2 ♔e5 wins like in the 34.♔d2 line.; 34.♔d2 a5! 35.♖c2 ♙xc2 36.♔xc2 ♔e5 37.♔d3 ♔f4 Black wins the pawn race. 38.♔xd4 ♔g3 39.♔e5 ♔xg2 40.f4 h3]

34...♙d3 The bishop collects the g2 pawn and obtains a second passed pawn.

35.♖b4 ♙f1 36.♔d2 [After 36.♖c2 White can't stop the h-pawn. 36...♙xg2 37.♖xd4 h3]

36...♙xg2 37.♔e2 We have reached the critical position, where Black has to find the only winning move. Carlsen had seen it when he played h4.



37...♙h3!! Before making use of the two passed pawns, Black transfers his bishop to f5, where it excellently supports both pawns. [37...h3 38.♔f2 The bishop is stuck, White holds.]

38.a4 [38.♖d3 doesn't change anything. 38...♙f5 39.♖f2 b4! This is the most accurate, fixing the a2 weakness, followed by ♔e5-f4.]

38...♙f5 39.axb5 d3+ One of the pawns will promote.

40.♔e3 h3 [40...d2 was also possible. 41.♔xd2 h3 and a new queen is coming.]

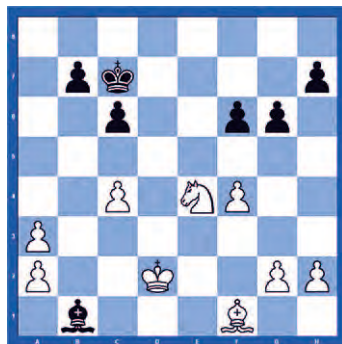
41.♖xd3 ♙xd3 [White resigned in view of 41...♙xd3 42.♔f2 ♙xb5 43.♔g3 ♙d7 The Black king collects both pawns and the h1 promoting square matches the bishop's color.]

0-1

(16) Short,N (2698) — Rublevsky,S (2693) [A28]

13th Karpov GM Poikovsky RUS (1), 28.09.2012

[Chess Evolution Team]



After quite a dynamic game, we arrived to this bishop endgame. White is a pawn up, but the doubled a-pawn doesn't look too good. We can say, even though White is better here, that the game probably much closer to a draw than to a win.

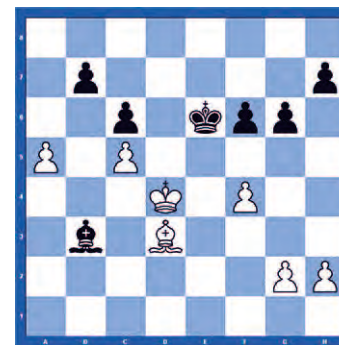
33...♙xe4 34.c5! Very strong and probably the only chance to continue playing for a win. [Now it would be too slow to play 34.g4?! c5! It's very important to take the d4 square under control. 35.a4 b6 leaves White without any chance to win this game. The White king doesn't have the d4 square anymore, with the idea of going to e5 — which is the only plan in the position.]

34...♙d5 Black is winning a full pawn back — this can't be wrong.

35.♙c3 ♙xa2 36.♙d3 ♙e6 Black is acting against White's only idea — to play g4-g5 followed by ♙d4-Ke5.

37.a4 ♙d7 38.♙d4 ♙b3?! It's hard to understand why Rublevsky decided to go away with his bishop to b3 and not to keep it on the c8-h3 diagonal. [38...♙e7 39.a5 ♙d7 40.h3 ♙c8 41.g4 ♙d7 White still can't play g5 because the pawn on h3 is hanging. 42.♙f1 ♙c8 43.g5 Finally White managed to push g5, but Black keeps his passive defense. 43...♙d7 44.h4 ♙c8 White can't improve much more his position. The only try is to get the bishop to g8. 45.♙c4 ♙e6 and this seems to be a total draw.]

39.a5 ♙e6 Black continues with his incorrect plan, it wasn't too late to play ♙e7 followed by ♙e6-Bc8.



40.♙e4! Black wanted to play f5 with a draw. Now the threat of ♙xc6 forces the Black king to retreat.

40...♙d7 41.g4 The usual fight for the e5 square.

41...♙a4 [It was the last chance for 41...♙e6 42.g5 ♙e7 43.gxf6+ ♙xf6 44.a6 ! 44...bxa6 45.♙xc6 ♙c8 The computers can hold this position, but from a practical point of view, it can be very unpleasant. The position is on the verge of being lost...]

42.h4 There's no reason to hurry with the g5 push anymore. The Black bishop is very badly placed on a4.

42...♔e7 43.g5 ♘b5 44.♙g2! And here we see what Black may have underestimated. White is bringing his bishop to c8!

44...♔f7 45.♙h3 ♔g7 [The attempt to close everything doesn't work. 45...f5 46.♔e5 ♔e7 47.h5 followed by h6, and White's threat of ♙xf5 followed by g6, or to bring the bishop to the a2-g8 diagonal should be enough to win the game.]

46.♙c8 ♙a6 Black is completely paralyzed but it's not easy to break through still.

47.♔e4 White has all time in the world and is preparing to crush Black's position.

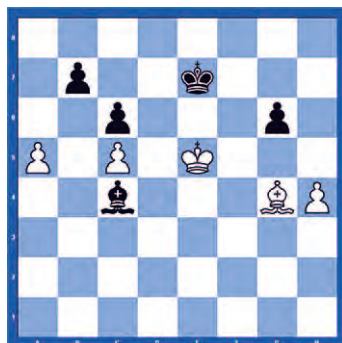
47...♔f7 48.f5! Pawns crushing pawns :).

48...♔g7 49.♔f4 ♔f7 50.fxg6+ hxg6 51.♔e4 ♔g7 52.gxf6+ ♔xf6 53.♔f4 The first zugzwang. Black needs to retreat with the king.

53...♔f7 54.♔e5 ♔e7 55.♙g4 White wants to combine the threat of playing ♙c8 and to bring the bishop to the b1-h7 diagonal.

55...♙c4 56.♙f3 ♙d3 Black doesn't allow it.

57.♙g4 ♙c4



58.♙d1! The second try on the d1 square.

58...♙e6? After this move the game is lost. The only attempt to continue was to play [58...♙d3 but after 59.♙f3! puts Black in zugzwang. In case of 59...♙b1, 60.♙xc6 is winning. In case of 59...♙c4, 60.♙e4 ♔f7 and 61.♔d6!.]

59.♙c2 ♙f7 60.♙d3! The last precise move. Black has no moves.

60...♙e8 And only now

61.♙e4 ♙f7 62.♙xc6 We saw a well played endgame by White and a wrong defensive idea by Black, which led the endgame from a close to drawn position to a losing one, step by step.

1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Smyslov,Vassily — Hort,Vlastimil [D64]

Leipzig ol (Men) fin-A Leipzig, 04.11.1960

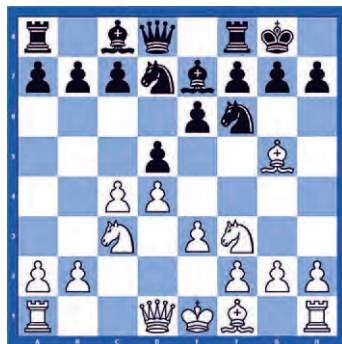
[Balogh Csaba]

A real „heavy-weight” game. The 7th World Champion against one of the strongest player of the 1960s and 70s, Vlastimil Hort.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♚g5 ♚e7 Black decided to play the Queen's Gambit.

5.e3 ♘bd7 Recently this setup went slightly out of fashion. [The players prefer 5...0-0 6.♘c3 h6 7.♚h4 and one of the following two continuations here. 7...♘e4 (or 7...b6 both with a huge amount of theory.)]

6.♘c3 0-0 A psycho logical fight begins over the dxc4 move. White would like to make as many useful developing moves as possible before „touching” the f1 bishop, in order to save a tempo on recapturing on c4. Black's idea is more or less the same, he wants to improve his position until the f1 bishop leaves its place.



7.♖c1 White focuses his forces on the central files to prepare for the dxc4 and c5 breaks.

7...c6 8.♙c2 ♖e8 One of the main equalizing ideas in this opening is dxc4 followed by e5. The last move supports this plan.

9.a3 Another very useful, multi-purpose move. White frees the a2 square for the bishop (the game demonstrates this well) and prepares to play b4 later in the mid-game stage.

9...dxc4 Finally, Black could not hold the tension. [9...a6 It was still possible to wait, but White would have improved his position anyway. 10.h3! opening the back-rank and saving the dark-squared bishop against the h6 ♚f4 ♘h5 ideas with ♚h2.]

10.♚xc4 ♘d5 This is Black's main resource in this line. White needs to react accurately, otherwise the advantage quickly disappears.

11.♚xe7 ♙xe7



12.♘e4! It's very important to save the knight and prevent Black's plan. [On the „normal” 12.0-0 Black imme-

diately solves his opening problems with 12...♘xc3!
13.♔xc3 e5!=]

12...h6 [The 12...e5? break is refuted tactically by 13.♙xd5!
cxd5 14.♘c3 ! White wins a pawn, since d5 can't be pro-
tected with the queen because of ♘b5, and on 14...e4
15.♘xd5! ♔d6 16.♘c7+- wins.]

13.0-0 b6 Black finishes his development, and starts to
prepare for the other break (after e5 was prevented) with
c5.

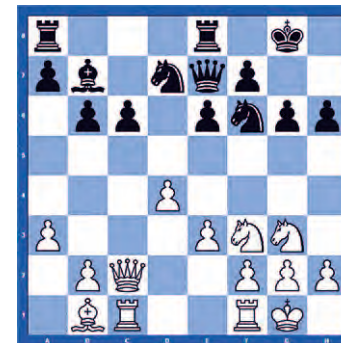
14.♙a2!? Here you can see one of the points of the 9.a3
move. Smyslov transfers his bishop to b1 to create di-
rect threats. [I believe 14.♘e5! was even stronger. 14...
♙b7 15.♙e2! ♖ec8 (Black must be careful with 15...♖ac8
16.♔a4! with a double-attack.; 15...♘xe5 16.dxe5 is never
an option for Black because of the d6 square.) 16.♙h5!
forcing a huge weakness. 16...g6 17.♙f3 White's pieces
are perfectly coordinated, he must have the advantage
here.]

14...♙b7 15.♙b1 ♘c5 is the threat. Black must cover the
h7 square.

15...♘5f6 16.♘g3 White consequently avoids the ex-
changes of knights and also prepares to play e4-e5, but
at the same time allows Black to free his position. [16.
♘xf6+!? might be a better option. 16...♘xf6 17.♘e5
♖ec8 18.♘d3 controlling both e5 and c5 breaks, with a
small advantage.]

16...g6? Hort preferred to execute the e5 move and took
control over the f5 square, but it was too slow. [However,
the other idea would have equalized. 16...c5 Probably

Black was afraid of 17.e4 but here he has a very strong re-
source: 17...♘f8! 18.dxc5 ♖ec8!= solving all his problems.]



17.e4! White is in time! The idea is e5 followed by ♘e4,
occupying the d6 square.

17...e5 18.♔d2!! Very deep move, which was probably
overlooked by Hort, otherwise he would have preferred
to play 16...c5. White wants to exchange everything on
e5, followed by f4 and e5, but first he takes control over
the d4 square with a tempo by attacking the h6 weak-
ness. [18.dxe5 ♘xe5 19.♘xe5 ♔xe5 20.f4 ♔d4+ 18.♔d2
was directed against this. 21.♙h1 ♖ad8 White should be
better here as well, but now Black always has ♘g4 against
the e5 move.]

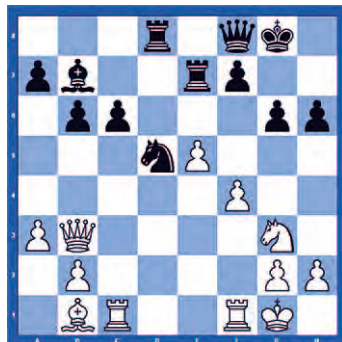
18...♔f8 [18...♙h7 is even worse. 19.dxe5 ♘xe5 20.♘xe5
♔xe5 21.f4+/- and e5, f5 are coming next, destroying
Black's kingside pawn structure.]

19.dxe5 ♘xe5 20.♘xe5 ♔xe5 21.f4 ♖e7 22.e5 Clearly
something went wrong for Black, his counterplay is very
far away.

22...♖d8 23.♔c3?! I don't understand this move. Why
did White move into the ♘d5 tempo? [23.♔c2 was prob-

ably the best. 23...♘d5 24.♚f3→ covering the e3 square, followed by f5 next with a huge attack.]

23...♘d5 24.♚b3 White is ready to push f5, how should Black react?



24...h5?! Hort wants to generate counterplay with ♖h6, but it further weakens Black's kingside. [24...f5! was the only chance to stay in the game. Black wants to play ♖f7 and c5, so White should try to continue the attack with 25.exf6 ♕xf6 26.f5 g5 Black has a terribly suspicious position, but it's not clear yet how White should continue. For instance, after the straight forward 27.♘h5 ♖d4+ 28.♙h1 ♖e2 29.f6 Black plays 29...♖e3! 30.♖c4 c5! and suddenly it's not obvious who is better.]

25.♘e4 Smyslov is not in a hurry with f5. First, he installs a knight on d6. [25.f5 was also quite good. 25...♖h6 26.♖ce1 to prevent ♖e3. 26...h4 27.♘e4 with a big attack.]

25...♖h6 26.♖cd1 ♖f8 27.♘d6! The f4 pawn is indirectly protected by ♖e3, pinning the queen. This means Black is completely lost, he has no chance for counterplay, he can only wait and watch how Smyslov finishes the game.

27...♙h7 Black protects to queen to refresh the ♘xf4 idea, but it moves into other threats. [27...♙a6 28.♖f2 ♘xf4 29.♖e3+-; 27...♘xf4 28.♖e3+- and g5 doesn't work because of ♘f5.]

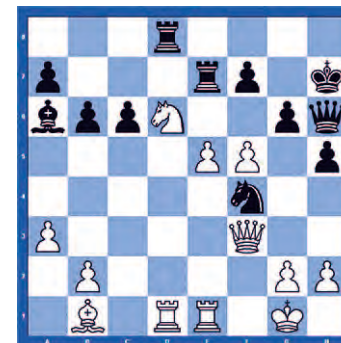
28.f5! ♘xf7 is threatened, followed by fxg6.

28...♙a6 [Exchanging the queens doesn't help. 28...♖e3+ 29.♖xe3 ♘xe3 30.fxg6+ fxg6 31.♖xf8 ♘xd1 32.♖f6! Black's position collapses, for instance: 32...♘xb2 33.♖xg6 ♙h8 34.e6+- and ♘f7 next.]

29.♖fe1 ♘f4 A desperate attempt to do something with ♖g5, but White keeps everything under control.

30.♖f3 In this practically hopeless situation, Black blunders a tactical blow and quickens his defeat.

30...♖d8?



31.♘xf7! Black loses a huge amount of material.

31...♖xd1 32.♖xd1 ♙e2 Instead of on. White has numerous ways to win, Smyslov chose the easiest. [32...♖xf7 33.fxg6+- wins.]

33.fxg6+ ♘xg6 34.♘xh6 ♙xf3 35.gxf3 ♙xh6 36.♖d6 1-0

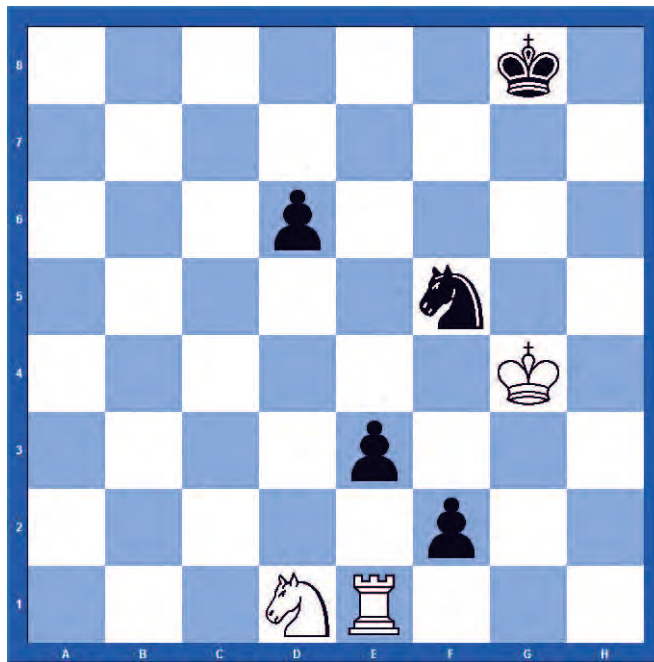
Surprise section / study

(18) Mattison,H

1914

[CEWN]

1.=



Solutions

(19) Grischuk,A (2754) — Mamedyarov,S (2729)

London GP, 24.09.2012

[Solutions]



25. ♘xg6!! fxg6 [25... ♗exg5 26. ♕xg5 ♘xg5 27. ♘f4 h4 28. ♘gh5+-]

26. ♖xg6+ ♘g7 [26... ♕g7 27. ♘xh5±]

27. ♖h6!! [27. ♘xh5 ♖f5]

27... ♘f5 [27... ♘e6 28. ♖xh5 ♘g7 29. ♖g4 ♖xg4 30. hxg4+-]

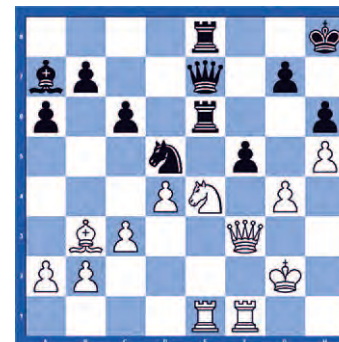
28. ♖xh5 ♘xg3 29. ♖xg3 ♕g7 30. ♖g4 [30. f4+-]

30... ♘f8 31. f4+-

(20) Mamedov,R (2634) — Nasri,A (2319)

Baku Open, 22.09.2012

[Solutions]



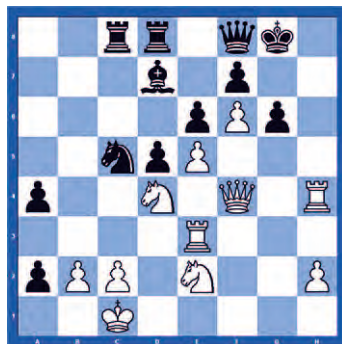
30. ♖xf5! ♖xe4? [30... ♕b8 31. ♕c2±; 30...g6!? 31. hxg6 ♖xe4 32. g7+! ♕xg7 33. ♕c2! ♖e2+ 34. ♖xe2 ♖xe2+ 35. ♕h1!+-]

31. ♖xe4 ♖xe4+ 32. ♖xe4 ♖xe4 33. ♖f8+ ♕h7 34. ♕c2! ♘e3+ 35. ♕f3 ♘xc2 36. ♖xe4 1-0

(21) Guseinov,G (2613) – Bajarani,U (2436)

Baku Open, 23.09.2012

[Solutions]

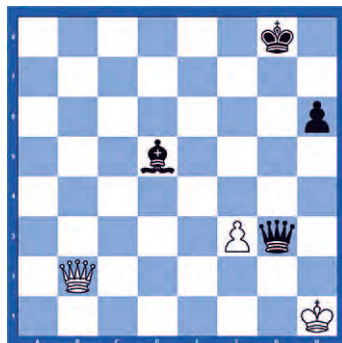


28. ♖eh3! a1 ♔+ 29. ♔d2 ♞e4+ 30. ♚xe4 ♚b4+ 31. ♞c3
1-0

(22) Socko,M (2463) – Ju Wenjun (2528)

Ankara WGP, 18.09.2012

[Solutions]



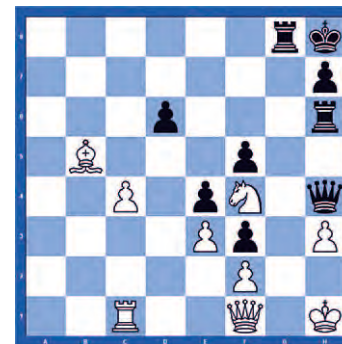
71. ♚h8+!! ♔f7 72. ♚f6+ ♔g8 [72... ♔e8 73. ♚e7+
♔xe7=]

73. ♚h8+ ♔f7 74. ♚f6+ ♔xf6 1/2-1/2

(23) Zhao Xue (2549) – Cmylite,V (2520)

Ankara WGP, 18.09.2012

[Solutions]



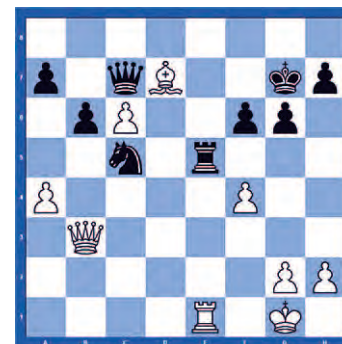
40... ♖g2!! 41. ♚xg2 [41. ♔d7 ♚xh3+ 42. ♞xh3 ♚xh3#]

41... ♟fxg2+-+ 42. ♔xg2 ♚g5+ 43. ♔h2 ♖h4 44. ♖g1
♚h6-+

(24) Xiu Deshun (2524) – Wan Yunguo (2474)

Chinese zonal, 19.09.2012

[Solutions]



34. ♟xe5!! ♞xb3 35. e6 ♚d6 [35... ♞d4 36. e7+-]

36. e7 ♚d4+ 37. ♔h1 1-0

(25) Bogosavljevic,B (2497) – Antic,D (2476)

Serbian league, 19.09.2012

[Solutions]

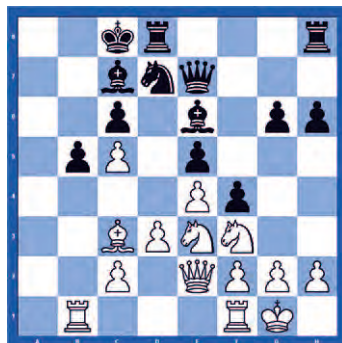


18. ♖xf6! ♗xf6 19. ♘c5! 1-0 [19. ♘c5 ♖c7 20. ♘xb7 ♖xb7 21. ♗xc6+-]

(26) Pavlovic,M (2531) – Sargissian,G (2693)

Serbian league, 21.09.2012

[Solutions]



20. ♘d5!! cxd5 [20... ♗xd5 21. exd5 ♖xc5 22. dxc6 ♖xc6 23. ♗xe5+- (23. ♖b3+-)]

21. d4!! dxe4 [21... exd4 22. ♖xb5 ♘xc5 23. ♗xd4+-]

22. ♖xb5 ♘b8 23. c6?! [23. ♖b7+! ♔d7 24. ♘xe5+ (24. ♗a5 ♖c8 25. ♘xe5+ ♔e8 26. ♗xc7+-) 24... ♔e8 25. ♘xg6 ♖d7 26. ♖xe4+- (26. ♘xh8+-)]

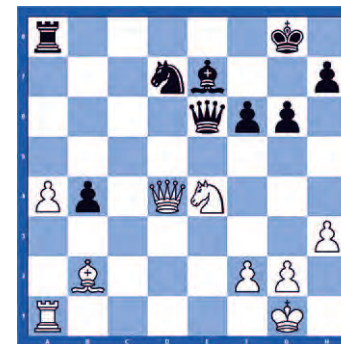
23... ♖d5 24. ♖b7+ ♔d8 25. ♗b4? [25. ♘xe5! ♗xe5 26. ♖a8!! ♗d6 27. ♖xb8+ ♗xb8 28. ♖b1!! ♗c8 29. ♖xb8 ♖e6 30. ♗b4! ♖xd4 (30... ♖h7 31. ♗a5+-) 31. ♖a5+ ♔e8 32. ♖a1!!+-]

25... ♖e8∞

(27) Saric,I (2637) – Roiz,M (2618)

Croatian league, 23.09.2012

[Solutions]



29. ♘g5! ♖b3 [29... ♖c6 30. ♖c1! ♖b7 31. ♖c4+ ♔h8 32. ♖f7+-; 29... ♖f5 30. ♖c4+ ♔h8 31. ♖f7 ♖xg5 32. ♖d1! (32. ♖xe7 ♖d2 33. ♗xf6+±) 32... ♘e5 33. ♖xe7+-]

30. ♖xd7 ♖xb2 31. ♖e1 fxg5 32. ♖d5+ 1-0

(28) Mu Ke (2286) – Malakhov,V (2705)

Chinese league, 23.09.2012

[Solutions]



22...b5! 23.axb5 axb5 24.♘xb5 [24.♙xd5! ♙xd5
25.♘e3 ♙e6 26.♘ac2 b4--]

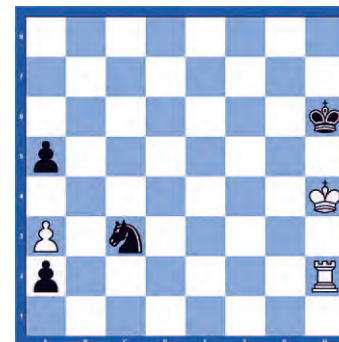
24...♘a7 [24...♘d4!-+]

25.♘xa7 ♙xa7! 26.♙c2 ♙xf2+ 27.♙h1 ♙xe1-+

(29) Gurvitch,A

1927

[Solutions]



1.♙g4+! [1.♙h1? ♘b1-+; 1.♙xa2 ♘xa2 2.♙g4 a4 3.♙f4
♘c3 4.♙e3 ♘b5 5.♙d3 ♘xa3 6.♙c3 ♘b5+ 7.♙b4 a3--]

1...♙g6 2.♙xa2! ♘xa2 3.♙f4 ♙f6 [3...♘c3 4.♙e5 ♘b5
5.♙d5 ♘xa3 6.♙c5! ♙f5 7.♙b6 ♘c4+ (7...a4 8.♙a5=)
8.♙b5=; 3...♘b4 4.♙e5 ♘a6 5.♙d5=]

4.♙e4 ♙e6 5.♙d4 ♙d6 6.♙c4 ♙c6 [6...a4 7.♙b5 ♘c3+
8.♙b4=]

7.♙b3! ♘c1+ 8.♙a4! ♙b6 1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 33

12th of October 2012

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Editorial Preface

Another week of great chess has passed, and once again we can enjoy a super-tournament, right after another super event. Poikovsky was won very convincingly by Jakovenko, who came close to reach a 2750 ELO. The second place went to Ponomariov, who showed yet another time his great endgame technique.

The second stage of the Grand Slam in Bilbao has begun with Magnus Carlsen taking his revenge on Caruana. This time, he won a slightly better endgame.

The European Club Cup in Elat is the main place of attention of the next week. As usual. the strongest teams of the World will be competing for the prestigious title. One of Your commentators is going to play for his traditional club, Baden-Baden.

The rapid super-tournament in Saint-Petersburg was won by Leinier Domínguez and Peter Svidler with 7,5/11. We comment two very exciting games from this great rapid event in this edition.

As usual, have fun with CEWN Nr 33!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

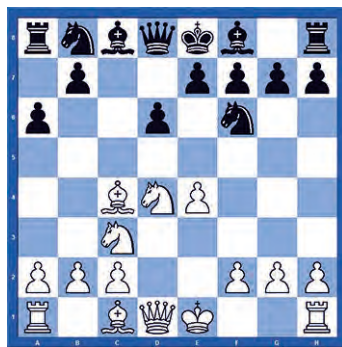
(1) Rublevsky,S (2693) – Bologan,V (2712)

Poikovsky, 06.10.2012

[*Balogh Csaba*]

A typical Sicilian fight, where the players have castled on opposite sides and have launched dangerous attacks on both wings. As it often happens in this kind of positions, one side is just a tempo ahead. In this case, it was White.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙c4 This very sharp line is relatively rarely seen on the top level nowadays. Sergei Rublevsky is probably the biggest expert on it as White.



6...e6 7.♙b3 ♘bd7 [Probably the main move is 7...b5 8.0-0 ♙e7 9.♙f3 ♙b6 10.♙e3 ♙b7 which is considered to be good and leads to a full of life double-edged position.]

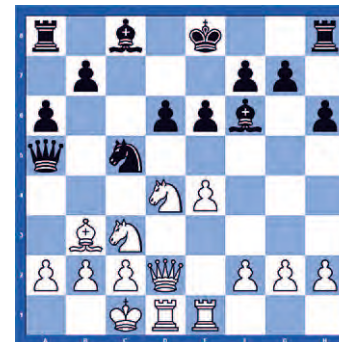
8.♙g5 ♙a5 9.♙d2 In general, the main idea of the 6.♙c4 system is to put pressure on the e6 pawn by push-

ing f4-f5, forcing Black to weaken his d5 square — either by e5 or exf5 — and to occupy it with the knight.

9...♙e7 [Bologan already played a similar game this year, where he chose 9...h6 His opponent reacted badly with 10.♙h4. The critical is 10.♙xf6 ♘xf6 11.0-0-0 followed by f4-f5.]

10.0-0-0 ♘c5 11.♙he1 h6? This is a very strange mistake by Bologan in his preparation, since Rublevsky has already won a convincing game against Efimenko back in 2008, where he showed the drawback of this move. [From a theoretical point of view, the critical move is 11...0-0 12.♙b1 ♙c7 13.f4 h6 and here White has to choose between two setups: 14.h4!? (Or 14.♙xf6 ♙xf6 15.g4)]

12.♙xf6 ♙xf6



13.♘f5! In that game, Rublevsky improved his previous game against Ponomarev with this great novelty! We can say that this kind of piece sacrifice with ♘f5 or ♘d5 is very common in the Sicilian. White opens the central lines against the king. [13.♙b1 happened in the Rublevsky-Ponomarev, Elista 2007 game.]

13...0-0 [Accepting the sacrifice also leads to a worse position after 13...exf5 14.exf5+ ♙e6 This is the only move, other attempts lose instantly.]

a) 14...♔f8? 15.♖xd6+ ♔g8 16.♖e8+ ♔h7 17.♖xh8+ ♔xh8 18.♖f8+ ♔h7 19.♕xf7 ♕xf5 20.♖xa8+- refreshing the threat on g8, White wins.;

b) 14...♔d8? 15.♖xd6+ ♕d7 16.♘d5 An experienced Sicilian player stops calculating at this moment, knowing that the attack must break through. This is not the exception. 16...♖c8 (16...♘xb3+ 17.axb3 ♖a1+ 18.♔d2 ♖a5+ 19.b4+- with mate to follow.) 17.♘xf6 gxf6 18.♖xf6+ ♔c7 19.♖d6+ ♔d8 Now the strongest is 20.♕a4! Deviating the queen from the b6 square. ♖xd7 is the threat. 20...♖xa4 (20...b5 21.♖e5+-) 21.♖b6+ ♖c7 22.♖f6+ ♔c8 23.♖xh8+-; 15.fxe6 ♘xb3+ 16.cxb3 0-0 This is the lesser evil for Black. He's only a pawn down and the f6 bishop gives some compensation. 17.exf7+ ♖xf7 18.f4 ♖c8 19.♖e3+= ♔b1 is coming next, with an advantage.]

14.♘xd6 ♖d8 White must play accurately, otherwise Black gets enough counterplay.

15.f4! Trying to stabilize the d6 knight with e5. Black is forced to prevent it.

15...♘xb3+ 16.cxb3 Until the king doesn't get to b1, White has to take back with the c-pawn. It might look a bit ugly, but this phalanx gives very good shelter for the king.

16...e5 This is the deviation from the Rublevsky-Efimenko game, however, it was still commented for White a few more moves. [16...♕e7 happened before. 17.e5 ♕xd6 18.exd6 b5 and White reacted strongly with 19.♖d4! ♖b8 (19...b4? 20.♖e5! traps the queen.) 20.b4! ♖b6 21.♖c5! with a clear extra pawn. White went on to win.]

17.♖f2 White leaves the annoying pin and creates the ♘c4 threat.

17...exf4 18.e5! With this small tactical trick, White closes the diagonal of the powerful bishop, which was Black's main hope to get enough compensation.

18...♕e7 [18...♕xe5? drops a piece after 19.♘c4! ♖xd1+ 20.♖xd1 ♖c7 21.♘d5! ♖b8 22.♘e7+ wins one of the bishops. 22...♔h7 23.♖c2+ g6 24.♘xc8+-]

19.h4! Great multi-purpose move. White wants to take on f4 (preventing ♕g5) and is already preparing for his future an attack on the kingside.

19...♕e6 20.♖xf4



20...b5 This is the first new position for White. [Rublevsky, in his commentary, analyzed 20...♖d7 21.♔b1 ♖ad8 22.b4 ♖c7 23.♘ce4+= with an advantage.]

21.♔b1 A necessary prophylactic move to protect the a2-pawn.

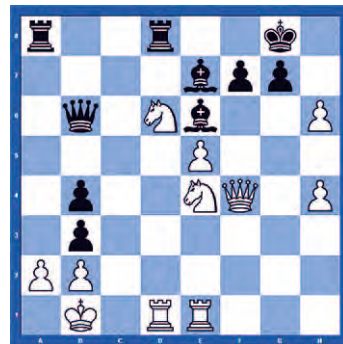
21...b4 22.♘ce4 ♖b6 Black has found the most principled and straight forward plan to attack with a5-a4. He needs only two moves to reach the frontline. What to do for White? He has no resources to defend, so as the saying goes, the best defense is to attack!

23.g4! Launching the counter-attack, but who is faster?!

23...a5 24.g5 a4 [Black can't try to win some time with 24...h5 because of 25.♘f6+! ♔h8 (25...gxf6 26.gxf6+-) 26.♚f3! g6 27.♘h5! Black collapses. 27...a4 (27...gxh5 28.♚xh5+ ♔g8 29.g6+-) 28.♘xf7+-]

25.gxh6! Objectively, this is the strongest move, but it required a huge amount of calculations. [25.♘f6+!? leads to a winning position as well, but in much simpler lines. 25...♔h8 Only move. (25...♙xf6 26.gxf6 axb3 27.♚g1! Black's main problem is that he still needs two moves to generate real threats with ♚xa2 and ♚a5, but this is enough for White to win the game. 27...♚xa2 28.♚xg7+ ♔f8 29.♚g8+! ♔xg8 30.♚g3+ ♔f8 31.♚g7#; 25...gxf6 26.gxf6+- is over immediately.) 26.♘d5! This is the key move! The rest is not so difficult to find. 26...♙xd5 27.♚xd5 ♙xd6 (On 27...axb3 White can simply take material with 28.♘xf7+ and ♘xd8.) 28.♚xd6 ♚xd6 (28...♚a5 29.♚xf7! The queen defends the a2 pawn.) 29.exd6 axb3 and now 30.d7! is the way to victory. ♚e8 is the threat. 30...♚b5 (30...♚g6+ 31.♚e4+-) 31.♚d4! ♚d8 32.gxh6+-]

25...axb3

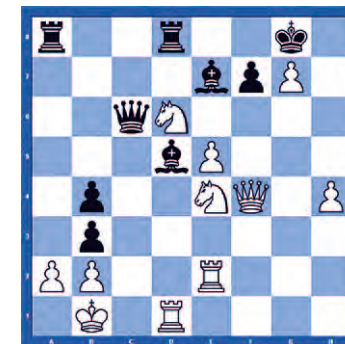


26.hxg7! This is a real fight! Black must act quickly, since White is already close to mate with ♚h6!

26...♚c6! How to prevent ♚c2? [26...bxa2+? is the worst. 27.♔a1 Black has no chance to continue the attack because of his own pawn. He would require a knight to jump to b3, otherwise there is not even a check.; 26...♚xa2 is too slow. 27.♚h6 Black has only a few checks before the resignation. 27...♚a1+ 28.♔xa1 ♚a5+ 29.♔b1 ♚a2+ 30.♔c1 ♚a1+ 31.♔d2 ♚xb2+ 32.♔e3+- The king has escaped.]

27.♚e2! Only move! White must keep the escaping route through c1-d2 free for his king. [27.♚c1? ♚a6; 27.♚d2? would be a decisive blunder. 27...♚xa2 28.♚h6 Black is faster now with 28...♚a1+! 29.♔xa1 ♚a4+ 30.♔b1 ♚a2+ 31.♔c1 ♚a1#]

27...♙d5! It's White's turn to make a „cool“ move! [Black only has a few checks after 27...♚a6 28.♚h6! ♚xa2+ 29.♔c1 ♚ac8+ 30.♔d2! ♚xb2+ (30...♚c2+ 31.♔e3 ♚xe2+ 32.♔xe2 ♚xb2+ 33.♔e3+-) 31.♔e1+- It's over.; 27...♚xa2 28.♚h6+-]



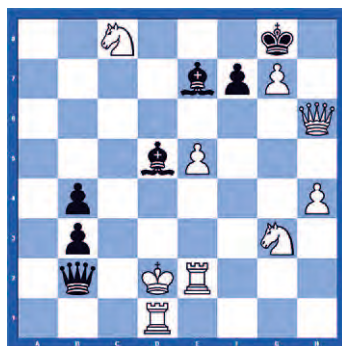
28.♘g3! Refreshing the ♚h6 threat. [28.♘f2! with the same idea as the text move was also winning. 28...♙e6!? A tricky move but it doesn't help. (28...♚xa2 29.♚h6 ♚a1+ 30.♔xa1 ♚a4+ 31.♔b1 ♚a2+ 32.♔c1+-) 29.♚h6! ♙f5+

30.♘xf5 ♖xd1+ 31.♘xd1 bxa2+ 32.♔a1+- The h6 queen is excellently placed. It doesn't only threaten with mate, but also covers the c1 square.]

28...♖xa2 There was nothing against ♖h6, Black must try a desperate attack. [28...♖a4 loses to 29.a3! bxa3 30.♖h6! ♖xh4 White has only one winning move. 31.♖h8+! ♖xh8 32.gxh8♖+ ♔xh8 33.♖xd5+-; 28...♖a6 is refuted by 29.a3! bxa3 30.♖h6!+-]

29.♖h6 ♖a1+ 30.♔xa1 ♖a6+ 31.♔b1 ♖a2+ 32.♔c1 ♖c8+ Black wants to give the opportunity for his bishop to join the attack on c5. [32...♖a1+ is similar to the game. 33.♔d2 ♖xb2+ 34.♔e3!! Just as in the game, White has to run forward for the win. (34.♔e1 leads to perpetual check. 34...♖c3+ 35.♖dd2 (35.♔f2 ♖f3+=; 35.♖ed2 ♖xg3+) 35...♖xg3+ 36.♔f1 ♖h3+ Black holds the draw with precise checks. 37.♖g2 ♔xg2+ 38.♖xg2 ♖h1+ 39.♖g1 (39.♔f2?? ♔xh4+) 39...♖f3+ 40.♔e1 ♖c3+ 41.♔f2 ♖d4+ Draw.) 34...♖c3+ (34...♖xe5+ 35.♘ge4+- No more checks.) 35.♖d3 ♖xe5+ (35...♖c1+ 36.♖ed2 ♖e1+ 37.♔f4+- The safest place for the king.) 36.♘ge4+-]

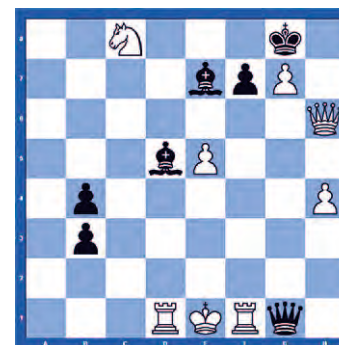
33.♘xc8 ♖a1+ 34.♔d2 ♖xb2+



35.♔e3!! The brave run is the only way to victory! Black runs out of checks very quickly in all the lines. [35.♔e1 leads to a draw again. 35...♖c3+ 36.♖ed2

a) 36.♖dd2 ♖c1+ 37.♖d1 (37.♔f2?? ♔c5+ wins.) 37...♖c3+;

b) 36.♔f1 ♖f3+=; 36...♖xg3+ 37.♖f2 ♖g1+ White must accept a draw with 38.♔e2! (38.♖f1??



38...♔xh4+! 39.♔e2 (39.♖xh4 ♖e3# Picturesque mate!) 39...♖g4+ 40.♔d3 ♔c4+ 41.♔e3 ♔g5+ 38...♖g4+ 39.♔d2 ♖d4+ 40.♔e1 ♖e4+ 41.♔f1 (41.♖e2?? would be too greedy. 41...♔xh4+! 42.♔d2 (42.♔f1 ♖h1#) 42...♖d4+ 43.♔c1 ♖a1+ 44.♔d2 ♖c3#) 41...♖h1+ with perpetual check.]

35...♖c3+ [35...♔c5+ 36.♔f4+-; 35...♖xe5+ 36.♔f2 ♔c5+ 37.♔f1+-]

36.♖d3 ♔c5+ [36...♖xe5+ 37.♔f2 ♔c5+ 38.♔f1 ♖a1+ 39.♖e1+-]

37.♔f4 ♖c1+ 38.♖ed2 ♖c4+ 39.♖d4 No more checks left- Black resigned! A really spectacular and amusing game!

1-0

(2) Movsesian,S (2699) – Matlakov,M (2665) [C84]

St Petersburg Rapid Cup 2012 St Petersburg RUS (6.2), 06.10.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Even though it was a rapid game, Movsesian shows some very nice play and a lot of nice ideas in the Spanish structures!

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.d3 The main move is 6.♖e1, but a lot of players are afraid of the Marshall, so the move 6.d3 has become very popular during the last couple of years. These positions look almost equal, but they are quite tricky and require exact play for Black to get complete equalization.



6...d6 This move is the new fashion. In previous games, much more often we saw the moves 6...b5 7.♙b3, and only then d6.

7.c3 Now after Black's b5, the White bishop is going to escape to c2, not allowing Black to play ♘a5 and c5. It's hard to say if this is good or bad. At least, according to the results, White often manages to create some trouble for his opponent.

7...0-0 8.♘bd2 White's plan is quite simple: to play ♖e1, ♘f1–Ng3 and maybe d4 afterwards. This time Black needs to decide whether to play with d6–d5 or without it.

8...b5 9.♙c2 Now we can see why did White play an early c3... The bishop goes directly to c2.

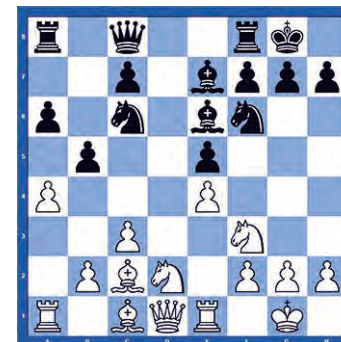
9...d5 Black decides to push d5. Other plan for Black could be to play ♘d7–Nb6–Bf6, or just the simple ♖e8–Bf8, h6, ♙b7. All of this is well known and was already tried in a lot of games.

10.♖e1 Now White wants to take on d5 because the e5-pawn is hanging.

10...dxe4 11.dxe4 ♙e6 Until now everything is more or less standard. White is starting a „standard“ plan as well.

12.a4 Of course, it would make no sense to play ♘f1 and go for the queen exchange. This would just lead to an equal position and the White queen would be very nicely placed on e2 — attacking the pawn on b5.

12...♙c8 A very playable reaction. Black frees the d8 square for the rook and at the same time brings the Queen to b7, where it will protect the b5-pawn. [12...b4 13.♙e2 ♙c8 14.♘c4 ♘d7 15.a5 f6 16.♘e3 b3 17.♙b1 ♙d6 18.♘d5 Movsesian-Almasi, Olympiad 2012, with some advantage for White]



13. ♔e2 ♚b7 Black tries to avoid weakening the c4-square, but now White goes for another plan.

14. b4! White fixes the Black pawn on b5, which will become a target very soon and will cause a lot of trouble for Black.

14... ♖fd8?! A „standard“ move, but not the best one. Black is acting against White's positional threat. [14... ♖ab8!? would have been a better move in my opinion. Black should not exchange a pair of rooks here, the rook on b8 would protect the pawn on b5, while the rook on d8 would take control over the file. The next Black moves could be h6, ♖fd8 and I think that if White is better, it should be a very small advantage.]

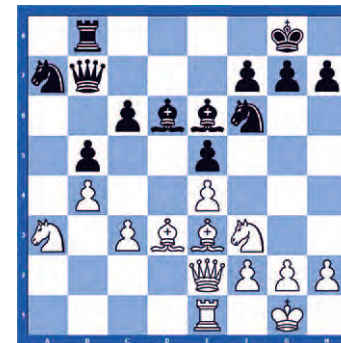
15. axb5! Another excellent reaction by Movsesian.

15... axb5 16. ♖xa8 ♖xa8 17. ♕d3 And White's idea is coming true. The b5-pawn is weak and it's not that easy for Black to find a good way to defend it.

17... ♖b8 18. ♘b1!? White follows his major plan! Another piece is coming to the attack Black's weaknesses. [18. ♘f1! would have been another very attractive option for White. The knight is going to d5 or f5 through e3. White is clearly better.]

18... ♕d6 In order to have ♘a7 next. The pawn on e5 is not hanging anymore.

19. ♘a3 ♘a7 20. ♕e3 c6 Black defends the b5-pawn, but the knight on a7 is very badly placed...

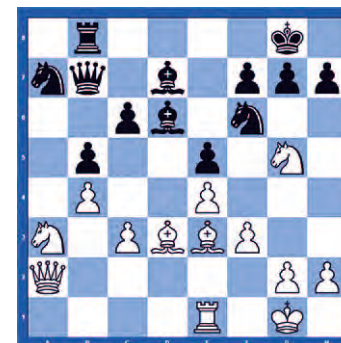


21. ♘g5!? When all the Black pieces are concentrated on the queenside, White starts his play on the kingside!

21... ♕g4 [21... ♕c8 22. ♖a1 gives White clearly better prospects.]

22. f3 ♕d7 [A clearly wrong direction for the bishop would be 22... ♕h5? 23. ♘h3 Black's bishop is out of play on h5, and White will continue his play on the queenside by playing c4 eventually. White's position is much better.]

23. ♔a2



23... ♖f8? A blunder, but it's hard to blame somebody for such a move in a rapid game. [23... ♕e8 A passive move, but Black is very solid. White keeps some small advan-

tage but nothing major is going on. In the future, White could try to take control over the a-file by playing ♖c2 and ♖a1. A small plus is guaranteed, but it's not clear if this is enough to win the game.]

24. ♘c4! A strong and unexpected tactic. White attacks a7 and f7 at the same time...

24... bxc4 [In case of the passive move 24... ♘c8 25. ♘xd6 ♘xd6 26. ♖c5 ♖a8 27. ♔b3 Black's position is very bad...]

25. ♖xc4 ♘b5 Black is using his practical chances by going into a position with two pieces for a rook and two pawns... This kind of resource is always useful in a rapid game.

26. ♘xf7 ♖xf7 27. ♖xf7+ ♔f8 28. ♖c1! Another strong move by White, who isn't trying to force things. White's small material advantage gives him a clear edge, so why to hurry?! Maybe White wants to play ♖b3 next, followed by c4, or maybe ♖c4, ♔b3 and ♖a1, winning control over the a-file.

28... ♖c7 29. ♖c4



29... ♖b6 The exchange of bishops doesn't help much...

30. ♔f2 ♖d8 The losing move, but it wouldn't have been much better to play: [30... ♖xe3 31. ♔xe3 ♔a7 32. ♔xa7 ♘xa7 33. ♔f2 with a very bad endgame. White will play ♔e3-Kd2 next, followed by ♖a1. I don't think Black has any real chances of holding this position.]

31. ♖c5+ ♔e8 32. ♔g3 g7 and e5 are hanging, one of the pawns is going to fall. It was clearly too much for Black. A great game by White, who showed us the basic ideas in this „tricky“ opening!

1-0

(3) Gelfand,B (2738) — Kasimdzhanov,R (2684)

London GP, 03.10.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

We are in the final round of the London Grand Prix, where Gelfand was in a must win situation in order to tie for first place. He chose a good opening, which gave way to a very sharp and complex middlegame. The big stakes affected the game a lot, but in the time trouble, Gelfand's nerves were better. Anyway, a very interesting game.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♘f3 e6 5.♙g5 h6 6.♙xf6

This is White's alternative to avoid the Moscow variation, which starts with [6.♙h4 dxc4 7.e4 g5 8.♙g3 b5 The initial position, where both sides are full of resources. We can say that despite being a hundreds of top level games recently, the territory is still quite unexplored.]

6...♙xf6 7.e3 g6 A fashionable sideline. Kasimdzhanov has already drawn against Wang Hao in this tournament with it, and didn't have any problems against Aronian a few weeks ago. [7...♘d7 is the main line.]

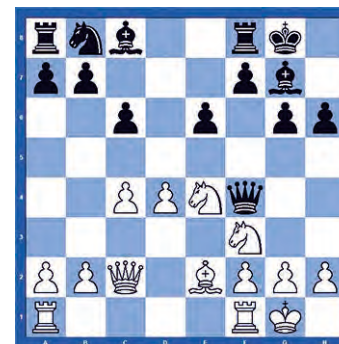
8.♙e2 Gelfand deviated from the mentioned games.

8...♙g7 9.e4 White prefers to avoid including the 0-0 and 0-0 moves. However, it's not easy to find the difference. ...

9...dxe4 I don't like this move so much. [In my opinion, Black should react the same way as if 0-0 was included. 9...dxc4 10.♙xc4 0-0 and probably White should transpose to the main line with 11.0-0 ♘d7 12.e5 ♙e7 with a complex game, but theory considers Black to be all right.]

10.♘xe4 ♙f4 A concrete attempt to equalize. [After the calm 10...♙e7 White gets a comfortable position with 11.c5! This is White's general idea. The knight is going to be annoying on d6.]

11.♙c2 0-0 12.0-0

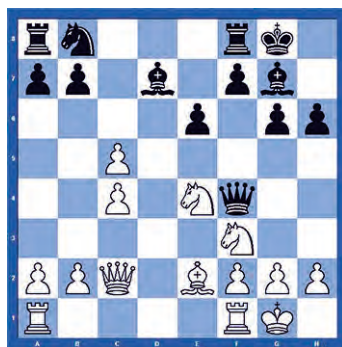


12...c5!? A very interesting pawn sacrifice. Black gets strong compensation after both captures. On other moves, White wanted to play c5 himself, securing a stronghold for the knight on d6. [12...♘d7 13.c5! also looks good for White. Black's break through attempt with 13...e5?! doesn't work right now. 14.g3! ♙f5 15.♘h4! Suddenly. White can launch a crushing attack: 15...♙h3 (15...♙e6 16.♙c4! and g6 is hanging.) 16.♙c4! ♙h7 (16...exd4 17.♘xg6+-) 17.f4! exf4 (17...exd4 18.♘f2! traps the queen.) 18.♙xf4! (18.♘f2 ♙xd4) 18...♙xd4+ 19.♘f2 and Black can't stand the pressure. The game could finish with 19...♙xf2+ 20.♙xf2 ♘e5 21.♘xg6! ♘xg6 22.♙xf7+-; Taking the d4 pawn is hardly advisable... 12...f5?! 13.♘c5 ♙xd4 White gets more than enough counterplay. 14.♘d3! ♙e4 (14...♙d6 15.c5 ♙d8 16.♘f4 with the double threat of ♘xg6 and ♙ad1. Black is in trouble. 16...g5 17.♙ad1+/-) 15.♙fe1! ♙f1 threatens to trap the queen. 15...c5 16.♙f1 ♙c6 17.♘xd4 cxd4 18.♘e5 ♙e8 19.♙ad1+/- Black deservedly collapses, as he destroyed his pawns structure and

gave up his important dark-squared bishop only for one pawn.]

13.dxc5! Correct decision! [Black has enough counterplay after 13.♖xc5 ♜c6 14.♘b3 a5! provoking a4, in order to create a hole on b4. 15.a4 ♜d8 16.♞fd1 b6 followed by ♙b7, ♞ac8 and ♘b4. Black has a very easy play against the central pawns, and any kind of advance by White involves the creation of big weaknesses in the position. This was Kasimdzhanov's very deep idea, which was perfectly avoided by Gelfand.]

13...♙d7 With the idea of ♙c6 and ♘a6, trying to win back the pawn. [On 13...♘a6 White probably wanted to play similarly to the game. 14.a3 ♞c7 15.b4! White gets huge compensation for the exchange. The phalanx on the queenside is very powerful, and the e5 and d6 — or f6 — squares will be occupied soon by the knights.]



14.b4?! Really ambitious and nice try, but objectively not a great move at all. [14.♞fd1! should have been played, avoiding Black's hidden idea, which could have occurred in the game. 14...♙c6 15.♘d6 ♘a6 and now White needs to find the very strong and concrete solution 16.♞ab1! ♖xc5 17.b4! ♙a4 (17...♘e4 drops material after 18.g3!)

18.♞c1! saves the exchange and transposes to a better endgame. 18...♞xc1 19.♞dxc1 ♘a6 Now the best is 20.♘xb7! ♞ab8 21.c5! with a pawn up.]

14...♙xa1? Now the idea of the exchange sacrifice perfectly pays out. [Probably both players missed 14...♙c6! and on 15.♘d6 Black has 15...♙xf3! 16.♙xf3 ♙e5! White should have played 14.♞fd1 to avoid this trick. In that case, he could simply take with ♙xb7, and ♞xh2 is just one check. 17.♞fd1 ♞xh2+ 18.♙f1 ♙xa1 The a1 bishop is protected by ♞h1! 19.♙xb7 ♘d7 20.♙xa8 ♞xa8 21.♘xf7 ♘f8! The last key move and Black is better.]

15.♞xa1 ♙c6 16.♘d6 White is doing perfectly now. He has only one pawn, but the queenside pawns might easily swap away Black. The Black rooks have no open files.

16...♘d7 17.♞c1?! [17.♞b2! was much better, with the idea of g3. ♞f6 is the only move, trading the queens and then ♘e5. The only active plan for Black now is refuted by 17...a5? 18.g3! ♞f6 19.♞xf6 ♘xf6 20.b5+- Black loses the b7 pawn... and the game.]

17...♞f6? Returning the favor. [17...♞xc1+ 18.♞xc1 ♞fd8! would have brought Black back into the game. The idea is to play a5, and b5 is met with ♖xc5! (18...a5 immediately doesn't work because of 19.b5! ♙xf3 20.♙xf3 ♘xc5 21.♘xb7! and the c-b passers decide the game.) 19.♘d4 a5! White is forced to play 20.a3 but Black gets serious counterplay on the a-file. 20...axb4 21.axb4 ♞a4 22.♞b1 ♞da8 Black is fine.]

18.♞b1! From now on, Black has problems again. h6 is hanging now.

18...g5 19.♔e3 White protects the c5 pawn in order to be able to play b5!

19...♖ad8 Black sets a hidden trap.



20.♘d4! Very well played! White keeps the tension and all his advantage. [20.b5 was very tempting as well, but Black has prepared 20...♙xf3 21.♙xf3 b6! 22.c6 ♘c5 and suddenly he is doing fine, as he manages to explode the d6 knight. 23.♖d1 e5!↗]

20...a6 Black parries the b5 threats. Both players were already down on time. They don't have enough time to find the most precise plans, but White has much easier moves to make just to improve his position slightly.

21.♖e1 ♘e5 22.h3! Opening the back-rank. A high level prophylactic move to avoid different kinds of tricks in the time trouble. White has many potential ways to improve his position, for example, to prepare with a4-b5 or by playing ♙d1, and when the knight leaves e5 ♘xc6 bxc6 and ♙f3.

22...♙a4 23.♔a3 ♘c6 Black tries to complicate matters, but comes out badly. [White is better after 23...♙c6 24.♘xc6 ♘xc6 25.♙f3 as well.]

24.♘f3! Suddenly, the a4 bishop gets in danger and can't go back anymore to protect the b7 pawn.

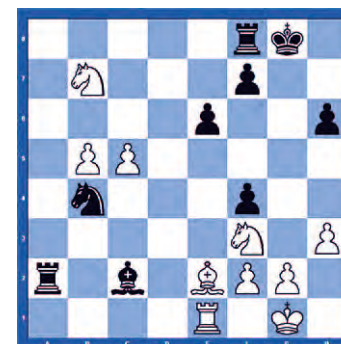
24...♙c2 25.b5! Exact calculation! [25.♘xb7 was too early still. 25...♖b8!]

25...axb5 26.cxb5 ♖a8 [26...♘d4 loses as well after 27.♘xd4 ♙xd4 28.♘xb7+- and the pawns are marching!]

27.♔c1 ♘b4 28.♔d2! White forces some favorable exchanges. Black has just one move to avoid losing a piece.

28...♙f4 [28...♖a4 loses to 29.a3!+-]

29.♙xf4 gxf4 30.♘xb7 ♖xa2 White has a winning advantage, but makes an inaccuracy by playing the most natural move in the time trouble.



31.c6 Of course, the pawn must be pushed, but first some preparations should have been done with [31.♘e5! and only now start pushing c6. ♙f3 could be followed by ♘d6 and c7 or b6... Actually, the pawns promote automatically. Black can only watch.]

31...♖fa8 Letting the practical chance slip away. Of course, in the time trouble without increments, it's impossible to play flawlessly. You can see now how good

it is for White that he doesn't need to worry about his back-rank thanks to his great 22nd move! [31... ♖e4 was the best chance, with the idea of giving up a piece for the b-c pawns and trying to hold that unpleasant endgame. 32. ♘d6 (On 32. ♘e5 ♖c2! refreshing the idea of sacrificing on c6.) 32... ♙xc6 33. bxc6 ♘xc6 34. ♙b5 ♘e7 35. ♘e5 Of course, White is clearly better, but the small amount of material gives Black chances to survive.]

32. ♘d6 Now it's difficult, since c7 is threatened and 32... ♘d5 is met with ♙c4, eliminating the blockader.

32... ♙d3 33. ♙xd3 ♘xd3 34. ♖f1 [34. ♖d1 was more precise. 34... ♘xf2 35. ♖d2 and the pawns promote.]

34... ♖c2 35. ♘d4! Protecting c6 to support the march of the b-pawn.

35... ♖c5 36. b6 Black's only hope would be to sacrifice the knight for the pawns, but he has no real chance to do it successfully.

36... ♘b4 37. c7 ♖f8 Otherwise, b7 would come with tempo.

38. ♖b1 ♘a6 The last try, but...

39. ♘4b5! Obviously Gelfand prevents ♘xc7.

39... ♖c6 40. b7! ♘xc7 41. ♘xc7 [41. ♘c8!+- could have been a nicer finish of the game with the double threat of ♘e7 and b8♔. Of course, there is nothing wrong with the text move either.]

41... ♖xd6 42. b8♔ ♖xb8 43. ♖xb8+ The rest is only a matter of time.

43... ♔h7 44. ♖b4 ♖d1+ 45. ♔h2 e5 46. ♘e8 Kasimdzhanov didn't want to suffer in this hopeless position and allows a quick finish.

46... f5 47. ♖b7+ ♔g6 48. ♖g7+ And mate in a few moves.

1-0

(4) Alekseev, Evgeny (2683) – Zvjaginsev, V (2678) [C11]

St Petersburg Rapid Cup 2012 St Petersburg RUS (7.1),
06.10.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

In this game, we'll see a very good example on "what should Black be afraid of playing the French defense". In the beginning of the game, Black's position seems to be fine, but then step by step, clouds start to get darker...

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 Another main move is 3... ♘b4, which often leads to very sharp positions. For example a good game to watch is Leko-Caruana from Dortmund 2012

4.e5 [4. ♘g5 dxe4 5. ♘xe4 ♘bd7 is another main line. For those who are interested, we advice you to watch games played by Meier or Grachev, they are both big experts in this line with Black.]

4... ♘fd7 5.f4 c5 6. ♘f3 ♘c6 7. ♘e3 cxd4 [7... ♖b6 8. ♘a4 (8. ♖d2 ♖xb2 9. ♖b1 ♖a3 leads to a very sharp and unclear position) 8... ♖a5+ 9.c3 b6 (9...c4 10.b4+=) 10. ♘d2! with the idea of b4 leads to a slightly better position for White.]

8. ♘xd4 ♘c5 9. ♖d2 0-0



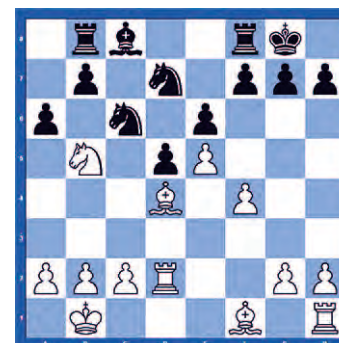
10.0-0-0 Thousands of games have been played here and we still don't know for sure whether White is better or not. The position has quite a fixed pawn structure, which gives both Black and White a couple of standard ideas. Black usually tries to create some play on the queenside with a6-b5-Qa5-b4, and White tries to play h4-h5-h6, often using the ♖h3-Rg3 maneuver to defend the c3 knight (just in case) and attack the Black king. Another idea for Black is to exchange a few pieces on d4, then exchange the queens and try to survive the endgame. Personally, I would not advice this tactic. A good example is the game Navara-Meier where, after some suffering, Black finally lost the game.

10... ♘xd4 11. ♘xd4 ♖a5 I don't like too much what Black is doing now... This leads almost by force to a slightly worse endgame.

12. ♖b1 ♖b8 [12...a6 followed by b5 would still be a better choice in my opinion.]

13. ♘b5! Nice move by White. Now the exchange of queens is forced and White reaches a slightly better endgame.

13... ♖xd2 14. ♖xd2 a6



15. ♘c3?! What a strange move... [15. ♘d6 was of course the right reaction. Black's needs to act fast... If White can play g3-Bh3, or maybe just a simple move like ♙e2, Black's position could become very unpleasant. 15... ♙xd4 16. ♖xd4 f6 The usual idea in these structures... 17. exf6 ♜xf6 18. ♙d3 and we can clearly see that White got a small but very pleasant advantage...]

15...b5?! Gives White a chance to keep the bishop pair alive... [15... ♘xd4 16. ♖xd4 f6 17. exf6 ♜xf6 would still lead to a slightly better endgame for White, but now Black's chances to be OK are a bit higher. The White knight is badly placed on c3, and will need to go over the e2 square to d4. This will take some time and maybe Black will be able to prepare some play on the kingside by playing ♙d7-Bc7-Rbe8 and maybe e5, or even g5.]

16. ♙f2! Of course! Now White will continue the game with the bishop pair, which already gives him quite a solid advantage.

16... ♙b7 17. ♙d3 A safe move. It has a „big“ general idea: to bring the knight to d4. This can be done by playing ♘e2-d4. Now White is acting against Black's f6 push. When this move won't be possible anymore, White will bring the knight to d4 and get a big plus.

17... ♖bc8 Black brings the knight to c4. It's hard to advise something better...

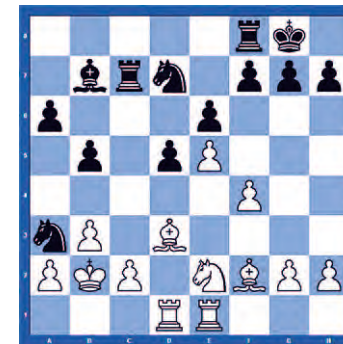
18. ♖e1 Another prophylactic move against f6.

18... ♘a5 19. ♘e2 And finally the knight is going to d4. Even if the computers say that the position is close to equal, I think White is doing much better here. Black is

in big positional danger, which will become very clear in the game.

19... ♘c4 20. ♖dd1 ♖c7 21. b3 A possible move... [But why not to put the knight first to d4?! 21. ♘d4 ♘c5 22. ♘b3! Important move. Now the White bishop from d4 can defend the pawn on b2 in case of ♘a4. 22... ♘e4 23. ♙d4 White is doing a lot better. Black's position is going to fall apart very soon, the threats of playing ♙xe4 followed by ♘c5, or maybe g4-f5 are very strong.]

21... ♘a3+ 22. ♖b2



22... ♘c4+ 23. ♖c1! Of course. No draw!

23... ♘a3? Huge mistake. This is a very bad place for the knight, which will never be back into play. [23... ♖fc8 The knight not really hanging, so black can simply create some more pressure on the c-file. 24. c3 (24. bxc4 dxc4 25. ♙xc4 ♖xc4 (25... bxc4 Simplest. 26. g3 c3↗) 26. ♖xd7 ♖xc2+ 27. ♖b1 ♙e4 28. ♘g3 ♖c1+ 29. ♖b2 ♖1c2+ 30. ♖a1 ♙c6 31. ♖d6 ♖xf2 32. ♖c1 h6 33. ♖dxc6 ♖xc6 34. ♖xc6 ♖xg2 35. ♖xa6 ♖xh2 36. ♖b6 ♖f2 37. ♖xb5 ♖xf4 and probably Black's passed pawns can become dangerous.) 24... ♘cb6 25. ♙d4 (25. ♖b2 d4 This move probably doesn't equalize the position, but it makes Black's play much easier because

of the activity of his pieces. 26. ♖xd4 (26. ♘xd4 ♖xc3 27.f5 ♖d5 28. ♖b1+=) 26... ♖xg2 27.f5↑) 25... ♘c5 26. ♖c2 (26. ♔b2 ♘xd3+ 27. ♖xd3 ♘d7 28.g4 a5 Black must try to activate his pieces, especially the bishop. 29.f5 b4↗)



26...b4! 27.cxb4 (27. ♔b2 a5↗) 27... ♘e4 (27... ♘xb3+ 28.axb3 ♖xc2+ 29. ♔b1 ♖2c6 30. ♖c5 ♘d7 31. ♘d4 ♖6c7 32. ♖d6 ♖c3 33. ♔b2+/- Black's pieces are paralyzed and can't avoid the ♖c5 threat.) 28. ♖c5 ♘xc5 29.bxc5 ♖xc5 30. ♘d4 a5 31. ♔d2+= With the strong knight on d4, White's position seems to be better, although it's not so easy to improve it. a3-b4 is impossible because of the c4 square. Maybe White can try to gain space on the kingside (g4-f5).]

24.c3 b4 25. ♔b2 a5 This thematic pawn advance with the knight on a3 doesn't help Black. [25... ♖fc8 26. ♖c1+- Nothing changed.]

26.cxb4 axb4 27. ♖c1 ♖fc8 28. ♖xc7 ♖xc7 29. ♖c1 ♖xc1 30. ♘xc1 After the rook exchange, Black is not able to protect the b4 pawn.

30... ♘b8 31. ♖c5 ♘c6 32. ♘e2 f6 33. ♘d4 fxe5 34. ♘xc6 ♖xc6 35.fxe5 The game is over. Finally the knight will escape, but the two passers will easily win the game.

1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Grischuk,A (2754) – Gelfand,B (2738)

London GP, 01.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–



(6) Matlakov,M (2665) – Dominguez Perez,L (2734)

St Petersburg (rapid), 05.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+/-

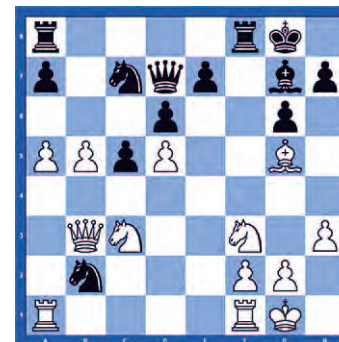


(7) Alekseev,E (2683) – Svidler,P (2747)

St Petersburg (rapid), 05.10.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

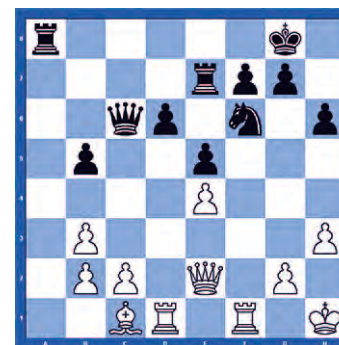


(8) Alsina Leal,D (2528) – Forcen Esteban,D (2469)

Spanish Championship, 06.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–

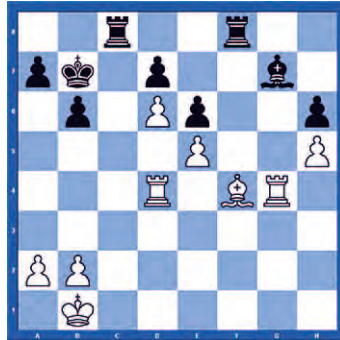


(9) Rombaldoni,A (2458) – Djurhuus,R (2436)

Oslo Open, 30.09.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

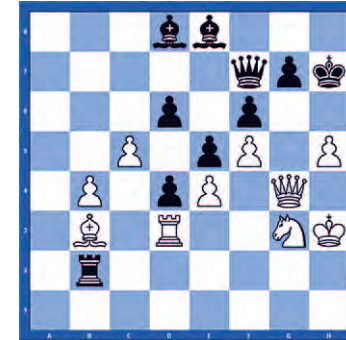


(11) Sharafiev,A (2414) – Vorobiov,E (2594)

Nezhmetdinov memorial, 04.10.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

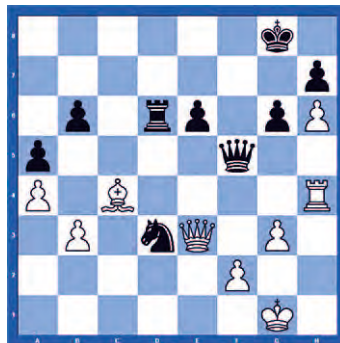


(10) Dvoirys,S (2533) – Lintchevski,D (2554)

Nezhmetdinov memorial, 02.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

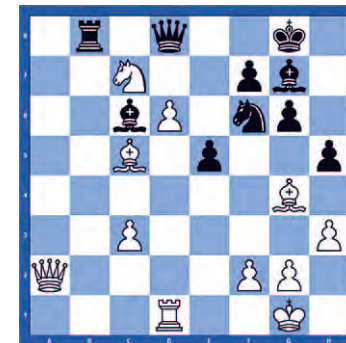


(12) Hole,O (2366) – Solodovnichenko,Y (2602)

Oslo Open, 30.09.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

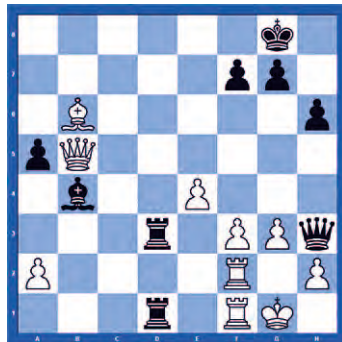


(13) Rotstein,A (2510) – Van Kampen,R (2572)

Dutch league, 06.10.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

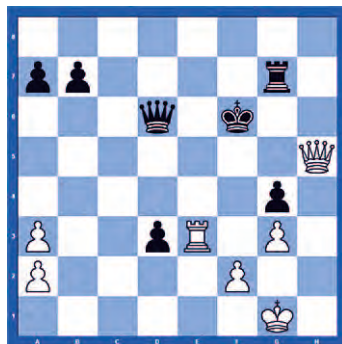


(14) Onischuk,A (2672) – Bruzon,L (2713)

Poikovsky, 06.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–

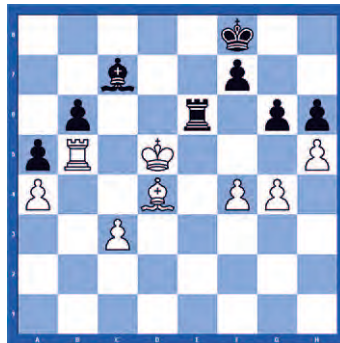


Endgame section

(15) Carlsen, Magnus (2843)
— Caruana, Fabiano (2773) [C00]

5th Final Masters Sao Paulo/Bilbao BRA/ESP (6), 08.10.2012

[Chess Evolution Team]



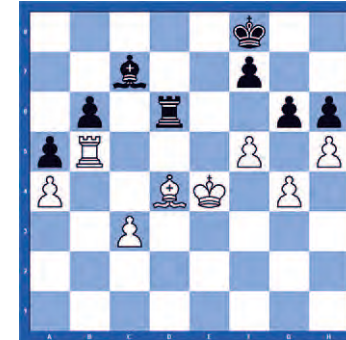
It's the second stage of the Final Masters, and we see the same situation as in the first round. Carlsen doing better in the endgame and Caruana defending. As we remember, Carlsen lost close to a winning endgame by overpushing. This time he makes things right!

41.f5! Strong move. White takes away the e6 square from the Black rook, and at the same time fixes the pawn on h6, which will soon be the main target. The Black bishop from c7 can't do much, his mission is to defend the pawn on b6. Let's take a look at the beautiful technique of the Nr.1 player in the world.

41...♖d6+ Of course. Black needs to keep the rook on the 6th rank. To include gxf5-gxf5 wouldn't make much

sense for Black, since it would give White the extra idea of playing ♖b1–Rg1–Bg7–f6.

42.♔e4 The threat is ♕e5.



42...♖c6 43.♖b1! The White rook is leaving its nice place on b5, to attack the Black pawns on the kingside. Besides, White is ready to play ♔d5–Kc4–Kb5.

43...♔e8 Now against White's ♔d5, Black can simply play ♔d7 followed by ♖d6 check and ♔c6.

44.hxg6 Carlsen starts the action.

44...fxg6 45.♖h1 The h6-pawn is a clear target now. White wants to play ♔d5, and of course, against Black's 45...♔d7, 46.f6! is very strong.

45...♔f7 46.♔d5 Rook to h1, king to b5. This is where the pieces will be perfectly placed.

46...♖d6+ 47.♔c4 gxf5 48.gxf5 Only 3 pawns left to exchange for Black to make a draw, but how to do it? White has two threats, to play f6 next or to play ♖g1.

48...♕d8 Did Black defend against everything? Against 49.♖g1, ♕g5 is coming.

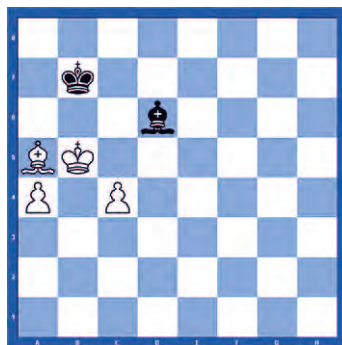


49.f6! Carlsen finds the right winning plan. It's not a difficult move to see, but it isn't that easy to evaluate the outcome of the bishop endgame, even if White is two pawns up...

49...♙xf6 50.♖xh6 ♜e7 51.♖xd6 ♜xd6 52.♙b5 All that Black can do is to lose both pawns on b6 and a5, but if Black is on time to put the king on a8 and give the bishop for the c-pawn, the position would be a draw.

52...♙e6 53.♙xb6 ♙d7 Black brings the king to a8.

54.c4 ♙c8 55.♙xa5 ♙b7 The final stage of the game: White needs to move the c-pawn.



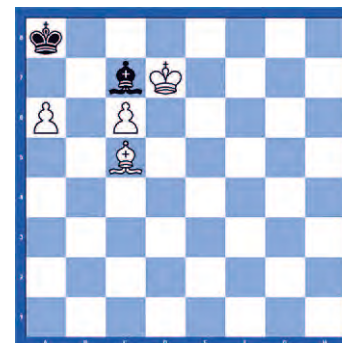
56.♙b4 Pushing away the Black bishop from the a3-f8 diagonal.

56...♙f4 57.c5 ♙a7 58.c6 White's c-pawn only has 2 squares to go, but Black still has some drawing chances. Carlsen demonstrates the perfect winning plan.

58...♙b8 59.a5 Bringing the White pawn to a6, to avoid giving Black a chance to hold the king on c8.

59...♙a7 60.a6 ♙a8 61.♙c5 Black can't move, and the White king is going to d7.

61...♙b8 62.♙c4 ♙c7 63.♙d5 ♙d8 64.♙e6 ♙c7 65.♙d7 Now White only needs to push the Black bishop away from the a5-d8 diagonal.



65...♙a5 66.♙e7 Followed by ♙d8. A really great endgame by White. Everything looks really simple. Usually, to play this well looks simple, but it's very hard to play like this during our own games :).

1-0

(16) Nakamura,H (2783) – Giri,A (2730)

London GP, 02.10.2012

[Chess Evolution]



After unexpectedly losing 4 games in a row, Nakamura didn't collapse and recovered with a brilliant endgame victory. White is clearly better with his more active pieces (especially the Black king and rook are squeezed in the 8th rank), but how to make progress? White can't exchange his a5-pawn for the d5-pawn and the rook has no open files to penetrate. Nakamura found a fantastic breakthrough!

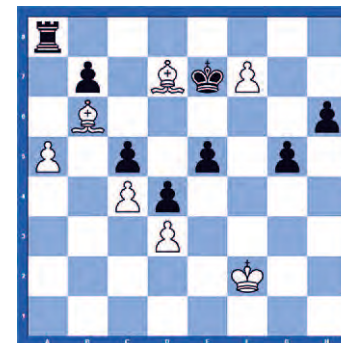
47.g5!! Black is forced to accept the sacrifice, otherwise White takes on h6 and occupies the g-file with the rook. Black can never play $\text{K}e7$ because of the c5-pawn hanging with check.

47...hxc5 48.h6! gxh6 49. Rxe5!! The aim of the offers in the previous three moves was to create a passed f-pawn, which becomes unstoppable with the support of the bishops.

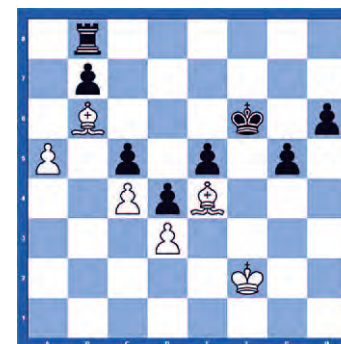
49...fxe5 50.f6! White wants to take on c5, followed by queening the f-pawn. Black has only one move to avoid it.

50... Kd7 [50...h5 51. Kxc5+-]

51.f7+ K e7 52. Kxd7



52... Kxd7?! This is practically the same as resigning, but the other continuation was also objectively losing... [52... Kxf7 Black is materially completely fine, he has 3 pawns and a rook for two minor pieces. Despite that, his position is hopeless, because of the huge power of the bishop pair and the a-pawn, which promotes automatically if the b7-pawn falls. 53. Kf5 White should immediately attack the b7 pawn. 53... Kf6 (53...h5 54. Ke4 Rb8 55. Kxc5 Ke6 56. Kg3 leads to the same position as in 53... Kf6.) 54. Ke4 Rb8



55. ♖xc5 By eliminating the c-pawn, White creates another way to obtain the a-passer, namely by threatening with ♖b6 and c5-c6. The direct threat is ♖d6. Black must deal with it. 55... ♖e6 (55...h5 is refuted by 56. ♖d6! ♖a8 57. ♖c7 ♖c8 and now 58. ♖xb7! 58... ♖xc7 59.a6+- wins.) 56. ♖g3 h5 57. ♖b6 Black has no chance to create counterplay with his kingside pawns. ♖c7 ♖c8 ♖xb7 ♖xc7 a6 is threatened again. 57... ♖d6 58. ♖f3! weakening the pawns, in order to be able to collect them with the king. 58...g4 (58...h4+ 59. ♖g4+-) 59. ♖d5 White wants to play ♖h4 and Black is also in a kind of zugzwang. He can only move with his king. 59... ♖d7 but this allows 60.c5+- wins.]

53. ♖xc5 Black loses a full rook and the connected h-g passers don't give enough compensation to survive.

53...h5 54.f8 ♖ ♖xf8+ 55. ♖xf8 h4 [The main problem is that Black can't support the pawns with his king, because if it goes too far, White creates an a-passer. 55... ♖e6 56. ♖h6 ♖f5 (56...g4 57. ♖g3+- wins easily.) 57.c5!+- followed by the break-through of c6 and a6.]

56. ♖h6! White employs the right technique. He's immobilizing the pawns by attacking them with the bishop.

56...g4 57. ♖g5 h3 58. ♖h4! The bishop occupies the g3 square, where it not only stops the pawn, but also attacks the e5 weakness. White gets a „free hand“ to use his king.

58... ♖d6 59. ♖g3 ♖e6 60. ♖e2 [60. ♖h2 with the idea of ♖g3 was even easier. 60... ♖f6 loses again to (60... ♖d6 61. ♖g3+-) 61.c5!+-]

60... ♖d6 61. ♖d2 ♖c5 62. ♖xe5 ♖b4 63. ♖c2 [63. ♖c7+- was also winning.]

63... ♖xa5 64. ♖b3 Black is in zugzwang! He must move into dropping the d4 pawn with check.

64... ♖b6 [64...b5 65.c5+- and; 64... ♖a6 65. ♖b4+- were equally hopeless.]

65. ♖xd4+ [Black resigned in view of 65. ♖xd4+ ♖c6 66. ♖e5 ♖d7 67.d4 ♖e6 68. ♖g3+- with an easy win.]

1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Rudakovsky, Iosif — Botvinnik, Mikhail [E33]

URS-ch14 Moscow, 1945

[Balogh Csaba]

A fantastic game on the topic of „how to overtake the initiative”. We’ll see many nice tactical ideas during the game.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♘c3** ♙b4 **4.♙c2** d5 **5.a3** ♙xc3+ **6.♙xc3** This line is popular even nowadays, but Black reacts with a rare move.

6...♘c6 There are 4 other options that are more often seen in practice. Probably they are better as well, but in that time theory was not that well developed in this opening. [6...♘e4; 6...0–0; 6...dxc4; 6...c5 are all possible.]

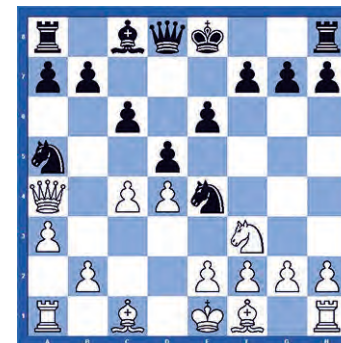
7.♘f3 ♘e4 Very concrete variations are coming. Botvinnik has already played this once before. Now his opponent prepared an improvement.

8.♙b3! I believe this is stronger than the more common 8.♙c2. [On 8.♙c2 e5! is Black’s point and ♙f5 is coming next. White tried to solve the complications the simplest way, but Botvinnik easily equalized. 9.e3 ♙f5 10.♙d3 exd4 11.exd4 0–0 12.0–0 ♖e8 Black has no problems at all. In the next moves, he’ll manage to get rid of White’s only triumph: the bishop pair. 13.♙e3 dxc4 14.♙xc4 ♘d6 15.♙c2 ♘e7= with a comfortable game in Makogonov-Botvinnik, Leningrad 1939.]

8...♘a5?! Botvinnik tries to play dynamic chess, but objectively it was not justified yet. White made only logical moves so far, and Black has no reason to look for an

advantage immediately. [8...0–0 is better. 9.e3 a5 10.♙d3 a4 11.♙c2 f5 This position arises more or less by force. It’s playable for both sides, but I personally prefer White.]

9.♙a4+ c6 We have reached the first critical moment of the game. White went wrong with



10.cxd5 After this, Black has no problems. The bishop is ready to develop to f5. White can’t make use of the a5 knight at the edge of the board. [10.c5! would have been the right move, which is only justified by tactical means. 10...b6 seems to be fine for Black, as he successfully undermines the central pawns, but (10...b5 11.♙c2 White is better, his next moves will be e3 and ♙d3, to keep the a5-knight out of the game.) 11.e3! is very strong, and on 11...bxc5 12.b4! cxb4 13.axb4 Black is in serious trouble. 13...♘b7 14.♙xc6+/-]

10...exd5 11.e3 ♙f5! Black got a healthy position after all. He has equalized the opening part of the game.

12.♙d3?! After this small inaccuracy, Black starts to overtake the initiative. [12.♙d2 should have been played. By using the misplacement of the a5 knight, White gets rid of his strong colleague on e4. 12...♘xd2 13.♘xd2 0–0

14. ♖e2 with equal chances. (14.b4 doesn't win a pawn, because of 14... ♗c4! and b5 at the end.)]

12... ♖b6! Excellent move. Suddenly, the a5 knight becomes a very strong piece. It wants to jump to b3.

13. ♖c2?! White did not want his queen stuck out from the game after ♗b3, but anyway, it would have been a better idea to prevent it by: [13.b4 ♗c4 On the other hand, the b4 pawn became a target now. Black will push an unpleasant a5 soon.]

13... ♗b3 14. ♖b1 Botvinnik feels that his position is ready and he seizes the initiative, so he quickly opens the position, trying to make use of the temporary misplacement of White's pieces. It's very important to mention that now and in the following moves, 0-0 would be an important waste of time, which would drop the advantage.

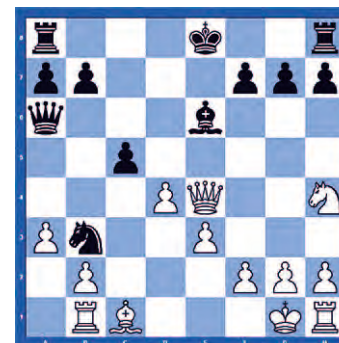


14... ♗c5!! The move is based on accurate calculation. The direct threat is c4, after which the pin of the f5 bishop wins material.

15. ♗h4 The best chance. White sends away the bishop, but his knight gets to the edge of the board. [15.dxc5 ♗bxc5 is bad for White. 16. ♗d4 ♗xd3+ 17. ♖xd3 ♗g6!

White is in trouble because of the pin on the b1–h7 diagonal. Exchanging the queens doesn't help. 18. ♖b5+ ♖xb5 19. ♗xb5 ♗c5! 20. ♖a1 ♗b3 trapping the rook. 21. ♗c7+ ♗d7 22. ♗xa8 ♖xa8 23. ♖a2 ♗b1 would have been a really funny final position.]

15... ♗e6 16. 0-0 White leaves from the threatened ♖a5 check. [16. ♗xe4 dxe4 17. ♖xe4 would cost a piece after 17... ♖a5+ 18. ♖f1 ♖a6+ 19. ♖g1



19... ♖c4! Quite a unique way of trapping a piece. The c1 bishop is lost; 16.dxc5 is also bad. 16... ♖a5+ 17. ♖f1 ♗exc5]

16... ♖c8! Great dynamic chess. One imprecise move would have allowed White to survive.

17. ♗xe4 [17.dxc5 ♖xc5 18. ♖d1 0-0 is also terrible for White. The situation of the c1 bishop is quite sad, the b3 knight paralyzes the whole position. After ♗xe4 dxe4, the h4 knight can't return to the game.]

17... cxd4! An important intermediate move.

18. ♖d3 dxe4 19. ♖xe4 Finally, the time has come to play.

19...0-0! 20.exd4 White seems to be safe, but the real problems are just about to come. As we'll see, in every line White has problems with one of the rooks, the back-rank or the h4 knight. But of course, Black must continue to play energetically, a simple recapture on d4 would allow White to consolidate his position.



20...♖fe8 ♗c4 is the threat. [20...♗c4 is a good alternative suggested by the computer. 21.♖e1 The point is the completely unexpected 21...♙e6!! 22.♙xe6 fxe6 and the b1 rook is lost! 23.♗e3 ♗d3 24.♖bd1 ♗c2]

21.d5 ♗d7 The bishop is heading to b5.

22.♙d3 The only way to prevent ♗b5. [22.♙b4 loses to 22...♙xb4 23.axb4 ♗b5 24.♖d1 ♗d3! traps the rook again.]

22...♙b5 Also good, but missing a concrete win. [A very nice motif was missed by Black: 22...♘xc1! 23.♖fxc1 ♖xc1+ 24.♖xc1 ♙h6!! Probably Botvinnik didn't see this double attack. White loses a piece. 25.♙c4 ♗b5! 26.♙c5 (26.♘f5 ♗xc4 27.♘xh6+ gxh6 The weak back-rank tells.) 26...b6! White can't defend both hanging pieces.]

23.♙d1 [23.♙xb5 loses the b1 rook in the same way as before. 23...♗xb5 24.♖d1 ♗d3!]

23...♙c4 Again very strong, but not the best. White attacks the knight and if it leaves to f3, ♗f5 collects the rook. The same idea could have been achieved in a better version by [23...♖c4! 24.g3 (24.♘f3 ♗f5) 24...♗g4! Forcing a serious weakness 25.f3 ♗h3 and on both rook moves, the same finish arrives. 26.♖e1 (26.♖f2 ♖d4! 27.♗d2 ♙xd5) 26...♖d4! White can't control the back-rank. 27.♖xe8+ ♙xe8]

24.♗e3 White defends resourcefully. A very strong move is needed now!



24...♖e5!! Excellent! The threat is ♖xd5 and when the queen moves, the h4 knight is hanging.

25.g3 [25.♘f3 ♖xd5 26.♙e1 This is the only place for the queen. 26...♗b5! White can't prevent ♙xf1!]

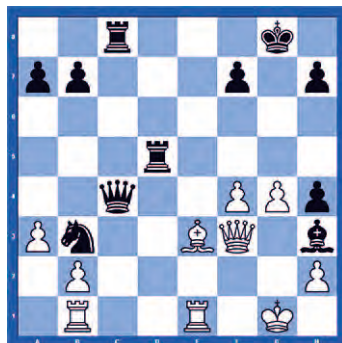
25...♗g4! The same motif as in the 23...♖c4 line. The queen has no place to leave, so a huge weakness has been forced.

26.f3 ♗h3 27.♖e1 Black can choose between two ways to win now.

27...g5! With the idea of getting the f5 square for the bishop. [The simple 27...♖ce8! was also good enough. White can't protect his bishop, and on 28.♙f2 ♖xe1+ 29.♙xe1 ♔f1#]

28.f4 A desperate attempt. [28.♘g2 ♙f5 is also hopeless.]

28...♖xd5 29.♔f3 gxh4 30.g4 White still has hope, but Botvinnik doesn't let him go.



30...♘d2! 31.♙xd2 ♖xd2 32.♔xh3 ♔xf4 The White king is so weak that he can't stand the pressure after ♖cc2. The game is over.

33.♔xh4 ♖cc2! 34.♔g3 ♔d4+ White resigned! An outstanding game!

0-1

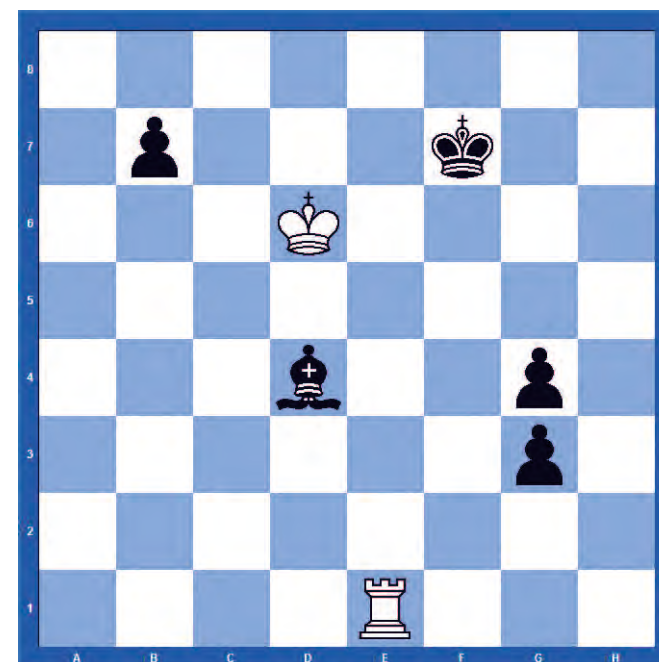
Surprise section / study

(18) Prokes,L

1941

[CEWN]

1.=



Solutions

(19) Carlsen,M (2843) – Aronian,L (2816)

Sao Paulo, 28.09.2012

[Solutions]



27... ♖c3? [27... R8xf4! 28.gxf4 ♘xf4 29. ♖a8+ ♕f8! 30. ♖g1 ♕xh2+! 31. ♔xh2 ♖h3#]

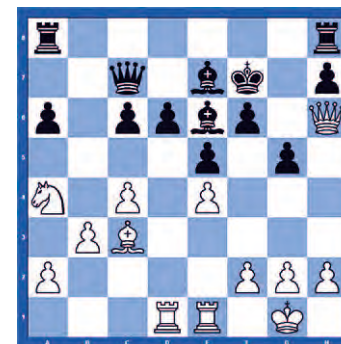
28. ♕xf3 [28. ♘xc3 R8xf4 29. ♘e4= (29.gxf4? ♘xf4! 30. ♖g1 ♕xh2+! 31. ♔xh2 ♖h3#)]

28... ♕xa1 29. ♕g2 ♖f5 30. ♕d2 ♕d4=

(20) Safarli,E (2620) – Korobov,A (2705)

Baku Open, 26.09.2012

[Solutions]



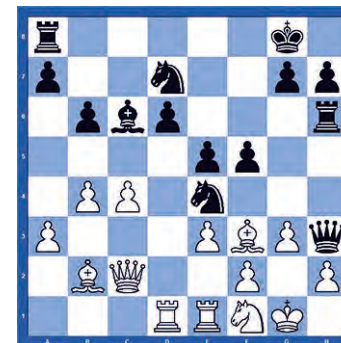
20... ♕g4! 21.c5 [21. ♖d3 ♕f8!-+]

21... ♕f8! 22.cxd6 ♖a7-+

(21) Korobov,A (2705) – Zhigalko,S (2667)

Baku Open, 28.09.2012

[Solutions]



21... ♘xg3! 22.fxg3 [22. ♕xc6 ♘xf1 23. ♕g2 (23. ♕xa8 ♖g6+-+) 23... ♖g6-+]

22... ♕xf3-+

(22) Mamedov,R (2634) – Esen,B (2588)

Baku Open, 28.09.2012

[Solutions]



25. ♖xe5! dxe5 26. ♕xf7+!! ♔xf7 [26... ♖xf7 27. ♕xh7+-]

27. ♖xd8 ♖e8 [27... ♖xd8 28. ♕xd8+ ♖g7 29. ♘c5!+-]

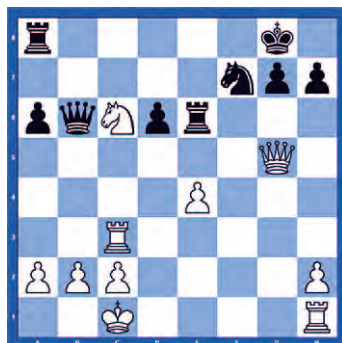
28. ♕b2 [28. ♕b4 ♘d5 29. ♘c5+-]

28... ♘e2+ 29. ♖f2 ♘f4 30. ♘c5+-

(23) Kosintseva,T (2524) – Ju Wenjun (2528)

Ankara WGP, 27.09.2012

[Solutions]

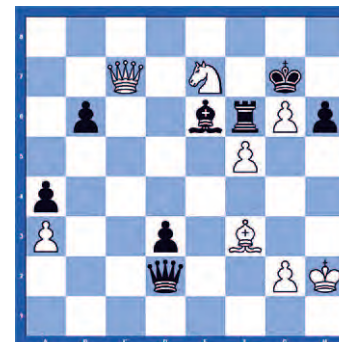


23. ♘e7+! ♔f8 24. ♕d5! ♔xe7 25. ♕xa8+-

(24) Beliavsky,A (2609) – Dobrov,V (2481)

San Cristobal Open, 26.09.2012

[Solutions]



46... ♕e1!! [46... ♕f2 47. ♘d5+ ♕f7 48. ♖h3!!+-; 46... ♕g5 47. ♘d5+ ♖f7 48. ♕e5+-]

47. ♘d5+ ♖f7! 48. gxf7 [48. f6+ ♖xg6 49. ♕f4 ♕xd5! 50. ♕xd5 ♖d7! 51. ♕g4+ ♖xf6 52. ♕xd7 ♕h4+ 53. ♖g1 (53. ♕h3? ♕xh3+ 54. ♖xh3 d2 55. ♕f3 b5! 56. ♖g3 b4+-) 53... ♕e1+=]

48... ♕h4+ 49. ♖g1 ♕e1+ 50. ♖h2 1/2-1/2

(25) Flores,D (2593) – Blanco Ronquillo,H (2430)

San Cristobal Open, 27.09.2012

[Solutions]



17. ♖c5! ♜xc5 18. ♞f7+ ♘g7 19. ♞xe8 1-0

(26) Cordova,E (2554) – Martinez Romero,M (2368)

San Cristobal Open, 28.09.2012

[Solutions]



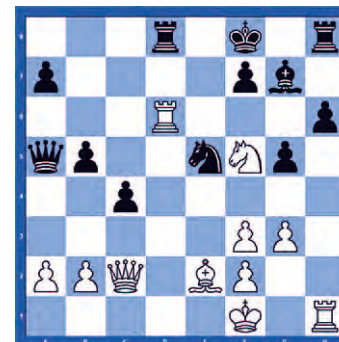
19. e5! dxe5 20. ♘db5! cxb5 21. ♘xb5 ♞b8 22. ♖xc5+-
♘e6 [22...exf4 23. ♖d6+-]

23. fxe5 1-0

(27) Shankland,S (2597) – Bhat,V (2511)

Konig memorial (rapid), 23.09.2012

[Solutions]



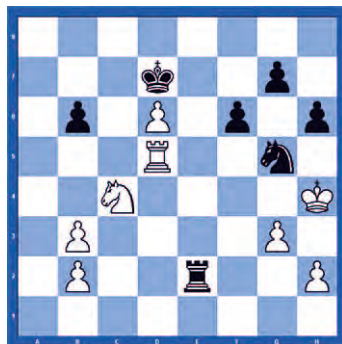
21. ♞c3!! ♞c7 [21... ♞xc3 22. ♜xd8#]

22. ♜xd8+ ♞xd8 23. ♘xg7 ♜xg7 24. ♞xe5+-

(28) Navara,D (2691) — Sax,G (2451)

Croatian league, 29.09.2012

[Solutions]



36...♖xh2+? [36...g6!! 37.h3

a) 37.g4 ♖xh2+ 38.♔g3 ♖h3+ 39.♔g2 ♖xb3--+

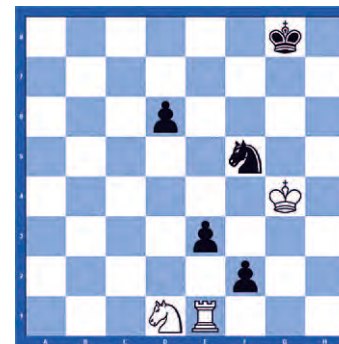
b) 37.♘xb6+ ♔c6 38.d7 ♖e4+ 39.g4 ♖e3! 40.♖d6+ ♔b5 41.♖d5+ ♔a6 42.♖a5+ ♔b7!-+ (42...♔xa5 43.♘c4+); 37...f5!! 38.g4 (38.♖d3 b5! 39.♘b6+ ♔d8--+; 38.♘xb6+ ♔c6 39.d7 ♘f3#) 38...f4! 39.♖d3 b5 40.♘b6+ ♔d8 41.♖c3 ♖c2!! 42.♖xc2 ♘f3#]

37.♔g4 ∞

(29) Mattison,H

1914

[Solutions]



1.♖h1!! [1.♘xf2? exf2 2.♖c1 ♘e3+ 3.♔f4 f1♕+ 4.♖xf1 ♘xf1 5.♔e4 ♔f7--+]]

1...f1♕! **2.♖xf1 e2** **3.♖g1!! exd1♕+** [3...exd1♖!? 4.♔h5+!! ♖xg1=]

4.♔h3+! [4.♖xd1? ♘e3+--+]]

4...♕xg1= 1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 34

19th of October 2012

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Editorial Preface

The European Club Cup came to an end with two great teams sharing the first place, and just thanks to a “half board point”, the winner is the number one seeded, the team from Azerbajdjan, “SOCAR”, that presented an amazing line-up: Radjabov, Mamedyarov, Topalov, Grischuk, Kamsky. The funny thing is that “SOCAR” started the tournament with a 0 against the team of “Ashdod”, and managed to win all their other matches with a very high score. The second place went to the team of Saint-Petersburg. The funniest thing was the paring system. It seemed more like a lottery. The parings made no sense.

The second main event of the week is the “Spice Cup”, where 6 young talented Super GMs (Vachier Lagrave, Ding Liren, So, Nguyen, Meier, Balogh Csaba) are comparing their chess knowledge. We are just half way in this tournament, and all the participants are very close to each other.

Already a few days ago, the “Final Masters” came to an end with an already usual victory for Magnus Carlsen, but this time he had to win a 2 blitz-games match against Caruana, who scored the same amount of points. 3rd place went to Aronian.

Right now, it seems like there’s nobody who can even compete with Carlsen... How long can the chess genius continue winning a game after game? I guess we’ll find out very soon in the super-tournament of London, which is going to take place in December.

As usual, we wish You a lot of fun with this edition of CEWN and these great games from the past week.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Carlsen,M (2843) – Anand,V (2780)

Bilbao, 12.10.2012

[Csaba Balogh]

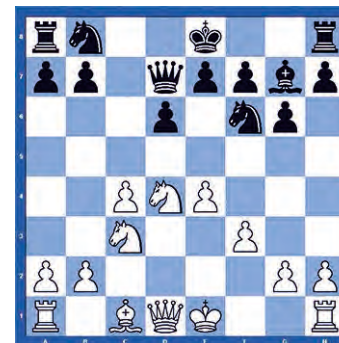
World's Nr.1 player Magnus Carlsen won the Sao Paulo-Bilbao Masters tournament by avoiding any kind of theoretical battles. He never looked for an advantage, and only wanted to get a playable position where he could slowly outplay his opponents. In this game, he was facing the World Champion.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♙b5+ Carlsen wanted to avoid the Sicilian Najdorf variation.

3...♙d7 4.♙xd7+ ♚xd7 5.c4 ♘f6 [Anand quickly got into some trouble against Caruana a few rounds before in the same tournament by playing 5...♘c6 6.♘c3 g6 7.d4 cxd4 8.♘xd4 ♙g7 9.♘de2 ♘f6 10.f3 0–0 11.0–0 This is what White is playing for. He has obtained a space advantage and a long-term initiative. If Black wants to equalize, he needs to execute a pawn break with a6-b5 or e6-d5, but White is ready to meet it now. 11...a6 12.a4 e6 13.♙g5! It's very important to attack the f6 knight to prevent the d5 breaks. 13...h6 14.♙h4 g5 would weaken the kingside too much. 14...♖fd8 15.♖b1 White has protected the b2-pawn to stop d5. Now it would be met with cxd5 exd5 ♙xf6 ♙xf6 and ♘xd5. 15...♚c7 16.♙h1 ♖d7 17.♖c1 White got a small edge, but Anand missed or underestimated a small tactical trick, and his position became crucial. 17...♖e8?! 18.♘d5! A well-known motif to use the pin on the

c-file. 18...exd5 19.cxd5 ♚b6 20.♙f2! ♚xb2 21.dxc6 bxc6 22.♖xc6 ♖dd8 23.♖xa6+/- White ad a clear extra pawn, although Anand managed to survive later on. Caruana-Anand, Sao Paulo/Bilbao 2012.]

6.♘c3 g6 7.d4 cxd4 8.♘xd4 ♙g7 9.f3



9...♚c7 This is practically a novelty. Black prevents White to achieve his standard setup by developing the dark squared bishop to e3 or g5... [9...0–0 10.♙e3 is the main line with hundreds of games.]

10.b3 ♚a5 11.♙b2 However, the bishop on b2 stands quite well too.

11...♘c6 12.0–0 0–0 [Black can't make use of the pin after 12...♘xd4 13.♚xd4 White will retreat his queen in the next move.]

13.♘ce2 White has stabilized his position. He obtained a slightly better position with a space advantage, but of course, converting it needs a lot of effort.

13...♖fd8 14.♙c3 This is an inaccuracy. [The prophylactic 14.♙h1! should have been played, when the d5 breaks are not effective anymore. 14...e6 15.♙c3 ♚b6 16.♚d2 White is better. Now on 16...d5 17.♘xc6! the principled

17...bxc6 is met with ♖a5! 17...♙xc6 18.♖fd1+= White is well prepared for these actions.]

14...♙b6 15.♙h1



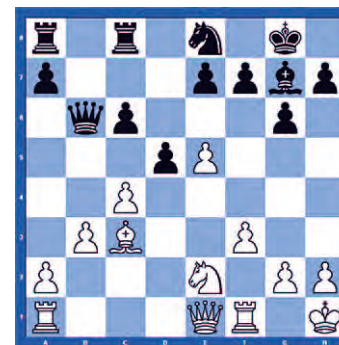
15...d5! This great tactical idea seems to solve all the Black problems. However, Carlsen finds a way to keep the position complex.

16.♘xc6! [16.exd5 ♘xd5! 17.cxd5 ♖xd5 was Anand's idea. He wins back the piece and gets an advantage.]

16...bxc6 17.♙e1! White leaves the pin with the threat of ♖a5, and prepares for a pawn sacrifice.

17...♖dc8? It's hard to understand this move. The rook was well placed on d8. [Black could have parried ♖a5 with the most logical 17...a5! This is a useful move in any case, with the idea of a minority attack with a4. Black seems to be fine, since the idea of the game is less effective now. 18.e5 ♘e8 19.e6 because of 19...f5! Black wants to play d4, followed by c5. 20.♙xg7 ♘xg7 and Black is OK! He might play d4, c5. Also the e6 pawn might be a potential target later on, after ♖d6 and ♖a6.]

18.e5 ♘e8



19.e6! Suddenly, Black's position is slightly unpleasant. It's not easy to deal with the e6 pawn.

19...fxe6 Black accepts the sacrifice, but it's clear that he can't hold his material advantage for long. [19...f5 wasn't better. Now White has 20.♖d1+= and in comparison to 17...a5, Black doesn't have d4. He can't keep the tension of his d5 pawn. This means that his position is worse.]

20.♘f4 ♖xc3 21.♙xc3 d4 [21...♘g7 leads to the game by transposition after 22.♖ae1 d4 23.♙d2]

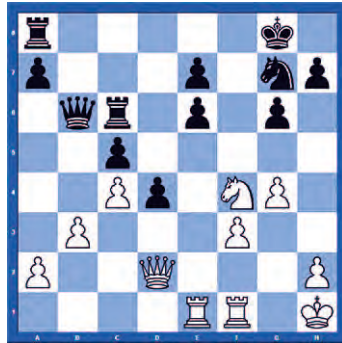
22.♙d2 c5 23.♖ae1 ♘g7 Carlsen finds a very nice idea to combine the pressure of the e6 pawn with a hidden attack against the king.

24.g4! White restricts the movement of the g7 knight. He prevents the ♘f5-e3 maneuver. [24.♘h3 immediately, would be met with 24...♘f5;

On 24.♖e5 Black should try to consolidate with 24...♖c6 25.♖fe1 ♖f8 It's not easy to break through with White.]

24...♖c6? [24...♙d6 was probably the only move to stay in the game. Now on 25.♘h3 Black has 25...e5! 26.♙h6 (However, White should be slightly better after 26.♙g5

winning back the pawn.; Or 26.♘f2 and ♘d3 next.) 26... ♘e6 just in time to prevent ♘g5.]



25.♘h3!! After this unexpected move, the game is practically over. Black can't prevent the ♖h6-Ng5 threat!

25...♘e8 Black transfers his knight to f6 to cover the h7 pawn, but it leaves the e6 pawn unprotected. [25...♖h8 was the alternative, but it's not much better. 26.♖h6 ♖d8 27.♘g5 ♖g8 28.f4! followed by ♗f3-h3.]

26.♖h6 ♘f6 27.♘g5 ♖e5-Rfe1 is coming next. The main problem is that Black can't play ♖d8-f8 because of ♘xe6.

27...d3 [27...♖a6 is too slow. 28.♖e5 ♖c8 29.♖fe1 ♖f8 White can choose between 30.♖h3+/- (And 30.♖xf8+ ♗xf8 31.♘xe6 ♗fc8 32.♘f4+/- White ends up with an extra pawn and a positional advantage.);

27...♗f8 28.♖e5+- Creating a new threat of ♘xh7 ♘xh7 ♖xg6 ♖h8 and ♗h5.]

28.♖e5 ♘xh7 is the threat. Black must waste a tempo to prevent it.

28...♖h8 [28...d2 loses to 29.♘xh7! ♘xh7 30.♖xg6+ ♖h8 31.♗h5+.]

29.♖d1 Black can't protect the d-pawn, because of ♘f7 check.

29...♖a6 30.a4 After this old-blooded move, the World Champion decided to stop resisting. His pawns start to fall one after another.[30.a4 ♖c8 31.♖xd3 ♖g8 (31...♖f8 32.♖xf8+ ♗xf8 33.♘xe6+-) 32.♗de3+-]

1-0

(2) Volokitin,A (2724)
– Mamedyarov,S (2748) [B94]

European Club Cup Eilat ISR, 11.10.2012

[Csaba Balogh]

A really spectacular game, even though a closer look shows mistakes by both sides.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙e3 ♘g4 At the moment, this 6...♘g4 line against the ♙e3 system is doing very well. Volokitin, as a huge theoretician, decides to play another system.

7.♙c1 Black has nothing better than retreating the knight. [7.♙g5 h6 8.♙h4 g5 9.♙g3 ♙g7 is the starting position if White decides to challenge the 6...♘g4 variation.]

7...♘f6 White goes for the sharpest system of the Najdorf and plays

8.♙g5 ♘bd7 9.♙e2 e6 [9...b5 is a good alternative for Black if he wants to avoid the long theoretical battles with e6. We have analyzed the Motylev-Wang Hao game in the 19th edition of CEWN.]

10.0-0-0 ♙c7 11.f4 b5 We are still just at the beginning of theory, and White chooses a sideline.



12.f5 This is the principled idea to weaken the d5 square by putting pressure on the e6 pawn. [However, the main and probably better move is the prophylactic 12.a3 before pushing f5.]

12...b4! [12...e5 meets with a nice and typical response: 13.♘d5! ♘xd5 14.exd5 The knight is ready to occupy the c6 square.]

13.fxe6 bxc3 14.exd7+ ♘xd7! This is the stronger recapture. [White gets a better endgame after 14...♙xd7 15.♙c4! cxb2+ 16.♙b1 ♙xc4 17.♙xc4 ♙e7 18.♙he1 White wants to play ♘f5. Despite the fact that the queens have left the board, White has serious threats. Black needs to transfer his knight to e5 to reduce the pressure, but it doesn't solve all the problems either. 18...♘g4 19.♙f4! ♘e5 20.♙b3 White wants to play ♘f5 again, with the idea of gaining the bishop pair and improving his pawn structure (after ♙xf5 exf5). Black has to parry it with 20...g6 21.♘f3!+= and White has better prospects!]

15.♙c4 cxb2+ 16.♙b1 The b2-pawn gives a nice shelter for the king. This is a known motif in the Sicilian. The same happens often on the other side as well, when Black is castled kingside and White's attack arrives with g6. He takes with gxh7 and Black hides his king with ♙h8.

16...♘c5! [16...♙xc4 leads to a r position to the 14...♙xd7 line. White will be better here as well. 17.♙xc4 ♘e5 18.♙b3 ♙e7 19.♙f4!+=]



17.e5! White urgently opens the lines against the Black king, which still needs a few moves to get into safety. Both players have definitely studied this position, since it has already been played before.

17...♖b8! A strong novelty, recommended by the computer. [17...dxe5?! happened before, but White refuted it elegantly by 18.♘b5!! 18...axb5 19.♔d5! with a triple attack: ♔d8, ♔xa8 and ♙xb5. 19...♙e7 This loses immediately. (19...f6 is more resistant, but the attack breaks through after 20. ♙xb5+ ♔e7 21. ♙e3! Black has only one ugly move to protect the c5 knight and the a8 rook. 21...♘b7 22. ♙c4! ♘d6 (On 22...♔e8 23. ♙b6! wins. 23...♔xb6 24. ♔f7#) 23. ♙c5 with a huge attack.) 20. ♙xb5+ ♔f8 21. ♙xe7+ ♔xe7 22. ♔xa8+/- Guseinov-Benitah, Marrakesh 2010.]

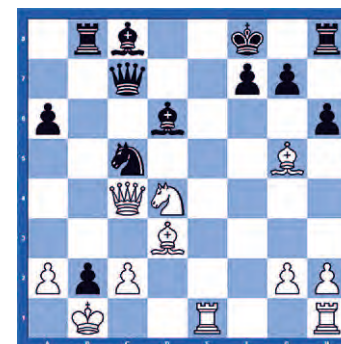
18.exd6 ♙xd6 19.♔e1+! Depriving Black from the right to castle!

19...♔f8! Both kings are quite naked, but they are safe against the direct threats still. [19...♘e6? loses against the little combination 20.♘xe6 ♙xe6 21.♔xe6+! fxe6 22.♔xe6+ ♙e7 23. ♙c4+- Black can't hold the threats after the h1 rook joins the attack.]

20. ♙d3! With the idea of freeing the f1-square for the rook.

20...h6? This loses. Mamedyarov's idea was to open the back-rank in order to be able to take the d3 bishop, but he missed a fantastic tactical blow! [20...♘xd3? is refuted by 21. ♙e7+!! Black either loses his queen or after 21...♔g8 22. ♙xd6!+- wins because of the back-rank. This was the idea behind 20...h6, when after 21. ♙h4, this line works perfectly for Black!;

However, the great 20...♔b4!! seems to solve all the problems. 21. ♔xb4 ♘xd3 22. ♔a4 ♘xe1 23. ♔xe1 ♔d7 Black parries the concrete threats and wants to coordinate his pieces with h6, ♙g8-h7.]



21. ♙d8!! Beautiful! White sacrifices a bishop in order to win some tempi for the attack. [21. ♙h4? ♘xd3 22. ♙e7+ ♔g8 The king has „luft" on h7.]

21...♔xd8 22.♔hf1! The f7 square is the critical target! White has an extra option to increase the pressure...

22...♔b7 [22...f6 loses as well to 23.♘c6 ♔c7 24. ♙g6+-; 22...♔c7 23. ♙g6!+-]

23. ♖g6! Forcing a fatal weakness with f6.

23...f6 White is winning due to the strong g6 bishop, which creates threats on f7 and e8. But how to break through?



24. ♖d5? With the idea of ♖xd6, deflecting the queen, followed by ♖e8 mate. However, this allows Black to return to the game. [The easiest is probably 24. ♖e3!+- doubling the rooks on the e-file. Black has no acceptable answer against it;]

The nicest is 24. ♘c6! ♖d7 and now 25. ♖e3! again, with the idea of doubling the rooks, and on 25... ♖xc6 White wins by deflecting the queen from the e8 square. 26. ♖d5!! ♖d7 27. ♖xd6+! ♖xd6 28. ♖e8#]

24...♖e7! The game is unclear, thanks to the tactical resource:

25. ♘c6 ♖b7! Many pieces are hanging. Where to take? [25... ♖xe1+? 26. ♖xe1 ♖d7 would have lost again to 27. ♖xd6+! ♖xd6 28. ♖e8#]

26. ♖xc5! After dropping almost all the advantage, Volokitin starts to play extremely precisely again! [On 26. ♖xe7 ♖xe7! keeps Black alive.]

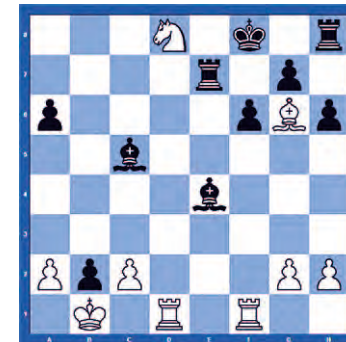
26... ♖xc5 27. ♘xd8 Black must move with his b7 bishop and also has to cover the e6 square against the threatened check.

27... ♖d5 [27... ♖xg2? loses to 28. ♘e6+! ♖g8 29. ♘xc5+-; 27... ♖c8 is met with the same move as in the game.]

28. ♖d1! Very well played! White creates different kind of threats around the d8 square. At the same time, he keeps the rooks on the board in order not to help Black to solve the problem of the h8 rook.

28... ♖e4 [28... ♖e5 was an alternative. Probably the strongest for White is 29. ♖f5 ♖xf5 30. ♖xf5 ♖c4 31. ♖d7 Black hasn't yet managed to solve the problem with his h8 rook;]

28... ♖c4? loses to the nice 29. ♘c6! wins.]



29. ♘f7! Another fantastic shot! Volokitin shows his best again! [29. ♖xe4 ♖xe4 and the rook escapes soon, Black is fine.]

29... ♖xf7? Decisive mistake. Black missed the upcoming blow! [Critical is 29... ♖xg6 30. ♘xh8 ♖e8 White is an exchange up, but suddenly, instead of the rook, another piece is trapped on h8. 31. ♖d8 with the idea of ♘g6. 31...]

♖e4 32.♘g6+ ♔f7 33.♘f4 White should be slightly better, although Black has strong counterplay with the bishop pair after 33... ♙b5 34.♘d3 ♙a3]

30. ♖fe1!! An unpleasant surprise! The back-rank decides the game. [Black expected 30. ♙xe4 and he probably wanted to save the opposite-colored bishop endgame after 30...g5 31. ♙d5 ♖a7 32. ♖xf6+ ♔g7 33. ♖c6 ♙e7 White will end up with an extra pawn, but Black has real chances to get a draw.]

30... ♙xc2+ [30... ♙xg6 31. ♖d8#;

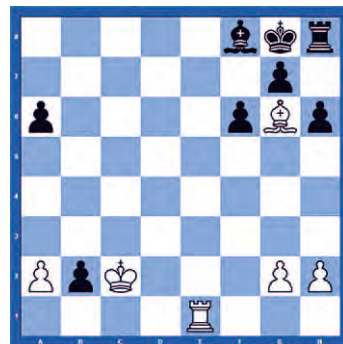
30...f5 31. ♖d8+ ♔e7 32. ♖xh8 ♖f6 doesn't save Black because of 33. ♙xf5!+-]

31. ♔xc2 ♔g8 The most cruel part of the game is just ahead of us!

32. ♖d8+! White is not greedy by taking the rook. He rather enjoys the situation with the imprisoned h8 rook. [32. ♙xf7+ ♔xf7 is also a decent chance to win for White, but the text is much better.]

32... ♖f8 [32... ♙f8 33. ♙xf7+ ♔xf7 34. ♖d7+ ♔g6 35. ♖e8+- Black can't leave the pin.]

33. ♖xf8+ ♙xf8



34.g4!! A pictures que final position! Black is two pawns up, but he's just completely lost, since he has zero chances to rescue his pieces from the f8, g8 and h8 squares. The White king collects the b2 and a6 pawns, followed by promoting his own a-pawn.[34.g4 f5 (34...h5 35.gxh5 f5 doesn't help. The easiest is 36. ♖f1 ♙e7 37. ♖xf5 ♙f6 Black can't get out with his pieces because of 38. ♖c5!+-) 35.gxf5 h5 White blocks with 36.h4+-]

1-0

(3) Andreikin,Dmitry (2718) – Nakamura,Hikaru (2786) [E90]

28th European Club Cup Eilat ISR (1.3), 11.10.2012

[Kamil Miton]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.♘f3 0–0 6.h3

The idea of this line is to keep the possibility of playing g4 eventually, especially after the center closes with e5–d5.

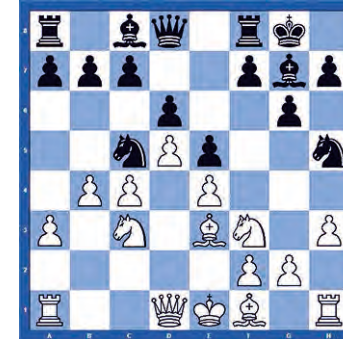
6...e5 7.d5

7...♘a6 Not the most popular, but a normal development move. Black can also follow other plans: [7...a5 8.♙g5 ♘a6 with ♙e8–Nd7–Ndc5 next (the other knight comes to c5), and f5.;

7...♘h5 This is a very interesting option because Black immediately tries to take advantage of the weakened kingside, after h3. 8.♘h2 not allowing f5. 8...♙e8 Black's preparing f5 because the knight on h5 will be protected. 9.♙e2 ♘f4 10.♙f3 f5 11.g3 ♘xh3 12.♙g2 ♙f7 and now many games finished with a draw after. 13.♙xh3 (13.♙f3 is possible to look for a fight.) 13...fxe4 14.♘g4 ♙xg4 15.♙xg4 ♙xf2+ 16.♙d1 ♙d4+ 17.♙e1 ♙f2+=]

8.♙e3 ♘c5 Black could try push the thematic f5 slightly faster after: [8...♘h5 9.a3 I think the best for White is to

try to limit the knight on a6. (9.♘d2 ♙e8 with f5 next.; 9.♘h2 ♙e8 10.♙e2 f5 11.♙xh5 gxh5 12.g4 hxg4 13.hxg4 fxe4 14.♙b1 ♙g6 15.♙xe4 ♙d7 16.♙e2 ♘b4 Black is totally fine 1/2–1/2 Grigoryan,A–Mamedov,R/Rijeka CRO 2010 (28).) 9...f5 (9...♘c5 10.b4



10...♘xe4 A fantastic idea! 11.♘xe4 f5 12.♘g3 f4 (12...♘f6!? looks very strange, but probably Black has compensation. It's only one pawn for the piece, but White's pieces are under pressure. The position can become really unclear. 13.♙g5 h6 14.♙xf6 ♙xf6∞=) 13.♘xh5 gxh5 14.♙c1 e4 15.♘d4 e3 16.♙a2 ♙h4 17.♙d3 White manages to defend.) 10.b4 (10.exf5 gxf5 11.♘xe5? ♙e8) 10...♘f4 11.♙b3 (11.g3?! Losing time! Usually, to take the knight on f4 isn't good. 11...fxe4 12.♘xe4 ♙f5 13.♘fd2 c6≤; 11.♘d2 ♘xg2+ 12.♙xg2 f4=+) 11...fxe4 (11...c5 12.dxc6 bxc6 13.♙d1 ♘c7 14.g3 with unclear play.) 12.♘xe4 ♙f5 13.♘fd2 c6 Black has to activate knight with this move, because the transfer over b8–d7–f6 takes too much time. 14.dxc6 bxc6 15.♘xd6 ♙xd6 16.c5+ ♙d5 (16...♙e6 17.♙c4 ♘d5 18.♙xa6+=) 17.♙c4 ♘xg2+ 18.♙e2 ♘c7 19.♙xd5+ ♘xd5 Only two pieces for the queen, but Black has some compensation.]

9.♘d2 a5 In three moves, Black will manage to save the knight and put it on c5. On the other hand, White re-

groups his pieces in an optimal setup. [9...♘h5 10.b4 ♖a6 11.a3 c5 12.♙b1 (12.bxc5 ♘xc5 13.♙xc5 dxc5 14.g3 ♘f6= with the typical ♘e8-Nd6.)]

10.♙e2 ♙d7 [10...♘h5 In many KID and Benoni positions, Black doesn't care about ♙xh5 because the most important task is to push f5. 11.♙xh5 (11.♙xc5 ♘f4 12.♙a3 ♘xg2+ 13.♙f1 ♘f4 14.♙g4 f5 15.exf5 gxf5 16.♙e2 ♙h8=) 11...gxh5 12.♙xc5 (12.♙xh5 ♘d3+ 13.♙e2 (13.♙f1 f5) 13...♘f4+ 14.♙xf4 exf4) 12...dxc5 13.♙xh5 ♖a6 14.0-0-0 ♙g6 15.g3 f5;

10...♘fd7 11.g4 (11.0-0 In this line with the pawn on h3, to castle short usually makes no sense. 11...f5 12.exf5 gxf5 13.f4 Now both moves are good for Black. 13...e4 (13...exf4 14.♙xf4 ♘e5↑) 14.♘b3 ♘xb3 15.axb3 b6=) 11...f5 (11...♙f6 with the typical idea of exchanging the bad bishop from g7. 12.♘f3 ♘b6 13.g5 ♙e7 14.♙c2 ♙d7 15.h4↑) 12.gxf5 gxf5 13.exf5 ♘f6 (13...e4 14.♘dx4 ♘xe4 15.♘xe4 ♙h4 16.♘g5 ♘c5 17.♘e6 ♙xe6 18.fxe6 ♙xb2 19.♖b1 ♙c3+ 20.♙f1 ♙e4 21.♖g1+ ♙h8=) 14.♙c2 e4! Other typical idea. Black doesn't allow a blockade on e4 and thanks to the sacrifice of the e-pawn, he activates his pieces.]

11.g4+= Multi-purpose move. White gains space on the kingside, not allowing ♘h5 and making it harder for Black to play f5.



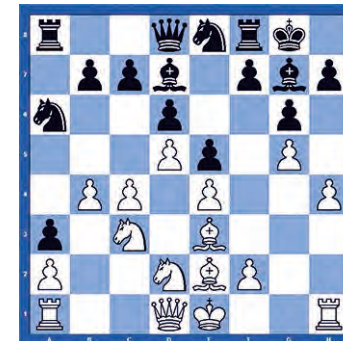
11...a4 [11...h6 12.h4 ♘h7 Not allowing g5-h4. This looks very artificial. 13.♙c2 f5 14.gxf5 gxf5 15.♙xc5 dxc5 16.0-0-0 and White takes control of the light squares.]

12.g5 ♘e8 [12...♘h5 13.♙xh5 gxh5 14.♙xc5 (14.♙e2 f6 15.gxf6 ♙xf6 16.0-0-0 ♙h8=) 14...dxc5 15.♙xh5 f5 16.0-0-0 ♙e8 17.♙h4 ♙g6 18.♙g3 a3 19.b3 An interesting and unclear position where material is not important for White. It would be better not to allow the activation of the Black bishops.]

13.h4 Now the Black pieces are limited.

13...a3 [13...f5 14.h5 ♖f7 Only move. Otherwise, after h6-Bh8, Black will play without the bishop until the end of the game. (14...f4 15.♙xc5 dxc5 16.h6 ♙h8 17.♙g4+-) 15.♙c2 a3 16.b4 f4 17.♙xc5 dxc5 18.bxc5 ♙xg5 19.hxg6 hxg6 20.♙b3=]

14.b4 ♘a6 [14...♘a4 15.♙c2 ♘xc3 16.♙xc3 f5 17.f3 c6 with unclear play because Black is trying to open the position and get active.]



15.b5! Great idea. This shows deep strategic understanding. Normally, White plays on the queenside over c5. In this case, the Russian grandmaster is going to close this

side to make it safer for the king, and to fix the a3-pawn as well. [15.♔b3 c5?! Not the best. (15...f5 16.f3) 16.bxc5 ♘xc5 17.♙xc5 dxc5 18.♖b1 f6 (18...♘d6 19.♔b6 ♔e7 20.♔xc5 It's strange, but Black is not able to stop c5.; 18...♖b8 19.♔b6 ♔e7 20.♔a7) 19.♔xb7 fxg5 20.hxg5 ♘d6 21.♔b6+=]

15...♘c5 16.♘b3 b6? It seems like Nakamura is still in bad shape! In my opinion, this is a strategic mistake. Yes, I agree that usually in the KID, White creates pressure on the queenside and Black looks for counterplay on the kingside. Here the roles have been changed. [16...♘xb3 17.axb3 (17.♔xb3 f5∞ Black is faster to push f5 and still keeps the possibility of opening the position on the queenside after c6.) 17...f5 18.f3 ♙h8 with idea transfer knight to h5 (18...c6 19.bxc6 bxc6 20.dxc6 ♙xc6 21.b4 fxe4 22.fxe4 ♖f4) 19.♔c1 ♘g7 20.♖xa3 ♘h5 21.♙d2 ♘f4∞=]

17.h5 ♔e7 f5 seems to be the only option for Black, so it's strange that Naka, who is a very active player, uses this slow move. [17...f5 18.gxf6 (18.h6 ♙h8 19.♖g1 (19.f3 f4 20.♙xc5 dxc5 21.♖g1 ♘d6 and White has no time to save the g5 pawn.) 19...fxe4 20.♔c2 ♖f4 21.0-0-0 ♙f5∞ The bishop on h8 is out of play but White can't improve his position.) 18...♘xf6 (18...♔xf6 19.hxg6 hxg6 20.♙d2+/-) 19.♘xc5 bxc5 20.hxg6 hxg6 21.♙d2 Black's position is unpleasant anyway.]

18.♙d2 f5 19.gxf6 ♖xf6 [19...♘xf6 20.♘xc5 bxc5 21.hxg6 hxg6 22.♔g1 ♔f7 23.♔h2+-]

20.hxg6 It makes no sense to win the exchange, because it can only help Black to get activity (for example, on the dark squares.) [20.♙g5 ♘xb3+ 21.axb3 gxh5 22.♖xh5 ♔f8 23.♙xf6 ♘xf6+=]

20...♖xg6 21.♙h5 ♖f6 22.♙c2 The White king is very safe now. [22.♘xc5 dxc5 23.♔e2 ♘d6 24.♖ag1 ♖f4 25.♙c2 ♖af8 26.♙b3+/-]

22...♘a4 [22...♙h6 23.♙xh6 ♖xh6 24.♘xc5 dxc5 25.♙f7++-]

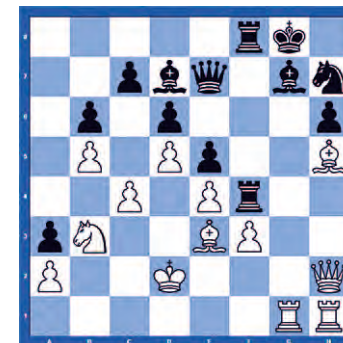
23.♔g1 ♘xc3 24.♙xc3 ♖f4 25.♔h2 Black is not able to create any threats. From a strategic point of view, White won't allow any counterplay and soon will start to crush over the h- and g-files.

25...♘f6 [25...♙f6 26.♖ag1+ ♘g7 27.♙g4 Not the only move. 27...♖xg4 28.♔xh7+ ♙f7 29.♖xg4 ♙xg4 30.♖h6 ♙f3 31.♔g6+ ♙g8 32.♘d2 ♙d1 33.♔xf6 ♔xf6 34.♖xf6+-;

25...♖xe4 26.♙xe8 Xh7]

26.f3 The most solid. [26.♘d2 ♖xe4 (26...♘xe4+ 27.♘xe4 ♖xe4 28.♖ag1 ♖a4 29.♙e2 ♙f5 30.♔h5 ♙g6 31.♖xg6 hxg6 32.♔xg6+-) 27.♘xe4 ♘xe4+ 28.♙b3 ♙f5↗]

26...♙e8 [26...h6 27.♖ag1 ♘h7 It was the last chance to try to close the pressure on the open files. 28.♙d2 ♘g5 (28...♖af8



29. ♖f7+ R8xf7 30. ♔xh6+-) 29. ♖xf4 exf4 30. ♔xf4 ♖f8
31. ♔e3 ♔e5 32. ♖d1+/- and Black has some play.]

27. ♖xe8 ♖xf3 28. ♔e2 ♘xe4+ 29. ♖c2 [29. ♖d3?? ♘g3]

29... ♔xe8 [29... ♔f6 There's no time to put pressure on
the a1-h8 diagonal. 30. ♖af1+-]

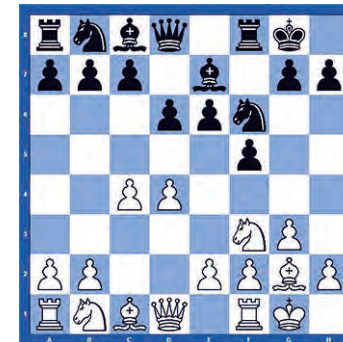
30. ♔xf3 ♔g6 31. ♔h5 ♖a4 32. ♔xg6 hxg6 33. ♘d2 1-0

(4) Gelfand,B (2736) – Williams,Sil (2496) [A96]

28th European Club Cup Eilat ISR (4), 14.10.2012

[Kamil Miton]

**1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.g3 ♘f6 4. ♖g2 ♖e7 5. ♘f3 0-0 6.0-0
d6** We are on the beginning of one of the less popular
Dutch Systems. This is William's favorite weapon. He al-
ready had spectacular achievements in this opening.



7.b4 I suppose that Gelfand played this rare but very logi-
cal move because his opponent, in previous games, chose
to put the pawn on a5 in order to disturb the advance of
the White pawns. [7. ♘c3 An alternative plan for White is
to play in the center with the thematic e2-e4 break. 7...
♔e8

a) 7...a5!?;

**b) 7... ♘e4 8. ♘xe4 (8. ♔c2 ♘xc3 9. ♔xc3 ♖f6 10.b4+=) 8...
fxe4 9. ♘d2 d5 10.f3+=;**

8. ♖e1 ♔g6 9.e4 Anyway White is playing according
to plan, because the rook on e4 won't be hanging. 9...
fxe4 10. ♘xe4 ♘xe4 11. ♖xe4 ♖f6 (11... ♔xe4 12. ♘h4+-)
12. ♔e2 ♘c6 and we have some old theoretical position.

13.d5 (13. ♖d2!?) 13...exd5 14.cxd5 ♘e5 15. ♘d4 ♕g4 16.f3 ♕d7 17. ♘e6 ♕xe6 18.dxe6↑;

7. ♖c2 a5 8. ♘c3 ♘c6 9.b3 e5 10.dxe5 dxe5 11. ♖d1 ♖e8 12. ♘b5 ♖h5 and Willim as proved in a few moves that the attack is more important than the material disadvantage. 13. ♘xc7 f4 14. ♘xa8 ♕c5 15. ♖d5 ♘b4 16. ♖xe5 ♘xc2 17. ♖xh5 ♘xh5 18. ♖b1 fxg3 19.hxg3 ♘xg3 20. ♖b2 An amazing victory against one of the best young players of this generation. 20... ♕f5 0–1 Wojtaszek,R-Williams,S/ Mulhouse FRA 2011.]

7...a5 8.b5 ♘e4 9. ♖c2 ♕f6 10. ♕b2 [10. ♘bd2 ♘xd2 11. ♕xd2 e5 12.dxe5 dxe5 13. ♕c3 (13.e4 f4 14.gxf4 exf4 15.e5 ♕e7 16. ♖ad1↑) 13...e4 This is usual in these structures (as in the Leningrad System). If black manages to push e5-e4 to limit the g2-bishop, then the position is equal. 14. ♖ad1 ♖e7 15. ♘d4 c5 16.bxc6 ♘xc6=]

10...a4 11. ♘fd2 Gelfand's idea is to get rid of the knight from e4, and then play the thematic e2-e4.

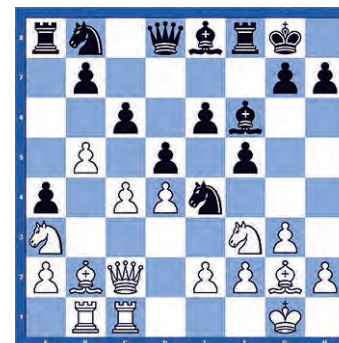
11...d5 Black prefers to change the structure, but keeps the knight on e4. [11... ♘xd2 12. ♘xd2 ♘d7 (12...e5!? 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.e4↑) 13.e4 f4!? An interesting idea to weaken the White king. 14.gxf4 ♕e7 (14...e5 15.dxe5 (15.fxe5 dxe5 16.dxe5 (16.f4 a3 and if 17. ♕c3, cxd4 with tempo.) 16... ♘xe5 17.f4 ♘g4 18.e5 ♕e7 and Black has the initiative.) 15...dxe5 16. ♘f3 exf4 17.e5 ♕e7 18. ♖ad1 ♖e8 19. ♖fe1 ♘c5 20.e6 We have here an example of practical thinking. Instead of keeping the pawn longer, White sacrifices two pawns to get excellent piece activity.) 15.f5 exf5 16. ♖ae1 (16.exf5 ♘b6 17. ♕e4 d5=+) 16...fxe4 17. ♘xe4 ♕h4 Black wants to play ♘f6. The position is unclear.]

12. ♘a3 Somehow I don't like this move. Sometimes in these structures, the knight transfers through a3-c2-e1-d3 in order to fight for the important e5 and f4 squares, but in this case, it looks impossible. White had other simpler options. [12. ♘xe4 fxe4 13.f3 exf3 14. ♕xf3+=;

12.e3 ♕d7 13. ♕a3 with ♘c3 next.]

12...c6 13. ♖ab1 ♕d7 14. ♖fc1 ♕e8 Typical plan. In the „Stone Wall”, the light-squared bishop is very often limited and becomes the worst piece, so this is a logical way to activate it over h5.

15. ♘f3?! [15. ♘xe4 fxe4 16.e3 White should look for some initiative on the queenside.]



15...f4! Very good decision. White's pieces are bit far from the kingside, so Black can look for some pressure against the White king.

16. ♖d1 [16.gxf4 ♕g6 17.e3 Probably the best. (17. ♖d1 ♕h4 18. ♘xh4 ♖xh4 19.f3 ♖f2+ 20. ♕h1 ♘g3+ 21.hxg3 ♕xb1 and White has no time to recapture on b1 because of ♖f6-Rh6.) 17... ♘d6 18. ♖e2 ♕xb1 19. ♖xb1 For the exchange, White has one pawn and has solved his problems with the threats on the kingside.]

16...fxg3 17.hxg3 ♗g6 Thanks to his active bishop on g6 and the potential pressure over the f-file, Black's position is already very comfortable.

18.bxc6 ♖xc6 19.♖b5 ♗g5 20.♗a3 ♖f7 [20...♗xc1 21.♗xf8 ♗h6 22.♗a3 dxc4 23.e3 ♖a5 Black has a lot of weaknesses, but two pawns give him a bigger advantage.]



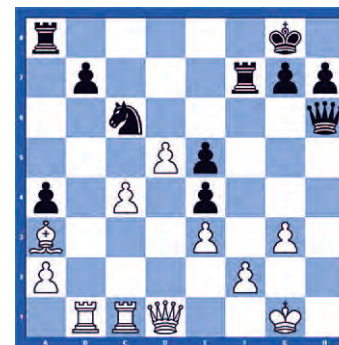
21.♗xg5?? Very bad move. Probably Gelfand missed something in his calculation because it's hard to explain why he's exchanging two pieces that protect the king. [21.♖c2 Maybe it doesn't look nice to put the rook on the second rook on this diagonal, but Black can't take advantage of this.]

21...♗xg5 22.♗xe4 White has no choice! The king is now really weak. [22.♗f3 ♗xg3;

22.♗d6 ♖xf2 23.♗xe4 ♖xg2+ 24.♗xg2 ♗xe4+ 25.♗f2 ♖f5+ 26.♗e1 ♗xb1 27.♖xb1 ♖h3+]]

22...dxe4 Correct. The threat now is e3, with a mating attack. [22...♗xe4 23.♗d6 ♖h6 (23...♖g4!? 24.♗xf7 ♖h3 25.f3 ♖xg3+ 26.♗f1 ♗f5 27.e3 ♗xb1 28.♖xb1 ♗xf7 29.♖xb7+ ♗g8 30.♖b2∞) 24.♗xe4 dxe4 25.e3 e5 (25...

♖d8 26.♖f1+= Not allowing ♗e5. White is better because of Black's weak pawns.) 26.d5



26...♖xf2! Probably leads to a draw by force. 27.♗xf2 ♖h2+ 28.♗e1 ♗d4 29.♖b2 ♖xg3+ 30.♗d2 ♖f2+ 31.♗c3 ♖xe3+ 32.♗b4 ♖f8 33.♖g1 ♖h6 34.♖f1 ♖c8 35.c5 ♖a6 36.♖f2 ♖b5+ 37.♗c3 ♖d3+ 38.♗b4 ♖b5+=]

23.♖e1 [23.♗d6 ♖xf2 24.♗xf2 e3+ 25.♗g2 ♖f8 26.♖g1 ♖f2+ 27.♖xf2 exf2 28.♖xb7 h5 and the White king is too weak.]

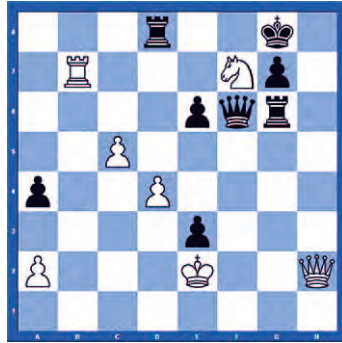
23...e3 24.f3 ♗xb1 25.♖xb1 ♖f6 Black won material, but it didn't decrease the pressure against the White king.

26.♗g2 ♖h6 27.g4 ♗e7?! Black is still winning, although after this move, it will be a bit harder. [27...♗xd4 28.♗xd4 ♖f4 29.♖g3 ♖xd4 30.♖xb7 e5]

28.♗xe7 ♖xe7 29.♖g3 Fortunately for him, White solved the problem with his king, and thanks to the weak Black structure, he'll get some practical chances.

29...♖d8 30.♖e5 Objectively, it was better to immediately put the strong knight on d6. The queen on g3 is well placed to protect the king. Maybe Gelfand decided to play ♖e5 because he was looking for some repeti-

tion. [30.c5 and now we'll see an amazing line given by the engines: 30...♖g6 preparing main idea h5 31.♘d6 h5 32.♙xb7 ♕f6 33.♘f7 hxcg4 34.♙h2 gxf3+ 35.♔f1 fxe2+ 36.♔xe2



36...♖g2+! 37.♙xg2 ♖xd4 38.♖b8+ ♔xf7 39.♙b7+ ♔g6 40.♙b1+ ♔g5 41.♙g1+ ♔f5 42.♙f1+ ♔e4 43.♙g2+ ♔e5 and the Black king should escape from the checks. 44.♙h2+ ♙f4 45.♙h5+ g5 46.♙h8+ ♔d5 47.♙h1+ ♙e4 48.♖d8+ ♔c6 49.♖c8+ ♔b7]

30...♙h4 31.♙g3 ♙e7 32.♙e5 ♖g6! Full respect for the Vice World Champion, but I want to play...

33.c5 [33.♙xe3 h5 34.♙e4 ♙g5;

33.♖h1 If white tries to prevent h5, then the queen will come from the other side. 33...♙b4]

33...♖g5 [33...♙h4 34.♙g3 ♙f6 35.♖h1 ♖g5 with h5 next.]

34.♙xe3 h5 35.♘d6 [35.♔g3!?!]

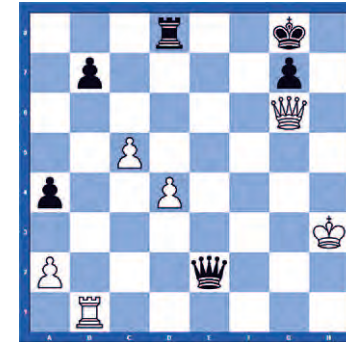
35...hxcg4 36.f4 ♖h5 37.♙g3 [37.♖xb7 ♙h4 38.♙xe6+ ♔h7 39.♙e4+ ♔h8 40.♘f7+ (40.♖e7 ♖f8 41.♖e8 ♙h1+ 42.♔f2 g3+ 43.♔e3 ♙xe4+ 44.♖xe4 ♖h4 45.f5 ♖xe4+ 46.♘xe4 g2 47.♔f2 ♖xf5+ 48.♔xg2 ♖f4) 40...♔g8 41.♘g5

This line gives White some chances, but to see that White doesn't get mated here was not easy. 41...♙h1+ 42.♔f2 g3+ 43.♔e3 ♙xe4+ 44.♘xe4 g2 45.♔f2 ♖xd4 46.♖b8+ ♔f7 47.♘g5+ ♔e7 48.♖b7+ ♖d7 49.♖b4 ♖d2=+;

37.f5 ♙h4 38.♙g3 ♙g5 39.fxe6 ♙d5+]

37...♙f6 38.♙xg4 [38.♖xb7 ♙g6 with the idea of ♖h3.]

38...♖h6 39.f5 exf5 40.♘xf5 ♖g6 41.♘e7+ ♙xe7 42.♙xg6 ♙xe2+ 43.♔h3



43...♖d5 Finally! The White king didn't survive. A great victory by Williams, and probably the biggest surprise in this event. We should note that in this line, Williams beat three top players already: Wojtaszek, Sokolov and Gelfand!

0-1

Puzzle section

(5) Carlsen,M (2843) – Caruana,F (2772)

Bilbao tiebreak (blitz), 13.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



(6) Huzman,A (2591) – Riazantsev,A (2712)

European Club Cup, 11.10.2012

[CEWN]

1...=



(7) Nisipeanu,D (2661) – Dimitrijevic,A (2270)

European Club Cup, 01.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

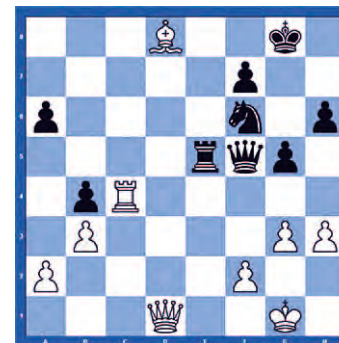


(8) Giri,A (2730) – Naiditsch,A (2704)

European Club Cup, 12.10.2012

[CEWN]

1. -+

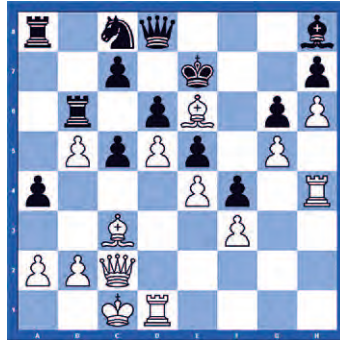


(9) Korobov,A (2705) – Smirin,I (2638)

European Club Cup, 12.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+/-

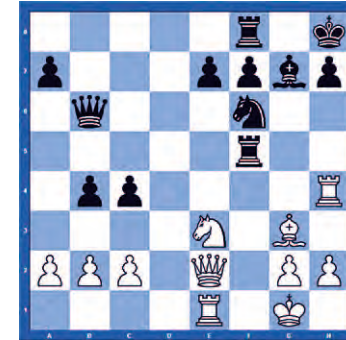


(11) Williams,S (2496) – Palac,M (2600)

European Club Cup, 13.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



(10) Nepomniachtchi,I (2704) – Bacrot,E (2705)

European Club Cup, 13.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

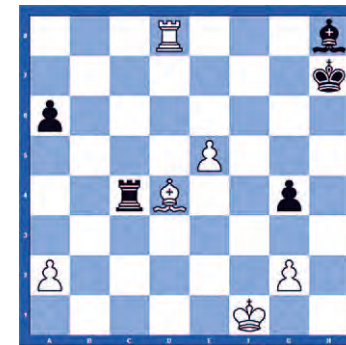


(12) Sutovsky,E (2685) – Vogt,L (2397)

European Club Cup, 14.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

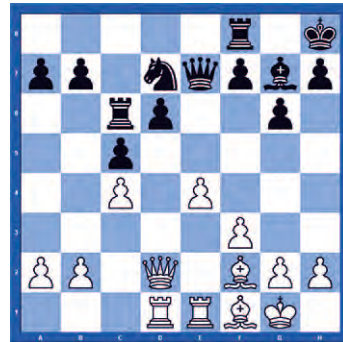


(13) Korobov,A (2705) — Teterev,V (2529)

European Club Cup, 14.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



(14) Caspi,I (2451) — Motylev,A (2655)

European Club Cup, 12.10.2012

[CEWN]

1... -/+

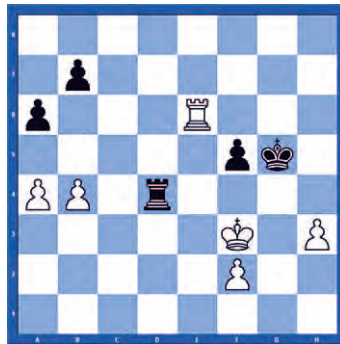


Endgame section

(15) Morozevich,A (2758) – Vitiugov,N (2691) [B40]

28th European Club Cup Eilat ISR (4), 14.10.2012

[Chess Evolution]



We face a very complex rook endgame. At first sight, it's hard to say if this is a winning position or a draw... White is a pawn up, but Black's rook is very active, and the limited amount of pawns gives Black good chances to escape.

37. ♖b6 a5! The only move! [A passive defense like 37... ♖d7 38.a5 followed by h4, just leads to a completely hopeless position for Black.]

38. ♖xb7 Of course. White is trying to keep one pawn alive on the queenside. The exchange of both pawns would lead to an easy draw. As we know, even a position with extra h- and f-pawns is a theoretical draw.

38...axb4 39. ♔e3 White is trying his best. [Of course 39.a5? ♖d3+ 40. ♔g2 ♖a3 would lead to an immediate draw.]

39... ♖c4 [at 39... ♖e4+ 40. ♔d3! would be very strong. The White king blocks the b-pawn, which gives White's rook the possibility to protect the a-pawn. 40...b3 41.a5 ♖a4 42. ♖b5 followed by ♔c3. White should be winning.]

40. ♔d3 ♖c3+?! [a move like 40... ♖f4 would be a more precise move. 41.a5 ♖xf2 42. ♖xb4 ♖f3+ and Black will get a very comfortable draw. 43. ♔e2 ♖xh3 44. ♖a4 ♖h7 45.a6 ♖a7 and it is a draw, of course.]

41. ♔d2 Still here the position is close to a draw, but Black has to make it! Sometimes, it can be much harder than it looks like during a practical game.

41... ♖b3 [41... ♖xh3 42. ♖xb4 f4! The only move for Black that leads to a draw. (42... ♖a3 43.f4+ followed by ♔c2-Kb2, and Black is lost.) 43. ♔e2 ♖a3 and the position is a draw. White can't improve his position and the a-pawn is blocked by the rook on a3.]

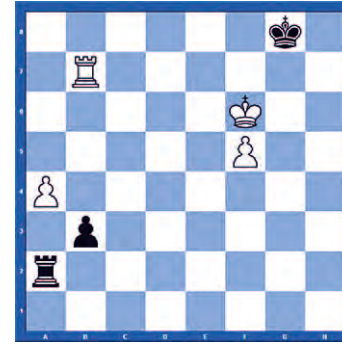
42. ♖b5 White puts a rook on the 5th rank to open the possibility of playing h4.

42... ♖b2+ Of course, Black still could have taken on h3.

43. ♔e3 ♖b3+ 44. ♔e2 ♖b2+ And again 44... ♖xh3, followed by f4, would lead to a draw.

45. ♔f3 ♖b3+ 46. ♔g2 ♖b1 47. ♔g3 White wants to play h4.

47... ♖g1+ 48. ♔f3 ♖b1?! This is already a mistake that could have cost a full point. [48... ♖h1 and we would come back to the already known position, but it looks like Vitiugov has blundered the possibility of playing f4.]

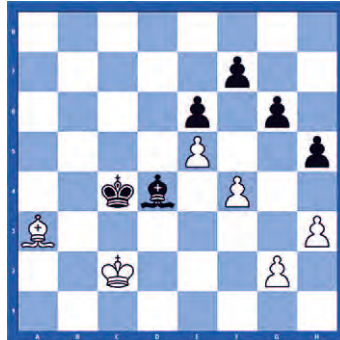


1/2

(16) Negi,P (2657) – Liu Guanchu (2214)

Chinese league, 07.10.2012

[Chess Evolution]



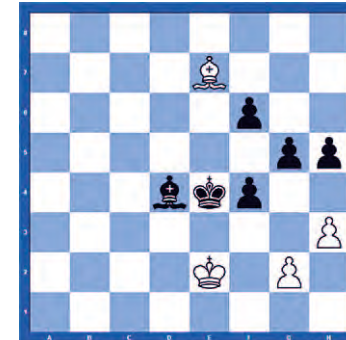
This very instructive and unique endgame arose in the Chinese league. Black seems to be completely winning, as he'll soon start to collect the weak pawns one by one. However, the Indian GM found an incredible practical chance against his young opponent.

45...♙e3 Maybe Black was expecting resignation, but...

46.f5!! [After 46.g3 Black wins easily with 46...h4! 47.gxh4 ♙xf4 Taking the e5 pawn secures an easy win with the connected e- and f- passed pawns.]

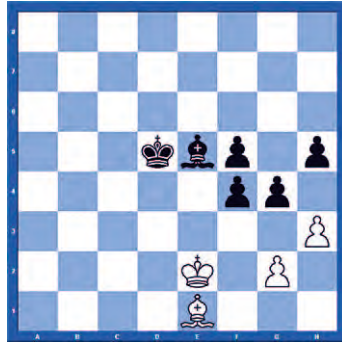
46...gxf5? It's incredible but after this logical move the position is drawn, despite the fact that Black will get the e5 pawn soon. [46...exf5! was the right move, but here as well Black's winning plan is far from obvious. First, let's get to the critical position... 47.♔d1 ♔d3 48.♙d6 ♙d4 49.♙e1 ♙e4 Black collects the second pawn. 50.♙e2 ♙xe5 51.♙e7 The main problem is the fact that the h1 promoting square doesn't match the Black bishop. White's pawns are excellently placed to meet with Black's

only idea of advancing the pawns... The upcoming position could be reached by many different move orders. 51...f4 52.♙c5 g5 53.♙e7 f6 54.♙d8 ♙d4 We have reached another critical position. Black has created a hidden threat, which we will discuss in 55.♙e7... (54...g4? would be a huge mistake, since after 55.hxg4 hxg4 Black's only attempt to create a passed pawn would be f3, but after gxf3 gxf3 ♔f1, Black can't progress with his doubled f-pawn.) 55.♙c7 To prevent the f3 sacrifice, but it allows another idea. (55.♙e7



55...f3+! is the right way to break White's defense. 56.gxf3+ ♔f4 Black wants to penetrate with ♔g3. 57.h4 and now (57.♙d6+ doesn't prevent it because of 57...♙e5) 57...g4! It's very important not to be too greedy. The connected passed pawns decide the game. (57...gxh4? would spoil the win. 58.♙xf6! h3 59.♔f1! ♔xf3 60.♙e5!! The only move to stop the pawn, but it is enough. 60...♙xe5 61.♔g1= and draw. Black even could have 6 h-pawns, he can't win with the wrong colored bishop.) 58.fxg4 hxg4 Black wins automatically.) 55...f5! Now Black can push g4, since after hxg4, he can recapture with the f-pawn, but of course White is not intending to help with hxg4... 56.♙d8 g4 57.♙g5 ♙e5 58.♙h4 Now the most precise way to win

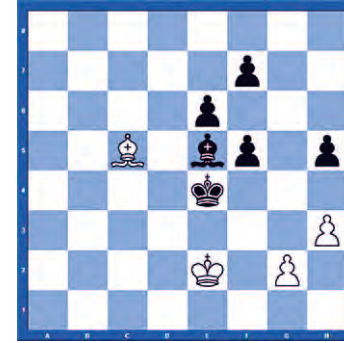
is 58...♔d5! with the idea of pushing f3, and gxf3 doesn't come with check anymore. 59.♙e1 (59.♙f1 leads to the same after 59...f3! 60.gxf3 gxh3!)



59...f3+! 60.gxf3 gxh3 The White king is forced to stop the h-pawn, but it allows Black to win the f-pawn and, with it, the game. 61.♙f1 ♔d4 62.♙d2 ♔d3 63.♙g5 ♙g3 White can't hold the e2-e3 squares for long, because of the ♙e1-d2 threat! 64.♙g1 (64.♙h6 ♙e1! and ♙d2, ♔e3!) 64...♙e2 65.f4 ♙f3 66.♙h1 ♙xf4 67.♙e7 Black must only be careful not to allow White to give the bishop for his f-pawn, but this is already easily achievable in many different ways. One of them is 67...♙e4 68.♙f8 ♙b8 69.♙h6 ♙a7 70.♙h2 ♙e3 71.♙f8 f4 72.♙xh3 f3 73.♙b4 ♔d3 74.♙e1 ♙e2 75.♙h4 ♙f4! Black got into zugzwang. He must leave the diagonal.]

47.♔d1 ♔d3 48.♔e1 ♙d4 49.♙d6 ♔e4 50.♔e2 ♙xe5 51.♙c5 The game is quite an easy draw, but the young Chinese talent finds the only try to win and his much higher rated opponent fails to realize its point. The problem is the same once again, that the h1 square is wrong for the bishop. Black doesn't even have the chance to play f3, since he can only support it from e4 with the king

or the pawn. The only thing what White must be careful about is not to let the Black king get to g3, but this is a not-so-difficult task.

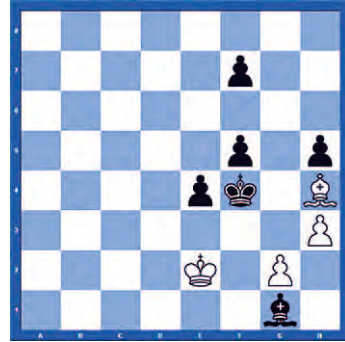


51...♙d4 52.♙d6 e5 53.♙e7! ♔f4 [53...f4 is a hopeless attempt. 54.♙h4 ♔f5 55.♙e7 e4 56.♙h4 White has an excellent blockading position. Black doesn't even have the smallest chance to improve his position.]

54.♙h4! When the Black king is on f4, White's bishop must be ready to pass on the h4, f2 and e1 squares. If the Black bishop leaves the g1-a7 diagonal to limit the places of his colleague, White can play ♙f2 as well.

54...♙c5 55.♙e1 ♔e4 56.♙h4 ♔f4 57.♙e1 ♙e7 58.♙f2 ♙b4 59.♙h4 ♙c5 60.♙e1 After trying for a while, Black finds his last chance!

60...♙g1! 61.♙h4 e4! The last critical position. Black found the excellent idea of pushing e3, followed by ♙f2 forcing White's bishop to allow ♙g3, since the pawn end-game would be winning for Black. White should have found the only move to hold the draw.



62. ♖e1? [62. ♖f1! The bishop must be sent away from g1 to prevent e3-Bf2. 62... ♗h2 (On 62... ♗d4 White returns to 63. ♖e2) 63. ♖e2 e3 This is very important now. Black has refreshed the threat of ♗g1-f2, so the only move is (63... ♗g3 64. ♗d8 Black has successfully sent away the bishop, but his own piece deprives Black from playing ♖g3. That's why e3-Bf2 is much more effective!) 64. ♖f1! using the fact that Black doesn't have ♗e3 anymore. 64... ♗g3 (64... ♗e4 65. ♖e2 Black can't break through.) 65. ♗d8 ♗f2 66. ♗c7+ ♖g5 67. ♖e2= with a draw.]

62...e3! Now Black is winning, and the technique to do it was well demonstrated by the Chinese player!

63. ♖f1 [63. ♗h4 ♗f2 64. ♗d8 (64. ♗xf2 The pawn end-game is equally hopeless. 64... exf2 65. ♖xf2 h4! 66. ♖f1 ♖g3 67. ♖g1 f4 and f3 next.) 64... ♖g3 65. ♖f1 e2+ will be the same as the game. 66. ♖xe2 ♖xg2]

63... ♗f2 64. ♗a5 ♖g3! 65. ♗c7+ f4! Black successfully installed his king on g3. The rest is easy...

66. ♗d6 h4 67. ♗c7 f5 68. ♗d6 e2+ 69. ♖xe2 ♖xg2 70. ♗xf4 ♗g3 71. ♗e3 f4 72. ♗c5 [Despite the corner

being bad, White's king can be squeezed out. 72. ♗xf4 ♗xf4 73. ♖e1 ♗g3+ 74. ♖e2 ♗f2]

72...f3+ 73. ♖d3 ♖xh3 0-1

Clash of the Titans

(17) Smyslov,Vassily — Steiner,Herman [A51]

Staunton Memorial Groningen (2), 1946

[Balogh Csaba]

This week we'll study a deep exchange sacrifice by Vassily Smyslov.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 ♘e4 A brave decision by Black, going for the Budapest Gambit, but of course at that time it had no theory at all. It was not clear yet how White should play. Let's see how Smyslov reacted over the board.

4.♘f3 [According to current theory 4.a3! is the strongest move and White obtains a clear advantage in all the lines. One example is 4...♘c6 5.♘f3 d6 Black tries to sacrifice a pawn for quick development, but White can easily neutralize the initiative by 6.♔c2! and on 6...♙f5 7.♘c3! ♘xf2 (7...♘g3 8.e4 ♘xh1 9.exf5+/-) 8.♔xf5 ♘xh1 9.g3+/- White traps the knight and ends up with material advantage soon.]

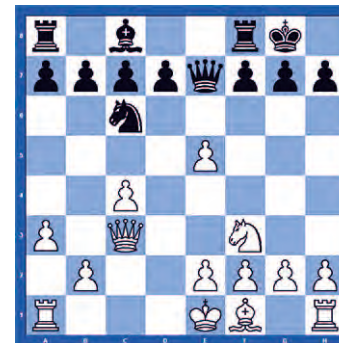
4...♙b4+ Both continuations lead to the same position.

5.♙d2 [5.♘bd2 ♘c6 6.a3 ♙xd2+ 7.♙xd2 ♘xd2 8.♔xd2 We have transposed to the game.]

5...♘xd2 6.♘bxd2 ♘c6 Black must focus on winning back the pawn.

7.a3 ♙xd2+ 8.♔xd2 ♔e7 9.♔c3 0-0 Black is ready to recollect the pawn with ♔e8. What could White do

against it? Smyslov came up with an original plan, which was, at that time, a novelty.



10.♔d1! Quite a unique idea to protect the pawn with a rook on the 5th rank! I can't recall a similar plan in other openings. [The „normal” 10.e3 leads nowhere after 10...♔e8 11.♙e2 ♘xe5 12.0-0 d6= Black has easily equalized the game.]

10...♔e8 11.♔d5! Black must hard to restore the material equality, Steiner finds the only way.

11...b6! The bishop is heading to the long diagonal to annoy the rook.

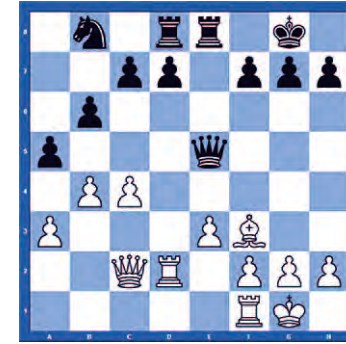
12.e3 It's time to finish the development.

12...♙b7 13.♙e2 ♔ad8 The correct decision again! Black must protect the d7 pawn if he wants to win back the e5 pawn. [For instance, after 13...♘d8 14.♔d2 ♘c6 15.0-0 and d7 is also hanging.]

14.0-0 ♘b8 Black wants to take on f3 and then on e5. What to do as White? Just as before with ♔d1–d5, Smyslov finds a brilliant idea.



15. Rxc1 I don't know what's the correct mark to this move. Maybe „!!?“ Whitesacrifices an exchange. He has only one pawn for that, but his pieces are dominating. Black rooks have no opened files and in the future it will be hard to open one. The e5 and d5 pawns paralyze Black. The c7 pawn is a clear target and probably the most important factor is that the b8 knight is totally out of the game. This is of course all good and nice, but an exchange is an exchange. :) [I believe 15. Rxd2!? would have guaranteed a positional advantage. 15... Qxf3 16. Qxf3 Rxe5 It's very important to keep the queens on board, which will make White's game much easier. 17. Rc2! White wants to play on the queenside, with Rfd1 and b4-c5. The bishop is clearly better than the knight. 17... a5 Black should try to reduce the power of the b4 plans, but it's coming anyway (On 17... d6 18. b4 Nxd7 19. Qa4! is very unpleasant. It's hard to deal with the a7 pawn, while the counter-attack with 19... Rc3 only helps White. 20. Rfd1 Rxc4? 21. Rc2! and the c7 pawn will fall. Black's position collapses.) 18. b4! Nc6 White has a nice tactical opportunity to win a pawn.



19.c5! (The direct 19. Rxd7 is not good because of the counter-blow 19... Nxb4!) 19... axb4 and now (19... bxc5 20. bxc5 the d7 and a5 pawns are too weak to hold.) 20. Rxd7! Rxd7 21. Qxc6 White ends up with an extra pawn.]

15... Qxd5 16. cxd5 d6 Logical move. Black must sooner or later undermine the e5 pawn. [16... c5 was the alternative, with the idea of d6. Smyslov rightly pointed out in his analyses that the strongest move is 17. Qb5! a6 trying to unpin the e8 rook, but this weakens a lot the queen-side pawn structure. (On the other attempt to undermine White's center 17... f6 18. Rb3! seems to be very strong. 18... Qh8 19. exf6 Rxf6 20. Rc4! After this great move, suddenly White gets very serious attacking chances. An illustrative line, which shows the potential it has could be 20... a6 21. Rf4! Qe7 (21... Qd6 22. Qd3 Ng5 or Rf4 next.) 22. d6! playing on concrete threats. 22... Rxd6 23. Ng5! Rf8 (Luckily for White 23... Rxf4 isn't mate on the back-rank because of 24. exf4 Re1+ 25. Qf1!) 24. Rh4 h6 and Black gets mated after 25. Rc2!+-) 18. d6! Qe6 19. Qc4 Qf5 20. Qd3! White wins a tempo compared to Smyslov's analysis. (Smyslov suggested 20. Qd5 Nc6 21. Qxc6 dxc6 22. h3+= with an advantage.) 20... Qh5 (20... Qe6? loses to

21. ♖xh7+!) 21. ♖e4! ♘c6 22. ♖xc6 dxc6 The queen on h5 is out of the game. It should anyway come back to f5, but this give enough time for White to seize an advantage with 23.b4!+/- and Black collapses on the queenside.;

16...c6 is met with 17.d6! and ♖c4 next. Black is doomed.]

17. ♖b5! White sends away the rook from the action.

17... ♖f8



18.e4! Strong positional move, stabilizing the center, justified by a great tactical feeling. Smyslov had to foresee and evaluate well the consequences of the 18...dxe5 move.

18...a6 [18... ♘d7? doesn't work 19. ♖xc7;

18...dxe5 19. ♘xe5 f6 Black wins the e4 pawn, but 20. ♘f3! ♖xe4 21. ♖e1! The d5 pawn is always protected by ♖c4 and ♘d4-e6 is coming next. 21... ♖g6 22. ♘d4!+/- White doesn't even have a pawn for the exchange, but he's completely dominating. He enjoys a big advantage.]

19. ♖d3! Protecting the e4 pawn.

19...dxe5 [On 19... ♖fe8 Smyslov again correctly suggested 20.e6! fxe6 21.dxe6 with the direct idea of ♖xc7 and

the positional threat of ♘d4-f5. If Black prevents both with 21...c5 22. ♖c4+/- is very unpleasant. Black still can't use his knight on b8, because 22... ♘c6 is met with (22...b5 23. ♖d5+/-) 23. ♖xa6 and the bishop returns to c4.]

20. ♘xe5



20... ♖d6?! Black collapses in 2 moves, but such things often happen when the pressure is so strong. [20...f6 is also bad 21. ♘f3 and ♘d4 next.;

20... ♖fe8 was probably the best chance, but White has an advantage here as well. 21.f4! fortifying the e5 knight. The computer tries to solve Black's problem tactically with 21... ♘d7 22. ♘c6 ♖c5+ but White plays 23. ♖f1! (23. ♖xc5 ♘xc5 24. ♘xd8 ♘xd3 25. ♖c3 ♘xf4 would have been the point!) 23... ♖xc3 24. ♖xc3 ♖a8 25.e5+= White continues dominating. The rooks have no chance to improve.]

21. ♘c4! Smyslov transfers his knight to e3, where it's ready to jump to f5.

21... ♖h6? This is the decisive mistake. Such an attack can't be dangerous. [21... ♖d7 22. ♘e3 Black can prevent ♘f5 with 22...g6 but it weakens the dark squares on f6 and h6, where the knight will soon appear through g4.

23.e5!+/- This is the most precise with ♘g4 next. White is much better.(23.♘g4 f6)]

22.♘e3 The c7 pawn falls now, which means the end of the game. Black tries some direct threats, but White can easily parry with all of them.

22...♔h4 23.♔xc7! ♖f6 24.g3 ♔h5 25.e5 Black's pieces are totally uncoordinated and they have no chance to improve.

25...♖h6 26.h4 ♘f5 is in the air.

26...♔f3



27.♖c4! A cruel move. Smyslov transfers his rook to f4.

27...b5 28.♖f4 ♔h5 29.♘g4 The rook is trapped and the queen doesn't have too many squares either.

29...♖g6 30.♘xg6 ♔xg6 31.e6 ♔b1+ 32.♔h2 f5 33.e7 ♖e8 34.♔d8 White's strategy to play against the b8 knight with the exchange sacrifice has paid off. It couldn't leave its place after all.

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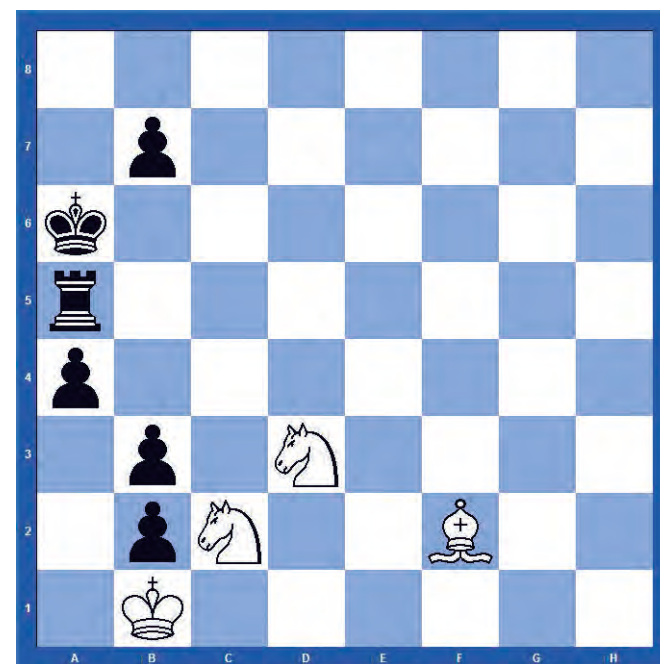
Surprise section / study

(18) Troitzky,A

1935

[CEWN]

1.+-

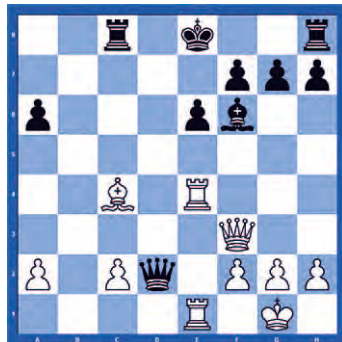


Solutions

(19) Grischuk,A (2754) – Gelfand,B (2738)

London GP, 01.10.2012

[Solutions]



23. ♖xe6! fxe6 24. ♖xe6+ ♔d7? [24... ♔f7 25. ♖h5+! g6 26. ♖f3! ♖c3 (26... ♖hf8 27. ♖xf6+-) 27. ♖xf6+! ♖xf6 28. ♖b7+!+-]

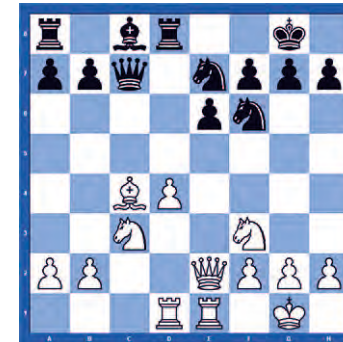
25. ♖g4! ♔c7 26. ♖c4+ ♔d7 [26... ♔d8 27. ♖xa6+-]

27. ♖a4+ ♔d8 28. ♖xa6! ♔d7 29. ♖b5+ ♔d8 30. ♖e8+ 1-0 [30. ♖e8+ ♖xe8 31. ♖xe8+ ♔c7 32. ♖c5+-]

(20) Matlakov,M (2665) – Dominguez Perez,L (2734)

St Petersburg (rapid), 05.10.2012

[Solutions]



15.d5!! ♖g6 [15... ♖exd5 16. ♖xd5! exd5 17. ♖xd5! ♖xd5 18. ♖e8+ ♖xe8 19. ♖xe8#]

16.dxe6 ♖xe6 17. ♖xe6 ♖xd1 18. ♖xd1 fxe6 19. ♖xe6+±

(21) Alekseev,E (2683) – Svidler,P (2747)

St Petersburg (rapid), 05.10.2012

[Solutions]



18... ♖xf3! 19.gxf3 ♕xh3 20.b6 [20. ♘e2 ♖f8 21. ♖a3 (21. b6 ♖xf3 (21... ♙e5!? 22. ♘g3 c4 23. ♕c2 ♘xd5--+) 22. ♕xf3 ♕xf3 23.bxc7 ♕g4+ 24. ♘g3 ♕c8--+) 21...c4 22. ♕e3 ♘xb5--+;

20. ♘e4 c4 21. ♕e3 ♘xd5--+]

20... ♘d3 [20... ♕xf3--+]

21. ♘e4 [21.bxc7 ♙e5 22.f4 ♙xf4 23. ♕b8+ ♔f7--+]

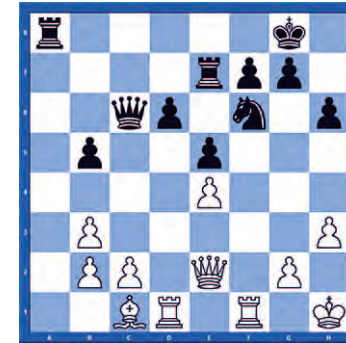
21...c4! 22. ♕d1 [22. ♕xc4 ♘e5!--+]

22...axb6 23.axb6 ♖xa1 24. ♕xa1 ♙xa1 25.b7 ♘a6 26. ♖xa1 ♕d7 0-1

(22) Alsina Leal,D (2528) – Forcen Esteban,D (2469)

Spanish Championship, 06.10.2012

[Solutions]



24. ♖xf6! gxf6 25. ♙xh6 f5 [25... ♔h7 26. ♕h5+-]

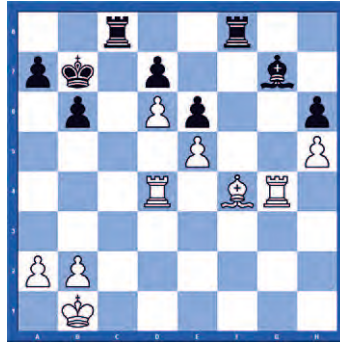
26. ♕h5 1-0 [26.exf5 f6 27. ♕g4+ ♔h8 28. ♕h4 ♖f7 29. ♙g5+ ♔g7 30. ♕h6+ ♔g8 31. ♙xf6+-;

26. ♕h5 ♖e6 27.exf5+-]

(23) Rombaldoni,A (2458) – Djurhuus,R (2436)

Oslo Open, 30.09.2012

[Solutions]

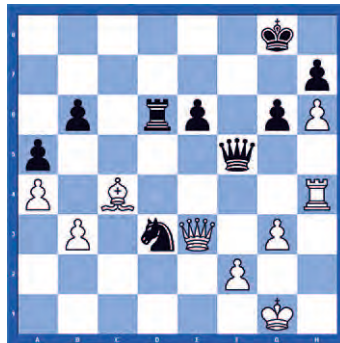


33... ♖xe5! 0–1[33... ♖xe5 34. ♖e4 ♖xf4 35. ♖exf4 ♖xf4 36. ♖xf4 ♖c5–+]

(24) Dvoirys,S (2533) – Lintchevski,D (2554)

Nezhmetdinov memorial, 02.10.2012

[Solutions]

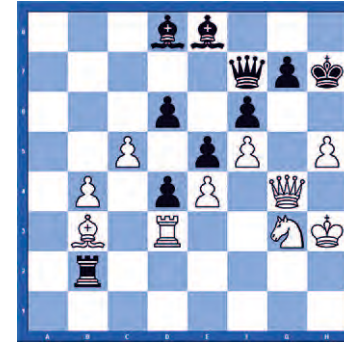


39. ♖d4! ♖xd4 40. ♖xe6+ 1–0

(25) Sharafiev,A (2414) – Vorobiov,E (2594)

Nezhmetdinov memorial, 04.10.2012

[Solutions]



47... ♖xb3! 48. ♖g6+! ♖h8! 49. ♖xb3 ♖g8!! 50. ♖a3
[50. ♖g4 ♖xb3–+]

50... ♖xg6 51.fxg6 dxc5 52.bxc5 ♖e7–+

(26) Hole,O (2366) – Solodovnichenko,Y (2602)

Oslo Open, 30.09.2012

[Solutions]



35. ♔xf7+!! [35. ♘e2±]

35... ♖h7 [35... ♔xf7 36. ♘e6+ ♔f8 37.d7+ ♔e7 38.d8 ♔+ ♖xd8 39. ♖xd8++-]

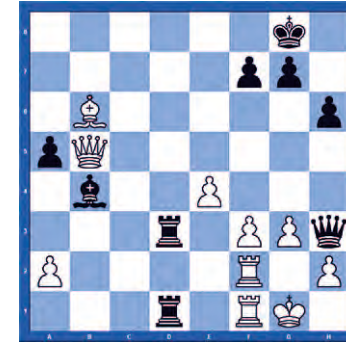
36. ♘e6 ♔h8 37.d7 [37. ♘g5+ ♔h6 38. ♘e3+- hxg4 39. ♘e4+ ♔h7 40. ♘xf6#]

37... ♘xd7 38. ♘g5+ ♔h6 39. ♘xd7 ♖b7 40. ♘e3 1-0

(27) Rotstein,A (2510) – Van Kampen,R (2572)

Dutch league, 06.10.2012

[Solutions]



35... ♘e1!! [35... ♖3d2 36. ♘e3;

35... ♖xf1+ 36. ♖xf1 ♖d2 37. ♖f2]

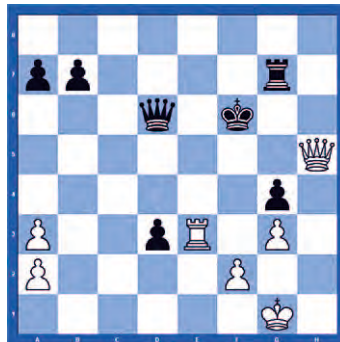
36. ♔e8+ [36. ♖g2 ♘xg3! 37.hxg3 ♖xf1+ 38. ♔xf1 ♖d2 39. ♘f2 ♔h1+ 40. ♖g1 ♔xf3--+]

36... ♔h7 37. ♖g2 ♖3d2 38. ♖xd2 ♖xd2 0-1

(28) Onischuk,A (2672) – Bruzon,L (2713)

Poikovsky, 06.10.2012

[Solutions]



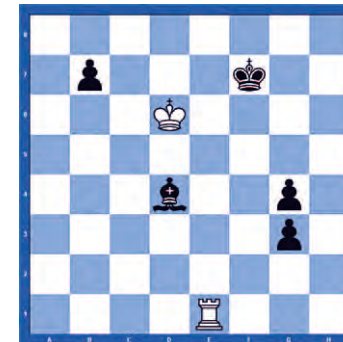
47. ♔h6+? [47. ♖e4!! d2 48. ♔h6+! ♜g6 49. ♖f4+! ♔e7 (49... ♔e5 50. ♔h5+ ♔e6 51. ♔xg6+-) 50. ♔f8+ ♔d7 (50... ♔e6 51. ♔f7+ ♔e5 52. ♔f5#) 51. ♖f7+ ♔e6 (51... ♔c6 52. ♔c8+ ♔b5 53. ♖xb7+-) 52. ♔e8+ ♔d5 53. ♖f5+ ♔c4 54. ♔a4+ ♔d3 55. ♔b3+ (55. ♖b5+-) 55... ♔d4 (55... ♔e2 56. ♔b5+ ♔d1 57. ♔b1+ ♔e2 58. ♔f1#!) 56. ♔c2!+-]

47... ♜g6 48. ♔h4+ ♔f7 49. ♔h7+ ♔f6 50. ♔h8+ ♔f7 51. ♔e8+ ♔f6 52. ♔h8+ ♔f7 53. ♔h7+ 1/2-1/2

(29) Prokes,L

1941

[Solutions]



1. ♖e4! g2 2. ♖f4+! ♔e8 3. ♖e4+! ♔d8 4. ♖xg4! g1 ♔ [4... g1 ♖ 5. ♖xd4=] 5. ♖g8+!! ♔xg8 1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 35

26th of October 2012

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Editorial Preface

Definitely the most important event of the past week was the Spice Cup. Six young Super GMs played a double round robin tournament in Saint Louis. Maxime Vachier-Lagrave managed to win the tournament with 6/10 after having a serious amount of luck in a few games. The 2nd and 3rd positions went to Ding Liren and Le Quang Liem with 5.5/10. Then came Wesley So with 5 points, and with 4, Georg Meier and Balogh Csaba — your unlucky commentator who missed a huge chance to score a full point against the tournament winner in a clearly winning endgame.

The German Bundesliga has begun with favorites making their first point, with the exception of one big scandal around the young German GM Falko Bindrich who was caught cheating. According to the spectators, Mr. Bindrich went almost after every move to the toilet and used a computer program on his smart phone. We analyze for You his endgame against Russian GM Pavel Tregubov, where Bindrich showed amazing strong play! Really a cool endgame.

The 16th Unive Chess Festival is on the roll. It's 4 players-double round robin. So far Nakamura convincingly scored 2,5/3, beating Anish Giri and Hou Yifan with White and making a draw against Tiviakov with Black.

As usual we wish You a lot of chess fun with Your new issue of CEWN!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Meier,Georg (2646)

– Vachier-Lagrave,Maxime (2705) [A04]

6th SPICE Cup GM St Louis USA (5), 16.10.2012

[Csaba Balogh]

1. ♖f3 c5 **2.** c4 ♘c6 **3.** ♘c3 The game starts solidly, but it soon turns up...

3...e5 4.e3 ♘f6 5. ♖e2 [A few rounds later, Ding Liren deviated from the game with 5.d4 but Vachier introduced a strong novelty and got a perfect position again. **5...e4 6. ♘e5 g6 7. ♖e2 ♖g7 8. 0–0 0–0 9. b3** So far they were following the Kramnik-Neponiachtchi, Moscow 2011 game, and now **9...♘e7!** was very strong. Suddenly the e5 knight has some problems. Black wants to play d6, after which the only square is g4, and after the massive exchanges, d4 is hanging. The tactical explanation is **10.dxc5 ♘e8!** wins material on the long diagonal.]

5...d5 6.d4



6...cxd4 An ambitious decision! [6...exd4 is the most common move, but it leads to an endgame where only White

can win **7.exd4 ♖e6 8.cxd5 ♘xd5 9.0–0 ♖e7 10.dxc5 ♘xc3 11.bxc3 ♖xd1 12. ♖xd1 ♖xc5 13. ♘g5** With a good defense, Black can hold the draw, but he can only dream about more.]

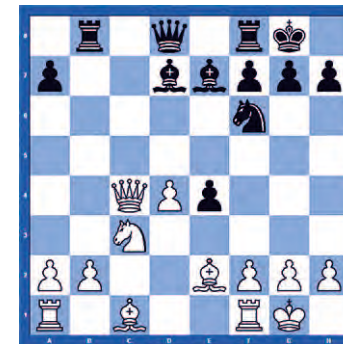
7.exd4 e4 8. ♘e5 dxc4 9. ♖a4 ♖e7 We are still following theory.

10. ♘xc6 [10.d5 appears to be strong at first sight, but Black gets a good position after two strong intermediate moves. **10...♘xd5 11. ♘xc6 ♘xc3! 12.bxc3 ♖d7!=+** followed by ♖xc6 with an advantage.]

10...bxc6 11. ♖xc6+ ♖d7 12. ♖xc4 White is a pawn up and was considered to be better, but this game might change the evaluation. As the game will show, Black's compensation should be enough to secure even chances.

12...♖b8! The key move of the counterplay! Black is putting pressure on the b2 pawn, which makes the development of White's pieces very difficult. In addition, ♖b4 could be a threat later on to win the d4 pawn.

13.0–0 0–0



14.a3 Actually this is the novelty of the game, a very good one I must say. White parries the ♖b4 idea. [In the only

previous game, White decided to sacrifice the pawn back in order to finish the development, but it lead to complete equality soon. 14. ♖f4 ♜xb2 15. ♞ab1 ♙e6! 16. ♚a4 ♜xb1 17. ♜xb1 ♘d5 18. ♘xd5 ♚xd5 19. ♚xa7 ♚xa2 20. ♚xa2 ♙xa2 and they soon agreed to a draw in Nanu-Tregubov, Pamplona 2010.;

If White wants to preserve his pawn with 14. ♞d1 Black plays 14... ♜b4 15. ♚a6 ♚b8 followed by ♜c8. Black is OK, White's queenside is stuck.;

14.d5 is the alternative, but Black plays the same way as in the 14. ♞d1 line. 14... ♜b4 15. ♚a6 ♚b8 Probably the best for White is to give back the pawn. 16. ♙e3 (16.b3? with the idea of finally developing the bishop would drop a piece after 16... ♜b6! 17. ♚a5 ♙b4!) 16... ♜xb2 17. ♞ab1 ♜xb1 18. ♜xb1 ♚e5 Black is fine.]

14... ♚b6! White has parried the ♜b4-Qb8 idea, but Black has a similar way to create pressure. ♜fc8 is coming soon.

15. ♞d1?! This is a mistake. White is too greedy with his extra pawn, and suddenly the counterplay grows enormously. [It would have been more clever to give back the pawn with 15. ♙f4 ♜bc8 16. ♚a2 ♚xd4 and White gets a healthy development after 17. ♞ad1 ♚b6 18. ♙c4 The position should be objectively even, but now it's Black the one who needs to make some precise moves to equalize. A few moves later, White could only dream about such a position.]

15... ♜fc8 16. ♚a6 ♚d8! Very well played! Black sees that the queen on a6 is completely misplaced, it can hardly find its place on the board. It will be under attack by the rooks soon. White can't decrease the pressure on the b2 pawn with ♜b1 because of ♜xc3.

17.d5! White tries to make use of his extra pawn, but it has a drawback as well, it gives the important g1-a7 diagonal to Black. [17. ♚xa7? traps the queen. 17... ♜a8 18. ♚b7 ♜cb8]

17... ♙c5 18. ♙g5? Blundering a tactical idea. Actually. I don't know what happened to all of us in the tournament, but in each game somebody made similar blunder that is clearly under the level of the players' strength. [The last chance to maintain equality was 18. ♘a4! trying to simplify the position a bit. 18... ♙xa4 19. ♚xa4 ♚d6! I believe this is better than ♚b6, because Black has full compensation. The game could continue with an interesting line: (19... ♚b6 Now Black equalizes the material, but suddenly the d-pawn gets too dangerous. 20. ♙f4 ♙xf2+ 21. ♙h1 ♜a8 22.d6) 20.b4 ♙xf2+! 21. ♙xf2 ♘xd5 with ♚f6 threats. 22. ♙b2 (22. ♙g1 ♚b6+ 23. ♙h1 ♘c3 24. ♚c2 ♚f2 25. ♙b2 ♘xe2 26. ♚xe4 ♘g3+ 27.hxg3 ♚xb2 Black is marginally better with his superior pawn structure.) 22... ♚f4+ 23. ♙g1 ♚e3+ 24. ♙f1 ♚f4+= with perpetual check.]

18... ♜b6! White is forced to put his queen into a deadly pin.

19. ♚a5



19... ♖xf2+! The start of the fireworks. From now on, Black executes many nice tactical ideas, all of them connected to the pin between the two queens.

20. ♔f1 [On 20. ♔xf2 ♘g4+ 21. ♙xg4 (21. ♔g1 ♙xg5 22. ♙xg4 ♙xg4 followed by ♖xb2 with a winning attack.) 21... ♖xb2+ wins the queen.;

20. ♔h1 was objectively the best, but White ends up in a practically hopeless endgame. 20... ♖xb2 21. ♙xd8+ ♖xd8]

20... e3! The king got into a mating net.

21. ♘e4 White would like to eliminate the f2 bishop.

21... ♖c2! The Black rook starts his kamikaze career on the second rank.

22. ♘xf2 [On 22. ♙xf6 the simple 22... gxf6 is played. Black keeps all his threats as in the game.]



22... ♖xe2! The rook is untouchable because of the pin.

23. ♘d3 [23. ♔xe2 ♖xb2+]

23... ♖xg2! It's just fantastic how the desperado rook clears the second rank completely.

24. ♙xe3 ♙h3! The game is over, but the finish is also nice.

25. ♘f4 ♘g4! 26. ♙xb6 [26. ♘xg2 ♖f6+ 27. ♔g1 ♙xa5]

26... ♘h2+ 27. ♔e1 ♙h4+ A great attacking game by the tournament winner!

0-1

(2) Nakamura,Hi (2775) – Giri,A (2693) [C67]

16th Unive Crown Hoogeveen NED (1), 21.10.2012

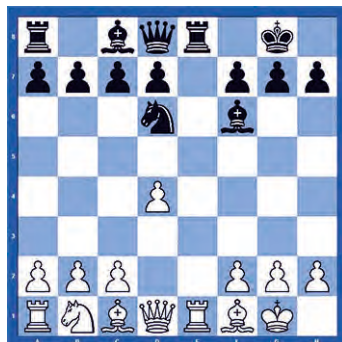
[Kamil Miton]

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 4.0-0 ♘xe4 This choice seems to make sense against Nakamura, who has a very aggressive style.

5.♖e1 [5.d4 ♘d6 6.♙xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♘f5 8.♙xd8+ ♙xd8 This endgame is the main line in the Berlin System, but it's hard to prove an advantage for White. Recently, many top players are looking for new ideas after 5.♖e1.]

5...♘d6 6.♘xe5 ♙e7 7.♙f1 [7.♙d3 This plan was popular many years ago. White's idea is to create pressure against king. 7...♘xe5 8.♖xe5 0-0 9.♘c3 c6 10.♙f3 ♘e8 11.b3 d5 12.♙b2 White's pieces are a bit more active, but the position is equal.]

7...♘xe5 8.♖xe5 0-0 9.d4 ♙f6 10.♖e1 ♖e8



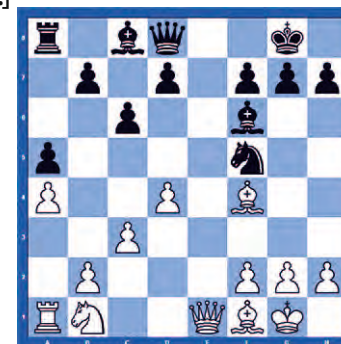
11.c3 Lately, a more aggressive variation has become more popular: [11.♙f4 ♖xe1 12.♙xe1 ♘e8 (12...♙xd4 13.♙xd6 cxd6 14.♘c3+= Thanks to the doubled pawns and the problems with the bishop on c8, White is slightly better.) 13.♘c3 It's logical that the only chance for White

in this symmetrical structure is to play actively. 13...♙xd4 14.♘d5 d6 (14...c6!?∞) 15.♙g5 ♙f6 (15...f6∞ leads to very complex positions.) 16.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 17.♙xf6 gxf6 18.♙d3 Thanks to the weak king, White has compensation for the pawn. Probably, the position is unpleasant for Black in practice, because Kramnik wasn't able to defend in a game against McShane.]

11...♖xe1 12.♙xe1 ♘f5 The main Black's idea in these positions is to solve the problem with the development of his bishop from c8. In some other variations, we see moves like ♘e8 as well.

13.♙f4 c6 14.a4 The position is more or less equal. White is going to take some space on the queen side to create some potential weaknesses.

14...a5 Looks unnecessary. Black lost time, why not simply to develop the pieces? [14...d5 15.a5 ♙e6 16.♘d2 With the idea of ♘b3-♘c5. If Black plays b6, then a6. Maybe in the future the a7-pawn will be a target and the a6-pawn will be very dangerous.]



15.♙c7! Now White gets some hope to put pressure on the a5-pawn.

15...♙f8 [15...♙e7 16.♙xe7 ♙xe7 (16...♘xe7 17.♘d2 ♘d5 18.♙d6 b6 19.♖e1 ♙b7 20.♘e4+/-) 17.♘d2 and the

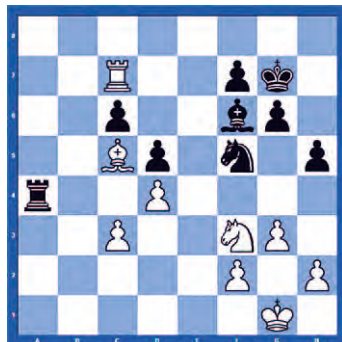
problem with the a5-pawn is serious- 17...d5 18.♘b3 b6 19.♘d2+/-]

16. ♖d3 d5 17. ♖b6 I have no idea regarding why did Naka lose time with this move. [17.♘d2 g6 18.♘f3 (18.♘b3 ♖d8) 18... ♖e6 19.♙d2+= and White has some edge. First, Black has some problems with the a5 pawn; then, there's an opportunity to create some play on the dark squares.]

17... ♘d6 18. ♘d2 ♖e6 19. ♙b1 g6 20. b4 axb4 21. ♙xb4 White is trying to put pressure on the b7-pawn. On the other hand, Black should have counterplay on the a-file.

21... ♖f5 Giri play seems to be very logical because usually, the exchange of light-square bishops is good for Black in this kind of structures. He had other possibilities as well. [21... ♖d8 22.♘b3 (22. ♖c5 ♖a5 23. ♙a3 ♖c7=) 22... ♖xb6 23. ♙xb6 ♙d8 24. ♙xd8+ ♙xd8 25.♘c5 ♙a8 White's next idea is to come with the king, for example, to c7. Black is fine.]

22. ♖c5 Naka's plan is to look for some play on the dark squares. [22. ♖xf5 ♘xf5 23. ♖c5 ♙c8 24. ♙b1 ♖g7 25.♘f3 h5 26.g3 and White can wait for the right moment to exchange the b7 and a4 pawns, and then attack c6. 26... ♙a6 27. ♙xb7 (27. ♖g2) 27... ♙xb7 28. ♙xb7 ♙xa4 29. ♙c7



29... ♙a1+ (29... ♙c4 30. ♙xc6 ♙xc3 31. ♖f8+-) 30. ♖g2 ♙a2±]

22... ♖xd3 23. ♖xd6 ♙e8 24. ♘f3 ♖a6 25. ♖e5 ♖e7 Of course Black keeps the pair of bishops and doesn't make the dark squares useful for White.

26. ♖d6 ♖f6 [26... ♖xd6 27. ♙xd6 ♙f8 28. ♙f4 ♙e8 29.h4 f6 and even here Black should be OK.]

27. ♙e1 ♙d7 28. ♖e7 ♖g7 29. ♘e5 ♙f5 30. ♙d6 White's pieces get some activity. The bishop on a6 is out of play, but Black doesn't have any weaknesses. The position should be equal.

30... ♙e8 31.h3 ♙e6 Giri exchanges the active queen and reduces the material, but now his structure will be worse. [31...h5 32.a5 (32. ♙e3 with ♙f3 next (Xf7). 32... ♖h6 33. ♙f3 ♖f4; 32.g4 hxg4 33.hxg4 ♖xe5=+) 32... ♖b5 33. ♙c7 ♖a6 White's pieces are optimally placed, but it's hard to improve the position and create some threats.]

32. ♙xe6 fxe6 33. ♖c5 g5 Good strategical move. It's natural that Black puts the pawns on dark squares in order to get more space for the light-squared bishop.

34. ♖b4 h6 [34... ♖xe5 Probably Black is not ready to play with opposite-colored bishops. 35. ♙xe5 h6 36. ♙e3 Not allowing the Black bishop to return to the game after ♖d3. (36.h4 gxh4 37. ♙h5 ♖g7 38. ♖d6 ♖g6 39. ♙h4 h5=) 36... ♖f7 37. ♖d6 ♖g6 (37... ♖c4 38. ♙f3+ with ♖e5 next, and Black is in trouble.) 38. ♖e5 ♙f8 39.g4 ♖c4 40. ♖g2 h5 41. ♖d6 ♙e8 42.a5 with long-term pressure.]

35. ♘d7 ♖f7 36. ♙e3 This is a good place for the rook, which doesn't allow ♖d3 and can be connected to play in the 3rd rank.

36...♔g6 [36...♙c4 37.a5 to fix the weak pawn on b7.]

37.♙d6 h5 38.♞c5 Very nice regrouping of the pieces by White. The knight on c5 attacks two weak pawns on b7 and e6, and the bishop on d6 is active. I already wrote about the e3 rook in the previous comment.

38...♙f6



39.g4 Fixing a potential weakness on g5 and gaining space to improve the king. Nakamura didn't want to win the e6-pawn because Black would get an easier defense. [39.♞xe6 h4 40.♞c5 ♜xe3 41.fxe3 ♙f5 42.♙f2]

39...hxc4 40.hxc4 ♙f7 41.♔g2 ♜a8 42.a5 White is not in a hurry to win material. This is a good practical decision. [42.♜xe6 b6 43.♞xa6 ♜xa6 44.♜e3 ♜xa4=;

42.♞xe6 b6 43.♞c7 ♜a7 44.♜e8 ♜xc7 45.♜f8+ ♔g7 46.♜xf6 ♙xf6 47.♙xc7 ♙e2 and Black is on time. 48.♙xb6 (48.♔g3 ♙d1=) 48...♙xc4 49.a5 ♙c8=]

42...♜e8 43.♜e1 An interesting option was not to allow ♙d8 too easily. [43.♙c7 ♜c8 44.♙e5 and now the rook on c8 is badly placed. 44...♙d8? 45.♜h3+-]

43...♙d8 44.♜a1 ♜h8 45.♙e5 ♜h7 Somehow Black manages to improve his pieces.

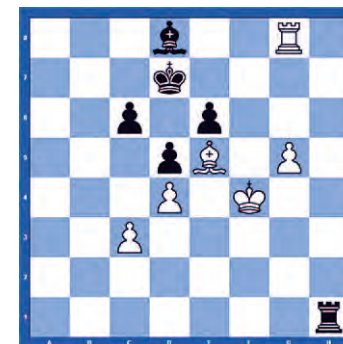
46.♙d6 ♜h8 47.f3 ♜h6 48.♙e5 ♜h7 49.♔g3 White slowly improves his position and Black has to wait.

49...♜h6 50.♜b1 It's time for concrete action.

50...♙xa5 51.♞xb7 ♙xb7 [51...♙xc3 52.♞d6+ ♔e7 53.♜b6 and White is winning.]

52.♜xb7+ ♔e8 53.♜g7 ♙d8 [53...♙xc3 54.♜xg5 ♜h1 (54...c5 55.dxc5 ♙xe5+ 56.♜xe5 ♔d7 57.f4 ♙c6 58.g5 ♜g6 59.♔g4 ♙xc5 60.♙h5+-) 55.♜g8+ ♙f7 56.♜c8 ♜d1 57.♜c7+ ♙e8 58.♜xc6 ♙xd4 59.♜xe6+ (But not 59.♙xd4? ♙d7) 59...♙d7 60.♙d6+ ♔e7 61.♙f4 White should win in this position.]

54.♔g2 Naka doesn't allow ♜h1. White had two other possibilities. One of them was really promising. [54.♜g8+ ♙d7 55.f4 gxf4+ 56.♙xf4 and now it's not easy to stop the promotion of the g-pawn. 56...♜h1 (56...♙f6 57.g5 ♙xe5+ 58.♙xe5 ♜h3 59.♜g7+ ♙e8 60.♜c7 ♜xc3 61.♙f6 ♜f3+ 62.♙xe6+-) 57.g5



57...♜g1 (57...♜f1+ 58.♔g3 ♜g1+ 59.♙f2 ♜xg5 Maybe Naka didn't see this trick. 60.♙xd8+-) 58.g6 ♙g5+ 59.♙f3 ♙h6 60.♙g3 ♙e7 61.♙f2 ♜f1 62.♙g2 ♜xf2+ 63.♙xf2 ♙d2 64.g7 ♙f7 65.♜c8 ♙xg7 66.♜xc6;

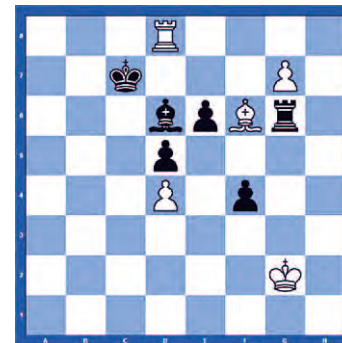
54.f4 ♖f6 55.♖c7 (55.fxg5 ♖xg7 56.gxh6 ♖xh6 57.♖f4 ♖f8=; 55.♖xf6 gxf4+ 56.♖xf4 ♖xf6+ 57.♖e5 ♖f3 58.g5 ♖xc3 59.♖c7 ♖f8 60.♖xe6 ♖e3+ 61.♖d6 ♖d3= In this case, Black is on time.) 55... ♖xe5 56.dxe5 (56.fxe5 ♖h1 57.♖xc6 ♖d7↗ Now the king is blocked. Black should have enough counterplay.) 56... ♖h1 Not allowing the activation of the king too easily. (56...gxf4+ 57.♖xf4 ♖h3 58.♖g5 White doesn't care about the pawns. The most important thing is to activate the king, as shown in the classical example Capablanca — Tartakower. 58... ♖xc3 59.♖f6+/-) 57.fxg5 ♖g1+ 58.♖f4 ♖f1+ 59.♖e3 ♖e1+ 60.♖f3 ♖f1+ (60... ♖xe5 61.g6 ♖f8 62.♖f4 ♖e4+ 63.♖g5+-) 61.♖g2 ♖c1 62.g6 (62. ♖xc6 ♖f7↗) 62... ♖f8 63.♖g3 ♖xc3+ 64.♖f4 d4 65.♖g5+- and finally the king comes in again.]

54... ♖e7 55.♖g8+ ♖d7 56.♖a8 c5 Black gets rid of White's target.

57.♖g8 cxd4 [57...c4 An interesting idea, looking for counterplay against the c3 pawn later.]

58.cxd4 ♖h7 59.f4 gxf4? Not accurate! Black missed good drawish chances after: [59... ♖h4 60.♖g3 gxf4+ 61.♖xf4 (61.♖xf4 ♖h1 62.g5 ♖d1 63.g6 ♖d3+ 64.♖g4 ♖xd4 65.g7 e5 66.♖a8 ♖xf4+ 67.♖h3 ♖f3+ 68.♖h2 ♖f5 black is survive thanks to this nice trick 69.g8♔ ♖h5+ 70.♖g3 ♖g5+=) 61... ♖h1 62.g5 ♖f1+ 63.♖e3 (63.♖g4 ♖g1+ 64.♖h5 ♖h1+ 65.♖g6 ♖xg5) 63... ♖d6 64.♖e2 ♖f5 The White king is too far. 65.♖f6 e5=]

60.g5 ♖d6 61.♖f6 White also missed a better move. More accurate was: [61.g6 ♖h5 62.♖f6 ♖h6 63.♖d8+ ♖c7 64.g7 ♖g6+



65.♖f2 Very important here. (65.♖f3 ♖e7 66.♖xe7 ♖xg7 67.♖f8 Compared to the 65.♖f2 line, Black now has a draw thanks to this check. 67... ♖g3+ 68.♖xf4 ♖d3=) 65... ♖e7 66.♖xe7 ♖xg7 67.♖f8 ♖g8 68.♖a8 ♖b7 69.♖e8 ♖c6 70.♖xe6++-]

61... ♖e7 Black could still fight after: [61...f3+ 62.♖xf3 ♖h4 White has temporary problems with the promotion of the g-pawn because after g6, ♖f4 comes. The king is also cut in the 4th rank. 63.♖d8+ ♖c7 64.♖a8 ♖f4+ 65.♖g2 ♖h4 66.♖g8+/-]

62.g6 f3+ 63.♖xf3 And the g-pawn wins the game.

63... ♖h5 64.♖e5 A good start by Nakamura in the Unive tournament, and his second win against Giri in a short period of time.

1-0

(3) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar (2748) – Areshchenko, Alexander (2710) [A15]

28th European Club Cup Eilat ISR (7.1), 17.10.2012

[Csaba Balogh]

We are in the last round of the European Club Cup! The „Socar Azerbaijan” team has scored an impressive 5–1 victory against the pretty strong Russian team (with a rating average of around 2690), which was just enough to take the gold medal. With 4.5–1.5, St. Petersburg would have finished first. The series of wins was started by Mamedyarov, with a very impressive performance against a big specialist of the Grünfeld defense.

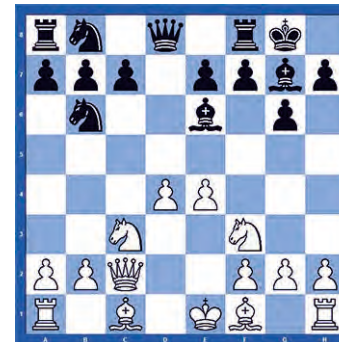
1. ♘f3 ♘f6 2. c4 Recently, the top players gave up the attempts to find an advantage in the main Grünfeld, and the so-called Anti-Grünfeld move order gives White many interesting possibilities.

2... g6 3. ♘c3 d5 4. cxd5 ♘xd5 5. ♔b3 ♘b6 6. d4 ♙e6 [We have already commented the game Le Quang Liem–Navara in a previous CEWN. That game continued with 6... ♙g7 which is also the main line.]

7. ♔c2 ♙g7 8. e4 Typical for the Grünfeld. White has built up a huge center, while Black must try to undermine it at any cost, if he wishes to equalize. I must say that I don't like the 6... ♙e6 move at all, since it only disturbs Black from creating his counterplay, for instance, with e5. But also, after the other break with c5, White has d5 with tempo.

8... 0–0 [8... ♙g4 would be the principled move, but now White has the very strong 9. ♘e5! and on 9... ♙c8 with the idea of c5, trying to make use of the e5 knight, White

plays 10. ♙f4! followed by ♖d1 and White consolidates his center. 10... ♔xd4? obviously doesn't work because of 11. ♘b5 ♔b4+ 12. ♙d2+- and ♘xc7.]



9. ♙e3 Very logical novelty! White needs to stabilize his center, and he wishes to do it with ♖d1.

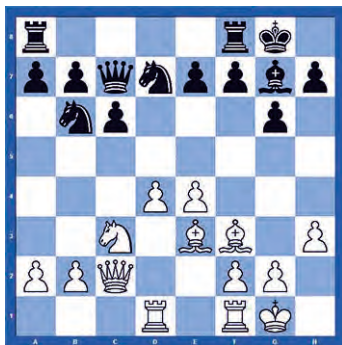
9... c6 Such a move is a kind of admission that something went wrong in the opening. [The active-looking 9... ♘c4 doesn't help. 10. ♙g5 with the threat of d5 and the knight needs to retreat. The d4 pawn is taboo. 10... ♙xd4? 11. ♘b5!+- wins a piece.]

10. ♖d1! ♘d7 11. ♙e2 After successfully consolidating the center, it's time to finish the development. White achieved the maximum he could, now the space advantage will soon start to tell.

11... ♙g4 [Simplifying the position doesn't solve the problems. 11... ♙c4 12. 0–0 ♙xe2 13. ♘xe2+= Without the light-squared bishops, Black can't undermine the center with f5, because of the weakness of the e6 square. White would penetrate with ♘g5 or ♘f4. 13... ♔c7 is met with the very unpleasant 14. ♙f4! e5 15. ♙g3! Black's pieces don't find their places. 15... ♖fe8 16. ♖d3 doubling the rooks with a clear advantage.]

12.0-0 [Another known reaction in similar situations is 12.♘g1 ♕xe2 13.♘gxe2+= also guarantees an edge.]

12...♔c7 13.h3 ♕xf3 14.♕xf3 White had to be really satisfied with his achievement. Black remained with only one possible break, namely on e5, but now it just doesn't work because of a nice tactical idea.



14...♖ac8 [14...e5 15.d5! White creates a passed pawn. Actually this is not a guarantee of success yet. Black might blockade it with the knight on d6. 15...cxd5 16.exd5 ♘c8 The initiative would quickly pass to Black if the knight arrived to d6. Black could start his play with f5, but chess is a concrete game. 17.d6! The knight doesn't reach its destination, while 17...♘xd6? drops a piece after 18.♔d2!+-]

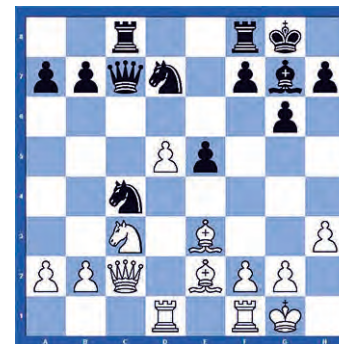
15.♕e2 White would like to play f4, leaving Black without any counterplay. The last chance for this move. [15.e5 was also possible with the idea of ♕g4 and f4. If Black plays e6, the d6 square would be critically weakened, and the c3 knight would quickly occupy it.]

15...e5 [15...♖fd8 16.f4+=]

16.d5 Mamedyarov uses the same trick as in the 14...e5 line. [Another very good, and we can also call, typical re-

action in similar positions is 16.dxe5 followed by squeezing Black with f4-e5. 16...♘xe5 17.♕c5 ♖fd8 18.f4! ♘ec4 19.e5+/- also looks pretty strong.]

16...cxd5 17.exd5 ♘c4 Black's happiness is only one move away, but the knight doesn't reach d6.



18.d6! ♔a5 [18...♘xe3 leads to a lost position as well. 19.dxc7 ♘xc2 20.♖xd7 ♘d4 21.♕c4+- Black can't move. The knight goes to e4-d6 or d5-e7;

18...♘xd6? drops a piece again after 19.♔d2!+-]

19.♕g5! White wants to install his bishop on e7 to paralyze Black's position.

19...e4 Finally a small achievement for Black to open the „Grünfeld bishop“, but it comes too late to save the game.

20.♕e7 ♖fe8 21.♔b3! Black loses material in any case. The e4 and b7 pawns are hanging and if the c4 knight leaves, ♕b5 also is very unpleasant.

21...♘xb2 [21...b5 is met, for example, with 22.♖d5+-;

21...♘ce5 22.♘xe4+- is hopeless as well.]

22. ♖xb2 ♘b6 A desperate attempt to confuse matters, but this doesn't help on this level. [22... ♖xc3 23. ♖xb7+- is over as well.]

23. ♖b5 The rook is trapped and the d6 pawn is still ready for promotion. [23.d7 ♘xd7 24. ♖xd7+- with a piece up was equally good.]

23... ♖xc3 24. ♖b3 ♖ed8 The rest is only a matter of taste.

25.d7 ♖a8 26. ♖xd8 ♖xd8 27. ♖c4 ♔g7 28. ♖xf7 ♘xd7 Mamedyarov finishes the game in style.

29. ♖g8! Black resigned in view of ♖f7. A nice example on the topic of how to play against the Grünfeld.

1-0

(4) Bacrot, Etienne (2705) – Kempinski, Robert (2602)

Schachbundesliga 2012/2013 (1.1), 20.10.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

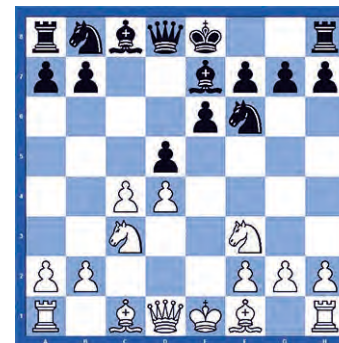
It's the first round of the German Bundesliga and my friend Etienne is playing White against Kempinski. Just a few days ago we finished our „very disappointing” participation in the European Club Cup, so in the BL we wanted to score at least a couple of points.

1.c4 c6 2.e4!? A nice trick that works again and again against „Slav” players!

2...d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.d4 And we are in the Panov variation of the Caro-Kann, which many of the „Slav” players don't like at all.

4... ♘f6 5. ♘c3 e6 [5... ♘c6 6. ♖g5 is the other main line.]

6. ♘f3 ♖e7 This move is a bit strange. The normal move is 6... ♖b4 or 6... ♘c6.



7. ♖f4!? Interesting play by Etienne, who is going for White's main idea: to play c5 followed by b4 and consolidate on the queenside. More standard moves would be 7.cxd5 ♘xd5 8. ♖d3 or 8. ♖g5.

7...0-0 [To play with a different move order wouldn't help Black to avoid the move c5. 7...♘c6 8.c5 ♘e4 9.♖c1 A typical move which we see very often in many similar positions. 9...♙a5 10.a3 and White is in time to keep the pawn structure, while Black has no time for b6.;

7...dxc4 8.♙xc4 would just lead to a well known position with an extra move for White, ♙f4.]

8.c5?! This is White's main strategic idea. Let's see if Black can somehow react fast enough against it...

8...♘e4? Black misses his chance. [8...b6! would be the right way to start playing against White's pawn structure. 9.b4 (Of course 9.cxb6 ♙xb6 leads to a nice position for Black.) 9...♘e4 Black is in time to act fast, combining ideas of attack against the b4 pawn with the plan of bxc5-bxc5 and ♙a5. 10.♖c1 (10.♙c2 ♘c6 Winning a tempo again, by attacking b4. 11.a3 bxc5 and only now bxc5. 12.♘xe4 (12.bxc5 ♙a5) 12...dxe4 13.♙xe4 ♘xd4 and Black is better.) 10...♙b7! This calm move is very strong. Now Black wants to play a5 or to play f6 followed by e5. The position is very dynamic, although Black should be doing fine. (10...a5 This would be too early.

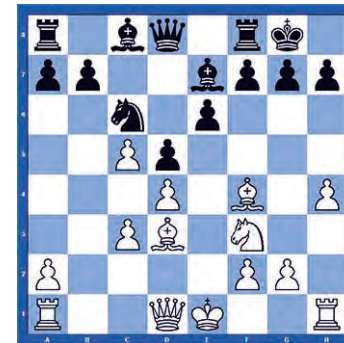


11.♘a4! Very strong. We see this motif in a lot of games. 11...axb4 12.♘xb6 ♖xa2 13.♙b3! That's the key move. Tactics are on White's side and the position is better for him.])

9.♙d3! Strong move. [Let's examine the logical-looking: 9.♙c2 ♘c6! (9...♘xc3 10.♙xc3 Here White's dream comes true. His position is safe and better.) 10.♘xe4 dxe4 11.♙xe4 It looks like White is just a pawn up, but here comes the unexpected 11...g5! followed by f5 and g4, with quite a complicated position.]

9...♘xc3 10.bxc3 ♘c6 It's hard to blame Black for such a logical move. [But maybe 10...b6 would be more dynamic and would force White to act.]

11.h4!? A very interesting move, even if computers say it's not the best one. Does White want to play ♙xh7 next?



11...g6?! Kempinski is afraid of ♙xh7, but does it work? [If Black ignores White's threat: 11...b6? 12.♙xh7+! is winning 12...♙xh7 13.♘g5+ ♙g6 14.♙d3+ f5 15.h5+ ♙f6 16.♙e5+! A very pretty finish!;

11...h6!? would have been a better choice. Black should not be afraid of White's ♙c2-Qd3 idea. 12.♙c2 (12.g4 Maybe White could try this „crazy” move, but now it's clear that things are very unclear :).) 12...b6 starting the

action immediately. 13. ♔d3 f5 with a very unclear position.]

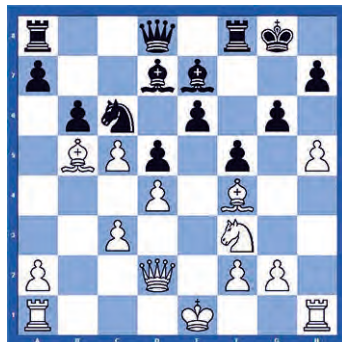
12. ♔c2! Of course White should not lose any time now. The weak point in Black's structure is the g6-pawn. White wants to play h5 next.

12...f5 It's never nice to play a move like f5, but h5 was a serious threat.

13. ♔d2! Now the queen is going to d2 to support the h5 push (Black had g5 before) and if the h-file opens up later, a move like ♔h6 could be deadly.

13...b6 14. ♖b5 Winning control over the e5 square. We can clearly see that White's position is much better.

14...♗d7 15.h5 And the h-file is open!



15...gxh5 [It's not good 15...bxc5 16.hxg6 hxg6 17. ♗xc6 ♗xc6 18. ♗e5 Simple and strong. Black's position is falling apart.]

16. ♖xh5 bxc5 White has quite a big choice of good moves, but why not to choose the simplest one?

17. ♗xc6 ♗xc6 18. ♗e5! Very good play by White. Everything looks pretty simple, but over the board it's not

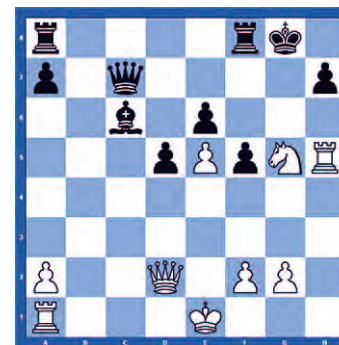
that easy to stay calm and give away the pawn on c5 for „nothing“.

18...♗f6 [It doesn't help to play 18... ♗e8 19. ♖h3!]

19. ♖g5 Logical. [But 19. ♗h6 ♗e7 20. ♖b1! would be even stronger. However, to find a move like 20. ♖b1 is super difficult. Black is practically completely paralyzed.]

19...cxd4 In an inferior position, Black opens the center expecting to find some chances due to the bad position of the White king on e1.

20.cxd4 ♗xe5 21.dxe5 ♗c7



22. ♗c3?! Not a bad move, but very impractical. [22. ♔f1! would decide the game on the spot. White gets the king to safety, after which White's attack is going to be deadly!]

22...d4! Complications are starting.

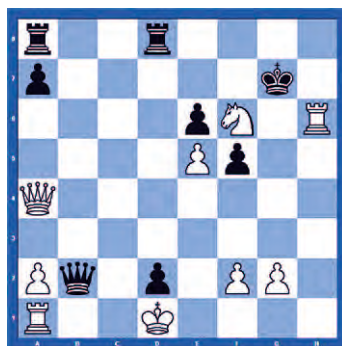
23. ♗c5 [23. ♗g3 is not winning because of 23... ♗a5+ 24. ♔f1 ♗c3 and Black is back into the fight.]

23...d3?! Black doesn't take his chance to return to the game. [23... ♗b7! 24. ♖xe6 (24. ♖xh7 ♗b2) 24... ♖fe8! with a very complicated position.]

24. ♖xh7 [24. ♖xe6 d2+! would lead to a very crazy position!]

24...♔b7 25.♔d4? What a mistake by White. [The simple 25.♔e3! ends the game. White's queen is joining the attack. 25...♔b4+ 26.♔f1 and Black has no hopes at all.]

25...♖ad8? Bad luck for Black! He chose the wrong rook. [25...♖fd8! This move leads to a forced draw. 26.♘f6+ ♔f7 27.♖h7+ ♔g6 28.♔f4 All is the same like in the game. 28...d2+ 29.♔d1 ♕a4+!! and here comes the difference. The pawn on a7 is protected by the rook on a8! 30.♔xa4 ♔b2 31.♖h6+ ♔g7 Comparing to the game, White doesn't have ♔xa7 now.



32.♖h7+ ♔g6 The position is a draw!]

26.♘f6+! White starts a forced and winning line.

26...♔f7 27.♖h7+ ♔g6 28.♖h6+ ♔f7 29.♖h7+ ♔g6 Both players had quite a small amount of time, so White repeated the moves once...

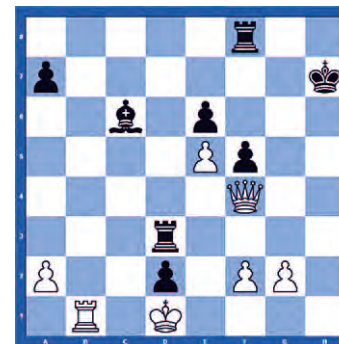
30.♔f4+-

30...d2+ 31.♔d1 And the game is basically over. Black needs to give away his queen.

31...♔xh7 32.♘xh7 ♔xh7 33.♖b1 White wants to play ♖b3, bringing the rook into the attack;

or to play ♖b2, capturing the pawn on b2.

33...♖d3? After this, Black could already resign. [33...♕d5 leads to a lost position, but at least we would see a fight.]

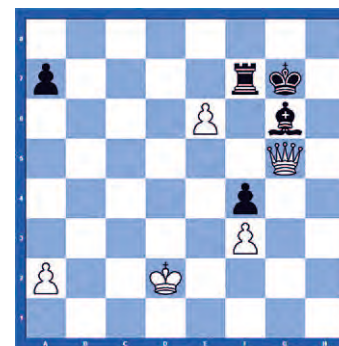


34.♔c4! As, I think, Smyslov once said: Chess is a game of double attacks.

34...♕e4 35.f3 The White bishop is caught.

35...♖xf3 36.gxf3 ♕xb1 37.♔xe6 ♔g7 38.♔xd2 What to say... Some people play here, some resign...

38...f4 39.♔e7+ ♖f7 40.♔g5+ ♕g6 41.e6 The new queen is running.



41...♖f5 42.♔e7+ ♕h6 43.♔xa7 And another pawn....

43...♖d5+ 44.♔c1 ♖d3 45.e7 ♖xf3 46.♔d4 ♖f1+

47.♔d2 ♕h7 48.e8♔ Now it was too much even for Kempinski. We saw an interesting fighting game with mistakes by both sides, an interesting opening and mid-dlegame, and some very unnecessary last 10 moves :).

1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Edouard,R (2664) – Svetushkin,D (2597)

European Club Cup, 11.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

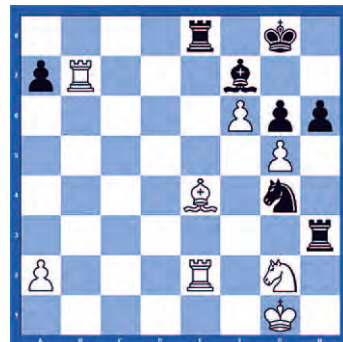


(6) Svidler,P (2747) – Ponomarev,R (2735)

European Club Cup, 15.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

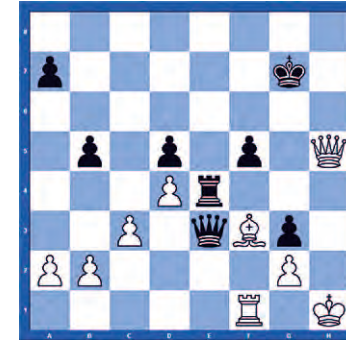


(7) Efimenko,Z (2689) – Motylev,A (2655)

European Club Cup, 15.10.2012

[CEWN]

1...=

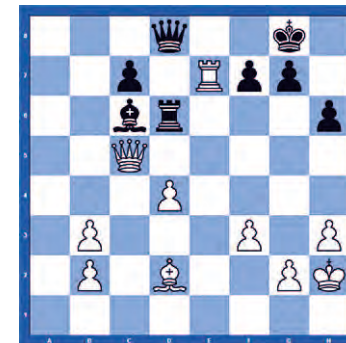


(8) Smirin,I (2638) – Morozevich,A (2758)

European Club Cup, 16.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



(9) Boruchovsky,A (2435) – Navara,D (2722)

European Club Cup, 16.10.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

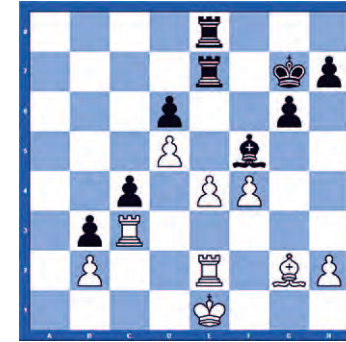


(11) Ponomariov,R (2735) – Radjabov,T (2792)

European Club Cup, 17.10.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

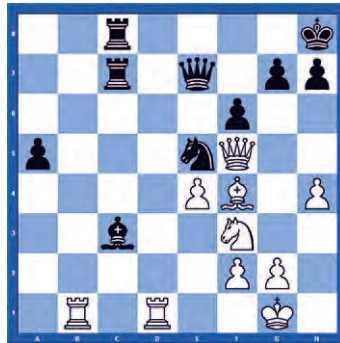


(10) Kasimdzhanov,R (2690) – Stojcevski,Z (2325)

European Club Cup, 16.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+–

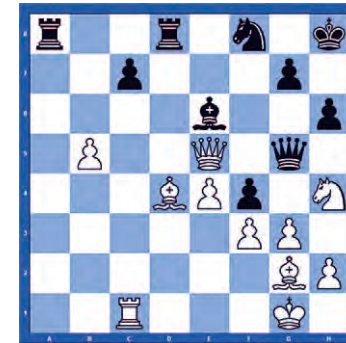


(12) Maki,V (2383) – Bacrot,E (2705)

European Club Cup, 17.10.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

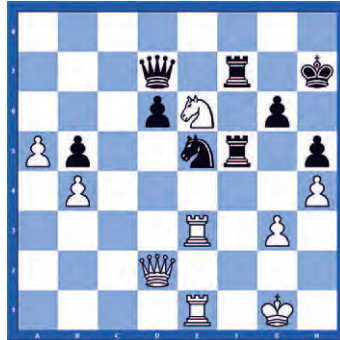


(13) Koneru,H (2607) – Bronnikova,E (2244)

European Club Cup, 15.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



(14) Mista,A (2543) – Pruijssers,R (2519)

German league, 20.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

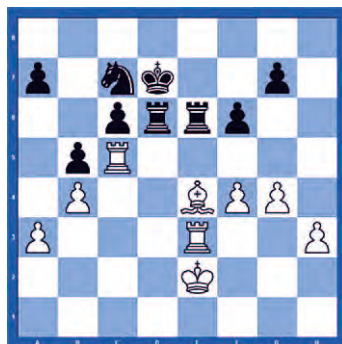


Endgame section

(15) Meier,G (2646) – Balogh,C (2664)

SPICE Cup, 19.10.2012

[Chess Evolution]

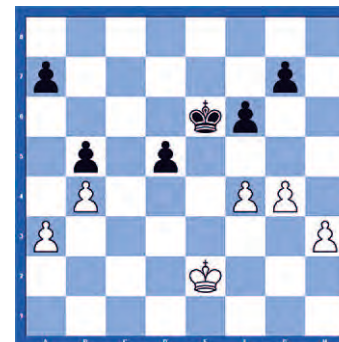


Despite having a disappointing tournament, I had some interesting moments. White has all the hopes for an advantage because of his better pawn structure. He can easily create a passed pawn on the kingside, while Black's majority on the queenside is perfectly blocked by the White pawns. In addition, the bishop is stronger than the knight. However, I was lucky to calculate a long and forced line correctly to save the game. Fortunately, this time there was no hole in my counting, like in most of my games in this event...

32...♘d5! [32...♖e8+= was also possible, to prevent ♙f5, but Black has to suffer long in this case.]

33. ♙xd5 ♖xd5! At first, the pawn endgame might look completely lost, but...

34. ♖xe6 [34. ♖xd5+ cxd5 35. ♖xe6 (35.f5 is not dangerous because of 35...♖e5! 36. ♖xe5 fxe5 37.h4 ♙e7= Black's e- and d-pawns are equally strong to the h and g ones.) 35...♙xe6 White has a side passer, which could easily be enough to decide the game, but with an accurate defense, Black can hold the draw. 36.h4 Black needs to find the only move. (On 36.♙e3 it's very important for Black to stop White's attempt to create a passed pawn 36...g5! against h4. White is forced to repeat moves. 37.♙f3 ♙d6 38.♙e3=)



36...f5! (36...♙d6 loses to 37.h5! ♙e6 38.♙e3 ♙d6 39.♙d4 White breaks through with g5 and h6.) 37.g5 g6! Black has successfully stopped the pawns. The only way to progress in as h5 break, but the Black king is close enough to catch the g-pawn. 38.♙e3 Black needs to be careful to answer ♙d4 with ♙d6. 38...♙e7 39.♙d4 ♙d6=]

34...♖xc5 35. ♖xf6! My opponent thought the game was over, but...

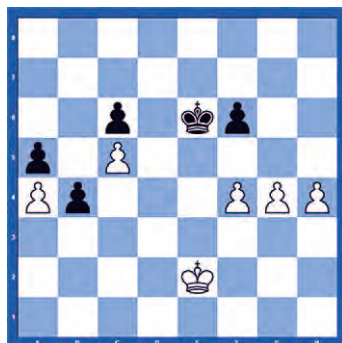
35...gxf6! 36.bxc5



36...a5! This is the key move! Despite being a clear pawn down, White can't make progress because he needs his king to promote his kingside pawns, although it has the duty to stop the queenside pawns. [The move order was really relevant, since after any other move, for example 36...♔e6? White has 37.a4! avoiding to create a passer. 37...b4 (37...bxa4 38.♔d3+-) 38.a5!+-]

37.a4 This is the best chance, otherwise Black pushes a4 himself. Now the White king can go to e4 to stay in the square of the b-pawn. [On 37.♔e3 a4!= the White king must stay on the d-file, otherwise b4 will be played. The lines will be the same as in the game.]

37...b4 38.h4 ♔e6



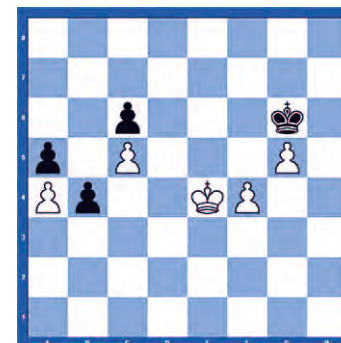
39.g5 [39.♔d3 ♔f7 40.♔e4 ♔g7 Sooner or later, White has to advance one of his pawns;]

39.f5+!? is a tricky attempt. 39...♔f7 40.g5 ♔g7! It's very important to keep the f6 pawn on the board. (40...fxg5? 41.hxg5+- wins for White as the line 42...♔g7 will show us.) 41.♔d3 ♔f7= followed by passing on g7 and f7. White can't make progress.]

39...fxg5 [Actually 39...f5 also leads to a draw. 40.h5 ♔f7 41.h6 (41.♔d3 ♔g7 42.g6 ♔f6 43.♔d4 ♔g7 White can't improve his position.) 41...♔g6 42.♔d3 ♔h7 43.♔c4 ♔g6 44.♔d4 ♔h7 45.♔e5 and now it's very important not to hurry with the b-pawn. 45...♔g6! The White king needs to turn back to stop the pawn.(45...b3? loses to 46.♔f6! b2 47.g6+ ♔xh6 48.g7 b1♔ 49.g8♔+- The Black pawns start to fall one by one.)]

40.hxg5 [40.fxg5 ♔f5 41.♔d3 ♔g6 42.♔e4 ♔h5 is also a draw.]

40...♔f5 41.♔d3 ♔g6 42.♔e4



42...♔h5! This is the last key move, which had to be foreseen. White must settle with a draw, since any attempt to win leads to a defeat... [42...♔g7? loses instructively. 43.f5

♔f7 44.♔d4 ♔g7 45.f6+ ♔g6 46.♔e4 ♔f7 White can triangulate with his king in any case to reach this position, and now 47.♔f5! This might be the only winning motif in this type of endgames. Now it works well. Black queens first, but loses the game. 47...b3 48.g6+ ♔f8 49.♔e6! b2 50.g7+ ♔g8 51.♔e7 ♔b1 ♔ 52.f7+ ♔xg7 53.f8 ♔+ ♔g6 54.♔f6+ ♔h7 55.♔xc6+-]

43.♔d3 [43.♔f5? b3 Black promotes with check!;

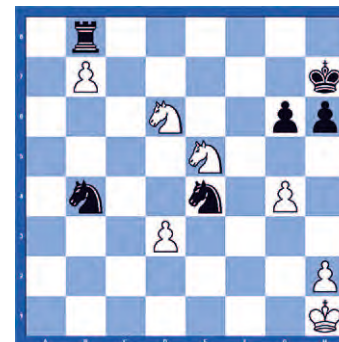
43.f5? loses to 43...b3! (43...♔xg5 44.♔e5) 44.♔d3 ♔xg5 45.♔c3 ♔xf5 46.♔xb3 ♔e4]

43...♔g6 44.♔e4 ♔h5 45.♔d3 1/2

(16) Bindrich,Falko (2532) – Tregubov,Pavel V (2601)

Schachbundesliga 2012/2013 (1.7), 20.10.2012

[Chess Evolution]



After a big battle in the middlegame, the game has reached a very dynamic endgame. It's clear that White is doing better, but can he win this position?! After the match, the team of Pavel Tregubov made an official protest accusing Bindrich of having cheated during the game. Let's take a look at what made Pavel Tregubov think his opponent was cheating...

41.dxe4 ♖d8 The only move for Black, White wanted to play ♘d7.

42.♘ec4 White wants to set his second free pawn in motion — a very logical move. [Of course not 42.♘d7? ♘c6;

Another good choice in the position could be 42.♔g2!? There is no need for White to hurry, and to bring the king closer to the e4-pawn and the g4 square can be very useful. 42...♔g7 43.♘dc4 with the direct threat of playing ♘a5-Nc6 or ♘d7 next. 43...♘a6 Black is forced to put his knight on a very bad square — a6. 44.♘c6 and White

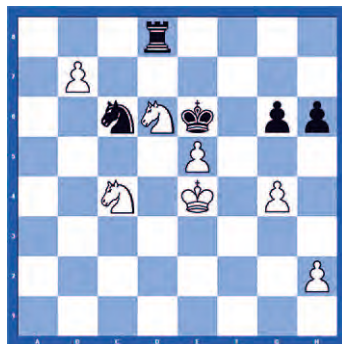
should be close to winning, even though it would be important to show some accurate play. If Black manages to give away the knight on a6 for the b and e-pawns, the position would be a draw.]

42...♔g7 43.e5 Of course. Now the knight on d6 is untouchable.

43...♞c6 44.♔g2! Very cool move. White is blocking all the Black pieces with his knight, and has enough time to centralize his king.

44...♔f8 Black is bringing his king to the battle-field as well.

45.♔f3 ♔e7 46.♔e4 ♔e6 Both White and Black have improved their positions to the maximum. Now it's time for action.



47.♞b5! The only move. [In case of the „waiting“ move 47.h4? ♞b8! followed by ♞xe5, with a draw.]

47...♞d1 Black is looking for counter-chances, it's the best he can do! [In case of a passive defense 47...g5 48.♞c7+! the White knights start to jump around the Black king with the idea of getting control over the e6 square. 48...♔d7 49.♞a6! The White knight is going to c5, where his

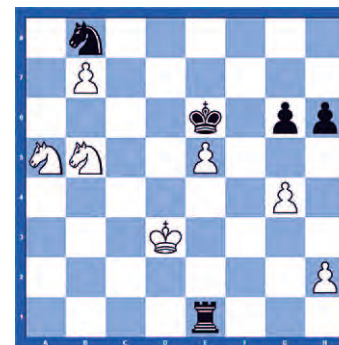
position will be perfect. 49...♔e6 50.♞c5+ ♔e7 51.♞d6 and of course Black can't hold such a position. The White king will go to g6 or to b6, finishing the game]

48.♞a5! Another great move by White! He is kicking out the Black knight from c6, and in case of 48... ♞b8, 49.♞d4! followed by ♞c6 is winning.

48...♞e1+ Black is forcing the White king to leave the pawn on e5 unprotected, in order to play ♞b8 next. Where should the White king go, to f3 or to d3?

49.♔d3! A very strong move by White, once again. [49.♔f3?! would have been the wrong solution. 49...♞b8 (49...♞xe5+ loses by force 50.♔f2 ♞d3+ 51.♔g3 ♞g1+ 52.♔f3 and Black can't stop White from making a queen.) 50.♞d4+ (Compared to the game 50.♞c6? is losing now. 50...♞xc6 51.♞d4+ ♞xd4+ Black takes the knight on d4 with check! This is not the case in 49.♔d3.) 50...♔d7 51.e6+ ♔c7 Probably White is still doing better, but the position is far away from clear.]

49...♞b8 [49...♞xe5+ 50.♔d2]



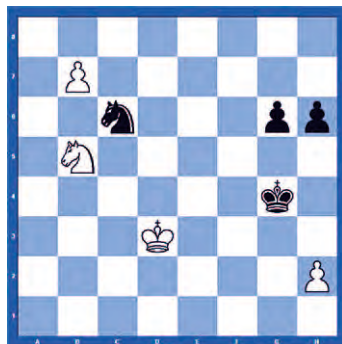
50.♞c6! Another great move by Bindrich! [To play 50.♞d4+ ♔d7 would lead to a much less clear position!]

50...♖d1+ This leads to a knight endgame with a pawn down, but Black doesn't have a better option. [The only other move that doesn't lose on the spot. 50...♖b1 51.♘bd4+ ♕d5 52.♘xb8 ♖xb7 53.♘bc6 White is on time to keep the e5-pawn. This is a winning position.;

50...♘xc6 51.♘d4+ ♘xd4 52.b8♔ I guess no words are needed here.]

51.♔c2 ♘xc6 52.♔xd1 ♔xe5 White is a clear pawn up, but the Black king is standing very strong on e5. There are only 3 White pawns on the board, which gives Black some drawing chances. White's idea to take the king to b7-pawn, which would force the Black king to give up his central position and allow the White king to dominate the board.

53.♔e2 h5!? Black is trying to at least exchange a pawn. [53...♔f4 Black is not in time for 54.♔d3 ♔xg4



55.♔e4 followed by ♔d5 with an easy win.]

54.♔f3?! What an unhuman decision. Everybody would prefer to keep the pawn un-exchanged, which would be the right choice of course. [54.g5! ♔f5 Black's only try ends in a forced losing position. 55.♔d3 ♔xg5 56.♔e4

♔f6 57.♔d5 ♘b8 58.♔d6 and Black is not on time. White is winning.]

54...♘b8 [Doesn't help 54...hxg4+ 55.♔xg4 ♔f6 56.♘d4 ♘b8 57.h4 followed by ♔f4, then ♔e4-Kd5 and ♘c6 with an easy win. Besides, White can win by playing ♔f4-Nf3-Nd2-Ne4 then ♔g5 and ♘g3-Ne2-Nf4, and the pawn on g6 is falling.]

55.h4 Of course a winning move, as 55.g5. All moves seem to bring White a full point.

55...♔d5 Desperation in a lost position. The Black king is going for the White pawn on b7, which of course gives him more than enough time to collect the g6 and h5 pawns.

56.g5 ♔c6 57.♘d4+ ♔xb7 58.♔e4! The White king starts his march to capture the Black pawns.

58...♘d7 59.♔d5 ♔c8 60.♔e6 ♔c7 61.♘f3 Super strong play by White — what else to say? Maybe even super-super strong... For Tregubov and his teammates, this seemed too strong and filed a protest for cheating. Since I know Bindrich, he usually plays fast and not very accurately, which of course would bring some doubts about his play. It was just too good, almost perfect!

1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Alekhine,Alexander — Yates,Frederick [D64]

London BCF Congress London, 1922

[*Balogh Csaba*]

A classical positional lecture by Alekhine, against one of the strongest players of that period. It's almost impossible to win such games nowadays.

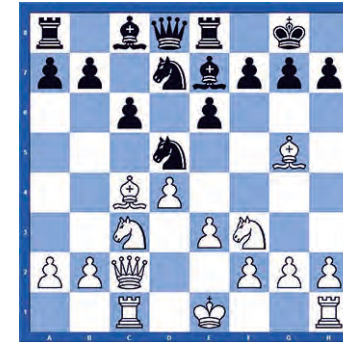
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♕e7 The Queen's Gambit has been a solid and popular opening always.

5.♕g5 0–0 6.e3 ♘bd7 Yates plays exactly the same set-up as the Smyslov-Hort game analyzed in a few CEWNs before. [As it was already mentioned there, Black should rather go for 6...h6 and after 7.♕h4 ♘e4 (or 7...b6)]

7.♖c1 c6 8.♔c2! Just as in the Smyslov game, Alekhine knows that he should make all the useful moves before developing the f1 bishop.

8...♖e8 9.♕d3 This is the difference. [Smyslov played 9.a3 which probably is even slightly more accurate, but the game continuation has no problems either.]

9...dxc4 10.♕xc4 ♘d5 Black's standard reaction. After exchanging on c3, he wants to free his position with the e5 break. White must react precisely.



11.♘e4? Alekhine found the right idea to keep the knights on the board, but executed it in the wrong move order. [11.♕xe7 ♔xe7 12.♘e4! was the right plan as Smyslov has demonstrated before.(12.0–0 ♘xc3 13.♔xc3 e5! is Black's equalizing idea.)]

11...f5? A horrible positional mistake. It is hard to get its point. Black creates many holes in his own camp, and an especially painful one on e5. Black remains with his bad light-squared bishop — its movement is completely restricted by his own pawns. [Four years later, Yates improved on his play by 11...♔a5+! 12.♕e2 and again went wrong with 12...♘7b6 (However, after 12...♕f8! preserving the strong dark-squared bishop followed by opening the position on White's king with e5, obtaining a perfect position.) 13.♕xe7 ♖xe7 14.♕d3 White was slightly better in Gruenfeld-Yates, Merano 1926.]

12.♕xe7 ♔xe7 13.♘ed2! This is the shortest way for the knight to reach the weakened squares.

13...b5? Another terrible positional mistake, giving up the c5 square as well. This was clearly a day off for Yates, probably he was scared of his great opponent. [13...e5 never works because of the f5 pawn.;

Black's best chance would have been 13...♘f6 14.0-0 ♕d7 with a passive and bad position, but White must work hard to break it. 15.♖fe1 The right idea should be a well timed e4 move, so the rook stands perfectly on e1. 15...♖f8 White can decide to initiate direct actions with 16.e4 (Or can first improve his position with the idea that Black doesn't have a useful plan anyway. 16.♘e5 ♕e8 17.a3) 16...fxe4 17.♘xe4 ♖xe4 18.♔xe4 White is better in both cases.]

14. ♕xd5 [14. ♕e2+/- was also possible, followed by ♘b3-c5, but Alekhine had a clear plan in mind — to play against the c8 bishop.]

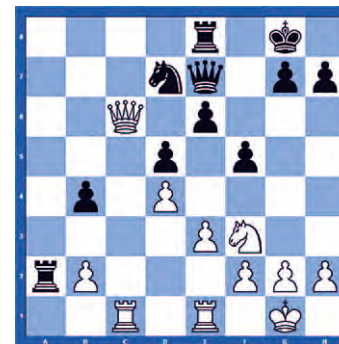
14...cxd5 15.0-0 We need great fantasy abilities to imagine a future for the c8 bishop. White's plan is clear, he wants to exchange one pair of knights and install the other one on e5. It's important for him to keep control over the c-file.



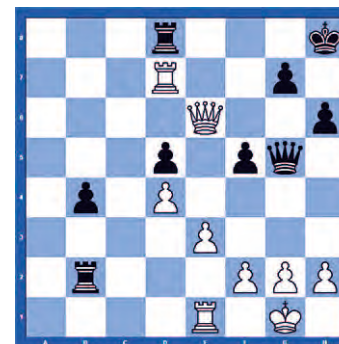
15...a5 16.♘b3 Continuing the plan with ♘c5. [16.♔c7 was slightly different to the game, but also very promising. 16...♕a6 17.♘e5 ♘xe5 18.♔xe5 ♖ac8 19.♘b3+/- with an overwhelming advantage.]

16...a4? After this move, the game is practically over. [The tactical 16...♕a6 was the last chance, but White can preserve his advantage in some very nice lines. 17.♘xa5

Black probably stopped here, but he can obtain some counterplay with 17...b4 18.♖fe1 ♕b5! The bishop is activated and Black wins back the sacrificed pawn. 19.♘c6! ♕xc6 20.♔xc6 ♖xa2 A very important moment to seize the initiative with



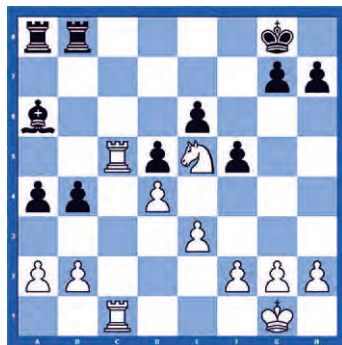
21.♖a1! With this pawn sacrifice, White takes control over the second open file as well. 21...♖xb2 Black is forced to take here, at least the b-pawn gives some hopes. (21...♖xa1 is bad 22.♖xa1 ♖a7 is coming next.; Black can't hold the a-file with 21...♖ea8 because of 22.♔xa8+ !+/- A very important detail!) 22.♖a7 ♖d8 Black has a really suspicious position, but there is no direct win, since 23.♘e5 is met with ♘xe5... The best is 23.♘g5! ♔xg5 24.♔xe6+ ♔h8 25.♖xd7 Black must waste a tempo to open his weak back-rank. 25...h6 We have reached the critical position of the whole line, where the computer suggests a fantastic idea...



26.h4!! It sacrifices a pawn in order to open the back-rank with tempo. 26...♔xh4 27.g3 White had to cover the f2 pawn before the action begins. 27...♔g5 28.♖xd8+ ♔xd8 29.♖c1! This is the point! White creates serious threats. 29...♔f6 30.♖c8+ ♔h7 and now White should accept to end up with only an extra pawn. 31.♔xd5 b3 32.♔g2 with the threat of winning the b-pawn after ♖b8, and on 32...♖b1 33.♔g8+! ♔g6 34.♔e8+! ♔h7 35.d5!! Black can't parry the idea of ♔g8 and ♖c6. 35...b2 36.♔g8+ ♔g6 37.♖c6 ♖g1+ 38.♔xg1 b1♔+ 39.♔h2+- with an easily winning pawn endgame. This is the end of our nice line that started with 16... ♔a6. :)]

17.♘c5 ♘xc5 18.♔xc5 ♔xc5 19.♖xc5 White achieved the maximum he could. He got the strong knight against the bad bishop endgame, with the control over the c-file. Additionally, Black has many weaknesses.

19...b4 20.♖fc1 ♔a6 21.♘e5 ♖eb8



22.f3! White doesn't need to hurry to convert the advantage. He can slowly improve all his pieces and pawns to the maximum. Black can only watch this.

22...b3 23.a3! Obviously, White doesn't intend to open another front for the battle.

23...h6 [Exchanging all the rooks leads to an easily winning endgame. 23...♖c8 24.♖xc8+ ♖xc8 25.♖xc8+ ♔xc8 26.♘d3 ♔d7 27.♘c5+- One of the pawns will fall.]

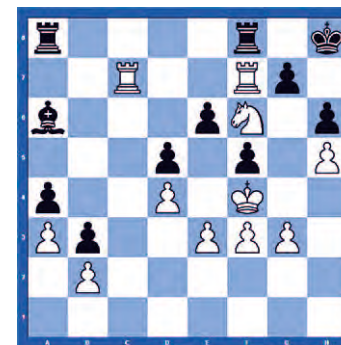
24.♔f2 ♔h7 25.h4! ♖f8 26.♔g3! Alekhine invades with his king on the dark squares. Black has nothing better than passing.

26...♖fb8 27.♖c7 ♔b5 28.♖1c5 ♔a6 29.♖5c6 ♖e8 All the Black pieces are sent into passivity.

30.♔f4 ♔g8 31.h5! ♔f1 32.g3 ♔a6 Black is almost in zugzwang in a full board. White has already reached the maximum activity, it's time to finish the game. Alekhine found a really beautiful way to do it.

33.♖f7 Doubling the rooks on the 7th rank.

33...♔h7 34.♖cc7 ♖g8 35.♘d7! ♔h8 36.♘f6! ♖gf8 And the final blow is



37.♖xg7! ♖xf6 38.♔e5!! A cool decisive move. To save the rook, Black must put one of his rooks on f8, but then mate is coming in two moves.

1-0

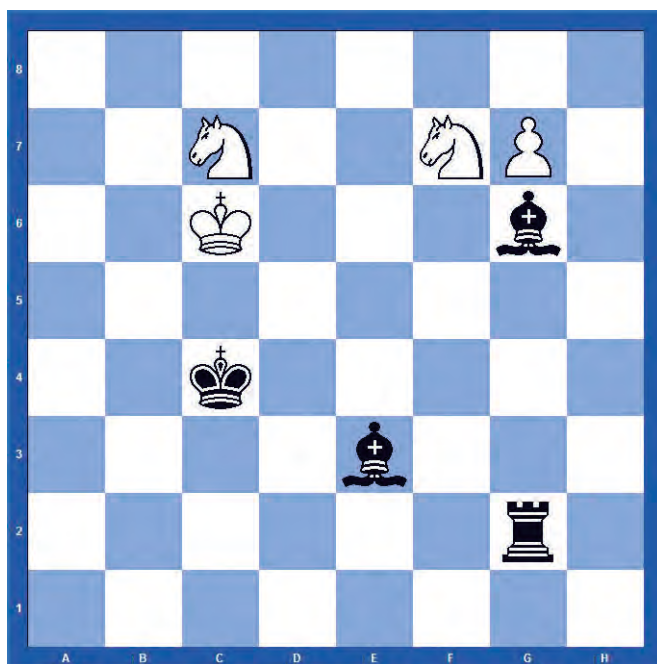
Surprise section / study

(18) Lazard,F

1923

[CEWN]

1.+-



Solutions

(19) Carlsen,M (2843) – Caruana,F (2772)

Bilbao tiebreak (blitz), 13.10.2012

[Solutions]



10.e5! ♖xg2 [10...dxe5 11. ♖xb7 exd4 12. ♖xa8 ♔xa8 13. ♖xd4+-]

11.exf6 ♖h3 [11... ♖d5 12.c4+-;

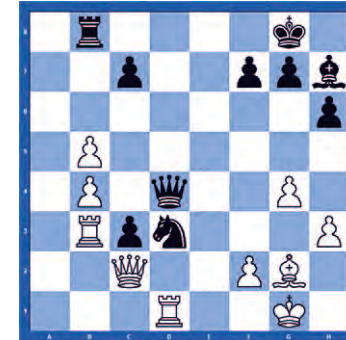
11... ♖b7 12. ♖xe6! fxe6 13. ♔xe6+ ♖e7 14.fxg7+-]

12. ♔h5! ♔xf6 **13. ♔xh3+-**

(20) Huzman,A (2591) – Riazantsev,A (2712)

European Club Cup, 11.10.2012

[Solutions]



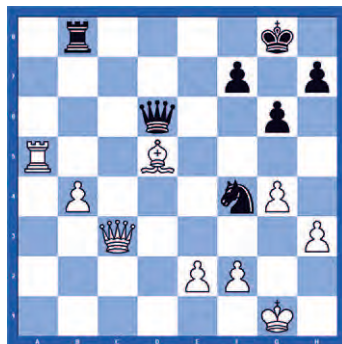
32... ♖f4! **33. ♔xh7+** [33. ♖xd4 ♖xc2 34. ♖xc3 ♖e2+ 35. ♖h2 ♖xd4 36. ♖c4 ♖e6 37. ♖xc2 ♖xb5=]

33... ♔xh7 **34. ♖xd4** ♖e2+ **35. ♖h2** ♖xd4 **36. ♖xc3** ♖xb5=

(21) Nisipeanu,D (2661) – Dimitrijevic,A (2270)

European Club Cup, 01.10.2012

[Solutions]



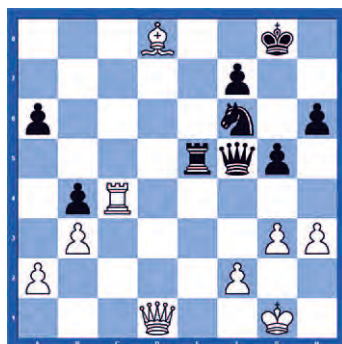
37. ♖xf7+! ♔xf7 38. ♖a7+ ♔e6 39. ♕c4+ ♔e5 [39... ♘d5 40.e4+-; 39... ♖f6 40. ♕f7+ ♔g5 41. ♖a5+ ♔h6 42.g5+ ♔h5 43. ♕xh7#]

40. ♖a5+ ♔f6 41.g5+ ♔g7 42. ♖a7+ 1-0[42. ♖a7+ ♔h8 43. ♕c3+ ♔g8 44. ♕g7#]

(22) Giri,A (2730) – Naiditsch,A (2704)

European Club Cup, 12.10.2012

[Solutions]



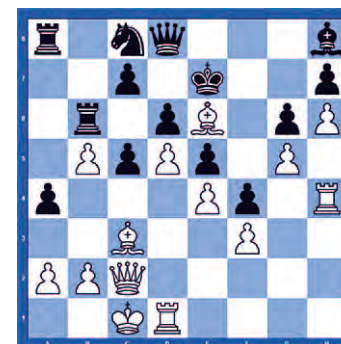
34... ♖d5! 35. ♖d4 ♘e4! 36.f3 [36. ♖xd5 ♕xf2+ 37. ♔h1 ♘xg3#]

36... ♕e5! 0-1[36... ♕e5! 37. ♖xd5 ♕xg3+-+]

(23) Korobov,A (2705) – Smirin,I (2638)

European Club Cup, 12.10.2012

[Solutions]



33. ♖xf4!! exf4 34. ♖g7!! ♘a7 [34... ♖xg7 35.hxg7+-;

34... ♔e8 35. ♖xh8 ♕xg5 36. ♕c3+-]

35. ♕c3+- ♕f8 36. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 37. ♕a5 ♖xb2+ 38. ♔c2 ♖a8 39. ♕xa4 ♖e5 40. ♖b1 1-0

(24) Nepomniachtchi,I (2704) – Bacrot,E (2705)

European Club Cup, 13.10.2012

[Solutions]



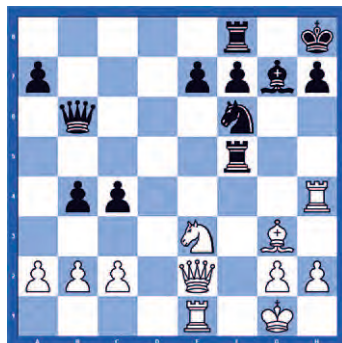
21. ♖xe5! ♜xe5 22. ♔f4! ♜he8 [22...d6 23. ♔b4+ ♙xa7 24.f4!+-]

23. ♔b4+! ♙xa7 24.f4! 1-0

(25) Williams,S (2496) – Palac,M (2600)

European Club Cup, 13.10.2012

[Solutions]



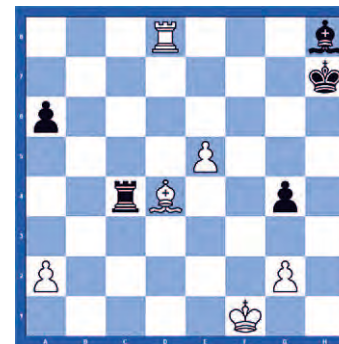
33. ♙c7! ♜xc7 [33... ♜c5 34. ♜xc4+-]

34. ♞xf5+-

(26) Sutovsky,E (2685) – Vogt,L (2397)

European Club Cup, 14.10.2012

[Solutions]

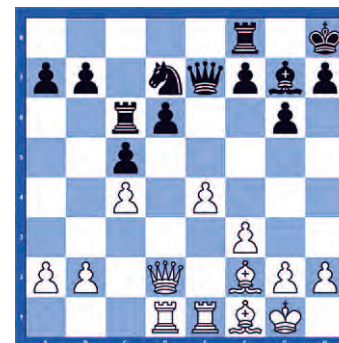


39.e6! 1-0

(27) Korobov,A (2705) – Teterev,V (2529)

European Club Cup, 14.10.2012

[Solutions]



22.e5! ♜d8 [22... ♞xe5 23.f4+-;

22...dxe5 23. ♜xd7+-]

23.exd6+-

(28) Caspi,I (2451) – Motylev,A (2655)

European Club Cup, 12.10.2012

[Solutions]



20...♘xf2!! 21.♖f1 [21.♙xd8 ♔b6! 22.♙xc7 ♘h3+ 23.♙h1 ♔g1+! 24.♘xg1 ♘f2#;

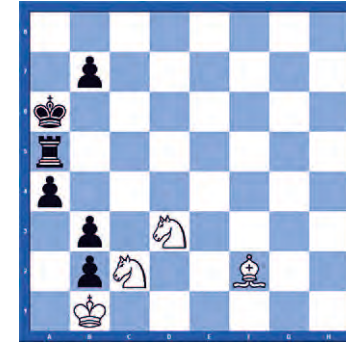
21.♙xf2 ♔b6+ 22.♙f1 ♘g4--]

21...♘fg4 22.♙xd8 ♖xd8 23.♘c3 ♔b6+ 24.♙h1 ♘f2+ 25.♖xf2 ♔xf2--+

(29) Troitzky,A

1935

[Solutions]



1.♘db4+! ♙b5 2.♘a3+!! ♔xb4 3.♙e1+! ♔xa3 [3...♙c5 4.♙xa5 b5 (4...b6 5.♙e1+-) 5.♙xb2 b4 6.♘b1+-]

4.♙xa5 b6 5.♙d2! b5 6.♙c3! b4 7.♙xb2# 1-0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 36

2nd of November 2012

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Editorial Preface

After a terrible play in the past events, Nakamura is winning very convincingly the Unive Chess Festival with 4,5/6 playing few very nice games. A nice game to watch is Nakamura-Tiviakov. After being so badly outplayed I guess Tiviakov had a few thoughts if actually chess is the right things to do ☺.

Chigorin Memorial has started, with a huge line up of Top GMs. Let's see who will be the lucky winner.

A lot of very strong rapid tournaments been nice to watch. Final French Rapid Grand Prix on Corsica, or the rapid before the open in Chigorin Memorial, same as Trophée Anatoly Karpov 2012 in which the World Champion himself is taking part and showing again great chess!

My partner Csaba is making at the moment holidays in the USA (good timing) with his girl friend Veronica, who is by the way a professional cook! (doesn't it sounds like a dream girlfriend?! ☺). But no worries, from the next week he is back to You with his "perfect and super" accurate analyses ☺, but this week You are all mine.

Have fun with the usual issue of CEWN Nr 36 and Happy Halloween!!

Arkadij Naiditsch

4 best games of the past week

(1) Bodnaruk,A (2425) – Almasi,Z (2707) [B32]

Chigorin Memorial 2012 St Petersburg RUS (2), 28.10.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

How a strong female player can beat a Top GM. This is the story of this game. We'll see a lot of mistakes, the game is clearly very emotional for both players... I guess after the game, Almasi and Bodnaruk were in shock for some time :).

1.e4 c5 Of course Almasi is playing for a win in this game, by choosing the most aggressive opening, the Sicilian.

2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4



4...♔b6!? This is a nice move to play for a win against a weaker opponent. There's not much theory here and objectively, the move is not bad. Polgar played it twice in a roll against Svidler, so that means something! The idea of ♔b6 is to get the knight away from d4 to b3, and then to play the usual Sheveningen set up. It has advantages and disadvantages...

5.♘b3 ♘f6 6.♘c3 e6 Until now all is theory...

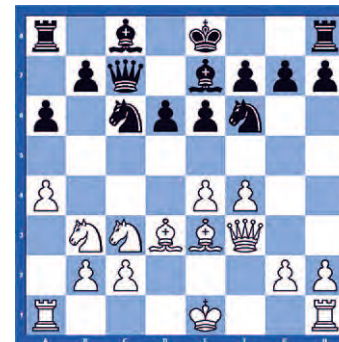
7.♘d3 A very normal move. [7.♔e2!? I personally think this is the best move! The idea is to castle long quickly and then to play g4 and ♘g2. I think this is a very interesting setup for White.]

7...♘e7 8.♘e3 ♔c7 9.f4 d6 As we can see this is an usual Sheveningen Sicilian, but with a knight on b3 instead of d4.

10.♔f3 White keeps both option open, to castle short or to castle long...

10...a6 Almasi doesn't hurry to castle short either. a6 is always an useful move for Black in any case.

11.a4?! It's hard to imagine that this should be the right way to go for White. I think it was time to castle long and play g4-g5. We have a typical Sicilian position — things are very concrete and very sharp!



11...♘b4! Typical and strong. It's very important for Black to exchange the bishop on d3. With this, White's future attack on the kingside is much less effective.

12.0-0 0-0 13.a5?! This move is not really useful for White. If White wanted to play g4, it was the right time to do it immediately.

13...♘d7 I think that until now, Almasi was very happy with the development of the game. Black is clearly not

doing worse and the position is complicated. There are good chances to outplay a weaker opponent.

14.g4! Not strong, but very brave! Bodnaruk shows no respect for her much stronger opponent and looks for chances in the attack. I think a smart decision. If You'll die, then do it with a scream!! :)

14...♘c6 Giving a square for the knight on d7.

15.g5 ♘d7 16.♔h5 We have quite a typical position and White is at least 1 tempo down. Almasi continues making standard moves.

16...g6 17.♔h6 ♖fe8! I guess Almasi played this move too quickly, and I would have done the same. ♖fe8 is a standard defense against the direct attack on the king. Black is freeing the f8 square for the bishop, and at the same time, after White's f5, the rook on e8 will get directly into the game.

18.♖f3 ♘f8 19.♔h4 ♘g7 And Black is even on time for ♘f8.

20.♖h3 ♘f8 It seems like Black is doing very good. Everything is defended, the exchange on d3 can't be avoided.



21.f5! Bodnaruk is fearless! I think a preparation move like 21.♖d1 would have been a worse continuation. As I know

from my own games, it's much easier to play against an opponent who shows respect than against somebody who is „crazy“ and just goes for Your king. In most cases, Almasi would win such a position, but in some others, a 0 might be a deserved result :).

21...exf5 22.exf5 ♘xd3 23.cxd3 gxf5 Black doesn't allow White to play f6. So what we have: Black is a pawn up, has the bishop pair and White's king is weaker... but Bodnaruk is not stopping her attempts to mate the Hungarian Super-GM.

24.♖f1 ♔d7 No reason to give back the pawn.

25.d4 But Almasi makes the choice. [At 25.♘d4 ♘e5! is very strong. White has no play at all...]

25...♘e4?



26.♘d2! It's clear that before 26.♘d2, Almasi was already sure that he had a full point, and suddenly he blunders this move... a very bad feeling. What to do now? Whites wants to play ♘dx4 followed by ♘d5.

26...♘c6 [At 26...♘d3 27.♘d5! and White is mating Black. 27...♘xf1 28.♘f6+ ♘xf6 29.gxf6 with mate in a couple of moves.]

27. ♘c4 White is completely back in the game. The threat ♘b6-Nd5 is very dangerous and psychologically, Almasi is feeling like a sheep in front of closed gates :). I know it all myself, it happened to me many times...

27... ♖e7 28. ♘b6 ♖ad8 Correct play by Black, avoiding any loss of material.

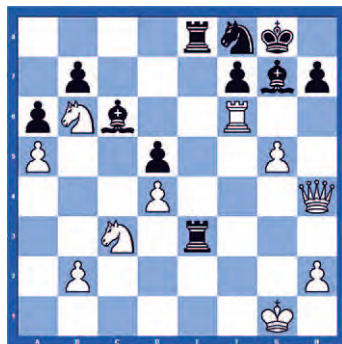
29. ♖xf5 [It's not winning to play 29. ♘bd5 ♕xd5 30. ♘xd5 ♖e4! and Black is OK.]

29... ♖e6 30. ♖f2 d5 31. ♖hf3 ♖e7 We have a very complicated position. It's hard to say who is doing better here, and I guess that by now both players were in a slight time trouble.

32. ♖g3 ♖de8? Black makes a mistake under pressure... I guess Almasi intended to give up his queen, but I don't think it was the right way to continue the game. [32... ♖g6 This move would have been the right choice. The position remains very complex.]

33. ♖f6! Forcing Black to give up the queen.

33... ♖xe3+ 34. ♖xe3 ♖xe3



35. ♘bxd5! In such a position it's very easy to go wrong, but Bodnaruk is playing very strongly, following the rule: if You don't know what to do, get some material.

35... ♘g6 36. ♖g4 ♖d3 Black's pieces are active and the position looks complicated, but in fact, Black has no real threats and White's material advantage is very big.

37. ♖f1 Solid move. [37.h4 Maybe this was another possibility for White, but in the time trouble it's risky to let the Black rook enter on e1.]

37... ♖d2 38.h4! Just a great move! Nothing to say, h5 is a deadly threat.

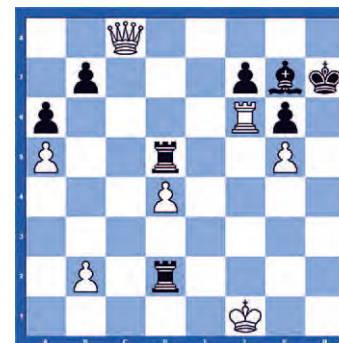
38... ♖d8 It's hard to advice something better for Black.

39.h5! White is not getting irritated.

39... ♕xd5 40. ♘xd5 ♖xd5 41.hxg6 The time trouble is over and with it, almost the game..

41...hxg6 [Would lose on the spot: 41... ♕xf6 42.gxh7+ ♖xh7 43.gxf6 with mate on g7, or Black will be forced to give up one of his rooks.]

42. ♖c8+ ♖h7



43. ♖f3! Another very good move. White is forcing further exchanges, simplifying the position into a technically winning one.

43... ♖xg5 The only move to avoid losing the game on h3.

44. ♖h3+ ♖h5 45. ♖xh5+ gxh5 46. ♔xb7 White is winning, but Black still has practical chances.

46... ♖xd4 47. ♔xa6 ♖f4+ 48. ♔e2 ♙xb2 If it would be possible to give the bishop for the a-pawn, the position would be a draw! K+R+pawn on f7 against K+Q is a draw.

49. ♔b5! The last exact move. White doesn't give Black a chance to play ♙d4.

49... ♙f6 [49... ♙d4 50. ♔xh5+ ♔g7 51. ♔g5+ and the rook on f4 is falling.]

50.a6 ♖e4+ 51. ♔f3 ♖e7 52. ♔b6 And Black cant stop White's move on the a-file... What a game! From move 26, White played a brilliant game, almost perfect, solving many difficult decisions in a great way. It's clear that Bodnaruk is very talented and has a lot of potential for improvement.

1-0

(2) Halkias,Stelios (2581)

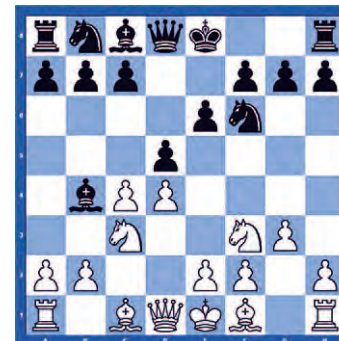
– Lenderman,Aleksandr (2614) [D02]

Chigorin Mem Rapid St Petersburg RUS (7.4), 26.10.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

This is a game from the rapid tournament during the Chigorin Memorial. The first 20 moves of the game are quite unclear, but then Halkias starts a very interesting mating attack with some sacrifices. All in all, a nice attacking win by White.

1.d4 ♘f6 2. ♘f3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.g3 ♙b4+ 5. ♘c3 [5. ♙d2 is of course the main move, but it seems that nobody knows at the moment how to get an advantage here. The line that Halkias chose is quite a practical decision, especially for a rapid game.]



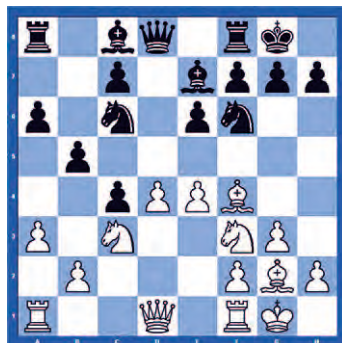
5...0-0 6. ♙g2 dxc4 7.0-0 White sacrifices a pawn for a better development and the center. The position is very unclear.

7... ♘c6 8.a3! Of course this is still theory, and 8.a3 is clearly the most fighting move. [We can find a lot of games on 8. ♙g5 h6! 9. ♙xf6 ♔xf6 but I think White should not have big hopes to reach any kind of advantage here. Now, against White's a3, Black will just play ♙xc3 followed by e5.]

8... ♖e7 [To take with 8... ♗xc3 9.bxc3 could be dangerous for Black. White could follow the plan with ♔c2-e4-e5 and get a very dangerous kingside attack.]

9.e4 a6 The right move. Black is preparing to play b5 to protect the pawn on c4, and to develop the bishop to b7. [We can find some games on 9... ♘a5 10. ♔e2 a6 11. ♗f4 b5 12. ♖ad1 which leads exactly to the position in the current game — just with a different move order.]

10. ♗f4 b5



11. ♔e2! White should try to develop in the „best“ possible way, and this is to have a Queen on e2 and the a-rook on d1.

11... ♗b7 [11... ♘xd4 would be a very risky decision for Black. 12. ♘d4 ♔xd4 Now White has 2 options: 13. ♖ad1 (13. ♗e3 After this move, we face quite a strange position. 13... ♔d3 14. ♔xd3 Of course White can also try 14. ♔e1 — the position is very complicated. 14... cxd3 15.e5 ♘d5 16. ♘xd5 exd5 17. ♗xd5 ♖b8 18. ♗a7 ♗f5 19. ♗xb8 ♖xb8 A very difficult endgame to evaluate... but probably it should be around equal.) 13... ♔a7 14.e5 It's time to collect some material back. 14... ♘d5 15. ♘xd5 exd5 16. ♗xd5 ♗b7



17.e6! I don't know if White is doing clearly better, but for sure he's not worse. and Black needs to play quite precisely to get a draw here.]

12. ♖ad1 White's main idea is to play d5.

12... ♘a5 Now d5 can't be played, but in exchange the Black knight on a5 is out of the game.

13.h4 The right plan! White's play should clearly be on the kingside. Another option for White could be to play 13. ♖fe1 (preparing the d5 push) ♗e8 and 14. ♘e5 with unclear play.

13... ♘b3 14. ♗g5?! The next two moves by Halkias are hard to understand... It seems like he wanted to provoke Black to play h6, but is it worth losing a tempo? I don't think so. [To play 14. ♖fe1 ♗e8 15. ♗h3 with g4 next might be an idea.]

14...h6 15. ♗f4 [15. ♗xf6 ♗xf6 16.e5 ♗e7 White can't do anything concrete, but White still has hopes for an attack and I think it is a feasible option.]

15... ♖e8 16. ♖fe1 ♗f8 A normal move, but I think Black could have tried: [16...c5!? In general, this is Black's main idea in many lines. 17.dxc5 ♔c8 and Black is going to

recover the pawn on c5. With a bit of luck, maybe even ♖xc5-Nd3 could be possible. I think Black is doing clearly better here.]



17.e5! White needs to do something.

17...♞d5 18.♞e4 We can see that Black's h6 is quite useful for White, but again, it was reached with the high cost of one tempo.

18...c5 Black starts to crush White's position. White has his back against the wall... He needs to do something forced now, or the game is over.

19.♙g5 ♖b6 20.♞f6+!? I guess that in a normal game this kind of attack would not be successful, but in rapid it's a great move, especially if the position is bad anyway...



20...gxf6? Giving White good attacking chances. [20...♞xf6! This move seems to finish the game on the spot. 21.exf6 hxc5 22.♞xc5 gxf6 and I think White is pretty hopeless...]

21.exf6! If You say A, You must say B.

21...hxc5? Very greedy — but it's not easy to play with Black here.

22.hxc5 Black is two pieces up. It seems like it should be a clearly winning position for Black — but how?! White's „easy and deadly“ threat of playing ♞e5-Qe5 is very difficult to be stopped. I guess there aren't many players that would like to be Black here, especially in rapid chess.



22...♞e7 This is not a good move, but which one is the right one? [In case of 22...♞xd4? 23.♞xd4! White has nothing to lose! 23...cxd4 24.♞e5 White wants to play g5 or ♖h5. 24...♖c7 25.♖h5 with a mating attack!; 22...♙d6! Logical move, but anyway the position remains very sharp. 23.♞e5 ♙xe5 24.dxe5 The position is still not that clear. 24...♞e7! 25.♖h5 ♞d4 and it seems like Black's knights are holding the position, but... 26.♞xd4! cxd4 27.g4! and the deadly threat of ♖h6 gives White a full point.]

23. ♖e5 ♘g6 24. ♔h5 White is totally in a rush to attack!

24... ♘h8 After this move, White's position is winning!
[But also 24... ♖xe5 25. ♖xe5 bringing the rook into the attack 25... ♔c7 26.g6 wouldn't give Black any escape!]



25. ♖xf7! Very pretty. Black is 3 pieces up, and in a lost position!

25... ♖xf7 26. ♔g6+ ♔h8 27. ♖xf7 Black has no defensive ideas against White's g6 move.

27... ♕h6 28.g6 What a pretty attacking game. By playing 20...gxf6? instead of 20...♖xf6!, Black had to agree to get a 0 instead of a 1 in the cross-table!

1-0

(3) Popilski, Gil (2475)

– Grigoriants, Sergey (2578) [B12]

Chigorin Memorial 2012 St Petersburg RUS (3.11), 29.10.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Usually we comment games with „big names” and great play, but let's make a little exception this time. This game was basically over in just 11 moves! White used a great trick.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.f3 Lately, we more often see 3.f3. The idea of this move is very simple, to keep the White center alive, which is good of course. However, with the f3 move, White's king is getting slightly more open and Black has a possibility to play quickly against White's center.

3...e6 [3... ♖b6 4. ♘c3 dxe4 5.fxe4 e5 I guess this is the most critical line, which leads to very sharp positions.]



4. ♘c3 b5?! It's hard to imagine that this kind of move can be good... [4... ♕b4 5. ♕d2 ♘e7 with very normal play for both.]

5. ♖d3 Good and natural move. Black wanted to play b4, and then dxe4 fxe4 followed by ♔h4+. The White pawn on e4 would fall.

5...b4 [5...♘d7 would still be a much safer option than what happened in the game. Black is clearly under-developed, and should not try to provoke actions on the board.]

6. ♘a4! The White knight is quite nicely placed on a4 and what is very important, it stops Black from playing c5.

6...♘d7 7. ♘e2 ♔a5 Black is following his plan, but this plan doesn't look good at all...

8.b3 ♘b6 This was Black's idea — hoping to provoke White to take with 9. ♘xb6 and then to take with axb6, but even then we can clearly see that White is much better developed and has a very simple plan to castle short and to play e5-f4-f5, or an immediate f4-f5. All of this looks quite dark for Black.

9. ♘c5! I like this move a lot. Popilski is completely crushing the idea behind Black's play.



9...e5 A desperate attempt to look for complications. [In case of 9...♖xc5 10.dxc5 ♔xc5 11.a3! is very strong

now! Black doesn't have a good reaction... 11...♘f6 (11...a5 12. ♖b2 ♘f6 13. ♖d4 and the knight on b6 is falling.) 12. ♖b2 and it's nice to see how White's pieces are dominating the game. White, of course, has more than enough compensation for just a pawn.]

10.a3! Great move by White! I guess Black missed completely White's idea, which we will see on the next move. This kind of trick can be often used in many different openings, when Black has his queen on a5.

10...exd4



11. ♖d2!! Just fantastic! Black can resign.

11...♔xc5 [11...♖xc5 12.axb4; 11...♘d7 12.axb4 just leads to a hopeless position.]

12. ♖xb4 The Black queen is trapped.

12...♔xb4+ 13.axb4 ♖xb4+ 14. ♔f2 ♘e7 With just two pieces for the queen, Black has no objective chances of saving the game. But let's anyhow take a look at the technique used by White. Often, to win an „easily“ winning position is a hard piece of work.

15. ♖xd4 0-0 **16.** ♔c1 White is giving some material back to simplify the position. This idea is often used, but it wasn't really necessary now. [To first play 16. ♖a2 wouldn't have been a bad choice either.]

16... ♗c3 **17.** ♘e2 ♗xa1 **18.** ♔xa1 Now Black already has a rook+knight for the queen, which gives some theoretical chances for a draw. If Black manages to exchange the pawns on the queenside, the position would be quite close to a draw.



18...c5? Black panics. [18... ♖e8 with a very bad position, but the sun doesn't always shine... it's also very important to defend in bad positions. In average, it can bring a lot of „bonus“ points.]

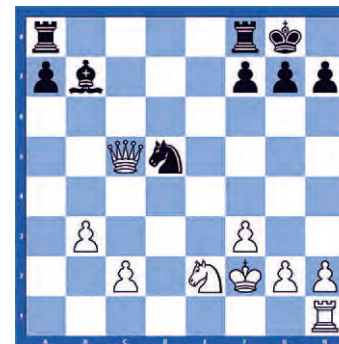
19. ♔a3! The finishing move! Black will lose one more pawn.

19... ♘d7 **20.** exd5 ♘xd5 **21.** ♗e4 And the c5 pawn is falling.

21... ♘f6 [21... ♗b7 22.c4]

22. ♗xd5 ♘xd5 **23.** ♔xc5 Now there aren't even practical hopes... Everything works for White and as we know, a queen and a knight cooperate very well together.

23... ♗b7



24.c4! White's pawns on b3-c4 are cutting the Black knight.

24... ♖fc8 **25.** ♔a3 ♘b6 **26.** ♖d1 The last White piece is in the game.

26... ♗c6 **27.** ♖d6 ♗e8 **28.** ♘d4 What a sad game for Black! It's a good example of how important it's in chess to first take care of the development of Your own pieces. This must be done before starting hard actions in the center... Things can go wrong very fast! And what a great idea by Popilski: to play a3 followed by ♗d2!

1-0

(4) Swiercz,Dariusz (2609) – Socko,Monika (2445) [E12]

M.Chigorin Memorial 2012 St. Petersburg (4.18), 30.10.2012
[Kamil Miton]

A game between two of my friends, which is a good example to learn interesting ideas. We can note that Swiercz, who is a young talented player, time to time cooperates with Socko. Let's see what happened:

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.a3 The Petrosian System is not as popular on the top level as it was a few years ago, but it still shows many good examples to learn many strategic ideas in different positions.

4... ♗b7 5.♘c3 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 A rare answer that leads to a comfortable Carlsbad structure for White. The main move is [6... ♘xd5 7.♖c2 Other big lines are : (7.e3; 7.♗d2) 7... ♗e7 8.e4 ♘xc3 9.bxc3 0-0 10.♗d3 c5 11.0-0 ♖c7 (11... ♖c8 12.♖e2 ♗a6 13.♖d1 ♗xd3 14.♖xd3 ♘d7 15.e5 Black managed to exchange the light-squared bishops, but now the rook will join the attack on the 3rd rank.) 12.♖e2 ♘d7 A critical position. Black's position is very solid, without any weaknesses, but thanks to his better center and a potential pressure on the kingside, White has the advantage. One of the plans is to play h4-h5, with the idea of creating some weak squares around the Black king.]

7.♗g5 ♗e7



8.♖a4+ ♗c6 Strange move. Black agrees to lose a tempo. [8... ♘bd7 looks more natural. 9.e3 a6 (9...0-0 10.♗a6! (10. ♗b5 a6 11.♗c6? b5) 10... ♗xa6 11.♖xa6 White's position is very pleasant because Black's queenside structure is very weak after the bishop exchange.) 10.♗xf6 ♗xf6 11.♗d3 c5 (11...0-0 12.♗f5 and Black has problems with the knight on d7. 12...c6 13.♘xd5 b5 14.♘xf6+ ♖xf6 15.♖c2+-) 12.dxc5 bxc5 13.♗f5 g6 14.♗h3 ♖c7 15.♖d1 ♗xc3+ 16.bxc3 f5 The only way to castle, but now even after castling, the Black king will be weakened. 17.0-0 0-0 18.g3 ♗c6 19.♖b3 and white is bit better 1/2-1/2 Wang Yue-Adams, M/Liverpool ENG 2007/The Week in Chess 670 (30).; 8...c6 9.e3 0-0 10.♗d3 ♖e8 11.0-0 ♘bd7 12.♖ac1 a6 Typical preparation before pushing c5. 13.♖fd1 ♗d6 14.♖b3 h6 15.♗h4 White's pieces are optimally placed and on time. Now it's very hard for Black to play on c5. 15...♗c7 16.♖c2 ♗d6 17.♗h7+ Another typical trick. Before the bishop goes to f5, White puts the Black king on a worse square. 17...♔h8 18.♗f5 ♘f8



19.e4! A thematic crushing move! White doesn't care about the isolated pawn on d4 because Black is not able to take control of the d5 square. White gets a decisive initiative. 19...dxe4 20.♘xe4 ♗e7 21.♘e5 ♖g8 22.♗xf6 ♗xf6 23.♘xc6 ♗xc6 24.♖xc6 ♗g5 25.♖c2 g6 26.♗g4 ♖xe4 27.♖xe4 f5 28.♗xf5 gxf5 29.♖xf5+- and White is

easily winning. 1–0 Wang Yue-Ljubojevic,L/Amsterdam NED 2008 (38).]

9.♔c2 0–0 10.e3 ♘b7 11.♙d3 ♞bd7 12.0–0 c5 13.♖ad1 c4 [13...a6 14.dxc5 bxc5 15.♙f5 With a typical pressure against Black's central pawns. At some moment, White can try to push e4.]

14.♙f5 Very often, even without c4 and g6, the White bishop transfers to h3.

14...g6 15.♙h3 ♞h5 16.♙h6 Logical move. White will need pieces to put pressure on the kingside. [16.♙xd7 ♜xd7 17.♞e5 ♜e6 18.♙xe7 ♜xe7 19.f3 and after the exchanges, White doesn't have any more possibilities to put pressure against the Black king. The plan with e4 probably is not dangerous for Black, because after dxe4, his pieces get active: the bishop on b7 and the rooks on the d- and e-files.]

16...♜e8 17.♜a4 This move seems to be bad because the queen is badly placed on a4. It doesn't support the kingside and comes under attack after a6-b5, but Swiercz's idea is very concrete: he's going to get the e5 square for the knight. Paradoxally, he could play: [17.♞e5 ♞xe5 (17...f5 creating additional weaknesses, but probably is the only move.) 18.dxe5 ♙c5 The pawn on e5 is hanging. White can't play f4 or e4. Probably Swiercz missed



19.♞xd5! ♙xd5 20.♜c3 A very strong move which is hard to see. White simply protects the pawn and Black can't avoid e4. (20.e4 ♜xe5) 20...b5 21.e4 ♞f6 22.e6 fxe6 23.♖fe1 with a strong attack.; 17.b3!? cxb3 18.♜xb3 and this structure is usually pleasant for White, thanks to the weak d5 pawn.]

17...♞df6 18.♞e5 ♙d6 19.f4 White's position is improving. The knight is located well on e5. White slowly is getting ready to attack with g5-f5.

19...a6 [19...♙c8 Of course the idea to exchange the light-squared bishops and to take control of e4 and f5 doesn't work. 20.f5 White has a strong attack. 20...gxf5 21.♙xf5 ♙xe5 22.dxe5 ♜xe5 23.♙b1→]

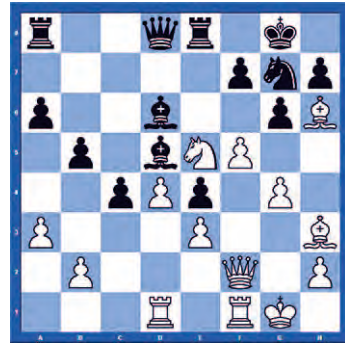
20.♜c2 b5 Yes, it's normal that Black is trying to get some counterplay on the queenside, but in this case it looks too slow.

21.g4 White had other good moves as well. [21.♙g5 A very unpleasant pin. 21...♙e7 22.f5→]

21...♞g7 22.♜f2 White's queen already came back from a4 to the kingside, where it's connected to the attack.

22...♞e4 It's logical that the Black knight is escaping from the f-file, which will be open soon. [22...♞d7 23.f5 ♙xe5 24.fxg6 hxg6 25.♜xf7+ ♙h7 Black's idea was to recapture with 24. ..hxg6 in order to have this square for the king. 26.g5 ♜e7 (26...♜f8 27.dxe5 ♜xf7 28.♜xf7 ♜b6 29.♜xg7+ ♙h8 30.♜d4 ♞xe5 31.♜e7 ♞f3+ 32.♙g2 ♞xd4 33.♙g7+ ♙g8 34.♙xd4 and White's pieces are too strong.) 27.dxe5 ♞xe5 28.♜f4 White keeps a strong initiative, but Black gets some possibilities to get counterplay.]

23.♞xe4 dxe4 24.f5 ♙d5 To protect f7.



25.f6?! A concrete and risky move. It's strange that White is closing the f-file because his queen and rook were ready to put pressure there. Now White's idea is to look for mate on g7 or over the h-file. White had, at least, one better option: [25.fxg6 fxg6 26.♘f7 ♔e7 27.♘xd6 ♔xd6 28.♔h4 ♖f8 29.♙f4 Thanks to the control over the dark squares, White's position is better.; 25.g5↑ This also looks promising for White.]

25...♞e6 26.g5



26...♞c7? The decisive mistake. Black missed a good chance to get good counterplay. [26...♙xe5! 27.dxe5 ♞c5 The knight is coming to the strong d3 square. 28.♔h4 (28.e6 ♞d3 29.exf7+ ♙xf7 Without the pawn on f7, it's easier

for Black to parry the threats on g7.) 28...♞d3 29.♙g7 (29.♙f8 ♖xe5 30.♙e7 ♖xe7 31.♔h6 ♔f8 32.♔xf8+ ♙xf8 33.fxe7+ ♙xe7 and Black is winning.) 29...♔b6 30.♖fe1 ♖xe5 31.♔h6 This idea is only enough for a draw. 31...♔c5 32.♙h8 ♔f8 33.♙g7 ♔c5=]

27.♞xg6! Nice hit! Now White is winning over the h-file. [27.♞g4 The idea of giving mate on h6 is artificial. 27...a5 28.♙g7 h5 A typical nice trick that we can meet in many sharp positions. 29.gxh6 ♙h7 Now the White pawn on h6 becomes a helper of the Black king! 30.♔h4 b4 White's pressure is already stopped, and probably Black is better thanks to his initiative on the queenside.]

27...hxxg6 [27...c3 28.♞h4 cxb2 29.♞f5+- Without the pawn on g6, nothing can help Black.]

28.♙xe6 ♙xe6 29.♔h4 ♙xh2+ 30.♙g2 ♔g3+ 31.♔xg3 ♙xg3 32.♙xg3 Black is not able to avoid mate on the h-file.

32...♖ad8 33.d5 Not the only move, but the most practical. White doesn't allow his opponent to put the rook on d5, because after ♖h1-Bg7, Black has some defensive ideas with ♖xg5-Rh5.

33...♙d7 34.♙f4 ♙h3 35.♖h1 ♙g2 36.♙g7 A good logical game!

1-0

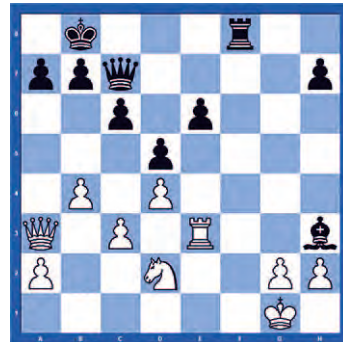
Puzzle section

(5) Timmersmans,I (2254) – Timman,J (2578)

Unive Open, 23.10.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(6) Riemersma,L (2420) – Van Kampen,R (2570)

Unive Open, 24.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

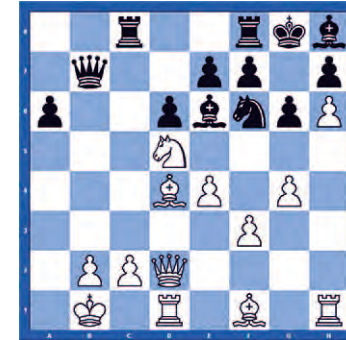


(7) Van Kampen,R (2570) – Afek,Y (2312)

Unive Open, 25.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



(8) Massoni,M (2381) – Short,N (2707)

Corsica (rapid), 27.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

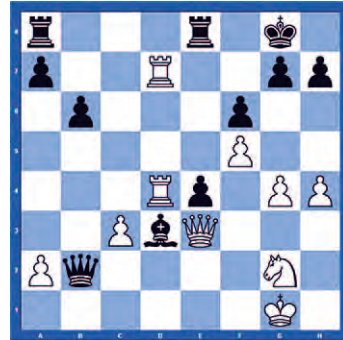


(9) Brkic,A (2575) — Vaisser,A (2540)

Corsica (rapid), 27.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

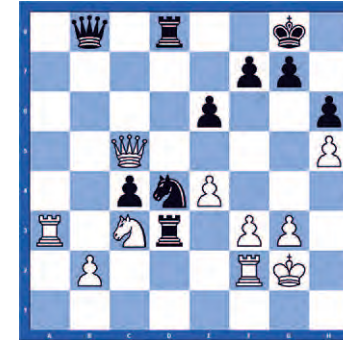


(11) Nikolic,P (2638) — Quesada Perez,Y (2604)

Barcelona, 26.10.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

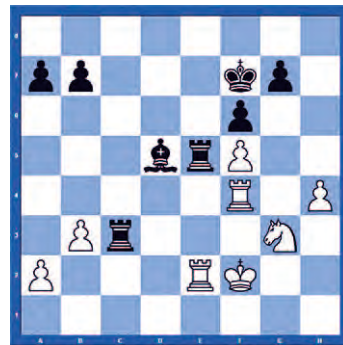


(10) Sokolov,I (2690) — Aroshidze,L (2560)

Barcelona, 23.10.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

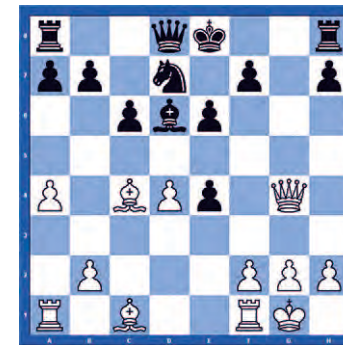


(12) Peralta,F (2593) — Felgaer,R (2579)

Marcel Duchamp memorial, 24.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+/-



(13) Gelashvili,T (2578) – Shankland,S (2597)

USA league, 22.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



(14) Prusikin,M (2545) – Caruana,F (2767)

Suisse league, 21.10.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



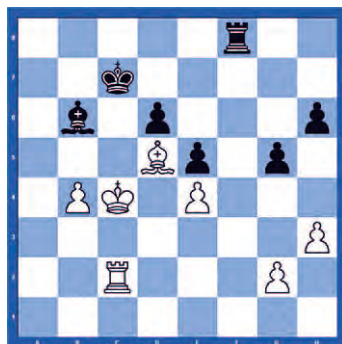
Endgame section

(15) Hou,Yifan (2623)

– Nakamura,Hikaru (2775) [B53]

16th Unive Crown Hoogeveen NED (5), 26.10.2012

[Chess Evolution]

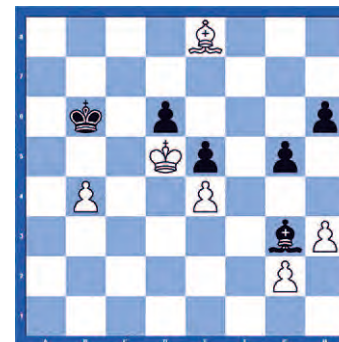


At first sight, the position looks like a dead draw. Pawns are equal, just a few pieces are left on the board, and it seems like the exchange of rooks is unavoidable. But in fact, things are much trickier and Nakamura had a few long thinks before shaking hands with her opponent. Let's take a closer look at this endgame.

48...♖f2 49.♖xf2 White has no other choice. In case of 49.♖c1, ♗e3!; and in case of 49.♖c3, ♗d4! pushing the White rook away from the c-file.

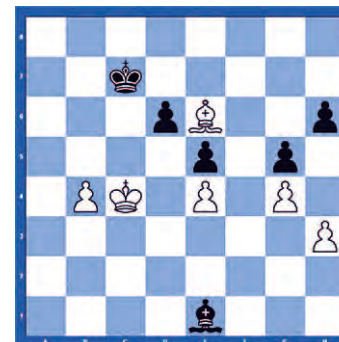
49...♗xf2 So, what could be White's idea here?! I see only one, to bring the king to g6 and get the h6 pawn; then, to create a passed pawn on the kingside and probably win the game. Black wants to play h5, so White has 2 options: to play 50.g4 or 50.♗f7.

50.g4! [50. ♗f7 To keep the pawn on g2 could be useful for White, but can he avoid Black from playing h5, protect the pawn on b4 and go to h6 with the king? Not an easy task! 50... ♗g3 Here are different moves that make a draw, but all with the same idea. 51.♔d5 ♔b6 52. ♗e8



52...h5! That's the key move. Black is giving away the h-pawn to get his king to the b-pawn. 53. ♗xh5 (53.♔xd6 h4 54.♗e6 ♔c7 55.♗f5 ♗f4 and the bishop on f4 is holding both pawns, it's an easy draw.) 53...♔b5 54.♔xd6 ♔xb4 55.♗e6 ♔c5 56.♗f5 ♗f4 57.g3 ♗xg3 58.♔xg5 ♗d6 59.h4 ♗e7 The Black king is on time, so it's an easy draw.]

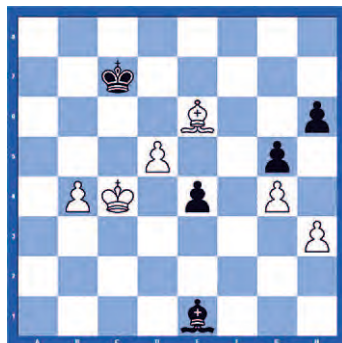
50...♗e1 51. ♗e6



51...d5+?! Is this rushed reaction really needed? Let's take a look at what would happen in case of a passive defense... [51...♙d2 52.b5 ♙e1 53.♚d5 ♙d2 54.♙f5 ♙e1 55.♚e6 ♙f2 56.♚f6 ♙e1 Black just keeps on waiting. 57.♚g6 ♙f2 58.♚xh6 ♙h4 59.♚g6 ♚b6 60.♚f6 ♚c7 61.♙e6 ♚b6 62.♚e7 ♚c7 63.b6+ White has nothing better than to exchange the b-pawn for the d-pawn. 63...♚xb6 64.♚xd6 ♙g3 65.♚e7 ♚c5 66.♚f6 ♚d6 67.♙b3 ♙f4 and of course, the position is a complete draw.]

52.exd5 The only chance to play for a win. [52.♙xd5 ♚d6 leads to an immediate draw. Black keeps the bishop on e1 until White moves b4-b5. Then, he'll put the bishop on b6. 53.♚b5 ♙d2 54.♚a4 ♙e1 55.b5 ♙d2 56.♚b3 ♙a5 57.♚c4 ♙b6 58.♚b4 ♚c7 59.♚c4 ♚d6 As we see, White can't do anything...]

52...e4 That's Black's idea: to exchange the e-pawn for White's b-pawn.. . but a pawn sacrifice is always risky. A passive defense is usually better if You can't see a clear winning plan for Your opponent.



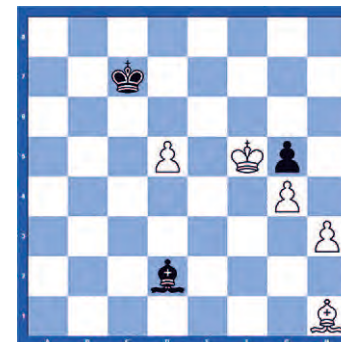
53.♚d4 [At 53.b5 e3! 54.♙f5 (54.♚d3? This move gives Black a quick draw. 54...♚b6! forcing the White bishop to a very bad square on c6. 55.♙d7 ♚c5 56.♙c6 ♙d2 and

White can't improve his position.) 54...♙a5 Black is taking his bishop to b6. 55.♙d3 ♚d6 56.♚d4 ♙b6+ 57.♚e4 ♙a7 58.♙c4 ♙b6 Black just keeps on waiting... On White's 59.♚f5 ♚c5 he loses one of his pawns.]

53...♙xb4 54.♚xe4 It seems like Black is very close to the desired result...

54...♚d6 55.♚f5 The White king is going to collect the h6-pawn. Black still needs to fight for a draw.

55...♙a5! [Can Black hold the draw with a bishop on h4? 55...♙e1 56.♚g6 ♙h4 57.♚xh6 ♚e7 58.♚g6 ♚d6 59.♚f6 Black is in zugzwang and the Black king needs to leave the d6-square. 59...♚c5 60.♙g8 Before starting the action, it's important for White to bring the bishop to the a8-h1 diagonal. (60.♚e7 ♙g3 61.h4! A clear fact: An extra pawn does matter! 61...gxh4 62.g5 h3 63.♙xh3 ♚xd5 64.g6 ♙e5 but luckily Black is just in time to stop the White pawns.) 60...♚d6 61.♙f7 ♚c5 (To hold the king on c7 is losing as well: 61...♚c7 62.♚e6 ♙g3 63.♙g6 ♙f4 64.♙e4 The usual maneuver. White is bringing his bishop to the a8-h1 diagonal in order to stop Black's h-pawn and to protect the d5 pawn at the same time. 64...♙g3 65.♙h1 ♙f4 66.♚f5 ♙d2



67.h4 The usual winning plan. **67...gxh4 68.g5 ♖d6 69.♔f6 ♜c3+ 70.♔f7** and White is winning.) **62.♔e6 ♜g3 63.♜g6 ♜f4 64.♜e4 ♜g3 65.♜f3 ♜f4 66.♜g2 ♜g3** and finally **67.h4!** with an easy winning position for White.]

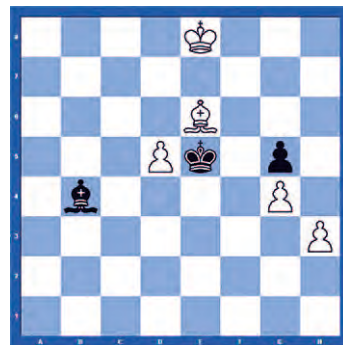
56.♔g6 ♜d8 57.♔xh6 White is 2 pawns up and h4 is coming next. Black's position is on the edge of being lost.

57...♔e5! A strong move by Black. If White manages to comeback with the king to e4, and then to bring the bishop to h1 and play ♔f5 followed by h4, Black would be lost.

58.♔g6 [White is not winning after **58.h4 gxh4 59.g5 ♜xg5+ 60.♔xg5 h3** and the exchange of the last pawn brings the draw,]

58...♜e7 Again, the only move.

59.♔f7 ♜b4 60.♔e8



60...♔d6! Exact move by Black, again. Of course Black shouldn't allow the White king to come in contact with the d5 pawn by playing ♔d7-Kc6.

61.♜g8 ♜d2 And it seems like Black saved the game. White can't improve her position.

62.♔f8 [62.♔d8 ♜f4 63.♔c8 ♜d2 64.♔b7 ♜e3 The Black bishop is not allowing the White king to play over b6 to c4. **65.♔a6 ♔c5!** and now the Black king is cutting the way. The position is a draw.]

62...♜a5 63.♔g7 ♔e5 64.♔g6 ♜d8 The rest of the game is not of interest anymore. The position is a draw. As we could see, from a close to drawn position, a Top 10 player had to find very precise moves to save the game. Opposite-colored bishop endgames can be very tricky!

65.♔g7 ♜e7 66.♔f7 ♜b4 67.♔g6 ♜e7 68.♜e6 ♜d8 69.♔f7 ♔d6 70.♔e8 ♜a5 71.♔f7 1/2

(16) Shimanov,Aleksandr (2599)
– Hayrapetyan,Hovik (2450) [D02]

Chigorin Memorial St Petersburg RUS (4.6), 30.10.2012

[Chess Evolution]



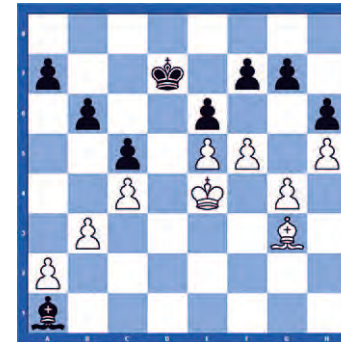
A very interesting endgame. It's clear that White is doing better, but the question is how much better. In fact I think that to defend this endgame is not easy at all!

25...♙xd4 26.♔f1 White is taking his king to d3, after which he will start pushing the pawns of the kingside. This is very logical.

26...♚f8 Black starts to move the king to c7 in order to protect the bishop on b7, a very normal plan. To play with the closed bishop on b7 forever is not an option.

27.♔e2 ♙e7 28.g4 ♚d7 29.♙g3 White is freeing the f-file for the f-pawn to go forward. In the best case, until it gets to f6.

29...♗c5 Black is putting the bishop in „defensive” mode on e7. Let's take a look at what would happen if Black keeps the bishop on the a1–h8 diagonal. [29...♗a1 30.♗e4 ♔c7 31.f4 c5 32.♔d3 ♗xe4+ 33.♔xe4 ♔d7 Until here, all the moves were more or less „standard”, and it's already too late for Black. 34.f5!



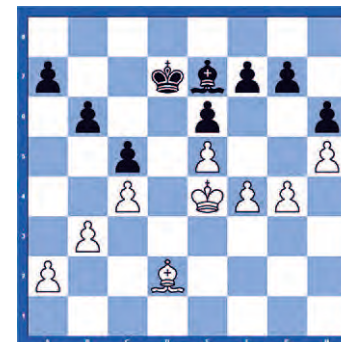
White wanted to play ♗f4 and f6. Another tactical way to go could be g5, and at Black's hxg5, to play f6! The Black bishop on a1 is very badly placed and doesn't help in the defense. Wrong choice!]

30.♗e4 ♗e7 Black is putting the bishop on e7 with the idea of stopping White from playing g5, and against White's f5, to play ♗g5.

31.f4 ♔c8 32.♗e1! Good move by White. Before starting the final action, White needs to take his bishop to the c1–h6 diagonal.

32...c5 Finally ...

33.♔d3 ♗xe4+ 34.♔xe4 ♔d7 35.♗d2 I think this is the critical moment. White wants to play f5, followed by f6. Can Black do something against it?!



35...♔e8? A terrible move! [35...♙d8 36.f5! Usually, this is the right way to break the Black defense. (36.g5 ♘e7 37.gxh6 gxh6 38.f5 ♙f8 and it looks like a draw.) 36...exf5+ 37.gxf5 could be met with 37...f6! In many lines, this is Black's only hope. 38.♙c3! (38.♔d5 only leads to a draw. 38...fxe5 39.♔xe5 ♙f6+ 40.♔d5 ♙a1 41.♙f4 ♙f6 and I think that Black can save the game. It's hard to find a way for White to improve his position. I see only on chance, to play: 42.♙e5 ♙xe5 43.♔xe5 ♔e7 and Black got the opposition. 44.a3 a6 45.a4 (45.b4 cxb4 46.axb4 a5) 45...a5 46.♔d5 ♔d7 47.♔e4 ♔e8 and Black is holding.) 38...♔c6 39.exf6 ♙xf6



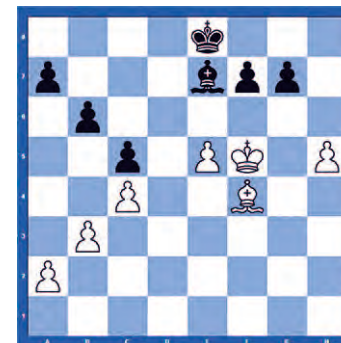
40.♙e5! and it seems like White is winning! 40...♔d7 41.♙xf6 gxf6 42.♔d5 and this time Black is the one who is running out of tempos. 42...a6 43.a3 a5 44.a4+-; 35...g6!! This would have been the right move to save the game! 36.g5 (This doesn't give anything for White: 36.hxg6 fxg6 37.f5 gxf5+ 38.gxf5 exf5+ 39.♔xf5 h5 This looks like an easy draw.) 36...♙f8! The only move that saves Black, but one move is enough!]

36.f5! And we can officially say that the game is over. White can even choose amongst different ways to finish his opponent.

36...♙f8 37.g5! [It was not too late for 37.f6? g5! and Black is back in the game. 38.hxg6 fxg6 with a draw.]

37...exf5+ 38.♔xf5 hxg5 39.♙xg5 ♙e7 [It doesn't help to play: 39...♔d7 40.e6+! A nice and standard motif. 40...fxe6+ 41.♔g6 ♔e8 42.♙f4 and Black can't do anything about ♙e5-Bxg7. White is winning.]

40. ♙f4 The game is over...



40...♔f8 [40...♔d7 The usual 41.e6+ fxe6+ 42.♔g6 ♙f6 and 43.h6 The game is over.]

41.e6 ♙d8 42.exf7 ♔xf7 43.♙b8 Now Black is falling into a very easy zugzwang.

43...a6 44.a4 a5 45. ♙e5 White is waiting for the Black bishop to leave from d8 in order to play ♙c7 and collect all the pawns. What a nice endgame by White. From now on, we know that in similar positions with closed pawn structures, a move like g6! can save the game.

1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Smyslov, Vassily (2620)
— Penrose, Jonathan (D19)

Amsterdam ol (Men) fin-A Amsterdam (2), 13.09.1954

[Balogh Csaba]

An incredibly high quality game, where the 7th World Champion had to show his best to win the game because his British GM opponent fought extremely well. We must add that this game was the creator of the whole theory in this particular line. Theory still considers it as best until around move 23, but here the players found all the very hard moves over the board, which are confirmed by the strongest computers now.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 dxc4 Black chose the Slav defense, which is very popular recently on all levels.

5.a4 ♗f5 6.e3 [6.♘e5 is the other main line.]

6...e6 7.♗xc4 ♗b4 8.0-0 0-0 9.♖e2 ♘bd7 10.e4 ♗g6 11.♗d3 This is generally the basic position of the 6.e3 line, where Black has a wide range of choices.



11...c5 A very sharp and suspicious move, but it seems to be playable if somebody carefully checks it with the machines. [11...♗h5 is the main move, which leads to a more calm play. 12.e5 ♘d5 13.♘xd5 cxd5 14.♖e3 and here again Black has various different possibilities. Probably the best is 14...♗e7! followed by the improvement of the knight with ♘b8-c6, where it will be perfectly placed. Here it controls the b4 hole and puts pressure on the d4 pawn.]

12.e5! This is the critical line. The complications arise now.

12...cxd4 13.exf6 [13.♘a2 does not win a piece because of 13...♘d5]

13...dxc3 14.fxg7 ♖xg7 Black has an extra pawn, but his king is weakened and his pieces are slightly misplaced.

15.♖d1 White must play actively to have enough compensation.

15...♖c7 Interesting statistics show that after this game nobody repeated this line for 46 years with Black. Now it's completely back, thanks to the machines.

16.bxc3 [The other line is 16.♗xg6 hxg6 17.♖d4! The rook is very useful on the 4th rank, it might win back the pawn with ♖c4 and can be switched to the attack with ♖h4. Theory already knows the best reaction for Black. 17...♗d6! It looks like blundering a piece after 18.♖d1 but Black has (18.♖c4 ♖a5 19.♖xc3 ♖ac8 20.♗d2 ♗b4 leads to a drawish position.)

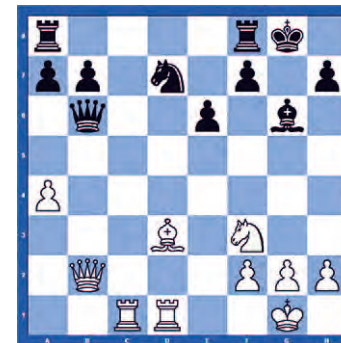


18...c2! 19. ♔d2 ♕g8! Preventing the ♔h6-Rh4 threat. 20. ♖xd6 ♘c5! White must parry ♘b3. 21. ♖a3 ♖ad8! Black gets enough counterplay because of the back-rank. 22. ♖d4 (22. ♖xd8 ♖xd8 23. ♔xc2 is refuted nicely by 23... ♘b3!! and Black wins.) 22...e5! 23. ♖xd8 ♖xd8 24. ♔e3 (24. ♔xc2 loses again to 24... ♘b3!) 24... ♖d1+ 25. ♘e1 and here 25... ♘e4! is the key move, preventing the ♖c3 threat and the idea is ♔a5. The active black rook and the c2 pawn give Black an advantage.]

16... ♕xc3 17. ♕b2!? Smyslov tries to obtain positional compensation, but on the other hand, the exchange of pieces take Black closer to a draw.

17... ♕xb2 18. ♔xb2+ ♕g8 [Computer gives a good alternative with the illogical 18... ♘f6!? pinning his own knight, but White can't use this with 19. ♘e5 (19. ♖ac1 ♖b6 Black holds.) 19... ♖ad8 20. ♘g4 because of 20... ♔f4]

19. ♖ac1 ♘c5! Only move! The pin is not dangerous, because Black always has b6. [19... ♖b6 loses to the hidden



20. ♔a3!! The d7 knight is hanging and on 20... ♕xd3 this is the only move, but this seriously weakens the Black king, since the g6 bishop was a good defender. White can launch a winning attack now. (20... ♖fd8 21. a5!+- completely unexpectedly traps the queen.; 20... ♘f6 21. a5!+- traps the queen again.) 21. ♖xd3 ♖ad8 22. ♖b3 ♔a6 23. ♘g5! The rook joins the attack along the 3rd rank. 23... ♘e5 24. ♖g3 ♘g6 25. ♔f3!+- After White successfully regrouped his pieces on the kingside, Black can't hold the threats.]

20. ♕xg6 hxg6 21. ♖d4! The rook is perfectly placed on the 4th rank. It could be used on h4 and on c4 as well.

21... ♖ac8 22. ♖h4 e5! Black had to win some time to consolidate his position by giving back the pawn.

23. ♖hc4 [23. ♘xe5 was an interesting alternative. Black has to find 23... ♖b6 ! when the game will be drawn. If White keeps the queens on the board, then Black will play ♖f6 securing his king's position. (The tactical trick 23... ♘xa4 allows a counter-combination.



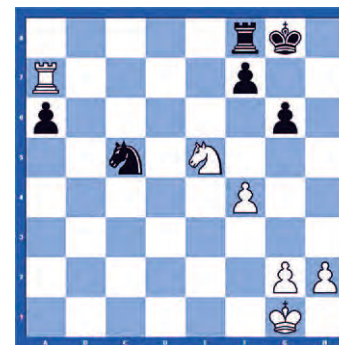
24. **Rf8+!!** It is possible to blunder such moves. 24... **Kh7** ! The only move. Otherwise, the knight gives a discovered double-check. (24... **Kxh8?** 25. **Nxg6+!** **Kh7** (25... **Ng8** 26. **Wh8#**) 26. **Nxf8+ Rxf8** (26... **Ng8** 27. **Rxc7+-**) 27. **Wb1+!+-** This is the point, and the queen falls.) 25. **Rxc7** **Nxb2** 26. **Rxc8 Rxf8** 27. **Rc7!** and here similar endgames to the one in the game arise.)]

23... Nd3? This is a mistake. Black has probably underestimated the forthcoming endgame... [23... **Ke7** was the right move. 24. **Wxe5** (24. **Nxe5** is bad because of 24... **fe8**) 24... **Wxe5** 25. **Nxe5** **b6=** and soon the players need to shake hands.]

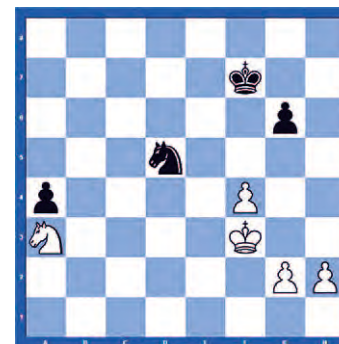
24. Rxc7 Rxc7 25. Rxc7 Nxb2 26. Nxe5 Nxa4 [26... **Re8** White opens the back-rank with 27.f4 This leaves the f7 pawn unprotected.]

27. Rxb7 a6 28. f4 Nc5 29. Ra7 Here we are! Black probably thought that this is an easy draw with 3 against 3. Even if Black drops the a-pawn and exchanges the knights, the 3 vs 2 rook endgame is a clear theoretical draw. However, the situation is by far not easy. First of all, Black cannot exchange the knights. Then, he is deprived of any active counterplay because of the pressure on the

f7 pawn. Actually, I have found only one solution to solve this very difficult moment.



29... Kg7? Well, I am not 100% sure, but maybe after this logical move, Black is already lost in this endgame. At least I could not find any defense for him. [The way to draw was 29... **Rd8!!** White is forced to enter a knight endgame with and extra pawn. 30. **Nxf7 Rd7!** 31. **Rxd7** **Nxd7** 32. **Nd6** Black's a-pawn lures the knight from the kingside. 32... **a5** 33. **Nc4** **a4** 34. **Qf2** **Nb6!** sending the knight to passivity. 35. **Na3** **Nd5** 36. **Qf3** **Qf7** This position arises more or less by force after 29... **Rd8**. White has no real winning chances without the knight, and the if the king goes to the a-pawn, Black can attack the pawns...



37.♔e4 ♘f6+ 38.♔d4 ♔e6= and ♔f5 next saves the game.]

30.♔f2 White needs to activate his king and then start to squeeze Black by advancing the pawns. It's very instructive to watch how Smyslov increases his advantage.

30...♔f6 31.♔f3 [It was possible to start with 31.h4 depriving Black from his counterplay with g5.]

31...♔g7 Black prefers the waiting policy. [31...g5 Objectively, this doesn't help because of the subtle maneuver 32.♖c7! ♘e6 33.♖b7! ♘d7 is the threat. 33...♔g7 (33...♘c5 Now White has 34.♖b6+ Black only has bad moves.) 34.f5 White manages to keep the 3 pawns on the board.]

32.h4 ♔g8 [Even if Black tries to give up the a6 pawn in order to activate his rook with 32...♘e6 White can even allow Black to go ahead with his plan. He can simply continue his own with 33.g4]

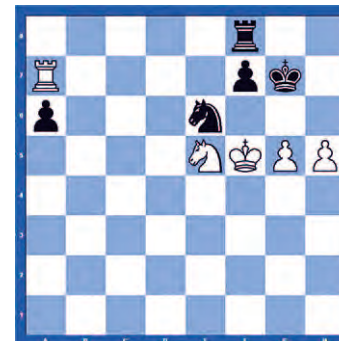
33.g4! ♔g7 34.g5! The squeezing is getting more and more unpleasant in each move.

34...♔g8 35.♔g4 ♔g7 [On 35...♘e4 even 36.♖xa6 ♖d8 37.♘xg6!+- is about to be winning.]

36.f5! White exchanges one pair of pawns, but he keeps all the advantages he had before and wins the game with the h- and g-pawns.

36...gxf5+ 37.♔xf5 ♘e6 [37...♔g8 also loses to 38.h5 ♘e6 39.h6! ♘c5 40.g6! The Black king cannot escape from the mating net. One nice finish could be 40...fxg6+ 41.♔xg6 ♘e6 42.h7+ ♔h8 43.♖a8! Not the only, but the nicest way to victory. 43...♘f4+ 44.♔h6 ♖xa8 45.♘f7#]

38.h5 The game is over now. White's pieces are excellently cooperating with each other.



38...♘d4+ 39.♔e4 ♘e6 [39...♘b5 doesn't change anything. 40.♖d7+- The knight is cut from the game.]

40.h6+! ♔g8 41.g6! The pawn storm has reached Black. His pieces are disturbing each other. Different kinds of mating ideas are in the air.

41...♘d8 [41...fxg6 42.h7+ ♔h8 43.♘xg6#]

42.♘d7 ♖e8+ 43.♔d5 [Black resigned in view of 43.♔d5 ♖e6 Otherwise, ♘f6. 44.h7+ ♔g7 45.gxf7 A great lesson by Smyslov!]

1-0

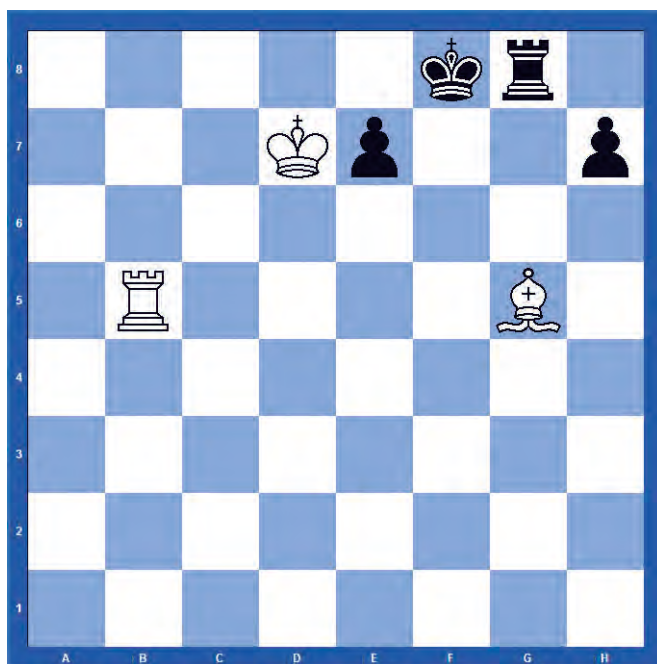
Surprise section / study

(18) Troitzky,A

1909

[CEWN]

1.+-



Solutions

(19) Edouard,R (2664) – Svetushkin,D (2597)

European Club Cup, 11.10.2012

[Solutions]



33. ♖f6!! ♜d1+ [33... ♙xh6 34. ♜xh6+-]

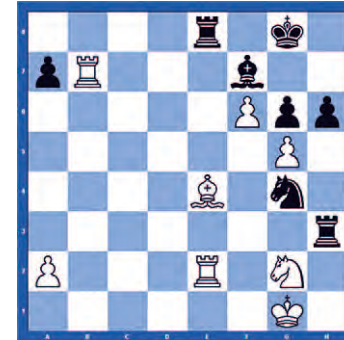
34. ♔h2! ♚c7+ [34... ♚d6+ 35.g3 ♙xh6 36. ♜xh6 ♔e8 37. ♜xd1! ♚xd1 38. ♜h8+ ♔d7 39. ♜d8+-]

35.g3 ♙xh6 36. ♜xh6 1-0[36. ♜xh6 ♔e8 37. ♜xd1 ♜d6 38. ♜xd6 ♚xd6 39. ♜h8+ ♔d7 40. ♜d8+-]

(20) Svidler,P (2747) – Ponomariov,R (2735)

European Club Cup, 15.10.2012

[Solutions]



34. ♙d5! ♜xe2 35. ♙xf7+ ♔f8 [35... ♔h8 36. ♜b8+ ♔h7 37. ♙g8+ ♔h8 38. ♙c4+-]

36. ♙xg6! ♜e8 37. ♜f7+ ♔g8 38. ♜g7+ ♔h8 [38... ♔f8 39. ♜g8+! ♔xg8 40.f7+-]

39. ♜h7+ 1-0[39. ♜h7+ ♔g8 40.f7+-]

(21) Efimenko,Z (2689) — Motylev,A (2655)

European Club Cup, 15.10.2012

[Solutions]

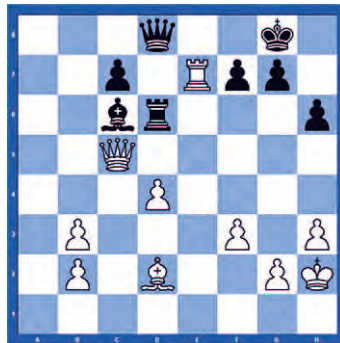


35... ♖f2! 36. ♗g5+ ♔h8 37. ♖f6+ ♔g8 38. ♗g6+ ♔h8
39. ♖h6+ ♔g8=

(22) Smirin,I (2638) — Morozevich,A (2758)

European Club Cup, 16.10.2012

[Solutions]

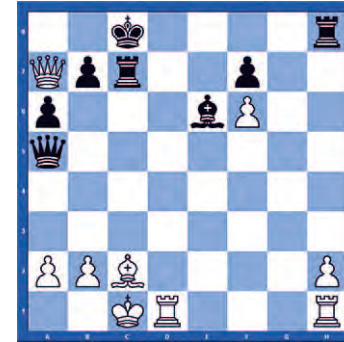


38. ♖xc7! ♗xc7 39. ♗f4+-

(23) Boruchovsky,A (2435) — Navara,D (2722)

European Club Cup, 16.10.2012

[Solutions]



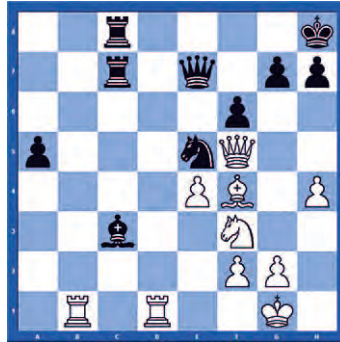
25... ♖xc2+! 26. ♔xc2 ♗f5+! 27. ♖d3 [27. ♔c1 ♗c7+!
28. ♔d2 ♗c2+ 29. ♔e3 ♖h3+ 30. ♔f4 ♗e4+ 31. ♔g5
♗g4#; 27. ♔b3 ♖h3+--]

27... ♗xd3+ 28. ♔xd3 ♗d5+ 29. ♔c2 ♗c6+ 0-1[29...
♗c6+ 30. ♔b1 (30. ♔b3 ♖h3+; 30. ♔d2 ♖d8+) 30... ♗xh1+]

(24) Kasimdzhanov,R (2690) – Stojcevski,Z (2325)

European Club Cup, 16.10.2012

[Solutions]



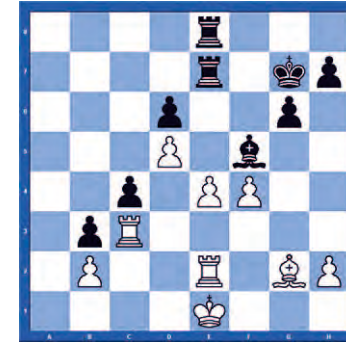
27. ♖b7!! ♜d8 [27... ♜e8 28. ♖xc7 ♜xc7 29. ♖c1!+-; 27... h6 28. ♜xc8+! ♜xc8 29. ♖xe7+-]

28. ♖xd8+ ♜xd8 29. ♖xc7 ♜xc7 30. ♞g5! g6 31. ♜xf6++-

(25) Ponomariov,R (2735) – Radjabov,T (2792)

European Club Cup, 17.10.2012

[Solutions]



35... ♜xe4! 36. ♜ce3 c3!! 37. ♜xe4 [37. ♜xe4 ♜xe4! 38. ♜xe4 ♜xe4 39. ♜xe4 cxb2-+]

37... ♜xe4 0-1[37... ♜xe4 38. ♜xe4 (38. ♜xe4 ♜xe4! 39. ♜xe4 cxb2-+) 38... cxb2!-+]

(26) Maki,V (2383) – Bacrot,E (2705)

European Club Cup, 17.10.2012

[Solutions]



35...♖xd4! [35...fxg3?! 36.f4! gxh2+ 37.♔h1 ♕xe5 38.♙xe5↪]

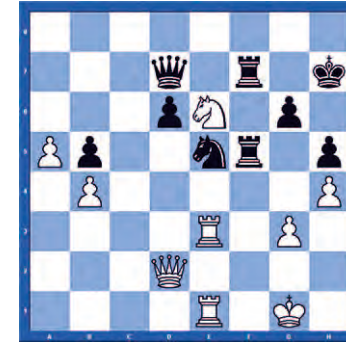
36.♕xd4 fxg3! 37.♖xc7 gxh2+ 38.♔h1 ♕g3!! 39.♕c3 [39.b6 ♖a2!-+; 39.e5 ♖a2!-+]

39...♖d8! 0-1

(27) Koneru,H (2607) – Bronnikova,E (2244)

European Club Cup, 15.10.2012

[Solutions]



48.♖xe5! dxe5 [48...♕a7+ 49.♖5e3+-; 48...♖xe5 49.♖xe5 dxe5 50.♘f8+!+-]

49.♘f8+! 1-0

(28) Mista,A (2543) – Pruijssers,R (2519)

German league, 20.10.2012

[Solutions]



19. ♖xd6! ♙xc2+ [19...cxd6 20. ♚e7+-]

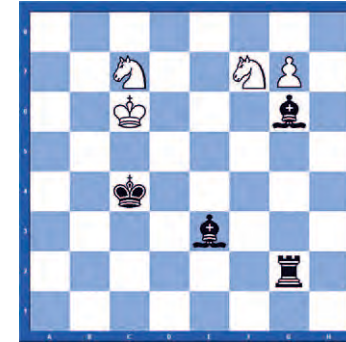
20. ♚c1!? [20. ♚a1! ♙b3 21. a3 cxd6 22. ♚e7 ♙f7 23. ♖g1!+- ♙b3 24. ♘e4! ♖xa3+ 25. bxa3 ♚xa3+ 26. ♚b1 ♚b3+ 27. ♚c1+-]

20... ♙f5 21. ♖d2 ♚xa2 22. ♘e4±

(29) Lazard,F

1923

[Solutions]



1. ♘e5+! [1.g8 ♚? ♙e4+-+]

1... ♚d4 [1... ♚c3 2. ♘d5+ ♚b3 3. g8 ♚+-; 1... ♚b3 2. g8 ♚++-]

2. g8 ♚! ♙e4+ 3. ♚d6 ♖xg8 4. ♘b5# 1-0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 37

9th of November 2012

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Editorial Preface

The main event from last week was the Chigorin Memorial. A very big open in St Petersburg with A. Shirov as the number one seed. After a very fighting tournament, the 1st–2nd places were shared by A. Areschenko and B. Socko with 7,5/9 points. A really great result for such a strong field. With 7/9, there was a big group sharing from 3rd–11th places, with A. Shimanov being the lucky one to take the 3rd.

Another less strong German Open in Bad Wiessee was won by Livu Dieter Nisipeanu, who won the first 6 games and drew the last 3. It was a pity for him that these 3 draws gave another players the chance to catch him up, so finally 6 players had 7,5/9. The second place went to I. Khenkin and 3rd to I. Nyzhnuk.

The Spanish league has just begun, with a lot of 2 700 players participating in it.

And the main news of the issue!!! Csaba Balogh is back from his trip: China, America, Austria and Hungary. He's more or less in a normal shape (he just complains a bit about lack of sleep), but this of course doesn't stop him from giving You already "the usual" supreme analyses for the CEWN Nr 37!

Have fun
Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Shirov,Alexei (2718) – Cori,Jorge (2522) [C67]

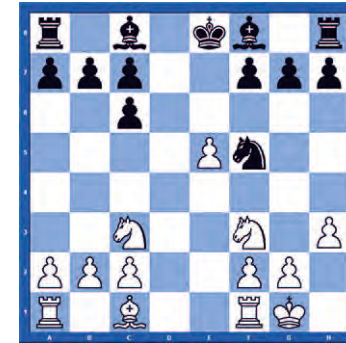
Chigorin Memorial, St Petersburg RUS, 02.11.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

A nice crush of the Berlin defense by Alexei Shirov. We'll see that even in this really positional opening, which transfers immediately into an endgame, he plays true to his style and finds interesting tactical motifs. The game shows many typical ideas of this opening.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 4.0-0 ♗xe4 5.d4 ♘d6 6.♙xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♗f5 8.♚xd8+ ♚xd8 We have reached the famous Berlin endgame, which is very popular since Kramnik easily neutralized Kasparov's White games in their World Championship match in 2000. Usually, weaker players employ it to make a draw against strong GMs, but a deeper study shows that it's excellent for playing to win as well. A few normal-looking moves, but inaccuracies might quickly pass the initiative to Black.

9.♘c3 ♙e8 10.h3 This is the main line. A very useful move. Its idea is to use the kingside pawn majority in the future by playing g4. On the other hand, White must be careful with this move because if it comes too early, Black gets very strong counterplay with h5.



10...b6 A tricky sideline introduced by Kramnik on the highest level in some shorter time control games. [Definitely the main is 10...h5 which is very often seen nowadays.]

11.♖d1! A precise reaction, avoiding Black's trap. [The most logical 11.♙f4 would fall into the whole idea of the b6 setup. 11...♙b4! 12.♘e4 ♙a6! and White is forced to make some awkward rook move, since the obvious 13.♖fd1 is refuted by 13...♙e2!]

11...♙b7 [Now on 11...♙a6 refreshing the ♙b4, ♙e2 idea. White plays the prophylactic 12.a3! ♖d8 13.♙f4! with a small advantage. This is a known idea in the Berlin for White: to play for the e6 break and achieve a favorable pawn structure. The game also demonstrates this well.]

12.♙f4 ♖c8 Black prepares for the e6 break. This looks very ugly, but it was actually played twice by Carlsen, so it should not be underestimated. However, nobody has repeated it since 2010, which is a clear sign that something is wrong with it...



13.e6! It has been played only once before, but it seems to give a small but lasting advantage for White. We meet this sacrifice very often. It aims to improve White's structure. At this moment, White is only a little material down, since he can launch a quick attack to regain the pawn by Ng5 and Re1 .

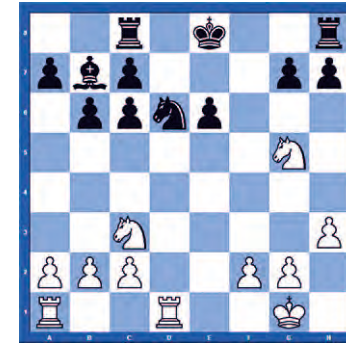
13...fxe6 [13... Qd6 is another typical reaction by Black, but now it does not lead to equality. 14.exf7+ Kxf7 15. $\text{Ne5}+$! Black is facing an unpleasant decision. 15... Qe6 is met with 16. Re1 , while 15... Qf6 moves into Ne4 . 15... Qf8 (15... Qxe5 16. Qxe5 This endgame is very far from equality. White's bishop is stronger as it presses the c7 weakness. 16... Rhe8 17. $\text{Rd7}+$ Re7 18. $\text{Rad1}+=$) 16. $\text{Ne4}+=$]

14.Ng5 Qd6 Black tries to give back the pawn and solve his structural problems, however Shirov introduces a strong novelty! [A greedy move to hold the material advantage would lead to a nice defeat. 14... Qe7 15. Re1 Nd4 16. Rad1 ! and on 16...c5 17. Nb5 ! Suddenly the Black king is facing a pretty mating attack. 17... Nxb5 18. $\text{Rxe6}\#$]

15.Qxd6! Using the fact that Black cannot take back with the pawn. [15. Nxe6 happened before, but after 15... Qe7

16. $\text{Qxd6}+$ cxd6 Black had no problems anymore. Shyam-Gupta, Dubai 2010]

15...Nxd6 [15...cxd6? 16.g4± White collects the d6 pawn first and e6 will automatically fall after that.]



16.Rd3! Very strong! It's not urgent to take the e6 pawn back, it's more important to activate all the pieces first. The a1 rook is ready to come to e1 or d1.

16...Qa6 [King moves are equally bad. 16... Qe7 17. $\text{Re1}\pm$; 16... Qd7 17. $\text{Rad1}!\pm$ creating new threats with Nce4 or Nf7 .]

17.Rd3 Qd7 White must play precisely, otherwise his initiative quickly disappears. [17... Qc4 doesn't change much. 18. $\text{Rae1}\pm$ followed by b3 and taking on e6.]

18.Rd1! White keeps increasing the pressure. He's not in a hurry to restore the material balance. [18. Nxe6 Rhg8 19. Rae1 Rce8 would also be slightly better for White, but the advantage due to the kingside pawn majority is really minimal.]

18...Rcf8 It's difficult to tell whether the text move or the alternative is a better continuation. Both guarantee

an advantage, but it's not clear which one is bigger. [The passive 18...♖ce8 is met with another idea. 19.♘ce4! threatens with ♘f7 and on 19...♖e7 suddenly 20.♙a3! is very unpleasant. This shows well how useful was the 16.♖d3 move!]

19. ♖xe6 [19. ♗ce4 was also possible. Probably Shirov calculated the following line: 19... ♕c4 20.b3 ♕d5 21. ♗xd6 cxd6 22.c4 It looks like this wins a piece, but Black has 22...h6! and now the arising rook endgame is clearly better for White, but probably Shirov was afraid of the old rule that all the rook endgames are drawn. 23.cxd5 hxg5 24.dxc6+ ♔e7 (24... ♔xc6 25. ♖xe6±) 25.b4!± with the idea of ♖a3 looks quite promising.]

19...♖f7 20.♘e4! Shirov increases the pressure. Suddenly, many threats are in the air, one of them is ♘c5. Black finds the only move to stay in the game.

20... c4



21. ♖d4! Very well played again! Shirov prefers to keep the initiative, instead of transforming it into a rather drawish material advantage. [21. ♖xc7 ♔xc7 22. ♖xd6 ♕d7! This was Black's idea. White still has the tactical 23. ♖c3! but it probably leads to a draw after 23...b5 24.b3 ♖xd6

25.♖xd6 ♔xd6 26.bxc4 b4! followed by ♔c5 with very strong counterplay on the queenside.]

21...c5?? This is a horrible blunder. Black collapses under the pressure. [21...♙d5 is also quite bad because of 22.♘xd6 cxd6 23.b3! The d5 bishop does not find its place on the board. 23...♖f4 (23...b5 loses to 24.♘xb5!) 24.c4 ♙f7 25.♖de1! with the decisive threat of invading with the rooks on the 7th rank and on 25...♖e8 26.♖xe8 ♙xe8 27.♘xc6!+- wins a pawn.;

However, after 21...♘xe4 22.♖xe4 ♙d5 23.♖e5 ♔c8 Black is still in the game. White is only slightly better with 24.a3 because of his majority on the kingside. This is a known advantage, that in the long-term Black can't really create a passed pawn on the queenside due to his doubled c-pawns, while White has a healthy structure on the other side. Of course, to convert such kind of edge requires very good technique, but maybe Karpov at his best would call this already a winning position :). The following moves could be f3, ♔f2 and h4, slowly improving the pawns.]

22. ♖f3! This easy retreat was probably completely missed by Black, who can't parry the simple threat of ♖e5.

22...♖e8 The small combination coming soon in the game was also winning, but Shirov prefers to include a pair of moves.

23.b3 ♟b5 **24.** ♘xd6 cxd6 **25.** ♞e5+!+- White wins an exchange and the game.

25...♖xe5 26.♖xe5 ♘c6 27.c4 a5 28.f3 White is not in a hurry. First, he improves his king and then he wants to advance his kingside pawns.

28...a4 29.♔f2 g6 30.♖d2 ♖f8 31.♗e3 ♗f7 [With 31... axb3 32.axb3 Black opens the a-file on himself. White threatens to play ♗a2, and on 32...♗a8 33.♗de2+- wins.]

32.bxa4! ♗f4 [32...♙xa4 loses to 33.♗a3+-]

33.♗ed3 White doesn't allow Black to create any counterplay. The game is over.

33...d5 34.cxd5 ♙xa4 35.d6 c4 36.♗e3 1-0

(2) Ivanchuk,V (2763) — Nisipeanu,LD (2668) [E32]

6th Kings Tournament, Bucharest ROU (1), 07.11.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

This is the first round of the Kings Tournament with 3 chess Superstars plus Romania's best player Livi Dieter Nisipeanu, who not so long ago was a 2700 player and the European Champion! Usually, when we see the name Ivanchuk, we expect sacrifices and a slightly „crazy” but super strong play. This time, Vassily shows us that he can also win a game by playing great positional „dry” chess!

1.d4 To play Ivanchuk with Black is never easy, especially because You need to study almost Your whole opening repertoire because Vassily is well known for being able to choose any possible line after 1.e4, 1.d4, 1.c4 or 1. ♘f3.

1...♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.♔c2 We are in a very fashionable Nimzo with 4.♔c2.

4...0-0 5.a3 ♙xc3+ 6.♔xc3



6...b5!? A rare move that is actually not that bad. I played a few games on this opening with Black — without big success :).

7.cxb5 c6 At first sight, this just looks shocking, but Black has a clear plan: he wants to start playing on the queen-side as soon as possible.

8.♔g5 This is the main move and probably the most critical. [It's just funny to know that 8.a4 a6! gives Black equality.]

8...cxb5 9.e3 ♘b7 10.♘f3 [10.f3 is another main move in this position.]

10...a6?! A standard reaction. However, I think this move is a bit too slow and it gives White enough time to develop all his pieces to the right places, being just a „bishop pair“ up with a small plus. [10...h6!? I think this move gives Black more chances than in the game. 11.♔h4 g5 12.♔g3 ♘e4 13.♔d3 f5 with quite an unclear position.]

11.♔d3! White is not afraid of moves like 11...♔xf3 which would be a big positional mistake. Black will not be able to make use of the slightly damaged White pawn structure, and the White bishop will control the whole board.

11...h6 12.♔h4 d6 [It's already too late for 12...g5 13.♔g3 ♘e4



14.♔xe4! The most simple move to fix White's huge advantage. 14...♔xe4 15.♔d6 ♔e8 16.h4 White is just crushing his opponent.]

13.0-0 ♘bd7 14.♔b4! A great move by White. Black's only idea is to play ♘b6 followed by ♔c8 and ♘bd5 or ♘c4. By playing 14.♔b4, White is stopping Black from achieving this plan. Now, he must leave the knight on d7 in a very „stupid“ position.

14...♔b6 Nothing else left to do... [14...♘b6 15.♔xf6 and Black has no future here.]

15.♔g3 Another nice move. Now Black has to decide whether to push d5 or to take other protecting measures for the d6 pawn.

15...♔e4 Of course the right choice. To play 15...d6-d5 would leave Black in a really bad position. White could start his play with ♔fc1 followed by a4 or ♘d2-♘b3, with quite a serious advantage.

16.♔e2 White keeps the bishop pair, of course.

16...♔fc8! A good defensive idea by Black. Using the weakness of the second rank, Black is in time to take the rook out from f8, before playing ♘e8.

17.♔fc1 [Of course not 17.♔xd6? ♔xd6 18.♔xd6 ♔c2 and Black is back!]

17...♘e8



18.♘d2! White is playing very good chess. In a better position with a lot of options, it's not an easy task to choose which way to go. Ivanchuk is taking his knight to a5 — the best place for the knight!

18...♙c2 Blocking White's maneuver, but now Black's pieces start to hang...

19.h3 Quite a tricky move. The usual question is: why does White need the h3 move? Probably there is no answer to it. There is no need for h3, but it can be useful, and what is actually Black's plan? White is keeping the position flexible and wants to play e4 in the future, or maybe ♙f3 followed by ♘e4. Another typical idea for White is to play b3 followed by a4, creating another weakness in Black's position. [Doesn't work 19.♘b3? a5! and White will lose his knight on b3.]

19...♖ab8 This move gives White the chance to play a nice tactic, but it's hard to blame Nisipeanu for this... The position is already very unpleasant.

20.a4! White strikes at the right moment. I would say that after this move the game was almost over. Black's pieces start to „hang“ very seriously.

20...bxa4 [In case of 20...♘df6 21.axb5 axb5 22.♙a5 White is going into a much better endgame, and actually the move h3 is now quite useful... White doesn't have any problems in the 1st rank;]

20...♙xa4? 21.b3 and the bishop on a4 is lost.]

21.♙xb6 ♘xb6 [21...♖xb6 22.♘c4 winning an exchange.]

22.♙xa6 ♖c7



23.♙b5! I think this is the move that Nisipeanu blundered. White simply attacks the knight on e8, after which the d6 pawn is falling, and Black has no defense against it! Chess can be really simple — but so difficult during our own games.

23...f6 Nothing helps anymore...

24.♙xe8 ♖xe8 25.♙xd6 ♖c6 26.♙c5 White is just a pawn up, but a second Black pawn is going to fall soon...

26...♙g6 27.♘c4! Another precise and good move. What to do against an opponent who simply plays strong chess? White is winning another pawn.

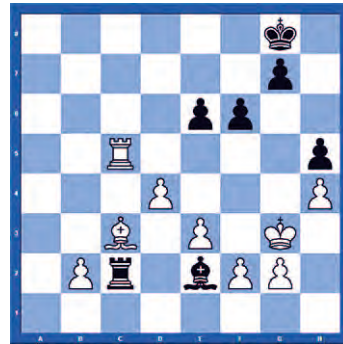
27...♘xc4 28.♖xc4 ♖a8 29.♖cxa4 ♖xa4 30.♖xa4
Black's only chance is the opposite-colored bishops end-game, but of course, two pawns down is just too much. Even if we would take away White's b2 pawn, Black's defensive task would be very difficult.

30...♙d3 31.♖a3 ♙e2 32.♖a8+ ♔f7 33.♖a7+ ♔g8 34.♖b7 White is regrouping his pieces, there is no need to hurry at all.

34...♖a6 35.♙b4 ♖a1+ 36.♔h2 ♖c1 37.h4 The h4 move is typical. It can be very useful in many setups.

37...h5 38.♙c3 ♙c4 Black just keeps on waiting, but White already has a clear plan...

39.♖c7 ♙d3 40.♖c5 ♖c2 41.♔g3 ♙e2



42.e4! And here we see White's plan. Of course, other moves would win as well, but Ivanchuk chooses the „cleanest“ way, in my opinion. The bishop on c3 is protected by the b2 pawn, ♔g3 is protecting the f2 pawn, and White is starting to crush Black's pawn structure.

42...♔f7 43.d5 exd5 44.♖xd5! This is the key move. Usually it's not a good choice to exchange pawns but it's the right way. White wants to play e5, or maybe first ♖d7+

and then e5, opening the bishop from c3 and at the same time attacking the g7 pawn. There is no defense for Black.

44...♙g4 45.f3 ♙e6 46.♖xh5 ♙c4 Nisipeanu is trying his last trick to get the g2 pawn...

47.e5! And the game is over...

47...♔g6 [47...♙f1 winning a pawn back, but not helping the position. 48.exf6 ♖xg2+ 49.♔f4 gxf6 50.♖f5 ♖g6 51.h5 putting Black's rook on a terrible square. 51...♖h6 52.♖c5 With two pawns up and a much more active position, White will have no trouble at all to win the game.]

48.♖h8 ♙f1 49.exf6 What a great positional game by Ivanchuk! A start-to-finish victory...

1-0

(3) Shimanov,A (2599) – Hovhannisyan,R (2610) [D10]

Chigorin Memorial, St Petersburg RUS, 31.10.2012

[Csaba Balogh]

An interesting game, where Black got cruelly punished for not finishing the development on the kingside. The game is important from a theoretical point of view as well.

1.c4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.cxd5 The exchange Slav is considered to be an approach by White to make a quick draw, but actually there is also an ambitious way to handle it. Just remember how easily Aronian collapsed against Kramnik in the Olympiad, which we analyzed for you a few CEWNs before.

3...cxd5 4.♘c3 ♘f6 5.♙f4 ♘c6 6.e3 a6 7.♖c1 ♙f5 In my opinion this a good setup for Black to achieve equality.

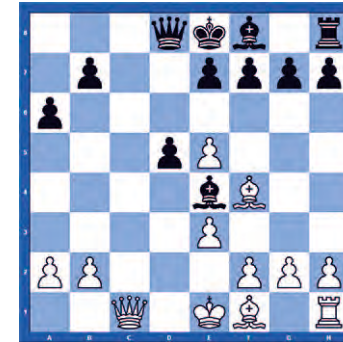
8.♘f3 ♖c8 9.♘e5! This is the ambitious way to play, while 9.♙d3 and 9.♙e2 are going for a draw.

9...♗xe5 10.dxe5 White is initiating a concrete fight. [After 10.♙xe5 Black equalizes with 10...♘d7! 11.♙g3 (11.♖b3 ♖b6!= is an important point to remember.) 11...e6= and ♙e7, 0–0.]

10...♗e4 11.♘e4 ♖xc1 12.♖xc1 This is the critical moment where Black must take the right decision!

12...♙xe4?! [12...dxe4 is the right move, as it was recently played by the French Super-GM Laurent Fressinet. 13.♙e2 (On 13.♖c3 to avoid ♖a5, Black has to play 13...♙d7! Black prepares for e6, but first he retreats the bishop, otherwise it gets out of the game on f5. 14.♙e2 e6 15.0–0 ♙e7 16.♖d1 ♖b6= followed by ♙c6 and 0–0.) 13...♖a5+! 14.♖d2 (14.

♙f1 ♙d7! is important again, with the same idea as in the 13.♖c3 line.) 14...♖xd2+ 15.♙xd2 e6 Now the f5 and f4 bishops are equally bad. They have quite a small chance to improve, equality will be soon reached. 16.h4 h6 17.♖c1 ♙b4+ 18.♙c2 ♙d7 19.♙b3 ♙e7 20.g4 ♙h7 21.h5 ♖c8 22.♖xc8 ♙xc8= A draw was agreed soon in Battaglini-Fressinet, Bastia 2012.]



13.e6! A very strong intuitive pawn sacrifice with the idea of locking the Black pieces on the kingside.

13...♖a5+ [13...fxe6 14.f3 will lead to a similar position as in the game.]

14.♙e2! It's very important to keep the queens on the board to be able to obtain enough compensation for the pawn. The f1 bishop is just temporarily locked, since White is going to play f3 and ♙f2 in the upcoming moves.

14...fxe6 15.f3 ♙f5 16.♙e5 White continues his strategy to restrict the movement of his opponent's kingside.

16...h5 Black tries to gain some ground and avoid a possible squeeze with g4-h4. [16...♙f7 was probably more circumspect, in order to avoid the 17.♖c8 possibility.]

17.h4 [17.♖c8+!? looks like a good alternative for White. 17...♙f7 18.♖xb7 ♖xa2 19.♙f2 with a clear advantage. The f1 bishop and the h1 rook join the game.]

17...♔f7 18.♔f2 ♕xa2 Black, at least, grabs some material and hopes to get lucky on the kingside events.

19.♘e2! Mobilizing the pieces.

19...♖h7 [19...♖g8 with the same idea of playing g6-♘g7. 20.e4!! is decisive 20...dxe4 (20...♘h7 21.♕f4+- followed by ♖c1, and it's over.) 21.fxe4 ♘xe4 22.♕f4+ ♘f5 23.♘c4!+- is the point, and the queen and f5 bishop are hanging.]



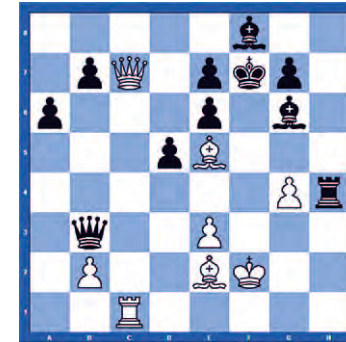
20.g4 It's a good idea to send the bishop to g6 in order to prevent the g6 idea, but White had an even better possibility. [20.e4! would have worked again with the same ideas as in the 19...♖g8 line, but now it's a bit more complicated. 20...dxe4 (20...♘g6 21.♕f4+ ♔g8 22.♖c1+-) 21.fxe4 ♘g4 (21...♘xe4 loses again to 22.♕f4+ ♘f5 23.♘c4!+-) 22.♕f4+ ♔g8 23.♖c1! g6 Black seems to survive with ♖f7, but 24.♕g5! ♖f7+ 25.♔g1 ♔h7 looks like a double-threat of ♘h6 and ♘xe2, but White wins after 26.♘xg4! ♘h6 27.♖c8!+-]

20...♘g6 [Opening the f-file is not recommended. 20...hxc4 21.fxc4 ♘e4 22.♖f1 The penetration is coming after ♔g3-♕c8.]

21.♕c7! Very deep move! White obviously would like to bring his rook to c1, but the reason to put the queen on c7 will become clear in a few moves.

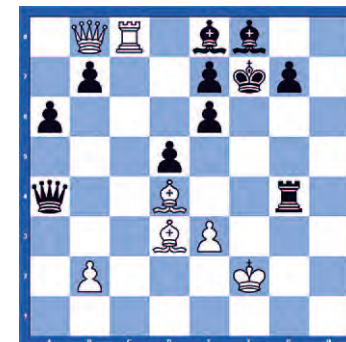
21...♕b3 22.♖c1! The h4 pawn doesn't count much.

22...hxc4 23.fxc4 ♖xh4



24.♘d4!! This was the hidden idea of ♕c7. Now the queen starts to penetrate on all the squares along the h2-b8 diagonal. The main threat is ♕f4 and ♖c8 now.

24...♔g8 [The nicest variation of the game arises after 24...♕a4 25.♕f4+ ♔g8 26.♖c8 ♘e8 This looks really suspicious, but the refutation is not obvious at all. 27.♕b8! ♔f7 28.♘d3! with the threat of ♖xe8 ♕xe8 ♘g6! 28...♖xg4



29. ♔h2!! This is the great winning move! Black can't deal with ♔h5. It's very nice how effectively the queen uses the h2-b8 diagonal. 29... ♖xd4 30. ♔h5+ ♕f6 31. ♖xe8!+- wins.]

25. ♔e5! The main threat is ♖c8 and ♔xg7, but ♔xe6 is also very unpleasant. [On 25. ♔f4 Black intended to play 25... ♗c2! closing the c-file.]

25... ♗c2 White has many ways to win here, but the one that Shimanov chose was probably the best.

26. ♖g3 ♖h6 27. g5 ♖g6 28. ♗g4! Creating the decisive threat of ♗e6. The end is near. [It was not too late to go wrong with the tempting 28. ♗h5 ♕d3! 29. ♗xg6 ♔xg6 and Black is alive.]

28... ♗f5 29. ♗xf5! exf5 [29... ♖xg5+ also loses. 30. ♔h4 ♖xf5 31. ♔xe6+ ♖f7 32. ♖f1+-]

30. ♔xf5 ♖c6 31. ♖f1 A nice victory by White and a horrible performance of the f8 bishop.

1-0

(4) Cheparinov, Ivan (2710) – Mchedlishvili, Mikheil (2639) [E11]

TCh-ESP CECLUB Div Honor 2012, Leon ESP (3.4), 07.11.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We will see a very interesting and crazy game with some great attacking play by White, who got a little bit of help by Black.

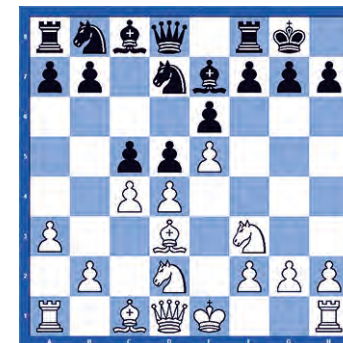
1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♘f3 ♗b4+ This is a move for „lazy” people who are trying to avoid the main lines. Not a bad opening choice against a very well prepared Cheparinov, who was for a long time one of Topalov's seconds.

4. ♘bd2 White chooses the very main line, which is not really a surprise...

4... 0-0 5. a3 ♗e7 6. e4 Lately we've seen a lot of games in this line, but until now nobody has been able to show a clear way for White to get an advantage.

6... d5 7. e5 ♘fd7 8. ♗d3 [8. b4 a5 9. b5 c5 This is the other main line.]

8... c5



9.h4!? This new move was introduced quite recently and leads to very sharp play. Black is crushing White's center, and White is trying to give mate.

9...g6 seems to be the main move. White wanted to play ♖xh7. In case of: [9...h6 10. ♖b1 followed by ♔c2, and it can get very dangerous for Black.]

10.h5 cxd4 11. ♔c2!? We are following the game Ding,L-Tomashevsky.

11...♘c5 A logical move. [11...♔e8 12. ♘b3 ♘c6 13. ♖f4 dxc4 14. ♖xc4 ♘b6 15. ♖d3 ♘d5 16. ♖h6 with a clearly better position for White. Still in the game Ding,L-Tomashevsky, E 2012.]

12. ♖f1 [12.hxg6 ♘xd3+ 13. ♔xd3 fxc6 and Black seems to have survived the attack.;

To sacrifice the bishop doesn't make any sense for White: 12. ♖xg6? fxc6 13.hxg6 d3! and Black is good again.]



12...d3! Black is forcing White to exchange his light-squared bishop, which could become a very dangerous piece if White is in time to play b4 next, and then come back with the bishop to d3.

13. ♖xd3 ♘xd3+ 14. ♔xd3 We are in a very interesting position. If Black manages to develop, he'll get a great position, but White's attacking chances don't look bad either.

14...dxc4 A very direct move. Black is giving away the e4 square for the knight. On the other hand, the exchange of queens would solve all his problems!

15. ♔e3 The White queen is trying to reach the h6 square. [Why not 15. ♔xc4!? I guess Cheparinov was a bit afraid of 15...♔d5 Where to go with the queen? 16. ♔f4! (16.hxg6 fxc6; 16. ♔g4 ♘c6 doesn't bring anything for White, of course.) 16...g5 It seems like Black is good, but 17. ♘xg5 ♔xg2 18. ♖h3! White's rook is going to g3, winning the piece back. It seems like White is doing better.]

15...g5! Of course Black does not allow White to play ♔h6.

16. ♘e4 h6 We are in a very unclear position, and White has a lot of different plans to proceed: ♘h2-♘g4-♘f6 looks quite tempting, as well as ♖d2 followed by 0-0-0, but Ivan chooses the most spectacular choice.

17. ♘fxg5!? I am not sure at all about the strength of this move, but from a practical point of view, it is very interesting

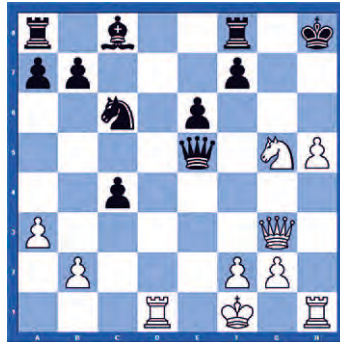
17...hxg5 18. ♔g3 ♔h8 Black needs to move the king away from the g-file.

19. ♖xg5 ♖xg5 [At 19...♖g8 20. ♖xe7 ♔xe7 21. ♔f4 White remains with a strong attack.]

20. ♘xg5 ♘c6 Black is playing very logically. He needed to develop the knight from b8.

21. ♖d1! A very good move based on a precise tactical calculation-

21... ♔c7 [On 21... ♔a5+ 22. ♕f1 and Black can't take the e5 pawn. 22... ♕xe5 (22... ♖xe5 23. ♕f4 followed by ♖h3, with a super dangerous attack.)



23. ♖xf7+! A very nice tactical blow. 23... ♖xf7 24. ♖d8+ ♖xd8 25. ♕xe5+ and White is winning easily.]

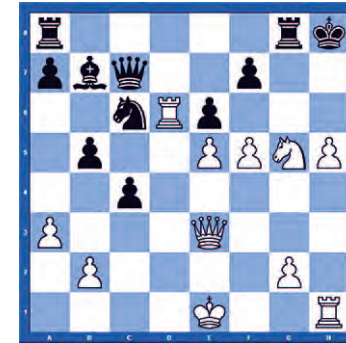
22. f4 At least Black got rid of the ♕f4 threat.

22... ♖g8 This looks like a very slow move, but it's a good one! [22... f6 seems to put Black in danger. 23. exf6 ♖xf6 24. 0-0 We can see a very strange position. White is a piece down for just a pawn, but Black's king is very weak, and it's not clear how to develop the bishop from c8. I guess this kind of position is much easier to play with White...]

23. ♕e3! Excellent place for the queen. f5 is a future threat.

23... b5 Very logical, Black develops the bishop from c8.

24. ♖d6 ♗b7 25. f5 And we are at the critical position. White has a lot of threats, for example, to play ♖e4 next. Can Black do something about it?



25... ♕e7?? This move is losing, but Black could have played: [25... ♖d4!! A very beautiful tactical possibility. Suddenly, Black is winning! White can't take the knight on d4, and if he doesn't take it, Black will simply play ♖xf5 next. 26. ♖xd4 (26. ♕xd4 ♖xg5 brings nothing for White.) 26... ♖xg5! That's the key... 27. ♕xg5 ♕xe5+ 28. ♕f1 ♕xd4 and Black is a full piece up!]

26. ♖e4! And now White is winning!

26... ♕f8 27. fxe6 Black is hopeless. White wants to play e7 next and there is no defense against it...

27... ♖xe5 28. e7 ♖d3+ 29. ♕f1 What a game! After the opening, White should have been better, then came a piece sacrifice, a good defense by Black who missed the very beautiful move 25... ♖d4!!. Finally, White reaches his target, the Black king. This was a real fighting game!

1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Karpov,A (2616) – Edouard,R (2664)

Cap'd Agde (rapid), 02.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.±



(6) Timofeev,A (2631) – Tseitlin,M (2390)

Chigorin memorial, 29.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

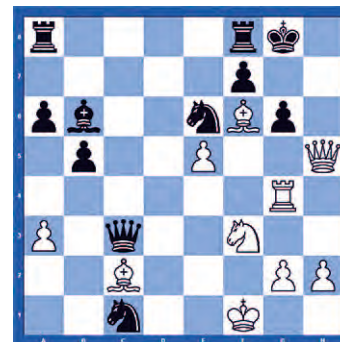


(7) Oparin,G (2484) – Socko,B (2619)

Chigorin memorial, 30.10.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

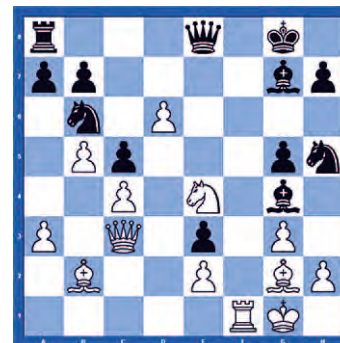


(8) Savchenko,B (2540) – Vlasenko,M (2400)

Chigorin memorial, 30.10.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

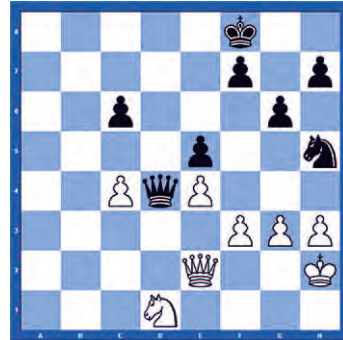


(9) Monin,N (2325) – Ionov,S (2550)

Chigorin memorial, 30.10.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

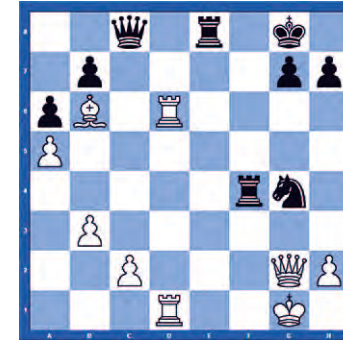


(11) Rodriguez Vila,A (2541) – Mekhitarian,K (2503)

Villa Martelli, 23.10.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+



(10) Stojanovic,D (2488) – Savic,M (2531)

Cetinje Open, 25.10.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

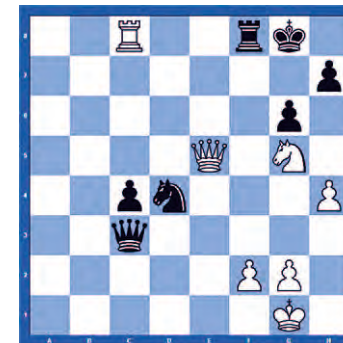


(12) Mekhitarian,K (2503) – Rodriguez Vila,A (2541)

Villa Martelli, 28.10.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+



(13) Shengelia,D (2529) – Hera,I (2573)

Austrian league, 02.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

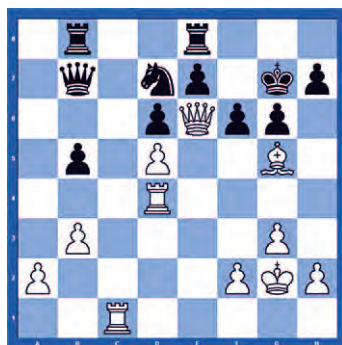


(14) Ftacnik,L (2544) – Cicak,S (2579)

Czech league, 04.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

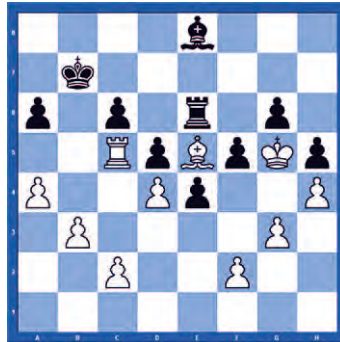


Endgame section

(15) Zorko,J (2476) – Froewis,G (2399)

Austrian league, 03.11.2012

[Chess Evolution]

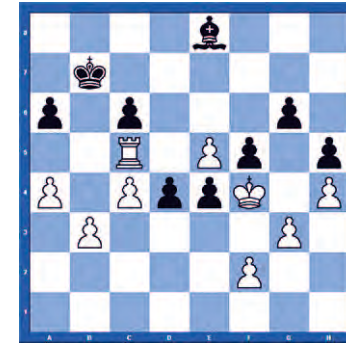


Here is an excellent example why it is useful to solve studies. They might appear in real games as well. White is close to be winning with his dominating pieces, especially the difference between the two bishops are telling. Who would believe that the poor e8 bishop wins the game soon for Black? White continues with the most tempting move, but it leads to a defeat...

66.c4?? This allows Black to play an evergreen!! [66. ♔f4! followed by opening the position with c4 should bring home the full point.]

66...♖xe5!! 67.dxe5 d4! Suddenly the White rook is out of the game, but it still looks like after the king catches the d-pawn, White will easily realize his material advantage, but...

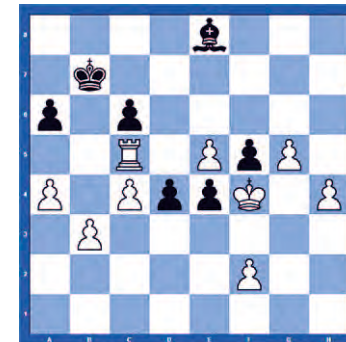
68.♔f4



68...g5+!! Black needs to sacrifice all his pawns to support his d-pawn. First, he tries to deflect the king, so White is forced to play

69.hxg5 h4!! Another fantastic move! Black threatens with h3, so the next move is forced again.

70.gxh4



70...e3!! The final blow! Black cuts the king's way to the d-pawn.

71.fxex3 [71.♔f3 loses to 71...♔h5+ and e2 next.]

71...d3! 72.g6 [The whole point of the g5 and h4 sacrifices becomes clear after 72.♔f3 ♘h5+! The bishop joins the game! 73.♔f2 d2 Black wins.]

72...d2 73.g7 d1♔! [73...♘f7 was also good, but the text is nicer and better.]

74.g8♔ ♔f1+! The king is forced to move to the g-file and White loses his queen.

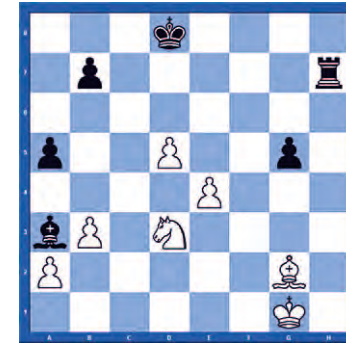
75.♔g5 ♔g1+ Just brilliant!!! Chess can be beautiful!

0-1

**(16) Lenderman,Aleksandr (2614)
– Shirov,Alexei (2718) [A07]**

Chigorin Memorial, St Petersburg RUS (8.3), 03.11.2012

[*Chess Evolution*]



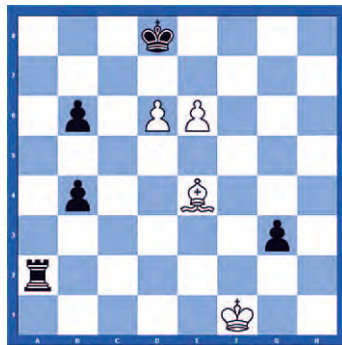
Black is already trying for a long time to get the full point, but things are not that simple. White's pawns are quite dangerous, and the opposite-colored bishops give him an extra chance for saving the game.

45...♖c7 46.e5 White is trying his only chance, to push the pawns as far as possible and hope to get some counterplay. Also, if he could somehow get to e6 with a knight, it would be very nice. In general, it's clear that White's only chance is to play e5-d6 and somehow try to exchange the knight for the bishop.

46...♖c2 It's never bad idea to have a rook on the 2nd rank, especially now that Black could start attacking the White pieces from „behind” by playing ♖d2 next. [46...♖c3 47.♘e4 doesn't help Black at all.]

47.d6 White continues his play: to push the pawns as far as they can go.

47...b5?? A big blunder. Black forgets to be at least a little careful. [47...♖d2! This move leads to quite an easily winning position. 48. ♗e4 b6 Black is taking away the b7 pawn from the attack. 49. ♔f1 White has no other moves to improve his position and must just wait for Black's actions. 49...g4! The Black pawn is going to g2 in order to force the White king to go to g1, after which Black's ♖e2 will be possible. (49...♖xa2 is not winning due to 50.b4! The usual b4 push. 50...♗xb4 51. ♘xb4 axb4 52.e6 and Black doesn't have the winning idea ♖e2. 52...♖a7 53.e7+ ♖xe7 54.dxe7+ ♔xe7 with an easy draw.) 50. ♔g1 g3 51. ♔f1 ♖xa2 52.b4 ♗xb4 53. ♘xb4 axb4 54.e6 and now



54...g2+ ! Black is winning. 55. ♔g1 (It doesn't help to play 55. ♗xg2 ♖xg2 56. ♔xg2 b3 and the b-pawn will become a queen.) 55...♖e2 Black stops the White pawns from queening, and Black's b-pawn is going to queen pretty soon. Black is easily winning.]

48.b4! And here comes the shock for Black! The position is not even a draw... it's lost now! Let's take a slightly closer look.

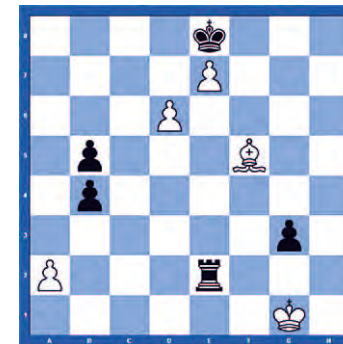
48... ♗xb4 [Doesn't save the game 48...♖d2 49.e6! ♖xd3 50.e7+ ♔d7 51. ♗c6+ with a win for White.]

49. ♘xb4 axb4 50.e6 In the previous lines we had the same position, just without White's a2 pawn, which makes Black's position winning. With the a2 pawn on the board, White is winning!

50...g4 [Leads to about the same 50...♖e2 51.e7+ ♔d7 52. ♗f3 The White bishop is going to h5. 52...♖e5 53. ♗h5 and now the White king will slowly move to g4 and capture the g5 pawn, using the fact that Black can only make rook moves.]

51. ♗e4 ♖e2 52. ♗f5 White provokes Black into playing g3, which actually doesn't matter.

52...g3 53.e7+ ♔e8



54. ♗d3! Forcing the Black rook to leave the 2nd rank.

54...♖e1+ 55. ♔g2 ♖e5 56. ♗g6+ Putting the bishop in the right place...

56...♔d7 57. ♗f7 And Black is losing the g-pawn.

57...♖e3 58. ♔h3 Zug-zwang! Of course, in case of 58... ♔xd6 59.e8 ♖ ♖xe8 60. ♗xe8, Black's position is hopeless because the a8 square matches White's light-squared bishop. What a tragedy to lose such a game... but we see once again that in chess every move can be decisive! **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Botvinnik, Mikhail — Levenfish, Grigory [A28]

URS-ch12 Moscow, 1940

[Chess Evolution]

We are facing a nice crush in the English opening by Botvinnik. The funny part of the game is that the same players played the same game 6 years earlier, but with opposite colors. Botvinnik, on the White side, improved it in the 13th move.

1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.♘f3 ♘c6 Many Sicilian players like to play this as White, since they practically are a tempo up with reversed colors.

4.d4 Recently this system is out of fashion since it became clear how to equalize with Black. [The current main line is definitely 4.g3 after which Black can decide the character of the play. To play an opened game with 4...d5 (or some closed setup, for instance with 4...♘b4)]

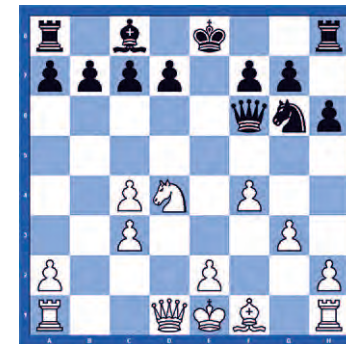
4...exd4 5.♘xd4 ♘b4 6.♘g5 Here Black has a wide range of choices. Levenfish plays the most solid one as Botvinnik already showed him back in 1934.



6...h6 7.♘h4 ♘xc3+ Black creates weak doubled pawns on the c-file. The only drawback is giving up the bishop pair, but with a strong knight maneuver, he solves this problem as well.

8.bxc3 ♘e5! It's heading to g6 to unpin his colleague.

9.e3 [9.f4 is White's best try to get some advantage, but Karpov showed the way to neutralize the initiative against Kramnik. 9...♘g6 (Obviously not 9...♘xc4? because of 10.e4! with more than enough compensation.) 10.♘xf6 ♔xf6 11.g3 Black has a good position due to his superior pawn structure. His only problem is the knight on g6, which is out of the game. Instead of the „automatic“ castling, Karpov found a much better move.



11...♘f8! White can't make use of the uncastled king, so Black drives his knight to c5. 12.♘g2 ♘e6 13.0-0 0-0 14.e4 d6 15.♔d2 ♘c5 Black intends to finish the development with ♘d7, ♔fe8 and obtain a fine position. 16.♔ae1 ♔b8! Strong prophylactic move, typical of Karpov style. (On the direct 16...♘d7 Kramnik wanted to play 17.e5 dxe5 18.♔xe5 when Black has some problems with the stability of the c5 knight.) 17.♔e3 ♘d7 Now on e5, Black can simply protect his knight with b6. 18.♘b3 ♘xb3 19.axb3 ♘c6

20. ♔d4 a6! 21. ♖xf6 1/2–1/2 Kramnik-Karpov, Las Palmas 1996. 21...gxf6 A draw was agreed. Black has a perfect blockading position. He doubles his rooks on the e-file and starts to wait. White must also concentrate his pieces around the e4 pawn, so the result is justified.]

9... ♖g6 10. ♗g3 ♘e4 Black successfully gets rid of the two bishops, it means he has no problems at all.

11. ♖c2 ♘xg3 12. hxc3 d6



13.f4! This is the improvement over their first encounter. White tries to take control over the squares in the center. The plan is to have a setup with ♗e2-f3, ♖f2 followed by g4-g5 or e4 and central play. [Levenfish as White played 13. ♗e2 but he got slowly outplayed, even though he managed to save the game at the end. 13... ♘e5 14. ♖d1 ♗e7 15. ♖e4 a6 Black prevents the ♘b5 ideas forever. 16. ♖h5 ♘d7! Botvinnik improves his knight. 17. ♖f4 17... ♘c5 was also perfectly fine. 17... ♘f6 18. ♖a5 ♗d7 19. g4 ♘e4 Black was better in Levenfish-Botvinnik, Leningrad 1934. It's not surprising that Levenfish wanted to repeat this game, but he had to face 13.f4!]

13... ♖e7 14. ♖f2 Just as it was written in the 9.f4 line, Black has only one problem in his position, the misplace-

ment of the g6 knight. However in comparison to that line, Black should have taken care of his king first.

14... ♘f8?! [It was more circumspect to play 14...0–0 15. ♗e2 The bishop should stay on f3 to cover the weak light squares. 15... ♖e8 16. ♖d3 ♘f8! 17. g4 ♘d7 with mutual chances. I personally prefer Black, but it is playable for both sides.]



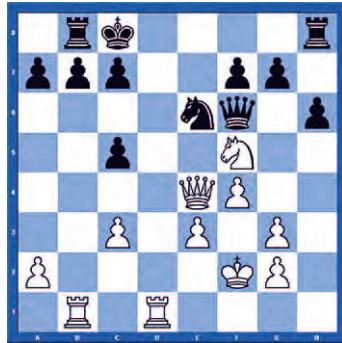
15.c5!! Excellently played! Botvinnik gets rid of his doubled pawns. Black bites the poisoned apple, which is objectively a decisive mistake.

15... dxc5? [It was very difficult to find the only strong move, which would keep the game completely unclear. 15... ♘h7! going to f6. 16. cxd6 cxd6 17. ♗b5+ ♖f8! Many players are afraid when they lose the right to castle, but actually sometimes the king stands quite safe in such places as well. 18. ♗e2 ♘f6 19. ♗f3 ♘g4+ 20. ♗xg4 ♗xg4 with approximately even chances.]

16. ♗b5+! ♘d7 [16...c6? is refuted by 17. ♘xc6!;

16... ♗d7 The forthcoming moves are more or less forced. 17. ♘f5 ♖f6 18. ♖e4+! ♘e6 19. ♗xd7+ ♖xd7 20. ♖hd1+ ♖c8 21. ♖ab1 ♖b8 We have reached the critical position of

the 15.c5 sacrifice. White has many tempting options, but he must also hurry to do something, since he is a pawn down. Probably the strongest is



22.♖d5! and on 22...g6 White has the beautiful blow (22...♖d8 23.♖bd1 ♖xd5 24.♖xd5 White has a winning attack. Two possible short ways to finish the game are: 24...♖d8 (24...b6 25.♖d7+ ♔b7 26.♘d6+ and mate soon.) 25.♖xd8+ ♘xd8 26.♘e7#) 23.♖e5!! ♖xe5 (23...♖xf5 24.♖xh8+) 24.♘e7#]

17.♘f5 ♖f6 18.♖ad1! It's more important to keep the b5-e8 pin than to prevent Black from castling with ♖e4. Black is basically lost now. The threat is ♖e4 and the d7 knight falls. Black can't unpin himself with c6 because of Rd6! [18.♖e4+ ♔f8]

18...g6 [18...c6 19.♖d6!+-]

19.♘xh6 White has restored the material balance and his decisive attack continues to flow.

19...♖f8 Black leaves from the ♘g4 threats.

20.g4 White had other moves as well. Botvinnik plays true to his style, he creates a fortress for his knight on f6.

20...a6 21.g5 ♖e6 22.♙e2 He prepares for transferring the knight.

22...♘b6 23.♘g4 ♔e7 This cannot lead to any good. [Black is not in time to castle queenside. 23...♙d7 24.♘f6+ ♔e7 25.♖xd7+ ♘xd7 26.♙g4+- wins.]

24.♘f6 ♖c6 25.♖h7! On each move, White improves one of his pieces and creates new threats. The newest one is ♖xg6.

25...♙f5 26.e4 ♙e6 27.f5 Black considered this to be enough. He got swept off from the board.

1-0

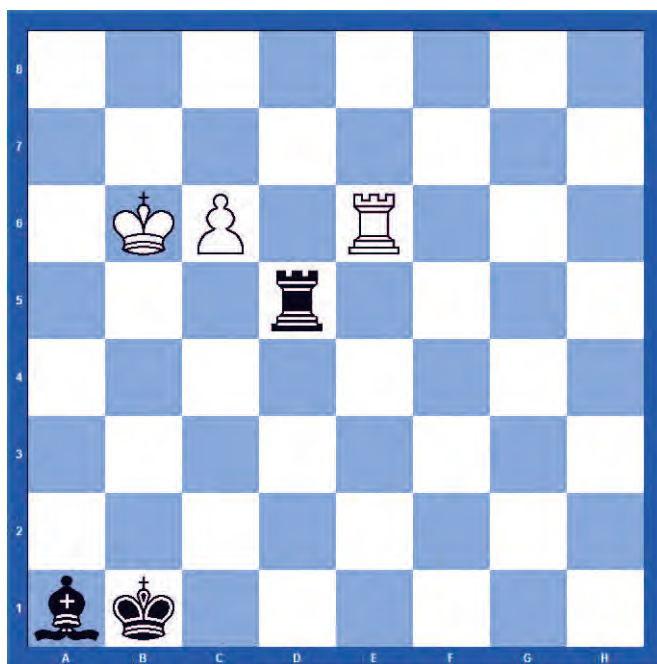
Surprise section / study

(18) Dehler, O

1910

[CEWN]

1.+-

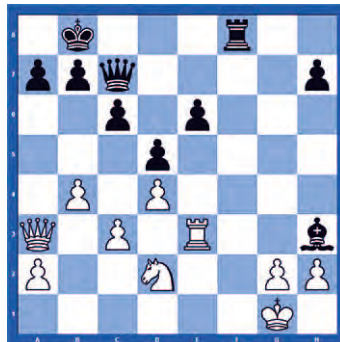


Solutions

(19) Timmersmans,I (2254) – Timman,J (2578)

Unive Open, 23.10.2012

[Solutions]



23... ♖xg2! 24.b5 [24.♔xg2 ♕f4 25.♖e2 (25.c4 ♕f2+ 26.♔h3 ♖f6–+) 25... ♕g4+ –+]

24... ♕f4 25.♔xg2 c5! 26.♕xc5 ♖c8! 0–1

(20) Riemersma,L (2420) – Van Kampen,R (2570)

Unive Open, 24.10.2012

[Solutions]



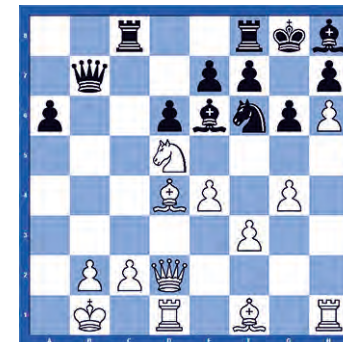
18.g4! ♕xg4 [18... ♕d5 19.♘f6+!+–]

19.♘xa5 ♖xf1 20.♕xf1+–

(21) Van Kampen,R (2570) – Afek,Y (2312)

Unive Open, 25.10.2012

[Solutions]



19. ♖xa6! ♕d7 [19... ♕xa6 20.♘xe7#]

20. ♖xc8+–

(22) Massoni,M (2381) – Short,N (2707)

Corsica (rapid), 27.10.2012

[Solutions]

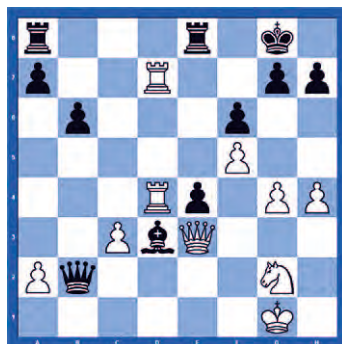


17. ♘xd5! exd5 18. ♙e7! ♚b6 19. ♙xd8 ♚xd8
20. ♙xh7+! ♙f8 [20... ♙xh7 21. ♚h5+ ♙g8 22. ♚e8+ +-]
21. ♙g6 ♘e6 22. ♚h5+-

(23) Brkic,A (2575) – Vaisser,A (2540)

Corsica (rapid), 27.10.2012

[Solutions]

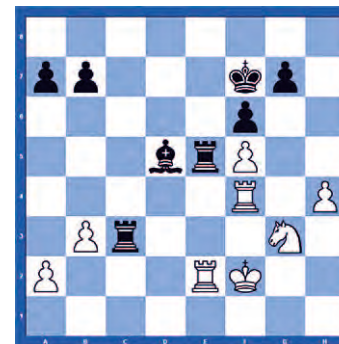


26. ♚xg7+! ♙xg7 27. ♚d7+ ♚e7 [27... ♙g8 28. ♚h6+-]
28. ♚xe7+ ♙f8 29. ♚xh7+-

(24) Sokolov,I (2690) – Aroshidze,L (2560)

Barcelona, 23.10.2012

[Solutions]

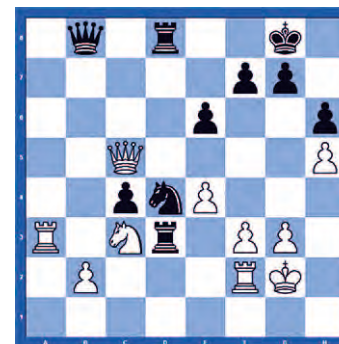


43... ♚xg3! 0-1 [43... ♚xg3 44. ♚xe5 (44. ♙xg3 ♚xe2+-)
44... fxe5+- (44... ♚g2+ -+)]

(25) Nikolic,P (2638) – Quesada Perez,Y (2604)

Barcelona, 26.10.2012

[Solutions]

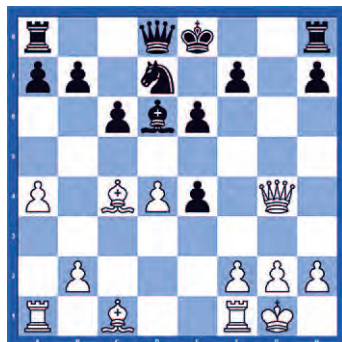


44... ♘xf3! [44... ♚xf3!-+]
45. ♚xf3 ♚xf3 46. ♙xf3 ♚d3+ 47. ♙e2 ♚xb2+ 0-1

(26) Peralta,F (2593) – Felgaer,R (2579)

Marcel Duchamp memorial, 24.10.2012

[Solutions]



13. ♖xe6!! fxe6 [13... ♘f6 14. ♔g7±]

14. ♖g5! ♘f6 [14... ♔c7 15. ♔xe6+ ♖f8 16. ♖h6#;

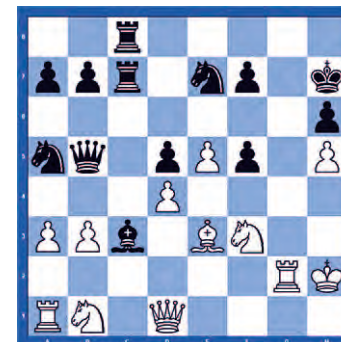
14... ♖e7 15. ♔h5+! ♖f8 16. ♖h6+ ♖g8 17. ♔g4+ ♖f7
18. ♔g7+ +-]

15. ♔xe6+ ♔e7 16. ♔xf6 ♔xf6 17. ♖xf6 0-0 18. ♖g5±

(27) Gelashvili,T (2578) – Shankland,S (2597)

USA league, 22.10.2012

[Solutions]



24. ♖xh6!! [24. ♘xc3 ♔xc3 25. ♖xh6 ♔d3!;

24. ♔aa2 ♔xb3]

24... ♖xa1 [24... ♔xb3 25. ♘g5+ ♖xh6 26. ♘xf7+ ♖h7
27. ♔g1+-;

24... ♖xh6 25. ♔c1+ ♖h7 26. ♘g5+-]

25. ♘g5+ ♖xh6 26. ♔d2! 1-0

(28) Prusikin,M (2545) – Caruana,F (2767)

Suisse league, 21.10.2012

[Solutions]



23...♘xd5!! 24.♙xe5 [24.exd5 ♘c3+! 25.♔f1 ♚e1#]

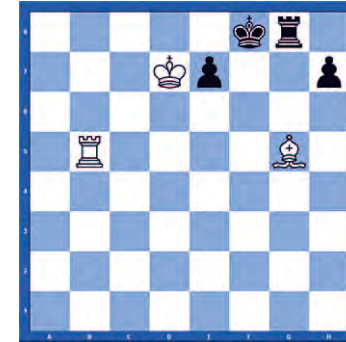
24...♚xe5 25.♙b3 [25.♖b3--+]

25...g4! 26.hxg4 ♘xg4 27.♙xd5 ♙xf3--+

(29) Troitzky,A

1909

[Solutions]



1.♙h6+! ♔f7 2.♖f5+ ♔g6 3.♖g5+ ♔f7 4.♖xg8 ♔xg8
5.♙e6! ♔h8 6.♙f7! e5 7.♙g7# 1-0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 38

16th of November 2012

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Editorial Preface

Let's start with the finished Event, the Kings Tournament in Bucharest, a four-players double round robin.

Ivanchuk and Topalov, with just a score of +1 shared the first place. Finally, Ivanchuk won the tie-break by 1,5-0,5. The 3rd place went to Caruana, who was very unlucky and obtained 6 straight draws. The last place went to Nisipeanu, who lost 2 games and made 4 draws, and got a rating performance close to his Elo.

The Female World Cup is being played. The winner is going to play the World Championship match against the current World Champion Hou Yifan. Most of the favorites are still in the game, and it's getting very exciting.

The Junior WCC is going on in Maribor, Slovenia, as well. It's a pity to see that this event is not getting the attention it deserves. The best young players are not participating in it anymore, and we can remember that even the great Gari Kimovich was once the Junior World Champion.

As usual, we wish You a lot of fun with the best games of the last week, the puzzles, the endgames and the studies sections!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Janssen,Ruud (2483) – Shirov,Alexei (2718)

German league, 11.11.2012

[Csaba Balogh]

A very sharp fight in the German Bundesliga, where Alexei Shirov wanted to beat his lower rated opponent at any cost with the Black pieces, and in order to do it, he created irrational complications true to his style.

1.c4 e5 2.g3 ♘c6 **3.♘c3 g6 4.♙g2 ♙g7** This is basically a Closed Sicilian opening (1.e4 c5 2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.g3 g6...) with reversed colors, which means an extra tempo for White. There, one of the most popular setups is the one with e5 and ♘ge7 (in this game e4-♘ge2). Of course, other options like e3-♘ge2 or d3-♘f3 are also possible. This is just a matter of taste.

5.e4 d6 6.♘ge2 f5 Black chooses the most aggressive way to develop.

7.d3 ♘f6 8.0-0 0-0



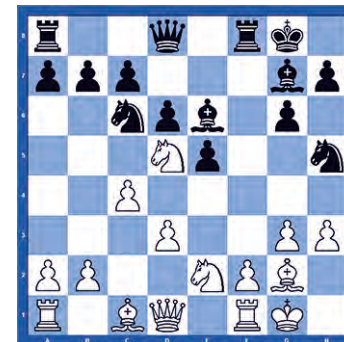
9.♘d5! This is the strongest move, as it was already proved in many games. White activates his knight, since ♘xd5 leads to favorable exchanges for him.

9...♘h5 Shirov continues to play aggressively, which is very risky. Against a more experienced player, he might have gotten into some difficulties... The idea of this move is to push f4, so the next move of White is basically forced. [9...♘xd5 doesn't equalize either. 10.cxd5 ♘e7 11.♙e3 White intends to press the c7 pawn with ♖c1 and ♗c2, so Black sooner or later has to play 11...c6 12.dxc6 bxc6 13.♗d2+= with an advantage for White. The g2 bishop has a much better chance to join the fight than its colleague on g7. The next moves could be ♖ac1 and b4, or it could also be good to prepare for a d4 break.]

10.exf5! ♙xf5 This is the better recapture, keeping the position dynamic. [On 10...gxf5 the standard reaction is 11.f4!+= with better prospects for White. A logical development could be ♙e3, ♗d2, ♖ae1 and b4-b5. It's much harder to find a useful plan for Black.]

11.h3! Very well played. White has to prevent the ♗d7-♙h3 ideas to preserve the important g2 bishop, which is also a very good defender of the king. The threat now is g4 to win a piece.

11...♙e6



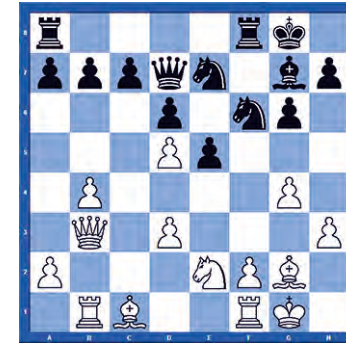
12. ♖b1?! White prepares the standard b4-b5 plan, increasing the power of the g2 bishop on the long diagonal, but he could have played more effectively. [12.g4! ♘f6 13. ♙g5! gives very good prospects for White, as it was already played in some games. 13... ♖d7 (On 13... ♘e7 14. ♘xf6+ ♙xf6 15. ♙xf6 ♖xf6 16. ♚b3! ♖b8 17.f4! is very strong. The idea of the ♚b3 tempo was to transfer it to c3, where it will stand excellently. White is clearly much better prepared for the opening of the position.) 14.f4+= also looks very good for White.]

12... ♖d7 13.g4 This would have been stronger one move earlier. [13. ♙h2 ♘d8 with the idea of kicking out the d5 knight with c6. The position is playable for both sides.]

13... ♘f6 14.b4 At least White plays consequently. [14.f4 is not that strong anymore. Black has 14...h5! creating very strong counterplay.; Maybe from a practical point of view, it would have made sense to take with 14. ♘xf6+ in order to reduce the power of Black's upcoming attack. 14... ♙xf6 15. ♘c3 and ♘e4 or ♘d5.(Or 15. ♙e3 followed by a d4 break in the near future.)]

14... ♙xd5!? Shirov already had the forthcoming attack in mind, but giving up the strong light-squared bishop has its drawbacks as well, as we'll see in the game. [14...h5 was also possible. Probably, White was intending to play something like 15. ♘xf6+ ♖xf6 16. ♙g5 ♖ff8 Of course, ♖f7 and ♖af8 are more logical at first sight, but if Black foresees his opponent's idea, then he should rather put his rook on f8. 17.b5 ♘d8 The only square for the knight that now is heading to f7. Therefore, probably White should take with 18. ♙xd8 ♖axd8 19.gxh5 ♙xh3 20.hxg6 followed by ♘g3, with mutual chances.]

15.cxd5 ♘e7 16. ♚b3



16...h5! Without this move, the whole Black strategy would make no sense. Now White has to deal with the g4 pawn, and he is forced to allow the Black knight to go to f5. However, things are not that easy...

17.g5! Very well played! Suddenly, Black is facing a difficult decision, where to go with the knight and what kind of future we can imagine for it.

17... ♘h7 [17... ♘e8 was the other option, but after the same moves as in the game: 18. ♙d2 ♘f5 19. ♚c4! preventing ♘h4. The Black knight on e8 plays a bad role in the game, though it might be improved with ♙h8 and ♘eg7, but this kills the h8 bishop and the knight can't go anywhere from g7...]

18. ♙d2 ♘f5 19. ♚c4! White had to prevent ♘h4. What to do as Black?! His knight on h7 is poorly placed, ♖f7 and ♘f8 are not improvements either. The g7 bishop is locked as well, while White has a clear plan to advance his pawns on the queenside. Shirov finds a beautiful idea to activate his pieces, but it involves many sacrifices which were not necessarily correct if the opponent defended well. But of

course, he was playing against a human opponent and not amachine!

19...♔d8 Forcing White to create a new weakness. [Maybe it would have been better to play 19...♖ae8 first, followed by the same ideas as in the game, which could be more effective with an active rook on e8.]

20.h4

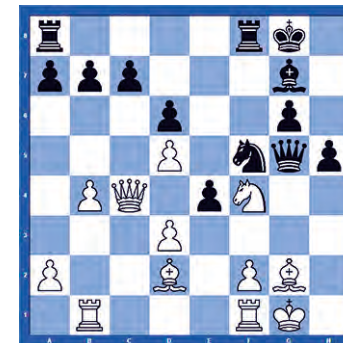


20...e4!? This was Shirov's point! Now the board gets on fire, where he feels totally at home. Black wants to take the h4 pawn and open the „dead bishop“, but of course, this drops an important pawn and creates a huge weakness on e6, which White immediately attacks!

21.♘f4! [21.dxe4 was also very interesting. 21...♗xh4 22.f4 ♔d7 with the threat of ♕g4, but White has a cool defensive move: 23.♖b3! It goes to g3! 23...♗xg2 24.♔xg2 ♖ae8 ∞ It's very difficult to evaluate the position. Black's minor pieces are bad, but he can put pressure on the e4 pawn with the rooks.; 21.♕xe4? loses on the spot after 21...♖e8! 22.♕f3 ♗xh4 and e2 falls.]

21...♗xg5!? If Black was not Shirov, we could consider this move as a desperate attempt to create counterplay. [21...♗xh4 22.♗e6 ♔d7 23.dxe4]

22.♗xg6? White loses the thread. He probably missed the incredible 25th move! [22.hxg5 ♕xg5 We have reached the critical position. White has many interesting possibilities, but only one of them leads to a clear advantage.]



23.♕xe4!

a) 23.♗e3 Protecting the bishop to refresh the idea of ♗e6 also looks very promising, but Black has an amazing resource to save the game. 23...♗d4!! (23...♗h4? is directly met with 24.♕xe4!) 24.♗xd4 (24.♗e6 loses to 24...♕g4! and ♗h4 next.) 24...♗h4! The following moves are forced: 25.♕xc7 Counter-threat on g7. 25...♖f7 26.♕xd6 ♖xf4 27.♕e6+ ♖f7 28.♕xe4 looks winning, but Black has 28...♖f3!! 28...♖e7 and ♖f4 would have been refuted by 29.♗e3!. 29.♕e6+ ♖f7 30.♕e4 with a draw.;

b) 23.dxe4 ♗d4! is very important in order to prevent ♖b3. Black threatens with ♗f3 and ♖xf4. (23...♗h4 looks winning at first sight, but actually it leads to the opposite result after 24.♖b3! ♖xf4 25.♖g3 ♕f6 26.♗xf4 ♕xf4

27.♔c1+/- with a material advantage.) 24.♔d3 ♖xf4 25.♙xf4 ♙xf4 with strong compensation on the dark squares, ♙e5 is coming soon.;

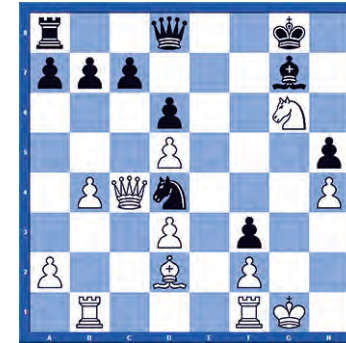
23...♖ae8 24.♙f3 Now the queen plays an important defensive role. White wants to exchange some pieces with ♖e1 to realize his material advantage. It's not obvious how Black could continue his attack. 24...♘d4 (24...♙e5 25.♖be1 and ♖e4 next, White consolidates his position.) 25.♙g3 ♘e2+ 26.♘xe2 ♙xd2 Black almost trapped the knight, but there's still one square. 27.♘c1+/-]

22...♘f3+! White needs to give up the guard of his king!

23.♙xf3 exf3 24.♘xf8 [White probably could have still achieved a draw with 24.♙g5! ♔d7 25.♙e4! followed by ♙e6, exchanging the queens. (White should not be greedy with 25.♘xf8 ♖xf8 ♘d4 and ♙g4 are the threats. 26.♙e4 (26.♙h2 es met strongly with 26...♙e5+ 27.♙f4 ♘h6!! Black wins on both lines. 28.♙xe5 (28.♖g1+ ♘g4+ 29.♖xg4+ ♙xg4 30.♖g1 ♖xf4 31.♖xg4+ ♖xg4+) 28...♘g4+ and White is forced to sacrifice his queen, but he doesn't have enough compensation. 29.♙xg4+ hxg4) 26...♘d4 ♙h3 is coming next. 27.♙h2 ♙e5+) 25...♖f7 (25...♖ae8 doesn't work because of the intermediate move 26.♘xf8!; 25...♖fe8 26.♙xf3) 26.♙e6 with approximately even chances.]

24...♘d4! Locking the queen on c4, which deprives White from his main defensive sources. ♙xh4 is the main threat now.

25.♘g6 [25.♙g5 ♙xf8 followed by ♙f5 is hopeless.]



25...b5!! Brilliant! Completely unexpectedly, the main blow arrived on the queenside. The queen is trapped as both of its main squares move into ♘e2.

26.♙g5? White collapsed from the previous shock. [26.♙c1 ♘e2+; However 26.♙xd4 was still playable, as White has a rook, a knight and active pieces for the queen. 26...♙xd4 27.♖be1! White installs his rook on e6 and Black must play precisely to preserve some advantage. 27...♙f7 28.♖e6 ♙f6! The knight is trapped, but White still has a resource 29.♙h2! (29.♘f4? ♙g8+ 30.♙h2 ♙g4) 29...♙xg6 30.♙g5 and Black can only achieve a better rook endgame with 30...a5! 31.♙xf6 ♙xf6]

26...♙d7 White can resign now as the threats are still very strong.

27.♙xd4 ♙xd4 28.♘f4 [28.♙h2 ♙h7 29.♘f4 ♖g8 White can't resist for long.]

28...♙e5 29.♘e6 ♙f7 What an exciting game!

0-1

(2) Bodnaruk, Anastasia (2415) – Javakhishvili, Lela (2455) [B42]

FIDE WCh Women World Cup Khanty-Mansiysk RUS (1.28),
11.11.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Maybe some CEWN readers will remember the great Bodnaruk-Almasi game... Once again the young U-20 Russian Champion strikes in her very aggressive style, with a lot of nice sacrifices. We'll see a really great game!

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 a6 The Paulsen with 4...a6 has been a popular opening for at least 60 years!

5.♖d3 [5.♘c3 is the other main line.]

5...♖c5 6.♘b3 ♖e7 7.♔g4 Probably the most critical line. White is trying to provoke 7...g6 and only then to go back with 8.♔e2. Black's pawn structure would be much worse...

7...♖f6 This is quite a rare move and I think not the best one. Black is trying to develop the knight with ♘ge7, and then to play 0-0 followed by d5. But of course, White is taking actions against this plan.

8.♔g3 We are following the game Karjakin-Flores 2012.

8...♘c6 9.♘c3 ♘ge7 10.♖f4



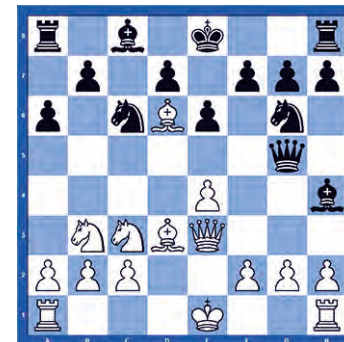
10...♘g6?! N It's hard to say if Black has prepared this move. To me, it looks very risky. [10...e5 11.♖d2 d6 12.0-0 ♖e6 13.♔b1 ♔c8 14.h4 with better play for White, Karjakin-Flores, Olympiad 2012.]

11.♖d6! Of course. White should not allow Black to castle and, at the same time, the d5 move is blocked.

11...♖h4 Black is trying an active plan. [In case of 11...♖e5 12.♖xe5 ♘cxe5 13.0-0 followed by f4-f5, with a clear advantage for White.]

12.♔e3 A logical reply. White is preparing to castle long and against ♖g5, to have f4 available. [Another logical move would have been 12.♔h3 ♖e7!? Black is using the slightly unlucky position of the White Queen on h3, in comparison to g3. 13.♖xe7 ♔xe7 14.0-0 0-0 15.f4 d6 and White is still a bit better, but nothing too big has happened.]

12...♔g5? In general it's the right idea for Black to exchange the queens, but here it's just too risky. Black's bishop on h4 is almost trapped and the Black king on e8 could quickly get in trouble. [12...♖e7 would still give Black a worse position, but a fighting one.]



13. ♔h3! Brave and strong. In a K.O. tournament it's never easy to take the decision of sacrificing when You can choose a safer way. [13. ♔xg5 ♕xg5 14.0-0 just leads to a better endgame for White.]

13... ♖f4 And we are entering a forced line.

14. ♕xf4 ♔xf4 15.g3! This double exchange sacrifice was the point of playing 13. ♔h3!. The action starts!

15... ♔f3 16. ♔xh4 No way back.

16... ♔xh1+ 17. ♔e2! Not giving the f3 square for the Black queen.

17... ♖d4+ [In case of 17... ♔g2 18.e5! is very strong. White wants to play ♖e4-♖d6, or simply ♕e4 to catch the Black queen.]

18. ♖xd4 ♔xa1



19.e5! A multi-functional move. It stops Black from castling short and prepares the move ♖e4. [It's too early for 19. ♖f5? exf5 20. ♖d5 0-0! an easy move to blunder...]

19... d5 This move loses, but it seems like nothing helps. [19... ♔xb2 20. ♖e4 White is going against his target — the Black king. 20... ♔xd4 21. ♖d6+ ♔xd6 22.exd6 From

the material point of view, Black is doing fine, but he has one problem, all his pieces are undeveloped and White is starting a fast mating attack. 22...f6 23. ♔h5+ ♔f8 24. ♕g6! with the double idea of playing ♕e8 and ♔a5. White's position is winning.]

20.exd6 f6 Nothing else left...

21. ♕xh7 This move is winning as well, but would lead to a fast win: [21. ♔h5+! with the already known idea of taking the queen over the 5th rank to c7 or e7. 21... ♔f8 22. ♔c5 d7 is a deadly threat now. 22... ♕d7 23. ♔c7 ♔e8 24. ♖xe6 and Black is completely lost.]

21... ♔f8 22. ♖e4! Bringing the last piece into the attack. White wants to play ♖xf6 next and there is no escape for Black. We can clearly see how important it is to keep the queen in the game; Black's one on a1 is nothing more than a kibitzer...

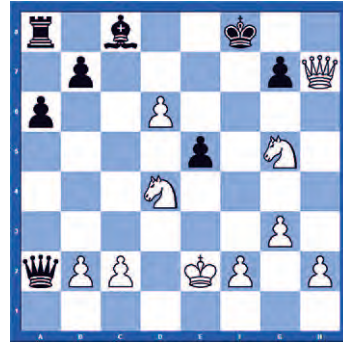
22...e5? Black is resigning without a fight. [22... ♔xh7! was the only way to continue. 23. ♔xh7 ♔xb2 Finally, the queen is back in the game. 24. ♔d3! Very strong. Black is completely paralyzed and can only hope for a perpetual check, which is almost impossible to give because of the strong knights on d4 and e4. White's position is close to winning.]

23. ♖xf6! What a total crush!

23... ♔xh7 24. ♖xh7+ ♔g8 25. ♖g5 White wants to mate Black from all sides!

25... ♔xa2 Avoiding the mate threat ♔h7-♔h8 because of ♔g8.

26. ♔h7+ ♔f8



27.b3! Cool and strong, keeping the Black queen out of the game.

27...♗g4+ 28.f3 ♔e8 Any move is winning, but White chooses a very beautiful mate.

29.♔g8+ ♔d7 30.♔f7+ ♔xd6 31.♗e4# Wow, what a mate! Another great game by Bodnaruk. However, she received bad news already the next day; she lost her second game and later on the very dramatic tie-break.

1-0

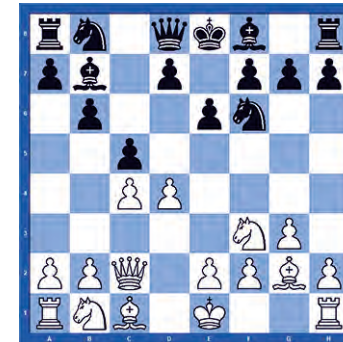
(3) Topalov,V (2769) – Nisipeanu,LD (2668) [E15]

6th Kings Tournament Bucharest ROU, 12.11.2012

[Csaba Balogh]

A nice win by Topalov. He put a lot of pressure on Nisipeanu during the whole game, who defended resourcefully for a while, but later, in the time trouble, couldn't hold the tension.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.g3 ♖a6 5.♔c2 ♗b7 6.♗g2 c5



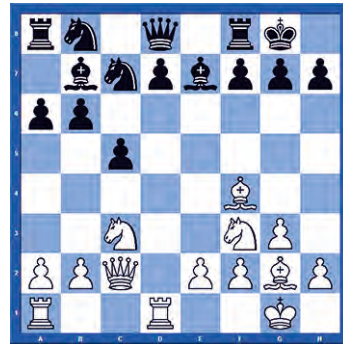
7.d5!? This pawn sacrifice was first played in 2006, but since then there were hundreds of great games on the highest level. However, as we will see, there are still a lot of unexplored territory. The main reason is that the machine always suggests many good defensive ideas for Black, but if somebody takes a look at the position without the computer assistance, White's position always looks better and it feels uncomfortable for the Black side.

7...exd5 8.cxd5 ♘xd5 9.0-0 ♗e7 10.♖d1 ♘c7 A rare but interesting move. [The main line clearly is 10...♘c6 Topalov's second, Ivan Cheparinov, came up with a new setup recently, which was based on exactly the same ide-

as as our present game. 11.a3 (11.♔f5 and; 11.♔a4 are the two most common continuations.) 11...♘c7 12.♙f4 ♘e6 13.e3 ♘xf4 14.exf4 0–0 15.♘c3 d6 16.♖d2 ♖e8 17.♗ad1 Topalov was aiming for exactly the same pawn structure and piece configuration. Black had to play very precisely to hold. 17...h6 The game turned into a sharp tactical struggle now. 18.♘e5 ♘d4! Only move! 19.♗xd4 ♙xg2 20.♖4d2 ♙h3 21.♘b5 ♔c8! 22.♘xd6 ♙xd6 23.♖xd6 White seems to keep the initiative with domination, but Black succeeds to „jump out” with a tactical idea. 23...f6! 24.♖xf6! ♔b7! After many g moves, the game should have finished in a perpetual check, but White decided to play on and badly blundered the game. 25.♔c4+ ♙h7 26.♔d3+ ♙g8 27.♔b3+ ♙h7 28.f3? gxf6 29.♖d7+ ♔xd7 30.♘xd7 ♙g7! Black parried the ♔f7 threat and the knight was trapped on d7. Black soon won in Cheparinov-Almasi, Porto Carras 2011.]

11.♘c3 a6!? This is basically our novelty. Its point will become clear two moves later.

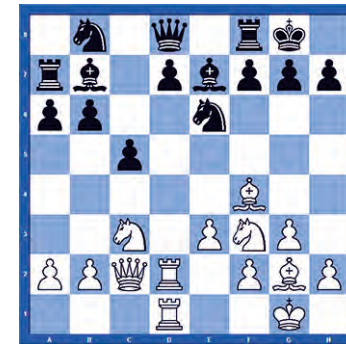
12.♙f4 0–0



13.e3 Just like Cheparinov. White wants to double his rooks now.

13...♖a7 This is the point of the a6 move. Black is a pawn up, but it's very difficult to finish the development under such pressure. In general, one of the main ideas is to give back the d-pawn in order to simplify the position with many exchanges and obtain an equal game. However, many times (it also happens in this game), White should prefer to keep the tension instead of restoring the material balance.

14.♖d2 ♘e6 15.♖ad1! [White had a chance to equalize the material with 15.♙xb8 ♔xb8 16.♖xd7 but now the a6–♖a7 idea pays off. 16...♙e4! 17.♔d2 ♙c6! 18.♖xa7 ♔xa7 Black successfully exchanged his passive rook and the other one will occupy the d-file on the next move.]



15...♘xf4 [15...♙a8 could have been in the spirit of the ♖a7 plan. After Black has overprotected the d7 pawn, he is ready to develop with ♘c6. However, White has a strong compensation here as well. 16.♘d5 (16.a3 is always a useful waiting move, in order to have ♘d5 on ♘c6, but Black also could improve his position first with 16...♖e8) 16...♙xd5 17.♖xd5 ♘c6 18.a3 ♘xf4 19.gxf4 Now this recapture seems to be better in order to keep control over the

d4 square. (19.exf4 ♗f6 ♘d4 is coming next.) 19...♗f6 20.♗h3! with strong compensation and mutual chances.]

16.exf4 The general rule says you should always take towards the center. So, 16.gxf4 would also make sense, but the idea of the Topalov Team (as Cheparinov also took with e-pawn) is to generate the compensation on the central lines.

16...♔c8 [For me, it looked more logical to play 16...♗f6 and on 17.h4 h6 followed by ♖e8. It's not easy to increase the pressure as White.]

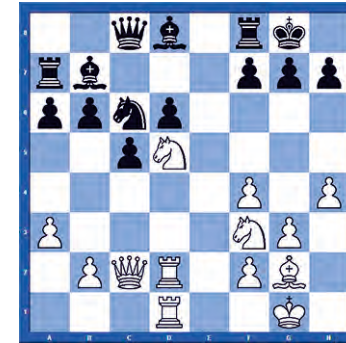
17.h4 A useful move. It opens the back-rank and allows Black to always consider the option of ♘g5 ♗xg5 hxg5. For this reason, I believe Black should play h6.

17...d6 [17...h6]

18.a3 Another useful waiting move. White only wants to play ♘d5 when Black puts his own knight c6. Otherwise, Black gets close to a draw after giving up the light-squared bishop, followed by ♘c6. [18.♘g5 was a tempting alternative. 18...♗xg5 (18...g6 19.♘ge4 is good for White.) 19.hxg5 ♘c6 (Black must keep the bishops on the board, since after 19...♗xg2 20.♗xg2 ♘c6 21.♖h1! forces a decisive weakness. 21...g6 22.♘d5+-) 20.♘e4 leads to a slightly better endgame for White almost by force. (20.♖xd6 ♘d4 is all right for Black.) 20...♘d4 21.♘xd6 ♘xc2 22.♘xc8 ♗xc8 23.♖xc2 looks bad because of the threatened penetration on the d-file, but Black is in the game after 23...♖d7! 24.♖xd7 ♗xd7 25.♖d2 ♗e6 26.a3 ♖b8 and ♔f8-e7 next.]

18...♘c6? This is exactly what Topalov was waiting for. [18...h6 should have been played.]

19.♘d5 ♗d8



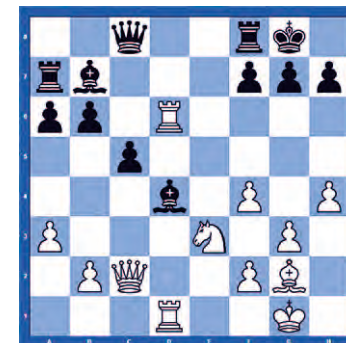
20.♘e3! White wins back the material soon with ♘f5 and gets a better position.

20...♗f6 [20...♗e7 21.♘f5+=]

21.♖xd6! [21.♘f5 is less clear because of 21...d5!]

21...♘d4 This is what we were speaking about, Black gives back the pawn, but aims for equality through simplifications. However, this time White manages to keep the initiative with active play.

22.♘xd4 ♗xd4

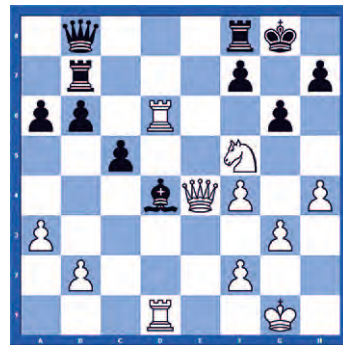


23. ♖xb7 Topalov prefers to play actively instead of getting extra material, or maybe he just missed the nice ♗f5 nuance in the other line. [23. ♖xb6 ♗xg2 24. ♔xg2+/- Black doesn't have enough compensation and the critical 24... ♖b7 is met with the tactical 25. ♗f5!+/-]

23... ♖xb7 24. ♗f5 ♔b8 [24... ♗xb2 is refuted nicely by 25. ♖xb6!+/-]

25. ♔e4? A mistake by Topalov. [The simple 25. ♖d5 would have given a big advantage. 25... ♗f6 (25... ♖d8 26. ♔e4! ♖xd5 27. ♔xd5 also looks pretty bad for Black.) 26. h5+/- White is dominating!]

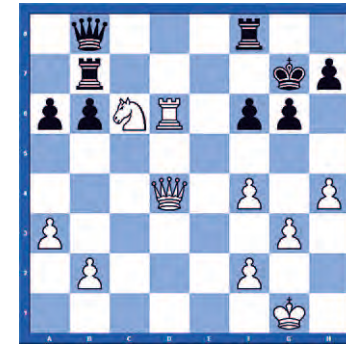
25... g6! White has a difficult decision again. He must either transfer to a slightly better rook endgame or sacrifice an exchange and continue playing with the initiative. Of course, Topalov remains faithful to his style and decides for the latter. [White can make use of the un-opened back-rank after 25... ♗xb2 26. ♗e7+ ♔h8 27. ♗c6! and after every queen move, ♖d8 decides the game. 27... ♔c7 28. ♖d8+/-]



26. ♗e7+ [26. ♗xd4 ♔xd6 27. ♔xb7 b5! This was Nisipeanu's trick. White can't leave the pin. The maximum he can get is the following endgame: (27... cxd4

28. ♔xa6+/-) 28. ♔c6! ♖d8 29. ♔xd6 ♖xd6 30. ♔f1 cxd4 31. ♔e2 followed by ♔d3, which is of course very unpleasant for Black, but we can't be sure if it will be enough for the win or not.]

26... ♔g7 27. R1xd4! cxd4 28. ♔xd4+ f6 29. ♗c6 White has only one pawn, but he has active pieces. Black's king is weak and the rooks need time to do something useful. White's main idea is to transfer his knight to e6, where it's going to be really disturbing.



29... ♔c8! Tenacious defense. [29... ♔c7 would have lost on the spot. 30. ♗d8!]

30. ♔h2! A high-class prophylactic move against the rook checks on the back-rank.

30... ♖c7 Black tries to sacrifice one pawn in order to get rid of the strong d6 rook. Topalov, obviously, doesn't go for the material.

31. ♔d5! Keeping the Black pieces in the cage. Now, or in the next move, Black should have played the prophylactic ♔h8 in order to get away from the ♗d8/Nd4 and ♗e6 ideas. The game is unclear. [On 31. ♗d8 ♖e7 Black must cover the e6 square. 32. ♔xb6 ♖fe8 33. ♔d4 ♔f5

with mutual chances.; 31.♔xb6 ♖d7! was Black's idea. 32.♖xd7+ ♕xd7 33.♕xa6 ♖c8 Suddenly, White has a material advantage, but Black has a strong initiative.]

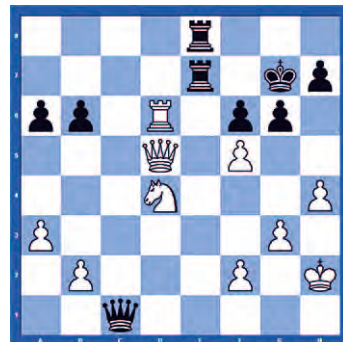
31...♖e8 [31...♔h8]

32.♘d4 Nisipeanu was already in huge time trouble, which of course made his job even more difficult. The pressure in the previous part of the game has taken all his time.

32...♖ce7 [32...♔h8! was the computer's defense, and on 33.♖xf6 ♖d7! White is forced to exchange rooks. 34.♖d6 ♖xd6 35.♕xd6 ♕c5 36.♕f6+ ♔g8 Black is not worse.]

33.f5! Very strong, especially in time trouble. Nisipeanu collapses, but I believe most of us would do the same in such positions.

33...♕c1? [33...♖e5 34.♕f3 (34.♖d7+ ♖5e7 White must retreat with the rook.) 34...gxf5 35.♖xb6 White is objectively better; he has threats with ♖b7, the Black king is still really unsafe, but the victory is very far.]



34.♘e6+ The poor rooks are locked again!

34...♔h8 35.♕d4! The decisive move! White wins the f6 pawn, since ♖f7 doesn't work...

35...♕c2 [35...♖f7 has a nice refutation. 36.♖d8! ♕c6 and a small combination against the back-rank. 37.♕c4!+-]

36.♕xf6+ ♔g8 37.fxg6! Defending the f2 pawn.

37...♕xg6 38.♕xg6+ hxg6 Black survived the mating threats, but lost all his pawns.

39.♘f4 ♖g7 [39...♖b7 40.♖xg6+ The three pawns will be automatically promoted.]

40.♖xb6 a5 After reaching the time control, Black chose not to continue playing a hopeless position after 41.♘xg6.

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(4) Cramling,P – Krush,I [D27]

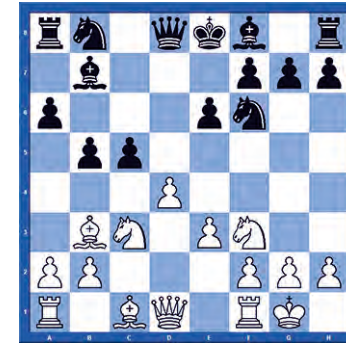
14.11.2012

[Kamil Miton]

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 dxc4 4.e3 e6 5.♙xc4 c5 6.0-0 a6 Black wants to play b5 and develop his bishop on b7. The idea is that if White doesn't allow this with 7.a4, then the b4 square becomes weak. This is very important in positions with an isolated pawn because Black can take control of the d5 square with ♘b4!

7.♘c3 Not the most popular line. Usually, White waits a bit to develop his knight because sometimes the d2 square is better for him. White has many different ways to play: [7.dxc5 ♙xc5 8.♚xd8+ ♔xd8 We can find a lot of games in this endgame where White has tried probably almost all the plans available.; 7.♙d3 ♘c6 8.♘c3 cxd4 9.exd4 ♙e7 10.a3 0-0 11.♖e1 leads to positions with the isolated pawn.; 7.♙b3 ♘c6 (7...b5 8.a4 with the idea of winning control of the c4 square.) 8.♚e2 (8.♘c3) 8... cxd4 9.♖d1 ♙e7 10.♘c3 0-0 (10...e5 11.exd4 exd4 12.♙e3 ♙g4 13.♙a4↑) 11.♘xd4 (11.exd4) 11...♚c7 12.♘xc6 ♚xc6 13.e4 b5 ∞]

7...b5 8.♙b3 [8.♙e2 Recently we have met this move in the top level. 8...♙b7 9.dxc5 ♚xd1 10.♖xd1 ♙xc5 11.♘d2! A logical and good idea by Kramnik used in his game against Tomashevsky. The knight is going to the queenside to support the pressure against Black's structure; White is slightly better. You can find more about this topic in the September 2012 edition of the Chess Evolution book.]

8...♙b7

9.e4 The Black king is still uncastled and thanks to his better development, White can immediately try to get the initiative in the center!

9...cxd4 Correct decision. Black should not accept the sacrifice. [9...♘xe4 10.♘xe4 ♙xe4 11.♖e1 With the tempo, the next White piece comes into the attack. Black is not able to stop the pressure. 11...♙d5 Looks logical but is not enough. Black is going to eliminate the bishop on b3 and avoid hits on e6! Other moves don't help Black either.

a) 11...♙b7 12.♙g5

a1) 12.d5 c4 13.dxe6 ♚xd1 14.exf7+ ♔xf7 15.♘g5+ ♔g8 16.♙xd1 h6 17.♘e6 ♙b4=;

a2) 12.♙xe6 also gives White an advantage. 12...fxe6 13.♖xe6+ ♔f7 14.♘e5+ ♔g8 (14...♙xe6 15.♚g4+-) 15.♚h5 g6 16.♘g6 ♚d5 17.♚g4 ♚xg2+ 18.♚xg2 ♙xg2 19.♘xf8 ♙c6 20.♙h6;

12...♙e7 13.♙xe6! A typical crushing sacrifice that we'll see in a few moments. 13...fxe6 14.♖xe6 0-0 15.♙xe7 ♚d7 16.♙xf8 ♚xe6 17.♙xc5+-;

b) 11... ♖g6 12. ♗g5 (12.d5 c4 13.dxe6 f6 Black managed to limit White's bishop and rook. The position is unclear. 14. ♘h4 ♔xd1 15. ♗xd1 ∞) 12... ♗e7 13. ♗xe6 fxe6 14. ♖xe6 ♖a7 15.d5 0-0 16. ♖xe7 ♖xe7 17.d6 ♘c6 18.dxe7 ♔xd1+ 19. ♖xd1 ♖e8 20. ♖d6 ♘xe7 21. ♖xa6+/-;

c) 11... ♗f5 12.d5 c4 13. ♗g5 ♗e7 14. ♗xe7 ♔xe7 15. ♘d4→; 12.dxc5 ♗xb3 13. ♔xb3 ♗xc5 (13... ♘c6 14. ♗f4 ♗e7 15. ♖ad1 ♔c8 16. ♗d6+/-) 14. ♔c3! Double attack. Black will not escape. 14... ♘d7 (14... ♔b6 15. ♔xg7 ♗xf2+ 16. ♔h1 ♖f8 17. ♖d1+/-; 14... ♗f8 15. ♗g5+/-)



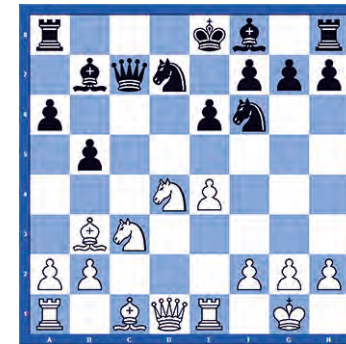
15. ♗g5! (15. ♔xg7 ♔f6 and Black is fighting.) 15... f6 (15... ♗e7 16. ♔xg7 ♗f6 17. ♔xh8+ White is winning material.) 16. ♖xe6+ ♔f7 17. ♔b3!+- White is simply winning because of the weak Black king. 17... ♔f8 (17... fxg5 18. ♘xg5+ ♔f8 (18... ♔xg5 19. ♖xa6+ ♔e7 20. ♖e1+ ♘e5 21. ♔e6+ +-) 19. ♖xa6 ♘e5 20. ♘e6++-) 18. ♗f4 g5 19. ♗d6+ 1-0 Miton,K-Manik,M/Mallorca 2004.]

10. ♘xd4 ♘bd7!? An ambitious move compared to the more often used: [10... ♘c6 11. ♗e3 ♗e7 (11... ♘xd4 12. ♗xd4 ♘xe4?! We see another example of why black shouldn't grab this pawn. 13. ♘xe4 ♗xe4 14. ♖e1 ♗d5 15. ♗e5 ♗xb3 16. ♔xb3 Black has problems with his de-

velopment and with the g7 pawn. 16... ♔b6 17. ♔f3 ♖d8 18. ♖ac1 ♗d6 19. ♖c6 ♔a5 20. ♗c3 b4 21. ♗xg7 ♖g8 22. ♗f6 b3 23. ♖ec1 ♗e7 24. ♗xe7 ♔xe7 25. ♖c7+ 1-0 Fressinet,L-Kapnisis,S/Caleta ENG 2010.) 12. ♘xc6 ♗xc6 13. ♔xd8+ ♖xd8 14.f3 The bishop on c6 is limited (by the e4-f3 structure). The slightly worse Black structure on the queenside just gives White a symbolic advantage. 14...0-0 15. ♖fd1 ♖xd1+ 16. ♖xd1 ♖d8 17. ♖xd8+ ♗xd8 18. ♘e2 ♔f8 19. ♘d4 ♗d7 20. ♗c2 ♗c7= 1/2-1/2 Koneru,H-Movsesian,S/Caleta ENG 2010 (31.)]

11. ♖e1 Logical. White is preparing e5 with the idea of regrouping his pieces to put pressure on the kingside (for example, with ♗c2-♔g4 etc...) [11. ♗xe6 fxe6 12. ♘xe6 ♔b6 13. ♘d5 ♗xd5 14.exd5 ♔f7=+ and White doesn't have enough compensation.]

11... ♘c5 [11... ♔c7



12.e5! ♘xe5 13. ♗f4 ♗d6 14. ♘dxb5+]

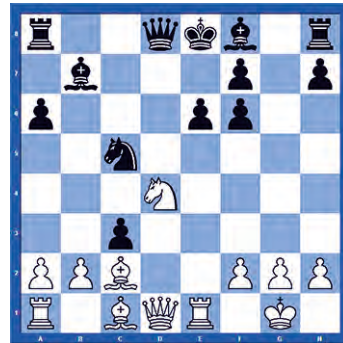
12. ♗c2 White has to keep the bishop. [12.e5?! ♘xb3 13.axb3 ♘d7 Without the bishop, it's hard for White to create threats. Black is totally fine.]

12...b4 A very concrete move. [12... ♖c8 13.e5 ♘d5 14. ♔g4 with very complex play.]

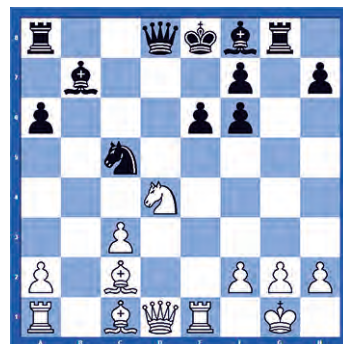
13.e5 Suddenly, the position becomes very complex. White had another interesting option as well: [13.♘a4 ♘cxe4 14.♙e3 ♙e7 15.f3 ♘d6 16.♘b6 ♖b8 17.♙a4+ ♔f8 18.♖c1 After this thematic pawn sacrifice, White has some compensation thanks to the bad king on f8 and Black's weak queenside structure.]

13...bxc3 [13...♘fd7 14.♘e4 ♘xe4 15.♙xe4 ♙xe4 16.♖xe4 White should be better.]

14.exf6 gxf6



15.b4!? Nice idea. White is going to expel the strong knight from c5. The simple recapture on c3 leads to an unclear position as well: [15.bxc3 ♔d5 (15...♖g8



16.♘xe6 It's amazing, but it works! 16...♖xg2+ (16...fxe6 17.♔h5+ ♔d7 18.♖d1+ ♙d6 19.♙f4 ♖xg2+ 20.♙f1 e5 21.♖xd6+ ♔xd6 22.♖d1+ ♙d5 23.c4+-; 16...♘xe6 17.♙a4+ ♔e7 18.♙a3+-) 17.♙f1 ♔xd1 18.♘g7+ ♔d7 19.♖xd1+ ♔c8 20.♙f5+ ♔b8 21.♙f4+ ♔a7 22.♘h5+/-) 16.f3 0-0-0 ∞ and it's hard to say which king is safer.]

15...♔d5 Simple but on time! Black develops the queen with tempo to create pressure against g2, preparing to castle long and supporting the e6 square to avoid some sacrifice. [15...♖g8 16.bxc5 ♖xg2+ 17.♙f1 ♙xc5 18.♖xe6+ The idea of sacrificing on e6 works in various occasions. 18...fxe6 19.♔h5+ ♖g6 20.♘xe6 ♙g2+ 21.♔e2 ♔e7 22.♙a4+ ♔f7 23.♙b3 with a huge attack.]

16.f3 0-0-0 17.♙e3 e5 18.bxc5 [18.♘e2 ♔c4 19.♙f5+ ♘e6 20.♔c2 ∞]

18...exd4 19.♙e4 ♔xc5 [19...♔d7!? With the idea of keeping the pawn on c5, which paradoxically, in some cases can help in the protection of the Black king. Also, Black would recapture on c5 with the bishop.]

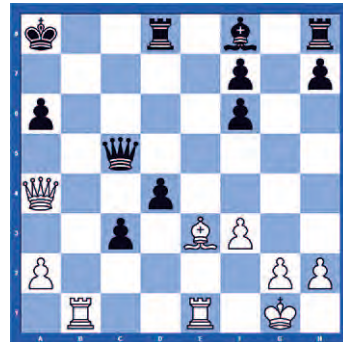
20.♙xb7+ ♔xb7 In exchange of the dangerous pawns, White has pressure against the king.

21.♖b1+ ♔a8 [21...♔a7 22.♔b3 ♔c8 (22...♔c6!? 23.♔xf7+ ♖d7 24.♔e8 a5 This is not easy to see with human eyes. Black creates an escape route for the king. The queen on c6 is nicely controlling some important squares and White is not able to finish the attack. 25.♙f2 c2 26.♖bc1 ♙c5 27.♔xh8 d3) 23.♔b6+ ♔a8 24.♙xd4



24... Rxd4 25. Re8 and now there are two moves that lead to a draw by force. 25... Rxd1+ (25... Rxd8 26. Qxa6+ Qxa6 27. Rxd8+ Kd7 28. Rxd7+=) 26. Rxd1 Qc5+ 27. Qxc5 Rxe8 28. Qxc8+ Rxc8 29. Qf2= White will win the c-pawn and the game will finish with a draw.]

22. Qa4



22... Qc8?? A huge overlook of the US grandmaster. Now she loses immediately. It's the second time in this event that Krush blunders and changes the result of the game in one move. We hope that Irina forgets about this and manages to equalize the match score. [22... Qa7 23. Qb3 leads to the variations in the previous commentary, where Black was fine.]

23. Qf4 Qd6 24. Rb6 Ka7 25. Qxd6 Qxb6 26. Rb1+ Ka7 27. Qxd4+ Ka8 28. Qd5+ 1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Nisipeanu,LD (2668) – Ivanchuk,V (2763)

6th Kings tournament, 11.11.2012

[CEWN]

1...=

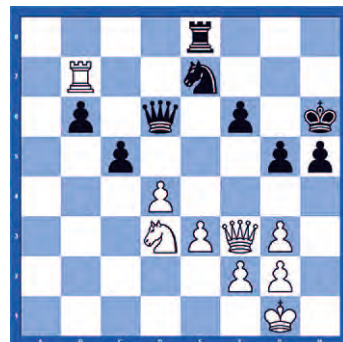


(6) Khismatullin,D (2646) – Gordievsky,D (2422)

Rector Cup (rapid), 11.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.+/-

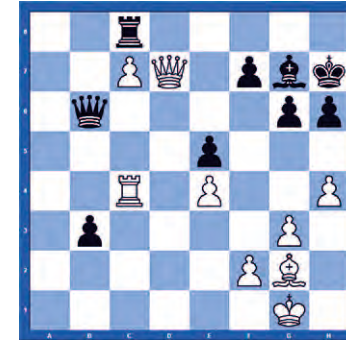


(7) Fressinet,L (2703) – Fier,A (2567)

Spanish league, 07.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.+/-

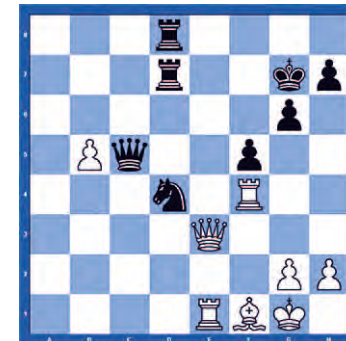


(8) Perez Candelario,M (2579)
– Ibarra Jerez,J (2528)

Spanish league, 07.11.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(9) Kovalyov,A (2596) — Fluvia Poyatos,J (2490)

Spanish league, 10.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

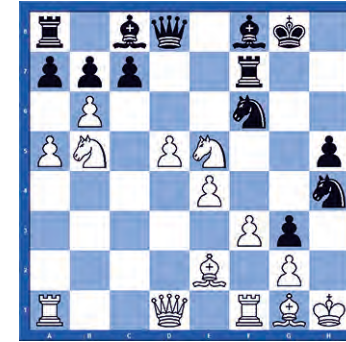


(11) Hagen,A (2418) — Szabo,K (2541)

Budapest, 08.11.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

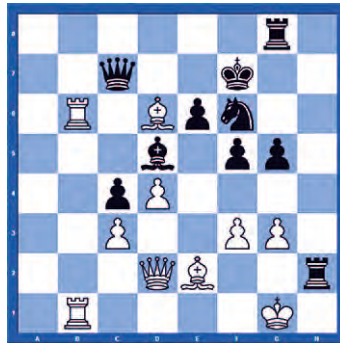


(10) Arnggrimsson,D (2386) — Bakre,T (2481)

Budapest, 05.11.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

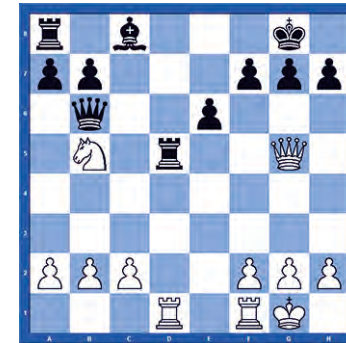


(12) Navara,D (2722) — Kopylov,M (2473)

German league, 10.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



(13) Burg,T (2502) – Lupulescu,C (2613)

German league, 10.11.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

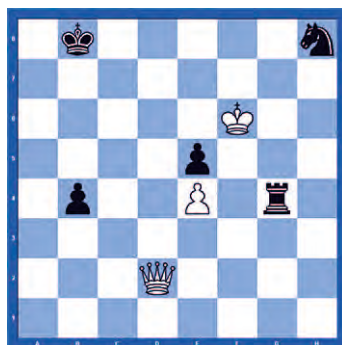


(14) Balogh,C (2664) – Antoniewski,R (2562)

German league, 10.11.2012

[CEWN]

1...=

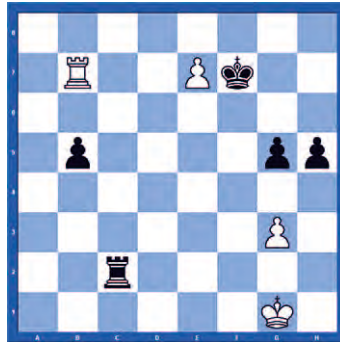


Endgame section

(15) Kopylov,M (2573) – Volokitin,A (2724)

German league, 11.11.2012

[Chess Evolution]



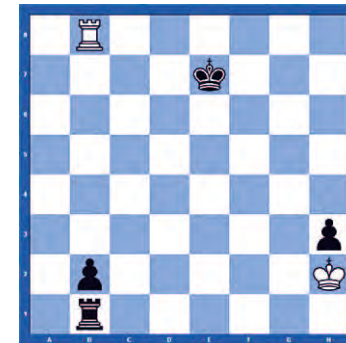
In the following rook endgame, Black seems to be completely winning. However, if we take a deeper look, we come to the conclusion that, actually, he has no chance to convert his advantage. Black should try to squeeze the king in the first rank. Obviously, transposing into a 2 vs 1 endgame by exchanging b2 for e7 always leads to a dead drawn position.

53... ♖b2 White has quite an easy job in this part of the game. He must pass with the king on g1–h1 and wait for Black to execute a plan. [After 53... ♜c5 54. ♔g2 Black can't make progress. 54... ♜e5 55. ♔f3 ♔f6 trying to improve the king allows 56. ♜xb5!=]

54. ♔h1 b4 55. ♔g1 ♔e8 56. ♔h1 ♜b3 57. ♔g2 ♔f7 58. ♔h2 ♜b2+ 59. ♔g1 Black plays with good technique. Before starting the final action, he makes some random

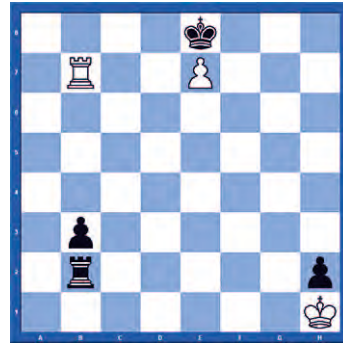
moves, which don't change anything on the position. With this clever play, he gains some time to finish off the game.

59... ♜b1+ 60. ♔g2 ♔e8 61. ♔h2 ♜b2+ 62. ♔g1 h4 Sooner or later, Black needs to play this move. [62... b3 63. ♔h1 ♜b1+ 64. ♔g2 b2 Pushing the pawn to b2 is not an option for Black. This leads to a well-known theoretical draw, despite the fact that Black will be two pawns up. 65. ♔h2 ♔f7 66. ♔g2 h4 67. gxf4 gxf4 68. ♔h2 h3 White is in zugzwang, but he can start moving with the rook. 69. ♜b4 ♔xe7 70. ♜b8=]



Black has no chance. When the king gets to c3 to rescue the b1 rook, White gives checks on the 8th rank and then he returns to b8.]

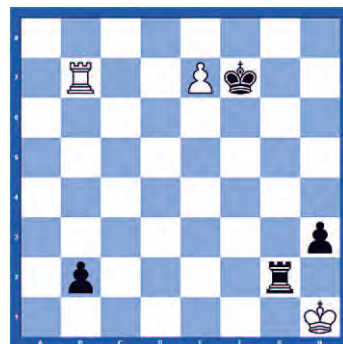
63. gxf4 gxf4 64. ♔h1 b3 65. ♔g1 h3 66. ♔h1 ♔f7 [66... h2 was the other alternative, leaving White in zugzwang again.]



67. ♖b8+ ♔xe7 An important endgame factor saves White, namely the stalemate. 68. ♜e8+! Black can't hide his king from the checks. 68... ♔d6 69. ♜e6+ ♔d5 70. ♜e5+ ♔d4 71. ♜e4+ ♔d3 72. ♜e3+ ♔d2 Now White must be careful, since the king has closed the 2nd rank, but 73. ♜d3+! ♔c1 74. ♜c3+ ♔b1 75. ♜c1+! ♔a2 76. ♜a1+! ♔xa1=]

67. ♔g1! This is not a great sign! White had to allow the ♜g2 possibility, followed by advancing the b-pawn.

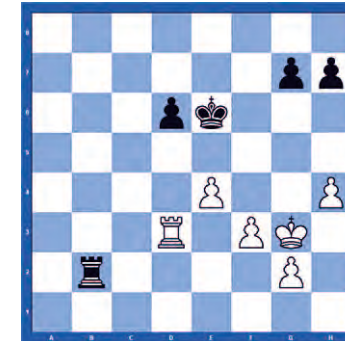
67... ♜g2+ 68. ♔h1 b2 [68... ♜g3 leads nowhere. 69. ♔h2 ♜c3 70. ♔h1 Black can't improve his position.]



69. e8 ♔+! ♔xe8 70. ♜b8+ ♔d7 71. ♜b7+ ♔c6 72. ♜b6+! ♔c5 73. ♜b5+ ♔c4 74. ♜b4+ ♔c3 75. ♜b3+ ♔xb3 An instructive endgame. 1/2

(16) Harikrishna,Pentala (2692) – Dominguez Perez,Leinier (2726) [B92]

TCh-ESP CECLUB Div Honor 2012 Leon ESP (6.4), 10.11.2012
[Chess Evolution]



This endgame appeared in one of the main matches in the Spanish league. White is a pawn up and has very good winning chances. Anyhow, rook endgames are always tricky and usually give a lot of drawing resources.

41. ♜a3 h5 After this move, the position is simply lost, but probably Black's position is lost anyway. [41... ♜c2 Let's take a look at how White could win if Black would keep on waiting (of course, Black's dream idea would be to play d5 and exchange the d-pawn for White's e-pawn, but that's just a dream...) 42. ♜a7! forcing the Black king to get away from e6 and leave the d6 pawn unprotected. 42... ♔f6 43. ♜d7 ♜d2 (43... ♜c6 44. ♔f4 followed by g4, with an easy win for White.) 44. e5+! An easy but nice tactic. 44... ♔xe5 45. ♜xg7 and White is totally winning.; Doesn't help either 41... ♜b7 42. ♔g4 followed by f4-g3 and ♜a6.]

42. ♜a5! By putting the rook on g5, White is protecting the g2 pawn and is able to put the king on f4.

42...g6 43.♖g5 ♔f6 44.♔f4 The first part of the plan is done. Now the second part is coming. White will bring the rook to d3, attacking the d6 pawn and protecting the pawn on f3, in order to enter with the king on g5.

44...♖f2 45.g3 Now Black can't avoid White's rook maneuver.

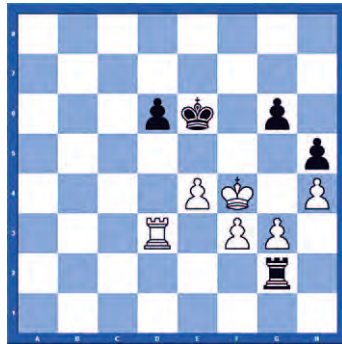
45...♖f1 Black has to wait and see — nothing else to do...

46.♖a5 ♖f2 47.♖a3 The rook is coming to d3.

47...♖g2 [47...♖d2 48.♖a6 and the Black king has to leave the 6th rank. **48...♔f7 49.♔g5** followed by ♖a7+, with a totally winning position.]

48.♖d3 The Black king has to leave the g5-square for the White king.

48...♔e6



49.g4! The position is won! Great technique by White.

49...hxg4 50.fxg4 ♖g1 51.♔g5 ♖g2 Black is still fighting a little, so White must be accurate until the end.

52.♖d5! Nice move. White's plan is to play ♖a5-♖a8-♖g8 next. Why to start with 52.♖d5? To avoid Black's ♔e5.

52...♖e2 53.♔xg6 ♖xe4 54.♖g5 And, of course, the h-pawn decides the game.

54...♖f4 55.h5 ♖f6+ 56.♔g7 ♖f7+ 57.♔g8 ♖a7 58.h6 The position is totally hopeless for Black.

58...♔f6 59.♖g7 Again, the easiest move to avoid any of Black's tricks...

59...♖a8+ 60.♔h7 And White's g-pawn starts its march.

60...d5 61.g5+ ♔e6 62.g6 d4 63.♖b7 White can easily hold the Black pawns.

63...d3 64.g7 d2 65.♖b1 ♔d5 Great technique by Harikrishna...[65...♔f7 66.♖d1 followed by ♖xd2.]

1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Fischer, Robert James — Larsen, Bent [B77]

Portoroz Interzonal Portoroz, 1958

[Csaba Balogh]

A real heavyweight game between Robert Fischer and the former World Champion candidate Bent Larsen, who belonged to the elite of the sport for decades.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6 The Sicilian Dragon variation, a clear sign that we'll have an exciting game.

6.♙e3 ♙g7 7.f3 0-0 8.♔d2 ♘c6 We have reached the starting position of the line. White has a choice between the two main setups 9.♙c4 and 9.0-0-0, or the recently popular 9.g4.

9.♙c4



9...♘xd4 This is already a forgotten move because it's known that Black can't fight for equality this way. However, at that time it was a novelty! [9...♙d7 is the right move

and the beginning of the lines, with more than 10000 games in the database.]

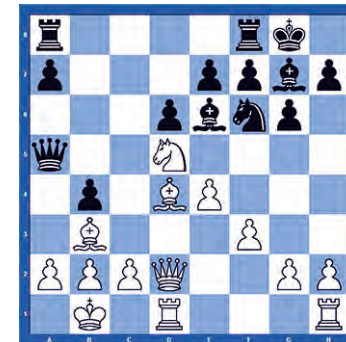
10.♙xd4 ♙e6 This was Larsen's idea, creating doubled pawns on the e-file, which is not necessarily bad for Black in the middlegame. The three central pawns cover all the squares, while White can hardly attack them with any piece. Actually, this motif is quite common in many Dragon lines. However, Fischer reacts correctly.

11.♙b3! [11.♙xe6 fxe6 12.0-0-0 ♔a5]

11...♔a5 12.0-0-0 We are facing an opposite side castling position. Both sides are ready to launch an attack against the opponent's king. Black is the first to go.

12...b5 [12...♙xb3 is met with another famous motif in the sharp Sicilian lines. White takes back with 13.cxb3! followed by ♔b1 and h4. Black's task is much harder against this structure.]

13.♔b1 b4 14.♘d5



14...♙xd5 Here comes the only mistake in the game by Fischer, which was based on a miscalculation.

15.♙xd5?! [The right way to play was demonstrated by Mikhail Tal one year later against Larsen. That game

is also very instructive, I will demonstrate it in the next CEWN. 15.exd5!]

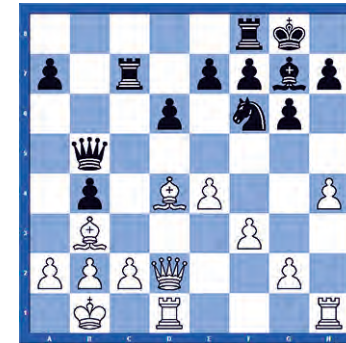
15... ♖ac8? Black doesn't make use of the previous inaccuracy. [15... ♘xd5 should have been played. 16. ♕xg7 (16.exd5 ♕xd5 is not an option for White.) 16... ♘c3+! This great tactical blow was missed by both superstars. (16... ♕xg7 17.exd5 This is what both sides have calculated and White has a comfortable advantage after ♖he1 and ♖e4. The rook will stand perfectly on e4, it attacks the b4 and e7 weaknesses and could be switched anytime to the attack with ♖h4.) 17.bxc3 (17. ♕xc3 bxc3 18. ♕xc3 ♕xc3 19.bxc3 ♖fc8= can't be better for White, with such a structure.) 17... ♖fb8!! This is the point! After the following forced moves, we reach an equal endgame. 18.cxb4 ♕xb4+! 19. ♕xb4 ♖xb4+ 20. ♕b2 ♖ab8=]

16. ♕b3! White successfully preserved his bishop and its diagonal remained open as well. Black's only idea is to play ♕b5 and a5-a4, but he must waste a very important tempo in order to do it.

16... ♖c7 [On the direct 16... ♕b5 White can accept the pawn. 17. ♕xa7! taking the main attacker. Black can't create a dangerous attack on the a-file because of the b3 bishop. 17... ♘d7 18. ♕d4+/-; 16... ♘d7 is too slow as well. 17. ♕xg7 ♕xg7 18.h4 h5 If Black allows h5, it's even worse. 19.g4! ♖h8 Black should try to block the kingside, but now White can slightly change the character of the game with 20. ♕d4+ ♕g8 21.g5! The rook is locked on h8 and the new plan is f4-f5 with a crushing attack.]

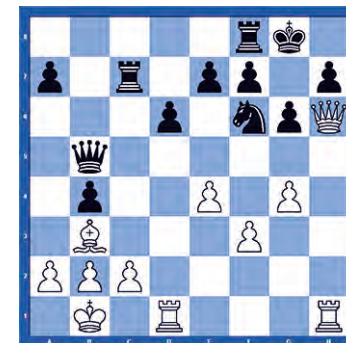
17.h4 ♕b5 [17...h5 isn't better either. 18.g4! hxg4 (18... ♖fc8 is refuted a bit unexpectedly by 19. ♕g5!+- Black is forced to exchange queens because of the ♕xg6 threat,

but then he loses the h5 pawn.) 19.h5! Typical sacrifices in the Dragon. 19...gxh5 (19... ♘xh5 20. ♕xg7 ♕xg7 21.fxg4+-) 20.fxg4! and Black will collapse soon. If Black can't attack, he must focus on defending, and that usually doesn't lead to anything good. 20...hxg4 21. ♕h2 ♖fc8 22.e5 dxe5 23. ♕xe5+-]



18.h5! White has already reached the front lines, while Black still needs two moves. Taking on h5 would only accelerate the defeat.

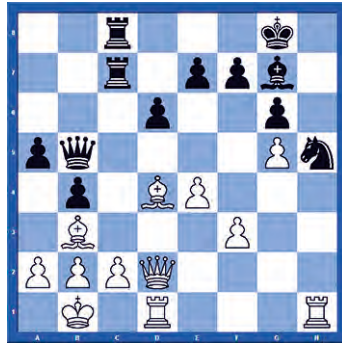
18... ♖fc8 [18...gxh5 19.g4!; 18... ♘xh5? nicely loses by force. 19. ♕xg7 ♕xg7 20.g4 ♘f6 21. ♕h6+



21...♔g8 Black seems to hold, but here comes the role of the b3 bishop. 22.g5! ♘h5 23.♖xh5! gxh5 24.g6! hxg6 25.♔xg6+ ♔h8 26.♔h6+ ♔g8 27.♗g1+-]

19.hxg6 hxg6 20.g4! The main defender is the dark-squared bishop, so White has to eliminate it. [20.♗xf6 was also tempting, but the g7 bishop protects the king well. 20...♗xf6 21.♔h6 e6! Black is safe.]

20...a5 21.g5 ♘h5 [White is faster by just one tempo after 21...a4? 22.gxf6 axb3 23.fxf7! bxc2+ 24.♔xc2! ♖xc2 25.♗h8#]



22.♖xh5! This probably arrived without thinking. Such sacrifices are automatic in this level. Fischer opens the way for the g-pawn, in order to destroy the kingside structure.

22...gxh5 This is the decisive mistake. [The position looked already hopeless, but as usual, the computer suggests a stubborn defense: 22...♗xd4! 23.♔xd4 gxh5 24.g6 and Black has 24...♖c4! closing the critical diagonal. Of course, the position remains suspicious, but White must act fast, or otherwise Black arrives with a4. 25.gxf7+ ♔xf7 26.e5! Very strong idea, using the fact that Black

is temporarily pinned. 26...a4! Black is still alive.(26...d5 27.♔d3! The attack will break through.)]

23.g6 e5 A desperate attempt to complicate matters. [23...e6 was losing as well after 24.gxf7+ ♔xf7 25.♗xg7 ♔xg7 26.♗xe6+- followed by ♗g1.]

24.gxf7+ ♔f8 25.♗e3 The two main threats are ♔xd6 and ♗h6. Black can't do anything against them.

25...d5 26.exd5 The next move is d6 and the bishop gets back to the game. [26.♗h6 was also winning.]

26...♖xf7 [26...a4 27.d6!+-]

27.d6 The end is near. From now on, all the moves are winning for White...

27...♖f6 [27...♖d7 28.♗h6+-]

28.♗g5 ♔b7 29.♗xf6 ♗xf6 30.d7 ♖d8 31.♔d6+ [Black resigned in view of 31.♔d6+ ♔g7 (31...♗e7 32.♔h6#) 32.♖g1+- followed by ♔xf6. A nice attacking game!]

1-0

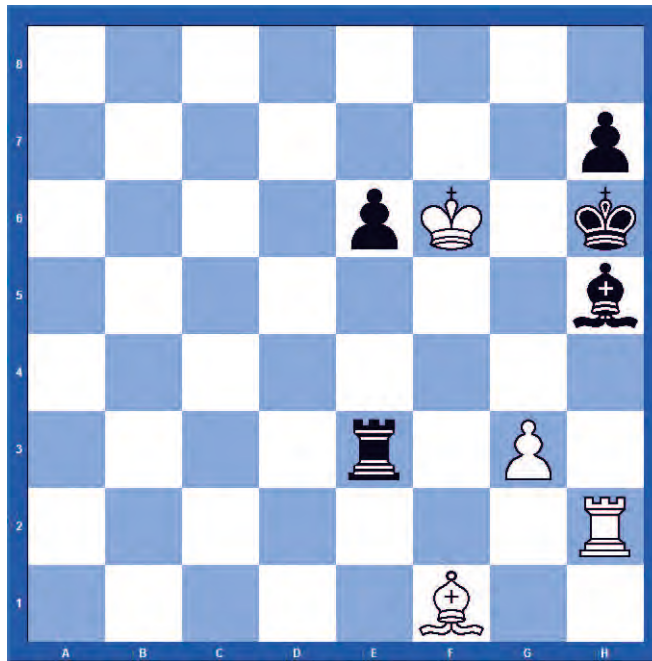
Surprise section / study

(18) Kubbel,L

1936

[CEWN]

1.+-



Solutions

(19) Karpov,A (2616) – Edouard,R (2664)

Cap'd Agde (rapid), 02.11.2012

[Solutions]



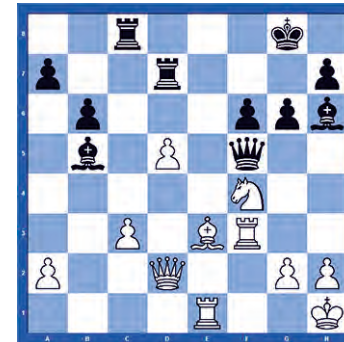
20. ♖xb6! ♙xe2 [20... ♘xb6 21. ♙xa6+-; 20... ♖xc1 21. ♘xc8+! ♖xc8 22. ♙xa6±]

21. ♘xc8+ ♖xc8 22. ♖xc8 ♙xd1 23. ♙xa5+-

(20) Timofeev,A (2631) – Tseitlin,M (2390)

Chigorin memorial, 29.10.2012

[Solutions]



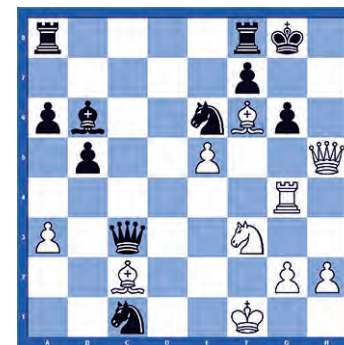
29. ♘xg6! ♖d3 [29... ♖xg6 30. ♙xh6+- (30. ♖g3+-) ; 29... ♙xe3 30. ♖xe3 ♖xg6 31. ♖g3+-]

30. ♖f2! hxg6 31. ♙xh6 ♖xd5 32. ♖xf6+-

(21) Oparin,G (2484) – Socko,B (2619)

Chigorin memorial, 30.10.2012

[Solutions]

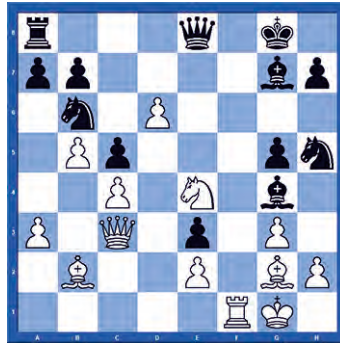


29... ♖c4+! 30. ♖xc4 gxh5 31. ♖h4 ♘g7! 32. ♘g5 ♖fc8+-

(22) Savchenko,B (2540) – Vlasenko,M (2400)

Chigorin memorial, 30.10.2012

[Solutions]

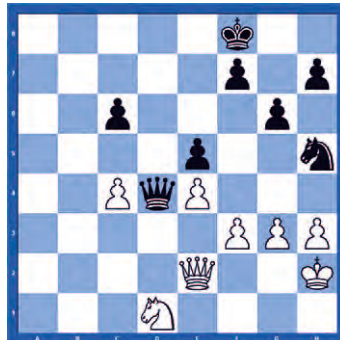


26. ♔xg7+! ♘xg7 27. ♘f6+ ♔h8 28. ♘xe8 ♖xe8 29. ♖f7 ♖g8 30. ♗d5!! ♘xd5 31. cxd5 h5 32. d7 ♗xd7 33. ♖xd7 ♔h7 34. d6 1-0

(23) Monin,N (2325) – Ionov,S (2550)

Chigorin memorial, 30.10.2012

[Solutions]

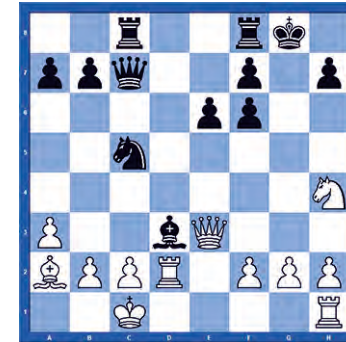


33... ♘xg3! 34. ♔xg3 ♗g1+ 35. ♔h4 [35. ♗g2 ♗xd1-+] 35... ♗g5+ 36. ♔h5 ♗g3! 37. ♗f2 ♗xh3+ 38. ♔xg5 h6+! 0-1 [38... h6+ 39. ♔f6 ♗e6#]

(24) Stojanovic,D (2488) – Savic,M (2531)

Cetinje Open, 25.10.2012

[Solutions]



18... ♘e4!! 19. ♗xd3 ♘xd2 20. ♗xd2 ♖fd8! 21. ♗e2 ♗f4+ 22. ♔b1 ♗xh4-+

(25) Rodriguez Vila,A (2541) – Mekhitarian,K (2503)

Villa Martelli, 23.10.2012

[Solutions]

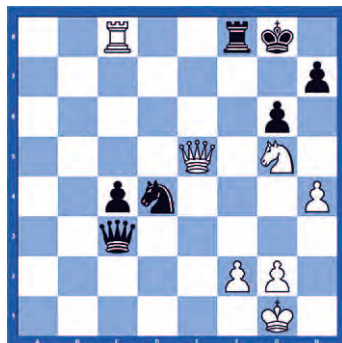


25... ♘e3! 26. ♗xe3 ♖g4 0-1

(26) Mekhitarian,K (2503)
– Rodriguez Vila,A (2541)

Villa Martelli, 28.10.2012

[Solutions]



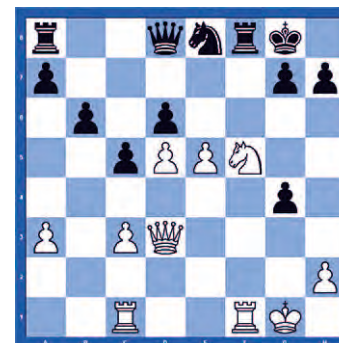
32... ♔a1+! [32... ♖xc8? 33. ♕d5+ ♔h8 34. ♕e5+=; 32... ♘f3+?? 33. ♘xf3 ♕xe5 34. ♖xf8+!]

33. ♔h2 ♘f3+! 0–1 [33... ♘f3+ 34. ♘xf3 ♕xe5+ 35. ♘xe5 ♖xc8–+]

(27) Shengelia,D (2529) – Hera,I (2573)

Austrian league, 02.11.2012

[Solutions]



21. ♘h6+! gxf6 **22. ♖xf8+ ♔xf8** **23. ♕xh7 dxe5**
24. ♖f1+ ♘f6 **25. ♕g6** 1–0

(28) Ftacnik,L (2544) – Cicak,S (2579)

Czech league, 04.11.2012

[Solutions]



24. ♖h6+! ♔xh6 25. ♕f7! e5 [25...g5 26.h4!+-]

26. ♖h4+ ♔g5 27. ♖h5+! [27. ♖xh7+-]

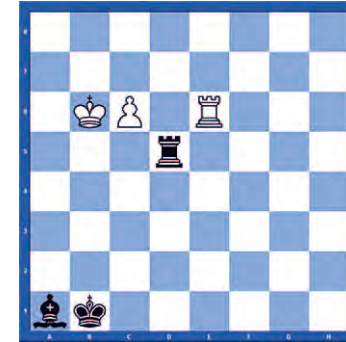
27...♔xh5 [27...gxh5 28. ♕g7+ ♔f5 29. ♕xh7+ ♔g5 30.h4+ ♔g4 31. ♕g6#]

28. ♕xh7+ ♔g5 29. ♕h4+ ♔f5 30.f3! 1-0

(29) Dehler,O

1910

[Solutions]



1. ♖e1+! [1.c7 ♕d4+! 2. ♔b7 ♖b5+ 3. ♔c6 ♖c5+ 4. ♔d7 ♖xc7+=]

1...♔a2 2. ♖xa1+!! ♔xa1 3.c7 ♖d6+ 4. ♔b5 [4. ♔b7? ♖d7]

4...♖d5+ 5. ♔b4 ♖d4+ 6. ♔b3 ♖d3+ 7. ♔c2! ♖d4! 8.c8 ♖!! [8.c8 ♕ ♖c4+! 9. ♕xc4=]

8...♖a4 9. ♔b3! 1-0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 39

23rd of November 2012

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Editorial Preface

All the attention is focused on the Women's World Cup. We have seen good games, bad games and a lot of emotions.

The most strange thing about the Grand Prix is that most of the big favorites have already been knocked out from the tournament in the 2nd round! Hou Yifan, Koneru and A.Muzychuk were eliminated by a quite weaker opposition, which they usually beat in other tournaments.

It's hard to say who is going to be the last girl standing, but we are enjoying some great chess fun watching this games, and especially the rapid/blitz games!

A very strong rapid round-robin called "Siberian Bank Cup" was won by Rublevsky. Another tournament was played in the Netherlands and had 3 winners: Van Wely, Fridman and Ernst.

The FIDE Grand Prix in Tashkent has just began, and a lot of the Elite players are participating. We can be sure that there'll be high-level chess and a lot of great novelties.

As usual. we wish You a lot of chess fun with Your weekly edition of CEWN.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Jakovenko,Dmitry (2741) — Andreikin,Dmitry (2723) [A04]

Siberian Bank Cup Novosibirsk RUS (1), 17.11.2012

[Csaba Balogh]

A nice positional lesson by Jakovenko, with a pretty tactical blow to put an end to the game.

1.♘f3 g6 2.d4 ♗g7 3.c4 d6 4.♘c3 ♗g4 In general, such openings are excellent decisions when Black faces a weaker opponent, who immediately gets confused by finding himself in a non-theoretical territory. However, as we will see, against a player on Jakovenko's level, it doesn't necessarily work well...



5.g3!? I like this move a lot. White would like to fianchetto his bishop, and to change the pawn structure with ♗xf3 has its drawbacks as well. The game shows well that White can make use of the e-file and also obtain the bishop pair in the very early part of the game. [Keeping the healthy structure with 5.e3 is the main line.]

5...♗xf3 6.exf3 ♘f6 [The most often played move 6...e6 is also probably the best one. 7.♗g2 White wants to play 0-0, f4 and d5, achieving a better position with a space advantage. Black's only counterplay is to play d5 himself and to attack the d4 with the knights (on c6 and f5). 7...♘e7 Now Black is ready to push d5, so just as in the game, White has to react with (7...d5 is a bit premature, Black is not well developed for this action yet. 8.cxd5 exd5 9.0-0 (9.♖b3 looks strong as well, but Black has 9...♘c6! 10.♖xb7 ♘ge7 and suddenly the position is unclear.) 9...♘e7 10.♗e1 0-0 11.♗g5! ♘bc6 12.f4! Due to the d5 weakness, Black is forced to close his g7 bishop. 12...f6 (12...♖d7 is met with 13.♖b3!) 13.♗h4+= The bishop on h4 looks a bit awkward, but the one on g7 is even worse. If Black tries to bring it to the game with f5, it strengthens the h4 bishop as well, while trying to trap it with h6, is simply met by g4, ♗g3 and f5 later on.) 8.d5! exd5 9.cxd5 0-0 10.0-0 The d5 pawn gives an space advantage for White. Black's pieces are slightly paralyzed, and sooner or later he should undermine it with c6, but this will be met by dxc6 and f4, when the g2 bishop becomes really powerful. 10...♘d7 11.♗g5! looks like a strong move, forcing a weakness on the kingside. 11...h6 Otherwise, the pin is unpleasant. 12.♗d2 White is slightly better. A possible plan is h4-h5, which looks especially dangerous with the h6 weakness. If Black reacts with h5 on h4, then the effect of f4-f5 is increased. (The computer recommends the unhuman 12.♗xe7 ♖xe7 13.♗e1 ♖d8 14.♗c1 and also claims an advantage by pressing the queenside pawns with ♘b5 or ♖b3.)]

7. ♖g2 c6 Black wants to lock the center with d5 and e6, which would kill the g2 bishop, so the next move is practically forced.



8. d5! You can say that now White himself killed his light squared bishop, but it might get into the game through h3!

8...cxd5 9.cxd5 0-0 10.0-0 ♘a6 [Developing with 10... ♘bd7 is not better. 11. ♖e3 ♘b6 12. ♖d4+= with similar plans as in the game.]

11. ♖e3 Basically the ideal setup for White is ♖d4, ♔d2, f4, ♖h3 and doubling the rooks on the e-file. Black should try to do something on the queenside, but White is well prepared to react against any action properly.

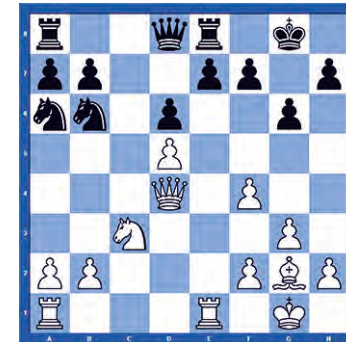
11...♘d7 12. ♖e1 ♖e8 13.f4 White takes control of the e5 square and prepares to take measures against his opponent's king with h4-h5 and f5. [13. ♖h3 was another logical move, but Jakovenko decided to wait for this until Black plays ♖c8.]

13...♘b6 [On 13... ♖c8 14. ♖c1 ♔a5 White can choose between two plans. The positional one with 15. ♖d4 (or the tactical 15. ♖h3!? f5 16.g4! also looks quite good. After

gxf5 gxf5, ♔h5 or ♔h1-Rg1 are very dangerous threats.) 15... ♖xd4 16. ♔xd4 By exchanging the dark-squared bishop, White successfully got rid of the strongest Black piece, and now an attack against the king becomes even more effective. 16... ♖b6 White should keep the queens on the board 17. ♔d2! and f5 or h4-h5 are coming.]

14. ♖d4! Here again, removing the strong bishop leaves the Black king vulnerable.

14... ♖xd4 15. ♔xd4



15... ♖c8 Black urgently needs to create some counterplay on the queenside, but he has the typical problem that he can occupy one weak square only with one piece. We will soon understand what I mean.

16. ♖e2 Before starting concrete actions, White doubles his rooks on the e-file. [16. ♖f1!? to prevent ♖c4 and ♘c4 was also strong.; 16. ♖h3!? also made sense. 16... ♖c4 17. ♔d2 and this is the point. Now the c4 square should be occupied by the knight, but the rook is disturbing.]

16... ♖d7 Black prevents ♖h3. The absence of the light-squared bishops is sensible now.

17. ♖ae1 ♘c5 Black would like to exchange a pair of knights on a4, which would excellently improve his position. White should definitely avoid it, he has a lot of good options for that. [Now again on 17... ♖c4 the simple 18. ♙d2 and the rook is poorly placed on c4.]

18. h4 Jakovenko decided not to waste any more time and start the attack. Of course, he had to foresee how to meet the ♘a4 move. [18. b3 was also fine, depriving Black from his main idea. Its only drawback is that the stability of the c3 knight is gone, but Black needs time to attack it and even if he succeeds, White can consolidate with ♖e3.]

18... ♘ca4 [On 18... h5 the best is 19. ♖h2! with the idea of ♕h3!; 18... ♘ba4 meets by 19. ♘d1! leaving the Black knight useless on a4, while the White one is going to e3, where it supports the f5 plan and is also ready to jump with g4-h6.]



19. ♘e4! White needs the knight. In addition, Black's pieces are disturbing each other. Now, for example, without the knight on a4, Black could try something with ♙a4.

19... ♘c5 [19... ♖c4? loses to 20. ♘f6+ +-]

20. ♘g5 With the last two moves, Black has sent the c3 knight to g5, where it supports the attack and ♕h3. But it was very difficult to suggest something better for him.

20... ♖c7 [On 20... ♙a4 21. b4! keeping the queens, and e7 is under attack.]

21. b4 ♘ca4 In rapid chess, sometimes you need to spare some time by playing the most obvious move, this is the reason why Jakovenko missed an easy winning combination.

22. h5 [22. ♕h3! would have won on the spot. 22... f5 (22... ♙b5 23. ♘xf7! 23. ♘e6 has the same value. 23... ♖xf7 24. ♕e6+ ♖f8 25. ♙h8#) 23. ♘e6 and ♙g7.]

22... ♖c4 23. ♙d2 [Keeping the long diagonal with 23. ♙a1 was also strong.]

23... ♙c7 [23... ♘c3 24. ♖e3 is also hopeless. The knight has to retreat and ♕h3 is coming.]

24. h×g6 h×g6 It's time to finish the game.



25. f5 The end is near. With such a weak king, Black can't resist for long. [25. ♖e6!? was a bit more elegant. 25... fxe6

(25...♖c3 26.♘xf7 ♔xf7 27.f5+- and the queen joins the attack.) 26.♔d3+-]

25...gxf5 26.♘e6! Not the only way to win, but the easiest one.

26...fxe6 27.♔g5+ ♔f8 [27...♔h7 28.♖xe6+- with mate to follow.]

28.♔h6+ ♔f7 [28...♔g8 doesn't change anything. 29.♔g6+ ♔f8 30.dxe6+-]

29.dxe6+ Black resigned in view of ♔g6 next. An instructive game on how to handle the structure that arises from this opening.

1-0

(2) Zhao,Xue (2565)

– Muzychuk,Mariya (2476) [A15]

FIDE WCh Women World Cup

Khanty-Mansiysk RUS (3.4), 18.11.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the Round of 16 of the Women's World Cup. A great game was played by one of Top favorites for the WWC title, Zhao Xue, who qualified to the Quarter-Finals with this victory.

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.♘c3 d5 The Anti-Grueinfeld has become very popular lately because of a simple reason — White can't manage to achieve an advantage in the main „Gruenfeld lines“.

4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.♔a4+ White is choosing one of the side-lines. This is not a bad choice when you want to test Your opponent's memory and maybe even use a small novelty to create some opening problems.

5...♘c6



6.♘e5 ♘xc3?! The move in the game probably gives White some advantage. [6...♔d6 This move is probably

the most critical. The current theory shows that White has no advantage in the following endgame: 7.♘xc6 ♔xc6 8.♔xc6+ bxc6 9.b3 ♕g7 10.♕b2 ♘xc3 11.♕xc3 ♕xc3 12.dxc3 a5 and it seems like the position is very close to a draw.]

7.bxc3! This is still theory, but anyway it's good to know the right moves!

7...♕d7?! Again a bad choice in my opinion. White gets the bishop pair „for free“ and Black was not forced at all to take such a radical action. [7...♔d5 would be the right choice... 8.♘xc6 ♔xc6 9.♔xc6+ bxc6 I think White is doing slightly better, but Black is still OK. She'll develop her pieces by playing ♕e6 usually, and then ♖d7 protecting both c-pawns at the same time.]

8.♘xd7 ♔xd7 9.♖b1! A good move by White, developing a rook and at the same time making Black feel the weakness in the light-squares.

9...b6 Black finds a tactical solution. The next move is ♘a5 followed by c6, and this somehow solves the major problem of not losing on the spot, but Black remains with a clearly worse position.



10.h4! Great feel by the Chinese. One might ask, why to include 10.h4 h5 for White? Very simple, in the future his two bishops will give excellent attacking chances; the move h7-h5 is weakening a lot the pawn structure around the king, making it a visible target.

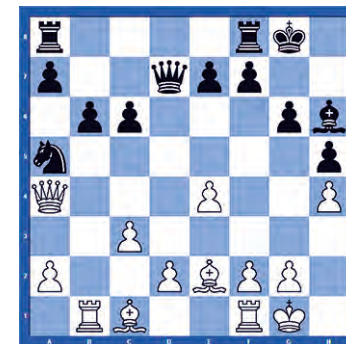
10...h5 [10...♕g7 11.h5 and Black has nowhere to go with his king... White can always count on ♔a4-h4.]

11.e4 Another good move by White. Black is forced to put the knight in a bad position on a5, far away from the place where the action will be.

11...♘a5 12.♕b5 Of course, no exchange of queens...

12...c6 13.♕e2 ♕h6 Black is trying to exchange the dark-squared bishops, which is a very risky decision, weakening even more the king in case of a short castle and, where else to go!? [13...♕g7 Black should agree to stay worse — nothing to do about it. 14.0-0 0-0 15.d4 White is doing clearly better but Black can still fight with e6, ♖ac8 hoping to play c5 at the right time.]

14.0-0 0-0



15.f4! Yet another good move by the Chinese. White doesn't exchange anything and keeps the bishop pair

on the board. Now White not only will play d4-♗e3 with full domination, but also wants to play f5 at the right moment, with a very strong attack. Now we can see how useful it was for White to include the h4-h5 moves.

15...e6?! Black is acting like everything is fine, which is strange. [15...♖ad8! followed by c5 next would give Black some counter-chances.]

16.d4 Of course White is covering the center.

16...♖fd8 17.♗e3 The pawn on d4 must be protected, and at the same time White is acting against Black's only idea in the position, to play c5.

17...♔c7 White has a lot of tempting ideas, but clearly the focus should be on playing f4-f5. To do this, White needs to bring the queen closer to the Black king.

18.♔c2 Not a bad move, but maybe 18.♔d1! followed by ♔e1-Qg3 would have been a strong idea!

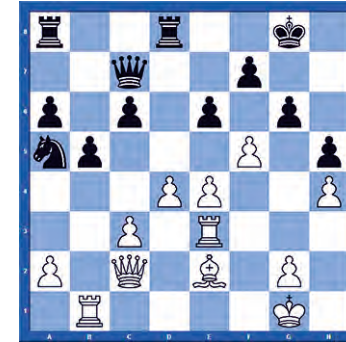
18...b5 After this move Black is losing his main idea of playing c6-c5, and this can't be good. [18...c5!? It's better to give a pawn and get some play, than giving the game :). 19.dxc5 ♗f8! That's the key move. Of course 19. ..bxc5 20.♖b5 would just lose 20.cxb6 axb6 and Black can keep on fighting! After playing ♗c5 next, Black's position is still bad, but there are some practical chances.]

19.♖f3 White keeps preparing the move f5 and maybe just wants to play ♖bf1 next, followed by ♔c1 and f5.

19...a6? This is a way too cool move. Black is pretending like nothing is going on and continues the preparation for the c5 move, which could come next, but is there going to be a next move?! White's pieces are prepared for the final action.

20.f5 And finally, White is starting to crush Black's position. The Queen on c2 is also going to help White in the attack by playing e5 and attacking the pawn on g6.

20...♗xe3+ 21.♖xe3



21...e5! Black closes White's possibility of playing e4-e5 and that's the correct way to play. If White manages to open her queen, the game is over.

22.fxg6 fxg6 23.♖g3 ♔h7 As we can see, Black's position is on the edge. The king is open and the knight on a5 is completely out of the game.

24.♗g5! Another strong move by White. The pawn on e5 is hanging, and ♗xh5 can also be a very dangerous sacrifice followed by ♔e2. And if White needs it, she can play ♖f1 bringing one more piece into the attack.

24...exd4? This move loses on the spot. [24...c5 was the only chance, even if the position is probably still lost. However, from a practical point of view, it's the best choice. Against White's 25.♖xe5, cxd4 is coming, and against 25.♗xh5 gxh5, White needs to calculate exactly if the position is winning or not, which puts some pressure on the decision.]

25.e5! And White's dream come true... the pawn on g6 is simply falling.

25...♖g8 26.♗xh5 d3 27.♔xd3 Black made it a bit too easy for White, but this game can be a very good example of what not to try with Black...

1-0

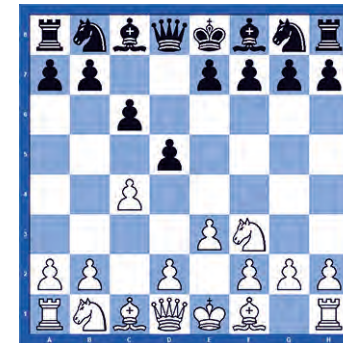
(3) McShane, Luke J (2713)
– Ernst, Sipke (2552) [A11]

Remco Heite Inv Wolvega NED, 17.11.2012

[Csaba Balogh]

Luke McShane was really out of form on this event. He was defeated with a beautiful combination in this game.

1.c4 c6 2.♘f3 d5 3.e3



3...♗g4!? I have also discovered this quite unknown move for Black about a year ago. It avoids many unpleasant theoretical lines. A perfect decision for the players that don't like or have no time to prepare the Meran variation.

4.♔b3 In general, the refutation of the premature bishop moves (Bg4 and ♗f5) in the Slav defense lay behind this move — a quick attack against the b7 and d5 pawns. However, Black is ready to consolidate his position now... [Probably White's best option is to transpose to the Slav with 4.h3 ♗xf3 5.♔xf3 e6 6.d4 ♘f6 This position normally arises from 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 ♗g4 5.h3 ♗xf3 6.♔xf3.]

4...♔c7! The d5 pawn is indirectly protected by the c1 bishop that's hanging.

5.cxd5 [5.♘e5 is another typical motif, but Black seems to have no problem after 5...♙e6 6.d4 ♘d7 7.♘xd7 Black can decide to play an open game with 7...dxc4 (or to keep the position closed with 7...♙xd7 8.♘c3 e6) 8.♙xc4 ♙xc4 9.♚xc4 ♚xd7 followed by e6 and ♘f6 with a playable position.]

5...cxd5 6.♘c3 [In a blitz game, Kramnik played 6.♙b5+ and here Eljanov should have reacted with 6...♙d7! 7.♘c3 e6 with easy equality.]

6...♙xf3 Black gives up the bishop pair, but weakens the pawn structure. The following developing moves are quite logical. [Of course not 6...e6?? because of 7.♚a4+ +-]

7.gxf3 e6 8.d4 ♘c6 9.♙d2 ♘f6 10.♚c1 ♙e7 We have reached the first critical position for White. He must choose a plan. To do this he must foresee that Black's main idea is to play 0-0 and e5, opening the position on the weak king, which will be vulnerable even if he castles kingside. The question is which is better: to allow this e5 and play on the queenside as it happened in the game or to lock the center with f4, but it also has the drawback of seriously weakening the e4 square.



11.♘a4 [I personally would have preferred 11.f4 even though White's position is not better at all. The game may continue with 11...0-0 12.♙d3 If White played f4, the bishop belongs on d3 to control the e4 square. 12...g6 A very useful move against f5, getting rid of the doubled pawns and opening the position for the bishop pair. 13.0-0 ♚fc8 In such a closed position the knights are not worse at all. 14.♘a4 ♚d7 15.♘c5 ♙xc5 16.♚xc5 Black can choose between several plans 16...♘e8 transferring the knight to d6 is a good option. (16...♘e7 is also possible,; 16...e5 leads to a perpetual check: 17.dxe5 ♚g4+) 17.♚fc1 ♘d6]

11...0-0 12.♙b5 ♚fc8 Black prepares for the e5 break, first he needed to overprotect the c6 square.

13.♙e2 McShane felt that his king might be safer here than on g1. It's hard to say whether he was right... [13.0-0 is also met with 13...e5! 14.dxe5 ♚xe5 Black is better. ♙d6 is the threat, forcing an f4 weakening after which the f6 knight might jump to e4 or to g4 in connection with ♚h5.]

13...♚ab8 An unnecessary preparation. [13...e5 could have been played immediately. 14.dxe5 ♚xe5 ♘d4 is the threat, and on 15.♙c3, d4 works, so 15.♙xc6 bxc6 and only Black can be better. He is threatening to mobilize his center with c5 and d4.]

14.♚d3 e5! Black goes back to the right track!

15.♙xc6 bxc6 16.dxe5 ♚xe5 17.♙c3 ♚h5 18.♙xf6 White would definitely have preferred to keep his strong bishop, but Black was threatening to play c5. [For example, on 18.♚hg1 c5! Black wants to open the position with d4 and both exd4 ♘d5-f4 or ♚e8 lead to a very dangerous attack. 19.♙xf6 (on 19.♚a6 ♚f5! protecting the f6

knight and refreshing the threat of d4! (19...d4 didn't work immediately because of 20. ♗xd4!) 19... ♗xf6 and the b2 pawn is more important than the c5 one at this moment.]

18... ♗xf6 19.b3 ♖c7 A good move! Black had to look for another plan after c5 was prevented. He wants to activate his rooks through the e-file. The attack doesn't look so dangerous at the moment, but it really is dangerous. It's also hard to recommend a plan for White, since he can't use his h1 rook because of the h2 pawn. McShane consequently continues his plan, playing against the created c6 weakness, but he leaves his king alone.

20. ♖a6? [20. ♘c5 is also met with 20... ♖e7]

20... ♖e8? Black fails to make us of the mistake. [After 20... d4! Black is surprisingly close to winning. 21.e4

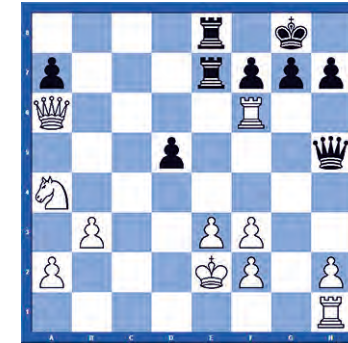
a) 21. ♖c5 ♖h3 Black threatens to take on e3 and on fxe3, ♖g2.;

b) 21. ♘c5 ♖e8;

c) 21. ♖xc6 is refuted nicely by 21...d3+! 22. ♔d2 (22. ♖xd3 ♖d5+) 22... ♖xf3 23. ♖xc7 ♖e2+ 24. ♔c1 d2+! 25. ♔b1 and Black can decide to take the queen or to give a spectacular mate with 25...d1 ♖+ 26. ♖xd1 ♖xd1+ 27. ♖c1 ♖xb3+! 28. axb3 ♖xb3+ 29. ♘b2 ♖xb2#;

21... ♖e8! Suddenly, it's really hard to parry the simple ♖xe4 threat. On 22. ♘c5 ♗e7! 23. ♘d3 ♗d6! wins the game. Now there is nothing against ♖xe4. If the king leaves the pin, the f3 square remains unprotected.]

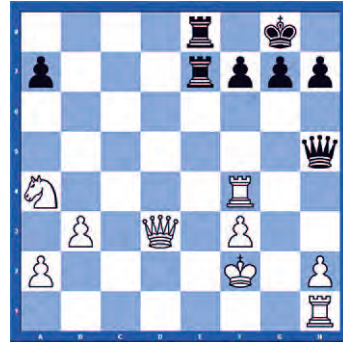
21. ♖xc6 ♖ce7 22. ♖xf6! It seems like the game had a huge turn, but Black has prepared a blow with his last two moves...



22...d4!! The position opens on the naked e2 king and the Black heavy pieces start to attack with full power. [22... gxf6 23. ♖g1+ ♔f8 24. ♖xf6 ♖e6 25. ♖g7+ ♔e7 26. ♖d4 ± White is close to be winning.]

23. ♖f4 dxe3 24. ♖d3? McShane was already in severe time trouble and missed a fantastic combination. We must admit that without the following two moves, Black would have been lost. [24.h4! was the right move to prevent the idea that occurred in the game. This also gives some shelter when the White king reaches the g3 square. Black also needs to play precisely, otherwise he'll end up a piece down. 24... ♖d5! Only move! (24...exf2+ 25. ♔xf2 The queen covers the e2 square.) 25.fxe3! is also the only way to prevent ♖d2. 25... ♖xe3+ 26. ♔f2 and according to the computer, the following line is more or less forced and leads to a draw by perpetual check: 26...h5! 27. ♖c4! ♖d2+ 28. ♔g3 ♖8e6! seems to be over, but... 29. ♔h3! ♖g6 30. ♖xf7+ ♔h7 31. ♖g1! ♖xg1 32. ♖xh5+ ♔g8 33. ♖f7+= Of course, it's not easy to find this line that started with 24.h4 with any color over the board.]

24...exf2+! 25. ♔xf2



cover for the London super-tournament, that starts soon in December.

0-1

25...♖e1!! A brutal and beautiful move! White is lost.

26.♞e4 White tries to resist, but Ernst doesn't allow him to return to the game... [26.♞xe1 loses by force. 26...♔xh2+ 27.♔f1 ♕h1+ 28.♔f2 ♕xe1+ 29.♔g2 ♖e2+ 30.♔h3 ♕h1+ 31.♔g4 ♕g1+ and mate in a few moves.]

26...R8xe4 27.fxe4 ♕h4+! Black covers the d8 square, so the h1 rook is hanging. White has to play

28.♔g2 ♕g5+! The d8 square is still under control, so the next move is forced again...

29.♕g3 [29.♔f2 ♖xh1]

29...♕d2+ 30.♔h3 Now White has threats on b8, so the rook is taboo. Black can win the queen and the game with 30...♖e3, but he has found an even stronger move. [On 30.♕f2 Black can choose between 30...♕xf2+ (or 30...♖e2) 31.♔xf2 ♖xh1]

30...♕d7+! 31.♔g2 [31.♔h4 ♖xe4+; 31.♕g4 ♖e3+ 32.♔h4 ♕e7+ and mate is coming soon.]

31...♖e2+ 32.♔f3 [32.♔f1 ♕d1+]

32...♕d3+ 33.♔g4 ♕xe4+ 34.♔h5 ♕f5+ White resigned! A nice crush. Hopefully, McShane will quickly re-

(4) Sebag,Marie — Stefanova,Antoaneta [C78]

WWCC 2012 Khanty-Mansiysk (41.1), 20.11.2012

[Kamil Miton]

**1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 b5
6.♙b3 ♙b7** A rare but interesting line. More often, Black plays 6...♙e7 or 6...♙c5.



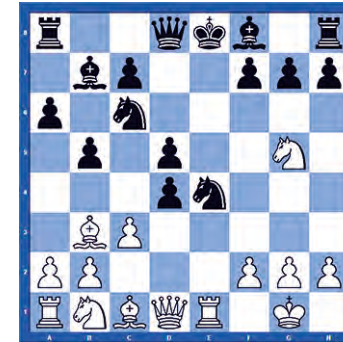
7.d3 A simple move which leads to a quiet position. More aggressive is [7.c3 Looks logical as well. White is going to break the position in the center because the Black king hasn't castled yet. 7...♘xe4 8.d4 exd4

a) 8...♘a5 with the idea of getting rid of the pressure against the f7 square. 9.♙c2 exd4 10.b4 ♘c4 11.♙xe4 ♙xe4 12.♖e1 d5 13.♘xd4 Black is not able to solve the problems on the e-file without losing some material. (13.♙xd4 ♙e7 14.♙xg7 ♙f6 15.♙h6 ♖g8 and Black's pieces are very active. 16.♙xh7 ♙d7 17.♙xf7+ ♙c8) 13...c5 14.bxc5 ♙xc5 15.f3 0-0 16.fxe4 dxe4 17.♖xe4 ♙d5 From now on, the play seems to be very forced. 18.♙f3 ♘e5 19.♙f5 ♖ae8 20.♘d2 g6 21.♙f4 b4 22.♙b2 bxc3 23.♙xc3 ♘c6 24.♙h1 ♙xd4 25.♖xd4 ♘xd4 26.♙xd4 ♖e2 27.♘f3 f6 28.h3 The material is equal, but White is better because of the Black king that can potentially be-

come weak. Shirov manages to prove it very easily. 28...♖e4 29.♙d2 ♖d8 30.♙d1 ♖e6 31.♙c3 ♙c6 32.♙b3 ♖dd6 33.♖b1 ♙g7 34.♙b8 ♖e7 35.♙e3 ♖dd7 36.♖b6 ♙c3 37.♙f4 a5 38.♙h2 ♙c4 39.♙g3 ♖e6 40.♖b2 ♖e2 41.♙d6 1-0 Shirov,A-Tomashevsky,E/Khanty-Mansiysk RUS 2009;

b) 8...♙e7 9.♙e2 d5 10.dxe5 0-0 11.♖d1+=;

9.♖e1 d5 10.♘g5



10...♙f6 More often in this line, I met 10...♙d7 which doesn't bring good scores for Black. Objectively, 10...♙f6 should be better and it's hard to give an evaluation after this move. 11.f3 (11.♙xd5 ♙xf2+ 12.♙h1 0-0-0 13.♘xe4 ♙f5 and Black gets a strong initiative. 14.c4 (14.♙xc6 ♙xc6 15.♘g3 ♙f2 16.♖g1 dxc3 17.♙g4+ ♙b8 18.♘xc3 ♙c5 19.♙f4 ♙xb2 20.♘ge2 ♙xg1 21.♖xg1 ♖he8 0-1 Kislik,E-Lorand,N/Budapest 2010/CBM 138 Extra (30).) 14...bxc4 15.♙xc4 ♘e5∞) 11...h6 12.♘h3 (12.♘xf7 ♙xf7 13.fxe4 0-0-0 14.♙xd5 ♖xd5 is not the only possibility for Black. 15.exd5 ♙xd5 16.♙g4+ ♙b8 The bishop on b7 is not worse than the rook. Black has strong pressure on the h1-a8 diagonal.) 12...0-0-0 13.fxe4 dxe4 14.♖f1 ♙e5 15.♙xf7 ♙c5 16.♙h1 e3 17.♘f4 d3 The two passed pawns are crushing White's position. 18.♙e1 e2 19.♖f3 ♘e7 20.♘d2 g5 21.♘e6 g4 22.♘xd8 gxf3 23.♘xf3 ♙xf3 0-1 Palac,M-Bartel,M/Porto Carras

22... ♗xa2 23. ♖xa2 exd4 Good decision. Black changes the structure and gets the b4 square to look for counter-

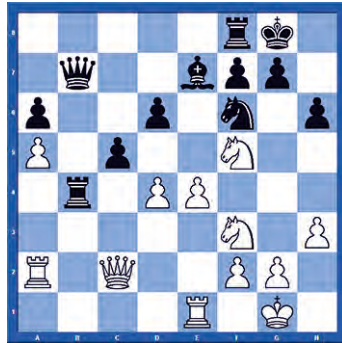
play. [23...cxd4 24.♘f5 The knight on f5 is always unpleasant. White has the initiative. 24...dxc3? 25.♙xc6+-]

24.cxd4 ♘b4 [24...♖fe8 25.dxc5 dxc5 26.♙c3 White is better.]

25.♙xb4 [25.e5 dxe5 26.dxe5 ♘e4 is correct. (26...♘fd5 27.♘xd5 ♘xd5 28.♙g4 ♙c8 29.e6 fxe6 30.♙xh6 ♙f6 31.♙g5 Because of the weak king and the big amount of weaknesses, Black's position is worse.) 27.♙xb4 ♖xb4 28.♙c2 ♙b7 Black's pieces get activity. The position is unclear.]

25...♖xb4 26.♙c2 ♙b7 [26...♖d8 27.e5 dxe5 28.dxe5 ♘d5 with equal play. Now we see the idea of the 26...♖d8 move.]

27.♘f5



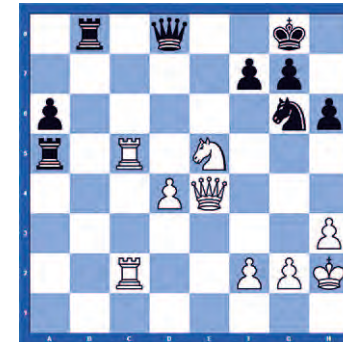
27...♖b8? Big mistake! White's idea was to push e5 in order to look for pressure on the kingside, and Black should do something to prevent this threat. For example: [27...♖c8 28.e5 dxe5 29.dxe5 (29.♘xe7+ ♙xe7 30.♖xe5 ♙f8 With the rook on c8 (not on b8), Black easily manages to recapture the c-pawn. 31.♖xc5 ♖xc5 32.dxc5 ♖b5 33.c6 ♖c5) 29...♘d5 30.e6 ♙f8 A very important prophylactic move to avoid the sacrifice on h6. (30...fxe6 31.♘xh6+

gxh6 32.♙g6+ +-) 31.♘e5 fxe6 32.♘xh6+ gxh6 33.♙g6+ Now white only has a draw. 33...♙g7 34.♙xe6+ ♔h7 35.♙f5+ ♔g8=]

28.e5 dxe5 29.♘xe7+ ♙xe7 30.♖xe5 White is winning the pawn. Black's position is losing.

30...♖b1+ 31.♔h2 ♙d8 32.♖xc5 ♘d5 Black is not able to keep any blockade on d5. Now the additional problem for Black is the weak f7 pawn. [32...♙d6+ 33.g3±]

33.♙f5 ♘e7 34.♙e4 ♘g6 35.♖ac2 ♖a1 36.♘e5 ♖xa5 Final mistake. Black could still fight after [36...♘xe5 37.♙xe5± With a II the heavy pieces on the board and the additional pawns, White should win this position.]



37.♘xf7 The final blow! Now Black doesn't have any chances.

37...♔xf7 38.♙f5+ ♔g8 39.♖xa5 ♙d6+ 40.g3 ♘h4 41.♖c8+ ♖xc8 42.♙xc8+ ♔h7 43.♙c2+ ♔h8 44.♖c5 ♘f3+ 45.♔h1 1-0

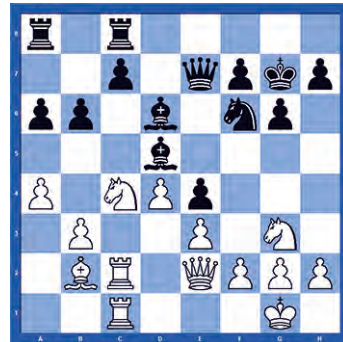
Puzzle section

(5) Khurtsidze,N (2428) – Zhao Xue (2565)

Women World Cup, 15.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

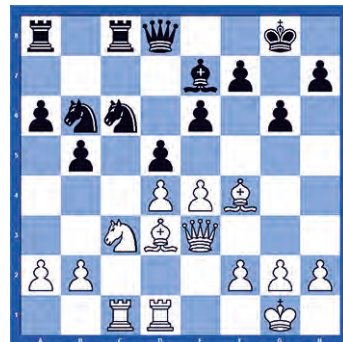


(6) Socko,M (2445) – Stefanova,A (2491)

Women World Cup, 17.11.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

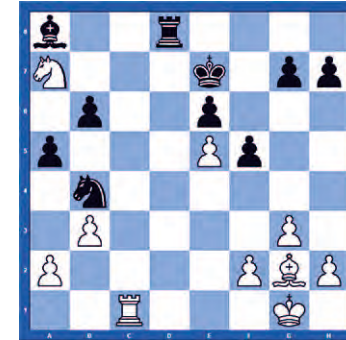


(7) Jakovenko,D (2741) – Bareev,E (2663)

Siberian Bank Cup (rapid), 17.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



(8) Nepomniachtchi,I (2707) – Bareev,E (2663)

Siberian Bank Cup (rapid), 18.11.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

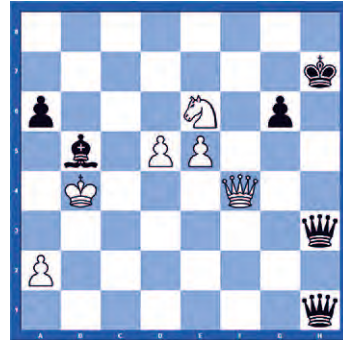


(9) Van Wely,L (2691) — Fridman,D (2668)

Remco Heite Invitational, 16.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

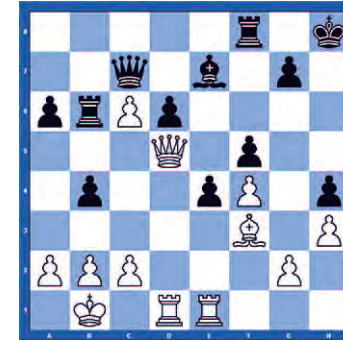


(11) Idani,P (2462) — Narayanan,S (2438)

World U18 Championship, 16.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.±

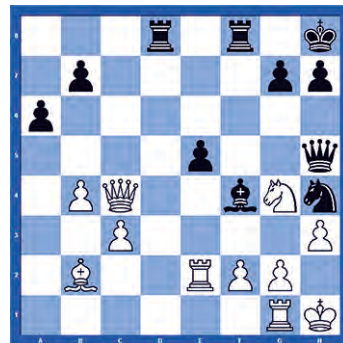


(10) Stukopin,A (2481) — Timofeev,A (2600)

Governor's Cup, 16.11.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

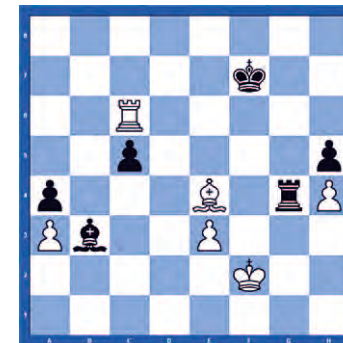


(12) Swiercz,D (2611) — Nagy,G (2408)

World U18 Championship, 17.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



(13) Ju Wenjun (2501) – Pourkashiyan,A (2321)

Women World Cup (rapid), 13.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

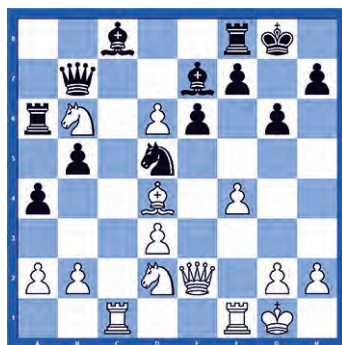


(14) Lahno,K (2553) – Javakhisvili,L (2455)

Women World Cup, 15.11.2012

[CEWN]

1... -/+

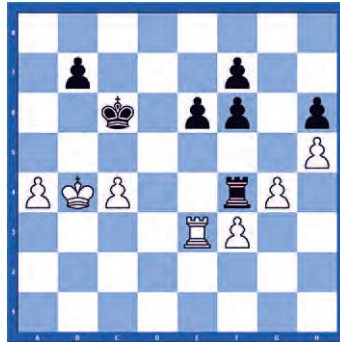


Endgame section

(15) Kosintseva,T (2515) – Kosintseva,N (2539)

Women World Championship (3.1), 17.11.2012

[Chess Evolution]



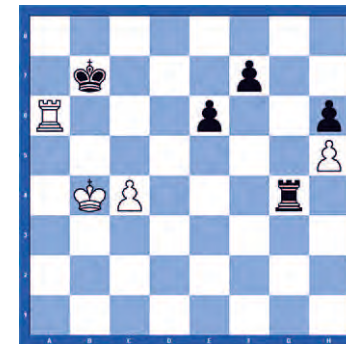
In the 3rd round of the World Championship, we saw a really unfortunate pairing. The Russian Kosintseva sisters (who could both have fought for the World Champion title) had to play each other. They are both true fighters, and they only agree to short draws against each other, which is completely understandable as they always work together with the same coaches. However, now in the KO format, only one of them could qualify to the next round. In the first game, Tatiana got an unpleasant endgame as White, Black threatens to play f5 after which a loss of a pawn is inevitable. White can't protect g4 and if she takes on f5, then h5 falls. The only chance for survival is to look for active counterplay. White holds the draw with an excellent technique, not giving any chance to her opponent.

40.a5! f5 41.♖a3!! This is the key move! White pushes a6 in the next move and creates a c-passed pawn, which is well supported by the king. It was a difficult question whether to take on f5 first or to play ♖a3 immediately. It'll become clear soon why the text move is better.... [Black is probably winning after 41.gxf5? ♜xf5 42.♖a3 ♜xh5 43.a6 bxa6 44.♜xa6+ ♔b7 45.♜d6 and the difference is 45...♜f5! An excellent place for the rook. It protects the f7 pawn, attacks f3 and cuts the White king along the 5th rank.]

41...fxg4 42.fxg4 ♜xg4 Many of us would have been understandably afraid of the connected passed pawns, which are extremely dangerous in rook endgames. However, in this they are too far behind still. White is in time to create counterplay.

43.a6 In similar situations, 43... b5 could be a nice response, but obviously the a6 pawn has to be eliminated now.

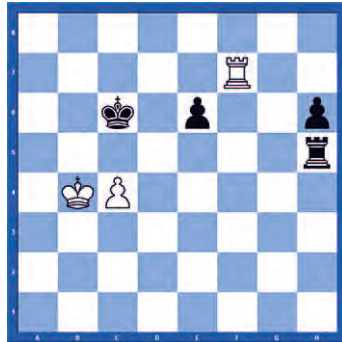
43...bxa6 44.♜xa6+ ♔b7



45.♜d6 ♜d7 is threatened and the Black pawns can't move yet. ♔b5 is another idea, with the intention of squeezing the Black king on the 8th rank.

45...♖g5 Black decided to sacrifice her f7 pawn, which allows White to get very close to a draw. [Other moves don't give winning chance either. 45...♔c7 46.♞a6 ♞f4 47.♔b5 transposes to 45...♞f4.; 45...♞f4 46.♔b5 ♔c7 47.♞a6 ♞f1 Otherwise, c5 and ♞a7. Now White can choose between two easy ways to draw: 48.c5 (48.♞a7+ is also possible 48...♔d6 49.c5+ ♔e5 50.c6 If Black's pawns were a bit more far advanced, the winning strategy could be to sacrifice the rook for the c-pawn and then promote his own pawns with the help of the king. But in this case, there is no way to execute this plan.) 48...♞b1+ 49.♔c4= White's pieces are too active, Black can't mobilize his pawns.]

46.♞d7+ ♔c6 47.♞xf7 ♞xh5 After eliminating the f-pawn, the draw is very close, but White still needs to make some precise moves.



48.♞a7 Not the only move, but I like it a lot to refresh all the ideas, which were threatened before exchanging the h- and f-pawns. [After some random moves like 48.♞f6 ♔d6 49.♞g6 Black could get winning chances with 49...♞h1 followed by ♔e5 and pushing the h-pawn.]

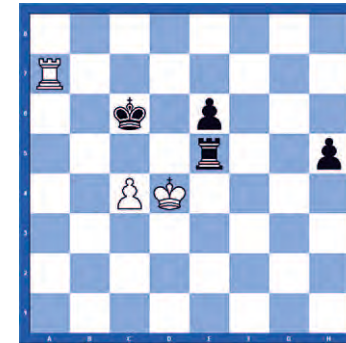
48...♞e5 [On 48...♞h1 49.♞a6+ ♔d7 50.♞a7+ secures the draw. Going to the 8th rank is always too passive ,

White simply plays ♔c5-d6, while 50...♔d6 moves into 51.c5+ ♔e5 (51...♔d5 52.♞d7+ ♔e4 53.c6 draws.) 52.♞h7 h5 53.♔b5 h4 54.c6 White is safe.]

49.♔c3 A logical decision in order to take the king closer to the opponent's pawns. White already had many other ways to draw as well.

49...h5 Black's only winning attempt could be to take his rook behind his h-pawn, but of course there is no realistic chance to reach the h8 square.

50.♔d4



50...♞g5 [50...♞e1 51.♞h7 ♞h1 52.♞h6! (52.♔e5 h4 White should not be greedy with 53.♔xe6?? h3 and h2 next.) 52...♔d7 (52...h4 53.♞xe6+ ♔d7 54.♞h6 h3 55.♔e3 h2 56.♔f2=) 53.♞h7+ and for instance on 53...♔e8 54.♔e5 h4 55.♔xe6 White threatens with mate and also has enough time to hide his king ahead of his c-pawn against the threatened h2 ♞e1 check.]

51.♞a6+ ♔d7 52.c5 ♞d5+ [52...h4 53.♞a7+= is an easy draw.]

53.♔c4 ♔e7! Black avoids getting pushed back to the 8th rank.

54.c6 [54.♖a8 was also good enough, transferring the rook to the h-file. 54...♗d8 55.♖a7+ ♗d7 56.♖a8 and ♗h8 next.]

54...♗e5 [54...h4 55.c7; 54...♔d6 55.c7+ In both cases White gets the e-pawn and reaches a draw.]

55.♔d4 ♖e1 56.♖a5 Creating new threats on every move. White deserves the draw for her activeplay.

56...♔d6 Practically agreeing to a draw... The rest needs no comment. [56...h4 makes no difference either. 57.♗h5 ♗h1 58.♖h7+ ♔d8 (58...♔d6 59.c7) 59.♔e5 h3 60.♔d6= White is safe by one tempo, the pawn could not reach the h2 square...]

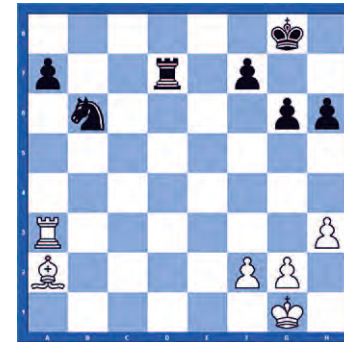
57.♖xh5 ♔xc6 58.♖e5 ♖d1+ 59.♔e4 ♔d6 60.♖a5 ♖e1+ 61.♔d3 e5 62.♖a8 ♖h1 63.♔e4 ♖h4+ 64.♔e3 ♖h3+ 65.♔e4 ♖h4+ 66.♔e3 1/2

(16) Ju,Wenjun (2501) – Huang,Qian (2465) [E71]

FIDE WCh Women World Cup

Khanty-Mansiysk RUS (4.2), 20.11.2012

[Chess Evolution]



Black is a pawn up, but White has a bishop against a knight, which is good for the defense. Besides, there are only 4 pawns left on the board, which also increases the drawing chances. On the other hand, if Black manages to exchange the knight for the bishop, the rook endgame could become very dangerous for White... if Black manages to put the rook behind the a-pawn.

32.h4! A good move! Fixing Black's pawns on the light squares is always very important having a light-squared bishop. Now Black will have two options: to keep the pawns the way they are or to play g5, but the exchange of pawns is clearly favorable for White.

32...♔g7?! This is the first move of many that will follow where Black plays without a concrete plan. I think the only chance for Black was to take the king closer to a pawn... Of course, before starting this walk, Black's knight should be moved to a better position than b6, maybe to d6.

Then, by bringing the king to b6 or c5, Black would try to take a pawn into the action, while at the same time he would protect the pawns on the kingside with the rook and knight. White has very good drawing chances, but Black also has hopes for a full point.

33.g3 ♖c7 34.♔g2 ♘d7 What is Black's idea? It remains unclear.

35.♖a5 ♘c5 36.♖a3 ♔f8 37.♙c4 h5 38.♙a2 ♘e4 39.♙b1 ♘d6 40.♙d3 ♔e7 In the last few moves not much has happened, the only difference is that the White bishop went from a2 to d3, and this is not much...

41.♔f3 ♘c8 42.♖a6 White keeps waiting because Black doesn't really show that she has an idea of how to improve her position. Another step for White could have been to play: [42.g4 hxg4+ 43.♔xg4 followed by h5 or f4-f5. The defensive side should always go for a pawn exchange if it's possible.]

42...♘b6 43.♖a5 ♘d7 44.♔e3 ♘c5 45.♙c4 ♘d7 46.♙d3 ♘b8



47.♙e4 Once again we see many moves without big changes... and finally:

47...a6 Black had enough of making moves without too much sense and tries to change something.

48.f3! Good move. Now at 48...♖a7, 49.g4! would follow and Black doesn't have time for ♔d6-♔c7-♔b6 because of White's play on the kingside.

48...♖c3+ 49.♔d4 ♖c1 50.♔e3 ♖c3+ 51.♔d4 [51.♔f4 followed by g4 looks like a total draw to me.]

51...♖b3 52.♙d5 ♖b6 53.♖a3 ♘d7 Finally, Black managed to bring the knight out from b8, but is it enough to give real winning chances?!

54.♙c4 ♖d6+ 55.♔e3 ♘c5 56.g4 [Also good was 56.♖a5 ♖c6 57.g4 and Black is completely pinned and can't avoid a draw.]

56...hxg4 57.fxg4 By having a free h-pawn, White will have no problems at all to get a draw. The passed h-pawn always can be easily exchanged, which leaves Black with almost no material to go for a win.

57...♔f6 58.♖a2 Another good move, although White could have kept going with her strategy until the end. [58.♖a5 ♖c6 59.♙d5 ♖c7 60.♙c4]

58...♔g7 59.♖f2 ♘e6 60.h5 And here comes the h-pawn.

60...gxh5 61.gxh5 ♘g5 62.♖a2 A Black pawn is falling — the draw has been achieved.

62...♔h6 Very good defense by White and a good example on how to play similar positions. It looks simple, but it's not that easy to do it in a practical game!

1/2

Clash of the Titans

(17) Tal, Mihail – Larsen, Bent [B77]

Zuerich Zuerich, 1959

[Csaba Balogh]

As I promised you in the previous issue, I present you Tal's improvement over the Fischer-Larsen game in the Sicilian Dragon.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 [In that game, they reached the same position from the standard Dragon move order: 2...d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6 6.♙e3 ♙g7 7.f3 0-0 8.♚d2 ♘c6 9.♙c4 ♘xd4 10.♙xd4 ♙e6 11.♙b3]

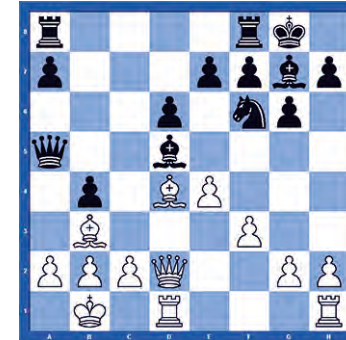
3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 g6 This move order allows many different setups for both sides. The main alternative for White is 5.c4, transposing into the Maroczy structure.

5.♘c3 ♙g7 6.♙e3 ♘f6 7.♙c4 0-0 8.♙b3 d6 9.f3 Here again, just as in the Dragon 9.♙c4 line, Black's best option is the 9...♙d7 setup, but Larsen sticks to his pet line and plays



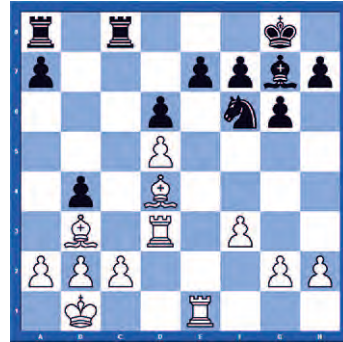
9...♘xd4 10.♙xd4 ♙e6 11.♚d2 Now we are back to the Fischer-Larsen game.

11...♙a5 12.0-0 b5 13.♚b1 b4 14.♘d5 ♙xd5



15.exd5! This was a very strong novelty at that time, but it had to be justified with very precise and deep preparation (in our time, the computers suggest the right moves after a few seconds of thinking, but of course, during our current game it was different). The main drawback of the move is the bishop on b3, which seems to be a good target for Black with the ♙b5 a5-a4 plan. On the other hand, the main plus of exd5 is the backward pawn on e7, which becomes a real weakness now. [On Fischer's move 15.♙xd5 Larsen had definitely discovered the novelty which was mentioned in the previous CEWN. 15...♘xd5! 16.♙xg7 ♘c3+! 17.bxc3 ♚fb8!! 18.cxb4 ♚xb4+ 19.♚xb4 ♚xb4+ 20.♙b2 ♚ab8= with an equal endgame.]

15...♚b5 16.♚he1 As it became clear with practice over the years, after this inaccuracy Black has enough resources to obtain a safe defending position. [16.♚d3! is the right move, rescuing the light-squared bishop immediately. 16...♚xd3 17.♚xd3 ♚fc8 18.♚e1

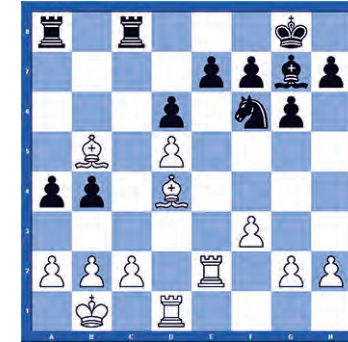


18...Rc7 Black's optimal regrouping would be Nd7, exchanging the dark-squared bishop, but it's never possible (neither after Qf8) because the e7 pawn would hang. White can choose between two good plans now: 19. Qf2 with the idea to overprotect the d5 pawn in order to transfer the bishop to c6 through a4. (Or 19.c3 and White sooner or later must try to win the game on the queen-side, where he's clearly better prepared. 19...a5 20.cxb4 axb4 21. Rdd1! with the idea of taking control of the c-file, so Black should play 21...Rac8 22. Qb6! Rb7 23. Qf2 Again, to cover the d5 pawn with the rook. 23...Rbc7 24. Qa4! with better chances for White. The b4 pawn will be a clear target in the future.)]

16...a5 17. Qe2 Qxe2 18. Rxe2 Black can protect the e7 weakness with concrete play.

18...a4! [18...Rfe8 is bad in view of 19. Qa4!]

19. Qc4 Rfc8 20. Qb5



20...Ra5! Very well played! White is forced to give up his bishop pair, and with it, the biggest part of his advantage as well. [20...Nxd5 leads to an unusual endgame after 21. Qxg7 Rc5! 22.c4! The following line is quite forced. White opened his back-rank with the last move. 22...bxc3 23. Rxd5! Rxd5 24. Qc6 Rd2! (On 24...c2+ White has to react with and only move, but it's actually winning on the spot. 25. Qc1!+- Black ends up a clear piece down.) 25. Qxa8 c2+ 26. Qc1 Rxe2 27. Qc3 Rxc2



28. Qc6 Here we are! Black is materially more than fine, but after losing the a-pawn, he ends up in a really unpleasant endgame. The bishop pair will support the a- and b-passers with great power, while Black's counterplay

with the h-pawn comes too slow. 28...♖xh2 29.♙xa4 h5 30.b4! ♔f8! (30...h4 is too slow. 31.b5 ♖g2 32.b6 h3 33.b7 h2 34.b8 ♔+ ♔h7 35.♔h8#) 31.♙c6 ♖h4! The last two moves were only to stay in the game, but it still looks very suspicious for Black.]

21. ♙xf6 [The bishop could not reach its destination with 21.♙c6? because of 21...♘xd5! 22.♙xg7 ♖xc6]

21... ♙xf6 22. ♙c6 Now the position seems to be dead drawn with the appearance of the opposite-colored bishops. However, White still has some chances to create danger on the queenside. Tal excellently exploits all his possibilities.

22...a3 This is the right move, putting the pawns on dark squares, where they can be protected by the bishop, while White's bishop is unable to attack them. [22...♖b8 23.♖e4 b3 is a mistake, since after 24.axb3 axb3 25.c3 the days of the b3 pawn are counted.]

23.b3 ♔f8



24.c4! Great move! White gets rid of his backward pawn. [24.♖e4 ♙c3 25.♖d3 ♖c5= To prevent any kind of ex-

change sacrifices on c3, after which the queenside pawns could become very dangerous.]

24...bxc3? A serious mistake ! Larsen got too greedy... Instead of aiming for a blockade, he prefers to be a pawn up, but he underestimated the power of the passed b-pawn. [After 24...h5 I don't believe White has enough resources to create any realistic winning chances.]

25. ♔c2 White is ready to mobilize his b-pawn.

25... ♖a7 [25...♖b8 only temporarily stops b4, since White can play 26.♖e4]

26.b4



26...e6? Objectively, this is probably the decisive mistake, but the position was already very unpleasant. Black should have chosen one of the following two ways to defend: [26...♖b8 27.♖e4 ♖b6 28.b5 looks quite bad for Black. The idea is ♖b1–b4–a4, exchanging a pair of rooks, after which the a3 pawn becomes vulnerable. If White manages to get it, the a4–a5 plan would then decide the game.; 26...e5 would have been probably the best chance for survival, with the idea of transferring the bishop to b6. The position remains better for White, as he has many

options to attack the a3 weakness. 27.♔xc3 ♕d8 28.♖d3 followed by ♔c4 and ♖c2-c3 for instance.]

27.b5! This concrete handling of the position was probably missed by Larsen. White threatens to take on e6 now, and on

27...exd5 28.b6! The rook does not have a good square. Black always moves into some kind of tactical motif.

28...♖e7 [28...♖a6 loses to 29.♕b7!+-; 28...♖xc6 29.bxa7 ♖a6 30.♖xd5 ♖xa7 31.♖xd6+- is also hopeless.; 28...♖a5 29.b7 ♖b8 30.♖e8+! decides the game. 30...♖xe8 31.♕xe8+- and the pawn promotes.]

29.♖xe7 ♔xe7 30.♖e1+! Tal continues playing the most direct way! [30.b7 ♖b8 31.♖xd5+- should also lead to a full point after ♖a5.]

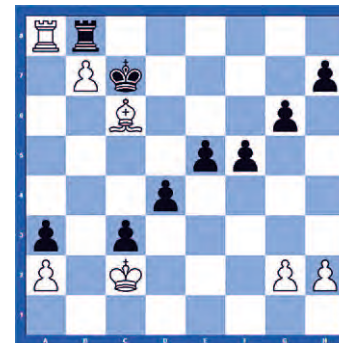
30...♕e5 [After 30...♔f8 White promotes his pawn by 31.b7 ♖b8 32.♖e8+!+-]

31.b7 ♖b8 32.f4 White wins a piece and Black gets many pawns for it, but the most important factor is that White can preserve his b7 pawn.

32...♔e6 33.fxe5 dxe5 34.♖b1! The beginning of a strong maneuver, transferring the rook to the a-file. [34.♔xc3? would have been a huge blunder. 34...♔d6 After Black wins the b7 pawn, it's only him the one who can have a better position.]

34...♔d6 35.♖b6! d4 [35...♔c7 36.♖a6+-]

36.♖a6 f5 37.♖a8 ♔c7 White needs to find the last precise moves.



38.♕d5 Before exchanging the rooks, White must win the a-pawn. [38.♖xb8 ♔xb8 seems like a drawn end-game. White should keep his b7 pawn, which avoids Black from activating his king, but it sticks the bishop to the h1-a8 diagonal and White has no winning plan. 39.♕d5 e4 Going for the queenside pawns is only risky for White. 40.♕g8 h6 41.♕h7 e3 42.♔d3 f4 43.♕xg6 ♔xb7 White doesn't have any winning chances, but it looks like he has a perfect blockade against the invasion of the Black king.]

38...e4 39.♖xa3 The game is over. Black tries a last desperate attempt.

39...e3 40.♔d3 g5 41.♔xd4 An instructive game, which shows how tricky this type of positions can be with opposite colored bishops.

1-0

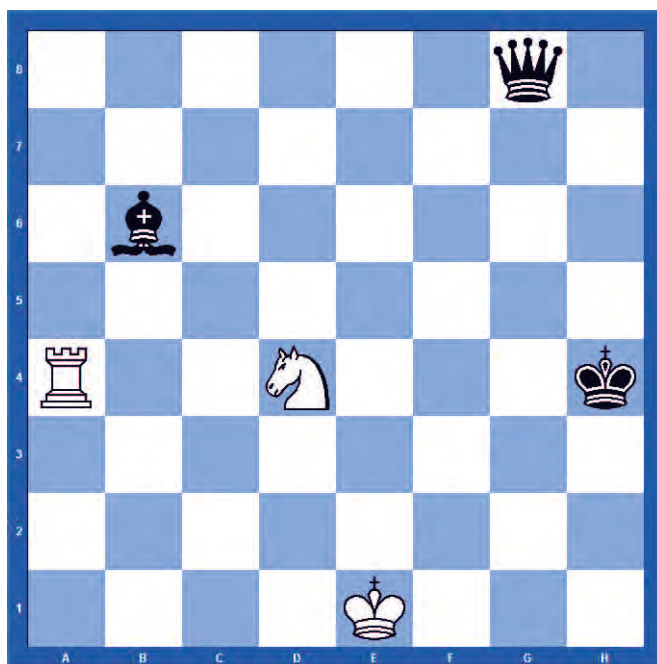
Surprise section / study

(18) Kolodjakni,D

1927

[CEWN]

1.=



Solutions

(19) Nisipeanu,LD (2668) – Ivanchuk,V (2763)

6th Kings tournament, 11.11.2012

[Solutions]



36...♖xd2!! [36...♖xh2+ 37.♔xh2 ♖xd2+ 38.♔g3±]

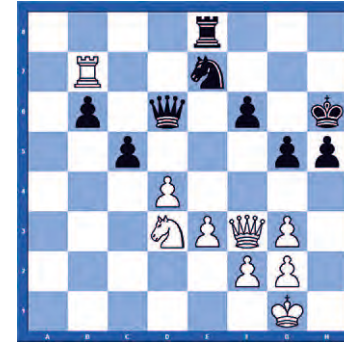
37.♖xa4 ♖dxh2+! 38.♔g1 ♖h1+ 39.♔f2 ♖5h2+
40.♔g3 [40.♘g2?! ♖xa1 41.♖xa7 (41.♔g3 ♖h7 42.♖g5
a6) 41...♖a2+ 42.♔g1! ♖h7xg2+ 43.♖xg2 ♖xg2+ 44.♔xg2
♘c8=]

40...♖h3+ 41.♔g2 ♖3h2+ 42.♔g3 ♖h3+ 43.♔g2 1/2-
1/2

(20) Khismatullin,D (2646) – Gordievsky,D (2422)

Rector Cup (rapid), 11.11.2012

[Solutions]



38.dxc5! ♖xd3?! [38...bxc5 39.♘xc5±]

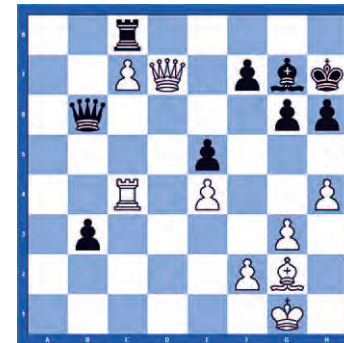
39.♖xe7! [39.♖xf6+ ♖g6]

39...♖xe7 40.♖xf6+ ♖g6 41.♖xe7 bxc5 42.♖xc5+-

(21) Fressinet,L (2703) – Fier,A (2567)

Spanish league, 07.11.2012

[Solutions]



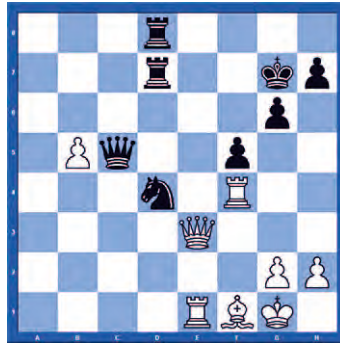
43.♖xc8!! b2 44.♖g4! [44.♖d7? b1♖+ 45.♘f1 ♖e1!-+]

44...b1♖+ 45.♘f1! ♖a2 46.♖e2!+-

(22) Perez Candelario,M (2579) – Ibarra Jerez,J (2528)

Spanish league, 07.11.2012

[Solutions]

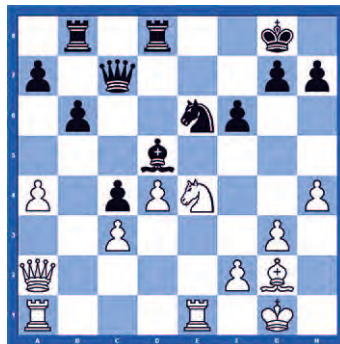


41... ♖e8! 0-1 [41... ♖e8 42. ♕xe8 ♘e2+ 43. ♔h1 ♕g1#]

(23) Kovalyov,A (2596) – Fluvia Poyatos,J (2490)

Spanish league, 10.11.2012

[Solutions]

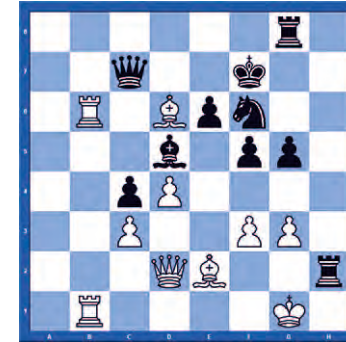


29. ♘xf6+! gxf6 30. ♕xd5 ♖xd5 31. ♖xe6+-

(24) Arngrimsson,D (2386) – Bakre,T (2481)

Budapest, 05.11.2012

[Solutions]



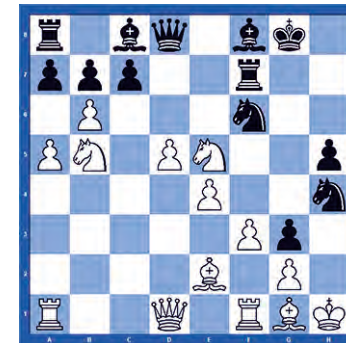
26... ♖gh8!! 27. ♕xc7 [27. ♕xg5 ♘g4!-+]

27... ♘g4!! 0-1 [27... ♖h1+? 28. ♔f2 ♖8h2+ 29. ♔e3+-; 27... ♘g4 28. fxf4 ♖g2+ 29. ♔f1 ♖h1#]

(25) Hagen,A (2418) – Szabo,K (2541)

Budapest, 08.11.2012

[Solutions]



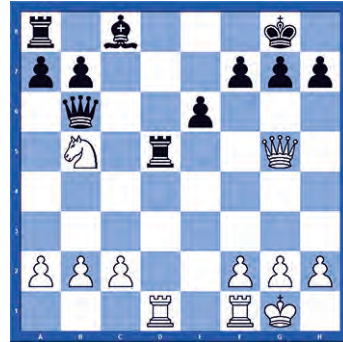
24... ♕h3!! 25. gxf3 [25. ♕e3 ♕xg2+ 26. ♔g1 ♕c8-+]

25... ♕c8! 26. ♘g4 g2+ 27. ♔h2 gxf1N+ 28. ♕xf1 hxf4-+

(26) Navara,D (2722) – Kopylov,M (2473)

German league, 10.11.2012

[Solutions]



18. ♔e7!! ♕d7 [18... ♖xb5 19. ♔d8+ ♜xd8 20. ♖xd8++-;
18...h6 19. ♞c7 ♜xd1 20. ♖xd1+-]

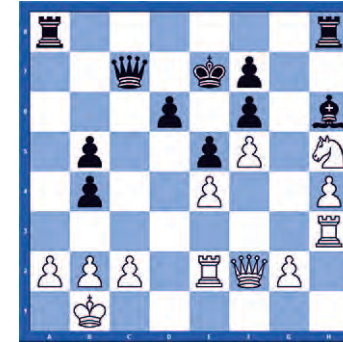
19. ♜xd5 ♕c6 [19... ♕xb5 20. ♖d6+-]

20. ♞c7 1-0

(27) Burg,T (2502) – Lupulescu,C (2613)

German league, 10.11.2012

[Solutions]



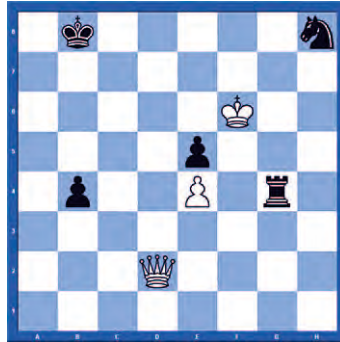
24... ♜xa2! 25. ♔xa2 ♜a8+ 26. ♔b1 ♕a5 27. ♜a3 [27.c3
b3--]

27...bxa3--+

(28) Balogh,C (2664) — Antoniewski,R (2562)

German league, 10.11.2012

[Solutions]



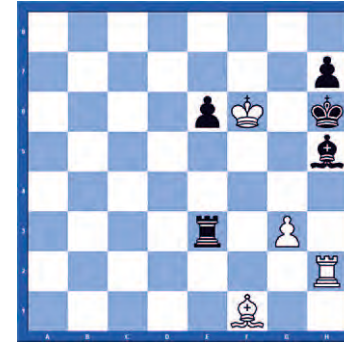
80...♖g6+! 81.♔f5 [81.♔xe5 ♘f7+ 82.♔f4 ♜b6=]

**81...♜b6! 82.♞d8+ ♔b7 83.♞xh8 b3 84.♞h1 b2
85.♞b1 ♜b5! 86.♔g4 ♜b3! 87.♔f5 ♜b5 88.♔e6 ♔c6=**

(29) Kubbel,L

1936

[Solutions]



1.♙e2!! ♜xe2 2.g4!! ♜xh2 [2...♜f2+ 3.♜xf2 ♙xg4
4.♜h2+ ♙h5 5.♜h3 e5 6.♜h4 e4 7.♜xe4 ♙f3 8.♜h4+
♙h5 9.♔f5! ♔g7 10.♜xh5+-]

3.g5# 1-0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 40

30th of November 2012

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Editorial Preface

Let's start with the main news of the week: We already have the 2 finalists of the Women's World Championship by knock-out system: Antoaneta Stefanova from Bulgaria and Anna Ushenina from Ukraine. One of them will be the new World Champion and this could be the second time Antoaneta gets the title in normal chess; she also could get a double WC title because she's already the 2012 World Champion in rapid chess. The winner of the match will qualify to a 200.000 Euro match against the current WC, Hou Yifan.

Hou Yifan herself has already been for quite some time nothing more than a kibitzer, after losing in a very unlucky way against Monica Socko in the 2nd round.

The 2nd Grand Prix started in Tashkent with a really strong line up. In the first rounds, we could easily found out who is in good shape and who isn't... Morozevich is showing some great chess again, winning his first two games. On the other hand, Gata Kamsky is having a horrible tournament.

As usual, we hope You enjoy the chess material that we provide in the CEWN Nr 40!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

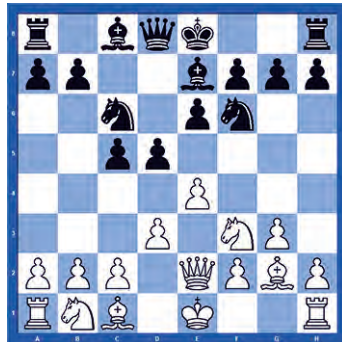
(1) Carlsen,Magnus (2848) – Bruzon Batista,Lazaro (2706) [B40]

Cuadrangular UNAM 2012 Mexico City MEX (1.1), 24.11.2012
[Csaba Balogh]

A really spectacular rapid game by Magnus Carlsen. The game is full of very interesting and unusual ideas. However, a closer look shows us that there were many mistakes as well.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d3 Recently, Carlsen just wants to obtain a playable position out of the opening and avoids the long main lines. A few CEWN ago, we analyzed how he beat Anand in the 2...d6 3.♙b5+ sideline of the Sicilian.

3...♘c6 4.g3 d5 5.♚e2 ♘f6 6.♙g2 ♙e7



7.0–0 A closed system without too much theory, where all the pieces are on the board. Carlsen trusts that this will allow him to outplay his opponent in the middlegame.

7...b5 Bruzon is familiar with the main ideas of White's setup and plays a prophylactic move. [The most com-

mon move is 7...0–0 which is met with 8.e5 ♘d7 9.c4 and ♘c3 next, with a few hundred games in the database.; An interesting alternative is 7...b6!? and on 8.e5 ♘d7 9.c4 d4 with the idea of leaving an option for Black: to castle queenside after ♙b7 and ♚c7.]

8.exd5 This is basically a novelty, a very interesting and concrete one.

8...exd5 [White gets an advantage after 8...♘xd5 9.c4! and the bishop on g2 becomes powerful. 9...bxc4 10.dxc4 ♘f6 11.♚d1 (White can't win material with 11.♘e5 because of 11...♘d4 but instead, a calm development of the pieces guarantees him a clear edge.) 11...♚b6 ♚c7 always moves into ♙f4. 12.♘c3 ♙b7 13.b3 0–0 14.♘a4 ♚a5 15.♙d2 ♚c7 16.♙f4+= and the c5 pawn becomes a long-term weakness after the exchange of the dark squared bishops on d6.]

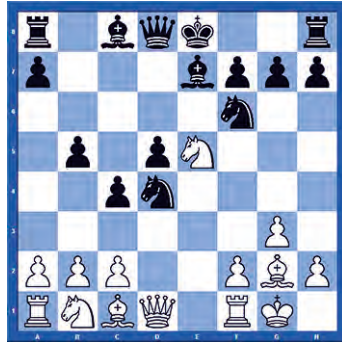
9.d4! A direct attempt to create a drawback for the 7...b5 pawn. [9.c4 also looked quite logical, in order to open the diagonal of the g2 bishop, but Black has 9...♙g4 which seems to solve all the problems. It's not easy to leave from the pin and the ♘d4 threat.]

9...c4 10.♘e5! This is the whole point behind Carlsen's concept! He tries to make use of the fact that Black hasn't castled yet. Now the game becomes very sharp.

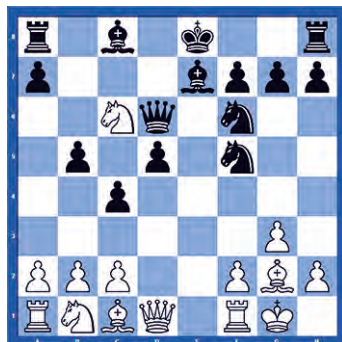
10...♘xd4 Black was forced to go for the complications. [On 10...♙b7 11.♘xc6 ♙xc6 12.♚e1 and Black has huge problems to castle.]

11.♚d1 The first critical position from Black's point of view. He has many possibilities, and at first sight it's not clear what's the problem after any of them. Bruzon had to

decide quickly, as the time control was only of 15 minutes per player.



11...♔b6 Bruzon wanted to control the c6 square, but this moves into other ideas... [11...♞e6 is not enough for equality. 12.♞c6 ♔d7 13.♞xe7 ♔xe7 14.♞c3 White wins back the pawn and obtains a better position. 14...♙b7 15.♞xb5+=; 11...♙c5 probably would have been the best reaction. 12.♙e3 (12.♞c3 ♙b7 13.♙e3 transposes to 12.♙e3.) 12...♞e6 13.♙xc5 ♞xc5 14.♞c3 ♙b7 15.♞xb5 0-0 After this more or less forced line, White seems to have a tiny advantage because of the hole on the d4 square, but Black also has a dynamic position, for instance with ♖e8 and ♔b6.; 11...♞f5 with the idea of taking back the e7 bishop with the knight in order to preserve the extra pawn. This is met with 12.♞c6 ♔d6



13.♞c3!! This pretty combination gives an edge for White in all the lines. 13...♔xc6 (13...♙e6 14.♞xe7 ♔xe7 15.♙g5) 14.♞xd5! Black has nothing better than 14...♙b7 15.♞xf6+ ♔xf6 16.♙xb7+= with a better position because of the pair of bishops.]

12.♙e3 ♙c5 13.♞c3! Good decision! White had two more tempting possibilities, but they were less strong. [13.a4 looked really dangerous with the main idea of a5, winning a piece. 13...♞e6!! Actually, this is the only move, but of course, it's enough to have one good move in each position. :) (13...bxa4 loses to 14.♞c3!+- and ♞a4 next. Black can't avoid losing a piece.) 14.♙xd5 ♞xd5 15.♔xd5 White seems to win, but... 15...♙xe3!! 15...♙b7 didn't work because of ♔d7... (15...♖b8 would have also lost after 16.♙xc5 ♔xc5 17.♔xc5 ♞xc5 18.axb5+-) 16.♔xa8 0-0 White is an exchange up, but the absence of the g2 bishop makes his king so weak that he can only dream about an advantage. 17.♔c6 ♔d4! Black needs the queens on the board to compensate for the material deficit. 18.♞f3 (18.fxe3 ♔xe3+ 19.♔h1 ♔xe5 and only Black can be better. If the bishop occupies the long diagonal, the game is immediately over.) 18...♙xf2+! 19.♖xf2 ♔xb2 Black is fine!; 13.b4 also suggested itself, but Black has 13...cxb3 14.axb3 ♞f5! 15.♙xc5 ♔xc5 and Black seems to hold.]

13...♙e6 [13...♙b7 in order to avoid the tricks on the g2-a8 diagonal. This was a decent alternative, White has to play energetically to get an edge. 14.a4! with the idea of a5! (14.b4 cxb3 15.axb3 ♞e6 Black slips away.) 14...♞e6 15.a5! (15.♞xd5 leads nowhere 15...♞xd5 16.♙xd5 ♙xe3 17.♙xb7 ♔xb7 18.fxe3 0-0 and Black holds.) 15...♔a6 The only move to avoid a6. (15...♔c7? 16.a6 Black's position collapses.) 16.♙xc5 ♞xc5 17.♖e1 0-0 18.♞xd5 ♞xd5

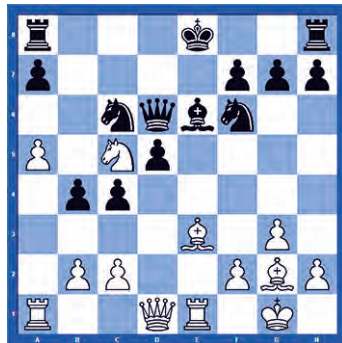
19. ♖xd5 with a small but stable advantage for White due to his active pieces in the center.]

14.a4 [14. ♘xc4!? was also very strong. 14...bxc4 15. ♖a4 ♖c6 16. ♘xc5 ♘f5 (16... ♖xc5 17. ♖xd4± Black can't play against such a "beast" on d4.) 17. ♖d4 ♘xd4 18. ♖xd4+= with an obvious advantage. Black has no compensation for the structural weaknesses and the bad bishop on e6.]

14...b4! Only move.

15.a5! ♖c7 16. ♘a4 [16. ♖xd4 bxc3 17.bxc3 is also slightly better for White, but Carlsen preferred to keep the position dynamic!]

16... ♖d6 [Black will really miss the dark squared bishops after 16... ♖xe5 17. ♘xc5 ♘c6 White gets more than enough compensation with powerful play. 18. ♖e1! ♖d6 Black seems to consolidate, but



19.b3!! Black can't allow the opening of the position with bxc4 19...cxb3 (19...c3 is met with 20. ♘a6! trying to go for ♖c5! 20... ♘e7 21. ♖e2± protecting the knight and refreshing the ♖c5 threat, plus the additional ♖b5 check.) 20. ♘xb3! and Black must forget about castling because of the ♖c5 move.]

17. ♘xc4! White restores the material balance and gets a clear advantage with his active pieces. Until this moment, Carlsen has showed some brilliant chess.

17... ♖xc4 18. ♖xd4+=

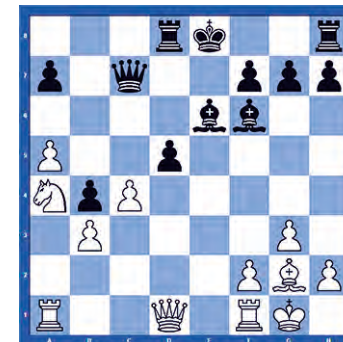
18... ♖e7 19.b3 [19. ♖e1 0-0 20.c3+= was the computer's suggestion, in order to bring the a4 knight back to the game, but I prefer Carlsen's move.]

19... ♖c7 20.c4 [Here I believe 20. ♘b2 would have been stronger, transferring the knight to d3. Carlsen continued playing dynamic chess, but he made a huge mistake in his calculation...]

20... ♖d8 [20...bxc3 21. ♘xc3 0-0 22. ♖e1+= isn't a dream for Black either.]

21. ♖xf6? White had foreseen the position after the 26th move, but they both missed an intermediate move. [21. c5! 0-0 22. ♘b2 driving the knight to d3 again. This guarantees a clear advantage.]

21... ♖xf6? [21...dxc4! 22. ♖d4 ♖f6 Black is suddenly winning. Such kind of mutual blunders are possible in rapid chess, even on the highest level.]



22.cxd5! This position was in Carlsen's mind when he started the actions with b3-c4.

22...0-0 [Black can't accept the exchange with 22... ♖xa1 23. ♔xa1 and either e6 bishop or the g7 pawn will fall. Both of them mean the end of the game. 23... ♗xd5 24. ♔xg7+-]

23. ♖c1 ♔xa5 The position is materially balanced, but the powerful d-pawn gives White the upper hand. White immediately squeezes down his opponent.

24. ♘c5! ♗c8 25.d6! Black can't wait for ♔d5 and ♖fd1, since he remains without a single move. Bruzon finds the only chance to create counterplay!

25... ♗c3! 26. ♔d5! The knight on c5 had to be fortified.

26... ♗g4!



27.h3!! Excellent intuitions! We'll speak about this idea a few moves later. [27. ♖c2 was also possible, but Black would keep his disturbing bishops. 27... ♔b6 28.d7 ♔b5∞]

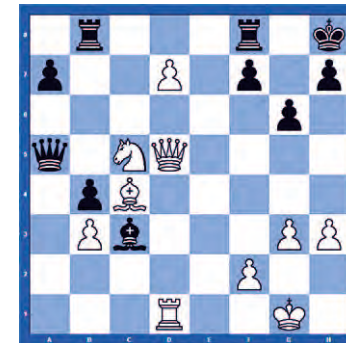
27... ♗e2 28.d7! ♗xf1 29. ♖xf1 Here we are! White doesn't even have a pawn for the exchange, but he is dominating with the d7 pawn. Black's rooks can't be activated because of this factor. The bishop on c3 is well

placed to control the e1 square, but White can go around with ♖d1-d3-e3 and might also transfer his bishop to c4. Black has no active plan, he can only sit and wait to see what happens. It's very important that White should not get tempted to equalize the material with ♘b7, since the knight has a much bigger value than the paralyzed rooks.

29...g6 30. ♖d1 ♖b8 Black tries to jump out with ♖b5, but this just helps White to play the plan that he wanted.

31. ♗f1! The bishop will be more active on c4, as the new main target is the Black king.

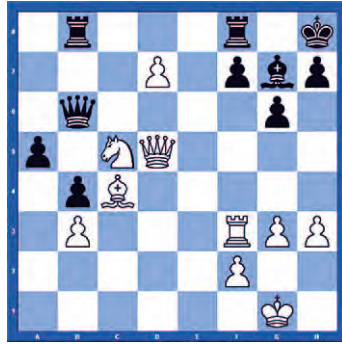
31... ♔h8 32. ♗c4 ♖d3-f3 is coming next. Black still can't do anything better than waiting.



32... ♗f6 33. ♖e1! ♗e7 had to be prevented, and the rook can continue his journey to the 3rd rank from here as well.

33... ♔b6 34. ♖e3 a5 Black tries to do something, but a4 is never a threat, as White simply takes it...

35. ♖f3 ♗g7 Black has temporarily parried the concrete threats, so it's time to increase the pressure.



36.h4! Forcing a huge weakening with the h5 threat.

36...h5 37.♞e4 Very logical plan to transfer the knight to g5, but it was played slightly prematurely. [White could have improved his position with 37.♞g2! and Black is in zugzwang anyway. 37...♞a1 What else?! (37...♞bd8 allows the knight to regroup on d6 38.♞b7 ♞b8 39.♞d6+-) 38.♞g5! with the double threat of ♞h6 and ♞f7. 38...♞g7 39.♞xf7 ♞xf7 40.♞xf7+-]

37...♞d4! Probably this move was missed or underestimated by Carlsen. Black manages, at least, to get rid of the queens.

38.♞g5! ♞xd5 39.♞xd5 ♞c3? This blunder finishes the game... [39...f5 was the only move. 40.♞e6 ± White holds his advantage and will probably win with good technique, but with the opposite colored bishops, Black will always retain surviving chances.]

40.♞xf7 1-0

(2) Ponomarev,R (2741) – Morozevich,A (2748) [C07]

FIDE GP Tashkent Tashkent UZB (5), 27.11.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

1.e4 Another game from the FIDE Grand Prix. A great positional win was achieved by Ponomarev over the tournament leader, Alexander Morozevich. Let's take a closer look at Ruslan's great play

1...e6 It's not easy to predict Morozevich's first move, but the French is one of his favorite openings.

2.d4 d5 3.♞d2 This is the „slow“ line in comparison to 3.♞c3, where we recently saw a lot of crazy games after 3...♞b4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 ♞xc3 6.bxc3 ♞e7 or 6...♞c7 with super unclear play.

3...c5 4.♞gf3 This move is not the main one, but I think it's not a bad choice at all... [4.exd5 ♞xd5 5.♞gf3 cxd4 6.♞c4 That's the main line.]

4...cxd4 5.♞xd4 ♞c6 We are still following the theory, of course.



6. ♖b5!? A nice idea. First White is forcing Black to play ♗d7 and only then he'll take on c6. The bishop on d7 will take a worse position than on c8. Not often we can face the case, that a developed bishop is worse than an undeveloped one.

6... ♗d7 7. ♘xc6 bxc6 8. ♖d3 ♖d6 Logical play. If the Black bishop would be on c8, a move like ♗f6 would be very possible, with the idea of going to ♗d7 after White's e5.

9. ♔e2 White wants to play e5.

9... ♔c7 10. ♘f3 And e5 is a threat again.

10... dxe4 11. ♔xe4!? White is taking the queen to h4, not allowing Black to castle short that easily. We can see that probably White is already a bit better because of his better pawn structure, which could be important in the endgame.

11... ♘f6 12. ♔h4 h6 In many cases, White wants to play ♗g5. [12... 0-0 13. ♗g5]

13. 0-0



13... c5 Logical move. Black wants to develop his bishop to c6 and maybe even think about castling long in the future.

14. ♘d2!? Logical and solid play by White. Without waiting for Black's ♗c6, White is taking the knight to a better position on c4 or e4, depending on Black's play. [14. b3 could have been the other try. 14... ♗c6 15. ♗b2!? White is trying to make use of the fact that Black hasn't castled yet. 15... ♗xf3 16. gxf3 It's hard to say if White has an advantage, but I like his position here.]

14... ♘d5 15. ♘c4 I think we can say that we have a +/- position.

15... ♗f4 Usually in these structures Black tries to avoid an exchange of the dark-squared bishop. But it's not possible now. [15... ♗e7 16. ♔g4! and it seems like Black will spend quite some time without castling.]

16. ♔e1 All of Ponomarev's moves look very natural and easy, but they are based on a very good positional understanding.

16... ♖b8 17. ♗e4 Forcing Black to take on c1, so the White rook can join the game.

17... ♗xc1 18. ♖axc1 ♘b6?! Black moves his knight away from the center. I think this isn't the best choice. [18... 0-0 looks solid 19. ♖cd1 and we are in a typical +/- position, because Black's worse pawn structure.]

19. ♘e3! Of course no exchanges! The Black knight on b6 is now completely out of the game.

19... 0-0 20. b3 A typical idea of cutting the knight on b6 with b3-c4.

20...f5 A very dangerous move for Black. It creates a lot of holes and targets in the pawn structure, but on the other hand, to play 20...♖fd8 21.c4 doesn't feel good either.

21.♗d3 e5



22.f3! Another great positional move by White. Black's only idea is to play e4, so why not to block it on the spot?!

22...♖be8 23.♖cd1 ♔h8 The time has come for White to take some action against Black's central pawns.

24.c3?! A good idea, but it gives Black a chance for a tactical solution. [24.a4; 24.♘c4 Both moves would keep a very nice position for White. We can clearly see that almost all the Black pawns are potential weaknesses.]

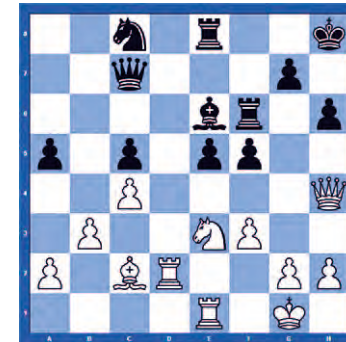
24...♖f6?! Black misses his chance! [It was the moment for a break-through. 24...e4!? 25.fxe4 fxe4 26.♗c2 (Of course not 26.♗xe4? ♖f4) 26...♗e5 27.c4 ♗c6! followed by ♘d7-♘f6 and Black might hold the game.]

25.♗c2 The position doesn't look that bad for Black, but it actually is. The c5-e5-f5 pawns look pretty nice, but are under the constant attack of White's pieces. It's not easy to realize this at first sight, but if we look deeper, we can see that Ponomarev really knows what he's doing...

25...♗e6 Black has no clear plan...

26.♖d2 a5 27.c4 Cutting the knight on b6 and leaving the options of ♖ed1 or ♖de2 open. A really unpleasant position for Black.

27...♘c8? And here comes the mistake. Under pressure, Morozevich, with no clear plan, tries to bring his knight into the game, which is very logical.. but he overlooks a nice tactical blow.



28.♗xf5! A very nice small tactic!

28...♖xf5 [In case of 28...♗xf5 29.♘d5 ♗c6 30.♘xf6 ♗xf6 31.♗f2 White is winning the second pawn on c5 and probably the game. Black's main disadvantage is his super bad knight on c8, which still is completely out of the game.]

29.♘xf5 ♗xf5 30.♗h5! Exact move. White is forcing the Black rook to leave the e-file, after which the e5 pawn will fall.

30...♖f8 31.♖d5 Black's material disadvantage is not that big, but the horrible position of his knight on c8 plus White's future attacking motives, and the weak c5 pawn, make this position impossible to hold.

31...♔h7 32.♖dxе5 ♘g6 33.♚h4 White wants to play ♚f2.

33...♖d8 34.♚g3 [34.♚f2 ♖d4 and Black keeps fighting.]

34...♙f7 35.♚f4 ♘g6



36.h4! White will take the pawn to h5 and the Black king will be under attack.

36...♖d4 This move loses on the spot, but Black's position is already lost.

37.♚f8! Exact until the end. White wants to play h5 and ♖e8 or ♖e7.

37...♚d7 38.h5 [Of course not 38.♖e7? ♘xe7 39.♖xe7 ♖d1+ 40.♔h2 ♚d4 and Black protects his pawn on g7.]

38...♙f7 39.♚xc5 And here comes the 3rd pawn.

39...a4 40.♖e7 White had a wide choice of winning moves, but this is the simplest one.

40...♘xe7 41.♖xe7 ♖d1+ 42.♔h2 A really wonderful game by Ponomarev, with a lot of very useful positional ideas combined with a nice tactical blow.

1-0

(3) Mamedyarov,S (2764) — Svidler,P (2747) [D94]

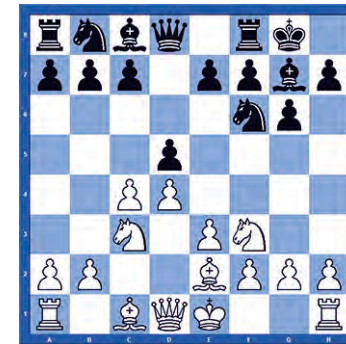
FIDE GP Tashkent Tashkent UZB (3), 24.11.2012

[Csaba Balogh]

After a long while, Mamedyarov finally succeeds to show something against the Gruenfeld defense on the highest level.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♘f3 ♘g7 5.e3 This was considered to be a harmless setup, but in our computer era, we must reconsider many ideas.

5...0-0 6.♙e2



6...e6 This is a sideline, Black would like to continue the development with b6-♙b7, but first he stabilized the center. However, I don't believe this can be enough for equality. [The main move is 6...c5 which is also in the spirit of the Gruenfeld — a quick counterattack against the center. Probably in the near future, we will know what Mamedyarov prepared here. Recently, I have seen some interesting games with 7.dxc5 ♚a5 8.cxd5 This was given as a mistake before in the theoretical books, because of 8...♘xd5 9.♚xd5 ♘xc3+ 10.♙d2 ♖d8 but the machines re-evaluate many things. They recommend 11.♚xd8+!

♔xd8 12.♙xc3 with a completely unclear position. I guess Mamedyarov has a huge amount of analysis here and is ready to go for these complications.]

7.0–0 b6 8.b4! This is basically the main idea of the 5.e3 system, even though we are already more or less in new territory from the opening point of view. White wants to play on the queenside, and the game shows very well the most typical plans.

8...dxc4 Svidler avoids getting squeezed down after c5. This is definitely the right way to play. [White gets a pleasant edge after 8...♙b7 9.c5! Black must suffer long because of the space advantage. The only critical question is whether Black will be able to undermine the queenside pawns or if White can consolidate... 9...a5 10.b5! bxc5 11.♙a3! This is a relevant detail, with which we'll meet in different occasions during the game. 11...♘bd7 12.♘a4! ♘e4 13.♖c1! and White wins the opening battle, so the 9.c5 move is justified!; Black is not well prepared for 8...c5 9.bxc5 bxc5 10.♙a3! This is the motif again! 10...♘a6 11.♔a4 ± Black can't hold his hanging pawns and pieces. cxd5 is the direct threat and the a6 knight is hanging.]

9.♙xc4 ♙b7



10.a4! Very well played! White wants to develop his bishop to a3 in order to fight against Black's main resource, the c5 break, but first he plays a4 to support his future plans on the queenside, which are connected with the moves b5 and a5.

10...♘bd7 11.♙a3 ♖e8 Svidler prepares for his only existing counterplay: the c5 break. First, the rook had to be removed from the pin, because otherwise, White takes twice on c5 and threatens to win an exchange with c6.

12.♔e2 Mamedyarov believes that White is better prepared for c5 and he wants to finish the development with ♖fd1 in order to secure a clear advantage. But things are not that easy... [12.b5!? seriously comes into consideration, with the idea of taking with bxc6 on c5, and White consolidates his center. I believe White is better here and his position looks much easier to play.]

12...c5 Even if it's bad, Black has to try it. [Of course, the previous move were not based on the e5 break, because of 12...e5? 13.♙xf7+! ♔xf7 14.♔a2+ ♔f8 15.b5+ ♖e7 16.♘g5+- wins.]

13.dxc5 [Another motif in such positions is 13.bxc5 bxc5 14.♖ab1 to leave the pin on the h8-a1 diagonal, but now Black seems to have 14...♙xf3! (14...♖b8 15.dxc5 would be a better version than the game for White.) 15.♔xf3 ♔a5 and on 16.♖fc1 cxd4 17.exd4 ♖ab8 White might be better here as well, if he manages to make use of the weak b5 and d6 squares with the minor pieces, but Black also has his counterplay against the isolated pawns on d4 and a4.]

13...bxc5 14.bxc5 [14.b5? To obtain a superior pawn structure would not be the best idea now, because of 14...♘d5]



14... ♙f8 Black decides to fight for the pawn, but his pieces will get pinned soon. [14... ♙xf3 15. ♖xf3 ♘e5 16. ♗e2 ♘xc4 17. ♗xc4 ♘d5 This forced line was the critical one, and Mamedyarov had to check it before taking twice c5. He found the solution in 18. ♖ad1! ♙xc3 19.e4! White wins back the piece and ends up with an extra pawn. There is a hidden detail, that after 19... ♗h4 20.g3! ♗g4 21.f3! ♗h3 22.exd5 exd5 23. ♖xd5 ♙e1 White prevents the ♙xg3 threat by 24. ♗c2! ± and the queen goes to g2.; 14... ♗a5 doesn't give equality either. 15. ♘b5! Black will suffer a long time because of the hole on d6. 15... ♘e4 16. ♘fd4+=]

15. ♙b5! This looks very bad for Black, but Svidler finds a clever way to neutralize the pins.

15... ♖c8! [15... a6? was refuted by 16.c6!+-; 15... ♗c7 was another option, but White retains some advantage after 16. ♖fc1 ♖ec8 17. ♙xd7! Again, White's advantage is based on the d6 hole, which the knight is going to occupy soon (17.c6 was also tempting, but 17... ♙xc6 18. ♘e4 ♙xb5! seems to hold.) 17... ♘xd7 18. ♘b5 ♗a5 19. ♘d6 ♙xd6 20.cxd6 ♗xa4 21. ♙b2 White must be better with the d6 pawn and the a1–h8 diagonal.]

16. ♖fd1



16... ♙xc5! Very suspicious, but Black is alive. The main idea to leave the pins is ♙xa3 ♖xa3 ♗e7 and when the rook moves, to play ♖ed8.

17. ♘e5! Pressing against d7 with full power. [17. ♙xc5 ♖xc5 The attack on the c3 knight gives an important tempo in order to leave the pin.; 17. ♙b2 ♗e7 and ♖ed8 next.]

17... ♙xa3 18. ♘xd7! Black was fighting perfectly so far, but now he failed to find the right direction. Black will end up with a material disadvantage, but in both cases he gets seemingly huge compensation. [18. ♖xa3 doesn't win, because of 18... ♗e7!]

18... ♖xc3? Svidler prefers to give an exchange and keep the queens on the board, but it soon becomes clear that he doesn't have enough. [However, after 18... ♘xd7! 19. ♖xd7 ♖xc3! (19... ♗b6? simply loses to 20. ♖xa3) 20. ♖xd8 ♖xd8 I don't believe that White can win this game. 21.h3



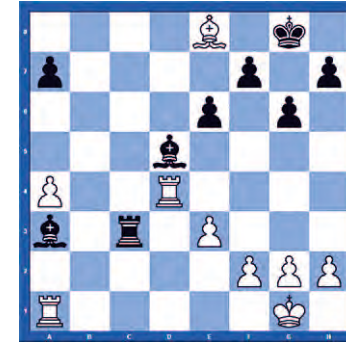
21...a5! Black fortifies his bishop on b4. The rook and the bishop pair combined with the healthy Black's pawn structure give an excellent fortress. White's only chance is to exchange a pair of rooks and then try to attack the f7 pawn with the queen and the bishop from e8. With a good defense, Black should not have any problems to defend against this, and should safely hold the draw.]

19. ♖xf6+ ♜xf6 **20.** ♗xe8 Black can't create enough counterplay; the misplaced bishop on e8 quickly comes back to the game.

20... ♗e4 [After 20... ♖g5 the e8 bishop even becomes a useful piece, because of 21. ♗xf7+! ♜xf7 (21... ♖g7 22.e4+-) 22. ♖d7+ +-]

21. ♖g4 Mamedyarov wants to exchange the queens with ♜d4. [21. ♖d7 was also possible in order to convert the advantage to a pawn. 21... ♗c6 22. ♖xf7 (22. ♗xf7+? is not good. 22... ♖g7 23. ♖xa7 ♗c5 24. ♖c7 ♗d6 25. ♖a7 ♗b8) 22... ♖g5 23. ♗xc6 ♖xf7 but Black has decent drawing chances with the opposite colored bishops.]

21... ♗d5 **22.** ♖d4 ♜xd4 **23.** ♖xd4



23...a6 Black doesn't allow his opponent to rescue the bishop with b5.

24.h3? The only mistake by Mamedyarov in the game, which could have cost the half point. He opens the back-rank, which is of course very useful, but misses a tactical idea at the same time. [24. ♖dd1! was the right move, which is of course very difficult to find. Especially because the idea is the same: White covers the weak back-rank. 24... ♜f8 25. ♗d7 ♜e7 (25... ♗b2 26. ♖ab1 ♖c2 with the idea of ♗a2 trapping the rook, is met with a nice line... 27.a5! ♗a2 28. ♗a4! ♖e2 (28... ♗xb1 29. ♗xc2 ♗xc2 30. ♖d2+-) 29. ♖e1! and the b1 rook escapes. 29... ♖d2 30. ♖bd1+-) 26. ♗c8! is the point! The a3 bishop is also hanging and there is no mate on c1 at the end.]

24... ♜f8 **25.** ♗d7 ♗d6? Svidler spoils his chance. He wants to play ♜e7 and after ♗c8, his bishop is not hanging, but Mamedyarov found a nice idea to save his bishop. [25... ♜e7! 26. ♗c8 ♗b2! 27. ♖b1 ♖c2! would have been really strong. d4 is hanging and ♗a2 threatens to send away the rook, after which c8 is hanging. The best White can get is an extra pawn, but in both versions the opposite colored bishops give excellent drawing chances for

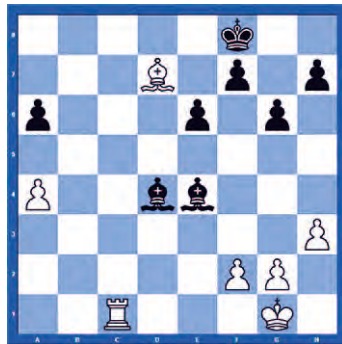
Black. 28. ♖d3 (28. ♖xd5 exd5 29. ♗xa6 d4; 28. ♖b4 ♗a3) 28... ♗a2 29. ♖xb2 ♖xb2 30. ♗xa6]

26.e4! Well played! White sacrifices a pawn in order to get rid of the rooks.

26... ♗c5 [26... ♗e5 27. ♖b4]

27. ♖dd1 ♗xe4 28. ♖ac1! This was the point of 26. e4! Still, White has to work hard for the win, he must try to collect the a6 pawn and keep his a4 pawn alive.

28... ♗b4 29. ♖xc3 ♗xc3 30. ♖c1 ♗d4? [30... ♗d2 was the only move, with the idea of putting the pawn on a5, where the White bishop can't attack it. 31. ♖c8+ ♔e7 32. ♗c6 ♗c2! Black needs to preserve his bishop pair to retain some drawing chances. 33. ♖a8 a5 34. ♖a7+ ♔f8 It's very difficult to evaluate this position. In my personal opinion, Black's drawing chances are bigger than White's winning ones. Black puts his pawn on h5, his bishop on b4 and then starts to wait with the light squared bishop. It's not easy to find a break-through, but White can try for very long.]



31.a5! This was probably missed by Svidler. White has fixed the a6 weakness and Black has no access to the a5 pawn with the bishop.

31... ♔e7 [31... e5 White collects the a6 pawn by 32. ♗c8! ♗d3 33. ♗b7! followed by ♖c8-a8. 33... ♔e7 34. ♖c8+-]

32. ♗c8 ♗b2 [32... ♗d3? doesn't work. 33. ♖d1!]

33. ♖c5! Very precise! White lures the king to d6 in order to get the key ♖b6 check!

33... ♗d3 [33... ♔d6 34. ♖c4! ♗d3 (34... ♗d5 35. ♖h4+- one of the pawns falls.) 35. ♖b4 ♗e5 36. ♗xa6! This was the point of 33. ♖c5!]

34. ♗b7! Just as in the 31...e5 line, White wants to win the pawn with ♖c8-a8, and Black can't prevent it. The game is over.

34... ♗b5 [34... ♔d7 35. ♖c8 ♗e4 36. ♗xa6 ♗d3 37. ♖a8+-]

35. ♖c8 ♗e5 36. ♖a8 ♗c7 37. ♗xa6 ♗c6 38. ♖a7 ♔d6 39. ♗b7 It will be interesting to follow the development of this line with 5.e3.

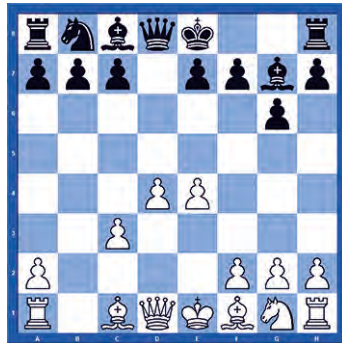
1-0

(4) Alexander Morozevich – Leinier Dominguez Perez

FIDE Grand Prix Tashkent (6.4), 28.11.2012

[Kamil Miton]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3
6.bxc3 ♙g7

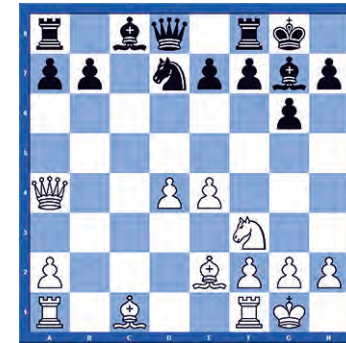


7.♚a4+ A rare line which doesn't give White any advantage. The idea of this move is to escape from long theoretical Grünfeld variations. Typical Moro style.

7...♘d7 The main move. Black could also try other plan: [7...♚d7 8.♚b3 0-0 9.♘f3 b6 10.♙e3 ♙b7 11.♙d3 c5 (11...♚g4 12.h3 ♚xg2 13.♙e2 and White traps the queen.) 12.0-0 ♘c6 13.♖ad1 ♘a5 (13...cxd4 14.cxd4 ♘xd4 15.♘xd4 ♙xd4 16.♙b5+-) 14.♚b1 cxd4 15.cxd4 e6 16.h4 A typical move in these structures. White is going to create additional weaknesses around the Black king. 16...f5 Risky move. Black is looking for counterplay on the center, but he's weakening his king by doing so. Safer and more logical was the thematic plan ♖c8-♘c4, with the idea of winning one of White's bishops. (16...♖ac8 17.h5 ♘c4∞) 17.♙b5 ♚d6 18.d5 Nice break. 18...exd5 19.e5

♙xe5 20.♘xe5 ♚xe5 21.♙d4 ♚e4 22.♚c1 with decisive pressure! 1-0 Sokolov,I-Howell,D/London/Crowthorne ENG 2006.]

8.♘f3 c5 9.♙e2 0-0 10.0-0 a6?! Strange move. Dominguez wants to develop the pieces with b5-♙b7. For example, after b5, ♙xb5 doesn't work because of ♘b6. The problem is that after the simple ♚a3, b5 is not possible and the b-file is weakened (after a6). The simplest way to equalize the position was showed by Ivanchuk in a game against me some years ago. [10...cxd4 11.cxd4



11...♘c5 12.♚c2 (12.dxc5 ♙xa1 13.♙f4 ♙c3 (13...♙g7? 14.♖d1 ♚e8 15.♙b5+-) 14.♖c1 ♚a5 15.♚b3 ♙g7 16.♙c4 White has some initiative, but nothing more. For example: 16...♙g4 17.♘g5 e6 18.h3 h6 19.♘xf7 ♖xf7 20.♙e3 ♖af8 21.hxg4 ♖xf2 22.♙xe6+ ♙h8 23.♙xf2 ♖xf2 Thanks to his play on the dark squares, Black is fine.) 12...♘e6 13.♙e3 ♘xd4 14.♘xd4 ♙xd4 15.♖ad1 e5 16.♙xd4 exd4 and Black is totally fine. 17.♚b2 (17.♚a4 ♙e6 18.♖xd4 ♚b6 19.♖fd1=) 17...♙e6 18.♚xb7 Not accurate. I should have taken the other pawn and more importantly, exchange bishops. (18.♖xd4 ♚a5 19.♙c4) 18...♚b6 19.♚xb6 axb6 20.♖xd4 ♖xa2 21.♙b5 ♖c8 22.♖b1 ♖cc2 23.♙f1 ♙g7

24. ♖db4 ♜xf2 25. ♜xb6 h5 26. ♜c6 h4 27. ♜c3 ♔f6 There's not so much material on the board but Black's pieces are completely dominating. I can risk to say that White's position is simply losing. 28. ♜e1 ♔e5 0-1 Miton,K-Ivanchuk,V/ Havana CUB 2007/The Week in Chess 655.]

11. ♙a3 Now b5 doesn't work!

11... ♙c7 12. ♗g5 Moro develops the pieces with tempo.

12... ♜e8 Black also has other possibilities. Let's check them: [12...e6 13. ♜ad1 b5 14. ♗xb5 (14.d5 ♗b7 ∞) 14...axb5 15. ♙xa8 ♗b7 16. ♙a3 ♜a8 17. ♙b2 ♗xe4 seems strange, but Black has good compensation.; 12...♞f6 13.e5 ♞d5 14.dxc5 White's structure is destroyed but it's not easy for Black to avoid the c4 threat. 14... ♗xe5 (14...h6 15. ♗d2) 15. ♗c4 ♗e6 (15...e6 16. ♞xe5 ♙xe5 17. ♗xd5 exd5 18. ♗e3↑ with pressure on the dark squares.; 15...♞f6 16. ♜fe1 ♗f4 17. ♗xf4 ♙xf4 18. ♗b3 ♙c7 19. ♙b4 White has the initiative on the dark squares again.) 16. ♙b3 ♜ad8 17. ♜ad1 ♞f4 18. ♜xd8 ♜xd8 19. ♗xf4 ♗xc4 20. ♗xe5 ♙xc5



21. ♜d1 and thanks to this trick, White is winning!]

13. ♜ad1 Normal move. White could also try to transfer the queen to the other side, but it takes too much time. [13. ♙c1 b5 14. ♙e3 ♗b7 with equal play. 15.a4!]

13... ♜b8 Black prepares b5, but now the rook on b8 creates some disadvantages as well.

14.d5 [14. ♗h4 An interesting idea to force Black to push e5 and change the structure a bit. 14...b5 15. ♗g3 e5 16.dxe5 ♞xe5 17. ♜d5 with initiative for White. 17...b4 18. ♙c1 ♗b7 19. ♜xe5 ♗xe5 20. ♞xe5 ♜xe5 21.cxb4 ♗xe4 22. ♜e1 ±]

14...e6 Not an easy decision, but probably the Cuban grandmaster should have played this before choosing ♜e8. [14...♞e5!]

15.dxe6 [15.d6 ♙c6 16.e5 b5 (16...♞xe5 17. ♞xe5 ♗xe5 18. ♗f3 ♙b5 19.c4 ♙xc4 20.d7 ♗xd7 21. ♜xd7 ±) 17. ♜fe1 ♗b7 18. ♗f1 ♙b6 It's hard to say if the d6 pawn is strong. Now it's not easy to improve White's position. Black also keeps the option of breaking White's pawns after f6. The position looks fine for Black.; 15. ♗h4 b5 16. ♗g3 e5 17.c4 An important move which doesn't allow c4-♞c5. 17... b4 18. ♙c1 Usually these structures with the strong d5 pawn are better for White, but I think that it's unclear in this case. We can say that the knight on d7 is not perfect (it seems better on d6), but on the other hand, it's well placed to fight after the f4-break, which probably is the only plan for White.; 15. ♙c1 with the idea of transferring the queen or to play ♗f4.]

15... ♜xe6 16. ♗h4 [16. ♗c4 ♜xe4 17. ♗d5 (17. ♙b3 ♞f6 and Black is safe.) 17... ♜e8 18. ♙a4 The idea is to transfer the queen to the kingside to support the attack. 18... b5 (18...c4 Logical idea. Black gives the pawn back, but

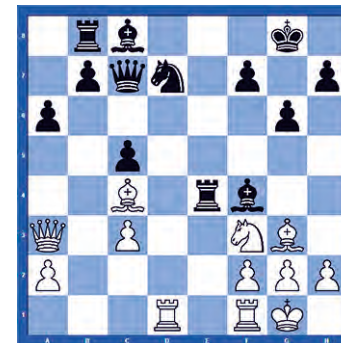
thanks to this exchange, White's pieces become uncoordinated. 19. ♖fe1 ♜xe1+ 20. ♜xe1 b5 21. ♚b4 ♞c5 22. ♜e8+ ♜f8 23. ♜xf8+ ♜xf8 24. ♜e3 ♜g8 25. ♜xc5 a5 26. ♜d6 ♚b6 27. ♚c5 ♚xc5 28. ♜xc5 ♜b7 29. ♜xb7 ♜xb7 30. a3 f6 31. ♜f1) 19. ♚h4 ♜b7 20. ♜f4 ♞e5 21. ♜xe5 ♜xe5 22. ♞g5 ♜xd5 23. ♚xh7+ ♜f8 24. ♜xd5 ♜g7 25. f4 Unclear, but White has some pressure.]



16... ♖h6? A huge and decisive mistake! Dominguez prepared ♖f4 after ♖g3, but he should have played: [16... ♖xe4 Ok, it wasn't easy to grab this pawn in a practical game, but objectively it leads to a position that's not worse for White. 17. ♖g3 (17. ♖d3 ♖xh4 18. ♘xh4 b5 with fantastic play for Black.) 17... ♘e5 Black's pieces are totally pinned, but White can't take advantage of this. 18. ♖d3 (18. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 19. ♖d3 ♖f4 20. ♘xe5 ♔xe5 21. ♖fe1 ♔c7 22. ♖e8+ ♔g7; 18. ♖fe1 ♖d7) 18... ♘xf3+ 19. gxf3 ♖e5 20. ♖fe1 ♖h3=+]

17. ♖c4 [17. ♖g3 ♜f4 18. ♖c4 ♔e7 19. ♞g5 ♜xg3 20. fxg3 ♞e5 21. ♖d5 ∞]

17...♖xe4 18.♙g3 ♔b6 [18...♙f4



19. ♖xf7+! Maybe Leinier missed this move. 19... ♔xf7
(19... ♔h8 20. ♖d5+-) 20. ♘g5+-]

19. ♔a4 The most accurate. Black's pieces don't cooperate at all. White is easily winning! [19. ♖xb8 ♜xc4 20. ♞e5 ♞xe5 21. ♙xe5 ±]

19...♖e7 20.♙d6 ♔d8 21.♙xe7 ♔xe7 22.♖fe1 ♔f8
23.♖xd7 b5 24.♙xf7+ ♔g7 25.♙d1 [25.♙h4 ♙xd7
26.♖e7+-]

25... ♗xd7 26. ♔xd7 ♖d8 27. ♔c7 ♖c8 28. ♔b7 ♖b8 29. ♔e7 This was the only decisive game in this round. Congratulations to Moro for yet another victory in this tough tournament.

1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Carlsen,M (2848) – Polgar,J (2705)

Mexico City (rapid), 25.11.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(6) Guerra Mojena,L (2382) – Ortiz Suarez,I (2595)

Mexico City Open, 22.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

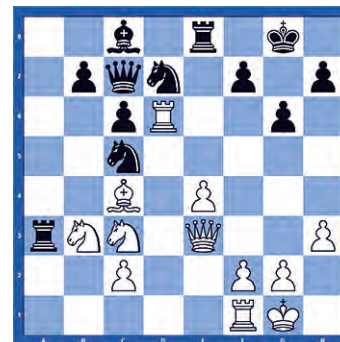


(7) Ghaem Maghami,E (2559) – Tkachiev,V (2659)

Fujeirah Open, 20.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

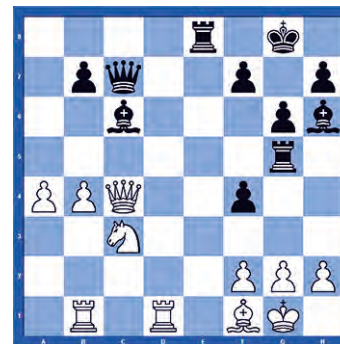


(8) Collins,S (2471) – Jones,G (2644)

Kilkenny Masters, 25.11.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

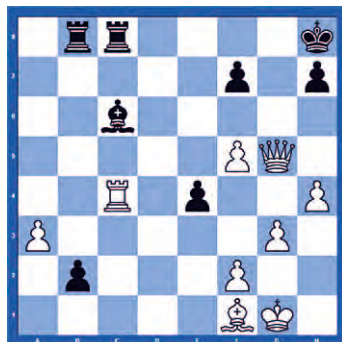


(9) Svetushkin,D (2589) – Bogosavjlevic,B (2524)

Vrsac GM, 23.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

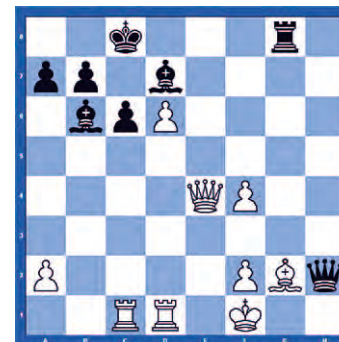


(11) Sethuraman,S (2520) – Adly,A (2607)

Commonwealth Open, 26.11.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(10) Cvitan,O (2535) – Georgiev,K (2660)

Vrsac GM, 24.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

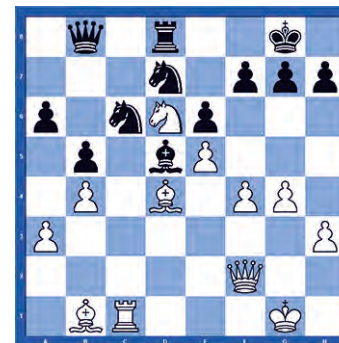


(12) Banusz,T (2580) – Pap,G (2553)

Hungarian Championship, 26.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

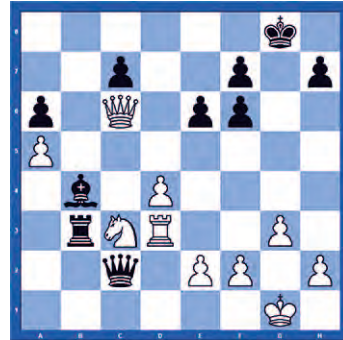


(13) Matlakov,M (2673) – Shimanov,A (2597)

Governor's Cup, 17.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.=

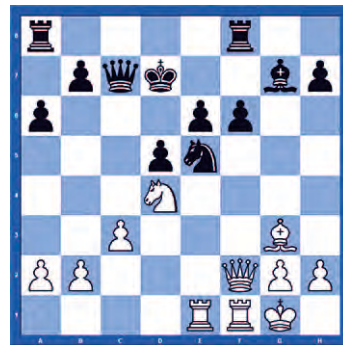


(14) Mamedov,R (2647) – Savchenko,B (2556)

Governor's Cup, 18.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-

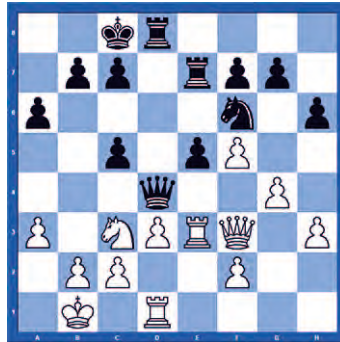


Endgame section

(15) Morozevich,A (2748) – Caruana,F (2786)

Tashkent, 23.11.2012

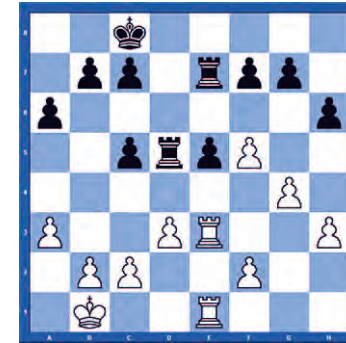
[Chess Evolution]



Black is slightly worse because of the e5 weakness. White has many ways to strengthen his position, while Black can only passively wait. Caruana was looking for salvation in the rook endgame.

20...♘d5 [20...♘e8 with the idea of consolidating with f6 doesn't help. White can, for instance, play 21.h4 gaining ground on the kingside with g5. 21...f6 White unexpectedly wins a pawn with 22.♖e4! ♔d6 23.♖c4!± and ♘e4 is coming next.]

21.♘xd5 ♔xd5 22.♖xd5 ♖xd5 23.♖de1+= White is definitely slightly better, but it's very important for him not to allow Black to activate his rooks. So, the first step is to keep the e5 pawn under permanent attack and then think about how to improve his position on the queenside.



23...f6 Black wants to play ♖d4-f4, so White must increase the pressure on the e5 pawn.

24.f4! It's time to improve the position of the king for both sides...

24...♔d7 25.c3! White prepares ♔c2 and the future actions with b4...

25...b5 I don't like this move. It eases White's plans on the queenside. [Black should have definitely opted for 25...a5! 26.♔c2 Now d3 is protected, so White threatens to take a pawn with c4, followed by fxe5. 26...♔d6 27.♖e4 (It might make sense to provoke the c6 move with a king march to b5. 27.♔b3 b6 28.♔c4 c6 29.♔b3 ♖e8 30.a4 ♖e7 31.♔c2 ♖e8 and only now the plans start on the kingside) 27...b6 and from now on Black starts to wait with ♖e7-e8. It's not easy to find a breakthrough for White. 28.h4 This looks like the only option for White. 28...♖e8 29.g5 White continues pressing, but it's hard to judge whether it'll be enough to win the game.]

26.♔c2 ♔d6 Unfortunately, time trouble starts to affect the game, and this is the reason for the following inaccuracies.

27.b3 [27.b4! should have been played immediately as Morozevich did it a few moves later.]

27...♖e8 [Black should have prevented the b4 plan again, followed by c6 and the waiting policy. 27...a5!]

28.♖e4 ♖e7



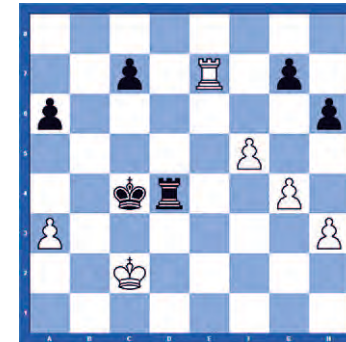
29.b4! Morozevich had the right idea. White threatens to win a pawn as it happened in the game. Black had only one way to prevent it.

29...♖e8! Caruana prefers to play the endgame with a pawn down, but with activity, than suffering in zugzwang with material equality. This is generally the right strategy of the defensive side in rook endgames! [29...♖c6 was the only move to leave from fxe5 and bxc5, capturing with checks... 30.bxc5 (Now on 30.c4 Black has 30...♖d4 31.fxe5 ♖xe4 32.♖xe4 fxe5 and Black is solid.) 30...♖xc5 The position remains really unpleasant. 31.d4+! ♖d6 32.h4! ♖e8 (32...c5 doesn't solve the problems regarding the pressure on the e5-pawn. 33.dxe5+ fxe5 34.g5) 33.g5 hxg5 34.hxg5 Let's see how can White break through if Black just keeps waiting. 34...♖e7 35.♖b3 White wants to penetrate with ♖b4, so Black should play 35...c5 36.dxe5+ fxe5 37.a4 (White can win a pawn anytime with 37.f6 gxf6 38.gxf6

♖f7 39.fxe5+ ♖e6 but probably it's better to improve the position a bit. This possibility will never run away.) 37... ♖e8 38.c4! bxc4+ 39.♖xc4 The game is basically over; White threatens ♖b1–b6. 39...♖d4+ (39...♖e7 40.♖b1+-) 40.♖xd4+ cxd4 41.♖d3! in order to avoid Black's attempt to gain some activity with ♖c8. 41...♖e7 42.♖e4! ♖e8 and now the easiest way to collect the point is 43.g6! ♖e7 44.fxe5+ ♖xe5 45.f6! and Black has to resign.]

30.c4 [It might be objectively better to play 30.bxc5+ ♖xc5 31.d4 ♖d5 32.h4 and playing like in the 29...♖c6 line, but who could restrain himself from taking a pawn for seemingly nothing?!]

30...bxc4 31.dxc4 ♖d4 32.fxe5+! fxe5 33.bxc5+! ♖xc5 34.♖xe5+ ♖xe5 35.♖xe5+ ♖xc4 36.♖e7! Morozevich obviously had foreseen this position before playing 30.c4. It seems to be over, but the saying is applicable again... that all the rook endgames are drawn.



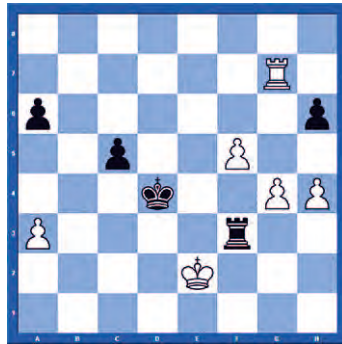
36...c5 Black's hope is the c-pawn.

37.♖xg7 ♖d3 38.h4! White needs to keep his connected passed pawns on the kingside.

38...♖f3! Black could not allow f6 and g5, because the pawns would promote automatically. He tries to squeeze the king to the first rank and support his c-pawn with the king. [38...♖xa3? would have led to a quick defeat. 39.f6 ♖f3 40.g5 hxg5 41.hxg5 ♖f2+ 42.♔d1 ♔d3 43.♖d7++- and f7, g6 next.]

39.♔d2! White tries to send the rook away from the f-file. [The machine recommends 39.♖h7 ♖f2+ 40.♔d1 ♖f4 41.♖xh6 ♖xg4 42.♖xa6 Despite the fact that White is two pawns up, the position is drawn. Black will recover one because of the active configuration of his pieces, and regarding the remaining one, the c-pawn supported by the king gives enough compensation. (42.♔e2 ♖f4) 42... ♔b3! ♖a4 had to be parried first... 43.h5 ♖g5 44.f6 ♖xh5 45.♖b6+ ♔xa3 46.♔d2 ♖f5 If the king goes to support the f-pawn, the c-pawn will also be promoted, so first he should try to capture on c5. 47.♔c3 ♖f3+ 48.♔c4 ♖f5 White can't make progress. Black is not in zugzwang, since if he was the one to move, ♔a2 would be available.]

39...♔d4 40.♔e2 [40.♖g6 ♖f2+ 41.♔d1 ♖f4]



40...♖xa3?? This is a terrible blunder in the last move of the time trouble. From now on, White simply can't go

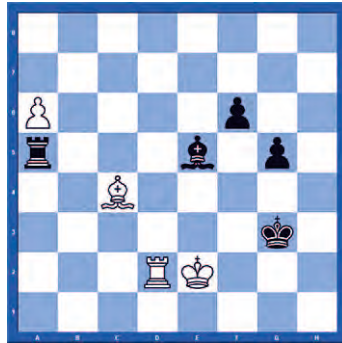
wrong, all the moves are just winning. [40...♖f4 seems to give an easy draw. Black wants to push his c-pawn. White sooner or later has to give up his connected passed pawns, but it will make the position drawish as the 39.♖h7 line showed us. 41.♖g6 c4 42.f6 is too slow now, with the idea of g5 and ♖g7, escaping with the rook because the c-pawn is too far advanced. 42...c3]

41.f6 ♖a2+ 42.♔f3 ♖a1 43.♔g2 ♖a2+ 44.♔g3 ♖a1 45.g5 hxg5 46.hxg5 ♖f1 47.♖c7 a5 48.f7 a4 49.g6 a3 50.♖a7 ♖f6 51.g7 1-0

(16) Karjakin, Sergey (2775)
– Wang, Hao (2737) [C10]

FIDE GP Tashkent Tashkent UZB (3.6), 24.11.2012

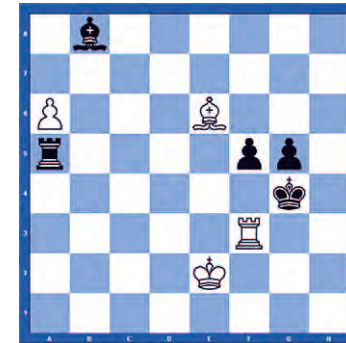
[Chess Evolution]



62...f5 We are in the very end of a game between two very young and very strong chess players, both in the World's Top 10! After a not so promising opening, Black quickly achieved a nice position and with great play managed to slowly improve his chances for a full point. In the current position, we can clearly see that White's position is „on the limit“. If Black manages to get the pawns to g4-f3, the game will be over.

63. ♖d5? White takes a decision that should be based on exact calculation. If he exchanges the rooks, but can't stop Black from playing g4-f4-f3, the position will be lost. [White had a better choice: 63. ♖d3+! This move would force the Black king to make a difficult decision regarding where to go. 63... ♔f4 (in case of 63... ♔g4 64. ♖d5! would win a very important tempo. 64... ♖xd5 65. ♗xd5 ♗b8 66. ♗e6! not allowing Black to go to g3! 66... ♔f4 67. ♔f2 By putting the king on g2, White reaches a very simple drawn

position. 67...g4 68. ♔g2 ♔g5 69. ♗d7 f4 Now Black wants to play f3. 70. ♗c6! ♔f6 71. ♗b7 ♔e5 72. ♗c6 ♔d4 73. ♗d7 draw.) 64. ♖f3+! The only way to force a draw. 64... ♔g4 65. ♗e6 As we can see, all the moves are quite forced... 65... ♗b8 It seems like Black holds everything but...



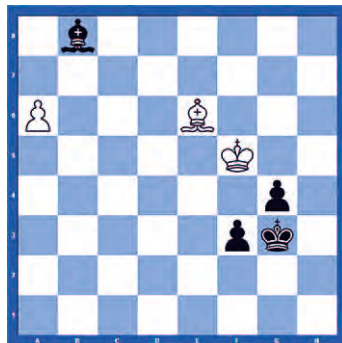
66. ♖xf5!! Very beautiful... the position is a draw. 66... ♖xf5 67. ♔e3 What a beautiful chess move!]

63... ♖xd5 64. ♗xd5 ♗b8 Black is holding the a-pawn and is ready to start advancing his own pawns.

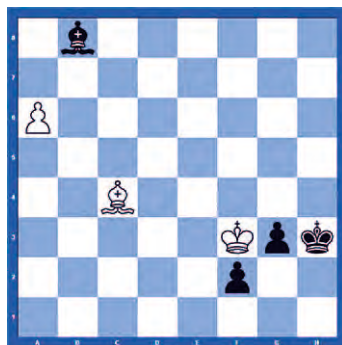
65. ♗e6 f4 66. ♔d3!? The best chance to save the game, and it seems like this was exactly what Karjakin had in mind when he played 63. ♖d5?. White wants to attack the g-pawn with his king while holding the f-pawn with his bishop.

66...g4 Logical, Black moves closer to his target, and I guess that Wang Hao was 100% sure that he would win.

67. ♔e4 f3 68. ♔f5 Until here all the moves were logical and correct, but now comes the shocking moment.



68...♙a7?? What a blunder! [The only move, and a super strong one was 68...♔h4! would decide the game in Black's favor. White is not in time to stop the pawns... 69. ♙d5 The only move to stop Black from playing f2, because ♙g2 would follow now. 69...♔h3! That's the idea, White is hopeless against Black's f2-g3-g2. 70. ♔e4 f2 71. ♙c4 g3 72. ♔f3



72...g2 73. ♔xf2 ♙a7+ and the g-pawn becomes a queen!; Of course not 68...♔h3 69. ♔g5 and White will capture the g4-pawn.]

69. ♔g5! And the position is a draw!

69...f2 70. ♙c4 ♔f3 71. ♙d5+! The easiest way to get a draw.

71...♔e3 [71...♔e2 72. ♔xg4]

72. ♙g2 g3 73. ♔g4 ♙b8 74.a7 And in the end, White's a-pawn was useful as well!

74... ♙xa7 75. ♔xg3 What a dramatic end of the game!

1/2

Clash of the Titans

(17) Fischer, Robert James — Darga, Klaus [C19]

FRG-USA Berlin West, 1960

[Csaba Balogh]

An incredibly high-level performance by a 17 years old Bobby Fischer...

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘b4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 ♘xc3+ 6.bxc3 ♘e7



7.a4 Fischer always preferred the rather positional systems with 7.a4 and 7.♘f3, instead of the very sharp main line with 7.♙g4.

7...♙c7 [7...♘bc6 8.♘f3 ♙a5 is the most common reaction by Black.]

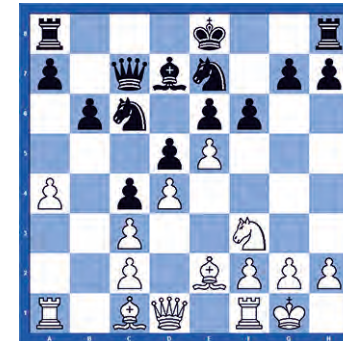
8.♘f3 b6 Black would like to exchange the „bad French bishop” with ♘a6 in order to make the c4 hole more vulnerable. White avoids this with a well-known reaction.

9.♘b5+! ♘d7 10.♘d3 Here we get the main point of the a4 move. In other lines, where the pawn is still on a3,

Black blocks the queenside with ♘a4. Now, Black must always be ready for the a5 push and the dark squared bishop might occasionally become really powerful on a3, especially if it can occupy the d6 square.

10...♘bc6 11.0–0 c4 Black plays the standard method of undermining the center with c4 and f6. [11...h6 this prophylactic move is the most common and probably the best. Black wants to guarantee the king’s safety on the kingside. 12.♖e1 0–0; The direct 11...0–0? is refuted by the known trick of 12.♘xh7+! ♔xh7 13.♘g5+ ♔g8 14.♙h5+– Black gets mated.]

12.♘e2 f6 After 13. exf6 gxf6, Black achieves what he wanted, while ♘f4 is met with ♘g6. So, what to do as White?



13.♘a3! This great pawn sacrifice is already a well-known motif in this type of positions. However, during this game, Fischer had to find all the ideas over the board!

13...fxe5 14.dxe5 Black didn’t want to feel the bishop in his stomach on d6, so he accepted the sacrifice.

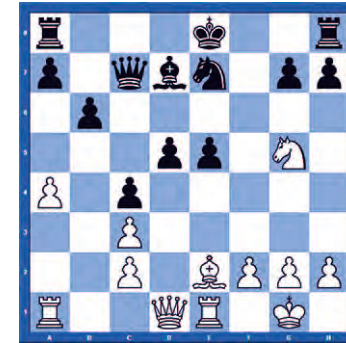
14...♘xe5



15. ♖e1! Black has plenty of moves, but none of them are really satisfactory... [15. ♘xe5 was less good 15... ♙xe5 16. ♖e1 ♙f6 and Black is ready to castle short in the next move.; However 15. ♘d4! was also pretty strong. White wants to play f4 and when the knight retreats, ♙g4. ♘c6 is never possible because of ♘b5. 15... ♘5g6 This is the best defense, to leave from the f4 threat and also to protect the e7 knight, in order to be able to castle next. (15... ♘7g6 leads to a quick loss. 16. f4 ♘f7 17. f5! exf5 18. ♘xf5 ♙xf5 19. ♙xd5! and White wins.) 16. ♙h5 0-0-0 (Black can't hold his center if he starts to mobilize it. 16... e5 17. ♘f3 e4 18. ♙xe7 ♙xe7 Of course, a move like this can't lead to any good. The refutation is nice: 19. ♙xd5! exf3 20. ♖ae1+ ♙f6 21. g4!! with the simple threat of g5, which Black can't really prevent. 21... h6 22. h4!+-) 17. a5 b5 18. ♙g4! Black has only one move. 18... ♘f5 (18... e5 loses to 19. ♘xb5!) 19. ♙xf5 exf5 20. ♙f3 with more than enough compensation. As the rule says, in case of opposite colored bishops, the material does not matter that much. It's more relevant to know who was the more more active bishop. In this case, the one on d7 has no future...]

15... ♘7c6 [Probably the best was 15... ♘5c6 preparing to castle short. 16. ♘g5! (16. ♘d4 only leads to drawish

position after 16...0-0 White can win back the pawn, but his position will not be better. 17. ♙xe7 ♘xe7 18. ♙g4 e5 19. ♙xd7 ♙xd7 20. ♖xe5=) 16...0-0 (16...e5 and just as in the 15. ♘d4 line, Black can't mobilize his center before taking his king into safety. The punishment comes right away... 17. ♙xe7 ♘xe7



18. ♙h5+! forcing a small weakening if Black wanted to castle short. 18...g6 19. ♙f3 e4 and now 20. ♘xe4! dxe4 21. ♖xe4 ♙f7 22. ♙d4 with a huge attack, for instance, after 22... ♖ae8 23. ♙e2! wins!) 17. ♙g4! ♙f4 (17...e5 allows a nice move. 18. ♙e6+! ♙h8 19. ♙xd5! Black collapses.) 18. ♙xe6+! ♙xe6 19. ♘xe6 ♙xf2+ 20. ♙h1 and White has enough compensation for sure, but he must work a lot to convert it into something real.; 15... ♘5g6 is well met with 16. h4! Very unpleasant! The knights don't find their places on the board.; 15... ♘xf3+ is the worst. 16. ♙xf3 Black can hardly prevent ♙xd5, or ♙xe7 first and then ♙xd5...]

16. ♘xe5 ♘xe5 17. f4 Consequent play, but probably White had something even stronger. [17. ♙h5+! g6 (17... ♘g6? 18. ♙xd5+-) 18. ♙d4! gxh5 19. ♖xe5 with a huge advantage. Even the material will be balanced after the h5 pawn falls, but the weakness of the dark squares will forever be there... 19...0-0-0 20. a5! b5 21. a6 ± making the

Black king more vulnerable. The bishop could be now transferred to f4 or e3 through c1.]

17...♘c6 Other retreats were much worse. [17...♘f7 is refuted nicely with 18.♙h5! g6 19.f5! Black ends up in big trouble.; 17...♘g6 moves into 18.f5!]

18.♙g4 0-0-0 19.♙xe6 ♙xe6 20.♖xe6 So, the material is equal now, but White is better because of the control over the e-file. Black can't fight for it with ♖e8 because of the d5 pawn, while White simply wants to play ♙f3 and ♖ae1 with a clear advantage.



20...♖d7 21.f5 [It looked more logical to continue the plan with 21.♙f3 and ♖ae1.]

21...♘d8 22.♖e3 [The computer would have treated the position differently. 22.♙d4! and it's not afraid of 22...♘xe6 23.fxe6 ♖dd8 24.e7 ♖d7 25.♙xg7 ♖e8 26.♖e1! doesn't even allow Black to give back the exchange on e7. Now it wants to collect the h7 pawn and start to advance on the kingside...]

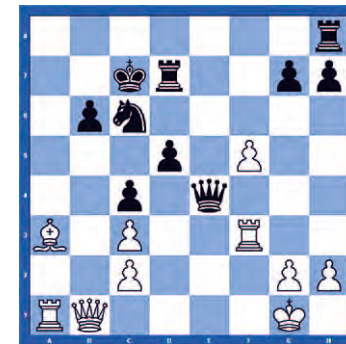
22...♙f4 Black at least succeeded to send the rook away from the e-file, but with his last two moves, he left his king without his defenders...

23.♖f3 ♙e4 [23...♙e5 meets with the same as in the game...]

24.a5! ♘c6? This is objectively the losing move, but it's very easy to miss what's coming now... [On 24...b5 25.♙c5 followed by occupying the e-file with ♙f1 and ♖e1, Black can never play ♖e8 because of ♖e3...; 24...bxa5 meets with the same as in the 24...b5 line 25.♙c5 ♘c6 26.♙f1! and ♖e1 next.]

25.axb6 axb6 26.♙b1! Black can't defend against the upcoming threats...

26...♙c7 [26...♙b7 loses to 27.♙c5+-; 26...♖b7 27.♙d6! transferring the bishop to a more dangerous diagonal. The rook wants to invade on the a-file and the queen on b5. Black can't hold all the threats.]



27.♙c1!! A brilliant regrouping puts the finishing touch to the game. ♙f4 is coming after any move and on ♙b7, ♙b5 decides the game. There is no way to parry this.

27...♙e1+ [27...♘e5 28.♙f4 ♖e8 29.♙b5+-; 27...♙b7 28.♙b5+-]

28.♖f1 ♙xc3 29.♙f4+ ♙b7 30.♙b5! What a game!

1-0

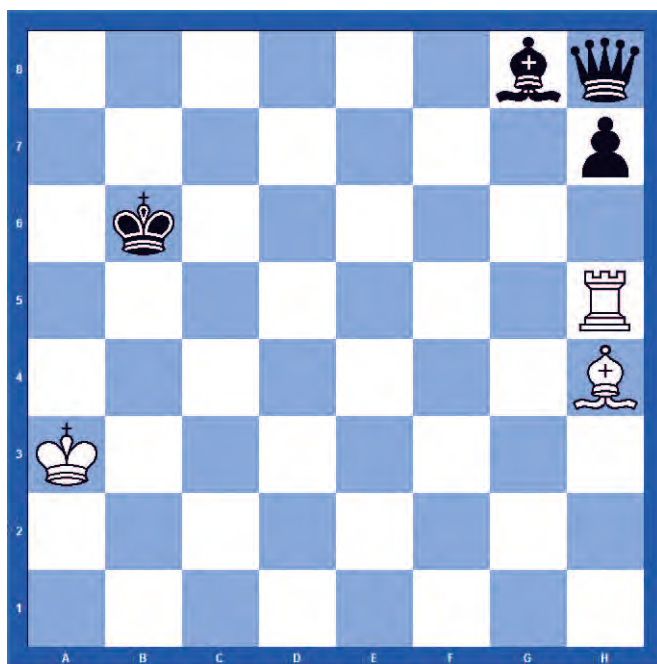
Surprise section / study

(18) Sehwers,J

1900

[CEWN]

1.=



Solutions

(19) Khurtsidze,N (2428) – Zhao Xue (2565)

Women World Cup, 15.11.2012

[Solutions]



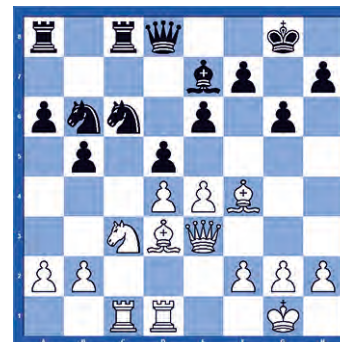
22. ♘xb6! ♖cb8 [22...cxb6 23. ♖xc8+-; 22... ♘xb3 23. ♘xc8 ♖xc8 24. ♔xa6+- (24. ♖c6+-)]

23. ♘xa8+-

(20) Socko,M (2445) – Stefanova,A (2491)

Women World Cup, 17.11.2012

[Solutions]



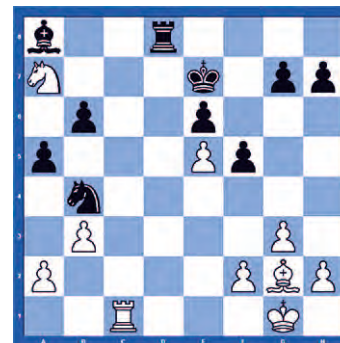
20...e5! 21. ♘xe5 [21.dxe5 d4--+]]

21... ♘xe5 22.dxe5 d4--+ Line

(21) Jakovenko,D (2741) – Bareev,E (2663)

Siberian Bank Cup (rapid), 17.11.2012

[Solutions]



26. ♘c8+! 1-0

(22) Nepomniachtchi,I (2707) – Bareev,E (2663)

Siberian Bank Cup (rapid), 18.11.2012

[Solutions]



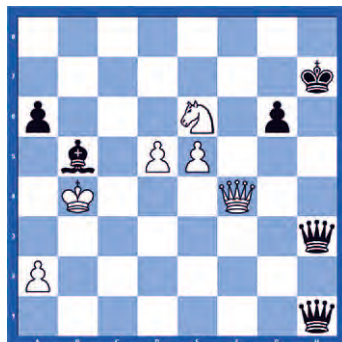
28...♙e3! 29.♖xd8 ♙xf2+! 30.♙xf2 [30.♙g2 ♙xg3+ 31.♙h1 ♖xd8--+; 30.♙h1 ♖xd8--+]

30...♙xa1+! 31.♙g2 ♖xd8 32.♙f6 ♖d6--+

(23) Van Wely,L (2691) – Fridman,D (2668)

Remco Heite Invitational, 16.11.2012

[Solutions]



50.♘g5+! [50.♙f7+ ♙h6 51.♙g7+ ♙h5 52.♙h7+ ♙g4 53.♙xg6+ ♙f3 54.♘g5+ ♙e3]

50...♙g7 [50...♙h6 51.♘xh3++-]

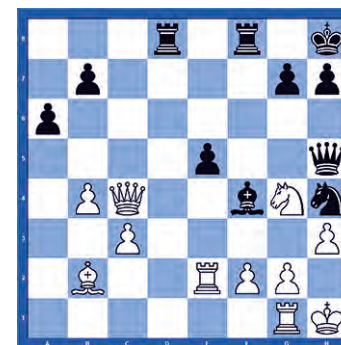
51.♙f6+! [51.♙f7+? ♙h6 52.♘xh3 ♙xh3]

51...♙h6 52.♘f7+ 1-0

(24) Stukopin,A (2481) – Timofeev,A (2600)

Governor's Cup, 16.11.2012

[Solutions]

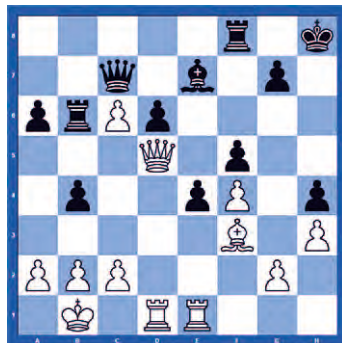


30...♘f3! 31.♖a1 ♘g5! 32.♙g1 ♘xh3+! 33.gxh3 ♙xh3 34.f3 ♙xf3--+

(25) Idani,P (2462) – Narayanan,S (2438)

World U18 Championship, 16.11.2012

[Solutions]



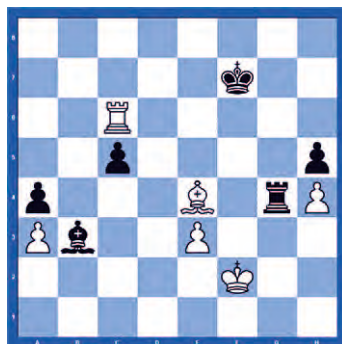
25. ♖xe4!! ♜b5! [25...fxe4 26. ♚h5+ ♔g8 27. ♙xe4+-]

26. ♖xe7! ♜xe7 27. ♚xd6 ♜xd6 28. ♖xd6±

(26) Swiercz,D (2611) – Nagy,G (2408)

World U18 Championship, 17.11.2012

[Solutions]



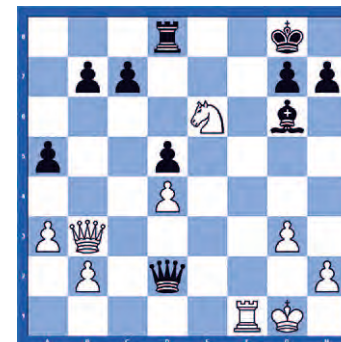
48. ♙f3! ♜g8 [48...♜xh4 49. ♚g3! ♜c4 50. ♙d5+-]

49. ♖xc5+- [49. ♙xh5+ ♔g7 50. ♖xc5+-]

(27) Ju Wenjun (2501) – Pourkashiyan,A (2321)

Women World Cup (rapid), 13.11.2012

[Solutions]



24. ♜f3! [24. ♘xd8? ♙e4 25. ♜f2 ♜e1+ 26. ♜f1 ♜e2=]

24...h6 [24...♜e8 25. ♜f8+! ♜xf8 26. ♜xf8#]

25. ♘xd8+-

(28) Lahno,K (2553) – Javakhisvili,L (2455)

Women World Cup, 15.11.2012

[Solutions]



21... ♕f6! 22. ♖xd5 [22. ♕xf6 ♔xb6+!-+]

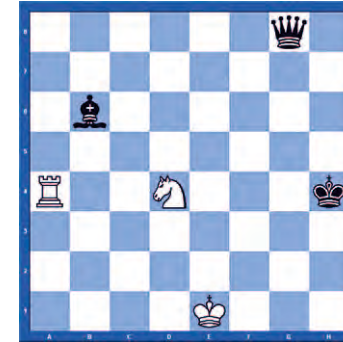
22... ♕xd4+ 23. ♖e3 ♔a7 [23... ♕xb2! 24. ♖b1 ♕d4
25. ♖e4 f5 26. ♖g5 ♖xd6-+]

24. ♖fe1 ♖xd6=

(29) Kolodjakni,D

1927

[Solutions]



1. ♖f5+! ♔h3 [1... ♔h5 2. ♖h4+! ♔g5 3. ♖g4+! ♔xg4
4. ♖h6+=; 1... ♔g5 2. ♖g4+! ♔xg4 3. ♖h6+=]

2. ♖h4+! ♔g2 3. ♖g4+! ♔xg4 4. ♖e3+! ♕xe3 1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 41

7th of December 2012

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Editorial Preface

Anna Ushenina is the new Women's World Champion! Who would have guessed it before the tournament?! But the 27 years old player from Ukraine made her dream come true. In a dramatic final match against the much more experienced ex-World Champion Antoaneta Stefanova, Anna managed to keep better nerves and win the tie-break by 1.5/0.5! Congratulations!

The main event of this week is the London Chess Classic with an amazing line-up: Carlsen, Kramnik, Anand, Nakamura, Polgar, +3 English players — Adams, McShane, and Jones.

Magnus Carlsen started with 3.5/4 and beat Kasprov's ELO record of 2851!! Carlsen has 2858 Elo points currently. It sounds unreal, looks unreal... but is the truth. Magnus is completely dominating the Chess World. Vladimir Kramnik and M. Adams are doing extremely well too. Things are going differently for Polgar, McShane and Jones, but I think that losing a couple of games in such a field is not a shame.

The FIDE Grand Prix in Tashkent came to a dramatic end, with a lot of crucial results in the very last round, so in the end we had 3 winners, who shared the first place with "only" +2: Karjakin, Morozevich and Wang Hao.

By the way, for the fans of fighting chess, a lot of great games were played in the Grand Prix. It is worth taking a look at them.

As usual, We wish You a lot of chess fun with our weekly edition of CEWN!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Kramnik,V (2795) – Polgar,Ju (2705) [A34]

4th London Chess Classic London ENG (1.2), 01.12.2012

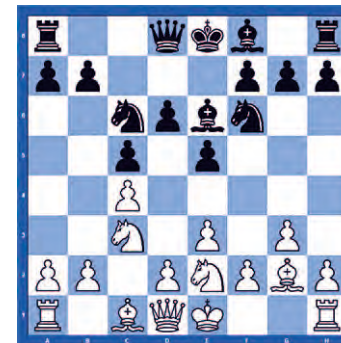
[Csaba Balogh]

A good fighting game. Judit Polgar, true to her style, bravely sacrificed a piece. However, by playing excellent chess, Kramnik showed that there was not sufficient compensation for the material.

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 c5 3.g3 ♘c6 At this moment, this is not a great move. White gets a good version in any of the possible systems. [3...d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.♙g2 ♘c7; Or 3...e6 4.♘f3 b6 5.♙g2 ♙b7 are the two main lines, and both are completely playable for Black.]

4.♙g2 d6 5.e3 e5 Quite an ugly move, weakening the d5 square. It's especially bad now that White has already focused his minor pieces around this point. The g1 knight is also heading to e2, where it will support his colleague after it jumps to d5. However, it's already difficult to suggest something clever... [For instance, after 5...g6 6.d4 White gets a good version of the g3 system of the King's Indian.]

6.♘ge2 ♙e6



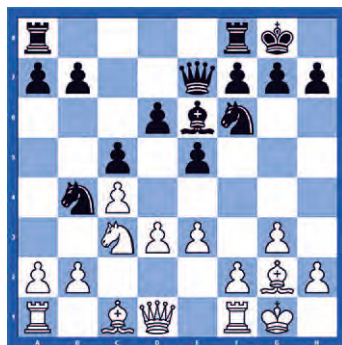
7.♘d5! This is a known idea! Black was ready to free his position with d5, so White had to parry this threat. It's also important to mention that White only installs his knight on d5 when Black can't take it with the knight, because of the fork after cxd5. [The careless 7.d3 allows Black to get a good position after 7...d5! 8.cxd5 ♘xd5]

7...♙e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.♘ec3 White has successfully taken the d5 hole under control. His next goal is to initiate play on the queenside with d3, a3, ♖b1 and b4. Judit didn't want to wait for this to happen and decided to complicate matters.

9...♘b4 Of course, the d5 knight was very annoying, so it's understandable that Black wants to kick it out.

10.♘xe7+ Taking the advantage of the bishop pair. Classical Russian school.

10...♙xe7 11.d3

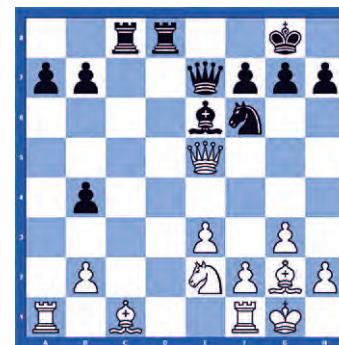


11...d5 A brave decision! Black prefers to sacrifice a piece than to suffer in a worse position. However, there is nothing to justify that this offer could be correct... [11...♖ad8 with the idea of freeing the position with d5. This would be met with 12.a3 ♘c6 13.♘d5! The same motif as before, but now Black is forced to give up his bishop. 13...♙xd5 14.cxd5 ♘b8 15.b4 White is better. An unpleasant plan could be ♙b2, followed by e4, f4 and ♙h3. The White center supported by the strong bishop is overwhelming.]

12.a3! Kramnik accepts the challenge!

12...dxc4 13.axb4 cxb4 Black only has two pawns for the piece, but ♜fd8 is coming next, which forces White to push d4, after which the Black pawn phalanx on the queenside becomes really scary...

14.♘e4! [The sacrifice would have been justified after a careless move, for instance 14.♘e2 cxd3 15.♙xd3 ♜fd8 The queen does not find its place. 16.♙b5 and the game could finish with an unusual repetition after (16. ♙b1 allows 16...♙c4) 16...♜ac8! with ♙c4 threats, and on 17.♙xe5



17...♜c5! 18.♙f4 ♜f5! 19.♙h4 ♜h5! 20.♙f4 ♜f5 and draw.]

14...♘xe4 [14...♜fd8? did not work immediately 15.♘xf6+ ♙xf6 16.♙xb7]

15.♙xe4 f5 16.♙g2 ♜fd8! Forcing White to push d4.

17.d4 a5! Judit had foreseen this position before playing d5! Black is intending to play a4, followed by a possible breakthrough with a3 bxa3 b3 and c3 next, or c3 bxc3 b3 and a3 next. White must take it very seriously. [17...e4? would also have been principled, in order to close the strong bishop, but White can open the diagonal with 18.f3! which means that the e4 move is premature.; 17...exd4? is another big mistake, allowing the c1 bishop to escape. 18.exd4]

18.♙e2! Very well played! White threatens to push d5 and collect on c4. Black must hold this pawn, otherwise the position collapses. However, ♜ac8 doesn't work because of the a5 pawn.

18...e4 [18...♙c7 meets by 19.♜d1! with the idea of d5 ♙f7 e4, bringing the c1 bishop to the game. 19...e4 20.f3]



19.f3! Of course, the bishop must be activated.

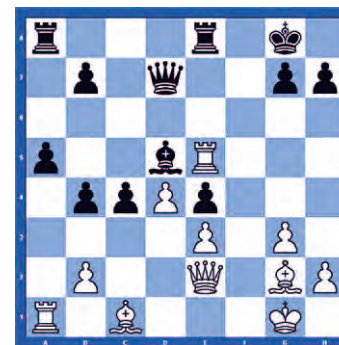
19...♗d5 Black must try to hold the e4 pawn in order to lock the c1 bishop. [19...exf3 20.♔xf3 and a possible e4 break would destroy Black's resistance.]

20.fxe4 fxe4 21.♖f5! Another great move with a double threat of ♖e5, and winning the e4 pawn and ♖xd5, eliminating the c4 pawn. [On a „normal“ move like 21.♗d2 Black plays 21...a4 with the idea of c3 bxc3 b3 and a3 with very unclear play.]

21...♔d7 [21...b5 was an alternative, but White gets the advantage after 22.♖e5 ♔b7 23.♔h5! a4 24.♗d2! and Black is unable to mobilize the queenside pawns. The dark-squared bishop blocks their way. 24...c3 (24...b3? 25.♗b4 would be a huge success for the bishop.) 25.bxc3 b3 26.♗c1! This is the point, and the bishop becomes a perfect blockader. The active White pieces on the 5th rank deprive Black from creating real threats.]

22.♖e5 Going for the e4 pawn.

22...♖e8



23.♗h3! A great resource to activate the bishop with tempo, since Black can't give up his d5 bishop as it is the piece that holds the whole position together.

23...♔c6 24.♖xe8+ ♔xe8 25.♗d2 Developing and preventing the a4 move at the same time.

25...♔e7? To refresh a4 plan, but this is a huge blunder that allows White to activate his pieces too fast. [25...b5 would have been the only move, although White's position remains clearly better after 26.♔g4 as the break through is not really effective with 26...c3 27.bxc3 b3 28.♗c1! creating the usual strong blockade!]

26.♔h5! This was probably missed by Judit. Now she is unable to keep her position together.

26...♔d8 [26...♗f7 27.♔b5 and one of the pawns will fall soon.]

27.♖f1 [27.♗f5!? was also winning. 27...g6 28.♗xg6! hxg6 29.♔xg6+ ♔h8 30.♖f1! and the rook joins the attack. Black can't defend properly. 30...♖a6 31.♔h5+ ♔g7 32.♖f5 +-]

27...g6 It was already hard to recommend something else...

28. ♖e5 ♜a6 Kramnik finds the most beautiful way to finish the game, to kick the d5 bishop out from its great place.

29. ♘d7!! Really nice line and closing combination.

29... ♘f7 [29... ♖xd7? 30. ♖b8+ ♔g7 31. ♖f8# was the point of the sacrifice.]

30. ♜xf7! After playing ♘d7, Kramnik felt that he had to finish the game in the same style. [30. ♘b5! was even stronger 30... ♜e6 31. ♖f4 +-]

30... ♔xf7 31. ♘b5 Black's position collapses. The pawns start to fall one after another and the bishop pair soon takes control over the board.

31... ♜f6 32. ♘xc4+ ♔g7 33. ♖xe4 The game is practically over. Black can't create any real threats.

33... ♖c7 34. ♖d5! ♜f8 35.e4! And the dark-squared bishop decides the battle. There was no need for the rest of the game.

35...b5 36. ♖xb5 ♖d6 37. ♖b7+ ♔h8 38. ♖a7 ♘h6 and ♘f4-e5 are the main threats.

38...g5 39. ♘xg5 ♖c6 40. ♖e7 1-0

(2) Stefanova,A (2491) – Ushenina,A (2452) [D45]

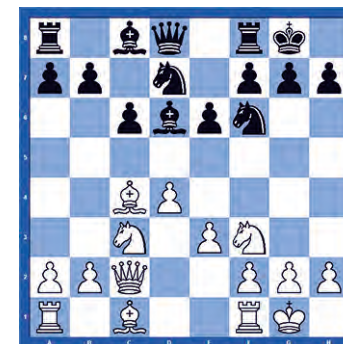
FIDE WCh Women World Cup Khanty-Mansiysk RUS (6.4), 30.11.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the last of 4 games that were played in the final match for the World Championship. Ushenina just needs a draw to become the new World Champion, but she is Black and to play under such pressure is never easy, especially if Your opponent is playing great chess.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3. ♘c3 ♘f6 In the match between Stefanova and Ushenina, we saw a lot of Slav games where White usually created a lot of pressure, which is really a funny thing :) . Usually, with Black You feel safe, and with White You don't know where to get any advantage, but in this match things were very different.

4.e3 e6 5. ♘f3 ♘bd7 6. ♖c2 ♘d6 7. ♘d3 0-0 8.0-0 dxc4 9. ♘xc4 We are in one of the main lines. Thousand and thousand of games were played here.



9...b5 10. ♘d3 ♘b7 11.a3 [11.e4 e5 could lead to the other main line.]

11...a5 12.e4 We have about the same line as the main one, just with the moves a3-a5 included. This could be „positive“ for both colors. Black is losing the chance of playing a6 followed by c5, and on the other hand, in case of b4, White will have to play axb4, which would lead to some exchanges and help Black's defense.

12...e5 13.♖d1 This move was played quite recently in the game Bacrot-Giri. Why to play 13.♖d1? Hmm... this is something we can only understand after analyzing this position for a long time! Many nuances like 13.♖d1 only become understandable after many hours of working on the position.

13...♔c7 [13...♔e7 14.♘e2 ♖fe8 15.♙g5 with a slightly better play for White, Bacrot-Rapport 2012.]

14.h3 A move against Black's exd4.

14...♖fe8 15.♙e3 This position is more or less known as well...

15...exd4 16.♘xd4 ♙h2+?! This is a rare move. One of the top Russian players, Dmitry Jakovenko, preferred to play immediately 16...♙f4, but I think White could reach a small plus in that case too.

17.♔h1 ♙f4 The same idea, but with the White king on h1. This can be double-edged also... In some positions, the king is better on g1, but in some others, on h1, especially if White managed to play f4.

18.♙xf4 ♔xf4 I guess that here both players were out of book. White is doing a bit better and could continue with the rock solid 19.f3. But is it enough to get a full point? A victory would take Antoaneta back into the fight for the World Title.



19.♘ce2! I think this move decided the game. White is playing „all in“ and puts Black in front of a very difficult decision. To take on f2 looks critical, but it allows White to play a very strong attack.

19...♔b8 This move leads to quite an unpleasant position. [19...♔xf2 The only relatively good option to continue the game. 20.♖f1 ♔e3 Black's position looks super dangerous, but what happened in the game is clearly worse! 21.♖f3 ♔g5 22.♘f5 with a very strong initiative for the pawn.]

20.♘g3! White is keeping all pieces on the board. [It would have been a bad moment to get greedy. 20.♘xc6?! ♙xc6 21.♔xc6 ♘e5 All the Black pieces are suddenly in the game. 22.♔xb5 ♘xd3 23.♔xd3 ♘xe4 and probably Black would have enough counterplay for the pawn.]

20...♘e5 21.♙f1 Black is facing serious trouble. White wants to play f4-e5, or just ♘df5 combined with many different threats. It's time for Black to be extremely careful not to get into deep trouble.



21...Rc8? This move just can't be good! White now gets a dream position. [21...Ng6 Black should give up the c6-pawn and accept that it is going to be a hard fight for a draw. 22.Nxc6 Bxc6 23.Qxc6 h5!? with the h4 idea next, and the e4-pawn is going to fall. Black is clearly worse, but he keeps drawing chances.]

22.Ndf5 The clouds are getting darker around the Black king.

22...Rc7 Probably this was Ushenina's idea, but it gives enough time to strike!

23.Qc3! Very strong move! Suddenly, Black is just lost! White wants to play f4 followed by Nxg7 and Black can't do anything about it! I guess both players were shocked by the sudden situation. So close to 2-2 and so far away from the World Championship title.

23...Rd7 24.f4 What a crush by the White pieces!

24...Rxd1 25.Rxd1 Ng6



26.Nh6+! White keeps good nerves and chooses the easiest winning move, giving Black no counter chances. Of course 26.Nxg7 would lead to a winning position as well.

26...gxh6 27.Qxf6 Qf8



28.Nf5? Still a winning move, but what a mistake! Nerves, nerves. The stakes of the game are extremely high and to keep the pressure in these situations is not easy. [28.Rd7 would immediately finish the game. 28...Bb8 29.Nf5 and Black can't defend against Rxf7 Qxf7 Nxh6!]

28...c5! Excellent defense by Black. The position is still lost, but suddenly White needs to be precise.

29. ♖xb5?! And again White doesn't choose the best option. [29. ♖d7 The easiest way to get a winning position. 29... ♗xe4 30. ♖xf7 ♗xf5 (30... ♖xf7 31. ♘xh6+) 31. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 32. ♖d6 and White should win quite easily...]

29... ♗xe4 30. ♘d6



30... ♖d8! Black is back in the game!

31. ♖d2 ♗b1?? And Ushenina makes a horrible blunder under big pressure. [In case of 31... ♗a8! 32. ♗c4 ♖e7! The only move, which is not too difficult to find. 33. ♗xf7+ ♖f8 34. ♖xe7+ ♘xe7 35. ♗e6 White is still a pawn up, but Black can fight for a draw!]



32. ♘xf7!! A very sweet combination!

32... ♖xd2 33. ♘xh6+ At 33... ♖xh6, 34. ♗c4 is coming. A great victory by Stefanova, but already the next day she had to face very sad news when she lost the tie-break. Anyhow, a great match and a deserved new World Champion. Congratulations to Anna Ushenina!

1-0

(3) Ushenina, Anna (2452) – Stefanova, Antoaneta (2491) [D15]

FIDE WCh Women World Cup Khanty-Mansiysk RUS (6.3),
29.11.2012

[Csaba Balogh]

We are in the final of the Women's World Championship where Anna Ushenina from Ukraine won a flawless game! She was fighting very well in the whole tournament and her White color performance was really extraordinary. In this game, Stefanova mixed up something in her favorite Chebanenko Slav variation and ended up in a complicated, objectively lost position right after the opening.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 a6 This is the starting position of the Chebanenko Slav. White has a wide range of choices here. Ushenina went for the most often played move.

5.c5 This is basically the most principled reaction to a6. White obtains a space advantage and makes use of the fact that the undermining with b6 is not effective anymore, as Black can't take back on b6 with the a-pawn. The only drawback of this idea could be the undermining with e5, so the fight starts around this move.



5...♘bd7 6.♙f4 The h2-b8 diagonal is the best place for the bishop. The following maneuvers are quite known and have been played already in hundreds of games.

6...♘h5 7.♙d2 ♘hf6 8.♖c1! A strong prophylactic move against e5, introduced by Topalov in 2006 on the highest level.

8...g6 The bishop on g7 will support excellently the e5 break. [The typical break with 8...e5 leads to a clearly worse position after 9.♘xe5! ♘xe5 10.dxe5 ♘d7 11.♘a4! This is the point of 8.♖c1! 11...♘xe5 12.♘b6 ♖b8 13.♙f4± would be a clear success of White's opening decision.]

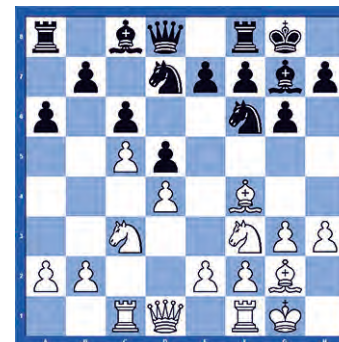
9.h3! Another subtle move. White would like to get his bishop back to the h2-b8 diagonal, so he frees the h2 square to meet with ♘h5.

9...♖c7 Black also has his subtle resources. [9...♙g7 10.♙f4 0-0 11.e3+= White would achieve what he wants.]

10.g3! The bishop is ready to occupy the f4 square again, but on the other hand, the h2 refuge doesn't exist anymore.

10...♙g7 [10...e5 appears premature after White's strong reply 11.dxe5 ♘xe5 12.♘xe5 ♖xe5 13.♙f4 ♖f5 14.♖d4! ♙g7 15.♙d6! That's why Black should aim to finish the development before initiating concrete actions.]

11.♙f4 ♖d8 12.♙g2 0-0 13.0-0



13...♘h5 14.♙d2 f5 Black fixes the center, prevents White's e4 idea and is ready for the e5 break. We are still following theory. [The most logical move 14...e5 has never been tried yet, however, in my opinion, it might be an improvement on Black's play. It's not clear to me how White should fight for the advantage.]

15.♔b3!? A very tricky tactical idea to prevent e5. Stefanova probably forgot her preparation and fell in its trap...

15...e5? [The biggest specialist of the variation, Vladimir Malakhov, has already played twice the prophylactic 15...♙h8 His games continued with 16.♘g5 which allows a small tactical trick to solve the opening problems (16.♙f4!? seems to be a decent improvement in order to consolidate the center. Black should sooner or later take on f4, but then he must forever forget about his e5 idea, and without that, he must suffer for a long time in a cramped position.) 16...♙xd4! (16...♘df6 17.♘a4 h6 18.♘f3 ♘e4 happened in Bologan-Malakhov, Konya 2012.) 17.♘xd5 (17.♘e6 ♘xc5! This is the trick! Counterattacking the White queen. 18.♘xc5 ♙xc5) 17...cxd5 18.♘e6 ♘xc5! 19.♘xc5 e6 Black can hardly be worse.]



16.♘g5! Great move! Actually, the idea belongs to the Hungarian GM Ferenc Berkes, who first pointed out the weaknesses on the light squares of Black's camp. The direct threat is ♘e6 and in many occasions, White is aiming to sacrifice on d5, which reveals the idea behind the ♔b3 move. The forthcoming lines are quite complicated, but objectively, Black is already in deep trouble.

16...exd4 [16...♔e7 moves into 17.♙xd5+! cxd5 18.♘xd5+- and the pin decides the game.; 16...♘df6 17.dxe5 ♘e4 is not better either, because of the excellent placement of White's queen. 18.♘cxe4 fxe4 19.♘xe4! +-]

17.♘xd5! cxd5 18.♙xd5+! White needs to play precisely to get an advantage. The exact move order is really relevant. [GM Berkes started with 18.♘e6 but after 18...♔e7 19.♘xf8 (19.♙xd5 now meets 19...♘df6!) 19...♘xf8 20.♙xd5+ ♙h8 The game was not clear at all. The difference can be seen in the 19th move of the game. Berkes-Bacrot, Germany 2008]

18...♙h8 19.♘e6 ♔f6 This is the novelty of the game. From now on, Ushenina had to think. It was another good sign that her opponent had only about 20 minutes left. [Now on 19...♔e7 White is not obliged to take on f8, as the German GM Arik Braun demonstrated. 20.c6! is much stronger, with the idea of ♙b4, increasing the pressure. 20...bxc6 21.♙b4! ♔f6 (21...c5 22.♙xa8 cxb4 23.♘xf8 ♔xf8 Black has three minor pieces for the two rooks, which is normally very good materially speaking, but now he is lacking a lot of coordination between his pieces. The position is completely lost after 24.♔c4! ♘b6 25.♔c7 ♘xa8 26.♔xc8 +- The rooks are going to dominate on the c-file.) 22.♔xc6 ♙b7 23.♘xf8 ♙xc6 24.♘xd7 ♙xd5 25.♔xd5 ♔d8 26.♔c1 After the big massacre, White end-

ed up with a material advantage and a better position; he soon won the game. Braun-Laznicka, Gaziantep 2008.]

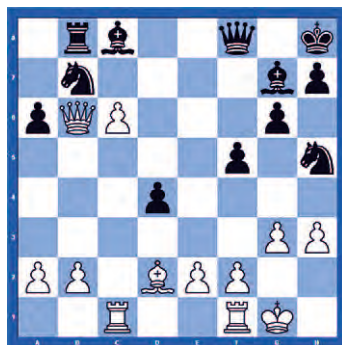
20. ♖xf8 ♔xf8 Black only needs a tempo to consolidate her position, and she's still doing fine materially with two minor pieces for a rook and a pawn. White has no time to waste. [20... ♕xf8 is refuted in a nice line: 21.c6! bxc6 22.♖xc6 ♔d8 and now the strongest is 23.♖fc1 ♖b8 24.♔xb8! ♘xb8 25.♖xc8 +- White is crushing on the 8th rank.; 20... ♘xf8 is simply met with 21. ♕xb7 ♖b8 22.c6 +-]

21. ♕xb7! The move is obvious, but it was based on a very deep calculation. If Ushenina doesn't foresee her 25th move, then she would simply drop her very important light-squared bishop.

21... ♖b8 [21... ♘xc5? loses to 22.♖xc5 +-]

22.c6 ♘c5 At first sight, everything is fine for Black. He is going to take with ♘xb7 and ♕xb7, obtaining the powerful bishop pair. What could be in Ushenina's mind when she entered into this position?! [A funny position occurs after 22... ♕xb7 All the c-pawn moves are winning, including both captures, and c7 too!]

23. ♔b6! ♘xb7



24. ♔a7!! A fantastic and kind of shocking move, trapping the rook on b8! On 24... ♕e6, 25.cxb7 wins, as Black can't hold the b7 pawn.

24... ♕e5 **25.c7!** This was the point! Without this move, the whole plan that started with 21. ♕xb7 would have made no sense. We must admit that this was a great calculating performance by Anna Ushenina. Suddenly the game is over, Black can only try some desperate tricks on the queenside, but White is well prepared to meet them properly.

25... ♖a8!? Stefanova prefers to keep the strong e5 bishop, but of course, this is a complete rook for nothing.

26. ♔xa8 ♔e8 [On 26...f4 White simply plays 27.g4 +- and everything is nicely protected.]

27. ♔xa6 White ended up with a huge material advantage and it's only matter of time to convert it.

27... ♘c5 **28.** ♔a8 The queen on a8 perfectly contributes in the defense of the White king. It practically replaces the task of the absent g2 bishop.

28... ♘e4 **29.** ♖c2 It might look a bit scary, but Black is unable to create any real threats against the king. White can simply advance her queenside pawns to convert the advantage.

29... ♘d2 **30.** ♖xd2 ♔g7 Black hides his king on h6 to leave from the pin on the 8th rank. One possible threat could be ♕xg3 followed by ♔e3, as the c8 bishop is not hanging with check anymore, but White calmly parries this idea...

31. ♖c2 ♔h6 **32.b4!** Perfect play! The pawn arrives very quickly to b7...

32...♙d6 [32...♙xg3 leads nowhere 33.fxg3 ♖e3+ 34.♖f2 ♜xg3+ 35.♜g2! and the great protector joins the defense.]

33.♜d5 ♘xg3 A last attempt, but of course, it's not a serious one. [On 33...♙xb4 White wins after, for instance 34.♖b1 ♙c3 35.♖b8 +-]

34.♜xd6 ♘xf1 35.♜xd4 The knight is trapped on f1. [35.♙xf1 ♜e4 was the trick of the 33... ♘xg3 combination, with a double threat on c2 and h1, but even here White wins with 36.♜c6! +- protecting everything.]

35...g5 36.♜f6+ ♔h5 37.♜c6 1-0

(4) Adams,Mi (2710) – Polgar,Ju (2705) [B40]

4th London Chess Classic London ENG (3.4), 03.12.2012

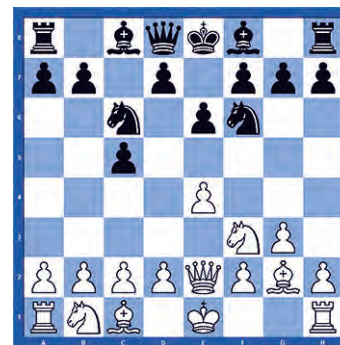
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

1.e4 A great positional victory achieved by M. Adams in front of his home public, and against Judit Polgar, the strongest female player in the history of chess, who was a very stable guest in the world's Top 10 before she became a mother.

1...c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.g3 This move takes Your opening to the „sidelines“. As he does regularly in his latest games, Adams tries to just play chess without getting into theoretical battles.

3...♘c6 4.♙g2 ♘f6 [4...d5 5.exd5 exd5 6.d4 would lead to the main position of the 3.g3 line.]

5.♜e2!? This is probably White's main idea. In case of 5.d3 d5, we would go back to the very known positions, but now White has a better move against Black's d5.



5...d5 6.exd5 That's the point of 5.♜e2. White is forcing Black to take with the knight on d5, and the bishop on c8 is still closed.

6...♘xd5 7.0-0 ♖e7 Both White and Black have a very solid position, but in just 7 moves from now, White will be much better...

8.♖d1!? A nice move! Clearly White's idea is to play d4 here. In case of a modest move like 8.d3, Black is doing perfectly fine.

8...0-0 Black is allowing White to play d4. [8...♙f6 stopping White from playing d4 leads to a slightly worse position. 9.♘c3 (9.d3 0-0 10.♘bd2 ♘d4 11.♘xd4 cxd4 and Black is doing perfectly fine.) 9...0-0 10.♘e4 ♖e7 If White could take on f6, the bishop pair would give a small advantage. 11.d4 cxd4 12.♘xd4 ♘xd4 13.♖xd4 and White is doing a bit better.; 8...♚b6!? This very strange move might not be as stupid as it looks. Black is stopping White from the main threat — d4. 9.♘a3 0-0 10.♘c4 ♚c7 It seems like Black lost a tempo, but on the other hand, White's knight on c4 is not a „hero“ either... I think the position should be close to equal here.]

9.d4 White wants to play c4-d5 next.

9...cxd4 10.♘xd4 ♘xd4 11.♖xd4 ♙f6 12.♖d1 Until now all the Black moves looked logical, but the position is already on the limit of being much worse. Adams will show us in a great way why it is so!

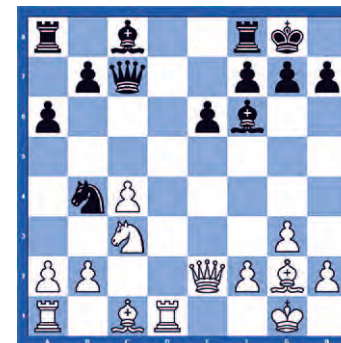
12...♚c7



13.c4! Very strong positional move. The bishop on g2 becomes a very strong piece.

13...♘b4 [It isn't better to play 13...♘b6 14.♘a3 Black's knight on b6 has no perspectives. 14...♙d7 15.♙f4! A very important move in many lines. White is asking Black if he'll play e5, after which the bishop on f6 will be bad and the d5 square will be weakened. 15...e5 16.♙e3 ♙c6 17.c5 with a clear advantage for White.]

14.♘c3 a6



15.♙f4! Very strong move by Adams. White is inviting the move e6-e5, after which Black's position is very hard to hold.

15...e5 16.♙e3 ♙e6 Not a great move to do, but what else to do? White wanted to play a3 followed by ♘d5.

17.♘d5 Simple and good.

17...♘xd5 18.cxd5 ♙f5 19.d6 ♚d7 It seems like Black blocked the d-pawn and wants to exchange rooks on the c-file, but White has an ace in his hands!



20. ♖b6! Adams is showing one more time why, for more than 15 years, he was in the world's Top 10. A very atypical and killing maneuver — ♖b6-♖c7. Black's pawn on b7 will become very weak and Black won't be able to exchange any of the rooks. Even though the position doesn't look that bad, it is very bad!

20... ♜ac8?! I don't see any point in including ♜ac8-♙c7 for Black, so if he wanted to play ♙g4, he should have done it immediately.

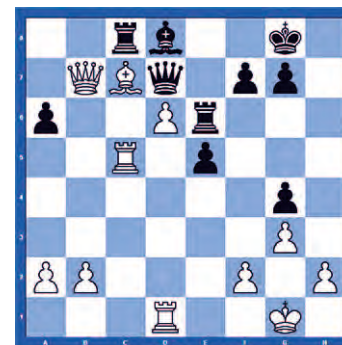
21. ♙c7 ♙g4 22. ♙f3 h5 23. ♜ac1 Black's pieces are completely paralyzed...

23... ♜fe8 24. ♙xg4 hxg4 25. ♚e4 What a domination! Black's b7-pawn falling!

25... ♙g5 [An attempt to save the b7-pawn would lead nowhere. 25...b5 26. ♚c6! and White is winning.]

26. ♜c5 ♙d8 27. ♚xb7 White is a clear pawn up and Black still doesn't even have a small idea of how to continue.

27... ♜e6



28. ♜dd5! And once again Mickey chooses the safest and strongest continuation. Basically, the position is winning for White.

28... ♜f6 29. ♚xa6 Why not to take a pawn when you can?!

29... ♚f5 30. ♚e2 ♚b1+ 31. ♜d1 ♚xa2 32. ♜xe5 White is two pawns up and the d6-pawn will become a queen. It was a good time for Polgar to resign the game, but she continued with

32... ♙xc7 33. ♜e8+ ♜xe8 34. ♚xe8+ ♙h7 35. dxc7 ♚a7 36. ♚e4+ A really great positional victory by White with a lot of typical ideas, and a great „special one“ with ♙b6-♙c7!

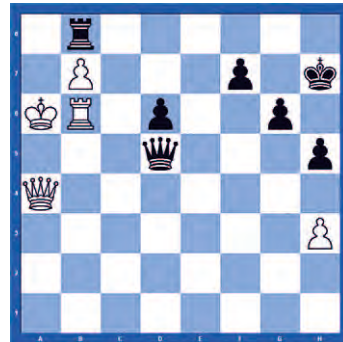
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Puzzle section

(5) Polgar,J (2705) – Jones,G (2644)

London, 02.12.2012

[CEWN]

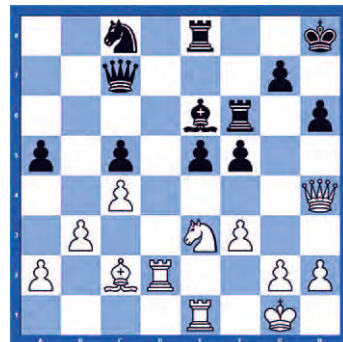
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(6) Ponomariov,R (2741) – Morozevich,A (2748)

Tashkent, 27.11.2012

[CEWN]

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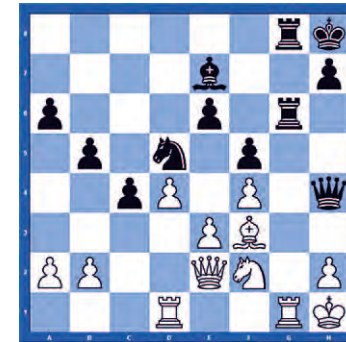


(7) Georgiev,K (2660) – Svetushkin,D (2589)

Vrsac, 27.11.2012

[CEWN]

1...-+

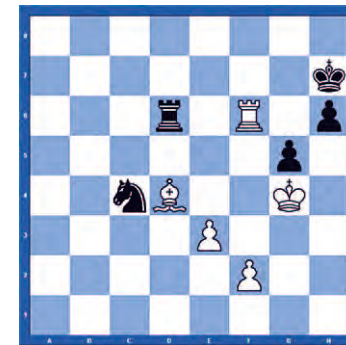


(8) Georgiev,K (2660) – Cvitan,O (2535)

Vrsac, 29.11.2012

[CEWN]

1.+-



(9) Vidit,S (2527) – Gusain,H (2339)

Kolkata Open, 03.12.2012

[CEWN]

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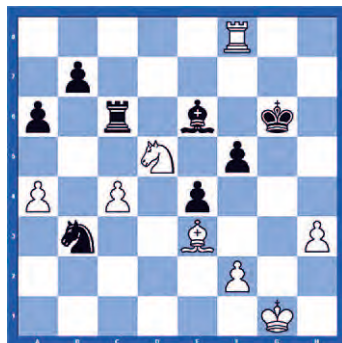


(10) Kislinsky,A (2556) – Cvetkovic,S (2389)

Belgrade Open, 27.11.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

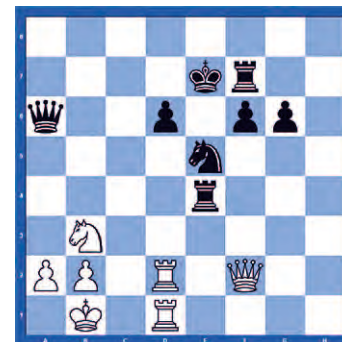


(11) Stojanovic,D (2488) – Damljanovic,B (2576)

Belgrade Open, 02.12.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(12) Kunte,A (2511) – Padmini,R (2313)

Kolkata Open, 03.12.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

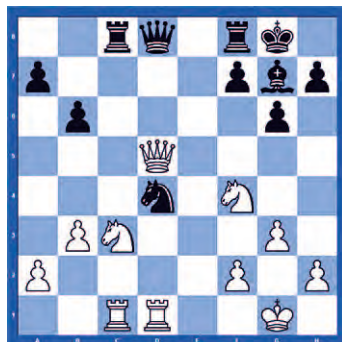


(13) Drenchev,P (2490) – Nabaty,T (2569)

Belgrade Open, 29.11.2012

[CEWN]

1... -/+



(14) Vegh,E (2561) – Medvegy,Z (2291)

Hungarian league, 02.12.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

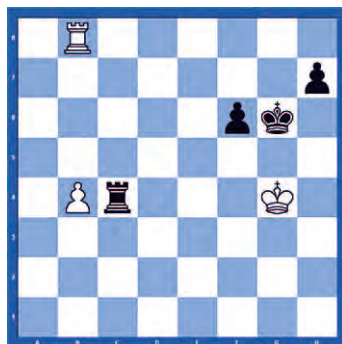


Endgame section

(15) Anand,V (2775) – McShane,L (2713) [D10]

4th London Chess Classic London ENG (2.4), 02.12.2012

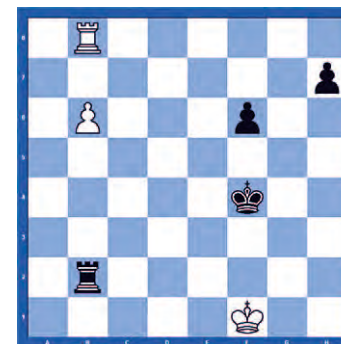
[Chess Evolution]



71.♔g3 After quite a bad game, we arrived to a drawn rook endgame. Everything looks easy because even the position without White's b-pawn is a theoretical draw, and it should be easy to hold especially for a World Champion, but... let's take a look at what happened.

71...♔f5 Black is going forward with the king — the only chance to play for a win.

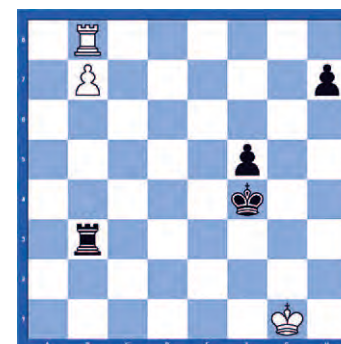
72.b5 ♖c3+ 73.♔g2 ♔f4 74.b6 ♖c2+ 75.♔f1 ♖b2 Until here the play is quite logical.



76.b7?! Of course the position is still a draw, but why not to take the h-pawn immediately? [76.♖h8! ♖xb6 77.♖xh7 ♔g3 Black's only chance is not to allow the White king to go to h2, but that's simply impossible to do. 78.♖g7+! ♔f3 79.♔g1 and we are again in a theoretical position with an easy draw.]

76...f5 White's rook is fixed on b8, and the situation doesn't change much if White plays ♖a8. However, White had to be a little careful now...

77.♔g1 ♖b1+ 78.♔g2 ♖b2+ 79.♔g1 ♖b3



80.♔g2?! Not the best again. It was much simpler to play 80.♔f2, not giving Black any extra ideas...

80...♖g3+! Black is bringing his rook to g7!

81.♔f1 ♜g7 82.♔f2 ♔g4 Suddenly, White can't exchange his b-pawn for Black's h-pawn...

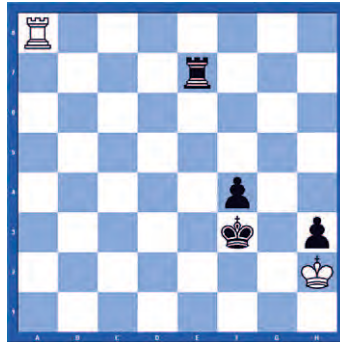
83.♔g2 h5 84.♔f2 h4 85.♔g2 h3+ 86.♔h2 f4 87.♜a8
What to do?! White must give up the b7 pawn... The position is still a draw for now...

87...♜xb7 Black wants to play ♜b2 and win...

88.♜g8+! The only defense. In case of 88.♜a2, Black can win with ♜b4-♜e4-f3 and ♜e2+.

88...♔f3 89.♜a8! The only way to hold. White's rook has to stay active

89...♜e7

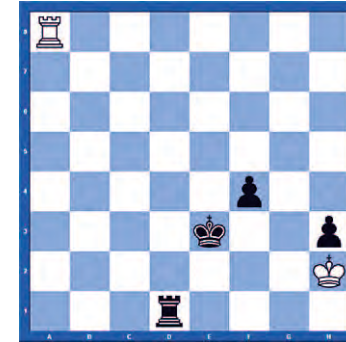


90.♜a1?? What a horrible mistake by the World Champion... [90.♜b8! just waiting would have been the right choice!]

90...♜e5? Black misses a win in 1 move! [90...♔g4! would end the game on the spot... Black wants to play ♜e2 91.♜a2 ♜e4 followed by f3 and ♜e2 — the game is over!]

91.♜a8! White is back on the right track.

91...♔g4 92.♜g8+ ♔f3 93.♜a8 ♜e1 94.♜a7 ♜d1 95.♜a8 ♔e3 Black can't improve his position and uses his last option.



96.♔xh3 White has finally eliminated the h-pawn.

96...f3 97.♜a3+ Nice technique by the World Champion, now everything seems to be clear.

97...♔f2 98.♜a2+ ♔e3 99.♜a3+ ♔e2 100.♜a2+ ♜d2 101.♜a1 ♔f2 102.♔h2 Black simply can't improve his position. It is a dead draw.

102...♜e2 103.♜a8 ♔e3+ 104.♔g3 ♜g2+ 105.♔h3 ♜d2 106.♔g3 ♜g2+ 107.♔h3 ♜d2 108.♔g3 And once again, we have a great example of how easily we can go wrong in the rook endgames, and that even players like the World Champion make mistakes!

1/2

(16) Karjakin,S (2775) – Morozevich,A (2748)

Women World Championship, 29.11.2012

[Chess Evolution]

We enter this rook endgame right after the time trouble. White is clearly better because of his active rook on b6. If the Black rook leaves the c7 square, White can advance his pawns with b4 and c5, creating the threat of c6 bxc6 ♖xa6. Black seems to be in deep trouble.

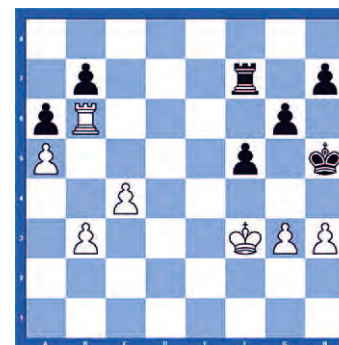
42...♔h5 Morozevich decided to give White a tempo. [42...h5 with the idea of playing h4 fails to 43.h4+! ♔h6 44.♔f4 and only White made progress.; An attempt to activate the rook with 42...♖d7 is met with 43.b4! ♖d3+ 44.♔f2 and the rook must go back to passivity, so the action only helped White to continue his plan... 44...♖d4 45.c5 ♖d7 46.c6! bxc6 47.♖xa6 ± with good winning chances.]

43.♔f4 Karjakin tries to squeeze the Black king, but this allows a hidden counterplay. [43.b4! was stronger. 43...♖xc4 44.♖xb7 It's difficult to judge whether it's a draw or it's winning, but definitely, over the board it is almost impossible to hold. White wants to put his rook to b6 and bring his king to protect the b4 pawn in order to take on a6. Black can take the kingside pawns, but White's pawns on the queenside are more advanced, which gives him excellent chances. 44...h6 (44...♖c3+ just helps White. 45.♔f4 ♖c4+ 46.♔e5) 45.♖b6 ♔g5 46.♔e2! f4 Black must hurry to create counterplay, but it seems to be too slow. 47.gxf4+ (Of course not 47.♔d3?? fxg3!) 47...♖xf4 48.♔d3 h5 49.♔c3 White is ready to take on a6. 49...♖f3+ 50.♔c4 ♖xh3 51.♖xa6 and both White pawns have advanced

one rank further, so the position seems to be winning. 51...h4 52.b5 ♖f3 53.♖d6+-]

43...♖f7! Great defensive idea in connection with the g5-g4 moves.

44.♔f3 Karjakin adm its his mistake and tries to transpose to the previous line and play b4 instead of ♔f4, but Morozevich found a better plan for Black... [44.b4 g5+ will be the same as the game.]



44...g5! g4 is coming next. On the other hand, this allows White to continue his plans on the queenside.

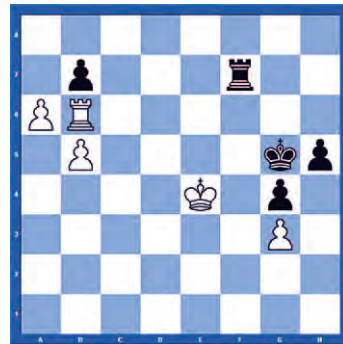
45.b4 g4+ 46.hxg4+ [It makes no sense to keep the f-file closed with 46.♔g2 because of 46...♖d7! and Black gets too much activity. 47.hxg4+ ♔xg4]

46...fxg4+ 47.♔e4 ♔g5! This was the point of the ♖f7, g5-g4 idea. Now Black intends to create his own passed pawn with h5-h4. White is still better obviously, but at least Black has something to play for.

48.b5 [48.c5 was an interesting alternative. Black needs to play precisely to hold. 48...♖e7+! Black tries to send the king to the c-file, where it moves into a motif... (48...h5 seems to be too slow 49.c6 bxc6 50.♖xa6 h4 (50...♖b7 is

always met with 51.♖b6; 50...♗f6 loses to 51.b5) 51.gxh4+ ♔xh4 52.♗xc6 g3 53.b5 The connected pawns are promoting with the help of the king. White can sacrifice his rook for the g-pawn. This is a known method of winning this kind of rook endgames.) 49.♔d4 ♖d7+! 50.♔e5 stops covering the 3rd rank, and Black will make use of it later. (The point of the check becomes clear after 50.♔c4 h5 51.c6 where Black has 51...♗c7!; 50.♗d6 ♗c7 Finally, Black successfully prevented the c6 and ♗xa6 idea and can continue his plan with h5-h4.) 50...h5 51.c6 bxc6 52.♗xa6 ♗d3! 53.♗xc6 ♗xg3 Both pawn chains are equally advanced, so the game should be drawn. 54.a6 ♖a3 55.b5 g3]

48...axb5 49.cxb5 h5 50.a6 Morozevich has spent all his time and he fails to find one of the ways to draw.

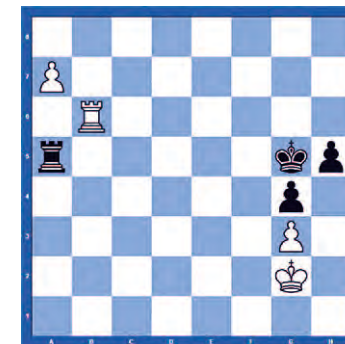


50...♗e7+ [50...bxa6 51.bxa6 h4 was the most logical reaction and good enough to save the game. 52.♗b5+ (52.♗b7 ♗f1 53.♗b5+ ♔h6 54.♗a5 (54.gxh4 ♗a1 is an easy draw.) 54...h3! It's important that the pawn promotes with check. 55.♗a2 ♔g6! Very nice motif! The king leaves from the h-file and prepares for the h2 push to lure the rook away from behind the a-pawn. 56.a7 h2! 57.♗xh2

♗a1 => 52...♔h6 53.♗a5 (53.gxh4 g3 White's king is cut off along the f-file, so the g-pawn will be traded for the a6-pawn. The draw is inevitable.) 53...h3! It's an important detail to promote with check. Black is safe. (After 53...hxg3 Black gets mated with the queens on the board. 54.a7 g2 55.a8 ♗g1 ♗h6 56.♗h8+ ♔g6 57.♗a6+ ♔g5 58.♗h6#)]

51.♔d3! Very tricky move, which confused Morozevich a lot. The most obvious move, ♔d4, would have allowed the promotion of the g-pawn with check... [51.♔d4 bxa6 52.bxa6 h4 53.♗b5+ ♔h6 54.gxh4 g3 55.♗g5 ♗a7 =]

51...♗d7+ 52.♔c4 [52.♔e2 was a serious attempt to hide the king on g2 from the checks, and at the same time stopping Black's counterplay on the kingside. However, Karjakin rightly pointed out at the press conference that Black holds the draw in a study-like way: 52...♗e7+ 53.♔f2 ♗f7+ 54.♔g2 bxa6 55.bxa6 ♗f5! preventing White from playing ♗b5-a5. It looks like an easy draw as the rook goes behind the a-pawn, but... 56.a7 ♗a5



57.♗b5+! We should never forget this kind of decoying tricks, which are very easy to miss during our games. This time, luckily for Black, the position remains a draw after creating an unbreakable fortress 57...♗xb5 58.a8 ♗h6 ♗f5! =

The position is drawn, as White's king can't join the battle. The queen alone can't make progress, the only idea could be to create some kind of zugzwang, but in this case, the Black king has good squares on h6 and g6, while the rook can pass along the f-file.]

52...♖c7+?? A terrible tactical oversight. [52...bxa6 53.bxa6 h4 would have led to a draw. 54.♖b5+ ♔h6 55.gxh4 (55.♖a5 hxg3 (55...♖a7 is also good, transposing to 55.gxh4.) 56.a7 ♖xa7 57.♖xa7 ♔g5 58.♔d3 g2 59.♖a1 ♔f4 60.♔e2 ♔g3 =) 55...♖a7 56.♖a5 g3 57.♔b5 g2 58.♖a1 ♔h5 59.♖g1 (59.♔b6 ♖xa6+ 60.♔xa6 ♔xh4 =) 59...♖g7 60.♔b6 ♔xh4 (60...♖g6+ also holds. 61.♔b7 (61.♔b5 ♖g7 =) 61...♖g7+=) 61.a7 ♖xa7 62.♔xa7 ♔h3 = Just in time.]



53.♖c6!! Beautiful combination, even with such a small amount of material on the board. White is winning now. As the rule says, if two connected pawns reach the 6th rank, a rook is unable to stop them.

53...bxc6 54.b6 ♖c8 55.b7 ♖b8 56.♔c5! White doesn't promote immediately with a7 in order to avoid any kind of fortresses. Now he simply wants to take on c6 followed by a7, so the next move is forced.

56...h4 And now:

57.a7! ♖xb7 58.a8♔ and White wins the h-pawn in any case. The game is over.

58...♖h7 59.♔g8+ ♔h6 From now on all the moves are winning, Black continues playing as he was nervous to blunder 53.♖c6, instead of making a draw with bxa6 one move before.

60.gxh4 ♖g7 61.♔h8+ ♔g6 62.h5+ ♔f7 63.h6 ♖g5+ 64.♔d6 g3 65.♔h7+ ♔f6 Karjakin finds the most elegant way to finish the game.

66.♔e7+ ♔f5 67.♔xg5+! ♔xg5 68.h7 1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Gudmundsson, Arinbjorn
— Fischer, Robert James [D95]

Reykjavik Reykjavik (2), 07.10.1960

[Csaba Balogh]

After the previous week, we examine another nice crush by a 17 years old Fischer. This time, he has the Black pieces.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 d5 3.e3 g6 4.c4 ♙g7 5.♘c3 We have reached the 5.e3 system of the Gruenfeld defense from an unusual move order.

5...0-0 6.♙b3 [The main and critical move is definitely 6.♙e2 In the previous issue of CEWN, I have analyzed the convincing victory of Mamedyarov against Svidler with this line.]

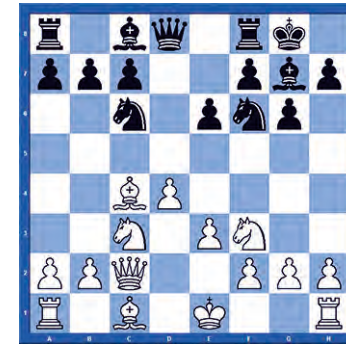
6...e6 Black had to fortify his center, as a direct capture on c4 would just develop the f1 bishop without losing a tempo for ♙e2. [6...c6 is an alternative, which transposes to the Schlechter variation of the Slav defense. (1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 g6)]

7.♙e2 ♘c6 A double-purpose move. The main idea that White has to avoid is ♘a5 and ♘xc4. The other point will become clear in the course of the game. [The main line and perhaps a better move is 7...b6 8.0-0 ♙b7 just like Svidler played in the mentioned game, but as we can remember, Mamedyarov had a very strong plan on the queenside starting with b4. Now the queen on b3 is clearly misplaced.]

8.♙c2 [White can't play for an advantage with 8.cxd5 exd5 9.0-0 Black can, for instance, start a strong regrouping with 9...♘e7 followed by c6 and ♘f5-d6, where the knight has an excellent place. It controls the e4 square and defends against the only White plan — the minority attack with b4-b5.]

8...dxc4 The f1 bishop has already spent a tempo, but still without the next move, it would not be advisable to give up the tension in the center.

9.♙xc4



9...e5! This is the point! It's very useful to remember this motif, we can meet with it in many different openings.

10.dxe5 [White can't win a pawn by 10.♘xe5 ♘xe5 11.dxe5 ♘g4 12.f4? because of the tactical trick 12...♘xe5! 13.fxe5? ♙h4+ and the c4 bishop falls.; 10.d5 is met with another known move from various openings: 10...e4! and Black is doing well everywhere. 11.dxc6 (11.♘xe4 ♘xd5) 11...exf3 12.gxf3 bxc6 White's king isn't safe anymore.]

10...♘g4 11.0-0 [A possible alternative was 11.e6 with the idea of destroying Black's healthy pawn structure, but the open f-file gives enough compensation for Black.

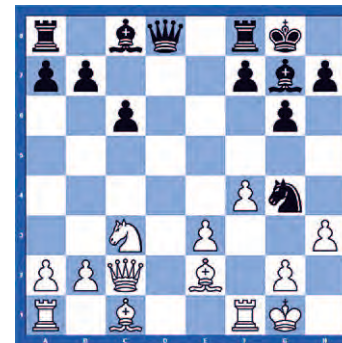
11...♙xe6 12.♙xe6 fxe6 13.0-0 Now, objectively the best move is to force a draw, 13...♖xf3! 14.gxf3 ♔h4 15.fxg4 ♔xg4+ 16.♔h1 ♔f3+ = but of course, Fischer would have preferred to play something else in the 13th move, just to continue the fight.]

11...♘cxe5 12.♘xe5 ♘xe5 13.♙e2 The position in the center is simplified and the game is balanced. White's idea in such positions is to create a strong center with e4, f4 and e5. Black has to fight against this.

13...c6 The most logical move to take control of the important d5 square, as otherwise, ♖d1 followed by ♘d5 could be unpleasant.

14.f4 The idea was correct, but White was not well prepared for that yet. [14.e4 was probably a better start, but here again Black is able to create his counterplay with 14...♔h4! due to the ♘g4 ideas. White has to lose a tempo with 15.h3 and here, as Fischer recommended in his analyses, the strongest move is (On the direct 15.f4 ♘g4 16.h3? ♙d4+ wins.) 15...g5! This is also a known motif to fight against the f4 plan. Of course, we must always be careful with such pawn moves, because it gives up the f5 and h5 squares. For instance, a knight on g3 or e3 could be devastating. However, in this particular case Black is ready to lead an attack with g4 or another possible plan is f5. The Black king will be safe on h8.]

14...♘g4 15.h3

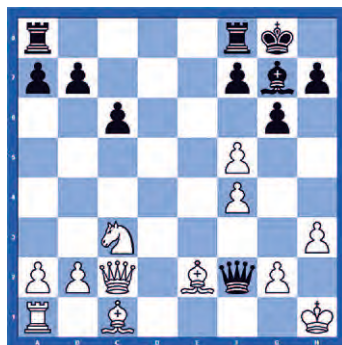


15...♙f5! Probably this move was missed or at least underestimated by White. [After 15...♘f6 16.e4 followed by ♙f3 and e5, White would have got what he was aiming for.]

16.e4? White mis-evaluates the arising position, or just missed the 19th move... [16.♔b3 White should have gone for the b7 pawn. 16...♘f6 17.♔xb7 At least to have a pawn as compensation for the undeveloped queenside and the huge structural weakness on e4. Black has full compensation, but it is just enough for draw, there's no hope to get an advantage. 17...♘e4! 18.♘xe4 (18.♔xc6 would be too greedy because of 18...♖c8 and ♘xc3 next.) 18...♙xe4 19.♙f3 ♙xf3 20.♖xf3 ♔d5 with full compensation.]

16...♔d4+! 17.♔h1 ♘f2+ 18.♖xf2 [18.♔h2? would just drop a pawn. 18...♘xe4]

18...♔xf2 19.exf5 This was the critical position that both players were aiming for. White has a material advantage, but it is easy to feel that the coordination between his pieces is not good enough, and Black should have something. Of course, Black has to act quickly and precisely, as otherwise he'll just end up in a losing position.



19...xc3! A hard psychological decision to give up the strong bishop, but it leads to the invasion of the Black rook on the 1st rank. [The most tempting move 19...fe8 would have been a mistake. 20. e4! e1+ 21. h2 On 21...xf5, White stabilizes with 22. g3, while against other moves, he simply plays b1 and develops his bishop to obtain a big advantage. 21...d4 looks strong at first sight, but White has 22. e3! e1a1 23. xd4 ±]

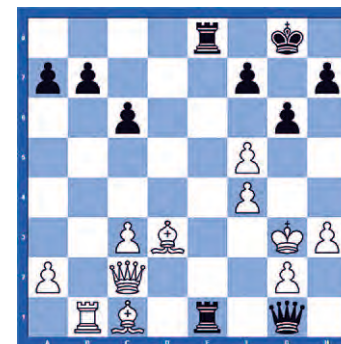
20.bxc3 ae8 [20...fe8 leads exactly to the same...]

21. d3 e1+ 22. h2 g1+ 23. g3 Very suspicious, but accurate play is required by Black.

23...fe8! Bringing the last piece and preparing the e3 sacrifices. The task of the defensive side is pretty hard — his position is objectively worse.

24. b1 [24. f2? loses on the spot. 24...8e3+! 25. xe3 xe3+; 24.fxg6 hxg6 25. xg6 looking for a perpetual check, but of course, Black is not obliged to accept the sacrifice. (25. b1 f5! is very strong, taking away the escaping squares of the king. White doesn't really have a move because of the pin on the 1st rank and the necessity of guarding the king. An active action like 26. xb7 leads to a forced mate in 8 moves: 26...1e3+! 27. xe3 xe3+

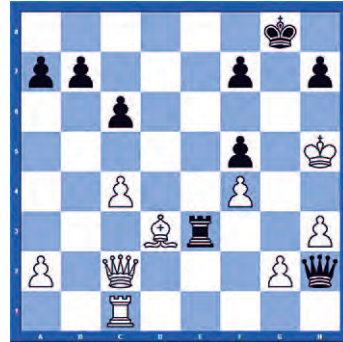
28. h4 e1+! 29. g5 g3+! 30. f6 h4+ 31. xg6 e6+! 32. xf5 f6+ 33. e4 xf4#) 25...1e2! 26. xf7+ h8! The only place to avoid the checks. 27. f5 xg2+ 28. h4 and here Black can choose between several winning moves. The computer recommends as the strongest, the cold-blooded 28...e7! (A bit more human is 28...e1+ 29. h5 g7!! 30. xe8 xe8+ 31. h4 h8+ 32. h5 d8+) 29. f6+ g7]



24...xf5! with the idea of h8 and g8. [24...xc1! was also winning 25. xc1 e3+ 26. g4 (26. h4 is met with 26...h2 where the only defense against g3 runs into a small tactic. 27. f2 xh3+! 28. g5 xd3) 26...h5+! (26...h2 27. f2 xd3 is also good.) 27. g5 (27. h4 loses again to 27...h2 28. f2 xh3+! 29. g5 xd3) 27...g3+ The king gets in trouble in every move, 28. h4 (28. h6 e3 29. a4 e7; 28. f6 c5 and d6.) 28...h2! with multiple threats, for example, g4, xh3 and xf4, or just xg2.]

25. d2 [25. xf5 loses to 25...1e2 26. xh7+ h8; 25.c4 was probably the most tricky, with the idea of xf5 and e2 xh7, and against every king move, White has an unpleasant check with the c1 bishop. Black has to

find the winning combination: 25...♖xc1! 26.♖xc1 ♖e3+ 27.♔h4 ♕h2 28.♔h5 At this moment, Black surprisingly has only two winning moves, and none of them is obvious... (The idea is the same, that on 28.♕f2 ♖xh3+ 29.♔g5 ♖xd3 wins.)



28...f6! Black covers the g5 square to threaten ♖xh3. (28...h6! also wins, with the same idea of taking with ♖xh3. 29.♔xf5 ♕xf4 30.h4 ♖g3 31.♔h7+ ♔g7 32.♕f5 and Black must go to a winning queen endgame. 32...♕xc1 33.♕e5+ ♔xh7 34.♕xg3 ♕xc4) 29.♔xf5 ♕xf4! 30.h4 ♖g3! ♖g5 is threatened. 31.♔xh7+ ♔g7 32.♕f5 ♕h6#! is the final point and the reason why 28...f6 is even stronger than 28...h6.]

25...♖xb1 [The usual motif 25...♖8e3+ was winning here again, but the text is much easier. 26.♔xe3 ♖xe3+ 27.♔h4 ♕h2]

26.♕xb1 ♕xb1 27.♔xb1 ♖e2 White resigned because he'll lose one of the bishops.[27...♖e2 28.♔c1 ♖e1]

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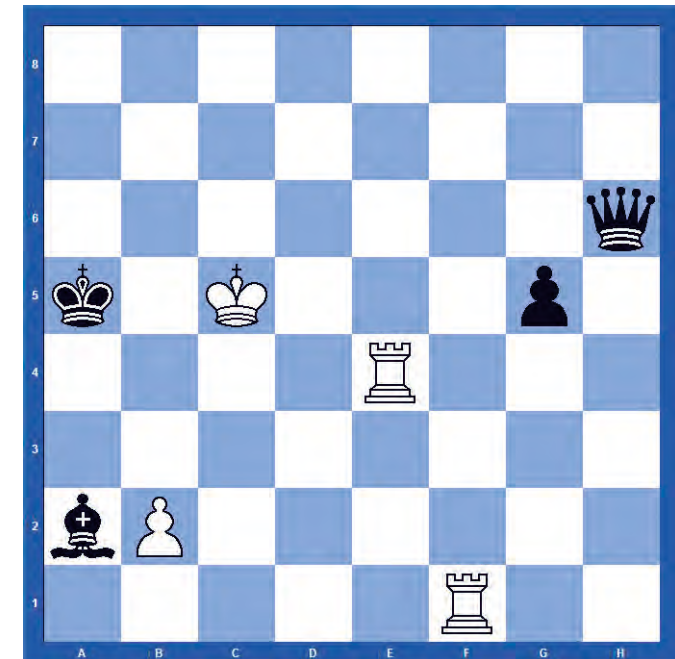
Surprise section / study

(18) Platov

1914

[CEWN]

1. =

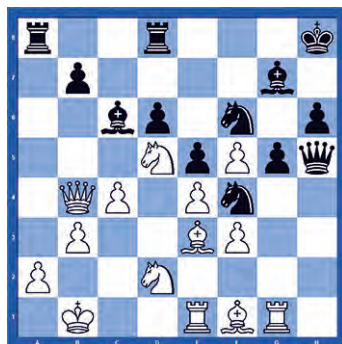


Solutions

(19) Carlsen,M (2848) – Polgar,J (2705)

Mexico City (rapid), 25.11.2012

[Solutions]



28... ♔h4!! 29. ♖c1 [29. ♙e2 N4xd5! 30.cxd5 ♘xd5!–+ 31. ♙xg5 ♚xe1+! 32. ♖xe1 ♘xb4 33. ♙xd8 ♖xd8–+]]

29... ♙xd5?! [29... N4xd5! 30.cxd5 ♘xd5 31. ♙xg5 ♚xg5! 32.exd5 (32. ♖xg5 ♘xb4–+) 32... ♚xg1–+; 29... N6xd5! 30.exd5 ♘xd5–+]]

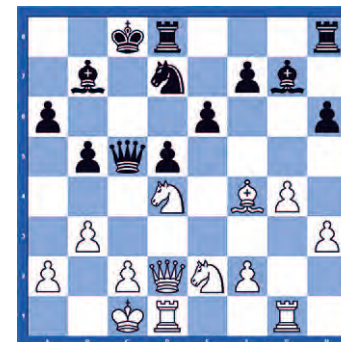
30.cxd5 [30. ♙xf4! ♚xf4 31.cxd5 ♘xd5 32. ♚c4–]]

30... N4xd5 31. ♙xg5 ♚xg5! 32. ♖xg5 ♘xb4–+]

(20) Guerra Mojena,L (2382)
– Ortiz Suarez,I (2595)

Mexico City Open, 22.11.2012

[Solutions]



19.b4!! ♚c4 20. ♖g3!+–]

(21) Ghaem Maghami,E (2559) – Tkachiev,V (2659)

Fujeirah Open, 20.11.2012

[Solutions]



24. ♖xf7+!! ♔xf7 25. ♕f4+! ♔e7 [25... ♖g7 26. ♖xg6+ hxg6 27. ♕xc7+-]

26. ♖fd1! [26.e5!+-]

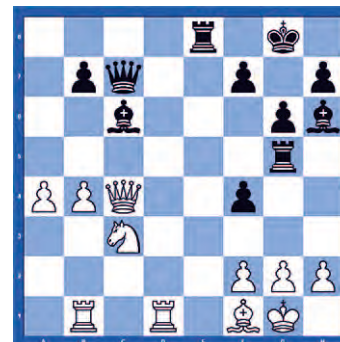
26... ♖xb3 27. ♖xd7+ [27.cxb3+-]

27... ♗xd7 28. ♕xc7 ♖xc3 29. ♖xd7+ ♗xd7 30. ♕e5+ ♔d8 31. ♕xc3+-

(22) Collins,S (2471) – Jones,G (2644)

Kilkenny Masters, 25.11.2012

[Solutions]

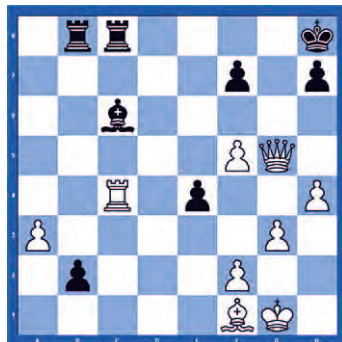


27... ♗xg2! 28. ♕xc7 ♗f3+! 29. ♗g2 ♖xg2+ 30. ♔f1 ♖xh2! 31. ♗e2 ♖xe2! 32. ♖d8+ ♗f8! 33. ♖xf8+ ♔xf8 34. ♕c5+ ♖e7 35. ♕c8+ ♖e8 36. ♕c5+ ♔g8 0-1

(23) Svetushkin,D (2589) – Bogosavljivic,B (2524)

Vrsac GM, 23.11.2012

[Solutions]



33. ♖d3! [33. ♕f6+ ♖g8 34. ♖d3!+-]

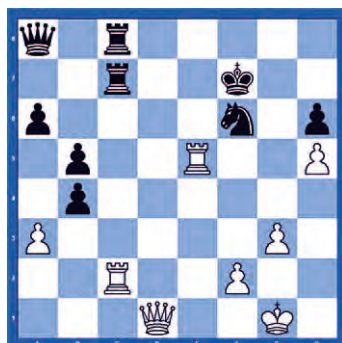
33... ♖g8 [33... exd3 34. ♕f6+ ♖g8 35. ♖g4+ ♖f8 36. ♕d6+ ♖e8 37. ♖g8#]

34. ♕f6+ ♖g7 35. ♖b1 1-0

(24) Cvitan,O (2535) – Georgiev,K (2660)

Vrsac GM, 24.11.2012

[Solutions]



32. ♕d3!! ♖g8 [32... ♖f8 33. ♕d6++-; 32... ♖xc2 33. ♕g6+ ♖f8 34. ♕xf6+ ♖g8 35. ♕g6+ ♖f8 36. ♖f5+ ♖e7 37. ♖f7+ ♖d8 38. ♕g8#]

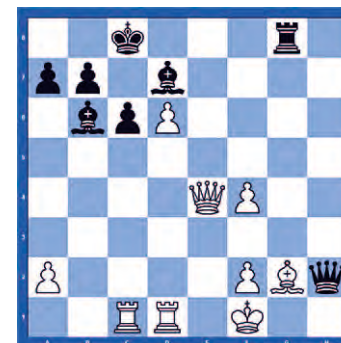
33. ♖xc7 ♖xc7 34. ♕g6+ ♖g7 35. ♕xf6 ♖f8 [35... bxa3 36. ♕e6+ (36. ♕xh6+-) 36... ♖h7 37. ♕f5+ ♖h8 (37... ♖g8 38. ♖c5!+-) 38. ♖e6!+-]

36. ♕e6+ ♖h7 37. axb4+-

(25) Sethuraman,S (2520) – Adly,A (2607)

Commonwealth Open, 26.11.2012

[Solutions]



39... ♖xg2! 0-1 [39... ♖xg2 40. ♕xg2 ♖h3+-]

(26) Banusz,T (2580) – Pap,G (2553)

Hungarian Championship, 26.11.2012

[Solutions]

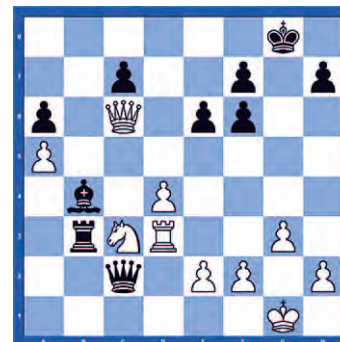


36. ♖xc6! ♗xc6 37. ♔c2! 1-0[37. ♔c2 ♗d5 38. ♖xh7+ ♔f8 39. ♖h5!+- (39. ♖h8+ ♔e7 40. ♖xg7 ♗f8 41. f5+-) 39... g6 40. ♖h7+-]

(27) Matlakov,M (2673) – Shimanov,A (2597)

Governor's Cup, 17.11.2012

[Solutions]



25. d5!! exd5 [25... ♖xc3? 26. ♖e8+ ♔g7 27. dxe6! ♗xd3 28. ♖xf7+ ♔h8 29. ♖xf6+ ♔g8 30. ♖g5+ ♔h8 31. exd3 ♖xd3 32. ♖e5+ ♔g8 33. e7±; 25... ♗xc3 26. dxe6 ♖xe2 27. ♖e8+ ♔g7 28. ♖xf7+ ♔h6 29. ♖f8+ ♔g6 30. ♖f7+ ♔h6=]

26. ♖xa6 [26. ♖xf6 ♗xc3 27. ♖g5+ ♔f8 28. ♖d8+=]

26... ♖xc3 27. ♖c8+ ♗f8 28. ♖g4+ ♔h8 29. ♖c8! ♔g8 30. ♖g4+ ♔h8 31. ♖c8 ♔g8 1/2-1/2

(28) Mamedov,R (2647) – Savchenko,B (2556)

Governor's Cup, 18.11.2012

[Solutions]

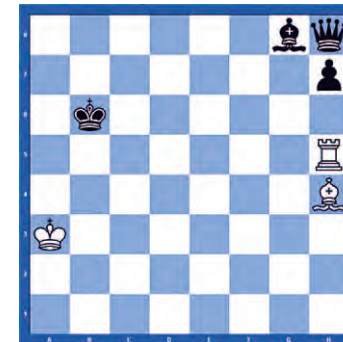


24. ♖xe5! fxe5 25. ♔f7+!! 1-0 [25. ♔f7+ ♖xf7 26. ♖xf7+ ♔d6 27. ♖xc7 ♔xc7 28. ♘xe6+ ♔d6 29. ♘g7+-]

(29) Sehwers,J

1900

[Solutions]



1. ♖b5+!! [1. ♖h6+? ♙e6!-+]

1... ♔c6 [1... ♔xb5 2. ♙f6! ♔xf6=; 1... ♔a7 2. ♙f2+! ♔a8 (2... ♔a6 3. ♖b6+! ♔a5 4. ♖b5+! ♔xb5 5. ♙d4!=) 3. ♖b8+!! ♔xb8 4. ♙d4! ♔xd4=; 1... ♔c7 2. ♙g3+ ♔d7 3. ♙e5]

2. ♖b6+! ♔xb6 [2... ♔d7 3. ♙f6]

3. ♙f2+! ♔b7 4. ♙d4! ♔xd4 1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 42

14th of December 2012

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Editorial Preface

London Chess Classic: Carlsen is crushing everything in a very impressive style. For the third time in a row, he managed to win London Chess Classic tournament and this time with a very impressive 5 wins and 3 draws! His live rating is over 2860, breaking Kasparov's all time record of 2851. Can somebody stop Carlsen in the near future? It doesn't seem so...

It also was a great tournament for Vladimir Kramnik with 4 wins and 4 draws, getting to the second place in the live rating and overtaking Aronian who was in a bad shape during the London Classic. The 3rd place went to Nakamura who had ups and downs, but all in all showed a big fighting spirit and a nice 2840 performance.

The Russian Cup was won by "guess who"... Bartosz Socko! A Polish national team member. How is it possible? Don't ask me! It was a knock-out system event and the final match was played between D. Khismatulin and B. Socko, the latter managed to win the first game with White and somehow survive the second game with Black.

In Germany, in the clash of the 2 strongest teams of the current season — Baden-Baden and Muehlheim — the match finished with the score 4,5-3,5 in favor of Baden-Baden.

As usual, we wish You chess joy with Your current issue of CEWN.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Kramnik,Vladimir (2795)
— McShane,Luke J (2713) [D15]

4th London Chess Classic Olympia, London (5), 06.12.2012
[Csaba Balogh]

A really wonderful crush by Kramnik with a lot of sacrifices.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 a6 5.g3 Recently, this 5.g3 line against the Chebanenko Slav was considered to be quite a harmless approach, but this game might change the general opinion.

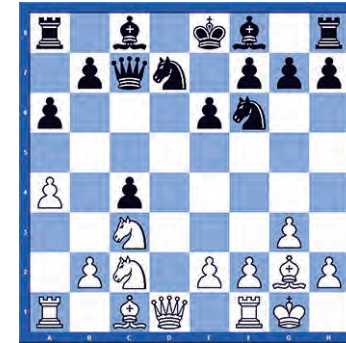
5...dxc4 6.a4 White wants to recover the c4 pawn, therefore he prevents b5. [6.♙g2 b5 7.♘e5 ♙b7 is the start of the other line, where White tries to find compensation for the pawn in the center with e4.]

6...e6 7.♙g2 c5 8.0–0 [8.dxc5 is the most common move, but after 8...♙xd1+ 9.♘xd1 ♙d7! This very deep novelty was introduced by Karjakin back in 2009 and it seems to solve all of Black's problems. 10.♘e5 ♘c6=]

8...cxd4 9.♘xd4 This could not be a real surprise for McShane that Kramnik chose this line, since he has already played it in two games.

9...♘bd7 10.♘c2! White wants to win back the c4 pawn, so he drives his knight to e3.

10...♙c7



11.♙f4! This is the novelty of our game. Black provokes the e5 move, after which the d5 square becomes a real hole in Black's camp. [Kramnik has deviated from his own game, which continued with 11.♙d4 ♙c5 12.♙h4 ♙e7 13.♘a3 ♘e5 14.♙f4 h6 15.♙xe5 and at this moment, the players agreed to a draw. Kramnik-Gelfand, Linares 1997.]

11...e5 [If Black restrain s himself from giving up the control over the d5 square and plays 11...♙c5 12.a5! was probably Kramnik's preparation with the idea of 12...♙e7 13.♙a4! 0–0 14.♘a3!+= With this cool maneuver, White wins back the pawn and obtains a clear advantage as all his pieces are perfectly placed. The main problem of Black is that he can't protect his pawn with b5 because the a8 rook will hang at the end.]

12.♙d2! [12.♙g5 is much worse because of 12...h6 and the bishop won't be able to return to g5 as it happened in the game.]

12...♘c5 Black would like to preserve his c4 pawn advantage and wants to protect it with ♙e6. In addition, he is ready to jump with the knight to b3. [12...♙e7 is met with 13.♘e3! and ♘cd5 next is going to be really unpleasant.; 12...♙c5 was an alternative, as it was pointed out

by Kramnik at the press conference. He was intending to play 13.♘e3 0-0 14.♖c1 White is very close to restoring the material balance. 14...♙xe3 15.♙xe3 ♖b8 Black is finally ready to push b5, but this still doesn't allow him to equalize: 16.♘d5! ♘xd5 17.♙xd5 b5



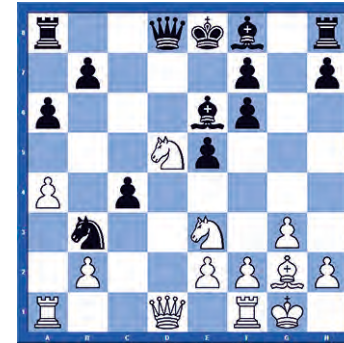
18.♙c6! This concrete solution demonstrates well the power of the bishop pair. 18...♙xc6 19.♙xc6 ♙a7 is threatened, and on 19...bxa4 20.♖fd1! suddenly the f8 rook is going to be trapped, 20...♘f6 21.♙c5!]

13. ♙g5! By eliminating the f6 knight, the d5 square becomes even more vulnerable.

13... ♙e6 Black tries to control the d5 square, but this allows White to destroy his pawn structure... [13... ♙e7 is not better either. 14. ♙xf6 ♙xf6 15. ♘d5 ♙d8 16. ♘ce3 ♙e6 17. ♘xc4 ± The power of the minor pieces is just huge. White wants to play ♘cb6 and ♖c1, or just b4 with a big advantage.]

14. ♙xf6 gxf6 15. ♘d5 ♙d8 [The absence of the light-squared bishop will tell after 15... ♙xd5 16. ♙xd5 ♘b3 17. ♖ad1 followed by ♘e3, with complete control on the light squares.]

16. ♘ce3 ♘b3



17.a5!! A shocking move, based on excellent calculation and great intuition! White frees the a4 square for the rook, or for the queen, if the rook is taken. [McShane was expecting 17.♖b1 and after 17...♖c8 he would successfully consolidate his position.]

17... ♖c8? [The critical test was definitely 17...♘xa1 18.♙a4+! (18.♙xa1 is too slow. 18...♙c5) 18...♙d7 Only move. 19.♙xc4 ♘c7 is threatened. 19...♖c8 20.♙h4 ♖c6! 21.♖xa1 Despite the fact that White doesn't even have a pawn for the exchange, it's clear that with such active pieces, it's much easier and better to play the position as White. However, Black also has some chances after 21...f5!]

18. ♖a4! This was the point! Now White is ready to recover the pawn again and if it falls, the Black position collapses.

18... ♘d4 Black indirectly protects the c4 pawn, as the d5 knight is hanging after all. [On 18...♘xa5 19.♘xf6+! looks pretty strong. 19...♙xf6 20.♖xa5 Black has too many weaknesses. Not only the pawns, but also the light squares.]

19. ♖b6! ♖c7

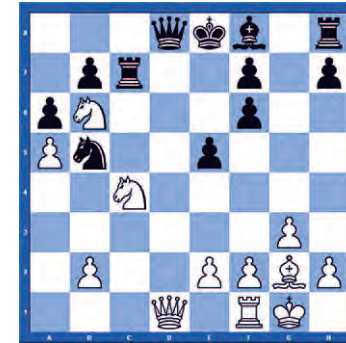


20. ♖xc4!! Another shocking blow, with fantastic intuitions again! In a few moves, we'll get a clear picture of why the absence of the e6 bishop is worth a rook. [20. ♖bxc4 After 20... ♗c5 Black obtains a playable position. Suddenly, the bishop pair and the strong knight on d4 are enough compensation for the weakened structure.]

20... ♗xc4 [Black is worse even if he does not accept the exchange: 20... ♗c5 21. ♖bd5 ♖c8 22. ♔d3 followed by ♖fc1.]

21. ♖exc4 ± White is ready to kick out the d4 knight with e3. It's very nice to see the way White plays on the light squares on the following lines...

21... ♖b5 [21... ♗c5 is met with 22.e3! ♖e6 23. ♖d5 ♖d7 24. ♖f3 White continues dominating even without the queens on the board. 24... ♖xd5 25. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 26. ♗xd5± The b7 pawn is a clear weakness.; 21... ♗e7 22.e3! ♖e6 23. ♖a4+ ♖f8 24. ♖d5! (24. ♖d1 is less precise. 24... ♖e8) 24... ♖c5 25. ♖cb6 ♖g7 26. ♖d1 Black can't move! ♖g4 is coming with a mating attack. ♖d7 is also in the air.]



22. ♖b1! Very nice! Keeping the eyes on the light squares. ♖d1 joins the game next.

22... ♖d4 Otherwise, after ♖d1, the queen would only have one square on b8, which was definitely not a tempting alternative.

23. ♖d1 ♖c5 24.e3 Taking control of the d4 square. [It was also strong to transfer the knight to d5 first. 24. ♖e3 ♖d4 25. ♖ed5 ♖c6 26.e3! with a winning advantage as well.]

24... ♗e7 25. ♖f5! Stormy clouds are approaching. At this moment, McShane had only 3 minutes left against Kramnik's one hour.

25... ♖f8 26. ♗d5! By protecting the c4 knight, White threatens with ♖d7.

26... ♖g7 27. ♖g4+ ♖h6 Obviously, White has several ways to win, but Kramnik continues to play for the spectators!

28.e4! Of course, to give up the d4 square is a potential mistake, but it has a concrete reason — White wants to mate Black with ♖e3-f5. Black has an only way to defend.

28...♘d4 29.♘e3 [29.b4!? was another pretty win. 29... ♖xb4 30.♖xd4! exd4 31.♙f4+ ♔g7 32.♙xc7 +-]

29...f5 Otherwise, ♖xd4 decides the game. Now Kramnik has calculated a very long, forced and spectacular line until the win.

30.♙h3+! [30.♘xf5+ ♘xf5 31.♙xf5 is also winning for White.]

30...♔g7 31.♖xd4! Another exchange sacrifice. This is already the 3rd in the game; McShane rejected to accept the first one on a1.

31...exd4 32.♘xf5+ ♔f8 33.♙h6+ ♔e8



34.♙xf7+! This was the point. Black can't hope for salvation. [34.♙g7 ♖f8 is not clear.]

34...♔d8 [34...♔xf7 35.♙g7+ ♔e6 Now, the best, but not the only way to win is (35...♔e8 36.♙xh8+ +-) 36.♘xd4+ ♔d6 37.♙h6+! ♔e5 this is not a good sign. 38.♘f3+ ♔xe4 39.♙f4+ ♔d3 40.♘e5+ ♔c2 41.♙e4+! After this subtle chess, Black can't avoid losing his queen with ♘d3 check. For instance, after 41...♔b3 42.♙a4+ ♔xb2 43.♘d3+ +-]

35.♙g7 ♖f8 36.♘xd4 Suddenly, ♘e6 threatens mate in one. Quite an unusual picture. [36.♘d5 was also winning.]

36...♖c6 [36...♖xf7 also loses to 37.♙xf7 (37.♘e6+?? only leads to a perpetual check after 37...♔e8 38.♙g8+ ♖f8 39.♘g7+ ♔d8 40.♘e6+=) 37...♙xd4 38.♙g8+ +-]

37.♘xc6+ bxc6 Black seems to have some hopes because of the f2 square, but the next move destroys all the dreams...

38.♙g4! with a double mate threat on d7 and c8. Kramnik admitted that he calculated until this moment when he played 30.♙h3! Impressive!

38...♔c7 39.♙d7+ ♔b8 40.♙d2? The only mistake in the game by White. McShane had only 3 seconds left to make the last move of the time trouble and Kramnik wanted to shock him with this unexpected retreat, with the idea of ♘d7. We'll get the same position two moves later, when White already plays the strongest move.

40...♔c7 [40...♙g5 could have been a small chance, although the position remains lost 41.♘d7+ ♔c8 42.♙d1! (42.♘xc5 ♙xd2 43.♙c4 is also technically winning, but of course, to enter such an endgame when Black is so close to getting mated gives a bad feeling...) 42...♖d8 43.♙g4! These were the best moves, after which White is still winning easily... 43...♖xd7 44.♙e6 +-]

41.♙d7+ ♔b8 42.♙g2! A cool move. Suddenly, Black finds himself in zugzwang as he can't play ♖d8 because of ♙xd8 and ♘d7.

42...♙d6 [42...♖d8 43.♙xd8+ ♙xd8 44.♘d7+; 42...♖xf7 43.♙c8+ ♔a7 44.♙c7#]

43.b4! Now the game is over. Black has to give up his c6 pawn because d6 has to be protected.

43...♔d4 44.♚xc6 ♔a7 All the moves are winning now...

45.♔h3 Kramnik calmly leaves from the ♚xe4 check, after ♘c8 ♚xc8 ♚xc8. Black can resign now.

45...♚d1 [45...♚xf2 46.♚d7+ ♔b8 47.♚xd6+ +-]

46.♘c8+ ♚xc8 47.♚xc8 White ended up with 4 extra pawns and the mating attack continues. [47.♚b6+ ♔a8 48.♙d5+ +- was even easier.]

47...♚f1+ 48.♔g4 h5+ 49.♔xh5 What a brilliant performance by Kramnik! Amazing!

1-0

(2) Kramnik,Vladimir (2795)
– Jones,Gawain C (2644) [A04]

4th London Chess Classic Olympia, London (8.1), 09.12.2012

[Kamil Miton]

1.♘f3 c5 2.b3!? After this move, it's clear that Kramnik says: „Let's play simple chess without a huge amount of theory". It's interesting because I'm sure that in the opening Kramnik is not worse prepared than the English grandmaster. We know that Kramnik plays a lot of lines after ♘f3-c4, where his new improvements and ideas might be decreasing, so he decides to use the original 2.b3 move.

2...d5 Of course, Black has a few different plans. For example, it's possible to play b6-♙b7 or ♘f6-g6-♙g7. Jones uses a logical development as well; he is going to build a strong center.

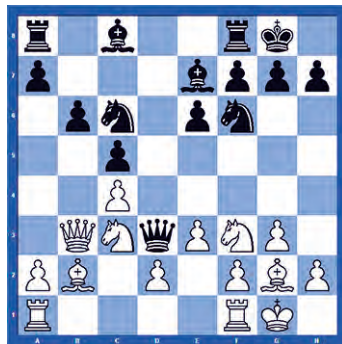
3.e3 ♘f6 4.♙b2 e6



5.g3 ♘c6 6.♙g2 ♙e7 7.0-0 0-0 8.c4 The first important moment in the center.

8...b6 Jones could change the structure slightly and transpose the position to a Benoni System, with colors reversed. [8...d4 9.exd4 cxd4 In the Benoni structures, the bishop on b7 (in this case, on b2) is badly placed. On the other hand, Black has to lose a tempo to put the pawn on e5. 10.♖e1 Important move. White doesn't allow Black to push e5 too easily. (10.d3 e5 11.♗e1 ♘d7 with a5-f6-♗c5 next. The Bishop on b2 is limited and only Black can be better.) 10...♘e8 Black played a few other moves as well. 11.♘e5 ♗xe5 12.♗xe5 f6 13.♗e1 e5 14.d3 ♘c7 15.♙a3 Logical. 15...♘e6 A mistake. Now Black's pieces are under pressure on the e-file. (15...♙xa3 16.♘xa3 ♖d6 with more or less equal play.) 16.f4 ♙xa3 17.♘xa3 ♖e7 18.♘c2 exf4 19.gxf4 (19.♙d5 ♖g4 is coming next.) 19...♖d6 20.♖c1 ♘xf4 21.c5 ♖c7 1/2–1/2 Dizdar,G-Gustafsson,J/Plovdiv BUL 2008. 22.♘xd4 ♘xg2 23.♙xg2 Black is much better because of the very poorly placed White king.]

9.♘c3 ♙b7 A natural human decision. Another interesting option was: [9...dxc4 10.bxc4 (10.♘e5 ♗xe5 11.♙xa8 ♙a6 12.♙g2 cxb3 13.axb3 ♙xf1 14.♙xf1 ♖d7 Black is not worse.) 10...♖d3 looks crazy but very concrete. 11.♖b3 (11.♘e5 ♗xe5 12.♙xa8 ♘xc4 13.♙c1 ♘d5; 11.♘e1 ♖d7 12.d3 ♙b7 13.♖e2 ♗fd8 White can try to improve his position in the long-term, but Black's position is very solid.)



11...♘a5 12.♘e5 ♗xb3 13.♘xd3 ♗xa1 14.♙xa8 ♙a6 15.♙f3 ♙xc4 16.♘e1 ♙xf1 17.♙xf1 b5 18.♙xa1 ♖b8 and the position is almost equal.]

10.cxd5 exd5 [10...♘xd5 11.♘xd5 (11.d4 ♗xc3 (11...cxd4? 12.♘xd5 exd5 13.♘xd4 with a clear advantage for White.) 12.♙xc3 and here I suppose that Black needs a few accurate moves to equalize the position and be safe. 12...♙f6 (12...cxd4 13.♘xd4 ♖c8 It looks like Black almost equalized, but... 14.♘b5 ♖xd1 (14...a6 15.♖g4 This is the trick. 15...g6 16.♗fd1↑) 15.♗fxd1 ♗fd8 16.♙xc6 ♖xc6 17.♗xd8+ ♙xd8 18.♖d1 ♙f6 19.♖d7! ♙a8 20.♖xa7 ♖c8 21.♖c7 ±) 13.♖c1 ♙a6 14.♗e1 cxd4 15.♘xd4 ♘xd4 16.♙xd4 ♖c8 17.♖xc8 ♙xc8 18.♙xf6 ♖xf6 19.♖d6 ♖b2 and Black is fine.) 11...♖xd5 (11...exd5 12.d4 ♖c8 (12...♙f6 13.♖d2+=) 13.dxc5 (13.♖e2 c4 14.bxc4 ♙a6 15.♖fc1 ♘a5↗ Black avoids the position with hanging pawns and changes the structure. Of course, now d5-pawn will be weak, but maybe in this case, it's not a big deal.) 13...bxc5 14.♖e2 with a similar position to the game where White is slightly better.) 12.d4 is not easy for Black because White has some threats over the h1–a8 diagonal. 12...♖ad8 (12...♖f5!?) 13.♘e5 ♖d6 14.dxc5 ♖xc5



15. ♖d7 ♔f5 In other case ♔g4 16.e4 ♔g5 17.h4 ♔h6 The Black queen doesn't have any good squares because after ♔g6, White has ♖xf8. 18. ♕c1 g5 19.hxg5 ♔g7 20.e5 ♖h8 21. ♕f4↑]

11.d4+= Kramnik did his job. He got a slightly better technical position. Now, Black will get a position with hanging pawns or an isolated pawn. Both options are really unpleasant, especially when You play against Kramnik.

11... ♖e4 12.dxc5 ♖xc3 [12... ♕f6 13. ♖d4 ♖xd4 14. ♖xe4 dxe4 15. ♕xd4 bxc5 16. ♕xc5 ♕xa1 17. ♕xf8 ♔xd1 18. ♖xd1 ♖xf8 19. ♖xa1 ♖c8 20. ♖d1 ♖c2 21. ♕f1 White is better now that Black can't win the pawn. 21... ♖xa2 because 22. ♕b5 and it's curious that Black managed to lose his bishop!]

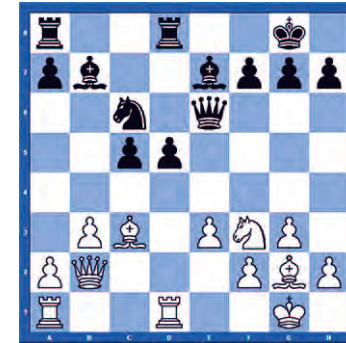
13. ♕xc3 bxc5 14. ♔e2 Logical. White develops his pieces. Kramnik is going to play ♖d1–Rc1 and put pressure on the hanging c5-d5 pawns. Besides, one of White's idea is to play ♔b2 in order to provoke some weaknesses on the kingside.

14... ♖e8?! It seems logical to put the rook on e8 in order to have some ideas with the d4 push, but Jones doesn't feel the danger. The most important task for him was to take care of the d5 pawn.

[14... ♔d6 15. ♖fd1 ♖fd8 16. ♔b2 f6 doesn't look nice, but what else to do?

a) 16... ♕f8 17. ♖d2 with the idea of ♖ad1, putting pressure on the d5-pawn. Compared to the 16...f6 line, Black will not be able to play ♔e6 because of ♖g5;

b) 16... ♔e6



17.b4! Nice trick. To immediately grab the pawn on g7 is not correct. (17. ♕xg7 d4 18.exd4 ♖xg7 19.d5+ ♕f6) 17...d4 18.exd4 cxb4 19.d5 ♖xd5 20. ♖xd5 ♔xd5 21. ♕xg7 White is clearly better because of the weak Black king;

17. ♖d2 (17. ♖e1 ♔e6 18. ♖d3 d4 Finally it's possible! 19.exd4 cxd4 20. ♕b4 ♖xb4 21. ♕xb7 ♖xd3 22. ♖xd3 ♖ab8 23. ♕f3 Black should easily manage to make a draw.) 17... ♔e6 18. ♖ad1 ♖d7 19. ♖e1 ♖ad8 and somehow, Black managed to defend. 20. ♔c2 ♖e5 21. ♕xe5 fxe5 22.e4 gaining control over the light squares. 22...d4 23. ♕f1 ♖h8 24. ♕c4 ♔g6 25. ♖e2+=]

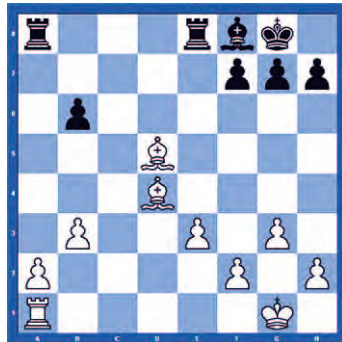
15. ♖fd1 ♕f8 16. ♔b5! Now Kramnik is going to get a better endgame by force. He had other good options as well: [16. ♖d2 with the idea of creating pressure over the d-file. 16...a5 (16...d4 doesn't work because of 17. ♔d1 and White is winning a pawn. 17... ♔b6 18.exd4 cxd4 19. ♖xd4 ♖e5 20. ♖f3 A strong move that doesn't allow Black to get counterplay on the light squares.) 17. ♔d1 (17. ♖ad1 ♕a6 18. ♔e1 d4 and the queen on e1 can't escape from the pin.) 17... ♖e7 18. ♖e5 ♔c7 19. ♖c1 ♖ad8 20. ♔h5 with a very unpleasant position for Black. 20... ♖g6 21. ♖xg6 hxg6 22. ♔d1 and the d5 pawn is falling. 22... ♖d7 23. ♕xd5 ♖xd5 24. ♖xd5 ♔c6 25.e4 ♖xe4 26.f3 ♖e8

27.♖e5+=; 16.♔d3 Xd5 16...♘b4 17.♙xb4 cxb4 18.♖ac1
The weak d5 pawn and the good square on d4 for the knight give White a strategical advantage.]

16...♔b6 [16...♖b8 17.♔a4+= It's hard to find a good plan for Black.]

17.♔xb6 axb6 18.♖xd5 ♘d4 19.♘xd4 ♙xd5 20.♙xd5 cxd4 [20...♖ad8 21.♘b5 ♖xd5 22.♘c7 +-]

21.♙xd4± The position is very unpleasant for Black. For the exchange, White has two pawns and a strong bishop on d5 that controls many important squares. White's pieces cooperate very well and it's easy for them to improve their positions.



21...♖a5 The idea of this move is to activate the bishop after ♙c5. [21...♖ad8 22.♙c4 (22.e4? ♖xe4 23.♙xe4 ♖xd4 24.♙f3 ♖d2=) 22...♖b8 Black wants to play b5-b4 and fix the a2-b3 pawns, so White plays (22...♙c5 23.♙xc5 bxc5 24.a4 ±) 23.a4 g6 24.♖d1 with the idea of exchanging bishops after ♙g7 and penetrating with the rook on the 7th rank. 24...♖ed8 25.♖c1 ♖dc8 (25...♙g7 26.♙xf7+ +-) 26.♙e5 ♖a8 27.♙g2 ♙g7 28.♙d6 ♙f8 29.♙f4 ♙e7 30.h4+=]

22.e4 ♙c5 Black could try to fix the White pawns again: [22...b5 23.a4 (23.♖c1 ♖xa2 24.♖c7 ♙e7 (24...♖e7 25.♖c8+-) 25.♖b7 ♖d2 26.♙e3 ♖d1+ 27.♙g2 b4 28.♙c6 ♙f8 29.♙xe8 ♙xe8 and Black has enough counterplay against the b3 pawn.) 23...bxa4 24.bxa4 ♖b8 25.♙c3 ♙b4 26.♙e5 ♖c8 White is better, but it's a long way to convert it to a whole point.]

23.♙c3 Of course, White doesn't exchange the bishops.

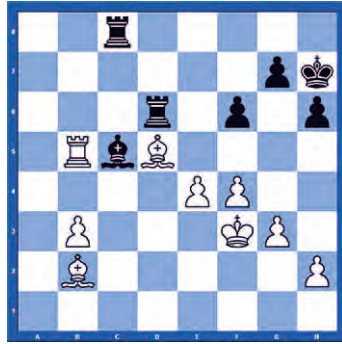
23...♖a3 24.♙b2 ♖a7 25.a4 ♖c7 The threat now is ♙xf2, so White plays the strong:

26.♖a2! h6 Well, Black has to be careful, but I don't like Jones' plan. My intuition tells me that it's better to keep the king closer to the queenside (Kf8) and try to put the pawns on light squares, like g6-h5. [26...♙b4 When I saw this game, I thought about this move with the idea of activating the rook: 27.♙d4 ♖c1+ 28.♙g2 ♙c5 29.♙xc5 Now it's time to take on c5. 29...♖xc5 30.b4 ♖c7 31.a5 bxa5 32.bxa5 ♖a7 33.a6 h5 An important move if Black needs to hold the rook endgame with 4 against 3 on one side. 34.♙f3 ♖b8 35.♙f4 ♖b6 36.♙c4 (36.♙b7 g6 with ♖xb7 next.) 36...g6 37.f3 ♙f8 38.♙e5 ♙e7 39.♙d4 and Black's position is very unpleasant.]

27.♙g2 ♙h7 28.f4 f6 Strange setup. Now White gets strong play on the light squares.

29.♙f3 ♖d7 30.a5 Kramnik activate the rook. [30.♙c6? ♖d3+; 30.♙a1 f5 31.♖c2 fxe4+ 32.♙xe4+ ♙h8 33.♙e5 White pieces are much stronger. Now the threat is to push a5.]

30...bxa5 31.♖xa5 ♖c8 32.♖b5 ♖d6



33. ♖b7 The engine suggests another winning idea, but it looks bit unhuman. [33.b4 ♙g1 (33... ♖b6 34. ♖xc5 ♖xc5 35.bxc5 ♖xb2 36.c6 White is winning because Black is not able to stop the c-pawn. 36...g6 (36... ♖xh2 37.e5 +-) 37. ♙e3 ♙g7 38. ♙d4 ♖b8 39. ♙c5 +-) 34.e5 fxe5 35. ♙xe5 ♖b6 36. ♙e4+ ♙h8 37. ♖d5 This idea was not easy to see. 37... ♖xb4 38. ♖d6 ♖b6 39. ♖d7 ♖g8 40. ♙d5±]

33... ♖b6 34. ♖f7 ♖f8? The final mistake. Black could have tried to activate the rook in order to look for some counterplay. [34... ♖a6 35. ♙b7 (35.h4 ♖a7 36. ♖xa7 ♙xa7+=) 35... ♖a7 36. ♙xf6 ♙g6 37. ♙xc8 ♙xf7 38. ♙c3 ♖a2 (38... ♖a3 39. ♙b7 White is on time.) 39. ♙b7 ♖xh2 40.b4 ♙e7 41.b5 ♙c5 42. ♙d5+ ♙f8 43.e5± The White king will be easily improved over the light squares and it will help the b-pawn.]

35. ♖c7 ♙d6 36. ♖d7 ♖a6 [36... ♙c5 37.e5 White is crushing.]

37. ♙d4 ♙b8 38. ♙c5 ♖e8 39. ♙g4 ♖a2 40.h4 ♖c8 41.b4 White is totally dominating. Kramnik realized his advantage very nicely from the 21st move.

41... ♖a3 42.h5 ♖c3 43. ♙d4 ♖3c7 44. ♖xc7 ♙xc7 Now the b-pawn is going to win the game and White can even exchange the rook.

45. ♙f5 ♙d6 46.b5 ♖c1 47.b6 ♙b8 48. ♙e6 ♖h1 49. ♙c5 1-0

(3) Jones,G (2644) – Anand,V (2775) [D70]

4th London Chess Classic London ENG, 06.12.2012

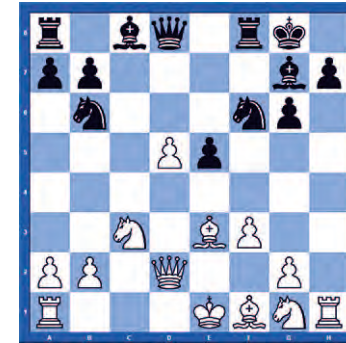
[Csaba Balogh]

After 17 games without winning a single game, the World Champion Anand succeeded to score in great style.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** g6 **3.f3** Recently, the 3. f3 line against the Gruenfeld has been enjoying big popularity. We often meet with it on the highest level. Black has plenty of different setups, and Anand chose one of the sharpest ones.

3...d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 **5.e4** ♘b6 **6.♘c3** ♙g7 **7.♙e3 0-0 8.♙d2 e5** Anand has fresh experience with this move, since in the 3rd game of the World Championship match against Gelfand, he played like this. However, in that game Anand was playing with the White pieces! We have analyzed that game in the 12th CEWN. [8...♘c6 is the main line. 9.0-0-0 ♙d6 Two days after this game, Aroonian played like this against Jones. It was another tense battle, which ended in draw.]

9.d5 c6 10.h4 cxd5 11.exd5 ♘8d7 **12.h5** ♘f6 **13.hxg6 fxg6** Until here, we were following the theory, and now Jones deviates with a novelty. I'm not sure if it was a prepared one, it's possible that he was just caught by surprise when Anand played the Gruenfeld defense!



14.♘h3 This is a nice square for the knight, since it's heading to g5, where it contributes to the attack and is ready to jump to e6 and e4. [14.0-0-0 ♙d7 15.♙b1 ♖c8 happened in the mentioned Anand-Gelfand game.]

14...e4! A great reaction and also the most principled move to open the position against the king on e1; it can only look for safety by castling queenside, where it moves into the diagonal of the g7 bishop. [The greedy 14...♘fxd5 was not advisable because of 15.♘xd5 ♘xd5 16.♘g5! (The tempting 16.♙c4? doesn't work. 16...♙h4+!) 16...♘xe3 17.♙xe3 and White has more than enough compensation for the pawn. Suddenly, the king on g8 is much more vulnerable than the one on e1. White threatens ♙c4, for example. 17...♙a5+ is simply met with 18.♙f2 White needs the queens on the board to lead an effective attack.]

15.fxe4 ♘g4 The most logical move again. Black wants to take the e3 bishop, and White can't allow this, as it would lead to a disaster on the dark squares. In addition, the knight is also ready to occupy the e5 square, from where the ♘c4 threats become really annoying. [15...♘h5 is the computer's suggestion with full compensation, but the text move is more human.]

16. ♖f4 This is probably a mistake, but in my opinion, it's almost impossible to play this position well as a human. Black's attack is rolling, while White can stay in the game by finding the only moves, which are not obvious at all. It was not a wise decision by Jones to go for this line without proper preparation. [16. ♖c5 was the right move according to the machine, but to give up the c1-h6 diagonal is really unhuman, as it deprives White from castling queenside because of ♖h6. 16... ♖h6 (16... ♖f7? is bad. 17. ♘g5; 16... ♖d7 is also possible with an exchange sacrifice. 17. ♖xf8 ♖xf8 Black has total domination on the dark squares and the haunt of the king can begin... The computer is not impressed by this at all, but it looks very dangerous to me.) 17. ♖d3 ♖f7 looks terrible for White, but according to the machine, the game is far from clear after, for instance 18. ♖e2 Anyway, I don't suggest anyone to try this in a practical game.; 16. ♖g5 ♖d6 17.0-0-0 ♘e5 is similar to the game. Black has a huge attack. One of the threats is ♖g4 followed by ♖c8 and ♘bc4.]

16... ♘e5! Black prepares for the ♘c4 jumps. White is in deep trouble, and even the computer admits it this time.



17. ♖g5 [17.0-0-0 is not better. 17... ♖g4 Black's pieces are coming with tempo. 18. ♖e1 (18. ♖e2 loses to 18... ♘ec4 19. ♖c2 ♖xh3! and f4 falls.) 18... ♘ec4 19. ♖xc4 ♘xc4 20. ♖d3 ♖c8 21. e5 ♖b6 with a crushing attack.]

17... ♖d6 It's very nice to see how Anand only plays on the dark squares. All these ideas are the fruits of the 14... e4 move!

18. ♘b5 [18.b3 to prevent ♘c4 doesn't really reach its aim. 18... ♘ec4! wins because the c3 knight lost its stability. 19. bxc4 ♖g3+! wins.; 18.0-0-0 ♖g4 is as bad as the 17.0-0-0 line.]

18... ♖c5 19. ♘a3 [19. ♖c1 Black has two ways to win: 19... ♖xf1+ is the easiest and ♖xb5 next. (19... ♘ec4 is even stronger. 20. ♖xc4 ♘xc4 21. ♖e2 ♖b4+ 22. ♘c3 ♘xb2 White collapses.)]



19... ♖xh3! Black wins by force after this move. Anand has precisely calculated everything. White doesn't have a good way to re-capture, as the f3 square must be protected and ♖xh3 leaves the f1 bishop alone.

20. ♖e3 White sends the queen away from the diagonal in order to be able to take back with ♖xh3 and prevent

the ♔g1 ideas, but this loses as well. [20.♖xh3 ♘bc4 (20...♔g1 21.♔e2 ♘g4 is also winning. Black has numerous threats, for example ♖f2, ♘h2 or ♙xb2.) 21.♘xc4 ♘xc4 White can't hold the attack 22.♔c2 (22.♙xc4 ♔g1+ 23.♙e2 ♖f2+ 24.♙e3 ♖f1+ 25.♙d3 ♔d4+ All the pieces start to fall.) 22...♖xf1+ 23.♙xf1 ♘e3+; 20.gxh3 ♘f3+; The most elegant refutation of 20.♖c1 is 20...♖xf1+! 21.♖xf1 (21.♙xf1 ♖f8+ 22.♙e1 ♘d3+! 23.♔xd3 ♔f2+ 24.♙d1 ♙g4+) 21...♔xc1+! 22.♔xc1 ♘d3+ 23.♙d2 ♘xc1 and Black ends up with an extra piece in any case.]

20...♔c8! The first visual mistake, as Anand puts one of his pieces on a light square. The only reason is that Black could win on the spot with a tactical motif.

21.♖c1 [21.♖xh3 ♔xh3! is the point! 22.gxh3 ♘f3+ 23.♙e2 ♘xd2 and the problem is that b2 also falls in the next move, which leads to the loss of another piece.]

21...♔g4 22.♖xh3 ♔xh3! 23.gxh3 ♘f3+ 24.♙e2 ♘xd2 25.♙xd2 ♙xb2 Unfortunately for White, the intermediate move 21.♖c1 didn't change anything, since he loses material in this case again.

26.♘b5 ♙xc1 27.♙xc1 Obviously, everything is winning now, but Anand decided to finish this great tactical game in the same fashion...

27...♘xd5! 28.exd5 ♖ae8+ 29.♙e3 ♖xf1 0-1

(4) Adams,Mi (2710) – Kramnik,V (2795) [C67]

4th London Chess Classic London ENG (9.1), 10.12.2012

[Chess Evolution]

We are in the last round of the London Chess Classic. Usually, we try to comment exciting games with a lot of interesting ideas, but here comes something else. We'll see a game where both players are trying to make a draw. Let's try to think with them and understand their thoughts!

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 Kramnik is playing his usual Berlin.

4.0-0 [4.d3 This is the other move that Adams like to play when he is looking for a fight!]

4...♘xe4 5.♖e1 The safest line for White, which lately got quite a lot of attention because White can't find any advantage in the main lines.

5...♘d6 6.♘xe5 ♙e7 7.♙f1 This is the most critical line, where White is looking to get some advantage time after time.

7...♘xe5 [The other main line is: 7...0-0 8.♘f3 ♘f5 9.d4 d5 and Black is solid as well, but White managed to get a clear plus, for example, in the game Kasimdzhanov-Malakhov from ECC 2012.]

8.♖xe5 0-0 9.♘c3 White is using the fact that Black is not developed and getting his knight to d5, and he'll have at least the option of playing with the bishop pair and a minimal plus. I guess that at this moment Adams was very happy with how things went in the opening, 0 risk to lose and maybe a chance of getting a small pressure. On the other hand, Kramnik, who usually is extremely well

prepared, would not go for a position without very good analyses. So, I guess that both players felt very good!

9...♘f6 10.♖e1 ♜e8 Black is playing very solidly. The idea is to play at 11.♜xe8 ♞xe8! followed by d6 with an about equal position.

11.♞d5 A logical move that allows Black to immediately develop his bishop in a different way.

11...♜xe1 12.♞xe1



12...b6! Strong move. Black's knight can't be removed so easily from d6, so Black needs to find other ways to develop his bishop, and what can be better than to play b6-♞b7?

13.g3 Can White be better here? No way! Black is suddenly much better developed and White needs to try not to be worse. A shock for Adams!

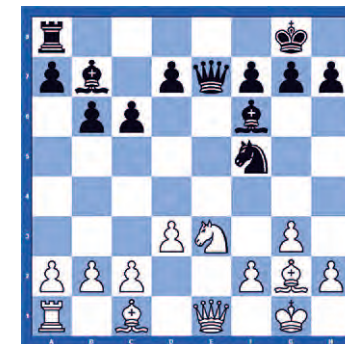
13...♞b7 14.♞g2 If I was Black, I would think about trying to get a small advantage, but how to do it?!

14...c6 Interesting move! [Another choice could have been: 14...♞xd5 15.♞xd5 c6 16.♞f3 ♜e8 trying to win the e-file, but White is in time to hold everything together:

17.♞xe8+ ♜xe8 18.♞f1! and, of course, only White can be better here.]

15.♞e3?! Adams is trying to play as solidly as possible, and is putting himself in a worse position. [Of course 15.♞xf6+ ♜xf6 looks dangerous at first sight, but now White has 16.d4! A very strong move, which Adams would find in a normal situation, but while playing for a draw and trying to avoid any complication, it's not a move that You would see easily... 16...♜e8 (16...♞xd4? 17.♞f4 and White has more than enough for a pawn! The bishop pair plus the horrible bishop on b7 give great compensation!) 17.♞d1 and I guess that only White can be better here.]

15...♞e7 16.d3 ♞f5?! Why does Black want to exchange pieces? It's clear that only Black can fight for a win here. [The most logical 16...♜e8 17.c3 White needs to play c3 anyway, otherwise it won't be possible to develop the bishop from c1. 17...♞a6 18.♞d1 ♜e6 with a small and pleasant plus for Black!]



17.c3! ♞d2 is next, followed by exchanges on the e-file.

17...d5 18.♞d2 The exchanges on the e-file are unstoppable and the draw comes closer.

18...♖xe3 19.♔xe3 ♔xe3 20.♙xe3 Tposition is a complete draw, but the tournament rules said that it was not possible to agree to a draw unless there's a 3-times repetition or a theoretical draw. So, what to do for both players? They need to find a safe and not too dubious way to finally shake hands.

20...♙a6 Fixing a symmetrical structure.

21.d4 ♖e8 22.a4 h6 23.h4 In case of 23.a5, Black can always play b5.

23...♙c8 24.b4 ♙f5 25.a5 b5 Completely closing the position! Now it's impossible to make a mistake anymore... The draw is 100% safe here.

26.♖e1 The exchange on the e-file is going to happen very soon.

26...g5 27.hxg5 hxg5 28.f3 ♙d8 29.♔f2 ♙c7 30.♙d2 ♖xe1 With rooks gone from the board, there is not even a theoretical chance of winning for any side.

31.♙xe1 f6 32.♙d2 ♔g7 33.♙f1 a6 34.♙e2 ♔f7 35.♙e3 ♔g7 36.♙d2 ♔f7 37.♙e3 ♔g7 38.♙d2 ♔f7
And a nice 3-times repetition. What a professional draw played by both players. We can see that they were very happy with the outcome of this game!

1/2

Puzzle section

(5) Anand,V (2775) – Adams,M (2710)

London, 07.12.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(6) Ferguson,M (2402) – Williams,S (2515)

London Open, 05.12.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

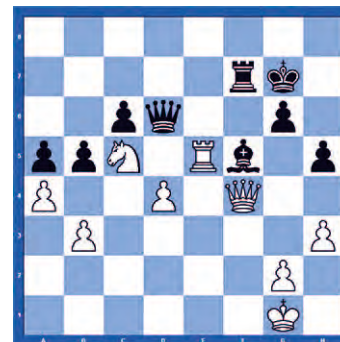


(7) Van Kampen,R (2570) – Gullaksen,E (2384)

London Open, 06.12.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

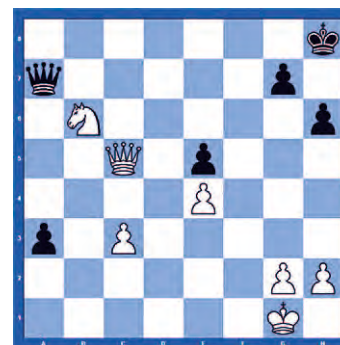


(8) Kasimdzhanov,R (2696) – Gelfand,B (2751)

Tashkent GP, 04.12.2012

[CEWN]

1.=



(9) Debashis,D (2464) – Tiviakov,S (2663)

Kolkata Open, 05.12.2012

[CEWN]

1. ±

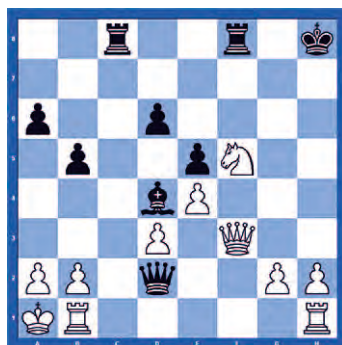


(10) Inarkiev,E (2693) – Maletin,P (2567)

Russia Cup, 04.12.2012

[CEWN]

1...=

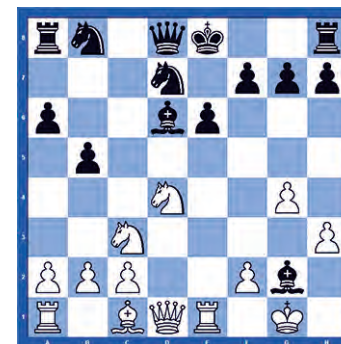


(11) Fedorchuk,S (2661) – Almagro Mazariegos,S (2306)

Navalmoral Open, 06.12.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

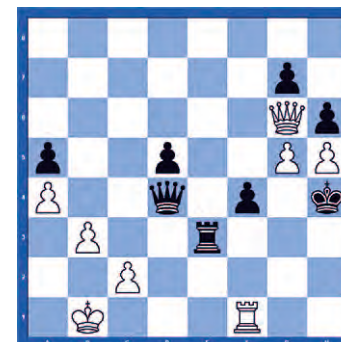


(12) Handke,F (2556) – Medvegy,Z (2561)

German league, 08.12.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(13) Braun,A (2556) – Hirneise,T (2448)

German league, 08.12.2012

[CEWN]

1...=



(14) Murdzia,P (2471) – Mons,L (2339)

German league, 09.12.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

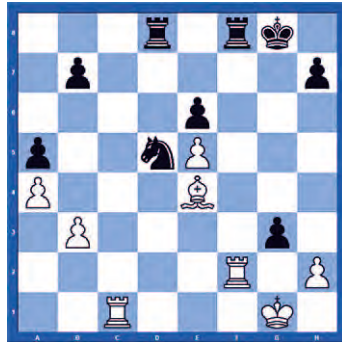


Endgame section

(15) Naiditsch,A (2704) – Bischoff,K (2519) [C05]

Bundesliga 2012–13 Baden Baden GER (6), 09.12.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

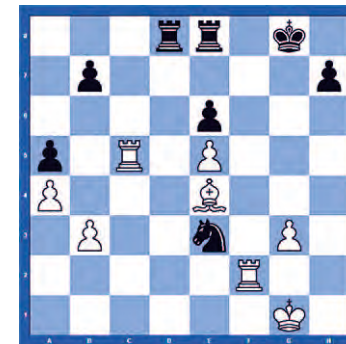


After a fighting game, I managed to achieve a slightly better endgame which is actually not that pleasant to play for Black, even though it seems to be close to a draw.

38.hxg3 ♖fe8? In a slight time trouble, my opponent clearly chooses a defense that's not the best. [38...♖xf2 To exchange one pair of rooks can't be wrong for Black. 39.♔xf2 White wants to play ♖h1. 39...h6!? One of the Black moves Black that avoids tactical blunders, 40.♖c5 b6 41.♖c6 ♔f7 and now we can see why 39...h6 was a useful move. The pawn on h7 would be simply captured now. 42.♔f3 White still keeps some advantage, but there's very small material left on the board and the strong knight on d5 gives Black excellent drawing chances.]

39.♖c5! I can't lose any time now. White's idea is to provoke Black to play b6 and get a great square on c6 for his rook.

39...♞e3?! Too aggressive move by Black. It was clearly a better choice to stick to a passive defense. [39...b6 40.♖c6 ♖e7 and Black's position is still very solid. In the best case scenario, White will get a rook endgame with a pawn up which would still give Black good drawing chances.]



40.♖e2! This move already gives Black big trouble. [Of course not 40.♖xa5?? ♖d1+ 41.♔h2 ♞g4+ and Black is winning an exchange.]

40...b6 [Maybe there were better fighting chances for Black after 40...♖d1+ 41.♔h2 ♞d5 The Black knight belongs to d5 and nowhere else. 42.♖xa5 ♞c3 43.♖e3 ♞xe4 44.♖xe4 White is a clear pawn up, but in a rook endgame, Black might still have some chances to escape.]

41.♖c7 Suddenly, the game is almost over! Black can't keep his position stable anymore.

41...♖d1+ [In case of 41...♞f5 42.g4 trying to cut the Black knight 42...♖e7 (42...♞g7 43.♖f2 Black is completely

paralyzed.) 43. ♖ec2 ♖xc7 44. ♖xc7 Black is on the edge of losing.]

42. ♔h2 ♘f5 43. ♖b7! Cool and good. White is winning an extra pawn, and with it, the game.

43... ♖e7 44. ♖xb6 Finally Black got rid of the rook from the 7th rank, but lost the b6 pawn. This can't be a good deal...

44... ♘d4 45. ♖f2 ♖e1 46. ♖f4 White wants to give a check on b8 and play ♖g4, mating the Black king.

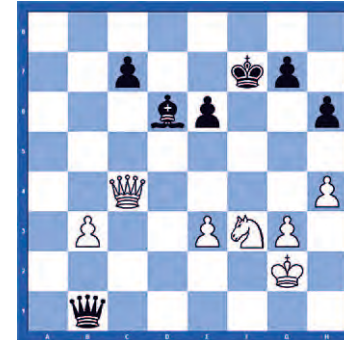
46... h5 47. ♙d3 The Black knight has no moves from d4! The only way to continue for Black was to play 47... ♖f7, but of course, White's position is completely winning after 48. ♔g2. I was happy to win this game that quickly, because in the beginning of the endgame, I wasn't very sure that I would bring a full point home.

1-0

(16) Adams,M (2710) – Carlsen,M (2848)

London, 06.12.2012

[Chess Evolution]

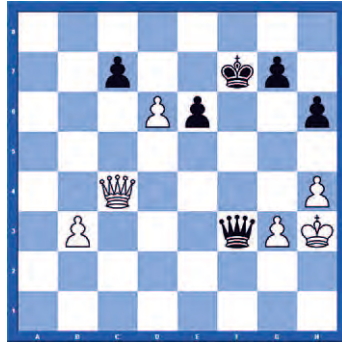


Obviously, the position is pretty much drawish after almost any „legal“ move. However, we are in the last move of the time trouble, when Adams makes a terrible blunder with only 3 seconds on the clock.

40.e4? [For instance 40. ♘d2 was good enough to secure the draw. 40... ♖e1 41. ♖f1+ (41. ♘f1= is also fine. Black can't make progress.) 41... ♖xf1+ 42. ♘xf1 ♔f6 Black seemingly has some chances here because of the more active king and weak White pawns on g3 and h4. The king is aiming to collect the b3 pawn, but White is in time to consolidate his position. 43. ♘d2 ♔e5 44. ♔f3= 44... ♔d5 45. ♘e4 An excellent place for the knight, from where it protects the g3 pawn and prevents ♔c5. 45... ♔c6 46. ♔e2 ♔b5 47. ♔d3 ♔b4 48. ♔c2 ♔e5 49. h5= followed by g4 with an easy draw.; 40. ♘d4 ♖e4+ 41. ♔f2 ♖e5 42. ♘e2= is also dead drawn.]

40...♔b2+ 41.♔h3 ♕f2! Black obtains a queen endgame with an extra pawn after this double attack on g3 and f3.

42.e5 ♕xf3 43.exd6 How to take the d6 pawn? The following plan is really important and also very much principled!



43...♕h1+! 44.♔g4 ♕d1+ 45.♔h3 ♕xd6! Black avoids creating a b-passed pawn for White, as the general rule in all the queen endgame says that an advanced passed can be much more relevant than the amount of the pawns. If we were in the middlegame, than cxd6 would have been the principled capture to create a healthy pawn chain, however, in this case, the duty of the c-pawn is to stop the b-pawn. [45...cxd6 46.b4]

46.h5? This is the decisive mistake. White should have foreseen that Black's idea is to play c5 followed by ♕d5 with a huge improvement on the current position. [Therefore, the right move was 46.b4! with the idea of playing b5, fixing the pawn on c7. A potential exchange of the b- for the c-pawn could also improve White's chances for survival. 46...c6 (46...♕f6 47.b5 e5 48.♔h2 Black will have a much harder time making progress in comparison to the

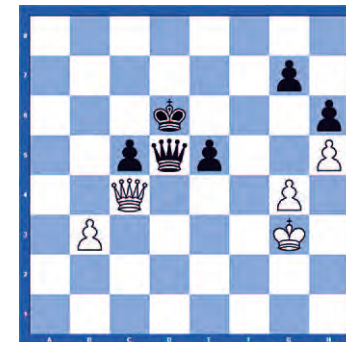
game, because the c7 pawn restricts the flexibility of the queen.) 47.b5 cxb5 48.♕xb5 Most probably, Black sooner or later would have transferred to this endgame, where I believe the drawing chances are higher than Black's winning ones. When Black starts to advance his e-pawn, the king will always receive thousands of checks...]

46...c5! Of course, Carlsen immediately makes use of the previous mistake.

47.g4 ♕d4 Now the queen is forced to leave its active place, while the Black one on d4 covers the whole board.

48.♕f1+ ♔e7 49.♕f3 ♕d5 50.♕c3 e5! Black takes everything under control. The winning plan is quite easy: he simply drives his king to b5, plays ♕d4 and soon collects the b3 pawn as well. White doesn't have any counterplay.

51.♔g3 ♕d6 52.♕c4 [52.♔h3 ♕c6 53.♔g3 ♕b5 54.♔h3 ♕d4]



52...♕xc4! Yes, the pawn endgame is winning, but requires exact calculation.

53.bxc4 e4! [Of course not 53...♕c6 54.♔f3 ♕b6 55.♔e4 ♕a5 56.♔xe5 ♕b4 57.♔d5 and White wins.]

54.♔f4 e3! Black gives up his material advantage in order to achieve opposition with the king.

55.♔f3! This was the tricky point of Adams with 52.♚c4, however, it doesn't help. White only wants to take the pawn, so when Black plays ♔e5, then he is the one who gets the opposition and makes an easy draw. [55.♔xe3 is hopeless. 55...♔e5 and the Black king will penetrate on either side of the board. 56.♔d3 (56.♔f3 ♔d4) 56...♔f4]

55...♔e6! The e3 and e5 squares are „poisoned“ for the kings. [55...♔e5 56.♔xe3=]

56.♔e2! ♔f6! The king is going to collect the g4 and h5 pawns, but White also takes the one on c5. The question is who will be the faster one.

57.♔f3 [57.♔xe3 still loses to 57...♔e5]

57...♔g5! 58.♔xe3 ♔xg4 59.♔e4 ♔xh5 60.♔d5 g5! Black must push his g-pawn as it promotes with check after ♔xc5.

61.♔xc5 g4 62.♔d4 White wins an important tempo by being in the square of the g-pawn and is ready to promote his own pawn. However, Black wins with a known motif...

62...g3 63.♔e3 ♔g4! [White resigned in view of 63...♔g4 64.c5 ♔h3! 65.c6 g2 and would also arrive with check to c8, but Black is faster. 66.♔f2 ♔h2 Black had to foresee this position before trading the queens on c4. A perfect 15 moves of calculation.]

0-1

Clash of the Titans

(17) Botvinnik, Mikhail — Ragozin, Viacheslav [E40]

Chigorin Memorial Moscow, 1947

[Csaba Balogh]

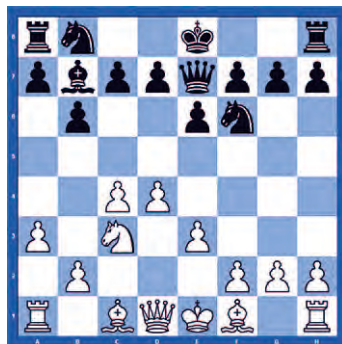
Botvinnik obtained an advantaged right from the opening and converted it convincingly.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.e3 ♔e7? It's not easy at all to find the point of this move. Black has plenty of interesting setups against the 4.e3 Nimzowitch, but this is definitely not one of them. Black should fight for the center with c5 or d5.

5.♘ge2! This is one of the main ideas of the 4.e3 system. White wants to get the bishop pair by playing a3 and he does not wish to weaken his pawn structure. Here is another drawback of the 4...♔e7 move: Black cannot retreat his bishop to e7 after a3.

5...b6 6.a3 ♙xc3+ 7.♘xc3 Black has no compensation for the two bishops.

7...♙b7



8.d5!? A known move in many openings. White tries to occupy the center and obtain a huge space advantage. If he succeeds to consolidate it by castling kingside and playing e4, he achieved everything he can out of the opening. The critical test of this move is always the undermining d5 move... [8.♙d3 was more calm, followed by 0–0. To take on g2 is not a good deal for Black as he loses g7 and it will be more sensible than the one on g2.]

8...d6 Black simply finishes the development, but this allows the consolidation. [8...exd5 9.cxd5 c6! should have been definitely played, when White must be careful to get some advantage 10.b4! A very difficult move to find a positional pawn sacrifice... Let's first check the alternatives. (10.d6 looks tempting to lock the queenside pieces, but its drawback is that this pawn becomes too weak. 10...♔e6 and White has no good way to prevent the 0–0 and ♘e8 threats... 11.♙e2 0–0 12.0–0 ♘e8!; 10.♙c4 is possible, but it runs into 10...0–0 11.0–0 ♔c5! and Black wins the pawn.; 10.dxc6 is the move that White should avoid. 10...dxc6 The center has disappeared. Black plays 0–0, followed by c5, when the bishop is alive, while the one on c1 is suddenly poorly placed.) 10...cxd5 (We must always consider 10...a5 in case of b4, undermining the pawn, but now the Black queenside becomes vulnerable. 11.bxa5! ♔xa5 12.♔b3!) 11.♙b2 followed by ♙e2, 0–0 and ♙f3. Black can't hold his extra pawn for long.]

9.♙e2 ♘bd7 10.0–0 0–0 [10...exd5 was the last moment for Black if he wants to prevent e4, but it has serious drawbacks as well. 11.cxd5 The b7 bishop is dead and the only way to activate it is 11...c6 12.dxc6 ♙xc6 13.b3 White gets a nice advantage with the bishop pair and the isolated d-pawn.]

11.e4! exd5 12.exd5 White has managed to consolidate. The power of the space advantage starts to tell soon. The only way to reduce it would be c6, but it increases the power of the bishop pair as the position opens up.

12...♖fe8 [12...♘e4 is a logical move. Black would like to get rid of some pieces, which would improve the movements of his pieces. The principle says that the one who has a space disadvantage should always aim to ease his position by trading pieces, while the attacking side should keep the pieces on the board. Knowing this, the right answer is logical: 13.♘b5! a6 14.♘d4 White will push back the e4 knight with f3 and continue enjoying all the advantages he had before.]

13.♗e3! The bishop is heading to d4, where it will rule the position. Black really misses the dark squared bishop on g7 to neutralize it.

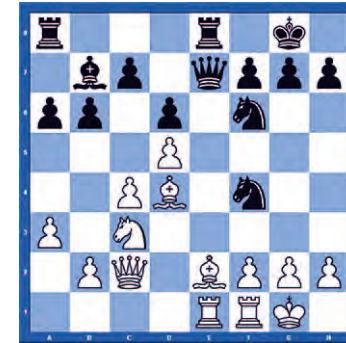


13...a6 To prevent the ♘b5 ideas.

14.♖c2 It's time to bring the rook into the game.

14...♘e5 Ragozin tries to play actively, but without the support of the center, his pieces will be pushed back

soon with f4... [14...♘f8 15.♖ae1 ♘g6 is not better either. 16.♗d4 ♘f4



17.♖c1!! A fantastic move. After trading on e2, the queen will jump out to f4 or g5, but the question is, why not ♖d2? (The problem was that the careless 17.♖d2 is met with 17...N6xd5! 18.cxd5 ♖g5! and suddenly Black is winning, because of the double threat on g2 and ♘h3. It's so easy to spoil a good game.) 17...♘xe2+ 18.♖xe2 ♖d8 19.♖xe8+ ♘xe8 20.♖e1 with a clear advantage, mainly because of the difference between the two bishops.]

15.♖ae1! This is more logical than the other rook on e1. The f1 rook might have an important role after the squeeze on the kingside begins.

15...♗c8 Black tries to improve his bishop. Actually, this is quite understandable. [The other option to improve the bishop 15...c6 doesn't work well. 16.♗xb6 cxd5 17.f4! White is better prepared for the opening of the position. 17...♘ed7 18.♗f2 with a clear advantage. 18...dxc4 drops a piece 19.♗f3]

16.♗d4 Finally, the bishop has reached its final destination.

16...♔d7 17.f4! ♘g6



18.g4!? Botvinnik gains space on the kingside as well, but on the other hand, Black gets some counterplay against the weakened pawn structure. [The calm 18.♔d2 was probably better, leaving Black without counterplay. After protecting the e1 rook, the e2 bishop is ready to leave the pin. 18...♔d8 19.♕d3 ± with a huge advantage and long-term pressure.]

18...♔d8? Black was aiming for activity as compensation, but sometimes it's more advisable to stay passively... [18...♔h8! was possible, freeing the g8 square for the knight. 19.♔d2 ♘g8 and the queen goes to h4. Playing g5 would give up the light squares... White is better, but it's not as easy as it could be with 18.♔d2, for example.]

19.g5 ♘g4 20.♔d2! Covering the e3 square and the g4 knight has no way back. The simple threat is h3! Black is in trouble...

20...h6



21.f5! This is the precise way to take the piece. [After 21.h3 Black gets some compensation by playing 21...hxg5 22.♕xg4 ♖xe1 23.♖xe1 gxf4 Objectively, it's not enough, but the text is just much better.]

21...♘6e5 22.h3 A piece for nothing. The game is practically over.

22...♘f6 23.gxf6 ♔xf6 24.♔f4 ♖e7 25.♔h1 Threatening with ♘e4. [25.♘e4 immediately allows 25...♘f3+ and of course White is winning, but it's better to avoid this.]

25...c5 26.♕g1 [26.♘e4 ♔xf5 is also winning for White, but again, it's better to avoid.]

26...g6 27.fxg6 ♔xf4 28.♖xf4 fxg6 29.♖f6 ♕f5 30.♖xd6 ♘xc4 31.♖e6 Elegant move, but it was not necessary. [31.♖c6 is a full piece up.]

31...♖xe6 [31...♕xe6 32.♕xc4 +- was the point of ♖e6.]

32.dxe6 ♕xe6 33.♕f3 [Black resigned, but probably in the last 10 moves he improved his position a lot. Still, of course, it's completely lost... 33.♕f3 ♖f8 (33...♖e8? is easier 34.♖xe6! ♖xe6 35.♕d5 +-) 34.♕b7 +-]

1-0

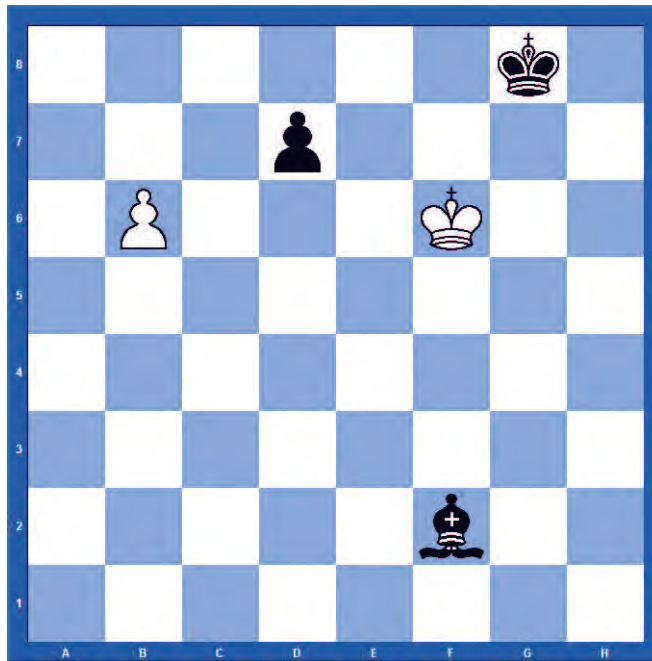
Surprise section / study

(18) Mitrofanov,L

1973

[CEWN]

1.=

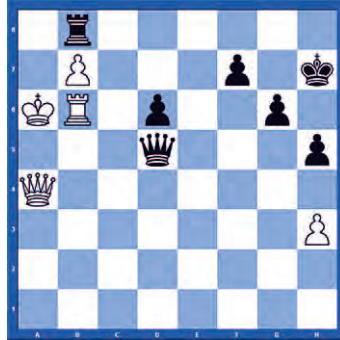


Solutions

(19) Polgar,J (2705) – Jones,G (2644)

London, 02.12.2012

[Solutions]



70... ♖a8+!! 71.bxa8 ♕xa8+ 72.♔b5 ♕d5+ 73.♔a6
[73.♔b4? ♕c5+-+]

73... ♕a8+ 1/2-1/2

(20) Ponomariov,R (2741) – Morozevich,A (2748)

Tashkent, 27.11.2012

[Solutions]



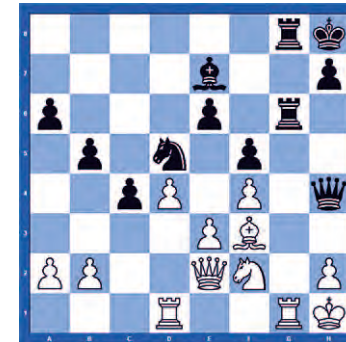
28. ♕xf5! ♖xf5 [28... ♕xf5 29.♘d5 ♕f7 30.♘xf6 ♕xf6
31.♕xf6 gxf6 32.♖d5+-]

29.♘xf5 ♕xf5 30.♕h5 ♖f8 31.♖d5+- ♔h7 32.♖dx5+-

(21) Georgiev,K (2660) – Svetushkin,D (2589)

Vrsac, 27.11.2012

[Solutions]



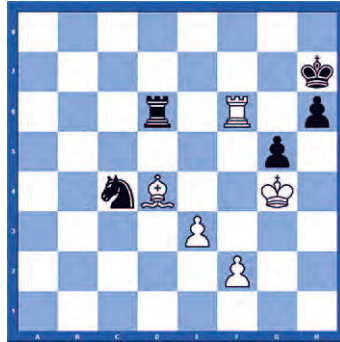
31... ♘xe3!! 32.♕xe3 ♕d6! 33.♖xg6 ♖xg6 34.♕h5
[34.♕g2 ♕xf4 35.♕h3 ♕xf2+-]

34... ♕xh5+-

(22) Georgiev,K (2660) – Cvitan,O (2535)

Vrsac, 29.11.2012

[Solutions]



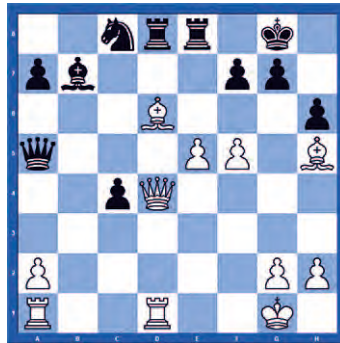
49. ♖f7+! ♔g8 [49...♙g6 50. ♖g7#]

50. ♖g7+! 1-0 [50. ♖g7+ ♔f8 51. ♖c7! ♘d2 52. ♙c5+-]

(23) Vidit,S (2527) – Gusain,H (2339)

Kolkata Open, 03.12.2012

[Solutions]

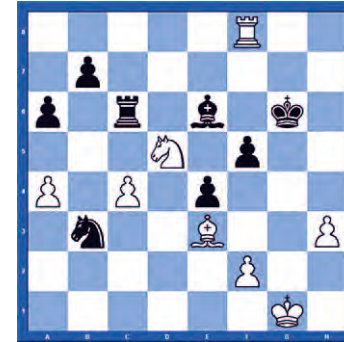


28. ♙xf7+! ♔xf7 29. ♙xc4+ 1-0

(24) Kislinsky,A (2556) – Cvetkovic,S (2389)

Belgrade Open, 27.11.2012

[Solutions]



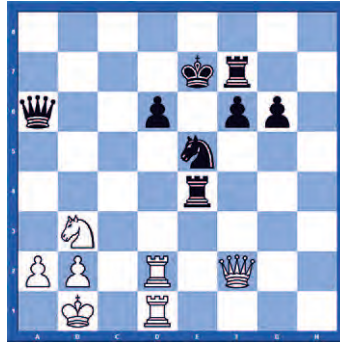
35. ♘e7+! ♔g7 36. ♙h6+! ♔xh6 37. ♘xc6 ♔g7 [37... bxc6 38. ♖f6++-]

38. ♖b8+-

(25) Stojanovic,D (2488) — Damljanovic,B (2576)

Belgrade Open, 02.12.2012

[Solutions]



37. ♖c5! [37. ♖xd6 ♕xd6 38. ♖xd6 ♔xd6 39. ♕c5+ ♔e6 40. ♘d4+ ♖xd4 41. ♕xd4 f5 ∞]

37...dxc5 38. ♕xc5+ ♔e6 39. ♖d6+ ♕xd6 40. ♖xd6+ ♔f5 41. ♕c2+- [41. a4! ?+- ♖xa4 42. ♕c2+ ♖e4 43. ♖d4]

(26) Kunte,A (2511) — Padmini,R (2313)

Kolkata Open, 03.12.2012

[Solutions]



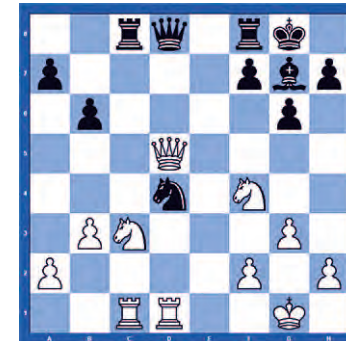
23. ♖c8+! ♖xc8 [23... ♔g7 24. ♕xb5 ♖xb5 25. ♖xa8+-]

24. ♖xc8+ 1-0 [24. ♖xc8+ ♖xc8 25. ♕xb5 ♖c1+ 26. ♘f1!+-]

(27) Drenchev,P (2490) — Nabaty,T (2569)

Belgrade Open, 29.11.2012

[Solutions]



21... ♖xc3! 22. ♕xd8 [22. ♖xc3 ♕xd5 23. ♘xd5 ♘e2+-+]

22... ♖xd8 23. ♖xc3 ♘e2+! 24. ♔f1 ♘xg3+! 25. hxg3 ♖xd1+-

(28) Vegh,E (2561) – Medvegy,Z (2291)

Hungarian league, 02.12.2012

[Solutions]

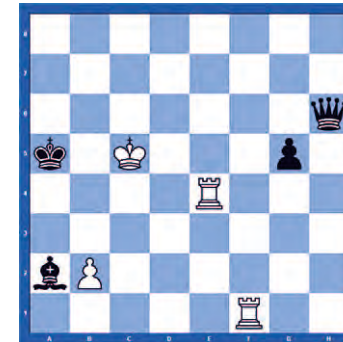


18. ♖xb5+ axb5 19. ♖xf6! 1-0[19. ♖xf6 ♜xc2 20. ♜d8#]

(29) Platov

1914

[Solutions]



1. ♜a4+!! ♔xa4 2. ♜f3!! ♖b3! 3. ♜f6!! ♜xf6= 1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 43

21st of December 2012

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Editorial Preface

The main attention during the last week was clearly focused on the Mind Games, for women and men. We saw the best players of the World playing rapid, blitz and blindfold chess.

In the rapid women's section, the winners were:

Lahno/Hou Yifan/ Koneru.

In the rapid men's section, the winners were:

Fressinet/Nakamura/Grischuk

I guess the biggest surprise until now is the very strong play shown by Laurent Fressinet.

In the blitz women's section:

Kosteniuk/Muzychuk/Paehtz.

In the blitz men's section:

Karjakin/Nakamura/Mamedyarov

These results were more or less expected.

In the blindfold women's section:

Hou Yifan/Cmility/Zatonskih.

In the blindfold men's section:

Aronian/Nakamura/Mamedyarov

No big surprises here either.

As we can see, Nakamura managed to take the 2nd place in all three tournaments, which is clearly a great result, but somehow it feels slightly wrong to get so close to the gold medal and not reach it.

In the current issue, we focus our attention on commenting games from the Mind Games in China!

As usual, we wish You a lot of fun with a new edition of CEWN, the 43rd!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Morozevich, Alexander (2748)**
 — **Jobava, Baadur (2711) [E70]**

SportAccord Rapid Men 2012 Beijing CHN (6.4), 15.12.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We'll see quite a crazy game now. Both players are well known for their creative play and for not being afraid of taking risks.

1.d4 By the way, Jobava started all his games with 1.b3. And this not only in rapid chess, but also in his previous tournament in classical, where he showed quite good results. The moment we see Magnus Carlsen playing 1.b3, it's time to switch!

1...♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♕g7 4.e4 0-0 We are in the KID. Jobava likes to put his bishop on g7 very much. His main opening is the Benoni.

5.♖e3 5.e5 doesn't bring White anything because Black would play ♘e8, followed by d6 and c5, with an attack against White's center.

5...c6 A very rarely played move and, of course, a huge provocation for White to play e5.

6.f3 Morozevich keeps cool and prepares the standard idea with ♔d2, 0-0-0 and h4. Of course, 6.e5!? ♘e8 7. f4 is definitely an option for White.



6...a6?! And this is clearly already too much... Black should have played 6...d6 and go back to the normal lines.

7.♔d2 White continues playing for the main idea.

7...b5 8.e5 Finally the e5 move, but was it needed!? I don't think so, White could have continued with moves like 8.h4.

8...♘e8 9.♖h6 By exchanging the bishop on g7, Black's future d6 is not going to be so strong and will weaken the Black king at the same time.

9...d6!? Black is starting to play against the center and even if Black's position looks bad, things are very far from being clear.

10.♖xg7 ♘xg7 11.0-0-0?! This move is slightly difficult to understand. Did Morozevich want to exchange queens? What happens after...

11...♘d7?! [11...dxe5! It's hard to find another move for White. 12.dxe5 ♔xd2+ 13.♔xd2 ♘d7 and if someone is better here, then it is Black!]

12.g4!? White is taking control of the f5-square, in order to have the ♔h6-♘e5-♘g5 idea in the pocket.

12...♔b7 [Here, it was also a better option for Black to take first on e5. 12...dxe5]

13.h4



13...dxe5 14.h5 And White is starting his mating attack!

14...exd4 Black doesn't have any more easy decisions. [14...gxh5 could have been the alternative, but here we can clearly see that things around the Black king are getting darker. 15.♘e4 with a strong attack.]

15.hxg6 dxc3 If You start taking, You should not hold back.

16.♔h6 [Of course, in case of 16.gxh7+? ♔h8 17.♔xd7 winning the piece back 17...cxb2+ 18.♔xb2 ♘e6 only Black can be better.]

16...fxg6 17.♔xh7+ ♔f7 18.♔h6 White is attacking with all his pieces! He intends to play 18. ♘h3 as well.

18...cxb2+ 19.♔xb2 ♔g8 [Another defensive option was 19...♔h8 20.♔xg6+ ♔g8 At least, Black is exchanging on of White's rooks. 21.♔xh8+ ♔xh8 22.♘h3! White's idea to play ♘g5 gives him more than enough compensation. I would not like to be Black here...]

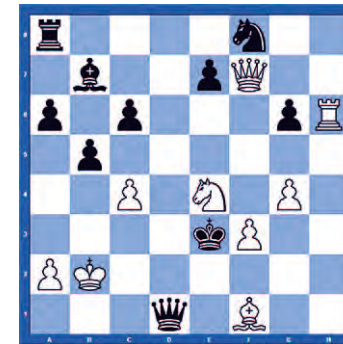
20.♘h3! White doesn't hurry to take on g6 and brings one more piece into the attack!

20...♘f8 Entering a forced line. Probably, this is Black's best chance even if it looks like his king should get mated somehow.

21.♘g5+ ♔f6 22.♔xg8 ♔xd1 How to mate the Black king now?!

23.♘e4+! Very strong move. White is defending from a perpetual check with ♔d2 next, and at the same time, simply winning the knight on g7. Silent but very strong.

23...♔e5 24.♔xg7+ ♔f4 25.♔f7+ ♔e3 Once again, White doesn't have a forced win and Morozevich finds the best way to play.



26.♔xe7! Defending from 26...♔xf1 27.♘g3, winning a queen. At the same time, White wants to play 27.♘c3 and this already could be a mate, or at least a way to get some extra material.

26...♔d8 27.♔b4 ♔d4+ 28.♔c2 Mates are threatened from all sides...

28...♔xf3 29.♙d3 A perfect move if You don't want to calculate unnecessary lines. [Immediately winning was 29.♖a3+ ♔xe4 30.♖g3! and the Black king will get mated after White's ♙g2.]

29...♘e6 30.♖e1 With at least 10 mating threats! What a nice game by White! We should learn from this game that provocations usually lead to nothing good...

1-0

(2) Giri,Anish (2720)

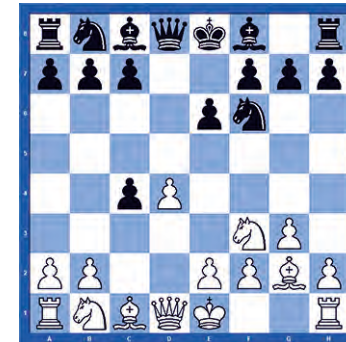
– Morozevich,Alexander (2748) [E04]

SportAccord Rapid Men 2012 Beijing CHN (2), 14.12.2012

[Csaba Balogh]

Morozevich has chosen a risky opening to confuse his opponent in this rapid game, but Giri punished him in great style.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.g3 dxc4 5.♙g2



5...b5 A rare sideline against the Catalan. Black would like to preserve his extra pawn, but of course, this gives huge compensation for White in the center.

6.a4! The most logical reaction in such situations. The goal is to lure the c-pawn out of the center in order to use the ♘e5, e4 and d5 ideas more effectively.

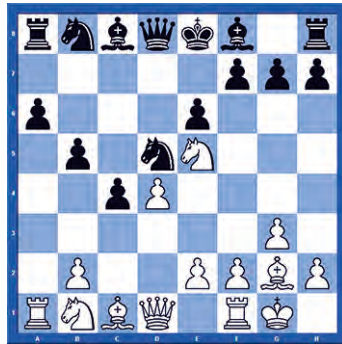
6...c6 7.♘e5! ♘d5 Black had to move into the e4 tempo if he wanted to save his pawn. On the other hand, the e4 move closes the diagonal of the bishop.

8.0-0 a6 [8...♙b7 is more logical, with the idea of protecting the c6 pawn and to play ♘d7. However, White

can and should transpose to the game with 9.axb5 cxb5 10.b3! cxb3 11.♔xb3 a6 and we are back in the game.]

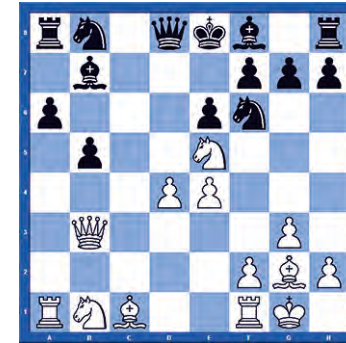
9.axb5! [In this kind of positions 9.e4 ♘f6 10.d5!? is another typical motif, trying to make use of the undeveloped Black pieces, but after 10...♔c7! Black seems to be able to consolidate his position. (10...cxd5 11.exd5 exd5 would be met with 12.axb5 and ♘xc4 threatens to get an advantage.) 11.♕f4 (11.♘xc6 is not advisable. 11...♘xc6 12.dxc6 b4! Since the c4 pawn is not hanging anymore, Black could lock the queenside. The c6 pawn is lost and Black has a good position. 13.e5 ♘d5 14.♕xd5 exd5 15.♔xd5 ♕e6! followed by ♖c8.) 11...♕d6 with an unclear position.]

9...cxb5



10.b3! Very well played! White undermines the queenside and forces Black to develop his queen with a loss of tempo. All the tempi wasted by Black in the opening allow White to generate more than enough compensation with some energetic play.

10...cxb3 11.♔xb3 ♕b7 12.e4! ♘f6



13.d5! White has no time to waste. If Black consolidates with ♕e7, 0-0 and ♘bd7, he ends up with a clear extra pawn. The position had to be opened against the e8 king.

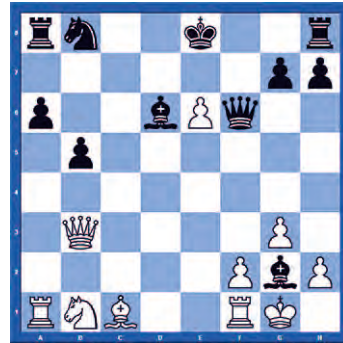
13...♕d6 [13...exd5 14.exd5 ♕xd5 taking another pawn. This a way too brave decision. (14...♕d6 allows the unpleasant 15.♘c6 and ♖e1 next.) 15.♔e3! Black has problems in all the lines. 15...♕e7 (15...♔e7 16.♕xd5 ♘xd5 17.♔e4±; 15...♕xg2 16.♘c6+ +-) 16.♖d1±]

14.♘xf7!! The sacrifice is based on an exact calculation and strong intuitions.

14...♔xf7 15.dxe6+ ♔e8 16.e5! This was the point! Of course, after the decision of sacrificing on f7, there is no way back. White must play the most aggressive moves and hope that the attack breaks through.

16...♕xg2 [16...♕xe5 is refuted by 17.♕xb7 ♖a7 18.♕xa6!! and the b5 pawn falls. 18...♕xa1 19.♕xb5+ ♔e7 20.♕a3+±]

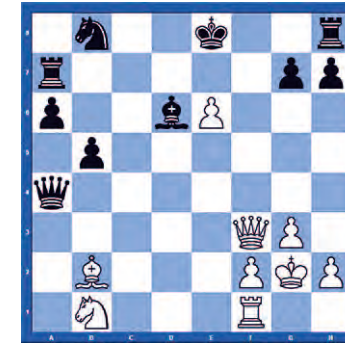
17.exf6! ♔xf6 [17...♕xf1? loses to 18.fxg7 ♖g8 19.e7! and the g8 falls, as on 19...♔xe7 20.♕g5+ +- wins the queen.]



18. ♖xg2! Of course, the a1 rook had to be sacrificed. This gives further tempi for White to lead his attack, but on the other hand, he has to play precisely as he's already a full rook down.

18... ♕xa1 19. ♘b2! ♖a4 20. ♕f3 [The double attack with 20. ♕d5!? also looked tempting, but Black is able to give back the material advantage and trade off the queens by 20... ♕c4! 21. ♕xa8 ♕c6+ 22. ♕xc6+ ♘xc6 Black has decent chances of surviving.]

20... ♖a7? [20... ♕c2 with the idea of trading queens on c6. This was the only move according to the computer. The difference with the 20. ♕d5 line is that White can keep the queens. 21. ♕f7+ ♖d8 22. ♘xg7 ♕c6+ 23. ♖g1 ♕e8 24. ♖d1! with a huge attack. In a practical game, Black is basically in a hopeless position, but of course, the machines continue resisting.]



21. ♖c1! Another cool move, despite being a rook down. White activates his rook and Black is hopeless against the threats.

21... ♖d8 [21... ♖c7 doesn't save the day... 22. ♖xc7 ♘xc7 23. ♘xg7 and the rook is lost, given that after 23... ♖g8, 24. ♕f7 wins.]

22. ♘f6+! Finishing the game in style!

22... ♘e7 [22... gxf6 leads to a forced mate. 23. ♕xf6+ ♖e7 24. ♕xh8+ ♖e8 25. ♕f6+ ♖e7 26. ♕f8+ ♖e8 27. ♕xd6+ +-]

23. ♕d5+ ♘d7 [23... ♖d7 24. exd7 +- and ♖c8.]

24. ♘d4 The most unpleasant move, creating the threat of ♘b6, and on ♖e8, ♖c8. [24. exd7 +- was also good enough.]

24... ♖c7 25. ♕a8+ Black resigned! A brilliant crush by Giri!

1-0

(3) Jobava,Baadur (2711) – Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar (2764) [A01]

SportAccord Rapid Men 2012 Beijing CHN (2), 14.12.2012
[Csaba Balogh]

The highly talented Georgian Super GM, Baadur Jobava, has been using a new weapon recently.

1.b3 He wants to avoid the long theoretical lines and wants to play pure chess, where, as we'll see, he is very strong.

1...♞f6 2.♙b2 g6 3.♙xf6!? White creates doubled pawns, but on the other hand, gives up the bishop pair.

3...exf6



4.c4! It's time to fight for the important central squares, before Black occupies them with d5 and takes over the initiative.

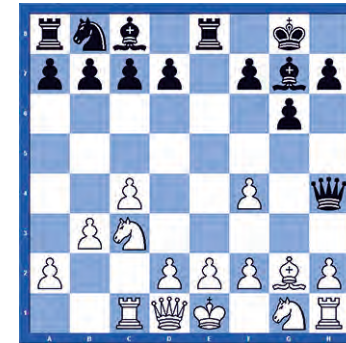
4...♙g7 [It would have made sense to open the position with 4...d5!? in order to make the two bishops more effective. 5.cxd5 ♜xd5 6.♞c3 ♜d8 followed by f5 and ♙g7.]

5.♞c3 f5 6.♜c1 White wants to keep his structure and prevent ♙xc3.

6...0-0 7.g3 ♜e8 [The most logical development of Black's pieces would have been 7...d6 8.♙g2 c6 9.e3 The g1 knight should go to f4. 9...♞d7 10.♞ge2 White probably has some edge. A possible plan could be b4-b5 to strengthen the power of the g2 bishop.]

8.♙g2 f4?! Mamedyarov wants to open the position. Black wins back the pawn based on tactical ideas, but it has a huge drawback...

9.gxf4 ♚h4



10.♙f1!! A great move, which forces Black to give up his strong g7 bishop, as otherwise, White protects his pawn with e3. The immediate e3 doesn't do the job because of the pin along the e-file. [10.f5 ♜g5 Black wins back the pawn and keeps his healthy pawn structure.; 10.♞d5 ♞a6 11.♞f3 ♜g4 and c6 next. Black wins back the pawn.]

10...♙xc3 [10...♜xf4 loses a huge amount of material. 11.♞d5! ♜d6 12.c5! c7 and one of the rooks fall because after 12...♜c6 13.♞e7+ +- wins.]

11.♜xc3 ♜xf4



12.h4! Without the dark-squared bishop, the Black king becomes vulnerable. The c1 rook has a perfect place as it could be immediately switched to the attack along the 3rd rank.

12...d6 [12...h5 is met with 13.♘h3! ♔xh4 14.♖g3 and ♘g5 next, with a huge attack.]

13.h5 Without touching the h1 rook, it's already perfectly placed and cooperates in the attack.

13...♘c6 14.♘h3 [14.hxg6 hxg6 15.♖g3 also made sense, followed by bringing the knight to the attack.]

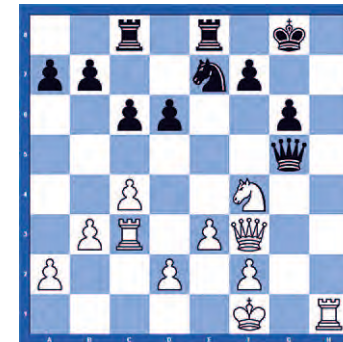
14...♔d4 15.e3 I am not sure if this was the strongest continuation as it closes the c3 rook, but in the game, it worked out well. Jobava estimated that to bring the knight to f4 is more important and the rook could be activated again later. [15.hxg6 hxg6 16.♘g5 looked pretty dangerous as well. Black's kingside is too shaky. ♕d5 and ♖f3 could be unpleasant, but the simple ♖g3 is also quite nice.]

15...♔f6 16.♘f4 ♘e7 17.♔f3 White threatens to win a pawn with ♘xg6, as after ♔xf3, Black has an important intermediate check with ♘xe7.

17...♔g5? [17...g5 Black should have lived with the chance of trading the queens, as the attack was growing with a lot of speed. 18.♘d5 ♔xf3 19.♕xf3 ♘xd5 20.cxd5 Obviously, White is doing better here as well, but it's still preferable than getting mated. The c7 pawn becomes really weak. 20...♖e7 21.♔g2 ♕f5 22.♖hc1 ♖c8 23.d3! to prevent g4 and ♕e4 check, followed by b4-b5. a7 could be a potential target as well. However, Black can hope for survival after playing h6 and driving his king to d8.]

18.♕h3 The c8 bishop had to be exchanged in order to occupy the h-file.

18...c6 19.hxg6 hxg6 20.♕xc8 ♖axc8 It's time to launch the decisive attack.



21.♘h5! Provoking another huge weakness with the threat of ♘f6.

21...f5 [21...gxh5 drops the queen. 22.♖g1 +-]

22.♖d3! Another great move. The rook joins the battle again!

22...♔f7 Black is ready to take on h5 now... [22...♖cd8 is refuted by 23.♖g1 ♔h4 24.♖d4! This is the main point of 22.♖d3. The queen must allow the ♘f6 winning move.]

23.♖f4 with the double threat of ♖h7 and ♖xd6. Black is lost.

23...♖cd8 **24.**♖h7+ ♔f6 **25.**♔d1!! A beautiful finish in a great game. Black has no good defense against the threatened ♔a1 mate! [The game could have been slightly prolonged with 25.♔d1 ♘g8 26.♔a1+ ♖e5 White has several wins here 27.♔d4 and ♔xd6 cannot be parried, because even after (27.♘h3 and f4 is the easiest.) 27...♔g4 28.♔xd6+! works. 28...♖xd6 29.♖xd6+ ♔g5 30.♖xg6#]

1-0

(4) Jobava,Baadur (2711) – Giri,Anish (2720) [A01]

SportAccord Rapid Men 2012 Beijing CHN (5.6), 15.12.2012
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

The nice thing about Jobava is that you never know how his games will be. He can lose in 15 moves or beat almost anybody the same way. Lately he found his passion, 1.b3!

1.b3 b6 It's funny to see 1.b3-b6 in a game between 2 players of more than 2700 ELO.

2. ♖b2 ♖b7 3.e3 White is trying to keep the pawn structure as flexible as possible. The usual moves could be d4-c4 and ♘f3, going back to the normal lines

3...e6 Black keeps repeating moves.

4. ♘c3!? Wow, what a move! To me, this move looks really shocking. Why to put the knight on c3 before playing c4? From a positional point of view, it's a big mistake, but Jobava has an extraordinary plan.

4...c5 A normal move, but maybe the immediate 4...♘f6 followed by ♖e7, 0-0 and simply d5 would have been a better choice. To me, Black's position looks totally fine.

5. ♘ge2 Another shocking move! I guess that of late, it was hard for Giri to focus on the game. Is White a 2700 player?

5...♘f6 6.d4 The funny thing is that probably White is still doing more or less OK. Nothing major has happened, just the knights on c3 and e2 are standing badly.

6... ♖e7 7. ♔d2 0-0 8.0-0-0 Until here, Black's play looked very logical.

8...♞c6?! What a bad decision by Giri! [The simple 8...d5 would give Black great play. The center is under control and White's pieces are badly placed. That's all we wish from the opening.]



9.d5! And the punishment comes immediately. Suddenly, all the White pieces are back in the game, even the bishop from b2 is open and the knight from e2 will have the option of going to d5.

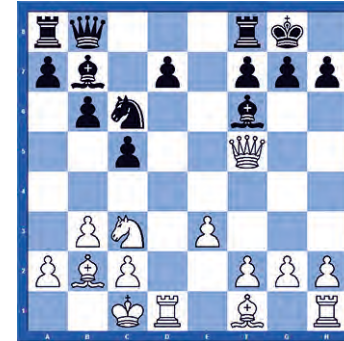
9...exd5 10.♞xd5 The d5 square is in White's control... this is very important.

10...♞xd5 11.♞xd5 ♞f6 Black is trying to exchange the dark-squared bishop, which is certainly a good idea. At the same time, he's defending the pawn on d7 sideways.

12.♞c3!? Once again, we see a very original play by White, and actually this move makes total sense now. White is avoiding the exchange of the dark-squared bishops, and at the same time, bringing the knight closer to d5. The bishop from f1 will be finally developed as well. [Of course not 12.♞xd7? ♞xb2+ 13.♞xb2 ♞f6+! Typical and easy to see. 14.♞c3 ♞ad8 and Black is clearly better.]

12...♞b8 Probably the best way to defend the d7 pawn indirectly.

13.♞f5! Suddenly, White wants to mate Black with ♞d3. [Being greedy would not be the best choice, again. 13.♞xd7 ♞b4! Black wants to take on c3 and a2. 14.♞b1 ♞d8 and we can see that the Black pieces are very active.]



13...♞d8? What a mistake by Giri! [A better move would have been 13...♞e7 14.♞xd7 ♞c6 Black is a pawn down but has some initiative. 15.♞g4 b5 and the position is far from clear. White's extra pawn is probably giving him some advantage, however.]

14.♞d3! Suddenly, Black is just lost! The pawn on h7 can't be protected!

14...♞f8 What to do?

15.♞xh7 d5 Defending from ♞d5.

16.♞b1! If we don't look at the opening, Jobava is playing great chess! This is a very nice prophylactic move that we can often see in sharp Sicilians. The idea is simple, before starting the final action, White is putting his king in a better position.

16...♘e5 17.♙a6!? Very creative play by Jobava until the end of the game. White had a lot of good moves, but this one is really pretty.

17...♙xa6 If Black doesn't take, the position is simply winning.

18.♘xd5 Now ♔h8 is mate!

18...♖xd5 [It doesn't help to play 18...♘g6 19.♘xf6 gxf6 20.♙xf6 and White is simply winning.]

19.♖xd5 ♘g6 The h8 square is covered, but it's not enough to survive here.

20.♙xf6 gxf6



21.h4! Jobava shows great technique once again. White will play h5 next and threaten ♔h8. The h-pawn could become dangerous in the future as well.

21...♔e8 22.h5 ♘e5 23.f4 Pushing the knight away from a great square on e5.

23...♘g4 24.♖hd1 White is bringing the last piece into the attack. By the way, now we can see how useful the move ♔b1 was — there's no ♔xe3 check.

24...♙b5 25.h6 Slowly but surely, Black's end is coming closer.

25...♘f2 26.♖d8! And the last little combo.

26...♘xd1 [In case of 26...♖xd8 27.♖xd8 ♔xd8 28.♔h8+ ♔e7 29.♔xd8+ ♔xd8 30.h7 the h-pawn will give White a new queen!]

27.♖xa8 All in all, Giri made it a bit easy for White, but it was a great crushing game by Jobava anyway!

1-0

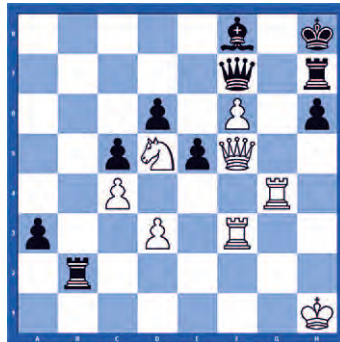
Puzzle section

(5) Kamsky,G (2762) — Karjakin,S (2775)

SportAccord rapid, 15.12.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Koneru,H (2610) — Zhao Xue (2565)

SportAccord rapid, 14.12.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

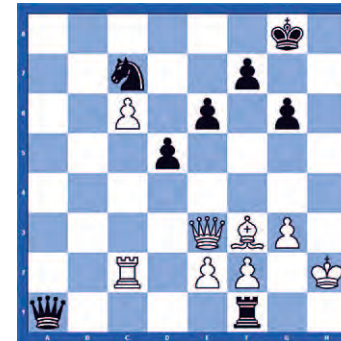


(7) Stefanova,A (2491) — Lahno,K (2553)

SportAccord rapid, 15.12.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

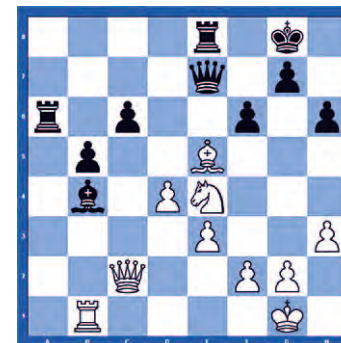


(8) Radjabov,T (2793) — Morozevich,A (2748)

SportAccord blitz, 16.12.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Ivanchuk,V (2766) – Morozevich,A (2748)

SportAccord blitz, 16.12.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(10) Aronian,L (2815) – Mamedyarov,S (2764)

SportAccord blitz, 17.12.2012

[CEWN]

1... -/+

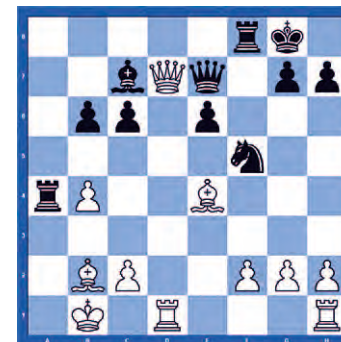


(11) Jobava,B (2711) – Morozevich,A (2748)

SportAccord blitz, 17.12.2012

[CEWN]

1... -/+

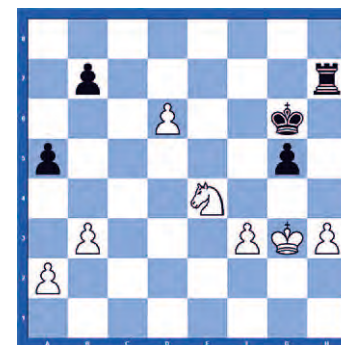


(12) Kamsky,G (2762) – Leko,P (2732)

SportAccord blitz, 17.12.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

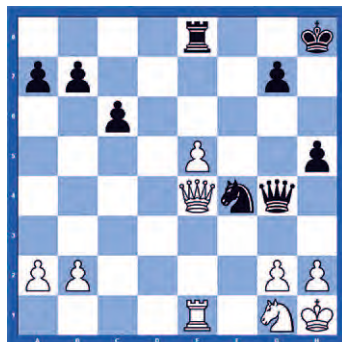


(13) Ding Liren (2702) – Karjakin,S (2775)

SportAccord blitz, 17.12.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+



(14) Hou Yifan (2606) – Cmilyte,V (2524)

SportAccord blitz, 16.12.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

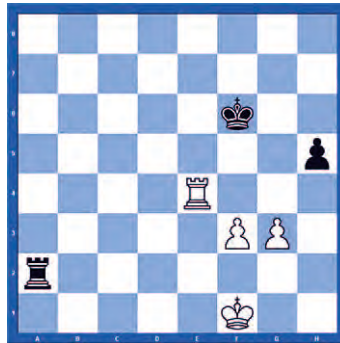


Endgame section

(15) Nakamura,H (2786) – Kamsky,G (2755)

SportAccord Rapid Men, 14.12.2012

[Chess Evolution]



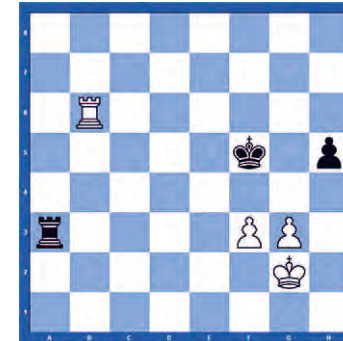
The position is obviously drawn, but the g- and f-pawns could be very tricky against the h-pawn. If Black is not familiar with an important defensive idea, he can easily lose the game. I'm quite sure that Kamsky would have managed to hold this with a slower time control, but in rapid, even he can fail.

55. ♖e2 White rescues his king from the 1st rank, as Black can't trade the rooks.

55... ♜a3 56. ♔g2 ♜a4 57. ♜b2 ♜a3 It's a good strategy to keep the rook on the 3rd rank in order to prevent ♔h3 by attacking the f-pawn constantly. White is forced to push f4 sooner or later, in order to make progress.

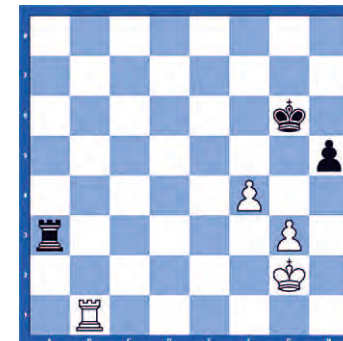
58. ♜b6+ ♔g7 59. ♜e6 ♜a1 60. ♔f2 ♜a3 61. ♜e1 ♔g6 62. ♔g2 ♔g5?! This is an inaccuracy. [62... ♜b3 It was stronger to wait.]

63. ♜b1 [63. ♜e6!? could have won the h-pawn. White threatens with f4 ♔f5 ♜h6 ♔g4 ♜g6 ♔f5 ♜g5 and ♜xh5 next. There is only one way to hold the draw: 63... ♔f5 64. ♜h6 ♔g5 65. ♜b6 ♔f5]



66.f4! and now **66...h4!** Black must sacrifice his pawn in order to create f- and h-pawns for White. (66... ♜a1 loses to **67. ♜h6! ♔g4 68. ♜g6+ ♔f5 69. ♜g5+ +- with connected passed pawns. White is completely winning, of course.) 67. ♜b5+ ♔g6 (But not 67... ♔e4! because of 68. ♜e5+! +- and gxh4 next. The king is cut along the e-file.) 68.gxh4 and the position is a theoretical draw. We have analyzed this a few CEWNs before in the Anand-McShane game.]**

63... ♔g6 64.f4 Here we are! White has pushed f4 and is ready to play ♔h3-h4. How to defend against it? Black must find a difficult plan to hold.



64...♖a2+? White is winning now. [64...♖a7!! ♖a8, with the same idea, was also good. 65.♔h3 ♜g7!! 66.♔h4 ♔h6! This is the known theoretical drawn position. White can't touch the h-pawn because g3 also falls. Black wants to send the king away with ♜g4. White can't make progress here. 67.♜b6+ ♔h7 68.♜b5 ♜g4+! 69.♔h3 ♔h6=]

65.♔h3 The game is over now.

65...♜f2 [65...♜a6 protecting the 6th rank against ♔h4, and ♜b6 check doesn't help. 66.♔h4 ♜c6 67.♜b5 +–; 65...♜a7 It's too late to get the right defensive setup. 66.♔h4 ♜g7 67.♜b5 +–; 65...♜a5 66.♔h4 ♜c5 67.♜b6+ ♔g7 68.♜e6! +– followed by ♜e5, and White wins the pawn and the game.]

66.♜b6+ ♔g7 67.♔h4 ♜h2+ 68.♔g5 White is ready to advance his f-pawn.

68...♜h3 69.♜b3 ♜h1 [Black can't trade pawns by playing 69...h4 because of 70.♜b7+ ♔f8 71.g4! This is much simpler than creating the f- and h-pawns, although with the Black king squeezed on the 8th rank, it's also a theoretical win. 71...♜h1 72.f5 h3 73.♔f6 +–]

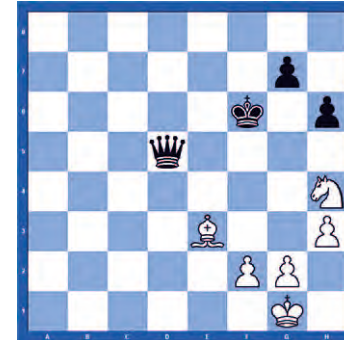
70.f5 Black resigned.

1–0

(16) Giri,Anish (2720) – Leko,Peter (2732) [C88]

SportAccord Blitz Men 2012 Beijing CHN (8.4), 16.12.2012

[Chess Evolution]



In a blitz game from the Mind Games, this funny position appeared. It looks like a draw, but Black still has some winning chances. In case of a queen vs knight+bishop endgame, the only theoretical draw would be to put the king on b1, the bishop on b2 and the knight on d4 — this is a fortress.

57.♘f3 ♔f5 Black is moving his King forward. This is his only chance. Black's idea is to bring his king to e2 and start to play for a zugzwang, or to attack White's g2-pawn.

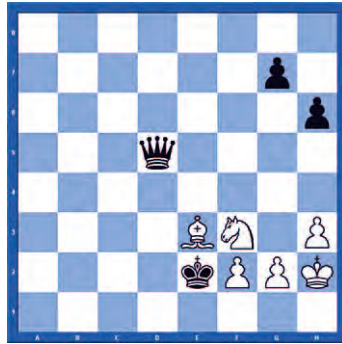
58.♘h4+?! White keeps waiting and giving the Black king the chance to come very close. [58.h4! would have been the right move, fixing Black's pawn structure. 58...♔e4 59.♘d2+ ♔d3 60.♘f3 and only now the waiting moves should give White an easy draw. 60...♜a5 61.♔h2 ♔e2 62.♔g1 ♜a1+ 63.♔h2 ♔f1 64.♘d2+ ♔e2 65.♘f3 and it seems like Black can't improve his position.]

58...♔e4 59.♘f3 ♔d3?! Giving White a chance to play h4. [59...g5! Now Black will get an extra idea: to bring the

king to e2, then to play ♔d7-g4 and march with his h-pawn to h3. The position should still be a draw, but Black has some practical chances.]

60. ♔h2 [60.h4]

60... ♔e2



61. ♔g3? This is probably already a losing move! The White king's place should be on g1!

61... ♔d6+! This move is simply winning a pawn. The White king can't go back and White is forced to move the bishop from e3.

62. ♗f4 [62. ♔h4 ♔g6 wins on the spot as well.]

62... ♔g6+ 63. ♔h2 ♔xf2 White lost not only a full pawn, but also a stable position for his bishop on e3.

64. ♘h4 ♔f6 65. ♗g3+ ♔f1 Black is already fixing his next target, the g2 pawn.

66. ♘f3 ♔b2 67. ♘e1 The only way for White to defend on g2.

67... ♔e2 The position looks like a zugzwang. No White pieces can move, and Black wants to play g5-h5-h4.

68. h4 h5! Good move. Black wants to play ♔g4 and h4. White is hopeless, he can't do anything.

69. ♔h3 g5 The last hit.

70. hxg5 ♔g4+ 71. ♔h2 h4 And White has lost his piece. As we can see, by playing without a plan White went astray. In such endgames, it's very important to have a clear defensive plan...

0-1

Clash of the Titans

(17) Tal, Mihail (2635)
— Paehtz, Thomas Sr (2480) [B39]

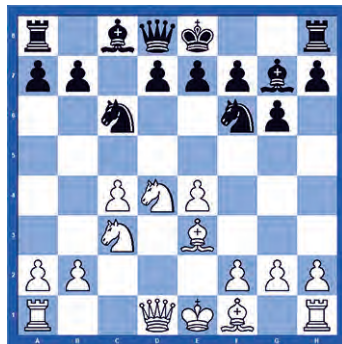
Halle DSV Halle, 1974

[Csaba Balogh]

After analyzing two crushing victories in the games section, I decided to put another crush in the „Titan section” as well. I thought the best solution for such kind of tasks is a game by Mikhail Tal.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 g6 5.c4 The Maroczy Bind. This is generally considered to be a very solid opening for Black, where he must suffer in a slightly worse position with a space disadvantage.

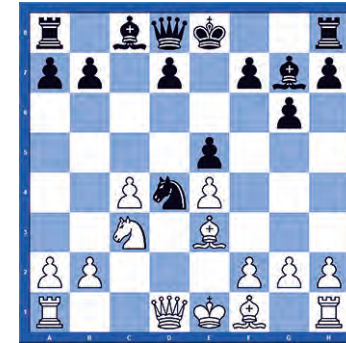
5...♙g7 6.♙e3 ♘f6 7.♘c3



7...♘g4 Theory rightly considers this move to be an inaccuracy. [The main lines start with 7...d6 8.♙e2]

8.♙xg4 ♘xd4 9.♙d1! A good reaction, to send away the annoying knight from d4, and at the same time, White prevented the threatened d5 break and ♘c2 check.

9...e5



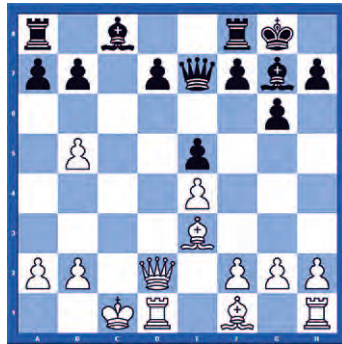
10.♘b5! A great idea, to get rid of the d4 knight. White uses the fact that by creating doubled pawns, his advantage increases. We'll take a closer look in the ♘xb5 line.

10...0-0 Black uses the fact that taking on d4 is not a threat yet. [10...♘xb5 11.cxb5 0-0 12.♙c4 White got this nice square for his bishop by playing cxb5. He is intending to finish the development with 0-0, ♙d2 and ♖fd1, creating huge pressure on the d6 pawn. The e3 bishop is also excellently placed, restricting Black's mobility because of the a7 pawn. If Black wants to solve this problem, he must play b6, but it gives White another strong idea, to play a4-a5 destroying Black's queenside. In addition we must say that the g7 bishop is really poorly placed and there is no chance to improve it.]

11.♙d2! White already wants to collect the pawn with ♘d4. [11.♘xd4 exd4 12.♙xd4 ♙a5+ White loses the right to castle.]

11...♔e7 Black tries to hold his knight by counter-attacking the e4 pawn. [11...♔h4 is the other main move, but it leads to similar bad positions after 12.♙d3 ♘xb5 13.cxb5+ =]

12.♙e2! The strongest reaction! White is not afraid of losing the bishop pair as Black will still be stuck with his bad structure and poor g7 bishop. [12.0-0-0 is the most common move, but it leads to the triumph of Black's opening play. 12...♘xb5 13.cxb5

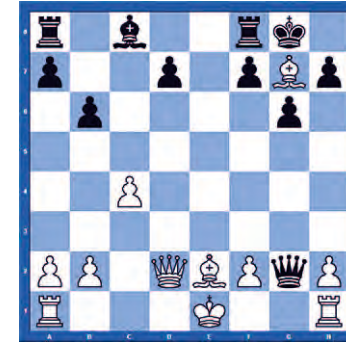


13...d5!! Suddenly, Black is jumping out from his passive position. 14.exd5 (14.♙xd5? ♙e6 15.♙d6 is a nice way to lose the game. 15...♖ac8+ 16.♙b1 ♖fd8! wins.) 14...♖d8! and Black has decent compensation. His main ideas are ♙f5 and ♙e6.(On the immediate 14...♙f5 White has 15.♙d3)]

12...b6? Black still indirectly tries to defend his knight, but Tal already refutes this idea tactically. [12...♘xb5 13.cxb5 is the usual bad structure, but at least the bishop can't get to c4. Still, White is clearly doing better. 13...d6 14.0-0 ♙e6 15.a4!? and a5 next.; 12...♘xe2 13.♙xe2± Black has too many holes in his position. The best could be to re-

move his pawn to e6, but unfortunately for him, this is illegal.]

13.♘xd4! exd4 14.♙xd4 ♔xe4 15.♙xg7 ♔xg2 an important tempo because of the ♙f3 threat. 16...♖b8 and White gets a huge advantage after, for instance 17.♖fe1 ♙b7 18.♙f1 ♔c6 19.♖e7± Black can't hold his d7 pawn for long. 19...d5 is met with capturing everything, and the a7 is hanging at the end. Still, this would have been much better than the game.]



16.♖d4!! This double rook sacrifice probably came as a thunder from the clear blue sky for Black. The first one has to be accepted, otherwise he is just a piece down.

16...♖xh1+ 17.♙d2 ♖xh2 [17...♖xa1 is refuted by 18.♖f6!! +- This was the whole point! Black is helpless against the ♙h6 threat.(18.♙h6 was not that easy, because of 18...f6!); 17...♖c6 to prevent the ♖f6 idea leads to a lost position as well. 18.♙xf8 ♙xf8 19.♖e1! the threat is ♖h8 and ♙f3, against which Black has no good defense. For instance 19...♙g8 loses to 20.♙f3 +- and ♖e8 next.]

18.♙xf8 ♙xf8 19.♙f3! At the moment, Black is too pawns up, but his pieces are totally uncoordinated and

the threats against the king with ♖e1 and ♔h8 are decisive.

19...d5 Trying to take the bishop out, but it doesn't help.

20. ♗xd5 ♖b8 21. ♖e1! ♗e6 22. ♖xe6! [A nice crush! Black resigned in view of 22. ♖xe6 fxe6 23. ♔f6+ ♔g8 (23... ♔e8 24. ♗c6#) 24. ♗xe6#]

1-0

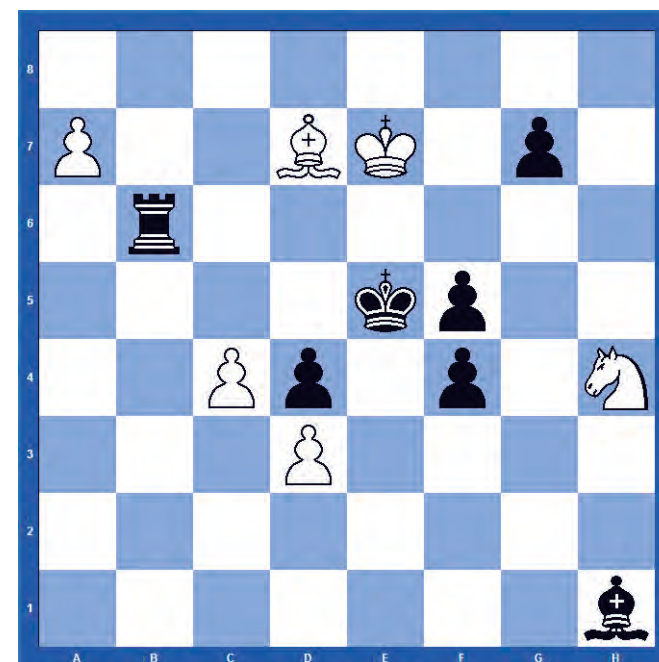
Surprise section / study

(18) Kusunetsov,A

1974

[CEWN]

1. +-

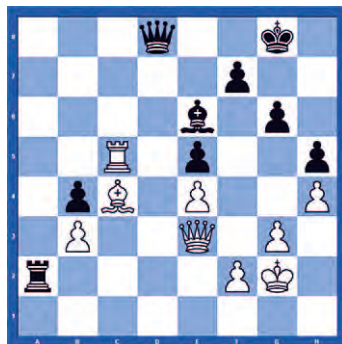


Solutions

(19) Anand,V (2775) – Adams,M (2710)

London, 07.12.2012

[Solutions]



41...♔d1!! 42.♔h6 [42.♘f1 ♘h3+! 43.♙xh3 ♔xf1+ 44.♙h2 ♖xf2+ -+; 42.♘xe6 ♖a1! 43.♘xf7+ ♙g7!-+]

42...♘h3+! 0-1 [42...♘h3+ 43.♙h2 ♖xf2+ 44.♙xh3 ♔h1#]

(20) Ferguson,M (2402) – Williams,S (2515)

London Open, 05.12.2012

[Solutions]

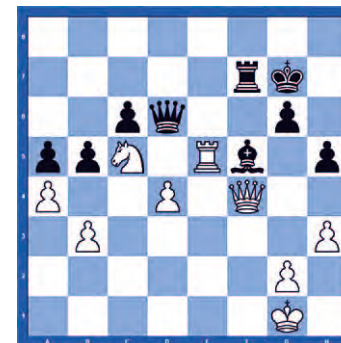


34...♔g1+! 35.♖g2 ♖xh3+!! 0-1 [35...♖xh3+ 36.♙xh3 ♔h1+ 37.♖h2 (37.♙g3 ♔h4#) 37...♔xf3#]

(21) Van Kampen,R (2570) – Gullaksen,E (2384)

London Open, 06.12.2012

[Solutions]



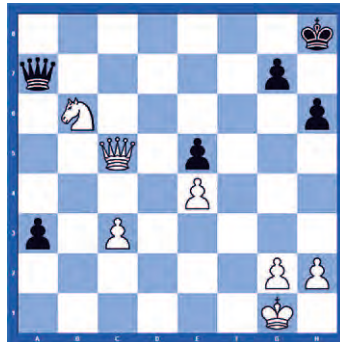
37.♖xf5! ♔xf4 38.♘e6+ [38.♖xf4 ♖xf4 39.♘e6++-]

38...♔h6 39.♖xf4 1-0

(22) Kasimdzhanov,R (2696) – Gelfand,B (2751)

Tashkent GP, 04.12.2012

[Solutions]



35. ♖a4!! [35. ♔c8+ ♕h7 36. ♔f5+ g6--; 35. ♘d7 ♔a8!-+]]

35... ♔xa4 [35... ♔xc5+? 36. ♘xc5 a2 37. ♘b3+-]]

36. ♔f8+ ♕h7 37. ♔f5+ ♕g8 38. ♔e6+ ♕f8 39. ♔f5+ ♕g8 [39... ♕e7 40. ♔xe5+ ♕d7 41. ♔d5+ ♕c7 42. ♔f7+=]]

40. ♔c8+ ♕f7 41. ♔f5+ ♕g8 1/2-1/2

(23) Debashis,D (2464) – Tiviakov,S (2663)

Kolkata Open, 05.12.2012

[Solutions]

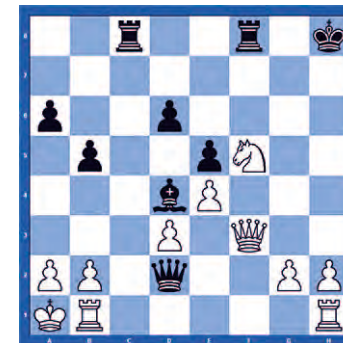


22. ♖c7!! ♔xc7 23. ♔xe6+ ♕h8 24. ♔xd5±

(24) Inarkiev,E (2693) – Maletin,P (2567)

Russia Cup, 04.12.2012

[Solutions]



31... ♕xb2+! 32. ♖xb2 ♔c1+ 33. ♔xc1 ♔xc1+ 34. ♖b1 ♔c3+ 35. ♖b2 ♔c1+ 36. ♖b1 ♔c3+ 37. ♖b2 1/2-1/2

(25) Fedorchuk,S (2661) – Almagro Mazariegos,S (2306)

Navalmoral Open, 06.12.2012

[Solutions]



13. **Nxe6!** fxe6 14. **Qxd6!** Bb7 [14... Nf8 15. **Qxd8+** Qxd8 16. **Qxg2+-**]

15. **Qxe6+** Kf8 16. **Bg5** 1-0

(26) Handke,F (2556) – Medvegy,Z (2561)

German league, 08.12.2012

[Solutions]



34... **Qe4!!** [34... hxg5?? 35. h6! gxh6 36. **Qxh6+** Kg4 37. **Rg1+** Rg3 38. **Qe6+** Qf3 39. **Rf1+** Kg2 40. **Qe2+** Kh3 41. **Rh1#**]

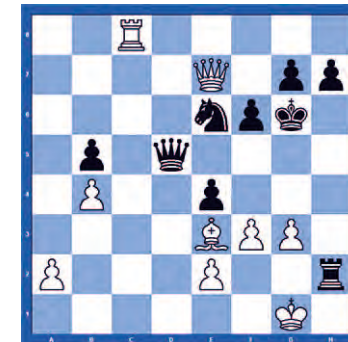
35. **Qxe4** [35. **Qxg7** Rxb3+ 36. **Qa2** (36. **Qc1** Qe3+ 37. **Qd1** Rb1#) 36... **Qxa4#**]

35... **Rxe4** 36. **gxh6** gxh6 37. **Qb2** Kg3 38. **Rg1+** Qf2 39. **Rg6** f3 40. **Rxh6** Qe2 41. **Rf6** f2--+

(27) Braun,A (2556) – Hirneise,T (2448)

German league, 08.12.2012

[Solutions]



35... **Qd1+**! 36. **Qxh2** **Qxe2+** 37. **Qh3** **Qf1+** 38. **Qh2** **Qe2+** 39. **Qh3** **Qf1+** 40. **Qh2** 1/2-1/2

(28) Murdzia,P (2471) – Mons,L (2339)

German league, 09.12.2012

[Solutions]



25... ♖xg2!! [25... ♖xd4 26.exd4 ♘f4 27.♞e3 ♖xg2 28.♞e5!∞]

26. ♖xc3 [26.♞xg2 ♖xd4! 27.exd4 ♘f4+ -+; 26.♘xe6+ fxe6-+]

26... ♖f3? [26... ♖h3-+; 26... ♘xd4 27.exd4 ♖xc3 28.♞xc3 ♖f3-+]

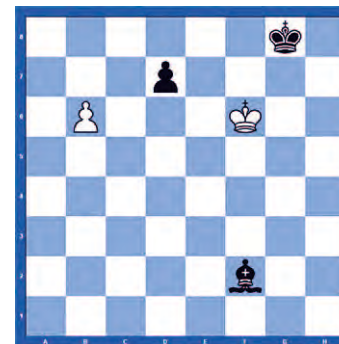
27. ♖xc8 ♖xc8 28. ♘xf3 ♞xf3 29. ♖f1?? [29.♞f1∞]

29... ♘g5 30.h4 ♞g4+ 0-1

(29) Mitrofanov,L

1973

[Solutions]



1. ♞e7! [1.b7? ♖a7-+]

1...d5 2. ♞e6 d4 3.b7! ♖g3 4. ♞f5! d3 5. ♞g4! d2 [5... ♖b8 6.♞f3 ♖a7 7.b8♞+ ♖xb8 8.♞e3=]

6. ♞xg3 d1 ♞ 7.b8♞+ 1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 44

28th of December 2012

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Editorial Preface

First of all, we want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and, of course, a great and successful 2013!

In the current issue of CEWN, we'll give You a short look back at the Year 2012 and its most crucial chess moments!

In the sections "games of the week" this week, we have chosen the 4 best games from our last 44 issues of the Year 2012. Some might remember them, but they are mostly already forgotten, and golden games never die J.

Top 5 events of the Year 2012:

- 1). A deserved first place goes to Magnus Carlsen breaking Garry Kasparov's all-time ELO record, getting to 2861!!
- 2). Vishy Anand winning his WCC match against Boris Gelfand in the rapid tie-break.
- 3). Anna Ushenina became the new Women's World Champion, winning her match in tie-break against Antoaneta Stefanova.
- 4). The Armenian Team winning the Chess Olympiad 2012 in Turkey in the men's section, and Russia winning in the female section.
- 5). The biggest Super tournaments of the Year 2012: Wijk ann Zee, Dortmunder Schachtage, London Chess Classic, Bazna Super Tournament, Tal Memorial.

Stay with us for the upcoming events of 2013: Wijk ann Zee, Gibraltar, Aeroflot Open, the Candidates, and many more!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Mamedyarov,S (2726) – Shanava,K (2589) [D45]

Tbilisi, 09.06.2012

[Csaba Balogh]

The game is taken from the Georgia-Azerbaijan friendly match. However, as we will see, the only friendly thing about it is the name — they played really sharp chess. We are facing a very interesting game, especially knowing the circumstances. Mamedyarov „improved” on his previous game in the 13th move with a dubious novelty, which seemed to be a great bluff, but Black fell right into its beautiful idea. If Black would’ve reacted better, he would have obtained a clear advantage.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♘f3 e6 5.e3 ♘bd7 The starting position of the Meran. White goes for one of its sharpest lines...

6.♚c2 ♙d6



7.g4!? This is Mamedyarov’s favorite move, which enjoyed huge popularity around 5-6 years ago, even on the

highest level. Recently it went a bit out of fashion, mainly because of the strong computers that are suggesting very good ideas for Black. He can choose between many sharp options, and all of them lead to complex positions.

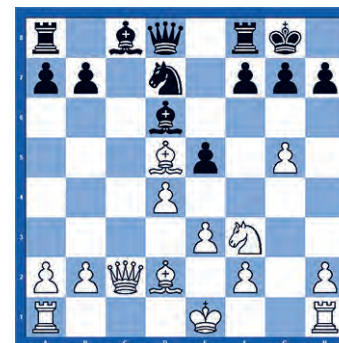
7...dxc4 [7...h6 is another move that is considered to be fine for Black.; White gets very strong compensation if Black accepts the sacrifice 7...♘xg4 8.♚g1 ♘xh2 9.♘xh2 ♙xh2 10.♚xg7 ♘f8 11.♚g2 ♙d6 12.e4 followed by ♙g5 and 0–0–0. White gets a very strong initiative for the pawn. Black’s pieces are undeveloped and the lines are opening towards the king.]

8.g5 [8.♙xc4 is just a transposition to the game after 8...e5 9.g5 ♘d5]

8...♘d5 9.♙xc4 e5 Actually, this is a very logical response. Black opens the center against the attack on the flank.

10.♙d2 [Giving up the light squared bishop for a pawn is not an advisable idea 10.♙xd5 cxd5 11.♘xd5 0–0 12.♙d2 ♚e8! with the threat of e4. The White king gets in trouble.; 10.♘xd5? cxd5 11.♙xd5? does not work because of 11...♚a5+]

10...0–0 11.♘xd5 cxd5 12.♙xd5



12...exd4 Shanava was well-prepared, since Mamedyarov had a game not so long ago in this theoretical position.

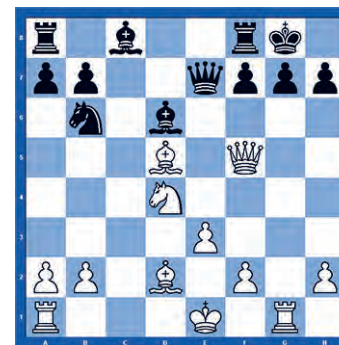
13. ♖xd4 White deviates from his previous game, but this is not a novelty yet. [13. ♕e4 dxe3 14. ♕xe3 ♖a5+ 15. ♔f1 (On 15. ♕d2 ♕b4 Black is fine according to the machine.) 15...f5 could be a very strong improvement for Black (probably this was Shanava's idea). (15...♘e5 happened in the game Mamedyarov-Zherebukh, Khanty-Mansiysk 2011.) 16. ♖b3+ is probably the best, but still after (16. ♕d3 meets with 16...♘e5 17. ♘xe5 ♖xe5 followed by f4 or the simple ♕e6 and ♖ac8. Black has a big advantage.; To open the f-file and the diagonal of the c8 bishop would be a serious mistake 16.gxf6? ♘xf6 with a big attack.) 16...♔h8 17. ♕d5 f4 18. ♕d2 ♖c7 only Black can be better. His pieces are coming out with tempo, first the d7 knight, then the c8 bishop.]

13... ♖xg5 14. ♖f5 This is the novelty of the game. White would like to transpose into a superior endgame, but of course, Black keeps the queens on the board.

14... ♖e7! [14... ♖xf5? 15. ♘xf5 ♕e5 White wins a pawn after 16. ♕b4 ♖d8 17. ♘e7+ ♔h8 18. ♕xf7 ±]

15. ♖g1 Very suspicious move. The White queen is pinned. At first sight White could immediately make use of it.

15... ♘b6 [After 15... ♕e5 I think, Black has a clear advantage... 16. ♖g5 is probably White's best option to go for a worse endgame (16. ♕e4 g6 and the d7 knight jumps in the next move.; 16. ♕c3 ♘f6) 16... ♖xg5 17. ♖xg5 h6 18. ♖g1 ♘f6 =+]



16. ♕c3!! This great queen sacrifice is the start of Mamedyarov's ingenious play, but it was not too late for Black to obtain a good position.

16... ♖e5? Just as in the previous move, Black plays the most logical move. After the shocking 16. ♕c3, Black would like to exchange the queens... [16... ♕xf5? simply loses after 17. ♘xf5 The best that Black can achieve is 17... ♖e5 18. ♕xe5 ♕xe5 19. ♘h6+ ♔h8 20. ♘xf7+ ±; Just as in the previous move, Black should have played 16... ♕e5! 17. ♖xe5!! (The elegant 17. ♘c6? would win, if taking on c3 didn't come with check! 17... ♕xc3+ and Black takes the knight.) 17... ♖xe5 18. ♘e2! and Black has nothing better than giving back the queen and simplifying to a drawish endgame 18... ♖xc3+ 19. ♘xc3 ♘xd5 20. ♘xd5 ♕e6 Black is slightly better, but the game should end in a draw.]

17. ♖d3!! After this fantastic and completely unexpected move, White is winning. Black cannot neutralize the power of the c3 bishop connected with the threats around the g7 square.

17... ♘d5 [17...g6 18. ♕b3! Too many threats are in the air. One of the possible winning sequences could be 18... ♖h5 19. ♘f3! ♖d4 and ♖xd6 are threats 19... ♖xf3

20. ♖xg6+! hxg6 21. ♔xg6#; White wins the queen after 17... ♔xd5 18. ♖xg7+! ♔xg7 19. ♘f5+! ♔g6 (19... ♔g8 20. ♘h6#) 20. ♘e7+ +-]

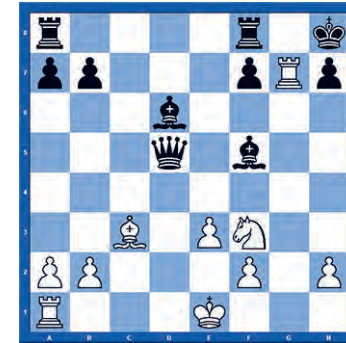
18. ♘f3!! The 3rd incredibly strong move in a row, but not the last one. Only with this double attack against the queen, White can continue pressing the g7 pawn.

18... ♕f5 [18... ♘xc3 19. ♘xe5 +-; On 18... ♘f4 White has many different wins, but the nicest is definitely 19. ♔xd6!! ♔xd6 20. ♖xg7+ ♔h8 21. ♖xf7+ ♔g8 22. ♖g7+ ♔h8 23. ♖g6+ +-]



19. ♔xd5!! This final decisive blow „puts the dot over the i“. White ends up with material advantage after a forced line.

19... ♔xd5 20. ♖xg7+ ♔h8



21. ♖xf7+! First, the f-pawn had to be eliminated to avoid the f6 resource.

21... ♕e5 [21... ♔g8 22. ♖g7+ ♔h8 23. ♖g5+ ♕e5 24. ♘xe5! is the most precise way to win 24... ♖f6 25. ♘d7!! +-]

22. ♕xe5+ ♔g8 23. ♖g7+ ♔h8 24. ♖g5+ Maybe Black could have continued a bit more with two pawns down, but he was so impressed with White's play that he resigned immediately.

1-0

(2) Aronian,L (2825) – McShane,L (2703) [D15]

Tal Memorial (3), 10.06.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We will see an amazing game! I can't remember Aronian losing with White and especially being crushed in the opening like this! It is the 3rd round of the Tal Memorial, McShane started with a double 00, and Aronian with the solid 1,5/2. Not many would have put money on a victory by the talented Englishman, but things went far from what was expected!

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 c6 4.♘c3 And we have another game in the Slav.

4...a6 McShane chooses a very solid line with a6.

5.♙g5 [5.e3 is the main move in the position.]



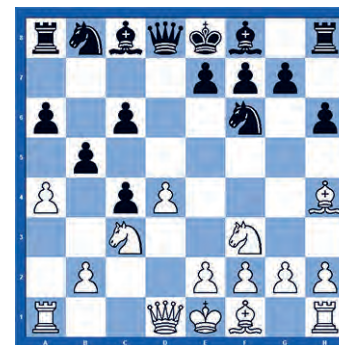
5...dxc4!? McShane is going for the most forced line! Strangely, after 5...dxc4 almost no games were played on the high level, so it's hard to say if Aronian knew this move or not, maybe he knew it and made a mistake in the variation?! [5...♘e4; 5...e6 would be the other 2 possibilities.]

6.a4 [6.e4 b5 and we are in the usual unclear positions that appear in a lot of lines, where Black takes on c4 and protects it with b5. White will develop his play in the center, while Black will try to be solid]

6...h6! A very important move that will be very helpful for Black soon. White needs to decide what to do with the bishop on g5.

7.♙h4 The most natural reply. [7.♙xf6 exf6 These positions can never be better for White even if he manages to recover the pawn on c4. Black's bishop pair will always give enough counterplay!; 7.♙d2 Can this be the right move?! 7.♙d2 looks just ugly. Why did White play 5.♙g5?]

7...b5! I don't know if McShane knew this idea or just found it over the board, in any case, it's a very strong move.



8.axb5 this move is a clear sign of huge self confidence of the White player. It was still not too late to switch to moves like 8.e4 with quite an unclear position.

8...cxb5 9.♘xb5 axb5! Otherwise, White is doing much better.

10. ♖xa8 ♜b7 Can it be that Black is doing already better in just 10 moves?... Amazing!

11. ♖a1?! [11. ♖a7 would bring nothing for White 11... ♔b6 12. ♔a1 e6 and White is not in time for ♔a5.; 11. ♖a2!? Maybe this move would have been a better option for White. The rook on a1 will be under attack (Na5- ♘b3), so why not to put the it on a2?]

11...g5!? And here we see why 6...h6 was such an important move. [Anyway, after 11...e6 12. ♜xf6 ♜b4+ 13. ♘d2 ♔xf6 14.e3 0-0 it seems like Black has more than enough compensation for the exchange. His next move could be e6-e5.]

12. ♜g3 e6 13.e3 White doesn't have any other defense against the ♜b4 threat.



13... ♜b4+ 14. ♔e2 White's position looks very ugly. For just an exchange Black managed to put the White king on e2 in front of the bishop on f1 (I can't remember seeing this kind of lack of construction before on the high level), the Black pawn structure is just great and all the pieces are well placed. All Black needs to do is to open some extra lines and the game will be over.

14... ♘c6 A good choice, McShane brings his knight to b3 where it will be perfectly placed!

15. ♘e1 White is trying to develop his pieces a little bit, at least. White's idea is to play ♘c2 forcing the ♜b4 to go away and then develop by playing ♔e1-Be2. But all this plan looks very slow — in fact, too slow...

15... ♘a5 16. ♜e5?! This move probably already leads to big trouble. Much better was: [16. ♘c2 ♜e7 17.f3! A very logical move. White blocks Black from playing ♘e4 and, at the same time, the White king will finally find a more or less safe square on f2 17...0-0 18. ♔f2 ♘d5 Black wants to play f5-f4. The position is quite complicated but we can feel that it should be very nice to play for Black, even if a lot of engines might probably disagree.]

16...0-0! No time to waste, Black needs to play actively.

17.h4 [17. ♜xf6 would not solve White's problems 17... ♔xf6 18. ♘c2 ♘c6 Black is still very active and White has a horrible development. I would prefer to play with Black here.(18... ♔e7?! 19. ♘xb4 ♔xb4 20. ♔c2!)]

17...g4 It's hard to say if the inclusion of 17.h4-g4 is good for White — probably not. Aronian is a very optimistic player and I am sure that in the current position he was not thinking about „how to escape today?“, instead „how to trick my opponent?“.

18. ♘c2 ♜e7 Of course there is no reason for Black to give away the bishop on b4.

19. ♔e1 ♘b3! McShane is playing a great game. [19...h5 would have been possible as well.]

20. ♖a2 [At 20. ♖a7 ♔b6 White would have no better move than to come back to a2.]



20...h5 Looks like an easy move, and in fact it is! White is slowly getting into deep trouble. Black's pieces keep on rolling forward, and it's hard to say how to stop them!

21. ♘e2 White is trying to develop anything he can, but it is too late!

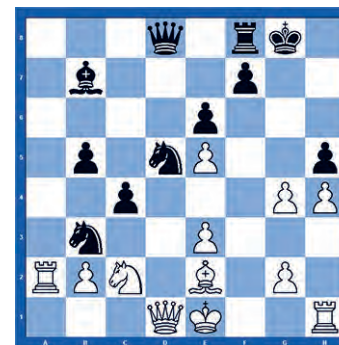
21... ♙d6! Another great move by Black. White only has one active piece, so it is time to exchange it! There is no reason for Black to even look at 21... ♙xg2, which would give White some play on the g-file. Black has to stick to the main idea: to play for domination. McShane is doing it perfectly!

22.f3 White is trying to create something... [22. ♙xd6 ♙xd6 and White simply has no moves!]

22... ♘d5 McShane sees it well, after 22.f3 the weakness is the pawn on e3!

23.fxg4 Maybe this move is already losing, but what else to do? White is trying to search for chances with his active play [23. ♙xd6 ♙xd6 24. ♙f2 f5 and White's position simply looks horrible.]

23... ♙xe5! 24.dxe5



24... ♙b6 White is hopeless against the Black threats. Black wants to play ♘xe3, or ♖d8, winning the Queen on d1. The White rook on a2 is totally out of the game.

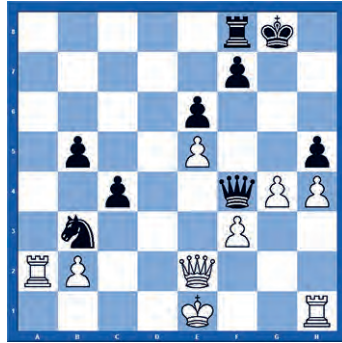
25. ♙f3 [25. ♖h3 ♖d8 White has no defense against ♘f4 26.gxh5 ♘f4]

25... ♘xe3?! This move gives White some hopes... [25... ♖d8! would have been the correct play, and it is a bit strange that McShane got away from his main idea 26. ♙xd5 White has no other move... In case of 26. ♙e2, ♘c1 wins the rook on a2 26... ♖xd5 27. ♙f3 ♖d2 and White's position is lost.]

26. ♘xe3 ♙xe3+ 27. ♙e2 ♙c1+ 28. ♙d1 ♙e3+ 29. ♙e2 ♙c1+ Probably Black was in time trouble and decided to repeat the moves.

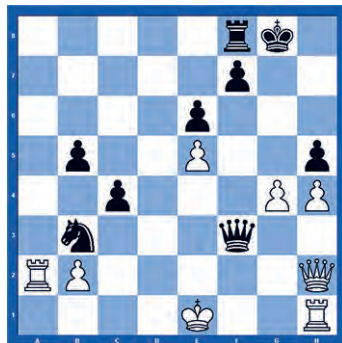
30. ♙d1 ♙xf3! Of course, continuing the game. White's position is still very very bad.

31.gxf3 ♙e3+ 32. ♙e2 ♙c1+ 33. ♙d1 ♙e3+ 34. ♙e2 ♙f4 Black wants to play ♖d8 next. The White king is still in the center, and the rook on a2 is always in danger of getting caught!



35. ♔h2 [35. ♔f2 would have been a better way to fight, but also here Black is close to winning 35... ♖d8 36. ♖d1 ♔h2+ 37. ♔e3 ♔xe5+ 38. ♔f2 ♔h2+ 39. ♔e3 ♔xh4! Black got 2 pawns for the exchange, and probably the knight on b3 is worth more than the rook on a2. The position should be winning for Black.]

35... ♔xf3! As Kasparov once said, greediness is a positive characteristic in a chess player.



36. ♖f1 ♔e4+ 37. ♔f2 ♖d2 38. ♖g1 ♔f3+ White resigns because of 39. ♔e1 ♔e3! What a game by McShane, I think he will not forget it soon. The same goes for the World's Number 2, this was Aronian's toughest lost in maybe a couple of years...

0-1

(3) Bodnaruk, Anastasia (2415) – Javakhishvili, Lela (2455) [B42]

FIDE WCh Women World Cup

Khanty-Mansiysk RUS (1.28), 11.11.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Maybe some CEWN readers will remember the great Bodnaruk-Almasi game... Once again the young U-20 Russian Champion strikes in her very aggressive style, with a lot of nice sacrifices. We'll see a really great game!

1.e4 c5 2. ♘f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4 a6 The Paulsen with 4...a6 has been a popular opening for at least 60 years!

5. ♖d3 [5. ♘c3 is the other main line.]

5... ♖c5 6. ♘b3 ♖e7 7. ♔g4 Probably the most critical line. White is trying to provoke 7...g6 and only then to go back with 8. ♔e2. Black's pawn structure would be much worse...

7... ♖f6 This is quite a rare move and I think not the best one. Black is trying to develop the knight with ♘ge7, and then to play 0-0 followed by d5. But of course, White is taking actions against this plan.

8. ♔g3 We are following the game Karjakin-Flores 2012.

8... ♘c6 9. ♘c3 ♘ge7 10. ♖f4 ♘g6?! N It's hard to say if Black has prepared this move. To me, it looks very risky. [10...e5 11. ♖d2 d6 12. 0-0-0 ♖e6 13. ♔b1 ♖c8 14. h4 with better play for White, Karjakin-Flores, Olympiad 2012.]



11. ♖d6! Of course. White should not allow Black to castle and, at the same time, the d5 move is blocked.

11... ♜h4 Black is trying an active plan. [In case of 11... ♜e5 12. ♜xe5 ♞cxe5 13. 0-0 followed by f4-f5, with a clear advantage for White.]

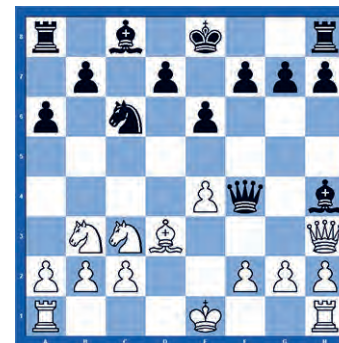
12. ♞e3 A logical reply. White is preparing to castle long and against ♜g5, to have f4 available. [Another logical move would have been 12. ♞h3 ♜e7!? Black is using the slightly unlucky position of the White Queen on h3, in comparison to g3. 13. ♜xe7 ♞xe7 14. 0-0 0-0 15. f4 d6 and White is still a bit better, but nothing too big has happened.]

12... ♞g5? In general it's the right idea for Black to exchange the queens, but here it's just too risky. Black's bishop on h4 is almost trapped and the Black king on e8 could quickly get in trouble. [12... ♜e7 would still give Black a worse position, but a fighting one.]

13. ♞h3! Brave and strong. In a K.O. tournament it's never easy to take the decision of sacrificing when You can choose a safer way. [13. ♞xg5 ♜xg5 14. 0-0 just leads to a better endgame for White.]

13... ♞f4 And we are entering a forced line.

14. ♜xf4 ♞xf4



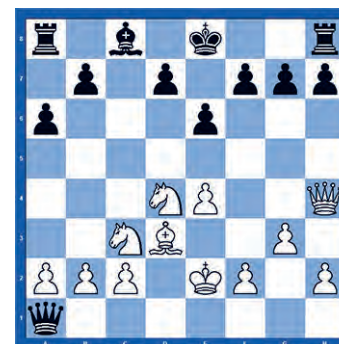
15. g3! This double exchange sacrifice was the point of playing 13. ♞h3!. The action starts!

15... ♞f3 16. ♞xh4 No way back.

16... ♞xh1+ 17. ♜e2! Not giving the f3 square for the Black queen.

17... ♞d4+ [In case of 17... ♞g2 18. e5! is very strong. White wants to play ♞e4-♞d6, or simply ♜e4 to catch the Black queen.]

18. ♞xd4 ♞xa1



19.e5! A multi-functional move. It stops Black from castling short and prepares the move ♖e4. [It's too early for 19.♗f5? exf5 20.♗d5 0-0! an easy move to blunder...]

19...d5 This move loses, but it seems like nothing helps. [19...♙xb2 20.♗e4 White is going against his target — the Black king. 20...♙xd4 21.♗d6+ ♙xd6 22.exd6 From the material point of view, Black is doing fine, but he has one problem, all his pieces are undeveloped and White is starting a fast mating attack. 22...f6 23.♙h5+ ♖f8 24.♗g6! with the double idea of playing ♗e8 and ♙a5. White's position is winning.]

20.exd6 f6 Nothing else left...

21.♗xh7 This move is winning as well, but would lead to a fast win: [21.♙h5+! with the already known idea of taking the queen over the 5th rank to c7 or e7. 21...♖f8 22.♙c5 d7 is a deadly threat now. 22...♗d7 23.♙c7 ♖e8 24.♗xe6 and Black is completely lost.]

21...♖f8 22.♗e4! Bringing the last piece into the attack. White wants to play ♗xf6 next and there is no escape for Black. We can clearly see how important it is to keep the queen in the game; Black's one on a1 is nothing more than a kibitzer...

22...e5? Black is resigning without a fight. [22...♖xh7! was the only way to continue. 23.♙xh7 ♙xb2 Finally, the queen is back in the game. 24.♖d3! Very strong. Black is completely paralyzed and can only hope for a perpetual check, which is almost impossible to give because of the strong knights on d4 and e4. White's position is close to winning.]

23.♗xf6! What a total crush!

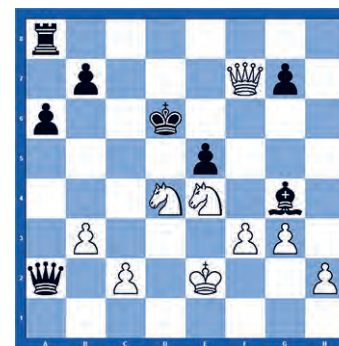
23...♖xh7 24.♗xh7+ ♖g8 25.♗g5 White wants to mate Black from all sides!

25...♙xa2 Avoiding the mate threat ♙h7-♙h8 because of ♗g8.

26.♙h7+ ♖f8 27.b3! Cool and strong, keeping the Black queen out of the game.

27...♗g4+ 28.f3 ♖e8 Any move is winning, but White chooses a very beautiful mate.

29.♙g8+ ♖d7 30.♙f7+ ♖xd6 31.♗e4#



Wow, what a mate! Another great game by Bodnaruk. However, she received bad news already the next day; she lost her second game and later on the very dramatic tie-break.

1-0

(4) Kramnik,Vladimir (2795)
– McShane,Luke J (2713) [D15]

4th London Chess Classic Olympia, London (5), 06.12.2012

[Csaba Balogh]

A really wonderful crush by Kramnik with a lot of sacrifices.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 a6 5.g3 Recently, this 5.g3 line against the Chebanenko Slav was considered to be quite a harmless approach, but this game might change the general opinion.

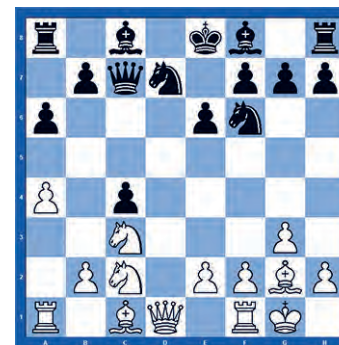
5...dxc4 6.a4 White wants to recover the c4 pawn, therefore he prevents b5. [6.♙g2 b5 7.♘e5 ♙b7 is the start of the other line, where White tries to find compensation for the pawn in the center with e4.]

6...e6 7.♙g2 c5 8.0–0 [8.dxc5 is the most common move, but after 8...♙xd1+ 9.♘xd1 ♙d7! This very deep novelty was introduced by Karjakin back in 2009 and it seems to solve all of Black's problems. 10.♘e5 ♘c6 =]

8...cxd4 9.♘xd4 This could not be a real surprise for McShane that Kramnik chose this line, since he has already played it in two games.

9...♘bd7 10.♘c2! White wants to win back the c4 pawn, so he drives his knight to e3.

10...♙c7



11.♙f4! This is the novelty of our game. Black provokes the e5 move, after which the d5 square becomes a real hole in Black's camp. [Kramnik has deviated from his own game, which continued with 11.♙d4 ♙c5 12.♙h4 ♙e7 13.♘a3 ♘e5 14.♙f4 h6 15.♙xe5 and at this moment, the players agreed to a draw. Kramnik-Gelfand, Linares 1997.]

11...e5 [If Black restrain s himself from giving up the control over the d5 square and plays 11...♙c5 12.a5! was probably Kramnik's preparation with the idea of 12...♙e7 13.♙a4! 0–0 14.♘a3! += With this cool maneuver, White wins back the pawn and obtains a clear advantage as all his pieces are perfectly placed. The main problem of Black is that he can't protect his pawn with b5 because the a8 rook will hang at the end.]

12.♙d2! [12.♙g5 is much worse because of 12...h6 and the bishop won't be able to return to g5 as it happened in the game.]

12...♘c5 Black would like to preserve his c4 pawn advantage and wants to protect it with ♙e6. In addition, he is ready to jump with the knight to b3. [12...♙e7 is met with 13.♘e3! and ♘cd5 next is going to be really unpleasant.; 12...♙c5 was an alternative, as it was pointed out

by Kramnik at the press conference. He was intending to play 13.♘e3 0–0 14.♖c1 White is very close to restoring the material balance. 14...♙xe3 15.♙xe3 ♖b8 Black is finally ready to push b5, but this still doesn't allow him to equalize: 16.♘d5! ♘xd5 17.♙xd5 b5 18.♙c6! This concrete solution demonstrates well the power of the bishop pair. 18...♙xc6 19.♙xc6 ♙a7 is threatened, and on 19...bxa4 20.♖fd1! suddenly the f8 rook is going to be trapped, 20...♘f6 21.♙c5!]

13. ♙g5! By eliminating the f6 knight, the d5 square becomes even more vulnerable.

13... ♙e6 Black tries to control the d5 square, but this allows White to destroy his pawn structure... [13... ♙e7 is not better either. 14. ♙xf6 ♙xf6 15. ♘d5 ♙d8 16. ♘ce3 ♙e6 17. ♘xc4 ± The power of the minor pieces is just huge. White wants to play ♘cb6 and ♖c1, or just b4 with a big advantage.]

14. ♙xf6 gxf6 15. ♘d5 ♙d8 [The absence of the light-squared bishop will tell after 15... ♙xd5 16. ♙xd5 ♘b3 17. ♖ad1 followed by ♘e3, with complete control on the light squares.]

16. ♘ce3 ♘b3



17.a5!! A shocking move, based on excellent calculation and great intuition! White frees the a4 square for the rook, or for the queen, if the rook is taken. [McShane was expecting 17.♖b1 and after 17...♖c8 he would successfully consolidate his position.]

17... ♖c8? [The critical test was definitely 17... ♘xa1 18.♙a4+! (18.♙xa1 is too slow. 18... ♙c5) 18... ♙d7 Only move. 19.♙xc4 ♘c7 is threatened. 19... ♖c8 20.♙h4 ♖c6! 21.♖xa1 Despite the fact that White doesn't even have a pawn for the exchange, it's clear that with such active pieces, it's much easier and better to play the position as White. However, Black also has some chances after 21... f5!]

18. ♖a4! This was the point! Now White is ready to recover the pawn again and if it falls, the Black position collapses.

18... ♘d4 Black indirectly protects the c4 pawn, as the d5 knight is hanging after all. [On 18... ♘xa5 19. ♘xf6+! looks pretty strong. 19... ♙xf6 20. ♖xa5 Black has too many weaknesses. Not only the pawns, but also the light squares.]

19. ♘b6! ♖c7



20. ♖xc4!! Another shocking blow, with fantastic intuitions again! In a few moves, we'll get a clear picture of why the absence of the e6 bishop is worth a rook. [20. ♘bxc4 After 20... ♙c5 Black obtains a playable position. Suddenly, the bishop pair and the strong knight on d4 are enough compensation for the weakened structure.]

20... ♙xc4 [Black is worse even if he does not accept the exchange: 20... ♙c5 21. ♘bd5 ♖c8 22. ♚d3 followed by ♖fc1.]

21. ♘exc4 ± White is ready to kick out the d4 knight with e3. It's very nice to see the way White plays on the light squares on the following lines...

21... ♘b5 [21... ♙c5 is met with 22.e3! ♘e6 23. ♘d5 ♖d7 24. ♚f3 White continues dominating even without the queens on the board. 24... ♖xd5 25. ♚xd5 ♚xd5 26. ♙xd5± The b7 pawn is a clear weakness.; 21... ♙e7 22.e3! ♘e6 23. ♚a4+ ♙f8 24. ♘d5! (24. ♖d1 is less precise. 24... ♚e8) 24... ♖c5 25. ♘cb6 ♙g7 26. ♖d1 Black can't move! ♚g4 is coming with a mating attack. ♘d7 is also in the air.]



22. ♚b1! Very nice! Keeping the eyes on the light squares. ♖d1 joins the game next.

22... ♚d4 Otherwise, after ♖d1, the queen would only have one square on b8, which was definitely not a tempting alternative.

23. ♖d1 ♚c5 24.e3 Taking control of the d4 square. [It was also strong to transfer the knight to d5 first. 24. ♘e3 ♘d4 25. ♘ed5 ♖c6 26.e3! with a winning advantage as well.]

24... ♙e7 25. ♚f5! Stormy clouds are approaching. At this moment, McShane had only 3 minutes left against Kramnik's one hour.

25... ♙f8 26. ♙d5! By protecting the c4 knight, White threatens with ♘d7.

26... ♙g7 27. ♚g4+ ♙h6 Obviously, White has several ways to win, but Kramnik continues to play for the spectators!

28.e4! Of course, to give up the d4 square is a potential mistake, but it has a concrete reason — White wants to mate Black with ♘e3-f5. Black has an only way to defend.

28... ♘d4 29. ♘e3 [29.b4!? was another pretty win. 29... ♚xb4 30. ♖xd4! exd4 31. ♚f4+ ♙g7 32. ♚xc7 +-]

29...f5 Otherwise, ♖xd4 decides the game. Now Kramnik has calculated a very long, forced and spectacular line until the win.

30. ♚h3+! [30. ♘xf5+ ♘xf5 31. ♚xf5 is also winning for White.]

30... ♙g7 31. ♖xd4! Another exchange sacrifice. This is already the 3rd in the game; McShane rejected to accept the first one on a1.

31...exd4 32. ♘xf5+ ♙f8 33. ♚h6+ ♙e8



34. ♖xf7+! This was the point. Black can't hope for salvation. [34. ♔g7 ♖f8 is not clear.]

34...♔d8 [34...♖xf7 35. ♔g7+ ♔e6 Now, the best, but not the only way to win is (35...♔e8 36. ♔xh8+ +-) 36. ♖xd4+ ♔d6 37. ♔h6+! ♔e5 this is not a good sign. 38. ♖f3+ ♔xe4 39. ♔f4+ ♔d3 40. ♖e5+ ♔c2 41. ♔e4+! After this subtle chess, Black can't avoid losing his queen with ♖d3 check. For instance, after 41...♔b3 42. ♔a4+ ♔xb2 43. ♖d3+ +-]

35. ♔g7 ♖f8 36. ♖xd4 Suddenly, ♖e6 threatens mate in one. Quite an unusual picture. [36. ♖d5 was also winning.]

36...♖c6 [36...♖xf7 also loses to 37. ♔xf7 (37. ♖e6+?? only leads to a perpetual check after 37...♔e8 38. ♔g8+ ♖f8 39. ♖g7+ ♔d8 40. ♖e6+ =) 37...♔xd4 38. ♔g8+ +-]

37. ♖xc6+ ♖xc6 Black seems to have some hopes because of the f2 square, but the next move destroys all the dreams...

38. ♔g4! with a double mate threat on d7 and c8. Kramnik admitted that he calculated until this moment when he played 30. ♔h3! Impressive!

38...♔c7 39. ♔d7+ ♔b8 40. ♔d2? The only mistake in the game by White. McShane had only 3 seconds left

to make the last move of the time trouble and Kramnik wanted to shock him with this unexpected retreat, with the idea of ♖d7. We'll get the same position two moves later, when White already plays the strongest move.

40...♔c7 [40...♔g5 could have been a small chance, although the position remains lost 41. ♖d7+ ♔c8 42. ♔d1! (42. ♖xc5 ♔xd2 43. ♔c4 is also technically winning, but of course, to enter such an endgame when Black is so close to getting mated gives a bad feeling...) 42...♖d8 43. ♔g4! These were the best moves, after which White is still winning easily... 43...♖xd7 44. ♔e6 +-]

41. ♔d7+ ♔b8 42. ♔g2! A cool move. Suddenly, Black finds himself in zugzwang as he can't play ♖d8 because of ♔xd8 and ♖d7.

42...♔d6 [42...♖d8 43. ♔xd8+ ♔xd8 44. ♖d7+; 42...♖xf7 43. ♔c8+ ♔a7 44. ♔c7#]

43. ♖b4! Now the game is over. Black has to give up his c6 pawn because d6 has to be protected.

43...♔d4 44. ♔xc6 ♔a7 All the moves are winning now...

45. ♔h3 Kramnik calmly leaves from the ♔xe4 check, after ♖c8 ♖xc8 ♔xc8. Black can resign now.

45...♔d1 [45...♔xf2 46. ♔d7+ ♔b8 47. ♔xd6+ +-]

46. ♖c8+ ♖xc8 47. ♔xc8 White ended up with 4 extra pawns and the mating attack continues. [47. ♔b6+ ♔a8 48. ♔d5+ +- was even easier.]

47...♔f1+ 48. ♔g4 h5+ 49. ♔xh5 What a brilliant performance by Kramnik! Amazing!

1-0

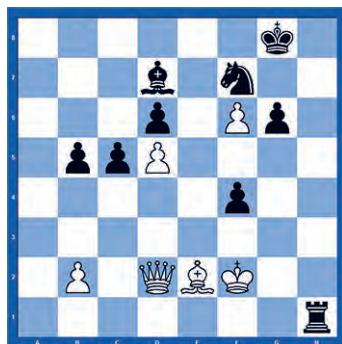
Puzzle section

(5) Giri,A (2720) – Ivanchuk,V (2766)

SportAccord blindfold, 18.12.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Karjakin,S (2775) – Kamsky,G (2762)

SportAccord blindfold, 19.12.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(7) Danielian,E (2476) – Stefanova,A (2490)

SportAccord blindfold, 18.12.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

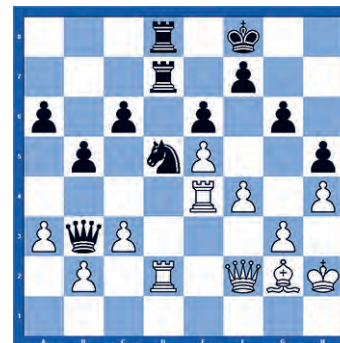


(8) Muzychuk,A (2586) – Zhu Chen (2491)

SportAccord blindfold, 18.12.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(9) Safarli,E (2626) — Esen,B (2576)

Wolrd Cities Team, 22.12.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

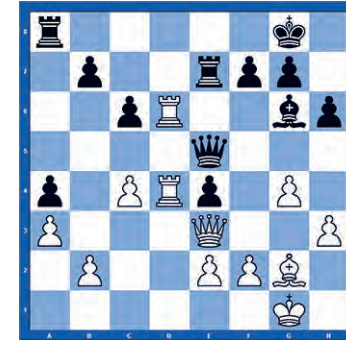


(11) Kvon,A (2501) — Romanov,E (2616)

Wolrd Cities Team, 24.12.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-

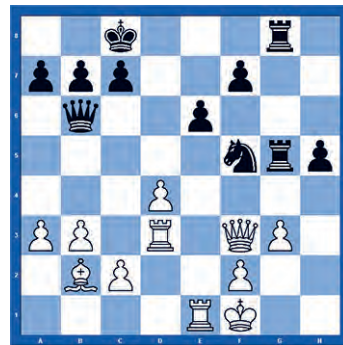


(10) Kravtsiv,M (2593) — Tzermiadianos,A (2434)

Wolrd Cities Team, 23.12.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



(12) Mamedov,N (2602) — Manolache,M (2541)

Wolrd Cities Team, 24.12.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Korobov,A (2702) – Wojtaszek,R (2734)

Delhi, 24.12.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(14) Sumets,A (2638) – Kozul,Z (2638)

Zadar Open, 19.12.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+



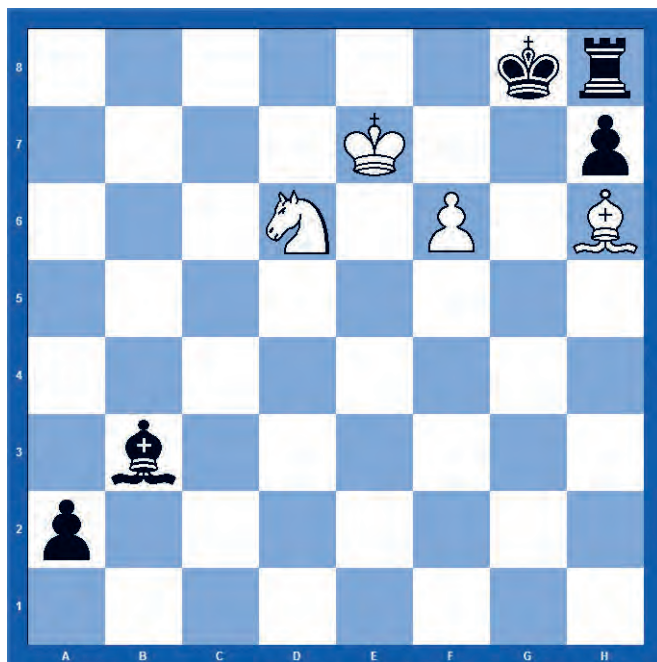
Surprise section / study

(15) Sviridenko,N

1974

[CEWN]

1. =

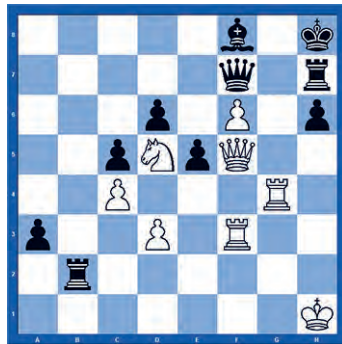


Solutions

(16) Kamsky,G (2762) – Karjakin,S (2775)

SportAccord rapid, 15.12.2012

[Solutions]



69. ♘e7! [69. ♖g7? ♙xg7 70.fxg7+ ♜xg7! 71. ♚xf7 ♜xf7 72. ♜xf7 a2--]

69...a2 [69... ♙xe7 70.fxe7 ♚xe7 71. ♚c8++-]

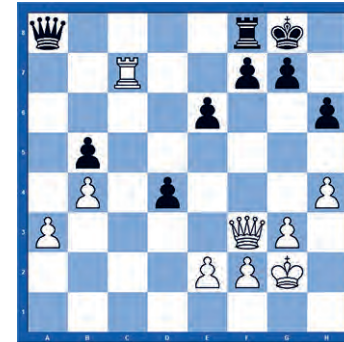
70. ♘g6+ ♚xg6 [70... ♙g8 71. ♘xf8+ ♙xf8 72. ♚c8+ ♚e8 73. ♜g8+ ♙xg8 74. ♚xe8#]

71. ♚xg6 a1 ♚+ 72. ♜g1 ♚xg1+ 73. ♙xg1+-

(17) Koneru,H (2610) – Zhao Xue (2565)

SportAccord rapid, 14.12.2012

[Solutions]



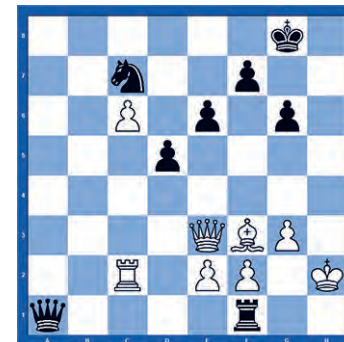
34. ♜xf7! ♚xf3+ [34... ♜xf7? 35. ♚xa8+]

35. ♜xf3 ♜c8 36. ♜d3 e5 37.f4! exf4 38.gxf4 ♜c4 39. ♙f3 ♙f7 40. ♙e4+-

(18) Stefanova,A (2491) – Lahno,K (2553)

SportAccord rapid, 15.12.2012

[Solutions]

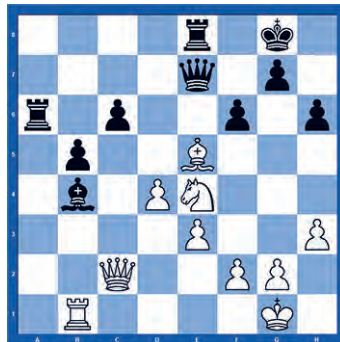


51... ♚h8+! 0-1 [51... ♚h8+ 52. ♙g2 ♚h1#]

(19) Radjabov,T (2793) – Morozevich,A (2748)

SportAccord blitz, 16.12.2012

[Solutions]

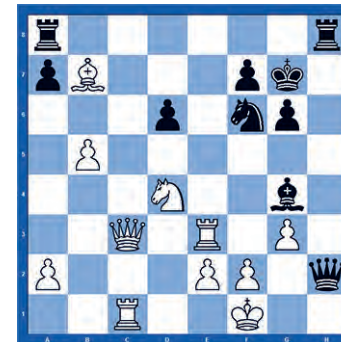


29. ♖xf6+! gxf6 30. ♔g6+ ♕f8 [30... ♔g7 31. ♔xe8+-]
31. ♕xf6 ♔c7 [31... ♔f7 32. ♔xh6+ ♕g8 33. ♔h8#; 31...
♔a7 32. ♖xb4+-]
32. ♔xh6+ ♕g8 33. ♔h8+ 1-0 [33. ♔h8+ ♕f7 34. ♔g7+
♕e6 35. ♔xc7]

(20) Ivanchuk,V (2766) – Morozevich,A (2748)

SportAccord blitz, 16.12.2012

[Solutions]



30... ♖ac8!! [30... d5 31. ♕e1!∞]
31. ♔b2 [31. ♕xc8 ♔h1#]
31... ♖xc1+ 32. ♔xc1 ♔h1+ [32... ♕c8! 33. ♕f3 ♖g4!-+]
33. ♕xh1 ♖xh1+ 34. ♕g2 ♖xc1-+

(21) Aronian,L (2815) – Mamedyarov,S (2764)

SportAccord blitz, 17.12.2012

[Solutions]



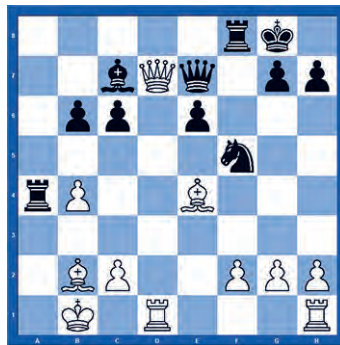
15...♘xd4! 16.♙b4 [16.exd4 ♙xf4--]

16...♙xb4 17.axb4 ♘c6±

(22) Jobava,B (2711) – Morozovich,A (2748)

SportAccord blitz, 17.12.2012

[Solutions]



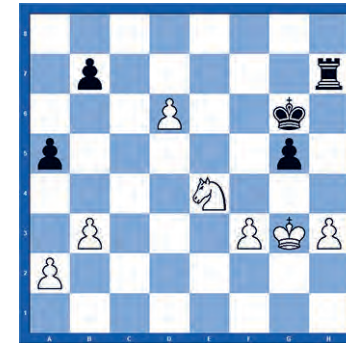
21...♖xb4! 22.♙xf5?! [22.♙xe7 ♘xe7±]

22...♖xb2+!! 23.♙xb2 ♙b4+ 24.♙c1 ♙f4+! 25.♖d2
exf5-- 26.♖e1 h6 27.♖e3 ♙xe3 28.fxe3 ♙c3-- [28...
♙a3+ 29.♙d1 ♙xe3--]

(23) Kamsky,G (2762) – Leko,P (2732)

SportAccord blitz, 17.12.2012

[Solutions]



39.♘c5! ♙f6 [39...b6 40.d7 ♖h8 41.♘e6+-; 39...♖h8 40.d7
♖d8 41.♘e6! ♖xd7 42.♘f8+-]

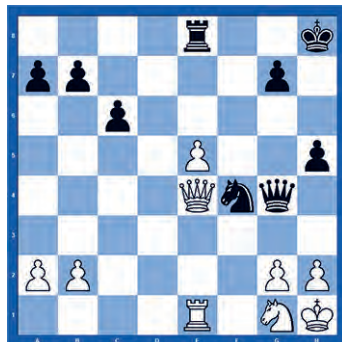
40.♘e4+? [40.d7! ♙e7 41.♘e6!! ♙xd7 (41...♖h8 42.d8 ♙+
♖xd8 43.♘xd8 ♙xd8 44.♙g4+-) 42.♘f8+-]

40...♙f5 ∞

(24) Ding Liren (2702) – Karjakin,S (2775)

SportAccord blitz, 17.12.2012

[Solutions]



31... ♖xe5! 0-1 [31... ♖xe5 32. ♕xe5 ♖xg2#]

(25) Hou Yifan (2606) – Cmilyte,V (2524)

SportAccord blitz, 16.12.2012

[Solutions]



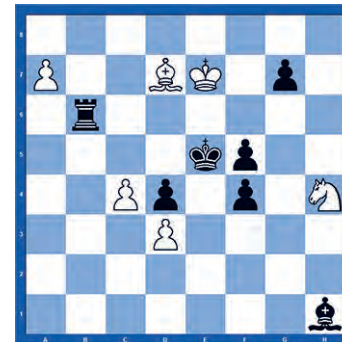
23... ♘xd5!! 24. ♖xd5 ♖xb2+!! 25. ♔d1 [25. ♔xb2 ♕xc3+ 26. ♔b3 ♕xe1-+]

25... ♖xc3 26. ♖xe7 ♕h6-+

(26) Kuznetsov,A

1974

[Solutions]



1.a8 ♕!! ♕xa8 2. ♕c6!! ♕xc6 [2... ♖xc6 3. ♘f3#; 2...f3 3. ♘g6#+-]

3. ♘g6# 1-0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 45

4th of January 2013

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Editorial Preface

Let's start the first issue of 2013 with a short review of a great amount of tournaments that just came to an end:

The winner of the World Cities Championship in UEA was the team of Netherlands, playing almost with the national team.

The Open in Geneva was won by Etienne Bacrot. The Zürich Open was surprisingly won by Levente Vajda. Anton Korobov won the round robin tournament AICF-AAI in India with a very convincing 6,5/10.

Timur Gareev won the North American Open.

The Pirenka rapid/blitz in Russia was won by Karjakin.

The Final Rapid Grand Prix of Russia was won by Dreev.

In the next issues of CEWN, we are already very happy to announce that we will cover the stellar upcoming event of the month: Tata Steel in Wijk aan Zee with Magnus Carlsen, Leven Aronian, Sergey Karjakin, Hikaru Nakamura and many more leading grandmasters.

Stay updated with Your usual issues of CEWN and have fun with CEWN Nr45!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime (2711)
— Grigoryan, Karen H (2513) [C02]

Al Ain Classic 2012 Al-Ain UAE (5.3), 26.12.2012

[Balogh Csaba]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 [3... ♖f5 is clearly the mainline, but the text move also has many followers.]

4.dxc5 e6



5.♔g4 A very sharp move in order to make Black's development a bit more difficult, thanks to the pressure against the g7 pawn. [The main, and probably the best, is 5.♙e3 with hundreds of games in the database.]

5...h5! Well played! If we are familiar with the following developments of both sides, it will become clear that the queen must be sent away from the 4th rank.

6.♔g3 ♘d7 7.♘f3 ♘xc5 8.♘c3 White's main idea is to play ♙e3 and 0-0-0, creating a dangerous attacking po-

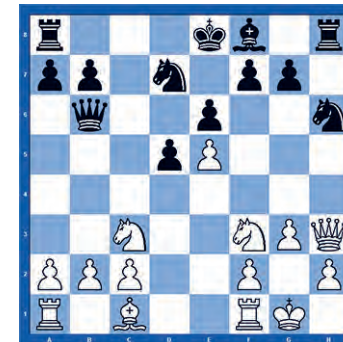
sition, when different kind of sacrifices, such as ♘xd5 will always be in the air.

8...h4? Black only improves the queen's position. On g3, it was standing in the way of the ♘e7-f5 tempo, while on the 4th rank it can be very useful because it can be switched to the other side. In addition, Black only weakens his own pawn. [8... ♙d7 9.♙e3 ♖c8 was the right way to play. After Black has protected his c5 knight, he is ready to play ♘e7-f5 next. 10.0-0-0 ♘e7 Black seems to be fine, but of course, the position is playable for both sides.]

9.♔g4 h3 10.g3! White wants to take the h3 pawn without destroying his pawn structure. Black must try to create some tactical counterplay.

10...♘h6 11.♔xh3 ♖b6 12.♙b5+ [The simple 12.♙e2 followed by 0-0 was also good.]

12...♙d7 13.♙xd7+ ♘xd7 14.0-0



14...♖c8! [14...0-0-0 with the idea of a potential attack with opposite side castling is not dangerous at all. 15.♔h4 White drops his queen to the queenside and has enough defensive pieces to protect the king.]

15. ♖e3! A brilliant idea! Instead of trying to defend the c2 pawn passively, Vachier-Lagrave leads the game to tactical waters.

15... ♖xb2 16. ♘xd5!! This was the point! Of course it's impossible to calculate all the lines until the end, we must have very good intuitions to make such sacrifices.

16... ♖b5 [16...exd5 is met with 17.e6! fxe6 18. ♖xe6+ ♕e7 Here White has many tempting moves, but only one of them leads to a clear advantage.



19. ♗g5! (19. ♗d4 ♖xc2 20. ♗xg7 is not easy because of (20. ♖fe1 ♘f5 Very suspicious, but Black is still alive.) 20... ♖c6!) 19... ♘g8 Very subtle play is required. 20. ♖g6+! (On the most logical 20. ♖fe1 Black has 20... ♖b6! 21. ♗xe7 ♖xe6 22. ♖xe6 ♘xe7 23. ♖ae1 and now 23...0-0! solves Black's problems. 24. ♖xe7 ♖xf3 25. ♖xd7 ♖xc2 => 20... ♗f8 (20... ♗d8 is refuted by 21. ♖ab1! ♖xc2 22. ♖f7! Black can't parry the threats. All the White pieces are attacking. (22. ♖xg7 allows 22... ♖h7!) 22... ♘gf6 (22... ♗xg5 23. ♘xg5 +-) 23. ♖fe1 ♖e8 24. ♘d4! and ♘e6 next is a spectacular mate.) 21. ♖e6!! White seemingly wants to make a draw by repetition, but actually he just deprived Black from castling kingside. 21... ♗e8 (21... ♖d8 22. ♖fe1 +-; 21... ♘gf6 22. ♗xf6

Black drops a piece after all the captures.) 22. ♖fe1! ♖b6 23. ♗xe7 ♖xe6 24. ♖xe6 ♘xe7 25. ♖ae1! Now, in comparison to the 20. ♖fe1 line, Black doesn't have 0-0 anymore. 25... ♖xc2 26. ♖xe7+ ♗d8 27. ♖xg7 +-]

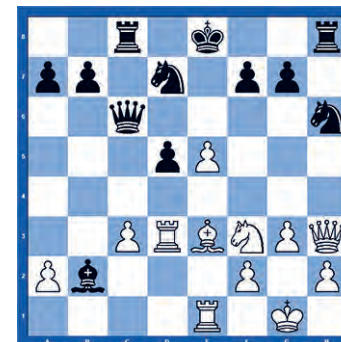
17. ♖ad1! White keeps all the tactical motifs alive by keeping his knight on d5.

17... ♗a3 [17...exd5 is much worse now, because the queen on b5 falls to the ♘d4 tempo. 18.e6 fxe6 19. ♖xe6+ ♗e7 20. ♗g5 ♘g8 21. ♖g6+ ♗f8 22. ♘d4 +-; On 17... ♗c5 both 18. ♘g5 (and 18. ♘f4 are very strong. Both moves are connected with sacrifices on e6.)]

18. ♖fe1 White wants to increase the power of the e6 move after exd5. [18. ♖d3! was even stronger, activating the rooks with tempo. ♖fd1 is coming next.]

18... ♖c6 19. ♖d3 ♗b2 20. c3! Another great move, locking the b2 bishop. The knight on d5 is hanging for 5 moves. Black could not stand the pressure anymore...

20...exd5



21.e6! Obviously, White must open the lines on the king.

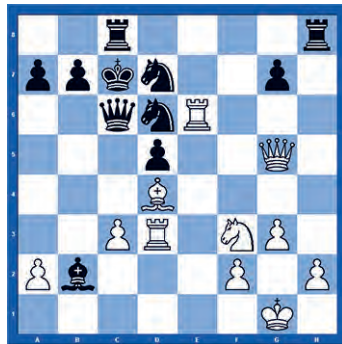
21...fxe6 [21...♔xe6 22.♘d4 wins the queen.; 21...♘f6 22.♘d4 Black is lost. Too many threats are in the air.]

22.♘d4 ♘f7 [22...♔f7 loses to 23.♖xe6! ♔xe6 24.♘g5+ +-]

23.♖xe6+ ♔d8 This counterattack on the queen was Black's idea. He hoped that this tempo could give enough time to hide his king on the queenside. [23...♔f8? 24.♖xc6 ♖xh3 25.♖xc8+ +-]

24.♔f5 ♘d6 [24...♔c4 leads to a nice finish: 25.♔xf7 ♔xd3 26.♔e7+ ♔c7 27.♘e5# Quite a picturesque mate!]

25.♔g5+ ♔c7



26.♘e5! Perfect calculation! I am quite sure, that White had foreseen the main idea, which comes in the 26... ♘xe5 line.

26...♘a3 [26...♘xe5 27.♘xe5 ♔a6 (27...♔c5 28.♔e7+ Black must move into ♘d7 check!) 28.♖xd5 ♘a3 and now 29.♖e7+! ♔b8 30.♖a5!! The queen is trapped!! ♘d7 wins in any case. 30...♔xa5 31.♘d7+ +-]

27.♘xd6+ ♘xd6 28.♖xd5 ♔xc3 [28...♖h6 doesn't save the piece 29.♖dxd6 +-]

29.♖dxd6 ♔xf3 30.♖xd7+! After a nice tactical battle, White ended up with an extra pawn, but it's more important that his attacking chances are still excellent, while the g5 queen covers the c1 square.

30...♔b8 [30...♔xd7 31.♔e7#]

31.♖ee7 ♖c2 32.♔e5+ [The cold-blooded 32.♖f7 was also winning.]

32...♔a8 33.♖e8+ ♖c8 34.♖xc8+ ♖xc8 35.♔c7! A neat finish!

1-0

(2) Halkias,Stelios (2561) – Fedorchuk,Sergey A (2661) [A15]

World Cities Team GpC Al-Ain UAE (2.7), 23.12.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

1.♘f3 Directly after the opening, the game develops into a very sharp tactical battle and ends with a nice final calculation by Stelios Halkias. Let's see how the game developed...

1...♘f6 2.c4 b6 Usually, early moves like 2. ..b6 don't bring anything good, but this leads just to a different move order.

3.♘c3 ♘b7 4.d4 e6 5. ♘g5 h6 [5... ♘b4 would lead us to other main lines...]

6. ♘h4 ♘e7 7. ♔c2 d5 8. ♘xf6 This move looks strange, but is a normal way to continue the game. White's idea is to play against the „bad" bishop on b7. [In case of 8.cxd5 ♘xd5 the position could be evaluated as about equal.]

8... ♘xf6 9.cxd5 That's the point of White's 8. ♘xf6.

9...exd5 10.e3 [10.g3 could be other standard way to continue the game, but we are not very far away from getting a pretty equal game. Of course, all of this is still theory.]

10...0-0



11.0-0-0! White chooses a very double edged line! The sharp part of the game is starting. White will push his g- and h-pawns forward; Black will try to start his play on the queenside.

11...a5 A usual way to play for Black, but this is clearly not the most critical. [11...c5!? Black has no time to lose and has to start his counterplay as fast as possible. 12.dxc5 ♘d7! and this is the key move! Now all the Black pieces are joining the game very quickly. 13.♘xd5 ♘xc5 Black is a pawn down but has very active play. His chances are pretty good. 14. ♘c4 ♔c8 15. ♔b1 b5 with a very unclear position.]

12.h4 White is starting his play on the kingside. His next move could be g4.

12... ♘c8 Stopping the g4 move and at the same time bringing the bishop back to life. This is a good idea, but Black is losing too much time...

13. ♘e2 ♘a6 14.a3 c5 Black has finally played c5, but White can counter with...

15.g4! [An attempt to win a pawn would lead to nothing: 15.dxc5? ♘xc3! 16. ♔xc3 ♘xc5 and only Black can be better here because of the bad position of the White king.]

15...g6?! Black doesn't choose the critical continuation once again. [Would lead to a very sharp position to play 15... ♘xg4 16. ♘g5!? I guess this was Halkias' idea. 16... ♘xg5 17.hxg5 ♘xe2 18. ♔xe2 and White's attack looks dangerous at first sight, but on the other hand, White „just" wants to play gxh6, and Black will counter with g6. The position is very unclear.]

16. ♘e5 [16.g5 could have been another good move to continue White's attack.]

16...cxd4 17.exd4?! [17. ♘c6! ♔d7 18. ♘xd4 seems to lead to a position with a clear plus for White.]

17... ♘c7 Black tries to bring his pieces to better squares, and as we know, ♔g8 and ♙g7 are a great combination for the defensive side.

18.f4 White let all his options open: to play g5, f5, or even h5 next.



18...b5! Black starts his own play. The position is really unclear.

19.f5 b4 20. ♘a4 In a very complicated position, Black gives his opponent a huge chance...

20...g5?! [20...bxa3! Logical and right decision. Black has no time to lose and must try to open the White king's position as much as possible. 21. ♔b1! and Black's attack is getting very dangerous. (Of course not 21.bxa3? ♔d6)]

21.hxg5?! White returns the present. [The simple 21. ♘b6! seems to win an exchange. It's hard to guess why White didn't play it...]

21... ♙xg5+ 22. ♔b1 bxa3 23. ♔c6? It seems like White has blundered Black's next move. [23. ♖h3! would keep the position very dynamic and unclear.]

23...f6! Very strong. The White knight can't go back from e5 because of ♙d7.

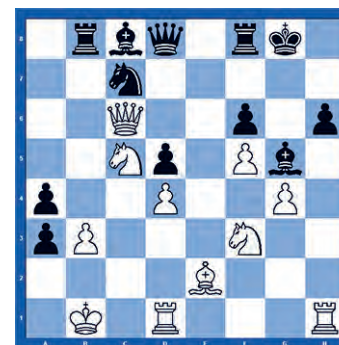
24. ♘c5 White plays for all or nothing. He's defending the knight on e5 indirectly and bringing one more piece into the attack, but leaving the b2 pawn unprotected...

24... ♖b8! Another excellent move by Black. The position is very sharp, but Fedorchuk keeps his cool and brings his rook from a8 to b8 into the attack.

25.b3 Of course, White can't allow Black to play ♖xb2.

25...a4! Black is playing great chess! White can't take with any of his pieces on a4 and, as we can see, he doesn't even have a clear threat against the Black king. Things seem to be turning in Black's favor.

26. ♘f3 Already now, it's not easy to give White a good advice. At least, Halkias is trying to exchange the bishop on g5, which is like a „stone wall“ for White's attacking attempts.



26...♔e8 Once again, Fedorchuk acts cool and makes the correct decision. He is forcing a queen exchange.

27.♔xe8 ♖xe8 Let's take a fresh look at the position. Black is a pawn up, his king is safe and White's bishop on e2 and pawn on b3 are hanging.. . White's pluses: maybe a future attack over the h-file and nothing more. We can clearly see how quickly White got into deep trouble from a clearly better position by not choosing the most dynamic actions.

28.♘xg5 White must try his chances in some concrete play. [In case of the slow 28.♙d3 ♙f4! it seems like Black is just winning. White absolutely has no play...]

28...♖xe2 29.♖xh6 fxe5 30.♖dh1 White is going all-in, and what else is there to do... Even though the engines show a clear advantage for Black, to play such a position at the board is not an easy thing to do. White threatens to play ♖h8-♖1h7, which is very concrete and scary.

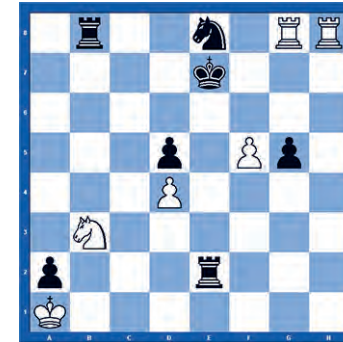
30...♘e8! And once again, Black finds the best way to continue the game. [It would lead to a funny mate to play 30...axb3?? 31.♖h8+ ♔f7 32.♖1h7+ ♔f6 33.♖f8#]

31.♖g6+ White has no better tries to continue his attack...

31...♔f8 32.♖h8+ ♔e7 33.♖gg8 We probably reached the critical moment of the game. White's attack seems to be quite dangerous and Black needs to be precise to get a full point!

33...a2+ Still OK but more forced was [33...♙xf5+ 34.gxf5 It's easy to be a hero here with the help of an engine, but it's very hard to find this during a practical game. 34...a2+ (An easy mistake could be 34...axb3? 35.♖h7+ ♔d8 36.♘e6+ and suddenly White is on the winner's side.)

35.♔a1 axb3 36.♘xb3 (Right now, the same ♖h7 doesn't work because of 36.♖h7+ ♔d8 37.♘e6+ ♖xe6 38.fxe6 b2+! and Black is queening with check.)



36...g4!! What an amazing position! White has no moves and can't defend from g3-g2 and ♖e1+ g1♔. Chess can be very beautiful sometimes! :)]

34.♔a1 ♔d8?? This terrible blunder probably occurred in deep time trouble. Still, 34...♙xf5 would lead to the winning variation we already showed.

35.♘e6+! And... White is winning.

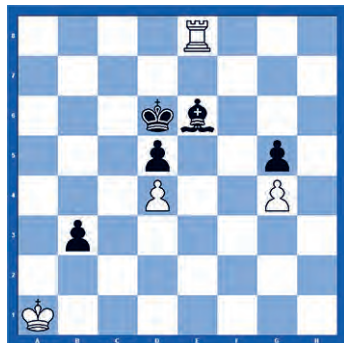
35...♖xe6 [Of course, after 35...♙xe6 36.♖xe8+ ♔c7 37.♖xb8 Black can just resign as well...]

36.fxe6 axb3 37.♖xe8+ ♔c7 38.♔b2 White easily blocks the Black pawns...

38...♖a8 39.♖h1 The pawns are blocked and White is an exchange up. The position is winning.

39...♔d6 40.♖c1 a1D+ This is not a real try to save the game, but there's nothing left...

41.♖xa1 ♖xa1 42.♔xa1 ♙xe6



43. ♖xe6+!! A very nice way to finish the game! Halkias knows how to win the pawn endgames with the rule of opposition!

43... ♔xe6 44. ♖b2 ♔d6 45. ♖xb3 If Black could play **45... ♖b7** now, the position would be a draw, but this is not allowed by the rules of chess.

45... ♖c7 46. ♖a4! The last exact move. Black can't stop White's king from reaching the c5 square, winning the d5-pawn.

46... ♖c6 47. ♖a5 A very fighting game, where the fortune was clearly on White's side!

1-0

(3) Korobov,A (2702) – Negi,P (2641) [B90]

AICF-AAI Cup 2012 New Delhi IND (9), 29.12.2012

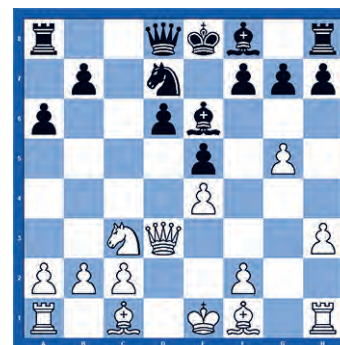
[Balogh Csaba]

A nice fighting game. An interesting detail to mention is that Korobov played 1.e4 for the second time in his life.

1.e4 c5 2. ♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4 ♘f6 5. ♘c3 a6 The Sicilian Najdorf is the main repertoire of Korobov as Black too, so he had to be familiar with the arising positions. From a psychological point of view, it was not a clever opening decision by Negi, who plays many other lines as well...

6.h3 ♘c6 A sideline. 6...e6 and 6...e5 are the two main moves.

7.g4 ♘xd4 8. ♖xd4 e5 9. ♖d3 ♘e6 10.g5 ♘d7



11.f4 There was only one game on this position in the database before, and Korobov was leading the Black pieces in it.

11... ♖c8 This is new! Black allows to be completely squeezed after f5, but he is hoping for dynamic counterplay with d5 later on. [11...exf4 12. ♘xf4 ♘e7 happened

before. 13.0-0-0 (13.♔e3 might be an improvement, followed by 0-0-0 and ♖d5.) 13...♙xg5 14.♙xd6 ♙xf4+ 15.♙xf4 0-0 16.♖g1 ♖c8 17.♘d5 ♙h8 18.♙e2 White's chances seem to be preferable, although Black was able to hold the draw on Kuzubov-Korobov, Plovdiv 2012.]

12.f5 ♙c4 13.♙f3 ♘b6 This is too slow. [13...d5 was the only critical move from the opening point of view. We can see this break in many different lines. 14.♙xc4 (The main point of Black's idea comes after 14.exd5 ♙b4! 15.♙d2 ♙xc3 16.♙xc3 ♙xg5 and Black has jumped out and overtook the initiative!) 14...♖xc4 15.♘xd5 is the correct reaction. The knight is extremely strong on d5. 15...♖xc2 White should objectively be better, but he has some problems to find safety for his king as he will not be able to castle queenside. (15...♘c5 is met with the simple retreat 16.♘c3 and ♙d2 0-0-0 next with a clear pawn up.)]

14.♙xc4 ♘xc4 15.b3 This brings Black back to the game. [15.f6! would have been much stronger! Black is doomed without the d5 counterplay. The game could continue, for instance, with 15...♙a5 (15...gxf6 16.♘d5 is the point!) 16.fxg7 ♙xg7 17.0-0! 0-0! 18.♘d5 with an overwhelming advantage!]

15...♘b6 16.♙d2



16...d5! Only move! Black has to try this even if it's losing, otherwise, he will suffer the whole game in a passive position.

17.exd5 ♙b4 Thanks to the b3 inaccuracy, White has some problems because he'll lose the stability of the c3 knight.

18.♖d1 White would like to play ♘e4, so the next move is forced. [18.0-0-0 allows 18...♙c7! 19.d6 ♙xd6 with mutual chances.]

18...♙xc3 19.♙xc3 ♙xg5 [19...0-0!? also came into consideration. Black has some different ideas, for instance e4 followed by ♘xd5, or just ♙xg5. Suddenly, the Black king is safe, while the White one has no safe shelter on the board.]

20.♙xe5 ♖xc2! [20...0-0 was also tempting in order to bring the rook to e8, but suddenly after 21.♙f1! the Black king becomes vulnerable as well. ♖g1 is unpleasantly coming next!]

21.♙d4! Creating the double threat of ♙xb6 and ♖g1. [Now on 21.♙f1 ♖c1! is very strong. White has problems with the f5 and d5 pawns.]

21...♘d7 22.♖g1 ♘e5! Nice intermediate move! [After 22...♙h4+ 23.♙f1 Black's king becomes the weak one. White is pressing the g7 pawn and can consolidate his position with ♖g4! anytime. Despite having no pawns around the king, White's pieces provide an excellent defense.]

23.♙g3



23...♔h5? This is a blunder, which throws away the half point. [23...♔h4!! would have been the fantastic saving move! White has to force a draw because of the ♕e4 threat. 24.♔xh4 (24. ♖xe5 ♕e4+; 24.♔f1 loses to 24...♔h5! There's a huge difference compared to the game. Both the d1 rook and the f5 pawn are hanging with check. 25.♔xe5+ ♔d7 Black wins.) 24...♖f3+ 25.♔f1 ♖h2+ = with perpetual check to follow.; 23...♔xg3+ 24.♖xg3 The endgame is bad for Black after the g7 pawn falls.]

24.♔xe5+ ♔d7 25.♖d2! After this nice defensive move, Black's heavy pieces are unable to create any serious threats.

25...♖e8 [25...♖c1+ 26.♔f2 +-]

26.♔xe8+! ♔xe8 27.♖xc2 ♔h4+ 28.♖f2 White ended up with an extra piece and the d-pawn has huge power as well.

28...♔xh3 29.f6! g6 [29...gxf6 is refuted by 30.♖c7! with a mating net around the Black king.]

30.♖g3 ♔h1+ 31.♔e2 ♔d7 [31...♔xd5 is poisoned. 32.♖e3+ +-]

32.♖e3 ♔h5+ 33.♔e1 ♔h1+ 34.♔d2 ♔h2 35.♔c1 One single queen can't make wonders. The only problem for White was to make the last 5 moves of the time trouble without blundering. Then, his position is automatically winning.

35...♔f4 36.♔b1 [36.d6! was even stronger. 36...♔xd6 (36...♔xd6 37.♖g3 +-) 37.♖d2 +-]

36...♔xf6 37.♖d3 White wants to advance his d-pawn.

37...♔f5 38.♖dd2 g5 39.d6 g4 40.♔c1 The last move of the time control. The end is near!

40...♔e5 41.♖c7+ ♔d8 42.♖b6 ♔a1+ 43.♔c2 ♔xa2+ 44.♔c3 ♔a1+ 45.♔b4 The queen has no more checks, so it's time to resign the game.

1-0

(4) Short, Nigel D (2692)
– Salem, A.R. Saleh (2536) [A16]

World Cities Team GpA Al-Ain UAE (3.5), 24.12.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

1.c4 Nigel Short was one of the Top players in the 90s, when he even played a World Championship match against Kasparov in 1993. Nowadays, only time to time we can see him playing a strong chess event, even when his rating is still close to 2700. In the current game, already on move 8, the position gets pretty wild and Short manages to outplay his opponent in a nice style.

1...Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.g3 g3 is by far not the main move in the Anti-Gruenfeld, but Short likes to take out his opponents from the main lines.

4...b6 A slightly strange move by Black, even though it's very possible. One of the main moves is the direct 4...g6.

5.Bg2 g6 6.d3 Bg7



7.Be3!? Quite a tricky move. White doesn't hurry with Nf3 — we'll see why in the game. If Black would play

7...0-0 8.0-0 d2, followed by Bh6 and a bishop exchange, this could give White some small advantage.

7...Nc6 8.Bxc6+!? That's White's opening idea. At first sight, it doesn't look great to give up such a bishop, but White is gaining a very big positional plus: Black's pawn structure is going to be horrible. Objectively speaking, the position should be very complicated.

8...bxc6 9.0-0 White wants to play Bh6.

9...h5 And of course, Black doesn't allow White to play it. On the other hand, if Black castles short, Bh6 will be possible again. That's why 9...h6 could have been an option, with g5 next.

10.Nf3! The White knight will have a great position on g5!

10...Bh3 Of course, Black doesn't allow White to castle short. If White could castle, and then play Rfc1, creating pressure on the c-file, his position would be clearly better.

11.Ng5 Bg2 12.Rg1 Bd5 We are in quite an interesting position. White can't castle short, and to castle long is not a great option, because Black would quickly get a lot of counterplay on the b-file. On the other hand, Black's bishop is quite badly placed on d5 — he must move it somewhere.

13.f3! Very good move by White. In the future, White could play Qf2 and finally connect the rooks. Besides, to play Bh2 followed by e4 could be a threat.



13...0-0?! Sometimes the most obvious moves are not the best ones... [It was time to make use of the h-pawn. 13...h4! would force White to take some decisions. To open the h-file for the Black rook might not be the best, and at 14.g4 ♖d6 the position seems to remain pretty unclear.]

14.g4!? Very creative play by Short. White is starting an attack against the Black king. Much more „standard” for White would have been to play ♔f2, followed by ♖gc1 to put pressure on the c-file, with a clear advantage.

14...hxc4 15.♖xc4 Not an easy position for Black. There is no clear plan... and White can improve his position very easily in many ways.

15...f5 A very risky move. Now the knight on g5 will be a monster-piece forever. Probably a better way to continue would have been to keep the structure more flexible by playing 15... ♖d6, and only if it's really needed, to continue with f5.

16.♖g2 ♖d6 17.♖c1 [The immediate 17.♔f1 could have been an option as well.]

17...♖ad8 A move without any plan. [A way to go on for Black could be 17...♘d7!? 18.♔f1 ♖fb8! creating pressure

on the b-file and at the same time getting the knight to f8 — a great defensive position.]

18.♔f1 A silent move with a very strong idea.

18...♘f7? Black doesn't pay attention...

19.♔e1! This was White's „secret „ plan. Suddenly, Black almost has no way to defend against ♖h4 next!

19...♘e8 [It wouldn't be very helpful to play 19...♘f6 20.♖h4 ♘xc5 21.♘xc5 White has total domination on the dark squares. Besides, the attack against the king should normally be enough for a full point.]

20.♖h4 ♖f6 Black is „just” holding, but how to finish him? Short continues the game in great manner.



21.b4! By putting the bishop on c5, White is bringing one more piece into the attack and the clouds around the Black king got a bit darker.

21...♔e5 22.♘c5 ♖fd6 To give an exchange would already be a success for Black, but the destruction of the Black position continues.

23.f4 Slowly, Black's pieces got no more moves...

23...♖f6 24.♖h7+ ♔f8 25.♖h3 ♘h7 is a nasty threat.

25...♔g8 26.e4! The last exact move. Black is losing material — a lot of it.

26...♘d7 Maybe it was a good moment for Salem to resign, but the game continues. [26...♖xd3 27.♚h7+ ♔f8 28.e5 and the Black queen is trapped on f6.]

27.e5 Winning a piece.

27...♘xe5 28.fxe5 ♚xe5 29.♙xd6 And now White is a full rook up.

29...♖xd6 30.♘e2 Finally it was enough for Salem to resign. A really great positional victory with some tactical motives. Such games are fun to play, from the White side :).

1–0

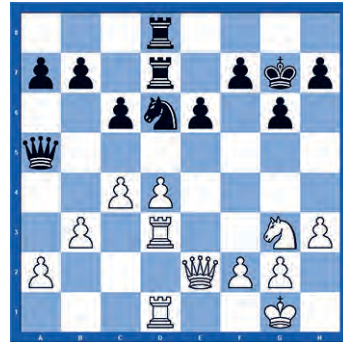
Puzzle section

(5) Nepomniachtchi,I (2707) – Grischuk,A (2764)

Piterenka blitz, 29.12.2012

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Andriasian,Z (2605) – Hovhanisian,M (2477)

Groningen Open, 27.12.2012

[CEWN]

1. ±

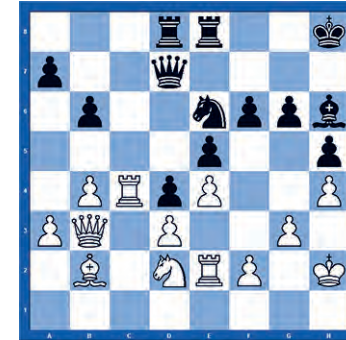


(7) Burg,T (2498) – Bok,B (2522)

Groningen Open, 27.12.2012

[CEWN]

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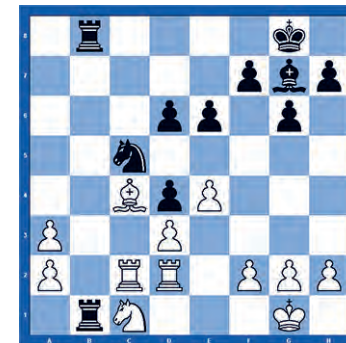


(8) Roy Chowdhury,S (2441) – Gormally,D (2495)

Groningen Open, 29.12.2012

[CEWN]

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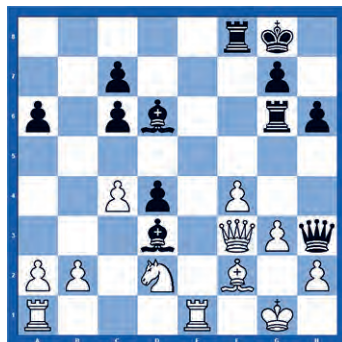


(9) Lewicki,M (2200) – Malaniuk,V (2523)

Krakow Open, 30.12.2012

[CEWN]

1... -+

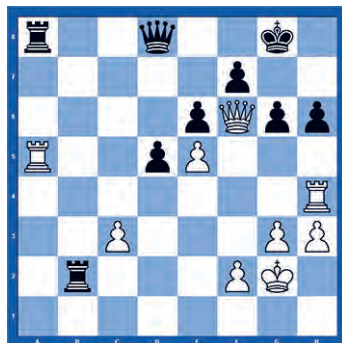


(10) Gelashvili,T (2566) – Li Chao (2677)

North American Open, 27.12.2012

[CEWN]

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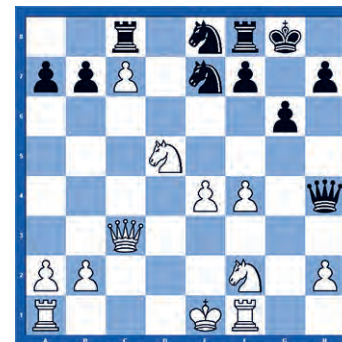


(11) Hammer,J (2633) – Yankovksy,R (2474)

North American Open, 27.12.2012

[CEWN]

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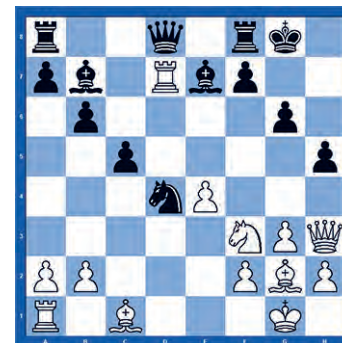


(12) Ramirez,A (2554) – Gareev,T (2663)

North American Open, 29.12.2012

[CEWN]

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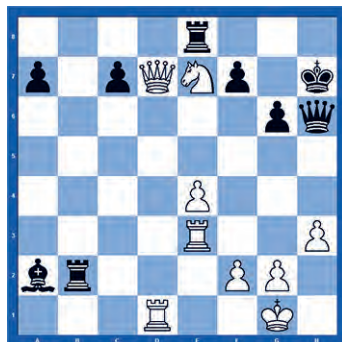


(13) Shabalov,A (2578) – Bryant,J (2416)

North American Open, 29.12.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+

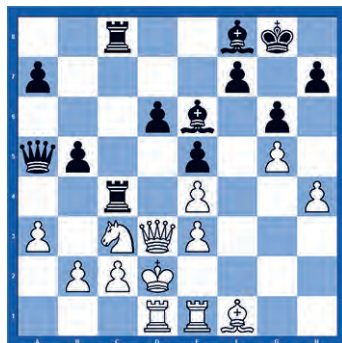


(14) Gaehler,M (2314) – Shirov,A (2708)

Zuerich Open, 29.12.2012

[CEWN]

1... –+



Endgame section

(15) Fressinet, Laurent (2700)
– Guseinov, Gadir (2628) [E94]

World Cities Team KO Al-Ain UAE (1.2), 25.12.2012

[Chess Evolution]



White is a clear pawn up in a knight endgame. This, of course, gives White a clear advantage, but on the other hand, the „extra“ pawn is a doubled one on the a-file, which gives Black some realistic drawing chances. Let's take a look if, in this endgame, the rule that says, „knight endgames are the same as pawn endgames“ can be applied.

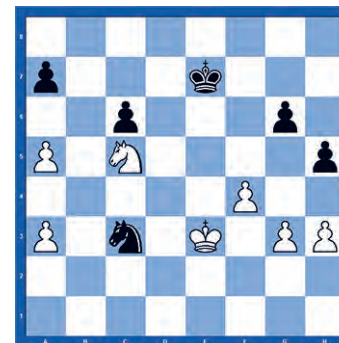
37. ♖xc5 ♜d5? This logical move already is a serious mistake. [The right choice for Black would have been to play 37... ♖f5! 38.g3 h5! trying to block White's pawn structure. Now, if White plays 39. ♖f2, h4 is coming, and in case of 39.h4, White will not be able to get a free passed pawn on the kingside that easily. The position should give Black very good chances to draw.]

38.g3 ♖e7?! And Black is acting too slowly once again. [38...h5! with the already known idea of playing h4 should be the right decision.]

39. ♖f2 White is in time to play ♖f3 against Black's h5-h4.

39... ♜c3 40. ♖e3 White's winning idea is to get a free pawn on the kingside, in order to force the Black king to hold it, and then get his own king to b7 and capture the a7-pawn. It doesn't sound that easy, but Fressinet will show us how to do it very nicely.

40...h5 Too late...



41. ♜d3! Good move! By bringing the knight to e5, White is forcing the Black knight to go back to e7. Otherwise, one of the Black pawns, on g6 or c6, will fall.

41... ♖d6 42. ♜e5 ♜d5+ 43. ♖e4 ♜e7 White has obtained the maximum out of the position, but what next?

44. ♜d3! I like this move a lot. Of course, 44.g4 would have been a good choice as well, but why to give Black any chance to play ♖c5-♖b5?

44... ♜f5 Black has no other choice than to be passive.

45.g4 hxg4 46.hxg4 ♖e7 47.a6! Another good move. White is not in a rush to play f5, and to fix the Black pawn on a7 can be very useful.

47...c5 Black's only chance lies with the c-pawn, but it can't go too far...

48.♞e5 Another exact move by Fressinet. White takes his knight to c4 before starting the final stage of his plan with f5.

48...♔c7 49.♞c4 Of course, no ♔b6 for Black.

49...♔c6 50.a4 And no ♔b5 either.

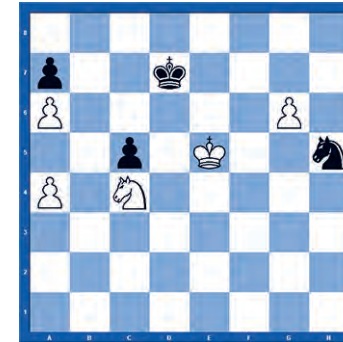
50...♞d5 51.♔e5 ♞c3 Black's knight is active, but by capturing the a4-pawn, nothing major changes. White's a6 pawn is still alive and White has time to get a free pawn on the kingside.

52.g5 It seems like the game is completely over, but Black keeps on fighting.

52...♔d7 53.♔f6?! After showing very good technique in the last 13 moves, White doesn't choose the most precise way to finish the game. [53.♞b6+! would end the game in nice style. 53...♔d8 (53...♔c7 54.f5) 54.f5! Black can't stop White from playing ♞c8-♞xa7 any longer. 54...gxf5 55.g6 ♔e8 The Black king needs to leave the c8 square unprotected. 56.♞c8 and the a7 pawn is falling. Black can resign.]

53...♞d5+ 54.♔xg6 ♞xf4+ 55.♔f5 ♞h5 The position looks quite winning, but a few exact moves are still needed. Black wants to give up the knight for the g-pawn and after taking the king to d5, move fast with the c-pawn in order to have enough time to capture both of White's a-pawns.

56.♔e5 ♔c6 57.g6 ♔d7



58.♞b6+ ♔c6 59.♞c4 ♔d7 60.♞b6+ ♔c6 Of course, White will not repeat the position 3 times...

61.♞d5 It's funny, but almost any move seems to win at the end, but in a practical game, I guess Fressinet was a bit afraid of miscalculating something.

61...♞g7 62.♞e7+ ♔d7 63.♞d5 ♔c6 64.♞f4 Finally White found a concrete way to finish the game. By placing the knight on f4, White is taking away the square h5 from the Black knight, while the White king is going over e7 to b7.

64...♞e8 65.♔e6 c4 66.♞e2 ♔c5 [Also loses 66...♞g7+ 67.♔f7 ♞h5 68.♞f4! A small but very nice tactic. 68...c3 69.♞e2! and White is winning the c-pawn!]

67.♔d7 Finally, the White king reaches its final destination.

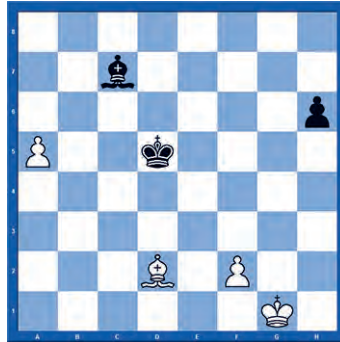
67...♞f6+ 68.♔c7 ♞e8+ 69.♔b7 ♔d6 70.♞c3 All in all, a great example of how to win a better/ winning end-game. There is no reason to hurry the win and it's very important never to lose control over the position!

1-0

(16) Tiviakov,S (2663) – Romanov,E (2616)

World Cities KO, 26.12.2012

[Chess Evolution]



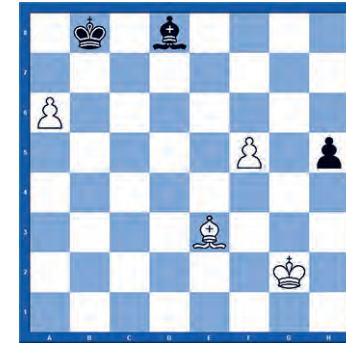
White has a winning endgame, but the technical part is not obvious at all. The main problem is the wrong corner square on a8. If Black succeeds to sacrifice his bishop for the f-pawn, they can immediately agree to a draw.

46.a6 ♖c6 47. ♙e3 Sooner or later, White has to play this move to deprive Black from the ♖b6 possibility. [47. ♖g2!? was a tricky start. The point is that 47... ♖b6 loses to 48. ♙a5+! +- a cool trap.]

47...h5 48. ♖g2 ♙d8 Black had to allow f4 sooner or later, as White was intending to play ♖h3-h4, collecting the h5 pawn. [48... ♙d6 49. ♖h3 ♙e7 50.f4 transposes to the game.]

49.f4 White has to advance his pawns as far as possible.

49...♖c7 50.f5 ♖b8 The Black king remains ready to collect the a-pawn. This means that it must be able to play ♖a7 or ♖b6 at any moment, when the bishop leaves the g1–a7 diagonal.



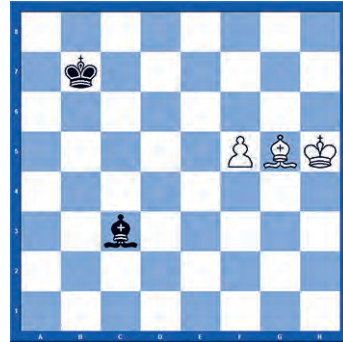
51. ♖h3! The start of the winning plan. White can only make progress if he advances his f-pawn. But in order to do this, he must send away the d8 bishop from its diagonal. [51. ♖f3 ♖a8 52. ♖e4 doesn't make sense, as White can never push f6 with the bishop on d8.]

51...♙a8 52. ♙f2! With the idea of ♙h4.

52... ♙f6 53. ♙h4 ♙c3 White seems to get nowhere with his brilliant idea, since the Black bishop still controls the f6 square and Black already wants to collect the a6 pawn. However by sending away the bishop from the right diagonal, White can advance his king to h4.

54. ♙g5! ♖a7 [54... ♙e1 doesn't help. 55. ♙e3 preventing ♖a7 and the threat is f6-f7. 55... ♙c3 56. ♖h4 wins.]

55. ♖h4 ♖xa6 56. ♖xh5 ♖b7 It's very useful to remember this position. It seems to be dead drawn, but actually White can promote his pawn using clever maneuvers with his bishop.



57. ♔g6 ♕c6 58. ♖h6! The first step is to play ♖g7, which allows f6-f7.

58... ♕d7 59. ♖g7 ♖b4 60.f6 ♔e6 61.f7 ♖d6 Black still seems to be in control. The question is how to send away the bishop from the a3-f8 diagonal. The answer can be quickly found, White must drive his king to g8 and play ♖f8!

62. ♖h6! Preparing for ♔g7-g8, Black can't parry this.

62... ♖b4 63. ♔g7 ♕f5 Black transfers his king to g6, but it doesn't help. [Waiting with 63... ♖c5 doesn't change the final outcome 64. ♔g8 ♖b4 65. ♖f8 ♖d2 66. ♖c5 ♖h6 67. ♖d4! followed by ♖g7, and the pawn promotes. That is why Black preferred to have his king on g6.]

64. ♔g8 ♕g6 65. ♖f8 ♖c3 [65... ♖d2 leads to the same. 66. ♖d6 ♖h6 67. ♖e5! +- Black is in zugzwang. He must allow ♖g7 with a king move.]

66. ♖a3 ♖g7 67. ♖c1! Black resigned as he found himself in another zugzwang. An instructive endgame!

1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Botvinnik, Mikhail — Bednarski, Jacek B [E87]

Palma de Mallorca Palma de Mallorca (8), 1967

[Balogh Csaba]

We'll see a nice positional win by Botvinnik against a King's Indian structure.

1.d4 g6 2.e4 ♗g7 3.c4 d6 4.♘c3 ♘d7 5.♙e3 e5



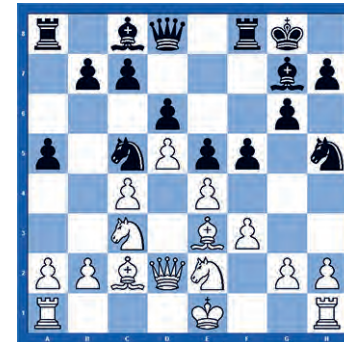
6.d5 White obtains the space advantage, a typical drawback of the opening. Black has to create active counterplay, which is usually connected to the f5 move. It doesn't work right away because of exf5, and ♖h5 wins the pawn. However, a logical plan could have been ♗h6, trading the bad g7 bishop.

6...a5 7.♙d3 ♘c5 The dark-square d bishop is a key piece in the position, so Black never needs to be afraid of the doubled pawns arising after ♗xc5.

8.♙c2 This was the last moment to play ♗h6.

8...♘f6 9.f3 Preventing ♘g4, the g1 knight develops to e2.

9...0-0 10.♙d2 ♘h5 11.♘ge2 f5



12.0-0-0! Very good decision. On the queenside, Black has no chance to create an attack against the king. White can decide on which flank he wants to play. In some positions, exf5 gxf5 g4 might lead to a dangerous attack, but despite being castled queenside, the b3-a3-♙b2 and then b4 plan seriously comes into consideration as well.

12...fxe4 By giving up the tension, Black admits his disadvantage from the opening, but his position was already worse.

13.♘xe4 ♘xe4 14.♙xe4! ♙f5 [14...♘f6 was more logical, although White is better after 15.♘c3 ♘xe4 16.♘xe4 followed by h4-h5. The g7 bishop is a really bad piece now.]

15.♘c3 ♘f6 [15...♙xe4 16.♘xe4 +=]



16. ♗g5! Botvinnik had a clear picture in his eyes. He wanted to get a position with a strong e4 knight against the poor g7 bishop.

16... ♖d7 17. ♗xf6 ♗xf6 18. ♔b1 Leaving from ♗g5. Just in case.

18... ♖e7 19. ♖e2 ♗g5 20. ♖e1 White has found the right plan, to play h4-h5! [20.g3 was also possible with the same idea.]

20... ♖g7 21. h4! ♗e7 22. ♖e3 White is not in a hurry to push h5. First, he improves his queen.

22... ♖f7 [22...h5 would increase the chance for a successful attack. 23. ♖dg1 and g4 next.]

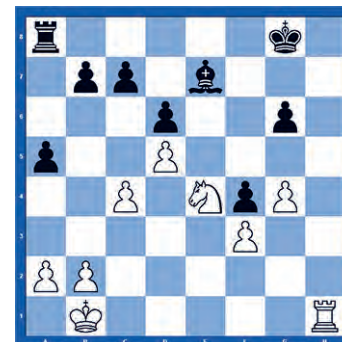
23. h5 ♖f6 [Avoiding the opening of the h-file with 23...g5?! would lead to positional disaster on the light squares, as Black can't take back on f5 with the g-pawn anymore.]

24. hxc6 hxc6 25. ♖h2 Black can't allow the doubling of the rooks. He is forced to exchange a pair of them.

25... ♖h7 26. ♖xh7 ♔xh7 27. ♖h1+ ♔g8 28. g4! Forcing Black to exchange the bishop. White has achieved his aim and got a typical huge advantage with a good knight versus the bad bishop.

28... ♗xe4+ 29. ♘xe4 [Actually, in this concrete position 29.fxe4 might be even stronger. 29... ♖f8 30. ♖h3 ♖g7 31. ♘b5 ♗d8 32. g5 The game is over, Black is practically in zugzwang, as he can't take on g5 32... ♗xg5 because of 33. ♘xc7! ♖xc7 34. ♖h8+ ♔f7 35. ♖h7+ +-]

29... ♖g7 White's position is clearly better, but still not easy to win. Botvinnik tries to provoke new weaknesses. [The endgame after 29... ♖f4 30. ♖xf4 exf4



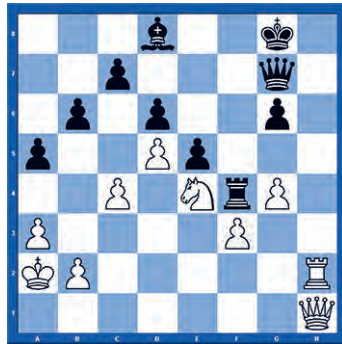
31. ♔c2 is also pretty much hopeless in the long run. White's king goes to a4, followed by, for instance, a rook transfer to b3, forcing crucial weaknesses with b6, after which the king penetrates on b5-c6.]

30. ♖b3! Creating holes on the light squares, just as in the previous line with 29... ♖f4. After b6, all the endgames will be easily won for White.

30...b6 31. ♖a4 Trying to penetrate on d7.

31... ♖f8 32. ♖h3 ♗d8 33. a3 Opening the back-rank, just in case! White can do whatever he wants. Black can only passively wait for his destiny. Still, it's not easy to break through.

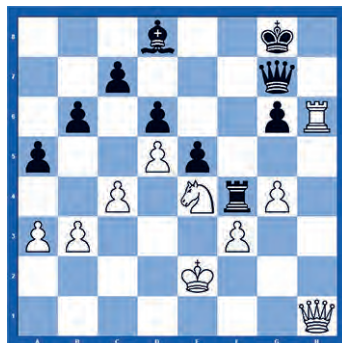
33...♔f7 34.♕c2 ♖g7 35.♙a2 ♔f7 36.♕h2 ♔g8
37.♕h1 ♖f4 38.♖h2



38...♖f8 White has to mobilize his last „unemployed” piece on the board. The king is coming to defend the f3 pawn in order to free the rook and the queen.

39.♙b1 ♖f4 40.♙c2 ♖f8 41.♙d3 ♖f4 42.♙e2 ♖f8 The next moves are good from a practical point of view. White is not in a hurry at all, he makes some seemingly senseless moves and meanwhile, he is looking for the winning plan.

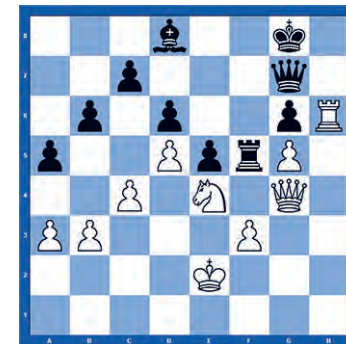
43.♖h3 ♖f4 44.♙b3 ♖f8 45.♖h6 ♖f4 46.♖h2 ♖f8 47.♕g2 ♖f4 48.♕h3 ♖f8 49.♕g2 ♖f4 50.♕h1 ♖f8 51.♖h6 ♖f4 It's time to make a decision.



52.g5!! A committing move, giving up the f5 square and creating a potential target for the poor bishop. However, White wants to occupy the h3-c8 diagonal with the queen and as we'll realize, despite the fact that Black can temporarily close it with ♖f5, he finds himself in zugzwang.

52...♖f8 ♕h3 is always possible, but Botvinnik wants to play it only when the rook goes to f5.

53.♕h4 ♖f4 54.♕g3 ♖f8 55.♕g4! ♖f5



56.♕h3! Here is the zugzwang! The rook can't move because of ♕e6, and against any king or queen moves, ♖h5 wins. So, there's only one move left.

56...♙e7 but now

57.♖g3! ♖xg5 [57...♙xg5 58.♖xf5 gxf5 59.♖h5 +- is also hopeless. 59...e4 leads only to a few checks. 60.♕xf5 ♕b2+ 61.♙f1 ♕c1+ 62.♙g2 +-]

58.♕e6+ ♙f8 [58...♕f7 is refuted by 59.♖h8+! ♙g7 60.♖h7+! +-]

59.♕c8+ ♙f7 60.♖h8! And Black is forced to sacrifice his queen to prevent the threatened ♕e6 mate.

60... ♔xh8 **61.** ♔xh8 ♖xg3 **62.** ♔f2! The last precise move to deprive Black from any kind of counterplay with e4, and taking the b3 pawn. Black resigned because of the upcoming ♔c8 move.

1-0

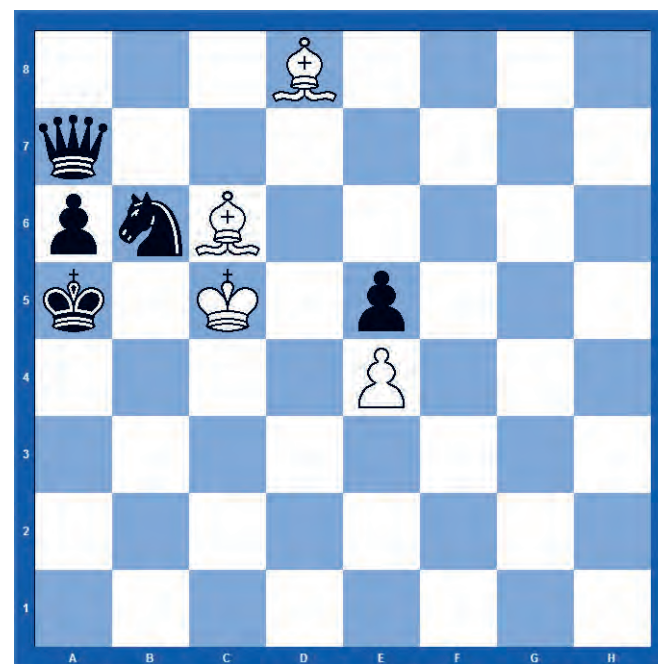
Surprise section / study

(18) Sochniev,A

1980

[CEWN]

1. =

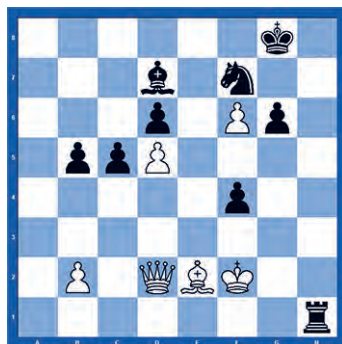


Solutions

(19) Giri,A (2720) – Ivanchuk,V (2766)

SportAccord blindfold, 18.12.2012

[Solutions]



34. ♖a5!! [34. ♖xf4 ♘e5 ∞]

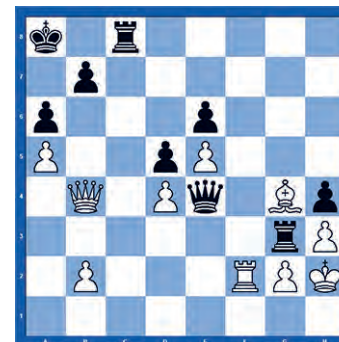
34... ♖h2+ 35. ♔e1! ♖h8 [35... ♖h1+ 36. ♔d2+-; 35... ♘e5 36. ♖d8+ ♔h7 37. ♖f8+-; 35... g5 36. ♖a8+ ♔h7 37. ♖f8+-]

36. ♖c7 ♘f5 37. ♖e7 1-0

(20) Karjakin,S (2775) – Kamsky,G (2762)

SportAccord blindfold, 19.12.2012

[Solutions]



36... ♖xg2+!! 37. ♖xg2 ♖f4+ 38. ♔h1 ♖c1+ 39. ♘d1 [39. ♖g1 ♖e4+ 40. ♔h2 ♖c2+-+]

39... ♖xd1+ 40. ♖g1 ♖e4+ 41. ♔h2 ♖f4+ 42. ♔h1 ♖f3+ 43. ♔h2 ♖f2+ 44. ♖g2 ♖f4+ 0-1

(21) Danielian,E (2476) — Stefanova,A (2490)

SportAccord blindfold, 18.12.2012

[Solutions]



33.d7! ♕xd7 [33...♖xb2 34.d8D!+-]

34.♖xd7! ♔g6 [34...♔xd7 35.♔xh6+ ♔h7 36.♔xf8++-]

35.♖d2+-

(22) Muzychuk,A (2586) — Zhu Chen (2491)

SportAccord blindfold, 18.12.2012

[Solutions]



31...♘e3!! 32.♖xd7 ♘g4+ 33.♔g1 ♖xd7-- 34.♔c5+
♔g7 35.♖d4 ♖xd4 36.♔xd4 ♔xb2--

(23) Safarli,E (2626) — Esen,B (2576)

Wolrd Cities Team, 22.12.2012

[Solutions]



26.♖xd7! ♖xd7 27.♖xd7 ♕c5 [27...♘xd7 28.♕xe7+-]

28.♖d8+!! ♖xd8 29.♔xc5+-

(24) Kravtsiv,M (2593) — Tzermadianos,A (2434)

Wolrd Cities Team, 23.12.2012

[Solutions]



25...♘xg3+! 26.fxg3 ♖f5--

(25) Kvon,A (2501) — Romanov,E (2616)

Wolrd Cities Team, 24.12.2012

[Solutions]



29. ♖xg6! 1-0 [29. ♖xg6 fxg6 30. ♖xe4+-]

(26) Mamedov,N (2602) — Manolache,M (2541)

Wolrd Cities Team, 24.12.2012

[Solutions]



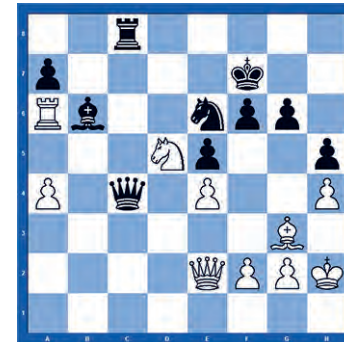
20. ♖xd6! ♜xd6 21. ♚xe5! ♔f8 [21... ♜e8 22. ♜d5+-; 21... f6 22. ♜d5+-]

22. ♖xd6+-

(27) Korobov,A (2702) — Wojtaszek,R (2734)

Delhi, 24.12.2012

[Solutions]



41. ♚f3!! ♜f4 [41... ♚xa6 42. ♚xf6+ ♔g8 43. ♜e7+ ♔h7 44. ♚xg6+ ♔h8 45. ♚h6#]

42. ♖xb6!! ♜xd5 [42... axb6 43. ♚xf4 exf4 44. ♜xb6+-]

43. ♖b7+ [43. ♖d6! ♜f4 44. ♚xf4 exf4 45. ♚xf4+-]

43... ♖c7 44. ♖xc7+ ♜xc7 45. ♚xe5±

(28) Sumets,A (2638) – Kozul,Z (2638)

Zadar Open, 19.12.2012

[Solutions]



23... ♖g4!! 24.gxh3 [24.fxg4 f3!! 25. ♕xf3 ♕xd4 26. ♖xd4 ♖c1+ 27. ♕d1 ♖xg4!-+]

24... ♕xd4 25. ♖xd4 ♖c1+ [25... ♖xf2+! 26. ♖xf2 ♖c2-+]

26. ♕f1 [26. ♖f1 ♖e3! 27. ♖xc1 ♖g2#]

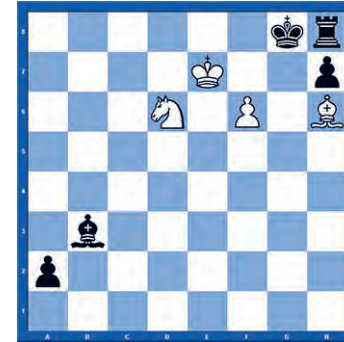
26... ♖e3+

[26... ♖xf2+! 27. ♖xf2 ♖d8! 28. ♔g1 ♖c5-+]

(29) Sviridenko,N

1974

[Solutions]



1.f7+!! [1. ♖e4? ♕f7!-+]

1... ♕xf7 2. ♖e4! a1D 3. ♖f6+ ♖xf6+ 4. ♔xf6 ♕e8 5. ♔e7! [5. ♕g7? h5!-+]

5... ♕h5 6. ♔f6 ♕g6 7. ♔e7 ♕f7 8. ♔f6= 1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 46

11th of January 2013

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Editorial Preface

Most of the chess events were played over Christmas and New Year, and next week the Tata Steel Tournament is starting. In the mean time, we are in a sort of “chess pause”. Just a few Opens are going on and non of the very Top chess players seem to be active...

The Hastings Open was won by Gawain Jones with 7,5/9. Bosnjaci had 2 winners: Delchev and Sedlak shared the first place with 7/9. Vandoevre-les-Nancy was slightly surprisingly won by A.Wirig,I with 7,5/9 points as well.

A few words about Tata Steel: I guess that, right now, it's THE event of the Year. A round robin tournament with 14 players is nowhere else to find, which makes the A group extremely interesting. Having Carlsen, Aronian, Karjakin, Anand and Nakamura in the tournament, competing against L'ami, Hou Yifan, Sokolov, Van Welly and Giri gives an amazing contrast and a lot of fighting games. Also, the B group with an average of about 2630 ELO and the C group with a lot of young and talented players make Tata Steel probably the most spectacular event of the Year. Next to the Top events, a lot of small opens for club players are on the way. So, if You have time, Wijk ann Zee is definitely a place to visit (except for the weather — rain, rain and rain)

In the next issue of CEWN You will already be able to find Fresh annotated games from the Tata Steel with Your “up to date” commentator from Holland, and at the same time participant of the B group, Arkadij Naiditsch J.

As usual, we wish You a lot of chess fun with the current issue of CEWN, the Nr 46.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Jones, Gawain C B (2644)
— Panjwani, Raja (2402) [E33]

88th Hastings Masters Hastings ENG (3.4), 30.12.2012

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Let's take a look at a short win by the Hasting Masters champion, Gawain Jones.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♘c3** ♙b4 **4.♙c2** The Nimzo with 4.♙c2 has been a popular opening, at least for the last 70 years!

4...♘c6 A relatively rare move. In my opinion, White is doing a bit better here. The main lines are 4...d5 and 4...0-0.

5.♘f3 d6 Black's idea is to exchange the bishop on b4 and to play e5 closing the center, which would make White's bishop pair not that effective.

6.♙d2 White doesn't hurry with a3 and prepares to take with ♙xc3, which would bring the bishop to a nice square.

6...0-0 **7.a3** ♙xc3 **8.♙xc3** ♖e8 **9.e3** Until here, everything is known.



9...♙e7?! This move looks strange to me. Of course, Black had to play the logical 9...e5, and after 10.♙e2, White has a small plus.

10.♙e2 a5 To block the b4 move is not a bad idea.

11.0-0 a4?! This already is too much. Black should have finally played 11...e5, even though White is doing clearly better after 12.d5 ♘b8 13.b4.

12.d5! Good move by White! Enough is enough! It's time for some action.

12...♘d8 [12...exd5 13.♙xf6 ♙xf6 14.cxd5 is, of course, very bad for Black.]

13.♙fd1 Another good move by White, keeping all the options open. By keeping the pawn on d5, White is completely paralyzing Black's knight on d8.

13...♘d7 [13...e5 14.♘d2 followed by e4 and Black almost has no moves. The knight on d8 is very badly placed. It should be on b8 to be able to play ♘d7-♘c5.]

14.♙d3 A slightly strange move to me. [14.♘d4 seems to be logical and good. White is clearly better.]

14...h6 **15.dxe6?! After this move White is still doing better, but why to allow the Black knight to leave d8?**

15...♘xe6 **16.♘d4** ♘dc5? This allows White to reach a winning attack. [16...♘f6 would have been almost the only move to continue. Things are looking bad for Black, but there's still a lot of fight. White is „only“ doing better because of the bishop pair.]



17. ♙h7+! A sudden and lethal strike.

17...♔f8? Yet another mistake by Black. [17...♔h8 would have been the right direction. 18.♘f5 ♕f8 19.♘xh6 It seems like White won a pawn, but... 19...f6! An amazing move which is very hard to find during a practical game. Black is more or less still fighting now.]

18. ♖f5 ♔d8 Now the Black queen will be very badly placed on d8, facing White's rook on d1.

19.f4 Nice move. White is putting more pressure against Black by securing the e5 square in case of $\text{♞d7}-\text{♞e5}$.

19...g6 Another unlucky move by Black that ends the suffering in a nice way.

20. ♙xg6! A beautiful move.

20...fxg6 21. ♖xh6 The idea is that Black can't do anything against ♔xg6 next!

21...♔e7 22.♖xg6♜f8 White has 3 pawns plus a mating attack — it's the end...

23.f5 The winning move.

23...♔e8 24.f6+ ♚d7 25.f7 I guess that Black should have resigned by now, but the game goes on.

25...  **e7** **26.**  **f6** The Black queen is trapped!

26...**f4 27.****f5+ e6 28.****xf4** White is 3 pawns up and has a mating attack.

28...  **e4** **29.**  **g7** This was too much even for Panjwani.
A nice game that shows how not to play with Black...

1-0

(2) Grachev, Boris (2688)
– Vajda, Levente (2603) [E69]

Basel SUI Basel SUI, 03.01.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

The decisive battle for the first place in the New Year Open in Basel.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** g6 **3.♘c3** ♙g7 **4.g3** 0–0 **5.♙g2** d6 **6.♘f3** ♘bd7 [Recently, the lines with 6...♘c6 7.0–0 a6 are more popular, but of course, the text move is another huge main line.]

7.0–0 e5



8.e4 c6 **9.h3** White usually develops his bishop to e3 and this move is prophylactic against ♘g4. We are still at just the beginning of theory...

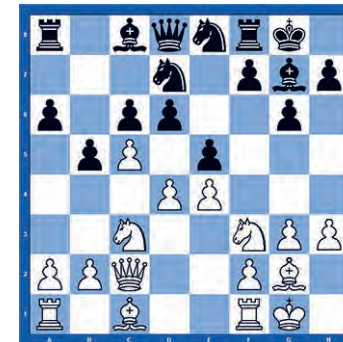
9...a6 [9...♙b6 is the main line.]

10.♙c2 Grachev deviates from his own game; before, he had played 10.♙e3.

10...b5 **11.c5!** This is a known motif in the King's Indian g3 system. White tries to undermine the central pawns until they are not supported by the pieces. On the other

hand, we must always think twice before making such moves, because one mistake in the calculation might immediately give Black the advantage.

11...♘e8! [On 11...exd4 the point is that after 12.♘xd4 dxc5 13.♘xc6 ♙c7 14.e5! Black is in trouble.; 11...dxc5 12.dxe5 ♘e8 also has a direct refutation. 13.♙g5! On 13...♙c7 (13...f6 14.exf6 ♙xf6 15.♙f4 ± is very bad for Black, as he collapses in the center.) 14.♙e7! wins an exchange!]



12.d5 This is new, but it drops the advantage against Black's best reaction. [12.♙g5 happened in the previous games. 12...f6 13.♙e3 dxc5 14.dxc5 White is slightly better with the space advantage. Later on, he must play on the queenside with b4 and a4.]

12...cxd5?! Missing the chance. [12...dxc5?! doesn't equalize either. The concrete reason is: 13.dxc6 ♘b6 14.♙d1! and Black must move into ♘d5 14...♙c7 15.♘d5 with a big advantage. 15...♙xc6? 16.♘e7+; However 12...♙b7! would have gotten an even position. White can't hold his center and after the exchanges, Black has no problem at all. 13.dxc6 ♙xc6 14.cxd6 ♘xd6 15.♙d1 ♙e7 =]

13.c6! White obtains a very dangerous protected passed pawn.

13...♘df6 [13...dxe4 loses a piece. 14.cxd7 exf3 15.dxe8 ♔! This is the right way to take. (15.dxc8 ♔ ♖xc8 16.♙xf3 b4!) 15...♖xe8 16.♙xf3 ±]

14.♘xd5 ♘c7 [14...♘xd5 15.exd5 ♘c7 16.♖d1 transposes to the analysis of the game.]

15.♖d1 [15.♘xf6+ might be even stronger. White can create a very strong pressure against the d6 pawn, while Black has no access to c6. 15...♙xf6 16.♖d1 ♙e6 17.♙e3±]

15...♘cxd5 I don't like this move at all. Black should have kept his c7 knight as a good blockader of the passed pawn. [Although, after 15...♘fxd5 White is also clearly better. 16.exd5 ♙f5 (16...f5 looks active, but doesn't lead anywhere. White can simply continue his plans on the queenside. 17.a4! f4 (17...e4 18.♘d4± 18...♘xd5? 19.♔b3) 18.g4!±) 17.♔e2 ♙e3 and a4 are coming next. Black has problems on the queenside.]

16.exd5 ♖e8 The c6 pawn is very nice of course, but it doesn't win the game. White must open another „battlefield“, and it should be on the side where he is clearly stronger.

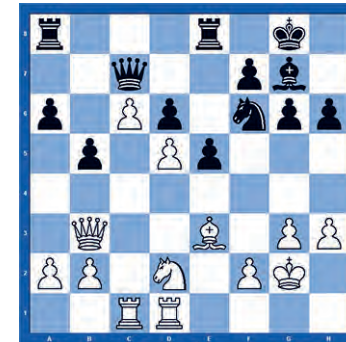


17.♙e3 [The move 17.a4! suggested itself. 17...b4 is met with 18.a5! and ♙e3-b6 next. The b4 pawn will fall soon.]

17...♙f5 18.♔b3 ♔c8 19.♔h2 ♙e4 20.♖ac1 Sooner or later, White should play a4. He decides to improve his position to the maximum before doing that, as he believes Black can't do anything useful.

20...♔c7 21.♘d2 Exchanging the only active piece is again a logical approach.

21...♙xg2 22.♔xg2 h6



23.♘b1! Nice maneuver. White wants to play ♘c3 followed by a4!

23...♖eb8 24.♘c3 [It might be more circumspect to play 24.a3 to prevent the counterplay that occurred in the game, followed by ♘c3.]

24...b4!? It was enough of waiting passively. Black decides to look for counterplay, but it has a drawback as well — he weakens his own pawn structure.

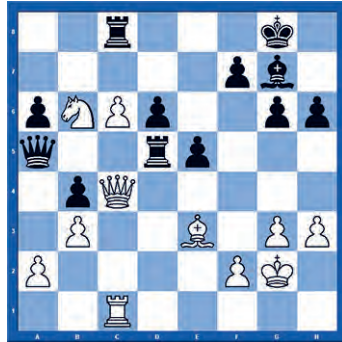
25.♘a4 ♖b5 To harass the d5 pawn is in Black's mind.

26.♔c4! ♔a5 27.b3 Good calculation, because the d5 square is protected indirectly.

27...♖c8 [27...♘xd5? 28.♖xd5 ♖xd5 29.♘b6 +-]

28. ♖d2 White is ready to play ♖cd1 and the d5 pawn is still indirectly protected, although the line is more difficult this time.

28... ♔h7 [28... ♘xd5 29. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 30. ♘b6 Black has the pretty tactical blow



30... ♖c5! 31. ♘xc8!! (31. ♙xc5? ♖xc6 would be fine for Black.) 31... ♖xc4 32. ♖xc4 and the c-pawn decides the game. 32... ♙c7 33. ♘e7+! is the last key move! 33... ♙xe7 (33... ♔h7 34. ♘d5) 34. c7 +-; 28... ♖xd5 29. ♘b6 ♖xd2 30. ♘xc8 +- The c-pawn has no blockader.]

29. ♖cd1 ♖e8 How to improve the position? Grachev found a very clever plan — to transfer the knight to c4, where it'll be clearly better placed.



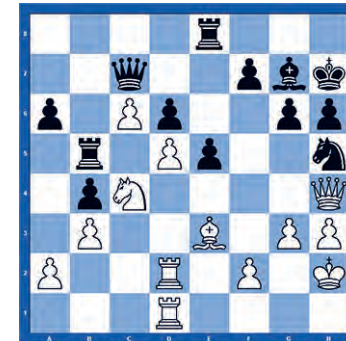
30. ♘b2! ♖c8 [30... ♙xa2? would be too greedy. 31. ♘a4 ♙a3 32. c7! ♖c8 33. ♘b6 +-]

31. ♔h2 Approaching the time trouble.

31... ♖e8 32. ♔g2 ♖c8 33. ♔h2 ♖e8 34. ♙h4! Another great move! White frees the the c4 square for the knight and creates a small tactical threat with ♙xh6 as well.

34... ♘h5 [34... ♖xd5 has a nice refutation: 35. ♖xd5 ♘xd5 36. ♘c4 ♙b5 37. ♘xd6 ♙xc6 38. ♖xd5! (But not 38. ♘xe8 ♘xe3! 39. ♖xe3 ♙c2+) 38... ♖e6 and the final blow is (38... ♙xd5 39. ♘xe8 +-) 39. ♘xf7! ♙xd5 40. ♘g5+ ♔g8 41. ♘xe6 ♙xe6 42. ♙xb4 +- with a winning endgame.]

35. ♘c4 ♙c7



36. a4! Excellent positional move, based on good calculation.

36... ♖xa3 [36... ♖bb8? would be hopeless. 37. a5 +- ♙b6 next.]

37. ♘xa3 ♖a5? This loses to a nice tactical blow! [37... ♖xb3 was the only move. 38. ♙a4 ♖eb8 39. ♖d3! seems to be strong. (In case of the most logical 39. ♙xa6 Black gets some counterplay on the kingside with 39... f5) 39... ♖3b4 40. ♙xa6 f5 and the difference is that White has 41. ♙d2! leaving from the f4 tempo and going to a5, sending away the last blockader.]

38. ♔b4! It seems like this blunders a piece after ♖b8, but...

38... ♖b8 39. ♕b6!! White actually wins an exchange.

39... ♖xb6 [39... ♖xb6 40. ♖xb6 ♖xb6 41. ♘c4 ♖bb5 42. ♘xa5 ♖xa5 43. ♖c2 +- There is no way to stop the pawn.]

40. ♖xa5 ♖xc6 Black at least succeeded to eliminate the most dangerous pawn, but his position remains hopeless — he's an exchange down.

41. ♖xc7 ♖xc7 42. ♘c4 ♕f8 43. ♖a2 ♘f6 44. ♖xa6 ♘e4 Black doesn't have enough pieces to create counterplay. The rest is a matter of technique.

45. ♔g2 ♖b7 46. ♖e1 f5 47. ♘a5 [47. ♖b6 ♖a7 48. ♖e2 +- was also good, followed by advancing the b-pawn.]

47... ♖b5 48. ♖c1!? White decides to create a mating net, which combined with the dangerous b-pawn, should be enough to decide the game.

48... ♖xd5 49. ♖c7+ ♔g8 50. ♘c4 The White rooks are ready to occupy the 8th rank.

50... f4 51. gxf4 exf4 52. ♖a8 ♖g5+ 53. ♔f3 d5 54. ♘b6 ♘d2+ 55. ♔e2 ♘xb3 Black managed to get rid of the b-pawn, but it's not enough to save the game. The knight will find itself trapped soon.

56. ♘d7 ♘d4+ [After 56... ♖f5 the prettiest way to win is 57. ♔d3 ♖f7 58. ♘xf8! ♖xf8 (58... ♖xc7 59. ♘e6+ +-) 59. ♖a3! ♖b8 60. ♖c3! +- and the knight is lost!]

57. ♔d3 ♘e6 58. ♘f6+ and ♖h7 next.

1-0

(3) Krasenkow, Michal (2628) – Volodin, Aleksandr (2506) [A70]

Rilton Cup 2012–13 Stockholm, 04.01.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

We'll see a nice positional game by the tournament winner.

1. d4 ♘f6 2. ♘f3 c5 3. d5 d6 4. c4



4... b5 Black would like to transpose to the Volga/ Benko gambit, but in this move order, White has some alternatives to obtain a positional advantage without accepting the pawn sacrifice.

5. ♖c2!? with the idea of occupying the center after e4. [5. cxb5 a6 6. bxa6 ♕xa6 transposes to the main lines of the opening.]

5... g6 6. e4 bxc4 7. ♕xc4 The c4 square became an excellent outpost for the minor pieces. Black should try the pieces there, but White has both knights as a reserve to occupy it.

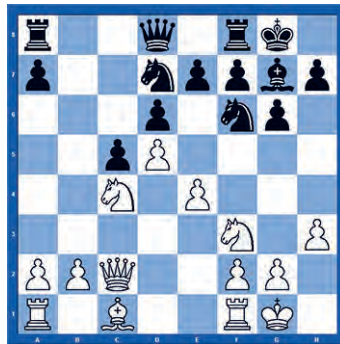
7... ♕g7 8. 0-0 0-0 9. h3 A useful move against ♕g4, and to open the back rank as well. It's Black's turn to find a plan.

9...♘a6 [9...♞fd7 is also typical in these positions, but it doesn't lead to equality either. 10.♙d2! trying to exchange the strong dark-squared bishop on g7. In my opinion, White should have tried this plan in the game. 10...♞b6 11.♙e2 ♘a6 12.♙c3! followed by taking control over the c4 square with ♞a3 and ♞d2. 12...♙xe2 13.♚xe2 +=]

10.♞a3! The d2 square had to be left alone for the other pieces.

10...♙xc4 It helps White to occupy the ideal square with tempo, but on the other hand, Black could not finish the development with the b8 knight before taking on c4.

11.♞xc4 ♞bd7



12.♙g5 This is not the right plan. Krasenkow wanted to force a weakness on h6 before driving his bishop to c3, but Black is not forced to send it away. [12.♙d2 seems to be stronger with the main idea of playing ♞a5-a6. Black has to prevent this threat by 12...a5 but this is a weakening move, which might be telling later in the middlegame. (12...♞b6 13.♞a5 +=) 13.♙c3 += and ♞fd2 next, with an advantage.]

12...♞b6 13.♞fd2 ♞xc4 14.♞xc4 ♞d7! Consequent and strong. Black is trading the minor pieces on c4. He gets close to equality, but as we'll see, he still didn't reach it completely.

15.♚ab1! Preparing for the following actions on the b-file.

15...♞b6 16.b3 Krasenkow wants to take back with the pawn on c4 and obtain a marginal advantage. [16.♞a5 didn't work tactically this time. 16...♞xd5! 17.♞c6 and Black has the elegant intermediate move 17...♞b4! counterattacking the queen.; However 16.b4! seems to be very strong. This is also quite a typical way to increase the initiative in such situations. 16...cxb4 17.♚xb4 ♞c8 18.♚b3 ♞xc4 19.♚xc4 ♞xc4 20.♚xc4 White has a small but stable advantage, because of the a7 weakness. Sooner or later, Black has to send back the g5 bishop to ease the pressure on the e7 pawn, but then it will be excellently placed on e3. Besides, the rook is coming to occupy one of the open files on the queenside. 20...h6 (20...♚d7 21.♚c1 +=) 21.♙e3+=]

16...♚d7 [16...♞xc4 17.bxc4 will be the same as in the game.]

17.f4 I'm not sure at all if this plan with f4-f5 is the best in the position, but in the game it perfectly paid out.

17...♞xc4 18.bxc4



18... ♖ab8 Black has reached full equality now, but with his next two moves, he gives back the initiative again.

19.f5 ♗e5?! [19... ♖b6 was very logical. White must either allow to double the rooks or to strengthen the pawn structure with axb6. This is a known motif in fighting for a file. Probably, White should do the same with ♖b3 and ♖fb1 and soon they will agree to a draw.]

20. ♗h6 ♗g7? After this move, White wins the fight for the b-file. [20... ♖fc8 should have been played.]

21. ♗xg7 ♖xg7



22. ♖b3! Because of the ♗b2 threat, Black must give up the control of the only open file.

22... ♖xb3 23. ♗xb3 ♖c7 24. ♖b1 ♗a5 Black is looking for counterplay, but White easily neutralizes the active attempts.

25. ♗c2 White covers all the invading squares.

25... ♖c8 [25... ♗c7 is met with 26. ♖b5! += consolidating the b-file.]

26. ♖f2! White wants to play ♖b7 and takes the e1 square under control.

26... ♗a6 Only temporarily prevents the threat. [26... ♖c7 is not advisable, since after 27. ♖b8 the c7 rook is dead.]

27. ♖b5 ♗a3 28. ♖b7 ♖e8 White is better, but Black doesn't have too many weaknesses and the queen is always ready to find counterplay. Before starting any concrete plans, Krasenkow, as a strong practical player, reaches the time control at move 40.

29. ♖b3 ♗a4 30. ♖e2 White takes his king to d3 in order to free his queen from protecting the c4 pawn. However, the king might get vulnerable there, so he changes his mind soon.

30...f6 31. ♖d3 ♗d7 32. ♖e3 ♖f7 33. ♖f2 ♗a4 34. ♗e2 ♖g8 35. ♖g1 ♗a6 36. ♖h2 ♗c8 [It would be interesting to know how White was intending to increase the advantage if Black continues his waiting policy with ♗a4-a6, keeping the c4 and a2 pawns always under attack. 36... ♗a4 37.h4 ♗a6 38.h5 is a possible plan, but Black can react with 38...g5 39.h6 ♖c8 when ♗h5 is not a threat at all.]

37. ♗g4 ♖f8? [37... ♖g7]



38. ♔f4 [White could have obtained a winning pawn end-game by force: 38.fxg6! ♕xg4 39. ♖b8+! ♔g7 40. ♖xg8+ ♕xg8 41.gxh7+! 3 intermediate checks before recapturing the queen. 41...♔xh7 42.hxg4 ♕g6 43.♔g3 ♕g5 44.♔f3 ♕h6 45.♔f4 ♕g6 and now, White has an extra tempo, which is enough to get Black into zugzwang! 46.g3 a6 47.a3 a5 48.a4 +- and Black must allow ♔f5, which means the end of the game.]

38... ♖g7 [38...♔g7 was probably the way to defend.; 38...g5 is not good, because after 39.♕g4 and ♕h5, White can always undermine the g5 pawn with h4.]



39.a4!! A great move! White wants to advance his pawn to a6 and penetrate with the rook on b7.

39... ♔f7 40.a5 ♖g8 What else to do?!

41. ♕h6! ♖g7 42.a6! Basically, the game is over, as Black can't take on a6. It was very instructive to see how easily White converted his small advantage.

42...gxf5 [42...♕xa6 is refuted by 43.♖b8 and Black can't prevent the threats. 43...♕a2 44.fxg6+ hxg6 (44...♖xg6 45.♖f8#) 45.♕h8 +-]

43. ♕h5+ ♔g8 44. ♕xf5! A spectacular final position. Despite the material equality, Black must resign the game.[44.♕xf5 ♕xf5 (44...♕xa6 leads to mate: 45.♕e6+ ♖f7 46.♖b8+ ♔g7 47.♕g4+ ♔h6 48.♖g8 and ♕h4 next.) 45.exf5 The rook endgame is hopeless, Black loses the a7 pawn. 45...♔f7 46.♖b7 ♖g8 47.♖xa7 +-]

1-0

(4) Loetscher,R (2395)
– Vachier Lagrave,M (2711) [D85]

Hilton Master Open 2013 Basel SUI (4.2), 03.01.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

A huge difference in ELO finally made the result clear. However, White fought quite well during the first 25 moves. It's quite usual to see the young French Top GM not playing the best openings, getting a sort of slightly worse/unclear position and striking without mercy when it comes to tactics. Yes, Loetscher should have known better...

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 Vachier is playing the Gruenfeld with Black in almost all of his games, and showing really fantastic results in it. If somebody that knows the reputation of the Gruenfeld tells him, this would be really bad news for the French :).

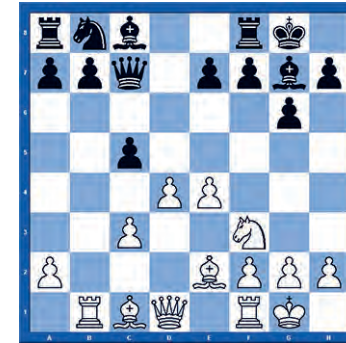
4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♙g7 7.♘f3 We are in the main line...

7...c5 White has a strong center, but Black starts to play quickly against the central pawns...

8.♖b1 This move is very well analyzed as well.

8...0-0 9.♙e2 ♔c7!? ♔c7 is clearly not the best, but we are getting into quite an unclear position and Black avoids all the theoretical lines. [9...cxd4 10.cxd4 ♔a5+ 11.♙d2 ♔xa2 12.0-0 This is the main line. The current evaluation is about equal, with a lot of forced draws. It's quite clear that Maxime didn't want to give his opponent any chances for a „gift“, like a forced draw out of the opening.]

10.0-0



10...b6 Black has to develop his bishop somewhere, and b7 is a standard place. Another option could be to play 10...♙g4, but Maxime wants to keep as many pieces on the board as possible.

11.♙g5! Good move by White! The bishop on g5 takes a perfect position for the future battle. Another logical move like 11.♙e3 could be an option too, but 11.♙g5 is usually a better place.

11...♙b7 12.♔d3! Another very good move by White. White is bringing the queen to e3, where it will take a perfect position. White wants to play d4-d5 next.

12...e6 Almost the only way to avoid White's d5, but now the dark squares are getting weaker...

13.♔e3 ♘d7 14.e5! Loetscher chooses a strong move once again. By fixing the structure, White is clearly going to develop his play on the kingside with ♙h6-♔f4-♔h4-♘g5, for example. Black's pieces are standing a bit passively and White has more space. White is doing a bit better here and wants to play ♙h6 next, with a bishop exchange that would weaken the Black king even more.

14...♖fc8 Black wants to play cxd4 cxd3 and ♔c3 trying to exchange the queens. At the same time, against White's ♕h6, ♕h8 is possible now.

15.♖fc1 A logical move, but White's plan should be to play on the kingside, so why did he take the rook away from f1? I think 15.♖bc1! would be a better option now.

15...♖ab8



16.h4 A logical move, creating „air“ for the king, and at the same time, preparing to play h5.

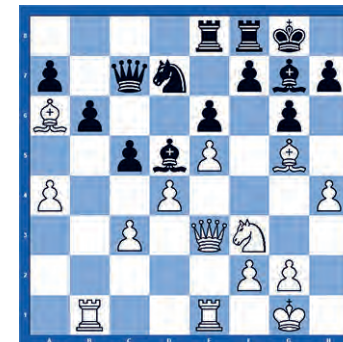
16...♕d5! Very strong move by Maxime. It wasn't easy to find a clear idea with Black, but with 15...♕d5, he's giving White the responsibility to take decisions.

17.♕a6 [In case of 17.a4 cxd4! 18.cxd4 ♔b7 we see that the bishop made space for the queen on b7! By exchanging both rooks, Blacks should be doing fine. And if White needs to play 19.♖e1 — well, it's hard to imagine that by losing a tempo like this, White could reach any advantage.]

17...♖f8 18.a4 White managed to avoid Black's main idea, but now...

18...♖be8! What a surprise. After not being able to create counterplay on the queenside, Black suddenly switches to another plan — to play f6 next! The game is starting to get sharp. If White can avoid Black's f6, he should be much better, otherwise, Black is good!

19.♖e1? This move doesn't stop Black from playing f6 at all... Meanwhile, White had a lot of nice options. [Another bad choice would have been to play 19.h5 f6 20.exf6 ♘xf6 and Black is again very active.; But why not to play 19.♕b5! This almost stops Black completely from playing f6, and in case of 19...♕c6, f6 is by far not that effective without the bishop on d5...]



19...f6! Of course... The beginning of White's fall.

20.exf6 ♘xf6 21.♕f4 [In case of 21.♗e5 ♗e4 seems to be very strong.]

21...♖e7 22.♕g5 It's strange, but to play with White is super difficult here. Black just wants to get active and White's pieces somehow are standing in very unlucky places.

22...cxd4! Another very good move by Black.

23. ♖xd4 [After 23.cxd4 h6! White can't take on h6 because of ♗g4. 24. ♕xf6 ♖xf6 White's position is still solid, but Black is doing better.]

23... ♖f7! Another great move by Black who is playing in a very dynamic way — this fits perfectly with the position. Black wants to play ♗g4 or e5 next.

24.f3 Stopping ♗g4, but not e5.

24...e5 25. ♗b5 ♖e6 As we can see the position got very sharp, but I feel that Black's pieces are much better placed. White's bishop on a6 is completely out of play, and the knight on b5 is not in perfect shape either. Black wants to play e4 next.

26. ♖bd1?! Does this move stops Black from playing e4?! [White had a very strong option: 26.c4! would get White back into the game. 26... ♕xc4 27. ♖bc1! White is getting great counterplay over the c-file by playing ♖c7, and in case of 27... ♕xb5, 28. ♕xb5 followed by ♕c4.]

26...e4! White's position is falling apart...

27. ♗d4 This move loses against the next tactical blow. [It doesn't help to play 27.f4 h6 28. ♕xf6 ♖xf6 and Black is much better.]



27...exf3! The winning blow...

28. ♗xe6 ♗g4 This is Black's key idea! He not only attacks the queen on e3, but threatens to play f2 as well...

29. ♗xf8 f2+ 30. ♖h1 ♗xe3 31. ♖xe3 ♕xf8 After the exchanges, White has 2 squares for the Queen, which is not bad, but the f2 pawn makes his life pretty hard.

32. ♕f1 h6! Exact until the end. White's king is in a lot of danger as well. Black always had in mind that the h4 pawn could fall very easily.

33. ♖e5 ♕b3 This finishes the game on the spot...

34. ♖d8 hxg5 35. ♖ee8 White achieved a bishop endgame — but with 2 pawns down...

35... ♕xa4 36. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 37. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 38.hxg5 a5 A nice game by Maxime, who is simply a better player!

0-1

Puzzle section

(5) Socko,B (2631) — Rombaldoni,A (2464)

Rilton Cup, 01.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Rombaldoni,A (2464) — Krasenkow,M (2628)

Rilton Cup, 05.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

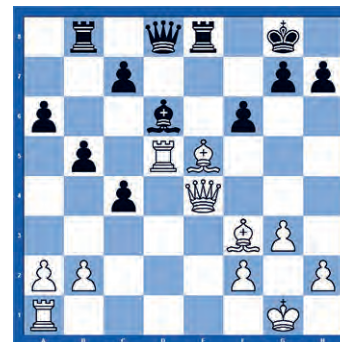


(7) Golichenko,I (2414) — Stupak,K (2526)

Krakow Open, 04.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. ±

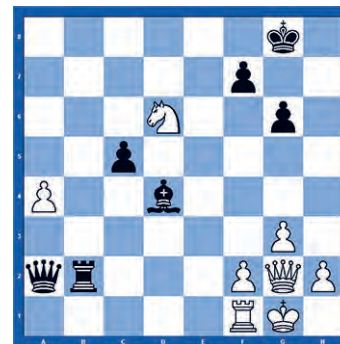


(8) Bogdanovich,G (2343) — Vajda,L (2603)

Basel Open, 02.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



(9) Gavrilov,A (2501) – Istratescu,A (2654)

Basel Open, 03.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

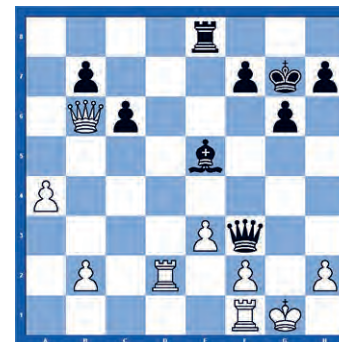


(11) Das,S (2312) – Deviatkin,A (2569)

Delhi Open, 05.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



(10) Melkumyan,H (2656) – Vajda,L (2603)

Basel Open, 04.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... -/+

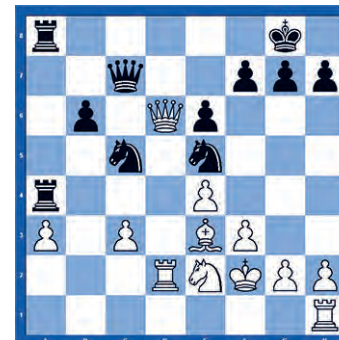


(12) Aleksandrov,A (2607) – Panchanathan,M (2580)

Delhi Open, 07.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



(13) Das,A (2466) – Nikolov,M (2545)

Roquetas Open, 05.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(14) Burmakin,V (2565) – Manakov,I (2345)

Staufer Open, 05.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

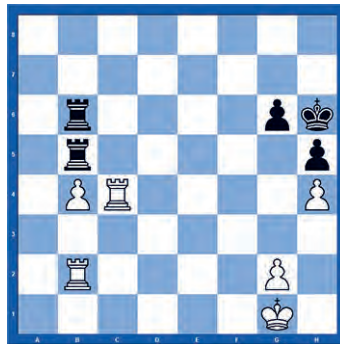


Endgame section

(15) Istratescu,A (2654) – Grachev,B (2688)

Basel, 04.01.2013

[Chess Evolution]



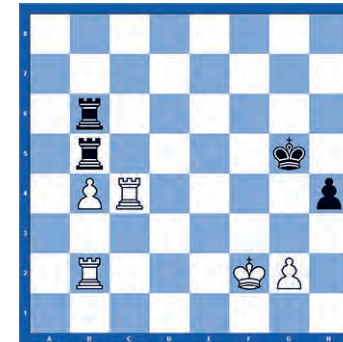
It's really difficult to evaluate the following endgame. Probably, with perfect play, Black should be able to hold, but in a practical game White has better chances to win than Black to get a half point. The fact that there are 4 rooks on the board increases Black's defensive chances. For instance, if we take the c4 and b6 rooks off the board, the win would be fairly easy — White would bring his king to c4. The first move is principled, it creates a weakness on g2 in order to have some counterplay with the 2 rooks.

46...g5 [46...♖f6 with the idea of preventing White's plan — to transfer his king to c3 and free one of his rooks, for example with ♖c5. However, this allows 47.♖c5! when Black is forced to retreat his rook along the b-file, but this

would allow the advance b5 and Black must forget about playing g5 forever.]

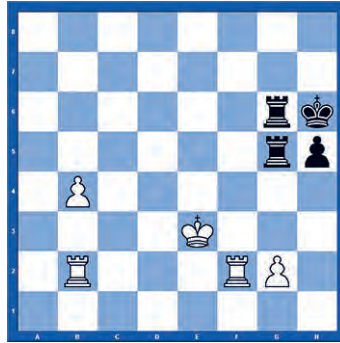
47.hxg5+ ♔xg5 [47...♖xg5 was probably slightly better as the game will show. After 48.♖f4 giving shelter for the king against the rook's checks and preparing for ♔f2-e3, we get a very similar position to the game.]

48.♔f2 ♔h6 Freeing the g-file for the rooks. [48...h4? was quite principled as well, fixing the g2 weakness, but this is refuted by a subtle plan...



49.♔g1!! Suddenly, the White king is changing his mind as the h-pawn became a weakness. 49...♔h5 50.♔h2 ♖g5 To have ♖g3 on ♔h3, but this allows the activation of the b2 rook. 51.♖f2! ♖ff4 is a threat.]

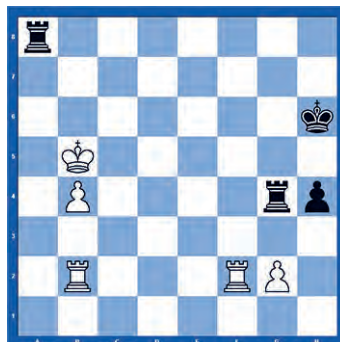
49.♔e3 ♖g5 50.♖f4 ♖bg6 51.♖ff2! [51.b5 leads to an easy draw: 51...♖xg2 52.♖xg2 ♖xg2 53.♖b4 ♖g8 54.b6 ♖b8 55.b7 ♔g5 Black's king wants to collect the b-pawn, and after 56.♔d4 ♔g4 57.♔d5+ ♔g3 58.♔c6 h4 White's king is too far to catch the h-pawn.]



51...h4 [51...♖d6! would have been the right way to defend. The idea is clear, Black cuts the king. It's not easy to make progress now for White... 52.♗fd2 suggests itself, in order to send away the rook, but it's met with (52. b5 drops the pawn. 52...♗b6) 52...♗g3+! 53.♕f2 (53.♕f4 ♗xd2 54.♗xd2 ♗g4+ =) 53...♗xd2+! 54.♗xd2 ♗b3! Black successfully activated his rook and has no chance to lose. 55.♗d4 ♕g5 =]

52.♕d4 White's king reaches the pawn. Now it's very difficult for Black to defend.

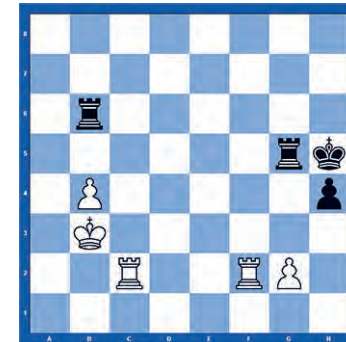
52...♗d6+ [52...♗g4+ was probably the best try. 53.♕c3 (53.♕c5 ♗4g5+ 54.♕c4 ♗g4+ will be the same as 53.♕c3.) 53...♗g3+ 54.♕c4 ♗3g4+ 55.♕b3 ♗b6 56.♕a4 ♗a6+ 57.♕b5 ♗a8



I came to the conclusion that this is the best defensive setup for Black, when he's ready to harass both of the pawns, and also to give many annoying checks to the king. Probably he should be able to hold the draw this way, but he still needs to produce many only moves...]

53.♕c4 ♗c6+ 54.♕b3 ♕h5 [Being familiar with the defensive method in 52...♗g4, Black should have aimed for the same with 54...♗g3+ 55.♕a4 ♗a6+ 56.♕b5 ♗a8 although it remains very unpleasant after 57.♗fd2!]

55.♗bc2! ♗b6

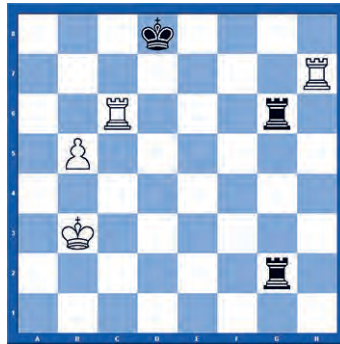


56.♗c4! Now the game is objectively over. White succeeded to activate his rook and his king supports the b-pawn. Trading the g2 pawn for the h4 one is also a very good chance to win, as the Black king is too far from the b-pawn.

56...♗bg6 57.♗ff4! [57.♗c5!? was also very tempting, but probably only leads to a draw. 57...♕g4 58.♗e2 ♕g3 59.♕a4 and now (59.♗xg5+ ♗xg5 60.♕a4 ♗g4!! Only move! Black prepares for ♕h2 and prevents ♗e4! (60... ♕h2 loses to 61.♗e4! ♗h5 62.♗g4 +-) 61.♕a5 ♕h2 62.b5 ♗xg2 =) 59...♗xc5! (59...♕h2? loses to 60.♗xg5 ♗xg5 61.♗e4! ♕g3 (61...♗h5 62.♗g4 +-) 62.b5 ♗h5 63.♗e2 +-)

60.bxc5 ♖g4+ he uses the same motif to prevent ♜e4 after ♔h2. 61.♔b5 ♔h2 62.c6 ♜xg2 63.♜xg2+ ♔xg2 64.c7 h3 65.c8♖ h2 = Just in time with a theoretical draw!]

57...♜xg2 58.♜xh4+ ♔g5 59.♜h8 ♔f5 [I was trying to rush with the king to the b-pawn, but it runs into a different kind of mate net with the two rooks. 59...♔f6 60.b5 ♔e7 61.♜c7+ ♔d6 62.♜c6+ ♔d7 63.♜h7+ ♔d8 The only move to win is



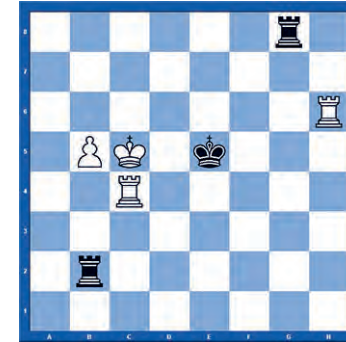
64.♜a6!! with a ♜a8 threat. Still, Black has a brilliant idea to save the game. Unfortunately for him, it doesn't work. 64...♜2g3+! (64...♜xa6 65.bxa6 +- The pawn promotes anyway.) 65.♔b4 ♜g7! White wins after 66.♜xg7! (66.♜a8+ It looks like White wins the rook, but a stalemate idea saves Black: 66...♔c7!! 67.♜a7+ ♔b6! 68.♜axg7 ♜xg7 69.♜xg7= Amazing!) 66...♜xg7 67.♜c6! Cutting the king and the b-pawn promotes. 67...♜c7 68.♔c5 +-]

60.b5 White is completely winning now, but at this moment the players were already exhausted and were both in serious time trouble...

60...♔e5 61.♔b4 [61.♜h5+ was quite an easy win. 61...♔d6 62.♜c6+ ♔d7 63.♜d5+ ♔e7 64.♜xg6 ♜xg6 65.♔b4+- with an automatic win.]

61...♜b2+ 62.♔c5 ♜g5 63.♜h6? Giving chances for Black. [63.b6 ♔e6+ 64.♔c6 +- Or; 63.♔b6 ♜g6+ (63...♔d6 64.♜h6+ ♔d7 65.♜c7+ +-) 64.♜c6 White should slowly but surely bring home the full point in both cases.]

63...♜g8!



64.b6? A blunder which leads to a forced draw. [64.♜c3 with the idea of sending the king further away from the b-pawn with ♜e3 was still a decent try 64...♜c8+ 65.♜c6 ♜d8 66.♜e3+ ♔f4 67.♜h3 The final result is still pretty unclear.]

64...♜c8+! 65.♜c6 ♜d8! Great defense! White must disappointingly agree to a draw.

66.♜c1 [66.♜c7 ♜d5+ 67.♔c6 ♜d6+ =]

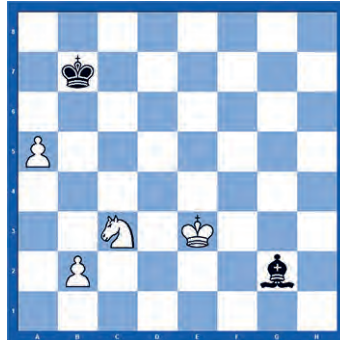
66...♜d5+ 67.♔c4 ♜d4+ 68.♔c5 [68.♔c3 ♜db4 wins the pawn.]

68...♜d5+ 69.♔c4 ♜d4+ 1/2

(16) Alsina Leal,D (2511) – Sulskis,S (2550) [C53]

88th Hastings Masters Hastings ENG (5.1), 01.01.2013

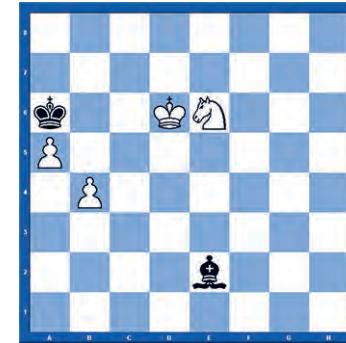
[Chess Evolution]



After a very fighting game, White is so close to his target — a full point. Two pawns with knight against bishop should be enough, right?!

81.♔d4 To put the king on d4 can't be wrong...

81...♔c6 Only move. [In case of 81...♔a6? the White king can be nicely placed on c5. 82.b4 ♕f3 Black only has waiting moves now... 83.♔c5 ♕g2 White needs to find a winning plan, but it's not that difficult anymore. One of the possible plans is to get the king to c7 and the knight to c5, forcing the Black king to go to b5, and White will be able to play a6 and queen the a-pawn. The next moves show the example in action: 84.♖b5 ♕f3 85.♖c7+ ♔b7 86.♔d6 White wants to play b5. 86...♕e2 87.♖e6 ♔a6



88.♔c6! White still needs to be precise. As in many end-games, everything is decided by one move. 88...♕f3+ 89.♔c7 ♕g2 90.♖c5+ Finally, White reaches the desired position. 90...♔b5 91.a6 and Black can't stop Whites a-pawn.]

82.♔c4? White doesn't find a win after the most logical 82.b4 — but, was there a win? Let's take a look. [82.b4! ♕f1 Black, of course, has to stop White from playing b5. 83.♔e5 White's king is going to d8 and maybe he'll be able to go to a7. To avoid this, the Black king will have to make space and lose control of the b5 square... 83... ♕d3 84.♔e6 ♕f1 85.♔e7 ♕h3 (85...♔b7 86.♔d6 and we already know this position, it's winning for White.) 86.b5+ ♔c5 87.♔d8! and White is easily winning.]

82...♕f1+ 83.♔b4 ♕d3 Black keeps waiting, and it's hard to understand White's idea. Clearly, it's not possible to win without playing b2-b4.

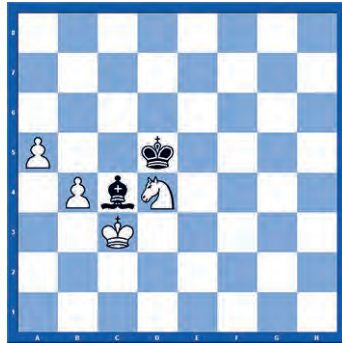
84.♖a4 ♕b5 85.♖b6 ♕e2 86.♖c4 The last maneuvers of the White knight are hard to understand... Black keeps waiting.

86...♕f1 87.b3 We finally see a pawn move, but the b-pawn hasn't reached the right square on b4 still.

87...♙e2 88.♘d2 ♔d5 89.♘b1 ♔c6 90.♘a3 ♙a6 91.♘c4 Still nothing happens... The bishop on a6 is a bit blocked, but it doesn't matter much.

91...♔d5 92.♘e3+ ♔c6 93.♘f5 ♙d3 94.♘d4+ ♔d5 95.♔c3 ♙f1 96.b4 White has to finally put the pawn on b4!

96...♙c4 Now White's idea should be to come back almost to the starting position. This means to first put the knight on c3, to force Black to move his king back to c6, and then bring the king to e7.



97.b5?? What a horrible blunder! After this move, the position is a draw... [One of the possible ways to bring the knight to c3 would have been: 97.♘c2 ♙a6 98.♘e3+ ♔e4 99.♘d1 followed by ♔b3 and ♘c3.]

97...♔c5! And the position is a draw!

98.a6 [Nothing helps anymore... 98.b6 ♙a6]

98...♙d5 99.♔b2 ♔b6 Black has blocked the pawns and White has no way to improve.

100.♔a3 ♙c4 Followed by ♙xb5 and ♔xa6. Conclusion: White had quite an easily winning position, but chose the

wrong plan. Still, it was not too late to come back, but another blunder led the game to a draw.

1/2

Clash of the Titans

(17) Kristinsson, Jon — Tal, Mihail [B48]

Reykjavik Reykjavik, 1964

[Csaba Balogh]

The following fighting game was typical of Mikhail Tal's brave style. He has led the game to a very sharp position, which objectively might not be good for him, but he knew that sooner or later he would outplay his opponent in the tactical complications.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 a6 The Paulsen/ Kan variation is considered to be a good decision for fighting players, as White doesn't have direct lines to force a draw.

5.♘c3 ♖c7 6.♙d3 ♘f6 7.0-0 ♘c6 8.♙e3



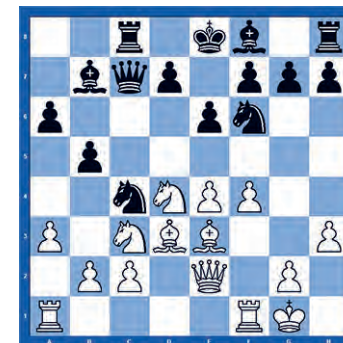
8...b5 [Theory considers 8...♘e5 to be the best option for Black. The main line starts with 9.h3 ♙c5 ...]

9.a3 [9.♘xc6 ♖xc6 10.a3 ♙b7 11.♖e2 is the reason why strong players restrain from playing 8...b5.]

9...♙b7 10.♖e2 ♘e5 This move seems to be slightly hasty, because of concrete reasons. Black would like to get the bishop pair, but we must know that ♘xd3 cxd3 favors White, as the game will demonstrate. The main threat is ♘eg4 — White needs to parry this, and if he does, Black should carry out the ♘c4 move. [10...♙e7 followed by normal development with 0-0 and d6 gives a playable position.]

11.h3! ♖c8 Black overprotects the c4 square and prepares for the forthcoming combination...

12.f4 ♘c4 [12...♘xd3 13.cxd3 This change of the structure favors White generally in all the Sicilians. White has no more problem with the e4 pawn, and the open c-file plus the weakened dark squares on the queenside give him better chances 13...♙e7 14.♖ac1 ♖b8 15.b4! 0-0 16.♘b3 += followed by ♖f2.]



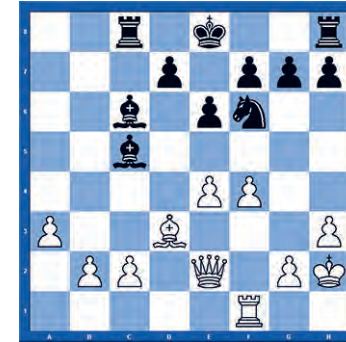
13.♘dxb5! Very nice tactical motif, making use of the temporarily uncoordinated Black pieces. [13.♙xc4 ♖xc4 Black would have achieved his aim. He already overtook the initiative with the bishop pair and has a lot of pressure against the e4 pawn.]

13...axb5 14.♘xb5 ♔c6 The only square to cover the c4 knight, but this moves into...

15.♗a7 ♘xe3? This is a really brave queen sacrifice. Objectively speaking, it doesn't work, but Tal always took such risky decisions and his opponents most often collapsed under the tension. [15...♔c7 should have been played, where White can either force a draw by repetition with 16.♘b5 (or play for a win, which is probably justified in the current position. 16.♕f2! The game could continue, for instance, with 16...♖b8 17.♕xc4 ♘xe4 18.♘b5 and White's chances seem to be preferable.; 16.♘xc8? is bad 16...♘xe3 and ♕c5 next.)]

16.♘xc6 ♕c5 17.♔h2? It's hard to explain this move. Black didn't have any special threat with the discovered check, so White could have simply saved his knight. [17.♘e5! The maximum Black can do is to take one of the rooks, but he'll end up with a material disadvantage in both cases. 17...♘xc2+ (17...♘xf1+ 18.♔xf1+-) 18.♔h2 ♘xa1 19.♖xa1 +-]

17...♘xf1+ 18.♖xf1 ♕xc6 We have reached this really unusual position. White has a queen and two connected passed pawns against a rook and two minor pieces. An important detail is that White can hardly mobilize his queenside pawns as one of the bishops will be able to stand between the pawns. Objectively, the game is probably even, but of course, in a practical game, in a position like this, the draw has the smallest probability of occurring.



19.c4 White wants to push e5 and control the d5 square. It's also principled to advance the queenside pawns, but it has a huge drawback as well — that it gives up the control of the d4 square. We'll see that the bishop will become incredibly strong soon.

19...d6 Reducing the power of e5.

20.♔c2 This is a slightly mysterious move. It's hard to get its point. [20.e5 was quite logical, to create a third passer on the queenside. 20...dxe5 21.fxe5 ♘d7 22.♕e4 getting rid of the bishop pair, but at the cost of a pawn. 22...♘xe5 23.♕xc6+ ♘xc6 24.b4 ♕e7 It's very hard to evaluate the position, but most probably Black will sacrifice a piece for the dangerous pawns and will escape to a drawish end-game.; 20.b4 ♕d4 will be similar to the game.]

20...♕d4 21.b4 e5 Fortifying the d4 bishop.

22.f5 ♔e7 Tal already thinks about the attack that will be seen later in the game. [However, the prophylactic 22...♖a8! was much stronger. Now White can't hold his structure and must create a hole between them, for instance with 23.b5 ♕b7 24.a4 Black immediately makes use of the weakness: 24...♘d7! Black's chances are better.]

23.a4



23...g6 Black opens the g-file for the rooks. At first, it doesn't seem so dangerous, but...

24.b5 ♖a8 25.♔e2 [25.a5 With his 25th move, White probably wanted to avoid 25...d5!? 26.exd5 ♞xd5 and the knight goes to e3, but this whole action with d5 was not necessarily in Black's mind, as he weakens his own king by doing so.]

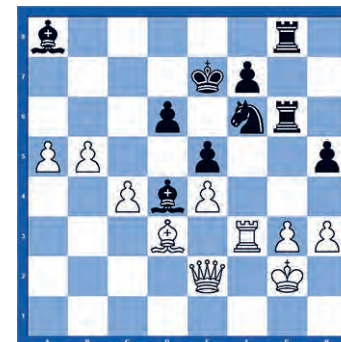
25...♞cg8 26.a5 h5 [26...gxf5 27.♞xf5 ♞g6 was also possible, but Tal probably wanted to prevent 28.g4 and White is always ready to push g5 when Black plays h5.]

27.g3 [27.b6 gxf5 28.♞xf5 ♞g6 We can see now that the Black bishops are excellently blockading the a- and b-pawns.]

27...♞h7 White can't avoid opening the g-file, so Black decides to double his rooks first.

28.♔g2? This is a huge mistake, moving into many tactical motifs. White was afraid of some ♞g4 ideas, when the opening of the h-file might lead to a quick mate. However, after ♞g4 White is not forced to accept the sacrifice. [28.b6 ♞hg7 was coming anyway.]

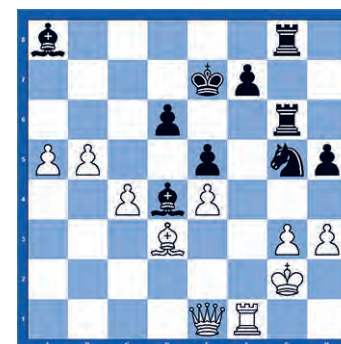
28...♞hg7 29.fxg6 ♞xg6 30.♞f3



30...♞h7! with the double threat of ♞g5 and the more hidden f5!!

31.♞e1 [31.h4 would have been met by 31...f5!! with the idea of playing ♞f6 or simply f4. White is lost. 32.♞xf5 ♞xg3+]

31...♞g5 32.♞f1 Black's pieces are ready for the final strike. Of course, Tal doesn't miss the tactical chance.

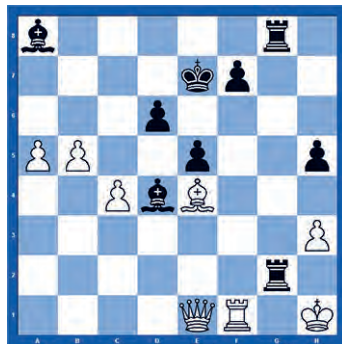


32...♞xe4! 33.♞xe4 ♞xg3+! 34.♔h2 [34.♞xg3 also leads to a hopeless endgame. 34...♞xe4+ 35.♔h2 ♞xg3 36.♞xg3 ♞d3 37.♞c1 The bishops and the king are block-

ing the a- and b-pawns, but there will be no one to stop Black's central pawns. 37...f5]

34...♖g2+! This and the next move were important details, which Black had to foresee before taking on e4.

35.♔h1 [35.♙xg2 leads to a forced mate. 35...♖xg2+ 36.♔h1 ♜e2+]



35...♖g1+! **36.♖xg1** [36.♔h2 ♜8g2+ 37.♙xg2 ♖xg2+ 38.♔h1 ♜e2+]

36...♖xg1+ 37.♔xg1 ♙xe4+ Black ended up with a winning material advantage.

0-1

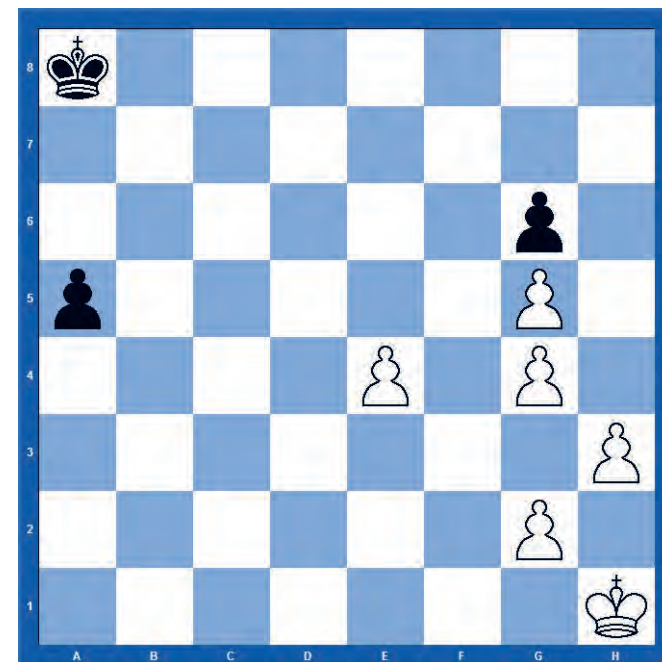
Surprise section / study

(18) Fernandez,J

1885

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(19) Nepomniachtchi,I (2707) – Grischuk,A (2764)

Piterenka blitz, 29.12.2012

[Solutions]



32. ♔e5+!! 1-0 [32. ♔e5+ ♕xe5 33. dxe5+-]

(20) Andriasian,Z (2605) – Hovhannisian,M (2477)

Groningen Open, 27.12.2012

[Solutions]



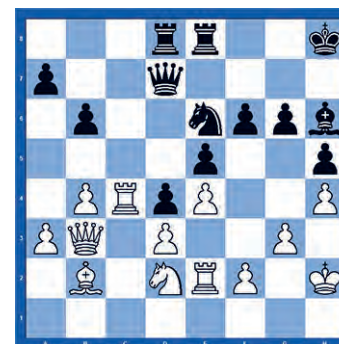
16. ♘xd5! exd5 17.e6! ♘b3+! [17... ♘xe6 18. ♕xb6+-; 17... ♕xe6 18. ♕g7#; 17... f6 18. exd7 ♘xd7 19. ♕xd5+-]

18. axb3 ♕xd4 19. exf7+! ♖xf7 20. ♖xd4±

(21) Burg,T (2498) – Bok,B (2522)

Groningen Open, 27.12.2012

[Solutions]



27... ♘f4! 28. gxf4 ♕g4!!-+ [28... ♕xf4+ 29. ♖g2 ♕g4+ 30. ♖f1 ♕h3+ 31. ♖e1]

29. f3 [29. ♖e1 ♕xf4+ 30. ♖h1 ♕h3+ 31. ♖g1 ♕h2+ 32. ♖h1 ♕g3+ 33. ♖g1 ♕h2+ 34. ♖f1 ♕xf2#]

29... ♕xf4+ 30. ♖h1 ♕h3+ 31. ♖g1 ♕e3+ 32. ♖xe3 ♕g3+ 33. ♖h1 dxe3-+

(22) Roy Chowdhury,S (2441) – Gormally,D (2495)

Groningen Open, 29.12.2012

[Solutions]

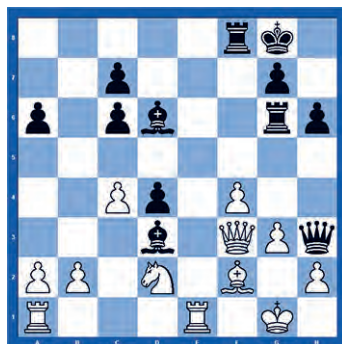


31...♖8b2!! 0-1[31...♖8b2 32.♖xb2 (32.♙f1 ♖xc1+ 33.♖xc1 ♖xd2--+) 32...♖xc1+--+]

(23) Lewicki,M (2200) – Malaniuk,V (2523)

Krakow Open, 30.12.2012

[Solutions]



27...♖xf4!! **28.♖e8+ ♔f7!** [28...♔h7? 29.♖xd3 ♖xf2 30.♔xf2 ♖xh2+ 31.♔e1+-]

29.♖xd3 ♖xf2! 30.♔xf2 ♖xh2+ 31.♔e1 ♖xg3+ [31... ♖xg3 32.♖f5+ ♔xe8--+]

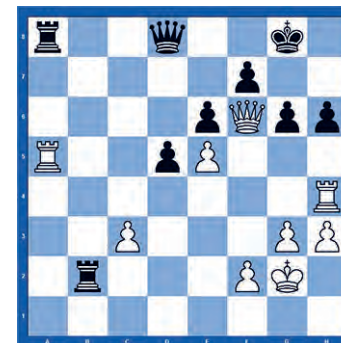
32.♔e2 [32.♖xg3 ♕xg3+ 33.♔e2 ♔xe8--+]

32...♔xe8--+

(24) Gelashvili,T (2566) – Li Chao (2677)

North American Open, 27.12.2012

[Solutions]



33...♖xf2+!! [33...♖xa5! 34.♖xh6 ♖xf2+!! 35.♔xf2 ♖c5+! 36.♔f3 ♖xc3+ 37.♔g4 ♖a4+--+]

34.♔xf2 ♖xa5 35.♖xh6 ♖c5+ 36.♔e1 ♖e3+ 0-1

(25) Hammer,J (2633) – Yankovksy,R (2474)

North American Open, 27.12.2012

[Solutions]



19. ♔h3! 1-0 [19. ♔h3! ♕xh3 20. ♖xe7+ ♔g7 21. ♖xh3+-;
19. ♔g3! ♕xg3 20. ♖xe7+ ♔g7 21. hxc3+-]

(26) Ramirez,A (2554) – Gareev,T (2663)

North American Open, 29.12.2012

[Solutions]



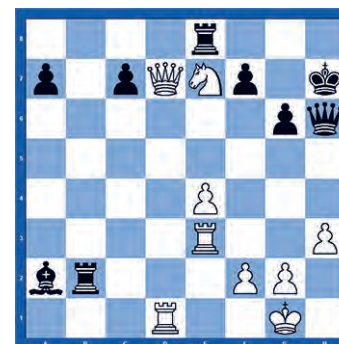
17... ♕c8!! 18. ♖xd8 ♖xd8! 19. ♗xd4 [19.g4 ♕xg4
20. ♕g3 ♗e2+-+]

19... ♕xh3 20. ♕xh3 ♖xd4 0-1

(27) Shabalov,A (2578) – Bryant,J (2416)

North American Open, 29.12.2012

[Solutions]



28... ♕h4!! 0-1 [28... ♕h4 29.g3 (29. ♕xe8 ♖xf2+ 30. ♔h2
♕xg2#) 29... ♕xe7+-+]

(28) Gaehler,M (2314) – Shirov,A (2708)

Zuerich Open, 29.12.2012

[Solutions]

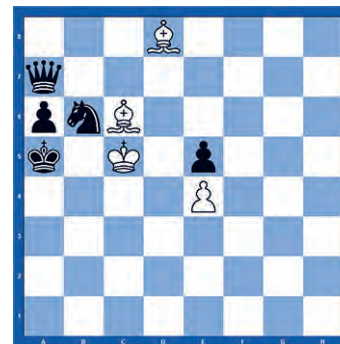


22... ♖xc3! 0-1 [22... ♖xc3 23.bxc3 ♕c4!-+]

(29) Sochniev,A

1980

[Solutions]



1. ♕c7!! ♖xc7= [1... ♖b8!? 2. ♕xb8 ♘d7+!! 3. ♕xd7=]

1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 47

18th of January 2013



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Editorial Preface

The whole chess world has its eyes on Wijk aan Zee.

The chess Elite with Carlsen, Aronian, Anand, Nakamura, Karjakin combined with the female World Champion Hou Yifan and many other Top GMs make the field extremely interesting.

What we can already say is: Anand is back. After not having a great 2012 and dropping to the 7th position in the world ranking, Vishy is back; he's showing very good play and a bit of necessary luck. His game in the 4th round against Aronian is really very nice. We have analyzed it for You.

The B group is exciting as well, but of course, in comparison to the "main" event, they seems to be a bit "gray".

The traditional rapid event in Estonia was won one more time by Alexei Shirov.

As usual, we wish You a lot of chess fun with the current CEWN Nr 47

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Aronian, Levon (2802)

— Anand, Viswanathan (2772) [D47]

75th Tata Steel GpA Wijk aan Zee NED (4.5), 15.01.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

How many times have we seen Aronian losing with White in under 25 moves? I can't remember any. We'll now see one of the most spectacular chess games. How much was Anand's analyses? This is hard to say, but probably almost until the end of the game. After the game, he admitted this was his preparation against Gelfand. All in all: super strong novelty, great play, very beautiful finish. A fantastic game.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 Lately, the Slav became Anand's favorite opening.

3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 e6 5.e3 ♘bd7 6.♙d3 dxc4 7.♙xc4 b5 8.♙d3 ♙d6 9.0-0 0-0 10.♚c2 ♙b7 11.a3 ♖c8 Everything is theory until here and this is one of the most popular lines of the Meran.



12.♘g5 A fresh idea, which was introduced by Wojtaczek. [The main idea of the Black's move 11...♖c8 becomes visible after 12.b4 c5! This amazing move was played by Anand's second Kasimdzhanov in his game against Topalov. 13.bxc5 ♙xf3 14.gxf3 ♘xc5 15.dxc5 ♖xc5 16.f4 ♘d5 17.♙b2 ♘xc3 18.♙xc3 ♚c7 19.♖fc1 ♖c8 Black is winning back the piece, the position is a draw,]

12...c5! A very strong novelty! Now the game is very tricky and pretty forced... [To win a pawn by playing 12...♙xh2+ 13.♙xh2 ♘g4+ 14.♙g1 ♚xg5 and it seems like Black is just a pawn up, but White is getting great play for it. 15.f3 ♘gf6 16.b4! White's bishop pair, plus his strong center and the very bad Black bishop on b7 is gives White better play.]

13.♘xh7 A very logical move. White needs to take the pawn on h7 — nothing else to do! [Another way to get the h7 pawn was to play 13.♙xh7+ ♙h8 14.♙e4 but now Black can equalize very easily by playing 14...♘xe4 15.♘gxe4 ♙b8 and Black is even more than fine. He has the bishop pair, an open position and an eventual attack on the White king. This is great compensation for just a pawn.]

13...♘g4 The beginning of a great mating idea!

14.f4 Aronian runs head first into Anand's preparation. [14.g3? would be a bad way to defend. 14...cxd4 (14...♚h4) 15.exd4 ♘xh2 and Black is easily winning. White can't take on h2 because of ♚h4.; 14.h3 would have been a very possible reply, but here Black has excellent play as well. 14...♚h4 with a dangerous attack.]

14...cxd4 15.exd4 It seems like White is pretty solid and the Black rook on f8 is under attack. How to proceed?

Anand has an amazing move in his pocket. What a level of preparation!



15...♙c5!! A really amazing move, and a winning one. I guess it might become the move of the Year 2013!

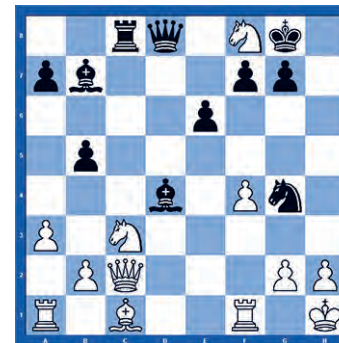
16. ♙e2 [If White takes the bishop, it wouldn't help much. 16.dxc5 ♘xc5 Black wants to take on d3 and, at the same time, to give a check on d4. White has no decent defense against this. 17. ♙e2 ♔d4+ 18. ♖h1 ♘f2+ and Black is giving mate.; 16. ♘xf8 leads to a beautiful mate: 16... ♙xd4+ 17. ♖h1 ♔h4 18.h3 ♔xh3#]

16...♘de5!! Another wonderful move! Black creates multiple threats and keeps the knight on g4 alive. A really beautiful position.

17. ♙xg4 [17.fxe5 and Black is mating after 17... ♔xd4+ 18. ♖h1 ♔g1+ 19. ♖xg1 ♘f2#]

17... ♙xd4+ 18. ♖h1 ♘xg4 As we can see, things turned out terrible for White. At the moment, we have equal material and Black is attacking the White king with all his pieces.

19. ♘xf8 If it's impossible not to die, at least let's get some material.



19...f5! Another very good move! Black wants to mate after ♔h4. [Of course not 19... ♔h4? 20. ♔h7+!]

20. ♘g6 White has protected from ♔h4 for a moment.

20... ♔f6 And the game is basically over. Black wants to play ♔xg6 and ♔h5 next. White has no defense against this.

21.h3 ♔xg6 22. ♔e2 Nothing helps White anymore...

22... ♔h5 23. ♔d3 ♙e3 What a great finish to a really amazing crush by Black. Anyway, it would be very interesting to know if Anand made any of the moves himself or if it was his preparation until the very end!

0-1

(2) Carlsen,M (2861) – Van Wely,L (2679) [E75]

Wijk aan Zee, 14.01.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

A nice positional lesson by the World Nr.1.

1.c4 g6 2.d4 ♘f6 **3.** ♘c3 ♙g7 Van Wely used to be a Gruenfeld player, but on this tournament, he employed the King's Indian. It's interesting that Carlsen himself also chose this opening against Aronian in the previous round with the Black pieces.

4.e4 d6 5. ♙e2 **0–0 6.** ♙g5 This is the main alternative to the main line with **6.** ♘f3. Black has various different setups, and van Wely went for the most common line.

6...c5 7.d5 e6 [It's better to include 7...h6 followed by the moves played in the game. The game demonstrates the difference excellently. The bishop on g5 is very annoying from Black's point of view.]

8. ♙d2! Black must forget about h6 after this move, and the pin is very annoying.

8...exd5 9.exd5! After this typical recapture, White has a better position due to the space advantage given by the d5 pawn gives. Black has some difficulties finishing the development. The main idea, which could ease his position, would be the exchange of the f6 knight with ♘e4, but now the g5 bishop makes it more difficult to execute this plan.

9...♙b6 This concrete attempt to play on ♙f5 and ♘e4 was played by Mikhail Tal back in 1956. Carlsen knew exactly how to react against it. [9...♖e8 10. ♘f3 ♙g4 11.0–0 ♘bd7 12.h3 ♙xf3 13. ♙xf3 happened in hundreds of

games. Black succeeded to develop his pieces, but it cost him the bishop pair, and now he must suffer with the space disadvantage.]

10. ♘f3 ♙f5

11. ♘h4! After this great move, Black can't achieve his plans comfortably as the bishop gets into some trouble. ♙d7 would be too passive, leaving Black with a long-term suffering. [After a careless move like 11.0–0 Black solves his problems with 11...♘e4! 12. ♘xe4 ♙xe4 =]

11...♘e4 12. ♘xe4 ♙xe4 13.f3! This is the point! Black can temporarily win a pawn on b2, but he must give up his light squared bishop and destroy his pawn structure.

13...♙xb2 14. ♖c1! This is an important detail, as otherwise, the bishop could be saved via c2-a4.

14... ♙f5 This is a kind of positional resignation. Black should have tried to find counterplay in one of the following lines. [14...h6 is probably the critical test of the variation, although Boleslavsky has already showed in 1970 that White gets an advantage after 15. ♙xh6 ♙xd2+ 16. ♙xd2 ♙f6! 17.g3 ♙xh4 18.gxh4 ♙f5 19. ♙f4 ♖d8 20. ♖g1± with a better endgame for White. We can be sure that Carlsen was familiar with all these lines and

played without thinking so far, while van Wely has already spent almost an hour. A huge difference between the preparations, which is slightly surprising because van Wely usually knows his lines with very deep details.; 14... ♖xd2+ 15. ♔xd2 ♙xd5 has been played in several games, but Black clearly doesn't have enough compensation for the sacrificed piece. 16.cxd5 ±]

15. ♘xf5 gxf5 16. ♔xb2 ♙xb2 17. ♖b1 ♙c3+ 18. ♔d1± Black is a pawn up at the moment, but b7 is hanging. ♙e7 threatens to win the d6 pawn and ♙d3 is always in the air to collect the f5 pawn.



18... ♖e8 [18...b6 was a more stubborn defense, after which White should play 19. ♙d3 (Of course, it would be more important to take on d6, than the doubled f-pawn, but there is a concrete idea that White should avoid. 19. ♙e7 ♖e8 20. ♙xd6 ♘c6! This is the point. Suddenly, the knight becomes very active on d4, while 21.dxc6 is met with ♖ad8.) 19... ♖e8 20. ♙xf5 ± with a clear advantage, although Black can resist for long.]

19. ♖xb7 ♘a6 20.a3! Carlsen deprives Black from any kind of counterplay by preventing ♘b4.

20... ♖ab8 21. ♖xb8 ♘xb8 [21... ♖xb8 was probably a slightly more stubborn defense, but the position re-

mains bad here as well. 22. ♔c2 ♙e5 (22... ♖b2+ can't be played. 23. ♔xc3 ♖xe2 24. ♙f4! +- and d6 falls. The knight on a6 is dead and the d-pawn will advance soon.) 23. ♙c1 Controlling the invading square, followed by playing on the kingside. 23... ♔g7 24. ♙d3 f4 (24... ♔f6 25.g4 fxg4 26.fxg4±) 25.g3! fxg3 26.hxg3 ± is a favorable exchange for White. He's intending to push f4 and g4. The a6 knight is terribly placed. This is the reason why Black chose to take back with the knight on b8.]

22. ♙d3 ♘d7 Black is looking for counterplay against the c4 pawn, but Carlsen doesn't give him any chance...

23. ♔c2! [23. ♙xf5 would have been premature, because of 23... ♘e5 24. ♔c2 ♙d4 25. ♙d3 is the only move to protect c4, but Black has 25... ♖b8! 26. ♙c1 ♘xd3 27. ♔xd3 ♖b3+ and ♖c3 next, with equality.]

23... ♙d4 [23... ♙f6 was probably the only move, but still after 24. ♙xf6 ♘xf6 25. ♖b1± and invading in the b-file. Black has huge problems.]



24. ♖b1! Another accurate move! White lures the knight to b6 with the threat of ♖b7, which deprives Black from his main counterplay with ♘e5.

24...♖b6 [24...♘e5 is simply met with 25.♙b7 ♘xd3 26.♙xd3 ± All these endgames are horrible for Black.]

25.♙f4! ♙e5 26.♙e1 [26.♙xe5!? ♙xe5 27.a4! was the tactical way to win the game. 27...♘xa4 28.♙a1 ♘b6 29.♙xa7 The f5 and d6 pawns will automatically fall. Black will collapse soon. 29...♙g7 30.♙a6 ♘c8 31.f4 +-]

26...♙g7 27.♙g3! ♙e7 was the only way not to lose material because of the pin, but this leads to a won endgame by force. [27...f4 is met with 28.♙xf4!]

28.f4! ♙f6 29.♙xe7 ♙xe7 30.♙e1! White wants to play ♙b3, protecting c4 and then taking on f5.

30...h5 Black wants to protect f5 with ♙g6 and he prevented g4. ♙f6 was not possible because of ♙h4.



31.g3! Black can't avoid losing the pawn. ♙f6 will meet ♙c3, and on ♙g6, White simply plays h3-g4. Black can't do anything against it.

31...♙f6 32.♙b3 ♙g6 33.h3! A painful final position! Van Wely decided not to suffer anymore and resigned the game as g4 wins the pawn in the next move. If he had enough time to play ♙d4 and ♙f6, he could have hoped for salvation, as White doesn't have ♙c3 check. **1-0**

(3) Anand,V (2772) – Caruana,F (2781) [C84]

Wijk aan Zee, 14.01.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

A typical Ruy Lopez game. After some subtle maneuvering from both sides, the game turned into a tactical battle.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.d3 We can say that, recently, this move has become much more popular than the main lines starting with 6.♙e1. The main idea is to avoid the long theoretical struggles and it has many subtle points, where it is possible to outplay your opponents.

6...b5 7.♙b3 d6 8.a3 However, this might be the new direction, since in almost all the games White tries 8.a4. The idea is to give a free square for the bishop against the ♘a5 threat.

8...0-0 9.♘bd2 Black can choose between several different setups here.

9...♙e8 Caruana, as a Zaitsev player in the main Ruy Lopez lines, sticks to his usual setups. The main problem of Black is the misplacement of the c6 knight. We can see in the following lines. and also in the game, that Black tries to improve it somehow. [Aronian played 9...♘a5 against Anand in a rapid game in 2007. 10.♙a2 c5 11.♙e1 ♘c6 12.♘f1 ♙e6 13.♙xe6 fxe6 14.c3 ♙d7 with a typical Ruy Lopez middlegame.; 9...♘b8 is another playable plan in such positions. 10.♙e1 ♘bd7 11.♘f1 ♘c5 12.♙a2 ♙e6 Black is about to equalize, but of course, a long fight is still ahead, because almost all the pieces are on the board.]



10...e1 f8 11...f1 White employs the standard maneuver to improve his knight.

11...h6 12...e3 The knight is heading to d5. Other ideas could be h4-f5 (also h4-g6) and h3 followed by h2-g4. These are known maneuvers in this type of positions.

12...e6 Usually, Black should aim for the exchange of the light squared bishops, but it doesn't lead to equality this time. [12...e7 was an alternative to prevent d5 and to transfer it to g6, where it is clearly better placed.]

13...xe6 xe6 14...d5! Using the fact that Black can't take on d5, White occupies the nice central square. The main problem is still the c6 knight. Without it, Black could take on d5 or kick it out with a c6 push.

14...e8 15.c4! A great move to fortify the knight and to initiate play on the queenside, where White has more potential. Black can't use the weakened d4 square, because he is lacking the light squared bishop to eliminate the f3 knight with g4.

15...b8 Caruana tries to solve the problem of the c6 knight.

16...d2 Natural development with the idea of a5.

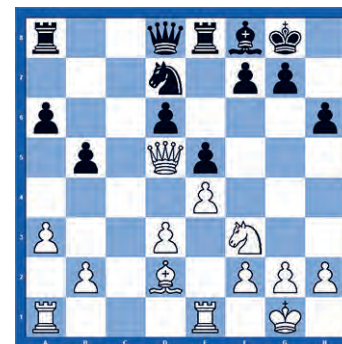
16...xd5 [16...c6 doesn't equalize either. 17.xf6+ xf6 18.c1 and White can create problems on the c-file.]

17.cxd5 c6 The previous move was based on this idea. Otherwise, White plays a5 and doubles the rooks on the c-file with huge pressure on the weak c7 pawn. Black also had to undermine the d5 pawn to win some space.

18...b3! Another excellent move by Anand. The hardest thing was to evaluate Black's c5 move.

18...cxd5 [On 18...c5 White should try to weaken the strong Black pawn structure and he can most effectively do it with b4. So, probably the best is 19.a2 d7 20.b4! and the game could continue, for instance, with 20...b6 21.ec1 ec8 22.e3 followed by d2-b3. White also has the a4 resource, which can cause some difficulties for Black. White's chances are preferable.]

19...xd5 d7



20...ac1 Black can't fight for the c-file and his f8 bishop is poor. His only chance is a d5 break to activate the bishop and to create open lines for the rooks.

20...b8 Black prepares for f6. [20...f6 immediately, would be answered by 21.b7 e7 22.c6 and doubling

the rooks on the c-file.; 20...♖c8 21.♙e3! ± is unpleasant, threatening ♖b7 and preventing ♘c5.]

21.♖c3? Until here, Anand has played a perfect game and achieved an advantage, but with this inaccuracy, he basically spoils it all. [Probably the strongest was 21.♖c6! which seems to be a small, but in fact, is really a huge difference compared to the game. As we'll see, the fight for the c6 square is key in the game. If Black tries 21...♘f6 22.♖b3 ♖b7 23.♖ec1 ♖ac8 24.♖c2 ± he's not in time to counterplay with d5.]

21...♘f6 22.♖b3 ♖b7 23.♖ec1 ♖ac8 Black is safe now. White is ready to take control over the c-file, but the d5 break solves all his problems.

24.h3! A useful move. Black has to take on c3, so there was no need to waste a tempo with ♖c2. [24.♖c2 ♖xc3 25.♖xc3 d5! = Black jumps out from his squeezed position.]

24...♖xc3 25.♖xc3 d5! The World Champion tries his only chance to fight for the advantage.



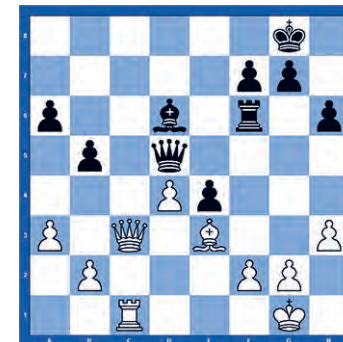
26.♘xe5 dxe4 27.d4! Still, if White could play ♖c6, the position would remain unpleasant with the weakness on a6, but Black keeps neutralizing all the deep ideas.

27...♖d5! The d4 pawn has to be protected before playing ♖c6. [The natural 27...♘d5 would have led to White's advantage. 28.♖c6 ♖xc6 29.♖xc6 ±]

28.♙e3 ♙d6! Another precise move. Now Black has no problems at all, but another key factor of the game starts to play a main role, namely the time factor. Suffering in that cramped position right from the beginning has taken all the thinking time of Caruana, and he starts to make mistakes... This is quite typical in practical chess.

29.♘g4 ♖e6?! The first mistake. [Black could have played 29...♘xg4 30.hxg4 and for example 30...♖d8 followed by ♙e7-f6 is equal.]

30.♘xf6+ ♖xf6



31.♙h1!? A really unpleasant move in time trouble. White would like to play ♖c6, but first he had to leave from the ♙h2 discovered check. [Objectively, it was stronger to play 31.♖c8+! ♙h7 32.♖e8 with the idea of ♖c8, and Black has difficulties.]

31... ♖e7?! Another mistake. [After 31... ♖f4 Black seems to be all right.]

32. ♖c7 [32. ♖c8+ with the same idea as in the previous move was stronger again. 32... ♖h7 33. ♖e8! White wants to penetrate with ♖c8, followed by ♖h8 and ♖g8. 33... ♖d8 The exchange of the queens doesn't help, because 34. ♖c8! ♖xe8 35. ♖xe8 and the e4 pawn falls, while on 35... ♖e6 Black wins the endgame by force. 36.d5 ♖e5 37. ♖c5! ♖f6 38. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 39.d6 and the pawn promotes anyway. 39... ♖xb2 40.d7 ♖f6 41. ♖b6 +-]

32... ♖e6 33. ♖b8+ ♖h7 34. ♖c8 Anand had the same idea, but it was more effective with the queen on e8 and the rook on c8.

34... ♖d6? [34... ♖g5 would have still led to equality, but this is very hard to find with only 30 seconds on the clock. 35. ♖h8+ (35. ♖c5 ♖d6 is equal.) 35... ♖g6 36. ♖g8 In comparison to the game, Black has (On 36. ♖g3 Black has 36... ♖d6 neutralizing the pin. On 37. ♖g4, f5 works.) 36... ♖xe3 37.fxe3 ♖c4 and the perpetual check with ♖c1-c7 is inevitable after any kind of attacking moves. 38. ♖h7 ♖c1+ 39. ♖h2 ♖c7+=]



(4) Sveshnikov,E (2521) – Fridman,D (2667) [C43]

Paul Keres Mem 2013 Tallinn EST (8.2), 13.01.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

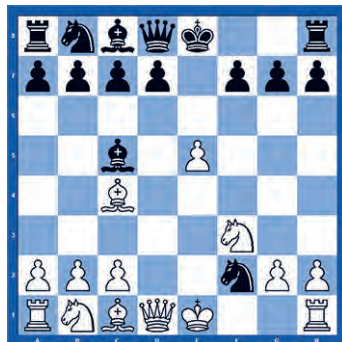
1.e4 We are in the traditional rapid tournament in Estonia, which usually collects the best players from the Baltic countries. Now we see a really funny game between the „old „ Grandmaster Evgenij Sveshnikov and his younger — German resident — rival, Daniel Fridman.

1...e5 2.f3 f6 3.d4 One of the main lines in the „Russian“, which is usually a very solid opening.

3...xe4 4.dxe5 e5 This move is, of course, a very risky one and it leads to a „crazy“ position. [4...d5 would be the main continuation here...]

5.e4 The main answer for White.

5...xf2 [To take 5...e4xf2+? would be a wrong decision for Black. 6.f1 and Black is losing some material because of the threat e5d5.]



6.e4xf7+! This is probably the strongest White's reply. Even if the position is quite unclear, it's very hard to play for Black with his king walking all over the board.

6...xf7 7.e5d5+ g6 I don't think many players would like the king on g6, but it seems like Fridman was not very bothered by this...

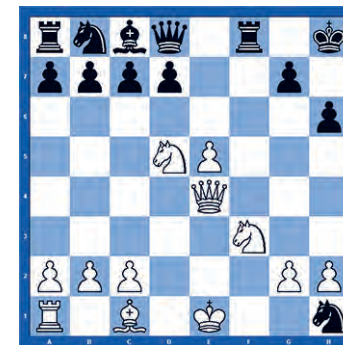
8.xc5 xh1 White is a full rook down, so it's time to develop fast and attack the Black king with „all that You got“.

9.c3 h6 Black tries to escape with the king to a safer position...

10.c4 e4 is threatened.

10...h7 11.d5 [Another attacking option would have been to first play 11.e4+ g6 12.d5 followed by the silent moves e3 0-0-0, with a very strong attack.]

11...f8 12.e4+ h8 The Black king escaped, but White has one more „joker“ in his pocket.



13.xh6! Great play. White continues what he started and is going for the Black king.

13...d6 [The main White's idea is evident after 13...gxh6 14.g6! Silent but deadly move. Black has no defense against the White knights.; It doesn't help to play 13...xf3 14.gxf3 gxh6 15.f6 and White is winning.]

14. ♗g5 A nice way to finish the game...

14... ♔e8 **15.** ♕h4+ ♔g8 **16.** ♘e7+ Of course, Black can give away the queen, but then, maybe a resignation would be the strongest move.

16... ♔f7 **17.** ♕h5+ And White is mating by force.

17... ♔e6 **18.** ♕g4+ ♔f7



19.e6+! Wow! What a crush!

1-0

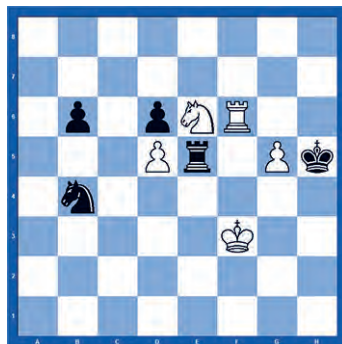
Puzzle section

(5) Aronian,L (2802) – Carlsen,M (2861)

Wijk aan Zee, 13.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. =



(6) Turov,M (2630) – Naiditsch,A (2708)

Wijk aan Zee B, 14.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

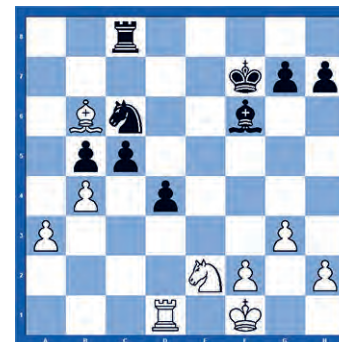


(7) Burg,T (2492) – Gretarsson,H (2516)

Wijk aan Zee C, 13.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

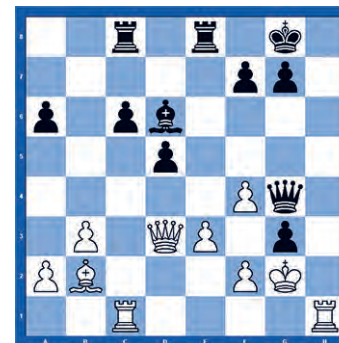


(8) Peralta,F (2617) – Swinkels,R (2508)

Wijk aan Zee C, 13.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Maiorov,N (2521) – Ehlvest,J (2605)

Keres memorial (rapid), 13.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

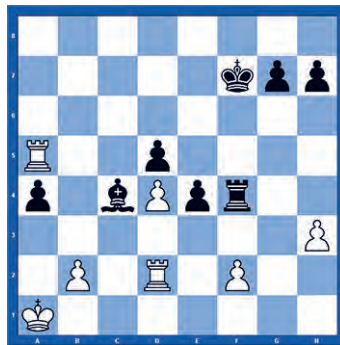


(10) Sertic,R (2374) – Delchev,A (2616)

Bosnjaci Open, 08.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

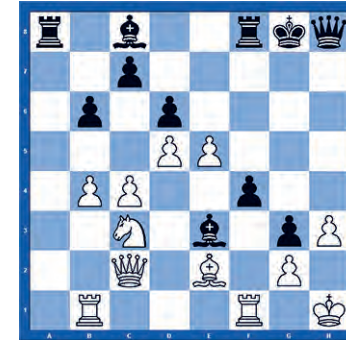


(11) Johannesson,I (2340) – Hebden,M (2540)

British league, 13.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

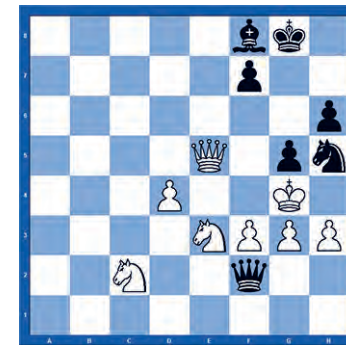


(12) Stebbings,A (2265) – Stefanova,A (2491)

British league, 13.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+



(13) De Schampheleire,G (2275) – Michiels,B (2506)

Belgian league, 13.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(14) Goganov,A (2545) – Babuijan,L (2497)

Margaryan memorial, 08.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

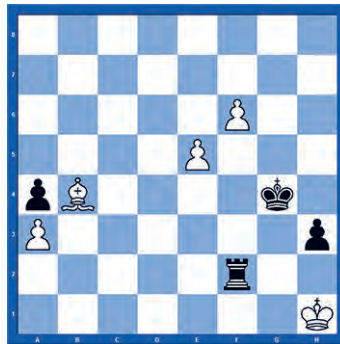


Endgame section

(15) Nakamura,H (2769) – Sokolov,I (2663)

Wijk aan Zee, 13.01.2013

[Chess Evolution]



Black is winning, but the way to do it is really instructive and hard to find over the board.

59...h2! [59...♔g3? doesn't work. 60.♙e1+-; 59...♖f5 makes no progress, since the e5 pawn is not hanging because of f7. 60.♔h2]

60.f7! White is forced to give up his dangerous connected passed pawn to parry the mate threat of ♔h3. [60.♙c5 ♖e2 61.f7 would have lost on the spot. 61...♔h3! 62.f8♗ ♖e1+]

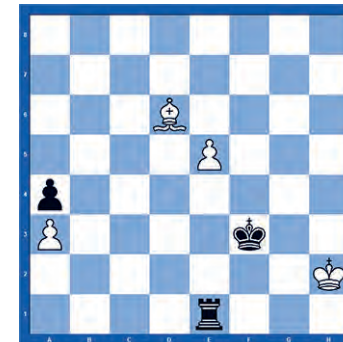
60...♖xf7 61.♔xh2 The endgame seems to be very close to a draw, as the bishop is well placed: it protects both pawns and Black is slightly restricted, because if White manages to push e6-e7, they can immediately agree to draw. However, Black is winning, he can make use of

the squeezed situation of the White king. The following moves are necessary...

61...♖f2+! 62.♔g1 ♖e2! The pawn had to be stopped.

63.♙d6 ♔f3! 64.♔f1 ♖e4 65.♔g1 [65.♙c7 loses to 65...♖c4 attacking the bishop and threatening with mate.]

65...♖e1+ 66.♔h2 This is the critical position, which Black could get in many different ways. What to do now? If we study endgames, then we know that very often we must ask ourselves what would happen if it was our opponent's turn. If we do this, we can easily realize that Black is in zugzwang, as he can't move with the king, so the bishop must give up the protection of one of the pawns... The first target should be to pass the move to White...



66...♖d1 67.♙b4 [67.♙c5 would have made the job easier. 67...♖d5 68.♙d6 ♖d2+ 69.♔h3 (69.♔g1 ♖d1+ 70.♔h2 ♖e1 Black achieved what he wanted.) 69...♔f4! and White is in zugzwang again! Only his bishop can move, but then he drops one of the pawns. 70.♙c7 ♖d3+ 71.♔h2 ♖xa3 72.e6+ ♔f5 73.e7 ♖e3]

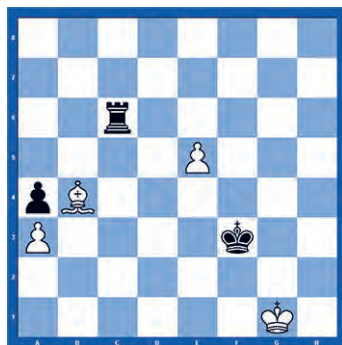
67...♖d4! Very nice move! It seems like Black allows White to advance his e-pawn, but this is met with a tactical refutation.

68.♙d6 [68.e6 ♖h4+! Very important intermediate check in order to promote the a-pawn with check. 69.♔g1 ♖xb4! 70.axb4 a3 Despite White is the one who queens first, he gets mated by force.... 71.e7 a2 72.e8♙ a1♙+ 73.♙h2 ♙b2+ 74.♙h3 ♙g2+ 75.♙h4 ♙g4#]

68...♖h4+ 69.♔g1 ♖h6! Sokolov is using the method of zugzwang again! White is forced to move with the bishop.

70.♙f8 ♖h8 This is just to gain some time.

71.♙d6 ♖h6 72.♙f8 ♖b6! 73.♙d6 This allows Black to get his zugzwang position. Let's see what happens on other moves... [The king can't escape from the 1st rank with 73.♙h2 because of 73...♖b2+ 74.♙h3 ♖b8 and White gets mated. 75.♙g7 ♖b7; 73.♙c5 ♖c6 74.♙b4 (74.♙d6 transposes to the game...)]

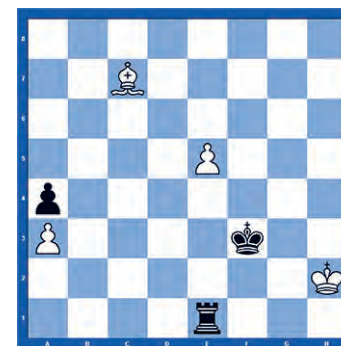


74...♙g6+! Very subtle chess, after which there is no good square for the king. 75.♙h2 (75.♙f1 allows 75...♖b6 and ♖xb4 wins next as the bishop can't go away.) 75...♙g2+ 76.♙h1 (76.♙h3 ♖g5 wins the pawn.) 76...♙g4 Black can

always win a tempo with this trick of taking on b4. 77.♙c5 ♖c4 78.♙d6 ♙f2 and the king in the corner has decisive problems. 79.e6 ♖h4+ 80.♙h2 ♖h7! White must sacrifice his pawn, as he has no other moves.]

73...♖b1+ 74.♙h2 ♖e1! Here we are! The bishop has to leave its ideal square. However, Black still has to find some really difficult moves.

75.♙c7



75...♖a1? Sokolov fails to find the winning plan. [75...♖e2+! 76.♙h3 (76.♙g1 is met with 76...♙g2+! forcing the king into the corner, where different kind of mate threats can be created. 77.♙h1 (77.♙f1 ♖c2 wins.) 77...♙f2! 78.e6 ♖g6 79.e7 ♖h6+ 80.♙h2 ♖h8! and the pawn must be sacrificed, which means the end of the game.) 76...♙f4!! This is the key move! Black threatens with ♖e3 and ♖xa3, so the next move is forced. 77.♙d6 and now 77...♖d2! the final zugzwang! White loses one of the pawns, and the game. 78.♙c7 ♖d3+ 79.♙g2 ♖xa3 The e-pawn can be easily stopped. 80.e6+ ♙f5 81.e7 ♖e3]

76.♙d6 ♖d1 77.♙b4 ♖d4 78.♙d6 ♖g4? This is the final mistake. Black should have gone back to the beginning,

put White in zugzwang and then find the winning plan, given in the 75...♖e2 line.

79.e6! The pawn reaches the 7th rank. The game is drawn.

79...♖g2+ 80.♔h1 ♖e2 [It's too late to create the usual mating net with 80...♔f2 81.e7 ♖g8 82.♙c5+ ♔f1 83.♔h2 and the king escapes from the corner...]

81.e7 ♔g4 82.♔g1 ♔f5 83.♔f1 ♖e6 84.♔f2 ♔g6 85.♔f3 ♔f7 86.♙b4 ♔e8 87.♙c5 ♔d7 Black is still aiming for a zugzwang. He wants to attack the bishop to threaten with ♖xb4 and try to send it away from the b4-c5-d6 squares. However, he is unable to do so... quite an unlucky position.

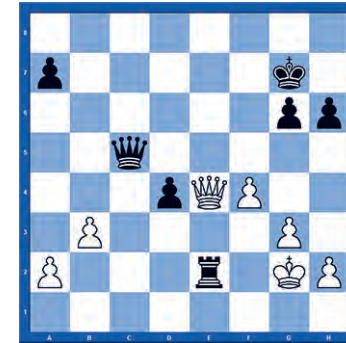
88.♙b4 ♖b6 89.♙c5 ♖c6 [89...♖b5 90.♙d6! is the point! The bishop can hold the diagonal with this small tactical trick.]

90.♙b4 ♖c4 91.♙d6! A hard-fought draw! **1/2**

(16) Nakamura,Hikaru (2769) – Karjakin,Sergey (2780) [E15]

75th Tata Steel GpA Wijk aan Zee NED (4.4), 15.01.2013

[Chess Evolution]

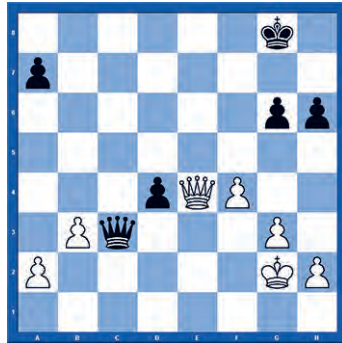


Black was quite lucky to survive this far and had a few very critical moments, but what is the best way to go on?!

40.♙xe2 ♙c3! Very good play by Black. The idea of most queen endgames is the same: try to bring Your pawn as far as it goes and don't care about the other pawns. This is the strange thing about these endgames, one pawn can be stronger than 4 if it's more advanced. And what clearly doesn't lead to anything good is to choose a passive tactic in a queen endgame!

41.♙e7+ White is going to eat all the Black pawns, but will this be enough for a full point!?

41...♔g8 42.♙e4



42...d3! And again, Black is choosing the right way to play the position — to bring the passed pawn as far as possible.

43. ♔xg6+ ♕f8 44.f5 White is trying to be as fast as possible with his free pawn. [44. ♔xh6+ ♕e8 would not bring White anything and there is no way of holding Black's d-pawn...]

44... ♕c2+ The last accurate move, not to give White even a chance for f6...

45. ♕f3 d2 Black reached what he wanted. The pawn is on d2 and White has nothing better than to „save“ himself with a perpetual check.

46. ♔xh6+ ♕e8 47. ♕e6+ ♕d8 48. ♕d6+ ♕c8 49. ♕e6+ ♕c7 50. ♕e7+ ♕b6 A nice example, from a strategical point of view, on how to play queen endgames. **1/2**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Alekhine, Alexander — Koenig, Imre [A50]

Vienna Vienna, 1922

[Csaba Balogh]

A short but beautiful crush by Alekhine, who made use of the early castling of his opponent.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4 b6** We can't see such moves nowadays, but of course 91 years ago theory was not that developed.

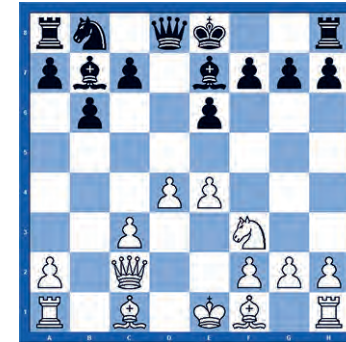
3.♘c3 ♖b7 4.♙c2! Very logical play! White would like to occupy the center with e4!



4...d5 Black plays some kind of reversed Gruenfeld defense with the b7 bishop instead of g7. [White also gets a better position after 4...e6 5.e4 ♖b4 6.f3± consolidating the strong center.]

5.cxd5 ♗xd5 6.♘f3 [6.e4 immediately was also possible, but it only leads to a transposition to the game. 6... ♗xc3 7.bxc3 e6 White hardly has anything better than 8.♗f3 and we are in the game.]

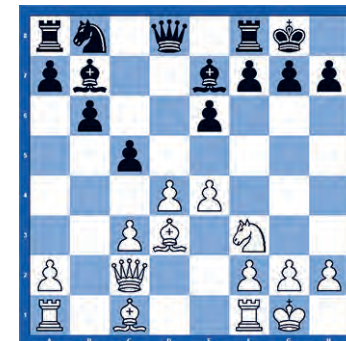
6...e6 7.e4 ♗xc3 8.bxc3 ♖e7



9.♖b5+!? This is a known idea in many openings, mainly in the Queen's Indian Defense. White tries to confuse his opponent's development, as ♗d7 loses to ♗e5.

9...c6 [On 9... ♖c6 the idea is 10.♖d3 and the bishop is clearly misplaced on c6. This also prevents Black's only active plan to fight for the center with c5!]

10.♖d3 0-0? Who would believe, that this absolutely normal looking move might be the decisive mistake of the game? Alekhine punishes Black with a fascinating attack! [10...c5! was the way to play, setting pressure on the center. 11.0-0 (11. ♖b5+ makes no sense anymore, because of 11... ♖c6) 11...0-0 White can still achieve an advantage with the typical break



12.d5! White would like to push c4 and obtain a better position with the protected passed pawn on d5, and if Black takes on twice on d5: 12...exd5 13.exd5 ♖xd5 (13... ♗xd5 is even worse 14. ♗xh7+ ♔h8 15. ♖d1! Black can't leave the pin.) 14. ♖e1! comes this strong intermediate move, to prepare for ♗e4! 14... ♘c6 15. ♗xh7+ ♔h8 16. ♗e4 ♕d6 and here, probably the strongest is 17. ♗g5± White's attack is rolling. The rook is coming with tempo to d1 and the queen might create a decisive attack with ♕e2-h5.]

11.e5! h6 [11...g6 is very bad. White is crushing after 12.h4! and Black can't parry the simple h5 threat. On 12... h5 13. ♗xg6! wins the game 13...fxg6 14. ♕xg6+ ♔h8 15. ♘g5! is the easiest 15... ♗xg5 16.hxg5 and mate to follow.]

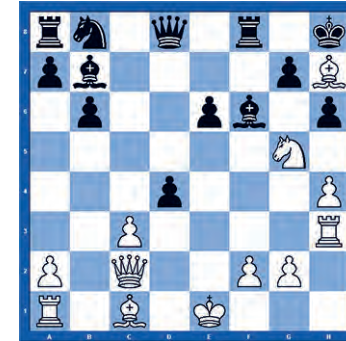


12.h4!! Brilliant move! The idea becomes clear after seeing the next move! Black is unable to defend his king.

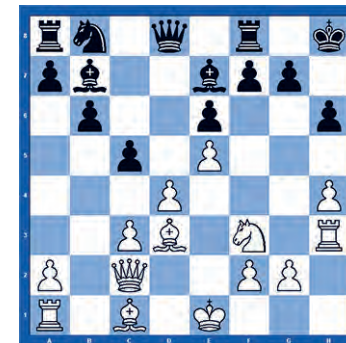
12...c5 Black plays principally: against a flank attack, you must open the center! But it doesn't help this time.

13. ♖h3!! This was the point of the previous move! Suddenly, all the White pieces are focused against the Black king. The main threat is ♗xh6 gxh6 ♖g3 ♔h8 and ♕d2 with an inevitable mate.

13... ♔h8 [13...f5 is a typical defensive method in such situations, but it doesn't help either. 14.exf6 ♗xf6 15. ♗h7+! ♔h8 16. ♘g5! Too many threats are in the air. Black can't take on g5, since the opening of the h-file would be suicidal. For instance, after 16...cxd4



17. ♗g8!! is a neat win. Black can hardly parry ♕h7. 17...d3 only delays the end 18. ♖xd3 +- and the rook goes away, creating the ♕h7 threat again.; 13...cxd4 is met with 14. ♗xh6!! ♖g3 is a threat and if Black accepts the sacrifice 14...gxh6 15. ♖g3+ ♔h8 16. ♕d2 wins 16... ♗g5 17. ♘xg5! hxg5 18. ♖xg5 ♖h5 followed by ♕h6 mates Black.]



14. ♗xh6! The decisive blow!

14...f5 [14...gxh6 15.♔d2! wins. Black can't parry the threats.]

15.exf6 ♟xf6 16. ♟g5 White is a pawn up and his attack continues to roll. The game is basically over.

16...cxd4



17.♞e5! This is the stylish finish! Black can resign. From now on, all the moves are winning for White, but it's worth to take a look at the end of the game.

17...♞c6 [17...♔g8 18.♟h7+ ♔h8 19.♟e4 +-]

18.♔e2! Creating the threat of ♔h5!

18...g6 [18...♔e8 19.♟g6 +-]

19.♟xg6 ♔g7 20.♟h6+! The last shock for Black.

20...♔g8 [20...♔xh6 21.♔h5+ ♔g7 22.♔h7#]

21.♞xc6 ♟xc6 22.♔xe6+ ♔h8 23.♟xf8 ♔xf8

24.♔xc6 Black resigned! It was amazing how effectively Alekhine punished his opponent for the slightly careless move 10...0-0.

1-0

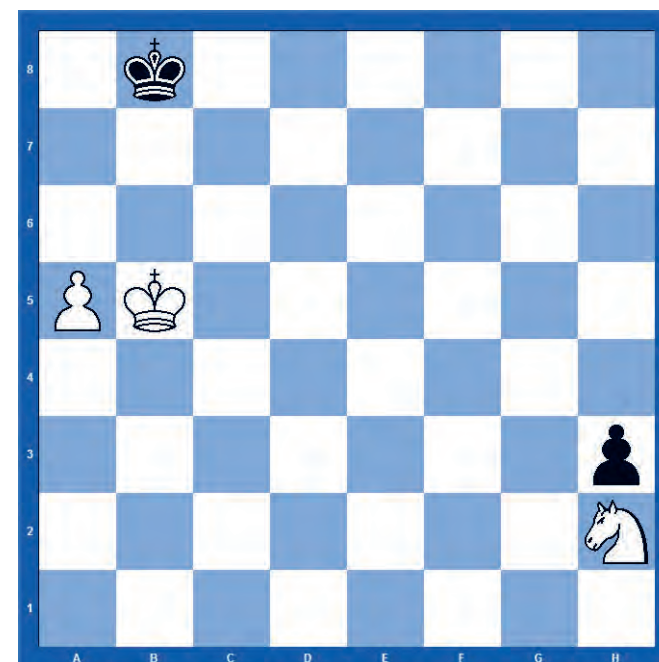
Surprise section / study

(18) Reichhelm,G

1904

[CEWN]

1. +-



Solutions

(19) Socko,B (2631) – Rombaldoni,A (2464)

Rilton Cup, 01.01.2013

[Solutions]



33. ♖b7!! [33. ♘f5 ♖e6 34. ♖xe8 ♖xe8 35. ♘d6+ ♔e7 36. ♖xe8+ ♔xd6 37. ♖d8+ ♔e6 38. ♖xd2 ♖xc6=]

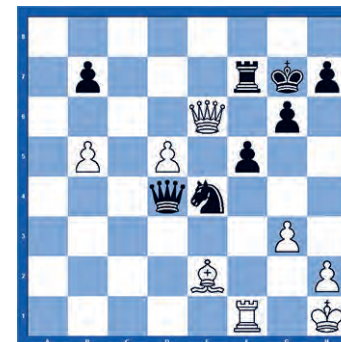
33... ♖hxc6 [33... ♖xb7 34. cxb7 ♖b6 35. ♘e6!!+-]

34. ♘xc6 ♖xb7 35. ♘d8+ ♔e7 36. ♘xb7+-

(20) Rombaldoni,A (2464) – Krasenkow,M (2628)

Rilton Cup, 05.01.2013

[Solutions]

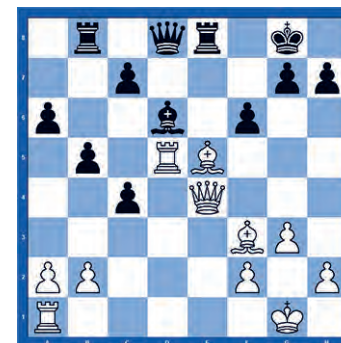


32... ♘g5! 0-1 [32... ♘g5 33. ♖e8 (33. ♖d6 ♖e4+-+) 33... ♖xd5+-+]

(21) Golichenko,I (2414) – Stupak,K (2526)

Krakow Open, 04.01.2013

[Solutions]

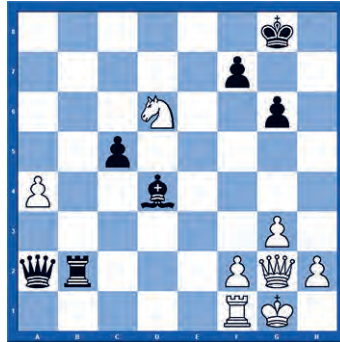


19. ♖xd6! cxd6 20. ♖d5+ ♔h8 21. ♖xd6 ♖b6 22. ♖d1+-

(22) Bogdanovich,G (2343) – Vajda,L (2603)

Basel Open, 02.01.2013

[Solutions]



38... ♖xf2+! 39. ♖xf2 [39. ♔h1 ♘d4! 40. ♙a8+ (40. ♙h3 ♙d5--+) 40... ♔h7 41. ♖xf7+ ♘g7--+] **39... ♙a1+! 40. ♙f1 ♖b1!--+**

(23) Gavrilov,A (2501) – Istratescu,A (2654)

Basel Open, 03.01.2013

[Solutions]

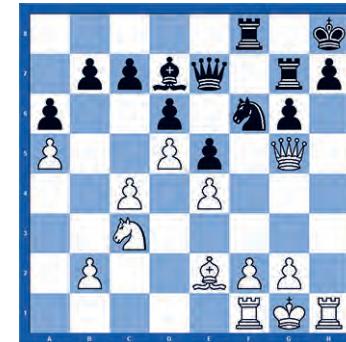


27... ♘e3+! 28. fxe3 [28. ♔g1 ♙e4!--+] **28... ♖f6+! 29. ♔g2** [29. ♔g1 ♘xe3+ 30. ♔h2 ♘g1+!--+] **29... ♙e4+ 30. ♔h2 ♙xb1--+**

(24) Melkumyan,H (2656) – Vajda,L (2603)

Basel Open, 04.01.2013

[Solutions]

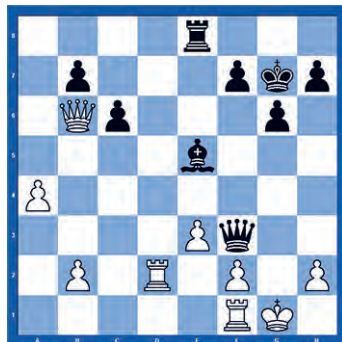


25... ♘xd5! 26. ♙xe7 ♘xe7

(25) Das,S (2312) – Deviatkin,A (2569)

Delhi Open, 05.01.2013

[Solutions]



27...♔g4+! 28.♔h1 ♕h3! 0-1

(26) Aleksandrov,A (2607) – Panchanathan,M (2580)

Delhi Open, 07.01.2013

[Solutions]



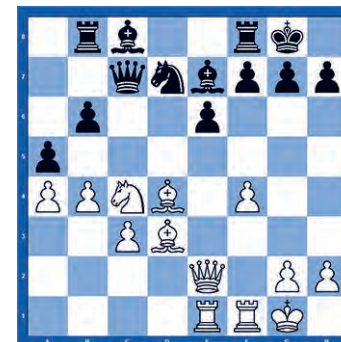
30...♘g4+! 31.♔g3 [31.fxg4 ♘xe4+--]

31...♕xd6+ 32.♖xd6 ♘xe3--+

(27) Das,A (2466) – Nikolov,M (2545)

Roquetas Open, 05.01.2013

[Solutions]

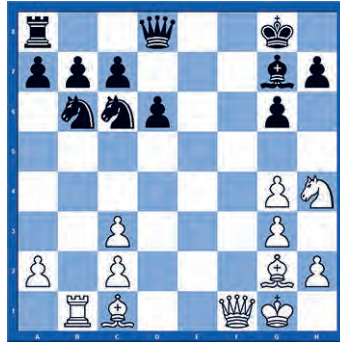


21.♙xh7+!! ♔xh7 22.♕h5+ ♔g8 23.♙xg7!! ♔xg7
24.♕g4+! ♔h8 25.♖e3! ♘f6 26.♖h3+ ♘h7 27.♖xh7+!!
♔xh7 28.♖f3! ♕d8! 29.♖h3+ ♙h4 30.♖xh4+ ♕xh4
31.♕xh4+-

(28) Burmakin,V (2565) – Manakov,I (2345)

Staufer Open, 05.01.2013

[Solutions]

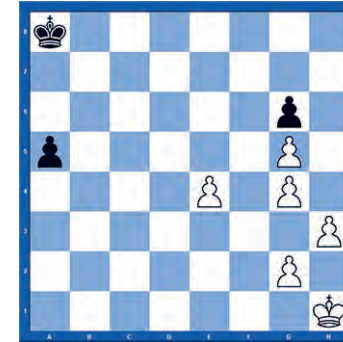


16. ♖xb6!! 1–0[16. ♖xb6 axb6 17. ♘d5+ ♔h8 18. ♘xg6+! hxg6 19. ♔h3++-]

(29) Fernandez,J

1885

[Solutions]



1.e5! ♔b7 2.e6! ♔c6 3.e7! ♔d7 4.e8♔+! ♔xe8 5.♔h2! a4 6.♔g3! a3 7.♔h4! a2 8.g3! a1♔ 1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 48

25th of January 2013

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Editorial Preface

I guess we are enjoying one of the most exciting chess months, with Wijk aan Zee and Gibraltar on the way.

Let's begin with Wijk aan Zee: In the A group, it's a "one man show", and the name of the man is Magnus Carlsen. It seems like nobody can stop the young chess genius, and that he's climbing to reach the 2900 rating after this tournament. He started with 8/10 and a performance of over 3000 ELO. We are very curious about what he will do in the last 3 rounds.

Vishy Anand is finally having a good tournament, playing solid chess and being quite "lucky" in his openings. He crushed, for example, Aronian with the Black pieces, in a fantastic game that we commented for You in the last CEWN Nr 47.

Hou Yifan is also doing "surprisingly" well, winning her second game in the tournament against Harikrishna.

In the B group, the fight is quite exciting with many people close to the top, so the last 3 rounds will decide the winner.

Gibraltar: One of the biggest opens of the World has begun with a lot of 2700+ Elo players participating. Already in the first round, there were a lot of surprises: the two first seeds made draws against players with an Elo rating 500 points lower! In chess, everything is possible!

In the current issue, we comment the best highlights from Wijk ann Zee for You. Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Naiditsch, Arkadij (2708)
— Grandelius, Nils (2572) [B91]

75th Tata Steel GpB Wijk aan Zee NED (6.4), 18.01.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

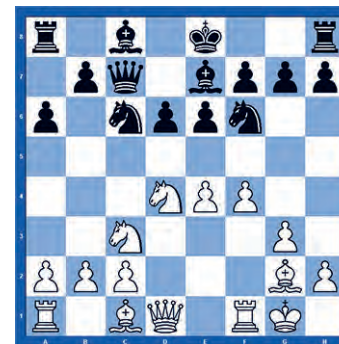
I managed to win a nice and short game over the young Swedish grandmaster Nils Grandelius. After the game, Nils told me that he used his preparation until the 17th move. I was a bit surprised because I evaluated my position as being better. I think that we shouldn't always trust the evaluation of a computer engine, especially in structural positions.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.g3 The Najdorf with 6.g3 is not just a sideline anymore. Lately, it has gotten more and more attention even on the highest level. The idea of the move is simple, to put the bishop on g2 and play f4.

6...e6 [6...e5 is probably the main reply here. It's hard to say if White got an advantage here, but many of the positions haven't been well analyzed yet, which makes the play less dependent on preparation.]

7.♗g2 ♗e7 We are getting into a position that we can very often see in the classical Sheveningen, where White usually plays f4, ♗f3, g4, ♗g2. In comparison to that variation, White is obviously saving a full tempo by playing g3-♗g2. [7...♗d7 followed by ♗c6 deserves attention, in my opinion.]

8.0-0 ♖c7 9.f4 ♘c6 A normal looking move that immediately leads to a very forced series of moves. [9...0-0 would have been a more solid setup for Black.]



10.♗xc6! I thought for a while before taking on c6 — a big decision to make. Things get very forced afterwards and the simple 10. ♗e3 could be a normal way to continue the game.

10...bxc6 11.e5 Of course. Only this move can be the idea after taking with 10.♗xc6. If I don't play e5, Black's pawn structure is very good. For example, in case of 11. ♗e3 d5!, Black is completely fine.

11...dxe5 [11...♗d5?! simply leads to a clearly worse position for Black. 12.exd6 ♗xd6 13.♗e4 followed by c4 and White is very good.]

12.fxe5 ♗d7 Black's pawn structure looks horrible, but White's e5 pawn is going to fall. This makes the position pretty forced.

13.♗f4 To develop the bishop and, at the same time, to protect the e5 pawn can't be a bad idea.

13...0-0 Now Black wants to take on e5. He also has another idea to win this pawn connected with the g5 move.

14. ♘e4 When I played this move, I was a bit afraid of blundering something. Until here, my opponent played all his moves instantly, but it seemed to me that White should be better. I didn't see any move other than taking on e5 for Black. My next move could be ♙h5.

14... ♖xe5 My opponent kept playing very fast, which was slightly irritating for me. Is this a good position for Black?!

15. ♙d4 Forcing Black into a horrible pawn structure.

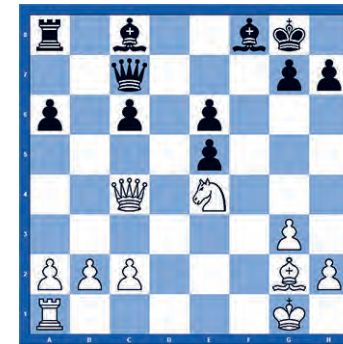
15... ♜f6 There's no other normal way to defend the knight on e5.

16. ♘xe5 The first critical moment of the game. What piece should take on e5?

16... ♜xe5 This was the first time that my opponent spent some of his time. [In case of 16... ♙xe5 17. ♙xe5 ♜xe5 18. ♖ad1 I think White should have a better endgame. White's plan is simple: to play b3 and c4, and then to bring the king to e3. The bishop on c8 is really a horrible piece, and it doesn't seem like the bishop will be able to escape. Even if Black manages to exchange both pairs of rooks — which is not easy — I think White would still keep some winning chances in the endgame.]

17. ♜xf8+ ♘xf8 **18. ♙c4!** A nice but not very difficult move to make. Mainly, I thought about playing 18. ♙d3 or 18. ♙c4, and both of these moves seemed to be promising. If we look at the position, White is a pawn down, but has a very strong knight on e4 and is better developed — this always gives hopes for an attack. Black's pawn structure is really bad and the bishop on c8 is a „dead“ piece. All of this should give White a clear plus, but the

computer still gives a 0.00 evaluation here. I guess that's why my opponent chose to enter into this position.



18... ♙b6+ Nils is playing „all or nothing“ and I think this is the right choice for Black here, even though it probably leads to a lost position. He's going to win a second pawn, to make „sure“ that, at least, he is suffering with two extra pawns.

19. ♖h1 ♙xb2 **20. ♜f1** Things are getting darker around the Black king...

20... ♙b4 [During the game, I was more concerned about other Black's continuations: 20... ♙b5 21. ♙c3 White is transferring the queen closer to Black's king. 21... ♖a7! A typical and strong defensive idea. Black's rook is back into the game. 22. ♙f3 ♙b4 Here I wasn't sure about how to go on, to play ♙h5 or 23.c4 I was happy when I saw this move. Black can't stop White from playing c5 next. 23... ♙e7 24.c5 White's position looks really nice! I was sure that I had „at least enough“ compensation for two pawns.]

21. ♙d3! Not getting tempted by capturing a third pawn... [21. ♙xc6 ♘b7 22. ♙xe6+ ♖h8 23. ♙xe5 would have been another way, but I think Black had pretty good

chances to make a draw. I can't stop Black from playing ♗xe4 and the opposite colored bishop position is always likely to end in a draw.]

21...♔e7 White wanted to play ♘g5 next...

22.h4 Simple and good. I want to continue with ♘g5, creating at the same time a better place for the White king on h2. Also, the idea of playing ♕h3 is getting stronger.

22...h6 When I saw Nils playing this, I thought „Yes“ :). Now the game will have a pretty finish. [More fighting, and harder to find, was 22...♖a7! 23.♘g5 g6 24.♖f7 and it seems like White is winning, but 24...♗d7! keeps Black in the game 25.♖xe7 ♖xd3 26.♖c7 and White has a big advantage in this endgame because of the horrible bishop on c8.]



23.♘g5! What a nice finish!

23...e4 To give up the e-pawn doesn't change anything.

24.♖xe4 hxg5 25.♖g6 Black can't stop White from playing ♕e4. My opponent made it slightly „too“ easy for me, but games like this inspire :). I guess this is what I like most about playing chess!

1-0

(2) Leko, Peter (2735)

– Caruana, Fabiano (2781) [C84]

75th Tata Steel GpA Wijk aan Zee NED (5.1), 17.01.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

We are facing a nice strategical victory by Leko. He had a positional idea in mind, which he succeeded to bring through in the game.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♕b5 a6 4.♕a4 ♗f6 5.0-0 ♕e7 6.d3 Another game in the Ruy Lopez with 6.d3. The huge main line, 6.♖e1, is almost forgotten.

6...b5 7.♕b3 d6 8.a4 ♕d7 9.c3 0-0 10.♕c2 Theory is just about to develop here, Black has many different set-ups. Caruana follows the latest fashion, which was played by Aronian against Karjakin a month ago. [10.♘bd2 is the main, but here Black can fight for the center with 10...♘a5 winning a tempo 11.♕c2 and 11...c5!]

10...b4 11.♖e1 ♖e8 12.♘bd2 ♘a5 [12...♖b8 was played by Aronian in the mentioned game. Probably, Leko prepared thenovelty 13.h3 ♕f8 14.d4 and it looks like White has an initiative.]



13.d4! Logical reaction, After the Black knight has left control over the central squares, White doesn't need to worry about motifs like $\text{exd4 cxd4 } \text{g4}$. Of course, by playing 6.d3 , White doesn't forget about playing d4 , he just wants to do it in a better version after developing the pieces. [13.cxb4 is a mistake, because of 13...c6 Black wins back the pawn and White loses control over the center.]

13...f8 14.h3 Both h3 and h6 are very useful in general in this kind of positions. On the other hand, it was not necessary. White could have played d3 immediately.

14...h6 15.d3! By pushing b4 , Black weakened his a6 pawn and the c4 square. d3 tries to make use of this.

15...bxc3 [15...c5 immediately would have been an inaccuracy. White plays 16.cxb4! and Black has to take away from the center. 16...cxb4 White can look for an advantage in two different ways: 17.d5 A closed game with a space advantage.(Or 17.b3 b2 next is also good.)]

16.bxc3 c5



17.d5! A strong move! White has the space advantage now. The game demonstrates well the difficulties of

Black's mobility problems. The next task for White is to create an outpost on c4 for the knight. To do this, he needs to trade it once and transfer the other one from f3 .

17...c7 18.c4! xc4 19.xc4 eb8 20.d2! Everything goes according to the strategy.

20...e8 Black tries to bring his knight to b6 , in order to kick out its colleague from c4 .

21.d3 d7 [21...a5 to prevent the next move is a mistake. White gets the b5 square. $\text{22.e2! } \pm$ and b5 next.]

22.a5! White needs to keep his knight, so it can go to c4 . However, this is an achievement for Black as well: he got the b5 square for the bishop. Lacking space, Black has to move his pieces weirdly, so that they can get to their ideal places.

22...f6 23.c4 b5 24.b6! It's still important to keep the knight on the board.

24...a7 25.e2 [$\text{25.c2!?$ was also very interesting, following the principle that you shouldn't exchange pieces with a space advantage. 25...e8 (Black can't play 25...d7 as it drops a piece after $\text{26.c4! xb6 27.axb6!}$) 26.e3! transferring the rook to g3 . 26...d7 27.c4! and of course, White keeps his knight once again. Black has to waste a move again, in order to play b5 , while White can always improve his position.]

25...xd3 26.xd3 d7 27.c4! Finally White has reached his goal. Black can't touch the c4 knight, which is very annoying for him.

27...ab7 28.d2 b5 This shows very nicely that the only open file is occupied by the Black rooks, but he can't do anything with it. The c4 knight neutralizes all the ide-

as. The next step for White is to open a new front for the battle.



29. ♖f1! The plan is f4!

29... ♜e7 30. f4! ♜f6 Black must try to hold the e5 square. [30...exf4? is not an option, as the d6 pawn becomes too weak. 31. ♜xf4 ♚g3 is a threat.]

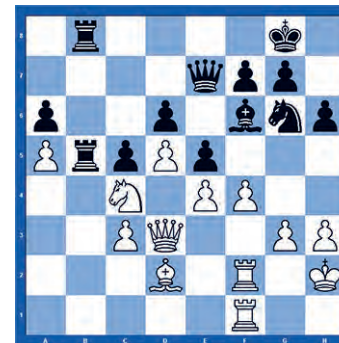
31. g3 White prepares to improve his position. Black doesn't have a useful plan anyway.

31... ♜8b7 32. ♚g2 ♞f8 33. ♜f2! Doubling the rooks.

33... ♞g6 34. ♜af1 White holds the tension! [34.f5 would be premature 34... ♞f8 and Black builds up a kind of fortress.]

34... ♚e7 [34...exf4 is still a mistake 35. ♜xf4! ♞xf4+ 36.gxf4 ± and White is going to break through with e5!]

35. ♚h2 ♜b8 It's time to make a new plan for White. How to improve his position?! It must be definitely connected with a kingside attack. [35...exf4 is met this time with 36.gxf4! The previous ♚h2 move was prophylactic for this position. White left from different kind of threats, like the moves ♞h4 and ♜h4.(36. ♜xf4 is a mistake, because Black can consolidate the e5 square. 36... ♜e5)]

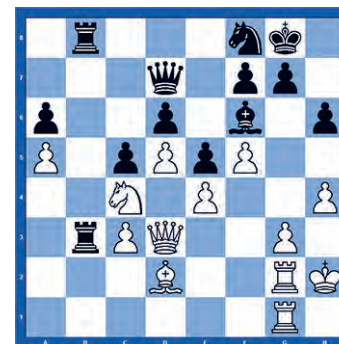


36. ♜g2! The idea will become clear soon.

36... ♚c7 37. ♜fg1! ♜b3 38. f5! With his previous rook moves, White has prepared to close the position, followed by an attack with g4-g5.

38... ♞f8 39. h4! This is the right move order of the attack. [On 39.g4 Black wanted to react with 39... ♜g5 locking the position.]

39... ♚d7? [39... ♞h7 was necessary, although White is better here as well, after 40. ♞b6! Suddenly the Black pieces are focused on the kingside, and White might think about plans on the queenside. a6 is weak and the b3 rook could be trapped.]



40.g4!! After this nice pawn sacrifice, the game is over. Black can't stop the attack.

40...g5 [40...♙xh4 is refuted by 41.g5! hxg5 42.♙xg5 ♙xg5 43.♖xg5 f6 (43...g6 loses to 44.♔h3! +- and ♖h5 next!) 44.♖h5 Black gets mated after ♔h3.]

41.fxg6 fxg6 [41...♘xg6 also leads to a hopeless position: 42.g5! hxg5 43.♙xg5 ♙xg5 44.♖xg5 ♔f8 45.h5 ♘f4 46.♔g3 ♔e7



The most precise and elegant way to conclude the game is 47.♖xe5+! dxe5 48.♔g5+ f6 (48...♔e8 49.♔xe5+ ♔f8 50.♔xf4 +- is over. The knight on c4 dominates both of the rooks still.) 49.d6+ ♔d8 50.♔xf6+ ♔c8 51.♖g8+ ♔b7 52.♖g7 +-]

42.g5 The g-file is opening on the king.

42...hxg5 43.♙xg5 ♙g7 [43...♙xg5 44.♖xg5 +- followed by h5 is also lost for Black.]

44.h5 ♖8b4 45.hxg6 Black resigned. A really high level performance by Leko.

1-0

(3) Grandelius,Nils (2572)
– Ipatov,Alexander (2587) [B60]

75th Tata Steel GpB Wijk aan Zee NED (5.3), 17.01.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

An extraordinary game with many nice tactical ideas.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 d6 6.♙g5



6...g6 A very interesting surprise weapon. If White is not well prepared, the initiative might quickly pass to Black.

7.♙xf6 exf6 Black's healthy pawn structure got destroyed, but he got the bishop pair as compensation. Black's idea is to play ♙g7, 0-0 and f5, getting rid of the doubled pawns and opening the diagonal for the g7 bishop.

8.♙c4 [8.♙b5 ♙d7 9.♔d2 ♙g7 10.0-0-0 is another critical line from the opening's point of view.]

8...♙g7 9.♘db5 White chooses the most direct way to punish Black for his opening choice. Black has no choice, he must sacrifice the d6 pawn and try to look for counterplay.

9...0-0 10. ♖xd6



10...f5! This is the right move, Black must activate the bishop pair. We are still at the beginning of theory.

11.0-0-0 ♖b6! Black tries to win a tempo in order to develop the initiative by attacking the f2 pawn. [Mainly 11... ♖a5 was played before, but the text move seems to be stronger. The young Carlsen showed in a blitz game how to get an advantage for White. 12. ♖c7! ♙xc3 13.bxc3 a6 Black seems to be all right, but a brilliant move causes real problems.

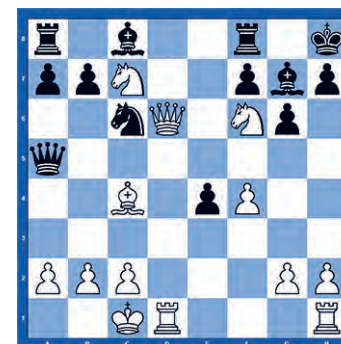


14. ♖d8!! Of all the hanging pieces, Black can only take the queen, but it also leads to a worse endgame. 14...

♙xc7 (14... ♖xd8 15. ♖xf7+ ♔h8 16. ♖f6#) 15. ♖xf8+ ♔xf8 16. ♘xc7 ♖a7 17. ♙d3 ± Carlsen-Gurevich, blitz 2006.]

12.f4 fxe4 13. ♘d5 [13. ♘xe4 ♙f5 would yield more than enough compensation for Black.]

13... ♖a5 14. ♘f6+ ♔h8 15. ♘c7 Only this move is a novelty, but probably it still existed in Black's preparation, as this is the computer's recommendation.



15... ♙e6!! Excellent decision. The game becomes incredibly sharp and entertaining. [15... ♖b8 allows 16. ♘ce8!! An unusual idea, after which White takes the strong bishop and the king becomes vulnerable. A threat could be ♘xg7 ♙xg7 ♖d5, and on ♖b6, ♘h5 gxh5 ♖g5 ♔h8 ♖f6 mate.]

16. ♙xe6 fxe6 [16... ♖ad8! would have been even stronger. 17. ♙d7 White preserves his extra piece, but the attack seems to be more than dangerous. 17... ♖xa2 e3 threatens with ♖a1 mate. 18. ♘cd5 ♖a1+ 19. ♙d2 ♖xb2 White could hardly hold the pressure in a practical game.]

17. ♘xa8 ♖xa2! [17... ♖xa8? is too slow. 18. ♖xe6 White protects his a2 pawn and enjoys being an exchange up.]

18. ♖c7 Grandelius takes the challenge and keeps all his pieces on the board. [Probably, most of the players would have preferred 18. ♖a3 when Black is forced to trade queens. 18... ♖xa3 19. bxa3 ♙xf6 20. ♖c7 White's prospects are slightly better.]

18... ♖a1+! 19. ♔d2 ♖xb2 Black is a rook down at the moment, but there are many threats in the air, like ♖d8 or simply ♖xf6, when, even materially, Black is fine.

20. ♖ce8! [20. ♖xe6 ♖xf6 The knight protects both queen checks on the back-rank.]



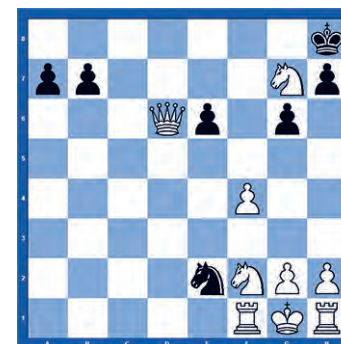
20... ♖d4!? The most ambitious move. [Objectively, Black should have forced a draw by playing 20... ♖xe8! although the point of the sacrifice is only clear for computers. 21. ♖xe8 ♙c3+ 22. ♔e3 ♙b4!! This is extremely strong. It frees the c3 square for the queen, with tempo. Now it's White the one who needs to find only move. 23. ♖d7! (23. ♖xe6 leads to a forced mate. 23... ♙c5+ 24. ♔xe4 (24. ♔d2 ♖d4+! 25. ♔e1 (25. ♔c1 ♙a3+ 26. ♔b1 ♖b2#) 25... ♖f2#) 24... ♖xc2+ 25. ♔f3 ♖f2+ 26. ♔e4 Black has several ways to win, but the most precise is 26... ♖xg2+ 27. ♔d3 ♖b4+ 28. ♔c4 ♖c2+ 29. ♔b5 a6+ 30. ♔a5 b6+ 31. ♖xb6 ♖a2# This is the end of the journey.) 23... ♙c5+ 24. ♔xe4 ♖xc2+ 25. ♖d3! This is the reason why the queen had to

go to d7. Now Black doesn't have more than a perpetual check. 25... ♖xg2+ 26. ♖f3 ♖c2+ 27. ♖d3 ♖g2+ =]

21. ♖xg7 The g7 knight becomes the key piece in White's defense. It controls the f5 square against the knight checks...

21... ♖c8? Black is lost after this move, but of course, in a practical game things are not clear at all. [21... ♖xc2+ 22. ♔e3 +- is not enough. Here is an example of the usefulness of the g7 knight, ♖f5 is not mate.; 21... ♔xg7 was the best. White can only get a slightly better endgame after all. 22. ♖c7+ ♔xf6 23. ♖b1 Probably Ipatov stopped calculating here, because if the queen moves, ♖e5 and ♖b7 finishes the game. However, he has 23... ♖b3+! 24. ♔e2 ♖d4+ 25. ♔f2 ♖xc2+ 26. ♖xc2 ♖xc2 27. ♖hc1 ± with a small edge.; 21... ♖xf6 Now, the strongest is the cold-blooded 22. ♖he1! ♔xg7 23. ♖c7+ ♖f7 24. ♖c3 ±]

22. ♔e3!? This is the human move! [The machine suggests 22. ♖xe4!! ♖xc2+ 23. ♔e1! It looks really suspicious, but Black has no real threats. 23... ♖e2+ 24. ♔f1 The check are over, Black has to sacrifice. 24... ♖f2+ 25. ♖xf2 ♖b5+ (25... ♖e2+ 26. ♔g1 +- The rook is protected.) 26. ♖d3! and game over. (However, not 26. ♔g1?? because of 26... ♖e2+! 27. ♔f1 ♖g3+ 28. ♔g1 ♖f1+! 29. ♖xf1 ♖e2#



with an amazing final position. Black is basically a full chess set down, but he gives mate with a single knight!)]

22...♔c3+ [22...♘xc2+ 23.♔xe4 ♔c4+ 24.♔f3 +- wins for White.]

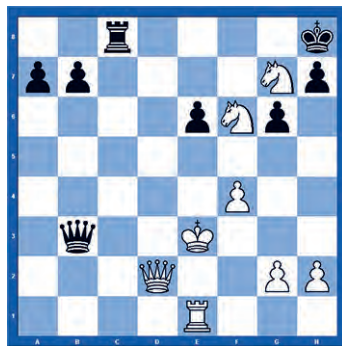
23.♔d3 This is the human decision, once again. [However, the computer is not afraid again, and plays 23.♔f2! e3+ 24.♔g3! (24.♔g1?? would change the final outcome 24...♔xc2 and White gets mated, for instance, after 25.h3 ♔f2+ 26.♔h2 ♘f3#) 24...e2+ 25.♔d3 e1♔+ 26.♔xe1 ♔xe1+ 27.♔h3 +- White is out of the danger zone.]

23...exd3 24.♔xd4 White is two knights up and Black can only get one back if he trades queens, but it would lead to a lost endgame. So, he must try a desperate attack.

24...♔xc2 [24...♔xd4+ 25.♔xd4 ♔xg7 26.♘e4 dxc2 27.♔c1 +- White has a technical win.]

25.♔e1! Preventing ♔e2 and activating the rook.

25...d2 26.♔xd2 ♔b3+ [26...♔c3+ 27.♔e2 +- White is safe.]



27.♔e4!! White is not afraid. Excellent calculation!

27...♔c4+ 28.♔e5 ♔c5+ [28...♔b5+ is refuted by 29.♔xe6 ♔c6+ 30.♔f7! +- and White is ready to cover the checks from e7 and e6.]

29.♔d6! There is no way back!

29...♔b6+ 30.♔e7 ♔c7+ 31.♘d7! And the king has found its shelter. The game is over.

31...♔xg7 32.♔xe6 ♔c5+ 33.♔d6! Quite a picturesque position! Black should exchange the queens, but that would also be a kind of resignation. Other moves lead to mate, and the Black king gets it.

33...♔c4 34.♔e5+ ♔g8 35.♔f6! ♔e8 is the threat.

35...♔c6 36.♔b8+ ♔c8 37.♔e8+ What an amazing game!

1-0

(4) Sokolov,Ivan (2663) — Leko,P (2735) [E53]

75th Tata Steel GpA Wijk aan Zee NED (10), 23.01.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Peter Leko doesn't win too many games in general, and especially not with Black, but this time Ivan Sokolov pushed Peter practically into doing so! We'll now see a nice tactical win by the Hungarian who, not so long ago, was the number 2 in the world and played a WCC match against Kramnik.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♘c3** ♙b4 **4.e3** Lately, many players have started to play the Nimzo against Peter Leko. Maybe nobody can find a way to hit him anywhere else...

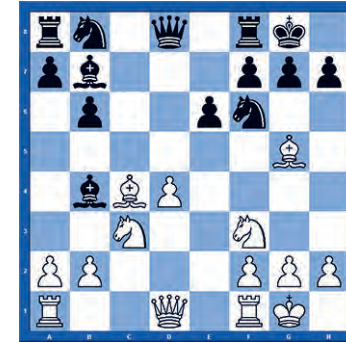
4...0-0 **5.♙d3** c5 **6.♘f3** We are in the very main line of the Nimzowitsch variation.

6...d5 **7.0-0** cxd4 One of the most popular lines nowadays.

8.exd4 dxc4 **9.♙xc4** Now the structure is fixed. White has an isolated pawn on d4 and Black will try to make sure that White's move d4-d5 won't be possible. In such positions, Black's major idea is to exchange as many pieces as possible; White's idea is to play for an attack trying to keep the pieces on the board, of course.

9...b6 Obviously, the best place for the Black bishop is on b7.

10.♙g5 ♙b7



11.♖c1 A quite important move. Now White is prepared to take with the rook on c3 if Black tries to exchange a piece. The rook on c3 could quickly be transferred to g3 in order to help in the attack.

11...h6 This is still a theoretical position. Leko didn't play h6 against me here, and started immediately with ♘c6. We'll see if h6 is a good or bad improvement later.

12.♙h4 Of course White doesn't exchange on f6 because this would lead to a good position for Black.

12...♘c6 As we can see, ♘c6 is a better option this time, followed by ♘bd7, which could be other logical move. Why?! Because White doesn't have the option of playing ♘e5 in the future.

13.♙d3 Another logical move for White, with the idea of playing ♙b1 and ♖d3 next...

13...♙e7 **14.♙b1** ♖c8 We are in the first critical position. White needs to start playing dynamically, there's no time to lose! Black is ready to play ♘h5-♘d5, or ♘b4 followed by ♘bd5.

15.♖e1 Ivan is actually following my game — which I didn't remember, but looked up :).



15...♘h5! A strong novelty by Leko! [In my game against Eljanov, this was the continuation: 15...♖e8 16.a3 ♘h5 17.♔d3 Now we can see the idea behind ♗b1–Qd3. 17... ♗xh4 18.♔h7+ ♔f8 19.d5 with a very strong attack for White.]

16.♔c2 Ivan is going into complications. [Of course, in case of 16. ♗xe7 ♘xe7 followed by ♘f4, only Black can be better.]

16...g6 17.♖xe6 It seems like White is doing fine! To take on e6 is not possible because of ♗xg6, and White threatens to play ♖xg6 next.

17...♘f4! That's Black's key idea! Protecting against ♖xg6 and, at the same time, the rook on e6 and the bishop on h4 are hanging.

18.♖xe7 An interesting exchange sacrifice by White. It's a pity that Ivan didn't know that Leko was prepared many moves ahead... [It isn't good to play 18. ♗xe7 ♘xe7 19.♖e3 ♘f5 and Black is doing great.]

18...♘xe7 19.♔d2 For a human, this is a very complex position that looks pretty promising for White, but in fact, Black is doing good here. And he need to find:

19...g5! Only move. It seems like White doesn't even have enough initiative for being an exchange down.

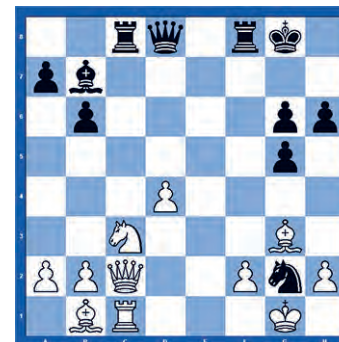
20.♘e5 [Against the tempting 20.♘xg5 Black also has a strong response: 20...♗eg6! attacking the h4 bishop. And White is not on time again.]

20...♗eg6 A ♗eg6 is very strong! Once again...

21.♘xg6 [It would lead to a slightly better fight to play 21. ♗xg6 fxg6 22. ♗g3 but here Black has the easy move „for a computer” 22...♘xg2! Why not to take a pawn when you can... 23.♘xg6 ♖f6 Black is clearly much better here. He's an exchange up and the attack should be enough to win the game.]

21...fxg6 22. ♗g3 ♘xg2 I guess Leko knew everything until here... The position is winning for Black in an easy looking game, but for a human to see and judge the complications after 15...♘g5! is very-very difficult

23.♔c2 The last attack on g6 is getting stopped by Black as well.



23...♖f6! The simple st and safest... Black wants to play ♘h4 or ♘f4 next, and White has nothing to stop Black from doing it.

24. ♖e5 [It doesn't help to play 24. ♔xg6+ ♔xg6 25. ♖xg6 ♘f4 and Black should win the game quite easily...]

24... ♔f7 **25.a3** White's bishop finally got activated on a2, but it's already too late...

25... ♘h4 **26.** ♖a2 ♔xa2 A very nice game by Black, and I guess Leko knew everything at least until the move 19... g5!. Once again, a good example which shows that to work on chess definitely makes sense! [26... ♔xa2 27. ♘xa2 ♖xc2 28. ♖xc2 ♘f3+ 29. ♔f1 ♖a6+ 30. ♔g2 ♘e1+-+]

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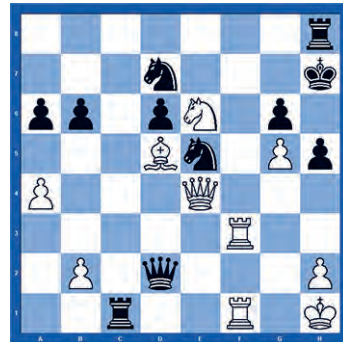
Puzzle section

(5) Harikrishna,P (2698) – Van Wely,L (2679)

Wijk aan Zee, 17.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Rapport,R (2621) – Movsesian,S (2688)

Wijk aan Zee B, 15.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

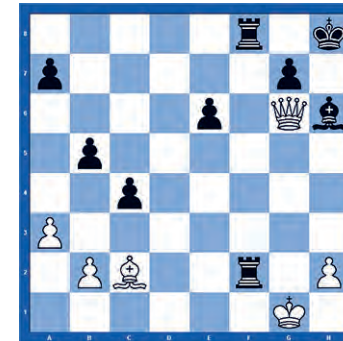


(7) Ernst,S (2556) – Movsesian,S (2688)

Wijk aan Zee B, 18.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



(8) Movsesian,S (2688) – Van Kampen,R (2581)

Wijk aan Zee B, 19.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Nikolic,P (2619) — Grandelius,N (2572)

Wijk aan Zee B, 20.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

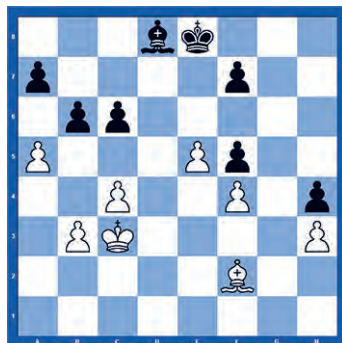


(10) Kovchan,A (2579) — Bitensky,I (2400)

Wijk aan Zee C, 15.01.2013

[CEWN]

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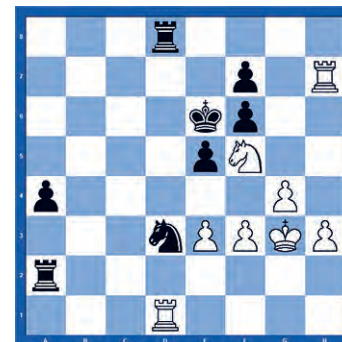


(11) Khismatullin,D (2652) — Predke,A (2503)

Dvorkovich memorial, 16.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

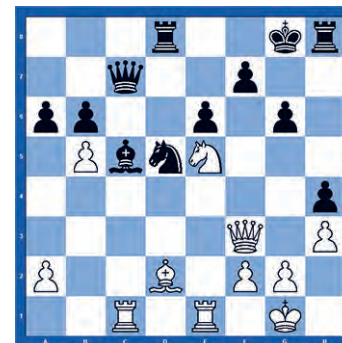


(12) Popov,I (2623) — Petrov,A (2411)

Dvorkovich memorial, 17.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

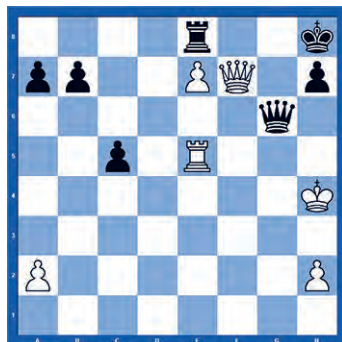


(13) Papin,V (2568) – Demaniuk,A (2340)

Dvorkovich memorial, 18.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

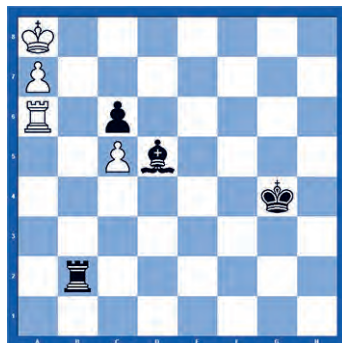


(14) Teterev,V (2536) – Tihonov,J (2443)

Belarus Championship, 16.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... =



Endgame section

(15) Caruana,F (2781) – Nakamura,Hi (2769) [A56]

75th Tata Steel GpA Wijk aan Zee NED (10), 23.01.2013

[Chess Evolution]



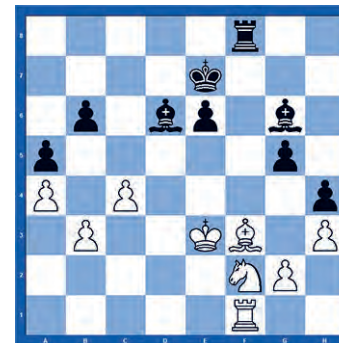
We got to this position after the time trouble. Thanks to the bishop pair, the weak dark squares and the better structure, Black is much better. Let's see how Naka converted his advantage.

40...Kf7 41.Rb2 Bf6 The bishop came here to avoid any pawn exchange.

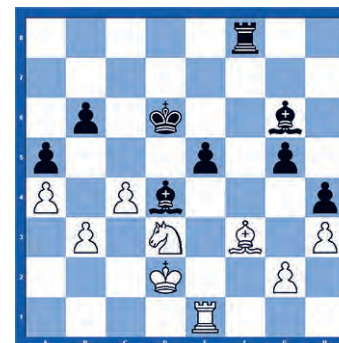
42.Rb1 Kf6 43.Rf1 Ke7 44.Be4 Rg8 45.Rh1 h4 To make moves like this, we have to be sure about everything, but Naka probably has already seen many winning ideas.

46.Bf3 Rf8 47.Rd1 Rd8 48.Rf1 Bg6 49.Be4 Bh5 Of course, Black keeps the pair of bishops.

50.Bf3 Rf8 51.Nf2 Bg6 Naka didn't improve his position so much, but he's winning time. This is a typical strategy to convert a long-term advantage.



52.Ne4 Caruana decides to change the way to defend. He found the other setup with a knight on e4. What would happen if he puts the knight on d3? [52.Nd3 Bc5+ (52... Bf4+ 53.Kf2 Rd8 54.Rd1 Bg3 55.c5 (55.Kf3 e5 56.Bd5 (56.Be4 Bf4+ 57.Kf3 Bh5+) 56... Rd6 An important place for the rook, in order to push e4. 57.Rf1 e4 58.Nc1 Bf4+ 59.Kd4 Rf6) 55...e5 56.Bg4 bxc5 57.Nxc5 Rxd1 58.Kxd1 Bf2 and White has problems with the knight.) 53.Nxc5 I suppose Caruana wanted to avoid the positions after the exchanges on c5. (53.Kf2 Bd4 54.Kd2 (54.Rd1 e5 55.Kd2 Kd6 But not 55...e4, because of 56.Bxe4! 56.Rf1



56...g4 A similar idea to the one we'll see in the game. **57.Be4 (57.hxg4 h3; 57.Bxg4 e4) 57...gxh3 58.gxh3** Black

should easily win this position. For example, the winning plan can be to grab the weak h3 pawn after ♖e8-♖d7 or ♖g8-♖g3.) 54...♖d8 55.♔e2 ♖d6 56.♗b7 ♗c3 57.♖d1 e5 58.♜f2 (58.c5 ♖f6; 58.♗d5 ♖xd5 59.cxd5 ♗h5+) 58...♗d4 59.♗e4 ♖f6 60.♗xg6 ♖xf2+ 61.♔d3 ♖xg2 62.♗f5 ♖g3+ 63.♔e4 ♖xb3 With two pawns less, the opposite colored bishops won't help.) 53...bxc5 54.♖f2 ♖b8 (54...e5 55.♖d2 ♖d5 is coming.; 54...♖d8 55.♗e4 ♗xe4 56.♔xe4 ♖d1 57.♖e2 ♖d4+ 58.♔e3 e5 59.♖f2 ♖f4 60.♖d2 ♗) 55.♗d1 ♖d8 56.♗c2 From a logical point of view, without bishops, White should have more chances. 56...♗xc2 57.♖xc2 ♔f6 (57...♖d4 58.♖c1 e5 59.♖f1 ♔e6 60.♖f8 ♗) 58.♖f2+ ♔e5 59.♖f1 ♖b8 60.♖b1 ♖b7 61.♖b2 ♖f7 62.♖d2 ♖f1 63.♖d8 ♖b1]

52...♗c5+ 53.♔d3 [53.♜xc5 bxc5 This position has to be lost because White is simply „a pawn down“.; 53.♔e2 ♖f4 54.♜xg5 (54.♜xc5 bxc5 55.♖c1 ♖d4 56.♖c3 e5 57.♗g4 ♔f6 58.♖f3+ ♖f4) 54...e5 Now White can't move the rook because after ♔f6, he'll lose the knight. (54...♔f6 55.♜e4+ =) 55.♗d5 ♗d3+ 56.♔xd3 ♖xf1]

53...♖d8+! Black's idea now is to force White to exchange on c5. Then, it will be easier to improve his position. [53...♖f4 This move should be enough as well. 54.♖e1 ♗f5 55.♖e2 (55.♖h1 ♔f7 56.♖e1 ♔g7 Black doesn't need to hurry with the final hit on h3. First, he can place his pieces on optimal squares. 57.♖h1 e5 58.♖e1 ♗d4 59.♖h1 ♔h6 60.♖e1 ♗xh3) 55...♗xh3 56.♜xg5 ♗f5+ 57.♗e4 (57.♜e4 h3; 57.♔d2 ♖d4+ 58.♔e1 ♗d6 59.♜e4 ♗f4) 57...♔f6 58.♗xf5 exf5 59.♜e6 (59.♜f3 h3) 59...♖g4 ♖b3]

54.♔c2? Caruana could still fight after: [54.♔e2 ♖d4 55.♜xc5 bxc5 But as we said before, this position is just lost.]



54...g4!! A fantastic tactical idea overlooked by Caruana in his long calculation! White's setup is crushed now! [54...♖d4 55.♖e1 ♗b4 56.♖e2 This position is what Caruana expected. His setup now is very solid and it's not easy for Black to improve because the knight on e4 won't allow the Black king to go to b4 or g3. 56...e5 57.♔c1 ♔e6 with the idea of taking the king to g3, but now comes 58.♗g4+ ♗f5 59.♗f3 =; 54...♗b4 55.♖d1]

55.hxg4 h3 56.♖d1 [56.gxh3 ♖f8 57.♔d3 ♖f4 and White is losing material.]

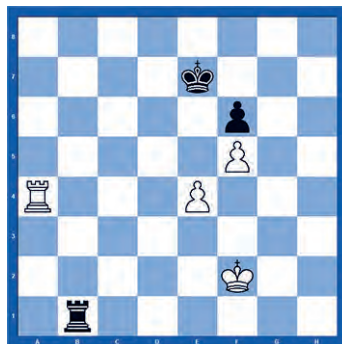
56...♖f8 57.♔d3 h2 58.♖h1 ♗g1 Without the rook, White can't fight anymore.

59.♔e2 ♗xe4 60.♗xe4 ♔f6 61.♗f3 ♖d8 0-1

(16) Ribli,Z (2554) – Sebenik,M (2543)

Austrian league, 18.01.2013

[Chess Evolution]

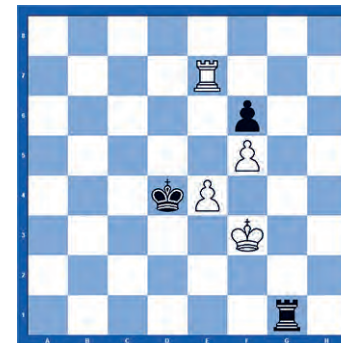


The position is a very easy theoretical draw, but the Hungarian legend, Zoltan Ribli, sets a very deep trap to his opponent.

86. ♖a7+! ♔d6? Very interesting, but after this obvious move, Black's position seems to be lost. [Black should have defended passively, 86... ♖e8 After this, Black basically only needs to keep the e4 pawn under attack; if the White king wants to get access to the f6 pawn, the rook should cut it along the file... 87. ♔f3 ♖f1+ 88. ♔g4 ♖g1+ 89. ♔h5 ♖f8= followed by passing on the g-file. White can't make progress.]

87. ♔f3! The king is heading to g6.

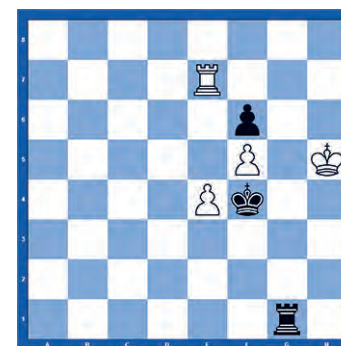
87... ♖f1+ [Preventing ♔g4 with 87... ♖g1 is refuted by 88. ♖f7! ♔e5 89. ♖e7+ ♔d4



90. ♖d7+! After this eck, the Black king can't go back to e5, because the f6 pawn would fall. 90... ♔e5 (90... ♔c5 91. ♖f7+-) 91. ♖d5#]

88. ♔g4 ♖g1+ [88... ♔e5 is met with 89. ♖e7+ ♔d4 90. ♔h5 ♖g1 is a must against ♔g6, but the same plan that was seen in the game wins for White as well. 91. ♔h6! ♖g2 92. ♖g7! will transpose to the game...]

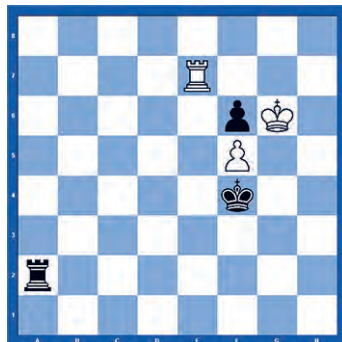
89. ♔h5 ♔e5 90. ♖e7+ ♔f4 Black seems to be all right, as he cut the king and is ready to trade the e4 pawn for the f6 one, but...



91. ♔h6!! Black can't prevent ♖g7, followed by ♔g6. The position is lost.

91...♖g2 92.♖g7! ♖a2 93.♔g6 ♔xe4 [93...♖a6 loses to 94.♖e7 +- and ♖e6 next.]

94.♖e7+ ♔f4



95.♖e6! An important preparation before collecting the pawn. [95.♔xf6? ♖a5 =]

95...♖g2+ [If Black waits with 95...♖a1 96.♖b6! +- is relevant. White already wants to take with ♔xf6, as on ♖a5, he has ♖b4 check.; 95...♖a5 96.♖xf6 ♖e5 (96...♔g4 97.♖f8+-) 97.♖b6 +- The f-pawn promotes automatically.]

96.♔xf6 ♖g8 97.♖a6 ♖f8+ 98.♔g6 The pawn can't be taken, which means the end of the game.

98...♖g8+ 99.♔f7 ♖b8 100.f6 An instructive rook end-game!

1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Yates, Frederick — Capablanca, Jose Raul [B29]

Moscow Moscow, 1925

[Csaba Balogh]

Capablanca quickly outplayed positionally his opponent, who was also one of the best chess players at that time.

1.e4 ♞f6 The Alekhine defense.

2.e5 ♞d5 **3.♞c3** Black immediately equalizes after this move. [White has to play 3.d4 to fight for the advantage, but of course, this is just the beginning of the theory.]

3...♞xc3 **4.dxc3**



4...d5! Black is playing for a healthy development with c5 and ♞c6. He already has the better pawn structure.

5.♞f3 **c5** **6.♞f4** White decides to play a sharp game with ♞d2 and 0–0–0, however, it turns out to be a bad decision.

6...♞c6 **7.♞d2** [7.♞e2 and 0–0 was more solid, with an even position.]

7...♞g4! Logical move. Black has to play e6 to stabilize the d5 pawn and finish the development, but he didn't want to lock his light squared bishop.

8.0–0–0! The drawback of this move becomes clear soon. [White should have opted for castling kingside with 8.♞e2 e6 9.0–0 although Black has a comfortable position here as well. 9...♞c7 10.♞fe1 ♞e7 11.h3 ♞h5 Black has the initiative, but a long fight is ahead.]

8...e6 **9.h3?** [9.c4 would have been the only move to keep the pieces active. Black has to keep the position closed with 9...d4 but, at least, White gets the e4 square for his bishop. 10.♞d3 ♞e7 11.♞e4 ♞c7 Black should be better here as well. ♞h5–g6 appears to be a strong plan, exchanging the powerful bishop on e4, followed by an attack with a6–b5.; 9.♞e2 is met, similarly to the game, with 9...♞xf3! 10.♞xf3 c4! and the f3 wn is dead. White has no chance to open the position, while Black is ready for a dangerous attack with b5–b4!]

9...♞xf3 **10.gxf3** ♞c7?! The only one inaccuracy in the game by Capablanca, which could have allowed some counterplay to his opponent. [10...c4! was the right move immediately.]

11.♞g3? [11.c4 was necessary again. 11...d4 and g6 ♞g7 next. Black is better.]



11...c4!! A great move, which basically kills the f1 bishop. It has no chance to enter the game. His colleague on g3 is not better either. On the other side, Black has a clear plan to push b5-b4, launching a strong attack.

12.f4 g6! Necessary prophylaxis against the threatened f5.

13.♔b1 h5 14.♙h4 [14.h4 would be a complete disaster for the bishop pair!]

14...♙e7 Capablanca, t want to give any chance. He's trading the bishops and wants to play against the poor piece on f1.

15.♙g5?! Yates decided to give a pawn, at least to open the position a bit, but he gets no compensation at all for it. Black's still dominating. [15.♙xe7 ♔xe7 and b5-a5-b4 next. White can only see what Black is doing with him.]

15...♙xg5 16.fxg5 ♘xe5 [16...b5 17.f4 a5 was also possible, but why not to accept the pawn?!]

17.♔e3 0-0! The king is safe on g8.

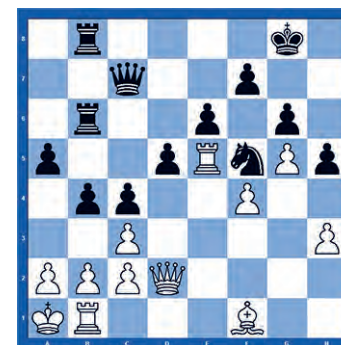
18.♙e2 ♘c6 19.f4 ♘e7! This even prevents the f5 sacrifice. White has no chance to create counterplay.

20.♖hg1 ♘f5 21.♔f2 ♖fe8 There was no need for this move. Black could have started his attack with b5 immediately.

22.♖ge1 b5 23.♙f1 a5 24.♖e5 b4 The end is near!

25.♔e1 ♖eb8 26.♔a1 ♖b6 Black can do whatever he wants. He doubles his rooks on the b-file.

27.♔d2 ♖ab8 28.♖b1 White tries to defend, but Capablanca brings another piece to the attack.



28...♖d6! 29.♙g2 ♘b5 The winning threat is bxc3 and ♘a3.

30.cxb4 c3 The final breakthrough. Black succeeds to open the lines in front of the White king.

31.bxc3 ♘xc3 32.♖b3 axb4 33.a3 ♖a6 34.♖e3 ♖ba8 35.♖ex3 Instead of resignation.

35...bxc3 36.♔c1 ♔c5 37.♔a2 ♔c4 38.♔a1 ♔xb3 A pretty finish. The key move was 11...c4, and the play against the light squared bishop was really instructive.

0-1

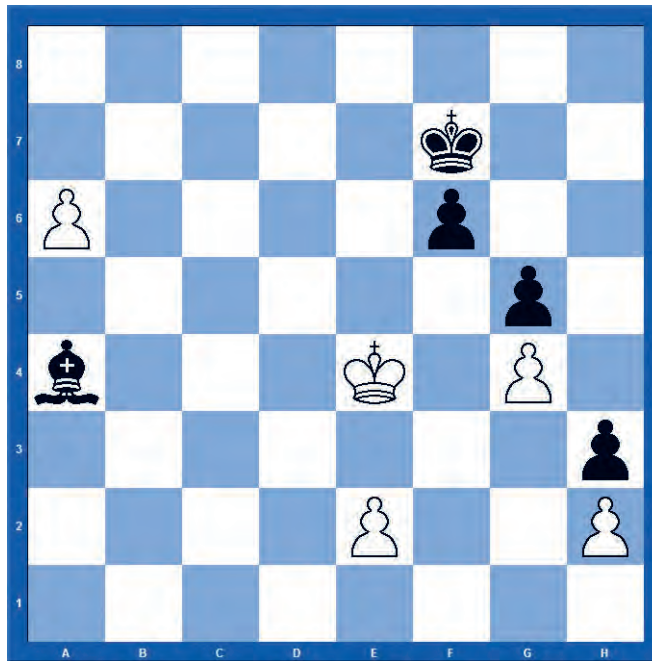
Surprise section / study

(18) Kok,T

1936

[CEWN]

1. =

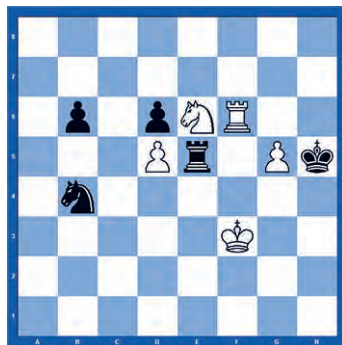


Solutions

(19) Aronian,L (2802) – Carlsen,M (2861)

Wijk aan Zee, 13.01.2013

[Solutions]



46...♖e3+!! 1/2:1/2 [46...♖e3+ 47.♙xe3 ♘xd5+ 48.♙d4 ♘xf6 49.gxf6 ♙g6=]

(20) Turov,M (2630) – Naiditsch,A (2708)

Wijk aan Zee B, 14.01.2013

[Solutions]

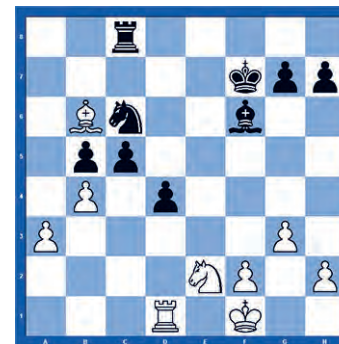


30...♙a1! 31. ♖f1 ♖xc2 32. ♙xc2 ♙xf1--+

(21) Burg,T (2492) – Gretarsson,H (2516)

Wijk aan Zee C, 13.01.2013

[Solutions]



33...c4! 34. ♘f4 [34. ♘xd4 ♙xd4 35. ♙xd4 ♖d8--+; 34. ♙xd4 ♖d8--+]

34...d3--+

(22) Peralta,F (2617) – Swinkels,R (2508)

Wijk aan Zee C, 13.01.2013

[Solutions]



24. ♖h3!! ♔g6 [24...gxf2+ 25. ♖g3 ♔e6 26. ♗xg7+-]
25.f5 ♔g4 26.f3! ♔g5 27.f4 ♗xf4 [27...♔g4 28. ♖xg3+-]
28.f6 [28.exf4+-]
28...♔g6 29.fxg7 ♗e5 [29...♔xd3 30. ♖h8#]
30. ♔xg6 fxg6 31. ♗xe5 ♖xe5 32. ♖h8+ 1-0

(23) Maierov,N (2521) – Ehlvest,J (2605)

Keres memorial (rapid), 13.01.2013

[Solutions]

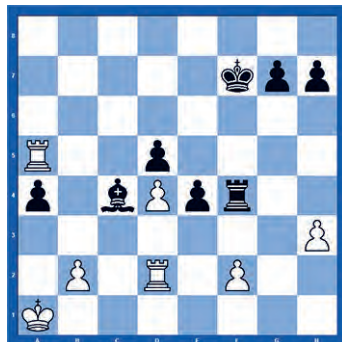


21...♗xf2! 22. ♔xf2 ♔h2+ 23. ♔f1 ♔xh3+ [23...♗a6+!?!;
23...♗xd4!?]
24. ♔f2 ♔h2+ 25. ♔f1 ♗a6+ 26. ♗ce2 [26. ♗db5 d4
27.exd4 ♗f4-+; 26. ♗d3 ♗xd4 27.exd4 (27. ♗xa6 ♔h1+
28. ♔f2 ♔f3+ 29. ♔g1 ♔xg4+ 30. ♔f2 ♔f3+ 31. ♔g1 ♖e5
32.exd4 ♔g3+ 33. ♔f1 ♖f5+ 34. ♔e2 ♖f2#) 27...♖xe1+
28. ♔xe1 ♖e8+ 29. ♔f1 ♗xd3+ 30. ♖xd3 ♔h1+-+]
26...♔h1+ 27. ♔f2 ♔h2+ 28. ♔f1 ♗g5!-+

(24) Sertic,R (2374) – Delchev,A (2616)

Bosnjaci Open, 08.01.2013

[Solutions]



36...e3! 0-1 [36...e3 37.fxe3 ♖f1+--]

(25) Johannesson,I (2340) – Hebden,M (2540)

British league, 13.01.2013

[Solutions]

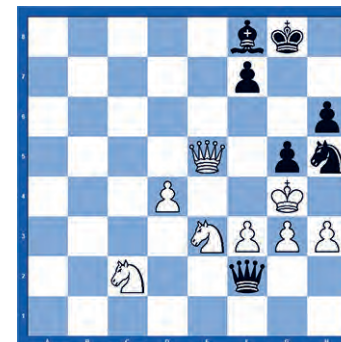


33...♙f5! 0-1 [33...♙xh3? 34.♖g6+; 33...♙g7? 34.e6!;
33...♙f5 34.♙d3 ♙xh3! 35.♙h7+ ♖xh7 36.♖xh7+ ♙xh7
37.gxh3 f3--]

(26) Stebbings,A (2265) – Stefanova,A (2491)

British league, 13.01.2013

[Solutions]



49...♘xg3!--+ 50.h4 [50.♖xg3 h5+!--+]

50...gxh4 [50...h5+ 51.♙xg5 ♖xf3--+; 50...♘e2--+]

51.d5 [51.♘d5 ♖xc2 52.♘f6+ ♙h8 53.♘h5+ (53.♘d7+
♙g7--+)] 53...♙h7 54.♘f6+ ♙g6--+]

51...h5+ 0-1 [51...h5+ 52.♙g5 ♖xf3--+]

(27) De Schampheleire,G (2275) – Michiels,B (2506)

Belgian league, 13.01.2013

[Solutions]



21. ♖e6! ♚b8 [21...fxe6 22. ♙xe6+ ♔h8 23. ♖xd7+-]

22. ♖xd7+-

(28) Goganov,A (2545) – Babuijan,L (2497)

Margaryan memorial, 08.01.2013

[Solutions]



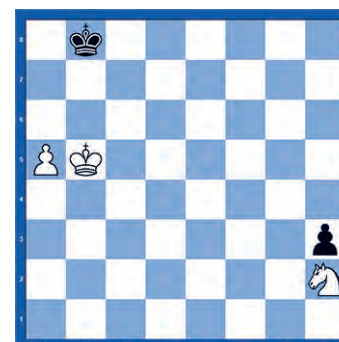
32. ♙c8!! ♙xd5 [32... ♙xc8 33. ♙a1! ♙b8 34. ♖b1+-]

33. ♙a1! ♙f6 34. ♙xd5+-

(29) Reichhelm,G

1904

[Solutions]



1. ♙a6!! [1. ♙b6? ♙a8 2. a6 ♙b8 3. ♙g4 ♙a8 4. ♙f6 h2 5. ♙d5 h1 ♙ 6. ♙c7+ ♙b8 7. a7+ ♙c8 8. a8 ♙+ ♙xa8=; 1. a6? ♙a7 2. ♙a5 ♙a8! 3. ♙b6 ♙b8 — 1. ♙b6?]

1... ♙a8 2. ♙b6 ♙b8 3. a6 ♙a8 4. ♙g4 ♙b8 5. a7+ ♙a8 6. ♙f6 h2 7. ♙e8 h1 ♙ 8. ♙c7# 1-0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 49

1st of February 2013

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Editorial Preface

Another amazing week of chess came to an end with the final results of 2 amazing chess events, the Wijk aan Zee Tournament and the Gibraltar Open.

Let's start with Wijk ann Zee:

In the A group, already one round before the end, the winner was known, and it was Magnus Carlsen! The last round didn't bring big changes either, so Magnus the Wijk aan Zee A Group with an amazing 10/13 points, gaining another 10 ELO points. It seems like nobody can even come close to stop the young Chess Super Mind. The second place went to Aronian with 8,5/13. The 3rd and 4th places were taken by Anand and Karjakin, both with 8/13.

In the B group, it was a dramatic finish. Before the last round, 3 players were in the lead and all of them could have won the tournament. Movsesian made a draw against Ipatov, Rapport won against Nicolic and Your weekly commentator Naiditsch won his game against Sipke Ernst. Thanks to a better tie-break score, Arkadij Naiditsch got his promotion to the next year's A group with 9/13 points.

In the C group, things were extremely exciting as well. Before the last round, both Brunello and Peralta had 10/12. Brunello managed to win his last game and Peralta just made a draw. With this amazing result of 11/13 points, Brunello got his promotion to the Wijk aan Zee B group of 2014.

Gibraltar:

After a very exciting tournament, 4 players shared the first place with 8/10. They were Vituigov, Vachier La Grave,

Short and Sandipan. So the tie-break began. Short managed to win against Vachier and Vituigov eliminated Sandipan. In the final match between Vituigov and Short, for the 20.000 Pounds, the lucky winner was Vitiugov, who managed to beat Short 1,5/0,5 in the very final stage!

As usual, we commented the freshest games from these events for You. We wish You a lot of chess fun with Your weekly issue of CEWN.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Giri, Anish (2720) – Caruana, Fabiano (2781) [D31]

75th Tata Steel GpA Wijk aan Zee NED (11.6), 25.01.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

Caruana had a horrible tournament in Wijk aan Zee. He was doing very badly and, typically, he was risking too much in the opening to save some rating points. This led to another disaster from his point of view. On the other hand, Giri played a great attacking game.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 c6 4.♘c3 dxc4 Such kind of lines are generally a good way to fight for the win as Black. He takes a pawn and White must fight for compensation; if he doesn't succeed, he'll end up with a material disadvantage.

5.a4 ♗b4 Black would like to defend his pawn with b5 after pinning the knight. [5...♘f6 leads to the Slav by transposition.]

6.g3 Giri plays in Catalan style and fianchettoes his bishop.

6...♘f6 7.♗g2 ♘bd7 8.0-0 0-0 9.♔c2



9...♔a5 Caruana deviates from the main line, he tries to get his opponent out from his preparation. [9...♔e7 is the main move, with the idea of freeing the position with e5! White should prevent it if he wants to fight for an advantage. 10.♗f4! followed by e4, ♖fe1, ♖ad1 and d5. This is a typical method of finding counterplay in such structures. On 10...♘d5 11.♗g5! White provokes a weakness. 11...f6 12.♗d2 and e4 is coming next with strong compensation.]

10.♘a2 ♗d6 11.♔xc4 White won back the pawn, but it allowed Black to free his position with e5.

11...♘b6? This is the move that would never happen if Caruana was doing well on the tournament. However, he is now going to grab a poisoned pawn on a4. [11...e5 was necessary, although White got an edge in a game between two Serbian GMs. 12.b3 ♘b6 13.♔c2 The difference between 9...♔e7 and this is the queen, which is misplaced on a5. Black has to waste some time to get it out from the danger zone. 13...exd4 14.♘xd4 ♔h5 15.e4! White is in time to build a nice center. 15...♗h3 16.♗xh3 ♔xh3 17.f3! Everything is protected and the pawn structure guarantees an advantage for White. 17...♗e5 18.♗b2 ♖fd8 19.♖ad1 ± After finishing the development, White had only one thing to do: to improve the a2 knight, but this could be easily achieved by ♘c1-e2. Ilincic-Blagojevic game.]

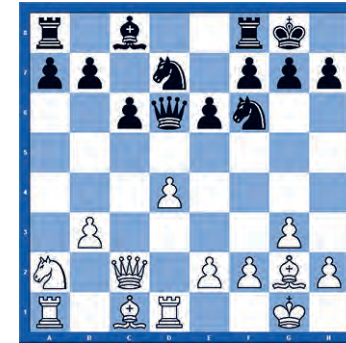
12.♔c2 ♔xa4 13.b3 ♔a5 White has to play fast to create counterplay. He must make use of the a5 queen, which is almost trapped. It can only run to h5.



14. ♘e5!? Cutting the queen's route to h5. [14.e4! was even better. White threatens to play e5, and on 14... ♙e7 15. ♘g5!! is very strong. The main idea is to push e5, but this time it's connected with the h7 mate; the second point is the queen on a5, which can't go to h5 now. 15... h6 The hunt for the queen can start now. 16. ♙d2! ♚b5 (16... ♚a3 17. ♘c3 ♚b4 transposes to ♚b5.) 17. ♘c3 ♚b4 18. ♘f3! +- simply retreating the knight and Black can't avoid the e5 and ♘d5 ideas. He is losing a piece.]

14... ♘bd7 Black finally frees his queen, but this allows the capture of the important dark-squared bishop. [14... ♙xe5 would have been met with 15. ♙d2! ♚b5 16. ♘c3! ♚b4 17. dxe5 ± and the White knight is ready to occupy the d6 square.]

15. ♘c4! ♚c7 16. ♘xd6 ♚xd6 17. ♚d1 Black is really missing his bishop. White has much more than enough compensation on the dark squares. The main ideas are ♘c3, ♙a3 and e4. Black has serious problems with the development as well, it's difficult to imagine a future for the c8 bishop.



17...e5 This is the best practical move, trying to get the c8 bishop into the game, but actually it only helps White to increase his advantage. [Passively waiting with 17... ♚d8 and ♘f8, ♙d7-e8 was objectively better, but it also guarantees a long-time suffering.]

18. ♘c3! Creating the threat of ♙a3!

18...exd4 19. ♙a3 c5 20.e3! This was the point of 18. ♘c3. Now all the diagonals and lines are opening on Black. The bishop pair starts to work extremely well.

20...d3 Otherwise, exd4 and dxc5 were also very bad for Black.

21. ♚xd3 ♚b8 Ugly, but it was hard to find a good square for the queen. Caruana was thinking about an exchange sacrifice with b6 and ♙b7, and after ♙xa8, he might get some counterplay on the light squares. [21... ♚e6 moves into 22. ♘b5 when ♘c7 and ♘d6 are in the air.; 21... ♚e7 is met by 22. ♘a4! and ♘xc5.]

22. ♘d5! White launches a very strong attack against the king.

22... ♘xd5 23. ♚xd5 b6



24. ♖b2! Logical and strong! Black has no pieces to defend the king. ♖b7 doesn't work because of the d7 knight, which has no place to move, while the attack is just rolling automatically.

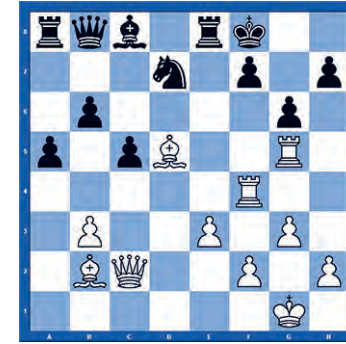
24...a5 [24...♖e8 with the idea of ♘f8 is also hopeless. White can win, for instance, with 25. ♖ad1 ♘f8 26. ♖d8+- winning a lot of material.]

25. ♖a4! Nice move, switching this rook to the kingside as well. [The computer win was really beautiful with 25. ♖h5 g6 26. ♖f5!! Amazing move, with the idea of ♖xh7, and on ♖xh7, ♖h3-♖h8 mates. The queen can't be taken because of ♖g5. 26...♖d6 27. ♖xh7! and mate in a few moves.]

25...♖e8 26. ♖g5 g6 A crucial weakening on the dark squares. [On 26...♘e5 the easiest is 27. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 28. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 29. ♖xa8 +-]

27. ♖d5 White threatens with ♖c3 after preventing f6.

27...♖f8 28. ♖f4



It's enough! Nice crush by Giri. Such a final position rarely occurs against a 2780 opponent.

1-0

(2) Yu, Yangyi (2688) – Zatonskih, Anna (2491) [C02]

11th Gibraltar Masters Caleta ENG (3.7), 24.01.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

A spectacular game, which I have mainly chosen because of its final position.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 White decides to use the Advance Variation against the French Defense.

3...c5 4.c3 ♖b6 5.♘f3 ♙d7 This is one from the numerous Black's setup, with the main idea of exchanging the „bad French bishop” with ♙b5.

6.♙d3 cxd4 [On the direct 6...♙b5 White has to play energetically to get an advantage. 7.dxc5! In general, it's not advisable to take away from the center, but White can create a very nice outpost on d4 for his minor pieces. 7...♙xc5



8.b4! This is the point and the bishop can't take on f2, because it will have no way out. 8...♙xd3 (8...♙xf2+? 9.♙e2 and ♖f1 traps the bishop.) 9.♙xd3 ♙e7 10.0-0 ± followed by occupying the d4 square with ♘d2-b3-d4. Black also

has developing problems with the g8 knight because of the e5 pawn.]

7.♘xd4! White plays with a similar strategy to the 6...♙b5 line. [7.cxd4 allows 7...♙b5 Black equalizes.]

7...♘c6 8.♘xc6 bxc6 [On 8...♙xc6 9.♙e2 it's important to avoid ♙b5, followed by ♘d2-f3 and occupying the d4 square.]

9.0-0 c5 [9...♘e7 10.♘d2 ♘g6 11.♘f3 ♙e7 12.♖e1 with a complex fight ahead. Probably White's chances are slightly preferable. The e5 pawn gives many potential attacking ideas. 12...c5 13.♖b1 ♙b5 14.♙c2! It's important to preserve the bishop for the attack. 14...a5 15.♘g5! followed by ♙h5 or ♙f3. This happened in an Ehlvest-Ibragimov game.]



10.c4! Logical move. Black is behind in development, so White tries to open the position on the king.

10...dxc4 [Keeping the position closed with 10...d4 weakens the e4 square. 11.♘d2 ♘e7 12.♘e4 ♘g6 13.♙h5! White builds up a dangerous attacking position here as well.]

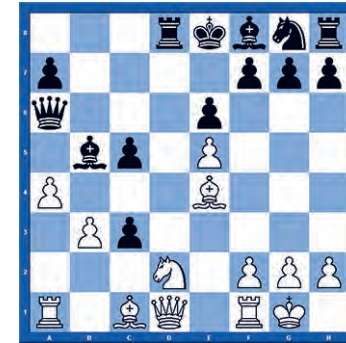
11. ♖e4!? Nice idea. White would like to take back the c4 pawn with the knight, which arrives there with tempo, attacking the queen.

11... ♖d8 12. ♘d2 ♗a6 Leaving from the tempo and temporarily defending the pawn. [12... ♖c6 doesn't equalize either 13. ♗c2 ♘e7! (13... ♖xe4 14. ♘xe4 Black has difficulties with the g8 knight, since it never can go to e7 because of ♘d6, and on h6, it will always be taken.) 14. ♘xc4 ♖xe4 15. ♗xe4 ♗c6 This is Black's point. Now the knight's development problem is solved, because ♘d6 loses to ♖xd6, but White can get an advantage in a concrete and unusual way. 16.f3! ♗xe4 (16... ♘d5 17. ♖g5! is unpleasant, because ♖e7 gives up the d6 square...) 17.fxe4 ♘c6 18. ♖e3 ♖e7 19. ♘d6+! This was the whole idea of 16.f3!. 19... ♖xd6 20.exd6 ♖xd6 21. ♖xc5 ± with a better endgame. The bishop is superior to the knight. The Black king can't castle and White can create a dangerous passed pawn on the queenside.]

13.b3 An ambitious try, which perfectly pays out in the game, but objectively I don't believe in it. [The simple 13. ♗c2 ± gave an edge for White.]

13... ♖b5? With the idea of c3, but it exactly moves into White's trap. [13...c3 14. ♘c4 would be fine for White. The c3 pawn falls soon.; 13...cxb3! should have been played. 14. ♗xb3 ♖b5 15. ♖e1 ♘e7! looks suspicious, but it seems like Black can finish the development and White will be only able to fight for compensation. 16. ♖b1 ♖c6 17. ♘c4 ♖xe4 ♘d6 can be taken and the b1 rook is hanging. 18. ♖xe4 ♘f5 Black seems to be all right.]

14.a4! c3 Consequently played, but this is the decisive mistake.



15.axb5! ♗xa1 16. ♖c6+ The king on e7 has a much higher value than the sacrificed exchange.

16... ♖e7 17. ♗c2!? [17. ♘c4!! would have been more beautiful. 17... ♖xd1 18. ♖xd1 White only has a bishop for the queen, but Black is lost. 18... ♘f6 (18... ♗xc1 19. ♖xc1 f6 20. ♖xc3 fxe5 21. ♖c1 is also hopeless after ♖a1, and the b-pawn promotes.; 18...f6 is refuted by 19. ♖d7+ ♖e8 20. ♖xa7+ ♖d8 21. ♖xa1 +-) 19.exf6+ ♖xf6 20. ♖g5+! ♖xg5 21. ♖xa1 +- with an extra piece for White.]

17... ♗a5 The queen must try to rescue. [17...cxd2? 18. ♗xc5+ +-]

18. ♘c4 ♗c7 19. ♗xc3 Black has the usual problem with the lack of development. On the other hand, he is an exchange up, so White has to play powerfully.

19...f6 Trying to play ♖f7, freeing the e7 square for the minor pieces.

20. ♖f4 ♖f7 [20...f5 loses to 21. ♖g5+ +-]

21.g3 Threatening to take on f6 after protecting the bishop and White also opens his back-rank, which is an important factor. As we'll see, White is going to penetrate with his rook.

21...f5 22.♖a1! White wants to play ♘d6, followed by ♙xc5 and ♖xa7, which actually can't be prevented.

22...♔g6 [22...♘h6 23.♘d6+ ♙xd6 (23...♔g8 24.♙xc5+- ♖a7 next.) 24.exd6 ♙b6 25.♖a6 ♙b8 26.♙xc5 +- and again, ♖a7 decides in the next move.]

23.♘d6 ♖xd6 Allows a nice finish, but the game was over anyway. [23...♘e7 24.♙xc5 +- with the threats of ♖xa7 and ♙e8, winning the queen.]

24.♙e8+! Not an ordinary mate with the bishops.

1-0

(3) Dzagnidze,N (2555) – Georgiev,Ki (2643) [E32]

11th Gibraltar Masters Caleta ENG (9), 30.01.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

A nice win in the 9th round (from 10) went to Kiril Georgiev. Many have forgotten already, but Kiril was one of the World Top players 10 some years ago, and still, from time to time, he shows his very high class.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.♙c2 The Nimzo with 4.♙c2 is a very safe opening for White, but of course, it's very hard to get any advantage here...

4...0-0 5.a3 ♙xc3+ 6.♙xc3 d6 Kiril chooses a sideline with more „fight“ in it. [6...d5; 6...b6 are the usual main moves here.]

7.♙g5 Before playing e3, White develops his bishop to g5.

7...♘bd7 8.e3 b6 9.♘e2 A slightly unusual move by White. It would have been simpler to play: [9.♙d3 ♙b7 10.f3 A typical move against the b7 bishop.(10.♘e2!? is also typical. It's usually very dangerous for Black to take the pawn on g2.)]

9...c5 Black is starting to play against the White center. Of course, 9... ♙b7 wouldn't have been a mistake either.

10.♖d1?! A logical move, but an inaccuracy anyway.



10...Kc7! Quite a tricky play by Kiril, who keeps the option of playing Qa6 followed by Rac8, getting quick pressure on the c-file and, at the same time, pretending to play Ne4 next.

11. Qf4 It's already hard to play with White and the move in the game looks pretty logical.

11...e5! Black starts playing dynamically, which is exactly the right reaction! White's pieces are still quite undeveloped and Black shouldn't miss his chance to take advantage of it.

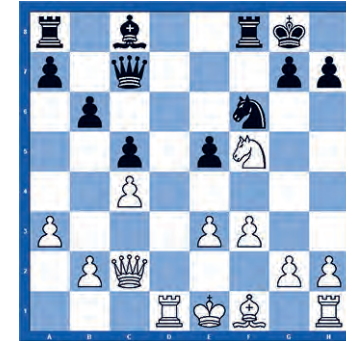
12.dxe5 dxe5 13. Qg3 Ne4 Black has no time to lose. If White is on time with Kc2-Nc3, or even to play f3, Black's position could become quite unpleasant very quickly. We shouldn't forget that White has the bishop pair, which could be a long-term advantage.

14. Kc2 f5 Black is pushing!

15.f3 Ng3 16. Nfg3 What to do now? White is close to finish his development and the f5 pawn is hanging. To play f4?! doesn't look too good because it gives away the e4 square.

16...Nf6! Another very good move by Black. [The logical 16...g6 leads to an unclear position for Black after 17. Qd3 Nf6 18.e4! and it's hard to say who is doing better here.]

17. Nxf5 White needs to accept the challenge. [In case of 17. Qd3 e4! seems to be very strong. 18.fxe4 Ng4 and Black's activity is very dangerous.]



17...e4! Kiril continues playing in a very dynamic way — that's the way to go. Now the White king is getting „open” and Black is getting a very dangerous initiative for the pawn down.

18. Nd6 [Of course not 18.fxe4? Ng4 and Black is crushing.]

18...exf3 19.gxf3 Ke7 White is a pawn up, but Black's threats are coming from all sides... Suddenly, White's position, which was so solid, is on the limit of being very dangerous.

20. Kc3 Nh5 Black's knight now has the option to go to f4, and Kh4 is a dangerous threat as well.

21. Qe2! A good defense by White. Now against 21... Kh4, 22.Qd2 followed by Qc1 is good for White, and at the same time, to castle short is a „half threat”.

21... ♖h3 No more short castle for White and Black wants to play ♖ad8 next. As we can see, the game is very unclear!

22. ♖d5! Another good move by White! Attacking the knight on h5 and threatening to escape with the king from e1 to c1.

22... ♘f6 23. ♘f5 ♖xf5 24. ♖xf5 ♖ae8 It's very hard to say who is doing better here. White is a pawn up, but Black has dangerous play for it. The position remains very exciting!



25. ♖f2?? What a blunder... [White should have continued with 25.e4 because this secures having an extra pawn, but the dark squares are weak and the Black knight could end up on d4. 25...g6 26. ♖g1 ♘d7 The Black knight is going over e5-c6 to d4, to take the position of a „master“. On the other hand, a pawn is a pawn. I think the position should be objectively balanced.]

25... ♘e4+!! A very beautiful tactical blow. The game is over.

26. fxe4 ♖xe4 27. ♖f3 [It doesn't help to play 27. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8+ 28. ♖g1 ♖g6+]]

27... ♖xf3+ 28. ♖xf3 ♖f8 A very interesting game on the Nimzo with 4. ♖c2. Black tried an active plan by sacrificing a pawn and was eventually rewarded for that.

0-1

(4) Adams,Mi (2725) – Ehlvest,J (2605) [C62]

11th Gibraltar Masters Caleta ENG (9), 30.01.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Sometimes it's hard to say what Michael does exactly to win his games. All the moves look so logical and easy, and his opponents resign eventually. We'll now see one more game on the topic.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 d6 Ehlvest is a very experienced Grandmaster, but he often chooses rare lines to avoid theoretical discussions, and in this game he is chose a rare line in the Spanish.

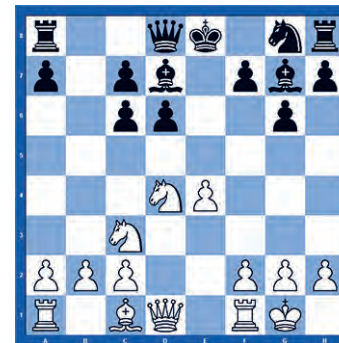
4.d4 ♙d7 5.♘c3!? I like 5.♘c3!? a lot. It seems to give White a small plus. [5.d5 is the other main move in this position. 5...♘b8 6.♙xd7+ ♘xd7 7.c4 g6 8.♘c3 ♙g7 9.0-0 ♘e7 leads to quite an unclear position.]

5...exd4 6.♘xd4 g6 That's the main idea of the line: to put the bishop on g7 early. Another option for Black is to play: [6...♘xd4 7.♙xd7+ ♙xd7 8.♙xd4 ♘f6 followed by simple moves like ♙e7 and 0-0. I think that White should be slightly better as well, but of course, Black's position is very solid.]

7.0-0 ♙g7 This is the first critical moment. What to take on c6 with? Both possibilities look interesting.

8.♙xc6 A standard decision. [I guess that after 8.♘xc6 bxc6 9.♙c4 ♘e7 10.♙g5 Black's slightly worse pawn structure, plus White's future play in the center with ♙d2, ♙ae1, f4 give him a stable plus.]

8...bxc6



9.♙e1! Good move, but of course, such things are „too“ easy for Michael who was for more than 15 years in the Top 10 of the world. White's main idea is to play e4-e5 basically crushing the whole Black pawn structure. This is a very typical idea that can be used in many similar types of positions.

9...♘e7 10.♙f4 And the e5 threat is very real.

10...c5?! A logical move by Black, but it also leads to trouble. Black fights against White's e5, but in order to do this, he gives away the d5 square and weakens his pawn structure. [In any case, Black had to play 10...0-0 11.e5 ♘f5! This is the key defensive idea of Black! The d6 pawn is going to fall, but the bishop pair in an open position gives him good chances to hold the draw.]

11.♘f3 Now the e5 move is a „killer“.

11...f6 This move looks bad, but it's not stupid at all. If Black has time to castle short, play ♙e6, ♙d7 and ♙b8, things will be far from clear.

12.♙d2! Another very good positional decision by White. The dark-squared bishops need to be exchanged; this

gives White many pluses and some of them will be seen just a few moves later in the game.

12...0-0 13. ♖h6 a5?! Another unlucky decision by Ehlvest. It was time to play more carefully. [Black should have gone for a safe move, but of course, he would get a worse position after 13... ♖g4! It's important to exchange the light-squared bishop because it's often a „stupid“ piece in this kind of structure. 14. ♖xg7 ♔xg7 15. ♔f4 ♖xf3 16. ♔xf3 White is doing a little better, but nothing too dramatic has happened.]

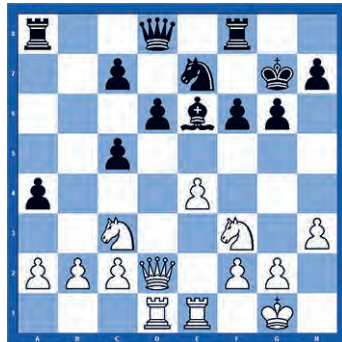
14.h3 No more ♖g4.

14...a4 15. ♖ad1 White is clearly preparing some blow in the center.

15... ♖e6?! Once again, Black is not careful, but the position is already quite worse.

16. ♖xg7 The beginning of a nice winning idea.

16... ♔xg7



17.e5! And the final blow! Black's position is falling apart. If we look at the White moves, everything is so simple and logical, and suddenly Black can just resign.

17...fxe5 18. ♖xe5 As we can see, a lot of Black's pieces are hanging in the center, and the Black king is quite open.

18... ♔c8 [It doesn't help to play 18... dxe5 19. ♔e3! and Black is losing material on the e-file.]

19. ♖g4! Exact until the end. White wants to win a piece on the e-file and, at the same time, to mate the Black king.

19... ♖g8 20. ♖e4 White wants to play ♔c3 next — this was too much for Jan Ehlvest. What a nice final position. All the White pieces are perfectly placed.

1-0

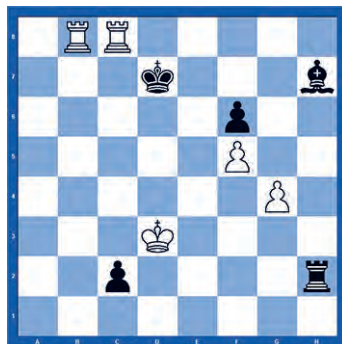
Puzzle section

(5) Markos,J (2581) – Varga,Z (2455)

Slovakian league, 20.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... =



(6) Nakamura,H (2769) – Aronian,L (2802)

Wijk aan Zee, 25.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

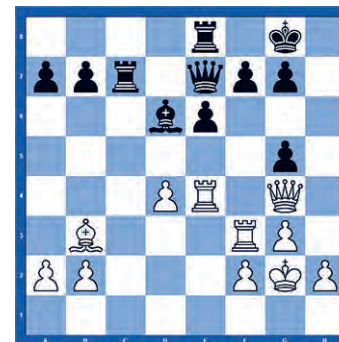


(7) Tiviakov,S (2655) – Van Kampen,R (2581)

Wijk aan Zee B, 22.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

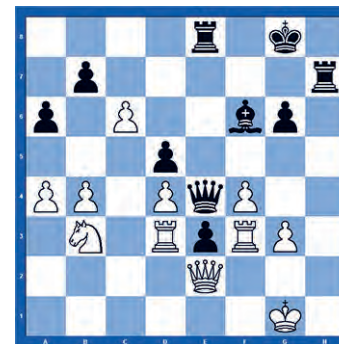


(8) Turov,M (2630) – Movsesian,S (2688)

Wijk aan Zee B, 22.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

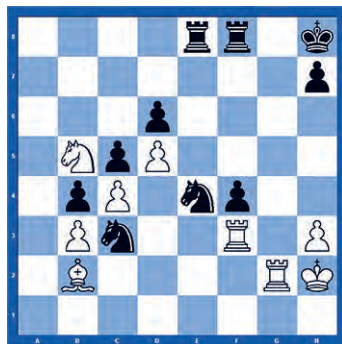


(9) Naiditsch,A (2708) – Timman,J (2566)

Wijk aan Zee B, 22.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

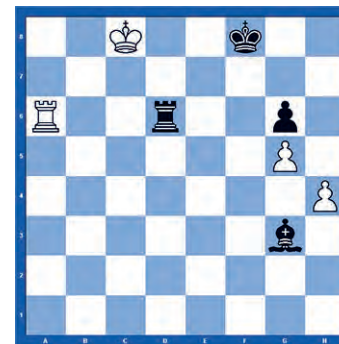


(11) Burg,T (2492) – Peralta,F (2617)

Wijk aan Zee C, 22.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. =

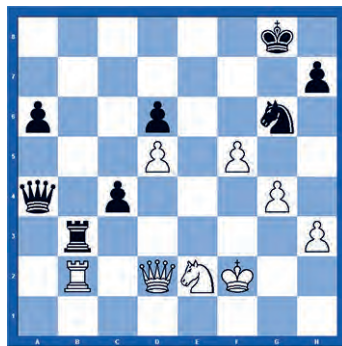


(10) Nikolic,P (2619) – Rapport,R (2621)

Wijk aan Zee B, 27.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

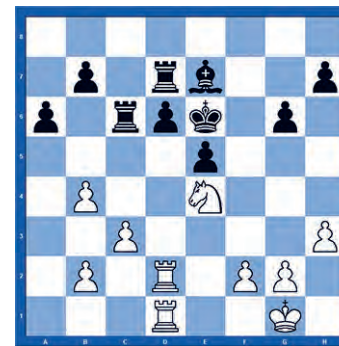


(12) Korneev,O (2610) – Kersic,M (2204)

Nova Gorica Open, 26.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Munkhgal,G (2372) – Dao Thien Hai (2531)

Asian Zonal tournament, 25.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

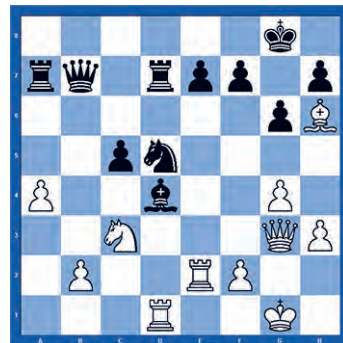


(14) Aleksandrov,A (2607) – Swapnil,S (2474)

Chennai Open, 22.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

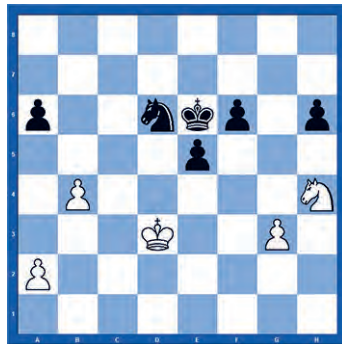


Endgame section

(15) Hou Yifan (2603) – Anand,V (2772)

Wijk aan Zee, 25.01.2013

[Chess Evolution]

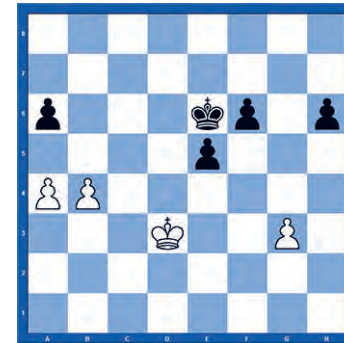


Black has a very easy technical win. For the World Champion, it shouldn't be a problem to convert the extra pawn, but as we will see, he is also a human.

42...♞f5?? Terrible blunder, which leads directly to an instructive draw. [42...h5! was the easiest win, creating the weakness on g3 and what is more important, preventing White's only idea to push g4, restricting the mobility of the kingside pawns. 43.a4 ♞d5 White is lost and he is in zugzwang now. 44.♞g2 drops the g3 pawn. (44.♞c3 moves into 44...♞e4+; 44.♞e3 allows 44...♞c4) 44...♞f5]

43.♞xf5! Probably Anand was expecting resignation, but unexpectedly, Hou Yifan simplifies to a seemingly hopeless pawn endgame. However, if we take a slightly deeper look into the position, the game becomes a dead draw.

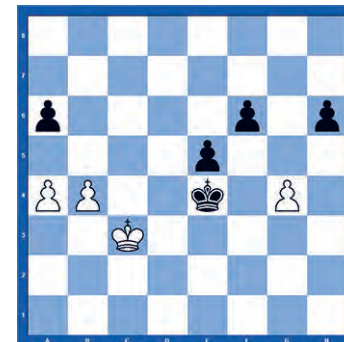
43...♞xf5 44.a4! ♞e6 Black had to run back to catch the pawn, but it allows White to play:



45.g4!! Excellent reaction! One pawn on g4 neutralizes two Black pawns on f6 and h6... they can't create a passed pawn.

45...♞d5 46.♞c3! The Black king can't be allowed to go to c4 and the queenside pawns can't be touched until Black pushes e4.

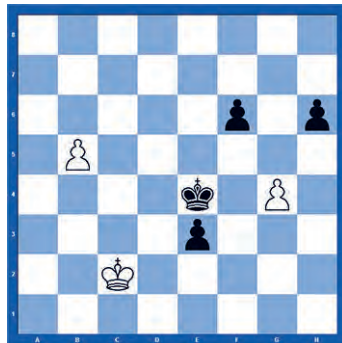
46...♞e4 [46...e4 as soon as Black weakens his pawn structure, White is ready to sacrifice the queenside pawns to collect all the pawns on the other side. 47.b5! axb5 48.axb5 ♞c5 49.b6 ♞xb6 50.♞d4 ♞c6 51.♞xe4 ♞d6 52.♞f5 ♞e7 53.♞g6 =; 46...♞d6 47.♞c4 ♞c6 48.♞d3 Black can't make progress this way.]



47.♔c2!? A good waiting move for Black to push e4. [47. b5 was another instructive way to get the draw. 47...axb5 48.axb5 ♔d5 49.♔b4 ♔d6 50.♔c4 ♔c7 51.♔c5 ♔b7 52.♔c4 ♔b6 53.♔b4 White only waits with ♔c4-b4. The only winning attempt for Black is to push e4, but then the White king collects the pawns just like in the 46...e4 line. 53...e4 54.♔c4 =]

47...♔d4 48.♔b3 e4 The time has come for White to play:

49.b5! axb5 50.axb5 e3 51.♔c2! ♔e4!? The last trick by the World Champion, but Hou Yifan doesn't fall for it.



52.♔d1! White blocks the pawn, so Black is forced to go back to the b-pawn. [On 52.b6? Black retains his winning chances after 52...♔f3! 53.b7 e2 54.b8♔ e1♔]

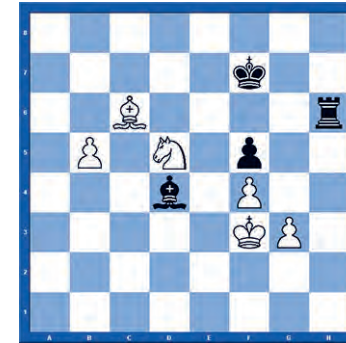
52...♔d5 [The draw was agreed in view of 52...♔d5 53.♔e2 ♔c5 54.♔xe3 ♔xb5 55.♔e4 ♔c5 56.♔f5 ♔d4 57.♔xf6 ♔e4 58.♔g6 ♔f4 59.♔xh6 ♔xg4 =]

1/2

(16) Short, Nigel D (2690) – Cernousek, Lukas (2453) [A16]

11th Gibraltar Masters Caleta ENG (5.14), 26.01.2013

[Chess Evolution]



43.♔e3 In this equal endgame, Black's play was not accurate.

43...♔e6 44.♔d7+! Nice trick!

44...♔xd7 45.♔xf5 ♔h1 46.♔xd4 The position is still drawish, but now Black has to solve some practical problems to stop the White pawns.

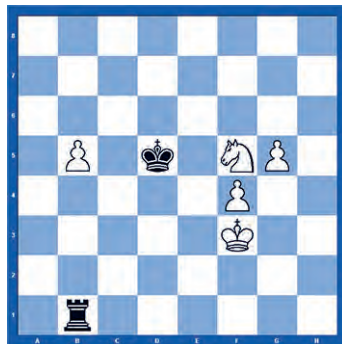
46...♔d6 Black activates the king. The other way to defend was attacking the White pawns immediately, so that they don't advance too far. [46...♔f1+ 47.♔g4 (47.♔e4 ♔g1 48.♔e2 ♔b1 49.♔c3 ♔g1 50.♔f3 ♔c1 51.♔e4 ♔b1 52.f5 ♔xb5 53.♔f4 ♔e7 54.g4 ♔b4 55.g5 ♔f7 =) 47...♔d1 48.♔f5 ♔b1 49.♔h6 ♔xb5 50.f5 ♔b3 51.♔f4 ♔e7 52.g4 ♔f6 53.g5+ ♔g7 =]

47.g4 ♔c5 A slightly risky plan. Black is going to grab the b-pawn with the king, but then the king might get too far from the kingside. [47...♔d5 Another interesting option

to save the position was to play with an active king after 48.♖e2 ♜f1+ 49.♙e3 (49.♙g3 ♙e4 50.♘c3+ ♙d4 51.♘e2+ ♙e3 52.f5 ♙xe2 53.b6 ♙e3 54.b7 ♜b1 55.f6 ♜xb7 56.g5 ♜f7 57.♙g4 ♙e4 58.g6 ♜xf6 59.♙g5 =) 49...♜a1 50.g5 (50.f5 ♙e5) 50...♜a3+ 51.♙f2 ♙e4 =]

48.♘f5 ♙d5 [48...♜f1+ 49.♙e4 (49.♙g3 ♙xb5 50.g5 ♙c5 51.♘e3 ♜e1 52.♙f2 ♜a1 53.g6 ♜a6 54.g7 ♜g6 55.♘f5 Funny position. The Black king can't get closer to the pawns because of ♘e7 check. However, White is not able to improve the king either. The position is drawish.) 49...♜e1+ 50.♘e3 ♙xb5 51.g5 ♙c6 52.g6 ♙d7 53.f5 ♙e7 (53...♙d6 54.♙f4 ♜g1 = Not allowing ♙g5.) 54.♙f4 ♜g1 55.♙e5 ♜e1 56.f6+ ♙f8 57.♙f4 ♜a1 58.♘d5 (58.♙g5 ♜a5+ 59.♘f5 ♜b5 60.♙f4 ♜b4+ 61.♙f3 ♜b3+ 62.♙e2 ♜b2+ 63.♙d3 ♜g2 =) 58...♜a4+ 59.♙e5 ♜a5 60.♙e6 ♜a6+ 61.♙f5 ♜a5 62.♙e5 ♜c5 and it's not easy to find a winning setup for White.; 48...♙xb5 49.g5 ♙c6 50.g6 ♙d7 51.g7 ♜g1 52.♘g3 +-]

49.g5 ♜b1



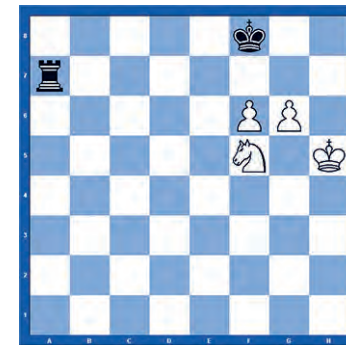
50.♙g4 [50.g6 ♙e6 (50...♜xb5 51.g7 ♜b8 52.♘e7+ +-) 51.♘d4+ ♙f6 52.f5 ♜e1 53.♙f4 ♙g7 Black need to control the e-file in order not to allow ♙e4-♙d5. 54.♘f3 ♜b1 55.♙g5 ♜xb5 56.♘d4 ♜b6 57.♘e6+ ♙g8]

50...♙e6 [50...♜xb5 51.g6 +-]

51.♘d4+ ♙d5 52.♘f5 ♙e6 53.♘h6 ♜b4 [53...♜xb5 54.f5+ ♙e7 55.♙h5 ♙f8 56.♙g6 ♜b7 57.f6 ♜b5 58.♘f5 ♜d5 59.♘e3 ♜b5 60.♘g4 ♙g8 (60...♜a5 61.♙h6 ♜f5 62.g6 ♙g8 =) 61.♙h6 ♜a5 62.g6 ♜f5 Very important move. 63.g7 ♙f7 =]

54.b6 ♙e7 55.b7 White is giving up the b-pawn in order to come with the king to h5 and advance the pawns.

55...♙f8 56.♙h5 ♜xb7 57.f5 ♙g7 58.f6+ ♙h7? This is a mistake! The king will be badly placed on h8. [58...♙f8 59.g6 ♜a7 60.♘f5



White is almost ready to promote the g-pawn and win the game, but now comes 60...♜a1! 61.g7+ (61.♘e7 ♜g1) 61...♙f7 62.♘h6+ ♙xf6 63.g8 ♜h1+ 64.♙g4 ♜g1+ Draw!]

59.g6+ ♙h8 60.♘f5 ♜b5 61.♙g4 1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Dunaev – Petrosian, Tigran V [B84]

URS-ch U18 Leningrad, 1946

[Balogh Csaba]

A nice example from the famous exchange sacrifices of Tigran Petrosian.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘f6 5.♗c3 e6

Despite having a highly positional style, Petrosian often chose the sharp Sicilian lines.

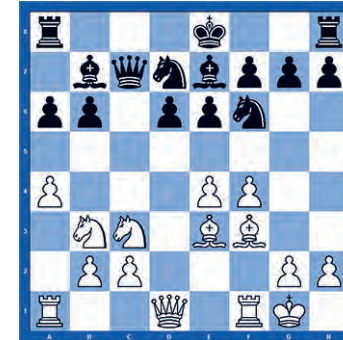
6.♖e2 a6 7.a4 ♖e7 8.♖e3 ♔c7 Both sides are developing logically, and the game was heading to the Scheveningen variation, when White suddenly takes a strange decision.



9.♘b3?! The knight was better placed on d4. This move usually only comes into consideration when Black has played ♘c6 and ♖d7, and he is ready to play ♗xd4 followed by ♖c6. Without these moves, this looks like a waste of time.

9...b6! This is the right setup of the pieces. The bishop goes to b7 and the knight to d7.

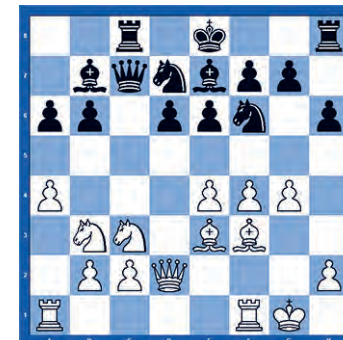
10.f4 ♖b7 11.♖f3 ♗bd7 12.0-0



12...♖c8 I like this idea a lot: to make all the useful moves before castling. As we'll see, in some positions, the king is better placed in the center.

13.g4? This is exactly the case when, having the king on e8, Black can make use of this early attack.

13...♗c5?! Black prepares for the g5 move by freeing the d7 square for the knight. [However 13...h6! was much stronger, with the idea of g5. This is a known counter-blow against the g4 attack. Let's see an illustrative line: 14.♔d2



14...g5! Black sacrifices a pawn, but creates an important hole on e5, where the knight will be very strong. 15.fxg5 hxg5 16.♙xg5 ♖g8 17.h4 ♘e5! with a dangerous attack.]

14.♘xc5 bxc5 15.g5 ♘d7 16.a5 [White should have continued consequently with 16.f5! trying to put pressure on the e6 pawn. 16...♘e5 17.fxe6 fxe6 18.♙g4! ♔d7 19.♙h3 with the threat of ♘d5! The game is unclear.; If Black was castled, the known attacking motif would be 16.♙g2 with the idea of ♖f3-h3 and ♗h5, but now Black can play 16...h6! and he has the attacking chances.]

16...♖b8 Petrosian activates his rook again.

17.♔d2 Now, and in the following moves, Black could have played h6, opening the line for the rook with a strong attack. However, Petrosian had a different idea in mind.

17...♙c6 [17...h6]

18.♘a4 ♖b4 [Here again 18...h6 was possible.]

19.b3



19...♖xe4!? I am not sure at all whether this was the strongest move in the position, but definitely, it's the most spectacular one. Black sacrifices an exchange for

a central pawn and the important light-squared bishop. [19...♙xe4 20.c3 was White's intention.]

20.c4 White prefers to keep the f3 bishop and take the rook with the knight after ♘c3, but Black can also improve his position. [If White accepts 20.♙xe4 ♙xe4 Black will create a battery with ♙b7 and ♗c6, followed by h6 with a huge attack.]

20...h6! Activating the h8 rook.

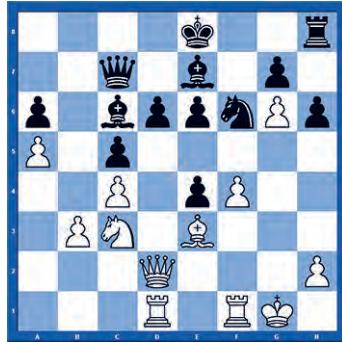
21.g6 White would like to keep the h-file closed. [21.♘c3 is met with 21...♖xe3! 22.♗xe3 hxg5 23.♙xc6 ♗xc6 24.fxg5 ♘e5 The e5 knight is really powerful. Black wants to play ♖h4-g4. White can hardly hold his g5 pawn for long, so Black will be fine even materially, with two pawns for the exchange.]

21...f5 22.♘c3 ♘f6 Black prepares to create an unstoppable center with d5-d4.

23.♙xe4 [It was more logical to preserve the bishop, although Black is doing fine after both recaptures. 23.♘xe4 The computer prefers now 23...♘xe4 (23...fxe4 24.♙g2 d5 is the human way to play. 25.cxd5 exd5 with a strong initiative.) 24.♗c2 ♙f6 looks very good for Black.]

23...fxe4 Black is ready to march with his central pawns, which will swap away White's forces.

24.♖ad1



24...d5! There is no defense against d4.

25.cxd5 exd5 26.f5 White frees the f4 square for the bishop, but it doesn't help him to save the game.

26...d4 27.♖f4 ♔c8 The knight and the f5 pawn are hanging. If any of them falls, White will collapse as well.

28.♘e2 ♔xf5 29.♙g3 ♔xg6 Black is ready to push e3, opening the diagonal for the bishop, followed by occupying it with the queen.

30.♘f4 ♔f7 31.♔c2 All the moves are winning for Black. Petrosian chose the most direct one.

31...g5 32.♘e2 d3 It's nice to notice that the king has never left the e8 square in the whole game.

0-1

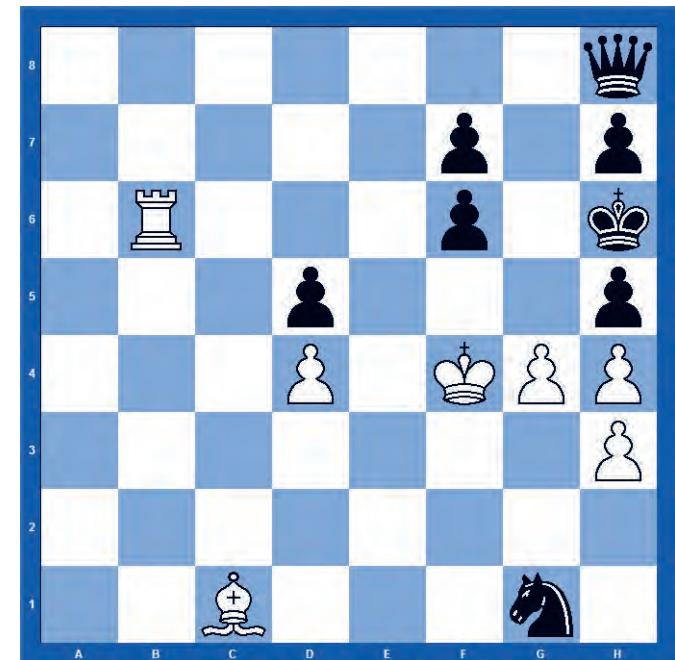
Surprise section / study

(18) Gurvitch,A

1928

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(19) Harikrishna,P (2698) – Van Wely,L (2679)

Wijk aan Zee, 17.01.2013

[Solutions]



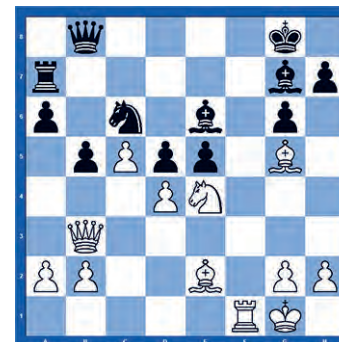
38. ♖f7+!! [38. ♔xg6+!! ♕xg6 (38... ♘xg6 39. ♖f7+ ♔g8 40. ♖g7#) 39. ♙e4#]

38... ♘xf7 39. ♔xg6+!! 1-0 [39. ♔xg6+ ♕xg6 40. ♙e4#]

(20) Rapport,R (2621) – Movsesian,S (2688)

Wijk aan Zee B, 15.01.2013

[Solutions]



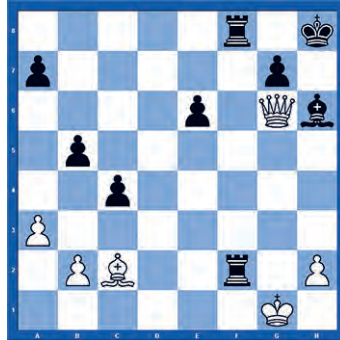
20. ♙g4! ♙xg4 [20... ♙f7 21. ♖xf7! ♖xf7 22. ♔xd5 ♘xd4 23. ♘d6+- ♔a7 24. ♙e3 ♙f8 25. ♘xf7 ♔xf7 26. ♔xe5+-]

21. ♔xd5+ ♔h8 22. ♔xc6 exd4 23. ♙f6!+- d3 24. ♙xg7+ ♖xg7 25. ♔d5 h6 26. ♔d4+- [26. ♔xd3+-]

(21) Ernst,S (2556) – Movsesian,S (2688)

Wijk aan Zee B, 18.01.2013

[Solutions]



36...♖xc2! 0-1 [36...♖xc2 37.♔xc2 ♕e3+ 38.♔h1 ♖f1+ 39.♔g2 ♖f2+-+]

(22) Movsesian,S (2688) – Van Kampen,R (2581)

Wijk aan Zee B, 19.01.2013

[Solutions]



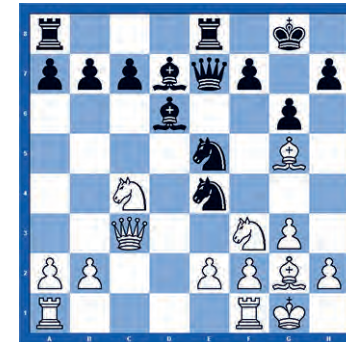
29.♔h6! [29. ♕f6? c5!]

29...d2!? 30.♖a1! 1-0

(23) Nikolic,P (2619) – Grandelius,N (2572)

Wijk aan Zee B, 20.01.2013

[Solutions]



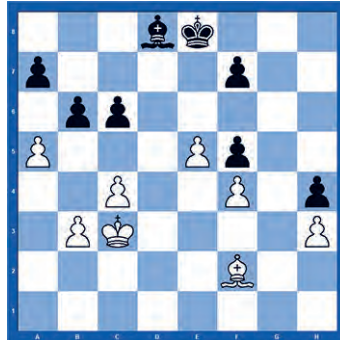
14.♔xe5!! ♔xe5 [14... ♕xe5 15. ♕xe7+-]

15.♖fxe5 ♕xe5 16. ♕xe4 ♕xb2 17. ♕xb7 ♖ab8 18.♖xb2 ♖xb7 19.♖d3 1-0

(24) Kovchan,A (2579) – Bitensky,I (2400)

Wijk aan Zee C, 15.01.2013

[Solutions]



47. ♖xb6!! ♖xb6 [47...axb6 48.a6+-]

48.axb6 axb6 49.c5!! b5 [49...bxc5 50.♔c4 ♔d7 51.♔xc5 ♔c7 52.b4 ♔b7 53.♔d6+-]

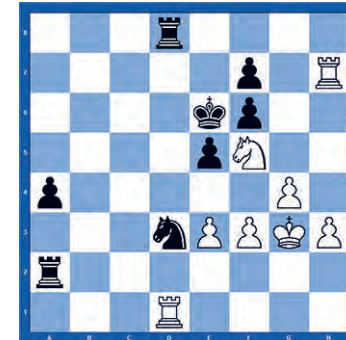
50.♔b4 ♔d7 51.♔a5 ♔e6 [51...♔c7 52.♔a6+-]

52.♔b6 ♔d5 53.b4 ♔e4 54.♔xc6 ♔xf4 55.♔d5 ♔g3 56.c6+-

(25) Khismatullin,D (2652) – Predke,A (2503)

Dvorkovich memorial, 16.01.2013

[Solutions]

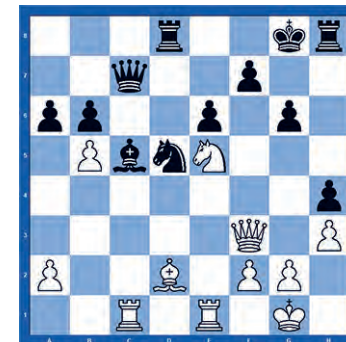


36. ♖h8!! 1-0 [36.♖h8 ♖xh8 37.♖xd3 e4 38.♖d6+ ♔e5 39.f4#]

(26) Popov,I (2623) – Petrov,A (2411)

Dvorkovich memorial, 17.01.2013

[Solutions]



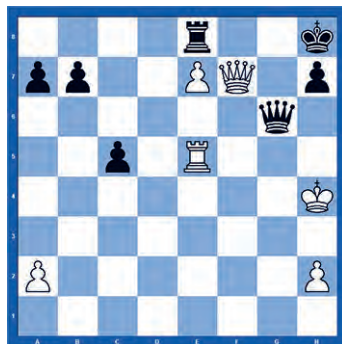
27. ♖xc5! bxc5 28. ♔a5! ♔a7 [28...♔xa5 29.♔xf7#]

29. ♔xd8+-

(27) Papin,V (2568) – Demaniuk,A (2340)

Dvorkovich memorial, 18.01.2013

[Solutions]

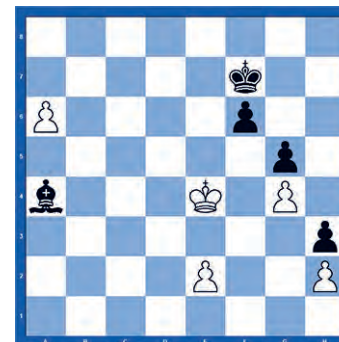


43. ♔f8+! ♔g8 44. ♖f5! 1-0[44. ♖f5 c4 45. ♔xe8! ♔xe8
46. ♖f8++-]

(29) Kok,T

1936

[Solutions]

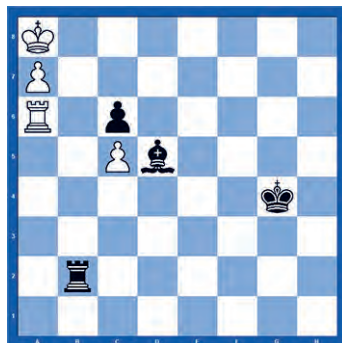


1. ♔d5! ♖b5 2. a7 ♖xe2 3. ♔e4! ♖f1! 4. a8 ♔! ♖g2+
5. ♔f5 ♖xa8 1/2

(28) Teterev,V (2536) – Tihonov,J (2443)

Belarus Championship, 16.01.2013

[Solutions]



57... ♔f5? [57... ♖b5!! 58. ♖b6 ♖xc5 59. ♖b8 ♖a5= (59...
♖b5=)]

58. ♖b6 ♖a2 59. ♔b7 ♖xa7+ 60. ♔xa7+-



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 50

8th of February 2013

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Editorial Preface

The main event of the week is clearly the beginning of the Grenke Chess Classic in Baden Baden. Anand, Caruana and Adams are fighting with the Top 3 German players — Naiditsch, Fridman and Meier — in a double round robin.

In the German Bundesliga, the club Baden-Baden is continuing its domination.

In Russia, the Moscow Open is on his way, with a lot of fighting chess and great games. The star of the tournament is the top seeded Ian Nepomniachtchij, who is heading with 4,5/5 in the leaders group.

In the current issue, we comment a slightly unusual loss of a GM in just 10 moves!

As usual, we bring You the freshest games with top analyses combined with a lot of different chess fun material.

Enjoy the CEWN Nr 50.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Prusikin,M (2545) – Aronian,L (2821) [E92]

Bundesliga 2012–13 Berlin GER (8), 03.02.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

There are different Grandmasters of different strengths, and this game is a great example. We'll see a game where White is trying to force a draw out of the opening and loses like a „baby“. I always ask myself, why do people like Prusikin try to force a draw? Do they play so often against the World's Nr.2?! Why not to go into a fight instead of being hunted down like a chicken?

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 Aronian is playing a lot of openings, but lately he's been choosing the King's Indian. A fighting opening which is a good choice against a much lower rated player.

3...♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 0–0 6.♙e2 e5 So, we are in the main line of the KID. And what comes now is just shocking!



7.dxe5? A „dirty“ attempt to make a draw out of the opening instead of playing a full game. Prusikin is giving a lot of lessons in Germany, and I wonder if such a trainer can do any good to his pupils, while facing big psychological problems against a stronger player.

7...dxe5 8.♙xd8 ♖xd8 9.♙g5 Now Black can't avoid to make a big amount of exchanges — all of this is well-known theory.

9...♘a6 The main move for Black.

10.♘d5 ♖d6 11.♘xf6+ Prusikin is exchanging piece after piece in hope for mercy — but the game will be over much sooner than it might seem at the moment.

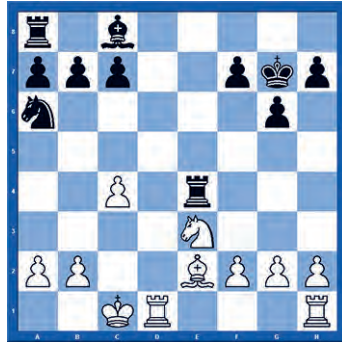
11...♙xf6 12.♙xf6 ♖xf6 13.♘xe5 ♖e6 14.♘g4?! Quite an inaccuracy by White. White should have continued with what he started — making a forced draw. [14.f4 would force things much more. 14...♖e8! Black needs to play quite exactly to equalize. (14...f6? 15.♘g4) 15.0–0–0 f6 and it seems that the position is a forced draw... 16.♘d7 ♙xd7 17.♖xd7 ♖ac8! Cool and strong, White has no defense against ♘c5. 18.♙f3 ♘c5 19.♖d2 ♘xe4 and even Aronian would not be able to avoid the drawish outcome of the game.]

14...♙g7!? Aronian tries to make things a bit more „complicated“. [14...h5 15.♘e3 ♖xe4 and the position is about equal.]

15.♘e3 Prusikin acts with „fear“ again. [More principled would have been 15.f3 White is trying to keep his pawn. 15...♖b6 attacking b2 and, at the same time, ♙xg4. 16.0–0–0 ♙xg4 17.fxg4 It's hard to say if White got any advantage here, but for sure he should not be forced. On the

other hand, Black has big positional pluses for the pawn and has good practical chances to outplay his opponent.]

15...♖xe4 16.0-0-0 Can You imagine, that just in 14 moves from now, White will simply resign? The Great Levon shows us how.



16...c6 Good positional move. Black is protecting from ♘d5 and wants to play ♘c7 next.

17.♖d8 Solid move. Now another exchange of rooks seems to be unavoidable.

17...♖e7 18.h4 This is a very solid move for White as well. To put pawns on the dark squares can't be wrong.

18...♘c7 19.♖hd1?! and again Prusikin shows amazing respect for his opponent. [Why not just 19.h5 ♗e6 What else to do?! White wants to play h6 ♖h8, or just hxg6. 20.♖xa8 ♘xa8 21.♙d2 and White should be doing slightly better here.]

19...a5! I like this move a lot! Many others would just have played 19...♘e6 and, of course, Black is totally fine, but with 19... a5 Black wins a bit of space for the future and doesn't give White any easy decision.

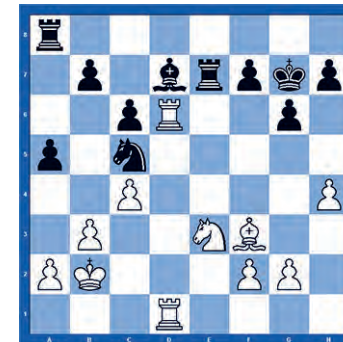
20.b3?! and White chooses a safe but „not great“ move again. The pawn on b3 only gives Black a chance to open the a-file with a4 in the future.

20...♘e6 21.♖8d6 ♘c5 As we can clearly see, Black is completely outplaying his opponent. Now 21...♘e4 is already a dangerous threat.

22.♗f3 Now the bishop on f3 is pretty badly placed and looking at the pawn on c6.

22...♗d7 finishing the development before starting the action on the queenside.

23.♙b2



23...f5! Another excellent positional move. Winning a bit of space in the center and making a place for the Black bishop on f7. Of course, the position is still around equal, but White is getting in trouble little by little.

24.a3?! and another „strange“ move by White. Why to weaken the queenside? [A solid move like 24.♘c2 would have kept White's position very solid.]

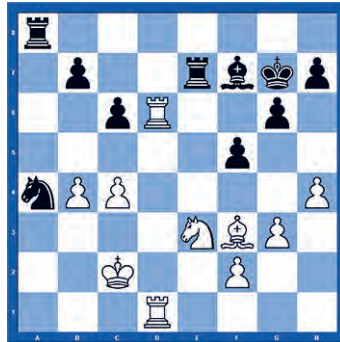
24...♗e8 25.g3 ♗f7 26.b4? What a shocking move! White is absolutely opening his own king without any reasons. [26.♙c3 and the position remains around equal,

even thought I would have chosen to play with Black here.]

26... ♖a4+ [26...axb4 27.axb4 ♖a4+ would just lead to a different move order.]

27.♔c2? and Prusikin is resigning without any fight. [A much better square for the king would have been 27.♔b3 axb4 28.axb4 ♖b6 and of course Black is doing better, but White is far away from being lost]

27...axb4 28.axb4



28...♖b6! This last exact move is easy to find but simply finishes the game on the spot. White can't defend against ♖a2 check next, and protect the c4 pawn at the same time.

29.c5 ♖a2+ 30.♔b1 ♖xf2 Aronian spent around 20 minutes for the full game, which reminds me a lot of a game from a simul.

0-1

(2) Harikrishna,P (2688) – Efimenko,Zahar (2689) [C84]

Schachbundesliga 2012/2013 (8.2), 03.02.2013

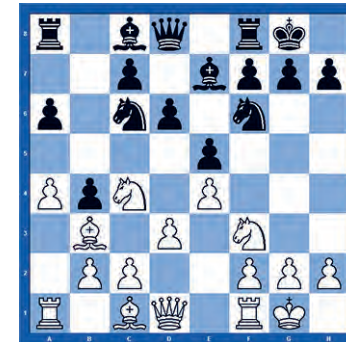
[Csaba Balogh]

Despite the tactical oversight in the time trouble by Black, we're in front of a really high-quality game.

1.e4 e5 2.♖f3 ♖c6 3.♔b5 a6 4.♔a4 ♖f6 5.0-0 ♔e7 6.d3 Black decided to go for the Ruy Lopez, while White chose the nowadays very popular 6.d3 system.

6...b5 7.♔b3 0-0 8.a4 b4 9.♖bd2 d6 [9...♔c5 is an alternative, which was introduced by Aronian last year.]

10.♖c4



10...♔e6 We are in a known position, where White usually plays c3, ♖e1 and d4 at a good moment, but Harikrishna tries another plan, which was recently used by Grischuk.

11.h3 h6 12.♔e3 ♖c8 After many different attempts, the Black players found the ♖c8-♖d8 setup for Black in the positions with c3, which gave them satisfactory games. He prepares a d5 break and sometimes the sacrifices with ♔xh3 might be annoying.

13. ♖e1 ♜d8 14. ♔e2 ♚b7 [The mentioned Grischuk game continued with 14...a5 15. ♖ad1 ♚a6 16. ♔h1 ♙f8 17. ♗f1 and after a long maneuvering, it ended in draw. Grischuk-Inarkiev, 2012. Of course, there are plenty of plans in such positions, and Harikrishna has definitely worked out something in his home preparation.]

15. ♖ad1 ♞d7 I don't like this move. It reduces the pressure on the e4 pawn. White can effectively take advantage of this. [The standard 15... ♙f8 was better in my opinion, and now the difference is that if White plays 16.d4 exd4 17. ♞xd4 ♞xd4 18. ♙xd4 ♚xe4! seems to work and leads to an equal endgame 19. ♚xe4 ♞xe4 20. ♖xe4 d5 21. ♖xe6 dxc4 22. ♖ee1 cxb3 23.cxb3 After the simplification, there is no advantage left.]

16.d4! This was the whole idea of White's setup. He's opening the center and his pieces are better prepared for a concrete play, while Black's are still in the maneuvering phase of the game.

16...exd4 17. ♞xd4 ♞xd4 18. ♙xd4 a5 Black had to prevent the ♞a5-c6 threat. [Going for the e4 pawn with 18...c5 doesn't work well. 19. ♙e3 The d6 pawn became a weakness. 19... ♚xe4 20. ♞xd6 ♙xd6 21. ♖xd6 White is better because Black can't lock the bishop with 21... c4 22. ♖d4!± wins the pawn.; 18... ♙f6? is the principled move to exchange the strong bishop, but it allows the concrete 19. ♞a5! and Black must let the knight to jump to c6.]

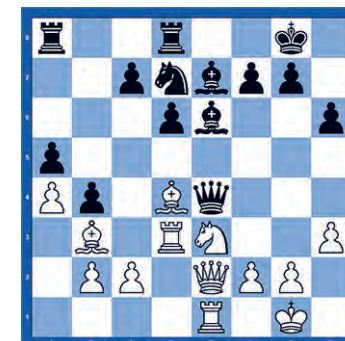


19. ♖d3! Very nice plan, lifting the rook to the 3rd rank in order to be able to switch it to the attack at any time.

19... ♚c6 [19... ♙f6 had concrete problems again 20. ♙xf6 ♞xf6 21.e5! seems to be very strong, and suddenly the a5 pawn is the main problem in Black's position. 21...dxe5 22. ♞xa5! ♚b6 23. ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 24. ♞c4±]

20. ♞e3! White wants to transfer his knight to d5 or f5, which would be very nice of course, but what happens if Black grabs the e4 pawn? [20. ♖g3 is not so dangerous yet because of 20... ♙f6!]

20... ♚xe4 [20... ♙xb3 is met with the intermediate moves 21. ♞f5! ♙f8 22. ♙xg7!+- and the attack is decisive with ♚g4 or ♖g3.]



21. ♖d5! ♟xd5 [21... ♞xe2 is bad in view of 22. ♖xe7+ ♔f8 23. ♜xe2 ♖xe7 24. ♜de3 White gets a big advantage, since 24... ♖e5 runs into (24... ♖f8 25. ♟xg7) 25.f4±]

22. ♞f1! Very nice discovered attack on the queen. White wants to capture one of the bishops, either on d5 or e7. The g2 pawn had to be protected. [22. ♞xe4 doesn't get any advantage 22... ♟xe4 23. ♜xe4 ♖e5! =]

22... ♞f5 [22... ♞xe1!? was objectively the best move 23. ♞xe1 ♟xb3 24.cxb3 ♟f6 Black tries to create a fortress. It's hard to say if White is going to have any chance to break through, since Black has no weaknesses.; 22... ♞xg2+? 23. ♞xg2 ♟xg2 24. ♜xe7 White penetrates on the 7th rank.]

23.g4! White is hunting the d5 bishop! He'll succeed to take it, but at the cost of a weakened kingside.

23... ♞g5 24.f4! The queen can't protect it anymore.

24... ♞h4 25. ♟xd5 This was the position that Harikrishna had to foresee before playing 20. ♖e3!. Very deep calculation and understanding of the position. White is a pawn down, but the active bishop pair and the misplacement of the Black queen gives more than enough compensation.

25... ♞c6 With this small combo, Black temporarily activates his rook.

26. ♟xc6 ♜ac8 27. ♟d5 ♜xc2 28. ♟b3! Of course, such an active rook must be sent out from the 2nd rank.

28... ♜cc8 We are in a critical position. White has two tempting ways to continue. Harikrishna decides to repeat once to approach the time control, and then tries one of the critical moves.

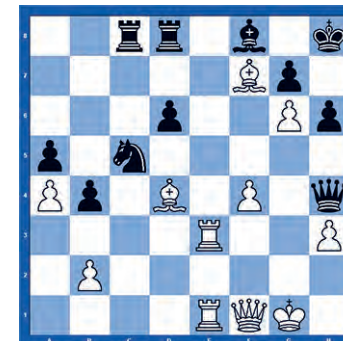
29. ♟f2 ♞f6 30. ♟d4 [30. ♞e2!? was the alternative, which also looks very dangerous. 30... ♟f8 (30... ♜e8 moves into the deadly pin 31. ♜e3) 31. ♟d4! ♞xf4 is the only move. It seems to be a blunder, but... (The difference is that after 31... ♞h4 32. ♟xf7+! works! 32... ♖h8 (32... ♖xf7 33. ♞e6#) 33. ♟d5± with a big advantage.) 32. ♜f1 ♜c1! is another only move, but White gets the advantage after 33. ♟d1! ♞g5 (33... ♜xd1 is only better for White.) 34. ♟e3! wins the rook.]

30... ♞h4 31.g5! The e7 bishop is attacked and g6 is another unpleasant threat.

31... ♟f8 [On 31... ♜e8 32.g6 is more effective.]

32.g6 ♞h8 33. ♟xf7?! This is the only mistake by White in the game. [To implement a pawn on f7 could have been very dangerous. White always threatens with ♜e8 and the g-file is also opened for a potential attack against the g7 pawn. 33.gxf7 ♖c5 34. ♟xc5 Black has no good recapture, White enters on e8 in both cases 34... dxc5 (34... ♜xc5 35. ♜e8±) 35. ♜xd8± and ♜e8 next.]

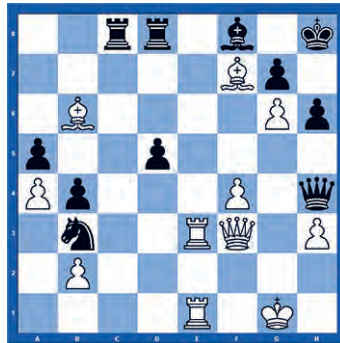
33... ♖c5! 34. ♜de3



34...d5! Black creates an e4 outpost for his knight, which would completely neutralize the rooks. White has to fight against it.

35. ♖f3! ♞b3! A nice tactical fight is about to start. Both players were in time trouble at this moment and Black is going to blunder soon...The knight is indirectly protected because the e1 rook is hanging in that case. [Now on 35... ♞e4 36. ♙xd5 was the idea.]

36. ♙b6!

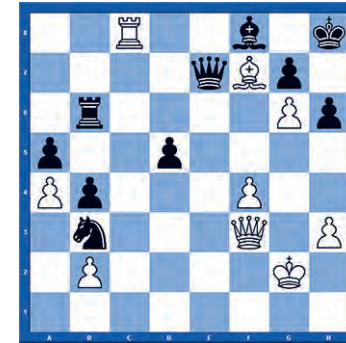


36...♞d6? This is the decisive mistake, but it was very hard to calculate all the complications with only 30 seconds on the clock. [36... ♙c5!! was the right move 37. ♙xc5 (37. ♙xd8 ♞xe1+! is the whole point!) 37... ♞xc5 and Black is fine 38. ♙xd5 ♞d3! Black makes use of the hanging e1 rook again and overtakes the initiative.]

37. ♞e8!! The game is over. White attacks the b3 knight and creates deadly threats on the back-rank.

37...♞xb6 38. ♞xc8! ♞xe1+ 39. ♙g2 Black has only one move to protect the bishop, which is hanging with mate.

39...♞e7



40. ♞e3!! This pretty deflection of the queen at the last move of the time trouble finishes the game.

40...♞xg6+ [40... ♞d6 41. ♞xb6!+-; 40... ♞xe3 41. ♞xf8#]

41. ♙xg6 ♞f6 42.f5 1-0

(3) Ernst,Sipke (2554)
– Bartel,Mateusz (2635) [A46]

Schachbundesliga 2012/2013 (8.2), 03.02.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

An entertaining game with many nice tactical motifs.

1.♘f3 d5 2.d4 e6 3.g3 b5!? A very strange-looking move, but I actually believe it's quite a good one. We'll see its main ideas during the game.

4.♙g2 ♘f6 Usually we get this position with a different move order, but in any case, we arrived to a huge theoretical line.

5.0-0



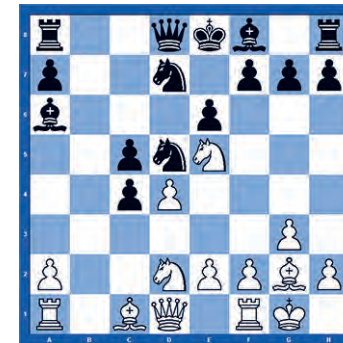
5...♘bd7 With the b5 move, Black has prevented White's main idea: to play c4. His standard setup is ♙b7 and c5, creating a comfortable position. White has various plans to fight against it, but it's not easy to prove an advantage anywhere. In this game, White tries to execute the c4 idea in order to open the position and, especially, the diagonal for the g2 bishop.

6.b3 ♙a6!? Another extravagant move, but again a logical one to fight against c4. Black is ready to occupy the center with c5 in the next move. [Several games have been played with 6...♙b7 7.c4 bxc4 8.bxc4 dxc4 and a quick c5 usually leads to equality.]

7.♘bd2 White consequently stuck to his plan and prepares for c4.

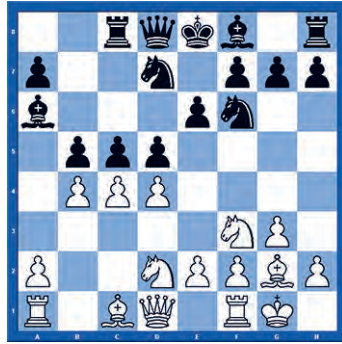
7...c5! 8.c4! We are at the beginning of the complications.

8...♖c8 Black leaves from the h1–a8 diagonal and brings an important piece to the center, where the fight is about to begin. [Taking everything is not a great idea with an undeveloped kingside. 8...bxc4 9.bxc4 dxc4 White can create a strong attack now. 10.♘e5 ♘d5



11.♙xd5!! This move works because of concrete reasons, otherwise, it's never advisable to give up the strong bishop. 11...exd5 12.♙a4 ♙c8 (12...♙b7 is strongly met with 13.♖b1) 13.♙c6 ♖b8 14.♙xd5! and Black is in trouble. The point is that after 14...♘xe5 15.♙xe5+ ♙e6 16.d5!+ White wins the bishop.]

9.♙b2?! White calmly fianchettoes his bishop, but he should have acted concretely. [9.b4!

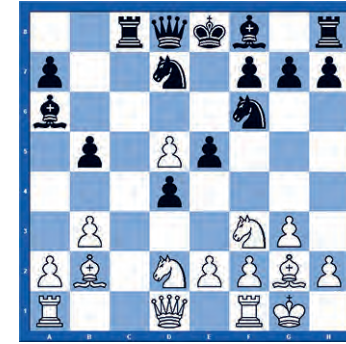


This spectacular tactical break to create a protected passed pawn on c5 was the strongest move. White gets very strong compensation after every move. For instance: 9...cxd4 10.c5 e5 11.♘h3! and the plan is ♘b3 — e3, undermining the center. White seems to have more than enough compensation.]

9...cxd4 Black would like to win the c4 pawn with bxc4 and ♙xc4, so White has to take somewhere first. [9...bxc4 now is a much better version than in the previous move. 10.bxc4 dxc4 11.♖a4 ♗b6 Black is very close to finish his development. 12.♖ab1 ♙b5 13.♗c2 ♗a6 and ♙e7, 0–0 next with a good position.]

10.cxd5 [10.cxb5 simply leads to a worse position. 10... ♙xb5 11.♘xd4 ♙a6± Black is slightly better with his nice center and active pieces.]

10...e5! A clever move. If Black succeeds to play ♙d6 and 0–0, he will automatically win the d5 pawn. White needs to act immediately.



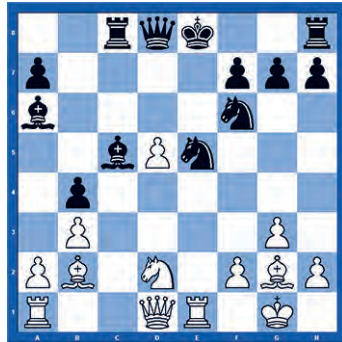
11.♘xe5!? A brave decision. Objectively it's not the best, but in a practical game, these moves might be really effective. White intends to collect the central pawns and tries to launch a „pawn storm” in the center with e4-f4-e5...

11...♘xe5 12.♙xd4 ♘ed7 Black prefers to leave from the tempi with f4–e5. [However, it seems to be much stronger to play 12...♙d6! 13.e4 (13.f4 ♘ed7 14.e4 Black has the important 14...♙c5! exchanging the strong bishop. 15.♙xc5 ♘xc5 White can't push e5 because the d5 pawn is not protected, and if he tries 16.♗f3 ♗b6 17.♙h1 0–0± Black succeeded to finish the development and has a big advantage, because 18.e5?! still doesn't work. 18... ♘xd5! 19.♗xd5 ♖fd8–+ winning the d2 knight and the game.) 13...♗e7! 14.f4 (14.h3 to prevent ♘eg4 gives Black enough time to push 14...b4 The f1 rook is in an unpleasant situation, since ♖e1 moves into ♘d3...) 14...♙c5! is again an important motif. 15.♙xc5 ♗xc5+ 16.♙h1 ♘eg4 White collapses.]

13.e4 ♙c5 14.♙b2! White needs his dark-squared bishop and is ready to push e5 now.

14...b4 15.e5! There was no way back. White had to stay „all in“ and hope that his attack would break through. [15.♘c4 allows 15...♗b6 and White can't effectively push 16.e5 ♗fxd5; There is no time for 15.♖e1 ♖b6]

15...♙xf1 Black grabs all the material. [White gets very strong compensation even after 15...♗xe5 16.♙xe5 (16.♖e1 has a nice refutation



16...♙xf2+! 17.♙xf2 ♖b6+ 18.♖e3 White seems to be all right, but a nice tactical trick wins a decisive amount of material. 18...♗fg4+! 19.♖xg4 ♖xe3+! This is the point! 20.♙xe3 ♗xg4+-+ 16...♙xf1 17.♙xf1 0-0 18.♗c4 White has only one pawn for the exchange, but that e5 pawn, supported by the strong bishops and the excellent c4 knight, seems to be very dangerous.]

16.exf6 ♙xg2 Black goes for the huge material advantage. [16...♗xf6 was more calm, but it leads to a similar position to the one seen in the 15...♗xe5 line. 17.♙xf1 0-0 18.♗c4 with good compensation.]

17.fxg7 ♖g8 18.♖h5! White continues pushing already a rook and a piece down. He threatens to take on h7 and also to play ♖e1 check, ♙e7 and d6! Black has to be care-

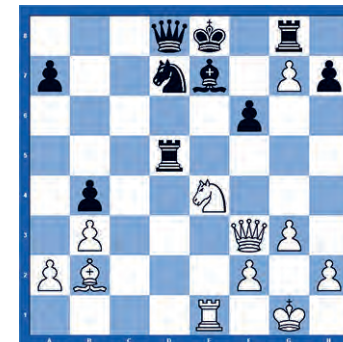
ful not to get mated, but he has enough material to create defensive resources.

18...♖e7 Preventing ♖e1 and preparing for ♔d8-c7, sending the king artificially to safety. [18...♙xd5 was also possible. 19.♖e1+ ♙e7 20.♖xd5 This would have been a critical position from Black's point of view. At first sight, the danger is not that big, but actually he must find an only move to stay in the game. 20...♖c5! The point is to send away the queen from d5 in order to be able to play f6 and ♔f7.

a) 20...♗b6 21.♖e4 Black has no defense;

b) 20...♗c5 It's logical to lock the e-file with ♗e6, but it doesn't help. 21.♖f5 ♗e6 22.♗e4! White threatens with ♖xh7. Black has difficulties as he can't take on g7 because of the following nice lines: 22...♖xg7 (22...♗xg7 23.♗f6+ ♔f8 24.♗xh7+ ♔e8 25.♖b5+! ♖d7 26.♗f6+-) 23.♙xg7 ♗xg7 24.♗f6+ ♔f8 25.♖xh7! Black can't avoid getting mated. 25...♙xf6 26.♖h8#;

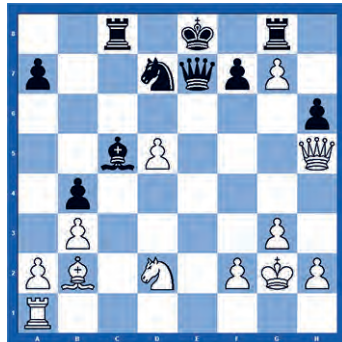
21.♖f3! (21.♖e4 is also met with 21...f6 22.♖xh7 ♔f7) 21...f6! 22.♗e4 ♔f7! (22...♖d5? leads to a beautiful mate:



23. ♔h5+! ♚xh5 24. ♘d6#) 23. ♘xc5 ♘xc5 24. ♔h5+ ♚xg7 25. ♔g4+ ♚h8 26. ♔xb4 White has two pawns plus some active pieces for the knight. Probably, the objective outcome should be a draw...]

19. ♔xg2 [On 19. ♔xh7? ♔e2! was in Black's mind.]

19...h6? This is the decisive mistake. Black was fighting against ♔xh7 and tries to lure the queen from covering the e2 square, but he misses a great subtle move! [Black should have started the king's journey, although White has very strong compensation here as well. 19...♔d8 20. ♔xh7 ♚c7 21. ♘e4 White has 4 pawns for the rook. It's very difficult to judge who's chances are preferable.]



20. ♔f1!! Excellent move, while being a rook a down. White wants to bring his rook to e1.

20... ♔xf2 [20... ♔d8 was more logical again, although Black seems to be already in big trouble. 21. ♔e1 ♔g5 22. ♔xf7 ♚c7 (22... ♔xd2 loses to 23. ♔xg8+ ♚c7 24. ♔xc8+! and the g-pawn promotes with check.) 23. ♘e4 The queen has no good square to leave. 23... ♔e7 (23... ♔g4 24. ♘xc5+-) 24. d6+! ♔xd6 25. ♘xd6 and White wins. 25... ♔xd6 26. ♔e5+-]

21. ♘c4 White prefers to keep all the pieces on the board to maintain the mating attack. [21. ♔xf2 was also good enough, but this is a rather technical win. 21... ♔c2 22. ♔e1 ♔xd2+ 23. ♔f1 ♔xe1+ 24. ♔xe1 ♔xb2 25. ♔xh6+- White has too many pawns and the ones on d5 — g7 have a special value.]

21... ♔d8 22. ♔xf2 Suddenly White is doing well materially as well, with a bishop and two pawns for the rook, but the fact that the Black king is still under a mating attack is more important.

22...f6 23. d6 ♔xg7 24. ♔e1 Bringing all the pieces to the attack. The hidden threat is ♔a5; it's easy to miss such „long“ moves.

24... ♔g5 [24... ♔c5 25. ♔f3+- is also hopeless. ♔a8 and ♔e7 are coming.]

25. ♔f7 ♔c5 26. ♔g1!? Leaving from the checks. [26. ♔e7 ♔f5+ 27. ♔e1!+- was also winning.]

26... ♔d5 A blunder at the end, but it was very difficult to defend Black's position. [26... ♔d5 was the only move. 27. ♔xf6+ ♘xf6 28. ♔xf6+- White is winning here as well, as the c4 knight clearly dominates the rook and everything else favors White.]

27. ♔xf6+ [Black resigned in view of 27. ♔xf6+ ♘xf6 (27... ♔xf6 28. ♔xg8+- and d5 also falls.) 28. ♔c7#]

1-0

(4) Sethuraman,S.P (2538) – Krejci,Jan (2529) [E13]

Moscow Open 2013, 06.02.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We will now see the shortest decisive GM game I've ever seen in my life!

1.d4 Solid first move, but the game will be already over in only 9 moves!

1...f6 2.c4 e6 3.c3 b4 and we are in the Nimzo.

4.f3 b6 Black is choosing a fighting line, which actually has become quite fashionable lately.

5.g5 b7 This move is a bit out of fashion. [5...h6 6.h4 g5 7.g3 e4 would be the main line]

6.d2 Not giving Black anymore the chance for h6- e4-g5, followed by e4.

6...h6 7.h4 This position has been well analyzed and is counted as a bit better for White. .. but the game will already be over in 3 moves!!



7...d6?? What a blunder! The game is over on the spot! [The main move would be 7...0-0 8.e4!? White is sacrific-

ing a pawn for the attack. 8...g5 9.g3 e4 10.dxe4 e4 11.h4 with a dangerous position for Black, according to the current theory.]

8.a4+! I guess Sethuraman was as shocked as Krejci here. Black is losing a full piece!

8...c6 The only move to protect the bishop on b4.

9.d5 and it's over! The pin on a4-e8 is deadly!

9...xc3 10.bxc3 Have You ever seen something like that? For me it's the first time on the GM level! :)

1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Muzychuk,M (2471) – Teran Alvarez,I (2399)

Gibraltar Open, 28.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Muzychuk,M (2471) – Vazquez Igarza,R (2566)

Gibraltar Open, 29.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

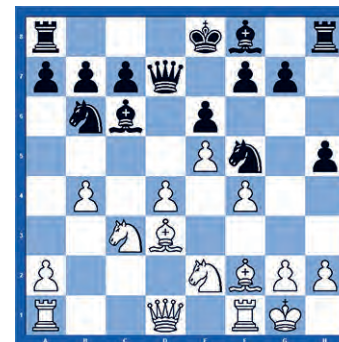


(7) Omar,N (2314) – David,A (2599)

Gibraltar Open, 29.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

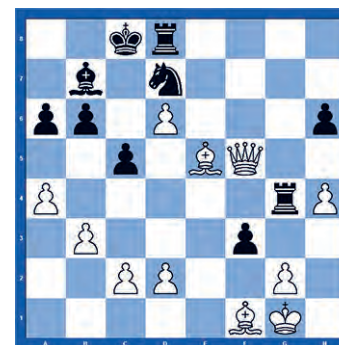


(8) Trent,L (2429) – Sutovsky,E (2684)

Gibraltar Open, 30.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

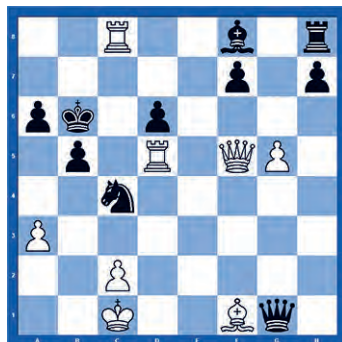


(9) Shirov,A (2708) – Al Sayed,M (2507)

Gibraltar Open, 31.01.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

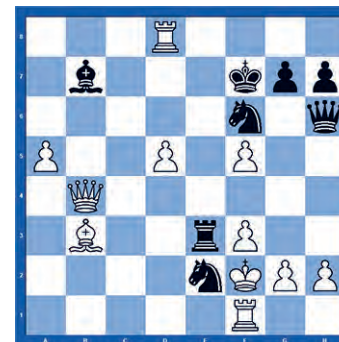


(11) Khismatullin,D (2655) – Tsydypov,Z (2384)

Moscow Open, 02.02.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



(10) Bartel,M (2629) – Womacka,M (2442)

Gibraltar Open, 31.01.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

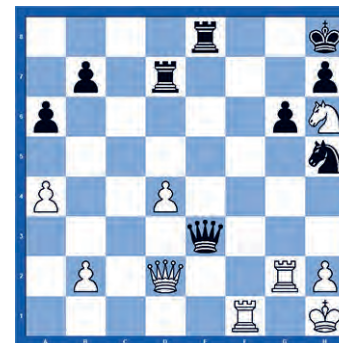


(12) Nyzhnyk,I (2637) – Nyudleev,D (2372)

Moscow Open, 02.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



German league, 02.02.2013

[CEWN]

1.+-



German league, 02.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +/-



Endgame section

(15) Debashis,Das (2474) — Ponkratov,Pavel (2584)

Moscow 2013 (3.8), 04.02.2013

[Chess Evolution]



15...♞c7 We have a typical endgame from a Slav line.

16.♞e1 The Indian yer is looking for some plan. He has the pair of bishops, but Black's position is very solid without any weaknesses. The problem for White is the fact that he has doubled-pawns, which doesn't allow him to win space and improve the position on the queenside.

16...a6 17.f3 Personally, I prefer the plan with g5 and f4.

17...0-0-0 18.♞f2 g5! A good move which doesn't allow White to gain space after a potential g5-f4.

19.e4 Finally White pushes e4, but how to play next with the bad bishop on g2? In my opinion, White should try to play on f4 or just wait a bit and maybe improve his rooks a little.

19...♔b8 20.♞e3 ♞h7 Black is going to transfer the knight to g6 in order to take control of the weak dark squares, and especially f4.

21.♔f2 [21.♞d1 ♞f8 22.♞f2 ♞g6 23.♞d3 with the idea of an eventual f4.]

21...♞f8



22.cxd5 Practical decision. White has been slowly outplayed and now tries to make some exchanges on the center and activate the bishop, even for a huge cost, which is the creation of many weaknesses. The most solid was [22.♞e2 ♞g6 23.♞d1=]

22...exd5 23.exd5 ♞xd5 24.♞xd5 ♞xd5 25.f4 ♞b5 26.♞c3 ♞e6 27.fxg5 [27.f5 ♞f4 28.♞xf4+ gxf4 White has too many weaknesses (d4, b3,b2) to hold this opposite-colored bishops endgame.]

27...♞xg5 28.♞d1 With the hope of pushing d5 at some moment.

28...♞xe3+ 29.♞xe3 ♞f4 [29...♞d8 30.♞f1 ♞b4 31.♞c4 ♞xd4 32.♞e7= and White gets enough activity.]

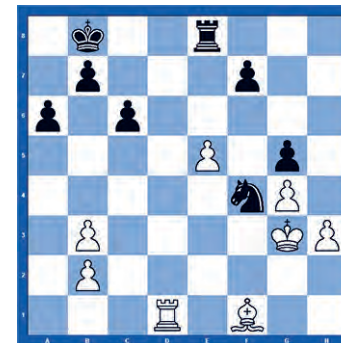
30. ♖f1 ♜d5 31. ♔g3 [31. ♖c4 ♜d7 ♗xh3; 31. ♜e7 ♗xh3+ 32. ♖xh3 ♜xh3 33. ♜xf7 g5+ (33... ♜xb3 34. ♜xg7 ♜xb2+ 35. ♔f3 and the g-pawn gives White good counterplay.)]

31...g5 Thanks to the nicely placed pieces, Black is much better, but this is not enough to win the game because he needs a plan. Maybe the next step can be to improve the king.

32. ♜e5 White is eliminating the strong rook from d5.

32...♜xe5 I'm not sure if this is correct because now Black won't be able to come with the king because it's cut over the d-file. Black had other not easy-to-play option. [32...f6 33. ♜xd5 ♗xd5 (33...cxd5 34. ♜e1 ♗) 34. ♜e1 ♔c8 35. ♖g2 ♗f4 36. ♜e7 ♜d8 37. ♜f7 (37. ♖e4 ♜xd4 38. ♖f5+ ♔b8 39. h4 ♜b4 40. h5 ♜xb3+ 41. ♔f2 ♜xb2+ 42. ♔f3 ♜h2+ + Three pawns are too much.) 37... ♜xd4 38. ♜xf6 ♜d3+ 39. ♖f3 ♔d8! 40. h4 ♔e7 41. hxg5 ♗e6 Together with the king, the Black knight should stop the advance of the g-pawn. Black will grab the whole queenside pawns and should win the game.]

33.dxe5 ♜e8 After this move, White will get good counterplay, but it was hard to find something else for Black. [33... ♔c7 34. ♜d6 Now, unexpectedly, the White rook will fall in a trap. Better is (34. ♜d2 Waiting for the move by the rook to push h4 like in the game. 34... ♗g6 35. ♜f2 ♗xe5 36. ♜f5=) 34... ♜e8 35. h4 ♗d5 36. h5 f6 37. h6 ♜xe5 38. h7 ♜e3+ 39. ♔h2 ♜e8 40. ♜e6 ♜h8+; 33... ♗g6 34. e6 fxe6 35. ♜d7 ♗ With the idea ♜g7, Xg5.]



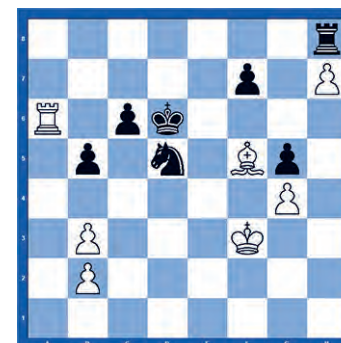
34.h4 Yes, of course! Now the h-pawn will give White enough compensation.

34...♜xe5 35.h5 ♔c7 36. ♔f3 b5 [36...f5 37. gxf5 ♗xh5 38. ♔g4±]

37. ♖d3 ♗d5 38. ♖e4 ♗f6 39. ♖f5 ♜e8 40.h6 ♗d5 41.h7 With the improved pieces and the strong h7 pawn, White's position is already not worse.

41...♔d6 42. ♜a1 [42. ♜h1 ♜h8 43. ♜h5 f6 With the pawn on f6, Black will not have ♗f6 anymore, with the idea of grabbing the h7 pawn. (43... ♔e7 44. ♜xg5 ♔f8 with the idea to eliminate the h-pawn after ♗f6-♔g7.) 44. ♜h1 ♔c5 45. ♜e1 ♔b4 46. ♖g6 ♗f4 47. ♖c2↑ and the fight against the h7 pawn is unpleasant.]

42...♜h8 43. ♜xa6



43...♞e7! Black found the way to get rid of the h7 pawn.

44. ♕d3 f5 45.gxf5 [45. ♕xf5 ♞xf5 46.gxf5 ♜xh7 47.♖g4 ♜h2 48.f6 ♜xb2 49.♙xg5 ♜xb3 50.f7 ♙e7 51.♜xc6 ♙xf7 52.♙f5 ♙e7 53.♙e5 ♙d7 54.♜c5=]

45...♜xh7 46.♙g4 ♜h2 [46...♞d5 47.f6 (47.♙xg5 ♞b4 48.♕xb5 ♞xa6 49.♕xa6 ♙e5 50.♙g6 ♜h3⌘) 47...♞xf6+ 48.♙xg5 ♜h3 49.♕xb5 ♜h5+ 50.♙xf6 ♜xb5 51.♜a3=]

47.f6 ♞d5 Black could make a draw in the endgame of rook and bishop against rook after [47...♜xb2 48.fxe7 ♙xe7 49.♜xc6 ♜xb3=]

48.f7 ♜f2 49.♜a7? A huge mistake that's hard to explain! White should play [49.♕g6 ♞c7 (49...♞e7 50.♕h5) 50.♜b6 ♞e6 51.♜b8 ♜f4+ 52.♙g3 ♙e7 53.♜e8+ ♙d6 and it's hard to say how to improve White's position. 54.♕h5 ♞g7=; 49.♕f5 ♞e3+ 50.♙xg5 ♜xf5+ 51.♙g6 ♙c5 52.♜a8 ♙b4∞]

49...♞e7 and White is losing his strongest weapon — the f7 pawn.

50.♙xg5 ♜xf7 51.♜b7 [51.♜a1 Maybe White should go back with the rook to try to protect the pawns. 51...♜f2 52.♜b1 ♙c5⌘]

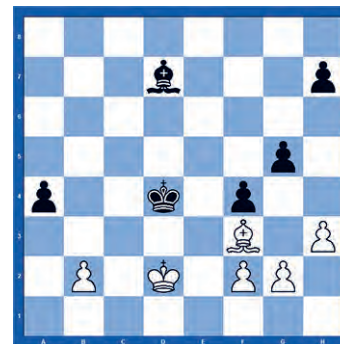
51...♜f3 52.♕c2 ♞d5 Black is simply winning now because the White king is very far and the pawns will fall.

53.♜h7 ♜f2 54.♕e4 ♙e5 55.♕xd5 ♙xd5 56.♜h3 ♜xb2 0–1

(16) Kraemer,M (2520) — Bacrot,E (2705)

German league, 02.02.2013

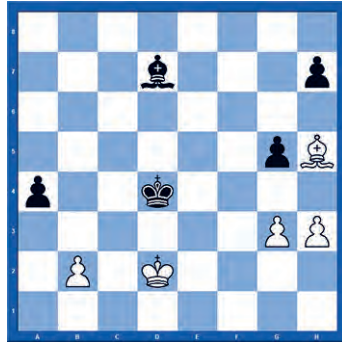
[Chess Evolution]



Black is better with his more active king, although White has no weaknesses and the limited number of pawns should guarantee him a more or less easy draw.

46. ♕h5 ♕c6 47.g3 This is the most principled move, putting the pawns on dark squares, where the Black bishop can't attack them. [After 47.f3 Black has the chance to disturb the kingside pawns with 47...♕b5 and ♕f1.; On the other hand 47.♕f3!? was also possible 47...♕xf3 48.gxf3 ♙c4 49.♙c2 ♙b4 50.♙c1 ♙b3 51.♙b1= Black has a nice position, but he can't make progress.]

47...fxg3 48.fxg3 ♕d7! White has a wide range of choice, but only one idea leads to a draw.



49.h4? The decisive mistake! [The pawn endgame after 49. ♖g4? is winning for Black. 49... ♙xg4 50.hxg4 ♔e4 51. ♖e2 h6!—+ White is in zugzwang. The Black king penetrates from one of the sides.; 49.g4 is bad after 49... ♙b5 and there are problems with the kingside pawns.; 49. ♙d1! was the most precise, counterattacking the a4 pawn, followed by pushing h4 in the next move. Black has no chance to win.; 49. ♙e2! was also good, with the same idea as ♙d1. 49... ♙xh3 50. ♙b5= White wins back the pawn and holds the draw.]

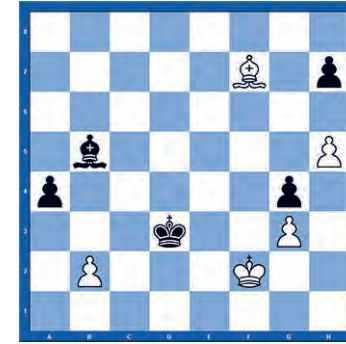
49...g4! Suddenly, Black is winning. White can't avoid the penetration of the king. He must try to bring back his bishop, but it's not on time to solve the problems.

50. ♙f7 ♔e4 51. ♔e2 Otherwise, ♔f3 wins.

51... ♙b5+! White is forced to give free way for the opponent's king.

52. ♔f2 [52. ♔d2 ♔f3—+]

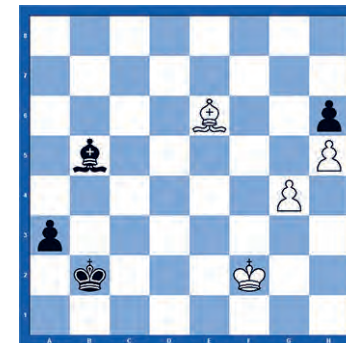
52... ♔d3 53.h5!? White sets a trap, but Bacrot does not fall into it.



53...h6! [After the hasty 53... ♔c2? White has 54. ♙g6+! ♙d3 (54...hxg6 55.h6+- wins.) 55. ♙e8 ♔b3 56. ♔e3 ♙c2 57. ♔f4 ♔xb2 58. ♙xa4 ♙xa4 59. ♔xg4= and Black will succeed to exchange the h7 pawn.]

54. ♙e6 [54. ♙g6+ doesn't change much. 54... ♔d2 and ♔c1 next.]

54... ♔c2 55. ♙xg4 ♔xb2 [White resigned in view of the following line: 55... ♔xb2 56. ♙e6 a3 57.g4 (57. ♔f3 gives Black enough time to play 57... ♙a4! 58.g4 ♙b3 59. ♙xb3 ♔xb3 60.g5 a2—+ Black is faster.)



57... ♙d7! is a very important intermediate move, after which Black collects the g4 pawn and the full point.(But not 57... ♙a4? because of 58.g5!)] **0-1**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Furman, Semen Abramovich
— Spassky, Boris V [B38]

URS-ch24 Moscow (18), 1957

[Csaba Balogh]

A nice mating attack by Spassky. It's very instructive to see how he improved his pieces move by move and, when the moment arrived, he finished the game in great tactical fashion.

1. ♘f3 c5 2. c4 g6 3. e4 ♗g7 4. d4 cxd4 5. ♘xd4 ♘c6 We have transposed from a different move order to the Sicilian Maroczy variation, which is considered to be a very solid, but a bit passive opening.

6. ♖e3 ♘h6 This is an unusual setup. The game perfectly demonstrates its main idea, but it's already known by the modern theory that Black can't fight for equality with this move.

7. ♘c3 0-0 8. ♖e2



8...f5! This is the reason why the knight has developed to h6. Black would like to overtake the initiative with an f4 push. White is forced to think right in the 9th move.

9. exf5 [9. ♗xh6!? is another way to fight for the advantage. White gives up his strong bishop, but the f5 move has created weaknesses in Black's camp and it also restricts the development of the Black pieces. 9... ♗xh6 10. exf5 ♘xd4 11. ♖xd4 ♖xf5 (11... gxf5 12. 0-0 ♗g7 13. ♖d2± Black has difficulties with the c8 bishop. ♗f3 is coming next.) 12. 0-0 ♗g7 13. ♖d3 We have the same story here again, ♗f3 is coming next and the c8 bishop has serious problems to get activated.]

9... ♗xd4! This is another point of Black's system. In general, it's not advisable to get rid of the dark squared bishop, but in this particular case, White is facing some problems with preserving the bishop pair. [9... ♘xf5 10. ♘xf5 gxf5 11. ♖d2± After White has prevented f4, he enjoys a clear advantage with his better pawn structure.]

10. ♗xd4 [10. ♗xh6 is probably the strongest move. 10... ♖xf5 11. 0-0 d6 12. ♖d2 Black has the usual problem with the development of the c8 bishop.]

10... ♘xf5 There is only one way to save the bishop, but then White has to transfer it to a really awkward place...

11. ♗c5 d6 12. ♗a3 On the other hand, if Black plays slowly and White succeeds to consolidate with b3 and ♗b2, the bishop reaches a nice square after making a long trip around the board.



12... Nfd4! A strong dynamic move with the idea of finally solving the problem of the c8 bishop.

13.0-0 Bf5 Who could believe at this point that 10 moves later Black gives mate?!

14. Rc1 Preventing Nc2.

14... Qd7 Spassky chooses a healthy development of his pieces and prepares for doubling his rooks on f7-f8.

15. Nd5 This is probably an inaccuracy. White should have aimed for getting rid of the strong d4 knight. [15.b3 immediately was preferable 15... Rf7 16. Bb2 Baf8 and in comparison to the game, White has 17. Nb5! forcing Black to give up his strong knight. 17... Nxe2+ 18. Qxe2 White's chances are slightly better because of his more active bishop.]

15... Rf7 16.b3 Baf8 17. Bb2 e5! Black succeeded to fortify his knight on d4. We can say that White also has a nice outpost on d5, but it can be taken after Be6, while the Black one is stuck on d4.

18.b4 Very logical play. White wants to push b5 and kick out the d4 knight. However, this move has concrete problems... [18.f3 was stronger with the idea of Bd3, and also a good prophylaxis against the move that happened in the game.]

18... Be6! Suddenly White is not in time to play b5 and he has only weakened his pawn structure.

19. Bd3?! It's hard to believe, but probably this natural move to transfer the bishop to e4 is a decisive mistake. [On 19.b5 Black was intending to play 19... Bxd5! 20.cxd5 Nxe2+! 21. Qxe2 Ne7 22. Qd3 And here after a subtle plan, Black gets the advantage... 22... Qd8! A very nice maneuver with the queen to b6.]



19... Bg4!! Suddenly, White is facing a devastating attack.

20.f3 [It would be interesting to see how Spassky would have continued after 20. Qd2 Bf3! is probably the only winning move, but its point is coming in the next move. (20... Nf3+ is tempting, but 21.gxf3 Bxf3 22. Qg5! and White is alive, although Black can get some advantage. 22... Rf4! 23. Nxf4 Rxf4 24. Qg3 Rg4 25.b5 Black is obviously better, but the fight continues.) 21.h3 to parry Bg4.

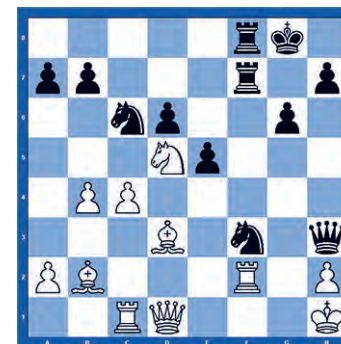


21...♔d8!! A fantastic move with the idea of ♔h4. The only way to prevent it is 22.♔h6 Here Black can choose between two promising moves to win material. (22.b5 is refuted nicely by 22...♔h4! and Black can sacrifice all his pieces. 23.bxc6 ♕xg2! 24.♔xg2 ♖f3-- and mate is coming soon.) 22...♕e2 wins an exchange.(22...♕xd5 23.cxd5 ♘xb4 with an extra pawn.)]

20...♕xf3! The attack is rolling.

21.gxf3 ♘xf3+ 22.♔h1 [22.♖xf3 ♖xf3-- White can't hold the heavy pieces.]

22...♔h3! 23.♖f2 This allows a pretty finish, but other moves were also losing. [23.♔e2 was the only chance. 23...♘xh2! 24.♔xh2 (24.♖xf7 ♘f3+--+) 24...♖xf1+ 25.♕xf1 ♖xf1+ 26.♖xf1 ♔xf1+ 27.♔g1 ♔xc4 Black has a winning advantage.; 23.♖c2 loses to 23...♘xh2! 24.♖xh2 (24.♖xf7 ♘f3+--+) 24...♖xf1+--]



23...♘e1!! Beautiful move. White resigned in view of the following mates.[23...♘e1 24.♖xf7 (24.♔xe1 ♖xf2--+) 24...♔g2#]

0-1

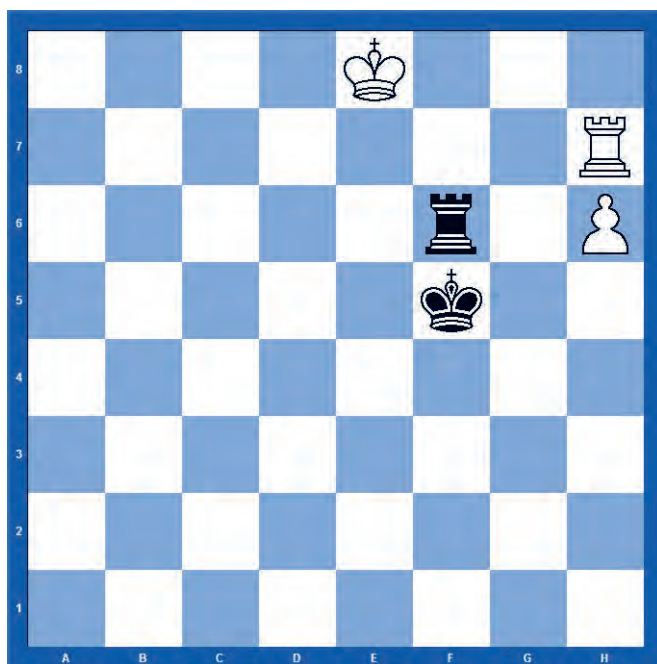
Surprise section / study

(18) Katsnelson,L

1973

[CEWN]

1. +-

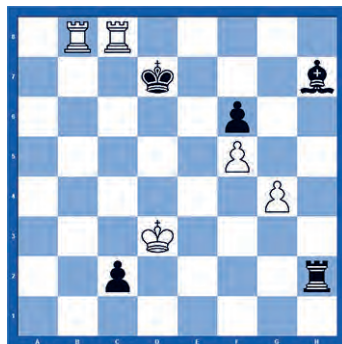


Solutions

(19) Markos,J (2581) – Varga,Z (2455)

Slovakian league, 20.01.2013

[Solutions]



55... ♖xf5+!! 56.gxf5 ♜h8!! 57. ♜xh8 c1 ♚=

(20) Nakamura,H (2769) – Aronian,L (2802)

Wijk aan Zee, 25.01.2013

[Solutions]



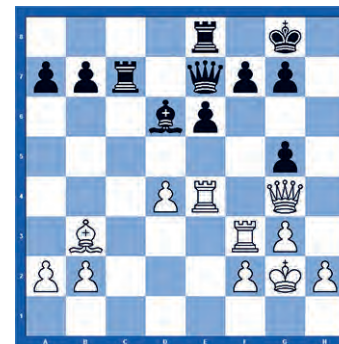
35... ♜8b2! 36. ♜cxc3 ♙xc3 37. ♜xc3 ♜d2 [37... ♜a1-+]

38. ♜c8+ ♙f7 39. ♜c7+ ♙e6 40.exf6 gxf6-+

(21) Tiviakov,S (2655) – Van Kampen,R (2581)

Wijk aan Zee B, 22.01.2013

[Solutions]



30. ♜xf7!! ♚xf7 [30... ♚xf7 31. ♜xe6! ♚xe6 32. ♚f5+!+-]

31. ♜xe6! ♙e7 32. ♜e3 ♜c4 33. ♚d7! b5 34. ♚xb5! ♜ec8
35. ♙xc4 ♜xc4 36. ♜xe7 1-0

(22) Turov,M (2630) – Movsesian,S (2688)

Wijk aan Zee B, 22.01.2013

[Solutions]



44...♔f7!! 45.♖dxe3 [45.♘c5 ♜eh8! 46.♘xe4 ♜h1+ 47.♔g2 ♜8h2#]

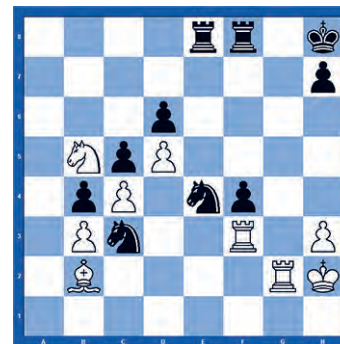
45...♔b1+ 46.♔f1 [46.♜f1 ♔xb3! 47.♜xe8 ♔xg3+ 48.♔g2 ♔xd4+-+]

46...♜eh8! 0-1 [46...♜eh8 47.♔xb1 ♜h1+ 48.♔g2 ♜8h2#]

(23) Naiditsch,A (2708) – Timman,J (2566)

Wijk aan Zee B, 22.01.2013

[Solutions]



40.♘xd6! 1-0 [40.♘xd6 ♘xd6 41.♜xc3!+-; 40.♜xc3? bxc3 41.♘xc3 ♘f6!]

(24) Nikolic,P (2619) – Rapport,R (2621)

Wijk aan Zee B, 27.01.2013

[Solutions]



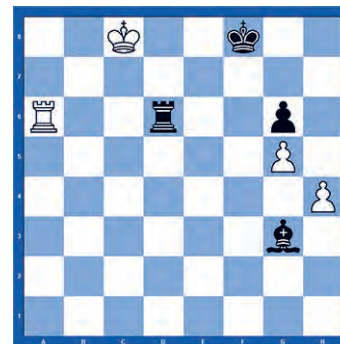
39...c3! 40. Nxc3 Qf4+!! 41. Ke1 [41. Qxf4 Rxb2+ 42. Kg3 Nxf4--+; 41. Kg1 Qg3+-+; 41. Kg2 Nh4+-+; 41. Qe2 Rxb2 42. Qxb2 Qh2+-+]

41... Qg3+ 42. Qd1 Rxc3-- 43. Rb8+ Kg7 44. Rb7+ Qf6! 45. fxg6 Qf3+ 46. Qe2 Qh1+ 0-1

(25) Burg,T (2492) – Peralta,F (2617)

Wijk aan Zee C, 22.01.2013

[Solutions]



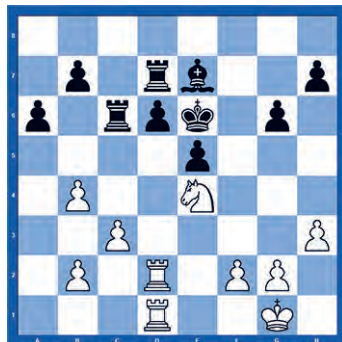
79. Rxd6! Qxd6 80. Qd7 Qg3 81. Qe6! Kg7 [81... Qxh4 82. Qf6=]

82. h5! gxh5 83. Qf5!= Qc7 84. g6 Kh6 85. g7 Qxg7 86. Qg5 1/2-1/2

(26) Korneev,O (2610) – Kersic,M (2204)

Nova Gorica Open, 26.01.2013

[Solutions]



28. ♘c5+! dxc5 29. ♖xd7+-

(27) Munkhgal,G (2372) – Dao Thien Hai (2531)

Asian Zonal tournament, 25.01.2013

[Solutions]



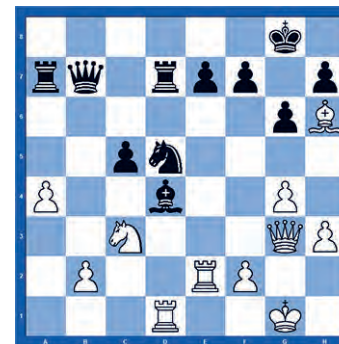
17. c6!! ♘xd6 [17... ♙xc6 18. ♘d4! ♘xd6 19. ♘xc6 ♘f5 20. axb5+-; 17... ♚xc6 18. ♘d4+-]

18. cxd7 1-0

(28) Aleksandrov,A (2607) – Swapnil,S (2474)

Chennai Open, 22.01.2013

[Solutions]



29. ♖xd4!! ♘xc3 [29... cxd4 30. ♚e5! ♘f6 (30... f6 31. ♚e6+ ♙h8 32. ♚f7+-) 31. ♚xf6!+-]

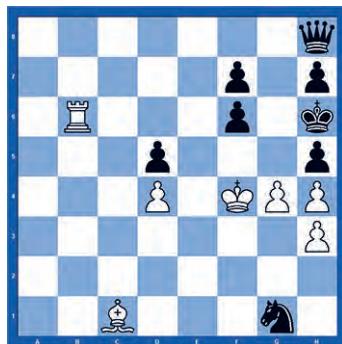
30. ♖xd7?? [30. ♖xe7!!+-]

30... ♘xe2+ 31. ♙h2 ♚h1+!! 32. ♙xh1 ♘xg3+ 33. fxg3 ♖xd7--+

(29) Gurvitch,A

1928

[Solutions]



1. ♔f5+ ♔g7 2. ♙h6+!! ♔xh6 3. g5+ ♔g7 4. gxf6+ ♔h6

5. ♖b8!! ♘f3! [5... ♔xb8=]

6. ♖xh8 ♘xh4+ 7. ♔e5 ♘g6+ 8. ♔f5! ♘xh8 9. h4!!

♘g6= 1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 51

15th of February 2013

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Editorial Preface

A happy Valentine's day to all our readers!!!

Your commentators are preparing a little celebration — CEWN turns 1 Year old with the next issue. :)

But let's get back to the chess news:

The "normal" chess event of the week is clearly the Cat. 19 double round robin in Baden-Baden, the "Baden Baden Grenke Chess Classic" with Anand, Caruana, Adams and 3 German players: Naiditsch, Fridman and Meier, measuring their chess skills.

Caruana is leading right now with a score of 4,5/7 after being quite lucky all in all. The second place is shared by Anand and Naiditsch with 4/7. There are three more rounds to go and everything is possible.

The Aeroflot Open, which was for many years the strongest open tournament of the year, switched to rapid and blitz chess. In the rapid event, we have 32 qualified players at the moment. The blitz event was won by Ian Nepomniachtchi, who was followed by Svidler and Grischuk, and an amazing line up of super -GMs below.

As usual, we bring you some fresh commented games from this event.

Have fun!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Fridman,D (2667) – Naiditsch,A (2716) [E97]

1st GRENKE Chess Classic Baden Baden GER (6), 13.02.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Just yesterday I managed to win a nice attacking game against my colleague from the National Team.

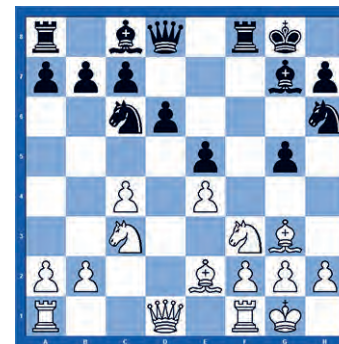
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.♘f3 0-0 6.♙e2 e5 7.0-0 ♘c6 8.♙e3 [8.d5 ♘e7 We are at the beginning of a huge Classical King's Indian line where both sides have a lot of different plans and ideas.]

8...♘g4 9.♙g5 f6 10.♙h4 [10.♙c1 f5 leads to complex play where recently Black has had good results. For example 11.♙g5 ♔d7 12.exf5 (12.d5 ♘d4∞) 12...exd4 13.f6 (13.♘d5 ♔xf5 14.h3 ♘ge5 15.♘xe5 dxe5 16.♙g4 ♔f7 17.♙xf5 ♙xf5) 13...♘xf6 14.♘xd4 ♘e4 15.♘xe4 ♘xd4 16.♙d3 ♘e6 17.♔c2 ♘xg5 18.♘xg5 ♔g4 19.♘e4 ♙d7 20.♘c3 ♔ae8 21.♙e4 c6 22.♔ad1 ♙e6 23.♘e2 ♙f5 24.♙xf5 ♔xe2 25.♙xg4 ♔xc2 1/2-1/2 Le Quang Liem-Gharamian,T/ Belfort FRA.]

10...g5 11.♙g3 ♘h6 12.dxe5 [12.d5 ♘e7 Black is going to push f5 next. After exf5, White will get the e4 square but that's not enough to get a clear advantage because thanks to his active pieces, Black will have good chances to create an initiative on the kingside.]

12...fxe5 This is the most fighting move. Daniel is a very solid player, so I thought I would get better chances in an unclear position. [12...dxe5 13.♔b3 ♔e7 14.♔ad1 ♔b8

15.♘d5 ♔f7 16.♔a3 a5 17.♔d2 ♙e6 18.h3 ♔fe8 19.♙d1 ♙f8 20.♔e3 g4 21.♘h4 gxh3 22.f4 hxg2 23.♔xg2∞ 1/2-1/2 Ivanisevic,I-Djukic, N/Porto Carras GRE.]



13.h3!? Probably the idea of this move is to play ♘h2, looking for an exchange of the light squared bishops in order to play on the light squares. The problem is that Black can push g4, when the White king will not be very safe.

13...♔h8 I was not sure whether to play ♔h8 or ♘f7. [13...♘f7!? with the idea of preparing ♘d4 and after ♘xd4 exd4 ♘b5, Black will have c5. 14.c5 dxc5 15.♙c4]]

14.c5 Very logical move by White. Now if I manage to put the knight on d4, I will not have the c7-c5 move to support my knight's position.

14...g4 [14...dxc5 15.♔xd8 ♔xd8 16.♘xg5 ♘d4∞ Even here, with the strong knight on d4, Black should not be worse, although this position is very difficult to evaluate.]

15.hxg4 ♙xg4 16.cxd6 cxd6 I think this is the critical moment. During the game I was mainly calculating 17.♘d5 ♙xf3 18.♙xf3 ♘d4 with a very unclear position. My main problem is the knight on h6, so if I have enough time to get it to g5, Black should be doing pretty well, but

in order to do that, I need 2 full moves which gives White time to create something.

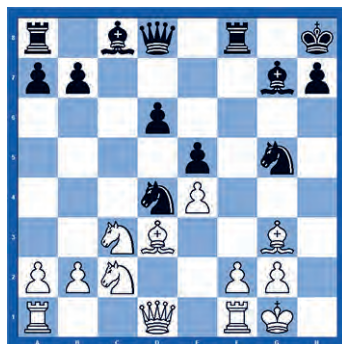
17. ♖d2 ♜c8 A nice move. Of course, Black should not exchange the light-squared bishops and my knight is going to g5. [A direct attack would lead nowhere: 17... ♔g5 18. ♜xg4 (18. ♜c4 ♜d4∞) 18... ♜xg4 19. ♜f3 ♔h5 20. ♜h2! and White is better.; 17... ♜e6 18. ♜c4∞]

18. ♜c4 ♜d4 19. ♜e3 ♜f7 Finally my knight is coming into the game.

20. ♜c2 I did not like this move by Daniel. White's knight should be placed on d5 and not on c2.

20... ♜g5 [20... ♜xe2+ 21. ♔xe2 ♔g5 22. ♔ad1 h5∞]

21. ♜d3?! White saves the bishop and prepares ♜xd4-exd4- ♜b5, but now comes



21... ♜df3+! [21... ♜de6 was the other option I was considering during the game, but ♜df3 was just too tempting :).]

22. gxf3 ♜d7! Important move. Now I am preparing to take on f3 and give checkmate with ♔h3. [22... ♜xf3+ 23. ♔g2 ♜h4+ 24. ♔g1 and Black should repeat moves because other options are worse. 24... ♔g5 25. ♜e2 ♜h3 26. ♔h2 ♜xf1 27. ♔xf1±]

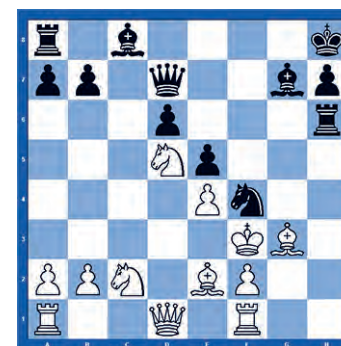
23. ♜e2 [23. ♜e1 ♔f6→ 24. ♔a4 ♔f7 with a decisive attack. White can't avoid mate on the h-file.(24... ♔h3 Less accurate because the queen on e8 can create some problems for Black. 25. ♔e8+ ♜f8)]

23... ♔f6 That was the key move of a simple idea, just to give mate on the h-file!

24. ♜d5! only move [24. ♔e1 The idea to escape through the f1 square does not help either. 24... ♜h3+ Here Black has quite a few choices to finish the game. One of them is 25. ♔f1 ♜f4 26. ♔g1 ♔h6 27. ♜f1 ♜h3+ 28. ♔g2 ♔f7! A silent but deadly move. ♔h5 next with ♜f4 and mate can't be avoided by White.; It doesn't help to play 24. ♜e3 ♔h3 25. ♜g4 ♜xg4 26. fxc4 ♔af8! followed by the lethal ♔h6 next.]

24... ♔h6 25. f4 ♜h3+ 26. ♔g2 Here I had 2 options...

26... exf4 [26... ♜xf4+ 27. ♔f3



The position looks pretty unclear from a human point of view, and I was calculating the main ♔h3, but the computer gives an amazing win: 27... ♔h2!! Amazing move! White can't defend from mate. Black wants to play ♜h6 next and 28. ♜xh2 ♔h3+ 29. ♜g3 ♜g2!! followed by ♜g4 mate. But how to find this over the board? I don't know :).]

27. ♖h2 A very human move by Daniel, but as usual, the computer finds a better defense. [27. ♘d4 was the only way to go for White. 27... ♙f7 (27... fxg3 28. fxg3 ♘g5 29. ♘f5 ♘xe4∞ During the game I thought I should be better here, but in fact, things are far from clear.) 28. ♖c1 fxg3 29. fxg3 ♘f2 30. ♖xf2 ♖h2+ 31. ♖xh2 ♙xf2+ 32. ♖h1 ♖xd4 33. ♙f1 What a defense by White! 33... ♙xf1+ 34. ♖xf1 ♖d7 Thanks to the pair of bishops, Black is slightly better, but White has good drawish chances.]

27... f3+ 28. ♖xf3 [28. ♖xf3 ♘g5+ 29. ♖e3 ♖xh2--+ Black has a free attack now.]

28... ♘g5 29. ♘f4 The only move to take control of the h3 square. [29. ♖g4 ♙xg4+ 30. ♙xg4 ♖xg4--+; 29. ♖g3 ♙h3+ 30. ♖g1 ♖g4 31. ♖g2 ♖xd1 32. ♖xh3 ♖f3 33. ♖g2 ♘h3+ 34. ♖h1 ♘f4+--+]

29... ♖xh2+ 30. ♖xh2 ♖e5 Not the most precise. [30... ♙f7! would finish the game quickly. 31. ♖g2 ♙xf4 32. ♖h1 ♖d7 followed by ♖g8 with a mating attack.]

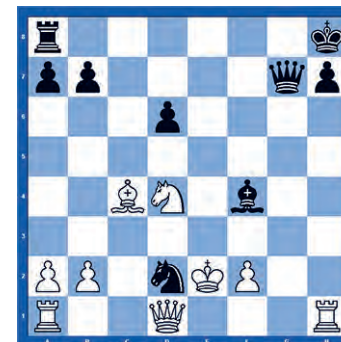
31. ♖g2 ♖xf4 32. ♖h1 ♙g7 33. ♖f1 ♖e6 [There was no need for 33... ♖h3+ 34. ♖xh3 ♘xh3 35. ♖g4 ♘g5 36. ♖f5∞]

34. ♘d4 Daniel just had a minute on the clock, which makes his position very difficult to play. Objectively, Black has a very strong initiative for the exchange.

34... ♖c4+ 35. ♖e2 ♘xe4 36. ♖xc4? Decisive mistake! Now White is losing by force. The only way to try to survive was [36. ♖g1 ♙f6 37. ♘f3 to prevent ♘d2 37... ♖xe2+ (37... ♙xb2 38. ♙d4+ ♙xd4 39. ♘xd4∞ Black still has the initiative, but of course, without the queen, it's not the same as before.) 38. ♙xe2 ♖e8 39. ♙b5 ♖f8→ with a strong at-

tack.; 36. ♘f3 ♘xf2--+ That's why White needed to play 36. ♖g1 first.]

36... ♘d2+ 37. ♖e2 [37. ♖e1 ♙xd4 38. ♙h5 h6--+]



37... d5! A very nice move, especially during time trouble. [Daniel prepared a nice trap: 37... ♙xd4? 38. ♖xh7+! ♖xh7 39. ♙h1+ and suddenly my king is under attack. 39... ♖g6 40. ♖g1+ ♖g5 41. ♖d3+ ♖f6 42. ♙h5 ♙e5+ 43. ♖d1 ♖g8 44. ♖g4 White is a piece down but has practical chances.]

38. ♙c2 [Now at 38. ♖xd5 ♙xd4 White has no saving check on d3 with his bishop.]

38... ♖e8+ 39. ♖d1 ♘xc4 The game is over.

40. ♙c3 Here I had a lot of winning moves, but the move in the game seemed to be the safest one.

40... ♖e4 41. ♘f5 ♘xb2+ 42. ♖c2 ♖e2+ 43. ♖b3 ♙xc3+ 44. ♖xc3 ♖e5+ 45. ♘d4 [45. ♖b3 ♘c4--+]

45... ♖e4 and we are getting into a rook endgame with 2 pawns down for White and 0 hopes to make a draw. I was very happy when Daniel gave me a handshake. A nice game to win! :)

0-1

(2) Svetushkin,Dmitry (2612) – Matinian,Nikita (2460) [E84]

Moscow 2013 (6.11), 07.02.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

It can be risky to play on open tournaments in Russia. Sometimes you might run into painful crushes by much lower rated opponents...

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** g6 **3.f3** This is a popular move nowadays to fight against the Gruenfeld Defence. In the current game, Black decides to transpose to the King's Indian.

3...♗g7 **4.e4** **d6** **5.♘c3** This is the initial position of the Saemisch variation. Black has a wide range of different setups here...

5...0-0 **6.♗e3** ♘c6 [6...c5 is also in fashion nowadays.]

7.♘ge2

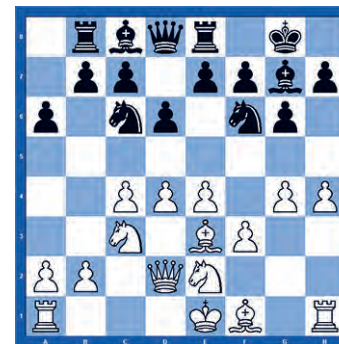


7...a6 This is a standard plan in the King's Indian Defense. We can see it in the g3 systems as well. Black tries to find counterplay on the queenside with ♖b8 and b5 against White's strong center.

8.♔d2 ♖e8 A rare sideline not without poison as the game shows. [8...♖b8 is the main move. Here White has plenty of setups, but recently on the top level almost everybody plays 9.♖c1 White is fighting against the b5 move. 9...♗d7 Black prepares for b5 again. (9...b5 immediately drops a pawn: 10.cxb5 axb5 11.♘xb5!) 10.♘d1! b5 11.c5! White succeeds to hold his strong center and intends to finish the development with g3, ♗g2 and 0-0.]

9.g4 White tries to punish his opponent for his last move. He thinks that it was a waste of tempo, but as we'll see, it supports Black's counterplay in the center very well. [9.♖c1 is probably the right move here as well and the game will probably transpose to the 8...♖b8 line with 9...♖b8 10.♘d1 ♗d7 11.g3; On 9.h4 Black can successfully stop the attack with 9...h5; The idea of the 8...♖e8 move is that after any knight move, for instance 9.♘g3 in order to finish the development with ♗e2 and 0-0, to play 9...e5 10.d5 ♘d4! creating a nice outpost for the knight, which cannot be taken twice, because of ♗xe4 at the end.]

9...♖b8 **10.h4**



10...h5! The h5 threat had to be prevented before launching the counterplay with b5 and e5. [10...b5 11.h5 The opening of the h-file would be too dangerous for Black.]

11.g5 [11.gxh5 ♖xh5 Black doesn't need to worry about getting mated here, as the knight on h5 can't be kicked out with ♜f4, because the d4 pawn is hanging.]

11...♞d7 12.f4 White tries to swap Black out of the board. [12.♖c1 was much safer to prevent b5 because White could take twice and the c6 knight falls. Black seems to have difficulties with his passive position, but the computer recommends an unusual plan, which creates strong counterplay again. 12...♞a5! 13.b3 c5 and b5 next, with a very unclear position.]

12...b5 13.f5 White is intending to play ♞f4, creating fatal threats around the g6 pawn. Black must act quickly.

13...e5!



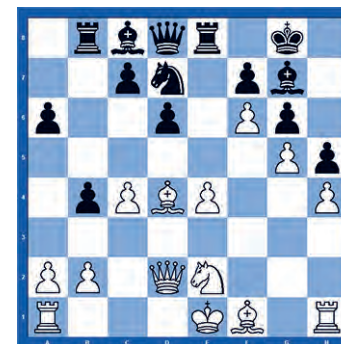
14.f6 White tries to lock the dark squared bishop and if he succeeds to consolidate the center, the situation of the f8 or h8 bishop should lead to Black's defeat! [14.fxe6 was probably the safest continuation and leads to a balanced position. 14...fxe6 15.cxb5 axb5 16.♞g3 (16.♞f4 White

should not be optimistic with 16...e5! and Black is doing great!) 16...e5 17.d5 ♞d4 18.♞g2 followed by 0-0 with an even and, of course, playable position for both sides.; 14.d5 is the usual reaction in such cases, but now after 14...♞d4! 15.♞xd4 exd4 16.♞xd4 ♞e5 Black gets very strong counterplay on the dark squares.]

14...exd4! Black opens the position on the king stuck in the center.

15.♞xd4 ♞xd4 16.♞xd4 b4! Another strong intermediate move. Black wants to weaken the e4 pawn.

17.♞e2 [17.fxg7? leads to a lost position. 17...bxc3 18.♞xc3 ♖xe4+-+ ♞c5 next and the bishop also joins the attack. White can't hold the position.; 17.♞d5 drops a pawn. 17...♖xe4+ 18.♞e2 ♞f8 and c6 next, kicking out the knight.]



17...c5! Yet another intermediate move! Preparing for the following sacrifice! The g7 bishop has been hanging during 4 moves...

18.♞f2 [18.fxg7! White should have simplified the position to a worse rook endgame to try to save the game, but Svetushkin is playing ambitiously against his lower rated opponent. 18...cxd4 19.♞xd4 ♞c5 20.♞g2 ♞b7

21.♘g3 White wants to play 0–0, equalizing completely. 21...♙xe4 22.♘xe4 ♘xe4 23.♙xe4 ♚e7 24.0–0–0 ♚xe4 Black will sooner or later take the g7 pawn, but White has good chances to hold the draw.]



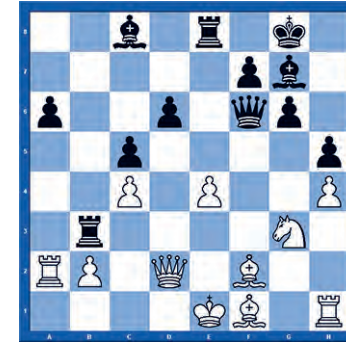
18...♘xf6! Excellent decision! Black gets only two pawns for the piece, but the ones on b2 and e4 are hanging and White still has difficulties to finish the development.

19.gxf6 ♚xf6 20.♘g3 [20.♙g2 was objectively better, but also leads to bad position. 20...♙b7 21.♘g3 ♚xb2 22.♚xb2 ♙xb2 23.♚b1 ♙e5+ with a big advantage. Black will create a passer by pushing his a-pawn. His bishops are dominating.]

20...b3!! A powerful Black threatens to take on b2 now. White has a difficult decision: to push a4 leaving the strong b3 pawn on the board, or to take on b3 and invite the Black rook to the attack.

21.axb3 [21.♙g2 ♚xb2 wins.; 21.a4 ♚xb2 22.♚xb2 ♙xb2 23.♚b1 ♙c3+ 24.♙d1 ♙d7 winning another pawn. White is lost.]

21...♚xb3 22.♚a2 Otherwise ♚xb2 finishes the game.



22...♚xg3! The final blow! Black eliminates the key defender.

23.♙xg3 ♚xe4+ 24.♙e2 [24.♙d1 ♚f3+ wins the rook and the game.]

24...♚f3! [White resigned in view of 24...♚f3 25.♚g1 ♙g4! 26.b3 ♙c3! A horrible inal position. We don't wish anybody this position with the White pieces.]

0–1

(3) Bryzgalin, Kirill (2483) – Ganguly, Surya Shekhar (2626) [D23]

Moscow 2013 (5.13), 06.02.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

A nice attacking game by the second and compatriot of Vishy Anand.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 The Accepted Queen's Gambit is getting more and more popular recently.

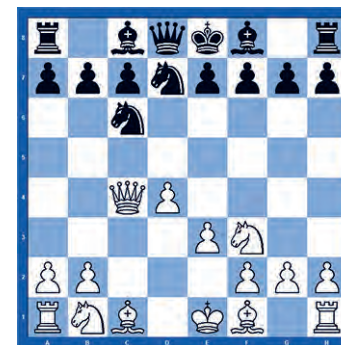
3.♘f3 ♘f6



4.♔a4+ This is definitely not the best way to fight for an advantage. Ganguly shows a very concrete way to equalize immediately.

4...♘c6! 5.e3 [On 5.♔xc4 ♘e6 (5...♘g4 is also fine.) 6.♔a4 ♘d5 Putting pressure on the d4 pawn is the first idea of the 4...♘c6 move. 7.e3 ♔d7 8.♘c3 ♘xf3 9.gxf3 e5! and this break is the second point of 4...♘c6.]

5...♘d7! 6.♔xc4 [6.♘xc4 ♘b6 Black gets the bishop pair for basically nothing.]



6...e5! The previous two knight moves were directed at this break. As White can't push 7.d5 because of ♘b6, he must forget about the opening advantage and needs to simplify the position in the center.

7.dxe5 ♘dxe5 8.♘xe5 ♘xe5 9.♔c2 A small inaccuracy, giving Black a free tempo. Ganguly finds a very nice idea to fight for the initiative. [9.♔b5+ Forcing the active knight was better, although Black is completely fine here as well. 9...♘d7]

9...♘g4! with the idea of a quick ♔d7 and 0–0–0. White has some difficulties to finish the development. The f1 bishop can't move at the moment. [The most logical 9...♘d6 was obviously also possible, but this leads to an equal position. 10.♘d2 Probably this plan is the most exact way to play. Here Black can't hope for any advantage. (10.♘e2 0–0 11.0–0 is also a balanced position.) 10...0–0 11.♘c3 ♔e7 12.♘d2 ♔d8 13.♘c4=]

10.♘d2 White would like to play ♘c4 and also has the idea with ♔e4, which was not possible immediately because of ♔d1. [10.♘d2 is not the same anymore 10...♔d7! 11.♘c3 and Black wins an important tempo with 11...0–0–0 12.♘d2 (12.♘xe5? ♔d1+ 13.♔xd1 ♔xd1#) 12...

♞d3+ 13. ♙xd3 ♚xd3 14. ♚xd3 ♜xd3 with a small, but long-term advantage thanks to the pair of bishops.]

10... ♚d7! A great move! Looks simple, but it required precise calculation and good intuitions as well. White decide to go for the tactical test of the move.

11.h3 [On 11. ♞c4 0-0-0 12. ♙d2 ♞xc4 13. ♙xc4 ♙f5! is quite unpleasant. The queen has no good square to leave. For instance 14. ♚c3 moves into 14... ♙e7 and ♙f6 with tempo.]

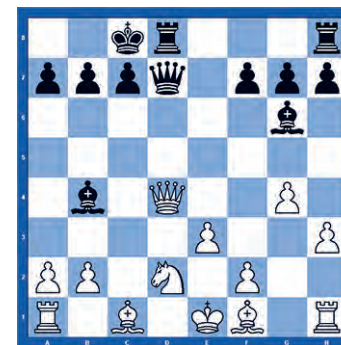
11... ♙h5 12. ♚e4 It seems like Black has missed this move, but...



12...0-0-0!! The sacrific e is justified mainly by the king on e1 and the undeveloped pieces around it.

13.g4 [13. ♚xe5 is a worse version than the game. 13... ♙b4 14. ♚xh5 (14. ♚d4 loses to the slightly primitive 14... ♚xd4 15.exd4 ♜he8+) 14... ♙xd2+ 15. ♙e2 is met simply by 15... ♙xc1-+ and White can't take the bishop because of ♚d2.]

13... ♙g6 14. ♚xe5 ♙b4 15. ♚d4 The only move to save the knight... at least for a while.



15... ♚a4! Another strong attacking move! Black is going to increase the pressure on the d2 knight. [15... ♙xd2+ 16. ♙xd2 ♚c6 was also tempting to win back the material, but suddenly White is the one that gets very strong compensation after 17. ♚xa7 ♚xh1 If White wants, he can force a draw with 18. ♚a8+ ♙d7 19. ♚a4+ because ♚c6 loses to ♙b5.]

16. ♚c4 ♚a5! No mercy for the d2 knight.

17. ♙e2 White decides to give back the piece and tries to finish the development. Despite the material balance, he can't hope to get equality because the Black pieces are all much better placed. [On 17. ♚e2 ♜d7! increasing the pressure to the maximum! 18. ♙g2 (18. ♜h2 might be the last attempt to defend d2, but White loses after 18... ♜hd8 19.f4 ♙d3 20. ♚f3 ♙xf1 21. ♙xf1 ♙xd2 The invasion of the Black rooks is going to be decisive.) 18... ♙d3 19. ♚d1 ♜hd8 White can't solve the problems with 20.a3 ♙b5 21.axb4 ♚xa1-+ and ♙a4 threatens to win more material.]

17... ♙xd2+ 18. ♙f1 ♜he8! Bringing the last piece to the action as well. White is in serious trouble. He is not in time to play ♙f3, ♙g2 to solve all the problems.

19. ♖xd2 ♜xd2 **20.b4** ♚b6 [It was more logical to centralize the queen 20... ♛e5 21. ♜c1 ♙e4 22. ♜g1 ♜ed8 with a big, probably winning advantage.]

21. ♜c1 ♛d6 **22.a3 a6** Opening the back-rank just in case. Black has time to do anything he wants, since White doesn't have an useful plan. He can only focus on not blundering something, since the Black pieces are standing in really threatening positions.

23. ♛c3 ♙e4! Black transfers his bishop to the h1–a8 diagonal, where it prevents White from connecting his rooks with ♙g2 forever.

24. ♜g1 ♜d8 After protecting the d2 rook, Black threatens to win immediately with ♙h2.

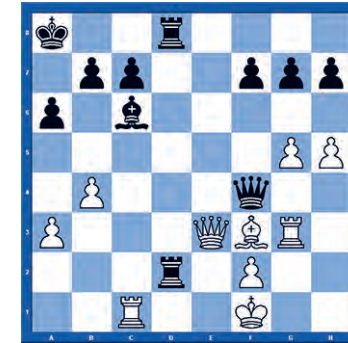
25. ♜g3 ♙c6 Black frees his queen from protecting the c7 square and also prepares to create a battery with ♛d5.

26.g5 ♙b8 Another useful prophylactic move before starting the final actions.

27.h4 ♙a8 There was already no need for this move, but of course, it doesn't change anything on the evaluation. [27... ♛d5 28. ♙f3 ♛f5 was winning immediately.]

28.h5 ♛d5 **29.e4** [29. ♙f3 ♛f5 Decisive problems with the f2 pawn.]

29... ♛xe4 **30.** ♙f3 ♛f4 **31.** ♛e3



31... ♜xf2+! A spectacular final blow! [White resigned in view of 31... ♜xf2+ 32. ♙xf2 (32. ♛xf2 ♛xc1+ 33. ♙g2 ♜d2–+) 32... ♜d2+ wins the queen.]

0–1

(4) Korobov, Anton (2702) — Antipov, Mikhail Al (2472) [E52]

Aeroflot Open Rapid Qualifier 2013 Moscow RUS (2.3),
12.02.2013

[Kamil Miton]

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♘c3** ♖b4 **4.e3** 0-0 **5.♙d3** b6 **6.♘f3**
♙b7 **7.0-0** d5 [7...c5 is the other main line. 8.♘a4 (8.♙d2
cxd4 9.exd4 d5=) 8...cxd4 9.exd4 ♖e8 10.a3 ♙f8 11.b4 d6
12.♙b2 ♘bd7 13.♖e1 ∞; 7...♙xc3 8.bxc3 ♙e4 9.♙e2 c5
10.♘d2± with the idea of playing f3-e4 next.]

8.a3 ♙e7 A slightly passive move. Usually Black plays 8...
♙d6 with the idea of putting the queen on e7 later. [8...
♙d6]

9.cxd5 ♘xd5 [9...exd5 10.b4 ♘bd7 Black has a worse ver-
sion of this line with the bishop on e7. White has two plans
here: to first play ♙b2 and then ♘e2-♘g3, or ♖b3 with
the idea b5-a4, activating the bishop on the a3 square.]

10.e4 ♘xc3 **11.bxc3**



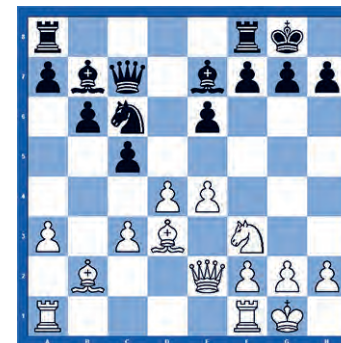
11...c5 We have a structure from the Petrosian line. White
has a better center and the plan to create pressure on the
kingside. Black should look for counterplay against the

central White pawns and over the c-file. It's very impor-
tant to notice that compared to the Petrosian line — 1.d4
♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.a3 — White is a tempo up be-
cause he didn't play ♖c2-♖e2.

12.♖e2 ♘c6 [12...♘d7]

13.♙b2 White could develop the bishop another way
as well. [13.♙e3 ♘a5 14.♖fd1 ♖c7 15.h4 Typical move.
White is going to create weaknesses on the kingside. 15...
♖ad8 16.h5 ♙c6 17.a4 ♖b7 18.♘d2 ♖d7 19.♙c2 cxd4
20.cxd4 ♖c8 21.♘f3 ♙b7 22.♙d3± 1/2-1/2 Janssen,R-
Cyborowski,L/Emsdetten GER 2009 (41).]

13...♖c7 [13...cxd4 14.cxd4 ♙f6 15.♖ad1 (15.e5 ♙e7 In this
case, the bishop on b2 is worse than on e3.; 15.♖e3± sim-
ple.) 15...♘xd4 16.♙xd4 ♙xd4 17.♙c4 e5 18.♘xe5 ♙xe5
19.♖xd8 ♖axd8 with some drawing chances for Black.]



14.d5! This is the usual problem when Black puts his
knight on c6. Now thanks to this central break, White is
going to activate his bishops, which are well placed to
attack the Black king.

14...c4 Another typical trick. Black sacrifices the pawn
with the idea of getting counterplay on the c-file and not
allowing the White bishops the get activated too easily.

15. ♖xc4 ♘a5 16. ♖a2 exd5 17. exd5 ♙f6 18. ♖fe1
A good move which prevents ♖e8.

18... ♖ad8 19. ♖ad1 ♙c8 Preparing ♖e8.

20. d6 was probably too quick. [20. c4 ♖fe8 21. ♙c2 ♖xb2 22. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 23. ♙xb2 ♘xc4 24. ♙b4 ♘e5 25. ♘xe5 ♖xe5 26. d6 ♙d7 27. ♙f4 ♖e8 28. h4↑ Thanks to the strong d6 pawn, White has a huge initiative.]

20... ♙a6 Black missed his chance to equalize the position after [20... ♖fe8 21. ♙d3 ♖xe1+ 22. ♖xe1



22... ♙xf3! It was possible to overlook this move. Now White is losing his strong d-pawn. 23. gx3f3 (23. ♙xf3 ♖xd6 24. g3=) 23... ♘b7 24. ♙a6 ♘xd6 25. ♙xa7 ♙c6±]

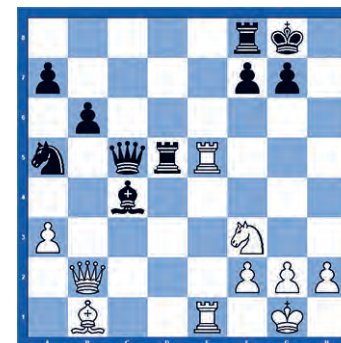
21. c4 ♖xb2 22. ♙xb2 ♖xc4 Black wins the pawn back, but thanks to the strong d-pawn and the potential pressure on the kingside, White is clearly better. [22... ♘xc4 23. ♙b4±]

23. ♙b1 [23. ♘e5 ♖xa2 24. ♙xa2 ♘c6 25. d7 ♙a8 (25... ♙b7 26. ♘xf7+)-] 26. ♙c4 ♘xe5 27. ♖xe5 ♙b7 28. ♖e7±]

23... ♙c5 24. ♖e5 ♖xd6 25. ♖xh7+ ♙h8 [25... ♙xh7 26. ♙b1++-]

26. ♖de1 White lost the d-pawn, but now the Black king is under huge pressure. One of the reasons is the fact that the Black pieces are placed very far, on the queenside.

26... ♖d5 27. ♙b1 ♙g8



28. h4 Good move with idea in some cases support knight on g5 or push h5 after g6.

28... ♘c6 29. ♖5e3 [29. ♖e8 ♖d8 and Black is fighting.; 29. ♙c2 f5 (29... g6 30. ♖e6 ♖d3 31. ♙xc5 ♖xc5 32. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 33. ♖xd3 ♖c3 34. ♖b5 ♖xa3 35. ♖e7 With his very active pieces, White is better, but in order to win the game, he needs very accurate play.) 30. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 31. ♙d1 with the idea ♘g5-♙h5. 31... ♖d8 32. ♘g5 (32. ♖xf5 ♖xf5 33. ♙xf3 ♘d4 34. ♖e6+ ♙h8 35. ♙g4 ♖e8↖) 32... g6 33. h5 ♖c4 34. ♙c1 ♖d5 The last hope for Black is to look for a queen exchange. 35. ♙b2 ♙d4 36. ♙e2 ♙c4 37. hxg6 ♙xe2 38. ♖xe2 ♙g7 39. ♖xf5 ♘d4 40. ♖d2 ♘xf5 41. ♖e6+ ♖xe6 42. ♖xd8 ♙xg6 43. ♖a8±]

29... ♖a6? Big blunder, maybe because of time trouble. Black could have played [29... ♘d4 30. ♘g5→ Objectively, White is better thanks to the attack against the king, but the position is complex and any result is possible.]

30. ♖c3 ♙b5 31. ♙c2 1-0

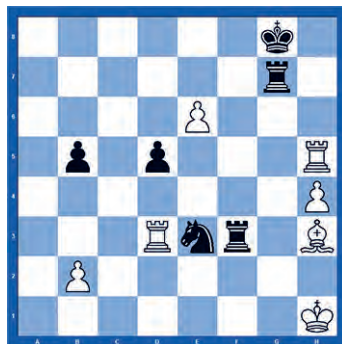
Puzzle section

(5) Adams,M (2725) – Caruana,F (2757)

Baden-Baden, 10.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. =



(6) Iordachescu,V (2610) – Schut,L (2283)

Baden-Baden Open, 08.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

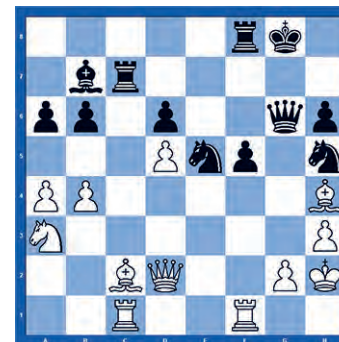


(7) Negi,P (2638) – Felgaer,R (2557)

Baden-Baden Open, 09.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

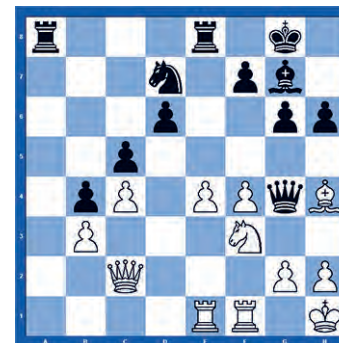


(8) Ibragimov,I (2555) – Nyzhnyk,I (2637)

Moscow Open, 05.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Ganguly,S (2626) – Panarin,M (2552)

Moscow Open, 07.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

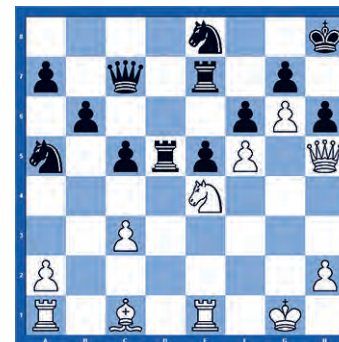


(11) Mozharov,M (2510) – Reshetnikov,A (2508)

Moscow GM, 06.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(10) Nyzhnyk,I (2637) – Tukhaev,A (2517)

Moscow Open, 07.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

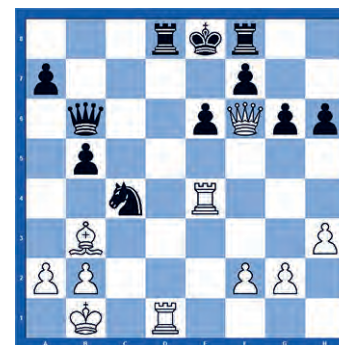


(12) Heberla,B (2545) – Djukic,N (2538)

Tringov memorial, 09.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Jianu,V (2500) – Dvirnyy,D (2536)

Tringov memorial, 09.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(14) Belous,V (2553) – Eliseev,U (2525)

Moscow GM, 06.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Fridman,D (2667) – Anand,V (2780)

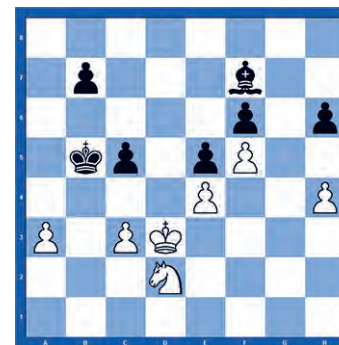
Baden-Baden, 10.02.2013

[Chess Evolution]



After a long struggle in the middlegame, the following tricky endgame arose. Black is clearly better because the bishop is dominating the knight and the king is ready to go for the queenside pawns. The e4 and f5 pawns are on light squares, so therefore they might be potential targets for the bishop. The question is whether White will be able to build a fortress or not...

42.a3 ♖c6 43.♘d2 ♙f7 44.c4 The most logical move to cut the king's route to a4, but this gives additional options for Black. [The concrete 44.♙e3 was probably an easier way to hold the draw. 44...♙b5 45.♙d3



45...♙a4 and now the point is that White has 46.♘c4! The knight is ready to counterattack the Black pawns, while the pawn endgame leads to White's advantage as we will see... 46...b5 (46...♙xc4+? 47.♙xc4 White quickly collects the f6 pawn and then his f-pawn is really fast. 47...b6 (47...♙xa3 48.♙xc5 ♙b3 49.♙d6 ♙xc3 50.♙e7 b5 51.♙xf6 b4 52.♙xe5 b3 53.f6 b2 54.f7 b1 ♙ 55.f8 ♙ with good chances for White.) 48.♙d5 ♙b3 49.♙e6 ♙xc3 50.♙xf6 ♙d4 51.♙e6 c4 52.f6 c3 53.f7 c2 54.f8 ♙ c1 ♙ 55.♙b4+± After the e5 pawn falls, only White can win this game.) 47.♘d6 The knight extremely well placed on d6, where it always attacks b5, and Black has no chance to take on a3. White comfortably holds the draw.]

44...b5! Anand opens the path for his king again. [44...♙b6 Black cannot break through with 45.♙e3 ♙a5 because of 46.♘b3+ and the king must retreat.]

45.♙e3



45...b4! Excellent practical decision. Unfortunately for the World Champion, Fridman is a great defender and holds the draw by finding all the only moves. [45...bxc4 46.♖b1!= was the idea, and after settling the knight on c3, the Black king has no invading square.]

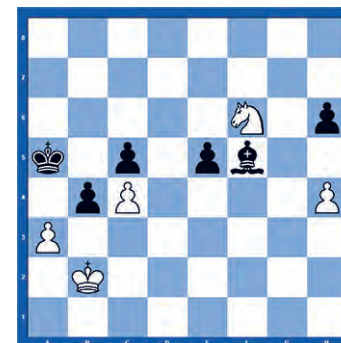
46.♔d3 [After the most tempting 46.axb4? White is probably lost. 46...cxb4 47.♔d3 ♔c5 White is in zugzwang, he has only one move to avoid losing the c4 pawn. 48.♖b3+ ♔b6 and this is another zugzwang. The pawns have no moves, the king can't leave because of the c4 pawn and any of the knight moves give a freeway for the king to invade through a5-a4... 49.♖d2 ♔a5 Black retains excellent winning chances.]

46...♔b6 [46...bxa3 is not dangerous. 47.♔c3 White wins back the pawn and has an unbreakable fortress.]

47.♔c2 ♔a5 Black threatens ♔a4, forcing White to take on the b4, when ♔xb4 will lead to the inevitable loss of the c4 pawn.

48.♔b3! Another only move! [48.♖b3+? would have lost again. 48...♔a4 49.♖xc5+ (49.axb4 ♔xb4+!) 49...♔xa3+]

48...♔h5 [48...♔e8 would have been a better try, although it seems to lead to a draw as well after an accurate defense by White. 49.♖f1!! Only this move seems to hold. (49.♔b2 ♔a4 50.axb4 ♔xb4 is hopeless.; Now on 49.♔a2 ♔a4 50.♖b3 bxa3 51.♖xc5+ ♔b4+ Black is winning. The huge difference in comparison to the game is that White can't play ♖d7 now.; 49.axb4+ cxb4 will lead to a similar scenario to the one after 48...♔h5 49.axb4.) 49...♔a4+ 50.♔b2 ♔d1 This is the standard winning technique, with the idea of invading with the king, but now White can launch his counterplay with the knight. 51.♖e3 ♔f3 52.♖d5 ♔xe4 53.♖xf6 ♔xf5 Black is a pawn up, but the position seems to be a draw, as White can create a blockade.]



54.♔b3 bxa3 55.♔xa3 e4 56.♖d5 ♔e6 57.♖e3 Black can only try to break through with the king on the kingside, but this allows access to the c5 pawn. 57...♔b6 58.♔b3! A necessary waiting move! (On the direct 58.♔a4 ♔d7+! 59.♔b3 ♔c7! and Black is in time to get his king to f4 or d4.) 58...♔c6 (58...♔d7 White has an extra tempo now, in comparison to 58. ♔a4 ♔d7 line. This allows him to get his king to e3... 59.♖d5+ ♔c6 60.♔c3 ♔d6 61.♔d2 ♔e5 62.♔e3 ♔e6 63.♖c3 ♔xc4 64.♖xe4=) 59.♔a4! ♔d6 60.♔b5! Black can't make progress.]



49.♔a2!! Only move! [49.♔b2 ♔a4 and a3 is hanging with check!; 49.axb4+ cxb4 50.♘f1 seems to hold as well, but Black has a subtle winning plan. With the disappearance of the c5 pawn, the Black king has access to the d4 square. He can achieve this with some nice maneuvering. (50.c5 ♔b5 51.c6 ♕f7+ 52.♔c2 ♔xc6–+) 50... ♕d1+ 51.♔b2 ♕f3! Forcing the knight to d2, to prevent the ♘e3-d5 counterplay. 52.♘d2 ♕e2 53.♔b3 ♕d1+ 54.♔b2 ♔b6! and ♕c5 next.]

49...♔a4 [49... ♕e2 50.♘b3+ ♔b6 51.♘d2 Black can't make progress.; 49... ♕d1 50.♘b3+ ♕xb3+ 51.♔xb3 bxa3 52.♔xa3 The pawn endgame is dead drawn.]

50.♘b3 bxa3 51.♘xc5+ ♔b4 52.♘d7! And again the knight is just in time to get counterplay.

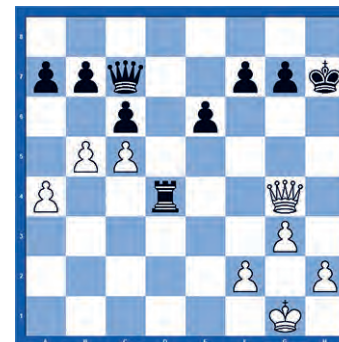
52... ♕f7 53.♘xf6 ♕xc4+ 54.♔a1 ♔c3 55.♘g4 ♔d4 56.♘xh6 ♔xe4 57.♘g4 ♔f4 58.♘xe5 Draw agreed, since the a1 promoting square doesn't match the bishop. A tenacious defense by Fridman!

1/2

(16) Meier,Geo (2640) – Caruana,F (2757) [D12]

1st GRENKE Chess Classic Baden Baden GER (6), 13.02.2013

[Chess Evolution]

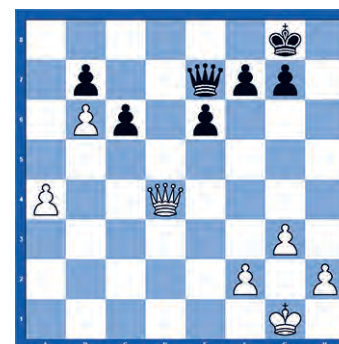


34.♙xd4 Thanks to the advanced pawns on the queenside, White is better in this endgame and Black needs accurate play to avoid problems.

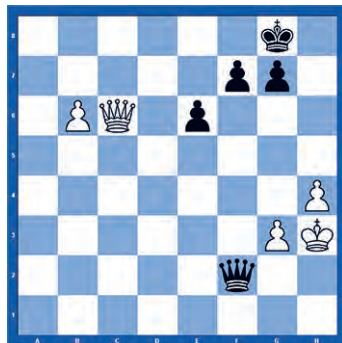
34...♔g8 Black's king is coming closer to the queenside to be, for example, after ♙d6, on time to catch the pawn.

35.b6 axb6 36.cxb6 Now in this structure, Black will have to pay attention constantly to the a5-a6 threat.

36...♙e7 The other defensive idea was to keep the queen on a6. [36... ♙c8 37.a5 ♙a8 38.♙e5 ♙a6 39.h4±]



37.a5 Maybe more accurate was to immediately make the h2 square available for the White king to escape from checks and play [37.h4!? ♖a3 38.♔d7 ♖a1+ 39.♔g2 ♖xa4 40.♖xb7 ♖e4+ 41.♔h2 ♖c2 42.♖b8+ ♔h7 43.♖f4 ♖b2 44.♖e4+ (44.♖e3 ♖b5 With idea c5) 44...♔g8 45.♖xc6 ♖xf2+ 46.♔h3



46...♖f1+ 47.♖g2 ♖b5 48.b7± and in a practical game it's always unpleasant to play against a so far advanced pawn, like the one on b7.]

37...♖a3 The best place for the Black queen to stop the a6 idea and look for perpetual checks.

38.♖e5 [38.♖d8+ ♔h7 39.♖d7 ♖xa5 40.♖xb7 ♖e1+ 41.♔g2 ♖e4±]

38...♔h7 39.h4 ♖d3 40.♔g2 [40.♖f4 f6 (40...♔g8? 41.♖b8+ ♔h7 42.♖xb7 ♖d1+ 43.♔g2 ♖d5+ 44.♔h2 ♖f3 45.♖a6 ♖xf2+ 46.♔h3 Maybe the White king can escape from the checks.) 41.♖e3 ♖b5 42.♖a3 ♖b1+ 43.♔h2 ♖c2±]

40...♖c4 The very active Black king won't allow White to improve his position.

41.♔f3 ♖d3+ 42.♔g2 ♖c4 43.♖c7 ♖e4+ 44.♔g1 ♖e1+ 45.♔g2 ♖e4+ 46.♔g1 ♖e1+ 47.♔g2 ♖e4+ 1/2

Clash of the Titans

(17) Fischer, Robert James
— Rubinetti, Jorge Alberto [B87]

Palma de Mallorca Interzonal Palma de Mallorca (17),
02.12.1970

[Csaba Balogh]

A typical Sicilian crush by Fischer. The game shows the ideas of the 6. ♗c4 system against the Najdorf very well.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘f6 5.♗c3 e6
6.♗c4 Fischer liked to develop his bishop to c4 in almost
all the Sicilian variations.

6...a6 7.♗b3



7...b5 8.0–0 White's main idea in these structures with
the bishop on b3 is to put pressure against the e6 pawn.
The most direct way to do it is to play f4-f5, when Black is
forced to push e5, but this leaves him with a d5 hole dur-
ing the whole game.

8...♗b7 This most logical move is an inaccuracy. It leaves
the e6 pawn unprotected... [Theory rightly considers 8...
♗e7 to be the best. Most of the games continue with
9.♙f3 ♙c7 10.♙g3 0–0 11.♗h6 ♗e8 12.♖ad1 ♗d7 with
still hundreds of games, but it is given as fine for Black.]

9.♖e1 Fischer prepares the other idea of the ♗c4 system,
namely the piece sacrifice on d5 and f5.

9...♗bd7 [Black can't close the e-file and finish the de-
velopment with 9...♗e7 because the standard sacrifice
gives a huge attack for White. 10.♗xe6! fxe6 11.♗xe6
♙d7 12.♗xg7+ ♔f7 13.♗f5 White got 3 pawns for the
bishop, but the fact that the Black king is „naked” is more
important. ♗g5 is coming with power.]

10.♗g5 h6 11.♗h4 ♗c5?! Black would like to solve the
problems around the e6 square. With his last move, he
covers the e6 pawn and is ready to play ♗e7.. However,
another kind of problem is waiting for him now! [11...♗e7
is still bad because of the same reason. 12.♗xe6! fxe6
13.♗xe6 ♙c8 14.♗xg7+ ♔f7 15.♗f5+- with an enor-
mous attack.; 11...g5! is probably the only move to stay
in the game. 12.♗g3 ♗e5 and the game es in the data-
base were unclear. It's interesting that the machine rec-
ommends a novelty here: 13.♗xe6!? fxe6 14.♗xe6 and
gives this as more than enough compensation with the
idea ♗d5 nn the next move. I am not sure whether this
sacrifice is correct, but it's definitely a very exciting one.
14...♗e7 15.♗d5]



12. ♖d5!! This brilliant move confuses the development of the Black pieces. This kind of sacrifices are already standard motifs and come without thinking from a ♖c4 player, but of course, at that time, when the game was being played, Fischer had to find them over the board.

12...exd5 Too greedy decision, but the position is bad in any case. [12... ♖e7 13. ♖xb7 ♘xb7 14. ♘c6 ♙c7 15. ♘xe7 ♙xe7 16. ♘d5 exd5 17.exd5; 12... ♙c8 allows the destruction of the pawn structure. 13. ♖xf6 gxf6 14. ♙h5! Black has serious problems after this move. 14...b4 Black tries to kick out the d5 bishop, but suddenly another piece replaces it there. (The d5 bishop is still poisoned: 14...exd5 15.exd5+ ♙d8 16. ♙xf7 wins.)



15. ♖xb7 ♙xb7 16. ♘d5! Black will still get in trouble if he accepts the sacrifice. 16...exd5 17.exd5+ ♙d8 18. ♘c6+ ♙c7 19.a3!+- This is probably the strongest move, although ♙xf7 was also fine. Now the queenside is opening on the Black king.]

13.exd5+ ♙d7 The king's position might look more or less safe at first sight, but after a few moves all the lines will open against it. [13... ♖e7 loses on the spot after 14. ♖xf6 gxf6 15. ♘f5+-]

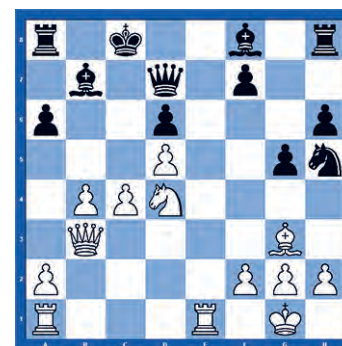
14.b4! ♘a4 There was no other square for the knight.

15. ♘xa4 bxa4 16.c4! White is threatening ♙xa4 and wants to open the position with c5!

16...♙c8 There is no shelter for the king...

17. ♙xa4 ♙d7 18. ♙b3 Obviously, White needs the queens on the board for an effective attack.

18...g5 19. ♖g3 ♘h5 Black would like to eliminate the attacking pieces. First the bishop, then the knight with ♖g7... However, the attack is rolling faster.



20.c5! dxc5 [20... ♘xg3 is met with the intermediate move 21.c6!+-]

21.bxc5 ♖xd5 This loses on the spot! [21...♙xd5 was the only critical continuation, but here the attack breaks through as well. 22.♔b6! The main threat is ♖e8 ♔xe8 ♔c7! 22...♔b7 (22...♘xg3 is refuted by 23.c6!+- and Black can't control the e8 and b7 squares with his queen.) 23.♔a5! ♘xg3 (23...♙g7 24.♘f5+- is over. ♘d6 next for example.) 24.c6! This is the most direct way to win, but hxg3 was also good. 24...♙xc6 25.♘xc6 ♔xc6 and Black must resign after 26.hxg3! because ♖c1 is coming next. (26.♖ac1?? immediately would have changed the final outcome because of the small tactical trick 26...♘e2+!)]

22.♖e8+ ♔d7 23.♔a4+! ♙c6 24.♘xc6! [Black resigned in view of 24.♘xc6 ♔xe8 (24...♔xc6 25.♖d1++-) 25.♖e1+ ♔d7 and here, for instance 26.♘a7+ ♔d8 27.♖e8#]

1-0

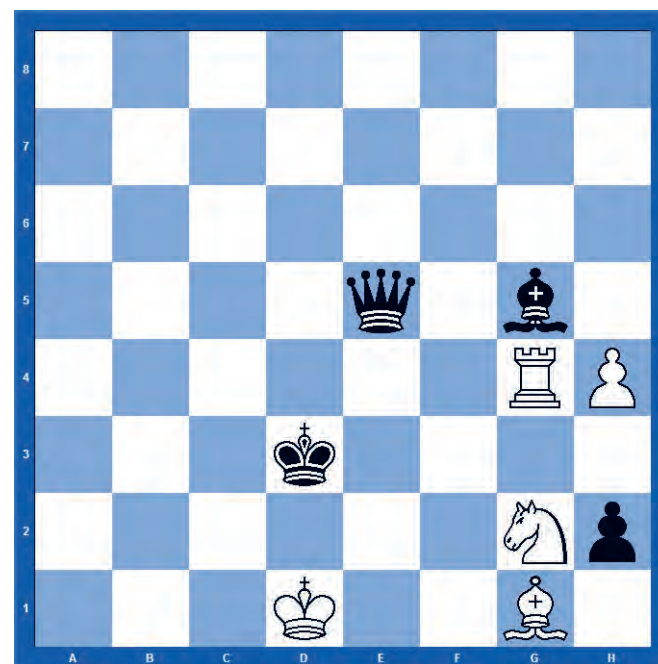
Surprise section / study

(18) Comay,O

1974

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(19) Muzychuk,M (2471) — Teran Alvarez,I (2399)

Gibraltar Open, 28.01.2013

[Solutions]



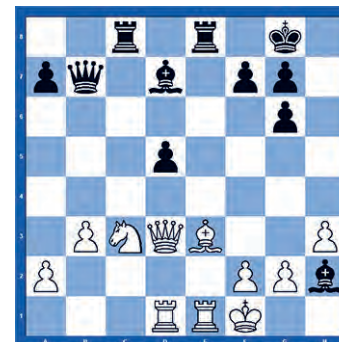
25. ♖xg7!! ♔xg7 26. ♖d3! ♜xe5 [26... ♕xd4 27. ♖xd4 ♜xd4 28. ♕g3+ ♔f8 29. ♕f3 ♔g7 30. ♕xb7+-; 26... ♖xd4 27. ♖g3+ ♔f8 28. ♕xf6+-]

27. ♕xe5 ♜d5 28. ♖g3+ ♔f8 29. ♕xf6 ♕xd4 30. ♕xh6++-

(20) Muzychuk,M (2471) — Vazquez Igarza,R (2566)

Gibraltar Open, 29.01.2013

[Solutions]



27... ♜xc3! 28. ♕xc3 ♔b5+ 29. ♖d3 [29. ♖e2 ♔xe2+ 30. ♔xe2 ♔e5 31. ♕c5 d4--]

29... ♕a6 [29... ♔e5 30. ♕d2 ♕a6 31. ♖d1 d4 32. ♔g5 f6 33. ♔h4 g5 34. ♔g3 ♔xg3 35. fxg3 ♜e3--]

30. ♖ed1 ♔e5! 31. ♕c2 d4 32. f4 [32. ♔c1 ♜c8--; 32. ♔g5 f6--]

32... ♜c8 33. ♕b1 ♜c3--+

(21) Omar,N (2314) – David,A (2599)

Gibraltar Open, 29.01.2013

[Solutions]



15.d5!! 1-0 [15.d5 ♘xd5 (15... ♕xd5 16. ♕xf5 exf5 17. ♕xb6 axb6 18. ♖xd5+-; 15... exd5 16.b5+-) 16.b5! ♘xc3 17. ♘xc3+-]

(22) Trent,L (2429) – Sutovsky,E (2684)

Gibraltar Open, 30.01.2013

[Solutions]



31...f2+!! 32. ♖xf2 [32. ♔h2 ♖xh4+ 33. ♔g3 ♖h1!-+; 32. ♔xf2? ♖f8]

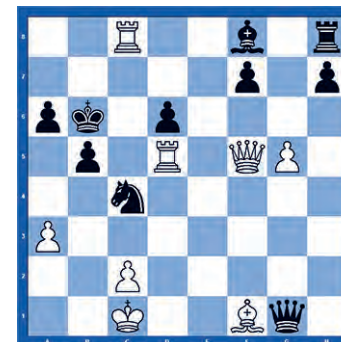
32...♖f8! [32... ♘xe5? 33. ♖f5+]

33. ♖e3 ♖e4! 34. ♖xh6 ♖xe5--+

(23) Shirov,A (2708) – Al Sayed,M (2507)

Gibraltar Open, 31.01.2013

[Solutions]



28...♕g7? [28... ♖e3+! 29. ♔b1 (29. ♔d1 ♘b2#) 29... ♕g7! 30. ♖xc4 ♖e1+ 31. ♔a2 ♖a1+ 32. ♔b3 ♖b2#]

29. ♖xc4! ♖e3+ 30. ♔d1! ♖e8 [30... bxc4 31. ♖xd6++-]

31. ♖xd6+ ♔a5 32. ♖a4+! 1-0 [32. ♖a4+ ♔xa4 33. ♖xa6#]

(24) Bartel,M (2629) – Womacka,M (2442)

Gibraltar Open, 31.01.2013

[Solutions]



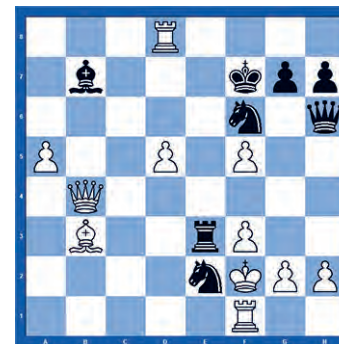
19. ♖xd4! ♜xd4 20. b3! ♚c7 [20... ♚c5 21. ♙e3!+-]

21. ♘xd4+-

(25) Khismatullin,D (2655) – Tsydypov,Z (2384)

Moscow Open, 02.02.2013

[Solutions]



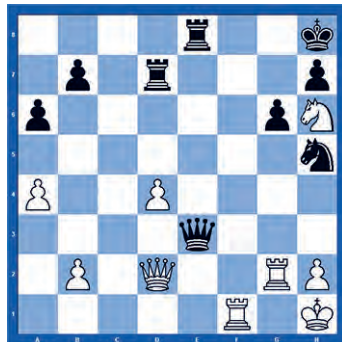
37... ♘e4+!! 38. ♚xe4 [38.fxe4 ♚f4+ 39. ♚e1 ♘d4+ 40. ♙d2 ♜f3+-+]

38... ♜xe4 39. d6+ ♚f6 40. ♜f8+ ♚g5! 41.fxe4 ♚xd6-- [41... ♚h4+ 42. ♚xe2 ♚xe4+-+]

(26) Nyzhnyk,I (2637) — Nyudleev,D (2372)

Moscow Open, 02.02.2013

[Solutions]



39. ♖f8+! 1-0 [39. ♖f8+ ♔g7 40. ♘f5+ ♔xf8 41. ♘xe3+-]

(27) Svane,R (2394) — Jones,G (2641)

German league, 02.02.2013

[Solutions]



28. ♖h7+!! ♔xh7 29. e5+! ♔g8 [29...f5 30. ♖h2+ ♔g8 31. e6 ♘e5 32. gxf5+-]

30. ♖h2! dxe5 31. ♙g6 [31. ♖h7+ ♔f8 32. ♙g6 ♖a7 33. ♘e4+-]

31... ♖a7 32. ♘e4 f5 33. ♖h7+ ♔f8 34. ♙xf7 ♖xf7 35. ♖h8+ ♔e7 36. ♖xe5+ ♔f8 37. ♖h8+ ♔e7 38. d6+ ♔d7 39. ♘xc5+ 1-0

(28) Smeets,J (2613) – Ftacnik,L (2547)

German league, 02.02.2013

[Solutions]



24. ♖c4!! ♔xe4 [24... ♕xc4 25. ♕xc4 ♖xc4 26. ♖b8+ ♕f8 27. ♕h6+-; 24... ♗xe4 25. d5! ♕a4 (25... ♕c7 26. ♕xe4+-) 26. ♗b6+-; 24... ♗a4 25. ♗xa5±]

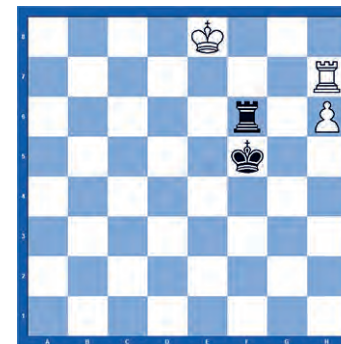
25. ♕xc3! ♔e6 [25... d5 26. ♗d2 ♖xc3 27. ♖b8+ ♕f8 28. ♗xe4 dxe4 29. ♕h6+-]

26. ♕d3! ♖xc4 27. ♕xc4! 1-0 [27. ♕xc4 ♕xc4 28. ♖b8+ ♕f8 29. ♕h6+-]

(29) Katsnelson,L

1973

[Solutions]



1. ♖f7! ♔g6! 2. h7! ♖a6 3. ♖f6+!! 1-0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Numéro 52

22 février 2013

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Préface de la rédaction

Avec ce numéro, la CEWN fête son premier anniversaire et nous avons un petit cadeau pour vous: si vous achetez un livre sur www.chess-evolution.com, vous obtiendrez gratuitement une seconde copie du même livre gratuitement ! N'oubliez pas de préciser votre numéro d'abonnement.

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Les Grenke Leasing Chess Classics ont été remportés par Vishy Anand, qui n'a pas montré des échecs spectaculaires, mais très pratiques. Fabiano Caruana a terminé deuxième, mais avec la chance qu'il a eu lors de ce tournoi, il méritait clai de gagner. :)

Le rapide Aeroflot a été remporté par Karjakin lors de la partie de mort subite contre Grischuk, que nous avons commentée pour vous cette semaine!

L'Open de Reykjavik vient de commencer et plusieurs très forts GM y participent : Vachier-Lagrave, Giri, Navara, Sokolov, etc etc.

Bonne lecture à toutes et à tous!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 meilleures parties de la semaine passée

(1) Shomoev,A (2557) – Ganguly,S (2626) [E94]

Aeroflot Open Rapid Qualifier 2013 Moscow RUS (7.15),
13.02.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Voici une autre superbe partie du rapide de l'Aeroflot. Nous allons voir une attaque très spectaculaire de Shomoev.

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 g6 3.e4 Les blancs choisissent normalement cet ordre de coups afin d'éviter la Gruenfeld.

3...d6 4.d4 ♙g7 5.♘f3 0-0 6.♙e2 e5 7.0-0 Nous sommes dans la ligne principale de l'Est-Indienne.

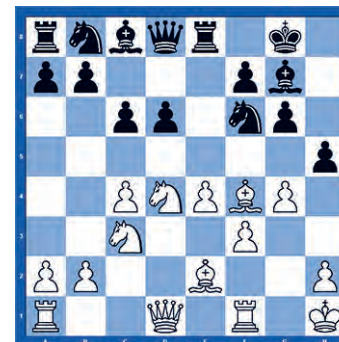
7...exd4 [7...♘c6 est l'autre ligne principale.]

8.♘xd4 ♖e8 9.f3 c6 10.♙h1 ♘h5 Ce coup a été introduit par l'expert de l'Est-Indienne, Radjabov. Il joue ces structures à merveille avec les noirs, mais cette ligne est très compliquée et les noirs doivent être prudents. [10...d5 est l'autre variante.]

11.g4 ♘f6 Il semblerait que les noirs aient simplement perdu un temps, mais cela n'est pas exactement le cas. Les blancs ont énormément affaibli leur aile roi, ce qui donne de bonnes chances de contre-attaque aux noirs.

12.♙f4 Les blancs commencent immédiatement à mettre la pression sur le pion d6, ce qui est très logique.

12...h5



13.♘f5!? Et l'action commence! [13.g5 ♘h7 14.♖g1 ♘a6 menerait à un jeu peu clair.]

13...gxf5 Les noirs sont obligés d'accepter le sacrifice.

14.gxf5 Voici la première position critique. Que faire avec les noirs maintenant. L'idée des blancs est simple: jouer ♖g1, peut-être suivi de ♙e1–h4 et doubler les tours sur la colonne g. Ça a l'air d'être un „plan lent“, mais ce n'est pas simple pour les noirs de faire quelque chose d'actif. La structure blanche e4–f5 est ultra solide.

14...♘bd7 Les noirs amènent leur cavalier de b8 vers e5. Une décision très logique. [Tenter d'agir immédiatement au centre ne menerait à rien: 14...d5 15.cxd5 cxd5 16.e5! Et les noirs n'ont déjà rien de mieux que de rendre la pièce: 16...♙xf5 17.exf6 ♙xf6 18.♘xd5 Avec une attaque de mat.]

15.♖g1 ♙h8 Les blancs ont maintenant le choix entre plusieurs continuations.

16.♙e1 Suivre son plan initial est normalement une bonne idée dans une partie rapide. [16.♙xd6; 16.♙xd6 Ces deux coups mèneraient à un jeu peu clair.]

16...♘e5? Les noirs n'auraient pas dû permettre à la dame blanche d'aller en h4. [16...♘h7! semble être le seul coup. 17.♖d1 Avec une forte attaque pour les blancs.]

17. ♔h4 Les blancs veulent jouer ♖xg7 suivi de ♖g1 et ♙g5. Il est très difficile de trouver une défense pour les noirs.

17... ♘h7 Mieux vaut tard que jamais, mais l'attaque blanche est complètement devastatrice maintenant.

18. ♔xh5 ♙e7 19. ♖g3! Un autre très fort coup! Les blancs ne menacent pas seulement de jouer ♖ag1, mais aussi ♖h3.

19... ♘d7 Sauvant le cavalier h7, mais pas la partie...

20. ♖ag1 ♘df6 21. ♔h4! Les blancs choisissent une très bonne case pour la dame et préparent déjà le sacrifice de dame.

21... ♘xe4 [Si les noirs continuaient de passivement défendre par 21... ♖g8 22. ♙g5! suivi de ♖h3 mettrait un terme à la partie sur-le-champ.]



22. ♔xh7+!! Quel superbe coup! Les blancs n'ont que deux pièces pour la dame, mais les noirs sont complètement paralysés...

22... ♙xh7 23. ♖xg7+ ♙h8 24. fxe4 La position blanche est complètement gagnante. Ils veulent maintenant jouer ♖7g5 suivi de ♖h5 mat!

24... ♙xf5! La seule chance pratique des noirs.

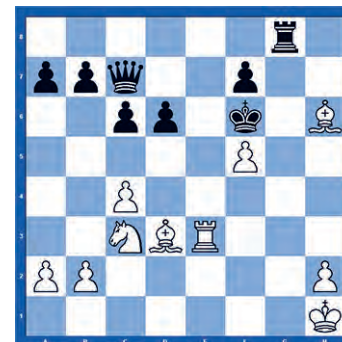
25. exf5 ♖g8 Il y a toujours beaucoup de tension dans la partie. Les blancs doivent continuer de jouer de manière dynamique.

26. ♖7g3?! Pas le meilleur coup... [26. ♙g5! aurait été le bon choix tactique. 26... ♙e5 27. ♖xf7 Et les noirs ne peuvent pas empêcher ♙f6.]

26... ♖xg3 27. ♖xg3 ♖g8 Les noirs se sentent un peu plus à l'abri après l'échange d'une paire de tours, mais leur position reste assez mauvaise.

28. ♖h3+ ♙g7 29. ♙h6+ ♙f6 30. ♖e3 Les blancs entendent mater le roi noir, ce qui est bien sur la bonne chose à faire.

30... ♙c7 31. ♙d3 Un coup humain, mais les noirs ont maintenant un extraordinaire moyen de s'échapper! [31. ♙e4+ donnerait une attaque de mat aux blancs, même si cette position est bien sûr difficile à jouer lors d'une partie rapide.]



31... ♙b6! Un bon coup. Les noirs attaquent la tour e3 et le pion b2.

32. ♖e4+ ♔xf5? Les noirs rentrent dans un reseau de mat. [32... ♔e7! etait le bon coup. Les blancs ont l'air „d'avoir quelque chose”, mais ce quelque chose n'est en fait peut-etre rien. 33. ♖e1 ♔d8 Le roi noir est enfin a l'abri. La position n'est pas claire.]

33. ♖g3+! ♔g4 **34.** ♕f5+ ♔h4 **35.** ♖e4+ Quelle fantastique position de mat!! :)

1-0

(2) Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar (2766) – Le,Quang Liem (2705) [D47]

Aeroflot Open Rapid Final Moscow RUS (1.2), 16.02.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

Voici une superbe partie d'attaque de la part de Mamedyarov.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3. ♖c3 ♖f6 **4.e3 e6 5.** ♖f3 ♖bd7 La position de depart de la variante Meran. Recemment 6. ♔c2 etait le coup le plus populaire, mais la grande ligne principale 6. ♕d3 est en train de revenir a la mode.

6. ♕d3 dxc4 **7.** ♕xc4 b5 **8.** ♕d3 Les noirs ont plusieurs choix ici et Le Quang decide de jouer une continuation tres tranchante.

8... ♕b7 **9.e4** Les blancs ont construit un joli centre et les noirs vont etre obliges de se battre contre celui-ci lors des prochains coups.

9...b4 10. ♖a4 c5 Les noirs ont reussi a attaquer les pions centraux. Nous n'en sommes qu'au debut de la theorie.

11.e5 ♖d5 **12.0-0 cxd4 13.** ♖xd4!? Une alternative tres tranchante a la ligne principale 13. ♖e1. Ce coup implique un sacrifice de pion, qui aurait du etre accepte si les noirs voulaient tester la ligne. [13. ♖e1 g6 est possible. Le Quang a sans doute confondu la partie avec cette ligne.]

13...g6? Les noirs vont payer cher ce coup qui a pourtant l'air tres logique. [13... ♖xe5 est le coup critique. 14. ♕b5+ ♖d7 15. ♖e1 Toutes les pieces blanches sont dirigees contre le roi noir. 15... ♖c8! Il fallait empecher ♖c6. La position noire semble tres douteuse, mais ils arrivent a tout tenir. La partie de haut niveau la plus recente avait

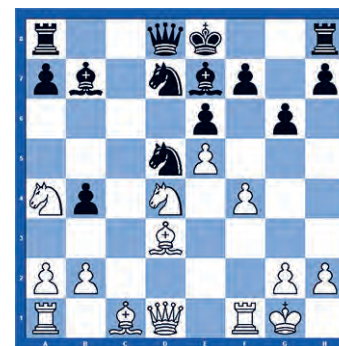
continue par 16.b3 (16.♔h5 g6 17.♔e5 ♔f6 est la ligne principale qui est considérée comme acceptable pour les noirs.) 16...♙e7



17.♖xe6! Les noirs semblent être en difficulté, mais s'ils arrivent à garder leur sang froid ils devraient s'en sortir. 17...0-0! (17...fxe6? perd après 18.♘xe6 ♔a5 19.♘g7+ ♔d8 (19...♔f8 20.♙xd7 Avec une attaque gagnante.) 20.♘e6+ ♔e8 21.♔h5# Quel joli mat.) 18.♘c6 ♙xc6 19.♖xc6 Les blancs ont la paire de fous, mais leur cavalier en a4 est déplacé. La partie a continué par 19...♘c7 20.♙f1 ♘e5 21.♔xd8 ♖fd8 22.♖c2 ♘d5 23.♖xc8 ♖xc8 24.♙b2 Avec un petit avantage pour les blancs, mais les noirs ont réussi à annuler sans trop de problèmes dans Riazantsev-Ragger, Plovdiv 2012]

14.f4! ♙e7? Ceci est sans doute l'erreur décisive. Les blancs lancent une attaque décisive avec de nombreux sacrifices. [14...a6 avait été joué dans une autre partie de Mamedyarov et il avait gagné dans un style similaire: 15.f5!! ♔h4 (15...♘xe5 16.fxe6 L'ouverture des lignes sera fatale au roi noir.; 15...gxf5 perd après 16.♘xe6! fxe6 17.♔h5+ Cet échec est la principale idée derrière le sacrifice f5. 17...♔e7 18.♙g5+-) 16.fxe6 ♔xd4+ 17.♔h1 0-0-0

(17...fxe6 perd la dame après 18.♙xg6+-) 18.exd7+ ♔b8 19.♙xa6 ♔xe5 (19...♔xd1 20.♖xd1 ♙xa6 21.♖xd5 est aussi complètement gagnant pour les blancs.) 20.♖e1+- Les noirs ont abandonné quelques coups plus tard dans Mamedyarov-Nepomniachtchi, Dagomys 2008.; Il est très bizarre qu'aucune partie n'ait continué avec l'idée normale de g6. 14...♙g7 Les noirs semblent obtenir une position complètement jouable. 15.♙d2 (15.f5? ne marche pas à cause de 15...exf5 et après e6 le cavalier d4 est en prise sur échec.) 15...0-0 16.♔e2 ♔e7 Avec des chances de part et d'autre.]



15.f5!! Les blancs lancent une attaque dévastatrice.

15...exf5 [15...♘xe5 perd après 16.♙b5+! suivi de fxe6.; 15...gxf5 perd de manière similaire à la ligne 14...a6: 16.♘xe6! fxe6 17.♔h5+ ♔f8 18.♙h6+ ♔g8 19.♙xf5! exf5 20.♔xf5 Les noirs ne peuvent pas parer tous les échecs sur les cases blanches.]

16.e6! Les blancs doivent ouvrir toutes les lignes et diagonales devant le roi noir.

16...♘7f6 [16...fxe6 17.♘xe6 ♔a5 18.♙xf5! est aussi horrible pour les noirs comme ils ne peuvent pas roquer à cause du cavalier e6. 18...gxf5? 19.♔h5#]

17. ♖b5+ ♔f8



18. ♘xf5! [Commencer par 18. ♖h6+! ♔g8 19. ♘xf5! était sans doute légèrement plus précis. 19...fxe6 (19...gxf5 transpose vers la partie.) 20. ♔e2 gagne de manière élégante.(20. ♘xe7+ ♔xe7 21. ♔d4 Cette position est aussi gagnante grâce à la domination des pièces blanches.)]

18...gxf5 [18...fxe6 était plus tenace, mais la position noire reste très désagréable. 19. ♘xe7 ♔xe7 20. ♖h6+ ♔f7 21. ♔d4+- suivi de ♖g5 et du doublement des tours sur la colonne f.]

19. ♖h6+ ♔g8 20. ♘xf5 Les noirs ne peuvent pas empêcher ♘g5! La fin est proche.

20...fxe6 21. ♘g5+ ♔f7 22. ♘g7+ ♔f8 Il est bizarre que les blancs n'aient pas de gain direct dans cette position, mais ils peuvent simplement activer leur dame et tour et la position noire va automatiquement tomber en pièces.



23. ♔f3 [23. ♔d3 était sans doute le coup le plus précis, avec l'idée de ♔xh7 ♔g8 et ♔g6 mat, mais le coup du texte est aussi très fort.]

23... ♔d6 24. ♔f1 ♖c6 25. ♔h5! 1-0

(3) Anand,Viswanathan (2780) – Fridman,Daniel (2667) [C42]

1st GRENKE Chess Classic

Baden-Baden GER (9.1), 16.02.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

Il y a quelques semaines, nous avons analysé la fantastique victoire d'Anand contre Aronian. Voici une autre partie où le Champion du Monde n'a pas dû faire un seul coup sur l'échiquier, seulement dérouler sa préparation.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 Fridman avait déjà joué la Petroff à deux reprises lors de ce tournoi et Anand pouvait donc s'attendre à cette ouverture.

3.♘xe5 d6 4.♘f3 ♘xe4 5.d4 La ligne principale. Récemment 5.♘c3 était devenu bien plus populaire.

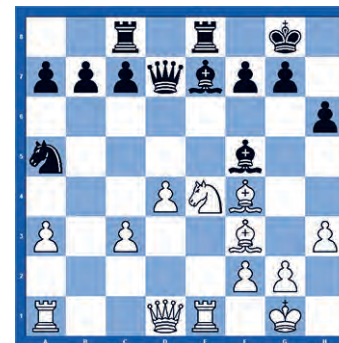
5...d5 6.♙d3 ♘c6 7.0-0 ♙e7 Les noirs ont aussi le choix entre différents systèmes, mais depuis que Kramnik a commencé à jouer celui-ci en 2004, de nombreux forts joueurs l'ont imité. Anand lui-même l'a joué quelques fois et Fridman a une douzaine de parties dans cette ligne.



8.c4 ♘b4 9.♙e2 0-0 10.♘c3 ♙f5 11.a3 ♘xc3 12.bxc3 ♘c6 13.♖e1 ♖e8 14.cxd5 ♗xd5 15.♙f4 ♖ac8 Voici ce qui est considérée la position initiale de cette ligne. Des centaines de parties ont été jouées ici, mais la théorie dit que les noirs sont ok. Anand choisit le coup le plus joué.

16.h3 h6 17.♘d2 ♘a5 18.♙f3 Shirov a employé ce coup à deux reprises, mais il n'a pas réussi à obtenir d'avantage.

18...♗d7 19.♘e4 [19.♘b3 était moins dangereux. 19...♘xb3 20.♗xb3 b6 Les noirs ont égalisé dans Shirov-So 2000.]



19...♖cd8 Nous suivons pour le moment la partie Akopian-Kasimdzhanov de 2009, ce qui est intéressant comme Kasimdzhanov est l'un des principaux seconds d'Anand, mais il a aussi été l'entraîneur de l'équipe d'Allemagne en 2009, quand ils ont gagné le Championnat d'Europe par équipes.

20.♖a2! Voilà la nouveauté. Il serait intéressant de savoir qui l'a trouvée, mais cela restera le secret de l'équipe d'Anand. [Akopian avait joué 20.♘g3 ♙g6 21.♙h5 mais les noirs avaient facilement égalisé après 21...♙d6 22.♙xd6 ♖xe1+ 23.♗xe1 cxd6 24.♙xg6 fxg6=]

20...b6 est un coup normal dans cette ligne. Les noirs ont une structure tres stable a l'aile dame, tandis que le pion a3 pourrait etre une cible au long terme.

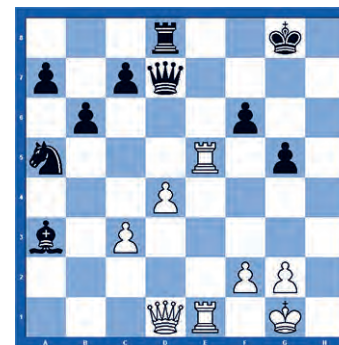
21. ♖ae2! ♙xa3 Fridman croque le pion empoisonne. Il aurait du se douter que le Champion du Monde avait prepare une replique venimeuse. [21... ♙f8 semble etre une alternative plus solide. Il n'est pas claire comment les blancs veulent se battre pour l'avantage ici, mais Anand avait sans doute quelques idees. 22. ♘g3 (22. ♙xh6 se heurte a 22... ♙xe4) 22... ♙g6 23. ♙g4 ♖c6 Les noirs semblent etre ok.]



22. ♙g4!! Il est facile de loucher ce coup dans ses calculs. Les blancs ont soudain plusieurs menaces tactiques, la principale etant liee a ♘f6.

22... ♖f8? Fridman quitte le clouage, mais ce coup mene a une mauvaise position. [L'idee est qu'apres 22... ♙xg4 23. ♘f6+!! gagne du materiel de maniere forcee. 23... gxf6 24. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 25. ♙xg4+! Cet echec intermediaire gagne la tour. 25... ♙xg4 26. ♖xe8+-; Mais apres le coup de l'ordinateur, 22... ♙e6!! les noirs semblent tenir, meme s'il serait tres difficile de trouver tous les coups suivants durant la partie. 23. ♙xh6 Le coup critique. 23... ♙xg4! (23...

f5 mene a une mauvaise position. 24. ♙g5 fxf6 25. ♙xd8 ♖xd8 26. hxg4 Le materiel est plus ou moins egal, mais le roi noir est trop expose et les pieces blanches ne vont pas tarder a l'attaquer.) 24. hxg4 (La grande difference par rapport a 22... ♙xg4 est que le fou est en h6 et donc en prise apres 24. ♘f6+ gxf6 25. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 26. ♙xg4+ (Les blancs doivent jouer 26. ♖xe8+! ♙h7 et la partie n'est pas claire.) 26... ♙xg4 27. ♖xe8+ ♙h7 28. hxg4 ♙xh6) 24... ♖xe4 25. ♖xe4 gxf6 Les blancs doivent agir rapidement, sinon les noirs vont consolider leur position par ♙f8. Les blancs peuvent forcer la nulle ici, ce qui est peut-etre la meilleure solution dans cette position: 26. g5 (26. ♙d2 ♙f8 27. g5 ♘c4 28. ♙f4 ♘d6) 26... hxg5 27. ♖e5 f6



Après la petite combinaison 28. ♖xa5! bxa5 29. ♙b3+ ♙g7 30. ♙xa3 ♖e8= La partie est complètement nulle.]

23. ♙xf5 ♖xf5 24. ♙xc7 Les blancs restaure l'egalite materielle, mais ce qui est plus important, c'est que leurs pieces continuent de dominer.

24... ♖d7 [24... ♖c8 perd une qualite apres 25. ♙d6!+-]

25. ♙e5 f6 Les noirs devaient bloquer le fou, mais maintenant les blancs peuvent profiter du malheureux placement du fou a3 et de la tour d7.

26. ♖g3! ♜e6 [26... ♜g6 se heurte a 27. ♜a4! avec double attaque.]

27. ♜a4! Les noirs vont maintenant perdre du materiel!

27... ♘c4? Une erreur, mais la position noire etait deja critique. [27... fxe5 28. ♜xe5 ♜d6 (28... ♜f7 29. ♜f5! etait l'idee! Les noirs ne peuvent pas proteger les pieces en d7 et a3. Ils vont au moins se retrouver avec un pion de moins.) 29. ♘e4+-]



28. ♘d6!! Un tres joli coup, mais ce n'etait pas le seul coup gagnant.

28... b5 [L'idee est qu'apres 28... ♜xd6 29. ♜xc4+ ♜h8 les blancs ont differents moyens de gagner le fou a3. Par exemple: 30. ♜b3 suivi de ♜e6 ou ♜a1. Le fou va tomber.]

29. ♜xe6 bxa4 30. ♘xf8 Les blancs une qualite de plus et une position gagnante. Le reste n'est plus qu'une question de technique.

30... ♜xf8 [30... ♘xf8 31. ♜c6! Le dernier coup cle afin de chasser le fort cavalier c4.]

31. ♜a1 ♘b2 32. ♜xa4 ♘b6 33. ♜a6 [Le gain le plus elegant etait: 33. ♜xb6! axb6 34. ♘e2! Le fou en b2 est piege! 34... ♜e7 35. ♜f1+- Suivi de ♜a2.]

33... ♘xc3 34. ♘f5 ♘b4 [34... ♘xd4 35. ♘xd4 ♜xd4 36. ♜xa7+- Les noirs n'ont pas la moindre chance dans cette finale.]

35. ♜e2 Le reste es t facile. Anand va seulement ameliorer ses pieces et la position sera automatiquement gagnante.

35... ♜f7 36. ♜ea2 ♘c8 37. g4! Un fort coup positionnel afin de fixer les pions a l'aile roi. La prochaine etape pourrait etre d'activer le roi. Les noirs decident de simplifier la position, mais cela ne va pas changer le resultat de la partie.

37... g6 38. ♘xh6+ ♜g7 39. g5 fxg5 40. ♘g4 ♜xd4 41. ♜c2 ♘e7 42. ♜xa7 ♘d6 43. ♜g2 ♜f7 44. ♜e2 ♘b4 45. ♜e5 ♘d6 46. ♜xg5 ♜e6 47. ♜a6 Une preparation impressionnante et une tres bonne technique afin de convertir la position gagnante.

1-0

(4) Karjakin,Sergey (2786)
– Grischuk,Alexander (2764) [C65]

Aeroflot Open Rapid Final Moscow RUS (4.3), 17.02.2013
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Voici la partie de mort subite de la finale du rapide de l'Aeroflot, ou deux des meilleurs joueurs de rapide se sont affrontés. Les deux premières parties s'étant achevées par la nulle, cette partie devait désigner le vainqueur. Les blancs ont 5 minutes contre 4 pour les noirs, mais les blancs doivent gagner.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 Tout comme dans la partie précédente, Grischuk choisit la Berlinoise, qui est considérée comme un choix très solide.

4.d3 L'un des deux lignes principales, l'autre étant 4.0–0 ♘xe4 5.d4, menant vers une finale.

4...♙c5 5.c3 [5.0–0 ♘d4 ne semble pas donner d'avantage aux blancs.]

5...0–0 6.0–0 d6 7.h3 Le coup à la mode.

7...a6 [7...♘e7 a été joué à plusieurs reprises récemment.]

8.♙xc6 bxc6 9.d4 Ceci est bien sûr toujours de la théorie. Les idées des deux camps sont simples: les blancs ont donné la paire de fous afin de contrôler le centre et avoir la meilleure structure et les noirs espèrent que la position va s'ouvrir afin d'utiliser leur paire de fous.

9...♙b6 10.♖e1 h6 11.♙c2 ♖e8 12.♘bd2 Les blancs sont prêts à jouer ♘c4 au prochain coup suivi de ♘xb6, avec une position plus agréable. Les noirs doivent agir rapidement.

12...exd4 13.cxd4 c5 La réaction de Grischuk a l'air un peu bizarre à première vue, mais la position va devenir assez dynamique. Si les blancs n'arrivent pas à maintenir leur centre, la partie pourrait rapidement s'achever par la nulle.

14.d5 La bonne réaction. [Le tentant 14.♘c4?! donnerait du très bon jeu aux noirs après 14...d5! Un coup typique dans ce genre de position.]

14...c6! Les noirs n'ont pas de temps à perdre. Les blancs voulaient jouer ♘c4.

15.dxc6 ♙c7



18.e5! Voilà exactement comment les blancs doivent jouer ici! Leurs cavaliers vont dominer tout le centre.

18...dxe5 19.♘xe5 ♔c7 20.♘dc4 ♖e6 21.♖ad1 ♕e7 Même si la position blanche a l'air très prometteuse, il est difficile de trouver un moyen direct de percer la défense noire et il ne faut pas oublier que c'est une partie de blitz!

22.♘e3 [22.♕c3!? avec l'idée ♕a5 aurait pu être très désagréable pour les noirs.]

22...♕b7 23.♘f5 ♕f8 La position blanche a l'air superbe, mais la bonne évaluation de la position est qu'elle n'est en fait peut-être qu'égalitaire! Les noirs défendent bien le pion g7 et la paire de fous leur donne toujours beaucoup de contre-jeu. Ils veulent maintenant jouer ♖ae8.



24.♘g4 Il est difficile de conseiller un meilleur coup aux blancs.

24...♘xg4 25.hxg4 ♖ae8 26.♖xe6 ♖xe6 27.♔c3 Les blancs sont toujours mieux et les noirs doivent continuer de jouer avec précision!

27...♖g6 Un coup logique, mais dangereux. [27...f6 28.♔c4 ♕f7 était un moyen plus solide de jouer.]

28.f3 Fermer la diagonale du fou et protéger le pion g4 ne peut pas être une mauvaise idée.

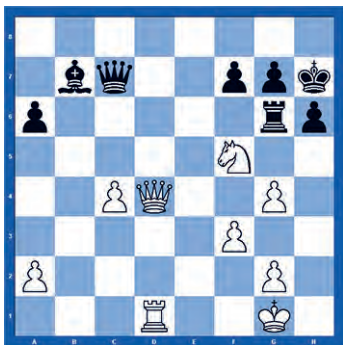
28...♔h7? Ce coup qui a l'air très naturel est en fait une sérieuse erreur.

29.♔d3! Il est étonnant de voir comment Karjakin trouve des coups si difficiles lors d'une partie de blitz. Il veut jouer ♘h4 au prochain coup et les noirs ne peuvent pas l'en empêcher.

29...c4 Grischuk tente de compliquer la position, une bonne décision! [29...♔g8 30.♕d8! Et la partie est simplement finie.]

30.bxc4 ♕c5+ 31.♕d4 [31.♔h1 était une autre bonne option, mais ce coup a l'air un peu dangereux avec si peu de temps à la pendule...]

31...♕xd4+ 32.♕xd4



32...h5! Superbement joué par Grischuk, qui cherche des chances dans une position déjà perdante.

33.gxh5 ♖g5 34.♕d3 [34.♘d6 ♖xh5 35.♖e1 Les blancs ont un pion de plus et la combinaison dame+cavalier leur donne de bonnes chances d'attaque.]

34... ♔c5+ 35. ♘e3+ f5 36. ♔d4! Tres solide...

36... ♔c6 37. ♘d5 ♔h6 Grischuk trouve toujours un moyen de se battre alors que sa position semblait sans espoir!

38. ♖b1 ♙xd5 39. cxd5 ♔xh5 40. ♔d3 ♔h3 41. ♖b2 Les deux joueurs n'avaient plus que quelques secondes a la pendule et la partie est devenue tres chaotique...

41... ♔g3 42. ♖e2 ♖h5 43. d6! Si vous ne savez pas quoi faire, poussez votre pion! :)

43... ♔h2+ 44. ♔f2 ♔h4+ 45. ♔e3! Les blancs n'ont peur de rien avec seulement quelques secondes a la pendule.

45... ♖h6 46. ♔xf5+ ♔h8 Nous allons maintenant voir une superbe technique de la part de Karjakin. Elle s'appelle: pour gagner au temps, il faut simplement jouer plus vite!

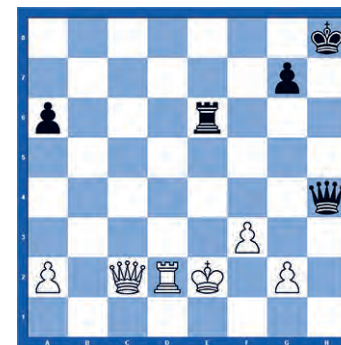
47. ♔f8+ [Objectivement 47.d7 semble mettre un terme a la partie.]

47... ♔h7 48. ♔f5+ ♔h8 Une repetition.

49. ♔c8+ ♔h7 50. ♔c2+ ♔h8 Deux autres coups.

51. ♖d2 Un coup quelconque.

51... ♖e6+ 52. ♔d3 ♖xd6+ 53. ♔e2 ♖e6+



54. ♔e4! Les blancs ne veulent bien sur pas de la nulle et les noirs vont perdre au moins une seconde pour prendre la dame.

54... ♖xe4+ 55. fxe4 Et les blancs gagnent au temps avec seulement 2 secondes a la pendule! Quelle partie... Et quel superbe niveau pour une partie de blitz!

1-0

Section de puzzles

(5) Meier,G (2640) — Caruana,F (2757)

Baden-Baden, 13.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

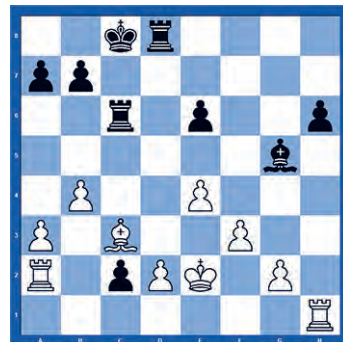


(6) Kostin,K (2310) — Sasikiran,K (2677)

Aeroflot Open (rapid), 12.02.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

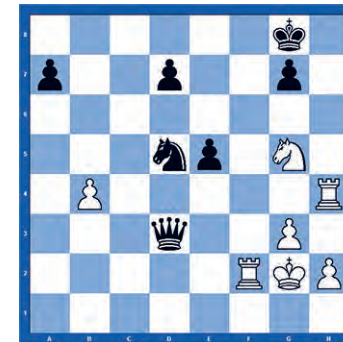


(7) Tregubov,P (2611) — Sasikiran,K (2677)

Aeroflot Open (rapid), 12.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

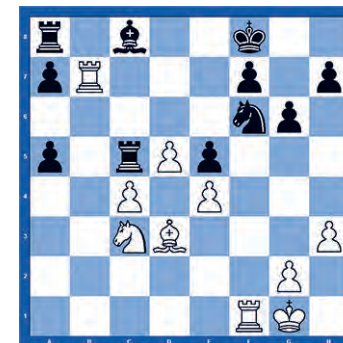


(8) Korobov,A (2702) — Evdokimov,A (2558)

Aeroflot Open (rapid), 12.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

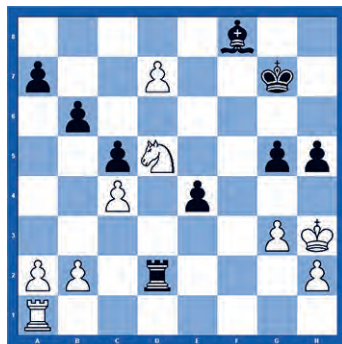


(9) Vorobiov,E (2584) – Shimanov,A (2640)

Aeroflot Open (rapid), 13.02.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



(10) Shimanov,A (2640) – Grischuk,A (2764)

Aeroflot Open (rapid), 16.02.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

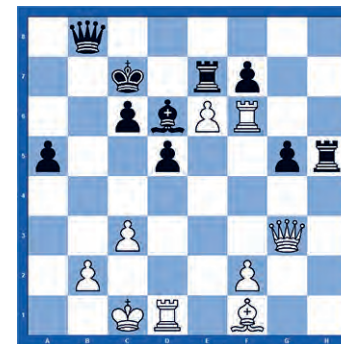


(11) Nepomniachtchi,I (2703) – Karpov,A (2616)

Aeroflot Open (rapid), 16.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

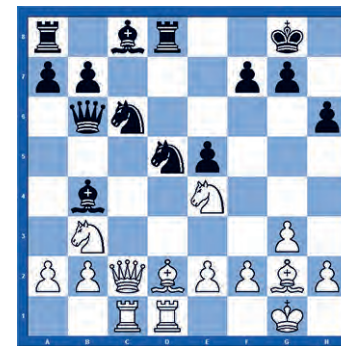


(12) Wojtaszek,R (2710) – Ulibin,M (2521)

Petrov memorial (rapid), 15.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. ±

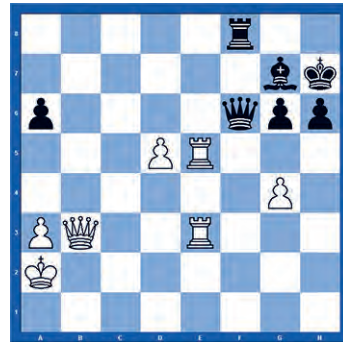


(13) Kurnosov,I (2649) – Wojtaszek,R (2710)

Petrov memorial (rapid), 16.02.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

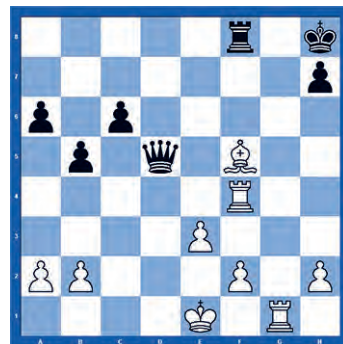


(14) Olafsson,H (2547) – Tan Zhongyi (2466)

Iceland-China Friendly (rapid), 17.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

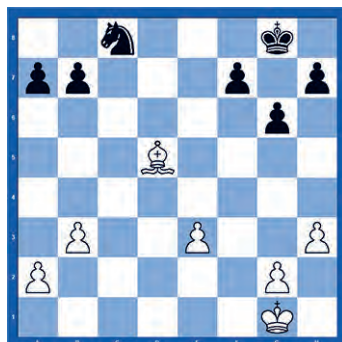


Section des finales

(15) Lintchevski, Daniil (2528)
— Kamsky, Gata (2740) [D11]

Aeroflot Open Rapid KO Moscow RUS (1.1), 15.02.2013

[Chess Evolution]



28.fxe3 b6 Les noirs n'étaient pas obligés de se dépêcher avec ce coup, ils pouvaient aussi tenter de provoquer le pion e a avancer plus loin et ainsi le rendre plus faible. [28...d6 29.e4 b6 30.gf2 gf8 31.e3 (31.e5 b5 32.c4 d4 33.e3 c6 34.e4 (34.e6 f6 Et le pion en e6 est faible.) 34...b4 35.a3 c2 36.a4 e7 Les blancs ne peuvent pas jouer d5-c6 a cause de b4+. Ils pourraient aussi tenter de passer par c4-b5, mais le pion e5 pourrait alors être faible.) 31...f6 32.d4 b5+ 33.c4 c7 Avec le cavalier en c7 et le roi en d6, les noirs devraient facilement tenir la nulle.]

29.gf2 d7 30.b7 g7 31.f3 f6 32.e4 e6
Les deux camps améliorent leur roi.

33.b4 d6 34.a6 f5+ 35.d4 c6+ 36.c4 e5+ 37.d4 c6+ 38.c4 Il faut dire que c'est une partie rapide au système éliminatoire, voilà pourquoi Kamsky voulait jouer cette position ou objectivement seuls les blancs ont des chances de gain.

38...d8 39.c8 h6 Le début d'un mauvais plan. Ce n'est pas une bonne idée d'avancer les pions comme ils seront plus simples à attaquer. [39...c7 40.a6 d6 Une fois de plus Gata refuse de répéter les coups.]

40.a3 c7 41.a6 c6 [41...d6 est sans doute plus précis.]

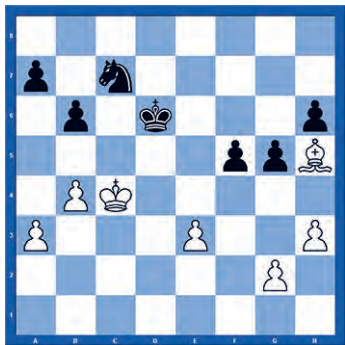
42.b5+ d6 43.e8 g5 Avec les pions en h6-g5, le roi blanc va sans doute se diriger vers l'aile roi.

44.b5 [44.g6 f4 45.exf4 gxf4 46.d4 (46.b5 c7 47.a6 b8) 46...c6+ 47.e4 e5 Et les noirs sont juste à temps avec leur contre-jeu. 48.e8 c4 49.a4 e3 50.xf4 xg2+ 51.f5 e7 52.c6 h4+ 53.g4 g6 54.h5 f4±]

44...e6 45.h5 [45.a6? c7+ 46.xa7 xe8 47.xb6 c7 48.b5 d5+ 49.b7 c5-+]

45...c7+ 46.c4 e5 47.f3 d6 48.h5 [48.g4 e5 49.gxf5 xxf5 50.a4 e5 Les noirs doivent garder leur cavalier en c7 et le roi en e5/d6 et par rapport à la partie, ils n'auront pas de faiblesse à a6 et ils devraient facilement faire nulle.]

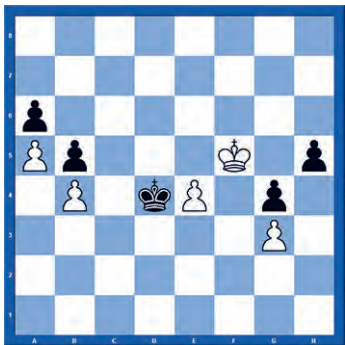
48...d5 49.d4 c7 50.c4



50...a6 Je n'aime pas du tout ce coup. Le pion en a6 sera très faible.

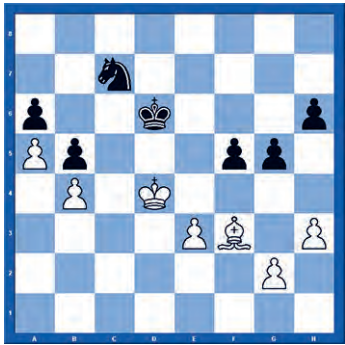
51. ♖f3 ♔e5 52.a4 Les blancs vont jouer a5 pour obtenir la case c5 pour le roi.

52...♔d6 53.a5 b5+ Ce coup est sans doute meilleur que de prendre en a5, comme les noirs ont maintenant l'idée de créer du contre-jeu contre le pion b4. [53...g4 était intéressant, avec l'idée de réduire le matériel et de créer un pion passe h. 54.hxg4 fxg4 55. ♖b7 (55. ♖xg4 ♘d5 56. ♖f3 b5+ 57. ♖b3 ♘xe3 58. ♖b7 h5 59. ♖xa6 ♔c6 60.g3 ♘f5 61. ♖c3 ♘xg3 Les blancs n'ont pas assez de temps pour mettre le fou sur la diagonale h1-a8 et le roi en c5. 62. ♖d3 h4 63. ♖c8 ♘h5 64. ♖d4 ♘f4 65. ♖g4 ♖d6 66. ♖f3 ♘e6±) 55...b5+ 56. ♖d4 h5 57.g3 (57. ♖e4 h4 58. ♖f4 h3 59.gxh3 gxh3 60. ♖g3 ♘d5=) 57...♘e6+ 58. ♖e4 ♘c7 59. ♖f5 ♘d5 60. ♖xd5 (60. ♖xa6 h4 61. ♖xg4 hxg3 62. ♖xg3 ♘xe3 63. ♖b7 ♖c7 64. ♖e4 ♘d1 65. ♖c2 ♘c3 66. ♖b3 Les blancs ont réussi à contrôler les cases a2 et d5, mais le cavalier va aller en c6. 66...♘e2+ 67. ♖f2 ♘d4=) 60...♖xd5 61.e4+ ♖d4]



62. ♖f4 Ce genre de coup n'est pas toujours simple à voir. 62...♖c4 63. ♖g5 ♖xb4 64.e5 h4 65. ♖xh4 ♖c5 66. ♖g5 b4 67.e6 ♖d6 68. ♖f6 b3 69.e7 b2 70.e8 ♖b1 ♖71. ♖d8+ ♖c5 72. ♖c8+ ♖d4 est le seul moyen d'éviter l'échange ♖c8-♖f5, mais maintenant les blancs vont simplement prendre le pion a et ils auront de bonnes chances de gain. 73. ♖xa6±]

54. ♖d4



54...♘e6+?! Une imprecision, mais la position était déjà compliquée pour les noirs. [54...f4 55.exf4 (55. ♖b7 fxe3 56. ♖xe3 ♘d5+ 57. ♖xd5 ♖xd5=) 55...♘e6+ 56. ♖e4 ♘xf4 57. ♖f5 ♘d3 58. ♖g6 ♘xb4 59. ♖xh6 ♘d5 60. ♖xg5 b4 61.h4 b3 62. ♖e4 b2 Et maintenant le plan gagnant est de

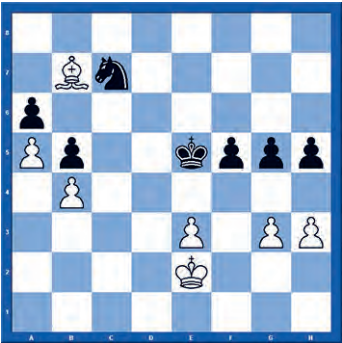
mettre le roi en h6 et d'aller a dame avec le pion g. 63.g4 (63.h5 ♖e7 Les noirs sont a temps pour arreter le pion.) 63...♘c3 64.♙c2 ♖e7 65.♙h6+-; 54...h5! Un fantastique coup et le seul moyen de survivre! Les noirs empechent g4 et si les blancs prennent le pion, alors ils obtiendront du contre-jeu apres ♘d5. 55.♙b7 (55.♙xh5 ♘d5 56.♙g6 ♘xb4 57.♙xf5 ♘c6+ 58.♙c3 ♘xa5 59.♙c8 ♘c4 60.♙xa6 ♘xe3=; 55.g3 ♘e6+ 56.♙d3 ♘c7 57.♙xh5 ♘d5 58.h4 gxh4 59.gxh4 ♘xb4+ 60.♙c3 ♘c6 61.♙f3 ♘xa5 62.h5 ♙e7=) 55...♘e6+ 56.♙d3 ♘c7 Et les noirs continuent de se battre.]

55.♙d3 ♙e5 [55...f4 56.♙b7 fxe3 57.♙xe3 ♘f4 58.♙d4 ♘e2+ 59.♙e4±; 55...♘c7 56.g4 fxg4 57.hxg4 ♙e5 58.♙b7±]

56.♙b7 ♘c7 57.♙e2? Une grande erreur. Les blancs loupent de bonnes chances de gain apres [57.g4! Un coup tres important avec l'idee d'obtenir la case e4 pour le roi. 57...fxg4 (57...f4 58.exf4+ gxh4 (58...♙xf4 59.♙d4+-) 59.h4 ♘d5 60.♙xd5 ♙xd5 61.♙e2! Un bon coup. Les blancs vont facilement gagner apres ♙f3. 61...♙e6 62.♙f3 ♙e5 63.h5+-) 58.hxg4 Le roi blanc va penetrer sur l'un des deux cotes. 58...♘d5 59.♙xd5 ♙xd5 60.e4+ ♙e5 61.♙e3 ♙f6 62.♙d4 ♙g6 63.e5 h5 64.gxh5+ ♙xh5 65.e6 ♙g6 66.♙d5+-]

57...h5 Un important coup que Kamsky avait loupe quelques coups plus tot.

58.g3



58...h4? Les deux joueurs ne devaient quasiment plus avoir de temps, ce qui expliquerait cette erreur. Le pion en h4 va etre tres faible. [58...g4 59.h4 ♙e6 60.e4 fxe4 (60...♙e5 61.exf5 ♙xf5 La position noire semble etre desagreable a cause des deux faiblesses en a6 et en h5, mais les noirs auront du bon contre-jeu pratique contre les pions b4 et g3.) 61.♙xe4 ♘d5 62.♙g6 ♘f6 63.♙d3 ♘d5 64.♙xh5 ♘xb4+ 65.♙c3 ♘c6 66.♙xg4+ ♙e5 67.♙c8 ♘xa5 68.♙xa6 ♘c6 69.♙xb5 ♘d4 70.♙d3 ♘f3 Avec l'idee ♘xh4. 71.h5 ♙f6 Avec l'idee de mettre le roi en h6 et le cavalier en g5, apres quoi les blancs ne pourront plus ameliorer leur position.]

59.gxh4 gxh4 60.♙f3 ♙f6 61.♙c8 ♙e5 62.♙b7 ♙f6 63.e4 ♙e5 [63...fxe4+ 64.♙xe4 ♙e6 65.♙d4 (65.♙f4 ♘d5+ 66.♙g4 ♘xb4 67.♙xh4 ♙d6 68.♙g5 ♘c6 69.♙xa6 ♙e7 70.♙xb5 ♘xa5 71.♙g6 ♙f8=) 65...♙d6 66.♙c8 zugzwang 66...♘d5 (66...♙c6 67.♙e5+-) 67.♙xa6 ♘f4 (67...♘xb4 68.♙xb5+-) 68.♙xb5 ♘xh3 69.♙d3 ♘g5 70.♙e4+- Les blancs sont gagnants comme la case a8 est de la bonne couleur.]

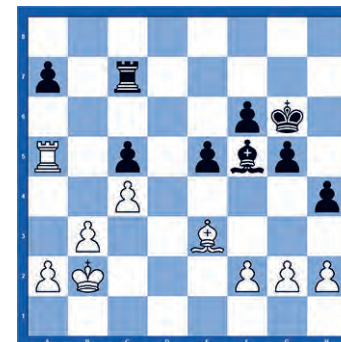
64.exf5 ♙xf5 65.♙c8+ ♙e5 66.♙g4 Les blancs sont gagnants comme les noirs ne sont pas a temps avec leur contre-jeu.

66...♔d4 67.♔xh4 ♔c4 68.♔g5 ♔xb4 69.h4 ♔xa5
70.h5 b4 71.h6 b3 72.h7 b2 73.♙f5 ♞e6+ 74.♔g4 1-0

(16) Anand,V (2780) – Meier,G (2640)

Grenke Chess Classic, 15.02.2013

[Chess Evolution]

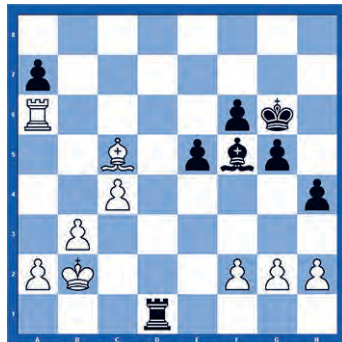


Quelle position surprenante. Les blancs semblent etre complètement gagnants comme ils vont bientot prendre les pions c5 et a7, tandis que le contre-jeu noir a l'aile roi semble etre tres lent... Mais en realite les blancs vont devoir jouer avec precision afin de tenir la nulle apres quelques forts coups noirs.

39...♖d7! Les noirs ne peuvent pas sauver leurs pions a l'aile dame, ils doivent donc tenter d'activer leur tour et de creer du contre-jeu a l'aile roi.

40.♙xc5 [40.♔c1 etait une alternative afin d'empecher ♖d1, mais ici les noirs obtiennent du contre-jeu apres 40...♙e4! 41.g3 (41.f3 ♙a8 42.♙xc5 h3! 43.gxh3 ♙xf3 Et les noirs ont aussi cree deux dangereux pions passes. La course va commencer et le resultat n'est pas clair.) 41... ♙f3! Renouvelant l'idee ♖d1-h1. 42.♙xc5 (42.gxh4 gxh4 43.♙xc5 ♖d1+ 44.♔c2 ♖h1) 42...♖d1+ 43.♔c2 ♖h1 Le pion h devient soudain tres dangereux, comme ca va aussi etre le cas dans la partie.]

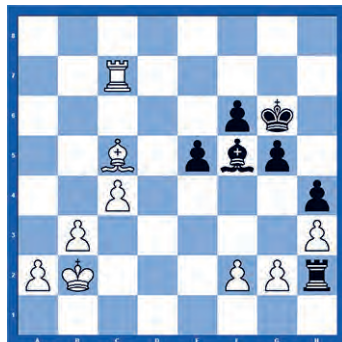
40...♖d1 41.♞a6!? Un coup malin. Les blancs tentent d'éliminer le pion f6 (le pion cle de la chaîne de pions noirs) après ♙e7, mais les noirs ont une forte réplique afin d'empêcher cela!



41...♞c8! La tour ne peut pas continuer d'attaquer le pion f6. [41...♞h1? 42.♙e7]

42.♞xa7 Les blancs sont prêts à avancer leurs pions à l'aile dame, tandis que les noirs n'attaquent même pas les pions à l'aile roi. Mais leur avantage est qu'une fois qu'ils auront pris les pions h2 et g2, leur pion h4 est déjà très avancé! [42.♞d6 fermait le chemin du fou vers e7. 42...♞h1; 42.♞c6 ♙b7 43.♞d6 ♞h1 Les noirs vont prendre les pions à l'aile roi.]

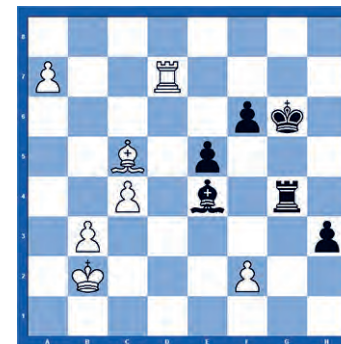
42...♞h1 43.♞c7 ♙f5 44.h3 ♞h2



45.a4?! Ce coup très logique est une imprecision parce que les blancs doivent maintenant avancer leur pion jusqu'en a7 afin de provoquer ♙e4. S'ils avaient avancé leur pion b, les noirs auraient déjà dû jouer ♙e4 une fois que le pion était en b6. Ce genre de „demi-temps” fait une grande différence. [45.b4! ♞xg2 46.b5 g4 47.b6 ♙e4 48.hxg4 h3 49.♞c8! Menaçant de jouer ♞h8, ce que les noirs ne peuvent pas permettre. 49...♙h7 50.♞c7± Nulle par répétition.]

45...♞xg2 46.a5 g4! Les noirs créent leur propre pion passe.

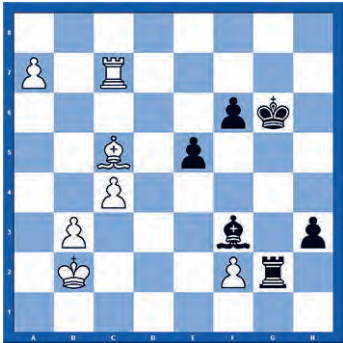
47.hxg4 ♙xg4?! [47...♞xg4! était le bon coup afin de jouer pour le gain! 48.a6 h3 Les blancs n'ont pas leur plan ♞c8-♞h8 tant que le fou est en f5. 49.a7 ♙e4 50.♞d7! Tout comme dans la partie, ceci est le seul motif de survie pour les blancs. (50.♙f8 n'arrête pas le pion. 50...h2 51.♞g7+ ♙f5 52.♞h7 h1♙)]



50...♞h4! Voilà pourquoi les noirs auraient dû prendre en g4 de la tour! Elle va maintenant retourner en h8 afin d'arrêter le pion a. (50...h2 51.♞d5! est plus ou moins la même chose que dans la partie.) 51.f3! Un autre seul coup! (51.♞d5? ♙xd5 52.cxd5 ♞h8—+ Et le pion h va à dame.) 51...h2

(Après 51... ♖xf3 les blancs ont 52. ♖g1! h2 53. ♖xh2 ♖xh2+ 54. ♖c3 et la partie n'est pas claire. Les blancs sont prêts a jouer b4-b5 et c5-c6, tandis que les noirs ont beaucoup plus de mal a mobiliser leurs pions comme e4 ne marche pas.) 52.fxe4 h1 ♖ 53.a8 ♖ ♖h2+ 54. ♖d2! Un autre seul coup! (54. ♖a3 ♖a1+-+; 54. ♖c3 ♖e1+) 54... ♖xd2+ 55. ♖c3 ♖d7+ Et les noirs ont d'excellentes chances de gain.; 47... ♖e4 mene a la me me nulle que dans la ligne 45.b4. Les deux camps doivent jouer les coups suivants: 48. ♖c8 ♖h7 49. ♖c7+ ♖g6 50. ♖c8=]

48.a6 h3 49.a7 ♖f3 Les blancs semblent etre en difficulté comme le pion h ne peut pas etre arreter, tandis que le ♖f3 controle la case a8. Mais un coup plein de ressources va lessauver!



50. ♖d7!! [50. ♖c8 perd apres 50... ♖h7! 51. ♖c7+ ♖g7!]

50...h2 51. ♖d5! Bloquant la diagonale du fou.

51... ♖xd5 52.cxd5 h1 ♖ 53.a8 ♖ Les noirs ont un petit avantage materiel, mais leur roi est trop expose. Ils n'ont pas d'echech pour le moment, tandis que la dame et le fou sont prêts a donner un echech perpetuel. La nulle est inevitable.

53... ♖g1 54. ♖g8+ ♖f5 55. ♖e6+ ♖g6 56. ♖g8+ Une finale instructive!

1/2

Choc des titans

(17) Smyslov,Vassily – Sokolsky,Alexey [C81]

Chigorin Memorial Moscow, 1947

[Chess Evolution]

Les blancs ont d'abord domine positionnellement et ils ont ensuite lance une belle attaque de mat.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♘xe4

La variante ouverte de la Ruy Lopez etait tres populaire a l'epoque. La theorie de nos jours considere toujours cette ligne comme jouable, mais les noirs doivent souffrir dans des positions legerement passives dans certaines lignes.

6.d4 b5 7.♙b3 d5 8.dxe5 ♙e6 9.♚e2 [9.♘bd2; 9.c3 et; 9.♙e3 sont les trois coups principaux, meme si toutes les lignes menent souvent a des structures similaires.]

9...♘c5 [9...♙e7 est le coup principal est aussi sans doute le plus fort.]

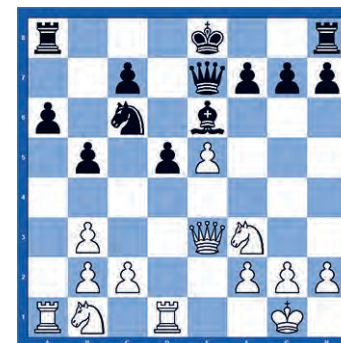


10.♖d1! etait l'idee derriere ♚e2. Les blancs veulent mettre la pression sur le pion d5.

10...♘xb3 11.axb3 ♙c5 [Après 11...♙e7 12.c4 suivi de ♘c3, la position noire est tres desagreable a cause du pion d5.]

12.♙e3 Les blancs jouent de maniere positionnelle. En echangeant les fous de cases noires, ils affaiblissent serieusement les cases noires et ils se debarassent aussi de la paire de fous. [12.c4!? etait une bonne alternative. 12...bxc4 13.bxc4 Les noirs doivent sans doute jouer 13...d4 14.♘bd2 Avec deux idees: l'une est ♘b3 suivi de ♙e3 et l'autre est simplement de centraliser le cavalier en e4.]

12...♙xe3 13.♚xe3 ♚e7 Les noirs prennent le controle de la case c5 et sortent du desagreable clouage sur la colonne d. [13...0-0 se heurte a 14.♚c5! ♘e7 15.b4± suivi de l'occupation des cases d4 et c5 avec les cavaliers après ♘bd2-b3, ♘fd4, ♚c3 et ♘c5.]



14.♚c3! Smyslov prend le controle des cases noires.

14...♘d8 15.b4! Les cavaliers blancs sont encore une fois prêts a occuper les cases d4 et c5.

15...0-0 16.♘bd2 [Il était plus précis de commencer par 16.♘d4 afin d'éviter la ligne que nous allons voir dans la partie.]

16...♙g4! Les noirs se débarrassent de l'un des forts cavaliers. Cela ne résout pas tous leurs problèmes, mais ça facilite leur tâche défensive.

17.h3 ♙xf3 18.♘xf3 c6 Il fallait défendre le pion d5, mais ce coup a aussi un inconvénient: le cavalier ne peut pas aller en e6 maintenant comme le pion c6 sera en prise.

19.♖d2! Un bon coup positionnel. Les blancs n'ont pas l'intention de doubler les tours sur la colonne d, mais ils veulent mettre leur autre tour en e1 ou en f1 et plus tard doubler les tours sur l'une de ces deux colonnes. La partie va parfaitement démontrer à quel point cette idée est bonne.

19...h6 20.b3 Les blancs ne se dépêchent pas à activer leur tour a1 comme cela libérerait aussi la tour a8. Les noirs auraient pu jouer ♖c8 dans ce cas, donnant ainsi la possibilité au cavalier d'aller en e6.

20...♖e8 21.♘d4! Les blancs veulent améliorer leur structure de pions en jouant f4.

21...♙g5 [Les noirs auront du mal à créer une forteresse après le sacrifice de dame: 21...♙xe5 22.♖e2! ♙xe2 23.♘xe2 ♖xe2 24.♙c5 g6 25.♙f1 ♖e6 26.♙b6 Les noirs vont perdre le pion a6 et le cavalier reste passif.]



22.♖f1! Les blancs sont prêts à jouer f4 et le pion e5 est toujours indirectement protégé.

22...♘e6 [22...♙f4 ne fait que retarder f4. 23.g3!]

23.f4! Très bien joué! Les blancs sacrifient un pion afin de créer une énorme attaque. Nous pouvons maintenant voir toute l'étendue du coup 19.♖d2!

23...♘xf4 24.♖df2 ♘e6 Les noirs tentent de se débarrasser du puissant cavalier d4 au prix du pion f7, mais les blancs ont raison de garder cette pièce. [24...♘g6 n'égalise pas non plus. Le meilleur coup est sans doute 25.♖f5 ♙e7 26.♘xc6 ♙e6 (26...♙c7 perd après 27.♖xf7 ♙xf7 28.♖xf7 ♙xf7 29.♙f3+ gagne plus de matériel.) 27.♘d4 Les blancs sont mieux.]

25.♘f5! Le cavalier se dirige vers d6. Le pion c6 est aussi en prise et s'il tombe le pion d5 sera perdu.

25...♖ec8 [25...♖f8 26.♙xc6 d4 27.♙e4 Les blancs veulent prendre le pion d4 et après 27...♖ad8 la dame est soudain piégée. 28.h4! ♙h5 29.g4 ♙g6 30.♘e7++-]

26.h4! Un autre très fort coup! La dame n'a qu'une seule case afin parer l'échec e7:

26...♔d8 27.♔g3 Les blancs ont toujours un pion de moins et ils vont simplement gagner la partie en améliorant leurs pièces. Les noirs sont déjà perdants et ils sont sans défense contre les menaces ♖xh6 et ♖d6.

27...♔h7 28.♖d6 ♖c7 29.♖xf7 ♔e7 30.♖d6 [30. ♔d3+!? ♔g8 31.♔g6 était aussi gagnant. Les noirs ne peuvent pas empêcher ♖xh6.]

30...♖g8 [30...♖f8 31.♖xf8 ♖xf8 32.♖f7 gagne la dame à cause du mat en g7. 32...♔xf7 33.♖xf7 ♖xf7 34.♔c3!+- Les blancs vont bientôt gagner le pion c6 et détruire tous les espoirs noirs de créer une forteresse.]

31.♔d3+ Les noirs ont abandonné en vue de la perte de la dame après ♖f7 ou ♖f7.

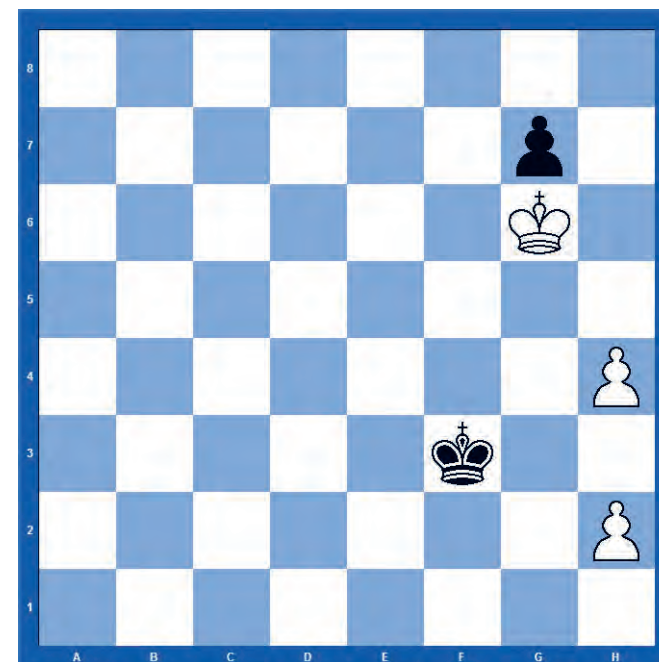
1-0

Section de surprise / études

(18) Grigoriev

[CEWN]

1. +-

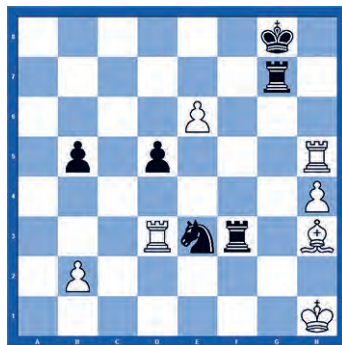


Solutions

(19) Adams,M (2725) – Caruana,F (2757)

Baden-Baden, 10.02.2013

[Solutions]

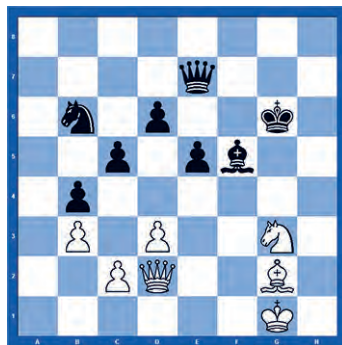


43. ♗g2! ♖xg2 44. ♖xe3! ♗xe3 45. ♔xg2 ♖xe6=

(20) Iordachescu,V (2610) – Schut,L (2283)

Baden-Baden Open, 08.02.2013

[Solutions]



38. ♔h6+ 1-0 [38. ♔h6+ ♕xh6 39. ♖xf5+ ♔g5 40. ♖xe7+-]

(21) Negi,P (2638) – Felgaer,R (2557)

Baden-Baden Open, 09.02.2013

[Solutions]



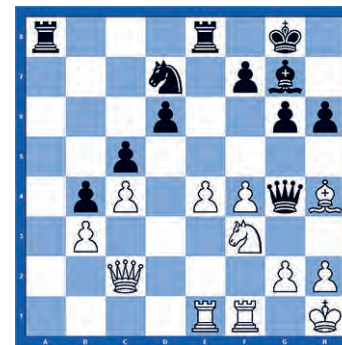
25. ♖xf5! ♗xf5 [25... ♖xc2 26. ♖xf8+-]

26. ♗xf5 ♕xf5 27. ♖xc7+-

(22) Ibragimov,I (2555) – Nyzhnyk,I (2637)

Moscow Open, 05.02.2013

[Solutions]



29. h3! ♕xf4 [29... ♕h5 30. g4+-; 29... ♕e6 30. f5 gxf5 31. exf5+-] 30. g3!+-

(23) Ganguly,S (2626) — Panarin,M (2552)

Moscow Open, 07.02.2013

[Solutions]

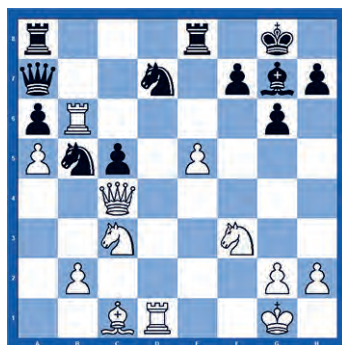


17. ♖xd7! ♚xd7 18. ♖a8+ ♘d8 19. ♚f3+- [19. ♘g5+-;
19. ♚h4+-]

(24) Nyzhnyk,I (2637) — Tukhaev,A (2517)

Moscow Open, 07.02.2013

[Solutions]

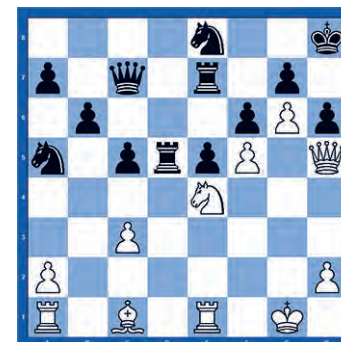


24. ♖xa6! ♚xa6 25. ♖xd7 ♚e6 26. ♚xe6 ♖xe6
27. ♘xb5+-

(25) Mozharov,M (2510) — Reshetnikov,A (2508)

Moscow GM, 06.02.2013

[Solutions]



33. ♘xh6! gxf6 34. ♚xh6+ ♚g8 35. ♖e3! ♖g7 36. ♖h3
♚f8 37. ♚h8+! ♖g8 [37... ♚e7 38. ♚xe8+!! ♚xe8 39. ♘xf6+
♚d8 40. ♖h8+ ♚e7 41. ♘xd5+-]

38. ♘xf6!! ♚f7 [38... ♖xh8 39. ♖xh8+ ♚g7 (39...
♚e7 40. ♘xd5+-) 40. ♘xe8+ (40. ♘xd5+-) 40... ♚xh8
41. ♘xc7+-]

39. ♘xg8 ♚xg8 40. f6 1-0

(26) Heberla,B (2545) – Djukic,N (2538)

Tringov memorial, 09.02.2013

[Solutions]



28. ♖xc4!! 1-0 [28. ♖xc4 ♖xd1+ 29. ♕xd1 bxc4 30. ♕a4++-]

(27) Jianu,V (2500) – Dvirnyy,D (2536)

Tringov memorial, 09.02.2013

[Solutions]

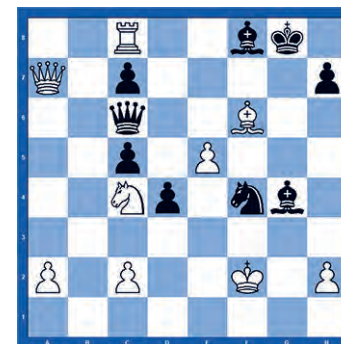


17. ♖c5!! 1-0 [17. ♖c5 ♕xd4 18. ♖xc7+-]

(28) Belous,V (2553) – Eliseev,U (2525)

Moscow GM, 06.02.2013

[Solutions]

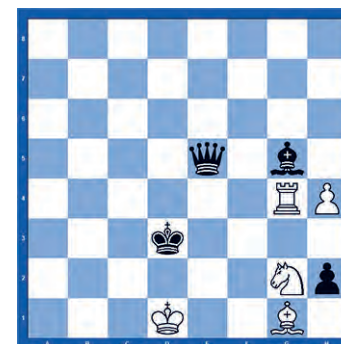


40. ♖a8!! 1-0

(29) Comay,O

1974

[Solutions]



1. ♘e1+!! ♖xe1+ [1... ♖c3 2. ♕d4+ ♖xd4+ 3. ♖xd4 h1 ♖ (3... ♖xd4 4. ♘f3±) 4. ♖d3+ ♖c4 5. hxg5=]

2. ♖xe1 ♕xh4+! [2... h1 ♖ 3. hxg5=]

3. ♖g3+!! ♕xg3+ 4. ♖f1 h1 ♖ = [4... h1 ♖ 5. ♖g2=]



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 53

1th of March 2013

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Editorial Preface

This chess week started with one big world news! The 13 year old Chinese Wei Yi is officially the youngest Grandmaster in the World. Still, the record is in the hands of Karjakin, who became a Grandmaster at age 12!

The Zurich Chess Challenge is running more or less peacefully, and only Caruana was able to win his game with Black against Anand. Gelfand and Kramnik have 5/5 draws so far...

Today we will see the final round of this "short" round robin event.

The Super Strong Open tournament in Reykjavik was won by Eljanov, So and Amin Basem — all of them with 8/10. Behind them, there was a big group of players that included Giri, Vachier-Lagrave, Cheparinov, Ding Liren, Ivan Sokolov, David Navara and many more Top GMs.

In the current newsletter You will find 2 games played by the Champion (thanks to his better tie-break, it was Eljanov).

Capelle la Grande is on the run. In the next 3 days we will see a very exciting finish — which is usual for such big open events. At the moment, the young Russian Sjugirov has pretty good chances to win the tournament.

As usual, we hope You enjoy the CEWN Nr 53!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Cheparinov,I (2709) – Eljanov,P (2678) [D15]

Reykjavik Open 2013 Reykjavik ISL (6), 23.02.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Eljanov has been showing very unstable play lately. Maybe only some readers can remember him having 2750 ELO, and now it feels a bit strange to see him under 2700. So the good news is that Pasha Eljanov is back in Reykjavik, showing great chess once again. A very nice victory over Cheparinov in the 6th round gave him a very important point to raise in the standings of the tournament.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 a6 Another game on the Slav, which was pretty much expected. Eljanov was Gelfand's second during his match against Anand and the Slav was one of the main openings in the match.

5.a4 e6 Here White has a lot of different choices, but the line that we will see in the game is one of the most critical ones.

6.g3 dxc4 7.♙g2



7...c5! Of course, this is a well-known theoretical move, but still a nice one. Black does not lose time and starts to play immediately against White's center.

8.0-0 [8.dxc5 is the other main move, but it seems that it leads to a more or less equal endgame after 8...♔xd1+ 9.♘xd1 ♙d7! was played in Ragger-Movsesian, if somebody is interested in the line.]

8...cxd4 [8...♘c6 9.dxc5 maybe gives White slightly better play.]

9.♘xd4 ♙e7!? seems to be a novelty on the highest level. Not so long ago, Kramnik won a great game against McShane after [9...♘bd7 10.♘c2 ♔c7 11.♙f4! It is important to provoke Black to play e6, weakening the d5 square. 11...e5 12.♙d2 ♘c5 13.♙g5! The third move in a row with a bishop, but it was the correct way to play. 13...♙e6 14.♙xf6 gxf6 15.♘d5 with better play for White and, of course, Kramnik managed to win this game in great style.]

10.a5 A very logical move by White. Now he is getting the b6 square and always has the idea ♘a4-♘b6.

10...0-0 11.♘c2 following the standard plan... White wants to exchange the queen and play ♘e3 winning back the c4 pawn.

11...♔c7 Black needs to hold on to the c4 pawn, no choice.

12.♙e3 I am not sure if this is correct here... [12.♙f4!? with the already known idea of weakening the d5 square. 12...e5 13.♙g5 followed by ♘e3 keeps the game in a very unclear position.]



12...♙d7! Superb idea by Eljanov. Black's bishop is going to b5, where it will defend the pawn on c4. It looks strange, but is very effective.

13. ♙b6 ♙c8 14. ♘e3 ♙b5 The Black bishop on b5 and the knight on d7 — very nice strategic play.

15. ♖c1



15...♘fd7!! Fantastic move, based on deep calculation. [The more logical 15...♘bd7 16. ♘a4 leads to a very unclear position. White wants to play b3 next, winning the pawn back and forcing Black to act quickly with moves like 16...♘e5, after which the position becomes very dynamic.]

16. ♘a4 A normal reaction by White.

16...♙g5 and this is the key move. From now on, the game becomes very forced. White needs to take action if he wants to fight for an advantage.

17.f4 [Maybe White had a chance to force a draw after 17. ♖xc4!? ♙xc4 18. ♘xc4 White wants to play ♘d6 next, so Black needs to give back the exchange. 18...♙xc4 19. ♙xb7 ♘xb6 20. ♘xb6 ♙b5 21. ♙xa8 ♙xa5 with a pretty equal position.]

17...♘xb6 18. ♘xb6 ♙c5 Finally we see Eljanov's idea behind 15...♘fd7.

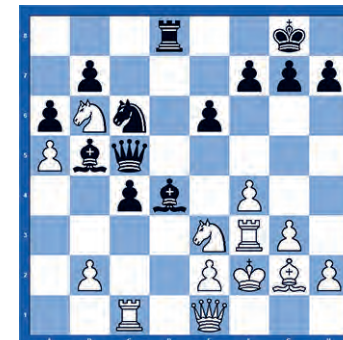
19. ♖f3? A human move, and a mistake. [The only way to go on was to play 19. ♙f2 ♙f6 20. ♘xa8 White is a full rook up! 20...♖d8 21. ♙e1 ♙xb2 followed by ♙d4 with a very unclear position...(The same idea that was used in the game does not work now: 21...♘c6 22. ♙xc6)]

19... ♙f6 20. ♘xa8 ♖d8 Black is putting all his pieces on perfect squares...

21. ♙e1 ♘c6! Great dynamic play by Black!

22. ♘b6 To give back a piece is not an option for White.

22... ♙d4 23. ♙f2 It seems like White is solid, but here comes



23...e5!! Wow! What a move by Eljanov, really great! Black is just crushing White's position.

24.b4 Cheparinov tries to act against Black's attack, forcing the Black knight to leave his great position on c6.

24...♞xb4 25.fxe5 ♞c6! and Eljanov chooses the best move again! The Black knight is going to g4!

26.♚d2 It is hard to advice something better for White...

26...c3 27.♚c2 ♞xe5 28.♚f5 White stopped Black from playing ♞g4, but Black has a few other ideas as well...

28...g6 29.♚f4 ♜e8! putting even more pressure on the e3 knight and simply threatening to play ♞xf3 next.

30.♞bd5 ♚xd5 31.♚f1 ♞xf3 What a fantastic game by Eljanov!

0-1

(2) Ding Liren (2709) – Eljanov,P (2678) [D15]

Reykjavik Open 2013 Reykjavik ISL (9), 26.02.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

And another great game by the Ukrainian GM. This time his victim was the very talented Chinese Ding Liren.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♞f3 ♞f6 4.♞c3 a6 5.e3 Unlike Cheparinov, Ding Liren chooses the more „solid“ line 5.e3 for White.

5...♙f5 Before playing e6, it is always nice to get the bishop out to f5.

6.♚b3 b5 7.c5 This is still theory, of course. White wants to play a4 next...

7...a5 Black stops White's idea.

8.♞e5 but with 7...a5, Black lost a tempo to play ♞bd7, so White is in time to place his knight on e5.

8...a4 9.♚d1 g6 The position is rather rare. Usually, White tries to play g4-♙g2-f4-0-0 with a strong center plus the knight on e5. But Black is very solid and is trying to act more actively with ♞e4 or h5.

10.♙d2 It is hard to say if Ding Liren prepared this novelty or if he just made a „move“ over the board. [10.g4 ♙e6 11.♙g2 would be the usual way to play here.]

10...♙g7 Very logical...

11.g4?! It is hard to imagine the inclusion of ♙d2-♙g7 being useful for White. White should have gone for a more calm continuation like 11.a3 followed by ♙e2, but probably Black is just doing perfectly fine.

11...♙e6 12.♙g2



12...h5! Very strong! Black is starting to play against White's center immediately.

13.h3 [Of course not 13.g5 ♘fd7 and Black is very fine.]

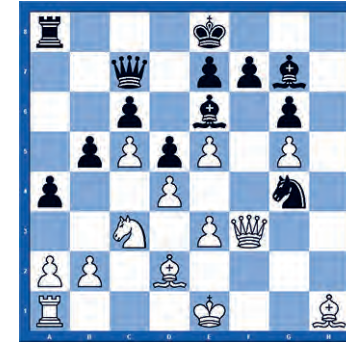
13...♔c7! A silent but very strong move. Black protects the c6 pawn and prepares ♘bd7; at the same time, 0–0–0 becomes possible, with a quick transfer of the rook to the h-file.

14.f4 hxg4 15.hxg4 ♖xh1+ 16.♙xh1 ♘bd7 Black finished his development. The White g4-pawn is hanging, and 0–0–0 followed by ♖h8 is a real threat. We can already say that Black is doing clearly better.

17.g5 A risky move, but what else to do? [The solid 17.♙f3 ♘xe5 18.fxe5 ♘h7! followed by ♘g5 just leads to a clearly worse position for White.]

17...♘xe5 18.fxe5 ♘g4 and the game is getting very tactical. The knight on g4 has no moves, but Black prepared a different destiny for his stud.

19.♔f3 [Also, the move 19.♙f3 ♘xe5! seems to be just winning for Black. 20.dxe5 ♔xe5 Black wants to play a3 next. 21.a3 ♔g3+ 22.♔e2 d4 with a mating attack.]



19...♘xe5! and ♘xe5 is very strong here as well.

20.dxe5 ♔xe5 Black has a lot of threats: to play d4, to play a3, and even just to take on g5 to have 3 pawns for a piece.

21.♔f4 White tries to reach an endgame... [A tactical attempt to solve the problems does not work. 21.♘xb5 ♔h2! (Of course not 21...cxb5? 22.♙c3 and White is winning the bishop on g7.) 22.♘c3 ♔h4+! and again Black is giving mate...]

21...♔xf4 22.exf4 b4! Black only got 2 pawns for the piece, but White's position is hopeless!

23.♘e2 If White gives up the knight on c3, a completely winning endgame for Black would arise.

23...a3! What a great game by Black! I think Ding Liren is going to work a little bit on his Slav...

0–1

(3) McShane, Luke J (2713) – Volokitin, Andrei (2724) [B90]

Schachbundesliga 2012/2013 (10.1), 24.02.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

A very sharp game, which is also important from a theoretical point of view.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙e3 ♘g4 7.♙c1 The drawback of the 6...♘g4 line is that sometimes weaker opponents might try to get a draw by repetition, and then Black is forced to play some other line. In this game, McShane is obviously a big fighter and he only repeats twice to get closer to move 40 and avoid mistakes in the time trouble. A clever practical decision!

7...♘f6 8.♙e3 ♘g4 9.♙g5 This is the critical test of the ♘g4 line.

9...h6 10.♙h4 g5 11.♙g3 ♙g7 White has numerous options here. McShane tries to follow a recently popular line.



12.♙e2 h5 13.♙xg4 hxg4 [13...♙xg4 14.f3 ♙d7 is the start of another long line.]

14.♘d5 White is following the latest fashion. The line has become popular again since 2011, when Shirov defeated Grischuk in Wijk aan Zee.

14...♘c6 15.♘f5 ♙xb2! [Black included 15...♙xf5 16.exf5 in the mentioned game, but it left the pawn on b7 unprotected compared to our game. 16...♙xb2 17.♖b1 Now after ♙a3 or ♙g7, White could simply take on b7. 17...♙a5+ 18.♙d2 and after the exchange of queens, Black loses an exchange with ♘c7. He has some compensation for it, but it was not enough in the game. 18...♙d4 19.♙xa5 ♘xa5 20.c3 ♙c5 21.♘c7+ ♙d7 22.♘xa8 ♖xa8 23.h4! White succeeded to activate his rook on the h-file and converted his advantage later on... 23...gxh3 24.♖xh3 Shirov-Grischuk, Wijk aan Zee.]

16.♖b1 ♙a3! It is very important to change the diagonal of the bishop. The main idea is to protect the d6 pawn and to stay ready to kick out the knights with e6.

17.0-0 ♙c5! A necessary preparation for e6. [17...e6 directly is a mistake. 18.♘b6! exf5 19.exf5! (Not 19.♘xa8? because of 19...f4) 19...♖b8 And here comes the beautiful point of the sacrifice.]



20. ♖e1+!! and ♔c3 next with a double attack on a3 and h8 — this gives White the advantage. 20... ♕f8 21. ♖c3 Quite an unusual motif!]

18. ♖b3! A clever move with many ideas. The rook can be very useful on the 3rd rank later and the hidden point can be seen in the next move.

18...e6! 19. ♔a1! Really spectacular move, forcing a weakness in Black's camp!

19...f6 Black would like to win a piece, but of course, this risky move seriously weakens the king's position and White has many ways to try to exploit this. [In my opinion, the correct evaluation of the whole line must be decided after the move 19...e5 which of course gives an outpost for both knights, but on the other hand Black's position is very safe now and the bishop on g3 is pretty awful and can hardly be activated.]

20. ♘xf6+ ♔f7

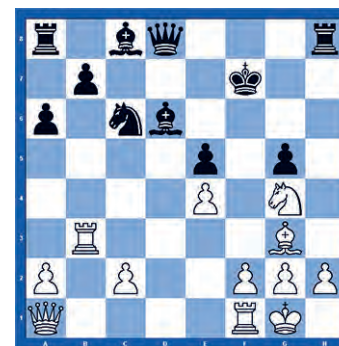


21. ♘xd6+! The best move! White grabs some pawns and continues his attack. The bishop on d6 will be misplaced because of the pinning threats on the d-file. [21. ♘e8 is a fantastic move with the multiply threats like

♖g7, ♖xh8 and ♘xd6, but Black can prevent all of them with one move! 21...e5! and the knight is trapped on e8.]

21... ♖xd6 22. ♘g4! White has many threats, for example, to take on d6 and h8 is hanging; ♖f3 is also very dangerous. The next move is forced!

22...e5! We have reached the critical position from White's point of view. He has three tempting moves, but only one of them seems to give him the initiative.



23. ♖d1 McShane protects the g4 knight and wants to play ♖d3 or ♖f3 followed by ♖d1. [23. ♘xe5+ seems to lead nowhere after 23... ♘xe5 24. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 25. ♖xe5 ♖e8 26. ♖f3+ ♔g8 and Black's king is more or less safe; 23. ♖f3+! is the most dangerous alternative. 23... ♔g6 24. ♖f6+! ♖xf6 (24... ♔g7 is bad because of 25. ♖d1) 25. ♘xf6 ♖xf6 Black seems to be well coordinated with his pieces against the queen, but after 26.f4! White can launch a dangerous attack. 26...gxf4 27. ♖xf4 It is much slier to play with White because of his opponent's king position: one bad move can be decisive for Black.]

23... ♖c5 [The machine recommends the cold-blooded 23... ♖e7 followed by ♖e6 and it is hard to prove that

White has enough compensation, although the game is still very unclear.]

24. ♖f3+ [White had another option: 24. ♖f3+ ♔g7 25. ♘xe5 ♕xd1 26. ♖xd1 with 3 pawns for the piece, but if Black manages to coordinate his pieces, he might overtake the initiative 26... ♖d8 27. ♖xd8 ♘xd8 followed by a quick development with ♙e6 and ♖c8. The queenside pawns might get weak.]

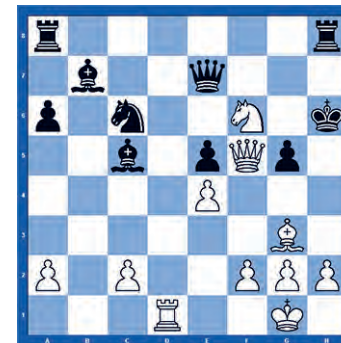
24... ♙g6 25. ♖d1! Good decision — not to be greedy. [25. ♘xe5+ ♘xe5 26. ♙xe5 ♖f8 is fine for Black as his king is very safe now.]

25... ♕e7 Black needs only one move to get a winning advantage with ♖f8, but with such active pieces, White has a move to stay in the game. McShane finds it and plays it.



26. ♖xb7!! A double-deflection from the f5 and f6 squares.

26... ♙xg4 [26... ♙xb7 leads to a surprising draw as well. 27. ♖f5+ ♔h5 (27... ♔g7? 28. ♖d7+-) 28. ♘f6+ ♔h6



29. ♖d7 seems to finish the game, however, after 29... ♘d4!! White is forced to give perpetual check with 30. ♘g4+ ♔h5 31. ♘f6±; Black loses after 26... ♕xb7? 27. ♖f6+ ♔h7 28. ♖h6+ ♔g8 29. ♖g6+ ♔f8 (29... ♖g7 30. ♘f6+ ♔f8 31. ♖e8#) 30. ♖f6+ ♔g8 31. ♙xe5 The bishop cannot be taken because of ♖d8! 31... ♖h7 32. ♖g6+! ♔f8 33. ♘f6! and Black is hopeless against the threatened mates.]

27. ♖xg4 ♕xb7 And the exposed king allows White to give perpetual check, but he cannot hope for more with ♖d7, because of the check on b1.

28. ♖e6+ ♔h5 29. ♖h3+ ♔g6 30. ♖f5+ ♔h5 31. ♖h3+ ♔g6 32. ♖f5+ 1/2

(4) Shirov,Alexei (2718) – Appel,Ralf (2525) [B03]

Schachbundesliga 2012/2013 (9.4), 23.02.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

A nice tactical fight. Alexei Shirov was heading for complications, where he feels at home, but his much lower rated opponent was ready for the challenge; after calculating everything precisely, the game ended with a well deserved draw.

1.e4 ♘**f6** Appel chose his favorite opening — the Alekhine defense.

2.e5 ♘**d5** **3.d4** **d6** **4.c4** [4.♘f3 is the other huge main line.]

4...♘b6 **5.exd6** **exd6** White has various different setups for his pieces. Shirov decided to develop his knight to e2. Another plan is ♘f3, ♙d3 and h3 to prevent the pin with ♙g4.

6.♙d3 ♘**c6** **7.♘e2** **g6** **8.♘bc3** ♙**g7** **9.♙e3** **0-0** **10.0-0** Both sides have finished the development logically. White has a space advantage thanks to his nice center, while Black has to find a plan against it. The following motif is standard in this variation.



10...♘b4 **11.b3** White would like to preserve his bishop, but he first needed to protect the c4 pawn.

11...c6 [Taking the bishop pair with 11...♘xd3 was also possible, followed by the same plan as in the game. 12.♙xd3 c6 and d5 next was also perfectly playable.]

12.♙b1 **d5** **13.c5** ♘**d7** **14.a3** ♘**a6** **15.b4** White seems to have a pleasant advantage on the queenside, but actually, Black is ready to undermine the pawn chain.



15...♘c7 Black first improves his knight by transferring it to e6, and then plays b6 and a5.

16.♙d3 ♘**e6** **17.♙d2** **b6** **18.♖ad1** An incredibly deep move by Shirov. At first sight, it looks very strange. It is hard to get the point regarding what the rook is doing on the d-file. However, Shirov knew exactly what his opponent was going to do and prepared an idea against it...

18...a5 Black's plan is known from many other openings where similar pawn structures arise. He is intending to exchange his poor light-squared bishop on a6.

19.b5! This was Shirov's idea behind the previous rook move. Suddenly, the locked center opens up and the d1

rook perfectly supports White in the forthcoming complications.

19... ♖b7! Black also prepares his pieces for the action. From the following 7 pairs of moves, 12 will be captures. [19...bxc5 leads to a slightly worse position after 20.bxc6 cxd4 21.cxd7 ♔xd7 22.♘xd4 ♘xd4 23.♙b1 and White takes on d5 next. His active pieces guarantee him an edge.]

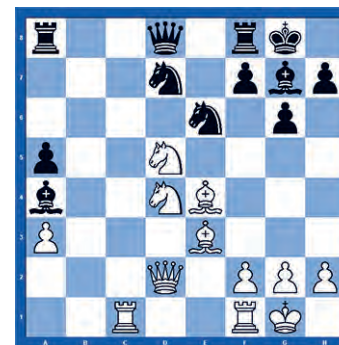
20. ♘xd5 Truly to his style, Shirov initiates a tactical struggle by opening the position with this temporary sacrifice. [20.bxc6 ♙xc6 21.cxb6 ♘xb6= would have been balanced.]

20...bxc5 Black goes for the sharpest continuation. [20...cxd5 would have been much calmer, with a more or less balanced game after 21.c6 ♙c8 22.cxd7 ♙xd7]

21.bxc6 ♙xc6 22. ♙e4 We can see again that the d1 rook is perfectly placed. Both sides have prepared his pieces for the real action, so let's enjoy the complications.

22... ♙a4! A difficult move. Black was disturbed by the d1 rook, but this gives free hand for the e4 bishop on the h1–a8 diagonal. The move is only justified by concrete lines... [A mass of exchanges on d4 would have led to White's advantage: 22...cxd4 23.♘xd4 ♘xd4 24.♙xd4 ♙xd4 25.♔xd4± White's pieces are dominating.]

23. ♖c1 cxd4 24. ♘xd4

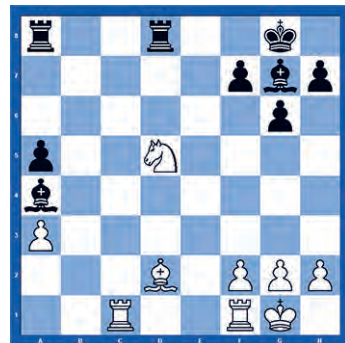


24... ♘dc5! Suddenly, all the pieces are hanging. Both players need to be careful not to miss any tactical ideas. [24...♘xd4? 25.♙xd4 ♙xd4 26.♔xd4 was still bad for Black.]

25. ♘xe6! [The seemingly logical 25.♙f3? just drops a piece after 25...♙xd4! 26.♙xd4 ♘b3!–+]

25... ♘xe4! Counterattacking the queen! [25...♘xe6 leads to a bad position. 26.♘b6! with a double attack against a8 and a4, but Black can save the piece with 26...♔xd2 27.♙xd2 ♖ad8 but he ends up a pawn down after 28.♙xa5]

26. ♘xd8 ♘xd2 27. ♙xd2 ♖fxd8! The overall picture is getting a bit more clear now, but even with the small amount of pieces on the board, both sides have a lot of tricks. At first sight, Black has allowed the fork after ♘b6, but he had something in his mind. [27...♖axd8 would have dropped the a5 pawn after 28.♘e7+ ♔h8 29.♙xa5]



28. Nxb6 Bb5! Yet another counterattack!

29. Rfd1 [29. Nxa8 Bxf1 30. Kxf1 Rxd2 31. Rxc8+ Bf8 is slightly better for Black. The bishop is stronger than the knight with pawns on both flanks. The a3 pawn becomes a real target.]

29... Rab8 Black continues to play in tactical fashion and sacrifices his a5 pawn. [29... Ra7 was a calmer way to equality.]

30. Bxa5 Bb2 Black wins back the pawn, but he moves into many tactical motifs with his bishops on the b-file and the pin on a5-d8.



31. Rxd8+ Rxd8 32. Rb1 Bxa3! The main problem of White is the back-rank. He can never take on b5 while the rook threatens to come to d1.

33. Nc4! Another spectacular move, attacking two pieces at once, but Black is ready to protect them.

33... Rxd3! 34. Ne5 [34. Nxa3 Rxa3 A draw is inevitable as the b5 bishop is still indirectly protected.]

34... Rd5 35. Ng4 The last tricks by Shirov, but his opponent was in excellent tactical shape and nicely neutralized all the Latvian's attempts to win the game.

35... Bb2! 36. h3 White finally opens the back-rank and is ready to leave with the rook, but Black is in time to play

36... Bd3 37. Rxb2 Rxa5 and the draw was agreed! A great fight! Special congratulations to Appel, who dared to play in this brave style against Shirov.

1/2

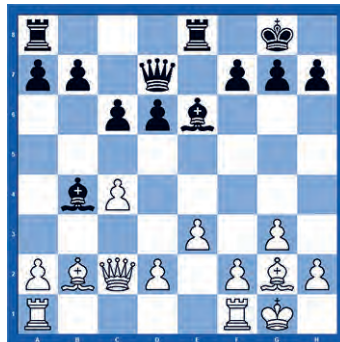
Puzzle section

(5) Smith,A (2485) – Tari,A (2263)

Reykjavik Open, 21.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Handler,L (2369) – Stefansson,H (2496)

Reykjavik Open, 22.02.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

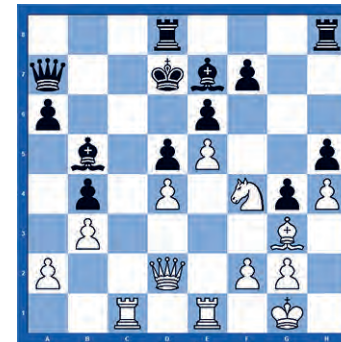


(7) Kuzubov,Y (2622) – Beeke,B (2257)

Reykjavik Open, 22.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

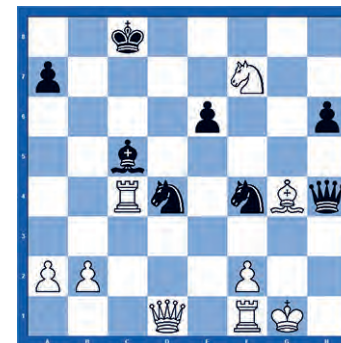


(8) Bekker Jenses,S (2405) – Williams,S (2498)

Reykjavik Open, 23.02.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



(9) Smith,A (2485) – Wang Jue (2375)

Reykjavik Open, 23.02.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



(10) Pruijssers,R (2519) – Bischoff,K (2519)

German league, 23.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

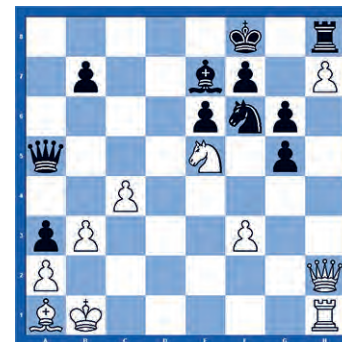


(11) Bobras,P (2560) – Stellwagen,D (2622)

German league, 23.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

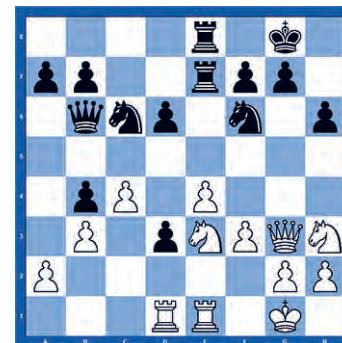


(12) Farago,I (2488) – Balogh,C (2664)

German league, 24.02.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



(13) Espinosa Veloz,E (2452) – Quesada Perez,Y (2596)

Cuban Championship, 09.02.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+



(14) Ptacnikova,L (2269) – Sokolov,I (2644)

Reykjavik Open, 22.02.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

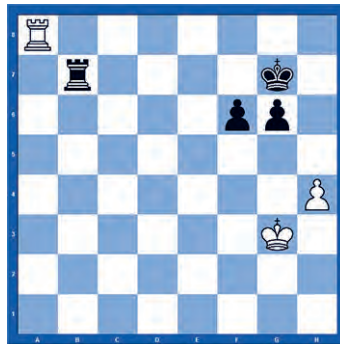


Endgame section

(15) Gordon,S (2556) – Smeets,J (2613)

Schachbundesliga, 23.02.2013

[Chess Evolution]

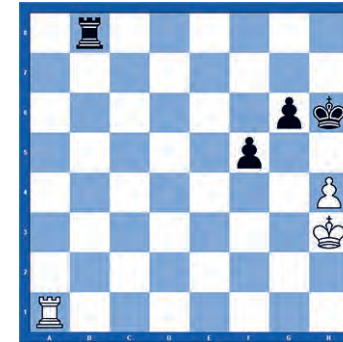


The rook endgames with 2 vs 1 pawns on the same side are usually drawn, but some of them are really tricky. In this example, if White does not know the correct technique, he loses the game fairly quickly.

62...♖f7 Black wants to get his king to h6, but first, he sends away the White rook from the 8th rank to prevent ♖h8.

63.♔f4 This is a sign that shows that the player is unfamiliar with the right defensive method. [The drawing technique is very instructive. 63.♔h3! ♖f8 64.♖a7+ ♔h6 65.♖a6 White provokes Black to play f5. This creates a hole on the g5 square, which is obligatory as we will see. Black must activate his rook, so he has no other choice than pushing 65...f5 66.♖a1 In general, in rook endgames,

both sides should aim for active play, but this is an exception... 66...♖b8

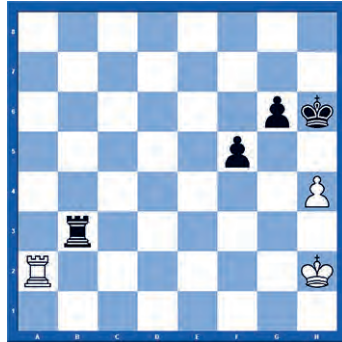


67.♖g1! This is the point and Black cannot make progress! White keeps the g6 pawn under attack and anytime Black plays ♔h5, he sends back the king with ♖g5. 67...♖b3+ 68.♔h2 ♔h5 69.♖g5+! ♔h6 70.♖g1 ♖b6 with the idea of ♔h5 and g6 is protected, but White simply plays 71.♔h3= and again ♔h5 meets by ♖g5...]

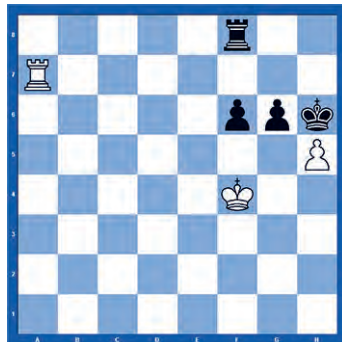
63...♖f8 64.♖a7+? This is the decisive mistake. After this move, White will miss the draw by one tempo if he tries to defend with the right method... [64.♖a1 should have been played. The idea is the same as in the previous line with 63.♔h3. 64...♖b8 65.♔g3 The king is heading to h3. 65...♔h6 66.♖f1! Provoking f5 in order to get the g5 square. 66...♖b3+ 67.♔h2 f5 68.♖g1= and White got his the drawish position.]

64...♔h6 65.h5 White tries to get the f- and h-pawns, which is a theoretical draw, but Black is not forced to accept it. [65.♔g3 ♖b8 White is not in time to reach the ideal defensive position. 66.♔h3 (66.♖a6 f5 67.♖a1 loses to 67...♔h5 68.♖g1 ♖b4 winning the pawn.; 66.♖a1 ♖b3+ 67.♔h2 ♖b4 68.♔h3 ♔h5 wins the pawn again.) 66...

♖b3+ 67.♔h2 (67.♔g4 f5+ 68.♔f4 ♖h3 wins.) 67...f5 and the game is over as the following lines show: 68.♖a8 (68.♖a2 is refuted by



68...♖b4! (But not 68...♔h5? which allows 69.♖g2 ♖b4 70.♖g5+! ♔h6 71.♔h3 and White holds.) 69.♔h3 ♔h5–+) 68...♔h5 69.♖h8+ ♔g4 70.♖h6 This is a tricky attempt, but it also fails to save the game. 70...♖b6 Black threatens to push his f-pawn, and after 71.h5 he has the very important 71...♖b2+ 72.♔g1 g5 and the game is over.]



65...g5+! Very well played! Black realizes that the arising rook endgame is a theoretical win.

66.♔f5 ♖b8 67.♔xf6 ♖f8+! The king has to be cut along the f-file.

68.♔e5 g4 [68...♔xh5 will lead to the same...]

69.♔e4 ♔xh5 70.♖h7+ ♔g5 71.♔e3 Black wins with the method of „bridge-building“.

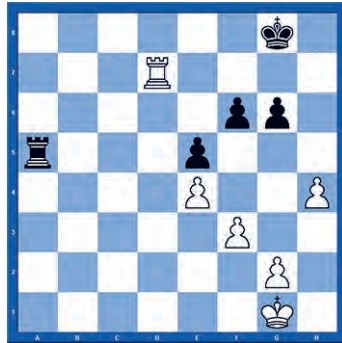
71...g3 72.♖g7+ ♔h4 73.♔e2 ♔h3 74.♖h7+ ♔g2 75.♖e7 [The „real bridge-building“ happens after 75.♖h6 ♔g1 76.♖h7 g2 77.♖h6 and now 77...♖e8+! cutting the king on two lines in order to escape with his own the king from behind the pawn. 78.♔d2 ♖e5 A necessary preparation, otherwise, ♔f2 is met with a lot of checks along the 6th rank. 79.♖h8 and now 79...♔f2 80.♖f8+ ♔g3 81.♖g8+ ♔f3 82.♖f8+ ♔g4 83.♖g8+ ♖g5 The g-pawn promotes.]

75...♖h8 76.♖e6 ♔h1 77.♖g6 g2 78.♔f2 ♖f8+ 0–1

(16) Gajewski,Grzegorz (2644)
– Vachier-Lagrave,Maxime (2715) [A05]

Reykjavík Open 2013 (7.2), 24.02.2013

[Chess Evolution]



We have a one flank rook endgame with an extra pawn. To defend with four pawns against three is not as easy as three against two, especially in this structure that is not seen very often. Both players had to search for ideas over the board.

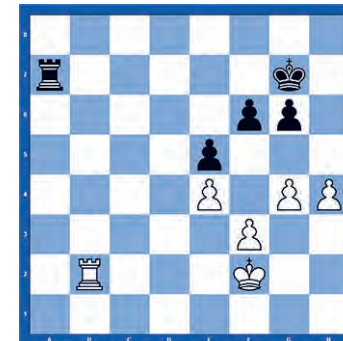
36...♖a1+ 37.♔h2 ♜a3 38.♜b7 ♜c3 39.♔h3 ♜a3 40.♔g4 Of course white is trying improve the king but this way not works.

40...♜a2 41.♔g3 [41.g3 ♜h2 42.♜a7 ♔f8 and White has to exchange pawns after 43.f4 exf4 44.gxf4 (44.♔xf4 ♜h1=) 44...♜g2+ 45.♔f3 ♜h2 46.♔g3 ♜b2 47.f5 gxf5 48.exf5 ♜b4 with an easy draw. 49.h5 ♜b3+ Black can give check now because the h5 square is not available. 50.♔f4 ♜b4+ 51.♔f3 ♜h4=]

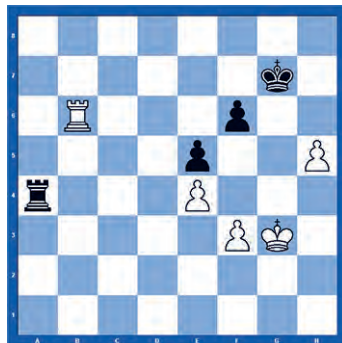
41...♜a3 [41...♜c2 42.♔h3 ♜f2 43.♜b3 ♔g7 44.g4 leads to more or less the same play as in the game.]

42.♜b2 ♔g7 43.♔f2 ♜a7 Vachier prefers to wait a bit, but he could have tried a more active defense after [43...f5!? 44.♜b7+ (44.exf5 gxf5 45.g4 e4 46.fxe4 fxe4=) 44...♔f6 45.♜b6+ ♔f7 46.exf5 gxf5 47.h5 (47.♔g3 ♜a2 48.h5 ♔g7 49.♜e6 f4+ 50.♔h2 ♜e2 51.♔g1 ♔f7 52.h6 ♜e1+ 53.♔f2 ♜h1 54.♜xe5 ♜xh6 55.♜f5+ ♜f6 56.♜xf6+ ♔xf6=) 47...f4 48.♔g1 with the idea to try to come with the king to g4-f5.]

44.g4



44...g5 A very risky move because now White gets a strong and dangerous h-pawn. [44...♜a3 45.♜b7+ ♔g8 (45...♔h6 46.♜f7 ♜a6 47.♜xf6+-) 46.h5 gxh5 (46...g5 leads to the structure from the game.) 47.gxh5 ♜a4! A nice move that avoids the intrusion of the White king. 48.♜b6 (48.♔g3 f5 49.exf5 ♜f4=) 48...♔g7 49.♔g3

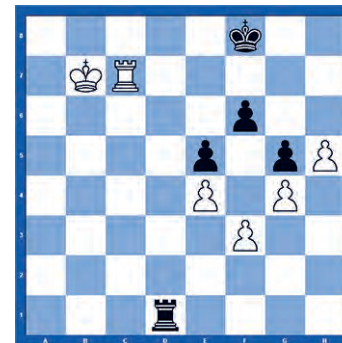


49...f5 This is the point. 50.exf5 ♖f4 51.♗g6+ ♔h8 52.f6 ♔h7 53.♗g5 ♗xf6 54.♗xe5 If the Black king is not cut on the 7th rank, Black should be able to draw this theoretical endgame.; 44...♗c7 45.♗b6 ♗a7 46.♔g3 ♗a4 Black keeps the rook on the 4th rank to have the f5 idea that we saw before. 47.h5 (47.g5 fxg5 48.hxg5 ♗a1↗) 47...gxh5 (47...♗c4 48.g5+-) 48.gxh5 f5 transposes to 44...♗a3.]

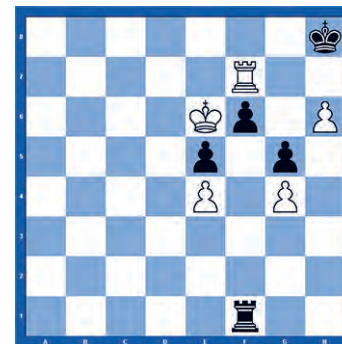
45.h5 ♔f7 46.♔e2 ♗d7 47.♗b3 ♔g7 48.♗d3 ♗a7 Now the only plan for White is to improve the king. Black has to wait.

49.♔d2 ♗c7 50.♗c3 ♗d7+ 51.♔c2 ♗a7 52.♔b3 ♗b7+ 53.♔c2 ♗a7 54.♗d3 ♗c7+ 55.♔b3 ♔f7 56.♔b4 ♔e6 57.♔b5 ♗c1 58.♔b6 White slowly comes with his king to the kingside.

58...♗c2 59.♔b7 ♔e7 60.♗b3 ♔f7 61.♔b8 ♔f8 62.♗b6 ♔f7 63.♗b7+ ♔f8 64.♗c7 ♗d2 65.♗c3 ♔e7 66.♔b7 ♗d1 67.♗c7+ ♔f8 Critical position. White finally put his pieces on optimal positions. Now it is time to take the king to the kingside. However, Black gets counterplay against White's pawns. The game will become forced.

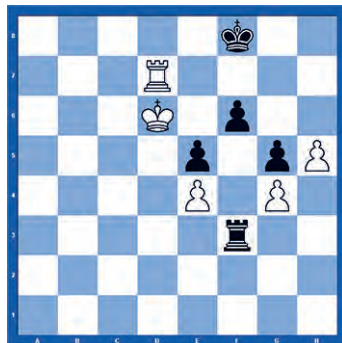


68.♔c6 [68.h6 ♔g8 69.♔c6 (69.h7+ ♔h8 70.♗f7 ♗d3 71.♗xf6 ♔xh7 72.♗f5 ♔g6 73.♔c6 ♔h6 74.♗xe5 ♗xf3 75.♗f5 ♗f4 76.e5 ♗xg4 77.e6 ♔g6 78.♗e5 ♗c4± and Black is on time.) 69...♗d3 70.♗g7+ ♔h8 71.♗f7 ♗xf3 72.♔d6 ♗f1 73.♔e6



73...♗f4 Black keeps the rook on the f-file in order not to allow White to transfer his king to g6 via f5. 74.♗g7 Only way to come with king to g6 but now black is play (74. ♗xf6 ♔h7=) 74...♗xe4 75.♔f5 ♗a4 76.♗e7 Otherwise, the e-pawn gives Black enough counterplay for a draw. (76. ♔g6 ♗a8 77.♔xf6 ♗e8=) 76...♗a6! (76...♗a8 77.♔xf6 ♗g8 78.h7+-) 77.♔g6 f5+ 78.♔xf5 ♗xh6=]

68...♗d3 69.♗d7 ♗xf3 70.♔d6



70...♖d3+? Decisive mistake! Black should play [70...♖f4 71.♔e6 We have the same position as in the previous comment. 71...♖g8 72.♖c7 ♖h8 Black is waiting. It looks like White is not able to improve his position. (72...♖xe4 73.♔f5 ♖a4 74.♔g6 ♖a8 75.♔xf6 ♖f8+ 76.♔xg5 ♖e8 77.♖c3 e4 78.♖e3+-) 73.♔f7 ♖h7=]

71.♔e6 ♖xd7 [71...♖f3 Now it is too late. 72.h6 ♔g8 73.♖g7+ ♔h8 74.♔f7 Black is not on time. White is simply winning.]

72.♔xd7 f5 73.gxf5 g4 74.h6 g3 75.f6 The most accurate. [75.h7 ♔g7 76.f6+ ♔xh7 77.f7 g2 78.f8 ♖ g1 ♖ 79.♖f5+ ♔g7 80.♖xe5+±]

75...g2 76.h7 g1 ♖ 77.h8 ♖+ ♔f7 78.♖e8+ and Black loses his queen.

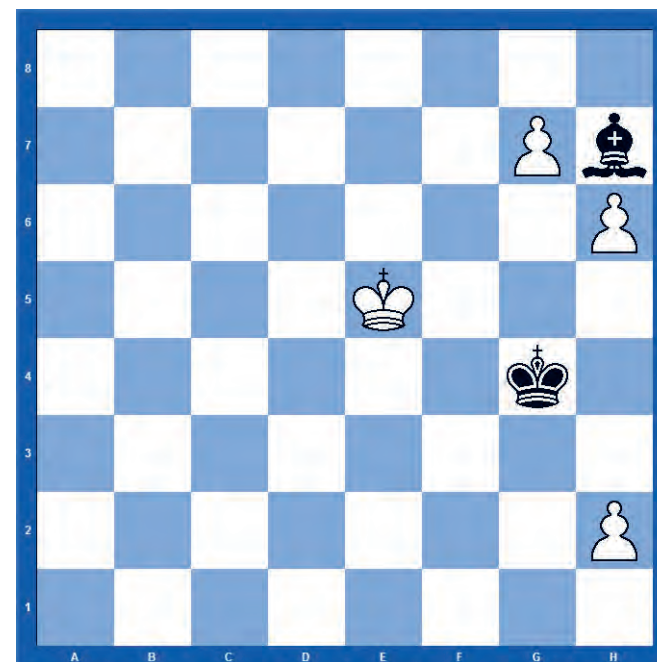
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Surprise section / study

(17) Tarrasch,S

[CEWN]

1. +-



Solutions

(18) Meier,G (2640) – Caruana,F (2757)

Baden-Baden, 13.02.2013

[Solutions]



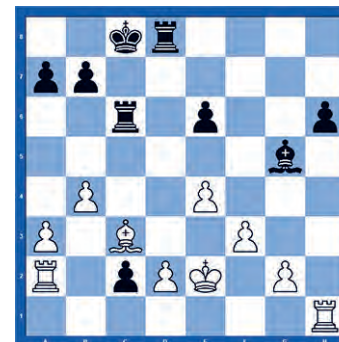
30. ♖xd4? [30.bxc6! bxc6 31.♔f4!! ♕xf4 (31...♔c8 32.♖xf5 ♖xb2 33.♖xd7 ♖xd7 34.♖xd7 ♕xd7 35.♔b8+-) 32.gxf4+-; 30.♔f4!! ♕xf4 (30...♔c8 31.♖xf5 ♖xb2 32.♖xd7 ♖xd7 33.♖xd7 ♕xd7 34.♔b8+-) 31.gxf4+-]

30...♖xd4 31.♖xd4 ♖xd4 32.♖xd4 ♖xd4 33.♖h7+ ♔xh7 34.♕xd4=

(19) Kostin,K (2310) – Sasikiran,K (2677)

Aeroflot Open (rapid), 12.02.2013

[Solutions]

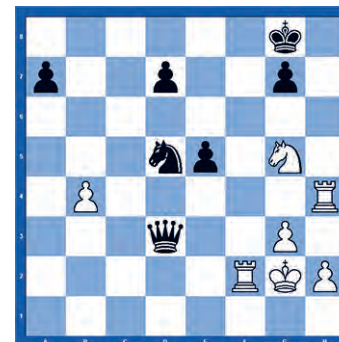


28...♖xc3! 29.dxc3 ♖d2+! 0-1[29...c1 ♕≡]

(20) Tregubov,P (2611) – Sasikiran,K (2677)

Aeroflot Open (rapid), 12.02.2013

[Solutions]



35.♖h8+! 1-0[35.♖h8+ ♔xh8 36.♖f8#]

(21) Korobov,A (2702) — Evdokimov,A (2558)

Aeroflot Open (rapid), 12.02.2013

[Solutions]



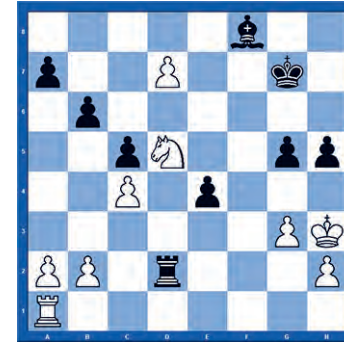
28. ♖a4!! ♜xc4 [28... ♙xb7 29. ♖xc5+-]

29. ♙xc4 ♙xb7 30. ♜xf6+-

(22) Vorobiov,E (2584) — Shimanov,A (2640)

Aeroflot Open (rapid), 13.02.2013

[Solutions]



37...g4+! 38. ♔h4 ♔h6! 39. ♜h1 [39.h3 ♜h2 40. ♖f4 ♙e7#]

39... ♜xd5! 0-1[39... ♜xd5 40.cxd5 ♙e7#]

(23) Shimanov,A (2640) – Grischuk,A (2764)

Aeroflot Open (rapid), 16.02.2013

[Solutions]



27...♘g4! 28.hxg4 [28.♔g1 ♘f2--+]]

28...hxg4 29.♘e5 ♔f2 0-1

(24) Nepomniachtchi,I (2703) – Karpov,A (2616)

Aeroflot Open (rapid), 16.02.2013

[Solutions]

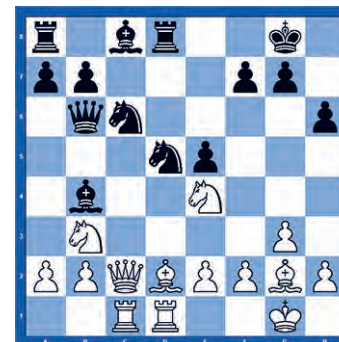


30.♔xd6+!! ♔xd6 31.exf7+ ♔c5 32.f8♔+-

(25) Wojtaszek,R (2710) – Ulibin,M (2521)

Petrov memorial (rapid), 15.02.2013

[Solutions]



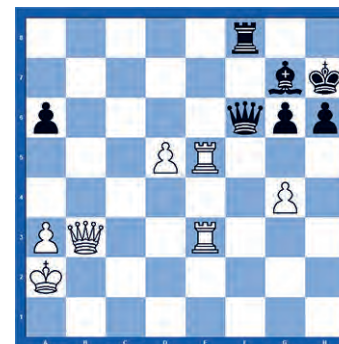
16.♙xh6!! ♙e7 [16...gxh6 17.♖xd5! ♖xd5 18.♘f6++-]

17.♙d2±

(26) Kurnosov,I (2649) – Wojtaszek,R (2710)

Petrov memorial (rapid), 16.02.2013

[Solutions]



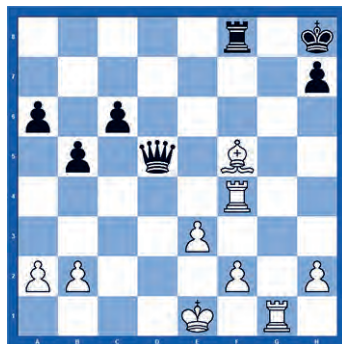
43...♖e8! 44.g5 ♔f2+ [44...♔f1--+]]

45.♖e2 ♔d4--+

(27) Olafsson,H (2547) – Tan Zhongyi (2466)

Iceland-China Friendly (rapid), 17.02.2013

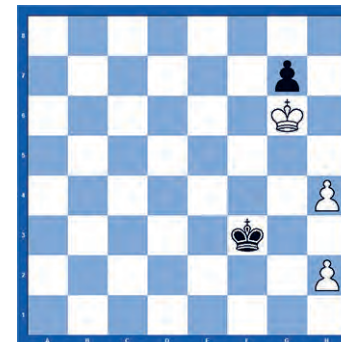
[Solutions]



31. ♖e6! 1–0[31. ♖e6 ♔d6 32. ♖xf8+ ♔xf8 33. ♖g8+ ♔xg8 34. ♖xg8 ♔xg8 35. b4+-]

(28) Grigoriev

[Solutions]



1. ♖f5!! [1. ♖xg7? ♔g4=; 1.h5 ♔g4 2.h3+ ♔h4!=]

1... ♔g2 2.h5! ♔h3 3. ♖g5! [3. ♖g6? ♔g4! 4.h3+ ♔h4=]

3... ♔xh2 4. ♖g6!+- 1–0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 54

8th of March 2013

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Editorial Preface

A massive share of the first place happened in Cappelle la Grande. 1st to 8th all ended up with 7/9 points. The three Top places went to the lucky players Sjugirov, Negi and Rodshtein, after the calculation of Buchholz.

The 20th Bunratty Chess Festival 2013 was won by Adams with 5,5/6.

And here comes the main event of the week, the female World Team Championship in Astana. Strangely, a lot of Top players are missing in a lot of Teams. Anyhow, the favorites are in the race. After round 5, Russia and Ukraine are leading with 9 Points, China only has 7 points (they are playing without Hou Yifan). Who will be the next female World Team Champion still remains very unclear.

At the moment, as we can see, we have a slightly "lack" of chess activity, but already in about a week from now, the Candidates Tournament will begin. It is going to be probably one of the most exciting chess events ever, with World Number 1 Magnus Carlsen looking for his place as the challenger for the World Championship against Anand.

As usual, we hope You enjoy the CEWN 54.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Anand,Viswanathan (2780)
— Kramnik,Vladimir (2810) [C65]

Zuerich Chess Challenge Zuerich SUI (6.1), 01.03.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Sometimes we tend to forget that chess is a tactical game. You can play a great game outplaying Your opponent, and just „blunder“ everything away in one move. This happens a lot to You, to me and even in the highest level. It is, by far, not a rare event, as we will in the next moves...

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 4.d3 In the last round of the tournament, Kramnik needs a full point to catch the leader Caruana. Anand, being on minus 1, is playing „just to finish“ the tournament. Kramnik chooses his main weapon, the Berlin. At first sight, it is not an aggressive opening, but it creates a „long game“, where Your opponent has enough time to make mistakes.

4...♙c5 5.♙xc6 One of the main developments and Anand's favorite move.

5...dxc6 6.♘bd2 0-0 7.0-0



7...♖e8 Until here, everything is more or less standard. Black is playing ♖e8 with the idea of waiting for White's ♘c4, and only then to play ♘d7-f6, planning ♘f8-♘e6-♘d4. All this seems to be pretty „slow“, but given the solid pawn structure, White does not have any active plans either...

8.♘c4 ♘d7 9.♙h1 Anand is preparing the f4 push in case of Black's f6.

9...a5! A strong positional move. [9...f6 10.♘h4 followed by f4 could give White a slightly better play.]

10.a4 A logical move, but I do not think this is the most accurate way to play. [10.♙e3! I think this can be the only way for White to fight for any advantage. Black has no ♙b4, and needs to put the bishop on a worse position, for example, on f8.]

10...b6 b6 is more or less a waiting move. It is hard to imagine that Black wants to play ♙a6 next — the place for the bishop is on e6.

11.♙e3



11...♙b4! and again, Kramnik shows great understanding of the position. Black should try to keep his bishop pair...

12. ♖fd2?! White is preparing the f4 move. [Of course, a move like 12.c3 ♙f8 would just weaken all White's pawn structure. Now Black's ♙a6 could be a very likely option. If position opens up after d4, this can only be good for Black. The bishop pair will become very strong.; 12. ♙d2 would have probably been an option for White. Maybe, objectively, White just has nothing better than to play 12... ♙c5 13. ♙e3.]

12...b5! A very unusual move, but a very strong one! White's knight from c4 does not have any good moves...

13.axb5?! A very strange decision by Anand, who is going for, at least, not a better position. [13. ♖a3 seems to be the only move. 13... ♙a6 14. ♖ab1 bringing the White knight back to life. Of course Black is perfectly fine here, but probably not more than that.]

13...cxb5 14.c3 Now to go back with the knight to a3 just makes no sense.

14...bxc4 15.cxb4 cxd3 16.bxa5 ♙a6 Let us take a fresh look at the position. Black has a very strong pawn on d3. In exchange, White has an a-pawn that is blocked by the bishop on a6. The b-file can be nicely used by the Black rook on b8. Black's only problem is the knight on d7 that is quite badly placed. All in all, I think it is quite obvious that Black should be doing slightly better here, without any risk of losing the game.

17. ♖b3 ♖f6 Black wants to play ♖g4 next. [To hurry with 17... ♖b8 18. ♖c3 followed by ♖fc1 brings nothing for Black.]

18.h3 ♖h5 This is a logical move. Black is bringing the knight into the game. [Another possible way to play was

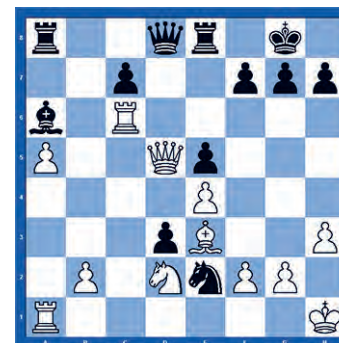
18... ♖d7 19. ♖fc1 c6 followed by ♙b5. I think Black's position should be, at least, not worse...]

19. ♖fc1 ♖f4 Black managed to activate the knight, which now can go to d4 by playing ♖e6-d4 or ♖e2-d4.

20. ♖c6! A very good active defense.

20...♖e2 Very logical. [In case of 20... ♖b8 21. ♖a2 ♖e6 22. ♖ac1 it seems that White has enough play to be almost equal.]

21. ♖d5! and again, a very good practical decision by White. Probably the position is just equal now.



21... ♖b8?? What a blunder! It is clear that Kramnik over pushes his position, feeling that Anand is just playing for a draw. [The right choice would have been 21... ♖xd5 22.exd5 ♖ec8 with a complex endgame that should probably end with a draw because of the opposite-colored bishops.]

22. ♖xa6! Such presents cannot be given to the World Champion, even when he is in bad shape.

22... ♖xa6 23. ♖xd3 and Black can simply resign. The knight on e2 or the rook on a6 will fall. It is hard to say

what did Kramnik blunder before playing ♔b8 — maybe ♖xa6. I guess we are all mortals :).

23... ♔xb2 **24.** ♖b1 ♖d6 **25.** ♔xe2 ♔a2 [It does not help to play 25... ♖xd2 26. ♖xb2 ♖xe2 27. ♖xe2 and White is a full piece up.]

26. ♔b5 **c6** **27.** ♔b2 Is this a deserve d win?! After playing chess for so many years, I start to think that there are no underserved victories. „Not to blunder“ is a very important skill for a professional chess player.

1–0

(2) Gelfand,Boris (2740) – Kramnik,Vladimir (2810) [E06]

Zuerich Chess Challenge Zuerich SUI (4.2), 27.02.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

A very interesting game on the Catalan was seen between Gelfand and Kramnik. First, things looked pretty complicated, but after Kramniks made a sacrifice, White had a chance to keep his extra material. Gelfand did not take advantage of this, giving Kramnik a lot of chances to finish the game in his favor. Finally, after the time trouble, the game ended in a draw.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.** ♘f3 **d5** **4.g3** With this move, Gelfand chooses the Catalan.

4... ♙e7 **5.** ♙g2 **0–0** **6.0–0** dxc4 **7.** ♔c2 **a6** We are in one of the very main lines.

8. ♔xc4 **b5** **9.** ♔c2 ♙b7 **10.** ♙d2 ♙e4 **11.** ♔c1 Until here, everything is very well known. Main ideas: if Black manages to play c5, the position will be equal, so White is trying to do everything to stop Black from doing it.

11... ♔c8 Quite a rare move, but Kramnik himself had to face this move with the White pieces against Leko in 2007, where he continued with 12. ♙g5, which seems to be the main option here.



12.b4!? It is hard to say if this was Gelfand's preparation, but what can be more logical?! Black wants to play c5 and White is stopping it...

12...♘bd7 The only problem for White now is the c4 square, and the Black knight can get there easily with ♘b6-♘c4.

13.♘c3 ♙c6 Black is preparing for ♚b7 next.

14.a3 ♚b7 15.♚c2 Of course, one of the main ideas for White is to push e4. It does not seem to be an easy task, but by playing ♚c2 followed by ♖fe1, it can work out.

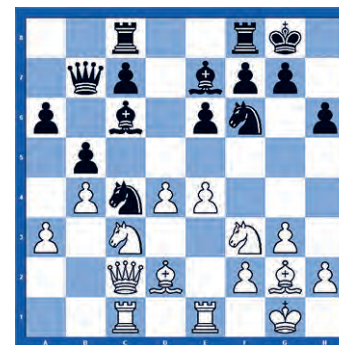
15...h6 [15...♘b6 16.♙g5 might give White a slightly better position.]

16.♖ac1!? A little bluff by Gelfand.

16...♖ac8?! There was no need for this move. [I think Black could have tried 16...♘b6 17.e4! I guess this is what Kramnik was afraid of. 17...♙xe4! but everything works out for Black. 18.♘xe4 ♚xe4 looks very dangerous, but tactically, everything works for Black. 19.♚xc7 (19.♚b3 ♚d5) 19...♘fd5 and Black is perfectly fine.]

17.♖fe1 ♘b6 18.e4 ♘c4 The position is very complicated, but somehow it feels that the Black pieces are not

completely well placed. The Black queen is on b7, which always gives White many dangerous attacking ideas...



19.d5! Good move! White is starting the action.

19...♙d7 [19...♙e8 is a computer suggestion here, but how to play such an ugly move...]

20.dxe6 White continues with direct play.

20...fxe6 [20...♙xe6? 21.e5 probably just loses the game. White will play ♘d4 next.]

21.e5 Logical. [White had a stronger move: 21.♙xh6! ♘g4 (In case of 21...gxh6 22.e5 followed by ♚g6 is game over.) 22.♙f4 c5 It seems like Black has a lot of counter-play, but after 23.e5! things sudd enly turn around. White wants to play ♚g6 next. Also, the idea ♘e4-♘g5 can be deadly. White should be better here.]

21...♘g4 22.♖e4 The Black knight is trapped caught, but...(!!!)



22...♖xf2! is a very strong move, even though Black had practically no choices already.

23.♔xf2 ♘xd2 24.♔xd2 c5 White is a clear piece up, but suddenly, a lot of White's pieces are hanging. Black's bishop pair is getting very strong.

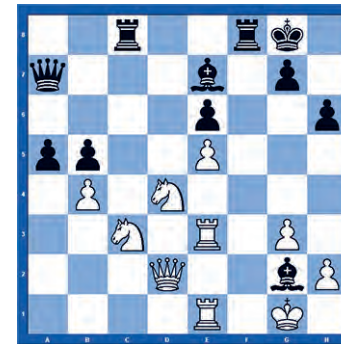
25.♔g1 It is very logical to take the king away from the f-file. [25.♖f4!? would have been a good way to continue the game for White. To exchange a rook cannot be wrong when You are a piece up.]

25...cxb4 Black is opening the c-file.

26.axb4 ♕c6 27.♖ce1 a5 Very original play by Kramnik, but was it necessary?! [Why not just the simple 27...♖fd8 forcing the White Queen to leave the d2 square, while at the same time, protecting the b4 pawn. 28.♔e2 ♕xe4 29.♘xe4 ♕xb4 30.♖f1 The position is still very tricky. White will try to go for a mating attack by playing ♘h4 next, but I think Black's chances should be at least equal here. The a- and b-pawns could play a deadly role in every endgame.]

28.♘d4 ♔a7? A blunder... [Black had no choice already here... 28...♕xe4 29.♘xe4 ♔a7 and White should be doing better, but the position is still super complicated.]

29.♘cxb5? What a shocking move... Gelfand is giving away his knight just for a pawn — why to do that?! [First 29.♖4e3! ♕xg2 and only now



30.♘cxb5! would have kept the game clearly in White's favor. I do not see a way for Black to continue here... White remains a full piece up.]

29...♕xb5 30.♔h1 ♕c4 With the bishop pair in a very open position, Black is clearly much better here. White needs to be very careful not to lose any material immediately.

31.bxa5 ♖fd8 All the White pieces start to hang...

32.♔b2 ♔xa5 33.♘f3 Can White survive here?

33...♕d5 Very logical.

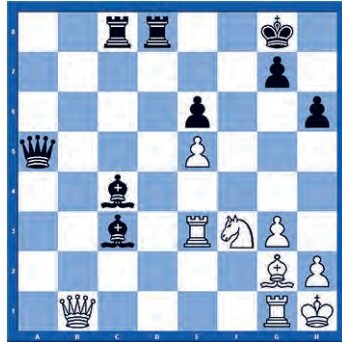
34.♖4e2 ♕b4! pushing the White rook from e1 to g1.

35.♖g1 ♕c3 36.♔b1 All the Black pieces are just perfectly placed, but to find a final blow is not easy at all.

36...♕c4?! seems to be a move in the wrong direction. [36...♔a6; 36...♖f8; 36...♖c4 were all very nice for Black. It might seem that the position should be close to a draw, and that Black has nothing more, but it is a very wrong

impression. Black's pieces are fully dominating the board and, sooner or later, Black will find a way to break through the defensive lines.]

37. ♖e3



37... ♗b4? and this is already a serious mistake. Clearly, to transport the bishop from c3 to f8 cannot be the right way of playing.

38. ♖e4 ♗f8 39. ♖f4 ♗d3 40. ♔b3 ♔d5 The time trouble is over and we can see that White has improved his position dramatically during the last moves. The exchange of queens is worth a lot.

41. ♔xd5 ♖xd5 Gelfand finds a nice tactical way to force a draw.

42. ♘d4! and of course, the exchange of the e-pawns gives White a draw.

42... ♖xe5 43. ♘xe6 ♗e7 44. ♖d4! Another precise move „not to suffer“.

44... ♗f5 45. ♘f4 The position is a draw.

45... ♗c5 46. ♖d5 A lot of chances were missed by both sides, but all in all, it was a very exciting game!

1/2

(3) Adams, Michael (2727)

– Aguera Naredo, Javier (2390) [B07]

20th Bunratty Masters Bunratty IRL (5.1), 03.03.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

A spectacular game not without mistakes.

1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3. ♘c3 g6 The Pirc defense. Usually, Black players employ it to avoid the longtheoretical lines, but as we will see, if we are not familiar with the ideas, we can run into quick defeats.

4. ♗e3 c6 5. ♔d2 ♘bd7



6. ♘f3 Adams plays one of the most solid setups, which guarantees him a small but long-term advantage.

6...e5? This move is premature. The idea is correct — to fight for the center -, but first Black should have finished the development. [6... ♗g7 7.h3 0–0 8. ♗d3 followed by 0–0 and ♘e2–g3, gives White a comfortable game.]

7. ♗c4! Suddenly the f7 pawn became a real weakness, ♘g5 is already a decisive threat.

7...b5 Another careless move, although the position was already very suspicious. [7...♗g7 8.0-0-0 and Black cannot secure the safety of his king with 8...0-0? because he loses material due to the pin on the d-file. 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.♘xe5!+-]

8.dxe5 A principled move to open the position against the Black king, which still needs some moves to castle kingside.

8...dxe5 [Black quickly collapses after 8...bxc4 9.exf6 ♘xf6 10.e5! dxe5 11.♔xd8+ ♔xd8 12.♘xe5 White wins at least a pawn.]

9.♗b3 Black needs to develop his f8 bishop, but he has serious problems to find where to put it.

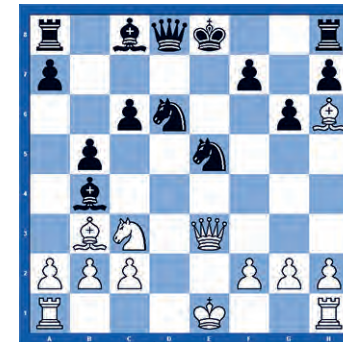
9...♗b4! The best chance. Black tries to win a tempo to castle with the threat of ♘xe4, but unfortunately for him, there are concrete problems in the position. [Black has no time to win the e4 pawn with 9...b4 The punishment comes quickly with 10.♘g5! bxc3 11.♔xc3 Black cannot protect the f7 pawn. 11...♗g7 12.♗xf7+ ♔e7 13.0-0-0+- Too many threats around the king. The game is over.; 9...♗e7 is met with 10.♗h6! and the problem to castle does not disappear. ♘g5 is a deadly threat.; 9...♗g7 is refuted by 10.♔d6! with the multiple threats of ♘g5, ♘xe5 and ♔xc6.]



10.♗h6! Excellent move! It is more important to keep the king on e8, than to take care of the e4 pawn. If it falls, the central lines are going to open on the Black king. Anyway, Black has to accept the sacrifice, otherwise he loses because of the ♘g5 threat.

10...♘xe4 11.♔e3 ♘d6 [11...♘xc3 is not better either. 12.bxc3 ♗f8 (12...♗c5 13.♔e4+-) 13.0-0-0 If we take a look at the attacking pieces of White and the undeveloped Black ones, we do not need to calculate longer to simply assess that White has a decisive attack.]

12.♘xe5 ♘xe5



13.♔xe5+? This mistake could have brought Black back to the game. [13.♗g7! was the right move order. 13...♔g8 14.♔xe5+ ♔e7 and we transposed to the position of the game.]

13...♔e7 14.♗g7! Keeping the tension and improving the pieces.

14...♔g8? [Black could have finally solved the problem of his uncastled king with 14...♔xe5+ 15.♗xe5 0-0 White has a clear advantage here as well, but he needs to work to convert it. 16.0-0-0 ♘f5 17.♘e4 ♗e7 18.♔he1± White's pieces are clearly dominating.]

15.0-0-0 ♖xe5 16. ♙xe5 Black succeeded to get rid of the queens, but the attack is still enormous with the minor pieces and the rooks on the central files.

16... ♘c4 Black rightly tries to exchange the active pieces, but there are still many left on the board.

17. ♙xc4 bxc4



18. ♘e4! The hole on f6 became the key factor of the game.

18... ♙e7 [18... ♙e7 has a prosaic refutation. 19. ♘f6+! ♙xf6 20. ♙xf6 and Black cannot avoid getting mated on d8 after doubling the rooks on the d-file. 20... ♙e6 21. ♖d6 g5 Trying to kick out the bishop with ♖g6, but it fails by one tempo. 22. ♖hd1 ♙d5 23. b3! White needs to eliminate the c-pawn to be able to open the d-file again. 23... cxb3 24. c4!+- wins.]

19. c3 Sending the bishop into an even worse position in order to get access to the d6 square.

19... ♙a5 20. ♙f6+ ♙e6 This leads to a forced mate, but the game was over anyway. [20... ♙f8 21. ♖d6+-]

21. ♖d6+ ♙f5 22. ♘g3+ Black resigned in view of the mate in the next move. [22. ♘g3+ ♙f4 23. ♖d4#]

1-0

(4) Gharamian, Tigran (2661) – Baryshpolets, Andrey (2526) [E60]

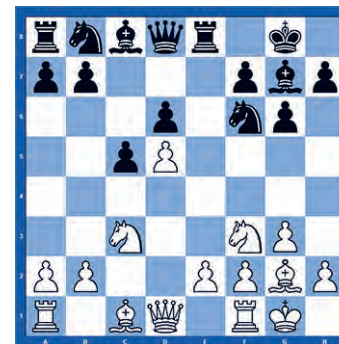
29th Open Cappelle la Grande FRA (5.7), 26.02.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

After White outplayed his opponent positionally, Black decided to complicate matters, but then, in the tactical part of the game, White dominated again.

1. d4 ♘f6 2. ♘f3 g6 3. c4 ♙g7 4. ♘c3 0-0 5. g3 The game started as a King's Indian Defense with g3, but suddenly, it transposed to the Benoni.

5... c5 6. d5 d6 7. ♙g2 e6 8. 0-0 exd5 9. cxd5 ♖e8 The initial position of the opening. White has various different setups here — he chooses one of the main lines.



10. ♙f4 a6 11. a4 The last two moves were standard measures in this line. Black wanted to play b5, which White prevented.

11... ♘h5 Black follows the latest fashion. [The old main line starts with 11... ♘e4 12. ♘xe4 ♖xe4 13. ♘d2 ♖b4 Aro-nian beat Carlsen in a nice strategic game back in 2007 with 14. b3!? The game continued with 14... ♙xa1 15. ♖xa1 ♖xf4!? The bishop was extremely strong on f4. White was

threatening to play ♖c4 or ♖e4, collecting the d6 pawn, and ♗h6 could have been unpleasant as well. So, sacrificing back the exchange was completely justified. 16.gxf4 ♘d7 17.♘e4 with slightly better for White.]

12. ♗g5 ♔c7 The idea of the previous two moves was to continue the development with ♘d7, which was not possible immediately because of the d6 pawn. We can also see that to include a6-a4 was also useful to avoid ♘b5 now.

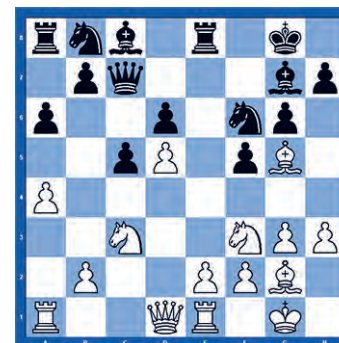
13.h3 A rare, but useful move, which fits well in the position. White usually tries to make progress on the kingside. Possible plans are e4, followed by ♘d2 and f4, and sometimes even g4 could be an unpleasant idea.



13...f5? This is definitely a mistake. Black significantly weakens his king's position, which might not be obvious at first sight, but 3 moves later it all becomes clear. [Black should have played 13...♘d7 followed by ♖b8 and b5. White will need to parry this b5 move again by playing a5, but even then b5 is possible. and after axb6 ♖xb6, Black gets counterplay on the b-file.]

14. ♖e1! White prepares for the e4 move, after which the knight will occupy an excellent square on e4. Suddenly, Black faces serious difficulties to finish his development on the queenside.

14...♘f6 Black tries to avoid or, at least, to delay e4. [14...♘d7 15.e4 fxe4 16.♘xe4 looks terrible from Black's point of view. ♘f3-d2-c4 is coming next. Also, g4 might win the h5 knight occasionally.]



15. ♗xf6! White gives up his strong bishop in order to get e4 as fast as possible. Black is not in time to consolidate his position. [15.♘d2 It was also possible to play e4, but the text move is much more effective.]

15... ♗xf6 16.e4 Black's main problem is that he cannot develop his knight to d7 because of the simple exf5, and otherwise it is hard to make a useful developing move. Actually, Black is missing only one tempo — if he could play ♘e5 now, his position would be perfectly fine.

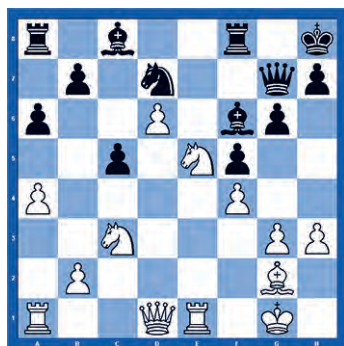
16... ♖f8 Quite an ugly move, but it is hard to suggest something better. Black wanted to keep an extra defender for his king after the threatened exf5. However, this allows another nice idea. This is a standard breakthrough in these Benoni structures! [Giving up the strong bishop is not advisable. 16... ♗xc3 17.bxc3 fxe4 18.♘g5 White wins back the pawn and gets a very strong attack.; 16...fxe4 17.♘xe4 ♗g7 loses to 18.♘f6+!]



17.e5! dxe5 18.d6 ♖g7 19.Nxe5! White won back the pawn because of the ♔d5 check. He also got a very dangerous d6 pawn and all of his pieces are excellently placed. Meanwhile, Black is still suffering to finish his development.

19...Nxd7 20.f4! Another good decision to leave Black suffering with his bad pieces. [White could have won a pawn with 20.Nxd7 ♔xd7 21.♔d5+ ♔h8 22.♔xc5 ♖ac8 but why to ease Black's task in his cramped position for a small amount of material?]

20...♔h8 After leaving from the ♔d5 check, Black finally wants to take on e5.



21.Nd5! Another strong and concrete move! As we will see, both captures on e5 have their own problems.

21...♔xe5 [21...Nxe5 is met with the intermediate move 22.Nxf6! Nc4 White can choose between many good moves, but the most elegant way to get a winning position is definitely 23.Ne8! ♔d4+ 24.♔xd4+ cxd4 25.♔e7+- Black is paralyzed.]

22.fxe5 Nxe5 23.Nb6! ♖b8 24.♖c1! This was the simple idea of 21.Nd5! Black cannot avoid ♖xc5, after which both rooks are ready to invade on the 7th rank, thanks to the strong d6 pawn. On the other hand, Black is still suffering with his c8 bishop.

24...Nd7 25.Nxd7 [On 25.♔e7 Black has 25...♖f7 26.♖xf7 ♔xf7 27.Nxd7 ♔xd7 28.♖xc5 White is much better here as well, but why to exchange a pair of rooks?!]

25...♔xd7 26.♖xc5 ♖c7 followed by ♔e7 are in the air.

26...♖fe8 27.♖c7 ♖xe1+ 28.♔xe1 Black decided to finish his suffering and allowed a small combination to finish the game.

28...♔d4+ [28...♖e8 29.♔b4 b5 30.a5!+- followed by ♖a7-a6, for instance. Black is unable to create any counterplay with this deadly pin on the 7th rank.]

29.♔h2 ♔xd6 30.♖xd7! ♔xd7 31.♔e5+ and the b8 rook falls. Nice performance by White. He punished his opponent very effectively after the 13...f5 move.

1-0

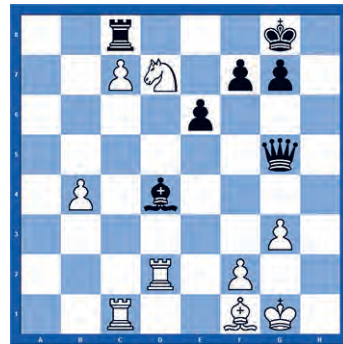
Puzzle section

(5) So,W (2684) – Dziuba,M (2603)

Reykjavik Open, 26.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Gretarsson,H (2509) – Navara,D (2710)

Reykjavik Open, 27.02.2013

[CEWN]

1... +-

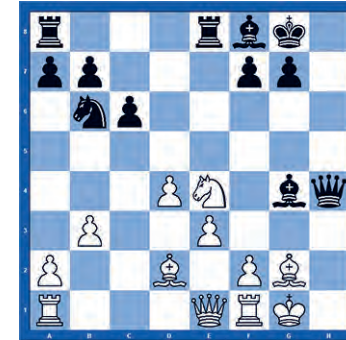


(7) Petkov,V (2559) – Fedorchuk,S (2643)

Cappelle la Grande Open, 27.02.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



(8) Sasikiran,K (2677) – Vul,A (2320)

Cappelle la Grande Open, 27.02.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

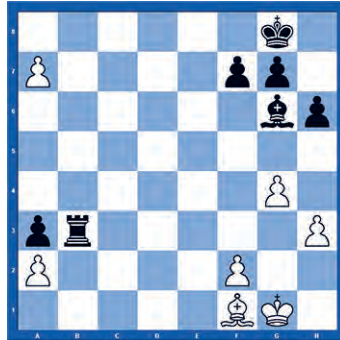


(9) Kozul,Z (2630) – Zelcic,R (2543)

Zagreb Open, 01.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+ Line

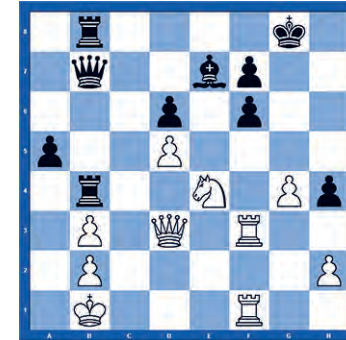


(11) Szelag,M (2484) – Wojtaszek,R (2700)

Dziedzica memorial (rapid), 03.03.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

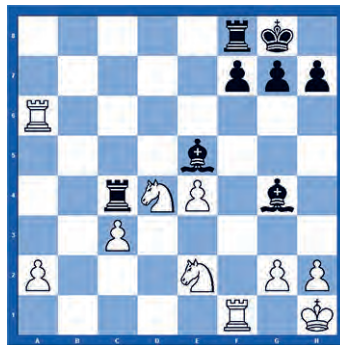


(10) Armanda,I (2380) – Brkic,A (2581)

Zagreb Open, 04.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... -/+

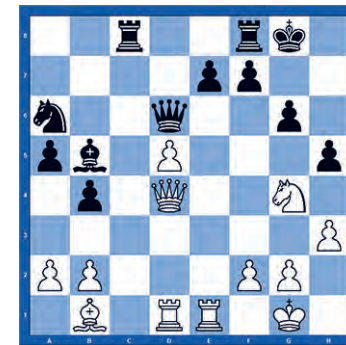


(12) Wojtaszek,R (2700) – Kempinski,R (2599)

Dziedzica memorial (rapid), 03.03.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Wojtaszek,R (2700) – Janaszak,D (2389)

Dziedzica memorial (rapid), 03.03.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

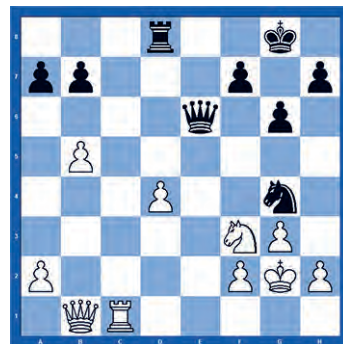


(14) Dumitrache,D (2440) – Negi,P (2638)

Cappelle la Grande Open, 25.02.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

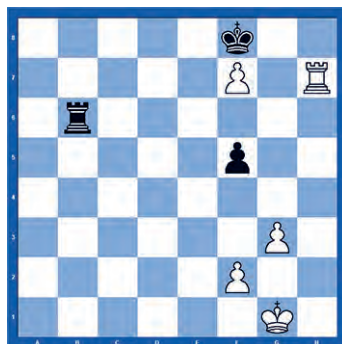


Endgame section

(15) Amin,B (2631) — Gajewski,G (2644)

Reykjavik Open, 27.02.2013

[Chess Evolution]

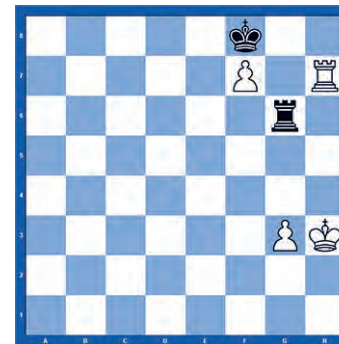


Black seems to be completely lost, but as in many other rook endgames, surprising things can happen.

40...♖g6!! White cannot prevent f4, getting rid of the weak pawn and White remains with his passive rook on h7. [Obviously, the pawn endgame is hopeless after 40...♖f6? 41.♔g2 ♖xf7 42.♖xf7+ ♔xf7 White wins easily after 43.♔f3 ♔g6 44.♔f4 ♔f6 45.f3! Black is in zugzwang. 45...♔e6 46.♔g5+-; 40...f4 immediately is premature, because White can preserve all his pawns. 41.g4! ♖g6 42.f3 ♖c6 43.♔g2 ♖c2+ 44.♔h3 ♖c1 (44...♖f2 45.g5 ♖xf3+ 46.♔g4+- is over.) 45.♖h5!+- and the rook goes to f5, and the f4 pawn is falling.]

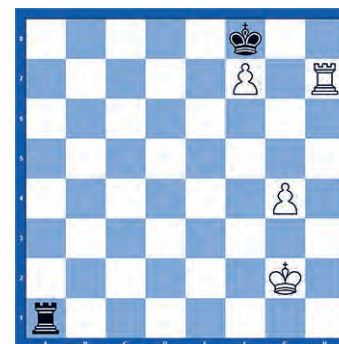
41.♔h2 f4! 42.♔h3! White tries his only chance! [42.gxf4 ♖g4 would have been an easy draw. Such bad pawns cannot be promoted.]

42...fxg3 43.fxg3 White has only one plan, to advance his g-pawn with the support of his king. Black must search for active counterplay against it.



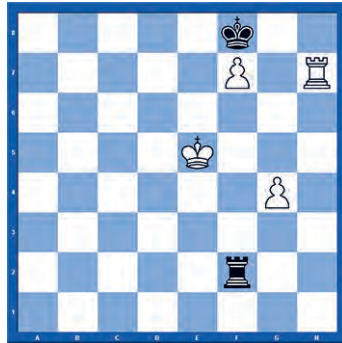
43...♖a6! 44.g4 ♖a1! The only move! Black is disturbing White to make progress.

45.♔g2! White finds his best chance again! He had to prevent ♖f1 and, of course, ♖h1! [45.♔g3 leads to a draw after 45...♖f1! and Black can take on f7 because the pawn endgame is drawn. 46.g5 ♖xf7 47.♖xf7+ ♔xf7=]



45...♖a3? Black cuts the king. This was the most logical move, but also the decisive mistake. [45...♖a7? never works, with the idea of taking on f7 the next move,

because 46. ♖h8+! ♔xf7 47. ♖h7+- wins the rook.; The draw could have been achieved by 45... ♖e1!! 46. ♔f3 (White cannot advance his pawn at once 46.g5 ♖e5! and on g6, ♖g5 is check.) 46... ♖f1+ 47. ♔e4! After other king moves, Black could have taken on f7, while now it would be losing because White gets the opposition with ♔f5. So, Black needs to wait until White pushes g5 and only then take on f7. 47... ♖f2 48. ♔e5



48... ♖f1 (48... ♖xf7? is always bad while the pawn is on g4. 49. ♖xf7+ ♔xf7 50. ♔f5 ♔g7 51. ♔g5! ♔h7 52. ♔f6+- wins.) 49. ♔e6 White is ready to play ♖h8, but a nice stalemate trick saves Black. (49.g5 ♖xf7 50. ♖xf7+ ♔xf7 51. ♔f5 ♔g7 and White does not have ♔g5 anymore, so the position is a draw.) 49... ♖f6+! 50. ♔xf6 And the saying is true again: all the rook endgames are drawn. :)]

46. ♔f2! Another great move by White! He prepares for the g5 push, by leaving from the ♖a5 g6 ♖g5 check.

46... ♖a4 47. ♔g3 ♖a5 [The drawing motif does not work anymore, because White can stay with his king on the g- and h-files. 47... ♖a1 48. ♔f4 ♖f1+ 49. ♔g5! (49. ♔e5? ♖f2 is a draw as we already know.) 49... ♖f2 The difference is 50. ♔h5! and White is ready to advance his g-pawn. The

rook check on the h-file never works because of ♔g6. (50. ♔g6 allows 50... ♖f6+ again.) 50... ♖f1 51.g5 g6 is coming next and the pawn endgame now is a theoretical win for White. 51... ♖xf7 52. ♖xf7+ ♔xf7 53. ♔h6 ♔g8 54. ♔g6 ♔h8 55. ♔f7 ♔h7 56.g6+-]

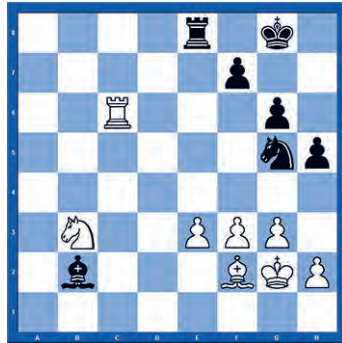
48. ♔h4 ♖a4 49. ♔h5 ♔e7 50.g5 ♖a1 51. ♔g6 ♖f1 52. ♖h8 Black resigned in view of ♖xf7 ♖h7!

1-0

(16) Caruana, Fabiano (2757)
– Gelfand, Boris (2740) [E00]

Zuerich Chess Challenge Zuerich SUI (6.2), 01.03.2013

[Chess Evolution]



41. ♘c5 We will see quite an interesting endgame from a practical point of view. What to exchange, what not to exchange. Which pawn structure is a draw, which a winning one. Let us try to take a closer look...

41... ♘e6 A good looking move by Gelfand. To exchange the knight would be a huge step for Black to get a draw. All knight endgames with a pawn can be very hard to defend. On the other hand, all bishop endgames or rook endgames could be very close to a draw. However, now the White knight is getting a perfect position on e4.

42. ♘e4! Of course, Caruana does not exchange the knights. [42. ♘xe6? ♙xe6 and Black made a huge step to get a draw.]

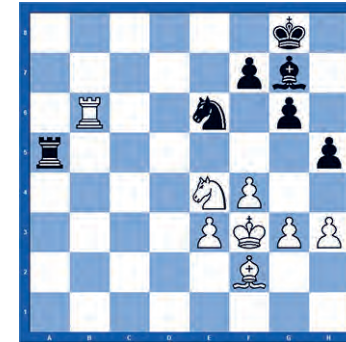
42... ♗g7 To put the bishop on g7 is never wrong.

43. ♖b6 ♖a8 Black put his pieces in perfect positions.

44. h3 Caruana wants to start his „winning“ plan by playing f4-g4-f5. Can Black do something against it?

44... ♖a2?! A slightly strange decision. I think Black should have kept using the „waiting“ tactic.

45. f4 ♖a5 46. ♗f3 Nothing too big has happened yet.



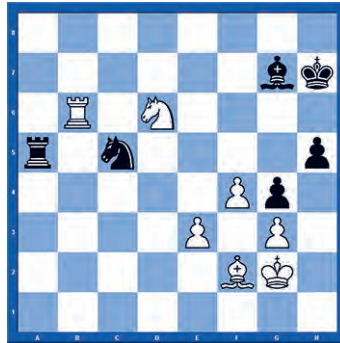
46...g5!? A strange looking move, but what else to do? It is hard to find a way against White's winning plan. [If Black keeps waiting with 46... ♗h7 47. g4 hxg4+ 48. hxg4 ♗g8 49. ♖b8+ ♗h7 now the very important 50. ♗h4! could just finish the game on the spot!]

47. ♖b8+ ♗h7 48. ♘d6 f5 Black's pawns are weak, but at least, White's plan with g4 has been stopped.

49. ♖b6 g4+ 50. hxg4 and here comes the critical decision: What pawn to take on g4 with?

50...fxg4+?! I think this was the wrong choice. [50...hxg4+ 51. ♗g2 It seems like White is doing really good, but here comes 51... ♘c5! Black's only chance of saving the game is with active play. 52. ♘xf5 (To play the same as in the game makes no sense now. 52. ♘b7 ♘xb7 53. ♖xb7 ♗g6 is just a draw.) 52... ♖a2! followed by ♘e4 or ♘d3 with some drawing chances.]

51. ♔g2 ♘c5 Gelfand tries the same, but now it is getting countered by



52. ♘b7! ♘xb7 **53.** ♖xb7 White wants to play e4-e5 to finish the game.

53... ♖a4 **54.** ♖b6 cutting the Black king.

54... ♖e4 **55.** ♔f1 White's king is going to d3.

55...h4? and another blunder by Gelfand. [55... ♖a4 in order to be ready to play ♔e2, and against ♖a2+, ♖d2 would follow. Black's position is bad, but by far not lost. There would still be a great fight here... 56. ♖d6 in order to be ready to play ♔e2, and against ♖a2+, ♖d2 would follow. Black's position is bad, but by far not lost. There would still be a great fight here...]

56.gxh4 Thank You Boris.

56...g3 **57.** ♙g1 and the 3rd pawn is going to fall on g3.

57... ♙h6 **58.** ♔g2 All in all, it is hard to say if Black could have saved the endgame from the beginning. Probably, it is closer to a win by White than to a draw.

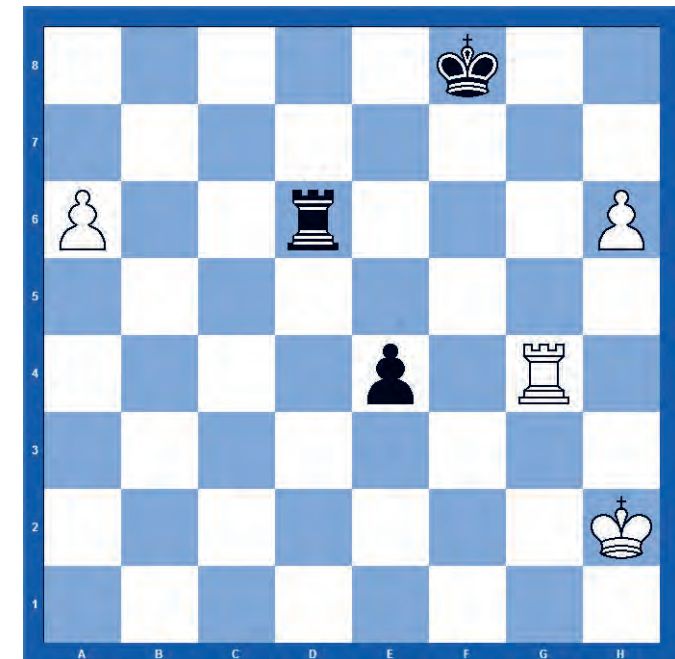
1-0

Surprise section / study

(17) Kok

[CEWN]

1. +-



Solutions

(18) Smith,A (2485) – Tari,A (2263)

Reykjavik Open, 21.02.2013

[Solutions]



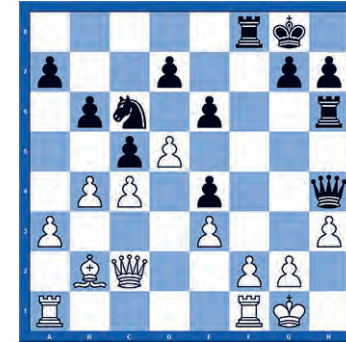
16. ♖xg7! ♜xd2 [16...♙xg7 17. ♚b2+ ♙g8 18. ♚xb4+-]

17. ♜f6 ♜a5 18. ♜e4+-

(19) Handler,L (2369) – Stefansson,H (2496)

Reykjavik Open, 22.02.2013

[Solutions]



18... ♜f3!! 19.dxc6 [19.gxf3 ♚xh3+-; 19.♜fd1 ♜g6!
20.♙f1 ♜xg2! 21.♙xg2 ♚xh3+ 22.♙g1 ♜f5--]

19... ♜xh3 20.gxh3 ♚g5+ [20... ♚xh3--]

21.♙h2 ♚g4! 0-1

(20) Kuzubov,Y (2622) – Beeke,B (2257)

Reykjavik Open, 22.02.2013

[Solutions]



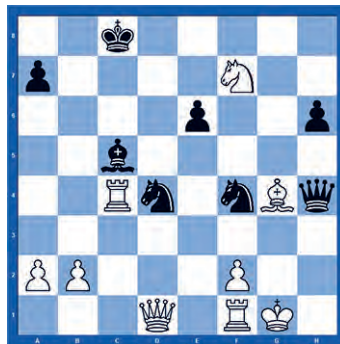
27. ♘xd5! exd5 28. e6+! fxe6 29. ♔e3! ♔e8 [29... ♖b6
30. ♕c7!+-]

30. ♖xe6+-

(21) Bekker Jenses,S (2405) – Williams,S (2498)

Reykjavik Open, 23.02.2013

[Solutions]

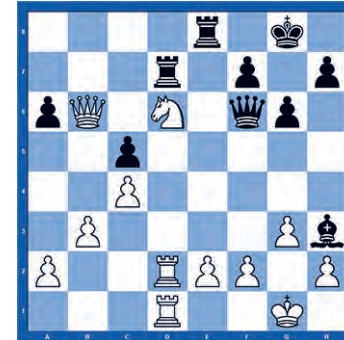


26... ♘de2+! 0-1 [26... ♘de2+ 27. ♕xe2 ♖g3+ 28. ♔h1 ♖g2#]

(22) Smith,A (2485) – Wang Jue (2375)

Reykjavik Open, 23.02.2013

[Solutions]



27... ♖xe2! 28. ♖b8+ [28. ♖xe2 ♖f3+-]

28... ♔g7 29. ♖xe2 ♖f3 30. ♘f5+ gxf5 31. ♖e5+ ♔g6!
32. ♖d6+ ♔h5!-+

(23) Pruijssers,R (2519) – Bischoff,K (2519)

German league, 23.02.2013

[Solutions]



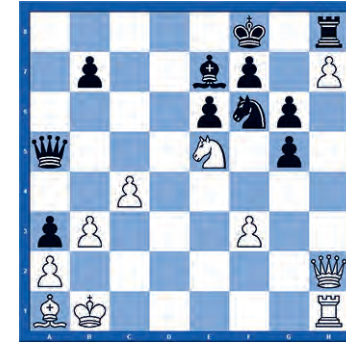
43. ♖xd5! exd5 44. ♔d7+ ♖c7 [44... ♕c7 45. ♖f8+-]

45. ♔xd8+-

(24) Bobras,P (2560) – Stellwagen,D (2622)

German league, 23.02.2013

[Solutions]



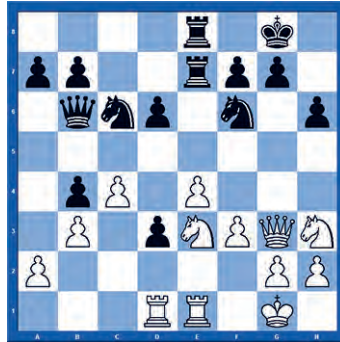
31. ♖d7+! ♔e8 [31... ♖xd7 32. ♕xh8+-]

32. ♖xf6+ ♕xf6 33. ♔b8+! 1-0[33. ♕xf6? ♖f5+;
33. ♔b8+ ♕d8 34. ♕xh8+-]

(25) Farago,I (2488) – Balogh,C (2664)

German league, 24.02.2013

[Solutions]



23...♘xe4! 24.fxe4 ♖xe4 25.♖xd3 [25.♔f2 ♕d4--]

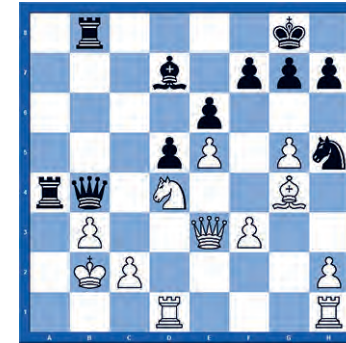
25...♘e5! 26.c5 [26.♖dd1 ♘g4 27.♖xd6 ♖xe3! 28.♖xe3 ♕xe3+ 29.♕xe3 ♖xe3--; 26.♖d2 ♖xe3 27.♕xe3 (27.♖xe3 ♘xc4! 28.bxc4 ♖xe3 29.♕f2 ♖e1#) 27...♘g4 28.♕xb6 ♖xe1#]

26...♕xc5 27.♖d5 ♕c3! 28.♖dd1 ♘g4--

(26) Espinosa Veloz,E (2452) – Quesada Perez,Y (2596)

Cuban Championship, 09.02.2013

[Solutions]



28...♘f4!! [28...♖c8 29.♖a1!; 28...♕a3+ 29.♔c3]

29.♕xf4 ♖c8!! 0-1 [29...♖c8 30.♖a1 (30.♔c1 ♖a1+ 31.♔b2 ♕a3#) 30...♕c3+--]

(27) Ptacnikova,L (2269) – Sokolov,I (2644)

Reykjavik Open, 22.02.2013

[Solutions]

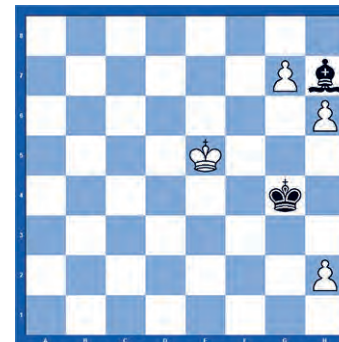


21... ♖b4!! 22. ♔e2 [22. ♘c3 ♙e6--; 22. ♙xb4 ♘h4--]

22... ♘h4 23. f3 ♙xe1 0-1

(28) Tarrasch,S

[Solutions]



1. ♔f6 ♔h5 2. g8 ♙! ♙xg8 3. ♔g7 ♔g5 4. h3! ♔h5 5. h4!
♔xh4 [5... ♙a2 6. h7+-]

6. ♔xg8+- 1-0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 55

15th of March 2013

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Editorial Preface

The World of Chess is waiting for the Candidates Tournament that already begins on March 15th. However, another major event has just finished.

Ukraine is the winner of the Women's World Team Championship with 16 Point. 2nd place went to China with 15 Points and "only" the 3rd place was taken by Russia (who played without the Kosintseva sisters).

The "Talking Match in Teheran" between Nigel Short and Ghaem Maghami was won by the Englishman very convincingly in all the 3 disciplines: Normal chess, rapid chess and blitz.

The Karpos Open is being played in Macedonia. Yemelin is the leader with 5,5/6 points and a lot of strong GMs behind him.

As usual, have fun with CEWN Nr 55.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Tkachiev,V (2644)–Dobrov,V (2537) [A57]

Nancy, 10.03.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

The decisive game of the very strong rapid tournament in Nancy. The surprise of the event, Vladimir Dobrov, knocked out two big favorites (Bacrot and Vachier La-grave) to reach the final, but in the second game he suffered a painful defeat.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 After defeating two top GMs, with full of confidence, Black chooses the Volga gambit.

4.♘f3 A solid alternative for White. He is aiming for a small positional advantage instead of accepting the sacrifice and going for the complicated positions. Black has a wide range of choices here...

4...b4 [4...♙b7 and; 4...g6 are the two main lines.]

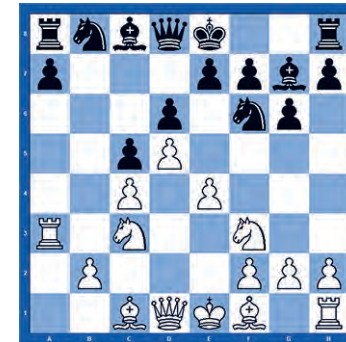


5.a3! White would like to develop his knight to c3, therefore he undermines the b4 pawn.

5...bxa3?! This is an inaccuracy, which helps White to finish his development the most ideal way. [5...g6 is the critical line. 6.axb4 cxb4 with many interesting lines and games in the database.]

6.♖xa3! At first sight it might look a bit strange, but the knight belongs on c3, where it supports the occupation of the center with e4.

6...g6 7.♘c3 ♙g7 8.e4 d6



9.e5!! An extremely strong move! White correctly judges the changes of the pawn structure. [White also gets a small advantage after the normal developing moves: 9.♙e2 0–0 10.0–0 but the text move is much stronger.]

9...♘g4 [9...dxe5 critically weakens the c5 pawn. 10.♘xe5 0–0 11.♙e2 followed by 0–0, ♘d3 and ♙e3 with very strong pressure on c5. White has a huge advantage. ♘bd7 does not work because of ♘c6!]

10.exd6 exd6 11.♙g5 White would like to reduce the power of the strong g7 bishop, by either provoking f6 or trying to exchange it. Black preferred the second option. [However 11.h3 seems to be even stronger. The point is

that after 11...♘e5 12.♗xe5 ♕xe5 13.♕h6! Black has serious difficulties to castle.]

11...♕f6 12.♕xf6 ♖xf6? Black would like to move his knight to e5, so he decides to take with the queen, but it crucially moves into the ♗e4 tempo. [12...♗xf6 was the only move, although White enjoys a small, but stable advantage here as well. 13.♕e2 0-0 14.0-0 ♕g4 Black's main problem in this kind of position is the d5 pawn, which takes away his space to develop the pieces and weakens the d6 pawn. White has many ways to put it under pressure. 15.♗d2 ♕xe2 16.♖xe2 and ♜fa1, ♞b5 or ♞e4, queen transfers to f4 or g3, and the rook might also go to a6 later on. Black still wants to finish his development.]

13.♕e2 [White had a strong alternative here with 13.h3 ♗e5



14.♗e4! ♗xf3+ 15.♜xf3 Suddenly, the rook proves to be excellently placed on the 3rd rank. 15...♖e5 16.♜e3 0-0 17.♖d2 After protecting the b2 pawn, Black is simply unable to prevent ♗xc5. The queen cannot leave the pin, because of the d6 pawn.]

13...0-0 14.0-0 ♗h6 A slightly artificial maneuver, but the position was already difficult. The idea was to take the

f3 knight with ♕g4, followed by occupying the d4 square with ♗f5-d4. But of course, this is too slow. [Other moves were also bad, for instance 14...♕f5 15.h3 ♗e5 16.♗xe5 ♖xe5 17.♜e1 ♖f6 18.♕g4 ♗d7 19.♕xf5 ♖xf5 20.♗e4 Black tried to finish the development logically, but the main problem is the d6 pawn, again.]

15.♖d2 ♖g7 16.♗e4! An excellent place for the knight and it is going there with tempo.

16...♖e7 17.♕d3 Unfortunately, ♜e3 was not possible because of ♗f5, but now the other rook is going to occupy the e-file.

17...♕g4 [17...♕f5 is met with the same moves as the game... 18.♖c3+ ♕f6 19.♜e1 with huge problems for Black.]

18.♖c3+! Critically weakens the e6 square.

18...f6 19.♜e1 ♗xc5 is the threat.

19...♖d7 [19...♕xf3 20.♗xc5+- and ♗e6 next.]

20.♗eg5 [20.♗fg5 was also winning. Black cannot develop his pieces.]

20...♜e8



21. ♖aa1! White needs to keep the important e-file. The b8 knight still cannot move, which would be necessary for connecting the rooks.

21... ♘f7 It is easy to feel that the pieces cannot be improved anymore and White should aim for a decisive blow!

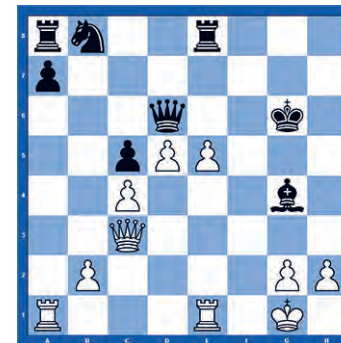
22. ♘xh7! That is it!

22... ♗e5 Black would like to lock the position a bit and also to trap the h7 knight, but it continues its kamikaze journey! [22... ♖xh7 loses to 23. ♔xf6 ♕h5 24. ♖xe8 ♔xe8 25. ♖e1+- and ♖e7 decides in the next move.]

23. ♘xf6! ♔xf6 24. ♘xe5 dxe5 25. f4! This was the point of the ♘xf6 sacrifice. If White succeeds to get his pawn to e5, he will swap his opponent away from the board.

25... ♔d6 26. ♕xg6!? Playing for the spectators. This was definitely not the only way to win, but it demonstrates well the power of the central pawns. [26. fxe5+ ♖xe5 27. ♖xe5 ♔xe5 28. ♖f1+ also looked tempting, but Black is alive after 28... ♕f5]

26... ♔xg6 27. fxe5 White has 4 pawns for the two minor pieces, but the position is completely winning, as Black does not have enough time to consolidate his position...



27... ♔d7 28. ♔g3 The threat is e6 to win the g4 bishop.

28... ♔f5 29. e6 The new threat is ♖e5 and Black cannot avoid losing the bishop.

29... ♔g5 [29... ♔h7 would have also lost. One of the winning plans is 30. ♖e5 ♔g6 31. ♔h4+ ♔g7 32. ♖g5+-]

30. h4! Black loses the g4 bishop now, which means the end of the game.

30... ♔d2 [30... ♔f5 31. ♖e5+-]

31. ♖ad1 Obviously, everything else was also winning, but White decided to finish the game in style and kept the g4 bishop alive one more move.

1-0

(2) Karavade, Eesha (2387) — Gunina, Valentina (2505) [A09]

FIDE Women's World Teams Astana KAZ, 11.03.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

An interesting game which had a calm start. White seemed to be overtaking the initiative, but suddenly, after a very logical but careless move, Black succeeded to turn the game to her favor in nice style.

1. ♘f3 **d5** **2.** c4 **c6** **3.** g3 White tries the Reti opening and Black chooses one of the safest options against it.

3... ♖g4 **4.** ♖g2 **e6**



5. cxd5 White tries to change the pawn structure by using the fact that cxd5 is not possible at the moment.

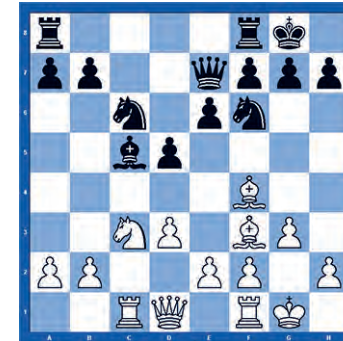
5... ♖xf3 This is a necessary intermediate move if Black wants to take back with the c-pawn. [5...cxd5?? would allow White to play a miniature. 6. ♖a4+ and g4 falls.; 5...exd5 is an alternative for Black, but it leads to sharp games after 6.0-0 ♘f6 7.d3 ♖e7 8. ♘c3 and e4 next move.]

6. ♖xf3 **cxd5** **7.** 0-0 **♘f6** **8.** ♘c3 ♘c6 White got the bishop pair, but the position is closed and he can hardly open

it. Only in the long-term he will have some chances to enjoy this advantage.

9. d3 ♖c5 This is considered to be the most precise. Black wants to develop the queen to e7. [But 9... ♖e7 is also perfectly playable.]

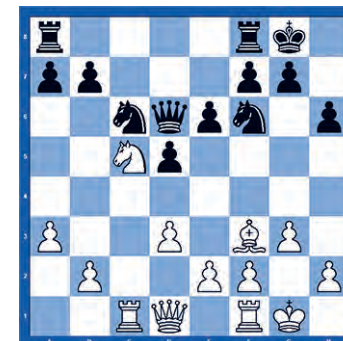
10. ♖f4 **0-0** **11.** ♖c1 ♖e7



12. a3 White tries to take some ground on the queenside, but it hardly brings any advantage.

12... h6 A useful waiting move. Black opens the back-rank just in case, and occasionally e5 might be an option after preventing ♖g5. [12... ♖ac8 was also possible.]

13. ♘a4 ♖d6 **14.** ♖xd6 ♖xd6 **15.** ♘c5



15...♘d4! 16.e3! The right decision to get rid of the d4 knight, although White admits with this move that she could not get any advantage in this game. [It made no sense to preserve the bishop with 16.♙g2 as the d4 knight is more powerful now. 16...♖fc8 17.♘b3 (17.♘xb7? ♚b6 traps the knight.) 17...♖xc1 18.♘xc1 ♖c8 and Black has the advantage. White cannot kick out the knight with e3 because of the ♖xc1 threat, followed by ♘e2.; 16.♘xb7 is simply met by 16...♘xf3+ 17.exf3 ♚b6 and Black wins back the b2 pawn.]

16...♘xf3+ 17.♚xf3 ♚b6 18.♘b3 ♖ac8 19.♘d4 ♚d7 20.♚f4 On the highest level, the players would probably agree to a draw now, but in women's chess the game is just about to start. :)

20...♖fe8 [Black wanted to create some complications, otherwise she would just trade everything 20...♖xc1 21.♖xc1 ♖c8 22.♖xc8+ ♚xc8 and offer a draw.; However 20...♖c5!? was an interesting alternative to continue playing on. Black is fighting for the c-file, while trading the rook would seriously improve his pawn structure. 21.b4 (21.♘b3 is a mistake because of 21...♖xc1 22.♖xc1 ♚b5! White has problems with the b2 pawn and 23.♖c3 moves into



23...d4! freeing the d5 square for the knight! 24.♚xd4 (24.♘xd4 ♚xb2) 24...♘d5 and b3 is hanging.) 21...♖xc1 22.♖xc1 ♚a4 and suddenly, after provoking the b4 move, Black has a target on a3.]

21.♚e5 ♚a4?! This is an inaccuracy. Black decided to take a risk in order to be able to continue the fight. [21...♘g4 22.♚f4 ♘f6 was possible to make a draw.; 21...a5 is a useful move with a balanced position.]

22.♚d6! Suddenly, White gets the c6 square for the knight!

22...♚a6! Admitting the mistake of the previous move, Black drives back the queen to b7 to control all the squares in his camp.

23.♘c6 ♚h7 It was necessary to leave from the ♘e7 threat. [23...♚b7? drops an exchange after the small combination 24.♘e7+!]

24.♖c3 Doubling the rooks on the c-file. White nicely overtook the initiative.

24...♚b7



25.♖fc1? Who could believe that this most logical move—which would be played by almost everybody

without thinking — is the turning point of this game... Black plays extremely strong from now on. [25.b4 should have been played with the idea of b5, stabilizing the strong c6 knight.]

25...e5!! A nice tactical move to jump out from the slightly cramped position. Black intends to play ♖e6.

26. ♖b4 [26. ♘xe5 drops the piece after 26... ♖xc3 27. ♖xc3 ♖e6 and White cannot save the e5 knight. 28. ♖c7 just prolongs the loss of material. 28... ♖a8]

26...d4!! Another great tactical move. Black frees the d5 square for the knight!

27. ♖3c2 [27.exd4? ♘d5 wins.]

27...dxe3! Weakening White's pawn structure ahead of his king. [27... ♖e6 immediately was also tempting, but it allows a tactical blow: 28. ♘xd4! ♖xc2 29. ♘xc2 and White won a pawn.]

28.fxe3 ♖e6! Kicking out the annoying c6 knight.

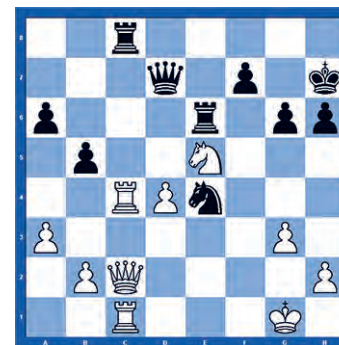
29. ♖a4 [29. ♘d4 is now simply met by 29... ♖xc2 30. ♘xc2 ♖c6 with an unpleasant pin on the c-file. It is hard to leave it with the c1 rook, since the queen is also going there.]

29... ♖d7! Creating another deadly pin. White could not fortify the knight on c6 and only has problems with it. As a side threat, the d3 pawn is under attack.

30.d4 exd4 31.exd4 [31. ♖xd4 is refuted by 31... ♖d6 32. ♖a4 ♖d1+ White loses huge material. For instance 33. ♖xd1 ♖xd1+ 34. ♔g2 b5 35. ♖b3 ♖xc6!]

31...a6! The most precise move again, creating the threat that was seen in the game.

32.b3 [32. ♖c3 was the last chance, with the idea of leaving the pin with check after ♖c2, although after some strong moves, Black is winning here as well. 32...g6! calmly preventing the ♖c2 check. 33. ♖c2 ♘e4! 34. ♖c4 b5 White cannot hold the c6 knight anymore and the trick with 35. ♘e5 loses to



35... ♖xe5! 36. ♖xc8 ♖xd4+ 37. ♔g2 ♘d2! and ♖e2 is a decisive threat, which White cannot prevent!]



32...b5! Sending away the queen from the protection of the d4 pawn.

33. ♖xa6 ♖cxc6! 34. ♖xc6 ♖xd4+ 35. ♔h1 ♖e2 White resigned as the king is way too exposed. **0-1**

(3) Gunina,V (2505) – Ju Wenjun (2505) [A41]

FIDE Women's World Teams Astana KAZ (4.1), 06.03.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

A very important game from the match Russia-China ended in a nice tactical way in favor of Gunina. Let us take a closer look!

1.d4 d6 The Chinese decides to take Gunina quickly out of the opening. Of course, as we can easily see, this can only work with players that use 1.d4. I guess the usual 1.e4 player would be very happy to play 2.e4 now and go to the Pirc.

2.c4 e5 3.♘f3 ♘d7 4.♘c3 g6 The idea of Black is to reach a King's Indian structure where she does not lose a tempo playing ♘f6 and later ♘d7-f5, but to play ♘e7 followed by an immediate f5.



5.dxe5!? A nice idea by Gunina, who is trying to take advantage of Black's temporary lack of coordination.

5...dxe5 6.♙g5 Destroying the pawn structure.

6...f6 [At 6...♘e7? 7.♘d5 White is doing very well.; 6...♙e7 7.♙xe7 seems to give White easy play with ♖d2–0–0–0 an h4.]

7.♙d2 ♘c5?! This move cannot be good. White will always have a chance to get rid of the knight on c5 by playing b4. Black should have focused more on the development of the kingside instead. [7...♙g7 8.e4 ♘e7 9.♙e2 0–0 10.0–0 but here it also seems that White should have a nice positional advantage.]

8.♙c2 White is following the main idea: to play e4, then ♙e2 and short castle, which would finish her development.

8...♙e6 9.e4 c6 Even though White has a big development advantage, Black's position is very solid and hard to break.

10.♙e2 ♘h6 11.♖d1 ♘d7 12.0–0 ♘f7 Black wants to play ♙e7 and short castle. What should White's plan look like now?!



13.♘h4! Gunina finds the right way to proceed. The f4 push will put extra pressure on Black's position. Another plan for White could be to play ♘a4 followed by c5 and ♙c4.

13...♙h6 The exchange of bishops is the right idea for Black, but Gunina has a great trick!

14. ♖f5! Very nice move! [Of course 14. ♗xh6 ♘xh6 15. ♖d2 would also lead to a better position for White, but how not to play 14. ♖f5!]

14... ♗f8 Probably Black has nothing better. [At 14... ♗xd2 15. ♖g7+ ♔e7 16. ♘xe6 ♔xe6 17. ♗g4+ followed by ♖xd2 leads to a win of material.; After 14... gxf5 15. exf5 the game would be over as well.]

15. ♗e3 I am not sure about this move now. Maybe White should have tried to continue with 15. b4!, crushing Black on both flanks

15... ♔c7 Black has no moves, but the position is still very solid and far from being lost.

16. f4 Gunina tries to open the position.

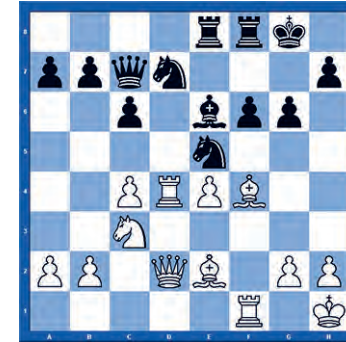
16... exf4 [16... 0-0-0! would have been probably the best way to play for Black. The position is still better for White, but it is very complicated.]

17. ♗xf4 ♘fe5 Black got a very strong knight on e5, but is still way behind in development.

18. ♘d4 ♗c5 Black is almost forced to give up the bishop — which usually is a bad idea because the dark squares become very weak now. [A logical move like 18... ♗f7 19. ♔h1 ♗e7 can be crushed by 20. ♗g4! and White is penetrating Black's position.]

19. ♔h1 ♗xd4 20. ♖xd4 0-0 21. ♔d2 Black has survived so far, but White has the bishop pair and is dominating the only open file — this gives her a clear advantage.

21... ♖ae8

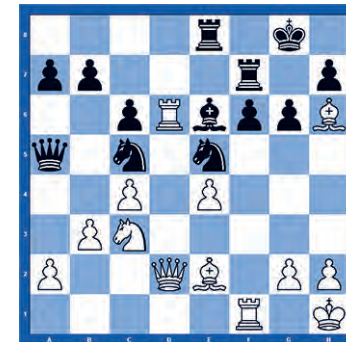


22. b3! Silent but very strong. White wants to play ♖d6 next.

22... ♔a5 23. ♖d6 ♘c5? This is a blunder, but Black's position was very hard to play anyway. There is no concrete plan and White's threats are getting more and more dangerous. Maybe Black's only idea could have been to play 23... ♖f7 followed by ♘f8, trying to be super tight.

24. ♗h6 A nice starting move to a combination.

24... ♖f7



25. b4!! Quite typical, but very nice...

25... ♔xb4 26. ♖d8 ♖fe7 The only move.

27. ♖xf6 White wants to play ♖f8 next with mate.

27...♘cd7 28.♘d5! The final move of the combination that started with 24. ♖h6. Very beautiful!!

28...♔a3 A lot of moves win now for White, but Gunina chooses the most spectacular one. [This leads directly to mate: 28...♔xd2 29.♘xe7+ ♔h8 30.♖xe8+]

29.♔a5! Finishing the game on the spot!

29...♔d6 30.c5 A very nice game by White!

1-0

(4) Smirin,Ilia (2659) – Tratar,Marko (2512) [C16]

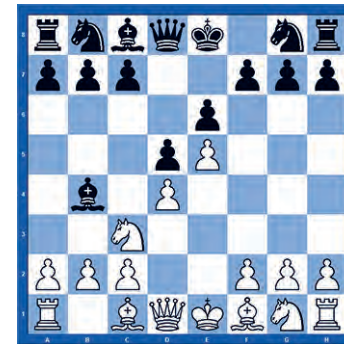
Skopje MKD, Karpos Open 2013 r_3

Skopje MKD (3.2), 10.03.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

A nice win in the French Defense was seen at the fifth round of the Karpos Open. During the first moves, it seemed like Black managed to equalize, but White kept a small strategic advantage that Smirin converted in a nice mating attack.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♖b4 4.e5



4...b6 This is a rare line. The basic idea is to exchange the light-squared bishops as soon as possible, which is quite logical for Black. The structure with e6-d5 weakens greatly the bishop on c8. The big disadvantage of this line is that White gets a big lead in development and more space in the center due to the pawn structure.

5.♘f3 Another very rare move by White... [5.a3 ♖xc3+ 6.bxc3 White wants to play ♔g4 next... 6...h5 would be the main line.]

5...♔d7 The idea of this move is to avoid the following line. [The tempting 5...♙a6?! would not be the best because of 6.♙xa6 ♘xa6 7.♔d3 and White wants to play at 8.♕b5 after 7...♘b8?, winning a piece.]

6.♙d2 At first sight, it is quite unclear why White made this move, but very soon we will see why it was quite a cunning way to play.

6...♙a6 Using the moment in which White cannot play ♔d3 any longer. [In case of 6...♙xc3 7.♙xc3 ♙a6 White is doing better again because of 8.♙xa6 ♘xa6 9.♔d3 forcing the Black knight to go back to b8. 9...♘b8 10.h4 with better play for White, even though the position is far from clear.]

7.♙xa6 ♘xa6



8.♘e2! And here White's idea comes to live. Now Black cannot exchange the b4 bishop for the knight on c3 any longer, which usually is a good thing for him.

8...♙xd2+ 9.♔xd2 Let us have a fresh look at the position. White's space advantage plus the typical idea of ♘f4-♘h5 can be dangerous for the Black king. As well, Black's play with c5 can only come to live with ♘b8-♘c6,

which once again loses two big tempos. On the other hand, the material is equal, Black got a solid pawn structure and any further exchange would make the position more equalized. All in all, White is a bit better here, but nothing too dramatic has happened.

9...♘e7 10.♘f4 The Black knight wants to reach the h5 square.

10...♘g6 A risky move... [10...g6 looks ugly, but maybe is not a stupid move. White is getting a new idea — to play h4 -, but Black could castle long... This would not solve all Black's problems, but the position would remain quite safe.]

11.♘h5 0-0



12.h4! White does not hesitate and starts to play quickly against Black's king. The threat is to play ♘g7 next, and this is not an easy one to avoid.

12...c5 [If Black would try to use a direct defense against ♘xg7: 12...♖fc8 13.♘xg7 seems to work still. 13...♔xg7 14.h5 ♘e7 15.h6+! An important move, but not a difficult one to find for a strong GM. 15...♔g8 (15...♔h8? loses to 16.♕g5 ♘f5 17.♕f6+ ♔g8 18.g4+-) 16.♕g5+ ♘g6 17.♕f6

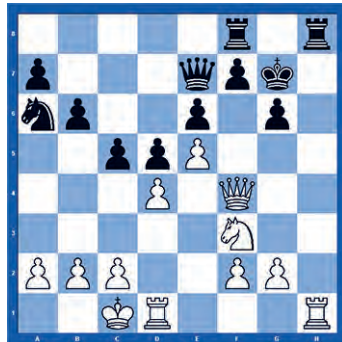
♔f8 18.♘g5 White is collecting a second pawn on h7 and the mating attack goes on. This is clearly more than enough compensation for a piece.]

13.♘xg7 ♔xg7 14.h5 Black is already in big danger. White wants to play hxg6 followed by ♔h6.

14...♖h8 15.hxg6 hxg6 16.0-0-0! I think Tratar blundered this move. Black's king is under attack and the knight on a6 is very far away to help in the defense. This cannot be good...

16...♔e7 17.♔f4 It is hard to give Black advice here. White has several plans. We will see one of them now, and the second one could be just to play ♘h2-♘g4 next.

17...♖af8 A safe move, but White finds a nice way to take advantage of the unlucky position of Black's rook on f8.



18.g4! Another very nice move by Smirin. White wants to play g5 followed by ♔f6.

18...f5 What else to do...

19.gxf5 ♖xf5 20.♔g3? White misses a way to finish the game immediately. [20.♖xh8! Easy but beautiful. 20...

♔xh8 (20...♖xf4 21.♖dh1 and ♖1h7 next.) 21.♖h1+ ♔g8 22.♔g4 with a mating attack.]

20...♖fh5 21.♖xh5 ♖xh5 22.♖g1 ♔f7 23.♘h4 ♖h6 Black managed to avoid to lose on the spot, but the position is very bad.. . White has to take his knight from h4 to g5, after which the game should be over.

24.f4 ♘c7 [24...cxd4 25.♘f3 does not help Black either...]

25.♔b1 There is absolutely no hurry. Black is totally paralyzed.

25...♘b5 26.c3 ♘c7 Probably Black was also in time-trouble.

27.♔g5 ♔h7 28.♔d8 Followed by ♘f3. All in all a nice positional win by White!

1-0

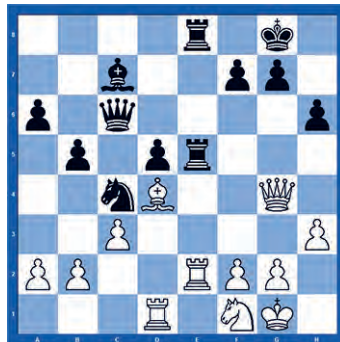
Puzzle section

(5) Davletbayeva,M (2272) – Zhukova,N (2471)

World Women Teams, 05.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+



(6) Foisor,S (2323) – Shen Yang (2415)

World Women Teams, 05.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

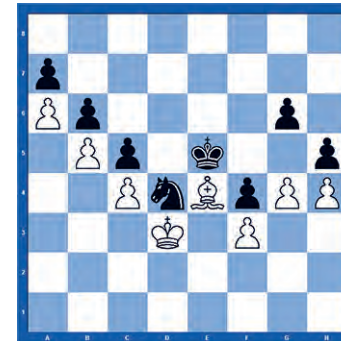


(7) Gunina,V (2505) – Dzagnidze,N (2554)

World Women Teams, 09.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

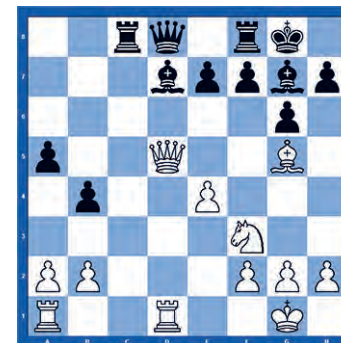


(8) Yildiz,B (2341) – Ju Wenjun (2505)

World Women Teams, 11.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+



(9) Svetushkin,D (2602) – Bacrot,E (2705)

Nancy (rapid), 09.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

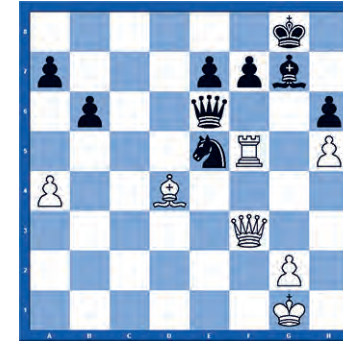


(11) Dobrov,V (2537) – Vachier Lagrave,M (2722)

Nancy (rapid), 10.03.2013

[CEWN]

1.+–

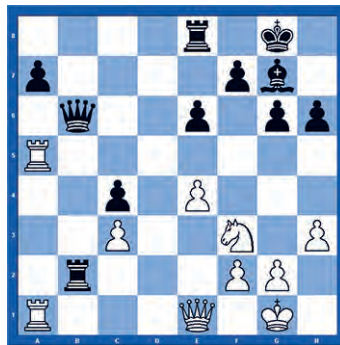


(10) Istratescu,A (2651) – Vachier Lagrave,M (2722)

Nancy (rapid), 10.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

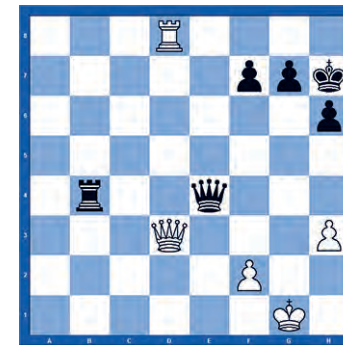


(12) Svetushkin,D (2602) – Tkachiev,V (2644)

Nancy (rapid), 10.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+



(13) Mekhitarian,K (2546) – Macedo,M (2408)

Brazilian Championship, 04.03.2013

[CEWN]

1.+-

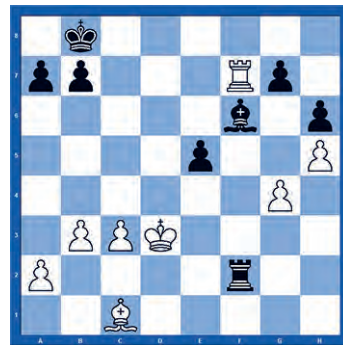


(14) Yildiz,B (2341) – Bulmaga,I (2354)

World Women Teams, 07.03.2013

[CEWN]

1.+-

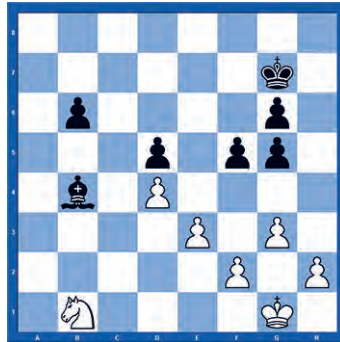


Endgame section

(15) Galliamova,A (2459) — Javakhisvili,L (2464)

World Women Teams, 09.03.2013

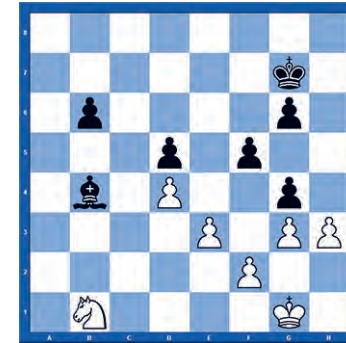
[Chess Evolution]



Black has simplified her clear advantage to this endgame, which she thought should be easily winning as the knight is trapped on b1. Also, it looks like if White tries to play ♖d2 or ♖c3, the pawn endgame will be winning because of the side passer on the b-file. However, reality is completely different...

49.h3 A logical attempt by White to place the pawns on light squares, opposite to the dark squared bishops.

49...♔f6 [It would have been a very tricky attempt to play 49...g4!? fixing the on the dark squares. White has many possibilities, but only one of them seems to lead to a draw.



50.♔g2! (50.h4? is bad because Black can play the same way as in the game, but now White cannot create a passed pawn on the kingside. 50...♔f6; 50.hxg4? is also bad because it opens a path for the Black king to penetrate in the center. 50...fxg4 51.♔f1 ♔f6 52.♔e2 ♔f5 53.♔d3 b5! and White is in zugzwang, the king is coming to e4 and decides the game.) 50...♔f6 51.f3! This is the correct defense! White undermines the g4 pawn and creates counterplay on the kingside. 51...gxf3+ 52.♔xf3 The game should be draw because Black cannot transfer his king to the kingside, because of the ♔f4-g5 or g4 plans...]

50.g4! Well played! Putting another pawn on a light square.

50...♔e6 [50...f4!? would have been the last serious attempt to win the game. White must play very carefully. 51.♔f1 fxe3 52.fxe3 ♔e6 The king is heading to breakthrough on the queenside. 53.♔e2 ♔d6 54.♔d3 ♔c6



55.♔c2! White must lure the Black king to a4 and then create her own passed pawn with e4. (55.♘c3? is an instructive mistake, which would prove the victory of Black's strategy. 55...♙xc3 56.♔xc3 b5 57.♔b3



57...♔b7! Black has to play ♔b6 when the White king is on b4. So the plan is to go a6-a5, forcing White to play ♔b4 and then ♔b6. 58.♔a3 ♔a6! 59.♔b4 ♔b6 60.♔b3 ♔a5 61.♔a3 b4+ 62.♔b3 ♔b5 and the Black king gets access to collect the e3 and d4 pawns.) 55...♔b5 56.♔d3! ♔c6 Black should turn back and settle for a draw, as the winning attempt with ♔a4 can only create problems for himself.(56...♔a4 57.e4! dxe4+ 58.♔xe4 ♔b3 59.♔d3 ♔b2

60.♘d2 and suddenly the d-pawn is much more dangerous than the b-pawn.)]

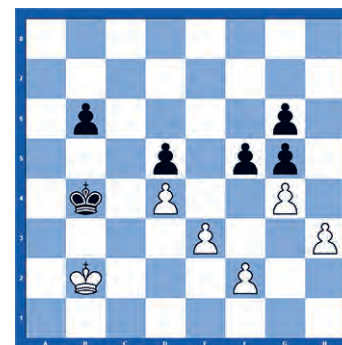
51.♔f1 ♔d6 52.♔e2 ♔c6 Black follows her original strategy to invade on the queenside and stays ready to enter into a pawn endgame.

53.♔d3 ♔b5 54.♘c3+! Probably this move came as a surprise for Black, but White has evaluated the arising endgame much deeper.

54...♙xc3 55.♔xc3 ♔a4 Black thought everything was under control and the win should be the same as in the 50...f4 line, when White played 55.♘c3. However, now the pawn structure is different and we have a different story...

56.♔b2! Galliamova had to prevent ♔a3 before starting her counterplay on the kingside.

56...♔b4



57.f4! Suddenly, White is breaking through. As it usually happens after such a shocking move, Black immediately collapses. However, with an only move, Javakhisvili could have saved the game.

57...gxf4? [57...fxg4! 58.hxg4 ♔c4! was the right move.

a) 58...gxf4? loses after 59.exf4 ♔b5 60.f5! gxf5 61.g5! The standard breakthrough. 61...f4 62.♔c3+- White's king is close enough to stop the f-pawn and the g-pawn will promote soon.;

b) 58...♔b5!? seems to hold as well, although it looks very suspicious. 59.♔b3 ♔c6 60.♔b4 ♔b7 61.♔b5 ♔c7 White can never push f5, since the Black king is too close to catch it. fxg5 makes no sense because those doubled pawns have no value at all. White has nothing better than retreating with the king and settle for a draw. 62.♔b4 (This only causes problems for White: 62.♔a6? ♔c6 63.fxg5 ♔c7 64.♔b5 ♔b7 65.♔b4 ♔a6) ; 59.f5 gxf5 60.gxf5 g4 61.f6 g3 62.f7 g2 63.f8 ♖g1 ♖g1 and the draw is inevitable.]

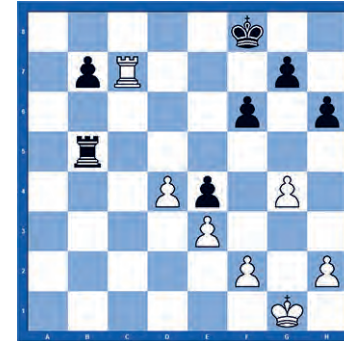
58.exf4 ♔c4 59.gxf5 gxf5 60.h4 ♔xd4 and Black cannot catch the h-pawn, while the d-pawn is too slow.

61.h5 ♔e3 62.h6 1-0

(16) Georgiev,Kiril (2657) – Dvirnyy,Danyil (2530) [D30]

Skopje MKD, Karpos Open 2013 r_4 Skopje MKD (4.7), 11.03.2013

[Chess Evolution]



This rook endgame looks like a complete draw, but it is a wrong impression. Because of the weak Black pawn on e4 and the king on f8, White still has quite a few winning chances, and as we all know, it is very easy to go wrong in rook endgames.

37.♔g2 h5! To exchange a pawn is usually a good idea. [If Black tries to push his b-pawn immediately 37...♖b1 38.h4! looks very strong. Now the threat is h5 followed by ♔g3-♔f4. 38...g5 39.♖h7 and White is already winning a pawn.]

38.gxh5 Maybe this is the best try to continue the game... [Now to play 38.h3 hxg4 39.hxg4 g5 looks quite close to a draw.]

38...♖g5+ 39.♔h1 ♖f5 40.♔g2 ♖g5+ The time trouble is over and White has some time to think about some winning attempts...

41.♔h3! The only chance...

41...b5 [the greedy 41...♖xh5+ 42.♔g3 would give the White king the possibility to go to the f4 square, which can always give Black a lot of problems.]

42.♖b7 What does White want now?!

42...♔e8 43.♔h4 ♕f8 44.h3 First, White improves his position to the maximum.



44...♔e8? Not a good decision. [44...♔g8! A tricky move to find, but Black needs to play precisely to reach a draw. 45.♖e7 ♕f8 46.♖xe4 It seems like Black just lost a pawn, but 46...♔f7! might save the game. Probably, White will need to wait for Black's b4 and then play d5. After this, the arising rook endgame should be very close to a draw.]

45.d5! Exactly! The g7 pawn is falling.

45...♖xd5 46.♖xg7 ♖g5! Good move. Black needs to get rid of the White rook on g7.

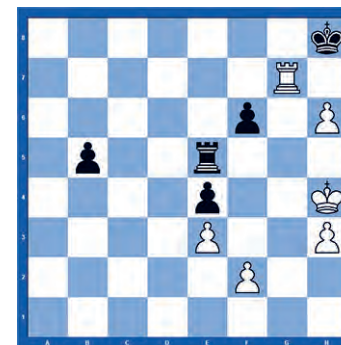
47.♖b7 ♕f8 In the next moves, White will test Black... There is no need to hurry in a better position to use the "last winning attempt". Your opponent might make a mistake.

48.♖d7 ♔g8 49.♖e7 ♖e5 Of course. Black does not give the e4 pawn away.

50.♖d7 ♖g5 Once again, White has no ♔g4.

51.♖b7 ♔f8 52.h6 Finally White is starting some action.

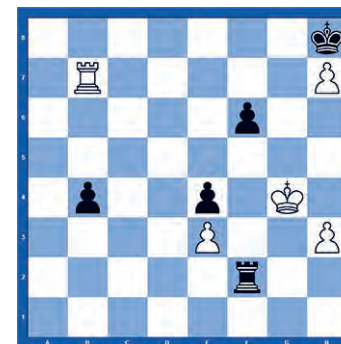
52...♔g8 53.♖e7 b4 [In case of 53...♖e5 54.♖g7+ ♔h8



55.♔g4! the White king escapes from the h4 prison. 55... b4 (55...♖g5+ 56.♖xg5 fxg5 57.♔f5 b4 58.♔xe4 and White's king is in time to catch the b-pawn.) 56.♖b7]

54.♖b7 ♖f5 Black is trying to get at least the f2 pawn. But it is already too late...

55.♔g4 ♖xf2 56.h7+ ♔h8



57.♔h5! Exactly! The Black pawn on f6 is disturbing the defense. The normal defense would be to check White on the 6th, which now is impossible

57...♖c2 58.♔g6 ♖c8 59.♖xb4 The bad news for Black is that White will collect all the pawns now, and if Black manages to get a rook endgame with h+e pawns, it would be simply lost.

59...♖f8 60.♖xe4 f5 61.♖f4 And the f5 pawn is falling as well...

61...♖e8 62.♖xf5 What a great technique shown by Georgiev!!

1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Fischer, Robert James (2785)
— Spassky, Boris V (2560) [C95]

St Stefan/Belgrade m Belgrade (1), 1992

[Kamil Miton]

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7
6.♖e1 b5 7.♙b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3



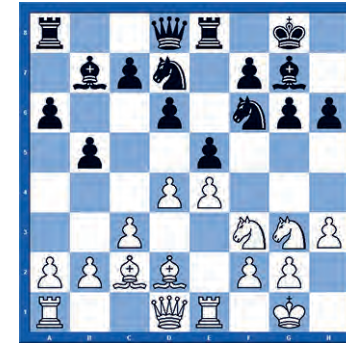
9...♘b8 The Breyer, a very solid system against the Ruy Lopez, which was popular many years ago as well.

10.d4 ♘bd7 11.♘bd2 ♙b7 12.♙c2 ♖e8 13.♘f1 [Another setup for White is: 13.a4 ♙f8 14.♙d3 c6 15.b3 g6 16.♖c2 ♙g7 17.♙b2]

13...♙f8 14.♘g3 g6 Both sides play typical maneuvers in this position.

15.♙g5!? White is provoking the h6 move to win a tempo later, after ♖d2 or ♖c1.

15...h6 16.♙d2 ♙g7 [16...exd4 17.cxd4 c5 This was the plan that Spassky used in his next games against Fischer. 18.d5± X ♙b7]



17.a4!? A typical move with the idea of getting space on the queenside.

17...c5 Black had a few other possibilities like 17...♘b6; 17...exd4 18.cxd4 c5; or 17...c6.

18.d5 c4 19.b4 I like this move. The idea is to take control of the c5 square. In case of 19... cxb3, White will get the initiative on the queenside.

19...♘h7 [19...cxb3 20.♙xb3 ♘c5 (20...♖c8 21.axb5 axb5 ♖b6 23.♖eb1 ♖a8 24.♙a4 ♙a6 25.c4±) 21.c4! bxc4 (21... bxa4 22.♙xa4 ♖e7 23.♙b4± This structure is also good for White. Black gets the c5 square, but on the other hand, gets some disadvantages like: two very bad bishops, potential weaknesses on a6 and d6, many pieces to move in a small space. One of White's plans might be to kick the knight from c5 after transferring his knight to b3 and the rook to b5. The bishop on b4 is already on a good square.) 22.♙xc4± Thanks to his space advantage and the limited Black bishops, White's position is stably better.]

20. ♖e3 h5 21. ♔d2 ♖f8 Black should try to look for an f5 push at some moment, but it is not an easy task because White's pieces are well placed to prevent this (♙c2 and ♘g3.)

22. ♖a3 The beginning of a plan to take control of the a-file.

22... ♘df6 A strange move, why not? [22...h4 23. ♘f1 f5 and the position becomes complicated.]

23. ♖ea1 ♔d7



24. ♖1a2 ♖fc8 25. ♔c1 ♙f8 26. ♔a1 If I remember well, the first player that discovered this setup with the heavy pieces was A. Alekhine.

26... ♔e8 27. ♘f1! Fischer starts his nice maneuver.

27... ♙e7 28. ♘1d2 ♔g7 29. ♘b1 Nice motif. The threat now is to exchange pieces on the a-file and play ♘a3 to grab the b5 pawn.



29... ♘xe4!? Practical decision. Spassky understands that a passive defend cannot be promising and changes the character of the position. [29... ♘d7 30. axb5 axb5 31. ♖xa8 ♖xa8 32. ♖xa8 ♔xa8 33. ♔xa8 ♙xa8 34. ♘a3+-]

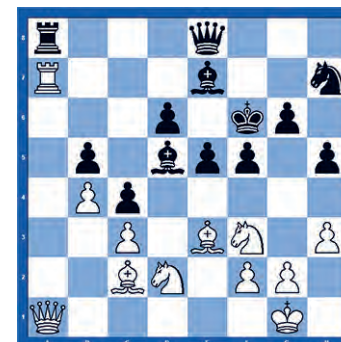
30. ♙xe4 f5 [30... ♘f6!?!-]

31. ♙c2 ♙xd5 For the piece, Black has two pawns and a strong center. However, objectively it is not enough. Fischer will convert his advantage masterfully.

32. axb5 axb5 33. ♖a7 A rook on the 7th rank is always dangerous.

33... ♔f6 34. ♘bd2 ♖xa7 [34...f4 35. ♘e4+ ♙xe4 36. ♙xe4+-]

35. ♖xa7 ♖a8



36.g4! The idea of this good move — which is basic on some calculations — is to destroy Black's structure.

36...hxg4 37.hxg4 ♖xa7 [37...fxg4 38.♘h2+-]

38.♔xa7 f4 [38...♙c6 39.♘h4+-; 38...♔a8 39.♔xa8 ♙xa8 40.gxf5 gxf5]



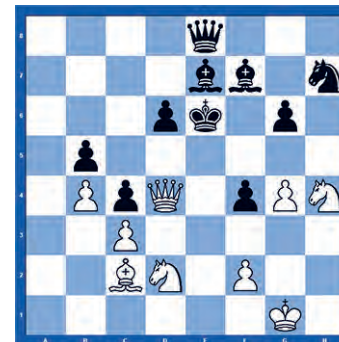
41.♘h4! e4 After this move, White takes control of the useful squares d4 and f4, so should easily win the game. (41...f4 42.♙xh7 fxe3 43.fxe3 d5 with some hope to exchange the last pawns.) 42.♘f1 ♙c6 43.♘g3 ♙d7 44.♘g2±]

39.♙xf4 Fischer gives the piece back and thanks to this, he gets a decisive initiative. [39.♙b6 should also be enough.]

39...exf4 [39...♙xf3 40.♘xf3 (40.♙xe5+→) 40...exf4 41.♔d4+ ♔f7 42.♔xf4+ ♔g7 43.g5↑ and White's pieces are stronger.]

40.♘h4 ♙f7 [40...♘f8 41.♔d4+ ♔e6 42.♘xg6 ♘xg6 43.♙f5+ ♔f7 44.♔xd5+ ♔g7 45.♘e4± White is dominating thanks to his active pieces and the weak Black pawns on the queenside.]

41.♔d4+ ♔e6



42.♘f5 ♙f8 43.♔xf4 Many weaknesses, a vulnerable king and the uncoordinated pieces do not allow Black to fight anymore. White's position is simply winning.

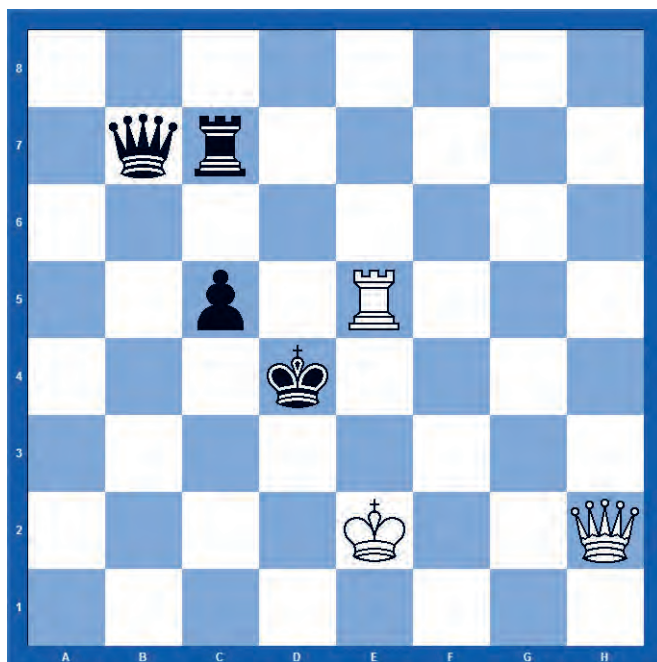
43...♔d7 44.♘d4 ♔e1+ 45.♔g2 ♙d5+ 46.♙e4 ♙xe4+ 47.♘xe4 ♙e7 48.♘xb5 ♘f8 49.♘bxd6 ♘e6 50.♔e5 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Rinck

[CEWN]

1.+-

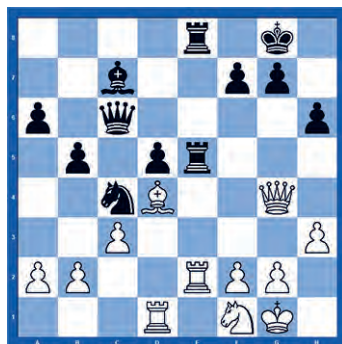


Solutions

(19) Davletbayeva,M (2272) – Zhukova,N (2471)

World Women Teams, 05.03.2013

[Solutions]



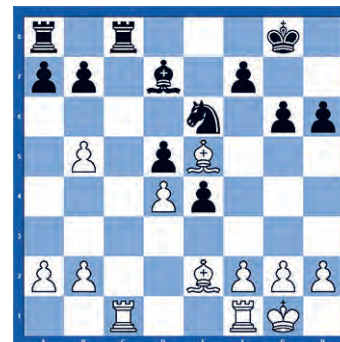
29... ♖g5? [29...f5! 30. ♗g3 f4! 31. ♗g4 h5! 32. ♗h4 ♖xe2--+; 29...h5!? 30. ♗g3 h4 31. ♗g4 f5 32. ♗g5 ♕d8! 33. ♗xd8 ♖xe2 34. ♗g5+]]

30. ♗f3=

(20) Foisor,S (2323) – Shen Yang (2415)

World Women Teams, 05.03.2013

[Solutions]



24...f6!! 25. ♕xf6 [25. ♕d6 ♖xd4--+]]

25... ♖f4! 26. ♖ce1 [26. ♖xc8+ ♖xc8 27. ♕d1 (27. ♖e1 ♖xe2+ 28. ♖xe2 ♖c1+) 27... ♕xb5 28. ♖e1 ♖d3--+]]

26... ♖xe2+ 27. ♖xe2 ♕xb5--+

(21) Gunina,V (2505) – Dzagnidze,N (2554)

World Women Teams, 09.03.2013

[Solutions]



59...g5! 60.gxh5 [60.hxg5 h4–+]

60...gxh4 61.h6 ♔f6! 62. ♚b7 h3 0–1

(22) Yildiz,B (2341) – Ju Wenjun (2505)

World Women Teams, 11.03.2013

[Solutions]



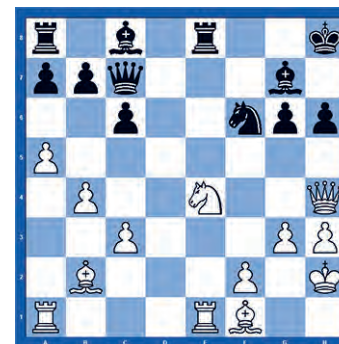
17... ♙xb2! 18. ♖ab1 ♙a4!! 19. ♚xd8 ♜fxd8–+ 20. ♜d5
[20. ♜xd8+ ♜xd8 21. ♜xb2 ♜d1+]]

20... ♜xd5 21.exd5 f6–+

(23) Svetushkin,D (2602) – Bacrot,E (2705)

Nancy (rapid), 09.03.2013

[Solutions]

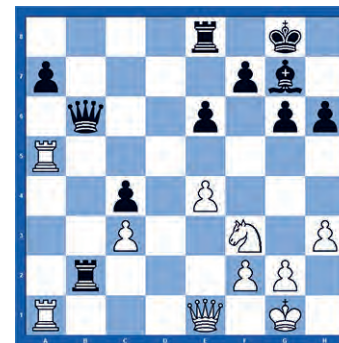


28... ♜xe4! 0–1[28... ♜xe4 29. ♜xe4 g5–+]

(24) Istratescu,A (2651) – Vachier Lagrave,M (2722)

Nancy (rapid), 10.03.2013

[Solutions]

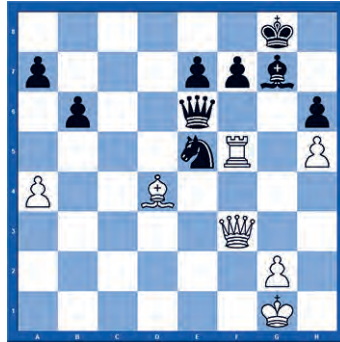


27... ♙xc3! 0–1[27... ♙xc3 28. ♚xc3 ♜xf2+ 29. ♔h1
♜xg2#]

(25) Dobrov,V (2537) – Vachier Lagrave,M (2722)

Nancy (rapid), 10.03.2013

[Solutions]



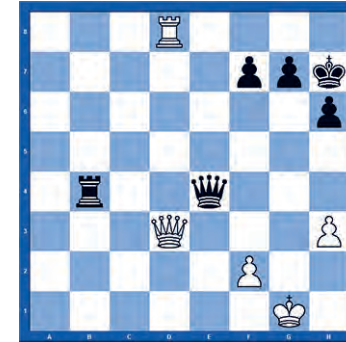
35. ♔a8+! ♕h7 36. ♖xe5! ♘xe5 37. ♔e4+ ♕g7
38. ♘xe5+ f6 [38... ♖g8 39. ♔a8+ ♕h7 40. ♔h8#]

39. ♔g6+ ♕f8 40. ♔xh6+ ♕e8 41. ♔g6+ ♕f8 42. ♘g3
1-0

(26) Svetushkin,D (2602) – Tkachiev,V (2644)

Nancy (rapid), 10.03.2013

[Solutions]



37... ♖b1+! 38. ♕h2 ♖h1+ 39. ♕g3 ♖g1+ 40. ♕h2 ♖g2+
41. ♕h1 ♖xd3 42. ♖xd3 ♖xf2-+

(27) Mekhitarian,K (2546) – Macedo,M (2408)

Brazilian Championship, 04.03.2013

[Solutions]



13. ♘f6+!! ♔xf6 [13...gxf6 14. ♕xf5 ♔xf5 15.fxe5 ♔h7 16.exd6 cxd6 17. ♖xf6+-]

14. fxe5 ♕g4 [14...♘xe5 15. ♖xf5+-]

15. ♔xg4 1-0

(28) Yildiz,B (2341) – Bulmaga,I (2354)

World Women Teams, 07.03.2013

[Solutions]

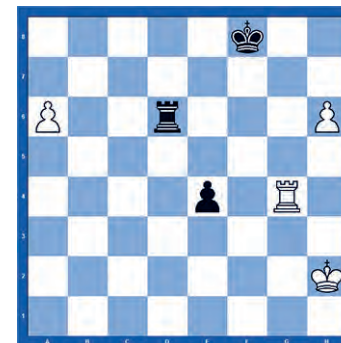


34.g5! hxg5 35. ♕xg5 e4+ [35...♖h2 36.h6! ♕xg5 (36...gxh6 37. ♕xf6+-) 37.hxg7+-]

36. ♔xe4 ♖e2+ 37. ♔d3 ♖e8 38. ♕xf6 gxf6 39.h6+-

(29) Kok

[Solutions]



1.a7! ♖xh6+ 2. ♖h4! ♖xh4+ 3. ♔g3+- 1-0



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 56

22nd of March 2013

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Editorial Preface

The Candidates Tournament — all the eyes are there!! We are seeing great chess in London, with very high level games and a fantastic fighting spirit. All the players want to win, there is no doubt.

After 6 rounds, Levon Aronian and Magnus Carlsen are leading the event. This is not really surprising. Maybe Vladimir Kramnik could have fit into the trio, but until now, this has not been his tournament.

It is going to be very exciting to see who will be the “last man standing”. Carlsen’s chances are higher, but I do not expect him to receive any presents.

What is sure is that we will keep our eyes on the event and take the best moments of it into the usual issue of CEWN.

In the current one, You will be able to already find well commented games from the Candidates.

Enjoy the CEWN Nr 56.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Carlsen, Magnus (2872) — Grischuk, Alexander (2764) [C65]

FIDE Candidates London (4), 19.03.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

When Carlsen is in good shape—and generally he is—can somebody stop him?! A game like the one we will see now makes Super-GMs like Grischuk look like a player of a totally different level. It is really amazing how Carlsen is crushing his opponents again and again in almost equal positions.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 Grischuk chooses the Berlin, one of the most solid openings at the “chess market”.

4.d3 Carlsen is not going for the endgame where, at the moment, Black is doing fine.

4...♙c5 5.c3 [5.0–0 ♘d4 is a very well analyzed line. The position is about equal.]

5...0–0 6.0–0 d6



7.h3 One of the most popular moves. Others are 7.♘bd2 and 7.♙e1.

7...a6 [7...♘e7 was also played lately in a lot of games.]

8.♙xc6 bxc6 9.♙e1 White wants to play d4.

9...♙e8 Black is preparing against this move.

10.♘bd2 d5! seems to be a very interesting opening decision by Grischuk! He is not waiting for White's d4, but instead taking the initiative in his own hands. Black now gets a horrible pawn structure, but the bishop pair and his very dynamic play makes the position very exciting.

11.exd5 ♙xd5 12.♘b3 As we can see, Black's pawn structure is just horrible, but he wants to play ♙f5 quickly now.

12...♙f8 13.c4 White needs to act!

13...♙d6 14.♙e3 White wants to play ♘c5-♘e4 or just ♙c5 next.

14...♘d7! A great move by Grischuk. It looks like Black just killed his own bishop on c8, but things are much more complicated. Black wants to play c5 followed by f5, taking over the center. The Black bishop will have a very nice square on b7. [It does not work to play 14...♙f5? 15.♙c5! and in exchange of the pawn on d3, White gets the one on e5, with a much better position.]

15.d4 Not allowing Black to play c5.

15...e4 A very logical move by Black. The position is getting super sharp... [15...exd4 16.♙xd4 would just lead to a slightly worse position for Black...]

16.♘fd2



16...a5! Another very good move by Black. By forcing White to play a4, Black always gets a lot of play on the b-file.

17.a4 White needs to stop Black from playing a4.

17...f5 A very tricky move... Now the game becomes really concrete. [Why not just to play the silent 17...g6 Black wants to play f6 next. In case of 18.g4, I cannot imagine White being better in this endgame. The knight on b3 is very badly placed.]

18.c5 Carlsen is going for the a-pawn. White wants to play c4-bxa5.

18...g6? A very big mistake by Grischuk! He is simply losing a full tempo... [18...e6! would have been the right choice. Now White needs to lose a tempo with c4. 19.c1 f6 20.c4 d5 and even though White will win the a-pawn, position remains very unclear. Black will start a big attack on the kingside.]

19.c4 f6 20.f4 blocking any f4 ideas by Black...

20...d5 21.d2 Now it is very hard to give an advice for Black. White just wants to win the a-pawn and play b4.

Black's idea should be connected with g5 at the right moment, but the queen on g6 is very badly placed to do this.

21...e6 22.bxa5 eb8 Black is trying to consolidate his pieces, but it is already too late.

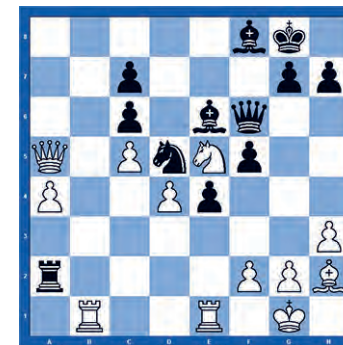
23.e5 f6 24.h2 [It would also lead to almost a winning position to play 24.exd6 f4 25.f4 b2 26.c1! and Black's rook has no good place to retreat.]

24...xa5! In deep time trouble, Grischuk finds a good practical chance to complicate the game.

25.xa5 xb2 Looks funny, but to win here, White needs to be quite precise!

26.ab1 Correct play — what else to expect from Magnus Carlsen?

26...a2



27.a6! Very very strong! Giving Black no chances at all. [Less precise would be 27.b8 e3! Black's only idea. 28.fxe3 g5 29.g3 g6! and because of the super strong rook on the 2nd rank and the very bad bishop on h2, Black keeps some practical chances.]

27...e3 Black does not have any other try here either.

28.fxe3 ♖g5 29.♔e2! White gives back the exchange, but his position is still almost winning.

29...♘xe3 [Black cannot save himself by playing 29... ♖xe2 30.♖xe2 ♘c3 31.♖d3 ♘xb1 and now 32.♘f3! The Black queen has to leave. 32...♖h6 33.♙f4 followed by ♖xb1 with a winning position.]

30.♘f3 The usual ♘f3 is very very strong.

30...♖g6 31.♖xa2 ♙xa2 32.♖b2 Black is simply an exchange down in a hopeless position.

32...♙c4 33.♖a5 ♙d5 34.♖e1 The rest is almost too simple for the World's Number 1.

34...f4 35.♙xf4 ♘c2 36.♖f2 ♙xf3 37.♖xc2 Another great game by Carlsen where he used every mistake made by his opponent!

1-0

(2) Radjabov,Teimour (2793) – Ivanchuk,Vassily (2757) [A88]

London London ENG, 16.03.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

After the first three rounds, it looks like Ivanchuk's strategy is to surprise his opponents by playing openings with bad reputation. He ends up in bad positions, but what is even a bigger problem is that he spends all his time in the middlegame. He lost on time in the 2nd and 3rd round, and both on move 34! The position was already lost in both cases anyway. It might also be disturbing for him that, recently, almost all the tournaments are played with 30 seconds increments after each move, but here the players do not have this extra time, which makes the time trouble much more dangerous. But of course, all these things do not deduct anything from Radjabov's great play!

1.d4 d6 2.♘f3 g6 3.c4 f5 Black chose the Dutch defense, which is quite rare on the highest level. We can see it only played by Nakamura from time to time.

4.♘c3 ♘f6 5.g3 The g3 system is considered to be the most dangerous setup.

5...♙g7 6.♙g2 0-0 7.0-0 This is the starting position of the Dutch, Leningrad variation. The main lines are 7... ♖e8, 7...♘c6 and the text move, but Black has many side possibilities as well.



7...c6 Radjabov's reaction — which is not a novelty — seems to cause real problems against this 7...c6 system.

8.♖b1! This is an absolutely standard plan. White intends to push b4-b5.

8...♘e4 9.♙c2! This move, followed by the next recapture, seems to be really strong, but it is already well-known, since Kramnik defeated Nakamura in 2010. White does not threaten to take on e4 twice, because ♕f5 is coming at the end, however, he simply wants to continue his plan with b4-b5 after protecting the c3 knight. [9.♘xe4 fxe4 10.♘e1 d5 would be Black's idea.]

9...♘xc3 [9...♘a6 could be met with 10.b4]



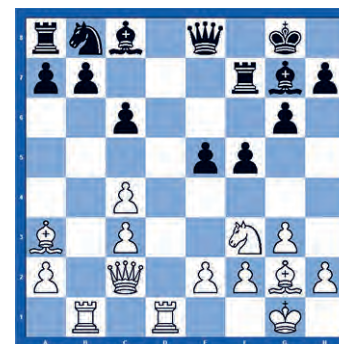
10.bxc3! A great idea! The point is that Black's only plan in such positions to jump out from his cramped position is to push e5, but then the bishop is going to be extremely unpleasant on a3. [After the "normal" 10.♙xc3 Black gets a fine position with 10...e5! White cannot capture the pawn twice because then, he even gets into an inferior position. 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.♘xe5 ♘d7 13.f4 ♙e7 ♗ wins back the pawn!]

10...e5 Black has to play this even if it is bad. Otherwise, he must suffer during the whole game with a lack of space.

11.dxe5! A logical novelty to open the position. Both the bishop on a3 and the rook on d1 develop with tempo. [11.♖d1 happened in the mentioned Kramnik game. That continued with 11...e4 12.♘g5 h6 13.♘h3 g5 14.f3 d5 15.♘f2 ♔h8 16.cxd5 cxd5 17.c4 White succeeded to undermine the strong center and got an advantage, but the text move seems to be even stronger.]

11...dxe5 12.♙a3 ♖f7 13.♖fd1 Everything is nice, but the key is the next move that fights against Black's center. All the Black moves are met with the same reaction!

13...♙e8 [13...♖d7 14.e4!; 13...♘d7 14.e4! f4 15.♙h3! Black has no adequate defense against ♙e6. 15...fxg3 16.♙e6]



14.e4! Fighting against Black's center and preventing the e4 idea, which could be followed by ♖d7-e5.

14...f4! This is always the critical reaction in such situations. Black must try to keep the position locked. [14...fxe4? weakens all the squares after 15.♗g5 and ♖xe4.]

15.♖d3 White leaves from the ♗g4 pin and doubles his rooks to penetrate on d8. [15.♗g5 might have been even stronger. 15...♖d7 (15...♖f6 16.♖d3 is similar to the game.) 16.♖xd7 ♗xd7 17.c5! and the threat of ♔b3 followed by ♗f7 or ♗e6 is crucial.]

15...fxg3?! This is a sad decision. I am sure that Ivanchuk was quite unhappy to take on g3. Black should have kept the tension somehow to have potential threats in the future with a f4-f3 push. This could have been achieved by ♗g4 or h6-g5-g4, but both seem to be too slow now. [15...♗g4 leaves the b7 pawn alone. It is refuted by 16.♔d2! ♗a6 17.♗g5 with serious problems for Black.; 15...♗a6 is refuted by 16.♗g5 ♖d7 17.♖xd7 Sadly, the bishop cannot take because of the b7 pawn. 17...♔xd7 18.♔b3 with the double threat of c5 and ♗h3, followed by ♗xc8 and ♔xb7.; 15...h6 was probably the only move, but White is better anyway.]

16.hxg3 ♗a6 17.♗g5! The rook has no good square to go. [17.♖bd1 is a mistake now because of 17...♗g4]

17...♖c7 [17...♖f6 18.♔d2! is similar to the 15...♗a6 line. Black has problems as he cannot cover the back-rank by developing the c8 bishop, because of the b7 pawn.; 17...♖d7 18.♖xd7 ♔xd7 19.♔b3 again with the double threat of c5 and ♗h3-c8 with ♔xb7.]

18.♗d6! ♗f6 Black sacrifices an exchange, but of course, he does not have enough compensation for that. Radjabov finds an even stronger plan than taking it... [18...♖d7 loses to 19.♗h3 ♖d8 20.c5 and ♔b3 is a decisive and unavoidable threat.]

19.♔d2 [19.♗xc7 ♗xc7 20.♗f3 ♗a6 was, of course, also fine for White, but Black might hope for compensation on the dark squares.]

19...♖d7 [19...♖g7 is refuted by the same brilliant that we will see in the 21st move of the game!]

20.♗h3 ♖g7 [20...♖xd6 21.♖xd6 ♗xg5 22.♔xg5 ♗xh3 23.♖xb7 Black gets mated. He cannot parry the threats of the heavy pieces.]



21.♗xe5!! This brilliant motif was the point of why Radjabov did not take the exchange on c7. White wins a decisive amount of material, using the weakness of Black's back-rank. Ivanchuk finds the best chance to stay in the game by sacrificing his queen.

21...♗xe5 [21...♔xe5 22.♖d8+! ♗xd8 23.♔xd8++-; 21...♗xg5 22.♔xg5 ♗xh3 23.♗xg7 ♗xg7 24.♖xb7++-]

22. ♖d8 ♗xh3 23. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 24. ♘xh3 Black's bishop and rook are clearly not enough for the queen and pawn. White is winning. The game goes to the technical phase.

24... ♘c5 25. ♕e3 ♗d6! Otherwise, White will squeeze with f4-e5! [25...b6 26.f4+-]

26.f3 ♘e6 27. ♖g2 After leaving from ♗c5, White is ready to push f4-e5, so Black has to play

27...g5 28. ♘f2 h5 A desperate attempt to create counterplay. In this position, Ivanchuk had around 10 seconds left for the remaining 12 moves (there were no 30 seconds increments), so it was hard to take it seriously anymore from White's point of view... [28...♘f4+ is just a check. White is not forced to take. 29. ♖f1 ♘h5 30. ♕xa7 ♘xg3+ 31. ♖g2+-]

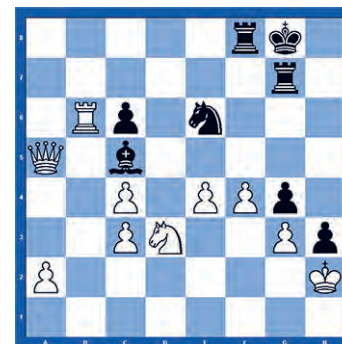
29. ♕xa7 ♗c5 30. ♕a4 ♖f8 [To generate counterplay with 30...g4 fails to 31.f4! ♗xf2 (31...h4 32. ♘d3+-) 32. ♖xf2 ♘c5 33. ♕a5 ♘xe4+ 34. ♖g2+- The queen is too strong.]

31. ♘d3 h4 White has many different ways to win.

32. ♕a5 [The computer suggests 32. ♘xc5 as the best. 32...♘xc5 33. ♕a7 and it is not afraid of 33...g4 34. ♕xc5 gxf3+ 35. ♖f1 hxg3 36. ♕d6+- and the pawns only look dangerous, but the king and rook stop them. White soon will start to advance his e-pawn.; 32.e5+-]

32...b6 33. ♖xb6?? A huge blunder, which could have allowed a miraculous defense for Ivanchuk, although it was very hard to find even with 30 minutes on the clock — with only 2 seconds for 8 moves, it is impossible. Radjabov cannot be criticized for this mistake because even though he starts to give up his pieces one by one, he is winning on time. [33. ♕a4! was winning.]

33... ♗xb6 [33...g4!! could have saved Black. 34.f4 (34.fxg4 ♖xg4 35. ♖xc6 (35. ♘xc5 leads to a perpetual check. 35...♖xg3+ 36. ♖h2 ♖f2+ 37. ♖h1 ♖f1+) 35...♖xg3+ 36. ♖h2 ♗g1+ 37. ♖h1 ♗e3 and White cannot prevent ♖f1, which is followed by, at least, a perpetual check. 38. ♕h5 ♖f1+ 39. ♖h2 ♗g1+ 40. ♖h1 ♗e3±) 34...h3+ 35. ♖h2 (35. ♖f1 ♖h7 and the h-pawn is running.) 35...♖d8! (35...♖d7! leads to the same!)]



36. ♘xc5 ♖d2+ 37. ♖h1 ♖d1+ 38. ♖h2 ♖d2+ 39. ♖g1 Otherwise, the king goes to f2 and Black has only a few more checks, but h survives here as well. 39...h2+! 40. ♖h1 ♖d1+ 41. ♖xh2 ♖h7+ The other rook joins the attack and Black reaches a perpetual check by force. 42. ♖g2 ♖d2+ 43. ♖g1 ♖d1+ 44. ♖f2 ♖h2+ 45. ♖e3 ♖e1+ 46. ♖d3 ♖d1± That could have been amazing and shocking from Radjabov's point of view, but the time was a decisive factor.]

34. ♖xb6 hxg3 Black lost on time, but the position is also winning. For instance, after 35. ♕xc6 ♘f4 36. ♖xg3 ♘xd3 and 37. ♕d5 wins the knight. A nice win by Radjabov and, hopefully, Ivanchuk will regenerate after the free day.

1-0

(3) Giri, Anish (2730) – Bartel, Mateusz (2635) [A13]

Schachbundesliga 2012/2013 (11.1), 16.03.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

A very interesting tactical fight where White succeeded to over-calculate his opponent.

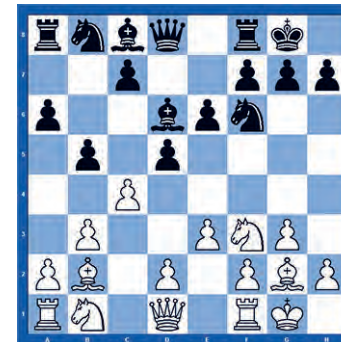
1. ♘f3 ♘f6 2. c4 e6 3. g3 a6 Bartel likes this kind of slightly unusual systems. Black intends to play b5 and fianchetto his bishop. White's next move is made against this plan and is basically a novelty.



4. e3!? It is quite funny that after g3, White plays e3, but in the modern chess we cannot be surprised about anything. White delays ♗g2 to avoid the b5 plan and intends to finish the development on the queenside first. [4. ♗g2 b5 is the beginning of the main lines.]

4...d5 5. b3! White needs to protect the c4 pawn as he wants to put his bishop on g2. The other bishop will also be excellently placed on the other long diagonal.

5... ♗d6 6. ♗b2 0-0 7. ♗g2 White finally plays ♗g2. He wanted to decide where to develop the b1 knight according to the forthcoming arrangements of Black's pieces.

7...b5 8.0-0

8...bxc4 It is not logical to give up the tension if it is not forced, although, White's position was already preferable. [After 8... ♗b7 9.cxd5 exd5 White can choose between two tempting ideas: 10. ♗xf6!? I like this move a lot. White makes use of the c5 hole. (10. ♖c2 ♗bd7 11. ♘d4!? is another typical plan in such situations. White wants to settle his knight on f5 and if Black plays g6, the b2 bishop becomes even stronger on the a1–h8 diagonal.) 10... ♖xf6 11.d4! The best move for Black would be to retreat the b5 pawn to b6, but of course, it is not possible. To get rid of the c5 hole with 11...c5 seriously weakens the d5 pawn. 12. ♘c3!]

9.bxc4 ♘c6 [9...dxc4 It makes no sense to give up the center and create an isolated pawn on the c-file. 10. ♖c2!± with the direct winning threat of ♗g5, and if Black prevents it, ♗a3-c4 comes.]



10. ♗xf6! A really clever and concrete decision. White intends to put pressure on the d5 pawn. First, he eliminates its defender on f6 and then, with the knight on c3 and the bishop on g2, he forces Black to take on c4, which is a clear positional achievement, since it opens the h1–a8 diagonal and weakens Black's pawn structure.

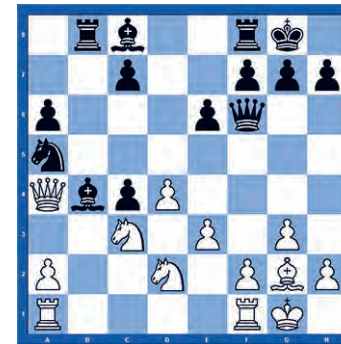
10... ♖xf6 11.d4 [11. ♘c3! seems to be even stronger as 11...dxc4 drops an exchange after 12. ♘d4! ♘xd4 13. ♗xa8]

11... ♜b8! Black leaves from the bishop's diagonal. The win of the exchange shown in the 11. ♘c3 line does not work anymore.

12. ♘c3 dxc4 13. ♘d2! This was the basic idea of ♗xf6. White achieved a better pawn structure and his minor pieces are excellently placed.

13... ♘a5 Black tries to at least save his material advantage to compensate for the positional deficits, but his knight is going to be misplaced at the edge of the board. White cannot trap it, however — Black has ♗b4.

14. ♖a4 ♗b4



15.a3! Forcing Black to give up his bishop pair. [15. ♖ab1 would not force Black to play ♗xc3, which would be a better version for White in comparison to the game, after ♘e4. However, Black has 15... ♖e7! leaving from the ♘e4 idea.]

15... ♗xc3 16. ♘e4 ♖f5 17. ♘xc3 ♘b3! Black starts to create complications.

18. ♜ad1 To control the invasions on the d-file with ♘d2 and ♖d3.

18... ♖c2 Black would like to equalize in tactical fashion, but there are many hidden tactical resources in the position. [18...c5 is principled to get rid of the weakness, but Black does not achieve complete equality because of the strong 19.d5! and ♖xc4 next.; However 18... ♖a5!? was an option 19. ♖xc4 ♗d7 Black finished his development and intends to push c5 to equalize.]

19. ♖xc4 ♘d2 20. ♖xc7! This move needed precise calculation, but Giri is very good at it. [Probably Bartel expected 20. ♖e2 ♖xc3 21. ♜xd2 ♖xa3 22. ♜c2 White soon wins back the pawn and a draw would be the most logical outcome.]

20...♘xf1 21.♙e4! This was the point, and after the queen goes to the b-file, ♖b1 is coming. Black seems to be in trouble, although the computer suggests a surprising defense...



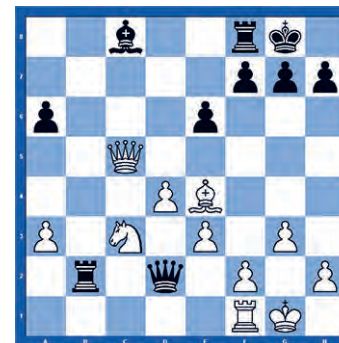
21...♖b7? An incredible idea, but unfortunately for Black, it does not work... [However, after... 21...♙b2! 22.♖b1 ♘d2! 23.♖xb2 ♖xb2 Despite being a pawn down and having a poor bishop on c8, the computer sees no problem for Black. Anyway, it is understandable that Black avoided this continuation.]

22.♙c5!! Giri finds the refutation to the previous mistake. White creates a new tactical threat with ♙xh7 and the f8 rook is hanging. [After the seemingly winning 22.♙xb7 Black's devilish idea was 22...♘xe3! 23.♙e4 It looks like the game is over, but (23.fxe3 ♙xb7 24.♙xb7 ♙xc3 is just fine for Black.) 23...♘d5!! and Black equalizes. 24.♙xc2 ♘xc7=]

22...♙b2 23.♖b1! ♙d2 [23...♘d2 is not the same as in the 21...♙b2 line. Now White wins after 24.♙xh7+! The move order is very important! (24.♖xb2? could met by the intermediate move 24...♘xe4! and the queen is hanging.) 24...♙xh7 25.♖xb2 ♖xb2 26.♙xf8+- wins.]

24.♖xf1! This is the most precise, but again, a tactical finesse had to be foreseen... Black cannot prevent ♙xb7 and ♙xh7 at the same time. [24.♙xb7 ♙xb7 25.♙xf1 also gives a big advantage, but Black gets some compensation on the light squares. 25...♙f3]

24...♖b2



25.♙xh7+! ♙xh7 26.♘e4! A necessary intermediate move. Otherwise, Black takes on c3 and protects the bishop on c8.

26...♙c2 27.♙xf8 ♙xe4 28.♙xc8 Now it is completely lost. Black is two pawns down and his pawns are hanging. He does not even have the typical counterplay against the king with h5-h4-h3.

28...a5 29.♙c5 a4 30.♙a7 Another pawn is falling.

30...f5 31.♙xa4 ♙h6 32.♙e8 ♖a2 33.h4 ♖xa3 34.h5 1-0

(4) Svidler,P (2747) – Kramnik,V (2810) [D35]

FIDE Candidates London ENG (1), 15.03.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

A short, but very important draw for the evaluation of the line was seen in the first round. Svidler managed to get a very nice endgame advantage and spoiled it in just one move.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♘c3** d5 The Classical Queen's Gambit.

4.cxd5 ♘xd5!?! An interesting move order! Black is avoiding the classical way to play...



5.e4 White has no choice but to fight for the center.

5...♗xc3 **6.bxc3** c5 **7.a3!?** It looks like Svidler is very well prepared. In case of [7.♗f3 cxd4 8.cxd4 ♖b4+ 9.♖d2 ♖xd2+ 10.♔xd2 0-0] would return to the line that usually appears in a different move order: 1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 c5 5.cxd5 ♘xd5 6. e4...]

7...cxd4 **8.cxd4**



8...e5! This move is not a novelty, but anyway is a very nice way to proceed. If White manages to get the position with ♘f3-♖d3, Black would be slightly worse.

9.♗f3 [9.d5 ♖c5 followed by short castle and a quick f5 seems to give Black nice play.]

9...exd4 **10.♔xd4** ♔xd4 **11.♗xd4** and we are in an endgame. At first sight, the position looks very equal, but in only 6 moves, White will completely dominate the game.

11...♖e7 Of course, all of this is part of Kramnik's preparation, but why not to play first... [11...♖c5 hunting away the White knight from the great square on d4. 12.♗b5 (White can also choose 12.♖b2 0-0 13.♖c1 ♗d7 followed by ♖b6 and ♗c5-♗a4. In case of White's ♗f5, Black always has the very safe f6. It is hard to imagine White getting anything serious here...) 12...♗a6 13.♖f4 0-0 Black is already fully developed and the slightly misplaced knight on a6 will get quickly into the game through c5 in the future. In my opinion, the position looks pretty equal.]

12.♖e3! Very good move! The best position for the White bishop is on e3, which is not obvious at all. White has a deep plan regarding how to develop his pieces.

12...0-0 13. ♖c4 ♘d7 What could have been more logical than Kramnik's play?! He has castled short, and now the last bad piece — the knight on b8 — is coming into the game.

14. ♔e2 Of course. White keeps his king in the center.

14... ♘b6 [In case of 14... ♘c5 15. ♕d5! White has managed to put his bishop on the fantastic d5 square! It is clear that White is better here.]

15. ♖b3 ♕d7 Black is fully developed, but far away from having an equal position.

16. ♘f5! Peter continues playing great moves. Now Black faces a very difficult decision regarding whether to take.



16... ♕f6 [16... ♕xf5? 17.exf5 leads at first sight to a draw, but in fact, White has a huge advantage here. His idea is simple: to play g4-g5, creating huge pressure on the kingside supported by his bishop pair. The Black knight on b6 is in a very bad position and, of course, Black will not be able to exchange both rooks — one of them will always remain on the board.]

17. ♖ab1 ♖fd8 and we are at the critical moment of the game. White has a lot of great choices to continue the

game here: to play 18. ♖hd1, or maybe just an immediate 18.g4. It is clear that White's position is much better already.

18. ♖hc1? What a blunder by Svidler. He forgot that his rook on b1 has no squares...

18... ♖b5+! Kramnik does not miss his chance to escape.

19. ♔f3 ♕d3! and this is the point. White's rook from b1 only has the c1 square to escape.

20. ♖c2 ♖a6 Black wants to play ♘c4.

21. ♖b3 ♕d3 and as we can see, the position is suddenly just a draw.

22. ♖c2 ♖a6 23. ♖b3 What a pity for Peter Svidler! He almost spoiled Kramnik's tournament from just a slightly better endgame out of the opening!

1/2

Puzzle section

(5) Milliet,S (2401) – Yildiz,B (2341)

World Women Teams, 12.03.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

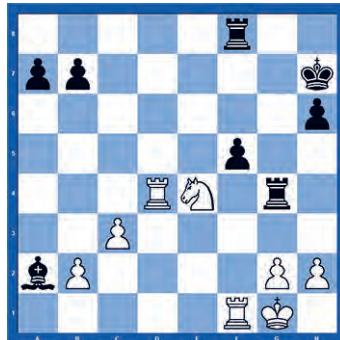


(6) Ghaem Maghami,E (2568) – Short,N (2697)

Blitz match, 12.03.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(7) Cheparinov,I (2706) – Nabaty,T (2566)

Karpos Open, 14.03.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(8) Perunovic,M (2618) – Jankovic,A (2538)

Karpos Open, 14.03.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

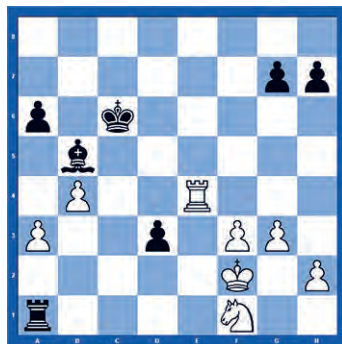


(9) Vujic,M (2361) – Arnaudov,G (2468)

Karpos Open, 14.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

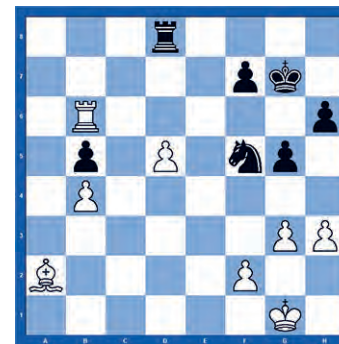


(11) Kadric,D (2463) – Golod,V (2564)

Karpos Open, 16.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

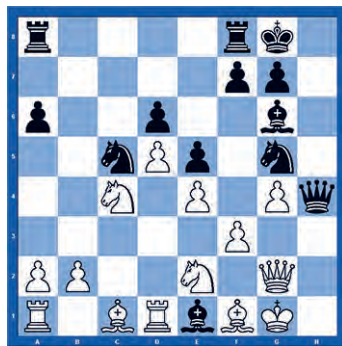


(10) Kovacevic,A (2563) – Perunovic,M (2618)

Karpos Open, 15.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

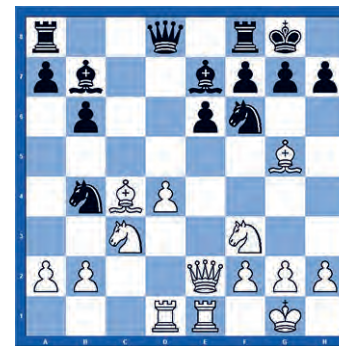


(12) Sanal,V (2404) – Jumabayev,R (2554)

Karpos Open, 16.03.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

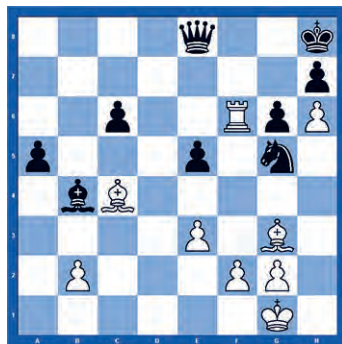


(13) Sadorra,C (2555) – Berczes,D (2526)

Dallas, 11.03.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

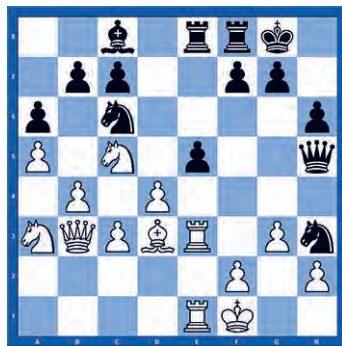


(14) Tiviakov,S (2659) – Ernst,S (2554)

German league, 16.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



Endgame section

(15) Gelfand, Boris (2740)
— Carlsen, Magnus (2872) [D52]

FIDE Candidates London ENG (3.3), 17.03.2013

[Chess Evolution]



27...♔xc8 We are at move 27. Everything looks equal, so probably a draw agreement will come soon. No way! White's position is much more dangerous than it looks. Black has very good winning chances. Let us take a look.

28.d5! White is exchanging his d-pawn — a very correct decision. Black wants to play ♔b7 followed by ♘g6-♘e7 and ♘d5, killing the f2 bishop.

28...exd5 29.♔xd5 During the next moves, Magnus will show us exactly how to handle such positions. ..

29...g6 securing the position of the knight on e6.

30.♔g2 ♘e6 31.♔f3 ♔g7 There is no reason to hurry because White has no direct drawing ideas.

32.a3 h5 Now Black wants to eventually play h4, so White is almost forced to play h4 himself, which weakens greatly the light squares.

33.h4 ♔c2 White's main idea here is to push f5, so Black stops him from doing it. Another idea for White is to exchange the queens, which would lead to an almost equal endgame.

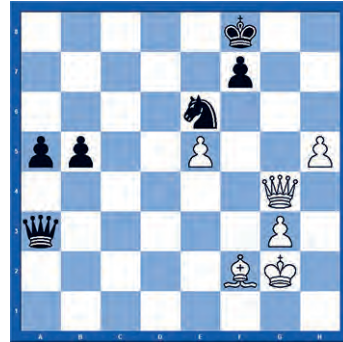
34.♔b7 ♔a4 35.♔f3 By attacking the a-pawn, White is forcing Black's queen to leave the great square on c2.

35...b5! Black has no other ideas than to push his queen-side pawns. However, this is strong enough! The next Black moves are simple: a5, ♔c4, a4. We see the complete domination of the Black knight on e6 against the White bishop on f2.

36.f5! White has no time to waste.

36...gxf5 37.♔xf5 ♔xa3 38.♔xh5 a5 The position changes completely. The Black king is open, but his pawns on the queenside are just unstoppable. White's only hope to survive is to create something fast against the Black king, which is very difficult because of the "heroic" knight on e6.

39.♔g4+ ♔f8 40.h5?! In a difficult position, White chooses what might not be the best practical chance to fight for a draw. [40.♔h5 would have given White better chances. The idea is to put the queen on h8 before starting the advance of the h-pawn. But anyway, White still has a lot of work to do here in order to get the draw.]



40...♔c1! Very good move, stopping White's only idea — to play h6.

41.♔e4 b4 The Black pawns are coming closer...

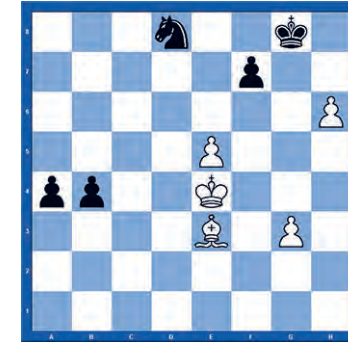
42.♙e3 ♔c7 42...♔c8 also seems to lead to a much better position.

43.♔a8+ ♔g7! Very good move by Black. Before the exchange on d8, Black places his king on a better position than f8.

44.h6+ ♔h7 **45.♔e4+ ♔g8** As we can see, the Black king on g6 feels very safe! White almost has no attacking ideas and Black's pawns are getting closer...

46.♔a8+ ♔d8 **47.♔xd8+** This move loses by force, but it is hard to blame Gelfand for making this decision. [47.♔c6 would have kept the game going a bit longer, but the position just looks pretty lost for White in any case.]

47...♘xd8 **48.♔f3 a4** **49.♔e4** The White king tries to be on time to hold the Black pawns, but it is not...



49...♘c6! The last precise decision by Magnus. The game is over. White cannot stop Black from playing a3 followed by ♘a5-♘b3, winning a full piece.

50.♙c1 ♘a5 **51.♙d2** Gelfand tries the last trick...

51...b3 **52.♔d3 ♘c4** **53.♙c3 a3** and the game is over!

54.g4 ♔h7 **55.g5 ♔g6** White is in zugzwang. The bishop needs to leave the c3 square, which gives the Black knight the possibility to enter on d2.

56.♙d4 b2 **57.♔c2 ♘d2** Just a perfect play from Black, nothing to say about it. As we could see, the starting position was much trickier than it looked like!

0-1

(16) Aronian,L (2804) – Gelfand,B (2740)

London, 16.03.2013

[Chess Evolution]



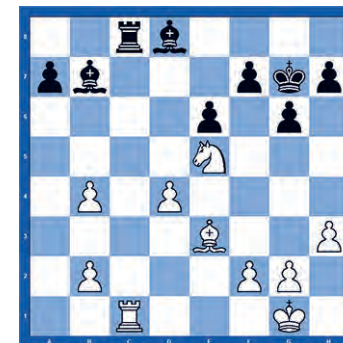
The first win of the Candidates tournament was scored by Aronian. White has an extra pawn, but Black has all the hopes for a draw with the pair of bishops and the doubled b-pawns. Even in such a “dry” position, tactical elements might play a key role.

24...♙d8 A slightly dubious move. [24...♖c8 was much more logical as the exchange of the rooks would hugely increase Black’s defensive chances. White must leave the open file to maintain his advantage 25.♖a1! (25.♖xc8 ♙xc8 Without the rooks, all the opposite-colored bishops endgames would be just dead drawn.) 25...a6 (25...♙xe5 26.dxe5 a6 This is an instructive position. It seems like a dead draw, but the Black king is awfully placed, which gives White decent chances to convert his advantage. 27.♙g5! The bishop is going to f6. The next step will be to activate the rook. It could be most easily achieved by ♖a4 and invading through the 4th rank, for instance, with ♖b4. 27...h6 28.♙f6+ ♔h7 Black would like his king

to escape with g5 and ♔g6, so the next move is very important! 29.h4! and on 29...g5 Black tries to get his king out even by giving up a pawn, but White should not be greedy and play 30.h5! and ♖a4 is coming next.) 26.♘c4 White can continue pressing.(Or 26.♖a4 as Aronian pointed out at the press conference.)]

25.b4! with the idea of b5 and ♘c6, trying to make the doubled pawns more useful. Black makes a decisive mistake.

25...♖c8? [25...♙d5 should have been played, although White is better after 26.b5 and ♘c6 next.]



26.♙h6+!! An amazing trick, which was clearly missed by Gelfand. The game turns into a tactical battle.

26...♔g8 This is a sad necessity. The king now gets poorly placed and it becomes the main reason for Black’s quick collapse. [On 26...♔f6 White continues the hunt of the king with 27.♙g5+! Black is forced to take this time, but the endgame is hopeless. 27...♔xg5 28.♘xf7+ ♔f6 29.♖xc8 ♙xc8 30.♘xd8+- with two extra pawns.; 26...♔xh6 loses to 27.♘xf7+ ♔g7 28.♖xc8 ♙xc8 29.♘xd8+-]

27. ♖xc8 ♗xc8 28. ♘c6! Black must control the e7 square. He cannot reach the b6 square, which was the idea of 24... ♗d8.

28... ♗f6



29. b5! White blocks the a7 so it will not run away. It is important to keep the knight on c6 to paralyze Black's bishops. The king is also trapped. [After the greedy 29. ♗xa7 Black gets chances for survival. 29... ♗b7 30. ♗e3 The d4 pawn had to be protected, but it allows the king to escape. 30... ♗f8!]

29... ♗d7



30. g4!! Another brilliant move! Black has no good defense against g5, after which the f6 bishop has no good square to leave.

30... g5 [The saving idea 30... a6 misses by just one tempo. 31. g5! The bishop is trapped, since 31... ♗h8 is met with a nice mate. (31... axb5 drops a piece after 32. ♗b8! ♗xd4 33. ♗xd7 ♗xb2 34. ♗f8!+- The bishop gets activated after gaining a decisive material advantage.) 32. ♗e7#]

31. h4! It is obligatory for the win to get the pawn to g5, so the pawn sacrifice is justified!

31... gxh4 32. g5 ♗xc6 This is equal to resignation, but there was nothing better... [32... ♗g7 33. ♗xg7 ♗xg7 34. ♗xa7+- wins easily.]

33. bxc6 ♗d8 34. ♗g2 and White first collects the h4 pawn and then goes to the queenside to support the promotion of the c-pawn.

34... ♗c7 35. ♗h3 Black resigned. Great technique by Aronian!

1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Capablanca, Jose Raul — Lasker, Emanuel [D63]

World Championship 12th Havana (5), 29.03.1921

[Kamil Miton]

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 e6 4.♙g5 ♘bd7 5.e3 ♙e7
6.♘c3 0-0



7.♖c1 White is waiting for the dxc4 move in order not to lose a tempo to recapture the pawn on c4. This Queen's Gambit position was very popular back then.

7...b6 It looks logical to develop the bishop this way, but this move has disadvantages too. White can try to get control of the c6 square. Nowadays, Black plays other moves: [7...c6 8.♙d3 dxc4 gives White a better center. 9.♙xc4 ♘d5 10.♙xe7 ♙xe7 with a plan to try to fight for the center after pushing c5 or e5.; 7...a6 Interesting move. Black is waiting for ♙d3 or ♙e2. Then, after taking on c4, he can win a tempo and play b5 with ♙b7-c5 next. 8.cxd5 (8.c5 leads to a different kind of position where White tries to get space and pressure after b4-b5.) 8...exd5 We get

a Carlsbad structure with the pawn on a6, which is well placed in case Black wants to push c5 and play with an isolated pawn. However, Black can probably just play c6 and use the typical plan with ♖e8-♘f8 because the rook on c1 will not be useful for White here, especially if he tries the b4-b5 plan.; 7...♖e8!? deserves attention as well.]

8.cxd5 exd5 9.♙a4 White immediately tries to get control of the c6 and a6 squares.



9...c5! Given that the White pieces are still not developed, Lasker decides to sacrifice a pawn for the initiative. A good practical decision. Let us check what happens if he would have played... [9...♙b7 10.♙a6! One of the ideas was to put the queen on a4.

a) 10.♙b5 a6 11.♙xd7 (11.♙c6?? b5) 11...♘xd7 12.♙xe7 ♙xe7= c5 next and Black is fine;

b) 10.♙d3 c5∞;

10...♙c8 (10...♙xa6 11.♙xa6 ♙c8 (11...c5 12.0-0 ♙c8 13.♙xc8 ♖fxc8 and now White gets a typical pressure against Black's central pawns after 14.dxc5 bxc5 (14...♖xc5 Xd5) 15.♖fd1 ♘b6 16.♙xf6 ♙xf6 17.♘xd5 ♘xd5 18.♖xd5 ♙xb2 19.♖cxc5±) 12.♙xc8 ♖fxc8 13.♘e5! ♙b4

14. ♖xf6 ♜xf6 15. ♜c6 ♖xc3+ 16. ♜xc3± Thanks to the pressure over the c-file, White is clearly better.) 11. ♖xb7 ♜xb7 12. ♜e5 ♜xe5 13. dxe5 d4 14. 0-0 dxc3 15. exf6 ♖xf6 16. ♖xf6 gxf6 17. ♜xc3± Given that the queens are still on the board, White can take advantage of the doubled f-pawns.]

10. ♜c6 ♜b8 11. ♜xd5 [11. ♖f4 ♖b7 12. ♜a4 ♜c8 13. ♖a6 (13. ♜xa7 ♖c6 XQa7) 13... ♖xa6 14. ♜xa6 cxd4 15. ♜xd4 ♜c5 16. ♜e2 ♜e6= The knight on e6 is very good to fight for the d4 square. Black easily equalizes the position.]

11... ♖b7 Black could also get a good position after [11... ♜xd5 12. ♜xd5 ♖b7 13. ♖xe7 ♜xe7 14. ♜g5 ♜xg5 (14... ♜f6!?) 15. ♜xg5 cxd4 16. exd4 ♜f6↑ White has problems with his king and the pawns on d4 and g2.]

12. ♜xe7+ ♜xe7 13. ♜a4 ♜bc8 In exchange of the pawn, Black has a huge initiative. White needs two moves to secure the safety of his king. [13... ♖xf3 Too early. 14. gxf3 cxd4 15. ♜xd4 ♜bc8 (15... ♜bd8 16. ♖e2±) 16. ♜xc8 ♜xc8 17. ♖e2 ♜c1+ 18. ♖d1 ♜e5 19. 0-0]

14. ♜a3 Not allowing cxd4. [14. ♖e2 cxd4 15. 0-0 (15. ♜xc8 ♜xc8 16. ♜xd4 ♜c1+ 17. ♖d1 ♖a6 and the White king is not able to escape.) 15... dxe3 16. ♖xe3 ♜d5=]



14... ♜e6 Preparing cxd4 and ♜e4

15. ♖xf6 [15. ♖e2 cxd4 (15... ♜e4 16. 0-0 ♜xc1 17. ♜xc1 dxe3 18. ♖xe3 ♖xf3 (18... ♜d5 19. ♜xa7 ♜xe3 20. ♜xb7 ♜c5 21. ♜xc5 bxc5 22. fxe3 ♜xe3+ 23. ♖f1±) 19. ♖xf3 ♜e5 and Black will exchange one of the bishops after ♜c4. In case of 20. ♖e2, then 20... ♜g4 will be played.]

15... ♜xf6? looks normal, but this move is a big mistake. Black should play [15... ♖xf3 16. ♖a6 (16. gxf3 ♜xf6±; 16. ♖h4 cxd4 17. ♜xc8 ♜xc8 18. gxf3 ♜e5 and Black has a winning attack.) 16... ♖c6!? 17. ♖xc8 ♜xc8 Black gets a strong initiative on the light squares, for example: 18. ♖e5 ♜xe5 19. dxe5 ♖xg2 20. ♜g1 ♜h3∞ 21. ♜xa7 ♜xh2 22. ♖e2 ♜h5+ with at least a draw.]

16. ♖a6! Now Capablanca is on time to castle!

16... ♖xf3 The only move to get practical chances. After [16... cxd4 17. ♜xc8 ♜xc8 18. 0-0± White will be a pawn up.]

17. ♖xc8 ♜xc8 [17... ♖xg2 18. ♜g1 ♜xc8 19. ♜xg2±]

18. gxf3 ♜xf3 19. ♜g1 ♜e8 White has a material advantage, but the position is not easy to play because of the weak king.

20. ♜d3 White's queen is coming to support the king.

20... g6 21. ♖f1 ♜e4



22. ♖d1 [22.dxc5 ♘e5 23. ♖d8+ ♔g7 24.c6 ♖g4 25. ♖xg4 ♘xg4 26. ♖d2 ♘xh2+ 27. ♔e1 (27. ♔g1 ♖h3) 27... ♖h1+ 28. ♔e2 ♖f3+ 29. ♔d3 ♖d5+ 30. ♔c2 ♖xc6+ 31. ♖c3+ ♖xc3+ 32. ♔xc3 ♘g4 33. ♖f1 h5 34. ♔d3± Without the queens, it is much easier for White.; 22. ♖d1 ♖xe3 23. ♖xe3 ♖xd1+ 24. ♔g2 ♖g4+ 25. ♔h1 ♖f5 26.dxc5 ♘xc5 Of course, White is better, but to win this position, he will need a long time.]

22... ♖h3+ [22... ♖xe3 23. ♖xf3 ♖xf3 24. ♔g2±]

23. ♖g2 ♘f6 Preparing ♖g4. [23...cxd4 24.exd4 (24. ♖c4 ♘e5 25. ♖xd4 ♖xd4 26. ♖xd4 ♘f3 with ♘h4 next.) 24... ♘f6 25. ♔g1 ♘d5]

24. ♔g1 [24.dxc5 ♖g4--]

24...cxd4 25. ♖c4 Good move. White does not allow the destruction of the structure.

25...dxe3 26. ♖xe4 ♘xe4 27. ♖d8+ ♔g7 28. ♖d4+ ♘f6 29.fxe3 White exchanges the Black rook, and thanks to the pin, gains the initiative.

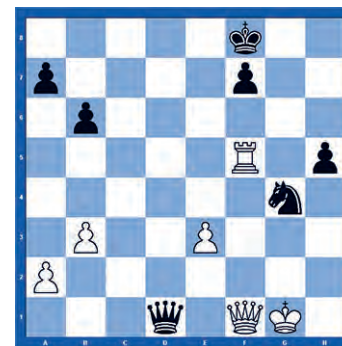
29... ♖e6 30. ♖f2 g5 31.h4 gxh4 [31...h6 32.h5 and Black is not able to play ♔g6 to activate his knight. White should easily win by slowly improving with e4-♖f5.]

32. ♖xh4 ♘g4 33. ♖g5+ ♔f8 34. ♖f5 h5 [34... ♖xe3+ 35. ♖xe3 ♘xe3 36. ♖f4 and Black will have problems with the knight or the White rook will simply come to the queenside to grab his pawns.]

35. ♖d8+ ♔g7 36. ♖g5+ ♔f8 37. ♖d8+ ♔g7 38. ♖g5+ ♔f8 Probably they were in time trouble.

39.b3 ♖d6 Black is going to activate his queen.

40. ♖f4 ♖d1+ 41. ♖f1



41... ♖d2? [41... ♖xf1+ 42. ♖xf1 ♘xe3 43. ♖c1 ♘d5 and Black is still fighting. White will get the pawns on h5 and f7, but Black can try to look for exchanges on the queen-side.]

42. ♖xh5? White missed a simple win. [42. ♖xf7+ ♔e8 43. ♖f8+ ♔d7 44. ♖f7+ ♔c6 45. ♖c8+ and mate or Black will lose the queen.]

42... ♘xe3 [42... ♖xe3+ 43. ♔g2 ♘e5 It will not be easy for White to avoid the checks.]

43. ♖f3 ♖d4 44. ♖a8+ [44. ♔h1±]

44...♔**e7** **45.**♚**b7+** ♔**f8??** Decisive mistake! Black could have played... [45...♔d6 Objectively, White is better, but the position is complicated.]

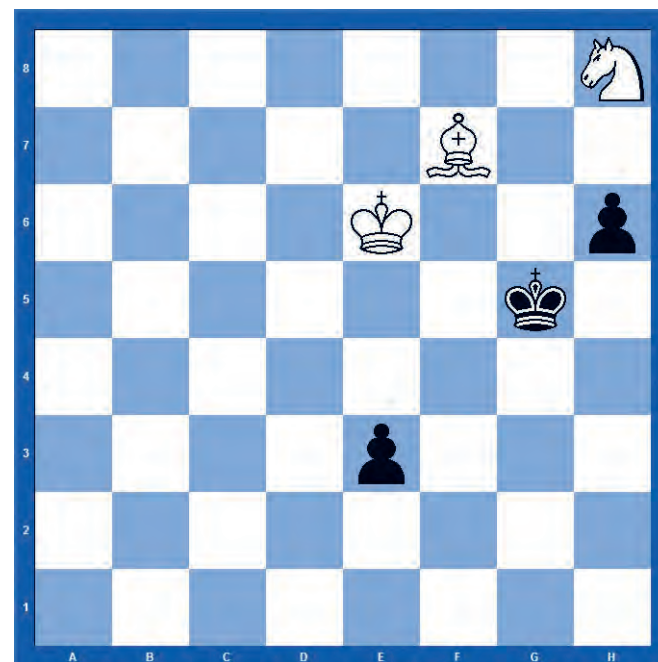
46.♚**b8+** and White is winning because after 46...♔e7, comes 47.♚e5! +-.
1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) De Feijter

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(19) Davletbayeva,M (2272) – Zhukova,N (2471)

World Women Teams, 05.03.2013

[Solutions]



29... ♖g5? [29...f5! 30. ♗g3 f4! 31. ♗g4 h5! 32. ♗h4 ♖xe2--+; 29...h5!? 30. ♗g3 h4 31. ♗g4 f5 32. ♗g5 ♕d8! 33. ♗xd8 ♖xe2 34. ♗g5+]]

30. ♗f3=

(20) Foisor,S (2323) – Shen Yang (2415)

World Women Teams, 05.03.2013

[Solutions]



24...f6!! 25. ♕xf6 [25. ♕d6 ♖xd4--+]]

25... ♖f4! 26. ♖ce1 [26. ♖xc8+ ♖xc8 27. ♕d1 (27. ♖e1 ♖xe2+ 28. ♖xe2 ♖c1+) 27... ♕xb5 28. ♖e1 ♖d3--+]]

26... ♖xe2+ 27. ♖xe2 ♕xb5--+

(21) Yildiz,B (2341) – Bulmaga,I (2354)

World Women Teams, 07.03.2013

[Solutions]



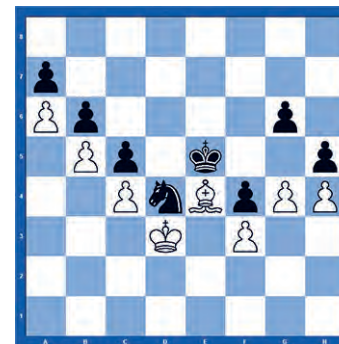
34.g5! hxg5 35. ♗xg5 e4+ [35... ♖h2 36.h6! ♗xg5 (36... gxh6 37. ♗xf6+-) 37.hxg7+-]

36. ♔xe4 ♜e2+ 37. ♔d3 ♜e8 38. ♗xf6 gxf6 39.h6+-

(22) Gunina,V (2505) – Dzagnidze,N (2554)

World Women Teams, 09.03.2013

[Solutions]



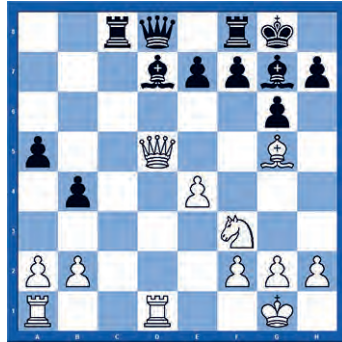
59...g5! 60.gxh5 [60.hxg5 h4--]

60...gxh4 61.h6 ♔f6! 62. ♗b7 h3 0-1

(23) Yildiz,B (2341) – Ju Wenjun (2505)

World Women Teams, 11.03.2013

[Solutions]



17... ♖xb2! 18. ♜ab1 ♙a4!! 19. ♚xd8 ♜fxd8–+ 20. ♜d5

[20. ♜xd8+ ♜xd8 21. ♜xb2 ♜d1+]

20... ♜xd5 21. exd5 f6–+

(24) Svetushkin,D (2602) – Bacrot,E (2705)

Nancy (rapid), 09.03.2013

[Solutions]

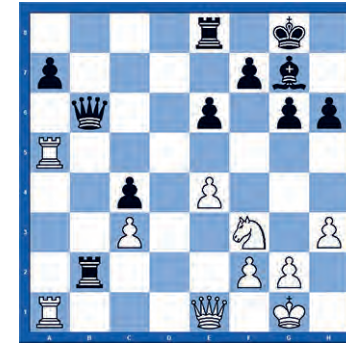


28... ♜xe4! 0–1[28... ♜xe4 29. ♜xe4 g5–+]

(25) Istratescu,A (2651) – Vachier Lagrave,M (2722)

Nancy (rapid), 10.03.2013

[Solutions]



27... ♙xc3! 0–1[27... ♙xc3 28. ♚xc3 ♜xf2+ 29. ♔h1
♜xg2#]

(26) Dobrov,V (2537) – Vachier Lagrave,M (2722)

Nancy (rapid), 10.03.2013

[Solutions]



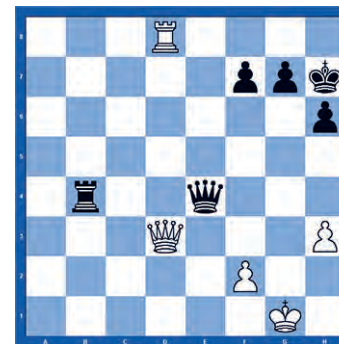
35. ♔a8+! ♕h7 36. ♖xe5! ♘xe5 37. ♔e4+ ♕g7
38. ♘xe5+ f6 [38... ♖g8 39. ♔a8+ ♕h7 40. ♔h8#]

39. ♔g6+ ♕f8 40. ♔xh6+ ♕e8 41. ♔g6+ ♕f8 42. ♘g3
1-0

(27) Svetushkin,D (2602) – Tkachiev,V (2644)

Nancy (rapid), 10.03.2013

[Solutions]



37... ♖b1+! 38. ♕h2 ♖h1+ 39. ♕g3 ♖g1+ 40. ♕h2 ♖g2+
41. ♕h1 ♖xd3 42. ♖xd3 ♖xf2-+

(28) Mekhitarian,K (2546) – Macedo,M (2408)

Brazilian Championship, 04.03.2013

[Solutions]



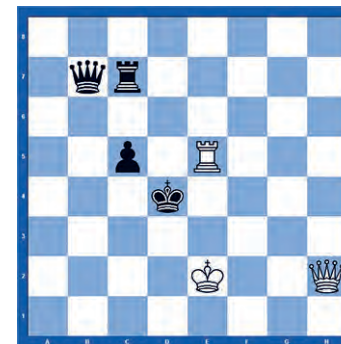
13. ♖f6+!! ♔xf6 [13...gxf6 14. ♕xf5 ♔xf5 15.fxe5 ♔h7 16.exd6 cxd6 17. ♖xf6+-]

14.fxe5 ♕g4 [14...♖xe5 15. ♖xf5+-]

15. ♔xg4 1-0

(29) Rinck

[Solutions]



1. ♔f4+ ♔c3 2. ♖xc5+!! ♔xc5 3. ♔c1+! ♔d4 [3...♔b3 4. ♔b1+-]

4. ♔e3+ ♔c4 [4...♔d5 5. ♔f3+ ♔d4 6. ♔xb7+-]

5. ♔d3+ ♔b4 6. ♔b1+!+-



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 57

29th of March 2013

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Editorial Preface

Candidates! Again, this is our event of the week. We have seen very exciting chess with a lot of decisive games. The results of the players until now:

Carlsen: probably it is not a big surprise that Magnus Carlsen is leading with +4. He is winning positions where he is better and holding when he is worse. Anyhow, against Radjabov, he had to save quite a bad position, and against Kramnik as well.

Kramnik: Vladimir is playing a very good and solid tournament winning the last 3 games, which brings him now to the second place with +3.

Aronian: He is on the third place with +2, which is clearly unsatisfactory for the Armenian, who lost 2 games in the last 3 rounds.

Svilder: Playing his chess with about the result we expected from him. 50% until now with the highlight of yesterday, beating Aronian with the white pieces.

Grischuk and Gelfand are playing fighting chess, but clearly are not well enough prepared to fight for the golden first place in the event. Both are on -1.

Ivanchuk: Lost 4 times on time so far!!! I never saw this in my whole life. What else to say... He totals -3.

Radjabov: Probably this is the surprise of the tournament. Teimour is usually a very stable and solid player, but here everything is going terribly wrong for him. What to do, next time... His total result is on -4.

Only 3 rounds to go and anything can happen! Magnus is a big favorite, but Kramnik is on fire, winning 3 games in a row! Stay updated with us. Until next week!

Enjoy the CEWN Nr 57!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Svidler, Peter (2747)
– Carlsen, Magnus (2872) [C84]

FIDE Candidates London ENG (6), 21.03.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

Another game where Carlsen easily defeats his opponent, who seemingly did not commit any mistake...

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0–0 ♙e7 6.d3 Svidler is a big expert of the 6.d3 system in the Ruy Lopez with both colors.

6...b5 7.♙b3 d6

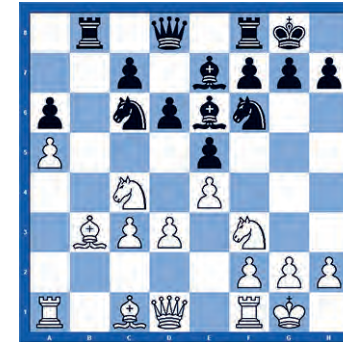


8.a4 b4 [The other main lines are 8...♙d7 ; and 8...♖b8]

9.♘bd2 0–0 10.a5 ♙e6 11.♘c4 ♖b8 Nothing new has happened so far. Both players are following theory. The upcoming positions are considered to be nicely playable for both sides. All the pieces are on the board, which ensures a complicated game where the stronger player might try to outplay his opponent with both colors.

12.c3 Svidler's favorite move. White wants to play d4 at a good moment, but of course, this requires a long preparation.

12...bxc3 13.bxc3



13...h6 A good prophylaxis against ♘g5. [13...♘a7 happened in another game of Svidler, where he got a nice initiative after 14.♘g5! ♙g4 15.f3 ♙h5 (15...♙d7 would have been met with 16.f4! which is also better for White.) 16.♖c2 ♘d7 17.♘h3! Black succeeded to avoid the f4 idea, but his bishop on h5 got out of the game, while the knight on h3 is just temporarily misplaced, as it will soon improve through f2. 17...♙h8 18.♘e3± and White won later on Svidler-Sargissian, Ningbo.]

14.♖e1 Just as in the 12th move, White makes another preparation to play d4. This time he protects the e4 pawn.

14...♖c8 15.♙c2 This is the novelty of the game, White would like to leave with his knight to e3 and then, d4 finally becomes possible. [15.♙a3 is the most common move, and Black usually plays 15...♖d8; 15.♙a4 was played recently in a top game between Leko and Adams. It continued with 15...♙xc4 16.♙xc6 (16.dxc4 ♘xa5 This is the difference. That is why Svidler went to c2 with his bishop.) 16...♙b5 17.♙xb5 ♖xb5 and Black equalized.]

15...♖d8 This is the standard setup and the idea of the previous ♕c8 move. Black would like to play ♗f8 and be ready to push d5 at a good moment. [15...♗xc4 was an interesting alternative. Black gives up his strong bishop to destroy the pawn structure. It is difficult to judge which factor has bigger importance. 16.dxc4 ♕e6 17.♕e2 (17.c5!? might have been Svidler's intention. A positional pawn sacrifice followed by playing on the light squares. Black is really missing his bishop here, but on the other hand, he is a pawn up. 17...dxc5 18.♕e2 ♖b5 (18...c4 19.♘d2 wins back the pawn.) 19.♗a4! ♖xa5 20.♘d2 and the rook might get in trouble.) 17...♘d7! and Black drives his knight to c5, which cannot be prevented by ♗a3 because of the a5 pawn, or by ♗e3, since this allows the rook to go to b2.]

16.♕e2 ♗f8 [16...♗xc4 17.dxc4 ♘d7 was an option again, but Carlsen preferred to keep his bishop pair.]



17.♘e3 The last preparation for d4. If he could move again, d4 would already guarantee an edge. [17.d4 immediately would have still been premature. Black plays 17...exd4 18.cxd4 d5! This is a typical reaction to d4. White remains with an isolated pawn and the b4 square will be occupied by Black's minor pieces. The text move, 17.♘e3,

avoids this idea. White could simply push e5 with an advantage.]

17...d5! Excellent timing by Carlsen. He points out the drawback of the previous move — White left the attack of the e5 pawn.

18.exd5 ♘xd5 19.♘xd5 ♖xd5 This seems like an inaccuracy. Black keeps the e5 pawn protected and, at the same time, attacks the pawn on a5. [19...♗xd5 was stronger, as the e5 pawn is not really hanging. 20.♘xe5 ♘xe5 21.♕xe5 ♖e8!? (Black can also force a draw by 21...♗xg2 22.♗xg2 ♖e8 White has nothing better than 23.♕xe8 ♖g4+ 24.♗f1 ♖h3+ 25.♗g1 ♖g4±) 22.♕xe8 ♖g4! White has to sacrifice his queen with 23.♕e4 (23.♖e4 leaves the back-rank unprotected. 23...♖xe8; 23.f3 ♗xf3!) 23...♗xe4 24.♖xe4 Only Black can be better.]

20.h3? This “automatic” reaction in the Ruy Lopez to open the back-rank and avoid the pin after ♗g4 is a big mistake. The initiative passes to Black and Carlsen does not let it slip away anymore. [20.♗a4 is possible. 20...♖xa5 (20...♘xa5 21.♘xe5±) 21.♗d2 (21.♗xh6 in order to protect the a1 rook and threaten ♗xc6. This leads to an unbalanced material position after 21...♖xa4! 22.♖xa4 gxf6 23.♘xe5 ♘xe5 24.♕xe5 ♖b5! Black brings a strong defender to the kingside and his bishop pair starts to work.) 21...♖c5 22.♗xc6 ♖xc6 23.♘xe5 ♖cb6 with a playable position for both sides. The exchange of the e5 pawn for the one on a5 favors White again, but the bishop pair gives Black good compensation.; 20.♕e4! is suggested by the machines and is a very interesting alternative. White would like to provoke a weakness on the kingside with the threat of d4. 20...g6 (On 20...f5 White simply retreats/\ 21.♕e2 and the central pawns become vulnera-

ble.) 21. ♖a4! ♘xa5 22. ♘xe5 In general, the exchange of the a5 pawn for the e5 one favors White as it has bigger importance. White seems to have an edge here. 22... ♗g7 23. ♗f4±; 20.d4?! is logical, but not so good. 20...exd4 21. ♖e4 g6 seems a bit shaky for Black, but White cannot continue the attack.]

20... ♗f5! Very strong move! Suddenly, White has to forget about the d4 move. Black can exert pressure on the d3 weakness and soon, the a5 pawn will be hanging as well.



21. ♖d1 White is doomed to passivity.

21... ♖e6 22. ♗b1 Svidler tries to activate his bishop through a2.

22... ♖d7! Keeping the pressure on the d3 pawn. [22... ♖xa5 allows White to create counterplay. 23. ♖xa5 ♘xa5 24. ♗a2 getting back the e5 pawn.]

23. ♗e3 e4! [23... ♖xb1 did not work. 24. ♖axb1 ♗xd3 White has 25. ♖a2! and the d5 rook is hanging. 25... ♖xa5 26. ♖xa5! ♘xa5 27. ♘xe5 ♖f5 28. ♘xd3 The two rooks will be extremely strong. Despite the pawn deficit, only White can be better here.]

24. ♘d4 ♘xd4 25. ♗xd4?! This allowed a tactical blow, which was actually missed by Carlsen. [25.cxd4 also led to Black's clear advantage after 25...exd3 26. ♗xd3 ♗xd3 27. ♖xd3 ♖bb5! White has serious problems with the a5 pawn. He can hardly hold it for long.]

25...exd3 Carlsen prefers the positional domination! [However 25... ♗xh3! was winning in a straight way. 26.dxe4 (26.gxh3 is, obviously, not possible. 26... ♖xh3 27. ♗e3 ♗d6! White gets mated soon.) 26... ♖g5 27.g3 This was the critical position where Carlsen missed a winning combination (or just did not want to risk a miscalculation). Black wins after a fantastic tactical blow: 27... ♗g4! 28.f3 ♖b2!! 29. ♖xb2 ♗xf3 and the game is over. Too many threats are in the air. ♖xg3, ♖h3 and the simple ♗xd1. 30. ♖d3 (30. ♖f2 ♗xd1-- with an extra pawn and a strong attack for Black.) 30... ♖xg3+ 31. ♗f2 ♖g2+--]

26. ♗xd3 ♗xd3 27. ♖xd3 c5 28. ♗e5! This was Svidler's idea when he took back with the bishop on d4, but unfortunately for him, it does not solve the problems.

28... ♖xd3 29. ♗xb8



29...c4! A great move! Black frees the c5 square for his bishop, where it puts very strong pressure on the f2

pawn. The additional weaknesses on c3 and a5 are too much for White to handle.

30. ♖e5 [The only good defensive setup was 30. ♖e1 ♖c5 31. ♖h2 followed by ♖g3 (which was not possible immediately because of ♖xg3) trying to keep all pawns defended, but of course, it is also a long suffering for White.]

30... ♖c5 31. ♖b1 ♖d5! Further activating the pieces. [31... ♖d2 is not so dangerous yet because of 32. ♖xc4 This is just a check on f2. There is no reason for Black to hurry with this plan.]

32. ♖b8+ ♖h7 33. ♖h5 According to the computer, this is the decisive mistake. Svidler laid a trap with the threat of ♖h8 ♖xh8 ♖xh6 and mate on g7, but of course, this does not work against the World's Nr.1. [33. ♖e8 was the best chance, although Black has various ways to remain better here as well. 33... ♖d7 (33... f5 is also good to prevent ♖e4 in the line with 33... ♖d7.) 34. ♖a8 ♖e6 The following line is forced: 35. ♖e4+ f5 36. ♖h8+! ♖g6! (Of course not 36... ♖xh8? 37. ♖xg7+!) 37. ♖f4 ♖d1+ 38. ♖h2 ♖xf2! with a big advantage for Black.; 33. ♖h2 ♖xf2 wins a pawn.]

33... ♖e4! A cool defense against the ♖h8 threat and Black further improves his pieces.

34. ♖b2 [34. ♖h8+ ♖xh8 35. ♖xh6+ ♖h7! was the point!]

34... ♖d5! White cannot avoid losing a piece.

35. ♖e2 ♖b1+ 36. ♖h2 f6! White resigned. It was instructive to see that only one careless move — h3 — was enough to lose the game against Carlsen.

0-1

(2) Gelfand, Boris (2740) — Aronian, Levon (2809) [D37]

FIDE Candidates London ENG (9.4), 25.03.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Aronian took a hard blow took in the 9th round against Boris Gelfand! Who would bet on this! Gelfand, who did not have a great tournament until then, won his 2nd game in a row. As we remember, not that long ago, in his match against Anand, Boris used the help of Aronian for his preparation, and now he might have “stolen” such an important half point from him in the race against Magnus Carlsen.

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♘f3 d5 4. ♘c3 ♖e7 Queen's Gambit, what can be more solid?

5. ♖f4 0-0? 6. e3 ♘bd7 7. ♖e2 This is a very solid line for White, as many others are as well...

7... c6 A rare move on the Top level. [7... dxc4 8. 0-0 c5 is the usual line, which seems to be pretty equal.]

8. 0-0 [Maybe 8. h3 would make sense now, in order not to give away the bishop immediately.]



8...♞h5 Of course! That is Black's main idea.

9.♙e5 A typical trick for White: first to provoke f6 and only then to go back to g3.

9...f6 10.♙g3 f5 A logical move, but why not... [10...♞xg3 11.hxg3 and now 11...f5 Can this position be worse for Black? I cannot imagine that being true.]

11.♙e5 Again, typical play by White.

11...♞hf6 [Of course not 11...♞xe5 12.dxe5! and the h5 knight is very bad...]

12.h3 This move is forcing Black to take on e5, but was it really needed? Black will probably take on e5 anyway. White could have played a more useful move than h3, like 12.♖c1.

12...♞xe5 13.♞xe5 ♞d7! Very good move. I think the position is just equal.

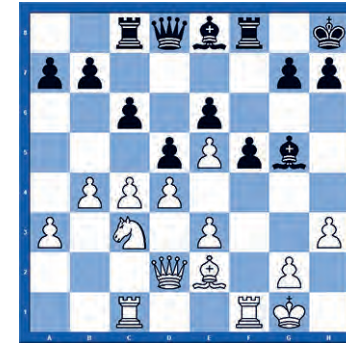
14.f4 Quite a risky attempt by White. I think only Black should be happy about this move. [Maybe it was the time to simply fix a draw. 14.♞xd7 ♙xd7 15.f4]

14...♞xe5 15.fxe5 ♙g5 and I think Black's position is very nice.

16.♙d2 ♙d7 17.♖ac1 White wants to open the c-line at a good moment, but this does not look too dangerous to me. Black's play on the kingside might become much more efficient.

17...♖c8 18.a3 ♙h8 Black is preparing his plan.

19.b4 ♙e8 A strange move... Where is the bishop going to? [The simple 19...♙h6 followed by ♙e7, with the idea of playing a5 or doubling on the f-file. I think only Black can look for an advantage here.]



20.♙d3! White is regrouping his pieces. The knight is going to its best square, f4.

20...♖c7?! and this is already a mistake. Black should get ready to welcome White's knight with g7-g5, but now it is too late.

21.♞e2 ♙h5? This move is clearly not the best. It was time to admit the mistake and play 21...♙d7.

22.♞f4 ♙xf4 23.exf4 It is clear now that White is better!

23...♖d7 Black is trying to provoke White into playing c5, which is not bad for him, but dxc4 leads to quite an unpleasant position for Black as well.

24.♙e3 Gelfand decides to keep the option of playing cxd5 as well, and does not close the position with the c5 move.

24...dxc4 25.♙xc4 ♖xd4?! and Aronian chooses the wrong path again. [25...♙f7 Black's position is still very very solid. White will create pressure by playing b5 in the future, but if this is enough to reach something special would remain unclear.]

26.♙xe6 Probably Aronian was planning his next move, but this is just losing!

26... ♖f7? An easy blunder which is very atypical for the Armenian. Usually, Aronian is in a great tactical shape.

27. ♖xf5! and White is already winning.

27... ♖c4



28.e6! This is the move that Aronian most probably blundered. Black cannot take on f1 or f5.

28... ♖d6 Nothing helps anymore...

29. ♖fe1 ♖e8 30.e7 ♖f7 31. ♖c5! Another very good move by Gelfand. Now the White rook is coming to e5 in order to secure the e7 pawn. Black's position is hopeless.

31...g6 [Of course 31... ♖xf4? 32. ♖d7 and White is winning.]

32. ♖g4 Gelfand was already in deep time trouble, and Aronian tries to gamble.

32...h5 but Gelfand found the right answer quickly.

33.f5! A great game by White.

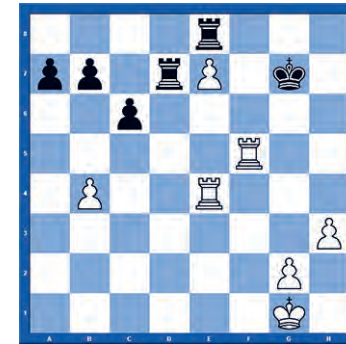
33... ♖g7 [Loses on the spot 33...hxg4 34. ♖h6+ ♖g8 35.fxg6 ♖xg6 36. ♖g5 and the game is over. 36... ♖f7

37. ♖xg6! The last precise move. 37... ♖xg6 38. ♖f1+ and Black is losing his queen.]

34.fxg6 ♖xg6 35. ♖xh5?! Not the easiest way to win this position. [35. ♖xh5! would finish the game on the spot. 35... ♖xh5 36. ♖xh5 and the e8 rook is hanging.]

35... ♖d3 36. ♖e5+ and once again Gelfand chooses the safest path, but not the shortest one. [36. ♖g5]

36... ♖xe5 37. ♖ce5 ♖xh5 38. ♖xh5 ♖xa3 39. ♖f5 ♖d3 40. ♖e4 ♖d7 The time trouble is over. White is, of course, doing clearly winning, but Black has some small practical chances. The rest of the game is handled greatly by



41. ♖g4+! The best move! White is doubling on the 7th rank. [Much more imprecise would have been 41. ♖fe5 ♖f7 and Black threatens to take on e7.]

41... ♖h6 42. ♖f6+ ♖h7 [42... ♖h5 would lead to a pretty mate: 43. ♖fg6 ♖dxg7 44. ♖4g5+ ♖h4 45.g3+ ♖xh3 46. ♖h5#]

43. ♖f7+ ♖h6 44. ♖gg7 White is ready to push his pawns forward... Black is hopeless.

44...♖d1+ 45.♔h2 ♖f1 What else to do? White wants to play g4-♙g3-♙h4 and mate.

46.♖h7+ ♙g6 47.♖hg7+ ♙h6 48.♖h7+ ♙g6 49.♖fg7+ ♙f6 50.h4 and the h-pawn is running.

50...♔e6 51.♖g4 Giving Black no chance for ♖f4.

51...♙f5 52.♙g3 ♖e1 53.♖f4+ ♔e6 54.h5 Black is finally getting the e7 pawn, but the position is not improving.

54...♖xe7 55.♖xe7+ ♙xe7 56.♙h4 White's g- and h-pawns are unstoppable.

56...b6 57.h6 ♖h1+ 58.♙g5 ♙e6 59.♙g6 ♙e5 60.♖f5+ and again Boris Gelfand has proved that people over 40 still have a very hard bite!

1-0

(3) Kramnik,Vladimir (2810) – Svidler,Peter (2747) [D85]

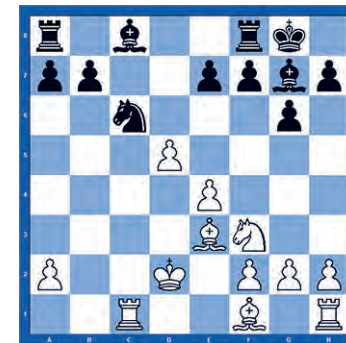
FIDE Candidates London ENG (8), 24.03.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

Kramnik showed some nice preparation against the Gruenfeld. He got a small, but unpleasant edge, which he succeeded to convert with fine technique.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♙g7 7.♘f3 c5 8.♙e3 Kramnik employed this system many times in the beginning of the 2000s. He used this weapon even against Kasparov in their World Championship match back in 2001.

8...♔a5 9.♔d2 ♘c6 10.♖c1 cxd4 11.cxd4 ♙xd2+ 12.♙xd2 0-0 13.d5



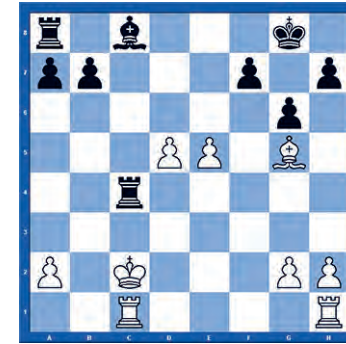
13...♖d8 This endgame was considered to be completely fine for Black, but now Kramnik introduces a logical novelty, which is also the recommendation of the newest version of Houdini!

14.♙c2 It is very logical to keep the rooks connected. [14.♙e1 was played in all the good games before.]

14...♘e5 Svidler prefers to avoid the preparation and decides to go for a slightly inferior endgame, which he hopes he can hold. [The tactical test of the line must be 14...♘a5 This is the right move after 14.♔e1 as well. Black intends to undermine the central pawns with e6 or f5. Kramnik's preparation probably starts with 15.♙g5 and lasts for hundreds of pages... Who knows what is his final evaluation?]

15.♘xe5 ♙xe5 16.♙c4 White fights against Black's active attempts to undermine his strong center. If he succeeds to consolidate, he will obtain a better position thanks to his superior pawn structure. The game is a good demonstration of the possible plans and dangers of the position.

16...♙d7 [The typical 16...f5 does not work because of 17.f4! and e5 is coming next. The strong center guarantees a nice edge for White.; 16...e6 is the other typical method, but it is met by 17.♙g5 (17.♖hd1 is also possible. 17...exd5 18.♙xd5 The bishop stands very well on d5. Black has difficulties with the development of the c8 bishop. The b7 and a7 pawns are weak.; White should refrain from playing 17.dxe6 ♙xe6 18.♙xe6 fxe6 White cannot make use of Black's slightly damaged pawn structure in the endgame.) 17...♖d6 (17...♖e8 loses an exchange after 18.♙b5 ♖f8 19.♙e7±) 18.f4! with the idea of e5 with tempo, followed by d6. Black must try to play tactically with 18...exd5 but it does not solve all the problems. 19.fxe5 ♖c6 20.exd5 ♖xc4+



21.♔b3± White has a clear advantage. The d-pawn is very dangerous, White will occupy the most important c-file and the bishop on f6 is going to be extremely annoying from Black's point of view.]

17.f4 ♙d6 This is typical in this opening. After the exchange of queens, the Gruenfeld bishop leaves the a1–h8 diagonal. The main reason is to cover the c7 invading square. [However 17...♙g7 might have been stronger, as it supports the undermining of the center. 18.♔b1 (18.♔b3 is now met with 18...b5! 19.♙e2 e6! and on 20.d6 e5! is very strong, with the threat of ♙e6. White is not on time to consolidate.) 18...b5 19.♙e2 e5! Black needs to fight against the center. These are all well-known moves in the Gruenfeld. 20.♖c7 f5! It seems like Black's counterplay is coming on time.]

18.♔b3 f6 [18...b5 was probably better, to avoid the following squeezing on the queenside. 19.♙d3 and only now 19...f6 to prevent e5.]

19.a4! Black has difficulties with the queenside pawns. Black should try to create a passer somehow, but the a4 pawn with the two bishops making it impossible. After making the necessary prophylactic moves, White can focus on making progress on the kingside and in the center.

19...♖dc8 20.h4! With the idea of playing h5 or, if Black plays it himself, that would weaken the g6 pawn...

20...♖ab8!? Svidler aims for counterplay with b5, but Kramnik smoothly prevents it. [On 20...h5 Kramnik was probably intending to play 21.♖hf1 overprotecting the f4 pawn with the idea of playing ♗d4 followed by e5!]

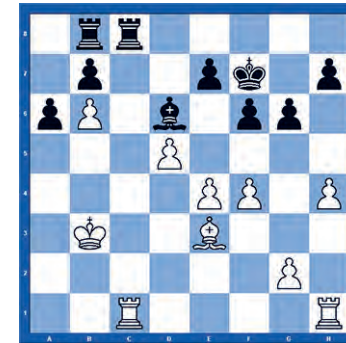


21.♗b5! Great positional move to prevent b5. Black is forced to trade the bishops, but it leaves the queenside even weaker. [21.♗xa7 is a mistake. 21...♖a8 Black wins the a4 pawn and achieves his aim by creating a passer on the queenside.]

21...♗xb5 22.axb5 a6 [22...b6 gives up the c6 square. 23.♖c6! and the a7 pawn is a serious weakness. ♖a1 is coming next.]

23.b6! Of course, White will need this pawn in the future! Later on, it might support the invasion on c7. He basically has an extra pawn now, as Black has zero chances to create something useful on the queenside. The only question that remains is whether White will be able to breakthrough in the center or on the kingside, or if Black will succeed to build a fortress.

23...♔f7

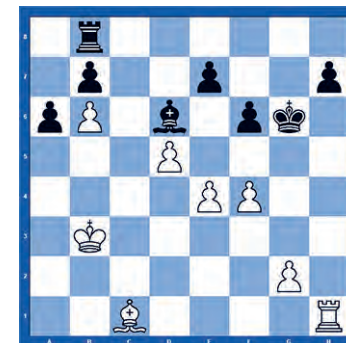


24.h5 [24.g4 was also possible, gaining more space.]

24...♖xc1 [24...gxh5 25.♖xc8 ♖xc8 26.♖xh5 is similar to the game. Black has no invading square on the c-file for the rook. He is doomed to defend passively.]

25.hxg6+ ♔xg6 Svidler creates an extra pawn island to himself (on h7), in order to keep the g-file opened for some kind of counterplay with the rook. [25...hxg6 26.♗xc1 is also quite bad for Black. He even has difficulties to neutralize the h-file, because 26...♔g7 runs into the tactical 27.e5! fxe5 28.♗b2! White has increased his advantage.]

26.♗xc1



26...♖g8 [Probably the best chance for Black was to play 26...h5!! to avoid the game's continuation and to look for counterplay with ♖g8. White should not win the pawn with 27.f5+ ♔f7 28.♖xh5 ♖g8! Black gets strong counterplay.]

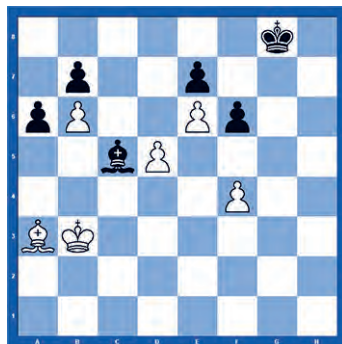
27.g4! Fine technique by Kramnik! Black cannot open the g-file for the rook, because the only move — ♔f7 — leaves the h7 pawn hanging with check. The next move is a preparation for this, but it has its drawback as well...

27...h6 Black intends to play ♔f7, but he puts his pawn on a dark square, where it becomes much more vulnerable to the White bishop.

28.♖h5! White intends to increase his advantage with e5. Black cannot do anything against this.

28...♔f7 29.e5! ♕c5 [29...fxe5 does not change much. 30.fxe5 ♕c5 31.e6+ ♔e8 32.♖xh6 ♕xb6 33.g5 is also very good for White. A possible plan is g6, followed by ♕b2 and g7. Black stands too passively.]

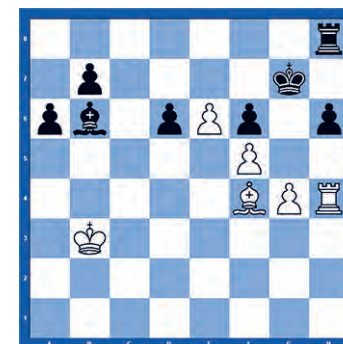
30.e6+ ♔f8 31.♖h4! Very precise calculation by Kramnik! [The arising pawn endgame after 31.♖xh6 ♖xg4 32.♖h8+ ♖g8 33.♖xg8+ ♔xg8 34.♕a3 also looks very promising for White, but actually Black holds with



34...♕d6!! (34...♕xa3 35.♔xa3 ♔f8 36.f5! White wins after the following forced line 36...♔e8 37.♔b4 ♔d8 38.♔c4 ♔e8 39.♔c5 ♔d8 40.d6 ♔e8 41.dxe7 ♔xe7 42.♔d5 ♔e8 43.♔d6 ♔d8 44.e7+ ♔e8 45.♔e6 a5 46.♔xf6 a4 47.♔e6 a3 48.f6+-) 35.♕xd6 exd6 Black puts his king on e7 and the draw is inevitable. White cannot go too far with his king, since he must stay in the square of the a-pawn. Finally, a position where Black can make use of his queenside pawns.]

31...♔g7 [31...h5! would have given the only practical chance. Searching for counterplay at the cost of a pawn. 32.gxh5 (32.g5 is an alternative, but Black gets his chances here as well. 32...fxg5 33.fxg5 ♔g7 34.♖xh5 ♔g6 35.♖h6+ ♔f5 and Black goes for the d5 pawn with his king.) 32...♖g1 followed by blocking the h-pawn with the king. White has good winning chances, but at least, Black got some activity, which always gives a chance to hold.; 31...♕xb6 allows 32.♕a3! White's pawns are too strong. The biggest threat is to play ♖xh6 and f6 is hanging because of the pin. It is hard to deal with this.]

32.f5! ♖d8 [The passive 32...♖h8 leads to a defeat as well. 33.♕f4! is very strong, preparing to breakthrough with d6. 33...♕xb6 34.d6 exd6 White can win in a spectacular way.



35. ♖xh6+! ♔g8 Otherwise, the e-pawn promotes. 36.g5! The final breakthrough. 36...fxg5 37.f6! gxh4 38.f7+ ♔h7 39.e7 and White wins!]

33. ♖xh6+ ♔g8 34. ♔c4 ♖xb6 The material is still equal, but White's pawns are superior. The end is near. White only needs to find the best way to create passed pawns, but of course, this is an easy task for Kramnik. [34...♖c8 does not change much. 35.♔d3 ♖d8 36.♔e4+-]

35.g5! ♖f2 36. ♖g4 ♔h7 37.gxf6! exf6 The job is done! White only needs to promote his e- and d-pawns.

38.e7 ♖c8+ 39.♔b3 ♖c5 [39...♔xh6 40.d6+- is also over.]

40. ♖c4 Black resigned as he cannot defend against ♖xc5 or simply d6. Great performance by Kramnik, who really deserved to win a game after having squeezed in all the previous rounds.

1-0

(4) Svidler,Peter (2747) – Grischuk,Alexander (2764) [E81]

FIDE Candidates London ENG (9.2), 25.03.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

After winning against Ivanchuk a day before, Grischuk was clearly going for another victory, pushing the game to a complete messy position. First, it seemed like White should be doing better, but after some crazy complications, the game finally ended in a draw. We will see a really interesting game.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 The King's Indian, probably the most fighting opening for Black at the current moment.

3.♘c3 ♖g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 Same as in his game against Radjabov, Svidler chooses the system with 5.f3.

5...0-0 6.♖e3 c5 7.♘ge2 ♘c6 The situation is quite clear. White's main idea is to keep his center alive and strong, and Black will start a quick play against it, which is usually supported by the very strong bishop on g7.

8.d5 ♘e5 9.♘g3



9...h5 h5 is a very typical move against the knight on g3.

10. ♖e2 White is developing a piece and preparing the f1 square for the knight at the same time. Of course, moves like 10. h4? are very bad. Then, White will never be able to play f4 because of the weak g4 square, as after Black's e6 move the h4 pawn might be weakened.

10...h4 Before starting the action in the center, Black hunts the White knight to a passive position.

11. ♘f1 e6 Until here, both players were moving fast...

12.f4 What can be more logical than this move?! It seems like ♘ed7 is the only move... but



12... ♘xc4! a super interesting idea by Grischuk. Black is giving a full piece, but opening White's position to the maximum! [In case of 12... ♘ed7? White is simply winning a pawn. 13.dxe6 fxe6 14. ♖xd6+-]

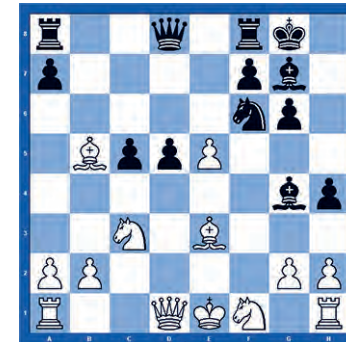
13. ♖xc4 b5! That is the key idea! Black is giving another pawn away and opening one more extra file to activate his pieces.

14. ♖xb5 exd5 The starting position of the real battle! White has a lot of different choices:

15.e5! The most logical move and probably a very good one as well. [It also looks very logical to play 15.exd5 but then Black can continue with 15... ♖b8! The position is very strange. White is a full piece up, but maybe Black is doing perfectly fine here. White's king is on e1, Black has a target on b2, the e-file is open and moves like h3 or ♘g4 could be quite unpleasant for White. Even with the support of a strong computer, it is very difficult to say who is doing better here.]

15...dxe5 16.fxe5 and once again Black has a lot of choices! Maybe 16...d4!? was also an alternative to continue.

16... ♖g4



17.exf6! Svidler makes a good decision again. By simplifying the position, White reaches quite a constant advantage. [One of the top computer moves is 17. ♖d3 and the craziness would continue...]

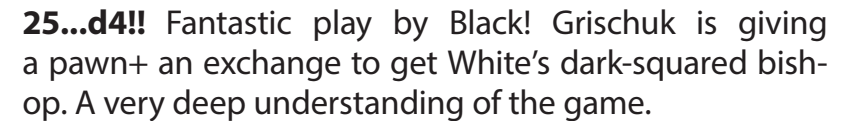
17... ♖xd1 18.fxg7 White has 4 pieces for the queen, but Black is going to take back one of them...

18... ♖xg7 19. ♖xc5! Great move by White! It is very important to secure the dark squares, which will give White big attacking chances in the future.

21. ♖g1 gxf1 ♔+ 22. ♔xf1 Let us take a fresh look at the position. White was a full piece up, and suddenly, it is Black who has a queen and a pawn for 3 White minor pieces—this gives Black a clear material advantage. On the other hand, White's pieces are very strong and the bishop pair is worth at least an extra exchange. Also, the Black king might get under a dangerous attack very fast. White's rook on g1 is very well placed, and the rook from d1 might immediately join the attack.

23. ♖g2 A good and safe move by White. Now Black has no more nasty checks...

24... ♖h5 **25.** ♖f4 It seems like White is better. ♘d4 is a deadly threat, and ♘e7 next could be quite unpleasant. The rooks on g2 and f4 are perfectly placed and it seems like Black has no counterplay.



28.a4?! Probably the first imprecise move by White. [28. ♖d5! would have been the right choice, and White is doing better.]

29. ♖xa6? In the upcoming time-trouble, White blunders. [29. ♖e2 and the position would remain pretty equal.]

29... ♔f3+? A tempting move, since Black is going to take the pawn on b2 with check, but it is a blunder! [29... ♔e5! would have almost won the game! The d4 rook is hanging and ♔f6 check is going to win the bishop on a6. White has no decent defense against this.]

30. ♖f2 ♔h1+ 31. ♔e2 ♖xb2+ 32. ♖d2 White managed to defend all his pieces!

32... ♔c1 33. ♔d3! The only move, but a strong one anyway!

33... ♖b6 Of course. Black needs to keep a rook on the board in order to use the unlucky position of the White king.

34. ♖c4 ♖d6+ 35. ♖d5 ♖d7 36. ♖f4 White managed to defend everything and it is clear that, probably, the position should be close to winning. The a-pawn is the key to success.

36... f5! Grischuk is searching for his only chance — to create some kind of counterplay, and he has no other pieces left, only the f7 pawn...

37. ♖d4 ♔h6 38. h4? During the time trouble, White misses Black's counterplay. [The careful 38. ♖d1 seems to give White very good winning chances.]

38... ♖c7! Great move.

39. ♖c4 A logical way to defend the knight on c3.

39... ♔f1+! and now we see why 38. ♖d1 would have been better...

40. ♖e2 f4 and Black/ ^s f-pawn is unstoppable!

41. ♔c2 f3 The game could have continued with: 42. ♖ee4 ♖xc4 43. ♖xc4 f2 44. ♖f4 ♔xc4 45. ♖xc4 f1 ♔ 46. ♔b3 and the position is simply a draw. What a great fighting game! It has been a while since I have seen such craziness on the board!

1/2

Puzzle section

(5) Grischuk,A (2764) – Gelfand,B (2740)

London Candidates, 21.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

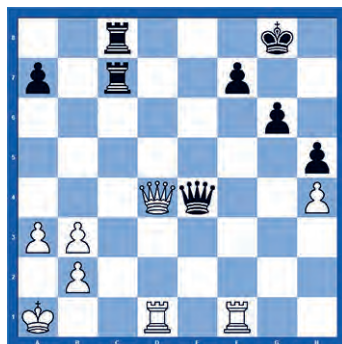


(6) Vavulin,M (2294) – Vorobiov,E (2578)

Moscow Championship, 23.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

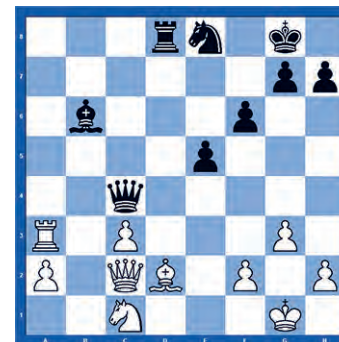


(7) Antonsen,M (2446) – Palo,D (2551)

Danish Championship, 24.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

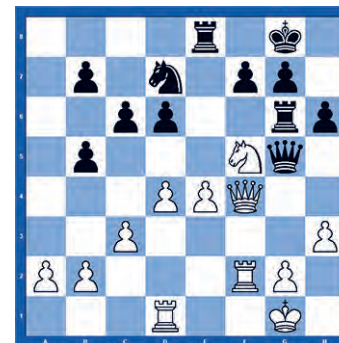


(8) Ziska,H (2461) – Antonsen,M (2446)

Danish Championship, 25.03.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Zeng,C (2490) – Tran Tuan Minh (2310)

HD Bank Cup, 21.03.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(10) Zeng,C (2490) – Nguyen Huynh Minh Huy (2460)

HD Bank Cup, 22.03.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

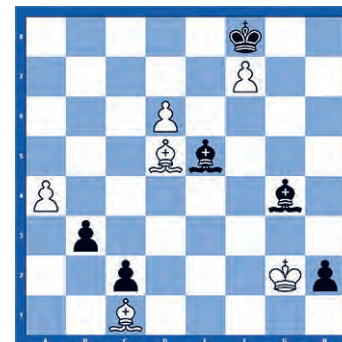


(11) Li Shilong (2559) – Nguyen Van Hai (2339)

HD Bank Cup, 22.03.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

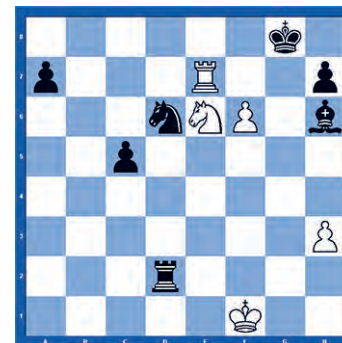


(12) Brandner,S (2271) – Thiede,L (2441)

Austrian league, 21.03.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Babula,V (2585) – Bosiocic,M (2571)

Austrian league, 22.03.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

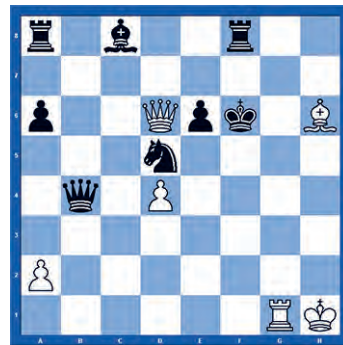


(14) Baramidze,D (2615) – Volokitin,A (2722)

Austrian league, 24.03.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

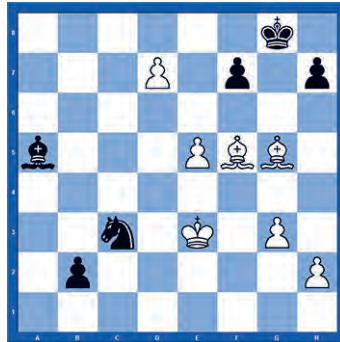


Endgame section

(15) Kramnik,V (2810) – Aronian,L (2809)

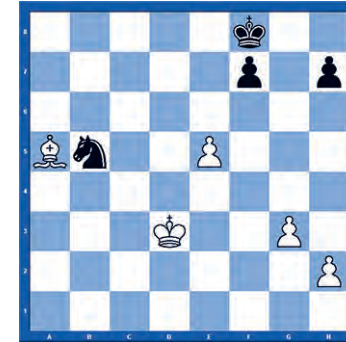
FIDE Candidates, 20.03.2013

[Chess Evolution]



Kramnik played great chess, but somehow, in the first half of the tournament, he was unable to convert his advantages. Black has a really unpleasant endgame, but Aronian finds a miraculous defense and holds the draw with flawless technique.

41...f6!! This leads to an opposite colored bishop endgame, which seems to be hopeless at first sight. However, Aronian evaluated the arising position much deeper. [41...b1♔ seems to be possible as well. 42.♔xb1 ♖xb1 43.d8♔+ This keeps more winning chances. (43.♔d3 is quite a tricky alternative, trying to trap the knight. 43...♖c3! is the only move, after which Black seems to survive. (Other moves like 43...♔f8 lose after 44.d8♔+ ♔xd8 45.♔xd8 ♖a3 46.♔a5! ♖b5



47.♔b6! and Black cannot avoid losing his knight. 47...♔e8 48.♔c4 ♖a3+ 49.♔b3 ♖b5 (49...♖b1 50.♔e3!+- and ♔b2 in the next move.) 50.♔b4+-) 44.♔c4 ♖e4 45.♔e7 ♔g7 46.♔b5 ♔c7 47.♔c6 ♔a5= and the a5-d8 diagonal is long enough for the Black bishop to hold it.) 43... ♔xd8 44.♔xd8 ♖c3 45.♔d4 It is hard to judge if this position is winning or drawn. The knight has serious difficulties to find a way back home. If it could get to e6 or wherever in his own camp, White would have no chance to promote his extra pawn, but the knight is very far away.]

42. ♔xf6! The critical continuation. [42.e6?? is a blunder. 42...♖d5+ 43.♔d4 ♖e7 and Black wins a piece.; While 42.exf6 leads to an easy draw. 42...♔b6+ 43.♔d2 b1♔ 44.♔xb1 ♖xb1+ 45.♔c2 ♖a3+ 46.♔b3 ♖b5 White has to win back the piece with f7 and d8♔, but of course, with 2 vs 1 pawns on the kingside, the position is dead drawn.]

42...♖d5+ This was the point of 41...f6. Black escapes into an opposite-colored bishop endgame.

43.♔d4 ♖xf6 44.exf6 ♔f7! Otherwise, White would have simply driven his king to c8 to promote his pawn.. . But now, it looks like giving up the h7 pawn and creating

connected passed pawns is a kind of hopeless attempt. However, the facts show a different outcome.

45. ♖xh7 ♜xf6 **46.** ♔d5 ♜e7 **47.** ♜c6 ♜d8! Black needs to keep his king ahead of the d-pawn. [47... ♙d8 loses easily after 48. ♙b1+- followed by advancing the h-pawn, which lures the Black king to the kingside and White can continue his plan with ♜b7-c8.]

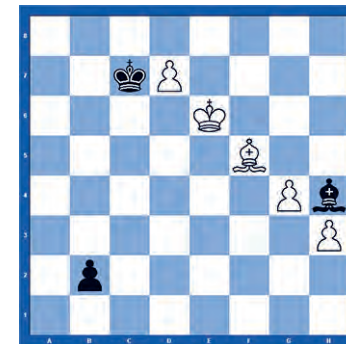
48.g4 White, sooner or later, had to play this move, since this is the only way to make some progress. Unfortunately for him, the h4-h5 plan does not work because it drops a pawn with ♙e1. However, this move allows the Black bishop to stand between the pawns. It is important to mention that the game is drawn only because of the unfortunate placement of the h7 bishop — if it was anywhere on the b1–f5 diagonal, White would be winning. We will soon understand why. ..

48... ♙e1! The bishop is heading to h4! [48... ♙d2? would allow White to reach the h5 square with his pawn, which is enough to win the game. 49.h4 ♙e1 50.h5 ♙d2 51. ♙b1 ♙c1 52. ♜d6 ♙d2 53. ♜e6 ♙e3 54. ♙f5! Just as in the game, White needs to place his bishop on f5 and then he can support the pawns with his king. 54... ♙d2 55. ♜f6 b1 ♜ Black has traded the b-pawn for the one on d7, but in comparison to the game, he is not able to save the game. 56. ♙xb1 ♜xd7 White needs to be careful, since the h8 corner does not fit the color of the bishop. 57. ♜g7! ♜e6 58.h6 ♙c3+ 59. ♜g8+- and the h-pawn promotes.]

49.h3 [49.g5 does not work. 49... ♙h4! and g6 block s the diagonal, so Black could promote his pawn. This is the reason why the bishop is badly placed on h7.]

49... ♙h4 50. ♜d6 ♙e7+ 51. ♜e6 ♙h4 The Black b ishop has occupied its excellent defensive position. Before White tries his only chance to make progress, Kramnik completes the 60 moves time control by passing with the bishop in order to gain 15 additional minutes.

52. ♙b1 ♜c7 53. ♙e4 ♜d8 54. ♙c2 ♜c7 55. ♙b1 ♜d8 56. ♙e4 ♜c7 57. ♙d3 ♜d8 58. ♜d6 ♙e7+ 59. ♜e6 ♙h4 60. ♙f5 ♜c7



61. ♜f7 With the idea of ♜g6 and advancing the pawns. Black needs to trade the b-pawn for the one on d7 in order to be able to join his king in the defense.

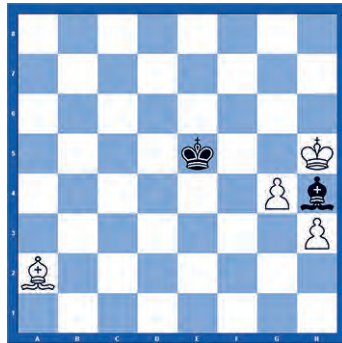
61...b1 ♜ 62. ♙xb1 ♜xd7 63. ♙a2! This is the right diagonal for the bishop, where it cuts the Black king from reaching the corner after sacrificing his bishop for the g-pawn. [63. ♜g6? is a much worse attempt. 63... ♜e7 64.g5 ♙xg5! 65. ♜xg5 ♜f7=]

63... ♜d6! Aronian shows a great defensive method by going with his king behind the pawns. Actually, this is the only way for Black to save himself! [Passing with 63... ♙d8 leads to a defeat after 64. ♜g6 ♜e8 65.g5! ♜f8 (65... ♙xg5 is not enough now. 66. ♜xg5 ♜f8 67. ♜g6! The Black king does not reach the corner, thanks to the excellent place-

ment of the a2 bishop.) 66.h4 ♖e7 67.♔h7!+- followed by g6.]

64.♔g6 ♖e5! [64...♔e7 loses similarly to the previous line with 63...♖d8. 65.♔h5 ♖f2 66.g5 ♖f8 67.♔h6 ♖e3 68.h4+- and ♔h7 is coming next, followed by g6.]

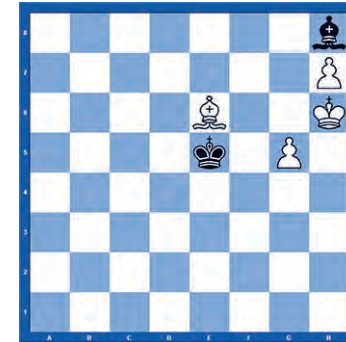
65.♔h5



65...♖e7!! Another only move! We will soon get its point! [65...♖d8 is refuted by 66.g5 ♖f4 67.g6 ♖f6 68.♔h6 ♔g3 69.♖e6+- wins.; 65...♖f2 also loses after 66.g5 ♖f4 67.g6 ♖d4 68.♔h6 ♔g3 69.♖e6+-]

66.g5 ♖f4 67.h4 [The point is that after 67.g6 Black has 67...♖f8! and suddenly, the White king is squeezed to h5. Black only plays ♖g7-f8 from now on, and White cannot make progress. This is the reason that show that taking the bishop to e7 was the only move.]

67...♔g3! Yet another only move! Black could not let the king escape from h5. [67...♖f8 is refuted by 68.♔g6! ♖b4 69.h5 ♖c3 70.h6 ♔g4 71.h7 ♖h8 White can create a zugzwang! 72.♖e6+ ♖f4 73.♔h6 ♖e5



74.♖h3+- This is the zugzwang. White does not threaten with g6 because of ♖f6, and the draw is inevitable, since the bishop starts to move on g7-h8 forever. However, Black needs to move his king now and then, g6 already wins the game.]

68.♖c4 ♖f8! The last difficult only move! [68...♖c5 loses to 69.g6 ♖d4 (69...♖f8 70.♔g5! and h5 wins.) 70.♔g5 wins.]

69.♖e2 ♖g7 Black is now intending to wait with ♖g7-f8. White cannot make progress.

70.♖c4 [70.♔g6 ♖xh4!= is the key!]

70...♖f8 71.g6 White intends to play ♔g5 and h5, but Black is in time to squeeze the king to h5!

71...♖f4! 72.♖a2 ♖g7 The draw was agreed! A fantastic defense by Aronian and, on the other hand, a very sad and unlucky draw for Kramnik!

1/2

(16) Ivanchuk,Vassily (2757)
– Radjabov,Teimour (2793) [D37]

FIDE Candidates London ENG (9.3), 25.03.2013

[Chess Evolution]



After move 40 and a little time trouble, we see the following endgame. It is clear that White is pushing, but is it enough to win the game?

41. ♖c5 h5 A very logical move. As the defender, it is always good to exchange an extra pawn.

42. ♜b1 I am not sure about this move. Black is now able to exchange the knight. [42. ♔f3 Not allowing the Black knight to go to e4 looks very logical to me. The White king could go to d3 over e2.]

42... ♞e4! I think the right decision. Black's position will be very passive, but very solid.

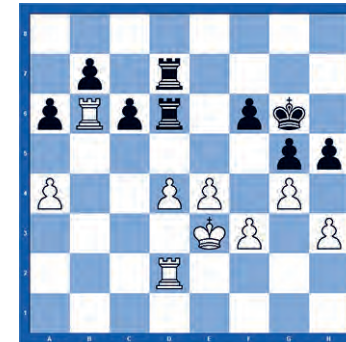
43. ♞xe4 ♜xe4 44. ♔f3 ♜ee7 Black is going to hold everything together on the 7th rank.

45. e4 White is centralizing as much as possible. The a5 move is not running away.

45... ♜cd7 46. ♔e3 ♜d5 47. f3 ♜d6 Black cannot do much more than waiting.

48. ♜b6 I am not sure whether this move was right. The White rook must remain passive on d2. [White could have tried to keep both rooks active. 48.a5!? ♜d5 (It does not work now 48... ♜ed7 49. ♜b4 followed by ♜b2.) 49. ♜c5 ♜xc5 50.dxc5 ♜e5 51. ♔d4 ♜e7 Black might hold this, but White is clearly better...]

48... ♜ed7 49. ♜d2



49... hxcg4? What a mistake! Black plays very logically, exchanging a pawn, but White is now going to get the h-file, and this is deadly. [49... h4 would lead to a very passive position, which is very difficult to break.]

50. hxcg4 ♔f7 51. a5 White made the maximum he could. Now it is time to try to find a winning plan.

51... ♔e7 52. ♜b1 ♔f7 53. ♜h1 Over to the h-file! It is definitely an idea. [53. ♜b4? would be a good move with the idea of playing ♜db2, but Black always counts on 53...c5! with, probably, just a draw.]

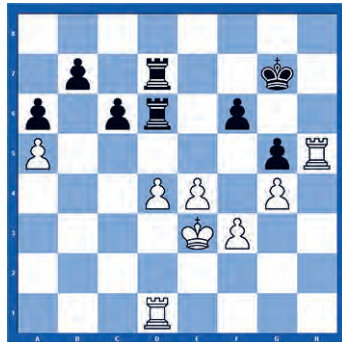
53... ♔g7 54. ♜h5 What can be White's idea now? To play e5 or to play ♜dh2 at a good moment.

54... ♜d8 Black was probably afraid of playing ♔g6 because of [54... ♔g6 To make sure that the pawn on g5 is

protected against White's e5 push. 55.♖h8! The White rook is entering the position. 55...♔g7 56.♖b8 and White has clearly obtained a lot! An exchange of rooks would be bad for Black because the d5 move would be possible.]

55.♖d1 White is taking away the rook from the 2nd rank, in order to be able to play ♖dh1 and have the escape ♔f2-♔g3 against Black's ♖xd4, without allowing him to play ♖d2+ and ♖xh2, exchanging the rooks. [55.e5! would have been strong as well, but we will see a similar continuation just the next move.]

55...♖8d7 This move is losing, but it is hard to give Black a good advice here... [It does not help much to play 55...♔g6 56.♖dh1 ♖xd4 57.♖h7 and mate next move.]



56.e5! The final blow...

56...♖d5 57.♖dh1 ♔f7 [Loses on the spot 57...♖xd4 58.e6! and Black is losing a rook. 58...♖d3+ 59.♔f2 ♖d2+ 60.♔g3+-]

58.♖h7+ We are now in the technical part of the game.

58...♔e6 59.♖xd7 ♔xd7 60.♖h7+ ♔e6 61.♖h6! There is no reason for White to get seduced by the b7 pawn... The f6 pawn is much sweeter.

61...c5 is probably the best chance for Black, but it is simply too small...

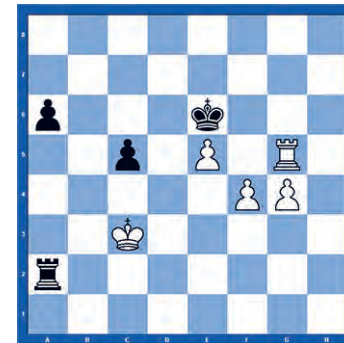
62.♖xf6+ ♔e7 63.♖b6! The last exact move. From now on, things are very easy...

63...♖xd4 [63...cxd4+ 64.♔e4 and the game is over.]

64.♖xb7+ ♔e6 65.♖g7 capturing the g5 pawn away and, with it, winning the game.

65...♖a4 66.♖xg5 ♖xa5 67.f4 The 3 pawns are starting their march.

67...♖a3+ 68.♔d2 ♖a2+ 69.♔c3



69...♖f2 trying to create "hole" in the pawns, but it is too late for anything.

70.♖g6+ ♔d5 71.♖d6+ ♔e4 72.♖f6 White can even choose which pawn to push, e- or g-.

72...a5 The e-pawn is closer to the promotion square on the 8th rank :).

73.e6 ♔d5 74.f5 ♖e2 75.♖f8 ♔d6 76.f6 A really great endgame technique by White!

1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Euwe,Max — Alekhine,Alexander [A90]

World Championship 16th Netherlands (26), 03.12.1935

[Kamil Miton]

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.g3 ♗b4+ 4.♗d2 ♗e7 Black's idea was to force White to put the bishop on d2, in order to avoid the plan with b3-♗b2. For example, ♗b4 has the same point in the Catalan.

5.♗g2 ♖f6 6.♖c3 0-0 7.♖f3 Of course, jump to e4 is not dangerous for White, but sometimes in this structure, it is possible to stop it after [7.♔c2!]

7...♖e4 With the bishop on c1, Black's main plan is d6-♔e8.

8.0-0



8...b6 It would be nice to develop the bishop on b7, but in this case, Black is completely not on time to do it. [8...d6 9.♔c2 Of course, Black waited for this move in order to win a tempo. 9...♖xd2 10.♔xd2 ♖d7 11.♗fe1 ♖f6 12.e4

fxe4 13.♖xe4 ♖xe4 14.♗xe4 ♗f6 15.♗ae1↑ White is much better. ♗h3 might come next. (Xe6)]

9.♔c2 [9.♖xe4 fxe4 10.♖e5 d5 11.cxd5 exd5 12.♔b3 ♖h8 13.f3 exf3 14.♗xf3 ♗f6 15.♗af1 With the idea ♗g5. Thanks to his huge development advantage, White is crushing his opponent.]

9...♗b7 Now we see a typical plan in this kind of positions — to fight for the e3 square.

10.♖e5 Other thematic idea is [10.d5 with ♖d4 — ♗ad1 next.]

10...♖xc3 11.♗xc3 [11.♗xb7 ♖xe2+ 12.♔g2 ♖xd4 13.♔d3 ♖bc6 14.♖xc6 ♖xc6 15.♗xa8 ♔xa8 and Black has excellent compensation.]

11...♗xg2 12.♔xg2 ♔c8 With the idea of putting the queen on b7, not allowing White to play the thematic e4 move easily. [12...♖c6 Interesting idea. The structure will be slightly destroyed, but on the other hand, Black reduces the material and finishes his development. 13.♖xc6 (13.♗ad1 ♖xe5 14.dxe5 Black should be fine because the pawn on d7 is not really weak. Black manage to protect it and, without other weaknesses, his position will be very solid. 14...♗f7 15.♗d3 ♗f8 16.♗fd1 ♔c8 17.♔d2 ♔b7+ 18.f3 ♗d8=) 13...dxc6 14.♗ad1 ♔d7 15.e4± Thanks to his better structure, White has a small advantage.]

13.d5 d6 14.♖d3 [14.♖f3 e5 15.e4 f4 (15...fxe4 16.♖d2!? White wants to take control of the e4 square and then, simply advance his pawns on the queenside — a typical plan in the King's Indian structures. However, now comes 16...e3! 17.fxe3 ♖d7 and Black is very solid.) 16.♖d2± Black's plan is to put pressure on the kingside, but with-

out the light-squared bishops, this is harder to realize. That is why White should be a bit better.]

14...e5



15.♔h1 The king takes this square because White will try to break the position on the kingside.

15...c6 16.♕b3 ♔h8 17.f4 e4 18.♘b4 c5 The only move, otherwise, White will get pressure on the d-file.

19.♘c2 ♘d7 20.♘e3 ♙f6 Logical move. Black wants to eliminate the strong bishop on c3. Without bishops, the plan with g4 is less strong, so Euwe decides to change the character of position and play the nice idea: [20...♘f6 21.h3 and White should get a strong initiative after pushing g4.]



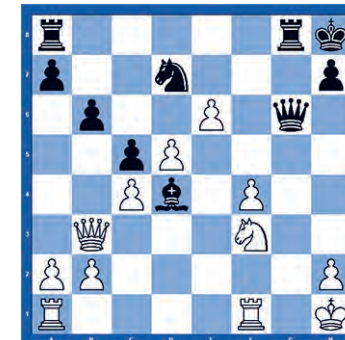
21.♘xf5! ♙xc3 22.♘xd6 ♕b8 23.♘xe4 ♙f6 24.♘d2 White has three pawns for a piece and the unpleasant threat e4-e5.

24...g5! Alekhine tries to weaken the White king in order to get counterplay against it. [24...b5!? 25.cxb5 ♕b7 26.e4 ♙d4 27.♘c4 ♘f6 28.♖ae1 and White has to find a way to advance his central pawns. The position is unclear.]

25.e4 gxf4 26.gxf4 ♙d4 27.e5 ♕e8 The queen is coming to the kingside in order to support the pressure against White's king.

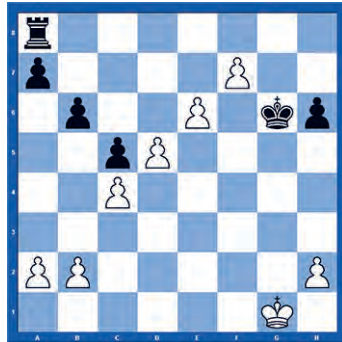
28.e6 ♖g8 29.♘f3 [29.exd7?? ♕e2-+]

29...♕g6



30.♖g1! The next sacrifice by White is fantastic. Without the strong bishop, White will be able to create threats against the Black king! [30.♘g5 ♘e5! and thanks to his active pieces, Black can take the initiative. (30...h6 31.♘f7+ ♔h7 32.♕h3 ♘f6 33.♘g5+ ♔g7 34.♘f3↑) 31.♖ae1 (31.♖g1 ♕f5 32.♕g3 ♘xc4 33.♘f7+ ♕xf7 34.exf7 ♖xg3 35.♖xg3 ♘d6 36.♖e1 ♘xf7 37.♖e7 ♘d6) 31...♖af8 32.♕h3 ♖xf4 33.♖xf4 ♕xg5↑]

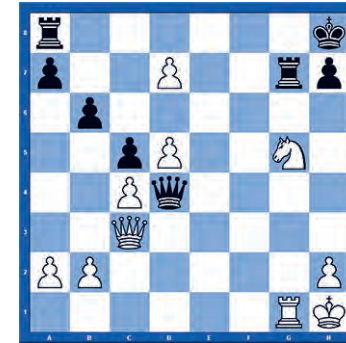
30...♙xg1 31.♖xg1 ♔f6 Alekhine was afraid of ♔c3, that is why he made this move. He could have played [31...♔f5 32.♔c3+ (32.exd7 ♖xg1+ 33.♙xg1 ♔xf4 (33...♔xd7 34.♙f2∞) 34.♔c3+ ♙g8 35.♘e5 ♖d8 and it is hard to improve the position for both sides. ♔g3 does not work because after exchanging, the Black king will get to f6 on time.) 32...♘f6 33.♘g5 h6 34.♔e5 ♔xe5 35.fxe5 ♖xg5 36.exf6 ♖xg1+ 37.♙xg1 ♙h7 38.f7 ♙g6



39.♙f2 ♔f6 and this is another funny position where it is probably impossible to improve for both sides. Maybe white can try to put the king on a4 and push b4 to get something.]

32.♘g5 ♖g7?! Not accurate. Black should play [32...♖g6! 33.exd7 ♔xf4 34.♔c3+ ♙g8 35.♔e1 ♖xg5 36.♔e8+ ♙g7 37.♖xg5+ ♔xg5 38.♔xa8 ♔f6= with perpetual check.]

33.exd7 ♖xd7 [33...♔xf4 34.♔c3 ♔d4 (34...♔f5 35.♖e1 ♔xd7 36.♘e6+; 34...♙g8 Compared to the position after 32...♖g6, White now has 35.♔xg7+-)



35.♔e1 ♖xd7 36.♘e6 ♔f6 and White is winning because Black will lose control of the a1–h8 diagonal after the nice 37.♖f1! ♔xb2 38.♖f2+-]

34.♔e3 Now the White knight will take the strong e6 square.

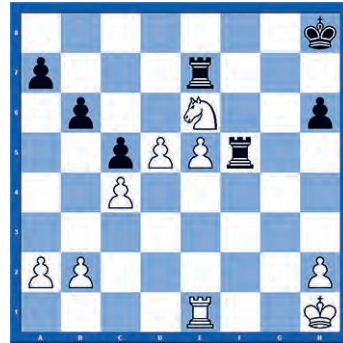
34...♖e7 35.♘e6↑

♖f8 [35...♖ae8 36.b3 ♖xe6 37.dxe6 ♖xe6± with long-term suffering without the pawn.]

36.♔e5 White cannot hurry to exchange the queen, and should play [36.♔g3 but is not clear what to do next.]

36...♔xe5 37.fxe5 ♖f5 38.♖e1 h6? Decisive mistake. Alekhine blunders a simple tactical idea. He could still fight after, for example: [38...♖xe6 39.dxe6 ♙g7 40.♖e3 ♙f8 41.♖a3 a5 42.♖b3 ♙e7 43.♖xb6 ♖xe5 44.♖a6 ♖e1+ 45.♙g2 ♖e2+ 46.♙g3 ♖xb2 47.♖xa5 ♙xe6 48.♖xc5 ♖xa2 49.♖h5 ♖c2 50.c5 ♙f6; 38...♙g8 Black avoids the ♘d8 trick and prepares ♖xe6-♙f8-♙e7. 39.b3 ♖xe6 (39...h6 40.♙g2 ♙f7 41.♘d8+! ♙e8 42.♘c6 ♖g7+ 43.♙h1 ♖f2 and Black will not be able to stop the White pawns. 44.♖g1 ♖xg1+ 45.♙xg1 ♖xa2 46.e6 ♖d2 47.♙f1+-) 40.dxe6 ♙f8 41.♖d1 ♖xe5 42.♖d8+ ♙e7 43.♖d7+ ♙xe6 44.♖xa7

♖e2 45. ♖xh7 ♖xa2 46. ♖h6+ ♔f5 47. ♖xb6 ♖b2 Thanks to his active pieces, Black has drawish chances.]



39. ♘d8!+- Black cannot take on e5 now because of the check on f7. The knight is coming to c6 and the White pawns will promote very easily.

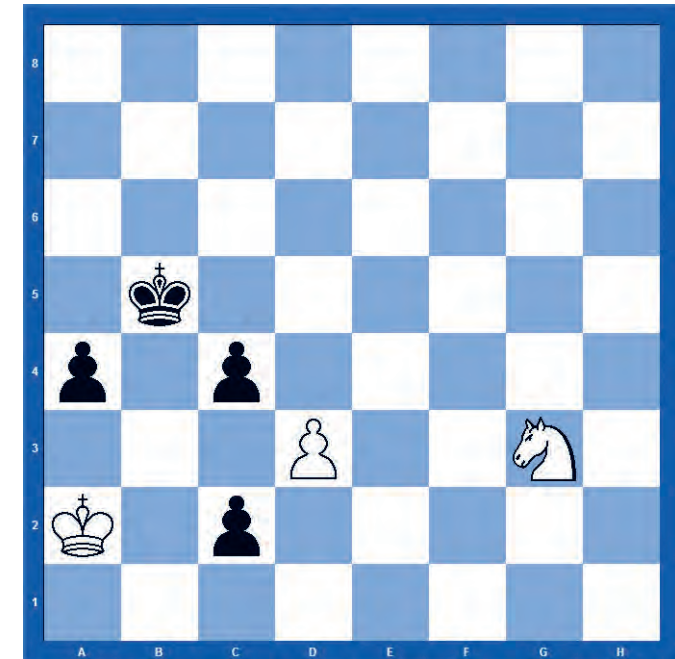
39... ♖f2 40. e6 ♖d2 41. ♘c6 ♖e8 42. e7 b5 43. ♘d8 ♔g7 44. ♘b7 ♔f6 45. ♖e6+ ♔g5 46. ♘d6 ♖xe7 47. ♘e4+ 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Staudte

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(19) Milliet,S (2401) – Yildiz,B (2341)

World Women Teams, 12.03.2013

[Solutions]



37. ♖d4? [37. ♘xb6!! axb6 (37...cxb6 38. ♖xd6+-) 38. ♖d5!! ♖xd5 39. a7+-] **37... ♖e8=**

(20) Ghaem Maghami,E (2568) – Short,N (2697)

Blitz match, 12.03.2013

[Solutions]

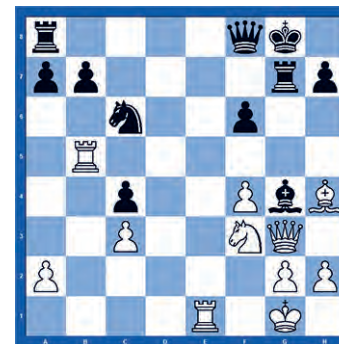


32. ♘f6+! ♖xf6 **33. ♖xg4** ♘d5+- [33...fxg4 34. ♖xf6+-]

(21) Cheparinov,I (2706) – Nabaty,T (2566)

Karpos Open, 14.03.2013

[Solutions]



26. ♖xb7! ♘d7 [26... ♖xb7 27. ♖xg4+ ♔h8 (27... ♖g7 28. ♖e6+ ♖f7 29. ♖xc6+-) 28. ♖e6+-]

27. ♖f2+-

(22) Perunovic,M (2618) – Jankovic,A (2538)

Karpos Open, 14.03.2013

[Solutions]



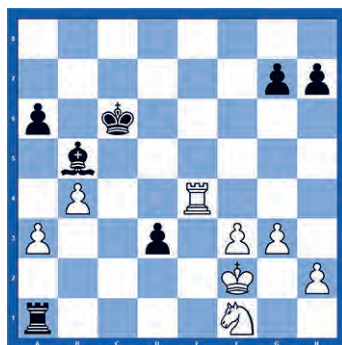
34. ♖c6! ♜f7 [34... ♞xc6 35. ♞xd7 ♞xd7 36. ♞f8#]

35. ♞d5 1-0

(23) Vujic,M (2361) – Arnaudov,G (2468)

Karpos Open, 14.03.2013

[Solutions]

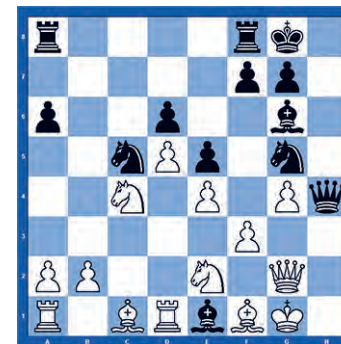


37... ♜xf1+! 38. ♞e3--+ [38. ♞xf1 d2+ 39. ♞f2 d1 ♞--+]]

(24) Kovacevic,A (2563) – Perunovic,M (2618)

Karpos Open, 15.03.2013

[Solutions]

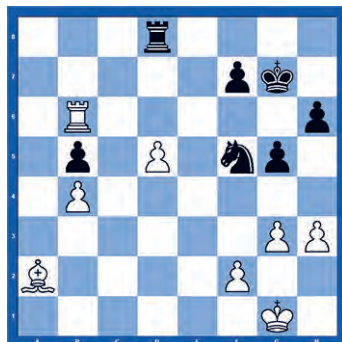


25... ♞xf3+! 26. ♞xf3 ♞xe4 0-1 [26... ♞xe4 27. ♞g5 ♞f2+! 28. ♞xf2 ♞h1#]

(25) Kadric,D (2463) – Golod,V (2564)

Karpos Open, 16.03.2013

[Solutions]



38...♖a8! 39.♙b3 [39.♙b1 ♖a1–+]

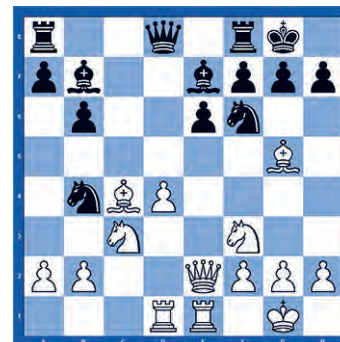
39...♘d4! 40.d6 [40.♙d1 ♖a1–+]

40...♘xb3–+

(26) Sanal,V (2404) – Jumabayev,R (2554)

Karpos Open, 16.03.2013

[Solutions]



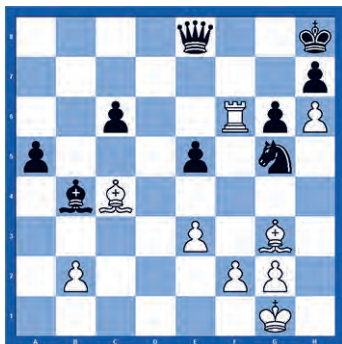
14.d5!! ♙xd5 [14...exd5 15.♙xe7 ♙xe7 16.♙xe7 dxc4 17.♙xb7+–; 14...♘fxd5 15.♘xd5 ♘xd5 (15...♙xg5 16.♘xb4+–) 16.♙xd5 ♙xd5 17.♙xe7 ♙xe7 18.♙xd5+–]

15.♙xd5 ♘fxd5 16.♘xd5 ♘xd5 17.♙xe7 1–0[17.♙xe7 ♙xe7 18.♙xd5+–]

(27) Sadorra,C (2555) – Berczes,D (2526)

Dallas, 11.03.2013

[Solutions]



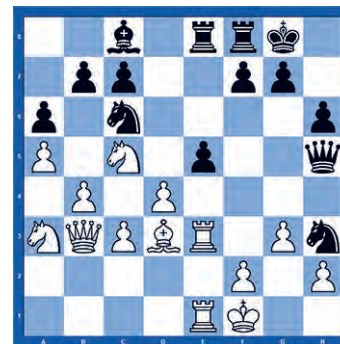
31. ♖xc6!! ♕f8 [31... ♘f7 32. ♕xf7 ♔xf7 33. ♕xe5+ ♔g8 34. ♖c8+ ♕f8 35. ♕g7+-]

32. ♖c8! 1-0 [32. ♖c8 ♔xc8 33. ♕xe5+ ♕g7 34. hxg7#]

(28) Tiviakov,S (2659) – Ernst,S (2554)

German league, 16.03.2013

[Solutions]



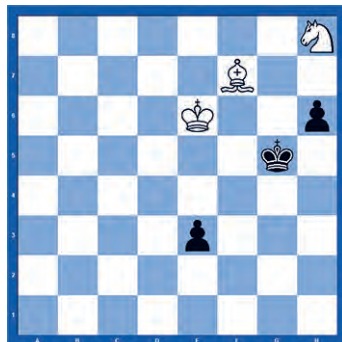
26... ♘xf2! 27. ♔xf2 ♔xh2+ 28. ♔f3 h5! 29. ♖e4 ♕g4+ [29... exd4! 30. ♖xe8 (30. cxd4 ♘xd4+ 31. ♖xd4 ♔xe1+- (31... ♕g4+-)) 30... ♕g4+ 31. ♔e4 ♔g2+ 32. ♔f4 ♔f2+ 33. ♔e4 ♔f3#]

30. ♔e3 [30. ♖xg4 hxg4+ 31. ♔xg4 exd4+-]

30... exd4+ 31. cxd4 ♔xg3+ 32. ♔d2 ♘xd4! 33. ♖xe8 ♘xb3+ 34. ♘xb3 g6?+- [34... ♔g2+! 35. ♔c3 ♔c6+!+-]

(29) De Feijter

[Solutions]



Try to solve the study of De Feijter. White to move and draw!

1. ♔h5!! ♔xh5 2. ♔f5! e2 3. ♞g6! e1 ♚ 4. ♞f4+ ♔h4
5. ♞g2±



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 58

5th of April 2013

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Editorial Preface

The tournament that kept all the attention of the Chess World is over, and it had a super dramatic last round.

Who could have predicted that both leaders, Kramnik and Carlsen, would lose in the very last round?! I cannot remember a tournament with bigger tension and drama like what we saw during the Candidates. Everything was possible!

The “lucky”, and much deserved winner, is Magnus Carlsen with 8.5/14. The “unlucky” second place goes to Vladimir Kramnik, who played very good chess, maybe one of his best tournaments in the last few years, as well with 8.5/14

The 3rd and 4th places are shared by Aronian and Svildler. Probably Aronian was not really happy with this, but for Svidler, it seems to be a great result — both finished with 8/14.

For Boris Gelfand, this clearly was not his tournament. Ivanchuk lost 5 games on time!!! However, he beat both Carlsen and Kramnik. And for Radjabov, it was just a disaster!

For the next week, we can be already excited about the finishing 3 rounds of the German Bundesliga, which will see its final stage at “Schloss Schwetzingen”.

In the current issue of CEWN, we comment both games from the last round of the Candidates: Carlsen-Svidler and Ivanchuk-Kramnik. This comes next to much more great chess material.

Enjoy the CEWN Nr 58!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Carlsen, Magnus (2872)
— Svidler, Peter (2747) [C84]

FIDE Candidates London ENG (14.2), 01.04.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

The last round of the Candidates. Carlsen and Kramnik are leading the event with +4, but Carlsen has a better tie-break. If Carlsen makes a full point, nothing can help Vladimir anymore. Kramnik is playing Ivanchuk with black. If both players draw, Carlsen will be declared winner as well; the same goes for a double 0. We will see a very strange and slightly atypical game by Carlsen, who after a playing very good (as usual) completely lost control over the position. It is a little weird to see Carlsen as a mortal human being!

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♚b5 a6 4.♚a4 ♘f6 5.0-0! ♚e7 6.d3 The Spanish with 6.d3, one of Carlsen's favorite openings. Maybe White does not get any advantage out of the opening, but the game is "slow" and there is enough time to outplay the opponent. As we can remember, Magnus won a nice game against the same Peter Svidler in this opening with Black just 7 rounds earlier...

6...b5 7.♚b3 d6 8.a3 Quite a rare move. More often, White plays 8.c3. A great game to follow from the White side is Leko-Caruana from Wijk aan Zee.

8...0-0 9.♘c3 White's main idea is to remain ready against Black's ♘a5-♚a2-c5. Now the White knight will be able to enter immediately to the d5 square.

9...♚b7 Preparing the ♘a5 move. In general, I think it is easier for Black to keep the bishop on e6. So, maybe a move like 9...♚d7 might be an option too.

10.♚d2 White is acting against the ♘a5 move once again.

10...♚d7



11.a4! A very strong move. Magnus shows a great understanding of the position. Now the Black bishop on b7 is not very well placed. The a4 move becomes very effective, even if it looks like a lost tempo because of 8. a3.

11...♘d8 The Black knight is going to e6. [In case of 11...♘d4 12.♘xd4 exd4 13.♘e2 c5 14.♘g3 it seems like White is doing a bit better. His next move could be ♘f5, followed by ♚f3, with some attacking chances against the king.]

12.axb5 axb5 13.♚xa8 ♚xa8 We have a very typical Spanish position. Probably White is doing a bit better, but Black is very solid. White needs to find a plan.

14.♘e2 I am not sure whether this move can bring any advantage for White or not. [14.♘d5!? This seems to be the only attempt to reach a +/- evaluation. In case of

14...♞xd5 15.exd5, the Black knight on d8 is very badly placed, and in case of 14...♞e6 15.♞xe7, White's position should be a little better.]

14...♞e6 15.♞g3 c5 Now Black controls all the center. White's only chance of getting a better position is to start some play on the kingside, which is very difficult to achieve.

16.♞f5 ♞d8 Of course, Black is not giving away his bishop.



17.c4 A typical move. White is stopping Black from playing d5 and, at the same time, defending against the c4 move. However, the d4 square is getting weak and White's pawn structure is clearly not the best one anymore.

17...bxc4 18.♞xc4 Black is trying to push d5.

18...♞c7 19.♞e1 and White is protecting against this idea.

19...♞e8?! A very strange looking move to me. Why not simply to put the rook on b8 and play g6 next, or ♞c6-♞b5. The position looks very equal.

20.♞c1 Magnus is starting to go for the Black king, but with the knights on f6 and e6, Black is very safe. [An attempt to get rid of the weak pawn on b2 with 20.b4 would be countered by 20...d5! 21.exd5 ♞xd5 and probably only Black can play for an advantage here.]

20...♞h5 [It does not work to play 20...d5 21.exd5 ♞xd5 22.♞xe5 and White is a pawn up. 22...♞xe5 23.♞xe5 ♞xc4 24.♞xc4]

21.g3 Very logical reaction, but maybe White should not have been afraid of ♞hf4. [21.b4 using his chance to exchange the b2 pawn. 21...cxb4 22.♞xb4 and now, in case of 22...♞hf4?! 23.♞a3 White gets a huge pressure against the d6 pawn and gets a clear advantage.]

21...g6 The position is now getting very complicated.

22.♞h6+ ♞g7 In many lines, Black might want to play ♞ef4, so Magnus decides not to give Svidler any chance to use some tactical tricks

23.♞g5 ♞xg5 24.♞xg5 Let us take a fresh look at the position. It seems like White is slightly better again: the knight on h6 is attacking the f7 pawn and the Black bishop on c7 is quite passively placed.



24...d5! Very good decision by Black. We should not forget that Magnus is playing for a huge jackpot: the WC match. This builds a huge pressure even in the World's Nr.1

25.exd5 [White does not get anything with 25. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 26.exd5 ♖a5! pushing away the rook from the e-file, followed by f6 and ♔xd5. Black is perfectly fine,]

25...♖xd5 26.♘g4?! It looks like Carlsen has just blundered his opponent's next move. [A much safer move for White would have been 26. ♖xd5 ♔xd5 27.♘g4 and, of course, the position is close to a draw, but only White can play for a win.]

26...♖f3! Very strong. The position is just crazy, and I think Magnus wanted to avoid this at all costs.

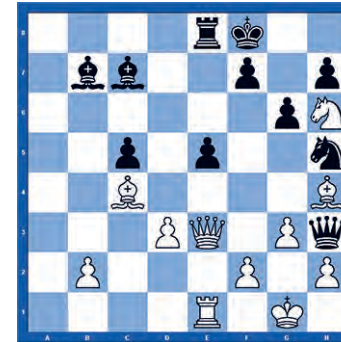
27.♖f6+ [Maybe a safe move like 27.h3 was still very playable.]

27...♔g8 28.♘h6+ ♔f8 29.♔e3 The game is getting super exciting. Black wanted to give mate with ♔h3, but White is attacking his king from all sides as well!

29...♖b7 Very logical. Black wants to play ♔c6 next.

30.♖h4 A very human reply. [The crazy computer move 30.♖h8! might give White some advantage. 30...♔c6 31.f3 The position remains very complicated and, who likes to play with ♘h6 and ♖h8?!]

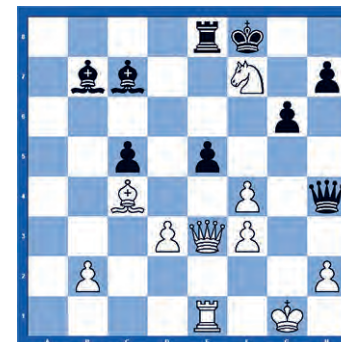
30...♔h3



31.f3? After this move, Black is completely taking over the game. [White had a great tactical trick: 31. ♖d5! Very exact calculation was needed to play this move, and Carlsen was in slight time trouble already. 31... ♖xd5 32. ♔xc5+ ♔g7 33. ♔xd5 ♔xh6 34. ♔xf7! A double attack on the e8 rook and c7 bishop. 34... ♔c8 It seems like Black is just winning, but 35. ♖e7! A really great move that is very hard to find during a practical game. 35... ♔f5 36. ♔xf5 gxf5 37. ♔c1! and Black is hopeless against White's ♖d6 next. 37... ♔g6 38. ♖d6 ♖xd6 39. ♔xc8 with good winning chances for White, but I think that to find such a line in a practical game is just impossible!]

31...♘f4! Black is using his chance!

32.gxf4 ♔xh4 33.♘xf7



33...♙xf3! Black is suddenly just winning! The bishop pair plus a strong attack and White's problems with the clock do not leave a chance to escape even to the great Magnus.

34.♙f2 ♖g4+ 35.♙g3 exf4 Black is a clear pawn up in the endgame. The bishops are very well placed and the White knight is totally out of the game. The game is basically over.

36.♖xe8+ ♔xe8 37.♙xg4 ♙xg4 38.♘g5 The last attempt by White to complicate the position ends in nothing.

38...h6 39.♘f7 h5 40.♘h6 ♙d1 The time-trouble is over and, with it, the game.

41.♙f2 [Of course, it is no good to play 41.♙f7+ ♔f8 42.♙xg6 ♔g7 and Black is winning a piece.]

41...f3 42.h3 ♙f4 43.♘f7 g5 I think White could just resign, but as Carlsen said in the press conference after the game that he did not want to resign until he was sure that Ivanchuk would win against Kramnik.

44.♙e1 g4 The Black pawns are unstoppable.

45.hxg4 hxg4 46.♙xd1 g3 47.♙e1 g2 48.♙f2 ♙h2 A very exciting game! Who would think that in the last round both Carlsen and Kramnik would lose their games?! Chess is full of surprises!

0-1

(2) Ivanchuk,Vassily (2757) – Kramnik,Vladimir (2810) [B08]

FIDE Candidates London ENG (14.3), 01.04.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Before the round, it seemed like Kramnik needed a full point to even have a theoretical chance to win the tournament, and who could be a better opponent than Ivanchuk!? Meanwhile, Carlsen was playing White against Svidler with a better tie-break. So, Kramnik decided before the game to go all or nothing, which in the end turned out to be a bitter decision for him.

1.d4 d6 2.e4 In the candidates, Ivanchuk lost 5 games on time! So, Kramnik wanted to get a complicated position, and he likes the Pirc.

2...♘f6 3.♘c3 g6 4.♘f3 ♙g7 5.♙e2 White chooses a very solid line with ♙e2.

5...0-0 6.0-0 a6 7.h3 ♘c6 Trying to provoke the d5 move, after which the bishop on g7 will become super strong.

8.♙g5 b5 What a crazy line by Black. This cannot be good, but Kramnik takes the risk, trying to achieve complications at all costs!



9.a3 Ivanchuk remains very cool. [In case of 9.d5 trying to get the knight to d4, Black has a tactical resource: 9...b4!]

9...h6 10. ♖e3 White's position seems to be very good: a strong center, plus the idea of playing d5 next. This forces Black to be very careful in order not to get in big trouble.

10...e5! Black needs to do something in the center and the e5 move is exactly the right choice. Even though White keeps his advantage, Black gets what he wanted — a very complicated game with three possible results!

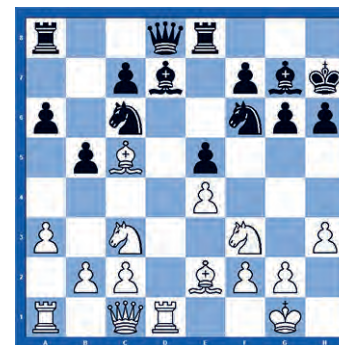
11.dxe5! Correct decision. [A worse choice for White would have been to play 11.d5?! ♘e7 and we have sort of a KID structure with the usual plan for Black to play ♘h7-f5 or ♘d7-f5, with very unclear play.]

11...dxe5 12. ♔c1 Using a "free" tempo because the pawn on h6 is hanging now.

12...♔h7 13. ♖c5 Taking away the e7 square from the Black queen.

13...♖e8 14. ♖d1 and White got the only open d-file.

14...♗d7 I think it is obvious that White is doing better, but the position is far from being simple. As we know from the KID structures, Black's position is very solid, and if he manages to establish the knight on d4 by exchanging the dark-squared bishops, the position might become totally unclear.



15.b4! Ivanchuk continues playing a great game. Of course, White's play must be on the queenside, and the idea of playing b4, followed by a4, is very effective.

15...♔c8 16. ♔e3 ♘d8 Black is transporting his knight to e6, clearly the best square.

17.a4 bxa4 18. ♘xa4 White has managed to open the a-file, so the Black pawn a6 is getting under attack.

18...♘e6 19. ♖c4 It is never wrong to put the bishop on c4.

19...♘h5 20. ♘c3 ♘hf4 Black is still fighting. Now ♘xg2 will always be a threat. White needs to count with it on every move.

21. ♘d5?! Until here, Ivanchuk played a great game and is clearly better. It was time to continue in the right path with [21. ♖a5 with the simple idea of playing ♖da1. 21... ♘xg2 This does not work because of 22. ♔xg2 ♘f4+ 23. ♖g1 ♖xh3 24. ♘e1 The g2 square is protected. White is a piece up and winning.]

21...♗b5! A strong move by Black. White is escaping from the pressure on a6 for one move.

22. ♖b3 ♖c6 **23.** ♖a5 ♔b7 The position is getting totally unclear! I guess that by now Kramnik was very happy with his own play, but not that happy with Carlsen's position, who seemed to have a clear advantage against Svidler. So, to play for a win seemed to be the only choice for Vladimir — it does not matter how!



24.g3!! Wow, what a move! It is clear that Ivanchuk was afraid of Black's f5 and decided to release the pressure of the position by sacrificing a pawn. A really fantastic move by White.

24... ♖xh3+ [A try to go into a complete mess does not seem to work for Black. 24...f5 25.gxf4! Cool and strong, following the rule: if You are not sure about what to do, get some material. 25...exf4 26. ♖xf4 and probably Black does not have enough compensation for the piece.]

25. ♖g2 ♖hg5 26. ♖h1 pushing the Black king to g8.

26... ♖g8 [This would lead to a pretty mate: 26... ♖xf3?? 27. ♖f6+ ♖h8 28. ♖xh6+ ♖xh6 29. ♖xh6#]

27. ♖xg5 ♖xg5 28.f3! White does not panic and keeps cool. The pressure on the a6 pawn and the great position of his pieces give him better chances.

28... ♖xd5 Not a nice move to make, but what else to play?! White's threat of playing ♖e7 was too dangerous.

29. ♖xd5 c6 30. ♖c4 Now it is clear that the pawn on a6 is going to fall.

30... ♖c8? This move looks bad. Probably Kramnik was still hoping to win the game as he was not sure about what would happen in the Carlsen game. [The simple 30... ♖e6! 31. ♖xe6 ♖xe6 32. ♖ha1 would just lead to a slightly better position for White, with big drawing tendencies.]



31. ♖b3! Very strong! Fixing the f7 pawn and not giving Black the chance to play ♖e6 that easily.

31...h5 Black tries to create something on the kingside, but there is nothing left to do anymore. White is simply crushing the whole position on the queenside.

32. ♖e3 ♖e6 33. ♖ha1 The a6 pawn is falling.

33...h4 34.gxh4 ♖d8 Black still has some hopes, but Ivanchuk stays cool.

35. ♖xa6 ♖c8 36. ♖h1 It is hard to give Black an advice here. White is completely dominating the position with his extrapawn!

36...♖c7 37.♙xe6 This move was not necessary, but Ivanchuk chooses a simple way to finish the game.

37...♖xe6 38.b5! The b-pawn takes Black's last hopes.

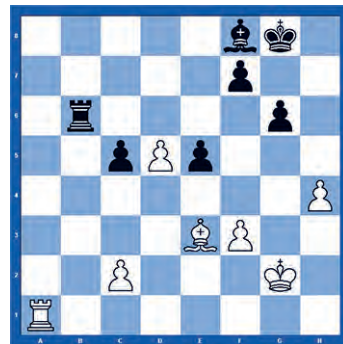
38...♖b7 39.b6 c5 40.♖b1 ♙f8 The time trouble is over and, with it, the hopes to save the game for Kramnik. I guess he stood up now and was totally shocked, as Carlsen was close to resigning his game against Svidler. What drama!

41.♙d5! Precise technique by Ivanchuk.

41...♙b8 42.♖ba1 ♖d6 [Of course, it is losing to play 42...♖bxb6 43.♖a8 ♙c7 44.♙h6 and White is winning the bishop on f8.]

43.♖a8 ♖xd5 44.♖xb8 ♖xb8 45.exd5 Bad luck for Black. The endgame is completely lost.

45...♙d6 [In case of 45...♖xb6



46.♖a8 ♙g7 47.♖xf8! White is a full piece up. **47...♙xf8 48.♙xc5+ ♙e8 49.♙xb6]**

46.♖a6 ♖b7 47.♙f1 and the White king is going to b5. Black is hopeless! What an emotional finish to the Candidates with a double loss by the leaders, Carlsen and Kram-

nik. Who would have bet on this before the last round? Clearly not Kramnik, who showed very strong character by playing for a win with the Black pieces, while avoiding drawish continuations!

1-0

(3) Carlsen,M (2872) – Gelfand,B (2740) [B30]

FIDE Candidates London ENG (10), 27.03.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

A great game by Carlsen! He played in his usual style, avoiding long theoretical battles and simply aiming to get a playable position with many pieces on the board, in order to slowly outplay his opponent.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 Recently, the players prefer to avoid the Sveshnikov defense, which was the surprise weapon of Gelfand against Anand in their World Championship match last year.

3...e6 4.0–0 [A few rounds earlier, Carlsen tried 4.♙xc6 against Radjabov. Later on, he made a lucky escape in that game.]

4...♗ge7 5.♖e1 a6 6.♙f1 Quite a positional handling of the opening. White saves his bishop and is ready to occupy the center with c3-d4.

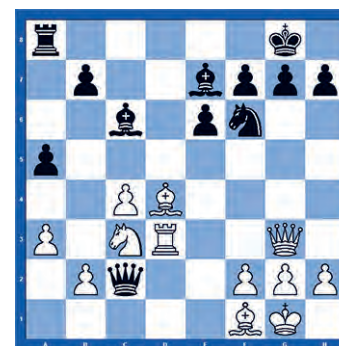
6...d5

17. ♖e5! ♔b6



19. ♖xd8+! using the fact, that Black cannot take back with the rook. [19. ♙c7 was not winning because of 19... ♖xd1! 20. ♙xb6 ♖xe1]

22...♔c2 The only move to avoid ♘d5! [22...♔xc4 drops the queen after 23.♙xf6 ♙xf6 24.♖d8+! ♜xd8 25.♙xc4 and there is no mate on the back-rank because the c4 bishop retreats... 25...♙xc3 26.bxc3 ♜d1+ 27.♙f1+-]



23.b4! White finally succeeds to breakthrough the a5 blockade. Black was missing only one move to play a4, fixing the queenside pawn structure. The e7 bishop is

overloaded with the defense of the f6 knight, so White does not need to worry about his b4 pawn.

23...axb4 24.axb4 ♘h5! Gelfand finds the best chance, looking for tactical complications... Otherwise, White simply pushes b5 with a huge advantage. [Black cannot leave his back-rank with 24...♖a1 25. ♕xf6! ♕xf6 26. ♖b8+ +-]

25. ♖e5 ♕f6 Gelfand misses a tactical point... [25...♖a1! would have the best chance, although the position remains pretty unpleasant for Black 26. ♖d1 avoiding the ♖xf1 and ♖xd3 threats. 26...♖xd1 27. ♘xd1 ♖xd1 28. ♖b8+ ♕f8 29. ♕c5 h6 30. ♖xf8+ ♔h7 31. f3± with a small advantage for White thanks to the better pawn structure and the bishop pair.]

26. ♖xh5 ♕xd4 27. ♖xd4 ♖xc3 Black seems to be more than fine, as d4 and b4 are hanging, but a shocking move completely changes the evaluation...



28. ♖a5!! Using the weakness of Black's back-rank, Carlsen consolidates his position.

28...♖f8 Black was forced to go to passivity to control the 8th rank.

29. ♖b6 Despite the material equality, White has a big advantage. His pieces are more active and the queenside pawn majority plays the main role.

29...e5 30. ♖d1 g6 Black finally opens the back-rank.

31. b5 ♕e4 Carlsen has played a perfect game until this moment. From now on, he makes some inaccuracies and lets Black back into the game.

32. ♖f6 White should have kept the b7 pawn under permanent attack to avoid the bishop transfer to e6. The next pair of moves are inaccuracies. [Black has basically no moves after 32. ♖d7 White can strengthen his position in many different ways. 32...♔g7 33. ♖d6 ♖a8 There is no chance for activity because of 34. ♖e7 ♖f8 35. h4+- Opening the back-rank and slowly breaking through with c5.]

32...h5 [32... ♕f5! should have been played immediately.]

33. h4 [33. ♖e7! to avoid ♕f5-e6.]

33... ♕f5! Gelfand has found the right plan. He drives his bishop to e6 from where he can put the queenside pawns under pressure. Finally, there is something to play for Black, even if it costs a pawn.

34. ♖d5 ♖c1 [34... ♕e6 35. ♖xe5 ♖c1 is the game.]

35. ♖xe5 ♕e6 36. ♖d4 ♖a8 Suddenly, Black succeeded to create counterplay, but with his following great moves, Carlsen swaps away his dreams of surviving in this game.



37. ♖e2!! A brilliant move! White wants to clear the unpleasant pin on the first rank by playing ♖d1, but the question was what would happen if Black plays ♜a1. ..

37... ♙h7 [After 37... ♜a1? Carlsen has prepared the nice winning line 38. ♜d8+ ♙h7 39. ♚e5!! ♚xf1+ 40. ♙h2 Black can only give a few checks, while White is mating... 40... ♚g1+ 41. ♙g3 ♜a3+ 42. f3+-]

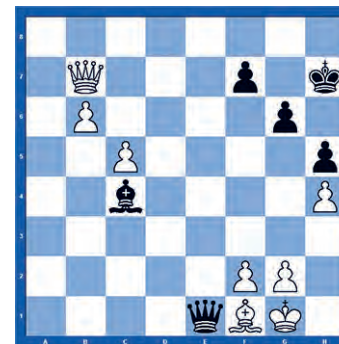
38. ♜d1! ♚c3 39. ♚e4! That is it! It is amazing how, with his last three moves, Carlsen improved his position so much. He has a technical win again.

39... ♜a1 Gelfand tries to create the pin again on the back-rank, but without the rooks on the board, it is not dangerous anymore...

40. ♜xa1 ♚xa1 41. c5 White simply wants to push c6, take back with the queen, advance his pawn to b7 and then promote the pawn automatically. It is hard to do something against this.

41... ♚c3 42. ♚xb7 ♚e1 This was Gelfand's last desperate try. He is threatening ♙c4, but the pawns are too far advanced — White does not need to pay attention to that. [42... ♚xc5 43.b6 is also hopeless.]

43.b6 ♙c4



44. ♚f3! ♚xf1+ [44... ♙xf1 also loses after 45. ♚xf7+ ♙h6 46. ♚f4+ ♙h7 47. ♙h2! White is ready to push his pawns, Black is unable to create counterplay. 47... ♙a6 48.c6+-]

45. ♙h2 ♚b1 46.b7 The pawns are promoting automatically.

46... ♚b5 47.c6 ♙d5 48. ♚g3 Black resigned.

1-0

(4) Kramnik,V (2810) – Radjabov,T (2793) [E60]

FIDE Candidates London ENG (11), 28.03.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

A hard-fought game with many nice tactical elements. Radjabov was in terrible form during the entire tournament. In this game, Kramnik calculated one move further in the critical position...

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 Radjabov chooses his favorite King's Indian defense!

3.g3 Kramnik has played the 3.g3 system three times in this tournament. The only "difference" is that, in the other two games, his opponents wanted to play the Gruenfeld defense.

3...c5 [Grischuk tried the 3...♗g7 4.♗g2 d5 setup.; And Gelfand played the most solid 3...c6 system, but in all the games Kramnik introduced interesting novelties and created problems for his opponents.]

4.♘f3 ♗g7 5.♗g2 cxd4 6.♘xd4 Aronian is considered to be the biggest expert of this line with White.

6...0-0



7.♘c3! The move order is very important! White needs to prevent d5 before castling. [7.0-0 allows 7...d5 8.cxd5 ♘xd5 with comfortable equality. Here is a recently fashionable way to make prearranged draws with 9.♘b5 ♗e6 10.♘d4 ♗c8 and repetition.]

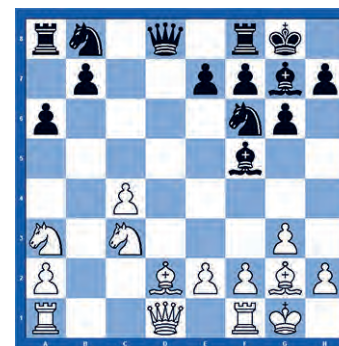
7...♖c7 This is the concrete attempt to equalize. [7...♘c6 8.0-0 ♘xd4 9.♖xd4 d6 is the old main line, but White gets a small advantage here due to the space advantage.]

8.b3 d5! 9.♘db5 [The point is that 9.♘xd5? loses a huge amount of material after 9...♘xd5 10.♗xd5 e6 11.♗g2 ♖d8 and the pin is deadly. 12.e3 e5-+; 9.0-0 is the alternative line to the text move.]

9...♖a5 10.♗d2 dxc4 11.bxc4 Black got a nice pawn structure, but White is ahead in development.

11...♖d8 Both players are following the theory. [11...♘c6 is the other option for Black.]

12.0-0 a6 13.♘a3 ♗f5



14.♘c2! Improving the knight, it is heading to e3. An interesting fact is that there were only two games in the database for this position, but those were played by Aronian and Gelfand as White (both are playing on this

tournament), so Radjabov should have been prepared for this line, however, he spent 1 hour to reach this theoretical position. [The greedy 14. ♖xb7? runs into problems along the d-file. 14... ♖a7 15. ♗g2 ♖d7! 16. ♘d5 e6 Black wins material.]

14... ♘c6 15. ♗e3 ♖d7 This is the novelty. [15... ♖d4 happened in the previous games. Kramnik has definitely a huge analysis here.]

16. ♘xf5 Gaining the bishop pair and freeing the b1 square for the rook to attack the b7 weakness.

16... ♖xf5 17. ♖b1 ♖ad8 18. ♖c1! A good human move to leave the pin. [The computer recommends the brave 18. ♖xb7 but Black gets very strong counterplay against the c4 pawn after 18... ♘a5! 19. ♖b4 ♖e6! Black wins back the pawn. The point is that 20. ♘d5 would be excellent to close the d-file and protect the c4, but it allows the tactical trick 20... ♘xc4! 21. ♖xc4 ♘xd5]

18... ♖e6 [18... ♖d7 made sense, to protect the b7 pawn and double the rooks. 19. ♖d1 ♖fd8]



19. ♖e1 A clever preparation. White would like to install his knight on d5, so he protects the e2 pawn first. [19.

♖xb7 ♘a5 In comparison to the game, Black takes with his knight on c4 and it becomes very active.; 19. ♘d5 is met by 19... ♘d4 and problems with e2.]

19... ♖xc4 Radjabov prefers to grab the pawn before it runs away... [White gets a nice advantage. 19... ♘e5 20. c5! ♘c4 21. ♗f4 b7 becomes too weak.]

20. ♖xb7 The position has simplified a bit and we believed the draw was very close. However, White's pieces are more active, the bishop pair has good potential and, until the appearance of the two a-pawns, White has real hopes to get an edge.

20... ♘e5 [20... ♘a5 is simply met by 21. ♖b1! with an advantage. The rook has been temporarily sent back to passivity, but on the other hand, the knight on a5 got out of the game. (21. ♖xe7?! does not work. 21... ♖c5! 22. ♖e3 There was no other square for the rook. 22... ♖xd2! 23. ♖xd2 ♘c4 After taking on e3, Black organizes his play against the doubled e-pawns with ♗h6.)]

21. ♗f4 [It would be interesting to know why Kramnik refused to play 21. ♖xe7!? ♘fg4 was probably Black's idea, trying to counterattack against the f2 pawn, but White can play (21... ♖c5 is not the same as in the 20... ♘a5 line because the rook has a free square on b7 now. 22. ♖b7) 22. ♘e4! ♖xa2 23. ♗c3 with a clear advantage. Suddenly, the Black pieces are missing their coordination. White simply threatens to win with h3.]

21... ♖e6 22. h3 A useful move, but on the other hand, it wastes an important tempo. [22. ♖d1 would have led to a clear advantage. 22... ♖xd1+ 23. ♖xd1 ♖c8 24. ♘d5 ♘xd5 25. ♗xd5 This is what White was aiming for. He is

better because of the bishop pair, the active rook on b7 and the weaknesses on e7 and a6.]

22...♘c4 23.e4!? Kramnik would like to settle his knight on d5 or to play e5 pushing back Black's pieces, but at the same time, he closes his bishop. [23.♖d1 gives an edge for White as well.]

23...♞e5! A strong retreat. Black gets rid of the bishop pair due to the threat of ♘d3, which was another drawback of the previous move.

24.♙xe5 ♜xe5 25.♞d5 ♜fe8 [25...♞xd5 26.exd5 ♜d4 27.♖xe7± The opposite — colored bishops usually give good drawing chances in such situations, but now the doubled rooks on the 7th rank are too strong.]



26.♞b4 White wants to put his knight on c6, sending away the e5 queen, which makes the e5 move possible. [26.♞c7!? seems to be stronger. 26...♜f8 (26...♜c8 27.♞xe8 ♜xc1 28.♞xf6+ ♙xf6 29.♜xc1 Two rooks are generally stronger than a queen.) 27.♞xa6 with an extra pawn!]

26...♜d7! A great defensive move! Radjabov was already in time trouble, which made his job very difficult. [26...♜c8 was the most logical reaction, but as Kramnik cor-

rectly pointed out at the press conference, White gets an advantage here after 27.♞c6! ♜e6 28.e5! ♞d7 (28...♞d5 loses to 29.♙xd5 ♜xd5 30.♞xe7+! ♜xe7 31.♜xc8+ +-) 29.f4! with a nice squeezing position. Black cannot take on a2 because of ♞xe7, while 29...♞b8 is strongly met by 30.♜xe7!! White wins some material in any case.]

27.♞c6 [White could not win a pawn with 27.♜xd7 ♞xd7 28.♞xa6 (28.♜c6 is met by 28...♜c3! Black holds the draw.) 28...♜a5! winning back the a2 pawn as White cannot play ♜c6 because of the e1 rook.]

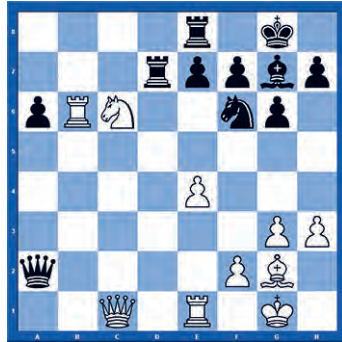
27...♜e6 28.♜b6 We have reached the critical position. Radjabov had only 2 minutes for the remaining 13 moves and White is threatening to play e5. Kramnik has prepared a very deep trap against the most tempting move — taking on a2...

28...♜xa2? The decisive mistake! Black falls in the trap... White wins by force after the following long combination. Kramnik played all the moves instantly... [Black holds the draw after 28...♜c7! 29.♜xa6 ♞d7! with the idea of playing ♞b8 or ♞e5.

a) 29...♜c8 30.♜c4 is strong and White is ready to leave the dangerous pin with ♜b5 in the next move.;

b) 29...♜ec8 is tempting, but it is refuted nicely by 30.e5 ♞d7 31.♙d5!! ♜xd5 (31...♜xh3 32.e6) 32.♞xe7+ ♙h8 33.♜xc7!+- wins!;

30.e5 ♞b8 31.♜b6 ♞d7 and the draw is inevitable even after 32.♜b3 ♞b8 33.♜c3 ♜xa2=]



29.e5! ♞d5 **30.♖b2 ♔a4** [30...♔a3 loses to the pretty 31.♗b8!+-]

31.♕xd5 ♜xd5 32.♖b4!! This intermediate move was what Radjabov probably missed. [32.♞xe7+ did not work immediately because of 32...♜xe7 33.♖b8+ ♜e8! This is why the queen must be sent away from a4 first!]

32...♔a2 33.♞xe7+! ♔h8 [33...♜xe7 34.♔c8+ ♕f8 35.♖b8+- was the last move of the combination, which Kramnik prepared by playing 28.♖b6!]

34.♞xd5 ♔xd5 The game is over now. The technical part is very easy for Kramnik.

35.♔c4 ♔xc4 36.♜xc4 ♕xe5 Otherwise, White plays f4, but now Black has moved into the deadly pin...

37.♔f1! Black resigned as he does not have an adequate defense against f4! [37.f4? is bad in view of 37...♕d4+; 37.♜ce4 f6 38.♖f4 (38.f4 ♕d4+!)]

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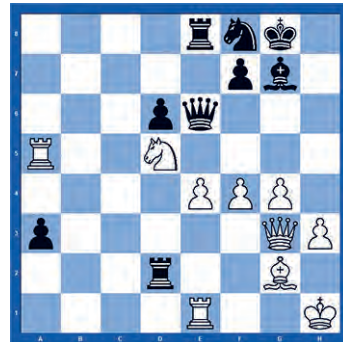
Puzzle section

(5) Dehlinger,A (2257) – Naiditsch,A (2706)

Neckar Open, 29.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... ♠



(6) Erdos,V (2636) – Mueller,M (2241)

Neckar Open, 29.03.2013

[CEWN]

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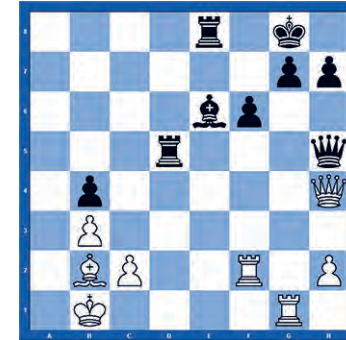


(7) Solodovnichenko,Y (2559) – Klein,C (2430)

Neckar Open, 30.03.2013

[CEWN]

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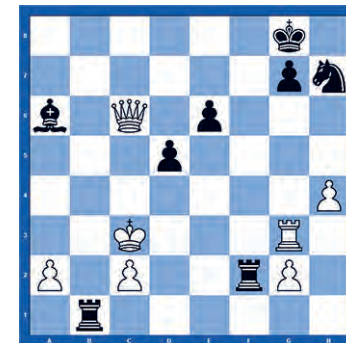


(8) Stukopin,A (2500) – Najer,E (2634)

Moscow Championship, 31.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... ♠



(9) Horvath,A (2509) – Czebe,A (2492)

Canberra Open, 01.04.2013

[CEWN]

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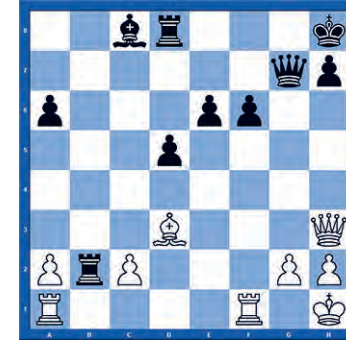


(11) Korneev,O (2609) – Granda Zuniga,J (2634)

La Roda Open, 30.03.2013

[CEWN]

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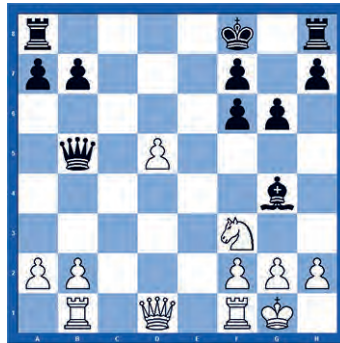


(10) Agdestein,S (2555) – Hammer,J (2629)

Norwegian Open, 24.03.2013

[CEWN]

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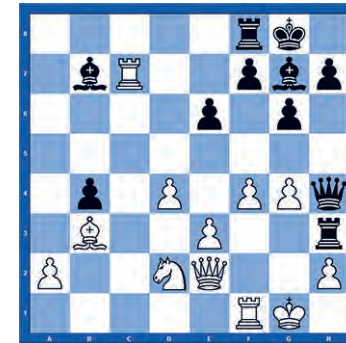


(12) Burmakin,V (2577) – Granda Zuniga,J (2634)

La Roda Open, 31.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

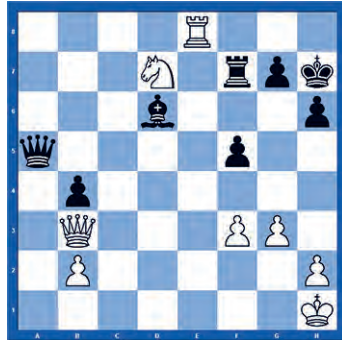


(13) Pozo Vera,S (2485) – Ramirez,A (2535)

Mexican Open, 29.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

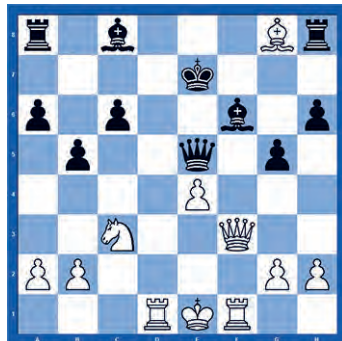


(14) Almeida Saenz,A (2339) – Gonzalez Zamora,J (2527)

Mexican Open, 30.03.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Grischuk,A (2764) – Kramnik,V (2810)

FIDE Candidates

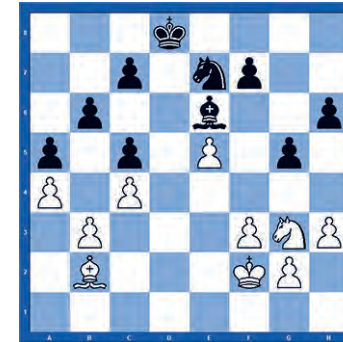
[Chess Evolution]



We are facing a typical endgame from the Berlin Defense. Kramnik is the biggest expert of this line, and he shows that despite the material balance and the appearance of the opposite-colored bishops, there are dangers in the position. Black is slightly better here because of the weaknesses of the White pawns on the queenside. We can easily realize that if Black succeeds to transfer his bishop to c2, he will collect all the pawns automatically, since they are fixed on the light squares. On the other side, the Black king protects his own pawns pretty well.

25...♖d8 Black trades the rooks off in order to make the queenside pawns more vulnerable.

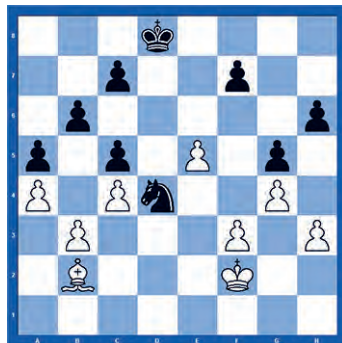
26.♜xd8+ ♔xd8 27.♔f2 White activates his king and hurries to the queenside to protect the weaknesses.



27...♙f5! A clever decision by Kramnik. He forces White to give up his knight as, otherwise, ♙c2 is coming. After this sequence, the endgame might get quite unpleasant for White because of the poor bishop on b2, which cannot harass the Black pawns due to his own pawn on e5. [27...♞f5 was another try with the idea of getting access to the b3 pawn, but White plays 28.♞e2! is accurate, followed by g4 and f4, and Black can forget about the plan ♙f5-c2 forever.(28.♞xf5 ♙xf5 would be the triumph of Black's strategy as ♙c2 is coming next.)]

28.♞xf5 ♞xf5 29.g4 Grischuk wanted to force matters. Otherwise, Black quickly improves his king with ♔d7-e6 and the e5 pawn might become really weak. In addition, the transpositions to the pawn endgames with ♞d4 is always a dangerous option, which both sides needs to consider.

29...♞d4

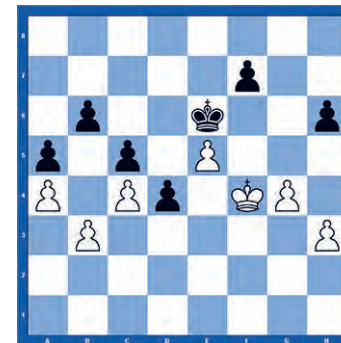


30. ♖xd4? Grischuk was in time trouble and made a mistake in the calculation. This is quite often decisive in pawn endgames. The idea is risky right at first sight, because Black gets a protected passed pawn on d4, which plays a very important factor in all the endgames. [However, after 30. ♔e3! the endgame seems to be drawish. 30... ♞e6 It is better to keep the position locked, but on the other hand, this move is also equal to a draw offer. (30... ♞xb3?! allows counterplay after 31.e6 ♔e7 (31...fxe6? is a mistake. 32. ♙g7 ♔e7 33. ♙xh6 ♙f6 34.f4± White obtains dangerous connected passed pawns on the king-side and gets access to the queenside pawns as the king does not protect them anymore.) 32.exf7 ♔xf7 33. ♙e5 Suddenly, the poor bishop becomes a really strong piece. 33...c6 34. ♙c7± and only White can be better.) 31. ♔e4 ♔e7 (Black can never win the h3 pawn with 31... ♞f4 because of 32.h4! and White only gets rid of his weakness.) 32. ♙c3 and neither side can improve his position.]

30...cxd4 The following moves are more or less forced. Both sides are improving their kings.

31. ♔e2 ♔d7 32. ♔d3 c5 33. ♔e4 ♔e6 White is in zugzwang. He has only one move not to lose the e5 pawn.

34.f4 gxf4 35. ♔xf4



35...d3! This might be the move that Grischuk missed in the time pressure, when he took the knight on d4. Black sacrifices his passed pawn to get a weakness on e5. The key is the activity of the Black king!

36. ♔e3 ♔xe5 37. ♔xd3 ♔f4! The game is over. Black collects the h3 pawn.

38. ♔e2 ♔g3 39. ♔e3 ♔xh3 40. ♔f4 [40. ♔f3 is equally hopeless. 40...f6 winning the opposition by "wasting" a tempo. 41. ♔f4 ♔g2! 42. ♔f5 ♔g3 43. ♔xf6 ♔xg4-- and the h-pawn is too fast.]

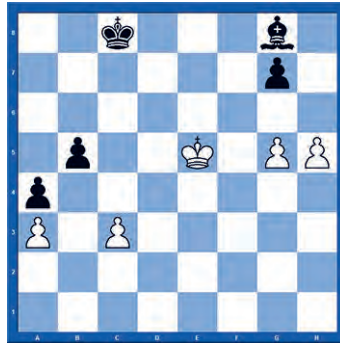
40...♔h4 41. ♔f5 ♔g3 [The time trouble is over, and White has to resign in view of 41... ♔g3 42.g5 h5! 43. ♔f6 ♔g4--]

0-1

(16) Aronian, Levon (2809)
— Kramnik, Vladimir (2810) [D42]

FIDE Candidates London ENG (12.2), 29.03.2013

[Chess Evolution]

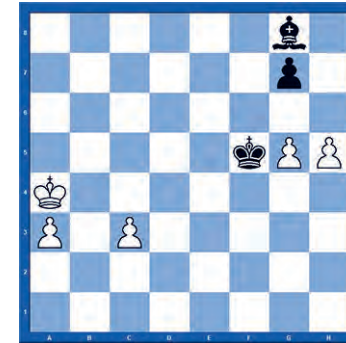


We will see quite a funny endgame. It is clear that White should be close to a draw: his king is in a great position, he has a free pawn on the kingside, and a1 is the “wrong colored corner”. This gives White huge chances to make a draw.

46. ♖d6 ♜d8! Black’s only hope is to reach his opponent’s g5 pawn as fast as possible

47. ♜c6 and White is going for the b5 pawn.

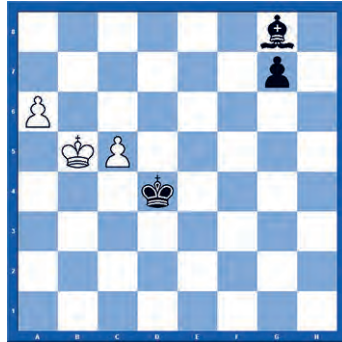
47... ♜e7 48. ♜xb5 ♜e6 49. ♜xa4 ♜f5 We are already at the critical position. To play g6 or to play h6? Or maybe an immediate ♜b5? Which way is the best? Let us take a look.



50.g6?? What a shocking mistake by Aronian! Not very often, we see the second highest rated player in the world making this kind of moves. [Another way to lose was 50. ♜b5? ♜xg5 51.c4 and now Black needs to find the strong 51... ♜f5! The king is coming back in order to help the Black bishop to stop the pawns. 52.c5 ♜e6 and Black is totally winning because the h1 square has the same color as the bishop.; 50.h6! This move would have saved the game. 50...g6 51. ♜b5 ♜xg5 52.c4 and now White is on time! 52... ♜xh6 53.a4 g5 54.a5 g4 55.a6 g3 56.a7 g2 57.a8 ♜ Draw.]

50... ♜g5 51. ♜b5 ♜xh5 52.a4 ♜xg6 The Black king needs to hurry.

53.a5 ♜f6 54.a6 [Probably, Aronian miscalculated this line. 54.c4 ♜e5 55.a6 ♜d4 56.c5 and now Black has only one way to go.



56... ♖c4+ 57. ♔b6 ♖xa6! capturing both White pawns.
58. ♖xa6 ♔xc5 and the g-pawn is equivalent to a queen.]

54... ♖d5 55. c4 ♖a8 Black easily stops the pawns now.

56. ♔b6 ♔e5 57. ♔c7 g5 58. ♔b8 ♖e4 59. ♔c7 g4 60. a7
g3 61. c5 ♖a8 62. ♔b8 ♖c6 In case of 63. ♔c7, g2 64. ♔xc6
g1 ♔ 65. a8 ♔ ♔g2 and ♔xa8. As we can see, even on the
very top, some miscalculations happen with “too much”
frequency.

0-1

Clash of the Titans

(17) Spassky, Boris V — Geller, Efim P [C77]

URS-ch26 Tbilisi (13), 1959

[Kamil Miton]

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.♚e2 This Ruy Lopez system was more popular a long time ago. Nowadays, some players still like to use it, especially grandmaster Tiviakov.

5...♙e7 6.c3 b5 7.♙c2 [7.♙b3!? With the idea of provoking Black to put his knight on a5.]

7...d5



8.d3 [8.exd5 ♘xd5 (8...♚xd5 9.d3 ♙f5 With the idea of putting on d3, however, White plays 10.♘bd2 ♖d8 11.♘e4 0-0 12.0-0 Black's pieces (Qd5-♙f5-♘f6) are artificially placed—White's position should be more pleasant.) 9.♘xe5 ♘xe5 10.♚xe5 0-0 11.0-0 ♙b7 As we see in some Marshall positions, Black should get a good initiative for the pawn.; 8.d4!? The same idea that we will

see later in the game. 8...exd4 (8...♘xe4 9.♘xe5 ♘xe5 10.dxe5 0-0 11.0-0±; 8...♙g4 9.exd5 ♙xf3 10.♚xf3 ♚xd5 11.♚xd5 ♘xd5 12.dxe5 ♘xe5 13.0-0 and White can try to convert his advantage of the pair of bishops.) 9.e5 ♘e4 10.♘xd4 (10.cxd4 ♙b4+ 11.♘bd2 ♙g4↑ Because of the unpleasant pins, Black gets counterplay.) 10...♘xe5 11.♙xe4 dxe4 12.♚xe4 c5 13.0-0 0-0 14.♚xa8 cxd4 15.cxd4 ♚xd4 16.♘c3± ♚e4 is coming next. Black does not have full compensation.) 11.cxd4 c5! Black immediately looks for counterplay in the center. 12.♙xe4 dxe4 13.♚xe4 ♙e6 with good compensation thanks to the pair of bishops and the weak light squares.]

8...0-0 9.♘bd2 ♚e8 10.♘f1! This is not accurate. White should first play [10.0-0 ♙e6 11.♖d1 (11.d4?! This does not work now. 11...exd4 12.e5 dxc3 13.exf6 ♙xf6 14.bxc3 ♙xc3↑; 11.a4!? A typical move to weaken Black's structure on the queenside.) 11...♙f8 and now White has a few options. Spassky tried a typical idea in the game (Nf1–Ng3 with h3–♘h2–♚f3). However, Black can put up the very promising h6–g6–♙g7 setup. Also, the a4 move is now possible. 12.♘b3!? with the idea to use the c5 square somehow. 12...h6 13.♙e3∞]

10...♙e6 White has some problems now because one idea for Black is to take on e4, and after dxe4, to play ♙c4.

11.♘g5 [11.♘g3 dxe4 12.dxe4 ♙c4 13.♚d2 ♚xd2+ 14.♙xd2= Without the queens, Black should easily equalize the position.]



11...♙g4! A good move which provokes some weaknesses.

12.f3 ♘c8 13.♘g3 h6 14.♘h3 ♙c5 [14...♙xh3 leads to unclear play, which is completely unnecessary for Black. 15.gxh3 ♙c5 Black controls the g1 square, but anyway, with the pawn on h6, White has chances to create pressure against the king with ♙g2-♘f5, etc.]

15.♘f2 ♙e6 16.0-0 ♘e7?! Instead of this, Black might try the simple ♙d7-♖ad8, or the idea of taking control of the d4 square after b4-d4. This ♘e7-♘g6 maneuver is thematic in this structure. The Black knight comes to g6 to support the kingside and Black is also able to improve his position after c7-c5. Unfortunately, Geller missed this.



17.d4! exd4 18.e5 ♘d7 19.♙d3 f5 20.exf6 [20.cxd4 ♙b6 21.♙e3 c5↪]

20...♘xf6 21.cxd4 ♙b6 The structure completely changed now. White's pieces get activity.

22.♙e3 Natural move. White might try not to lose time and immediately start his attack with [22.♘g4!?→ ♙xg4 (22...♘c6 23.♘xh6+→) 23.fxg4 ♘c6 Black is trying to get counterplay on d4, but White's attack is too strong! Given that all the White pieces put pressure on the kingside, the intuition dictates that Black should not survive here but... (23...♘e4 24.g5↑) 24.g5 ♘e4

a) 24...hxg5 25.♙xg5 ♘b4 26.♙d2 (26.♙g6 ♙xd4+ 27.♙h1 ♘xc2 28.♘h5 ♙d7 29.♙xf6 ♖e6) 26...♘xc2 27.♙xf6 gxf6 28.♙xc2 ♙xd4+ 29.♙h1±;

b) 24...♘xd4 25.gxf6 ♘xc2+ 26.♙h1+;

25.♘xe4 dxe4 26.♙b3+ ♙h7 27.g6+ ♙h8 (27...♙xg6 28.♙g3+ ♙h7 29.♙xh6 ♙xh6 30.♙h3+ ♙g6 31.♖f5+-) 28.♙xh6 ♙xd4+ 29.♙h1 gxh6 30.♖f7 ♖e7 31.♙xe4 ♖xf7 32.♙xf7 ♙g8 33.♖f1 ♙xb2 34.♙xc6 ♙xf7 35.♖xf7 ♖d8 36.g3 ♖d6=]

22...♙f7 23.♘g4 ♘c6 24.♖ae1 ♘b4 [24...♖xe3!? 25.♘xe3 ♘xd4 26.♙h1 ♘xc2 27.♙xc2 d4↪ It looks like Black has taken the initiative. For the exchange, he has two bishops, a strong center and most importantly, White has no attack anymore.]

25.♘xf6+ ♙xf6 26.♙h7+ ♙f8 27.♙h8+ ♙g8 [27...♙e7!? 28.♙g5+ ♙d7 29.♙xe8+ ♖xe8 30.♙xf6 gxf6 31.♙f5+ ♙d6 32.♙h1 ♖xe1 33.♖xe1 ♙xd4 34.♙b1 ♙e6 and Black has compensation.]



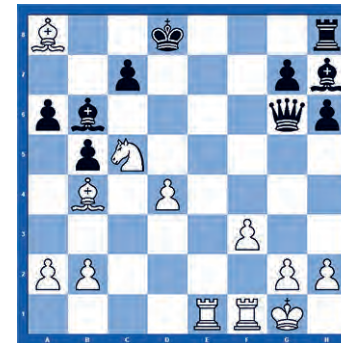
28. ♖e4? In this complex position, it is easy to make mistakes. White should play [28. ♖e4! White has two threats: a3 with the idea ♖xd5, and ♗h5 with the idea ♗xg7-♖xh6. 28... ♔e7 (28... ♖xd5 29. ♖xd4 ♔xd4+ 30. ♔h1 ♖ad8 31. a3 ♗c6 32. ♗f5 ♔f6 33. ♖xd5!+-) 29. ♗h5 ♔f7 30. ♗xg7 dxe4 31. ♔xh6 ♔d7 32. fxe4 ♔e7 33. d5→]

28... ♔g6 29. ♖b3 ♔f7?! Black's idea is clear: to trap the queen. However, the most accurate was [29... ♔e7!-+ It is not easy to take the king to the e-file, but White is not able to take advantage of this. The idea is that after ♖e6, the king can escape to the d7 square — Black is winning.; 29... ♔h7 This simple queen exchange gives Black an advantage as well: 30. ♔xh7 ♖xh7 31. ♗c5 ♖xc5 32. dxc5 ♖d3 33. ♖f2 ♖c4→]

30. ♖d2 ♖h7 [30... ♖xd4+ 31. ♔h1 ♗d3 32. ♖xd5+ ♔e7 This is a slightly inhuman variation. It is strange but White does not have any good check now. 33. ♖xa8 ♖e6 34. ♔xe8+ ♔xe8 35. ♖d5 ♔d8! (35... ♗xe1 36. ♖xe1 ♔d8 37. ♖b4+ c5 38. ♗xc5 ♔xd5 39. ♗xe6+ ♔f7 40. ♗xd4 ♔xd4 41. ♖c3=) 36. ♖xe6 ♗xe1 37. ♖xe1 ♔xe6 White does not have any good jump with the knight! 38. ♖c3 ♖xc3 39. ♗xc3+ ♔f7 White can try to keep his knight on e4 and

the rook on the 3rd rank, but Black will create a far passed pawn on the a-file to win the game easily.]

31. ♖xb4 ♖xh8 32. ♖xd5+ ♔e8 33. ♗c5+ ♔d8 34. ♖xa8 Black finally grabs the queen, but the White pieces become active now!



34... ♖e8? It seems logical to exchange one rook to decrease White's pressure, but this move is a big mistake. After the correct [34... a5 35. ♗e6+ (35. ♗b7+ ♔c8 36. ♗xa5 ♖xa5 37. ♖xa5 ♔a6-+) 35... ♔c8 36. ♖c5 ♖xc5 37. ♗xc5 ♔d6→ Black is much better.]

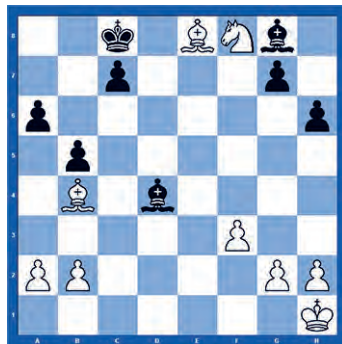
35. ♖xe8+ ♔xe8 36. ♖e1 Without the Black rook, White gets additional threats on the 8th rank.

36... ♔g6 [36... ♔g8 37. ♖c6 ♖g6∞]

37. ♗e6+ ♔c8 38. ♗f8! [38. ♖e4 ♔xe6 39. ♖b7+ ♔xb7 40. ♖xe6 ♖xd4+ 41. ♔f1 ♖xb2↑ and it is hard to say who is better.]

38... ♔f7 39. ♗xh7? Probably, both players were in time trouble, so Spassky decides to play pragmatically and takes the piece. Objectively, it is a huge mistake. White should play [39. ♖c6 ♖xd4+ 40. ♔h1 and we can suppose that Spassky did not see the mate after 40... ♔b8, or that

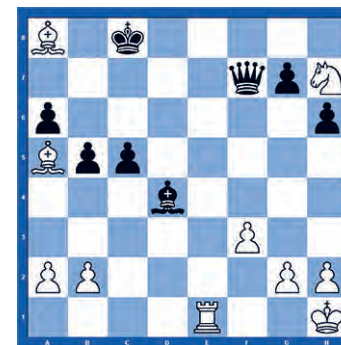
he was just afraid of the counterplay on the queenside after 40...♙g8 (40...♙b8 41.♖e8+ ♔a7 42.♙a5 with ♖a8 next.) 41.♖e8+ ♔xe8 42.♙xe8



42...c5 (42...♙xa2 43.♙c6 ♙xb2 44.f4± The White bishops do not allow the Black pawns to advance. White can simply play f5-♗e6 next.) 43.♙a5 (43.♙c3 ♙xc3 44.bxc3 ♙d8! 45.♗d7 (45.♙c6 ♙c7 46.♙e4 ♙xa2↑) 45...♙xe8 46.♗xc5 a5 47.a3 ♙e7↗) 43...♙xa2 44.♙d7+ ♙b7 45.♙e6 c4 46.♙d5+ ♙c8 47.♗e6 ♙xb2 48.♗c5 and the White pieces prevent the promotion of the pawns.]

39...♙xd4+ 40.♙h1 c5! After winning the bishop on h7, White has a material advantage, but the problem is that his pieces not cooperate anymore.

41.♙a5 When this game was played, the time control was without increment. The players did not write the moves during the time trouble and I suppose that Geller was not sure if he had already made the 40 moves. That is why he probably played very quickly



41...♙d7?? Decisive mistake! After [41...♙xa2 42.♙b6 (42.b4 ♙d2-+) 42...♙xb2 43.♙c6 ♙e3! 44.♖d1 ♙d2-+ Black prevents the mate and easily wins the game!]

42.b4! Nice move! Given that the bishop on d4 will not protect the position anymore, White gets a strong final attack. Black is not able to capture the knight on time :

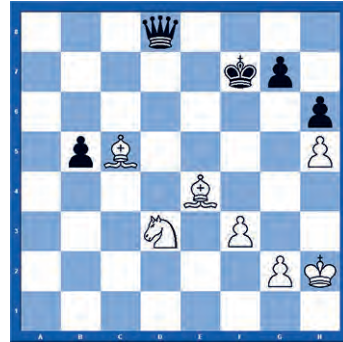
42...♙g8 [42...g6 43.bxc5 ♙xc5 44.♖d1++-]

43.♙e4 ♙xa2 44.♗f8+ ♙d6 45.bxc5+ ♙xc5 46.♖c1+ ♙d6 47.♙b4+ ♙e5 48.♗g6+ ♙e6 49.h4 a5 50.♗f4+ ♙e5 51.♗g6+ ♙e6 52.♗f4+ ♙e5 53.♗d3+ ♙e6 Thanks to his very active pieces and the weak Black king, White has a few ways to win.

54.♖c6+ [54.♙h7 ♙f7 55.♖c7+ ♙e8 56.♖c8+ ♙d7 57.♙f5++-]

54...♙d7 [54...♙f7 55.♙g6+ ♙g8 56.♖c8#]

55.♖d6+ ♙c7 56.♖xd4 ♙a1+ 57.♙h2 ♙xd4 58.♙xa5+ ♙d7 59.h5 ♙e7 60.♙b4+ ♙f7 61.♙c5 ♙d8



62.g4 Spassky found a nice and easy plan. Black's queen is helpless against three pieces that protect each other and dominate the board.

62...♔g5 63.♔g3 ♔d2 64.♙a3 ♔g8 65.♙c1 ♔d1 66.♔f4 b4 67.♙e5 The White king is coming to get the b-pawn.

67...b3 68.♔d4 ♔c2 69.♙b2 ♔h8 70.♙c3 ♔a2 71.♙b2 ♔b1 72.♔c3 ♔c2+ 73.♔b4 ♔g8 74.♔a3 ♔c4 75.♙c1 Geller gave up! He cannot do anything. White will capture all the pawns! A nice and interesting game with a lot of mistakes!

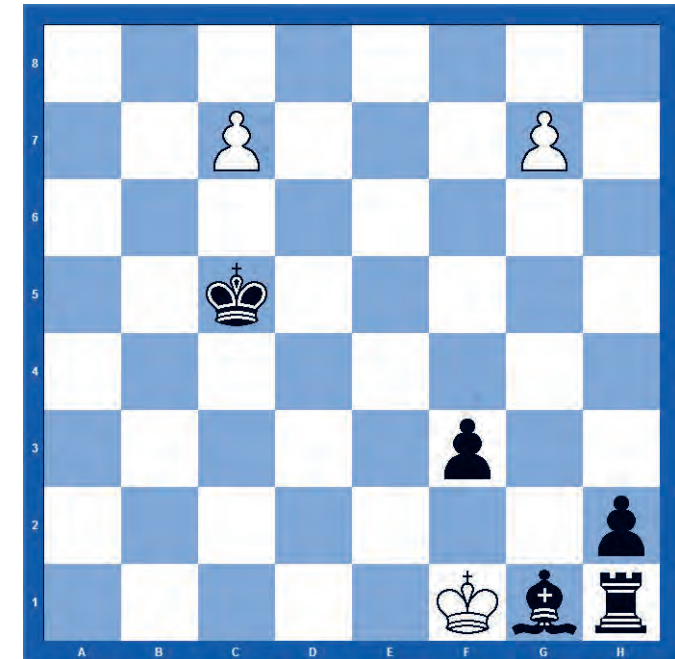
1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Koranyi

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(19) Grischuk,A (2764) – Gelfand,B (2740)

London Candidates, 21.03.2013

[Solutions]



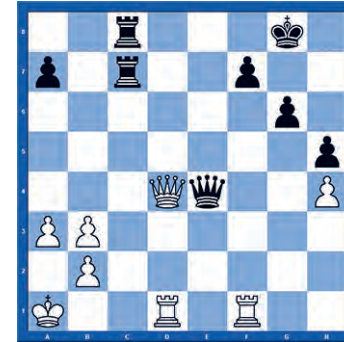
23... ♘cxe5! 24. ♘xe5 ♘f6!! 25. ♔d1 [25. ♘b5 ♖xb5!-+]

25... ♙xd6 26. ♔xa4 ♘h5-+

(20) Vavulin,M (2294) – Vorobiov,E (2578)

Moscow Championship, 23.03.2013

[Solutions]

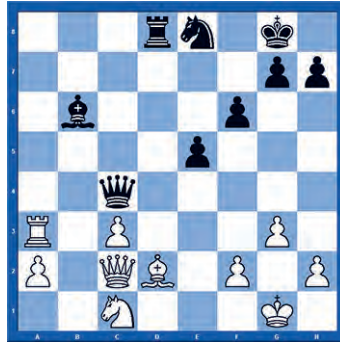


32... ♖c1+! 33. ♖xc1 ♖xc1+ 34. ♖xc1 ♔xd4 0-1

(21) Antonsen,M (2446) – Palo,D (2551)

Danish Championship, 24.03.2013

[Solutions]



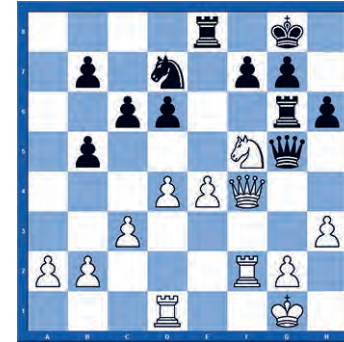
28... ♖xf2+! 29. ♔xf2 [29. ♔g2 ♖c5--+ (29... ♔d5+ 30. ♔xf2 ♔c5+--+)]

29... ♔c5+ 30. ♖e3 ♔xa3--+

(22) Ziska,H (2461) – Antonsen,M (2446)

Danish Championship, 25.03.2013

[Solutions]



40. ♖xh6+! 1-0 [40. ♖xh6+ ♔xh6 41. ♔xf7+ ♔h7 42. ♔xe8+-]

(23) Zeng,C (2490) – Tran Tuan Minh (2310)

HD Bank Cup, 21.03.2013

[Solutions]



25. ♖h7+!! ♔xh7 **26.** ♕h5+ ♔g8 [26...♔g7 27. ♕h6+ ♔g8 28. ♖g4 ♖e6 29. g6! (29. ♖f6+? ♕xf6 30. gxf6 ♖ad8 31. ♖c4 ♖d7) 29...fxg6 (29...♖g5 30. ♖c4! f3 31. gxf7+ ♖xf7 32. ♖f6+ ♕xf6 33. ♕xf6+-) 30. ♕xg6+ ♔h8 31. ♕h6+ ♔g8 32. ♖c4!+-]

27. ♖g4! ♖e8 [27...♖e6 28. ♖f6+ ♕xf6 29. gxf6 ♖ad8 30. ♖c4 ♖d7 31. ♕xe5+-]

28. ♖h6+ 1-0

(24) Zeng,C (2490)

– Nguyen Huynh Minh Huy (2460)

HD Bank Cup, 22.03.2013

[Solutions]

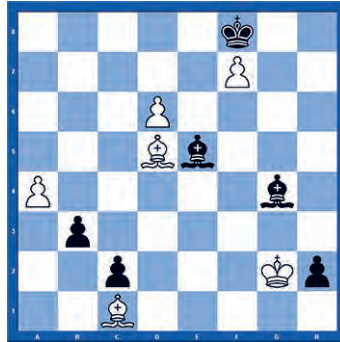


24. ♖d7! ♕xd7 **25.** ♖xh7+! 1-0 [25. ♖xh7+ ♔h8 (25... ♖xh7 26. ♕xd7+-) 26. ♖f5+ +-]

(25) Li Shilong (2559) – Nguyen Van Hai (2339)

HD Bank Cup, 22.03.2013

[Solutions]

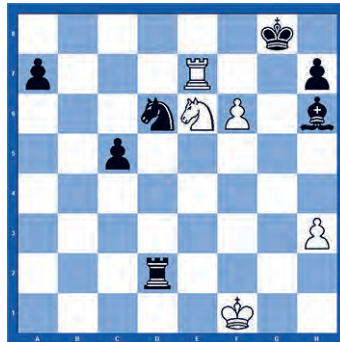


61.d7! 1–0 [61.d7 ♖xd7 62.♗a3+ +-]

(26) Brandner,S (2271) – Thiede,L (2441)

Austrian league, 21.03.2013

[Solutions]



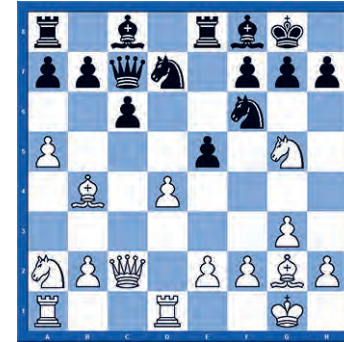
48.f7+! ♔h8 [48...♘xf7 49.♖e8+ ♗f8 50.♖xf8#]

49.♖e8+! 1–0

(27) Babula,V (2585) – Bosiocic,M (2571)

Austrian league, 22.03.2013

[Solutions]

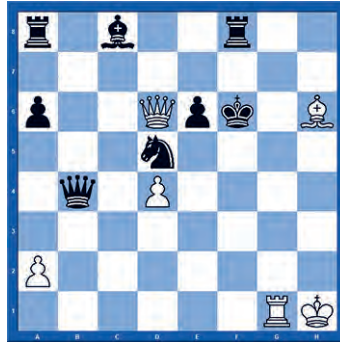


18.♗d5!! 1–0 [18.♗d5 ♘xd5 (18...cxd5 19.♔xc7+-) 19.♔xh7#]

(28) Baramidze,D (2615) – Volokitin,A (2722)

Austrian league, 24.03.2013

[Solutions]

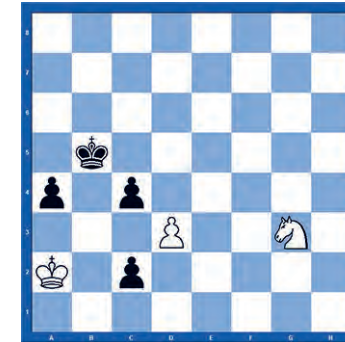


30. ♖f1+! [30. ♛e5+? ♔e7 31. ♙xf8+ ♕xf8 32. ♛h8+ ♔e7 33. ♖g7+ ♔d6 34. ♛d8+ ♕c6-+; 30. ♙g7+? ♔f7 31. ♖f1+ ♕g8!-+; 30. ♙g5+? ♔f7 31. ♖f1+ ♕g6-+]

30... ♔g6 31. ♛g3+! ♕xh6 32. ♖g1! ♘f4 33. ♛g5+ 1-0[33. ♛g5+ ♔h7 34. ♛g7#]

(29) Staudte

[Solutions]



1. ♘e2! [1. dxc4+? ♕xc4 2. ♘e2 ♔d3 3. ♘c1+ ♔d2 4. ♖b2 a3+ -+]

1... cxd3 2. ♘d4+ ♕c4 3. ♘xc2! dxc2 [3... d2 4. ♘e3+ ♔d3 5. ♘d1 ♔e2 6. ♘b2=]

4. ♖b2 ♔d3 5. ♖c1! ♕c3= [5... a3=]

1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 59

12th of April 2013

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Editorial Preface

This week, we have 2 main chess events.

The German Bundesliga was won by the team from Baden-Baden for the 8th time in a row! And this year, it came with a perfect score. In the Team roster, there are superstars like: Carlsen, Anand, Aronian, Svidler, Adams, Bacrot, Naiditsch, Vallejo and many more.

All the details can be found on schachbundesliga.de

The running event of the week is clearly the Russian Team Champion with simply amazing line-ups and a lot of 2700 players like Caruana, Grischuk, Svidler, Mamedyarov, Morozevich, Karjakin and many more. At the moment, we are just at the 5th round from 7, so everything is still open.

The open on Martinique was won by Fedorchuk.

The Dubai Open is on the run, and the individual Israeli Championship as well.

As usual, we wish you enjoy this weekly issue of CEWN, the 59th.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Jobava,B (2702) – Karjakin,S (2786) [C54]

08.04.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

A very impressive and convincing win by the extremely creative Jobava against the Russian star Sergei Karjakin.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4 ♙c5 4.c3 ♘f6 5.d4 exd4 6.e5 d5



7.♙e2!? Jobava likes to play rare sidelines, but as we will see, he studies them very deeply and is able to cause real surprises. [7.♙b5 is by far the most common move.]

7...♘e4 8.cxd4 ♙b4+ This is probably an inaccuracy. [8...♙b6 seems to be stronger. We analyzed the game Jobava-Malakhov in CEWN Nr 30, which continued like this and had a really beautiful finish.]

9.♙d2 ♘xd2 10.♘bxd2 Black has gained the bishop pair, but as we will see, he has problems to equalize, mainly because of his inferior pawn structure.

10...0-0 11.0-0 f6! This is a standard move. Black needs to undermine the center. If he succeeds to do so, he might quickly overtake the initiative. However, Jobava has studied the position very deeply.

12.♖c1! A very useful developing move. It supports well the plan of ♘b3-c5, which is White's main idea to fight against the bishop pair. [12.a3 happened in the previous game, but actually, this only helps Black to transfer his bishop to a better place (to b6). As we will see in the game, Black had serious difficulties with that bishop... 12...♙a5 13.♙b5 ♘e7 14.♖c2 ♙f5 15.♙d3 ♙xd3 16.♖xd3 ♘g6 17.g3 c5 Black undermined the center and overtook the initiative. Later on, he managed to win in the game Vallejo Pons-Ponomarev, Melilla 2011.]

12...♔h8?! Another standard and useful move in these positions, although it is too slow. The king is clearly better placed on h8. Black intends to make use of his d-pawn later on by taking on e5, followed by d4, leaving from the annoying check on ♖b3. [12...fxe5! 13.dxe5 ♙a5! should have been played, transferring the bishop to b6. It supports well the d4 ideas in the future. Black has a playable position. 14.♘b3 ♙b6; 12...♙g4 is also logical in order to increase the pressure on the central pawns, but it does not equalize neither 13.♘b3! and the e5 pawn cannot be taken. 13...♙xf3 14.♙xf3 fxe5 15.dxe5 ♘xe5 16.♖xd5+ ♖xd5 17.♙xd5+ winning the queenside.]



13...b3! This is the difference. Suddenly, the bishop can only go to e7, which is clearly a more passive place than b6, and also disturbs the communication between his own pieces. For instance, ♖e7-g6 could have been a useful regrouping; ♔e7 ♖ad8 is also a logical development, but they are all impossible now...

13...g4 14.a3 g4 15.♖e1 White strengthens his center and protects his e5 pawn after taking on f3... [15. ♖e1!? also looked pretty strong, with the idea of f4 and also ♖d3, which could be followed by the unpleasant ♖bc5, attacking on b7 and threatening ♖e6... 15... ♖xe2 16. ♖xe2 fxe5 17.dxe5± and f4 or ♖d3-♖bc5 in the next move.]

15...fxe5 16.dxe5! Jobava cleverly decides to leave the knights on the board. The one on c6 is badly placed — it deprives Black from playing c6 and ♖b6. It should be improved by transferring it to e6 (+) where it will be an excellent blockader -, threatening with ♖f4 and supporting the offense in the center with c5-d4. However, it is really difficult to achieve this. [16. ♖xe5 Black gets counterplay after 16... ♖xe5 17.dxe5 ♖xe2 18. ♖xe2 c6! and ♖b6 next, putting pressure on the f2 pawn.]

16...♖f4 Black tries to confuse matters. Probably, he is intending some non-standard regrouping like ♖g8, keeping the d5 pawn protected; or ♖af8, trying to get some counterplay on the f-file. [16... ♖d7 It was more logical to bring the a8 rook into the game, although it does not equalize either. 17. ♖c3! overprotecting the f3 knight in order to be able to play ♖b5. A side threat could be ♖d3. (17. ♖c5 ♖xc5 18. ♖xc5 ♖ad8 followed by d4 is not so clear.) 17... ♖ad8 18. ♖b5 a6 19. ♖xc6 bxc6 White gets a nice advantage after



20.e6! and the pawn cannot be taken. 20... ♖xe6? 21. ♖ce3! ♖f6 22. ♖bd4+- winning a piece.]

17.h3 [17. ♖c5 was also possible immediately, but the text move is useful, to open the back-rank.]

17...g4 18.♖c5! Black is forced to give up his bishop pair.

18...gxc5 19.♖xc5 d4 This pawn is rather a weakness now, as it is not supported by the Black pieces, but there was nothing else to do. [19... ♖f7 White surprisingly traps the f4 rook after

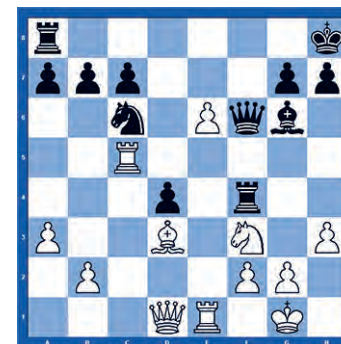


20. ♔c1!! ♖f5 (20... ♖e4 21. ♘g5+-) 21.g4!+- There is no good square to go to.]

20.e6! This passed pawn is much more dangerous than the one on d4. It also arrived with tempo as the bishop is under attack. Suddenly, both White rooks are excellently placed—the preparations with ♖c1 and ♖e1 were completely justified.

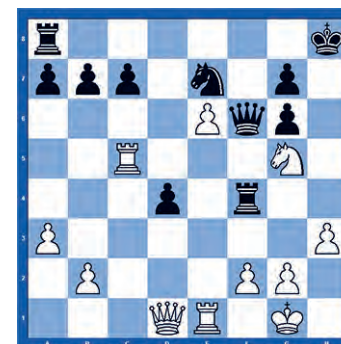
20... ♗g6 21. ♗d3 Jobava plays human chess and goes for a huge positional advantage. [21. ♗a6!? is the machine's idea, destroying Black's pawn structure and getting rid of the blockader of the e6 pawn. 21...bxa6 22. ♖xc6 with a winning advantage.]

21... ♖f6 White has many tempting alternatives and most of them give him a decisive advantage. [21... ♗xd3 22. ♖xd3 is lost for Black. The direct threat is ♘g5 and after 22... ♖e7 White can win with the prosaic 23. ♖d5! ♖d8 24. ♖xd8+ ♘xd8 25. ♘xd4+-]



22. ♘g5 Jobava tries to finish the game in tactical fashion and brings his pieces to the attack. [The computer simply plays 22. ♗xg6 ♖xg6 23. ♖b3 and b7 cannot be protected, as ♖b8 allows ♖xc6. 23... ♖af8 24. ♖xb7 ♖xf3 25. ♖xc6 ♖xf2 26.e7!+- wins.]

22... ♘e7 23. ♗xg6 hxg6 [23... ♘xg6 White has different wins. The most convincing is 24.g3! trapping the rook. 24... ♖xf2 (24... ♖f5 25. ♖h5+- with the double threat of ♖h7 and ♘f7, winning the rook.) 25. ♖h5 h6 26. ♘e4+- wins.; 23... ♖xg6 is refuted by 24. ♘f7+ ♖g8 25. ♖xc7+-]



24. ♘e4 Good calculation! White gives up his e6 pawn in order to free this square for his rook. Black cannot defend against the following mating attacks.

24...♔xe6 25.♘g5 ♔f6 [25...♔d6 is met by 26.♖ce5! ♘g8 27.♖e6+- and ♖xg6, ♔h5 are decisive.]

26.♖e6! The attack is rolling!

26...♔f8 27.♖xg6! ♔h5 threatens with mate!

27...♖h4 [27...♘xg6 28.♔h5+ ♕g8 29.♔h7#]

28.♘e6! [Black resigned in view of 28.♘e6 ♔f7 29.♖h5+ ♖xh5 30.♔xh5+ ♕g8 31.♖xg7+- Karjakin gets rarely defeated in such an impressive style!]

1-0

**(2) Moiseenko,Alexander (2703)
—Predke,Alexandr (2481) [D37]**

Loo RUS Loo RUS (1), 07.04.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We will see a great attacking game with very irregular rook maneuvers by White. Both White rooks will go to the g-file while the g2 pawn is still alive!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♖e7 What to say about this opening? It has been played for over 100 years on the top level!

5.♖f4 0-0! 6.a3 Not the most popular line, but here things quickly become quite unclear.

6...b6 [6...♘bd7 should be the most principal move here.]



7.♔c2! I like this move a lot. White is preparing to play 7...♖b7 8.cxd5! and Black will not be able to take back with 8...exd5 because of 9.♘b5 !

7...dxc4 Black is going into a fight. Anyway, things look pretty good for White.

8.e4 ♖a6 Black needs to hold on to the only positive point of his position, the extra pawn on c4

9. ♖d1 White had a wide choice of possibilities to go on, but 9. ♖d1 is a very solid and good move. In general, Black often tries to play c5, White should have the d5 move against it. Another idea for White could be to play e5 followed by ♘e4 to attack the Black king. We have a more or less typical position, but it seems like White should be doing better.

9... ♚c8 A logical move, Black is moving away from the d-file and, at the same time, preparing to play c5.

10. h4!? Quite a typical move as well. Now the threat of e5 followed by ♘g5 becomes quite dangerous and the White rook might come into the game via ♖h3-♖g3. [A normal move like 10. ♙e2 c6 11. 0-0 would lead to quite an unclear position.]

10... h6 I am not sure if this is the best Black could do. By playing h6, he creates a clear weakness in his structure, which makes it easier for White to find a clear attacking plan. [Maybe Black could have started immediately his counterplay by playing 10... c5!? 11. d5 exd5 12. exd5 ♖e8 and the h4 move looks a bit dubious even when the position is pretty unclear.]



11. ♖h3! getting the rook into the attack. [It would lead nowhere to play 11. e5 ♘d5 12. ♘g5? looks dangerous, but in fact, is just losing. 12... hxg5 13. hxg5 g6 White is not in time to create any threats on the h-file.]

11... c5 Black is acting, but he is doing it one move too late.

12. e5 ♘d5 The position is very sharp and needs precise calculations.

13. ♙c1 Moiseenko avoids a direct play and prefers to keep all his threats. [It only seems to lead to a draw 13. ♙xh6 gxh6 14. ♖g3+ ♚h8 15. ♚d2 ♚h7 16. ♚c2+ ♚h8 and it is hard to say if White has more than a draw â (+) probably he does not.; Also, after 13. ♘xd5 exd5 14. ♖g3 ♚h8 15. ♚d2 ♚h7 it seems that Black holds somehow. The position is very unclear.]

13... ♘xc3! Black is starting some forced play. First of all, exchanging the White knight that could have come over the e4 square and later on to g5 or f6.

14. bxc3 cxd4 Another important move. Black is putting White in front of an important decision — what to take on d4 with?

15. ♖xd4 What else to do?! Moiseenko decides to bring another rook to the attack.

15... ♘c6 16. ♖g4 and it seems like White is really doing great, but Black has prepared a very unpleasant defensive move.



16...f5! What a great move! Suddenly, we cannot see anything direct that White could do against the Black king.

17.♖g6?! still leads to a very sharp position, but maybe White overestimated his chances a bit. [Safer was 17.exf6 ♜xf6 18.♖hg3 ♙f8 and now White has quite a few moves: 19.♙xc4 and 19.♖g6, with very unclear positions.]

17...♜f7! Strong defense!

18.♜hg3 [This does not work: 18.♙xh6 ♔h7 White loses his bishop.]

18...♔h7? This logical move maybe is the losing one as well! [Black should have been more careful. 18...♔h8! Now Black always counts on the ♜h7 protection. 19.♙xh6 Maybe White has a few other alternatives, but let us take a look at the direct 19...gxh6 20.♙d2 ♜h7 21.♙xh6 looks pretty dangerous, but Black is in time to defend everything. 21...♙f8 22.♜g8+ ♙xg8 23.♜xg8+ ♜xg8 24.♙xe6 Black got 2 rooks + a piece for the queen — that should be enough, at least, not to be worse.]



19.♙d2!! The killing move! White wants to play ♜xg7 next.

19...f4 [It is not helpful to play 19...♙f8 20.♙g5+! and the game is over. 20...hxg5 21.♙xg5 followed by ♜h5-♜h6 and mate.]

20.♙c2 Another good move by White.

20...♔h8 21.♙xf4! No reason to lose any time! White is simply crushing the Black position.

21...♜xf4 22.♜xg7 ♜f5 23.♙e4! Moiseenko is playing in great style! White wants to play ♜g8 or, if Black allows it, to play ♙g4.

23...♙e8 [In case of the slow 23...♙d7 24.♙g4 ♙e8 25.♜h7+ followed by ♙g7 mate.]

24.♜g8+ Simply winning back material.

24...♙xg8 25.♜xg8+ ♜xg8 26.♙xc6 So, a lot of things have happened. Let us take a fresh look at the position. White has a queen + pawn against 2 rooks, but all the Black pawns look shaky and, most probably, are going to fall. Also, the position of the Black king is not very trustworthy. White clearly has a huge advantage and, probably, a winning position.

26...♙c8 An attempt to hold the main pawn on e6.

27.♙xc4 ♖ff8 28.♙xe6 White can just take and take and take.

28...♖g6 29.♘d4 Everything is protected.

29...♙xh4 30.g3 ♙e7 31.♚c7 A very exciting game with a great attack by White!

1–0

(3) Movsesian,S (2695) – Tregubov,P (2611) [A11]

08.04.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

A nice tactical win by Movsesian. The game has a calm start, but it soon turns into a tactical slugfest.

1.♘f3 d5 2.g3 ♘f6 3.♙g2 c6 4.0–0 ♙f5 5.c4 dxc4 This is a rare line and probably an inaccuracy. [Black should hold the center with 5...e6 with thousands of games in the database.]

6.♘a3! e5 A tricky move, which might quickly overtake the initiative, but Movsesian knew exactly how to react against it... [White gets huge compensation if Black tries to hold the material with 6...b5 7.b3! This is a standard pawn sacrifice, opening the lines on the queenside. Black ends up with an extra pawn, but all of them are very weak and if one of them falls, that means the loss of the others as well. An illustrative line could be 7...cxb3 8.axb3 e6 9.♙b2 ♙e7 10.♘h4 with a double threat of ♘xb5 or ♘xf5, followed by ♚c2.]

7.♘xc4 [Of course, Movsesian is too strong to fall into the opening trap after 7.♘xe5?? ♙xa3 8.bxa3 ♚d4!–+ winning the game.]

7...e4 8.♘fe5 ♘bd7 White needs to act urgently, otherwise, Black takes on e5 and finishes the development with ♙e7 and 0–0. The d2 pawn remains backward as e4 becomes very strong.



9.d4! Strong idea! Getting rid of the backward pawn and opening the diagonal of the c1 bishop.

9...exd3 10. ♖xd3 ♜e7 If Black finishes the development with 0–0 and ♜b6, he gets a comfortable equality. White must do something quickly.

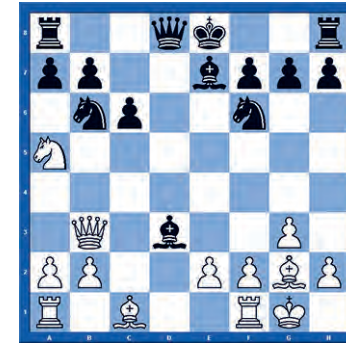
11. ♔b3! White finds the weakness in his opponent's camp! It is not easy to deal with the b7 pawn. If it moves, that would crucially weaken its colleague on c6, which immediately falls under the pressure of the g2 bishop. ♖b8 and ♔c7 move into ♕f4!

11...♖b6 [Black cannot hope for equality after 11...♘e6
12.♘f4! ♘xc4 13.♙xc4 White has gained the bishop pair.]

12. ♘a5! Another great move! Although it is a known idea that against the a7, b7, c6 structure, a knight on a5 is really unpleasant. Just like in the previous move, it is hard to deal with the b7 pawn.

12...♟xd3 This is the novelty. Black tries to create an isolated pawn, as ♖d1 seems to lose a piece. However, if we take a closer look, things are different... [12...♔c8 happened in the previous game. Despite the huge difference in the level of players, White has succeeded to obtain

a clear advantage 13. ♖f4 0–0 14. ♖e1! White occupies the center with e4! 14... ♖e8 15.e4 ♘f8 16.f3 ♘c5+ 17. ♘e3 ♘xe3+ 18. ♖xe3 with a clear edge, although Black succeeded to save the game later on. Karner-Polugaevsky, Tallinn 1973. Probably, Movsesian was familiar with this game.]



13. ♖d1!! Excellent reaction! It is clear that if White simply takes back on d3, he gets all the advantages he could get, but the question is what happens after the text move—R [13.exd3 ♔d7 followed by 0–0, ♖ad8 and occupying the d5 square. Later on, this gives Black good chances to equalize.]

13...♖bd7! Black unpins himself, so he threatens to leave with the bishop and also attacks the a5 knight. Has White missed this idea?! [13...♖bd5 with the same idea as in the game. However, it allows 14.♔xb7! ♕xe2 15.♖e1 (15.♖xc6? is bad in view of 15...♔c8! looks suspicious, but everything is under control.)



15...♙b5 and White wins after 16.♙xd5! ♞xd5 17.♞xc6 ♙xc6 18.♞xc6+ ♔f8 19.♞d1!+- winning back the piece. White remains with an extra pawn, but the main problem is the king on f8.]

14.♞xb7 ♞c8! Black thought everything was going according to the plan and ♞b8 wins the piece next move. But the cold shower is just about to come.

15.♙f4!! [15.♞xd3? ♞b8]

15...♙e4 [15...♙xe2? It is suicidal to open the e-file. 16.♞e1+-]



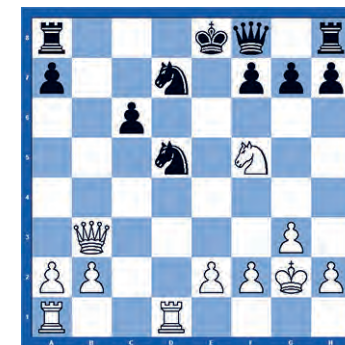
16.♙d6! This was the whole point that Movsesian had foreseen before playing ♞d1. Black is a piece up and the

king is extremely weak. It is hard to deal with the threat of ♙xe7 followed by Nd6!

16...♙xg2 [The computer suggests 16...c5! as only move. However, White is better after 17.♙xe7 ♞xb7 18.♞xb7 ♙xb7 19.♙xb7 ♞xe7 20.♙xa8 ♞xa8 White is better. He has a rook and a pawn for the two knights, but it is well known that in such endgames the knights work very badly together as there is no outpost to occupy. The rooks start to dominate them soon. 21.♞ac1 ♞b8 22.b3±]

17.♙xe7 ♞xe7 18.♞d6 A double attack on c8 and f7.

18...♙d5 Black had to sacrifice his queen, but he got three minor pieces for that. [18...♞f8 cannot lead to anything good for Black with such a weak king. 19.♙xg2 White wins. An illustrative line could be 19...♞d5 20.♞f5+ ♙e8]



21.♞xd5! cxd5 22.♞xd5 ♞b8 (22...♞d8 23.♞e4+-) 23.♞d1+- and Black gets mated. The f8 queen is really poorly placed and also deprives Black from castling king-side.]

19.♞xc8+ ♞hxc8 20.♞a3+



20...c5 White is better even materially with his queen and pawn for the 3 pieces, but the Black king remains weak and the minor pieces are lacking coordination. Movsesian immediately tries to make use of this.

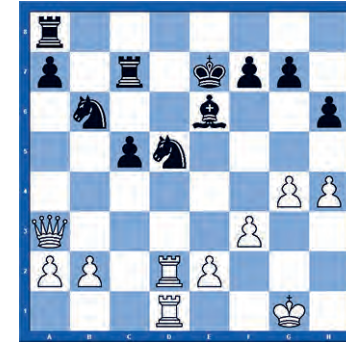
21.g4! h6 with the threat of g5!

22.h4 ♖e6 [22...g5 creates another weakness for Black. 23.hxg5 hxg5 24.♔e3+ ♖e6 25.f3 Black has problems with the g5 pawn. He is doomed to defend passively... 25...♖g8 26.♖d2+- doubling the rooks on the d-file. Black cannot hold for long.]

23.f3 ♘d5 [23...♔f8± was probably slightly better, although the king does not find a safe shelter on the kingside, since White can explode the structure with g5-g6 anytime.]

24.♖d2! Very strong and logical, activating the rooks.

24...♖c7 25.♖ad1 ♘7b6 [25...♘5b6 is met with the same unpleasant move as in the game.]



26.♔d3! Another great move! White creates two threats: e4, and when the knight moves, ♔d6 wins the rook; and ♔h7 harasses the kingside pawns. Black cannot parry both threats.

26...♖ac8 27.♔h7! ♘e3 28.♔xg7 White decides to eliminate the kingside pawns and then promote his h-pawn. [White had time to save his rook followed by collecting the pawns. This was even stronger, but of course, the text is also good enough to win the game. 28.♖c1+-]

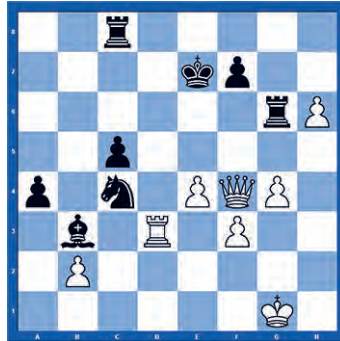
28...♘xd1 29.♖xd1 The h-pawn also falls.

29...♖xa2 30.♔xh6 ♖c6 31.♔f4 ♖c4 32.e4 White is ready to advance the h-pawn. Black is unable to create adequate counterplay.

32...♖b3 33.♖d2 a5 34.h5 ♘c4 35.♖d3 a4 Black is se arching for counterplay on the queenside, but the b2 pawn is always indirectly protected by ♔e5 check. White can continue focusing on his own plans and on how to make progress.

36.h6 The threat is ♔g5 and Black has no good move. If he moves to the back-rank, h7 is decisive. On f6, ♔g7 wins... Black parries this threat.

36...♖g6 It is quite sad that Black is forced to defend like this, but there was nothing better... White has many different wins, but Movsesian decides to finish the game in style. [36...♞xb2 37.♞e5+-]



37.♞d7+! ♔xd7 **38.♞xf7+** ♔c6 **39.♞xg6+** ♔b5 **40.♞g7!** A great place for the queen. It protects b2, threatens with ♞b7 and supports the h-pawn.

40...♞d6 41.♞d7+ ♔c6 **42.h7** ♞f7 **43.g5** ♞e6 The last move is also nice, but of course, everything else was equally good.

44.♞xc6+ and g6 next. Black resigned! A great game!
1-0

(4) Caruana,Fabiano (2772) — Jobava,Baadur (2702) [A53]

Loo RUS Loo RUS (3), 09.04.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Jobava is a great fighting player with a lot of swings. Sometimes, he manages to win a great game and sometimes he gets rather “crushed”. This time, Caruana rules the game.

1.d4 ♞f6 **2.c4** d6 **3.♞f3** g6 **4.♞c3**



4...♞f5 Jobava likes to play this slightly strange looking move. Black’s idea is simple, not to allow White to play e4. It is also a provocation for White to play h3-g4, which is not necessarily good.

5.d5 I guess this is one of the most logical moves White can do.

5...♞a6 6.♞d4 ♞d7 **7.e4** ♞c5 **8.f3** We are in a KID structure, but it seems to me that Black has just lost a tempo with ♞f5-♞d7. On the other hand, the Black knight is already on c5 and his idea could be to play c6 without including e5.

8...a5 Securing the position of his knight on c5.

9.♘e3 ♘g7 10.♔d2 White is preparing to castle long, followed by ♘h6-h4, and an attack on the Black king.

10...0-0 11.♘e2 Caruana decides to keep both options open: to castle long or short after taking a look at what Jobava actually wants to do next. Anyhow, a move like ♘e2 is quite useful for White.



11...e5 Black is starting his play, but, in my opinion, White's position looks clearly better. [Maybe 11...c6 could have been an option for Black. Still, Black would keep the e5 pawn and would check where will the White king castle.]

12.dxe6! Of course! To go away with the knight from d4 would simply make no sense.

12...fxe6 13.♘db5 Very typical and strong. The a5 move by Black is useful to protect the knight's position on c5 (avoiding b4), but now he cannot do anything to get rid of the knight on b5, which is very unpleasantly placed.

13...e5 Of course, to have White's e5 move in mind all the time is just terrible.

14.0-0-0 ♘e6 15.g4 I think we can clearly see that White is completely dominating the game. Black has no play on the queenside and White is starting his play on the kingside.

15...b6 16.h4 ♘e8



17.♔b1! Also a good positional move. There is no reason for White to hurry with the action on the kingside.

17...♔h8 18.♘d5 and Caruana starts his plan. Maybe 18.♖dg1 was a nice option as well, using the fact that Black has nothing to do...

18...♘xd5 19.cxd5 It is hard to give Black an advice, his position is really bad...

19...♘c5 [Black would end up not much better than in the game after 19...♘xb5 20.♘xb5 ♘d4 21.♘xd4 exd4 22.f4! with a huge advantage for White!]

20.♘c3 Another nice move by Caruana. White prepares to the maximum before pushing h5.

20...a4 21.h5 Finally!

21...gxh5 22.gxh5 ♗f6 Black's position really looks bad. The main problem is that there is no counterplay at all, which leaves space for White to do whatever he wants.

23.♖dg1 For example, simply improving the position of his rook.

23...♗f7 24.♖g5 By bringing the rook to f5, White's next f4 push will be much more effective.

24...♖g8 25.♖f5 ♖g2 The first active move by Black.. . although it does not help anymore.

26.♔e1 ♔e7 27.♗f1 Kicking away the Black rook from the 2nd rank.

27...♖gg8 28.♗b5 putting the bishop on an excellent position. White's idea is easy: to play ♔f2 followed by f4.

28...♗g5? This move is just losing. [More fighting was 28...♗e8! 29.♗c6 ♗d7 with, of course, a bad position for Black, however, things are by far not over.]



29.f4! now, even winning a tempo!

29...♗f6 [In case of 29...♗xf4 30.♖xf4 exf4 31.♗d4+ ♖g7 32.h6 the position needs no commentaries.]

30.♖f1 Black is done...

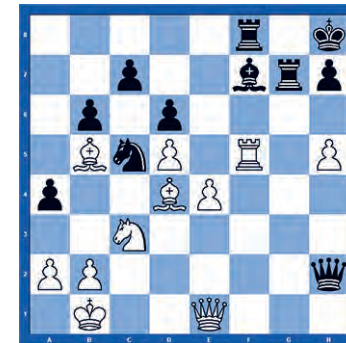
30...♖af8 trying to cover the f-file, but it is too late...

31.♖xf6! A nice final blow.

31...♖xf6 32.fxe5 By capturing the dark-squared bishop and opening the diagonal a1–h8, White is taking away the last hopes from Black.

32...♖xe5 33.♖f5 and the White bishop is coming to d4.

33...♖h2 34.♗d4+ ♖g7 There are a lot of winning moves here, but Caruana finishes the game with the most precise one.



35.♔c1! The h6 threat is deadly.

35...♖g8 36.♗xg7 ♖xg7 37.♖g5+ ♖h8 38.h6 A great opening-middlegame victory by Caruana!

1–0

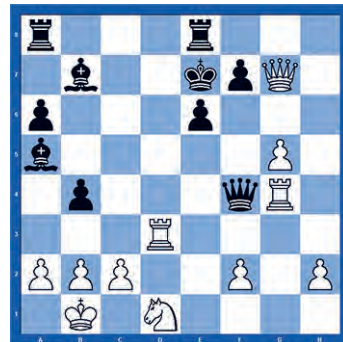
Puzzle section

(5) Boruchovsky,A (2445) – Smirin,I (2663)

Israeli Championship, 06.04.2013

[CEWN]

1... -/+

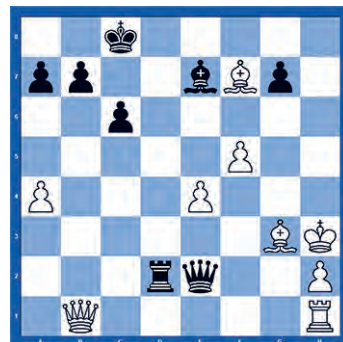


(6) Rodshtein,M (2639) – Nabaty,T (2564)

Israeli Championship, 08.04.2013

[CEWN]

1... -/+

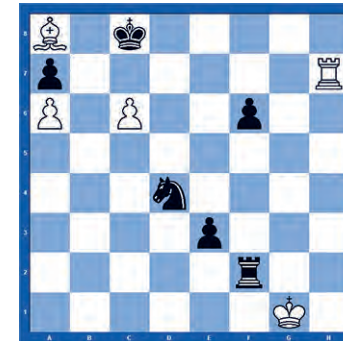


(7) Zoler,D (2553) – Postny,E (2635)

Israeli Championship, 08.04.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



(8) Kasic,D (2512) – Csonka,B (2326)

Budapest, 07.04.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Blomqvist,E (2451) – Tikkanen,H (2574)

Swedish league, 16.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... =

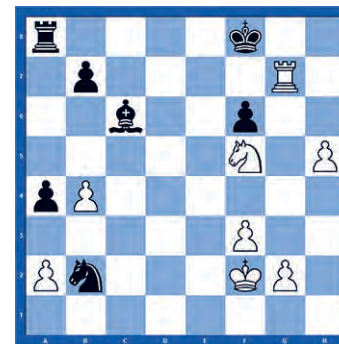


(11) Olszewski,M (2532) – Ghaem Maghami,E (2557)

German league, 05.04.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+



(10) Agrest,E (2614) – Hillarp Persson,T (2556)

Swedish league, 17.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

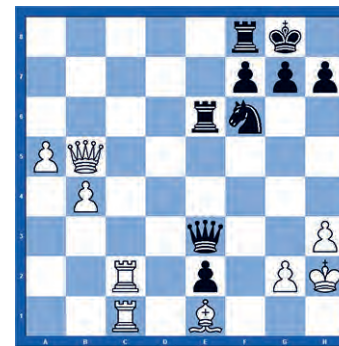


(12) Bogner,S (2558) – Ragger,M (2655)

German league, 05.04.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+



(13) Siebrecht,S (2479) – Jones,G (2641)

German league, 07.04.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

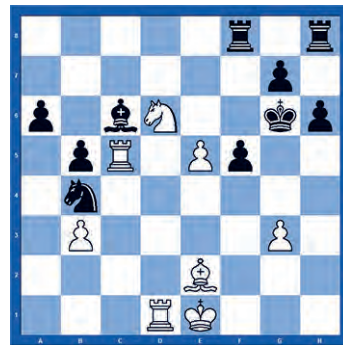


(14) Morozevich,A (2756) – Jakovenko,D (2734)

Russian league, 08.04.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

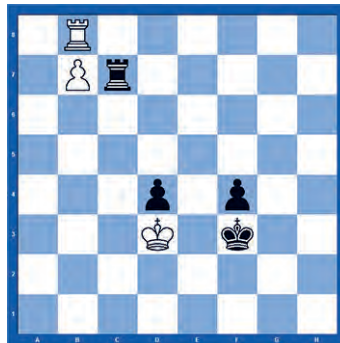


Endgame section

(15) Frolyanov,Dmitry (2561)
— Tomashevsky,Evgeny (2722) [B14]

Loo RUS Loo RUS (1), 07.04.2013

[Chess Evolution]



After a big fight in the rook endgame, White managed to achieve a drawn position, although a few precise moves are still needed. Frolyanov plays the endgame part very accurately.

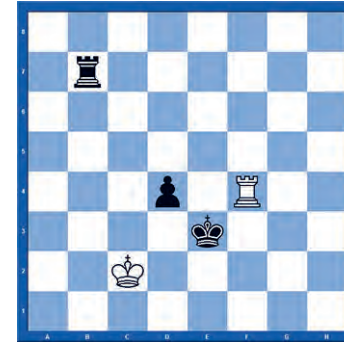
53...♖d7 54.♔c2! A very important move! [In case of 54.♔d2? d3! White would be in zugzwang.]

54...♗g7 [To play 54...d3+?! would make no sense for Black now. 55.♔d2 and the position is a simple draw. In case of 55...♔f2, 56.♗f8 and the f4 pawn is getting lost. Of course, 55...♔g3 ? is not possible because of 56.♗g8+ and b8♔.]

55.♔d3 ♗d7 56.♔c2 The position was repeated once and Black is looking for his only chance.

56...♔f2 57.♗f8 White, of course, does not miss his chance to get the f4 pawn.

57...♖xb7 58.♖xf4+ ♔e3



59.♗h4!! The only move that saves White! [Black would win after 59.♗f8? d3+ 60.♔c3 ♗c7+ 61.♔b2 d2 and White has no “saving” checks on the h-file. 62.♗e8+ ♔f2 63.♗f8+ ♔e1 64.♗e8+ ♔d1 We have a well known theoretical winning position.]

59...d3+ 60.♔c3 ♗c7+ 61.♔b2 ♗c2+ Black continues looking for practical chances. [It is not winning to play 61...d2 62.♗h3+ ♔f2 63.♗h2+ ♔e3 64.♗h3+ and Black cannot improve his position.]

62.♔b3 ♗f2 63.♔c3! The easiest way to get a draw.

63...♗c2+ 64.♔b3 ♗g2 65.♔c3 Black has no more ideas left...

65...♗g3 [This also leads to an easy draw: 65...d2 66.♗d4 and White will go on with ♗d3 next.]

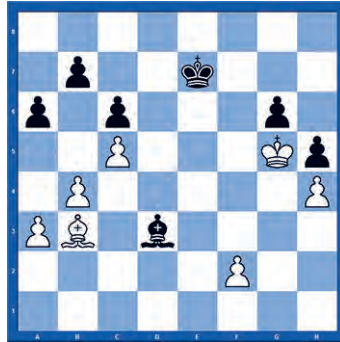
66.♗h8 ♔e2 67.♗h2+ ♔e3 A great defense by White in a not very difficult endgame, but as we know, it is too easy to go wrong in an rookendgame!

1/2

(16) Bacrot,E (2705) – Tiviakov,S (2659)

06.04.2013

[Chess Evolution]



The following endgame is highly against the chess rules... White has all the advantages to have a won endgame, but it is drawn. His king is better and keeps the g6 pawn under attack, all the Black pawns are fixed on the light squares and the White bishop might attack them. The pawns on the queenside are also ideally placed from White's point of view. The Black bishop has two tasks: it must hold the b1–g6 diagonal to avoid ♖d3, winning the g6 pawn and also, when White plays ♜f1 with the idea of ♜h3–c8, it is obligatory to play ♜f5. Usually, such endgames can be won via zugzwang, but here it does not help...

46.a4 ♜b1 47. ♜c4 ♜c2 Black has an easy job, wasting time with the bishop. It is White's turn to find a breakthrough.

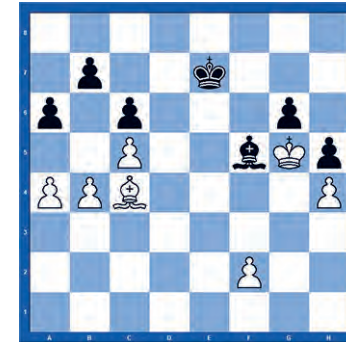
48. ♜e2 Black can never trade the a4 pawn for the one on g6, since it would lead to the loss of the h5 pawn as well. On the other hand, he is unable to create a passed

pawn on the queenside because of the excellent placement of the b4 and c5 pawns.

48... ♜e6 49. ♜c4+ ♜e7 50. ♜f1 ♜h3 is the threat, so Black is forced to play

50... ♜f5! 51. ♜e2 A small tactical trick to win with ♜xh5, but of course, Black parries it.

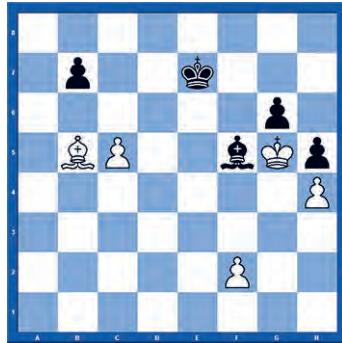
51... ♜e6 52. ♜c4+ ♜e7



53.a5!? White prepares to breakthrough with b5. This is a known motif in many endgames, it is worth to remember it! [53.b5 was the other option to make some progress. 53...a5 Black can lock the queenside.

a) 53...cxb5!? 54.axb5 a5 is also possible. Suddenly, Black can also put his hopes on his passed pawn.;

b) It is instructive that taking twice on b5 is losing. 53... axb5 54.axb5 cxb5 55. ♜xb5

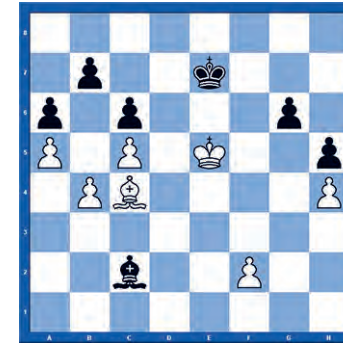


55...♙c2 Black gets into zugzwang after 56.♙e2! ♙f3 is the threat. 56...♙e4 (56...♔d7 57.♙f3 ♔c7 58.♙d5+- and ♙f7 next.) 57.♙c4!+- Here is the zugzwang! The Black king cannot move, it either allows ♙f7 or ♔f6, while in case of bishop moves, ♙d5 and ♙d3 are decisive!

54.b6 Creating the potential threat of ♙a6, but Black gets counterplay. 54...♙c2! 55.♙a6 ♙xa4 56.♙xb7 ♔d7 and, suddenly, the a-pawn is more dangerous than the one on b6.]

53...♙c2 54.♔f4! Luring the Black king from the queen-side in order to breakthrough successfully. Black cannot allow ♔e5, so the next move is forced. [54.♙e2 ♙b1 55.♙f3 ♙d3 Here might come the break with 56.b5 but unfortunately for White, the Black king is too close to the c-pawn. 56...cxb5! (56...axb5? 57.♙xc6! would be the point. 57...bxc6 58.a6+- and the pawn promotes.) 57.♙xb7 b4 and Black is all right!]

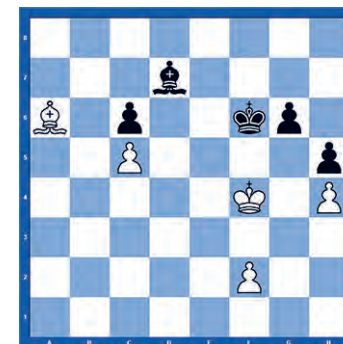
54...♔f6! [54...♙b1? easily loses after 55.♔e5 ♙c2



56.♙f1 ♙h3 is threatened. 56...♙f5 57.f4!+- Zugzwang! The bishop cannot control both ♙h3 and ♙d3, while the moves of the king allow ♔f6 or ♔d6.]

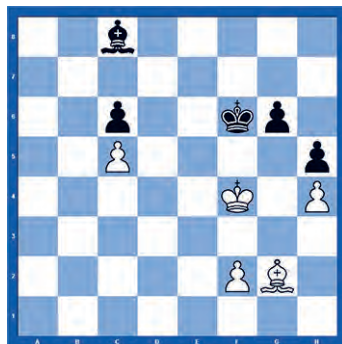
55.b5! axb5 56.♙xb5 ♙f5! Only move. Otherwise, White could have taken on c6 followed by a6-a7. [56...cxb5? loses to 57.c6! bxc6 58.a6+- Here is another point of 54.♔f4: to control the e4 square.]

57.♙f1 ♙d7 58.a6 bxa6 59.♙xa6 Black has defended successfully so far. There are only 3-3 pawns remaining, but Bacrot has set a very deep trap.



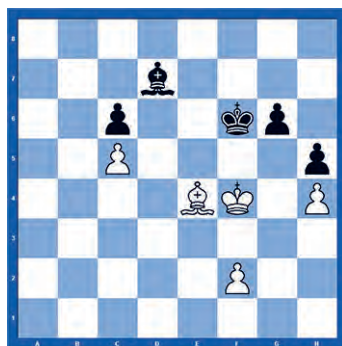
59...♙e6 60.♙f1 ♙c8?! Black does not see the trap, but this is still not the final mistake. [60...♙b3! 61.♙g2 ♙a4= followed by ♙b5-a4 was an easy draw.]

61. ♖g2



61... ♖d7? It is very strange, but this most natural move is the decisive mistake. White wins now. [The extremely ugly 61... ♖b7 followed by ♖a8-b7 would have held the draw. White can create a zugzwang here... 62. ♖e4 ♖a8]

62. ♖f3 ♖e8 63. ♖e4 ♖d7

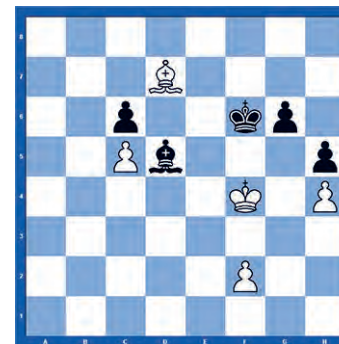


64. ♖g2! This is the first zugzwang! The king cannot be allowed on g5, since ♖e4 would win after all. Black must play

64... ♖e8 65. ♖h3! Further squeezing the bishop with

65... ♖f7 [65... ♖e7 is refuted by 66. ♖g5 ♖f7 67. ♖g2 ♖d7 68. ♖e4+-]

66. ♖d7! ♖d5



67. ♖e8! This was the very hidden trap of Bacrot, and Black is lost! He cannot hold the h1–a8 diagonal, since ♖g2 and ♖h1 are met with f3, winning the c6 pawn.

67... ♖g7 [67... ♖h1 68.f3+-; 67... ♖e7 68. ♖xg6+-]

68. ♖g5 ♖e4 69.f4! Another zugzwang, which helps White to improve his king's position.

69... ♖h7 70. ♖f6 ♖h6 71. ♖e5 ♖g2 72. ♖d6 An instructive endgame.

1–0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Petrosian, Tigran V (2645)
— Reshevsky, Samuel Herman (E88)

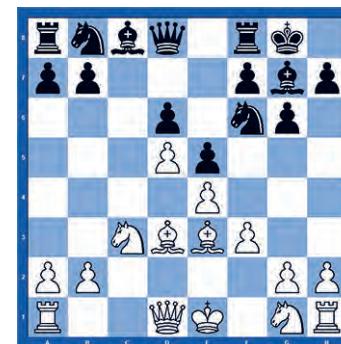
Tel Aviv Tel Aviv (9), 1964

[Kamil Miton]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0–0 6.♙e3 c6 Not the most popular line against the Saemisch. More often, Black plays [6...c5 with the idea of getting a Benoni structure. 7.d5 (7.dxc5 dxc5 8.♙xd8 ♖xd8 9.♙xc5 with a very well-known endgame where Black has good compensation for the pawn.) 7...e6 8.♙d2 exd5 9.cxd5 ♖e8 (9...♗bd7 is not accurate because of 10.♗h3!) 10.♗ge2 a6 11.a4 ♗bd7 with complex play.; 6...♗c6 7.♗ge2 a6 ♙d7 next and Black is waiting for the right moment to push e5.; 6...a6!? with the idea of getting a structure from the Benko Gambit. 7.♙d2 c5 8.d5 b5!∞]

7.♙d3 e5 [7...a6 8.a4 (8.♗ge2 b5 9.0–0 (9.b3 bxc4 10.bxc4 Without the b-pawns, Black should have good counterplay on the queenside.) 9...bxc4 10.♙xc4 d5 11.♙d3 dxe4 12.fxe4 e5! 13.dxe5 ♗g4 with a good position for Black.) 8...a5 9.♗ge2 ♗a6 10.♙d2 e5 11.♖d1 exd4 12.♙xd4 It seems that after including the a5–a4 moves, Black is fine because White's queenside is weaker. On the other hand, White is very quick with the initiative on the d-file and on the kingside.]

8.d5 cxd5 9.cxd5



9...♗a6 A normal move, although Black could also try to get some play on the otherside. [9...♗h5 10.♗ge2 ♙h4+ a) 10...♗f4 11.♗xf4 exf4 12.♙xf4 ♙b6 13.♙d2 The idea is ♙e3. White should manage to escape from the center with the king.;

b) 10...f5 11.exf5 (11.0–0 f4 12.♙f2 ♙f6 with the typical idea of exchanging the bad bishop on the h4 square.) 11...gxf5 12.♙d2 White is slightly better. This typical idea does not work now: 12...e4 13.fxe4 f4 14.♗xf4 ♙h4+ 15.g3 ♗xg3 16.♙f2+;

11.♙f2 ♙g5 12.0–0 ♙h3 13.♗g3 ♙d7 At least, Black is trying to do something on the kingside.]

10.♗ge2 ♙d7 11.0–0 ♗c5 12.♙c2 Both players almost finished their development. Thanks to the improvement possibilities on the queenside and the bad bishop on g7, White is better.

12...a5 13.a3 White is trying to take the knight out from c5.

13...♙b6 [13...b5 14.b4 (14.♙xc5 dxc5 15.a4 b4 16.♗b5 c4+) 14...axb4 15.axb4 ♗a6 16.♖b1±]

14. ♖h1 ♜fc8 Black refused the typical plan with f5. The idea is to put the heavy pieces on the a- and c-files to get counterplay when White pushes b4. [14... ♜xb2? 15. ♜b1 ♜xa3 16. ♙c1+-]

15. ♜b1 ♜a6



16. a4! Good move! Petrosian sees that the Black pieces are ready to fight with b4 and decides to change his plan a bit. [16. b4 axb4 17. axb4 ♞a4 18. ♙xa4 ♙xa4 19. b5 ♙xd1 20. bxa6 ♙xe2 21. axb7 ♙xf1 22. ♜xf1 ♜e8 23. bx-a8 ♜xa8 and one weakness on d6 will not be enough for White to win this position.; 16. ♞c1 b5 17. ♞d3 ♞xd3 18. ♙xd3 ♜b7 19. ♜e2 ♜cb8 20. ♜fc1±]

16... ♜b6?! I do not like this move because it is very slow. Why not [16... ♜ab8 with the idea of pushing b5. 17. ♞c1 (17. b4 axb4 18. ♜xb4 ♜a5 19. ♜b1 ♙f8 20. ♜c1 ♙e7 Black improves his bishop and gets a solid position.) 17... b5 18. ♙xc5 dxc5 (18... ♜xc5 19. ♙d3± and Black loses the pawn.) 19. axb5 ♙xb5 20. ♞xb5 ♜xb5 21. ♙a4 ♜b6 White controls the light squares and can put the bishop on c6. Black should look for counterplay on the dark squares after c4; he should also activate his bishop on f8. Objectively, White has the advantage here.]

17. ♞c1 ♜d8 18. ♙d3 The idea of White is to exchange the light-squared bishops. White could also play [18. ♞d3!? b6 19. b4 axb4 20. ♞xb4± and one of White's ideas here can be ♞c6 to sacrifice the pawn and get a strong initiative on the light squares.]

18... ♞e8 [18... ♜f8 19. ♙b5 ♙h6 20. ♙g1±; 18... ♞xd3 In my opinion, the best option for Black is 19. ♞xd3 ♞e8 with the idea of playing f5-f4 next and later g5-g4, with typical pressure on the kingside, which is more promising for Black if he keeps the light-squared bishop and White does not! We should also note that after f5, White has the idea exf5-gxf5, and now f4! to get control of the dark squares.]

19. ♙b5 ♙xb5 20. ♞xb5 After the bishops' exchange, Black will have weak light squares on the queenside.

20... ♞c7



21. ♞a3! Strong move! Petrosian keeps at least one knight on the board, which will be needed to put pressure on the Black weaknesses of the queenside.

21... ♞7a6 22. ♞d3 ♙f6 23. ♞xc5 ♞xc5 24. ♞b5 ♜a6 A waiting move. Black protects the d6 pawn.

25. ♖a1 ♗g5 26. ♗g1 ♔d7 27. ♖a3 ♜aa8 28. ♜c3 b6
29. ♔c2 The weak light squares and the pawn on d6 give White a long-term advantage. However, Black has pluses on the position as well: a strong knight on c5 and some possibilities to go back to the plan with f5.

29... ♜f8 30. ♜b1 preparing b4, which is the only plan for White.

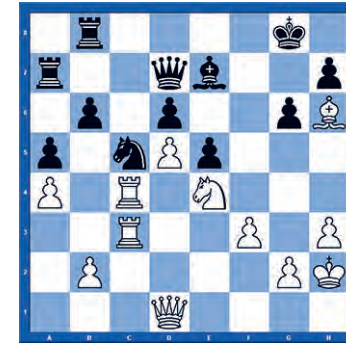


30...f5 31.exf5 ♜xf5? I think this is a huge strategic mistake! After the recapture on f5 with the rook, White takes control of the important e4 square, so Black will not be able to create counterplay. [31...gxf5 32. ♜c4 ♜ae8 and the Black pieces are well placed to fight.]

32. ♜c4 ♜ff8 33. ♞c3 ♜ac8 34. ♜e1 ♔b7 35. h3 ♔d7
36. ♞e4± White transfers his knight to e4. With this, Black is not able to get anything on the kingside. Also, the exchange on e4 is impossible because of the weak b6 pawn and c6 square.

36... ♗e7 Now the Black bishop is very limited. Reshevsky puts it on e7 to protect the weak b6 and d6 pawns. [36... ♗h6 37. ♜b1 b4 next]

37. ♜c1 ♜a8 38. ♔h2 ♔b7 39. ♔d1 ♔d7 40. ♗e3 ♜a7
41. ♗h6 ♜e8 42. ♜1c3 ♜b8



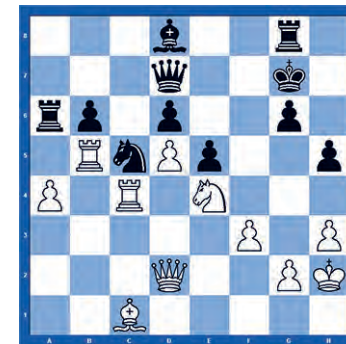
43. ♔c2 Petrosian does not hurry! First, he is going to put all his pieces on optimal squares. Black anyway has to wait.

43... ♜e8 44. ♗e3 ♔g7 45. b4 The first concrete action.

45...axb4 46. ♜xb4 ♗d8 47. ♜cc4 h5?! Black's position is very unpleasant, but this move is completely not necessary! Black weakened his position. White has an easier task in converting his advantage now.

48. ♜b5 ♜f8 49. ♗c1! Black now has problems with the h6 square.

49... ♜a6 50. ♔d2 ♜g8 [50... ♜h8 51. f4 with the same break like in the game.]



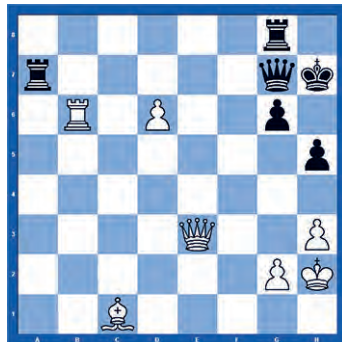
51.f4! The second concrete action. White's pieces are more active and ready to put pressure against the king.

51...♞xe4 52.♞xe4 ♞f6 53.fxe5 [53.♞b2 ♞e8 54.fxe5 ♞xe5+ 55.♞xe5+ dxe5 56.♞c4→]

53...♞xe5+ 54.♞xe5 A practical decision. White now gets a strong attack on the dark squares.

54...dxe5 55.d6 ♞a5 56.♞xb6 ♞xa4 57.♞d5 [57.♞h6+ ♞f6 58.♞g5+ ♞e6 59.♞e3 With the unpleasant threat ♞b3, and ♞b7 next. 59...♞g7 60.♞b3+ ♞f6 61.♞f3+ ♞e6 62.♞g5+- Black is not able to hold this position.]

57...♞a7 58.♞xe5+ ♞h7 59.♞g5?! Not accurate. White should play [59.♞e3 ♞g7



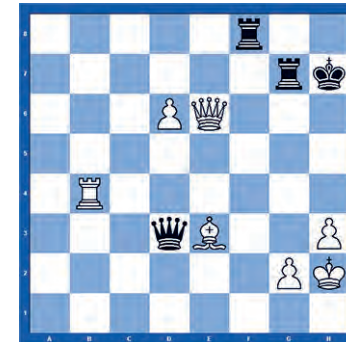
60.♞b5 with the idea of putting the queen on the b1–h7 diagonal (for example, on d3 or e4). Then, Black will have problems to avoid the ♞xh5 threat because after ♞h8, ♞b2 would come.]

59...♞f8? The decisive mistake! Black could still fight after [59...♞g7]

60.♞h6+ Now Black lost all his pawns.

60...♞g8 61.♞xg6+ ♞g7 62.♞xh5 ♞d4 63.♞g6+ ♞g7
This was Black's idea. For the pawns sacrificed, Reshevsky tries to get the initiative thanks to his active pieces, but we will see that this was the wrong decision.

64.♞e6+ ♞h7 65.♞h6+ ♞g8 66.♞e6+ ♞h7 67.♞e3 ♞h4 [67...♞d3 After this move, White has a nice winning variation. 68.♞b4



68...♞xg2+ 69.♞xg2 ♞e2+ 70.♞g3 ♞e1+ 71.♞g4 ♞xb4+ 72.♞h5 and White has a winning attack! **72...♞b5+ 73.♞g5+-]**

68.♞e5 ♞e8 69.♞f5+ ♞g8 70.♞f2 ♞c4 71.♞b2 ♞c6 72.♞c5 ♞f7 73.♞g4+ ♞g7 74.♞c4+ White's pieces are consolidated now and his position is easily winning. Tigran Petrosian, the master of strategy, showed many important ideas and plans in this game.

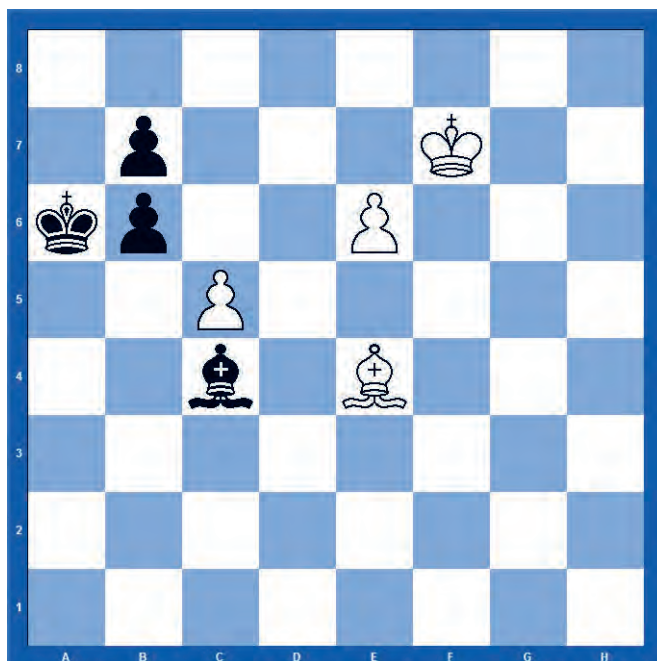
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Surprise section / study

(18) Prokes

[CEWN]

1. +-

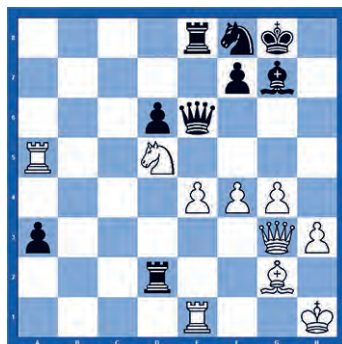


Solutions

(19) Dehlinger,A (2257) – Naiditsch,A (2706)

Neckar Open, 29.03.2013

[Solutions]



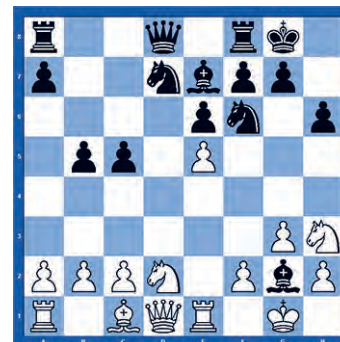
34...♖xd5!! 35.♖xd5 ♕xd5! 36.♕xa3?! [36.exd5 ♖xe1+ 37.♕xe1 a2+]

36...♕d2--+

(20) Erdos,V (2636) – Mueller,M (2241)

Neckar Open, 29.03.2013

[Solutions]



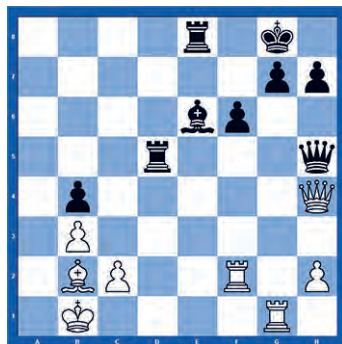
13.exf6! ♗xh3 [13...♘xf6 14.♔xg2+-]

14.fxe7 ♜xe7 15.♖h5! 1-0 [15.♖h5 ♗f5 16.♖xf5!+-]

(21) Solodovnichenko,Y (2559) – Klein,C (2430)

Neckar Open, 30.03.2013

[Solutions]



36. ♖xg7+! [36. ♛xf6?? ♜d1+]

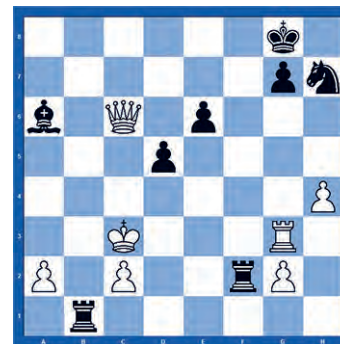
36... ♔h8 [36... ♔xg7 37. ♛xf6+ ♔g8 38. ♛g7#]

37. ♛xh5 ♜xh5 38. ♞xf6 1-0

(22) Stukopin,A (2500) – Najer,E (2634)

Moscow Championship, 31.03.2013

[Solutions]



30...d4+! **31. ♔xd4 ♜b4+** **32. ♔c3** [32. ♔e5 ♜f5+ 33. ♔d6 (33. ♔xe6 ♜f6+-) 33... ♜d4+ 34. ♔c7 ♜c4-+; 32. ♔e3 ♜e2+ 33. ♔f3 ♞b7!-+]

32... ♜c4+ **33. ♛xc4 ♞xc4** **34. ♔xc4 ♜xc2+?**

(23) Horvath,A (2509) – Czebe,A (2492)

Canberra Open, 01.04.2013

[Solutions]



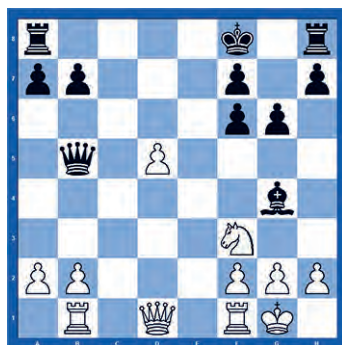
34. ♖h8+!! ♜xh8 35. ♚xf7+ ♚g7 36. ♚f5+ ♔g8 [36... ♚g6 37. ♜xe7++-]

37. ♚c8+ 1-0 [37. ♚c8+ ♔h7 38. ♚xb7+-]

(24) Agdestein,S (2555) – Hammer,J (2629)

Norwegian Open, 24.03.2013

[Solutions]

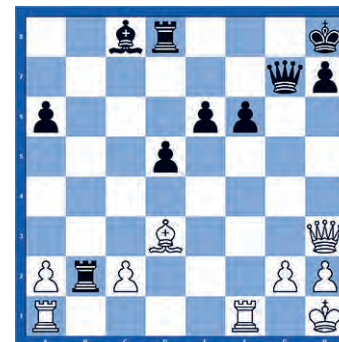


15. ♚d4! ♜xf3 16. ♚xf6 ♜g8 17. ♚xf3+-

(25) Korneev,O (2609) – Granda Zuniga,J (2634)

La Roda Open, 30.03.2013

[Solutions]



23. ♜xh7! [23. ♜xf6? e5!]

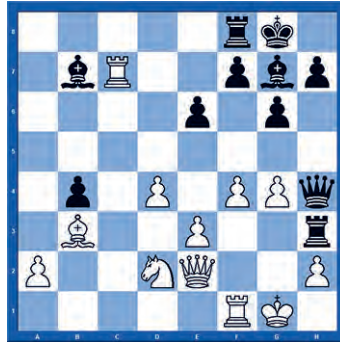
23... ♚xh7 24. ♚c3!! ♜xc2 [24... ♜xc2 25. ♚xf6+ ♚g7 26. ♚xd8++-]

25. ♚xf6+ ♔h7 26. ♚e7+ 1-0

(26) Burmakin,V (2577) – Granda Zuniga,J (2634)

La Roda Open, 31.03.2013

[Solutions]

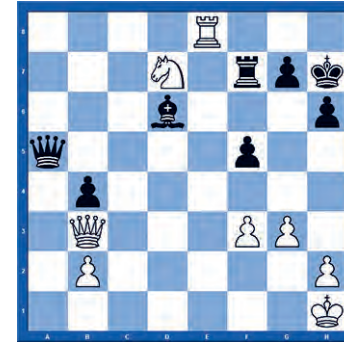


24...♖g3+! 0–1 [24...♖g3+ 25.hxg3 ♕xg3+ 26.♕g2 ♕xg2#]

(27) Pozo Vera,S (2485) – Ramirez,A (2535)

Mexican Open, 29.03.2013

[Solutions]



33...♕b5!! 0–1 [33...♕b5 34.♕xf7 (34.♔g2 ♕xd7–+) 34... ♕f1#]

(28) Almeida Saenz,A (2339) — Gonzalez Zamora,J (2527)

Mexican Open, 30.03.2013

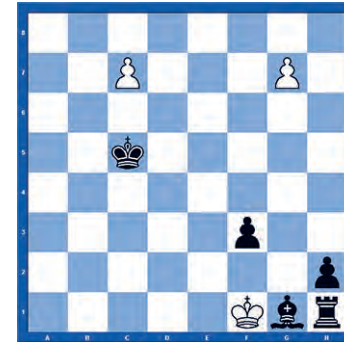
[Solutions]



21. ♘d5+!! cxd5 22. ♖xd5 ♔xb2 [22... ♕f4 23. ♕a3+!+-]
23.e5! ♕b4+ [23... ♖xg8 24. ♕xf6++-]
24. ♖d2! ♕b1+ 25. ♔e2 1-0

(29) Koranyi

[Solutions]



1.c8 ♕+ ♔b4 2. ♕c4+!! ♔xc4 [2... ♔a5?? 3. ♕c3+ ♔b5
4. ♕xf3+-]
3.g8 ♕+ ♔b4 4. ♕g2!! fxg2+ 5. ♔xg2 ♔c3 6. ♔xh1 1/2



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 60

19th of April 2013



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Editorial Preface

Some events came to an end, and a new one has begun!

The Russian Team Championship was won by the team of Saint Petersburg (Svidler, Vituigov, Dominguez, Movsesian, Efimenko, Zvjaginsev). The second place went to Malakhit Chess Club (Karjakin, Grischuk, Mamedyarov, Shirov, Bologan, Malakhov, Raizantsev, Motylev). And Yugra arrived third (Jakovenko, Leko, Korobov, Dreev, Rublevsky, Khismatulin).

In Dubai, nobody could stop Rakhmanov who won the tournament very convincingly with 7,5/9. The second place was shared by 8 guys, but it is worth mentioning the fantastic result of Ju Wenjun, a 22 years old Chinese female player who played almost at a 2700 performance!

The Grand Prix in Zug has begun with a huge line up! 12 players from the Top 20 are fighting for the trophy and also the important qualification points for the next World Chess Championship.

In the first round, we saw two decisive games. Caruana beat Radjabov (who continues his bad form) and Morozevich defeated Kasimdzhanov in a very good game. We can expect exciting and fighting chess in the next rounds!

As usual, enjoy the issue Nr 60 of CEWN!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Shirov,Alexei (2700)
— Dreev,Aleksey (2654) [B12]

20th TCh-RUS 2013 Loo RUS (6), 12.04.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

A hard fought struggle. In such games, mistakes are unavoidable...

1.e4 c6 Dreev is faithful to his favorite Caro-Kann, while Shirov is also faithful to his and goes for one of the sharpest lines against it.

2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♖f5 **4.♗f3 e6 5.♙e2** Recently, this **4.♗f3 5.♙e2** line is the most popular in the Advanced variation. Black can choose between numerous setups here. The sharpest lines are starting with **5...c5** or **5...♗e7 6.0-0 c5**, but Dreev prefers to take a calm continuation against Shirov.

5...♗e7 6.0-0 ♙g6 **7.♗bd2** ♗f5



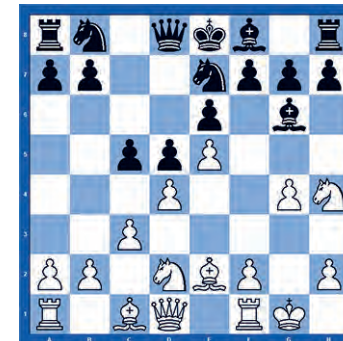
8.g4 Shirov has already played this move three times. Actually, I believe this is a bit too committing until the knight is able to retreat to e7, because Black gets quick counterplay with h5. [8.♗b3!? is the most common move and might also be the best move. White usually waits with some useful moves until Black puts his bishop on e7. Only then, he plays g4 and after the forced ♗h4 ♗xh4 ♙xh4 f4, White gets some advantage.]

8...♗e7 [On 8...♗h4 White's idea would be 9.♗xh4 ♙xh4 10.f4 f5 11.♗f3! ♙xg4+ 12.♙h1 and the queen has difficulties to leave from the cage. This is a standard motif in this line.]

9.♗h4 White takes the bishop pair, but Black gains strong counterplay against the g4 weakness.

9...c5! The typical break for Black to fight against the center. White must hold it with c3, otherwise, his position collapses.

10.c3



10...♗bc6! Dreev knows very well the subtleties of this line. Black must take back with the knight on g6 in order to be able to play h5. So, the e7 knight should not

be touched. [10...♘ec6?! happened in another game, but then White is fine after 11.♘xg6 hxg6 12.♘f3 followed by ♕e3 stabilizing the center. Black has no counterplay on the kingside and he must suffer long with his lack of space.]

11.♘xg6 Shirov improves his own game with this move. [11.♘b3 c4 12.♘d2 h5 13.g5 ♘f5 14.♘df3 ♕e7 happened in the Shirov-Jobava game, Khanty-Mansiysk 2010. Black was more than fine here, but Shirov managed to win later on.; 11.♘df3 would allow 11...♕e4! and the h4 knight gets out of the game.]

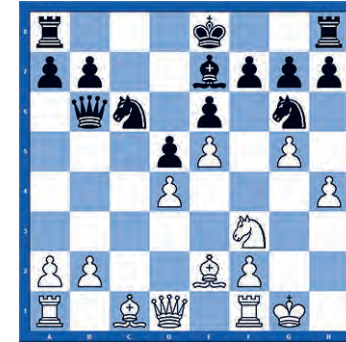
11...♘xg6! Besides the h5 pawn, Black can also undermine the center with f6.

12.♘f3 ♕e7 A useful preparation before making a decision whether to play h5 or f6.

13.g5!? A slightly anti-positional move to give up the f5 square, but on the other hand, it is a good prophylaxis against h5. [13.♕e3 could have been met by 13...cxd4 14.cxd4 h5 15.g5 ♖b6 followed by transferring the knight to f5, for instance, after ♕d8, ♘e7.]

13...♖b6 [13...h6 is not so effective here. White can simply play 14.gxh6 gxh6 15.♕e3 and ♔h1, ♖g1 in the next move. His king is safe and does not need to worry about the open g-file.]

14.h4 cxd4 15.cxd4

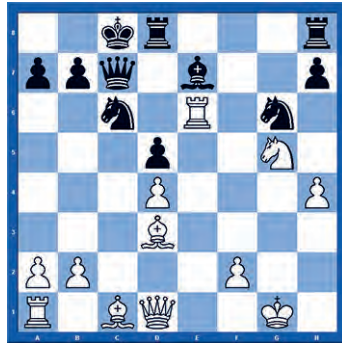


he wants. White seems to be in danger after this move, since it also removes the guard of the d4 pawn. 19. ♖xg5 0-0-0 ♣]

19. ♖xe6 White is back in the game!

19... ♖c7 Leaving from the pin, but it is too slow. [The difference to the previous line is that after 19... ♖xh4 White has 20. ♖e5! and the Black king is also unsafe. In any case, Black should have opted for this line.]

20. ♖xg5



20... ♖xd4? White gets the upper hand after this mistake. [20... ♖xh4! was the only move! It is a bit strange that Dreev missed this for the 3rd time in a row. Anyway, in this case, it was very difficult to calculate the lines precisely. 21. ♖g4 (21. ♖h6 looks strong at first sight with the multi-threats of ♖xh4, ♖g4, ♖e6 and ♖f7, but Black is alive after some strong moves. 21... ♖xg5! 22. ♖xg5 ♖dg8! It looks like this blunders a piece, but... 23. ♖g4+ ♖b8 24. ♖xh4 ♖g7! is the point and on f4, ♖xd4 wins back the bishop, while after 25. ♖g3+ ♖a8 26. f4? ♖xh6 is the key!) 21... ♖d7! The only move again. 22. ♖xh4 ♖xe6 23. ♖xe6 ♖xh4 24. ♖xd8 ♖xd8= with a balanced endgame.]

21. ♖xe7!? A good move! White wins the d4 knight after ♖g4, but the position remains unclear because of the weak White king. [However 21. ♖xg6! was even stronger. It would be interesting to know what the players had calculated here. It looks like White wins quite easily in all the lines. 21... ♖xe6 (21... hxg6 22. ♖xd4+-; 21... ♖xg5 22. ♖xg5 ♖xe6 23. ♖c1 ♖c5 24. ♖g4+ ♖b8 25. ♖f4+-) 22. ♖xe6+- White ends up with a big material advantage.]

21... ♖xe7 22. ♖g4+ ♖d7 [22... ♖b8? would run into 23. ♖f4!]

23. ♖xd4 Black needs to waste an important tempo to defend the a7 pawn.

23... ♖c6 Shirov had already foreseen his great 26th move, so he goes for the following queen maneuver/\

24. ♖f4 ♖f5 is threatened, so the next move is forced again.

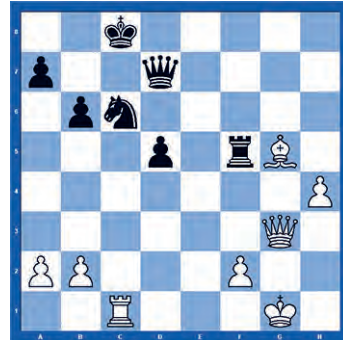
24... ♖df8 25. ♖g3 h6 Black seems to be all right as the knight cannot move because of ♖g8. However, Shirov prepared a brilliant move!

26. ♖e2!! It is not easy to find such ideas because you are always searching for ways to finally finish the development of the c1 and a1 pieces, while at the same time, your weak king worries you. Black cannot avoid ♖g4, but the game is not over...

26... hxg5 27. ♖g4 ♖f5 28. ♖xg5 Finally, the position has simplified a bit and White ended up with an extra pawn, but Black can still hope for counterplay against the weak king on g1. It also makes the advance of the h- and f-pawns more difficult.

28...♖hf8 29.♖c1 b6! Giving air to the king. Black intends to play ♔b7 next.

30.♙xf5 ♖xf5



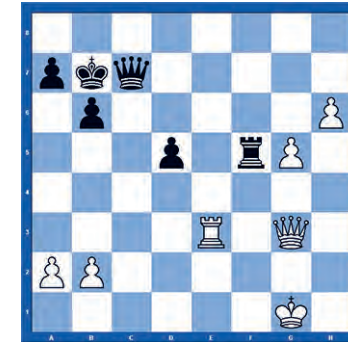
31.f4! White fortifies his bishop and is ready to push the h-pawn.

31...♔b7 32.h5 ♘d4 Black must urgently search for counterplay with the knight.

33.♖e1 Preventing ♘e2. On the other hand, ♖e7 is not a threat yet because of ♙xe7 and ♘e2. White simply wants to push h6. The bishop on g5 excellently prevents Black's counterplay.

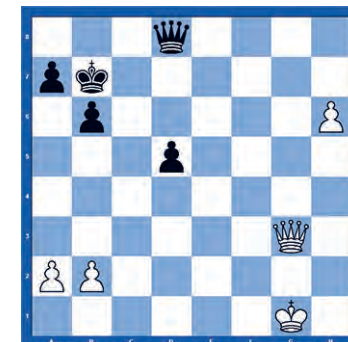
33...♘e6 34.h6 ♘xg5 35.fxg5 ♔d8! Dreev finds the only chance. Both players were in serious time trouble at this moment, after playing such a difficult middlegame. This explains the forthcoming mutual mistakes.

36.♖e5! ♔c7! 37.♖e3!



37...♔d8! Looks like a forced repetition, but White is winning...

38.♔g2?! [38.♔h4!! ♖xg5+ (38...♔xg5+ 39.♔xg5 ♖xg5+ 40.♔h2+- The rook endgame is hopeless for Black, as the h-pawn is too strong.) 39.♖g3! ♖xg3+ 40.♔xg3 White can support his h-pawn with his queen from g7, but it is very strange and surprising that Black cannot give perpetual check...



40...♔e8 41.♔g7+ ♔a6 42.h7 A human feeling dictates that this must be a perpetual, but the computer simply calculates all the lines and hides his king behind the d-pawn... 42...♔e1+ 43.♔g2 ♔e2+ 44.♔g3 ♔e3+ 45.♔h4 (Of course not 45.♔g4?? ♔g1+) 45...♔f4+ 46.♔h5 ♔f5+

47.♔h6 No more good checks for Black. White is going to the queenside now. 47...♖h3+ 48.♔g6 ♖e6+ (48...♖g4+ 49.♔f6 ♖d4+ 50.♔f7 ♖f4+ 51.♔e6+-) 49.♔g5 ♖e3+ 50.♔f6 ♖d4+ 51.♔f7+- and soon the checks are over.]

38...♖xg5? spoiling the chance to save the game. [38...♖c7! with the threat of ♖c1. White cannot win, for instance, after 39.♖g3 ♖e5 40.h7 ♖d4+ 41.♔h1 ♖f2 42.♖xf2 ♖xf2 43.h8♖ ♖xg3= and this queen endgame is a different story compared to the one examined in the 38.♖h4 line.]

39.♖g3 ♖e5 [39...♖xg3 transposes to the 38.♖h4 line.]

40.♖g7+ White starts to pursue the king and, of course, the h-pawn is still a strong “reserve”.

40...♔c6 41.♖c2+ ♔d6 White can choose between many wins from now on. Shirov converts the win easily. [41...♔b5 42.a4+ ♔a6 43.♖d3+ ♖b5 mate in the next move.]

42.♖g6+ ♖e6 [42...♔e7 43.♖c6+- Too many threats.]

43.♖h2+ ♔c5 [43...♔d7 44.♖h3+-]

44.♖xe6 ♖g8+ 45.♔f1! [Black resigned after this last precise move, since after 45.♔f1 ♖xe6 46.h7! White promotes a new queen and all the checks that Black can give are met by the countercheck on f2. 46...♖f5+ 47.♖f2+ A very tough game!]

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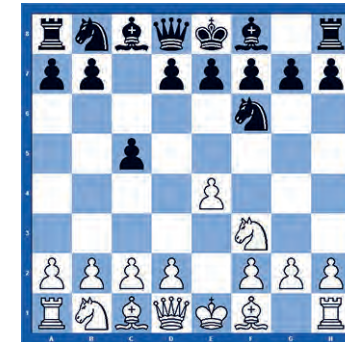
(2) Yemelin,V (2588) — Hasangatin,R (2496) [B29]

20th TCh-RUS 2013 Loo RUS (7), 13.04.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

What can be stronger than a direct attack?! We will see this once again in the furious attack put forth by Yemelin in the game from the recent Russian Team Championship.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 This tricky move was quite popular a couple of years ago. I played it myself against Leko, but lately, White found quite an easy and solid refutation.



3.e5! The best. [3.♘c3 d5 leads to quite an unclear position.]

3...♘d5 4.♘c3 forcing Black to take a hard decision.

4...♘xc3 [The other main line for Black is 4...e6 5.♘xd5 exd5 6.d4 but White has a better play here as well.]

5.dxc3 White's idea is simple, to use his big development advantage.

5...♘c6 6.♖f4 Defending the e5 pawn and planning to castle queenside.

6...♔c7 7.♔e2 e6 8.0-0-0 ♖b8?! looks like a bad move to me. Black should be very careful here in order not to get immediately in trouble. [8...b6 followed by a quick ♗b7 and queenside castle gives Black more or less a normal position. Anyhow, I would not advice anybody to go for this position.]

9.♘g5!? Very interesting move! White is provoking weaknesses in the Black pawn structure.

9...f6 [The main point of the move 9.♘g5 can be seen after 9...h6 10.♘e4! using the moment when Black cannot take on ♘xe5?. 10...♘xe5? 11.♘d6+! finishes the game. 11...♙xd6 12.♖xd6 ♔xd6 13.♙xe5 and White will take the rook on b8 next.]

10.♘f3 White has done his job, created a weakness in Black's pawn structure.

10...♙e7 11.♔e3 forcing Black to play f5.

11...f5



12.♖g1! and Yemelin plays very strongly again, by not losing any time and preparing the direct attack with g4.

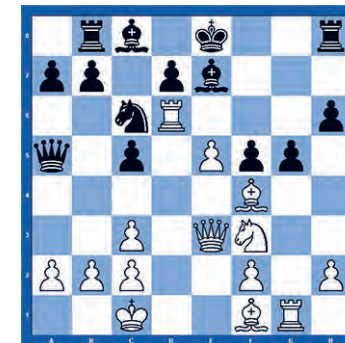
12...h6 Black is trying to stop White from playing g4 because of the g5 threat.

13.g4! Exactly! White sacrifices a piece for the attack, which is very logical if we look at the clearly undeveloped Black pieces, and especially the bishop on c8.

13...g5 14.gxf5 exf5 [It does not help to play 14...gxf4 and White plays the precise 15.♔e4! exf5 16.♔xf5 with a mating attack.]

15.♖d6 Yemelin continues in attacking mode, but maybe it was time to make a calm "killing" move. [15.♔d3! would finish the game on the spot. In case of 15...gxf4, 16.♔xf5 and Black cannot defend such a position. At 15...♖f8 16. ♙d2, White would not have any sacrificed material for the great attack—which would mean "the end" for Black.]

15...♔a5 After this, White is crushing! [More chances would give 15...gxf4 16.♔xf4 ♖f8 and even though White's attack is very strong, Black still has some chances to fight back in the game.]



16.♘g5!! Just a great move! White is walking over the Black defensive lines.

16...hxc5 17. ♖xc5 ♔xa2 It seems like Black got some counterplay, but it comes too late.

18. ♕xe7 ♘xe7 How to continue the attack?!

19.e6!! Fantastic move! Before going for ♖g7, White is opening one more line and closing the queen from a2, because it could go to f7 in some cases.

19...dxe6 20. ♖g7! The last exact calculation by Yemelin, who is sacrificing the bishop on f1 to mate the Black king.

20...♔a1+ 21. ♔d2 ♕xf1 22. ♕g5! All moves are forced.

22...♕xf2+ 23. ♔c1 Black has no other defense than to give his queen away.

23...♕e1+ 24. ♖d1 ♕xd1+ 25. ♔xd1 White got a queen for a rook and 2 pieces, which would mean a material advantage for Black, but White's attack is still not over and the Black pieces are still badly coordinated.

25...♘c6 26. ♕g6+ With checks, White brings his queen to a perfect position on f7.

26...♔d8 27. ♕f6+ ♔e8 28. ♕f7+ ♔d8 29. ♕c7+ ♔e8 30. ♕f7+ ♔d8 31.h4! Great finish move. Black cannot do anything against White's h5-h6-h7-♖g8. A really fantastic game by Yemelin!

1-0

(3) Ganguly,S (2623) – Rakhmanov,Ale (2591) [A54]

15th Dubai Open 2013 Dubai UAE (4.5), 10.04.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Rakhmanov, the eventual winner of the Dubai Open with 7.5/9 managed to win a really great attacking game against the very solid Ganguly. Let us take a look if all was as correct as it seems from the first view.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 d6 Black is trying to quickly take White out of his opening preparation.

3. ♘c3 [Often White chooses 3. ♘f3 in order not to allow Black to go for the 3...e5 line, but it is a matter of taste]

3...e5 4. ♘f3 ♘c6 Quite a rare move. Now we are getting into the KID structures with Black's knight on g6.

5.d5 ♘e7 6.e4 White has covered all the center and this looks pretty good to me.

6...♘g6 [An attempt to get back to the KID structure could lead to a worse position for Black. 6...g6 7.h3 ♕g7 8.g4 White is prepared against the main Black plan: to play 0-0, ♘d7 and f5, and that means that White is doing better here.]



7.g3! Very typical and strong, cutting the Black knight on g6.

7...♗e7 8.♕g2 0-0 9.0-0 As we can see, White got a very nice position out of the opening. Black's main idea still is to play f5, but White has quite a few options. To break through with c5 clearly remains as a main idea, but the plan with ♖e1-♗d4 and f4 could be an interesting one.

9...a5 Black is preparing against White's invasion on the queenside.

10.h3?! White is preparing the ♗e3 move, but is it really necessary?! [10.♗e1 followed by ♗d3 and White's position looks very nice.]

10...♗e8 Black's only hope is the f5 move.

11.♗e3 and I do not think there was the need for ♗e3.

11...f5 12.exf5 ♗xf5 13.♖h2 Another strange move. [In any case, White needs to bring his knight from f3 to the e4 square, so why not to do it immediately? 13.♗d2 ♗d7 14.♖h2 followed by ♗de4 and I think White should be doing a bit better. The Black knight on g6 is horribly placed.]

13...h6!? A nice move by Black with quite a deep positional idea of bringing the Black knight over h7 to g5, intending threats to the White king.

14.♖e2 White keeps his solidity.

14...♗f6 15.♗d2 b6 Blocking White's c5 move just in case, but I am not sure if it was worth losing a full tempo. Maybe 15...♗h7 directly was a better choice.

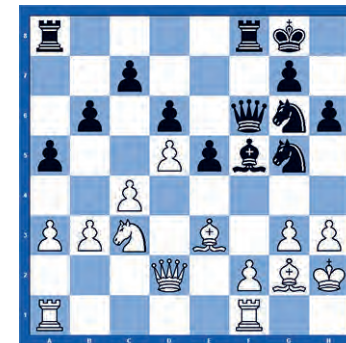
16.b3 White is preparing the main idea: to play a3, b4 and then c5. The b3 move is necessary. In case of 16.a3, a4! is strong.

16...♗h7 17.♗de4 ♗g5 Exchanging the bad e7 bishop is a good idea.

18.♗xg5 ♗xg5 19.a3 starting the main plan.

19...♖f6 It is clear that White is positionally much better, but Black still got some counter chances on the King side. Additionally, Black's pawn structure is very solid and hard to break.

20.♖d2 A solid looking move turns into a disaster! [It would not be careful to play 20.b4? ♗f4! and Black is back. 21.gxf4 exf4 Black is winning the piece back with a better position.; 20.f3! This would have been the right way to go on for White. No more tricks with ♗f4, and White just wants to play ♗e4 next. I would not have liked to be in Rakhmanov's shoes here. Probably Black still has good drawing chances, but nothing more. And still, Black has his main problem: the very bad knight on g6.]



20...♗xh3!! A really fantastic move which required a very precise and deep calculation! I guess it was like a thunder out of nowhere for Ganguly.

21.♗xh3 ♗xh3 22.♖xh3 Of course, White needs to accept the sacrifice.

22...♔f5+ 23.♔h2 The only move. [Of course, this is bad: 23.♔g2? ♘h4+! and Black has a mating attack.]

23...♔h5+ 24.♔g1 ♖f3!? Quite optimistic, but very interesting play by Black. [The easy move would have also been the correct one here. 24...♘h4! 25.f4 White has nothing better. 25...♘f3+ 26.♖xf3 ♔xf3 27.♔f2 ♔g4 and we have a very unclear position.]

25.♘e2? It is not that easy to give an advice for White, but there was no reason to get worse. A piece up is a piece up. [To a funny draw would lead 25.♔c2 ♖af8 26.♔e4 It seems like White has transferred his queen to a perfect position, but Black has the very strong 26...♖8f4! Beautiful move 27.♔xf4 ♘xf4 Black wants to give a perpetual check and White is hopeless against it. 28.♖ac1 ♘h3+ 29.♔g2 ♘f4+ with a draw.]

25...♖af8 26.♔g2 ♔g4 Black has consolidated all his pieces on the kingside, and moves like ♘h4 might be deadly for White.

27.♖h1 defending against ♘h4, but here comes the other hammer of Black.



27...♖xf2+!! Now the position is getting super forced!

28.♔xf2 ♔f3+ White is a full rook up, but has a lost position! The White king is in big danger and the uncoordinated White pieces make the attack of Black even more dangerous.

29.♔h2 [It loses on the spot to play 29.♔h3 ♖f5 followed by ♖h5 mate.]

29...♔xf2+?! Not the most precise. [Also here 29...♖f5! 30.♘g1 is the only defensive idea for White. 30...♖h5+ 31.♘h3 It seems like White got everything under control, but the “bad” knight on g6 is playing his deadly role finally. 31...♘f4!! The game is over! White cannot defend against ♖xh3 without losing all his material.]

30.♔h3 Black is repeating the position once before taking the right path.

30...♔f5+ 31.♔h2 ♔f2+ 32.♔h3 ♖f5! The same idea in a slightly different position.

33.♔d3 Ganguly tries to hold things together.

33...♖h5+ and Black is repeating twice the position again to gain some time, probably during time trouble.

34.♔g4 ♖g5+ 35.♔h3 ♖h5+ 36.♔g4 ♖g5+ 37.♔h3 e4! Strong! The Black knight is going to take a fantastic place on e5.

38.♔xe4 ♖h5+ Once again, Black is winning some time by repeating the moves before the time control.

39.♔g4 ♖g5+ 40.♔h3 ♘e5! Of course, there will be no draw. ♖h5 is coming next

41.g4 h5 Rakhmanov chooses a “pretty” way to finish White. [The easy 41...♖xg4 42.♔xg4 ♘xg4 was also winning for Black.]

42. ♖g3 hxg4+ **43.** ♔h4 And Rakhamov continues showing great tactical skills.



43... ♖h5+!! A very pretty mate!

44. ♔xh5 ♕f7+ **45.** ♔h4 ♕f6+ **46.** ♔h5 ♕h6# All in all, it was not a great game, but it had a very pretty mating attack. And we could see that, even in a “calm” position, there are many ways to get quickly in trouble.

0–1

(4) Tomashevsky, Evgeny (2722) – Yudin, Sergei (2548) [D31]

20th TCh-RUS 2013 Loo RUS (7), 13.04.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

Tomashevsky is a very deep positional player, but as the game shows, he is very strong in dynamic chess as well.

1.c4 e6 2. ♖c3 d5 **3.d4 c6**



4.e4 This is the sharpest challenge of Black's opening handling. This move is based on a pawn sacrifice for quick development.

4... ♖b4 Black tries to lead the game to more calm areas. [The main lines start after 4...dxe4 5. ♖xe4 ♖b4+ 6. ♖d2 ♕xd4 7. ♖xb4 ♕xe4+ with thousands of games in the database.]

5. ♖d2!? An interesting alternative to the main 5.cxd5 and 5.e5. White would like to transpose to the previous line after 5...dxe4 6. ♖xe4, but here Black has another option to win the d4 pawn.

5...dxc4 6. ♖xc4! White gives a pawn for quick development. The old rule says that two tempi in the opening are

worth a pawn. [After 6.♘f3 Black could simply protect his extra pawn with 6...b5!]

6...♔xd4 7.♔e2 White needs to protect his bishop before playing ♘f3, but it is not a waste of tempo, since the queen is ideally placed on e2.

7...♔d8 Otherwise, White might win some more tempi by attacking the queen. For instance, if the queen retreats to b6, it might move into ♕e3 improving the bishop, or to ♘a4 tactical tricks, when Black cannot take on d2 with check.



8.♘f3 Black has a healthy extra pawn, but he has only developed his bishop in comparison to White's five pieces.

8...♘d7 9.0-0 ♘g6 10.♖ad1 White simply activates his pieces.

10...♕e7 A sad necessity. Black had to lose another tempo to make castling possible. A useful move. White leaves from the b5-b4 tempo. [10...0-0?! would allow the tactical blow 11.e5 ♘d5 12.♘xd5 ♕xd2 13.♘f6+! This intermediate check is the point and Black is forced to weaken seriously the pawn structure in front of his king. 13...gxf6 (13...

♘xf6? 14.exf6+- wins a piece.) 14.♖xd2 with more than enough compensation for the pawn.]

11.♕b3 Black has refrained from castling for some reason during the entire game. At the beginning, he preferred to make some useful moves instead, and later on it was already too late. [11.♕g5 was also possible, trying to play more concretely. The idea is that after 11...0-0 12.♕xf6 ♕xf6 13.e5 ♕e7 and now he will focus on the attack against the king. 14.♖d4 switching the rook to g4.(Or 14.♕d3 is also dangerous.)]

11...♔c7 [On 11...0-0 Tomashevsky was probably intending to play 12.♕g5 Black has difficulties to leave from the pin along the d-file. For instance, ♔c7 runs into e5, winning the e7 bishop. 12...♘e8 13.♕f4! Any kind of exchange would just ease Black's position, so White keeps his bishop. Black has a very unpleasant position.]

12.♖fe1 Improving the last piece. We will see in many lines later on that the rook is very well placed on e1.

12...h6 Black delays castling another move. He would like to avoid the ♕g5 ideas, which we have examined in the previous lines. [12...0-0 should have been played, even though White gets a great position after 13.e5 ♘d5 14.♕c2! with many dangerous attacking possibilities. For instance, ♔e4, ♕g5, ♘e4-g5 and h4-h5.]

13.e5 White could not improve his position anymore, so it is time to go for some concrete measures.

13...♘d5



14. Rxc3! An excellent move! The different kind of threats with a double capture on d5, or Qxd5 followed by Nb5 , forces Black to take on c3. However, this also helps White to improve his rook, as it can be switched anytime to a kingside attack along the 3rd rank.

14... Nxc3 [On 14... Qd8 15. Nxd5 cxd5 16. Nd4 ! followed by Kg4 with a strong attack.]

15. Rxc3! Nb6



16. Nd4! White intends to play Kg4 or Rg3 . Castling kingside would be already equal to suicide, but staying in the center is also not a great decision for the king against such pieces.

16... Nd5 [16... Qd7 could be met by 17. Kg4 g6 18. Nxe6 ! Qxe6 19. Qxe6 fxe6 20. Qxe6 with an enormous attack, which Black can hardly hold in a practical game. 20... Nd5 21. Qxg6+ (21. Qxd5 ? falls into a trap: 21... Rd8 !) 21... Qd8 22. Rf3+ followed by Rf7 .]

17. Rg3 Tomashevsky wants to provoke the g6 weakness before taking on d5. [17. Qxd5 !? exd5 18. e6 was also good. Black can hardly hold all the threats. 18... 0-0 19. Nf5 Qxe6



20. Nxc7 ! Qxc7 21. Rg3+ and Black should sacrifice his queen, otherwise, he will get mated. 21... Qh7 ? 22. Qd3+ Qh8 23. Qc3+ f6 24. Qg6+-

17... Qb6 [17... g6 18. Qxd5 cxd5 (18... exd5 19. e6 ! has even bigger power than in the 17. Qxd5 line.) 19. Nb5 followed by Rc1 with a huge advantage.]

18. Qxd5! The right decision based on good calculation. Black has problems wherever he takes.

18... cxd5 [18... exd5 19. e6 ! is the end of the game.; 18... Qxd4 was probably the best practical chance, although it is also very bad for Black after 19. Qb3 g6 20. Qa5 ! An important move to avoid the fast Qd7 and 0-0-0. 20...

♙d7 (20...b6 21.♖d1 ♔c5 22.♙c3± also looks awful for Black. After the b6 weakness, the ♙d7 0-0-0 plans always run into ♔a6.) 21.♖d1 ♔c5 22.♙d2! and the bishop must sadly retreat to c8.]

19. ♙e3! ♙c5 [19...♔c7 leads to a spectacular finish 20.♘b5! ♔xe5 21.f4 ♔b8 Otherwise, ♘c7. 22.♖c1! Forcing Black to castle into mate. 22...0-0 The attack breaks through after (22...♙d8? 23.♖xc8! ♔xc8 24.♘d6+-) 23.♙h5! ♔h7 24.♙d4 g6 25.♙xh6+! ♔xh6 26.♖h3+ ♙h4 27.♖xh4# It would have been a pleasure to finish the game like this.]

20. ♖d1 White is ready to take on g7 again, and 0-0 still does not work because of Bxh6.

20...g6



21. ♘b5! White installs his knight to d6, from where it is pressing the f7 pawn. White can increase this by ♙f3 or ♖f3. The end is near.

21...♔f8 22. ♙xc5+ ♔xc5 23. ♘d6 d4 White can choose between various wins from now on. Tomashevsky plays the simplest one. [23...♙d7 One of the wins here is, for in-

stance 24.♖xg6 fxg6 25.♙f3+ and mate on f6 or f7 next move. 25...♔e7 26.♙f6#; 23...♔g7 is met by 24.♙f3+-]

24.b4 Trying to lure the queen from the e5 pawn in order to use the queen more effectively. [24.♙f3 was also winning, of course.]

24...♔d5 [24...♔xb4 25.♙f3+-]

25. ♖g4 White simply restores the material balance and he keeps all his advantages.

25...b5 26. ♖gxd4 ♔c6 27. ♔xb5 White does not want to mate his opponent. He is satisfied with an easy technical win.

27...♔xb5 28. ♘xb5 ♔g7 29. ♘d6 ♙d7 30. ♘xf7 A nice game! I do not recommend anybody to repeat this line arising after ♔xd4 ♔e2 with Black.

1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Miton,K (2628) – Duda,J (2497)

Polish Championship, 14.04.2013

[CEWN]

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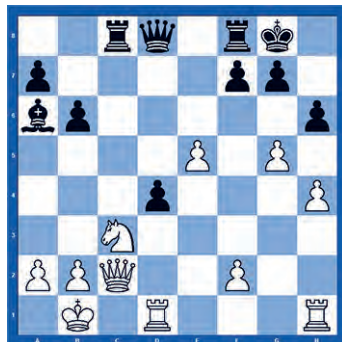


(6) Svetushkin,D (2588) – Tkachiev,V (2632)

Balagne rapid, 14.04.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

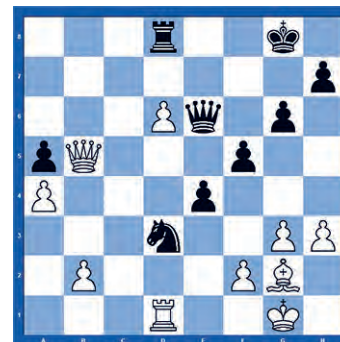


(7) Tkachiev,V (2632) – Svetushkin,D (2588)

Balagne rapid, 14.04.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

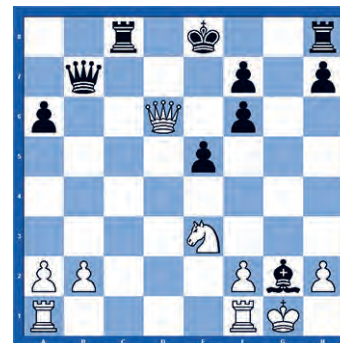


(8) Ghaem Maghami,E (2561) – Karavade,E (2389)

Dubai Open, 13.04.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Kuzubov,Y (2619) – Sachdev,T (2409)

Dubai Open, 11.04.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(11) Rakhmanov,A (2591) – Naranayan,S (2440)

Dubai Open, 09.04.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(10) Aravindh,C (2333) – Iordachescu,V (2599)

Dubai Open, 09.04.2013

[CEWN]

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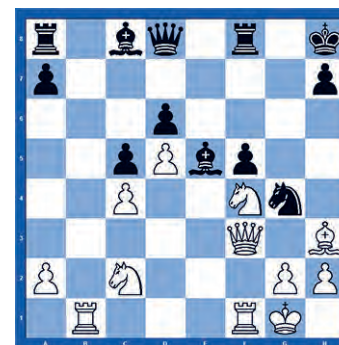


(12) Volkov,S (2593) – Vishnu,P (2470)

Dubai Open, 09.04.2013

[CEWN]

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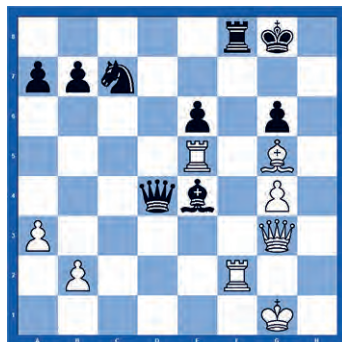


(13) Gunina,V (2510) – Gaponenko,I (2397)

Russian Women league, 10.04.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(14) Khismatullin,D (2640) – Korneev,O (2609)

Russian league, 13.04.2013

[CEWN]

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Endgame section

(15) Rublevsky,S (2688) – Yemelin,V (2588)

Russian league, 09.04.2013

[Chess Evolution]



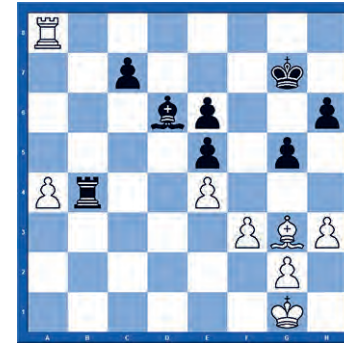
There is material equality on the board, but the White pieces are clearly dominating and Black has some weaknesses as well. Black must look for salvation in some active counterplay!

34...♖b8! Counterattacking the b4 pawn. [The passive 34...f6 allows White to regroup his bishop. 35.♗f2± followed by ♗c5, getting rid of the bishop that keeps the position together.]

35.♖xa6 ♖xb4 36.♖a8 White is ready to advance his a-pawn. It runs fast, so Black must find out something clever...

36...♔xe6 Trading the excellently placed d5 queen is completely justified even if it destroys the healthy pawn structure.

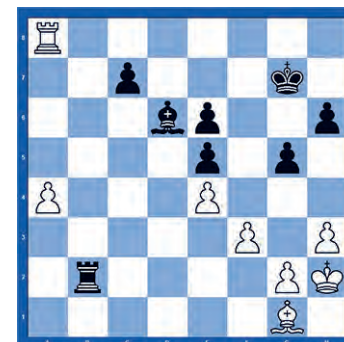
37.♔xe6 fxe6



38.♗f2! Occupying the very important g1–a7 diagonal. The bishop supports well the a-pawn and also prevents Black/♗s defensive idea to play ♗c5.

38...♖b1+ [The Black passed pawn is behind its colleague on the a-file... 38...c5 39.a5! c4 (Waiting passively does not lead to anything good for Black. 39...♖a4 40.a6 ♖a2 41.a7 ♗e7 42.♗e3+- followed by the transfer of the king to the queenside with a slow but sure win. Black can never push his c-pawn, since it allows ♖c8 and a8♔.) 40.a6 c3 41.a7 c2 42.♖c8+- White either wins the c-pawn or makes a new queen.]

39.♔h2 ♖b2 40.♗g1 White is ready to advance his a-pawn.



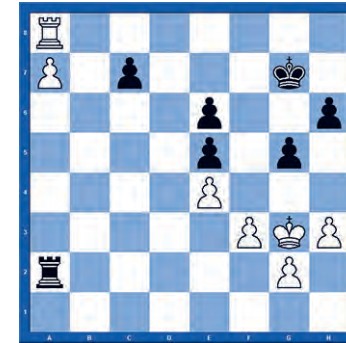
40...♖c2! Great defensive resource. Black intends to transpose into a rook endgame. White cannot avoid it.

41.a5 ♘c5! 42. ♘xc5 ♖xc5 43.a6 ♗a5 Here we are! The material is still even, but White clearly has all the right to play for a win because of the weak Black pawns. The White king has access to the pawns and in a good moment, the rook is also ready to go to e8 and collect two pawns in exchange of the a-pawn. However, the rule is true here again: all the rook endgames are drawn.

44.♔g3 The king is heading to g4-h5.

44...♖a2 Preventing ♔g4. This forces White to advance his pawn to the 7th rank. There is no other way to make progress.

45.a7! We have reached the critical position from Black's point of view. There is only one way to make a draw here, while there are three alternatives. Black can either try to prevent the king's penetration with h5; or avoid White's main idea of collecting the e-pawns with ♖e8 by playing ♔f7; or create counterplay as fast as possible by advancing the c-pawn. As we will see, only the last option saves him... [After 45.♔g4 it is important to play 45...♔g6! and White is forced to retreat with the king because of the mate threat.(45...♖xg2+? 46.♔h5 ♖g3 47.a7+- Black cannot create a mate threat.))]



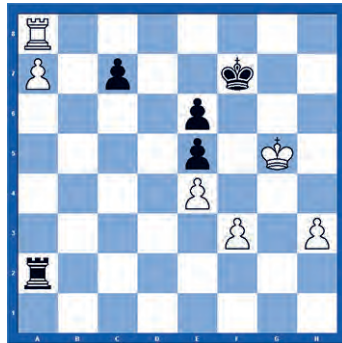
45...♔f7? [45...c5! is the right decision. 46.♖e8! This is the best chance and what Black was afraid of. (46.♔g4 It makes no sense to give up the g2 pawn. 46...♖xg2+ 47.♔h5 ♖a2 White cannot make progress here.) 46...♖xa7 47.♖xe6 White wins a pawn, but Black is in time to get his rook behind his passed pawn! 47...♖c7! 48.♖xe5 (48.♔f2 might stop the pawn, but 48...c4 49.♔e1 c3 50.♔d1 allows Black to activate his rook. 50...♖d7+ and ♖d2 next gives Black an easy draw.) 48...c4 49.♖d5 c3 50.♖d1 This time, it is White who is forced back to passivity and as we know, in rook endgames, activity is usually more important than the amount of pawns. This allows Black to save the game here. Still, it requires some precise moves. 50...♔f6 51.♔f2 ♖b7 Going for counterplay against the g2 pawn. 52.♔e3 ♖b2 53.g4 ♖h2 and Black holds the draw. An illustrative line: 54.♖d6+ ♔g7 55.♖c6 c2 56.e5 ♔f7 57.♔d3 ♖f2! 58.♖xc2 (58.♔e4 White cannot make progress here. The c2 pawn stops his plans.) 58...♖xf3+ 59.♔e4 ♖xh3=; 45...h5? is the worst for Black. Actually it just helps White because of 46.h4! gxh4+ 47.♔xh4 winning the h5 pawn. The Black rook and king cannot move because of the a7 pawn.]

46.♔g4 Black is lost as the following lines demonstrate:

46...♖xg2+ [46...c5? runs into the known motif 47.♖h8! ♖xa7 48.♖h7+-; 46...♔g7 is not the same as what we saw in the 45...c5 line. 47.g3 ♖a3 48.♖e8! ♖xa7 49.♖xe6 and Black cannot get his rook behind the c-pawn. 49...c5 50.♖c6! Depriving Black from his counterplay with ♖c7! The e5 pawn will be taken by the king later on. 50...♖a5 51.h4! gxh4 52.gxh4+- White wins. The plan is to push h5, fixing another weakness on h6, and then to play ♔f5.]

47.♔h5 ♖a2 48.♔xh6 The g5 pawn is falling as well, which creates another passed pawn for White.

48...♖a1 49.♔xg5 ♖a2



50.♔h6 Black cannot create any counterplay, he is forced to wait, while White can advance his h-pawn.

50...♖a1 51.h4 ♖a2 52.h5 ♖a1 53.♔g5 White threatens to push h6, and h7 cannot be prevented because ♔g6 allows ♖g8 and a8♔.

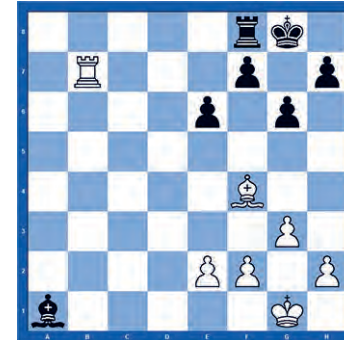
53...♔g7 54.h6+ ♔h7 55.♔f6! Black resigned because he will lose all his pawns. Another instructive rook end-game.

1-0

(16) Skatchkov,P (2485) – Vokarev,S (2454) [D90]

20th TCh-RUS 2013 Loo RUS (6), 12.04.2013

[Chess Evolution]



26...h5 This is a grandmaster game and we see a completely drawn position. Now we take a look at the result 0-1, and it is not a mistake. Let us take a look at how this happened.

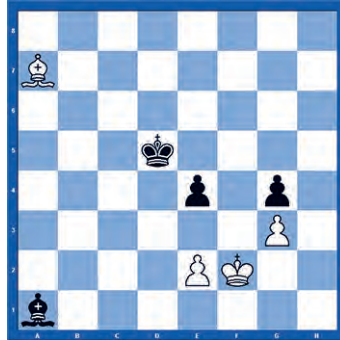
27.♖b8 The exchange of rooks brings the draw even closer.

27...♖xb8 28.♔xb8 f5 The position is a total draw. The only way to lose is to blunder a pawn or maybe even a bishop.

29.♔g2 ♔f7 30.♔f3 g5 31.h3 g4+ 32.hxg4 hxg4+ 33.♔g2 Black managed to advance his pawns a little bit, but of course, it does not matter at all — the position is still a total draw.

33...e5 34.♔a7 ♔e6 35.f3 To exchange one more pawn is not a bad idea, but now Black gets theoretical chances to win. [To a safer draw would lead 35.e3 ♔d5 36.♔f1 ♔e4 37.♔e2 and Black has no ideas to play for a win.]

35...e4 36.fxe4 fxe4 37.♔f2 ♔d5 The position is still a draw, but now it is time for White to be slightly careful. Black wants to put his bishop on d4 and get his king to d1, which would not help much of course, but at least gives some practical chances.

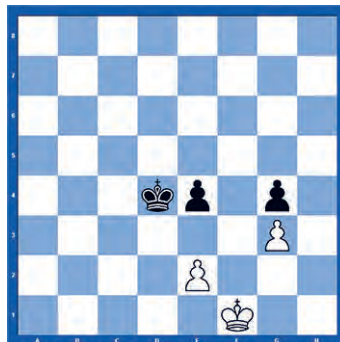


38.♙b6?? What a shocking move! White blunders the only threat Black has.

38...♙d4+! Black is using his chance!

39.♙xd4 ♔xd4 and we can suddenly see that this pawn endgame is just lost!

40.♔f1 [This does not save the game anymore. 40.♔e1 ♙e3! White is in zugzwang. 41.♔f1 ♔d2 42.♔f2 e3+ 43.♔f1 ♔d1 Black will capture the e2 pawn.]



40...e3! and the game is over. The line 41.♔e1 ♔c3 42.♔d1 ♔b2! gives Black the full point. It is really amazing! Probably, this is one of the most shocking mistakes I have ever seen on a GM level. It is never too late to blunder something "huge" in a practical game!

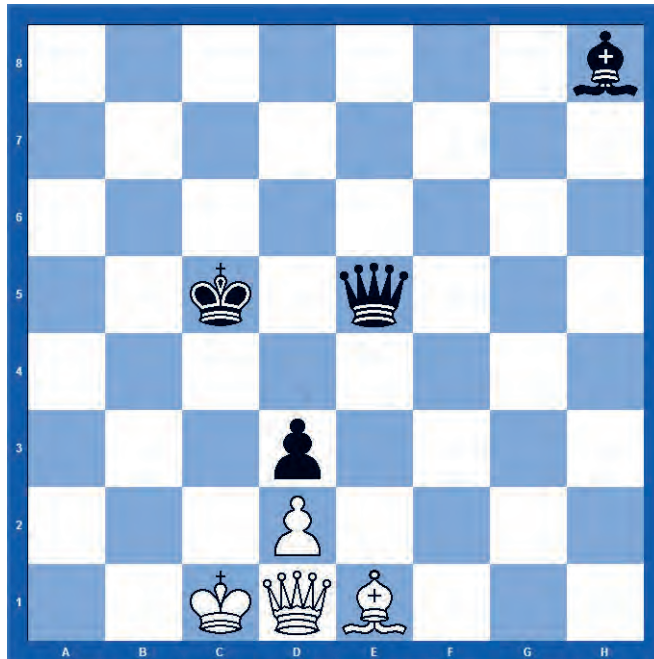
0-1

Surprise section / study

(17) Zevers

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(18) Boruchovsky,A (2445) – Smirin,I (2663)

Israeli Championship, 06.04.2013

[Solutions]



27... ♖g8!! [27... ♕xg4 28. ♕f6+ ♔f8 29. ♕h8±]

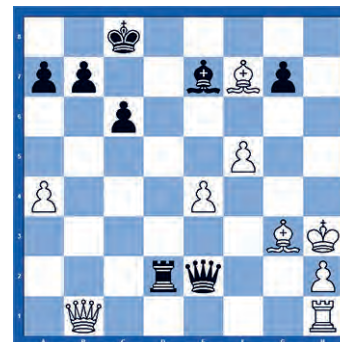
28. ♕xg8 [28. ♖xf4 ♖xg7±]

28... ♕xg4 29. ♕g7 ♕f4 30. g6 ♖f8±

(19) Rodshtein,M (2639) – Nabaty,T (2564)

Israeli Championship, 08.04.2013

[Solutions]



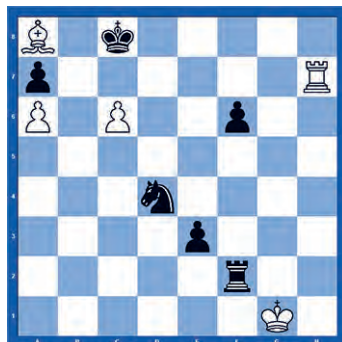
33... ♕g2+? [33... g5!! 34. fxg6 (34. ♕e6+ ♔d8–+) 34... ♕h5+–+]

34. ♔g4 ♕e2+ 1/2:1/2

(20) Zoler,D (2553) – Postny,E (2635)

Israeli Championship, 08.04.2013

[Solutions]



62...♘f3+! [62...♘e2+? 63.♔h1 ♘g3+ 64.♔g1=]

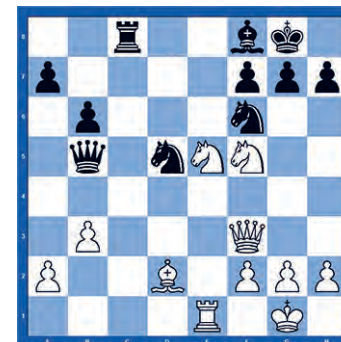
63.♔h1 ♖h2+! 64.♖xh2 ♘xh2 65.♔g2 [65.♔xh2 e2]

65...♔c7--+

(21) Kotic,D (2512) – Csonka,B (2326)

Budapest, 07.04.2013

[Solutions]



24.♘h6+! gxh6 25.♔g3+ ♔g7 [25...♔h8 26.♘xf7#]

26.♔xh6 ♘e8 27.♘d7! ♘dc7? [27...♖c1! 28.♖xc1 ♔xd7 29.h3±; 27...♔xd7 28.♖xe8+! ♖xe8 29.♔xg7#]

28.♘f6+! ♔h8 [28...♘xf6 29.♔xg7#]

29.♘xe8 ♔xh6 30.♔c3+! ♔g8 31.♘f6+ ♔h8 32.♔c2!
1-0 [32.♔c2 ♔g7 33.♔xh7+ ♔xf6 34.♔xh6+ ♔f5 35.g4+ ♔xg4 36.♖e4+ ♔f5 37.♖f4+ ♔e5 38.♔f6+ ♔d5 39.♖d4+ ♔c5 40.♔d6#]

(22) Blomqvist,E (2451) – Tikkanen,H (2574)

Swedish league, 16.03.2013

[Solutions]



18... ♖xh2+! [18...exd5? 19. ♔f5+-]

19. ♔h1! [19. ♔xh2? ♕d6+ 20.g3 ♖xc2--]

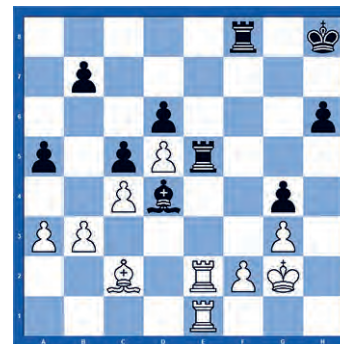
19... ♕b5? [19...exd5! 20. ♔f5+ ♕e6! 21. ♕xe6+ fxe6=]

20. ♘xf6+ ♔e7 21. ♕e4+-

(23) Agrest,E (2614) – Hillarp Persson,T (2556)

Swedish league, 17.03.2013

[Solutions]

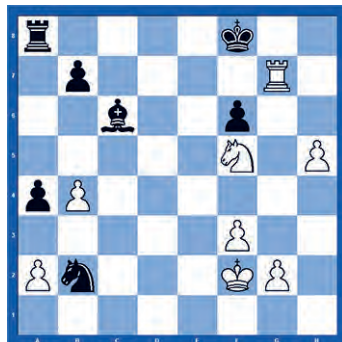


40... ♖xf2+! 41. ♖xf2 ♕xe1-- 42. ♖d2 ♕e3 43. ♖d3 ♔g7--

(24) Olszewski,M (2532) — Ghaem Maghami,E (2557)

German league, 05.04.2013

[Solutions]

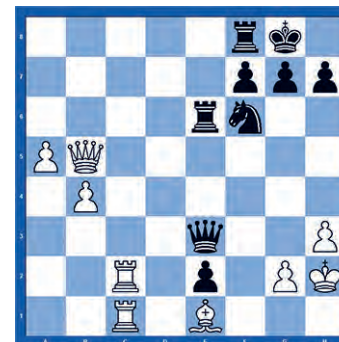


34... ♖d1+! 35. ♔e2 [35. ♔g3 ♘e3!-+]
35... ♜e8+! 36. ♔xd1 ♜e5! 37. h6 [37. g4 ♜xf5-+]
37... ♜xf5-+

(25) Bogner,S (2558) — Ragger,M (2655)

German league, 05.04.2013

[Solutions]



49... ♘g4+! 50. ♔h1 [50. hxc4 ♜h6+--+]
50... ♘f2+! 51. ♔h2 [51. ♔xf2 ♜xf2-+]
51... ♜f4+ 52. g3 ♜f3 0-1

(26) Siebrecht,S (2479) – Jones,G (2641)

German league, 07.04.2013

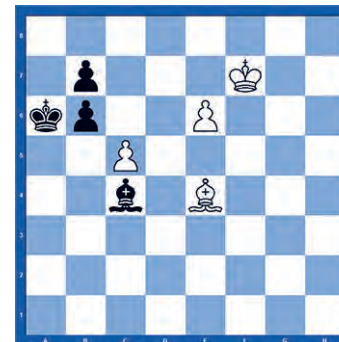
[Solutions]



26... ♖b4+! 0–1[26... ♖b4+ 27.axb4 (27.♔a1 ♖b3#) 27... axb4+ 28.♖a4 ♖xa4#]

(28) Prokes

[Solutions]



1. ♕d3!! ♕xd3 2.c6!! bxc6 3.e7 ♕e2 4.♔g6! 1–0

(27) Morozevich,A (2756) – Jakovenko,D (2734)

Russian league, 08.04.2013

[Solutions]



40. ♖d4! a5 41. ♖xb4! axb4 42. ♖xc6+-



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 61

26th of April 2013



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Editorial Preface

Great tournaments, great players and great chess — this is what we had during the last week.

The Polish Championships were won by the Socko Family (Bartosz and Monika), who dominated the male and female sections.

Alekhine Memorial:

Half of the tournament is played in Paris, half in Saint-Petersburg. A very interesting players line up makes the event even more spectacular. Next to Aronian, Kramnik and Anand, we got Ding Liren — the young talent from China — and the French Vachier-Lagrave. After 4 rounds, we can already say that probably it is not going to be the tournament of Anand or Svidler, who are at the basement of the cross table.

The tournament offers a lot of interesting games, some of them are even a bit funny. For example: Vachier-Lagrave against Ding Liren.

Fide Grand Prix in Zug:

After round 6, we got 3 leaders: Topalov, Morozevich and Ponomariov, all with 4/6. Every round is a great fighting round and it is great fun to watch the games live! In case you can open a small window during your work time, don't miss it :).

Capablanca Memorial:

The traditional tournament in Cuba is on the run as well, but things are more peaceful here. During the first 3 rounds we could see only one decisive game between

Almasi-Harikrishna in favor of the Hungarian, the rest of the games ended in a draw.

Chinese Championship:

The best Chinese players (except Ding Liren, who is playing at the Alekhine Memorial, and Wang Hao, who is not participating in the event) are fighting for the title. Wang Yue is the clear leader with a great score of 6/8.

Have fun watching the games and we hope to bring you closer to some of the most interesting ones!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Ding Liren (2707) – Aronian, L (2809) [D45]

Paris/St Petersburg FRA/RUS Paris/St Petersburg FRA/RUS (1), 21.04.2013

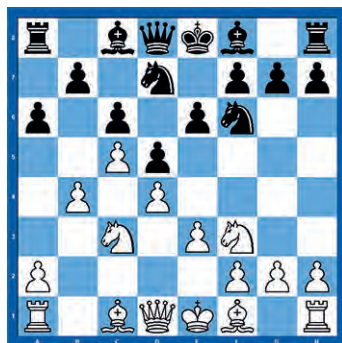
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We will see a very high level game with really great play by Ding Liren, a 20 years old super talent from China, who, for some reason, is not really well-known in Europe. However, I guess that very soon he will be more visible in top level Round Robins.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 a6 This time we see a Slav with 4...a6, a very popular opening.

5.e3 e6 6.c5 One of the most critical lines.

6...♘bd7 7.b4 The idea of White is simple, to hold the e3-d4-c5 pawn structure, which gives him a clear space advantage. [7.♙c2 was played in the match Gelfand-Anand.]



7...b6 A very usual move for Black with the main plan of developing the bishop from c8 quickly. It will go to a6 and will be exchanged.

8.♙b2 a5 9.a3 ♙e7 Aronian himself played this position against his countryman Akopian.

10.♙d3 0-0 11.0-0 ♙a6! Strong and correct play, Black should exchange the light-squared bishop. Akopian played here 11...♙c7, and after 12.♙e2!, he got quickly into a forced position.

12.♘e1 White is transferring the knight from the f3 square to a much better position on d3, in case of ♙xd3.

12...♙c4? I think this is clearly an over optimistic move from Aronian. [A much more solid way of play would have been 12...♙c7 13.♙e2 It is hard to find a better move for White. 13...♙xd3 14.♘xd3 ♙b7 and if White is better, his advantage is minimal.]

13.♙xc4! No fear shown by Ding Liren against World's Nr 2. They are going into complications.

13...dxc4 14.♙e2! Another good move! White is trying to stabilize before starting the action in the center with e4. [Too hurried would have been 14.e4?! axb4 15.axb4 bxc5 16.bxc5 e5! would crush all the White center.]

14...♖b8 It is hard to give an advice for Black... [Maybe an attempt could have been to get play on the a-file. 14...axb4 15.axb4 ♖xa1 16.♙xa1 ♙a8 but here White seems to be doing better as well. 17.♘c2 ♙a6 Avoiding having to play b5, which can be important, because Black keeps the possibility of playing e5 in the future. 18.f4! Stopping Black even from dreaming about the e5 move. White's position seems to be better.]



15. ♖a2 A creative move with the idea of forcing Black to finally play b5. [I think that the simple 15. ♘f3 would have done it as well.]

15...b5 The b5 move has been done, so now it is time to play in the center.

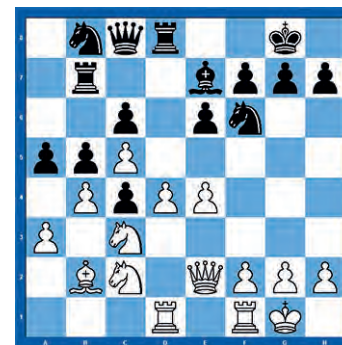
16.e4 Now it is clear that White is rolling.

16...♖b7 Aronian transports his rook to d7, but I am not sure if this was really a good idea. Maybe it was time to admit the mistake and play 16...♖a8 back.

17. ♘c2 ♘b8 White has a huge amount of good moves!

18. ♖aa1 Ding Liren decides to go for some play in the center. [An attempt to crush Black on the spot. 18.a4 axb4 19. ♘xb4 would lead only to an unclear position after 19... ♙xd4! No fear. 20.e5 We are in deep complications.]

18...♙c8 19. ♖ad1 ♖d8



20. ♙c1! Before start ing the final action, White is taking his time to put his pieces on better positions.

20...♘a6 21. ♙f4 ♖bd7 22.h3 Ding continues with his positional play. [Another option for White could have been to play 22.bxa5 An ugly looking move, but the idea of 22... ♙a8 23. ♘a2! looks strong. The White knight on b4 will take a perfect position.]

22...♘e8 Black had nothing better than just keep on waiting... As we can see, White is already much better.

23. ♙e3 [23.bxa5 with the same idea as before, ♘a2-♘b4.]

23...♙f6 provoking White to play e5.

24.e5 I am not sure if this was the best option for White. Now Black is gaining the very important d5 square.

24...♙e7 25. ♘e4 White gave up the d5 square but got the one on d6 for it.

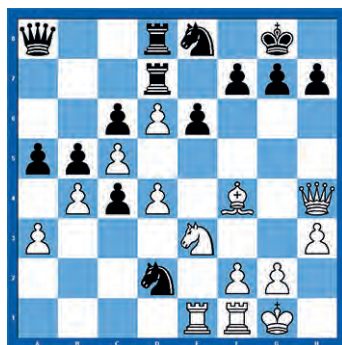
25...♘ac7 26. ♘d6 ♙a8 Suddenly, Black is very quick on the queenside. The next moves are ♘d5-♖a7 and the a-file belongs to Black.

27. ♔g3 ♘d5 28. ♘e3!? I think this was a good move by White. It is clear that with such a huge space advantage, he should be trying to play for mate.

28... ♘c3 29. ♖de1 ♙xd6 It seems like White has blundered an exchange, but that is not the case!

30. exd6 ♘e4 It is hard to find a better move for Black. Even though it is a forced line, it is probably just lost.

31. ♔h4 ♘d2 and, of course, Ding found



32. ♘d5! and the knight on d2 is under attack.

32... ♘xf1 [32... exd5 33. ♙xd2 would just lead to a winning position for White.]

33. ♘b6 ♔a7 34. ♖xf1 Black is an exchange up, but I think it is clear that White is doing better. The monster pawn on d6 and the knight on b6 are giving Black hard times. Plus it is very hard to find a playable plan for the next moves...

34... ♘f6 Very logical, the black knight is going to d5. [34... axb4 35. axb4 and the next Black's move is still unclear...]

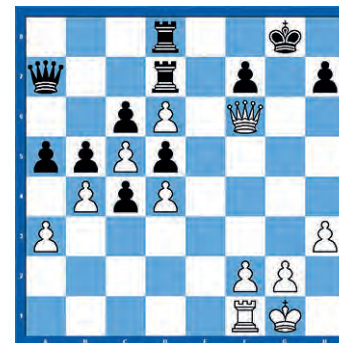
35. ♙e5! Ding continues playing a fantastic game.

35... ♘d5 What else?!

36. ♘xd5 exd5 Is Black finally safe?

37. ♙xg7!! No, Black is lost!

37... ♔xg7 38. ♔g5+ ♔f8 39. ♔f6 ♔g8 40. ♔g5+ ♔f8 41. ♔f6 ♔g8 Ding is repeating moves before the time control, and playing the correct



42. ♖e1! White just wants to give a mate by playing ♖e3-♖g3 or ♖e5-♖g5, and Black got no defense against it.

42... axb4 [It does not help to play 42... h6 43. ♖e3 ♔h7 Black managed to avoid ♖g3, but now White got a new winning idea. 44. ♖e7! The f7 pawn is the new target. 44... ♖f8 45. ♔f5+ and the rook on d7 is falling.]

43. ♖e5 A nice finishing move.

43... h6 44. ♖h5 Ding Liren, cool until the end.

44... ♔xa3 45. ♔xh6 The mate on h8 is a serious threat :).

45... f6 46. ♔xf6 A really fantastic game by the very talented Chinese.

1-0

(2) Kramnik,Vladimir (2801) — Vitiugov,Nikita (2712) [A07]

Paris/St Petersburg FRA/RUS Paris/St Petersburg FRA/RUS
(1), 21.04.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Kramnik continued to show his great form and made practically a full point „out of nothing“. Somehow, in general, Kramnik manages to win a lot of games against his countrymen. Now Vitiugov, at the Candidates, Grischuk and Svidler.. .

1.♘f3 d5 2.g3 c6 From time to time, Kramnik likes to play the Reti opening and he does it quite successfully. As we remember, during the Candidates, he managed to get a big advantage against Aronian.

3.♙g2 ♙g4 The line with 3...♙g4 is one of the most playable answers for Black currently.

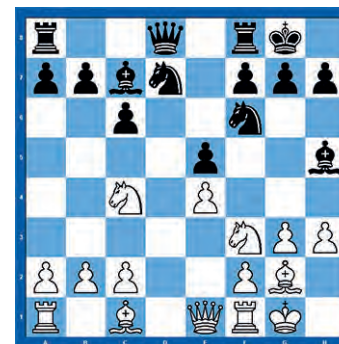
4.0-0 ♘d7 5.d3 ♘gf6 As we can see, Black does not hurry with e6 in order to have an immediate e7-e5 in the pocket.

6.♚e1 Very typical play.

6...e5 7.e4 dxe4 8.dxe4 ♙d6!? Of course, this is all well known, but anyway it is a nice move. Black is taking his bishop to c7, from where it defends the pawn on e5 and, at the same time, can become active on the b5 square.

9.♘bd2 0-0 10.h3 ♙h5 Of course, Black is not giving his bishop away...

11.♘c4 ♙c7



12.a4 securing White's knight position on c4.

12...♖e8?! I am not sure whether this move just loses a tempo. In general, the biggest problem for Black is his bishop on h5. If Black is on time to move the knight from f6 and play f6-♙f7, he is at least doing fine. For White, it could be a typical plan to play ♙e3-♘fd2 and f3!, followed by ♖f2 and ♙f1, leaving the Black bishop out of play on h5.

13.♘h4 The White knight is going to f5 — clearly a nice place to be.

13...♘c5 A possible move, but maybe White is doing a bit better after this. [More often, Black chooses a different square for his knight. 13...♘b6 The exchange of knights is clearly good for Black. 14.♘a5 ♚b8 and Black wants to play ♘bd7 next.]

14.♘f5 ♘e6 15.♙e3 White wants to play ♖d1 followed by ♘d6.

15...♘f4 A very spectacular move with no great effect. [15...♚b8 would have been a more solid move for Black, even though I think White is doing a bit better.]

16.f3! Cool and strong! As we can see, White is slowly reaching the main goal of the opening: to leave the bad

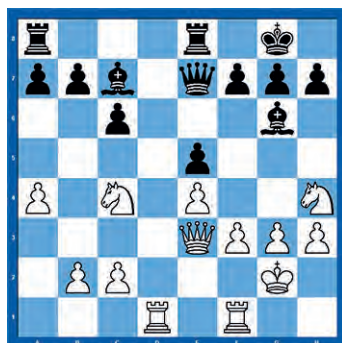
bishop on h5 out of the game. [Of course not 16.gxf4 exf4! and Black's position is huge!]

16...♘xg2 17.♔xg2 ♕g6 18.♖d1 ♞d5 Black continues playing inventively, and what else is left?! Clearly, it is not an option to let the White knight jump to d6.

19.♞h4 A solid move by Kramnik. [19.exd5 This would lead to a not so clear position: 19...♕xf5 20.dxc6 (20.d6 ♕b6 and probably White should be better here, but the position is pretty complicated.) 20...♔c8 Black's bishop pair should be enough compensation for a pawn.]

19...♞xe3+ 20.♔xe3 Who is stronger, the white knights or the black bishops?! The answer is quite simple: of course, the knights. The bishop on g6 is still very bad, White controls the d-file and the queen + knight combo is dangerous.

20...♔e7



21.♔b3! White is making sure that Black will not bring out the bishop from g6 for quite some time, and is attacking the very important b7 pawn, which holds the Black structure together.

21...♖ab8 [21...b6 22.♞e3±]

22.♖f2 Why not to double on the d-file?

22...♖ed8?! looks very logical, but I think that after 22...♖ed8?!, White's advantage becomes clearer. [Maybe an attempt to change the dynamics of the game would work now. 22...♔e6 23.♖fd2 b5!? with quite good chances to escape.]

23.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 24.♖d2 The d-file belongs to White.

24...♕c7 25.♖d3 ♔e6 26.♔b4 A tricky move with the idea of ♔d2 and ♖d7 in the future.

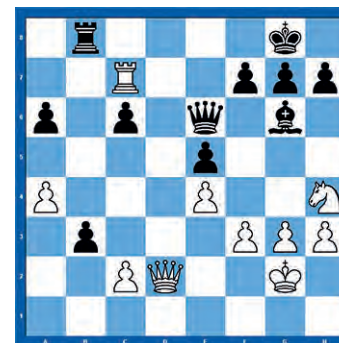
26...b6?! [Finally, Black managed to play f6 and I think that such a move is too hard to miss. 26...f6 27.♞xg6 hxg6 28.♞e3 with a minimal advantage for White.]

27.b3 a6?! This move already puts Black in big trouble. [27...♖d8! and Black is simply worse.]

28.♔d2! Using the right moment.

28...b5 29.♖d7 That is the key idea of 28.♔d2. Black is not in time to push out the White knight from c4 in order to free the b6 square for the bishop.

29...bxc4 30.♖xc7 cxb3



31. ♖b7! Probably Vitiugov missed this move when he played 27...a6?!.

31... ♙c8 32. ♖xb3 ♜xb3 33.cxb3 White's advantage here is quite serious! He has a better pawn structure, a more active queen, and the Q+N combination leaves Black with very slim chances.

33...f6 Finally.

34. ♙d6 ♙f7 It is hard to give Black an advice. White's plan is easy, to put the pawns on b4-a5 and get the knight out from h4. [34... ♙f7 35. ♘f5]

35.g4! Very strong move. White wants to play ♙g3-♘g2-♘e3 leaving the poor bishop on g6 out of the game again.

35... ♙e8 36. ♙g3 ♙b7 37.b4 ♙c8 38.a5 White continues to improve his position where Black has nothing better to do than just keep on waiting.

38... ♙f7 39. ♘g2 and the White knight is coming into the game with crucial effect.

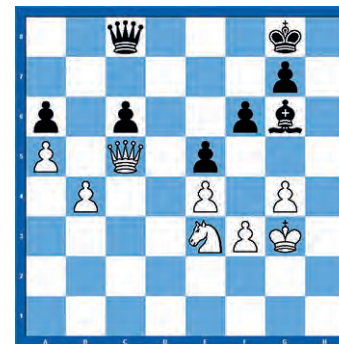
39...h5 40. ♘e3 hxg4 41.hxg4 The time trouble is over and it is time to take a fresh look at the position. From Vitiugov's point of view, things look pretty bad. The main mission did not go too well, the bishop on g6 is still out of play, and the pawn on a6 is a potential target for the White queen and knight. Another plan for White could be just to play ♙c5, followed by ♘c4. All in all, things are looking pretty dark for Vitiugov.

41... ♙e6 This almost loses by force now, and Kramnik shows us why!

42. ♙d3! Pushing the Black queen back „home“.

42... ♙c8 43. ♙c4+ White puts his queen on the perfect square on c5 via some checks.

43... ♙f8 44. ♙c5+ ♙g8 and the final move



45.b5! The game is over! Black cannot stop White's a-pawn from queening.

45...axb5 46. ♙b6 ♙f8 47.a6 ♙b4 It is too late for any active play...

48.a7 ♙e1+ 49. ♙g2 ♙d2+ 50. ♙g1 At 50... ♙e1, 51. ♘f1 finishes Black's suffering. All in all, a great positional win for Kramnik and a slightly „too respectful“ play from Vitiugov.

1-0

**(3) Svidler,Peter (2747)
— Gelfand,Boris (2739) [B30]**

Paris/St Petersburg FRA/RUS Paris/St Petersburg FRA/RUS
(1), 21.04.2013

[Balogh Csaba]

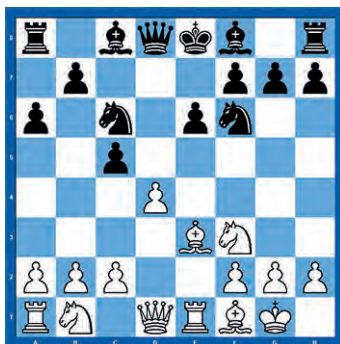
We will see a deep preparation by Boris Gelfand, who improved on his own game against Carlsen on the Candidates tournament.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 White avoids the Sveshnikov defense.

3...e6 4.0–0 ♘ge7 5.♖e1 This is the new fashion to play with White against the 3...e6 setup.

5...a6 6.♙f1 d5 7.exd5 ♘xd5 8.d4 ♘f6 Nothing new so far.

9.♙e3



9...♙e7 This is the deviation, but it is not a novelty yet. [9...cxd4 was played in the Carlsen-Gelfand game, which we analyzed in the 58th CEWN.]

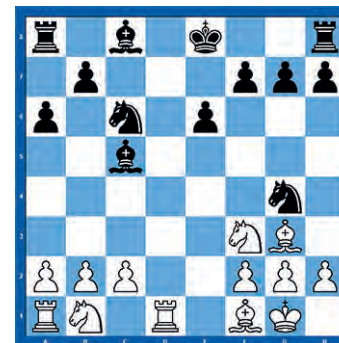
10.dxc5 Svidler goes for the most concrete test of the move and grabs the pawn. [White has an alternative to

play for a small advantage with 10.c4 cxd4 (The tactical point is that 10...♘g4 does not work here because of 11.d5! ♘xe3 12.♖xe3 and Black has difficulties.) 11.♘xd4 ♙d7 12.♘c3 and we get the same slightly superior pawn structure as in the Carlsen-Gelfand game.]

10...♙xd1 11.♖xd1 ♘g4! Black uses the standard method of winning back the pawn. He wins an important tempo by attacking the f2 pawn. [11...♘d5 is less accurate. 12.♙d2 ♙xc5 White gets an edge after 13.c4! ♘f6 14.♘c3 0–0 White might create a hole on b6 for his knight by playing 15.♘a4! ♙a7 16.♙e3! ♙xe3 17.fxe3±]

12.♙f4 ♙xc5 White is forced to waste a tempo for the defense of the f2 pawn.

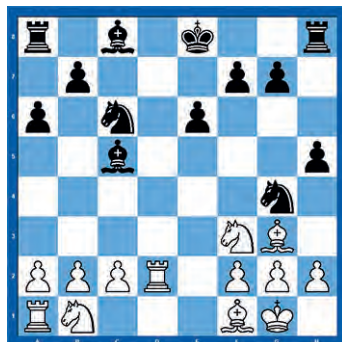
13.♙g3



13...h5! An excellent move! Black must continue playing concrete chess, otherwise, White will simply build up an initiative. The threat is h4, which is not easy to parry. [After the „handy“ 13...0–0 14.♘bd2 with the idea of ♘e4, Black is forced to prevent it by 14...♘f6 15.c3!± followed by b4, a4 and ♘c4, with a small but stable advantage.]

14.♖d2 Overprotecting the f2 square. [On 14.h3 Black might play again 14...h4! with similar ideas to the ones in

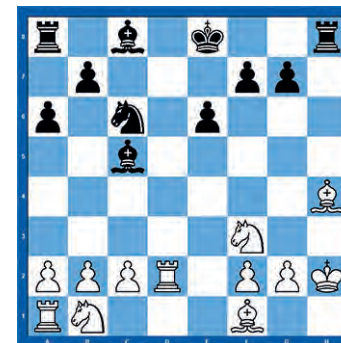
the game. 15. ♖xh4 (15. ♖xh4 runs into 15... ♖xh4! 16. hxg4 (16. ♖xh4? ♖xf2+ 17. ♖h1 ♖e3!-+ followed by taking either on h4 or on f1.) 16... ♖xg4 Black has no problems after taking the strong dark-squared bishop.) 15... ♖xf2! 16. ♖xf2 ♖xf2+ 17. ♖xf2 ♖xh4= The simplifications clearly favored Black and he does not need to worry anymore about staying worse.; 14.h4?! is a huge positional mistake. The g4 knight cannot be kicked out anymore. Black can calmly play 14...e5 since White cannot grab the pawn with h3, ♖f6 and ♖xe5 anymore.]



14...h4! Gelfand is still following his preparation and plays the most concrete moves.

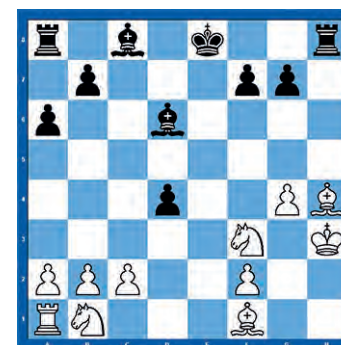
15. ♖xh4 [The only way to fight for an advantage is 15. ♖d6!? although after 15... ♖xd6 (15... ♖a7 16. ♖c3) 16. ♖xd6 ♖e7 17. ♖d2 ♖ge5 18. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 19. ♖c3 I do not believe this is too much for White, however, Black still needs to make some precise moves to hold.; 15. ♖xh4 is met with the same motif as in the game. 15... ♖xh2! 16. ♖xh2 ♖e7 Black wins back the piece and equalizes completely.]

15... ♖xh2! 16. ♖xh2



16... ♖d4!! This was the whole point of the h4- ♖xh2 combination. By removing the guide on f3, Black wins back the sacrificed material.

17. ♖xd4 [White might try to keep the material with 17. ♖h3 e5+ 18. g4 ♖e7! Black creates many threats by preventing ♖d8. (18... ♖xf3?? does not work obviously. 19. ♖d8#) 19. ♖xd4 exd4 20. ♖g3 ♖d6+ 21. ♖g2 (21. ♖h3? is refuted in a nice way:



21...g5! 22. ♖xg5 f5!! opening the diagonals on the king. The h4 bishop is in danger. And on 23.f3 ♖f4!-+ is the point, and the knight is suddenly trapped on g5.) 21... ♖xg4 Black is fine!; 17. ♖xd4 ♖xh4+ 18. ♖g3 ♖xd4 would be already slightly better for Black because of the pair of bishops.]

17... ♖xd4 White is still ahead materially, but the b2 and f2 pawns are hanging and the pin on the h-file is still very annoying.

18. ♘bd2 g5 [Black could have already started to fight for an advantage by playing 18... ♖xf2 19.g3 f6 20.♔g2 ♖c5 Black has a pawn and a rook for the two minor pieces, but he threatens to trap the bishop with g5. This forces White to create another weakness 21.g4 e5! and the c8 bishop joins to the game. Only Black can be better.]

19.g3 Threatening with ♘xd4 and ♘g5. The following couple of moves are forced... [19.♔g1 leads to equality after 19... ♖xh4 20.♘xh4 gxh4=]

19... ♖xb2 [19...gxh4? 20.♘xd4 hxg3+ 21.♔xg3± White would be ahead in material!]

20. ♖b1 ♖f6 21. ♘e4! gxh4 [21... ♖e7? 22.♘exg5]

22. ♘xf6+ ♔e7 23. ♘e4 hxg3+ 24. ♔xg3



24...b5 The complications are over. Probably this was also the end of Gelfand's preparation. The material is more or less balanced. White needs to get rid of the c2 weakness, but this leads to further exchanges. The draw soon becomes inevitable.

25.c4 ♖b7 White needs to be careful because Black's heavy pieces are coming against the naked king, but actually, it just looks scary and there are no real threats.

26. ♔f4! ♖h5 Trying to create some new threats. For instance, ♖f5, followed by ♖xf3 and f5, but Svidler calmly holds everything together.

27. ♖e2! ♖c8 [27... ♖f5+ 28.♔e3 Black cannot increase the pressure.]

28.cxb5 axb5 29. ♖xb5 ♖xb5 30. ♖xb5 ♖c2 Black wins back the pawn.

31. ♘d4 [31.a4 also leads to a draw, although it is not advisable to give Black a couple of connected passed pawns. 31... ♖xe4 32.♔xe4 ♖xf2 33.a5 ♖a2 34.a6 ♔d6 and the king is heading to b6.]

31... ♖xa2 32.f3 ♖xe4 33.fxe4 Everything is clear now! The following moves are only due to the no draw offers rule before move 40.

33... ♔f6 34.e5+ ♔g7 35. ♘f3 ♖a5 36. ♖d3 f6 37.exf6+ ♔xf6 38. ♔e3 ♖a3 39. ♔e4 ♖a4+ 40. ♔e3 ♖a3 41. ♔e4
A good game, which gives us a closer look at how deeply everything is analyzed for the top players. This was just a sideline of a sideline, but still, Gelfand played everything instantly until the 24th move. A good presentation to understand the very high percentage of draws on the highest level. All the players are just extremely well prepared and when the game finally starts (on the 24th move here), it is already too late to create some action...

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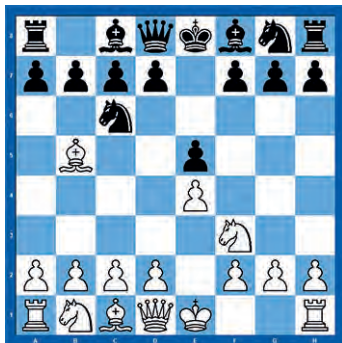
(4) Caruana,Fabiano (2772)
— Radjabov,Teimour (2793) [C63]

Zug SUI Zug SUI (1.3), 18.04.2013

[Balogh Csaba]

A great preparation by Caruana against Radjabov's pet line, the Jaenisch Gambit. It seems to cause real problems for Black. White got a better position and succeeded to convert it with a nice technique.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5



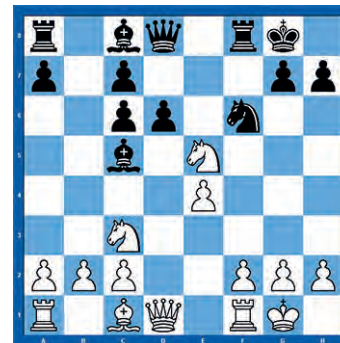
3...f5 This is the Jaenisch Gambit. Recently it enjoys big popularity mainly because of the efforts by Radjabov. In many lines, Black sacrifices a pawn and aims for some kind of counterplay mostly with the bishop pair.

4.d3 [4.♘c3 is the main line, but the text was also always considered a decent attempt for White.]

4...fxe4 5.dxe4 ♘f6 6.0-0 ♙c5 7.♙xc6 This is the first small surprise. [The two main moves are 7.♘c3; and 7.♙d3]

7...bxc6 8.♘xe5 0-0 This is still just the beginning of the line. So far, it was considered to be fine for Black, he gets adequate compensation for the pawn in all the lines...

9.♘c3 d6

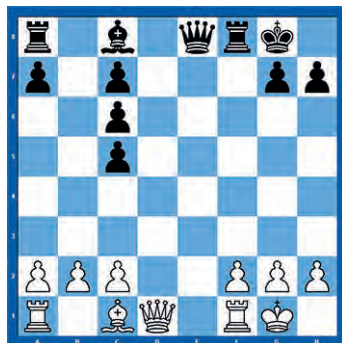


10.♘a4!! This is the novelty, which seems to cause real problems for Black... [After the greedy 10.♘xc6 ♙e8 11.♘d4 ♘xe4 12.♘xe4 ♙xe4 Black has a fantastic compensation with the bishops. ♙b7 is coming next and the king is vulnerable.; 10.♘d3 happened in previous games. 10...♙d4 11.♘e2 ♙b6 12.♙g5 ♙e8 13.♙xf6 ♖xf6 14.♘g3 ♙f7 We are following the Anand-Carlsen game from 2009, which was basically the last high-level game with 7.♙xc6. Black got a great attacking position in this game after 15.b3 in order to play c4 after ♙a6, which would have created big problems against the f2 square. 15...♙e6 16.♙d2 ♖f8 17.♖ae1 ♖h6! with a dangerous attack. A possible attacking idea is ♙f6-h4, when h3 could be met by ♙xh3. Anand soon got into trouble, but later on, he managed to save the game.]

10...♙e8 This looks like the critical move. [Black can restore the material balance by playing 10...♙xf2+ 11.♖xf2 dxe5 but he ends up in a horrible endgame after 12.♙xd8 ♖xd8 13.♙g5 ♖d6 14.♙xf6 gxf6 15.♘c5 A typical endgame with a good knight versus a bad bishop, which is mainly caused by the damaged queenside pawn structure. The f6 pawn might get also into some trouble later on.]

11. ♖d3 ♜xe4 Black enters into an ugly position, but there probably was nothing better. [11... ♗g4 12. ♕e1 ♗d4 White manages to get rid of the bishop pair after 13.c3 ♗b6 14. ♖xb6 axb6 15.f3!± and White seems to be a clear pawn up.]

12. ♖axc5 ♜xc5 **13.** ♖xc5 dxc5 Basically, we ended up in this position by force after 10. ♖a4. The material is balanced, but of course, we cannot count the tripled pawns on the c-file as real pawns, so White is basically a clear pawn up on the kingside. Black can hope for counterplay with the opposite colored bishops, but as we will see, White is able to neutralize the activity with some good moves.

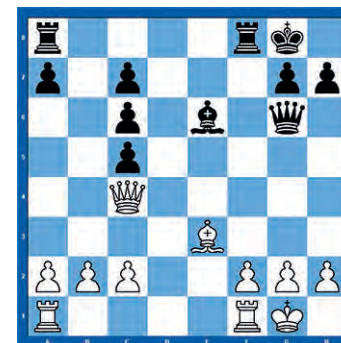


14. ♗e3 ♖g6 Black immediately tries to get counterplay with ♗h3. [After 14...c4 White can, for instance, play 15. ♕d4 ♗e6 16. ♕c3 with a nice advantage. Similar things happened later on in the game.]

15. ♕d3?! I believe this is an inaccuracy, which gives Black some tempi. [15. ♗xc5? is obviously a blunder. 15... ♗h3!; 15. ♕d2! should have been played, followed by f3, and White is at least one tempo ahead compared to the game... 15... ♗h3 16.f3 ♖ad8 17. ♕f2± Keeping everything safe and the pawns start to hang.]

15... ♗f5! In my opinion, Black cleverly keeps the queens on the board. [The endgame is very unpleasant for Black. 15... ♕xd3 16.cxd3 ♖d8 17. ♖fc1 ♖xd3 18. ♖xc5 Black managed to get rid of one c-pawn, but there are still three weaknesses left 18... ♗d7 19. ♖a5 a6 20. ♖c1± White has a huge advantage. Black has no moves, while White has many ways to improve his position. For instance, h4-♖h2, ♖c4-a4, ♗f4 or ♖c4-b4-b7. It is very difficult to defend against all of them.]

16. ♕c4+ ♗e6



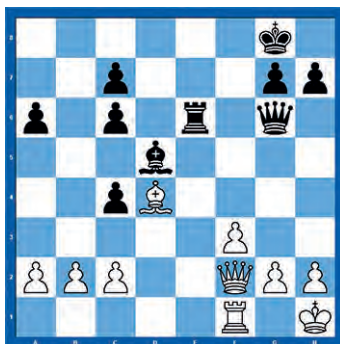
17. ♕e2! Caruana finds the right plan (f3-♕f2), but he wasted some time. [17. ♕xc5 allows 17... ♗d5 18.f3 ♖xf3 Black gets counterplay.]

17...c4 Radjabov decides to put his pawns on light squares, to make White's task more difficult. [After 17... ♖ae8 White can build up his target setup with 18.f3 ♗h3 19. ♖f2 After White consolidates, the queenside pawns will start to hang.]

18.f3! a6 19. ♗d4 The bishop occupies its ideal diagonal. After this, White only needs to activate his rooks.

19...♖ae8 20.♔h1 [20.♞f2 was also possible, followed by ♖ae1. 20...♙d5 21.♔h1]

20...♙d5 21.♞d2 [21.♞f2 seemed to be stronger again, followed by ♖ae1. 21...♞e6 22.♖ae1 ♞fe8 23.♞xe6 ♞xe6]

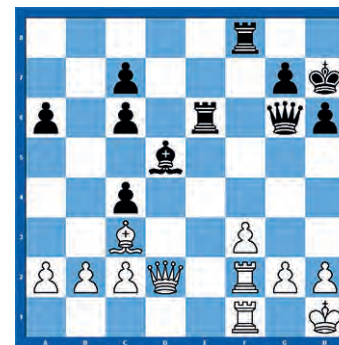


24.♞e1 ♞xe1+ 25.♞xe1 This queen and bishop endgame is going to be extremely unpleasant and a long suffering from Black's point of view. Black cannot search for any counterplay because of the g7 pawn, while White can put the c7 pawn under permanent pressure and he can advance his kingside pawns, making the Black king more vulnerable.]

21...♞e6 22.♙c3 [The problem with the queen on d2 is that ♖ae1 does not work. 22.♖ae1? The f3 pawn is unprotected. 22...♞xe1 23.♞xe1 (23.♞xe1 ♞xc2) 23...♞xf3! works for Black.]

22...h6 23.♞f2 White needs to look for another plan since [23.♖ae1 has the same problem as in the previous move.]

23...♔h7 24.♖af1 White overprotected the f3 square and is ready to play ♞e2 again, heading for the queen + bishop endgame.



24...♞f5? This is a strange decision, in my opinion. Why didn't Black occupy the only open file?! [After 24...♞fe8! Suddenly, it is not easy for White to improve his position. He must forget about exchanging the rooks. In my opinion, another idea behind doubling the rooks on the f-file was to push f4, followed by either ♙e5 or f5-f6, but on the other hand, it seriously strengthens the power of the d5 bishop. 25.f4 could be met by 25...♞h5! with the threat of ♞e2 and on 26.♙e5 g5! seems to work! Undermining the e5 bishop and preparing the penetration on e2.]

25.♞e1! White can finally fight for the e-file.

25...♞d6 Radjabov prefers to keep all the rooks on the board, but he is unable to create any serious counterplay with them. It is worth to look at how Caruana improves his position move by move from now on. [25...♞xe1+ 26.♞xe1± is also very bad for Black. White can play ♞e2-e7, for instance.]

26.♙e5 ♞d7 27.♞c3 White has activated his bishop and protected the f3 pawn with the queen. Now he can use his f2 rook as well, without being afraid of ♞xf3.

27...♞g5 28.♞fe2 ♞df7 Refreshing the ♞xf3 threat, but White simple parries it with

29. ♖e3! h5 Radjabov continues looking for counterplay, this time with h5-h4. Actually, this only weakens his own pawns and makes White's task easier.

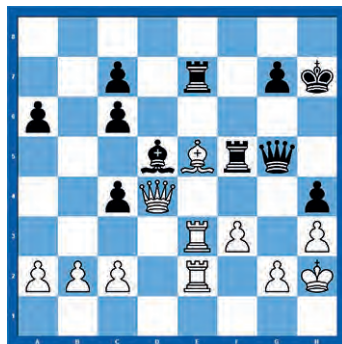
30. ♖1e2 White improves his pieces „square by square“.

30... ♗g6 31.h3! Another very good preparation before starting the real action! White gives air for the king.

31... ♗g5 32. ♔h2 Improving the king as well.

32...h4 This is a weak ening move, putting the pawn on a dark square. However, the position already was very bad. [If Black decides to go for the waiting strategy with 32... ♖g8 White can increase his advantage by 33.b3! The idea is to kick out the d5 bishop via c4. 33...cxb3 34.axb3 ♔h7 35. ♗d3+- with the multiple threats of g4, ♗xa6 and c4. When the bishop loses its outpost on d5, it will never find its place on the board...]

33. ♗d4 ♖e7



34. ♗g4! Caruana decides to transpose to an endgame where the Black pawns start to fall automatically.

34... ♔g8 [34... ♗xg4 35.hxg4 ♖f8 36. ♔h3! Forcing another pawn to a dark square, where it can be attacked

by the bishop later on. 36...g5 37. ♗c3 ♖xe3 38. ♖xe3+- White will soon start to collect the pawns. For instance, ♖e5- ♗d2 is a threat.]

35. ♗c3 White wins the fight for the e-file and also prepares to win the h4 pawn with ♗e1.

35... ♖xe3 36. ♖xe3 ♔f7 37. ♗e1! The pawns start to fall and, at the same time, White created another threat: to play ♖a3 and the a6 pawn cannot be protected. The game is basically over!

37... ♗f4+ 38. ♗xf4 ♖xf4 39. ♖a3! White collects the first weakness!

39... ♖d4 40. ♖xa6 g5 41. ♖a7 Collecting the second weakness!

41... ♖d1 42. ♖xc7+ ♔e6 43. ♗b4 c3 [43... ♖c1 can be simply met by 44. ♖e7+ ♔f5 45. ♖e2+- with two extra pawns and g5 is still a target.]

44. ♗xc3 ♖c1 Radjabov tries to get counterplay on the second rank, since he prevented the ♖e7-e2 idea with the previous pawn sacrifice, but White is completely winning.

45. ♖g7 ♗xa2 [45... ♖xc2 46.a4 ♗xf3 47. ♖xg5+-]

46. ♖xg5 The third weakness is also taken and the last one on h4 is will not last long either.

46... ♖xc2 47. ♖g6+ ♔d7 48. ♖g4 ♗d5 49. ♔g1 ♖c1+ 50. ♔f2 ♖c2+ 51. ♔f1 Black resigned! A nice positional achievement and a well-deserved victory for Caruana!

1-0

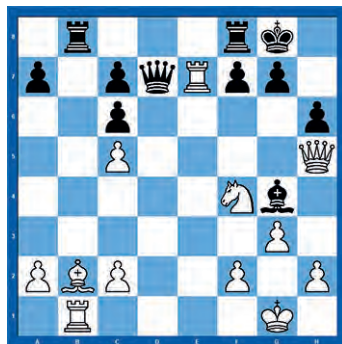
Puzzle section

(5) Lu Shanglei (2562) – Saptarshi,R (2426)

Bangkok Open, 16.04.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

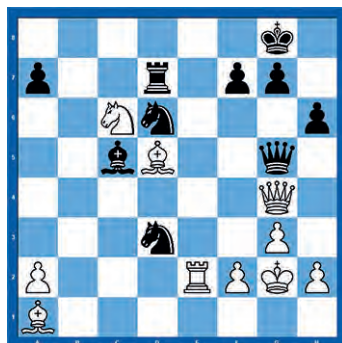


(6) Akesson,R (2462) – Barbosa,O (2560)

Bangkok Open, 17.04.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

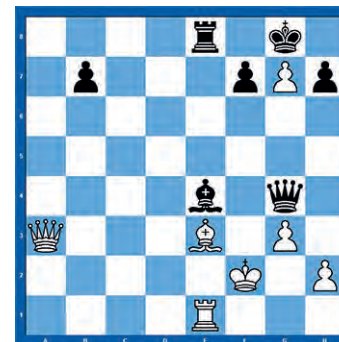


(7) Short,N (2697) – Czebe,A (2479)

Bangkok Open, 21.04.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

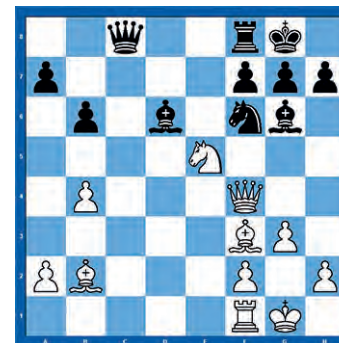


(8) Gharamian,T (2663) – Riff,J (2467)

LUC Open, 17.04.2013

[CEWN]

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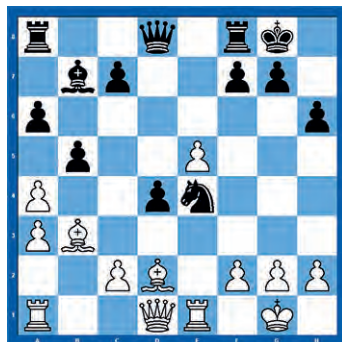


(9) Gharamian,T (2663) – Schoorl,R (2326)

LUC Open, 18.04.2013

[CEWN]

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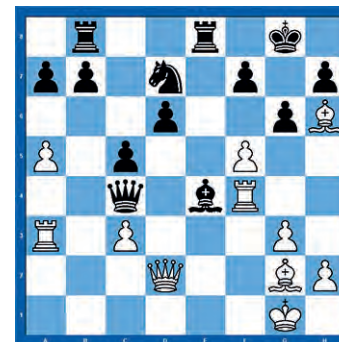


(11) Gajewski,G (2653) – Kempinski,R (2599)

Polish Championship, 20.04.2013

[CEWN]

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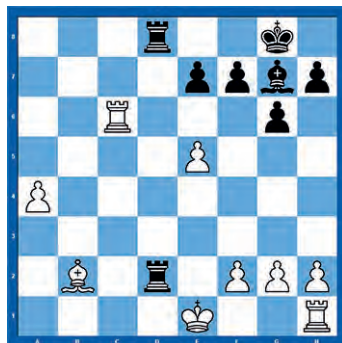


(10) Kempinski,R (2599) – Tomczak,J (2564)

Polish Championship, 18.04.2013

[CEWN]

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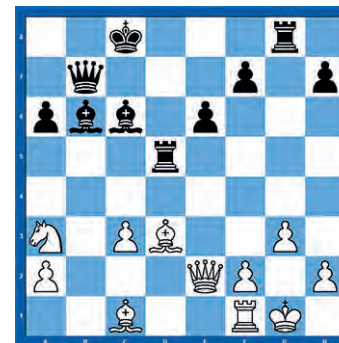


(12) Chigaev,M (2454) – Artemiev,V (2499)

Russian Junior Championship, 17.04.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

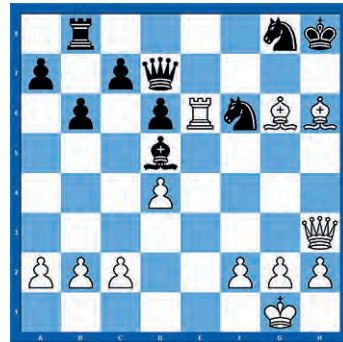


(13) Eliseev,U (2541) – Stukopin,A (2500)

Russian Junior Championship, 22.04.2013

[CEWN]

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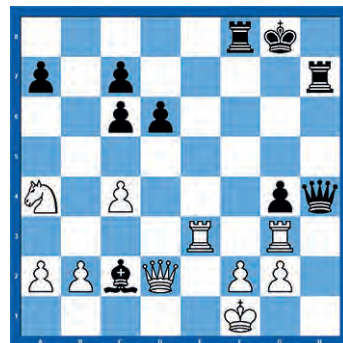


(14) Stevic,H (2616) – Gonda,L (2528)

Austrian league, 24.03.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



Endgame section

(15) Nakamura,H (2767) – Kamsky,G (2741)

(4), 21.04.2013

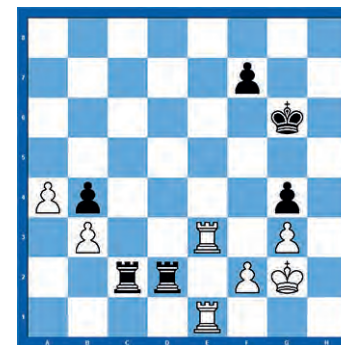
[Chess Evolution]



White is a clear pawn up, but Black's active rooks give very good chances for survival. Kamsky defends the position with excellent technique. With his last move (Re1), White wanted to activate his rook by playing Re8, so Black needed to act urgently.

34...g4! Forcing White to take a concrete decision. He must either leave the f2 pawn or exchange a pair of rooks and double his own pawns at the same time.

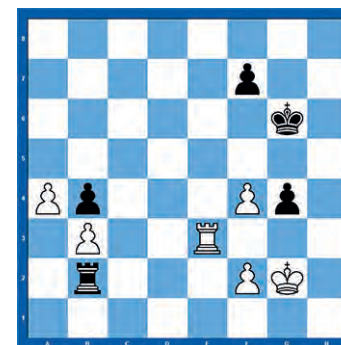
35.hxg4 hxg4 36.♖f4 Nakamura finds the better chance... [After 36.♖fe3 ♖dd2



37.♖f1 White is forced into passivity. **37...♖d4!=** Preventing ♖e4. White cannot make progress. When the f1 rook moves, ♖dd2 goes back, while any moves of the e3 rook leaves the b3 pawn unprotected. Black can play ♖b2, for instance.]

36...♖xf4 37.gxf4 ♖b2! Forcing the White rook into the defense. Activity is the key factor in most rook endgames.

38.♖e3 White would like to play ♔g3 and f3, getting rid of the doubled pawns.

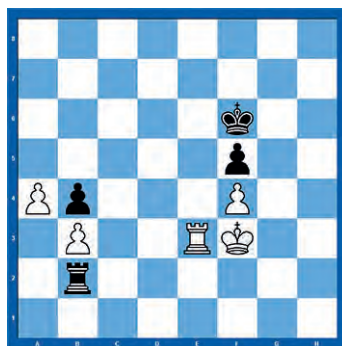


38...f5 [It was more circumspect to play 38...♔f5! 39.♔g3 f6 aiming for same position as in the game, except that Black has a more active king in this case. 40.f3 (40.♖d3 is met by 40...♔e4 and the rook must go back to e3.) 40...

gxf3 41.♔xf3 ♖d2! After this strong prophylactic move against ♖d3, White has no chance to win the game as all the rook moves allow ♖d3.]

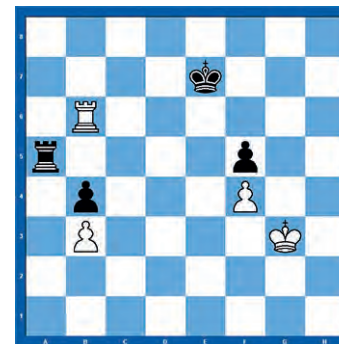
39.♔g3 ♔f6 40.f3 Forcing Black to take on f3. [Otherwise, after 40.♖d3 ♖b1 41.f3 ♖g1+! 42.♔f2 ♖b1= and the White king can never go to e3-d4, because of g3, while fxg4 fxg4 allows Black to create counterplay with ♔f5. Black holds easily.]

40...gxf3 41.♔xf3 It is very important to realize White's main plan to make progress. He is intending to play ♖d3, followed by ♔e3-d4-c5 going for the b4 pawn and supporting his own a-pawn. Black must fight precisely against this idea!



41...♖d2! 42.♔g3 ♖c2! 43.a5 Nakamura finds, once again, the only attempt to fight for the win. He exchanges his a-pawn for the one on b4. On the other hand, the simplifications usually make the job of the defensive side easier. [The point was that after 43.♖d3 with the idea of ♔f3-e3-d4, Black can play 43...♖c3! and the White king is not in the square of the c-pawn, so White has to make the only move ♖f3, which is too passive to hope for something real.]

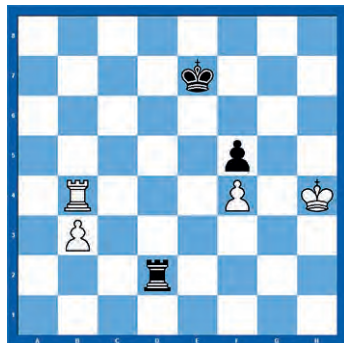
43...♖a2 44.♖d3 ♖xa5 45.♖d6+ ♔e7 46.♖b6



46...♖a2! In rook endgames, the right placement of the rooks is behind the passed pawns. White should also aim to get his rook to b1 or b2, but of course, it is impossible now...

47.♖xb4 ♖d2 Kamsky stays ready to annoy the White king with checks along the 3rd rank.

48.♔h4 [48.♔f3 is met by 48...♖d3+ 49.♔e2 ♖h3 Cutting the king along the 3rd rank. This is a known defensive method. White can hardly advance his b-pawn because of the f4 weakness. 50.♔d2 ♖f3 51.♔c2 defending the b-pawn in order to play ♖c4 and push the b-pawn, but Black is in time to play 51...♔d6! 52.♖c4 ♔d5= and the draw is inevitable. White cannot make progress.; Let us see what happens if White advances his b-pawn on the most direct way. Black has different ways to defend successfully. 48.♖b7+ ♔e6 49.b4 ♖b2 50.b5 ♖b1 51.b6 ♖b3+ 52.♔f2 (52.♔h4 drops the f-pawn. 52...♖f3 53.♔g5 ♖g3+ 54.♔h5 ♖h3+ 55.♔g5 ♖g3+ 56.♔h4 ♖f3 57.♖b8 ♖xf4+ 58.♔g5 ♖b4 59.b7 ♔d7=) 52...♔d5 53.♖b8 ♔e4 54.b7 ♔xf4 The Black king gets a shelter from the f-pawn against the checks.]



48...♖g2! Another important move! Black cuts the king along the g-file, avoiding an attack against the f5 pawn.

49.♔d4 Finally, the White rook finds a safe place, as it cannot be attacked by the king from e5. He is ready to advance the b-pawn. The problem is that without the help of the king, it cannot go too far.

49...♔e6 50.b4 ♖g1 Black is waiting, since b5 is always met with ♖b1, while if the rook moves, ♖g4 wins the f4 pawn.

51.♔h3! Getting Black into zugzwang, as he must either take his king away from the h-file or allow Black to put his rook behind the b-pawn. Kamsky continues to defend flawlessly!

51...♖g8! 52.b5 White can finally push the pawn, but on the other hand, it becomes a target now...

52...♖h8+ 53.♔g3 ♖g8+ 54.♔h4 [54.♔f3 is met by 54...♖b8! 55.♖b4 ♔d6 56.♔e3 ♔c5 57.♖b2 ♖e8+! Black could not take immediately on b5, but he waits for a better moment, when the White king will be in a worse position. 58.♔f3 ♖b8 59.b6 (59.♔g3 ♖g8±) 59...♖xb6 and the

pawn endgame is drawn, as White cannot get quickly to the f5 pawn.]

54...♖h8+ 55.♔g5 ♖g8+ 56.♔h6 ♖b8 [56...♖g1 was also good, with the idea of ♖b1, because 57.♖b4 is met with 57...♔f6 The king is in a mating net. White is forced to repeat moves. 58.♔h7 ♔f7 59.♔h6 ♔f6=]

57.♖a4 This is, of course, a kind of agreement to draw. Nakamura plays on for a while, but the draw is clear... [After 57.♖b4 the problem for White is his king, again. 57...♔f6! White is forced to repeat moves. 58.♔h7 ♖b7+ 59.♔h6 ♖b8! =]

57...♖xb5 58.♔g6 ♖c5 59.♖a7 ♖b5 60.♖f7 ♖a5 61.♖f8 [The pawn endgame is drawn because of the opposition. 61.♖f6+ ♔e7 62.♖xf5 ♖xf5 63.♔xf5 ♔f7=]

61...♔e7 62.♖b8 ♖a6+ [62...♖c5 was also good, but Kamsky prefers to hold with the well-known technique of the rook on the 6th rank...]

63.♔xf5 ♔f7 64.♖b7+ ♔f8 65.♔g5 ♖c6 66.f5 ♖a6 67.♖b8+ ♔f7 68.♖b7+ ♔f8 69.♖b8+ [69.f6 ♖a1= with dozens of checks from the 1st rank.]

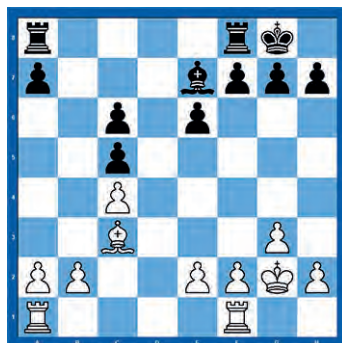
69...♔f7 70.♖b7+ ♔f8 Great defense by Kamsky and nice try by Nakamura!

1/2

(16) Miton,K (2628) – Markowski,T (2558) [E18]

2013

[Kamil Miton]



18. Rfd1 After the opening, I got a pleasant endgame because of the weak black structure on the queenside.

18... Rfd8 19. a5 Rd4 Only move, as otherwise, Black will lose control of the d-file.

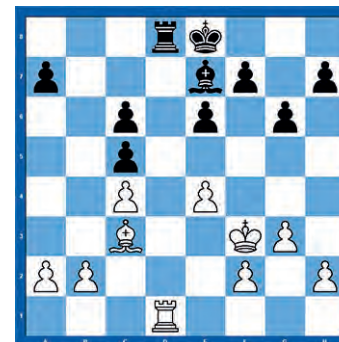
20. Rac1 I did not want to play b3 to keep the pawn on the second file, which can be important for White in order to transfer the rook over the third rank in the future.

20... Kf8 The black king is coming on time to e8, where it will prevent Rd7 and support the exchanges on the d-file.

21. Kf3 Ke8 22. Bc3 Rxd1 23. Rxd1 g6 This move seems to be completely normal, but now White has an additional idea, which I was able to use in the next moves. [23... Bf8 For me, this is the best, because Black does not create additional weaknesses. 24. a5 Be7 with ideas like Bf6 or Bd8.; 23... Bf6? 24. Bxf6 gxf6 25. Kg4+-; 23... f6 is also possible. 24. g4 Rd8 25. Rg1 with the idea of

trying to create new weaknesses on the kingside. White has a long-term advantage.]

24.e4 Rd8



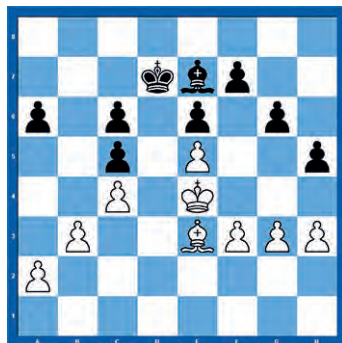
25. Rxd8+! Kxd8 26.e5 Kd7 27. Ke4 Bf8 28. Bd2 Ke7 29. Be3 Now the black bishop has to protect the weak c5 pawn all the time. [29.g4 f5+ 30.exf6 Bxf6 31.b3 Bd4 Black improved his bishop. Thanks to this, he should hold the position.]

29...a6 30.b3 [30.g4 I was not sure about this move. It looks logical because White wants avoid h5 and not allow Black to exchange the h-pawns. On the other hand, Black can use the same idea that we will see later in the game. 30...g5! To put the pawn on a dark square is super strange, but now it is not easy for White to make progress. For example: (30...f5+ 31.exf6 Bxf6 32.b3 Kd6) 31.b3 Ke8 32. Bf3 (32.f4 gxh4 33. Bxf4 Kd7 and how to play next?; 32.h4 gxh4 33.f4 h3 34. Bf3 Bh4 and Black has counter-play.) 32... Kf8 If Black keeps his king on d7, then White can win with the following plan: first, push h4 and after gxh4, advance f4-f5. 33. Kg2 Kg7 34.h4 gxh4 35.f4 Kg6 36. Bh3 h5 and Black is fine.]

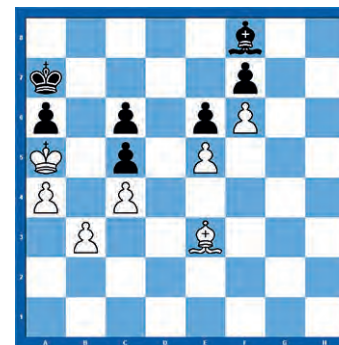
30...h5! Typical defensive idea. Black is going to get rid of the potentially weak h-pawn.

31.f3 ♖e8 32.♙h6 ♙d8 [32...♙f8?? 33.♙xf8 ♖xf8 34.♙f4 with an easy winning plan: first, put the king on g5 and then play h4-g4.]

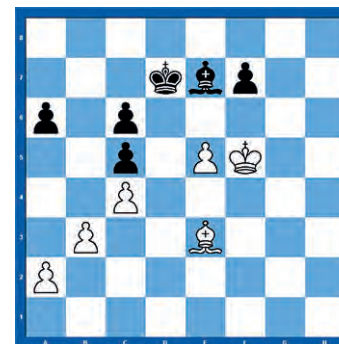
33.♙e3 ♙e7 34.h3 ♖d7



35.g4?? Huge mistake! After this move, the position will be drawish. White should play [35.f4 ♖e8 36.g4 Of course, I saw this plan, but it is hard to explain why I decided not to use it. 36...hxg4 37.hxg4 ♖d7 38.♙c1! White has to be accurate immediately. (38.f5 then 38...gxf5+ 39.gxf5 f6! and Black gets rid of all the weaknesses.) 38...♙f8 39.♙d2 (39.f5 gxf5+ 40.gxf5 ♙e7 41.f6 ♙d8 42.♙e3 ♙b6 43.b4 White is still better, but it makes no sense to allow the black bishop to change diagonals.) 39...♙e7 40.♙e3 ♙f8 and this is the moment for 41.f5 gxf5+ 42.gxf5 exf5+ (42...♙e7 43.f6 ♙f8 Now Black is playing without the bishop. Let us check the winning plan for White. 44.♖d3 ♖c7 45.♖c2 ♖b7 46.♖b2 ♖b6 47.♖a3 ♖a5 48.♙d2+ ♖b6 49.♖a4 ♖b7 50.♖a5 ♖a7 51.♙e3 ♖b7 52.a4 ♖a7

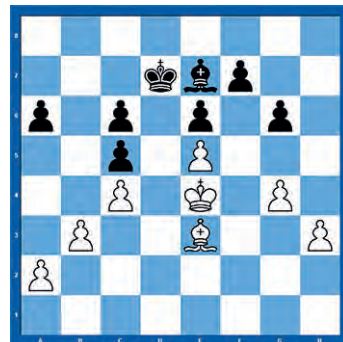


53.b4 ♖b7 54.b5 axb5 55.axb5 cxb5 56.♖xb5 (56.cxb5 c4 and Black is fine.) 56...♖c7 57.♖a6! The most accurate. (57.♙xc5 ♙h6 58.♙d6+ ♖c8 59.♖c6 ♙f4 and it is hard to improve White's position!) 57...♖c6 58.♖a7 ♖c7 59.♙d2 ♖c8 (59...♖c6 60.♖b8+-) 60.♖b6 ♖d7 61.♖b7 ♖d8 62.♖c6 ♖c8 63.♙e3 ♖d8 64.♙xc5 Taking the c5 pawn this way, White will be able to promote the c-pawn because the king can get to b7 on time. 64...♙h6 65.♖b7+-) 43.♖xf5 ♙e7 44.♙f2 ♖d8 45.♙g1 (45.e6 White is not ready for this move yet because of 45...fxe6+ 46.♖xe6 ♙f8 and the black king escapes to b7. Then, even if White gets the c5 pawn, it will not be enough to win the game!) 45...♖d7 46.♙e3



46...♙f8 (46...♔d8 After this move, White gets a winning pawn endgame. 47.♙g5! ♔d7 48.♙xe7 ♔xe7 49.a3 a5 50.a4 ♔d7 51.♙f6 ♔e8 52.e6 ♔f8 and the stalemate idea does not work because White can play the simple 53.♙e5+-; 46...♔e8 47.e6 fxe6+ 48.♔xe6 ♔d8 Now the most important is not to allow Black to put the king on b7! 49.♙h6 ♔e8 50.♙f4 ♔d8 51.♙c7+ ♔e8 52.♙d6 ♙g5 53.♙xc5+-) 47.♙f6 ♔e8 48.e6 fxe6 (48...♙e7+ 49.♔e5 ♙f8 50.exf7+ ♔xf7 51.♙g5 ♙e7 52.♙h6+- White, thanks to some zugzwang ideas, slowly comes with the king to the d6 square.) 49.♔xe6 ♔d8 50.♙f4! White prevents the transfer of the king to b7 again. 50...♙e7 (50...♙g7 51.♔d6+-; 50...♔c8 51.♔f7+-) 51.♙c7+ ♔e8 52.♙d6 ♙h4 53.♙xc5 ♙g3 54.♙d4 ♙b8 55.♙e5 ♙a7 56.b4+- and the white king soon gets to d6.]

35...hxg4 36.fxg4 [36.hxg4 g5! The same only way to survive!]



36...g5! I saw this, but I thought that I can simply win now thanks to the king transfer to the queenside. I completely forgot that when my king gets to a5, I get a check from d8!

37.♔d3 [37.♔f3 ♔e8 38.♔g3 ♔d7 39.h4 gxh4+ 40.♔h3 ♙d8 41.♙xc5 ♙g5 42.♙f2 ♙f4+]]

37...♔c7 38.♔c2 ♔b7 39.♔b2 ♔c7 40.♔a3 ♔b7 41.♔b2 1/2

Clash of the Titans

(17) Rubinstein, Akiba — Reti, Richard [E90]

Stockholm Stockholm (1), 1919

[Kamil Miton]

1. ♖f3 ♘f6 2. d4 d6 3. c4 g6 4. ♘c3 ♙g7 5. e4 ♙g4

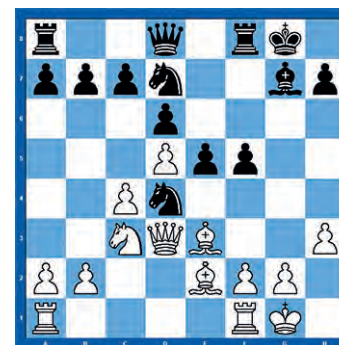


6.h3?! Not an accurate move, which gives Black the opportunity to come with the knight to d4. White should play [6. ♙e2 0–0 7. 0–0 ♘fd7 8. ♙e3 c5 (8... ♘c6 9. d5 ♙xf3 10. ♙xf3 ♘a5 11. ♙e2 ♙xc3!)? That is why, sometimes, White plays ♖c1 to avoid this idea. Now Black will play against the weak pawns, but on the other hand, White has two bishops and good possibilities to develop an attack against the black king — the position is very complex. 12. bxc3) 9. d5 ♘a6 10. h3 ♙xf3 11. ♙xf3 ♘c7 12. ♙e2 a6 13. a4 The pair of bishops, more space, and what is most important, Black is not able to create counterplay on b5. These facts gives white a clear and stable advantage. 13... ♖e8 14. ♙d2 e6 15. ♖ae1 exd5 16. exd5 a5 Black's idea is to close the queenside and after the exchanges of

the heavy pieces on the e-file, just survive on one side. Objectively, this structure which more often comes from the Averbakh Variation is simply very passive for Black.]

6... ♙xf3 7. ♙xf3 0–0 8. ♙e2 ♘fd7 9. ♙d3 ♘c6 10. ♙e3 e5 11. d5 ♘d4 12. 0–0 f5 [12... ♘c5 13. ♙d1 a5 14. ♙d3 ♙h4 The queen takes a good place to put pressure on f5. Also, the ♙h6 idea deserves attention.; 12...c5 13. dxc6 bxc6 14. b4 ♖b8 15. ♖ab1 with the thematic idea of playing b5 to take control of the light squares (especially d5). Anyway, thanks to the strong knight on d4, Black's position should be fine.]

13. exf5 gxf5 [13... ♘xe2+ 14. ♙xe2 gxf5 15. f4 with unclear play.]



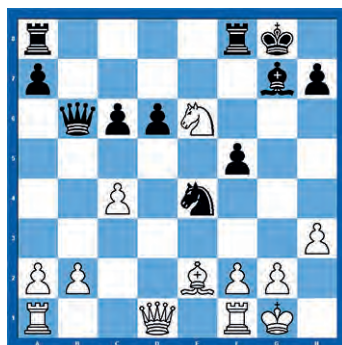
14. ♙xd4 exd4 15. ♘b5 ♘c5 [15... ♘e5 16. ♙d2 d3 17. ♙xd3 f4 18. ♘d4 ♙h4 19. ♖fe1 It seems like Black should have the initiative, but the white pieces are also well placed. If Black pushes f3, ♖e4 will come.]

16. ♙d2 ♘e4 [16... ♙e5 17. ♘xd4 ♙f6 18. ♖ad1 ♖ae8 19. ♙h5 ♖e7 20. b4± with the threat ♘e6.; 16...d3 17. ♙xd3 a6! Probably this was the best for Black because in this case, the knight cannot jump to d4 (and e6 next) . (17... ♘xd3 18. ♙xd3 ♙xb2 19. ♖ab1 ♙g7 20. ♖fe1 After ♘d4

next, Black will be forced to exchange the bishop. Then, White can get the advantage due to the weak black king.)
18.♘c3 ♔h4 with good compensation.]

17.♔d1 c5 18.dxc6 bxc6 19.♘xd4 ♔b6 [19...♔d7 Maybe this was better. Black simply prevents ♘e6 and, thanks to the strong bishop on g7, he keeps some good practical compensation.]

20.♘e6



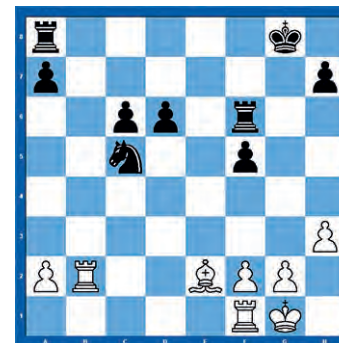
20...♕xb2? A mistake. Black should take on b2 with the queen, but anyway, White's position is already better. [20...♔xb2 21.♖b1 ♔e5 22.♘xf8 ♘c3 23.♘d7 ♔e6 24.♔d3 ♘xb1 25.♖xb1 ♔xd7 26.♕f3± Black has a worse structure and a worse king as well. That is why he has a little advantage.]

21.♖b1? White missed a chance to get a huge advantage after [21.c5! ♔b4 (21...♘xc5 22.♘xf8 ♕xa1 23.♔xd6+-) 22.♘xf8 ♕xa1 23.♔xa1 ♖xf8 Thanks to the inclusion of 21.c5 and ♔b4, White can now play 24.cxd6 ♘xd6 25.♖c1 and Black has too many weaknesses. The position is lost for him.]

21...♖f6 22.c5 ♔b4 23.♘f4 ♘c3 24.♔d2 ♔xf4 25.♖xb2? It is hard to explain this bad move which led to the endgame without a pawn. Maybe Akiba did not see that after [25.♔xb2 ♘xb1 does not work because the rook is hanging? 25...♔d4 26.♖bc1 ♘xe2+ 27.♔xe2 d5 28.♖fe1 and again, given that the black king is not safe, White has an advantage.]

25...♔xd2 26.♖xd2 ♘e4 27.♖b2 ♘xc5±

White gets a bad endgame a pawn down. Let us see how Rubinstein is going to defend his position.



28.♖c1 ♔f8 29.♖c4 Very good place for the rook, where it will create some pressure on the 4th rank and will not allow the knight to move.

29...♔e7 30.♖h4 h6 31.♖c4 ♔d7 32.♕f3 White is trying to disturb Black in his quest to improve his position with ♖c7-♘e4-d5.

32...♖e8 33.♔h2 A nice active defense by Rubinstein. Now the white king is coming to fight for counterplay.

33...♔c7 34.♔g3 a5 The idea of this move is to play ♘e4, and after ♖a4, Black would play ♖e5!

35. ♔h4 ♘e4 36. ♖bc2 d5 37. ♖a4 ♖a8



38. g4 Another good move. White wants to eliminate the strong knight from e4.

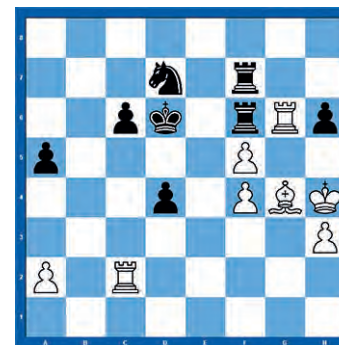
38... ♔d6 39. gxf5 ♘c5 [39... ♘g5 40. ♙g4 c5= and the two passed pawns look very unpleasant for White.]

40. ♖g4 ♘d7 41. ♖g7 White is looking for counterplay from the other side.

41... ♖af8 [41... ♖xf5 42. ♙g4]

42. ♙g4 d4 43. f4 ♖8f7? The beginning of the wrong plan. Black wants to exchange a pair of rooks, but maybe it was better to immediately try to advance the passed pawns. [43... c5 44. ♖g6 (44. ♖e2 d3 45. ♖e6+ ♖xe6 46. fxe6 ♘f6-+) 44... ♘b6 (44... d3 45. ♖c3) 45. ♖e2 c4 46. ♖e6+ ♖xe6 47. fxe6 ♘d5 48. e7+! ♙xe7 49. ♖e6+ ♙f7 50. ♖d6 ♘e3 51. ♖xd4 c3 52. ♖d7+ ♙f6 53. ♖d6+ ♙g7 54. ♖c6 c2 With the unpleasant pawn on c2, Black is objectively better, but thanks to his active pieces, White has some chances.]

44. ♖g6



44... ♘f8? 45. ♔h5! c5 [45... ♘xg6 46. fxe6 ♖f8 47. ♔xh6 (47. f5 ♖h8 and now it is not easy to improve White's position.) 47... ♖xf4 48. g7 ♖d8 49. ♔h7? Logical but wrong. (49. ♔g5! and it is hard to say who is better.) 49... c5 50. g8 ♖xg8 51. ♔xg8 d3 The white king is too far to stop the black pawns.]

46. ♔xh6 ♘xg6 47. fxe6 ♖c7 48. ♔g5 An interesting and slightly inhuman variation can be seen after [48. f5 d3 49. ♖c1 c4 50. ♔g5 ♖f8 51. f6 (51. ♖d1!?) 51... d2 52. ♖d1 c3 53. g7 and now some engine moves: 53... ♖cf7 54. gxf8 ♖+ ♖xf8 55. ♔f5 (55. ♔f5 ♔e5 56. ♔c2 ♖g8+ 57. ♔h4 ♔xf6) 55... ♔c5 (55... ♔d5 56. ♔f3+ ♔d4 57. ♔c6 White is winning because of the ♔a4 idea.) 56. ♖xd2 Only move. 56... cxd2 57. h4 ♔b6 Avoiding the check from f8 in some variations. 58. h5 ♖g8 59. ♔e2 ♖g2 60. ♔d1 ♖g1 61. ♔a4 ♖h1 62. f7 ♖f1+ (62... ♖xh5+? 63. ♔g6 ♖h8 64. ♔g7 ♖c8 65. f8 ♖xf8 66. ♔xf8 ♔c5 and now comes the very nice 67. ♔d1! with a4 next +-.) 63. ♔g6 ♖g1+ Draw.]

48... ♖f8 49. ♔e2!+- The most practical and simple move. The bishop stops the black pawns and White is winning very easily.

49...♖e8 50.♗c4 ♜e3 51.h4 ♜g3+ 52.♔f6 ♜g4 53.f5 ♜xh4 54.g7 ♜xg7 55.♔xg7 ♔e5 56.♜f2 ♜g4+ 57.♔f7 ♔e4 58.♔e6 d3 59.f6 ♜h4 60.f7 ♜h6+ 61.♔e7 Rubinstein demonstrated a very good example of active defense!

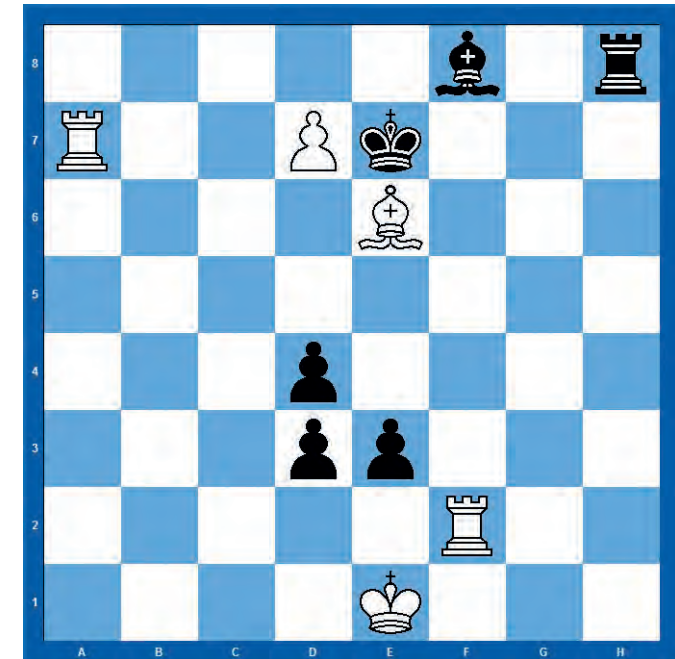
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Surprise section / study

(18) Horwitz

[CEWN]

1. +-

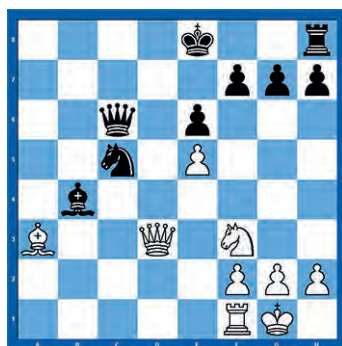


Solutions

(19) Miton,K (2628) – Duda,J (2497)

Polish Championship, 14.04.2013

[Solutions]

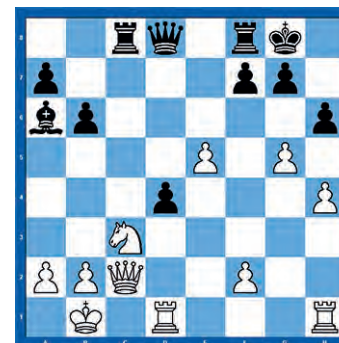


22. ♔b1! ♕xa3 23. ♔b8+ ♖e7 24. ♔xh8+-

(20) Svetushkin,D (2588) – Tkachiev,V (2632)

Balagne rapid, 14.04.2013

[Solutions]



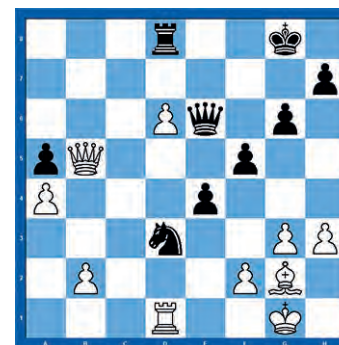
19...dxc3! 20. ♖xd8 ♗fxd8 21. ♔a4 [21.bxc3 ♕d3-+]

21...c2+ 0-1[21...c2+ 22. ♖c1 ♕e2-+]

(21) Tkachiev,V (2632) – Svetushkin,D (2588)

Balagne rapid, 14.04.2013

[Solutions]

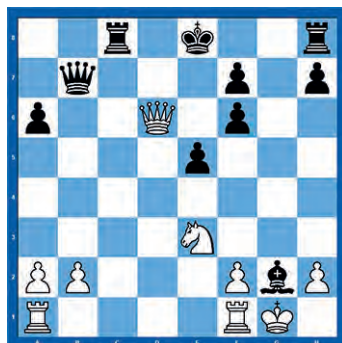


30. ♖xd3! 1-0[30. ♖xd3 exd3 31. ♕d5+-]

(22) Ghaem Maghami,E (2561)—Karavade,E (2389)

Dubai Open, 13.04.2013

[Solutions]



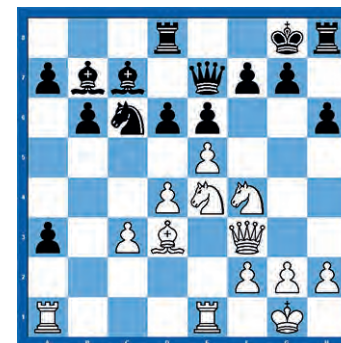
20. ♖g4! [20. ♖xg2? ♜g8--; 20. ♜xf6? ♜g8 21. ♜xe5+ ♜f8 22. ♜d6+ ♜e8 23. ♜e5±]

20... ♜e7 21. ♜xe7+ ♜xe7 22. ♜xg2 1-0

(23) Kuzubov,Y (2619)—Sachdev,T (2409)

Dubai Open, 11.04.2013

[Solutions]



21. ♖f6+!! gxf6 [21... ♜f8 22. ♖6d5! exd5 23. ♖g6++-]

22. ♖d5!! exd5 23. exf6 ♜xe1+ [23... ♜d7 24. ♜g3+ ♜f8 25. ♜g7#]

24. ♜xe1 ♜f8 25. ♜g3! ♜g8 26. ♜e3! ♜h8 27. ♜b5! ♖e5 28. dxe5 dxe5 29. c4! ♜d6 [29... d4 30. ♜xa3+-]

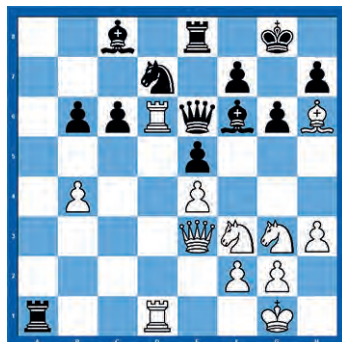
30. c5! bxc5 [30... ♜xc5 31. ♜xe5+- a2 32. ♜e8+ ♜xe8 33. ♜xe8#]

31. ♜xa3 a6 32. ♜a5 1-0

(24) Aravindh,C (2333) – Iordachescu,V (2599)

Dubai Open, 09.04.2013

[Solutions]

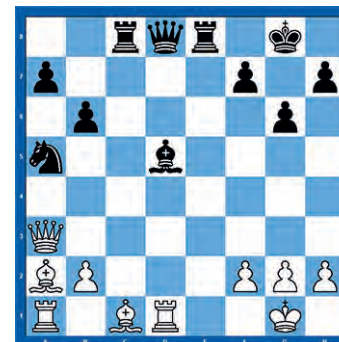


26. ♖xd7! 1-0 [26. ♖xd7 ♘xd7 (26... ♖xd1+ 27. ♖xd1+-) 27. ♖xa1+-]

(25) Rakhmanov,A (2591) – Naranayan,S (2440)

Dubai Open, 09.04.2013

[Solutions]



d

22. ♘e3!! [22. ♘xd5? ♙xd5!; 22. ♘h6? ♙h4!]

22... ♘c4 [22... ♖e5 23. ♙d3+-]

23. ♘xc4 ♖xc4 24. ♙d3! ♖c5 [24... ♖b4 25. ♙xd5+-]

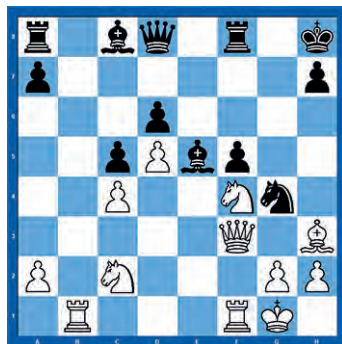
25. b4 [25. ♘xc5+-]

25... ♖xe3 26. fxe3 1-0

(26) Volkov,S (2593) – Vishnu,P (2470)

Dubai Open, 09.04.2013

[Solutions]

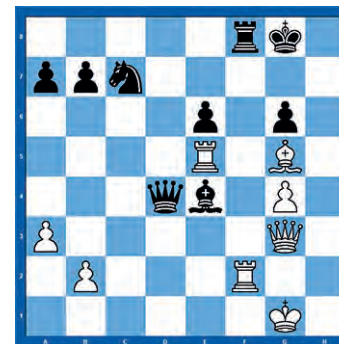


28. ♖xg4! f×g4 29. ♘g6+! h×g6 30. ♙xf8+ ♚xf8
31. ♖xf8++-

(27) Gunina,V (2510) – Gaponenko,I (2397)

Russian Women league, 10.04.2013

[Solutions]



33. ♖xe4! ♙xe4 34. ♖xf8+ ♚xf8 35. ♙d6+! 1-0[35.
♙d6+ ♚g8 36. ♙d8+ ♚f7 37. ♙xc7++-]

(28) Khismatullin,D (2640) – Korneev,O (2609)

Russian league, 13.04.2013

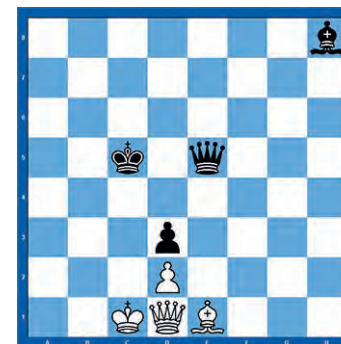
[Solutions]



26. ♖xd5!! ♘xd5 27. ♘de2! ♙e6 28. ♘xd5 ♙xd5
29. ♘f4 ♖c5 30. b4+-

(29) Zevers

[Solutions]



1. ♖c2+!! dxc2 2. d4+!! ♙xd4 [2... ♖xd4 3. ♙f2! ♖xf2=]
3. ♙c3+! ♙d3 [3... ♙xc3=]
4. ♙xe5 ♙xe5= Line



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 62

3rd of May 2013

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Editorial Preface

The last week of chess was really amazing.

Three top events came to an end with a lot of surprising results.

Let us start from the very top:

The Fide Grand Prix in Zug:

Veselin Topalov dominated it completely and got a full 1,5 points advantage with 8/13 over the second placed Nakamura with “only” 6.5/13. The 3rd and 4th places were shared by Ponomarev and Caruana with 6/13.

Alekhine Memorial:

The first place was shared by Aronian and Gelfand with 5.5/9. Third place went to Anand with 5/9. It is strange that both Adams and Vachier-Lagrave somehow collapsed in the last rounds of the event after having a great first part of the tournament.

In Cuba, the Capablanca Memorial was won by Almasi with 6.5/10. Second and third places were shared by both Cuban players, Leinier Dominguez and Yuniesky Quasada, with 6/10.

As usual, we bring you the best games with comments from the past week.

Enjoy the CEWN Nr 62.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Kramnik,V (2801) – Fressinet,L (2706) [A07]

Alekhine Mem Paris/St Petersburg FRA/RUS (5), 25.04.2013
[Csaba Balogh]

A brilliant victory by Fressinet! We do not see Kramnik losing in such style with the White pieces too often.

1. ♖f3 d5 **2.g3** After the Candidates tournament, Kramnik tried to play some “relaxing chess” and kept his deadly weapons for more important tournaments, but he got punished for that.

2... ♘c6!? A brave decision by Black. He transposes to the Chigorin Defense, which does not have a good reputation at all, especially if White does not play c4 quickly.

3.d4! Otherwise, Black occupies the center with e5.

3... ♗g4



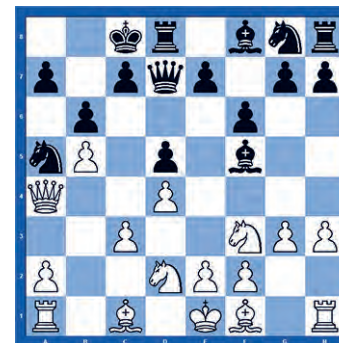
4. ♘bd2 A rare sideline, but it seems to be very strong. Black's plan in this whole setup is to castle queenside quickly after ♔d7, followed by an attack in center with e5;

or, if White castles kingside, he might launch a fast attack with h5-h4. However, White is ready for a quick attack as well, via c3-b4.

4... ♔d7 **5.h3!** Preventing the trading of bishops with ♗h3.

5... ♗f5 **6.c3** Here comes e b4 plan. Black cannot prevent it with a5 since it does not fit into his strategy to castle long.

6...e5! Black explodes the center. This is a typical plan in this opening, but it usually does not lead to anything good... [Anyway, Black had to hurry with the counterplay, since after the slow 6...0-0-0 7.b4 f6 White gets a big advantage after 8.b5 ♘a5 9. ♔a4 b6



10. ♗a3! followed by ♗b4. We can see in these lines that it is more useful to have the knight on d2 to control the c4 square and stay ready to play ♘b3, than to have the bishop on g2. Very deep understanding by Kramnik on move 4.]

7.dxe5 [7. ♘xe5!? seems to give a nice advantage as well. **7...** ♘xe5 **8.dxe5** 0-0-0 **9.** ♘f3 It is not clear how should Black fight to recover the pawn or to get some compensation for that.]

7...0-0-0 This is the point where Kramnik starts to lose the thread.

8.e3?! This is just a waste of tempo, which is enough for Black to get counterplay. [8.♘b3! should have been played. 8...♘ge7 9.♘bd4 with a clear advantage for White!]

8...♘ge7! Black is in time to play ♘g6 now, and when he wins back the pawn, he is not worse anymore.

9.g4 White tries to prevent ♘g6 by sending the Black bishop to that square, but this weakens his pawn structure and Black will be ready to make use of it with h5! [9.b4 is too slow now. 9...♘g6]

9...♙g6 10.b4 h5! Fressinet has already foreseen his sacrifice, which Kramnik has probably underestimated.

11.b5 Kramnik has pinned his hopes to this move. When the knight leaves, the e5 pawn is not under attack anymore and he will be able to calmly continue his plans. However, Fressinet had a different idea in mind! [11.♖g1 was better, but Black is fine anyway. 11...hxg4 12.hxg4 ♙e6 and ♘xe5 next move.]

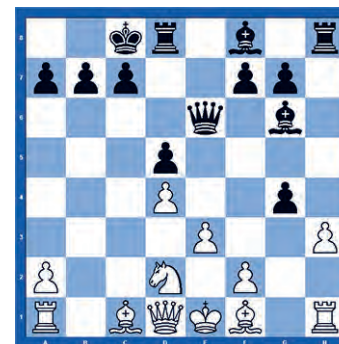


11...hxg4!! Black gets two pawns for the piece, but they will dominate White's uncoordinated pieces.

12.bxc6 ♘xc6 13.e6 White tries to exchange some pieces, but it does not solve his problems. [13.♘d4 ♘xe5 is also better for Black. White simply has no useful moves, while Black has many different ways to improve his position. He could do it by ♙e7-h4, or gxh3 is also possible to get a third pawn for the piece.]

13...♙xe6! [The tempting 13...fxe6? would have been a grave error because White wins the g4 pawn after 14.♖g1!]

14.♘d4 ♘xd4 15.cxd4



15...♙e7! Another great decision! Fressinet realizes the plan of his opponent — to play ♙a4 ♙b8 ♙a3 -, and the trade of the bishops would seriously ease his position. He rather sends his bishop to the attack with ♙h4. [15...♙b4! is also strong, suggested by the computer. ♙c3 threatens to trap the rook and after 16.♙b3 ♙xd2+ 17.♙xd2 ♙e4! 18.♖h2 (18.♖g1 gxh3 White needs to give up his bishop for the pawn, but then he is simply lost.) 18...♙d6! Trapping the rook. White has an only move. 19.f4 Now on gxf3, ♖f2 works, but much stronger is 19...g3! 20.♖e2 ♙g6! and

g2 is coming next with a winning advantage. ♖g2 is answered by taking and ♖xh3.; 15...gxh3?! allows White to play 16. ♖a4 ♖b8 17. ♗a3∞]

16. ♗g2 Forcing Black to take on h3, when the Black pawns become less flexible. On the other hand, it is going to be the third pawn for the piece. [Now on 16. ♖a4 ♖b8 17. ♗a3 ♗h4! Black created the direct threat of ♖xe3 and is ready to increase the pressure on the f2 pawn.]

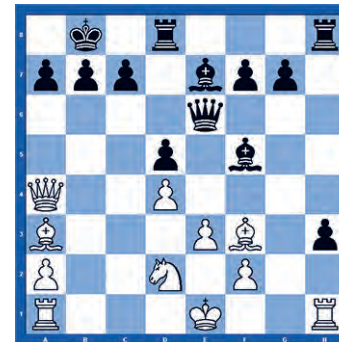
16...gxh3 17. ♗f3 ♗f5 Black prepares to push g5-g4! White's position is getting more and more unpleasant. He is unable to create any counterplay on the queenside, as the b1 square of the rook is under permanent control by the bishop.

18. ♖a4 [I tried to defend the position with 18. ♗f1 but it did not help. 18... ♖h4! 19. ♗g3 ♗b4+ 20. ♖f1 (20. ♗d2? loses to 20... ♖xd4!)]



20... ♖g6! (The idea of the defense comes after 20... ♗c3?! 21. ♗a3! ♗xa1 22. ♗e7!! Some kind of multi-attacking move. White is back in the game.) 21. ♗xf5 ♖xf5 ♗c3 is threatened now and, for instance, after 22. ♗b2 g5! g4-g3 is coming with a crushing attack.]

18... ♖b8 19. ♗a3



19... ♗h4! Black follows his plan and keeps the bishops on the board. ♖xe3 is threatened and g5-g4 is coming fast as well. White cannot create any serious threats without the rook on b1. ♗c5 is always met with b6.

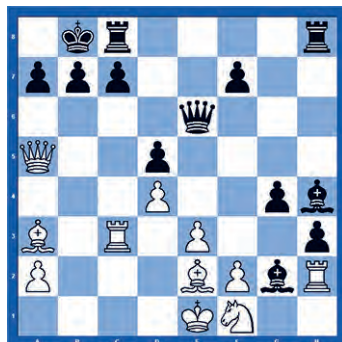
20. ♗f1 g5! 21. ♖h2 White has to make ugly moves like this one. He strengthens his f2 weakness and also tries to blockade the h-pawn.

21...g4 22. ♗e2 ♗e4 Black continues pushing. He wants to settle his bishop on g2, trapping the h2 rook and making the f2 pawn more vulnerable. [According to the machine: 22... ♖dg8! was even stronger with the deadly threat of g3 fxg3 ♖xg3.]

23. ♖c1 White seems to activate his rook, but actually he still unable to create any real threats. The three pawns on a7, b7, c7 cover all the potential of the queen, rook and two bishops.

23... ♗g2 24. ♖a5 ♖c8! Black had to bring a new defender, but he still has enough pieces left to break through on the other side.

25. ♖c3 Kramnik tries something on the third rank, but it is still unclear what he really wants... Fressinet finds the way to finish the game in style! [Finally, White could have occupied the b-file, but this time it would have ran into 25. ♖b1 ♕xf2+! 26. ♔xf2 ♕f5+-- and b1 falls.]



25... ♕xf2+!! Not the only way to win, but definitely the nicest and most effective.

26. ♔xf2 ♕xf1 Black simply wants and will promote his h- and g-pawns.

27. ♔xf1 [27. ♕xf1 leads to mate after 27...g3+! 28. ♔xg3 ♕f5! blocking the king's path back to the f-file. 29. ♖b2 ♖cg8+ 30. ♔h2 Finally, White has some real threats, but Black is coming first! 30... ♖g2+! 31. ♕xg2 hxg2+ 32. ♔xg2 ♖g8+ and mate to follow.]

27...g3 What to do?! The pawns are rolling!

28. ♕f3 gxh2 Black threats with ♕f5 ♔e2 ♕xf3 ♔xf3 h1♕.

29. ♔e2 ♖hg8! with the idea of ♖g2, closing the bishop's diagonal. On ♕xg2, simply hxg2, promoting the pawns.

30. ♕c5 a6 [30...b6 was also good.]

31. ♕h1 ♖g2+ If White does not take, ♕f5 mates.

32. ♕xg2 hxg2 White resigned! A brilliancy by Fressinet and something that Kramnik should try to quickly forget.

0-1

(2) Aronian,L (2809) – Svidler,P (2747) [D85]

Alekhine Mem Paris/St Petersburg FRA/RUS (4), 24.04.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

A huge preparation by Aronian against the Gruenfeld defense. White got a nice edge, which he managed to convert into a full point.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 Svidler goes back to his favorite Gruenfeld defense. A few weeks ago, on the Candidates tournament, he surprised Aronian with 1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 and made an easy draw.

4.♘f3 ♖g7 5.cxd5 ♘xd5 6.e4 ♘xc3 7.bxc3 c5 8.♖b1 This old main line is getting more and more popular recently. [The point of the text move becomes clear after 8.♙e2 Black has the strong 8...♘c6! 9.d5 ♙xc3+ 10.♙d2 ♙xa1 11.♚xa1 ♘d4! and Black is fine. White leaves from this motif with the 8.♖b1 move.]

8...0-0 [Now on 8...♘c6 9.d5! ♙xc3+ 10.♙d2 ♙xd2+ 11.♚xd2 White wins back the pawn with the ♚c3 double attack on the next move, and gets a small advantage.]

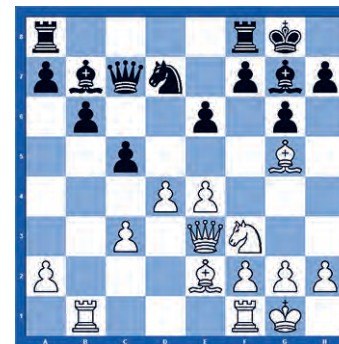
9.♙e2



9...b6 This was considered to be a playable alternative if Black would like to avoid the complications of the main line. However, after this game, it looks like Black is forced to grab the a2 pawn if he wants to equalize. [The critical continuation is 9...cxd4 10.cxd4 ♚a5+ 11.♙d2 ♚xa2 12.0-0 ♙g4 This is basically the starting position of the opening. Probably we will see in the near future what Aronian has cooked out here...]

10.0-0 ♚c7 [Usually we reach the game's position in the following move order: 10...♙b7 11.♚d3 e6 12.♙g5 ♚c7]

11.♙g5 e6 12.♚d2 ♙b7 13.♚e3 ♘d7 Here comes Aronian's improvement.



14.♙f4! There was only one game before with this move. The game becomes very concrete now. [All games continued with 14.e5 when Black has two good alternatives. 14...a6 This is how Svidler played not so long ago. (14...♚ae8 is the main, followed by f6 exf6 ♘xf6, undermining the center.) 15.♘d2 b5 16.♙e7 ♖fc8 17.♙d6 cxd4! 18.cxd4 ♚c3 Black was already fine in Gelfand-Svidler 2010.]

14...e5 Black is forced to pin himself and challenge the center. [The retreat to the back rank cannot come into the consideration, while 14...♚c6 runs into 15.♙b5!]

15. ♖g3 ♜ae8 The most principled move to keep the tension, but it seems to be a mistake... [The only attempt to fight for equality is in the simplification. 15...cxd4 16.cxd4 exd4 17.♞xd4 ♞c5 18.♞fd1 ♞fe8 19.f3± White seems to be slightly better here as well. Black's pieces are uncoordinated. White has some dangerous ideas, such as ♞bc1 followed by ♞b5, pointing out the weaknesses of the d6 and c7 squares, and ♖b5 might be sometimes unpleasant as well.]

16.d5! White creates a protected passed pawn, which would undoubtedly give him a big plus in the endgame. However, in the middlegame, Black usually gets strong counterplay with f5, which looks even more dangerous now because of the f4 threat. [16.♖b5 happened in the only previous game.]

16...f5 17. ♖h4! White would like to get his bishop to e7, which would be possible if he could play d6 in time.

17...h6 Preparing to trap the bishop with f4 and g5. [The whole idea of 14.♖f4 comes after 17...fxe4



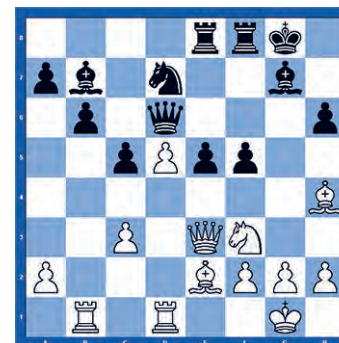
18.d6!! (18.♞g5 ♖xd5 is unclear.; 18.♞xe4 ♞f4 would be fine for Black as he pushes e4 next.) 18...♞xd6 19.♖c4+ ♞h8 20.♞g5 Black cannot hold the weak squares in the

camp. It is hard to deal with ♞f7.; Black cannot trap the bishop with 17...f4 18.♞d3 h6 (18...♞d6 is met by 19.♞d2! when ♞c4 is coming with tempo.) 19.d6! and ♖e7 next move.]

18.exf5! Aronian still follows his preparation. This is the only way to save the bishop, but this gives Black a dangerous center. However, the game remains more concrete.

18...gxf5 19. ♞fd1! White refreshes the threat of d6, ♖e7.

19...♞d6 [19...e4 allows 20.d6 ♞c8 21.♞e1 Black can temporarily push back his opponent, but then he cannot hold the holes in his position. 21...f4 22.♞h3 f3 23.♖c4+ ♞h8 24.♖e7 ♖e6 is coming next. White is crushing.]



20. ♞d2! The rule says that the queen is a bad blockader. The knight is heading to explode it from c4.

20...♞g6 [20...♖xd5 is met by 21.♖b5! when almost all the Black pieces are pinned.; 20...♞xd5?? 21.♖c4+-]

21. ♞g3 An excellent practical decision! Black is forced to go into a bad endgame.

21...♞xg3 22.hxg3 Black cannot prevent ♖b5, as a6 would crucially weaken the b6 pawn.

22...♙f6 [On 22...♙xd5 White wins an exchange after 23.♙b5 ♙e6 24.♘c4! and ♖f7 moves into ♘d6.]

23.♙b5! Aronian has a clear target in front of his eyes. He wants to get an endgame with the good knight against the bad bishop, where the protected passed pawn on d5 plays a key factor.

23...♖e7 24.♙xd7 ♖xd7 25.♙xf6 ♖xf6



26.c4! White has achieved everything he could. Black has hanging pawns on e5 and f5, and additional targets on the queenside. White has several ways to increase his advantage. One is to play ♖e1, provoking an e4 push, which could be countered with the ♘f1–e3 maneuver. White can play on the queenside with a4–a5 or create further weaknesses via the rook lift with ♖b3–a3.

26...♖g7 Svidler is searching for counterplay along the 4th rank.

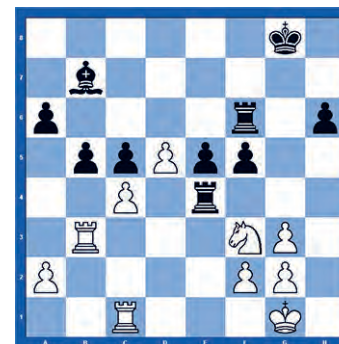
27.♖b3 [It seems to be even stronger to provoke e4 first. 27.♖e1! e4 White does not need to worry anymore about ♖g4–d4. and he can play, for instance 28.a4± with a huge positional advantage.]

27...♖g4! 28.♖c1! Excellent prophylactic move against the pinning threat with ♖d4. It also protects the c4 pawn in order to free the knight.

28...♖d4 29.♘f3 ♖e4 30.♖a3! Forcing Black to weaken his b6 pawn.

30...a6 31.♖b3! The rook has already done his job on the a-file.

31...b5 Svidler tries to complicate matters, but it only fastens his defeat. [31...♙g7 could be met by 32.♖b2 ♖d6 33.♘d2 ♖d4 34.a4! Black has no good defense against a5. 34...a5 (34...♙c8 leaving the pin is met by 35.♘f3 ♖e4 36.a5! bxa5 37.♖a2 and c5 also falls.) 35.♘b3 ♖e4 36.♘xc5! wins.]



32.♖b2!! Another great move! The rook leaves from the cxb5 ♙xd5 tempo. Black cannot avoid losing material.

32...♖f7 [32...b4 loses to 33.♘d2! and when the rook moves, ♘b3 wins the c5 pawn.; After 32...♖d6 the easiest win is 33.a4! b4 34.♘d2! and the c5 pawn is lost again, which means the end of the game with such connected passed pawns on c4–d5. 34...♖g4 35.♘b3+-]

33.cxb5 axb5 [33...♙xd5 34.♖xc5+- is equally hopeless.]

34. ♖xc5 b4 35. d6 ♖d7 36. ♖d2 Black resigned in view of ♘xe5 next move. A nice positional masterpiece by Aronian!

1-0

(3) Anand, Viswanathan (2783) – Ding, Liren (2707) [B18]

Alekhine Mem Paris/St Petersburg FRA/RUS (5), 25.04.2013

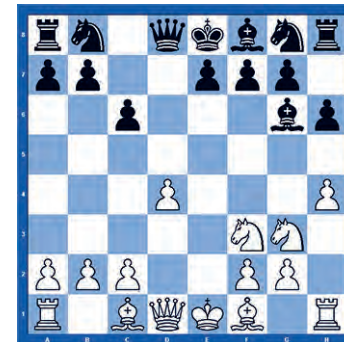
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Anand started the tournament badly, with a loss against Adams with white, but then he started to recover his shape. A nice victory over the young Chinese Super GM brought him back to 50%.

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 This move is becoming more and more fashionable. Another very attractive game was won by Karjakin against Mamedyarov in this opening very recently.

3. ♘c3 dxe4 4. ♘xe4 ♙f5 5. ♘g3 ♙g6 6. h4 h6 Until here, everything is very well-known, of course.

7. ♘f3 A not often played move.



7...e6 Now White is taking over the initiative and the position is getting quite sharp. [The very main line is 7... ♘d7 8. h5 ♙h7 9. ♙d3]

8. ♘e5 ♙h7 Very typical move. The bishop on h7 is just too strong and White has no good squares for the bishop.

9. ♖d3 ♗xd3 10. ♔xd3 ♘d7 Here we see the main idea of Black's 7...e6 which seems like a lost tempo. However, with 10...♘d7, Black wants to exchange another pair of pieces, which is definitely the right way to go in this position.

11.f4! Of course, this is still preparation, but here we see another typical way of playing this position. Now White is preparing to take with fxe5 in order to open the f-file.

11... ♗b4+ Provoking White into c3, before playing ♗e7. This can have the advantage that in case White castles queenside, ♔a5 would be possible.

12.c3 ♗e7 13. ♖d2 It seems like White is preparing to castle long.

13... ♘gf6 14. ♔e2!? and this is already a sort of novelty for the high level games. Usually, White tried to play 14.0–0–0 first and Black answered with 14...c5. Now things change a bit.

14...c5 Ding continues the game with the main idea of Black, a quick attack on the white center.

15.dxc5



15... ♔c7? This move is already quite a serious mistake. [It is hard to say why Black did not play 15...♘xc5 16.0–0–0 and we are more or less back in the main lines. Maybe the ♘xc5 version is not the best for Black, but the position remains quite unclear even if I would prefer the white side. The idea of f4-f5 might always be dangerous for Black.]

16.b4! This is exactly why Black should have been more careful. Now it is going to be very hard for Black to win the pawn back, and the trick is that White did not castle queenside and he is not going to do it. The king will take a very safe place on g1.

16...0–0 17.0–0 What else to do for Black?!

17...a5 [An attempt to recover the pawn would end in a very bad position. 17...♘xe5 18.fxe5 ♘d7 Black attacked both pawns, e5 and h4. 19. ♖f4! Of course, the e5 pawn is more important. 19... ♖xh4 20. ♘e4 The white knight is going to d6 or maybe to f6, and very soon White will develop a big play on the kingside. It is obvious that White is doing much better here.]

18.a3 A prophylactic move...

18... ♘xe5 19.fxe5 ♘d7 Black still tries his luck including the a5-a3 moves.

20. ♘e4 Good move. 20. ♖f4 also looks very good for White.

20...axb4 [It is already not very helpful to play 20...♔xe5 21. ♖f4 The black queen has no good squares. 21... ♔d5 22. ♖ad1 ♔c6 23. ♖d6 All the white pieces are just perfectly placed. White has a huge advantage.]

21.cxb4 ♔xe5 By exchanging the a-pawns, Black won the d4 square, but White now has another option.

22. ♖c3! The bishop took an optimal position. Danger is approaching the black king.

22... ♔c7 23. ♖ad1 Bringing one more piece to a better position.



23... ♖ad8 [If Black tries to be greedy with 23... ♖xa3? 24. ♖xg7! would finish the game on the spot. 24... ♔xg7 25. ♔b2+ and White is winning the rook on a3.]

24. ♔g4 g6?! Black is weakening his structure even more. [24... e5 was the only way to go on with just a “bad” position.]

25. ♘d6 and now we see the weakness—the f7 pawn, after which the one on g6 might get lost as well.

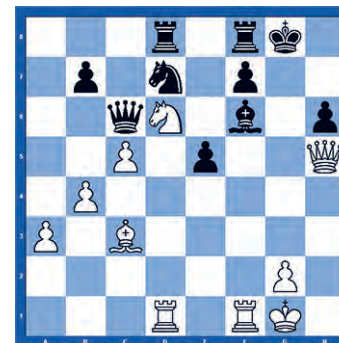
25... e5 26. ♔c4! Strong play, nothing helps here anymore. Black’s position is breaking apart...

26... ♘b6 27. ♔e4 The black knight got nothing better, it can only comeback.

27... ♘d7 28. h5! A nice “human” move. Of course, 28. ♘xb7 would lead to a full point for White as well.

28... gxh5 29. ♔f5 It is funny to look at this position. Black is completely paralyzed, so White does not need to hurry. Anand demonstrates this by just playing 29. ♔f5 - ♔xh5.

29... ♖f6 30. ♔xh5 ♔c6



31. ♖xf6 Lately, this became the right moment for resignation.

31... ♘xf6 32. ♔xe5 A nice game by White, although Black made it a bit too easy. Maybe the young Ding Liren still has “too” much respect for the World Champion...

1-0

(4) Zhao, Jun (2589) – Wang, Yue (2706) [C10]

ch-CHN 2013 Xinghua CHN (11.3), 27.04.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Chinese chess is somehow different from the European version. We often see a superstar like Wang Yue suddenly stopping his own active chess career and becoming a chess teacher. In the game we will see now, it is the other way around — he gets a nice lesson from his opponent. Black should be very careful in this line.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 dxe4 4.♘xe4



4...♙d7 A slightly strange opening choice by Wang Yue, who is over 100 ELO points stronger than his opponent. This line of the French is counted as “safe but slightly worse” for Black.

5.♘f3 ♙c6 6.♙d3 ♘d7 7.0–0 ♘gf6 The idea of Black is simple. By developing his bishop quickly to c6, he tries to avoid the usual problems he faces with his bishop on c8. On the other hand, the typical move c7–c5 is never possible, so Black usually just gives away the c6 bishop for the white knight and plays with a very solid position after c6, but without the bishop pair...

8.♘g3 Going by the famous rule: two pieces cannot be in the same square, so there is no reason to exchange a pair of knights.

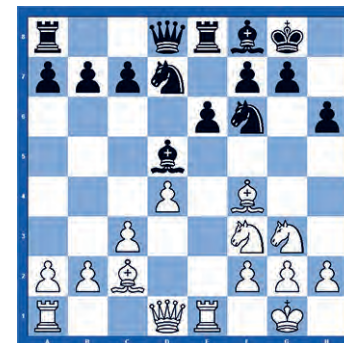
8...♙e7 9.♙e1 0–0 10.c3 Until here everything is theory, of course.

10...♙e8 From this moment on, Wang Yue, who is probably trying to keep as many pieces as possible on the board hoping for complications, gets himself in very serious trouble. [More usual would be 10...♙xf3 11.♙xf3 c6±]

11.♙c2 ♙c2 can be a very usual move in many lines. Of course, the main idea is to play ♙d3.

11...♙f8 12.♙g5! Quite a tricky move. Before developing his bishop to f4, White is provoking Black into playing h6 which would weaken even more the b1–h7 diagonal. In many lines after ♙d3, Black will not be able to stop White with g6 anymore because the pawn is already placed on h6.

12...h6 13.♙f4 ♙d5 Black is preparing the c5 move.



14. ♖e5! and comes another strong move by White. Black did not want to take on the f3-file. Now the knight has gone to e5.

14...c5 15. ♔d3! Zhao Jun is going for the black king. [A more positional decision could have been 15.c4 ♕c6 16. ♖xc6 bxc6 with a clearly better position for White.]

15...♗xe5 Almost the only move. [White threats become clear in 15...♖c8 which looks like a solid move, but 16. ♖xd7 ♕xd7 17. ♖h5! and White is simply winning! Black cannot defend against ♖xf6 and ♕h7.]

16.dxe5 c4 This move keeps Black alive...

17. ♕e2 ♖h7 How to proceed with the attack?!

18. ♕g4! looks like a simple move, but is in fact very strong. White is starting a direct attack on the black king.

18...♔h8 19. ♖h5 making place for the rook and, at the same time, starting to "test" Black on the g7-line.

19...g6 It is hard to find anything better for Black.



20. ♖e3! Zhao Jun is fearless and chooses the best move! White is giving up a full piece, but his attack is deadly!

20...gxh5 21. ♕xh5 White wants to take on h6 and then to double on the h-file or to double on the g-file. Black is just hopeless against this.

21...♖e7 22. ♖g3 ♖d7 **23.** ♕xh7 The easiest. Now against 23... ♔h7, 24. ♕g4 is coming. A really great attacking game!

1-0

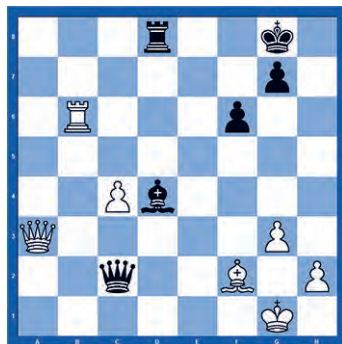
Puzzle section

(5) Caruana,F (2772) – Karjakin,S (2786)

Grand Prix, Zug, 24.04.2013

[CEWN]

1. =



(6) Morozevich,A (2758) – Radjabov,T (2793)

Grand Prix, Zug, 29.04.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

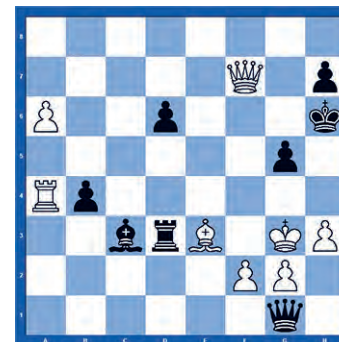


(7) Karjakin,S (2786) – Kamsky,G (2741)

Grand Prix, Zug, 29.04.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

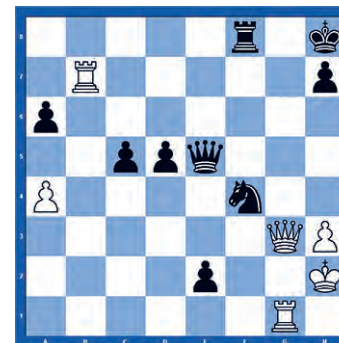


(8) Li Chao (2686) – Zhou Jianchao (2607)

Chinese Championship, 26.04.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Predke,A (2481) – Belous,V (2560)

Russian Junior Championship, 23.04.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(10) Jones,G (2654) – Djuric,S (2471)

Italian league, 27.04.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

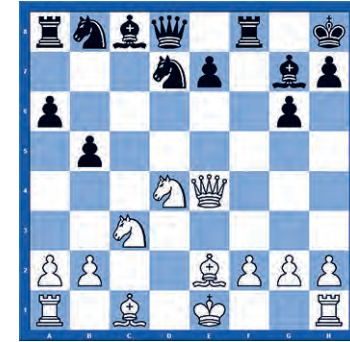


(11) Lalith,B (2565) – Gopal,G (2526)

Maharashtra Championship, 25.04.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

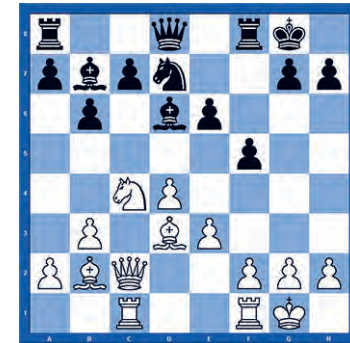


(12) Amstadt,A (2271) – Berczes,D (2528)

Hungarian league, 21.04.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

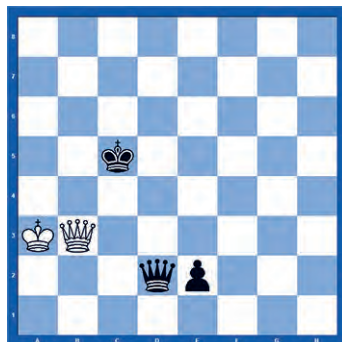


(13) Straubinger,D (2268) – Medvegy,Z (2561)

Hungarian league, 21.04.2013

[CEWN]

1. =



(14) Vocaturo,D (2511) – Bruno,F (2428)

Italian league, 28.04.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

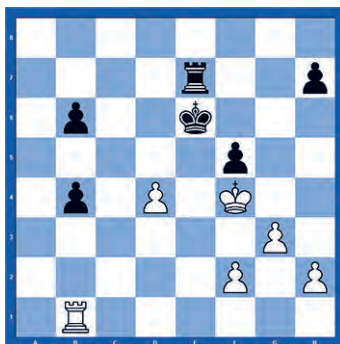


Endgame section

(15) Inarkiev,E (2688) – Harikrishna,P (2705)

Capablanca memorial, 25.04.2013

[Chess Evolution]



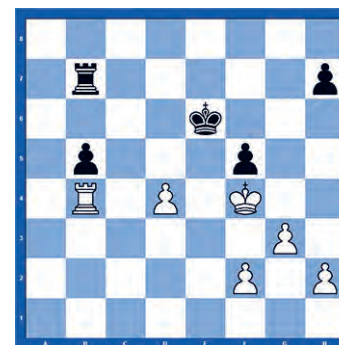
We examine a typical rook endgame where Black is going to be a pawn down after losing the one on b4, but his active rook behind his own b-pawn gives him sufficient compensation for the draw. Harikrishna holds the draw with excellent technique.

50...b5! Black needs to advance his passed pawn as far as possible. If White would have put his rook on b5, the endgame would have been easily won for him.

51.♖xb4 [51.♖e1+? Simplifying into a pawn endgame would have been a terrible blunder by White. Black wins thanks to his side passer on the b-file. 51...♔d6 52.♖xe7 ♔xe7 53.♔e3 ♔e6 54.f3 White is too slow in creating his own passed pawns on the kingside... 54...♔d5 55.♔d3 b3 56.♔c3 b2 57.♔xb2 ♔xd4 and Black wins... 58.g4 fxg4

59.fxg4 ♔e3 60.♔c3 ♔f4 61.♔b4 ♔xg4 62.♔xb5 ♔h3 63.♔c4 ♔xh2 64.♔d3 ♔g2 65.♔e4 h5 66.♔f4 h4–+]

51...♖b7! Black's rook is behind the pawn. It means that as soon as the white one leaves the b4 square in order to activate it, Black is ready to push his b-pawn. The d4 pawn is well placed for White, since it prevents Black's counterplay with ♔c5, so the question is whether White will be able to win the game on the kingside without the help of the rook or not?!



52.♔g5! White activates his king before making progress with the pawns. [52.d5+? Trading the d-pawn for the one on f5 is a serious mistake, since it allows the black king to go to c5. 52...♔xd5 53.♔xf5 ♔c5]

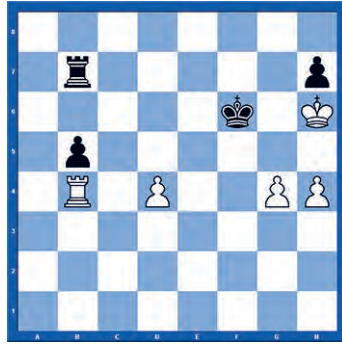
52...♖g7+ 53.♔h6 ♖b7 Black had nothing better than waiting.

54.f3! White finds the only plan to improve his position.

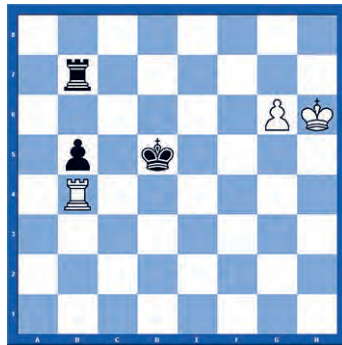
54...♔d5 55.h4 ♔e6 Black continues his waiting policy.

56.g4 [56.h5 leads to the same position as in the game, since after 56...♔f6 White has nothing better than playing 57.g4]

56...fxg4 57.fxg4 ♔f6 The next step for White is to create a passed pawn on the g-file. He can still do this without the help of his rook.

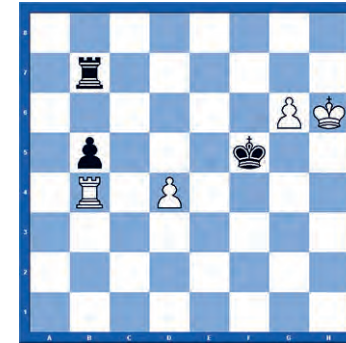


58.h5 ♔e6 59.♖b1 We will get the point of this move in the 59.g5 line. [59.g5 allows Black to play 59...♔f5! 60.g6 (White can try to lure the king with 60.d5 ♔e5 61.g6 hxg6 62.hxg6 ♔xd5



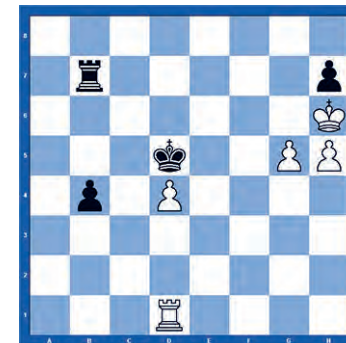
63.g7 but this leads to the known drawish endgame when the White king is to help his rook at catching the b-pawn. 63...♖xg7! (Black cannot try to win a tempo with 63...♖b8 because of 64.♖xb5+!+- deflecting the rook.) 64.♔xg7 ♔c5 The draw is inevitable wherever the rook goes. 65.♖h4 (65.♖b1 b4 66.♔f6 ♔c4 67.♔e5 b3 68.♔e4

♔c3=) 65...b4 66.♔f6 b3 67.♔e5 b2 68.♖h1 ♔c4= followed by ♔c3-c2.) 60...hxg6 61.hxg6



61...♖b6! This is the key resource in Black's defensive plan. 62.♔h7 (62.♔h5 is met by 62...♔f6! followed by ♔g7 and taking the pawn.) 62...♖b7+! Black could not take immediately on g6 because of ♖b5 check! 63.g7 ♔f6 and ♖xg7 is coming next! This is the reason why White has put his rook on b1. He wants to give a check on f1, but on the other hand, this allows Black to advance his b-pawn.]

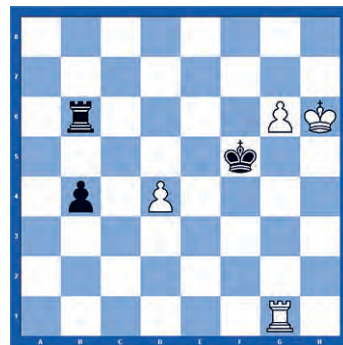
59...b4! 60.g5 ♔f5 [60...♔d5 also leads to a draw, but Black needs to find a precise move after 61.♖d1



61...♖a7!! This is the right defensive method. The rook has to be placed behind the passed pawn, but this time it goes behind the white one on g6. (61...b3 62.g6 hxg6 63.hxg6 b2 64.g7+- wins for White, because the g-pawn threatens to promote with check!) 62.g6 hxg6 63.hxg6 ♖a2! 64.g7 ♖h2+ 65.♔g6 ♖g2+ 66.♔f7 ♖f2+ 67.♔e7 ♖e2+ White is forced to go in front of his pawn. 68.♔f7 (68.♔d7 ♖g2=) 68...♖f2+ 69.♔g8 b3 70.♖b1 b2= and the draw is inevitable. The only way to progress for White is ♔h7, but then Black will start with his checks again.]

61.g6 hxg6 62.hxg6 ♖b6! Black uses the same method as in the 59.g5 line. This time he wants to lure the white rook from the attack of b4.

63.♖g1 [63.♔h7 allows the simplification 63...♖xg6! 64.♖f1+ ♔e4 65.♔xg6 ♔xd4 66.♔f5 b3 White has to give up his rook for the pawn.]



63...♔e4! Another hard move to find! In such situations, only calculation helps. [63...b3 was also tempting, but it loses after 64.♔h5! b2 65.g7! b1♖ (65...♖b8 66.♖b1! ♔f6 67.♔h6+-) 66.g8♖!+- White wins, as Black has no useful checks.]

64.♖g4+ ♔d5 65.♔h7 b3 66.g7 ♖b7 Black tries to escape into the usual pawn against rook endgame with the threat of ♖xg7, ♔xg7, b2, ♖g1 and ♔xd4. White sets up a last trap...

67.♖g3!? ♔xd4! Black does not fall into it. [Black loses after 67...b2 68.♖b3!+- because the g-pawn promotes with check.]

68.♔h6 [68.♖xb3 leads to two kings- 68...♖xb3 69.g8♖ ♖h3+! 70.♔g7 ♖g3±]

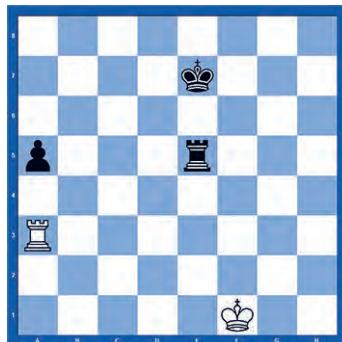
68...♖xg7 69.♔xg7 ♔c4 A tough defense and a well-deserved draw for Harikrishna.

70.♖xb3 ♔xb3 1/2

(16) Aronian, Levon (2809)
— Adams, Michael (2727) [D58]

Alekhine Mem Paris/St Petersburg FRA/RUS (6), 28.04.2013

[Chess Evolution]



The position looks like a draw, but still White needs to be a bit careful. His king is quite far away and is cut on the f-file. If Black manages to reach the b4 square with the king, the game could be over very quickly.

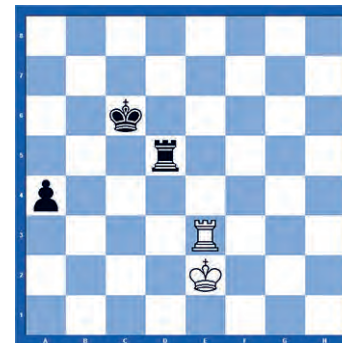
51...♔d6 52.♔f2! An important move with the only correct idea.

52...♔c6 53.♖e3! By playing ♖e3, White is winning the e-file for his king in order to come a bit closer to the a-pawn.

53...♖d5 [Of course the immediate exchange of rooks just leads to a draw. 53...♖xe3 54.♔xe3 ♔c5 55.♔d3 ♔b4 56.♔c2=]

54.♔e2 White brings his king one square closer.

54...a4 The simplest draw.



55.♖a3 [To a slightly more difficult draw would lead 55.♖d3 ♖a5! winning half a tempo. 56.♖a3 ♔b5 57.♔d2 ♔b4 and White already needs to be very careful not to lose. 58.♖h3 a3 59.♔c2! but this move still saves White. 59...a2 60.♖h4+ ♔a3 61.♖h3+ and draw.]

55...♔b5 The Black king has blocked the a5 square, White can continue with what he had started before.

56.♖d3 ♖c5 57.♔d2 The white king is already on d2! This means the draw is close.

57...♔b4 58.♖d8 The white rook starts to attack from "behind".

58...a3 59.♖b8+ The pawn endgame is a draw, of course.

59...♖b5 [In case of 59...♔a4 60.♖a8+ ♔b3 61.♖b8+ ♔a2 62.♖b7 the position is a theoretical draw as well.]

60.♖xb5+ ♔xb5 61.♔c1 a2 62.♔b2 a1N The last funny move! I wonder if it actually was played :).

1/2

Clash of the Titans

(17) Botvinnik, Mikhail
— Furman, Semen Abramovich [E24]

Moscow training m Moscow, 10.1960

[Kamil Miton]

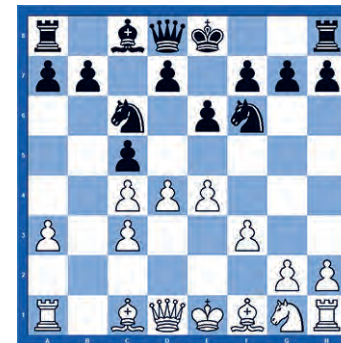
1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♘c3** ♙b4 **4.a3** Nowadays, this line is not very popular. but players like Jobava, Eljanov and recently Svidler like to use it sometimes.

4...♙xc3+ 5.bxc3 c5 Black has a few different development plans, but this one is most often played.

6.f3 White is preparing the e4 move with the idea of getting an advantage in the center. Nowadays, the main move is [6.e3 White's plan is the same to the one in the game, but we should note two important facts for White to start with this move. The first one is that White avoids the line with d5 because after cxd5, Black recaptures on d5 with the knight (Nxd5), and because of the following line: 6...♘c6 7.♙d3 0-0 8.♘e2 b6 9.0-0 ♙a6 10.e4 ♘e8 Compared to the game, White does not need to lose time with ♙e3 and can immediately start to put pressure on the kingside. 11.f4↑]

6...♘c6 [6...d5 7.cxd5 ♘xd5 (7...exd5 8.e3 leads to a completely different structure. White's plan is ♙d3-♘e2 and, at some moment, to push e4. In general, this is not easy to do.) 8.dxc5 ♙a5 9.e4 with complex play.]

7.e4



7...d6 This seems to be a normal move, but Black very often does not lose time with this and tries to immediately create pressure against the c4 pawn.

8.♙e3 b6 9.♙d3 0-0 [9...♙a6 I heard a story about this kind of blunder in this structure. One of the old masters, during his game, suddenly saw his wife on the playing hall. He remembered that his mistress was in the room and without any second thought, automatically put the bishop on a6. The problem is that Black did not castle yet, and when he went back to the board, he had to give up after: 10.♙a4+- with d5 next and Black loses a piece.]

10.♘e2 The understanding of this position is very simple. Black's idea is to play against the very weak c4 pawn, so White should hurry to create an initiative on the kingside.

10...♘e8?! Not accurate! In this position, time is very important, so Black should start immediately with [10...♘a5 Xc4 11.♘g3 ♙a6 12.♙e2 ♙d7 with the idea of playing ♙a4. (12...cxd4 13.cxd4 ♖c8 14.♖c1 ♙c7 and White has serious problems with the c4 pawn.) 13.e5 dxe5 14.dxe5 ♖fd8! 15.♖d1 ♙xc4 16.♙xh7+ ♔xh7 17.♖xd7 ♙xe2 18.♖xd8 ♖xd8 19.exf6 ♙b5 20.fxg7 ♔xg7]

11.0-0 ♘a5 12.♘g3

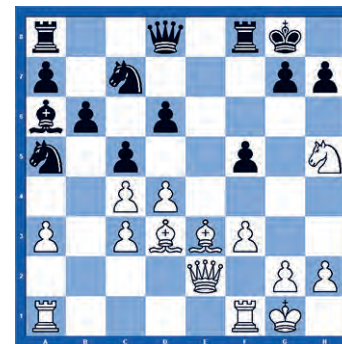


12...f5 The idea of this typical move is to limit the white pieces! Black can put up the f5-g6 structure to limit the knight on g3 and the bishop on d3. This idea is possible because of the doubled pawns. White will not be able to take advantage of the weak dark squares around the black king. Let us check what would happen if Black plays [12... ♖a6 13. ♔e2 ♖c8 14. ♖ac1 In this case, White is on time! After the sacrifice of the c4 pawn, White will get an attack on the kingside. (14.d5!?) 14... ♔d7 15.e5!? (15.f4 cxd4 16.cxd4 ♔a4 17.f5 ♖xc4 (17... ♘xc4 18. ♖g5 f6 19.fxe6 fxg5 20. ♖xf8+ ♔xf8 21. ♔h5 ♔e7 22. ♔xg5+ ♔xe6 23. ♖f1+-) 18. ♖xc4 ♖xc4 19.fxe6 ♖xc1 20.exf7+ ♖xf7 21. ♖xc1±) 15... ♔a4 (15...dxe5 16.dxe5 ♔a4 17. ♖g5 with ♖e7 or ♔e4 ideas.) 16. ♖g5 ♖xc4 17. ♖e7 d5 18.f4↑]

13.exf5 exf5 14. ♘h5 ♘c7 [14... ♖a6 15. ♔e2 ♔d7∞]

15. ♔e2?! [15. ♖e1 Good multipurpose move. In many variations, the rook will not hang on f1, as the bishop on e3 will be protected and the rook will be active on the e-file. Now, after 15... ♖a6 White can play 16.dxc5 dxc5 (16...bxc5 17. ♔a4±) 17. ♔c2! g6 (17... ♔d7 18.g4→) 18. ♖ad1! gxh5 19. ♖xf5 ♔f6 20. ♖xh7+ ♔h8 21. ♖d7 with a final attack.]

15... ♖a6



16.g4 Logical move. Almost all the black pieces are placed on the queenside, so White is trying to break through on the kingside, where the black king might come under pressure.

16... ♔e8 Not allowing the capture on f5 and preparing ♔f7-♔e8. [16... ♔d7!? 17. ♖xf5 (17.dxc5 bxc5 18.gxf5 ♔f7 19. ♘g3 ♖xc4 20. ♘e4∞) 17... ♖xf5 18.gxf5 ♔xf5 (18... ♖xc4 19. ♔g2 ♖xf1 20. ♖xf1 ♔h8) 19. ♘g3 ♔f7 with good compensation.]

17. ♖ae1 ♔f7 18.d5 ♖ae8 19. ♘f4 ♖e5 [19...g5 20. ♘e6 ♘xe6 21.dxe6 ♖xe6 22.gxf5 ♖e7 The position looks very dangerous, but Black will be on time with the counterplay. For example: 23. ♔g2 h6 24.h4 (24.f4 g4 and the white bishops are out of play.) 24... ♖fe8! 25. ♖e4 ♘xc4 26.hxg5 ♘xe3 27. ♖xe3 ♖xf1 28. ♖xf1 d5 29.f6 dxe4 30.gxh6+ ♔h7 31.fxe7 ♖xe7=; 19...fxg4 It does not make sense to open the f-file. 20.fxg4 ♔d7 21.h3 with the idea of playing ♔c2, and now if 21... ♔a4 comes the strong 22. ♘e6! ♔g8 22... ♘xe6 23.dxe6 ♖xc4 24. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 25.e7 ♖e8 26. ♖g5 and the strong e7 pawn gives White a winning position.]

20.gxf5

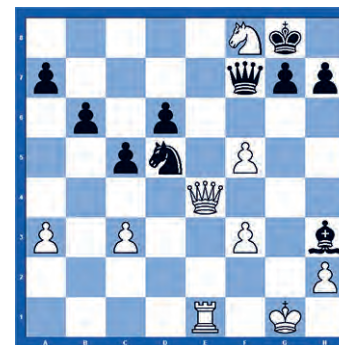


20...♞xc4 Black could also play [20...♞xf5 21.♞g2 (21. ♞xf5 ♞xf5 ♞xc4) 21...♞e5!? (21...♞xf3? 22.♞f4 ♞xf1+ 23.♞xf1 with ♞e3-♞f5 next. White should get a huge attack.) 22.f4 ♞ee8 23.f5 with a very complex position.]

21.♞xc4 ♞xe3 22.♞xe3 ♞xc4 23.♞e6 ♞xd5? Decisive mistake! After the correct [23...♞e8 Simple and the best. 24.♞e4 (24.♞f2 ♞xf5 25.♞g2 ♞xe6 26.dxe6 ♞xe6 27.♞d2 ♞xe1+ 28.♞xe1 ♞xf3 29.♞e8+ ♞f8) 24...♞xf1 25.♞xf1 g6 The position is equal. The idea of the last move is to weaken the knight on e6 and try to get rid of him.; 23... ♞xf1 24.♞xf8±; 23...♞xe6 24.dxe6 (24.fxe6 ♞g6+ 25.♞h1 ♞xf1 26.♞xf1 b5 not allowing White to support the structure after the c4 move. White should be slightly better with the unpleasant pawn on e6, but on the other hand, the white king is very weak and Black has good chances for counterplay.) 24...♞xf5 25.e7 ♞e8 26.♞f2 Given the fact that Black is controlling the light squares, it will not be easy to prove the advantage, but of course, objectively, White is better.]

24.♞e4 ♞xf1 25.♞xf8 ♞h3 Losing immediately. Black could still fight after [25...♞xf8 26.♞xf1 b5 27.a4 (27.♞d1

♞xc3 28.♞a8+ ♞e8 29.♞xe8+ ♞xe8 30.♞xd6 b4) 27... a6 28.a5 but Black's position is very hard to play.]



26.♞g6! A simple tactical trick. White is winning.

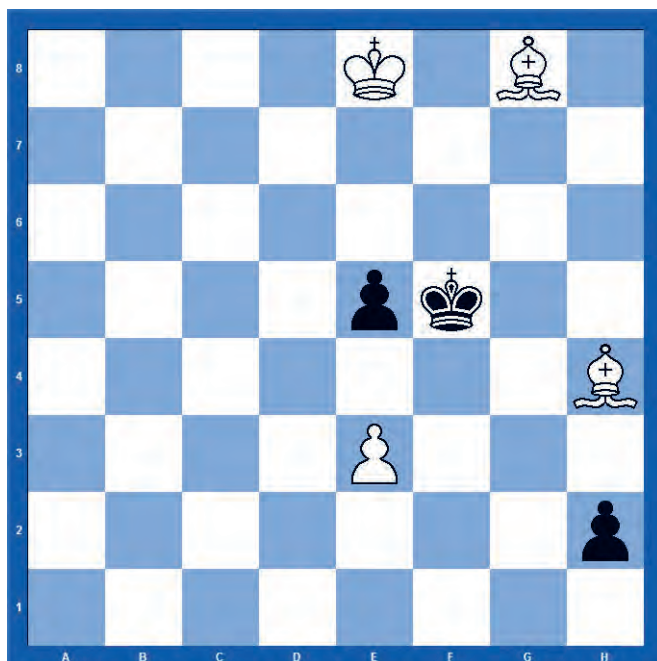
26...♞c7 27.♞e7+ ♞f8 28.♞h4 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Rinck

[CEWN]

1. +-

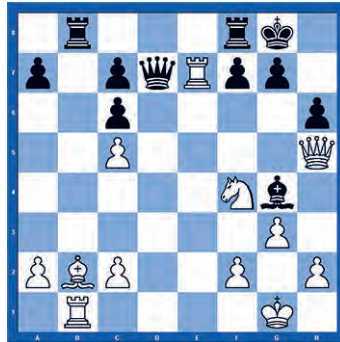


Solutions

(19) Lu Shanglei (2562) – Saptarshi,R (2426)

Bangkok Open, 16.04.2013

[Solutions]

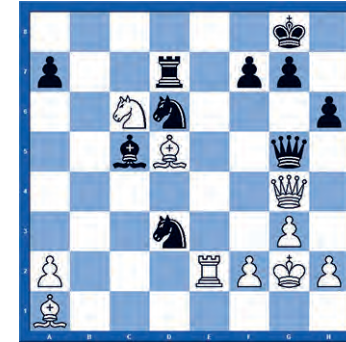


20...♖xb2!! 0-1 [20...♖xb2 21.♖xb2 (21.♖xd7 ♖xb1+ 22.♔g2 ♘xh5--+) 21...♔d1+ 22.♔g2 ♘xh5--+]

(20) Akesson,R (2462) – Barbosa,O (2560)

Bangkok Open, 17.04.2013

[Solutions]



34.♘e7+!! [34.♔xd7? ♔xd5+]

34...♔h7 [34...♖xe7 35.♔xg5 hxg5 36.♖xe7+-]

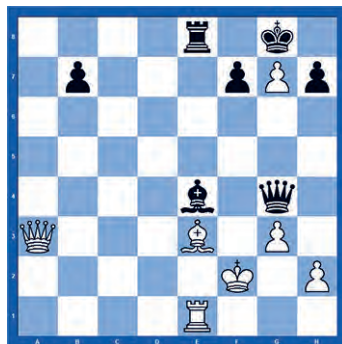
35.♔xd7! ♘f4+ **36.♔f3?** [36.♔f1! ♘xe2 (36...♘xd5 37.♔d8 (37.♘d4 ♘xd4 38.♔xd6+-) 37...♘xe7 38.♔xe7+-) 37.♔xe2+-]

36...♔h5+∞

(21) Short,N (2697) – Czebe,A (2479)

Bangkok Open, 21.04.2013

[Solutions]



34. ♖h6!! ♔f5+ [34... ♕c8 35. ♕f8+! ♖xf8 36. gxf8 ♕+ ♕xf8 37. ♖xf8 ♔xf8 38. ♖xe4+-]

35. ♔g1 1-0

(22) Gharamian,T (2663) – Riff,J (2467)

LUC Open, 17.04.2013

[Solutions]



23. ♖xg6! ♕c7 [23... ♖xf4 24. ♖e7+ ♔h8 25. ♖xc8 ♖xc8 26. gxf4+-]

24. ♖e5 1-0

(23) Gharamian,T (2663) – Schoorl,R (2326)

LUC Open, 18.04.2013

[Solutions]



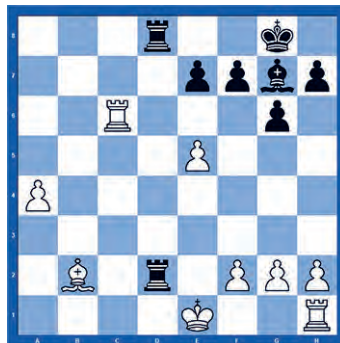
16. ♖xe4! ♗xe4 17. ♔g4+- ♗f5 [17... ♗g6 18. ♔xg6+-;
17... ♗d5 18. ♗xh6+-]

18. ♔xf5+-

(24) Kempinski,R (2599) – Tomczak,J (2564)

Polish Championship, 18.04.2013

[Solutions]



26. ♖c8! ♖d1+ 27. ♔e2 ♖1d2+ 28. ♔e1=

(25) Gajewski,G (2653) – Kempinski,R (2599)

Polish Championship, 20.04.2013

[Solutions]



28. ♖xe4!! ♖xe4 29. ♗f1! ♗e5 [29... ♖d4 30. ♗xc4 ♖xd2
31. ♗xd2±]

30. ♔xd6!+-

(26) Chigaev,M (2454) – Artemiev,V (2499)

Russian Junior Championship, 17.04.2013

[Solutions]

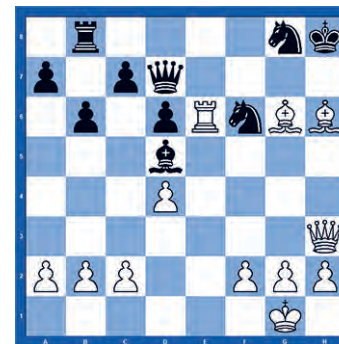


24... ♖xd3! 25. ♕xd3 ♘h1!! 26. ♖c4+ ♔b8 27. ♘f4+ ♔a8 0-1

(27) Eliseev,U (2541) – Stukopin,A (2500)

Russian Junior Championship, 22.04.2013

[Solutions]



25. ♘f8+! ♘h7 26. ♖e7! ♕xh3 (26... ♘xe7 27. ♕xh7#) 27. ♘g7#

(28) Stevic,H (2616) – Gonda,L (2528)

Austrian league, 24.03.2013

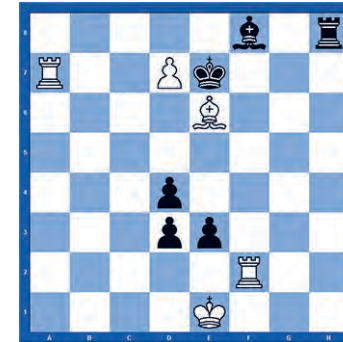
[Solutions]



26... ♖d1!! 27. ♙xd1 ♚h1+ 28. ♙e2 ♖xf2+ 29. ♙xf2
♙xd1-+

(29) Horwitz

[Solutions]



1. d8 ♙+! ♙xd8 2. ♖xf8+! ♖xf8 3. ♙f7! d2+ 4. ♙e2! d3+
5. ♙d1!+-



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 63

10th of May 2013

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Editorial Preface

Another great week of chess has begun!

The European Individual Championship in Poland is on its way. A lot of 2700+ players came to fight for the prices and the qualification for the World Cup. In the line-up there are players such as Jakovenko, Tomashevsky, Vachier-Lagrave, Nepomniachtchi, Areschenko, Akopian, Korobok, Eljanov, Jobava and many more.

After round 4, only Moiseenko has 4/4.

It is going to be a very exciting tournament and we can be sure that there will be many fighting games.

Norway Masters:

The amazing strong Norway Masters has just begun. Carlsen, Aronian, Anand, Topalov, Radjabov, Karjakin, Nakamura, Wang Hao, Svidler and Hammer make the field of the tournament really exciting and strong. On the day before the start of the main event, the blitz tournament was won by Karjakin with 6.5/9.

The first round of the main event began with two draws and three white wins. We are very curious about who is going to be the winner at the end of this event!

Until then, enjoy the CEWN Nr 63 with games from the recent events, as usual, well commented by your two hard workers!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Moiseenko,A1 (2698) – Mista,A (2574) [D20]

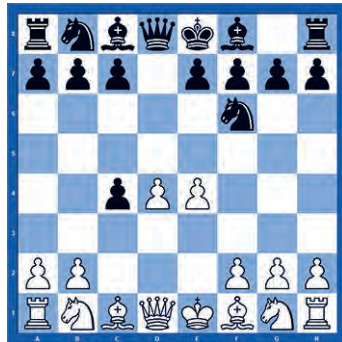
14th Euro Indiv 2013 Legnica POL (2.10), 06.05.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

An interesting game with many unusual motifs. Alexander Mista, the specialist of the Queen's Gambit Accepted, was not up-to-date with the latest games. Moiseenko got a nice advantage by following the Radjabov-Ponomarev game, which was just played a few weeks ago in Zug on the FIDE Grand Prix.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 The sharpest continuation, which probably came as a small surprise for Mista, because Moiseenko always played the main line with 3.♘f3 before.

3...♘f6 Thanks to the efforts of Ponomarev and Nakamura, this line became very popular recently, even on the highest level.

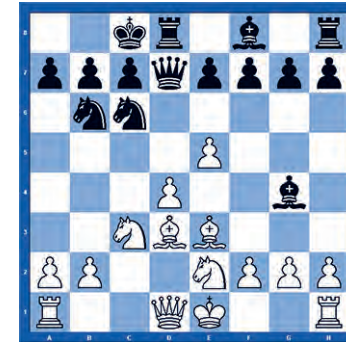


4.e5 ♘d5 5.♙xc4 ♘b6 6.♙d3 ♘c6 7.♘e2 ♙g4 8.♙e3

This was a rare sideline before, but after these games, it must be taken more seriously. [Most of the games con-

tinue with 8.f3 ♙e6 9.♘bc3 ♙d7 10.♘e4 ♙d5 11.♘c5 ♙c8 12.a3 e6 with a very complex position with mutual chances. White has a space advantage, but Black is hoping to get counterplay with the help of the d5 square.]

8...♙d7 9.♘bc3 0-0-0 This sharp move was the reason why White did not like the 8.♙e3 line so much. Black threatens with ♘xe5. [9...♙d8 is a calm alternative for Black, avoiding the dangers that occurred in the game.]



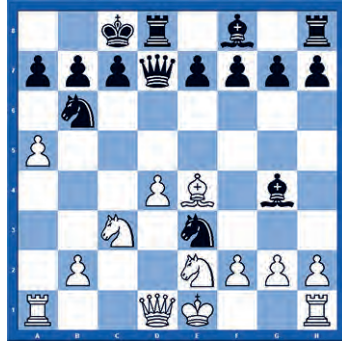
10.a4! This is the novelty of Radjabov. It is very logical for White to launch a huge attack, but on the other hand, he seemingly blunders the ♘xe5 threat... [10.♙e4 happened before, but Black was fine after 10...♙f5 exchanging the light-squared bishops, followed by e6, consolidating the control over the d5 square for the knight.]

10...♘xe5! Black has no choice, he must go for the complications. Otherwise, a5-a6 is crushing. [10...a5? crucially weakens the b5 square. White immediately makes use of it with 11.♙b5±]

11.♙e4! White calmly goes away with his bishop and threatens to take on e5.

11...f5! Excellent reaction by Black, he counterattacks the bishop. Retreating the knight would cost too much

time and White could continue his attack. [11...♘ec4 is refuted nicely by 12.a5! The b6 knight has no good square to move, and on 12...♘xe3 freeing the c4 square for the knight, allows the beautiful win



13.axb6! ♘xd1 14.bxa7!+- and White promotes a queen on move 15!]

12.a5! White must also play aggressively, since he sacrificed a pawn. With this move, followed by the forthcoming sacrifice, he can keep the queens on the board... [12.dxe5 ♔xd1+ 13.♖xd1 ♖xd1+ 14.♔xd1 fxe4 would be just fine for Black, as he does not need to worry anymore about getting mated.]

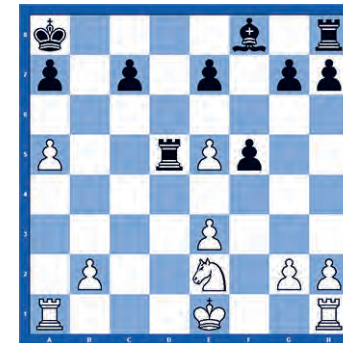
12...♘bc4! [12...fxe4 was losing again, similarly to the 11...♘ec4 line. 13.axb6 ♘d3+ White has 14.♔xd3! exd3 15.bxa7 and again, White promotes a queen on move 15!]

13.♙xb7+! ♔xb7 14.♔b3+ White takes back the piece on e5, destroying the pawn structure in front of the black king and keeping the queens on the board, with the hope of a successful mating attack.

14...♙a8 [Knowing the games 14...♙c8!? seems like a strong improvement for Black. 15.dxe5 ♘xe3 16.fxe3 ♙xe2 17.♙xe2 With the king on c8, this probably is the

correct recapture. Black has to play accurately. (The point of 14...♙c8 becomes clear after 17.♘xe2 ♔d5! Now, in comparison to the Radjabov-Ponomarev game, White cannot invade on the d-file. We examined this game in the 15...♘xe3 deviation.) 17...♔d2+! 18.♔f3 g5! launching a strong counterattack. It seems like White has to give perpetual check with 19.♔e6+ (19.♘b5 is met by 19...♔d5+! 20.♔xd5 ♖xd5 and the a7 pawn cannot be taken because the knight gets trapped after ♔b7.) 19...♔b8 20.♔b3+ Black should not be too ambitious neither, because 20...♙a8? meets by 21.♘b5! and ♔d5 does not work anymore because of ♘c7 at the end.]

15.dxe5 ♙xe2 This is the novelty of the game, not a good one from Black's point of view. [15...♘xe3 was played by Ponomarev. 16.fxe3 ♙xe2 17.♘xe2 ♔d5 18.♔xd5+ ♖xd5



19.♔f2! White wants to invade on the d-file with his rook. This is the point of 14...♙c8, but of course, such moves can only be found over the board by luck. 19...g6 Black has to hurry to develop his bishop, otherwise, he gets cramped with his remaining pieces. (19...♖xe5 20.♖hd1 is problematic for Black.) 20.♖hd1 ♖xd1 21.♖xd1 ♙g7 22.♖d5 White has kept an initiative thanks to the bad bishop on g7, which will be dominated by the knight af-

ter ♖f4-e6. Later on, he managed to bring home the full point. Radjabov-Ponomarev, Zug 2013.]

16. ♖xe2 ♔d3 A logical attempt by Black to get rid of the queens with such a weak king. However the absence of the queens does not solve Black's problems. [16... ♖xe5 17.0-0 and White's attack is rolling.]

17. ♔xd3 ♖xd3 **18.** ♖f4 White is driving his knight to e6 in order to punish Black for his undeveloped pieces on f8 and h8. [However 18. ♗d4 seems to be even stronger. The point is very hidden... 18...e6 It seems like he will be out of danger after getting his bishop out, but suddenly 19. ♖a4! traps the c4 knight. 19... ♖xa5 with the idea of ♗b4, looks playable, but...



20. ♖c1! traps the rook! Quite an unusual motif!]

18... ♖d7 White would like to keep control over the d-file to avoid the rook penetrating over there. [Slightly better practical chances would have given 18... ♖b3 but White is better anyway after, for instance 19.0-0-0±]

19. ♖e6! ♖xe5 Black is at least a pawn up, but his king-side is completely doomed.

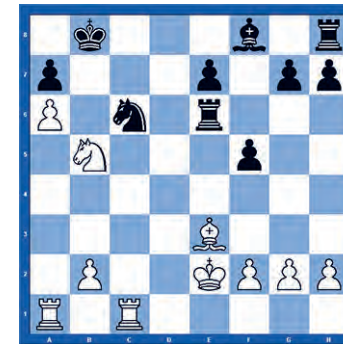
20. ♔e2! Bringing the h1 rook into action!

20... ♖d6 Black tries to kick out the annoying e6 knight, but it costs a pawn.

21. ♖xc7+ ♔b7 **22.** ♖hc1 The end is near! Black's king-side is still undeveloped.

22... ♖c6 [22...g6 is too slow. White's attack is crushing after 23.a6+ ♔b8 24. ♖b5 ♖d7 25. ♖a3! ♗g7 26. ♖b3+-wins.]

23. ♖b5 ♖e6 **24.** a6+ ♔b8



25. ♖a4! White is going to play ♖c4 and the knight cannot be protected and cannot move wither, because of ♖c8 mate.

25...h5 **26.** ♖ac4 ♖hh6 A clever idea by Black, but it does not help, obviously.

27. ♔f1! Nice final move. White unpins himself and threatens to take on h6 and to give the ♗f4 check, followed by either ♖xa7 or ♖c7 depending on where the king goes. The game is the sad tale of an unfortunate f8 bishop! :)

1-0

(2) Eljanov,P (2702) – Predke,A (2494) [E18]

14th Euro Indiv 2013 Legnica POL (1.8), 05.05.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

A nice positional lesson. White has simplified the mid-dlegame into a seemingly very drawish endgame, but a deeper look shows that Black was never so close to the draw.

1.♘f3 [Usually, we reach the game's position from the following move order: 1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.g3 ♖b7 5.♙g2 ♙e7 6.0-0 0-0 7.♘c3 and we are in the game...]

1...♘f6 2.c4 b6 3.g3 ♖b7 4.♙g2 e6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.d4 0-0 Here we are! This is the initial position of the Queen's Indian Defense with 4.g3 ♖b7.



7.♘c3 Eljanov follows the old main line. [Recently 7.♖e1 enjoys big popularity.]

7...♘e4 8.♙d2 This position has huge theory and there are thousands of games in the database.

8...♙f6 [I personally played 8...d5 ; While the most common move is 8...f5 All of them lead to different pawn structures, but with complex positions everywhere.]

9.♖c1 White prepares to push d5, which is shown in the 9...d6 line. Black decides to employ a standard maneuver to keep his b7 bishop active, but in this position, it is basically a novelty.

9...♘xc3 [9...d6 is met by 10.d5! and Black cannot destroy the pawn structure on c3 because of the previous ♖c1 move. White ends up with a small advantage because of the space advantage.; 9...c5 is suggested by theory as the best option for Black.]

10.♙xc3 ♙e4 11.b4 White decides to grab space on the queenside. He is intending to develop his pieces with ♗b3 and ♖fd1. [Another typical plan in these positions for White is to play 11.♖e1 and if Black develops his pieces logically 11...d6



12.♙f1! the point is that White would like to occupy the center with ♘d2 and when the bishop goes away, e4. However, to do this more effectively, he should preserve his light-squared bishop. 12...♘d7 13.♘d2 and wherever the bishop goes, White pushes e4 with an advantage.]

11...d5 12.♖b3 White decides to keep the tension. [12.c5 came into consideration. White should have a small edge

here as well, with the space advantage, given that Black is unable to undermine the pawn chain with a5 or e5.]

12...♘c6 Good timing! With his last move, Black has prepared a break on the queenside with a5, so White had to take concrete measures.

13.cxd5! [After the “handy” 13.♖fd1 the advantage immediately slips away. Black plays 13...a5! and on 14.b5 dxc4 15.♔xc4 ♕d5 16.♔d3 ♘b4! Black gets very good counterplay. His a8 rook becomes very active without even making a single move with it.]

13...♔xd5 [13...♕xd5 is not good. 14.♔b1! and Black has no good defense against e4!; 13...exd5 14.♖fd1 This structures are usually considered as slightly better for White. The main plan is to settle the knight on e5. It can be done immediately or after b5-♘e7.]

14.♔xd5 ♕xd5

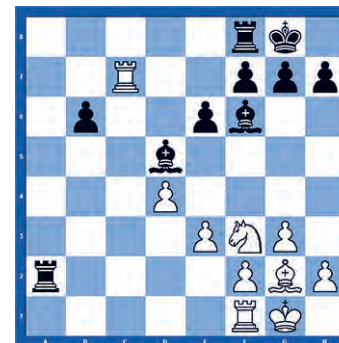


15.e3 Strengthening the d4 pawn. White prepares ♘d2. [White should be careful with 15.b5 Because of the knight retreats, Black gets the chance to gain counterplay on the queenside with a6. 15...♘e7]

15...a5 A logical move, but after the game, it is clear that Black should have refrained from this move. [15...♕xa2? is clearly over-optimistic. 16.♘d2! ♕d5 17.e4! and the bishop gets trapped.; 15...♖fc8 should have been played, but it does not equalize either. 16.♘d2 ♕xg2 17.♔xg2 White has a slightly better endgame. He can put the c7 pawn under strong pressure by doubling the rooks on the c-file and he can also start to advance the kingside pawns with g4-f4, grabbing a lot of space and increasing the advantage.]

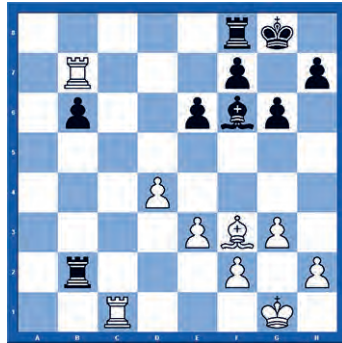
16.bxa5! Eljanov is ready to go for the forthcoming endgame. He knows exactly how unpleasant it is going to be for Black...

16...♘xa5 17.♕xa5 ♖xa5 18.♖xc7 ♖xa2



19.♖fc1 Both players were looking forward to this position. Black thought that the draw was in his hands, while White was also happy. We must go deeper to understand the real problems. White would like to exchange the light-squared bishops and the knight will dominate the remaining bishop. The game demonstrates this well. The question is whether it helps if Black goes for the opposite-colored bishop endgame or not....

19...♖d8 [19...♙xf3 is probably the better chance, but also very unpleasant for Black. 20. ♙xf3 g6 21. ♖b7 ♖b2



22. ♖c6 Without the rooks on the board, Black could make an easy draw even without the b-pawn. However, White can create many threats with his rooks. One could be d5 now, using the pin of the bishop. Black cannot prevent it with ♙g7, because it runs into ♖xe6. **22...♙d8** **23. ♙g2** White does not need to hurry. **23...h5** **24. h4** Black can only move with the b2 rook, but a spectacular threat is awaiting for him. **24...♖d2** (24...b5 25. ♖c5 b4 26. ♖cb5 wins the pawn.) **25. ♖d6** ♖b2 **26. d5!** exd5 **27. ♖bd7!+-** Unexpectedly, the bishop is trapped!]

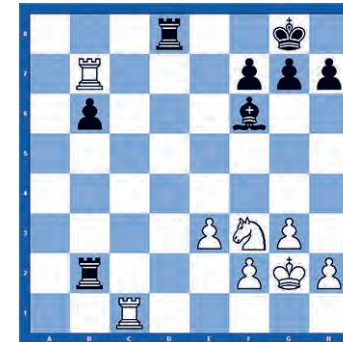
20. ♘e1! White follows his plan of playing with the strong knight against the useless bishop.

20...♙xg2 **21. ♙xg2 e5** A logical attempt by Black to initiate exchanges, but the remaining 4 pawns will still be enough for White to convert his advantage.

22. dxe5 ♙xe5 **23. ♖b7** ♖b2 **24. ♘f3** [White had a tactical opportunity to win the pawn with 24. ♘d3 because of the back-rank. However, it would be a huge mistake to give up the knight for the bishop. 24...♖b5 25. ♘xe5

♖xe5 26. ♖xb6 because the 4 against 3 rook endgames are drawn...]

24...♙f6



25. g4! Eljanov advances his kingside pawns. Before winning the b-pawn, he wants to stop Black from organizing the ideal defending pawn structure with h5-g6-f7. [White could have won the b-pawn by playing 25. ♖c6 b5 26. ♖cb6 ♖d5 27. e4 but White can do this anytime...]

25...h6 **26. h4** 26...g6 allows the unpleasant ♖c6 and the bishop does not find its place.

26...♖b4 **27. ♙h3** ♖f8 Black goes to passivity himself. It does not make any difference, since White could play ♖c7 anytime, which forces Black to play ♖f8 anyway.

28. ♖c6 White is ready to take the pawn since he ideally advanced his pawns on the kingside.

28...♙d8 **29. ♘d4** Eljanov had a clear plan in mind. He wanted to occupy the seventh rank with both of his rooks and then the threats of ♘e6 and ♘f5-d6 are too strong for Black to parry. [29. ♖b8 was also possible. Black cannot avoid losing the pawn. For instance, after 29...♖b2

30. ♖cc8 ♗e7 31. ♖xf8+ ♗xf8 32. ♘e5 ♘d7 is threatened.
32... ♖d2 33. ♖g2 ♖d6 34. ♘c4± wins the pawn.]

29... ♖b2 30. ♖g3 ♖b1 [On 30... ♗f6 31. ♘f5! White obviously saves his strong knight!]



31. h5! Further squeezing Black, who already cannot move...

31... ♖g1+ 32. ♖f3 ♖b1 33. ♘f5 ♖b5 34. ♖d6 The rook is heading to the 7th rank.

34... ♖e5 35. ♖g3 White does not need to hurry.

35... ♖c5 36. ♖dd7 ♖c2 37. f4 White improves even more his structure before making the decisive blow with ♘d6. [37. ♘d6 was also winning.]

37... ♖c3 38. ♖f3 ♖b3 This is a blunder, but the game was over anyway.

39. ♘d4! ♖d3 40. ♖e2 Black resigned as ♘e6 is coming next with the typical mate on the 7th rank with two rooks. [40. ♖e2 ♖c3 41. ♘e6 fxe6 42. ♖xg7+ ♖h8 43. ♖h7+ ♖g8 44. ♖bg7# An instructive game!]

1-0

(3) Pelletier, Yannick (2599) — Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime (2718) [A15]

14th Euro Indiv 2013 Legnica POL (3.19), 07.05.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

To win a game against Yannick Pelletier with the black pieces is a very difficult task. Yannick is usually very well prepared and likes to try to force a draw against a stronger player out of the opening. However, Maxime shows us what is the right strategy against such a tight opponent — he totally outplayed the Swiss number 1.

1. ♘f3 ♘f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♘c3 d5 Maxime is almost always playing his favorite Gruenfeld, and with great success. This time, it is anti-Gruenfeld time. The position very quickly becomes very sharp and interesting.

4. cxd5 ♘xd5



5. ♖b3 The Anti-Gruenfeld with 5. ♖b3 is a very sharp line. I guess that Black probably did not expect it from the usually solid Swiss player.

5... ♘b6 6. d4 ♗g7 In the Gruenfeld it is always the same — White has a strong center and Black tries to get some play against it.

7. ♖g5 A relatively rare move which immediately brings a lot of action to the game.

7... ♙e6 8. ♚c2 Until here, I guess both players knew the line well.

8...h6 9. ♙h4 This is nothing new either. White keeps both ideas in mind: to castle long or just to play the modest e3, ♙e2 and 0-0.

9...g5 This is almost a novelty already. Usually, Black tried the less aggressive short castle, or ♘c6 and short castle after e3.

10. ♙g3 g4 Actually, this move looks very logical. Why not to push away the white knight from f3?!

11. ♘d2 The only square. Of course, moves like 11. ♘h4 would be much less attractive for White because the knight would be out of play.

11... ♘c6 The idea is not to put the knight on c6, which would be a bad square, but to bring it quickly to d5 and to play c5 next, crushing White's center. [This is not the right moment to get greedy. 11... ♙xd4 12. ♘b3 and the white pieces will dominate the game. Besides ♖d1, ♘c5 might also be a threat, if the black bishop goes back to g7.]

12.e3 ♘b4 and here we can see Black's idea in action.

13. ♚d1 h5 Before going ♘4d5, Black is checking how will White get rid of the nasty h4 threat.

14.a3? A bad move. White is pushing the Black knight to d5, a square where it would have to go anyway. [A normal move like 14. ♙h4 would lead to a very complex position.]

14... ♘4d5 15.e4?! Another typical mistake. Of course, White should never move the e3 pawn. It is very important to block the bishop on g7! Now Black is quickly using White's gift.

15... ♘xc3 16.bxc3



16...c5! This is exactly how we should play the Gruenfeld! Black's bishop on g7 is mutating to a monster piece! By now, it is clear that something went very wrong in the previous moves. Black already has a better position.

17.d5 ♙d7 18.c4 White is trying to fix his center, but of course, Black will not take the exchange on a1, as it would be a terrible mistake. The bishop controls all the dark squares and is a key piece in Black's position.

18... ♙a4?! As we know, the best blocking piece is the knight, so why to play 18... ♙a4 and not 18... ♘a4!?

19. ♚c1 h4 It is time to act. White could have thought about playing h4 next.

20. ♙f4 ♙d4! A nice move. White wanted to play e5 next or just ♙e3. Now Black is going to destroy White's pawn structure forever.

21. ♖e2 White does not see it coming...



21...e5! Just super strong play.

22. ♖e3 Nothing else left for White.

22... ♖xe3 23.fxe3 Let us have a fresh look at the position. White's pawn structure is just horrible and he has no play at all. If Black manages to exchange the queens, his position would probably be winning. The winning plan would be easy, to put the knight on d6, the bishop on d7 and to play a6-b5, or maybe f5.

23... ♖g5 24. ♖c3 ♖d7 Probably now came the most critical point of the game.

25.0-0? After this move, White is almost paralyzed. [White should have used his chance to get at least some counterplay. 25.a4! ♖c8 (Of course not 25... ♖xa4 26. ♖b3±) 26.a5 and in the future, White would have at least a target—the c5 pawn provokes Black to play b6. Still, White's position is bad, but there remain some practical counter-chances.]

25... ♖a4 No more a4 in this game.

26. ♖d3 ♖h6 Black is playing according to his plan. It is time to exchange a few pieces... The target is to get a Bishop+Knight endgame with one rook on the board.

27. ♖ab1 ♖b6 Protecting b7 pawn and avoiding b6, which would give a "one-way ticket" for the knight on a4.

28. ♖b3 It is hard to give White an advice. There are really no moves in the position, but I think it was clearly the time to get rid of the knight on a4. [28. ♖d1 would probably give White better practical chances.]

28... ♖f8 Black does not need to hurry, White has no counterplay.

29. ♖d2 ♖g7 30. ♖d3 g3 It is hard to say if this move will be useful, but it might be. The only small disadvantage could be that White might need the f3 square for his knight, someday...

31.h3 ♖h8 and the second rook is coming over h6 into the game.

32. ♖c2 ♖hh6 33. ♖d3 The moves by White are quite senseless.

33... ♖hf6



34. ♖f5? The last mistake of not a great game. [It would have been better for White to keep using the passive tactic. 34. ♖xf6 ♕xf6 35. ♖f1 ♕g5 36. ♖f3 with a worse, but not lost, position.]

34... ♗xf5 35.exf5 e4! and Black says “thank you!”. We saw a very nice strategic win by Black and can learn a lot from Maxime, who is still a real Gruenfeld expert with the black pieces!

0–1

(4) Halkias,Stelios (2549) – Balogh,Csaba (2644) [D17]

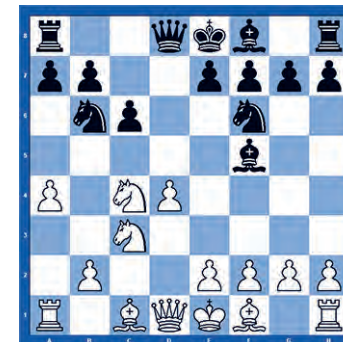
14th Euro Indiv 2013 Legnica POL (3.37), 07.05.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Our CEWN commentator Balogh Csaba is working a double shift. Besides his usual commentaries for the next issue of CEWN, he is participating in the European Individual Championship in Poland. The target is clear, to qualify for the World Cup. To do this he needs a result of at least +4 and to be lucky and get among the best 24.

1. ♘f3 d5 2.d4 ♘f6 3.c4 c6 4. ♘c3 dxc4 Csaba’s favorite Slav with dxc4.

5.a4 ♗f5 6. ♘e5 ♗bd7 7. ♘xc4 ♘b6



8. ♘e3 Quite a rare but interesting move which Halkias played not for the first time. [8. ♘e5 is the main move here.]

8... ♗g6 [8...e6 is another way to proceed, but personally, I would not advice it, since somehow it feels a bit better for White. 9. ♘xf5 exf5 10.e3 ±]

9.a5 ♘bd7!? It seems to me that my friend Csaba was extremely well prepared. [9...♘bd5 is the usual answer here.]

10.g3 A very normal move by White. He wants to develop first, castle short, then play ♘c4 back and e4, in order to dominate the center.

10...b5!N It seems like Csaba's preparation is really deep. An amazing looking move, but maybe simply closes this line?! Black is forcing White to play a move by move game. The position is getting super sharp.

11.axb6 After this move, I think Black is out of danger. [The most principled seems to be 11.♗g2 ♖c8 12.0-0 e6 It seems like Black is very solid, but White got an extra idea. 13.f4! with a super unclear position.]

11...axb6 12.♖xa8 ♕xa8



13.d5 White is trying to speed up things hoping to crush directly in the center. [The best try to hope for an advantage would, again, be the simple 13.♗g2 e6 14.0-0 ♗e7 15.f4! Always the f4 move! Bringing back some small discomfort.]

13...cxd5 14.♗exd5 ♘xd5 15.♗xd5 ♔a5+! Black is pushing back the knight and winning some time for development.

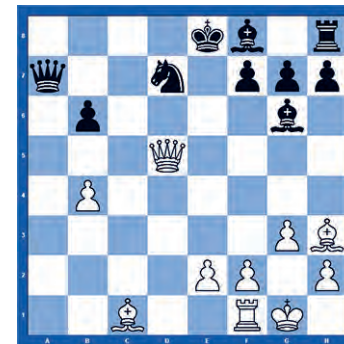
16.b4 At first sight, this looks very bad for White, but Halkias prepared a very exciting move!

16...♔a7 Black wants to play e6 and it seems like 16.b4 was not the best, but...

17.♗h3! A great idea to sacrifice the knight on d5.

17...e6 18.0-0 Now White already has no choice.

18...exd5 19.♔xd5



19...♗e7! Good defense by Black. White wanted to play ♖d1 next.

20.♗b2 Again, White chooses the best move. [Also 20.♖d1 ♘f6 (20...0-0 might lead to a slightly worse endgame for Black. 21.♔xd7 ♕xd7 22.♖xd7 ♗xb4 23.♗e3 ♖b8 24.f4 and White is doing a bit better in this endgame, even though it is rather close to a draw.) 21.♔c6+ ♗f8 This seems like quite an unclear position with a lot of tactical motives. Here is one of them: 22.♖d7 looks very beautiful, but only leads to a draw. 22...♔a1 23.♖xe7

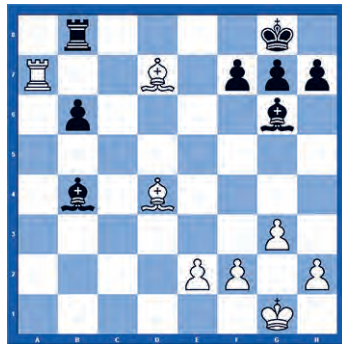
♔xe7 24. ♖c7+ ♔f8 25. ♖d6+ ♔e8 26. ♖c6+ and the game ends with a perpetual check.]

20...0-0 Black got no other choice but to go into a slightly worse endgame.

21. ♖a1 The rook on an open file is never out of place.

21... ♖c7 22. ♖xd7 ♖xd7 23. ♙xd7 ♙xb4 24. ♙d4 ♖b8
How to evaluate such a position?! If we could take away the rooks from the board, the position would be just a draw, and maybe even slightly better for Black. With rooks on the board and the great positions taken by the white bishops, White is doing a bit better. Especially if he manages to play f4-e4 — Black's position would be not that pleasant.

25. ♖a7 [I think the best for White would have been to play 25.f3 followed by e5 next, with minimal winning chances.]



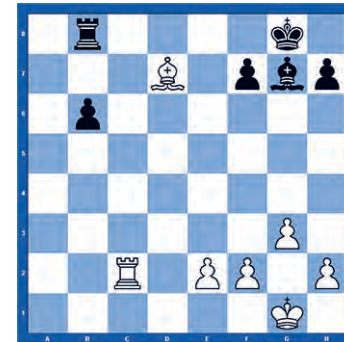
25... ♙e4?! It seems like this move simply blunders a pawn. [Better was 25...h5 and the game should end in a draw.]

26. ♖a4! White is not missing his chance to get a pawn...

26... ♙f8 27. ♙xg7 That is the idea. Even with a pawn up, White's chances to get a full point are not very high. The opposite-colored bishops and the quick walk of the queenside pawns give Black very good chances for a draw.

27... ♙c2! Csaba does not panic after his blunder and chooses the right square. White's rook on c2 will be badly placed.

28. ♖a2 ♙xg7 29. ♖xc2



29...b5! Of course, Black should not lose any time. If White could block the pawn on b6, the position might be just lost!

30. ♖c8+? After this, the position is just a dead draw. [The only chance to keep playing would be to keep the rooks on the board. 30. ♙f5 b4 31. ♖g2 b3 32. ♖c7 b2 33. ♙b1 and even though the white bishop takes a terrible position on b1, White still has some practical chances to play for a win. The black rook can never leave the b-file to his white colleague, so White should not be afraid of ♖c8 and simply push his pawn forward.]

30...♖xc8 31.♟xc8 Now it is a total draw. Black does not even need the b-pawn for that. The easiest way for Black to make a draw is to put his pawns on h6-f6, the king on g7 and simply “do nothing”. White has no winning ideas.

31...b4 32.♟f5 b3 33.♖f1 h6 34.e3 ♟c3 35.♖e2 b2 36.♟b1 ♖g7 Black is out of danger and the rest of the game is not really interesting. It is more or less moving around.

37.♖d3 ♟e1 38.♖e2 ♟b4 39.g4 ♟d6 40.h3 ♖f6 41.h4 ♖g7 42.♖d3 ♟e7 43.h5 ♟h4 44.f3 ♟f2 45.♖e4 f6 46.♖f4 ♟e1 47.♖f5 ♟d2 48.e4 ♟c3 49.f4 ♟d2 50.♟a2 ♟c1 51.♟b1 ♟d2 52.e5 A very interesting game for the future of the opening!

1/2

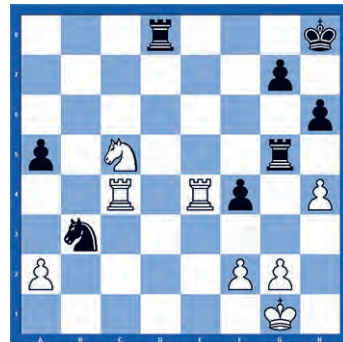
Puzzle section

(5) Matinian,N (2491) — Jobava,B (2702)

European Championship, 05.05.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

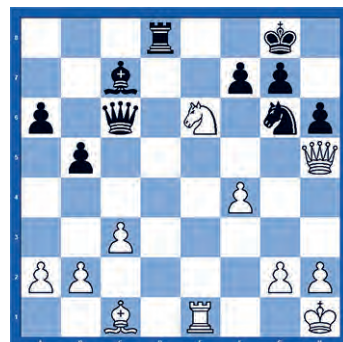


(6) Butkiewicz,L (2410) — Shimanov,A (2639)

European Championship, 05.05.2013

[CEWN]

1... ♠

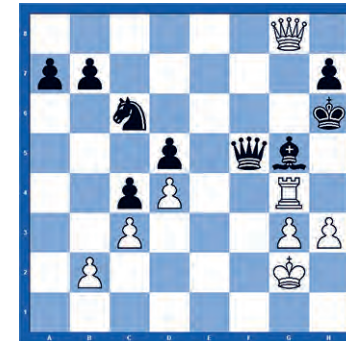


(7) Hagen,A (2400) — Lupulescu,C (2634)

European Championship, 05.05.2013

[CEWN]

1. =

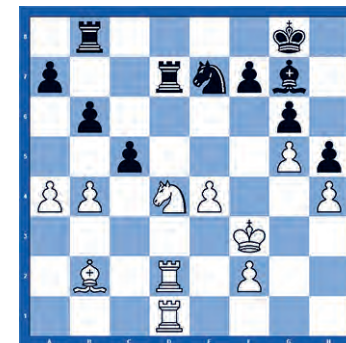


(8) Shimanov,A (2639) — Prizant,J (2537)

European Championship, 06.05.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

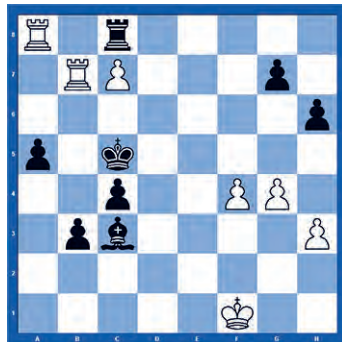


(9) Djukic,N (2555) – Khairullin,I (2657)

European Championship, 06.05.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+



(10) Arnold,M (2538) – Gareev,T (2674)

USA Championship, 03.05.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+



(11) Mchedlishvili,M (2640) – Javakhadze,Z (2448)

Nakchivan Open, 30.04.2013

[CEWN]

1. +–

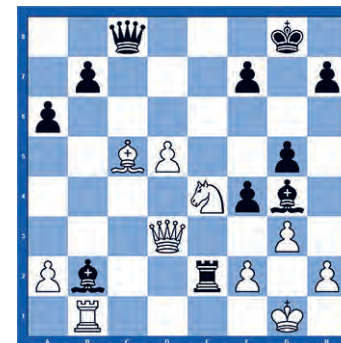


(12) Haslinger,S (2535) – Short,N (2692)

4NCL, 05.05.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

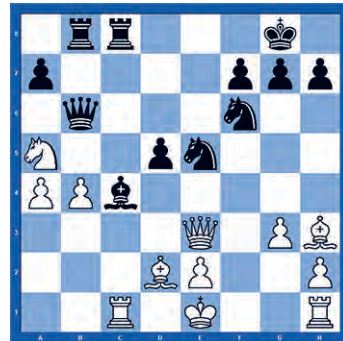


(13) Lou Yiping (2482) – Yu Yangyi (2675)

Chinese league, 30.04.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

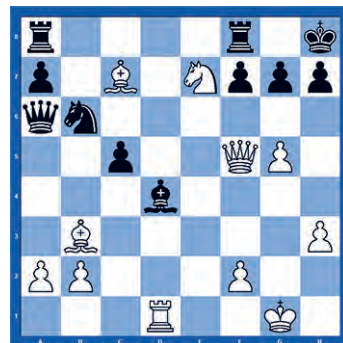


(14) Jobava,B (2702) – Lan,Z (2165)

Chinese league, 03.05.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



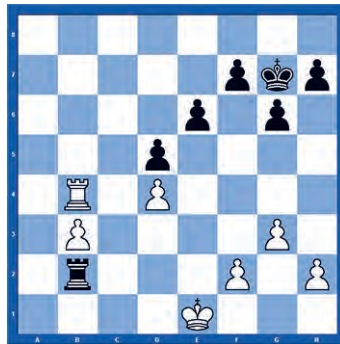
Endgame section

(15) Carlsen, Magnus (2868)
— Radjabov, Teimour (2745) [A07]

Norway Supreme Masters Blitz 2013

Stavanger NOR (2.1), 07.05.2013

[Chess Evolution]

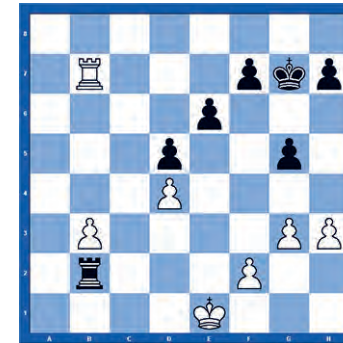


We are in a blitz game from the Super Blitz Tournament in Norway. Anyway, the quality of the game is pretty high. We very rarely see Magnus Carlsen losing an endgame, but that will happen in this game. At first sight, the position seems to be close to a draw, but is it so?! Let us try to find out.

37. ♖b7 g5! Very strong move! Now Black wants, in many lines, to play ♜b1–♜h1 in order to win a tempo. Also, the Black king will have a free pass over g6–f5 to the very important e4 square.

38. h3? This small move almost loses the game! [White should avoid at all costs the black king coming to f5. 38.g4! Black has several ideas now. Let us take a look at

the most forced one. 38... ♜b1+ going for the h-pawn. 39. ♔e2 ♜h1 and the h2 pawn is lost, but White is in time to create counterplay. 40. b4 ♜xh2 41. b5 ♜h1 42. ♔d2! A very important move in order not to allow the black rook to the b-file. It is hard to say if White would be able to save the game here, but chances are not that bad...]



38...h5! Another super strong move and maybe White's position is already lost!

39. ♔f1 [It is already too late for 39.g4 ♜b1+ 40. ♔e2 ♜h1 and White is not in time to push the b-pawn.]

39... ♜d2 putting the white rook on a bad square.

40. ♜b4 g4 and saving the f5 square for the black king.

41. hxg4 hxg4 42. ♔e1 ♜b2 43. ♜b8 ♔g6 The black king is coming and White has no counterplay at all.

44. ♜b7 f6 45. ♜b6 ♔f5 White is in a sort of zugzwang.

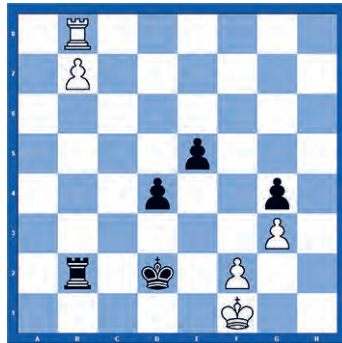
46. b4 [Not much better is 46. ♔f1 ♜d2! The usual trick to get the white rook to b4. 47. ♜b4 ♔e4 and the game is over...]

46...e5 The simplest way... Even so, exchanging the weak d4 pawn is a bit unpleasant...

47.dxe5 fxe5 48.b5 White is trying to push the b-pawn to b7 in order to have practical chances for an escape, but it comes all too late...

48...♔e4 49.♖b8 d4 The black king plus the d-pawn are too big an advantage not to make a full point.

50.b6 ♖d3 51.♔f1 ♔d2 52.b7



52...d3! Good play by Black, not leaving White any chances. Black's idea is simple, to play ♖b1 followed by ♔e2.

53.♖g8 [Also losing is 53.♔g2 ♔e2 54.♖e8 ♖xb7 55.♖xe5+ ♔d1 and Black's d-pawn becomes a queen. As we can see, it is super important that the black pawn is on g4, practically blocking both white pawns.]

53...♖xb7 54.♖xg4 ♔c3 The easiest choice...

55.♖g8 ♖b1+ 56.♔g2 d2 and the game is over... The rest was only played because it was a blitz game.

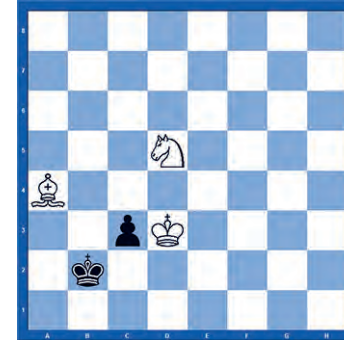
57.♖c8+ ♔b2 58.♖d8 d1♔ 59.♖xd1 ♖xd1 60.♔f3 ♖e1 61.g4 ♔c3 As we could see, this typical endgame was very bad for White and the only saving attempt was the active plan of sacrificing the h-pawn.

0-1

(16) Ushenina,A (2491) – Girya,O (2463)

Women Grand Prix, Geneva, 06.05.2013

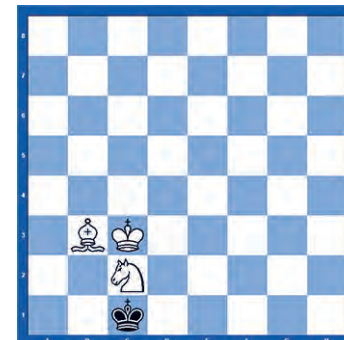
[Chess Evolution]



We will examine a shocking game, where the current World Champion, Anna Ushenina, is unable to mate her opponent with bishop and knight. The attacking side needs to know only one basic idea, but when the moment arrived, Ushenina missed it...

72.♘xc3 ♔a1 The defensive side should run with the king to the corner which is opposite to the bishop's color.

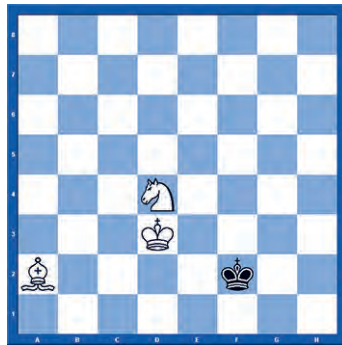
73.♘d1 ♔a2 74.♙c2 ♔a1 75.♔c3 ♔a2 76.♙b3+ ♔a1 77.♘e3 ♔b1 78.♘c2 ♔c1



79. ♖a2! This is the winning position, which is very easy to get, even if the black king is in the center. White's task is to squeeze the black king to the h1 square, which is already fitting to the bishop...

79... ♖d1 80. ♘d4 ♖e1 This defense is more tricky. White needs to know the winning idea here. Otherwise, it is impossible to give the mate. [80... ♖c1 is the other defensive method. In this case, the win comes after 81. ♘e2+ ♖d1 82. ♖d3 ♖e1 83. ♖e3 ♖d1 84. ♖b3+ ♖e1 85. ♖c2 and we got the same position as after 79. ♖a2, but the king is already squeezed further. The standard mating technique is the following: 85... ♖f1 86. ♘f4 ♖e1 87. ♘g2+ ♖f1 88. ♖f3 ♖g1 89. ♖g3 ♖f1 90. ♖d3+ ♖g1 The king is in the good corner now, so the mate is coming soon. 91. ♘f4 ♖h1 92. ♖e2 ♖g1 93. ♘h3+ ♖h1 94. ♖f3#]

81. ♖d3 ♖f2

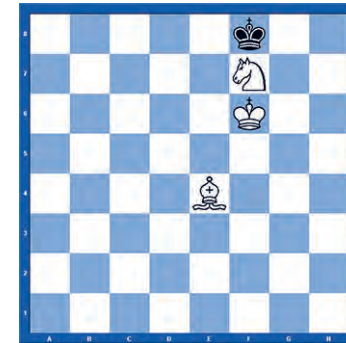


82. ♖d5? This lets the king slip away! [The key move is 82. ♘e2! ♖f3 83. ♖e6! Avoiding the Black king to run away from the good corner through g4. 83... ♖f2 84. ♖d5 and the king must go back the 1st rank. 84... ♖f1 85. ♖e3 ♖e1 86. ♖b3 and we already know this position from the 80... ♖c1 line.]

82... ♖g3 83. ♖e3 ♖g4! The king gets out from the danger zone, so White must start the whole mating process from the beginning. Ushenina does this part with good technique.

84. ♖e4 ♖g5 85. ♖f3 ♖f6 86. ♖f4 ♖g7 87. ♖g5 ♖f7 88. ♖f5 ♖g7 89. ♖d5 ♖h6 90. ♘e6 ♖h7 Black defends the most tenacious way again.

91. ♖f6 ♖g8 92. ♘f4+ ♖h8 93. ♖e4 ♖g8 94. ♘h3 ♖h8 95. ♘g5 ♖g8 96. ♘f7 ♖f8



97. ♖h7! Here we are again! We got a mirror image position to the one after 79. ♖a2...

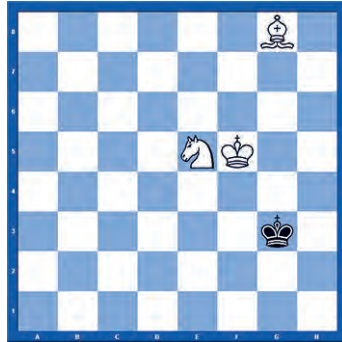
97... ♖e8 Ushenina starts to play some strange moves again...

98. ♖f5 [As we already know, the winning technique is 98. ♘e5 ♖d8 99. ♖e6 ♖c7 100. ♘d7! The key move! 100... ♖c6 101. ♖d3! ♖c7 102. ♖e4 ♖d8 103. ♖d6 ♖e8 104. ♖g6+ ♖d8 105. ♖f7 and the king is squeezed to the good corner again. The mate is very easy from now on. 105... ♖c8 106. ♘c5 ♖d8 107. ♘b7+ ♖c8 108. ♖c6 ♖b8 109. ♖b6 ♖c8 110. ♖e6+ ♖b8 111. ♘c5 ♖a8 112. ♖d7 ♖b8 113. ♘a6+ ♖a8 114. ♖c6#]

98...♔f8 99.♘h6 ♔e8 100.♘f7 ♔f8 101.♘e5 ♔g8
102.♘g6 ♔h7 103.♙e6 ♔h6 104.♙g8! Once again,
we got the winning position, but this time it is mirrored
again.

104...♔h5 105.♘e5! Ushenina seems to be following
the right path...

105...♔h4 106.♙f5 ♔g3



107.♙c4? But she fails again! [107.♘g4! ♔f3 108.♙c4!
♔g3 109.♙d5! is the win!]

107...♔f2 108.♔f4 ♔e1 The king slips away again. The
50 moves rule to draw is getting very close. Black only
needs to make 14 moves, since the last capture happened
on move 72.

109.♔e3 ♔d1 110.♙d3 ♔c1 111.♘c4 ♔d1 112.♘b6
♔c1 113.♘a4 ♔d1 114.♙e4 ♔c1 115.♙d3 ♔d1 116.
♘b2+ ♔c1 117.♘c4 ♔d1 118.♙g6 ♔c1 119.♙f5 ♔d1
120.♘b6 ♔c1 121.♘a4 ♔d1 122.♘b2+ ♔c1 At this
point, Black could have already claimed the draw, but
since the World Champion had no idea how to make pro-
gress, Black decided to play until White herself offers the
draw.

123.♘c4 ♔d1 124.♔d3 ♔c1 125.♔c3 ♔d1 126.♙d3
What a shocking game!

1/2

Clash of the Titans

(17) Botvinnik,Mikhail – Unzicker,Wolfgang [D34]

EU-chT (Men) 02nd Oberhausen (10.1), 02.07.1961

[Kamil Miton]

1.c4 ♘f6 **2.♗f3** e6 **3.g3** d5 **4.♖g2** c5 Another option for Black is to play the Catalan structures with a late d4 after [4...dxc4 5.♔a4+]

5.0-0 ♘c6 **6.cxd5** exd5



7.d4 The position transposes to the Tarrasch Defense, which was a very popular opening back then.

7...♗e6 Usually Black plays [7...♗e7 8.♘c3 (8.dxc5 ♗xc5 9.♔c2!? Given that the knight is not on c3 yet, White can try this interesting plan with ♖d1–Bg5 to put pressure against the d5 isolated pawn.) 8...0-0 The main position. Here White has a few possibilities. 9.♗g5 (9.dxc5 ♗xc5 10.♗g5 d4 11.♗xf6 (11.♗e4 ♗e7 12.♗xf6 ♗xf6=) 11...♔xf6 Usually, Black is very solid in this kind of structures. The d4-pawn is not very weak and Black has good chance

for counterplay over the e-file. (Xe2) 12.♗e4 (12.♗d5) 12...♔e7 13.♗xc5 ♔xc5) 9...cxd4 (9...c4 leads to other very interesting line.) 10.♗xd4 h6 11.♗e3 ♗e8 12.♖c1 with complex play.]

8.♗c3 ♗e7 **9.♗e3** [9.dxc5!? ♗xc5 10.♗g5 0-0 11.♗xf6 ♔xf6 12.♗xd5 ♔xb2 13.♗c7 ♖ad8 14.♔c1 ♔xc1 15.♖axc1 ♗b6 16.♗xe6 fxe6 17.e3 Thanks to his better structure, White is slightly better.]

9...c4 [9...cxd4 10.♗xd4 0-0 11.♗xc6 bxc6 12.♗a4 ♖c1 is coming next and White has typical play with a blockade on c5 and d4.]

10.♗e5 0-0



11.♗xc4! This was the idea of 9.♗e3.

11...dxc4 **12.d5** ♗xd5 [12...♗g4 makes no sense because of the simple 13.♗f4±]

13.♗xd5 ♗f6 Black could also try [13...♗g5 14.♗xg5 (14.♖c1 ♗xe3 15.♗xe3 ♔a5±) 14...♔xg5 15.♔c1! (15.♗c7 ♖ad8 16.♗xe6 fxe6 17.♔c2 ♗d4 18.♔xc4 b5 with counterplay on time.) 15...♔xc1 (15...♔e5 16.♔xc4 ♔xb2 17.♖ab1±) 16.♖axc1 ♖ad8 (16...♗d4 17.♗f4 g5 18.♗xe6 ♗xe2+ 19.♗h1 fxe6 20.♖c2 ♗d4 21.♖xc4± Black has too

many weaknesses.) 17. ♖fd1 ♜d7 (17...b5 18. ♘c3±) 18. ♖xc4 ♜fd8 19. ♖c5 (19.e4 f5↔) 19...♙f8 20.e4 ♘e7 White saved the pawn, but how to improve the position? Black's idea is to play f5.]

14. ♖c1 [14. ♘xf6+ ♙xf6 15. ♙c1 (15. ♙xc6 bxc6 16. ♙d4 Thanks to his better structure, White can look for a long-term advantage, especially because his king will be safe after f3.) 15...♘d4 Logical active move. (15...h6 16. ♙c3±) 16. ♖e1 ♜ac8 17. ♙c3 (17. ♙xb7 ♜b8 18. ♙c3 ♜fd8 with ♜xb2 next.) 17...♖fd8 18. ♙f1 ♜d1 is coming next and White looks better.]

14... ♙d4 [14... ♙xb2 15. ♖xc4 Thanks to the strong knight and very active pieces, White has the initiative.]

15. ♙xd4 ♙xd5



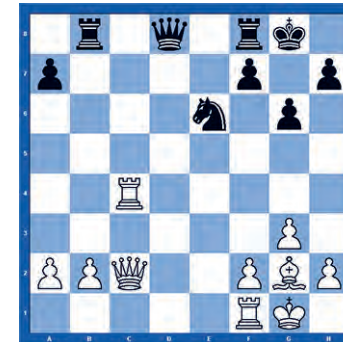
16.e4?! I do not like this move, as it creates weaknesses and limits the bishop on g2. White should play [16. ♙f6! ♙xf6 17. ♙xd5 ♙xb2 18. ♙xc4 ♜ac8 19. ♖c2 with potential pressure against f7, and maybe b7 as well. White has a typical tiny advantage.]

16... ♙xe4? Strange decision! Why not [16... ♙e6 17. ♙c3 ♙c7 Black is very solid without any weaknesses and has

the simple plan f6-b5-a5-b4 etc. After e4, the white bishops are not strong as they were before. The position is completely unclear.]

17. ♙xe4 ♘xd4 [17... ♙xd4 18. ♙xc6 ♙xd1 19. ♖fxd1 bxc6 20. ♖xc4 Because of the weak pawns, Black's position is very bad.]

18. ♖xc4 ♘e6 19. ♙c2 g6 20. ♙xb7 ♜b8 21. ♙g2± White is a pawn up, but it will take a long time to convert it into a victory.



21... ♙f6 22.b3 [22.b4!? looks more active.]

22... ♘d4 23. ♙e4 ♜fd8 24. ♖e1 The black pieces are very active. That is why it is not an easy task to convert the advantage with White. I suppose the first step should be to exchange queens.

24... ♘f5 25. ♖c6 ♙b2 26. ♖c2 ♙a3 27. ♙e5 ♙b4 28. ♙f1 ♜b6 29. ♙d5 ♙b5+ 30. ♙c4 White transferred his bishop to a more active place, but now the squares f3-g2 around the king can become weak.

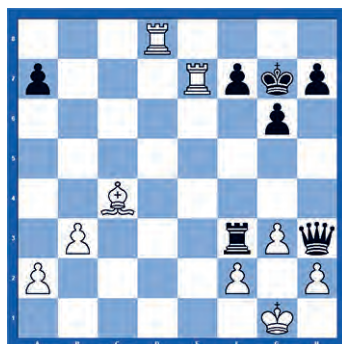
30... ♙d7 31. ♙e4 [31.g4 This probably leads by force to an exchange of queens, which is good for White. 31... ♘d4 32. ♖d2 ♜d6 33. ♙e7±]

31...♖d6 32.♖ce2 ♘d4 33.♖e3 ♘f5 34.♖3e2



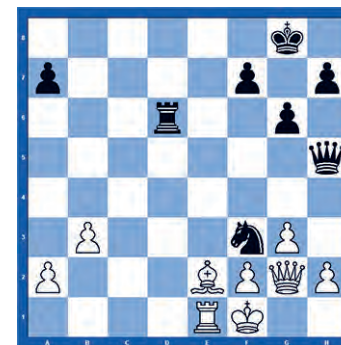
34...♘d4 35.♖b2 ♖h3+↗ White did not manage to exchange queens and, finally, Black gets counterplay.

36.♖g2 [36.♖g1 ♖f6 37.♖d2 An interesting idea to sacrifice the queen. (37.f4 weakens the white king.) 37...♘f3+ 38.♖xf3 ♖xf3 39.♖xd8+ ♖g7 40.♖e7 with the idea of winning other pawns on the 7th rank.



40...♖h6 (40...♖c3 41.♖xf7+ ♖h6 42.♖d1±) 41.♖d4 ♖c8 42.♖xa7 ♖c5 43.♖ad7 ♖a3 44.♖g2 ♖f6 45.♖d2±]

36...♖f5 [36...♖h5 More accurate, and immediately gives Black the equality. White is not able to avoid ♘f3. 37.♖d2 ♘f3 38.♖xd6 ♖xd6 39.♖e2



39...♖d2+! (39...♖xh2+ 40.♖g1 ♖g4 41.♖xg4 ♖xg4 42.♖a8+ ♖g7 43.♖xa7 h5 44.♖e7 ♖f6± Even here it is not easy because, after h4, the white king will be weak.) 40.♖g1 ♖a5 With ♘f3 and ♖a2 threats.]

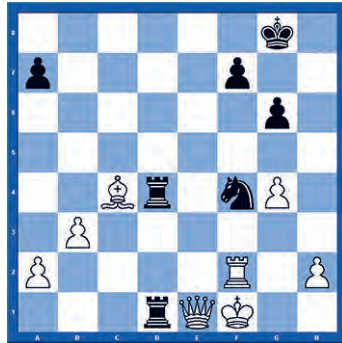
37.f4 Black did a good job in forcing White to push f4. [37.♖e4 ♖h3+ 38.♖g1 White could go back to the idea from the previous variation.]

37...♖h5 [37...a5!? Black's pieces are optimally placed, so this move looks fine, with the simple idea of exchanging pawns or creating some weaknesses.]

38.♖f2 ♖a5 39.g4 What else to do? white has to, at least, try to improve his position somehow.

39...♖e6 40.f5 ♖d1 41.♖e4 ♖8d4 [41...♖g5 with the idea of keeping the queens on the board. 42.♖e3 ♖xe1+ 43.♖xe1 ♖c5 44.fxg6 hxg6 45.♖d2 ♖xd2 46.♖xd2 ♖e5 The strong cooperation between knight and queen and the weak white king should give Black enough to make a draw.]

42.♖e3 ♖xe1+ 43.♖xe1 ♖f4 44.fxg6 hxg6



45.h4 Not allowing the support of the knight after g5.

45...♔g7 [45...♖xe1+ 46.♔xe1 ♜d3+ with good drawish chances in the rook endgame. 47.♙xd3 ♖xd3 48.♖f4 ♖h3 49.♖a4 ♖xh4 50.♖xa7 (50.♔f2 f5 51.♖xa7 ♖xg4 52.♖a4 ♖g5) 50...♖xg4 51.♖b7 ♖g2 52.a4 ♖a2=]

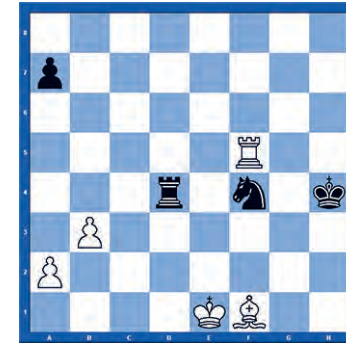
46.♖c2 ♖xe1+ 47.♔xe1 f5 It looks logical to limit the material on the board, but I am not sure if this is the best move.

48.gxf5 [48.g5!? ♜h3 49.♙f1! ♖xh4 50.♖c7+ ♔f8 51.♙xh3 ♖xh3 52.♖xa7 ♖g3 53.♔f2 ♖xg5 54.a4 ♖g4 55.a5 In this case, the white pawns can advance very fast.]

48...gxf5 49.♙f1 ♔g6 50.♖c5 [50.♖c6+ ♔h5 51.♖a6 ♔xh4 (51...♖d7 52.♖a4 with ♙e2 next and the white pieces get nice coordination.) 52.♖xa7 ♔g3 53.a4 ♜d3+ 54.♔d2± It will be hard for Black to stop the pawns.]

50...♔h5 [50...♜d3+ 51.♙xd3 ♖xd3 52.♖a5 ♖d7 53.♔f2 ♔h5 54.♔g3 ♖d3+ 55.♔f4 ♖d7 56.♔xf5 ♔xh4 57.♔e6+-]

51.♖xf5+ ♔xh4



52.♖a5 white is winning this position because the black king will not be able to come back to support the queen-side. [52.♔f2 looks good for White as well. 52...♔g4 (52...♜d5 53.♙e2 ♖f4+ 54.♖xf4+ ♜xf4 55.♙c4 The bishop on c4 limits the knight and the white king goes get the a7 pawn very fast. 55...♔g5 56.♔e3 ♜g6 57.♔d4 ♔f6 58.♔c5 ♜e5 59.♔d6 ♔f5 60.♔d5 ♔f6 61.a4+-) 53.♖f7 a5 54.♔e3 ♖b4 55.♖g7+ ♔f5 56.♙c4± XNf4]

52...♖d7 53.♔f2 ♖e7 [53...♔g4 54.♔e3 ♖e7+ 55.♔d4 ♔f3 56.♙c4±]

54.♔f3 ♜g6 55.♙c4 ♜e5+ 56.♔f4 ♜g4 57.♖a6 ♔h5 58.♙d5 ♜e5 59.♙e4 Nice zugzwang position!

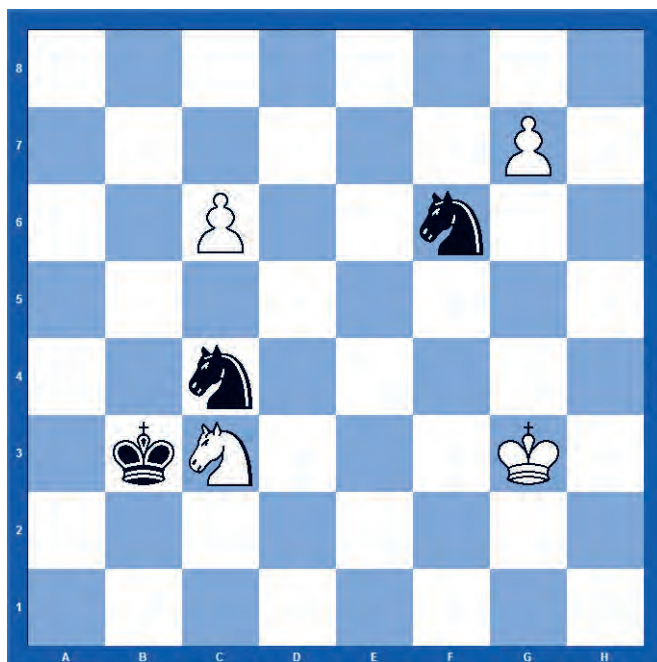
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Surprise section / study

(18) Sackmann

[CEWN]

1. +-

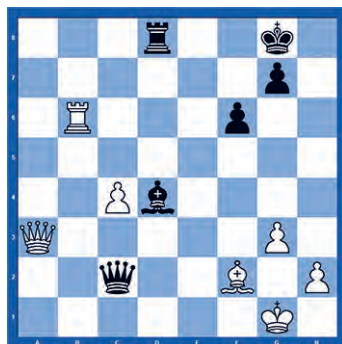


Solutions

(19) Caruana,F (2772) – Karjakin,S (2786)

Grand Prix, Zug, 24.04.2013

[Solutions]



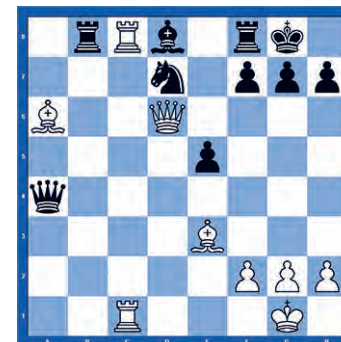
49. ♖xd4 ♜xd4 50. ♜xf6!! ♜d2 [50...gxf6? 51. ♖a8+ ♔g7 52. ♖a7+ ♔g6 53. ♖xd4; 50...♜d1+ 51. ♜f1=]

51. ♖f8+ ♔h7 52. ♜f2 ♜xf2 53. ♖xf2 ♖xc4=

(20) Morozevich,A (2758) – Radjabov,T (2793)

Grand Prix, Zug, 29.04.2013

[Solutions]



24. ♜8c6!! [24. ♜xb8 ♞xb8 25. ♖xb8 (25. ♙d3 ♞d7) 25... ♖xa6; 24. ♜8c4 ♖a5]

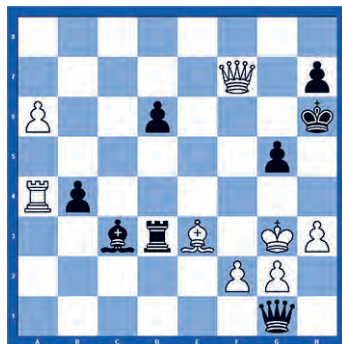
24... ♖g4 [24... ♙a5 25. ♖xd7+-; 24... ♞f6 25. ♖xb8+-; 24... ♜a8 25. ♙b7+-]

25. ♙c8 ♜xc8 26. ♜xc8+-

(21) Karjakin,S (2786) – Kamsky,G (2741)

Grand Prix, Zug, 29.04.2013

[Solutions]

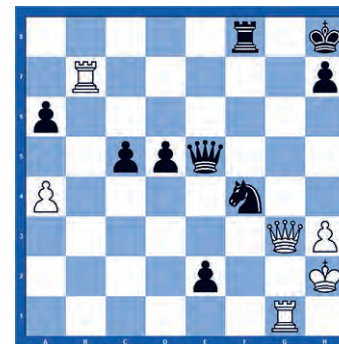


43... ♖xe3+! [43... ♙e5+? 44. ♔f3 ♕d1+ 45. ♔e4]
44.fxe3 ♙e5+! **45. ♔g4** [45. ♔f3 ♕f1+ 46. ♔e4 ♕xf7--]
45... ♕xg2+ 46. ♔f5 ♕xh3+! **47. ♔e4 ♕g4+** **48. ♔d5**
♕d1+! **49. ♔e6 ♕xa4--** **50. ♕f8+** [50.a7 ♕a2+! 51. ♔e7
 ♕xa7+]
50... ♔h5! **51. ♕f3+ g4--**

(22) Li Chao (2686) – Zhou Jianchao (2607)

Chinese Championship, 26.04.2013

[Solutions]



42. ♖f7! ♕e8 [42... ♖xf7 43. ♕g8#]
43. ♖xf4 ♕b2 [43... e1 ♕ 44. ♖xe1 ♕xe1 45. ♖f8+! ♖xf8
 46. ♕xe1+-]
44. ♔h1+-

(23) Predke,A (2481) – Belous,V (2560)

Russian Junior Championship, 23.04.2013

[Solutions]



24. ♖h5!! ♚f4+ [24... ♖xg7 25. ♖e8#]

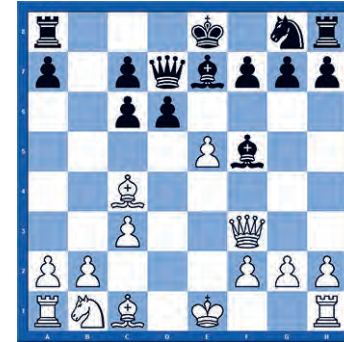
25. ♔b1 ♘b7 26. ♘xf7 ♚xf7 27. ♚xf7+ [27. ♖h7+-]

27... ♔xf7 28. ♖h7+-

(24) Jones,G (2654) – Djuric,S (2471)

Italian league, 27.04.2013

[Solutions]



10. ♘b5! d5 [10... cxb5 11. ♚xa8+-]

11. ♘xc6! ♚xc6 12. ♚xf5+-

(25) Lalith,B (2565) – Gopal,G (2526)

Maharashtra Championship, 25.04.2013

[Solutions]



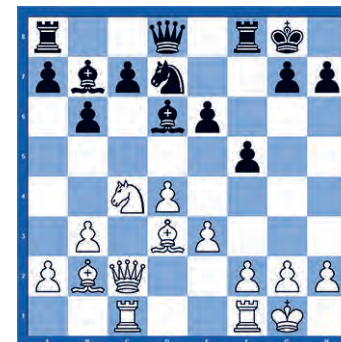
14...♘c5! 15.♙xa8 ♜xd4-- 16.♙d5? [16.♙e3 ♙b7 17.♙a7 ♘d3+ 18.♙xd3 ♙xa7--; 16.0-0 ♙b7 17.♙a7 ♘c6--]

16...♙xc3+ 17.bxc3 ♙xd5--

(26) Amstadt,A (2271) – Berczes,D (2528)

Hungarian league, 21.04.2013

[Solutions]



13...♙xh2+! 14.♙xh2 ♙h4+ 15.♙g1 ♙f3!! [15...♙xg2! 16.f3! (16.♙xg2? ♙g4+ 17.♙h2 ♙f6--+) 16...♙xf1 17.♙xf1+]]

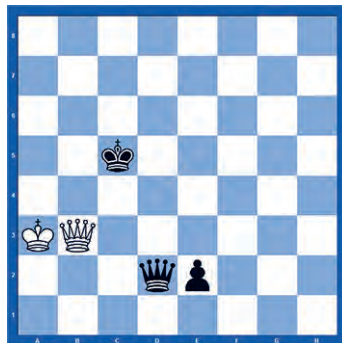
16.e4 [16.gxf3 ♙g5+ 17.♙h2 ♙f6--; 16.♙fe1 ♙f6! 17.gxf3 ♙h3!--; 16.♙d2 ♙xg2 17.f3 ♙f6--]

16...♙f6! 17.♙d2 ♙g6 18.♙e3 ♙h6 0-1

(27) Straubinger,D (2268) – Medvegy,Z (2561)

Hungarian league, 21.04.2013

[Solutions]



112. ♔c2+! ♕xc2=

(28) Vocaturo,D (2511) – Bruno,F (2428)

Italian league, 28.04.2013

[Solutions]

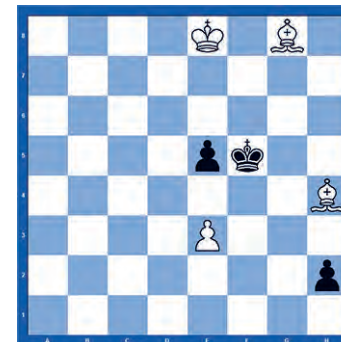


20. ♖xh6! gxh6 21. ♔f6+ ♕e8 22. ♔xe6+- f4 [22... ♔d7 23. ♔f6! ♕d8 24. ♖f8 ♕e8 (24... ♔b7 25. ♖g3+- (25. ♔xh6+-)) 25. ♔d6++-]

23. ♖xf4 ♔d7 24. ♔xh6+-

(29) Rinck

[Solutions]



1. ♖d5 e4 2. ♔f7 h1 ♔ [2... ♔g4 3. ♖xe4 ♔xh4 4. ♖h1+-]

3. ♖e6+ ♕e5 4. ♖g3#



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 64

17th of May 2013

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Editorial Preface

In the current issue of CEWN 64 (a chess number), indeed, a lot of chess was played.

The new European Champion is the Ukrainian GM Alexander Moiseenko. He played great chess and totally deserved this victory. Second place went to Alekseev and third to Romanov, all three obtained 8/11 points.

A very good result was showed by probably the oldest Top GM, Alexander Beliavsky, who was World's Nr 3 many many years ago. He also got 8/11.

The Super Tournament in Norway is getting ruled by Sergey Karjakin with 5,5/7. Close behind is Magnus Carlsen with 5/7 and there are two more rounds to go. It is going to be a very exciting finish.

The FIDE Women Grand Prix was won by Khotenashvili Bella with a great 8/11. 2nd place went to Muzychuk Anna with 7.5/11 and 3rd to Kosintseva Tatiana with 6.5/11.

In the current issue, we analyze a lot of interesting games from the recent Top events!

We wish you a lot of chess joy with your new issue of CEWN, the 64th.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Karjakin, Sergey (2767) — Radjabov, Teimour (2745) [B30]

Supreme Masters 2013 Sandnes NOR (1.5), 08.05.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

An impressive positional performance by Karjakin.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 White tries to avoid the Sveshnikov defense. Usually, he does this by playing 3.♙b5, but the text move is also possible.

3...g6 4.♙b5 White succeeded to avoid Radjabov's pet line with 3.♙b5 e6, but of course, this g6 system is the other huge main line.

4...♙g7 5.0-0 Black has to decide how to finish the development. Radjabov chooses one of the most popular ways with e5-♘ge7, but it has a drawback, that it weakens the d5 square.

5...e5 6.d3 ♘ge7



7.♙c4 White immediately focuses his pieces on the d5 square. Usually, the Sveshnikov players are not impressed by this, since they are used to face this in many lines.

7...h6 Black prevents the potential plan of ♙g5, trading one of the defenders of the d5 square.

8.a3! This is a known plan in this kind of closed positions. White initiates by grabbing space on the queenside with b4. Black should not prevent it with a5 because the b5 square gets crucially weakened.

8...0-0 9.b4! White could save a tempo by not playing ♖b1, since accepting the pawn sacrifice would lead to more than enough compensation.

9...d6 [9...cxb4? 10.axb4 ♘xb4 11.♙a3! ♘bc6 12.♙d6± Black is completely tied up!]

10.bxc5 White has achieved some positional trumps by taking once towards to the center, forcing Black to take outwards. Also, the b-file will be an important factor in the game later on.

10...dxc5



11.♖e1! At first sight, a mysterious move, but actually, it is a very deep positional idea. Karjakin would like to settle his knight on d5 and he gets ready to take back with

exd5, after which the e5 pawn is hanging, thanks to ♖e1. Black can hardly carry the d5 knight if he does not take it.

11...♔h7 Black would like to get counterplay by playing f5, so he left the pin. [11...♙g4 just gives temporary activity. 12.h3 ♙xf3 13.♖xf3 ♘d4 14.♖d1 White just got the bishop pair and the d4 knight will be kicked out soon after ♘d5 and c3.]

12.♘d5 ♙e6 Black succeeded to get rid of the d5 knight, but another piece is replacing it there, which will also be very annoying. [12...♘xd5 13.exd5 and e5 is hanging.; 12...f5 is premature at the moment. 13.♘xe7 ♖xe7 14.exf5 gxf5 15.♙b2 White quickly puts very strong pressure on the e5 pawn. There is a direct threat with ♙d5, winning the e5 pawn.]

13.♘xe7 ♖xe7 14.♙d5! Whenever Black takes on d5, he will create a very strong protected passed pawn (after c4) for White.

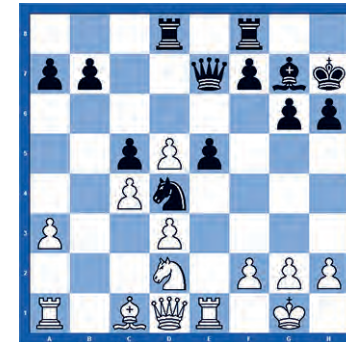
14...♘d4 [14...♙xd5 15.exd5 ♘d4 16.c4± White takes on d4 next (or plays ♘d2, ♙b2-d4 as in the game) and the structure is seemingly similar, but actually, White has a large advantage because the d4 pawn is not a passed pawn.]



15.♘d2! Another strong positional move to save the knight for the future. White sees the following position in his eyes: he will play c4, ♙b2 and ♙xd4, when the knight dominates the g7 bishop. The game demonstrates this well.

15...♙xd5 [15...♖ad8 would be met by 16.c3 ♘c6 17.c4 ♘d4 18.♙b2± and ♙xd4 next, followed by queenside play. White forces Black to play b6, which is going to be countered by a minority attack with a4-a5.]

16.exd5 ♖ad8 17.c3 ♘b5 18.c4 ♘d4



19.a4! Another great move! Prophylaxis against Black's idea to push b5 and bxc4, when he will also obtain a protected passed pawn on d4. [19.♙b2 b5 20.♙xd4 cxd4 is what White cleverly prevented.]

19...♖d7 20.♖b1 Provoking the b6 move to make a5 more effective.

20...b6 21.♙b2 White has a very easy game from now on. All the moves on the queenside suggest themselves.

21...♖fe8 22.a5 ♖c7 [22...bxa5 would just help White, since it weakens the c5 pawn. 23.♘e4 ♖c8 24.♙a3±]

23. ♔a4 Focusing all the pieces on the queenside. Black cannot create any serious counterplay.

23...f5 24.axb6 axb6 25. ♟xd4 cxd4 White got what he wanted with the passed pawn on d5, the b6 weakness and the superior knight. He has various ways to increase the advantage. He could double his rooks on the b-file or prepare for an invasion on the a-file. Karjakin chooses the most direct way.



26. ♔c6 ♔xc6 27.dxc6 ♖c8 [27... ♖b8 was clearly a better defense for Black. White plays here again 28.f4! ♖ec8 (28... exf4 29. ♖xe8 ♖xe8 30. ♖xb6± c6 is too strong. The knight is coming too support it with b3.) 29.fxe5 ♖xc6 30. ♟f3 ♟f8 31. ♖a1± with a huge advantage for White.]

28. ♖xb6 ♖e6 29.f4! White wins the e5 pawn.

29...e4 The best chance to get rid of some material, as White has enough left to win the game. [29... ♖cxc6 30. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 31.fxe5+- followed by ♟f3 and d4 will also fall soon.]

30.dxe4 fxe4 31. ♖xe4 ♖exc6 32. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 33. ♖e7 Driving the rook to its most active place on d7, where it

disturbs the king and prevents all the Black ideas connected with the d-pawn as well.

33...♟g8 34. ♖d7 ♟f8 35. ♟e4 Provoking the advance of the d-pawn, when it becomes more vulnerable. White threatens to take on d4 at the moment, because he prevented ♟c5, and ♖xc4 does not work because of the mate after ♟f6 and ♖h7.

35...d3 36. ♔f2 ♟a3 Black already wants to take on c4, because ♟f6 is not mate anymore after ♔f8. White simply protects his pawn and is going to take it with the king.

37. ♖d4 ♔f7 [37... ♟b2 would be met by 38. ♖d8+ ♔g7 39.c5! ♟a3 40. ♖d5+- and ♔e3 next.]

38. ♔e3 ♟c1+ 39. ♟d2 and the second pawn is lost, which is already too much for Black.

39... ♟xd2+ 40. ♔xd2 ♖a6 41.c5 [Black resigned in view of 41.c5 ♖a2+ 42. ♔xd3 ♖xg2 43.c6 The black king is cut from the c-pawn. A great game by Karjakin! It is very hard to win such a clear-cut game on the highest level.]

1-0

(2) Anand,Viswanathan (2783) — Topalov,Veselin (2793) [B90]

Supreme Masters 2013 Sandnes NOR (3.5), 10.05.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

A huge theoretical battle between two of the greatest Najdorf players.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙e3 e5 7.♘b3 ♙e6 8.f3 Black has various different setups here and Topalov has big experience in almost all of them. Recently, he played some games with the 8...h5 line.

8...♙e7 9.♚d2 0–0 10.0–0–0 Just a few weeks ago, Topalov beat Caruana in the 10. ...a5 line, but this time he went for the most common continuation.

10...♘bd7 11.g4 b5



12.♖g1! This is a demonstration by the World Champion to the Najdorf players, showing which line they should go for. The main line is by far 12.g5, but the text move also has huge theory. Actually, this was introduced by Anand himself back in 2006 against Morozevich.

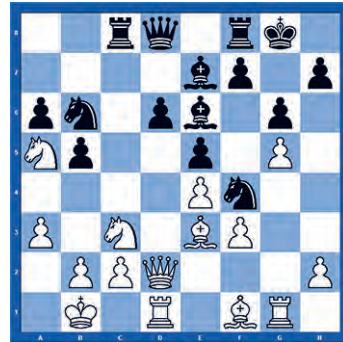
12...♘b6 [12...b4 is the other option for Black. 13.♘d5 ♙xd5 14.exd5 a5 15.g5 ♘h5 16.♙b1 a4 17.♘c1 with many games in the database, but it is considered to be slightly better for White. Here we can see the main idea behind the 12.♖g1 move, that the rook joins to the battle through g4!]

13.♘a5! At the moment, White is threatening with ♘c6 and also preparing for a nice positional pawn sacrifice.

13...♖c8 [13...♚c7 is the other move which leads to a very similar position to the one in our game. 14.g5 ♘h5 15.♘d5 ♙xd5 16.exd5 ♘xd5 17.♚xd5 ♚xa5 18.♙b1 White is aiming for this position in these lines. He has sacrificed a pawn, but the bishop pair gives huge compensation for that. He is intending to bring the rook to the game with ♖g4, which could be followed by, for instance, c4, or just ♙d3–e4. From a practical point of view, White has a much easier game here. 18...♚c7 19.♖g4 g6 20.♖b4!± White is ready to open the position with c4!]

14.g5 ♘h5 15.♙b1 ♘f4 Black threatens to push b4 now, as ♘d5 is prevented. White makes a simple prophylactic move against it. [Topalov deviates from the Anand-Karjakin 2009 game, which continued with 15...g6 Recently, there was a strong novelty by White—and probably Anand wanted to play this too. 16.a3! and we will probably transpose to the game.; It is important to mention that 15...b4 is met by 16.♘d5! ♘xd5 17.exd5 ♚xa5 18.dxe6 fxe6 19.♙h3± Black cannot protect the e6 pawn.]

16.a3! g6



17.h4! White protects the g5 pawn, which was not hanging at the moment, but White is preparing for the same pawn sacrifice that was seen in the 13...♔c7 line; there, at the end, is very important to have the g5 pawn protected.

17...♔c7 Black is making some useful moves. He wants to play ♖fd8 and is ready to push d5 then. White has to start the action.

18.♙xf4 exf4 19.♘d5! This is a standard method in this line to facilitate the c6 square for the knight. Black is forced to accept the sacrifice.

19...♙xd5 20.exd5 ♘xd5! 21.♔xd5 ♔xa5 [21...♔xc2+? is just a check. **22.♔a1** Another point of the 16.a3 move to have the back-rank open. Otherwise, ♔c1 mates.]



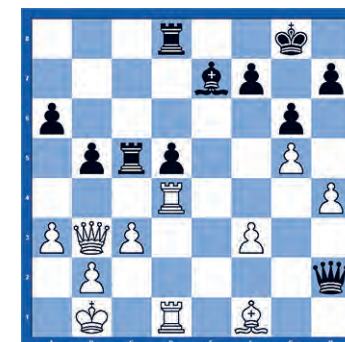
22.♖g4! And now comes the rook into the game. White wins back the pawn and the arising opposite-colored bishops position is better for him, as he can create a much more dangerous attack against the black king, while the one on b1 is very safe. Here we can also see the point of the h4 move — g5 is protected — otherwise, Black would simply win it after ♖c5. It is slightly strange what Topalov has prepared in this game, because all white ideas were already well-known so far and he got an advantage.

22...♖c5 23.♔b3 d5 Black decided to close the a2-g8 diagonal in order to reduce the pressure on the f7 pawn, but on the other hand, he creates a clear weakness for himself on d5. [23...♖f5 would have been met by 24.♙d3 and ♖xf4 next.]

24.♖xf4 ♔c7 25.♖fd4 ♔h2 Black would like to trade his d5 pawn for the one on h4, which would solve his problems. [25...♖d8 is met by 26.f4! with two unpleasant ideas. One is to destroy Black's pawn structure with f5 and the other is simply ♙g2, taking on d5.]

26.c3! Very nice, cold-blooded reaction by Anand. The idea can be seen in the next move.

26...♖d8



27. ♔c2! White brings back his queen to the game, using the fact that the endgame is horrible for Black.

27... ♖g3 [27... ♖xc2+ 28. ♔xc2 Black cannot prevent b4 followed by ♖xd5. After that, the a6-b5 would become the next targets, which are fixed on the bishop's color. 28...f6 29.f4±]

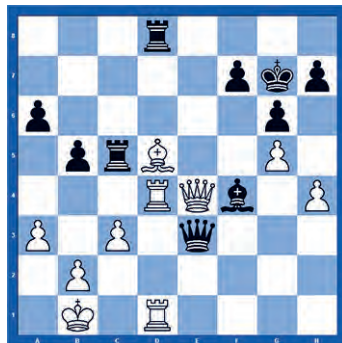
28.f4! Black was ready to play ♗f8-g7, so White had to hurry to improve his position. He wants to play ♗g2 now.

28... ♗d6 [28... ♖xh4 should have been played, although White has a clear plus here as well. The important thing is that after 29. ♗g2 Black can get rid of a pair of rooks, which seriously eases his defense. 29...♖c4! 30. ♗xd5 ♖xd4 31. ♖xd4±]

29. ♗g2 ♗xf4 30. ♗xd5± Both rooks are on the board and the f7 pawn is extremely vulnerable after the white bishop has occupied its ideal place. He immediately threatens to take it.

30... ♔g7 31. ♖e4! Anand protects his d5 bishop in order to free his rook to go to f1, pressing the f7 pawn.

31... ♖e3 Black obviously would like to exchange the queens, but White is not forced to agree... [31... ♗e5 loses to 32. ♖f1! ♗xd4 33. ♖xd4+ and mate to follow.]



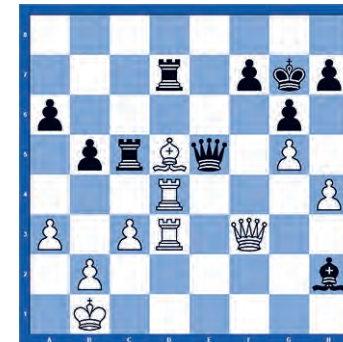
32. ♖h1! A spectacular move! The threat is ♖f1 or ♖f1.

32... ♖d7 Topalov tries to guide the weakness, but it does not help anymore.

33. ♖1d3? This gives chances for salvation. [33. ♖f1! was the right move. 33... ♗e5 Covering the f6 square, but it blocks the queen's route back to the e-file. White wins. (33... ♖cxd5 does not work. 34. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 35. ♖xd5 ♖e4+ 36. ♖d3+-) 34. ♖4d3! ♖f4 There is no other square to go... 35. ♖f3!+-]

33... ♖e5? Spoiling the sudden chance. [33... ♖f2! is not easy, suddenly. The point is that after 34. ♖f3 ♖xd4! 35.cxd4 ♖c1+ 36. ♖xc1 ♗xc1 Black escapes into only a slightly worse endgame. 37. ♗c6 ♖c7 38.d5 ♗d2]

34. ♖f3 ♗h2



35. ♗e6! A very nice winning move, although it was not the only one. [The simple 35. ♗b3 was also enough. 35... ♖e7 36. ♖e3! ♖xe3 37. ♖f6+ ♔g8 38. ♖d8+ ♖e8 White can play for the spectators with 39. ♖xf7+ ♔h8 40. ♖g8+ ♖xg8 41. ♖xg8#]

35... ♖e7 [35... ♖xd4 36. ♖xf7++-]

36. ♖e4! White wins the queen, because it cannot leave the f6 square.

36... ♖xe6 37. ♖xe5 ♖cxe5 The rest is a matter of technique, but of course, for the World Champion, it is not a difficult task.

38. ♖d8 Threatening ♔a8.

38... ♖e4 39. ♔a2 Just to avoid all the checks. White has time for everything.

39... ♗f4 40. ♖d7 ♔g8 41. ♖a7 Creating a new threat of ♖xa6, Black resigned the hopeless position.

1–0

(3) Hammer, Jon Ludvig (2608) – Wang, Hao (2743) [E60]

Supreme Masters 2013 Sandnes NOR (5.5), 13.05.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

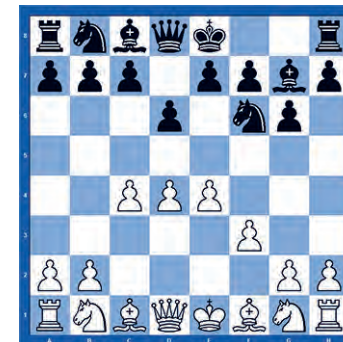
The first win of Hammer at the tournament, and in what a fantastic fighting game! It is clear that Wang, with +140 ELO points above his opponent, tried to complicate things as much as he could, but lost the battle in a very complex position.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 After these two moves, we still do not know whether the game is going to be a KID or a Gruenfeld.

3.f3 Lately, White started to choose this move order to avoid the main Gruenfeld.

3... ♗g7 [3...d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘b6 6.♘c3 ♗g7 7.♗e3 is, of course, the other main line.]

4.e4 d6 and we are in the KID.



5.♘e2!? Hammer quickly forces things away from the theory. This slightly strange-looking move is actually

quite logical. White wants to play ♘ec3-♙e3-♘d2 in order to get a very strong center.

5...a6!? Quite a creative move from Wang. Black is not trying to act in the center by playing c5 — or maybe at some good moment e5, but preparing the c6-b5 idea.

6.♘ec3 c6 7.♘a3 To me, it looks a bit „too creative“. [7.♙e3 b5 8.♘d2 looks more solid for White.; 7.a4?! would be a typical inaccuracy here. 7...a5! and Black would continue with ♘a6 winning control of the dark squares.]

7...b5 8.♘c2 0-0 9.♙e3 ♘bd7 All the standard moves are done. Now it is time to think about a future plan.

10.cxb5 After this move, Black should be doing fine. [But, what else to play for White?! In case of 10.♙e2 bxc4 11.♙xc4 d5 Black is fine as well.]

10...axb5 11.♙e2 ♙b7 To develop our pieces is never wrong.

12.0-0



12...e5! I think this was a good positional decision by Black in a very complex position with a lot of different ideas. He realizes that he needs to attack the white center

and not allow his opponent to play ♙d2, ♖ad1, a3, after which, White's advantage would grow.

13.♙d2 exd4 14.♙xd4 We have a typical position for the KID structures. A lot of motives are based on tactical possibilities. Black usually looks for active play while White tries to keep things together. Objectively, I think this position should be good for Black.

14...♙e7 Queen to e7, rook to d8, very logical. Another usual place for the black queen is c7, but now it would be not optimal because of ♖ac1 and the queen could get quickly under attack.

15.a3 A risky move. Now the black knight gets the b3 square. [15.♖fd1 would have been more solid.]

15...♘c5 16.♖ad1 A tactical defense against ♘b3.

16...♖fd8 Very solid [Maybe this pawn sacrifice would be possible as well. 16...♘b3 17.♙xf6 ♙xf6 18.♙xd6 ♙xd6 19.♖xd6 ♙e5 Black is a pawn down, but the dark-squared bishop is a monster piece that clearly gives very good compensation.]

17.♙f2 ♘e6?! A slightly strange decision. Probably Wang did not want to exchange pieces and tried to keep the position as complicated as possible. [17...d5! If Black can play d5, he should definitely do it! In my opinion, Black is already slightly better here.]

18.♙h4! A good place for the white bishop. No more ♘h5 or d5 because of the pin, and a move like g5 is clearly not an option for Black.

18...♖d7 19.♙c1 ♙e8 Black is moving his pieces away from the nasty pin.

20. ♖fe1 ♘h5 21. ♙f1 White consolidates in the center as well. The position remains very complex.

21... ♙e5 I think Wang asks too much from his position and provokes White into something that he might regret. [21... ♖f8 would be a possible solid way to go on.]



22. g3! It might be that Wang blundered this very strong reply by White. The idea of playing f4-f5 next can be very dangerous for Black.

22... f6 The beginning of some crazy complications.

23. f4 Hammer has no fear at all and he is right! White's play is stronger here.

23... g5 Nothing else left for Black to do.

24. fxe5 gxf4 25. exd6? Quite a serious mistake. [25. ♖h6! White should have continued in a dynamic way. 25... fxe5 Probably Black got a better option, but here White's idea becomes more visible. 26. ♙h3! and Black would have troubles to get his pieces together.]

25... hxg3 Now the white king gets seriously weakened.

26. hxg3 ♖g7 Suddenly, White is under big pressure, but the position remains very complicated.

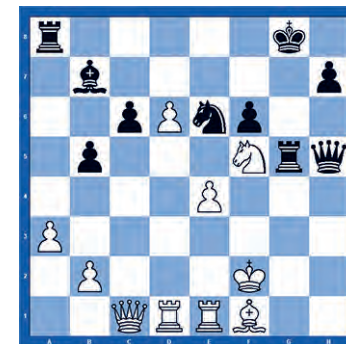
27. ♘e2! Good defense by Hammer. He needs to exchange at least a couple of pieces to reduce the power of Black's attack.

27... ♘xg3 28. ♘xg3 ♖xg3+ 29. ♔f2 ♖g7 We are in front of a very funny position. Who is better here? It is hard to say. At first sight, White's king is very badly placed on f2, but on the other hand, if White manages to play ♙d3-♖g1, suddenly, the black king would be in trouble. White's idea ♘e3-♘f5 next might be very dangerous as well. Black needs to react very quickly.

30. ♘e3 The white knight is on a roll.

30... ♔h5 31. ♘f5 It is funny to see how just one knight holds White's position together.

31... ♖g5? In a very complex position, Black gives his opponent a „break“ to consolidate. [First 31... ♔h2+ to force the white king to a bad square on e3. 32. ♙e3 ♖g5 and only now ♖g5 would give Black a very dangerous attack.]



32. ♖e3! Now the White king is escaping to e1!

32... ♔h2+ 33. ♔e1 Suddenly, Black has no more threats against the white king, and the d6 pawn is getting super strong.

33...♘f4 34.d7 [White could have finished the game on the spot by playing 34.♖d2! first hitting away the black queen from h2, which will also disturb Black's ♖g1. 34...♙g1 and only now 35.♙c3 The f6-pawn is going to fall and, with it, the whole black position.]

34...♖d8 35.♙c3 Of course, ♙c3 is strong here as well. It is clear now that White is doing much better.

35...♖g1 Threatening ♘g2.

36.♖g3+ White is exchanging one of the few active pieces Black has.

36...♖xg3 37.♘g3?! Hammer asks for too much now. [37.♙xg3+ would also lead to a much better endgame for White.]

37...♙h4! The game is getting tricky again. White's knight cannot reach his best square on f5 because of the nasty pin.

38.♙f2 ♙f7? [I would like to know what did White want to play against 38...♙h2+ 39.♙f3 ♘h5 and it seems like Black is back in the game.]

39.b4 It is always good to fix Black's pawn structure, but the ♙h2 idea is still there.



39...♘e6? The wrong direction. [39...♙h2+ with an unclear position.]

40.♙f3! With the 40th move, White fixes his advantage! And it is already quite a big one. The bishop on b7 is really a dead piece and the d7 pawn is superdangerous — it can always be protected with ♗h3 in the future.

40...♘g5? It was the last chance for Black to complicate things by playing 40...c5!.

41.♙f5 Now White completely dominates the position. ♗g2-♖h1 is a deadly threat.

41...♘e6 Black tries to react to White's threat, but the bishop is coming to h3 now.

42.♗h3 ♙f4+ 43.♙xf4 ♘xf4 44.♗f5 We can clearly see that there is no escape for Black.

44...♙e7 45.♖h1! The simplest! Black is playing a „bish-op“ down.

45...♖h8 46.♙e3 The last precise move.

46...♘e6 47.♗xe6 ♙xe6 48.♖xh7 A small tactic.

48...♖d8 49.♘h5 and it is over. What a great fighting game!

1–0

(4) Aronian,L (2813) – Hammer,J (2608) [D85]

Supreme Masters 2013 Sandnes NOR (6), 14.05.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

A great game on the topic: „If you don't remember the lines, don't even try to play the Gruenfeld!" In a more or less well-known position, Hammer gets lost and tries to play by himself. A big mistake! The Gruenfeld is one of the most attractive openings for Black right now, but it requires very good memory and precision. Things can go wrong very quickly, as the next moves show.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** g6 **3.♗c3** d5 The very main Gruenfeld.

4.♘f3 ♕g7 **5.cxd5** ♘xd5 **6.e4** ♘xc3 **7.bxc3** c5 **8.♖b1**

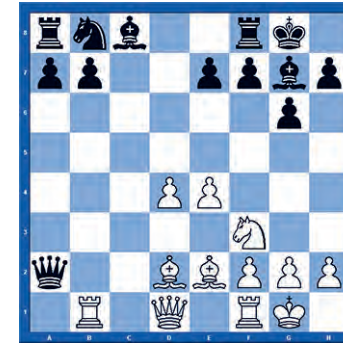
At the moment, **8.♖b1** is one of the most popular moves. The idea of this move is simple, to be ready to answer with d5 against Black's ♘c6. On the other hand, Black has been showing great results here and it would be really very interesting to know what Aronian had prepared here, that is still not known to theory.

8...0-0 **9.♕e2** cxd4 This move starts a very forced line. [9...b6 deserves attention here as well. A lot of free time is also needed to memorize all the long lines!]

10.cxd4 ♔a5+ This is the key idea. Black is simply winning a pawn, but losing two very important tempos in exchange.

11.♕d2 [Of course, White should not try to protect the a-pawn by exchanging his queens. **11.♔d2?! ♔xd2+** **12.♕xd2** b6 and as the well-known rule goes, „in a Gruenfeld, if Black reaches an endgame, a full point is closer than ever" :).]

11...♔xa2 **12.0-0**



12...♕g4 The main move for Black. His idea is simple, to attack the white center and combine this with a quick advancement of the a-pawn, which might become dangerous very quickly. As for White, of course, to make use of the strong central pawns which always give some attacking chances in the future. However, as I said before, the position is very forced.

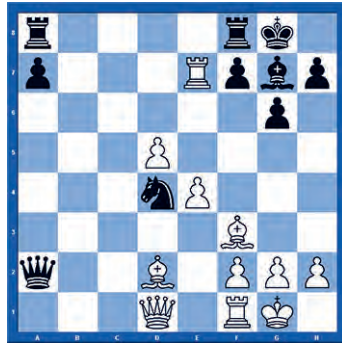
13.♖xb7 This logical move was not played very often. [13.♕g5 h6 **14.♕e3** ♘c6 is sort of the main line here.]

13...♘c6? This logical move, which, in most of the cases, is the correct one, is simply a big mistake! [13...♕xf3 **14.♕xf3** ♕xd4 is the main move here, with an evaluation of equality. It would be great to see what kind of new hammer Aronian had prepared here. The number 2 in the world is very well-known astonishing preparation.]

14.d5! The punishment comes immediately. This very logical move is just winning the e7 pawn.

14...♕xf3 **15.♕xf3** ♘d4 **16.♖xe7** White is a clear pawn up, but things are still not that easy. Black still has quite

a few drawing chances due to the strong a-pawn, which can become very fast and difficult to stop.



16...a5! The last Black joker, and a very strong one.

17.d6 I am not sure whether this is the easiest way to go for White or not. [The simple 17. ♖e3 ♘xf3+ 18. ♔xf3 — without destroying the structure — 18...a4 19.e5 and I think White has quite a solid advantage.]

17...a4 Black's only hope moved one more square up.

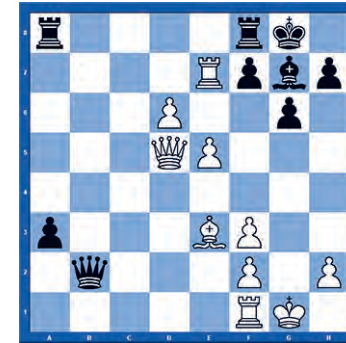
18.e5 It is logical for White to try to close the bishop on g7, but only if he is on time to stop the a-pawn and keep the pawn on e5 alive. We will see this during the next moves.

18...♘xf3+ 19.gxf3 Now Black can also hope for some kind of perpetual check.

19...♔b2 20. ♖e3! Very strong move by Aronian.

20...a3 [It looks very tempting for Black to take on e5. 20...♙xe5 White has a nice trick against this. 21. ♔d5 ♙g7 22. ♖xf7! and the rook on a8 is hanging. 22...♖xf7 23. ♔xa8+ ♙f8 24. ♖d1 Also, it is very important, of course, to keep the d6 pawn alive — the d7 threat is just deadly. 24...a3 25.d7+-]

21. ♔d5



21...♖ae8? and Black panics again, and this will be the last time. [Of course 21...a2? is just losing to the already known idea 22. ♖xf7+-; But 21...♖ab8 would keep Black in the game. Of course, White is doing better, but the position is still not that simple as it might look like. 22.f4 Black wanted to play ♖b5. 22...♖b5 23. ♔c4 Now the pawn on e5 is not hanging. 23...♖b4 24. ♔a6 ♔b3 and it is not that easy for White to improve his position.]

22. ♖xe8 Simple and good.

22...♖xe8 23.d7 and White's d-pawn is faster than Black's soldier on the a-file.

23...♖d8 24. ♙g5 A fast process by the number 2 in the world against Mr. Hammer, whose preparatio n did not hammer at all :).

1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Karjakin,S (2767) – Carlsen,M (2868)

Supreme Masters, 13.05.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



(6) Fedorchuk,S (2660) – Szwed,J (2354)

European Championship, 06.05.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(7) Khairullin,I (2657) – Pashikian,A (2603)

European Championship, 07.05.2013

[CEWN]

1. ±

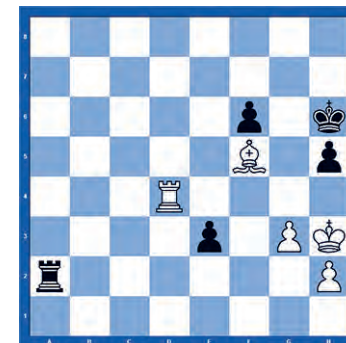


(8) Papp,G (2570) – Potkin,V (2666)

European Championship, 07.05.2013

[CEWN]

1... =



(9) Socko,B (2647) – Gritsak,O (2549)

European Championship, 07.05.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

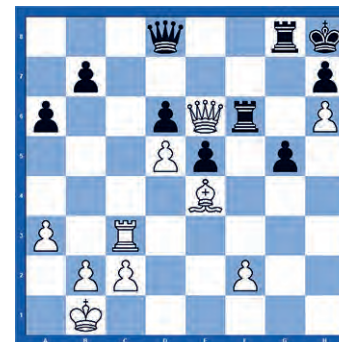


(11) Kraemer,M (2544) – Ernst,T (2387)

European Championship, 09.05.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

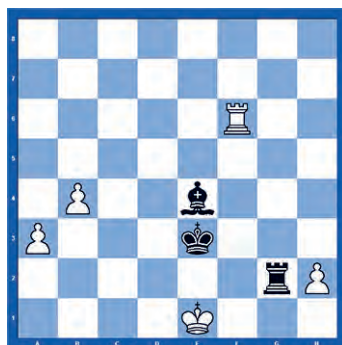


(10) Danielian,E (2478) – Fedorchuk,S (2660)

European Championship, 07.05.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



(12) Nepomniachtchi,I (2710) – Shengelia,D (2546)

European Championship, 13.05.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Nakamura,H (2775) – Topalov,V (2793)

Supreme Masters (blitz), 07.05.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

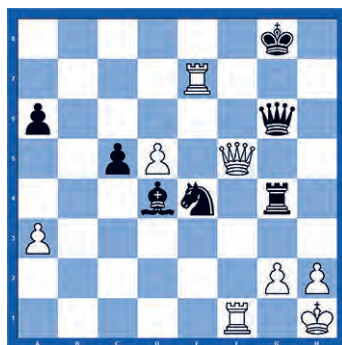


(14) Shulman,Y (2570) – Finegold,B (2505)

US Championship, 10.05.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

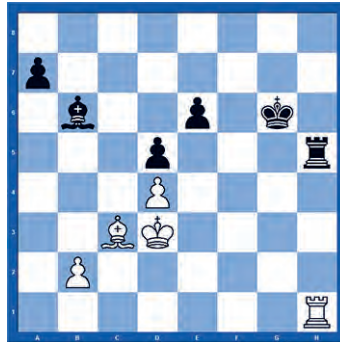


Endgame section

(15) Vachier Lagrave, M (2718) – Balogh, Cs (2644)

European Championship, 11.05.2013

[Chess Evolution]



I managed to get an endgame with an extra pawn, but to convert it should be extremely difficult because of the limited material left on the board. Black can only create a passed pawn with the e5 break, but it leads to further exchanges.

48. ♖xh5 White trades the rooks, as he does not see how can Black break through. Although it is going to be much more difficult for him to defend as it looks, at first sight... In my opinion, if White keeps the rooks on the board, that should hold as well, but of course, Black can try for very long by going with the king to the queenside.

48...♔xh5 49.b3 A principled move to put the pawn on a light square, where the Black bishop cannot attack it.

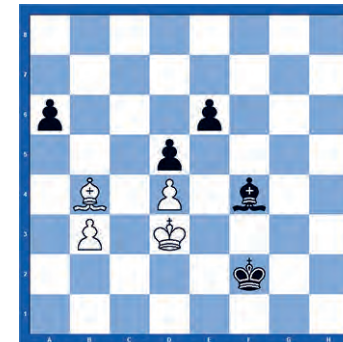
49...♔g4 50.♙d2 ♕f3 51.♙e1 Black's only chance to win the game is to get behind the b3 pawn. It looks impossible to get there, but things are not so easy.

51...♔g2 The king is heading to the e1 square, but of course, it will not be easy to get the bishop out from the diagonal.

52. ♙d2 ♕f2 53.♙b4 a6 I also put my pawn on a light square to avoid getting attacked later on. [There was a nice trick, for example, after 53...♔f1 White cannot trap the bishop with 54. ♙c5 with the idea of paralyzing Black, because of 54...e5! 55. ♙xb6 e4+! This intermediate check wins the game. 56.♔e3 axb6-+]]

54. ♙d2 ♙c7 Black does not need to hurry to make progress, since White can only pass with his bishop...

55. ♙c3 ♙f4 56. ♙b4



56...♔f1! Getting ready to drive the bishop to e1 to send it away from the e1–a5 diagonal.

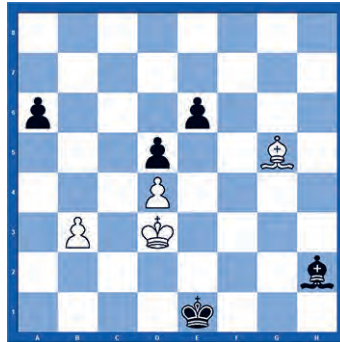
57. ♙c3 ♙g5 58. ♙b4 ♙h4 59. ♙a5 ♙e1 60. ♙d8 White transfers his bishop to the h4–e1 diagonal this time, but this is one square shorter than e1–a5, and it is enough for Black to get him into zugzwang!

60...♙b4 61.♙h4 ♙a3 62.♔d2! Good prophylaxis against the ♙c1 threat. [62.♙g3 would have been met by 62...♙c1 63.♙h4 ♙f4! and White is in zugzwang. If the king moves, ♙e2 comes closer, while on any bishop move, ♙e1 is possible.]

62...♙d6 63.♔e3 ♙h2 White is in zugzwang. He must allow for Black to play ♙e1!

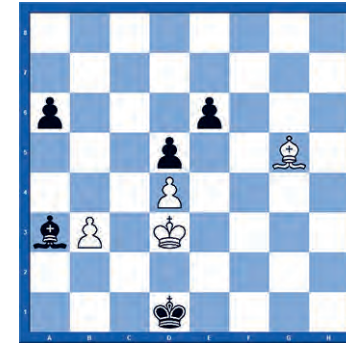
64.♙g5 [64.♔d3 ♙f4 and ♙e1 next.; 64.♔d2 ♙f4+ 65.♔d3 ♙h6 and again, ♙e1 next.]

64...♔e1 65.♔d3



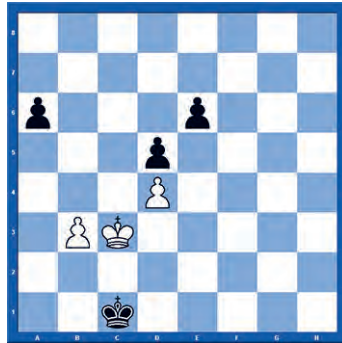
65...♔d1 I got closer to my aim of getting my king to b2, but this time I need to send away the bishop from the c1–h6 diagonal. It can only be done if I transfer my bishop to c1.

66.♙d2 ♙d6 67.♙g5 ♙a3



68.♔c3!! Brilliant defense by my opponent! Only this hidden idea saves White from losing! [If White continues waiting, then 68.♙f4 ♙c1 69.♙d6 ♙d2 70.♙c5 ♙e1! This is the key and it wins for Black. ♔c1 is threatened now, because after ♙a3, Black has ♙b1. White is forced to play 71.♙a3 but Black can create a zugzwang with a triangulation! 71...♙f2 72.♔c3 ♙g3 73.♔d3 (73.♙b2 loses to 73...e5!–+ and e4 next, as the pawn cannot be taken.) 73...♙e1 Here we are! Only the bishop can move now. 74.♙b2 (74.♙d6 ♙c1–+ wins.) 74...♙b4 and here is another zugzwang. Black wins. 75.♙a1 ♔c1–+]

68...a5 I was very unhappy to make this move, putting by pawn on a dark square, but I could not make progress. [The point of the 68.♔c3 move is that after 68...♙c1 White has 69.♙xc1!! ♔xc1]



70.b4! and the pawn endgame is drawn. White holds the draw by keep the opposition with the king. 70... ♔b1 71.♔b3 ♔a1 72.♔a3 ♔b1 73.♔b3 ♔c1 74.♔c3 ♔d1 75.♔d3 ♔e1 76.♔e3 ♔f1 77.♔f3 ♔g1 78.♔g3 ♔h1 79.♔h3= Wherever the king goes, White just follows him.; 68...♔e2 would have been another way to progress, but this time White can trap the bishop by 69.b4! The only move to rescue it from the threat of ♔b3 is 69...♔d1 but now 70.♔b3 ♔c1 71.♔xc1 ♔xc1 72.♔c3= and we have the same draw.]

69.♔d3 ♔c1 With the pawn on a5, I already cannot win the game, as White has a target there.

70.♔d8 ♔d2 71.♔e7! Another only move to have ♔a3 check on ♔c1.

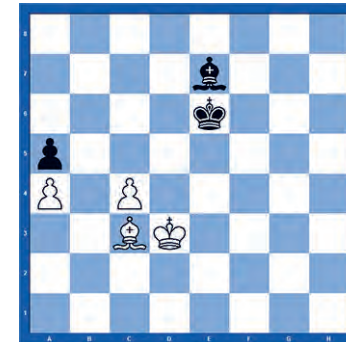
71...♔c1 72.♔a3+ ♔d1 73.♔e7 ♔b4 [73...♔e1 The triangulation does not help anymore. 74.♔g5 ♔g3 75.♔d8 White can force the bishop back to e1...]

74.♔g5 I had to admit that my opponent defended perfectly and agreed to a draw.

(16) Khalifman,A (2614) – Meier,Geo (2655) [A16]

14th Euro Indiv 2013 Legnica POL (4.16), 08.05.2013

[Chess Evolution]



At first sight, this position seems to be winning. In such cases, many GMs use to say that, „somehow“, it should be winning. But in fact, it is a draw! Black's main idea is simple, to give away the bishop for the c-pawn and arrive in time with the king to a8. Let us take a look at how Georg Meier defended with Black.

52.♔xa5 ♔d7 Logical and good. The black king belongs to the squares c6-b7-a6.

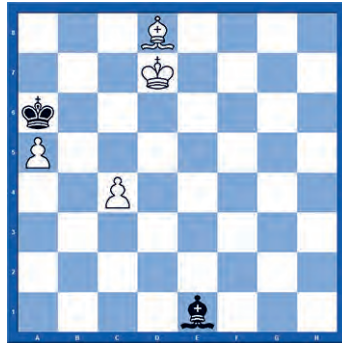
53.♔b6 ♔c6 54.a5 If White would not play a5, Black would just keep the king on c6.

54...♔b7 The only way. White wants to play ♔e3 with the threat of playing a6 next.

55.♔e4 ♔a6 56.♔d5 Now the game is about equal if White can push the c4 pawn to c6 somehow.

56...♔b4 57.♔c6 ♔d2 58.♔d8 [Of course 58.c5? leads to an immediate draw. 58...♔b4 59.♔d5 ♔xc5=]

58...♔e1 59.♔d7



59...♗b4! Good defense by Black! By no means, he should allow White to play c5.

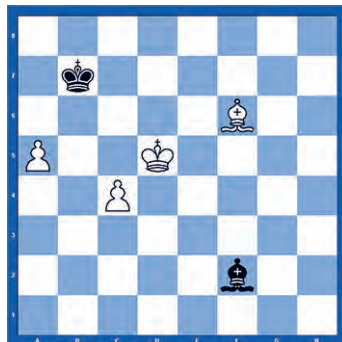
60.♖c7 ♜c5! Again, the right choice, preparing to cover the c5 square from the diagonal a7-g1.

61.♗d6 ♜e3 62.♗b4 [62.♖c7 ♜c5 This just brings us back to the main position.]

62...♔b7 No reason now to allow the White king on c6. It seems like there is no breakthrough, or is there?!

63.♔d6 ♜f2 64.♔d5 ♜e3 65.♜c3 ♜f2 Black just keeps on waiting.

66.♜f6 Khalifman finds nothing better than to bring the bishop back to b6.



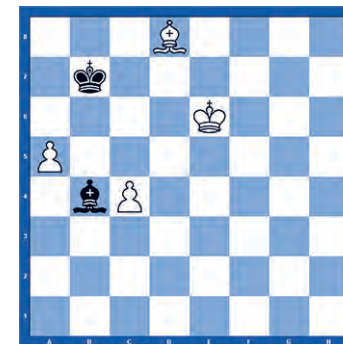
66...♜e1! Meier keeps playing the exact moves! Black's bishops' best position is on b4!

67.♜d8 ♜b4 68.♜b6 ♜e7 Strangely enough, Meier changes his defense. [68...♔a6 would be, of course, possible as well, and we would go back to the beginning of the game.]

69.♜c5 but also here, White cannot do any significant improvement.

69...♜g5 70.♜d4 ♜d2 71.♜b6 ♜b4 and the bishop is back on b4.

72.♜d8 ♜a3 73.♔e6 ♜b4



74.a6+! After moving around for a long time, White tries his last chance.

74...♔xa6 75.♜e7 Finally, White gets rid of the black bishop from b4 and advances the c-pawn, however, the a-pawn is gone, so the position is still a draw. What happened now is just unbelievable! Meier simply resigns after defending so well for over 20 moves! What a shock for both players! The position is a draw, and actually, a draw that is not that hard to find. 75...♜a5 76.c5 ♔b5 77.♔d7 ♔c4! 78.c6 ♔d5! This is the trick, Black needs the king on

d5 and not on b5. The idea is that if White gets the bishop to c7, Black would be forced to go to the b8-g1 diagonal, and then White will have no chance to transport the bishop to d6 because the black king will be placed on d5! What a tragic loss for Georg Meier.

1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Lilienthal, Andor — Capablanca, Jose Raul [E24]

Hastings 3435 Hastings (5), 01.01.1935

[Kamil Miton]

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♗c3** ♖b4 **4.a3** ♕xc3+ **5.bxc3** b6
A typical plan to create pressure against the weak c4 pawn.

6.f3 d5



7.♕g5 I am not sure if this is the right decision. White could play [7.cxd5 exd5 8.e3 0-0 9.♕d3 c5 10.♘e2 ♕a6 11.♕xa6 ♘xa6 12.0-0 leads to other kind of structure. The main plan for White is to push e4 after ♘g3 — ♕b2 (or sometimes, the bishop on f2 is well placed as well), but in general, it is not an easy task because Black can look for counterplay over the e-file with his heavy pieces. Besides, h5–h4 is an idea to kick the knight out from g3. I recommend you to look at one of the most famous classical games Botvinnik — Capablanca.]

7...h6 **8.♕h4** ♕a6 **9.e4?** To look for active play with two bishops seems to be logical, but it was too optimistic. White should play [9.cxd5 exd5 10.e3 ♕xf1 11.♖xf1 ♘bd7 12.♘e2 0-0 13.g4 ♖e8 14.♕f2 c5 15.♖g2 and White is better.]

9...♕xc4? Capablanca took the wrong pawn. He could have played [9...dxe4 10.fxe4 (10.♘h3 ♘bd7 11.♘f2 g5 12.♕g3 e3)]



10...g5! Black is winning the pawn and White will not be able to get the initiative because of his inferior development. 11.♕g3 (11.e5 gxf4 12.♖f3 ♘bd7 13.exf6 c5) 11... ♘xe4 12.♕e5 f6 13.♖h5+ ♖d7 14.♕d3 ♕b7]

10.♕xc4 dxc4 **11.♖a4+ ♖d7** [11...♘bd7 12.♖xc4 (12.e5 g5) 12...c5 13.♘e2 0-0 (13...cxd4 14.cxd4 ♖c8 15.♖b4; 13...♖c7 14.0-0 0-0 15.a4 ♖b7 16.♖fd1 Thanks to his better center, White has a typical slightly better position.) 14.e5!? At this moment, this idea is interesting, because White can try to create an attack against the king. 14...g5 15.♕f2 ♘d5 16.h4! ♖c8 17.♖d3↑]

12.♖xc4 ♖c6 **13.♖d3** Of course, White keeps the queen on the board as he will need it to support the initiative on the kingside. [13.♖xc6+ ♘xc6 14.♕e2!? With the idea

not to allow the black knight to take the good c4 square. (14.♘e2 ♘a5) 14...♘a5 15.♔d3 c5 16.♘e2 0-0]

13...♘bd7 14.♘e2 ♖d8 Capablanca ut the rook here in order to have some tricks with ♘e5, but the rook on d8 has disadvantages as well: White will have some threats with e5 later.

15.0-0

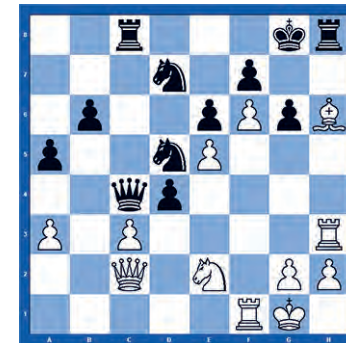


15...a5 Strange decision. This move weakens the position and loses time. Maybe the Cuban player was afraid of some ♖a6 idea, but we will see below that it is not dangerous. [15...0-0 The most logical. 16.♖a6 ♘b8! 17.♖xa7 ♖c4 18.♙xf6 ♖d7 and the white queen is in a trap.; 15...♘e5 The idea of gaining control over the c4 square does not work because of 16.♖c2 ♘c4 and now 17.d5! exd5 18.♘d4 with a decisive attack.]

16.♖c2 [16.c4 e5 (16...♘e5 17.♖c3 ♘xc4 18.♖fc1 b5 19.a4±) 17.d5 ♖c5+ 18.♙f2 ♖e7 19.♘c3 ♘c5 20.♖c2 0-0 21.♖ab1 ♘fd7 22.♘a4 Black is not able to create a blockade on the queenside. White is going to play ♖b5 next and push c5 later, which should give him good play.]

16...♖c4 17.f4 ♖c8 because of the e5 threat.

18.f5 e5 Logical. Black is trying to close the position to avoid falling under pressure. Castling was very risky, let us see why it is so. [18...0-0 19.e5 ♘d5 20.f6 Black's position looks very dangerous because all the white pieces are well placed to attack the king. 20...gxf6 Only move. (20...g5 21.♙xg5 hxg5 22.♖f3 ♖fd8 23.♖h3 ♘f8 24.♖h5 ♘g6 25.♖xg5 ♘f8 26.♖xg6 fxg6 27.♖xg6 ♖d7 28.♖h5 ♘g8 29.♖f1+; 20...g6 21.♖f3 ♘h7 22.♖h3 ♖h8 23.♙g5 ♘g8 24.♙xh6 c5 25.♖f1 cxd4 and now comes the nice



26.♖xg6+ fxg6 27.f7+ ♘h7 28.♙f8#; 20...♘e3 21.♖d2 ♘xf1 22.♖xf1 c5 23.fxg7 ♘xg7 24.♙g5 with a decisive attack.) 21.♙xf6 (21.exf6; 21.♖d2 ♘h7; 21.♖f3 fxe5 22.♖g3+ ♘h8 23.♖d2 ♘h7 24.♖h3 ♖g8 25.♙g5 ♖g6 26.♙xh6 ♘g8 Now the king is safe, Black takes the initiative.) 21...N7xf6 22.exf6 ♘h8! with the defensive idea ♖g8-♖g6. Black is on time! The position is unclear.]

19.dxe5 [19.♙xf6 ♘xf6 (19...gxf6 looks unclear as well.) 20.dxe5 ♖xe4 (20...♖c5+ 21.♘d4 ♖xe5 22.♖a4+ ♘f8 23.♖ae1 and soon after ♘f3, White will push e5 and crush his opponent.) 21.♖xe4 ♘xe4 22.♖f4 ♘c5 23.♘d4 0-0 Black does not have any serious weakness, so the position should be fine.]

19...♔xe4?? A huge mistake by Capablanca. He overlooked the nice tactical idea [19...♘xe5 20.♙xf6 gxf6 21.♘f4 Now the only chance for White is to create pressure against the f6 pawn. Otherwise, Black will be just better. 21...♔c5+ (21...c6 22.♔f2 Attacking the b6 pawn and preparing ♔h4-♘h5. 22...♔c5 23.♔xc5 bxc5 24.♖ab1 White is better here. Black cannot put the king on e7 because of the check on b7.) 22.♙h1 ♖d8 23.♘d5 c6 24.♘xf6+ ♔e7 25.♘h5 ♖d3 with good counterplay.]



20.exf6!! Fantastic! Now White is winning. All the pieces come with tempo to the final attack!

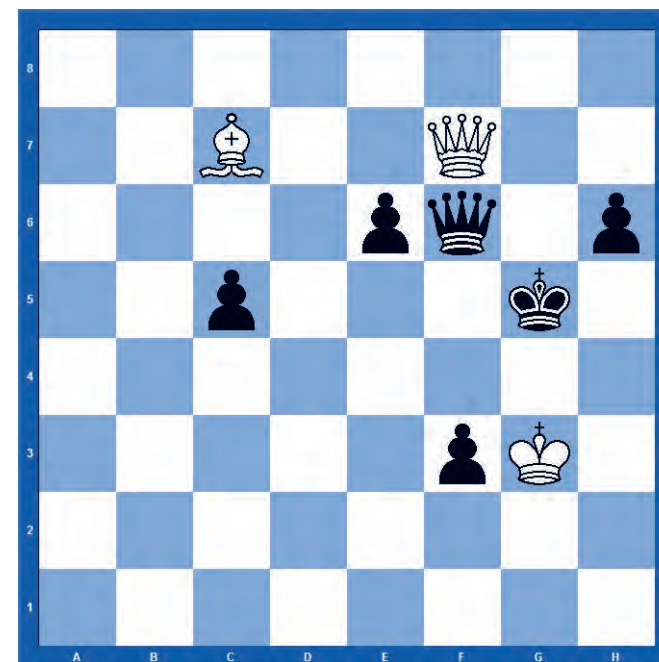
20...♔xc2 21.fxfg7 ♖g8 22.♘d4 ♔e4 23.♖ae1 ♘c5 24.♖xe4+ ♘xe4 25.♖e1 ♖xg7 26.♖xe4+ 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Troitzky

[CEWN]

1. +-

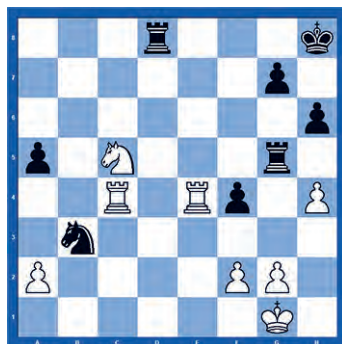


Solutions

(19) Matinian,N (2491) – Jobava,B (2702)

European Championship, 05.05.2013

[Solutions]



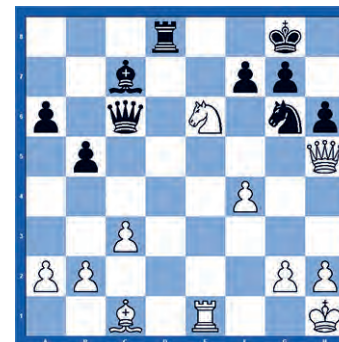
31... ♖d1+! 32. ♔h2 ♜h5!! 33. ♜xf4 [33. axb3 ♜xh4#]

33... ♞xc5--+

(20) Butkiewicz,L (2410) – Shimanov,A (2639)

European Championship, 05.05.2013

[Solutions]



28... ♔e8!! 29. f5 [29. ♔c5 ♔xe6! 30. ♜xe6 ♜d1+ 31. ♔g1 ♜xg1+ 32. ♔xg1 fxe6--+]]

29... ♞f8! 30. ♔g4 fxe6--+

(21) Hagen,A (2400) – Lupulescu,C (2634)

European Championship, 05.05.2013

[Solutions]



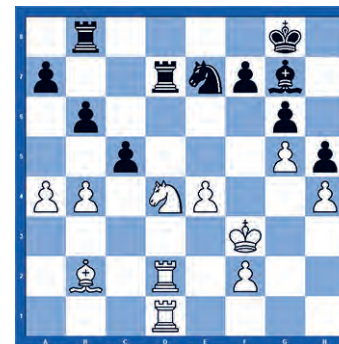
44.h4!! ♕e3 [44... ♖xg4 45. ♗f8+ ♔g6 46. ♗g8+ ♔f6 (46... ♔f5?? 47. ♗c8+!+-) 47. ♗f8+ ♔g6 (47... ♔e6?? 48. ♗c8++-) 48. ♗g8±]

45. ♖g7! ♗e4+ **46. ♔h2** ♗c2+ **47. ♔h3** ♗f5+ **48. ♔h2** ♗f2+ **49. ♔h3** ♗f5+ **50. ♔h2** ♗f2+ 1/2-1/2

(22) Shimanov,A (2639) – Prizant,J (2537)

European Championship, 06.05.2013

[Solutions]



38. ♖f5!! ♗xf5 [38... gxf5 39. ♖xd7 ♕xb2 40. ♖xe7+-; 38... ♖xd2 39. ♖xe7+ ♕f8 40. ♕xg7+! ♕xg7 41. ♖xd2+-]

39. ♖xd7 ♗xh4+ **40. ♔g3** ♕xb2 **41. ♖d8+** ♖xd8 **42. ♖xd8+** ♔g7 **43. bxc5** bxc5 **44. ♔xh4** 1-0

(23) Djukic,N (2555) – Khairullin,I (2657)

European Championship, 06.05.2013

[Solutions]



37...♔c6!! [37...♖xa8? 38.♖b8]

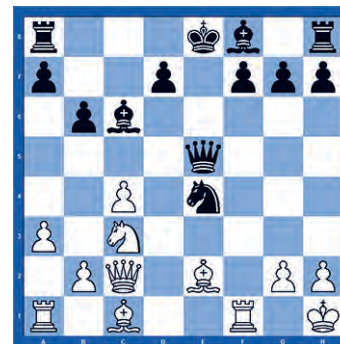
38.♖xb3 [38.♖xc8 ♔xb7–+]

38...cxb3 39.♖xc8 b2 40.♖b8 ♔xc7 41.♖b3 a4 0–1

(24) Arnold,M (2538) – Gareev,T (2674)

USA Championship, 03.05.2013

[Solutions]



14...♘xc3? [14...♘g3+!! 15.hxg3 ♔xg3 16.♙f3 ♙d6!
17.♔g1 ♙c5+ 18.♖f2 (18.♔h1 ♔h4#) 18...♙xf3–+]

15.bxc3 ♚

(25) Mchedlishvili,M (2640) – Javakhadze,Z (2448)

Nakchivan Open, 30.04.2013

[Solutions]



24. ♘f5!! [24. ♖g1? ♘g6; 24. ♙xg7? ♙xg7]

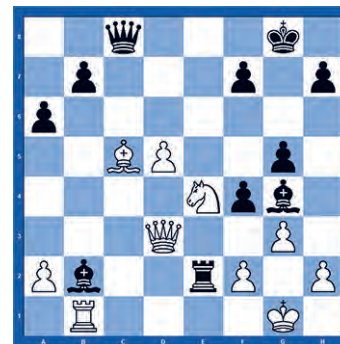
24... ♙xh6 [24... exf5 25. ♚g5 ♘g6 26. ♚xg6+-]

25. ♚xh6! exf5 26. ♖h1! 1-0

(26) Haslinger,S (2535) – Short,N (2692)

4NCL, 05.05.2013

[Solutions]



27... ♖xe4! 28. ♚xe4 ♙f5 29. ♚e7 [29. ♚e1 ♙xb1
30. ♚xb1 ♚xc5 31. ♚xb2 fxg3 32. hxg3 ♚xd5--]

29... ♙xb1 30. ♚xg5+ ♙g7--+

(27) Lou Yiping (2482) – Yu Yangyi (2675)

Chinese league, 30.04.2013

[Solutions]



26... ♖d3+!! 27. ♔d1 [27. exd3 ♜e8--; 27. ♔f1 ♘xc1--]

27... ♘f2+ 28. ♔e1 ♘xh3 0-1

(28) Jobava, B (2702) – Lan, Z (2165)

Chinese league, 03.05.2013

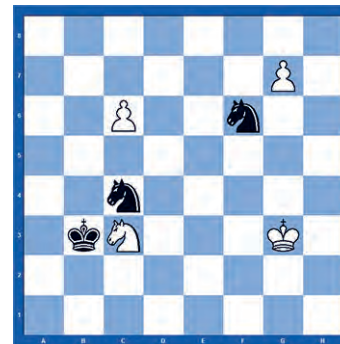
[Solutions]



28. ♜xd4! 1-0 [28. ♜xd4! cxd4 29. ♙c2! g6 30. ♚f6#]

(29) Sackmann

[Solutions]



1. c7 ♘d6 [1... ♘b6 2. ♘d5!! ♘bxd5 (2... ♘fxd5 3. g8 ♚+-) 3. c8 ♚+-]

2. ♘e4!! ♘dxe4+ 3. ♔f4 ♘d6 4. ♔e5!+-



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 65

24th of May 2013

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Editorial Preface

The chess super tournament marathon never seems to end.

We just saw Moiseenko become European Champion and already, a few days later, Karjakin became the deserved winner of the Super Tournament in Norway with 6/9, in front of Carlsen and Nakamura, both with 5.5/9.

And now, another FIDE Grand Prix has begun with an amazing line up and an average ELO of over 2750! It is taking place, surprisingly, in Greece.

After the first 4 rounds there are seven leaders with a score of +1 in a very hard fought struggle. Vassily Ivanchuk is having trouble in the event.

This week, we analyze the Top games from the past events with a couple of interesting endgames!

As usual, we wish you great chess joy with the CEWN Nr 65.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Nepomniachtchi, Ian (2710) — Moiseenko, Alexander (2698) [B30]

14th Euro Indiv 2013 Legnica POL (11.1), 16.05.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

It is the last round of the European Championship. Moiseenko is a full point ahead of Nepomniachtchi, so White has to win the game at least to share first place. As we already know, even after losing this game, Moiseenko became European Champion. So let us take a closer look at how White slowly outplayed his opponent and finally got a convincing and deserved full point.

1.e4 c5 Not the safest opening choice to play for a draw...

2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 Ian is a very creative player and to guess his opening choices is almost impossible.

3...e6 4.♙xc6 bxc6 We are in a very popular line. In the match Anand-Gelfand, this position happened 3 times, and Radjabov has always been a big fan of this line with Black, and even managed to get very close to winning his game with Black against Magnus Carlsen in Wijk aan Zee 2013.



5.b3 Not the main line, but a very tricky one. [5.0–0 would be the main line here.]

5...♞e7 This is the main answer for Black. The idea is simple, White will put his bishop on b2 and Black will put the knight on g6, followed by d6–e5 in the best case, which would leave him with a great position.

6.♙b2 f6 To block the bishop on b2 is very important. White needs to act very fast now, or Black will simply be better!

7.♞h4!? Very creative play. The idea of White is to play a fast f4.

7...e5 [Maybe 7...d5 would have been the right answer for Black now, but it is hard not to play 7...e5.]



8.f4! White's idea comes true.

8...d6 [Of course to take with 8...exf4? is not possible because of 9.♙xf6!]

9.0–0 ♙e6 Moiseenko is trying to hold his center together.

10.fxe5 Black faces a critical moment.

10...dxe5 is the safest of the two possible moves, but now White gets a nice and stable advantage. [10...fxe5 would clearly be the critical move. 11.♘a3 The white knight is going to c4. 11...g6 12.♘c4 ♕g7 and, of course, the black king is badly placed on e8, but all the rest of black pieces are standing very solidly in the center. It is hard to say if White has any serious advantage here.]

11.♔h1 A prophylactic move. Of course, 11.♘a3 was possible as well.

11...♔d7 12.d3 White is fixing his opponent's horrible pawn structure.

12...♘c8 Quite a passive move again. [Maybe it would bring better chances to play 12...♘g6 13.♘f5 ♘f4 and White is doing better, but the position at least would have some dynamism.]

13.♘c3 The white knight is going to a4, followed by ♕a3 and the c5 pawn might fall very easily.

13...♕e7 14.♔h5+ Locking the black bishop on f7 first.

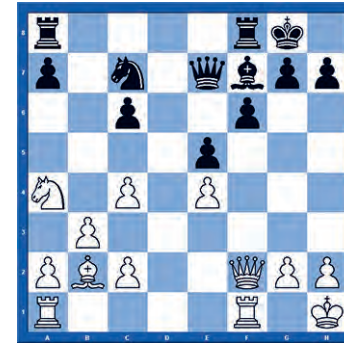
14...♕f7 15.♔f3 and only now ♔f3, winning sort of half a tempo.

15...0-0 16.♘f5 and we can say that White managed to do what he wanted. By taking away the bishop from e7, the black pawn on c5 is going to fall for sure.

16...♘d6 17.♘xe7+ ♔xe7 18.♘a4 ♘b5 19.♔f2 Black is losing the pawn.

19...c4 It is hard to give Black a better advice, as the position is already critical. [Of course it does not help to play 19...♘d4 20.♕a3]

20.dxc4 ♘c7



21.♕c1! Nice positional move by White. The bishop on e3 will be perfectly placed and there is no hurry to rush the things anymore.

21...♘e6 22.♕e3 ♔fd8 23.♔ad1 White should not avoid the exchanges over the d-file. The endgame position would be close to winning.

23...♕g6 Black is hoping to get some small counterplay on the e4 pawn.

24.♕c5 Another good idea by White. Before playing ♘c3, White is making sure that the black queen will get to b4.

24...♔e8 25.♘c3 Everything is protected, and White wants to start pushing his pawn on the queenside.

25...♔xd1 26.♔xd1 ♔d8 27.♔xd8 ♔xd8 28.♕e3 Both rooks were exchanged on the d-file, so the bishop can come back to e3. This does not allow Black to play ♘g5 next, which would give some drawing chances because of the opposite-colored bishops.

28...a6 29.h3 h6 Some positional moves were done, and now it is time for White to find a clear plan.

30.♔e2 To bring the queen to d3 is clearly not a bad plan.

30...♔a5 [An endgame like 30...♔f7 31.♔d3 ♔xd3 32.cxd3 should be just lost for Black.]

31.♔d3 ♔h7 32.♔h2 White is checking what Black wants to do next.

32...♔b4 33.♔g3 ♔a5 Black just keeps on waiting.

34.♔f2! A nice idea! White is transporting his king to the queenside before starting the final action.

34...♔b4 35.♔e2 ♔a5 36.♔d1 ♔b4 37.♔c1 ♔a3+ 38.♔b1 ♔a5 39.♔b2 Black just kept on waiting, so White managed to put his king on b2, a very nice and safe place.



39...♔f4? A big mistake that could lead to an immediate resignation.

40.♔d2? White is missing a win on the 40th move. [40.♔d6! would finish the game on the spot. 40...♔xg2 41.♔f2 Black has no defense against White's b4, winning a full queen!]

40...♔c7 and the fight continues.

41.c5! A good positional move. Now, of course, ♔d6 is a killing threat. White always has in mind to play ♔a3-♔b4-♔a5 after the queens exchange.

41...♔e6 42.♔d3 There is no hurry with ♔d6. Black has no counterplay at all.

42...♔c8 43.♔a4 Another good move. White is bringing the last piece into action, and now wants to maybe play ♔b6-♔c4-♔d6.

43...♔f4 Black tries, but nothing helps anymore...

44.♔xf4 exf4 45.♔c3! White is playing very accurately. The knight on c3 will defend the white king and the threat is to play ♔d6.

45...a5 46.♔d6 f3 Of course, the position is lost, but at least Black will get a passed h-pawn.

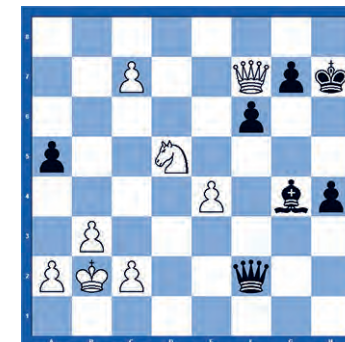
47.gxf3 ♔xh3 48.♔xc6 ♔xf3 49.♔d7 I think we can see very clearly that White's c-pawn is much faster than Black's.

49...♔h5 50.c6 ♔g4 51.♔d5 A nice little trick. Of course, this was not really needed :).

51...h5 [51...♔xd7 52.cxd7 and Black cannot stop White's d-pawn.]

52.♔f7 h4 53.c7 The c-pawn is a queen!

53...♔f2



54.c8 ♔ The simplest.

54...♙xc8 55.♔h5+ ♕g8 56.♔e8+ ♕h7 57.♔xc8
White is totally winning. Of course, it was time to resign here, but Black keeps on playing...

57...f5 Well, it is hard to call it a try. White is winning on any move in, at least, 3-4 lines.

58.exf5 h3 59.f6 The most dynamic.

59...h2 60.♔h3+ ♕g8 61.♔g4 Threatening a mate on g7.

61...♔g1 62.♔e6+ ♕h7 63.f7 and White's f-pawn becomes a queen.

63...h1 ♔ 64.f8 ♔ ♔c1+ 65.♔c3 A slightly funny position with 4 queens on the board, but White is totally winning. Black has nothing more than 3-4 checks. The white queens and the monster knight on d5 protecting the king extremely well.

65...♔a1+ 66.♔c4 ♔h4+ 67.♔b5 Black does what he should have done around 10 moves ago - to resign. A really good game by Napomniachtchi, with great positional understanding and great tactical skills at the right moment!

1-0

(2) Hammer,J (2608) — Nakamura,Hi (2775) [D31]

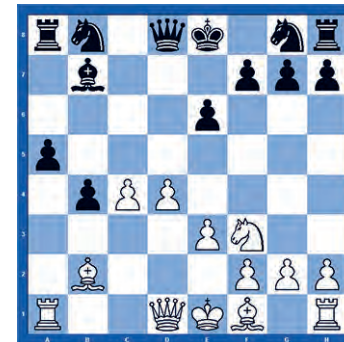
Supreme Masters 2013 Sandnes NOR (9.5), 18.05.2013
[Csaba Balogh]

Nakamura has an excellent style to beat the weaker players with the black pieces. Let us see how he does it... We must admit that Hammer was trying to push in all his games (he did not play for draw), which makes it easier to outplay the opponent.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 c6 4.♘c3 dxc4 Black is aiming for an asymmetrical pawn structure, where it is easier to break the balance.

5.e3 b5 6.a4 ♙b4 The start of the very sharp Noteboom variation.

7.♙d2 a5 8.axb5 ♙xc3 9.♙xc3 cxb5 10.b3! ♙b7 11.bxc4 b4 12.♙b2



12...♘f6 We are still at just the beginning of the opening theory with over thousand games in the database. Let us take a quick look at what happened so far. White has recovered the sacrificed pawn, but Black has obtained two dangerous connected passed pawns on the a- and b-files, and also gained the e4 square for one of his minor pieces.

On the other hand, White has the bishop pair and a very strong center, and if it gets mobilized, it will become at least as dangerous as the black queenside pawns.

13. ♖d3 0-0 14. 0-0 ♘bd7 15. ♘d2 White is intending to occupy the center by f4 and e4 and also takes control over the e4 square to avoid ♘e4 or ♙e4. [15. ♖e1 is the most common move.; 15. ♙c2 and; 15. c5 are also huge theoretical lines.]



15... ♙c7! Black would like to push e5 to reduce the power of White's center. We must mention that it is not so easy to mobilize the central pawns, because d5 always gives up the control over the c5 square; c5 allows a Black piece to d5; while on e4, Black plays e5, creating a huge hole on c5 for the knight...

16. f4 Preventing e5.

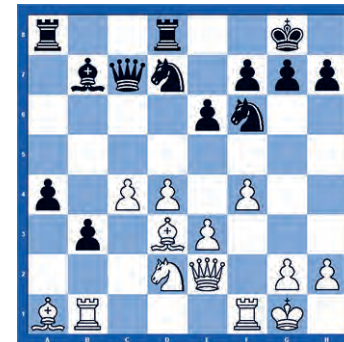
16... a4! The other idea behind the 15... ♙c7 move was to push the a-pawn, White cannot take it because of the ♙c6 double-attack on g2 and a4.

17. ♖b1 White frees the a1 square for his bishop. He needs to blockade the pawns with the minor pieces.

17... ♖fd8! Creating the threat of ♘c5! There are still many games in the database.

18. ♙e2 Protecting the d3 bishop against ♘c5.

18... b3! 19. ♙a1 [It is a bit strange to me why nobody has ever tried 19. ♙a3 blocking the pawns. According to the computer, Black is just much better, but for me it is unclear. White threatens with e4-e5 now, Black must parry it with a knight move, for instance 19... ♘f8 keeping the d4 square under attack. This is the reason why the bishop goes to a1 in all the games. In that case, e4-e5 could come.]



19... ♙d6! This is the novelty of our game. I am pretty sure that Nakamura has prepared this at home. He refreshes the threat of ♘c5, which is not easy to parry, but on the other hand, it moves into the e4-e5 idea with tempo.

20. e4 ♘c5! The game gets extremely sharp and concrete now, but somehow, Black pulls in all lines.

21. e5 ♙c6 This is the point! Black does not lose a piece this way, because White cannot take back the d3 knight at the end, because of the mate on g2.

22. exf6 [22. d5? runs into 22... ♘xd5! 23. cxd5 ♙xd5 Black wins.]

22... ♘xd3 23. ♙g4 g6 24. ♖f3! A multifunctional move. The first aim is to lock the h1-a8 diagonal in order to free

the queen to move to h6. It also attacks the knight and might threaten to increase the attack with ♖h3 later on. Black needs to react precisely.

24...b2! Black would like to get the d4 pawn.

25. ♖g5 [25. ♗xb2 ♘xb2 26. ♖xb2 a3 27. ♖a2 ♖xd4--+ wins for Black.; 25. ♖xd3 is objectively the best, but it is also better for Black after 25...bxa1 ♖ 26. ♖xa1 ♖xd4! 27. ♖xd4 ♖c5 28. f5 ♖d8! ♖ Black wins back the rook and gets a clear advantage.]

25...bxa1 ♖ 26. ♖xa1 [26. ♖h6 does not work, because of 26... ♖xd4+ 27. ♖h1 ♖xf6!--+ preventing the mate.]

26... ♖b6! Black prepares for the same defense against ♖h6 by eliminating the d4 and f6 pawns with check.

27. ♖xd3 [27. c5 ♖b2--+ also wins for Black.]

27... ♖xd4 28. ♖b1 [28. c5 ♖d8 29. ♖h6 ♖xf6--+ wins.; 28. ♖h6 ♖xd3+ (28... ♖xf4+ followed by ♖xf6 also wins.) 29. ♖h1 ♗xg2+! 30. ♖xg2 ♖xd2+ 31. ♖h3 ♖e3+--+ and Black mates first.]

28... ♖d8 The game is over now. White cannot give mate, which means he is lost.

29. ♖xb7 [29. ♖h6 ♖xf6--+]

29... ♖xd3 30. ♗f3 White tries some desperate try, but there is no clear threat because ♖h6 is always met with ♖xf6.

30...a3 31. ♖xf7 ♖b6+ 32. c5 ♖b1+ 33. ♖f2 ♖xf3+ Eliminating the last attacker.[White resigned in view of 33... ♖xf3+ 34. gxf3 ♖xf7 35. ♖h6 ♖b2+ 36. ♖g3 ♖xf6--+ White has only one check.]

0-1

(3) Jobava,Ba (2702) – Svetushkin,D (2588) [A01]

14th Euro Indiv 2013 Legnica POL (10.27), 15.05.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

Quite a unique game right from the beginning.

1.b3 The extremely talented Georgian grandmaster, Baadur Jobava, often employs this move and has good results with it. However, in this game he ran into a bad defeat.

1...d5 2. ♗b2 ♘f6 3.e3



3... ♗g4 A provocative move, since after ♗e2 or ♗f3, Black could calmly finish the development and achieve equality, while the critical move played in the game is a bit artificial.

4.f3 ♗f5 Further provocation.

5.g4 Jobava has already played this once.

5... ♗d7 This was Svetushkin's novelty. He retreats his bishop to his own camp and hopes that, in the short term, he can make use of the weaknesses of White's pawn structure. [5... ♗g6 happened in the previous game, but the bishop was slightly misplaced here. 6.h4 h5 7.g5 ♗g8

8.♘e2 ♘f4 was coming in the next move with tempo. White won later on in Jobava -Yu Ruiyuan 2012.]

6.g5 ♘g8 7.f4 We usually meet these positions between club players and not in the GM level, who are actually playing for big prizes.



7...c5 It is time to occupy some important central squares.

8.♘f3 ♘c6 9.♙b5 White would like to create an outpost for his knight on e5.

9...e6 10.h4 White's strategy is to dominate the dark squares and he would like to work them out by pushing h5-h6. Black obviously needs to avoid this.

10...h5! At the same time, Black has created a nice hole on f5 for his knight and he is going to occupy it soon.

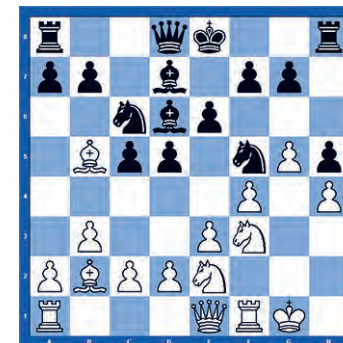
11.0-0 I am not sure if this is the safest place for the king. [It would have been more advisable to play 11.♘c3 ♘ge7 12.♘e2 immediately, driving the knight to g3, and on 12... ♘f5



13.♙d3! is very strong. White wants to take on f5, followed by ♘g3. Black should ideally strengthen his knight via ♘ce7, but this would lock the bishop to f8. One tempo is missing for him to play ♙d6 first.]

11...♘ge7 12.♙e1 ♘f5 13.♘c3 White is going to kick out the f5 knight with ♘e2-g3. [The other way to develop the b1 knight. 13.d3 would crucially weaken the e3 square. Black immediately makes use of it with 13...d4!♣]

13...♙d6 14.♘e2



14...♙b4! Very well played! Black creates a very simple threat to take on c2, and if we take a closer look, then we realize that it is not easy at all to parry it. White is forced to make a very ugly queen move, but it deprives him from continuing his plan with ♘g3.

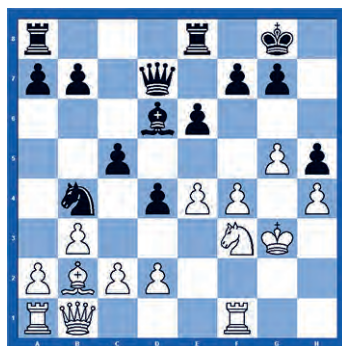
15. ♖xd7+ ♔xd7 16. ♚b1 Ugly, but what else to do?! White needs to waste some time now to play a3, sending back the knight, and then again ♔e1 and ♖g3.

16...0-0 17. ♖g2 [17.a3 ♘c6 18. ♚e1 was probably better, although Black is more than fine after, for instance 18... ♖fe8 19. ♘g3 ♘xg3 20. ♚xg3 d4! ♚ locking the b2 bishop, since taking twice on d4 allows the ♙c5 pin.]

17...♖fe8 18. ♘g3 d4! Black does not waste any time and punishes White for his poor heavy pieces.

19.e4 A principled move to lock the position, but it has a tactical drawback. [19. ♘h5 is met by 19...e5! opening the position on the weak king. 20.e4 allows 20... ♘h4+! 21. ♘h4 ♚g4+ 22. ♘g3 exf4--+ wins.; 19. ♘xf5 brings the Black rooks into the game along the e-file 19...exf5 20.exd4 cxd4 21. ♘xd4 ♘d5! Black is crushing.]

19...♘xg3 20. ♚xg3 If White succeeds to consolidate, he gets a clear edge thanks to his space advantage on the kingside. However, Black has prepared a nice tactical shot... It is easy to feel that something should work for him with such pieces on b1 and a1.

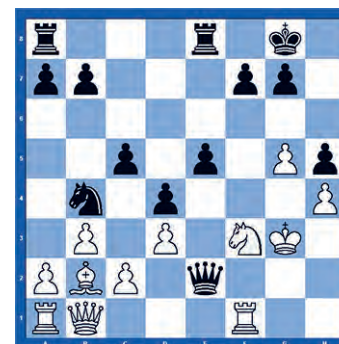


20... ♙xf4+!! 21. ♚xf4 e5+ The queen joins the game through g4.

22. ♚g3 [22. ♘xe5? leads to a mate: 22... ♖xe5 23. ♚xe5 ♖e8+ 24. ♚f4 ♚g4#]

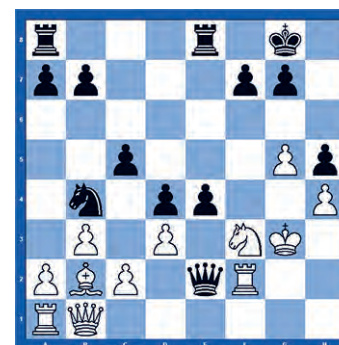
22... ♚g4+ 23. ♚h2 ♚xe4 Black only got two pawns for the piece, but the b1, a1, b2 pieces are completely out of the game, and he threatens to move with the queen followed by e4. White has no good defense against it.

24.d3 ♚e2+ 25. ♚g3



25...e4! Good calculation! Black wins by force.

26. ♖f2! This seems to trap the queen and the game is over, but the unpleasant surprise is just about to come. [26.dxe4? ♖xe4 Black mates with ♖g4- ♚g2.]



26...exf3!! [26...♔e3? loses to 27.♕c1! trapping the queen.]

27.♖xe2 fxe2 White cannot block the e-pawn. If Black promotes it and wins the queen, he ends up with an extra pawn and a winning position.

28.♔h1 ♘xc2 29.♖e1 It seems like White succeeded to stop and he is still a piece up, but Black can still increase the pressure.

29...♘xe1 30.♔xe1 ♖e3+! 31.♔f2 ♖ae8 White resigned, as he is hopeless against the threat of ♖d3-d1. The queen is a poor blockader and White has no time to replace it with the bishop.

0-1

(4) Wang,Hao (2743) — Anand,Viswanathan (2783) [A34]

Supreme Masters 2013 Sandnes NOR (9.4), 18.05.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Rarely do we see Anand getting outplayed, but in this game, it was the case. White got nothing out of the opening where it seems that, maybe, Black is the one pushing. However, just a few moves later, he managed to catch a full black queen. Let us take a closer look...

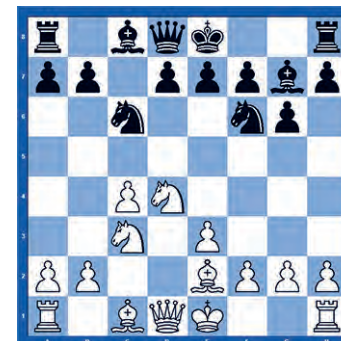
1.c4 c5 It is super difficult to outplay the World Champion in the opening, so Wang Hao is clearly not to blame for his opening choice.

2.♘c3 g6 A not very popular move order for Black. Usually we see 2...♘c6 or 2...♘f6.

3.♘f3 ♕g7 4.d4 cxd4 5.♘xd4 Now we are back in a sort of Maroczy structure.

5...♘c6 6.e3 Not the most ambitious move. [6.♘c2 seems to be the main line here.]

6...♘f6 7.♕e2 This is exactly why White usually avoids this line. It seems like Black is doing perfectly OK.



7...d5! 8.cxd5 [as well 8.0-0 0-0 could lead to about the same position.]

8...xd5 9.xc6 An ambitious move by White. By crushing the black pawn structure, White is gaining a potential target. On the other hand, Black's bishop on g7 becomes really active and it seems like Black should have, at least, enough play.

9...bxc6 10.a4 The only try for White to reach any advantage.

10...0-0 11.0-0 f5 f5 is clearly not a mistake, but why not to try an easier solution like [11...d6!? Black is taking the c5 square under control and maybe the next move could be d8 or even b6. It is really hard to believe that White has any advantage here.]

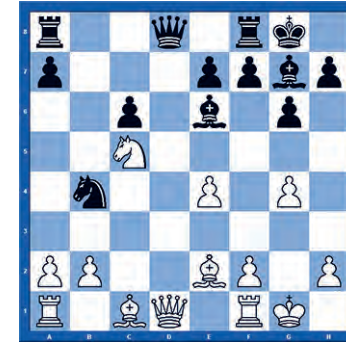
12.g4!? Now the big fight starts and it is clear that Wang Hao is ready for it. It is very important for White to get the black knight away from d5, and that is why even a big weakening move like g4 now leads to big complications.

12...e6 Now the bishop will be under attack, but it seems like Black has no better square for it.

13.e4 That was White's main idea.

13...b4?! Anand clearly chooses the wrong direction for his knight. [13...c7 would have been the right move. 14.c5 b8 and it seems to me that Black should be doing perfectly fine here. If White would take on e6, the black knight would take a perfect position on the d4 square.]

14.c5 and it is already quite tricky for Black to play.



14...xa2? Under pressure, Anand makes a big mistake. [Still, Black was more or less OK after 14...xd1 15.xd1 c2 The Black knight is going to take a great position on d4. 16.xe6 fxe6 17.b1 and maybe White's position is slightly better, but Black is clearly not lost.]

15.a4! and here comes the punishment! Black's pieces are suddenly under a double attack.

15...d4 The only move.

16.a5! and again Wang Hao takes the right path. White wants to play d1 next, or e3 and xa2. This is too much for Black and the loss of material is unavoidable.

16...fd8 Black is using his practical chances.

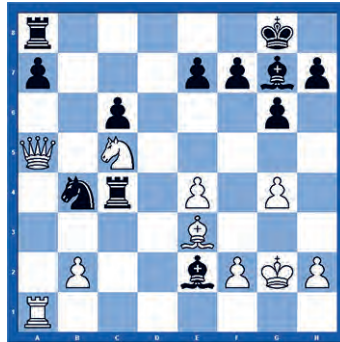
17.g2 [Probably 17.d1 xd1+ is the only thing that Black can do. 18.xd1 xd1+ 19.g2 would win for White as well. The knight on b4 and the bishop on a2 are hanging, so it is hard to believe that Black will find a way not to lose any more material. White should be winning here.]

17...c4 Black has nothing better here either.

18.d1 Good move by White. It is really time to capture Black's queen.

18... ♖xe2 19. ♖xd4 ♖xd4 The position got pretty sharp. Black has a bishop+rook and a pawn for White's queen. This would be enough to make a draw if White would not have some forced continuations in mind.

20. ♗e3 ♖c4



21. ♖e1! Wang Hao seems to be in great shape. With 21. ♖e1!, White is winning further material.

21... ♗xg4 22. b3 This is the key move. The rook has no squares and Black is forced to take further material losses.

22... ♖xc5 23. ♗xc5 ♘d3 24. ♖e3 ♘xc5 25. ♖xc5 e5 We are in front of quite a funny position. Of course, White should be totally winning, but the bishop pair plus Black's solid structure leaves him with some practical chances.

26. ♖d3 To capture an open file is never wrong.

26... ♖c8 27. ♖xa7 ♗f8 28. ♖b7 White puts his pieces in good square, paralyzing Black's movement.

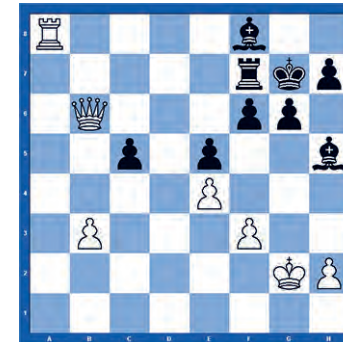
28... c5 29. ♖d5 The e5-pawn is hanging.

29... f6 30. ♖d2! Again, Wang Hao chooses a great plan. Now the White rook is going over a2 to a7!

30... ♖e8 31. ♖a2 ♖e7 Black is defending as good as he can, but it is not enough.

32. ♖b6 ♖f7 33. f3! Another accurate move by White. Before starting the final action, he is misplacing the black bishop.

33... ♗h5 34. ♖a8 ♖g7 How to finish the game as fast as possible?



35. ♖xf8! White chooses the best continuation!

35... ♖xf8 36. ♖xc5 Black has no chances to stop the b-pawn from queening.

36... g5 37. b4 ♖a8 38. b5 A really great game by the Young Chinese Super-GM!

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Puzzle section

(5) Cernousek,L (2476) – Durarbaily,V (2597)

European Championship, 10.05.2013

[CEWN]

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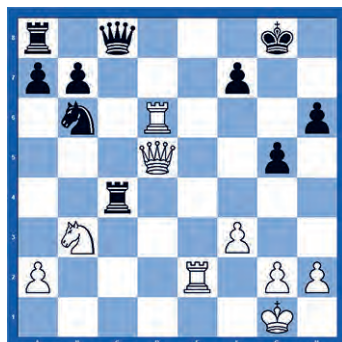


(6) Dreev,A (2654) – Pashikian,A (2603)

European Championship, 14.05.2013

[CEWN]

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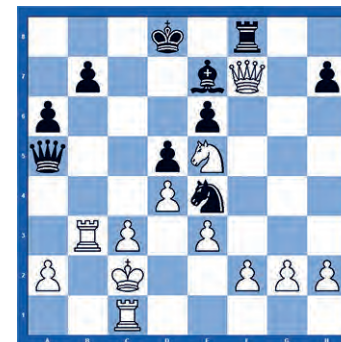


(7) Sanikidze,T (2549) – Lubczynski,R (2419)

European Championship, 11.05.2013

[CEWN]

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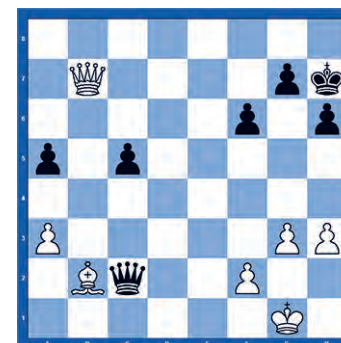


(8) Lenic,L (2621) – Zhigalko,S (2660)

European Championship, 15.05.2013

[CEWN]

1... =



(9) Fedorchuk,S (2660) – Kuljasevic,D (2578)

European Championship, 15.05.2013

[CEWN]

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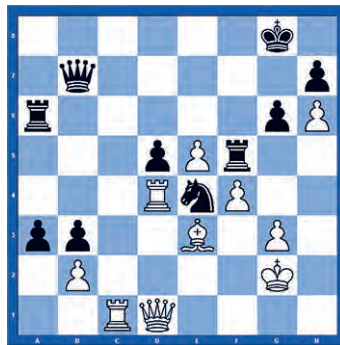


(10) Petrosian,T (2645) – Markowski,T (2567)

European Championship, 15.05.2013

[CEWN]

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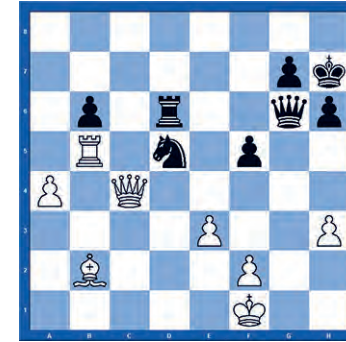


(11) Sanikidze,T (2549) – Akopian,V (2705)

European Championship, 15.05.2013

[CEWN]

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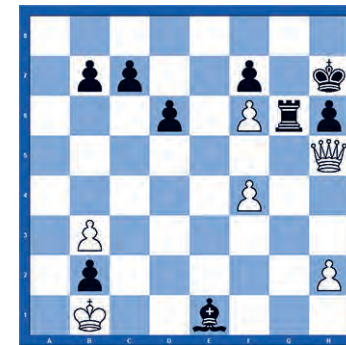


(12) Vallejo Pons,F (2695) – Tkachiev,V (2632)

European Championship, 16.05.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Bruzon,L (2707) – Cori,J (2546)

American Continental, 15.05.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

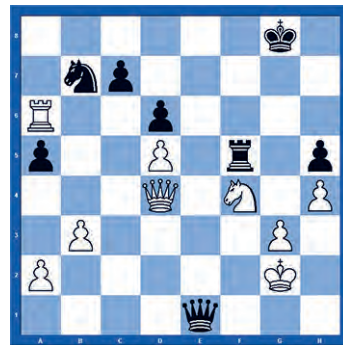


(14) Almasi,Z (2695) – Andriasian,Z (2608)

European Championship, 14.05.2013

[CEWN]

1... =

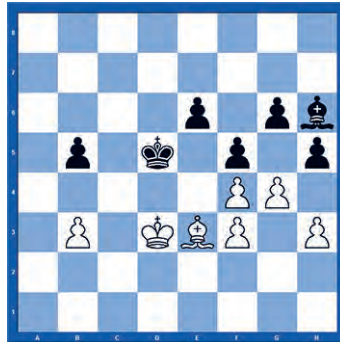


Endgame section

(15) Gagunashvili,M (2592) – Almasi,Z (2695)

European Championship, 15.05.2013

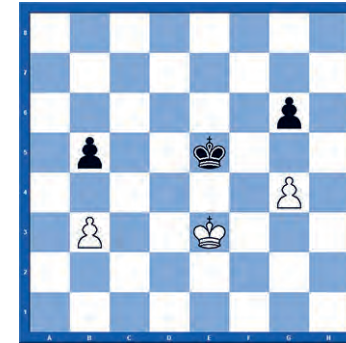
[Chess Evolution]



It seems like White has built up an unbreakable blockade, but the more active black king allows him to simplify the position into a very tricky pawn endgame...

47...fxg4! 48.fxg4 e5! Suddenly, it is not easy at all. The position is an excellent example for improving our calculating skills.

49.f5! White does a great job (or maybe just luck), but finds the drawing line. From now on, he needs to make only moves... [49.fxe5? loses for White. 49... ♟xe3 50. ♟xe3 h4 51.h4g4 ♟xe5 At the moment, White holds the opposition, but both sides have a tempo left, which means that White must allow the Black king inside the camp.



52. ♟f3 (52.b4 g5!–+ and the black king penetrates in the next move.) 52...g5 53. ♟e3 b4 54. ♟d3 ♟f4–+ Black is faster.; 49.gxh5? just drops a pawn. 49...exf4 and gxh5 next.; 49.g5 ♟f8 50.fxe5 ♟xe5+ and the g5 pawn is doomed. Black has excellent winning chances.]

49...e4+ 50. ♟e2 ♟xe3 51. ♟xe3 gxf5 52.gxf5 ♟e5 53.f6! The only move to keep the material balance.

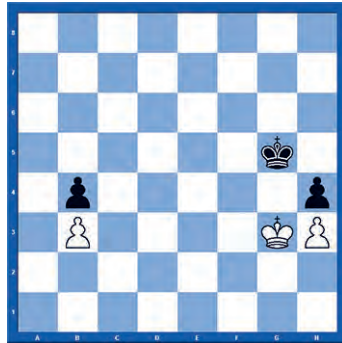
53...♟xf6 54. ♟xe4 ♟g5! Forcing the white king into passivity, as Black would win the race if White goes for the b-pawn.

55. ♟f3! [55. ♟d5? ♟h4 56. ♟c5 ♟xh3 57. ♟xb5 h4 58. ♟a6 ♟g4 59.b4 h3 60.b5 h2 61.b6 h1 ♟ 62.b7 with a theoretical win for Black! 62... ♟c6+ 63. ♟a7 ♟c5+ 64. ♟a8 ♟a5+ 65. ♟b8 After Black forces the king in front of the pawn, he can always approach with his own king. 65... ♟f5–+]

55...♟h4 56. ♟g2 It looks like White is safe, but actually, the most interesting part is just about to start.

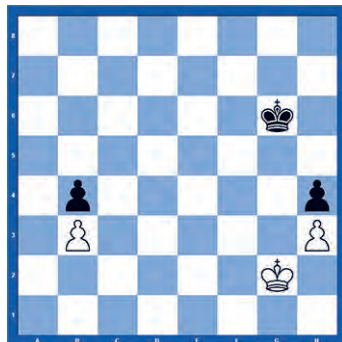
56...b4! 57. ♟h2 ♟g5 58. ♟g3! [White cannot try to be tricky with 58. ♟g2 because he loses the opposition after 58... ♟f4 59. ♟f2 h4! and the black king penetrates.]

58...h4+ This is the critical moment! The fight for the opposition begins.



59.♔g2!! White uses the fact that Black cannot take the opposition by ♔g4. [59.♔f3? loses after 59...♔f5 60.♔e3 ♔e5 and, in the next move, the black king goes for one of the pawns... 61.♔d3 (61.♔f3 ♔d4–+ Black is faster and wins.) 61...♔f4–+ also wins!]

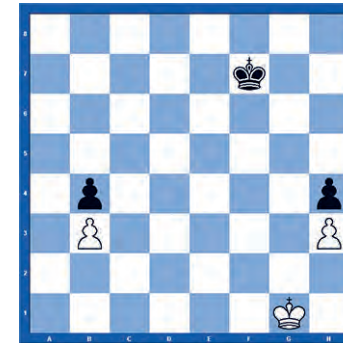
59...♔g6! Black keeps on trying with the idea of distant opposition.



60.♔g1!! Only move! [60.♔f2? loses to 60...♔f6! Black gets the distant opposition. 61.♔e2 ♔e6! White needs to decide which direction to go and the black king goes to

the opposite one and wins. 62.♔d2 (62.♔f2 ♔d5 63.♔e2 ♔e4–+) 62...♔f5 63.♔d3 (63.♔e3 ♔e5–+) 63...♔f4–+; 60.♔f3? ♔f5 wins as shown above.]

60...♔g7 61.♔g2 ♔g6 62.♔g1 ♔f7! Black plays out all the cards, but White continues defending without mistakes.



63.♔f1!! Holding the distant opposition. [63.♔f2 ♔f6–+ wins as it was seen in the 60.♔f2 line.]

63...♔e7 [On 63...♔e6 White holds the opposition again by 64.♔e2 ♔e5 65.♔e3=]

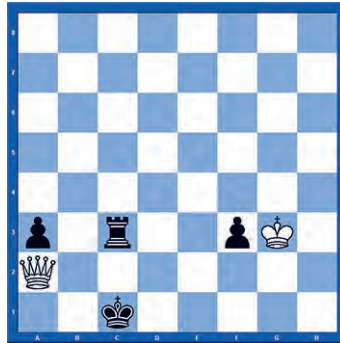
64.♔e1 ♔d7 65.♔d1 ♔e7 66.♔e1 ♔f7 67.♔f1 Black cannot make progress. A draw was agreed. An instructive endgame to remember.

1/2

(16) Jakovenko,Dmitry (2731)
— Goganov,Aleksey (2552) [B48]

14th Euro Indiv 2013 Legnica POL (8.36), 13.05.2013

[Chess Evolution]

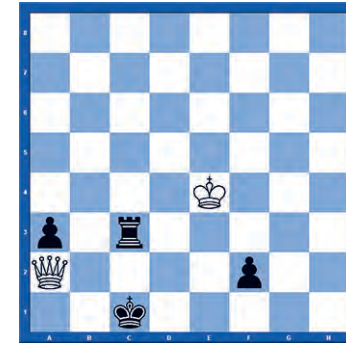


We are in quite a funny position. The main question is whether White is winning or it is a draw? At first sight, Black has excellent drawing chances. The two pawns on the 3rd line plus the a-pawn seem to even give Black good play?! But in fact, he needs to be very accurate to lead the game into a draw.

118. ♔f4! Good move. Black wanted to play f2 and ♖c2+. Now the white king wants to get to d4 and the rook from c3 will simply have no good squares.

118...f2! A great rescue attempt by Black! [In case of a slow move like 118...♔d1 119.♔e4 ♔e1 120.♔d4 White's king would push the rook away from the 3rd rank. 120...♖c7 121.♔d3! and the game is over...]

119. ♔e4! White uses his best chances. [To a simpler draw would lead 119.♖xf2 ♔b1 and even if White wins the rook on c3, it would still be a draw after Black's a2 move.]



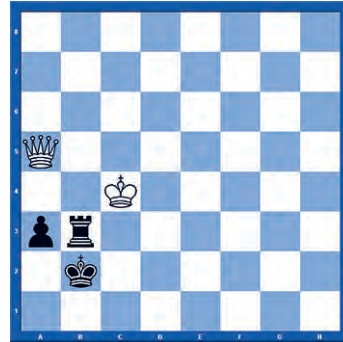
119...f1 ♔! Excellent move by Black again, and it was so easy to go wrong. [For example: 119...♖c2?! would almost give White the full point after 120.♖a1+ ♔d2 121.♔f3! White's king is hunting down the f-pawn. 121...f1 ♔+ 122. ♖xf1 a2 123.♖a1 and it seems like White has good winning chances here.]

120. ♖a1+ ♔c2 121. ♖xf1 ♔b2 Black's idea came true. The white queen cannot get to a1, which means that, if Black manages to play a2 now, the position would be just a draw.

122. ♖e2+ ♔b3 123. ♖b5+ ♔c2 124. ♖a5 ♔b2 It seems like White cannot improve the position of his queen anymore, so it is time to come a little bit closer with the king.

125. ♔d4 ♖b3 The only move that does not lose.

126. ♔c4 It seems like the game is over. The white king is very close and Black's a-pawn did not reach the a2 square, but...



126...♔a2! Black is defending excellently, making a lot of only moves. The black rook is going to take a perfect square on b2.

127.♔d5 ♖b2 128.♔c3+ ♔a1 And it might seem funny, but this position is a draw! White cannot do anything to break Black's little fortress. The next moves, until the end of the game, prove this, and there is no need for comments! What a great defense by Black from the starting position!

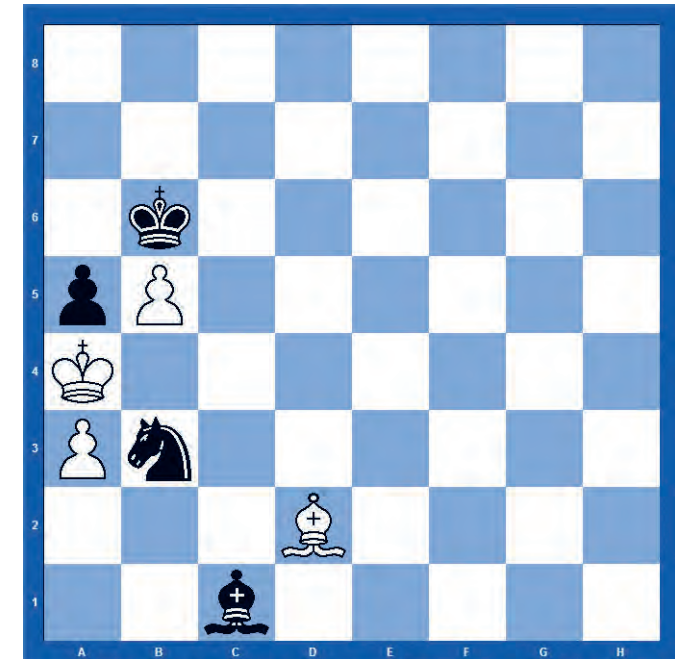
129.♔d4 ♔a2 130.♔d1 ♖b1 131.♔d5+ ♔a1 132.♔d6 ♔a2 133.♔e6+ ♔a1 134.♔d6 ♔a2 135.♔d5+ ♔a1 136.♔d3 ♖b2 137.♔c4 ♔a2 138.♔c3 ♖b1 139.♔c2+ ♖b2 140.♔a4 ♖b1 141.♔c3 ♖b2 142.♔e4 ♖b3+ 143.♔c2 ♖b2+ 144.♔c1 ♔a1 145.♔d4 ♔a2 146.♔d3 ♖b4 147.♔d5+ 1/2

Surprise section / study

(17) Nadereshvili

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(18) Karjakin,S (2767) – Carlsen,M (2868)

Supreme Masters, 13.05.2013

[Solutions]



37... ♖xe5!! 38. ♗xe5 [38. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 39. ♗xe5 ♖c6-+]

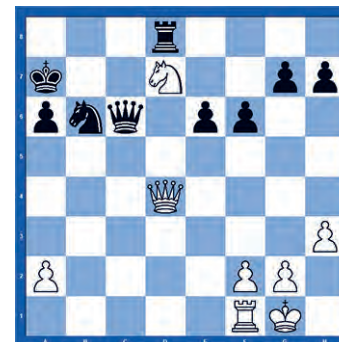
38... ♖c6! 39. ♖g1 ♖d5! 40. ♗xf5 [40. ♗f4 ♖e2+-+]

40... ♖xe5-+

(19) Fedorchuk,S (2660) – Szwed,J (2354)

European Championship, 06.05.2013

[Solutions]



32. ♖e5! ♖d5 [32... fxe5 33. ♖xd8+-; 32... ♖xd4 33. ♖xc6+ ♖b7 34. ♖xd4+-]

33. ♖c6+! ♖xc6 [33... ♖b7 34. ♖xd8+-; 33... ♖a8 34. ♖xb6+-]

34. ♖xd8+-

(20) Khairullin,I (2657) – Pashikian,A (2603)

European Championship, 07.05.2013

[Solutions]

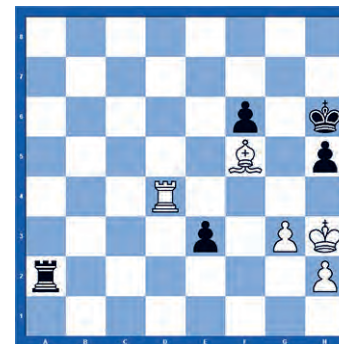


17. ♘xe5! ♙xd1 18. ♖axd1 ♘xe5 19. ♖xd8 ♖axd8
20. ♙xe5±

(21) Papp,G (2570) – Potkin,V (2666)

European Championship, 07.05.2013

[Solutions]



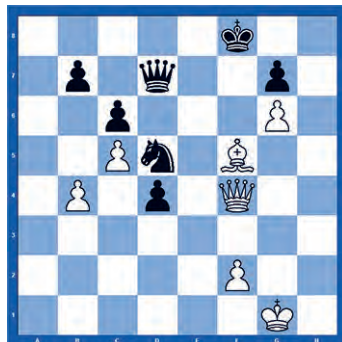
49...e2! 50. ♖e4 ♖a5!! 51. ♖xe2 [51. ♙e6? ♖e5 52. ♖xe5
fxe5–+]

51... ♖xf5=

(22) Socko,B (2647) – Gritsak,O (2549)

European Championship, 07.05.2013

[Solutions]

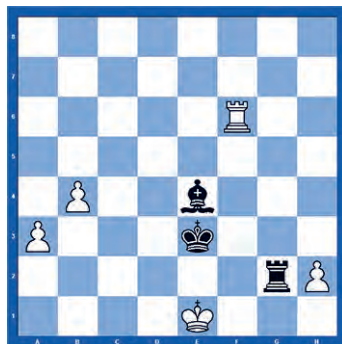


40. ♔h4 1-0 [40. ♔h4 ♕xf5 (40... ♕e8 41. ♔h8+ ♔e7 42. ♕xg7+ +-) 41. ♕d8#]

(23) Danielian,E (2478) – Fedorchuk,S (2660)

European Championship, 07.05.2013

[Solutions]



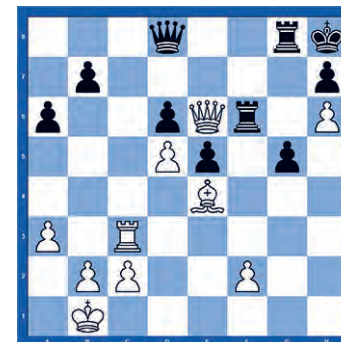
41... ♖e2+! 42. ♔f1 [42. ♔d1 ♖b2-+]

42... ♘g2+ 43. ♔g1 ♘h3 0-1

(24) Kraemer,M (2544) – Ernst,T (2387)

European Championship, 09.05.2013

[Solutions]



37. ♖c7!! ♖xh6 [37... ♕xc7 38. ♕xf6+-; 37... ♖xe6 38. ♖xh7#]

38. ♕f7 ♕f8 39. ♕xh7+ 1-0

(25) Nepomniachtchi,I (2710) – Shengelia,D (2546)

European Championship, 13.05.2013

[Solutions]



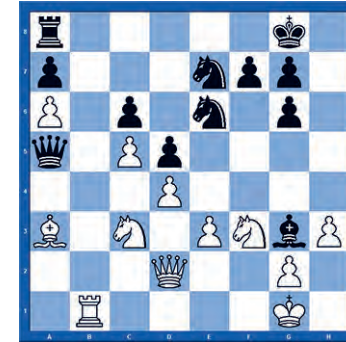
21. ♖xa6!! ♘xa6 [21... ♙xd2 22. ♖xb7+-; 21...0-0
22. ♖xb7 ♖xc1+ 23. ♖xc1+-; 21...bxa6 22. ♖xc6+-]

22. ♖xc6 0-0 23. ♖c2+-

(26) Nakamura,H (2775) – Topalov,V (2793)

Supreme Masters (blitz), 07.05.2013

[Solutions]



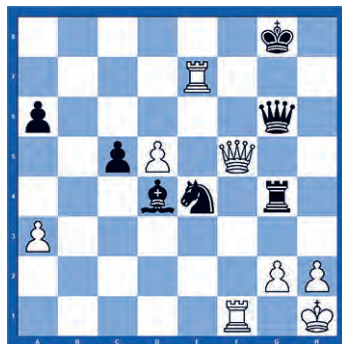
34. ♘xd5! ♙d8 [34... ♙xd2 35. ♘xe7+ ♔f8 36. ♘xd2+-;
34... ♙xa3 35. ♘xe7+ ♔f8 36. ♘xc6+-]

35. ♘xe7+-

(27) Shulman,Y (2570) – Finegold,B (2505)

US Championship, 10.05.2013

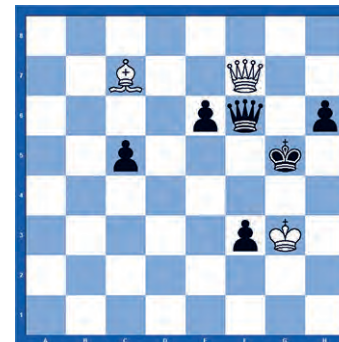
[Solutions]



34...♘g3+! 0–1 [34...♘g3+ 35.hxg3 ♔h6+–; 34...♔xf5 35.♖xf5 ♘f2+ 36.♔g1 ∞]

(28) Troitzky

[Solutions]



1. ♔d8 ♔xd8 2. ♔g7+ ♔f5 3. ♔g4+ ♔e5 4. ♔f4+ ♔d5
5. ♔d2+ ♔c6 6. ♔xd8



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 66

31st of May 2013

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Editorial Preface

First, let us see the finished events of the week.

In the small but traditional round robin in Malmo, with only 8 participants, first place was shared by Short, Raport and Grandelius with 4.5/7. It was the 21st edition of the Sigeman&Co tournament.

Clearly, the main event of the week is the still running — the FIDE Grand Prix. After round 10, with only one round to go, Gata Kamsky has the lead with a fantastic 7.5/10. He is being chased by Dominguez, who is on 7/10. We can expect a very exciting finish.

The French league has begun. The usual favorite for the title is the team from Paris, "Clichy".

We hope You enjoy this week's games of the CEWN Nr 66!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Morozevich,A (2760)**
— **Nakamura,Hi (2775) [B80]**

Makedonia Palace GP Thessaloniki GRE (4), 25.05.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We will see a really crazy game with a super unclear position and a lot of funny mating ideas. I could never understand why these games usually end with a draw. In our case, once again, the final result is a friendly handshake.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e6

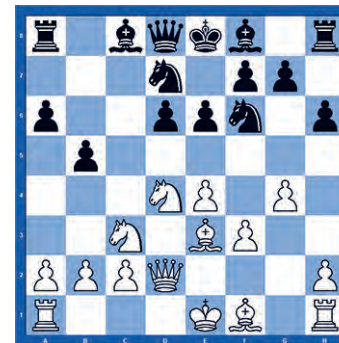
Black usually does not choose this move order, trying to avoid 6.g4, but Nakamura likes to provoke his opponents a bit, even by taking „too many” risks.

6.♙e3 a6 Now we are back in the main lines of the Schveningen, just with a different move order.

7.f3 b5 8.♙d2 ♘bd7 This super sharp line was very popular around five years ago, but then, somehow, other moves came into fashion.

9.g4 [9.a4 is the other main move in the position.]

9...h6 White just wants to play g5 in the next move, so h6 is a very logical solution. Another idea for Black is to play ♘b6 or ♘e6, freeing the d7-square, but it is a very different line.



10.a3 This is clearly not the main move, but a very logical one. White is avoiding Black's b4 move, and just wants to castle long with the idea h4-♙h3 and g5. Black will have to act quickly in the center in order not to be crushed on the kingside.

10...♙b7 11.0-0-0 It is easy to see that the position is getting very sharp. Black's main idea should be to play d5 as fast as possible.

11...♖c8 A preparatory move before the d5 push. [In a few Top level GM games, we have seen 11...d5 12.exd5 ♘xd5 13.♘xd5 ♙xd5 but it seems that after 14.♙e2 with the idea ♘f5, White might be a bit better.]

12.h4 White is following the main idea — to play g5.

12...d5 The d5 move already is almost forced.

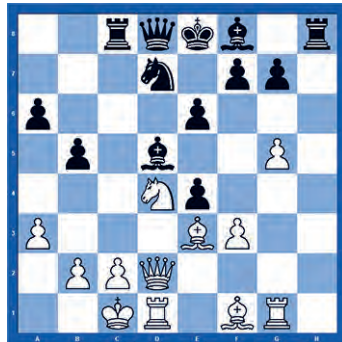
13.♖g1!? The beginning of the craziness! [13.exd5 ♘xd5 14.♘xd5 ♙xd5 and maybe Black's ♖c8 is more useful than White's h4.]

13...dxe4 Black has no choice again.

14.g5 hxg5 Before going with the knight to d5, it is very logical for Black to open the h-file.

15.hxg5 ♖d5 **16.** ♘xd5 White continues the „move by move” play. [Against the logical 16. ♘xe4 g6 Black consolidates his position.]

16... ♙xd5



17.g6! A super important move that we can face in many similar positions. By playing g6, White is totally crushing Black's pawn structure, which usually gives good play against the king.

17...f5 **18.fxe4** Opening the f-file for extra play.

18...fxe4 I think we are at one of the critical positions. At first sight, it seems like White should have great play for just a pawn, but on the other hand, Black's position is very solid and hard to break.

19.♔b1 Typical move. Before starting the action, it is important to place the king on a safe position. [The funny move 19.a4!? could have been a possibility here. White needs the b5 square a lot and Black does not have the usual ♙a5 move now.]

19... ♞e5 Very logical. The black knight is going to f3.

20.♞xb5!? Wow, what a move! White does not care about the material and simply tries to open Black's king position to the maximum.

20... ♜f3! A good reply by Black. [It would have been reckless to take on b5. 20...axb5?! 21. ♙xb5+ ♙c6 (Of course not 21... ♞c6 22.c4! and White is winning.) 22. ♙xc6+ ♞xc6 and the very important move 23. ♙g2! with the idea ♙xe4 next. It seems to me that White has great play here.]

21.♙f2 Avoiding ♞xg1 for a second, because of ♙f7 mate.

21... ♙f6 with a double threat. Both axb5 and ♞xg1 are possible now.

22.♙g3!? Another very interesting move. [The simple 22. ♞d4 ♞xg1 23. ♙xg1 would have led to very unclear play as well. White is an exchange down, but the a6 pawn is hanging, and the Black king is still in the center.]

22...axb5 [White's idea, of course, is to play 22... ♞xg1 23. ♞c7+ The black king is forced to take a walk.]

23. ♙xb5+ ♔e7 Black is a full piece up, but the position of his king on e7 is clearly a disaster. On the other hand, the f3-knight is a beast and Black wants to play ♙f5-♔f6 next to free the bishop from f8. White needs to continue acting very energetically.

24.c4!? White continues playing very creatively! This seems to be a blunder at first, but White has an ace in the hand.

24... ♖h2 Attacking the b2 square. How should White protect it?



25. ♔xh2! The position remains super complicated, but a great and creative move deserves a „!“ mark.

25... ♘xh2 26.cxd5 This is the key move! [Of course not 26. ♙g5? White is winning back the queen, but Black still has a clear advantage. 26... ♔xg5 27. ♖xg5 ♙xc4 Black still has two pieces for the rook and a clearly better position.]

26... ♔f5! Perfect defense by Black! Only this square is saving Black from immediate disaster. White wanted, of course, to play d6, and against Black's ♙d8, ♙b6 with mate.

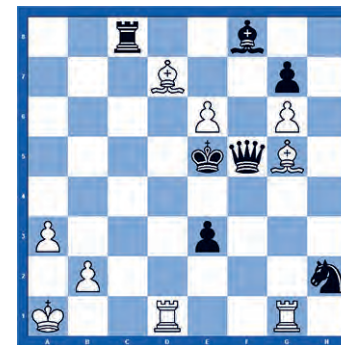
27. ♙g5+ The black king starts his journey.

27... ♙d6 28.dxe6+ ♙e5 We are in front of a really insane position. Black has a huge material advantage, but the king on e5 is getting attacked from all sides. And again, Black has a special joker, the free pawn on e4. It is very hard to say who is doing better here.

29. ♙d7?! It seems like this logical move is leading to a forced draw. [First 29.e7! ♙xe7 and only now 30. ♙d7! would have left Black in big trouble! Still, the position is very complicated, but it seems like it should be in White's favor.]

29...e3+! The beginning of Black's counterattack.

30. ♙a1



30... ♙xa3! And that is the main point! Any passive move would lead to White's victory, but ♙xa3 does not give him any time for e7, and suddenly the white king is the insecure piece.

31. ♙xc8 ♙c2 By giving away a rook and a bishop in the last two moves, Black secures the draw.

32.bxa3 Nothing else is possible...

32... ♙c3+ 33. ♙a2 ♙xc8 Black does not give a perpetual check immediately. Well, this is not a big change but it shows that Nakamura really wanted to fight in this game.

34.e7 The easiest way to force Black to repeat moves.

34... ♙c2+ 35. ♙a1 ♙c3+ 36. ♙a2 ♙c2+ 37. ♙a1 ♙c3+ 38. ♙a2 ♙c2+ What a great fighting game on a very high level!

1/2

(2) **Morozevich, Alexander (2760)**
— Svidler, Peter (2769) [C48]

Thessaloniki GP Thessaloniki GRE (2.3), 23.05.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

Quite a unique game. We cannot learn much from it if we look at it from the positional point of view, but it is really entertaining tactically.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6



4.♙b5 The Four Knights opening, which is pretty much forgotten on the highest level. We can always expect these surprises from Morozevich.

4...♘d4 This is the tactical handling of the position. [4...♙b4 is the other main line, which leads to much calmer waters.]

5.♙a4 ♙c5 This is the main line. Black sacrifices a pawn and usually gets adequate compensation for it. [5...c6 is another sharp line with the same idea — to get compensation for the pawn 6.♘xe5 d6 (6...d5 is also possible.) 7.♘f3 ♙g4 8.d3 with many games in the database.]

6.♘xe5 0–0 7.♘d3 ♙b6 8.e5! White must play concretely. Otherwise, Black quickly overtakes the initiative. [For instance, after the slightly careless 8.0–0 d5! with the threat of ♙g4, White has no other possible move than ♙e1. So, White's next move is forced. 9.♘xd5 Now ♙g4 does not work because of ♘xf6 check. 9...♘xd5 10.exd5 ♙xd5 with huge compensation for Black. White could not finish his development on the queenside.]

8...♘e8 9.♘d5 c6 [9...d6 is an alternative. Here, White plays again 10.♘e3 Black has a wide range of choices, with more than hundred games in the database. For a very long time, the most direct continuation was considered to be fine for Black. 10...dxe5 11.♘xe5 ♙g5 Alexander Motylev, Karjakin's main second, found a very strong novelty for White. 12.♘5c4 f5 13.h4! In the very complicated lines, White gets a clear advantage everywhere. Motylev won his game against Shirov later on.]

10.♘e3! [10.♘xb6 White cannot go for a simplification with 10...axb6 11.c3 because of the pretty refutation 11...♙h4!! with the threat of ♖xa4-♙xa4 ♘f3 discovered check. 12.cxd4 ♙e4+! 13.♙e2 ♙xg2! 14.♖f1 ♖xa4 ♣ Black is much better.]

10...d5 Svidler is following the Vallejo-Leko rapid game, where Black won convincingly. Anyway, Morozevich had an improvement prepared...

11.0–0 f6 12.c3 ♘f5 Black would like to play ♙c7, forcing White to take on f6 and after ♘xf6, all the black pieces are excellently placed and look dangerously at the white king. Black would have more than enough compensation there. Here comes the deep novelty of Morozevich, which seems to create difficulties for Black.

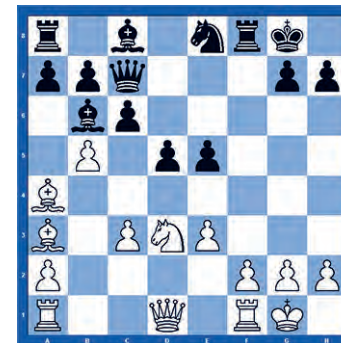


13.b4! with the idea of b5, creating strong counterplay on the queenside. White weakens the c6 pawn and also prepares to play ♖a3 with tempo! [13.♙b3 happened in the mentioned game. 13...♔h8 After leaving the pin, Black was ready to play ♙c7 again.]

13...♙c7 Svidler would like to force Black to take on f6 in order to strengthen his c6 pawn against the approaching b5. [13...♙c7 is met by 14.b5! with the idea of 14...cxb5 15.♙b3! Black is forced to make unfavorable exchanges because of his d5 pawn. 15...♞xe3 16.dxe3 fxe5 17.e4!± with a positional advantage!; 13...fxe5 14.♞xe5 ♞xe3 15.dxe3 ♙c7 16.f4! White keeps his extra pawn and the advantage.; This gives White enough time to play 13...a6 14.♙b3 ♔h8 15.♙a3! and b5 is the threat again, which is not easy to prevent at all.]

14.b5! Morozevich continues his deep preparation. At first sight, it is very suspicious to focus all his pieces on the queenside, but as the game proves, Black is not in time to break through with the attack.

14...fxe5 15.♙a3 ♖f6 Driving the rook to the attack through h6. [Another tactical point of White's idea is that after 15...♞xe3 16.dxe3



16...c5 White seems to be doomed, but he has the tactical strike 17.♞xc5! ♙xc5 18.♙xd5+ winning material.]

16.♞b4! White increases the pressure on the central pawns. Somehow, Black is not able to consolidate his position. [16.♞g4 also looked tempting, but after 16...e4! 17.♞xf6+ ♞xf6 Black gets a very strong attack with the exchange sacrifice. For instance: 18.♞b4 c5 19.♞c2 ♞h4!± with many threats in the air: ♞g4 or ♙h3!]

16...e4? This is a tactical oversight... [16...♙d7 does not equalize either because of 17.bxc6 bxc6 18.♞g4! ♖g6 and the point is 19.♞a6! and Black cannot defend his e5 pawn. 19...♙c8 20.♞xe5 ♙xa6 21.♞xd7±]

17.bxc6 ♖h6 [17...bxc6 Black loses a lot of material after 18.♙xc6! ♖xc6 19.♞bxd5 The queen has no good square to leave and White wins in any case after ♞xf5, followed by ♞e7 check. 19...♙f7 (19...♙b7 20.♞xf5 ♙xf5 21.♞e7+ ♔h8 22.♞xf5+-) 20.♞xf5 ♙xf5 21.♞e7+ ♔h8 22.♞xc6+-]

18.h3 ♞h4 Svidler tries some desperate attack, but he is not in time... [18...bxc6 leads to the same as in the previous move. 19.♙xc6! ♖xc6 20.♞bxd5+-]

19.♞bxd5! [It was not too late to go wrong with 19.cxb7 ♙xb7 20.♞bxd5? Suddenly, Black mates after 20...♙xd5

21. ♖xd5 ♔g3!-+ 22. ♔g4 ♜f3+! 23. ♔h1 ♔h2# would have been a dramatic turn of the game.]

19... ♔e5 20.cxb7 ♜f3+ [Both players had foreseen that after 20... ♔xb7 21. ♜g4! ♔g3 (21... ♔xd5 22. ♔b3+-) 22. ♜xh6+! ♔h8 (22... gxf6 White can trade off the queens. 23. ♔g4+ ♔xg4 24. ♜e7+ Saving the knight as well. 24... ♔f7 25.hxf6+-) 23. ♜f7+ ♔g8 24. ♜e7+ ♔xf7



25. ♔b3+! This is the point and Black does not have a good square. 25... ♔f6 (25... ♔f8 26. ♜g6#) 26. ♔xb6+! Unpinning the king. 26... axb6 27.fxf3+-]

21. ♔xf3! exf3



22.bxa8 ♔ Black resigned. An amazing game!

1-0

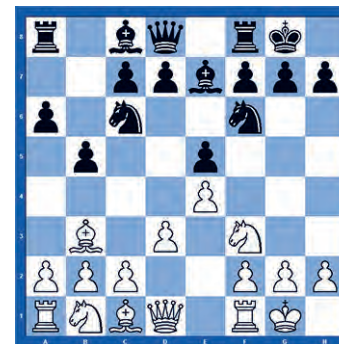
(3) Dominguez Perez,Leinier (2723) – Svidler,Peter (2769) [C84]

Thessaloniki GP Thessaloniki GRE (4.1), 25.05.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

Dominguez has prepared a deep improvement on a recent game by his opponent. It proved to be very effective because the computer shows no advantage. However, from a human point of view, Black gets a very unpleasant position to play.

1.e4 e5 2. ♜f3 ♜c6 3. ♔b5 a6 4. ♔a4 ♜f6 5.0-0 ♔e7 6.d3 b5 7. ♔b3 0-0 [On 7...d6 White can play the same as in the game, but he must do it in reversed move order. 8.a3 (8. ♜c3?! is bad now because of 8... ♜a5! and the e5 pawn is protected.) 8...0-0 9. ♜c3 We are in the game.]



8. ♜c3 This is the new setup for White, brought to fashion by Anand. 8.a4 was played before in all the games.

8...d6 9.a3 Black has tried many different moves here, but so far they could not show complete equality anywhere.

9...♘e6 10.♘d5 ♘d4 Svidler played this novelty less than a month ago in the Alekhine Memorial against Anand. Black would like to take on d5 with the knight and leaves from the exd5 fork. On the other hand, he creates a doubled pawn for himself.

11.♘xd4 exd4 12.♘xf6+ [White cannot get the advantage of the bishop pair with 12.♘xe7+ ♔xe7 because he cannot avoid the trade of the light-squared bishops.]

12...♙xf6 13.♙xe6 fxe6 White has a small structural advantage on the kingside, but of course, it is going to be very difficult to squeeze out something real from it.

14.a4



14...♔d7 Svidler improves on his own game, but it is only going to be a transposition. [14...c5 was played before. 15.♔g4 ♔d7 16.axb5 (16.b3! Probably Dominguez had prepared this move and we would have transposed to the game.) 16...axb5 17.♙d2 c4 18.♙b4 The difference with the game is that Black can play 18...♖a4! 19.♖xa4 bxa4 20.dxc4 ♖c8 21.♔g3 (21.b3 axb3 22.cxb3 ♖b8=) 21...♖xc4 22.♙xd6 ♖xc2= Black equalized and they soon agreed to a draw. Anand-Svidler, Paris/St Petersburg 2013.]

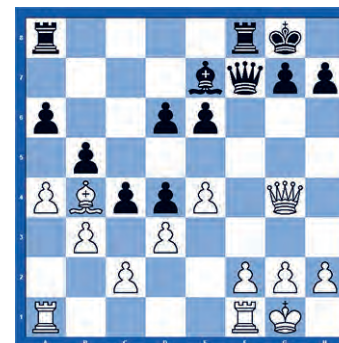
15.b3 c5 16.♔g4 White has an easy plan to improve his position — to play ♙d2 and f4. For Black, the only existing counterplay is c4, like Svidler already showed in his previous game.

16...♔f7 [16...c4 was possible right away, but White gets some edge here after 17.axb5 axb5 18.♙a3!± White has an easier game. He plays f4 and if Black creates some threat on the queenside, ♙b4 consolidates everything.]

17.♙d2 c4 [17...e5 does not reduce the power of f4. 18.f4! exf4 19.♖xf4 with better prospects for White.]

18.♙b4 [18.f4!? was also possible 18...cxb3 (18...c3?! is a bad positional move. Black would just deprive himself from all counterplay... 19.♙e1±) 19.cxb3 e5 20.♙b4± White seems to be better.]

18...♙e7



19.axb5! At first sight, it was a bit strange to me why Dominguez gave up the tension on the queenside, but meanwhile, I checked the 19.f4 line and it all became clear. [On 19.f4 Black was probably intending to play 19...a5 20.♙d2 cxd3 21.cxd3 b4! and White has some problems with the b3 pawn. 22.♖ac1 ♖ac8 The problem is

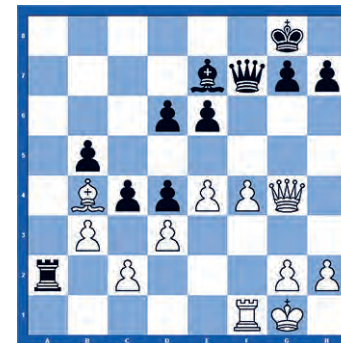
that White cannot play Rc4 as he does not have a good way to take back because, in both cases, Black obtains a protected passed pawn. 23. Rxc8 (23.f5? Rxc1 exf5 next and b3 is hanging.) 23... Rxc8 24.f5 is the only principled plan for White, but it is met by 24...e5! b3 is getting weaker and weaker, so White needs to play 25.f6 Rf8 ! and the arising endgame is drawn. 26. Kxg7+ Kxg7 27.fxg7 Rxf1+ 28. Kxf1 Kxg7 29. Kf2 Kg6 30. Kf3 h5 31.g4



31... Kh4 Black only waits with the bishop and White cannot make use of his theoretical advantage on the king-side.]

19...axb5 20. Rxa8 Rxa8 21.f4 [The greedy capture on c4 would be a big positional mistake. 21.bxc4 bxc4 22.dxc4 Rc8 Black wins back the pawn and White only destroyed his own structure. It would be a bad decision even if Black could not win back the pawn immediately. 23. Ke2 e5]

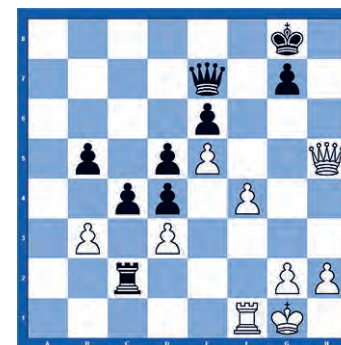
21... Ra2 ! A slightly suspicious move that leaves the back-rank and the king alone, but Black must look for counter-play. The game gets very sharp now...



22.e5! White finds the critical move. Now the main role goes to calculation. Svidler is very strong in this field usually, but this time he fails...

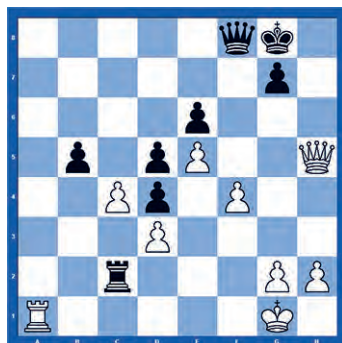
22...h5!? Black would like to play d5, but to do this, he must weaken his king first. [22...dxe5? is a blunder. 23.fxe5+- wins.; It seems like the best would have been to play 22... Rxc2 23.exd6 Kf6 24.bxc4 bxc4 and it looks like White does not have any concrete breakthrough, which gives Black equality.; 22...d5?! immediately, is bad, in view of 23. Kxe7 Kxe7 24.f5! exf5 25. Kxd4 This is the reason for Svidler to include the h5 move...]

23. Kh3 d5 24. Kxe7 Kxe7 25. Kxh5 Rxc2



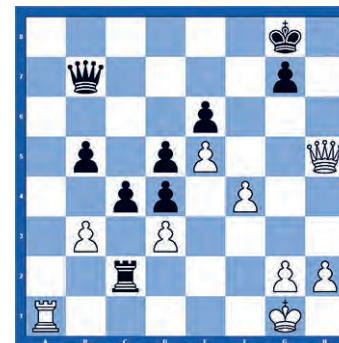
26. ♖a1! White must try to make use of the weak black king. The question is if the queen and rook are enough material to create serious threats?! He must attack on the most direct way, because Black's counterplay is coming fast.

26... ♗b7? This is objectively the decisive mistake, but it was very difficult to calculate the lines. [The only move to hold was 26... ♕f8! 27.bxc4! Other moves are less dangerous... (27.dxc4 d3; 27. ♖g6 cxb3 28. ♕xe6+ ♔h8 White has nothing better than perpetual check, as the b-pawn is too far advanced. 29. ♕h3±; 27.f5 cxb3)



27...b4!! Only move! (27...bxc4 28. ♖g6 White wins because, in comparison to the mainline, the b2 move is not coming with tempo. Now White is in time to launch a winning attack. 28...c3 29. ♕xe6+ ♔h8 30.f5! ♖d2 31.f6 c2 Black needs only one move, but White mates first... 32.fxg7+ ♕xg7 33. ♖a8+ ♔h7 34. ♕h3+ ♕h6 35. ♖a7+ ♔g8 36. ♕g4+ ♔h8 37. ♕c8+-) 28. ♖g6 b3 29. ♕xe6+ ♔h8= and White does not have more than perpetual check. 30. ♕h3±; 26... ♕d8 leads to a worse position, but it is still better than the game. 27.bxc4 dxc4 28. ♖g6 cxd3 29. ♕xe6+ ♔h8 30. ♕h3+ ♔g8 31. ♕xd3±]

27. ♕e8+ ♔h7 28. ♕h5+ Approaching the time control...
28... ♔g8

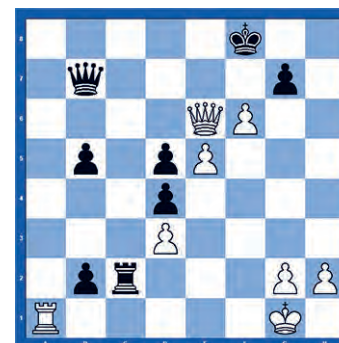


29.f5! White breaks through.

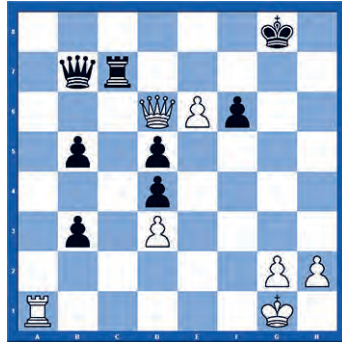
29...cxb3 [29...exf5 loses to 30.e6! cxb3 31. ♕e8+ ♔h7 32.e7+- White wins because of the ♕h5-e8 ♕ threat.]

30. ♕e8+ ♔h7 31. ♕h5+ Dominguez was short on time, so it is logical to repeat twice every time.

31... ♔g8 32. ♕e8+ ♔h7 33. ♕g6+! ♔h8 [33... ♔g8 34. ♕xe6+ ♔f8 was the only chance, but White wins here as well, although he needs to find some very difficult moves 35.f6! ♖c7 (Black's problem is that 35...b2? is met by



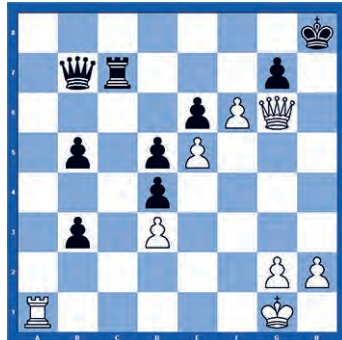
36. ♖a8+! ♜xa8 37. ♚e7+ ♔g8 38. ♚xg7#) 36. ♚d6+ ♔g8
37.e6! gxf6



38. ♚e1! The only way to win. 38... ♚e7 (38...b2 39. ♚d8+!
It is important to check first, otherwise, Black might take
on e7. 39... ♔g7 40.e7+-) 39. ♚g3+ ♔h7 40. ♚h4+ ♔g7
41. ♚g4+ ♔h7 42. ♚f5+ ♔g7 43. ♚f1+- wins.]

34.f6! ♖a8- ♜xa8 ♚xg7 is the main threat. Another threat
is f7 with the idea of ♚h5.

34... ♚c7



35. ♚f1! The last precise moves! White threatens to play
fxg7, followed by ♚f8, so Black must delay the counter-
play with b2 again...

35... ♚f7 36. ♚f3! [Black resigned in view of 36. ♚f3 ♔g8
37. ♚h3 b2 38. ♚h7+ ♔f8 39. ♚h8#]

1-0

(4) Ponomarev,R (2742) – Ivanchuk,V (2755) [C05]

Makedonia Palace GP Thessaloniki GRE (6), 28.05.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Lately, Ivanchuk has been in a really unpredictable shape. A win against Carlsen or Kramnik can be combined with a loss on time on move 30! In this game, we can clearly see that it was not his day, again.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘fd7



5.f4!? A rare but interesting setup for White.

5...c5 6.♘gf3 By playing f4, White is trying to keep his center.

6...♘c6 and Black is, of course, attacking it!

7.♘b3!? This is the key idea! White is not trying to play c3, which, in my opinion, gives Black nice play after ♙b6. Instead, he is trying to provoke c4, which would close the whole position, so Black would not have any play on the queenside anymore. Slowly, White would start playing on the kingside.

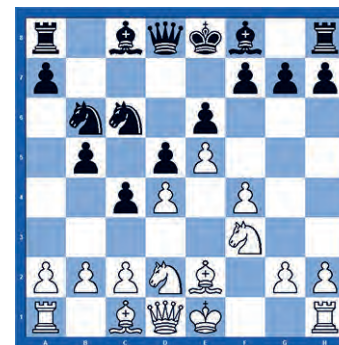
7...c4 A normal choice, but maybe White is getting what he wanted?! [I guess that against 7...b6 White had planned

a quick 8.c4!? trying to crush the black center.; Maybe 7... ♙b6 is a normal answer here as well.]

8.♘bd2 These two paradoxical-looking White's knight moves are not stupid at all. Black does not have any clear play on the queenside now. Also, it is very important that the white pawn is on c2 and not on c3, so Black does not count on the b5-b4 idea anymore.

8...b5 9.♙e2 Another very good move by White, with quite an important strategical idea.

9...♘b6



10.♘f1! That is the point! White is bringing his knight to a perfect position on e3, where it will support the f5 push. Besides, White has another nice idea, which we will see very soon in the game.

10...h5 Another very logical move by Black. White has little play.

11.♘e3 ♙d7 Black is more advanced on the queenside, and White in the center. This gives White a bit of an edge.

12.0-0 ♙e7 What should White do next? To prepare h3-g4-f5 or maybe to go for the f5 push?!

13.b3! Ponomarev shows great understanding of the position! The usual rule says: never play on the flank when your opponent is better. However, in this particular situation, it is the best! Black will have to castle long soon or later, and White will be able to play a4 to open the position even more.

13...g6 A normal move to avoid future f5 pushes.

14. ♘d2 To develop a piece is never wrong.

14...a6 Until here, everything looks quite logical. Maybe a6 is a bit too careful, even though Black is preparing against White's a4 move.



15. ♗e1! Another great move by White. The bishop is very well placed on e1 and plays on both flanks at the same time. White's main idea of playing h3-g4 remains and, at the same time, a4 is always a potential threat!

15... ♖c7 16.h3 White is starting his main plan.

16...0-0-0?! The first mistake. Now White's play is getting super dangerous. [16... ♖c8 Black should have kept his king on e8 and tried his luck on the c-file.]

17.a4! Black's position seems crushing! White just wants to open both the a- and b-files with axb5 and bxc4, and the black king will be in deep trouble.

17... ♖b7 18. ♖b1! Once again, a great move by White. Now bxc4 and a5 became a deadly threat. It is clear that White totally outplayed his opponent.



18... ♗a7?? The last blunder of the game in an already very bad position.

19.a5 White is winning a pawn with bxc4 next. A game that looks rather short, but if we look a bit deeper, White actually outplayed his opponent out of nothing, simply by understanding the position on a different level!

1-0

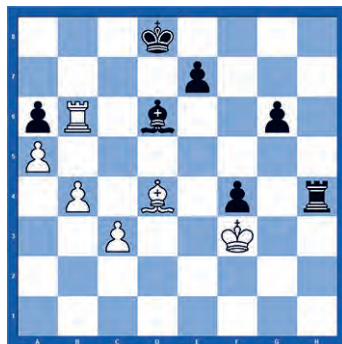
Puzzle section

(5) Kamsky,G (2741) – Dominguez Perez,L (2723)

Thessaloniki GP, 22.05.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

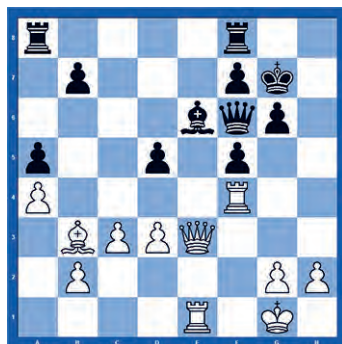


(6) Wei Yi (2530) – Ni Hua (2646)

Danzhou GM, 22.05.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

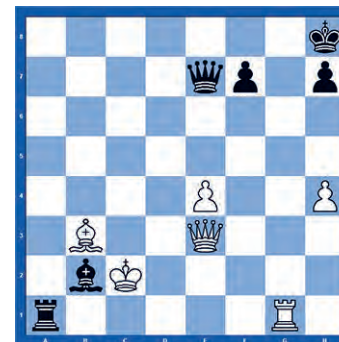


(7) Wei Yi (2530) – Xiu Deshun (2534)

Danzhou GM, 24.05.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

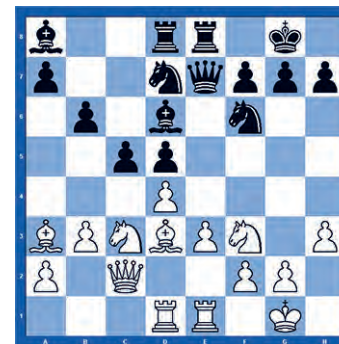


(8) Cvek,R (2540) – Zilka,S (2525)

Czech Championship, 25.05.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



(9) Roiz,M (2617) – Postny,E (2637)

Beer Sheva rapid, 26.05.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

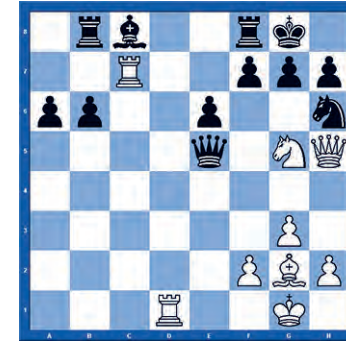


(11) Li Chao (2686) – Emperado,E (2313)

Asian Continental, 20.05.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(10) Postny,E (2637) – Greenfeld,A (2538)

Beer Sheva rapid, 27.05.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

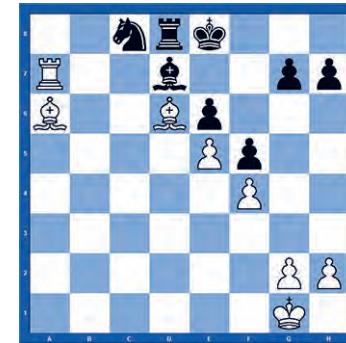


(12) Paragua,M (2550) – Sadorra,J (2561)

Asian Continental, 22.05.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Matikozian,A (2441) – Georgiev,V (2559)

Metropolitan GM, 18.05.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

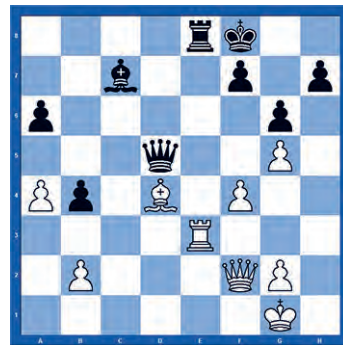


(14) Schmidt,W (2370) – Mastrovasilis,D (2610)

Polish league, 26.05.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

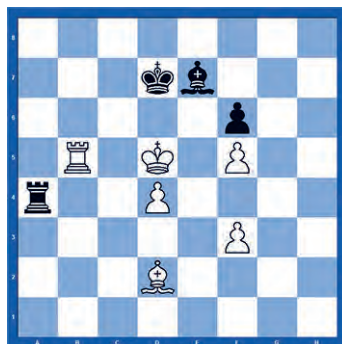


Endgame section

(15) Grischuk,A (2779) – Nakamura,H (2775)

Thessaloniki GP, 23.05.2013

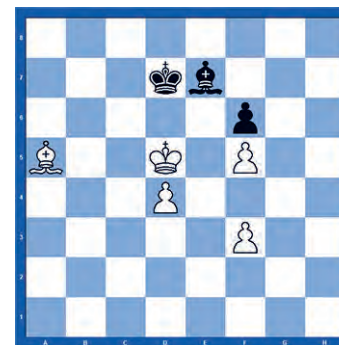
[Chess Evolution]



White has two extra pawns, but converting the advantage is not easy at all because Black has built up a good defensive position. However, Grischuk plays with perfect technique and wins the game.

89. ♖a5! Excellent decision to trade off the rooks, but White had to foresee the winning plan, which was not simple at all. [White cannot make progress with 89. ♖b7+ ♔e8 90. ♔e6 because of 90... ♖a6+ and he must retreat.]

89... ♖xa5+ 90. ♔xa5

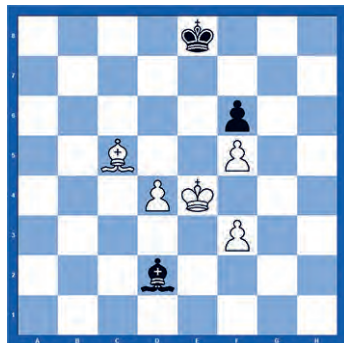


90... ♔a3 The black king is ideally placed on d7, where it blocks the d-pawn and also the king's route to e6. The doubled f-pawns also improve Black's surviving chances, as White cannot create a new passed pawn. What might be the winning plan?

91. ♔b6 Grischuk improves his bishop by transferring it to the a3-f8 diagonal.

91... ♔c1 92. ♔c5 ♔e3 Black has nothing better than to wait with his bishop. Grischuk follows the right strategy in these endgames. He makes some „senseless“ moves in order to gain time (30 seconds increments per move), and when he believes it should be enough, he goes for the critical continuation.

93. ♔b4 ♔f2 94. ♔f8 ♔e3 95. ♔c5 ♔g1 96. ♔a3 ♔e3 97. ♔e4 ♔d2 98. ♔c5 ♔e8 Black waits with his king now, because White does not threaten to invade on e6. But, obviously, on ♔d5, Black would immediately go back to d7.



99.d5! This is the start of the winning plan. White prepares to attack the f6 pawn with the bishop and also with the king from g6, in order to lure the Black king to f7. This clears the path of the d-pawn.

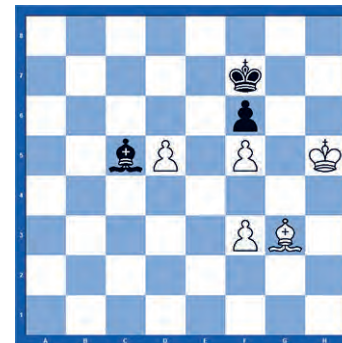
99...♔d7 100.♙e3! Before placing the bishop on d4, White sends away the bishop from the c1–h6 diagonal, in order to be able to play ♔f4.

100...♙a5 101.♙d4 ♙d8 102.♙c3! A good waiting move, in order to have ♙b4 in case of ♔d6 at the moment, and to leave from the ♔f4–♔d6 ♔g4 ♔xd5 tempo.

102...♙e7 103.♔f4 ♙d6+ [103...♔d6? is not possible because of 104.♙b4+]

104.♔g4 ♔e7 The next step of the win is to send away the blockader of the d-pawn. If White hurries with ♔h5–♔f7, he cannot threaten to trade the bishops. So, first he drives it to f4.

105.♙d2! ♙c5 106.♙f4 ♙b4 107.♔h5 ♔f7 108.♙g3 ♙c5 White has already progressed a lot—it is time to make the next step, to lure the black king from the g6 square by advancing the d-pawn.

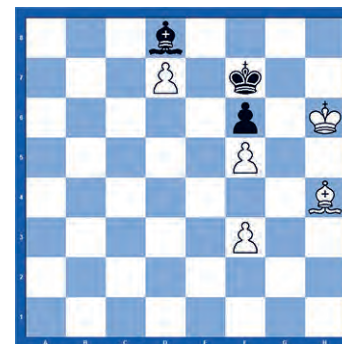


109.d6! ♙d4 110.♙h4 White wants to push d7 and on ♔e7, ♔g6 ♔xd7 ♙xf6.

110...♙b6 [110...♙c3 111.d7 ♔e7 112.♔g6 ♔xd7 113.♙xf6 Here the second f-pawn gets an important role. Black cannot sacrifice his bishop for f5. 113...♙b4 114.♙g7+- The pawn automatically promotes.]

111.d7 ♙d8 Nakamura tries his best chance—he blocks the pawn with the bishop and tries to keep the king away from the g6 square. Grischuk finds a very nice way to proceed.

112.♔h6! Putting Black into zugzwang. He cannot move with the king, since it allows ♔g6 and all the bishop moves are met by the same trick.



112... ♖a5 [112... ♖b6 113. ♗f2!; 112... ♖c7 113. ♗g3!]

113. ♗e1! ♖b6 114. ♗b4! White transferred his bishop to the a3-f8 diagonal in order to cut the black king from the e7 square. The last part of the winning plan is easy, White only needs to bring his king around the board and get it to c8...

114... ♗d8 115. ♔h5 ♔g7 116. ♗d6 ♔h7 117. ♔h4 ♔h6 118. ♔g4 Black is in zugzwang, he must retreat with the king...

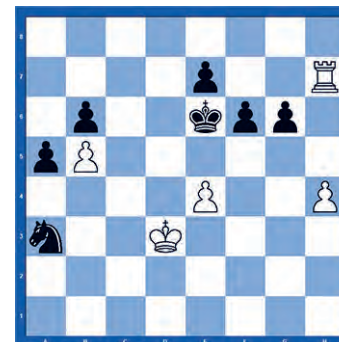
118... ♔g7 119. ♔f4 ♔h6 120. ♔e4 ♔g5 121. ♗f4+ Black resigned in view of ♔d5-♔c6 and ♗c7. Nice technique by Grischuk!

1-0

(16) Bacrot,E (2725) – Morozevich,A (2760) [D90]

Makedonia Palace GP Thessaloniki GRE (5), 27.05.2013

[Chess Evolution]



After a great fight, where, during the last 20 moves, Black was trying to find winning chances, suddenly things changed dramatically. Black clearly over-pushed his position and is on the limit of losing the game. How should White proceed?!

61...f5 What else to do?! [If Black takes the b5 pawn... 61... ♖xb5 62. ♖g7 ♖d6 (62...a4 63. ♖xg6 ♔f7 64. ♖g1 and probably White's h-pawn will give him a full point.) 63. ♖xg6 ♖f7 64. ♖g1 We went back to the same place. Black cannot cross the g-file with his king, which means that there is no way to stop White from promoting the h-pawn.]

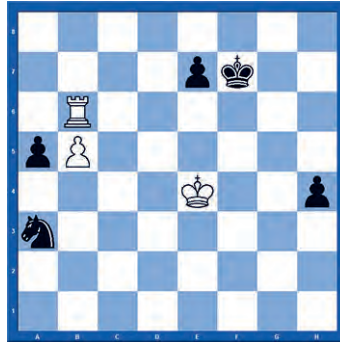
62. ♖h6! Excellent move! The h5 threat is deadly!

62...fxe4+ 63. ♔xe4 ♔f7 64.h5! Here we can see the main point! Suddenly, White is going for the b6 pawn.

64...gxh5 65. ♖xb6 It seems like Black is done! White's position must be winning. The horrible knight on a3 plus

the passed b-pawn — what else is needed?! However, things are much trickier!

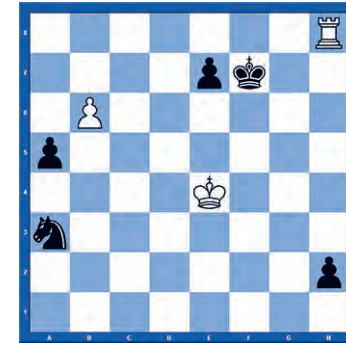
65...h4 Black's only hope is to provoke the white king to hold the h-pawn and, at the same time, move his own king closer to the b-pawn, and combine this with the knight to take the b-pawn.



66. ♖b8? What a huge mistake by White! [66. ♔d4! would have been the right solution. 66...h3 67. ♔c5 and that is the main point. Black cannot play h2 because of ♖h6, and the knight on a3 is cut. 67...♔g7 trying to avoid ♖h6. 68. ♖e6 This does not help either. 68...h2 69. ♖e1 White is easily winning.]

66...h3! and, suddenly, the position is a draw!

67. ♔f3 [It is not winning either 67.b6 h2 68. ♖h8



68...♞c4! and the Black knight is in time to capture the b-pawn. 69.b7 ♞d6+]

67...♔e6! The black king is just in time to help the knight.

68.b6 ♔d7! Black does not miss his drawing chances and makes exact moves!

69. ♖a8 ♔c6 followed by ♞b5-♞d6-♞b7 was a drawing threat.

69...♔c6 70. ♖xa5 ♞c4 Another little trick and White's b-pawn is falling.

71. ♖a7 [Of course not 71. ♖c5+? ♔xc5 72.b7 ♞e5+ and Black is in time to stop the b-pawn. 73. ♔g3 ♞c6]

71...♔xb6 72. ♖xe7 The rest does not need any comment! And, once again, we saw how tricky even an easy looking position can be!

72...♔c5 73. ♔g3 ♔d4 74. ♔xh3 ♞e3 75. ♖e8 ♔d3 76. ♔g3 ♔d4 77. ♔f3 ♞c4 78. ♖d8+ ♔e5 79. ♖e8+ ♔d4 80. ♔f4 ♔d5 81. ♖e5+ ♞xe5 1/2

(17) Fischer,Robert James — Kholmov,Ratmir D [C98]

Capablanca Memorial Havana (18), 1965

[Kamil Miton]

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♙b3 0-0 Black plays without the d6 move in order to keep the possibility of going for the Marshall Gambit.

8.c3 White could also play other lines: [8.d3; 8.h3; 8.d4]

8...d6 [8...d5 9.exd5 ♘xd5 10.♘xe5 ♘xe5 11.♔xe5 c6
This leads to very complex long variations. The Marshall
Gambit is still popular and used by top players like Aroni-
an or Leko.]

9.h3 ♘a5 10.♙c2 c5 11.d4 ♔c7 12.♘bd2



12...♞c6 A logical but rare move. Black is going to solve the tension in the center. The main line is [12...cxd4 13.cxd4 ♞c6 14.♞b3 (14.d5 After the included exchange on d4, Black has better squares for the knight. 14...♞b4 15.♙b1

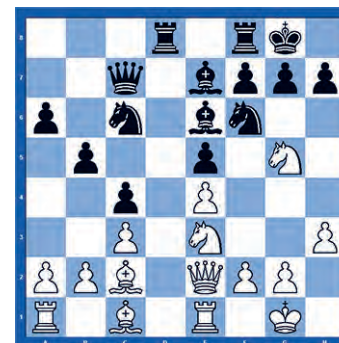
a5∞; 14.*a3* was also played several times, but looks too slow.) 14...*a5* 15.♙e3 *a4* 16.♘bd2 ♙d7 17.♖c1± Thanks to his better center and potential weak black pawns on the queenside, White has a stable advantage.]

13.dxc5?! Not the correct reaction. White is better after [13.d5  d8 14.a4±]

13...dxc5 14.♘f1 White plays using a typical maneuver, but it will not bring anything special. Black is not worse in the center now — he has no weaknesses and will control the d5 square. [14.♘h2 ♙e6 15.♘df1 ♖ad8 16.♚f3 with the idea of trying to create some pressure on the kingside after ♘g3-♘q4.]

14...♙e6 15.♘e3 [15.♘3h2!? Again, White could try to put his queen on f3.]

15...♖ad8 16.♔e2 c4 17.♞g5



17...h6! Good move. Black is not afraid of the exchange. The pawn on e6 will control the very important d5 and f5 squares. [17...♘d4 The same idea like in the game could be used at this moment. 18.cxd4 exd4 19.♗xe6 fxe6 20.e5 dxe3 (20...♔xe5? 21.♘f5; 20...d3 21.exf6 dxe2 22.fxe7 ♔xe7 23.♖xe2∞) 21.♙xe3 (21.exf6 exf2+ 22.♔xf2 ♖xf6 23.♔e2 ♔g3 with a decisive attack. ♙d6 is coming next.) 21...

♙xe5 22. ♖b6 ♙xe2 23. ♖xe2 ♖d6 24. ♙c5 ♖d7 25. ♙xe7 ♖xe7 26. ♖d1 with some compensation, but nothing more.; 17... ♙c8? 18. ♘d5↑]

18. ♘xe6 fxe6 19. b4? Very bad move. White should try to activate his pieces somehow. For example: [19. b3 ♘a5 (19... ♘d4 20. cxd4 exd4 21. bxc4 dxe3 22. ♙xe3 bxc4 23. ♖ac1± X c4 and Xe6; 19... ♙c5!? 20. bxc4 b4↗ A typical strategic sacrifice with the idea of taking control of the dark squares and not allowing the white pieces to get active.) 20. bxc4 ♘xc4 21. a4 ♙c5∞ Black should be fine.]



19... ♘d4! Now White's position is very hard.

20. cxd4 exd4 21. a3 [21. e5 d3 22. ♙xd3 cxd3 23. ♙b2 ♘e4-+]

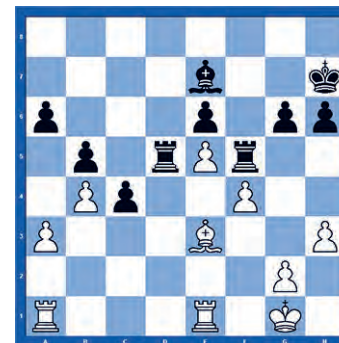
21... d3 22. ♙xd3 ♖xd3 [22... cxd3 23. ♙a2 ♖h7 24. ♘f1 White is worse but still fighting.]

23. ♘g4 ♖h7 24. e5 ♘xg4 25. ♙e4+ g6 26. ♙xg4 [26. hxg4 ♙d7 with the same idea to the one in the game]

26... ♖f5 27. ♙e4 ♙d7! Black is dominating the board thanks to the strong passed c4-pawn, controlling the d-file and with better pieces in general.

28. ♙e3 ♙d5 Given that the pawns are placed on h6 and g6, Black exchanges the queens in order to avoid some potential counterplay against his king.

29. ♙xd5 ♖xd5 30. f4



30... g5! Thanks to this move, Black creates a weak pawn on f4 and makes way to improve his king.

31. g3 gxf4 32. gxf4 ♖f8 33. ♖g2 ♖g6 34. ♖g1 ♖d3 35. ♖f3+ ♖f5 36. ♖g7 White is looking for his last chances with his active rook.

36... ♙d8 37. ♖b7 Not allowing ♙b6.

37... ♖g8 Of course, Black takes control of the g-file.

38. ♖b8 [38. ♖f7+ ♖g6 39. ♖b7 ♖h5 40. ♖b8 ♖g7 and Black should easily win thanks to threats like ♖h4-♖xh3 or ♙h4-♖g3.]

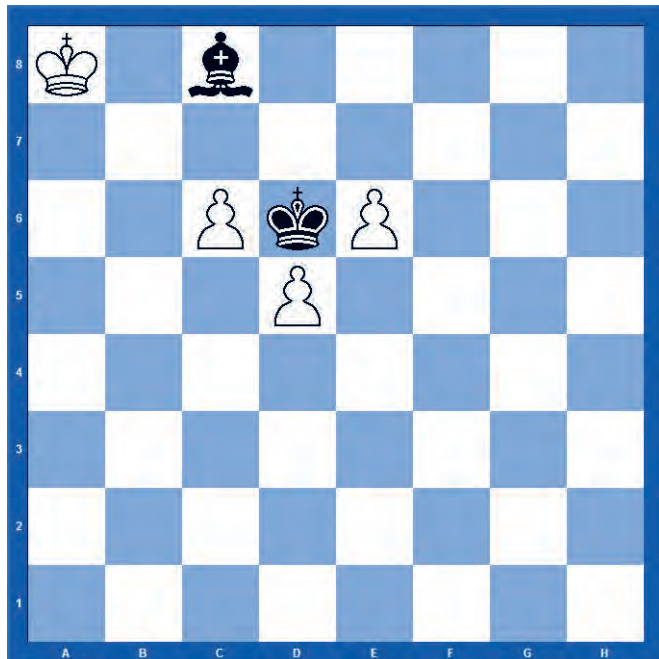
38... ♖g7 39. a4 h5! Black does not care about the queen-side and goes for a final action.

40. axb5 axb5 41. ♖xb5 ♙h4 42. ♖e2 ♖g2+ 43. ♖f1 ♖h2 44. ♖g1 ♖e2 45. ♙b6 c3 46. ♖f1 ♖h2 The black pieces are too active. White gave up. A good strategic game by Kholmov. **0-1**

Surprise section / study

(18) Prokes

[CEWN]

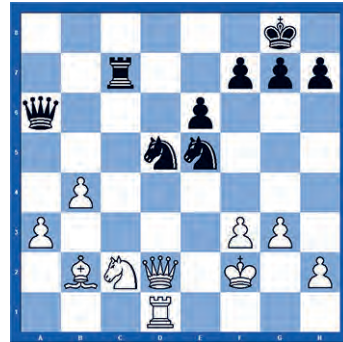


Solutions

(19) Cernousek,L (2476) – Durarbaily,V (2597)

European Championship, 10.05.2013

[Solutions]

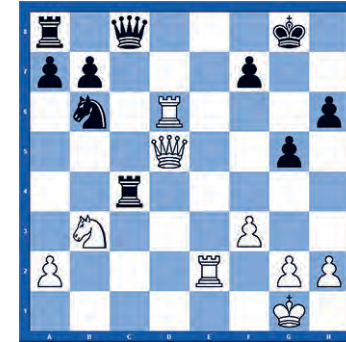


25...♖d3+!! 0-1 [25...♖d3+ 26.♔xd3 ♜xd3 27.♜xd3 ♜xc2+ 28.♔e1 ♜xb2-+; 25...♘c4? 26.♔e2!]

(20) Dreev,A (2654)–Pashikian,A (2603)

European Championship, 14.05.2013

[Solutions]



30. ♖g6+! 1-0 [30. ♖g6+ ♔f8 (30... ♔h8 31. ♚e5+) 31. ♚d6#]

(21) Sanikidze,T (2549) – Lubczynski,R (2419)

European Championship, 11.05.2013

[Solutions]



23. ♘c6+!! bxc6 24. ♖b8+ ♔d7 [24... ♔c7 25. ♕xe7+ ♔xb8 26. ♖b1+ ♔c8 27. ♕xf8+-]

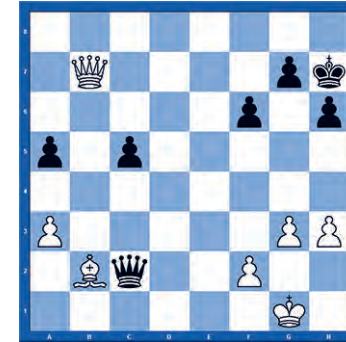
25. ♖b7+ ♔c8 26. ♕xe6+! ♔xb7 27. ♕xe7+ ♔c8 [27... ♔b6 28. ♖b1+-]

28. ♕xf8+-

(22) Lenic,L (2621) – Zhigalko,S (2660)

European Championship, 15.05.2013

[Solutions]



37... ♕b1+! 38. ♔g2 c4!= 39. ♕d5 ♕xb2 40. ♕f5+ ♔h8 41. ♕c8±

(23) Fedorchuk,S (2660) – Kuljasevic,D (2578)

European Championship, 15.05.2013

[Solutions]



30. ♖f5! [30. ♖h4? ♘xf3+ 31.gxf3 ♕e5]

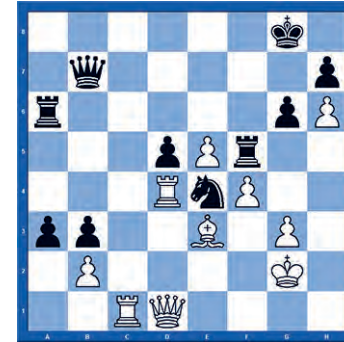
30... ♘xf3+ [30... ♕g4 31. ♖xe5!+-]

31.gxf3+- 1-0

(24) Petrosian,T (2645) – Markowski,T (2567)

European Championship, 15.05.2013

[Solutions]

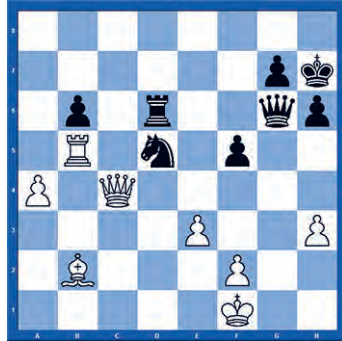


43. ♖b4!! ♕xb4 **44. ♕xd5+** ♖h8 **45. ♖c8+** ♖f8 **46. ♕f7**
1-0

(25) Sanikidze,T (2549) – Akopian,V (2705)

European Championship, 15.05.2013

[Solutions]



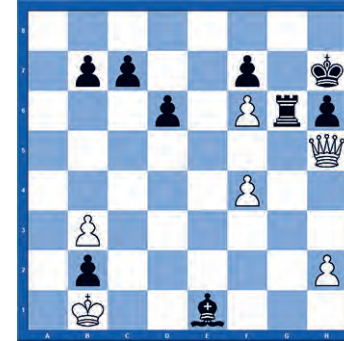
36...♘xe3+! 37.fxe3 ♖d2! [37...♖d1+? 38.♔e2 ♕g1 39.♖xf5!∞]

38.♔e1 ♜h2! 39.♕f1 ♕g3+ 40.♔d1 ♜f2!-+ 41.♕e1 ♕f3+ 42.♔c1 ♜f1-+

(26) Vallejo Pons,F (2695) – Tkachiev,V (2632)

European Championship, 16.05.2013

[Solutions]



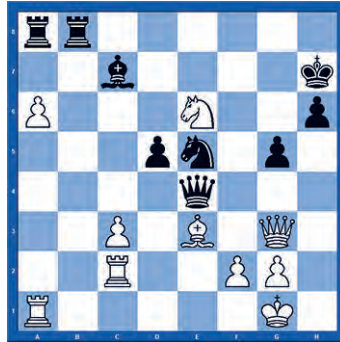
35.♕d5! ♔g8 [35...♖xf6 36.♕e4+ ♔h8 37.♕xe1 ♜xf4 38.♕c3+ ♔h7 39.♕xc7+-]

36.♕e4 1-0

(27) Bruzon,L (2707) – Cori,J (2546)

American Continental, 15.05.2013

[Solutions]



34... ♖xa6!! [34... ♕xc2? 35. ♘xc7]

35. ♖xa6 [35. ♖ac1 ♖xe6--+]]

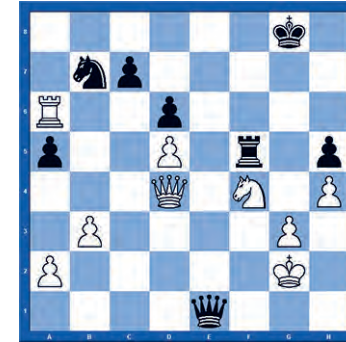
35... ♖b1+ 36. ♖c1 [36. ♔h2 ♘g4+ 37. ♔h3 ♖h1+++]]

36... ♖xc1+ 37. ♔xc1 ♕e1+ 38. ♔h2 ♘g4+ 39. ♔h3 ♘xf2+ 0-1

(28) Almasi,Z (2695) – Andriasian,Z (2608)

European Championship, 14.05.2013

[Solutions]

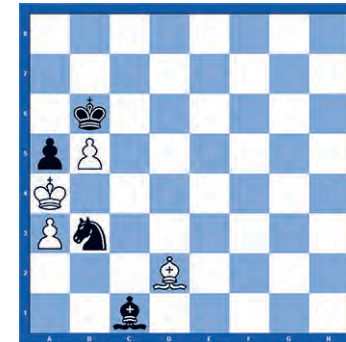


39... ♖xf4! 40. ♕xf4 [40. ♖a8+ ♖f8!]]

40... ♕e2+ 41. ♔h3 ♕xa6 42. ♕g5+ ♔f8=

(29) Nadeireshvili

[Solutions]



1. ♔b4!! axb4 2. axb4! ♘d4=



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 67

7th of June 2013

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Editorial Preface

And once again we had a week filled with chess.

The FIDE Grand Prix in Greece was won by Dominguez with 8/11. On the second place we find Kamsky and Caruana, both with 7.5/11. This victory is most likely Dominguez's best result in his chess career so far.

The Sberbank GM rapid tournament in Kiev was won by Karjakin with 6.5/9. The second place went to Topalov with 6/9 and the 3rd place to Leko with 5/9.

In the French league, the team of Clichy is totally dominating the event and a draw in the penultimate round will be enough for them to win the title with a round to go.

The World Rapid Championship in Khanty Mansisk was won by Nepomniachtchi.

In Leon, Giri and Ivanchuk are playing a friendly match.

As usual, we bring You the newest and most interesting games of the past week.

Enjoy CEWN Nr 67!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Grischuk, Alexander (2779)
— Dominguez Perez, Leinier (2723) [D70]

Makedonia Palace GP Thessaloniki GRE (10.4), 02.06.2013

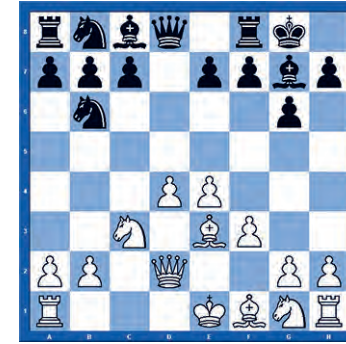
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We will now face a very exciting game. After a long theoretical battle, it first seemed as though White should be better, but then Black took over and the game finally ended in a draw.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 This move is now very popular, as the idea is to avoid the main Gruenfeld where at the moment nobody is able to show a clear way to get an advantage.

3...d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘b6 6.♘c3 We are entering a very sharp and complicated line. To play this kind of positions without great analyses is simply impossible as one would risk quickly getting into trouble.

6...♙g7 7.♙e3 0-0 8.♚d2 The main ideas here are simple, White is trying to quickly castle queenside and start the attack on Black's king by playing h4-h5 and ♙h6, while Black is trying to create some counterplay against White's center.



8...e5 is one of the most principled continuations here. Of course it is all still theory.

9.d5 c6 As promised, Black is starting an immediate attack on the centre...

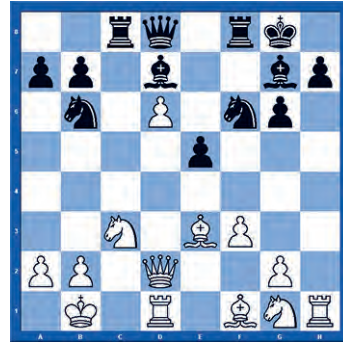
10.h4 ...and White on the kingside.

10...cxd5 11.exd5 ♘8d7 The black knight is going from b8 to f6, where it will protect the king and attack d5.

12.h5 ♘f6 13.hxg6 fxg6! This move is of course killing the pawn structure, but the rook on f8 is immediately getting into the game. It is clear that in the current position the dynamics are much more important than positional things.

14.0-0-0 ♙d7 Black is taking his time to bring the last piece into the game, the rook from a8.

15.d6 ♖c8 16.♚b1 As we can see, the position is very unbalanced. White has a lot of positional advantages like the d6 pawn, but Black is clearly better developed and should search his chances in a „fast“ play.



16...e4!? Exactly like this! I guess both players still knew this position very well, but this doesn't matter to us. What is important here is to know how to handle such positions. Black doesn't wait any longer and tries to open White's position to the maximum! A very typical play in case of development advantage!

17.fxe4 White doesn't have a choice, he has to take.

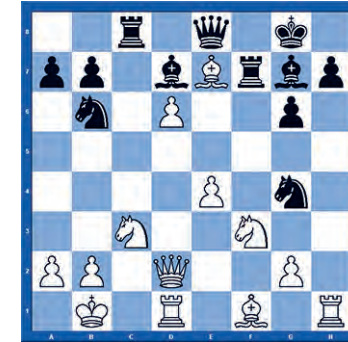
17...g4 Of course Black wants to play **g4** and at the same time **xc3** is dangerous, which forces White to act quickly.

18.g5 Again White had nothing better.

18...e8 White is using the mini tempo won with **g5** to develop a piece.

19.f3 f7!? Black is preparing a tricky move! [The straightforward **19...xc3 20.bxc3 a4** wouldn't lead to anything because of **21.c1 Qxe4+ 22.a1** and White is probably doing better here.; It is also too early for **19...xc3 20.bxc3 a4** because of **21.c4+** and Black is not in time.]

20.e7 A very logical move by White with the idea of playing **g5** next. What to do now for Black?!



20...xc3! A great sacrifice. At first sight it just looks bad for Black, but if we look deeper, things are getting super complicated.

21.bxc3 c8 That is Black's idea. The Queen is joining the attack and the monster bishop on g7 is a very dangerous piece, while White's bishop on e7 is in a more or less a passive position.

22.c1 a4 I guess this is one of the most critical moments of this game. White has a very large amount of options.

23.g5 White continues forcing things. [After **23.c4 c5** followed by **b6** is great for Black.; After the rather passive **23.e2 c5** is strong as well. A bit of a strange position, but it really seems as if Black has enough play for being an exchange and a pawn down.]

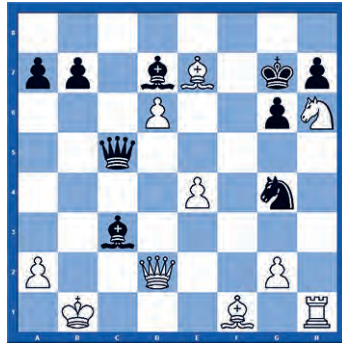
23...c5! Great play by Black! Another exchange is being sacrificed in order to attack the White king.

24.xf7 White has to take...

24...xc3+ 25.c3 xc3 What to do now for White?! The Queen and the knight on f7 are hanging.

26.h6+ It can't be wrong to save the knight.

26...♔g7



27.♔d5 This move leads to a perpetual check, but White probably already didn't have anything better. [27.♔e2? is of course losing after 27...♔b4+ 28.♔c1 ♔a3+ 29.♔d1 ♔a4+; 27.♔c2 This move leads to the exact same draw as in the game: 27...♔b4+ 28.♔b3 ♔xe4+] **27...♔b4+ 28.♔b3 ♔xe4+** And White cannot escape from the checks...

29.♔c2 ♔e1+ 30.♔c1 ♔e4+ 31.♔c2 ♔e1+ 32.♔c1 ♔e4+ 33.♔c2 What a great fighting game! I would be curious to know whether maybe Dominguez knew everything until the end?!

1/2

(2) Kasimdzhanov,R (2699)
– Kamsky,G (2741) [A88]

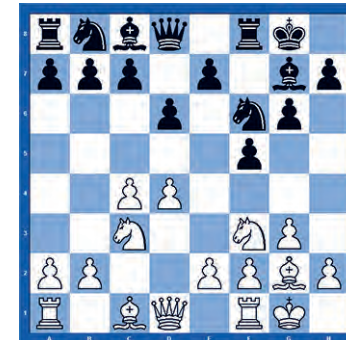
Thessaloniki GRE Thessaloniki GRE (7), 29.05.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

In this game, Kamsky convincingly outplayed his opponent step by step.

1.d4 f5 Kamsky shows his intentions right from the first move as he plays the surprise Dutch defence instead of his usual Slav.

2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.g3 g6 4.♙g2 ♙g7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 d6 7.♘c3 We have reached one of the initial positions of the Dutch Leningrad variation. Black can choose between various setups.



7...c6 8.b3 [As we have analyzed in the Radjabov-Ivanchuk game a few CEWNs ago, White should probably play 8.♖b1 with the idea of b4-b5.]

8...a5 Black prepares to develop his knight to a6.

9.♙b2 ♘a6 10.d5 White would like to put his knight to d4 in order to establish the control over the e6 square. This is a usual drawback of this variation, but in this posi-

tion it might be not the best idea, since he also gives up the c5 square, which the Black knight is ready to occupy. [10.♖e1 is the main move with the idea of e4.; 10.e3 is also possible followed by ♔e2 and in a good moment e4.]

10...♗d7 11.♘d4 cxd5



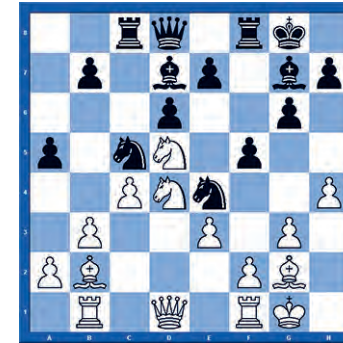
12.♗xd5 [12.cxd5 looked more reasonable to me in order to reduce the mobility of the central pawns, although Black seems to be fine after 12...♘c5 13.♖c1 ♖c8 14.e3 ♗b6! with the idea of ♔a6, trying to make use of the d3 square.]

12...♘c5 13.♖b1 White wants to avoid any kind of tactical motifs between the two bishops on g7 and b2. [The idea itself is good, but White should have executed it by playing 13.e3 followed by ♔e2 and then the rooks could go to more natural places, like c1 and d1.]

13...♗fe4 Black has occupied the ideal squares with his knights.

14.e3 ♖c8 The pawn structure is very static, so the players are improving their pieces. Kamsky is very strong in such positions...

15.h4 White is taking some ground on the kingside, obviously he is not playing for a kingside attack.



15...♖f7! I like this move a lot! Before making a decision about where to start the actions, either by e6 or by h6-g5, Kamsky plays this very useful move, which supports both ideas.

16.♗a1 Somehow, Kasimdzhanov does not find a plan. It would have made sense to trade the e4 knight by playing ♘c3 or to exchange the dark squared bishops by removing the d4 knight.

16...h6! Black is aiming for a kingside attack with g5. This is a typical plan in this variation.

17.a4? I don't like this move at all! White locks the queenside, where he was better and also fortifies the c5 knight, which could have been kicked out only by a3-b4.

17...g5 Black continues his plan.

18.hxg5 hxg5 At some point, Black would like to push g4, after which he gets many dangerous attacking possibilities, for instance by playing ♗e5 followed by ♔f8-h6 and ♖h7 or ♘g5 trying to use the f3 and h3 squares.

19.g4 Kasimdzhanov tries a typical idea to counter the g5-g4 plan. White tries to break the stability of the e4 knight and he undermines the f5 pawn. On the other hand after Kamsky's strong reply, this is a huge weakening of his own king. [19.♘c3 was probably better again.]

19...e6! The point becomes clear in the 21st move. [On 19...fxg4 the idea was to play 20.♔c2! and Black cannot hold the knight.]

20.♘c3 ♘xc3 21.♙xc3



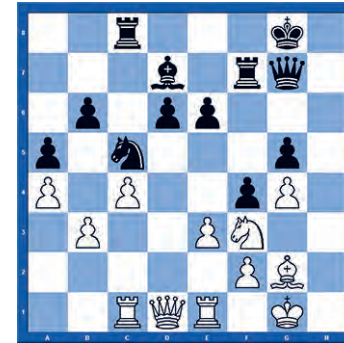
21...f4! Breaking through on the kingside. From now on, White must stay focused to not allow an f3 push.

22.♖e1 b6 Black frees his queen by protecting the a5 pawn.

23.♖c1 ♔f8! This was the only way to activate the queen. ♔e7, ♖cf8 would have been an even better arrangement of the pieces, but it would move into the tactical trick of exf4 followed by ♘f5!, making use of the pin on the e-file.

24.♘f3! Trading off the strong bishop, preventing the f3 push and aiming for some counterplay against the g5 pawn.

24...♙xc3 25.♖xc3 ♔g7 26.♖c1



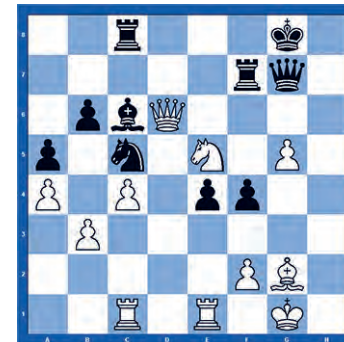
26...♙c6! Another great move! Black does not need to waste time on protecting the d6 pawn.

27.exf4 [27.♔xd6 leads to a very bad endgame for White after 27...♖d7! 28.♔e5 ♙xf3 29.♔xg7+ ♔xg7 30.♙xf3 ♘xb3 31.♖c3 ♘c5= Another proof that the move 17.a4 was not the best idea. White has lost the b3 weakness and the new target is on a4. The knight clearly dominates the bishop, which can be used only for defending his own pawns.]

27...gxf4 28.g5 [28.♔xd6 ♔xg4 wins for Black.]

28...e5! The pawn phalanx starts to move and sweeps White off the board. [28...♙xf3 29.♔xf3 ♔xg5= was also good, but Kamsky plays for more.]

29.♔xd6 e4 30.♘e5



30...♔xg5! This had to be foreseen before playing 28...e5! White cannot defend his king.

31.♘xf7 ♔xf7 [Black resigned in view of the following lines 31...♔xf7 32.♔f1 (32.♖cd1 f3 33.♔g3 ♔xg3 34.fxg3 fxg2 35.♔xg2 ♘xb3--+ With a hopeless endgame.) 32...f3 33.♙h3 ♙d7! Deflecting the defender of the g2 square. A nice strategical win by Kamsky, who basically did not do anything special in this game, just improving his pieces and pawn structure with each move.]

0-1

(3) Kamsky,G (2741)–Morozevich,A (2760) [C96]

Thessaloniki GRE Thessaloniki GRE (10), 02.06.2013

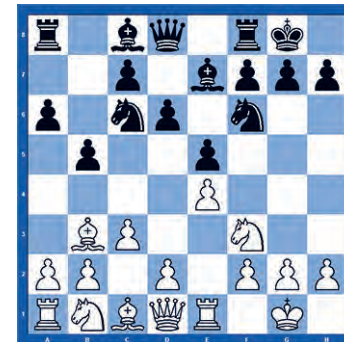
[Csaba Balogh]

Kamsky played outstanding chess throughout the entire tournament and celebrated his 39th birthday with this nice attacking game against Morozevich, who was out of form in Thessaloniki.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.♖e1 Finally somebody goes for the classical mainline instead of the recently popular 6.d3.

6...b5 7.♙b3 d6 [The 6.d3 setup is mainly directed against the Marshall Gambit, which starts with 7...0-0 8.c3 d5 9.exd5 ♘xd5 10.♘xe5 ♘xe5 11.♖xe5 c6]

8.c3 0-0



9.h3 The initial position of the main Spanish lines. Black has a wide range of choices here. Morozevich usually likes to play the Zaitsev, which starts with 9...♙b7 10.d4 ♖e8, but this time he goes for the Chigorin variation.

9...♘a5 10.♙c2 c5 11.d4 Black again has numerous options here. The main one is 11...♚c7. However, Morozevich tries a dubious system.

11...cxd4 12.cxd4 exd4



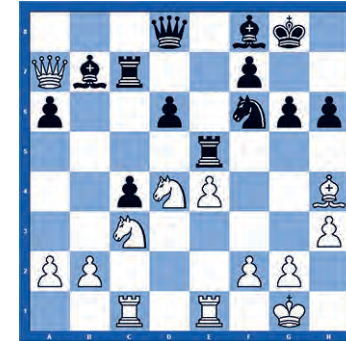
13.♘xd4 The quick exchanges in the center usually favour White. His pieces are better placed for an opened game. White is going to use the f5 and d5 squares with the knights. ♘f5 always wants to get the bishop pair, while ♘c3-d5 would seriously weaken the c6 square in Black's camp.

13...♚e8 14.♘c3 Black cannot finish the typical regrouping with ♙f8, because White creates a very unpleasant pin with ♙g5.

14...♙b7 Black solves the problem of the c6 and d5 squares, but he allows the knight to go to f5!

15.♘f5! ♚c8 This is the novelty! I don't believe it was a prepared one, since Black already had a bad position. [15...♙f8 happened before, but it is again met by 16.♙g5! h6 17.♙h4 and this pin is really annoying from Black's point of view. 17...♚c8 18.♚c1 ♘c4 19.♚d4 White plays in a very similar way as in our game. 19...♚e6 20.♙b3

g6 Black seems to finally have solved the problems with ♙g7, but Ivanchuk plays a very effective move to keep his advantage: 21.♚a7! And the knight goes to d4 with tempo. 21...♚c7 22.♘d4 ♚e5 23.♙xc4 bxc4

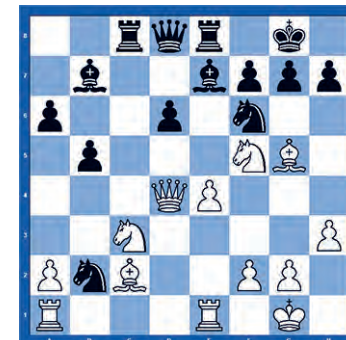


24.♙xf6! ♚xf6 25.♘d5! ♙xd5 26.♚xc7 White has won an exchange and soon the game. [Ivanchuk-Mueller Mainz 2007]

16.♙g5! Increasing the pressure. This is obviously very logical, but the question is what happens if Black starts his counterplay against the b2 pawn with ♘c4?!

16...♘c4 17.♚d4! Kamsky plays on domination and does not care about losing the b2 pawn.

17...♘xb2



18. ♖b3 White removes his bishop from the c-file from the ♔c7 and ♖c4 threats. [However White had a brilliant forced win: 18. ♘d5!! ♙xd5 (18... ♘xd5 19. ♔xg7#; 18... ♖xc2 loses to 19. ♘dx7+ ♖xe7 20. ♙xf6 gxf6 21. ♔xf6+-) 19. exd5! Black cannot defend against the threats and the tactical explanation of the whole line is 19... ♖xc2



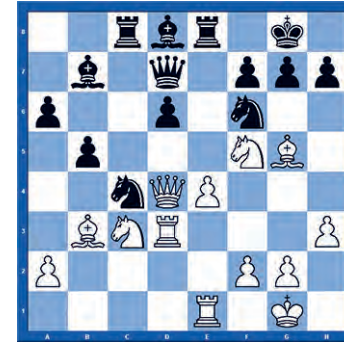
20. ♖xe7! ♖xe7 (20... ♖c4 Black cannot send away the queen from a1–h8 diagonal because of 21. ♔xb2+-) 21. ♙xf6 gxf6 22. ♔xf6! and Black gets mated in any case! 22... ♖e1+ 23. ♖xe1 ♔xf6 24. ♖e8# This would have been a fantastic finish!]

18... ♘c4 19. ♖ad1 Kamsky simple brings his pieces to the game and ignores the loss of the b2 pawn. He is intending to continue the attack with ♖d3-g3!

19... ♔d7 [19... h6 does not change much, White simple plays 20. ♙h4 and continues his plan with ♖d3.]

20. ♖d3! ♙d8? A tactical oversight, but the position was already difficult for Black. [20... ♘e5 would have been the only move. 21. ♖de3! seems to be the best move in order to avoid Black's idea after ♖g3. Black remains in a very passive position with many threats in the air. (On 21. ♖g3 Black can simplify into a worse position 21... ♘h5!

22. ♘xe7+ ♖xe7 23. ♙xe7 ♘xg3 24. ♙xd6 ♘c4 25. ♙c5 ♔xd4 26. ♙xd4± White is only slightly better thanks to the bishop pair.)]



21. ♘g7!! White wins now! [Morozevich had prepared a nice trick against 21. ♖g3 ♔xf5! 22. exf5 ♖xe1+ 23. ♔h2 ♙b6 and suddenly Black is out of danger. He is going to take on f2, while ♔f4 runs into ♘h5.]

21... ♖e5 [21... ♔xg7 loses to 22. ♙xf6+ ♙xf6 23. ♖g3+ ♔f8 24. ♔xf6+-]

22. ♘f5! The black king is too exposed after the loss of the g-pawn. Black cannot hold. Morozevich desperately tries to complicate the matters, but it does not help now.

22... ♘xe4 23. ♘h6+ ♔f8 24. ♙xd8 ♖xd8 25. f4 Black resigned! A nice birthday celebration. [25. ♘xe4 was also winning obviously.]

1-0

(4) Bacrot, Etienne (2725)
 – Wirig, Anthony (2498) [A15]

French Top 12 2013 Haguenau FRA (6.2), 04.06.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We will see a short, but very nice positional win by the best French player who just came back to the French league from the FIDE Grand Prix.

1.c4 ♘f6 **2.** ♘f3 **c6** We are back in the Slav through a different move order.

3. ♘c3 **d5** **4.e3** A „silent“, positional line. [4.d4 dxc4 could lead to more forced lines.]

4...e6 A typical Slav setup of pieces, but it looks a bit illogical... I think 4...g6 also deserves attention.

5.b3!? That is the trick behind White's play. As he hasn't played d4 yet, it makes much more sense to put the bishop to b2.

5...♘bd7 Maybe Black wants to play e5 next in order to cover the center.

6. ♔c2 Making sure that e5 doesn't work in any variation.

6...♙d6 [After 6...e5 7.cxd5 cxd5 8. ♘b5! is looking very strong for White.]

7. ♙b2 ♔e7 Until here Black is playing very solidly and everything is quite logical.

8. ♙e2 Once again White is waiting with the d4 move.



8...a6 Black finally wants to play e5 next.

9.d4 And it is time for White to play d4, but he managed to win some sort of „half tempo“ as it is unclear whether Black's a6 was really a useful move.

9...dxc4?! I don't like this move at all and it seems to be a positional error to me. [In case Black wanted to play with c5, it would have been better to do it immediately: 9...c5]

10.bxc4 c5 11.0-0 Now we can easily see that the white pieces are perfectly placed and Black has to take care not to quickly get into trouble. The bishop on c8 is totally out of the game.

11...cxd4 Black was probably afraid of White's d5 push at some good moment.

12.exd4 b6 Black is trying to develop his bishop to have a more or less a normal position. White needs to act fast if he wants to make use of his development advantage.



13.a4! A very strong positional motive! White wants to play a5 next and it is very hard for Black to find the right answer.

13...0-0 Black cannot do much about a5.

14.a5 b5 A little try to complicate things, 14...bxa5 15.c5 would of course have led to a huge advantage for White.

15.c5 Once again White is choosing the best move. [15.cxb5 axb5 16.♘xb5 ♙b4 would of course give White a big advantage, but Black would still be fighting.]

15...♙c7 16.c6 is the key move. The black knight is now forced to return to his starting position.

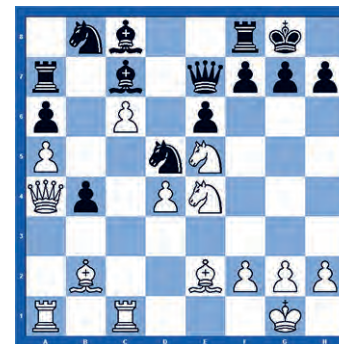
16...♘b8 17.♘e5 It is clear that in case Black manages to get rid of the c6 pawn, things are fine and in case he doesn't, White is just winning.

17...b4 White wanted to fix things by playing ♙f3 next. Black is taking the d5 square under control.

18.♘e4 ♘d5 19.♖fc1 White is overprotecting the c6 pawn, which is the key piece in the position.

19...♖a7 Also logically played by Black. Now ♙xe5 and ♖c7 could be interesting ideas at the good moment.

20.♙a4



20...f6?! As the saying goes, „in a bad position there are no good moves“. [The only way to fight was to play 20...f5 21.♘c5 ♙xe5 22.dxe5 ♖c7 and of course White is clearly better, but the game is not over.]

21.♘d3 ♘f4 After exchanging Black's only strong piece, White is simply crushing.

22.♘xf4 ♙xf4 23.♖c4 Again overprotection the c-pawn, very logical and strong.

23...♖c7 24.♙c1!? I like this move a lot, it looks very „clean“ to me. White does not hurry with winning the b-pawn and continues to exchange Black's active pieces.

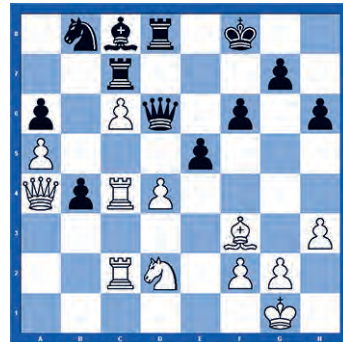
24...♙xc1 25.♖axc1 ♖d8 26.♙f3 White now has 4 hits on the c6 pawn, which means that Black will never be able to take the pawn and that the knight from b8 will never come back into the game. White's position is winning.

26...♙f8 27.h3 There is no reason for White to hurry.

27...h6 28.♘d2 White is improving the position of his knight. It will be perfectly place on b3 and at the same time ♖xb4 is a deadly threat.

28... ♔d6 **29.** ♖1c2 [29. ♘b3 would have been good as well.]

29...e5



30.d5 Let us take a look at this position. Personally, I prefer to resign in such situations, but Wirig maybe likes to suffer :).

30... ♗f5 **31.** ♘e4 ♗xe4 **32.** ♗xe4 Total domination.

32...f5 **33.** ♗xf5 ♔xc6 **34.dxc6** The game might look very simple, but White has shown great positional play which lead to an „easy looking” point.

1-0

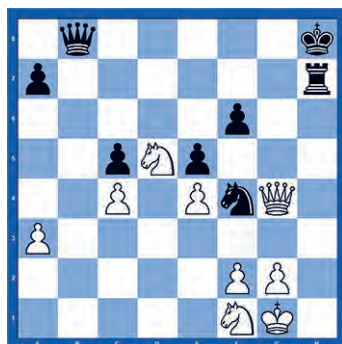
Puzzle section

(5) Morozevich,A (2760) – Caruana,F (2774)

Thessaloniki GP, 29.05.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



(6) Kamsky,G (2741) – Nakamura,H (2775)

Thessaloniki GP, 30.05.2013

[CEWN]

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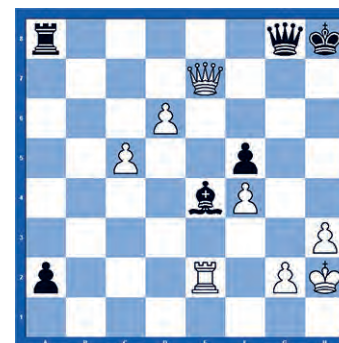


(7) Topalov,V (2793) – Caruana,F (2774)

Thessaloniki GP, 02.06.2013

[CEWN]

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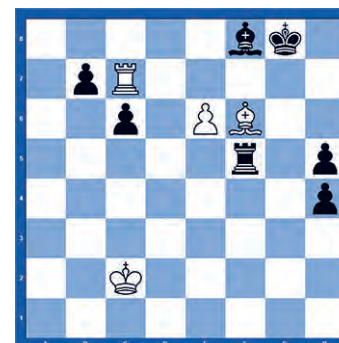


(8) Nakamura,H (2775) – Svidler,P (2769)

Thessaloniki GP, 03.06.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

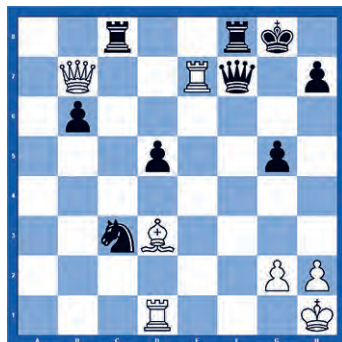


(9) Bacrot,E (2725) – Ivanchuk,V (2755)

Thessaloniki GP, 03.06.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+



(11) Landa,K (2644) – Naiditsch,A (2710)

French league, 02.06.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+



(10) Zhou Jianchao (2607) – Zhou Weiqi (2590)

Danzhou GM, 29.05.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

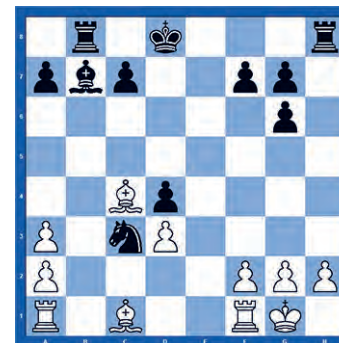


(12) Baron,T (2467) – Marcelin,C (2488)

French league, 03.06.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

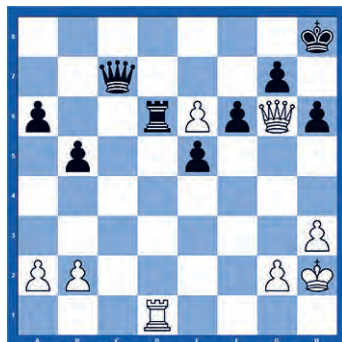


(13) Spasov,V (2565) – Gavrilov,A (2454)

Albena Open, 03.06.2013

[CEWN]

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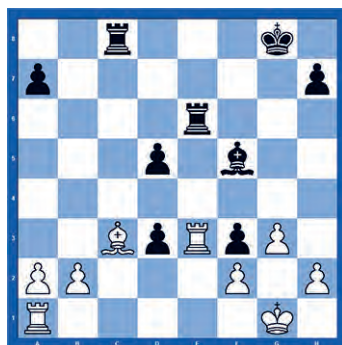


(14) Kilgus,G (2418) – Gonda,L (2524)

Zalakaros Open, 28.05.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

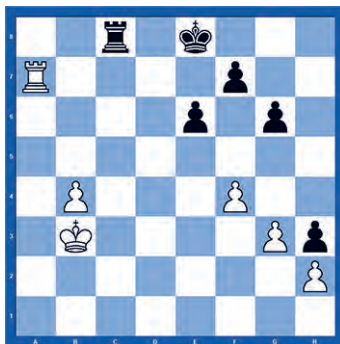


Endgame section

(15) Dominguez Perez,Leinier (2723)
— Topalov,Veselin (2793) [B48]

Makedonia Palace GP Thessaloniki GRE (11.6), 03.06.2013

[Chess Evolution]



This game brought Dominguez the biggest success of his chess career so far, winning the FIDE Grand Prix. After the opening, I would say that Black was clearly the one who tried to push, but then the course of the game slowly started to change. From a slightly worse endgame, Black ended up in what is already a very bad endgame. Let us take a closer look and see whether Black could still have saved the game here.

49.b5 ♖c5 [49...♖c1 50.♙b4 would lead to about the same as in the game.]

50.♙b4 ♖c2 Black has to go for the h2 pawn.

51.b6 White is of course trying to make use of the b-pawn.

51...♙d8 [Black is not in time for 51...♖xh2 52.b7 ♖b2+ because of very important 53.♙c3! White is winning

a very important tempo in order to be in time to catch Black's h-pawn. 53...♖b1 54.♖a8+ ♔e7 55.b8 ♖xb8 56.♖xb8 h2 57.♖h8+]

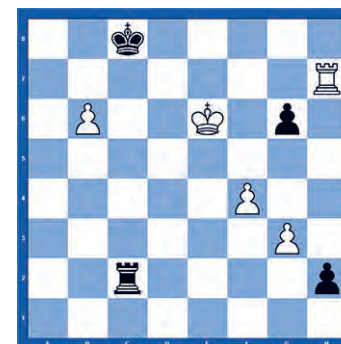
52.♖xf7 [White could have chosen another forced line: 52.♖a8+ ♔d7 53.♙a3 With the idea of playing b7. 53...♖c3+ 54.♙a4 ♖c4+ 55.♙a5 ♖c5+ Black needs to give checks in order to try and get the White king to the b-line. 56.♙a6 ♖c2 57.b7 It looks like White is close to be winning, but Black again starts with the nasty checks. 57...♖a2+ 58.♙b6 ♖b2+ 59.♙a7 ♖a2+ 60.♙b8 And only now 60...♖xh2 61.♖a1 ♖b2 62.♖d1+ It is very hard to say whether this position is winning for White or not... This is why the text move seems to be much more logical.]

52...♖xh2 53.♖h7 Now the black rook cannot move without losing the h-pawn. White's idea is to quickly attack Black's e- and g-pawns with the king.

53...♙c8 It is still very unclear whether Black can hold this position. As we know, rook endgames have a strong tendency to be drawn.

54.♙c5 ♖c2+ Black is pushing his pawn to h2.

55.♙d6 h2 56.♙xe6



56...♖g2! Black's only chance is to take the g3 pawn and to hope to exchange the last g-pawn.

57.♔e5! A good move by White! The king is perfectly placed on e5.

57...♖xg3 58.♖xh2 A very interesting endgame! White's idea is simple: give away the b-pawn and capture the g-pawn after which a winning rook endgame will appear.

58...♖b3? This move is probably leading to a lost position. [The simple 58...♔b7! would have given Black excellent drawing chances. 59.♖b2 (59.♖h6 ♖g4 And White cannot improve his position.) 59...♖g1 Black just keeps on waiting on the g-file and the position seems to be a draw.]

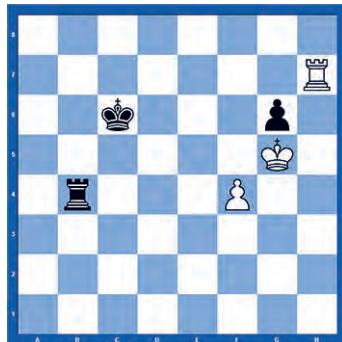
59.♖h8+! A great tactical resource by White.

59...♔b7 60.♖h7+ White is almost forcing the Black king to take on b6.

60...♔xb6 [60...♔b8 didn't save Black either: 61.♔f6! ♖xb6+ 62.♔g5 Followed by ♖g7 and ♖xg6 and White is easily winning.]

61.♔f6! Once again, White is choosing the best move. The g6 pawn is lost and the black king is not in time to get to f8.

61...♖b4 62.♔g5 ♔c6



63.♖f7 The last precise move. The rest of the game doesn't require many comments.

63...♔d5 64.♔xg6 ♖b6+ 65.♔g5 ♖b8 66.f5 ♖g8+ 67.♔f6 The black king is cut off, which means that White's position is easily winning.

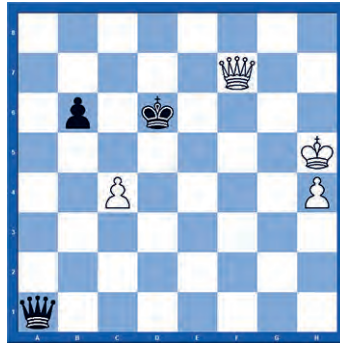
67...♔e4 68.♖a7 ♖f8+ 69.♔g6 ♖g8+ 70.♔f7 ♖h8 71.♔g7 We saw a very interesting endgame with a great defence by Black until the moment where the draw seemed so close, but then slipped away. Black gave Dominguez the best present he could ever get ! :)

1-0

(16) Dominguez Perez,L (2723)
— Nakamura,H (2775)

Thessaloniki GP, 28.05.2013

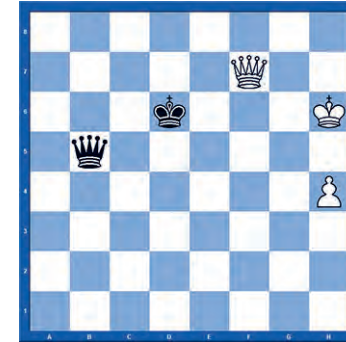
[Chess Evolution]



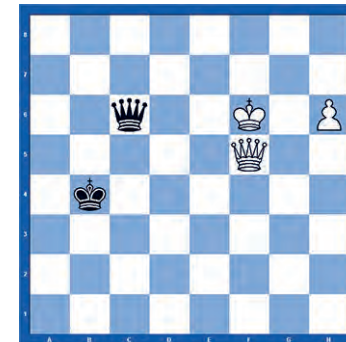
Queen endgames are extremely difficult. There are a huge amount of theoretical positions, which are almost impossible to remember. In general the attacking side has big winning chances even if the position is drawn. After this game, we can understand that Nakamura has studied this kind of endgames very deeply and succeeded to save half a point thanks to the knowledge of an important defensive method.

57... ♔e5+ 58. ♔h6 b5 Nakamura is heading for the position he is familiar with. [Objectively 58... ♔h8+ is a better move, although White retains very good practical winning chances. 59. ♕g5! (59. ♔h7 ♕d4) 59... ♔e5+ 60. ♔f5 ♕g3+ 61. ♔h5 White always threatens to exchange the queens. Black has a very hard task to hold.]

59.cxb5 ♕xb5 The critical position from White's point of view. Dominguez plays the most natural move, but it turns the position from winning to drawn...

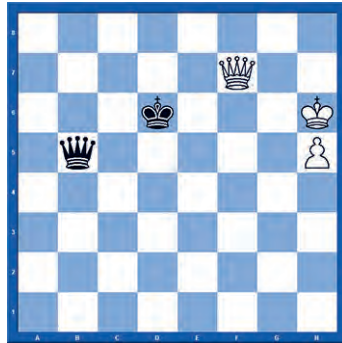


60.h5? [60. ♕g7! was the winning move. The game will demonstrate that White should not let the black king get to e5! 60... ♔e2 (60... ♔e5? does not work now because of 61. ♕h5+!) 61.h5 Black again cannot play ♔e5 because of the check on the e-file. White's king is protected by all the checks with the counterchecks. Let's examine the win in case of the most tenacious defence. 61... ♔c5! Black tries to run to a2-b1 with his king, from where it is the most distant from the counterchecks. 62. ♕f5+ ♔b4 63.h6 ♕g2+ 64. ♔f6 ♕c6+



65. ♕g5! White's winning technique is always connected with the placement of the black king. He must try to shelter his king from the checks with the countercheck ide-

as. Once again Black has no good check. 65...♔a3 66.h7 ♕g2+ 67.♔h4! Here is another case where Black has no good check. Black is forced to stop the h-pawn. 67...♕g7 68.♔h5 ♕b2 69.♕g6 ♕e5+ 70.♔g4 ♕d4+ 71.♔h3 The king is heading to h1! The idea is the same as before: to prevent all checks by counterchecks... 71...♕e3+ 72.♔g2 ♕d2+ 73.♔h1 Here we are again. All the checks on the first rank are met by ♕g1 and there is no more check because of ♕g2 or ♕h2! 73...♕d4 74.♕g3!+- White creates the threat of ♕h2 and h8♕. Black has no good checks, while ♕h8 is met by ♕g8.]

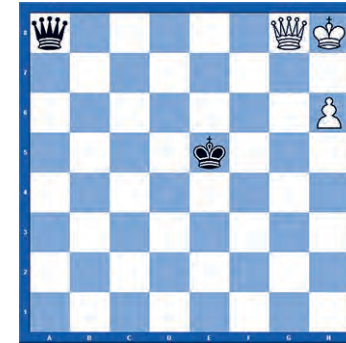


60...♔e5!! The game is drawn now, but Black needs to continue defending precisely!

61.♔g7 ♕c6! Another only move! It is important to put the queen on the h1–a8 diagonal to annoy the Black king with many checks, without having to be afraid of a countercheck. [61...♕b6? loses to 62.h6 ♕g1+ 63.♔f8 and Black has no more check.]

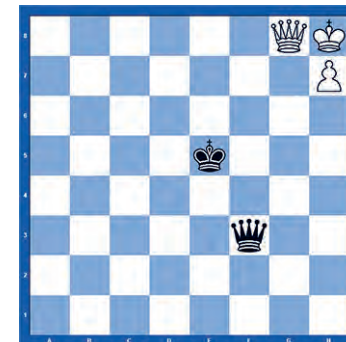
62.h6 ♕g2+ 63.♕g6 ♕b7+ 64.♕f7 [One of the points behind the ♔e5 idea becomes clear after: 64.♔f8 Black can continue checking 64...♕a8+ because 65.♕e8+ allows 65...♕xe8+! 66.♔xe8 ♔f6=]

64...♕g2+ 65.♔h8 ♕a8+ 66.♕g8



66...♕f3! Black would like to squeeze the king into the corner on h8. In many cases he is ready to trade off the queens.

67.♕g6 [The critical move was 67.h7! Black needs to find only move to hold, but I am quite sure that Nakamura would have played it.]



67...♕h5!! Black would like to play ♔f6 or ♔e6 with the idea of ♕f7 (just like in the game), and the h5 square is the only one from where he does not need to be afraid of checking the queen. (For instance after 67...♕f5 68.♕b8+! Black cannot play ♔f6 or ♔e6 because of ♕f8 and ♕c8

followed by exchanging the queens. 68...♔d4 69.♚b4+ ♔e3 70.♚e7+ ♔d2 White is winning here with the technique we have already examined before. He leaves with the king from h8 and protects it from the checks with the use of the Black king. 71.♔g8 ♚d5+ 72.♔f8 ♚f5+ 73.♔e8 ♚h5+ 74.♔d8 ♚a5+ 75.♚c7! ♚g5+ 76.♔c8+- And Black has no more checks.) 68.♚b8+ ♔f6 Black holds the draw, just like in the game.]

67... ♚f8+ 68. ♔h7 ♚f3 69. ♚g7+ ♔e6 Black has an easy draw from now on. He wants to put his queen on f7 or f8, keeping the White king in front of his pawn.

70. ♔g8 ♚h5! Nakamura shows that he would have been familiar with this idea in the 67.h7 line as well.

71.h7 ♚e8+ 72. ♚f8 ♚g6+ 73. ♔h8 ♚f7! The black king is squeezed and the draw is inevitable.

74. ♚c8+ ♔e7 75. ♚c7+ ♔e8 76. ♚e5+ ♔d7 77. ♚b5+ ♔e7 78. ♚g5+ ♔e8 79. ♚g8+ ♚f8 80. ♚xf8+ ♔xf8 1/2

Clash of the Titans

(17) Tal, Mihail – Gligoric, Svetozar [C93]

Candidates qf2 Belgrade (1), 1968

[Kamil Miton]

Some years ago I played in one event in Serbia and during the free day the organizers took me to Mr. Gligoric's place. I had the pleasure to meet this great chess player and although he was already quite old at this moment, he was in good shape, played the piano very well and also liked drinking wine. When I said to him that I am from Poland he told me that he has good memories from my country because he played there in 1947! ;-) Now I would like to comment on one of his nice games.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7
6.♖e1 b5 7.♙b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3



9...h6 Gligoric is going to play the plan with ♖e8-♙f8, which is a normal setup in the Zaitsev line. I don't know if keeping the bishop on c8 has some meaning. [9...♙b7 10.d4 ♖e8 leads to the famous Zaitsev line.]

10.d4 ♖e8 11.♘bd2 ♙f8 12.♘f1 White is playing the typical knight maneuver. We should note that compared to the correct Zaitsev line (with the bishop on b7 instead of the pawn on h6) White is not able to put the knight on g3 too easily because of some problems with the e4 pawn, which can be hanging.

12...♙b7 13.♘g3 ♘a5 [13...g6?! 14.♘h4± And black has problems with the g6 pawn. After ♔g7, the knight sacrifice on f5 can sometimes work.]

14.♙c2 ♘c4 15.a4 [15.b3 ♘b6 16.d5 c6∞ With good play for Black because White doesn't have the c4 move.]



15...d5! Black's pieces are not worse placed to fight for the center. This typical idea very often enables Black to equalize.

16.b3 [16.♘xe5 ♘xe5 17.dxe5 ♘xe4 (17...♖xe5 18.♙f4 ♖e6 19.e5↑) 18.♘xe4 dxe4 19.♔g4 ♖xe5 20.♙xh6 And White keeps some small pressure.]

16...dxe4 Black could also equalize after: [16...♘d6 17.dxe5 (17.exd5 exd4 18.♖xe8 ♔xe8 19.♔xd4 ♘xd5=) 17...dxe4 18.exf6 (18.exd6 exf3 19.♖xe8 ♘xe8 20.dxc7 ♔xc7 21.♔d3 ♘f6 22.♙f4 ♔xf4 23.♘h5 ♙e4 24.♘xf6+ gxf6 25.♔xe4 ♔xe4 26.♙xe4 ♖c8=) 18...exf3 19.♖xe8 ♘xe8

(19...♔xe8 20.♙xh6! gxh6 21.♖d3 ♘e4 22.♘xe4 ♙xe4 23.♖xe4 ♖xe4 24.♙xe4 ♖b8 25.♙xf3±) 20.♖xd8 ♖xd8 21.axb5 axb5 22.♖a7 ♖a8!]=]

17.♘xe4 ♘xe4 18.♙xe4 [18.♖xe4!? ♙xe4 19.♙xe4 ♘b6 20.♙xa8 ♘xa8 21.axb5 axb5 (21...e4 22.bxa6 exf3 23.♖xf3 ♖e1+ 24.♙h2↑) 22.♘xe5 ♖xe5 23.♖xa8 ♖xa8 24.dxe5 ♖e4 25.f4 ♙c5+ 26.♙h2 White is a pawn up but Black has enough compensation thanks to active pieces.]

18...♙xe4 19.♖xe4 ♖d5 The only move in order to not lose the e5 pawn.



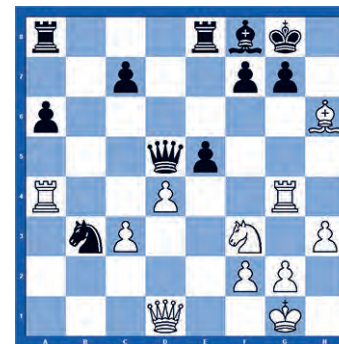
20.♖g4 Tal is true to his style and prepares an attack against the black king.

20...♘a5 21.♙xh6 ♘xb3 [21...♖xb3 22.♖c1 The queen of course needs to support the attack. (22.♘xe5 ♖xd1+ 23.♖xd1 ♖ad8± Black threatens to play ♖xe5 and he has good compensation.) 22...♖e6 23.♖g5 f6 24.♖h4 ♘c4 25.♖g3 ♖f7 26.dxe5 fxe5 27.♖e1↑]

22.♖a3 [22.♘xe5 ♘xa1 23.♖xg7+ ♙xg7 24.♖g4 ♙f8 25.♙xg7+ ♙e7 And White needs to look for perpetual checks.; 22.♖b1 bxa4 23.♘xe5 ♖e6 24.♙e3 c5±]

22...bxa4 [22...f5!?∞]

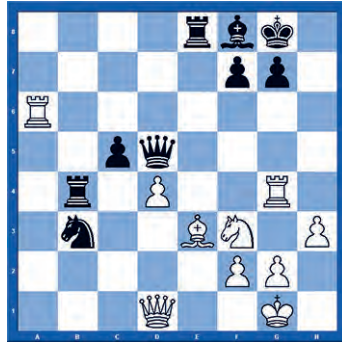
23.♖xa4



23...♖ab8 Black gives up the pawn but protects the b3 knight with the idea of getting some counterplay against the d4 pawn. [23...exd4 24.c4! (24.♘xd4 ♘xd4 25.♖axd4 ♖c6=) 24...♖b7 25.♘xd4 ♘xd4 26.♖xd4 ♖b1+ 27.♙h2 ♖h7 (27...g6 28.♙xf8 ♖xf8 29.♖h4±) 28.♙e3 White has some initiative thanks to his more active pieces.]

24.♖xa6 exd4 25.cxd4 Black has counterplay against the d4 pawn, but he also needs to be careful because White is a pawn up and has a potential possibility to get a strong attack. [25.♘xd4 c5 (25...♘xd4 26.cxd4 c5 27.♙e3 ♖b4± Xd4) 26.♖f3 (26.c4 ♖d7 27.♙xg7 ♙xg7 28.♖xg7+ ♙xg7 29.♖d6 ♖c8 30.♘xb3 ♖f5∞) 26...♖e1+ 27.♙h2 ♖e5+ 28.♙f4 ♘d2 29.♖d3 ♖h1+ 30.♙g3 ♘f1+ 31.♖xf1 ♖xf4+ 32.♖xf4 ♖xf1 33.♘f5±]

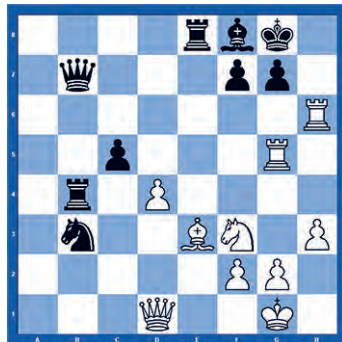
25...c5 26.♙e3 ♖b4 [26...cxd4 27.♘xd4 ♖b4 28.♖h4 ♙c5 29.♖h5 (29.♖ah6 only leads to a draw: 29...gxh6 30.♖g4+ ♙f8 31.♙xh6+ ♙e7 32.♙g5+ ♙d6 33.♙f4+ ♙e7 34.♙g5±) 29...♖e4 30.♘f5 ♙xe3 31.♘xe3±; 26...♖a8 27.♖e2 ♖xa6 28.♖xa6 ♖a8 29.♖f6 ♖a1+ 30.♙h2 ♖d6+ 31.♖xd6 ♙xd6+ 32.g3 f6 33.♙g2±]



27. Rg5?! Not the most accurate move, but the position is very complex and even the best attacking player in the world didn't manage to calculate all the possibilities. White should have played [27. Rh4! Nxd4 (27... Qe7 28. Ng5 Qxg5 29. Qh5 Qxh4 30. Qxd5 Nxd4 31. Qxc5±; 27... cxd4 28. Qd3 f5 29. Ng5 And now the very unpleasant threat is Qd1 with the tactical idea of playing Rh8!-Qh5-Qh7. 29... Qe7 30. Ra7→; 27... g6 28. Qd3→) 28. Nxd4 cxd4 29. Qd3 f5 30. Rxd4 Rxd4 31. Qxd4 Qxd4 32. Qxd4± Objectively the position should be drawish but Black will have to defend for a long time.]

27... Qb7 A good place for the queen because Black will sometimes threaten to play Rb1.

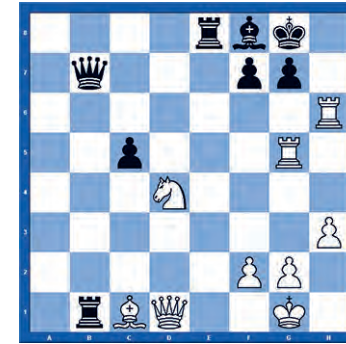
28. Rh6



28... Nxd4?! White could have gotten into trouble after [28... g6 A very simple move and the white attack is suddenly stopped. 29. Rhxg6+ (29. Rh4 Nxd4 30. Qxd4 cxd4 31. Qd3 Qg7 The white rooks are now very clumsily placed.) 29... fxg6 30. Rxxg6+ (30. Qd3 Qe4) 30... Qg7 And White doesn't have any attack anymore.]

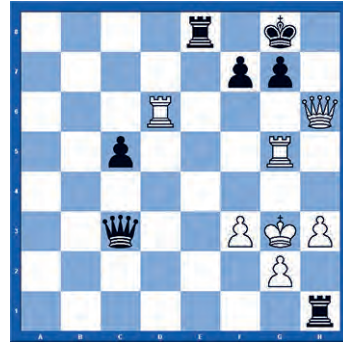
29. Nxd4 Rb1 [29... cxd4?? 30. Qh5+-]

30. Qc1



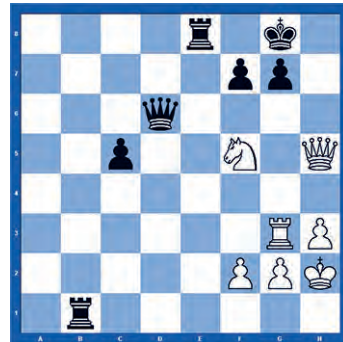
30... Qb2? looks nice, but this move is a big mistake. Black should have played [30... cxd4 31. Qh5 Rxc1+ 32. Qh2 Qc7+ 33. g3 g6 And here White at least has a draw: 34. Rh8+ Qg7 35. Rh7+ Qg8 (35... Qf6 36. Qf3+) 36. Rxxg6+ fxg6 37. Qxxg6+ Qg7 38. Rxxg7+ Qxxg7 39. Qxe8±]

31. Qh5?? The decisive mistake. We will soon see what was wrong with his calculation. White could have won after a very complicated variation: [31. Nb3 Qxb3 (31... g6 32. Rhxg6+ fxg6 33. Rxxg6+ Qg7 (33... Qf7 34. Rg3 With a strong attack.) 34. Qxb2 (34. Qd5+ Qh8 35. Qh5+ Qg8 36. Rxxg7+ Qxxg7 37. Qxe8 Rxc1+ 38. Qh2 Rc2 39. Qxc5 Rxf2=) 34... Rxd1+ 35. Qh2 Rb1 36. Rxxg7+ Qf8 37. Rg4 Rxb2 38. Rf4+ Qg7 39. Qxc5± The white pawns are too strong and White should be winning.) 32. Qh5 Rxc1+ 33. Qh2 Qd6+ 34. Rxd6 Qb1 35. Qh6 Rh1+ (35... Qh7 36. Qf6→) 36. Qg3 Qb3+ 37. f3 Qc3]



38. ♖f6! ♕e1+ 39. ♔g4 ♖e4+ 40. fxex4 ♕xe4+ 41. ♔g3 ♕e1+ 42. ♖f2 ♕e3+ 43. ♔g4 ♕e4+ 44. ♔h5 g6+ 45. ♖xg6+ ♕xg6+ 46. ♕xg6+ fxg6+ 47. ♔xg6+ -]

31... ♕xc1+ 32. ♔h2 ♖d6+ 33. ♖xd6 ♕f4+ 34. ♖g3 ♕xd6 35. ♖f5



35... ♖ee1! I suppose that Tal overlooked this trick when he played 31. ♕h5.

36. ♕xf7+ ♔xf7 37. ♖xd6+ ♔e6 38. ♖g6+ ♔d5 39. ♖f5 Black is winning now thanks to his quick c-pawn.

39... ♖b7 [39... c4 40. ♖e3+ ♖xe3 41. fxe3 c3 -+]

40. ♖e3+ [40. ♖g5]

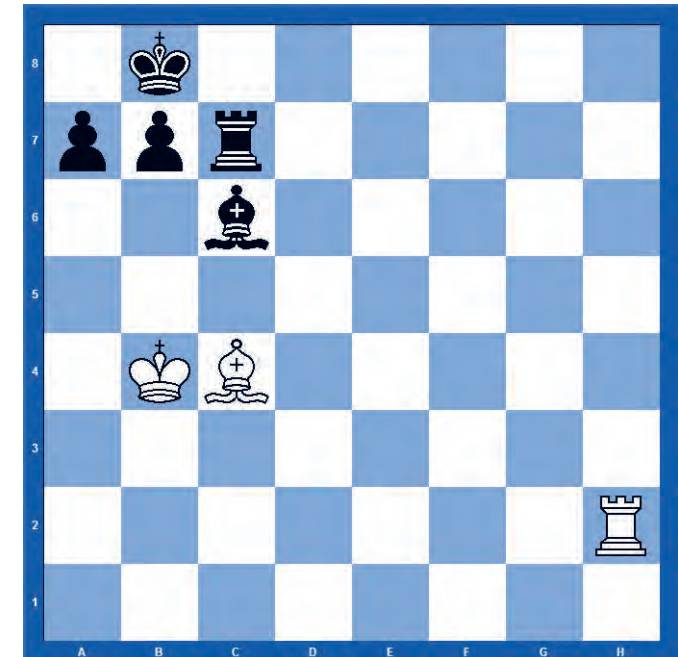
40... ♖xe3 41. fxe3 ♖c7 42. ♔g3 c4 43. ♔f4 c3 44. e4+ ♔c4 45. ♖a6 c2 46. ♖a1 ♔d3 0-1

Surprise section / study

(18) Greco

[CEWN]

1. =

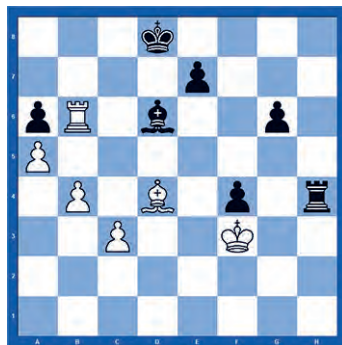


Solutions

(19) Kamsky,G (2741) – Dominguez Perez,L (2723)

Thessaloniki GP, 22.05.2013

[Solutions]



45. ♖xd6+! 1-0 [45. ♖xd6+ exd6 46. ♘f6+ ♔d7 47. ♘h4+-]

(20) Wei Yi (2530) – Ni Hua (2646)

Danzhou GM, 22.05.2013

[Solutions]

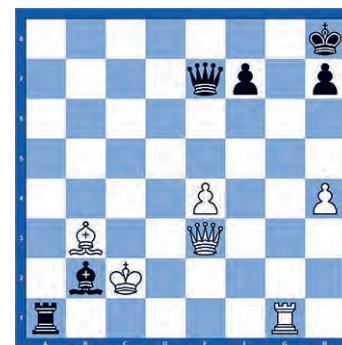


23...d4! 24. ♖xd4 ♘xb3--+

(21) Wei Yi (2530) – Xiu Deshun (2534)

Danzhou GM, 24.05.2013

[Solutions]



39... ♔c7+!! 40. ♔xb2 ♔e5+! 41. ♔c2 [41. ♔c3 ♔xc3+ 42. ♔xc3 ♖xg1--+] 41... ♔h2+!--+

(22) Cvek,R (2540) – Zilka,S (2525)

Czech Championship, 25.05.2013

[Solutions]



16...c4! 17. ♖xd6 [17.bxc4 ♖xa3--+]]

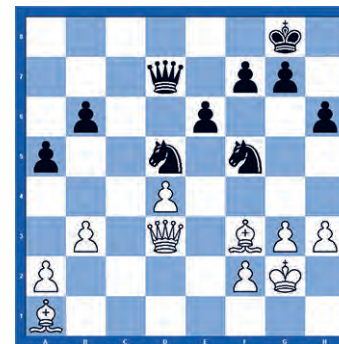
17...cxd3 18. ♔xd3 [18. ♖xe7 dxc2 19. ♖xd8 cxd1 ♔
20. ♖xd1 ♖xd8--+]]

18... ♔xd6--+

(23) Roiz,M (2617) – Postny,E (2637)

Beer Sheva rapid, 26.05.2013

[Solutions]



32... ♘h4+!! 33. ♔h2 [33.gxh4 ♘f4+--+]]

33... ♘b4! 34. ♔e2 ♘xf3+ 35. ♔xf3 ♘xa2--+

(24) Postny,E (2637) – Greenfeld,A (2538)

Beer Sheva rapid, 27.05.2013

[Solutions]



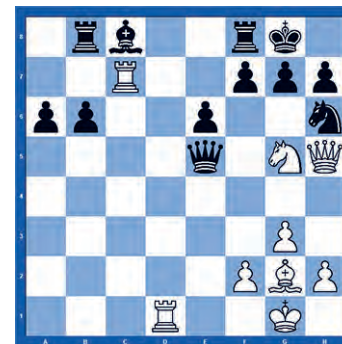
15...♘d5!! 16.♙e5 [16.cxd5 ♘b4-+]

16...♘xe3 17.fxe3 ♙c2-+

(25) Li Chao (2686) – Emperado,E (2313)

Asian Continental, 20.05.2013

[Solutions]



26.♙xf7!! ♙c5 [26...♘xf7 27.♙xh7#; 26...♙xf7 27.♙d8+ ♙f8 28.♙xf8+ ♙xf8 29.♘xh7+ ♙g8 30.♙xe5+-]

27.♙xf8+ ♙xf8 28.♙e4! ♙b7 [28...g6 29.♙xg6!+-]

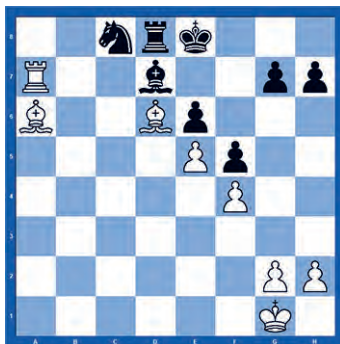
29.♙xb7 g6 [29...♙xb7 30.♘xe6+-]

30.♙h3+-

(26) Paragua,M (2550) – Sadorra,J (2561)

Asian Continental, 22.05.2013

[Solutions]



32. ♖xd7!! ♔xd7 [32... ♖xd7 33. ♘xc8+-]

33. ♘b5# 1-0

(27) Matikozian,A (2441) – Georgiev,V (2559)

Metropolitan GM, 18.05.2013

[Solutions]

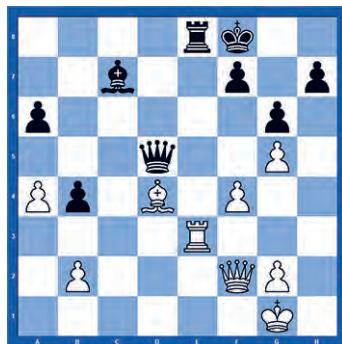


26. ♖xh7! 1-0 [26. ♖xh7 ♔xh7 (26... gxf5 27. ♖h8#)
27. ♔h3+ ♔g8 28. ♔h8#]

(28) Schmidt,W (2370) – Mastrovasilis,D (2610)

Polish league, 26.05.2013

[Solutions]

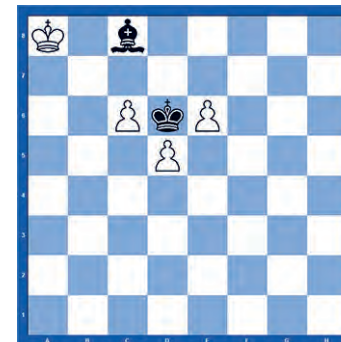


35. ♖g7+! [35. ♖c5+? ♜d6!=]

35... ♜xg7 36. ♖xe8+-

(29) Prokes

[Solutions]



1.e7!! [1. ♖b8? ♜xe6! 2.dxe6 ♜xc6=]

1... ♜xe7 2. ♖b8! [2.c7? ♜d6 3. ♖b8 ♜d7=]

2... ♜d8 [2... ♜h3 3. ♖c7+-]

3.d6 ♜a6 [3... ♜e6 4.c7+-]

4.d7! [4. ♖a7? ♜b5 5. ♖b7 ♜xc6+ 6. ♖xc6 ♜c8=]

4... ♜e7 5. ♖c7!+-



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 68

14th of June 2013

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Editorial Preface

And once again we could be the spectators of a great chess week.

Clearly the main event of the week has been the World Championship in Blitz and Rapid chess, which was held in Khanty-Mansisk. A great line-up of Super GMs was battling for the title.

The new World Rapid Chess Champion is Shahriar Mamedyarov with 11.5/15. Ian Nepomniachtchi finished in 2nd place with 11/15 and 3rd place went to Alexander Grischuk with 10.5/15.

In Blitz, Le Quang won with 20.5/30, 2nd place went to Alexander Grischuk and 3rd to Ruslan Ponomarev.

We saw a lot of great and very spectacular games from the event and we are of course going to comment a couple of them for You!

The Tal Memorial Blitz tournament was won by Nakamura with the great score of 7/9. Anand came 2nd with 6.5/9, while 3rd place went to Kramnik with 5.5/9.

We can be very curious about the upcoming games in normal chess.

The match between Ivanchuk and Giri ended 8.5-7.5 in favor of Ivanchuk.

Enjoy CEWN Nr 68!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Eljanov,Pavel (2707)
—Karjakin,Sergey (2782) [A07]

Kiev UKR Kiev UKR (3), 05.06.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

Sergey Karjakin completely deservedly won this tournament, but in this game he ran into an unpleasant defeat.

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.g3 Eljanov would like to avoid a theoretical battle and plays the Reti opening.

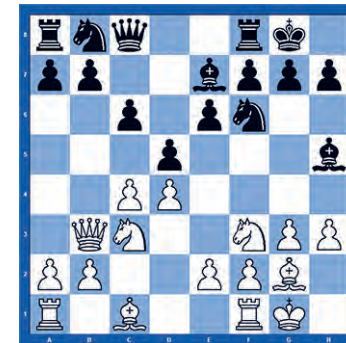
2...d5 3.♙g2 c6 4.0-0 ♙g4



5.h3 This is a rare move. In general Black decides what to do with the g4 bishop in accordance with White's setup. Sometimes it takes on f3, sometimes it goes back to h5-g6, but in some cases, for instance if Black has played ♘bd7 and e5, he can even retreat to e6. White wants to change the orders and he first asks what to do with the bishop and only then decides which setup to choose.

5...♙h5 6.c4 e6 7.♚b3 ♚c8 Black does not want to move into the the ♙f4 tempo, so he refrains from playing ♚c7. [However 7...♚b6 was much more logical. Doubling the b-pawns would just favor Black, while Black himself sometimes wants to take on b3. 8.d3 ♘bd7 9.♙e3 ♙c5 Black is ok.]

8.♘c3 ♙e7 9.d4 0-0



10.♙f4 White develops all his pieces in the most natural way. He seems to achieve some edge out of the opening.

10...♘bd7 11.♚ac1 ♘b6 We got a typical Slav pawn-structure, where this ♘b6 move is a known idea to force White to change the pawnstructure in Black's favour. In case White plays c5, the knight retreats to d7 and then Black will undermine the c5 pawn by playing b6. [11...dxc4 It made no sense to give up the center because after 12.♚xc4 ♘d5 White can save his bishop with 13.♙d2± and he is going to occupy the center with e4.]

12.cxd5 exd5



13. ♘e5! Making use of the 5.h3-♙h5 pair of moves! If they hadn't been included Black could simply trade the bishops with ♙h3 or retreat to e6 followed by ♘fd7, with a comfortable position. However as we will see, the bishop on h5 gets into some trouble.

13... ♖e8? After this natural move, Black gets into trouble. [13... ♔d8 was necessary in order to have 14.a4 a5!]

14.a4!! An extremely unpleasant move! Black is facing the simple threat of a5 and after ♘bd7 White wins a pawn with ♘xd5, thanks to the pin on the c-file. It is not easy to prevent this at all, since Black can neither play a5 because of the b6 knight nor leave the pin with the queen because this would leave the b7 pawn unprotected.

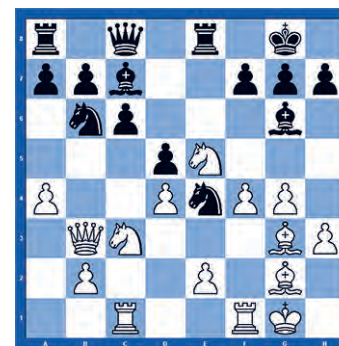
14... ♙d8 [14... ♙f8 15.a5 ♘bd7 16.g4 ♙g6 17.♘xg6 hxg6 18.♘xd5+- Black collapses.; 14... ♙d6 drops a piece after 15.g4! ♙g6 16.♘xg6+-]

15.g4 [15.a5!? was also good. 15... ♘c4 (15... ♘bd7 16.♘xd5!) 16.♘xc4 dxc4 17.♔xc4 ♙xa5 This was the point of ♙d8, but White has a big positional advantage after 18.b4 ♙b6 19.e3± followed by b5, opening the diagonal for the g2 bishop and destroying Black's pawnstructure. 19...

a6 20.d5! cxd5 21.♔xc8 ♖axc8 22.♘xd5 ♘xd5 23.♙xd5 And the b7 pawn will fall.]

15... ♙g6 16. ♙g3! With the idea of f4-f5, trapping the bishop. This threat is not easy to deal with because the other idea with a5 and ♘xd5 is also in the air.

16... ♙c7 17.f4 ♘e4 [On 17...h6 18.f5 ♙h7 19.e4!+- is kind of decisive, since Black cannot take on e4 because of the f7 pawn.]



18. ♙xe4! As we will see in the game, it is much more important to keep the c3 knight on the board rather than the g2 bishop.

18... ♙xe5 [Black loses the f7 pawn if he takes back immediately on e4: 18... ♙xe4 19.♘xe4 ♙xe5 20.fxe5+-; 18... dxe4 19.f5+-]

19.fxe5 dxe4 20.a5! One of the reasons for keeping the c3 knight instead of the g2 bishop is to control the d5 square, while another point can be seen in the 20...♘d7 line.

20... ♘d5 Karjakin tries to complicate the matters. [On 20...♘d7 White has 21.♘b5!+- followed by ♘d6, which wins material and the game!]

21. ♖xd5 ♕e6 White cannot save the piece, but he can sacrifice it in order to destroy Black's pawnstructure.



22. ♘f6+! gxf6 **23.** ♔e3! Black's king is in huge danger. White is threatening to play ♕h6 and ♙h4-f6. [23. ♕xb7 was also winning, but Eljanov is playing for mate.]

23...f5 [23...fxe5 24. ♙xe5+- Followed by ♕h6.]



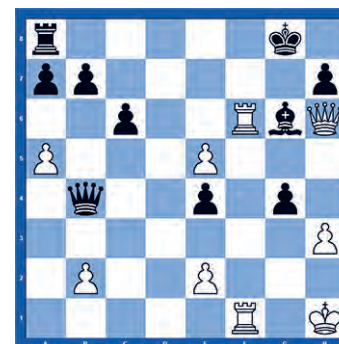
24. ♙h4! f6 The only move to open the seventh rank in order to defend against the mate with ♙f6 and ♕h6-g7, but Black is lost anyway. [24...fxg4 25. ♙f6 is over.]

25. ♙xf6 [25.gxf5 ♙xf5 26. ♙xf6+- was also winning.]

25...fxg4 26. ♕h6 ♖e7 This is equal to resignation, but the game was over anyway. [On 26... ♕d7 27.h4! is finishing the game as h5 is coming next.]

27. ♙xe7 ♕xe7 **28.** ♖f6 White is huge material up and he continues attacking.

28...♕d7 29. ♖cf1 ♕xd4+ **30.** ♔h1 ♕b4 It is time to make the final blow!



31. ♖xg6+! hxg6 **32.** ♕xg6+ ♔h8 **33.** ♕h5+ [Black resigned in view of 33. ♕h5+ ♔g8 (33... ♔g7 34. ♖f7+ ♔g8 35. ♕h7#) 34. ♕xg4+ ♔h8 35. ♕h5+ ♔g8 36. ♕g5+ ♔h8 37. ♖g1+- Followed by mate on the next move. An impressive win.]

1-0

(2) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar (2753) — Inarkiev, Ernesto (2680) [D31]

FIDE World Rapid 2013 Khanty-Mansiysk RUS (15.1),
08.06.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

It is with this game that Mamedyarov became the new World Champion in Rapid chess, so to comment this game is a must! We will see not a very high level game, but we are literally able to taste the tension of the fight for the WC title!

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 a6 A rare line, but not a stupid move at all, especially in rapid chess. Mamedyarov had to win this game to take the title, as a draw would only give him 2nd place...

4.cxd5 [The idea of the move 3... a6 is easily visible after 4.♘f3 dxc4 5.e4 b5]

4...exd5



5.♙f4 Now we have some sort of Queen's Gambit, but with the move a6 for Black, which we can count as a „lost

half tempo“. On the other hand, Black now has other development plans...

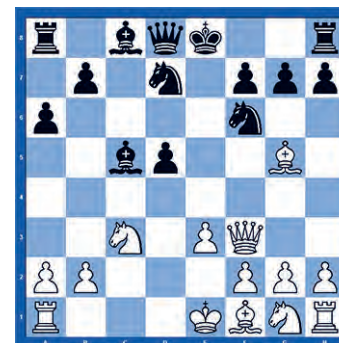
5...♘f6 6.e3 ♙d6!? I like this move a lot! Now we can see the difference: usually Black has his bishop on e7, but here ♙d6 is looking much stronger.

7.♚f3 Mamedyarov is searching for complications! The more solid move 7. ♙xd6 ♚xd6 8. ♙d3 would of course have led to a minimally better position of White.

7...c5 Black is also not afraid of sharp play. The position is quickly getting complicated. [Black could have played 7...0-0 8. ♙g5 Nothing else makes much sense for White. 8... ♙e6 9. ♙xf6 ♚xf6 10. ♚xf6 gxf6 And I think that if White is better here, it is only a very minimal advantage.]

8.dxc5 ♙xc5 9. ♙g5 White is immediately trying to put a maximum of pressure on the d5 pawn.

9...♘bd7!? Nice play. The d5 pawn cannot be taken now and Black is hoping to get fast play on the queenside.



10.0-0-0 ♚a5 A typical rapid game move. Objectively it is not the best one, but practically it is very strong. [After 10... ♙e7 Black would remain with a nice position.]

11. ♘ge2?! After this move, Black is probably just better. [White should have gone for the more concrete 11. ♘xd5 0–0 The game is now getting very direct: 12. ♘xf6+ ♘xf6 13. ♙xf6 gxf6 It looks like Black has enough play, but White has a big joker in his hands... 14. ♖b1 ♙e6 How to protect the a2 pawn now? 15. ♙c4! Only this move gives White a clear advantage! The check on g4 is saving White, but such a line is of course not easy to see, especially in rapid chess.]

11...0–0 And we can see that Black's play on the queen-side is clearly more advanced than White's threats on the d5 pawn.

12. ♘d4! A good and solid move by White.

12... ♙b4 [12... ♘e4!? would have led to very sharp play.]

13. ♘b3 ♖c7 It looks like the position could almost be a draw!

14. ♖f4?! Objectively a bad move, but White is showing an amazing will to win the game and avoid a fast draw. [A normal move like 14. ♙f4 ♖c6 15. ♘d4 ♖c5 16. ♘b3 ♖c6 would lead to a repetition of moves.]



14... ♖xf4?! Black „chickens out“ from a real fight. [14... ♙d6! would have been a „real“ move. 15. ♖f5 b5 With a very fighting position, but the initiative should probably be on Black's side.]

15. ♙xf4 ♙xc3 16. bxc3 ♘e4 We have reached a strange endgame. I would say the position should be around equal.

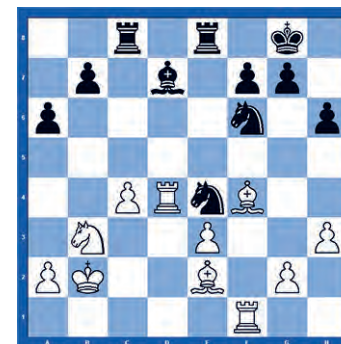
17. ♖xd5 ♘xf2 18. ♖g1 ♘f6 White has the bishop pair, but Black the much better pawn structure and a huge knight on e4!

19. ♖d4 ♙d7 A nice way to develop the pieces. Now the bishop from d7 can take place on c6, on b5, or even come back to e6 or f5, all options are open.

20. ♙e2 ♖ac8 21. ♖b2 ♖fe8 All black pieces are developed, and so are the white ones.

22. h3 h6 2 accurate moves.

23. ♖f1 ♘2e4 24. c4 The position remains quite unbalanced, but the evaluation should be around equal. But on the next move we will see how big the pressure is in such a game!



24...♘g5?? What a terrible blunder...

25. ♖xg5 hxg5 26. ♖xf6! This tactic is too easy to miss.

26...gxf6 27. ♖xd7 It seems like the game is just over. White has a rook on the 7th rank and his bishop will soon join the attack.

27...♖xe3 28. ♖h5 b5!? Black is trying all his practical chances in this lost position.

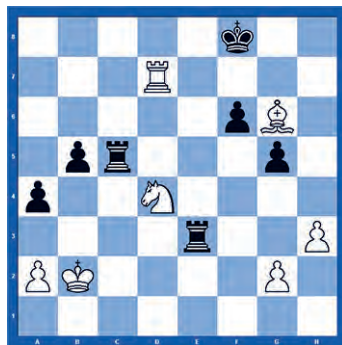
29.c5 Closing the c-file.

29...a5!? And again Black is fighting!

30. ♖xf7+ ♔f8 31. ♖g6? What a mistake by White! Being only one step from a World Championship Title, Mamedyarov is getting nervous. [After the simple 31. ♖d5 a4 32. ♘d4 a3+ it looks like Black has found some small counterplay, but in fact the game is just over. 33. ♔c2 ♖xc5+ 34. ♔d2 White should easily be winning here.]

31...a4 Black misses his best chance. [31...♖e2+ 32. ♔c3 ♖xg2 And White would still have to „work” for a full point.]

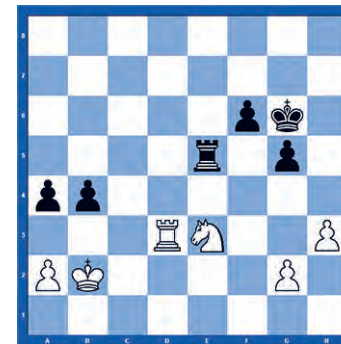
32. ♘d4 ♖xc5 Falling into a little trap:



33. ♖d8+! A nice little trick, winning a bit more of Black's material.

33...♔g7 34. ♘f5+ ♔xg6 35. ♘xe3 The position is now of course completely winning, but some small technique is still needed.

35...b4 36. ♖d3 ♖e5



37.g4! A good move, fixing Black's pawn structure.

37...♖e4 38. ♘c2 White just wants to play ♖d4 next.

38...♖e2 39. ♔c1 The b4 pawn is hanging.

39...f5 40. ♖d6+ ♔f7 41.gxf5 b3 Black is trying the last tricks, but of course nothing works.

42.axb3 axb3 43. ♘d4 ♖e3 44. ♘c6 ♔f8 45.f6 The f-pawn is the future Queen :)

45...♔f7 46. ♘d8+ ♔f8 47.f7 ♖f3 48. ♖e6 What a game! Congratulations to Mamedyarov on his new WCC title in rapid chess!

1-0

(3) Karjakin,Sergey (2782) – Topalov,Veselin (2784) [C11]

Sberbank GM Rapid Kiev UKR (4), 06.06.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

Karjakin and Topalov were dominating the very strong field of the rapid tournament in Kiev. In the end Karjakin really needed this victory over his main rival.

1.e4 e6 A small surprise by Topalov, who usually plays the Najdorf.

2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e5 ♘fd7 5.f4 c5 6.♘f3 ♘c6 7.♙e3
We have reached the starting position of the 3.♘c3 ♘f6 systems of the French defence. Black can choose between various different setups here, Topalov goes for the old mainline.

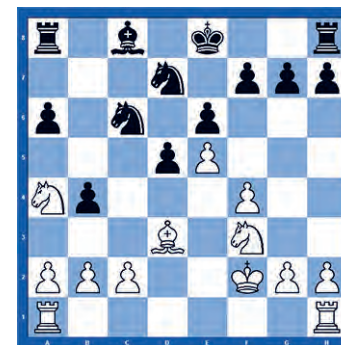


7...a6 [Nakamura recently enjoyed playing the most direct 7...cxd4 8.♘xd4 ♙b6 9.♙d2 ♙xb2 with very long and sharp lines.]

8.♙d2 b5 9.dxc5 White's strategy in most of the lines is to consolidate a knight on d4. In the opening part he usually does a lot of efforts to achieve this.

9...♙xc5 10.♙d3 Karjakin has already tried this rare move a few times. White first develops his bishop to its ideal place and then he intends to transfer the c3 knight to d4 through the e2 square. [10.♙xc5 is the most common move 10...♘xc5 11.♙f2 ♙b6 12.♙d3 but Black gets counterplay after 12...b4! 13.♘e2 a5! 14.0–0 ♙a6! Black wants to get the e4 square to compensate for the d4 one. There are still hundreds of games, but current theory shows that Black should be fine here.]

10...d4? Topalov played this most direct move without thinking, but Karjakin was well prepared against it. After this game, I doubt that anyone will repeat it on the highest level. [10...♙b6 11.♙f2 This is the point of the whole setup with 10.♙d3: White does not lure the knight to c5, which makes it possible to answer 11...b4 with 12.♘a4! ♙xf2+ 13.♙xf2 ♙xf2+ 14.♙xf2



This kind of typical French endgame is always slightly better for White. He has a space advantage and he is better on both sides of the board. There are many different ways to improve the position, for instance by playing ♖ac1 and c3 or taking ground on the kingside by advancing the pawns. The a5–♙a6 plan is less effective now, as White

can either just wait for ♖xd3 and cxd3 after which the c-file opens in his favour, or he can also play ♖b5, working out the d4 square for the knight.]

11. ♖xd4 ♖xd4

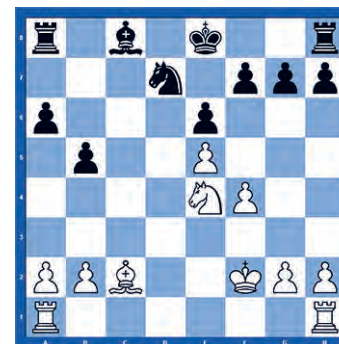


12. ♖e4!! A huge novelty and a great preparation! The following lines show that Black is unable to save his extra piece and he ends up in a bad position everywhere. [It looks like the only way to win back the piece is 12. ♖e4 but in this case Black gets more than enough compensation after 12... ♖b6! 13. ♖xa8 ♖c4 14. ♖xd4! is the only move to stay in the game. (14. ♖d3 ♖xe3 just wins for Black!) 14... ♖xd2 15. ♖xc5 b4! This had to be Topalov's preparation. The game remains unclear, but Black is fine in all the lines. 16. ♖xb4 ♖b6! is the point with the double threat on b4 and e3. This would have been nice, but Karjakin's 12th move seems to refute the whole idea.]

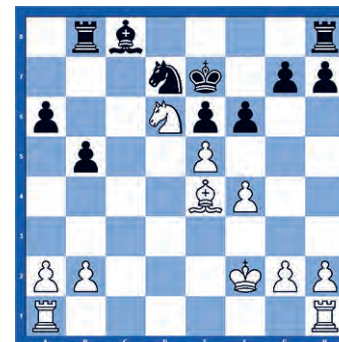
12... ♖h4+ [On 12... ♖b7 13. ♖xd4 ♖xd4 14. ♖d6+ wins the bishop.; 12...0-0 White has two good moves now: 13. ♖xc5 (13.c3!? is also good enough.) 13... ♖xc5 14. ♖xd4 With a clear extra pawn, since Black cannot take on d4. 14... ♖xd3+ (14... ♖xd4? 15. ♖xh7+-) 15. ♖xd3±; 12... ♖xc2+ is the only move that keeps the balance at least

materially, but Black's position also remains very bad here. 13. ♖xc2± White has a clear advantage because of the e4 knight, which is ready to jump to d6.; On 12... ♖b6 White wins back the piece after 13. ♖d6+ ♖f8 14. ♖e4 attacking two pieces in one move.]

13. ♖f2 ♖g4 [13... ♖xc2+ was a better practical try 14. ♖xc2 ♖xf2+ 15. ♖xf2 ♖xf2+ 16. ♖xf2



16... ♖e7 but after some really energetic moves, White gets very close to be winning: 17. ♖d6! At first sight this move might look premature as it allows Black to undermine the e5 pawn 17...f6 18. ♖e4 ♖b8 but now White can focus on bringing both of his rooks to the action and he does not need to pay attention to his central pawns...



19.♖ac1! fxe5 20.♖hd1! Black has no adequate defense against the penetration with ♖c7! 20...exf4 21.♖c7+-]

14. ♖xd4! This is the most precise way to win the piece back. [After 14.♗xc5 ♗xc5 15. ♖xd4 Black gets very good compensation on the light squares 15...♗xd3+ 16.cxd3 0–0 Followed by ♖b7 and ♖fd8. Despite being a pawn down, Black is probably not worse at all.]

14... ♖xd4 15. ♗d6+ ♖e7 [15...♖f8 makes no difference to the game: 16. ♖e4 ♖xb2 17.♖b1+-]

16. ♖e4 White wins the material back and he retains extremely good mating chances with the knight on d6 against the black king, which is stuck in the center.

16... ♖xb2 17. ♖b1 ♖a3 [17...♖b8 18.♖xb2 Despite the material equality, Black's position is hopeless. For instance after 18...♖d8 19.♖b4 wins.]

18. ♖xa8+- White is an exchange up and he continues attacking.

18... ♖c5 19. ♖f3 ♖g6 20. ♗e4 Whenever the bishop leaves the a3-f8 diagonal ♖b4 will win the game.

20... ♖d8 21. ♖d1 ♖b6 22. ♖b4+ 1–0

(4) Giri,Anish (2734) – Ivanchuk,Vassily (2753) [A01]

26th Leon Masters g5 Leon ESP (1), 09.06.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

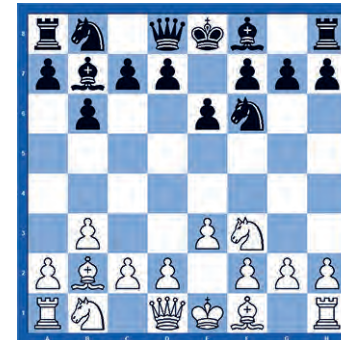
The blitz match between Giri and Ivanchuk started with a funny game, which deserves some attention.

1.b3 A bit of a provocation by Giri

1...b6 and a deserved answer by Ivanchuk :)

2. ♖b2 ♖b7 3. ♗f3 Lately 1.b3 became somewhat more „fashionable“. Jobava played a lot of games in normal chess and even Kramnik has tried it a couple of times. Of course it is just an attempt to play „normal chess“ without much theory.

3...e6 4.e3 ♗f6 Until here we got a symmetrical position.



5.g3?! I don't like this move too much. It would have been better for White to get back to „normal“ lines by playing 5.c4.

5... ♖e7 6. ♖g2 0–0 Black does not hurry with playing d5 or c5 and tries to first figure out what White is actually going to do.

7.0–0 c5 The most logical move, but 7...d5 would have been fine too.

8.c4 d6?! Why so shy?! 8...d5 would have given Black nice play.

9.♘c3 ♘bd7 10.d4 And we are back to a „normal“ chess position. White wants to play d5 next.

10...♘e4 A normal way of playing this kind of position. On one hand it does not stop the d5 move, but on the other hand the d5 move is not going to be that strong anymore after Black managed to exchange one pair of knights.

11.d5?! A logical, but probably wrong positional decision. [11.♙c2 With a normal position.]

11...♘xc3 12.♙xc3



12...exd5! The right decision. Black's future play on the queenside is going to be very effective.

13.cxd5 ♙f6 The right choice once again. To exchange the black squared bishops is definitely good for Black.

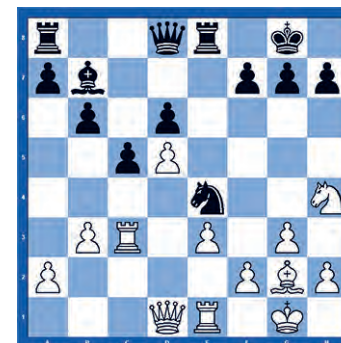
14.♙c1 ♙xc3 15.♙xc3 ♘f6 Black is putting his pieces on good squares before starting the march on the queen-side.

16.♘h4 A typical move. White's main idea is to play e4-f4-e5.

16...♙e8 Avoiding e4.

17.♙e1 And White is trying to play e4.

17...♘e4?! Black probably blundered White's next move. [17...b5 followed by ♙b6 would have given Black nice play.]



18.♙c4! And the white knight has no other choice but to go back.

18...♘f6 19.e4 g6 Usually a good move in order to cut the white knight on h4, but the game is getting quite tricky now.

20.f4 White is ready for the main push of the position: e5.

20...b5 21.♙c2 ♙b6 Black is trying to put his pieces as good as possible against the e5 push.

22.e5 As we will see later this move is mistake, but it was very hard to calculate everything. [22.♔h1 with the idea of playing e5 would have been more accurate.]

22...dxe5 23.fxe5 It looks like White managed to do what he wanted, but...



23...♞xd5! A very strong piece sacrifice! Things are getting very complicated now.

24.♞xd5 ♜ad8 White is suddenly in a very unpleasant pin.

25.♞d2 [After 25.♞xf7+ ♔xf7 Black is of course clearly better. The white knight on h4 is totally out of the game]

25...c4+ This was Black's main idea, which was probably missed by White.

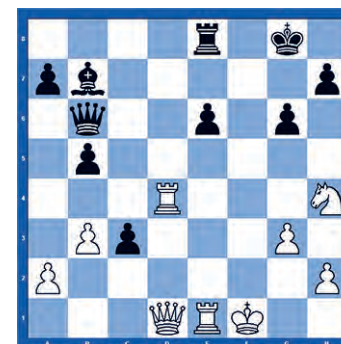
26.♔f1 c3



27.e6! White manages to find a nice resource under pressure. [27.♞d3 was losing as after 27...c2 the c-pawn is unstoppable. 28.♞d2 ♜xd5 29.♞xd5 ♞xd5 30.♞xd5 ♞d8 Followed by ♞d2 or ♞d1 with a winning position for Black.]

27...♞xd5?! Not the best choice. [After 27...♞xd5 28.♞xd5 fxe6 29.♞d3 the position would have remained very complicated.]

28.♞xd5 fxe6 29.♞d4? A big mistake, after which Black is taking over. [29.♞d3! would have been the right square for the white rook. 29...♞f8+ 30.♞f3 c2 31.♞e2 And White should be better here.]



29...e5! Ivanchuk doesn't miss his chance. ♞f8 is now a deadly threat.

30.♞f5 White already doesn't have any good move anymore.

30...♞f8 31.♞xe5 c2! White is losing material and the game.

32.♞xc2 ♞xd4 This would have been a good moment to resign, but Giri continues the game like in a rush.

33.♞e8 ♞a1+ 34.♔f2 ♞xe8 Black is a full rook up.

35. ♖h6+ ♔h8 **36.** ♖f7+ ♔g7 White has no more checks.

37. ♔c7 ♔e1# It must have been a big pleasure for Ivanchuk to mate his opponent who has started the game with 1.b3, which can be interpreted as a sign of some disrespect!

0-1

Puzzle section

(5) Mamedyarov,S (2753) – Nguyen Ngoc,T (2625)

World rapid Championship, 06.06.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

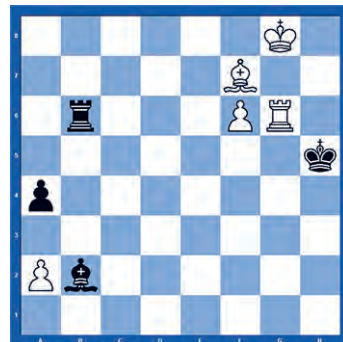


(6) Rublevsky,S (2695) – Safarli,E (2660)

World rapid Championship, 06.06.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(7) Vasquez,R (2542) – Khairullin,I (2658)

World rapid Championship, 06.06.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



(8) Inarkiev,E (2680) – Al Sayed,M (2498)

World rapid Championship, 06.06.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

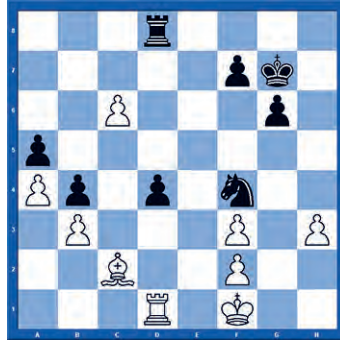


(9) Akopian,V (2691) – Kamsky,G (2741)

World rapid Championship, 07.06.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

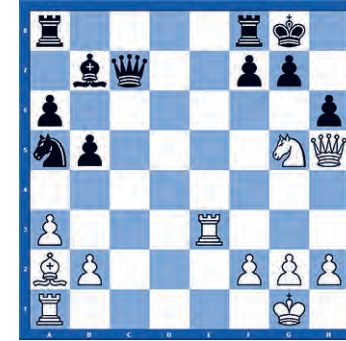


(11) Zvjaginsev,V (2659) – Vasquez,R (2542)

World rapid Championship, 08.06.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

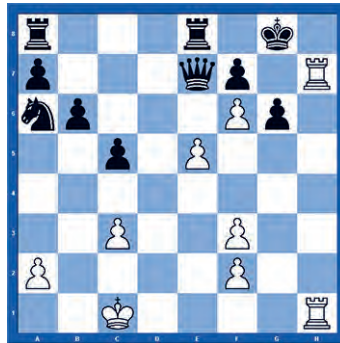


(10) Dreev,A (2668) – Riazantsev,A (2708)

World rapid Championship, 08.06.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

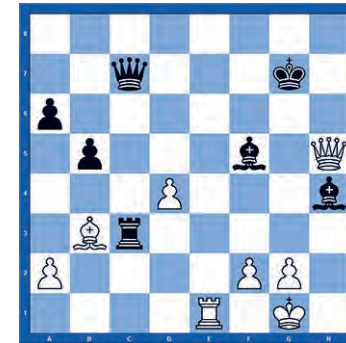


(12) Swiercz,D (2631) – Nyzhnyk,I (2635)

French league, 05.06.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



(13) Fressinet,L (2693) – Sebag,M (2527)

French league, 06.06.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(14) Delchev,A (2622) – Fedorchuk,S (2660)

French league, 08.06.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



Endgame section

(15) Nepomniachtchi, I (2717)
— Mamedyarov, S (2753)

World rapid Championship, 07.06.2013

[Chess Evolution]



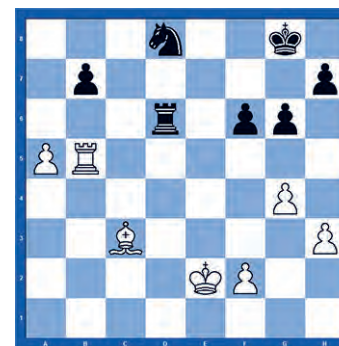
White has a small advantage in this endgame. First of all the bishop is stronger than the knight when there are pawns on both sides. Black cannot activate his rook because it must always guard the b7 pawn. Black's pawn structure on the kingside is also not the most fortunate one with the hole on f6. It would have been much better to keep the h7-g7-f6 formation and bring the king to f7-e6. But it is of course going to be very difficult for White to convert the advantage with such a limited material.

31. Rxc5 White creates the threat of a6 and activates his rook, which had nothing to do on g5.

31... Rd6 32. g4! A strong positional move with the idea of gaining space on the kingside and restricting the mobility of the black pawns.

32... f6 Black would like to bring his king closer to the center, but on the other hand the f6 pawn becomes slightly vulnerable.

33. Rb5 Nd8 The only way to protect the b7 pawn, since Rd7 would drop the f6 pawn.



34. Bb4 Trying to confuse the coordination between the black pieces.

34... Rd7 [If the rook leaves the d-file, White can play 34... Rc6? 35. Rd5! followed by Rd7.]

35. Rb6 Kf7 36. Bc3 Further activating of the pieces forces Black to allow the White king to go to the kingside.

36... Re7+ [36... Nc6? runs into 37. a6!]

37. Kd3! This is another huge achievement by White. The king might very quickly get to the b7 pawn.

37... Re6 38. Rb5! White needs his active rook on the board in order to increase his advantage.

38... Rd6+ 39. Kc4 Ke6



40.f4! White is ready to push f5. If Black takes it, after ♖xf5 he will already have three weak pawns and if he doesn't, he will be pushed back into even bigger passivity.

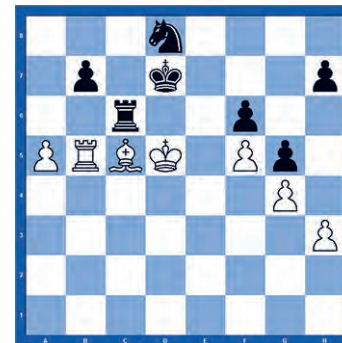
40...♖c6+ 41.♔d3 ♖d6+ 42.♔e4 And f5 now becomes inevitable.

42...♖c6 43.♙d4 ♔d7 44.f5! If it was White's move, he would play h5, creating the threat of a breakthrough with fxc6-hxc6 and h5. Black's position is getting more and more unpleasant.

44...g5 Not an easy decision. Black fixes his own pawns on the color of the bishop. This is against the principles, but the h4 idea was too threatening.

45.♙c5 White would like to get his king to d5 and he therefore prevents ♖d6.

45...♔e8 46.♔d5 ♔d7

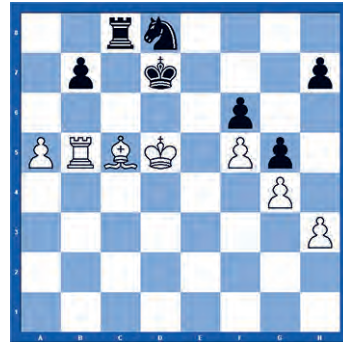


47.♖b3 Nepomniachtchi finds the right plan to transfer the rook to the e-file, but he makes an inaccuracy in the execution. [47.♔c4! was the way to win 47...♖c7 (On 47...♖a6 48.♙b6! ♘c6 49.♖d5+ ♔e7 50.♙b5 ♖a8 51.♖d3! Black is in zugzwang. Let's check his options: 51...♔e8 (51...♖a6 is refuted by 52.♖c3! with the threat of ♖xc6 and on 52...♖a8 53.a6! ♖xa6 54.♖xc6 wins.) 52.♖d6 ♔e7 53.♖xc6! bxc6+ 54.♔xc6 And the a-pawn automatically promotes after ♔b7.) 48.♖b3 ♘c6 49.♙b5 White wins. The next step could for instance be ♖d3-d6. 49...♘xa5 (49...♘e5 50.♙d4+-) 50.♖d3+ ♔e8 51.♙b6+-]

47...♖a6! Black quickly finds counterplay against the a5 pawn. White has to look for another plan.

48.♖b5 ♖c6 Instead of ♔c4, White now tries a triangulation.

49.♔e4 ♔e8 50.♔d4 ♔d7 51.♔d5 ♖c8? [51...♖a6 was the only chance, White can switch to the right plan with ♔c4 anytime.]



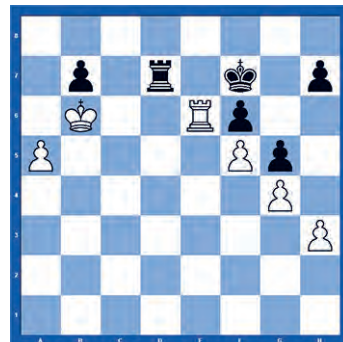
52. ♖b6! The game is over now. After trading the minor pieces, the rook endgame is winning.

52...♙e7 [52...♘c6 loses to the double attack after 53. ♖d4! ♘xd4 54. ♖xb7+-; 52...♘f7 53. ♖d4+- also wins material.]

53. ♖xd8+ ♖xd8+ 54. ♖c5 ♖d7 With pawns as weak as the ones on f6 and b7 and without a chance to find some active counterplay or creating a passed pawn, Black is forced to stay in passivity, but then his loss is just a matter of time.

55. ♖b6 ♖c7+ 56. ♖b5 The plan is to play ♖e6 followed by ♖b6.

56...♙f7 57. ♖d6 ♙e7 58. ♖e6+ ♙f7 59. ♖b6 ♖d7



60. ♖e3! White finishes the game by transferring his rook to c7!

60...h5 61. ♖c3 hxg4 62. hxg4 Black resigned! An impressive technical victory of Nepomniachtchi, which might remind us of the best days of Anatoly Karpov.

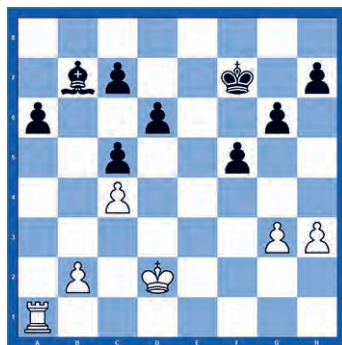
1-0

(16) Vallejo Pons, Francisco (2706)
— Ponomarev, Ruslan (2743) [C45]

FIDE World Rapid 2013 Khanty-Mansiysk

RUS (15.8), 08.06.2013

[Chess Evolution]



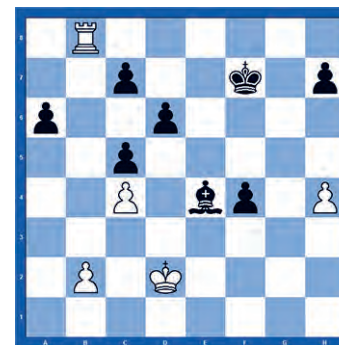
We are facing a very interesting endgame. It is clear that White should be better, but things are far from clear. White's idea is simply to get the rook to the 8th rank and to start attacking Black's pawns, but we will only see if this is enough for a full point during the next moves.

31. ♖a3 g5! The only move! It is time to create fast counterplay, otherwise White's ♖b3-♖b8 could be deadly.

32. ♖b3 ♗g2 Provoking White to play h4.

33. h4 gxh4 34. gxh4 f4 By getting a free f-pawn, Black is gaining clear play.

35. ♖b8 ♗e4 From e4, the bishop will protect the h7 pawn as well as the c-pawn once he advances to c6.



36. ♖c8 c6 37. ♖a8 White is going to take one of Black's pawns, but this is giving Black enough time to activate his king.

37... ♔f6 38. ♖xa6 ♔f5 The black king is going to take the h-pawn.

39. ♔e2 ♔g4 40. ♖a7 White tries to bring his rook back into the game.

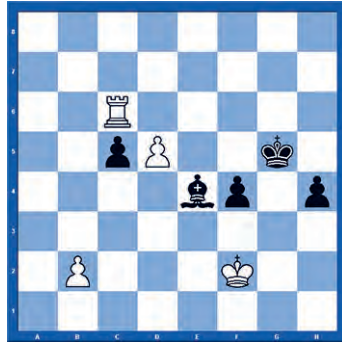
40... ♔xh4 41. ♔f2 ♔g5 By now it is clear that the game will most likely end in a draw.

42. ♖e7 d5 We are now entering a very forced line which ends with a draw agreement.

43. ♖e6 The c6 pawn is falling, but Black's h-pawn is very fast.

43... h5 44. ♖xc6 h4 The black bishop on e4 is a beast!

45. cxd5



45...h3 Another only move!

46.♔g1 f3 White will have to give the rook back, but Black will have no more pawns left.

47.♖xc5 f2+ 48.♔xf2 h2 And we can see that a draw is the logical result here.

49.d6+ ♔f6 50.d7 ♔e7 The rest of the game needs no comments.

51.♖h5 h1♔ 52.♖xh1 ♖xh1 53.d8♔+ ♔xd8 54.b4

What we can learn from such an endgame is that a centrally placed bishop is sometimes as strong as a rook!

1/2

Clash of the Titans

(17) Fischer, Robert James
— Cardoso, Radolfo Tan [B11]

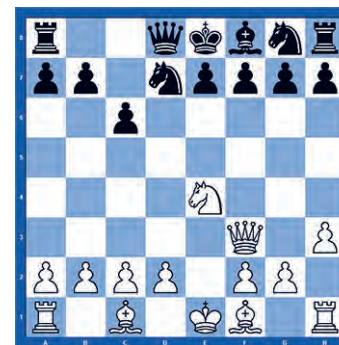
Portoroz Interzonal Portoroz (20), 1958

[Kamil Miton]

1.e4 c6 2.♘c3 d5 3.♗f3 dxe4 A rare move. Black usually plays [3...♙g4 4.h3 ♙xf3 (Worse is 4...♙h5 5.exd5 cxd5 6.♙b5+ ♘c6 7.g4 ♙g6 8.♗e5 and White has the unpleasant idea to play h4 next.) 5.♙xf3 e6 6.d4 (6.d3 leads to a position where both sides have many different plans.) 6...dxe4 7.♗xe4 ♙xd4 8.♙d3 White has some compensation thanks to his better development.]

4.♗xe4 ♙g4 5.h3 ♙xf3 [5...♙h5 6.♗g3 ♙xf3 (6...♙g6 7.h4! And Black will have problems with the bishop: 7...h6 8.♗e5 ♙h7 9.♙h5 g6 10.♙f3 ♗f6 11.♙b3 ♙d5 12.♙xb7 ♙xe5+ 13.♙e2+-) 7.♙xf3 e6 8.♙c4 ♗f6 9.c3 ♗bd7 10.d4 White has a long term advantage because of the bishop pair but on the other hand Black's position is very solid in this kind of structures.]

6.♙xf3 ♗d7 [6...e6 7.b4!? An interesting move with the idea of immediately putting the bishop on an open position after b5 as well.]

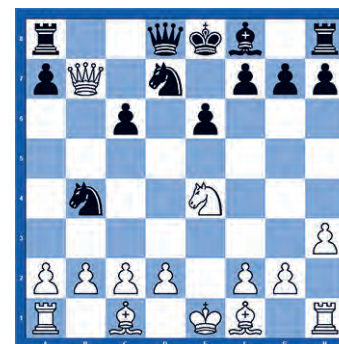


7.♗g5?! The beginning of a wrong plan. [7.♙c4 ♗e5=; 7.d4 was the correct move. 7...♗gf6 8.c3 e6 9.♙d3 ♗xe4 10.♙xe4 ♙d6]

7...♗gf6 8.♙b3 e6 9.♙xb7 White won a pawn but in return Black gets a better development and the queen could also be under pressure on b7 soon.

9...♗d5 10.♗e4 [10.♙xc6 ♖c8 11.♗xe6 ♖xc6 12.♗xd8 ♗xd8 13.c3 ♖e6+ 14.♙d1 And Black should be better, especially thanks to the idea of ♖f6 in order to force White to play f3 and thus weaken his kingside structure.; 10.d4 ♙e7 11.♗e4 ♗b4 12.♙d3 ♖b8 13.♙xa7 ♖a8 14.♙b7 With at least a draw or: 14...♙a5 15.♙d2 ♖b8 16.♙xc6 ♗xc6 17.♙xa5 ♗xa5 18.0-0-0 0-0-0]

10...♗b4



11.♔d1 The king seems to be safe on d1, but the queen on b7 is in much bigger trouble.

11...f5 12.c3 [12.a3 ♖b8 13.♙xa7 ♖a8 14.♙d4 fxe4 15.♙xe4 ♙f6 16.♖b1 ♘d5 And again one piece should be better than three pawns.]

12...♖b8 13.♙xa7 fxe4?! An inaccuracy as Black could have gotten a strong initiative after [13...♘d5 14.♙a4 (14.c4 ♘5b6 15.♘g3 ♙c5↑) 14...fxe4 15.♙xe4 ♘c5↑]

14.cxb4 ♙xb4 15.♙d4 0-0 16.♙c4

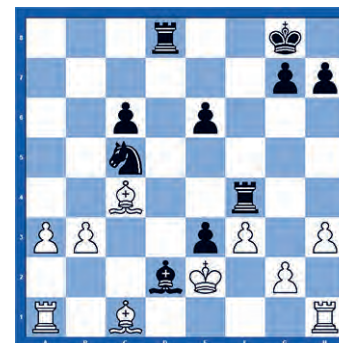


16...♘c5?! I don't like this move at all. Why exchange the queens when Black has a strong initiative? [16...♙h8! 17.♖f1 (17.♙xe4 ♖xf2+; 17.♙xe6 ♘c5 In this case White will lose the f2 pawn. 18.♙xd8 ♖bxd8 19.♙c4 ♖xf2+ 17...e5 18.♙xe4 ♘c5 19.♙xe5 ♖e8 All black pieces are very active, which makes this position very unpleasant to play for White in a practical game.)

17.♙xd8 ♖bxd8 The position is easier to play for White without the queens.

18.♖f1 [18.a3 ♙xd2 19.♙e2 e3↯ (19...♙xc1 20.♖hxc1 ♘d3 21.♙xd3 (21.♙xe6+ ♙h8 22.♖xc6 ♖xf2+ 23.♙e3 ♖xb2 24.♙xe4 ♖xg2 25.♖d1 ♘f2+ 26.♙f3 ♘xd1 27.♙xg2

♘b2=) 21...exd3+ 22.♙f1 Black's position looks very unpleasant because of his much worse structure and his d3 pawn can also be weak.) 20.f3 Otherwise the black knight will jump to e4. 20...♖f4 21.b3



21...♖xc4! 22.bxc4 ♘a4 23.♙xd2 exd2 24.♖hd1 ♘c3+ 25.♙e3 ♘xd1+ 26.♖xd1 ♖a8 27.♖xd2 ♖xa3+ 28.♙d4 ♖a5 And black escapes with a draw.]

18...♖d4 19.b3 ♙xd2 [19...♘d3!? With the idea of looking for chances in an endgame with opposite coloured bishops.]

20.♙e2 [20.♙xd2 ♖fd8 21.♙e2 ♖xd2+ 22.♙e3 ♙f7 23.♖fc1 (23.a4 ♘xb3!) 23...♖b2 24.♖d1 ♖xd1 25.♖xd1 ♖xa2 26.♖d6 ♖a3 27.♖xc6 ♘xb3 28.♙xe6+ ♙e7 29.♙xe4 ♘c5+ 30.♖xc5 ♙xe6 This endgame is just drawish.]

20...♙xc1 [20...♙c3 21.♖b1 (21.♙a3 doesn't work because of the very nice



21...♘d3! 22. ♕xe6+ ♔h8 23. ♕xf8 ♘f4+ 24. ♕e3 ♘xg2+ 25. ♕e2 ♔d2#) 21...♖a8 And in both lines Black is going to sacrifice an exchange in order to look for a practical initiative, but objectively White should be better in both cases. 22.a3 (22.a4 ♖xc4 23.bxc4 ♖xa4) 22...♕f7 23. ♕e3 ♖xa3 24. ♕xd4 ♕xd4 25. ♖fd1]

21. ♖axc1 Black's position is very difficult because of his many weak pawns.

21... ♖fd8 22. ♖fd1 ♕f8 23. ♖xd4 ♖xd4 24. ♖d1 [24. ♕e3 e5 25. ♕e2 With the idea of playing ♖c4 next.]

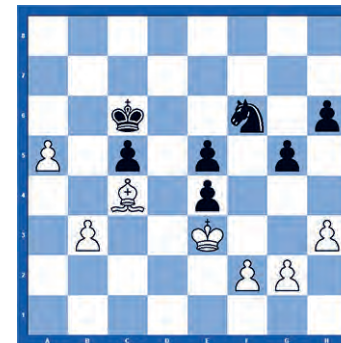
24... ♖xd1 [24...e5 25. ♖d2 With the idea of playing ♕e3 next and Black will be forced to exchange rooks anyway.]

25. ♕xd1 ♕e7 26. ♕d2 ♕d6 White should not have any problems to win this game thanks to his passed a-pawn and the bad black structure.

27. ♕c3 [27. ♕e3 ♕e5 28.a4 ♘b7 29.b4 ♘d6 30. ♕b3 ♘f5+ 31. ♕d2±]

27... ♘d7 28. ♕d4 ♘f6 29.a4 c5+ 30. ♕e3 g5 Black is trying to create some fortress, but it is impossible here.

31. ♕e2 ♕c6 32. ♕c4 e5 33.a5 h6



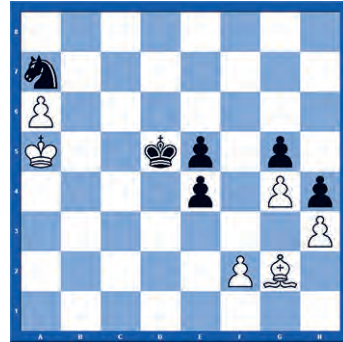
34. ♕d2 White's plan is very easy: at some point he is going to sacrifice the a-pawn to open the way for the king and grab all the kingside pawns.

34...h5 35. ♕e3 h4 36. ♕e2 ♕b7 37. ♕c4 ♕c6 38. ♕e2 ♕b7 39. ♕d2 ♕c6 40. ♕e3 ♕b7 41. ♕d2 White is not in a hurry, so he is winning some time before launching the final action.

41... ♕c7 42.g4 ♕c6 [42...hxg3 43.fxg3+- Black will not be able to stop the two passed pawns.]

43. ♕c3 ♘e8 [43...e3 With the idea of trying to get counterplay against the h3 pawn: 44.fxe3 ♘e4+ 45. ♕d3 ♘d6 (45... ♘f2+ 46. ♕e2 ♘e4 47. ♕d3 ♘g3+ 48. ♕d1 e4 49. ♕c4 ♘h1 50. ♕c2 ♘f2 51. ♕f1+-) 46. ♕a6 ♕c7 47. ♕c3 ♘e4+ 48. ♕c4 ♘f2 49. ♕xc5 ♘xh3 50. ♕c4 ♘f2 51. ♕d5 e4 52.a6 White will queen first.]

44.b4 ♘d6 45. ♕f1 cxb4+ 46. ♕xb4 ♘c8 47. ♕g2 ♕d5 48.a6 ♘a7 49. ♕a5



49...Kc5 [49...Kd4 With the idea of sacrificing the knight for the a-pawn and attacking the white pawns with the king, but White has 50.Kb6 Nc8+ 51.Kc7 Na7 52.Kb7 Nb5 and now the simple 53.Bf1 Nd6+ 54.Kc7+-]

50.Bxe4 Nb5 51.Bg2 Na7 52.Ka4 Nb5 53.Kb3 Kb6 54.Kc4 Ka6 55.Kd5 As I said before, this end-game is easily winning for White.

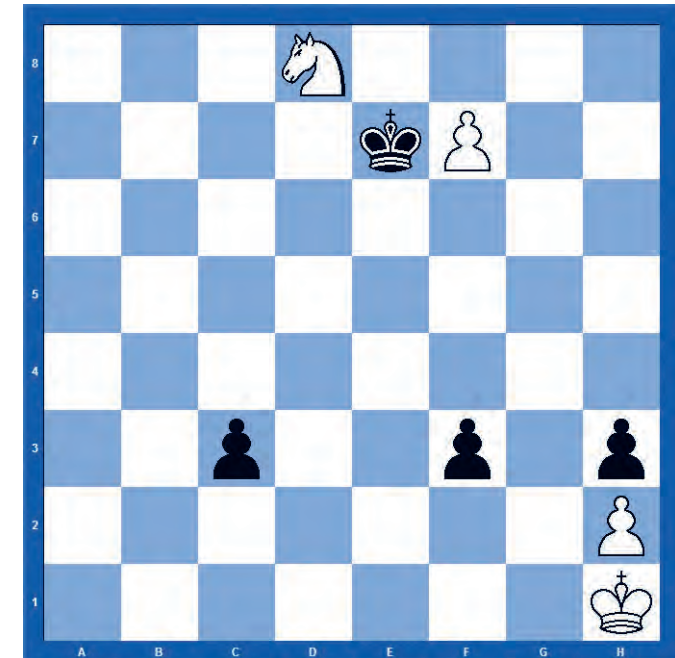
55...Kb6 56.Kxe5 Kc7 57.Kf6 Nc3 58.Kxg5 Nd1 59.f4 Kd6 60.Kxh4 Ke6 61.Kg5 Kf7 62.f5 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Rinck

[CEWN]

1. =

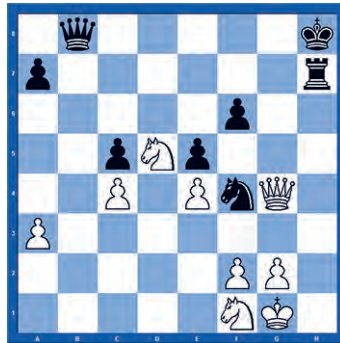


Solutions

(19) Morozevich,A (2760) – Caruana,F (2774)

Thessaloniki GP, 29.05.2013

[Solutions]



47...♘h3+!! 48.gxh3 ♖g7–+

(20) Kamsky,G (2741) – Nakamura,H (2775)

Thessaloniki GP, 30.05.2013

[Solutions]

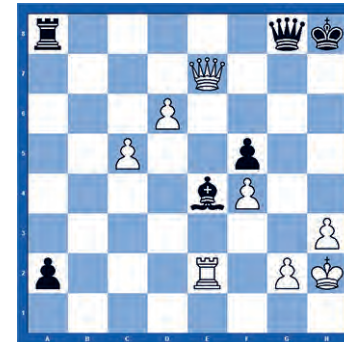


16. ♗g6+! ♔d8 17. ♗f7+–

(21) Topalov,V (2793) – Caruana,F (2774)

Thessaloniki GP, 02.06.2013

[Solutions]



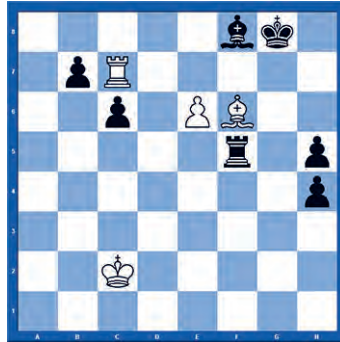
55. ♖xe4? [55. ♖xa2!! ♖xa2 (55... ♗xa2 56. ♗h4+ ♔g7 57. ♗g5+ ♔f7 58. ♗e7±) 56. ♗h4+ ♗h7 (56... ♔g7 57. ♗g5+ ♔f7 58. ♗e7±) 57. ♗d8+! ♔g7 58. ♗e7+ ♔g8 59. ♗e8±; 55. ♗h4+? ♗h7 56. ♗f6+ ♗g7 57. ♗h4+ ♔g8–+]

55...a1 ♗!–+

(22) Nakamura,H (2775) – Svidler,P (2769)

Thessaloniki GP, 03.06.2013

[Solutions]



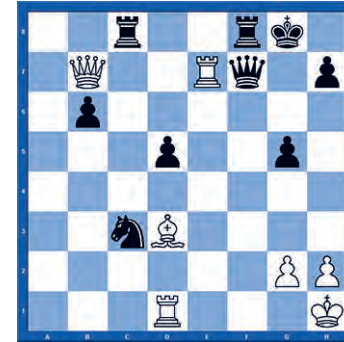
54. ♖c8! ♜f2+ [54... ♜xf6 55.e7+-; 54... ♔h7 55. ♖xf8+-]

55. ♔d3 ♜f3+ 56. ♔d4 1-0

(23) Bacrot,E (2725) – Ivanchuk,V (2755)

Thessaloniki GP, 03.06.2013

[Solutions]



34... ♞xd1!! 35. ♜xf7 ♞f2+! 36. ♔g1 [36. ♜xf2 ♜c1+ 37. ♙f1 ♜xf1+ 38. ♜xf1 ♜xf1#]

36... ♜c1+ 37. ♙f1 ♜xf7 38. ♙xd5 ♞e4!--+ 39. ♙d8+ ♔g7 40. ♙d4+ ♔h6 0-1

(24) Zhou Jianchao (2607) – Zhou Weiqi (2590)

Danzhou GM, 29.05.2013

[Solutions]



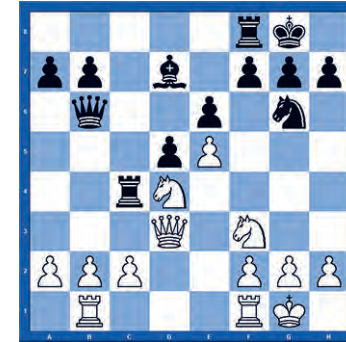
24... ♖g4!! **25.** ♔d3 [25.fxg4 ♙xh4–+; 25.♙xh1 ♙xh4–+ (25... ♘xh6–+)]

25... ♙xh4–+

(25) Landa,K (2644) – Naiditsch,A (2710)

French league, 02.06.2013

[Solutions]



16... ♘f4! **17.** ♔e3 ♖xd4! **18.g3** [18.♘xd4 ♕xd4! 19.♕xd4 ♘e2+ 20.♙h1 ♘xd4–+]

18... ♖e4 **19.** ♕xb6 ♘e2+ 0–1

(26) Baron,T (2467) – Marcelin,C (2488)

French league, 03.06.2013

[Solutions]

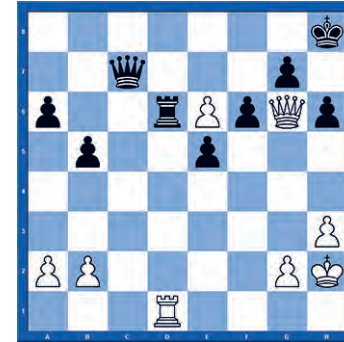


17...♘e2+! 18.♔h1 ♔d7! 0-1[18...♔e7!-+; 18...♔d7
19.♖e1 (19.h3 ♖xh3#) 19...♖xh2+ 20.♔xh2 ♖h8+ 21.♙h6
♖xh6#]

(27) Spasov,V (2565) – Gavrilov,A (2454)

Albena Open, 03.06.2013

[Solutions]

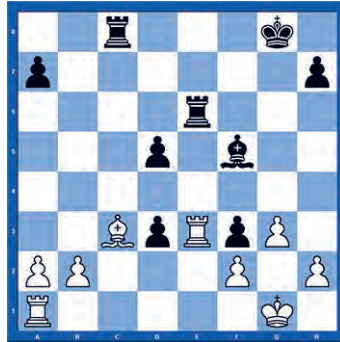


39.♔f7!! ♔xf7 40.exf7 ♖xd1 41.f8 ♔++-

(28) Kilgus,G (2418) – Gonda,L (2524)

Zalakaros Open, 28.05.2013

[Solutions]



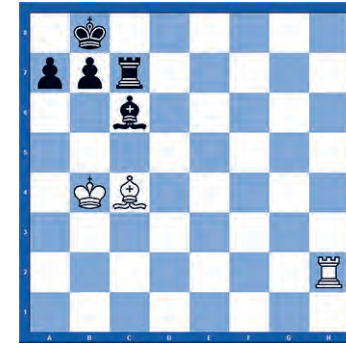
28...d4!! 29. ♘xd4 [29. ♖xe6 dxc3!–+]

29... ♖d6! [29...d2! 30. ♘c3 (30. ♖xe6 ♖c1+–+) 30... ♖xc3!
31.bxc3 ♖xe3 32.fxe3 ♘c2]

30. ♘c3 ♖xc3! 31.bxc3 d2 0–1[31...d2 32. ♖d1 ♘c2–+]

(29) Greco

[Solutions]



Try to solve the study of Greco. White to move and make a draw

1. ♖h8+! ♖c8 2. ♖xc8+ ♔xc8 3. ♘a6!! bxa6 [3... ♔c7
4. ♘xb7!=]



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 69

21st of June 2013

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Editorial Preface

Another great week of chess has passed.

The main event of the week is clearly the Tal Memorial and we are commenting what is probably the main game of the event: the game between Carlsen-Anand, which seems to be their last encounter before the upcoming WCC match in November.

After round 6, Nakamura is leading with 4,5/6. He had a bad start as he lost in the first round and could have lost in round 2 as well, but fortune was on his side and the American Superstar started to crush his opponents. Gelfand, who is showing very good and solid play, is in second place and third place is shared by Carlsen and Mamedyarov with 3.5/6. Surprisingly the Russian players are doing badly so far and Kramnik only has 2/6.

The Match between Navara and Hou Yifan ended in favor of the Chinese World Champion as the 4 normal games ended in a draw, but in the rapid games Hou had the upper hand.

The Ukrainian National Championship is under way and everyone is playing except Ivanchuk. Ponomarev seems to be in a great shape and is leading the event.

The Women's Grand Prix in Dilijan is under way as well. Just a few rounds have been played, so we can be very curious who is going to be the winner this time.

As usual, we wish you great chess fun with your weekly issue of the CEWN!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Carlsen,Magnus (2864) — Anand,Viswanathan (2786) [E46]

8th Tal Memorial Moscow RUS (5.2), 18.06.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are facing what is probably the last tournament game between the actual World Champion and his challenger. The Match is going to take place in India in November. Could it be that it is Anand's destiny to lose his WCC title in his home country?! We will find out later this year... In the current game, Magnus Carlsen is clearly showing that he is to be taken very seriously in the upcoming 12 games of the match!

1.d4 The World Number 1 is playing both 1. e4 and 1.d4, which makes the preparation very difficult...

1...♘f6 2.c4 e6 Anand also has a huge range of openings in his Black repertoire. From the Slav to the Gruenfeld, or the solid Queen's Gambit and the Nimzo, all of them can be seen on the board.

3.♘c3 ♖b4 4.e3 0-0



5.♘ge2 The line with 5.♘ge2 is not the most popular one, but it is quite tricky and relatively unforced. Magnus Carlsen often tries to reach a normal, „playable“ position out of the opening, hoping to outplay his oponents in the rest of the game- which usually works! :)

5...d5 6.a3 ♖e7 [6...♘d6 is the other main move in this position. 7.c5 ♖e7 Followed by b6 and a5. This line is considered to be fine for Black.]

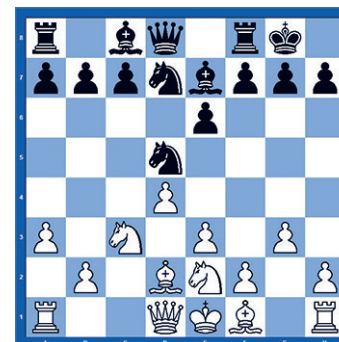
7.cxd5 In the interview after the game, Carlsen said that he has chosen that line because Anand didn't have too much experience here. Well, now we can say that it worked!

7...♘xd5 Personally I would not advise to play this move. [7...exd5 would lead us to the main lines, where White has several ideas. To play 8.b4, trying to fix the pawn structure on the queenside, to play 8.g3, 8.♘f4 or 8. ♘g3. All moves are possible.]

8.♖d2!? A very tricky move! Black's main idea is to play c5 and White is preparing to face it.

8...♘d7 [After 8...c5 9.dxc5 ♖xc5 10.♘xd5! we can see that ♖d2 was a very useful move as the rook is now quickly coming to c1. 10...♔xd5 11.♘f4 Followed by ♖c3 or ♖c1, which should give White a small but pleasant edge.]

9.g3



9...b6?! After this move, Black is entering quite an unpleasant position. [I think Black should have tried to push 9...c5 10.♘xd5 exd5 11.♙g2 ♘f6 12.dxc5 ♙xc5 13.♖c1 and even though White might be slightly better, Black's position is very playable.]

10.♘xd5! Typical and very strong. After playing 9...b6, Black has a clear weakness: the c6 pawn.

10...exd5 11.♙g2 ♙b7 12.♙b4 Quite a provocation. [12.0-0 would be a normal move.]

12...♘f6 Too passive again in my opinion. [Now it was really time to play 12...c5 13.dxc5 (13.♙c3 ♘f6 doesn't change much.) 13...bxc5 14.♙c3 ♘f6 15.0-0 ♖b6 With a normal position.]

13.0-0 ♖e8 It was the last chance to play c5.

14.♖c1 Black will now not be able to play c5 anymore.

14...c6 [14...♙xb4?! would be a positional mistake as after 15.axb4 White would have full control over the c5 move and b5 could also sometimes be dangerous.]

15.♙xe7 ♖xe7



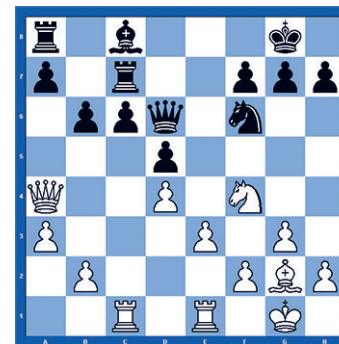
16.♖e1 White does not hurry. Black has almost no plan and has to keep on „waiting“. White's idea is pretty clear: play ♘f4-♘d3 and maybe ♘e5 followed by putting pressure on the c6 pawn or by playing f3-e4.

16...♙d6 Another „strange“ move by the World Champion. [16...♘e4 followed by ♘d6 looks much more solid. Black's position is passive, but to break through is a hard job.]

17.♘f4 ♙c8 It is very logical to transfer the bishop to f5, but could it be that it is already too late for it... [17...♖c7 followed by a passive defence would have been a more solid choice.]

18.♙a4 Things are getting pretty forced.

18...♖c7



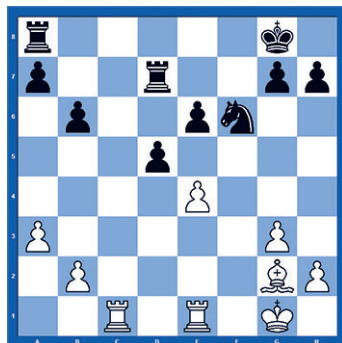
19.f3! White is using the moment for a more or less final blow. Black's pieces are pretty uncoordinated and the e4 push is almost a killer.

19...♙e6 20.e4 dxe4 It is already hard to give Black any advice. [20...♙d7 21.♘xe6 ♙xe6 22.e5 is looking very ugly for Black too.]

21.fxe4 ♔d7 Of Black had an extra move, things would be more or less fine, but it is White to move and Carlsen does not miss such chances.

22.d5! The game is now! After outplaying his opponent in a positional game, Carlsen finishes him off with a nice tactic.

22...cxd5 23.♔xd7 ♖xd7 24.♞xe6 fxe6



25.♞h3! This is the key move, which the World Champion probably missed. Black's position is now falling apart.

25...♔h8 [25...♔f7 26.exd5 Followed by ♞xe6 and White is winning.]

26.e5 Putting the black knight out of the game.

26...♞g8 27.♞xe6 ♖dd8 28.♖c7 The position is just hopeless.

28...d4 29.♞d7 White just wants to play e6 next and then ♖d1–Rxd4. I don't think that Anand has lost many games in that way in his whole chess career. Was this already a „sign“ for the upcoming WCC match?! We will see in about 5 month from now!

1–0

(2) Ponomariov,R (2743) – Eljanov,P (2707) [C91]

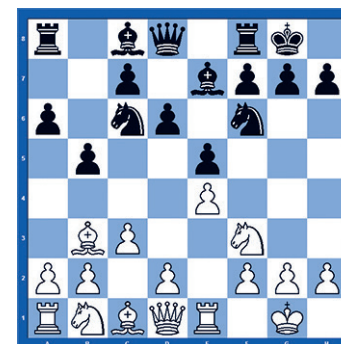
82nd ch-UKR 2013 Kiev UKR (2), 16.06.2013

[Csaba Balogh]

An excellent preparation by Ponomariov, which involved an intuitive pawn sacrifice that even the machines did not understand at first sight.

1.e4 e5 2.♞f3 ♞c6 3.♞b5 a6 4.♞a4 ♞f6 5.0–0 ♞e7 6.♖e1 White returns to the mainlines instead of the recently so popular anti-theoretical move 6.d3.

6...b5 7.♞b3 d6 8.c3 0–0



9.d4 Ponomariov plays the alternative line to the main Spanish 9.h3. It is sometimes quite effective to search for improvements in slightly forgotten lines. Many hidden ideas can be found and the surprise effect on the opponent is also a decent factor.

9...♞g4 Black must try to put pressure on the center, otherwise White can simple spare the h3 move.

10.♞e3 This is the sharp handling of the position, while Kamsky's favorite 10.d5 is rather positional.

10...exd4 [10...♘xe4? is often a poisoned pawn in the Spanish. Here again White wins after a double attack: 11.♙d5!]

11.cxd4 d5 A typical method of countering White's ideas in the center. Otherwise if White gets his knight out to c3, Black remains without counterplay against the strong center. [The other main option for Black is 11...♘a5 12.♙c2 and Black must play either c5 immediately or after the inclusion of the ♘c4-♙c1 pair of moves. Both are with huge theory.]

12.e5 ♘e4 13.h3 ♙h5 Here comes the new idea! In the previous games, White played ♘c3 now or without the ♙h3 ♙h5 inclusion.

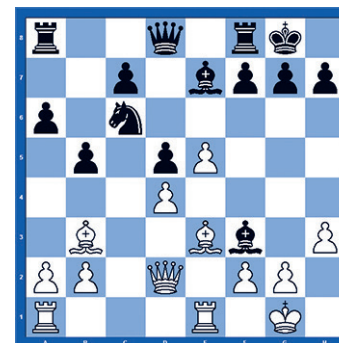


14.♘bd2! The positional point is obvious, White needs to get rid of the strong e4 knight, but it looks like a tactical blunder...

14...♘xd2 Seemingly White has no good takeback, since on ♙xd2 the d4 pawn is hanging and after ♙xd2 ♙b4 wins an exchange. Black can even destroy the pawn structure first with ♙xf3 and only then ♙b4... What could the plan be?!

15.♙xd2! ♙xf3 [On 15...♙b4 16.♙c2 ♙xe1 17.♘g5! is very strong 17...♙g6 18.♙xc6 ♙a5 19.♙xd5 White has

sacrificed an exchange, but he got the most important d5 pawn and all his pieces are standing actively. Black is already in some trouble, because after 19...♖b8 20.e6! seems to be very strong.]



16.♙c3!! This is the whole point! White had to make this intermediate move to avoid ♙b4. The game becomes very sharp, but as the following line shows, White has enough compensation everywhere. [16.gxf3 is bad as after 16...♙b4 17.♙c2 ♙xe1 18.♙xc6 ♙a5 19.♙xd5 ♖b8+ Black has huge plusses in comparison to the 15...♙b4 line.]

16...♙xg2 Eljanov plays the computer's recommendation and grabs a pawn. After knowing what happened in the game, I doubt that he would repeat this decision. [On 16...♙d7 White needs to make another subtle intermediate move: 17.♖ec1!! ♘b8 Now on ♙xc7, Black could simple retreat the bishop. (17...♘d8 18.♙xc7! ♙xc7 19.♖xc7 And both bishops are hanging. White wins the piece back and gets a big advantage.) 18.gxf3 c6 19.♙h2 We get the same position as in the game, but here Black does not even have an extra pawn.; 16...♙b4! is the best option in my opinion. 17.♙xc6 ♙xe1 18.♖xe1 ♙e4 19.f3

♙f5 20. ♙xd5 White clearly has enough compensation for the exchange, but I am not sure if objectively he is better here. In any case, from a practical point of view, White has a much easier game.; 16... ♘xe5 seems to lead to a slightly worse position after 17.dxe5 ♙h5 18.g4! ♙g6 19. ♖ed1 ♙e4 20. ♚c6± White wins the pawn back and his pieces are better placed.]

17. ♙xg2 ♘b8 18. ♖ac1 c6 Black managed to win a pawn, but at what cost!? White has the bishop pair, the c6 pawn must always be defended by the b8 knight, which locks the rook to the corner. If the c6 pawn falls, the d5 one will automatically drop as well. And the most important factor is that White has an easy and strong attack on the g-file, against which Black cannot launch any kind of counterplay. Black must try to defend, but without the b8 and a8 pieces it is going to be difficult.



19. ♙h2! Opening the g-file for the rooks.

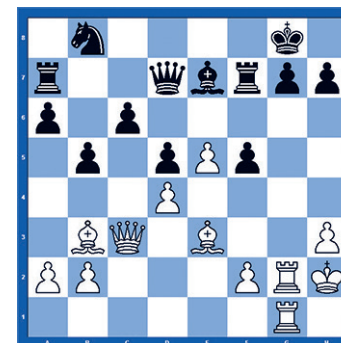
19...f5 [19...a5 does not lead anywhere, White can simple continue his plan: 20. ♖g1; Opening the game weakens the Black king too much: 19...f6 20. ♖g1! fxe5 21.dxe5± Black has no good defence against ♙d3-♙c2.]

20. ♖g1 ♖a7 Using the poor rook to defend the g7 weakness along the 7th rank is a resourceful idea, but it does not save Black. [20...f4 critically weakens the b1-h7 diagonal: 21. ♙d2 ♙d3 and ♙c3 are coming next and Black will collapse as he is missing a light-colored bishop.]

21. ♖g2! Simple and strong!

21... ♙d7 [21... ♙e8 is also bad: 22. ♖cg1 g6 23. ♙h6 ♖f7 24. ♙c2 White wants to prepare for the attack with h4-h5 and ♙g3 for instance. 24... ♙f8 25. ♙xf8 ♙xf8 26.h4! ♙h6 27. ♙h3 ♙f8 28.h5 Black collapses.]

22. ♖cg1 ♖f7 Black tries to keep his pawn on g7 as long as possible to avoid the h4-h5 plan.

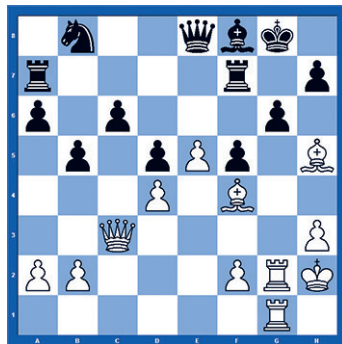


23. ♙d1!! A very nice way of increasing pressure. Ponomarev drives his bishop to h5 to provoke the g6 weakening.

23...g6 24. ♙h5! White does not even waste time on the h4-h5 plan, he goes for the most direct crush with sacrificing on g6.

24... ♙f8 25. ♙f4! Opening the 3rd rank for the queen in order to join the attack.

25...♔e8 [Black cannot fortify his g6 pawn: 25...♖g7 26.♙h6! ♖f7 27.♙xg6! hxg6 28.♖xg6+ ♔h7 29.♙xf8 ♖xf8 30.♔g3+- With mate to follow soon.]



26.♖xg6+!! A brilliant finish based on an exact calculation!

26...hxg6 27.♖xg6+ Black is simply unable to coordinate a defence because of the pin between the h5 bishop and the e8 queen.

27...♙g7 [On 27...♔h7 28.e6! ♖fe7 29.♖g5 ♔d8 30.♙g6+ ♔h8 31.♔g3 Black is a rook up, but gets mated soon. Too many threats are in the air: ♔h4, ♖h5, ♙f7, ♙e5.]

28.e6 ♖f8 29.♔c5 [White could already have simplified to a completely winning endgame 29.♖xg7+ ♖xg7 30.♙xe8 ♖xe8 31.♙xb8 ♖xb8 32.♔xc6+- but Ponomarev played for more.]

29...♔e7 [On 29...♖e7 30.♖xg7+ ♖xg7 31.♙xe8 ♖xe8 32.♙e5+- is hopeless for Black.]

30.♙d6 ♖h4 31.♔xa7 There is only one check on f2 because of ♖g2. A very well deserved victory after a deep preparation and a powerful attack.

1-0

(3) Nakamura,Hikaru (2784) — Mamedyarov,Shakhriyar (2753) [D38]

8th Tal Memorial Moscow RUS (1.5), 13.06.2013

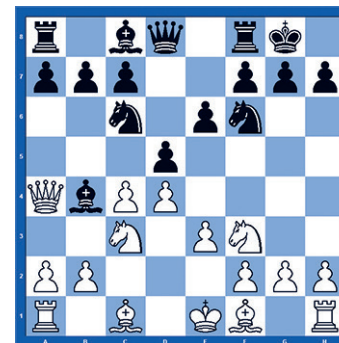
[Csaba Balogh]

A convincing win by Mamedyarov with the Black pieces.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♙b4 A little surprise in the opening decision. Mamedyarov rarely employs the Ragozin defense.

5.♔a4+ The main idea is to force the knight to c6, which blocks Black's plan of challenging the center with c5. [5.cxd5 and; 5.♙g5 are the two main continuations, but Nakamura's move is also quite a big line.]

5...♘c6 6.e3 0-0

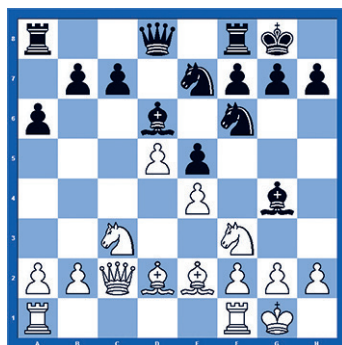


7.♙d2 Black has to fight for the center. With the knight on c6 he cannot push c5, but it supports another very useful plan: to play e5. The following moves are the necessary preparations for this.

7...dxc4! 8.♙xc4 a6 A prophylactic move. [The direct 8...♙d6 allows White to play 9.♘b5!]

9.0-0 ♖d6! b5 is not a threat yet because of ♖xb5 and the rook is hanging, but White must always take care of it. Black is ready to free his position with e5, which White cannot prevent.

10. ♖ad1 White knows about the coming e5 and he already puts his rook on the opening file. [10. ♖c2 e5! 11. d5 In general this d5 push is the only way for White to play for an advantage, but here Black equalizes after 11... ♖e7 12. e4 ♖g4! 13. ♖e2



13...c6! Undermining the center. If Black can take on d5, that would change the pawn structure in his favor, while after dxc6 ♖xc6, the knight is ready to occupy the d4 outpost.]

10...e5! 11.dxe5 ♖xe5 12. ♖e2 [12. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 White cannot make use of the pin on the d-file and on the next move Black will already leave it by playing ♖e7. Black has achieved what he wanted and equalized out of the opening.]

12... ♖e7 13. ♖g5?! Nakamura is trying to play ambitiously with the White pieces, but in this case it is too optimistic and helps Black to overtake the initiative. The idea was to get the bishop pair after ♖ge4, but Black has

a strong reply. [Obviously after forcing a mass exchange with 13. ♖e4 White could make a draw, but this was not his aim.]



13... ♖f5! Suddenly the knight on g5 gets out of the game as ♖ge4 does not work for tactical reasons.

14.e4 [14. ♖ge4 is met by 14... ♖xe4 15. ♖xe4 b5! 16. ♖d4 ♖c6! winning a piece.]

14... ♖d7 15. ♖c2 h6! A necessary move, sending the knight back to f3 in order to prevent the f4-e5 threat.

16. ♖f3 ♖fe8 It is time to activate the rooks.

17. ♖fe1 [17. ♖d4 Transferring the knight to f5 is sometimes a useful plan in such cases, but now Black is ready to counter it by 17...c5! 18. ♖f5 ♖xf5 19. exf5 ♖c6! followed by settling the knight on d4. White cannot prevent it by playing 20. ♖e3 because of the tactical trick 20... ♖d4! 21. ♖xd4 cxd4 22. ♖xd4 ♖xh2+! followed by ♖e5+.]

17... ♖ad8 18.g3? A logical move, but it might be the decisive mistake. White closes the diagonal of the d6 bishop, which was dangerously looking at the h2 square and prepares for the regrouping of his e2 bishop to g2. If he could achieve all this, then in a good moment he could

launch a pawn storm in the center with f4-e5. [18.h3 was more circumspect, but here again only Black can be better. 18...b5!]



18...h3!! After this great move, White suddenly cannot deal with his f2 weakness. Black simple wants to play g5c5. The only way to protect it is f1f1, but this leaves the e4 pawn unprotected.

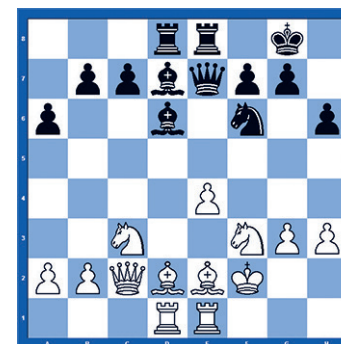
19.h3 [19. g5f1 g5c5 20. f1e2 Black wins material after 20... h3xf2! 21. f1xf2 h3g4 22. g5e1 h3e3! taking both of the rooks.; 19. h3d4 g5c5 20. g5c1 does not help either as



20...h3xf2! wins again: 21. f1xf2 g5c6 22. g5e3 h3xe4+ 23. h3xe4 g5xe4 Black already has two pawns and all his pieces are attacking. 24. f1c3 g5b4-+]

19...h3xf2! Of course. Such moves are coming without thinking from Mamedyarov. He collects two pawns, destroys the king's position and maintains excellent attacking chances.

20. f1xf2



20...g5xh3 The main threats are g5c5 g5e3 h3g4 and h3g4 g1g1 g5xg3.

21. g1g1 [21. h3d4 was probably the best chance, although Black is winning here as well after 21... g5c5 22. g5e3 f1e5! White cannot hold his d4 knight and the attack is going to break through.; 21. h3g1 is refuted by 21... f1e5! 22. g5f4 (22. h3xh3 f1xg3+ 23. f1f1 f1xh3+-+) 22... g5c5+ and White will get mated soon.]

21...g5xg3 The rook is trapped. Black is already winning material as he is going to have a rook and 3 pawns against two minor pieces, but he also continues attacking, which deprives White from any survival hopes.

22. ♖f1 ♕xe1 **23.** ♖xe1 ♕g4 **24.** ♕g2 Mamedyarov finds the most direct way to finish the game in style.

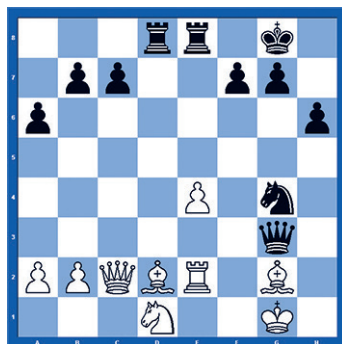


24... ♕xf3! **25.** ♕xf3 ♖d6! Creating the double threat of ♖xd2 and ♖g3. White cannot parry both of them.

26. ♖e2 [26. ♕e3 ♖g3+ wins either the rook or the bishop.]

26... ♖g3+ **27.** ♕g2 ♖g4! The attack is rolling. Black is also ready to join his rook to the attack through the 6th rank.

28. ♖d1 [28. ♕e1 ♖h2+ 29. ♖f1 ♖d6-+]]



28... ♖e6! The end is near.

29. ♖e3 Black has several ways to win, but Mamedyarov finds the most precise one.

29... ♖c6! The queen has no good square to leave.

30. ♖b1 [30. ♖b3 ♖xd2 31. ♖xd2 ♖xe3-+]]

30... ♖h2+ [30... ♖xd2 was also winning with the idea of 31. ♖f1 ♖d3! keeping huge material advantage. 32. ♖xd2 ♖xe2-+]]

31. ♖f1 ♖f4+ [White resigned in view of the following lines: 31... ♖f4+ 32. ♖e1 (32. ♖g1 ♖xd2-+) 32... ♖g3+ 33. ♖f1 (33. ♖d1 ♖xe3+-+) 33... ♖h2+ 34. ♖g1 ♖f3+ 35. ♖f1 ♖xd2+ An impressive win with the Black pieces. It was interesting to see that only two overambitious moves, ♖g5 and g3, were enough to lose the game.]

0-1

(4) Caruana,Fabiano (2774) – Kramnik,Vladimir (2803) [C67]

8th Tal Memorial Moscow RUS (6.2), 19.06.2013

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

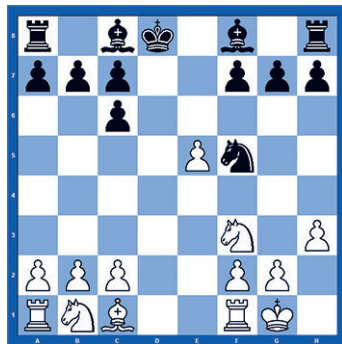
In the last years chess has changed a lot and even end-games are now very well analyzed by the top players. In the current game, it is hard to say when both players left their preparation- maybe never! It seems to be a „start to end draw“, but anyhow it is a very beautiful game.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 One of Kramnik's favorite openings, the Berlin.

4.0–0 [4.d3 is the way to avoid the main endgame, which is very popular nowadays.]

4...♞xe4 5.d4 ♞d6 6.♙xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♞f5 8.♚xd8+ ♚xd8 Caruana has entered the main line.

9.h3 9.♞c3 is possible too.



9...♙d7 9...♚e8 is the other main move here and after 10.♞c3 h5, this line has proven to be rock solid for Black. The text move is much more tricky for both sides. Black's idea is to escape to b7 with his king and to play with the

bishop pair. In the meantime, White is trying to make use of his development by creating more direct threats.

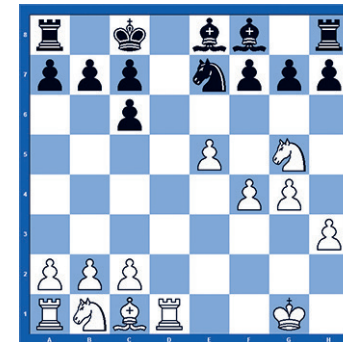
10.♚d1 It is now the last chance for Black to decide where to move the king. White wants to play e6 followed by ♞e5.

10...♚c8 11.g4 The beginning of a very forced line.

11...♞e7 Black is threatening to play h5 next.

12.♞g5 ♙e8 [12...♙e6? would of course just be a big mistake. In the worst case White could play ♞xe6 and this exchange is always in his favor.]

13.f4 The position is getting very dynamic. In case White could play ♚g2-♚g3 next and stabilize his position, Black would be in big trouble, but it is Black's turn and as we know, the bishop pair can be activated very quickly.



13...h5! Of course Kramnik knew this move, but it is still nice to see. Black is opening the h-file, which can be very useful for the active phase of the game.

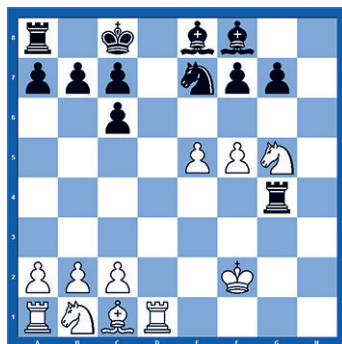
14.f5 Once again White is going for a very forced continuation. [14.♚g2 is looking very solid, but the position is also pretty unclear here. 14...hxg4 (14...b6 is another possible move, but I think that White is a little bit better

after 15.♔g3.) 15.hxg4 f6 Trying a forced refutation. The f6 push is another very typical idea. 16.♘e6 ♕d7 17.♘xf8 ♖xf8 18.f5 Avoiding Black's f5 push, which is a dangerous positional threat. 18...fxe5 And the game should probably end in a draw.]

14...hxg4 15.hxg4 ♖h4 Black is accepting the offer to play a „move by move“ game.

16.♔f2 White cannot save his g4 pawn.

16...♖xg4



17.♖h1 That was White's idea. ♖h8 is practically winning a piece!

17...♘xf5 What a funny position. White just has an active knight on g5 and the rest of his pieces are still on their starting positions.

18.♖h8 White is winning a full piece.

18...♕c5+ What an amazing position! Black is giving a piece and a rook away, but the position seems to be equal!

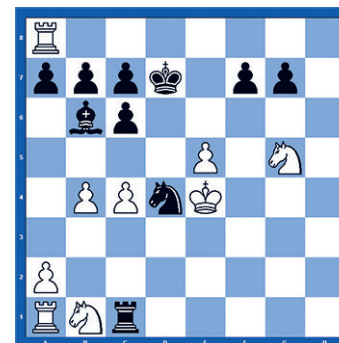
19.♔f3 ♖g1 20.♖xe8+ ♔d7 21.♖xa8 Everything seems to have been forced until here.

21...♘d4+ This check on d4 also seems to be the best move. Why? That is not so easy to answer, but after some analyses it seems to be the best.

22.♔e4 The only move.

22...♖xc1 White is a full rook up, but the b1 knight and a1 rook are totally out of the game. White's king on e4 is also under heavy attack and ♘c2 could be very unpleasant. Anyhow, a rook up is a rook up, so the game continues in a very tactical and forced way.

23.b4 ♕b6 24.c4 A very logical move by White. Now c5 is a deadly threat and by pushing the pawn forward, White is also winning space.



24...c5! A great move! It is not easy to stay cool in such a position. I have a very strong feeling that Kramnik knew everything up to this point. It is very hard to evaluate the future of 24... c5, especially since White is now getting the d5 square for his king.

25.a3 White wants to play ♖a2 next, giving away the b1 knight, but he would still be an exchange up.

25...♖e1+! Exactly! It is very funny, but White's king cannot escape from perpetual check! Amazing.

26. ♔d3 ♚d1+ **27.** ♔c3 [In case White tried to play for a win after 27. ♔e3?! ♘c2+ 28. ♔e2 ♚g1 it seems that Black is already better!]

27... ♚c1+ **28.** ♔d3 ♚d1+ **29.** ♔c3 ♚c1+ **30.** ♔d3 A really funny game that had to be featured in our Chess Evolution Weekly Newsletter ! :)

1/2

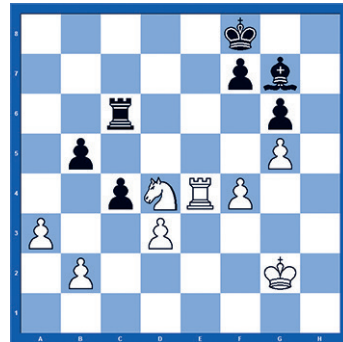
Puzzle section

(5) Kramnik,V (2803) – Anand,V (2786)

Tal memorial blitz, 12.06.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

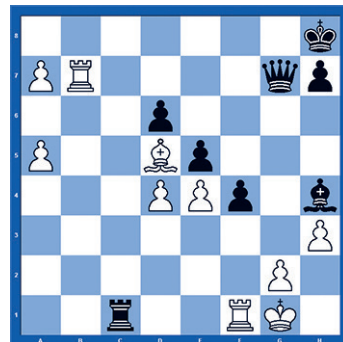


(6) Caruana,F (2774) – Carlsen,M (2864)

Tal memorial blitz, 12.06.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

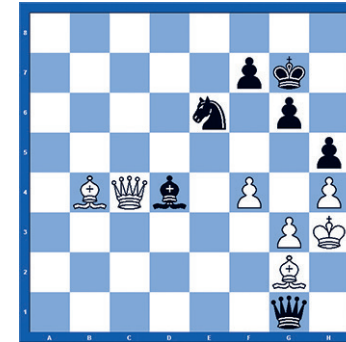


(7) Karjakin,S (2782) – Mamedyarov,S (2753)

Tal memorial blitz, 12.06.2013

[CEWN]

1... –+

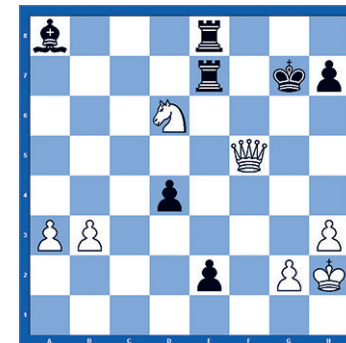


(8) Morozevich,A (2760) – Carlsen,M (2864)

Tal memorial blitz, 12.06.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Mamedyarov,S (2753) – Carlsen,M (2864)

Tal memorial blitz, 12.06.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

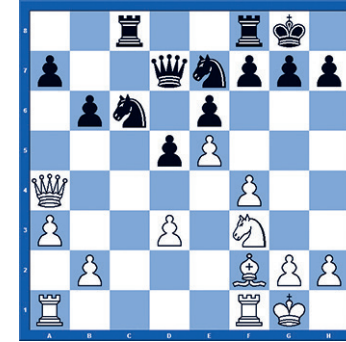


(11) Navara,D (2707) – Hou Yifan (2595)

Prague blitz, 14.06.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

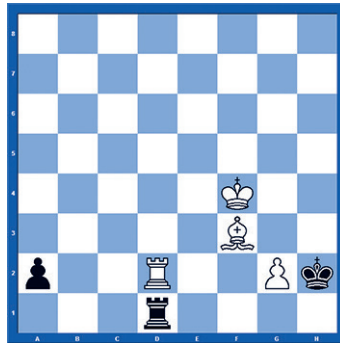


(10) Kravtsiv,M (2626) – Volokitin,A (2687)

Ukrainian Championship, 15.06.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

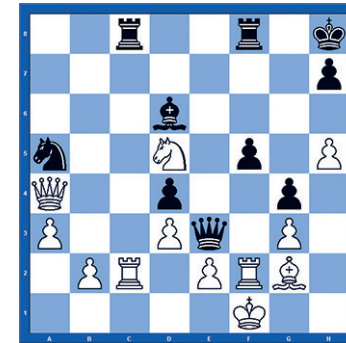


(12) Petrosian,T (2649) – Anurag,M (2401)

Grand Europe Open, 11.06.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+



(13) Smirnov,P (2635) – Bocharov,D (2617)

Izmailov memorial, 17.06.2013

[CEWN]

1. +-

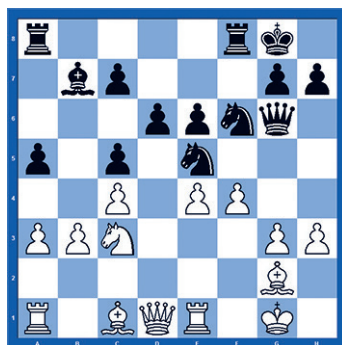


(14) Cvetkovic,S (2387) – Nabaty,T (2579)

Grand Europe Open, 11.06.2013

[CEWN]

1... -+

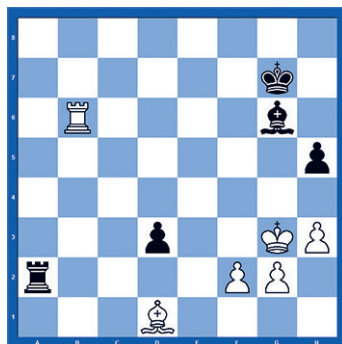


Endgame section

(15) Carlsen,M (2864) – Kramnik,V (2803)

Tal memorial, 13.06.2013

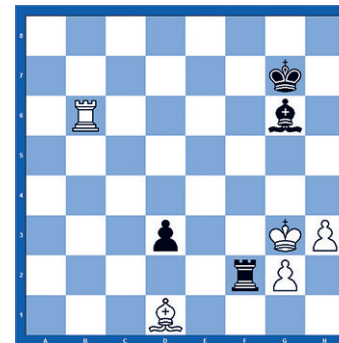
[Chess Evolution]



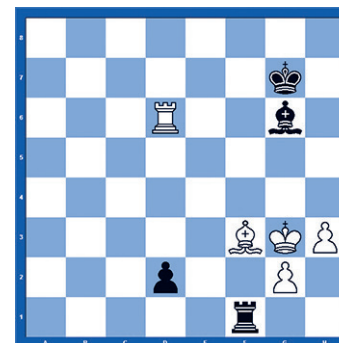
White has an extra pawn, but the strong d-passer and the active pieces give Black excellent drawing chances. However, after a long think, Kramnik simplified the position into an instructive bishop endgame, which he thought was drawn, but it was in fact losing.

42...h4+? It is a positional mistake to help White create the g-h passers, which was exactly his idea. Kramnik made this mistake because of the wrong evaluation of the arising bishop endgame. [42...♖a1 43. ♕f3 ♖a4! was the right defence with the idea of pushing h4, when White's task to create connected passed pawns would be much more difficult. Black's drawing chances are better than White's winning chances.]

43. ♖xh4 ♖xf2 44. ♖g3



44...♖f6? Kramnik wanted to get his rook behind his d-pawn. [44...♖f1 was the better practical chance 45. ♕g4!± is an important resource, followed by ♖d6 stopping the pawn. After that, White puts his bishop to f3 and starts to advance his pawns. (However the most obvious 45. ♕f3? allows Black a nice survival 45...d2! 46. ♖d6

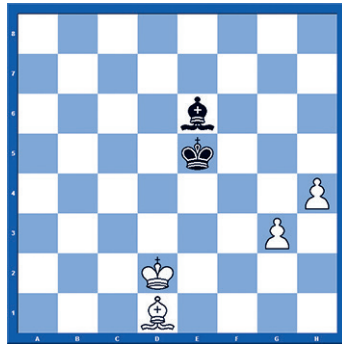


46...♕e4!! 47. ♖xd2 (47. ♕g4 ♖g1 48. ♖xd2 ♖xg2+! 49. ♖xg2 ♕xg2 50. ♖xg2 And the position is a draw because of the wrong promotional square on h8.) 47...♕xf3 48. gxf3 With a theoretical draw.) 45...♕e4 46. ♖b4 ♕c6 47. ♖d4 Black cannot go for the g2 pawn because 47...♖g1 48. ♕f3! ♕xf3 49. ♖xf3 ♖d1 50. ♕e3 ♖g1 51. ♖g4+- wins for White.]

45. ♖xf6 ♔xf6 46. ♔f4 White inevitably wins the d3 pawn after ♔e3 and ♖b3-c4, but it was all in Kramnik's calculation. We will discuss his reasons a few moves later.

46...d2 47. ♔e3 ♔e5 48.g3! Preventing the black king from getting to g3.

48...♖f5 49.h4 ♖e6 50. ♔xd2 Here we are! Kramnik thought that this endgame is drawn, since whenever White pushes g4, which seems to be necessary to convert the advantage, Black sacrifices his bishop followed and then runs to h8 with his king, with a theoretical draw. However Carlsen will show really subtle technique to win the game.



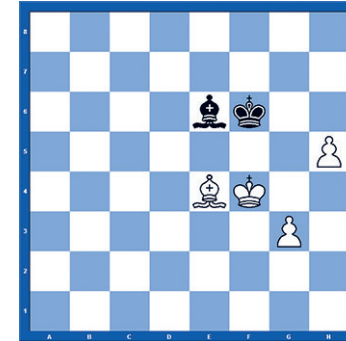
50...♔e4 51. ♔e2 White wants to occupy the e3 square with the king and he prepares to push back the king with ♖c2.

51...♖g4+ 52. ♔e1 ♖e6 53. ♔f2 ♖c2 is inevitable now.

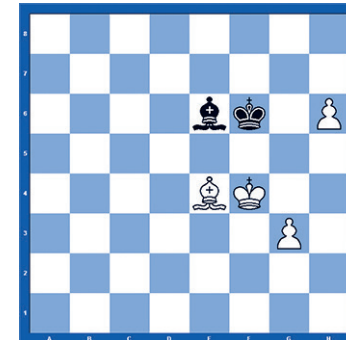
53...♔e5 54. ♔e3 ♖d7 55. ♖c2 ♖g4 White is basically forced to find the winning plan, since there is no other way to make progress than putting the bishop on g6 and then play h5.

56. ♖g6! ♖d7 57.h5 ♔f6 This allows White to improve his king. [57...♖e6 Waiting with the bishop does not help either: 58.h6 ♔f6 59. ♖b1 followed by ♔f4, which transposes to the game, using the fact that Black cannot get his king between the pawns with ♔g5 because of h7.]

58. ♔f4 ♖e6 59. ♖e4



59...♔g7 [If Black starts to wait with his bishop by playing 59...♖d7 White proceeds with 60.h6! ♖e6



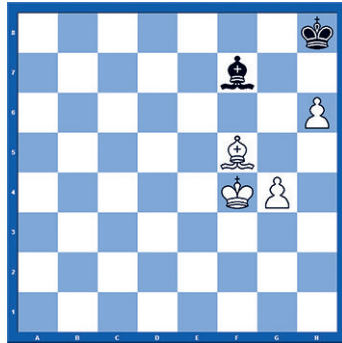
61.g4! This is the key move and Black cannot sacrifice his bishop now: 61...♖xg4 62. ♔xg4 ♔f7 63. ♖h7! Using this known method of preventing the king from getting to

the corner. White wins easily now. 63...♔f6 64.♔h5 ♕f7 65.♕g5 ♕f8 66.♕f6 ♕e8 67.♕g6+ ♕f8 68.h7+-]

60.♔g5 ♕d7 61.h6+ ♔h8 The king is in the corner now, so White needs to be careful with advancing the g-pawn.

62.♔f4 ♕e6 63.♕f5! The pawn is ready to go now.

63...♕f7 64.g4



64...♕h5! A very nice trick to get a theoretical draw. Even with 5 h-pawns the game would be drawn.

65.g5! Unfortunately for Black, White is able to keep his g-pawn.

65...♔g8 66.♕e6+ ♔h7 67.♔f5 ♕g6+ 68.♔f6 ♔h8! The last stalemate tricks by Black, but White can easily parry them.

69.♕d7 [69.♕f7 ♕e4 70.g6? ♕xg6 is still a draw.]

69...♕h5 [69...♕e4 If the bishop stays on this diagonal, White wins by playing 70.♕f5+- followed by g6.]

70.♕c6 Black cannot move with his bishop now.

70...♔h7 71.♕d5 ♕g6 [71...♕e8 72.♕f7+- followed by g6-g7 wins.; 71...♔h8 72.♕f7 wins again. 72...♕g6 is not stalemate as White has 73.♕xg6+-]

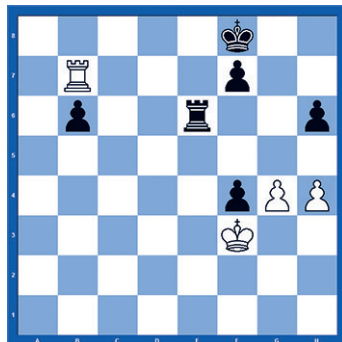
72.♕g8+! An instructive endgame!

1-0

(16) Carlsen,Magnus (2864)
— Caruana,Fabiano (2774) [A07]

8th Tal Memorial Moscow RUS (3.3), 15.06.2013

[Chess Evolution]



We are in an interesting rook endgame. Usually Carlsen is the one who is pushing, but this time he has to defend. As we remember, in his game against Wang Hao he lost a rook endgame with very good drawing chances and this time the story repeats itself. Let us take a closer look.

38...♖f6 39.g5! A very good move. White is trying to exchange a pawn and at the same time winning the f4 pawn back.

39...♖c6 [Of course after 39...hxc5 40.hxc5 ♖c6 41.♔xf4 the position is a very simple draw. White has nothing to fear and can just „keep on waiting” as he has a great rook on b7.]

40.♔xf4 [40.gxh6? ♖xh6 would give Black some winning chances, which is very unnecessary for White.]

40...h5 Black's only chance is to keep as many pawns on the board as possible.

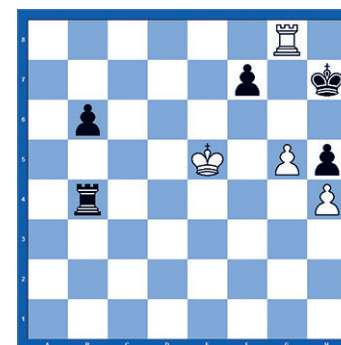
41.♔f5 ♔g7 Before bringing the rook to the b-file, Black is improving his king's position.

42.♖b8 ♖c5+ 43.♔f4 ♖b5 44.♔e4 ♖b1 45.♔f5 ♖b2 46.♔f4 White keeps on waiting...

46...♖b4+ 47.♔e5 ♔g6 Black is sort of trying.

48.♖g8+ White is pushing the Black king back.

48...♔h7



49.♖f8?? What a terrible mistake. These kind of moves are even difficult to explain. [49.♖b8 A passive defense would just lead to a draw. Let us take a look at what would happen in case Black would try to push his pawn to b2: 49...♔g7 50.♔f5 ♖b1 51.♖b7 b5 52.g6 The most easy way of making a draw, but a passive defense would lead to the same result. (52.♔f4 b4 53.♔f3 b3 54.♖b6 b2 After this move, the position is a draw, but not to play the b2 move is simple impossible. (54...♔f8 55.♖b7 ♔e8 56.♔g2 And Black cannot progress without playing the b2 move.) 55.♔g2 ♔f8 56.♖b7 ♔e8 57.♔h2 ♔d8 58.♔g2 ♔c8 59.♖b3 ♔d7 60.♔h2 ♔e6 61.♔g2 ♔f5 62.♖b5+ ♔e4 63.♖b8 ♔d3 64.♖d8+ ♔c3 65.♖c8+ And the position is a simple draw.) 52...♖f1+ 53.♔g5 ♖g1+ 54.♔xh5 Draw.]

49...♖xh4! Caruana doesn't miss his chance.

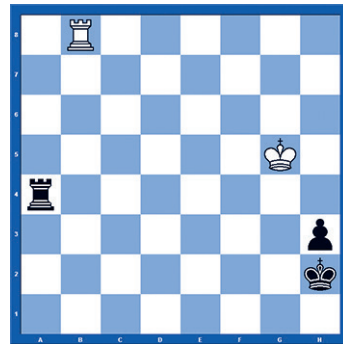
50.♖xf7+ ♔g6 51.♖f6+ ♔xg5 52.♖xb6 So is this position a draw or a clear win for Black?! It is not so easy to say at first sight, but Caruana will show us the right result...

52...♖a4! The white king should be cut on the 5th rank.

53.♖b8 White can't prevent Black from advancing his h-pawn.

53...♔g4 54.♖g8+ ♔f3 55.♖f8+ ♔g3 56.♖g8+ ♔h2 The h-pawn is ready to move forward.

57.♔f5 h4 58.♖b8 h3 59.♔g5 [59.♖b2+ didn't help: 59...♔g3 60.♖b3+ ♔h4]



59...♖e4! The last precise move.

60.♔f5 ♖e2 Now Black can let the white king come a bit closer as the position is totally winning.

61.♖g8 [61.♔f4 was losing too after 61...♔g2 62.♖g8+ ♔f1]

61...♖g2 62.♖d8 ♖f2+ Followed by ♔g2. A very tough loss for Carlsen, but blunders happen even to the greatest players!

0-1

Clash of the Titans

(17) Najdorf, Miguel
— Reshevsky, Samuel Herman [B93]

America m Mex/NY/Salvador (9), 1952

[Kamil Miton]

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.f4

It is interesting that Najdorf chose this move against the line which is named after him. Objectively it is not the best weapon, but at that time it was more popular than it is now.

6...♚c7 A normal, slightly waiting move. Black doesn't show which structure he is going to play yet, a Sheveningen after e6, a Dragon after g6 and e5 is possible as well.

7.♙d3 g6 8.0-0 The pin after ♚b6 or ♚c5 is not dangerous as White can simply play ♖h1 and the knight will not be hanging because of ♙b5.

8...♙g7 9.♚h1 0-0

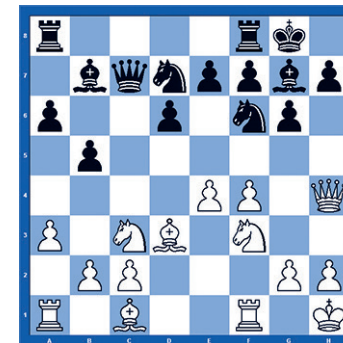


10.♚e1 The beginning of the only plan. White is going to create pressure on the kingside.

10...b5 11.a3 [11.e5 An interesting active move, but it doesn't give White any advantage: 11...dxe5 12.fxe5 ♘g4 13.♘d5 (13.♚h4 ♚xe5 (13...♘xe5 14.♘d5 ♚d6 15.♘xe7+ ♚h8 16.♘f3 ♘xf3 17.♚xf3 White has the initiative here thanks to his active pieces. 17...♘c6 18.♘xc6 ♚xc6 19.♙e4 ♚c4 20.♙h6↑) 14.♘f3 ♚h5 The easiest way to avoid problems is to exchange queens. 15.♚xh5 gxh5∞) 13... ♚xe5 14.♘xe7+ ♚h8 15.♚xe5 ♘xe5 16.♙e4 ♚a7 And Black is fine here as well.]

11...♙b7 The knight needs to escape from d4 because of ♘xe4 threats, but the f3 square is good for him anyway as White is going to play for the thematic plan ♚h4-f5-♙h6-♘g5.

12.♘f3 ♘bd7 13.♚h4

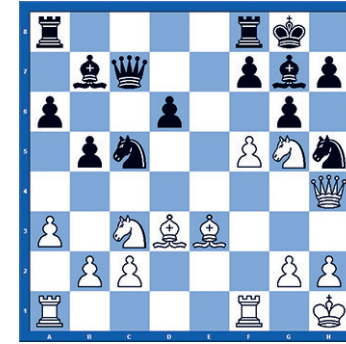


13...e6 A possible move. Black also has some other options: [13...e5 14.f5 (14.fxe5 dxe5 15.♙g5 ♚fe8=) 14...gxf5 And now not exf5 because Black would get strong central pawns, but immediately 15.♙h6↑; 13...♘c5 14.f5 gxf5 (14...d5!? A very interesting idea. 15.♙f4 ♚b6 16.e5 d4 17.exf6 (17.♘e2 ♘d5 18.♘exd4 ♘xd3 19.cxd3 ♘xf4

20. ♖xf4 Black has compensation thanks to the bishop pair.) 17... ♙xf6 18. ♘g5 ♙xg5 19. ♙xg5 dxc3 The position looks dangerous because of the weak king on g8 but black can also try to get some counterplay over the h1–a8 diagonal.) 15.e5 (15.exf5 ♘xd3 16.cxd3 ♖c5 17. ♘g5↑; 15. ♙h6!?) 15...dxe5 16. ♙xf5 And now there is for example the following forced line, which is probably not the only one though because the position is very complex: 16...e6 17. ♙h6 ♙xh6 18. ♖xh6 ♖e7 19. ♘g5 exf5 20. ♖xf5 ♘e6 21. ♖e1 (21. ♖xf6 ♘xg5 22. ♖xg5+ ♔h8 Xg2) 21...♙h8 22. ♖xe5 ♖g8 23. ♖xf6 ♙xg2+ 24. ♙xg2 ♖xg5+ 25. ♖xg5 ♘xg5 And Black takes the initiative as the white king now looks weaker.]

14. ♙e3 deserves attention. [14.f5 ♖ac8 15. ♙h6↑]

14...d5? A very bad move from a strategical point of view. Reshevsky wanted to avoid f5 at all costs but we will see below that it was not as dangerous as he thought. [14... ♘c5 15.f5 (15. ♙d4 ♘fxe4 16. ♙xe4 ♘xe4 17. ♘xe4 ♙xe4 18. ♘g5 ♙xg2+ 19. ♙xg2 ♖xc2+ 20. ♖f2 ♖c6+ 21. ♙g1 h6∞) 15...♘h5 A strange move, suggested by the engine, probably with the idea not to allow ♙h6. (15...♖ae8 was possible too.) 16.g4 (16. ♘g5 exf5 17.exf5 ♙xc3! 18.bxc3 ♘xd3 19.cxd3 ♖xc3± Black is a pawn up and he is putting the pressure on g2.) 16... ♙f6 17. ♙g5 (17. ♖h3 The queen is not on h4 so black can play 17...exf5

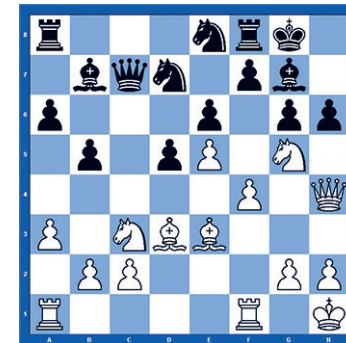


18.gxh5 fxe4 Xe4; 17. ♘g5 h6 18.fxg6 hxg5 19. ♖xh5 fxg6 20. ♖xg6+ ♖g7 21. ♖xg7+ ♔xg7 With a very pleasant endgame for Black.) 17... ♙xc3 18.bxc3 exf5 19.gxf5 ♖fe8 20. ♖ae1 With unclear play as both kings are weak.; 14... ♖fe8!?)

15.e5 ♘e8 Black's bishops are now very limited. White has a stable advantage but Najdorf decided to finish game with a sacrifice and active play.

16. ♘g5 [16. ♘e2 White is controlling the d4 square and has a stable advantage.]

16...h6



17. ♖xe6! [17. ♗xg6 fxg6 18. ♖xe6 ♔c6 19. ♖xf8 d4! 20. ♔g3 ♗xf8 21. ♗xd4 ♖g7 Black gets easy play and the position is completely unclear.]

17...fxe6 18. ♗xg6 White only has two pawns for the piece but the black pieces are very limited and White has good chances to create an attack against the black king.

18...♔d8 A logical move. Black wants to help defending with the queen. [18...♔c6 19. ♖f3→]

19. ♔h3 [19. ♔g4 White has the very unpleasant idea ♗f2-♗h4 to force Black to drive away the queen from the king. 19...♖c7 (19...♔e7 20. ♗f2!) 20. ♗f2 Compared to the game, the f4 pawn is not hanging. 20...♗xe5 21. fxe5 ♖xe5 22. ♔g3 ♔g5 23. ♔xg5 hxg5 24. ♗h5± The bishop pair and the weak dark squares give White a big advantage.]

19...♔e7



19...20. ♖e2! The knight comes into play. [20. ♗f2 doesn't work now because of 20...♔xf4 21. ♖e2 ♔xf2 22. ♔xf2 ♖xe5→]

20...d4! A good practical move. Black sacrifices a pawn to get activity. The bishop on b7 will be active and the

d5 square available. [20...♖c7 21. ♖g3 d4 22. ♗xd4 ♖d5 23. ♖h5→]

21. ♖xd4 [21. ♗xd4 With the idea ♖g3-♖h5.]

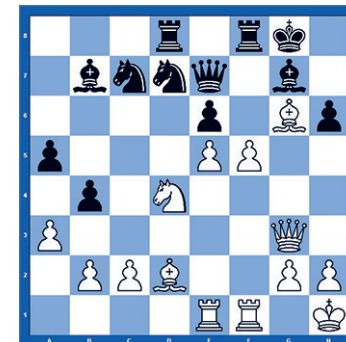
21...♖c7 22. ♔ae1 It is still very hard to make moves for Black. ♖d5 is not possible because of the e6 pawn and ♖c5 doesn't work because then White can push f5, so Black plays

22...a5 Not a stupid move because the rook can support the king over the 6th rank from a6 after a potential f5 break. [22...♔ad8 23. ♔g4 With the idea ♗f2-♗h4 or ♗d3-♔g6.]

23. ♗d2 [23. ♔g4 Followed by ♗f2-♗h4 again.]

23...b4 24. ♔g3 From this square the queen will protect the e5 pawn, which means that White is slowly preparing the final f5 action.

24...♔c5 [24...♔ad8 25. f5



25...♖xe5! And the d4 knight is hanging, but White can first play 25. c3! and only then f5!]

25.c3 bxc3 [25...bxa3 26. bxa3 ♔h8 27. ♗b1 ♔g8 28. ♔h3 with f5 next]

26. ♖xc3+- ♜a6 [26... ♔e7 27.f5 (27.h4± Preventing ♔g5.)
27... ♔g5 28.f6 ♔xg3 29.hxg3 ♙h8 30. ♙c2 White should
be winning because of the dead bishop on h8.]

27. ♙d3 ♜b6 **28.f5 exf5 29.** ♘xf5 All of White's pieces
are attacking and the position is winning in many ways.

29... ♜xf5 **30.** ♜xf5 ♘e6 **31.** ♜f6 ♔h8 **32.** ♜ef1 ♘df8
33. ♜f7 ♙d5 **34.** ♜xg7 ♘xg7 **35.e6** ♘fxe6 **36.** ♔g6
♙xg2+ **37.** ♔xg2 [The last trap was 37. ♔xg2 ♘f4+]

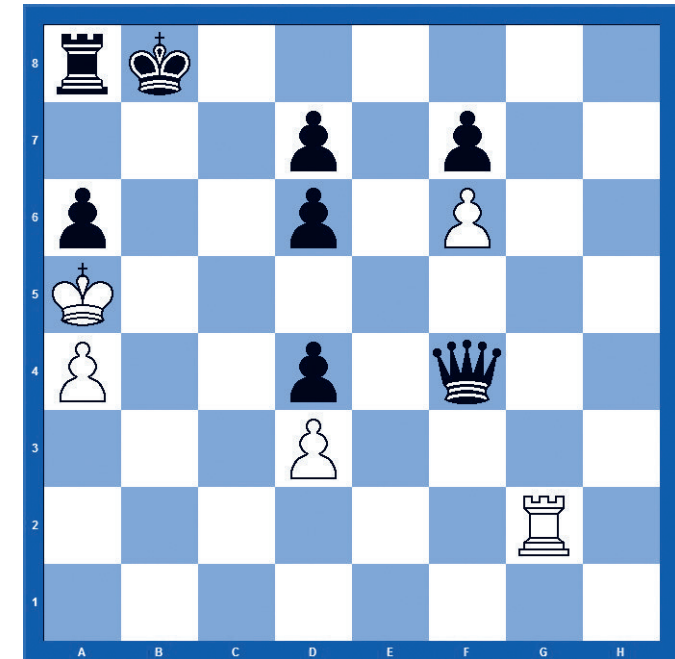
37... ♜b8 **38.** ♔g6 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Tamkov

[CEWN]

1. =

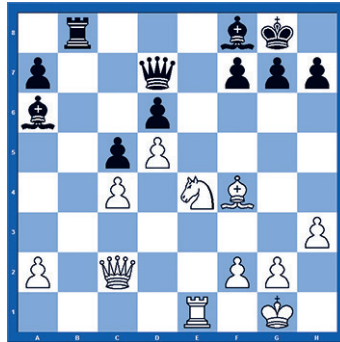


Solutions

(19) Mamedyarov,S (2753) – Nguyen Ngoc,T (2625)

World rapid Championship, 06.06.2013

[Solutions]



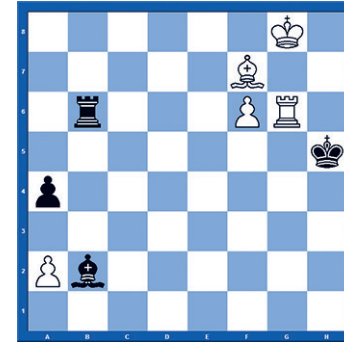
20. ♘xc5! ♔c8 [20...dxc5 21. ♙xb8+-]

21. ♘xa6 ♔xa6 22. c5+-

(20) Rublevsky,S (2695) – Safarli,E (2660)

World rapid Championship, 06.06.2013

[Solutions]



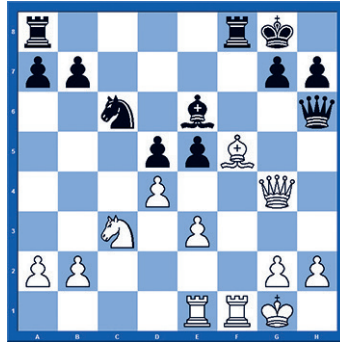
54. ♔g7? [54. ♖g2+!! ♔h6 (54...♔h4 55. ♖xb2 ♖xb2 56. ♙e6+-) 55. ♙e8! ♙xf6 56. ♖g6+ ♔h5 57. ♖xf6+-]

54...♔h4=

(21) Vasquez,R (2542) – Khairullin,I (2658)

World rapid Championship, 06.06.2013

[Solutions]

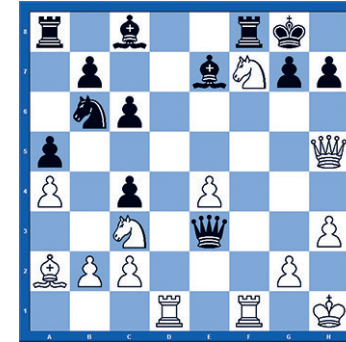


19... ♖xf5! 20. ♖xf5 ♘e7--+

(22) Inarkiev,E (2680) – Al Sayed,M (2498)

World rapid Championship, 06.06.2013

[Solutions]



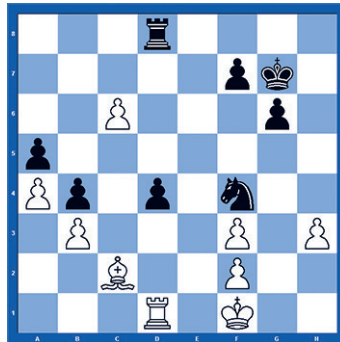
22. ♘d8? [22. ♖f3 ♕c5 ∞; 22. ♖d3!! ♕c5 (22...cxd3 23. ♘g5+ ♔h8 24. ♕xh7#) 23. ♘h6+! gxh6 24. ♖xf8+ ♔xf8 (24... ♕xf8 25. ♖g3+ ♔h8 26. ♕f7!+-) 25. ♖f3+ ♔g7 26. ♕f7+ ♔h8 27. ♕e8+ ♔g7 28. ♖f7+-]]

22... ♕f6! ∞

(23) Akopian,V (2691) – Kamsky,G (2741)

World rapid Championship, 07.06.2013

[Solutions]

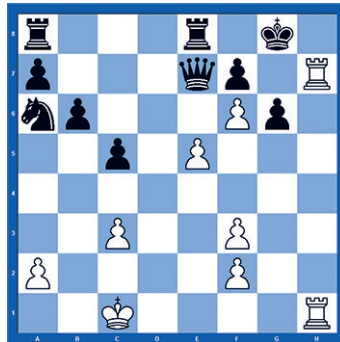


35. ♖xd4! ♜xd4 36.c7+-

(24) Dreev,A (2668) – Riazantsev,A (2708)

World rapid Championship, 08.06.2013

[Solutions]

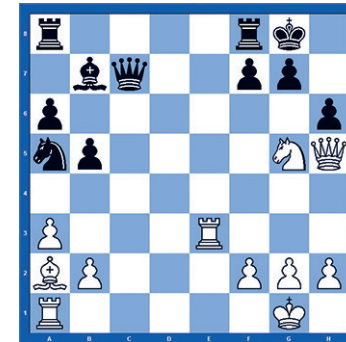


25... ♙xf6!! 26.exf6 ♖e1+! 27. ♖xe1 ♙xh7--+

(25) Zvjaginsev,V (2659) – Vasquez,R (2542)

World rapid Championship, 08.06.2013

[Solutions]

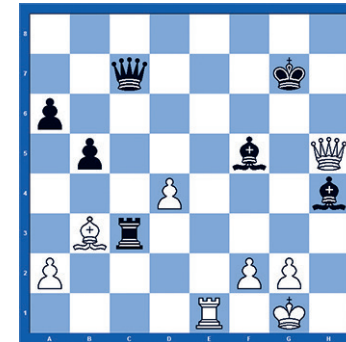


20. ♙g6!! hxg5 21. ♖h3 ♜fc8 22. ♖e1 1-0

(26) Swiercz,D (2631) – Nyzhnyk,I (2635)

French league, 05.06.2013

[Solutions]



32... ♙xf2+! 33. ♙xf2 ♙g3+ 34. ♙g1 [34. ♙f1 ♙d3+--+] 34... ♙xe1+-+

(27) Fressinet,L (2693) – Sebag,M (2527)

French league, 06.06.2013

[Solutions]

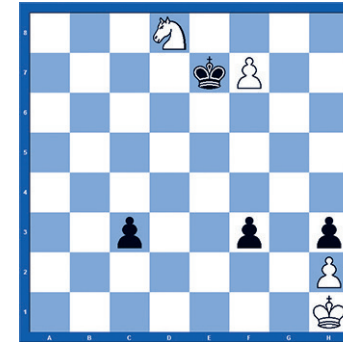


29.g5! ♖xg5 [29... ♔xg5 30. ♘xf3+-]

30.f4+-

(29) Rinck

[Solutions]

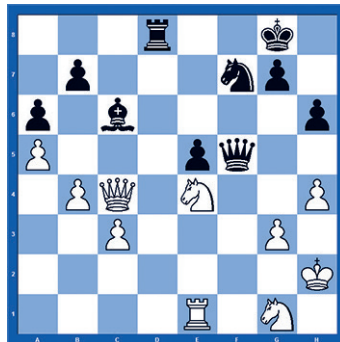


2. ♘e6! ♔xf7 **3. ♘g5+!** ♔e7 **4. ♘xf3** c2 **5. ♘g1!!** c1 ♔ =
[5... ♔f6 6. ♘e2=]

(28) Delchev,A (2622) – Fedorchuk,S (2660)

French league, 08.06.2013

[Solutions]



59... ♖d2+! **60. ♘xd2** ♔f2+ **61. ♔h3** ♘g2+ 0-1 [61... ♘g2+
62. ♔g4 (62. ♔h2 ♘f1+ 63. ♔h1 ♔g2#) 62... h5+ 63. ♔xh5
♔f5#]



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 70

28th of June 2013

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Editorial Preface

The Tal Memorial has come to an end. Boris Gelfand is the proud winner of this very prestigious event with 6/9, as he showed very strong and solid play throughout the whole tournament. The World Number 1, Magnus Carlsen, took second place with 5,5/9. The 3rd place was shared by Mamedyarov, Caruana and Andreikin - all with 5/9.

The big surprise of the tournament was the horrible of Vladimir Kramnik, with 3/9.

The National Championship of Ukraine was won jointly by Ponomarev and Krivoruchko, with 7.5/11. The 3rd place went to Korobov with 7/11.

The Super Rapid "Geneva Masters" is under way with Kramnik, Nakamura, Mamedyarov, Bacrot ...

The FIDE Women's Grand Prix is coming to an end. Before the final round, Koneru is leading the event.

As usual, the CEWN Nr 70 is packed with the most exciting moments of the past week. Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Carlsen, Magnus(2864)

- Nakamura, Hikaru(2784) [A13]

8th Tal Memorial(8.5), 2013.06.22

[Balogh Csaba]

A convincing positional victory by the World Number 1.

1.c4 e6 [We usually reach the game's position from the following move order: 1...f6 2.f3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.g2 White would like to transpose to the Catalan opening, but by delaying d4, he avoids many long theoretical lines. 4...dxc4 5.a4+ c6 6.xc4]

2.g3 As usual Carlsen only aims for a more or less non-theoretical, but playable position, where he can slowly outplay his opponent.

2...d5 3.g2 c6 Black is now threatening to take on c4 as with his last move he prepared to protect the extra pawn by playing b5.

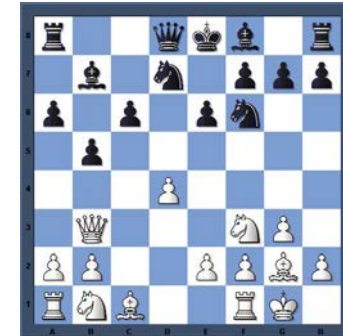
4.c2 f6 5.f3 dxc4 6.xc4



6...b5 This setup is quite popular for Black recently. He would

like to obtain a healthy piece arrangement by developing the bishop to b7, the knight to d7, followed by a6 and c5, occupying the center.

7.b3 b7 8.O-O bd7 9.d4 a6 Black is ready to push c5, White has to do something against it.



10.f5! The critical continuation! [10.a4 unfortunately does not stop Black from playing 10...c5! because 11.axb5 could be met by 11...d5! and Black takes back the pawn on b5. 12.c2 (12.d1 12...axb5 equalizes for Black.; White cannot protect his pawn by playing 12.a4?? as it would drop the a1 rook after 12...axb5) 12...e4 13.b3 d5 is a well-known way to make a quick draw by repetition.]

10...b6 Nakamura follows the fresh try of Ponomarev. [More common is 10...xe5 11.dxe5 d7 but White seems to get the initiative after 12.f4 e7 13.c3 followed by Ne4 and occupying the d6 square.]

11.e3 Because of the d5 threat, Black needs to play c5, but his pieces are not ideally prepared for this break yet.

11...c5 12.xd7 xd7



13.d5! This is a standard break in many openings. White wants to open the d-file for his rooks and works out the d5 square for his knight. Black is lacking two tempi (Be7 and O-O) to solve all the problems.

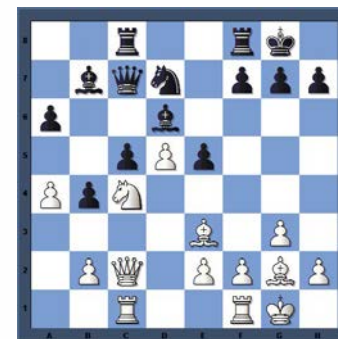
13...e5?! Nakamura was definitely unhappy with this antipositional decision. White seriously increases his advantage now. First of all he obtained a strong passed pawn on d5 and he can also create some holes in the queenside pawn structure. [13...exd5 is the only try to equalize, as it was played by Ponomarev: 14.♙xd5 ♟xd5 15.♚xd5 ♖d8 16.a4 (An improvement could be to play 16.♖d1 16...♙e7 17.♘c3+ followed by removing the queen from d5 and occupying it with the knight.) 16...♙e7 17.axb5 axb5 18.♘c3 O-O 19.b4?! This was an inaccuracy. (19.♚e4+ followed by Nd5 is better for White.) 19...♚f6! 20.♘xb5 cxb4 Black has equalized. Meier-Ponomarev, Dortmund 2011]

14.a4! White wants to play Na3 next, which forces Black to move with his b5 pawn. Both after taking on a4 or pushing b4, the knight will occupy the c4 hole.

14...b4 15.♘d2± It is hard to get more from the opening than this.

15...♙d6 16.♘c4 ♚c7 17.f4 Carlsen wants to seize the initiative. [It could have been done even more effectively by

playing 17.♖ac1! 17...O-O 18.♚c2! White is simply threatening to win the c5 pawn with taking on d6 and then on c5. 18...♖ac8



19.♙h3!+- With a decisive advantage for White. Black is completely paralyzed.]

17...O-O 18.♖ac1 exf4 Another sad decision to give up the center, but in a bad position it is hard to make good moves. [Black could not play the logical 18...♖fe8 19.fxe5 as he has no good takeback: 19...♘xe5 (19...♙xe5 loses to 20.d6! The diagonal is suddenly open for the f7 pawn. 20...♚b8



The prettiest finish is 21.♖xf7! ♙xf7 22.♘xe5+ +-) 20.♘xd6 ♚xd6 21.♙xc5+- With a clear extra pawn.]

19.♙xf4 ♙xf4 20.gxf4 White simply wants to advance his central pawns by playing e4-e5. The bad news for Black is that

he cannot prevent it, since the only attempt to do it would be f5, but it opens the b3-g8 diagonal and White wins after d6.

20...a5 21.e4 ♖ae8



22.e5! A terrible picture from Black's point of view.

22...♙a6 23.♖fe1 As if he was in zugzwang, Black decides to await his faith.

23...♙h8 [23...♘b6 Black cannot kick out the knight, since this move simply drops a pawn after 24.♘xa5; 23...♙xc4 does not solve any problem as after 24.♖xc4 Black is still doomed.]

24.♘d6 ♖e7 [24...♖ed8 loses on the spot after the following little combination: 25.♘xf7+! ♖xf7 26.d6!+- And the rook is hanging on f7.]

25.♖e3 Carlsen simply prepares an attack against the c5 pawn with Ne4. [He could have played for even more with 25.♖g3 The Nf5 threat provokes another weakening: 25...g6 26.♘e4+- followed by d6, Qh4 and Ng5. White is winning.]

25...♖d8 26.b3 Before playing Ne4, White deprives Black from playing c4.

26...g5!? Nakamura tries the best practical chance to complicate the matters a bit.

27.♙h1 White prepares for the opening of the g-file. [The

computer recommends a brutal way to finish the game: 27.♘f5! 27...♖ee8 28.♖g3 Black needs to cover the g7 square by playing 28...♖fg8 but it moves into 29.♘h6 ♖g7



30.f5+- This position is a nightmare.]

27...♖b8 28.♖f2 fxf5 is the new threat, because Black cannot take on e5 anymore because of Qf6 check.

28...gxf4 29.♖xf4 ♙d3 Bringing a defender for the king to g6. From now on Carlsen starts to make some really dubious moves, which is very uncommon for him.



30.♖e3? A terrible blunder, which could have cost half a point. [30.♙h3! was the easiest win, with the idea of taking on d7 followed by Qf6, Rg1 and Nf5 mate. Black is helpless.]

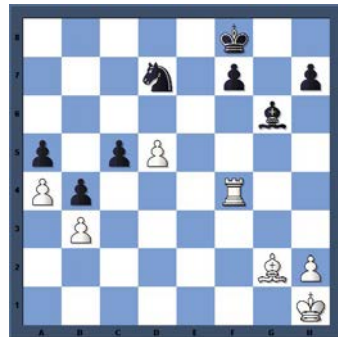
30...♙g6? [Black misses the chance to get back into the game with 30...♖xe5! 31.♖xe5 (31.♖xd3 31...♙xd6 is fine for Black.) 31...♙xd6 32.♖f5 ♙xf4 33.♖xf4 c4! Breaking through on the queenside. Black is suddenly not worse anymore.]

31.♖f1 ♖xe5! This move would have been much stronger a move earlier, but still this is the only chance.

32.♖xe5 ♙xd6 33.♖e8?! [33.♖e3! was better again to have the b3 pawn protected against Bc2 ideas. 33...♙xf4 34.♖xf4 Followed by d6. White is winning.]

33...♙xf4 34.♖xf8+ ♔g7! Black gets a much better version now compared to taking back on f8. Carlsen had probably missed this idea when he played 33.Re8.

35.♖xf4 ♔xf8 Black is back in the game again. If he gets his king to d6, he might already overtake the initiative, so the next move is forced.



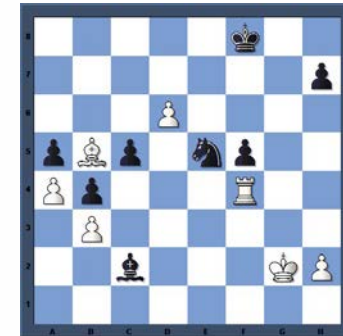
36.d6! ♘e5 Nakamura would like to break through with c4, which White prevents with his next move.

37.♙f1! ♙c2 [Black should have gone for 37...♔e8! in order to block the d-pawn 38.♙b5+ ♔d8 and White should have started to work again to squeeze out some advantage.]

38.♙b5! A great move, making use of the fact that the black bishop must keep control of the f5 square.

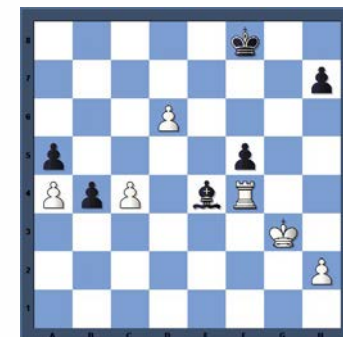
38...f5 [38...♙xb3 is met by 39.♖f5 Black loses the c5 pawn. 39...♘g4 40.♖xc5+-]

39.♔g2! It feels like Black should already have counterplay, but it looks as if nothing is working for him.



39...c4 [39...♔f7 is met by 40.♖f2! ♙xb3 (40...♙e4+ 41.♔g3 ♔e6 42.♖d2+- White succeeds to coordinate.) 41.♖xf5+ ♔e6 And the small trick brings home the full point for White. 42.♖xe5+! ♔xe5 43.d7+-; On 39...♘f7 40.d7 ♔e7 41.♖c4 ♙xb3 42.♖xc5± White maintains his winning chances.]

40.♙xc4 ♙e4+ 41.♔g3 ♘xc4 42.bxc4



42...♔e8 [Unfortunately for Black 42...b3 43.♖f2 ♙c2 does not work because of the study-like finish 44.♖d2! ♔e8 (44...b2 45.d7+- Promoting with check.) 45.c5! b2 (The blockade

does not help: 45...♔d7 46.c6+!+-) 46.d7+! ♔d8 47.c6! Very effective cooperation between the pawns and the rook. 47...b1=♚ 48.c7+ ♔xc7 49.d8=♚+ +-]

43.c5 ♖c6 [43...♔d7 44.♚f2 ♔c6 White easily wins as the c5 pawn is untouchable. 45.♔f4+-]

44.♚xf5 ♖xa4 The last task is to stop the pawns, but it is not a difficult one for Carlsen. He brings his rook behind the b-pawn.

45.♚e5+ ♔d8 46.♚e7 ♖c6 [46...b3 47.♚b7+- Black cannot make progress.; 46...♔d7 also loses after 47.♚xh7 b3 48.♚h8+ ♖e8 49.c6 b2 50.d7+-]

47.♚c7 It should have been an easy 30 moves victory for Carlsen, but he suddenly lost concentration and it was enough for Nakamura to jump out from his cramped position and to almost save the game. **1-0**

(2) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2753) - Carlsen, Magnus(2864) [E62]

8th Tal Memorial(9.2), 2013.06.23
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are at the last round of the Tal Memorial. In case of a win, Carlsen would share the first place but in case of a loss, Mamedyarov would overtake the World Number 1. So the stakes are high.

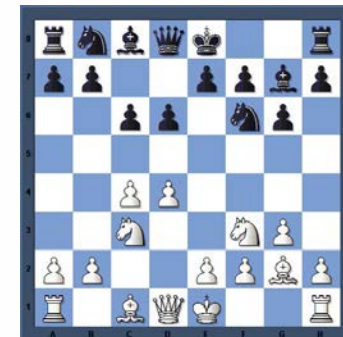
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 Carlsen usually prefers to play the Nimzo or the Queen's Gambit.

3.♘c3 ♖g7 No Gruenfeld either.

4.♘f3 d6 5.g3 Mamedyarov is choosing a more "silent" system against the KID. It is obvious that Carlsen is looking for a "fight" in this game and is ready to play a game "all or nothing". So with 5.g3 Mamedyarov is making it clear that he prefers a more "calm" meeting at the chess board.

5...c6 A rare move, after 5...0-0 6.Bg2 Nc6 we are of course back in the mainlines.

6.♖g2



6...♖f5 This was Carlsen's idea: quickly leave the theory, but to be honest, this is looking really strange to me. Can a move like 6...Bf5 be objectively good?! The move is at least looking

very unnatural and Mamedyarov will prove us that nobody should make such "jokes" against him in the opening.

7.0-0 ♖e4 That's the main idea of Bf5. Now the bishop on g7 is getting a bit more active and an exchange of a piece is clearly good for Black.

8.♖e1 White is preparing to play e4 in the future.

8...0-0



9.♖b3! A very strong move! It forces Black to take a decision.

9...♖xc3 [After 9...♖c8 10.♖h4! Black doesn't have Nxc3 with tempo anymore. 10...♖xc3 11.♖xf5 And White has a clear advantage.]

10.bxc3 White's position looks very good! The b7 pawn is hanging and e4 is coming next.

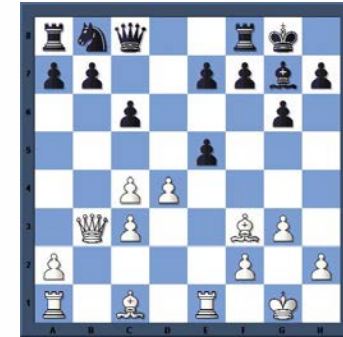
10...♖c8 11.e4 ♕g4 We can clearly see that White is doing better, but what to play next?

12.e5!? A strong idea. [To include 12.♖b1 12...b6 13.e5 is also looking very nice for White.]

12...♕xf3 Not a nice move to play, but what else to do? White wanted to play the very unpleasant Bg5 next. [And after 12...♖d7 13.exd6 exd6 14.♕f4! Black would lose the d6 pawn.]

13.♕xf3 dxe5 Black is trying to destroy White's pawn

structure, but Mamedyarov continues to play a great game.



14.♖b1! A fantastic move! The b7 pawn is very important because it is closing the white bishop from f3. So by forcing Black to play b6 or even winning the b7 pawn, White would reach a big advantage.

14...exd4 [After 14...b6 15.♕a3 White's initiative is very strong.]

15.cxd4 White does not hurry as Black cannot protect b7 and e7 at the same time.

15...♕xd4 16.♖xb7 The b7 pawn is of course more important. We can clearly see that White already has quite a solid advantage.

16...♖f5 What a bluff by Magnus Carlsen! But it might be the best practical decision. [16...♖xb7 17.♖xb7 would lead to a very unpleasant endgame for Black.]

17.♕g2? This move still guarantees White a nice advantage, but [White could have finished the game in one move after 17.♕b2!! 17...♕xb2 18.♖xa8 and White is just an exchange up. 18...♖d7 19.♖xa7 I think the game would be over soon here.]

17...♖a6 Now Black is a little bit back into the game.

18.♕h6 White is also back into the game with a strong move.

The bishop on h6 is a very irritating piece for the black king, who is now in big danger.

18...♖c5



19.♔xe7?! Once again White misses his chance of finishing the game... [19.♔xc6! This move requires exact calculation, but again it is not too difficult to find. Usually it should have been a piece of cake for Mamedyarov. 19...♖fc8 20.♔xa8 ♖xa8 21.♔xa8 And White should be not afraid of Qxf2. 21...♔c8 (21...♔xf2+ 22.♔h1 ♖d7 23.♔xe7 simply leads to mate!) 22.♔f3 Whites advantage should be close to winning.]

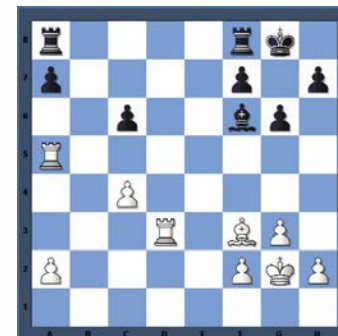
19...♖d3 20.♔e4 Black still needs to play very accurately not to get into trouble again.

20...♔g7?! A strange move. [Why not simply play 20...♔e5! and Black is more or less fine.]

21.♔d1 ♔xh6 22.♔xd3 All the white pieces are very active and Black is going to lose at least the pawn on c6.

22...♔g5! A very strong move! Black has to force the queens exchange in order not to get mated. As we know, with opposite colored bishops on the board, the attacking side has an extra advantage.

23.♔e5 ♔xe5 24.♔xe5 ♔f6 25.♔a5
[25.♔c5 was maybe a bit more precise.]



25...♔fd8! Another great move by Black! It would make no sense to try and keep the c6 and a7 pawns alive as this is simply impossible. Instead Black is trying to create some counterplay.

26.♔xd8+ ♔xd8 27.♔xc6 ♔d2 White is winning both pawns on the queenside, but Black is capturing a very important pawn on f2.

28.♔a7 ♔d4 29.♔d7 ♔xf2+ 30.♔h3 ♔e5 Black's idea is to play h5-g5-g4 next.

31.♔d5 ♔c7 32.♔d7 ♔e5 33.♔d5 ♔c7 34.♔d7 Mamedyarov was probably a bit upset to not reach more than this endgame, but of course even here White could have tried to play on for a win with 33.a4 for example. The position is still quite tricky. I have asked myself many times how Carlsen does it?! It seems like against him, even great tactical players are missing quite obvious hits. :) 1/2-1/2

(3) Karjakin, Sergey(2782) - Anand, Viswanathan(2786) [B97]

Moscow RUS(9.4), 2013.06.23

[Balogh Csaba]

A very sharp theoretical duel in the poisoned pawn variation of the Najdorf. It would be interesting to know the preparation of both players. I can easily imagine that they both have analyzed everything until the last move of this game.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙g5
White goes for the sharpest setup against the Najdorf.

6...e6 7.f4



7...♙b6 Fischer's favorite move is the most concrete option for Black with a direct attack against the b2 pawn. On the other hand, Black spends some very important tempi to grab that pawn and his undeveloped pieces led to many quick defeats. However the current theory is so deep here that - having analyzed everything with the strongest computers until move 25-30 - the players with good memory are ready to go for the complications, as the lines are not worse for Black, usually they end with perpetual check. :) In many lines both sides are forced to make only moves, otherwise Black gets mated or White ends up with material disadvantage without adequate compensation.

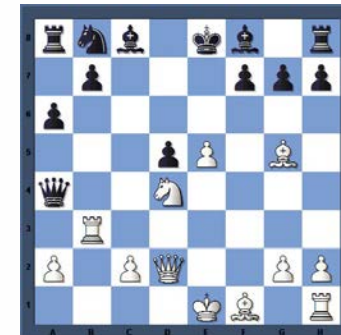
8.♙d2 White has no good way to protect the b2 pawn, since he does not want to play a move like Rb1 as he wants to castle queenside.

8...♙xb2 9.♖b1 ♙a3 The starting position of the poisoned pawn variation. White is the first one who has a couple of choices here.



10.e5 This is the new wave. The old mainline is 10.f5.

10...h6 [10...dxe5 11.fxe5 ♘fd7 (11...♘d5 If Black wants to go for this option, it is extremely important to include the h6-Bh4 pair of moves because of the nice tactical trick of 12.♘xd5 exd5 13.♖b3 ♙a4



14.♘b5!! and Black cannot prevent Nc7, while with the h6-Bh4 moves the bishop would be hanging on h4! 14...axb5 15.♙xb5+ -+)]

11. ♖h4 dxe5 12. fxe5 ♘d5 [12...g5 and 12...♘fd7 are also huge theoretical lines.]

13. ♘xd5 exd5



14. e6! [14. ♖b3 14... ♖a4 15. ♘b5 ♖xh4+ is the point behind playing 10...h6 11. Bh4.; After some "normal" moves like 14. ♖d3 14... ♖c5 15. ♖f2 ♘c6 Black develops his pieces and White finds himself being a pawn down.]

14... ♖xe6 15. ♖xb7 This is the novelty according to my database. [The previous games continued with 15. ♘xe6 15... fxe6 16. ♖d3 ♖e7 17. ♖g6+ ♖d8 Black is already two pawns up, but his king cannot be said to be safe. 18. ♖xe7+ ♖xe7 19. O-O Creating the threat of Rf7. 19... ♘d7! 20. ♖f7 (20. ♖xb7 was met by 20... ♖c5+ 21. ♖h1 ♖a7! Black has more or less consolidated his position and he still has an extra pawn.) 20... ♖c5+ 21. ♖h1 ♖f8 22. ♖xg7 ♖f6! And most of the games here ended with a draw after repetition: 23. ♖g8+ ♖f8 24. ♖g7 ♖f6]

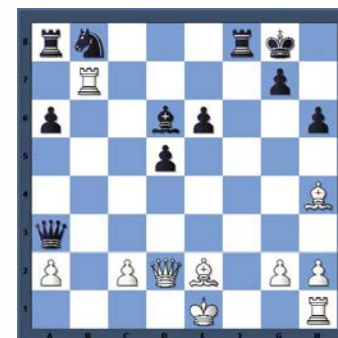
15... ♖d6 Getting ready to castle. [A logical developing move like 15... ♘d7 perfectly illustrates the dangers of Black's position.]



16. ♖b5!! With the threat of Nxe6 and the d7 pawn is hanging. 16...axb5 17. ♘xb5 White threatens with mate on c7 and taking the queen. Black can stay in the game with 17... ♖b4! Freeing the f8 square for the king, but he ends up in a bad position after 18. ♘c7+! ♖f8 19. ♖xb4 ♖c8 20. ♘xe6+ fxe6 21. O-O ♖g8 22. c4!± Black still didn't manage to solve the problem of his king. White has a strong attack.]

16. ♘xe6 fxe6 17. ♖e2 [17. ♖d3 would deprive White from the option he had in the game. 17...O-O White cannot increase the pressure.; 17. ♖xg7?? is a terrible blunder because of 17... ♖b4]

17... O-O The difference between the previous move and 17. Bd3 is that White has



18. ♖d4! It is not easy to deal with the threat on g7. At first sight, Black has three playable options, but only one of them works...

18...♖f7! [18...e5 leads to a worse endgame after 19.♙xd5+ ♗h8



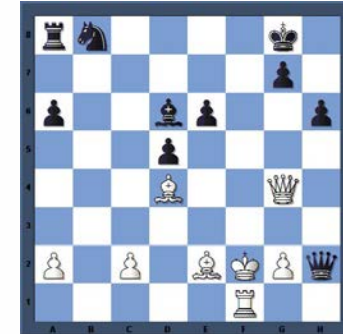
20.♔d1!! Avoiding the queen checks on c3 and c1. Black cannot develop his b8 knight, which disturbs the coordination between the pieces. White threatens to play Bd3 followed by Qe4 or Rb3 and the a8 rook is hanging. **20...♖f4!** The only move. **21.♖b3!** ♖d4+ (21...♙xa2 22.♖xb8+ +- wins the a2 queen.) **22.♙xd4 exd4** **23.♖xa3 ♗xa3** **24.♗f3 ♖a7** **25.♖e1±** With material equality, but the bishop pair combined with the more active pieces give White a clear advantage.; 18...♙c1+ is tempting, but it only helps White because after 19.♗d1! Black has nothing else than 19...♖f7 **20.♖xf7 ♗xf7** **21.O-O!** Castling with tempo and the queen gets into a pin on c1. **21...♗g8** **22.♙b6+-** (22.♗g4 also wins.)]

19.♖xf7 ♗xf7 **20.O-O ♗g8** It feels like White should have some crushing move here, but he must lose an important tempo on preventing the threat of Bc5.

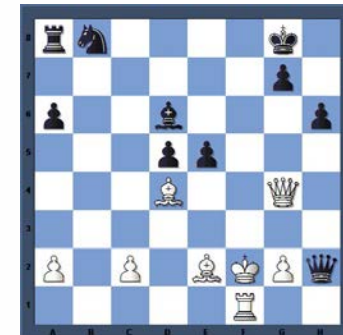
21.♙g4 ♙e3+ **22.♗f2** [22.♗h1!? was another interesting try, after which Black has to defend precisely with 22...♗d7! (22...♗c6 is refuted by 23.♗f6! ♗f8 24.♗d3! With the threat of Qg6-h7. 24...♗b4 25.♗d4! ♙g5 26.♙xe6+ ♗h8 27.♗g6+- Black cannot hold the pressure.) 23.♗d3 ♖f8 24.♖e1 ♗f6! This intermediate move is a key resource in Black's defence. 25.♖xe3 ♗xg4 26.♖xe6 ♗xh2 With an equal endgame.]

22...♙e5 **23.♗g3 ♙e3+** **24.♗f2 ♙e5** **25.♗d4!?** White could have agreed to a draw, but he tries another deep trick to win the game.

25...♙xh2+ **26.♗f2**



26...♙f4+! Anand finds the last only move and holds the draw. [26...e5? looked good as well, but White has a fantastic win here:

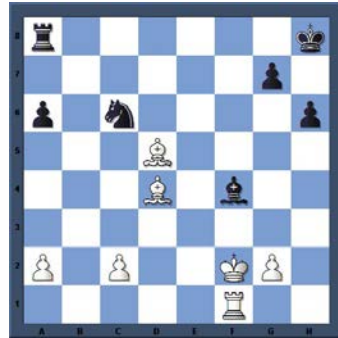


27.♗e1!! Opening the f-file for the rook, and creating a hidden threat. **27...♗c6** (27...exd4 leads to a forced mate after **28.♙e6+ ♗h8** **29.♙e8+ ♗h7** **30.♗d3+ +-**) **28.♗g1!!** This is the point and suddenly the queen gets trapped. **28...♙h1** **29.♗c5+-]**

27.♙xf4 ♗xf4 **28.♗g4** White is two pawns down at the moment, but he inevitably wins back the material.

28...♖c6 [28...e5 looks like a blunder because of 29.♗e6+ ♔h8 30.♗xd5 but Black can still save the game: 30...♖c6! 31.♗xc6 ♖c8 32.♗b7 ♖c7]

29.♗xe6+ ♔h8 30.♗xd5



30...♖d8! The last subtlety to get rid of the bishop pair. The game is a dead draw now.

31.♗xg7+ ♔xg7 32.♗xc6 ♖d2+ 33.♔f3 ♖xc2 34.♗e4 [34.♔xf4 34...♖xc6]

34...♖c1 35.♖xc1 ♗xc1 The 15.Rxb7 novelty was a nice try by Karjakin, but Anand was well prepared. Some slightly weaker player would probably have fallen for one of the many traps, but the World Champion has found all the only moves. **1/2-1/2**

(4) Kramnik, Vladimir(2803)
- Gelfand, Boris(2755) [A36]

8th Tal Memorial(9.3), 2013.06.23
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Kramnik played what is probably one of his worst tournaments in the last years, -3 is a very tough result. So we are in the last round and it is clear that White has no ambitions whatsoever to play this game and would be happy with a short draw. How to do it? Sometimes when you are in a bad shape it is not an easy task at all. This game is about: how to make a draw when you want a draw! :)

1.c4 is one of Kramnik's main moves and probably also one of the safest ones.

1...c5 [1...e5 is a more aggressive reply, but Gelfand does not usually choose it.]

2.♖c3 g6 Black is ready to play quite a fighting line after

3.g3! If White is playing for a draw, this is a great move! Keeping the position symmetrical. [3.♖f3 3...♗g7 4.d4 cxd4 5.♖xd4 would lead to a fighting position.]

3...♗g7 4.♗g2 ♖c6 5.e3! Again an excellent choice if you are playing for a draw. [5.♖f3 would lead to a normal, long term play.]

5...e6 With this move Black is making it clear that a draw is also fine with him.

6.♖ge2 ♖ge7 7.O-O O-O We see a total symmetry.



8.d4 cxd4 Black has to stop repeating White's moves, but not for a long time.

9.♘xd4 White continues avoiding any complications. [9...exd4 9...d5 would again lead to a bit more fighting position.]

9...d5 10.cxd5 ♘xd4 A forced move. [After 10...exd5?! 11.♘xc6 bxc6 12.♕d2 White's position is a little bit better.]

11.exd4 ♘xd5 As we can see, the position is already very close to a draw.

12.♞e1! A very good move in this particular situation. Now Black has to be a bit accurate in "making a draw".



12...♞b6! As I was watching this game live, I remember that Gelfand played this move almost instantly. Boris still has a huge reserve of prepared lines from the WCC match last year.

13.♕xd5 White's best try to get something out of the position.

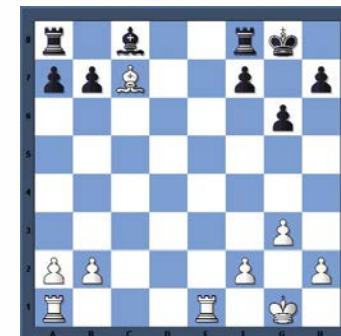
13...exd5 14.♘xd5 ♞xd4 15.♞xd4 ♕xd4 We can see that Kramnik reached his first goal of avoiding any kind of complicated positions. Now the question is, can White get any small advantage here or not?

16.♘c7 ♞b8 17.♘b5 The a7 pawn is White's target.

17...♕b6 18.♕h6 ♞d8 19.♕f4 [Another try could have been 19.♕g5 19...f6! The only move. 20.♕xf6 ♕xf2+! again seems to be the only way to continue the game. 21.♞xf2 ♞f8 22.♞e7 ♞xf6+ 23.♞e3 ♕g4 24.♘d4 ♞f7 And it seems that Black is doing perfectly fine.]

19...♞a8 20.♘c7 ♕xc7 21.♕xc7 ♞f8 Opposite colored bishops, equal pawns, it is clear that this position should be very close to a draw, but White can still try to "push " a little bit.

22.♕d6 ♞d8 23.♕c7 ♞f8



24.♕d6 Kramnik continues repeating moves. He really had enough of this tournament. [I am sure that if Kramnik had been in better shape, Black would still have had to suffer for quite some time after 24.♞e7 With a minimally better position for White.]

24...♞d8 25.♕c7 ♞f8 We have now faced a "start-finish"

draw game, which is sometimes the best you can do from a practical point of view... Nakamura for example lost his last 3 games, and maybe a "dry" recovery draw would have been a not too bad result - only from a practical point of view! :)
1/2-1/2

Puzzle section

(5) Ponkratov, P(2605)-Khismatullin, D(2658)

Ekaterinburg, 2013.06.21

[CEWN]

1... -+



(6) Shimanov, A(2664)-Dubov, D(2638)

Ekaterinburg, 2013.06.22

[CEWN]

1... -+



(7) Tomashevsky, E(2709)-Predke, A(2492)

Ekaterinburg, 2013.06.23

[CEWN]

1. +-



(8) Andriasian, Z(2610)-Minasian, A(2505)

2013.06.20

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Harika, D(2492)-Kosintseva, T(2526)

WGP Dilijan, 2013.06.24

[CEWN]

1... -+



(10) Onischuk, V(2581)-Pridorozhni, A(2512)

Voronezh Open, 2013.06.21

[CEWN]

1. +-



(11) Smirnov, P(2635)-Maletin, P(2611)

Izmailov memorial, 2013.06.18

[CEWN]

1. +-



(12) Mareco, S(2557)-Janev, E(2444)

Varna Open, 2013.06.21

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Mareco, S(2557)-Janev, E(2444)

Varna Open, 2013.06.21

[CEWN]

1... -+

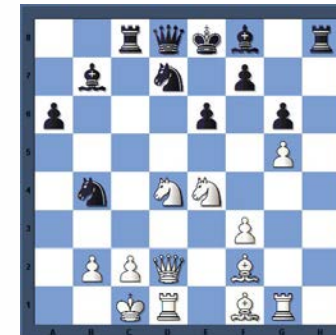


(14) Mekhitarian, K(2544)-Ashwin, J(2472)

Varna Open, 2013.06.23

[CEWN]

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Grachev, B.(2683)-Dubov, D.(2638)

Ekaterinburg, 2013.06.23

[CE Team]

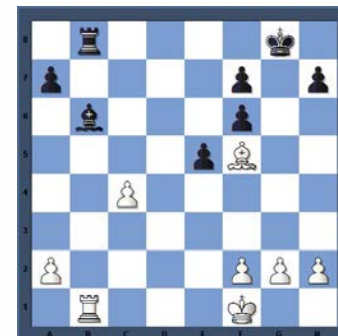


White basically has an extra pawn on c4, since the doubled f-pawns cannot be counted as more than one. However the strong bishop on d4 and the appearance of opposite colored bishops give Black decent chances for survival.

29. Rdb1 White would like to keep his active rook on the 7th rank.

29... Bb6 A natural decision to force some exchanges by closing the b-file, but it allows a clever simplification. [29... Rxb7 30. Rxb7 is also quite unpleasant. Black cannot activate his rook, while White has different ways to make progress. He can for instance play on the light squares by putting the pawns to f3 and g4, driving the bishop to d5 and marching to f5 with the king.]

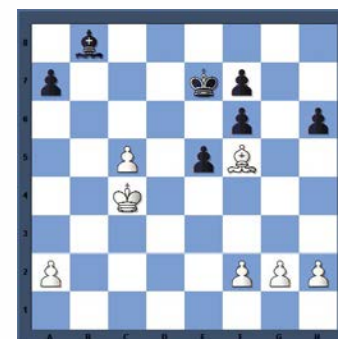
30. Rxb8 Rxb8



31.c5! Bc7 32. Rxb8+! Excellent evaluation of the resulting endgame! White transposes to an opposite colored bishop endgame with equal pawns, but the quick invasion of the king on the queenside gives him all the chances to win the game.

32... Bxb8 33. Ke2 h6 Black has to waste an important tempo on advancing the h-pawn before driving his king to the other side of the board.

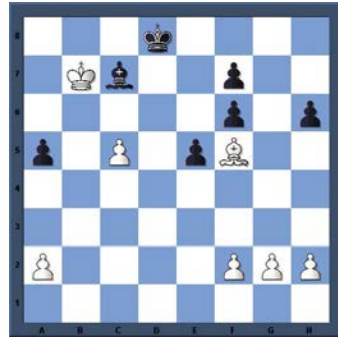
34. Qd3 Qf8 35. Qc4 Qe7



36. Bb5 White is ready to trap the bishop with Kc6-b7!

36... e4! Black uses his only chance to free his bishop, but it costs him a pawn. But in many opposite colored bishop endgames one pawn is not relevant at all. The bigger problem is that after White gets his king to b7 and takes the a7 pawn he obtains two passed pawns on the queenside. [The passive

defence with 36...♔d8 37.♔c6 ♘c7 38.♔b7 a5 leads to a quick, but nice defeat after



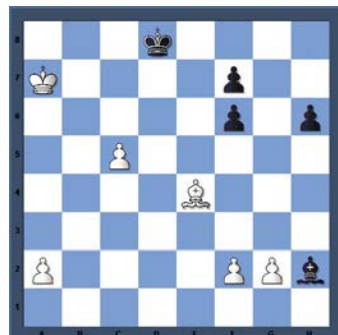
39.a4! Black is in zugzwang. He can neither move his king nor his bishop. 39...h5 40.h4+– And Black doesn't have any move.]

37.♔a6 [37.h3 It was more logical to keep the h-pawn as it might be useful later on. Ka6 is coming anyway...]

37...♔d8 [37...♘h2 is met by 38.♔xa7 ♘g1 39.♔b7! ♘xf2 40.c6 e3 41.♘d3+– White easily stops the e-pawn, while the c-pawn will inevitably promote in the next moves.]

38.♘xe4 ♘xh2 Black could not stay passively with Kc7-c8 in order to prevent Kb7, because White wins the f7 pawn after Bd5 and he obtains a passed pawn on both flanks, which makes the position easily winning.

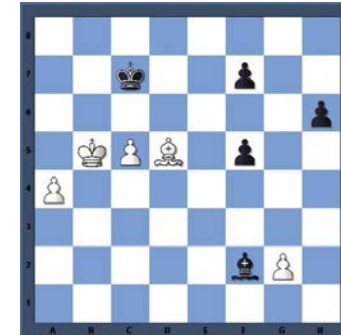
39.♔xa7



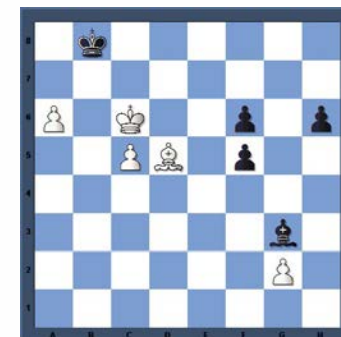
39...♔c7! It was necessary to prevent Kb7.

40.♔a6 f5 The pawn cannot be taken because of Kc6.

41.♘d5 ♘g1 42.a4 ♘xf2 43.♔b5 The correct evaluation of the entire endgame is based on this position. It looks like White is winning, but let's check the possibilities:



43...♔b8 Black is ready to put his king to a7, which is the best chance. [43...f6 Black should rather focus on stopping the queenside pawns than wasting a tempo to protect the uselessf-pawn 44.a5! ♔b8 This move is necessary in any case when White plays a6 to prevent a7... 45.♔b6 ♘g3 Another obligatory move to have Bc7 against the a6-a7 threat, but it does not help. 46.a6 ♘c7+ 47.♔c6 ♘g3



48.♔d7! Followed by c6-c7 and after Bxc7 a7, winning the

bishop and the game thanks to the last standing pawn on g2.
48...h5 49.c6 ♖e5 50.c7+ ♜xc7 51.a7+ ♔xa7 52.♔xc7+-]

44.♜xf7 [44.♔b6 44...♜g3]

44...♔a7 45.♜h5 White has all the time in the world to find the ideal place for his bishop, since Black has nothing better to do than waiting.

45...♜e3 46.♜e2! This is the right diagonal, with the idea to advance the pawn to a6 followed by Kc6-Kd6 and c6 and to have the a6 pawn protected.

46...♔b7 [46...♜g5 Changing the bishop's diagonal makes no difference. White wins after 47.a5 ♜d8 48.a6 ♜c7 49.♔c6 ♜a5 50.♔d7+- and c6-c7.]

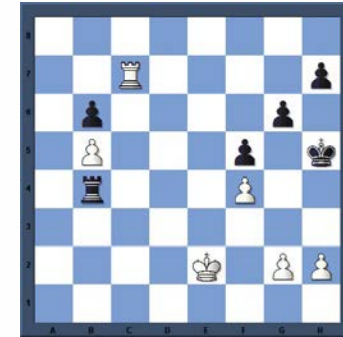
47.a5 ♜f4 48.a6+ ♔c8 [48...♔c7 loses to 49.♜f3 ♔b8 50.♔b6 ♜c7+ 51.♔c6 White wins as we have already seen in the 43...f6 line.]

49.♜d3 ♜b8 50.♔b6 [Black resigned in view of 50.♔b6 Threatening to play a7. 50...♜c7+ 51.♔c6 ♜b8 52.♜xf5+ ♔d8 53.♔b7+- An instructive endgame, which shows the difficulty of opposite colored bishop endgames. We can save many bad positions by escaping into them being 2 or 3 pawns down, but sometimes even with material equality we are just unable to hold. I am pretty sure that Grachev did not know whether the endgame was won or drawn when he exchanged the rooks, but he probably felt that the invasion of his king would give him very good practical chances.] **1-0**

(16) Neverov, V.(2515)-Volokitin, And(2687)

82nd ch-UKR 2013(10), 2013.06.25

[CE Team]



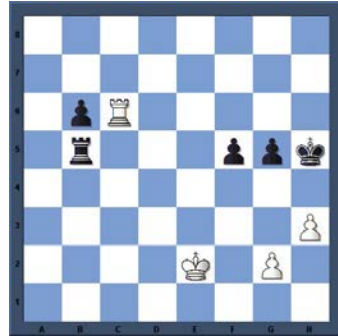
A very interesting and practical rook endgame saw the day after move 40. Black will very soon be a clear pawn up, because the white pawn on b5 will be lost. But whether the position is more "losing" or closer to a "draw", this we will find out during the next moves.

40...h6 41.♖c6 [An attempt to make a "barricade" against the Black king would not lead to anything: 41.h3 41...♖xb5 42.g3 And Black has the move 42...g5 anyway, so it's about the same as in the game.; 41.♖c8! To active the rook would have been a good idea in any case as the rook is not standing on its best position on c6. 41...♖xb5 42.h3 Followed by similar ideas as in the game, except that White would not have lost a tempo by playing Rc8.]

41...♖xb5 42.h3 White wants to play g4 next and exchange all the pawns, so Black is forced to act.

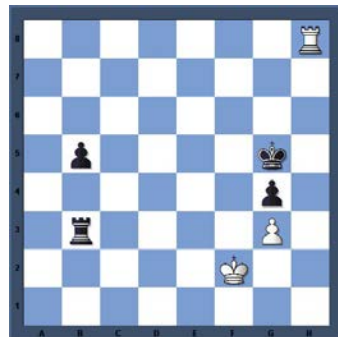
42...g5! Clearly the best winning attempt.

43.fxg5 hxg5



44.g3 White is trying to avoid f4 followed by Kh4-Kg3, which is very logical.

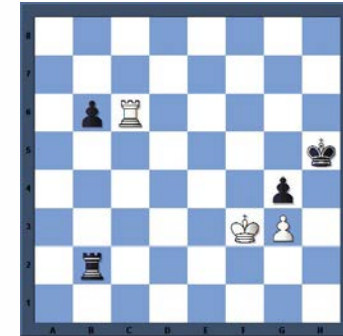
44...♖b2+ 45.♔f3 g4+? Quite a mistake! [To check the White king first and only then 45...♖b3+ 46.♔f2 to play g4 would give Black much better winning chances as the white king now has to stand on a passive position on f2. 46...g4 47.hxg4+ Now Black has to decide whether to take with the king or the pawn. Both lines are looking pretty complicated. 47...♔xg4! gives Black better winning chances (47...fxg4 seems to be possible as well, but White should be just in time to make a draw: 48.♖c8! It is very important to activate the rook. 48...b5 49.♖h8+ ♔g5



50.♖g8+ ♔f5 51.♖f8+ ♔e4 The black king has to run to the b-pawn, as it is impossible to hold on to the g4 pawn.

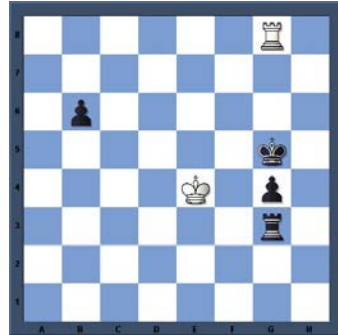
52.♖f4+ ♔d3 53.♖xg4 We are now in a position where things are very forced. 53...b4 54.♖g8 ♖c3 55.♖b8 b3 56.♔f3! White is in time to activate his king. 56...♔c2+ 57.♔f4 And the game should end in a draw.) 48.♖g6+ ♔h5 49.♖g8 b5 White has to do something, Black wants to play Rb1 and bring the pawn to b3 after which White will be forced to leave the nice position on g8 with his rook. 50.♖f8 ♔g6 51.♖g8+ ♔f7 52.♖b8 ♔e6 53.♖e8+ ♔d5 54.♖d8+ ♔c4 55.♖f8 Once again White's only chance is to take the f5 pawn. 55...♖d3 56.♖xf5 b4 57.♖f8 And White seems to be in time again to hold the draw.]

46.hxg4+ fxg4+



47.♔e4? And White is giving Black the favor back. [47.♔f4! would have been a much stronger move. In comparison to the game, White would now have his king on e5 and not on e4, which makes a huge difference. 47...♖b3 48.♖c8 ♖f3+ 49.♔e5 ♖xg3 50.♖h8+ ♔g5 51.♖g8+ ♔h5 52.♖h8+ And here we can clearly see why White's king's position on e5 is much better. Black doesn't have Kf6 and is now a tempo down, which is extremely important. 52...♔g6 53.♔f4 ♖g1 54.♖b8 And White should easily hold the draw.]

47...♖b3 48.♖c8 ♖xg3 49.♖h8+ ♔g5 50.♖g8+



50...♔f6! That's the point! Black is in time to give up the g-pawn and get his own king to e5!

51.♔f4 ♖b3 Nobody cares about the g-pawn anymore.

52.♔xg4 ♔e5 The black king is on his way to b4, after which the position is theoretically winning.

53.♖e8+ ♔d4 54.♔f4 b5 The black rook from b3 is cutting White's king on the 3rd rank, which gives Black a clear point!

55.♖d8+ ♔c4 56.♔e4 ♖c3 Nothing helps White anymore.

57.♖d4+ ♔b3 And once again we saw how complicated rook endgames are and how easy it is to make a crucial mistake which makes a difference of half a point! **0-1**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Rubinstein, Akiba-Nimzowitsch, Aaron[A55]

San Sebastian(22), 1912.03.19

[Kamil Miton]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 d6 3.♘f3 ♘bd7 A rare continuation which leads to King's Indian structures.

4.♘c3 e5 5.e4 ♙e7 Its hard to say what the advantages of placing the bishop on e7 are, instead of the more typical development on g7. Maybe when White will close the center after d5, the bishop can be activated over d8-b6.

6.♙e2 O-O 7.O-O ♖e8 8.♔c2



8...♙f8 9.b3 I'm not sure if this plan is the best for White. The bishop on b2 looks good only in case Black takes on d4. [9.♖d1+=]

9...c6 10.♙b2 ♘h5 Black is trying to create some weaknesses on the kingside. [10...exd4 11.♘xd4 ♘c5 12.f3 And now Black has the typical break 12...d5 When this move works, Black is usually fine. 13.exd5 (13.cxd5 13...cxd5 14.♘xd5 ♘xd5 15.exd5 ♙xd5 16.♙c4 ♙h5 17.♖ad1 ♙d7) 13...cxd5 14.♖ad1 White has the initiative.]

11.g3 ♘b8?! I understand that Black wants to develop his bishop and launch some play against the white king, but this move cannot be good! Black could for example play b6-Bb7, then later maybe a6-b5 and in case White plays d5 in order to limit the b7 bishop, then the bishop on b2 will have the same problem.

12.♖ad1 ♔f6



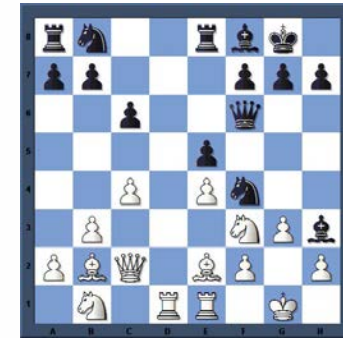
13.♘b1?! Rubinstein's idea is correct, he understands that Black's development is very bad and that he has chances to break the position in the center but he should have done it in a different way: [13.c5! 13...♙g4 (13...exd4 14.♘xd4 dxc5 15.♘f5 ♗g6 16.♙c1 Black has problems with the queen and the knight.) 14.♘h4 (14.cxd6 14...♙xf3 15.dxe5 ♖xe5 16.♗d3 ♙xe2 17.♘xe2 ♖d5 18.♗c2 ♗g6 And Black escapes.) 14...♙xe2 15.♘xe2 White is much better!]

13...♙h3 14.♖fe1 [14.dxe5 14...dxe5 15.♘xe5 ♖xe5 16.♙xh5 ♙xf1 17.f4 (17.♙xf1 17...♗e7 18.♙xe5 ♗xe5 19.♙e2 ♘a6 Black has full compensation thanks to the weakness of the dark squares.) 17...♙h3 18.♙xe5 ♙c5+ 19.♙h1 ♗e7 Followed by Nd7. White is a pawn up but his pieces are very badly coordinated and his king is not safe.]

14...♘f4 15.dxe5 [15.♙f1 15...♙g4∞]

15...dxe5 [15...♘xe2+ 16.♗xe2 dxe5 17.♘xe5 ♖xe5 18.f4

(18.♙xe5 18...♗xe5 19.♖d8 With unclear play.) 18...♙c5+ 19.♙h1 ♘d7 20.fxe5 ♘xe5 Once again Black has nice compensation.]



16.♘xe5 ♖xe5 [16...♘g2!?]

17.♙f1 ♘d7 18.♗d2 [18.gxf4 18...♗g6+ 19.♙h1 ♙g4 20.♙g2 ♙xd1 21.♖xd1 ♖e7 22.♙a3 And I suppose that here it is better for Black to give back the exchange and get compensation because of the dark squares instead of playing 22...c5 because after 23.♘c3 followed by e5, White will get nice play over the h1-a8 diagonal and on the d5 square.]

18...♙xf1 Black wouldn't have had any problems after [18...♙g4 19.♙xe5 (19.♗xf4 19...♗xf4 20.gxf4 ♖xe4 21.♖xe4 ♙xd1 22.♖d4 ♙g4=+) 19...♘xe5 20.♗xf4 ♗xf4 21.gxf4 ♘f3+ 22.♙g2 ♘xe1+ 23.♖xe1 ♖d8∞]

19.♖exf1 [19.♙xf1 19...♘e6 20.♗xd7 ♙c5 21.f4 (21.♖d2 21...♗f3 22.♙xe5 ♗h1+ 23.♙e2 ♗xe4+ 24.♙f1 ♗h1+ With perpetual check.) 21...♗h6 22.♙xe5 ♗h3+ 23.♙e2 ♗xh2+ 24.♙f3 (24.♙d3 24...♙b4-+) 24...♙f2 With very unclear play. 25.♖eg1 ♙xg1 26.♗d2 ♗h1+ 27.♗g2 ♗xg2+ 28.♙xg2 ♙b6]

19...♘h3+ 20.♙g2 ♘g5 21.f4 ♗g6 22.fxg5 ♖xe4 [22...♖e7 23.♙a3 ♗xe4+ 24.♙g1 c5 25.♘c3 White is better because of the weak d5 square.]

23. ♖xd7 ♜e2+ 24. ♜f2 ♜e4+ 25. ♔g1



25... ♙c5?? A huge overlook and the –+ mistake. [25... ♜xf2 was the correct move. 26. ♔xf2 ♜c2+ 27. ♜d2 ♜f5+ 28. ♜f4 The only move to avoid perpetual check. 28... ♜c2+ 29. ♜d2 ♜xb1]

26. ♙d4 This move is winning too, but it was easier to mate in two moves... [26. ♜xf7+ 26... ♔h8 27. ♜xg7+]

26... ♙xd4 [White could have had more problems to find the best move after 26... ♜e1+ 27. ♜xe1 (27. ♜f1 27... ♜xf1+ 28. ♔xf1 ♜f3+ 29. ♔e1 ♙b4+ 30. ♙c3 ♜e3+ 31. ♔f1 ♜f3+) 27... ♜xe1+ 28. ♔g2 (28. ♜f1? 28... ♜e6 29. ♜xe6 ♙xd4+ 30. ♔g2 ♜xe6 31. ♙d2 White has the e4 square for the knight, but on the other hand Black can play a5-a4 to activate the rook.) 28... ♜e4+ 29. ♔h3 ♜xd4 30. ♜xf7+ ♔h8 31. ♜xb7±]

27. ♜xd4 ♜e1+ 28. ♜f1 ♜xf1+ 29. ♔xf1 ♜h1+ 30. ♔f2 [30. ♜g1 30... ♜f3+ 31. ♔e1 And the white king will simply escape after 31... ♜e8+ 32. ♔d2+–]

30... ♜xh2+ 31. ♔f3 White is simply winning in this position.

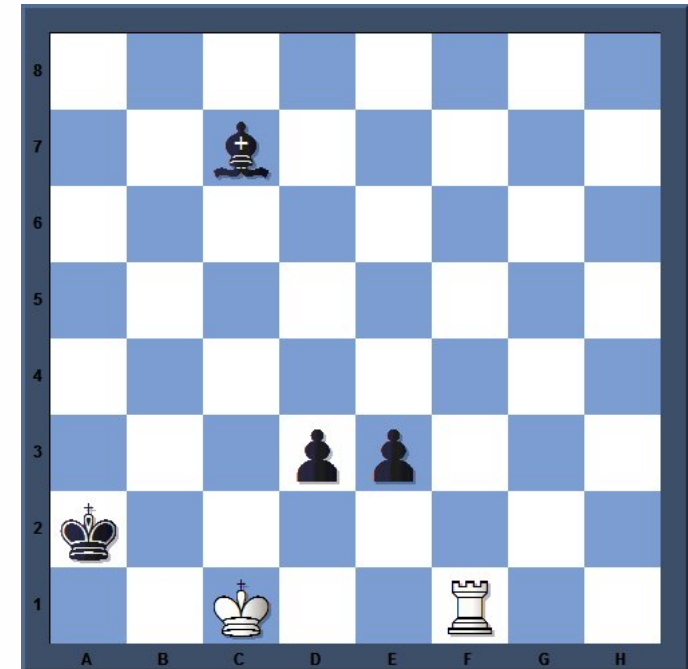
31... f6 32. ♜d2 ♜h3 33. ♜d7 f5 34. ♙c3 ♜h5+ 35. ♔g2 ♜xg5 36. ♜e6+ ♔h8 37. ♙e2 ♜h5 38. ♜d7 ♜e8 39. ♙f4 ♜xe6 40. ♙xh5 ... 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Soukup

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(19) Kramnik, V(2803)-Anand, V(2786)

Tal memorial blitz, 2013.06.12

[Solutions]



41...cxd3!! 42.♘f3 [42.♘xc6 42...d2 --+]

42...♖c2+ --+

(20) Caruana, F(2774)-Carlsen, M(2864)

Tal memorial blitz, 2013.06.12

[Solutions]

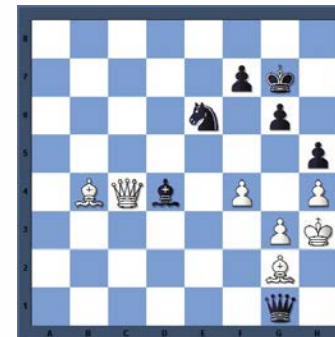


42...♙f2+!! 43.♙xf2 ♖c2+ 0-1
[43...♖c2+ 44.♙e1 ♙g3+ 45.♙d1 ♙d3+ --+]

(21) Karjakin, S(2782)-Mamedyarov, S(2753)

Tal memorial blitz, 2013.06.12

[Solutions]



51...♙e3? [51...♘xf4+! 52.gxf4 ♙e3+ 53.♙h2 ♙xf4+ 54.♙h1 ♙xh4+ --+]

52.♙d6=

(22) Morozevich, A(2760)-Carlsen, M(2864)

Tal memorial blitz, 2013.06.12

[Solutions]



51.♙g5+! ♙h8 52.♙f6+! ♙g8 53.♙f5! 1-0

(23) Mamedyarov, S(2753)-Carlsen, M(2864)

Tal memorial blitz, 2013.06.12

[Solutions]



17. ♘c7! ♜xc7 [17... ♜ab8 18. ♜xd7+-]

18. ♘xc7 ♜xc7 19. b4+-

(24) Kravtsiv, M(2626)-Volokitin, A(2687)

Ukrainian Championship, 2013.06.15

[Solutions]



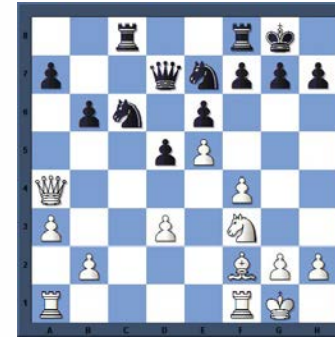
85. ♜xd1?? [85. ♜xa2+-]

85... a1=♚ 86. ♜xa1=

(25) Navara, D(2707)-Hou Yifan(2595)

Prague blitz, 2013.06.14

[Solutions]



15... ♘xe5! 16. ♜xd7 ♘xd7+-

(26) Petrosian, T(2649)-Anurag, M(2401)

Grand Europe Open, 2013.06.11

[Solutions]



33... ♜c1+!! 34. ♜xc1 ♜xc1+ 0-1

(27) Smirnov, P(2635)-Bocharov, D(2617)

Izmailov memorial, 2013.06.17

[Solutions]



21. ♖c6+!! bxc6 22. bxc6+ ♜b6

[22... ♔a8 23. ♚a6 ♜db8 24. ♜b7+—]

23. a5 ♔c7 [23... ♚xc6 24. axb6 axb6 25. ♜fb1+—]

24. ♚a6+—

(28) Cvetkovic, S(2387)-Nabaty, T(2579)

Grand Europe Open, 2013.06.11

[Solutions]



17... ♚xg3! 18. fxe5 ♜g4! [18... ♚xc3+—]

19. ♚xg4 [19. hxg4 19... ♜f2!—+]

19... ♚xe1+ 20. ♔h2 ♚xc3 21. ♚xe6+ ♔h8 0-1

Solutions

(19) Ponkratov, P(2605)-Khismatullin, D(2658)

Ekaterinburg, 2013.06.21

[Solutions]



23...xf2+!! 24.xf2 [24.gh1 24...xb6--]

24...e1+! 25.f1 [25.f1 25...c5+ 26.gh1 hf2+ 27.gh1 gh3+ 28.gh1 gg1+ 29.fxg1 fxg1#]

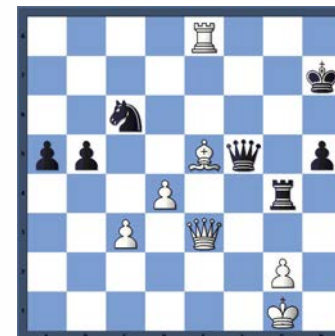
25...c5!—+ 26.a4 [26.g2 26...ce3+ --; 26.h3 26...xf1+! 27.xf1 hge3+ --]

26...d4! 27.gh1 hce3 28.xe3 hxe3 0-1

(20) Shimanov, A(2664)-Dubov, D(2638)

Ekaterinburg, 2013.06.22

[Solutions]



41...b1+ 42.gh2 [42.f2 42...c2+ --]

42...h4+! 43.g3 gg6+! 0-1
[43...gg6+ 44.gh4 (44.f2 gxe8--+) 44...g4#]

(21) Tomashevsky, E(2709)-Predke, A(2492)

Ekaterinburg, 2013.06.23

[Solutions]



31.hf6+! gh8 [31...gxf6 32.gxf6--]

32.gxe3 hxe3 33.hxe8 fxh8 34.hc7+—

(22) Andriasian, Z(2610)-Minasian, A(2505)

Asrian memorial, 2013.06.20

[Solutions]



21. ♖f6+! gxf6 22. ♜xf6+- ♕g7
[22... ♜g4 23. ♜d8+ ♜xd8 24. ♜xd8#]

23. ♜e7# 1-0

(23) Harika, D(2492)-Kosintseva, T(2526)

WGP Dilijan, 2013.06.24

[Solutions]



35... ♜xd5!! 36. exd5 [36. ♜xe5 36... ♜dx5+-]

36... ♜xb2 37. ♜2xe8+ [37. ♜xb2 37... ♜xe1+ +-]

37... ♜g7+-

(24) Onischuk, V(2581)-Pridorozhni, A(2512)

Voronezh Open, 2013.06.21

[Solutions]



25. ♜xd5+! 1-0

[25. ♜xd5+ 25... cxd5 26. ♜xg5+-]

(25) Smirnov, P(2635)-Maletin, P(2611)

Izmailov memorial, 2013.06.18

[Solutions]



22. ♜xf5!! [22. ♜xd5 22... ♜d8 23. ♜xf5 ♜xf6 24. ♜xf6 exd4=]

22... gxf5 23. ♜xd5 ♜d7 [23... ♜d8 24. ♜xf7#]

24. ♜xf7 ♜e7 [24... ♜xf7 25. ♜xd6+-; 24... exd4 25. ♜e6+-]

25. ♜xe5 ♜xf7 26. ♜b6 1-0 [26. ♜g7+ 26... ♜e6 27. ♜b6!+-]

(26) Mareco, S(2557)-Janev, E(2444)

Varna Open, 2013.06.21

[Solutions]



17.b4! ♖f6 [17...cxb4 18.axb4 ♙xb4 19.♖xa6+-]

18.bxa5+-

(27) Mareco, S(2557)-Janev, E(2444)

Varna Open, 2013.06.21

[Solutions]



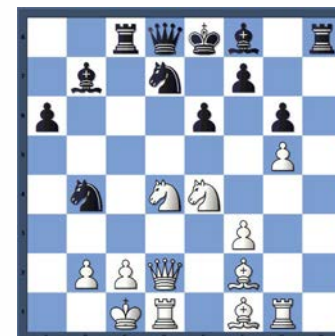
29...♖xe3! 30.♖c2 [30.♙xe3 ♖xc3+ 31.♙g2 ♖xb3+-]

30...♖xg3 0-1

(28) Mekhitarian, K(2544)-Ashwin, J(2472)

Varna Open, 2013.06.23

[Solutions]



19.♙xe6!! ♙xe4 [19...fxe6 20.♖xd7+! ♖xd7 21.♙f6+ ♖f7 22.♖xd7+ ♙e7 23.♖xb7 ♖xc2+ 24.♙b1 ♖xf2 25.♙g4! ♖d2 26.♙c4+- ♖c8 (26...♙c6 27.♖c7 ♖d6 28.♖xc6 ♖xc6 29.♙e5+ ♙g7 30.♙xc6+-) 27.♙e5+ +-; 19...♖e7 20.♖xd7+! ♖xd7 21.♙f6+ ♙e7 22.♖xd7+ ♙xe6 23.♖xb7+-; 19...♖xc2+ 20.♖xc2 ♙xc2 21.♙xd8+-]

20.♙xd8 ♖xc2+ 21.♖xc2 ♙xc2 22.♙xf7! ♖h2 [22...♙xd1 23.♙xh8+-; 22...♙xf7 23.♖xd7+ +-]

23.♖d2! +- ♙c5 24.♖d8+ ♙xf7 25.♖xf8+ ♙g7 26.♙d4+ ♙xf8 27.♙xc5+ ♙e8 28.♙xb4+-

(29) Soukup

[Solutions]



1. ♖d1! ♜f4 [1...e2 2. ♖d2+! ♔a1 3. ♖xe2! dxe2 4. ♔d2=]

2. ♖d2+!! exd2+ ♔d1=



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 71

5th of July 2013

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Editorial Preface

The Geneva Masters, a very strong rapid tournament, was won by Mamedyarov, who seems to be in great shape after winning the World Rapid Championship title and showing a good result at the Tal Memorial. In Geneva, Shakhriar managed to very convincingly beat Kramnik in the final with 1,5-0,5. The 3rd and 4th places went to Nakamura and Bacrot.

The Women's FIDE Grand Prix was won by Koneru with the great score of 8/11. 2nd and 3rd places went to Anna Muzychuk and Dzagnidze with 7/11.

The mini rapid match out of 4 games between Carlsen and Predojevic was won 2,5-1,5 by the former, with 3 games being drawn and Carlsen winning one.

The Russian higher league was won by Inarkiev and Nepomniachtchi, both with 6,5/9, but Inarkiev's better tie-break earned him the qualification for the next edition of the Tal Memorial.

We can already be very curious in view the upcoming week as another FIDE Grand Prix is starting in Beijing with a great line-up and it is now going to be especially exciting because of the qualification places for the next World Championship Title.

As usual, we wish you a lot of chess fun with Your CEWN Nr71 !

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Mamedyarov, S.(2753)**

- **Bacrot, E.(2725) [A85]**

Geneva rapid, 2013.06.29

[Balogh Csaba]

In this rapid match, Bacrot lost the first game with the white pieces. Normally it is extremely difficult to fight back against such a strong opponent, especially with Black, but the Frenchman has done a great job in this game.

1.d4 f5! Bacrot needs to avoid his solid main repertoire, since there White can easily force a draw. He had to play something asymmetrical to break the balance.

2.c4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 d6 Black wants to play the Leningrad variation of the Dutch defence, which could be reached after g6 and Bg7. White will play a rare move here instead of the usual Nf3, g3 Bg2 setup.

4.♗g5



4...♗bd7 Black wants to continue his plan with g6, but first he avoids the possibility of damaging his pawn structure with Bxf6.

5.♖c2 g6 6.e4 [Mamedyarov already had a game where he played 6.h4 This time he wanted to get a more calm position as a draw was enough for him to win the match.]

6...fxe4 7.♗xe4 ♗g7 8.♗xf6+ This is basically a novelty. White initiates some exchanges, which is usually a good way to achieve a draw. [8.♗f3 was played in most of the games, but Black has a very strong reaction to complicate the matters in his favor: 8...♗xe4 9.♖xe4



9...c5! With a very sharp fight, which was exactly what Bacrot had to aim for.]

8...exf6! The right recapture, improving the pawn structure by getting rid of the backward pawn on e7. [8...♗xf6 could be met by 9.♗d3! preventing Bf5. 9...O-O 10.♗e2 followed by O-O with a comfortable game and a small advantage for White.]

9.♗e3 O-O 10.♗d3 Mamedyarov knows that Black's idea is to play f5 and Nf6, when his knight is going to be better placed on e2, from where it can jump to f4, than on f3.

10...f5 11.♗e2 ♗f6 12.h3 Prophylaxis against Ng4.

12...♗d7 13.d5?! A very logical move, preparing to occupy the d4 square with the knight, but concretely this move seems to be slow. [13.O-O is met by 13...♗h5! with the idea of f4-f3, destroying the pawn structure. White needs to parry this.

14. ♖d2



14...f4! 15. ♘xf4 ♘xf4 16. ♕xf4 ♖h4!= Black wins back the d4 pawn and equalizes the game. Still this is much better from White's point of view than the game.]

13... ♗h5! Black is ready to push f4-f3.



14. 0-0 [14. ♖d2 does not really prevent the threat. 14...f4! 15. ♘xf4 ♘xf4 16. ♕xf4 ♕xb2! Black has the initiative.; 14.f4? Black can make use of the e1 king here: 14...♖e8! 15. ♕f2? On other bishop moves Qh4 forces the king to move, but here the f4 pawn falls because of the pin: 15... ♘xf4; 14.g3 might objectively be the best, although this move is very committing since White can never castle kingside after such a weakening, while after queenside castling Black can open the files with a6-b5, or c6.]

14...f4 15. ♕d4



15...f3! Very energetic play by Bacrot. This is how we need to fight when we need a win. This move creates a big weakness on f2. The only drawback could be the opening of the g-file in front of his own king, but White is very far from launching a dangerous attack.

16. gxf3 ♖xf3 17. h4 Black was simply threatening to take on h3 and also to play Qh4, which would have been an excellent place for the queen.

17... ♖f8! Black increases the pressure on the f2 pawn and also intends to bring his a8 rook into the game.

18. ♕e4 Bacrot finds a very nice idea to increase the advantage.



18... ♗h6+! Forcing White to move into some tactical motifs.

19. ♔b1 ♖e8!! This is the point! Black creates the very unpleasant threat of taking the bishop on e4, followed by Bf5 pinning the queen.

20. ♔a1! The only move to not lose material. The king leaves the dangerous b1-f5 diagonal. [20. ♖xf3 loses to 20... ♔xf3!+- (But not 20... ♖f5? because of 21. ♖d3!)]

20... ♖f5! The rook was already hanging on f3, so Black needs to exchange the bishop.

21. ♖xf5 ♔xf5! Black is ready to go for the endgame, since he has a clear advantage there with the weaknesses on f2 and h4.

22. ♔xf5 gxf5 [22... ♖xf5 was also good enough for an advantage.]

23. ♖c3 [There was a nice tactical trick, that after 23. ♖g1



23... ♖d3! (White's point was that after 23... ♖f4 24. ♖e3 wins the exchange.)]

23... a6 Protecting the pawn and preventing Nb5.



24. c5 White is slightly worse because his pawns are weaker and his pieces are rather passive. He therefore tries to initiate some exchanges to change this situation.

24... ♔f7 Activating the king.

25. a3 Opening the back rank. [It was better to start with 25. ♔b1 followed by ♔c2 like it happened later on in the game.]

25... dxc5 With this and the next two moves, Black creates another pawn island for White (on d5). [25... ♖f6!? was a good alternative to transfer the knight to g4. Black has a nice advantage.]

26. ♖xc5 b6! 27. ♖d4



27... ♖f4! This and the previous move were very important to avoid White's idea of pushing d6, getting rid of the weakness and activating his rook.

28.♖hg1 ♘f6! Bacrot transfers his knight to g4 to put pressure on the f2 pawn.

29.♔b1 Mamedyarov found this clever plan of Kc2 and Rd3 to trade off the very unpleasant rook on f3. This would solve most of his problems.

29...♞g4 30.♔c2



30...♙h2!! An extremely strong move with huge tactical deepness. [After the direct 30...♙e5 exchanging the defender of the f2 pawn, White could react with 31.♖g2! and after 31...♙xd4 32.♖xd4 ♘xf2 (32...♖xf2+ 33.♖xf2 ♘xf2 34.♖f4 wins back the pawn.) 33.d6! White gets strong counterplay for the pawn.]

31.♖gh1 [31.♖g2 moves into 31...♖g8! Another very unpleasant move. It is suddenly very difficult to defend against Ne3, while on king moves like Kb1, Black can go for the h4 pawn with Rh3.]

31...♙e5! White does not have Rg2 now, so the f2 pawn is lost without adequate compensation.

32.♖d3?! Mamedyarov has planned this move before and it seems to solve the problems, but he missed a huge tactical strike in his calculation. [32.♙xe5 32...♖xf2+ ♖]

32...♖xd3 33.♙xd3 c5!! Black wins big material now.

[White resigned in view of the following lines: 33...c5 34.dxc6 (34.♙e3 34...f4—+ And the f2 pawn will fall.; 34.♙xe5 34...♘xf2+ wins the rook.) 34...♖d8! This is the point, pinning the bishop and threatening to take on f2. The game is over. 35.♘e2 ♘xf2+ —+ A great game by Bacrot, which helped him to reach the blitz tiebreak. But Mamedyarov defeated him there and advanced to the final, where he beat Kramnik as well.] **0-1**

(2) Bacrot, Etienne(2725) - Edouard, Romain(2666) [D02]

Geneva Masters GpB 2013(2.2), 2013.06.27
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Etienne Bacrot scored a nice positional win in the B group against his younger team colleague, who was clearly not in his best shape during the rapid tournament in Geneva.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 d5 Usually Edouard is a big master of the Gruenfeld and it is strange that he decided to deviate from his main opening

3.g3 [We would be back in the main lines after 3.c4]

3...c6 After this move it is obvious that Blacks wants to play some sort of "Slav" structure.

4.c4 dxc4 We are now back into the "Slav" with the rare move g3 for White, but the position is a very fighting one.

5.♗g2 White does not hurry with winning back the c4 pawn. This way, he is keeping all options open for the future.

5...♞bd7 The black knight is going to protect the c4 pawn from b6.



6.♞c2!? A nice move with a double idea. First of all it is of course nice to win the c4 pawn back and on the other hand

it is also an option for White to push e4 and to dominate the center.

6...♞b6 7.a4 It is hard to say for who it is more useful to include the a4-a5 moves. The black knight on b6 could now eventually end up under attack in the future because the pawn is not on a7 anymore, but on the other hand the b4 square could be a nice future place for it.

7...a5 Black can of course not allow White to push a5.

8.♞a3 g6 The most logical move. Black needs to castle and to play e6 looks a bit ugly because it closes the c8 bishop.

9.e4!? Probably the only way to fight for an advantage. [9.♞xc4 9...♗f5 would lead to a good position for Black.]

9...♗g7 10.O-O O-O As we see, we have a very complicated position. Black is a pawn up but White dominates in the center.

11.♞d1



11...♞fd7 looks a bit too passive to me. [11...♗e6! looks pretty logical. Black should try to keep the extra pawn on c4. 12.h3 Preparing for Ng5 and avoiding Bg4 for the future. 12...♞c8! The queen is pretty well placed on c8, as the black rook can now take place on d8. The position would have remained complicated.]

12. ♖f4 [The simple 12. ♖xc4 12... ♖xc4 13. ♖xc4 ♖b6 14. ♖c2 would also have given White better play.]

12... ♖e8 Black is trying to work out the e5 push.

13. ♖e3 Taking all hope to play e5 away from Black.

13... ♖a6 14. h3?! This move shows how great White's position is, but it was maybe time to take more concrete options. [14. ♖f1! looks very strong. 14... e5 15. ♖xc4 Black should be careful not to lose on the spot here.]

14... e5 And somehow Black is back in the game.



15. d5! A good move. [It was the wrong moment to get greedy and go for the exchange: 15. dxe5 15... ♖xe5 16. ♖c5 White is winning the exchange but he is letting out the black pieces. 16... ♖xf3+ 17. ♖xf3 ♖xh3 18. ♖xf8 ♖xf8 It might be that White is still a little better, but the position is very unclear.]

15... cxd5 Things are now getting very sharp.

16. exd5 e4 Black is looking for counterplay and although his pieces are not too well placed, Black is a pawn up.

17. ♖g5 ♖e5 This move leads to big sufferings. [I think a better practical chance lay in active play: 17... ♖e5 18. ♖b5 (18. ♖xe4 18... ♖xa4 And the position is very complex.) 18... ♖d3 Black should not care about the rook on a6. 19. ♖c7 ♖e5

20. ♖xa6 ♖xd5 White is probably better here, but from a practical point of view I think the game would have been quite open.]

18. ♖xc4 ♖xc4 19. ♖xc4 We can see how badly Black is developed and this cannot lead to anything good.

19... ♖xb2 Romain probably panicked a little bit, as this move cannot be a good one. [It was the last chance for Black to develop a piece: 19... ♖f6 20. ♖ac1 With a big advantage for White, but Black can still fight.]

20. ♖ab1 Solid and strong.

20... ♖c3 21. ♖xc3 ♖xc3 22. ♖xe4 White has won the pawn back and he still has the initiative.

22... ♖b4



23. ♖f1! Transferring the bishop to a great square on b5.

23... ♖a8 [It was maybe more tenacious to play 23... ♖f6 24. ♖xf6+ (Of course not 24. ♖xa6 24... ♖xe4 followed by Nc3.) 24... ♖xf6 25. ♖h6 And Black is losing an exchange: 25... ♖d8 26. ♖g5 ♖g7 Black doesn't have many chances to hold this endgame.]

24. ♖b5 What a domination by the white pieces! The threat is now Bxd7 Bxd7 and Nf6.

24...f5 It certainly is not great to make a move like f5, but what else to do...

25.♘g5 ♕d6 Trying to somehow block White's d-pawn.

26.♞e6 ♖f7



27.♞d8 White is going for a forced win of the b7 pawn. [27.♕d4 also looks very promising.]

27...♖e7 28.♕g5 Chasing the rook from the 7th rank.

28...♖e4 29.♞xb7 White is now a pawn up.

29...♕xb7 30.♕xd7 ♖b4 Black's moves are almost forced.

31.♕e6+ Protecting the d5 pawn before winning the b-file.

31...♙f8

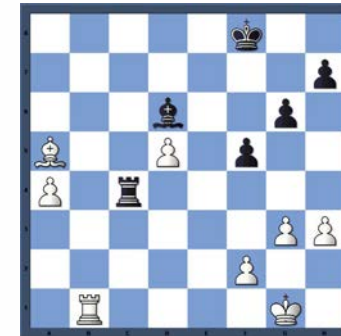


32.♕d2 The b-file belongs to White.

32...♖xb1 33.♖xb1 ♕c8 Romain is fighting like a tiger, but the position is lost.

34.♕xc8 And White is winning the second pawn on a5.

34...♖xc8 35.♕xa5 ♖c4 Black finally gets the privilege to attack something as well, but it is too late.



36.♖a1! The last important technical move. Now all White needs to do is to bring his bishop to e3, after which even any rook endgames would be winning.

36...♕c5 37.♕d2 White follows his plan.

37...♙e7 38.a5 And the a-pawn is running.

38...♖d4 39.♕g5+ ♙d6 40.a6 ♙xd5 A very nice game by White. Black was not very careful in the opening and quickly got into trouble, after which he never really had any recovery chances. **1-0**

(3) Ushenina, A.(2499) - Cmilyte, V.(2511) [D81]

FIDE WGP Dilijan(9), 2013.06.26

[Balogh Csaba]

The women's World Champion Anna Ushenina was slightly out of form in this event. Normally she has a very strong preparation, but in this game she lost in a miniature. She was heading for a very complicated line against the Gruenfeld, but did not realize the "small" difference in the move order made by her opponent. Still the game itself is very nice from Black's point of view and a good example of how we should not handle the openings.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5



4.♞b3 Quite a recent idea from White. The plan itself with Qb3 is one of the main lines, but with the inclusion of 4.Nf3 Bg7 moves. White would like to get some advantage by keeping the knight on g1 for a while. The whole idea is to force Black to give up the center by taking on c4, and then White could occupy it by playing e4.

4...dxc4 5.♞xc4 ♕e6!? Black also tries to benefit from the fact that the knight is still on g1, as the d4 pawn is unprotected and the queen has limited squares to leave.

[5...♕g7 is the main line. 6.e4 O-O And here instead of transposing to the main lines with 7.Nf3, White has a very interesting option: 7.♕e2 Theory is just about to develop here, but it seems like White has something to look for. Anyway, this is the point of the 4.Qb3 line.]

6.♞b5+ ♕d7 7.♞d3 There was only one high-level game before with this move and Ushenina clearly tried to follow the ideas of that game.

[7.♞b3 is an interesting alternative for White. The Carlsen-Ivanchuk game back in 2009 was very exciting, which continued with typical Gruenfeld ideas: 7...c5 8.dxc5 ♕g7 9.e4 ♘c6 10.♘f3 ♞a5 11.♕c4 O-O 12.O-O ♞xc5 Black equalized the opening part and after a long struggle they made a draw; Taking the poisoned pawn is not recommended: 7.♞xb7 7...♘c6! Black's counterplay is coming very fast. 8.e3 ♞b8 9.♞a6 ♘b4



10.♞e2 The only square to control c2, but White must suffer for his undeveloped pieces anyway. 10...c5! A very logical move in order to open the position. 11.dxc5 ♞a5 With more than enough compensation.

For instance the most natural move 12.♘f3 loses on the spot after 12...♙f5! 13.♘d4 ♘d3+ 14.♙d1



14...♙g4!-+ and White collapses.]

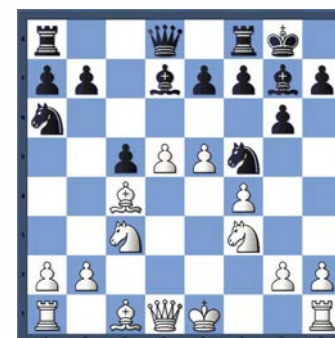


7...c5! In the spirit of the opening! Black has to undermine the center.

8.d5 [8.dxc5 is met by 8...♘a6! The queen is clearly misplaced on d3 as the knight is going to c5 with tempo. White cannot hold his extra pawn for long. 9.♙e3 ♙a5 10.♙c4 ♙c8 Black is more than fine.]

8...♘a6 This is the tricky start of the move order by Black... [8...♙g7 9.e4 O-O was played in So Wesley-Vachier Lagrave. (9...♘a6 transposes to the game.) 10.e5 ♘g4 11.f4 All these

moves were played instantly by Wesley So, clearly showing a huge preparation. Otherwise it is very risky to advance the pawns so aggressively in the opening part of the game, without having the support of the pieces. It might backfire, as it happened in our game. 11...♘a6 12.♙d1 Leaving from the Nb4 threat and this is what Ushenina forgot... White threatens to win the g4 knight by pushing e6. 12...♘h6 13.♘f3 ♘f5 14.♙c4



I remember that So was still in his preparation at this point but Black, as a great expert of the Gruenfeld, found an excellent pawn sacrifice: 14...b5! (14...♘c7 is met by 15.a4! Preventing b5 and Black is standing passively.) 15.♙xb5 The only way! (15.♘xb5?? 15...♙xb5 16.♙xb5 ♙a5+) 15...♙xb5 16.♘xb5 And here Black had some options to get compensation for the pawn: 16...♘b4 (Probably the best was 16...♙b6 17.♘c3 ♙fd8 18.O-O ♘c7 Followed by Qb7. Black wins the pawn back and solves his problems.) 17.♘c3 ♘d4 18.O-O ♙c8 (Here Black should have played the logical 18...f6!? undermining the strong center and activating the Gruenfeld bishop.) 19.a3 ♘xd5 20.♘xd4 cxd4 21.♙xd4 ♘xc3 22.bxc3 ♙xd4+ 23.cxd4 White ended up with an extra pawn, although after a terrible blunder at the end he lost the game. Anyway, a very interesting line, which has taken Ushenina's attention. Both sides might search for improvements in such positions and this part of the theory is completely unexplored.]

9.e4 ♘g7



10.e5?? This seems to be the decisive mistake, right at move 10. A bit premature from the World Champion, but they also have bad days... [10.♔d1! should have been played and after 10...O-O 11.e5 ♘g4 12.f4 ♘h6 we transpose to the other game. Both players probably had some ideas here, but they did not reach this position.]

10...♘g4 11.f4



Here comes the difference between having the knight on a6 instead of castling. Black gets a decisive advantage after..

11...♘b4! 12.♔d1 ♘f5! —+ A clear sign that something went wrong, since White cannot prevent Nc2.

13.♔a4+ [13.♘b5+ 13...♔f8 14.♘a4 prevents Nc2, but allows 14...♘d3+! —+ followed by Ngf2.]

13...♔f8 Castling is not important, when we have such a huge threat as Nc2.

14.h3 ♘c2+ 15.♔e2



15...a6!! Depriving White even from the smallest chance of a counterplay. Black creates a new threat of trapping the queen with b5! [15...♘h6 16.g4 was White's last desperate hope to at least complicate matter a little bit.]

16.♔c4 [16.hxg4 is refuted by 16...b5 17.♔b3 c4—+ or Nd4 wins the queen.]

16...b5! Black happily sacrifices his c5 pawn in order to open the c-file. Against such a weak king as the one on e2, we should not be materialistic.

17.♔xc5 ♖c8 18.♔a7 There was no other place for the queen.

18...♘xa1 19.hxg4 ♘xg4+ 20.♔f2 Black is a complete exchange up and he continues attacking.

20...b4 21.♘ce2 Otherwise the bishop c1 is lost, but this move further destroys the cooperation between the pieces.

21...♔xd5 22.♔xa6 Naturally all moves are winning now. Cmilyte decided to activate the last piece, the h8 rook.

22...h5 23.♘f3 ♕h6 Freeing the g7 square for the king to rescue the rook.

24.♕e3 ♘c2 25.♕a7 ♔g7 26.♖g3 ♜ca8 White decided to finish her suffering. A good example to show that in sharp positions small nuances matter a lot. **0-1**

(4) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2753) - Bacrot, Etienne(2725) [D53]

Geneva Masters KO 2013(1.3), 2013.06.29

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the semi-finals of this knock-out tournament. The first rapid game was won by Mamedyarov with the black pieces, but then Bacrot won the second game in a great style. So we are now facing the first blitz game. Sometimes, even on the highest level, games can be very painful and this is what will happen now...

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♕g5 ♕e7 We are in the main Queen's Gambit.

5.♘f3 h6



6.♕xf6 [6.♕h4 is the other main line.]

6...♕xf6 7.♖c2 Mamedyarov is choosing a very tricky and sharp line, which is a great practical choice for such a blitz game.

7...0-0?! doesn't seem to be the main move. [The main continuation is 7...dxc4 8.e3 c5! Black doesn't waste any time and doesn't even give White a moment to castle queenside. 9.dxc5 ♖a5 10.♕xc4 ♖xc5 11.♘e4 ♖a5+ 12.♔e2 ♕e7 With an equal position. This was already played by Topalov and Carlsen.]

8.0-0-0 dxc4



9.e4! White has enough time to play e4 now as the pawn on d4 is not hanging.

9...♘c6 Black tries to react quickly, but the position is already quite difficult.

10.e5! Once again Mamedyarov chooses the best move. The black bishop on c8 is a dead piece and a lot of moves are needed to get the bishop out of there. In the meantime, White is going to create a very dangerous attack on the kingside.

10...♙g5+ 11.♖b1 ♘b4 Black is trying to get the d5 square under control.

12.♙e4 ♙d7 13.♙xc4 At the latest by now we can clearly see that things have gone very wrong for Black.

13...♙c6 Black has to try this move, as after 13...c6 White's attack on the kingside would be deadly.

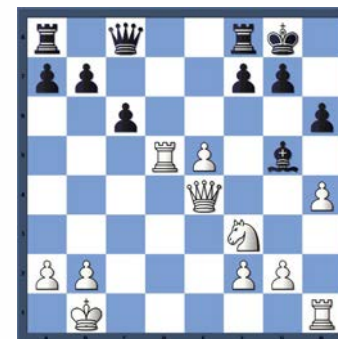


14.d5! Perfect play by White! Letting the black knight get to d5 would of course be a mistake.

14...exd5 15.♘xd5 ♘xd5?! This move makes things too easy for White. [15...♖e8! would have kept Black in the game, although with a worse position.]

16.♙xd5 ♙xd5 17.♖xd5 ♙c8 18.h4 [18.♘xg5 18...hxg5 19.h4 was also giving White a huge advantage.]

18...c6? The "last blunder" of the game. After this there is no more hope for Black. [18...♙e7 19.♖hd1±]

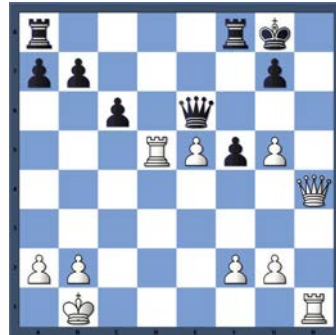


19.♘xg5! The game is over.

19...hxf5 20.hxf5! The threat of mating on h7 is deadly.

20...f5 21.♔h4 White wants to play g6 next.

21...♔e6



22.♖d7 And of course after 22...Qxd7 23.g6 is just winning. A very nice game by White, but of course Black made things a bit too easy... **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Lysyj, I(2656)-Panarin, M(2565)

Ekaterinburg, 2013.06.28

[CEWN]

1. ±

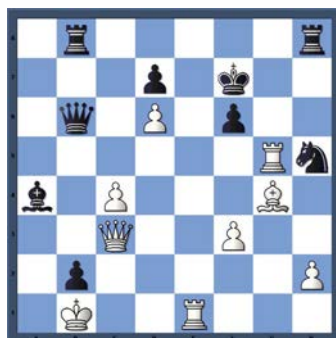


(6) Eliseev, U(2557)-Grachev, B(2683)

Ekaterinburg, 2013.06.29

[CEWN]

1... -+



(7) Demchenko, A(2639)-Ponkratov, P(2605)

Ekaterinburg, 2013.06.29

[CEWN]

1. +-

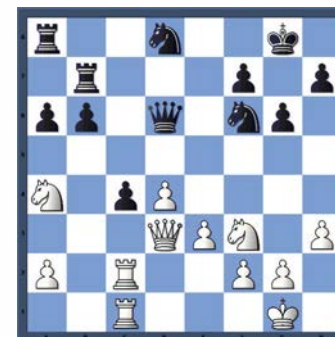


(8) Kramnik, V(2803)-Pelletier, Y(2574)

Geneva blitz, 2013.06.28

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Bacrot, E(2725)-Kosteniuk, A(2489)

Geneva rapid, 2013.06.26

[CEWN]

1. +-



(10) Kosteniuk, A(2489)-Edouard, R(2666)

Geneva rapid, 2013.06.28

[CEWN]

1. +-

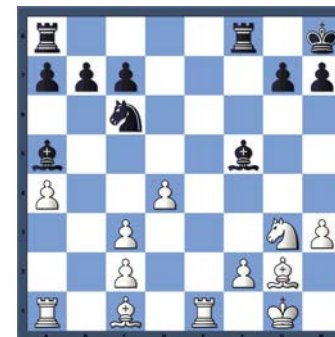


(11) Mamedyarov, S(2753)-Kramnik, V(2803)

Geneva rapid, 2013.06.30

[CEWN]

1. +-

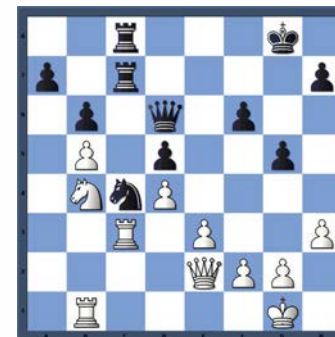


(12) Eljanov, P(2707)-Kryvoruchko, Y(2659)

Ukrainian Championship, 2013.06.25

[CEWN]

1... -+



(13) Bruzon, L(2687)-Hansen, E(2577)

Edmonton, 2013.06.27

[CEWN]

1. ±



(14) Short, N(2682)-Perez Garcia, R(2364)

Edmonton, 2013.06.28

[CEWN]

1. ±



Endgame section

(15) Predojevic, Borki(2616)-Carlsen, Magnus(2864)

Rapid Match(3), 2013.06.29

[CE Team]

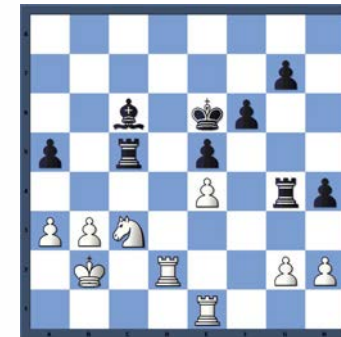


We are in the mini rapid match of 4 games between Carlsen and Predojevic. The match ended 2,5-1,5 in favour of the World Number 1. The only decisive game happened in round 3. As we can see, White is defending a slightly unpleasant endgame and Magnus shows us once again how strong he is in endgames where he is a little bit better. We can only watch and learn! :)

35.e4 h5! A strong positional move. Before starting the action in the center, Black is bringing his pawn to h4, which could make a difference in many endgames. The pawn on g2 is a potential weakness, so by putting a pawn on h4, Black is fixing it as a future target.

36.a3 h4 37.♖e3 White keeps on passing. It is very hard to find any active idea for White. [But maybe White should still have tried something more active like 37.b4 37...axb4 38.axb4 ♖c4 39.♔b3 ♖d4 40.♖de2 With the idea of playing b5 next and maybe at some moment Ra2. Black is of course better, but maybe from a practical point of view, Black would not have had such easy play as in the game.]

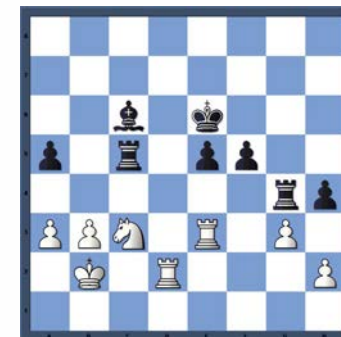
37...♔e6 38.♖e1 All black pieces have taken perfect places and it is now time for the next step:



38...g6! Another good move by Carlsen. By playing f5, Black will not only gain control over the center, but the white pawn on g2 will also get into serious trouble.

39.♖e3 White is preparing the g3 move.

39...f5 40.exf5+ gxf5 41.g3 White is very passive, but still holding on. Black has several ideas. One of the ideas could be to play h3-Bg2 and then f4. But there is no reason to hurry with it. White cannot do much, to play gxh4 is clearly in Black's favour, so Black really has quite some time.



41...♔h1!? A very unpleasant move in rapid chess. On one hand Black wants to play Rc8-Rcg8 next and White doesn't

have many useful moves, which makes it very hard to play in rapid chess.

42. ♖e2 White wants to play Nf4 or Nd4 next.

42... ♖d5! Another very strong move by Black. If a pair of rooks was exchanged, f4 would become almost deadly.

43. ♖c2 [43. ♖xd5 43... ♗xd5 Followed by f4, with an almost winning position.; 43. ♖f4+? does of course not work because of 43... ♖xf4 44. ♖xd5 ♖f2+ -+]

43... ♖e4 The black rook is now getting to the second rank.

44. ♖c4 ♖d2+ 45. ♗c1 ♖a2 White's position looks almost hopeless. All black pieces are perfectly placed and this is what makes Magnus Carlsen the best player in the world. He knows where to put which pieces. It seems like Black didn't anything special, but out of better endgame, we got to an almost winning one in just 10 moves.

46.h3 White panics, but Predojevic probably had enough of slow play and suffering.



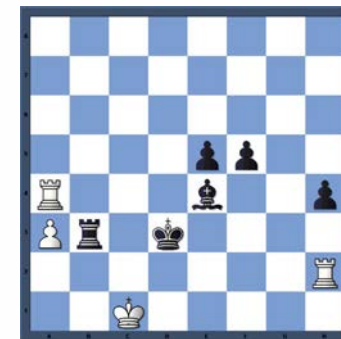
46... ♖xe2! The last small tactical blow. Black is getting too many pawns for the exchange, especially as the bishop on e4 is worth at least a rook.

47. ♖xe2 ♖xg3 Both the h3 and b3 pawns are now hanging.

There is no hope anymore.

48. ♖c5 ♖xh3 49. ♖xa5 ♖xb3 The black h-pawn is now very dangerous.

50. ♖a6+ ♗d5 51. ♖a5+ ♗d4 52. ♖a4+ ♗d3 53. ♖h2 By giving checks, White managed to capture the black h-pawn, but the black king is now very active and the black middle pawns will start to advance.



53...f4 54. ♖xh4 ♗e3 Threatening mate on b1.

55. ♖b4 ♖xb4 The most easy move. White cannot stop the f-pawn.

56. axb4 f3 57. ♖h1 What a great endgame technic! I especially liked the h5-h4 manoeuvre and of course 41... Bh1!?, a very strong practical move. **0-1**

(16) Mamedyarov, S.(2753)-Polgar, J.(2696)

Geneva rapid, 2013.06.28

[CE TEAM]



This position is a theoretical draw, but White has some practical chances. At this point Judit was already low on time, which made her task even more difficult.

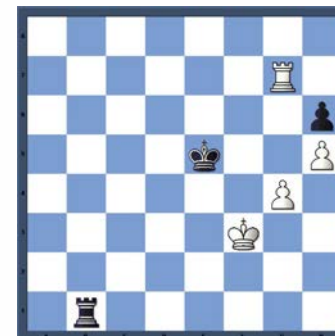
56.e5 Sooner or later, White has to push this pawn. There is no other way to make progress. White does not want to take on f6, but he wants to transfer his king to f5, which forces Black to take on e5 and after fxe5 White creates a passed pawn.

56...fxe5 57.fxe5 ♖b4 Logical defence! Black cuts the king along the 4th rank and also keeps the g4 pawn under attack. [However it is even better to play 57...♖b1 preparing to check the white king from behind. We will examine this in detail in the 58th move.]

58.♔f3



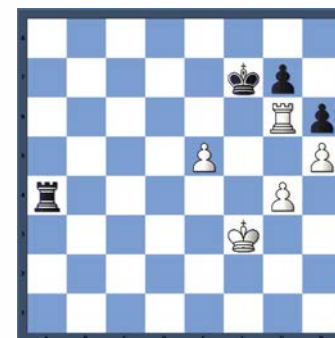
58...♖c4 Giving the move to White, but he has a subtle way to make progress. [58...♖b1! was the best defence again. The only attempt for White is 59.♖a7+ ♔e6 60.♖xg7 ♔xe5]



This position is drawn, as White cannot win the h6 pawn with 61.♖g6 (61.♔g3 With the idea of hiding the king on h4 against the side checks, but Black has 61...♖g1+ 62.♔h2 ♖b1= And once again Black is ready to counterattack the g4 pawn with Kf4.) 61...♖b3+! 62.♔g2 ♔f4=]

59.♖g6! Suddenly it is not easy at all. Let's look at the reasons why.

59...♖a4? Judit continues waiting with the rook, but this is already the decisive mistake. [59...♔f8! is the right move, with the idea of leaving from the e6 check. White has nothing better than 60.e6 ♖c7 61.♔f4 ♖a7 This position is a draw as Black starts to give side checks.]



60.e6+! ♔g8 [60...♔f8 loses to 61.e7+! ♔xe7
62.♚xg7+ +- Followed by Rg6, which wins the h6 pawn, while
the white king has a shelter on h4 from the checks.]

61.g5!! This breakthrough wins the game. [61.e7? leads to
a draw now because of 61...♚a8 Black will win the e7 pawn.
62.♔f4 ♚e8 63.♚e6 ♔f7 64.♔f5 The pawn endgame is drawn,
despite the fact that White has the more active king. 64...♚xe7
65.♚xe7+ ♔xe7 66.♔g6 ♔f8 67.♔h7 ♔f7 68.♔h8 ♔f8=]

61...hxg5 62.h6 ♚a7 [An important detail is that after
62...♔h7 White wins with 63.hxg7!+- ♔g8 64.e7 ♚a8 65.♚d6!
followed by Rd8 and promoting the pawn.]



63.♔g4 White already threatens to trade the rooks, because
the pawn endgame is winning for him.

63...♔h8 [63...♔h7 64.♚xg7+ ♚xg7 65.hxg7 ♔xg7 66.♔xg5
White has the opposition! 66...♔g8 67.♔g6 ♔f8 68.♔f6 ♔e8
69.e7+-]

64.♚xg7 Black cannot trade the rooks, but then the end is
near.

64...♚a4+ 65.♔h5 The last dream could be to make a
stalemate, but Black cannot get rid of his g-pawn.

65...g4 [65...♚h4+ is met by 66.♔g6! ♚xh6+ 67.♔xh6 and
Black has a move.]

66.e7 ♚e4 67.♚f7 1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Najdorf, Miguel-Fine, Reuben[D27]

Wertheim Memorial(7), 1951

[Kamil Miton]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 e6 5.♙xc4 c5 6.O-O a6



7.♙e2 [7.dxc5 ♙xc5 8.♙xd8+ ♔xd8 With a very well-known endgame, where one of White's plans is to transfer the knight to d3.; 7.♙b3 7...♘c6 (7...b5 8.a4 and after 8... b4, the knight can go to the weak c4 square.) 8.♙e2 cxd4 9.♖d1 ♙e7 (9...d3 10.♗xd3†) 10.exd4 O-O 11.♘c3 With a similar structure as in the game.; 7.e4!?

7...cxd4 The best way for Black is to play [7...b5 8.♙b3 ♙b7 9.a4 (9.♖d1 9...♘bd7 10.a4 And now even 10...c4 should give Black good play. 11.♙c2 ♙e7 12.e4 O-O∞) 9...♘bd7! Black doesn't give the c4 square. 10.axb5 axb5 11.♖xa8 ♙xa8 12.♙xb5 cxd4∞With pressure on the h1-a8 diagonal.]

8.exd4 ♙e7 9.a4 The idea of this move is to take space because Black will be not able to play b5-Bb7, but on the other hand the b4 square now becomes weak.

9...O-O 10.♘c3 ♘c6 11.♖d1



11...♘b4 A typical manoeuver. Black is fighting for the d5 square. This position can come from the Slav dxc4 line and now the main move for Black is [11...♘d5 12.♙b3 A tricky waiting move. (12.♙e4 12...♘f6 13.♙h4 ♘d5 And the white queen is continuously under pressure.) 12...♘cb4 13.♙e4+= This move works now. White transfers the queen to the kingside in order to create some pressure against the black king.]

12.♘e5 ♘bd5 [12...♙d7 With the idea to develop the bishop on c6.The plan b6-Bb7 can be bad because of some tactical threats on f7 and e6. 13.♙g5 (13.d5 13...exd5 14.♘xd5 ♘bxd5 15.♙xd5 ♘xd5 16.♖xd5 And now the tricky 16...♙g4 17.♙d3 ♙xd5 18.♙xd5 ♖fd8=) 13...♙c6 14.♘xc6 bxc6 15.a5 ♘fd5 16.♙xe7 ♙xe7 17.g3 Black seems to be solid but White has a small long-term advantage because of the weaknesses on c6 and a6.]

13.♖d3! A typical idea. The rook is being transferred to the kingside in order to support the attack.

13...♘b4 14.♖g3 ♙xd4 15.♙h6 ♘e8 16.♖d1 White has more than enough compensation for the pawn. All his pieces are very active and is very hard to defend this position for Black.

16...♔c5 The correct move. Black doesn't allow Ne4. [16...♔h4 17.♙e3+- XQh4; 16...♔b6 17.♘e4 ♔c7 18.♔h5 (18.♘g5→) 18...♘d5 19.♙xd5 exd5 20.♖c1 ♔xc1+ (20...♔b8 21.♙xg7 ♘xg7 22.♖xc8! A nice motif! Qh6 does not work immediately because of Qe5. 22...♔xc8 23.♔h6) 21.♙xc1 dxe4 And Black is still fighting.]



17.♙f4 White is preparing Ne4. Let's check some other possibilities: [17.♘d7 17...♙xd7 18.♖xd7 ♘c6 19.♙d3 (19.♖xb7 19...♘d4→) 19...♖d8 (19...♘e5 20.♖xe7 ♘xd3 21.♖xe8+-) 20.♖xb7 ♙h4 21.♔e4 ♖xd3 22.♔xd3 ♙xg3 23.♔xg3 White seems to be better thanks to his more active pieces.; 17.♔h5 17...♙f6 18.♖e1 ♘c6



19.♘d5 All of White's pieces are joining the attack. (19.♙d3

19...g6 (19...♘xe5 20.♙xh7+ +-) 20.♙xg6 hxg6 21.♙xf8 ♔xf8 22.♘xg6 fxg6 23.♔xg6+ ♘g7 (23...♙g7 24.♖f3 ♔e7 25.♘d5+-) 24.♖f3 ♘e7 25.♔xf6 ♔xf6 26.♖xf6+=) 19...♙xe5 (19...exd5 20.♙d3 g6 21.♘xg6 fxg6 22.♖xg6+ ♙g7 23.♖xe8+-) 20.♙xg7 (20.♖xe5 20...g6 21.♙xf8 ♔xf8 22.♘b6 ♖b8 23.♖eg5 ♔b4→ The white pieces lost coordination and the rooks on the g-file are now badly placed, which is why Black gets some counterplay.) 20...♙xg7 21.♘f6+ ♘xf6 22.♔xc5 h6∞ Usually three pieces are better than a queen, but in this case White has the initiative.]

17...♘c6 A logical move. Black is looking for some exchanges. [17...♘f6 18.♘e4 ♘xe4 19.♔xe4→ The black king is very weak.]

18.♙d3 A logical move, as the bishop is much better placed on this diagonal. White could also have played the very strong [18.♘e4 18...♔a5 19.♔h5 ♘xe5 20.♙xe5 f6 21.♙d3! ♔xe5 (21...f5 22.♘g5±) And now the very nice



22.♔xh7+!! ♔xh7 23.♘xf6+ ♔h6 24.♖g6#]

18...♘xe5 [18...f5 19.♙c4 The f5 move has weakened the position (Xe5;Xe6)]

19.♙xe5 g6 20.b4!? The idea of this sacrifice is to join the knight to the attack after Ne4. [20.♙c2 20...♙f6 21.♙f4 ♙g7 22.♘e4 ♔c6 Followed by Nf6 and Black has more or less

solved his main problems.]

20...♖xb4 21.♘e4 ♘g7? [21...♙d7! Black simply develops the pieces. This position is risky for both sides. 22.♖h5 With the idea Qxh7! (22.♖b1 22...♖c8±; 22.♖h3 22...f6 23.♙c3 ♖xa4 24.♖xh7 ♖xh7 25.♘c5 ♙xc5 26.♖h5+ ♖g8 27.♙xg6 ♖xd1+ 28.♖xd1 ♘g7 29.♖xd7 ♖ad8 30.♖a4 b5∞; 22.♙c3 22...♖xa4 23.♖d2 ♖d8) 22...♘g7 23.♖h6 ♘f5 And Black escapes from all tactical threats.]

22.♘f6+ ♙xf6 23.♙xf6 White has a huge initiative on the dark squares, but the position is still unclear.

23...♖f4 [23...e5 An interesting and logical move. Black gets rid of the e5 pawn in order to activate his pieces. 24.♖xe5 ♖e8 25.♖g5 ♘e6!? With the idea to play Qf4 next.]



24.♖b2 ♘h5 25.♙g5 ♖c7?! Black tries to keep the queen close to the king, but an interesting option was to win the pawn and escape with tempo after [25...♖xa4!? 26.♖a1 ♖d7 27.♙h6 f6 (27...♖d8 28.♙e2+–) 28.♙xf8 ♘xg3 29.fxg3! e5 (29...♖xf8 30.♖xf6+ ♖g8 31.♖f1 ♖e8 And now White has the fantastic 32.♙xg6!! hxg6 33.♖f4+–) 30.♖a3 ♖d4+ 31.♖h1 ♙f5 32.♙xf5 gxh5 33.♙c5±]

26.♙h6 e5 27.♖c1 White has a decisive attack.

27...♖e7 [27...♖b8 doesn't help because of 28.♖g5 ♖e8

29.♖xh5! gxh5 30.♖b6 ♙e6 31.♖e3+–]

28.♙xf8 ♖xf8 29.♖e3 ♘f4 30.♙f1 ♙f5 [30...f6 31.♖ec3+– Followed by Rc7.]

31.♖xe5 And White is simply winning.

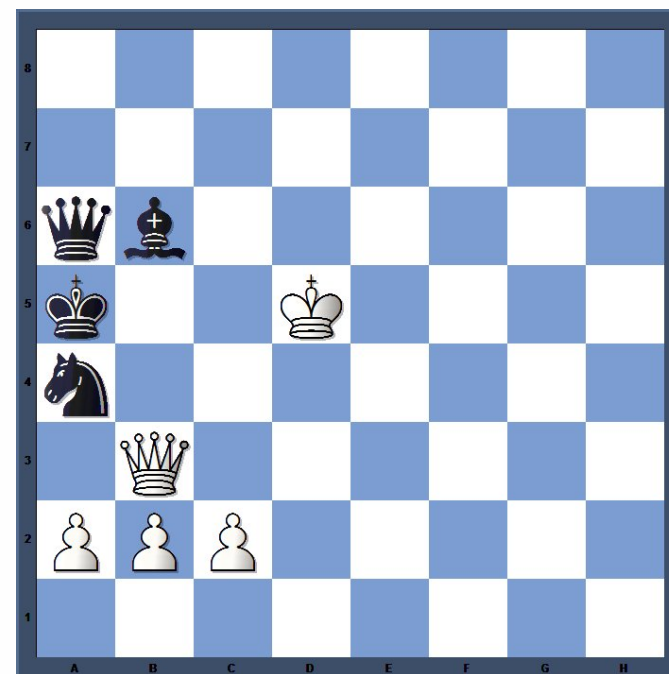
31...♖g5 32.g3 ♘e6 33.♖e3 ♖g8 34.♖xb7 ♖d8 35.♙xa6 ♘d4 36.♙c4 ♙d7 37.♖d1 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Pogosiants

[CEWN]

1. +–



Solutions

(19) Ponkratov, P(2605)-Khismatullin, D(2658)

Ekaterinburg, 2013.06.21

[Solutions]



23...♙xf2+!! 24.♖xf2 [24.♔h1 24...♙b6--]

24...♖e1+! 25.♙f1 [25.♖f1 25...♔c5+ 26.♔h1 ♜f2+ 27.♔g1 ♜h3+ 28.♔h1 ♔g1+ 29.♖xg1 ♖xg1#]

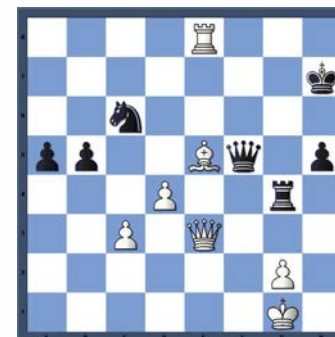
25...♔c5!—+ 26.♜a4 [26.♔g2 26...♜ce3+ --+; 26.h3 26...♖xf1+! 27.♔xf1 ♜ge3+ --+]

26...♔d4! 27.♔h1 ♜ce3 28.♙xe3 ♜xe3 0-1

(20) Shimanov, A(2664)-Dubov, D(2638)

Ekaterinburg, 2013.06.22

[Solutions]



41...♔b1+ 42.♔h2 [42.♔f2 42...♔c2+ --+]

42...♖h4+! 43.♔g3 ♔g6+! 0-1
[43...♔g6+ 44.♔xh4 (44.♔f2 ♔xe8--+) 44...♔g4#]

(21) Tomashevsky, E(2709)-Predke, A(2492)

Ekaterinburg, 2013.06.23

[Solutions]



31.♜f6+! ♔h8 [31...gxf6 32.♔xf6+--]

32.♔xe3 ♙xe3 33.♜xe8 ♖xe8 34.♙c7+—

(22) Andriasian, Z(2610)-Minasian, A(2505)

Asrian memorial, 2013.06.20

[Solutions]



21. ♘f6+! gxf6 22. ♖xf6+- ♕g7
[22... ♗g4 23. ♗d8+ ♖xd8 24. ♖xd8#]

23. ♗e7# 1-0

(23) Harika, D(2492)-Kosintseva, T(2526)

WGP Dilijan, 2013.06.24

[Solutions]



35... ♖xd5!! 36. exd5 [36. ♗xe5 36... ♖dx5+-]

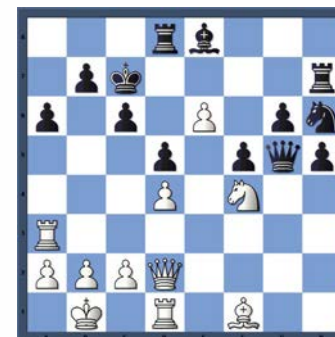
36... ♗xb2 37. ♖2xe8+ [37. ♖xb2 37... ♖xe1+ +-]

37... ♕g7+-

(24) Onischuk, V(2581)-Pridorozhni, A(2512)

Voronezh Open, 2013.06.21

[Solutions]



25. ♘xd5+! 1-0

[25. ♘xd5+ 25... cxd5 26. ♗xg5+-]

(25) Smirnov, P(2635)-Maletin, P(2611)

Izmailov memorial, 2013.06.18

[Solutions]



22. ♖xf5!! [22. ♘xd5 22... ♗d8 23. ♖xf5 ♗xf6 24. ♖xf6 exd4=]

22... gxf5 23. ♘xd5 ♗d7 [23... ♗d8 24. ♗xf7#]

24. ♕xf7 ♕e7 [24... ♗xf7 25. ♗xd6+-; 24... exd4 25. ♕e6+-]

25. ♗xe5 ♗xf7 26. ♘b6 1-0 [26. ♗g7+ 26... ♕e6 27. ♘b6!+-]

(26) Mareco, S(2557)-Janev, E(2444)

Varna Open, 2013.06.21

[Solutions]



17.b4! ♖f6 [17...cxb4 18.axb4 ♙xb4 19.♖xa6+-]

18.bxa5+-

(27) Mareco, S(2557)-Janev, E(2444)

Varna Open, 2013.06.21

[Solutions]



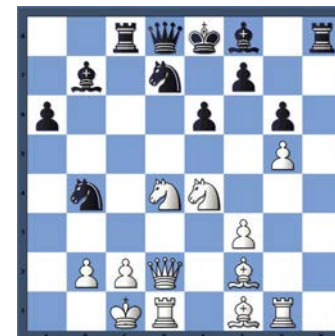
29...♖xe3! 30.♖c2 [30.♙xe3 ♖xg3+ 31.♙g2 ♖xb3+-]

30...♖xg3 0-1

(28) Mekhitarian, K(2544)-Ashwin, J(2472)

Varna Open, 2013.06.23

[Solutions]



19.♙xe6!! ♙xe4 [19...fxe6 20.♖xd7+! ♖xd7 21.♙f6+ ♖f7 22.♖xd7+ ♙e7 23.♖xb7 ♖xc2+ 24.♙b1 ♖xf2 25.♙g4! ♖d2 26.♙c4+- ♖c8 (26...♙c6 27.♖c7 ♖d6 28.♖xc6 ♖xc6 29.♙e5+ ♙g7 30.♙xc6+-) 27.♙e5+ +-; 19...♖e7 20.♖xd7+! ♖xd7 21.♙f6+ ♙e7 22.♖xd7+ ♙xe6 23.♖xb7+-; 19...♖xc2+ 20.♖xc2 ♙xc2 21.♙xd8+-]

20.♙xd8 ♖xc2+ 21.♖xc2 ♙xc2 22.♙xf7! ♖h2 [22...♙xd1 23.♙xh8+-; 22...♙xf7 23.♖xd7+ +-]

23.♖d2! +- ♙c5 24.♖d8+ ♙xf7 25.♖xf8+ ♙g7 26.♙d4+ ♙xf8 27.♙xc5+ ♙e8 28.♙xb4+-

(29) Soukup

[Solutions]



1. ♖d1! ♜f4 [1...e2 2. ♖d2+! ♔a1 3. ♖xe2! dxe2 4. ♔d2=]

2. ♖d2+!! exd2+ ♔d1=



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 72

12th of July 2013

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Editorial Preface

The Dutch National Championship, which was a round robin with 8 players, came to an end. To everyone's surprise, the first place was shared by Spoelman and Reiderman, with a very good result of 5,5/7. The favorites Sokolov, L'Ami and Smeets did not really find their usual shape.

The pairings for the World Cup are ready. Almost all of the top players are in the game for the crown, even Kramnik! This amazingly exciting event is going to begin the 10th of August.

The main event of the week is clearly the FIDE Grand Prix in Beijing. After an amazing start with 3/3, Karjakin somehow dropped his attention and lost 2 games in a row, both of them being quite unnecessary losses. It is not a big surprise that Mamedyarov continues presenting himself in great shape and is leading with 5/7. Shared first with him is Grischuk, who is playing every game in a very creative style and showing us great fighting chess. So far the tournament turns out to be a disaster for Kamsky and Gelfand, who can be found at the end of the cross table. There are still 4 rounds to go, so we can expect a very exciting finish!

As usual, we wish you a lot of chess fun!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

Our latest publication is:

M.Cornette, F.Libiszewski *The Complete Kalashnikov*

Price: 22.99 €



4 best games of the past week

(1) Morozevich, Alexander(2736)

- Gelfand, Boris(2773) [D97]

FIDE GP Beijing(4.6), 2013.07.07

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Gelfand has been in a really great shape lately, as a couple of weeks ago he celebrated his victory at the Tal Memorial. At the Grand Prix things are running everything other than good for him. After a solid opening, Black blunders a nice tactical blow and ends up with a running king.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 Gelfand was playing the Gruenfeld during his WCC match against Anand and continues with what is probably the most popular opening at the moment.

3.♘c3 d5 4.♘f3 [4.cxd5 4...♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 is be the very main line.]

4...♙g7



5.♙b3 is also a modern move and the beginning of a long theoretical line.

5...dxc4 6.♙xc4 O-O 7.e4 ♘a6 This is of course all still theory. As usual in Gruenfeld, White is trying to keep his center and Black is trying to create an active play against it.

8.♙e2 c5 A move that just belongs to Gruenfeld!

9.d5 e6 Following the plan to attack the center.

10.♙g5 A very rare move. [10.O-O 10...exd5 11.exd5 ♖e8 is the main line here.]

10...exd5 [The idea of the move is getting revealed after: 10...h6 It seems like White has to give up his black bishop, which is usually not a great choice, but in this position it works. 11.♙xf6 ♙xf6 12.O-O-O! Quite unexpected but strong! White has nice play.]

11.♘xd5 ♙e6 12.♖d1 [After 12.O-O-O 12...♙xd5 13.♖xd5 ♙b6 Black seems to be OK.]

12...♙a5+ 13.♖d2 [13.♙d2 13...♙xd5 14.exd5 ♙b6 also doesn't seem to give White any advantage.]

13...♙xd5



14.exd5 ♖e8! A very good move. Black wants to play Ne4 next.

15.♙xf6 So White is forced to give up his "nice bishop".

15...♙xf6 16.O-O ♖ad8 Let us take a new look at the position. White has a strong d-pawn and the black knight on a6 is very badly placed, but all other black pieces are nicely in the game and the opposite colored bishops make the probability of a draw quite high. White's only chance to reach more than a draw is clearly to combine the strength of the d-pawn with an attack on the black king.

17.d6 White doesn't waste any time. [17.♔f4 17...♙g7 doesn't lead anywhere.]

17...♘b4! A good move. Black has to get his knight into the game as fast as possible.

18.♚f4 ♙g7 How to start an attack now for White?!



19.h4! A very nice move. White needs to weaken the black pawn structure as much as he can.

19...h5 [Another option was to play 19...♘d5 20.♚xd5 ♚xe2 but now White is in time with the main idea 21.h5 and the threat of playing h6 next is very unpleasant. Black's king position is quite shaky.]

20.♙c4 ♘c6 Black just needs one more move to play Nd4 and be perfectly fine.



21.♙xf7! A very nice blow, maybe the move is not winning,

but it is a great practical decision.

21...♚f8?? Clearly a miscalculation by Black. [The only way for Black to go on was 21...♙xf7 To take a full piece is usually not a bad decision :) 22.d7 ♚f8 Protecting against Ng5. 23.♘g5+ ♙g8 And we are in a very sharp and complication position. White has moves like 24.Qe4 or 24. Ne6 and both lead to unclear play.]

22.♙xg6! White's bishop just destroys the black defence lines.

22...♙e5 [The bishop was already untouchable here: 22...♙xg6 23.♚d5 With a mating attack.]

23.♚g5 ♙f4 Black is winning a full rook, but White already has 3 pawns and a strong attack on the black king.

24.♚xh5 ♙xd2 25.♚h7+ ♙f6



26.♙h5! This move is not difficult to find, but it is very strong! White wants to mate in one move after Qg6 and Black just has no decent defence against it!

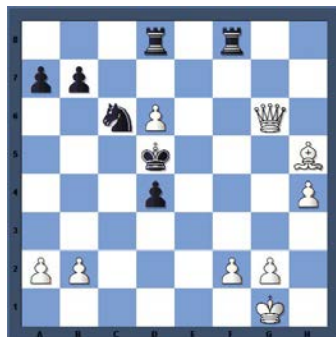
26...♙e6 27.♚g6+ ♙d5 It is now clear that Black's position is just lost.

28.♘xd2 The most simple move. White had a few more winning ideas, but 28.Nxd2 is another very practical decision.

28...♔xd2 Black has no better move.

29.♖d1 And the Queen is lost.

29...♔d4 30.♖xd4+ cxd4



31.b4!? It's funny how Morozevich is handling winning positions. Some other player would probably just play 31.Bf3 and win the game, but White keeps on playing very creatively.

31...♖xd6 32.♔g7 A double attack on f8 and b7.

32...♖f6 33.♔xb7 ♔c4 34.b5 A very nice game by Morozevich, but of course if Gelfand had been in better shape and played 21...Kxf7, the outcome of this battle would have been very hard to guess! **1-0**

(2) Karjakin, S.(2776)

- Grischuk, A.(2780) [B80]

Grand Prix, Beijing, 2013.07.07

[Balogh Csaba]

Karjakin had a dream start in this tournament as he won the first three games. The question was to know who could be the first one to steal at least half a point from him. Grischuk has bravely gone for a very sharp line of the Najdorf variation...

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 The starting position of the Sicilian Najdorf, where White has to decide which system to play.



6.♗e3 ♘g4!? This very interesting move was the favorite of Kasparov at that time. It might lead to very sharp lines after Bg5, or White can return to c1 with his bishop and choose another option. Karjakin decided for the latter one...

7.♗c1 ♘f6 8.f3 Usually the players who like to play 6.Be3 keep the 6.f3 system as an alternative to avoid the complications of the Ng4 line. However it also has some drawbacks, since he limits his opening possibilities.

8...e6 Here is another difference, as in the 6.Be3 e6 variation the 7.g4 move is considered to be a very aggressive attempt.

[For instance after 8...e5 White is forced to play the main line with Nb3 followed by a transposition with Be3, but he is deprived of the option of playing the dangerous 7.Nf3.]

9.♘e3 b5 We are ahead of a typical Sicilian fight, where White is going to attack on the kingside with g4-g5, while Black tries his chances on the queenside, where the king is going to castle. Naturally, there is huge theory behind all this variations.

10.♔d2 ♘d7



11.g4 This is considered to be the exact move order in order to avoid the line [11.O-O-O 11...♘b7 12.g4 ♘b6 where Kasparov has scored some nice victories.]

11...h6 [The difference is that if Black plays 11...♘b6 White has the strong 12.a4! ♘c4 (12...bxa4 13.♘xa4 ♘xa4 14.♔xa4 ♘b7 15.♘b3 followed by Na5, which was proved to be advantageous for White in some games.)

13.♘xc4 bxc4 White can choose between 14.g5 (or 14.a5 with the idea of Na4-b6, which is rather a positional handling of the position.) 14...♘d7 15.f4 followed by f5 with an attack.]

12.O-O-O



12...b4! This is the rather modern handling of the opening. [The huge previous main line continued with 12...♘b7 13.h4 b4 14.♘a4 ♔a5 15.b3 ♘c5 16.a3! ♘xa4 17.axb4 ♔c7 18.bxa4 White has won a pawn, but his king became exposed. 18...d5 19.e5 ♘d7 20.f4 ♘b6 There are still hundreds of games in database on this position, but after White has found the idea of



21.♔h3! ♘xa4 22.♘f2! ♔c8 23.♘e1! White succeeded to organize a successful defence, while his attack with f5 is going to be crushing. This line is more or less closed nowadays.]

13.♘ce2 ♔c7 Black prepares for the typical Sicilian break with d5, which would have been slightly premature if played immediately... [13...d5 is met by 14.exd5 ♘xd5 15.♘f4! ♘b7

16.♗c4 and the different kind of sacrifices on e6 are too dangerous for Black.]

14.h4! White's attack is rolling fast. He only needs one preparation move with Bh3 (in order to close the h-file for g5 hxg5 hxg5) and he is already there to finish the game. Black is forced to act now.

14...d5! 15.♗f4 White is following the new wave. [15.♗h3 was played by Karjakin in 2011, but he lost after an impressive preparation 15...♖b6! 16.b3 dxe4 17.g5 ♘d5 18.fxe4 ♘xe3 19.♔xe3 hxg5 20.hxg5



20...g6! This is a useful way to stop the g6 idea, which would critically weaken the e6 square and also to fianchetto the bishop. 21.♖b1 ♗g7 22.♗f1 ♔e5! 23.♗f2 ♗a7! and Black had the advantage. Karjakin-Cheparinov, Porto Carras 2011.]

15...e5 16.♗h2! With his previous bishop moves, White has prepared to push g5 by closing the h-file and also weakened Black's structure in front of his king. We are still just at the beginning of theory and of course the deep computer analyses are extremely important in such lines.

16...dxe4 17.g5! There is no way back, the position is getting sharper after each move.

17...hxg5 18.hxg5

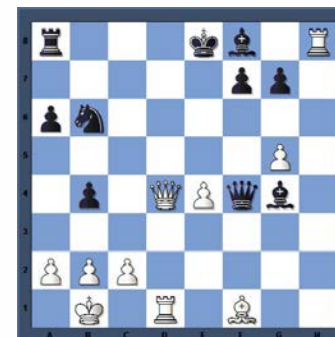


18...♖xh2! Black is winning some material by unpinning his queen, but his king remains in the center and his position remains really scary...

19.♖xh2 exd4 White cannot take on f6, since the rook is hanging on h2.

20.♖h8 [20.♖h4!? is an alternative for White, which was tested only in a few games. Black has not proved equality so far, but we can be sure that both Karjakin and Grischuk had something in their preparations. The text move seems to be more frightening at first sight.]

20...♘d5 21.♔xd4 ♗b7! [Any mistakes are crucial in such positions. Black once played 21...♘b6 but quickly lost after 22.fxe4 ♘f4 23.♘xf4 ♔xf4+ 24.♖b1 Black is helpless against the threats of Qd8, Qxb6 and Qxg7. 24...♗g4



25. ♖xb6! ♕xd1 26. ♖c6+ ♔e7 27. ♖xa8 ♖xf1 28. ♖xf8+ White soon mated the naked king. [Eliseev-Sethuraman, Moscow 2013.]

22.fxe4 [Grischuk already had a recent experience on this position, where his opponent forced him to draw after 22. ♖xe4+ 22... ♖e7 23. ♖xb4 ♖g6! 24. ♖g8 ♖e7! 25. ♖h8 ♖g6 26. ♖g8 ♖e7 27. ♖h8 With an unusual repetition of moves.]

22... ♖5b6! Black is finally ready to put his king into safety by castling queenside. [Once again after 22... ♖e7 White has two promising continuations: 23. ♖xd7+ (23. ♖h3 also looks good.) 23... ♖xd7 24. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 25. ♖xd7 ♖xe4 26. ♖d4± White ends up with an extra pawn after taking on b4.]

23. ♖xb4 0-0-0 24. ♖b3



24... ♖xe4! This is finally the novelty of our game. [A clear improvement on the previous 24... ♖c5 25. ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 26. ♖xf7 ♖xg5+ 27. ♖b1 ♖e5 28. ♖h3 when White maintained his strong attacking chances.]

25. ♖c3 White suddenly creates a triple attack by covering the c2 square. The a6 and f7 pawns and the Be4 are hanging. Black seems to be in trouble, but an important detail saves him! [Now after 25. ♖h3 Black would probably play 25... ♖e7 26. ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 27. ♖b1 ♖e8 Materially White is still slightly

ahead, but Black soon overtakes the initiative with his active pieces. The knight is coming to c5 or the g5 pawn can be taken.]

25... ♖f4+! 26. ♖b1



26... ♖c7!! A subtle move, which creates the decisive threat of Nc5. The point is that White does not take on d8 with check anymore and therefore Black can simply take on b3.

27. ♖xa6 [27. ♖xe4? loses to 27... ♖c5!—+]

27... ♖c5! 28. ♖b5+! [White cannot play for a win anymore, because after 28. ♖b5 28... ♖xd1+ 29. ♖xd1 ♖d2—+ he is the one who gets mated.]

28... ♖c6 29. ♖a7+! And the following repetition is inevitable for both sides.

29... ♖c7 30. ♖b5+ ♖c6 31. ♖a7+ ♖c7 A draw was agreed here. An important theoretical game, which was probably analysed by both players until the end. This is where chess is on the highest level nowadays. **1/2-1/2**

(3) Mamedyarov, S.(2761)
- Wang Hao(2752) [D10]

Grand Prix, Beijing, 2013.07.07

[Balogh Csaba]

A very interesting and tough game that was not without mistakes, but in such complicated positions they are unavoidable.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 dxc4



A sideline of the Slav defence, which often leads to unusual positions, just like in our game. I am personally a big fan of this line and have used it several times as Black and recently it also appears on the highest level from time to time.

4.e3 [4.e4 is the other main line.]

4...b5 Black tries to save his pawn as long as he can, which is the point of this variation.

5.a4 b4 6.♘e4 ♔d5 Black still keeps his pawn. 6...Ba6 was bad in view of Nc5.

7.♘g3 ♘f6



8.♕e2! The critical move! The g2 pawn is naturally taboo because Bf3 would trap the queen and White prepares for a sacrifice in the center. The theory of this line has started to develop not so long ago.

8...e6 A new direction. [I have played more games with 8...♕a6 9.e4 ♘xe4 10.♕f3 f5 which is very similar to the game.]

9.e4! [9.♘f3 would transpose to the old lines, when White used to play 8.Nf3, but these are just completely fine for Black after 9...♕a6]

9...♘xe4 10.♕f3 f5



11.♔e2 [The first difference between 8...Ba6 and the text move is that after 11.♘e2 with the idea of Nf4, Black can play 11...♕d6! 12.♘f4 ♕xf4 13.♕xf4 O-O 14.O-O c3 With very

complex positions, which require further analysis. Black has a material advantage, but White's pieces are better.]

11...c3 [To grab another pawn with 11...♔xd4 is a bit too greedy as after 12.♘xe4 fxe4 13.♙xe4 the White pieces are developing with tempo after Nf3, with more than enough compensation.]

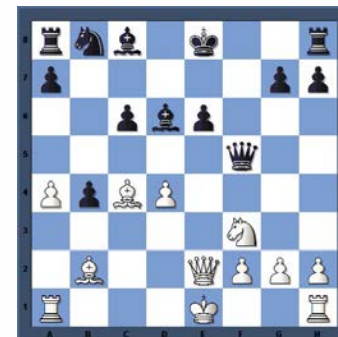
12.♘xe4 fxe4 13.♙xe4 ♖b3

It is quite sure that both players are still following their preparations. Black creates the unpleasant threat of Ba6, against which White makes a strong prophylactic move.



14.♙d3! [White could have forced a draw with 14.♙c2 14...♔d5 (14...cxb2 15.♙xb2 ♔xb2? does not work because of the small trick of 16.♙g6+! hxg6 17.♔xb2) 15.♙e4 ♖b3; 14.♘f3 would allow 14...♙a6! 15.♙xc6+ ♘xc6 16.♔xa6 ♔d5 17.O-O ♙d6 Black completes the development and after 0-0 he obtains a good position.]

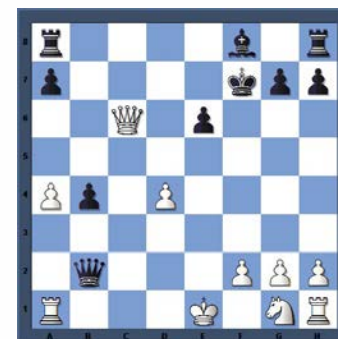
14...♙a6 Wang Hao continues playing the most direct moves. [14...cxb2 15.♙xb2 ♔d5 is suggested by the machine at first sight, but it has a nice refutation: 16.♘f3 ♙d6 17.♙c4! ♖f5 The only place to protect e6, but it moves into...



18.d5! cxd5 19.♙xg7 ♔g8 Black cannot cover the d5 pawn, somehow the a8 rook always gets into trouble in this line. (19...dxc4 20.♙xh8 Black does not have enough compensation, because of his king, which will never find shelter on the board.) 20.♘d4! ♔g6 (20...♔e4 21.♔xe4 dxe4 22.♘xe6 ♙xe6 23.♙xe6 ♔xg7 24.♙d5! The rook is trapped.) 21.♙xd5 ♔xg7 22.♔c1! ♙d7 23.♘xe6 With a huge attack.]

15.♙xa6 ♘xa6 16.♔xa6! White has to accept the challenge. [Normal developing moves like 16.♘f3 allow a comfortable game for Black. 16...cxb2 17.♙xb2 ♘c7 18.O-O ♔d5 followed by Bd6 and 0-0.]

16...cxb2 17.♔xc6+ ♙f7 18.♙xb2 ♔xb2



19.♔c1! An important move to prevent Qc3, after which the endgame would be slightly better for Black. [19.♔d1 19...♔c3+ 20.♔xc3 bxc3=+]

19...b3 A logical move. Black would like to play Bb4+ and also advance his dangerous passed pawn. White must play precisely in order to avoid any problems.

20. ♖b7+! Mamedyarov realizes that it is not easy to deal with the forthcoming innocent-looking checks. [20. ♘e2? loses to 20... ♙b4+ 21. ♖f1 ♖c8 22. ♗b7+ ♙e7—+ Black succeeded in consolidating his pieces and the b-pawn is going to be too strong.]

20... ♙e7 21. ♗f3+! The king must suddenly march forward, since on the back rank White could take on a8 with check, while Bf6 runs into Rc7.

21... ♖g6 22. ♘e2! Creating the threat of Nf4!

22... ♖hf8 [22... ♙b4+ 23. ♖f1 ♖f8 is met by (23... ♙d6 24. h4! Artificially activating the h1 rook. White has a strong attack.) 24. ♘f4+! ♖xf4 25. ♗xf4 We will check this position in the 23.Nf4 line of the game.]

23. ♗e4+ [It would have been even stronger to play 23. ♘f4+! 23... ♖xf4 24. ♗xf4 It seems like Black cannot create enough counterplay. 24... ♙b4+ Otherwise White castles. 25. ♖f1 h4-h5 is a threat now. 25... ♖f8 26. ♗g4+ ♖f6 (26... ♖h6 is refuted by 27. ♗xe6+ ♖f6 28. ♗e3+ checking back the queen to protect the rook and the f2 pawn. White is winning.)



27. ♖c7! And it looks like the game is over. 27... ♗b1+ 28. ♖e2

♗b2+ 29. ♖f3 Black doesn't have any more checks.]

23... ♖f7 24. O-O Mamedyarov finally solved the problems of his king, but this gave Black enough time to solve the coordination problems between his rooks.

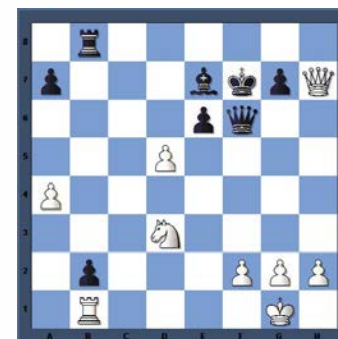
24... ♖ac8 25. d5 [25. ♖b1 allows 25... ♗c2!]

25... ♗f6! The only move! All other moves would have lost big material.

26. ♗xh7 White tries to keep the king in the center and prevents Kg8. [Objectively it was better to play 26. ♖b1 Black cannot avoid the loss of the b-pawn, although he remains with good compensation. 26... ♖g8 27. ♖xb3 exd5 28. ♗xd5+ ♖h8 The bishop is stronger than the knight and all of Black's pieces are active. It is going to be very difficult to convert the extra pawn.]

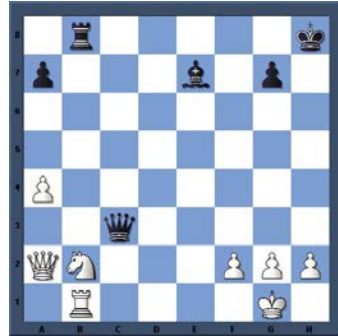
26... ♖xc1 27. ♘xc1 ♖b8 [27... b2 28. ♘d3 ♖b8 leads to the game by transposition.]

28. ♘d3 b2 29. ♖b1 At this point, it looks as though Wang Hao got too ambitious about his position due to the b2 pawn and he makes some wrong decisions.



29... ♖b3 [Black could simply have played 29... exd5 30. ♗h5+ ♖g8 31. ♗xd5+ ♖h8 followed by Ba3. White can hardly be better, since all his pieces must be focused on stopping the b2

pawn. 32. ♖a2 does not work because of 32... ♖c3! 33. ♗xb2



33... ♖c2! Pinning all the pieces, followed by Bf7 winning the knight.]

30.g3 Opening the back rank!

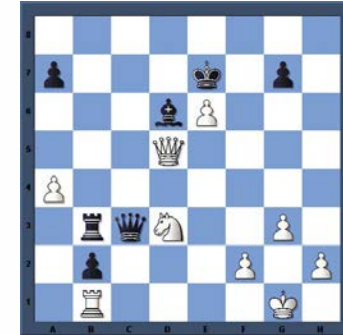
30... ♗d6? This is a blunder! It is a very strange decision, or maybe Black just missed that he cannot take back the e6 pawn... [30... exd5 was logical and good. 31. ♗f4 ♗a3 With mutual chances.]

31.dxe6+ ♗e7 [31... ♖xe6 32. ♖xb2+- Black cannot give up the b2 pawn.; 31... ♗xe6 32. ♖g8+ ♖f7 33. ♖e1+ ♗f6 34. ♖d8+ wins.]

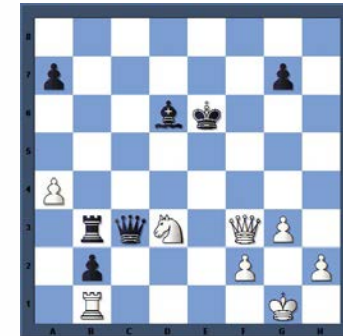
32. ♖e4 ♖c3 33. ♖f5! Forcing the black queen back into passivity with the threat of Qf7-d7 mate.

33... ♖f6 34. ♖d5! [The b2 pawn could not be taken immediately after 34. ♖xf6+ 34... gxf6 35. ♗xb2 because of 35... ♗e5!]

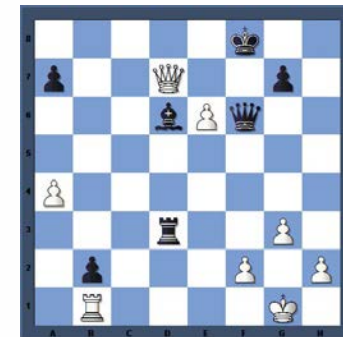
34... ♖c3 In mutual time trouble, both players make a mistake. It is understandable that the previous tough position has taken all of their time and the tournament is played without increments... [34... ♖xe6 loses to 35. ♖d4! And the b2 pawn falls.]



35. ♖h5? [35. ♖f3! was the winning move. 35... ♖f6 (35... ♗xe6

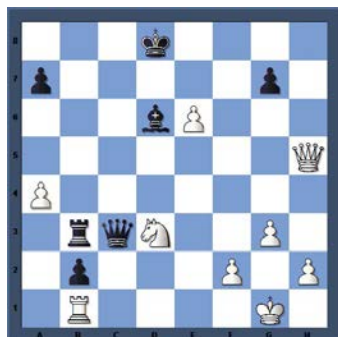


36. ♖xb2! is the point 36... ♖xb2 (36... ♖xd3 37. ♖xb3! And the queen is protected.) 37. ♗f4+ wins the queen.) 36. ♖c6! ♖xd3 37. ♖d7+ ♗f8



38.e7+! White wins the d3 rook and the game. 38... ♖xe7 39. ♖f5+-]

35...♔d8? [Black could have come back to the game with 35...♕xe6! 36.♖e2+ ♖f6 37.♘xb2 (37.♗xb2 is now met by 37...♗xd3! which is why the queen should stay on f3, like in the 35.Qf3 line.) 37...♙e5 and Black holds.]



36.♘xb2! Successfully eliminating the strong pawn!

36...♗xb2 37.♗d1 [Black resigned in view of the following lines: 37.♗d1 37...♗d2 (37...♕c7 38.♖f7+ ♖c6 39.♖d7+-) 38.♖g5+- wins the rook.] **1-0**

(4) Karjakin, Sergey(2776)
- Wang, Hao(2752) [B09]

FIDE GP Beijing(2.1), 2013.07.05

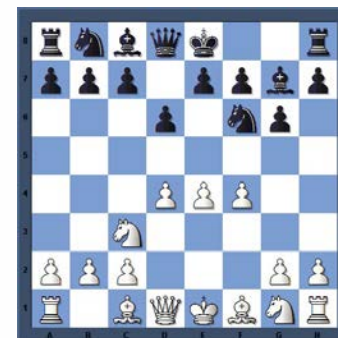
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

A short, but very intense game with a lot of tactical ideas! White finally took over, but in order to do that Karjakin had to show very precise calculation combined with great defence ideas! Excited? Then it is time for us to go into the details :)

1.e4 d6 Wang Hao is a very emotional player. He had a lot of good and a lot of bad results, but kept his rating over 2750, which shows his big talent for the game. With his first move he shows that he is ready for a big fight.

2.d4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 g6 4.f4 Karjakin likes this very aggressive system with 4.f4 a lot.

4...♙g7



5.♙d3!? A very rare move, not to say novelty. The usual continuation is 5.Nf3.

5...e5?! Black uses the fact that the white knight is not on f3 and forces an action in the center, but to me this move looks wrongly placed. [5...c5 6.e5 looks interesting, but this was probably Karjakin's main idea.]

6.dxe5 This is a typical and almost forced reaction.

6...dxe5 7.♘f3 And White is completing his development. [7.fxe5 7...♘g4 doesn't seem to give White any advantage.]

7...exf4 Black is forced to take.

8.♙xf4 Now the question is whether Black is in time to create a blockade on e5 or not! It is clear that White is better developed and will search for some action.

8...O-O 9.♖d2! A very strong move! White does not play the simple O-O but is going for the queenside castle, which is clearly better! To bring the rook to d1 is a useful move in any case and in the future White is going to go for the Black king!

9...♘c6 10.O-O-O ♙e6 [In case Black tried to immediately capture the e5 square by playing 10...♘g4 11.♘d5 ♘e5 White would have the strong reaction 12.♙b5! and Black has big problems with his pieces.]

11.h3?! Why such a slow play!? It is clear White tries to avoid Ng4, but were there really no better options? I think 11. Ng5 or maybe a nice prophylactical move like 11.Kb1 could have been at least worth thinking of.

11...♘d7 Black tries to get the e5 square under control.



12.♙g5 A very tricky move. What to play now?!

12...♙f6?! Now White will be doing much better. [12...f6 It is not great to close the bishop on g7, but what to do...

13.♙f4 ♘e5 With a better position for White, but things are still unclear.]

13.h4! A very important and strong move. White is not only protecting the bishop on g5, but also wants to play h5 next.

13...h5 14.♖f4 Creating extra pressure on f6 and basically forcing Black to take on g5.

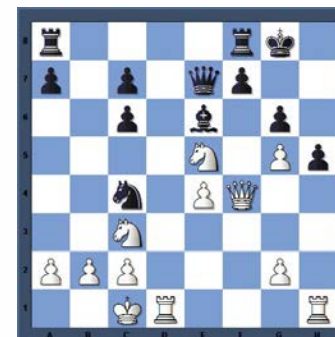
14...♙xg5 15.hxg5! Once again Karjakin chooses the right plan. Now the opening of the h-file would simply be deadly to Black.

15...♖e7 Black tries to consolidate.

16.♙b5! White again shows very strong play. Black is simply missing time for a few moves like Nb6-Rad8 to be perfectly fine.

16...♘b6 17.♙xc6 bxc6 18.♘e5 With easy but very powerful moves Karjakin is putting his opponent into deep trouble. White doesn't just attack the c6 pawn, he also wants to play g4 next.

18...♘c4!? A nice resource by Black.



19.♘xc4 [19.♘xc6 19...♖c5 20.♘d5 is probably better for White as well, but the text move looks more convincing.]

19...♙xc4 20.g4 And White finally starts his crush on the h-file!

20...♖b8 Black is starting his counterplay and maybe it is indeed the best practical chance.

21.gxh5 ♖b4 The b2 pawn is hanging.

22.♖d4 This move is probably good enough to win the game, but White had a more beautiful way of forcing things towards the "right" result. [22.♘a4! What a nice way to defend the b2 pawn. 22...♖xa4 Black has no choice. 23.hxg6 fxg6 (23...♖xa2 leads to a forced mate after 24.♖h8+! ♔xh8 25.♖h4+ ♔g8 26.♖h7#) 24.♖e5 And Black cannot avoid being mated.]

22...♖xb2+ 23.♔d2 ♖fd8 The game now goes on.



24.♖f6! Once again White finds the best move! It is important to protect the rook on d4 and at the same time cover the d-file.

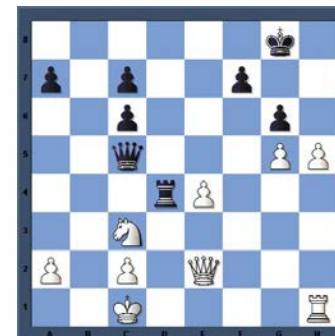
24...♖xd4+ 25.♖xd4 White created a double threat, to play Rb1 or to take the bishop on c4 and hxg6 also looks promising. Black cannot save all of his pieces.

25...♖b6 is losing but it is clearly the best chance.

26.♖xc4 Things are very forced.

26...♖d8+ 27.♔c1 ♖d4 28.♖e2 White has only moves, but these only moves are enough to win!

28...♖c5 Double attack on c3 and on g5.



29.♘b1! The key move! Defending from Qa3 and Qxg5 and saving the knight... 3 in 1 :)

29...♖xg5+ 30.♘d2 Black is just a piece down with no counterplay, so Wang Hao saw no reason to go on. A nice crushing win by Karjakin! **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) L'Ami, E(2640)-Ernst, S(2589)

Dutch Championship, 2013.07.05

[CEWN]

1. =



(6) Robson, R(2628)-Boor, C(2309)

World Open, 2013.07.03

[CEWN]

1. +-



(7) Rahman, T(2301)-Shankland, S(2599)

World Open, 2013.07.04

[CEWN]

1... -+

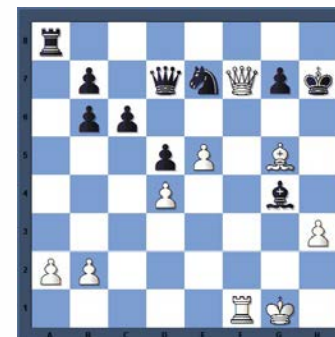


(8) Kurnosov, I(2657)-Estremera Panos, S(2372)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2013.06.30

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Baklan, V(2613)-Yilmaz, M(2556)

Turkish league, 2013.07.02

[CEWN]

1. +-



(10) Yilmaz, M(2556)-Swiercz, D(2633)

Turkish league, 2013.07.06

[CEWN]

1. +-



(11) Swiercz, D(2633)-Miroshnichenko, E(2620)

Turkish league, 2013.07.08

[CEWN]

1. +-



(12) Kotronias, V(2581)-Kalesis, N(2475)

Greek league, 2013.07.02

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Lubbe, N(2451)-Gajewski, G(2653)

Greek league, 2013.07.07

[CEWN]

1. +-



(14) Sidiropoulos, N(1949)-Korniotis, F(1872)

Greek league, 2013.07.07

[CEWN]

1... --+



Endgame section

(15) Kamsky, G.(2763)-Topalov, V.(2767)

Grand Prix, Beijing, 2013.07.06

[CE Team]



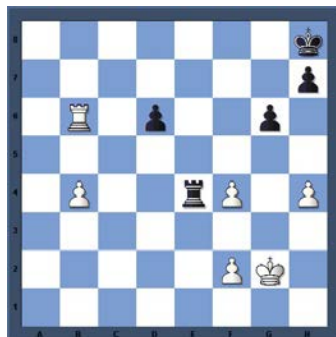
Black seems to be in big trouble, as he will inevitably lose the b-pawn, which means an extra pawn for White and his pieces are dominating. However Topalov will find a fantastic defence to save the game by transposing into a rook endgame.

43...♖e8! 44.♗xb6 ♜e1+! Activating the rook, which forces White to trade the bishops.

45.♔g2 [45.♔h2 45...♙e4 46.♗xd6? allows perpetual check: (46.♙xe4 leads to the game.) 46...♗h1+ 47.♔g3 ♗g1+= That is why Black had to play 44...Re1 first.]

45...♙e4+! Black had to try this move, even if it is losing. With the bishops on board, the b-pawn promotes automatically.

46.♙xe4 ♜xe4



47.♔f3 [47.♗xd6? This move is of course never an option for White, his hope lies in the b-pawn. 47...♗xb4 Even with a healthy pawn structure the 3 vs 2 would be a theoretical draw, but of course White has zero chance here.]

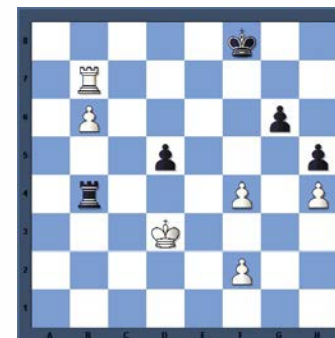
47...d5! As we will see, the d-pawn plays a very important role in the defence.

48.♗b7! Kamsky also plays well, he cuts the king along the 7th rank, otherwise the escape of the king with Kg7 would have seriously eased the defence.

48...h5 49.b5 White is ready to leave with his rook, so the next move is forced!

49...♗b4! 50.♔e3 ♔g8 Black has no other moves left than to pass with the king on the back rank, but how could White make some progress?!

51.b6 ♔f8 52.♔d3



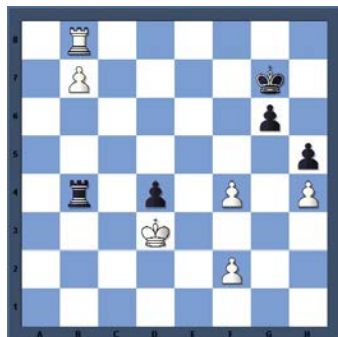
52...d4! A necessary move to prevent Kc3! [52...♔g8? loses to 53.♔c3 ♗c4+ (53...♗b5 54.♔d4 And the king penetrates after Ke5.) 54.♔b3 And the b-pawn will promote soon... 54...♗c6 55.♔b4 d4 56.♔b5+-]

53.♔e4 ♔e8 Black continues playing Kf8-e8 again. The problem of the progress is that whenever White goes ahead with his king, Black advances his d-pawn and gets adequate counterplay.

54.♔d3 [54.f5 allows 54...gxf5+ 55.♔xf5 d3; White cannot play on mate with 54.♔e5 54...d3 55.♔e6 because of 55...♖e4+! and d2 next move.]

54...♔f8 55.♖b8+ [55.f3 makes no difference: 55...♔e8 56.♖b8+ ♔f7 57.b7 ♔g7 Transposing to the game.]

55...♔g7 56.b7

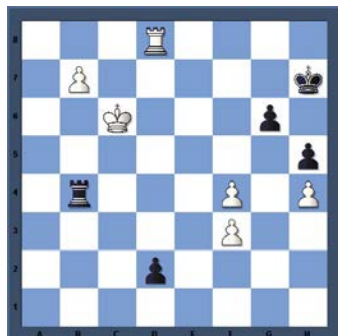


56...♔h7! After the pawn has reached the 7th rank, Black can only wait with his king on the g7 and h7 squares. [56...♔f7? does not work anymore, because of the following well-known trick: 57.♖h8! ♖xb7 58.♖h7+--]

57.♔e4 ♔g7 58.f3 ♔h7 White realized that there is no way to progress, he therefore tries his last chance.

59.♔d5 But it allows the d-pawn to run!

59...d3! 60.♔c6 d2 61.♖d8



61...♖c4+! An important intermediate check to send the king to a wrong square. [61...♖b2 immediately loses to 62.♖xd2!+-]

62.♔b6 [62.♔b5 62...♖c2! And White cannot promote his b-pawn now because of Rb2.]

62...♖b4+ 63.♔a6 ♖a4+ 64.♔b5 [64.♔b6 64...♖b4+ 65.♔c7 ♖c4+ 66.♔b8 ♖c2= is the same as the game.]

64...♖a2! Topalov defends accurately! He was checking the king until it got to the b-file and now he can protect his d-pawn.

65.♖d7+ ♔h6 66.♖d4 Unfortunately, White cannot avoid the checks with Rb4 because the d-pawn is too far advanced.

66...♖b2+ 67.♔c6 ♖c2+ 68.♔d6 ♖b2 69.f5 A last attempt, but after the loss of the b-pawn, the outcome is no longer a question. [69.♔c7 69...♖c2+ 70.♔b8 ♖b2 Nothing to do for White.]

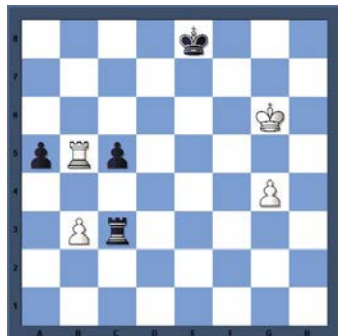
69...♖xb7 70.♖xd2 All moves lead to a draw now, but Topalov finds a way to exchange everything.

70...g5 71.♔c6 ♖f7 72.♖d6+ ♔h7 73.hxg5 ♖xf5 74.♖h6+ ♔g7 75.♖xh5 ♖xf3 A great defence and another proof that even in seemingly hopeless positions, one can always try to look for salvation in rook endgames. **1/2-1/2**

(16) Wang, Yue(2705)-Kamsky, Gata(2763)

FIDE GP Beijing(4.4), 2013.07.07

[CE Team]

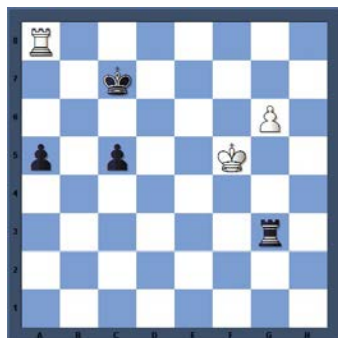


57.g5 Is this a winning endgame or a draw? Very hard to say, at first sight it probably looks as if Black should be in time to hold the game, but who knows! Wang Yue showed quite a good technique and very interesting endgame maneuvers.

57...♔d7 To run to the pawns is clearly not a bad idea! [The simple 57...c4 58.bxc4 ♖xc4 59.♖xa5 would just lead to a winning endgame for White.]

58.♔f5! The only move! [58.♔f7 would lead to a draw after 58...♖f3+ 59.♔g7 ♔c6 60.♖b8 ♔c7! as White cannot keep the b3 pawn.]

58...♔c6 59.♖b8 a4 Black is searching for counter chances. [Now the simple 59...♔c7 is not leading to a draw anymore: 60.♖a8 ♔b7 (60...♖xb3 61.g6 ♖g3 looks like a draw, but White has...



62.g7! The king is badly placed on c7. 62...♖xg7 63.♖a7+ With a winning position for White.) 61.♖xa5 ♔b6 62.♖a4 ♖xb3 63.g6 And it looks as if White is winning here too. Once again we can see how important White's king position on f5 is.]

60.bxa4 ♖f3+ The white king is now changing his direction and moving forward.

61.♔e6 ♖e3+ 62.♔f6 ♖f3+ 63.♔g7 c4 Black is counting on the strength of the c-pawn.

64.g6 ♔c5 Black's idea is to get White's a-pawn and to be fast enough to hold the g-pawn as well, but this is just too much of wishful thinking.

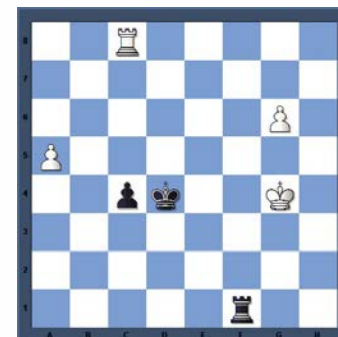
65.a5 The a-pawn is running as well.

65...♔d4 66.♖c8 ♖a3 67.♔f6 ♖f3+ [Black cannot take the a-pawn because of 67...♖xa5 68.g7 and it is over.]

68.♔e6 ♖g3 69.♔f5 Now the white king is moving backwards again.

69...♖f3+ 70.♔g4 White is now ready to play g7.

70...♖f1



71.a6! White just has too many pawns :)

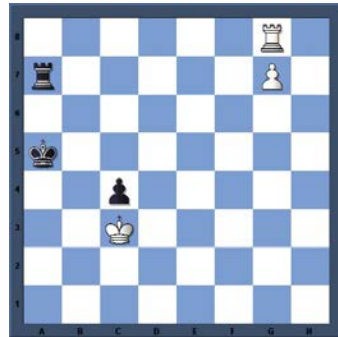
71...♖a1 72.♔f3 Black cannot hold all of White's pawns and the checks are his last hope.

72...♖a3+ 73.♔e2 ♜e3+ [73...♖a2+ 74.♔d1 And the white king will run to b1.]

74.♔d2 ♜e7 The rook is now on the 7th rank and seems to hold both of White's pawns... But it only seems so...

75.♜d8+ ♔c5 76.♜g8! The most easy way to win the game. White will push the pawn to g7 and move the rook away with check to queen the pawn.

76...♔b4 77.g7 ♔a5 78.♔c3 ♜c7 79.a7 ♜xa7



80.♔xc4 It is now time to resign.

80...♔a6 [A nice mate would happen after 80...♔a4 81.♜c8! A small but nice tactic. 81...♜xg7 82.♜a8+]

81.♔d5 The game is over, White will play Kc6 next. A very nice endgame technique by Wang Yue, who had a rating of 2740 not so long ago. **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Alekhine, Alexander-Lasker, Emanuel[D67]

Zuerich, 1934

[Kamil Miton]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♗f3 ♕e7 5.♙g5 ♘d7 6.e3 O-O 7.♖c1 White is waiting with developing the bishop. The alternative of that idea is the move [7.♔c2]

7...c6 8.♙d3 dxc4 [8...h6]

9.♙xc4 ♘d5 Black gave the center but his idea is to reduce the material and push c5 or e5 next.

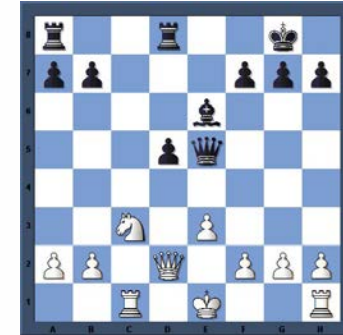
10.♙xe7 ♖xe7



11.♗e4 Because he has more space, White tries to keep more pieces on the board, but a better move was [11.O-O and now after 11...♗xc3 12.♖xc3 we back to a very well-known line with one difference: the black pawn is placed on h7 and not on h6, which has a huge meaning for evaluation, especially when Black plays the plan with b6. White's set-up Qc2-Bd3 will be created with tempo.]

11...♗5f6 Black is still looking for exchanges. Let's check other options: [11...♖b4+ 12.♖d2 ♖xd2+ 13.♗exd2 With a more pleasant endgame for White.; 11...e5 A logical move. Black immediately fights for the center. 12.O-O (12.dxe5

12...♗xe5 13.♗xe5 ♖xe5 14.♙xd5 cxd5 15.♗c3 If White manages to create a blockade on the d4 square, he will be better. 15...♙e6 16.♖d2 ♖fd8



17.♗e2 d4! Black is on time. 18.♗xd4 ♙xa2=) 12...exd4 13.♖xd4 ♗7f6 (13...♗7b6 14.♙b3 And now Black has no good square for his bishop. 14...♙g4 15.♗e5 ♙f5 16.♗c5+=) 14.♗g3 ♖e8 15.e4! White has the initiative.]

12.♗g3 e5 13.O-O exd4 [13...e4 14.♗d2 ♗b6 15.♙b3 (15.♙e2 This seems to be a good square because now Black again has no good way to develop the bishop. White's plan should be to push b4-b5 with the idea to create a weak pawn on c6 or to weaken the d5 square.) 15...♙e6 16.♙xe6 ♖xe6 17.♖b3∞]

14.♗f5 [14.♗xd4 14...♗e5 15.♙b3 g6 16.h3 c5±]

14...♖d8 15.♗3xd4 ♗e5 16.♙b3



16...♙xf5 Lasker gave the bishop because maybe he was

afraid that sometimes it is not easy to develop it. It was also possible to play [16...g6 17.♖h6+ (17.♖g3 17...♙e7 With idea to play c5 or just simply Bd7-Rd8.) 17...♙g7 18.f4 ♖eg4 (18...♖ed7 19.♖xf7+-) 19.♖xg4 ♙xg4 20.♙e1 ♙e7 Black is completely fine because White is not able to create any attack as the e4-e5 plan is impossible.]

17.♖xf5



17...♙b6? A very bad move which allows White to activate his pieces and get a strong initiative! We can just say that it is a decisive mistake in the game.

Black should for example have played: [

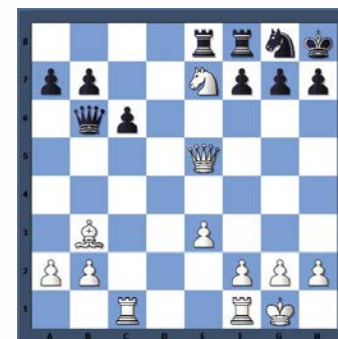
a) 17...g6 18.♖d6 (18.♖d4 18...♙e7 19.♙c2 doesn't allow c5, but after 19...♖ac8 20.♙c5 ♙xc5 21.♖xc5 ♖fe8 Black's position is very solid.) 18...♙e7 19.♙d4 (19.f4 19...♖eg4+-) 19...♖fd8 is less accurate. (19...♖ad8 20.♖fd1 b6 (20...♖e8 21.♖f5+-) 21.f4 ♖xd6 22.♙xd6 ♖f3+ A nice trick which gives Black perpetual check: 23.gxf3 ♙xe3+ 24.♙g2 ♙e2+=) 20.♖d1 ♖e8 Black gets rid of the unpleasant knight from d6. 21.f4 ♖xd6 22.fxe5 ♖f5 And White has to be careful to not get a worse position.;

b) 17...♙xd1 18.♖fxd1 ♖fd8 19.♖d6 ♖d7



20.h3 A typical move, preparing for the pawns to advance: f4-e4-e5. 20...♖d8 doesn't work because of 21.♖xb7±]

18.♙d6! ♖ed7 Black wants to avoid the Nh6 idea, but this does not help. [18...♖g6 19.♖h6+±; 18...♖ae8!? An interesting idea. 19.♖e7+ ♙h8 20.♙xe5 ♖g8

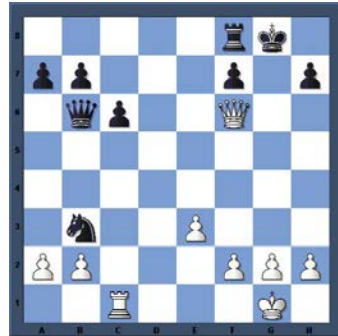


It seems like Black solved his problems, but now comes the fantastic 21.♖xc6! ♖xe5 22.♖xe5 and black is not able to avoid both Nxf7 and Nd7. 22...♖f6 23.♖xf7+ ♙g8 24.♖d1 And now the g6-Kg7 plan doesn't work because of Rd6.]

19.♖fd1 ♖ad8 An interesting option with the idea of kicking out the white bishop from his active diagonal and trying to get the queen back into the game over the b2 square. [19...a5!? 20.♙f4 (20.♙g3 20...g6 21.♙g5 a4+-) 20...a4 21.♖xa4 ♙xb2

22. ♖b3 ♕e5 23. ♖xe5 ♘xe5 24. ♘d6 ♖b8 25. f4 Followed by e4-e5. White is much better thanks to his strong knight on d6, but Black is still fighting.]

20. ♖g3 g6 21. ♖g5 ♘h8 Black could have tried two better options to defend his position: [21... ♘e4 22. ♖e7 gxf5 23. ♖xd7 ♖xd7 24. ♖xd7 ♘c5 (24... ♖b5 25. h4 With a big advantage for White.) 25. ♖xf5 ♘xb3 White is winning by force now, as the black king is very weak. 26. ♖g5+ ♔h8 27. ♖f6+ ♔g8



28. ♖c4! ♖d8 29. ♖g4+ ♔f8 30. g3 It is not easy for a human to see this move from the beginning of the calculation. 30... ♖d1+ (30... ♘c5 31. ♖g7+—) 31. ♔g2 ♖b5 32. ♖g7+ ♔e7 33. ♖e4+ ♔d6 34. ♖f6+ ♔c7 35. ♖xf7+ ♔b6 36. ♖xb3 White exchanges the queens and ends up in a winning endgame.; 21... ♖b5 22. ♘h6+ (Less accurate is 22. ♘e7+ 22... ♔g7 23. ♖xb5 cxb5 24. ♖c7 a5 and the white pieces lost coordination.) 22... ♔g7 23. ♖xb5 cxb5

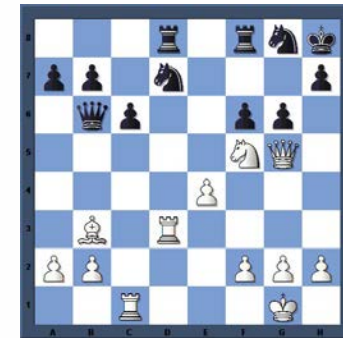


24. ♘xf7! ♖xf7 25. ♖xf7 ♔xf7 26. ♖c7±]

22. ♘d6 ♔g7 23. e4 Alekhine doesn't stop improving the position.

23... ♘g8 [23... ♖e8 24. ♘xe8+ There was probably no need for this move as the knight is so strong on d6. 24... ♖xe8 25. ♖e1 ♘xe4 26. ♖e3±]

24. ♖d3 f6 25. ♘f5+ ♔h8 And now comes the very nice hit



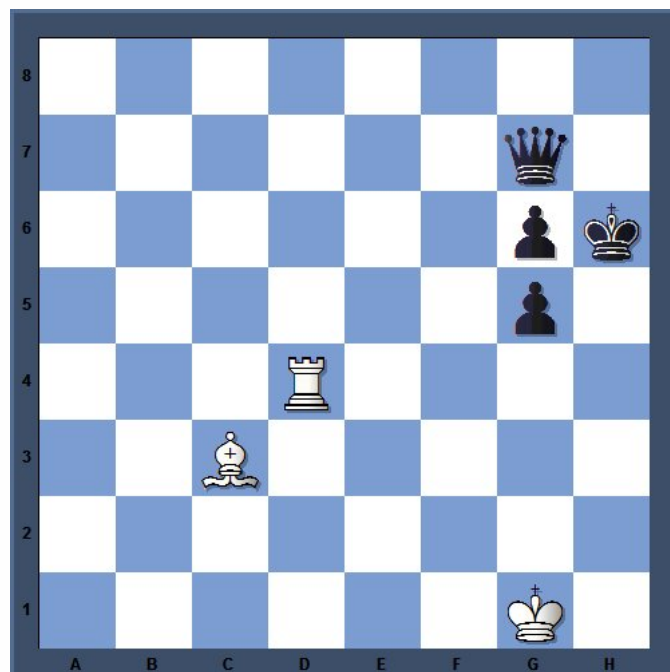
26. ♖xg6! 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Krikheli

[CEWN]

1. +-

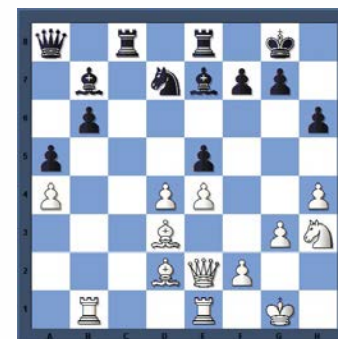


Solutions

(19) Lysyj, I(2656)-Panarin, M(2565)

Ekaterinburg, 2013.06.28

[Solutions]

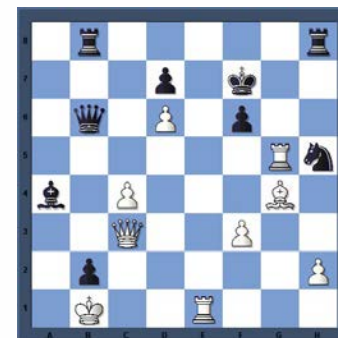


22. ♖xh6! gxh6 23. ♖g4+ ♔f8 24. ♖xd7 ♖b4 25. ♖xb4?
[25. ♖e3+-] 25...axb4

(20) Eliseev, U(2557)-Grachev, B(2683)

Ekaterinburg, 2013.06.29

[Solutions]



33... ♖xd6? [33... ♖c2+!! 34. ♖xc2 ♖a7!! (34... ♖a6 35. ♖g6+ ♖f8 36. ♖b5! ♖a8 37. ♖c2!!) 35. ♖g6+ (35. ♖xh5+ 35... ♖f8+-; 35. ♖e7+ 35... ♖f8+-) 35... ♖f8 36. ♖b5 ♖a8! 37. ♖c2 (37. ♖xb2 37... ♖a1+ 38. ♖c2 ♖xe1+-; 37. ♖xb2 37... ♖a2+ 38. ♖c3 ♖a3+ 39. ♖d4 ♖f2+ 40. ♖d5 ♖f4+-) 37... ♖f2+! 38. ♖b3 ♖xe1+-]

34. ♖xh5+

(21) Demchenko, A(2639)-Ponkratov, P(2605)

Ekaterinburg, 2013.06.29

[Solutions]



28. ♖b4!! +- ♜xb4 [28... ♙xb3 29. ♖xb3+- ♜xb4 30. cxb4]

29. ♙xe6+- [29. cxb4 29... ♙xe3 30. fxe3 ♙xb3 31. ♖xb3+-]

29... ♙xe3 30. ♙xf7+ ♚xf7 31. ♖xd7+ 1-0

(22) Kramnik, V(2803)-Pelletier, Y(2574)

Geneva blitz, 2013.06.28

[Solutions]

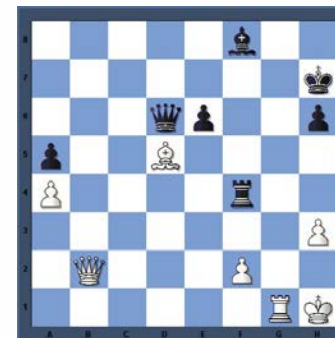


26. ♖xc4! b5 27. ♖c5!+-

(23) Bacrot, E(2725)-Kosteniuk, A(2489)

Geneva rapid, 2013.06.26

[Solutions]



37. ♙e4+! ♜xe4 38. ♖b7+ ♚e7 39. ♖xe4+-

(24) Kosteniuk, A(2489)-Edouard, R(2666)

Geneva rapid, 2013.06.28

[Solutions]



24. ♙xh7+! ♚h8 [24... ♚xh7 25. ♖h4+ ♚g8 26. ♙e7#]

25. ♖h4 1-0

(25) Mamedyarov, S(2753)-Kramnik, V(2803)

Geneva rapid, 2013.06.30

[Solutions]



24. ♖xc6!! ♜xc3 [24...bxc6 25. ♖e5! ♜xc3 26. ♖a3 ♜b4 27. ♖b3+-]

25. ♜xb7! ♖ab8 26. ♜a3! ♖f6 27. ♜xf5 ♜xa1 28. ♖xa1 ♖xb7 29. ♜e3+-

(26) Eljanov, P(2707)-Kryvoruchko, Y(2659)

Ukrainian Championship, 2013.06.25

[Solutions]



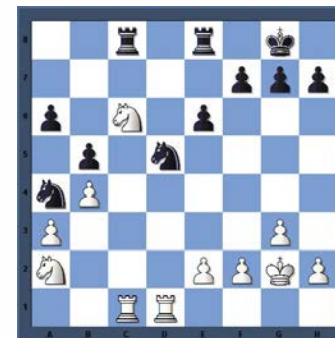
31... ♜a3!! 32. ♖xa3 [32. ♖xc7 32... ♖xc7 33. ♖a1 ♖xb4+-]

32... ♖c1+ 33. ♖f1 ♖xf1+ 34. ♜xf1 ♖c4 35. ♖ab3 ♖h2+-

(27) Bruzon, L(2687)-Hansen, E(2577)

Edmonton, 2013.06.27

[Solutions]



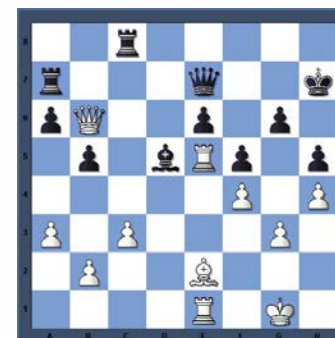
26. ♖xd5! ♖xc6 [26...exd5 27. ♜e7+!+-]

27. ♖xc6 exd5 28. ♖xa6±

(28) Short, N(2682)-Perez Garcia, R(2364)

Edmonton, 2013.06.28

[Solutions]

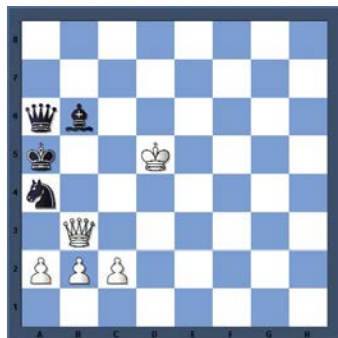


37. ♜xh5! ♖c5+ [37...gxh5 38. ♖xd5+-]

38. ♖xc5 ♖xc5 39. ♜f3+-

(29) Pogosiants

[Solutions]



1. ♔b4+!! ♕xb4 2. a3+! ♔a5 3. b4+ ♕b5 4. c4#



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 73

19th of July 2013

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Editorial Preface

It has all been about the FIDE Grand Prix during the last week. After many exciting games and 11 fighting rounds, Mamedyarov claimed 1st place with 7/11. Grischuk finished 2nd with 6.5/11 and the 3rd place was shared by Leko and Topalov with 6/11.

The first 2 overall places are getting into the next World Championship circle. At the moment, Topalov is leading with 410 Points and got himself one of the desirable places. Mamedyarov is in 2nd position with 390, but he can still be caught by Grischuk and Caruana, who both need to be the sole winners of the last Grand Prix in order to qualify.

Another major chess event was the Universiade in Kazan. Surprisingly, quite a few Top GMs are actually studying and participated in the event. The first place was shared by 9 players in the men section, but Wesley So clinched the tournament on tiebreak:

1. GM So Wesley PHI 2708 - 6,5
2. GM Andriasian Zaven ARM 2620 - 6,5
3. GM Li Chao B CHN 2686 - 6,5
4. GM Ma Qun CHN 2584 - 6,5
5. GM Matlakov Maxim RUS 2665 - 6,5
6. GM Zhou Jianchao CHN 2572 - 6,5
7. GM Alekseev Evgeny RUS 2714 - 6,5
8. GM Tomczak Jacek POL 2564 - 6,5
9. GM Sjugirov Sanan RUS 2647 - 6,5

In the female section the Chinese girls totally dominate the event:

- 1st Zhao Xue with 7.5/9,
- 2nd-3rd Ju Wenjun and Tan Zhongyi, both with 7/9.

We can already look forward to the next week, as the traditional Biel Festival and the "Dortmunder Schachtage" with Kramnik, Caruana, Wang Hao begin...

As usual, we wish you a lot of fun with CEWN Nr73.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

Our latest publication is:

M.Cornette, F.Libiszewski *The Complete Kalashnikov*

Price: 22.99



4 best games of the past week

(1) Wang Hao(2752)

- Giri, A.(2734) [C41]

Beijing CHN(7), 2013.07.11

[Balogh Csaba]

An elegant miniature by Wang Hao, who punished Giri for his dubious opening.

1.d4 d6 2.e4 f6 3.f3 c3 e5 4.f3 bd7 The Philidor defence is considered to be a solid system, but it can rarely be seen on the highest level, because White can claim a small but stable advantage in many lines.



5.fxc4 exd4?! It is however a dubious decision by Black to give up the tension in the center at such an early stage of the game. [5...e7 is definitely the right move and also the main line.]

6.fxd4 e7 This line was recently played by the Serbian GM Ivánisevic, but the following great sacrifice seems to cause serious problems for Black.

7.fxf7+!! fxf7 8.g5+ e8 The only move to stay in the game. [8...g8 immediately loses to 9.fxc4! d5 10.fxd5+—

White wins because of the Qf7 threat.; 8...♔g6 9.f4+- also wins for White as Black is helpless against f5.]

9.♘e6 It seems to be over, but Black is able to save his queen.



9...c5! This might be Giri's opening trick, but he probably underestimated that after White simply removes the queen and takes on g7, he gets more than enough compensation for the sacrificed bishop and also a position which is basically impossible to play in a practical game as Black...

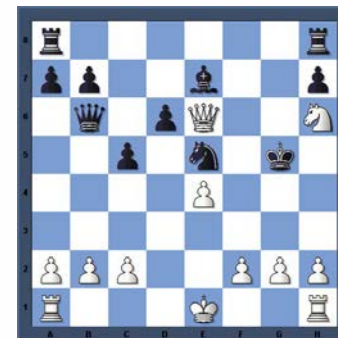
10.♔d1 ♕b6 11.♘g7+ We can find similar sacrifices in the Sicilian defence, when White plays a system with Bc4. If Black is careless there, White sometimes sacrifices with Bxe6 fxe6 Nxe6 attacking the d8 queen, followed by Nxg7 and Nf5 with an enormous attack. Our game is very similar to those examples.

11...♕f7 [Black cannot seek shelter with 11...♔d8? 12.♘d5! ♘xd5

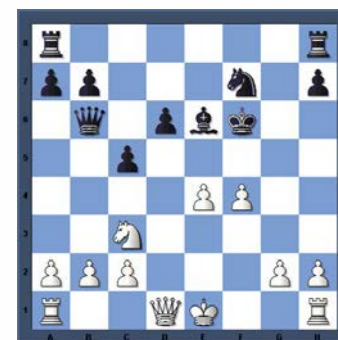


13.♘e6+! ♔e8 14.♕h5#! This would have been an even shorter game.]

12.♘f5 ♕f8?! Wasting another tempo. [12...♘e5 was the last chance, although White also gets a strong attack here after correct play: 13.♘xe7! (13.♘d5 is very tempting at first sight, but Black holds after 13...♘xd5 14.♕xd5+ ♕e6 15.♘h6+! ♔f6 16.♕g5+! ♕xg5 17.♕xe6 It seems to be over now, but Black survives after



17...♕b4+! 18.♔d1 (18.♔f1 18...♕c4+ Exchanging the queens solves the biggest problems.; 18.♔e2 18...♕xe4+) 18...♕d4+ 19.♔c1 ♕f6! After this only move surprisingly Black is alive! 13...♔xe7 14.♕g5! is the right move and was probably also what Giri was afraid of. White threatens to play Nd5 and after 14...♕e6 15.f4 ♘f7 16.♕xf6+ ♔xf6



17.♕d2! White simply wants to castle kingside and he has

numerous decisive threats, such as e5 followed by Ne4, f5 or just to bring another attacker with g4-g5. Objectively White is clearly better, but in a practical game Black's position is just hopeless in such situations. We are unable to defend like computers... 17...♔xb2 is simply met by 18.O-O Grabbing the poisoned pawn on b2 just creates further problems for Black.]

13.O-O White finishes the development and intends to lead the attack with Bf5 and f4-e5.

13...d5 A desperate attempt by Black to free the position... [13...♘e5 runs into 14.♙g5! ♘xf5 15.♙xf6+- and Black cannot take back on f6 because of Nd5, otherwise White either takes on h8 or on f5 and obtains a decisive material advantage.]

14.♘xd5 [14.exd5 was also good enough, but Wang Hao preferred to keep the fortress of his strong f5 knight.]

14...♘xd5 15.♔xd5+ White is already materially fine with his 3 pawns for the piece, but his attack continues rolling.

15...♔e8? [15...♔e6 was the better chance again. 16.♔d3! White obviously wants to keep the queens on the board against such a weak king. 16...♘f6 17.♔e1± (17.f3!? is also good with the same idea to transfer the bishop to the b2-h8 diagonal.)]



16.♙g5! Black's position is just hopeless now. White simply wants to bring his a1 rook and wipe Black off the board with e5-e6.

16...♔g6 [16...h6 17.♙h4 does not change anything.; 16...♔c6 17.♔d2 does not help Black either.]

17.♔ad1! The g5 bishop is indirectly protected so White can activate his rook.

17...♔g8 The last step for White is to finish the game with e5-e6. Black cannot parry this threat. He cannot move with the d7 knight because of Qd8 and if he doesn't most of his pieces will remain undeveloped. [17...♔xg5 18.♙d6+ ♘xd6 19.♔xg5+-; 17...♔g8 18.♔d2+-]

18.f4! a5 Black tries to bring his rook into defence through the 6th rank, but of course this is just too slow. [18...h6 is refuted by 19.e5! hxg5 (19...♔xf5 20.♔xg8 hxg5 21.fxg5+-) 20.e6+- and exd7 wins or if the knight moves Qd8 mates.]

19.e5! ♔xf5 [On 19...♔a6 White can choose between various wins, one of them is 20.e6 ♔xe6 21.♔fe1 ♔xe1+ 22.♔xe1+ and mate is coming soon.]

20.♔xg8 ♔a6 [Black could finally have traded the queens, but he is already materially down and the central pawns are just rolling further. 20...♔f7 21.♔xf7+ ♔xf7 22.♔de1! Protecting the e5 pawn in order to threaten playing e6 and f5. 22...♔a6 23.f5+- White is winning.]

21.♔fe1 Refreshing the e6 threat. **21...♔g6**



22.e6! [A last nice move! Black resigned in view of 22.e6 22...♖xg8 (22...♘f6 23.♚f7#) 23.exd7+ ♔f7 24.d8=♚+-
A great attacking game by Wang Hao. I doubt that anyone will repeat this line with the early exd4.] **1-0**

(2) Mamedyarov, S.(2761)
- Giri, A.(2734) [D90]

Beijing CHN(9), 2013.07.14
[Balogh Csaba]

Mamedyarov has been in excellent form in the last period and the following game once more shows his great skills in tactical chess.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 Giri goes for the Gruenfeld defence. **4.♘f3 ♙g7**



5.♚a4+ A surprise by Mamedyarov. This is considered to be a secondary line, only occasionally seen on the highest level. One of the main lines is 5.Qb3 and in comparison to it, White provokes Bd7 here...

5...♙d7 6.♚b3 dxc4 7.♚xc4 O-O



8.♙f4 Black has various setups here. It is hard to judge

which one is the best one because all strong players react differently. [8.e4 is the point of the 5.Qb3 system. After forcing Black to take on c4 by putting pressure on the d5 pawn, he is ready to occupy the center. However by the inclusion of the Qa4 Bd7 moves, Black has an extra option here, to play 8...b5! Immediately challenging the e4 pawn with a very sharp, typical Gruenfeld game.]

8...c6 [8...c6 was recently played by Aronian.; 8...e6 was Svidler's choice.; 8...b5!? 9.xb5 c5 is how Grischuk played.; 8...a6 was Topalov's reaction and the text move was played by Morozevich and Dominguez in recent games. This shows well what a wide choice both sides have in the Gruenfeld defence!]

9.e4 b5 As usual Black has to fight against the strong central pawns. White is well prepared against the different kind of e5 breaks, so Black has to do something on the queenside.

10.♖b3 Strong players preferred to play 10.Qd3, but Black's results were adequate there. Mamedyarov opens a new direction here.

10...c5!? In the spirit of the Gruenfeld, Black undermines the center. Other plans were possible too: [10...♗a5 attacking the e4 and threatening to play b4. 11.♗d2 (11.e5 11...♗e4 is fine for Black as he has the light squares.) 11...b4 12.♗a4 ♗xe4 13.♗xb4 ♖c7 With a complex position which is playable for both sides.; 10...e6 11.♖c2 ♗g4 is another strategy. Black first makes some damage in the pawnstructure 12.♗d1 ♗h5 13.♗e3 ♗xf3 14.gxf3 e6! and then tries to play around the f4 square with Qh4 or f5.]

11.dxc5 ♖a5 With the same ideas as in the 10...Qa5 line.

12.♗d2! White had to unpin his king and at the same time he creates some threats like Nd5 or Nxb5.

12...b4! There is no way back in the Gruenfeld, Black must play energetically in all of his moves, otherwise his position might collapse.

13.♗d5



13...♗c6! Another very strong move by Giri. He just defended the e7 and b4 pawns and now the white pawns are hanging on e4 and c5. [13...♗xe4 was just bad because of 14.♗xb4 ♖d8 15.♗d3± With a clear extra pawn for White.; 13...♗xd5 14.exd5 ♖xc5 is also bad in view of 15.♗xb4 ♖b6 16.♗c4± With an extra pawn again.]

14.♗d3! The most logical move. White protects the e4 pawn and develops his bishop in order to castle kingside. [After the wilfully protection of the pawns 14.♗xf6+ 14...♗xf6 15.♖c1 Black gets strong counterplay: 15...♗e6 16.♗c4 ♗xc4 17.♖xc4 ♖a6! With the threat of Na5, which forces White to retreat his rook, but then he will be unable to castle kingside.]

14...♗e6! Yet again a great move by Black! Further increasing the pressure. [14...♖xc5 would have restored the material balance, but leads to a worse position after 15.♖c1 ♖d6



16.♘f4! Forcing e5 to close the Gruenfeld bishop. 16...e5
17.♘e3 Followed by Bc5. White is better.]

15.♘g5!? [15.O-O was an interesting alternative. The game could have continued in a nice way: 15...♖fd8 16.♘c4 ♘xe4 Black seems to be more than fine, but White has a nice trick



17.♘xe7+! ♘xe7 18.♘xb4 (18.♘xe6? immediately does not work because of 18...♘xd2) 18...♘xc4! Otherwise White takes twice on e6 and the e4 knight is hanging in the end. 19.♖xc4 ♖a4! 20.♖xe4 ♘c6 It looks like this time it is Black who wins a piece and the game, but White once again has a nice trick: 21.♖ae1! (21.a3? 21...a5±) 21...♘xb4 22.a3 ♖ab8= And in the end, as it is usual after such sharp fights, the game ends with a draw.]

15...♖ad8? This is a terrible blunder, we can also call it decisive mistake. Sometimes in the Gruenfeld if just once we don't find the most powerful move, we end up in a losing position. [15...♘xd5! was the right move. 16.exd5 ♘e5 17.O-O (After 17.♘e3 17...♘xd3+ 18.♖xd3 h6 19.♘f3 ♖fd8 Black wins the pawn back and even gets an advantage.) 17...♘xd3 18.♖xd3 ♖xc5 And here again White needs to make some precise moves to equalize.]

16.♘xe6 fxe6 17.♘xb4 Things went completely wrong for Black. He is a pawn down and his pawn formation was also damaged.

17...♘d4 18.♖c4 White threatens with a discover attack after the jump of the b4 knight.

18...♘d7 Black tries to complicate the matters, but his counterplay is not justified... [18...♖c7 19.O-O ♘g4 is also nothing, White can neutralize all the threats with the simple 20.f4!+-]

19.♘c6! White takes further material.

19...♖xc5 20.♘xd8 ♘e5 Black sets a nice trap, but Mamedyarov of course does not fall into it. [20...♖xd8 21.O-O+- is just winning.]



21.♘xe6! Counterattacking the queen. Black can take many

pieces but a short look allows us to confirm that White ends up with decisive material advantage in all the lines. [21. ♖xc5? would have changed the outcome 21... ♜xd3+ 22. ♔d1 (22. ♔f1 22... ♜xf2+ 23. ♔g1



23... ♜e2# would have been a pretty finish.) 22... ♜xb2+ 23. ♔c1 ♜d3+ 24. ♔d1 ♜xf2+ Some knight tango. 25. ♔e1 ♜d3+ 26. ♔d1 ♜xc5 Black is winning with such active pieces.]

21... ♖d6 White had other wins as well, for instance 22. ♖a6, but Mamedyarov decided to finish the game in style. [21... ♖xc4 22. ♜xc4 ♜xc4 23. ♜xf8+-; 21... ♜xc4 22. ♜xc5+-; 21... ♜xd3+ 22. ♖xd3 ♜xe6 23. O-O+-]

22. ♜xd4+ White sacrifices his queen, but he gets too much material for it.

22... ♜xc4 23. ♜xc4+ ♔h8



24. ♜e6! White has rook, 2 minor pieces and 2 pawns for the queen and also dominating pieces. White is just completely winning.

24... ♖c8 25. ♜d5 ♜xb2 26. ♖b1 ♖c2 [26... ♜e5 27. ♜g5+-]

27. ♖xb2 ♖xb2 28. ♜c3+ ♔g8 [Black resigned in view of 28... ♔g8 29. ♜xb2 ♖b4+ 30. ♔f1 ♖xb2 31. g3 followed by Kg2 and an easy win with the big material advantage.] **1-0**

(3) Leko, P.(2737) - Kamsky, G.(2763) [B15]

FIDE GP Beijing(8), 2013.07.12
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

For Kamsky the FIDE Grand Prix in Beijing is just a nightmare. Gata is fighting in every game, but things are just not running well. In the current game, White quickly achieved a nice advantage, developed this advantage and then spoiled it into a draw. We can very often see this in Leko's games. He is playing very "good" chess, but so unpractical at some moments. Anyhow, we can learn a lot from the current game!

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 g6 Clearly not the most popular move.

4.h3! I like this move a lot! The idea is simply to play Nf3 next and avoid Black's Bg4. In case of 4.Nf3, Bg4 would probably have been played.

4...dxe4 5.♘xe4 ♕g7 6.♘f3 We can see that the bishop on c8 has no good development place.

6...♘d7 A logical move in order to play Ngf6 next.



7.♕c4!? This move has of course been played many times, but it is still an important move. The bishop will have its best position on c4 and it also avoids Black's Be6 and another idea could be to play Ne5 and put pressure on the f7 pawn.

7...♘gf6 8.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 9.O-O O-O 10.♖e1 Another nice move. Black has no real ideas how to finish his development and White still has a lot of useful moves like for example c3.

10...b6 Black decides to develop his bishop to b7, which is a good idea in general, but White will now get very direct play.

11.♘e5 No time to waste.

11...♕b7 12.♕g5 Leko puts his pieces to perfect positions.

12...♘d5 13.♕h4 A typical "Leko" move. [A more direct and maybe stronger move was 13.♘g4 and it is not easy for Black to find how to defend the e7 pawn in a decent way.]

13...♖c8 Black is preparing the c5 move.



14.♖f3 And Leko of course doesn't give this chance to Black.

14...g5 A try to somehow get out of the very unpleasant pin Bh4-d8. [In case Black tried to play 14...c5 after 15.♖ad1 White would almost be winning.]

15.♕g3 e6 Black fixed the center by playing e6, but the g5 pawn is a huge weakness.

16.♕b3! This time Leko does everything right. White wants to play c4 next, which can be very unpleasant for Black.

16...♖f6 17.♖h5 White of course doesn't want to exchange the queens.

17...♖f4 18.♗xf4 ♜xf4 We now have an important moment. It is clear that White is better, but how much better is the question... White needs to take active measures against the Black king. If Black manages to consolidate, White will lose almost all his advantage.



19.c3?! Mr.Leko, why so slow?! [19.g3! should have been the right reaction, giving Black no chances to escape into an endgame. 19...♜xd4 20.♖ad1 ♜c5 I guess it feels like White should be crushing here and it fact White does with a very nice move: 21.c3! With the deadly threat of Bc2!]

19...♜h4! Exactly! Black escapes into an endgame where White's chances to win are getting clearly smaller.

20.♜xh4 gxh4 21.♖e4 White is going to win the h4 pawn.

21...c5 22.♖xh4 cxd4 23.cxd4 ♗xe5?! Why such a rush to give the bishop away?! [23...♖fd8 was easier and after 24.♖e1 ♗d5 Black has very good chances to save the game.]

24.dxe5 ♖fd8 White cannot stop the black rook from entering the 2nd rank, but being a clear pawn up of course gives White an advantage.



25.♖e1?! White misses his chance. [It was too early for 25.♖d1 25...♖xd1+ 26.♗xd1 ♖c5 as Black wins the e5 pawn back.; However it the following move looks very strong: 25.♖a4! Making space for f4. 25...a5 26.♖d1 ♖xd1+ 27.♗xd1 ♖c5 28.f4 With good winning chances for White.]

25...♖d2 26.♖f4 White wants to bring the rook to g3 via e3, but Black gets enough counterplay.

26...♖c5 27.♖e3 And now

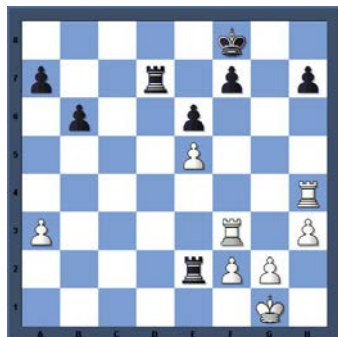
27...♗d5! A very strong move! By getting rid of the bishop on b3, Black is not only defending against Rg3-Kf8 and Bxe6, but also putting White in danger of losing both pawns, b2 and a2.

28.♗xd5 ♖xd5 It seems that by not playing dynamically enough, White has lost all his advantage.

29.♖g3+ ♖f8 30.♖gf3 ♖d7 The b2 pawn is still hanging...

31.♖h4 ♖xb2 32.a3 [After 32.♖xh7 32...♖xa2 only Black could dream of winning.]

32...♖e2 Getting the e5 pawn in exchange for the h7 one.



33. ♖xh7 ♜xe5 34. ♖h8+ ♔g7 35. ♖b8 We can now clearly say that the position is just equal.

35... ♖e4 36. g4 ♜ed4 37. ♖a8 Both players are trying to get the draw as soon as possible... The game is over.

37... ♖d3 This move forces the draw.

38. ♖xd3 ♜xd3 39. ♖xa7 ♜xh3 The rest of the game does not need any comment.

40. ♔g2 ♜b3 41. a4 ♜a3 42. ♜a6 ♔g6 43. ♜xb6 ♜xa4 A nice defence by Black and we can see how important it is in chess to "finish" your opponent with dynamic play if you can, before he escapes. :) **1/2-1/2**

(4) Mamedyarov, S.(2761) - Topalov, V.(2767) [E32]

FIDE GP Beijing(7), 2013.07.11

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Mamedyarov is in very good shape and everything is going perfectly for him at the moment. In the current game, White manages to achieve a slightly better position, but Black is very solid. With a nice tactical trick White then manages to finish the game much earlier than what was probably expected.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♘c3 ♙b4 4. ♚c2 The Nimzo with 4.Qc2, one of the most popular lines in the last 15 years. If you are interested in this opening, you should have a look at Kramnik's games with Black. Vladimir doesn't only manage to get an equal position, but he often is the one who is pushing with Black! And this not against lower rated guys, but against players like Carlsen !

4...O-O



5. ♘f3 [5.a3 5... ♙xc3+ 6. ♚xc3 d5 is the other main line, which is very popular nowadays.]

5...c5 The main move. [5...d5 is possible too.]

6.dxc5 ♘a6!? This is the idea behind 5...c5. Black quickly gets his b8 knight into the game.

7.g3 as well this move is one of the main in the position.

7...♖xc5 8.♗g2 We can see that White is better developed and Black has a small problem with the bishop on c8, but it is unclear whether that is enough to be better.

8...♖ce4 a logical move. Black is damaging the pawn structure of White.

9.0-0



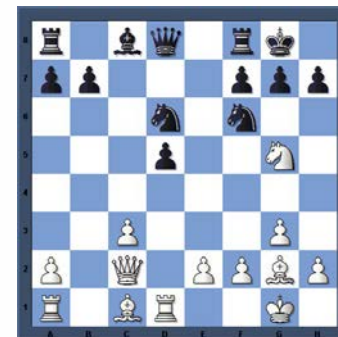
9...♗xc3 [After 9...♖xc3 10.bxc3 ♗e7 11.♖d1 White would be doing a little bit better and it would be hard for Black to solve the problem of the c8 bishop in a nice way.]

10.bxc3 d5 Quite an interesting position from a strategic point of view. It is clear that only White can be better here, but on the other hand Black's position is very solid. The strong knight on e4 and the solid pawnstructure make things very difficult for White.

11.♗g5! A strong move! White kicks out the black knight from e4 and at the same time he makes the g2 bishop more active.

11...♖d6! Black is also reacting in the best way. The White pawn on c4 is now hanging and White is basically forced to take on d5, which activates the c8 bishop.

12.cxd5 exd5 13.♖d1 The d5 pawn is both weak and strong. The game is now getting pretty forced.



13...♗f5?! This move is clearly not the most precise one. [It was very important to play 13...h6 first. 14.♗f3 (14.♗h3 would lead a quite similar position as in the game, but the white queen is placed slightly worse on c2 than on b3.) 14...♗f5 15.♖b3 ♗e4 And Black should be doing fine.]

14.♖b3 h6 Black has probably underestimated White's next reply.

15.♗h3! Very strong play. White is going to f4 with his knight, from where he will attack the d5 pawn.

15...♗xh3 is almost forced.

16.♗xh3 ♖e8 Black doesn't waste any time as White wanted to continue with Bg2 and then the d5 pawn would have fallen.

17.♗g2 White doesn't have anything better.

17...♖xe2 18.♗xd5 As we can see, the position is pretty forced.

18...♖xd5 It was clearly not an option to give White the bishop pair.

19. ♔xd5



19... ♕f6 Black managed not to lose any material, but things are still pretty unclear.

20. ♘f4 Putting even more pressure on d6 and preventing Qxf2.

20... ♘e4? Black is miscalculating [20... ♘f5 21. ♕xb7 ♖ae8 would lose a pawn, but give Black some chances on the kingside. White is better, but Black probably has enough play to fight for a draw.]

21. ♕d3! Mamedyarov calculates perfectly.

21... ♘xc3 The only move.

22. ♖ac1 White wants to catch the black knight!



22... ♘xd1? This move makes things too easy for White. [The only chance to fight was to play 22... g5 23. ♖xc3 gxf4 24. ♕xe2 ♕xc3 25. ♕g4+ ♕g7 26. ♕xf4 and of course White is better, but Black is still in the game.]

23. ♕xe2 ♘c3 And White's idea is coming true.

24. ♕c4 The black knight simply has no move. **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Gelfand, B(2773)-Ivanchuk, V(2733)

Grand Prix, Beijing, 2013.07.12

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Wang Hao(2752)-Gelfand, B(2773)

Grand Prix, Beijing, 2013.07.14

[CEWN]

1... -+

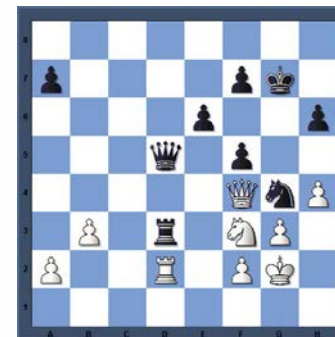


(7) Hasangatin, R(2489)-Prohaszka, P(2554)

LCT Open, 2013.07.15

[CEWN]

1... -+

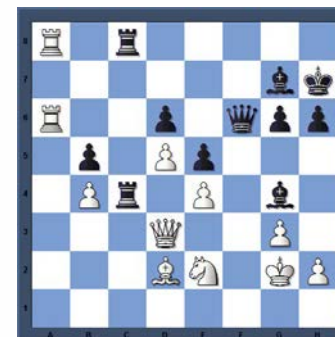


(8) Skembris, S(2458)-Antic, D(2470)

Ideon Open, 2013.07.12

[CEWN]

1... -+

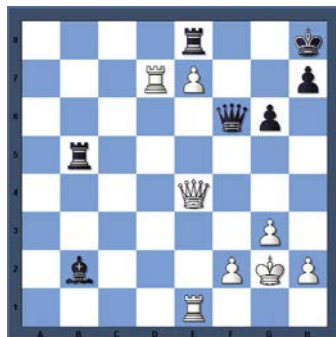


(9) Ulibin, M(2529)-Kasparov, S(2470)

Serbia, 2013.07.06

[CEWN]

1. +-



(10) Nestorovic, L(2394)-Gleizerov, E(2553)

Serbia, 2013.07.08

[CEWN]

1... --

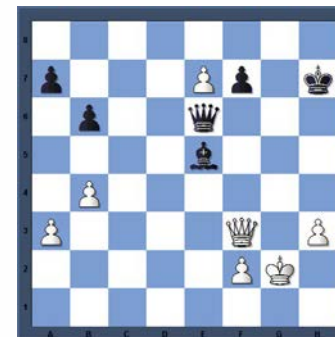


(11) Banusz, T(2588)-Manik, M(2412)

V4 Open, 2013.07.09

[CEWN]

1. +-

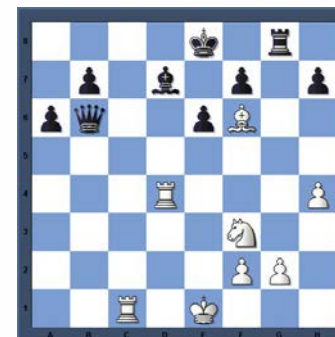


(12) Grandelius, N(2573)-Wiedenkeller, M(2475)

Sweden, 2013.07.09

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Anton, T(2438)-Kravtsiv, M(2620)

University Championship, 2013.07.10

[CEWN]

1... -+

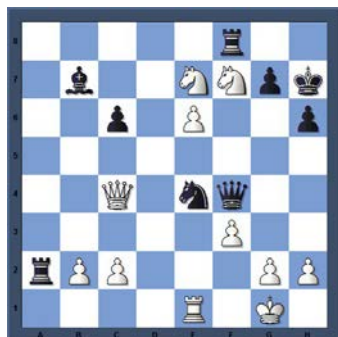


(14) Vuckovic, B(2594)-Ipatov, A(2590)

Turkish league, 2013.07.10

[CEWN]

1... -+



Endgame section

(15) Wang, Hao(2752)-Gelfand, B.(2773)

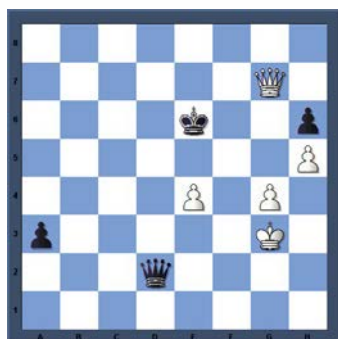
FIDE GP Beijing(9), 2013.07.14

[CE Team]



This game is a great example on how easy it is to make a decisive mistake in queen endgames. From the start, we are facing a winning position for Black.

67. ♔h2 ♚g5? A very logical move, but not the best one. [Black could have won quite easily after 67... ♚d2+! 68. ♔g3

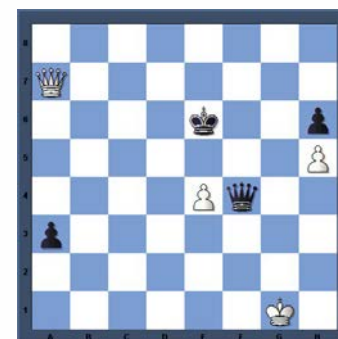


68...a2 And now if White would have started to give checks, the black king would slowly walk to e2 or f1, after which White would have no more checks left.]

68. ♚a7 ♚h4+ Black starts to take the white pawns, but the white king uses this moment to come closer to the Black's a-pawn. [It was still not too late for 68... ♚d2+ 69. ♔g3 a2 and Black is winning.]

69. ♔g2 ♚xg4+ The funny thing is that by taking the g4 pawn away, Black is not really doing himself a favour, as the white queen is getting more squares for checking.

70. ♔f2 ♚f4+ 71. ♔g1 White tries not to give away the e4 pawn with a check.



71... ♚g3+! A very good move! The white king is cut.

72. ♔f1 ♚f3+ 73. ♔e1 ♔f6? It is hard to understand this move...

[Black should have continued what he started: 73... ♚xe4+ 74. ♔d2 ♚d5+ 75. ♔c3 ♚e5+ 76. ♔c2 ♚b2+ 77. ♔d3 a2 And the black king will probably escape from the checks, but things are not so simple as White still has some chances to give perpetual check.]

74. ♔d2! White's only chance is to bring his king as close as possible to the free a-pawn.

74... ♔g5 75. ♚g1+! A very strong move! The black king cannot escape the checks that easily anymore.

75...♔xh5

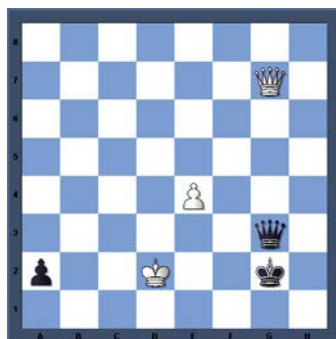


76.♚h2+! And we can see that suddenly there is already maybe no escape from the white checks anymore.

76...♚g4 It is not pleasant to give up the h-pawn, but Black had no choice. [76...♚g6 77.♚g1+! And it seems that White would make a draw by checking.]

77.♚xh6 a2 78.♚g7+ ♔h3 79.♚h8+ ♔g2 80.♚g7+ White is checking the black king and the position seems to be a draw.

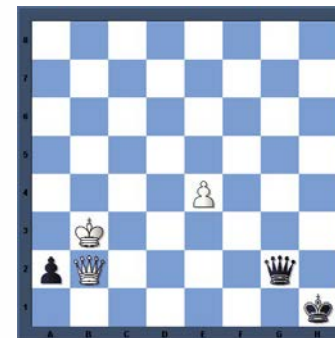
80...♚g3 Black tries his last chance.



81.♚b2?? What a blunder! [81.♚a1 followed by Kc1 or Kc2 was an easy draw.]

81...♔h1!! The only winning move! Now White doesn't have Qa1 anymore because of Qg1 and Black is suddenly winning.

82.♔c2 ♚g2+ 83.♔b3



83...♚xe4?? What a mistake! [83...♚g8+ was leading to an easy win: 84.♔c2 ♚c4+ 85.♔d2 ♚f1! And White's position is hopeless. 86.♚xa2 ♚g2+ 87.♔c3 ♚xa2—+ What a game! :)]
1/2-1/2

(16) Wang Yue(2705)-Wang Hao(2752)

Grand Prix, Beijing, 2013.07.10

[CE Team]

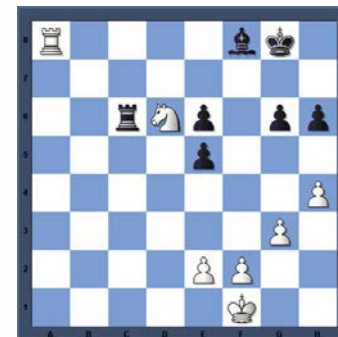


Despite the limited amount of pieces and the current material balance, White has excellent winning chances in a practical game, thanks to the doubled e-pawns and the knight's superiority over the poor bishop.

32. ♖c4 ♜g7 The bishop is doomed to passivity. [A push of the e-pawn would quickly lead to its loss after 32...e4 33.e3 followed by Nd2.]

33. ♘d6 White transfers his knight to e4. [It was probably even stronger to activate the rook first and misplace the black king a bit. 33. ♖a8+ 33... ♔h7 34. ♘d6 will be similar to the game.]

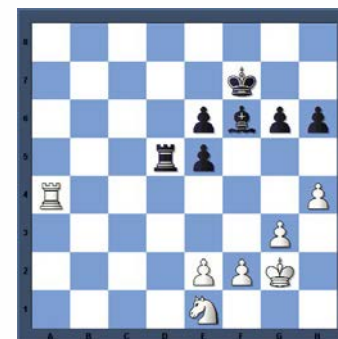
33... ♜c6 34. ♖a8+ ♜f8! Black could keep some coordination between his pieces, since in comparison to the 33.Ra8 line, the e5 pawn is not hanging.



35. ♘e4 ♜c4 36. ♘d2 White does not need to hurry with any plans, since Black can only wait with his pieces. [36.f3 was also possible, but Wang Yue did not decide yet, which changes he should make to the pawn structure.]

36... ♜d4 37. ♘f3 ♜d5 38. ♖a4 White was in some time trouble and in the following moves he just wants to reach move 40 and after getting the extra hour he will start to think about how to proceed.

38... ♜f7 39. ♜g2 ♜g7 40. ♘e1 ♜f6 The time trouble is over, let's now see how a great strategic player like Wang Yue converts his advantage.



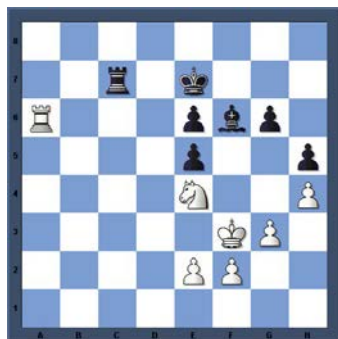
41. ♜f3 White first just wants to get his knight back to e4.

41...♖d7 42.♘d3 h5 43.♗c5 ♜c7 44.♞e4 The first step is done. The second should be to activate the rook.

44...♔e7 45.♞a5 ♙g7 Black will never have anything better in this game than passing with the pieces.

46.♞a6 Creating the first threat of winning the pawn with Ng5.

46...♙f6



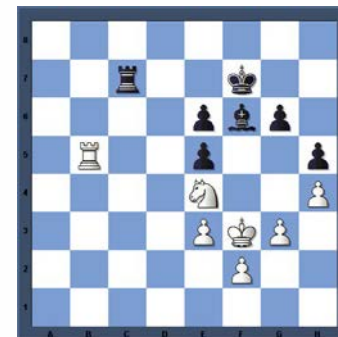
47.♞b6 White does not need to hurry. Now he created a small zugzwang. The pawns cannot move, the bishop neither because of Ng5, on Ra7 or Rd7 Nc5 decides, while after rook moves on the c-file Rb7 wins. So there is only one move left.

47...♔f7! 48.e3 I believe this is the right placement of the pawns to have everything protected.

48...♙e7 49.♞b5 ♙f6 50.♔g2 This move was just a kind of power demonstration, the right plan is to bring the king to the other side, as we saw in the 50...Ke7 line.

50...♞c6 Wang Hao decided to give up the 7th rank, but it actually just eases the task of his opponent.

[50...♔e7 51.♔f3 ♔f7

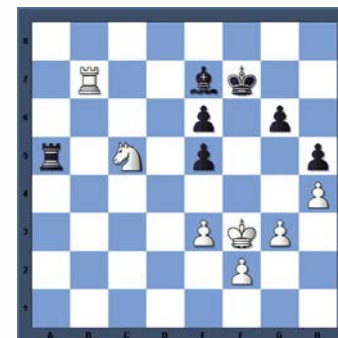


52.♔e2! White should try to trade off the rooks, because the knight versus bishop endgame is automatically winning after the regrouping of putting the king to e4 and the knight to c4, as the e5 pawn will fall. **52...♔e7 53.♔d3 ♔f7 54.♞c5 ♞d7+ 55.♔c4** Followed by the invasion of the king and the idea of trading the rooks on the 7th rank.]

51.♞b7+ ♙e7 52.♔f3! Black is in zugzwang now. Let's see what happens:

52...♞a6 [52...♔f8 53.♞b5 just wins the pawn as Bf6 is no longer possible.; On 52...♞c2 or other rook moves on the c-file 53.♘g5+ ♔f6 54.♞b6 wins the pawn.]

53.♘c5! ♞a5 [53...♞d6 54.♘d7+- ♞d5 55.♔e4 wins the pawn and the game.]



54.♘d7! And Black is helpless against Ke4!

54...♔e8 55.♔e4 ♕d6 [55...♖a2 Searching for counterplay does not help: 56.♖xe5 ♖xf2 57.♖b8+ ♕d8 58.♖c6+-; 55...♖a4+ 56.♔xe5+-]

56.♖f6+ ♔f8 57.♖h7+! [And Black decided to finish his suffering in view of 57.♖h7+ 57...♔e8 (57...♔g8 58.♖g5+-) 58.♖g5+- And the first pawn falls. The next ones would just have been a question of time.] **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Suetin, Alexey S-Botvinnik, Mikhail[B63]

URS-ch20, 1952

[Kamil Miton]

1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 ♖c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♖xd4 ♖f6 5.♖c3 d6 6.♕g5 e6 7.♖d2 h6?! Black just forces White to exchange the dark squared bishop, but in this position it is a bit inaccurate. This idea usually exists after first 7...a6 8. 0-0-0 and now h6. Compared to the game, after Bxf6 Black will be able to recapture on f6 with the queen. The main lines are : [7...a6 8.O-O-O ♕d7 And now white has two plans, with f4-Bxf6 or f3.; 7...♕e7 8.O-O-O ♖xd4 9.♖xd4 O-O 10.f4]

8.♕xf6 [8.♕h4 is very bad because Black has the typical trick 8...♖xe4!; 8.♕e3 8...♖g4∞]

8...gxf6 [8...♖xf6? 9.♖db5 ♖d8 10.O-O-O And Black is losing the d6 pawn.]

9.O-O-O a6 10.f4 ♕d7 11.♕c4 A good place for the bishop because one of White's idea is to push f5 to try and control the light squares (especially d5) .

11...h5 Very often in this structure Black plays h5 to not allow White to put a piece on this square.

12.♔b1



12...♖b6 It would of course be very logical to play b5 and try to advance the pawns on the queenside to create some threats against the white king, but this move is not bad either. Black's idea is to chase the white knight from his good central place.

13.♔hf1? From a strategical point of view this move is very bad. White should keep dynamic in the position. Let's check some other options: [

a) 13.♘xc6 It is hard to say which move is the best for Black now... 13...bxc6 should be logical to improve the center. (13...♙xc6 14.f5 ♖c5 15.♙b3 ♗e5∞; 13...♗xc6 14.♙b3 O-O-O 15.♗d4 ♙e7 16.♘a4 ♖b8 17.f5 With the idea to play Nb6 next and exchange bishop in order to try and get control over the light squares.) 14.f5 ♗b8 15.♙b3 With very complex play. The bishop on b3 is very strong because of the pressure on the diagonal and it is protecting the king very well. On the other hand Black has two bishops and a potential huge center (the d5 move doesn't work usually because White gets a strong attack over the d- and e-files and after a piece sacrifice on d5;)

b) 13.♘b3 13...O-O-O In comparison to the other line, the bishop on c4 is not well placed as White usually keeps the bishop on e2 and plays a plan with Rhf1-Rf3;)

c) 13.♘f5 This typical Sicilian sacrifice doesn't give White a clear advantage here. 13...exf5 14.♘d5



14...♗a5! An important move as White now has to lose a tempo to avoid the queen exchange. (14...♗d8 15.♔he1→) 15.♘xf6+ ♔d8 16.♗e3 fxe4 17.♙xf7 With a complex position, but Black should not be worse;

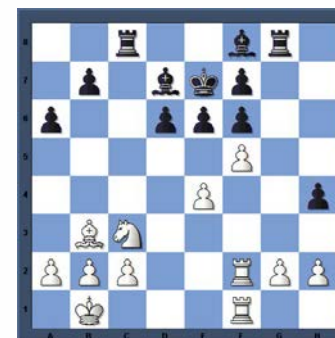
d) 13.♘de2 Maybe not a stupid place for the knight in case White wants to play f5-Nf4 to try and force e5 in order to get control over the d5 square. 13...O-O-O 14.a3!?∞In order to keep the bishop on the diagonal after Na5.]

13...♗xd4 14.♗xd4 ♘xd4 15.♔xd4 ♖c8 Thanks to the bishop pair, a better king and center endgame, only Black can have an advantage.

16.♙b3 ♗g8 17.♗d2 h4 18.f5 This plan is not as strong as with the queens on the board. White has to do something otherwise Black will simply improve the position after Ke7-Bc6-b5-Bh6 etc...

18...♙e7 [18...♙e7 19.♗f4 ♗h8 20.♘e2 ♗c5∞]

19.♗df2



19...♙h6! A good move! Black doesn't care about a pawn, the most important is active play, even in the endgame. [19...♙g7 20.♘e2 With the idea Nf4-Nh5.]

20.fxe6 fxe6 21.♖xf6 ♖cf8 22.♖xf8 ♗xf8 23.♖f2 ♗h6
Thanks to his better pieces, Black has full compensation for the pawn!

24.♗c4 There is nothing to do anymore for the bishop on this diagonal, so White improves the piece which will be needed to protect the e4 pawn.

24...♗e3 25.♖e2 ♗g1 A good plan. White is forced to do something with the pawns on the kingside.



26.g3 A practical decision. White gives the pawn back but limits the material and gets rid of his weaknesses on g2 and h3. [26.h3 makes the g2 pawn weaker and also weakens the dark squares.]

26...hxc3 27.hxc3 ♖xc3 Black has an advantage, but to win the position is not easy. White has only one weak pawn on e4, which is very well protected and there is also not much material left on the board.

28.a3 ♗e8 Black improves the bishop.

29.♖a2 ♗h5 30.♖e1 ♗d4 31.♖h1 [31.♗e2 31...♖e3--]

31...♖g5 Otherwise White would have played Ne2.

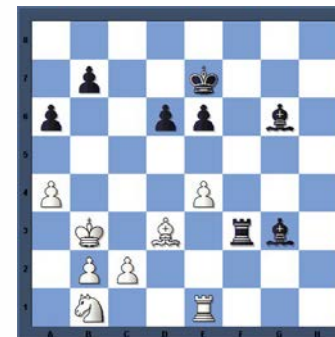
32.♖b3 ♗e5 33.♗d3 ♗g6 34.♖h4 ♖g3 After some maneuvers both sides have optimally placed their pieces.

35.a4 ♗f6 36.♖h1 ♖g4 37.♖e1 ♗e5 Black is winning the time, which is a typical way to realize a small advantage.

38.♗d1 ♖f4 Preventing Ne3.

39.♗c3 ♖f3 40.♗b1 White is trying to improve the knight (Nd2 or Na3-Nc4).

40...♗g3



41.♖g1?! I'm not sure if this was blunder, maybe White didn't want to suffer anymore and decided to defend the position without a pawn. [41.♖e2]

41...♗xe4 42.♗d2 ♗d5+ 43.♖a3 ♖f2 [43...♖e3? 44.♗f1 ♗f2 45.♗xe3 ♗xg1 46.♗xd5+ exd5=]

44.♗e4 ♗h2 [44...♗xe4 leads to a similar position as in the game. 45.♗xe4 d5 And now White has to escape with the bishop because the rook endgame is very bad for him, for example after 46.♖xc3 (46.♗xd5 46...♗d6+--+) 46...dxe4 47.♖g7+ ♖f6 48.♖xb7 e3 49.♖b3 e2 50.♖e3 ♖f5--+]

45.♖g6 ♗xe4 Maybe Black could have kept his bishop after [45...♖f3 46.♗g5 ♖e3+]

46. ♖xe4 d5 47. ♖d3 ♖e5



48. ♖g8 With the idea Ra8-Ra7.

48... ♖d7 49. b4 With the idea of looking for some pawn simplifications.

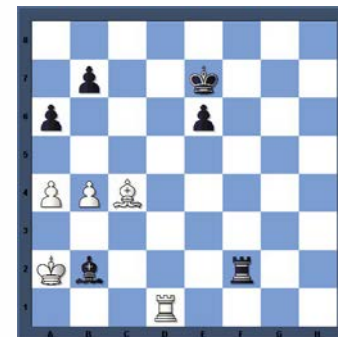
49... ♖f6 [49... ♖d6 50. ♖b3 e5]

50. ♖g1 ♖h2 51. ♖b3 ♖d6 Black is a pawn up, but it is not easy to improve the position because of the fact that the light squared bishops always have drawish tendencies.

52. ♖d1 [52. ♖g6]

52... ♖e7 [52... ♖h3 With the idea of advancing the pawns with e5-e4. 53. c4 (53. ♖a2 53... ♖h4 54. ♖b3 e5 55. ♖f5 (55. c4 55... e4 Followed by d4.) 55... e4 56. ♖c8 ♖c7 57. ♖e6 d4 58. ♖d5 ♖h3+ 59. ♖a2 e3± And the pawn on e3 is very unpleasant.) 53... d4 (53... e5 54. ♖c2 ♖h4 55. cxd5 ♖xb4 56. ♖b1 ♖xb1 57. ♖xb1 ♖xd5 58. ♖c2 e4 59. ♖f1 ♖d4 60. ♖h3 b5 61. axb5 axb5 Black is simply winning after Ke3-Kf2-e3 and White will not be able to stop both pawns.) 54. c5+ ♖d5 Black already has two passed pawns but White can create some blockade on the light squares. 55. ♖c2 ♖g5 56. ♖g1 With the idea of Rg7, putting pressure on the b7 pawn.]

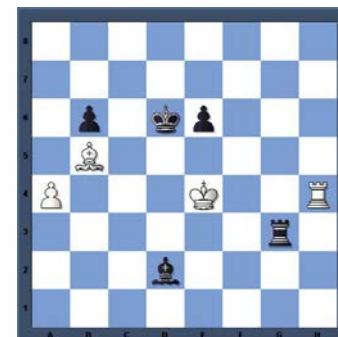
53. c4 ♖b2+ 54. ♖a3 dxc4 55. ♖xc4 ♖c2 56. ♖b3 ♖b2+ 57. ♖a2 ♖f2 58. ♖c4



58... a5 Botvinnik was probably afraid of the idea a5-b5 (with good chances to exchange all pawns) and he wanted to keep at least one pawn on the queenside.

59. bxa5 ♖c3+ 60. ♖b3 ♖xa5 61. ♖b5 b6 62. ♖c4 ♖f6 63. ♖d4 ♖f4+ 64. ♖e3 ♖e5 65. ♖h1 ♖e4+ 66. ♖d3 ♖g4 Black can play this position for one million more moves, but objectively White should make a draw. Even if Black advances the e-pawn to e2, it is well controlled by the white pieces.

67. ♖h5+ ♖d6 68. ♖h8 ♖e5 69. ♖h5+ ♖f4 70. ♖h3 ♖g8 71. ♖h4+ ♖e5 72. ♖h5+ ♖d6 73. ♖h4 ♖g3+ 74. ♖e4 ♖d2



75. ♖d3?? An amazing blunder! White unexpectedly falls into the mate trap! [75. ♖h5]

75... ♖g5?! More accurate was [75... ♖c5 and now White is

losing immediately: 76. ♖f1 ♜e3+ 77. ♔f4 ♜e1+ 78. ♔f3 ♜xf1+ 79. ♔e2 ♖g5--+]]

76. ♜h5 White could have fought on without two pawns after [76. ♜h8 76... ♜g4+ (76... ♜e3+ 77. ♔d4 e5+ 78. ♔c4 e4 79. ♖c2 ♜e2†) 77. ♔f3 ♜xa4--+]]

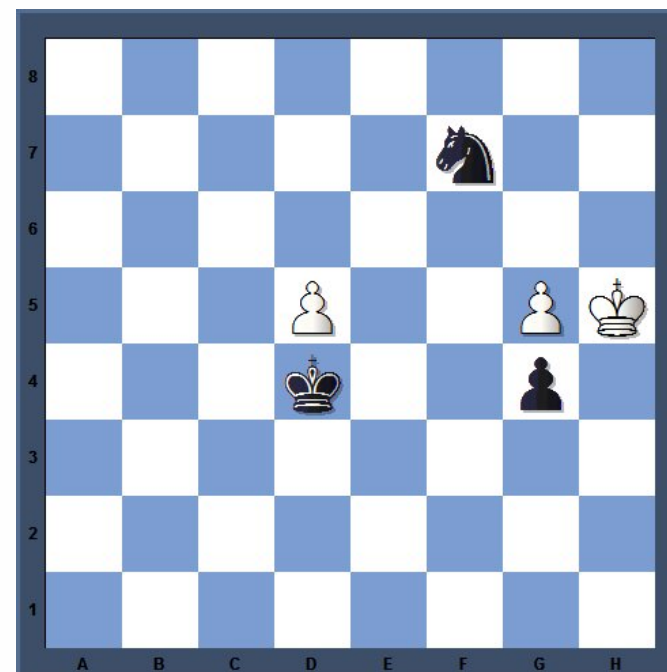
76... ♔c5 With the idea of playing Re3. **0-1**

Surprise section / study

(18) Lapin

[CEWN]

1. +-



Solutions

(19) L'Ami, E(2640)-Ernst, S(2589)

Dutch Championship, 2013.07.05

[Solutions]



32. ♖xe6+! [32. ♖f6+? 32... ♔g8 33. ♖xe6 ♜xg2#]

32... fxe6 33. ♖f6+ ♔g8 34. ♖xe6+ ♔f8 35. ♖f6+ ♔g8
[35... ♔e8? 36. ♖xh8+]

36. ♖e6+ ♔f8 37. ♖d6+ ♔f7 38. ♖f6+ ♔g8 39. ♖e6+ 1/2

(20) Robson, R(2628)-Boor, C(2309)

World Open, 2013.07.03

[Solutions]

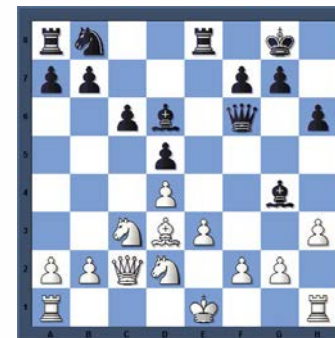


30. ♖f6! ♜xf6 31. ♖c8+! ♔g7 32. exf6++—

(21) Rahman, T(2301)-Shankland, S(2599)

World Open, 2013.07.04

[Solutions]



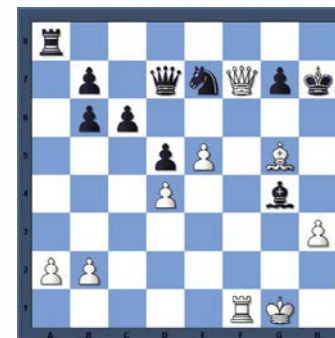
12... ♜xe3+! 13. ♔f1 [13. fxe3 13... ♜g3#]

13... ♜d7—+

(22) Kurnosov, I(2657)-Estremera Panos, S(2372)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2013.06.30

[Solutions]



27. ♖f6!! ♜g8 28. ♖g6+! ♔h8 29. ♖f7 1-0

(23) Baklan, V(2613)-Yilmaz, M(2556)

Turkish league, 2013.07.02

[Solutions]



21. ♘xf7+!! ♖xf7 22. b4!! [22.e6 22... ♘xe6!]

22... ♙b5 23. e6! ♖f6 24. ♙c7! ♘xe6 25. ♙xd8++—

(24) Yilmaz, M(2556)-Swiercz, D(2633)

Turkish league, 2013.07.06

[Solutions]



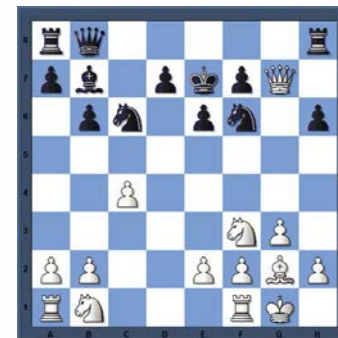
29. ♘f8!! ♖xf8 [29... ♖xd2 30. ♙g7#]

30. ♖xd7 ♘c5 31. ♖e7+— ♙b4 32. ♙f6 1-0

(25) Swiercz, D(2633)-Miroshnichenko, E(2620)

Turkish league, 2013.07.08

[Solutions]



13. ♘h4! ♖g8 14. ♘g6+ ♙e8 15. ♙xf6 ♖xg6 16. ♙c3+—

(26) Kotronias, V(2581)-Kalesis, N(2475)

Greek league, 2013.07.02

[Solutions]



20. ♘xe6! 1-0

[20. ♘xe6 20... fxe6 21. ♖h8+ ♙xh8 22. ♙h5+ ♙g8 23. ♙h7#]

(27) Lubbe, N(2451)-Gajewski, G(2653)

Greek league, 2013.07.07

[Solutions]



51. ♖xd4! ♜xd4 [51...h2 52. ♕f3+-]

52. ♕f3! ♜e4 53. ♕xe4 ♜xe4 54. d7! 1-0

[54.d7 54...♜d4 (54...h2 55.d8=♚+-) 55.a7 h2 56.a8=♚+-]

(28) Sidiropoulos, N(1949)-Korniotis, F(1872)

Greek league, 2013.07.07

[Solutions]



25... ♚xf2+!! 26. ♖xf2 ♜d3+ 27. ♖f1 ♜xb1+ 28. ♜c1 ♜xc1+

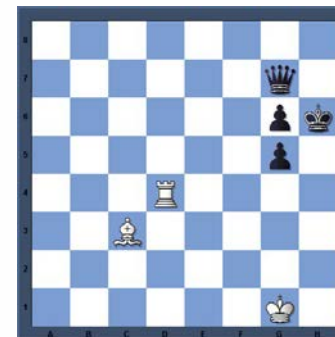
29. ♖e2 ♜5f4+! 30. ♖e3 [30. ♖d2 30... ♜b4+ 31. ♖e3 ♜e1#]

30... ♜e1+! 31. ♖d2 ♜b4+! 32. ♖c2 ♜c1+ 0-1 [32... ♜c1+

33. ♖b3 ♜c3+ 34. ♖a4 ♜a3#]

(29) Krikheli

[Solutions]



1. ♜d3! ♚a7+ 2. ♕d4! ♚d7 3. ♕g7+!! ♚xg7 4. ♜h3#



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 74

26th of July 2013

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Editorial Preface

A big week of chess has begun!

The Dortmund Super Tournament is just about to start, with a very nice line up: Kramnik, Caruana, Wang Hao, Naiditsch (your devoted CEWN commentator) and many more.

The Biel Festival is already on the run, with Bacrot, Vachier Lagrave, Ding, Rapport, Moiseenko and Nepomniachtchi. So far we have seen 4 very fighting rounds and we can expect many more.

The Women's European Championship in Belgrade is under way as well. Just 4 rounds have been played and here we will also definitely see very exciting games and a gripping finish for the medals.

We wish all chess fans great fun watching these top 3 events online and already next week we will be back with analyses of the best games and most exciting moments from the tournaments.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

Our latest publication is:

M.Cornette, F.Libiszewski *The Complete Kalashnikov*

Price: 22.99 €



2 best games of the past week

(1) **Morozevich, A.(2736)**

- **Mamedyarov, S.(2761) [D78]**

FIDE GP Beijing(10.3), 2013.07.15

[Balogh Csaba]

We always comment the most recent games, but this time we have to make an exception and go back a week, because Morozevich defeated Mamedyarov in an outstanding positional game.

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 Mamedyarov recently switched to the popular and sharp Gruenfeld defence, which fits well with his style. White decided to try the g3 system against it.

3.g3 ♗g7 4.♗g2 O-O 5.d4



5...c6 This is considered to be the safest option for Black, creating a stable center with d5. [5...d5 6.cxd5 ♘xd5 is the other main line, with much sharper lines as the position is opened.]

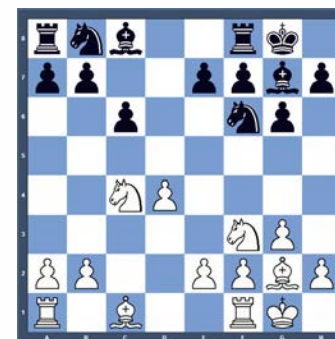
6.O-O d5 7.♖b3 A relatively rare variation with the idea to keep the tension in the center. The main move is 7.cxd5, which leads to a dry, symmetrical position with a marginal advantage for White.

7...dxc4 [Theory considers 7...♖b6! to be the right response.]

8.♖xc4 ♖d5 As the draw was enough for Mamedyarov to win the tournament, he was aiming for simplifications, but as we will see, he soon ends up in an unpleasant position.

9.♘bd2 Morozevich is ready to play a slightly better endgame, the knight is going to be excellently placed on c4. [If White tries to avoid the trade of the queens and plays for instance 9.♖a4 Black wanted to play 9...♖h5 followed by Bh3, exchanging the strong bishop.]

9...♖xc4 10.♘xc4 The only plusses of White are the small space advantage and the developed knight on c4. The way Morozevich will convert these nuances into a full point reminds us of the best days of Karpov.



10...♗e6 It is a typical maneuver by Black to transfer the bishop to d5 in order to oppose the g2 bishop. However it also has the drawback that it leaves the b7 pawn unprotected and it might be directly attacked by Na5.

11.b3! White prepares Ba3 and stabilizes the c4 square for his knight. [11.♘a5 immediately was not so good: 11...b6! White is normally happy to provoke this weakening because the c6 pawn becomes really vulnerable after Ne5, but in this case the a5 knight does not find its place on the board. It should retreat

to c4, but it is not possible. 12.♖b3 a5 Black gets too active.]

11...♗d5 12.♗a3 It would also have made sense to prepare this move with a small positional improvement on the pawn structure by playing 12.a4

12...♖e8 13.♖ac1 Morozevich develops all his pieces to their most natural squares.

13...♞bd7 14.♞a5! Attacking the weakness. Black is forced to defend passively with both of his rooks, but it is still very difficult to make progress.



14...♖ab8 15.♖fd1 Activating the last unemployed piece. White has "easier" moves due to the space advantage.

15...♗f8 Black prepares for mass of exchanges and equalizing with e5, which was not possible immediately because of taking twice on e5 followed by Bd6 forking the rooks. White must take some active measures against this threat.

16.♞e5! Using the fact that White is well prepared for the opening of the d-file.

16...♗xg2 17.♗xg2 e6 [17...♞xe5 would only increase White's advantage after 18.dxe5 ♞d5 19.e4 ♞b6 Preventing Rd7. 20.♗c5! e6



Black is busted. He cannot take on c5, because after bxc5 the rook goes to d7, the knight cannot move because of the same reason and he cannot trade the rooks with Rd8 because the b7 pawn is hanging. 21.b4±]

18.♗xf8 ♞xf8



19.♞ec4! A strong positional move! As the principle says, the player with space advantage should aim to keep the pieces on board.

19...♗e7 Black was forced to control the d6 square, but this deprives Black from freeing his position with e5.

20.b4! Gaining more space on the queenside. The a5 knight is getting more and more annoying as it disturbs the movements of the Black pieces.

20...♖ec8 21.a3 White is not in a hurry, he protected the b4 pawn just in case against the possible attack with Nd5.

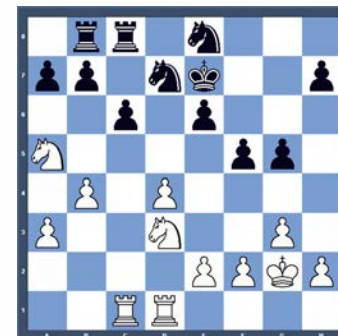
21...g5! Black tries to gain some space and aims to disturb White in his progressive plans, such as f4-Kf3 followed by g4-g5 or e4. In a few moves he could have gotten completely squeezed. [Unfortunately for Black, the freeing attempt with 21...b6 22.♘b3 c5 did not work because of 23.dxc5 bxc5



24.♘ca5! With the threat of Nxc5. 24...cxb4 (24...♖b5 is met by 25.♖c4 and Rdc1, winning the pawn.) 25.♘c6+! is the point and Black does not get sufficient compensation for the exchange. 25...♖xc6 26.♖xc6 bxa3 27.♘c5 ♘xc5 28.♖xc5± Followed by Ra5, winning the a-pawns.]

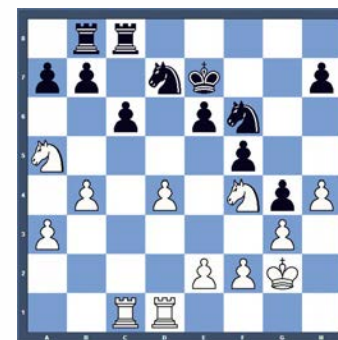
22.♘b2! White transfers the knight to d3, from where it is going to control both of Black's freeing breaks with b6-c5 or e5. We must add that after g5, e5 is not necessarily something to be afraid of, since the f5 square and the g5 pawn would become vulnerable.

22...♘e8 23.♘d3 f5 Black tries to defend actively, but it allows White to provoke further weakenings.



24.h4! g4 A sad, but forced decision. Sad, because it has created another nice outpost for the knight, now on f4. Black could not allow the opening of the h-file. [24...gxh4 is met by 25.♖h1! hxg3 Otherwise White would play Rxh4 and the new pawn island on h7 would be a serious achievement for him. 26.♖xh7+ ♔d8 27.♘f4+; 24...h6 also allows 25.hxg5 hxg5 26.♖h1 followed by the penetration on the h-file.]

25.♘f4 ♘ef6



26.♖c2! This kind of "small" improving moves were the specialties of Karpov. As they said, when Karpov did not find a plan in a position, he always doubled his rooks. :) White has not decided where to use his rooks yet, he will check the circumstances later on.

26...♞d5 27.♞d3! Following the same principle as in the 19th move. White keeps his pieces on board because of his space advantage.

27...♞f8 Mamedyarov tries to get some counterplay by playing f4, but of course Morozevich does not give such chances.

28.e3! ♞fe8 29.♞e1! Another great move by White! He creates an unpleasant positional threat by moving e4 fxe4 Rxe4, where after the g4 and e6 pawns become real targets. Black has to prevent it.

29...♞5f6



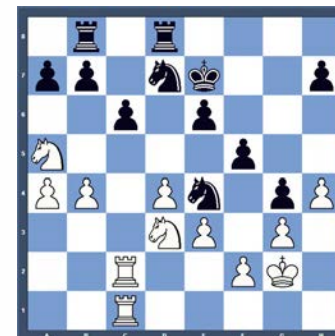
30.♞b1! Switching the rook to the queenside! The new threat is b5 cxb5 Rxb5 and Black cannot deal with the b7 pawn, since b6 moves into Nc6.

30...♞ec8 Now b5 could be met by cxb5, but...

31.♞bc1! White has refreshed the b5 idea.

31...♞d8 32.a4! All pieces are excellently placed. White is well prepared for the breakthrough. b5 is coming next, followed by the invasion on the 7th rank.

32...♞e4 [32...a6 could be met by 33.♞c5! Black is forced to take, but the opening of the b-file is crucial for the b7-pawn. 33...♞xc5 34.bxc5 Followed by Rb1 and Rb2, collecting the pawn.]



33.b5 cxb5 34.♞c7! Morozevich finds the decisive blow!

34...♞d6 [34...bxa4 35.♞xb7 is over, for instance after 35...♞f8 36.♞e5 ♞f6 37.♞c6+ wins.]

35.♞c5! Further pressing the b7 pawn, but Black has no more resources to defend it. The game is over.

35...bxa4 [35...♞e8 36.♞xb7 ♞xb7 37.♞cxb7 ♞a8 38.axb5+— White has an extra pawn and a winning position.]

36.♞cxb7 ♞xb7 37.♞xb7 ♞f8 38.♞1c6! Morozevich continues finding the best moves! Complete domination. White created the decisive threat of Nc5.

38...♞f7 [38...a3 39.♞c5+— is also hopeless.]

39.♞c5 ♞e8 40.♞xe6+ ♞d8 41.♞ec6! Black resigned in view of the following lines [41.♞ec6 41...♞e8 (41...a3 is simply met by 42.♞xa7 ♞xc5 43.♞xf7 a2 44.♞a7+—) 42.♞xa4+— With a hopeless position for Black. A real positional masterpiece by Morozevich, it is very rare to see such games on the highest level. Despite this loss, Mamedyarov deservedly won the tournament!] **1-0**

(2) Shankland, Samuel L(2599) - Wang, Yue(2705) [B49]

Yinzhou Cup CHN-USA, 2013.07.20
[Balogh Csaba]

A nice win by Wang Yue. I especially like the final part of the game, when Black has started the maneuvers with his heavy pieces.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 ♖c7 The Sicilian Paulsen recently enjoys a big popularity and even such highly positional players like Wang Yue started to play it. White has a wide range of setups here.

6.♙e3 a6



7.♙e2 [The most critical and the sharpest continuation is definitely the one with 7.♖d2 7...♘f6 8.O-O-O but recently Russian grandmasters started to successfully employ the line with 8...♙e7 9.f3 b5 10.g4 ♘xd4 11.♙xd4 ♙b7 Topalov has scored a nice win against Karjakin in the previous week with the Black pieces.]

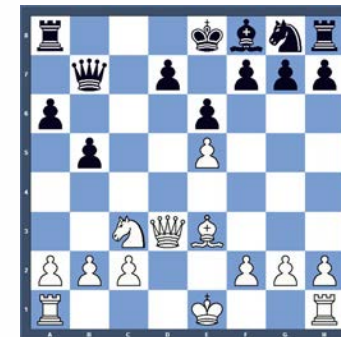
7...b5 I personally like this sideline for Black. This is also the standard development of Black in the Paulsen. [The main option is 7...♘f6 8.O-O ♙e7 9.f4 d6 and we are in the Scheveningen variation with huge theory.]

8.♙xc6 ♖xc6 9.♙f3 This slightly weird move is the main line

in this particular opening. Usually in the Sicilian, White only puts his bishop to f3 when he has already moved f2-f4, but here White has a different strategy.

9...♙b7 10.e5 [10.O-O is more common, but recently Black is doing fine in the opening after 10...♖c7]

10...♖c7 11.♙xb7 ♖xb7 12.♖d3 Very logical play by White, after exchanging the light squared bishops he would like to occupy the e4 square with the knight. Wang Yue responds with a typical move to counter this idea.



12...f5! Black takes the e4 square under control and exf6 is not dangerous because he can simple play Nxf6 followed by Be7 and O-O with a good position. [The direct option to avoid Ne4 was less promising: 12...♙b4 13.O-O ♙xc3 14.♖xc3 ♘e7 and Black might get into trouble on the dark squares after 15.♙c5! ♖c8 16.b4+; 12...♖xg2 is too greedy. 13.O-O-O followed by Ne4 cannot bring any good for Black.]

13.O-O-O ♘e7 Due to the e5 pawn, Black cannot play Nf6, but this slightly artificial way is also adequate to finish the development. The knight might go to c6 or to b4, like in the game, followed by Nd5 is also an option.

14.f4 ♖c8 15.♖d2 Both rook moves are pretty logical, Black occupies his opened file, while White tries to increase the pressure on the d7 pawn.

15...b4 [A bit ugly, but it also seems possible to play 15...♘c6 16.♚hd1 ♚c7 Followed by Na5-c4 or Bb4. Black is safe.]

16.♘a4 ♘d5



17.♘b6! White tactically uses the drawback of the 15...b4 move. Kicking out the strong d5 knight is definitely an achievement.

17...♗xb6 18.♗xb6 ♗e7

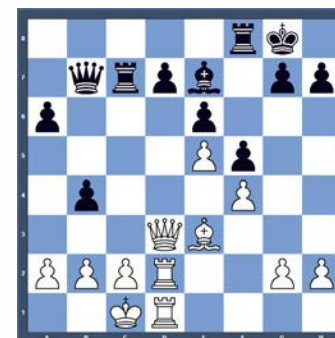


19.♗e3?! This is a waste of an important tempo. [19.♚hd1! should have been played. White was probably afraid of 19...♚xb6 since Qxd7 is not mate anymore, but the position still remains very unclear. 20.♚xd7+ ♗f7 21.♚d6! ♗e3+ 22.♗b1 ♚he8! 23.♚xe6+ ♗f8 24.♚xf5+ ♗g8 25.♚d7 After this more or less forced line, it is very difficult to give a correct assessment about the position. We can probably say it is a dynamic equality with 3 pawns for the bishop. Both sides

have active pieces and neither side have weaknesses. From a practical point of view it might be easier to play as White, because many endgames could be dangerous for Black.]

19...♚c7 By protecting the d7 pawn, Black is ready to activate his h8 rook after castling kingside.

20.♚g1 White tries to scare Black from castling, but the attack with g4 is not so dangerous... [20.♚hd1 20...O-O



This is already comfortable for Black. He has a clear plan with a5-a4.]

20...O-O 21.h3 [It would have been more consequent to play 21.g4 although Black is fine after 21...fxg4 (21...g6 is also possible, with the same idea as 21...fxg4.) 22.♚xg4 ♗f5 23.♚dg2 g6 White can hardly increase the attack, while Black's turn is coming with a5-a4.]

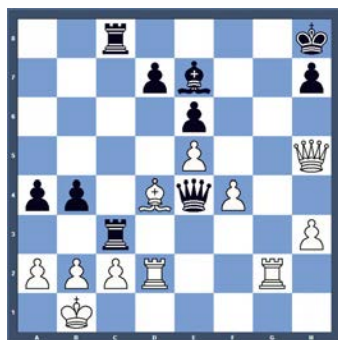
21...a5! Black is very fast with a4-b3, it is time to take some defending measures as White.

22.♗d4 a4 23.♗b1 ♚fc8! A very good move! Black leaves the f-file with his rook, which was very important in the defence as we had seen in some lines before, when the rook was placed on f5. However, Black has created the big threat of Rc3! [23...♚c3? did not work immediately because of 24.♗xc3 bxc3 25.♚xc3]

24.b3 [Sharp and nice lines are arising after 24.g4 but Black is fine at the end: 24...♖c3! The rook cannot be taken as Black just wins after bxc3. 25.♙e2 fxg4 26.♙xg4 g6!

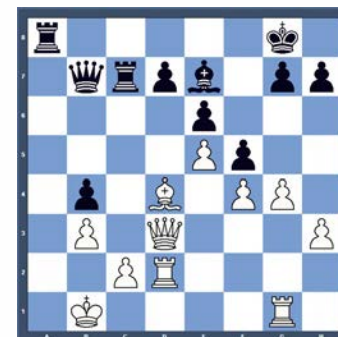


We have reached this complex position, but after checking the critical moves, we come to the conclusion, that Black is better. The rook is obviously still taboo. 27.h4 (27.♙h5 with the idea of Rxc6 is met by 27...♙h8! 28.♖xg6 ♙e4! and Black wins. The g6 and the c2 pawns are hanging, while after 29.♖gg2



29...♖xc2! 30.♖xc2 ♙e1+ Black mates.) 27...♖f3! 28.h5 ♙e4! 29.hxg6 h6! Really cool and calm defence! The h6 idea is known in the Sicilian lines, when White is ready to open all lines on the king, Black sometimes simple neutralizes the attack this way. Black's turn is coming with b3 and Rxf4. 30.♙h5 ♙xf4±]

24...axb3 25.cxb3 [25.axb3 25...♖a8 26.g4



is nicely refuted by 26...♖c3!! 27.♙xc3 bxc3 28.♙xc3 (28.♙xd7 28...♙a6—+) 28...♙b4 29.♙d4 ♙xd2 30.♙xd2 ♙a7—+ With a double attack on a1 and g1.]

25...♙c5! Well played again! The trade of the bishops seriously weakens the White king.

26.♖c2 [26.♙xc5 26...♖xc5 27.♙xd7 is not advisable because of 27...♙e4+ 28.♙d3 (28.♙b2? 28...♖c2+ 29.♖xc2 ♙xc2+ 30.♙a1 ♖a8 31.♙xe6+ ♙h8—+) 28...♙xf4± And the e5 pawn falls.]

26...♙xd4 27.♖xc7 ♙xc7 28.♙xd4 Black is clearly better, but he must play really energetically, because one careless move could allow White to consolidate his position.

28...♙c2+! 29.♙a1 h5! Opening the back rank is an excellent prophylactic idea before starting the real actions. [29...♖a8 30.♙b2 White is alive.]

30.♖b1 [30.♙xb4 loses to 30...♙f2! 31.♖d1 ♖c2 32.♙a4 (32.♙a5 32...♙xf4—+ In such lines we can see how important it was to play h5, otherwise White could have played Qd8 now.) 32...♙e2 33.♖h1 ♙d2—+ White cannot hold the attack.]

30...♖a8 31.♙b2 [31.♖b2 allows a pretty finish:



31...Qc1+ 32.Rb1 Qxa2+! 33.Kxa2 Qa3#]

31...Qd3! Of course Black needs the queens to win the game.

32.Qc1 White tries to defend with Rb2-c2. [On 32.Rc1 Black plays the same as in the game: 32...Ra5 Bringing the rook into the attack through the d5 square.]



32...Ra5! Wang Yue uses his rooks really effectively. He transfers it to d5.

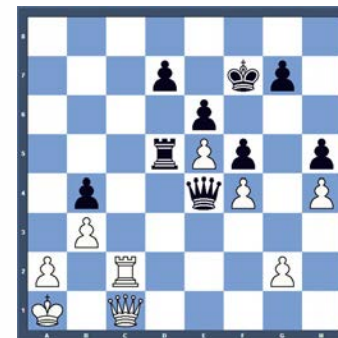
33.Rb2 Rd5 34.Qc8+ [On 34.Rc2 Black can for instance play 34...Qd4+ 35.Kb1 Qe4 with similar things as in the game.]

34...Qf7! No mistakes! [After the careless 34...Qh7 White suddenly gets counterplay after 35.Qe8!]

35.Qc1 Qd4 White basically has no moves.

36.h4 Qe4! The last subtle move. Black opens the way for his rook to penetrate on the d-file.

37.Rc2



37...Rd3! Switching the place of the rook and the queen. When the queen is behind, Black has the decisive threat of Rd1. White cannot defend.

38.Qb1 Qd5! 39.Qb2 [39.Rc5 39...Qxg2-+]

39...Rd1+ 40.Rc1 Rd2 41.Rc2 Qd3 White resigned as Rd1 is coming. A typical Sicilian game, where Black overtook the initiative. **0-1**

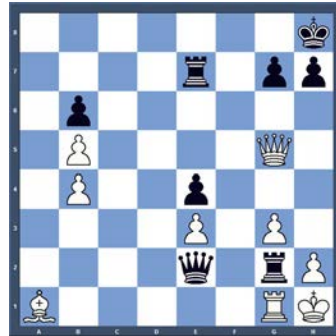
Puzzle section

(3) Wang Hao(2752)-Kamsky, G(2763)

Grand Prix, Beijing, 2013.07.16

[CEWN]

1. +-

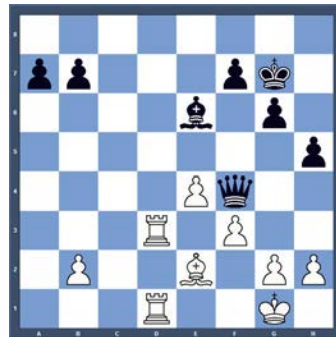


(4) Shulman, Y(2542)-Wen Yan(2593)

Yinzhou Cup, 2013.07.19

[CEWN]

1... -+

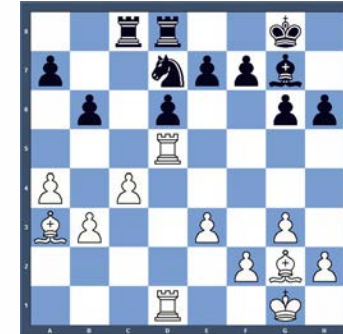


(5) Xiu Deshun(2556)-Shulman, Y(2542)

Yinzhou Cup, 2013.07.21

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Bauer, C(2619)-Cebalo, M(2438)

Suisse Championship, 2013.07.17

[CEWN]

1. +-



(7) Sokolov, A(2558)-Loetscher, R(2408)

Suisse Championship, 2013.07.17

[CEWN]

1. +-



(8) Nisipeanu, D(2670)-Krensing, D(2325)

Pardubice Open, 2013.07.21

[CEWN]

1. +-

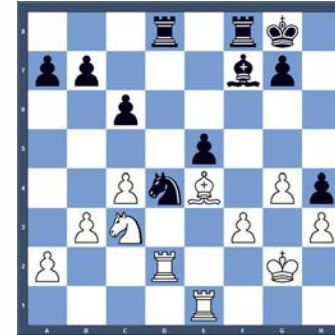


(9) Sundararajan, K(2435)-Nisipeanu, D(2670)

Pardubice rapid, 2013.07.17

[CEWN]

1... -+

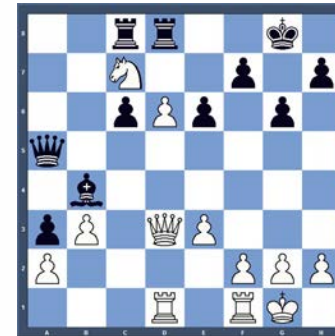


(10) Sethuraman, S(2562)-Howell, D(2639)

LCT Open, 2013.07.21

[CEWN]

1. +-



(11) Anguera Maestro, J(2180)-Agdestein, S(2567)

Sant Marti Open, 2013.07.13

[CEWN]

1... -+



(12) Demidov, M(2465)-Kovalenko, I(2621)

Corporation Cup, 2013.07.17

[CEWN]

1... -+

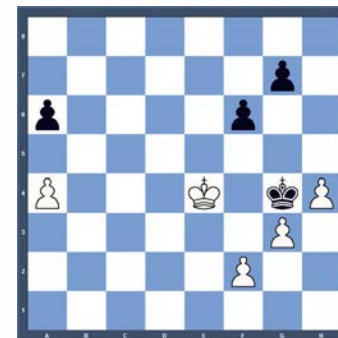


Endgame section

(13) Tan Zhongyi(2478)-Abrahamyan, T.(2316)

Yinzhou Cup, 2013.07.20

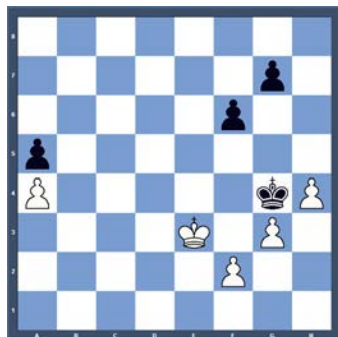
[CE TEAM]



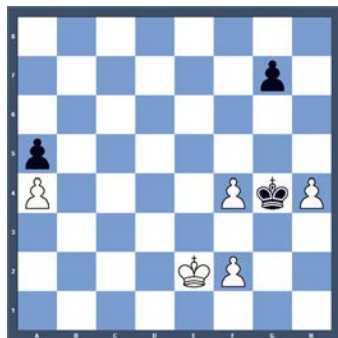
The following pawn endgame has arisen in a women's game. Despite White's extra pawn, the win is very difficult. We recommend to everyone to calculate such pawn endgames, because it seriously improves our calculating skills.

47...a5! The only move for Black, otherwise White plays a5 and wins an important tempo for the pawn race after the king marches to the a6 pawn.

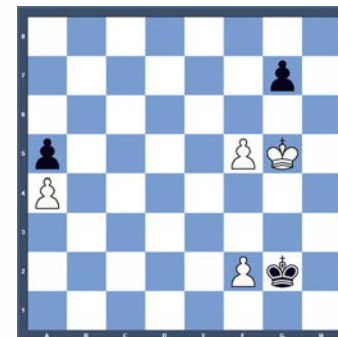
48.h5!! A very difficult move and the only one which leads to a win. White gives back the pawn in order to obtain a superior king. [48.♔e3 was very logical in order to keep controlling the f3 square and trying to squeeze back the black king by using zugzwang. However Black can play..



48...f5! 49.Ke2 (49.Kd4 leads to draw after 49...Kf3 50.Ke5 Kxf2 51.Kxf5 Kxg3 52.h5 Kh4 53.Kg6 Kg4 54.Kxg7 Kxh5 55.Kf6 Kh6= The black king goes to a8.) 49...f4! 50.gxf4

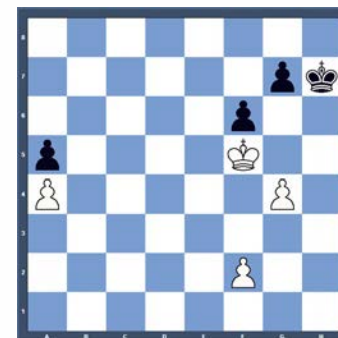


50...Kxh4! This position is surprisingly a draw as we can see from the following lines. Black is always able to trade his g-pawn for both f-pawns and in the end he succeeds in running into to a8 corner. (50...Kxf4 loses after 51.Kd3 Kg4 52.Kc4 Kxh4 53.Kb5 White is too fast.) 51.Kf3 (51.Kd3 51...Kg4 52.Ke4 (52.Kc4 52...Kxf4 53.Kb5 Kf3 54.Kxa5 Kxf2 55.Kb5 g5= The pawn race also leads to a draw.) 52...g6 52...Kh3 was also enough for a draw. 53.Ke5 (53.f3+ 53...Kg3 54.Ke3 Kg2=) 53...Kf3 54.Kf6 Kxf4 55.Kxg6 Kf3 56.Kf5 Kxf2 57.Ke4 Kg3 58.Kd5 Kf4 59.Kc6 Ke5 60.Kb5 Kd6 61.Kxa5 Kc7=) 51...Kh3 52.f5 Kh2 53.Kf4 Kg2 54.Kg5



54...Kf3! Black must catch the f5 pawn first. 55.Kg6 Kf4 56.Kxg7 Kxf5 57.Kf7 seems to be completely winning at first sight, but Black is just in time: 57...Kf4 58.Ke6 Kf3 59.Kd5 Kxf2 60.Kc4 Ke3 61.Kb5 Kd4 62.Kxa5 Kc5= The white king got squeezed to the a-file.; 48.Kd5 is not an option because of 48...Kf3 49.Kc5 (49.Ke6 49...Kxf2 50.Kf7 Kxg3 51.Kxg7 f5 52.h5 f4 is a draw in the end.) 49...Kxf2 50.Kb5 Kxg3 51.Kxa5 f5 Only Black can win.]

48...Kxh5 49.Kf5! Kh6 50.g4 Kh7 White can start with all the different move orders here, but there is only one winning idea after all the moves.

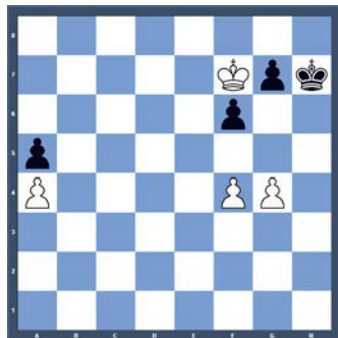


51.Ke6 Kh6 [51...Kg8 52.Ke7 will lead to the same.]

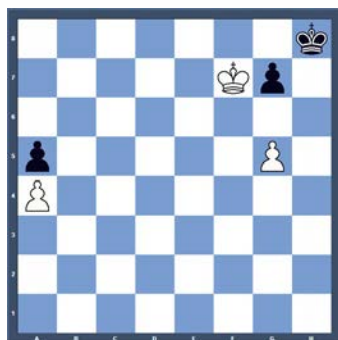
52.f4! The black king must be kept squeezed.

52...♔g6 53.♖e7 ♔h6 [On 53...f5 54.g5! ♔h5 55.♖f7 ♖g4 56.♖xg7 ♖xf4 57.♖f6+- White promotes the pawn faster.]

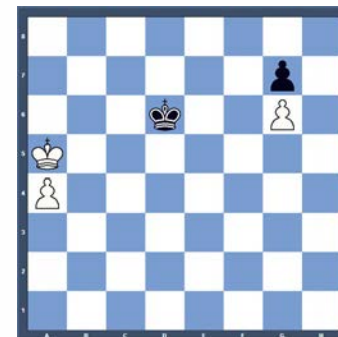
54.♖f7 ♔h7 So far everything was easy after finding 48.h5, but here is the critical moment, where White makes a mistake in the calculation and fails to find the winning continuation.



55.♖e6 [55.g5! was the right move! 55...fxg5 (55...f5 56.♖e6 ♖g6 57.♖e5+-) 56.fxg5 ♔h8



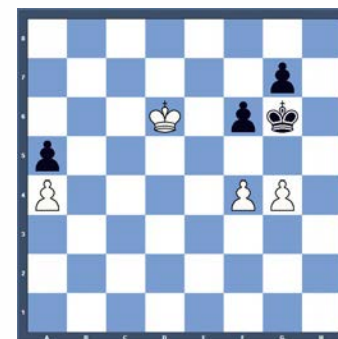
57.♖e6! ♔h7 58.♖f5! White wins some important tempi by forcing the black king to go back to the back rank. 58...♖g8 59.g6! ♖f8 60.♖e6! White is able to hold the king on the back rank! 60...♖e8 61.♖d6 ♖d8 62.♖c6 Only now Black can go for the g6 pawn, but it is already too late. 62...♖e7 63.♖b6 ♖f6 (63...♖d6 64.♖xa5



With the appearance of the g-pawns, Black cannot hope to save himself by squeezing the king to the a-file. 64...♖c5 65.♖a6 ♖c6 66.a5 ♖c7 67.♖b5+- White will go and take the g7 pawn.) 64.♖xa5 ♖xg6 65.♖b5 ♖f5 66.a5 g5 67.a6 g4 68.a7 g3 69.a8=♖+-]

55...♔h6 56.♖e7 [56.♖d5 leads to the same draw as in the game: 56...f5!! 57.gxf5 (57.g5+ transposes to the game.) 57...♖h5 58.♖c5 ♖g4 59.♖b6 ♖xf5 60.♖xa5 ♖xf4 61.♖b5 g5 62.a5 g4 63.a6 g3= Promoting at the same time.; 56.♖f7 White should have gone back to the previous position.]

56...♔g6 57.♖d6? This is the decisive mistake. [It was not too late to go back to the winning line with 57.♖e6!]



57...f5!! Black is out of the trouble.

58.g5 ♖h5 59.♔e5 [On 59.♔e6 59...♔g4 60.♔e5 Black has the important tempo 60...g6 and it leads to a draw after 61.♔f6 ♖xf4 62.♔xg6 ♔e4 63.♔h5 f4 64.g6 f3 65.g7 f2 66.g8=♚ f1=♚=]

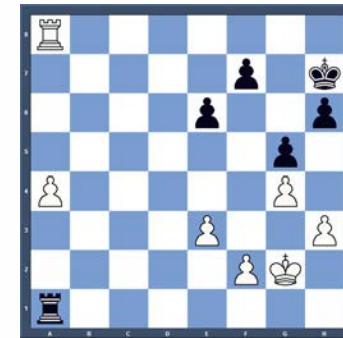
59...♔g4 60.g6 White's last attempt and it indeed temporarily wins a pawn, but unfortunately after

60...♔h5 61.♔xf5 ♔h6! White gets into zugzwang and must drop the g6 pawn.

62.♔e4 ♖xg6 Draw agreed. Pawn endgames can be very tricky sometimes. **1/2-1/2**

(14) Vallejo Pons, F.(2705)-Sargissian, G.(2671)

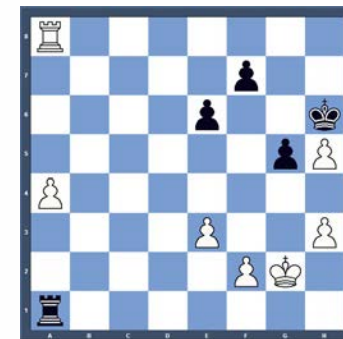
TCh-ESP CECLUB Div Honor 2011(6), 2011.11.25
[E. Bacrot]



39...h5?! A very logical decision over the board, but it seems like the passive defence played in the game Vachier-Lagrave - Polgar and analysed in the CE issue of November leads to a complicated draw. Trying to exchange the h-pawn is of course a good idea, but it is refuted.

40.gxh5! White's chances are of course minimal after [40.a5 40...hxg4 41.hxg4 ♖a4]

40...♔h6 41.♖h8+ ♔g7 42.♖a8 ♔h6

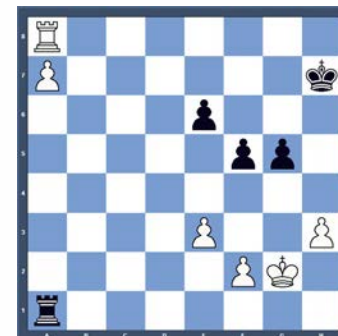


43.♖a7! White is provoking weaknesses in his opponent's camp. When the black f-pawn moves, it is enough to put the

rook on a8 and the pawn a7 and to collect Black's pawn with the king. [After 43.a5 43...♙xh5 44.a6 ♖g6 Black manages to draw quite easily, for example: 45...♙f6 46.♙f3 ♜a2 47.♙e4 ♜a1 48.♙d4 ♜a2 49.♙c5 ♖g7 (49...e5 The retreat can be delayed until White's king arrives on e8 and if Black is staying on f6 with the king and putting a pawn on e5, it is a draw. The most easy draw is the main line.) 50.♙d6 ♜a6+ 51.♙e7 ♜a5 52.e4 The last try, otherwise we would reach a theoretical drawn endgame with the a7 and h-pawn. (52.f3 52...♜a6 53.f4 gxf4 54.exf4 f6 55.h4 e5=; 52.f4 52...gxf4 53.exf4 e5!=) 52...e5! Black cannot let the e-pawn on the 5th rank: (52...♜a4? 53.e5 Now it is easy: White's king is back and after f4 gxf4 is forced and then the pawn goes to h6 and the king is collecting the f4-f7 and e6 pawns thanks to zugzwang. 53...♜a2 54.♙d6 ♜a1 55.♙c5 ♜a2 56.♙d4 ♜a1 57.♙e3 ♜a2 58.♙f3 ♜a4 59.♙g3 ♙h7 60.f4 gxf4+ 61.♙f3 ♙g7 62.h4 ♙h7 63.h5 ♙g7 64.h6+ ♙h7 65.♙g4 The zugzwang starts!) 53.♙d6 ♙h7 54.♙c6 (54.♜e8 54...♜xa7 55.♜e7 ♜a6+ 56.♙xe5 ♙g6=) 54...♜a1 55.♙d5 ♜a5+ 56.♙c4 There is nothing to take, so White tries his luck on the other side of the board. 56...♜a1 57.♙d3 ♜a2 58.♙e3 ♜a3+ 59.♙e2 ♙g7 60.♙f1 ♙h7 61.♙g2 ♙g7 62.f3 ♜a1 63.♙g3 ♜g1+ 64.♙h2 ♜a1 65.h4 gxf4 66.♙h3 ♙f6 67.♙xh4 ♜a4 White can exchange one more pawn but there is nothing he can do to win.]

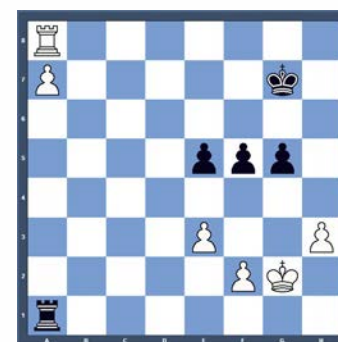
43...f5 Other tries are losing right away: [43...♙xh5 44.♜xf7 ♜xa4 45.♜f6 ♜a6 46.♙f3+-; 43...e5 44.♜xf7 ♜xa4 45.♜f5 e4 46.h4+-]

44.a5 e5 The pawn has to advance and try to lock White's king. [44...♙xh5 45.a6 ♙g6 46.♜a8 ♙g7 47.a7 ♙h7



48.f4 is an easy win as Black will be in zugzwang when White's h-pawn reaches h6.]

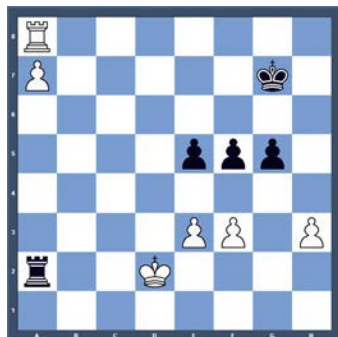
45.a6 ♙xh5 46.♜a8 ♙g6 47.a7 ♙g7



48.f3?? The wrong way to transfer the king, as with the weakening of White's pawn chain Black gets chances to create a passed pawn. [48.♙f3! was the right move. 48...♜a2 (48...e4+ 49.♙e2 ♜a2+ 50.♙d1 is also an easy win.) 49.e4 ♜a3+ 50.♙e2 fxe4 51.♙d2+- And soon the king will collect the pawns.]

48...♜a2+! Black needs to check because White is threatening to play e3-e4 with a trivial win.

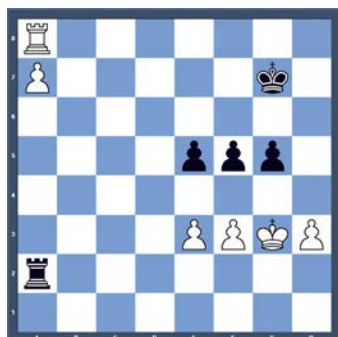
49. ♖f1 ♜a1+ 50. ♖e2 ♜a2+ 51. ♖e1 ♜a1+ 52. ♖d2 ♜a2+



53. ♖d1 Going to the c-file allows Black's break: [53. ♖c3 53...e4! 54.fxe4 f4! (54...g4 55.exf5 g3 56. ♜b8±) 55.exf4 (55. ♖b3 55... ♜a1 56. ♖b2 ♜a4 57. ♖c2 f3 58. ♖d2 ♜a1=) 55...gxf4 56. ♖b3 ♜a1 57. ♖b2 ♜a4! It is very important to attack the e-pawn. 58. ♖c2 f3 59. ♖d2 f2 60. ♖e2 ♜xe4+ 61. ♖xf2 ♜a4 And Black reaches a rare position where he has a draw although he is two pawns down.]

53... ♜a1+ 54. ♖e2 [54. ♖c2 54...e4 55.fxe4 (55. ♖b2 55... ♜a4 56.fxe4 f4) 55...g4! (55...f4 56.exf4 gxf4 57. ♖d2+—) 56. ♖b2 White's king is now very far from his pawns. 56... ♜a5 57.exf5 g3 58. ♜d8 ♜xa7 59. ♜d6 ♖h7 60. ♜d2 ♜e7=]

54... ♜a2+ 55. ♖f1 ♜a1+ 56. ♖g2 ♜a2+ 57. ♖g1 ♜a1+ 58. ♖h2 ♜a2+ 59. ♖g3



59... ♜a3! Black continues playing in order to avoid e3-e4.

60.h4 The last valid break.

60...f4+! 61. ♖g2 [61.exf4 61...gxh4+ 62. ♖xh4 (62. ♖g4 62...exf4 63. ♖xf4 ♜a4+ 64. ♖e3 ♜a2 65. ♖f4 ♜a4+) 62...exf4 63. ♖g5 ♜a4 64. ♖f5 ♖h7 65. ♖f6 ♜a3 There is no zugzwang, so the position is drawn.]

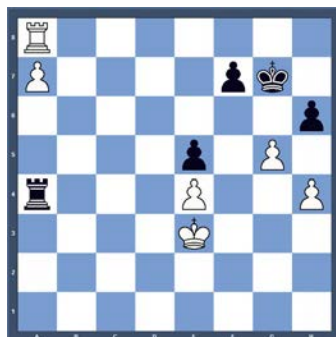
61...fxe3 62.hxg5 e2 63. ♖f2 ♜xf3+ 64. ♖xf3 [64. ♖xe2 64... ♜a3 White wins the e-pawn but he cannot make further progress.]

64...e1= ♜ 65. ♜g8+ ♖xg8 66.a8= ♜+ ♖g7 67. ♜b7+ ♖g6 68. ♜e4+ ♜xe4+ 69. ♖xe4 ♖xg5 70. ♖xe5 1/2-1/2

(15) Vachier-Lagrave, M - Polgar, J

2011

[E.Bacrot]



1...h5! [1...hxc5? 2.hxc5 I said this was a draw, but Maxime correctly refuted me: 2...g7 3.g7 4.c3 a1 5.c4 a4+ 6.d5 a5+ 7.d6 h7 8.e7 (8.g6+? 8...fxg6 9.e6 g7 is a draw.) 8...g7 9.d7 a6 (9...h7 10.d6 g7 And we're back to the main line.) 10.c7 a1 11.d6 a5 12.g6!! f6 (12...fxg6 13.e6 Black is in zugzwang.) 13.e6 a1 14.d8! a7 15.f5 b7 16.d6 And White will soon collect both black pawns.]

2.gd3 a1 3.gc4 a2 4.gd5 a5+ 5.gd6 gh7 6.ge7 [6.e8 6...xa7 7.e7 a6+ 8.xe5 g7 9.f5 a1=]

6...g7 7.g6 fxg6 8.ge6 g5 And with the passed pawn, Black has a draw.

Clash of the Titans

(16) Petrosian, T.-Simagin, V.[E91]

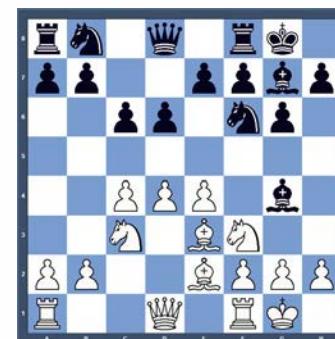
Moscow, 1956

[Kamil Miton]

1.f3 f6 2.c4 c6 With the idea to come back to Slav structures.

3.c3 d6 4.d4 g6 5.e4 g7 6.e2 O-O 7.O-O g4 We have the classical variation of the King's Indian (Nf3-Be2) where Black uses the rare plan with c6-Bg4. [7...a6 With the idea to play over b5.]

8.e3



8...bd7 [8...a6 Black usually develops his knight on a6 to free the d7 square for the other knight. It looks more flexible but of course White is better anyway. 9.h3 xf3 10.xf3 d7 11.c1+= White has the bishop pair and more space. It is hard to prove that Black has some play on the dark squares.]

9.d2 The idea of exchanging the bishops is logical, White could do that after Ne1 and the knight could also go to the d3 square, where it is paced well to support plans with b4 or f4. [9.h3 xf3 10.xf3 e5 11.d5+= The bishop on f3 is not bad and White can improve it after the typical g3-h4.]

9...♟xe2 10.♞xe2 e5 Let's check what would have happened if Black had fought back in the center in another way: [10...c5

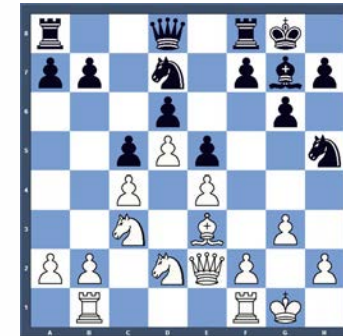


11.dxc5! (11.d5 a6 12.a4 ♞e8 And Black's plan is to come to c7 with the knight and try to push b5 to get the initiative on the queenside. At the same time White should play over f4-e5 but in this case the white pieces are not ready at all for this.) 11...♞xc5 (11...dxc5 12.f4+)=) 12.♟xc5 (12.e5 ♞fd7 13.exd6 exd6 14.♞ac1 White should have an advantage because of his better structure.) 12...dxc5 13.e5 ♞d7 14.f4 And White is probably slightly better because the bishop on g7 is limited. 14...f6!? 15.♞ad1 fxe5 16.♞de4 exf4 17.♞xc5 ♞xc5 18.♞xd8 ♞axd8 With some practical chances.]

11.d5 Both sides decided to close the position in the center, which is typical for the King's Indian. [11.dxe5 dxe5 (11...♞xe5 12.♞ad1) 12.b4+]=]

11...c5 12.♞ab1 White prepares to put pressure on the queenside. In general White is slightly better thanks to his better bishop and more space.

12...♞e8 Black is preparing the thematic plan with f5. In my opinion it was more aggressive and interesting to put the knight on a more active place: [12...♞h5!? Black has the additional idea Nf4 and forces White to slightly weaken the position after 13.g3



13...♞e8 Preparing for f5. 14.a3 (14.♞b5 ♞e7) 14...f5 15.♞f3 (15.exf5 gxf5 Black gets a strong initiative here: 16.♞f3 e4 17.♞g5 ♞g6) 15...h6 (15...f4 16.♟d2 With a fight for the light squares.) 16.exf5 gxf5 17.♞b5 With the idea Nc7-Ne6.]

13.f3 f5 14.b4 White immediately opens the file in order to put some pressure. [14.a3 ♟f6 With the idea to activate the bad bishop. 15.♞h1 ♟g5 16.♟g1 ♟xd2!? 17.♞xd2 f4 Black gets rid of his limited bishop and the next plan is to attack after g5-g4. The position is complex. 18.b4 b6∞XBg1]

14...cxb4 15.♞xb4 b6 16.a4 The c5 square has no meaning, White is going to push a5 in order to create weaknesses.

16...♟f6 [16...♞c7 17.a5 ♞a6 18.♞bb1 bxa5 19.♞b3+]=]

17.♞h1 ♟g5 18.♟g1 ♞c7



19.♞bb1 ♞a6 20.♞b3 ♞dc5 21.♞xc5 [21.exf5 21...gxf5 22.a5

♟xb3 23.♞xb3 ♟c5 24.♞bb1 ♞c8 (24...bxa5 25.♞xc5 dxc5 26.♞xe5) 25.♞xc5 (25.axb6 25...axb6 26.♞b4 With the idea to put pressure on the b6 pawn.) 25...♞xc5 26.axb6 axb6 27.♟a4 ♞a5 28.♟xb6 ♞c7 It looks as if thanks to the weak dark squares and the bad knight on b6 Black has good compensation.]

21...bxc5 Black changed the structure and has the idea to come to b4 with the knight in order to solve his queenside problems, but now White changes the side of the pressure and the knight on a6 (even if come on b4) will be out of play, so White decided to play [21...♟xc5 22.a5∞]

22.exf5 gxf5



23.g4! A great move. White is taking control of the light squares, especially so as the knight is going to go to e4. [23.♞b7 is premature because of 23...♞c8 XRB7; 23.f4?! A strange idea. 23...♞xf4 24.g3 ♞h6! (24...♞g5 25.h4 ♞e7 26.♞xf5! ♞xf5 27.♞g4+ ♞h8 28.♞xf5 ♟b4 29.♞g2+=) 25.♞b7 ♞g5 (25...♞c8 26.♞e7!) 26.♟b5 ♞g6 White can't be worse here.]

23...fxg4 24.♟e4 ♞f4 [24...gxf3 25.♞xf3 ♞f4 26.♞e3+- After a few moves the black king will be under huge attack and the knight on a6 is too far to help.]

25.♞b7 ♟c7 26.fxg4 ♟e8 Somehow the knight is back in the

game, but is too late as the white pieces are very well placed and White has a huge advantage.

27.g5 Preventing Nf6 as it is very important to keep the strong knight on e4. [27.♞f2 also preventing Nf6 and preparing for Bg3. 27...♞c8 28.♞e7 ♞d8 29.♞h4+-]

27...♞c8 28.♞e7 ♞h3 Black is looking for practical chances.

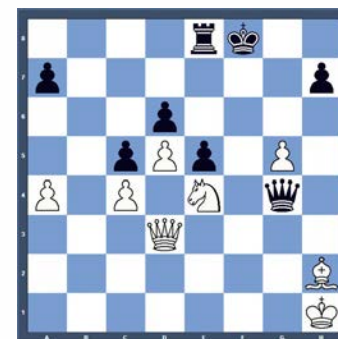
29.♞f3 [29.♞b1 With the idea to just crush the position on the 7th rank. 29...♞f7 30.♞xe8+ ♞xe8 31.♟xd6+-]

29...♞g4



30.♞d3?? A huge blunder! White missed a simple win after [30.♟f6+ 30...♟xf6 (30...♞xf6 31.gxf6 ♟xf6 32.♞g2 The most simple win.) 31.gxf6 ♞xf6 32.♞g3+-]

30...♞xh2! 31.♞xf8+ ♟xf8 32.♞xe8+ ♞xe8 33.♞xh2



33...♞e7?? Black was back in the game and committed

another big mistake. He should have played [33...♔f5! 34.♘xc5 ♕xd3 35.♘d3 ♖c8 (35...♗b8! The best move. Black is fine.) 36.c5 ♖e7 (36...dxc5 37.d6 c4 38.♘xe5 but not (38.d7? 38...♗a8! 39.♘xe5 ♖e7 And Black is able to bring the king to e7.) 38...c3 39.d7 ♗d8 40.♙f4+-) 37.c6 ♖b8 38.♙g2 ♖b3 39.♘xe5 (39.♘f2) 39...dxe5 40.♙xe5 ♗d3 41.d6+ ♗xd6 42.♙xd6+ ♖xd6 43.♙f3 ♖xc6 With a draw according to the engine.]

34.♘xd6 After losing this pawn, the black struture will be very weak and the bishop on h2 is back in the game.

34...♕xg5 [34...e4 35.♕f1+ ♕f3+ 36.♙g1+-]

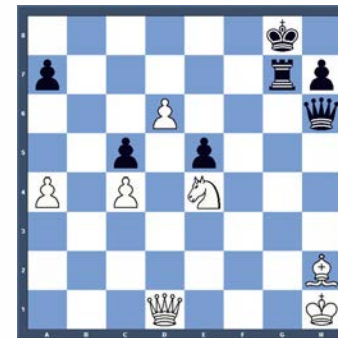
35.♕f1+ ♙g8 36.♘e4 [36.♕g2+- The simplest way was to exchange queens in order to avoid counterplay.]

36...♕h4 37.♕e2 ♗g7 38.d6 [38.♘xc5 38...♕d4 39.♘b3 And the a1 square is under control.]

38...♕h6 [38...a5 39.♕e3 h6 40.♕e2 All pieces are optimally placed and White should somehow win, but it is not easy to show a forced way. 40...♙h8 41.♘xc5 ♕d4 42.♘b3 ♕b6 White is not able to hold the d-pawn. 43.♘d2 ♙g8 44.♘f3 (44.♕d3 44...♕f2) 44...♕xd6 45.♙xe5 ♕e6+=]



39.♕d1?? White was probably in time trouble! This move changes the evaluation. It was more accurate to play [39.♕f1 White takes control of the important h3 and c1 squares. 39...♗f7 40.♕g2+ ♗g7 41.d7 ♕c1+ 42.♙g1 ♕d1 43.♘f6+ ♙f7 44.♕d5+ ♕xd5+ 45.cxd5 ♗xg1+ 46.♙xg1 ♙e7 47.♙f2 And White is easily winning.]



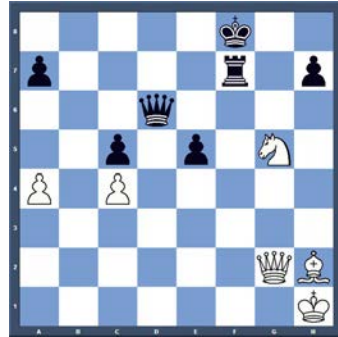
39...♕h4?? Black overlooks his escape chances! After the correct [39...♕h3! 40.♕d5+ (40.♕e2 40...♗g6 Black improves his pieces a lot and takes control of the light squares.) 40...♙f8 The king must be closer to the pawn. 41.♘d2 ♕g4 With the idea to play Qd1. 42.♕f3+ ♙e8 43.♕xg4 (43.♕c6+ only leads to perpetual check.) 43...♗xg4 44.♙xe5 ♙d7 And Black survives.]

40.♕e2 [40.♘g3 40...♗xg3 41.♕d5+- Followed by d7.]

40...♕h6 After reaching the time control White didn't repeat his mistake and played the correct

41.♕f1! ♗f7 42.♕g2+ ♙f8 43.♘g5! White gets a decisive attack.

43...♔xd6



44. ♔a8+! But not [44. ♖xf7?? because of 44...♔d1+ 45. ♔g1 ♔f3+ and black has a nice perpetual check which we can find in some puzzles: 46. ♔g2 ♔d1+ 47. ♖g1 ♔h5+ 48. ♔h2 ♔f3+=]

44...♔g7 45. ♖xe5+ A very nice motive! It's a pity that White could win also after [45. ♖xf7 45...♔d1+ 46. ♔g2 ♔e2+ 47. ♔g3 And the white queen will come back to stop the checks.]

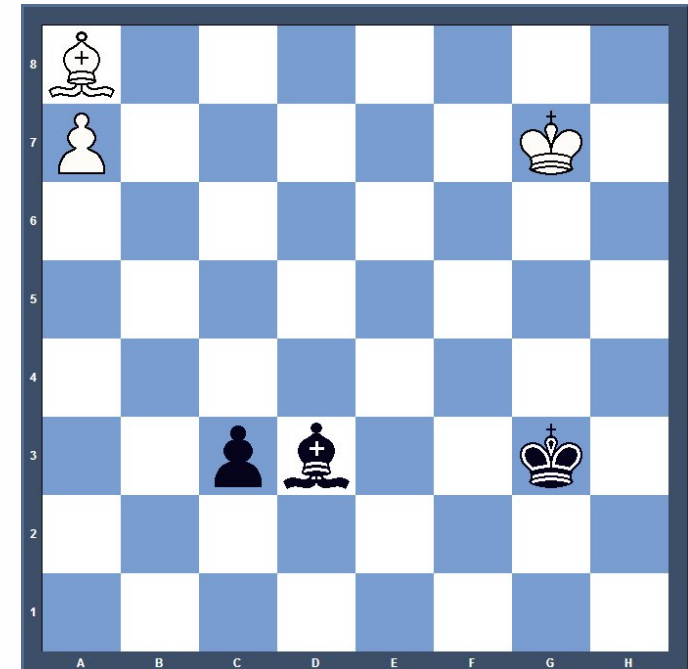
45...♔xe5 46. ♔h8+ ♔xh8 47. ♖xf7+1-0

Surprise section / study

(17) Zachodiakin

[CEWN]

1. +-



Solutions

(18) Gelfand, B(2773)-Ivanchuk, V(2733)

Grand Prix, Beijing, 2013.07.12

[Solutions]



36. ♖xd7? [36. ♖xe5! 36... dxe5 (36... ♖xe5 37. ♖xd7+-) 37. d6! ♖e6 38. ♖xd7 ♖xd6 39. ♖xc5+- (39. ♖xe5+-)]

36... ♖xd7 37. h4+=

(19) Wang Hao(2752)-Gelfand, B(2773)

Grand Prix, Beijing, 2013.07.14

[Solutions]



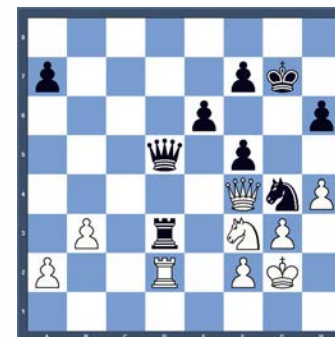
34... ♖f8? [34... ♖c3! -+ 35. ♖d2 (35. ♖h5 35... ♖b1+ 36. ♖h2 ♖xf5-+; 35. ♖d4 35... ♖e2+-+) 35... ♖xg2 36. ♖d8+ (36. ♖xg2 36... exf5-+) 36... ♖f8 37. ♖e7+ ♖f7-+]

35. ♖xe4 ♖xe4 36. ♖d4=

(20) Hasangatin, R(2489)-Prohaszka, P(2554)

LCT Open, 2013.07.15

[Solutions]

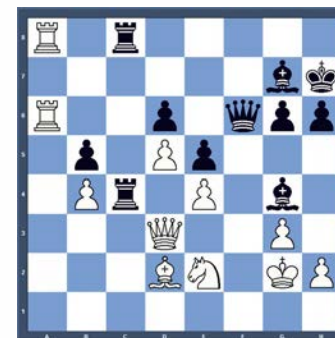


39... ♖xf3! 0-1 [39... ♖xf3 40. ♖xd5 (40. ♖xf3 40... ♖xd2-+) 40... ♖xf4 41. gxf4 exd5-+]

(21) Skembris, S(2458)-Antic, D(2470)

Ideon Open, 2013.07.12

[Solutions]

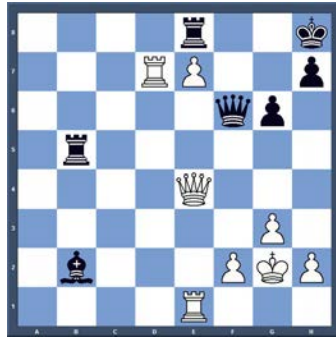


31... ♖h3+! 32. ♖xh3 ♖f1+ 33. ♖g4 ♖f5+ 0-1 [33... ♖f5+ 34. ♖h4 ♖h5#]

(22) Ulibin, M(2529)-Kasparov, S(2470)

Serbia, 2013.07.06

[Solutions]



31. ♖d8! ♜xd8 32. e8=♚+! ♜xe8 33. ♚xe8+ ♔g7
34. ♚xb5+—

(23) Nestorovic, L(2394)-Gleizerov, E(2553)

Serbia, 2013.07.08

[Solutions]

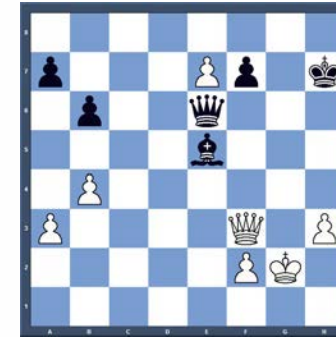


21... ♕xh2+! 22. ♔xh2 ♜h6+ 23. ♔g1 ♚h4—+ 24. f3 exf3
25. ♚e5 f2+ 26. ♕xf2 ♚h1#

(24) Banusz, T(2588)-Manik, M(2412)

V4 Open, 2013.07.09

[Solutions]



47. ♚h5+! ♔g7 48. ♚g4+! 1-0 [48. ♚g4+ 48... ♚xg4+
49. hxg4+—]

(25) Grandelius, N(2573)-Wiedenkeller, M(2475)

Sweden, 2013.07.09

[Solutions]



24. ♜xd7! ♔xd7 25. ♘e5+ ♔d6 [25... ♔e8 26. ♜c8+—]
26. ♘c4+—

(26) Anton, T(2438)-Kravtsiv, M(2620)

University Championship, 2013.07.10

[Solutions]



23...♖fe8! 24.♗d1 [24.♕xb2 24...♗e1#]

24...♗cd8! 25.♗xd8 [25.♗f1 25...♕e2+-]

25...♗xd8 26.c6 [26.♕xb2 26...♗d1#]

26...♗d1+ 0-1 [26...♗d1+ 27.♕g2 ♕xc3 28.♖xc3 ♖xc6+ 29.f3 ♗xa1]

(27) Vuckovic, B(2594)-Ipatov, A(2590)

Turkish league, 2013.07.10

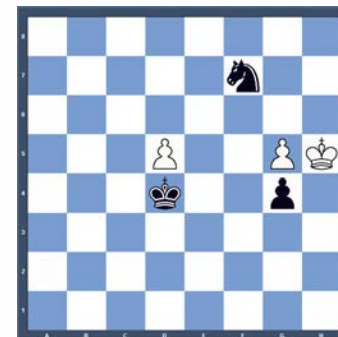
[Solutions]



26...♗a1! 0-1 [26...♗a1 27.♗xa1 (27.♕xe4+ 27...♕xe4+-) 27...♕e3+ 28.♕h1 ♖f2+ 29.♕g1 ♖h3+ 30.♕h1 ♕g1+ 31.♗xg1 ♖f2#]

(28) Lapin

[Solutions]



1.g6! ♖d6 [1...g3 2.g7!+-]

2.g7! ♖e8 3.g8=♗! ♖f6+ 4.♕g5! ♖xg8 5.d6 g3 6.d7 g2 7.d8=♗++-



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 75

2nd of August 2013

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Editorial Preface

3 major events are under way and will end this week.

The Dortmund Super Tournament:

As usual the Dortmund Super Tournament comes up with a very strong line-up of top world players plus the 4 players from the German national team. After 6 rounds, Kramnik and Adams are leading with the amazing score of 5/6.

17 The traditional round robin tournament in Biel came to an end with a 4 players tying for first place! Moiseenko, Bacrot, Vachier Lagrave and Ding Liren all scored 14 points (with 3 points for a win). The last place was taken by the young Richard Rapport with a result of 4 losses and 6 draws, which is quite disappointing.

26 The Woman European Championship in Belgrade is also still under way. After 9 rounds out of 11, Hoang Thanh Trang from Hungary is leading with a fantastic 7.5/9, followed by Melia Salome, Kosteniuk, Cmilyte and Socko - all with 7 points. It is going to be a very exciting finish!

In the current issue we bring you commented games from Dortmund and Biel. Enjoy CEWN Nr75!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Naiditsch, Arkadij(2710)

- Andreikin, Dmitry(2727) [C70]

41st GM(4.2), 2013.07.29

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

After a bad start of the tournament I very much wanted to come back, and in round 4 I took my chance against the current Russian Champion, who also won the U-20 World Junior Championship 2 years ago. It was a very important game for me in this tournament situation.

1.e4 e5 Andreikin is playing a lot of different openings, like the Sicilian, the Caro-Kann or the French.

2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 In the 2nd round against Adams, Andreikin went for the Berlin and lost...

4.♙a4 ♙c5!? A very rare line under this concrete move order, but this line is very interesting. Usually Black chooses not to include 3...a6 4. Ba4 and to play 3...Bc5.

5.c3 The most logical move, what can be more tempting than to play d4 with tempo.

5...♘f6 6.d4



6...♙a7 This position been played many times without the

moves 3...a6 4.Ba4 included... It seems like it is not a big difference, but some nuances are actually playing a big role here.

7.0-0 0-0 As we can see, the game is simple. White is trying to keep his center and Black is trying to destroy it with a direct play.

8.♙g5 Now it is clear that the position is already very forced. The bishop on g5 is really annoying Black a lot... In many of the lines, White can try to make use of the pin.

8...h6 9.♙h4 exd4! After a long think, Andreikin played the best move. [It would be nice for Black to be able to play 9...g5? but it doesn't work...



10.♘xg5 hxg5 11.♙xg5 d6 12.♙xc6 bxc6 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.♙xd8 ♖xd8 15.♙xf6 And White is 2 pawns up;

9...d6 would be the main move without the inclusion of 3...a6 4.Ba4, but now it seems to be super dangerous for Black, although it might still be working... **10.♙xc6 (10.♙d3** With a normal fighting position.) **10...bxc6 11.dxe5** We are entering a very forced line. **11...dxe5 12.♙xd8 ♖xd8 13.♘xe5** It seems like White is just a pawn up and Black doesn't have the usual Ba6 with tempo, but things are still unclear. **13...g5 14.♘xc6** Until here it is easy to calculate, but of course the line is just starting... **14...gxh4 15.♘xd8 ♙d7 16.♘b7 ♖b8 17.♘a5 ♖xb2**

18. ♖c4 ♜e2 19. ♘bd2 I saw the line until here and I thought I should be better somehow, but my evaluation was wrong, as after 19... ♙e6 the position is very very unclear!]



10. ♙c1! A very strong move. White doesn't only want to play e5 next, but he is also protecting against the g5 idea. [The logical 10. cxd4?! would not be the best now because of 10... g5 11. ♖xg5 hxg5 12. ♙xg5 ♙xd4 Black brings his bishop back into the game. 13. ♘c3 b5 14. ♘d5 The position is still very sharp. 14... ♙g7 (14... bxa4? is losing after 15. ♙f3 ♙g7 16. ♙g3 With mate to follow.)]

10...d6 Avoiding the e5 push.

11. ♙xc6 bxc6 12. cxd4 It seems like I reached what I wanted, e5 is still a threat, c6 pawn is hanging and the g5 move doesn't seem to work..



12...g5!! Very strong play from Andreikin one more time. The only way to go in this position. [12... ♙g4 13. e5 dxe5 14. ♖xe5 White is clearly better.]

13. ♖xg5 ♘xe4?! This is already a mistake, Black should have continued with what he started: [13... hxg5 14. ♙xg5+ ♙h7 15. ♜d1 At this moment I thought that I should be better as Black cannot avoid Qxf6 now and the pawn on d4 is not hanging anymore, but my opponent had to find the amazing (15. ♙xf6?! is premature here: ♙xf6 16. ♙xf6 ♙g6 Black wins the d4 pawn and is fine.) 15... ♜b8!! What a crazy move to find! Really inhuman but super strong. Black is attacking the b2 pawn and this is enough to keep the position very unclear.]

14. ♘f3 It is now clear that White is doing better, but the position is still more complicated than it looks like. Black still has the bishop pair and the strong knight on e4 usually gives quite some play.

14... ♙d7 15. ♘c3 It was my turn now not to play the best move. [15. ♙xh6 ♙e6 And after the exchange of queens White might be minimally better, but not more than that.; 15. ♜e1! f5 16. ♘bd2! Exactly! Nbd2 and not Nc3, at which I was looking but I didn't like it because of Qh7. Now Black doesn't have Qh7 anymore because of Qxc6, so White's advantage is quite big.]

15...f5 16. ♙xh6 ♙g7 White cannot avoid going into an endgame.

17. ♙xg7+ ♙xg7 White is a pawn up, but Black is still fighting and I was actually not that sure how much better I was here. I was trying to find a way to get my bishop from h4 to e3, after which I would be doing "clearly better", but this is just impossible to do. After 18. Rfe1 Black has Re8.

18. ♜ac1 The rook will be well placed on the c-line, as anyway it is one Black's main ideas to play c5 as soon as possible.

18...♙b7 I don't like this move personally. I think the black bishop would be much better placed on d7. During the next moves, Andreikin is totally losing control over the game.



19.♘e2 I am trying to get my knight to f4, now we can see that the square e6 is getting weak.

19...♙b6?! [19...f4 was the only logical way to continue, as to let the white knight to f4 is just deadly.]

20.♘f4 ♜fe8 21.♞fd1 It is important to keep both black bishops "under control" and to play d5 next looks pretty tempting.

21...a5 22.d5 c5 [After 22...cxd5 23.♘xd5 ♙xd5 24.♞xd5 White is a pawn up, but Black would still have some chances to fight for a draw.]



23.♘g5! The last important move in the game. All I need to

win the game is to get rid of the knight from e4 to complete happiness. :)

23...♙a6 24.♘fe6+ This is also a nice place for the knight.

24...♞g6 25.♙xe4 fxe4 26.♞c3 And the rook is coming to g3. The game is basically over.

26...♞g8 27.♞g3+ ♙h5



28.♙g5 White wants to play Nf4 next. I think Andreikin could have resigned now, but he decided to keep on playing- no idea why he likes to suffer :)

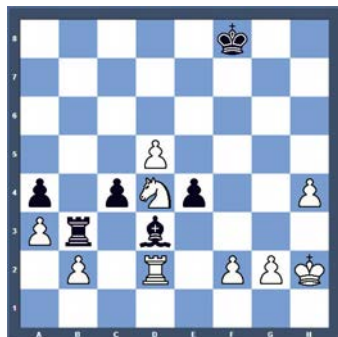
28...♞g6 The only defence against Nf4.

29.♙d8+ ♙f7 30.♞xg8 ♙xg8 31.♙xc7 And White is 2 pawns up.

31...♙xc7 32.♙xc7 ♞a7 33.♙e8 And the d6 pawn is also falling.

33...♙d3 34.♙xd6 White is 3 pawns up, but Black keeps on playing.

34...♞d7 35.♙f5 ♞b7 36.♞d2 a4 37.a3 c4 38.h4 ♙f8 39.♙h2 ♞b3 40.♙d4



40...c3 Any move is of course winning here, but I wanted to create a beautiful position.

41. dxb3 axb3 42. bxc3 c2 43. Rxd4 b2 44. Rb4 b1=Q 45. Rxb1 cxb1 46. Kg3 White has 5 pawns for a bishop! Amazing.

46...Ke7 47. Kf4 Kd6 48. c4 d3 49. h5 This was even too much for Andreikin. All in all a very interesting game from the opening point of view, but it seems that strangely enough the line is good for Black! **1-0**

(2) Caruana, Fabiano(2796) - Adams, Michael(2740) [C67]

41st GM(3.4), 2013.07.28

[Balogh Csaba]

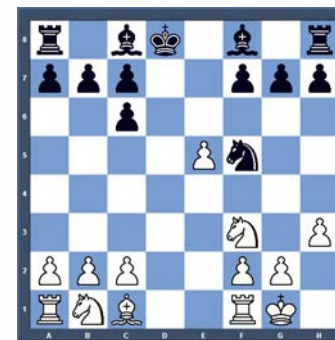
A high-quality performance by Adams, who punished Caruana for his mistake in the middle game with flawless and spectacular play.

1.e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Adams is a big expert of the Spanish opening with both colors. As Black, he almost always goes for the main lines with 3...a6, but this time he caused a little surprise.

3...Nf6 The Berlin defence. In the second round of the tournament, Adams scored another nice win against Andreikin, where he was playing the same opening as White.

4.O-O Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6. Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8. Qxd8+ Qxd8 We have reached the starting position of the Berlin endgame.

9.h3 White often prefers this move order to 9.Nc3 nowadays, which gives some additional aggressive options against the Bd7 system.



9...Bd7 This is the sharp handling of the opening, when Black intends to play Kc8. [In the previous round Andreikin played

the rock-solid main line with 9...♔e8 10.♘c3 h5 but Adams has managed to get some advantage later on...]

10.♖d1 ♔c8 11.g4 ♘e7



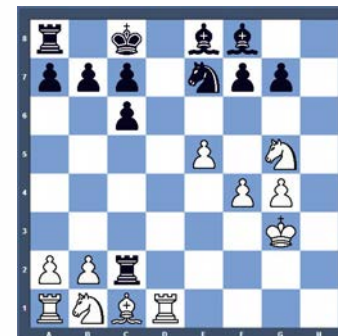
12.♘g5 This is the point of the 9.h3 start. The g4 pawn is protected and White is able to build up the ideal pawn structure on the kingside with h3-g4-f4-e5. It is clear that in the long term White must try to win the game on the kingside, where he has his extra pawn. On the other hand, his pieces are not developed yet on the queenside, therefore Black can hope to create some quick counterplay with h5.

12...♚e8 13.f4 h5! Black immediately starts to seek counterplay.

14.♔f2 This is Caruana's novelty. White intends to protect the g4 pawn with Kg3 against the Rh4 attack. [He improved his own game against Kramnik from a few month ago, which continued with 14.f5 hxg4 15.hxg4 ♖h4 16.♔f2 ♖xg4 17.♖h1 ♘xf5 18.♖h8 ♚c5+ 19.♔f3 ♖g1 20.♖xe8+ ♔d7 21.♖xa8 ♘d4+ 22.♔e4 ♖xc1 With extreme complications, where despite the extra rook, White is not better. This game was analyzed by Arkadij in the CEWN.]

14...b6! A standard move in this line. Black intends to play Kb7 in order to activate the a8 rook. [Black could not win a pawn by 14...hxg4 15.hxg4 ♖h2+ 16.♔g3 ♖xc2? White

suddenly traps the f8 bishop by

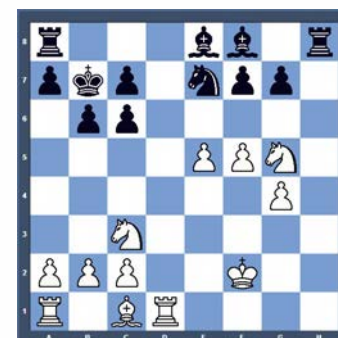


17.♘h7! ♘g6 18.f5+- Winning a piece.]

15.f5 White has achieved what he wanted and Black cannot win the g4 pawn as in the Caruana-Kramnik game. However Adams finds another way to gain counterplay...

15...♔b7 16.♘c3 It was time to develop the queenside pieces.

16...hxg4 17.hxg4 After some thinking, Adams came up with an excellent intuitive decision.



17...♖h2+! 18.♔g3 ♖xc2! Caruana has probably missed this in his preparation. It looks like White is simply winning a piece...

19.♘h7! Quite an unique way of winning a piece.

19...c5!! As easy as that. Black simple gives up his bishop, but he gets his other bishop to c6 and stays ready to give annoying checks on the 2nd rank. White has difficulties with escaping from f8 with the knight. Obviously Adams could not calculate all the following lines, but his feelings told him that he should get enough compensation after all.

20. ♖xf8 ♘c6



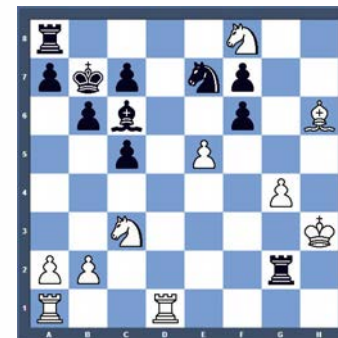
21.f6? This turns out to be the decisive mistake, but Black is fine in all the lines.. [

a) 21. ♘g5! was the critical move and it seems to lead to a draw by perpetual check: 21... ♖g2+ 22. ♔f4 (22. ♔h3 loses to 22... ♖xf5! (Not 22... ♖xf8 23. ♘xe7 ♖h8+ 24. ♘h4 saves White.) 23.gxf5 ♖xg5-- and Black wins. The knight is trapped as Rh8 is coming.) 22... ♖f2+ 23. ♔g3 (23. ♔e3 is too risky. 23... ♖f3+ 24. ♔e2 ♖xf5! 25.gxf5 ♖xf5 Black takes a piece back and he is going to have too many pawns for the remaining piece down. 26. ♖h7 (26. ♘e7? ♖xe5+) 26... ♖h8=+) 23... ♖g2+=;

b) On 21. ♖h7 ♖g2+ 22. ♔f4 ♖h8 23. ♖g5 ♖h4-- wins.;

c) 21. ♖d7 is met by 21... ♖g2+ 22. ♔f4 ♖h8 With the ideas of Rh4 or Rh3-f3. 23. ♖d2 White must try to kick out the g2 rook, but it leaves the d7 knight unprotected. (23. ♘e3 23... ♖h4--+) 23... ♖g1 24. ♖d1 ♖xd1 25. ♖xc5+ bxc5 26. ♖xd1 Black is better after 26... ♖d5+ 27. ♔g3 ♖h1=+ White's pieces are poorly placed.]

21... ♖g2+! 22. ♔f4 [22. ♔h3 is met by 22... gxf6 23. ♘h6 (23. exf6? ♖xf8 24. fxe7 ♖h8+--)]

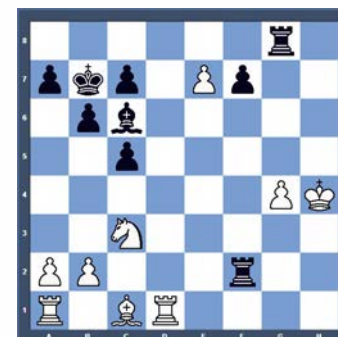


23...f5! Black seems to get a winning advantage. 24.g5 (24.gxf5 ♖xf5--+) 24...f4+ Nf5 is coming next, with the idea of taking on h6 and then on f8.(23. exf6? ♖xf8 24. fxe7 ♖h8+--+) White can hardly prevent it...]

22...gxf6! [Adams could have forced a perpetual by playing 22... ♖f2+ 23. ♔g3 ♖g2+ but he correctly judges his chances and continues playing on!]

23. exf6 [23. ♖h7 leads to nice mates after 23... ♖g6+! 24. ♔f5 (24. ♔e3 ♖h8 25. ♖xf6 ♖h3#) 24... ♖f2+--]

23... ♖f2+ 24. ♔e3 [a) White gets mated after 24. ♔g5 ♖xf8 25. fxe7 ♖g8+ 26. ♔h4



26... ♖g2! With the simple threat of taking on g4. 27. ♘g5

closes the king's route to g5 after (27.♙h6 ♖2xg4+ 28.♚h3 (28.♚h5 ♙f3--+) 28...♙g2+ 29.♚h2 ♙f3 30.♚h3 ♖h8--+ With mate to follow.) 27...♖h8+ 28.♙h6 ♖xh6+ 29.♚g5 ♖g6+--;

b) 24.♚e5? finishes the game quickly as after 24...♖e8! the mate is inevitable.;

c) 24.♚g3 loses to 24...♖xf6 25.♙g5 (25.♘h7 ♖f3+ 26.♚h2 ♖h8--+) 25...♖f3+ 26.♚h4 ♖xf8 27.♙xe7 ♖h8+ 28.♚g5 ♖g8+ 29.♚h4 f6 With the threat of Rh8 mate. White needs to give up his bishop for the f6 pawn, but then he is just lost with material down... 30.♖d8 ♖g7! 31.♙xf6 ♖xf6--+]

24...♖xf6 White's king is facing huge danger in the middle of the board and he should also try to save his knight, which is just too much for him...

25.♘h7 [On 25.♘d7 Black wins after 25...♖f3+ 26.♚e2 ♖e8--+]

25...♖f3+ 26.♚d2 [26.♚e2 Black has several wins here, the easiest is 26...♖h8 27.♘g5 ♖h2+ 28.♚e1

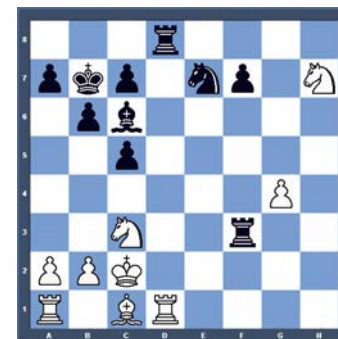


28...♖ff2! With the idea of Rfg2 followed by mate on the 1st rank. 29.♖d2 prevents it, but it drops the a1 rook... 29...♖xd2 30.♙xd2 ♖h1+ 31.♚f2 ♖xa1--+]

26...♖d8+! Adams continues to play with extreme precision! [The tempting 26...♖h8 would have allowed White chances

for survival 27.♖e1! A strong intermediate move, with the idea to play Ng5 next and to have Re2 against the checks...]

27.♚c2 [27.♚e2 transposes to 26.Ke2 27...♖h8--+]



27...♖xc3+! The final point! Black wins back the piece and he ends up with some extra pawns and better pieces.

28.bxc3 ♙a4+ 29.♚b2 ♖xd1--+ The game is over. The rest is only a matter of technique.

30.♙g5 ♘c6 31.♖xd1 [31.♘f6 ♘e5--+ Because of the mate threat with Nc4, White is forced to take on d1, but then he cannot protect the g4 pawn.]

31...♙xd1 32.♙f4 [32.♘f6 ♘e5--+]

32...♙xg4 33.♘f6 Ne8 is coming next. Caruana wins back a pawn with this nice motif, but there will still be too many pawns for Black...

33...♙f3 34.♘e8 ♘a5 35.♘xc7 ♙c6! The knight is trapped. White could have resigned here, but he prolonged it with some moves...

36.♚c2 ♚c8 37.♚d3 ♚d7 38.♚c2 ♘c4 Black wants to play Nd6 in order to trap the knight.

39.♘a6 ♙b7 40.♘b8+ ♚c8 The maneuver did not help and the knight remained trapped.

41. ♖d3 b5 White resigned in view of f6-Ne5. A great game by Adams! **0-1**

(3) Wang, Hao(2752)
- Caruana, Fabiano(2796) [A07]

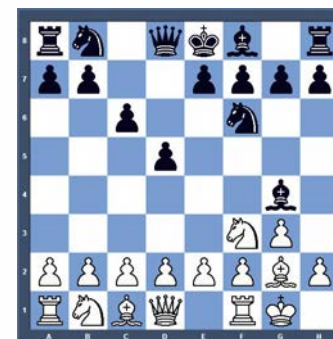
41st GM(4.3), 2013.07.29

[Balogh Csaba]

Wang Hao scored a very convincing win over Caruana. The game is full of nice ideas.

1. ♘f3 ♘f6 2. g3 d5 3. ♕g2 The Chinese grandmaster wanted to avoid the theoretical struggles and went for the Reti opening.

3...c6 4. O-O ♗g4



5. c4 This is the most ambitious handling of the variation. Another setup is d3, Nbd2 and e4.

5...e6 6. d3 [Earlier this year, Caruana defeated Carlsen with Black after 6. cxd5 ♗xf3 7. ♗xf3 cxd5 8. ♘c3 ♘c6 but this line is considered to be very safe for Black.]

6...dxc4 [6... ♘bd7 is the main move here.]

7. dxc4 ♘bd7 [7... ♔xd1 8. ♖xd1 ♘bd7 is more consequent after taking on c4, but Caruana preferred keeping the queens on the board.]

8. ♘c3 ♔c7 We will see that this move is going to have its drawbacks. [A normal development with 8... ♗e7 and 0-0 was

preferable. In case White plays Bf4, Black could simple react with Qb6 and Rfd8.]

9.h3 White starts to haunt the bishop.

9...♟h5 10.♞h4! A typical move to fight for the bishop pair in connection with g4.

10...♟e7



11.♟f4! A strong positional move, trying to provoke e5 and weaken the f5 square, which the h4 knight is immediately ready to occupy. [As long as Black has not castled kingside, White should better not hurry with 11.g4?! ♟g6 12.♞xg6 hxg6 since suddenly Black might change his mind and castle queenside with a potential kingside attack, thanks to the g4 weakening. There is already a direct threat with Nxg4.]

11...e5 [It would have been more clever to not weaken the f5 square, but it is psychologically difficult to admit the mistake of the Qc7 move... 11...♞b6]

12.♟g5 White threatens to play Nf5.

12...♟g6 Black was forced to give up the bishop without provoking the g4 weakening.

13.♞xg6 hxg6 14.♞c2 White got some edge from the opening, but of course Black's structure is very solid and it needs further achievements to break it.

14...♞c5 15.♞ad1 ♟e6



16.♟c1! It is better to hide the bishop for the future course of the game. Later on, how the game proceeds and the position opens a bit, it might be very useful. [On 16.♟e3 Black can play 16...♟c5! Without the two bishops, White has no advantage.]

16...♞d4 This knight is only temporarily disturbing, since White is going to kick it out by playing e3 soon.

17.♞a4 ♞d7 Caruana further tries to improve his knights and also threatens to harass the queen.



18.♞d2!! I like this kind of moves a lot! Short and strong! :) Wang Hao frees the d1 square for his queen. Later on the c1 bishop is developing to b2, so it is not a problem to close it...

18...♞c5 19.♞d1 a5! Black also plays principally, he works out the c5 outpost for his knight.

20.e3 ♖de6



21.♗d5!! A nice tactical shot! It only temporarily gives a piece, since White wins it back by playing d6, but the important thing is the position opens now and the bishops start to work. Especially the one on g2 becomes much stronger after the c6 pawn disappears from the board.

21...cxd5 22.cxd5 ♖g5 [22...e4 23.dxe6 f5 would have been principled to lock the g2 bishop, however White gets an advantage here as well: 24.b3 ♖xe6 25.♗b2+= Black cannot castle because of Rd7, while the g2 bishop has a strong potential to get improved by Bf1-c4 later on.; 22...♗f8 23.d6 ♗xd6 24.♖xd6+= is also better for White, b3 and Ba3 or Bb2 is coming.]

23.h4! Black cannot keep the piece.

23...♖d6 [23...♗h7 24.d6 ♗xd6 25.♖xd6 O-O 26.b3+= The bishops are going to dominate the knights...; 23...♗ge4 is met by 24.♗xe4 ♖xe4 25.♖a4+!± With an extra pawn after taking on e4.]

24.hxg5 ♗xg5 25.b3! Time to develop the c1 bishop and on a3 it is going to occupy an excellent place.

25...♗d7 Caruana makes a prophylactic move against Ba3. On b2 the bishop would be much less annoying.

26.a4! A great move in connection with the next move!

26...O-O



27.♖a2!! Just brilliant how Wang Hao uses this rook. Another subtle move after Rd2! The bishop is going to a3 now! Karpov was the expert of such moves!

27...♗c5 28.♗a3 ♗e7 [Caruana wanted to avoid playing this move. He wanted to use the b6 square with the queen for potential counterplay against the b3 pawn, but it was too optimistic. 28...b6 White is better anyway after 29.♖c2 followed by the same moves as in the game.]

29.♖c2 ♖ac8 30.♖e2! The queen is heading to b5!

30...♖b6 [30...b6 31.♖b5+= The position is getting more and more unpleasant for Black.]

31.♖fc1 ♗d6 White already has a big advantage, but Wang Hao finds another fantastic plan to convert it into a full point.



32. ♕g4! A multifunctional move! We will see its ideas soon.

32... ♖a7 Black is forced to retreat in order to strengthen the c5 knight by playing b6. [32... ♖c7 was definitely Black's intention before, to double the rooks and leave from c5 with the knight, but with his last move White has created a nice trap...



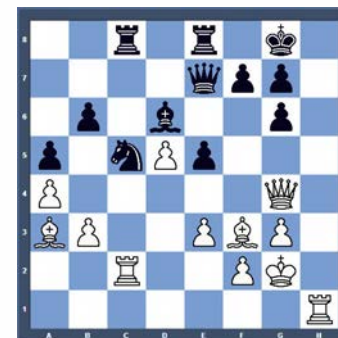
33. b4! axb4 34. ♕xb4 35. ♕xb4 b6 (35... ♖fc8 loses to 36. ♕a5! ♖e7 37. ♕b6+-) 36. a5+- wins.]

33. ♕f3!! Here comes the second idea behind Qg4! White suddenly has a mating attack after Kg2, Rh1 and Qh3! It seems to take a lot of time, but Black's pieces are pinned and he cannot properly defend against it.

33... b6 34. ♖g2! Everything goes like Wang Hao expected!

34... ♖fe8 Caruana finds no other way to defend than to free the route of the king to e7, but of course it cannot bring anything good for him. The main problem is that he can never play f5 and Kf7, because the g6 pawn is hanging.

35. ♖h1 ♕e7 [35... e4 does not change anything. 36. ♕e2+-]



36. e4! A cool preparation move before the final blow! [After the direct 36. ♕h3 Black could have played 36... f5 The g6 pawn is finally not hanging anymore. 37. ♕h7+ ♖f7 38. ♖h6 ♕f6 And Black can defend. However after e4, all these things are impossible for Black.]

36... ♗d7 A blunder, but it was over anyway. [For instance after 36... ♖c7 White wins after 37. ♕h3 f6 (37... f5 38. exf5+-) 38. ♕h7+ ♖f7



White has many winning moves, but the nicest one is definitely 39. ♕xg6+! ♖xg6 40. ♗h5+ ♔g5 (40... ♕h7 41. ♗f7#) 41. ♗c1# With a spectacular mate!]

37. ♖xc8 ♖xc8 38. ♗h3 f5 39. ♗xd6 [Black resigned in view of 39. ♗xd6 39... ♗xd6 40. ♗h8+ ♔f7 41. ♗xc8 A fantastic positional crush by the strongest Chinese player! We can see that it is possible to win great games even without going for the long theoretical main lines. It is more important to make strong moves in the middle game and endgame.] **1-0**

(4) Moiseenko, Alexander(2699) - Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime(2719) [D85]

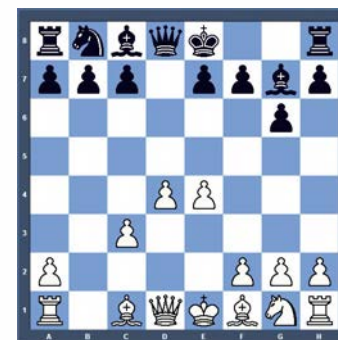
Breisacher Memorial(9.3), 2013.07.31

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

A nice "start-to-finish" win by Moiseenko in the Gruenfeld, where we can say that Vachier-Lagrave is one of the biggest experts in the world.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3. ♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 The very "main" line of the Gruenfeld.

5... ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♗g7



7. ♗a4+!? Moiseenko is trying a sideline. At first view, 7. ♗a4 just looks shocking. Can such a move really be good?! What I can say for sure is that this move is an interesting one. The main idea is to get the black knight to play Nd7, after which the global idea of Black in Gruenfeld, to play c5 followed by Nc6, is not possible anymore.

7... ♗d7 8. ♗b3 White is of course avoiding any endgames. To reach an endgame is the dream of any Gruenfeld player.

8...O-O 9. ♗e3 White is preparing against Black's c5 move.

9...b6 A very usual way of developping. [But maybe 9...c5 immediately would have been a better option.]

10. ♘f3 ♙b7 11. ♙d3 c5 12. O-O White managed to keep a solid center, which is already an achievement, but Black is well developed, so we can expect a complicated game.

12...cxd4 Also a very "typical" play by Black against the white center.

13.cxd4 ♘c6 The pawn on d4 is hanging.



14. ♙b5! A nice move by White. Could it be that Moiseenko has prepared everything until here?!

14...a6 White wanted to push d5.

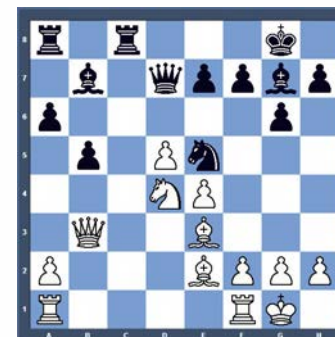
15. ♙e2 b5 If Black had a few more "free moves" like Rac8, Rfd8 and Na5-Nc4, his position would be perfectly fine. So White needs to act fast.

16.d5! It is hard to say whether White is better, but what is sure is that White is playing the right plan.

16...♘e5?! Giving White a very important tempo. [16...♘a5! had to be played. 17. ♙b4 ♘c4 And White might be better, but the game stays pretty unclear.]

17. ♘d4! A nice move. White is totally dominating the center.

17...♖fc8 Black tries to get the knight to c4.



18.a4! Another great move by White. It is important to get the c4 square under control.

18...♘c4 Black sacrifices a pawn in order to try and make a draw. [Of course after 18...bxa4 19. ♖xa4 White would totally dominate the game.]

19.axb5 The next moves are pretty forced.

19...axb5 20. ♖xa8 ♖xa8 21. ♙xc4 bxc4 22. ♙xc4 So White is a pawn up, but Black's chances to make a draw are not that bad. The bishop pair plus a limited number of pawns are keeping Black's hopes up. The big danger is the horrible bishop on b7. If Black manages to solve this problem, the position should be close to equal.

22...♖c8? This is a serious mistake. [The best way to fight for a draw was to play 22...♖a4 23. ♙c5 e6! Activating the bishop from b7. 24.d6 e5 And of course White is better, but maybe Black has some chances to escape.]

23. ♙a2 [Maybe even safer was 23. ♙b3]

23...♙xd4 24. ♙xd4 e6 Black is winning a pawn but the dark squares are very weak.



25.♘a1! A strong move by White, who is building a "battery" on the dark squares.

25...exd5 26.♙b2 With a little mating threat.

26...d4 27.f3! This is exactly the way how to play such positions. Now in case White will managed to somehow get the d4 pawn without exchanging the queens, it would mean "game over".

27...♖d8 28.♙b6 Another good move by White. All black pieces are somehow pinned and White wants to play Rd1 next.

28...♙e7 29.♖d1 There is no hurry with the pawn on d4 anymore.

29...f5 Black tries to "break free", which is maybe the best practical chance, but of course the position of the black king is now also getting very weak. [Black can never run away with 29...d3 because of the deadly 30.♙b2]

30.exf5 ♖d6 Getting rid of the nasty queen on b6.

31.♙b3+ ♘d5 32.♙b8+ [32.♙b4 was also strong.]

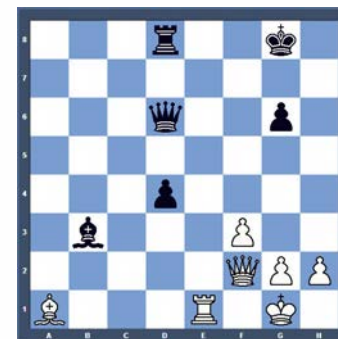
32...♖d8 33.♙g3 ♘f7 34.♙f2 There is no way for Black to save the d4 pawn.

34...♘b3 This move is losing more quickly. [34...gxf5 35.♘xd4 would probably lead to a winning position for White, although

Black would keep some theoretical chances for a draw because of the opposite colored bishops.]

35.♖e1 With tempo.

35...♙d6 36.fxg6 hxg6



37.h3 A good and safe move by White. As we know, Black can never play d3 because of Qb2, so White has enough time to play a few "comfortable" moves before going into the final action.

37...♙f4 38.♖e4 ♙c1+ 39.♖e1 ♙f4 White repeats the moves because of small time trouble.

40.♘b2 And play his 40th move...

40...d3? Black blunders in a lost position.

41.♙b6 White a nice finish of a great positional game by Moiseenko! **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Kramnik, V(2784)-Wang Hao(2752)

Dortmund, 2013.07.26

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Meier, G(2610)-Kramnik, V(2784)

Dortmund, 2013.07.29

[CEWN]

1... -+



(7) Medina, W(2286)-Kurnosov, I(2657)

Biel Open, 2013.07.22

[CEWN]

1... ♠



(8) Solak, D(2598)-Ludwig, P(2265)

Biel Open, 2013.07.22

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Saric, I(2639)-Rasch, H(2220)

Biel Open, 2013.07.27

[CEWN]

1. +-



(10) Stefanova, A(2497)-Melia, S(2428)

European Woman Championship, 2013.07.28

[CEWN]

1... --

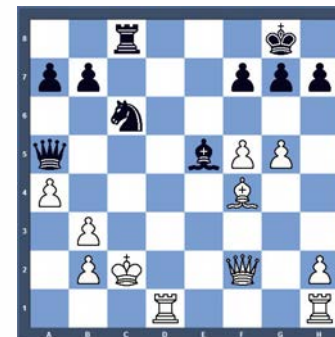


(11) Lu Shangle(2536)-Robson, R(2628)

Yinzhou Cup, 2013.07.23

[CEWN]

1... --

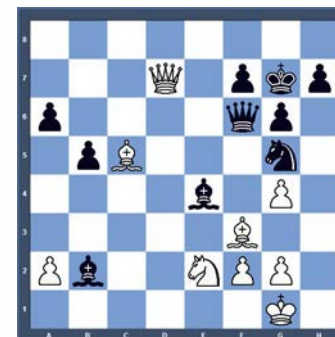


(12) Kharitonov, A(2538)-Kapnisis, S(2449)

Paleochora Open, 2013.07.22

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Georgiadis, I(2449)-Tukhaev, A(2520)

Paleochora Open, 2013.07.22

[CEWN]

1. +-



(14) Zhigalko, A(2604)-Smirnov, V(2332)

Minsk Open, 2013.07.18

[CEWN]

1. +-

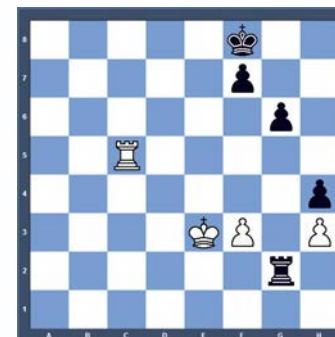


Endgame section

(15) Fridman, D.(2629)-Adams, M.(2740)

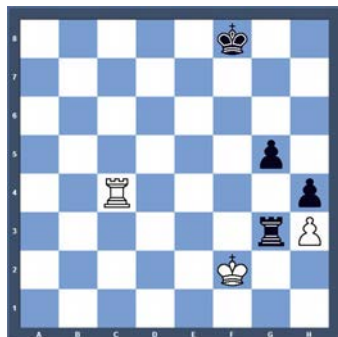
Dortmund, 2013.07.26

[CE Team]



The following game shows us some important theoretical endgame positions... Black has an extra pawn and threatens to collect the h3 pawn with Rg3. White has to take direct measures.

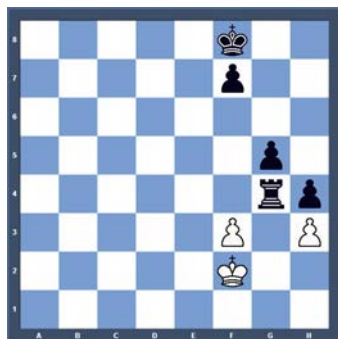
40. ♖c4! g5 41. ♖g4 Fridman was familiar with the arising theoretical pawn endgame, so he forces the trade of the rooks. [41.f4!? was another option to force a draw. 41... ♖g3+ 42. ♕f2 f6 (42... gxf4 43. ♖xf4 ♖xh3 44. ♕g2 White wins the h4 pawn and achieves a draw. Even without winning it, the f- and h-pawn is theoretically drawn in rook endgames. We have already examined in the previous issues how the defensive side needs to hold it.) 43.fxg5 fxg5



The following defensive idea is important. Black wants to protect the g5 pawn with the king and then the h3 falls, but White plays 44.Rc5 Kf7 45.Rf5! Kg6 46.Rf3= Getting the same pawn endgame that we will discuss in the game.]

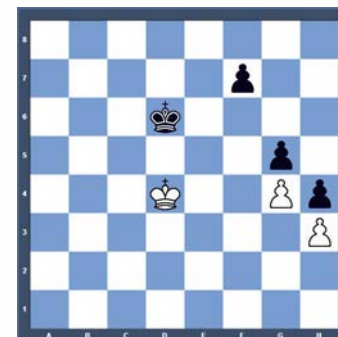
41...Rg3!? 42.Kf2! The only move! Otherwise Black would have played f5 and the h3 pawn would have fallen. White could also not take on g3, since Black would have been in time to protect the passed pawn by playing f5-f4. [42.Kf4? f6 is also over, as the h3 pawn is falling next.]

42...Rxf4 [42...Rxf3 43.Rxf5 White holds the draw without difficulties.]

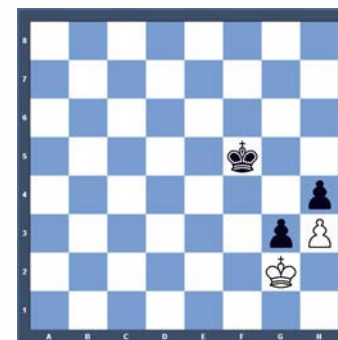


43.fxf4 This is the important position and the reason we are analysing this game. It is very useful to remember! White holds the draw here without any serious efforts.

43...Ke7 44.Kf3 Kd6 45.Kf4 Keeping the opposition does not matter here. This is even a more precise option, depriving Black from his extra possibility... [On 45.Kd4 Black could try the breakthrough with



45...f5!? 46.gxf5 g4! White is forced to catch the h-pawn, but it allows Black to create a protected passed pawn on g3. 47.Kf3 g3 48.Kf3 Ke5 49.Kg2 Kxf5

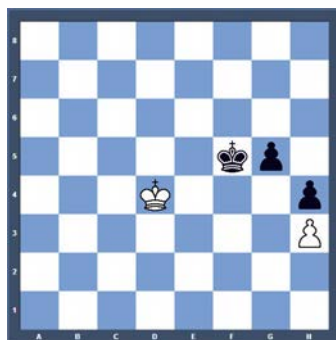


This is another very important theoretical position we can meet in many games... 50.Kf3 Ke5 51.Kg2 Ke4 52.Kg1 Ke3 (52...Kf3 53.Kf1 (53.Kh1 is also good, because Kf2 is a stalemate.) 53...g2+ 54.Kg1 Kg3 Stalemate.) 53.Kf1 Kf3 54.Kg1 And now after 54...g2 55.Kh2 Kf2 we again have a stalemate. It is important that this idea only works if we have h- vs h- and g-pawns on the board.]

45...f6 [45...♔e6 Fridman's point of not taking the opposition in the previous move was that after 46.♔d4 Black does not have the breakthrough with f5-g4, because White takes with check.]

46.♔f5 ♔e7 47.♔e4 ♔e6 48.♔d4 f5 There was no other way to proceed.

49.gxf5+ ♔xf5



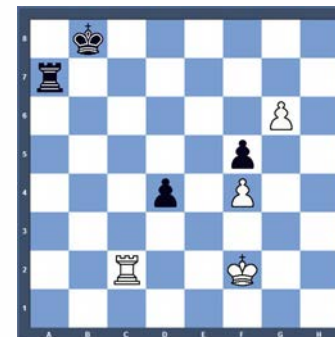
50.♔e3 g4 [Taking the opposition does not bring anything... 50...♔e5 51.♔f3 ♔f5 52.♔e3=]

51.hxg4+ ♔xg4 52.♔f2 And the draw is inevitable. Adams decided to finish the game in style with a stalemate.

52...h3 53.♔g1 ♔g3 54.♔h1 h2 1/2-1/2

(16) Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime(2719)- Nepomniachtchi, Ian(2717)

Breisacher Memorial(7.3), 2013.07.29
[CE Team]



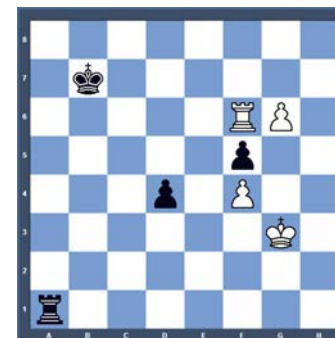
Is this a winning or a drawn position? Maxime will give us the answer...

54.♖c6! The most easy winning line. White is going for the f5 pawn.

54...♔b7 Black doesn't have too many ideas... To get the king out from the 8th rank is in any case a good idea.

55.♖f6 ♖a2+ Black is trying to get the rook to attack from behind.

56.♔g3 ♖a1



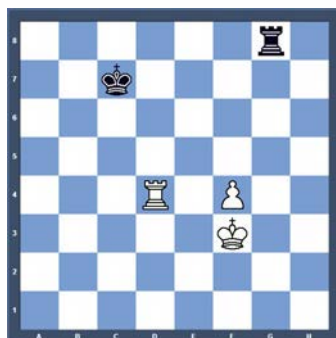
57.♖xf5! A good calculation by White. We are entering a well

known winning endgame.

57...♖g1+ 58.♔f3 ♜xg6 To collect the d4 pawn is not a bad idea either. Black now has 2 choices:

59.♜d5 ♔c7 [After 59...♔c6 60.♜xd4 ♜g8 White is winning with 61.f5! and Black has no saving idea with Rd8!]

60.♜xd4 ♜g8 Rg8 is always an important move to give front checks and to have the Rd8 move.



61.♔e4! [It would be a terrible mistake to play 61.f5?? as 61...♜d8! followed by Kd7, Re8 and Ke7 is a draw.]

61...♔c6 If Black could go to c5 with his king the position would be a draw, but this is impossible.

62.♔e5! The most simple.

62...♜e8+ 63.♔f6 ♔c5 [63...♜f8+ 64.♔g7 ♜f5 65.♔g6 ♜f8 66.f5 White is winning.]

64.♜d7! Black cannot stop the white f-pawn from promoting.

64...♔c6 65.♜e7 ♜f8+ 66.♔e5 Followed by f5-f6-f7. A very nice technical play by the Super GM from France. **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Gunsberg, Isidor-Steinitz, William[D05]

World Championship 03rd(6), 1890.12.20

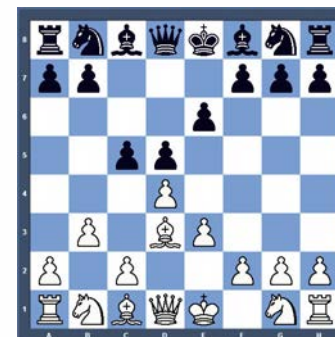
[Kamil Miton]

For this issue I decided to comment a game of Steinitz, who was the first official World Champion. We should note that he was a very creative player and used great strategical ideas. This was very important for the development of chess.

1.d4 d5 2.e3 e6 At this time, the opening was not the most important part of the game.

3.♘d3 c5 Steinitz tries to fight for the center first.

4.b3



4...♘c6 5.♘f3 ♘f6 6.O-O ♘d7 It looks bit artificial but I suppose that Steinitz is waiting for White to take on c5 to not lose a tempo. More natural is [6...♘d6 7.♘b2 O-O 8.♘bd2 (8.♘e5 With the thematic plan Nd2-f4-Rf3-Rh3. 8...♘e7!? An interesting answer. Now Black's idea is to play b6-Bb7 and when White will push f4 then he will jump with to e4 with the knight.) 8...♜e7 With the idea e5. 9.c4 (9.dxc5!? ♘xc5 10.e4+=)]

7. ♖b2 ♜c8

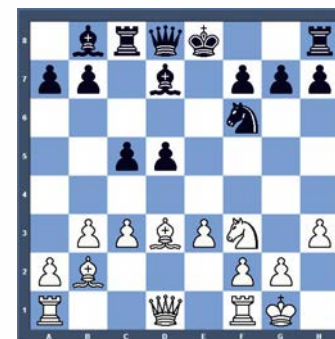


Black's idea is to play cxd4 and after exd4 play Nb4 to exchange this important bishop.

8.c3?! Too passive. White shows that he is not going to fight for the center. The correct move was [8.a3 Followed by Nbd2-Qe2-dxc5-c4-b4 and White has good chances to get a better position.]

8...♗d6 9.♘bd2 e5 10.dxe5 White had the following alternative: [10.dxc5 ♗xc5 11.b4 With the idea to come to Slav structures with different colors. 11...♗d6 (11...e4 12.bxc5 exd3) 12.e4]]

10...♗xe5 11.♘xe5 ♗xe5 12.♘f3 ♗b8 13.h3 White is afraid of the Bg4-Qd6 plan, but it was better to play [13.c4 dxc4 (13...♗g4 14.h3 dxc4 (14...♗h5 15.♗f5±) 15.♗xc4 ♖xd1 16.♖fxd1 ♗xf3 17.gxf3 ♖e7 18.f4± This endgame is very pleasant for White thanks to the bishop pair.) 14.♗xc4 ♗c6 (14...b5 seems logical in order to chase the bishop from the active diagonal. 15.♗e2 ♖e7 (15...O-O 16.♗xf6 gxf6 17.♖c2+= With the idea Nh4-g3.) 16.♖c1 It is not easy for Black to finish his development. White keeps the initiative. 16...♖d8 17.♖c2 ♗d6 18.♖fd1) 15.♗e5 ♗xe5 16.♗xe5 O-O]



13...c4! A nice idea, which is now of course very well-known. Black doesn't care about the d4 square because the limited bishop on b2 is more important.

14.♗c2 O-O 15.♖d4 It was safer to put the queen on e2. White also had the idea to get rid of the weak bishop after [15.bxc4 15...dxc4 (15...♖xc4∞) 16.♗a3! ♖e8 17.♗d6 ♗xd6 18.♖xd6 ♖a5 19.♖fc1∞]

15...♖e8 16.♖ad1 b5 17.b4?! White had not reasons to deprive himself from potential possibilities of activating the bishop over the a3 square.

17...♖c7 18.♖fe1 ♖e7 Black's position is better because White has less space, a limited bishop on b2 and no plan. [18...♖e4!?

19.♖f1 The white king escapes from threats the h2 square, but White's position is very unpleasant.

19...♖ce8



20.♖h4 We see that White is trying to do something, but

the queen on is placed very riskily on h4. Objectively Black is better but the position in the center is closed and Black needs to improve the position on the kingside or just change the structure somehow.

20...♔d6!? The idea of this move is to provoke White to push e4 and open the position a little bit more.

21.♖d4 [21.e4 ♔a6! (21...♗xe4 22.♕xe4 ♖xe4 23.♖xe4 ♖xe4 24.♔h5 Ng5 is now a threat and the pawn on d5 is hanging. 24...♖e7 25.♔xd5 ♔xd5 26.♖xd5 f6 (26...♕f4 Preventing Bc1.) 27.♗d4 a6 28.a4↗) 22.e5 ♕xe5 23.♗xe5 ♖xe5 White gives a pawn with the idea of looking for counterplay over the dark squares. 24.♖xe5 ♖xe5 25.♕b1 With the idea Bc1-Be3. 25...♕f5 26.f4 ♖e4 27.♕xe4 ♕xe4 Black has good compensation.]

21...♔c6 22.♖ed1



22...♕e5!? I don't think that this was a blunder! I suppose Steinitz sacrificed the central pawn to open the h1-a8 diagonal for his pieces. [22...h6=+]

23.♖xd5 [23.♗xe5!? ♖xe5 24.♕c1 Followed by f3. 24...♕f5 25.♕xf5 ♖xf5 26.f3 And White looks not bad compared to the position he had a few moves earlier.]

23...♕b8 24.a4 [24.♖c5 ♔b7 (24...♔b6) 25.♕xh7+

interesting trick. 25...♗xh7 26.♖h5 ♖e4 (26...♔e4 27.♔xe4 ♖xe4 28.♖xh7! ♔xh7 29.♗g5+ ♔g6 30.♗xe4 ♕xh3 31.gxh3 ♖xe4 32.♖d7+=) 27.g4 And now comes an inhuman drawish line: 27...g5



28.♗xg5 ♖xe3 29.fxg3 ♔h1+ 30.♔e2 ♖xe3+ 31.♔xe3 ♔xd1 White is probably not able to avoid perpetual check with Qd3-Qc2.]

24...a6 25.a5? A big mistake. White missed a good chance: [25.♖g5! Black will have problems to get rid of the active rook from g5 because h6 and Kh8 doesn't work and after 25...♗e4 White has (25...♔h8 26.♕xh7) 26.axb5 axb5 27.♗e5! A nice trick. 27...♖xe5 28.♖xe5 ♗g3+ 29.fxg3 ♕xe5 30.♔xh7+ ♔f8∞]



25...h6! Easy but strong. The white rook doesn't have enough

space on the 5th rank now.

26.♖5d4 [26.♖c5 ♜b7 Followed by Ba7.]

26...♜b7 27.♘e1?! Very passive. White should look for chances after a more practical move like [27.e4 White's idea is to improve the bishop after Bc1 or to exchange some pieces after possibly losing the e4 pawn. 27...♙c6 28.♙c1 ♙xe4 (28...♘xe4 29.♖d8 ♘xc3 (29...♙c7 30.♜xe7 ♙xd8 31.♜xd8! ♖xd8 32.♖xd8+ ♙h7 33.♘e5⇒) 30.♙xh6! ♙xf3 31.♙h7+ ♙xh7 32.♙xg7+ ♙xg7 33.♜g5+ With a draw.) 29.♙xe4 ♘xe4 30.♜g4 (30.♙xh6 gxf6 31.♜xh6 ♖e6—+) 30...♜c6 31.♖d8 White is worse but at least he has some play.]

27...♙e5 28.♖4d2 ♙c7 To now allow Rd8 after Bc6.

29.♖e2



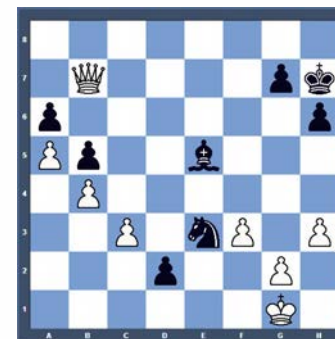
29...♖e5! White now has to solve problems with the queen. Rh5 is the threat.

30.f3 White has to give the pawn to escape with the queen.

30...♖xe3 31.♖xe3 ♖xe3 32.♙c1 ♖e5 [32...♖xc3 33.♙xh6⇒; 32...♖e6=+]]

33.♜f2?! It was more logical to play [33.♙f4 exchanging the dark squared bishops should be good for White. 33...♖e6 34.♙f5!? (34.♙xc7 ♜xc7=+ XKf1 XNe1) 34...♖xe1+ 35.♜xe1 ♙xf5 (35...♙xf4 36.♜e7+—) 36.♜e7 ♙d3+ (36...♘d5 37.♜e8+

(37.♖xd5 ♜xd5 38.♙xc7 ♜d3+ 39.♙g1 ♜xc3 Black is a pawn up but because of the opposite colored bishops White has drawing chances.) 37...♙h7 38.♜xf7 And now comes a nice and long forced variation: 38...♙d3+ 39.♖xd3 cxd3 40.♙e5 ♘e3+ 41.♙g1 ♙xe5 42.♜xb7 d2



43.♜e4+ g6 Otherwise White has perpetual check. (43...♙g8 44.♜a8+ ♙f7 45.♜b7+ ♙f6 46.♜c6+ but not 46...♙g5?? 47.h4+ ♙h5 48.♜e8+ ♙xh4 49.♜d8+—) 44.♜xe5 d1=♜+ 45.♙h2 ♘f5 46.♜c7+ ♘g7 47.♜b6 And Black will have to give perpetual check because of the strong passed a-pawn.) 37.♖xd3 cxd3 38.♜xc7 ♜xc7 39.♙xc7 ♘d5 40.♙b6 (40.♙d6 d2 41.♙e2 ♘e3! Black is winning. 42.♙xd2 ♘c4+ 43.♙d3 ♘xd6 44.♙d4 ♙f8 45.♙c5 ♙e7 46.♙b6 ♙d7 47.♙xa6 ♙c7—+) 40...♘xc3 41.♙e1 ♘d5 42.♙c5 ♘f4 43.♙d2 With hope to get counterplay against the a6 pawn.]

33...♜c6 34.♙e3 ♖e8 35.♜d2 [35.♙b1 With the idea Nc2-Nd4. 35...♘h5 36.♘c2 ♘g3+ 37.♙g1 ♙f5 38.♘d4 ♜d6! 39.f4 ♙xb1 40.♜xg3 ♙d3+]]

35...♜e6 The black queen comes closer to the white king. All black pieces are ready to crush the weak white king and the game will end very quickly.

36. ♖d4 ♜h5 37. ♙f2 ♙c6 38. ♙b1 ♚e5 39. ♞c2



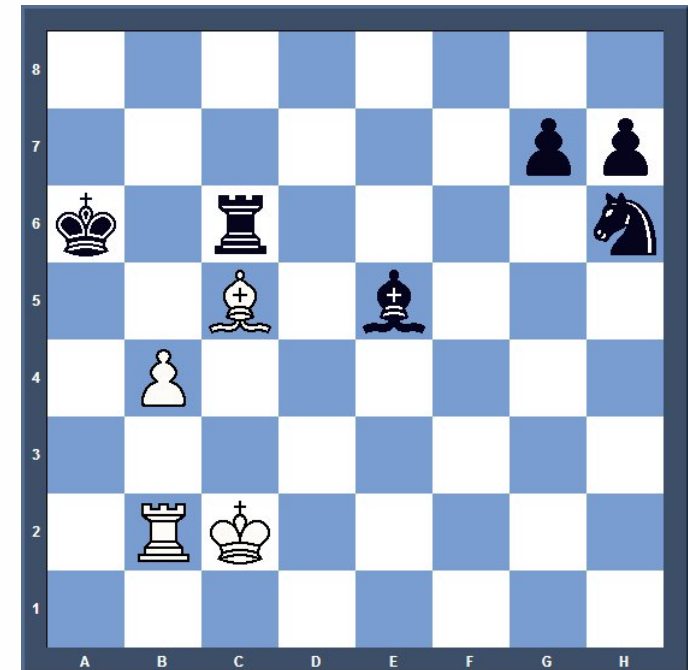
39... ♙xf3! 40. gxf3 ♚h2 41. ♚d7 ♚h1+ 42. ♙g1 ♚xf3+
43. ♙f2 ♞g3+ 0-1

Surprise section / study

(18) Buchmann

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(19) Wang Hao(2752)-Kamsky, G(2763)

Grand Prix, Beijing, 2013.07.16

[Solutions]



36. ♖xg7+! [36. ♖xg2? ♔f1+ 37. ♖g1 ♔f3+=]

36... ♖xg7 [36... ♔g8 37. ♖f6+ ♔f7 38. ♔g7+--]

37. ♔d8+ ♖g8 38. ♔f6+ ♖g7 39. ♖xg2 ♔xe3 40. ♖c2+-

(20) Shulman, Y(2542)-Wen Yang(2593)

Yinzhou Cup, 2013.07.19

[Solutions]



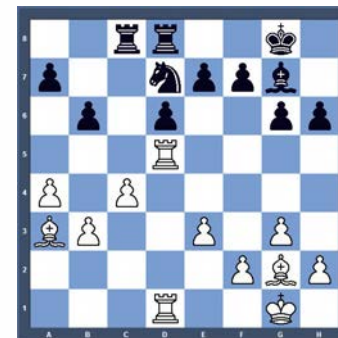
25... ♖c4! 26. ♖3d2 [26. g3 ♔g5 27. f4 ♔c5+-]

26... ♖b3!-+

(21) Xiu Deshun(2556)-Shulman, Y(2542)

Yinzhou Cup, 2013.07.21

[Solutions]



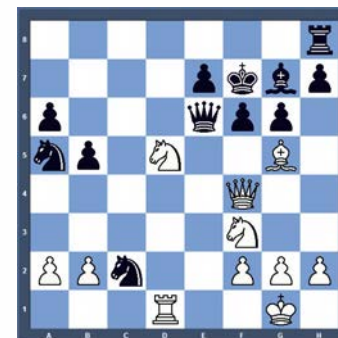
27. ♖xd6! e6 [27... exd6 28. ♖xd6 ♖c7 29. ♖c6+-]

28. ♖5d3 ♖c5 29. ♖xc5 ♖xd3 30. ♖xd3 bxc5 31. a5+-

(22) Bauer, C(2619)-Cebalo, M(2438)

Suisse Championship, 2013.07.17

[Solutions]



25. ♖xf6! h6 [25... exf6 26. ♖g5+-; 25... ♖xf6 26. ♖g5+-]

26. ♖e5+-

(23) Sokolov, A(2558)-Loetscher, R(2408)

Suisse Championship, 2013.07.17

[Solutions]



33.♖xf6! gxf6 34.♖xf6 1-0 [34.♖xf6 ♘g8 35.♖f7+-]

(24) Nisipeanu, D(2670)-Kreising, D(2325)

Pardubice Open, 2013.07.21

[Solutions]

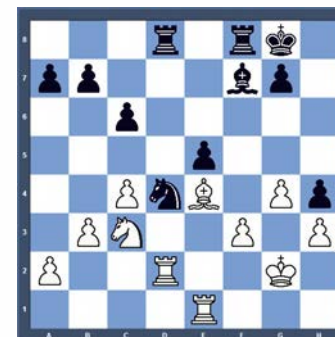


32.♖e1! 1-0 [32.♖d5!+-]

(25) Sundararajan, K(2435)-Nisipeanu, D(2670)

Pardubice rapid, 2013.07.17

[Solutions]

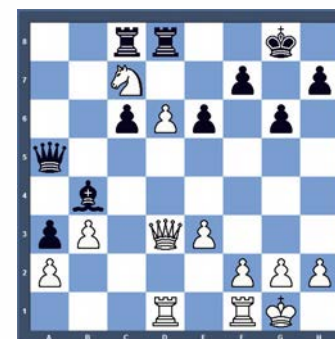


23...♘xf3! 0-1 [23...♘xf3 24.♖xd8 ♘xe1+ 25.♔f2 ♖xd8+-]

(26) Sethurman, S(2562)-Howell, D(2639)

LCT Open, 2013.07.21

[Solutions]



25.♘e8!! ♖e5 [25...♖xe8 26.d7+-]

26.d7 ♖b8 27.♖c4+- c5 28.♖h4 ♘c3 29.♖e7+-

(27) Anguera Maestro, J(2180)-Agdestein, S(2567)

Sant Marti Open, 2013.07.13

[Solutions]



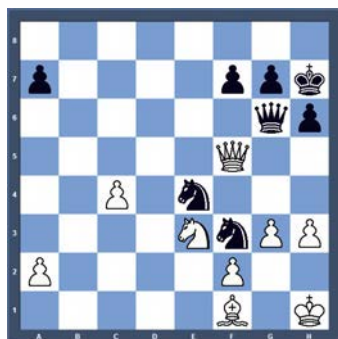
17...♖xd5! 18.♖xd5 ♘xf3! 19.♖xe5 [19.gxf3 ♘xf3+ 20.♔g2 ♘h4+ 21.♔f1 ♖xd5--]

19...♘xe2 20.♖xh5 gxh5 0-1

(28) Demidov, M(2465)-Kovalenko, I(2621)

Corporation Cup, 2013.07.17

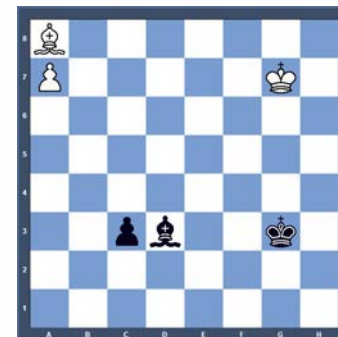
[Solutions]



37...♘xf2+! 38.♔g2 ♘h4+! 0-1

(29) Zachodiakin

[Solutions]



1.♘g2!! [1.♘h1 c2 2.a8=♖ c1=♖ 3.♖g2+ ♔h4! 4.♖f2+ ♔g4! 5.♘f3+ ♔f5!=]

1...c2 [1...♔xg2 2.a8=♖++-]

2.a8=♖ c1=♖ 3.♖f3+ ♔h4 [3...♔h2 4.♖h3+ ♔g1 5.♖h1+ ♔f2 6.♖xc1+-]

4.♖h3+ ♔g5 5.♖h6+ ♔g4 6.♖xc1+-



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 76

9th of August 2013

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Editorial Preface

A lot of events came to an end during the past week.

The Dortmund Supertournament was won by Michael Adams with an amazing result of 7/9 points. Second place went to Kramnik with another great score of 6.5/9 and the 3rd place went to your commentator Arkadij Naiditsch with 4.5 points.

The Biel Festival had 4 winners, Bacrot, Moiseenko, Vachier Lagrave and Ding, so they had to play an additional tiebreak. The young Frenchman Vachier Lagrave became the deserved winner, 2nd place went to Moiseenko and 3rd to Bacrot.

Hoang Thanh Tran from Hungary is the new Women's European Champion, with the amazing score of 9/11 and a full point ahead of Melia Salome and Lilit Mkrtchian, who completed the podium, both with 8/11. Already this Sunday the World Cup is starting in Tromso, with almost all top players participating in it. It is going to be a very exciting K.O event!

As usual, we are commenting the top games from the past week. Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Naiditsch, Arkadij(2710)
- **Khenkin, Igor(2605) [B12]**

41st GM(9.2), 2013.08.04

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the last round of the "Dortmunder Schachtage" and it has been a tournament with a lot of ups and downs for me, so I of course wanted to finish with a win, especially against the lowest rated player in the tournament, Igor Khenkin. A game against Khenkin is never an easy one and this is not because of his chess, but the reason is his behavior during the game, which is quite "critical" and usually very unpleasant.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 Khenkin always plays the Caro-Kann and usually only the line with 3...c5, so I had enough time to be well prepared for the game.

4.♘f3 cxd4 [In a lot of his previous games Khenkin tried 4...♙g4 5.dxc5 ♘c6 6.c3! and if we follow the game Almasi-Khenkin, White just seems to be better.]

5.♙xd4 ♘c6

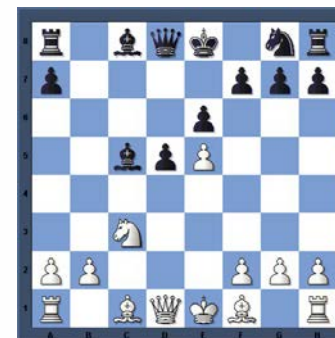


6.c4!? A nice and dynamic try to immediately put Black under pressure.

6...e6 The main move. [6...♘xe5 7.cxd5 leads to a clearly better position for White.]

7.♘c3 ♙c5 [After 7...♙b4 8.♘xc6 bxc6 9.♙a4 White has a slightly more pleasant position.]

8.♘xc6 bxc6 9.cxd5 cxd5 [Of course not 9...exd5?! 10.♙d3 With the main idea of playing Qc2-Na4 and creating pressure against the c6 pawn.]



10.b4! N A great novelty found by my second Csaba Balogh, who you of course know very well as your CEWN writer. It is always good to have somebody who helps you during the tournament who you can completely trust and Csaba is a great player as well, with a lot of different opening ideas and deep understanding of chess.

10...♙b6 The most critical answer. [10...♙e7 is of course a possible reply, but this can't be Black's idea. Now the knight on g8 is blocked and White has more space.]

11.♘b5 ♙c7? What a big positional mistake and Khenkin played this move quite quickly and confidently, which surprised me a lot. Now it is clear that White is going to have a much better position. [The only option was to play 11...♙h4 12.♘d6+ ♙e7 13.♙d2 With a very complex position.]

12.♙b2 I was of course tempted to immediately play 12.Nxc7

but then I thought that this option will probably not run away. The only available square for the black bishop is on b8, which doesn't look great, so maybe I can even get more than just a solid plus, as it is the case after 12.Nxc7.

12...♞e7 13.♙d3 Not allowing Black to castle because of Qc2, with a double attack on c7 and on h7.

13...a6?! After this move my position is just perfect. [13...♙b8 would have been a better try to at least keep theoretical chances to come back into the game. 14.O-O White's position is of course much better and a plan like f4-Nd4 would be an easy way to go on, but Black is still fighting here.]

14.♞xc7+ ♚xc7



15.O-O ♙d7 Before playing 16.Qg4 I had a long thought. I had to make my "winning" plan and I really had a lot of tempting options here. It is clear that Black's only chance for escape is to play Bb5 somewhere. White's idea is simple: put something on d4 and go on by playing a4-b5 in order to create a free pawn.

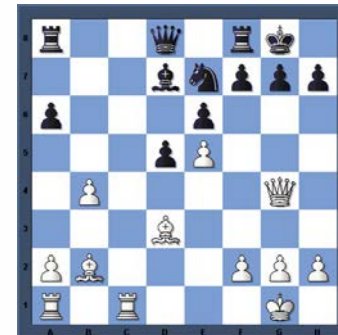
16.♚g4! A precise move, not giving Black any hopes.

16...O-O Nothing else to do.

17.♞fc1 It is very useful for White to keep the rook on a1 in order to be able to play a4 in the future. [I should of course

not get greedy: 17.♙xh7+?! 17...♚xh7 18.♚h4+ ♚g8 19.♚xe7 ♚c2 And Black would have good chances to escape because of the active queen.]

17...♚d8 [After 17...♚b7 18.♙xh7+ is already a much better version for White. 18...♚xh7 19.♚h4+ ♚g8 20.♚xe7 And White is a full pawn up.]



18.a4 I made my dreams come true. Black was not in time for Bb5 and all my pieces are very well placed.

18...♞g6 It is not an easy task to find a move for Black and the knight on g6 is completely out of the game. He should be standing on c6.

19.♞c5 The white rook is going to a very sweet place on a5.

19...♚b8 20.♚d4 ♞c8 In this position, I played almost without thinking

21.♞a5? Very logical and the most simple, but I missed a win in one move! [21.♞xd5! would have ended my suffering of sitting in front of Khenkin on the spot! 21...exd5 22.e6 ♞e5 23.exd7! And the game would be over.]

21...♚b7 22.g3 I could of course have played b5 immediately, but there was no reason to hurry and a safety hole is never wrong, as well as cutting all possible movements of the black knight.

22...h6 23.b5 finally

23...axb5 24.axb5 ♖xa5 25.♖xa5



25...♖a8 It seems like White's position is totally winning, but some precise moves are still needed.

26.♖a6?! Not the best move. [The simple 26.♖xa8+ 26...♔xa8 27.♔b4 would have ended the game very soon. White's next move is Qd6 or b6 or even Ba3. Black is totally paralyzed.]

26...♔c8 27.h4 I still had the chance to play Rxa8 but somehow a move like 27.h4 looked very "pretty" to me.

27...♖b8 28.b6 It looks like my next move Ra7 should simply be killing.

28...♔c6?! [28...♔d8! was the right move to play and funnily enough, Black is getting some chances for escape! 29.h5 ♖e7 The knight is now getting the c6 square. 30.♔c5 ♖c6 31.♔d6 And White is of course still much better, but Black's position is not lost.]

29.♖a7 ♕e8 30.♖a6 I decided to go back as I saw the line below. [30.♕a3 ♖xb6 Black doesn't have anything better. 31.♕xg6 fxg6 32.♔f4 ♖b7 33.♖xb7 ♔xb7 34.♔f8+ ♔h7 35.♔xe8 ♔b1+ 36.♔h2 ♔e1 37.♕c5 ♔xe5 And White is of course winning here, but I thought that maybe the win would

still require some minimal technique here. I wanted to finish my game in a more dynamic way.]

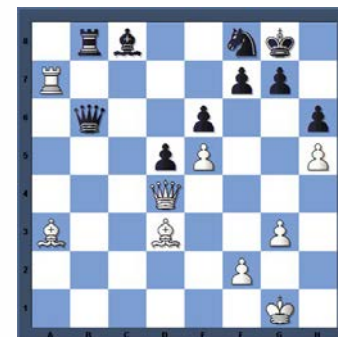
30...♕d7 Black has nothing better than to repeat the moves.

31.h5 So this is the other way.

31...♖f8 32.♕a3 By now, I had of course seen the little trick that we will see in just a couple of moves.

32...♕c8 Black needs to go for the b6 pawn.

33.♖a7 ♔xb6 [After 33...♖xb6 34.♖xf7! would end the game in a similar way.]



34.♖xf7! A pretty move, but not the only one. [34.♔xb6 ♖xb6 35.♖a8 ♖c6 36.♕b5 ♖c3 37.♕xf8 ♔xf8 38.♕a6 would lead to a position where White is a piece up.]

34...♔xf7 [34...♔xd4 35.♖xf8# What a nice mate! :)]

35.♔f4+ ♔e8 36.♔xf8+ ♔d7 37.♕b5+ This was a nice finish of a very fighting tournament for me! **1-0**

(2) Andreikin, Dmitry(2727) - Kramnik, Vladimir(2784) [D30]

41st GM(7.5), 2013.08.02

[Balogh Csaba]

Adams and Kramnik were marching head to head in Dortmund. They both scored 5 points from the first 6 rounds, when surprisingly Dmitry Andreikin, who had a terrible start at the tournament, scored a really nice and convincing victory!

1.d4 ♟f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♘f3** d5

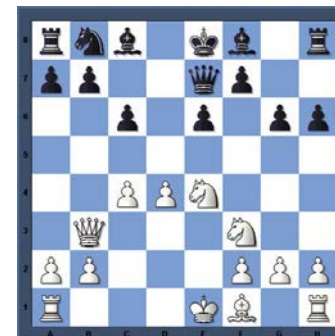


4.♙g5 A relatively rare move, compared to the main 4.Nc3 or 4.g3 transposing to the Catalan opening.

4...h6 **5.♙xf6** ♚xf6 **6.♘bd2** Here again 6.Nc3 is the main move. Somehow Kramnik mixed up some lines and reacted very badly...

6...g6? This is a common move in different kind of e3 systems, but here White can make use of the spared tempo and he can play e2-e4 in one move later on. [6...♘d7 or; 6...♙e7 are the moves, which are considered to be completely playable for Black.]

7.♚b3! **dxc4** [7...c6 is also met by 8.e4! dxe4 9.♘xe4 ♚e7

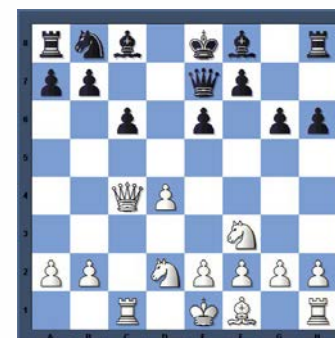


10.c5! And Black has problems with the d6 square, he is not in time to finish the development with Bg7 and 0-0.]

8.♚xc4! This is even stronger than to take back with the knight. White provokes a huge weakening by attacking the c7 pawn.

8...♚e7 **9.♚c1!** Black has nothing better than to play c6, but this crucially weakens the d6 square. White will make use of it by playing e4-e5 and Ne4-d6.

9...c6 [9...♘a6 The knight is misplaced here. 10.e4 ♙g7 11.♚c3! With the threat of Bxa6 and Qxc7. Black is already in trouble.]



10.e4! Energetic play by Andreikin. It is very difficult to catch Kramnik in the opening so badly. White already has a big

advantage and we are only in move 10.

10...♘g7 11.e5! O-O 12.♘d3! White develops his pieces to the most natural squares. Black has a cramped position and he is lacking space. Both bishops are closed. The only way to jump out could be a freeing break with b6, Bb7 and c5, but White takes some subtle measures against it.

12...b6 13.O-O ♖d8 Black sets up the trick of c5 and Ba6, but White can easily parry this. [The bishops trade does not change the evaluation: 13...♘a6 14.♙b3 ♘xd3 15.♙xd3 Black ends up with his weak c6 pawn, the locked bishop on g7 and he cannot develop his knight. White is ready to occupy to the d6 square with the d2 knight.]

14.♙b3! A clever move! White removes the queen from the danger zone.

14...♘b7



15.♘e4! A nice prophylactic move against Nd7, Rac8 and c5. Black is unable to finish the development now, while the d2 knight is still ready to occupy the d6 square, but it goes from the direction of c4.

15...♖d7 What a sad decision! Black is completely out of moves. He tries to break out with c5.

16.♖fd1! I like this kind of games, where one side increases

his advantage only by always slightly improving his pieces. White prepares for the opening of the game and the rook will be excellently placed on the d-file after c5.

16...c5 17.dxc5 bxc5



18.♙a4! White really enjoys that the black pieces are immobile and he further prevents the development of the b8 knight by taking the a6 and c6 squares under control.

18...♖d8 19.♘b3 [19.♖xc5!? was a nice tactical possibility to win a pawn. The text move is also perfectly good.]

19...♘a6



20.♖d6! Using the fact that the rook cannot be taken since after exd6 the b7 pawn falls. The a6 pawn is under attack, which forces Black to give up his c-pawn.

20...♙xe4 21.♚xe4 ♖xd6 Kramnik tries to complicate the matters by finally opening the diagonal of the bishop, but at the cost of a strong passed pawn. [21...♘c7 22.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 23.♘xc5 ♘d5± This knight on d5 is big achievement, but it is still not enough compensation for the pawn. The bishop remains poor, while White can go for trading the knight by playing Nd3-f4 for instance.]

22.exd6 ♚f8 The rook had to be protected.

23.♚b7! ♘b4 24.d7 [24.♖xc5 was even stronger. The knight on b4 is hanging and after different kind of moves White has a nice queen sacrifice: 24...♖b8 (24...♘a2 25.♚xa8! ♚xa8 26.d7+—) 25.♚xb8! ♚xb8 26.d7 Rc8 is coming next with a winning advantage.]

24...♘d3 25.♖d1 c4? This is the decisive mistake. The position already looked lost, but the computer finds some counterplay to play on. [Not 25...♘xb2? 26.♚xa8 ♚xa8 27.d8=♚+; 25...♖d8! was the only chance! 26.♖xd3 c4 27.♖d2 cxb3 28.♚xb3 ♚c5 And Black might hope for some practical chances, but they should not be real in case of good play by White. 29.g3±]

26.♘a5+— With the double threat of taking on c4 and playing Nc6. The game is over now.

26...♖d8 27.♘c6 ♚c5 A desperate attempt, but there is no serious threat, White can simply collect the material.



28.♘xd8 ♚xf2+ 29.♚h1 ♘d4 A last cheapo! Black threatens to play Qg1 followed by Nf2 mate, but of course on this level such things don't really work...

30.h3! As simple as that.

30...♚e3 All moves are winning from now on.

31.♘xf7 ♘b6 [31...♘f2+ 32.♚h2 ♚f4+ 33.g3+— Black doesn't have any more checks.]

32.♘7e5 ♘f2+ 33.♚h2 ♘xd1 Kramnik resigned when he saw the mate in 3 after d8Q and Qf7-Nxg6. A great game by Andreikin, who have already beaten Kramnik at the Tal memorial 2 months ago, there with the black pieces. **1-0**

(3) Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime(2719) - Moiseenko, Alexander(2699) [B30]

Breisacher Memorial Playoff(2.1), 2013.08.02

[Balogh Csaba]

After four players tied for first place in Biel, a rapid tiebreak had to decide of the winner. In the final match, the rapid expert Vachier-Lagrave scored the following nice win and took home the trophy!

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.c3 Vachier-Lagrave avoids the Sveshnikov defence by transposing to the c3 Sicilian.



3...d5 [In their encounter in the normal part of the tournament Moiseenko had played another main line: 3...♘f6 4.e5 ♘d5 5.♙c4 e6 6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4 d6 but he ended up in lost position and only a terrible blunder by White allowed him to save the game. This time he decided to go for another variation.]

4.exd5 ♙xd5 5.d4



5...♙f5 A very sharp and new idea, which became popular only recently. The main idea is a quick attack against the center with e5 and 0-0-0. If White is not familiar with the ideas, he might quickly collapse.

6.♙e3 [6.♘a3 is a common move, but then Black achieves what he wants after 6...cxd4 7.♘b5 O-O-O 8.cxd4 e5! With an attack!]

6...♘f6 [6...cxd4 is a risky option for Black, since after 7.♘xd4 ♘xd4 8.cxd4 White threatens to play Nc3 followed by Bb5, and after 8...♙xb1 9.♙a4+! forces the king to move, since both queen moves would run into Bb5. 9...♙d8 10.♙xb1+=]

7.♘a3 Vachier played very quickly, he was definitely well prepared against this line.

7...cxd4



8.♙c4! This is basically a novelty! [In the previous games

White played 8.♖b5 O-O-O 9.♖bxd4 ♖g4! And Black once again has very good chances for the initiative!

8...♔a5 9.♖xd4 ♖xd4 10.♙xd4 e5! Moiseenko continues with the only principled reaction, developing with tempo. [10...e6?? would immediately lose to 11.♙b5+ ♖d7 12.♙b6+—]

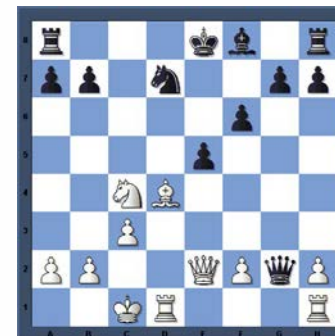


11.♙b5+ ♙d7! The only move. [11...♖d7 is strongly met by 12.♔e2! and the black king is in big danger. 12...♙xa3 13.♔xe5+! wins!]

12.♙xd7+ ♖xd7 13.♖c4! Otherwise Black takes on a3. It might look like a blunder at first sight, because Black can play Qd5 or Qc7 attacking the c4 and d4 pieces, but after both moves Qe2 works well, protecting the c4 knight and pinning the pawn.

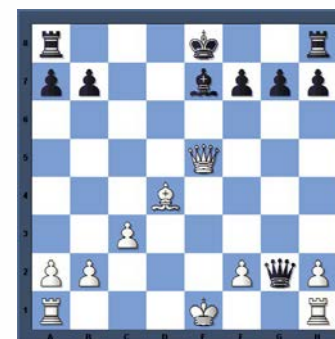
13...♔d5 14.♔e2 ♙e7? Moiseenko wrongly evaluates the arising endgame...

[14...f6 seems to be Black's only chance and it looks like White does not have a direct crush. But even if Black overcomes the main difficulties, the initiative still remains on White's side. 15.O-O ♙e7 16.♖ad1 ♔e6 17.f4+≐; The greedy 14...♔xg2 should not lead to anything good for Black: 15.O-O-O f6 Now the best is



16.♖he1! Preparing for a sacrifice on e5, when the opening of the e-file would lead to mate, while after 16...♙e7 White suddenly changes the direction and plays **17.♖g1! ♔h3 18.f4! exd4 19.♖xg7±** The attack breaks through!]

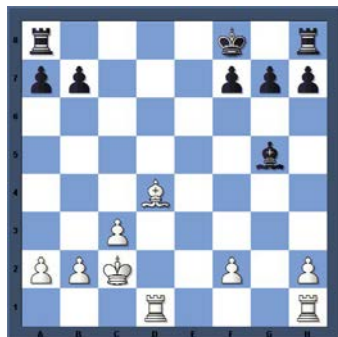
15.♖xe5 ♖xe5 16.♔xe5 ♔xg2 Black had to restore the material balance and the point is the h1 rook should be protected by O-O-O, but then Black can trade queens by playing Qg5.



17.♔b5+! A very strong intermediate check in order to prevent Black from castling. [17.O-O-O 17...♔g5+ 18.♔xg5 ♙xg5+ followed by O-O would be holdable for Black.]

17...♙f8 An unpleasant necessity. [17...♔c6 simple drops the g7 pawn. 18.♔xc6+ bxc6 19.♙xg7]

18.0-0-0 ♖g5+ 19.♗xg5 ♘xg5+ 20.♙c2 Black actually has serious problems here despite the low amount of material. He cannot solve the coordination problem between his pieces.



20...♘e7 [20...b6 21.♖hg1 ♘f6 22.♘xf6 gxf6 23.♖d7+- White is close to be winning with his dominating rooks and better pawn structure.; 20...f6 with the idea of Kf7 runs into the same idea as in the game: 21.♘a7! wins a pawn because of Rd8!]

21.♖he1! Activating the rook and creating the threat of Bxg7.

21...f6



22.♘a7! A small but nice winning combination!

22...♖d8 An oversight in a lost position. [22...♖xa7 23.♖d7+- is over for Black, since after Bc5 Rd8 wins the

rook. 23...♖xa2 24.♖xe7+- This position is just hopeless because of the doubled rooks on the 7th rank.]

23.♘c5! Maxime never misses such tactical tricks. [Black resigned in view of 23.♘c5 ♖xd1 (23...♘xc5 24.♖xd8+-) 24.♘xe7+ ♙f7 25.♙xd1+-] **1-0**

(4) Adams, Michael(2740) - Kramnik, Vladimir(2784) [B27]

41st GM(9.4), 2013.08.04

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

This game is very short, but it was just sooo important that it had to be in this CEWN. Before the last round, Adams was leading with an amazing score of 6, 5/8 (he said after the tournament that it was maybe his best performance ever) and Kramnik was following him with an also very good 6/8. What a standing! In the previous round, Adams made a pretty fast draw against Meier and Kramnik managed to win against Caruana in an almost 7 hours fight.

1.e4 c5!! Kramnik's will to win the tournament is just amazing! The usual openings of Vladimir are the Berlin or Russian, which are both very solid and we could probably have expected the game to be a fast draw, but no, Kramnik is ready to fight.

2.♘f3 g6!? Getting the game onto fresh ground. We don't see a 2800 player trying such experiments very often...

3.c3!? A very "hard" move. [We would probably have seen a more funny game after 3.d4 ♗g7 4.dxc5 ♖a5+]



3...♘f6 Bringing the game back into 1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 with the

g6 move, which is not the best option for Black, but a very possible one.

4.e5 ♘d5 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 ♗g7 White dominates in the center a little bit, but Black will quickly be back in the game by playing d6 next. This position is quite rare and Adams probably wanted to play safely as he was probably feeling slightly unpleasant and surprised by such a winning "will" of his opponent.

7.♖b3 A very solid move. [Other normal options for White include 7.♗c4 ♘b6 8.♗b3 d6 With unclear play.; Or even 7.♘c3 ♘xc3 8.bxc3 O-O 9.♗d3 d6 And Black is probably doing fine.]

7...♘b6 [7...♘c7 c7 is usually the wrong square for the knight and White could here simply continue with 8. Bc4.]



8.a4!! Objectively this move might not be the best one, but it is basically forcing Black into a draw or to go for a clearly worse position. It is not easy to trick somebody like Adams, who has been for around 20 years in the Top 15 players in the World, with his best place being World Nr3.

8...d6 A draw agreement. [The only chance to go on here was to play 8...a5 but after 9.♘c3 White gets an extra square on b5 and Black's position is looking really bad already. This was even too much for Kramnik.]

9.a5 Fixing the wishful result. [9.♘b5+ would have led to a fight after 9...♞c6 10.a5 ♘e6 11.♚c3]

9...♘e6 Black doesn't have a choice.



10.♚b5+ ♘d7 [10...♞6d7 11.♚xb7 would just lose the game for Black.]

11.♚b3 ♘e6 12.♚b5+ ♘d7 13.♚b3 ♘e6 14.♚b5+ ♘d7 A short game, but with big emotions. With this draw, Adams made a historical result of 7/9 in a category 19 tournament and a plus of over 20 ELO, congratulations! And I think that Kramnik also didn't have many reasons to be too upset, as he scored 6.5/9, with a very strong performance. **1/2-1/2**

Puzzle section

(5) Adams, M(2740)-Wang Hao(2752)

Dortmund, 2013.07.30

[CEWN]

1... =



(6) Andreikin, D(2727)-Khenkin, I(2605)

Dortmund, 2013.07.30

[CEWN]

1. +-



(7) Kramnik, V(2784)-Fridman, D(2629)

Dortmund, 2013.08.01

[CEWN]

1. +-

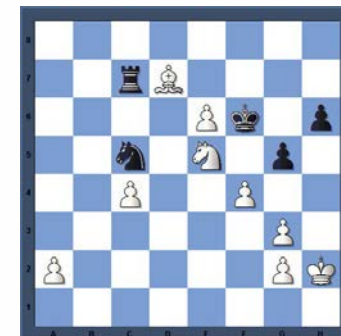


(8) Khenkin, I(2605)-Caruana, F(2796)

Dortmund, 2013.08.01

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Harikrishna, P(2680)-Gharamian, T(2655)

Biel Open, 2013.07.30

[CEWN]

1. +-



(10) Sandipan, C(2623)-Megaranto, S(2524)

Biel Open, 2013.07.31

[CEWN]

1... --+

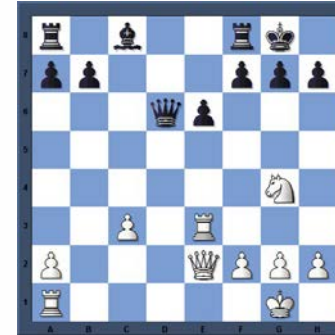


(11) Williams, S(2481)-Weaving, R(2196)

British Championship, 2013.07.30

[CEWN]

1. +-

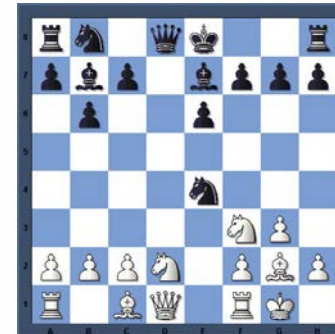


(12) Ghasi, A(2459)-Meszaros, G(2255)

British Championship, 2013.08.01

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Edouard, R(2662)-Danielsen, H(2510)

Politiken Cup, 2013.07.30

[CEWN]

1. +-



(14) Andersen, M(2477)-Grandelius, N(2573)

Politiken Cup, 2013.08.03

[CEWN]

1. +-

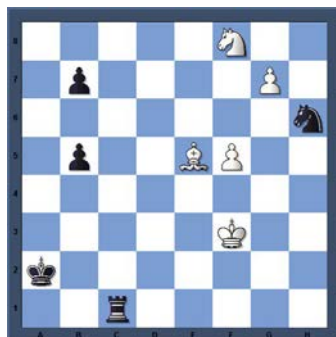


Endgame section

(15) Kramnik, Vladimir(2784)-Caruana, Fabiano(2796)

41st GM(8.4), 2013.08.03

[CE Team]



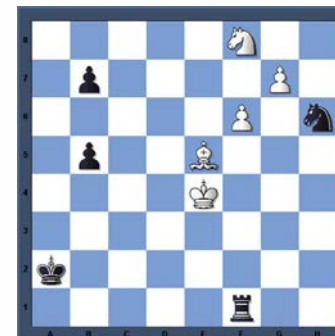
In the first 20 moves of this game, we had a calm endgame where White was slightly better. What we see now on the board is just crazy. The endgame is very tactical, with a lot of different tricks on both sides. In the end Kramnik wins, but only after a horrible blunder by Caruana.

69.f6 There is nothing better for White, the threat is next to play Bf4

69...♖f1+! Black finds the only move!

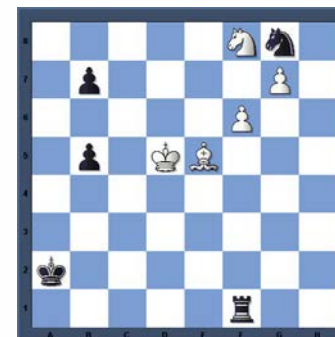
[After 69...b4 which appears to be a very logical move, 70.♕f4 ♖f1+ things are pretty forced: 71.♖e4 b3 72.♕xh6 b2 It looks like Black is getting a queen with check, but... 73.g8=♖+ White is queening with check first.]

70.♖e4



70...♘g8! Black plays the only move again. White had the same threat of playing Bf4 next.

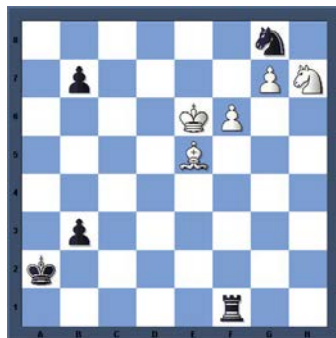
71.♖d5! White's only chance to win is to somehow play Ke6 and f7.



71...b4! In this very complicated endgame Black once again finds the best defence. [a tempting 71...♖xf6 The tempting 72.♕xf6 ♘xf6+ is simply losing for Black because of 73.♖e6 ♘g8 74.♖f7 ♘h6+ 75.♖g6! White needs to bring his king to h8 first! 75...♘g8 76.♖h7 ♘f6+ 77.♖h8 b4 78.♘d7 b3 79.♘xf6 b2 80.g8=♖+ And once again White is queening with check.; 71...♘xf6+ was not saving Black either: 72.♕xf6 ♖g1 73.♘e6 White wants to play Ng5 next. 73...♖xg7 74.♕xg7 b4 75.♘c5 b3 76.♘d3 And White is in time to stop the b-pawn.]

72. ♖h7 [72. ♔e6? was just leading to a draw after 72... ♘xf6! 73. ♙xf6 ♖g1 And this time the position is a draw. Black gives the rook for the g7 pawn and takes one of White's pieces back for the b-pawn.]

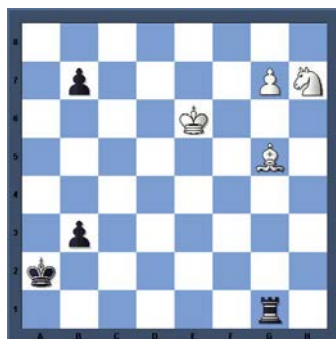
72...b3 73. ♔e6



73... ♘xf6! It seems like this is the last exact move needed for Black to finally reach the draw. [73...b2? would still lead to a lost position after 74. ♙xb2 ♔xb2 75.f7]

74. ♙xf6 ♖g1 Black wants to play Rxg7.

75. ♙g5



75... ♖xg5?? What a shock! We can clearly feel how much energy this game took from Caruana. Just one move before the draw he is blundering the game away, and in a terrible

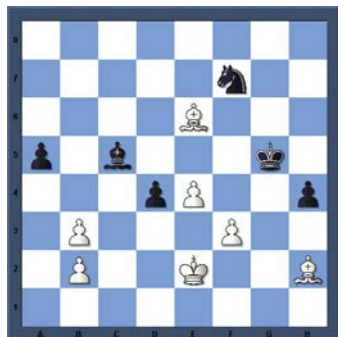
way too... [After the normal 75...b2 76.g8=♖ b1=♖ 77.♖a8+ ♔b3 78.♖xb7+ ♔c2 the position is just a draw.]

76. ♘xg5 And Black resigns because of 76...b2 77.Ne4 followed by 77...b1Q 78.Nc3+. Wow... What a sad end for Black after finding so many only moves... **1-0**

(16) Wang Hao(2752)-Meier, G.(2610)

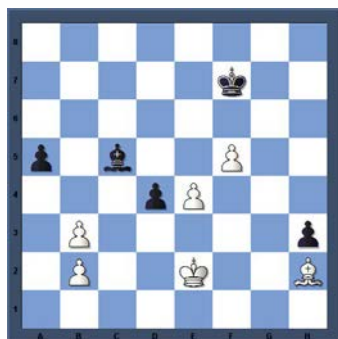
Dortmund, 2013.08.04

[CE Team]



The following interesting endgame arose in the last round of Dortmund. Meier misses a good chance to save the game and he runs into a study-like loss, which Wang Hao manages to find.

57...d6? Black would be happy with the trade of the bishops, since he could then get his king between the passed pawns, but it allows a tactical trick. [Things are unclear after 57...f6! 58.c4 Otherwise Black plays Ne5 with the threat of d3! (58.xf7 xf7 59.f4 is met by 59...h3 60.f5



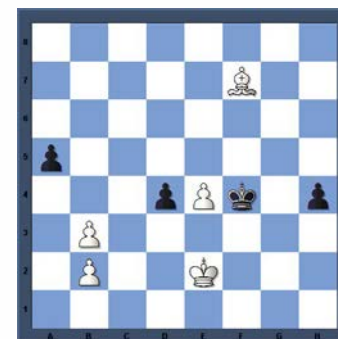
60...f6 and we reach a kind of zugzwang, where both players

run out of useful moves and they need to start passing to make a draw: 61.d3 b6=) 58...e5 59.b5 b6 Black seems to have a fortress, because White's plan to make progress with f4-e5 is met by 60.f4? d3+! 61.xd3 g4 and the bishop is trapped.]

58.f4+! White is winning after this nice trick.

58...xf4! Black goes for his best chance! [58...f6 59.h3+- And with the support of the bishop pair, the e- and f-pawns are unstoppable.]

59.xf4+ xf4 60.xf7



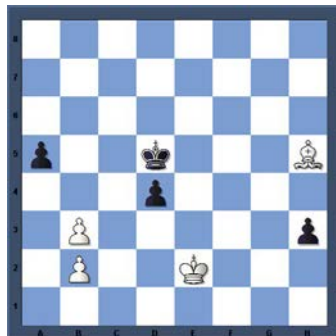
60...h3! Black continues playing his best chances. [60...xe4 loses much easier after 61.e6 d3+ 62.d2 d4 63.f5+- The h-pawn cannot be used as a real threat.]

61.e5! The only move! White has to open the h1-a8 diagonal for his bishop. [61.f2 allows Black to escape after 61...h2 62.g2 xe4 63.xh2 d3= followed by Kc2 and collecting the pawns.]

61...xe5 [61...h2 62.d5 will be the same as the game.]

62.h5! Another only move. White had to foresee the key of this endgame, that whenever Black intends to play Kc5, he must be able to push b4!

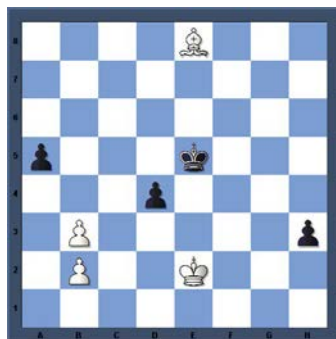
62...♔f4 [62...♔d5



63.b4!! The only way to win. (63.♔d3 ♖c5 When the Black king is on c5, the game is already drawn. 64.♕f3 ♖b4 65.♕d5 h2 And the trade of all pawns is inevitable. 66.♔xd4 h1=♔ 67.♕xh1 ♖xb3=) 63...axb4 64.♔d3 The point is that the black b4 pawn prevents his own king from getting access to the b2 pawn. Black will soon lose all his pawns because of zugzwang. 64...h2 65.♕f3+ ♖e5 66.♕h1 b3 67.♕g2+-]

63.♕e8! The bishop must reach the h1-a8 diagonal and Bf3 would allow d3.

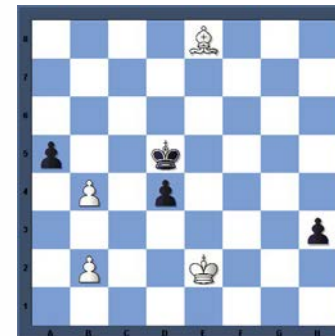
63...♖e5



64.b4!! Great technique by Wang Hao! [64.♔d3 h2 65.♕c6 ♖d6! Thanks to this tempo the king gets to c5-b4 and Black

draws as we saw in the 62...Kd5 63. Kd3 lines. 66.♕h1 ♖c5=; 64.♕c6 is also met by 64...♖d6 65.♕f3 ♖c5=]

64...♖d5



65.♕h5! axb4 66.b3 66.Kd3 was also winning. [Black resigned in view of 66.b3 ♖e4 67.♕f3+ ♖f4 68.♕a8 followed by Kd3 and collecting the pawns. Wang Hao celebrated his birthday with this neat endgame victory!] **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Anderssen, Adolf-Morphy, Paul[C77]

Paris m2(2), 1858

[Kamil Miton]

Paul Morphy was an American genius who started to play chess when he was 4 years old. He very quickly became the best player on the American continent. After that he decided to move to Europe to find opponents. He mainly played in London and Paris, where he beat almost all professional players of this time. Many people consider his match against Anderssen the first unofficial World Championship match. Below is one of the games of this match.

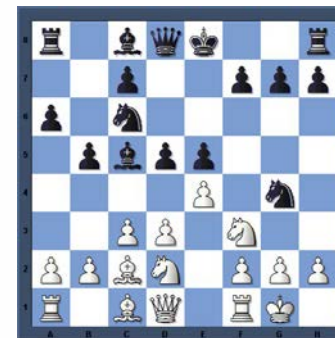
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 No surprise because the Ruy Lopez is one of the oldest openings.

3...a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.d3 ♙c5 6.c3 b5 7.♙c2 We have a very well-known structure. One of Black's plans here is to play O-O, d6 and to transfer the knight to g6 after Ne7-Ng6.



7...d5 Black immediately fights for the center. It is logical but it doesn't solve all the problems in these structures.

8.exd5 White also had other possibilities without taking on d5, for example [8.♘bd2 O-O (8...♘g4 A strange idea, similar to the one of the Philidor line. 9.O-O



9...♙xf2+ 10.♙xf2 ♘e3 11.♙e2 ♘xc2 12.♙b1 d4 Otherwise the knight will not escape. 13.♘f1 ♘e3 14.♘xe3 dxe3 15.♙xe3 O-O 16.♙d1+=) 9.O-O ♙b7 10.h3 (10.d4 Sometimes ideas like this can work, but not exactly in this case. 10...exd4 11.e5 ♘e4 12.♘xe4 (12.♘b3 ♙b6 13.cxd4 f6⇒) 12...dxe4 13.♙xe4 dxc3 14.bxc3 ♙xd1 15.♙xd1 ♙ad8∞) ; 8.O-O dxe4 9.dxe4 ♙xd1 10.♙xd1 This kind of position is usually a bit more pleasant for White.]

8...♘xd5 9.h3 O-O 10.O-O h6 We have a normal position. Black seems to be completely fine, but in general it is not easy to play for him. White can slowly develop and improve his position by playing Re1-Nbd2-Ne4-a4.

11.d4 White decides to change the structure. It is clear that players back then knew that fighting for the center is very important. [11.♘bd2 ; 11.a4 ; 11.♙e1]

11...exd4 12.cxd4 ♙b6

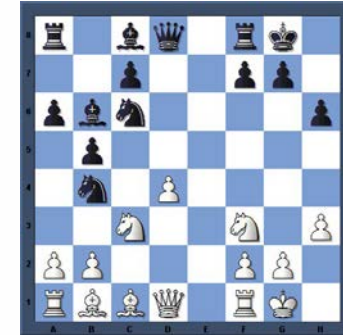


13. ♖c3 Now the most important square is d5, where Black should try to create a blockade.

13... ♜db4 [13... ♜ce7 14. ♖e1+= White has an isolated pawn but on the other hand White can create pressure against the king and the pawn on b5 is also badly placed because of the weakness of the c-file. And Black cannot exchange the light squared bishops by playing 14...Bf5 because of 15.Nxd5.]

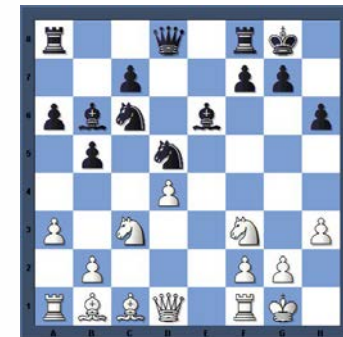
14. ♜b1 A bit passive. A better option was

[14. ♜e4 f5 15. ♜xc6 (15. ♜b1 ♜xd4 16. ♜xd4 ♖xd4 17. ♖f3 ♜b8 18. a3 ♜b7 19. ♖g3 ♜d5 20. ♜xh6 ♜h7 21. ♜g5 White should be better because of the weak black king.) 15... ♜xc6 16. d5 ♜e7 17. ♖b3 The pawns on b5 and f5 are weakening the black position. White managed to push d5 and avoid a blockade on the light squares. White will played Rd1-Bf4 next and he will be clearly better.]



14... ♜e6? This move looks logical because as we said before, the d5 square is important, but this is a huge mistake. Black should have played [14... ♜xd4 We will see that White doesn't get anything more than compensation: 15. ♜xd4 ♖xd4 (15... ♜xd4 16. a3 ♜xc3 17. bxc3 ♖xd1 (17... ♜d5 18. ♖d3 ♜f6 19. ♖g3 ♜h8∞) 18. ♖xd1 ♜c6 19. ♜f4) 16. a3 (16. ♖f3) 16... ♖xd1 17. ♖xd1 ♜c6 18. ♜d5 ♜e6 19. ♜xb6 cxb6 20. ♜e4 ♖ac8 21. ♜e3]

15. a3 ♜d5



16. ♜e2? White wants to keep more pieces on the board and transfer his knight to the kingside, which looks logical, but why not play [16. ♖d3 And Black is not able to avoid trouble on the b1-h7 diagonal: 16... ♜f6 (16... f5 Now the other diagonal becomes weak: 17. ♖e1 ♖f6 18. ♖xe6) 17. ♜e4 g6 18. ♜xh6±]

16...♖f6 17.♗e3 ♜e8 18.♘g3



18...♗c4! Solving Black's problems because White has no good answer.

19.♘f5! Objectively a bad move but White plays in a very practical way because in order to maintain the pressure on the kingside, they need the bishop more than a rook! [19.♗d3 19...♗xd3 20.♞xd3 ♞d5 Without the light squared bishops, White's pressure loses in strength and Black is fine.; 19.♞e1? 19...♘xd4+]]

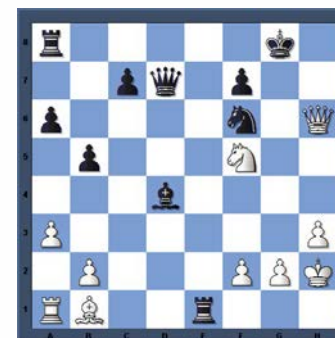
19...♗xf1 20.♞xf1 ♘e7 Black is going to eliminate the unpleasant knight on f5.

21.♘3h4 ♘xf5 [21...♘ed5 22.♗a2 (22.♗xh6 gxf6 23.♞c1 ♘e4 24.♞xh6 ♞f6 And black is safe.) 22...c6 (22...♘xe3 23.fxe3 ♘d5 24.♞f3 c6 25.♞f1 ♞a7 26.♞h1) 23.♞c1 ♞e6+]]

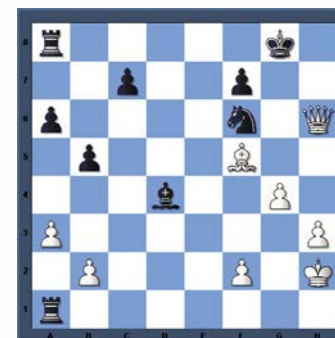
22.♘xf5 ♞d7 With a very strong knight on f5, White sacrifices extra material!

23.♗xh6 gxf6 24.♞c1 ♗xd4 [24...♘e4 25.♞f4 ♞c6 26.♘h6+ ♞g7 27.♘f5+ ♞f8 28.♗d3 ♞ad8 Black's pieces also get activity: 29.♞e1 (29.♞c1 ♞f6 30.♗xe4 ♞xd4+) 29...♗xd4 30.♗xe4 ♗xb2 31.♗xc6 ♞xe1+ 32.♞h2 ♗e5+]]

25.♞xh6 ♞e1+ 26.♞h2



26...♘e4? A big blunder! The most important thing is to get rid of the knight on f5 to avoid mate threats. [26...♞xf5! 27.♗xf5 ♞xa1 Black has too many pieces, so the last chance is to play 28.g4 But now Black has the strong (28.♞g5+ 28...♞f8 29.♞h6+ ♞e7 30.♞f4 ♞d8 31.♞xc7+ ♞e8 32.♞c6+ ♞f8 33.♞xa6 ♗e5+ 34.g3 ♞d2+)]



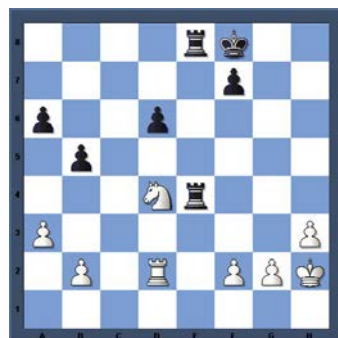
28...♞e8! 29.g5 ♞e2 30.gxf6 ♞xf2+ 31.♞g3 ♞g1+ 32.♞h4 ♞xf5+]]

27.♗xe4 ♞xe4 28.♞g5+ ♞f8 29.♞h6+ ♞e8 30.♘xd4 Maybe Morphy missed this move in his calculation. The problem is that Black cannot recapture on d4 because the rook on a8 will be lost after check on h8 or c6. White is back in the game!

30...♔d6+ [30...♖xd4 31.♖c6+ ♔e7 32.♖xa8; 30...♖d5 31.♖d1 (31.♗f5 ♖d8+) 31...♗d7 32.♗b3 ♖xd1 33.♗c5+ ♔c8 34.♗xe4 ♖d5 35.♖e3 For the exchange White is a pawn up and the black pieces are badly coordinated.]

31.♖xd6 cxd6 32.♖d1 ♔f8 33.♖d2 The set-up of the white pieces is very good and Black will have problems to get rid of the d4 knight and improve his position.

33...♖ae8 [33...♖c8 34.g4 ♖c4 35.♗f5+]



34.g4 A good move which supports the f5 square for the knight, advances the pawn and opens the way for the king.

34...♖e8 35.f3 [35.♗f5 ♖e2 36.♖xd6 ♖xf2+ 37.♗g3 ♖xb2 38.♖xa6 ♖e4 39.♖a8+ ♖e8 40.♖a6 With good drawing chances.]

35...♖e1 36.h4 ♖d5 37.♗g3 a5 [37...♖c1 With the idea to play Rc4, so White plays 38.♗f4! ♖c4 39.♗e4 ♖e5+ 40.♗f4]

38.h5 ♗g8 39.♗f2 ♖e8 [39...♖ee5 40.♗g3 f5 41.♗f4 (41.g5? 41...fxg4 42.fxg4 ♖e1 43.♗f3 ♗f7 44.♗f4 ♖f1+ 45.♗g3 ♗f6 46.♖d3 Black can try some tricks here to find a way to improve his position, but it is not easy as the king cannot come to g5 or e5 because of the knight checks.)

40.♗g3 ♖e7 41.♗f4 ♗h7 42.♗g3 ♖e3 43.♗f4 ♖e8 44.♗g3 Black is not able to find a way to play on. A good game with

deep understanding and good calculation!

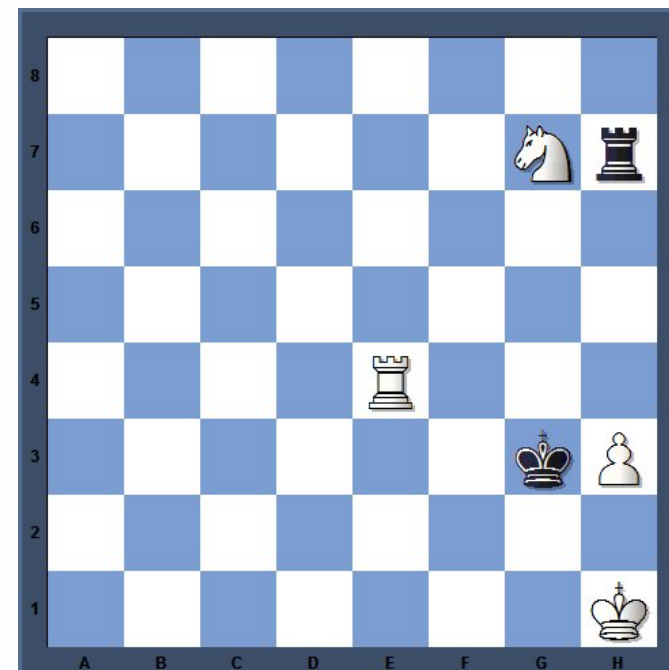
44...♖e3 1/2-1/2

Surprise section / study

(18) Pogosiants

[CEWN]

1. +-

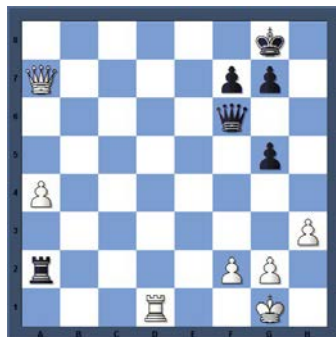


Solutions

(19) Kramnik, V(2784)-Wang Hao(2752)

Dortmund, 2013.07.26

[Solutions]



26. ♖b8+! 1-0 [26. ♖b8+ ♔h7 27. ♖b1+ g6 28. ♖xa2+-]

(20) Meier, G(2610)-Kramnik, V(2784)

Dortmund, 2013.07.29

[Solutions]



32... ♖xf6!! 33. ♖xd5 [33. gxf6 ♘f4+ 34. ♔g1 ♖b1+-]

33... ♖g6 34. ♖e5 ♖b5+-

(21) Medina, W(2286)-Kurnosov, I(2657)

Biel Open, 2013.07.22

[Solutions]



20... ♖xe3! 21. ♖xe3 [21. ♖xe3 d4+-]

21...d4 22. ♘xb7 ♖xb7 23. ♖ee1 dxc3+-

(22) Solak, D(2598)-Ludwig, P(2265)

Biel Open, 2013.07.22

[Solutions]



17. ♘h6! ♖g8 [17...gxh6 18. ♖xh8#]

18. ♖ad1! ♘e6 19. ♖xe6+-

(23) Saric, I(2639)-Rasch, H(2220)

Biel Open, 2013.07.27

[Solutions]



14. ♖xd5! ♗xd3 [14...exd5 15. ♖xf6+-; 14...♖xd5 15. ♗e4+-]

15. ♖c7+! [15. ♖xe7+-]

15... ♖f8 16. ♖xa8+-

(24) Stefanova, A(2497)-Melia, S(2428)

European Woman Championship, 2013.07.28

[Solutions]



28... ♖f3+! 29. ♗xf3 [29. ♖g2 ♗h3+ 30. ♖xf3 ♖g4#]

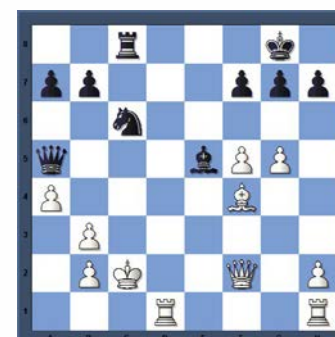
29... ♖e1+ 30. ♖g2 ♗xf3+ 31. ♖h3 [31. ♖xf3 ♖e4#]

31... ♖e6+ 0-1

(25) Lu Shangle(2536)-Robson, R(2628)

Yinzhou Cup, 2013.07.23

[Solutions]

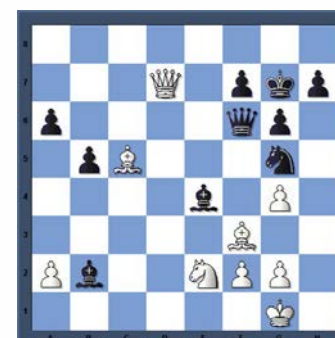


23... ♗d4! 0-1 [23... ♗d4 24. ♗e3 (24. ♖xd4 ♗xd4+ 25. ♖b1 ♗xb3+-; 24. ♖d2 ♖xf5+-) 24... ♗xe3 25. ♖xe3 ♖xf5+-]

(26) Kharitonov, A(2538)-Kapnisis, S(2449)

Paleochora Open, 2013.07.22

[Solutions]



33. ♖e8!! ♖xf3+ [33... ♗xf3 34. ♖f8#; 33... ♗e6 34. ♗e7! ♖e5 35. ♗xe4! ♖xe4 36. ♗f8+! ♖f6 (36... ♖xf8 37. ♖xe4+-) 37. ♖e7+ ♖e5 38. f4+ ♖d5 39. ♖b7+ ♖c4 40. ♖xe4+-]

34. gxf3 ♖c6 [34... ♖xf3 35. ♗f8+ ♖f6 36. ♖e7#]

35. ♖f8+ ♔f6 36. ♗e7+ [36. ♗d8+! ♔e6 (36... ♔g7 37. ♕f8+--)] 37. ♘f4+ ♔e5 38. ♗b8+ ♔f6 39. ♗h8+ ♔g5 40. ♘h3+ ♔h4 41. ♗xh7#]

36... ♔g7 37. fxe4 1-0

(27) Georgiadis, I(2449)-Tukhaev, A(2520)

Paleochora Open, 2013.07.22

[Solutions]



25. ♖xh7!! [25. ♗h4 h5]

25... ♔xh7 [25... bxc2+ 26. ♘xc2 ♔xh7 27. ♗h4+ ♔g8 28. ♖d3+--]

26. ♗h4+ ♔g8 27. ♖d3! bxc2+ 28. ♔c1 a3 29. b3 1-0

(28) Zhigalko, A(2604)-Smirnov, V(2332)

Minsk Open, 2013.07.18

[Solutions]



17. ♕xb5+!! [17. ♘xf6+ ♔e7]

17... ♔e7 [17... axb5 18. ♘xf6+ ♔e7 19. ♗g5! +- h6 20. ♘g8+ ♔e8 21. ♖xd8+ ♗xd8 22. ♗xb5+ ♗d7 23. ♘f6+--]

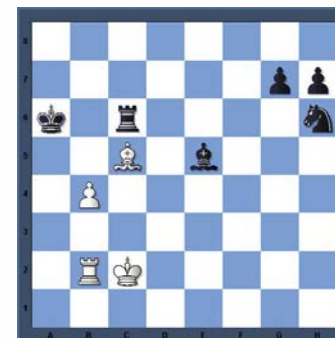
18. ♗b4+ ♖d6 19. ♖xd6! ♗xd6 20. ♖d1!! ♕d5 [20... ♗xb4 21. ♖d7+ ♔e8 22. ♘xf6#]

21. ♗c3! ♗e5 [21... axb5 22. ♗xf6+ ♔e8 23. ♗xh8+--]

22. ♗c5+ ♔d8 23. ♗b6+ ♗c7 24. ♗xa6 1-0

(29) Buchmann

[Solutions]



1. b5+! ♔b7 2. bxc6+ ♔xc6 3. ♖b6+! ♔xc5 4. ♖xh6!! gxh6 5. ♔d3 h5 6. ♔e2 h4 7. ♔f1 h3 8. ♔g1=



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 77

16th of August 2013

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Editorial Preface

All the eyes of the past week were of course on the World Cup in Tromsø.

Already in the first round, 3 of the top players had to pack their bags: Polgar lost to Ortiz Suarez, Movsesian to Hammer and Nepomniachtchi to the 14 years old Wei Yi.

In the 2nd round, Wei Yi continued playing in a very fast and strong way and left Shirov no chances, winning the match 1,5-0,5.

Jon Ludvig Hammer, the representative of Norway, managed to reach the next round against Navara by winning both rapid games of the tie break.

The next surprise was the victory of Granda Zuniga over Leko. In the first game with the white pieces Granda Zuniga left Leko almost no chances by outplaying him in a great style. In the second game Black was already clearly better after only 12 moves, so Leko could even be happy to "only" lose 1,5-0,5.

The next big surprise is the win of Krivoruchko over Adams. The match was very tight and just a few small mistakes by Adams in the 2nd rapid game sent him home too.

The big favorites for the title are still in the game and the real tough matching are starting now! We can be very curious who will be the last man standing! :)

Enjoy the commented games from the World Cup.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Grischuk, Alexander(2785)**

- **Swiercz, Dariusz(2654) [B90]**

FIDE World Cup 2013(2.1), 2013.08.14

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the first game of the 2nd round of the World Cup. To play Grischuk in K.O tournaments is never a pleasure. Alexander is super strong in normal chess, super strong in rapid and super strong in blitz. Anyhow, Swiercz tried his best and went for the very sharp Najdorf. The game was very tense and ended clearly too quickly after a blunder of Black.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 We are in the main position of the Najdorf. Lately the move 6.Bg5 went more into fashion, but the text move is probably still the very main line.

6.♙e3 e5 [6...e6 ; 6...♘g4 are the other 2 big lines for Black.]

7.♘b3 ♙e6 8.h3 This move lately got into fashion. Of course the main move remains 8.f3.



8...♙e7 9.f4 This is a relatively rare line. [9.♙f3 was played numerous times, but it seems that Black is doing fine here.]

9...exf4 Of course Black cannot let White push f5.

10.♙xf4 ♘c6 The black knight on e5 is going to be huge.

11.♙e2 White's idea is to play 0-0-0 and to threaten e5, trying to somehow win a tempo and force Black to move his queen away from the d-file.

11...0-0 12.0-0-0 ♘e8 I am personally not a big fan of moves like Ne8. [To me more logical seems to be 12...♙c7 Black's ideas is simple, to put his knight on e5. 13.♘d5 This forced attempt doesn't seem to work for White. 13...♙xd5 14.exd5 ♘b4 And both the d5 and a2 pawns are hanging.]

13.♙b1 Black wanted to play Bg5. The exchange of the black squared bishops is good in such structures.

13...♙f6 White has a wide range of choices now.

14.♙e3 A solid move. [Another possibility was to play 14.♘d5 14...♙e5 15.♙e3 Black has the e5 square, but it is usually better to put the knight on e5 than the bishop.]

14...♙c8 15.g4 White starts the usual play, in the perfect case he is going to bring the pawns to g5 and h5 and choose between playing g6 or h6 later on.

15...♙e5 Black is exchanging the bishop, which is also a very logical decision. [A move like 15...b5 would not make a very big difference to the game. 16.g5 ♙e5]

16.♙xe5 [It was also possible to first play 16.g5]

16...♘xe5 17.g5 White has finished his first positional plan, to kill the knight on e8. The f6 square is under control and the h-pawn is coming. Black needs to quickly find some counterplay.



17...b5 [If Black tried to immediately bring the knight into the game by playing 17...♞c7 18.h4 ♕g4 19.♕e2 ♕xe2 20.♞xe2 ♞e6 21.♞d5 White's position would also be clearly better, as now the h5-h6 push is hard to prevent.]

18.h4 ♞c7 Black found an idea, to put pressure on the c2 pawn. Now the threat is to play b4.

19.♞d4 Defending the c2 pawn and bringing the knight back into the game, what can be more logical?!

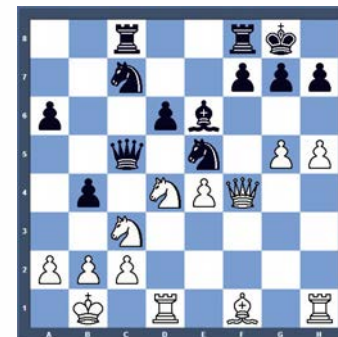
19...♞c5 20.♞f4?! In Sicilian games there is no place for prophylactical moves, too slow play. [Why not continue with the the main idea?! 20.h5 20...♞c7 21.♕e2 With the threat of playing h6 or g6. White's position is looking better.]

20...♞c7! The black knight is now coming to e6 with tempo.

21.h5 White has almost reached his goal of playing h6, but Black has a nice reply...

21...b4?! Missing the chance of the game.

[21...♕g4! The e6 square is the right one for Black's knight. 22.♕e2 ♞e6 The position still remains complicated, but I think that Black's chances are not worse here.]



22.♞a4 [22.h6 would lead to an interesting position: 22...bxc3 23.hxg7 With huge complications.]

22...♞a5 23.b3 [Here White could also have tried 23.h6 23...g6 (23...♞xa4 doesn't work because of 24.b3! ♞d7 25.hxg7 With a mating attack.) 24.b3 And White would already have the f6 square for the future.]

23...♕d7?! And Black misses his chance for the second time... [23...♕g4! With the same idea of playing Ne6 next.]

24.h6 [24.♞f5! seems to be a very strong move. 24...♕xf5 25.♞xf5 I think that White is clearly better here.]

24...♞e6! The black knight is finally back into the game. The position is very complicated.

25.♞d2 g6 Black can't let White open the h-file.

26.♞xe6 ♕xe6 [26...fxe6 27.♞xd6]

27.♕h3?! It is very hard to play such complicated positions without mistakes.

[The more simple 27.♞f4 27...f6 28.gxf6 ♞c6 would lead to a complicated, but probably better position for White.]



27...Qf3? When I was watching this game live, I saw that both players were short on time and I was looking forward to an exciting "Zeitnot", but no, the game was over too quickly... [27...Qc6 With an unclear position.]

28. Qf4 Qxg5 The young Dariusz Swiercz probably thought that Grischuk blundered the g5 pawn, a pity for him. I often saw Grischuk playing better with only 30 seconds on the clock than when he had been thinking for 30 minutes. :)



29. Qd5! The killing move! White first needs to cover the e5 square in order to not let Black play Qe5 before playing Qf6.

29...Qxd5 30. Qf6 A slightly sad end of a very exciting game. We can already be curious about the next one, can Swiercz come back with a win with White?! It is going to be very hard... 1-0

(2) Jakovenko, Dmitry(2713) - Paragua, Mark(2569) [E92]

WorldCup 2013(2.28), 2013.08.12

[Balogh Csaba]

A really smart game by Jakovenko. After winning the first game, he made a very clever decision in the opening to avoid any kind of dangerous positions...

1.d4 Qf6 2.c4 g6 3.Qc3 Qg7 Black plays the King's Indian defence, which is of course an excellent choice in order to create a double edged position, where someone can play for a win even with the black pieces.

4.e4 d6 5.Qf3 O-O 6.Qe2 e5



7.dxe5! Quite a depressive moment for Black. Jakovenko handles the opening unambitiously. White simplifies the position, trades the queens and theory considers this move as a draw if Black plays some strong moves. If he makes inaccuracies White gets an advantage. [7.O-O 7...Qc6 8.d5 Qe7 is normally the initial position, where White has a wide range of choice, but in any case the game becomes extremely sharp.]

7...dxe5 8.Qxd8 Qxd8 9.Qg5 Qbd7 [9...Qe8 is the right move, but after 10.Qd5! Qxd5 11.cxd5 c6 12.Qc4 Black has

to make some precise moves to equalize. The problem is that Black had to win this game to equalize the score.]

10.0-0-0 White threatens to play Nxe5, so the rook has to leave the pin. 10...Re8 would lose to 11.Nb5, so the next move is forced.

10...♖f8



11.♘d5! It often happens that when somebody is playing for draw, he exchanges pieces, but at the cost of some positional damages. However Jakovenko also aims to get rid of some pieces, but always with some improvement on his position.

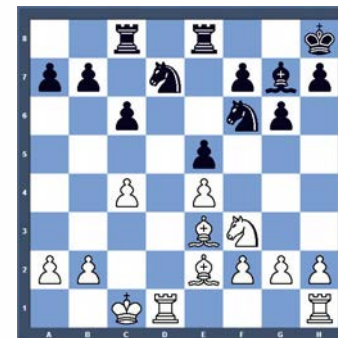
11...c6 [11...♗xd5 12.cxd5 is slightly better for White, because of the superior pawn structure and the c7 weakness.; 11...♗xe4 is met by 12.♙e3! With the double threat of Nxc7-Rb8-Bxa7 trapping the rook and Ne7-Kh8-Nxc8, when the d7 pawn is hanging. Black is in trouble!]

12.♗e7+ The right move again. White wants to get the bishop pair. Actually we are still following the theory.

12...♖h8 13.♙e3! Improving the bishop and preventing Nc5. Black has to waste a tempo on kicking out the annoying e7 knight.

13...♖e8 14.♗xc8 ♖axc8 It is quite good to start the game with this slightly better endgame, when you need a draw.

Jakovenko continues pushing with the most straightforward and principled moves.



15.g4! White takes some space on the kingside and threatens to win a piece with g5.

15...♗f8 16.♗d2! After protecting the e4 and g4 pawns, White is ready to continue the plan he started with g4.

16...♗e6 Black's only chance is to use the dark squares on d4 and c5. The best could be if he had time to trade the dark squared bishops by playing Bf8-c5 and then he could occupy the c5, d4 and f4 squares with the knight. In this case the e2 bishop would become really poor. Obviously Jakovenko does not allow any hopes like this to his opponent!

17.g5! ♗d7 18.♙g4! The bad bishop suddenly became a very active piece!

18...♙f8 Paragua tries his best, but his attempt to play Bc5 once again runs into a strong prophylactic move.

19.♗b3! Controlling the c5 square, attacking the d7 knight and threatening to play Na5. Occasionally the a7 pawn might also be hanging.

19...♗b6 20.♙xe6! White changes his strategy and initiates a play around the c5 square. Two moves later, it all becomes clear.

20...♖xe6 21.♘c5! ♚e7 [21...♙xc5 22.♙xc5 ♘xc4 would end with total domination of White. 23.♖d7! b6 24.♙e7 The black pieces don't find their places on the board, while the white ones have full control over the position. 24...♖e8 25.♙f6+ ♔g8 26.♖hd1± Black is doomed and the rooks on the 7th ranks will soon decide the outcome of the fight.]



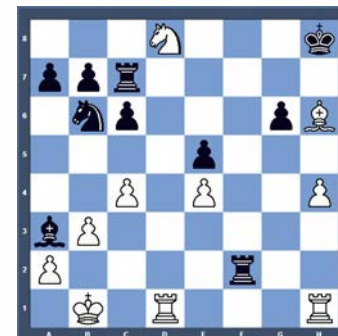
22.b3! ± This was in front of Jakovenko's eyes when he took on e6. Suddenly the b6 knight is completely out of the game. The black rooks have no chance to fight for the only opened file. On the other side White has several ways to improve his position. He might double his rooks on the d-file, might take space on the kingside with h4 or on the queenside with a4-a5, or just activate his king with Kc2-c3.

22...h6 23.h4! The g5 pawn is a key to keep Black in his cramped position. White has to hold it.

23...f5 A desperate attempt by Black to generate some counterplay, but it actually just hastens the defeat.

24.gxf6 [24.h5 was also about to be winning after 24...f4 25.♙d2 hxg5 26.♙c3+—]

24...♖f7 25.♘d3 [A more direct win was 25.♘e6 25...♙a3+ (25...♖xf6 drops a pawn after 26.♘xf8 ♖xf8 27.♙xh6+—) 26.♔b1 ♖xf6 27.♘d8! ♖c7 28.♙xh6 ♖xf2



29.c5! Black ends up in a lost position. 29...♘a8 (29...♙xc5 30.♘e6+—) 30.♘e6+— But Jakovenko preferred keeping the game calm and continued to play positionally without any calculation.]

25...♘d7 26.f4! exf4 [26...♖xf6 27.fxe5+—; 26...♖e8 was the best try, but even here after 27.♘xe5 ♘xe5 28.fxe5 ♖xe5 29.♙xa7± White has an extra pawn after the bishop retreats to d4. Black has some drawing chances, but of course a draw meant the same as losing for him.]

27.♙d4! White succeeded in obtaining an e5-f6 pawn chain, which seems to be fatal from Black's point of view.

27...♖e8 28.e5+— h5 29.♖he1 Black has only one move to stop e6.

29...♖e6 These are not the most ideal places for the rooks.

30.♘xf4 ♙h6 31.♙e3! ♙xf4 32.♙xf4 The game is over. White has an extra pawn, the black pieces are doomed and he has no chance to get rid of the e5-f6 pawns.

32...♔g8 33.♔c2 White has time for everything.

33...♔f8 34.♖e3 ♔e8 35.♖ed3 Black resigned as the e5 pawn cannot be taken. The next move could be Rd6, kicking out the blockader of the e6 pawn, after which the advance of the e5 pawn is going to win huge material. An impressive positional performance! **1-0**

(3) Korobov, Anton(2720) - Jobava, Baadur(2696) [A41]

FIDE World Cup 2013(2.1), 2013.08.14

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

1.d4 We are in the first game of the 2nd round of the World Cup. Both Korobov and Jobava are very aggressive players who are not scared to risk something even in such K.O tournaments. We will now see a great game by Korobov!

1...d6 This move is often played against 1.d4 players because usually a person who plays 1.d4 won't go for the Pirc by playing 2.e4.

2.♘f3 [White probably wanted to avoid 2.c4 2...e5]

2...♘f6 3.c4 c6 A very rare move and it looks a bit strange to me. In chess it is important to fight for development or the center during opening moves and by playing 3...c6, Black is not doing any of it.



4.♘c3 ♕f5 That is probably the key idea of Jobava's play. He is trying to avoid the main King's Indian Defence, but it still looks very strange.

5.♘h4 Very logical. 5.g3 should also have given White comfortable play.

5...♕d7 6.e4 And White is back into a known structure.

6...e5 7.♘f3 ♕g4 Black already doesn't have anything better, as after 7...exd4 8.Nxd4 White's position is just much better.

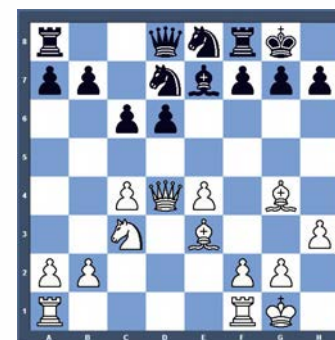
8.♕e2 ♘bd7 9.♕e3 ♕e7 10.h3 Korobov once again plays a very logical move. White is going to have the bishop pair with a stable small advantage.

10...♕xf3 11.♕xf3 O-O 12.O-O White has an easy plan for the next moves, to play Qd2-Rad1-Rfe1 and maybe g3-Bg2 followed by f4. If the position gets opened things could turn out very badly for Black.

12...♘e8 Black wants to exchange the bishop by playing Bg5, which of course is very important.

13.♕g4 Not the only, but the most simple way of stopping Black from playing Bg5 next. [13.♖b3 would also be a possible continuation.]

13...exd4 14.♖xd4 White has the center and of course his future plan is to attack on the kingside.



14...♘c5 [14...♘ef6 It was maybe more tricky for Black to first come back to check where the white bishop is planning to go, to f3 or e2.]

15.♖ad1 ♖c7 [15...♕f6 of course doesn't work because of 16.e5!]

16.f4 And White is finally starting to push his pawns.

16...♘f6 17.♙f3 a5 We have quite a typical position of the KID, except that White usually has to work very hard to get it. At the current moment, White has everything he could reach, the bishop pair, a solid center, but what's next?

18.g4! Exactly the right choice! No reason to wait, White has to start the rush!

18...♘fd7 White wanted to play g5 next anyway.

19.g5 ♖fe8 We also often see this defence idea of putting the bishop to f8 in the Sicilian.

20.h4 ♘f8 21.♖d2 [21.h5 was of course also possible.]

21...a4 22.h5 ♖a5 White's position looks really great, but Black's one is still very solid and White needs to take care about the tricks on the queenside. A move like Nb6 for example could be quite unpleasant now.



23.♖c2 A solid prophylactic move. [It was too early for 23.g6 23...fxg6 24.hxg6 hxg6 It is not that clear how White should proceed his attack now.]

23...♘b6 24.♙e2 Everything is protected.

24...♖ac8 Black is hoping for a d5 push at some good moment.

25.♙f2! Another excellent prophylactic move by Korobov.

White does not rush with actions and first stops all the counterplay.

25...♘e6 It is already hard to give Black an advice as although White doesn't threaten anything concrete, he doesn't have any counterplay. [25...d5 doesn't work as after 26.exd5 cxd5 27.♘xd5 White is just a pawn up.]

26.♙h1 White is working on a future g6 push step by step.

26...♘d7 Black is going for the b5 push, but it all doesn't look too good...

27.♙g4 The very positional play by Korobov leads to total desperation of Jobava. White wants to play e5 or he might even already be ready for g6. Black's position is on the verge.

27...a3 28.b3 b5? A desperate move. [Black should have continued to defend passively 28...♖cd8 and even if position the is very bad, White still needs to find a final blow.]

29.e5! The black knight on d7 is hanging, so it is a good moment to start the final attack.

29...bxc4 30.bxc4 The d6 pawn is lost, so Jobava tries his practical chances.

30...♖b8 At least a Black rook might be able to come to the second rank.



31.g6! White continues to totally crush Black's position.

36...  xg4



38...♙e7 39.♖e6+ ♔h7 40.♗f5 ♔g8 41.♗f7+ ♔h7 It was too much for Jobava and he resigned. Korobov had 30 minutes now to find 42.Rd2 or 42.Rf2 or 42.Kg2 and many

1-0

(4) Robson, Ray(2623) - Volokitin, Andrei(2688) [C42]

FIDE World Cup 2013(1.46), 2013.08.11

[Balogh Csaba]

A very interesting match between two young players with very similar style took place right in the first round. They have very strong opening preparation and both of them play very aggressive and tactical chess later on.

1.e4 e5 Volokitin usually plays different kinds of sharp Sicilians, but sometimes he prefers to drive the game to more calm waters and plays the Petroff or the Berlin defence instead.

2.♘f3 ♘f6 So, we have the Petroff today.

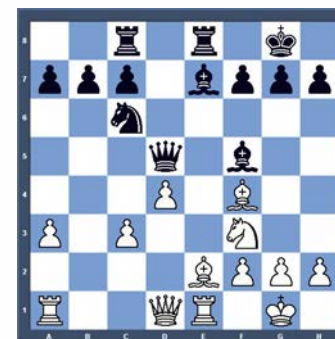
3.♗xe5 d6 4.♘f3 ♗xe4 5.d4 The main line. [5.♘c3 is very popular nowadays.]

5...d5 6.♙d3 ♘c6 7.O-O



7...♙e7 This line was brought to fashion by Kramnik, who played it successfully from 2004 for several years. At that period, it was extremely fashionable on the highest level, but now it became slightly forgotten as Kramnik and the other top followers stopped playing it. Almost all the games continue with the same moves as our game.

8.c4 ♘b4 9.♙e2 O-O 10.♘c3 ♙f5 11.a3 ♘xc3 12.bxc3 ♘c6 13.♙e1 ♙e8 14.cxd5 ♙xd5 15.♙f4 ♙ac8 This was considered to be the main position of the Petroff and the moment where all the players have started their analysis. There are hundreds of games in the database and most of them are from the highest level. Black's main idea is to create a strong blockade on the light squares of the queenside by playing Na5, while if White starts to advance his central pawns, Black quickly wants to put them under pressure with the minor pieces. Robson comes up with a rare move here. The main moves are 16.h3, 16.Bd3, 16.Nd2 or 16.c4.



16.♙c1! A tricky move introduced by Anand in 2005.

16...♙f6 This was the recommendation as an improvement from the Anand-Kramnik game. The bishop belongs to this place, controlling the e5 square and putting pressure on the d4 pawn in case of c4. [Seemingly it moves directly into Black's main idea 16...♘a5? seems to be Black's main idea and he doesn't only threaten Nc4, but also Nb3, but here White has 17.c4 ♙e4? Kramnik continued playing consequently. He still threatens Nb3 and also wants to play Qc2, because the endgames are usually fine for Black in this line. (17...♙d8 18.♙c3+= is also better for White and in this case Na5 had simply no point.) 18.♙d1! Controlling the c2 and b3 squares. 18...♙d3 Attacking the c4 pawn, but here comes the tactical

point of Anand:



19.♖e3!! ♕xc4 20.♖e5!! and Kramnik resigned as he loses a piece. What a miniature in classical time control!]

17.♗b2! This the point! White lures the c6 knight to a5 in order to be able to occupy the e5 square.

17...♘a5! [17...b6? drops the c7 pawn after 18.♙a6!]

18.♘e5! White doesn't only activate his knight, he also frees the f3 square for his bishop.

18...♙xe5 Volokitin wants to equalize in the most direct way. [18...♗b3 19.♗d2 ♙xe5 transposes to the game.; 18...c5!? definitely deserves attention and it is completely in the spirit of the position, since this is the reason of playing 15...Rac8.]

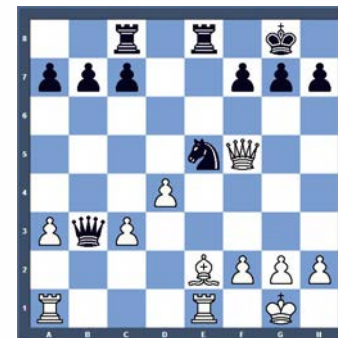
19.♙xe5 ♗b3 20.♗d2! White needs to keep the queens on the board if he wants to fight for the advantage.

20...♘c4 21.♗g5! [21.♙xc4 21...♗xc4 followed by f6 is exactly what Black wants in this opening.]

21...♙xe5 [21...♙g6 is pretty suspicious, but might be a better move. Black threatens to play f6, so White must look for some direct play. 22.♖ab1 ♗a2! and White is probably forced to repeat moves with Ra1-Qb3-Rab1. (22...♗xc3 leads to a worse endgame after 23.♖ec1 ♗d2 24.♗xd2 ♘xd2 25.♖xb7 f6 26.♙g4! The two bishops and the active rooks will be

very strong.; 22...♗xa3?? 23.♙xc4+—) 23.♖xb7 does not work unfortunately for White because of 23...♘d6! 24.♖xa7 f6]

22.♗xf5



22...♘c4 With the aim to reach the d6 square with the knight. White needs to act, otherwise the initiative might quickly pass to Black as he has the better pawn structure and the c3 and a3 pawns are already under attack.

23.♗c5! White finds a new target: the c7 pawn.

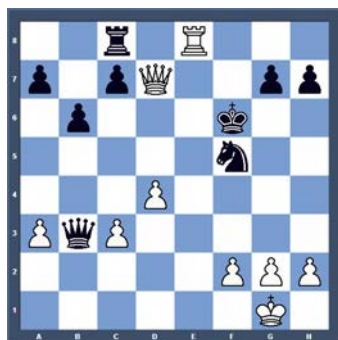
23...♘d6 24.♙g4! ♖xe1+ 25.♖xe1 b6 [Unfortunately for Black 25...♖e8 does not solve the problems. 26.♖xe8+ ♘xe8 27.g3! Opening the back rank and Black cannot prevent the annoying threat of Qe7! 27...g6 28.♗e7+; 25...♖f8 26.g3 is also better for White. Black cannot consolidate the pressure on the c7 pawn. White is ready to invade the 7th rank with his rook.]

26.♗c6 f5?! A tactical oversight, but it is easy to miss such things, as what will happen in the game. Black was hoping for 27.Bf3 Qb5, when he succeeds to trade the queens and the endgame would be still fine for him, but an unpleasant surprise was awaiting him! [26...♖f8 27.a4+= is also better for White.]



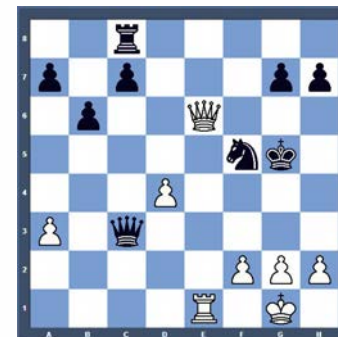
27. ♖xf5!! ♜xf5 28. ♜e8+ ♚f7! Both players try to use the weakness of their opponent's back rank!

29. ♜d7+ ♚f6



30. ♜e1!! This subtle move was the point behind the 27. Bxf5! combination. The black king is under serious attack. White can bring new attackers with the kingside pawns.

30... ♜g8 [30... ♜f8 was a better practical chance, but objectively it is also quite bad after 31.g4! If the knight moves, Qe7 wins. 31... ♚g6 32. ♜e6+ ♜f6 33.gxf5+ ♚h6± Black only has a bad endgame, but he might hope for survival.; 30... ♜xc3 loses to 31. ♜e6+ ♚g5



32.h4+!! ♚xh4 33. ♜xf5! ♜xe1+ 34. ♚h2+— Followed by g3 mate!]

31.g4! White is crushing now!

31...g6 [31... ♜d6 32. ♜e7+ ♚g6 33. ♜e6+— Black has to give his queen.]

32.f4! A very nice attack by Robson, the threat is g5 mate!

32...h6 33.h4! Refreshing the g5 threat and the knight cannot move because of Qe7 mate.

33... ♜f7 34. ♜xc8 A nice win and big step forward to reach the 2nd round and to play against Ivanchuk! **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Navara, D(2715)-Mareco, S(2561)

World Cup, 2013.08.11

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Popov, I(2632)-Ragger, M(2680)

World Cup, 2013.08.11

[CEWN]

1. +-

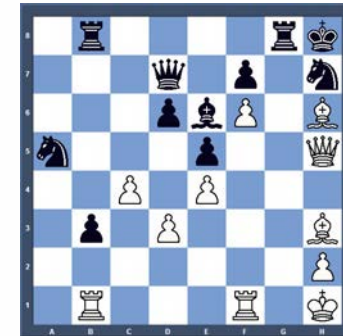


(7) Dubov, D(2624)-Fedorchuk, S(2669)

World Cup, 2013.08.11

[CEWN]

1. +-

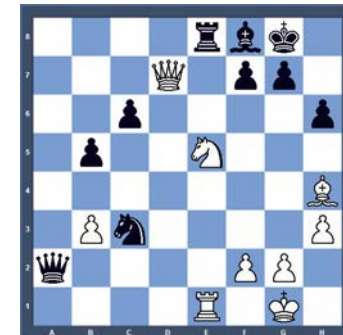


(8) Safarli, E(2660)-Amin, B(2652)

World Cup, 2013.08.11

[CEWN]

1... -+



World Cup, 2013.08.12

[CEWN]

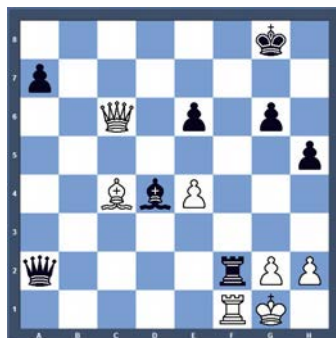
1. $\pm$



World Cup, 2013.08.12

[CEWN]

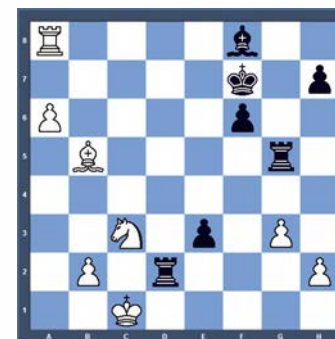
1. $+-$



World Cup, 2013.08.12

[CEWN]

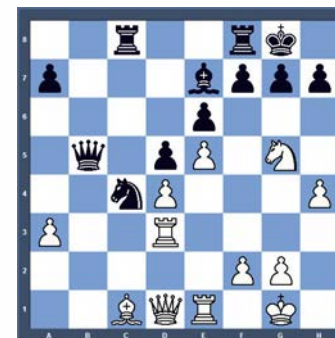
1... —+



Riga Open, 2013.08.06

[CEWN]

1. $+-$



(13) Antipov, M(2488)-Klenburg, M(2371)

Riga Open, 2013.08.06

[CEWN]

1. +-

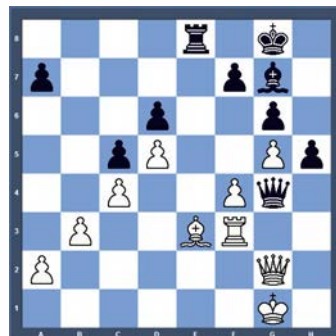


(14) Shishkin, V(2508)-Czebe, A(2467)

Arad Open, 2013.08.09

[CEWN]

1... --+

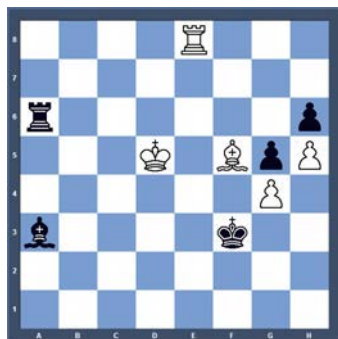


Endgame section

(15) Nakamura, H.(2775)-Cori, D.(2439)

World Cup (1.2), 2013.08.12

[CE Team]

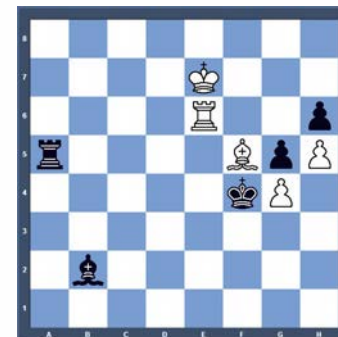


Nakamura had already won the first game against his young girl opponent. The second game was much more difficult, as Cori Deysi was fighting very well and Nakamura had to use all his tricks to take the full point home.

77...♙b2 78.♖e6! This simplification is the only try for White in the position. After trading the rooks, the white king will inevitably collect the h6 pawn, but despite this the arising opposite colored bishops endgame should be drawn.

78...♖xe6

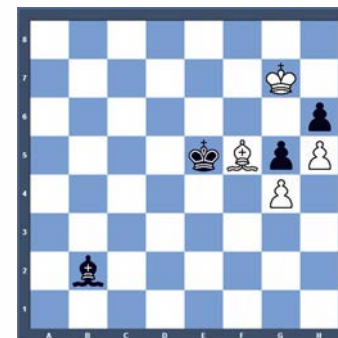
[The computer prefers to keep the rooks on the board and holds the draw fairly easy, but of course with a human mind it is very difficult to refrain from getting rid of the rooks. 78...♖a5+ 79.♙d6 ♙f4 80.♙e7 (80.♖xh6?? is obviously not possible because of 80...♖a6+)]



80...♖xf5! This is the idea of the machine! 81.gxf5 ♙xf5 82.♖xh6 g4 83.♖g6 Black draws here after almost all the moves. The easiest is probably 83...♙c1 84.♙f7 ♙g5 With the idea of advancing the g-pawn and after 85.h6 ♙xh6! 86.♖xh6 g3 87.♖g6 ♙f4 88.♙f6 ♙f3 89.♙g5 g2 90.♙h4 ♙f2 91.♙h3 g1=♚=]

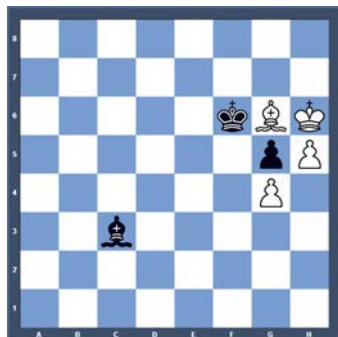
79.♙xe6 ♙f4! Black cannot avoid losing the h6 pawn, so it is clear that he should play on squeezing the white king to h6 by getting the king to f6.

80.♙f7 ♙e5 81.♙g7



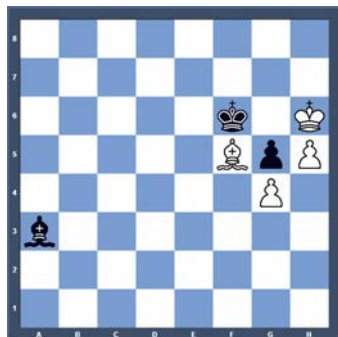
81...♙a3? This seems to be the decisive mistake. [81...♙c3 Black should have kept his bishop on the a1-h8 diagonal in order to control the key g7 square. It all becomes clear soon... 82.♙xh6 ♙f6 83.♙g6 Just like in the game, this is

the most dangerous try. (83.♔h7 is met by 83...♕f7 Black had to prevent Kg8 at any cost, since then the h-pawn promotes automatically. 84.♖c2 ♖e5 85.♖b3+ ♔f8 Black holds the draw easily now. 86.♖g6 ♖f4 87.h6 ♖e3 88.h7 ♖d4 89.♖xg5 ♖g7= Followed by Kh8 and waiting with the bishop on the a1-g7 diagonal.)



83...♕e7!! This is the key and only move! The black king must get to the corner and it could only be achieved via f8. (Other moves, for instance 83...♖d4? loses after 84.♔h7+- as Black is helpless against Kg8, Bf5 and h6-h7-h8...) 84.♖xg5 (84.♖h7 84...♖f8=) 84...♖f8 This endgame is an easy draw from Black's point of view. The last things he needs to do is to get the king to h8 and stay ready to sacrifice the bishop for the g-pawn. 85.h6 ♖g8 86.♖h5 ♖d2 White cannot make progress, and after 87.g5 ♖xg5! 88.♖xg5 ♖h8= With the well-known theoretical draw, when the bishop is of the wrong color...]

82.♖xh6 ♖f6



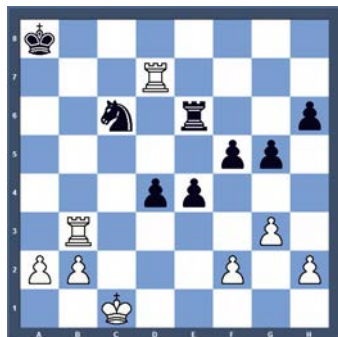
83.♖g6!! A great move by Nakamura! White prevents the Kf7-f8 idea and he gets his king to g8. The game is over. [83.♖h7? 83...♖f7 would have led to a draw as we already know.]

83...♖b2 [83...♖e7 84.♖g7! This is the point and the reason why the black bishop should have stayed on the a1-h8 diagonal. The black king does not reach the f8 square. 84...♖b2+ 85.♖g8+-]

84.♖h7! ♖a3 85.♖g8 ♖b4 86.♖f5 ♖c3 87.h6 ♖e7 88.h7 An instructive endgame lesson! **1-0**

(16) Ortiz Suarez, Isan Reynaldo(2609)- Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime(2719)

FIDE World Cup 2013(2.1), 2013.08.14
[CE Team]

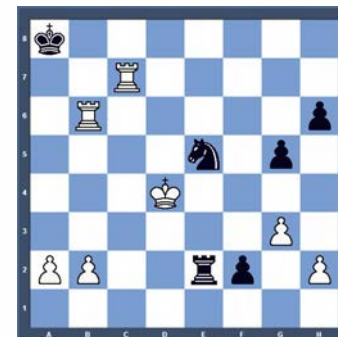


After an average game and slightly hectic time control moves, White reached a totally winning position. All he needs to do is to exchange the black rook in order to finish the game. It is clear that Ortiz Suarez was a bit nervous, but what happened during the next moves is still hard to explain.

41.♔d1 f4 Black is just trying his practical chances and pushing the pawns forward.

42.f3? White is still winning, but he is starting to play where he shouldn't do anything.

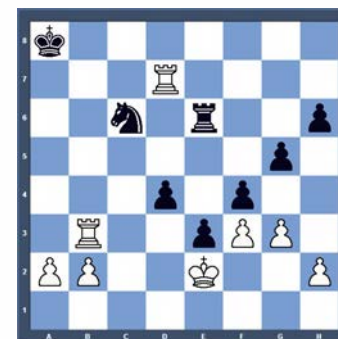
[White had to sit down and calculate one relatively long but forced line: 42.♖b6 42...e3 43.♔e1 f3 44.♖c7 d3 45.fxe3 ♖xe3+ 46.♔d2 ♖e2+ 47.♔xd3 ♜e5+ 48.♔d4 f2



49.♖f6 And now the game would just be over! The thing is that in a winning position nobody likes to take the risk of miscalculating something, but sometimes it is the only way to finish the game. To avoid forced lines every time could lead to the danger of missing the win.]

42...e3 Black continues pushing his pawns.

43.♔e2?? And once again White is active where he shouldn't do anything, but this time it is fatal. [Now it was already a mistake to play 43.♖b6 43...g4!; But the move 43.g4 would still win the game. White first needs to prevent Black from playing g4, before starting the final actions.]



43...g4!! Quite typical and not too hard to find. White is now lost !

44.♖f7 Nothing helps anymore...

44...gxf3+ 45.♔e1 ♘e5 What a funny position!

46.♖xf4 ♖c6 47.♔d1 e2+ And White cannot prevent Black from queening his pawn.



48.♔d2 ♖c1 A very sad end of the game for White, who was totally winning! **0-1**

Clash of the Titans

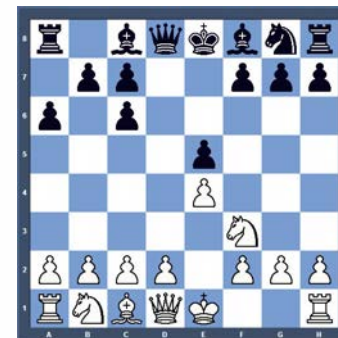
(17) Lasker, Emanuel-Tarrasch, Siegbert[C68]

World Championship(1), 1908.08.17

[Kamil Miton]

Today we will see a game of second World Champion Emanuel Lasker. He kept the title for 27 years, the longest in history. He was a mathematician, a philosopher and a friend of Einstein.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗xc6 dxc6



5.d4 A rare move. Nowadays White plays [5.O-O and here black has a lot of possibilities like 5...Ne7 , 5...Bg4 , 5...Qd6 , 5...Qf6 and also 5...f6, which lead to a similar endgame as in the game after 6.d4 cxd5 7.Nxd4 c5.]

5...exd4 6.♖xd4 ♖xd4 7.♘xd4 c5 8.♗e2 [8.♗b3 looks worse because after b6 at some moment, the knight will be limited.]

8...♗d7 9.b3 Maybe the a1-h8 diagonal is not bad for the bishop, but on the other hand Black now has an easier option to get rid of the doubled pawns: to push c4 at some moment. More natural was the plan Nbc3-Be3/Bf4-O-O-f3.

9...♙c6 10.f3



10...♙e7 The beginning of a wrong plan because the main compensation for a worse structure is the bishop pair!

11.♙b2 ♙f6 As we said before, Black should keep the two bishops. [11...f6]

12.♙xf6 ♙xf6 13.♙d2 Probably to not miss some c4 idea, White could also have played [13.♙bc3 13...O-O-O 14.♙f2 ♙d2 15.♙ac1 And soon White will chase the active black rook from the second rank. 15...♙hd8 16.♙hd1+=]

13...O-O-O



14.O-O-O+= White is clearly better thanks to his better structure. The black knight and bishop are limited by the

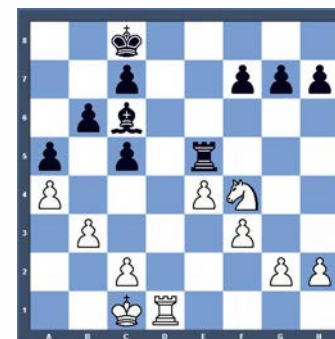
e4-f3 structure and at the moment Black doesn't have any counterplay on the queenside.

14...♙d7 15.♙f4 ♙e8 Black didn't put the rook on d8 to avoid exchanges, because one rook is needed to get some counterplay in the future.

16.♙c4 b6 17.a4 a5 18.♙xd7 [18.♙e3!? With the idea to play Nf5 in order to weaken the dark squares.]

18...♙xd7 19.♙d1 White could also try [19.♙d2 19...♙e5 20.♙xe5 ♙xe5 21.♙c3 The king is on time to not allow Black's c4 push, but the problem is that anyway the king will be needed to advance the pawns on the kingside.]

19...♙e5 20.♙xe5 ♙xe5



21.c4 The only move, otherwise Black will play c4 and the position can only be better for him.

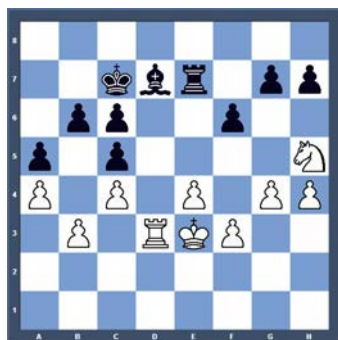
21...♙e8 Black is waiting. [21...f5 22.♙d3 ♙e7 23.exf5 ♙d7 24.g4 ♙e3 25.f4 h5 And White is on time after 26.♙e5±; 21...g5 An interesting move with the idea to exchange some pawns and activate the rook over the h or g-file. 22.♙d3 ♙e6 23.♙d2 g4 (23...h5 24.h4! A nice move which fixes the weakness on h5.) 24.♙e3 gxf3 (24...f5 25.e5↑) 25.gxf3 ♙h6 26.♙d2+=]

22.♙h5 ♙g8 23.♙d3 f6 24.♙d2 ♙e8 25.♙g3 ♙d7 26.♙e3 ♙e8 [26...♙d8 looks natural to bring the king a bit closer.

27. ♖f5 ♔e8]

27. ♖h5 ♜e7 28. g4 c6 Preparing for b5 at some moment, with the idea of looking for counterplay against the white pawns on the queenside. [28... ♗e8 29. ♖g3 ♜d7 30. ♜xd7 ♔xd7 31. ♖f5 g6 32. ♖g3 ♔e6 Because of the potential pressure on the b3 pawn, Black has good chances to save this endgame.]

29. h4 ♔c7



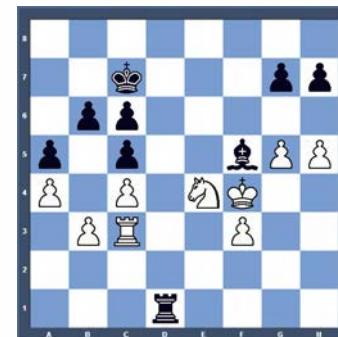
30. g5 [30. ♖g3 With the idea of playing Kf4-g5.]

30... f5 31. ♖g3 fxe4 32. ♖xe4 [32. fxe4 32... ♗e6 It is not easy for White to improve his position. 33. ♔f4 ♜f7+ 34. ♔e5 ♜e7 The king has to go back. 35. ♔f4 Black also has some ideas with b5.]

32... ♗f5 [32... ♗e8 The bishop comes to g6, where he doesn't allow the pawns to advance and is ready for counterplay against the b3 pawn in case the white knight moves away from e4.]

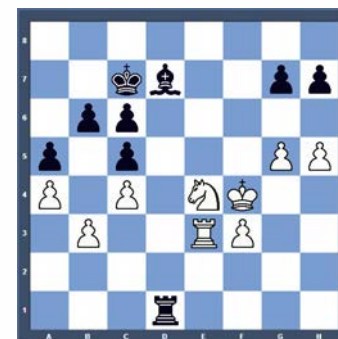
33. h5 ♜d7 34. ♜c3 White avoids the exchange, but now the black rook will be very active. [34. ♜xd7+ 34... ♔xd7 35. ♔f4 ♔e6 36. h6 gxh6 37. gxh6 ♗g6 It will be hard for White to improve his position because of the b3 pawn.]

34... ♜d1 35. ♔f4



35... ♗d7? It looks logical to keep the bishop but probably Black should have played [35... ♗xe4! And thanks to his active rook, Black should make a draw. 36. ♔xe4 (36. fxe4 36... ♔d6 Black should not lose this position thanks to his more active rook and solid king on e6.) 36... ♔d6 37. ♔f5 (37. ♜d3+ 37... ♜xd3 38. ♔xd3 ♔e5 39. ♔e3 ♔f5 40. f4 ♔g4 41. h6 gxh6 42. ♔e4 hxg5 43. f5 ♔h5 44. ♔e5 g4 45. f6 g3 46. f7 g2 47. f8=♜ g1=♜ 48. ♔d6 And White is fighting for a draw.) 37... ♜h1 38. ♜e3 ♜xh5 39. ♜e8 h6 40. f4 hxg5 41. fxg5 ♜h3 42. ♔g6 ♜xb3 43. ♔xg7 ♜b4∞It is hard to say who is playing for win here.; 35... g6 36. h6 And the h7 pawn is very weak.]

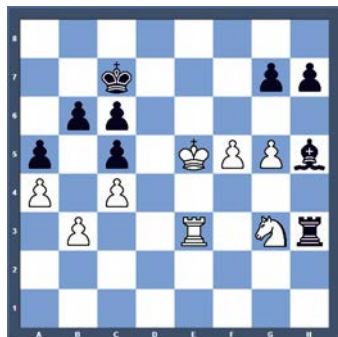
36. ♜e3 White's plan is to achieve the perfect set-up Ng3-Ke5 and then the f-pawn will promote very easily and unfortunately for Black it is hard to avoid this.



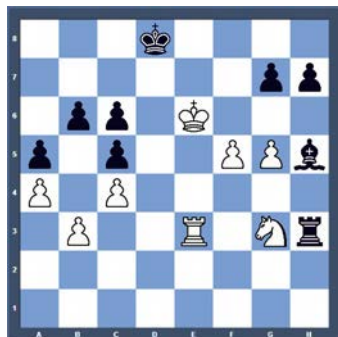
36... ♜h1 [36... ♗e8 doesn't work because White will win the

pawn after 37. ♖xc5 ♕xh5 38. ♖e6+±; 36... ♖d8 37. h6 gxh6 38. gxh6 ♕e8 39. ♖f6 ♕g6 40. ♖e6↑; 36... ♕c8 37. ♖g3 ♖d8 38. ♖e5↑ And the white f-pawn will promote.]

37. ♖g3 ♖h4+ 38. ♖e5 ♖h3 39. f4 ♖d8 [39... ♕g4 40. f5 ♕xh5



41. ♖e6! And now the strong black bishop doesn't have enough space! (41. f6 41... gxf6+ 42. gxf6 ♕f7∞) 41... ♖d8 (41... ♕g4 42. ♖f7 ♖xg3 43. ♖xg3 ♕xf5 44. ♖xg7 ♖d6 With some practical chances, but objectively the position is winning for White. ; 41... ♕e8 42. ♖e7+—)



42. ♖d3+! White chooses a new target. (42. f6 42... gxf6 43. gxf6 ♖e8 44. ♖d6+ ♖f7 45. ♖xc6 ♕g4 46. ♖xb6 h5 47. ♖f1 ♖xe3 48. ♖xe3 ♕e2 Black has good counterplay thanks to the h-pawn.) 42... ♖e8 43. ♖d6 ♕g4 44. g6 And Black will lose all pawns on the queenside, as 44... ♕xf5 doesn't work because of 45. ♖e3+—]

40. f5 ♖h4 [40... ♕e8 41. g6+—]

41. f6 gxf6+ 42. ♖xf6 ♕e8 White is winning very easily as Black is not able to stop the pawn from promoting.

43. ♖f5 ♖f4 [43... ♖xh5 44. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 45. ♖g7+—]

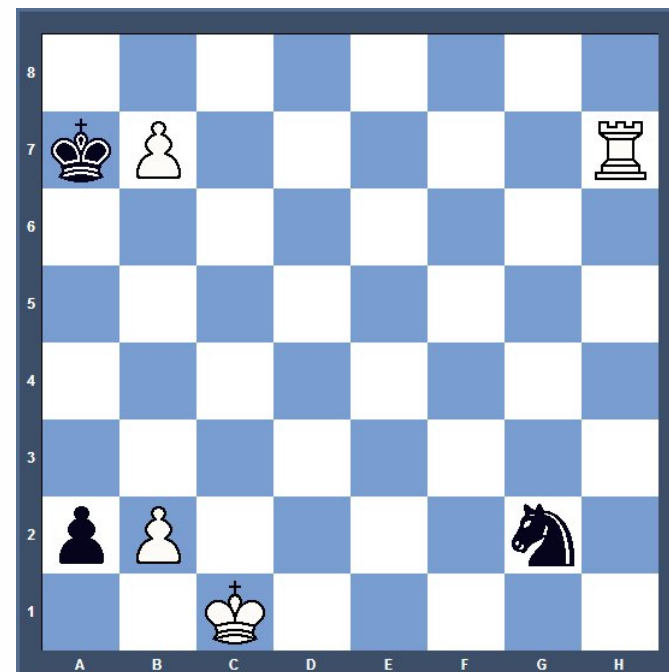
44. g6 hxg6 45. hxg6 ♖g4 46. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 47. g7 ♖d7 48. ♖h4 ♖xg7 49. ♖xg7 ♖e6 50. ♖f3 ♖f5 51. ♖f7 ♖e4 52. ♖e6 ♖d3 53. ♖d6 ♖c3 54. ♖xc6 ♖xb3 55. ♖b5 And White is on time. 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Zalkind

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(19) Adams, M(2740)-Wang Hao(2752)

Dortmund, 2013.07.30

[Solutions]



25...♙d7? [25...♙c2!! 26.♖xb4! axb4 27.♖xc2 b3!! 28.♙xb3 (28.♖c1 28...♖c8!+) 28...♖a1+ 29.♔g2 ♖b1 30.♖c8+! ♔g7 31.♖e8! ♖xb3 32.♙d8=]

26.♙xa5±

(20) Andreikin, D(2727)-Khenkin, I(2605)

Dortmund, 2013.07.30

[Solutions]



19.♜xe5! ♜xe5 20.♜g6! +- ♜f6 [20...♜xg3 21.♜xe7+ ♔h8 22.fxg3+-]

21.♜xf8+- [21.♜xe7+ 21...♜xe7 22.♙c5+-]

(21) Kramnik, V(2784)-Fridman, D(2629)

Dortmund, 2013.08.01

[Solutions]



29.♞d5!! exd5 30.♙xf6+- ♞e5 [30...♞xf6 31.♞xf6+ ♔e7 32.♜e5#]

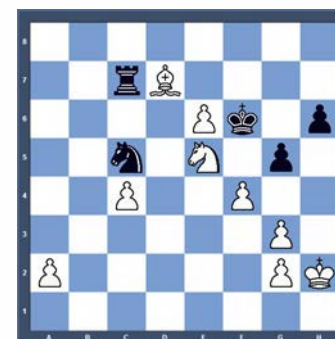
31.♜xe5+ ♔d7 32.♙g7 ♜e8 [32...♜e7 33.♞f6+-]

33.♞f6+ ♔c7 34.♜a1 1-0

(22) Khenkin, I(2605)-Caruana, F(2796)

Dortmund, 2013.08.01

[Solutions]



53.♞g4+? [53.f5!! 53...♞e4 (53...♜xe5 54.e7+-; 53...♞xd7 54.exd7 ♔e7 55.f6+-) 54.♞g4+ ♔e7 55.♞xh6+- (55.♞e3+-)]

53...♔e7 54.♞xh6 ♞xe6 55.♙xe6 ♜xe6=

(23) Harikrishna, P(2680)-Gharamian, T(2655)

Biel Open, 2013.07.30

[Solutions]



22. ♖xg5! ♜xf3 [22... ♜xf1 23. ♜e3+- (23. ♜d2 23... ♜xf3 24. ♜xd6+ ♔e8 25. ♜d8#)]

23. ♜d2 1-0

(24) Sandipan, C(2623)-Megaranto, S(2524)

Biel Open, 2013.07.31

[Solutions]



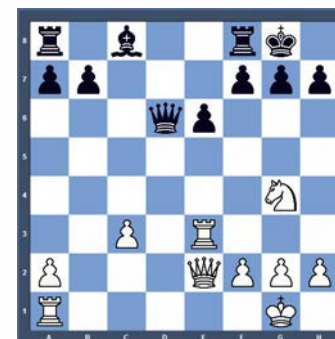
15... ♜xe5! 16. dxe5 ♘c5+- 17. ♜d2 [17. ♘d4 17... ♘xd4 18. exd4 ♜xf4+-]

17... ♜xf4+-

(25) Williams, S(2481)-Weaving, R(2196)

British Championship, 2013.07.30

[Solutions]



24. ♜f6+! ♔h8 [24... gxf6 25. ♜g4+ ♔h8 26. ♜g3+-]

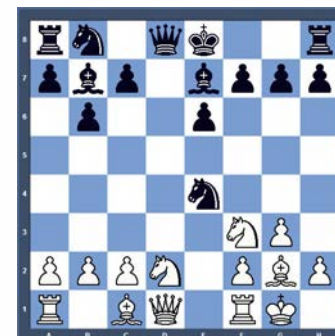
25. ♜h3 h6 [25... gxf6 26. ♜h5+-]

26. ♜e3 1-0

(26) Ghasi, A(2459)-Meszaros, G(2255)

British Championship, 2013.08.01

[Solutions]



9. ♜e5! ♜d6 [9... ♜xd2 10. ♘xb7 ♜xf1 11. ♜xd8+ ♘xd8 12. ♜xf1+-]

10. ♘xb7 ♜xb7 11. ♜f3+-

(27) Edouard, R(2662)-Danielsen, H(2510)

Politiken Cup, 2013.07.30

[Solutions]



29. ♖a6! bxa6 30. ♕c5! 1-0

(28) Andersen, M(2477)-Grandelius, N(2573)

Politiken Cup, 2013.08.03

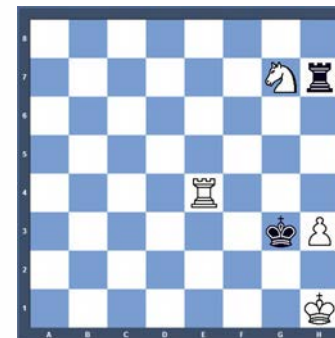
[Solutions]



24. ♙xb6! axb6 25. ♖xc4 ♙a6 26. ♖xc6+—

(29) Pogosiants

[Solutions]



1. ♖g4+! ♙xh3 [1... ♙f3 2. ♖h2+—]

2. ♖g2!! [2. ♖g6 2... ♖h8! 3. ♙f5 ♖g8!=]

2... ♖h4 [2... ♖h6 3. ♖h2++—]

3. ♙f5 ♖g4 [3... ♖f4 4. ♖g3#]

4. ♖h2#



Chess **Evolution**

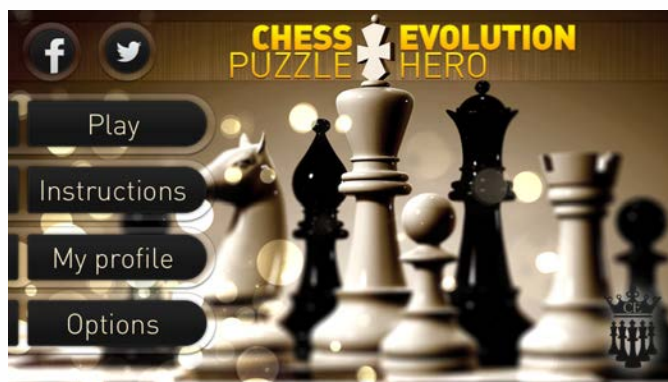
Weekly Newsletter

Issue 78

23rd of August 2013

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Editorial Preface

The World Cup has reached the quarter finals. Some of the favorites remain, while some have dropped out. We have seen many amazing matches with extreme tension and huge fighting spirit. Games of over 170 moves! Just yesterday we saw a really spectacular tie-break between Tomashevsky and Morozevich, or the 2 amazing fighting games from the Mamedyarov-Kamsky match, or Grischuk-Le Quang Liem.

At the moment, 2 of the top favorites are still in the competition, Kramnik and Caruana. But players like Kamsky, or even Andreikin should be not cut off. Andreikin has showed a clear strategy so far, to make 2 draws in normal chess and beat his opponents in rapid in blitz, which has been working so far!

The tension is growing and of course we will keep you updated. As usual, we bring you the most interesting commented games from the World Cup in Norway!

We also have other great news for you: the "Chess Evolution Puzzle Hero" has finally been released and is available in App and Android stores. It is running on Iphones, I pads and Android systems. Enjoy solving puzzles and get yourself into the high scores!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Kamsky, Gata(2741)

- Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2775) [B47]

FIDE World Cup 2013(4.1), 2013.08.20

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the 1st game of the 4th round of the World Cup. Only 16 players are left and the matches are getting more and more tense, every game is worth more and more and from time to time players tend to take more "safe" decisions. This does not count for Kamsky. In a great attacking game he managed to mate Mamedyarov, who has been playing just great chess in the last few months, winning almost everything he could.

1.e4 Kamsky also plays 1.d4, which makes the preparation harder.

1...c5 Mamedyarov also plays 1...e5, but it seems that he is ready for a heavy fight.

2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 The Paulsen with 4...Nc6 is not a rare opening at all. Lately Black has been achieving quite solid results with it.

5.♘c3 ♙c7 6.f4 I like to play this move myself as White. The main line is 6. Be3.



6...d6 I don't think 6... d6 should be counted as a main danger for White, as he is now getting a nice version of a Sheveningen. [6...♘xd4 and; 6...a6 are the two critical continuations.]

7.♙e3 Leaving White with both castle options open.

7...♘f6 8.♙f3 [I think that 8.♙e2 followed by Qd2, 0-0-0 and g4 can also be unpleasant for Black.]

8...a6 9.♙d3! With this move Kamsky makes it clear that he is going for a short castle and wants to achieve some sort of Sheveningen position with a tempo up.

9...♙e7 10.0-0 0-0 11.♙h1 Now we are totally in the Sheveningen, but with a very nice version for White. Usually White has to play Be2 first and then Bd3 loses a tempo. I think that by now it is clear that something went very wrong for Black in the opening.

11...♙d7 Black is preparing the b5 move.

12.♙ae1 b5 13.a3! A very good positional move. Before taking action in the center, White needs to secure the position of the knight on c3.

13...♙ab8?! Very risky play by Black. Already being in a bad version of the opening, Black should clearly have paid much attention to White's attacking ideas and a move like Rab8 doesn't help in the defence. [13...♙fe8 would have been a more solid choice.]



14. ♖xc6! Another very strong move. Now Black is almost forced to play Bxc6 and the white queen on h3 is going to take a perfect place.

14... ♗xc6 15. ♔h3 White wants to push e5 as well as f5. Things are getting very dangerous around the black king.

15... ♖fd8 A logical move with the idea of pushing d5, but maybe again a move like Rfe8 would have been more careful.

16. ♗d2! Another very strong positional move, based on exact calculation. Immediate pushes would not bring White much, so Kamsky is preparing the deadly e5.

16... d5 Black already didn't have much of a choice. [16... g6 17. f5 And White's attack seems to be very strong as well.]

17. e5 ♖e4 It seems like Black is fine, but of course with the move 16. Bd2! White was preparing an atomic bomb on Black's kingside...



18. f5!! That was the point behind all of White's play. Of course 18. Bxe4 could only be good for Black.

18... ♖xd2 Mamedyarov accepts the challenge and actually Black didn't have anything better. [The greedy 18... ♔xe5 19. ♖xe4 dxe4 20. ♗c3 leads to an almost lost position on the

spot.; 18... exf5 was not much better either: 19. ♔xf5 ♖f8 20. e6 And White has a huge advantage.]

19. fxe6 White wants to mate by playing Qxh7.

19... ♖e4 At first sight it looks like Black is doing more or less solid.

20. exf7+ ♔h8 How to open the black position now?!

21. ♖xd5! Another very nice move. I am sure that Kamsky saw it all before playing 16. Bd2. The US Grandmaster really seems to be in top shape.

21... ♗xd5 22. ♖xe4 This is why 21. Nxd5 was so important. The white bishop on d3 is alive and helps in the continuation of the attack against the black king.

22... g6 Clearly the best defence. Black is making space for his king on g7 and tries to create a blockade on the dark squares.

23. ♖ef4?! A very logical move, but quite a serious mistake. [White should have been more careful to guarantee himself the e6 move: 23. ♖e3 Followed by e6, with a big advantage.]

23... ♔g7? And Black also misses his chance with a very human move... [23... ♔c6! would have turned the game completely. The position would be very unclear now. White has no e6 which means that the f7 pawn could eventually get lost in the future if Black managed to consolidate with Kg7-Rf8. The position remains very sharp now.]

24. e6 White has connected his pawns, so the game is now almost over.

24... ♖f8 White wanted to play f8Q and Rf7 with mate.



25. ♕e3! A very strong move! Black cannot control the d4 and e5 squares at the same time, which means his position is just lost!

25... ♘c5 26. ♕e1 Now the weak spot is the c3 square.

26... ♘d6?! Black is making it a bit too easy for White.
[After 26... ♘e7! White would have to bite a much harder nut to win the game. 27.c4! looks like White is going to mate, but it is not so. 27...bxc4 28. ♕c3+ ♖h6 The black king is one step away from mate, but this step is hard to make. At least there is no easy way of finishing the game. 29. ♘xc4 With "just" a big advantage for White.]

27. ♖h4 Now the game is over. White wants to mate by playing Rxh7-Qh4 and Qf6.

27... ♘e7



28. ♕e3! With the double threat of playing Qh6 and Qd4.

28...h5 [28... ♘xh4 also leads to mate after 29. ♕d4+ ♖h6 30. ♕xh4+ ♖g7 31. ♕f6+ ♖h6 32. ♖f4+—]

29. ♕d4+ ♖h6 30. ♖xh5+ Now after 30... Kxh5 31. Qxd5 Kh6 White has a wide choice of winning moves, one of them is 32. Qe4 and the pawn on g6 is going to fall. A really fantastic game by Kamsky! **1-0**

(2) Svidler, Peter(2746) - Radjabov, Teimour(2733) [E71]

FIDE World Cup 2013(3.1), 2013.08.17
[Balogh Csaba]

Already in the third round, at the stage of the best 32, there were some huge fights between two top players. We will now examine how Svidler outplayed Radjabov.

1.d4 Since the Candidates tournament in March, 1.d4 is not a surprise anymore by Svidler. Before this year, he only played 1.e4.

1...♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 Radjabov goes for his favorite King's Indian defence, a sharp fight is ahead of us.

4.e4 d6 5.h3 O-O



6.♙g5 Svidler has already tried this relatively rare system against Grischuk a few months ago, so it could not come as a surprise for Radjabov.

6...♙e8 A rare move with the idea of playing the standard King's Indian motif of e5, but first Black had to leave from dxe5 dxe5 Qxd8 Rxd8 Nd5. However Svidler was well prepared against this move! [The main line continues with 6...c5 7.d5 e6 8.♙d3 exd5 9.cxd5 just as the Svidler-Grischuk game.]

7.♘f3 e5



8.dxe5! dxe5 9.♘d5! This kind of simplification is always a critical test of e5. White forces the improvement of his pawn structure after getting the c-pawn to d5, the question is always if the direct undermining attempt with c6 is enough to get enough counterplay or not...

9...♘xd5 10.cxd5 c6 11.♙c4! White would like to have a minor piece on d5, which would guarantee him a small advantage in the middlegame.

11...♘d7 A logical move, Black wants to play Nb6 before taking on d5 in order to force White to take back with the e-pawn, but it has a drawback as well, that the knight on b6 is going to be misplaced. [11...cxd5 12.♙xd5 ♘c6 does not equalize either: 13.♙e3 Provoking the b6 move, otherwise Black could have traded the bishops with Be6. 13...b6 14.♙c1 ♙b7 15.O-O+= White has better pieces.]

12.O-O ♘b6 13.♙b3 cxd5 14.exd5+= The opening part of the game finished with White's clear advantage. Black's pieces are misplaced (the b6 knight and the e8 queen), therefore Black cannot launch a quick counterplay with e4, which would be obligatory for the equalization.



14...h6 [14...e4 is met by 15.♖e1! Black is in trouble. 15...♙xb2



16.♙h6! ♙xa1 (16...♙g7 17.♙xg7 ♖xg7 18.♗d4+ ♗g8 19.♖xe4 ♗d8 20.d6+- White is crushing.) 17.♗xa1 f6 18.d6+ ♗h8 19.♙xf8 ♗xf8 20.♖xe4+- With a winning advantage.]

15.♙e3 Threatening to play Bc5!

15...♗d8 Black tries to consolidate his pieces and frees the e8 square for the rook, but he is wasting too much time. [15...e4 16.♘d2 f5 is met by 17.♙c5 ♖f7 18.♙xb6! axb6 19.♘c4± With a big advantage!]

16.♗d2! Developing with tempo.

16...♗h7 17.♖fe1 ♖e8 18.♖ac1! Svidler brings all his pieces to their ideal squares. He is intending to push d6 to open the

diagonal for the b3 bishop and to invade the 7th rank with his rook. Normally Black should have his knight on d6 as a blockader to be fine, but here it is just impossible.

18...e4 Radjabov is searching for counterplay.

19.♘h2! The only move to keep the d5 pawn protected. The knight is temporarily misplaced, but the e4 move gave a new option for White to play Bf4 and using the c7 square.

19...♗d6 [19...♙d7 is met by 20.d6 ♙e6 21.♖c7+- Black collapses.; 19...♘d7 with the idea to get the knight to d3 is also slow. 20.d6 ♘e5 21.♖c7 ♙e6 (21...♘d3 22.♖xf7 ♘xe1 23.♙d4+-) 22.♙f4 ♘d3 23.♖xe4+-]

20.♙f4 ♙e5 21.♖xe4 White is already materially ahead and his position still has all the plusses that it had before.

21...♙xf4 22.♖xf4 ♙f5 Black desperately tries to complicate the matters, but of course it does not help.



23.g4! Svidler does not even give time to finish the development.

23...♙e6 [23...♖e4 24.♖f3! is an important detail, when Black loses the f7 pawn.]

24.♘f3! Perfect calculation, White protects his queen and he therefore threatens to play dxe6 and the pawn on d5 is indirectly protected.

24...g5 [24...♘xd5 drops the knight after 25.♖d4 ♜ad8 26.♖d1+-]



25.dxe6 White gets a completely winning position after this nice exchange sacrifice. [The machine would have finished the game with 25.♖f6! 25...♘xd5 26.♘xg5+! hxg5 27.♙c2+ ♔g7 28.♙xg5+ ♔f8 29.♖h6+- but Svidler's decision is more human.]

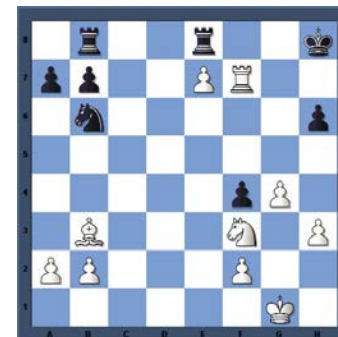
25...♙xf4 26.♙xf4 gxf4 27.♖c7+- Black's position is much worse than it might look at first sight. The b6 knight is still dead, while his king is suddenly in a mating net and the e-pawn also has many potential threats.

27...♔h8 [27...♖f8 28.e7 and Bxf7 next wins.]

28.♖xf7 ♜ad8 [28...♖f8 29.e7+- and; 28...♘c8 29.♘e5+- are equally hopeless from Black's point of view.]

29.e7 The rook cannot leave the back rank because of Rf8! [29.♘e5+- was also good enough with the idea of Ng6-Kg8 e7.]

29...♖b8 All moves are winning now, but Svidler finds the most pretty one.



30.g5! With the threat of g6 and Rh7 mate.

30...♖g8 [30...hxg5 31.♘xg5+- Rh7 mates next move.]

31.♙c2 ♜g7 32.♖f8+ [Black resigned in view of 32.♖f8+ 32...♖g8 33.♖xb8 ♜xb8 34.♙g6+- A convincing victory by the winner of the previous World Cup!] **1-0**

(3) Gelfand, Boris(2764) - Moiseenko, Alexander(2699) [D38]

FIDE World Cup 2013(3.1), 2013.08.17

[Balogh Csaba]

A nice positional lesson by Boris Gelfand.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♙b4 Moiseenko plays his usual solid Ragozin defence and Gelfand replies with a safe system, where he might fight for a small advantage and he never can be worse. A good strategy for knock-out tournaments.

5.♙g5 h6 6.♙xf6 ♚xf6 Black's main idea is to fight against the center with c5, with his next move White prevents this by luring the knight to c6.



7.♚a4+ ♘c6 8.e3 O-O 9.♙e2 White completes the development. Moiseenko himself played 9... Bd7 here a few months ago, but this time he deviates with a standard motif.

9...dxc4 In these kind of lines, when the knight was forced to go to c6, Black has the typical plan of taking on c4, followed by Bd6 and e5. This plan is well supported by the c6 knight.

10.O-O



10...♙d6 [10...a6 is probably a better move. Black threatens to protect the c4 pawn with Bxc3 and b5, so White cannot delay the recapture anymore: 11.♙xc4 ♙d6 11...b5 obviously did not work because of the pin, Bxb5. In comparison to the game, the Black pawn is on a6 and it prevents the Nb5 motif and White had to take with the bishop on c4, therefore the queen remains misplaced on a4.]

11.♚xc4 e5 Black consequently continues with his plan. [11...a6 is usually a useful preparation, but here White gets an edge after 12.♘e4 ♚e7 13.♖ac1+= ♙d7 could be met by 14.♘c5+=]

12.d5!



12...♘d8? This is definitely not the right place for the knight.

[12...♖b8! was the critical move. It is of course a bad feeling to retreat to the initial square, but at least the knight can be improved through d7. 13.♗e4 ♕d8 14.♖ac1 ♘d7 White is better, but Black can fight...; 12...♗e7 is also bad because it cuts the queen's way back. White makes use of it with direct play: 13.♗e4 ♕g6



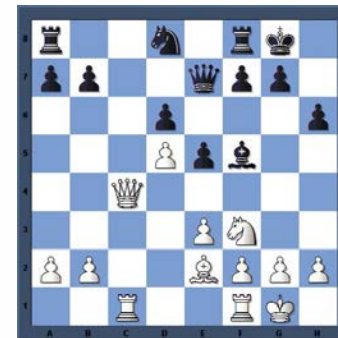
14.♗h4! ♕h7 15.♗xd6 cxd6 White can choose between many good options here. 16.♖ac1± (16.♕c7 16...♗xd5 17.♕xd6± White will soon win the e5 pawn.)]

13.♖ac1! Gelfand does not decide yet whether to play Nb5 or Ne4. In both cases the rook must stay on c1 to stay ready for the invasion through the c-file.

13...♕e7 [13...a6 is also bad since after 14.♗e4 ♕e7 15.♗xd6 cxd6 16.♕c7± White has reached everything he could.]

14.♗b5 ♕f5 [If Black tries to get rid of his weakness with 14...c6 he ends up in trouble after 15.♗xd6 ♕xd6 16.♖fd1± The placement of the d8 knight is terrible. Black has problems with the e5 pawn.]

15.♗xd6 cxd6



16.♗d2! An excellent positional move! White wants to play Qc7 followed by Nc4, attacking the d6 weakness. [The direct 16.♕c7 was also very tempting, but it is actually premature because of 16...♕xc7 17.♖xc7 ♗e4! With 16.Nd2 White also prevented this idea. 18.♖d1 f6! Followed by Rf7, kicking out the rook from the seventh rank. Black is only slightly worse.]

16...f6 Black wants to defend the seventh rank with Rf7. [16...♖c8 leaves the a7 pawn unprotected and White immediately makes use of this: 17.♕a4 a6 18.♖xc8 ♗xc8



White wins after the subtle maneuver: 19.♕c2! controlling the f5 square. The bishop is trapped, it can only move to d7, but then 19...♗d7 20.♕c7+–]

17.♕c7 ♖f7 18.♕xe7 ♖xe7 Black succeeded in parrying the direct loss of material, but positionally he is still doing very badly. Gelfand plays the most logical plan, he doubles his

rooks on the only opened file.



19.Rc3! Rxc8?! Moiseenko follows the general principle and tries to exchange some pieces in his cramped position, but it has concrete problems... [Black should have waited passively with 19...Kf8 20.Rfc1 Rb8± but of course it cannot lead to anything good in the long term.]

20.Rxc8! This is much stronger than 20.Rfc1 and we will soon get the point.

20...Rxc8 21.Rc1 Rd7 Black must control the c8 square. [21...Rf5 is met by 22.g4 Rg6 23.Rc8 Re8 24.Ra8 a6 25.Rc4+- wins material.]



22.Rc4! Rf7 There was no other way to protect the pawn, but after the next move it falls anyway.

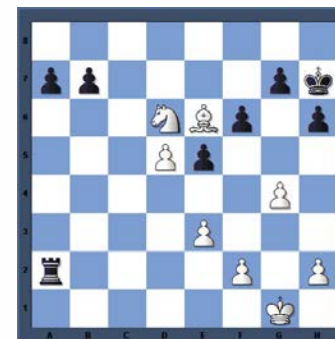
23.Rh5! The game is over! Sometimes chess is very easy.

23...Re8 24.Rc8 Black is totally pinned. He loses big material now...

24...Kh7 25.Rxe8 Rxe8 26.Rxf7 Rxc8 27.g4 Rc2 Black tries to get counterplay with his queenside pawns, but after taking on d6, the d-pawn is promoting very fast.

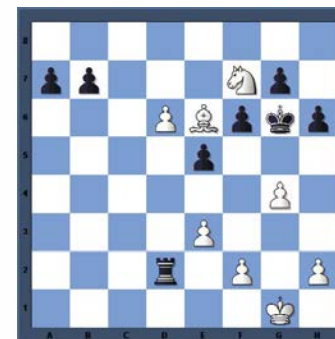
28.Rxd6 Rxb2 White has many winning plans, Gelfand finishes the game in style.

29.Re6 Rxa2



30.Rf7! White controls all the squares of the d-pawn with his bishop and knight. White only needs to push it now.

30...Rd2 31.d6 Kg6



32.e4! This is the easiest. White closes the d-file with Bd5 on

the next move and the pawn promotes.

32...a5 33.♙d5 [Black resigned in view of 33.♙d5 33...♖xd5 34.♘h8+! This is of course a key resource, which White had to foresee... 34...♙g5 35.exd5+—] **1-0**

(4) Giri, Anish(2737)

- Granda Zuniga, Julio E(2664) [E34]

FIDE World Cup 2013(3.4), 2013.08.19

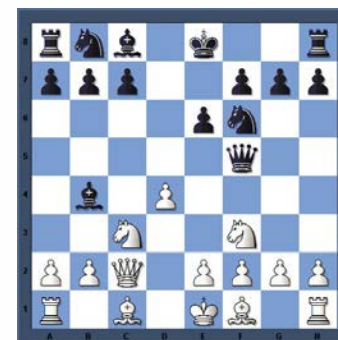
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the rapid tiebreak of round 3. Granda Zuniga lost the first normal game with White in a totally winning position and in the second game he managed to win with Black! He won the first tiebreak game with White, so he now needed to hold this one with Black to proceed to the next round. We are not going to watch the best game ever played, but I personally like the beauty in chess and a position which we are going to face clearly deserves the attention! :)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.♚c2 Giri was clearly the one who was better prepared in this match, but Granda Zuniga managed to outplay him in every game. This game is not different to the 3 previous ones.

4...d5 [4...O-O this is the main line and I think Kramnik has analysed it until the end, showing really fantastic results here with Black.]

5.cxd5 ♚xd5 6.♘f3 ♚f5 This is nothing new either.



7.♚b3 Of course Giri keeps the queens on the board. [7.♚xf5 7...exf5 leads to an about equal endgame.]

7...♖c6 8.♗d2 0-0 9.h3 All this is still theory. The position is very complicated.

9...♗xc3?! I am not sure why Granda Zuniga played this move. It is obvious that White will have a small but pleasant advantage after it. Maybe Black did not want a theoretical battle or maybe he was just out of book?! We will never know...

10.♗xc3 b6 Black is trying to cover the white squares, which is very logical but the bishop pair is clearly giving White a small edge.

11.g4 [The simple 11.e3 11...♗b7 12.♗e2 should also be slightly better for White.]

11...♔d5 Against the young guys, let's enter the endgame! :)



12.♗g2?! I don't like this move. Why destroy the pawn structure if it is not necessary?! [12.♔xd5 would give White a clear advantage in the endgame.]

12...♔xb3 13.axb3 ♗b7 It was now time for White to make a plan. What's next, how to make use out of the open a-file, etc...

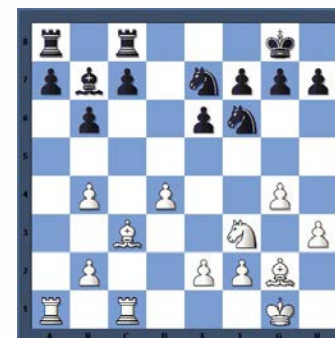
14.0-0 A good move. It didn't make much sense to keep the king in the center. [14.♗e5 didn't bring much, as after 14...♗d5 15.♗xc6 ♗xc6 Black is more or less fine.]

14...♗fc8 Black is trying to consolidate as much as he can.

15.♗fc1 [It was the last chance for White to play 15.♗e5 15...♗d5 16.♗xc6 ♗xc6 and now it is important to play 17.♗d2! (17.♗fc1 would lead to a minimally better endgame. 17...♗xc3 18.♗xc3 ♗xg2 19.♗xg2 Black still has to work, but has good chances of holding this endgame.)]

15...♗e7! A good move. Now it is not easy for White to play Ne5 without exchanging the bishop and a typical move like Bf1 with the idea of Nd2 is of course totally destroying the pawn structure after Black's Bxf3.

16.b4 White is acting against a5.



16...♗e8! Granda Zuniga is showing great endgame play. The knight on d6 is going to be a hero!

17.b5? Where is Giri going? The pawn on b5 is just going to be under attack. [17.♗d2 would still leave White with a slightly more pleasant endgame.]

17...♗g6 Logical and strong. [Of course not 17...♗d6 18.♗b4 I guess this is what Giri was hoping for.]

18.♗b4 It is already hard to give White any advice...

18...♗f4 19.♗f1 White kept the bishop pair, but everything else went wrong.

19...♞d3! The most simple. Of course 19... Bxf3 was also an option, but why keep 2 knights on the board for just one strong d5 square. The black bishop is going to be a superb piece.

20.exd3 It is not easy to play such a move, but there were no other moves left.

20...♞xf3 Let us take a look a fresh look at the position. Who likes the white pawns structure?! :)



21.♞e7?! This move already doesn't make any sense at all. White should have tried to double on the a-file at least.

21...f6 Simple and good. Black is bringing his king closer to the action.

22.♖a4 ♞f7 23.♞a3 ♖d8! A nice move. The black rook is going to take an great position on d7.

24.♞h2 ♖d7 25.♞g3 White is trying to bring his king into the game, but where is the sense of it now...

25...♞b7 26.♞f4 a6! Killing White's last hopes. The only blacks weakness was the a7 pawn and now it is going to disappear.

27.bxa6 White doesn't have anything better.

27...♖xa6 28.♖xa6 ♞xa6 White's position is getting worse

and worse, with really no chances of winning.

29.♞e3 ♞b7 Black is bringing his bishop back to d5.

30.♞e2 ♞d5 31.♞b4 And now comes the last step of Black's domination:

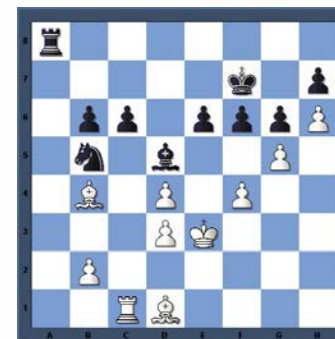
31...♖d8! Great! The a-file now belongs to Black!

32.h4 ♖a8 33.f4 c6 Black has a very safe position now and not much can happen to him...

34.h5 ♞c7 Black is bringing his knight to a better square.

35.g5 Another strange move from a practical point of view. Of course White is doing badly, but to close the kingside does not increase the winning chances...

35...♞b5 36.h6 g6 37.♞d1



37...f5 And everything is closed! We should not forget that White needs a win.

38.♞e1 ♞e8! The last step. Black is bringing his king to d7. Now there is not even much to blunder anymore...

39.♞b4 ♞d7 40.♞c2 Giri's moves are hard to understand...

40...♞c7 41.♞d2 ♞b5 42.♞c3 ♞c7 Black starts to keep on waiting. A really beautiful position! I guess in a different situation White would have to work very hard for a draw, but

in our case Black is clearly satisfied with passing to the next round.

43.♙d1 ♘b5 **44.**♙c2 ♘c7 **45.**♙d2 ♘b5 **46.**♙e2 ♘c7 **47.**♙e3 ♘b5 **48.**♙d1 ♘c7 **49.**♙d2 ♘b5 **50.**b3 Giri is moving on to a new plan of playing b3, but Granda Zuniga is not really impressed.

50...♘c7 **51.**♖c4 This already looks funny! :)

51...♖a1 **52.**♙e2



52...b5! Who needs an exchange!?! :)

53.♖c1 ♖xc1 **54.**♙xc1 ♙xb3 What a destruction of White's hopes.

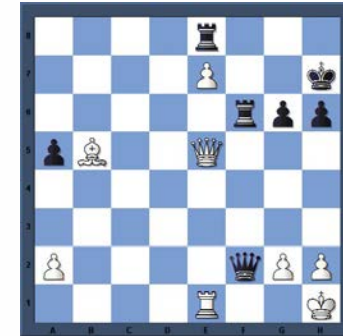
55.♙f3?? Even with his last move, Giri is making a huge mistake. He had still one hope, that after the logical 55...Bd5 White is suddenly winning after 56.Bh5! The last trap. What a game, we rarely such an outplaying on the top level. I guess Giri is back and has started practicing a bit of endgames... :) **1/2-1/2**

Puzzle section

(5) Cori, J(2569)-Radjabov, T(2733)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.13
[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Fier, A(2595)-Wojtaszek, R(2701)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.13
[CEWN]

1. +-



(7) Leitaο, R(2632)-Inarkiev, E(2693)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.13

[CEWN]

1. $\pm$



(8) Adams, M(2740)-Wan Yangu(2512)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.13

[CEWN]

1. $+-$



(9) Inarkiev, E(2693)-Leitaο, R(2632)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.13

[CEWN]

1. $+-$

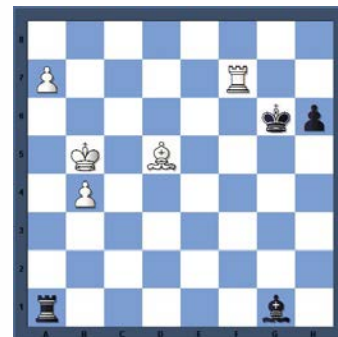


(10) Safarli, E(2660)-Amin, B(2652)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.13

[CEWN]

1. $+-$



(11) Shimanov, A(2655)-Kamsky, G(2741)

World Cup, 2013.08.15

[CEWN]

1... -+



(12) Kramnik, V(2784)-Areshchenko, A(2709)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.19

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Eljanov, P(2702)-Karjakin, S(2772)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.19

[CEWN]

1. +-

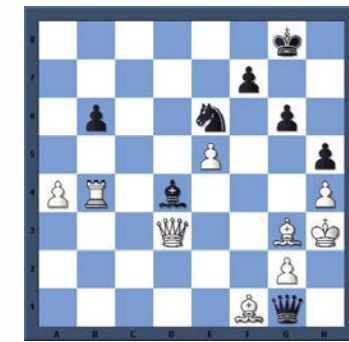


(14) Dreev, A(2668)-Andreikin, D(2716)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.19

[CEWN]

1... -+



Endgame section

(15) Ivanchuk, Vassily(2731)-Kramnik, Vladimir(2784)

FIDE World Cup 2013(4.1), 2013.08.20

[CE Team]



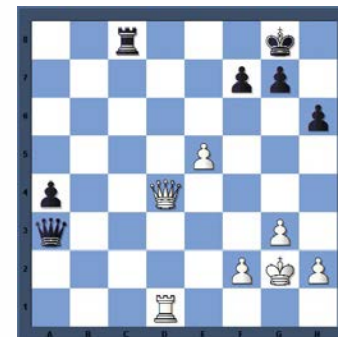
31.fxe5 The position looks like it is close to being equal, but Black still has some practical chances. The question is, how to make use of it?! Kramnik will show us how to push your opponent to the limit!

31...♞b3! The only move to go on, as of course Black's only chance is to keep the a-pawn alive. [31...♞xd3 would have been the wrong choice. 32.♞xd3 ♞c3 33.♞xd4 ♞xa3 34.♞d8+ ♔h7 35.♞a8 With an easy draw.]

32.♞xd4 White probably doesn't have anything better.

32...♞xa3 Black wants to play Rc1 next and the queen endgame could suddenly be really dangerous for White.

33.♞g2

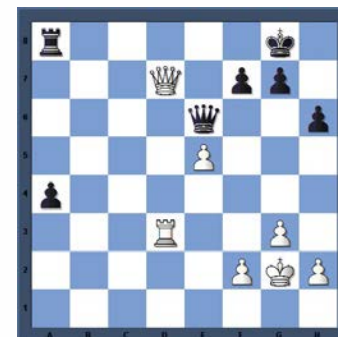


33...♞b3! Another very strong move. Black covers the white squares and what is most important is that he doesn't give White a chance to push e6 in the future. The main winning idea of Black is of course to push the a-pawn as far as possible.

34.♞d7 Well played by White, there is no time to be passive. White needs to create counterplay as fast as he can.

34...♞a8 35.♞d3 This is also the correct move. In case of a rook endgame, it is much better to block the a-pawn on a4 than on a2 or a1.

35...♞e6 Both players were getting short on time and Kramnik puts Ivanchuk in front of a difficult decision. Is the position after the exchange of queens a draw or is it better to defend with the queens on the board?!



36.♞b7! A good choice. [36.♞xe6 would have led to a more

tricky endgame. 36...fxe6 37.♖a3 And now it is important for Black to play 37...g5! The position probably still remains a draw, but White needs to be careful now, which is of course unpleasant when you think the draw is so close.]

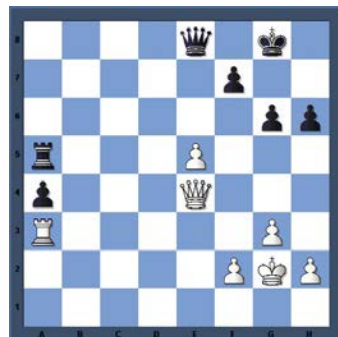
36...♙c8 Black has no choice but to offer the exchange of queens again, in order to keep the rook on the a-file, which is his only chance to be better.

37.♙f3? This is already a serious mistake. Now Black's advantage is getting clearer. [The right move was 37.♙xc8+ 37...♖xc8 38.♖a3 ♖a8 Black needs to put the rook behind the pawn, which is his only chance to win. 39.f4 Followed by Kf3-Ke4-g4-f5. This position should be a clear draw.]

37...♖a5 Black frees his queen, who was protecting the rook on a8.

38.♖a3 ♙e8 And now we can see very clearly that the draw is not an easy task to achieve here at all. White can quickly find himself in big danger.

39.♙e4 g6 A prophylactical move. Black cannot do anything forced, so he just improves his position.



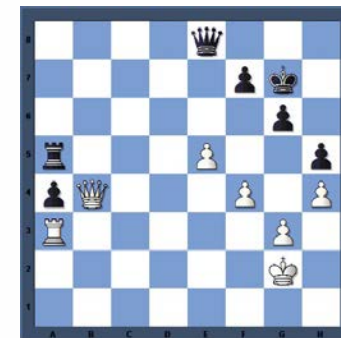
40.f4?? What a horrible positional mistake, as the white king is now going to find himself in big trouble. [40.h4 was the right move and after 40...h5 White should just keep on "waiting"

with 41.♙h2 Still Black remain some winning chances, but of course position is close to a draw]

40...h5 Now Black has a lot of ways to make White's life miserable. In a lot of lines a move like Qd7 followed by Rd5 can be a real killer.

41.h4 ♙g7 Before the final action, Black puts all his pieces on the perfect squares. In the current position, even an exchange of queens could lead to a quite unpleasant position for White, but of course it is better for Black to keep the queens on the board. The free a-pawn and the mating threats against the white king give Black very good practical chances to win the game.

42.♙b4?? This is the last shocking move of the game, after which it is really over. It is even difficult to understand what White missed here... [42.♙h2 would leave White with some hopes of surviving the game.]



42...♙c6+! The game is now totally over.

43.♙f2 ♖b5 Black's mating attack is just crushing.

44.♙d4 ♙c2+ 45.♙f3 ♖b2 A really tough loss for Ivanchuk, who showed slightly shocking play for the chess genius that we know him to be! :) **0-1**

(16) Le Quang Liem(2702)-Grischuk, Alexander(2785)

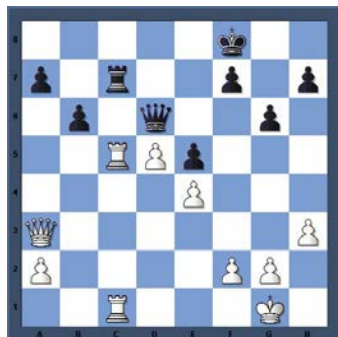
World Cup (3.1), 2013.08.17

[CE TEAM]



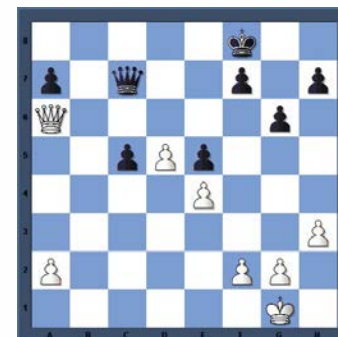
Despite the material equality, White has a clear advantage thanks to his protected passed pawn on d5. In all the endgames, it gives decent chances for White to win the game. Grischuk was in huge time trouble and his position was pretty unpleasant, therefore he takes a bad decision...

32...Qe7? [The best practical chance was to try 32...R8c7 33.Rxc5]



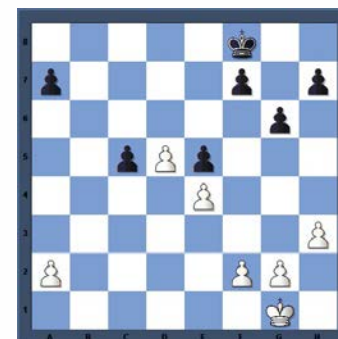
33...bxc5! when White's advantage is doubtless, but to convert it into full point requires a lot of effort, because he must always watch out that the c-pawn doesn't advance too far and gives Black counterplay... 34.Rc4+=[

33.Rxc5 Rxc5 34.Rxc5 Qxc5 [The queen endgame is quite a hopeless case after 34...bxc5 35.Qa6! White threatens to play Qc6, followed by d6, winning the c5 pawn. 35...Qc7 (35...f6 36.Qc6+—)



36.Qf6! This is a key resource, which Grischuk might have overlooked when he played Qe7. Otherwise Black could have brought his king to e7 with a good blockade against the d-pawn, but now the d6 threat is just too strong to deal with. For instance after 36...c4 37.d6+— and Qh8 will mate.]

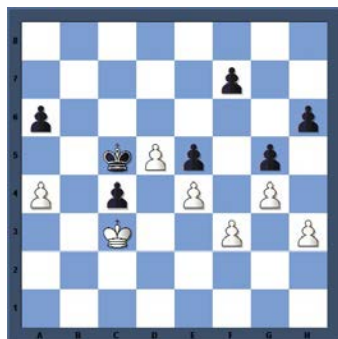
35.Qxc5+ bxc5 This endgame is winning for White. The strength of the protected passed pawns is especially big in pawn endgames. The path to the win is quite instructive.



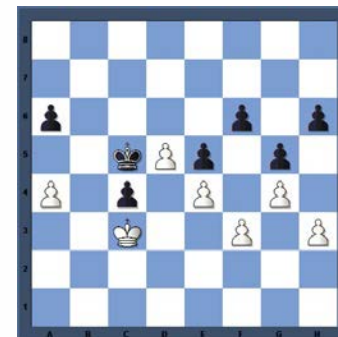
36.Kf1 White has to transfer his king to c4.

36...♔e7 37.♔e2 For Black the best practical chance is to push c4 and get his king to c5. Grischuk should have tried it now or a move later, although it objectively does not affect the final outcome.

37...f5 Black tries to get rid of the protected passed pawn, but obviously White has no intention to give it away... [37...c4 38.♔d2 ♔d6 39.♔c3 ♔c5 40.g4 g5 (40...f6 leads to the same after 41.h4 h6 Now all moves will lead to the same result. 42.a4 h5 43.gxh5 gxh5 44.f3 a6 And we will see the winning method in the 40... g5 line.) 41.a4 a6 42.f3 h6 It looks like Black has many tempi left and White has no way to make use of the d5 pawn. The c5 king safely protects the c4 pawn. However the reality is different...

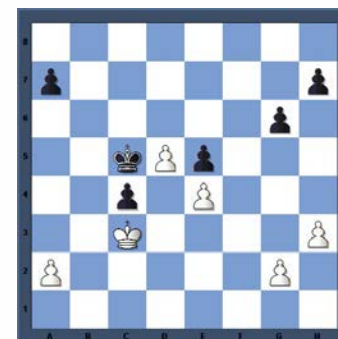


43.♔c2! White starts to make triangulations with the king, using the fact that Black cannot play Kd4 or Kb4, since it has to block the d-pawn. 43...♔b6 44.♔b2! This is the zugzwang! Black should play Kc6 now, but it is impossible... 44...♔c5 45.♔c3 Black is forced to move one of his pawns... 45...f6 White has won the first tempo, time to start the second triangulation...



46.♔c2! ♔d6 47.♔d2 ♔c5 48.♔c3! And again Black has to move his pawn. 48...a5 49.♔c2! (But not 49.d6? 49...♔xd6 50.♔xc4 ♔c6=) 49...♔b6 50.♔b2! ♔c5 51.♔c3!+-]

38.f3! ♔d6?! This allows the White king to c4, after which the win is easy. [38...fxe4 39.fxe4 c4 was still a better try, but White wins with the same technique as in the 37...c4 line: 40.♔d2 ♔d6 41.♔c3 ♔c5 In such pawn endgames, when we try to get our opponents into zugzwang, the best technique is to move with the pawn, which has already moved once. So, if it White's turn, he should play h4, and if it was Black to move, g5 would have been his best move!

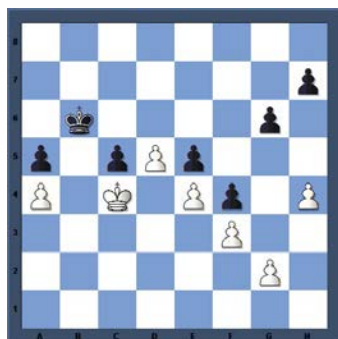


42.h4! h6 (Whenever Black plays 42...♔b5 43.d6! wins! 43...♔c6 44.♔xc4 ♔xd6 45.♔b5+- Winning either the a7 or the e5 pawn.) 43.g4 g5 44.hxg5 hxg5 45.a4 a5 Here again

White uses the zugzwang technique, which we already know.
46.♔c2! ♕b6 47.♕b2 ♖c5 48.♕c3+-]

39.♔d3 f4 40.h4! This is the most principled win, White fights for all the tempi on the kingside. [40.♕c4 was also good enough. 40...g5 41.♕b5 a6+ 42.♕c4 And Black soon gets into zugzwang. 42...h6 43.a3 h5 44.a4 a5 (44...h4 45.a5+- And the c5 pawn will fall because of the zugzwang.) 45.♕b5+-]

40...♕c7 41.♕c4 ♖d6 [41...♕b6 does not change anything. 42.a4 With the threat of a5! 42...a5



43.d6 ♕c6 44.d7 ♕xd7 45.♕xc5+- White collects either the e5 or the a5 pawn.]

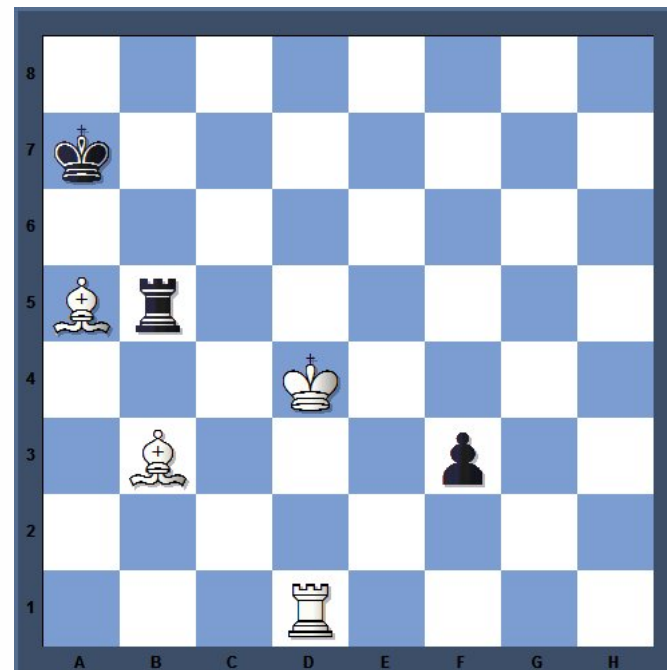
42.♕b5 h6 43.♕c4 a6 44.a3 Black resigned in view of White either playing a4-a5 in the next two moves and creating zugzwang, or if Black prevents it by playing a5, Kb5 decides the game. **1-0**

Surprise section / study

(17) Pogosiants

[CEWN]

1. +-



Solutions

(18) Navara, D(2715)-Mareco, S(2561)

World Cup, 2013.08.11

[Solutions]



40. ♖f6+!! ♔g6 [40...gxf6 41. ♕xf6+--]

41. ♘d7 1-0

(19) Popov, I(2632)-Ragger, M(2680)

World Cup, 2013.08.11

[Solutions]



41. ♖xc5! ♔xg5 [41...♖a2+ 42. ♔e3 ♖xf2 43. ♖xe5!+--]

42. g3+--

(20) Dubov, D(2624)-Fedorchuk, S(2669)

World Cup, 2013.08.11

[Solutions]



29. ♖g1!! ♖xg1+ [29...♙xh3 30. ♙g7+ ♖xg7 31. ♖xg7+--]

30. ♖xg1 b2 [30...♙xh3 31. ♙g7+ ♔g8 32. ♙f8+ ♔xf8 33. ♕h6+ ♔e8 34. ♖g8+--]

31. ♙g7+ ♔g8 32. ♙f8+ 1-0 [32. ♙f8+ 32...♔xf8 33. ♕h6+ ♔e8 34. ♖g8+--]

(21) Safarli, E(2660)-Amin, B(2652)

World Cup, 2013.08.11

[Solutions]



30... ♘e2+!! 31. ♖xe2 ♕a1+ 32. ♔h2 ♖xe5+--

(22) Rahman, Z(2470)-Gelfand, B(2764)

World Cup, 2013.08.12

[Solutions]



22. ♖xg4! ♗xe3+ [22...h6 23. ♖g5! hxg5 24. ♖c5+ ♔g7 25. ♖xg5+-]

23. fxe3 ♖xg4 24. ♖c5+! ♔g7 [24...♔e8 25. ♖c6+ ♔e7 26. ♖d6+ ♔e8 27. ♖e5+-]

25. ♖g5+ ♖xg5 26. ♖xg5+ ♔f8 27. b3±

(23) Ushenina, A(2500)-Svidler, P(2746)

World Cup, 2013.08.12

[Solutions]



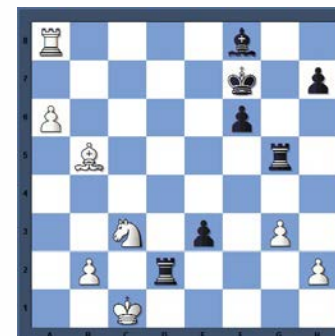
29. ♖xe6+! [29. ♗xa2? 29...♖c2+]

29...♔h7 30. ♖d7+! 1-0 [30. ♖d7+ 30...♖f7+ (30...♔h6 31. ♗xa2 ♖f7+ 32. ♖xd4+-) 31. ♖xd4+-; 30. ♗xa2? 30...♖f6+ 31. ♖f2 ♗xf2+ 32. ♔f1 ♖xe6=]

(24) Holt, C(2539)-Vitiugov, N(2719)

World Cup, 2013.08.12

[Solutions]



28...♖xb5! 29. ♗xb5 ♗h6! —+ 30. ♗c3 [30.a7 30...e2 31. ♖f8+ ♔xf8 32.a8=♖+ ♖d8+! —+]

30...e2 0-1

(25) Naroditsky, D(2503)-Baghdasaryan, A(2414)

Riga Open, 2013.08.06

[Solutions]



21. ♗xh7! ♗xe5 [21...♔xh7 22. ♖h5+ ♔g8 23. ♖g3! +- f5 (23...♖fd8 24. ♖xg7+ (24. ♗h6) 24...♔xg7 25. ♗h6+ ♔g8 (25...♔h7 26. ♗f8+ ♔g8 27. ♗xe7+-) 26. ♖g4+-; 23...♖fe8 24. ♗h6 g6 25. ♖xg6+-) 24. ♖xg7+ ♔xg7 25. ♗h6+ ♔h8 26. ♗xf8+ ♔g8 27. ♗xe7+-]

22. ♖b3 ♖a4 23. ♗xf8+-

(26) Antipov, M(2488)-Klenburg, M(2371)

Riga Open, 2013.08.06

[Solutions]

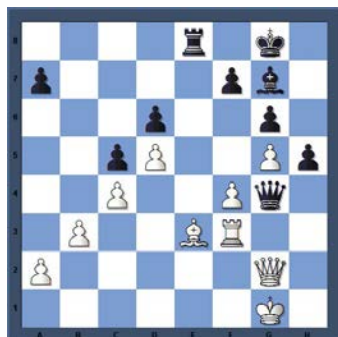


34. ♖xd4! 1-0

(27) Shishkin, V(2508)-Czebe, A(2467)

Arad Open, 2013.08.09

[Solutions]

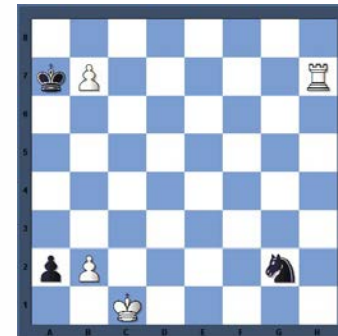


31... ♖xe3! 32. ♕xg4 [32. ♖xe3 32... ♗d4 33. ♕xg4 ♗xe3+ 34. ♔g2 hxg4--]

32... ♖e1+! 0-1 [32... ♖e1+ 33. ♔f2 hxg4--]

(28) Zalkind

[Solutions]



1. b8=♖+! ♔xb8 2. ♖h8+! ♔b7 3. ♖h7+ ♔b6 4. ♖h6+ ♔b5 5. ♖h5+ ♔b4 6. ♖a5!! ♔xa5 7. b4+! ♔xb4 8. ♔b2=



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 79

30th of August 2013

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Editorial Preface

And we are in the final of the World Cup between Kramnik and Andreikin, both Russians.

Kramnik made his way quite convincingly, pushing his opponents to the limit both in normal and in rapid chess. He clearly deserves his place in the final, thanks to his huge preparation and very nice chess.

Andreikin had a completely different strategy. In normal chess he was more trying to survive into a draw and then he was crushing his opponents in the rapid or blitz games, where he has been showing fantastic play.

There is a difference of almost 100 rating points between these 2 players, but Andreikin is quite an unpleasant opponent for Kramnik. He actually lost his last two games against him, one in the Tal Memorial and one in Dortmund. We can probably expect a very exciting and fighting match with big emotions!

The traditional super tournament in Poikovsky has also begun, with an average of over 2700. One of the favorites to win it is probably Jakovenko, the highest rated player of the event, who had a good start with 1,5/2.

We logically stay focused on the World Cup and bring you the best games with commentaries in your new issue of the CEWN.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Andreikin, Dmitry(2716)
- **Karjakin, Sergey(2772) [A46]**

FIDE World Cup 2013(4.3), 2013.08.22
[Balogh Csaba]

A very effective and straightforward attacking game by Andreikin!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♞f3 e6 3.♙g5 A typical choice by Andreikin, who likes avoiding long theoretical fights. Against Karjakin it is an especially smart decision, as he is just extremely well prepared.

3...d5 4.♞bd2 h6 5.♙h4 c5

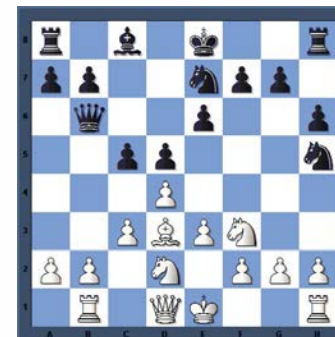


6.e3 White clearly does not play for an opening advantage, he just wants to obtain a playable position.

6...♞c6 7.c3 ♚b6?! I don't like this move so much, the queen gets misplaced on b6. [7...♙e7 seemed to be more logical. Karjakin was probably worried about 8.♙xf6 ♙xf6 (8...gxf6! works. Black has damaged the pawn structure, but the bishop pair compensates for it.) 9.dxc5 ♚e7 10.♞b3 White preserves his extra pawn.]

8.♚b1 ♙e7 9.♙d3 ♞h5 A typical idea with the aim of simplification. [9...♞d7 The knight would have been better placed here, but now White plays 10.♙g3! Preserving the bishop and the d7 knight is now misplaced. That is why Black moved the knight to h5.]

10.♙xe7 ♞xe7



11.O-O [Quite an unusual, but an interesting motif would have been 11.dxc5! 11...♚xc5 12.♚a4+ ♙d7 13.♚g4! Black is forced to seriously weaken his pawn structure by playing 13...g6 14.♞e5+= With an advantage.]

11...♞f6 Black quickly gets his knight back from the rim of the board.

12.♞e5! Andreikin builds up the standard attacking position with f4. This is the dream of any White players who likes playing this solid structure with d4-e3-c3 pawns.

12...O-O 13.f4 ♞e8 Another artificial move. Karjakin clearly did not feel comfortable in this position. [13...♙d7! suggested itself in order to trade the bishops with Bb5. Black should not worry about Nd7, as White is not intending to give up his strong knight. White should probably play 14.a4 but at least it creates a potential target for Black on a4.]



14. ♖h5! Andreikin consequently builds up his attack. He is intending to bring his attack along the third rank with Rf3 or a pawn rush with g4-g5 is also in the air. Black is in trouble.

14...f6 [Closing the position does not solve the problems: 14...f5 15. ♖f3 ♘f6 16. ♖h4 followed by h3-g4 remains highly unpleasant from Black's point of view.]

15. ♘g6 ♘xg6 16. ♕xg6 Black has to lose an important tempo because the e8 knight is hanging. Otherwise f5 followed by Nf6 would have seriously eased the position.

16...♕d7

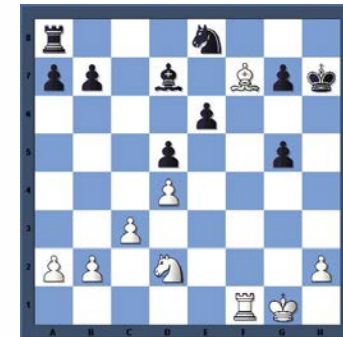


17.g4!! Yes, that is the way to play! White bravely attacks with g4-g5, the side attack in front of the king is principally justified because the center is closed!

17...cxd4 18.exd4 White keeps the c-file closed in order to avoid any kind of counterplay with the rooks.

18...♖d8 Black fights against g5.

19. ♘f3 Andreikin refreshes the threat of g5. [Actually 19.g5!? would have worked because 19...fxg5 20.fxg5 ♖xf1+ (20...♖xg5+ 21.♖xg5 hxg5 22. ♕h7+! wins an exchange and the game. 22...♖xh7 23.♖xf8+-) 21.♖xf1 ♖xg5+ 22.♖xg5 hxg5 23. ♕f7+ ♖h7



24. ♘f3! So far everything was forced and suddenly Black has serious problems. 24...♖h6 (24...♘f6 25. ♘xg5+ ♖h6 26. ♘xe6±) 25. ♘e5 ♕b5 26. ♘g4+ ♖h7 27. ♖f3 g6 28. ♕xe6+- With a winning advantage, but of course it is very difficult to find this, especially in a rapid game.]

19...♖c7 20. ♘h4 The g5 threat is in the air again and White has also created another idea to retreat the bishop to c2 followed by replacing it with the knight on g6.

20...♕b5 21. ♖fe1 [21. ♖f3!? was also strong, followed by g5 or Re1 first. Andreikin was maybe afraid of 21...f5 22.g5 ♕e2 but White wins after the following nice combination:



23.♙h7+!! ♔xh7 24.♚g6+ ♔h8 (24...♙g8 25.♚xe6+ ♙f7 26.♚xe2+-) 25.♚xe6! The bishop is hanging and White is threatening to play Ng6. 25...♙xf3 26.♘g6+ ♔h7 27.♘xf8+ ♔h8 28.♘g6+ ♔h7 29.♘e7+-]

21...♙d7 [21...♚xf4 does not solve the problems as after 22.♚xe6 White has crushing attack. 22...♘c7 (22...♘d6 23.♘g2!+- wins the knight on d6.) 23.♚e7+-]

22.f5 e5 [22...exf5 23.♚e7 is over, but the end could be very nice: 23...♚d6



24.♚xh6!! gxh6 25.♙h7+ ♔h8 26.♘g6#]

23.dxe5 fxe5 24.g5! White has reached the front line. The attack is breaking through.

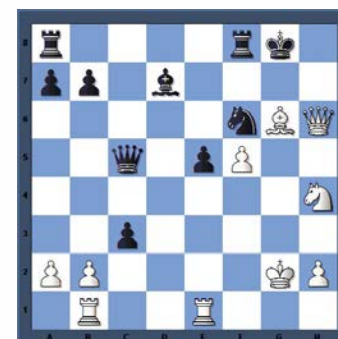
24...♚c5+ 25.♙g2! White takes care about the king's safety. If Black tries to play with Bc6, he will hide his king on h3.

[25.♙h1 25...d4 Black gets counterplay with Bc6!]

25...d4 26.gxh6 ♘f6 27.♚g5 The new threat is Bh7 followed by Qg7 mate.

27...gxh6 28.♚xh6 At the moment Black is safe from the mate, but he cannot create any counterplay, while White only needs to occupy the g-file with the rook and then open it by moving with the king.

28...dxc3



29.♙h3! Rg1 is coming next.

29...c2 30.♚bc1 [Surprisingly 30.♚g1?? 30...cxb1=♚ wins for Black, since White has no good discovery check with the bishop.]

30...♚d4 31.♚g1 ♚d3+ 32.♚g3 A great attacking game! **1-0**

(2) Svidler, Peter(2746)

- Andreikin, Dmitry(2716) [B12]

Tromso NOR(5.2), 2013.08.24

[Balogh Csaba]

A short but very interesting game. Svidler managed to catch Andreikin in the opening, he got a nice advantage, but Andreikin found counterplay with really creative play and saved the game.

1.e4 It is very difficult to predict Andreikin's opening choice, he always arrives with something different right in the first move.

1...c6 So, this time the Caro-Kann.

2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 A sideline compared to 3...Bf5, but this is also playable for Black.

4.dxc5 ♖c6 **5.♗f3**



5...♗g4 Black tries to get quick counterplay against the e5 and c5 pawns in order to get adequate compensation for the pawn.

6.c3 e6 [Black obviously does not fall into the opening trap with 6...♗xe5?? 7.♗xe5! ♗xd1 8.♗b5+--]

7.♗e3 [The alternative is 7.b4 in my opinion gives a small

advantage to White after 7...♗xf3 8.♗xf3 ♗xe5 9.♗b5+ ♗c6 10.O-O but Svidler decided to try another option.]

7...♗ge7?! Black played this move after a long thought, he was clearly out of preparation. [In the rapid tiebreak of this match Andreikin improved on this game with 7...♗xf3! 8.♗xf3 ♗ge7 9.♗b5 a6 10.♗a4 ♗a5 11.♗d1 ♗f5 12.b4 ♗xe3 13.fxe3 ♗c7 and he managed to equalize this time.; 7...♗xe5?? is still a blunder, but this time it is refuted by 8.♗a4! ♗d7 9.♗b5 ♗c6 10.♗xg4+--]

8.♗bd2



8...♗g6?! Another inaccuracy. [8...♗f5 was more logical, although Black does not get full compensation after 9.♗d4! Both pawns on e5 and c5 are well defended.]

9.♗f4 The most logical move, but it objectively spoils the advantage. [9.h3! was probably the easiest, although 9.Qa4 is also quite tempting. 9...♗xf3 10.♗xf3 ♗f5 (10...♗g7 11.♗d4+= White preserves his extra pawn.) 11.♗g5! Settling the bishop on f6 or after 11...♗e7 12.h4 h6 13.♗xe7 ♗xe7 14.b4 a5 15.♗b5± White is a pawn up.]

9...♗f5! Attacking the c5 pawn. [Svidler was probably expecting 9...♗g7 10.h3 ♗xf3 11.♗xf3 when White is just better, but Andreikin came up with a more clever plan...]

10.b4



10...g5!! Fantastic intuition! Black was already a pawn down and he sacrifices another pawn in order to gain activity. Andreikin was already quite low on time and he maybe played it slightly out of despair, but everything seems to work for him!

11.♙xg5 White had no other choice. [11.♙g3 is met by 11...h5 12.h3 ♘xg3 13.fxg3 ♙xf3 14.♖xf3 a6! It is very important to prevent Bb5 before winning back the pawn with Bg7. Black is completely fine!]

11...♚xg5! 12.♗xg5 ♙xd1 13.♖xd1



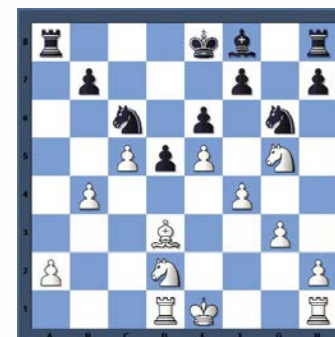
13...a5! Black tries to create some weaknesses before taking back one pawn. [In case of 13...♗xe5 White is just a pawn up, for instance after 14.♗b3!± preventing a5.]

14.♙d3 Trying to destroy the pawn structure. [14.b5 would leave the c5 pawn on its own. 14...♗xe5=; 14.a3 seems like the most challenging move. 14...axb4 15.axb4 ♗xe5 16.♙b5+ ♔e7 17.O-O ♙g7 The black minor pieces are excellently placed and Black is ready to invade with the rook on the a-file. It seems like he gets very good compensation for the pawn and even the machines are not impressed by White's position.]

14...♗h4! 15.g3 ♗g6 White has a difficult choice, which pawn should he give back, the b4 or the e5.

16.f4 [16.a3 is similar to 14.a3. 16...axb4 17.axb4 ♗gxe5 18.♙b5 ♙g7 Black has strong compensation, but it still looks like the only chance to keep some advantage. 19.♔e2 h6 20.♗h3 Ngf3 would have dropped the c3 pawn. 20...♔e7 21.♖a1 d4! Black gets counterplay!]

16...axb4 17.cxb4



17...♙e7! Andreikin keeps his calm nature and plays this cold-blooded developing move! [After the direct 17...♗xb4 Svidler had probably planned to play 18.♙b5+ ♗c6 19.a4 ♙xc5 20.♖c1! With the idea of Rxc6. 20...♙b4! 21.♖xc6! bxc6 22.♙xc6+ ♔e7 23.♙xa8 ♖xa8 24.♗xh7 ♖xa4 25.♔e2 ♖a2 26.♖d1 White maintains some advantage, although it is going to be extremely difficult to convert the extra pawn because of the active black pieces.]

18.♙b5 [The point of Be7 is that after 18.♘gf3 18...♘xb4 19.♙b5+ Black does not need to retreat the knight. 19...♖f8 20.a4 ♙xc5= gives Black equality.]

18...♙xg5 19.fxg5 O-O!? It is very nice that Andreikin is two pawns down, but he is not in hurry at all with restoring the balance. [19...♖xa2 was also fine.]

20.♙xc6 Svidler was so impressed that he preferred to offer draw. The game is balanced indeed. [20.♙xc6 20...bxc6 21.♘f3 (21.♖a1 21...♖fb8 22.a3 ♖xb4!) 21...♖xa2 22.O-O ♖b8 23.♖d4 (23.♖b1 23...♖a4=) 23...♖b2= Winning back the material and equalizing the game. What a nice save by Andreikin!] **1/2-1/2**

**(3) Andreikin, Dmitry(2716)
- Svidler, Peter(2746) [A45]**

FIDE World Cup 2013(5.3), 2013.08.25

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Andreikin had an "easy" plan for the World Cup. Make 2 draws in normal chess and then win in rapid or blitz, which has been working just excellently. In 1/4 finals he won a very important and nice game against his countryman Peter Svidler. Let us take a closer look at what happened.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♙g5 Not the most ambitious opening...

2...e6 3.♘d2 It is clear that White is just trying to get into the game without any hopes for an opening advantage.

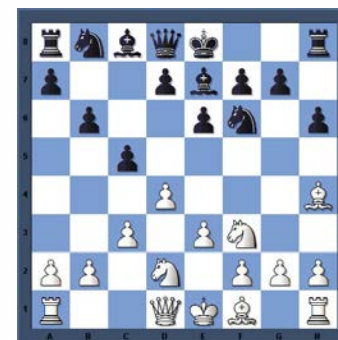
3...h6 4.♙h4 White continues just being solid without giving away his f6 bishop.

4...c5 Very typical play for this kind of structures.

5.e3 White keeps the central pawn like a rock!

5...♙e7 6.c3 Now Black has to choose, to play d5 and Nc6 or t0 go for b6 and Bb7, both setups are very playable.

6...b6 7.♘gf3



7...♙a6 also looks very solid, but it may not be the most easy solution. [7...♙b7 looks like the best move to me and I don't

think that White has anything here.]

8. ♘xf6! A very good positional decision by White.

8... ♘xf6 9. ♘xa6 ♘xa6 10. ♘e4 White wants to play d5 next.

10... cxd4 11. ♘xf6+ ♔xf6 12. cxd4 We are now in an almost symmetrical position, but only almost! The position is actually not that pleasant to play for Black. The knight on a6 is a major problem and White will be now very fast to win the only open c-file.

12... ♔e7 Black is bringing his queen back, as this move is needed anyway.

13. 0-0 [Of course not 13. ♔a4? 13... ♔b4+]

13... 0-0 14. ♔a4 ♘c7 Black is bringing his knight to d5.

15. ♖ac1 ♘d5 White has the c-file, but Black's position is of course very solid. What can be White's plan now?



16. ♘e5! Another very good move by Andreikin. The white knight would be passive on f3 in case Black would be in time to play d6 next, so White is transporting it to d3.

16... d6 17. ♘d3 [White could have tried 17. ♘c6 17... ♔d7 18. ♖c2 but it seems that Black is fine after 18... a5]

17... ♖fc8 Black is fighting for the c-file.

18. h3 White does not need to hurry.. . The e4 push can be done at any moment.

18... ♔b7! A good move. Black is putting his queen to a nice square and Black should almost be careful about Rxc1 and Rc8 now.

19. ♔a3 Whites brings his queen to a6 but Black is getting the d7 square in exchange.

19... ♔d7 20. ♔a6 We can clearly see that Black is very close to equalize completely, his only problem is the c-file.

20... f5 I don't like this move. Black creates a lot of weaknesses in the position. [20... ♘e7 would have been a much more solid decision. Black just wants to play Rxc1 and Rc8 next, exchanging both pairs of rooks. Of course White is still a bit more active, but the position should be very close to a draw.]

21. ♖fe1 Andreikin continues putting his pieces onto good squares.

21... ♔f7 White has a couple of ideas now. One is to try and push e4 somehow, another one might be to try and go for f3 and e4. It could also be an idea to play a4 followed by a5, but Andreikin had another very creative move in mind.



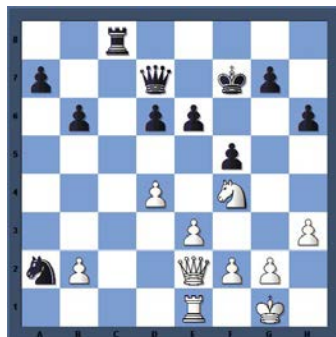
22. ♘f4!? I like this move a lot!

22...♘b4?! This move clearly looks too dangerous. [A safer option was 22...♘xf4 23.exf4 but here too Black still needs to "suffer" a lot for a draw. The queen on a6 is very unpleasantly placed and the d6-e6-f5 structure could become weak at any moment.]

23.♔e2! White of course doesn't care much about the pawn on a2, as the black king on f7 is clearly in big danger.

23...♘xa2 Svidler is going for it...

24.♖xc8 ♖xc8



25.e4! What now... White is crushing on the e-file and the black knight on a2 is totally out of the game.

25...♘b4 Svidler tries to bring the knight back into the game.

26.exf5 exf5 27.♔f3 Andreikin is very ambitious. White is a pawn down, but he has a lot of threats, one of them being to play Qb3 next. [White also had the option of playing 27.♔h5+ 27...♔g8 28.♘g6 ♖e8 29.♖xe8+ ♔xe8 30.♔xf5 With a probably slightly better position for White.]

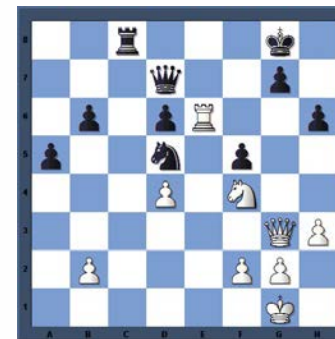
27...a5 Protecting the knight, which is very logical.

28.♖e6! A very strong move. Now White even wants to play d5 next. We can clearly see that the clouds around the black king are getting darker.

28...♔g8 It is already hard to find a good move for Black. [28...d5 29.♖xb6 ♖c6]

29.♔g3! Another very strong move by White. Now Rxh6 is a threat and also a move like Nh5 with a triple attack on g7, Nf6 or just Rxd6. Black's position is almost lost.

29...♘d5? And Svidler puts an end to the game himself...



30.♔b3! A small tactic after a great positional game! Now of course after 30...Nx4 White has 31.Re7+. This game is a great example of how unpleasant it is to play a slightly worse position with no counterplay. **1-0**

(4) Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime(2719) - Kramnik, Vladimir(2784) [C45]

FIDE World Cup 2013(6.3), 2013.08.28

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

And this is the first game of the rapid tie-break of the semi-final. It is never easy to play Kramnik. Vladimir has amazing preparation on any opening and sometimes maybe it is just a better choice to choose something more solid than to risk getting into trouble in the early stage. Maxime tried to go for a fight and found a quick end, which was not in his favor...

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 It is clear that White is avoiding Kramnik's Berlin wall, which is in fact a real "wall" to climb. Nobody can crush it and it is already standing for almost 10 years.

3...exd4 4.♗xd4 ♙b4+ Quite a rare move. [4...♗f6 is the most popular move recently.]

5.c3



5...♙c5 At first sight it looks like Black is just losing a tempo, but things are more complicated. The knight from b1 is losing the possibility to move to c3 which is very important! The d2 square is by far less attractive and in the meantime Black is

trying to be very fast with the d5 move.

6.♙e3 ♙b6 This is one of the critical positions.

7.♙d3 [7.♗f5 is an interesting choice, but Vladimir was clearly well prepared here too.]

7...♗f6! This is clearly theory, but it is still nice to mention the strength of this move. Black is not playing the passive Nge7 or moves like d6, but acting immediately with aggressive play.

8.O-O O-O 9.♗xc6 Very logical play. [After the more passive 9.♗d2 Black would have a couple of attractive choices: 9...♗e5 (9...d5 10.♗xc6 bxc6 also seems to be perfectly fine.) 10.♙c2 d5 And Black has probably equalized.]

9...bxc6?! This move looks very strange to me. [Why not play 9...dxc6 If White had the pawn on c2, Black could be a bit worse, but with the white pawn on c3, only Black can be better here. 10.♙xb6 axb6 With great and easy play for Black.]

10.e5! A good move. White doesn't give Black any time to play d5 and now the knight from f6 has to go for a "walk".

10...♗d5 11.♙d2 Another good move. White should let Black have a worse pawn structure.



11...d6 Black doesn't have a choice, he needs to open the bishop from c8.

12.c4 And White finally manages to bring his knight to c3!

12...♘e7 13.♚c2 Why play it in this move order?! [In my opinion 13.exd6 first looks much more logical, and in case of 13...♚xd6 only now play (13...cxd6 14.♘c3 Here White would save a tempo on Qc2.) 14.♚c2 With some hopes to be better because of the Black's bad pawn structure.]

13...♘g6 14.exd6 cxd6 Of course now Black takes with the pawn...

15.♘c3 ♚h4! A very good move! The black queen is just perfectly placed on h4. The f2 pawn is now under non-stop attack and to play g3 somehow doesn't feel right.



16.♚ae1?! White tries to bring the rook into the game over e4, but it turns out to be a bad plan. [Probably 16.♘e4 16...d5 17.♘g5 with the idea of playing Nf3 next could have given White normal play.]

16...♘e5! A very strong move. The black knight on e5 is a beast!

17.♚e4 Whites continues the wrong plan...

17...♚h5 Things are getting more and more risky for White. Black doesn't only want to play Bf5 but Ng4 is also a very possible threat. The rook on e4 is terribly misplaced.

18.♘e2? This is already a serious mistake. [18.♚f4 would keep

White in a worse position, but still fighting.]

18...♚g6! White's position is just falling apart. Black wants to play Bf5 or Bh3 and White already doesn't have any solution. I can only imagine how bad Maxime was feeling right now, to lose the first rapid game with White and having only very little chances to come back in the second game with Black for the final of the World Cup!

19.♚d1 ♘h3 Of course...



20.♘f3 There is no other way to defend the g2 pawn.

20...♘f5! It is obvious that Black first wants the white bishop to be placed on f3, before going for the Bf5-Bc2 idea, which chases away the white queen from d1.

21.♚h4? This is already the losing move. [21.♚f4 would still have led to a lot of fight. 21...♘c2 22.♚c1 ♘d3 23.♚e1 ♚fe8 Black is of course much better, but White is still fighting. Especially in rapid games it is never too late to make a mistake.]

21...♘c2 22.♚xc2 The last trick...

22...♘xf3+ [22...♚xc2 was winning too: 23.♘e4 ♚xd2 24.♘h7+ ♚h8 25.♘e4+ ♚h6 Quite a sad game for White at such high stakes!] **0-1**

Puzzle section

(5) Vachier Lagrave, M(2719)-Gelfand, B(2764)

World Cup, 2013.08.20

[CEWN]

1... =

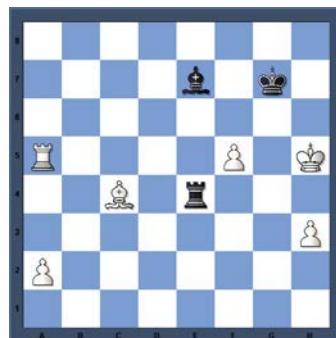


(6) Morozevich, A(2739)-Tomashevsky, E(2706)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.22

[CEWN]

1. =



(7) Sethuraman, S(2582)-Kanarek, M(2463)

BDO Open, 2013.08.23

[CEWN]

1... -+

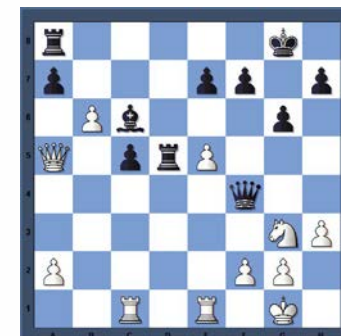


(8) Kotanjian, T(2500)-Babujian, L(2501)

Armenian Championship, 2013.08.21

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Vardanian, H(2339)-Kotanjian, T(2500)

Armenian Championship, 2013.08.22

[CEWN]

1... -+



(10) David, A(2589)-Sumets, A(2577)

Bratto Open, 2013.08.21

[CEWN]

1... =



(11) Abasov, N(2492)-Ranieri, F(2246)

Bratto Open, 2013.08.21

[CEWN]

1. +-

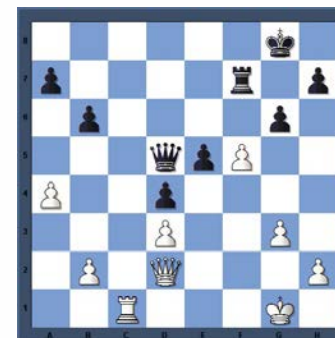


(12) Medveg, Z(2560)-Ludwig, D(2479)

Budapest, 2013.08.19

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Mirzoev, A(2539)-Willemze, T(2415)

Spanish league, 2013.08.25

[CEWN]

1. +-



(14) Calzetta Ruiz, M(2221)-Salgado Lopez, I(2614)

Spanish rapid Championship, 2013.08.26

[CEWN]

1... -+



Endgame section

(15) Korobov, A.(2720)-Nakamura, H.(2772)

World Cup, 2013.08.21

[CE TEAM]



This time the endgame section features this game, which is rather a middle game. It is still very instructive to see how Korobov converted his space advantage and the powerful e5 knight against the poor b7 bishop into full point. Black has just played Nf7-d8, with the intention to play Ne6 with a double attack against the d4 and f4 pawns.

30.♙d1!! Brilliant regrouping of the bishop, who is heading to b3!

30...♞e6 31.♙b3 ♖ce8 Black is intending to leave the pin with Kg7, which could force White to get rid of the strong b3 bishop. White cannot really avoid it, but he can open a new front for the combat.



32.h4!! Another extremely strong positional move. White is going to push h5 and the attack is getting really dangerous even without the queens on the board.

32...♞g7 [32...♙g7 33.h5 ♙xe5 34.fxe5+- Reg1 is coming next with a devastating attack.; 32...♞f8 is met by the same move as the game: 33.♙xe6 ♖xe6 34.h5 The only difference could be 34...♙g7 but now after 35.hxg6 hxg6



36.♖eg1 ♙xe5 37.fxe5+- Black is lost. The reason is simply the difference between the two bishops, one is dead on b7, while the other goes to f6 in two moves.]

33.♙xe6 ♖xe6 34.h5 The problem is much bigger than it might look at first sight. White's idea is to play Reg1, putting Black into zugzwang and the winning plan will be to transfer

the bishop to the a1-h8 diagonal, followed by opening it with the d5.



34...Bh8 Nakamura protects his h6 bishop in order to play Kg8 and Bg7. [Black cannot find counterplay against the d4 pawn with 34...Bd8 because of 35.hxg6 hxg6 36.Bxh6! Kxh6 37.Qf7+--]

35.Qc2! Another strong move, this time it is a prophylactic one. White wants to play Bc3, but first he leaves from the check with Bxf4.

35...Kg8 Black is ready to play Bg7, but he left the g6 pawn unprotected. White immediately makes use of it! [35...Qf8? moves into 36.Qxg6+--]

36.Bhg1! Qg7 Black decided to sacrifice material. [36...Kg7

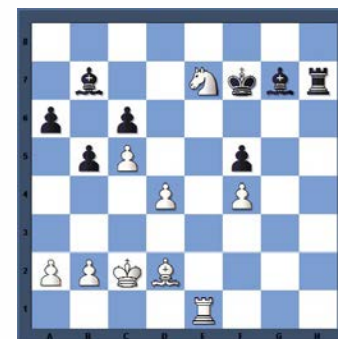


37.Qc3! Qxf4 38.d5! The opening of the diagonal means the end of the game. 38...cxd5 39.Qxg6+--]

37.hxg6 hxg6 38.Qxg6 Bxe1 39.Bxe1 White won a pawn and he is going to take another one with Ne7. The bishop on b7 is still dead, the game is basically over.

39...Bh7 [39...Bh2 40.Qe7+ Kf7 41.Qxf5+--]

40.Qe7+ Kf7



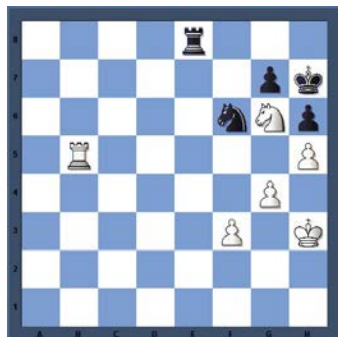
41.d5! 41.Nxf5 was of course also winning, but the text move is even stronger. White actually wins a full piece.

41...cxd5 42.c6 Qa8 43.c7 Qb7 44.c8=Q Qxc8 45.Qxc8 Nakamura made some additional moves, just because resignation meant the end of his World Cup.

45...Bh6 46.Qe7 Bh2 47.b4 Black resigned. Really subtle play by Korobov! **1-0**

(16) Kramnik, Vladimir(2784)- Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime(2719)

FIDE World Cup 2013(6.2), 2013.08.27
[CE Team]



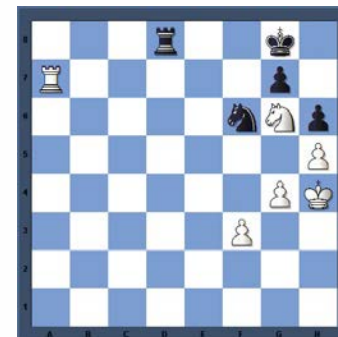
We are in the second game of the World Cup semi-final. Is it a draw or a winning position for White?! In case of a white win, Kramnik would directly proceed to the final, while in case of a draw the players would have to go to tie-break.

44.♖b7 ♜d8! A very strong move. White had the idea of playing Nh4-Nf5, which is now impossible because of Rd7. The knight endgame should be a draw, which means White needs to keep the rooks on the board if possible.

45.♔g3 A waiting move just to check what Black wants to play next.

45...♔g8 Another good and solid move. Black keeps on waiting.

46.♔h4 ♔h7 47.♖a7 ♔g8 As we can see, White cannot really improve anything, so it is time for the last try.



48.f4! White is bringing his last resource, the f4 pawn. Now the move g5 next could be quite unpleasant for Black in many different situations.

48...♔h7 49.♖b7 Another waiting move and checking Black again...

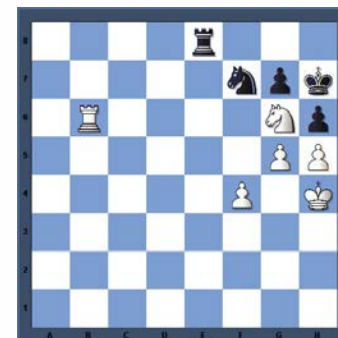
49...♞e4 [49...♔g8 50.♖b4 Followed by g5. The black king would be better placed on h7 now...]

50.♖b4 ♜e8 Black is preparing against g5.

51.g5 ♞d6! Black wins the control over the 4th rank.

52.♖b6 This is probably White's only try. [52.♔g4 wouldn't lead to anything: 52...hxg5 53.fxg5 ♜e4+ And Black manages to exchange the rooks, which should be a huge step in the direction of a draw.]

52...♞f7



53.♖b5! A very good move! [53.♔g4 53...hxg5 54.fxg5 would

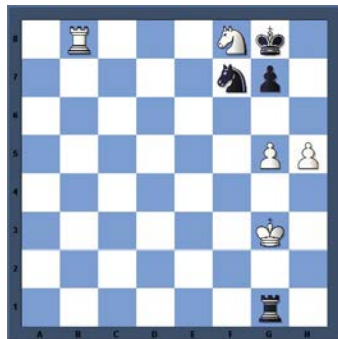
also give Black a chance for 54...♖e5+! Trying to find a rescue in the rook endgame... 55.♘xe5 ♜xe5 56.♞b7 ♞a5 57.h6 And here only 57...♙h8!! secures a draw! 58.♞xg7 ♞a4+ 59.♙f5 ♞f4+ 60.♙g6 ♞f6+ And the white king cannot escape the checks.]

53...♞e1 Maxime is going for a very forced line, which is very tricky. [53...♞a8 would have been a more safe way of playing for a draw. White cannot really make big progress here. Of course Black still needs to be careful, but it seems to be a draw.]

54.♘f8+ ♙g8 55.♞b8 The black king is in a mating net, but it is his move.

55...hxg5+ 56.fxg5 ♞h1+! The only chance.

57.♙g3 ♞g1+



58.♙f4! And once again White tries the best practical chance. [After 58.♙h2 58...♞xg5! secures the draw: 59.♘e6+ ♙h7 60.♘xg5+ ♘xg5 61.♙g3 ♘e4+ 62.♙f4 ♘f6 White is an exchange up, but the position is an easy draw.]

58...♞f1+? This move is already losing! [The right move was 58...♘d6! 59.♘g6+ ♙f7 60.♞f8+ ♙e6 With very good chances for a draw.]

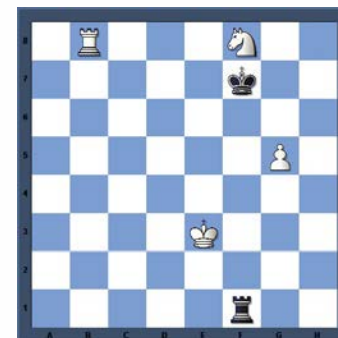
59.♙e3 And it seems like Black is totally lost. White wants to

play Ne6 or Ng6 depending on what Black will do next.

59...g6! In an already lost position, Black finds the only practical chance.

60.hxg6 [Things are not clear after 60.♘xg6+ 60...♙g7 61.♞b7 ♞f5 With quite some chances to make a draw.]

60...♙g7 61.gxf7 ♙xf7 White is a piece and a pawn up, but to defend the pawn on g5 is pretty hard. Black wants to play Rf5 next.



62.♙e4? With this move White misses the win! [62.♘d7 was the only right move! 62...♞f5 63.♞f8+ ♙g6 64.♞g8+ ♙f7 And now 65.♙e4! Winning an important tempo. 65...♞a5 66.♞f8+ ♙g6 The position still looks like a draw, but White has a great trick again: 67.♘e5+! ♙xg5 68.♞f5+! And no matter where the black king is going to, White will give a check with the knight and take the rook on a5.]

62...♞e1+! And the position is a draw!

63.♙f3 ♞f1+ 64.♙g3 ♞g1+ 65.♙f4 ♞f1+ 66.♙e3 ♞e1+ 67.♙f3 ♞f1+ The white king cannot escape from the black checks.

68.♙g2 And once the white king is on the 2nd rank Black has

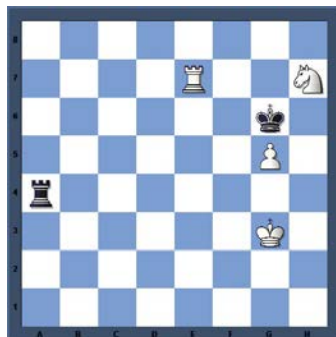
68...♞f5! 69.♘h7 [69.g6+ 69...♙g7 And the g-pawn is lost.]

69...♔g6 Forcing the white rook to come to the 7th rank.

70.♖b7 ♜f4! And Black is cutting the white king.

71.♔g3 ♜a4 It is funny, but White cannot improve his position.

72.♞e7



72...♞g4+ A funny move! :)

73.♔f3 ♜a4 74.♖b7 ♜h4 Black finally decides to take the g5 pawn, but just waiting on the 4th rank was also fine.

75.♞f6 ♔xg5 76.♞e4+ ♔f5 77.♞e7 ♜h8 And we have a theoretical draw. The rest of the game doesn't really need any comments, as the position is just too easy to hold...

78.♔e3 ♜d8 79.♖f7+ ♔e6 80.♜h7 ♜d1 81.♞c5+ ♔f5
82.♖f7+ ♔e5 83.♞d3+ ♔e6 84.♜a7 ♜h1 85.♔e4 ♜h4+
86.♞f4+ ♔d6 87.♜a6+ ♔c5 88.♞g6 ♔c4 89.♜c6+ ♔b5
90.♜c1 ♜h8 91.♔e5 ♜h4 92.♜c8 ♜h1 93.♞e6 ♜h5+ 94.♔d6
♜h6 95.♜c1 ♔b4 96.♔d5 ♜h5+ 97.♔e4 ♜h4+ 98.♞f4
♔b5 99.♔e5 ♜h8 100.♜c2 ♜h4 101.♖f2 ♔c4 102.♔e4
♜h8 103.♜c2+ ♔b5 104.♞g6 ♜h1 105.♞e5 ♜e1+ 106.♔d4
♜d1+ 107.♞d3 ♔b6 108.♜c3 ♜b1 109.♔d5 ♜b5+ 110.♞c5
♜b1 111.♞d7+ ♔b5 112.♜d3 ♜b4 113.♞e5 ♜b1 114.♞c4
♔b4 115.♞d2 ♜b2 116.♔c6 ♜c2+ 117.♔b6 ♜b2 118.♔c6
♜c2+ 119.♔b7 ♜c3 120.♜d8 ♜c5 121.♞e4 ♜c4 122.♜e8 ♜c2

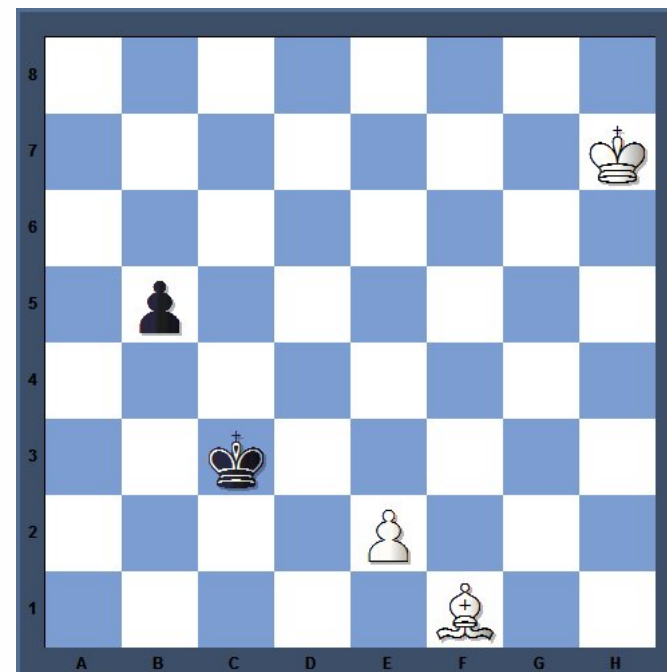
123.♔b6 ♜e2 124.♔c6 ♜e1 125.♞d6 What a dramatic draw!
1/2-1/2

Surprise section / study

(17) Pogosiants

[CEWN]

1. +-



Solutions

(18) Cori, J(2569)-Radjabov, T(2733)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.13

[Solutions]



32. ♖a1!! 1-0 [32. ♖a1 32... ♜xe7 33. ♜xe7+ +-]

(19) Fier, A(2595)-Wojtaszek, R(2701)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.13

[Solutions]



23. ♜xb7! ♜e5 [23... ♜xb7 24. ♜xa5+ ♜c7 25. ♜xa3+ -]

24. ♜f5+ -

(20) Leita, R(2632)-Inarkiev, E(2693)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.13

[Solutions]



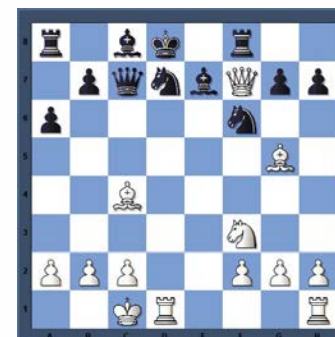
14. ♕h5!! ♕d6 [14... ♖xh5 15. ♜xf7+ ♜d8 16. ♜d7#]

15. ♕xf7+ ♜e7 16. ♜g5+ -

(21) Adams, M(2740)-Wan Yangu(2512)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.13

[Solutions]



16. ♖d4! ♜xf7 17. ♖e6+ ♜e8 18. ♖xc7+ ♜f8 19. ♕xf7+ -
[19. ♖xa8+ -]

(22) Inarkiev, E(2693)-Leitao, R(2632)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.13

[Solutions]

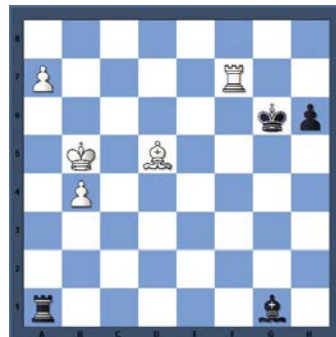


24. ♖c6!! 1-0 [24. ♖c6 24...bxc6 25. ♔xa6+ ♕c7 26. ♔a7+ ♕c8 27. ♔xe7+—]

(23) Safarli, E(2660)-Amin, B(2652)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.13

[Solutions]



91. ♖f1!! 1-0

(24) Shimanov, A(2655)-Kamsky, G(2741)

World Cup, 2013.08.15

[Solutions]



20... ♖g3?? [20... ♔xh2+! 21. ♕xh2 ♖g3+ 22. ♕g1 ♖h1#]

21. ♖f3+—

(25) Adhiban, B(2567)-Nakamura, H(2772)

World Cup, 2013.08.17

[Solutions]



38... ♖d4!! 39. ♖b1 [39. ♖xf6 39...b4+ 40. ♕b2 ♖xd2—]

39... ♗e5—+

(26) Eljanov, P(2702)-Karjakin, S(2772)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.19

[Solutions]



19. ♘g5! e5 [19... ♙xg2 20. ♖f4!+-]

20. ♙xb7 exd4 21. ♙d5 1-0

(27) Dreev, A(2668)-Andreikin, D(2716)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.19

[Solutions]



40... ♖h1+ 41. ♙h2 ♘f4+ 42. ♙g3 ♘xd3+-

(28) Pogosiants

[Solutions]



1. ♖a1! ♖xb3 2. ♙c4! ♖b7 [2... ♖b2 3. ♙c3+-]

3. ♙c7#



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 80

6th of September 2013

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Editorial Preface

The World Cup is over, so the emotions are down. Vladimir Kramnik has added another title to his long and brilliant chess career. It is a completely deserved victory as he was never worse in any of the 7 KO matches and played very nice chess. Our congratulations to him!

In the traditional Poikovsky Chess Tournament Eljanov is leading with 5.5/8 before the final round, while the 2nd-3rd places are shared by Motylev and Inarkiev with 5/8.

The Moscow Blitz Championship saw its usual great line up as Grischuk, Karjakin, Morozevich and many more players over 2700 participated in it. The deserved winner here was Karjakin, 2nd place went to Riazantsev and 3rd to Malakhov.

In the current issue of the CEWN you can find the 4 final games of the World Cup between Kramnik and Andreikin, as well as an instructive endgame section with the motto "it is never too early to resign". Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Andreikin, Dmitry(2716)

- Kramnik, Vladimir(2784) [D37]

FIDE World Cup 2013(7.2), 2013.08.31

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

This is the second game of the match and as Andreikin lost the first one he needs to at least try and put some pressure on the "rock" Kramnik.

1.d4 After 1.e4 Kramnik would play his Berlin wall and for the last 10 years it appears to be a wall without the smallest hole.

1...♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♕e7 As in the first game, we have a Queen's Gambit on the board. This time Andreikin chooses

5.♕f4 [5.♕g5 was played by Kramnik.]

5...O-O 6.a3 White tried almost all the different move orders here, but of course the main one is 6.e3.

6...b6 This is Black's usual plan.

7.e3



7...c5! Probably the most simple and strongest move. [7...♕b7 8.cxd5 also leads to a position which is close to a draw, but here Black's needs to suffer for a while.]

8.♖c2! Maybe the most critical move! White quickly tries to get the rook from a1 into the game and he also waits for Black's dxc4 in order to play Bxc4 without losing a tempo on playing Bd3 first.

8...cxd4 [After 8...♕b7 White would have the idea of playing 9.dxc5!? bxc5 10.cxd5 exd5 and 11.♖d1 With a complex position, which of course in the current match situation would be perfect for Andreikin. He needs to search for chances in complicated play.]

9.♗xd4 ♕b7 10.♖d1 The rook is perfectly placed here.

10...♗bd7 Black wants to play Rc8 next, after which the position would be equal, but...

11.cxd5! Exactly the right play! It is hard to say if White has any advantage here, but Andreikin is clearly putting some pressure.



11...e5? A mistake which could have cost Black the game. [11...♗xd5! would have been the right choice. 12.♗xd5 ♕xd5 Black's position is looking a bit scary, but it seems like he is fine. 13.♗c6 (13.e4 13...♖c8! The only move. 14.♖b1 ♕c4 And this position should be close to equal.) 13...♖c8 White doesn't have much of an advantage here either.]

12.♗c6! This is exactly why 11...e5 was a serious mistake.

12...♙xc6 Black doesn't have a choice.

13.dxc6 exf4 14.exf4! Cool and strong!

14...♙xa3 Black probably doesn't have anything better.



15.bxa3? And White gives away all his chances in one move in such an important moment. [The right move was of course 15.cxd7! 15...♙b4 16.♙b5 And White's very strong pawn on d7 would secure at least a big advantage.]

15...♙e8+! A perfect move! Now we are entering a forced line which almost leads to a draw.

16.♙e2 White doesn't have a better move.

16...♙c5 17.O-O ♙xc6 18.♙f3 At first sight it looks like Black is losing the exchange, but of course Kramnik just needs a small look at the position to find..



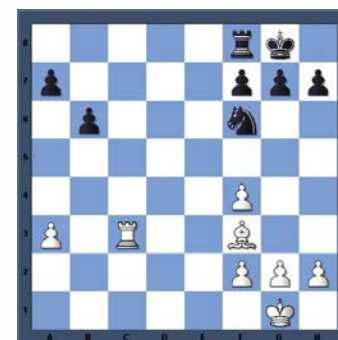
18...♙ce4! This is probably what Andreikin missed when he

played 15. bxa3.

19.♙c1 And White is forced to enter this endgame.

19...♙xc3 20.♙xc3 ♙xc3 21.♙xc3 ♙ac8 The exchange of one pair of rooks is never wrong for the defensive side.

22.♙fc1 ♙xc3 23.♙xc3 I remember that when I was watching this game live, Kramnik had a very serious thought in this position, for about 25 minutes. And indeed, the position is of course close to a draw, but to secure it is not that simple. White wants to put his rook on the 7th rank and get the bishop to the a2-g8 diagonal, after which it is not going to be easy for Black to defend same the f7 and the a7-b6 pawns at the same time.



23...♙e8! A very precise move. Black wants to put his rook on the 7th rank as soon as possible.

24.g4 White is trying to create at least some chances.

24...♙f8 With the same idea of playing Re7 next.

25.g5 Maybe White's last chance. Where to go to with the knight now?!

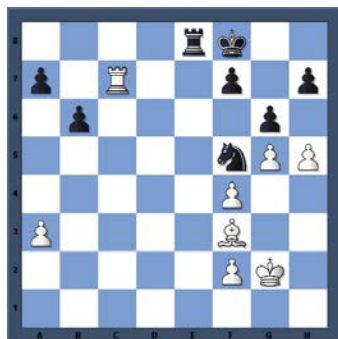
25...♙g8! Once again Kramnik shows great endgame technique, not giving White any chances. Black is willing to play g6 followed by Ne7-Nf5, covering most dangerous squares.

26.♔g2?! This move gives away even the smallest practical chance White had before. [The only try was probably to play 26.h4 26...♘e7 and now 27.♖c7 White needs the 7th rank! 27...♘g6 28.♖xa7 ♘xh4 29.♙c6 With some very small chances to win the game.]

26...g6 The structure is fixed, so now the only thing Black needs to do is to bring his knight to f5.

27.h4 ♘e7 28.♖c7 ♘f5 And Black is in time!

29.h5



29...♖e7 Everything is protected.

30.♖c8+ ♖e8 31.♖c7 ♖e7 32.♖c8+ ♖e8 33.♖c7 A really nervous game from both players and Andreikin missed a great chance to come back into the match! **1/2-1/2**

**(2) Kramnik, Vladimir(2784)
- Andreikin, Dmitry(2716) [D58]**

FIDE World Cup 2013(7.1), 2013.08.30
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the final of the World Cup. Until the final all the matches had been based on 2 games of normal chess and in case of an equal score a tiebreak was played the next day. The final match consisted in 4 classical games. Before the match it was clear that Andreikin would try to be very solid and fight for survival in the classical games and then look for his chances later in the rapid and blitz. So basically Kramnik had 2 tries, his both white games, to win the match in normal chess.

1.d4 Kramniks starts with d4 as usual.

1...e6 A small provocation of Andreikin who seems to be ready to play the French after 2.e4, but of course Kramnik sticks to his "closed" openings.

2.c4 ♘f6 3.♘f3 No Nimzo.

3...d5 4.♙g5 ♙e7 5.♘c3 We are in a classical Queen's Gambit.

5...h6



6.♙h4 [6.♙xf6 this move is also possible but doesn't seem to give White any advantage according to the latest games.]

6...O-O 7.e3 b6 This has been played for at least 100 years!

8.♘d3 dxc4 Black is using the fact that White has moved his bishop. [Another possible line could appear after 8...♘b7 9.♘xf6 ♘xf6 10.cxd5 exd5 11.b4 with maybe a minimal plus for White.]

9.♘xc4 ♘b7 10.O-O ♘bd7 Black's position is very solid and his play is usually quite easy, to play c5 and Rc8, which normally leads to a minimal plus for White but nothing special.

11.♖e2 This is another normal way of playing for White, to bring the f-rook to d1 and sometimes an idea of Ba6 could be useful as well to get control over the white squares.

11...a6 I am not sure about his move as now Black will always have a weakness on a6 and the rook from a8 will never move. [11...c5 would be the usual way of playing.]

12.♞fd1 Of course Black hoped for 12.a4, while with this move Kramnik is questioning Black's idea of a6.

12...♞d5 Andreikin is too afraid to play the initial b5. [12...b5?! This logical move is an inaccuracy. 13.♘d3! The best place for the white bishop in order to support the e3-e4 idea. 13...c5 14.dxc5 Black doesn't have a "good" piece with which it is possible to win the pawn back. 14...♘xc5 15.♘xf6! And White should be better.]

13.♘g3 White has no reason to exchange the bishop, as it is clear that White needs pieces on the board to make use of future play in the center with e4.

13...♞xc3 14.bxc3



14...♘d6! Andreikin feels the danger and decides to exchange one pair of bishops, which is a good decision!

15.e4 ♘xg3 16.hxg3 b5 17.♘d3 ♞b6 We can see that White is probably doing a bit better because of the solid center, but Black got as well his idea with playing Na4 and at some good moment c5.

18.♞e3?! A very strange decision by Kramnik, as now the black knight is getting to c4 with a tempo. [A small, careful move like 18.♘c2! would leave White with quite an advantage because now after Black's Nc4 White has Bb3.]

18...♞a4 19.♘c2 White doesn't have a better move.

19...♞b2 20.♞db1 ♞c4 21.♞c1 White is preparing the a4 move.

21...c5! But Black is also fast with the c5 push.

22.a4 cxd4 23.cxd4 ♞c8 Protecting the b5 pawn.

24.axb5 axb5 25.♞e1 [Of course not 25.♞xb5 25...♞d6 White is losing the e4 pawn.]

25...♘c6 Black's position is still a bit unpleasant. The b5 pawn is weak and White has some chances to launch play in the center by pushing d5.

26.♖b4 ♜a8 27.♞d1 White is preparing the d5 push and therefor needs both pairs of rooks on the board.

27...♞a3?! Very risky play. [A more solid option would have been 27...♞a7 but White's position is of course still a bit better.]

28.d5! Of course Kramnik doesn't miss his chance.

28...exd5 29.exd5 ♜e8 I guess Andreikin underestimated White's next move.



30.dxc6! This is already forced, but it is still a nice idea! White gives a queen for R+B but it is clear that only White can win this game.

30...♞xe1+ 31.♞xe1 ♜c7 Black needs to be very careful, as in case White manages to keep the c6 pawn the game could be over.

32.♞xb5 g6! Good defence by Andreikin! The black king will not have any better place than on g7.

33.♞c5 The c-pawn is secured.

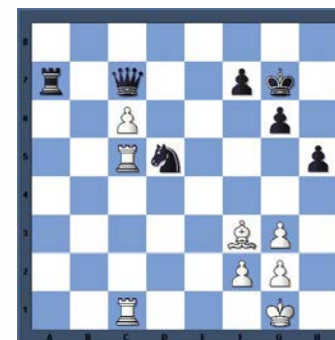
33...♞e5? This is already a serious mistake. Black should not have let White activate the bishop from c2. [33...♞d6! The only move. 34.♞d3 this move leads to a draw, but it is unclear if White has anything better. Black just wants to play Ra6 and Rxc6. 34...♞e4 35.♞c4 ♞d6 With a draw.]

34.♞e4! Black will never have the option of winning the c6 pawn again, which means White's position is much better!

34...♞g4 35.♞d3 ♞g7 36.♞f3 White puts his pieces to very solid squares as there is no reason to hurry.

36...♞f6 37.♞b4 The exchange of knights is not a bad idea, so we can expect Nd5 soon.

37...h5 38.♞dc1 ♞a7 39.♞d5 ♞xd5



40.♞xd5 Black has to make one last move to gain the extra 30 minutes and decides to play

40...♞d8 which leads to a quite easily winning position for White. [It was probably better to play 40...♞a8 but even here after 41.♞b5 Black's position is probably hopeless.]

41.c7 ♞xc7 42.♞xc7 ♞xd5 The funny thing about this position is that if the white pawn was not on g3 but on h3 for example, Black would have very good chances to survive. With the pawn on g3 however White protects his king from checks, so Black's chances for escape are almost down to zero. All White needs to do is to double attack the black pawns and Kramnik will show us how to do this.

43.♞e1 The white rook is going to e7.

43...♞h6 44.♞ee7 f6 The first step is done, Black's pawn moved to f6, now it is time to double on the 6th rank, after

which the game will be over.

45.♖ed7 ♜a5 46.f4 This is an even faster way of winning the game. Black is forced to move the g-pawn, which is opening the king's position.

46...g5 47.♔h2 No need to hurry...

47...♙g6 48.fxg5 ♜xg5 49.♖h7! The treat of playing Rcg7 is deadly.

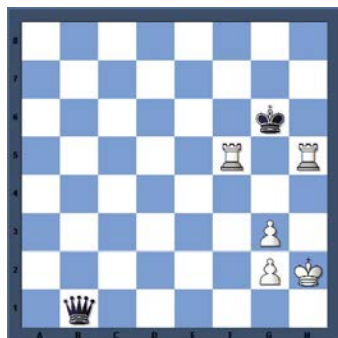
49...f5 50.♖cg7+ ♜f6 51.♖a7 Winning the h5 pawn.

51...♜b4 [After 51...♜b5 52.♖a6+ ♜xa6 53.♖h6+ White would of course win too.]

52.♖a6+ ♜e5 53.♖xh5 The h5 pawn is gone, now it is time to take away f5.

53...♜b1 54.♖a5+ ♜f6 55.♖axf5+ And the f5 pawn is gone.

55...♙g6



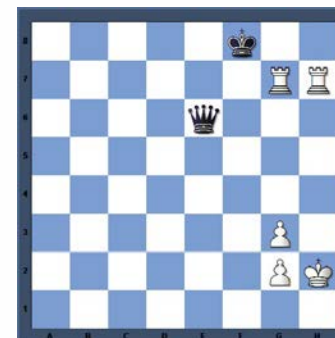
56.♖fg5+ Now White will combine the attack on the black queen with the checks on the king's rank, which will hunt the black king back to the 8th rank.

56...♙f6 57.♖b5 ♜c2 58.♖h6+ We can perfectly see how nicely the g2 and g3 pawns are protecting the white king.

58...♙g7 59.♖bb6 ♜c5 60.♖bg6+ ♜f8 61.♖h7 Black's king

is now cut off.

61...♜f5 62.♖gg7 ♜e6



63.♖e7 A nice and very important win for Kramnik. Andreikin has never been strong in "winning" games, so I guess this game almost decided the outcome of the Final of World Cup in Tromso. **1-0**

(3) Kramnik, Vladimir(2784) - Andreikin, Dmitry(2716) [D45]

FIDE World Cup 2013(7.3), 2013.09.01

[Balogh Csaba]

We are in the third round of the World Cup final and Kramnik leads 1.5-0.5. As he has an extremely solid repertoire with Black, he decides to make a calm draw and get a half point closer to the victory.

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 c6 Andreikin deviates from the first game of the match and plays the Slav defence. [Their first game continued with 3...e6 4.♗g5 ♗e7 5.♘c3 Queen's Gambit.]

4.♘c3 a6 White has plenty of options here, Kramnik plays one of the safest continuation.

5.e3 e6 6.b3



6...c5 This is the first surprise. A very rare move, which is quite logical because it fights for the center, but it also has the small drawback that Black has played c5 in two moves and practically lost a tempo. The question is whether White can make use of it or not. [By far most of the games continue

with 6...♗b4 7.♗d2 ♖bd7 8.♗d3 O-O 9.O-O With thousands of games.]

7.♗b2 Played without thinking by Kramnik, although the main line is 7.cxd5.

7...cxd4 8.♗xd4 Kramnik just opts for the safest continuation. [8.exd4 followed by Bd3 and 0-0 preserves much more pieces and tension on the board, but it was not Kramnik's intention in this game.]

8...♗b4 This is the novelty. [The previous games mainly continued with 8...dxc4 but Andreikin prefers to wait with this simplification until White moves with the f1 bishop in order to gain a tempo. 9.♗xc4]

9.♗c2 [It was probably more logical to fight for the bishop pair with 9.a3 9...♗xc3+ (After 9...♗a5 White gets an advantage after 10.b4 ♗c7 11.cxd5 exd5 12.♗e2+= with nice perspectives against the isolani.) 10.♗xc3 O-O followed by b6-Bb7 for instance, but White might hope for a middle game advantage with the two bishops.]

9...♗a5! Well played! Black keeps the bishop and the pin.

10.♗e2 [10.b4 is not the same as before, because the knight on c2 gets misplaced. 10...♗c7 11.cxd5 exd5 12.♗e2 ♖c6 13.O-O O-O Black has a good game. He directly threatens with a small tactical trick to take Nxb4 Nxb4 Qd6 with a double attack, but he is also fine if he just finishes the development with Bf5, Re8 and Be5.]

10...O-O 11.O-O White has left the pin, so he already wants to take on d5 because Nxd5 could be met by Nxd5, therefore Black decides to take direct measures.



11...dxc4! A well timed capture, since the bishop loses a tempo now.

12.♔xd8 Once again Kramnik only aims to avoid the complications. [12.♙xc4 was better. 12...b5 Black should continue like this. (Kramnik was probably afraid of the c-file: 12...♖c7 and Black threatens to win a piece with, but White has a very strong move here: 13.♖c1! and after 13...b5 14.♙d3 ♙xc3 White wins back the piece after 15.♘b4!+=) 13.♙e2 ♙b7= With an even game.]

12...♖xd8 13.♙xc4! Obviously White wanted to avoid getting an isolated pawn with bxc4, but here he had to foresee a small tactical trick in the 13...b5 line.

13...♘c6 [13...b5 14.♙e2



14...♖d2 seems to win material because of the double threat

Rxc2 and Bxc3 followed by Rxe2, but White has 15.♖ac1! and if 15...♙xc3? (15...♙b7 leads to an even game.) 16.♙xc3 ♖xe2 White wins back the piece after 17.♙xf6! gxf6 18.♘d4! With a double attack.]

14.♖fd1



14...♙d7 Black has fully equalized. Kramnik decides to take direct measures to reach a completely drawn position, but of course a normal move like Rac1 Rac8 would also not change the final result.

15.♘a4 This move required some calculation, but of course Kramnik is extremely strong in it.

15...b5 16.♘c5 bxc4 17.♙xf6 gxf6 18.♘d7 Further pieces were exchanged and the game got even closer to a draw.

18...♙c3 19.♖ab1 Black has no chance to trap the d7 knight as it has two safe squares on b6 and c5.

19...♖a7 20.♘c5 ♖xd1+ 21.♖xd1 ♘b4 Andreikin agrees to a draw with this move, but there was nothing left to hope for in this game. [21...cxb3 22.axb3 This position is also just a dead draw.]

22.♘xb4 ♙xb4 23.♖d8+ ♔g7 24.♖c8 ♙xc5 [An attempt to win with 24...c3? would have been a terrible positional mistake. Black cannot activate his rook along the d-file and

if he takes the knight, the c3 pawn falls. 25.♔f1± followed by Ke2 and later Na4 wins the pawn.]

25.♖xc5 cxb3 26.axb3 ♖b7 27.♖c3 We could see two happy players at the end of this game. Kramnik just wanted a draw, while Andreikin managed to survive Kramnik's very unpleasant white color and he could focus all his remaining efforts on the last game, where he would be leading the white pieces. **1/2-1/2**

**(4) Andreikin, Dmitry(2716)
- Kramnik, Vladimir(2784) [A36]**

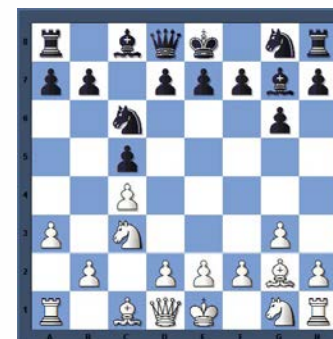
FIDE World Cup 2013(7.4), 2013.09.02

[Balogh Csaba]

How to play for a win against Kramnik?! After e4, there comes his rock solid Berlin defence and on d4 he plays the Nimzo Indian and the Queens Gambit and he already proved so many times that he has analyzed all the small nuances until the end in these lines. So Andreikin took a smart decision with 1.c4 in order to just reach a chess game with many pieces and to avoid the theoretical fights.

1.c4 c5 2.g3 g6 3.♗g2 ♗g7 4.♘c3 ♘c6 Kramnik plays the symmetrical English, which is considered to be fine for Black.

5.a3 White aims to play Rb1 and b4 and if he manages to provoke a5, there will be a hole on b5. Kramnik's next move is a typical reaction by Black in such positions.



5...b6! With the idea to ignore White's queenside attempts with b4 and to simply oppose the bishop to the one on g2.

6.d3 ♗b7 7.♗d2 ♘f6 Another option is to develop the knight with e6 and Nge7, but I guess we should trust Kramnik and his understanding of the position.

8.♘h3 Driving the knight to f4 is common plan is this

structure, sometimes also Black does it with Nh6-f5. Andreikin also tries to get Kramnik to unexplored territories.

8...O-O 9.O-O e6 Black wants to develop with d6, Qd7 and Rad8. The text move establishes control over the d5 square. He got a pleasant position out of the opening.

10.b4 d6



11.b5 Sending the knight to the rim of the board. If he waits a move, Black will play Qd7 and then the knight could have retreated to the more favorable e7 square.

11...Na5



12.e4 White keeps all the pieces, this way the a5 knight remains misplaced and he intends to attack on the kingside

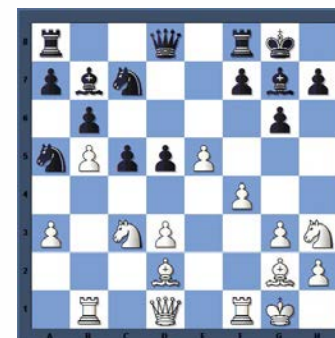
with f4-g4-g5. It is important that Black already cannot occupy the d4 square with the knight.

12...d5! A very strong and principled reply by Black. His pieces are excellently placed for the opening of the position and at the same time the a5 knight also gets a target on c4.

13.cxd5 exd5 14.e5 Andreikin finds his only chance to keep the position unbalanced, but Black now has a strong center.

14...Ne8 15.f4 Nc7 Black threatens to win the b5 pawn with d4 and also overprotects his center as a preparation for the positional idea of undermining the e5 pawn with f6.

16.Rb1



16...f6! Black successfully destroys White's center and at the same time he opens the diagonal for the g7 bishop. Black has clearly overtaken the initiative.

17.exf6 Bxf6 18.Ne2 Andreikin has to risk and he tries a kingside attack with g4, but it is not justified. [Objectively it was better to play something like 18.Nf2 improving the misplaced knight, although Black is fine after 18...Kd6 followed by Rae8. Only the a5 knight is temporarily misplaced, all other pieces are doing well.]

18...Rae8 Activating the rook. Black does not need to worry about the doubled pawns after Bxa5. White would really

miss his bishop later on, while Black's excellent pieces are compensating perfectly for the structural weaknesses.

19.g4 [Still it was objectively better to play 19.♘f2 followed by Re1, but these moves are only for equalizing, which was not enough for Andreikin.]



19...d4! Another strong positional move! Black trades the bishops and prepares to occupy the hole on e3 with the c7 knight.

20.♘g3 White also tries to improve his knight and he transfers it to the direction of e4. It also supports his plans with f5.

20...♙xg2 21.♙xg2 ♘d5 22.f5! The only chance to create counterplay. [22.♘e4 is met by 22...♙d8 followed by c4, undermining the outpost of the e4 knight.]

22...♙e5 23.♘f4



23...c4! The time has come to break through! Black's pieces are dominating, White must do something urgently, otherwise he collapses.

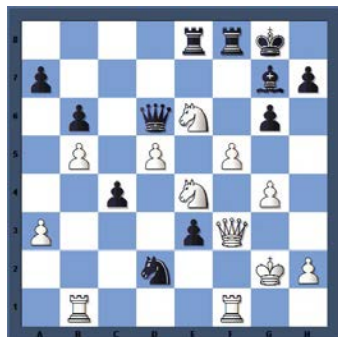
24.♙f3 [24.♘xd5 24...♙xd5+ 25.♙f3 leads to a much worse endgame from White's point of view. 25...♙xf3+ 26.♙xf3 c3 27.♙f4 ♘b7!± The poor knight suddenly becomes a very strong piece on c5!; 24.♘e6 would have been the best chance to create some complications, although Black has some promising ways to play here as well. For instance 24...c3 25.♙c1 (25.♘xf8 drops material after 25...cxd2 threatening Ne3.) 25...♙f7± With a big advantage. Black wants to play Nb7-c5, while White cannot do anything serious with only one good piece on e6.]

24...♘e3+! 25.♙xe3 dxe3± At this stage of the game, Andreikin has probably already given up his hopes for equalizing. Soon the a5 knight will join the game via c4-d2.

26.d4 At the cost of a pawn, White tries to exclude the a5 knight from the game. [After 26.♙be1 the strongest is 26...♙h6! with the threat of taking twice on f4 followed by cxd3. 27.dxc4 ♘xc4—+ And Nd2 next should win soon.]

26...♙d6 Kramnik does not want to give any chance. [26...♙xd4! was better, even if White could have invaded the 7th rank with his rook. 27.♙fd1 ♙c5 (27...♙e5 28.♙d7 ♘b3—+ is also good.) 28.♙d7 c3 It seems like Black is just winning because Ne6 could just be taken.]

27.♘e4 Andreikin continues seeking some tricks. [27.d5 is met by 27...♘b3! 28.♘e6 ♘d2! It looks like White can achieve something after 29.♘e4!]



With the idea of 29...Qxd5?? 30.Nf6, or if Black trades the knights the e6 knight will control the position extremely well, but Black has the strong exchange sacrifice, which simply seems to win. 29...♔e5! 30.♘xd2 exd2 31.♘xf8 ♔xf8—+ Followed by c3-c2 and the rooks are useless.]

27...♔xd4 28.♘g5 Trying something around the h7 square, but of course this is just desperation. Kramnik takes a very clever practical decision and by sacrificing the e-pawn he forces White's knights back to passivity.



28...e2 29.♘xe2 ♔d2 With a double attack, so White has only move.

30.♘e4 ♔c2 Once again White has only one move to save the piece.

31.♘g3 ♘b3! Black suddenly threatens with a triple fork

with Nd2. White's pieces are paralyzed and the c-pawn might have huge power soon. White cannot hope for anything real against the g8 king.

32.♔bd1 ♔h8 Black leaves from the Qd5 check in order to threaten Nd2.

33.♔f2 gxf5 34.gxf5 Andreikin decided to offer a draw, which was obviously accepted, since it was exactly what Kramnik needed to win the World Cup. If they had played on, Black would probably soon have won after [34.gxf5 34...♘c5—+ followed by Ne4 or Nd3.] **1/2-1/2**

Puzzle section

(5) Analysis of Andreikin, D(2716)-Tomashevsky, E(2706)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.28

[CEWN]

1... -+

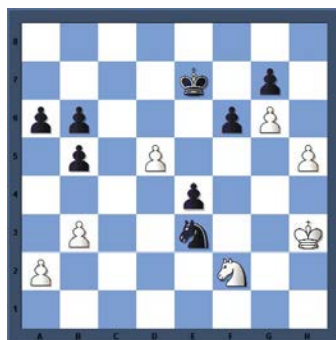


(6) Laznicka, V(2677)-Bologan, V(2672)

Poikovsky, 2013.09.02

[CEWN]

1. +-



(7) Cheparinov, I(2678)-Inarkiev, E(2693)

Poikovsky, 2013.09.02

[CEWN]

1... -+

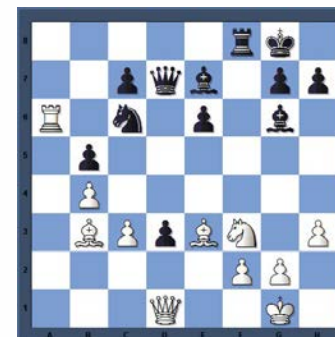


(8) Cori, J(2569)-Valdes, L(2440)

Sants Open, 2013.08.28

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Filippov, A(2630)-Adhiban, B(2567)

Sants Open, 2013.08.29

[CEWN]

1. =

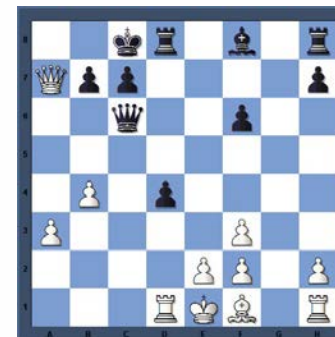


(11) Krysa, L(2422)-Liascovich, L(2447)

Argentinian Championship, 2013.08.29

[CEWN]

1... -+



(10) Hillarp Persson, T(2529)-Adhiban, B(2567)

Sants Open, 2013.08.31

[CEWN]

1... -+



(12) Flores, D(2578)-Pierrot, F(2419)

Argentinian Championship, 2013.09.01

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Grandadam, N(2309)-Fedorchuk, S(2669)

Zug, 2013.08.27

[CEWN]

1... -+



(14) Svetushkin, D(2608)-Prohaszka, P(2567)

Zug, 2013.09.01

[CEWN]

1... -+

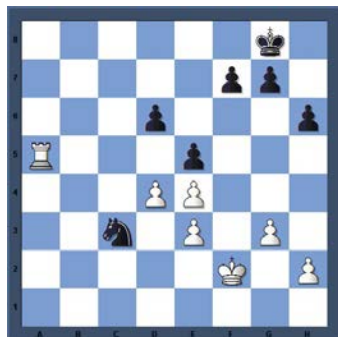


Endgame section

(15) Eljanov, P.(2702)-Sutovsky, E.(2660)

14th Karpov GM(7), 2013.09.04

[CE Team]



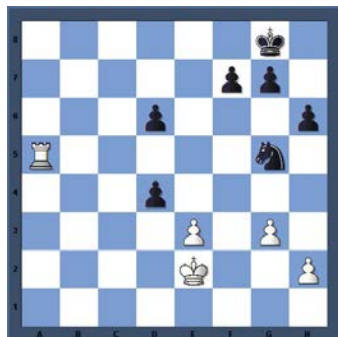
35...xe4+ White is an exchange up, but Black has a pawn for it. The question is, does Black has any drawing chances here? No, he does not! The position is totally lost. Black's main problem is the d6 pawn, which can easily get under attack.

36.♔f3! White is pushing the knight to a bad square.

36...g5+ [After 36...f6 37.dxe5 dxe5 38.♖xe5 Black would have no chance at all to hold the position. White would slowly bring his king to e7 and the f7 pawn would fall.]

37.♔e2 Once again the e5 pawn is under attack.

37...exd4



38.♖a8+! A very precise move. White pushes the black king away as far as possible from the d6 pawn.

38...♔h7 39.exd4 f5 Black is trying to build some sort of fortress with the knight on f7 or e4.

40.♔e3 ♕g6 41.h4 Black now needs to decide whether to go to e4 or f7.

41...♖e4 [41...♖f7 was not much better as after 42.♖e8! the white rook is going to take a perfect place on e6. 42...♔f6 43.d5 And Black cannot stop White from playing Re6 next. 43...g5 44.♖e6+ ♕g7 45.h5 With an easily winning position.]

42.♔f4 White's king is perfectly placed and Black is almost paralyzed.

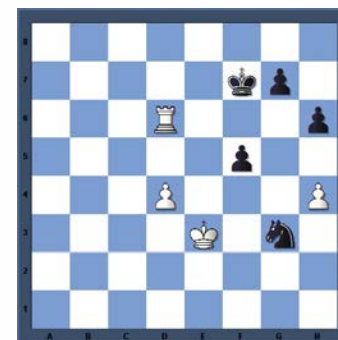
42...♖c3 [42...♔f6 43.♖f8+ ♕e6 44.♖xf5 White is winning.]

43.♖a6 The d6 pawn is impossible to hold anymore.

43...♖e2+ [43...♖e4 44.g4! And White is winning.]

44.♔e3 ♖xg3 45.♖xd6+ Black got the g3 pawn for the d6 one, but an exchange up plus a passed pawn is more than enough to win the game smoothly.

45...♔f7



46.♔f4 The white king finishes what the rook started.

46...♖e4 47.♙a6 ♘d2 [47...g6 48.♙e5 Followed by Ra7 and White is winning.]

48.♙xf5 ♘f3 49.♙a7+ ♙f8 50.d5 Very good technique by Eljanov in this winning endgame. **1-0**

(16) Inarkiev, E.(2693)-Onischuk, Al(2667)

14th Karpov GM(8), 2013.09.05
[CE Team]

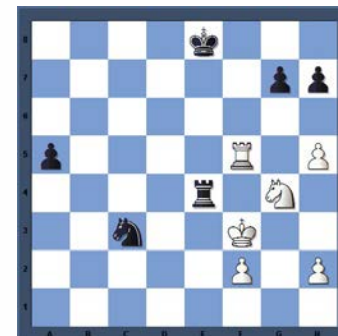


41.♙xf5 After an average game, we finally landed in this equal endgame. What is going to happen in this endgame is really unbelievable, especially as this is a game on the highest level!

41...a5 A normal move, Black is pushing his passed a-pawn.

42.♙f3 Not a bad move, but a strange one. Why not 42.Nf7!?, attacking the a5 pawn and threatening Nd6, with an immediate draw.

42...♖c3 43.♘g4



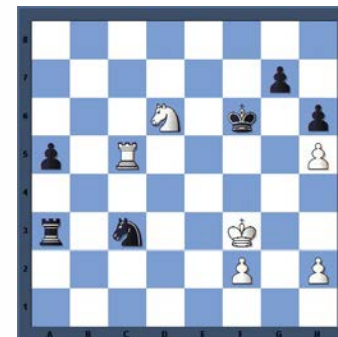
43...♙a4 44.♙e5+ The position is of course still a complete draw.

44...♙f8 45.♘e3?! Wow, White doesn't repeat the moves by playing 45.Rf5.

45...h6 Black secures the pawn structure g7-h6, which can always be useful.

46.♘f5 White wants to play Nd6.

46...♙f7 47.♘d6+ ♙f6 48.♙c5 ♙a3 We can already see that only White can lose here. Black's pieces are well placed and the a-pawn gives Black potential chances.



49.♘c4?? What a blunder! Now White is totally lost! [49.♙g4 would still lead to an about equal position.]

49...♖a4+! Of course Black doesn't miss such a chance.

50.♗xa3 ♜xc5 So let us take a fresh look at the position. We are in a knight endgame where Black has a free a-pawn, which will cut the jumps of the white knight, and a much better pawn structure. The position just looks winning!

51.♝f4 White is trying to block the black king.

51...♜e6+! A good move. White needs to decide whether to run to the a-pawn or to keep the white king in hope to get to the g6 square.

52.♞g4 [52.♞e4 52...♞g5 While the white king will run to the a-pawn, Black will collect all the white pawns and win the game.]

52...a4 [Of course not 52...♞e5? 53.♜c4+ and White wins the a-pawn.]

53.f3 White doesn't have a choice but to let the black king pass to the queenside. [53.♜c4 53...♜d4 With the threat of playing Nb5 next would force White to go back to a3 with the knight.]



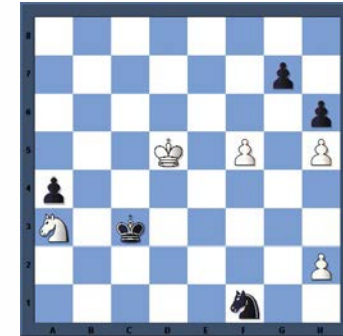
53...♞e5 White's position just looks hopeless.

54.♜c4+ ♞d4 55.♜a3 ♞c3 The black king is on the right place, so all Black needs to do now is to bring his knight into the game.

56.♞f5 ♜d4+ 57.♞e4 ♜b3 This move is still winning, but [57...♜c2 would have led to a faster win: 58.♜b1+ ♞b2 59.♜d2 ♜b4]

58.f4 ♜d2+ 59.♞d5 ♜f1 Black is going for the h-pawn, which is not the fastest way of winning, but it is of course good enough.

60.f5

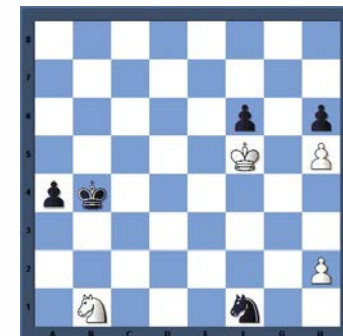


60...♜e3+ Once again Black misses a forced win. [60...♜xh2 61.♞e6 ♞b3 62.♜b5 ♜f3! Taking away the d4 square from the white knight. 63.♞f7 ♞b4]

61.♞e4 ♞b4 62.♜b1 ♜f1 White's position doesn't seem to get better, so Inarkiev tries his last chance.

63.f6! This is probably the only practical try White had.

63...gxf6 64.♞f5



64...♞b3?? What a shocking move... [Black had a lot of

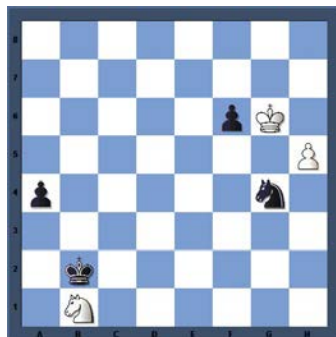
winning moves here, one of them being 64...♖d2 65.♗xd2 a3 66.♕xf6 a2]

65.♕g6! And now the position is a draw!!! Black is not in time anymore to queen first.

65...♕b2 66.♕xh6 ♖xh2 [66...♕xb1 67.♕g6 a3 68.h6 a2 69.h7 a1=♔ 70.h8=♔ With just a draw.]

67.♕g6 ♖g4 68.♗d2 As we know, a knight can hold the a-pawn which means the position is a draw. Black keeps on trying for a bit, probably just to get rid of the frustration.

68...♕c3 69.♗b1+ ♕b2



70.♗d2 ♕c3 71.♗b1+ ♕c2 72.♗a3+ ♕b3 73.♗b1 ♗e5+ The last trick.

74.♕g7! The safest move. Now the black knight has to come back.

74...♗g4 75.♕g6 ♕b2 When I saw this game was really a bit shocked. There is always hope in chess, so never resign too early! :) **1/2-1/2**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Alekhine, Alexander-Capablanca, Jose Raul[C66]

St Petersburg preliminary(6), 1914.04.29

[Kamil Miton]

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5



3...d6 A very rare system for Black which is very solid but a bit passive. More often Black plays 3...a6 first and after 4.Ba4 d6.

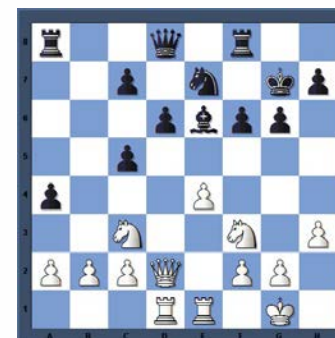
4.d4 A logical move. White immediately wants to get the advantage in the center. An alternative plan is to play with c3-d4.

4...exd4 Black could also keep the tension in the center after [4...♙d7!? but now White has the additional possibility to play 5.d5 and get a similar structure to the KID, which should be a good option for White without the light squared bishops. 5...♘ce7 6.♙xd7+ ♚xd7 7.c4+= With the typical plan of putting pressure on the queenside after b4-c5 and it is also very important to control the e4 square.]

5.♘xd4 ♙d7 6.♘c3 ♘f6 Another way of developing is to

play g6-Bg7, so let's see how to react against this plan of top grandmaster Michael Adams.

[6...g6 7.O-O ♙g7 8.♙xc6 bxc6 Of course Black keeps the bishop pair. 9.♚e1 Activating the rook and not allowing Black to develop the knight to f6. 9...♘e7 10.♙f4 Preparing the e5 break. 10...c5 11.♘f3 f6 Black's idea behind putting the pawns on c5 and f6 is to not allow White to get control of the dark squares after pushing e5. 12.♚d2 O-O 13.♙h6 A logical move. White exchanges one of the bishops and weakens the black king. 13...a5 What to do, maybe Black wants to create some weaknesses on the queenside. 14.h3 a4 15.♚ad1+= White is slightly better because his pieces are optimally placed and because he has more space. 15...♙e6 The decisive mistake, as now White has the following tactical trick: 16.♙xg7 ♚xg7



17.e5! And Black's position is crushed. 17...fxe5 18.♘xe5→Adams- Elhvest Gibraltartar 2013. The black king is very weak and White won the game a few moves later. If Black takes the knight on e5 then White recaptures the piece over the e-file.]

7.0-0 ♖e7



8.♘f5!? I'm not sure if this move is the best. Instead of changing the structure White could keep a small plus thanks to his space advantage and for example play Bxc6-Qf3-b3-Bb2 or Bxc6-Bf4-Re1 etc.

8...♙xf5 9.exf5 O-O 10.♖e1 ♘d7 Black tries to regroup his pieces and activate the bishop over f6. [In my opinion 10...♘e5 looked very promising with the idea of playing c6-d5 in order to get more space and limit the light squared bishop.]

11.♘d5 ♙f6 12.c3 Limiting the bishop on f6.

12...♘b6 Black gets rid of the strong knight on d5. [12...♘e7 13.♘xf6+ (13.♙xd7 13...♘xd5 14.♖xd5 ♖xd7 15.♖xb7 d5 With compensation.) 13...♘xf6 14.♖f3+= White's bishops are stronger.]

13.♘xf6+ ♖xf6



14.♙xc6?! This move doesn't fight for the advantage, but White could have tried to keep the initiative after [14.♖f3!? 14...♘e5 (14...d5 15.♙e3+=) 15.♖xb7 c6 16.♙f1 ♘d5 (16...♖xf5 17.f4± Xc6) 17.f4 ♖h4±]

14...bxc6 15.♖f3 Alekhine's idea was probably to create pressure against the queenside pawns, but we will see that Black gets counterplay in time.

15...♖fe8 16.♙e3 c5 17.♖e2 [17.♖b7 17...♖xf5 18.♖xc7 ♘c4∞]

17...♖e5 18.♖ae1



18...♖ae8 [18...♖xf5 19.♖xf5 ♖xf5 20.♙xc5+= And here the bishop is better than the knight.]

19.♖b7?! The key move of the game. The idea of putting pressure on the pawns will give Black a strong initiative on the light squares. White should exchange the rooks and secure a draw. [19.♙f4 19...♖xe2 20.♖xe2 ♖xe2 21.♖xe2 h6 22.♖e4 With a more or less equal endgame.]

19...♖xf5 20.♖xc7 ♖e6 [20...♘d5 21.♖xd6 ♘f4 22.♖d2 (22.♙xf4? A bad move because the 1st rank is weaker than the 8th rank! 22...♖xe2 23.♖xe2 ♖b1+-) 22...♖e4 (22...♖g4 23.♖c6) 23.f3 ♖f5 24.♖dd1 ♘g2 25.♙g2 ♖xe3 26.♖xe3 ♖g5+ 27.♖g3 ♖xe3 28.♖f2 ♖g5+ Black is slightly better

because the white king is weaker.]

21. ♖xa7



21... ♜d5↑ White grabs the pawn but Black is already better. It is very hard for White to stop many threats like for example Nf4 with ideas of sacrificing on g2 or playing f5-f4.

22. ♖f1 This move does not help at all. White could try to come back with the queen in order to help defending, but Black had a nice idea in order to break the communication between the queen and the rest of the white pieces: [22. ♖a6 22...f5 23. ♖f1 c4!±; 22. ♖b7 22...♜f4 23. ♖d2 d5!±]

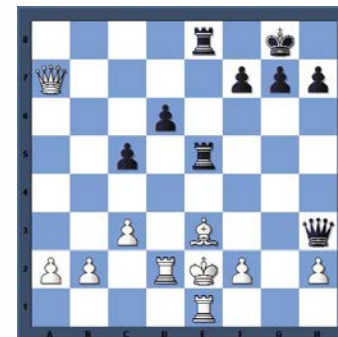
22... ♜f4 23. ♖d2



23... ♜xg2! Black could have used this idea in a better version

after [23... ♖c4+ 24. ♖g1 ♜xg2 25. ♖xg2 And now the very nice 25... ♖g5+! 26. ♜xg5 ♖g4+ 27. ♖f1 ♖h3+ 28. ♖g1 ♖xe1#]

24. ♖xg2 ♖g4+ 25. ♖f1 ♖h3+ 26. ♖e2 [26. ♖g1 26... ♖g5+—+]



26... ♖xe3+ 27. fxe3 ♖xe3+ 28. ♖d1 ♖xe1+ 29. ♖c2 Black is a pawn up and the white king is very weak, so Black is easily winning.

29... ♖e4+ 30. ♖b3 ♖c6 Black improved the position of his queen.

31. a4 White hopes to find some counterplay thanks to his passed pawn.

31...d5 32. a5 ♖b5+ 33. ♖a3 ♖b8 The white king is now in trouble on the other side of the board.

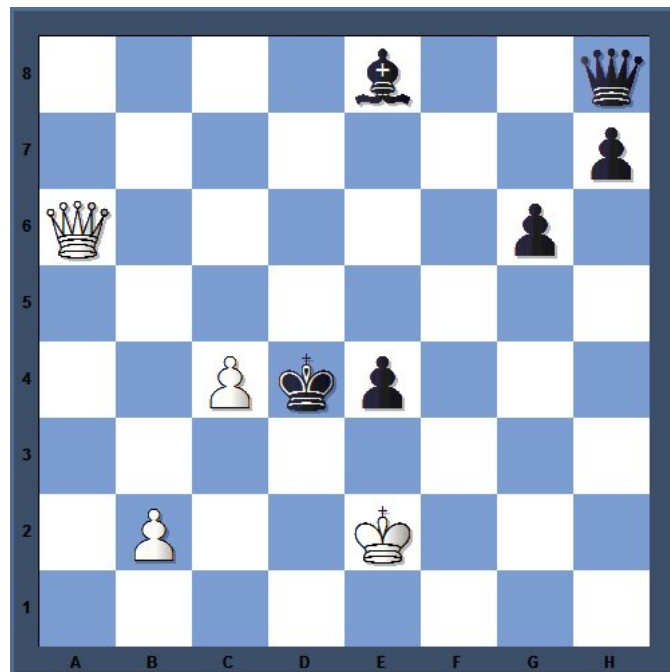
34. ♖a2 h6 35. a6 ♖b3+ Followed by Re8. **0-1**

Surprise section / study

(18) Dawson

[CEWN]

1. +-



Solutions

(19) Vachier Lagrave, M(2719)-Gelfand, B(2764)

World Cup, 2013.08.20

[Solutions]



22... ♖e6!! [22... ♖h3 23. ♖xa8 ♖xa8 24. ♖xe7+- dxe3 25. ♖d1+-]

23. ♖xe6 dxc3! [23... d3!]

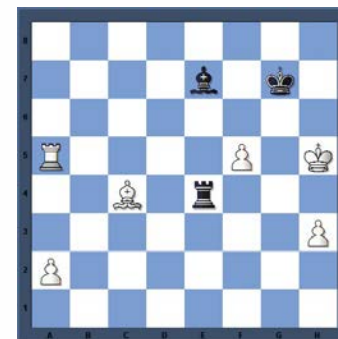
24. ♖xa8 ♖xe3+ 25. ♖g2 [25. ♖f1 25... ♖f3+ 26. ♖e1 ♖e3+=]

25... ♖e2+ 26. ♖h3 ♖h5+ 27. ♖g2 ♖e2+=

(20) Morozevich, A(2739)-Tomashevsky, E(2706)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.22

[Solutions]



57. f6+! ♖xf6 58. ♖a7+ ♖e7 59. ♖xe7+ ♖xe7=

(21) Sethuraman, S(2582)-Kanarek, M(2463)

BDO Open, 2013.08.23

[Solutions]



34...♖g3+!! 35.♔g1 [35.hxg3 35...hxg3—+ 36.fxe4 ♕h4+ 37.♔g1 ♕h2+ 38.♔f1 ♕h1#]

35...♖e2!! 36.♕c3 [36.♕c1 36...♖e1+! 37.♖xe1 ♖xe1+ 38.♕xe1 ♕xd4+ 39.♕f2 ♕xa1+—+; 36.♔xe2 36...♕e3#]

36...h3!! 37.♔xe2 ♖xe2! 38.gxh3 [38.♔xe2 38...♔xe2+—+]

38...♖xh2! [38...♔e4! 39.♔xe2 ♕g5+ 40.♔h1 (40.♔f1 40...♔xh3+ 41.♔e1 ♕h4+ 42.♔g3 ♔xc3—+) 40...♔f2#]

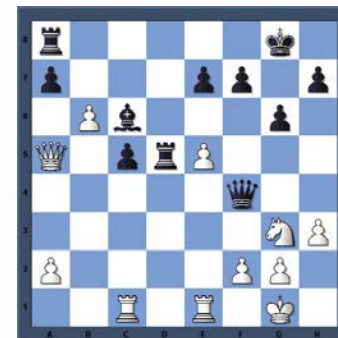
39.♕c1 [39.♔xh2 39...♔e4+—+]

39...♖h1+ 40.♔f2 ♖h2+ 41.♔g1 ♖h1+ 42.♔f2 ♔e4+ 43.♔e2 ♔a6+ 0-1

(22) Kotanjian, T(2500)-Babujian, L(2501)

Armenian Championship, 2013.08.21

[Solutions]



26.b7!! ♔xb7 27.♕c7! ♖d2 [27...♔a6 28.♕c6+—]

28.♕xb7! ♕xf2+ 29.♔h2+—

(23) Vardanian, H(2339)-Kotanjian, T(2500)

Armenian Championship, 2013.08.22

[Solutions]



25...♕xd4!—+

(24) David, A(2589)-Sumets, A(2577)

Bratto Open, 2013.08.21

[Solutions]



16...♗g4!! 17.♔c4 ♕xd5!! 18.♕xd5 ♖ad8 19.♕b3 ♖d1+
20.♕xd1 ♗xd1=

(25) Abasov, N(2492)-Ranieri, F(2246)

Bratto Open, 2013.08.21

[Solutions]

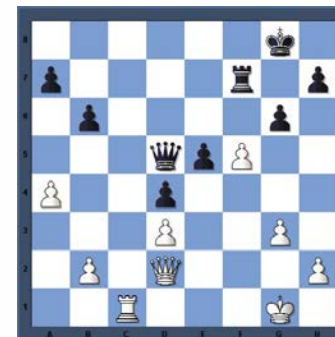


24.♘e4! 1-0

(26) Medvegy, Z(2560)-Ludwig, D(2479)

Budapest, 2013.08.19

[Solutions]



28.♕h6! +- [28.fxg6 28...hxc6 29.♕h6 ♕e6!=]

28...♕d7 [28...♖xf5 29.♖c8+ ♖f7 30.♕f8+ ♖e6 31.♖e8+ ♖d7
32.♕e7+ ♖c6 33.♖c8#]

29.fxg6+-

(27) Mirzoev, A(2539)-Willemze, T(2415)

Spanish league, 2013.08.25

[Solutions]



13.♕xa6! 1-0 [13.♕xa6 13...♕xa6 14.♘c7+ ♖d7 15.♘xa6+-]

(28) Calzetta Ruiz, M(2221)-Salgado Lopez, I(2614)

Spanish rapid Championship, 2013.08.26

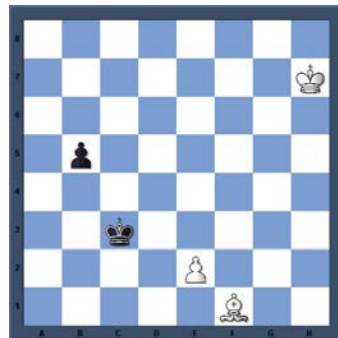
[Solutions]



30...♘d3! 31.cxd3 ♖xc1—+

(29) Pogosiants

[Solutions]



1.e4! ♔d4 2.♙d3!! ♔xd3 3.e5 b4 4.e6 b3 5.e7 b2 6.e8=♚
b1=♚ 7.♚g6+ ♔d2 8.♚xb1



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 81

13th of September 2013

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Editorial Preface

Another very exciting week of chess is behind us.

The Poikovsky tournament ended with a completely deserved victory of Eljanov with 6/9, while Motylev took second place with 5,5/9 and third place went to Inarkiev with 5/9.

In the Woman World Championship match Hou managed to win the first game with Black and drew the next one with White. It is going to be very hard for Ushenina to recover from this.

In the Sinquefield Cup, where Carlsen and Aronian are competing against the two best American players, Nakamura and Kamsky, we saw great and fighting chess so far. Only Kamsky is somehow having trouble finding his game, so the outcome of the event will be decided in the last round.

The ACP Rapid Cup is taking place in Riga with a huge line-up of Top GMs and it is going to be very interesting to see who will take home the Cup.

The Spanish Team Championship was won by the team of Sestao (with Dominguez, Giri, Vachier Lagrave on top boards).

As usual, you can find the freshest games in your weekly issue of CEWN!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Naiditsch, Arkadij(2710)

- Vallejo Pons, Francisco(2706) [C03]

TCh-ESP CECLUB Honor 2013(6.3), 2013.09.13

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Playing against Paco is always very interesting. He is a very creative player with a lot of original ideas. So for this game I was sure I would get a chaotic position on the board and it happened just as expected.

1.e4 e6 The French is Vallejo's main opening.

2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 I decided to play the safer line 3.Nd2, usually I am going for the main 3.Nc3.

3...♙e7 Not the main line, but quite an interesting move. Black is waiting for White's reply before playing Nf6.

4.♘gf3 [4.♙d3 4...c5 I played this line a couple of times and maybe Black is just doing fine here.]

4...♘f6 5.e5 ♘fd7 Black's idea is now getting clear, White doesn't have the usual setup with Bd3-Ne2. Now the knight on d2 is a bit out of play.

6.♙d3 c5 7.c3 ♘c6 8.O-O



8...a5!? And as usual Paco is playing very creatively. [8...g5 This is the main line here, with very sharp play and an unclear position after 9.dxc5]

9.♖e1 I am not sure about this move at all. Maybe it is better for White to play 9. a4 but the position is also quite unclear after 9....cxd4 10.cxd4 Nb4.

9...cxd4! A very strong move. Black is immediately going for the d4 pawn.

10.cxd4 ♖b6 White has difficulties protecting the d4 pawn. It is not unusual in this line that White sacrifices the pawn, but I think that from Black's point of view it is already an achievement to have a very unclear position on move 10.

11.a4 I probably need to give the d4 pawn anyway, so I thought I should secure the Bb5 move for later on.

11...♘xd4 12.♘xd4 ♖xd4 I think this is the first critical position. Black is a clear pawn up but I have a better development, so I was thinking for quite a while whether to play 12. Nb3 or 12. Nf3 here.

13.♘f3 I finally went for this move just based on my feeling. [13.♘b3 13...♖b6 14.♙e3 ♖d8 15.♖h5 would also lead to very unclear play.]

13...♖b6 14.♙e3



14...♘c5! A very strong move. [After 14...♙d8 15.♙c2! attacking the h-pawn and followed by Rac1 would give White very nice play.]

15.♘b5+ I probably don't have anything better. [15.♙c1 15...♘d7 followed by Rc8 and it is hard to see where White's compensation for the pawn is.]

15...♘d7 16.♘xd7+ ♔xd7 17.♘d4 At least I got the black king to d7 in return of my pawn sacrifice, which is already something.

17...♙b4! Another very good move. Of course Black should not let the queen in a passive position on b6. I wanted to play Nb5 next.

18.♙f3 I have to act quickly, as in case Black manages to get a stable position I will be doing very bad. It is really hard to break such a strong pawn structure.

18...♖hf8



19.♙ed1! A nice move. I am preparing to play Nf5 next, or in many lines a move like Nb5 followed by Rxd5 could also be very dangerous for Black.

19...♘xa4? A clear miscalculation of my opponent. Now things start to look very nice for me. [During the game I been very afraid of the following move: 19...♙ac8! And what to do now for White?! 20.Nf5 doesn't seem to work and it is hard to create a direct threat. The position of course remains unclear, I can go for 20.Qh3 or 20.b3, trying to fix things first, but somehow I didn't feel quite well here. It could all just end with a pawn down for nothing for me...]



20.♘f5! An easy to find move, as I didn't really have anything else to play! Now things are getting very forced.

20...♘xb2 If you say A you have to say B!

21.♙xd5+ Of course!

21...exd5 22.♙xd5+ ♔c7 Here I had a long think, calculating the move 23.Rc1 of course, but also the move 23.e6.

23.♙c1+ A good choice. [23.e6 is a possible move, but it leads to a complete messy position. 23...♙a6 And here I was not sure how to evaluate the position. There are so many different options, but one shouldn't forget that White is a full rook down.]

23...♔b8



24.♖xe7? I played this move instantly, because I had already planned it when I played 20. Nf5, but I should have had a second think... [24.♖d7! would end the game on the spot! Black has no decent defence against Qc7. 24...♖c4 25.♖xe7 ♖a6 26.♖d5 And White is easily winning.]

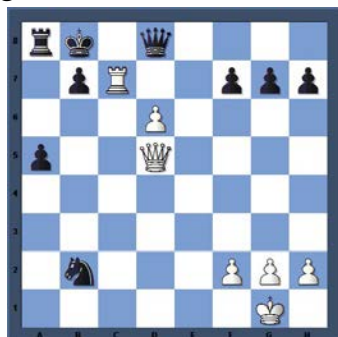
24...♖xe7 [24...♖a6 didn't help as after 25.♖d7 ♖c4 26.♖d5 White is winning.]

25.♖c5 White is of course winning here too, but things are not as simple as after 24.♖d7.

25...♖d8 The best defence. [25...♖e6 would lead to a nice mate: 26.♖d6+ ♖a7 27.♖xa5#]

26.♖d6+ ♖xd6 27.exd6 ♖d8 [27...♖e6 just loses to 28.♖xe6 fxe6 29.d7 ♖a7 30.♖c8]

28.♖c7! Probably the most simple way of finishing the game. White still needs to be careful though as Black's a-pawn could become very dangerous.



28...♖a7 29.♖xf7 Simple and strong. I want to play Re7 next and Black has no decent defence against it.

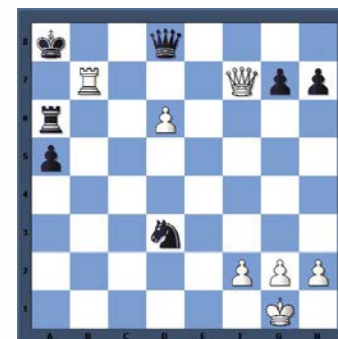
29...♖d3 [After 29...♖xd6 30.♖d7 White is winning.; Not much better is 29...♖c4 30.♖xc4 b6 31.♖c6 And here too only a miracle could save Black.]

30.♖e7 Re8 is coming next.

30...♖a6 31.♖xb7+ [31.♖e8 31...♖xd6 would leave Black with some hopes.]

31...♖c8 Here I was down to 5 minutes, so I decided to repeat the moves once in order to win some time and come closer to move 40.

32.♖c7+ ♖b8 33.♖b7+ ♖a8 Well, it makes no big difference... [After 33...♖c8 I was planning to play 34.♖b5 ♖xd6 35.♖b7+ ♖d8 36.♖d5 With an easily winning position.]



34.♖d7! The last important move! Now the game is over.

34...♖c8 35.♖c7 White threatens to play Qf3 or Qd5 next. All in all a nice finish of a pretty game! :) **1-0**

(2) Cheparinov, Ivan(2678) - Sutovsky, Emil(2660) [A15]

14th Karpov GM(9.5), 2013.09.06

[Balogh Csaba]

Ivan Cheparinov, Topalov's main second, was clearly out of form in the Poikovsky tournament, but in the last round he managed to catch his Gruenfeld expert opponent with a huge theoretical preparation.

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 White is going for the Anti-Gruenfeld. By sparing the d2-d4 move White gains many interesting extra possibilities. If Black wants to play the Gruenfeld, he must push d5 now, otherwise after 3...Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.d4, we transpose to the King's Indian defence.

3...d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.♖b3



5...♘b6 [One point of sparing the d4 move can be seen here, that after 5...♘xc3 White has 6.♖xc3! attacking the rook and Black is forced to make some huge structural weakening like f6.]

6.d4 ♗g7 7.e4 White had many interesting alternatives here, 7.Bf4 and 7.Bg5 also deserve attention.

7...♗g4 A typical Gruenfeld move. By delaying castling, Black immediately starts to put pressure on the central pawns. The following play is very direct and more or less forced by White to consolidate his d4 pawn.

8.♗b5+! Preventing Black from developing his knight to c6 and further pressing the d4 pawn, since Nc6 could be met by d5 now.

8...c6



9.♘g5! White avoids the loss of the d4 pawn by this concrete operation, all these things are already known from theoretical point of view since 3 years.

9...O-O 10.♗e2 ♗xe2 11.♘xe2 ♘a6 Sutovsky follows his own games against Jakovenko and Fressinet. [11...♗xd4? does not work because of 12.♖h3 h5 13.g4! and Black has no good defence!]

12.♖h3 h6 13.♘f3 h5 [Arkadij analysed the Navara-Ris game in the CEWN, which continued with 13...♖d7 14.♖h4 g5 15.♗xg5! hxg5 16.♘xg5 and White later won with a nice crushing attack.]



14.♖g1! Quite an extraordinary idea, but this is the only way to fight for the initiative. White is aiming for a kingside attack with g4! With the simple 0-0, White could not hope for an advantage with his misplaced queen on h3.

14...♞d7 A multifunctional move. The main idea is to bring a defender around the king by playing Nf6 and the move also supports the central break with e5, which is fully justified by the principles that against a side attack one must open the center.

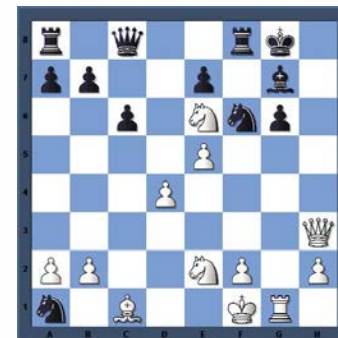


15.e5 Only this is the novelty and the start of Cheparinov's homework. White prevents Nf6 and intends to push g4 next! [The precedent game continued with 15.g4 15...♞f6 16.♞g5 hxc4 17.♞xc4 ♞c8 Without the queens Black would be more than fine. 18.f3! ♞d8 Freeing the f8 square for the king. 19.e5 ♞xc4 20.fxc4 f6 21.♞h7+ ♞f8 And the game finished with a

forced perpetual check after 22.♞xc4 fxc4 23.e6 ♞g8 24.♞xc4 ♞d5 25.♞f7+ ♞h8 26.♞h5+ ♞g8 27.♞f7+ ♞h8 28.♞h5+ ♞g8 29.♞f7+ 1/2 Jakovenko-Sutovsky, Loo 2013]

15...♞b4 16.g4! A strong human move! Obviously the mate has higher value than the a1 rook. [There was a tactical point as well, that after 16.♞f1 leaving from Nc2, Black collects the nicest pawn with 16...♞xe5! 17.dxe5 ♞d1+ 18.♞e1 ♞c2—+ Using White's weak back rank.]

16...♞c2+ 17.♞f1 ♞xe5 Black uses the same tactical motif as before, after Qd1 check he wins back the e2 knight. I am quite convinced that Sutovsky was also still following his preparations at this point. [17...♞xa1 leads to quick defeat after 18.gxh5 Black cannot defend, let's say after 18...♞c8 aiming for the trade of queens 19.hxc6 fxc6 20.♞g5 ♞f6 21.♞e6!]



Rxc6 comes with mating attack: 21...♞f7 22.♞2f4 ♞h8 23.♞d3 ♞h6 24.♞xc6+—]

18.♞xe5! [White loses too many attacking pieces and also closes the g-file after 18.dxe5? 18...♞d1+ 19.♞g2 ♞xe2 20.gxh5 ♞xa1—+ White has no serious attack here, hxc6 just opens the f-file for the rook.]

18...♞xe5 19.gxh5 It seems to be over, but Black has a nice defensive idea, which leaves him in the game... [19.dxe5? is

bad again because of 19...♔d1+ 20.♕g2 ♖xe2—+]

19...♖c8! Bringing the queen to the defence.

20.♖g4! [20.♖h4 is met by 20...♗f6 21.♗g5 ♖f5 and Black is alright.]



20...♖f5! Black sacrifices his bishop and suddenly he starts a strong counterattack. [20...♗xa1 still loses to 21.dxe5 ♖f5 22.hxg6 fxg6 23.♗f4 ♕f7 24.♗xg6+— and White ends up with a material advantage because of the threats Nxf8 and Rf4.]

21.dxe5 ♖ad8! I suspect that Sutovsky's home analysis finished somewhere here, as the computer shows 0.00, perpetual checks or good positions everywhere. He gets enough counterplay with the ideas of Rd1 and Ne1. However Cheparinov digged deeper.

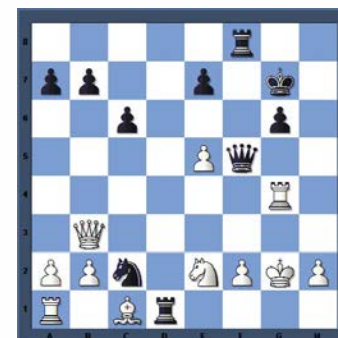
22.hxg6 ♖d1+ [22...fxg6! seems to lead to a draw in long lines and is also Black's most precise move. 23.♗f4 ♖d1+ 24.♕e2 is the most forced continuation. (24.♕g2 24...♖e4+ 25.f3 ♗e1+ White has to be careful here. 26.♕g3! This is the only move that saves the game. (26.♕f2? is refuted by a pretty mate: 26...♖xf4! 27.♖xf4 ♗d3+ 28.♕g3 ♖g1+ 29.♕h4 g5+ 30.♕h5 ♖h7#) 26...♖xf3+ (26...♖d3!? is probably even better: 27.♖xg6+ ♖xg6+ 28.♗xg6 ♖xf3+ 29.♕g4 ♖xh3 30.♗xe7+ ♕f7 31.♗g5 At this point, Black does not have anything better than 31...♖xh2 32.♖xe1 ♖g2+ 33.♕f4 ♖xg5

34.♕xg5 ♕xe7 35.♖h1= And a draw will be agreed soon.) 27.♕h4 ♖xf4 28.♗xf4 ♖xh3+ 29.♕xh3 ♖xa1 30.♖xg6+ ♕f7 31.♖g1 ♗c2 32.♖xa1 ♗xa1= The knight escapes through c2 and the game will be drawn.) 24...♖e1+ 25.♕d2 ♖d8+ 26.♕c3 ♗xa1 27.♖xg6+ ♖xg6 28.♗xg6 ♖xc1+



29.♕b4 And Black gives perpetual check after 29...♖d4+ 30.♕a3 ♗c2+ 31.♕b3 ♗a1+=]

23.♕g2 ♗e1+? This extremely tempting move seems to be the decisive mistake. [23...fxg6! 24.♖b3+ (24.♗f4 transposes to the 22...fxg6 lines.) 24...♖d5! The only move! (24...♕g7 loses to



25.♗h6+! ♕xh6 26.♖h3+ ♕g7 27.♖xd1 ♖xf2+ 28.♕h1+— With a decisive material advantage.; 24...♖f7? 25.♖f4! ♖g5+ 26.♗g3 ♗e1+ 27.♕h3!+— also wins for White.) 25.♖g3

♞xa1 26.♞f4! This move seems to keep the initiative on White's side. (26.♞xg6+ 26...♞f7 27.e6+ ♞e8 28.♞c3 ♞d3 29.♞b8+ ♞d8 30.♞g3 As White threatens to play Bh6 and Rg8, Black should force a draw by repetition. 30...♞d3 31.♞b8+=) 26...♞e4+ 27.♞h3 ♞xe5 28.♞xg6 ♞xg3+ 29.fxg3 White has some advantage, because he wins back the exchange in any case and then the h- and g-pawns are going to be very dangerous and the bishop will also be superior to the knight. 29...♞h5+ 30.♞g2+= Black loses the exchange anyway, now because of the Nf4 threat.]

24.♞g3 The start of a brave rush. Cheparinov has still made all his moves without thinking! An impressive preparation!

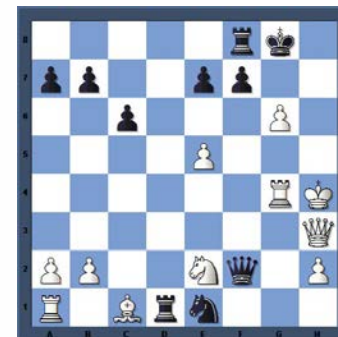
24...♞f3+ [24...♞d3+? 25.♞e3 ♞xe5+ 26.♞f4+- White has an extra piece.; 24...fxg6 25.♞f4!+- also wins for White.; 24...♞xe5+ leads to a bad endgame:



25.f4! ♞d3+ 26.♞f2! ♞xe2+ (26...♞xh3 27.fxh3+-) 27.♞xe2 ♞xh3 28.♞xe1 ♞xh2± Black has some practical chances to save the game, but with good technique White should be winning later on.]

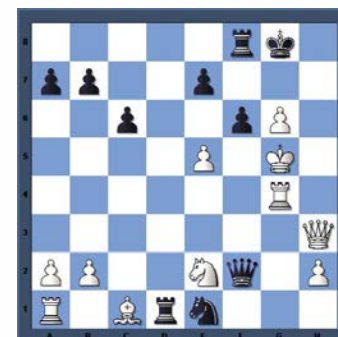
25.♞h4 There is no way back!

25...♞xf2+ This was the first moment when Cheparinov spent some 30 minutes, but then he found the winning continuation.



26.♞g5!! An amazing journey of the king! White creates the threat of Qh7. [26.♞g3 was tempting, but Black is fine after 26...fxg6 27.♞xg6+ ♞f7=]

26...f6+? This eases White's task. [26...♞f3+ would have given Black some chances. 27.♞h6 fxg6 28.♞xg6+ ♞f7 Obviously it is not easy to play with a king on h6 over the board, but the computer does not stress himself and converts his piece advantage after 29.♞g7+! Covering the Rh8 threat with Rh7. 29...♞e8 30.♞h5+ ♞d8 31.♞f4 ♞h8+ 32.♞h7 ♞xh7+ 33.♞xh7 and White is winning according to the machine, although in a practical game all results are still possible.]



27.♔h6! Black's attack has reached its end. He cannot even give a single check, while White has an extra piece and a check on e6 with the queen is also hanging in the air.

27...f5 [27...♙xe2 is refuted most elegantly by 28.♖e4! ♙xe4 29.♙e6+ ♔h8 30.g7#]

28.♖g3! The most precise move to cover the f3 square.

28...♙xe2



29.♔g5! This is the reason behind Rg3. Black does not have Nf3, nor any other checks and on the other hand Qh7 can only be avoided by a huge loss of material. The game is over, but Sutovsky tries for a few more moves.

29...♖f7 30.gxf7+ ♔xf7 31.♙xf5+ ♔e8 Obviously all moves are winning with an extra rook and a mating attack, but White finishes the game in style.

32.♕f4! ♖xa1 33.e6! And as mate is inevitable, Black resigned! A fascinating game, but from a theoretical point of view it just seems like a one game idea, since after 22...fxg6 it ends in a forced draw. **1-0**

(3) Aronian, Levon(2813)

- Carlsen, Magnus(2862) [A80]

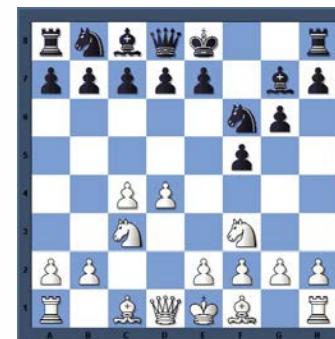
Sinquefield Cup 2013(2.1), 2013.09.10

[Balogh Csaba]

A game between the current World Nr.1 and the Nr.2 is always a pleasure to analyse.

1.d4 f5 Wow, what a surprise right in the first move! I don't remember if I ever saw Carlsen play the Dutch defence, but as we will see, he plays this opening perfectly as well.

2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 g6 4.♘c3 ♕g7



5.♕f4 I guess that this side line was supposed to be "countersurprise" by Aronian. [The mainline is 5.g3 which is played by all the strong players nowadays.]

5...d6 6.e3 ♘c6 This logical move is basically the novelty of the game. In the Dutch defence it is a common idea to develop the knight to c6, with the plan to support the e5 push in the center.

7.♕e2 0-0 8.0-0 This most natural move seems like an inaccuracy by White. [8.♙c2 was more circumspect in order to avoid the things that happened in the game.]



8...dxe4! Very well played! Black has opened the diagonal of the g7 bishop, therefore he is ready to play e5.

9.h3 White wants to preserve his bishop and frees the h2 square for him. [9.dxe4 did not work because of the misplacement of the f4 bishop. 9...fxe4 10.d2 dxd4! was Carlsen's tactical point!]

9...e5! Everything goes according to Black's plan.

10.f2 exd4 11.exd4



11...d5! Another great positional move and this already passes the initiative to Black's side right at move 11! Quite an impressive performance, especially against such a well-prepared player like Aronian. By removing the defender of the d4 pawn, Black forces White to advance his d-pawn, but it opens the h8-a1 diagonal and the bishop becomes

extremely strong!

12.dxc5 dxc5 13.f4! Quite an ugly move to lock the h2 bishop, but it is still better than allowing Black to push f4 himself, since then the attack with the threats of Bxh3 and f3 would become really dangerous. In this case, White has the option to get the bishop back into the game by playing Bg3-f2 or Kh1-Bg1 in the future.

13...dxf6 14.d5 d4 I don't believe that Carlsen had dreamed about reaching such a great position right from the opening when he went for the Dutch defence.



15.g1! Preparing to improve the bishop through g1.

15...c5! Another great positional move! Black stabilizes his knight on d4.

16.d3 With the intention to kick out the d4 knight by Ne2 later on. Aronian starts to fight hard for the equality. [16.dxc6 might have been a better option to open the position. 16...bxc6 17.g1 But Black has the initiative here as well. 17...b8 (Or playing with the bishop pair: 17...dxe2 18.dxe2 a6 Followed by d5.)]

16...d7 17.g1 ae8=+ Carlsen nicely finishes the development and puts his pieces to their ideal squares.

18.d2 a6! The next step for Black to increase the advantage

is to take ground on the queenside, he is intending to push b5!

19.♖ad1 Aronian tries some prophylaxis against b5. [After the more natural 19.♖ae1 19...b5 Black is better as well.]

19...♖b8 Refreshing the b5 idea. [The point of 19.Rad1 was that after 19...b5 20.cxb5 axb5 21.♗xd4 ♕xd4 22.♗xb5 the queen is protected.]

20.a4 White decides to prevent b5, but it also has the huge drawback that this move seriously weakens all the dark squares on the queenside. Carlsen immediately points this out!



20...♕d8! Outstanding moves non-stop. The queen is heading to b4. The problems are getting more and more serious from White's point of view.

21.♖b1 ♕a5 Simply threatening to grab the a4 pawn.

22.♕d1 ♕b4 23.♗f2 Aronian lacks any active plans, so he tries to improve his pieces square by square.

23...♖be8 After the rook has done its job by provoking a4, Carlsen sends it back to the only opened file.

24.♗e1 White finally has a threat, so Black is forced to offer the trade of the queens because of Nb5. However the position remains very unpleasant even without the queens.

24...♕b3! 25.♕xb3 ♗xb3 26.♗c2 White is able to keep his position together somehow. In such positions, Black is

already searching for some direct measure, but it looks like there is none yet, he must continue improving his position slowly.



26...♗a5 Carlsen tries some direct play. [26...♗d4 27.♗d3 Probably Black's best option now is to play 27...♗f6 with the idea of playing Re7 and avoiding Bh4. 28.♗f2 ♗b3 29.♖fd1 ♖e7 Black has many small moves to improve his position, like Rfe8, Kg7, h6, but it is going to be difficult to break through.]

27.♗d3 [27.b3? does not work because of 27...♖xe1! 28.♖xe1 ♗xc3]

27...♖e3 28.♖d1 ♖b8 [After 28...♗b3 29.♗f2 ♖ee8 30.♗c2 ♗d4 31.♗d3 White continues defending.]

29.♗f2 ♖ee8



30.♖a1! Extremely tenacious defence by Aronian! It is very

difficult to make such ugly moves in a row, but all of them are simply forced in order to hold the position. [After some other move like 30.♔g1 30...♘b3 Black threatens to play Bxc3 and Bxa4. 31.♙c2 ♘d4 32.♙d3



32...b5! 33.axb5 axb5 34.cxb5 ♘xb5 And the b2 pawn will fall soon.]

30...♙d4 Carlsen tries to penetrate on the dark squares, he trades the defender of the e3 square. [If Black tries to play on b5 in the same way as in the 30.Kg1 line by playing 30...♘b3 31.♖a3 ♘d4 Aronian had probably planned to prevent it with 32.a5 and White seems to hold.]

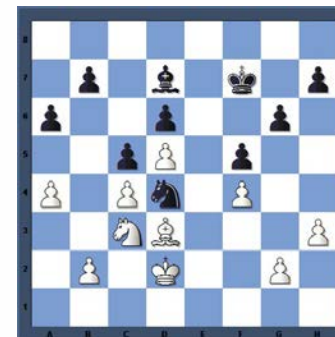
31.♔g1! Great defence! As the bishop cannot control the e3 square anymore, White brings his king to do this job.

31...♙e3 32.♙xe3 ♖xe3 33.♖ad1! White continues staying in passivity, but he soon kicks out the pieces...

33...♖be8 34.♔f2 ♘b3 35.♖fe1! The problems are finally over. Without the rooks on board, White has nothing left to worry about.

35...♖xe1 36.♖xe1 ♖xe1 37.♔xe1 ♘d4

38.♔d2 ♔f7



39.♙e2! The last precise plan to neutralize Black's attempt is to drive the bishop to d1 to protect the a4 pawn in order to be able to trade off the knights with Ne2.

39...♔f6 40.♙d1 a5 Carlsen locks the position and offers the draw, White would have played Ne2 in any case. Despite the draw, this was a very instructive game as we saw how Carlsen first overtook and seized the initiative and how Aronian then succeeded to save the game! **1/2-1/2**

(4) Ushenina, Anna(2500) - Hou, Yifan(2609)

Taizhou China Medical City Cup FIDE Women(1.1), 2013.09.11
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

This is the first game of the World Championship match. Hou is the clear favourite as he is about 100 points higher rated, but Ushenina has been showing a great fighting spirit during the last World Cup. So if Anna gets a chance, we can be sure that she will take it!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 And we see a Nimzo. The second of Ushenina is Korobov, who played a great World Cup, knocking out Nakamura. He is a Nimzo player, so this was probably not a big surprise to Hou.

4.♚c2 O-O



5.♘f3!? Lately this move has become quite fashionable. [Of course the very main line remains 5.a3 5...♙xc3+ 6.♚xc3]

5...c5 Black is quickly acting against the white center, a very typical play.

6.dxc5 The black knight is going to eat the c5 pawn.

6...♘a6 7.g3 The most critical line. [Another possibility is 7.c6 This variation was played by Morozevich a lot. 7...bxc6 8.a3 ♙xc3+ 9.♚xc3 ♘c5 With unclear play.]

7...♘xc5 8.♙g2 b6?! Hou is avoiding the principal line, but it seems that White is clearly better now. [8...♘ce4 would be the main line. 9.O-O ♘xc3 10.bxc3 ♙e7 11.e4 d6 12.e5 dxe5 13.♘xe5 ♚c7 14.♚e2 And it is hard to say if White has any edge here. We can be sure to see many more games to come on this position.]

9.O-O ♙b7 Black wants to play Rc8 or d5 next.



10.♘b5! A very strong and very unpleasant move by White. a3 is a deadly threat now.

10...♙e4 Freeing the b7 square for the knight, but it is clear that this is not the right position for the black knight.

11.♚d1 ♘b7 12.a3 ♙e7 13.♙f4 A nice developing move.

13...d6 Black sits tight. [After 13...♚c8 things would get more forced. 14.♚c1 a6 15.♘c3 ♙xf3 16.♙xf3 ♘a5 17.b4! ♘xc4 18.♙b7 White should be better here.]

14.♚c1 White develops her pieces to nice positions.

14...h6 15.b4 a6 16.♘c3 ♙c6 We can clearly see that White's advantage is already quite big. The black pieces are badly placed, especially the knight on b7.

17.♚b3 ♚c8 18.♚fd1 White brought all her pieces into the game! So far Anna is playing a very good game.



18...Kf8 Black needs to be very careful about White's b5 push. It could work any moment.

19.Kb1 A slightly strange move. What does White want?! Maybe Anna's plan was to play e4 next, but I think there is no reason for White to do it.

19...e5 Black cannot stand the pressure anymore and pushes the e-pawn. Now White is getting a very nice square on d5 for her knight.

20.fxd2 b5 21.cxb5 axb5 22.e4 Rf8 Black only has one huge problem and this is the knight on b7. But it is not so easy to explore this weakness...



23.f4!? An interesting move, but not the best one.

[23.Kb3! would have been very very strong. 23...fxe4 24.fxd5 White is playing against the bad knight on b7. 24...Rc8 25.fxe3± And White has a big advantage!]

23...Rxa3 If you suffer, then at least grab a pawn if you can.

24.f5 fxd7? After this move White is almost crushing. [Black should have tried to bring some pieces into the game: 24...Kd7 25.fxd5 fxd5 26.exd5 Rf8 The black rook from f-file is finally playing. 27.fh3! fh8 28.fg2! White should still be clearly better here.]

25.f3 What a total domination of the white pieces.

25...f6 26.fxe7+?! What a mistake by White! [26.fxb5! was the right move:



26...Kxb5 27.fxe7+ fh8 28.f1 And I guess Hou would have big problems to hold this position.]

26...Kxe7 27.fxd5? White has lost the thread... [It was time to force a draw by playing 27.fxb5 27...Rb3 28.Ka1 Rxb4



29. ♖xd6! A little tactic... 29... ♗g4! (29... ♖xd6 was losing because of 30. ♕c5+-)]

27... ♖xd5 28. exd5 ♕g4! Now Black is suddenly the one who is attacking and the rook on f8 is perfectly placed for the f5-f4 pushes.

29. ♖d2



29...f5 30. ♖dc2 f4 31. ♖c7 ♕f6 White is already in a very difficult position. What a change! Just a few moves ago it was Anna who was totally dominating the game.

32. ♕b6

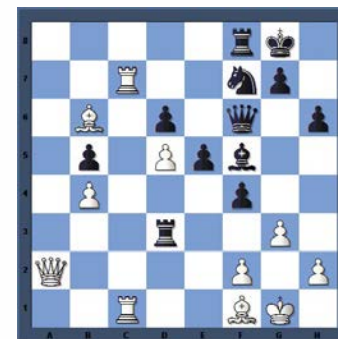


32... ♖d8 Black is bringing her last piece into the attack. The Black knight is going to g5.

33. ♕b2 ♖d3 34. ♕c2 It is already difficult to give White any advice. [34. ♕e4 didn't help either... 34...fxg3! 35. hxg3 (35. ♕xd3 and Black is mating after 35...gxh2+ 36. ♕xh2 ♕h4+ 37. ♕g1 ♕f3+-) 35... ♖f3 With an almost winning position for Black.]

34... ♕f5 35. ♕a2 ♖f7 The last black piece is joining the attack and we should not forget that Black is a clear pawn up.

36. ♕f1



36... ♖g5 Nothing can save White here anymore.

37.♖a7 fxg3 38.hxg3 ♜f3+ The white king is all alone against an army of black pieces...

39.♔h1 ♚g6 40.♙xd3 ♚h5+ 41.♔g2 ♙h3+ What a dramatic game in the very first game of the match! I guess Korobov gained some few extra grey hairs! It will be very interesting to see if Anna will be able to recover from such a tough loss in such a "nice" position. **0-1**

Puzzle section

(5) Sutovsky, E(2660)-Onischuk, A(2667)

Poikovsky, 2013.09.03

[CEWN]

1. +-

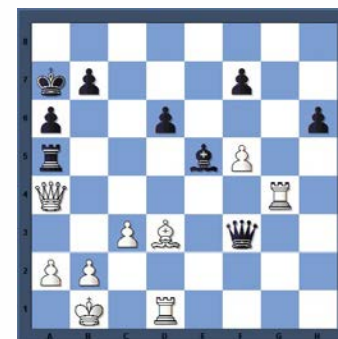


(6) Bagdasaryan, V(2414)-Gabuzyan, H(2540)

Armenian league, 2013.09.03

[CEWN]

1. +-



(7) Zhigalko, S(2664)-Grigoryan, A(2580)

Lake Sevan, 2013.09.09

[CEWN]

1. +-



(8) Flores, D(2578)-Lorenzini, M(2487)

Argentinian Championship, 2013.09.03

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Kraemer, M(2542)-Svane, R(2445)

German Championship, 2013.09.07

[CEWN]

1. +-



(10) Fridman, D(2614)-Bischoff, K(2500)

German Championship, 2013.09.09

[CEWN]

1... -+



(11) Quesada Perez, Y(2647)-Zapata, A(2496)

US Masters, 2013.08.31

[CEWN]

1... -+



(12) Grischuk, A(2785)-Riazantsev, A(2700)

Moscow blitz, 2013.09.01

[CEWN]

1... -+



(13) Cioara, A(2462)-Nyzhnyk, I(2625)

Romanian league, 2013.09.05

[CEWN]

1... -+



(14) Manolache, M(2503)-Vajda, L(2613)

Romanian league, 2013.09.08

[CEWN]

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Carlsen, M.(2862)-Kamsky, G.(2741)

Sinquefield Cup, 2013.09.09

[CE TEAM]



White has a mating attack, but to bring home the full point is much more difficult than it might look at first sight. However, the World Nr.1 does not let his opponent slip away.

39. ♖h8! White threatens to mate on f8 and if Black tries to prevent it by playing Rd7, he loses his rook after Qe8. So the next move is the only one.

39... ♜g7 Freeing the g6 square. White's problem is that his rooks are slightly paralysed, he cannot penetrate the 8th rank because the c1 rook and the back rank are weak, nor can he lift the c1 rook to c2, because Black has a check on a1.

40. ♕f8+! ♔g6



41. ♖xg2! The only move to win! By eliminating the g2 pawn, White is ready to use the g- and h-files with his c1 rook. [41. ♜8c2 spoils the advantage after 41... ♔h5! Black suddenly holds: 42. ♕h8+ ♜h7 Followed by Rhg7 next and White cannot make progress.]

41... ♜gf7 42. ♕d8! Once again Carlsen finds the only winning move! White threatens to play Rg1 now. [42. ♕h8 is met by 42... ♜h7! 43. ♜g8+ ♜eg7! and Black defends successfully. 44. ♜xg7+ ♜xg7; 42. ♕g8+? makes no sense because of 42... ♜g7 and the g2 king is badly placed.]

42... ♜h7 [42... ♜g7 loses to 43. ♖f3! and the Rg1 threat decides the game. 43... ♔f6 44. ♕f8+ ♜ef7 (44... ♜gf7 45. ♕h6#) 45. ♕xa3+-]



43. ♜g1! The only right move again! [If White starts with

43. ♔f3 Black has 43... ♖h3+ 44. ♔g2 ♖h4 and he is alive.]

43... ♕a2+ [43... ♔f6 44. ♕f8+ ♖ef7 45. ♕xa3+-]

44. ♔f3+ ♔f6 Black has already created real threats with Rh3, so White has to finish the game right away.

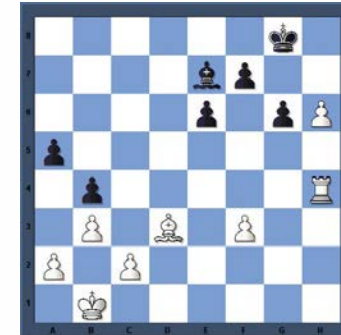
45. ♕g8! Another great subtle move and the game is over. [45. ♖g3? spoils the win again as after 45... ♕b1 White has nothing more than perpetual: 46. ♕f8+ ♖ef7 47. ♕d8+ ♖e7=]

45... ♖h3+ 46. ♖g3 ♖xg3+ 47. ♕xg3! Black resigned as he cannot defend against the heavy pieces anymore with his single rook. Rf8 and Qg5 are coming. [Here was the last moment to go wrong with 47. ♔xg3?? 47... ♖g7+-] **1-0**

(16) Bauer, C.(2622)-Ganguly, S.(2630)

2013.09.12

[CE Team]

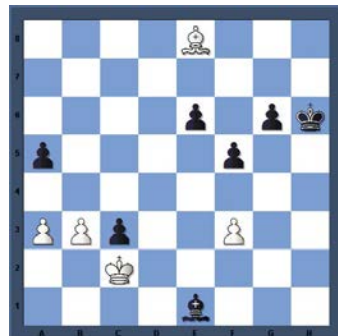


After an average game, White ended up in a rather bad endgame. But it is not easy to see on the spot whether it is a draw or winning for Black. Let us take a closer look...

29... ♕xh4 30.c3! White needs to try and exchange as many pawns as possible, as this is his only chance. If White could exchange the a- b- and c-pawns against Black's a- and b-pawns the position would be a draw.

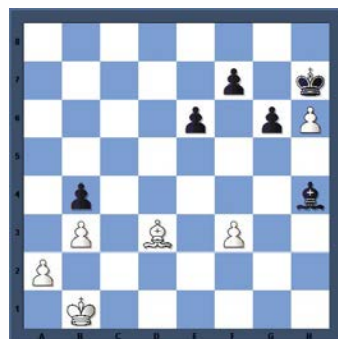
30... ♔h7! Black is not getting tempted.

[30... bxc3? would be a mistake. 31. ♔c2 ♕e1 (31... ♕f6 is not winning either, as after 32. ♕b5 ♔h7 33. ♕e8= White is in time.) 32. ♕b5 White is also trying to attack the black pawns from behind here. 32... ♔h7 33. ♕e8 f5 34. a3 ♔xh6 ..

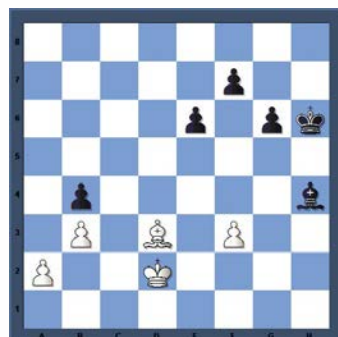


35. ♖f7! An important move. 35...e5 36. b4 axb4 37. axb4 ♔g5 38. b5 ♜f2 39. ♖xc3 e4 40. fxe4 fxe4 41. ♖d2 And White is in time to hold the draw.]

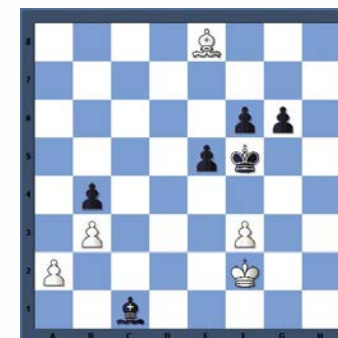
31. cxb4 axb4



32. ♜b5?! White misses his last chance. [32. ♖c2! was a much more resistant move. 32...♔xh6 33. ♖d2



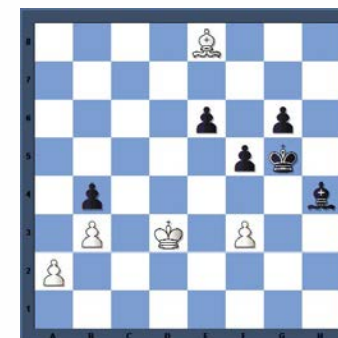
33...♜g5+! Not an easy move to find! (33...♜e7 34. ♜b5 ♔g5 35. ♜e8 f5 36. ♖e2 And White is in time to attack the black pawns from behind with the bishop, so Black will never get 2 connected passed pawns. White would have good chances to save the game here.) 34. ♖e2 ♜c1 35. ♜b5 ♔g5 36. ♜e8 f6 37. ♜f7 e5 38. ♜e8 ♖f5 39. ♖f2



39...g5 Now Black is winning as he will play Kf4 followed by f5 and next either e4 or g4, getting 2 connected free pawns.]

32...♔xh6 33. ♖c2 ♔g5 34. ♜e8 f5 Now things are just too easy for Black.

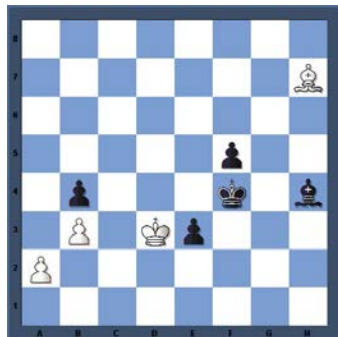
35. ♖d3



35...♔f4! The last important move. Black is getting 2 connected passed pawns.

36. ♖xg6 ♔xf3—+ 37. ♔d4 ♕f4 38. ♖h7 e5+ Nothing can help White anymore.

39. ♔d5 e4 40. ♔c4 e3 41. ♔d3



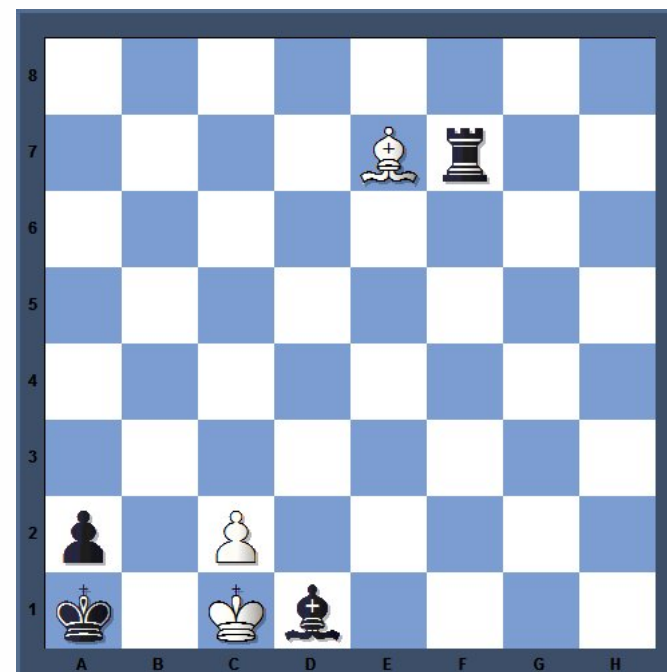
41... ♕f3 A nice endgame technique from Ganguly and we can clearly see that not every opposite colored bishop endgame is a draw! [41... ♕f3 42. ♖xf5 e2 43. ♖g4+ ♔xg4 44. ♔xe2 ♖e7—+] 0-1

Surprise section / study

(17) Gutman

[CEWN]

1. +—



Solutions

(18) Analysis of Andreikin, D(2716)-Tomashevsky, E(2706)

World Cup rapid, 2013.08.28

[Solutions]

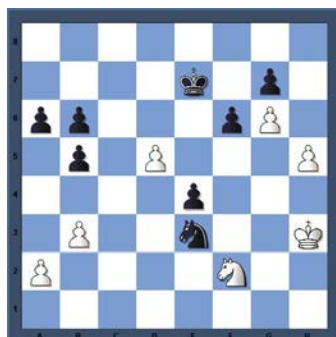


39...♔xf3+! 40.♔xf3 ♔xf7+ 41.♔xf7+ ♔xf7—+

(19) Laznicka, V(2677)-Bologan, V(2672)

Poikovsky, 2013.09.02

[Solutions]



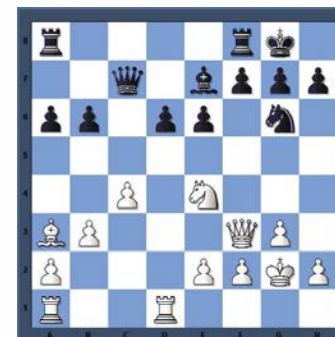
48.h6! [48.d6+? 48...♔xd6 49.h6 ♖d5! 50.hxg7 (50.h7 50...♖f4+ 51.♔g4 ♖xg6) 50...♖e7]

48...gxh6 49.d6+! 1-0 [49.d6+ 49...♔xd6 50.g7+—; 49.g7? 49...♔f7 50.d6 ♖d5! 51.d7 ♖f4+ 52.♔g4 ♖e6]

(20) Cheparinov, I(2678)-Inarkiev, E(2693)

Poikovsky, 2013.09.02

[Solutions]

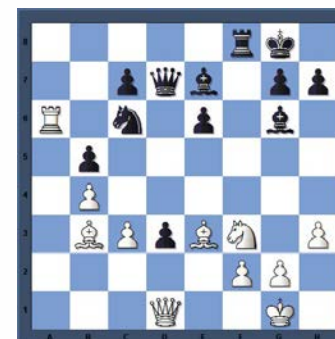


17...d5! 0-1 [17...d5 18.♔xe7 dxe4 19.♔xe4 ♔xe7—+]

(21) Cori, J(2569)-Valdes, L(2440)

Sants Open, 2013.08.28

[Solutions]



25.♖e5! ♖xe5 26.♔xe6+ ♔xe6 27.♔xe6+—

(22) Filippov, A(2630)-Adhiban, B(2567)

Sants Open, 2013.08.29

[Solutions]



30. ♘d5!! ♙xd5 [30... ♘xd5?? 31. ♙xd2+—; 30... ♖xd5 31. ♙xf4=]

31. ♖e8+ ♔g7 32. ♖e7+! ♔g8 33. ♖e8+ 1/2

(23) Hillarp Persson, T(2529)-Adhiban, B(2567)

Sants Open, 2013.08.31

[Solutions]



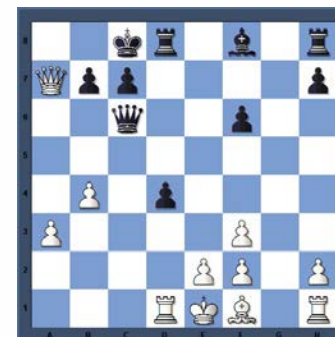
26... ♖xe4! 27. ♙xc4 [27. ♙xe4 27... ♖xf1+—+; 27. ♖xf7 27... ♖xe2 28. ♖xf8+ ♔xf8—+]

27... ♖xh4—+

(24) Krysa, L(2422)-Liascovich, L(2447)

Argentinian Championship, 2013.08.29

[Solutions]



17... ♙c3+! 18. ♖d2 ♙a1+! 19. ♖d1 ♘xb4+! 0-1
[19... ♘xb4+ 20. axb4 ♙xa7—+]

(25) Flores, D(2578)-Pierrot, F(2419)

Argentinian Championship, 2013.09.01

[Solutions]



39. ♘xe5! 1-0

[39. ♘xe5 39... ♙xe5 (39... ♘xe5 40. ♙xh6#) 40. ♙d8+ ♔h7 41. ♘e4+ ♙xe4 42. dxe4—+]

(26) Grandadam, N(2309)-Fedorchuk, S(2669)

Zug, 2013.08.27

[Solutions]



30... ♖xf2+! 31. ♖xf2 ♜xa2 32. ♖xd4 cxd4—+

(27) Svetushkin, D(2608)-Prohaszka, P(2567)

Zug, 2013.09.01

[Solutions]



30... ♖f3+!! 31. gxf3 [31. ♖f1 31... ♜e5—+]

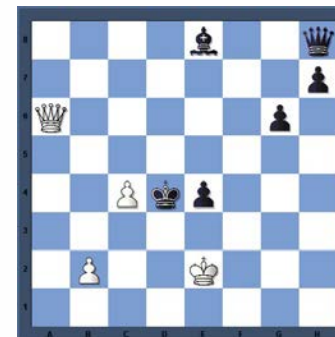
31... ♖h3! —+ [31... ♜g8+? 32. ♖f1 ♖h3+ 33. ♖e2+—]

32. ♕g5 [32. ♖h1 32... ♜g8 33. ♜g1 ♖xf3+—+]

32... ♜g8! 0-1

(28) Dawson

[Solutions]



1. ♖a1!! ♖g8 [1... ♖c5 2. b4+—; 1... ♖xc4 2. b3+—; 1... ♖f8 2. b3+ ♖c5 3. ♖a3+—]

2. b4+! ♖xc4 3. ♖a2+ ♖xb4 4. ♖xg8



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 82

20th of September 2013

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Editorial Preface

The last week of chess has been really intense! Ladies first:

In the WCC match things are pretty clear. Hou is leading with 4,5-1,5 against Ushenina, who lost all her 3 White games! We are probably not going to face a miracle in the next games.

The Sinquefield Cup was won quite convincingly by Carlsen. The second place went to Nakamura, 3rd to Aronian and Kamsky finished in last place.

The ACP Grand Prix was won by Grischuk, who had another fantastic final match against Nepomniachtchi where he managed to win the Armageddon game with the white pieces.

We can already be excited about the events which are coming up in the next weeks:

1. The 6 games friendly match Topalov-Laznicka.
2. The FIDE Grand Prix in Paris.
3. And of course the end of the WCC match between Hou and Ushenina.

Stay tuned and enjoy the commentaries!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Kamsky, Gata(2741)

- Nakamura, Hikaru(2772) [B90]

Sinquefield Cup 2013(6.2), 2013.09.15

[Balogh Csaba]

Before the game, Nakamura had the theoretical chance to catch Carlsen. It was clear that he would try his best to beat the out-of-form Kamsky with the black pieces, but it almost backfired.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 The Sicilian Najdorf is a very good opening to fight for a win with both colors.

6.♗e3



6...♘g4 Kasparov's favorite move. [6...e6 and; 6...e5 are the other main lines.]

7.♗g5 [Players who want to destroy chess are going for the quick repetition with 7.♗c1 7...♘f6 8.♗e3 but of course, Kamsky does not belong to them even in a bad form.]

7...h6 8.♗h4 g5 9.♗g3 ♗g7 We have reached the starting position of the 6.Be3 Ng4 line. White has several options here and Kamsky goes for one of the main ones.



10.h3 [10.♗e2 is the main alternative for White.]

10...♘f6 This is the new development of the theory. [The main line used to continue with 10...♘e5 but it seems like White might hope for an advantage after 11.f3 ♘bc6 12.♗f2 followed by Qd2 and 0-0-0.]

11.♗c4 ♗b6 A standard move in this line. Black prepares Nc6, which would have been premature if played immediately. [Black should refrain from winning a pawn with 11...b5 12.♗b3 b4 White gets more than enough compensation after 13.♘a4 ♘xe4 14.♗f3! d5 15.O-O-O± With a strong attack, Black is totally undeveloped.; 11...♘c6 is strongly met by 12.♘xc6 bxc6 13.e5!+=]

12.♗b3 ♘c6 [The tactical trick 12...♘xe4 would have been a mistake again: 13.♘xe4 ♗xd4 14.♗e2 Threatening Nxd6. 14...O-O 15.c3 ♗b6 16.h4 g4 17.♗f4! With very good attacking potential for White. He might unpleasantly attack the h6 pawn by playing Qd2 or transfer the knight to h5 via g3.]

13. ♖xc6 ♜xc6



14. O-O! This is the novelty, a strong and probably a prepared one. [14. ♜e2 happened before, but after the strong 14... ♖d7! 15. ♜f3 ♗xc3+ 16. bxc3 ♖f6 Black was alright.]

14...g4 [14... ♖d7 is now met by 15. ♜h5 O-O 16. ♖d5+- Black cannot protect the e7 pawn, since Re8 would leave the f7 unprotected.; 14... ♖xe4?? drops a piece because of 15. ♗d5+- and after 15... Nxc3 the queen is hanging with check.]

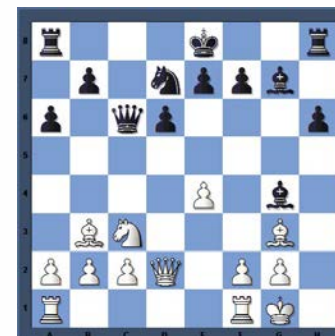
15. hxg4 [On 15. h4 15... ♖h5 was probably Nakamura's plan. 16. ♗h2 ♗xc3 17. bxc3 ♜g8 With a double edged position. Black wants to play Qc5 and g3 is always hanging in the air.]

15... ♗xg4 [15... ♖xg4 is similarly met as in the game: 16. ♖d5! ♗xb2? loses huge material: 17. ♜b1 ♗g7



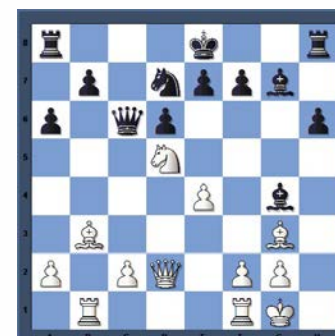
18. ♖b6!+- This pretty move creates fatal threats with Nxa8 and Ba4, and the knight cannot be taken because of the discovery check with the bishop.]

16. ♜d2 ♖d7 [As usual the e4 pawn is poisoned: 16... ♖xe4? 17. ♖xe4 ♜xe4 18. ♜ae1 White takes on d6 next, while 18... ♜d4 loses a bishop after 19. ♜xd4 ♗xd4 20. ♜e4!+-]



17. ♖d5! Very strong intuitions by Kamsky. White activates all his pieces at the cost of a pawn.

17... ♗xb2 18. ♜ab1 ♗e5! The only move. [18... ♗g7 would have been refuted by



19. e5!! ♗xe5 (19... ♖xe5 20. ♖b6!+-; 19... dxe5 20. ♜b4+- wins because of the double attack on g4 and e7.) 20. ♗xe5 dxe5 (20... ♖xe5 21. ♖b6!+- With Ba4 and Nxa8 ideas.) 21. ♜b4+-]

19.f4!? Now and in the next move Kamsky plays the most tempting human moves. He tries to open the center on the e8 king, which is stuck there for a while, since either side of castling would run into Nxe7, checking the queen. [Objectively it seems to be better to play 19.♘xe5! 19...dxe5 (19...♗xe5? loses to the usual motif: 20.♗b6!) 20.♖b4 ♗c5! The only move in order to protect e7 and now White has a great queen transfer: 21.♖c3! f6 22.♖g3! h5 23.f3± Invading the g-file with the queen on the g-file. Black is in trouble.]

19...♗g7



20.e5! There was no way back after playing f4, White does not need to calculate in such moments, just play the attacking moves by feeling.

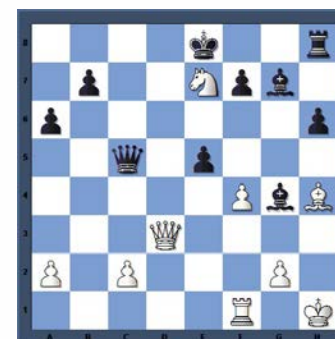
20...♗c5 Nakamura stands calm and defends well! His plan is to trade one of the attacking bishops by playing Nxb3 or Ne4-g3. [Opening the position with 20...dxe5 cannot lead to anything good for Black... 21.fxe5 White has serious threats on the f7 square. 21...♗e6 is the only move, but White has a strong attack after 22.♖bd1 (22.♗h4 is also good. 22...♗c5 transposes to the game.)]

21.♗h4! Black's position is getting more and more suspicious. Most of the players would collapse in a few moves, but Nakamura is a very resourceful player, who likes

such complicated positions.

21...dxe5 [21...e6 was objectively the right move! 22.♗e3! A strange position where the computer believes that both players are forced to repeat the moves with (22.♗f6+? runs into 22...♗xf6 23.♗xf6 ♗e4! Getting rid of the bishop.) 22...♗e4 23.♖d3 ♗c5 24.♖d2= Of course in a human game, we could not be surprised if one of the players avoided the repetition and then all three results would have been possible.]

22.fxe5 Kamsky plays again the most human move. [The machine thinks differently again: 22.♗xe7! was objectively better. 22...♗xb3 23.♖xb3 ♖c5+ 24.♗h1 ♖d8 25.♖d3 ♖xd3 26.♖xd3



Black does not manage to solve the problems with his king. The attack will become decisive soon. For instance after 26...♖d4 27.♖g3! h5 28.♗f5! ♗xf5 29.♖xg7 ♖f8 30.♖f6+- finishes the game.]

22...♗e6! Black covers the f7 square and stays ready to trade some attacking pieces. He still owns his extra pawn, which was taken on b2.

23. ♖xe7 ♜xb3



24. cxb3! The move is against the principles, since we should take towards the center, however in such cases we must think about the position directly and then we realize that White has a lot of attacking potential with his rook on the c-file later on.

24... ♖b6+ The most obvious move, but a mistake. [24... ♖c5+ was the right move, but who would put the queen into the Rc1 tempo. 25. ♖h1 ♜d8! It looks like Black survives here. Let's check some lines: 26. ♖e1 (26. ♖xd8+ 26... ♖xd8 27. ♖f5+ ♖d7 (27... ♖c8 28. ♜bc1) 28. ♜bd1+ ♖c6 29. ♖d4+ leads to a forced repetition: 29... ♖d7 (29... ♖b6? If Black tries to win, he loses after 30. ♖f2+-) 30. ♖f5+=) 26... ♜d4! This the key resource of the defence. Black threatens to take on h4 and then on e7. 27. ♖f6 ♖xf6 28. exf6 And here comes the difference between 24... ♖b6 and ♖c5. Black now gets counterplay with 28... ♖h5+! 29. ♖g1 ♜h4! and the white king is now equally weak to the black one. The game should end in draw here as well. 30. ♖g3 ♜h1+ 31. ♖f2 ♖c5+ 32. ♖e3=]

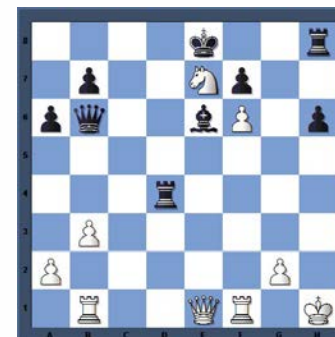
25. ♖h1 ♜d8



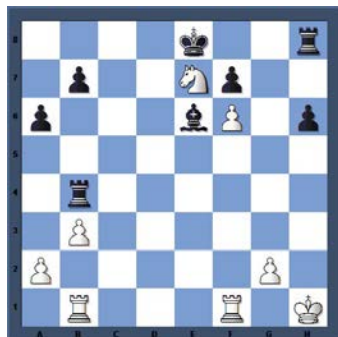
26. ♖e1! It is very important to control and protect the h4 square. [26. ♖e2 is met by 26... ♜d4! and Black is fine!]

26... ♜d4 Black would like to trade queens by playing ♖b4, which would solve his problems.

27. ♖f6! ♖xf6 28. exf6



28... ♖d7! Great defence by Nakamura! He tries to find shelter for his king in the middle of the board. The main idea of the move is to bring the h8 rook to the battle. [28... ♖b4 nicely loses to 29. ♖xb4 ♜xb4]



30. ♖bd1!+- Black is helpless against the simple threat of Rd6, Rfd1 and Rd8 mate. If Black avoids it by playing Rb6, then White doubles his rooks with Rd4... The knight on e7 simply traps the king.]

29. ♖d1? A very logical move to trade the defender of the d-file, but somehow it spoils the advantage. Only computers can play perfectly in such positions. [29. ♖c1! was the right decision. 29... ♗d6! (29... ♖d8 now loses to 30. ♘f5!! ♖d5 (30... ♙xf5 31. ♗e7#) 31. ♗e4! And Black has no good defence against Rfd1. All his pieces are paralyzed. 31... ♗b5 32. ♖fd1+-) 30. ♗f2 ♖d8 is the most tenacious for Black, although White continues pressing after 31. ♘f5 ♙xf5 32. ♗xf5+ ♗e6 33. ♗h5± The game is very far from over, but it is definitely much easier to play as White, since a single mistake of Black might lead to quick mate with a king on d7...]

29... ♖d8 30. ♗g3 [30. ♗e5 30... ♗e8 Black holds.]

30... ♗e8 At this moment, Kamsky decided to finish the game by repetition. It is difficult to suggest something better.

31. ♗g8+ [It might have been a clever idea to try 31. ♘f5 31... ♙xf5! (31... ♖xd1?? 32. ♗g8+ ♗d7 33. ♖xd1+ ♗c8 34. ♘e7+-) 32. ♖xd4 ♗xd4! The only move! (32... ♖xd4 loses to 33. ♗g8+ ♗d7 34. ♗xf7+ ♗c8 35. ♗e8+ ♖d8 36. ♖c1+ ♗b8 37. ♗e5+ ♗a7 38. ♗xf5+-) 33. ♖xf5 ♗d7! Another only move for Black against the threatening Qg8-Qf7, but now Black

holds the draw. White does not have enough pieces to punish the walking king.]

31... ♗d7 32. ♗g3 ♗e8 33. ♗g8+ ♗d7 34. ♗g3 A nice fighting draw! 1/2-1/2

(2) Ushenina, Anna(2500) - Hou, Yifan(2609) [E32]

WCh Women 2013(3), 2013.09.14

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the 3rd game of the match. Ushenina lost the first one with White and made an easy draw in the second one with Black. So it is clearly time to "push" for her in case she wants to come back into the match.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 As in the first game, Ushenina continues to play the Nimzo with 4.Qc2.

4.♙c2 O-O Black plays a different line, as in the previous game Hou continued with 4...c5 and quickly got herself into opening trouble.



5.e4 With this move White enters a very forced line which is actually considered to be OK for Black. Maybe Ushenina's seconds managed to find something "special" in it?!

5...d5 This is of course the only critical reply. Black is fighting for the center.

6.e5 ♘e4 7.♙d3 This is also the main move.

7...c5 As expected Black acts quickly in the center.

8.♘f3 cxd4 9.♘xd4 ♘d7 10.♙f4 This is a very well known position. Lately a lot of games on 2700 ELO+ level were played

here.

10...♘dc5 This is a possible continuation, but not the main one. [10...♙h4 is clearly the critical move and personally I have no idea where White can be better after it. 11.g3 And now both 11...♙h5 (and 11...♙h3 seem to give Black equal play according to the latest games. It is a big pity that we will never know what Anna had prepared here.)]

11.O-O White needs to castle.

11...♙xc3 12.bxc3 ♙d7 Black's main problem is the bishop on c8 which is out of the game. So usually White tries to be fast on the kingside, creating some attack which of course could be quite dangerous because of the opposite colored bishops, which increase the attacking chances. [Maybe 12...♘xd3 13.♙xd3 ♙d7 is another possible way to go on with Black.]



13.♙e2! A good move by White! Now Black is in strategic danger. In case White manages to play f3 next, the knight on e4 will have no good squares to go back and White is going to be clearly better.

13...♘a4! A good reply by Hou. The c3 pawn is a weakness. The position is getting very sharp.

14.cxd5! A good move. White is doing 2 in 1, saving the c3 pawn and at the same time crushing Black's center.

14...exd5 15.c4 As we can see, Black's position looks really dangerous. The knights are strong, but at the same time such a position could fall apart like a card house.

15...♖c8 Another very logical move. Now White has a wide range of continuations.



16.♖b3? A serious mistake in a complicated position. And it was such a chance for Anna to come back into the match! [The right move was 16.♖ac1! with the idea of playing 16...♗ac3 17.cxd5 and of course things are very complicated here, but my feeling says White should somehow be better.]

16...dxc4 17.♗xc4 ♘ac3 And now we can see White's big problem: Black wants to play Ba4 next and there is no good defence against it. A bit unlucky for White, but in such positions an exact calculation is just a MUST.

18.a4 This move seems to lose, but the position was already on the limit anyway. [Maybe White's best try was to play 18.♗xf7+ 18...♖xf7 19.e6 ♗xe6 20.♗xe6 but here too after 20...♖f6 Black is clearly better.]



18...♗xa4! Simple and strong!

19.♖xa4 ♘xa4 Black's calculation is correct.

20.♗f5 [We can see Black's main idea after 20.♖xa4 20...♗c3! An important move! 21.♖b4 ♖xd4 22.♗xf7+ ♖xf7 23.♖xd4 Black is a queen down, but after 23...♗e2+ White can resign as he will be a rook down after Nxd4.]

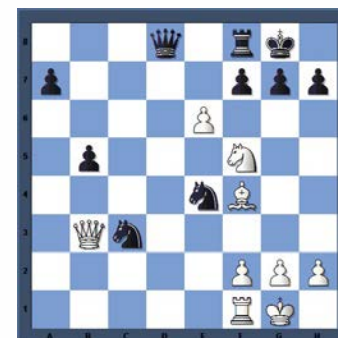
20...♗ac3 Black is an exchange up and all his pieces are connected, which means the game is over.

21.e6 The last try to create some tactics.

21...♖xc4! Cool and strong!

22.♖xc4 b5! Black is freeing the d3 square for his queen. Hou has nerves of steel!

23.♖b3



23...♖d3 24.exf7+ ♖xf7 Black's threat of playing Ne2 next

is deadly! A very tough loss for Anna, especially as I guess she got what she wanted after the opening, a double edged position, but then she misled the game practically in one move with 16.Qb3?. **0-1**

(3) Ushenina, Anna(2500) - Hou, Yifan(2609) [E17]

WCh Women 2013(6), 2013.09.18

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

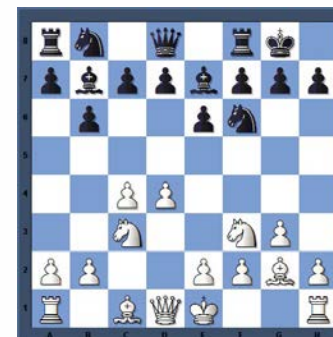
And we are in the 6th round of the WCC match. So far we saw only one scenario. Hou is winning with Black and making a draw with White. And the current game was no exception. Once again White got a nice position out of the opening, and she blundered in a complicated position. Ushenina is making presents and Hou is kindly accepting them.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.** ♘f3 A change from the first 2 lost White games by Ushenina. This time there will be no more Nimzo.

3...b6 Hou is going for one of the main lines. 3...d5 is the very main one.

4.g3 ♙b7 **5.** ♙g2 ♙e7 Black doesn't hurry with the c5 move because of d5 and after exd5 White has the option of playing Nh4, winning back the d5 pawn.

6. ♘c3 **0-0**



7. ♔c2!? An interesting try by White, not giving Black the chance to play Ne4. [7.O-O 7... ♘e4 would lead us to the main position.]

7...c5 An active reply! As we can see, Hou is not trying to play

safe positions, but rather looking for a fighting game. This style of play suits her very well.

8.d5 White needs to play this move. [After 8.O-O?! 8...cxd4 Black is of course doing great. 9.♘xd4 ♙xg2 10.♙xg2 ♚c7 With a probably already better position for Black.]

8...exd5 9.♘h4 The usual maneuver. White wins the d5 pawn back.



9...♘c6! The right move. Black smartly sees the different to a lot of lines: this time after Nd4 the white queen on c2 will be under attack.

10.cxd5 ♘d4 11.♙d1 Now Black needs to decide what to do next. White wants to play e3.

11...♘e8!? I like this move a lot, because it is very human with a quite regular and good idea. Black brings the knight to c7 to support the b5 push, after b4 followed by Nb5 and maybe Nd4. This idea is typical. [Maybe Black could have tried 11...b5 12.e3 b4 With some crazy position, but 11...Ne8 looks much more natural.]

12.♘f3 ♘xf3+ 13.♙xf3 d6 So far everything is normal.

14.O-O ♘c7 Black wants to play b5 next.

15.a4 White prevents this for a moment.

15...a6 16.♙b1! Nicely played by White. Ushenina is ready to

stop the march of the black pawns by playing b4 herself.

16...♙f6 Preventing b4 and putting the bishop to a better position.

17.♙d2 Preparing b4.

17...b5 18.axb5



18...♘xb5?! This looks like a very strange move to me. [18...axb5 was more simple and better. 19.b4 c4 It is clear that Black cannot be worse here. Black plays on the a-file and puts pressure on the d5 pawn, which would give Hou real easy and nice play.]

19.♙g2 Now White might be slightly better.

19...♙c8 Another slightly strange decision. It is clear that the black bishop is badly placed on b7, but there was no need to hurry. [The simple 19...♙e8 would have been a more normal choice.]

20.♘e4 Now White is going to get the bishop pair.

20...♙e8 21.♘xf6+ ♙xf6 The situation has changed a lot and we can see that White is slightly better. The bishop pair plus a better pawn structure should give Anna quite good chances to put pressure on Black's position.

22.e4 It is a pity to make such a move as the black knight is gaining the d4 square, but it is hard to say if White had a

better option. [22.e3 didn't work as after 22...♗f5 Black is winning the b2 pawn.; Maybe 22.♖e1 would have been the best choice. Now after 22... Bf5 White has 23.e4, and after any other black move, White would keep the option of playing e3 in the future.]

22...a5 A very logical move. Black wants to bring her pawn to a3 after which the c-pawn would become strong.

23.♖a1 Quite a passive move. It was maybe better to play 23.f4 and try to create some threats in the center.

23...♗d7 24.♖a2 a4 Black continues with her idea.

25.♖e1



25...h6!? A nice move! Before starting the action Hou secures the last rank. Prophylaxis!

26.♗e3 a3 Black's main idea comes true.

27.♖d2 But White's position is also very solid. The position should be about equal now.

27...axb2 28.♖xb2 ♗c3 Where is Hou going?! [28...♖a4 followed by c4 seems to be much more logical.; It is too early 28...c4?! because of 29.♖b4! ♖ec8 30.♖c1 and the c-pawn could easily get lost.]

29.f3 ♖a3 30.♗f2 White defended from all the tricks.

30...♗b5! It is better to admit a mistake than to continue in the wrong direction!

31.♖eb1?! White misses her chance... [Now it was really time to play 31.f4! and it would not be easy for Black to keep things together. The threat of playing e5 can become really dangerous. White should be better here.]

31...c4 Good calculation by Black. The position is becoming very sharp.

32.♖xb5 ♗xb5



33.♗d4? And White blunders... [33.♖xb5 was also losing as after 33...♖a1+ 34.♗f1 ♖xf3 Black will win the e4 pawn.; 33.♖b4! was the right move and now things are pretty forced: 33...♖a2 34.♖xb5 ♖xe4! Black uses the tactical resources of the position! 35.♖f1 ♖ee2 36.♖xc4 It seems like White should be better, but Black has another attacking move in her pocket... 36...♖b2! Black triples on the 2nd rank and White doesn't have anything better than to give perpetual check. 37.♖c8+ ♗h7 38.♖f5+ ♗g8



39. ♔c8+ With a draw.]

33...c3! An important "zwischenzug". White is now lost!

34. ♕f2 ♕g5 As in the previous games, when it comes to direct tactics, Hou is playing very well!

35.f4 [35. ♖xb5 was not much better as after 35... ♕c1+ 36. ♗f1 c2 the game would soon be over.]

35... ♕g4 White still cannot take the bishop on b5.

36. ♖e1 [36. ♖xb5 loses to 36... ♕d1+ 37. ♗f1 c2]

36... ♖ea8 Black is an exchange up and he has a very strong c-pawn. Not much can help Ushenina to survive here.

37.h3 ♕c8 38.e5



38... ♖a1 Black exchanges the rook, which makes it more easy to queen the c-pawn.

39.exd6 c2 40. ♗xa1 Of course White resigned because of 40...c1Q. Another sad game for Ushenina... We can clearly see a huge difference between Hou and Ushenina when it comes to tactics. Hou stays cool and plays the best moves, while Ushenina is missing a lot. After this game I guess the match is already decided. Hou is leading with 4,5-1,5 and I can see no reasons why the match should kip in favor of Ushenina during the next games... **0-1**

(4) Nepomniachtchi, I.(2717) - Ponomariov, R.(2756) [E90]

ACP Cup 2013(3.4), 2013.09.15

[Balogh Csaba]

Ponomariov was in a must win situation to equalize the match. Nepomniachtchi employed the right strategy of not playing for a draw, but instead playing his usual chess.

1.c4 g6 2.♘c3 ♙g7 3.d4 ♘f6 Black needs an asymmetrical position to play for a win and the King's Indian defence perfectly fits this criteria.

4.e4 d6 5.♘f3 O-O



6.h3 Many top grandmasters started to employ the 6.h3 system. It seems like a decent try for White to play for an advantage nowadays.

6...♙e8 A sideline. Ponomariov wanted to get Nepomniachtchi out of his preparation. [6...e5 7.d5 a5 is the main line and here the development of the theory also shows that 8.g4 is a very interesting move for White. 8...♘a6



9.♙e3 White's main idea is to follow up the development with Be2, Nd2 and then an attack with h4-h5. The g4 move is good prophylaxis against Black's favorite f5 break, since then White usually takes twice on f5, followed by occupying the e4 square with a knight (Nd2-e4), which will have a really safe control over the position.]

7.g4! Qe8 in the King's Indian is always connected with the e5 move. Nepomniachtchi continues the g4 plan, since after e5-d5 he was about to push g4 anyway. Ponomariov decided to change his mind and went for another plan.

7...♘a6 Black intends to play c5 and in case of d5, open the position with e6, which would give even more sense to the Qe8 move.



8.♙g5 In such positions, White generally tries to trade the strong g7 bishop by playing Be3-Qd2 and Bh6. This Bg5 move

is an improved version of this, since from Black's point of view the bishop is quite disturbing on g5, while to send him back with h6 would seriously weaken the pawn structure and also give White a clear target after Be3 and Qd2.

8...c5 9.♔d2 We are still following the theory. White delays the d5 push, since he comfortably holds the center after cxd4 Nxd4.

9...b6 This is the novelty. [Some games continued with 9...cxd4 10.♘xd4 ♘c5



11.f3 which is exactly what White is playing for. White intends to quickly finish the development with Be2 and Rd1 to prepare for any kind of central breaks and then he could launch a very dangerous kingside attack with h4-h5. Black is lacking adequate counterplay and he is suffering with less space.]

10.♖d1 cxd4 [If Black plays 10...♙b7 then White already pushes 11.d5 because Black has spent two tempi to develop the bishop to b7, where it suddenly becomes completely misplaced.]

11.♘xd4 ♙b7 12.f3! Consolidating the center! White soon launches an attack with h4-h5.

12...♘c5 13.♙h6 Trading the defender fits excellently to the attacking plan with h4-h5.

13...a6 As the game shows, Ponomarev was hoping for a central break with e5 or e6-d5, but for this he had to lose another tempo on preventing Ndb5.

14.♙e2 The last preparation. White closes the x-ray between the e8 queen and the e1 king.

14...♖d8



15.h4! Here it is finally!

15...e5 This move allows White to finish the game in style! [15...e6 was a better chance, although it is also quite bad, but at least Black does not get mated. 16.♙xg7 ♔xg7 17.h5 ♙e7 With the idea of taking back with the f-pawn on g6 and to cover the h7 pawn with the queen. (17...d5? is premature because of 18.cxd5 exd5 19.♙g5+- Black cannot avoid h6 or Nf5.) 18.b4 ♘cd7 (18...♙g8! is the only move, since bxc5 is not a threat as long as the queen is pinned on the d-file.) 19.hxg6 fxg6 20.♙h6+



20...♔g8 White wins after 21.g5! ♘h5 (21...♘e8 22.♘xe6+- Deflecting the queen.) 22.♖xh5! gxh5 23.♘xe6 White crushes!]



16.♘f5! An obvious sacrifice after which Black is helpless.

16...♗xh6 [16...gxf5 loses to 17.♗xg7 ♔xg7 18.♖g5+ ♔h8 19.♖xf6+ ♔g8 20.gxf5+- and Rg1.]

17.♖xh6! The f5 knight is still protected indirectly, so White creates a mate threat.

17...♘e6[17...gxf5 18.♖g5+! ♔h8 19.♖xf6+ ♔g8 20.gxf5+-]

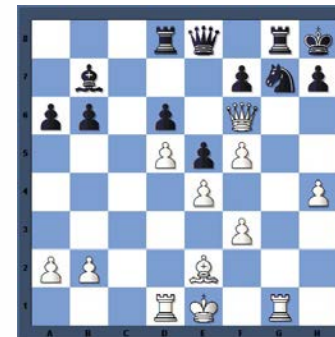


18.♘d5! +- Another strong attacking move! White wants to get rid of the e6 knight. Now he threatens to deflect it by playing Nc7 and of course also Nxf6, while if Black takes on d5 cxd5 and the e6 pawn is under attack.

18...♘xd5 19.cxd5 gxf5 Otherwise White would simply play dxe6.

20.gxf5 ♔h8 Nepomniachtchi finds the most brutal way to finish the game:

21.♖f6+ ♘g7 22.♖g1 ♖g8



23.h5! [Black resigned in view of 23.h5 23...♖f8 24.h6 Black has no more moves. White might finish the game for instance with Kf2 followed by doubling his rooks on the g-file. Ponomarev preferred to resign the game than to allow White to have a lot of fun in this total zugzwang position.] 1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Ivanchuk, V(2731)-Wojtaszek, R(2701)

Riga rapid, 2013.09.13

[CEWN]

1... ♠



(6) Jakovenko, D(2724)-Svidler, P(2746)

Riga rapid, 2013.09.13

[CEWN]

1... --+

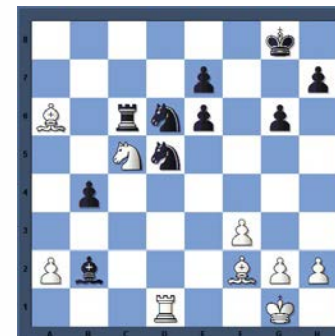


(7) Wojtaszek, R(2701)-Grischuk, A(2785)

Riga rapid, 2013.09.14

[CEWN]

1... --+



(8) Radjabov, T(2733)-Svidler, P(2746)

Riga rapid, 2013.09.14

[CEWN]

1... --+



(9) Vakhidov, J(2385)-Indjic, A(2549)

World Junior Championship, 2013.09.14
[CEWN]

1. +-



(11) Yu Yangy(2662)-Salem, S(2570)

World Junior Championship, 2013.09.16
[CEWN]

1. +-



(10) Asgarizadeh, A(2354)-Kanarek, M(2483)

World Junior Championship, 2013.09.14
[CEWN]

1... --



(12) Eliseev, U(2550)-Bai, J(2419)

World Junior Championship, 2013.09.16
[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Hovhanissyan, R(2623)-Kuzubov, Y(2628)

Lake Sevan, 2013.09.15

[CEWN]

1... -+



(14) Dziuba, M(2610)-Gajewski, G(2653)

Polish league, 2013.09.14

[CEWN]

1. =

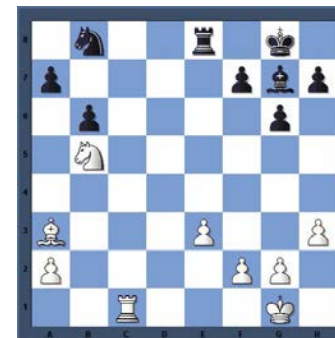


Endgame section

(15) Ponomarev, R.(2756)-Nepomniachtchi, I.(2717)

Riga rapid, 2013.09.15

[CE Team]



The material is balanced and also quite limited. We might think that the players will soon agree to a draw, but if we take a deeper look, then we will realize that White has a clear advantage, thanks to his dominating pieces. Ponomarev converts his advantage like Karpov would have in his best age.

24...a6 25. ♘d6 ♖d8 26. ♘b7! A nice positional move! White sends to rook away from the opened file and also leaves from the idea of Bf8.

26...♖e8 Black had no other move, since he had to cover the 8th rank.

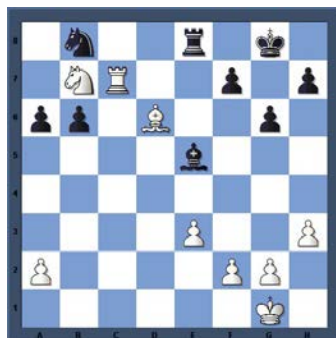
27. ♖c7! The rook feels most comfortable on the 7th rank.

27...♘e5 [In case of a careless move, White has also prepared a small tactical trick with his previous move: 27...h5 28. ♘d6 ♖f8]



29. Nxf7! Rxf7 30. Rxc8++ — White ends up with an extra pawn.]

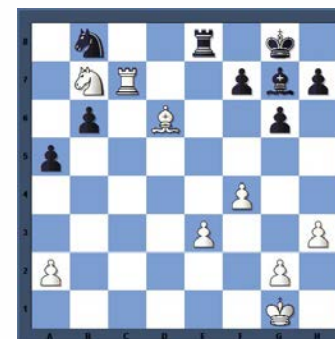
28. Bd6! White needs his rook on the 7th rank, he cannot allow Black to send it back.



28... Bg7 An unpleasant necessity, but Black could not trade the active white bishop, since it would have led to loss of material. All black pieces are paralyzed, so it is time to increase the advantage by taking some ground on the kingside. [28... Bxd6 29. Nxd6 Rf8 30. Rb7 b5 31. Nxf7! Rxf7 32. Rxb8++ — This kind of rook endgames are also winning, because of the connected passed pawns on the e- and f-files.]

29. $\text{f4!?$ White gets ready to activate his king and the e3 pawn is not hanging because of Rc8 . [To do the same idea, but with 29. $\text{g4!?$ also made a lot of sense.]

29... b5 [29... a5

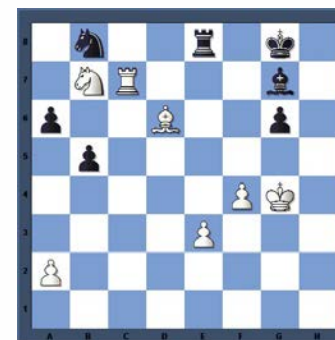


is met by a strong prophylactic idea: 30. a3! (Black could get counterplay after the logical 30. Bf2 by playing 30... Bd6! 31. Rc6 Bb4! 32. Bxb4 axb4 33. Rxb6 Bf8! Followed by attacking the a2 pawn with the rook.)]

30. Bf2 h5 31. Bf3 White is ready to push e4-e5. Nepomniachtchi tried to fight against this.

31... f5 32. g4! White reduces the material a bit, but it is more important to open the way for the e-pawn by eliminating the one on f5.

32... hxg4+ 33. hxg4 fxg4+ 34. Kxg4



The material is still equal, but objectively Black is just lost as he is unable to create any kind of counterplay. White simply

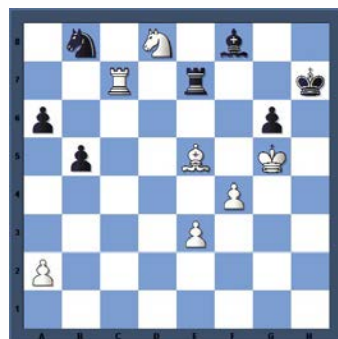
wants to push e4-e5, using the fact the rook still cannot leave the 8th rank.

34...♙f8 35.♙e5 [35.♙xf8 was probably even easier. 35...♖xf8 36.♘c5 Followed by Kg5 or e4. 36...♗xe3 drops the knight after 37.♗c8+ ♗e8 38.♗xb8! ♗xb8 39.♘d7+ ♖e7 40.♘xb8+-]

35...♗e6 Black protects the g6 pawn against Kg5.

36.♘d8 ♗e7 Unfortunately for Black, the trade of the rooks does not mean salvation. [36...♗e8 is simply met by 37.♘c6! ♘xc6 38.♗xc6 ♖h7 39.♗xa6+- With a winning endgame!]

37.♖g5! ♘d7 [37...♗xc7 38.♙xc7 ♘d7 39.♖xg6+- is hopeless.; 37...♖h7 is strongly met by



38.♗c2!+- With the double threat of Bxb8 and Rh2-h8 mate.]

38.♙d6 [38.♙d4 38...♖h7 39.♘c6 ♗f7 40.♗a7+- was also winning.]

38...♗g7 [The knight endgame after 38...♗h7 39.♙xf8 ♘xf8 40.♗xh7 ♖xh7 41.♖f6! also looks pretty hopeless. The e-pawn just runs too fast. 41...a5 42.♖f7 ♘d7 43.e4+-]



39.♗c6! Very precise! [39.♙xf8? 39...♘xf8 40.♗c6 would have been a way to spoil the advantage. 40...♗e7=]

39...♙xd6 40.♗xd6 ♘f8 41.e4! Ponomarev does not even waste time on taking the a6 pawn. The e-pawn and the domination of the pieces are deciding the outcome of the game.

41...a5 42.e5 b4 The counterplay is too slow.

43.♘c6 [43.e6 was more precise. 43...a4 (43...♗e7 44.♖f6+-) 44.♘c6 b3 45.axb3 axb3 46.e7+-]

43...♗h7 [43...♖f7 was the only chance, but also without any real hopes. 44.♘xa5+-]

44.e6! ♗h5+ 45.♖g4! And now the e-pawn promotes automatically, while sacrificing the knight is clearly not enough. [It was still possible to go wrong with 45.♖f6? 45...♗f5+ 46.♖e7 ♗xf4 47.♖e8 ♘xe6 48.♗xe6 ♗f2 and Black survives.]

45...♘h7 46.♗d8+ [46.e7 was also good. 46...♖f7 47.♗e6! ♖e8 48.♗xg6+- and Rg8 next.]

46...♖g7 47.♗d7+ ♖f6 [47...♖g8 is for instance met by 48.♘e7+ ♖g7 49.♘d5+ ♖h6 50.e7+-]

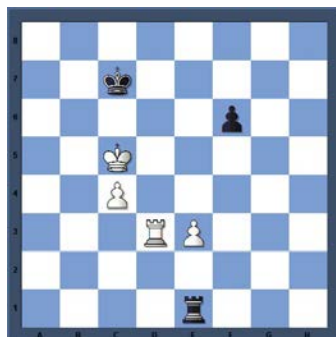
48.♘d4 Creating the inevitable mate threat of Rf7. It is worth mentioning that the material is still equal, but Black has to resign.

48...♘g5 49.fxg5+ Great technique by Ponomarev! 1-0

(16) Svidler, Peter(2746)-Jakovenko, Dmitry(2724)

ACP Cup 2013(1.1), 2013.09.13

[CE Team]

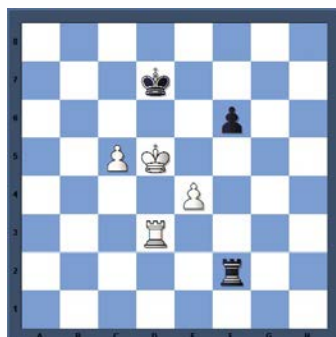


White is a pawn up, but is the position winning or still a draw?! This is hard to say at first sight. Let us go into the details...

49.♔d5 ♕d7 50.c5 White has to push the c-pawn. White's idea is to get the black king away from d7, then to play Ke6 and try to win the f-pawn, hoping to end up in a winning rook endgame.

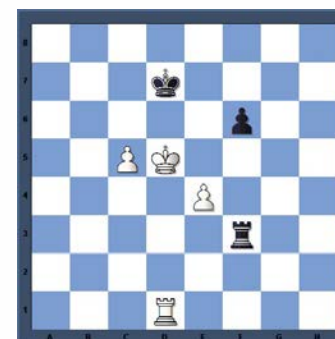
50...♖f1 51.e4 [White cannot immediately play 51.c6+ as after 51...♕c7 52.♖c3 it seems like everything is protected, but Black has the very strong 52...♖f5+! 53.♕e6 ♖f3 followed by f5-f4, with a draw.]

51...♖f2 Black makes a waiting move.



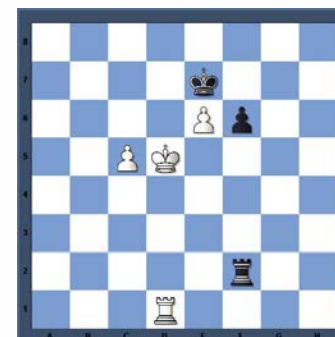
52.♖d1! It seems like White is also just making a waiting move, but with a very beautiful trap!

52...♖f3?? And Black falls for it right away! [Black should have continued with an accurate waiting move: 52...♖e2 53.♖f1 White needs to do something... 53...♖d2+! It is very important to get the white king away from d5! 54.♕c4 ♖c2+ 55.♕d4 ♕e6 56.♖a1 ♖d2+ With good chances of saving the game.]



53.e5!! What a blow! But is Black really lost?!

53...♖f5?? After this move he is for sure! [53...fxe5 also loses to 54.♕e4+; The only way to go on was to play 53...♖f2 54.e6+ (After 54.♕e4+ 54...♕e7 55.exf6+ ♖xf6 56.♖d5 ♖h6 the position is just a draw.) 54...♕e7 Now White has a lot of moves and it is very hard to say if White is winning or not here...



55.♖e1 ♖d2+ 56.♔c6 f5 And this position could be both winning or drawn.]

54.♔e4+ A lucky win for Svidler, but you need to take your chances! **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Kotov, Alexander-Botvinnik, Mikhail[D45]

URS-ch22(6), 1955.02.19

[Miton Kamil]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♗f3 e6 5.e3 ♗bd7 6.♕d3 We are in the Meran System in the Slav.

6...♕b4 A strange move because it doesn't make sense to exchange the bishop. Maybe Black wants to provoke moves like a3 or Bd2 but it is hard to say why. The main line is of course [6...♕d6]

7.0-0 0-0



8.♕d2 [8.a3 is also good for White. 8...♕xc3 9.bxc3 b6 And Black has no time to get counterplay over the light squares. 10.cxd5 cxd5 11.c4+= White just has a better center.]

8...♕d6 [8...b6? is a big mistake because of 9.♗xd5! ♗xd5 10.cxd5 ♕xd2 11.dxe6+- And White is a pawn up.]

9.b3 A normal move. The idea is simply to recapture on c4 with the pawn in case Black will play dxc4 and keep a strong center. An alternative for White is [9.e4 Compared to the theoretical position, the bishop is placed on c1. 9...dxe4 (9...dxc4 10.♕xc4 e5 11.♕e3+=) 10.♗xe4 ♗xe4 11.♕xe4 e5 In

this case Black doesn't need to lose a tempo for the h6 move and can play this move immediately. (11...h6 12.♙c3±) 12.dxe5 (12.♙c3 12...f5 13.♙c2 e4=+) 12...♞xe5 And now the idea with Nxe5-Bxh7-Qh5 doesn't work because the bishop on d2 is hanging but White can simply play 13.♙c3 ♞xf3+ 14.♞xf3+= Thanks to the better bishops White keeps the initiative.]

9...♞e7 [9...e5 10.cxd5 cxd5 11.♞b5 ♙b8 12.dxe5 ♞xe5 13.♞xe5 ♙xe5 14.♙c3+= Now any idea with Bxh2-Ng4 doesn't work and White has a stable advantage as he is controlling the d4 square.]

10.♞c2 e5 A logical move. Black is fighting for the center.

11.cxd5 cxd5 12.dxe5 [12.e4 This move should give White the chance to seize the initiative as his pieces are slightly better developed.]

12...♞xe5 13.♞d4 [13.♙e2 13...♞xf3+ 14.♙xf3 ♞e5 15.g3 ♙f5 Black is ok.; 13.♞xe5 13...♞xe5 14.f4 ♞e7 Black is ok here too.]

13...♞xd3 [13...♙d7∞]

14.♞xd3



14...♞e5! A strong move which provokes White to push f4.

15.f4 [15.♞f3 15...♞h5 16.♞b5 ♙b8↑White managed to control the d4 square without playing f4, but now the black pieces are very well placed to create pressure against the

white king.]

15...♞e7 And now Black's position is fine because of the weaknesses on the e-file.

16.♞ac1 ♞d8 17.♞c2 [17.♙e1 With the idea of activating the bishop over h4. 17...♙a3 18.♞c2 ♞e4∞]

17...♙c5 The Bd7-Rc8 plan was enough as well.

18.♞a4 ♙xd4 19.♞xd4 ♙f5 Black is slightly better because of White's weak light squares.

20.♙b4 ♞d7 21.♞c3 [21.♞c5 21...♞b5∞]

21...♞e4 22.♞cc1 b6 23.♞fd1 f6 A move with multiple ideas: Black limited the white bishop, opened the way for the king in the potential endgame and now the queen can also be transferred to g6.

24.♞c3 ♞xc3 25.♞xc3 ♙e4 26.♞d2



26...♞g4 Bxg2 is a threat.

27.h3 The only move. [27.♞dc1? 27...d4! 28.exd4 ♞xd4 29.♞g3 ♞xd2 30.♞xg4 ♞xa2 31.♞c7 g6 32.♙c3 ♞c2+]]

27...♞g6 28.♞f2 h5 A technical move. Black fixes the weaknesses on g2 and h3.

29.♙h2 a5 30.♙a3 b5 31.♙c5 b4 Black fixes another potential weak pawn (a2) but it can still not be enough to win

the game.

32.♖cc1 ♜dc8 **33.**♙d4 ♙c2 **34.**♜d2 ♙e4 **35.**♜dd1 ♚f5 Black is not in a hurry...

36.♚e2 ♚g6 **37.**♚f2 a4 **38.**♜xc8+ ♜xc8 **39.**bxa4 ♚e8 **40.**♜d2 [40.a5 40...♚a4 doesn't change anything.]

40...♚xa4 This seems to be an interesting moment. Thanks to the better bishop and the weak pawns on a2 and g2 Black's position is better but on the other hand the white pieces on the second rank defend the position well and is not easy to find a winning plan for Black. Maybe he should try to somehow put his pieces on the first rank. White decides to give the pawn in order to exchange material and he is hoping to get drawing chances in the endgame with opposite colored bishops. Let's see what happened next...

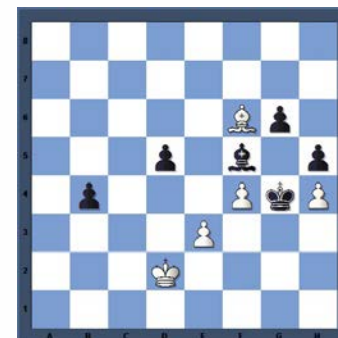


41.♚h4 [41.♜b2]

41...♜c2 42.♜xc2 ♚xc2 **43.**♚g3 ♚xa2 [43...♚f7 44.f5 ♙xf5 45.♚f3 With some counterplay. 45...♙e4 46.♚xh5+ ♚e7 47.♚g4 ♚f8 48.h4]

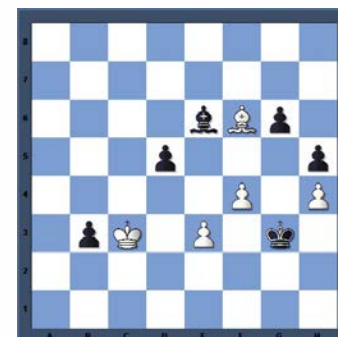
44.♙xf6 ♚xg2+ **45.**♚xg2 ♙xg2 **46.**♙d4 ♙e4 **47.**♚g3 ♚f7 **48.h4 g6** In many cases being a pawn up in opposite colored bishop endgames is not enough to win the game. Here the most important task for White is not to allow Black to create a second passed pawn.

49.♚f2 ♚e6 **50.**♚e2 ♚f5 **51.**♚d2 ♚g4 **52.**♙f6 ♚g3 **53.**♙e7 ♚h3 **54.**♙f6 ♚g4 **55.**♙e7 ♙f5 **56.**♙f6



56...♙f3 It looks like White is safe because the black king is not able to attack the e3 and h4 pawns at the same time, but...

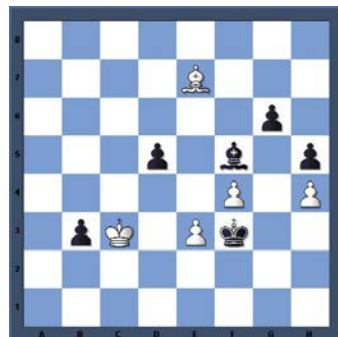
57.♙e7 Not the most accurate move! White should keep the bishop on the a1-h8 diagonal in order to defend the e3 pawn from d4 (not c5) to avoid any d4 ideas. [57.♙d4 57...g5 Black's only chance... (57...♚g3 58.♙f6 b3 (58...♙e6 59.♚c1 Of course not 59.Be7.) 59.♚c3 ♙e6



60.♚b2! White must keep the bishop on f6! (60.♙e7 60...♚f3 61.♙c5 g5!! And we have the position from the game.) 60...♚f3 61.♙d4 g5 This idea doesn't work now. 62.fxg5 Black doesn't have d4 and White will simply take the b3 pawn. 62...♚g4 63.♚xb3=) 58.fxg5 ♚g3 59.g6 ♚xh4 60.g7 ♙e6 61.♚c2 ♚g3 62.♙c5 (62.♚b3 62...♚f3 63.♚xb4 h4--+) 60.♙f6 ♚g3 61.♙e7 ♙f5 62.♙d4 ♙g5 63.♙c5 ♙f6 64.♙b6 ♙g7 65.♙a7 ♙h8 66.♙b8 ♙g7 67.♙c8 ♙h8 68.♙d8 ♙g7 69.♙e8 ♙h8 70.♙f8 ♙g7 71.♙g8 ♙h8 72.♙h8 ♙g7 73.♙a8 ♙h8 74.♙b8 ♙g7 75.♙c8 ♙h8 76.♙d8 ♙g7 77.♙e8 ♙h8 78.♙f8 ♙g7 79.♙g8 ♙h8 80.♙h8 ♙g7 81.♙a8 ♙h8 82.♙b8 ♙g7 83.♙c8 ♙h8 84.♙d8 ♙g7 85.♙e8 ♙h8 86.♙f8 ♙g7 87.♙g8 ♙h8 88.♙h8 ♙g7 89.♙a8 ♙h8 90.♙b8 ♙g7 91.♙c8 ♙h8 92.♙d8 ♙g7 93.♙e8 ♙h8 94.♙f8 ♙g7 95.♙g8 ♙h8 96.♙h8 ♙g7 97.♙a8 ♙h8 98.♙b8 ♙g7 99.♙c8 ♙h8 100.♙d8 ♙g7 101.♙e8 ♙h8 102.♙f8 ♙g7 103.♙g8 ♙h8 104.♙h8 ♙g7 105.♙a8 ♙h8 106.♙b8 ♙g7 107.♙c8 ♙h8 108.♙d8 ♙g7 109.♙e8 ♙h8 110.♙f8 ♙g7 111.♙g8 ♙h8 112.♙h8 ♙g7 113.♙a8 ♙h8 114.♙b8 ♙g7 115.♙c8 ♙h8 116.♙d8 ♙g7 117.♙e8 ♙h8 118.♙f8 ♙g7 119.♙g8 ♙h8 120.♙h8 ♙g7 121.♙a8 ♙h8 122.♙b8 ♙g7 123.♙c8 ♙h8 124.♙d8 ♙g7 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789.♙e8 ♙h8 790.♙f8 ♙g7 791.♙g8 ♙h8 792.♙h8 ♙g7 793.♙a8 ♙h8 794.♙b8 ♙g7 795.♙c8 ♙h8 796.♙d8 ♙g7 797.♙e8 ♙h8 798.♙f8 ♙g7 799.♙g8 ♙h8 800.♙h8 ♙g7 801.♙a8 ♙h8 802.♙b8 ♙g7 803.♙c8 ♙h8 804.♙d8 ♙g7 805.♙e8 ♙h8 806.♙f8 ♙g7 807.♙g8 ♙h8 808.♙h8 ♙g7 809.♙a8 ♙h8 810.♙b8 ♙g7 811.♙c8 ♙h8 812.♙d8 ♙g7 813.♙e8 ♙h8 814.♙f8 ♙g7 815.♙g8 ♙h8 816.♙h8 ♙g7 817.♙a8 ♙h8 818.♙b8 ♙g7 819.♙c8 ♙h8 820.♙d8 ♙g7 821.♙e8 ♙h8 822.♙f8 ♙g7 823.♙g8 ♙h8 824.♙h8 ♙g7 825.♙a8 ♙h8 826.♙b8 ♙g7 827.♙c8 ♙h8 828.♙d8 ♙g7 829.♙e8 ♙h8 830.♙f8 ♙g7 831.♙g8 ♙h8 832.♙h8 ♙g7 833.♙a8 ♙h8 834.♙b8 ♙g7 835.♙c8 ♙h8 836.♙d8 ♙g7 837.♙e8 ♙h8 838.♙f8 ♙g7 839.♙g8 ♙h8 840.♙h8 ♙g7 841.♙a8 ♙h8 842.♙b8 ♙g7 843.♙c8 ♙h8 844.♙d8 ♙g7 845.♙e8 ♙h8 846.♙f8 ♙g7 847.♙g8 ♙h8 848.♙h8 ♙g7 849.♙a8 ♙h8 850.♙b8 ♙g7 851.♙c8 ♙h8 852.♙d8 ♙g7 853.♙e8 ♙h8 854.♙f8 ♙g7 855.♙g8 ♙h8 856.♙h8 ♙g7 857.♙a8 ♙h8 858.♙b8 ♙g7 859.♙c8 ♙h8 860.♙d8 ♙g7 861.♙e8 ♙h8 862.♙f8 ♙g7 863.♙g8 ♙h8 864.♙h8 ♙g7 865.♙a8 ♙h8 866.♙b8 ♙g7 867.♙c8 ♙h8 868.♙d8 ♙g7 869.♙e8 ♙h8 87

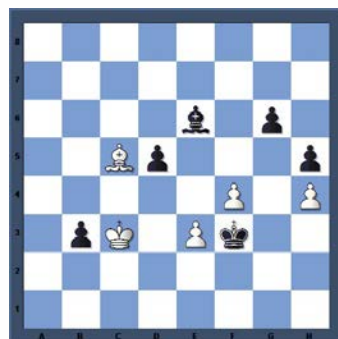
62...♔f3 (62...h4 63.♙xb4 h3 64.♔d3 h2 65.♙d6+ ♔g2 66.♙xh2 ♔xh2 67.e4=; 62...d4 63.♙xb4 dxe3 64.♔d3 ♔f3 65.♙e7 And the bishop comes to h4.) 63.♙xb4 ♔xe3 64.♙e7 ♔f3 65.♔d3 ♔g3 66.♙d6+ ♔g4 67.♔e3 With an easy draw.]

57...b3 58.♔c3



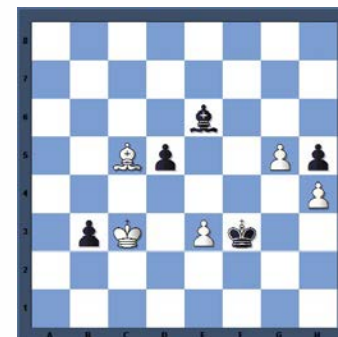
58...♙e6! [58...♔xe3 59.♔xb3 d4 60.♙c5 ♔e4 61.♔b2 d3 62.♔c3 ♔xf4 63.♙e7 ♔e3 64.♙g5+ ♔e2 65.♙h6= And Black is not able to improve the position.]

59.♙c5 [59.♔xb3 59...d4+ 60.♔c2 dxe3 61.♔d1 ♔f2 62.♙c5 ♙b3+ 63.♔c1 ♔f3 64.♙d6 If White keeps the bishop on the h2-b8 diagonal then Black will win the f4 pawn and push g5 next. 64...e2 65.♔d2 ♔f2 66.♙c5+ ♔f1—+]]



59...g5!! What a fantastic idea! Black is winning because he will manage to create a second passed pawn.

60.fxg5



60...d4+!! —+ This is why White had to keep the bishop on d4!

61.exd4 [61.♙xd4 61...♔g4 doesn't change anything. As in the game the black bishop very easily stops the white pawns while the black h-pawn will win the game.]

61...♔g3 62.♙a3 ♔xh4 63.♔d3 ♔xg5 64.♔e4 h4 65.♔f3 Even if the white king manages to stop the h-pawn, the black king would then come to the queenside to help promote the b-pawn.

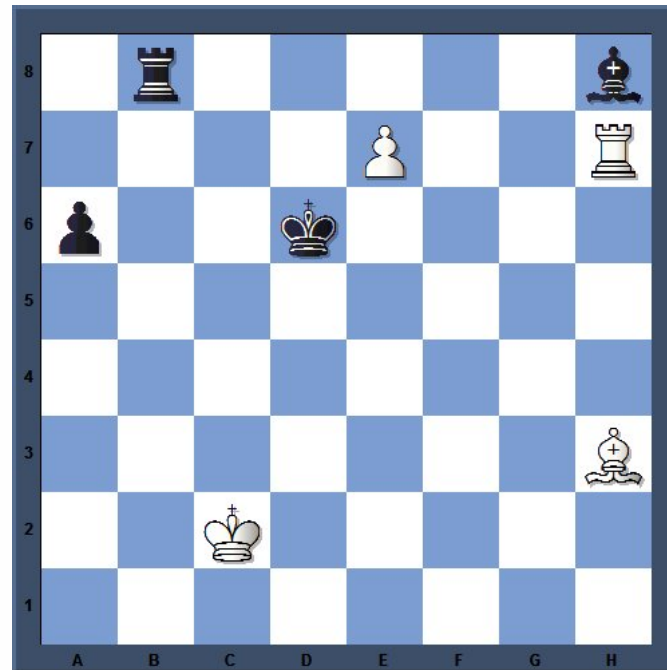
65...♙d5+0-1

Surprise section / study

(18) Kling

[CEWN]

1. +-



Solutions

(19) Sutovsky, E(2660)-Onischuk, A(2667)

Poikovsky, 2013.09.03

[Solutions]



39. ♖e6+! ♜f7 [39... ♙f7 40. ♜c8+-]

40. ♜f3! 1-0 [40. ♜f3 40... ♜xe6 (40... ♙f5 41. ♜xf5 ♜xf5 42. ♜c8+-; 40... ♜f5 41. ♜c8+ ♜e8 42. ♜xe8+ ♙xe8 43. ♜xf5+-) 41. ♜f8#]

(20) Baghdasaryan, V(2414)-Gabuzyan, H(2540)

Armenian league, 2013.09.03

[Solutions]



31. ♜f4!! ♜d5 [31... ♙xf4 32. ♜d4+ ♙a8 33. ♜f1+-; 31... ♜xf4 32. ♜xa5+-]

32. ♜d4 ♜f3 33. ♙e4+-

(21) Zhigalko, S(2664)-Grigoryan, A(2580)

Lake Sevan, 2013.09.09

[Solutions]



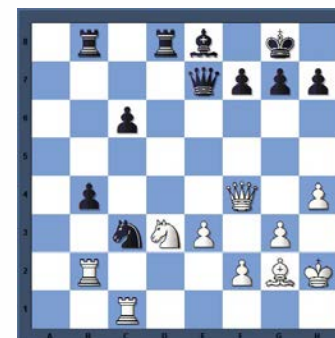
34. ♙e7! ♜xe7 35. ♜xe7+- ♜a8 [35... ♜xe7 36. ♜xb8+-]

36. ♜e1+-

(22) Flores, D(2578)-Lorenzini, M(2487)

Argentinian Championship, 2013.09.03

[Solutions]



32. ♜xc3! bxc3 33. ♜xb8 ♜xd3 34. ♜e4! 1-0 [34. ♜e4 34... ♜xe4 35. ♙xe4+-]

(23) Kraemer, M(2542)-Svane, R(2445)

German Championship, 2013.09.07

[Solutions]



32. ♖d7! ♜xe3 [32... ♖xd7 33. ♖xc8+-; 32... ♖xc4 33. ♖xc4 ♖xc4 34. ♖xb8+-]

33. ♖b6+ 1-0 [33. ♖b6+ 33... ♖a7 34. ♖xc8+-]

(24) Fridman, D(2614)-Bischoff, K(2500)

German Championship, 2013.09.09

[Solutions]

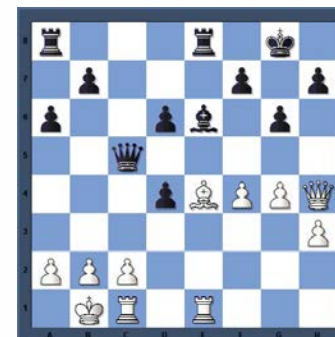


21... ♜b3! 22. ♖d3 ♜xd1—+

(25) Quesada Perez, Y(2647)-Zapata, A(2496)

US Masters, 2013.08.31

[Solutions]



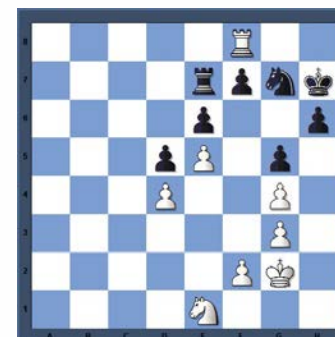
22... ♜xa2+! 23. ♖xa2 ♖xe4 24. ♖b1 [24. ♖xe4 24... ♖d5+ 25. ♖b1 ♖xe4—+]

24... ♖xf4—+

(26) Grischuk, A(2785)-Riazantsev, A(2700)

Moscow blitz, 2013.09.01

[Solutions]



35... ♜e8!! 36. f4 ♖g7 37. ♖xe8 ♖xe8—+

(27) Cioara, A(2462)-Nyzhnyk, I(2625)

Romanian league, 2013.09.05

[Solutions]



30...♖d1+! 31.♘f1 [31.♖xd1 31...♙xc4+-]

31...♖xc1+-

(28) Manolache, M(2503)-Vajda, L(2613)

Romanian league, 2013.09.08

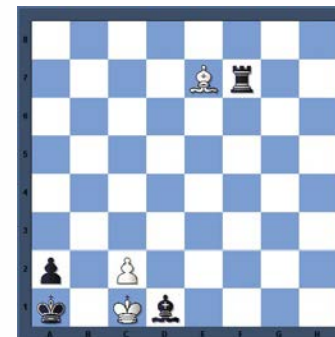
[Solutions]



31.♙f6+!! 1-0 [31.♙f6+ 31...♘xf6 32.exf6+ ♔f8 33.♖a8+ ♖e8
34.♖xe8#]

(29) Gutman

[Solutions]



1.♘d6! [1.♘c5? 1...♖d7+-]

1...♖f5 2.♘b4! [2.♘a3? 2...♖b5+-]

2...♖f3 3.♘c5! ♖f4 [3...♖d3 4.cxd3+-]

4.♘a3! ♖b4 5.♘xb4+-



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 83

27th of September 2013

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Editorial Preface

The World Championship match between Hou and Ushenina is over. Hou just needed 7 games to regain her title with an amazing result of 4 wins and 3 draws. Congratulations to the 2nd strongest female player of the World.

The Grand Prix in Paris has started with a lot of exciting games! It is too early to make any conclusions, but we will probably see a big fight for the 1st place between Gelfand, Caruana and Nakamura.

In the female Grand Prix, Koneru has a very comfortable 1-point lead, with 3 rounds to go until the end of the tournament. The World Junior Championship was won by Yangyi Yu with an amazing result of 11/13 and in the female section Goryachkina Alexandra won with an equally impressive 10.5/13.

The Croatian Team Championship was won for the 4th time in a row by Liburnija Rijeka. Topalov won his friendly match against Laznicka 4-2.

As usual we wish you a lot of fun with the current issues of CEWN Nr83!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Nakamura, Hikaru(2772)
- Tomashevsky, Evgeny(2703) [D31]

FIDE GP Paris(1), 2013.09.22

[Balogh Csaba]

The last Grand Prix in Paris started with a really spectacular game.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c6 This opening decision by Black might have caught Nakamura by surprise. I cannot recall whether Tomashevsky has ever employed this opening before.



4.e4 Nakamura plays the most challenging move, involving a pawn sacrifice for strong compensation. From a practical point of view, this is a clever idea, because Tomashevsky is known to be a great positional player who feels less comfortable in sharp positions. However, this game shows his strength in this kind of games as well.

4...dxe4 5.♘xe4 ♗b4+ 6.♗d2 ♕xd4 7.♗xb4 ♕xe4+ 8.♗e2 ♘a6 We have reached the initial position of this opening. The b4 bishop is under attack and all of its moves belong to the theory, including the highly attractive 9.Bf8, attacking the g7

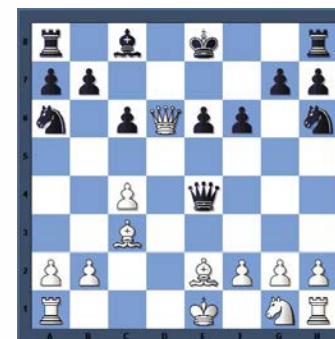
pawn, which cannot be taken because of the mate on d8.



9.♗c3 f6 9...Ne7 is the most common move, but this line is still full of unexplored territories.

10.♕d6 A rare move again, this time by White. 10.Nf3 has mostly been played before.

10...♘h6 With the idea of playing Nf7 and kicking out the annoying queen from d6.



11.♗xf6! A brilliant move, but it is still not the novelty, so both players must have checked it in their preparations. [After the direct 11.O-O-O 11...♘f7 covers the d8 square 12.♗h5 g6 and Black is safe!]

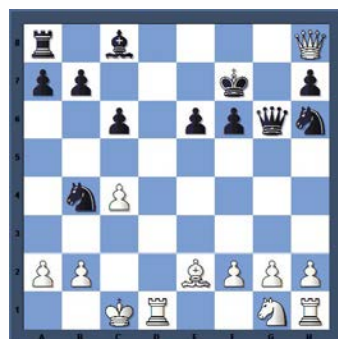
11...gxf6 12.O-O-O



12...Kg6! Here comes the novelty of the game, which is actually the only move for Black to stay in the game! Black prevents Bh5. [In the previous game Black played 12...Kg8 and lost after 13. Bh5+ Kg6 14. Qd8+ Kf7 15. Qh8!+- Llanos-Adla, Villa Gesell 1996. White takes on h7 and wins huge material.; The difference is that after 12...Nf7 13. Bh5! Black does not have g6 and he is helpless against the mate on d8.]

13. Qd8+ Kf7 14. Qxh8 White has won an exchange, but suddenly Black becomes the attacking side!

14...Nb4! Creating the threat of Qc2 mate.

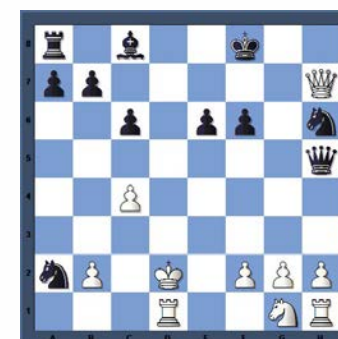


15. Bh5! It was Nakamura's turn to find the only move! [15. Qd2?? leads to mate in two after 15... Nxa2+ 16. Qd1 Qb1#; 15. Qd2? is met by the fantastic 15... Qe7!!+- and White

cannot avoid his queen being trapped after Nf7!]

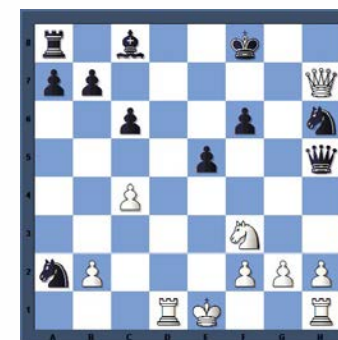
15...Nxa2+! An important intermediate move with the idea to close the d-file. [15... Qxh5? loses to 16. Qxh7+ Ke8 17. Qh8+ Qf7 18. Qd8!+-]

16. Qd2 Qxh5 17. Qxh7+ Kf8 18. Qh8+ Kf7 19. Qh7+ Kf8 Black is slightly ahead materially with his two minor pieces against the rook, but his king's position is quite unstable. White might hope for more than a perpetual check. Nakamura stays true to his style and continues the game!



20. Nf3!? e5! Black wishes to complete the development of his queenside pieces and he opens the diagonal for his bishop.

21. Qe1 The human move, opening the rook's file. [



21. h3!? The computer's suggestion has two ideas. The main

one is the direct threat of g4, whereafter the queen cannot protect the knight on h6. The other one is simple prophylaxis against Bg4, the only possible development of the c8 bishop, since Bf5 could be met by Qh8 and Qxa8, while after Bg4-Qh8 Black has Ng8 and the queen is protected on h5. Black has to defend precisely to stay in the game! 21...e4! With the idea of having Qa5 check after g4. 22.♔c2 White has refreshed the threat of playing g4 and added a new one with Rd8! 22...♙e6!

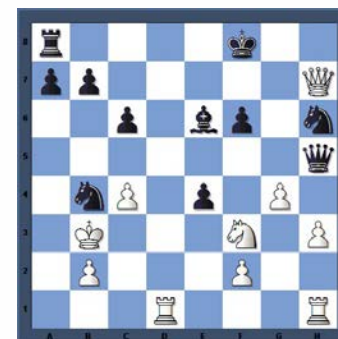


We have reached a very interesting position, which is rich in possibilities. 23.g4 (

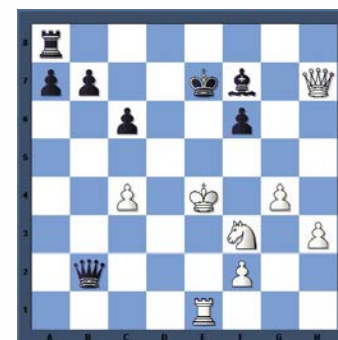
- a) 23.♖d6 23...♗b4+ 24.♔b1 (24.♔b3? 24...♙xc4+! 25.♔xc4 ♕b5+ 26.♔c3 ♕c5+ 27.♔b3 ♕xd6) 24...♙f7 25.♖xf6 exf3 26.♖xh6 ♕e5 27.♕h8+ ♕xh8 28.♖xh8+ ♙g8 Only Black could be better here.;
- b) 23.♗d4 is risky for White in view of 23...♙xc4 24.♕h8+ ♔f7 25.♕xa8 ♗b4+ 26.♔b1 ♕a5;
- c) 23.♕h8+ 23...♔f7 24.♕xa8 exf3 25.♕xb7+ ♔g6 This position is fine for Black. The roles have been switched again and he is the one attacking!)

23...♗b4+ (The problem of 23...exf3 is that after 24.gxh5 ♙f5+ 25.♕xf5 ♗xf5 26.♔b3!+- the knight is trapped.) 24.♔c1!

White can play for the win! (24.♔b1 24...exf3! already works: 25.gxh5 ♙f5+ 26.♕xf5 ♗xf5; 24.♔b3 leads to a spectacular draw after



24...♙xc4+! 25.♔xc4 ♕b5+ 26.♔c3 ♗a2+ 27.♔c2 ♕c4+ 28.♔b1 ♗c3+! 29.bxc3 ♕b3+ With perpetual check.) 24...♕c5 (24...♕a5 25.♕xh6+ ♔e7 26.♕h7+ ♙f7 The machine is not impressed and shows the win after 27.♖he1! ♕a1+ 28.♔d2 ♕xb2+ 29.♔e3 ♗c2+ 30.♔xe4 ♗xe1 31.♖xe1+-



And it is actually the black king who is in danger!) 25.♕xh6+ ♔f7 26.♕h7+ ♔f8 27.♕xe4 ♙d5 (On 27...♙xc4 28.♕d4! defends perfectly!) 28.♕d4 ♕xd4 29.♗xd4 ♙xh1 30.♖xh1 ♗d3+ (30...♔f7+= is probably better and Rd8 comes next move. It is difficult to assess whether White is winning or if Black's drawing chances are better.) 31.♔c2 ♗xf2 32.♖f1 ♗e4

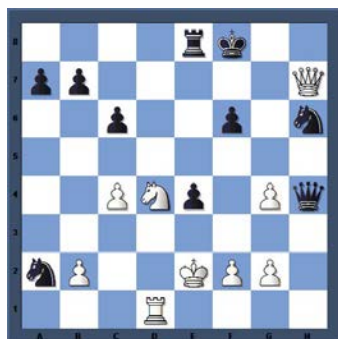
(32...♘h3? loses to 33.♚h1!) 33.♚f4 ♚e8 34.b4!+= Followed by Kd3 after preventing the Nc5 check. White retains an advantage! This leads to a very interesting question from a theoretical point of view. This position or the one after 30...Kf7 might arise by force after 11.Bxf6 and in both cases White is doing better. We can be curious to see how this line will develop in the near future.]

21...♙g4! 22.h3 Trying to get rid of the queen's defender and also to open the g-file for the rook. However due to the pin, White is not threatening to play hxg4, so Black has a free move. [22.♚h8+ could be met by 22...♘g8!]

22...e4 23.♘d4 [23.♚h8+ was an alternative, although in the endgame after 23...♘g8 24.hxg4 ♚xh8 25.♚xh8 exf3 26.gxf3 ♚e8+ 27.♙f1 ♙g7 Black is not worse.]

23...♚e8! Activating the last piece and also covering the e6 square in order to threaten Bxd1. Nakamura was down to 1 minute at this point! [23...♙xd1?? did not work because of 24.♘e6+ ♙e8 25.♘g7+ ♙f8 26.♘h5+--]

24.♚h8+ [24.hxg4 also leads to a drawish position after 24...♚xh1+ 25.♙e2 ♘c1+! (But not 25...♚h4? because of

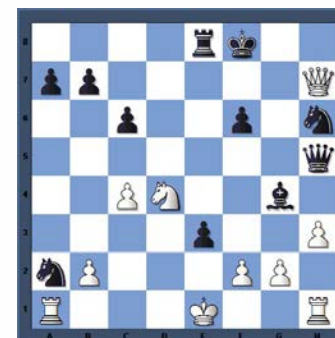


26.♘e6+! ♚xe6 27.♚d8+ ♚e8 28.♚h8+-- 26.♙d2 ♚h2 27.♙xc1 ♘xg4 28.♚f5 ♚h6+ 29.♙c2 ♘e5 Black consolidates his position and then he should not be worse.]

24...♙f7 [24...♘g8? now loses to 25.hxg4+--]

25.♚h7+ ♙f8 26.♚a1 Wow! I wonder how many players would not have repeated the moves with 1 minute on the clock!

26...e3 Black's counterplay is coming too fast. White is forced to give perpetual check now. He could have continued playing for the win with 0-0, but unfortunately for him this is an illegal move as he has already castled queenside in this game!



27.♚h8+ ♙f7 28.♚h7+ ♙f8 29.♚h8+ ♙f7 30.♚h7+ A great game! As we see, there can be a big difference between a draw and a draw. **1/2-1/2**

(2) **Alekseev, Evgeny(2710)**

- **Krush, Irina(2492) [B51]**

Baku Open 2013(3.4), 2013.09.21

[Balogh Csaba]

We are now going to see a brilliant game from the Baku Open!

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♙b5+ Alekseev usually aims for less theoretical positions, where he can outplay his opponents later on.

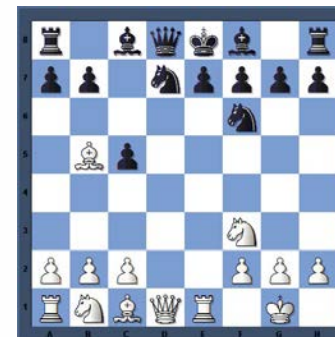
3...♘d7 4.d4 ♘f6



5.O-O The previous move probably came as a surprise for Black and she takes the brave decision to accept the pawn. [5.♘c3 is the main line, but the text move involves a very tricky pawn sacrifice...]

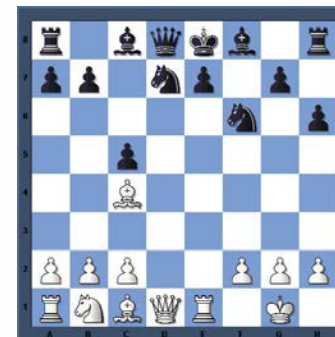
5...♗xe4 [Black should play more carefully with 5...cxd4 6.♙xd4 and here he can choose between some playable options, like 6...a6 (6...g6 ; or 6...e5)]

6.♙e1 ♘f6 7.dxc5 dxc5 It is interesting that Irina Krush had already played this position once back in 1999. Her opponent then played 8.Bg5, but she managed to preserve her extra pawn and later won the game. Alekseev came up with a highly aggressive improvement, although it is not the novelty yet.



8.♗g5! The most direct way to make use of the undeveloped Black pieces. White prepares for sacrifices on the e6 and f7 squares!

8...e6 [8...h6 leads to similar positions as in the famous Deep Blue-Kasparov game in the Caro-Kann defence. White intuitively sacrifices a piece with 9.♗xf7! ♔xf7 10.♙c4+ ♔e8



11.♙f4 Followed by simple development with Nc3! Black is unable to solve the future problems around his king, nor can he try a simplification with 11...♗b6 because of the small tactical trick 12.♙f7+! ♔xf7 13.♙xd8+—]

9.♗c3 [GM Jones played the even more direct 9.♙c4!? 9...♙e7 10.♙xe6! O-O (10...fxe6 11.♗xe6 ♙b6 12.♙e2+— Black can hardly stop this attack.) 11.♙e2± With a big advantage, since the bishop cannot be taken because of Qxe6 and Qxe7.]

9...♙e7 White needs to act quickly now, as Black is ready to castle kingside after which his extra pawn would tell.

10.♖e2! White does not want to hide his intentions, he is further pressing the f7 and e6 pawns in order to sacrifice the knight effectively.

10...a6 [10...O-O is met by 11.♘xe6! fxe6 12.♖xe6+ ♖f7 (12...♙h8 13.♖xe7+- With an extra pawn and a winning advantage!) 13.♙c4 ♖f8 14.♖xe7!+- White wins by using the pin!]



11.♘xf7! There is no way to improve the circumstances! All the pieces are prepared for the attack!

11...♙xf7 12.♖xe6+ ♙f8 13.♙c4 Leaving from the attack with tempo. Black has only one move to prevent Qf7.

13...♖e8 14.♙f4! The most natural developing move. White wants to finish the game with Bd6.

14...♘b8 [14...b5 15.♙d6!+- is over.]



15.♖d6!! I like this move a lot! White wants to eliminate the defender on e7! [Unfortunately 15.♖xf6+? does not work as after 15...♙xf6 (15...gxf6 16.♙h6# would have been a nice mate.) 16.♙d6+ ♙e7 Black holds.]

15...♘c6 [15...b5 is nicely refuted by 16.♖xe7! ♖xe7 17.♖e1 ♖xd6 18.♙xd6#]



16.♖xe7!! A great and consequent attack!

16...♖xe7 17.♖e1 ♘e8 Resourceful defence, but it does not help. [17...♖xd6 18.♙xd6+ ♘e7 19.♖xe7+- White is mating even without the queen.; 17...♙e6 also leads to nice variations: 18.♖xe6 ♖xd6 19.♙xd6+ ♙f7 White starts the haunt of the king with 20.♖e3+! ♙g6 21.♖g3+ ♙f5 The only move. Somehow there is no direct mate. White must be

satisfied with obtaining a winning position for instance by playing (21...♔h6 leads to mate after 22.♕f4+ ♔h5 23.♕f7+ g6 24.f3!+- followed by Rh3 mate.) 22.f4 Threatening Rg5 mate and after 22...h6 23.♖xg7+- the black king is in a mate net that he can hardly escape.]



18.♔d1!! From here, White can quickly switch his queen to the attack via f3 or h5. [18.♔d2 18...♔d7 is not so clear.]

18...♔f6 [18...♔d7 loses to 19.♔h5 With the simple threat of playing Qxc5 mate and after 19...b6 20.♖xe8+ ♔xe8 21.♕d6+ ♔e7 22.♔f3+ ♕f5 23.♔xf5+ mates.]

19.♔d5! Dark clouds are approaching the black king. White brings a new attacker.

19...♔g6 White can choose between several different wins here. [After 19...♔f5 the easiest win is 20.♖xe8+! ♔xe8 21.♔c7+ ♔f8



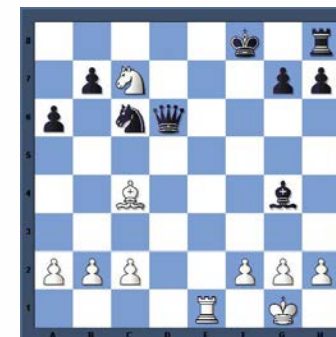
and here White has the following pretty finish: 22.♔d8+! ♔xd8 23.♕d6# Not bad! :)]

20.♔c7 This is one of them. White wants to deflect the e8 knight from the d6 square. [According to the machine, the most precise was 20.♕e3 which is quite an inhuman move. 20...♔d4 21.♕xd4 cxd4 22.♔f3+! ♕f5 (22...♔f5 23.♔a3+!+- is the point!) 23.♔a3+ ♔d6 (23...♔d6 24.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 25.♔xd6+-) 24.♔e7+- and Nxf5 next finishes the game.]

20...♕g4 [20...♔xc7 21.♕d6+-; 20...♕h3 was the best chance, although it loses quite easily too. White has different ways to win... 21.♔f3 (The simple 21.♕g3 is also good.; The most direct solution is 21.♔e6+ 21...♕xe6 22.♕d6+ ♔xd6 23.♔xd6+ ♔e7 24.♖xe6 ♔f7 25.♖e4! ♔f6 26.♖f4+-) 21...♔xg2+ 22.♔xg2 ♕xg2 23.♔xa8 ♕h3 24.♔c7+-]

21.♔d5! Qxc5 is a new threat and the end is near. Black decides to let White finish the game in style:

21...♖d8 22.♔xc5+ ♔d6 23.♕xd6+ ♖xd6 24.♔xd6+! ♔xd6



25.♖e8# What a game! Especially nice from a pure positional player like Alekseev! **1-0**

(3) Naiditsch, Arkadij(2710) - Kozul, Zdenko(2601) [B67]

TCh-CRO Ia Liga 2013(9.2), 2013.09.22
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the last round of the Croatian Team Championship. My team had to win in order to secure the 1st place so of course I was feeling quite ambitious with White against an opponent with a clearly lower rating. In fact, maybe not many are aware of this, but Kozul once became European Champion and is a very good player, just not very stable.

1.e4 c5 The Sicilian was not a surprise for me. It has been Kozul's main opening for all his life.

2.f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 So we are entering the Rausser variation of which Kozul is basically the godfather. I cannot imagine that anybody could have played more games than him in the line we are going to see and achieving great results. But chess has changed, computers got stronger and so it became more and more dangerous playing forced lines where Black needs to be very precise.

6.g5 The usual move, another option is to play 6. Be2 but it is a much more calm line.

6...e6 7.Qd2 Of course White should not lose time and he goes for the very typical long castle.

7...a6 8.O-O-O



8...h6 [A couple of years ago the move 8...h6 was quite fashionable but it seems that after 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.g4 d5 11.Qe3 White is getting nice play.]

9.f4 [9.f3 is also a possible move, but the move in the game is much more concrete.]

9...b5 10.Nxf6 White uses the fact that Black cannot take back with the queen.

10...gxf6 [10...Qxf6 11.e5! is the key move. 11...dxe5 12.Ndx5 Qd8 13.Nd6+ Nxd6 14.Qxd6 White is better.]

11.Qb1 b4 A slightly strange move order. [Black usually plays 11...Qb6 12.Nxc6 Nxc6 13.f5 b4 14.Ne2 which leads to the same position as in the game.]

12.Nce2 Qb6 Before playing 13.Nxc6 I was thinking for a while. 13.Nxc6 leads back to the main lines but 13.Qe1 with the idea of playing Qh4 next looks quite tempting too.

13.Nxc6 I finally decided to go for what I know.

13...Nxc6 14.f5



14...Nxe4?! This was a big surprise for me! I knew that playing 14...Bxe4 should be very dangerous and almost nobody does it. [14...e5 15.Ng3 h5 16.h4 Qc5 17.Qe2 would lead to the main line with a very sharp position.]

15.fxe6 Maybe not the best, but somehow I remembered this move, so I played it quickly. [15.♘g3! is probably the strongest move here. 15...♙b7 16.fxe6 fxe6 17.♙d3 Followed by Rhe1 and Black's position looks very bad.]

15...fxe6 16.♙f4 d5 The right choice! [After 16...f5 17.♘g3 ♙b7 18.♙c4 Black would almost be losing on the spot.]

17.♙xf6 Before playing this move, I thought for over 20 minutes because I could not decide whether to play 17.Ng3 first or to play Qxf6. [17.♘g3 was also interesting, trying to win half a tempo by developing the knight before playing Qxf6. 17...e5 18.♙h4 ♙g6 19.♙xd5 I think White should be better here as well.]

17...♙g8 18.♘f4 ♙e7 [It was maybe better for Black to try and escape into a worse endgame: 18...♙g7 19.♙xe6+ ♙xe6 20.♘e6 ♙d7 Of course White is a clear pawn up, but Black would keep some chances of making a draw here.]

19.♙h6 Now I of course keep the queens on the board. The black king on e8 is quickly getting into trouble.

19...♙g5 This doesn't look great, but it is hard to give Black any good advice. The position already looks very dangerous.

20.♙h5+ 20.Qxe6 was again possible, but I wanted to play for more than an endgame advantage.

20...♙e7



21.♙d3! This move was the key of my previous ones. I am getting rid of the "position holder" bishop on e4 and Black's defence is practically falling apart.

21...♙af8 [A nice variation could appear after 21...♙xf4 22.♙xe4 dxe4 23.♙h7+ Many other moves are also winning for White, but this variation is just the most pretty one. 23...♙f6 24.♙hf1 ♙e5 25.g3 ♙e3 26.♙f7 ♙af8



27.♙f5+ exf5 28.♙d5#]

22.♙xe4 ♙xf4 I now had a wide range of moves again, which all seem to be leading to a big advantage for me.

23.♙xd5 Probably the most human and practical move. [23.♙h7+ was also very strong. 23...♙f8 24.♙hf1 dxe4 It seems like Black is holding but 25.h4!! is crushing all of Black's hopes. White should be totally winning here.]

23...exd5 24.♙he1+ Before playing 23.Bxd5 I tried to calculate as many lines as I could, but in such a position this is not an easy thing to do. So I said to myself, in the worst case I will have 3 pawns plus an attack for a piece, which is already not too bad...

24...♙e4 [24...♙f6 was not saving Black either. 25.♙xd5! With many different threats. Once again we could face a beautiful mate after 25...h6



26. ♖xg5! hxg5 27. ♗h6+ ♔g6 28. ♗f8#; 24... ♕d6 leads us to the same idea as before: 25.h4!! And Black's position is falling apart.]

25. ♗xh7+ ♕f8 26. ♖f1+ ♕f6 27. ♖xd5 So White has 3 pawns for a piece and continues attacking the black king. The position looks pretty winning, but of course some calculation is still needed to finish the game.

27... ♖d4 [After 27... ♖e7 28. ♖d8+ ♗xd8 29. ♖xf6+ White is also winning.]

28. ♗h6+ When I saw this rook endgame, I didn't look for anything more direct.

28... ♕f7 [28... ♕e7 would lead to the same thing. 29. ♖xf6 ♖xd5 30. ♖xb6 ♖d1+ There is no mate! :) 31. ♗c1 ♖xc1+ 32. ♕xc1 With a totally winning endgame.]



29. ♖xf6+! The most simple.

29... ♗xf6 30. ♗xf6+ ♕xf6 31. ♖xd4 ♖xg2 I am in a rook endgame with 2 pawns up. It is a totally winning position.

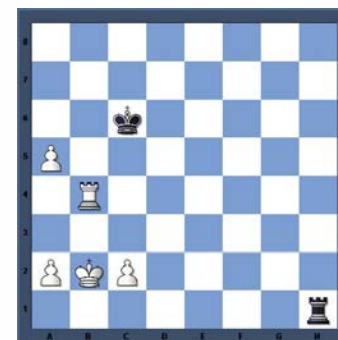
32. b3 a5 33. ♖d5 [33.h4 followed by Kb2, Rc4 and a3 would also win the game very easily.]

33... a4 [33... ♖xh2 34. ♖xa5 ♖h4 35.a3 and with connected b+c pawns the win is just too easy.]

34. bxa4 ♖xh2 35. ♕b2 As we know, the position with a+c pawns in rook endgames is a draw, but I will have an extra a-pawn, which would give me a rook endgame with 3 pawns up.. . This is just one too many!

35... ♕e6 36. ♖d3 ♖h1 37. ♖d8 ♖h3 38. ♖d4 ♖h1 I was not in a hurry with winning the b4 pawn, as Black cannot do much anyway.

39. ♖xb4 ♕d5 40. a5 ♕c6



41. ♕b3 Now it is already a matter of minimal technical skills.

41... ♖h8 42. a6 ♖a8 43. ♖a4 We managed to win the match 4:2, a nice finish of a hard fought tournament! :) 1-0

(4) Hou, Yifan(2609)

- Ushenina, Anna(2500) [B90]

WCh Women 2013(7), 2013.09.20

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in round 7, which was already the last game of the match and actually the first win by a player with the white pieces. Hou won all her previous games with Black.

1.e4 c5 Ushenina continued to play her Sicilian, which is a great opening if you are looking for a fight.

2.♘f3 d6 3.d4! It seems a bit strange to me that Hou is not playing for a draw! A move like 3.Bb5 is well known to be very safe for White, with most probably a drawish outcome.

3...cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙e3 We are in the main line.

6...♘bd7 A rare move. The main ones are 6...e6 or 6...e5.



7.♙e2 A multifunctional move. White is giving herself a big choice. To play 0-0 next, or maybe go for g4 or for Qd2, followed by 0-0-0.

7...e6 8.g4 Once again Hou chooses the most aggressive continuation which shows big confidence and is of course totally deserved after a lead like +3 out of the first 6 games.

8...h6 Black can of course not let White play g5.

9.f4 This move is directed against the g5 threat. White wants to keep the center as strong as possible, which is very typical in such positions. Another option was to play 9.h4.

9...g5!? Black is fighting for the very important e5 square. This is also quite typical for the Sicilian.

10.f5 [I think it was the wrong moment for White to get greedy: 10.fxg5?! 10...hxg5 11.♙xg5 ♙e7 And Black will get excellent play on the dark squares.]

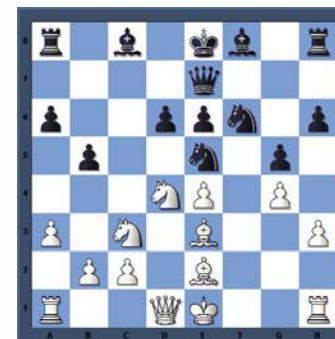
10...♘e5 11.h3 Preparing to play Qd2 next and long castle. The g4 pawn was hanging before.

11...b5 12.a3 This move is also needed.

12...♖e7 This move looks a bit strange to me. The e7 square should be a nice place for the black bishop.

13.fxe6! I like this move a lot! White tries to handle the main problem of the position, the very strong knight on e5.

13...fxe6



14.♘f3 This was Hou's idea.

14...♘fd7 Of course Black needs to fight for the e5 square.

15.♖d2 ♘xf3+ 16.♙xf3 ♘e5 17.♙e2 We can now take a fresh

look at the position. White is better developed and will have a safer king after castling queenside. Black has a great knight on e5, but nothing more. In my opinion Black's position already looks a bit dangerous. If White managed to play 0-0-0 and maybe h4 next, Black's whole structure could fall apart.

17...♘g7 It doesn't look good to get the knight back from e5 to f7, but what else to do. .. To stand with the bishop on f8 is not an option either.

18.0-0-0 ♞f7 19.♙d4 White continues playing in a very logical way. Exchanging the bishop is clearly good for White.

19...♙e5 20.♙xe5 dxe5 So now you can see that Black is in trouble. White has a better pawn structure and a safer king, but Black's position is still pretty solid.

21.h4?! There was no reason for this move at all. Black is getting the nice g5 square for her passive knight on f7. [21.♞hf1 looks much more easy and stronger. Next White can play Rf3 followed by Rd3 or Rdf1, with a big advantage.]

21...gxh4 22.♚e1



22...♞a7 Black wants to exchange the rook, but why to make it so difficult?! [22...♙b7 23.♞xh4 ♞d8 would have been the much more natural way to go on.]

23.♞xh4 ♞d7 24.♞h5 ♞g8 25.♙b1 White's position is better,

but it is nothing special.

25...♞c5 26.♞h3 ♞b6 The black queen is well placed on b6.

27.♞h4 ♞xd1+ 28.♙xd1 ♙b7 The black bishop is finally out and targeting the e4 pawn.

29.♞c3!? Once again Hou is playing very aggressively. It would have been more solid to simply play 29.Nc3 with a slightly better position.

29...♞d8 30.♞f2 ♞d4? This is already the decisive mistake... [30...♙g5 was the only move and after 31.♞a7 ♞g7! Black's position is of course looking very dangerous, but it is hard to find something concrete for White and the e4 pawn is hanging. I think that from a practical point of view the game would have been very open here.]

31.♞f6! Now White's attack is becoming very dangerous.

31...♞d6



32.♙f2 The white knight is finally coming back into the game. Now Black often has to think about a move like g5!

32...♙f8 A clear sign of despair...

33.♞f3 The most easy move. Why not take a pawn if you can...

33...♞g7 34.♞xh6 ♙g8 35.♞f6 White is a pawn up and the black king is still not feeling much better. I guess that by now

everybody understood that the match is over.

35...♘c6 36.♖d3 ♔c5



37.g5! Hou is regaining her WCC title in a nice style!

37...♗xg5 38.♗g4 Whites has too many threats: Rd8, Nh6 or just Nxe5.

38...♗f7 39.♔xe6 Another cool move. Nf6 next is deadly.

39...♔g1+ 40.♖d1 And Hou Yifan very deservedly became the new World Champion, showing great nerves, good preparation and very practical play. Congratulations from us to her! **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Grischuk, A(2785)-Wang Hao(2736)

Grand Prix, Paris, 2013.09.22

[CEWN]

1. =



(6) Idani, P(2480)-Grover, S(2479)

World Junior Championship, 2013.09.21

[CEWN]

1... =

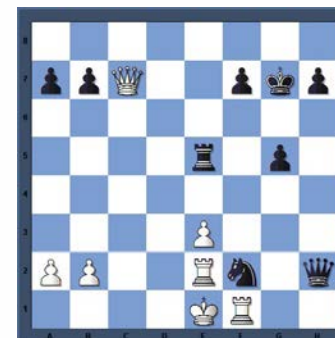


(7) Ju Wenju(2535)-Lagno, K(2532)

Tashkent, 2013.09.19

[CEWN]

1... =

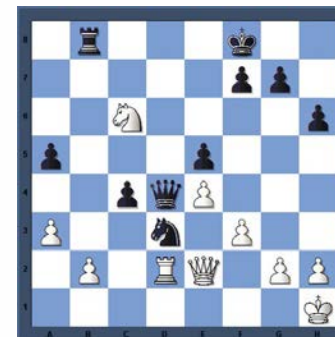


(8) Danielian, E(2470)-Koneru, H(2607)

Tashkent, 2013.09.19

[CEWN]

1... -+



(9) Stefanova, A(2496)-Ju Wenju(2535)

Tashkent, 2013.09.20

[CEWN]

1... -+



(10) Harika, D(2475)-Girya, O(2439)

Tashkent, 2013.09.20

[CEWN]

1. +-

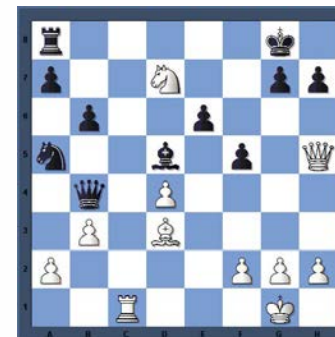


(11) Izzat, K(2347)-Shimanov, A(2655)

Baku Open, 2013.09.22

[CEWN]

1. +-



(12) Hracek, Z(2635)-Rezan, S(2456)

Croatian league, 2013.09.18

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Petkov, V(2564)-Georgiev, K(2448)

Bulgarian league, 2013.09.22

[CEWN]

1. +-



(14) Nabaty, T(2575)-Georgiev, V(2549)

Bulgarian league, 2013.09.20

[CEWN]

1. ±

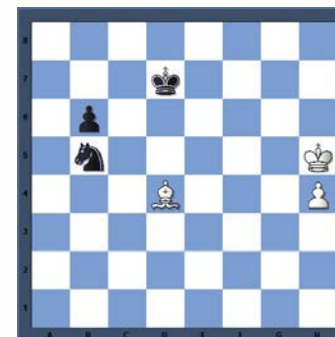


Endgame section

(15) Efimenko, Z.(2661)-Solak, D.(2615)

Baku Open, 2013.09.23

[CE Team]

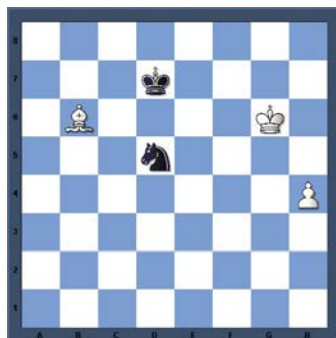


We have reached this endgame. It is interesting to analyze whether White can win, or if the black knight is able to stop the h-pawn. Black cannot sacrifice his knight in order to run to the corner with his king, since the color of the bishop fits the one of the h-pawn.

70. ♖xb6 [White cannot go all-in with sacrificing the bishop as after 70. ♖e5 70... ♖e6 71. ♖g6?? Black easily stops the pawn and even wins the game. 71... ♖xe5 72. h5 ♘d6 73. h6 ♖e6 74. h7 ♘f7 +-]

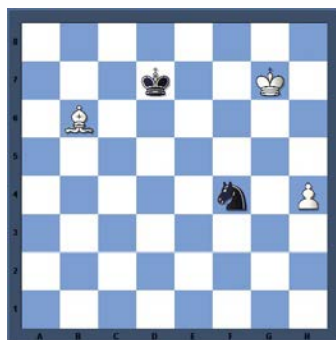
70... ♘c3 [70... ♖e6 was also possible. 71. ♖g6 ♘d6 72. h5 ♘f5 leads us back to the game.]

71. ♔g6 ♘d5



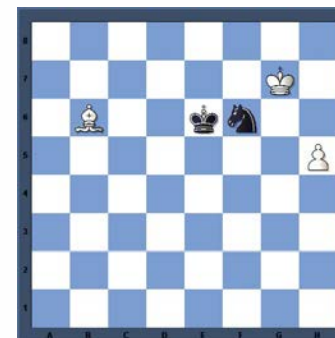
72. ♔g7! A very tricky move! The white king is leaving from the f4 check in order to advance the h-pawn. [After 72. ♔f7 Black has to find the only defence, which is 72... ♘xb6! 73.h5 ♘c4 74.h6 ♘d6+ 75. ♔g7 ♔e7 76.h7 ♘f7= Just in time!]

72... ♔e6! The only move! [72... ♘f4? was tempting, but it loses to



73. ♔f7! Preventing the black king from approaching the pawn. 73... ♔d6 74. ♕e3 ♘h5 (74... ♘g2 75.h5 ♘xe3 76.h6+- The pawn promotes.; 74... ♔e5 75. ♕xf4+ ♔xf4 76. ♔g6!+- The only move, but it is enough!) 75. ♔g6+- And the knight is trapped.; After 72... ♘xb6? Black cannot stop the h-pawn. 73.h5 ♔e7 74.h6+- The knight cannot reach the f7 square in two moves.]

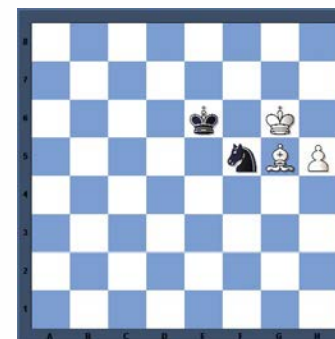
73.h5 ♘e7! Another only move! It is better to stop the pawn as less advanced as possible. [73... ♘f6



74.h6 This is a theoretically winning position and the technique is easy: 74... ♘h5+ 75. ♔f8 ♘f6 76. ♕d8!+- Taking the f6 square under control, so that Black can no longer stop the pawn!]

74. ♕d8 ♘f5+ 75. ♔g6 ♔e5! Yet again the only move! Black must keep his knight on f5. White should try to create a zugzwang position in order to kick out the f5 knight from its outpost.

76. ♕g5 ♔e6

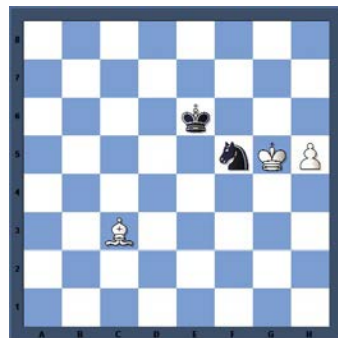


77. ♕f6! Good technique! White finds the only possible zugzwang. The king cannot move and the knight has no

checks on h4 or on e7, which could be followed by returning to f5 next move. What to do as Black?

77...♖h6! Great defence and of course another only move! That was basically all that Black had to know, from now on the defensive task is easy. White obviously keeps on trying.

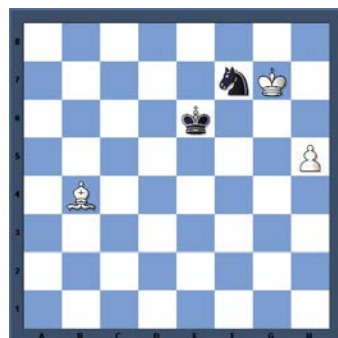
78.♙c3 ♜f5 79.♚g5



79...♜d6! The only move again, but this it quite an easy one! White cannot advance the pawn because of Nf7.

80.♙b4 ♜f7+ Black decided to change the defensive method. [80...♜f5 was also good enough.]

81.♚g6 ♜e5+ 82.♚g7 ♜g4! Logical defence. White needs to retreat his king in order to disturb the knight. [82...♜f7



83.♙f8!! White needs to control the h6 square! (83.♙a3 would

allow Black to survive after 83...♚f5!! 84.♚xf7 ♚g5) 83...♜g5 (83...♚f5 84.♚xf7 ♚g5 85.h6+-) 84.h6+-]

83.♙c5 ♚f5 84.♙e7 ♚e6 85.♙g5 ♚f5 86.♙h4 ♚e6 87.♙e1 ♚f5 88.♙d2 ♚e6 89.♙g5 ♚f5 90.♙c1 ♚e6 91.♚g6 After several waiting moves, White comes back with the king, but now Black is also able to change the defensive method.

91...♜e5+! 92.♚g5 Now all moves are drawn, the easiest being

92...♚f7! Heading to the corner!

93.♚f5 ♜d7 94.♙e3 Solak finds a direct way to eliminate the h-pawn.

94...♜f6 95.h6 ♜g8 96.h7 ♜e7+ 97.♚g5 ♚g7 98.♙d4+ And a draw was agreed! An instructive endgame for any level of players. Solak held the draw precisely, but it is unclear whether he was able to find all the only moves or if he just knew this theoretical position... In any case a deserved save! **1/2-1/2**

(16) Dominguez Perez, L.(2757)-Giri, A.(2737)

FIDE GP Paris(4.5), 2013.09.25
[CE TEAM]



White's position looks pretty good. He is a pawn up and he has control over the d-file, which should clearly give him very good winning chances. But sometimes things are not as easy as they seem and the rook endgames are known to often be much more tricky than they look. Dominguez will show us very convincingly how to convert White's advantage!

28...♔g6 29.♖d5! An excellent move, cutting the black king on the 6th rank and paralyzing the black rook.

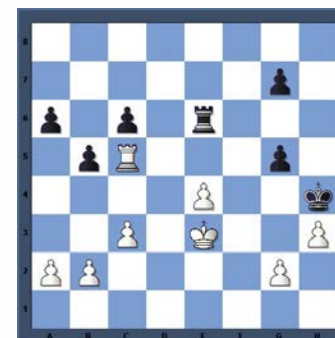
29...♖f6+ 30.♔e2 c6 31.♖c5 Now both rooks almost cannot move!

31...♔h5 32.e4! It is time to bring the king and the pawn one line closer to queening!

32...♔g4 33.♔e3 ♖e6 Black is still hoping to create some sort of fortress, but it is only a dream...

34.h3+! Another very accurate move. White is getting rid of the active black king.

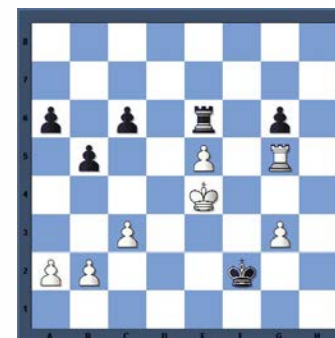
34...♔h4



35.g3+! Once again Dominguez finds the best move! By taking the g5 pawn, White is getting the extra f4 square for his king and the g7 pawn is becoming very weak.

35...♔xh3 36.♖xg5 g6 37.e5 The Black king is out of play and the rook on e6 is completely out of moves. White is pushing his pawn and king in direction of the 8th rank.

37...♔g2 38.♔e4 ♔f2 Black seems to be moving in direction of White's b-pawn, but it is of course too late.



39.♖g4 The last precise move! White brings his rook over f4 to g4, after which Black is going to lose all of his pawns on the 6th rank.

39...♔g2 40.♖f4 And this was even too much for Giri. A short, but very good lesson from Dominguez! **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Ragozin, Viacheslav-Botvinnik, Mikhail[C56]

Leningrad-ch, 1930

[Miton Kamil]

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4 ♘f6 4.d4 [4.d3 ; 4.♘g5]

4...exd4



5.O-O A rare line which is not dangerous for Black. More often White plays [5.e5 Now Black has 3 different ways to play: 5...♘g4 (5...♘e4 With the idea of pushing d6 at some point and equalizing the position in the center.; 5...d5 6.♙b5 ♘e4 7.♘xd4 ♙d7 8.♙xc6 bxc6 9.O-O Objectively Black should be fine but the position is very complex. White's idea is to try and take control of the dark squares (d4 and c5) or to create an attack after f4-f5. Black should try to activate his light squared bishop after c5-d4 or play over f6. Recently on the top level Carlsen played this structure against Harikrishna during the Tata Steel tournament.) 6.♙e2 (6.O-O 6...d6 7.exd6 ♙xd6 8.♙e1+ ♙f8 With complex play too. Black is a pawn up but his king is not well placed on f8. 9.♙g5 doesn't work now because of 9...♙xh2+!) 6...♙e7 7.♙f4 d6 Black needs to hurry to take out the pawn from e5 otherwise it will be not easy to

finish the development. (7...f6 8.exf6 ♘xf6 (8...gxf6 9.♘bd2 With the idea of Nb3 and recapturing the pawn on d4, when thanks to his better structure White can try to get a small advantage.) 9.♘bd2 d6 10.♘b3 ♙g4∞) 8.exd6 ♙xe2+ 9.♙xe2 ♙xd6 10.♙xd6 cxd6 11.♘a3



11...♘ge5 A very strong move. Black will lose the d4 pawn anyway, but is important to do that in the correct way. 12.♘b5 d3! And Black avoided a worse position with an isolated pawn. Miton-Bruzon, Havana 2006]

5...♘xe4 6.♙e1 d5 7.♘c3 A better option for White is [7.♙xd5 7...♙xd5 8.♘c3 ♙a5 (

a) 8...♙h5 9.♘xe4 ♙e6 10.♙g5 h6 (10...♙b4 11.♘xd4 ♙xd1 12.♙exd1 ♘xd4 13.♙xd4 ♙e7 14.♙e1 White has the initiative thanks to his active pieces.; 10...♙d6 11.♘xd6+ cxd6 12.♙f4 ♙d5! A strong move with the same idea as we saw in the previous comment, to not let White get a better structure.)



11. ♕f6! Thanks to this move the queen is now badly placed on h5. 11... ♖g6 12. ♗h4 ♕g4 13. ♖d3†;

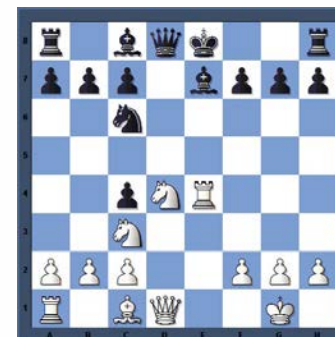
b) 8... ♖d8;)

9. ♗xe4 ♕e6 10. ♗eg5 (10. ♕d2 10... ♕b4 11. ♗xd4 ♗xd4 12. c3 ♕e7 13. cxd4 ♖d5 14. ♕b4 ♕xb4 15. ♖a4+ ♖c6 16. ♖xb4 O-O-O Black doesn't have any problems.) 10...O-O-O 11. ♗xe6 fxe6 12. ♖xe6 ♕d6 or Be7, with the idea of putting the bishop on f6. Black is fine.]

7...dxc4 [7...dxc3 also looks good for Black. 8. ♕xd5 ♕e6 (8...f5 9. ♗g5) 9. ♕xe4 (9. ♖xe4 9... ♗e7 And White is losing a piece.) 9... ♖xd1 10. ♖xd1 cxb2 11. ♕xb2 f6 White has nothing more than some compensation here.]

8. ♖xe4+ ♕e7 [8... ♕e6 9. ♗xd4 ♗xd4 10. ♖xd4 ♕d6 11. ♕f4 (11. ♗e4 11... ♖e7 12. ♗xd6+ cxd6 13. ♖xd6 O-O 14. ♕f4 White has a symbolic advantage because of his better bishop and structure but in general Black should not have any problems to make a draw. 14... ♖ad8) 11... ♖e7 12. ♕xd6 cxd6 13. ♖d2 O-O 14. ♖d1 ♖fd8 15. ♖xd6 ♖xd6 16. ♖xd6 ♖xd6 17. ♖xd6 ♗f8=]

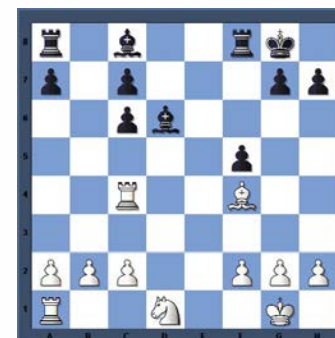
9. ♗xd4



9...f5! A good move which chases the white rook from the e-file and allows Black to escape with the king.

10. ♖f4 O-O 11. ♗xc6 ♖xd1+ 12. ♗xd1 bxc6 13. ♖xc4 We have an interesting position. White has the better structure but on the other hand Black has the bishop pair and a better coordination between his pieces.

13... ♕d6 14. ♕e3 [14. ♕f4



The idea of exchanging the dark squared bishops is logical but black can play 14... ♕a6 15. ♖d4 (15. ♕xd6 15... ♖fe8 trick) 15... ♖fe8 16. ♗e3 c5 17. ♖a4 ♕b5 18. ♖a5 ♕xf4 19. ♖xb5 ♕xe3 20. fxe3 ♖xe3 21. ♖xc5 ♖d8! With complex, but more or less equal play.]

14...f4 15.♘d4 [15.♙c5 15...♖e8 And White is not on time with consolidating his position: 16.♗c3 ♘e6 17.♙xd6 ♘xc4 18.♙xf4 With a more or less equal position.]

15...♖f5 Black is preparing c5, with the idea of putting the pawns on dark squares in order to limit the white bishop.

16.g4!? An interesting move. More simple was [16.f3 with the idea of transferring the knight to e4.]

16...♖g5 17.f3 h5 18.h4 ♖g6 19.g5 The structure has changed.

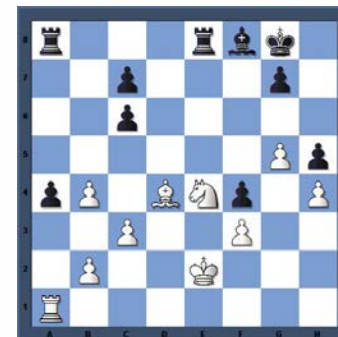
19...a5 20.♗f2 ♖e6 21.♗e4 ♙a6



22.♖c3?! With this move White give the exchange. A better move was [22.♖xc6 22...♙b7 23.♗c5! ♙xc6 24.♗xe6 ♙xf3 25.♗xg7 ♙g4 It looks as if the white knight is in trouble but after 26.♖e1 ♙f7 White has a trick which was maybe missed by Ragozin: 27.♗e8!]

22...♙b4 23.♖b3 ♙c4 24.c3 ♙xb3 25.axb3 ♙f8 26.b4 a4 Black has a material advantage but it will take a long time to convert it because of the strong white pieces in the center.

27.♙f1 ♖ee8 28.♙e2



28...c5 Black is trying to open some files in order to improve the position. An alternative was [28...♙d6 29.♙d3 ♙e5 30.♙c5 ♙f7 31.♙c4 ♙e6 With the idea of giving back the exchange on e4 at some moment.]

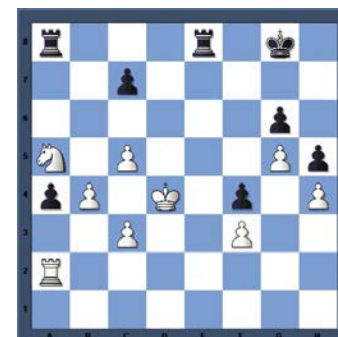
29.bxc5 ♖eb8 30.♖a2 ♖b3 Preparing a3.

31.♗d2 ♖b5 [31...♖bb8 Not allowing b4, but after 32.♗e4 White's position is very solid. 32...♙f7 33.♙e5]

32.b4 g6 33.♙d3 ♙g7 Black finally managed to get rid of the bishop on d4, but he already lost one pawn and a lot of time.

34.♗b3 ♖bb8 35.♗a5 The position is becoming a bit complicated as White is going to win another pawn.

35...♙xd4 36.♙xd4 ♖e8 Black is winning the f-pawn but White is on time with his counterplay.

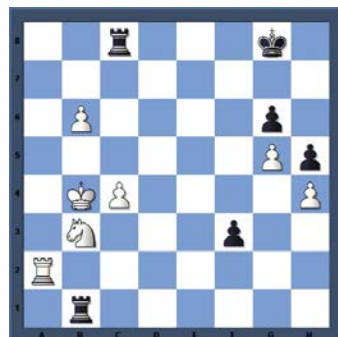


37.♖xa4 An interesting option was not lose any time and immediately try to promote the b-pawn. [37.♘c6!? 37...♖e3 38.b5 a3 (38...♖e1 39.b6 cxb6 40.cxb6 ♖b1 41.♘b4 Black's position is very risky.) 39.b6 cxb6 40.cxb6 ♖a4+ 41.♙d5 ♖d3+ 42.♙e5 ♖e3+ 43.♙d6 ♖d3+ With perpetual check or 44.♙c7 ♖xc3 45.b7 ♖b4 46.b8=♙+ ♖xb8 47.♙xb8 ♖xc6 48.♖xa3= And after 48...Re6 with the idea of playing Re3, then 49.Ra4.]

37...♖e3 38.b5 ♖xf3 39.b6 cxb6 40.cxb6 ♖d8+ 41.♙c4 ♖e3 42.♘c6 ♖e4+ 43.♘d4 [43.♙b3 43...♖xa4 44.♙xa4 ♖a8+ Followed by f3 and Black is winning.]

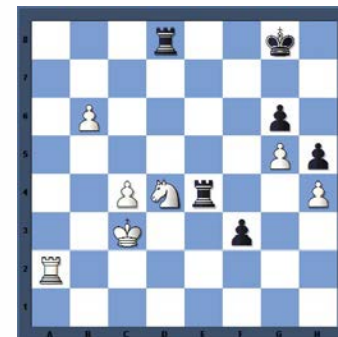
43...f3 44.♖a2 ♖c8+ 45.♙b4 ♖e1 The rook is placed well here because it can stop the white pawn over the b-file.

46.c4 ♖e4 [46...♖b1+ 47.♘b3



47...♖d8! With the idea Rd3. (47...♖e8 48.b7 f2 49.♖a8 ♖e1 50.♘d2 This why the rook is more accurately placed on d8.) 48.b7 (48.♙c3 48...♖e8 Re3 is coming.) 48...f2 49.♖xf2 ♖b8± And the most dangerous b-pawn is stopped.]

47.♙c3 ♖e3+ 48.♙b4 ♖e4 49.♙c3 ♖d8



50.♘c6? This move looks very natural but it is a mistake! White should have played [50.♘xf3 50...♖e3+ 51.♙b4 ♖xf3 With a very complex position. It seems like the white pawns should not be worse than a rook.]

50...♖e3+! And now Black is promoting the f-pawn very quickly. Less accurate was [50...♖e2 51.♘xd8 ♖xa2 52.b7 f2 53.b8=♙ f1=♙ 54.♘e6+ And White will mate or win the queen. 54...♙f7 55.♙f8++-]

51.♙b4 ♖e2 52.♖a1 f2 53.♘xd8 [53.♖f1 53...♖f8 54.b7 ♖b2+-+]

53...♖e1 54.♖a8 [54.b7 54...♖xa1 55.b8=♙ ♖b1+-+ This is why 50...Re3 was very important.]

54...f1=♙ 55.♘c6+ ♙g7 56.♖a7+ ♙f8 57.b7 Black will very easily stop the b-pawn and win the game.

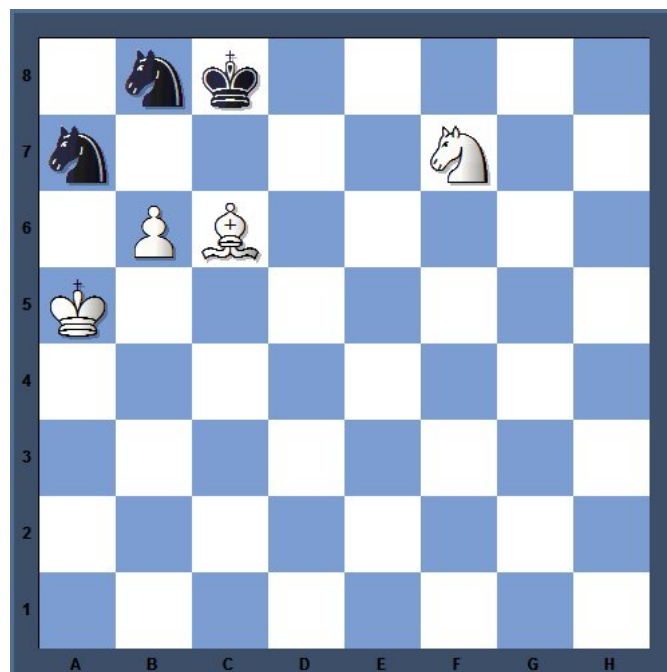
57...♖b1+ 58.♙c5 ♙f5+ 59.♙d6 ♖d1+ 60.♙c7 ♙d7+ 61.♙b6 ♖b1+ 62.♙c5 ♖xb7 63.♖a8+ ♙g70-1

Surprise section / study

(18) Sachodiakin

[CEWN]

1. +-



Solutions

(19) Ivanchuk, V(2731)-Wojtaszek, R(2701)

Riga rapid, 2013.09.13

[Solutions]



24... ♖xe2! 25. ♖xe2 [25. ♖xe2 25... ♖xd4!±]

25... ♖xd4!±

(20) Jakovenko, D(2724)-Svidler, P(2746)

Riga rapid, 2013.09.13

[Solutions]



18... ♖g4! 19. ♖h3 [19. ♖xg4 19... ♖xd4 20. ♖h3 ♖xf1-+]

19... ♖xd4 [19... ♖xh2+!? 20. ♖xh2 ♖xh2 21. ♖xg7 (21. ♖xh2 21... ♖xd4-+)] 21... ♖xf1-+]

20. ♖xc4 [20. ♖xg4 20... ♖c5-+]

(21) Wojtaszek, R(2701)-Grischuk, A(2785)

Riga rapid, 2013.09.14

[Solutions]



24...b3!! 25.axb3 ♘a3! 26.♞xe6 ♞c3! 27.♞d3 [27.♞a1 27...♞xa6--+]]

27...♞e2+ [27...♞cb5! 28.♞xb5 ♞c1+ 29.♞e1 ♞xe1+ 30.♞f2 ♞xe6--+]]

28.♞f1 ♞c1--+

(22) Radjabov, T(2733)-Svidler, P(2746)

Riga rapid, 2013.09.14

[Solutions]



21...♞xd3! 22.♞xd3 c4+ 23.♞e3 [23.♞e3 23...♞c5--+]]

23...cxd3 24.♞xa7 ♞xa7--+

(23) Vakhidov, J(2385)-Indjic, A(2549)

World Junior Championship, 2013.09.14

[Solutions]



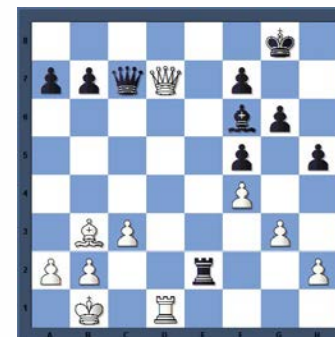
28.♞xe6! ♞e8 [28...fxe6 29.♞xe6+ ♞f7 30.♞xd5--+]]

29.♞d6! fxe6 30.♞xe5--

(24) Asgarizadeh, A(2354)-Kanarek, M(2483)

World Junior Championship, 2013.09.14

[Solutions]



25...♞xb2+! 26.♞xb2 ♞xc3+ 27.♞a3 ♞a5+! [27...♞c5+? 28.♞a4]]

28.♞a4 [28.♞a4 28...♞c5+ 29.♞b3 ♞c3#]]

28...♞c5+! 29.♞b4 ♞b2+! 30.♞a4 [30.♞xb2 30...♞xb4--+]]

30...b5+! 0-1 [30...b5+ 31.♞xb5 (31.♞a5 31...♞b6#) 31...♞a3#]]

(25) Yu Yangy(2662)-Salem, S(2570)

World Junior Championship, 2013.09.16

[Solutions]



32. ♖ed5! [32. ♖cd5!]

32...cxd5 33. ♖xd5 ♜g7 34. ♖xb6+ ♔c7 35. ♖xd7 ♜a8
36. b6+ ♔c6 37. ♜d5+-

(26) Eliseev, U(2550)-Bai, J(2419)

World Junior Championship, 2013.09.16

[Solutions]



44. ♜g5!! [44. ♜f7+? 44... ♔h6+]]

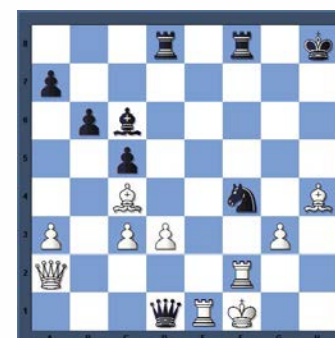
44... ♜xe7 [44... ♜xg5 45. ♜f7+ ♔h6 46. ♜h8#]

45. ♜xe7+ ♔xe7 46. ♜f7+ ♔h6 47. ♜xe7 ♜b1+ 48. ♔h2 ♖d6
49. h41-0

(27) Hovhanissyan, R(2623)-Kuzubov, Y(2628)

Lake Sevan, 2013.09.15

[Solutions]

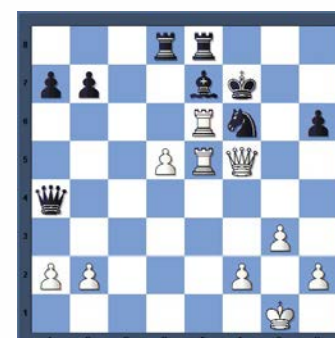


44... ♔g2+! 45. ♜xg2 ♖xd3+ 46. ♔g1 ♖xe1+-

(28) Dziuba, M(2610)-Gajewski, G(2653)

Polish league, 2013.09.14

[Solutions]

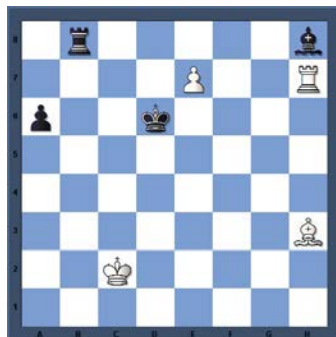


27. ♜xe7+! [27. ♜xf6+? 27... ♔xf6 28. ♜h7+ ♔f8+-]

27... ♜xe7 28. ♜xe7+ ♔xe7 29. ♜e6+ ♔f8 30. ♜xf6+ ♔g8
31. ♜g6+ ♔f8 32. ♜f6+ ♔e8 33. ♜e6+=

(29) Kling

[Solutions]



1. ♖d7!! ♔xd7 [1... ♖b2+ 2. ♖c1 ♖xd7 3. e8=♚+! ♖xe8
4. ♖xh8+ ♖f7 5. ♖xb2+-]

2. e8=♚+! ♖xe8 3. ♖xh8+ ♖d7 4. ♖xb8+-



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 84

4th of October 2013

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Editorial Preface

The women FIDE Grand Prix was won very convincingly by Koneru with 8/11. 2nd and 3rd places were shared by Khotenashvilli and Lagno with 7/11.

In the men FIDE Grand Prix in Paris, Nakamura is leading with a very nice result of 5,5 after the first 8 rounds, followed by Gelfand and Caruana with 5/8. The situation is very interesting, because in case Caruana became the unshared winner of the Grand Prix he would qualify for the Candidates. The last 3 rounds are going to be very exciting.

The very strong Baku Open was won by Smirnov with 7/9.

As usual we bring you an annotated selection of the best games of the past week. Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Laznicka, Viktor(2677)

- Topalov, Veselin(2769) [D31]

Topalov-Laznicka m 2013(6), 2013.09.25

[Balogh Csaba]

We are in the 6th and last game of this friendly match. The score is 3-2 to Topalov. Laznicka has the White pieces and tries to level the match.

1.c4 e6 2.♘c3 d5 3.d4 ♙e7 Topalov plays the Queen's Gambit, one of the most solid openings against 1.d4 nowadays. His intentions are clearly to build a safe position for a draw and if White pushes too hard, he might use his chances.

4.cxd5 exd5 5.♙f4 c6 6.e3 ♙f5



7.g4 This ambitious move is White's dangerous extra option when they spare the 4.Nf3 Nf6 pair of moves. White takes ground on the kingside.

7...♙e6 8.♙d3 [8.h3 and; 8.h4 are the two main theoretical lines. This one is considered to be the most critical one. Nakamura had just won a nice game against Bacrot with it a few days ago.]

8...♘d7 9.♙f5 This is the novelty. According to the speed at which Laznicka played it, it was a prepared one, but after this game I doubt that anyone is interested in repeating it. [9.h3 was played in the previous games, with the idea to be able to finish the development with Nge2 or Nf3-e5, but Black launches a quick counterplay with 9...g5 10.♙g3 h5 and Black is fine according to the theory.]

9...♙xf5 10.gxf5 Black has various playable options here.



10...♙b4 Topalov decided to develop the g8 knight to e7, directly attacking the doubled pawn. [Trading the bishops was also logical: 10...♙g5 With the same idea of putting the knight to e7. 11.♙g3 ♘e7; 10...♘b6 is a common idea in this kind of positions. Black wants to play Bd6 here. The most natural reaction is 11.♘f3 with the idea to play Ne5 after Bd6, but here for instance Black could try 11...♘c4 12.♙c2 ♙d6 and after 13.♘e5 ♙c7! forces White to leave the nice e5 square with his knight. Black is going to develop his knight to e7 here as well.]

11.♘e2 ♘e7 12.♙c2



12...b6 A multifunctional move. Black frees the d7 square for the queen in order to further attack the f5 pawn. He also prepares the trade of the dark squared bishops with Bd6, which is a favorable exchange for him in this structure and sometimes Black might transfer his knight to its ideal square on d6 through c4. [12...g6 was good immediately as well.]

13.f3 With the idea to play e4, supporting the f5 pawn. [13.g1 13...g6 14.e5 g8 is also fine for Black. He is intending to castle queenside anyway.]

13...g6 [13...d6 was also good.]

14.fxg6 [14.f6? looks nice, but it drops the pawn after 14...g8+ White is not in time to protect it with e4-e5.]



14...xg6! I like this move a lot. After this it is much easier for Black to finish the development. The main idea is to free the e7 square for the queen followed by castling queenside. [14...hxg6 It was more principled to take towards to the center, open the h-file for the rook and to have only two pawn islands, but Black might have some problems in creating safety for the king. 15.O-O-O The last preparation before pushing e4. 15...d7 16.e4 The game is very unclear as Black cannot play 16...O-O-O? because of 17.b5!±]

15.O-O-O [After 15.g3 the easiest is 15...g5! with the point that after 16.e4 O-O-O White cannot castle queenside.]

15...e7 Developing with tempo as Black is now threatening to take on f4 and then on e3.

16.d3 White protects the e3 pawn with the idea to save his bishop with Bg3. [16.e4 leads to a clear advantage for Black after 16...xc3 17.xc3 xf4 18.xf4 O-O-O Black is well prepared for the central break. He is also threatening with the unpleasant pin of Qg5.]

16...c4 [16...xf4 17.xf4 O-O-O=+ was also better for Black.]

17.b3?! This is a serious weakening in front of the king. White was annoyed by the c4 knight. [17.b1 was better, but Black is fine anyway after 17...O-O-O=+]

17...a3 18.b2 xf4 Black chooses the right moment to get rid of the bishop, as it was threatening to run away.

19. ♖xf4



19... ♖g8! One more very useful move before castling. Black occupies the open file first.

20. ♖f2 O-O-O 21. ♖b2



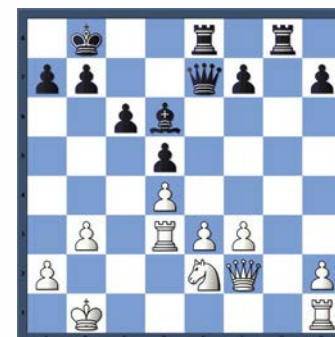
21... ♖b8 Obviously not a necessary, but a good prophylactic move against any kind of checks. Black has a big advantage. All his pieces are excellently placed and his pawn formation is also perfect. He is well prepared against the only active idea of White, to push e4, which would only destroy his own position. White is forced to maneuver inside his camp, but Black has a more free game.

22. ♖b1 ♖de8! Further improving the pieces.

23. ♖xa3 ♖xa3+ 24. ♖b1 ♖d6! Topalov plays great! The bishop is much more useful on d6, as Black cannot create

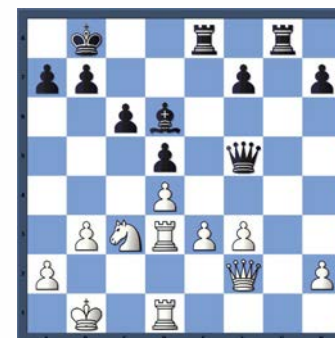
an attack, which could have been well supported by the a3 bishop.

25. ♖e2



25... ♖e6! Small and strong moves! Black improves his queen by driving it to f5!

26. ♖c3 ♖f5 27. ♖d1



27... ♖g6! Topalov doubles his rooks on the g-file in order to penetrate on the second rank. Black might also threaten to play Rh6 or Rf6, provoking another weakening in White's camp.

28. ♖d2 ♖h3 29. f4 A sad move, but what to do, there was nothing better. This destroys the flexibility of the central pawns. [29. ♖b2 simple loses to 29... ♖eg8+ and Rg2 next.;

29.e4 would have strongly be met by 29...♙f4! 30.♖e2 dxe4 White cannot take back with the f-pawn and after 31.♘xe4 ♖eg8—+ wins.]

29...♙f5! The queen has done its job by provoking f4. Now it leaves from the pin and the e4-e5 threat.

30.♘e2 White tries to lock the g-file to avoid the penetration of the rooks, but Topalov simply sends the g3 knight away with his h-pawn.

30...h5! 31.♘g3 ♖g4 h4 is coming next. The knight is really poor and there is no outpost it could occupy in the position.

32.♖e2 h4 33.♖xg4 ♖xg4 34.♘f5 White at least tries to make an active move, but it leads to the trap of the knight. [34.♘f1 34...♙b4 35.♖f2 ♖eg8—+ Rg2 is coming next, White's position is hopeless.]

34...♙b4 35.h3 [35.♖f2 is met in the same way as in the game: 35...♖h8!—+ Protecting the h-pawn and threatening Rh5, winning the knight, which White cannot prevent.]

35...♖g6 36.♖e2 [After 36.♘h4 the easiest win is 36...♖g1+ (36...♖h6 37.♘f5 ♖f6 38.♘g7 ♖h8—+ also wins.) 37.♖d1 ♖xd1+ 38.♖xd1 ♖xe3 39.♖h1 ♖e4—+ Grabbing all the pawns.]



36...♖h8! Rh5 is coming next. There is no way back for the knight.

37.e4 ♖f6 Black takes on e4 next. [37...♖h5 would have led to the same result after 38.♘e3 dxe4 39.♖d1 ♖g3—+]

38.♘g7 ♖g8 [White resigned in view of 38...♖g8 39.♘h5 ♖h6 The knight and the game are lost. A great positional achievement by Topalov, who deservedly won the match 4-2 with this neat finish.] **0-1**

(2) Ivanchuk, Vassily(2731) - Grischuk, Alexander(2785) [D83]

FIDE GP Paris(5.6), 2013.09.27

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We will see a strange game where White very quickly got into trouble and finally lost the game to a beautiful regrouping of the black pieces.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 At the moment the Gruenfeld is probably the most popular opening on the top level. Carlsen, Anand, Caruana, Grischuk, Gelfand, Vachier Lagrave are just some of the players who are playing it as one of their main openings. As we can see from the latest games, the White players don't manage to find some global line to get a nicer position, so they keep on trying many sidelines, trying to test Black's memory as well as preparing some small improvement which can be quite unpleasant to solve during the game.

4.♗f4 Not the most ambitious line for White to try and reach something out of the opening.

4...♗g7 5.e3



5...0-0 [5...c5 is the other main line.]

6.♖c1 [In case White tried to win the pawn, Black would

quickly get equal play: 6.cxd5 6...♘xd5 7.♗xd5 ♗xd5 8.♗xc7 And now the very strong 8...♘a6! 9.♗xa6 Anything else leads to a very dangerous position for White. 9...♗xg2 10.♗f3 ♗xf3 11.♘xf3 bxa6 With an equal endgame.]

6...♗e6 We are still following the theory.

7.c5 Not a new move, but a rare one. It was played on the highest level for the first time by Wang Yue against Carlsen in 2009, but all in all it somehow does not look too scary for Black. White's idea is simple: to be solid on the kingside and try to get some play on the queenside, where he has a space advantage.

7...c6 The most logical move. Black consolidates the center. He wants to play Nbd7 next and sometime in the future try to play e5.

8.b4 ♘bd7 9.♗d3 [9.h3 would maybe have been a more careful move...]

9...♘h5! A very nice move. Without the black bishop I cannot imagine White having even a theoretical chance of being better.

10.♘ge2



10...f6! Another very logical and strong decision. Black brings the bishop to f7 to play e5 next.

11.h4?! This move looks very strange. White is weakening his pawn structure too much. [11.O-O would have been the more normal continuation.]

11...♟f7 12.♟h2 White defends against the direct e5 move because of the strength of g4 next and the knight on h5 would be caught.

12...f5 Well played! Black continues trying to play e5, as the h4 pawn would then be attacked.

13.f4? This move is just shocking! White makes a pawn out of the bishop and he totally destroys his structure. Black is just much better now.

13...♞hf6 Black's idea is simple, to bring one knight to e4, the other one maybe to g4 and open the queenside by playing b6 and a5. He would then be getting great play because of his much better pieces and the bad white bishop on h2.

14.♟g3 ♞g4 15.♞d2



15...♞df6 Black is putting his knights to perfect positions.

16.♞d1 ♞e4 17.♟xe4 White already doesn't have anything better, but now the black bishop on f7 is becoming a monster piece.

17...dxe4 Black has all the white squares under control, so what is left is to open the a-file.

18.a4 Ivanchuk is trying to have b5 after a5.

18...b6 But Black is first opening the b-file. It seems like the game will not last too long, but White finds a little bit of counterplay.

19.h5! Well, this move doesn't improve the position much, but at least White is going to die with a smile. In case of some waiting move Black would just play bxc5 and Rb8 followed by doubling on the b-file.

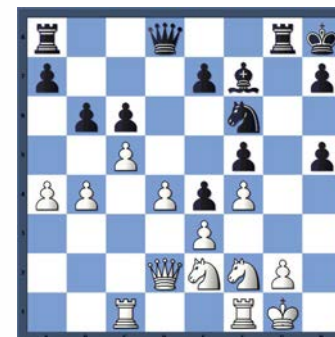
19...gxh5 Why not take a pawn if you can?!

20.♟h4 ♟f6? I think this is a big mistake by Black. I don't understand why it was necessary to exchange these bishops. [20...♞d7 looks much more simple after 21.♞f2 ♞f6 the knight will find a perfect position on d5!]

21.♟xf6?! White helps Black to get the knight to d5, but there was no reason for it! [21.♞f2! It is very important for White to exchange the knights as soon as possible. 21...♟xh4 22.♞xh4 ♞f6 23.b5 And maybe White is still more or less in the game.]

21...♞xf6 22.♞f2 ♞h8 Black is also trying to be strong on the kingside, but I think there was no need for that, and Black should just have stuck to the plan of crushing on the queenside.

23.O-O ♞g8



24.b5 White is looking for exchanges, which is correct. His

only chance is to exchange as many pieces as possible.

24...♖c8 25.cxb6 ♖xb6 26.a5 [Maybe a better practical try for White would have been to play 26.♖c5 26...cxb5 27.♖xb5 ♖e6 and of course Black is better, but at least White has a strong rook on the 5th rank.]

26...♖b7 A solid move, not falling into any traps.

27.bxc6 ♖xc6 28.♖xc6 ♖xc6 29.♖c1 It looks like White is not doing too bad, but in fact the game is almost lost! Black is a pawn up and the open g-file plus the possibility of having a monster knight on d5 make things very easy for him.



29...♖a6! A very nice move! Black is not only fixing the a-pawn, he also wants to play Nd5 followed by Qg6.

30.♖c5?! The last mistake in a very difficult position.

30...♗c4! And the dream idea of Black is coming true... The g2 pawn is falling!

31.♗c3 ♗f1 White cannot defend against Rxc2. All in all it was of course not the best game Ivanchuk ever played but it was quite interesting because of the pawn structures which we don't see too often... **0-1**

(3) Caruana, Fabiano(2779) - Ivanchuk, Vassily(2731) [C11]

FIDE GP Paris(6.5), 2013.09.28

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Before the game it was clear that this game was going to be very interesting. Caruana needs to win the Grand Prix to take the qualification place for the Candidates and with Ivanchuk, as we all know all too well, anything can happen.

1.e4 e6 Before the game it is really very hard to predict which opening Ivanchuk is going to choose as he plays almost everything.

2.d4 d5 3.♗c3 ♗f6 4.e5 The main move. Another option is to play 4.Bg5.

4...♗fd7 5.f4 c5 6.♗f3 ♗c6 7.♗e3 And we are in the main line.

7...♖b6 A rather rare move. Not so long ago in the game Caruana-Meier from Dortmund 2013, Black continued with 7...a6 and got quite good play, but Black's position was looking really dangerous at some moment, so Caruana was clearly ready with some nice improvement there.

8.♗a4! The best reply. White is getting clearly better play in my opinion.

8...♖a5+ 9.c3 c4 This is still theory, but I would personally not advice anyone to go for this position with Black. It looks like it is simply better for White.



10.b4! Another important move. Black wanted to play b5 next.

10...♔c7 [10...cxb3 11.axb3 would of course lead to a much better position for White.]

11.♙e2 [11.g3 followed by Bh3 next was also possible. The idea is not to give Black the option to play f6 or f5 next, because White would have immediate pressure on the e6 pawn.]

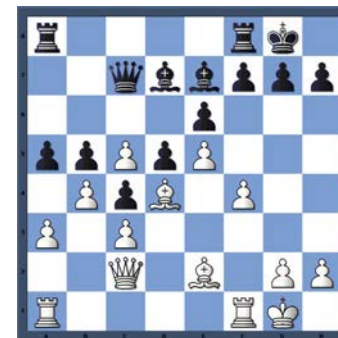
11...♙e7 12.O-O O-O 13.♔c2 Now Black has to decide what to do next. White's plan is easy, to block everything on the queenside and start his play on the kingside, where White has much more space.

13...b5?! looks like a wrong decision to me. Now White is going to be better in any case. [13...f5!? would probably have been an interesting try for Black. 14.exf6 ♜xf6 15.♙e5 And of course White's position looks better, but maybe Black could try to play against the bad position of the white knight on a4. 15...b6! And the game is quite open.]

14.♞c5 Of course to c5, not to b2!

14...♞xc5 15.dxc5 15.bxc5 was of course not looking good for White, as Black would have kept the idea of playing b4 in the future.

15...a5 16.a3 ♙d7 17.♞d4 ♞xd4 18.♙xd4 I think that by now it is clear that White has gained quite an opening edge. The c5 pawn can become very strong in the future and Black doesn't really have a plan. White's ideas stay the same, to play f5 at some good moment.



18...axb4?! Another strange move by Black. [At least Black should have tried to win the a-file: 18...♖a6 19.♔b2 ♖fa8 And of course White's position is better, but Black could have the plan of playing Bc6 followed by Qa7 next and winning the a-file.]

19.axb4 ♖xa1 20.♖xa1 Black has no space and no counterplay, which makes it very difficult for him to defend this position.

20...♔b7 21.♔a2 White is provoking Black into playing Bc6 to draw the bishop's attention away from the f5 square.

21...♙c6 22.♔b1 White wants to play f5 or maybe Bd1-Bc2 first and then g4 followed by f5.

22...f5 Black is looking for some play, but there is simply none.

23. exf6 ♗xf6



24. ♔d1 Black's position is not improving. The bishop on c6 is just horrible, White is controlling the a-file and all endgames should be very close to lost for Black.

24... ♖a8 25. ♖xa8+ ♗xa8 26. ♗g4 White is not looking for an immediate win, and there is of course no reason for that. Caruana is aiming for the endgame.

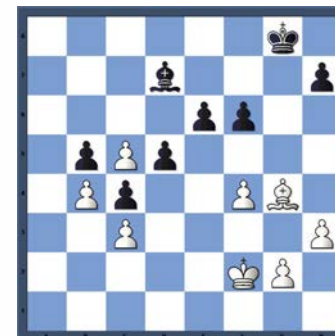
26... ♗d7 27. h3 With this move, White is avoiding all future e5 pushes, which might work by accident at some point.

27... ♗e8 28. ♗d2 Again White does not hurry!

28... ♗f7 29. ♗e3 Now White just wants to play Be5 next, followed by Qd4.

29... ♗xd4 30. ♗xd4 ♗f6 Black tries to cover the dark squares, but it does not help.

31. ♗xf6 gxf6 32. ♔f2 The white king is going to d4.



32... ♗f7 33. ♗e3 It is slightly surprising that Black already resigned here, but of course White's position should be winning. The idea is quite simple, to put the king to d4, play Bf3 and start moving the pawns g4-h4 and g5, winning control over the e5 square and the game. A very nice technical win by Caruana and a big step in view of a qualification for the Candidates. 1-0

(4) Grischuk, Alexander(2785) - Nakamura, Hikaru(2772) [D37]

FIDE GP Paris(6.4), 2013.09.28

[Balogh Csaba]

Grischuk was pressing very hard in all his games - especially in the White ones - in order to qualify to the Candidates tournament, but Nakamura managed to neutralize all his winning attempts really convincingly.

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 e6 4.♘c3 [4.g3 4...♙e7 5.♙g2 O-O 6.♘c3 (However in this move order the main and most critical move is 6.O-O)]

4...♙e7 The Queen's Gambit is considered to be one of the safest openings.

5.g3 A relatively rare line, White transposes to the Catalan opening. The main lines are 5.Bg5 and 5.Bf4.

5...O-O 6.♙g2 dxc4 7.♘e5 Before this game it was quite unclear whether 7... Nc6 or 7...c5 is the best reply, but Nakamura's opening handling seems to give an answer to this question.



7...c5! 8.dxc5 ♖xd1+ 9.♘xd1 ♙xc5 10.♘e3 White would like to get a typical Catalan endgame advantage with his superior minor pieces on g2 and e5. Black also has some technical

problems with finishing the development of the queenside. Black must react accurately. [The other option is 10.♘xc4 but in this case Black can develop his knight to c6. 10...♘c6 11.♙e3 And Black equalizes after 11...♙b4+! 12.♙d2 (12.♘c3 12...♘d5=) 12...♙xd2+ 13.♘xd2 ♙d7=]

10...♘bd7! 11.♘5xc4 Grischuk would like to keep all the pieces on the board in order not to ease Black's task in solving the development problems. [11.♘3xc4 is met by 11...♘xe5 12.♘xe5 ♙d4! Forcing the strong knight to leave its position. 13.♘c4 ♙d7 Black finishes the development and equalizes, as after Bxb7 Black gets strong compensation. 14.♙xb7 ♖ab8 15.♙f3 ♖fc8 White suddenly becomes the undeveloped one with his c1 bishop.]



11...♖b8! Very precise play by Nakamura. He leaves from the bishop's diagonal with the aim to play b6 and Bb7.

12.♘a5 White knows that if Black manages to play b6 he will solve his opening problems, which is why he fights against it as much as he can. This time he would like to jump to c6 with his knight. Nakamura makes a great prophylactic move again!

12...♘e5! Refreshing the b6 idea by taking the c6 square under control. Black uses the fact that the e3 knight blocks the bishop's way and he cannot pin the e5 knight with Bf4!

13.♘ec4 White would like to put his bishop to f4 with tempo.

13...♙b4+! An unpleasant check! White either has to trade his bishop, which was intending to go to f4, or to move to f1 with the king, but then he could not connect his rooks.

14.♙d2 ♙xd2+ 15.♙xc2 [15.♘xd2 15...b6 is also fine for Black.]

15...♖d8+ 16.♙c3 That kind of march with the king is only possible if the queens are off the board. Black could still have created dangerous threats. 16.Ke1 would have been safer to keep equality.



16...♙xc4 This spoils Black's chances to overtake the initiative. [16...♙eg4! was very strong, using the fact that the king has left the f2 square. 17.♖hd1 (17.f4 is met by 17...♙d5+ 18.♙b3 ♙d7+ Suddenly the a5 knight is trapped. Black threatens to play b6 and all his pieces are also excellently placed.; 17.f3 is ugly as it locks the g2 bishop. 17...♙d5+ 18.♙b3 ♙ge3 19.♙xe3 ♙xe3 20.♙h3 Black has several ways to increase his advantage. Probably the best is 20...♖d4 21.♖ac1 ♙d7 The e3 knight is a beast. The h3 bishop and the a5 knight are completely out of the game. 22.♖c3 does not work because of



22...♙a4+ 23.♙a3 ♙c2+ Winning an exchange.) 17...♙d5+ 18.♙xd5 is met by the strong intermediate move (18.♙b3 18...♙xf2 19.♖d4 ♙d7 20.♖f1 b6+ Trapping the knight.) 18...♙xf2! 19.♖f1 exd5 20.♖xf2 dxc4 21.♙xc4 ♙e6 Black has the better pawn structure and his bishop is also superior to the knight.]

17.♙xc4



17...b6! 18.♙c6 ♙b7! A nice tactical idea by Nakamura! He never misses such moments.

19.♙b3! White had to be careful to avoid the problems. He leaves from the threatening Rac8. [19.♙xb8 loses a pawn after 19...♙xg2 20.♙a6 ♙xh1 21.♖xh1 ♖d2+; The whole point was that after 19.♙xd8 19...♙xg2 20.♖hd1 Black wins the knight with 20...♙d5+!+]

19...♟xc6 20.♟xc6 White might hope for an advantage with the strong bishop if he had his rook on d1 and his pawn on h3 to prevent Ng4. However the lack of these tempi allows Black to generate counterplay in time.



20...♞g4 21.f3 ♞e3 White cannot get to the d-file anymore and Black threatens to play Rd2.

22.♟e4 Grischuk tries to neutralize the invading on the d2 square by settling his bishop to d3. Afterwards he intends to occupy the c-file and the game becomes balanced. Nakamura decided to force the matters.

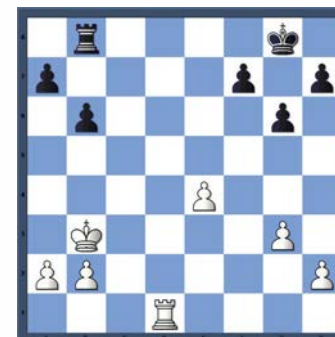
22...♞f5 23.♟xf5 [If White tries to keep his bishop by playing 23.♟d3 23...♞d4+ he now has to play 24.♞c3 since otherwise Black takes on f3 and the d3 bishop is unprotected! 24...♞d5 25.♞hd1 ♞bd8=+ Followed by e5! Black is very active and only he can be better here.]

23...exf5 24.♞ad1 ♞e8 Grischuk was already down on time, which is why Nakamura decides to try a bit more, but it does not change the final outcome. [24...♞f8 was also a dead draw.]

25.♞he1! [25.♞d2 25...♞e3+ was Black's plan.]

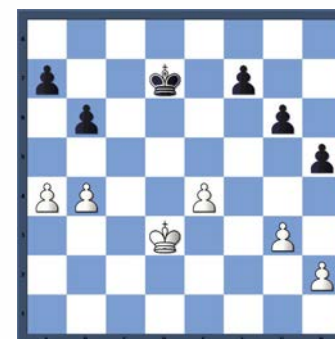
25...g6 [Now after 25...♞e3+ White plays 26.♞d3=]

26.e4 fxe4 27.♞xe4 ♞xe4 28.fxe4



28...♞b7! The game is drawn now. The players could not agree on it because of the Sofia rules, but after some further moves the result will be the same.

29.♞d4 ♞f8 30.a4 ♞e7 31.♞c3 h5 32.b4 ♞e6 33.♞d3 a5 [A last interesting moment. Let's check what happens if Black simplifies to a pawn endgame. 33...♞d7? 34.♞xd7 ♞xd7]



It seems like White is winning after 35.e5! ♞e6 36.♞e4 ♞e7 (36...a6 37.b5 axb5 38.axb5 ♞e7 (38...g5 39.h3+- Kf5 is coming next.) 39.♞d5 ♞d7 40.h4! And the game is over. 40...♞c7 (40...♞e7 41.♞c6+-) 41.e6 f6 (41...fxe6+ 42.♞xe6+-) 42.e7 ♞d7 43.e8=♞+ ♞xe8 44.♞c6+- wins.) 37.♞d5 ♞d7 38.b5 g5 39.h3+- Black finds himself in zugzwang. The king invades either on c6 or through e6.]

34.♔e3 f6 35.h4 ♖a7 36.♔f4 ♖a8 37.♖c4 axb4 38.♖xb4
 ♖a6 39.♖d4 ♖a5 40.♖b4 ♖a6 41.♖d4 ♖a5 42.♖b4 Finally
 the players found a repetition and they agreed to draw.
 1/2-1/2

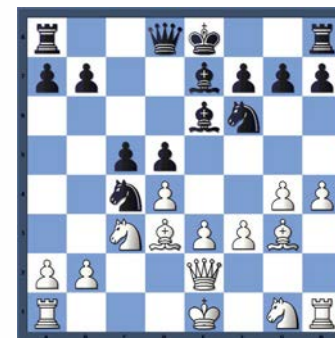
Puzzle section

(5) Nakamura, H(2772)-Bacrot, E(2723)

Paris GP, 2013.09.24

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Nakamura, H(2772)-Caruana, F(2779)

Paris GP, 2013.09.29

[CEWN]

1. +-



(7) Azarov, S(2636)-Rzayev, B(2464)

Baku Open, 2013.09.25

[CEWN]

1. +-



(8) Shanava, K(2567)-Azarov, S(2636)

Baku Open, 2013.09.26

[CEWN]

1. +-

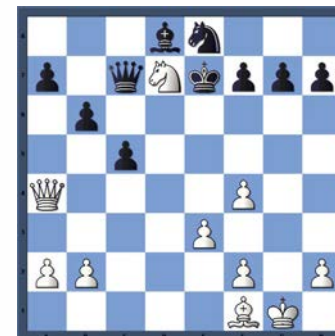


(9) Jumabayev, R(2562)-Pourramenazali, A(2455)

Baku Open, 2013.09.26

[CEWN]

1. +-

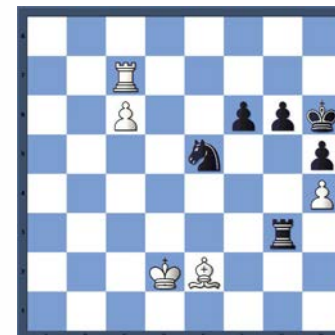


(10) Ghaem Maghami, E(2549)-Izzat, K(2347)

Baku Open, 2013.09.26

[CEWN]

1. +-



(11) Bluebaum, M(2514)-Babula, V(2571)

Bremen, 2013.09.25

[CEWN]

1. +-

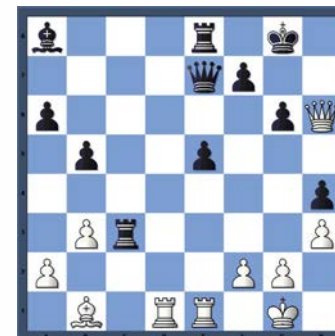


(13) Adhiban, B(2567)-Koskela, N(2220)

Oslo Open, 2013.09.30

[CEWN]

1. +-

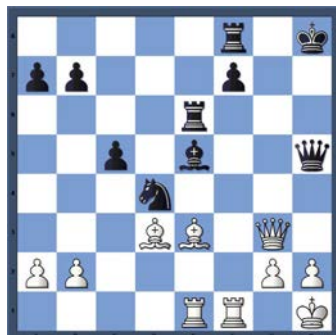


(12) Babula, V(2571)-Joachim, S(2422)

Bremen, 2013.09.28

[CEWN]

1. +-

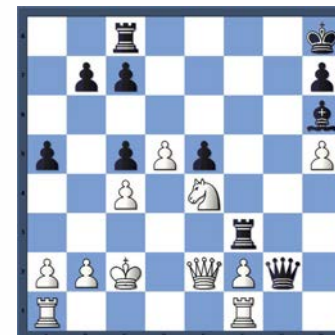


(14) Nasri, A(2347)-Kotronias, V(2579)

Baku Open, 2013.09.19

[CEWN]

1... -+



Endgame section

(15) Lagno, K.(2532)-Muminova, N.(2293)

FIDE WGP Tashkent(8.5), 2013.09.26

[CE Team]



Muminova, who is rated only 2293, got a clear advantage against her much stronger opponent with Black, which is already a great achievement, but how to convert this advantage into a full point?!

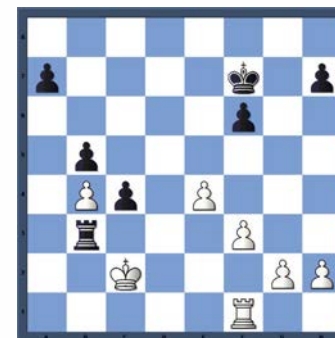
25.axb4 ♖d8?! Not the best move. [25...♗e8! would put White in front of possibly unsolvable problems! 26.f3 f5 The black rook will enter the 3rd rank, after which White simply doesn't have any more moves. Black's position should be close to winning here.]

26.♖c3 ♘d2 [26...♗d1? was of course not possible because of 27.♙xc4+ bxc4 28.♗xd1]

27.f3 ♘xf1 28.♗xf1 ♗d3+ 29.♖b2 Black managed to achieve a much better rook endgame, but rook endgames often have a tendency to be drawish, so Black needs to be very precise.

29...♗b3+ [29...♗d2+ would probably lead to a draw: 30.♖c3 ♗xg2 31.♗a1 The white rook is getting active very quickly.

31...♗f2 32.♗xa7+ ♖e6 33.♖d4! The activity of the white king secures the draw. 33...♗d2+ 34.♖c5=]

30.♖c2

30...♗xb4? A very logical move, but a mistake. [Black should have tried 30...♗a3! 31.♖b2 ♗a4 32.♖c3 ♗a2 and she would have kept some chances to win the game.]

31.♗a1! White is of course going for Black's a-pawn.

31...♗a4 To enter the pawn endgame Black's idea, but is it really a winning one?!

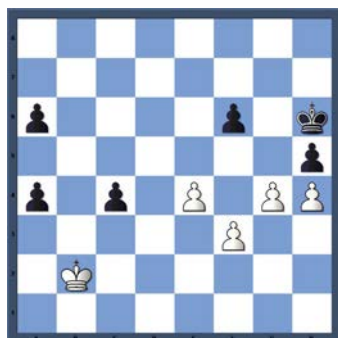
32.♗xa4 bxa4 33.g4! A very precise move! White is fixing Black's pawn structure.

33...♖g6 34.h4 h5 After this move all of Black's hopes vanish. [34...a3 was the only try. 35.♖c3 ♖f7 36.f4 ♖e6 37.♖c2 White can't do much but keep on waiting, but it seems to be enough to hold a draw. 37...h6 38.♖c3 ♖d6 39.♖c2 a5 40.♖c3 a4 41.♖c2 Black has improved her position to the maximum and only has one try left...



41...♔c5 And now White is holding with 42.g5! fxg5 43.fxg5 hxg5 44.hxg5 ♔d6 45.g6 ♔e6 46.e5 With an easy draw.]

35.♔b2 a6 36.♔b1 ♔h6 37.♔b2



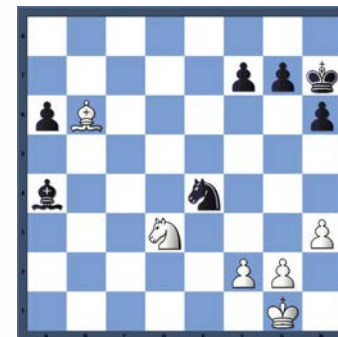
37...♔g6 White can't do anything and Black neither, so the position is just a draw.

38.♔b1 ♔h6 39.♔b2 a5 40.♔b1 ♔g6 41.♔b2 ♔h6 42.♔b1 ♔g6 43.♔b2 ♔h6 Pawn endgame es are always based on exact calculation, so one must be very careful entering one and be sure the calculation job is done carefully! 1/2-1/2

(16) Tomashevsky, E.(2703)-Dominguez Perez, L.(2757)

Paris GP, 2013.09.27

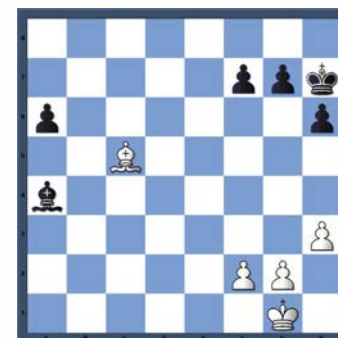
[CE Team]



Black had won a pawn earlier in the game, but because of the opposite colored bishops White holds the draw without any difficulty. The obligatory task to achieve this is to trade the knights off the board.

32.♖c5! ♖xc5 [32...♖c3 is met by 33.♖xa6= (33.♖a5? would fall into Black's trap since after 33...♖e2+ 34.♖f1 ♖b5 Black manages to save the extra pawn.)]

33.♖xc5



We have reached this theoretical endgame, which we can quite frequently find in practical games. Let's examine the holding technique on the highest level.

33...♟b5 34.♟b4 It is better to stop the passed pawn as less advanced as possible.

34...♞g6 35.♟c3 White prevents the Black king from approaching the a-pawn by attacking the g7 pawn. Black is forced to put his f-pawn onto a dark square in order to continue the journey.

35...f6 36.f3 White prepares to activate his king and also takes the e4 square under control.

36...♞f5 37.♞f2 The single bishop is not enough to stop the a-pawn, he needs his king over there.

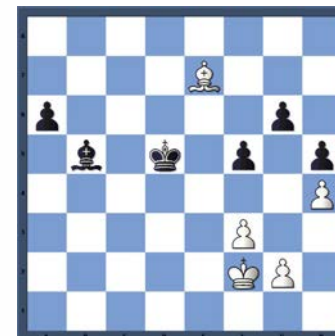
37...♞e6



38.h4 Tomashevsky starts to settle his pawns on dark squares, where he can protect them with his own bishop, while Black cannot attack them.

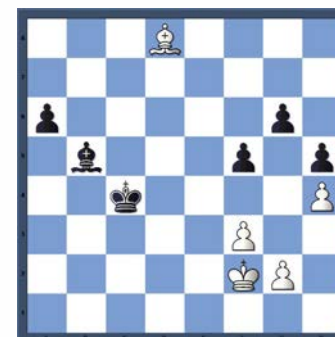
38...h5 [38...♞d5 39.♟b4 Because of the Bf8 threat, Black is forced to play h5 and it transposes to the game.]

39.♟b4 ♞d5 40.♟f8 g6 41.♟e7 f5 White succeeded in fixing all the pawns on the kingside, therefore he does not need to worry about any kind of breakthroughs. He is free to transfer his king to stop the a-pawn.



42.♟d8 A little finesse to win another tempo by preventing a5.

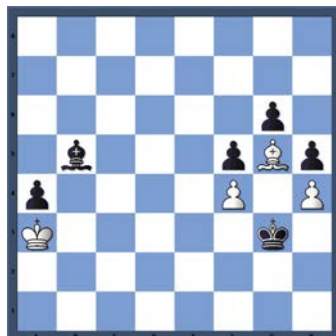
42...♞c4



43.f4! The f4 and h4 pawns are perfectly blocking the 3 pawns, White does not even need his g-pawn later on.

43...♞b4 44.♞e3 a5 45.♞d2 The king easily reaches the corner.

45...a4 46.♞c2 ♞c4 47.♞b2 ♞d4 48.g3 ♞e3 49.♞a3 ♞f3 50.♟g5 ♞xg3 White was playing on this position in the entire endgame. His king holds the a-pawn, while the bishop and two pawns are blocking the three pawns. Despite the two extra pawns, Black has to agree to a draw. We should try remember this defensive method.



51. ♖b4 ♔g4 52. ♖a3 ♔g3 53. ♖b4 ♔g4 54. ♖a3 ♔g3
55. ♖b4 1/2-1/2

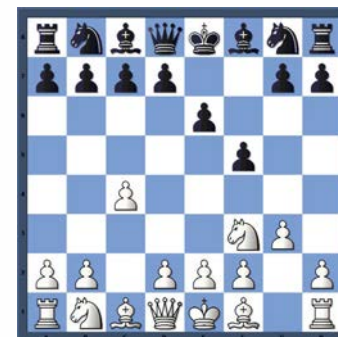
Clash of the Titans

(17) Euwe, Max-Alekhine, Alexander[A90]

Amsterdam m2(10), 1926

[Kamil Miton]

1. ♘f3 e6 2. c4 f5 3. g3



3... ♘c6!? Usually Black plays Nf6-Be7-d6 or Nf6-c6-d5. The knight on c6 helps Black to play e5 in the future but the problem is that White has the idea to push d4-d5.

4. d4 ♙b4+ 5. ♙d2 [5. ♘bd2 Keeping the bishop pair is always a good idea in this kind of structure.]

5... ♙xd2+ 6. ♙xd2 d6 7. ♘c3 ♘f6 8. ♙g2 Black's main idea is play e5 to fight for the space in the center and try to limit the white bishop after e4. We will that to achieve this is not an easy task.

8... O-O [8... e5 9. dxe5 dxe5 (9... ♘xe5 10. ♘xe5 (10. c5 10... ♘xf3+ 11. ♙xf3 dxc5 12. ♙xd8+ ♔xd8 13. ♘a4 c4 White has compensation but as he needs some time to recapture the c4 pawn, I think that Black should be able to equalize.) 10... dxe5 11. ♙xd8+ ♔xd8 12. O-O-O ♔e7 13. e4!↑ A strong move. White is preparing Re1 and doesn't allow Black to play e4.) 10. ♙xd8+ ♔xd8



11.O-O-O 12.e4 Another typical idea, otherwise Black limits the bishop by playing e4 himself. 12...fxe4 13.g5 14.gxe4+]

9.♖d1 The rook is well placed on d1 as Black's plan is to push e5. [9.d5 9...♗e5 (9...exd5 10.cxd5 ♗e5 11.♗d4 White has a stable advantage thanks to his better structure and a potential pressure on the c-file.) 10.♗xe5 (10.b3 is too slow as after 10...♗xf3+ 11.♗xf3 e5 Black has a good position.) 10...dxe5∞With the idea of playing e4 next. 11.e4 f4 12.gxf4 ♗h5 A typical trick. Black will now get counterplay on the dark squares.]



9...♗e7 Black transfers the knight to g6 to avoid the d5 idea. An interesting option was [9...♗e4!? 10.♗xe4 (10.♖c2 10...♗xc3 11.♖xc3 ♖f6 12.O-O e5) 10...fxe4 11.♗g5 d5

(11...♗xd4 12.♗xh7 ♖xh7 13.♖xd4) 12.O-O+ With the idea to play f3 next in order to activate the pieces.]

10.O-O ♗g6 The knight on g6 supports the e5 idea, but black lost too much time.



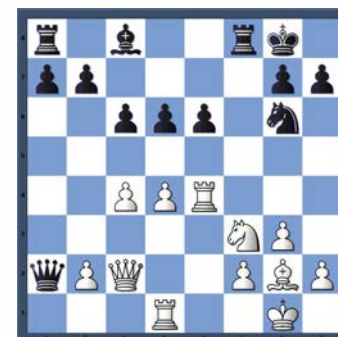
11.♖c2! White prepares the typical e4 break in the center.

11...c6 [11...f4!? could temporarily disturb White's idea to play e4.; 11...♖e7 12.e4 f4 13.e5! And White gets to play e5 first! The position is now very bad for Black.; 11...d5 Not allowing e4, but that is not why the knight went to g6. 12.e3+]

12.e4+ [12.b4 was also possible in order to open the position with b5.]

12...♖a5 [12...f4 13.e5±]

13.exf5 [13.♖fe1 13...fxe4 14.♗xe4 ♗xe4 15.♖xe4 ♖xa2



16.c5 With the idea of getting control over the dark squares. White has a huge initiative. (16.h4?! 16...d5∞; 16.♖e3 Threatening Ra3. White can also play c5 to win the e5 square, or h4-h5 to make the black king weaker.) 16...dxc5 17.♗e5↑]

13...exf5 [13...♙xf5 14.♙xf5 (14.♙e2 also looks good for White because the black pieces are badly coordinated.) 14...exf5 White has two plans: Rfe1 with the idea to play c5 and get control of the dark squares or d5 and after c5 Ng5, with the idea of putting an unpleasant knight on e6, as then after Bxe6 the bishop on g2 becomes very strong.]

14.d5 cxd5 [14...c5 15.♗g5 With the idea Ne6. White is much better as he has more space and the black queen is badly placed on a5.]

15.♗xd5 ♕d7 16.♗d4 White has a stable advantage thanks to his better structure, but the position is still not easy because of some possibilities for Black to put pressure on the kingside after f4-Ne5 etc.

16...f4

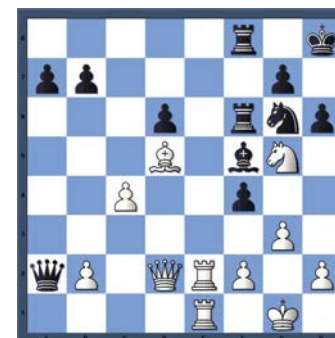


17.♖de1?! It looks a bit strange to put this rook on e1. [17.♙b3 With two threats, the simple Qxb7 or Nxf6 and c5.; 17.b4!? 17...♙d8 18.♗f5↑]

17...♗xd5 18.♕xd5+ ♖h8 19.♗e6 [19.♕xb7 19...♖ab8 20.♕d5 ♙xa2 (20...♕h3 21.♗c6)]

19...♖f6 20.♗g5 ♖af8 The Ne6-Ng5 maneuver had no big sense as White lost two tempi and allowed Black to double the rooks on the f-file. The position is already unclear.

21.♙b3 [21.♗e4 21...♕f5∞; 21.♖e2 The white rook simply escapes from some tactical threats which we will see in the next comment. 21...♕f5 22.♙d2 A good place for the queen in order to fight for the important f4 square. (22.♙b3 22...♗e5∞) 22...♙xa2 This endgame is of course good for White. 23.♖fe1↑ And now the white pieces nicely get activated, for instance: 23...h6



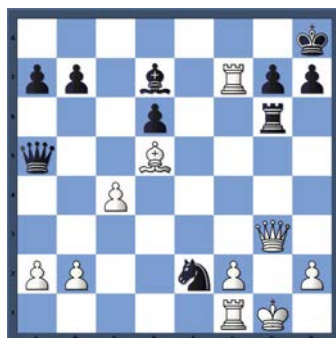
24.♗f7+!? ♖6xf7 25.♕xf7 ♖xf7 26.♖e8+ ♗f8 (26...♖h7 27.♙d5) 27.♙xd6 ♖g8 28.♙d5 g5 29.♖8e7 ♕g6 30.♖xb7 ♙a6 And Black only manages to defend by finding only moves.]

21...fxg3



22. ♖xg3? A mistake. White could have forced a draw after [22.hxg3 22...♖xf2 23.♖e3 ♖xf1+ 24.♖xf1 ♖xf1+ 25.♔xf1 The black king is now very weak and it is enough for White to make a draw. 25...h6 26.♘f7+ or (26.♖e4 26...♖d2 27.♖xg6 ♖c1+ 28.♔g2 ♖d2+ 29.♔f3 ♖d1+ 30.♔f2 ♖d2+=) 26...♔h7 27.♘g5+ With perpetual check because after 27...hxg5? 28.♖xg5 ♘h3+ 29.♔e2 ♘g4+ 30.♖xg4 ♔h6 31.♖d4± White is better.]

22...♘f4→ 23.♖e7 ♖g6 24.♖f7? The decisive mistake! White could still fight after [24.♘f7+ 24...♖xf7 25.♖xf7 ♘e2+



26.♔h1! (26.♔g2 26...♖d8! 27.♖xg6 hxg6 28.♖e1 ♘d4 29.♖ee7 ♘c6 30.♖xg7 ♘xd5+ 31.cxd5 ♘f5 32.♖h7+ ♔g8 33.♖xb7 a5—+) 26...♘xg3+ 27.fxg3 h5 Black needs the h6 square to escape

with the king. 28.♖xd7 ♖f6 29.♖xf6 gxf6 30.♖xb7 ♖xa2 31.♔g2 With good drawing chances.]

24...♖xf7 25.♘xf7+ ♔g8 26.♘e5+



26...♖xd5! And Black is winning material...

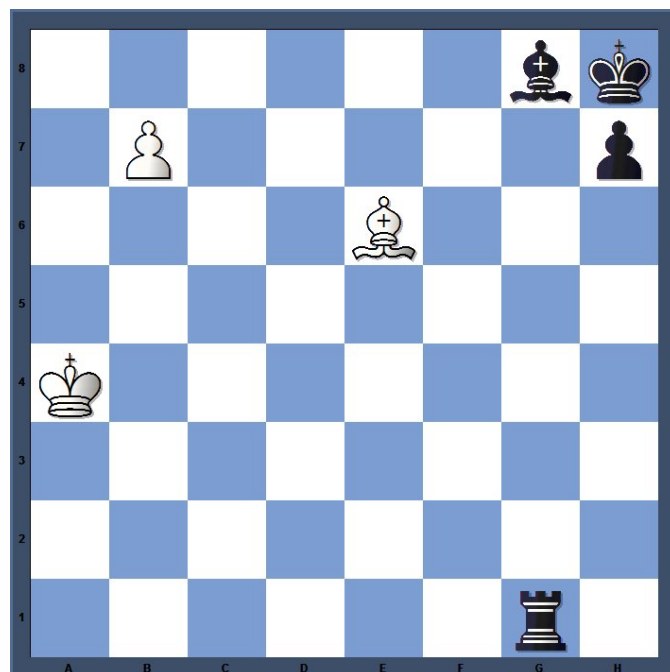
27.cxd5 ♘e2+0-1

Surprise section / study

(18) Isenegger

[CEWN]

1. =

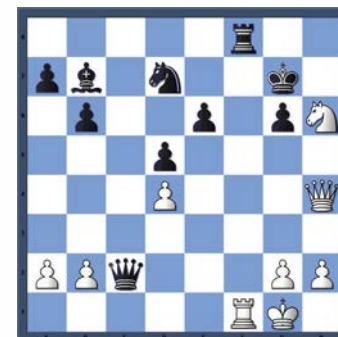


Solutions

(19) Grischuk, A(2785)-Wang Ha(2736)

Grand Prix, Paris, 2013.09.22

[Solutions]



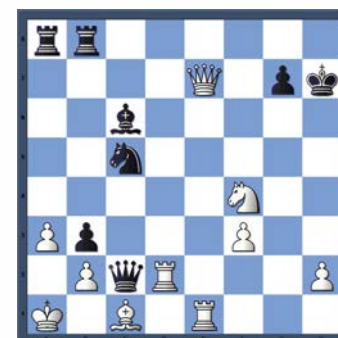
26. ♖e7+! ♔xh6 27. ♖h4+ ♔g7 28. ♖e7+ ♔h6 [28... ♔g8 29. ♖xe6+ ♔h8 30. ♖h3+! ♔g8 31. ♖e6+=; 28... ♔h8 29. ♖xf8+ ♔xf8 30. ♖xf8+ ♔h7 31. ♖e7+! ♔h6 32. ♖h4+=]

29. ♖h4+ ♔g7 30. ♖e7+ ♔h6 1/2

(20) Idani, P(2480)-Grover, S(2479)

World Junior Championship, 2013.09.21

[Solutions]



32... ♖xa3+! 33. bxa3 b2+! 34. ♗xb2 ♔b3+! 35. ♕a2 ♔c1+! 36. ♕a1! [36. ♖xc1? 36... ♖xb2+ 37. ♕a1 ♖a2#]

36... ♔b3+ 37. ♕a2 ♔c1+=

(21) Ju Wenju(2535)-Lagno, K(2532)

Tashkent, 2013.09.19

[Solutions]



29...♔g3!! 30.♖fxf2 ♔g1+! 31.♖f1 [31.♔d2? 31...♖d5+ 32.♔c3 ♔c1+ 33.♖c2 ♔xe3+ 34.♔b4 a5+ 35.♔a4 ♔d4+ 36.♖c4 b5+—+]

31...♔g3+ 32.♖ff2 [32.♔d1? 32...♖d5+ 33.♖d2 ♖xd2+ 34.♔xd2 ♔xc7—+]

32...♔g1+ 33.♖f1 ♔g3+ 1/2

(22) Danielian, E(2470)-Koneru, H(2607)

Tashkent, 2013.09.19

[Solutions]

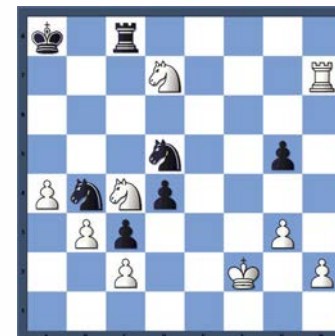


32...♖xb2! 33.♔xd4 ♖b1+ 34.♖d1 ♖xd1+ 35.♔xd1 ♔f2+ 36.♔g1 ♔xd1—+

(23) Stefanova, A(2496)-Ju Wenju(2535)

Tashkent, 2013.09.20

[Solutions]



52...d3!! 53.♔cb6+ [53.cxd3 53...c2—+]

53...♔xb6 54.♔xb6+ ♔b8 55.♔d7+ [55.♔xc8 55...dxc2—+]

55...♔a7 56.♔e5+ ♔b6 57.a5+ [57.♔xd3 57...♔xd3+ 58.cxd3 c2—+]

57...♔a6 58.♖h6+ ♔xa5 59.♖h7 dxc2—+

(24) Harika, D(2475)-Girya, O(2439)

Tashkent, 2013.09.20

[Solutions]



18.♔xd5! ♔f8 [18...exd5 19.♔xd5+ ♔h8 20.♔xc6 ♔xd5 21.♔xd5—+]

19.♔f4+—

(25) Izzat, K(2347)-Shimanov, A(2655)

Baku Open, 2013.09.22

[Solutions]



22. ♘f6+! 1-0 [22. ♘f6+ 22...gxf6 (22...♔f8 23. ♖c7 ♕e1+ 24. ♕f1+-) 23. ♖c7 ♕e1+ 24. ♕f1+-]

(26) Hracek, Z(2635)-Rezan, S(2456)

Croatian league, 2013.09.18

[Solutions]



34. ♖xf7+! 1-0 [34. ♖xf7+ 34...♖xf7 35. ♘e6+ ♔h7 36. ♘xg5+-]

(27) Petkov, V(2564)-Georgiev, K(2448)

Bulgarian league, 2013.09.22

[Solutions]



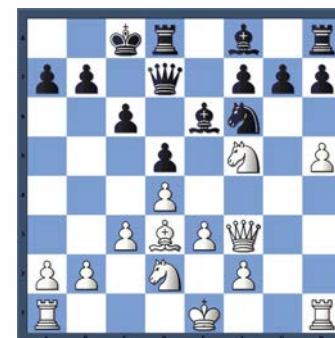
20. ♕d8!! ♘d4 [20... ♘xd8 21. ♖xd8+-; 20...♕d7 21. ♕c7+-]

21. ♕c7 ♖xb6 22. ♕xb6 1-0

(28) Nabaty, T(2575)-Georgiev, V(2549)

Bulgarian league, 2013.09.20

[Solutions]

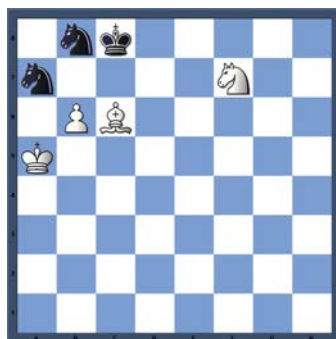


16. ♘xg7! ♕xg7 17. h6 ♕f8 [17... ♘e8 18. hxg7 ♘xg7 19. ♕xh7±]

18. ♖xf6±

(29) Sachodiakin

[Solutions]



1. ♖b7+!! [1. bxa7 1... ♜xc6+ 2. ♔b6 ♜xa7=]

1... ♔xb7 2. ♜d6+! ♔a8 [2... ♔c6 3. bxa7+—]

3. b7#



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 85

11th of October 2013

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Editorial Preface

And we are having again a super week of chess.

In the Russian Championship it seems like it is going to be a fight between Svidler and Kramnik for the Title. We can expect a very interesting finish. In the Russian women Championship the things are looking much more unclear. Gunina, Kosteniuk, Kovanova are all in the game, and as well many others with just half a point behind.

The 6th Bilbao final Masters 2013 seems to go to Aronian, who had a bad start but then won 2 games in a row with Black. To be sure in the result we have to await the last round.

In the 7th Kings Tournament 2013 in Bazna Caruana is making slowly his way to the title with +2. There is nobody else over the 50% mark. Still many rounds to go, but it seems that Caruana is going to be hard to stop.

From the big event Indonesia Open is about to start as well as the German Bundesliga.

Enjoy the CEWN Nr85 with the selection of the best games from the past week.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Kramnik, Vladimir(2796)
- Shomoev, Anton(2579) [A05]

66th ch-RUS 2013(1.1), 2013.10.05
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the 1st round of the Russian Championship. Quite surprisingly, Kramnik is participating too. Usually Vladimir avoids playing non Top GMs, but as he showed just a month ago by winning the World Cup, he is very good at beating weaker players.

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.g3 As usual in not super important events, Kramnik avoids playing main theoretical lines. Of course this doesn't mean that he is not preparing at all. We can be sure that every sideline he plays is very well analysed.

2...b6 Not a bad move, but of course 2...d5 would lead us to most critical positions of the Reti opening.

3.♗g2 ♗b7 4.O-O e6 5.d3 Once again White avoids the main theory. It was not too late to come back into well-known lines with 5.c4 or even 5.d4.

5...d5 A logical move. To take the center is never wrong.

6.♗bd2 White has many different plans here. One of them is to play b3-Bb2 next, another one could be to play c4 followed by cxd5 or maybe to play Qe1 and e4.

6...g6 Not bad, but very strange. It is not always a good idea to have a double fianchetto, but of course at the current moment it is not that stupid. White is planning to put the bishop on b2, so Black is putting his to g7. [6...♗e7 followed by O-O and c5 would be the usual way of playing with an about equal position.]

7.c4 ♗g7



8.b4?! A very risky decision by White, but an interesting one. The game is getting very forced now.

8...♗e4! Black accepts the invitation and is absolutely right to do so. [After the more passive 8...O-O 9.♗b2 the White pawn on b4 would be much better placed than on b3. Black is not capable of playing c5 anymore because of bxc5 bxc5 and Rb1 with domination on the b-file and a5 would also be a wrong reaction for Black because of b5.]

9.cxd5 White is going for the gamble. [It was still not too late to refuse the tactical action by playing 9.d4 but of course Black should be doing fine here... White's d3 followed by d4 cannot give White any advantage.]

9...exd5 [Of course not 9...♗xa1?! 10.♗xe4 Followed by Bg5 with a great position for White.]

10.♗b3 Already on move 10 both players spent quite some time and with a good reason. The position is very complicated and it is very difficult to judge the evaluation. [10.dxe4 10...♗xa1 11.exd5 ♗xd5]

10...♗xa1 11.♗xa1 So White is an exchange down, but Black's weak dark squares give White good attacking chances. The position should be pretty unclear.

11...♖d6 12.♗g5 White is weakening Black's structure even more.

12...f6 13.♗f4



13...a5! A very strong move by Black. [After the less creative 13...O-O 14.♗d4 ♖e8 15.♗b3 ♗f7 16.♖c1 all of White's pieces would be nicely placed. White's next idea could be to play Nc2-Ne3. I would not say that White is better here, an exchange is an exchange after all, but from a practical point of view the game is very open.]

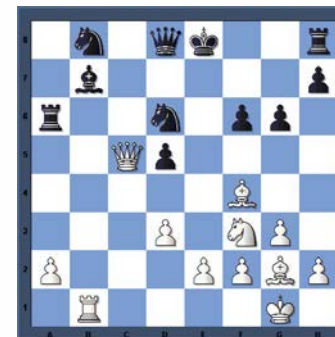
14.bxa5 ♖xa5 Now the black rook is very nicely placed on the open a-file and in addition the c5 move will cut all of the white knight's play.

15.♗c2 c5 16.♗b3 ♖a7 It looks like Black managed to survive the first wave of White's attacks, he is controlling the center and is an exchange up. Black should be better here.

17.♗xc5! I am giving a "!" to this move not because it is a super strong one, but because it is clearly the best practical choice. In a difficult position White finds his best chances to continue.

17...bxc5 18.♗xc5 ♖a6 Once again it seems like Black has consolidated and White is a full rook down.

19.♖b1 White brings the last piece into the attack.



19...♗d7?? And Black blunders... [19...♗a8! would have been the right choice, as everything is protected! 20.♗d4 ♗d7 And I think that under normal circumstances Black should be winning here. A rook up is just too much. Of course White still has many tricks, but objectively his position should be very bad.]

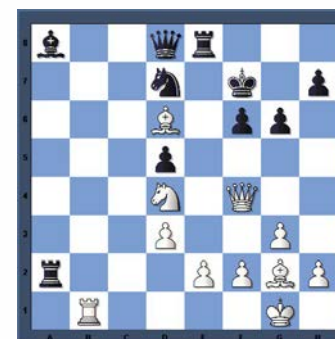
20.♗e3+! A very strong check. Black loses a full piece.

20...♗f7 [After 20...♗e7 21.♗xd6 ♗xe3 22.fxe3 White would already be the one with a small material advantage and the initiative.]

21.♗xd6 ♗a8 22.♗f4 The threat is to play Ng5 next.

22...♖e8 23.♗d4 The game is almost over. White has a strong attack and all his pieces are very nicely placed, which is too much to handle for Black.

23...♖xa2



24.♗h3 Simply everything is hanging in Black's position.

24...♖xe2 Black panics, but it was already hard to advice anything to Shomoev.

25.♘xe2 ♖xe2 26.♔h6 And the h7 pawn cannot be protected. All in all it was not a very deserved win by White, who clearly made a "bluff" by sacrificing and was on the edge of losing the game. **1-0**

(2) Svidler, Peter(2740) - Andreikin, Dmitry(2706) [C65]

66th ch-RUS 2013(4.3), 2013.10.08
[A.Naiditsch]

The Russian Championship is always very strong and sometimes super strong, it depends on whether the very Top players are participating. This year from the Top players only Grischuk and Morozevich are missing. Usually Peter Svidler does great at this tournament and it is no different this year. Out of the first 5 rounds he won 3 games and made 2 draws. Many were excited about Andreikin's play, who came 2nd in the World Cup. So far Andreikin won his White games (against Karjakin and Kramnik!) and lost his both Black ones, which is very unusual for his solid style of play.

1.e4 e5 Andreikin tried 1...c6 in the second round against Nepomniachtchi and lost.

2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 Another game in the Berlin.

4.d3 Svidler avoids the main line with 5. 0-0 and the endgame.

4...d6 [4...♘c5 is a much more popular move.]

5.0-0 ♘d7 A possible move, but 5...Be7 is also normal, or 5....g6.



6.c4!? A rare continuation, but it makes a lot of sense. White

secures the d5 square for the Nc3-Nd5 idea and a d4 push somewhere could lead to a slightly better position because of the strong center.

6...g6 An usual development for Black.

7.♘c3 ♘g7 8.♘e3 O-O 9.h3 White prevents any Bg4 ideas in the near future, in order to win control over the d4 square. A very logical decision.

9...♘b8?! This move looks very strange. [9...a6 10.♘a4 ♖e8; 9...♘e7 would have been a more logical continuation for Black.]



10.♖b3! Nice play, White does not hurry to move his bishop away from b5!

10...c6 [After 10...♘xb5 11.cxb5 gets the squares c6 and a6 under control. White's position looks clearly better to me.]

11.♘a4 ♖c8 Protecting the b7 pawn and preparing Na6-Nc5.

12.♖d1 White plays for the d4 push. [12.♖a3 12...c5 13.b4 also looks nice for White.]

12...♘a6 13.d4 Now we can see that Black's move c6 was also quite risky. The pawn on d6 is weak.

13...exd4 14.♘xd4 We have some sort of King's Indian pawn structure, but it looks to be better for White. Black is not in

time to create something concrete in the center, which gives White enough time to put all his pieces to central positions.

14...♘e6 I don't like this move too much for Black either... The bishop on e6 is only provoking White's Ng5-f4-f5 pushes. Maybe it was better for Black to play Re8 followed by Nc5 and Ne6.

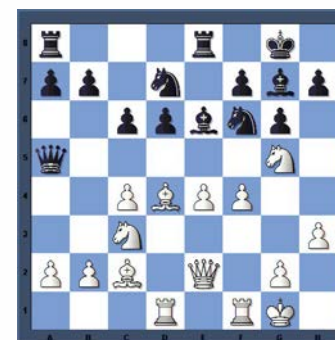
15.♖e2 ♖e8 16.♖ad1 To put the rook on d1 can't be wrong.

16...♘c5 17.♘c2 ♘cd7 Black is very passive and White is starting his crushing attack.

18.♘g5! Nice and logical. White is going for the black king. f4-f5 is a very dangerous threat now.

18...♖c7 [A freedom kick doesn't seem to work: 18...d5 19.cxd5 cxd5 20.♘b5 White is much better.]

19.f4 ♖a5 Black is preparing Qa6, with some pressure on the c4 pawn.



20.a3 A prophylactical move that was not so needed. White could have gone for much more direct play, like for example: [20.♘xe6 20...♖xe6 21.f5 gxf5 22.♖f2 With a very dangerous attack.]

20...h6 21.♘f3?! This looks quite strange... [The simple 21.♘xe6 21...♖xe6 22.♖f2 with the idea of playing f5 next seems to almost win the game!]

21...♘h5 Maybe Black tries to free himself slightly too early. [21...♖ad8!? would bring the last piece into the game and now the idea of Nh5 or d5 would become quite possible.]

22.♙xg7 ♖xg7 23.♚d2 It is hard to imagine Black being OK here, the pawn on d6 is hanging and White can push f5 at any moment now.

23...♚b6+ Black is going for the c4 pawn.

24.♖f2 ♙xc4 It is hard to say if Black has blundered the next move of White, but Andreikin's position was already on the limit anyway.



25.♘a4! Chasing the black queen away.

25...♚c7 26.♚c3+ ♘hf6 27.♚xc4 b5 Black is winning back the piece, but losing the central "blockpost" d6 pawn.

28.♚b4 bxa4 29.♖xd6 Things are looking very dark for Black. White's e4-e5 push is unstoppable, which means a complete crush of the position.

29...♖ab8 30.♚d2 ♖ed8 [30...♖xb2 was of course losing too. 31.e5 ♘d5 32.♚d4 With a double attack on the rook b2 and the threat to play e6 check.]

31.e5 White's mission is completed, the move e5 is on the board.

31...♘e8 32.♚c3 White has a deadly double threat again: to

play e6 or Rxc6. The game is basically over.

32...♘b6 33.♖xc6 ♚b7



34.f5 White is not happy with being just a tempo up, but continues totally dominating the game and launching the final attack.

34...♘d5 35.♚c5 The most solid and most simple move.

35...♚xb2 36.fxg6 What a domination of the white pieces! Black's position is a complete mess.

36...f6 37.♘d4 And this was even too much for Andreikin. A very nice win by Svidler with great positional play and a nice crushing attack in the end. **1-0**

(3) Dominguez Perez, Leinier(2757) - Caruana, Fabiano(2779) [B48]

FIDE GP Paris(11.2), 2013.10.04

[Balogh Csaba]

This is a highly important game from the last round of the Paris Grand Prix. Caruana shares the lead with Gelfand, but he needs to take clear first place in order to qualify to the Candidates tournament next year. Gelfand had the White pieces against Ponomarev and it was quite expectable that that game should end in draw. Therefore Caruana needed a win, but Dominguez is a very solid player with a stable repertoire. Let's see what happened.

1.e4 c5 Black should aim for a sharp game and of course the Sicilian is a clever decision to get it.

2.♟f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♞xd4 ♞c6 This is Caruana's surprise. He usually plays 4...a6 when he needs a win, but now he wanted to play something different, which he never employed before and might catch his opponent by surprise.

5.♞c3

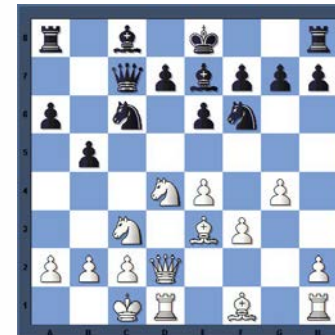


5...♞c7 White has a wide range of choices here, but Dominguez as usual sticks to his repertoire and goes for the sharpest line with queenside castling.

6.♞e3 a6 7.♞d2 ♞f6 8.O-O-O ♞e7 8... Bb4 is by far the most common move, but recently the variation played in our game becomes more and more popular.

9.f3 Both sides start to launch an attack, White goes ahead with g4-g5, while Black plays b5. A typical Sicilian game.

9...b5 10.g4



10...♞xd4! This is the new fashion. It was played for the first time this year and Black has huge success with it. At the moment it is not clear how White should fight for the advantage, even the 1.e4 expert Sergey Karjakin got into trouble quite easily against Topalov.

11.♞xd4 [11.♞xd4 is the other option. 11...♞b7 12.g5 Black always reacts with 12...♞h5 This is basically the new idea. In the previous lines, Black usually quickly tried to castle kingside with the idea to free the e8 square for the knight to retreat. Here is a game that shows the typical ideas of Black in this position: 13.♞e2 White takes the f4 square under control and prepares to play Ng3, getting rid of the h5 knight, which blocks White's attack. 13...♞c8! Black creates the threat of Bxg5, deflecting the queen from c2. 14.h4 O-O 15.♞b1



And here Black executes the standard central break and overtakes the initiative: 15...e5! 16.♘e3 d5! 17.exd5 ♗xd5. With a big advantage for Black, as the bishop cannot be taken because of Qxc2 followed by Rfd8. [Kobalia-Movsesian, 2013.]

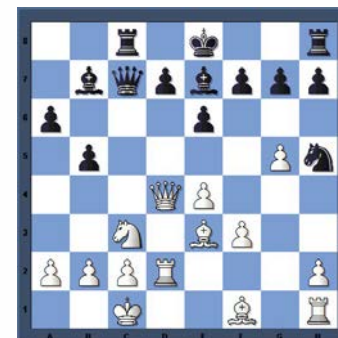
11...♗b7 12.g5 ♖h5



13...♗c8! Quite an original idea, played almost without thinking by Dominguez, which shows that he is still in his preparation. [The main and probably the most critical move is 13.♖b1 13...♗c8 14.♗d2 with the idea Bh3-g4 or Ne2-g3. In any case, White needs to kick out the h5 knight in order to proceed with his attack, but Black also has many different ways to play.]

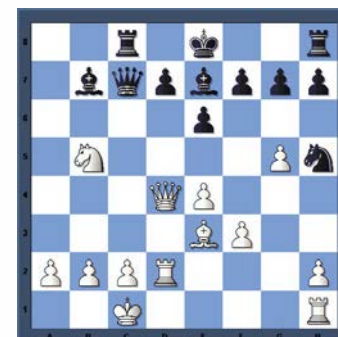
13...♗c8! Caruana replies with the most logical move, but he had to foresee White's idea. Black had no other move as 0-0 would have left the d7 pawn unprotected, while after b4,

White had Na4-b6. Black is intending to play Bc5 now, which forces a mass of exchanges on c5, but in the arising endgame Black's chances would be excellent, since suddenly the g5 pawn becomes weak and the h5 knight gets very strong after jumping to f4.



14.♗xb5!? This sacrifice is known from many different Sicilian lines, both sides must always take it into consideration.

14...axb5 15.♗xb5 We have reached the critical position, Black must decide where to go with the queen.



15...♗c6 [15...♗d8!? is the alternative. 16.♗a7 ♗c6 (16...0-0 is possible, although I don't believe that Black has enough compensation for the pawn after 17.♗xb7 ♗xg5 18.♗xg5 ♗xg5 19.♗c3+ (Or 19.a4 is also possible.)) 17.♗b6 ♗xb5 18.♗xd8 ♗xd8 Grischuk considered this option to be extremely unclear

with good chances for both sides. Black is materially down, but his minor pieces become very active and he might also hope for an attack after castling kingside followed by Ra8. He believed that Black should have gone for this position, especially with the given tournament situation, that Black needs a win. Caruana considered this position to be clearly better for White and he preferred to repeat with repetition. He gave the moves 19.♔e3 O-O 20.f4 with a potential attack with f5 beside the material advantage, however things are very far from clear. Black could for instance play 20...f5 21.gxf6 ♖xf6 22.♖g1 ♘c6 with a sharp game. 23.♖dg2 ♗f7]

16.♘a7 ♔c7



17.♘b5! The best move objectively and also the most painful from Caruana's point of view. White is happy with the draw and prefers to repeat the moves. [17.♘xc8?! 17...♔xc8 18.♖hd1 ♘c6 White is materially better here with the rook and two pawns against the two minor pieces and he would have a clear advantage with the queens off the board. However with the queens, it is very risky to go for this line, as Black might get a really strong attack after O-O, Qa6 and switching the rook to the queenside. White should realize his material advantage on the queenside, but any kind of pawn push would seriously weaken his position in front of his king.]

17...♔c6 18.♘a7 ♔c7 19.♘b5 A last chance to change the

mind and go for Qd8, but Black repeats.

19...♔c6 A very difficult decision, when you need to choose between two options, either to repeat moves when the draw is completely unsatisfactory for you, or to go for a position that you believe is lost or at least clearly worse. From the opening point of view another successful game for Black as an excellent theoretician was unable to show something. 1/2-1/2

(4) Nakamura, Hikaru(2772) - Gelfand, Boris(2764) [B90]

Elancourt FRA(10.3), 2013.10.03

[Balogh Csaba]

In the penultimate round, Nakamura had the sole lead with +3 and Gelfand shared the second place with Caruana, half a point behind him. We could expect an interesting fight for the first place.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 The first surprise. Gelfand chooses his old weapon, the Sicilian Najdorf. Since his World Championship match against Anand, he almost always plays the Sveshnikov variation, which starts with 2...Nc6.

3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 We are at the initial position of the Najdorf and Nakamura goes for one of the most popular setup.

6.♙e3 ♘g4 7.♙c1 ♘f6 8.♙e3



8...♘g4 An interesting situation. Nakamura could have forced a draw with Bc1, which would have been a perfect result for him to win the tournament. However, to make a draw like this is so shameful that a player with a lot of ambition plays on without any hesitation.

9.♙g5 h6 10.♙h4 g5 11.♙g3 ♙g7 12.h3 A few weeks ago,

Nakamura himself retreated with his knight to f6 against Kamsky. That was another extremely exciting game, which we have also analyzed here in CEWN. Gelfand plays the most common move:

12...♘e5 13.f3 ♘bc6 14.♙f2 ♙e6 A typical move in this variation. Black wants to occupy the c4 square later on.

15.♚d2 [Black is not afraid of 15.♘xe6 15...fxe6 The doubled e-pawns are useful here to control all the important central squares and his minor pieces are excellently placed on the dark squares, especially the one on e5. White should only take this option into consideration if he could quickly organize an attack against the e6 pawn, but here it is not possible, since Bc4 is controlled by the knight.]

15...♖c8 Following the main line, both sides make their most useful developing moves.

16.0-0-0 At first sight it looks dangerous, but this is the only way for White to fight for the advantage. His plans are connected with Nd5 and opening the position on the kingside with h4!

16...♘xd4 17.♙xd4 ♚a5 18.a3! This is Nakamura's improvement over Gelfand's previous game. White defends the a2 pawn, which was not advisable with 18.Kb1 because of the exchange sacrifice on c3. We can see that Gelfand uses the same ideas in both games. [Karjakin had played 18.♙f2 18...♖c6! Gelfand defends in the same way against the threatening Bb6. 19.g3 O-O 20.f4 ♘d7 The same retreat with the knight. 21.h4 g4 Black closes the kingside again in the same style as in the game. 22.♘d5 ♙xd5 23.exd5



23...Rc5! A great exchange sacrifice, which could not be accepted, because then White could not oppose anything to the beast on g7. 24. Qxg7 (24. Qxc5 24... Rxc5) 24... Qxg7 25. Qb1 Rxd5 Black won a pawn and soon the game as well. Karjakin-Gelfand, Wijk aan Zee 2012.]

18...O-O



19.h4! White must try to organize an attack on the kingside, as it is principled in case of opposite side castling.

19...g4! This is the official novelty, Gelfand played it without thinking, clearly showing that he is still in his preparation.

20. Qf2 [20. Qe3!? comes into consideration with the same Bb6 idea and here Black should probably react with 20... Rc4 (20... Rxc6 is less effective because of 21.f4 Rfc8 22. Qb1 Black can never take on c3.) 21. Qxc4 Rxc4 22. Qxg7 Qxg7 In my opinion, this is the critical position from the opening point of

view. 23.fxg4 Rfc8 It seems like Black has strong counterplay on the queenside.]



20...Rc6! Black not only prevents Bb6, but prepares to double his rooks on the c-file, which could be very dangerous with the idea of dismantling White king's position with an exchange sacrifice on c3!

21.f4! White must act, otherwise he gets crushed.



21...Rfc8! This sacrifice was the main idea of Gelfand's preparation. Impressive analysis!

22. Qg3? Nakamura usually feels comfortable in such complicated positions, but this time he loses the thread. [22.f5! was the best move for White, which actually leads to a forced draw in all the lines. The move is pretty illogical for the human mind, since it leaves an excellent outpost for the

knight on e5! However chess is a concrete game! 22...♙c4! (The passive 22...♙d7 could be met by 23.♚e3! preventing the sacrifice on c3. White wants to play Kb1 and it is not easy for Black to proceed with the attack. For instance 23...b5 is met by 24.♙b1 b4? 25.axb4 ♚xb4 26.♙d5+- and the e7 pawn is hanging.) 23.♙xc4 ♙xc4 (23...♚xc4? is a blunder 24.♙b6! Trapping the queen!) 24.♙xg7 (On 24.♙d5 Black must find



24...♙xb2!! 25.♙xe7+ ♙h7 26.♙xc6 ♚xa3 27.♙d2 ♚xc6 Black is more than fine!) 24...♙xg7 25.f6+!



Things are getting really tense now! Both sides are more or less ready for the mating attack, a typical Sicilian game! 25...♙g8! The only move! (25...exf6 loses to 26.♙d5 White arrives first! 26...♙xa3 27.♚xf6+ ♙h7 28.♚xf7+ ♙h8 29.♚f6+ ♙h7 30.c3+-) 26.♙d5 leads to a draw after (26.fxe7 26...♙xb2! The only move, but a good one! 27.♚hf1 f5! Another only

move and suddenly Black has succeeded in winning some time in order to be ahead in the attack.) 26...♙xa3! 27.♙xe7+ ♙f8 28.♙xc6 ♚xc6 29.bxa3 ♚xa3+ 30.♙b1 (30.♙d2? is refuted by the following little combination: 30...♚xc2+! 31.♙xc2 ♚a2+ 32.♙c3 ♚xf2+-) 30...♚b4+=; 22.fxe5? loses to 22...dxe5 23.♙e3 ♚xc3! 24.bxc3 ♚xa3+ 25.♙d2 ♚xc3+ 26.♙c1 And here Black has more than a perpetual by deflecting the queen from the c2 square. (26.♙e2 26...♙c4+ 27.♚d3 ♚xc2+-+ wins.) 26...g3! 27.♚e2 ♙g4! Another deflection! 28.♚d3 ♙a1+ 29.♙d2 ♚xd1#]



22...♙d7! Just like in the game against Karjakin, Gelfand retreats his knight to d7 with the idea to trade the dark squared bishops and with this makes the sacrifice on c3 more effective!

23.♙xg7 ♙xg7 24.f5 There is no way back, White must go forward and hope that the sacrifice will not lead to mate. [On 24.♚d3 Black can strengthen the pressure on the c3 square by playing 24...♙c5! 25.♚e3 ♙a4!+-]

24...♚xc3 Gelfand plays the most tempting human move! [The computer points out that 24...♙e5! was even stronger. 25.fxe6 ♚xc3! 26.bxc3 ♚xc3 27.♚d3 ♙xd3+ 28.♙xd3 The win still requires precise play: 28...♚xa3! Threatening mate in two after Ra1 and Qa3. 29.♚xg4+ ♙f8 30.♙d1 The only move to avoid mate, but here the rook falls: 30...♚a1+ 31.♙e2

♖xh1 This is still not the end of the variation... 32.exf7 ♕e1+ 33.♔f3 Black now has to find 33...♖d1+! 34.♗e2 ♖f1+! 35.♔e3 (35.♔g3 35...♖e1+ 36.♔h2 ♖h1#) 35...♖c1+ 36.♔d3 ♖xf7 37.♖c8+ ♔g7 38.♖g4+ ♔h7—+ And now it is finally over!]

25.bxc3 ♖xa3+ 26.♔d2



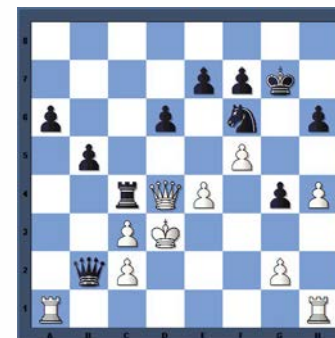
26...♗f6! A very unpleasant intermediate move, which seriously increases Black's chances for a successful attack.

27.♖d3 ♗c4 28.♖d4



28...d5! Following the principles. Gelfand opens the central files in front of the white king. [Gelfand showed a fantastic line

at the press conference. He said that his original idea was to play 28...b5 with the threat of Bxf1 followed by Rc4, winning the e4 pawn, but White has 29.♗d3 and after 29...♗xd3 30.♖a1! ♖b2 31.♔xd3 ♖c4



32.♖hb1! ♖xd4+ 33.cxd4! the queen is suddenly trapped and White wins!]

29.exd5 [29.♖e1 29...♗xf1 30.e5 is refuted by 30...♖c4! 31.exf6+ exf6 32.♖e3 The strongest is 32...d4! (32...♗xg2 also wins) 33.cxd4 ♖a5+ 34.♔d1 ♖a1+ 35.♔d2 ♖xd4+—+]

29...♗xd5 30.♖g1! Calm defence by Nakamura. White wants to put his bishop to d3 to close the d-file. [30.♗d3 30...♗xg2 31.♖hg1 ♗f3—+ Black is better even materially.]

30...♗e4! [30...♖d8 31.♗d3 is unclear. Black must waste an important tempo on defending the d8 rook in order to make the discovery attack with the d5 bishop possible, but then White is already in time to consolidate. For instance after 31...♖d7 32.♖b4! solves the problems!]

31. ♖d3

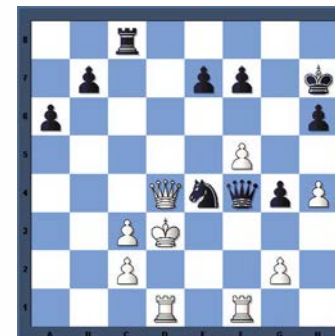


31... ♖a5! Another great move with multiple ideas. The main one is the Rd8 threat, but Black also wants to grab the f5 pawn, collecting further pawns for the exchange. [31... ♖xd3 was the alternative. 32. cxd3 ♖b2+ 33. ♖e3 ♖xc3 34. ♖c1 ♖xc1+ 35. ♖xc1 ♖xc1 White should be able to hold this endgame.]

32. ♖b4 ♖c7! [32... ♖xf5 33. ♖gf1 was unclear.]

33. ♖xe4? The decisive mistake. [After very resourceful defence, Nakamura was already very close to survival. He should have tried to hide his king with 33. ♖c1 It is not obvious how Black should continue his attack. Probably the best is to play 33... a5 34. ♖d4 ♖d8 35. ♖c4 White just manages to cover the c3 pawn, but 35... ♖xc4 36. ♖xc4 ♖xd1+ 37. ♖xd1 (37. ♖xd1? 37... ♖xg2+) 37... ♖xf5 White must suffer for a draw, but with perfect play it should be possible to achieve it.]

33... a5! Excellent calculation by Gelfand! [33... ♖f4+ was also winning, but it was much more difficult to find. 34. ♖d3 ♖xe4! (34... ♖d8+ spoils the win as after 35. ♖c4 the king finds shelter on b3.) 35. ♖d4+ (35. ♖xe4 35... ♖xc3+-) 35... ♖h7 36. ♖gf1 (36. ♖df1 36... ♖d2+ 37. ♖xe4 ♖e2+ 38. ♖f4 ♖c4+-)]



36... ♖xc3+! 37. ♖xc3 ♖g3+ 38. ♖f3 (38. ♖xe4 38... ♖xc3+-) 38... ♖f2+! 39. ♖c4 gxf3+- Black wins because the d1 rook is also hanging.]

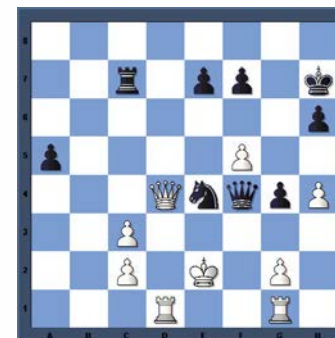
34. ♖xb7 [34. ♖d4 34... ♖d8+-]

34... ♖f4+! 35. ♖e2 [35. ♖d3 is refuted by 35... ♖d8+ 36. ♖c4 ♖xe4! 37. ♖xd8 ♖d6+ 38. ♖b3 ♖xb7+-]

35... ♖c7! The last difficult intermediate move to find. Black takes on e4 next and the attack finally breaks through! [35... ♖xe4 36. ♖xc8 Black only has perpetual check here: 36... ♖g3+ 37. ♖d3 ♖e4+ 38. ♖d2 ♖f4+=]

36. ♖b6 [36. g3 36... ♖e5+- does not change anything.]

36... ♖xe4 37. ♖d4+ ♖h7 White has no defence!



38. c4 [38. ♖gf1 loses to 38... ♖xc3+! 39. ♖xc3 ♖xf1+! 40. ♖xf1 ♖xc3+-]

38...♖d7! The final blow!

39.♔e3 [39.♕xd7 39...♕f2+ 40.♔d3 ♘c5+ 41.♔c3 ♘xd7--]

39...♘g3+ 40.♕xg3 ♕xg3 41.♖xd7 ♕e5+ A fantastic game with which Gelfand overtook the lead and won the tournament! Gelfand is rather known for his outstanding understanding of the game, but as we see, his tactical skills are also amazing! **0-1**

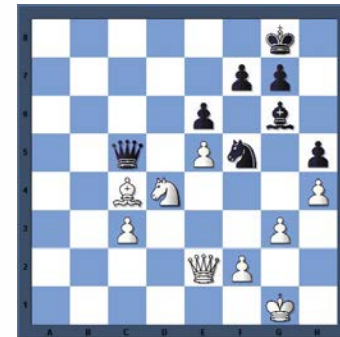
Puzzle section

(5) Caruana, F(2779)-Tomashevsky, E(2703)

Paris GP, 2013.10.03

[CEWN]

1. +-

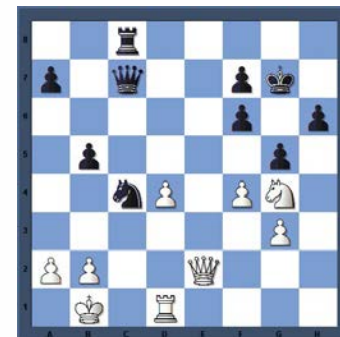


(6) Nisipeanu, D(2674)-Caruana, F(2779)

Bucharest, 2013.10.07

[CEWN]

1. =



(7) Motylev, A(2676)-Karjakin, S(2762)

Russian Championship, 2013.10.07

[CEWN]

1... =



(8) Eljanov, P(2729)-Ponomarev, D(2395)

Chigorin memorial, 2013.10.06

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Ben Artzi, I(2370)-Sjugirov, S(2635)

Chigorin memorial, 2013.10.06

[CEWN]

1... -+

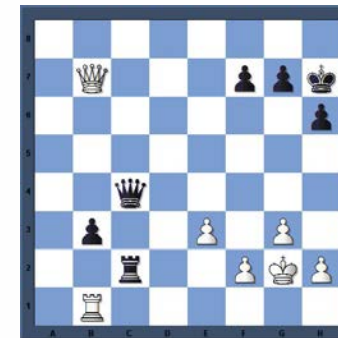


(10) Thorfinnsson, B(2483)-Oleksienko, M(2608)

Reykjavik, 2013.10.02

[CEWN]

1... -+



(11) Gunnarsson, A(2441)-Kjartansson, G(2447)

Reykjavik, 2013.10.02

[CEWN]

1... -+



(12) Malakhov, I(2434)-Yemelin, V(2559)

St.Petersburg rapid, 2013.09.28

[CEWN]

1... -+

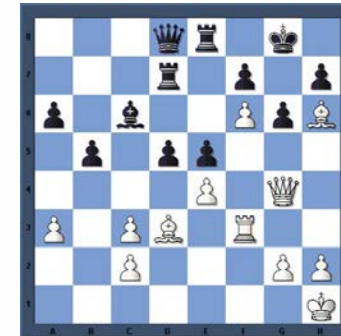


(13) Bok, B(2520)-Hansen, E(2584)

Oslo Open, 2013.09.29

[CEWN]

1. +-



(14) Papp, G(2583)-Kirschner, A(2286)

Austrian league, 2013.10.05

[CEWN]

1. +-

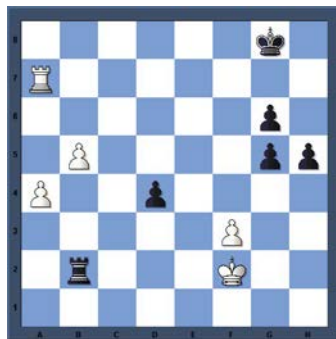


Endgame section

(15) Andreikin, Dmitry(2706)-Shomoev, Anton(2579)

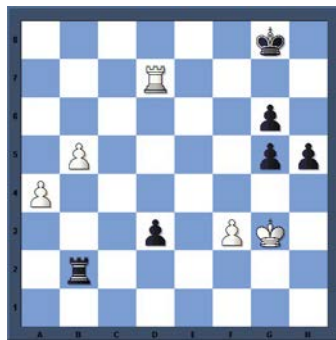
66th ch-RUS 2013(5.5), 2013.10.09

[CE Team]



After an average game we finally reached a very interesting rook endgame. At first sight White's pawns are looking very dangerous, but Black has a free d-pawn and the h-pawn could eventually also become strong.

37. ♔g3 ♖b4? A very passive move in a dynamic position. This can't be the right choice! [It was time to make use of the free d-pawn: 37...d3 38. ♖d7]



38...d2 And because of the threat Kf8-Ke8 White has nothing better than to exchange one of the connected passed pawns

for the black d-pawn. 39.b6 (39. ♔h3 39... ♔f8) 39... ♖xb6 40. ♖xd2 And only Black could push here a little, but of course the position is a draw.]

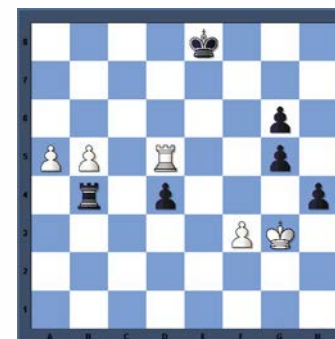
38. ♖d7! White is using the fact that Black is not in time to take on a4.

38... ♔f8? Another mistake. [Of course not 38... ♖xa4 39.b6 ♖b4 40.b7 followed by Rd8 and White is winning.; But Black could still have escaped by playing 38...d3 39. ♔f2 White tries to stop the d-pawn with his king. 39...h4! Once again Black is securing a draw.]

39.a5! And the game is almost over! Black cannot stop the white passed pawns...

39... ♔e8 At least Black is chasing the white rook from the 7th rank.

40. ♖d5 h4+

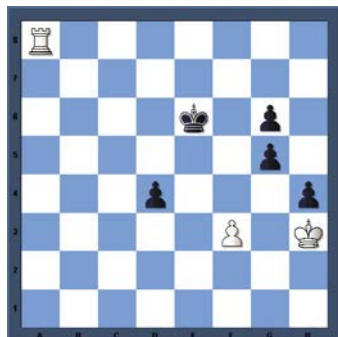


41. ♔h3 Now all Black's chances are gone. White just wants to put one of his pawns to the 6th rank and put the rook on the 8th. The game is over and Andreikin is showing us why.

41... ♔e7 42.a6 The first step is completed.

42... ♔e6 43. ♖d8 The rook is on the 8th rank and the a-pawn is a queen.

43...♖xb5 44.a7 ♖a5 45.a8=♚ ♖xa8 46.♖xa8

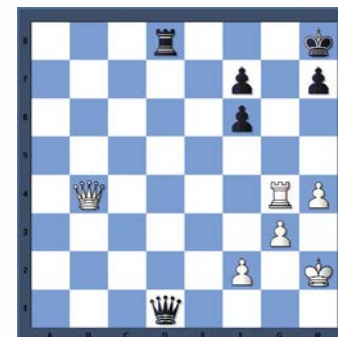


46...♚d5 Of course it is not a problem for White to win the game with a rook up.

47.♖a5+ ♚c4 48.♖xg5 Followed by Rxg6 and Rd6. Another nice example on how important it is in rook endgames to play each move as if it could be your last one! :) 1-0

(16) Gunina, V.(2506)-Goryachkina, A.(2436)

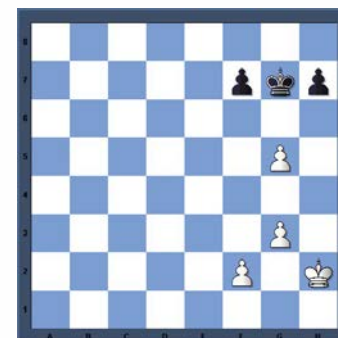
Russian Woman Championship, 2013.10.05
[CE Team]



White gets a winning pawn endgame by force.

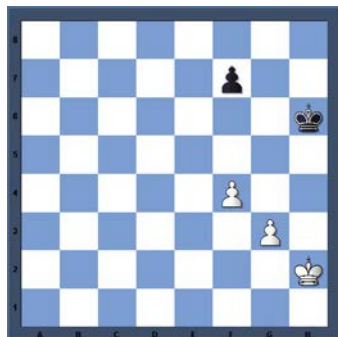
39.♚e7! ♚xg4 Black had no choice, otherwise the loss is even simpler.

40.♚xf6+ ♚g8 41.♚xd8+ ♚g7 42.♚g5+! ♚xg5 43.hxg5 Here we are! White has correctly traded the queens as the pawn endgame is won, however as we will see things are not as easy as they might look at first sight.



43...♚g6 44.f4 h6! The best chance!

45.gxh6 ♖xh6 From now on a series of mutual blunders are coming. Despite the limited material, even such decent players were unable to produce a good move. [On 45...f5 White wins after 46.♖g2 ♖xh6 47.♖f2! (47.♖f3 47...♖h5) 47...♖h5 48.♖f3! Black is in zugzwang. 48...♖g6 49.♖e3+- Kd4 next wins.]

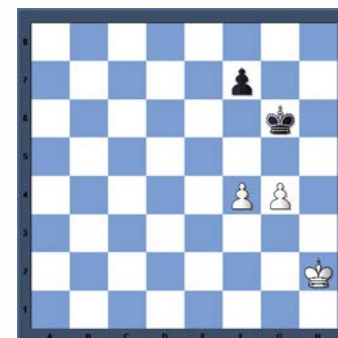


46.g4? [46.♖g2! was the only way to win. 46...♖g6 47.♖f3 ♖f5 (47...f5 48.♖e3 ♖f6 49.♖d4 ♖e6 Black is not in time as 50.♖c5 wins.) 48.g4+ ♖e6 We reach this position after the 49th move in the game.; 46.♖h3 leads to a draw after 46...f5 47.♖g2 (47.♖h4 leads nowhere as the king needs to retreat after 47...♖g6=) 47...♖g6 48.♖f3 ♖f6 49.♖e3 ♖e6 50.♖d4 ♖d6= And Black holds by opposition.]



46...♖g6? White is winning after this. [46...f6! holds the draw.

47.♖g3 ♖g6 48.♖f3 ♖f7! 49.♖e4 ♖e6= Black is in time to get this position. We will discuss this later in the game...]

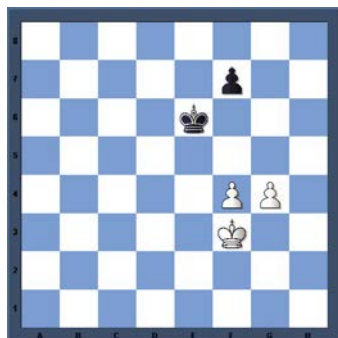


47.♖g3? This move spoils the win again. [47.f5+! was the only winning move. The game is automatically winning after this. Let's see the technique: 47...♖f6 (47...♖g5 48.♖g3 f6 is hopeless after 49.♖f3 ♖h6 50.♖f4 ♖g7 51.♖e4 ♖f7 52.♖d5 ♖e7 53.♖c6+-) 48.♖g3 After reaching this position, basically all possible moves are winning for White. Let's see some examples: 48...♖g5 (48...♖e5 49.♖f3 ♖d6 50.♖f4 f6 51.g5 fxg5+ 52.♖xg5 ♖e7 53.♖g6+-) 49.♖f3 ♖f6 50.♖f4 ♖e7 51.♖g5 ♖f8 52.♖f6 ♖g8 53.g5 ♖f8 54.g6 fxg6 55.fxg6 ♖g8 56.g7+-]

47...♖f6? This spoils the draw again! [47...f6! holds, as we will see later.]

48.♖f3 [48.f5 also wins as we saw in the 47.f5 line.]

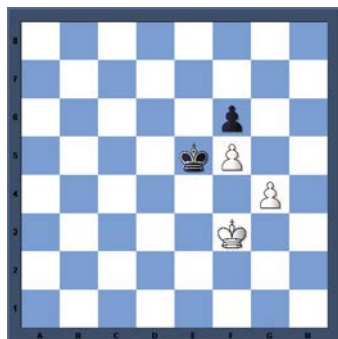
48...♔e6



49.♔e3? White blunders again. [White automatically wins after 49.f5+! as we saw in the 47.f5 line and here is one more option: 49...♔e5 50.♔g3 ♔e4 (50...f6 51.♔h4 ♔f4 52.♔h5+—) 51.♔h4 ♔f4 52.♔h5+— is over.; 49.♔e4? is the worst, because Black draws immediately after 49...f5+! 50.gxf5+ ♔f6=]

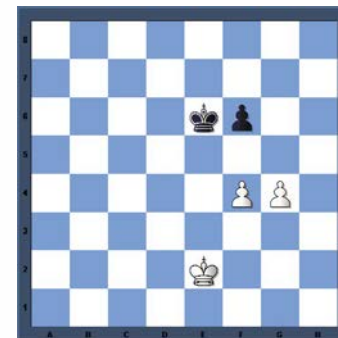
49...f6! The game is drawn again.

50.♔e2 [50.♔e4? is once again met by 50...f5+ This only comes into consideration when it is coming with check, otherwise White plays g5 and wins with the protected passed pawn. 51.gxf5+ ♔f6=; 50.f5+ 50...♔e5 51.♔f3



51...♔d6! It is very important that Black should be in time to arrive to the kingside if White tries to break on that side. 52.♔g3 (52.♔e4 52...♔e7! is the only move. (52...♔c6 53.♔f4

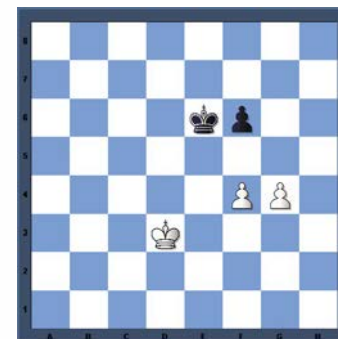
♔d6 54.g5+—) 53.♔d5 ♔d7= Black holds the opposition.) 52...♔e7 53.♔h4 ♔f7 54.♔h5 ♔g7!= Just in time.; 50.♔d4 50...♔d6 51.♔e4 (51.f5 51...♔c6 52.♔e4 ♔d6=) 51...♔e6= White cannot make any progress.]



50...♔d5? The final blunder! [50...♔e7! Black holds the draw with distance opposition. Let's check some attempts: 51.♔d3 (51.♔f3 51...♔e6 52.♔g3 ♔f7 53.♔h4 ♔g6=) 51...♔d7! The only move, holding the opposition! 52.♔c4 ♔c6! 53.♔d4 ♔d6 54.♔e4 ♔e6 White cannot win...]

51.♔d3! White gets the opposition and manages to squeeze the Black king move by move.

51...♔e6



52.♔c4! This is the only way, as 52.Ke4 as usual runs into f5!

52...♔d6 53.♔d4 ♔d7 [53...♔e6 54.♔c5+—]

54.♔c5 ♕c7 55.♕d5 Black resigned as 55...Kd7 is met by f5 Ke7 Kc6. We can see that even so simple looking endgames can sometimes be really difficult. **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Spassky, Boris V-Suetin, Alexey S[B48]

URS-chT, 1967

[Miton Kamil]

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♘xd4 ♔c7 6.♙e3 a6 7.♘b3 It is not good to take the knight away from a central and active square without any reasons . White more often plays [7.♔d2 With the plan f3, 0-0-0 and g4.; 7.♙e2 With the idea of castling kingside.]

7...♘f6 8.f4 ♙b4 Black decides to destroy the white structure. If the knight is already on b3, the move 8...d6 with the idea of transposing position to the Sheveningen is good for Black as well.

9.♙d3 0-0 10.0-0 ♙xc3 11.bxc3 d6



12.♖f3! White has to hurry with an active play otherwise with his bad structure and knight on b3 (which is very far from the kingside) Black can very easily get a big advantage.

12...e5 [12...♘g4!? Now White cannot avoid the exchange because of the check on b6. 13.♖h3 ♘xe3 14.♔h5 h6 15.♖xe3 b5 16.♖g3 Without a defending knight on f6 the position seems to be risky for Black, but it is only an illusion. 16...♔h8

17.f5 And now White's attack is easily stopped after 17...f6=+ (Xe5;Xc3)]

13.f5 White is going to put pressure on g7 and Black needs to look for counterplay in the center.



13...d5! 14.♖g3 ♘h8 We make these kind of moves without thinking because they are very natural. In this case the threat Bh6 was dangerous according to the engine: [14...dxe4 15.♕h6 (15.♕g5!?)



15...exd3! 16.♕xg7 And now comes the tricky (16.♖xg7+ 16...♙h8--+) 16...♙b6+! 17.♘d4 (17.♙h1 17...♘e4--+) 17...♕xf5 18.♕xf6+ ♕g6 19.♙d2 And White is not in time with Qh6 because after 19...♘xd4 The bishop on f6 is hanging and Black is winning, but of course it was impossible to see

this variations during the game.; 14...♘e7 With the idea of crushing the white center and here Bh6 is also not enough.]

15.exd5 ♘e7 [15...♘xd5 16.♙h5 f6 (16...♘xe3



17.f6! Otherwise Black plays f6 and avoids the attack. 17...g6 18.♙h6 ♖g8 19.♖xe3 ♙d6 20.♖f1↑ White has a strong initiative because of the weak black king. One of the ideas can be Re4-Rh4.; 16...♘f6 17.♙h4 ♖g8 18.♖f1↑ With a huge initiative as well.) 17.♖h3 And now comes the following forced line for example: 17...g6 (17...h6 18.♕xh6+-) 18.fxg6 ♕xh3 19.♕h6 ♖g8 20.♙xh3 ♘f4 21.♕xf4 exf4 22.♘c5 The knight is finally back in the fight. 22...♘e5 23.♘e6 ♙b6+ 24.♙h1 ♘xg6 25.♙f5 ♖af8 26.♘xf8 ♖xf8 27.♖e1 With more less equal play, but the white pieces are more active.]

16.♕c5 Thanks to this move Black is forced to take on d5 with the knight from f6 and then the white queen can be improved.

16...♘fxd5 17.♙g4 ♖g8 [17...g6 This move is inhuman because it makes the dark squares around the king weaker, but on the other hand the idea is very concrete: just to win the f5 pawn. 18.♙h4 (18.♖f1!?) 18...♘xf5 19.♕xf5 ♕xf5 20.c4



20...f4 21. f6+ g8 22. xf8 xf8 Black has a pawn for the exchange and White a bad structure, which is why the position is with compensation. 23. e1 23. Qxf5 doesn't work because of Ne2+. (23. e3) 23... h5 24. xf5 xg3 25. xe5 xe5 26. xe5 f5 27. c5∞Xb7]

18. h3 Preparing the Rxh7 sacrifice and not allowing Black to put the pawn on f6. [18. f1 18...f6 19. h3 h6 And black is very solid.]

18...f6 19. g5 ed5 20. f1 b6 A logical move. Black is developing his last pieces, the bishop and the rook. [20...f4 is a mistake as after 21. xf4! exf4 22. d4 d6 23. c5 White has a decisive attack.]



21. e4 Black needs at least two moves to consolidate his position, so White needs to play in a very dynamic way.

21...b7 [21...f4 22. xf4 exf4 23. d4 (23. xa8 23...bxc5+)]

23...b7! (23...xe4 24. fxh7+ xh7 25. h5#) 24. xb7 xb7 25. h4 d5! 26. xf6 d1+ 27. f2 xc2+ And Black will take on f5 next, with a very good position. Of course it was very hard to see this line.]

22. xd5 xd5 After this move White can still keep the pressure because the dark squared bishop can try to eliminate the strong knight on f6. It was much easier for Black to play [22...bxc5 23. xb7 xb7 White will probably manage to win one of the pawns but the position will be at least equal for Black.]



23. e7! Maybe Black missed this simple tactical trick. Objectively Black is still fine but he needs to solve some unpleasant practical threats.



23...c6? This move looks very natural because it supports two black pieces, but it is mistake. Let's check out other

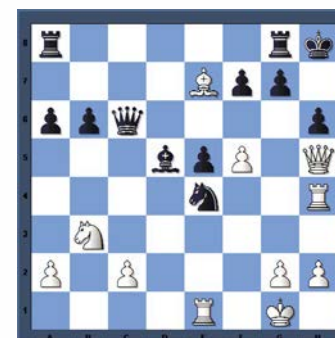
possibilities: [23...♟xg2 The next inhuman idea showed by the engine. 24.♞xg2 ♞c6+ 25.♞ff3 ♞a7 Now Bxf6 doesn't work because of the pin on the g-file. 26.♟a3 ♞d7 A funny position. Black has only a pawn for the piece but White has many problems, a weak structure and his pieces are out of the play. Anyway it is hard to believe that Black has full compensation here.; 23...b5! was the correct move for Black! The idea is the same as in the game, to support the f6 square (Qb6 idea). 24.♞f2 Controlling the g2 square and not allowing any check from b6. (24.♞h6 Compared to the game, Black has the strong 24...♟xg2!-+) 24...♞c6 With the idea Rae8 or Ne4. 25.♞h6 ♟e4 26.♞xc6 ♟xg5 And now compared to the game the pawn on b6 is not hanging and the rook on f2 will be attacked with tempo with Ne4. Black is just better.; 23...♞xe7?? 24.♞xh7+ ♟xh7 25.♞h4+-]



24.♞h6! A strong move. White is very close to get rid of the strong knight on f6. [24.♞e1 gives white strong pressure as well. 24...♟e4 (24...h6



25.♟d4! ♟h7 (25...exd4 26.♞e6! And now the black queen is cut from protection over the 6th rank. 26...♟h7 27.♞hxh6 gxh6 28.♟f6+ ♟xf6 29.♞xf6+ ♞g7 30.♞xc6+-) 26.♟xc6 ♟xg5 27.♟xg5 ♟xc6 28.f6 White gets a strong attack even without the queens. For example: 28...♞ge8 29.♟xh6 gxh6 30.♞xh6+ ♟g8 31.♞e3+-) 25.♞h5 (25.♞h4 25...h6 26.c4 ♞xc4 27.f6 ♟xf6 28.♟xf6 ♞xh4 29.♟xh4 f6 From a practical point of view Black is back in the game.) 25...h6 26.c4 ♟xc4 (26...♞xc4 27.f6 ♟h7 28.fxg7 ♞c6 29.c4+-) 27.♞h4 ♟d5



28.c4! The same nice idea. White sacrifices both c pawns in order to disturb the black pieces. After 28...Bxc4 Black lost the knight and after 28...Qxc4 it is possible to push 29.f6+-.]

24...♖e4 [24...♗xg2? doesn't work because of 25.♖xf6+—; 24...♔c7 It is hard to admit one's mistake during a game, but maybe Black should have played this move. 25.♔h4 (25.♗xf6 25...gxf6 26.♔xf6+ ♖g7⇒ (Xg2;Xc3)) 25...♔c4 26.♔h3 gxf6 27.♗xf6+ ♖g7 28.♔xh6 ♖g8 29.♖f2 ♔xc3 30.♖d2 White activates his rook. 30...a5 (Xe1) 31.♔g5 a4 32.h4 axb3 33.axb3



It looks like Black is not able to avoid h5-h6.]

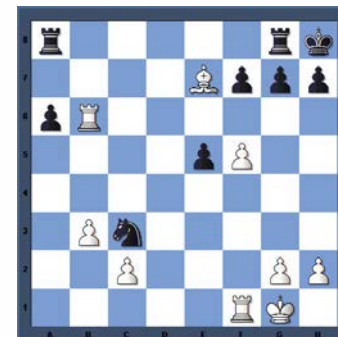
25.♖xc6 ♗xg5



26.♖d6! A strong move which forces Black to exchange a strong bishop for a bad knight.

26...♗xb3 [26...♗c4 27.♗xg5 ♗xf1 28.♔xf1 ♖gc8 29.♗d2±]

27.axb3 ♗e4 28.♖xb6 ♗xc3



29.f6! +— Otherwise Black would have played f6 himself.

29...♖ge8 [29...♖gc8]

30.fxg7+ ♔xg7 [30...♔g8!? Sometimes your opponent's pawn can work like a defender.]

31.♖b7 [31.♗f6+ 31...♔g8 32.♖f5 ♗e4 33.♗xe5 ♖ac8 34.♖b4 f6 35.♖xe4 ♖xe5 36.♖xe5 fxe5 37.c4]

31...♗e2+ 32.♔h1 ♗f4 Black decides not to give any material, but he knows the knight will be completely out of play. [32...♖ab8 With the idea of exchanging the active rook. Black lost the pawn now but at least he keeps some activity. 33.♖xb8 ♖xb8 34.♗f6+ ♔g6 35.♗xe5±]

33.g3 ♗g6 34.♗d6 ♗h8 35.c4 ♔g6 36.g4 Preventing f5 and Nf7.

36...♖e6 [36...f6 37.♗e7+—]

37.c5 White is winning and he only needs some more technical moves.

37...♔g5 38.h3 e4 39.♔g2 e3 Now the e-pawn will get lost.

40.♗f4+ ♔g6 41.♖b6 e2 42.♖e1 ♖c8 43.b4 a5 Black is trying to reduce the material but with a knight on h8 he has no chance to continue the fight.

44.♖xe2 axb4 45.♖xe6+ fxe6 46.♗e5 h5 47.♖xe6+ ♔f7

48.♖b6 hxg4 49.hxg4 ♔e7 [49...♘g6 50.♖f6++-]

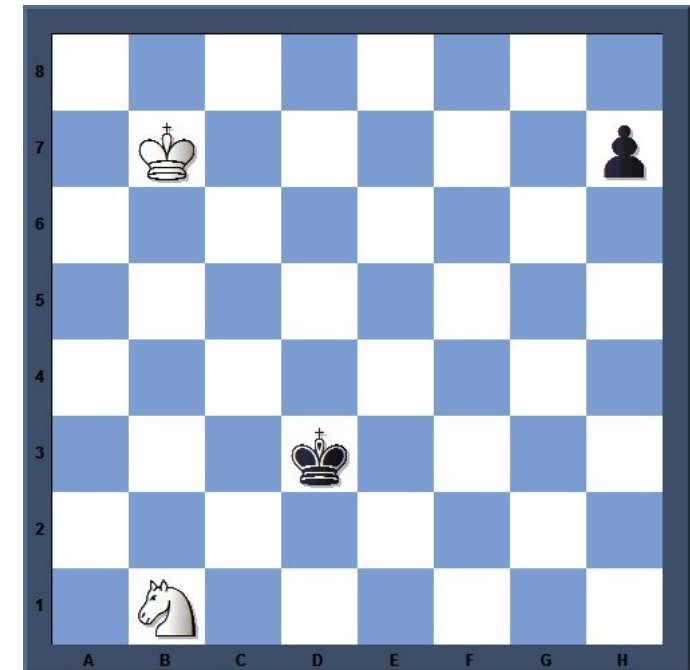
50.♙xh8 ♖xh8 51.♖xb4 ♔e6 52.♖c4 ♔d5 53.♖c1 ♖g8
54.♔g3 ♔c6 55.♔f4 ♖f8+ 56.♔e5 ♖g8 57.♔f5 ♖f8+
58.♔e6 ♖g8 59.♖g1 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Selman

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(19) Nakamura, H(2772)-Bacrot, E(2723)

Paris GP, 2013.09.24

[Solutions]



13. ♖xc4! dxc4 [13...cxd4 14. ♖b5+-]

14. d5! ♜xd5 15. O-O-O!+-

(20) Nakamura, H(2772)-Caruana, F(2779)

Paris GP, 2013.09.29

[Solutions]



15. ♖xd4! ♜xd4

[15...♖xd4 16. ♜h6+- c5 17. ♜ge2+- (17.e5+-)]

16. ♜f4+- [16. ♜e1+-]

(21) Azarov, S(2636)-Rzayev, B(2464)

Baku Open, 2013.09.25

[Solutions]



40. ♖e8+! ♔g7 [40...♜xe8 41. ♜xc4+-; 40...♔h7 41.hxg6+ fxg6 42. ♖e7+ ♔h8 43. ♜e5+ ♔g8 44. ♜g7#]

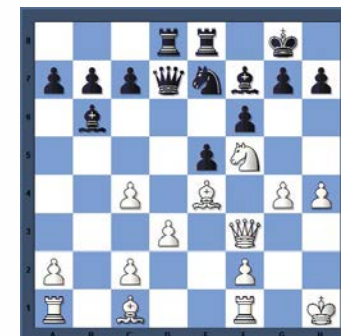
41. ♜e5+! f6 42. ♖e7+ ♔f8 [42...♜f7 43. ♜xa1+-]

43. ♜xf6+-

(22) Shanava, K(2567)-Azarov, S(2636)

Baku Open, 2013.09.26

[Solutions]



21. ♜xg7! ♖f8 [21...♔xg7 22. ♖h6+! ♔xh6 (22...♔g8 23. ♜xf6+-) 23. ♜xf6+ ♖g6 24. ♖f3!+-]

22. ♖h6+-

(23) Jumabayev, R(2562)-Pourramenazali, A(2455)

Baku Open, 2013.09.26

[Solutions]



25. ♖e4+! ♔xd7 26. ♘b5+ ♔c8 27. ♗a8+! ♖b8 28. ♘d7+!
♔xd7 [28... ♔c7 29. ♗c6#]

29. ♗xb8+—

(24) Ghaem Maghami, E(2549)-Izzat, K(2347)

Baku Open, 2013.09.26

[Solutions]



53. ♖h7+! [53. ♖c8? 53... ♘xc6=]

53... ♔xh7 54. c7±

(25) Bluebaum, M(2514)-Babula, V(2571)

Bremen, 2013.09.25

[Solutions]

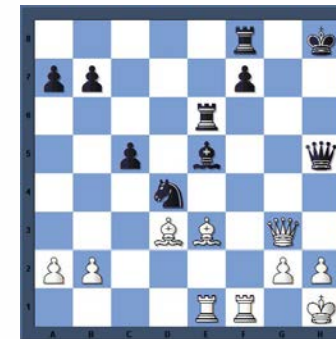


25. ♖xc5 1-0 [25. ♖xc5 25... ♖xc5 26. ♘f7+ ♔h7 27. ♘d8+—]

(26) Babula, V(2571)-Joachim, S(2422)

Bremen, 2013.09.28

[Solutions]



30. ♘xd4! cxd4 31. ♖f5! 1-0 [31. ♖f5 31... ♗xf5 (31... ♘g3
32. ♖xh5+ ♔g8 33. ♖xe6 fxe6 34. hxc3+—) 32. ♗h4+! ♔g7
33. ♘xf5+—]

(27) Adhiban, B(2567)-Koskela, N(2220)

Oslo Open, 2013.09.30

[Solutions]



40. ♖xg6! fxg6 41. ♜xg6+ ♔h8 [41... ♜g7 42. ♜xe8+-; 41... ♜f8 42. ♜d6+-]

42. ♜d6! +- ♕f3 43. ♜h6+ ♜h7 44. ♜g5!+-

(28) Nasri, A(2347)-Kotronias, V(2579)

Baku Open, 2013.09.19

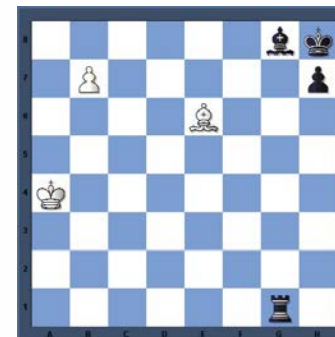
[Solutions]



24... ♜e3! 0-1

(29) Isenegger

[Solutions]



1. ♕a2!! [1.b8=♜? 1... ♜a1+ 2. ♖b4 ♜b1+ 3. ♕b3 ♜xb3+ 4. ♖c5 ♜xb8-+]

1... ♜a1! 2. ♖b4! [2.b8=♜? 2... ♜xa2+ 3. ♖b4 ♜b2+-+]

2... ♜xa2 3. ♖c3!! ♜a3+ 4. ♖b2 ♜b3+ 5. ♖a1! h5 [5... ♜xb7=; 5... ♖g7 6.b8=♜ ♜xb8=; 5... ♕d5 6.b8=♜+ ♜xb8=]

6.b8=♜! ♜xb8=



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter



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Editorial Preface

What a fantastic week of chess has just ended, with many top tournaments and a lot of surprising results.

Let us start with the main events:

The Russian Championship was decided in a rapid tiebreak between Svidler and Nepomniachtch, who was very lucky to win the last round against Kramnik by just defending a bad looking position until Kramnik risked too much and lost. Svidler managed to win the Championship for the 7th time(!) by beating Nepomniachtchi 1.5-0.5 in a very convincing way in the tiebreaks.. The 3rd place went to Vitiugov.

24 In the female section first place went to Gunina, 2nd to Kosteniuk and 3rd to Pogonina.

27 In the Bazna Kings tournament nobody could stop Caruana. Second place went to Wang Hao and 3rd to Nisipeanu.

27 The Bilbao Masters was won by Aronian, 2nd place went to Adams and 3-4th to Mamedyarov and Vachier Lagrave.

The Indonesian Open was clearly won by Dreev with a very good 8.5/11. There was a big share for the 2nd place, all with 7.5/11, with names like Short, Moiseenko..

In the German Bundesliga the OSG Baden Baden had a very good start with 4/4 and is already the sole leader.

As usual, we are trying to bring you the most interesting commented games from the past week and the most spectacular combinations. Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Adams, Mi(2753)

- Aronian, L.(2795) [C84]

6th Final Masters(5), 2013.10.11

[Balogh Csaba]

The decisive game of the Bilbao Masters tournament. We are in the penultimate round, when Adams and Aronian were leading the event with the same score.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♗f6 5.O-O ♙e7
Aronian was heading to his favorite Marshall Gambit and Adams decided to avoid it by the recently highly popular continuation.

6.d3

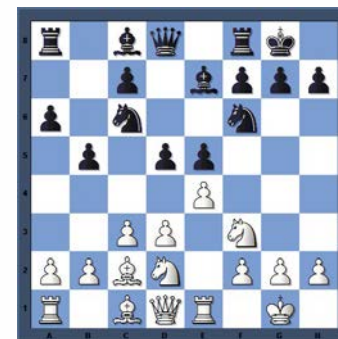


6...d6 Black delays playing b5. It has the advantage that after b5 Bb3, White cannot start a direct attack against the weakened queenside pawn structure with a4, but it has a minus as well, that after the text move, the white bishop is ready to retreat to the c2 square and it does not need to lose a tempo on the Bb3 move. [6...b5 is the other main line.]

7.c3 O-O 8.♖e1 By overprotecting the e4 pawn, White is ready to occupy the center with d3-d4! The forthcoming black reaction is a typical fight against this plan.

8...b5 9.♙c2 d5 Marshall players especially like this motif.

10.♘bd2 [In comparison to the Marshall, where the bishop stands on b3, after 10.exd5 Black does not need to sacrifice his e5 pawn and is able to recapture with the queen: 10...♙xd5]



10...d4 White is usually happy to see this slightly committing move, but on the other hand it leads to a highly unbalanced game, which was exactly what Aronian needed in this game. Black's optimal position would be to have the c7 pawn on c5. Now he is facing some difficulties in dealing with the d4 pawn, as the dxc3 bxc3 changes of the pawn structure clearly favor White as it strengthens his center. [10...dxe4 is the main line, which leads to a calm position where White's chances are considered to be slightly better. 11.dxe4]

11.h3 Useful prophylaxis against Bg4.

11...♘d7 Black improves his knight by transferring it to c5, where it could press the d3 pawn.



12.♘b3 White prevents Nc5 and tries to force Black to take on c3. Black has only one way to continue from a positional point of view. [12.♙b3!? is another motif that shows the drawback of the f6 knight's regrouping. White would like to install his bishop to d5.]

12...a5! Black saves his d4 pawn by the intermediate move of attacking the b3 knight, however it also allows White to improve his pawn structure on the queenside.

13.a4! Using the fact that Black cannot hold his b5 pawn anymore. [13.cxd4?! 13...a4 14.♘bd2 exd4 would be completely fine for Black. Next move is Nc5.]

13...bxa4 14.♘bd2! White intends to take back the pawn with the bishop and immediately transfers his knight to the nice c4 square after getting rid of the b5 pawn. [14.♖xa4 is a worse version than in the game. Black could play 14...♘b6 15.♖a1 a4 16.♘bd2 with a complex game.]

14...♘c5 [If Black tries to control the c4 square with 14...♘b6 15.♙xa4 ♘xa4 otherwise the e5 pawn falls 16.♙xa4 ♙d7 17.♘c4+= we end up in a slightly similar position to the game and White is better.]

15.♘c4 f6 16.♙xa4 ♘xa4 17.♖xa4 [It made sense to lure the bishop away from the a6 square by attacking c6. 17.♙xa4! 17...♙d7



18.♙c2+= Followed by cxd4 exd4 and Bd2 . White should be better with his strong knights and the target on a5.]

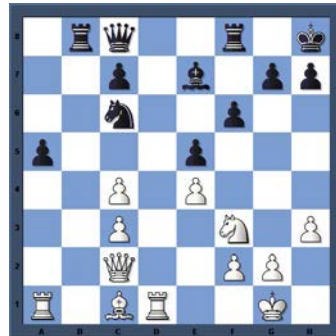
17...dxc3 18.bxc3 ♙a6! Black is looking for counterplay with the idea of Bb5 and when the rook leaves a4, he will play Bxc4.

19.♙b3 White temporarily saves the c4 knight by pinning the king, but later on it moves into the tempo Rb8 or Qb8. age

19...♙h8 20.♖d1 After protecting the d3 pawn, White threatens to take on a5.



20...♙b8! An excellent move! Aronian foresees the consequences and establishes the right placement of the pieces. [20...♖b8 was more natural, but it would have been an inaccuracy in view of 21.♙c2 ♙b5 22.♖a1 ♙xc4 (Black cannot save the a-pawn by playing 22...a4 23.♘a3!± as White will soon win the a4 pawn.) 23.dxc4 ♙c8



24. **Qd5**+= Followed by Qa4, Be3 and Black is lacking active counterplay. White could also try to collect the a5 pawn by playing Nd2-b3 later on. The doubled c-pawns are not bad at all, moreover the c3 pawn is especially strong as it controls the very important b4 and d4 squares.]

21. **Qc2** [The tactical justification lays behind the d1 rook. White cannot win the a5 pawn because of 21. **Qxb8** 21... **Rxb8** 22. **Qxa5?** is met by 22... **Qb5!** 23. **Qxc6** **Qxa4** 24. **Qxb8** **Qxd1**—+]

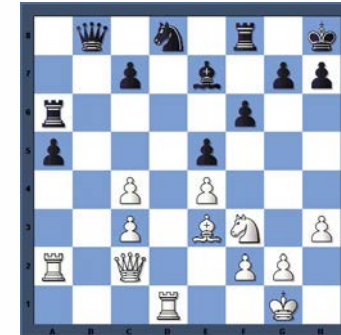
21... **Qb5** 22. **Ra2** **Qxc4** [22... **a4** 23. **Qa3** The a-pawn becomes more vulnerable on a4 than on a5, where the c6 knight safely protects it.]

23. **dx c4** Just like in the 20... **Rb8** line, White would like to put his rook to d5 and his bishop to e3. Aronian finds a clever maneuver to improve his knight.



23... **Qd8!** The knight is heading to c5! Black also plans to advance his pawn to c6 in order to control the d5 square.

24. **Qe3** **Ra6** Black has to guard his a-pawn, he intends to do it with his queen.



This is the moment, when Adams loses the thread and he finds a wrong plan, after which the initiative passes to Black. [24... **Qe6** 25. **Qda1**+= The a5 pawn will fall.]

25. **Qa4?** With ideas like invading on d7 or playing Qb5, but as we will see, Black is just in time to consolidate his position and then the white queen just gets under attack. [His idea was correct, but he should have started with 25. **Qd5!** 25... **Qa8** (25... **Qb7** is better, although White's position is preferable. 26. **Qh4**!) 26. **Qa4!** **Qb7** 27. **Qd7**± With a clear advantage for White. He must also play for an attack with Nh4-f5!; 25. **Qh4** also comes into consideration.]

25... **Qe6** 26. **Qb5** [26. **Qd7** runs into 26... **Qc5!**; The problem of the previous move is that after 26. **Qd5** Black has 26... **Qb1+**! 27. **Qh2** **Qxe4** dropping the important pawn.]



26...Qa8! Black obviously avoids to improve White's pawn structure. He is threatening with the strong positional idea of consolidating the c5 square by c6 and when the queen leaves, then Bc5.

27.c5 This is a weakening, but White was already in deep positional trouble. [27.♖da1 is strongly met by 27...c6! 28.♙a4 ♟c5=+; 27.♖d7 once again runs into 27...c6 28.♙a4 ♟c5+]]

27...♖b8 28.♙c4 ♙c6! Black wins the c5 pawn.

29.♟e1 [29.♖d5 just temporarily saves the pawn. 29...♙b5 (29...a4+ followed by Ra5 is also good.) 30.♙xb5 ♖xb5+]]

29...♟xc5 [29...♟xc5+ was also strong.]

30.♖d5 ♟b3+ Black ended up with a clear extra pawn and the a5 pawn becomes a dangerous passer. White's position is basically hopeless.

31.♙d3 ♖aa8 32.♟c2 ♟f8 After some preparation, Black is going to advance his a-pawn.

33.♟a3



33...♙a4! This forces White to trade queens in order to avoid dropping a piece, but it helps Black to convert his advantage.

34.♙c4 ♙xc4 35.♟xc4 a4 36.♟f1 a3 Black threatens to play Ra4, kicking out the knight from its outpost.

37.♖d7 [37.♟e2 37...♖a4 38.♟d3 is met by 38...c6 39.♖d7 ♟c5=+ Black works out the c5 square for his knight.]

37...♟g8 [37...♟a5 38.♟xa5 ♖xa5 39.♖xc7 ♖b2 40.♖c8 ♟g8=+ was another way to win.]

38.♟e2 White already wants to take on c7 as in comparison to the 38.Rxc7 line, White will be able to protect his knight with Kd3 at the end. [After 38.♖xc7 Aronian wanted to play



38...♖c8! 39.♖xc8 ♖xc8 Winning the c3 pawn as the a3 pawn is untouchable. 40.♟xa3? ♖a8=+]]

38...♖b7 Ra4 is coming next.

39.♔d3 ♜a4 40.f3 [40.♜d8 40...♔f7—+ is also over.]

40...♞c5 The knight's jump to c5 would be fatal from White's point of view.

41.♞d2 ♔f8 [41...♞a7—+ was strong also, with Nc5 next.]

42.g4 ♞a7 43.♞d6 cxd6—+ White resigned in view of Nc5 checking the rook. It was amazing that only one wrong plan with Qa4-b5 has completely changed the outcome of the game. **0-1**

(2) Ponomarev, R.(2751)

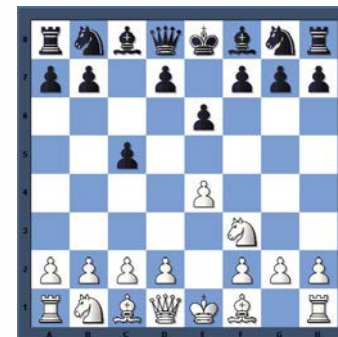
- Caruana, F.(2779) [B40]

7th Kings Tournament(8), 2013.10.14

[Balogh Csaba]

Caruana was already a point ahead of the field, but he continues to play aggressively in all his games, even with the black pieces.

1.e4 c5 2.♞f3 e6 Black is heading for the Paulsen defence.



3.g3 This harmless-looking move is becoming more and more popular even on the highest level. Mainly thanks to the efforts of, Michael Adams who uses this weapon really effectively against his opponents.

3...♞c6 4.♞g2 ♞f6 5.♔e2 White's future plan is connected with occupying the center by playing c3-d4, therefore he protects the e4 pawn with the queen and not with d3.

5...e5!? This is basically the novelty on the highest level. Definitely a prepared one by Caruana, because he was also suffering before against this opening.

6.O-O ♞e7 Caruana spares the d7-d6 move, as we will see, not without reason.

7.c3 O-O 8.d4 Ponomarev tries this tempting pawn sacrifice in order to grab the initiative, but Caruan was very well

prepared! [8.♘a3 is another plan. Black had probably prepared 8...♖e8 9.♘c4 ♕f8 with the idea to play d5 in one move.]

8...cxd4 9.cxd4



9...d5!? This spectacular move came more or less without thinking, showing that Caruana had serious analysis about this position. [It is not obvious how White wanted to reply on the simple 9...exd4 10.e5 ♘e8! 11.♖d1 d6 Black seems to be fine here as well.]

10.exd5 [10.♘xe5?! is bad in view of 10...♘xd4! 11.♖d1 dxe4=+; Black is completely fine after 10.dxe5 10...dxe4 11.exf6 exf3 12.♖xf3 (Black takes more in the line 12.fxe7? 12...fxe2 13.exd8=♖ exf1=♖+ 14.♕xf1 ♖xd8=+) 12...♕xf6 13.♘c3 With a balanced game.]

10...♘xd4 11.♘xd4 [The point is that 11.♖xe5? loses to 11...♘c2!-+]

11...exd4 12.♖e5 [12.♖d1?! is met by 12...♕g4! White hardly wanted to play f3, nor to trade the bishops.; 12.♖c4 12...♖b6 After developing the Bf5, the rook comes to c8 with an important tempo.]

12...d3 13.♘c3 [13.♖d4 13...♕f5 Black saves the pawn.]

13...♖e8!



14.♕f4? A blunder or just a misevaluation of the arising position?! The e7 bishop has a good square to use for a discovered attack. [14.♖d4 should have been played. 14...♕f5 With a playable position for both sides.]

14...♕a3! 15.♖d4 ♕xb2 16.♖xd3 [16.♖ab1? loses to 16...♕xc3 17.♖xc3 ♘xd5-+]

16...♕xa1 17.♖xa1 ♠ White has pinned his hopes on the bishop pair and the strong d-pawn. On the other hand Black is a clear exchange up and he is able to block the d-pawn properly on d7.

17...♕d7 18.h3 [18.d6 is met by 18...♕c6! 19.♕xc6 bxc6 ♠ White lost his bishop pair.]

18...♖c8 Bringing the last piece to the game.



19.♕e3! White transfers the bishop to d4 in order to stabilize

his c3 knight. [19.♖d1 is met by 19...♙a5! –+]

19...♙f5 Caruana decides to simplify the position. The main achievement would be to get rid of one of the bishops, but at the moment it is not possible.

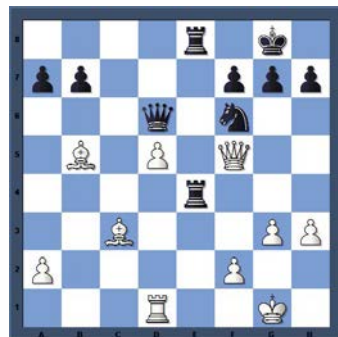
20.♙xf5 ♖xc3 21.♙d4 [21.♙xa7? naturally does not work since after 21...b6 22.♖b1 ♘d7 the bishop gets trapped.]

21...♖c4 22.♖d1 White also coordinates his pieces, but he is still just an exchange down.

22...♙d6 [The machine suggests 22...a6! in order to avoid the idea that happened in the game and also to start advancing the queenside pawns with b5, which will be necessary in the future to convert the advantage.]

23.♙f1 ♖b4 24.♙c3 The bishop pair starts to work. They are chasing the rooks.

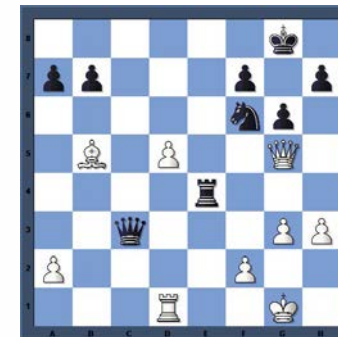
24...♖be4 25.♙b5 [25.♙d3? runs into 25...♙xd5! 26.♙xd5 ♘xd5 27.♙xe4 ♘xc3 –+]



25...♙c5!! Only with this great move Black preserves his advantage, but it required a lot of calculations! [25...♖e7 would already have been met by 26.♙d3! and suddenly Black is facing problems...

26...♙xd5? does not work anymore because of the weak back rank: 27.♙xd5 ♘xd5 28.♙xe4 ♘xc3 29.♖d8+]

26.♙xf6?! [26.♙xe8 was more tenacious, although White remains in trouble in the end: 26...♙xc3 27.♙b5 g6! 28.♙g5



28...♖e5! Black wins material: 29.♙c1 (29.♙f4 29...♘xd5+; 29.♙xf6 29...♖e1+! is the point!) 29...♙xc1 30.♖xc1 ♖xd5+]

26...♖e1+! Black wins in all the lines now. [Of course not 26...♙xb5?? 27.♙g5 ♖e1+ 28.♙h2+– g6 29.♙h6]

27.♙h2 [27.♖xe1 27...♖xe1+ 28.♙g2 (28.♙h2 28...gxf6 29.♙d3 ♙f8 –+; 28.♙f1 28...gxf6 –+) 28...♙xb5 wins for Black. He is covering the back rank mate on e8, while after 29.♙g5 Black mates first: 29...♙f1+! 30.♙f3 ♙e2+ 31.♙g2 ♙e4+ 32.f3 ♙e2#; 27.♙g2 27...♙xb5 28.♖xe1 ♖xe1 transposes to 27.Rxe1 line.]

27...♖xd1! [White gets very good drawing chances after 27...gxf6 28.♙xe8 ♖xd1 29.♙g4+! ♙f8 30.♙xd1 ♙xf2+ 31.♙h1 ♙xe8 32.♙a4+]

28. ♖xe8



28... ♖xd5! Perfect calculation by Caruana! [28... gxf6 would once again have been met by 29. ♖g4+ ♔f8 30. ♖xd1]

29. ♖e5 [29. ♖g4 29... ♖xf2+—+; 29. ♖xf7+ is also hopeless: 29... ♔xf7 30. ♖e5+ ♔e7 White quickly runs out of checks and he loses. 31. ♖g5+ ♔e8—+]

29... ♖xe5 30. ♖xf7+ ♔h8 The game is basically over. White is a complete exchange down without any compensation. The rest is easy. Caruana had foreseen this line before playing 25... Qc5!

31. ♖d7 ♖e7 32. ♖f4 White tries to keep the queens on the board to retain some minimal practical chance.

32... ♖f6 33. ♖d2 b5 Black starts to create his passed pawn.

34. ♖g4 h5! A clever idea to weaken the position of the white king and to disturb him later on with annoying checks.

35. ♖d1 h4 36. ♖g4 ♖e8 37. gxh4 ♖xh4 38. ♔g2 ♖e7 Black is not in a hurry. He can do whatever he wants, he will keep his winning advantage because White is unable to create any compensation for the exchange.

39. ♖f3 ♖d8 40. ♖f4 ♖f6 The time trouble is over. Ponomarev continues to play on for a while.

41. ♖g4 g6 42. ♖e4 ♖g5+ 43. ♔f1 a5 44. h4 ♖f5 45. ♖c6 ♖f8

46. ♖c3+ ♔h7 [White resigned in view of 46... ♔h7 47. ♔g2 b4 48. ♖e3 ♖xf3+! 49. ♖xf3 ♖xf3 50. ♔xf3 a4—+ A convincing victory! It will be interesting to follow the development of the 5...e5 move.] **0-1**

(3) Bacrot, Etienne(2730) - Giri, Anish(2749) [B52]

Bundesliga 2013-14(1.1), 2013.10.12
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the first round of the Bundesliga season 2013/2014. Our opponent Emsdetten came out with an almost full line-up, so we did not expect to have an easy match, but we won it with an amazing 6.5-1.5. The first one to bring us in the lead was Etienne, who really completely outplayed his younger opponent from an about equal position and managed to finish the game with a bang!

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♙b5+ Of course this is not the main move to fight for an opening advantage, but it is well known that Giri is usually very well prepared and it is a good idea to take him out of opening as soon as possible.

3...♙d7



4.c4 It seems like the French players have been working a bit on this rare move. Just a few weeks ago Fressinet tried it against Gelfand, but without any success.

4...♘f6 [The idea behind the move 4.c4 becomes clear after 4...♙xb5 5.cxb5 and the Black knight cannot develop to his optimal square c6.]

5.♘c3 g6 Very solid play by Black. The bishop on g7 is going to take a nice position.

6.O-O ♙g7 7.d4 Sooner or later White needs to push d4 anyway move, so there was no reason to wait...

7...cxd4 8.♘xd4 O-O 9.♙xd7 ♖xd7 Now we got a position that could also be reached by playing 4.Bxd7, so we are more or less back to the main line after a different move order.

10.b3!? This is probably one of the only moves to go on for White. [10.f3 with the idea of playing Be3 next doesn't lead to anything for White: 10...♖c8 11.b3 d5! This move is nothing new, it was already played many times. 12.exd5



12...♘xd5! Easy but pretty! :) **13.♘xd5 e6** Black wins the piece back with an equal position.]

10...♘c6 11.♙b2 a6 A logical move with the idea to play Nxd4 and b5 next, breaking White's pawn structure, but I am not sure it was the best one. [11...e6!? followed by Rfd8 and d5 could be an interesting option for Black, as it is hard to imagine that White has big chances to be better here.]

12.♘xc6 Another tricky move by White, giving Black the choice with what to take on c6.

12...♖xc6?! This already looks like a clear positional mistake. [Better was 12...bxc6 13.♖e1 ♖c7 and if White is better, it is a

minimal advantage.]

13.♘d5! With this move White is fixing his slightly better position. It is already time for Black to be careful in order to not get into serious trouble.

13...♘xd5?! Once again Black doesn't feel the danger. [13...♖fe8 And only then decide whether to take on d5 or not would have been a clearly better choice. Black should not be afraid of 14.♘xf6+ ♕xf6 15.♕xf6 exf6 followed by Re6, with an about equal position.]

14.exd5 ♖c5 15.♕xg7 ♔xg7



16.♖e1 Only heavy pieces are left on the board and we can clearly see that White is better. The pressure on the e7 pawn is quite unpleasant and Black's play with b5 is a bit too late.

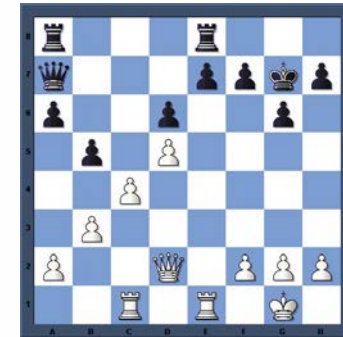
16...♖fe8 [Maybe Black could have tried 16...e5 17.dxe6 fxe6 but after 18.♖d2 White has a slightly better position and very pleasant play by putting pressure on the d6 and e6 pawns.]

17.♖d2 The queen is perfectly placed on d2. White has multiple ideas: to play Rac1 and b4 or maybe to play Re4-Rae1 and Rh4, with some attack on the black king.

17...b5? Another positional mistake by Giri. [It was really time to look for some play: 17...e5 18.dxe6 ♖xe6 And Black is still holding, although the position is already very unpleasant.]

18.♖ac1! Simple and very strong! Black is suddenly in big trouble! White wants to play b4 next.

18...♖a7?! Once again Black doesn't choose the best and after this move White's position is probably almost winning! [18...bxc4 19.♖xc4 of course looks very bad for Black.; The best chance was to play 18...b4 and of course White is better, but Black is still in the game.]



19.b4! Etienne gives his opponent a very hard time. Black now has a choice whether to give away the c-file or let White play c5. Both options sound very bad.

19...bxc4 [19...♖ac8 20.c5! And of course Black cannot take on c5 because of the check on d4. 20...dxc5 21.bxc5 ♖xc5 22.♖d4+]]

20.♖xc4 h5 [It would be great for Black to exchange one pair of rooks, but of course it doesn't work: 20...♖ac8? 21.♖c3+--]

21.♖c3+ ♔g8 22.♖c7 ♖b6 White reached all that he could dream about. The c-file is under control, the 7th rank is covered and Black doesn't have any counterplay at all.

23.a4! Another strong move by White. Black's only counterplay could be based on playing a5 at some moment and opening the line, but this could never work because of White's b5 reply.

23...♖ab8 24.♗e4 White blocks all of Black's counterplay again.

24...f6 Black's position is hopeless but how to finish the game?!

25.g4! Another very nice strategic decision. White is not only going to put pressure on the queenside, but also crush the kingside.

25...♖b7 Giving White a nice finishing move...



26.♗xf6! And Etienne found it! I guess it was a great pleasure for him to win such a game, completely outplaying his opponent and scoring an important win for the team. 26...Qxc7 27. Qxg6 Kf8 28.Rf4 mate could have illustrated the game even more! :) **1-0**

(4) Caruana, F.(2779)
- Wang Hao(2733) [C42]

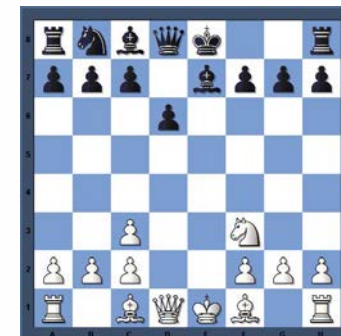
7th Kings Tournament(9), 2013.10.15
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Caruana is playing really great chess lately and it was no different in the Bazna Kings tournament. We are in the 9th round and Caruana was already leading the event with 1.5 points advantage. In today's game, there been more pressure for Caruana than just the tournament victory as in case of a win he would cross the 2800 mark for the first time in the live rating list. He was so close before making a mistake and letting Wang Hao take control over the game.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 Somehow in the last games, the Petroff is back. For many years it was played by Gelfand and Kramnik and was solid as a rock. Then both Gelfand and Kramnik switched to the Sicilian and Berlin and the Petroff was left alone.

3.♘xe5 d6 4.♗f3 ♘xe4 5.♗c3 One of the most popular lines, which was played a lot by Karjakin for example.

5...♘xc3 6.dxc3 ♕e7



7.♕e3 White's idea in this line is to castle queenside and launch quick play on the kingside against the black king. On the other hand, Black's position is very solid.

7...O-O 8.♔d2 b6 A rare move. Usually Black was playing 8...Nc6 which also looks like the most logical move to me.

9.O-O-O ♘b7 10.♞d4! A very nice move. White quickly realized that by developing the bishop to b7, Black has weakened the f5 square, which is a very nice one for the white knight.

10...♞c6! A nice reply by Black. Wang Hao is planning to get the rid of the white knight on f5 by playing Ne7 in the future.

11.♞f5 ♘f6 12.♞g3 [12.h4 also looks like a possible way to play for White.]

12...♞e7 13.♞h5 ♞f5 14.♘f4 The most fighting move for White. [White could also just have played the simple 14.♞xf6+ 14...♔xf6 15.♘f4 and I think that thanks to the bishop pair White's position should be slightly better.]

14...♘e5 White has to give up the bishop pair.



15.h4! A very typical move. White's idea could also be to play Rh3 next.

15...g6 [15...f6 16.♘d3 With a nice position for White.]

16.♘d3! White is going for the complications and this is absolutely the right decision.

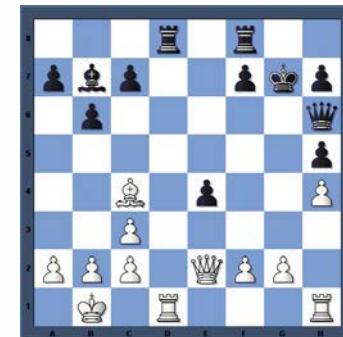
16...gxh5 17.♘xf5 ♔f6 18.♘xe5 dxe5 19.♘d3 So some exchanges have been made and we have to take a fresh

look at the position. Things are pretty complicated, but the position of the white king is much safer than Black's one and in the future White could maybe combine the play on the queenside with the attacking chances. All in all White should be better here.

19...♔g7 A solid move as the king will be better placed on g7 than on g8 anyway.

20.♔e2 White is attacking the h5 pawn and thereby forcing the black queen to take a bad position on h6.

20...e4 21.♘c4 ♔h6+ 22.♔b1 ♖ad8 Now White has a wide range of nice moves.



23.a3 Caruana does not hurry to launch the final action. [23.g4!? also looks interesting.]

23...f5 Black has consolidated his position a little bit.

24.♘b3 White wants to keep another attacking option, to play Qc4 at some point.

24...♔g6? A very strange move. Black kills his own queen on h6. [24...c5 looks much more solid, with pretty unclear play.]

25.♖h3! A very nice move. White is provoking Black to play f4, which will weaken the structure.

25...f4 26.♖xd8 [26.g4 immediately also looks interesting.]

26...♖xd8 27.g4 The black king is in big danger!

27...c5 This move is needed to protect against White's Qc4.

28.♖h1 A very natural move. White brings his rook back into play.

28...f3 White was threatening to play gxh5 and Rg1.

29.♖c4 ♜d5 Black is just about holding things together with only moves !

30.♖a4 ♜xb3 31.cxb3 White is threatening to play Qxe4 or Qc6.

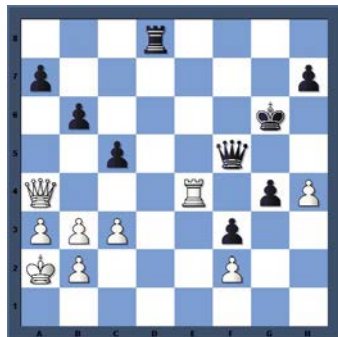
31...♖f4 Once again Black finds one of the only moves!

32.♖e1?! This move looks strong, but it gives Black enough time to escape. [32.♖c6+! would put Black in front of big problems... 32...♖f7 33.♖b7+ ♜f8 34.gxh5 White should be much better here.]

32...hxg4! Wang Hao doesn't miss his chance.

33.♖xe4 ♖f5 Winning a tempo by pinning the white rook.

34.♜a2 And here comes the fantastic



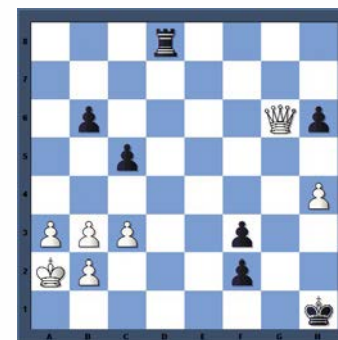
34...♜h5!! The black king is not only defending the g4 pawn, but it will soon become the main piece of Black's play.

35.♖e1 h6 Not the best move, but both players were probably

already in time trouble.

36.♖xa7 g3! This was Black's key idea! His king is going to h3 and g2 via g4!

37.fxg3?! [White missed his chance to make a draw by playing 37.♖g7 37...gxf2 38.♖e5 ♖xe5 39.♖xe5+ ♜g4 White's position looks lost, but in fact it is a draw: 40.♖e4+ ♜g3 41.♖g6+ ♜h2 42.♖c2 ♜g2 43.♖g6+ ♜h1



44.♖b1+ Black doesn't have anything better than a draw.]

37...f2 38.♖f1 ♜g4 Now it is clear that Black took over the game and the position is probably close to winning for Black.

39.♖g7+ ♜f3 40.g4 White is trying to somehow find some counter chances, but there are none...

40...♖f4 Black stays solid.

41.♖b7+ ♜e2 The black king has reached his final destination! :)

42.♖b1 ♖d3 This move is also winning, but Black missed the following pretty win: [42...f1=♖ 43.♖e7+ ♜d2 44.♖xd8+ ♜c2! What a position! 45.♖xf1



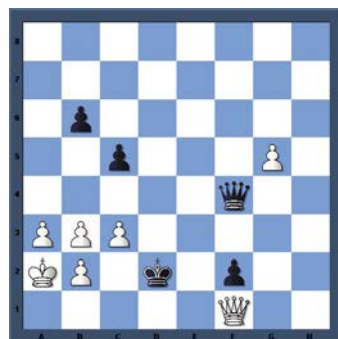
45...xf1 And White is hopeless against the mate on b1.]

43. g2 White is hoping for his g-pawn to save him. [43.xb6 43...f1= would lead just to a winning position for Black, as a rook up is too much.]

43...d1 Wang Hao is chooses the most simple win.

44.xd1 xd1 45.f1+ d2 White cannot do anything against Qg3-Qg1.

46.g5 hxg5 47.hxg5



47...g3 48.b5 d3 This game was clearly a big pity for Caruana who had his opponent on the ropes, but the creative play of Wang Hao and a bit of luck brought him back into the game. What is sure is that we will very soon see Caruana over the 2800 ELO line. **0-1**

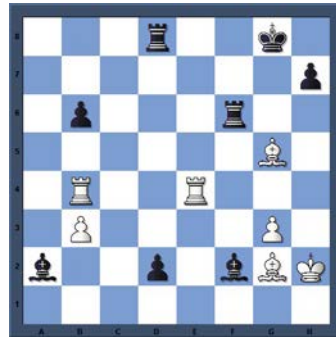
Puzzle section

(5) Vitiugov, N(2729)-Kramnik, V(2796)

Russian Championship, 2013.10.12

[CEWN]

1. =

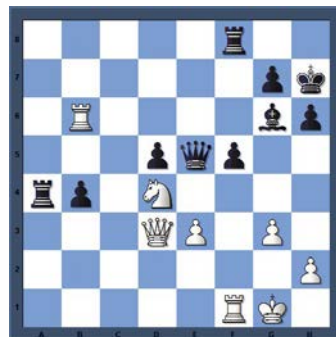


(6) Pogonina, N(2485)-Kosintseva, T(2515)

Russian Woman Championship, 2013.10.14

[CEWN]

1. +-

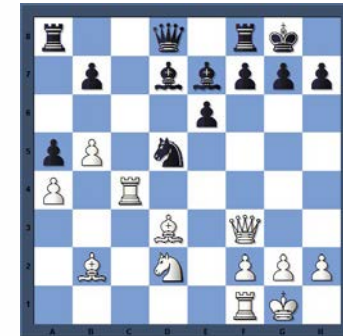


(7) Hovhanissyan, R(2599)-Kostin, K(2337)

Chigorin memorial, 2013.10.07

[CEWN]

1. +-



(8) Popov, V(2548)-Kukhmazov, A(2239)

Chigorin memorial, 2013.10.08

[CEWN]

1... -+



(9) Hovhannisyan, R(2599)-Shuraev, A(2351)

Chigorin memorial, 2013.10.09

[CEWN]

1. +-



(10) Matlakov, M(2682)-Eljanov, P(2729)

Chigorin memorial, 2013.10.11

[CEWN]

1... -+

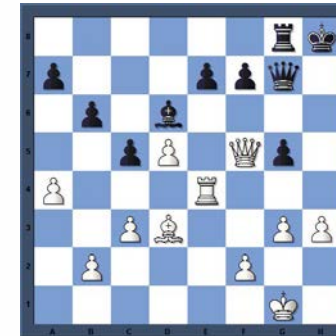


(11) Romanov, E(2654)-Givon, A(2445)

Chigorin memorial, 2013.10.12

[CEWN]

1. +-

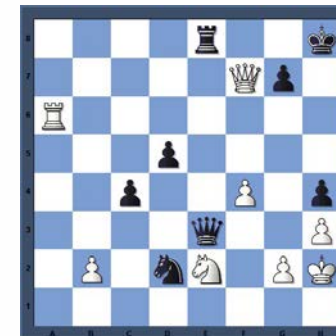


(12) Homa, S(2351)-Stripunsky, A(2549)

Continental Open, 2013.10.11

[CEWN]

1... -+



(13) Sanchez Enriquez, O(2397)-Ortiz Suarez, I(2601)

Univ Open, 2013.10.11

[CEWN]

1... -+

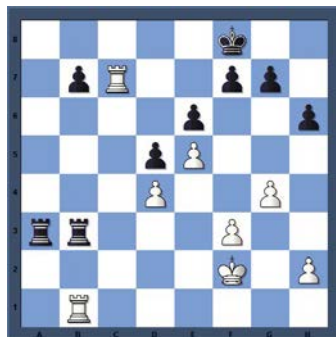


(14) Ni Hu(2671)-Yu Ruiyua(2554)

Chinese league, 2013.10.12

[CEWN]

1. +-

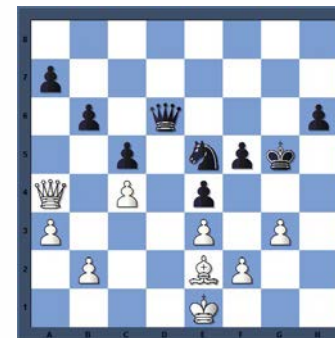


Endgame section

(15) Bezold, M.(2524)-Bartel, M.(2638)

German league, 2013.10.13

[CE Team]



Black has some initiative due to the space advantage and his superior knight. However it should not objectively be possible to win this, as White has no weakness and his queen is ready to create counterplay by Qe8 or Qxa7. The very resourceful Polish GM finds a very deep idea for Black...

35...♖f3+ 36.♗xf3 [36.♔f1? would have lost on the spot after 36...♕d2! with decisive threats. White can only defend with 37.♕d1 but it drops two pawns after 37...♕xd1+ 38.♗xd1 ♘d2+ 39.♔e2 ♘xc4-+]

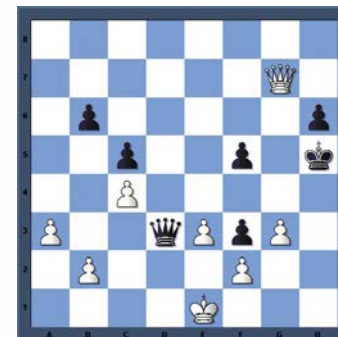
36...exf3 White was in huge time trouble and he fails to realize his opponent's deep idea.



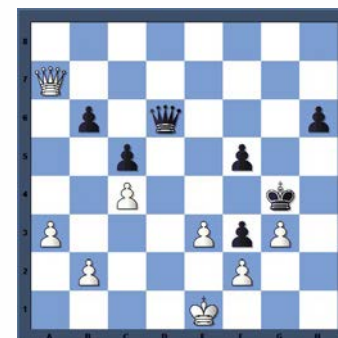
37. ♕xa7? [37. ♖e8! was more careful. 37... ♔g4 And now White has (37... ♕d3 is met by the same draw as it could have happened in the game after 37. Qxa7 Qd3.) 38. ♕g8+! ♔h3 39. ♕d5!= A very important defence and White wins the f3 pawn and solves all his problems.]



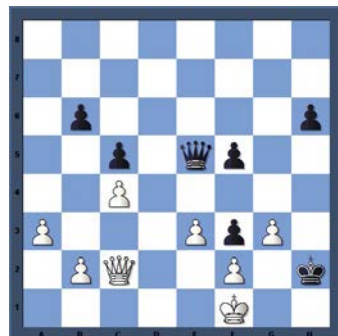
37... ♔g4!! Black is heading to g2 with his king, where it is going to be covered from all the checks and attacking the critical f2 pawn. He also creates the threat of Qd3-e2 mate. [At first sight 37... ♕d3 looks like a win, but White survives after 38. ♕g7+! (38. ♕e7+ 38... ♔h5 39. ♕f7+ (39. ♕h4+ 39... ♔g6—+) 39... ♔g4 40. ♕g6+ ♔h3—+) 38... ♔h5



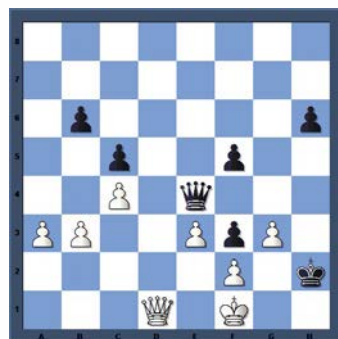
39. g4+! The only move and White gives perpetual check after (39. ♕f7+? 39... ♔g4—+) 39... fxg4 40. ♕e5+ ♔h4 41. ♕h2+ ♔g5 42. ♕e5+ ♔g6 43. ♕e6+=]



38. ♕g7+? [38. ♕a4! was White's only practical chance. However after 38... ♕e5! Black seems to be winning. (White's idea was to meet 38... ♔h3? with 39. ♕d1! and the f3 pawn is under attack. 39... ♕c6 40. ♕d5±) 39. ♕c2 ♔h3 Black threatens to play Kg2 and it leads to a similar position as in the game. The only move is 40. ♔f1 ♔h2!

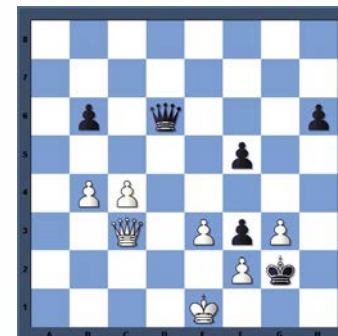


Due to his weak king, White cannot save his position. Let's see some examples: 41. ♔d1 is the most tenacious move, but it also loses after (41. ♔d2 41... ♔e4—+ Black wins in view of the Qb1 and Qxc4 threats.; 41.a4 is met by 41... ♔e4 42. ♔xe4 fxe4—+ and White cannot create a passed pawn anymore with b4, so he will soon end up in zugzwang and lose the f2 pawn.) 41... ♔e4 42.b3



42...h5—+ In this fantastic position, despite his extra pawn, White is in zugzwang. 43. ♔e1 ♔g2—+ And again White has no moves...]

38... ♔h3 39. ♔b7 [39. ♔c3 39... ♔g2 40.b4 was another defensive attempt, but it also fails for instance after 40...cxb4 41.axb4



41...h5! Black intends to open a route to the f2 pawn. 42. ♔a3 (42.c5 42...bxc5 43.bxc5 ♔a6—+) 42...h4 43.gxh4 ♔h2—+ followed by Qg1-f2 and the f-pawn promotes automatically.]

39... ♔g2 40. ♔d5 ♔f6 41. ♔d2 h5! With the idea of h4 gxh4 Qxh4 and winning the f2 pawn because of the mate threat with Qh1. [White resigned despite being a pawn up. His decision is completely justified in view of the following lines: 41...h5 42. ♔c2 (42. ♔c3 The pawn endgame loses after 42... ♔xc3+ 43.bxc3 ♔g1—+ Black only plays Kg1-g2 until White runs out of waiting moves.) 42...h4 43.gxh4 Otherwise h3-h2... 43... ♔xh4 44.b4 ♔h1+ 45. ♔d2 ♔f1—+ followed by Qxf2 and the f3 pawn promotes soon. A very interesting endgame, which shows that even in queen endgames the activity is the most important factor. White's extra pawn was completely useless.] **0-1**

(16) Mamedyarov, S.(2759)-Vachier Lagrave, M.(2742)

6th Final Masters(5), 2013.10.11

[CE Team]

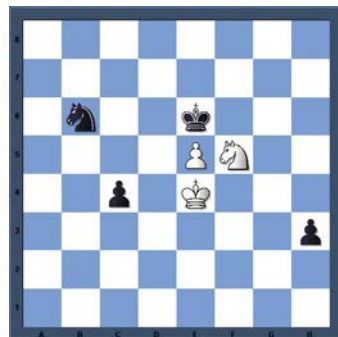


41. ♖e4 After a very fighting game, Black is so close to win the game. A passed pawn on the c-file plus a chance of getting another passed pawn on the h-file give Black very good winning chances because as we know, in knight endgames passed pawns are becoming especially dangerous.

41...g4! Black doesn't wait and immediately creates a passed h-pawn, which looks like the right plan.

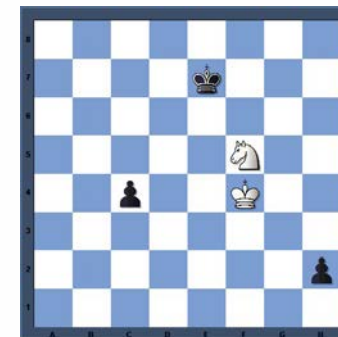
42. ♘f5 White transfers his knight to d4, from where it will stop the c-pawn from advancing and at the same time push away the black king.

42...h3 43.gxh3 gxh3



44. ♜d4+ We are at the critical moment of the game now.

44...♔d7? What a miscalculation. Maybe Maxime was thinking that any move is winning?! [44...♔f7! was the correct move! 45. ♖f3 ♜d5 46.e6+ And here comes the difference to the game: 46...♔f6! The black king is taking a perfect position on f6. 47. ♖g3 ♜f4 Now Black is easily winning, White cannot do anything about Black's next move Nxe6 or if the white knight would leave the d4 square, then Kxe6. 48.e7 (48. ♖h2 48...♜xe6 Black is winning.) 48...♔e7 49. ♖xf4 h2 50. ♜f5+



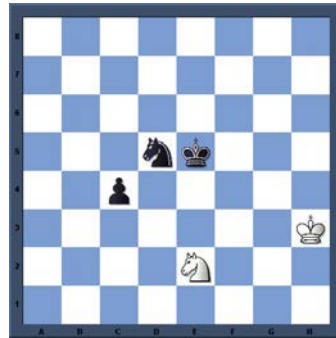
50...♔f6! Here is the difference to the game: in the game the black king is on e6 and it means a loss of a very important tempo for Black. 51. ♜g3 c3 52. ♖e3 ♖g5 53. ♖d3 ♖g4 54. ♜h1 ♖f3 55. ♖xc3 ♖g2 56. ♖d2 ♖xh1 57. ♖e2 ♖g2 And Black is just in time to win the game.]

45. ♖f3 ♜d5 46.e6+! It sounds shocking, but it seems to be a draw!

46...♔e8 [46...♔e7 47. ♖g3 ♜f4 48. ♖xf4 h2 49. ♜f5+ ♔xe6 50. ♜g3 The same position with the black king on f6 is winning, but now it is a draw. 50...c3 51. ♖e3 ♖e5 52. ♜h1 c2 53. ♖d2 ♖f4 54. ♖xc2 ♖f3 55. ♖d2 ♖g2 56. ♖e2 ♖xh1 57. ♖f1 Draw.]

47. ♖e2! The white knight is stopping the c-pawn while the king takes care about the h-pawn.

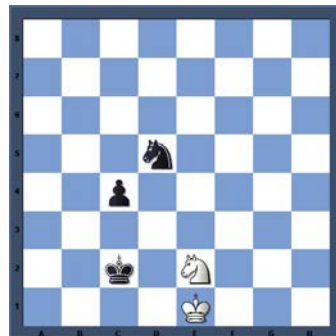
47... ♜e7 48. ♜g3 ♜xe6 49. ♜xh3 ♜e5



50. ♜g3 Once again the white king is just in time to come back.

50... ♜e4 51. ♜f2 ♜d3 52. ♜e1 And Black has no chances to advance the c-pawn. The position is a draw.

52... ♜c2 53. ♖d4+ ♜b2 54. ♖e2 ♜c2 55. ♖d4+ ♜c3 56. ♖e2+ ♜d3 57. ♖c1+ ♜c2 58. ♖e2



58... ♜b3 59. ♜f2 And Vachier Lagrave had enough.

59... c3 60. ♖xc3 ♜xc3 What a super interesting endgame!
1/2-1/2

Clash of the Titans

(17) Tal, Mihail-Sokolov, Andrei[E04]

World Cup, 1988

[Miton Kamil]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.♙g2 dxc4 5.♘f3



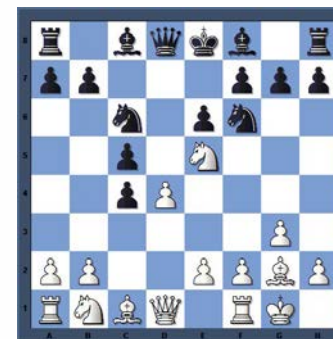
5...c5 One of the solid lines against the Catalan. Black immediately fights for the center.

6.O-O ♘c6 7.♘e5 White had two other options: [

a) 7.dxc5 7...♙xd1 8.♖xd1 ♙xc5 9.♘bd2 c3 A typical move which destroys the white structure. 10.bxc3 O-O 11.♘b3 (11.♘e1!? An interesting plan recently.) 11...♙e7 12.♘fd4 ♙d7 (12...♘xd4!? 13.cxd4 ♘d5 With the idea b6-Bb7. The white structure improved but the knight on b3 is not perfectly placed.) 13.♘xc6 ♙xc6 14.♙xc6 bxc6 15.c4 With a small plus for White in the endgame.;

b) 7.♙a4 7...♙d7 (7...cxd4 8.♘xd4 ♙xd4 9.♙xc6+ ♙d7 10.♖d1 ♙xd1+ (10...♙xc6 11.♙xc6+ bxc6 12.♖xd4 White has a huge strategical advantage because of the weak black structure.) 11.♙xd1 ♙xc6 With good compensation.) 8.♙xc4 cxd4 (8...b5 With c4 next, leading to more complex kinds of positions.) 9.♘xd4 ♖c8 10.♘c3 ♘xd4 11.♙xd4 ♙c5 12.♙h4 O-O 13.♙g5

(13.♙xb7 13...♖b8 With Rb4 next.) 13...h6 14.♙xf6 ♙xf6 15.♙xf6 gxf6 16.♙xb7 ♖b8=]



7...♙d7 Black is going to solve the problems with the h1-a8 diagonal as soon as possible.

8.♘a3 [8.♘xc6 8...♙xc6 9.♙xc6+ bxc6 10.dxc5 ♙xc5 11.♙a4 O-O 12.♙xc4 ♙d5] In this case White of course has a better structure but Black's development is very good and is enough to create counterplay on time.]

8...cxd4 9.♘axc4 ♙c5 Black had two other options which were good as well. [9...♙e7 ; 9...♖c8]

10.♙b3 O-O 11.♙f4 Black is a pawn up but White has compensation thanks to his active pieces. [11.♙g5!?!; 11.♙xb7 11...♘xe5 12.♘xe5 ♖b8 And Black is fine.]



11...♔c8?! Black wants to defend the knight on c6 to play b6 next and solve the problems with the b7 pawn. It seems to be logical but is not accurate. Black should have played [11...♖c8 The idea is the same, just play b6 and now if White takes 12.♔xb7 then 12...♘xe5 13.♘xe5 (13.♙xe5 13...♘d5 With Bc6 next or if White takes twice on d5, then Black gets a strong initiative over the light squares.) 13...♖b8



Xb2 14.♔xb8 ♔xb8 15.♘xd7 ♔b5 16.♘xf8 ♙xf8 And in this case the queen should be better than two rooks, two white pawns are hanging and Black also has the plan e5-e4.]

12.♖fd1 [12.♘d3 12...♙e7 13.♘d6 ♙xd6 14.♙xd6 ♖d8 15.♖fc1 ♘d5∞; 12.♖ac1 12...♘d5 13.♘xd7 ♔xd7 14.♘e5 ♘xe5 15.♙xe5 ♖ac8 16.♖cd1 After taking the pawn on d4 White will only keep a symbolic advantage because the bishop will be better than the knight, even if Black already doesn't have any problems with the b7 square.]

12...♖d8 [12...♘d5 13.♘xd7 ♔xd7 14.♘e5+=]

13.♖ac1 The white pieces are perfectly placed, Black has less space and is not easy to play for him.

13...♘d5 [13...♙e8 14.♘xc6 ♙xc6 15.♙xc6 bxc6 (15...♔xc6 16.♘a5 ♔b6 17.♘xb7 ♖dc8 18.♘xc5 ♖xc5 19.♖xc5 ♔xc5 20.♔b7+= With Rc1 next.) 16.♘e5 ♖d5 17.♔a4 With strong pressure over the c-file.]

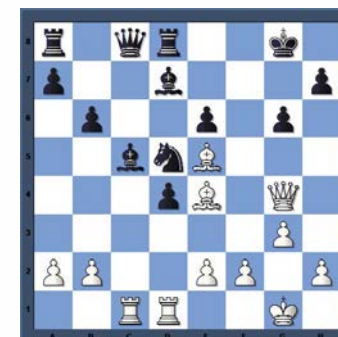


14.♘xf7! A nice tactical idea! After Qc8-Rd8-Nd5, all black pieces moved away from the kingside, which is why this hit on f7 is very unpleasant.

14...♔xf7 15.♘e5+ ♘xe5 16.♙xe5 b6 The only move. Now we also can see the disadvantage of the queen being placed on c8.

17.♔f3+ ♔g8 18.♔g4 The white pieces are coming to the other side with tempo in order to pressure the black king.

18...g6 19.♙e4 [19.b4 19...♘xb4 20.♔h4 ♖f8 And black avoids the threats of Qf6 and Qh6.]



19...♙e8? The decisive mistake. Black wants to defend the g6 square but he is now losing the control over e6. Correct was [19...♙c6 20.♙xg6 hxg6 21.♔xg6+ ♔f8 and after sacrificing on g6 the position is probably unclear because White is already

two pieces down and is not easy to find a forced win. 22.♖d3 ♘e7∞]



20.b4! (Xe6)

20...♗xb4 doesn't help... [20...d3 21.bxc5 (21.♖xd3 21...♗xf2+) 21...dxe2 22.♖xe2 bxc5 23.♗a1 With a decisive attack over the dark squares.]

21.♗xa8 ♖xa8 22.♖xe6+ ♗f7 23.♖f6 ♖f8 24.♖h8+ ♖e7 [24...♗g8 25.♖g7+-]

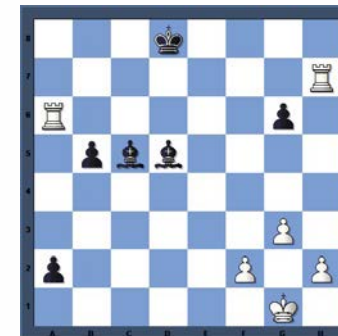
25.♗f6+ ♖d7 26.♗xd8 ♗c6 [26...♖xd8 27.♖xd4+ ♗xd4 28.♖xd4+ ♗d5 29.e4+-]

27.♗f6 ♖xh8 28.♗xh8 ♗xa2 White has a winning material advantage but still needs a few accurate moves because two passed pawns can bring Black some practical chances.

29.e3 a5 30.♗xd4 ♗xd4 [30...♗xd4 31.exd4 ♖d6 Nothing changed at all.]

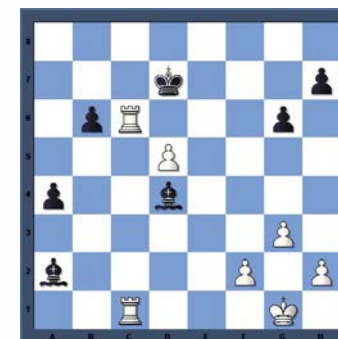
31.exd4 ♗d6 32.d5 The main idea now for White will be to give the rook for bishop and pawn.

32...a4 33.♖c6 ♗c5 [33...b5 34.♖b6 And now for example: 34...♗c4 35.♖b7+ ♖d8 36.♖e1 White activates the rook next. 36...a3 37.♖e6 ♗c5 38.♖xh7 a2 39.♖a6 ♗xd5



And now comes the nice trick 40.♖a8+ ♗xa8 41.♖h8+ ♖e7 42.♖xa8+-]

34.♖c1 ♗d4 [34...♗xd5 35.♖6xc5 bxc5 36.♖xc5 ♖d6 37.♖a5+-]



35.♖6c4! ♗xc4 36.♖xc4 b5 37.♖xd4 a3 38.♖d1 b4 39.♖a1 ♖d6 40.♖f1 And White is on time!

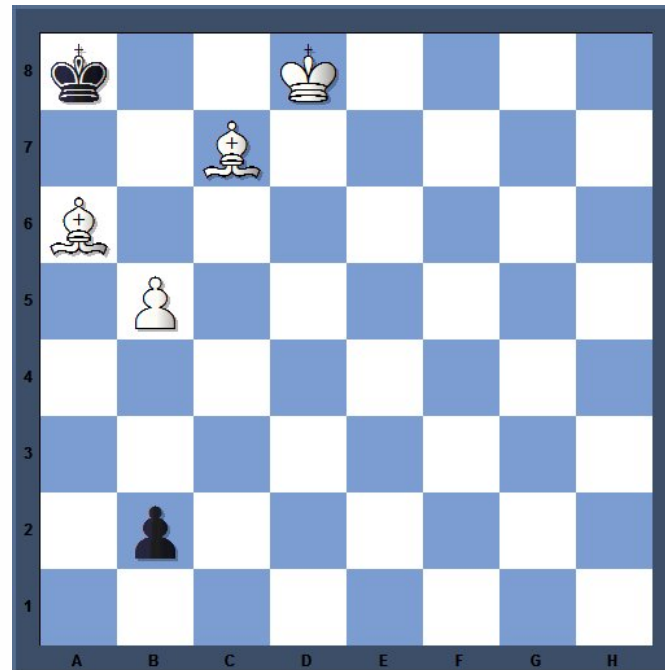
40...♖xd5 41.♖e2 After 41...Kc4 42 Kd2 Kb3 43 Rb1! Ka4 44Kc2 a2 comes the very important 45 Rd1! with the idea that after 45. ..Ka3 46 Rd3 b3 47 Rxb3 Ka4 48 Rb8 wins. **1-0**

Surprise section / study

(18) Pogosiants

[CEWN]

1. +-

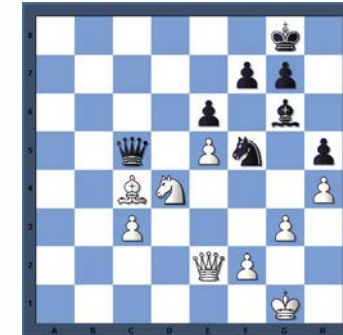


Solutions

(19) Caruana, F(2779)-Tomashevsky, E(2703)

Paris GP, 2013.10.03

[Solutions]



29. ♖xe6!! fxe6 30. ♗xe6+ ♔h8 [30... ♖f8 31. ♕e4! ♜e7 32. ♕a8+ ♗e8 33. ♕f3+-]

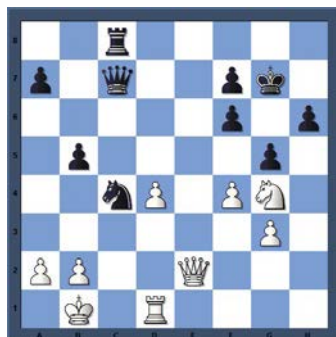
31. ♗xf5! ♗xf5 32. ♕xh5+ ♗h7 33. ♕e8+! ♗g8 34. e6+- ♕e5 35. e7 ♖h7 [35... ♕e1+ 36. ♖g2 ♕e4+ 37. ♖h2 ♕f3 38. ♕xg8+ ♖xg8 39. e8=♕+-]

36. ♕f8! 1-0 [36. ♕f8 36... ♕e1+ (36... ♗d5 37. e8=♕+-) 37. ♖h2 ♗d5 38. ♕f5+ g6 39. ♕xd5+-]

(20) Nisipeanu, D(2674)-Caruana, F(2779)

Bucharest, 2013.10.07

[Solutions]



25. ♖xh6!! [25. ♖h2? 25...h5! 26. ♖xh5 ♘d2+ 27. ♖a1 ♖c1+-+]

25... ♖xh6 26. ♖h1+ ♖g6 [26... ♖g7 27. ♖h2 ♖f8 28. ♖e1! ♖g7 29. ♖h1=]

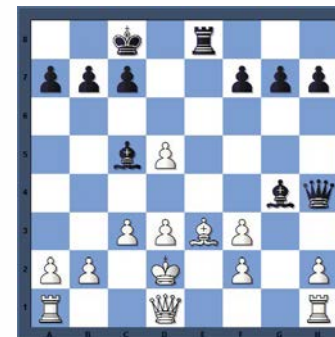
27. ♖c2+? [27.fxg5!?∞; 27.d5! 27... ♖g7 28. ♖h2! ♖f8 29. ♖e1! ♖g7 30. ♖h1=]

27...f5 28. ♖h2 ♖f6 29. ♖h6+ ♖e7 30. ♖xg5+ ♖d7 31. ♖xf5+ ♖c6 32. ♖c5+ ♖b7+

(21) Motylev, A(2676)-Karjakin, S(2762)

Russian Championship, 2013.10.07

[Solutions]



15... ♖xe3!! 16.fxe3 ♖f2+ 17. ♖c1 [17. ♖e2? 17... ♖xe3+ 18. ♖d1 ♖xf3+-+]

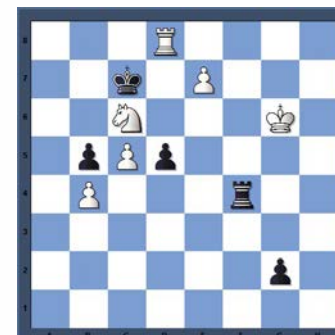
17... ♖xf3 18. ♖e1 ♖xe3+ 19. ♖b1 ♖xh1 20. ♖xh1 ♖e2! [20... ♖d2? 21. ♖f1]

21.a4 ♖xd3+ 22. ♖a2 ♖c4+ 23. ♖b1 ♖d3+=

(22) Eljanov, P(2729)-Ponomarev, D(2395)

Chigorin memorial, 2013.10.06

[Solutions]



64. ♖c8+! ♖xc8 [64... ♖b7 65. ♖a5+! ♖a7 66. ♖a8+! ♖xa8 67.e8=♖++-]

65.e8=♖+ 1-0

(23) Ben Artzi, I(2370)-Sjugirov, S(2635)

Chigorin memorial, 2013.10.06

[Solutions]

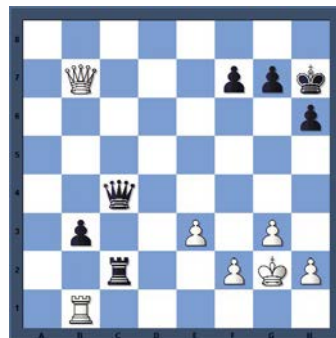


23...♖xf3! 24.♔xf3 ♜e2+! 0-1 [24...♜e2+ 25.♙f2 ♜xf2+—+]]

(24) Thorfinsson, B(2483)-Oleksienko, M(2608)

Reykjavik, 2013.10.02

[Solutions]



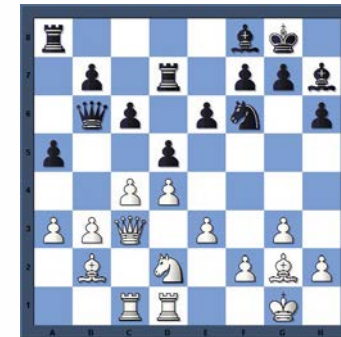
30...♖xf2+! 31.♔g1 [31.♔xf2 31...♜c2+ 32.♔f3 ♜xb1—+]]

31...♜c2 0-1 [31...b2—+]

(25) Gunnarsson, A(2441)-Kjartansson, G(2447)

Reykjavik, 2013.10.02

[Solutions]

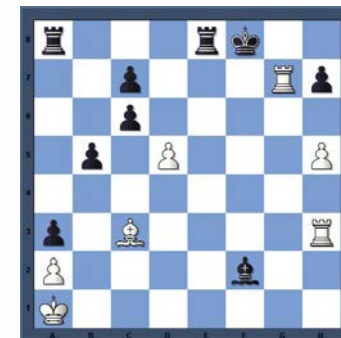


18...♙b4!! 19.axb4 axb4—+

(26) Malakhov, I(2434)-Yemelin, V(2559)

St.Petersburg rapid, 2013.09.28

[Solutions]



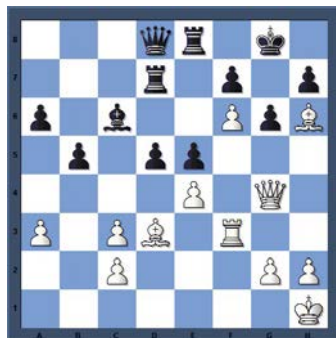
34...♙d4! 35.♖f3+ [35.♙xd4 35...♜e1#]

35...♔xg7—+

(27) Bok, B(2520)-Hansen, E(2584)

Oslo Open, 2013.09.29

[Solutions]



26. ♖g7!! dxe4 [26... ♖d6 27. ♖h4 ♕d7 (27... dxe4 28. ♖xh7+ ♖xh7 29. ♖h3+ ♖g8 30. ♖h8#) 28. ♖h6! dxe4 29. ♕h8+-]

27. ♖h3! ♖d6 [27... exd3 28. ♖xh7 ♖xh7 29. ♖h4+ ♖g8 30. ♖h8#; 27... ♖xd3 28. cxd3 ♕d7 29. ♖xh7! ♕xg4 30. ♖h8#]

28. ♖g5 ♖xd3 29. cxd3 1-0

(28) Papp, G(2583)-Kirschner, A(2286)

Austrian league, 2013.10.05

[Solutions]

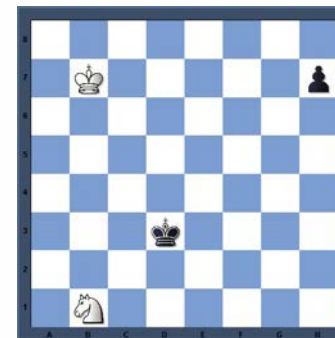


11. ♖g5!! fxg5 [11... h6 12. ♖xe6+-]

12. ♕xh7+! ♖xh7 13. hxg5+ ♖g8 14. ♖h8+! 1-0 [14. ♖h8+ 14... ♖xh8 (14... ♖f7 15. ♖h5+ g6 16. ♖h7+ ♖e8 17. ♖xg6#) 15. ♖h5+ ♖g8 16. g6+-]

(29) Selman

[Solutions]



1. ♖c6! h5 2. ♖d5! h4 3. ♖d2! [3. ♖c3? 3... h3 4. ♖e4 ♖e3! 5. ♖g3 (5. ♖e5 5... h2 6. ♖g3 ♖f3 7. ♖h1 ♖g2+-) 5... ♖f2! 6. ♖e4+ ♖g2+-]

3... ♖xd2 [3... h3 4. ♖f3 ♖e3 5. ♖h2=]

4. ♖e4 ♖e2 [4... h3 5. ♖f3=]

5. ♖f4 ♖f2 6. ♖g4=



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter



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Editorial Preface

The main attention of the week clearly goes to the European Club Cup. Almost everyone is there. After 5 rounds, the number 1 seated team of SOCAR, with an average rating of 2750 ELO(!), is leading as they managed to win all their matches. On the clear second place is the "G-Team Novy Bor" with 4 wins and 1 draw. The 3rd place is already shared by a lot of strong teams. The last 2 rounds are going to be very exciting, but it is hard to imagine that something could still stop SOCAR from getting the medals.

In the female section the team of "Cercle d'Echecs de Monte-Carlo" is just too strong, with Hou Yifan, Koneru and Anna Muzychuk on the first 3 boards, which is why their result of 5/5 is not really surprising.

The 17th Corsican Circuit in Bastia and Ajaccio was won by Ivan Saric, who managed to defeat Almasi in the final stage.

The Unive Crown Group is a one man show, as Wesley So is simply crushing everyone else and is leading with a result of 3.5/4. It is a bit strange to see Adams on 1.5/4 after his great performances in the last events.

In the open section Maxim Rodstein and Viktor Moskalenko are leading with 6/7 and 2 rounds to go.

Enjoy CEWN Nr87!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Korobov, Anton(2716)

- Vitiugov, Nikita(2729) [E21]

29th ECC Open 2013(4.2), 2013.10.23

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

After a great performance in the World Cup, where he beat Nakamura and only lost to Kramnik in the quarter finals, Korobov continues his rise to the chess elite. In a great attacking game he defeated the very solid Vitiugov, who just came 3rd at the Russian Championship.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♙b4+ Lately 3...Bb4 (the Bogolubov) became more popular and has been played by Vitiugov a lot.

4.♘c3 White decides to go back into the Nimzovich with a different move order. [4.♘bd2 4...O-O 5.a3 ♙e7 6.e4 d5 7.e5 ♘fd7 is the other critical line, with a very unclear position.; 4.♙d2 4...♙xd2+ 5.♙xd2 O-O is also considered to be quite solid for Black.]

4...b6 [4...c5 5.g3 is the other main line.]



5.e3 is the most fashionable move at the moment. [5.♙g5 was the main move for many years.]

5...♙b7 6.♙d3 ♙xc3+ Black could of course have waited with

this move by playing O-O first and take only on the next move.

7.bxc3 d6 8.O-O O-O This position is quite interesting. We can see that Black's pawn structure is better and his idea should be to try and close the center by playing e5-c5 after which the white bishop pair would get weaker. White for his part should search for an open game.

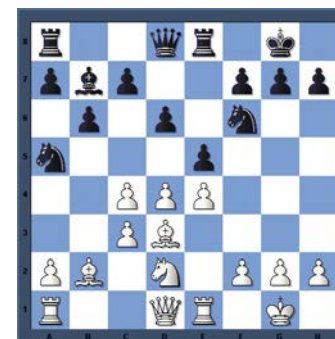
9.♘d2! Very typical and strong. The white knight would become "stupid" on f3 after Black's Nbd7 followed by e5. Now White keeps the option of playing f4, putting even more pressure on the black center.

9...e5 10.e4 [After 10.f4 10...exf4 11.♙xf4 ♙e8 White's bishop on c1 would be slightly out of play, which makes the position quite unclear.]

10...♙e8 Black wants to play exd4 and provokes White into playing Re1. after which the f4 idea is getting lost.

11.♙e1 ♘c6 Once again Black is hoping for White to not be careful and play d5, which would be a horrible positional mistake. White has to keep a flexible center.

12.♙b2 ♘a5 Maybe it was also possible for Black to play Ne7-Ng6, but Vitiugov is targeting the c4 pawn. In many cases the Ba6 move could be unpleasant for White in the future.



13.♙e2?! A strange move. I think that 13.Qc2 looked much

more logical.

13...♔d7! A strong move! The black queen wants to take a nice position on a4 after which Black will be able to play Ba6 at any moment.

14.♘f1? This is already a serious mistake. Of course White's idea is correct and the knight is going to g3-f5, but Black is in time to protect everything and end up with a material advantage.

14...exd4! Of course! Why not to take a pawn if you can!?

15.♔c2 ♘c6! Once again Vitiugov chooses the best move. Black needs his knight back in defence and to win the pawn back on d4 is still not possible.

16.♘g3 [16.cxd4? of course didn't work as after 16...♘b4 Black is winning the e4 pawn: 17.♔c3 ♘xd3 18.♔xd3 ♘xe4]

16...dxc3 White already wanted to take on d4.

17.♘xc3 We are at the critical moment of the game now.

17...♔d8? A very passive move and maybe it is what Korobov was hoping for. Now White is getting great play. [17...♘e5! was the right solution and I have no idea what White wanted to do here... 18.f4 (18.♘f5 doesn't seem to work as after 18...♘xd3 19.♔xd3 ♘xe4 20.♔xe4 ♘xe4 Black is almost winning.) 18...♘xd3 19.♔xd3



19...♔e6 As I cannot imagine that White has enough compensation for the pawn I prefer Black's position here.]

18.f4! Preventing Ne5.

18...♘d7 19.♔ad1 A solid move. [It might have been interesting to play 19.e5 19...dxe5 20.♘xh7+ ♔h8 21.♘e4 Followed by Rad1 and I think Black's position is very dangerous.]

19...♘e7 [Black cannot play 19...♘c5 because of the killing 20.♘h5! and the g7 pawn cannot be protected.; Maybe the best chance for Black was to avoid Nh5 at any costs: 19...g6 followed by f6 and Nc5. Of course Black's position is very dangerous, but maybe the game is still unclear.]

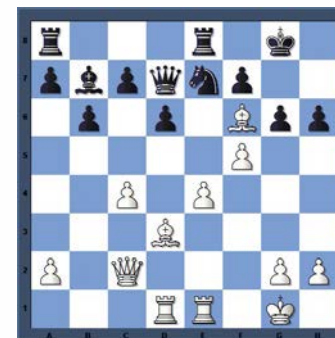
20.♘h5 We can see how well a strong pawn center is working with a bishop pair. Black is a pawn up but we have the feeling that White is at least a piece up.

20...g6 Black doesn't have a choice. [After 20...f6 21.e5! Black's position is falling apart.]

21.♘f6+ ♘xf6 22.♘xf6 ♔d7 Black wants to play Qe6 next.

23.f5 Of course! White's idea is to mate Black by playing Qd6-Qh6 next. Bb2 followed by Qc3 is another idea.

23...h6 In order to be able to play Kh7 after Qd2.



24.♔f1! Another very nice move by White. It looks like White

should have something concrete, but maybe not. So Korobov decides to bring an extra piece into the attack. This is a great "positional" way of attacking the black king.

24...♔c6 Black is hoping to somehow get his queen into play.

25.♘d4 Taking away more squares of the black queen. Black's position seems to be lost.

25...g5 26.h4 White continues what he started, to open Black's king position to the maximum.

26...♖f8 Maybe Black wanted to play Ng8 followed by f6, but it is just too late...

27.hxg5 hxg5 28.♔d2 The most simple. The g5 pawn is falling.

28...f6 29.♘xf6 ♔c5+ 30.♖f2 ♖f7 31.♘xg5 It is already White who is a pawn up now.

31...♖g8



32.♘e2! A nice finishing move in a totally winning position.

32...♘c6 33.♘h5+ ♖f8 34.♘f6 A great attacking game by Korobov, but if Vitiugov had played 17.. .Ne5! maybe we would have seen the opposite result. **1-0**

(2) Svidler, Peter(2740)

- Papaioannou, Ioannis(2633) [B51]

Rhodes GRE(3.3), 2013.10.22

[Balogh Csaba]

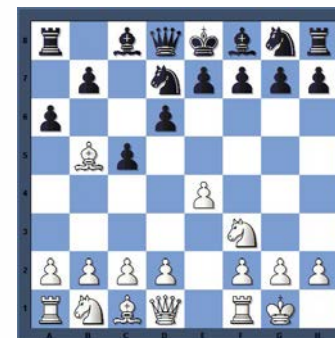
A nice positional crush by the fresh Russian Champion!

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♘b5+ This was considered as a completely harmless move in the near past, but recently, thanks to the efforts of several top GMs, this check must be taken very seriously. White players are usually using it in order to avoid the long theoretical discussions in the Najdorf and Dragon variations of the Sicilian defence. White might play for a small edge here.

3...♘d7 3...Bd7 and 3...Nc6 are equally common moves.

4.O-O [4.d4 was the old main line.]

4...a6



5.♘d3!? This unusual idea was introduced by Caruana in 2012. He achieved a big advantage with it against Topalov. The point is quite simple. White wants to play c3 followed by Bc2 and d4, occupying the center. The bishop is going to stay perfectly on c2, we could be familiar with this ideas from the Spanish Opening.

5...♘gf6 6.c3 Black can choose between various plans. It is

not clear yet which one is the best. The most common is a setup with e5 and Be7. Black played differently in this game.

6...b5 7.♘c2 ♘b7 8.♖e1 White is ready to play d4 after defending the e4 pawn. As it is known from the Spanish opening, the rook stands well on e1 as it prepares for the further plan of improving the b1 knight by transferring it to the kingside through d2-f1-g3.

8...e6 [8...e5 9.d4 ♘e7 is definitely a better idea, at least to keep some pressure on the white center to avoid him to do whatever he wants. 10.♘bd2 O-O 11.♘f1]

9.d4 cxd4 10.cxd4 ♘e7 Svidler got the chance to develop his knight to c3 due to the premature take on d4, however he still prefers to employ the Spanish plan...



11.♘bd2 O-O 12.♘f1 ♖c8 13.♘g3+ = White achieved a small but stable edge. Thanks to his strong center, he has more space for maneuvering with his pieces.

13...♖e8



14.h3 In this position it was not necessary at all, but in any case a very useful move, which perfectly fits to this structure. White opens his back rank and prevents Ng4 after the Be3-Qd2 development.

14...♘f8 15.♘d2 White would like to use this bishop on the queenside. He wants to occupy the a5 square to further reduce the mobility of the black pieces. He can do it either by playing Bc3-Qd2 or with a4, followed by taking on b5 and Ba5. 15.Be3 was of course also possible with an advantage.

15...♖c7 16.♖c1 ♖b8 17.♘a5! Black is getting more and more squeezed. He soon runs out of useful moves.

17...g6 Black would like to improve his bishop with Bh6, but Svidler parries it with an easy prophylactic move.



18.♖d2! ♖a8 Black is not threatening anything, but what else

could he do in such a cramped position.

19.a3!? Another useful waiting move, just like 14.h3. White is curious about his opponent's next move.

19...♖c4



20.♕d3 Svidler finds a nice plan to improve his position. He decides to trade a pair of rooks, but it is more important to keep one left, which supports his center well. Black cannot use the c-file, as all the invading squares are perfectly controlled by the bishops. The center is going to be fixed, therefore White is ready to launch a kingside attack.

20...♖xc1 21.♔xc1 White keeps the control over the e4 pawn.

21...♖c8 22.♔d2 Although Black succeeded in getting rid of a rook, he is still lacking any space to do something useful with his remaining pieces.

22...♔a7 [22...d5 is always met by 23.e5 ♘e4 24.♔f4± With a huge advantage after kicking out the e4 knight. The b7 bishop remains closed forever.]



23.h4! White follows his plan. It is very unpleasant as Black just to sit and watch how his opponent crushes him, therefore he decides to change the pawn structure.

23...e5 [23...h5 would have been a serious weakening. 24.♔f4± Followed by Bc3, (protecting the d4 pawn) Ng5 and e5, pressing the f7 pawn.]

24.♕c3 ♘g4! Black must try to keep his center. [Black would quickly collapse after 24...exd4? 25.♕xd4 ♔a8 26.♔f4± Different kind of sacrifices like Nf5 are in the air and h5 is also coming.]



25.♕b1! Another great plan! Svidler immediately makes use of the changes in the pawn structure. With the e5 move, Black has weakened the a2-g8 diagonal. The bishop is going to exert very strong pressure on the f7 pawn from a2.

25...♟g7 26.♟a2 Ng5 is in the air and also dxe5 followed by invading with the queen along the d-file are decisive threats.

26...exd4 27.♟xd4 ♟xd4 28.♞xd4 Of course White needs his queen in order to lead a successful attack.

28...♞de5



29.♞d1! Excellent positional moves non-stop. White does not need his rook on e1 anymore. He overprotects the d4 knight in order to be able to use his queen on the kingside!

29...♟a8 30.f3 Svidler feels that all his pieces are prepared for the final break. He decides to search for a direct way to win. [30.♞g5+- was equally strong!]

30...♞f6 31.♞g5 ♞e8



32.♞f5! White creates the double threat of Ne7 and Nxd6 Nxd6 Qxe5, which Black cannot prevent. The game is over!

32...♞f8 33.♞xd6! ♞xf3+ [33...♞xd6 34.♞xe5+-]

34.gxf3 ♞xd6 35.♞f6 ♞c5 36.b4 [Black resigned in view of 36.b4 36...♞c7 (36...♞b6 37.♟xf7+-) 37.♞e6++- This game showed that chess is sometimes a very easy game and it is enough just to improve our pieces.] **1-0**

**(3) Jobava, Baadur(2694)
- Navara, David(2703) [A01]**

29th ECC Open 2013(3.1), 2013.10.22

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

When Jobava is playing, we can practically expect anything and when we add Navara, the game almost MUST be crazy! We will see one of the most spectacular openings I have ever seen on the high level!

1.b3 Jobava has already started using this move more and more often some time ago. Of course White cannot hope for any efficient opening advantage, but there is also no reason for him to be too worried and 1.b3 sort of provokes Black into action.

1...d5 [1...e5 2.♘b2 ♞c6 3.e3 should be the other critical line.]

2.♘b2 ♘g4!? I am not sure if this move is good, but it is a very funny one! Black is trying to stop White from playing e3 or Nf3 next.



3.f3 About this move I can only say WOW ! I think most of us would never even think about playing such a move which weakens the white king a lot and kills the structure, but once again 3.f3 is very strange move, but not a bad one... [3.♘f3 3...♘xf3 Here Black's idea would come true. After 4.gxf3 c5 looks good and after 4.exf3 Black's pawn structure also looks

solid, even after 4...Nf6 followed by e6-Be7 and 0-0.]

3...♘f5 4.e3 Sooner or later White needs to play e3, the bishop has to go somewhere from f1, and this is not clearly not on g2.

4...e6 The most simple development for Black.

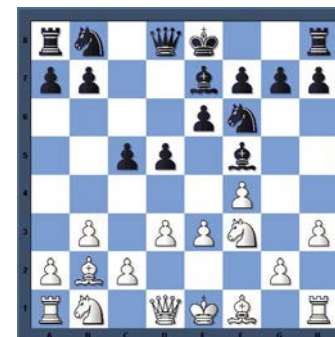
5.f4 White "corrects" the pawn structure.

5...♞f6 6.♞f3 ♘e7 And we are back into sort of "normal" position. Black does not hurry with playing c5 because of Bb5 and he wants to castle short first.

7.d3?! This already looks like clearly too much creativity. It was time for White to finish his development by playing Be2 and 0-0.

7...c5! A good move! The black pawns are now ready to become active in the center at any moment.

8.h3?! A very strange move by White again. g4 is not really a threat and White should rather be thinking about moving his king to a safer place.



8...♞h5?! And Black lets himself be tempted into big complications which were not needed at all. [After the simple 8...♞c6 9.g4 ♘g6 Black would reach a very comfortable position which I think should already be better. Black could try to push d4 next or maybe even c4, but an easy move like

Qc7 followed by 0-0-0 is not a bad option either.]

9.g4! Jobava reached what he wanted, total chaos on the board!

9...♘g3 10.♖g1 [Trying to win the knight of course doesn't work: 10.gxf5? 10...♘h1 And White has no chances to trap the black knight. Black will play Ng3 next.]

10...♘xf1 11.♔xf1 Moving the king away from the e-file, which can be useful.

11...♕f6! A strong move. [11...♕g6?! 12.♕xg7 I don't think Black has enough play for the pawn here.]

12.♕xf6 ♖xf6



13.♘a3!? Both player continue being very creative. White is trying to make use out of his slightly better development.

13...♕g6 14.♘b5 ♖e7 15.e4 Played with a lot of temper again, but to me it looks like too much... [15.c4!? would make space for the white knight on c3 and attack the black center. The position should be very unclear.]

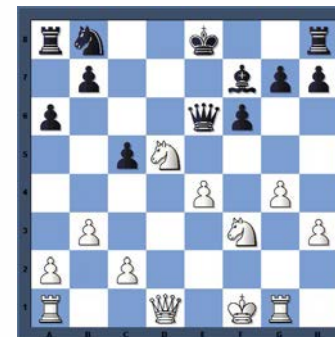
15...a6! It is important to not let White play e5 followed by Nd6.

16.♘c3 dxe4 17.dxe4 White just wants to win the piece by playing f5.

17...f6 The black bishop is escaping to f7. If Black managed to play Nc6-Rd8 White's position would simply be very bad, but it is still White's turn!

18.f5! Very well played, there is no time to lose. White is getting the d5 square for his knight.

18...♕f7 19.fxe6 ♖xe6 20.♘d5 What a beautiful knight on d5.



20...♖d6 Black's position is solid, but looking a bit dangerous.

21.♘e3 It is hard to say if White has anything better. [21.c4 21...♘c6 And I like Black's position here.]

21...♖f4 [21...♖xd1+ 22.♖xd1 followed by Nf5-Nd6 with a small edge for White.]

22.♘f5? Jobava overestimates his position and plays too hard for the win. [22.♘d5 22...♖d6 would be a funny draw after a totally messy game.]

22...O-O 23.g5 White goes for a direct attack on the black king but we should not forget that the position of the white king on f1 is not the safest one either...

23...♖xe4! A cool and very strong move! Black is not only winning a pawn, but he is also getting rid of the main enemy, the knight on f5.

24. ♖d6 ♜e6 I guess that by now Jobava realized that he is just a pawn down and soon Black will be the one with the attack.

25. ♖xf7 It is already difficult to give White any advice. No tactics are working...

25... ♜xf7 26. ♜g2 White tries to escape with "only" one pawn down.

26... ♖c6 27. c3



27... ♜f5! Another very nice move. The black queen is perfectly placed on f5, supporting the future fxg5 plan and also the Rd8-Rd3 maneuver.

28. ♜h2 ♖e5 The most easy way. Black is not going for the mate but is happy with entering a rook endgame with 2 pawns up.

29. ♜g3 White's position is hopeless.

29... ♖xf3+ 30. ♜xf3 ♜xf3 31. ♜xf3 fxg5 Of course many rook endgames are tricky, but not this one. Without the g5 pawn Black's winning chances would be very good, but with 2 clear pawns up his position is simply winning.

32. ♜af1 ♜af8 The most simple move.

33. ♜xf7 ♜xf7 34. ♜d1 White has the choice between leaving the f-file or entering a pawn endgame... Both options are

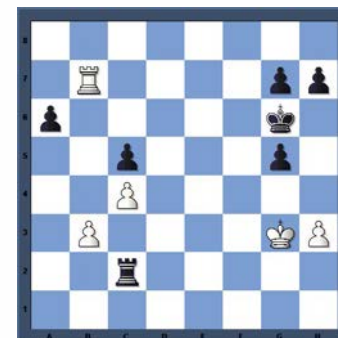
equally painful.

34... ♜f2+ 35. ♜g3 ♜xa2 And another white pawn is gone.

36. ♜d8+ ♜f7 37. ♜d7+ ♜g6 38. ♜xb7 What to comment here?! I guess even a hobby player would win this position with Black.

38... ♜c2 The most simple move, Black is putting his rook to a place where it attacks the white pawns.

39. c4



39... h5 It is time to create a passed pawn.

40. ♜f3 h4 Black threatens to play Rh2 next and White cannot do anything against it...

41. b4 This move doesn't change anything.

41... ♜xc4 42. bxc5 ♜xc5 43. ♜b6+ ♜h5 44. ♜xa6 ♜c2 Black wants to play Rh2 again.

45. ♜a3 ♜h2 46. ♜e4 The h3 pawn is protected, but...

46... g4 It is now finally over.

47. ♜a7 g6 All in all, we did not see a very high quality game, but certainly a game with one of the most funny openings, supported by creative play until the moment where White misjudged his chances and made a suicidal attempt to play for a win. **0-1**

(4) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2759) - Vocaturo, Daniele(2557) [D72]

29th ECC Open 2013(3.1), 2013.10.22

[Balogh Csaba]

This game is a good demonstration that in the Gruenfeld defence, the d-pawn might become extremely dangerous when it is not blockaded well.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7 [3...c6 followed by d5 is the most solid system against the g3 setup.]

4.♙g2 d5 Black uses the last moment to get the Gruenfeld structure, otherwise White would have already prevented d5 by playing Nc3 next.

5.cxd5 ♘xd5



In comparison to the 3.Nf3, 4.g3 system, White has a dangerous extra option here, to develop his knight to e2.

6.e4 ♘b6 7.♘e2 c5 8.d5 [8.dxc5 8...♙xd1+ 9.♙xd1 ♘a4 is perfect for Black.]

8...O-O 9.O-O e6 We are just at the beginning of the theory. Black plays in the spirit of the Gruenfeld and puts pressure on the central pawns.

10.♘ec3 White follows the main line. The other option is to develop the other knight to c3, but then the knight on e2 gets slightly misplaced. Here the main idea is to push a4-a5, working out the c4 square for the b1 knight, which jumps there in two moves.



10...♘a6 11.♙f4 This is basically the novelty. Earlier 11.a4 and 11. Na3 were mainly played. The bishop stands perfectly on f4 as it supports the advancing of the d-pawn.

11...exd5 [11...e5!? followed by Nc4-d6 seriously comes into consideration. Black sets a safe blockade on d6 and later on he starts his counterplay with f5. This is a common plan in this kind of pawn structures.]

12.exd5 ♙f5 With the idea of playing Nb4, threatening on c2 and d3. Unfortunately for Black, White has a very strong move now!

[Black cannot create a successful blockade on d6 anymore with 12...♘c4 13.♘d2! ♘d6 (13...♘xb2 14.♙c2 The knight gets trapped.) 14.♙e1 The d2 knight is soon going either to e4 or to c4.; 12...c4 would have been principled with the idea of playing Nc5-d3, but Black is not in time to react on 13.a4! ♘c5 14.a5 ♘bd7 15.♘d2± And the c4 pawn falls.]



13.g4! Forcing Black to act before bringing his knight to b4. The pawn on g4 is not really a weakening, because both white bishops are defending the king's position.

13...♙xb1?! [Black should have preserved his bishop with 13...♙d7 14.h3 ♖e8 15.♘a3 followed by Qd2 Rad1 and advancing the d-pawn at some point. A complex game with mutual chances. I would personally prefer White, but the machine is less optimistic...]

14.♖xb1 c4! Black wants to drive his knight to d3. [14...♘c4 Black fails to block with Nd6 because of 15.d6±]

15.♞d2?! White protects the c3 knight in order to play b3, undermining the outpost of the d3 knight. [15.d6! was preferable. 15...♘c5 16.♙g3!? was also possible to delay Nd5. Now Nd3 leaves the b7 pawn unprotected. (16.♘d5 16...♘d3 17.♘e7+ ♔h8 18.♙g3+=) 16...♞d7 (16...♘d3 17.♙xb7) 17.♘d5 With a clear advantage. The d3 square is useless now because of 17...♘d3 (17...♘xd5 18.♞xd5+=) 18.b3!±]

15...♞d7 16.h3 ♘c5 [16...f5 is always met by 17.g5 Keeping the kingside closed. White might use the e6 square later on, which is why Black should not think about playing f5 unless there is something concrete...]

17.b3 ♖fe8 It was time to advance the pawn. All White's chances are pinned on this pawn. [17...♞ac8! would have given strong counterplay along the c-file. Black creates

tactical ideas against the c3 knight. 18.♙e3 (18.♘e2 18...♞fe8 With Ne4 next.; 18.d6 is met by 18...♘e6! Black is fine.) 18...♞fd8 The rook stands better on d8 compared to the game, as it blocks the d-pawn.]

18.d6 ♞ac8 19.♙e3 Mamedyarov leaves from the Ne6 idea, which would create the double threat of cxb3 and Nxf4.

19...♞e6 [Capturing the d-pawn by 19...♙xc3 20.♞xc3 ♞xd6 is too risky, as it leaves the black king vulnerable on the dark squares. 21.bxc4]



20.♞fd1! This move is obvious, but it requires strong intuition as it involves an exchange sacrifice, which consequences could hardly be foreseen.

20...cxb3 21.axb3



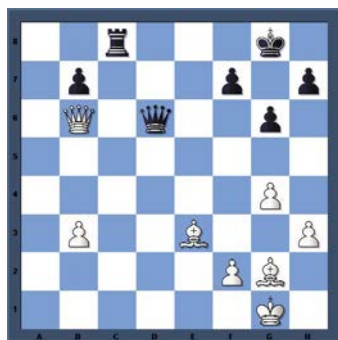
21...♙xc3! Black goes for the critical continuation.

22. ♖xc3 ♜e4 Nc3 is coming next in any case. Let's see on what Mamedyarov has pinned his hopes.

23. ♖a5! White wants to take on a7, which destroys the outpost of the b6 knight.

23... ♞c3 24. ♖xa7 ♜xd1! [24... ♞xb1 was also possible, although from practical point of view the text move was much stronger. 25. ♖xb6 (25. ♖xb1? 25... ♖xd6) 25... ♞c3 26. ♖d3 ♜e4 27. ♙f4 offers White more than enough compensation with the bishop pair, the d6 pawn and the exposed position of the black king.]

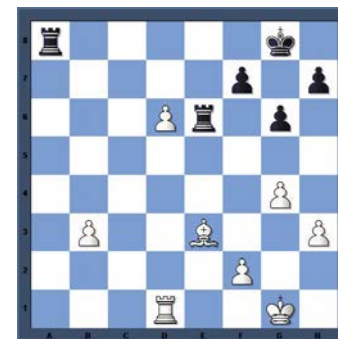
25. ♖xd1 ♜a8? This is a blunder! Black was already in big time trouble and he loses the thread in the complications. [25... ♖xd6! was the only move and it leads to a draw: 26. ♖xd6 ♖xd6 27. ♖xb6 (27. ♙xb6 is a bit risky, but also ends in a draw after perpetual check: 27... ♖c1+ 28. ♙f1 ♖d3 29. ♖b8+ ♙g7 30. ♖e5+ ♙g8 31. ♖e8+=)]



27... ♖c1! Black had probably missed this move! (He only calculated 27... ♖xb6 28. ♙xb6 ♖c1+ 29. ♙h2 ♖b1 and here White is able to save his pawn and he ends up with a technically winning endgame: 30. ♙d5!±) 28. ♙f1 ♖xb6 29. ♙xb6 ♖b1! Black wins the b-pawn and he saves the game.]

26. ♖xb7 The black pieces are losing their coordination.

26... ♖d8 [26... ♖xb7 also loses after 27. ♙xb7 ♖d8 28. ♙xa8 ♖xa8



29. ♙b6!+- Followed by Bc7 and d7-d8. Black is unable to block the pawn on d7.]

27. d7 [Black resigned in view of 27.d7 27... ♖b8 28. ♖xb8! ♖xb8 29.d8=♖+- The d-pawn finally promotes. A typical Gruenfeld game with many complications.] **1-0**

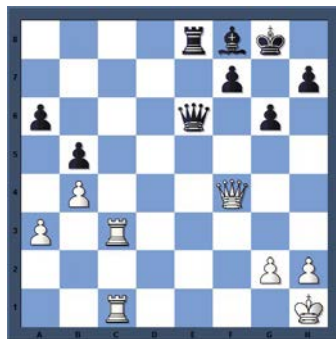
Puzzle section

(5) Moen, A(2390)-Topalov, V(2771)

ECC, 2013.10.20

[CEWN]

1... -+



(6) Kamsky, G(2725)-Stubberud, O(2327)

ECC, 2013.10.20

[CEWN]

1. +-



(7) Kjartansson, D(2348)-Korobov, A(2716)

ECC, 2013.10.20

[CEWN]

1... ±

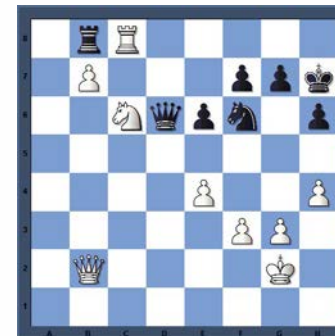


(8) Almasi, Z(2707)-Horvath, A(2530)

Bastia rapid, 2013.10.20

[CEWN]

1... =



(9) Smirnov, P(2641)-Codenotti, M(2374)

ECC, 2013.10.21

[CEWN]

1. +-



(10) Tan, M(2438)-Rasulov, V(2514)

ECC, 2013.10.21

[CEWN]

1... -+

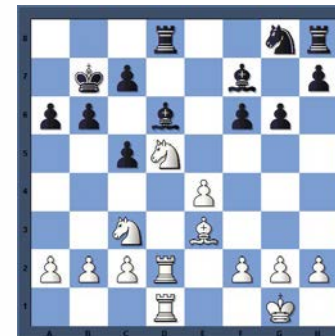


(11) Naiditsch, A(2724)-Demuth, A(2480)

Bastia rapid, 2013.10.21

[CEWN]

1. +-

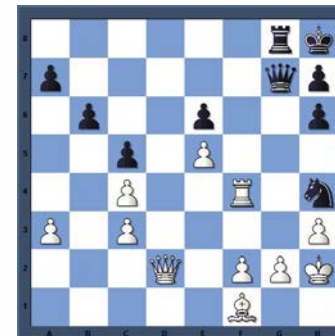


(12) Terrieux, K(2415)-Balogh, C(2632)

Corsica rapid, 2013.10.19

[CEWN]

1... -+



(13) Balogh, C(2632)-Greenfeld, A(2545)

Bastia rapid, 2013.10.19

[CEWN]

1. +-



(14) Moiseenko, A(2703)-Ganguly, S(2639)

Indonesian Open, 2013.10.16

[CEWN]



Endgame section

(15) Caruana, F.(2779)-Wang Hao(2733)

Bucharest, 2013.10.15

[CE Team]



This interesting endgame was reached, where both sides have their plusses and minuses. It is difficult to evaluate which ones are more important. Black's king is exposed and the two heavy pieces might create dangerous threats. On the other hand White would need some additional pieces to have a crushing attack. White is also ready to take some pawns on g4 and a7, which would lead to further losses of pawns. White cannot use his rook with full efficiency, because it has to protect the back rank against the annoying Rd1 idea, connected with Qb1 mate. Black's big trump is the pawn majority on the kingside, which is ready to break through with g3-f2. The outcome was affected by mutual time trouble.

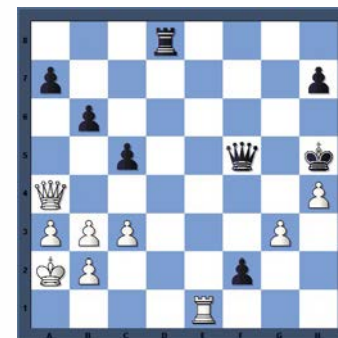
34. ♖a2 White had to unpin himself to be able to use his rook.

34... ♔h5! An excellent decision to protect the g4 pawn in this way. It is always difficult to make such moves when the queens are on board, but actually Black's king stands much safer in the enemy's camp than in his own.

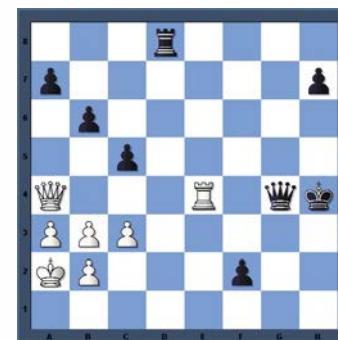
35. ♖e1! The only move! A necessary prophylaxis against

Rd1. White has to cover his back rank, but it is much harder to create serious threats with a passive rook. [35. ♖f4? 35... ♗g6—+ followed by Rd1 or Kxh4-h3.; 35. ♗c6? is not dangerous. 35... ♖d1! 36. a4 Black wins for instance after 36... ♗g6 to avoid Kxh4 Qh6 check. Obviously without the queens on the board, Black simply breaks through on the kingside. 37. ♗b7 ♔xh4—+]

35...h6 A good time trouble move. [However Black missed the direct 35...g3! 36. fxg3 f2



37.g4+ (37. ♖f1 37... ♗f3—+ is similar to the game. Black wants to improve his rook by playing Rd3-e3-e1 and if White allows it, he marches with his king to g2 through g4-h3 to support the f-pawn. Black wins soon.) 37... ♗xg4 38. ♖e5+ ♔xh4 39. ♖e4



Wang Hao didn't have enough time to evaluate this position in the time pressure. Actually Black wins after 39... ♖d4!!

40. ♖xg4+ ♖xg4 41. ♖b5 (41. ♖xa7 41... f1=♖ 42. ♖xh7+ ♔g3 Black has to work, but he should win later on with the extra rook.) 41... ♖f4! 42. ♖f1 ♔g3 43. b4 (43. ♖d3+ It makes no sense to leave the blockading square as White has no chance for perpetual check. 43... ♔g2—+) 43... h5! Black uses his h-pawn to deflect the queen and he is faster to promote his pawns than White... Let's examine a line: 44. bxc5 bxc5 45. b4 c4 46. b5 h4 47. a4 h3 48. a5 h2 49. b6 axb6 50. axb6 h1=♖ 51. ♖xh1 f1=♖ 52. ♖xf1 ♖xf1 53. b7 ♖f8—+ Black is just winning by one tempo, but it is enough!]

36. ♖xa7



36...g3! Black needs to search for counterplay and he finds it in his f-pawn.

37. fxg3 f2 38. ♖f1 ♔g4! The king is heading to g2. Actually he does not even want to take the g3 pawn on his way, because it protects him against the queen checks. After all it is clear that Black had the upper hand in our initial position, although White can fight.

39. ♖g7+ [39. ♖xb6 would have lost after 39... ♖d2! 40. ♖xh6 ♖c2! Black creates new threats, White does not have a perpetual. 41. ♖g7+ ♔f3 42. ♖b7+ ♔xg3 43. ♖g7+ ♔h2 A spectacular run of the king. 44. c4 (44. ♖e5+ 44... ♔g2 White runs out of checks. 45. ♖b1 ♖xb1+! 46. ♔xb1 f1=♖+—+)

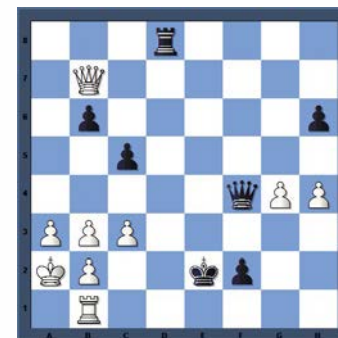
44... ♖d1! 45. ♖e5+ ♔g2—+ Once again White has to sacrifice his rook and he finds himself lost.]

39... ♔f3 40. g4 [On 40. ♖b7+ 40... ♔e2—+ wins.]

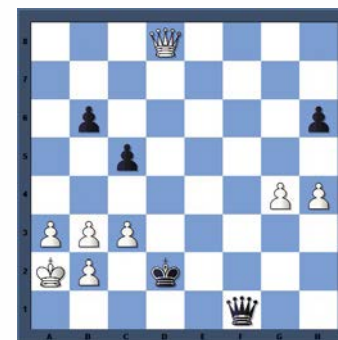
40... ♖f4! The time trouble is over and White ended up in hopeless situation. The f-pawn is too strong.

41. ♖b7+ [41. g5 41... hxg5 42. hxg5 ♔g2—+]

41... ♔e2 42. ♖b1

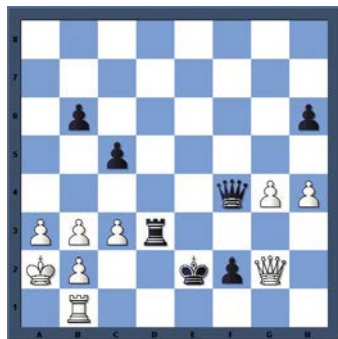


42... ♖d3!? Wang Hao chooses the human win. [The machine recommends the highly spectacular 42... f1=♖! At first sight it looks like a terrible blunder, but... 43. ♖xf1 ♖xf1 44. ♖e7+ ♔d2 45. ♖xd8+



45... ♔c2!—+ White cannot parry Qb1 mate, despite having three extra pawns.]

43. ♖g2 [43. ♖e7+ does not change anything: 43... ♖e3
44. ♖d8 f1=♖ 45. ♖xf1 ♔xf1—+]



43... ♖d1! The last precise move by Black. The arising queen ending is simple winning for him!

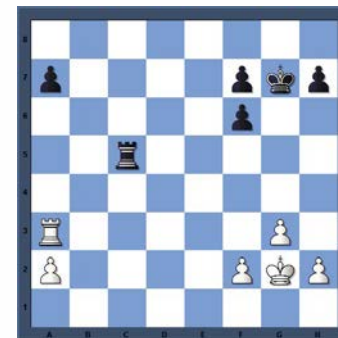
44. ♖xd1 ♔xd1 45. ♖f1+ ♔d2 Black promotes his f-pawn by transferring his queen either to g1 or to e1.

46. g5 hxg5 47. hxg5 ♖g3 48. ♖b5 [48. g6 48... ♖g1 49. g7 ♖xf1
50. g8=♖ ♖d3—+]

48... ♖d3 0-1

(16) So, Wesley(2706)-Van Kampen, Robin(2607)

17th Unive Crown(3.2), 2013.10.22
[CE Team]



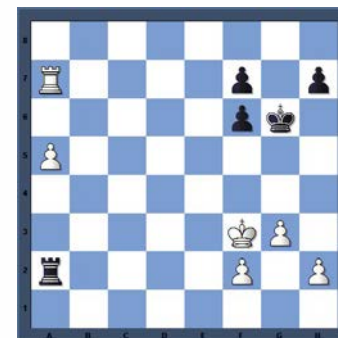
As we know, rook endgames can be very tricky. If the black pawn was not placed on f6 but on g6, we would face the famous drawish endgame. Can White make use of Black's bad pawn structure?! Wesley So will show us how to do it...

34. ♖xa7 ♖c2 35. ♔f3 It makes no difference for White whether he starts pushing the a-pawn first or if he walks out with his king.

35... ♔g6 Black is trying to activate his king.

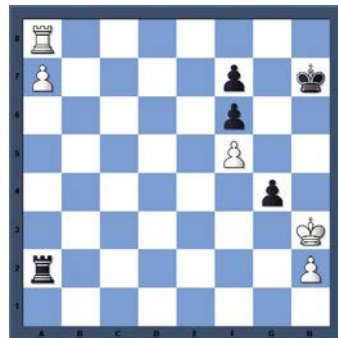
36. a4 ♖a2 The black rook is ready to give checks.

37. a5



37... h6? This is already nothing else than waiting for death...

[37...♖a3+ was Black's only chance. He needs to start attacking the white pawns. 38.♔g2 The most simple way to win the game, making a use of Black's very bad pawn structure. (38.♕e4 38...♖a2 39.♕e3 Winning half a tempo. 39...♖a3+ 40.♔d4 ♖a2 41.a6 ♖xf2 And White's position should be winning, but it can all just be a question of one tempo, which is of course quite unpleasant for White who has a technically winning position. 42.♖c7 ♖xh2 Black is taking the second pawn, as he does not really have a choice. 43.a7 ♖a2 44.♕c5 ♕g5 45.♕b6 ♕g4 And as we see, we really need to count this position, which is of course very hard to do during a practical game.) 38...h5 39.♖a8 ♕g7 40.a6 ♕h7 41.♕h3 ♖a4 42.f4 ♖a2 43.a7 ♕g7 44.f5 ♕h7 45.g4 hxg4+



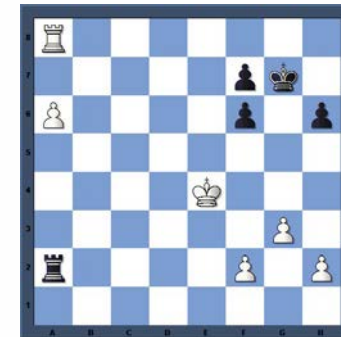
46.♕xg4 White is easily winning and the plan is to bring the pawn to h6, forcing the Black king to keep his position on h7 and after bringing the white King to e7, to take the f7 pawn.]

38.a6 ♕f5 39.♖a8 White succeeds with his plan, now the movement of his king to the a-pawn is deadly because White is so many tempi up.

39...♕g6 Black was afraid of a7 and the black king would be cut from moving anywhere from the f5 square because of the check on the 8th rank.

40.♕e4 White is starting the last stage of his plan.

40...♕g7



41.♕d5 It is of course important to not put the pawn on a7, after which Black would be able to hold the position by giving checks to the white king. The a7 square is a very important "safe house"!

41...♖xf2 Winning one pawn is not enough to hold the draw.

42.♖b8 ♖a2 43.♖b6 Followed by Kc6-Kb7. Nice technique by White, but Black made it too easy... **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Krogius, N.-Smyslov, V.[E11]

URS-ChT Soviet Union 1967

[Miton Kamil]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♘b4+ 4.♙d2 a5 Black also had other options: [4...c5 5.♙xb4 cxb4 With very solid play for Black, the plan is to play b6-Bb7 or d6-e5, with the idea of getting control over the dark squares.; 4...♚e7 leads to the Bogolubov System.]

5.g3 d6 [5...d5 transposes to the Catalan.]

6.♙g2 ♘bd7 7.O-O e5



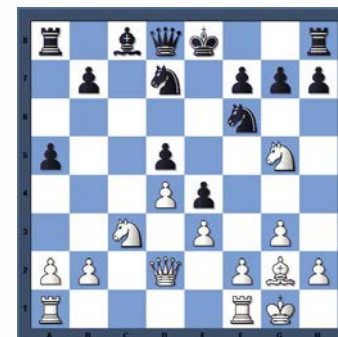
8.e3 A calm move. White could play a bit more aggressively: [8.♙e3 Probably the best option for White. 8...exd4 9.♙xd4 O-O 10.a3 ♙c5 11.b3 Not allowing Black to fix the structure after a4. 11...♚e8 12.♘c3 c6 13.♚c2+= And white is slightly better. The plan is to keep the pawn on e2 or e3 (not on e4!) and then try to push the typical b4-b5.; 8.♙g5 8...exd4 9.♘xd4 h6 10.♙f4 O-O∞; 8.♘c3 8...O-O 9.♚c2 ♚e8∞]

8...♙xd2 9.♚xd2 [9.♘fxd2 9...O-O 10.♘c3 With the plan to play a3-b4, but without the dark squared bishops Black's position is very solid.]

9...c6 Black is preparing for e4.

10.♘c3 e4 Otherwise White will play e4 and get more space in the center. [10...O-O 11.e4+=]

11.♘h4 [11.♘g5 11...d5 12.cxd5 cxd5



13.f3 h6! 14.♘h3 (14.♘xf7 14...♚xf7 15.fxe4 dxe4 16.♘xe4 ♚f8 And the black king escapes.) 14...exf3 15.♙xf3 ♘b6 The black pawn on d5 is protected enough and Black has counterplay against the e3 pawn. 16.♘f4 O-O 17.♚ac1 (17.♚g2 17...♙e6) 17...♚e8=]

11...♘b6 [11...d5 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.f3 (13.♘f5? 13...♘b6 14.♘xg7+ ♙f8—) 13...exf3 14.♘xf3 O-O 15.♚ac1+= Compares to the line with a knight on f4, now after Nb6 White will put a strong knight on e5 with a good chance to get the initiative.]

12.♘xe4

[12.c5 12...dxc5 13.♘xe4 cxd4 14.♚fd1 ♙g4 (14...♘xe4 15.♙xe4 O-O 16.♚c2 g6 17.♚xd4 ♚e7 18.♚ad1 ♙e6 The pawn on g6 limits the white pieces very well and the position is equal. 19.♙xg6 doesn't work now as after 19...hxg6 20.♘xg6 fxg6 21.♚xg6+ ♙h8 White only has perpetual check because after 22.♚h4+ Black has 22...♚xh4! 23.gxh4 ♚g8—)]



15. ♖xd4 ♙xd1 16. ♘d6+ ♔f8 17. ♚xd1↑ With very complex play.]

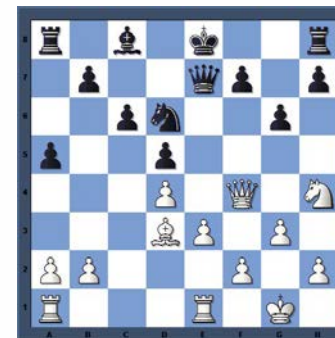
12... ♗xe4 13. ♙xe4 ♘xc4 14. ♚e2 d5 15. ♙d3



15... ♗d6 The position transposes to the Karlsbad structure. Because there are not too many pieces on the board, Black has no problems at all.

16. ♚h5 White is trying to disturb Black a bit with his development and trying to create some weaknesses. [16.f3 The Botvinnik plan of playing f3-e4 makes no sense when there are not many pieces on the board... 16...O-O 17.e4 ♚b6 18. ♚f2 ♙h3 19. ♚fe1 dxe4 20.fxe4 ♚ad8 Black gets great play against White's hanging central pawns. 21.e5 ♗b5 22. ♙xb5 cxb5 23. ♚ad1 f6⇝]

16... ♚e7 17. ♚fe1 ♙e6 Less accurate is [17...g6 18. ♚h6 ♚f8 19. ♚f4 ♚e7



20.e4! White is on time with the break in the center: 20...dxe4 21. ♙xe4 ♗xe4 22. ♚xe4 ♙e6 23. ♗f3 h6 24.d5! cxd5 25. ♚e5 With huge initiative over the dark squares.]

18. ♚ac1 g6 19. ♚d1 [19. ♚h6 19... ♚f8]

19...O-O 20. ♚c2 The position is equal. White is not able to create any problems because typical plans like a3-b4 or f3-e4 are not enough now.

20... ♚fc8 Both sides are waiting a bit. I am not sure if Black wants to play b6-c5.

21. ♗g2 ♙f5 In this structures it is usually good for Black to exchange the light squared bishops.

22. ♗f4 ♙xd3 23. ♗xd3 ♚e8 24. ♗f4 [24. ♗c5 24... ♚g7 25. ♗g2 With equal play.]

24... ♚f6 25. ♚f1 The position slowly becomes unpleasant for White. Compare to White, Black can prepare some pressure on the kingside.

25... ♚e7 26. ♚ce1 ♚ae8 27.b3 Taking control over the c4 square, but on the other hand Black will keep the possibility of opening the position after a4 at some point. [27. ♚c3 27... ♚f5 28. ♚xa5 g5→ With the idea of playing Qh3-Re6 for example

and the white king will quickly find himself in trouble.]

27...♖e4



28.f3?! After this move the pawn on e3 will be weak.

28...♗d6 29.♗g2 ♗f5 30.♖d2 b6 Protecting a5 and preparing to play c5 at some moment.

31.♖f2 [31.♖e2? 31...♗xd4; 31.♖f2 31...h5 32.♖fe2



32...h4! 33.g4 ♗d6 And White has no time to play h3 because the f3 pawn is hanging. 34.♖f1 h3 35.♗f4 ♖xf4! 36.exf4 ♖xe2 Followed by Rg2-Re2 and White is winning.]

31...♖g5 [31...c5 32.dxc5 bxc5 33.g4 ♗g7 34.♖d2↪Now Black has problems with the d5 pawn and after d4, White will simplify the position.]

32.g4



32...♗xe3! Nice! Black's decision is to change the character of the position but keep the initiative. [32...♗d6 Of course after that move Black is slightly better, but one weakness on e3 is still not enough to win the game.]

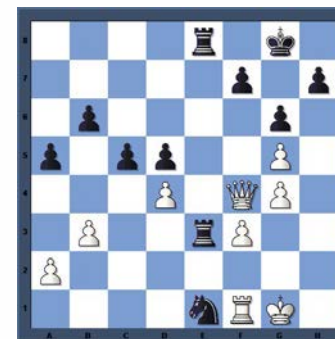
33.h4 [33.♖d2 White is not able to take advantage of this pin: 33...h6 34.h4 (34.♖xe3 34...♖xe3 35.h4 ♖e7+) 34...♗xf1↪]

33...♗xg2 34.hxg5 ♗xe1 Black controls the e-file and will soon create a strong passed d-pawn. White needs to hurry with counterplay.

35.♖g3 A good move, activating the queen.

35...♖e3 36.♖f4 [36.♖c7 36...♗xf3+ 37.♖g2 ♗xg5 And the f7 pawn is protected. 38.♖xc6 ♖8e4↪ XKg2]

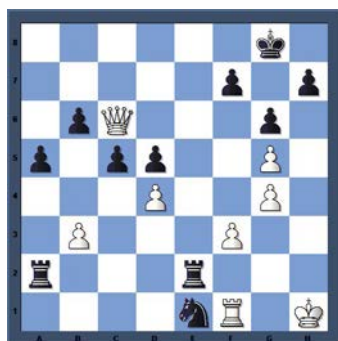
36...c5



37.♗h1 White is escaping from the check on f3, but the

problem is that king will never be safe on the first rank. An interesting defending idea was [37.♔h2 On g3 the king will be more safe and will also protect the f3 pawn. 37...cxd4 (37...c4 38.bxc4 dxc4 39.d5 c3 40.d6 It is very hard to say who is better here.) 38.♔g3 d3 39.♕d4 ♖e2 40.♗f2 d2 41.♗xe2 ♗xe2 42.♕xd5 And White is fine because the pawn cannot promote and Black is not able to avoid perpetual check.]

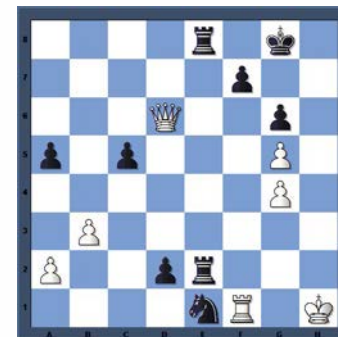
37...♗e2 38.dxc5 White could defend the position after [38.♕f6 38...♗xa2 (38...♗2e6 39.♕f4 ♘d3 40.♕c7 cxd4 41.f4♣ With f5 next.; 38...cxd4 39.♕xd4♣) 39.♕c6 ♗ee2



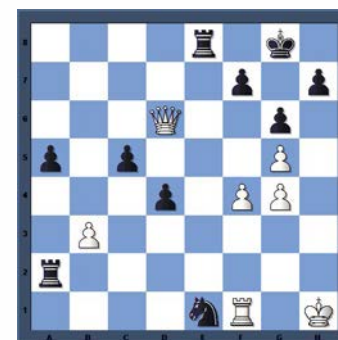
40.♗f2! To see this nice defending trick was very hard. 40...♗xf2 41.♕e8+ ♔g7 42.♕e5+ ♔f8 43.♕b8+ ♔e7 44.♕c7+ With a draw.]

38...bxc5 39.♕d6 d4 40.♕xc5 The decisive mistake. After this move White will be not able to stop the strong d-pawn. The last chance was to create some ideas over the f-file.

[40.f4 40...♗xa2 (40...d3 41.f5 d2 42.fxg6 hxg6



43.♗xf7 Another nice tactical trick which allows White to hold the position. 43...♔xf7 44.♕f6+=)



41.♕d5!♣(But not 41.f5? 41...♘f3!)]

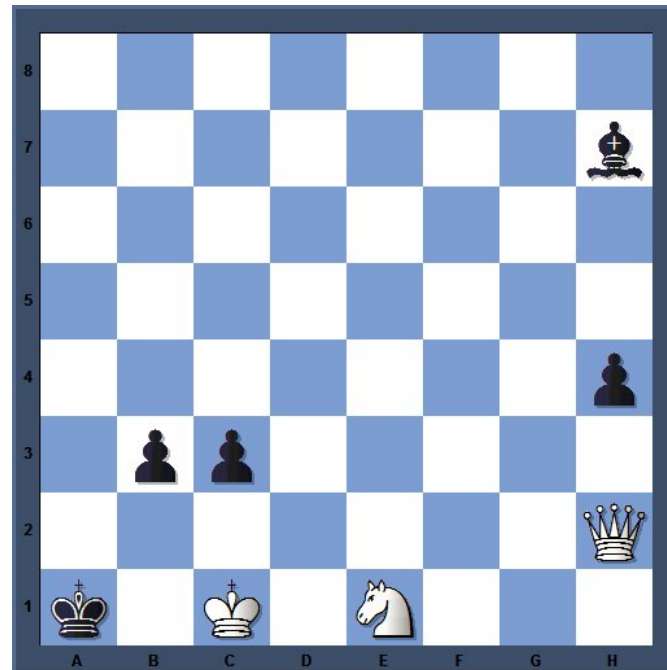
40...d3 41.♕d5 d2 42.♕d7 ♘xf3 43.♗xf3 d1=♕+ After winning the queen, Black will play Re5, grab the g5 pawn and easily win the rook endgame. **0-1**

Surprise section / study

(18) Keres

[CEWN]

1. +-

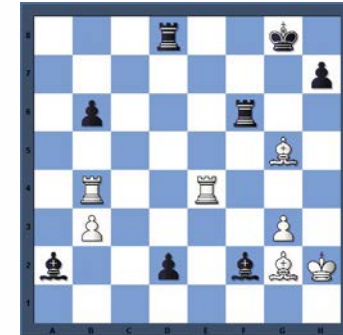


Solutions

(19) Vitiugov, N(2729)-Kramnik, V(2796)

Russian Championship, 2013.10.12

[Solutions]



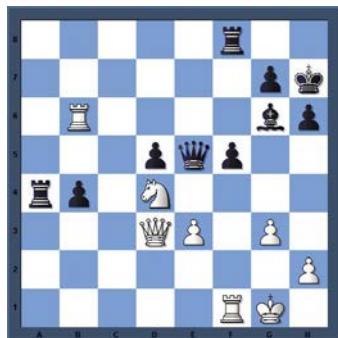
36. ♖xf6! d1=♔ 37. ♖g4+ [37. ♖xd8? 37... ♖g1+ 38. ♔h3 ♔xd8 39. ♖g4+ ♔h8--]

37... ♔f7 38. ♖xd8 ♖g1+ 39. ♔h3 ♔xd8 40. ♖bf4+ ♔e7 41. ♖e4+ ♔f6 42. ♖ef4+ ♔e7 43. ♖e4+ ♔d6 44. ♖d4+! ♖xd4 45. ♖xd4+ ♔e7 46. ♖xd8 ♔xd8 47. ♖e4=

(20) Pogonina, N(2485)-Kosintseva, T(2515)

Russian Woman Championship, 2013.10.14

[Solutions]



40. ♖e6! ♜c7 [40... ♜b8 41. ♖xg6! ♜xg6 42. ♘xf5+-]

41. ♖xg6! ♜a3 [41... ♜c4 42. ♜d1!! ♜xg6 43. ♜xa4+-]

42. ♜b1! ♜xg6 43. ♘xf5! +- [43. ♖xf5? 43... ♖f6!±]

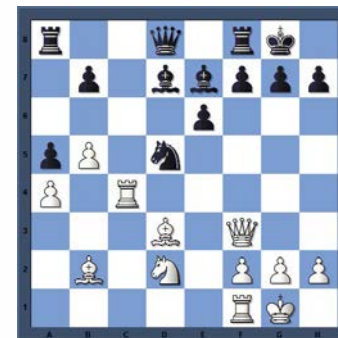
43... ♜g5 44. h4+! ♜g4 45. ♜d1+ ♜h3 46. ♜f3 ♜xf5

47. ♜xf5+ ♜xg3 48. ♖f3+ 1-0

(21) Hovhanissyan, R(2599)-Kostin, K(2337)

Chigorin memorial, 2013.10.07

[Solutions]



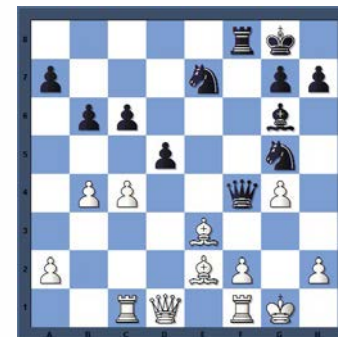
22. ♘xh7+! ♜xh7 23. ♜h5+ ♜g8 24. ♘xg7! f5 [24... ♜xg7
25. ♖g4+ ♘g5 26. ♖xg5+ ♜f6 27. ♜h4!+-]

25. ♘e5 ♖f6 26. ♖h4 1-0

(22) Popov, V(2548)-Kukhmazov, A(2239)

Chigorin memorial, 2013.10.08

[Solutions]



20... ♘e4! 0-1 [20... ♘e4 21. ♘xf4 ♘h3#]

(23) Hovhannisyan, R(2599)-Shuraev, A(2351)

Chigorin memorial, 2013.10.09

[Solutions]



20. ♘g5! ♜xg5 21. ♜f7+ ♔xe8 22. ♜xg5++—

(24) Matlakov, M(2682)-Eljanov, P(2729)

Chigorin memorial, 2013.10.11

[Solutions]



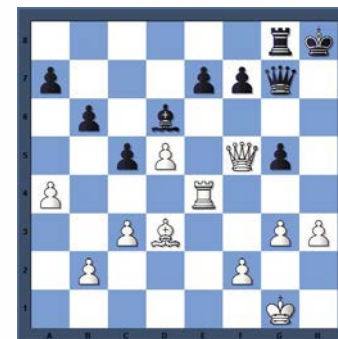
26... ♜xb5! [26... ♜c5? 27. ♜d8+=]

27. ♜xb5 ♜c5 28. ♜d8+ ♜xd8 29. ♜xc5 ♜f6! 0-1

(25) Romanov, E(2654)-Givon, A(2445)

Chigorin memorial, 2013.10.12

[Solutions]

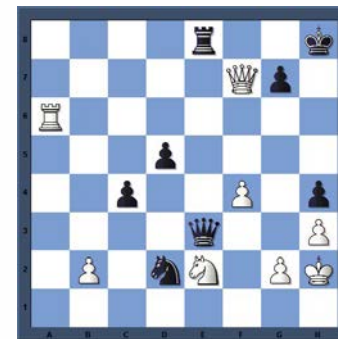


31. ♜h4+! 1-0 [31. ♜h4+ 31...gxf4 32. ♜h5+ ♜h6 33. ♜xh6#]

(26) Homa, S(2351)-Stripunsky, A(2549)

Continental Open, 2013.10.11

[Solutions]



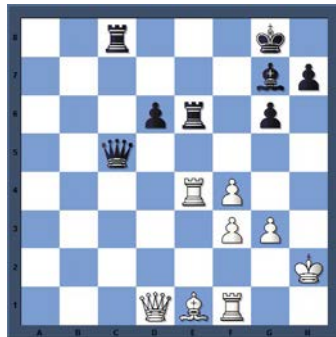
37... ♜f3+! 38. ♜h1 [38.gxf3 38... ♜xe2++]

38... ♜c1+! 39. ♜xc1 ♜e1#

(27) Sanchez Enriquez, O(2397)-Ortiz Suarez, I(2601)

Univ Open, 2013.10.11

[Solutions]

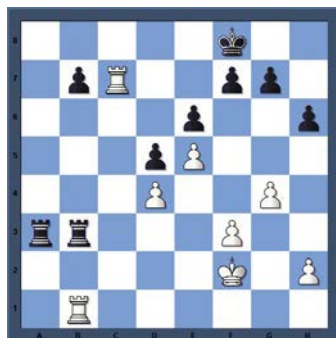


34...♔h5+! 35.♕g1 ♖xe4 0-1 [35...♖xe4 36.♔b3+ (36.fxe4 36...♔xd1--+) 36...♖ec4--+]

(28) Ni Hu(2671)-Yu Ruiyua(2554)

Chinese league, 2013.10.12

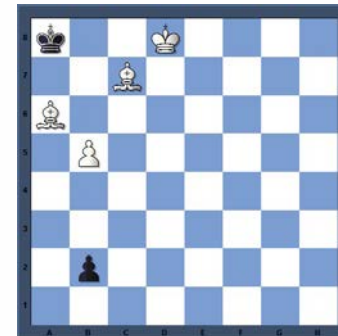
[Solutions]



32.♖c8+! ♔e7 33.♖bc1! 1-0

(29) Pogosiants

[Solutions]



1.♔c8! b1=♔ 2.♕b7+ ♔a7 3.b6+! ♔xb6 4.♕b8#



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 88

1st of November 2013

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Editorial Preface

Once again we had a great week of chess, with a fantastic result by one of your weekly contributors, Csaba. Let us start with this...

The 18th Casino de Barcelona closed event was won by Csaba Balogh, who took clear first with 4.5/7! Congratulation for this great performance!

Now probably to the biggest surprise:

The European Club Cup was clinched by the G-Team Novy Bor with a fantastic result of 13/14 points. Navara and especially Wojtaszek showed a fantastic performance. The 2nd place went to Malachite, a star Russian team, and 3rd to SOCAR, the number 1 seated "Super Star collection" (Topalov, Mamedyarov, Radjabov, Wang Hao, Caruana...).

The Unive Crown Group was won by So as expected, with a very good 4.5/6. 2nd-3rd places were shared by Adams and Van Kampen with 3/6. In the open section Rodshtein Maxim came first with a great score of 7.5/9. 2nd-3rd places were shared by Moskalenko and L'ami Erwin with 7/9.

Le Tropheé Anatoly Karpov in Cap D'Agde is coming to an end as well. In the final of the rapid event Etienne Bacrot and Karpov himself, who has been showing a fantastic performance, will meet to decide of the winner of this tournament!

We wish you a lot of fun with CEWN Nr88!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Giri, A.(2749)

- Bartel, Mat(2638) [D02]

29th ECC Open 2013(6.1), 2013.10.25

[Balogh Csaba]

The talented Polish GM Bartel Mateusz likes choosing unusual openings and taking risky decisions, therefore sometimes he is very successful, but on bad days he gets badly punished for them.

1.♘f3 d5 2.d4



2...a6 The first unusual move in the opening. It has its point, namely to fight against White's most natural move c4, as Black is ready to take it and protect it with b5 now and he does not need to worry about the typical a4 undermining anymore.

3.♙g5! I like this move a lot. It disturbs Black's development a bit and White wants to play e3 followed by c4, when the dark squared bishop does not get stuck behind the e3 pawn.

3...c6 The start of the next dubious plan. Black should have continued the development with Nf6 and e6, although in this case the a6 move is not the most useful.

4.e3



4...♖b6? The drawback of the early development of the c1 bishop is usually the b2 pawn. Black tries to make use of it, but in this case it is rather a poisoned pawn, as Black simply loses too many tempi to grab it.

5.♙d3! White obviously does not pay any attention to that pawn.

5...♖xb2 6.♘bd2 White has developed 4 of his pieces, while Black is only moving with his queen and he needs to waste a further tempo in order to avoid it being trapped.

6...♖a3 7.O-O ♙g4 The first developing move in the game by Black.

8.♖b1! A great move! In order to make use of his huge advantage in development, White needs to open up the position. He intends to do it by playing c4, but first he protects his d3 bishop and at the same time attacks b7.

8...b5 Black tries to keep the position closed, but after the following spectacular move he just fails:



9.c4!! White is able to open the position, using the fact that bxc4 is met by Qb7, trapping the rook.

9...♙xf3 [9...dxc4 loses to 10.♘xc4! bxc4 11.♙b7+—]

10.♘xf3 dxc4 11.♙xc4! e6 Black is ready to develop his kingside pieces in order to put his king into safety. White needs to act quickly to punish his opponent.



12.e4! Another excellent decision! White plays principled chess, he wants to push d5 to open the lines for his rooks in front of the opponent's king. The c4 bishop is always taboo because of Qb7.

12...♙e7 13.♙c1! A very nice attack by Giri. He preserves his bishop with tempo in order to make the d5 break even more effective.

13...♙a5 [13...♙b4 is met by 14.♙b3 ♘f6]



15.a4! The bishop suddenly arrives to a3! This was the main point behind Bc1.]



14.d5! Consequent play by White!

14...exd5? This is too much. Black even opens the e-file in front of his king. [14...cxd5 was the only move. 15.♙b3 (The point is that 15.exd5? is already met by 15...bxc4! because 16.♙b7 ♙xd5! saves the rook.) 15...♘f6 16.exd5 exd5 17.♙e1 Black's position is highly suspicious, but he can still fight.]

15.exd5 ♘f6 Black is only one tempo away from his dream to castle, but he fails after the energetic play by Giri! [15...bxc4 16.♙b7+—]

16.d6! [16.♙e1? was bad in view of 16...O-O! 17.♙xe7 bxc4 18.♙b7 ♘bd7 and suddenly Black is winning.]

16...♙xd6 17.♖e1+ This is a deadly check, which means that Black must forget about castling in this game.

17...♔f8



18.♖f5! Giri continues playing the most aggressive moves. Qc8 threatens with mate and after

18...♘bd7 19.♙xf7! ♘e5 Black tries to play against the White back rank and also attacks the f7 bishop. Unfortunately for him White has a nice win. [19...♙xf7 leads to mate after 20.♖e6+ ♔f8 (20...♙g6 21.♘h4+ ♙h5 22.♖f5+ ♙xh4 23.♖h3#) 21.♖xd6+ ♔g8 22.♖e6+ ♔f8 23.♙f4 and Bd6 or on g6 Bh6 mates.; 19...♖xe1+! was the only move to extend the fight. Black gets rid of some attacking pieces. 20.♘xe1 ♙xf7 21.♘f3 ♖he8 22.♙b2 White should win later on.]

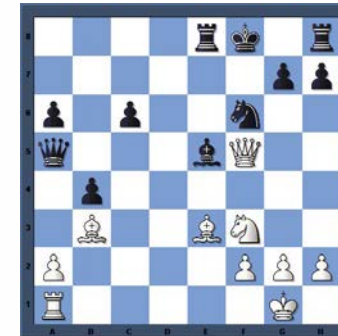
20.♖xe5! ♙xe5 21.♙b3 White preserves his bishop. Black cannot defend. [21.♖xe5 was also strong and the point is that after 21...♙xf7 22.♘g5+ ♔g6



23.g4!!+- Qf5 is unavoidable.]

21...♖e8 22.♙e3 Bc5 is the next threat against which Black has only one move.

22...b4



23.♙f4! [Black resigned in view of 23.♙f4! 23...g6 24.♘xe5!! gxf5 25.♙h6+ ♔e7 26.♘xc6+ ♔d6 27.♘xa5+- White ends up with decisive material advantage and he continues attacking. What a fantastic game by Giri!] **1-0**

(2) Karpov, Ana(2619)
- Pelletier, Y.(2578) [E32]

2nd Karpov Trophy Prelim(5.3), 2013.10.27
[Balogh Csaba]

Karpov was unstoppable in the rapid tournament of Cap'd Agde. This game presents well his chess from his best years.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♞c3 ♙b4 4.♚c2 The Qc2 system of the Nimzo-Indian defence is a solid setup for White with the aim of gaining the bishop pair with a3 without making a structural weakening.

4...O-O 5.e4 This is the aggressive handling of the variation. 5.a3 is the starts of the main line.

5...d5 6.e5 ♞e4



7.a3!? Karpov was always very clever in choosing the opening. The move he played was fashionable and very dangerous once, but at some point Black found the right setup against it and the players turned to the 7.Bd3 main line. However, grandmasters need to keep so many lines in their head that sometimes it is a very good practical decision to take a sharp forgotten line, especially in a rapid game, where the opponent has limited time to recall his old analysis.

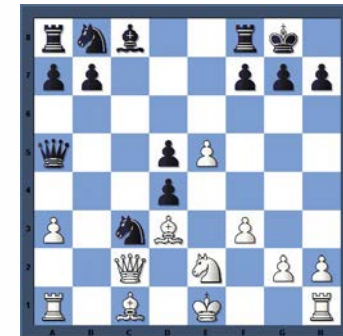
7...♙xc3+ 8.bxc3 White threatens to play Bd3, so Black needs to find quick counterplay against the center.

8...c5 9.♙d3 ♚a5 [9...cxd4 10.cxd4 ♚a5+ is the other option for Black, but Pelletier lost a game like this last year against Morozevich. 11.♚f1 ♙d7 12.♞e2 (On 12.f3 12...f5! is always Black's idea.) 12...f5 13.exf6 ♞xf6 14.♙d2 ♚d8 15.♙g5 h6 16.♙h4 ♞c6 17.cxd5 exd5 18.f3 White had better prospects with the bishop pair and the weak light squares, which could be used by Nf4 later on. Morozevich-Pelletier, Biel 2012.]

10.♞e2 cxd4 Black must explode White's center, otherwise he simply ends up in a worse position and f3 was also threatening to trap the knight. All this is still theory so far.

11.cxd5 exd5 12.f3! A very direct line, where both players need to play sharply.

12...♞xc3



13.♞xd4! White is not afraid of discovered checks. Obviously such a line can only be played with huge preparation behind it. At this point Pelletier prefers to enter a slightly worse endgame instead of going for the critical line with extreme complications.

13...♖b5+ [13...♗e4+! 14.♔e2



14...f5!! is the right move. Leko Peter found this idea back in 2006 and won a nice game against Vallejo Pons. Since then, theory considers it to be draw after the following line: 15.e6! ♗c6 16.♗xc6 bxc6 17.e7 ♖e8 18.♗xc6 ♖xe7 19.fxe4 fxe4 20.♗c4! dxc4 21.♗xa8 ♖e8 22.♗c6 ♗g4+ 23.♔f2 ♗e5 24.♖e1 ♖f8+ 25.♔g1 ♗xa1 26.♗xc4+ ♔h8 27.♗xe4 As it was played in the game Braun,A (2558)-Meier,G (2608) Saarbruecken 2009. Karpov was probably ready to make a draw like this, but the chance that Black could recall this ideas found 7 years ago was quite small. In any other case White just gets the initiative.]

14.♗d2 ♗xd4 15.♗xh7+! White restores the material balance with this move.

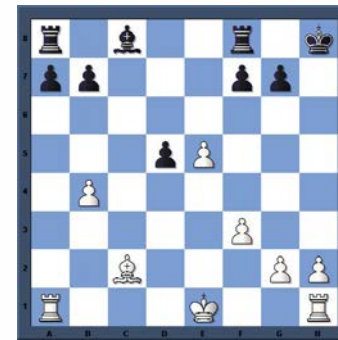
15...♔h8 16.♗xa5 ♗xc2+ White has a nice endgame with a better pawn structure and the bishop pair, but unfortunately for him Black is able to get rid of one of the bishops.

17.♗xc2 ♗c6 18.♗b4 [18.♗c3 could have been met by 18...d4]

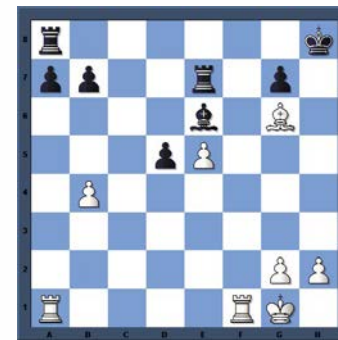
18...♗xb4 [18...♖e8 19.f4 ♗xb4 20.axb4 could have arisen from the game as well.]

19.axb4 These kind of endgames were Karpov's favorites, from which he was scoring an amazing percentage. White has a minimal advantage due to his better pawn structure and his more active bishop. Black's queenside pawns are also rather

weak and the isolated pawn on d5 might also be a potential target. White's task to create dangerous passed pawns on the kingside is much easier.



19...f6 [19...♖e8 20.f4 f6 would have been principled to undermine the e5 pawn. Unfortunately for Black he does not equalize here either because of 21.♗g6! ♖e7 22.O-O fxe5 23.fxe5 Using the weak back rank. 23...♗e6? (23...♗d7 24.♖xa7! wins a pawn!)]



24.b5!+= Followed by Ra4 with the ideas of Rfa1, pressing the a7 pawn, or Raf4, threatening on the back rank.]

20.exf6 ♖xf6 21.♔d2! Karpov increases his advantage with each move. His king is excellently placed in the center. If the rooks were exchanged, White might simply win the d5 pawn by driving his king to d4 and his bishop to b3. White also

threatens to play Rhe1-e7 and once his kingside pawns start to march, it will be very difficult to stop them.

21...♙d7 22.♖he1 Karpov activates his rook. He intends to play either Re7 or Re5 next.

22...a6 Pelletier would like to use his a8 rook, but he had to lose an important tempo for that.

23.♖e7 ♖d8



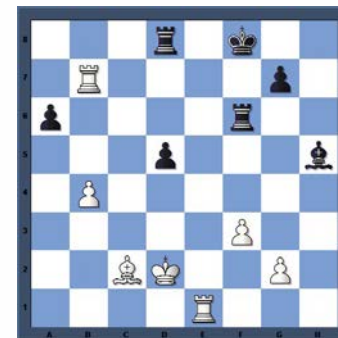
24.♖ae1 All white pieces are playing. Black is standing without any counterplay. It is typical of Karpov's technique, that he always sets small tactical traps behind his positional moves. This time he threatens to take the bishop followed by Re8 mate.

24...♙g8 25.h4! Karpov starts to mobilize his kingside. The plan is to push h5 and settle the bishop to g6, completely paralyzing Black, followed by playing g4-g5 later on. Black can hardly do anything against it.

25...♙f8 26.h5 ♙e8 Pelletier aims for simplifications. [26...b6 was met by 27.♙g6! Threatening to play Rxd7 again. 27...♙g8 28.♖1e5! ♖d6 (Otherwise if the bishop moves, White doubles his rooks on the 7th rank. 28...♙c6 29.♖a7+—) 29.♙d3 With the double threat Bxa6 and Rg5. White wins material.; The best chance was definitely to trade a pair of rooks, although it is also doesn't solve all the problems.

26...♖f7 27.♖xf7+ ♙xf7 28.g4± White is going to have two connected passed pawns soon, supported well by the bishop and the rook.]

27.♖xb7 ♙xh5

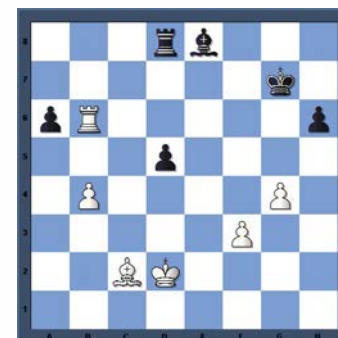


28.♖h1! Very precise! True to his style, Karpov does not give any chance to his opponent.

28...♖h6 [28...♙f7 is refuted by 29.♖h8+ ♙g8 30.♙h7!+—]

29.g4 ♙e8 30.♖xh6 gxh6 31.♖b6! +— White wins a pawn and the game is basically over. One is worse than the other from Black's point of view. White either gets two pawns on the kingside or after taking on a6, the b-pawn decides the outcome of the game.

31...♙g7

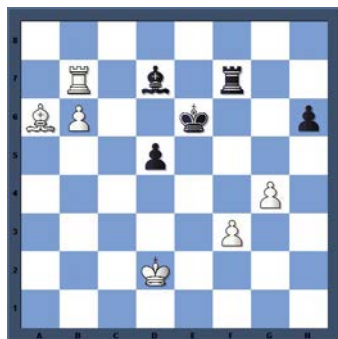


32.♙d3! White does not allow any counterplay. [After

32.♖xa6 Black might hope for some chances with 32...♖b8 33.♔c3 ♖c8+ 34.♔b3 d4 although White should win after 35.♕e4 but the text move is much simpler.]

32...♖d7 33.♕xa6 ♖f7 34.♖b7! The bishop endgame is easily won with passed pawns on both sides.

34...♕d7 35.b5 ♔f6 36.b6 ♔e6 White wins after any move, but Karpov employs a little tactic to conclude the full point.



37.♕b5 [Black resigned in view of 37.♕b5 37...♕xb5 38.♖xf7 ♕xf7 39.b7+— A positional masterpiece by Karpov.] **1-0**

(3) Svidler, Peter(2740)

- Nakamura, Hikaru(2783) [E71]

29th ECC Open 2013(5.4), 2013.10.24

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We will see a very interesting game with a lot of strange motives. It is clear that both players were not scared of going for a real fight. In a very complex position, Svidler suddenly started panicking and made a horrible miscalculation, putting all his resources into the attack on the black king and quickly got punished by very cool play of Nakamura.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♕g7 The King's Indian is back! For some time only Radjabov was playing it, but now more and more players are trying it out. It remains a very sharp and fighting opening.

4.e4 d6 5.h3 Not the main move, but a very tricky line.

5...O-O 6.♕g5 White's idea is to act against e5 move with d5 and then g4-Bg2 and Nge2, which is why White is not playing Nf3 right now.

6...♘a6 A development move and Black is also keeping both options open, to play e5 and d5 in the future.

7.f4 Svidler is trying some sort of new setup. After 7.Nf3 we would be back to more or less theoretical lines. 7.g4 looks a bit premature, as Black could try to play c6 followed by d5.



7...h5!? Black reacts immediately. White has a very strong center and it is clear that Black needs to do something against it quickly. The question is whether White can hold the center or if Black will rush over it.

8.g3 The g3 square has to be protected.

8...c5 When e5 is not possible, c5 is the solution.

9.d5 b5! It is hard to say if it is a good move, but it clearly makes a lot of sense. Black's play is on the queenside and he needs to act. If White was in time to play g4 followed by Bg2 Black's position could just be bad.

10.cxb5 Black's idea is simple, to play Rb8-Bd7 or a6 next and open the b-file.

11.a4 Black's idea is simple, to play Rb8-Bd7 or a6 next and open the b-file.

12...f6 13.g3 h6 Checking White. Of course it is very unpleasant to give up the bishop on f6 and it is usually the wrong thing to do.

14.h4 [14...xf6? 14...xf6 With great play for Black.]



14...h7!? Very original play again! Black suddenly wants to play g5 and the bishop on h4 is trapped.

15.d2 a6 This is the first critical position of the game. What to play for White?! Should he search for some attacking ideas or try to consolidate and hold the b5 pawn?

16.c4?! A logical move, but I think Black is taking over now. [Maybe it was better for White to keep the extra pawn: 16.bxa6 16...xa6 17.a5 Black of course has good play here too, but a pawn is a pawn.]

16...axb5 17.axb5 d7 Black continues what he started, to put pressure on the b-file.

18.e5?! I guess this is what Svidler was playing for, but can it be good to open the position so much with a king on e1?! [The only chance for White was to keep the b-line closed: 18.a5! With a very sharp position.]

18...xb5 [Of course not 18...dxe5? 19.d6 and the bishop on h4 is not very useful...]

19.xb5 The black knight wants to take a great place on d4.

20.a5 Svidler wants to escape into a worse endgame, but Nakamura shows no mercy.



20...Qe8! The American Super GM has a fantastic killing instinct and shows no mercy. There is no reason for Black to exchange the queens as the white king is too exposed and the bishop on h4 almost trapped. We see a perfect example of how dangerous it can get when a center starts to fall apart.

21.0-0 [21.Ke4 would not help White much as after 21...dxe5 22.f5 Nd6 Black is also close to be winning.]

21...g5 And the bishop on h4 is lost...

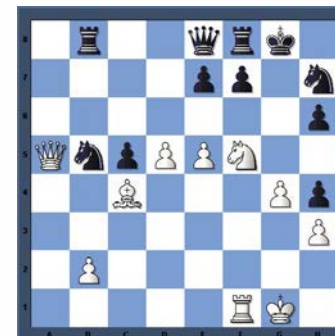
22.Bf5 White tries his last chance, a direct attack.

22...gxh4 23.Rae1 [23.Bxb5 was not better as after 23...Qxb5 24.Nxe7+ Qh8 Black is a piece up and winning.]

23...dxe5 Nakamura stays cool.

24.Rxe5 A Samurai attack with a machine gun! :) [To give the black knight from h7 a great square on g5 is not an option: 24.fxe5 24...Ng5+]]

24...fxe5 25.fxe5 Black is a full rook up, which is just too much!



25...e6! Another exact move to destroy any of White's hopes, if there were still any...

26.Nxh6+ Kg7 27.Qd2 Qd8 Black wants to play Qg5 next.

28.Rf6 Nd4 29.Nxf7 Nxf6 We saw a very instructive game and of course great play by Black. It is also clear that White's experimental idea with Bg5-f4 has failed completely. **0-1**

**(4) Lopez Martinez, Josep Manuel(2555)
- Balogh, Csaba(2632) [A20]**

18th Casino de Barcelona 2013(6.4), 2013.10.30

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Finally we can see Balogh Csaba, your weekly commentator, on a rush in Barcelona. With this win, Csaba basically managed to secure the first place in this round robin event!

1.c4 e5 2.g3 White often chooses this move order to delay the development of the knight from b1 a little bit in order to avoid the lines with Bb4.

2...f6 3.g2 c6 [3...c6 is the other main line.; 3...d5 4.cxd5 dxd5 5.c3 b6 would lead us to another very popular line. Kramnik likes to play it with White for example.]

4.c3 White needs to develop the knight from b1.

4...b4



5.d5 This is not the main move. [5.f3 would lead to the very main position.]

5...c5 It looks like Black has lost a tempo, but in fact the exchange of a pair of knights is good for him.

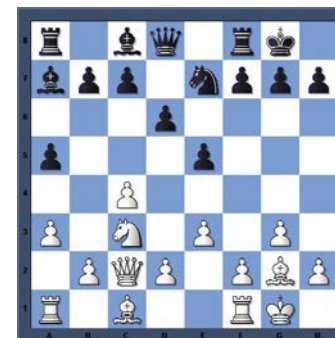
6.a3 I personally think that to include a3-a5 is not useful for White.

6...a5 7.e3 d6 8.e2 O-O 9.O-O a7 Black is acting against White's d4 push. The bishop on a7 looks a bit stupid, but the white one on c1 is not much better either. After d4 exd4 the bishop on a7 would become very active.

10.xf6+ xf6 11.c3 White exchanges one knight and takes place on d5 with the second one.

11...d8 12.c2? It is hard to understand this move. [12.d5 12...e6 13.d3 d7 would lead to a normal position where Black completely equalized.]

12...e7! A very nice strategic decision. Black is preparing to play c6-d5!



13.f4? This is already a serious positional mistake. White should have been very careful and kept the f2-e3 pawn structure against the a7 bishop. [13.d3 13...c6 14.d2 would still lead to a normal position.]

13...c6 Now both white bishops are out of play.

14.f5 This was probably White's idea, but it just looks ugly. White is undeveloped and lets Black get control over the center.

14...d5! Of course! Who controls the center controls the game.

15.g4?! Another rather senseless move. [White is already in trouble and has to fight for survival: 15.cxd5 15...cxd5 16.f6 Maybe White would at least have some counter chances here.]

15...e4 Another strong move by Csaba, with a "secret idea".

16.cxd5 cxd5 17.d4 White clearly didn't expect Black's next move.



17...♗b8! Exactly! The bad bishop from a7 becomes a beast on b8! Black just wants to play Qd6 next.

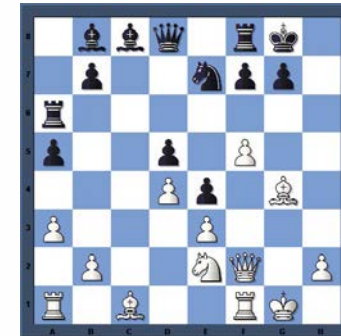
18.♔f2 White still tries to hold things together, but here comes another shock!

18...♖a6! Excellent play by Black. All the pieces are just perfectly placed and working together beautifully. The black rook wants to take place on h6 and all Black needs to do next is just to open the kingside.

19.♘e2 h5 The white structure cannot stand the pressure.

20.♙h3 [After 20.h3 20...hxg4 21.hxg4 ♖h6 it is hard to imagine White surviving here for more than 5 moves.]

20...hxg4 21.♙xg4



21...♖f6 The most simple move, as the f5 pawn is falling.

22.♙d2 ♘xf5 23.♙xf5 ♙xf5 Black is a pawn up and he continues his attack.

24.♔g2 ♔d7 And it is all over. A nice strategical win by Csaba and of course a very good example of "what not to do with White" in closed pawn structures. **0-1**

Puzzle section

(5) Moen, A(2390)-Winants, L(2534)

ECC, 2013.10.23

[CEWN]

1... -+

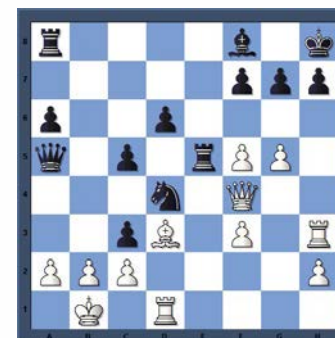


(7) Meribanov, V(2404)-Broekmeulen, J(2435)

ECC, 2013.10.24

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Dambacher, M(2493)-Wojtaszek, R(2698)

ECC, 2013.10.24

[CEWN]

1... -+

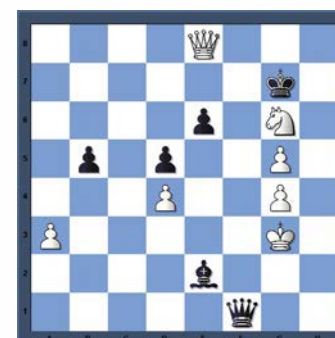


(8) Solak, D(2611)-Karttunen, M(2445)

ECC, 2013.10.24

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Stubberud, O(2327)-Gerber, R(2390)

ECC, 2013.10.24

[CEWN]

1... -+



(10) Sjugirov, S(2635)-Dreev, A(2679)

ECC, 2013.10.25

[CEWN]

1. +-

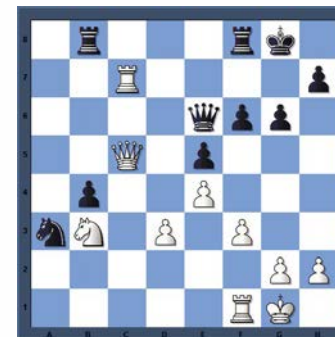


(11) Bok, B(2525)-Ikonnikov, V(2564)

ECC, 2013.10.25

[CEWN]

1. +-

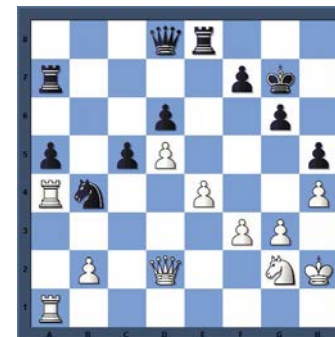


(12) Korobov, A(2716)-Durarbayli, V(2548)

ECC, 2013.10.26

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Rakhmanov, A(2603)-Kavutskiy, K(2272)

Spice Cup, 2013.10.15

[CEWN]

1... -+



(14) Motylev, A(2676)-Sonntag, H(2377)

ECC, 2013.10.25

[CEWN]

1. +-

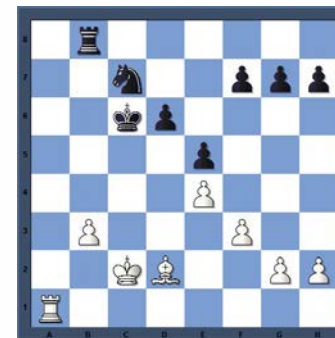


Endgame section

(15) Karjakin, Sergey(2762)-Cheparinov, Ivan(2672)

29th ECC Open 2013(7.3), 2013.10.26

[CE Team]



33. ♖a4 What can we say about this position, at first sight it looks very close to a draw, but Black still needs to be careful, as White's passed b-pawn gives him theoretical chances of being better, for example if he managed to exchange his rook and proceed with the pawn to b5. During the next 20 moves, Karjakin will show very nice technique from which we can learn, although we have to admit that Cheparinov was rather helpful to White's success.

33... ♘b5?! Clearly not the best move. More accurate was [33...d5! Of course it is important for the defensive side to exchange as many pawns as possible. 34.exd5+ ♔xd5 followed by f5 and I don't think that Black should be too worried. The position looks equal to me.]

34. ♔d3! A very important move. White takes his chance to get his king to c4.

34...♖c7 35.♔c4



35...g6? Black keeps on waiting, which is already a serious mistake. [It was the last chance for 35...d5+ 36.exd5+ ♖xd5 37.♖a6+ ♖b6+ and again Black should be perfectly fine.]

36.♖a7! Another very strong move, not giving Black any further chances for the "freedom kick" d5.

36...♔b6 37.♕e3+ ♔c6 38.b4 Black kept on waiting and as we can see, it is getting quite dangerous.

38...d5+ Finally, but it is already too late. [If Black continued being passive by playing 38...f5 39.g4 Black would somehow slowly be running out of moves.]

39.exd5+ ♖xd5 40.♕c5 White controls the 7th rank and the black knight needs to come back.

40...♖c7



41.g4 In a next step, White is fixing Black's pawn structure.

41...f5 42.g5 ♖a8 It is already difficult to give Black any advice. [42...♖b7 leads to a lost endgame: 43.♖xb7 ♔xb7 44.b5 Sooner or later the white king will take all the black pawns.; 42...♖d8? was of course losing immediately: 43.b5+! ♖xb5 44.♖a6+ White is a piece up.]

43.b5+ ♔d7 44.♖xa8 ♖xa8 White's dream plan came true. The rooks are exchanged and the pawn is on b5. The next step should be to secure the king's position on d5 or somehow play b6 and get a winning pawn endgame.

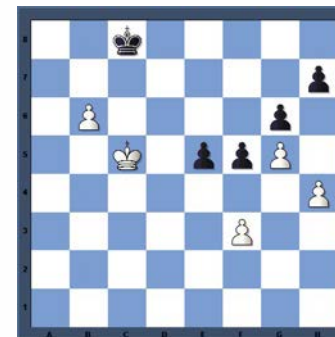
45.h4 White does not hurry and there is no reason for it. h4 can be an useful move in the future.

45...♖c7 46.b6 Winning control over the d5 square.

46...♖e6 47.♔d5 And the game is basically over.

47...♖xc5 Black's last try, but of course the pawn endgame is lost. White just wanted to play Kxe5 with a totally winning position.

48.♔xc5 ♔c8



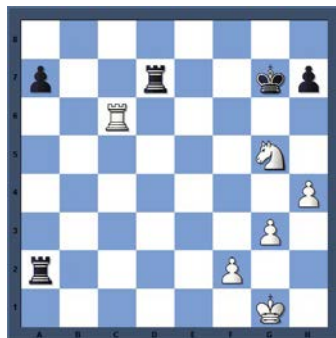
49.♔d5 It is not hard to see that White is faster.

49...e4 50.fxex4 f4 51.♔d4 ♔b7 52.♔d3 ♔xb6 53.♔e2 Really nice technique by Karjakin who won this endgame where he was only minimally better very convincingly. **1-0**

(16) Hracek, Z.(2636)-Wang Hao(2733)

ECC, 2013.10.25

[CE Team]



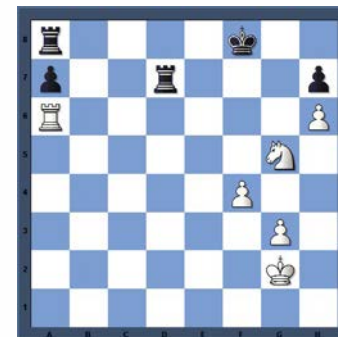
White is slightly behind in material, but the black king is squeezed and his only hope of winning the game, the a7 pawn, is very far from the promotion, especially considering the fact that anytime Black pushes a5, White plays Ra6 and advancing of the pawn is becoming very difficult. All these facts tell us that the game should end in a draw, but Wang Hao found a brilliant idea how to make progress!

35.h5! White not only pushes the king back to the back rank, but he also fixes the h7 pawn, which is attacked by the knight.

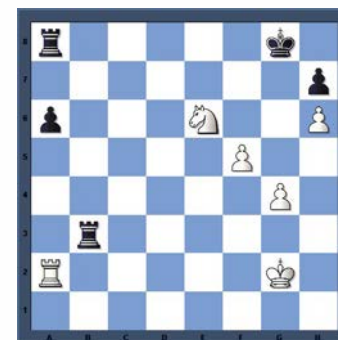
35...♖e2!! The start of the brilliant plan! Black transfers his rook to a8, from where it perfectly supports the a-pawn and also defends against the back rank mate.

36.h6+ [If White prevents Re8 with 36.♖c8 36...♖e5! is strong and the h5 pawn falls or after 37.f4 ♖e2 the white king is suddenly in a mate net.]

36...♔f8 37.♖f6+? White loses a very important tempo with this unnecessary check. [White should have played like in the game, but without the Rf6 move. 37.♔g2! 37...♖e8! 38.f4! White needs to look for counterplay by advancing the kingside pawns. 38...♖a8 39.♖a6



39...♖b7! This is the key! Black kicks out the blockading rook by playing Rb6. 40.f5 And here comes the critical tempo, that Black needs to waste a move on protecting the h7 pawn in order to play Rb6. This is the reason why 37.Rf6 was bad, he just sent the king to g8! 40...♔g8 41.♔e6 ♖b6 42.♖a5 a6! Slowly but surely Black advances his pawn. He is ready to play Rb5 now. 43.g4 ♖b5 44.♖a2 ♖b3 (Unfortunately for Black he cannot push his pawn immediately: 44...a5? 45.♔c7)



45.g5! White must focus on his counterplay. (45.♖a5? loses to 45...♖c8! Black suddenly changes his mind and plays for the mate.) 45...a5 46.g6 a4



47.♔f2! The only move, but it allows White to hold. 47...a3 48.f6 hxg6 49.f7+ ♔h7 50.f8=♚ ♜xf8 51.♞xf8 ♜b6 Black grabs the h6 pawn and the game is drawn.; 37.♞c8+? is met by 37...♞e8!]

37...♔g8 38.♔g2 ♞e8! We are already familiar with all the ideas from the 37.Kg2! line.

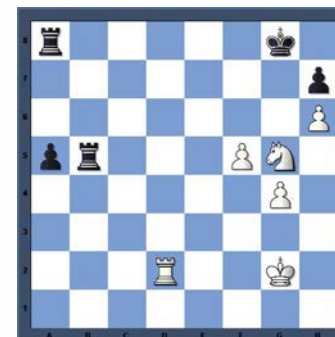
39.f4 ♞a8 40.♞a6 ♞b7! It was not easy to foresee this plan from our initial position.

41.f5 ♞b6 42.♞a5 a6! 43.g4 ♞b5 44.♞a2 a5



45.♞d2 White is looking for counterplay by activating the rook. Black must be careful. [45.♘e6 45...♞b4! Black must waste a move in order to leave from the Nc7 threat. 46.g5 a4 47.g6 a3 White is not in time to play Rf2 and f6, Rb2 comes too fast. 48.♔g3 ♞b2 49.♞a1 a2 50.♘g5 hxg6 51.fxg6

♞b1—+ Black wins. White cannot promote his pawns.]



45...♞b6! An excellent defensive move, attacking the h6 pawn. [After 45...a4?? 46.♞d7 White even wins the game.]

46.♘e6 [46.♞d7 46...♞xh6—+]

46...a4 47.♞d7 a3 Despite the attacking pieces White is unable to create a serious threat.

48.♘c7 [48.♞g7+ 48...♔h8 49.♘g5 ♞xh6—+]

48...a2 [White resigned in view of 48...a2 49.♘xa8 ♞b2+! Black saves his rook. 50.♔g3 a1=♚—+] **0-1**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Tarrasch, Siegbert-Alekhine, Alexander[C53]

Baden-Baden(3), 1925.04.19

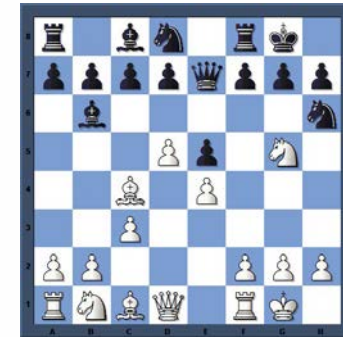
[Miton Kamil]

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗c4 ♗c5 4.c3



4...♗b6 It looks like Alekhine was afraid to force the pawns exchange after d4, or maybe he wanted to play something new. Of course the main move is [4...♘f6 5.d4 (5.d3 leads to main positions. Both sides have typical plans here. White: transfer the knight to g3, try to push d4 at the right moment to get the center and to get some space after a4-b4. Black: transfer the knight to g6 and it might also be interesting to push d5 at some moment.) 5...exd4 6.cxd4 (6.e5 6...d5 7.♗b5 ♘e4 8.cxd4 ♗b6 9.♗e3 O-O 10.♘c3 leads to complex play where Black should be fine.) 6...♗b4+ 7.♘c3 (7.♗d2 7...♗xd2+ 8.♘bxd2 And now of course 8...d5! A strong move which destroys the white center. 9.exd5 ♘xd5 10.♗b3 ♘a5 11.♗a4+ ♘c6=) 7...♘xe4 8.O-O ♗xc3 9.d5 The only one chance to play for the initiative. 9...♗f6 10.♗e1 ♘e7 11.♗xe4 d6 12.♗g5 ♗xg5 13.♘xg5 h6 (13...O-O 14.♘h7 ♗xh7 15.♗h5+ ♗g8 16.♗h4 And White has some unpleasant pressure.) 14.♗e2 hxg5 15.♗e1 ♗e6 16.dxe6 f6∞With the idea to play c6-d5.]

5.d4 ♗e7 6.O-O [6.♘g5 6...♘h6 7.O-O O-O The knight on h6 is not worse than the one on g5. (7...exd4 8.cxd4 ♘xd4 9.♘c3 c6 10.♘a4 White gets good compensation.) 8.d5 ♘d8



9.d6! White sacrifices the pawn to create some development problems for Black, otherwise Black would play d6 and f5 next, with great play over the f-file. 9...cxd6 10.♘a3]

6...♘f6 7.♗e1 d6



8.a4 One of the typical moves in this kind of positions. White is trying to get space, but on the other hand the b4 square will be weaker, we will see this important factor later.

8...a6 A normal move. An interesting but inhuman option was to provoke White to push d5 after [8...O-O 9.d5 ♘a5 Otherwise the black bishop would be caught immediately. 10.♗a2 ♘g4 11.♗f1 f5 This is the idea. Black sacrifices the piece on the

queenside but wants to get strong pressure against the white king. 12.♖bd2 ♗xf2 13.♗xf2 ♕xf2+ 14.♔xf2 fxe4 15.♗xe4 ♖h4+ 16.♔e3 ♗g4 17.♗e2 ♕f5∞]

9.h3 O-O 10.♕g5 I don't see the point of provoking the h6 move if White wants to develop the bishop to e3 anyway.

10...h6 11.♕e3 [11.♕h4 11...g5 Not obligatory yet, but it is a normal idea here. 12.♕g3 exd4 (12...♗h5 13.♗xe5 ♗xe5 14.♕xe5 dxe5 15.♗xh5 ♖g7 With compensation over the dark squares.)



13.e5! On time! (13.cxd4 13...g4 14.hxg4 ♕xg4 And White has problems with the d4 pawn.) 13...dxe5 14.♗xe5 ♗xe5 15.♕xe5 ♕e6 16.♕xe6 fxe6 17.cxd4 ♖ad8 18.♗c3 I prefer White because of the weak black king.]

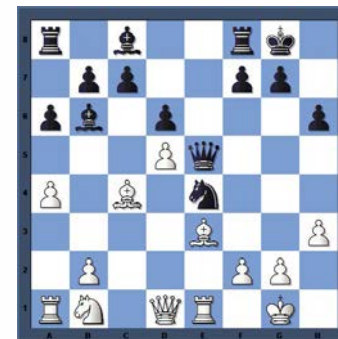


11...♗d8?! Even if Black has a concrete idea, to lose two

moves in the opening (Qe7-Qd8) cannot be good. Of course the critical move was [11...exd4 12.cxd4 ♗xe4 (12...♗xe4 13.♕d3! Black has problems with the queen. (13.♗c3 13...♗h7∞; 13.♕xh6 13...♗g6 14.♕g5 ♗xd4+ 13...♗e7 (13...♗d5 14.♗c3 ♗h5 15.♗e2 With Nf4 next.) 14.♕xh6 ♕e6 15.♕g5± Black's position is very unpleasant because of the very weak position of his king.) 13.♗c3 (

a) 13.♕d5 13...♗f6 14.♕xh6 ♖d7 15.♗d2 ♗f5 16.♕xc6 bxc6 White will not be able to create any attack without the light squared bishop;

b) 13.d5 13...♗e5 14.♗xe5 (14.♕xb6 14...♗xc4 15.♕d4 f5) 14...♗xe5



15.♕xb6 cxb6 And Black holds the position thanks to a tactical trick: 16.f3 ♗xb2 17.♖a2 ♗b4 18.♖xe4 ♕f5!+=;)

13...♗xc3 14.bxc3 White has compensation because the black pieces are limited and White is ready to create some active play on the kingside.]

12.♕d3 [12.♗bd2 12...exd4 13.cxd4 d5 I suppose this was Alekhine's idea.; 12.dxe5!? 12...♗xe5 (12...dxe5 13.♗xd8 ♖xd8 14.♕xb6 cxb6 15.♗a3+=) 13.♗xe5 dxe5 14.♕xb6 cxb6 15.♗d2+= White is better because Black has problems with the bishop and the pawn on b6.]

12...♖e8 13.♘bd2+= ♘a7



14.♖c2?! White has several other options: [

a) 14.♖b1 14...exd4 15.cxd4 ♘b4 16.♙f1 a5 Black is fine because with the bishop on f1 and the queen on b1 White will not be able to create an attack after the e5 break.;

b) 14.a5 With the idea to get more space.;

c) 14.♖c1 With the idea to keep the b1 square for the bishop.;

d) 14.♖b3 With the idea to take control of the important b4 square.]

14...exd4! The correct move because now White is forced to recapture on d4 with the knight.

15.♘xd4 [15.cxd4 15...♘b4=]

15...♘e5 16.♙f1



16...d5! Black immediately takes the opportunity to equalize the position in the center.

17.♖ad1 [17.f4 17...♘g6 18.e5 A typical idea, but unfortunately for White the pawn is placed on h3 and after 18...♘h5 White has problems with the f4 pawn.; 17.♙f4 17...♘g6∞]

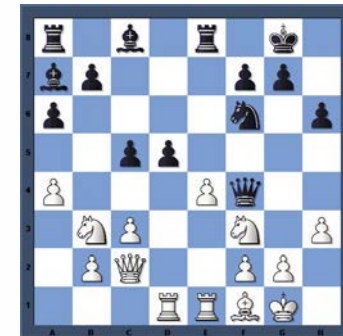
17...c5 [17...dxe4 18.♘xe4 ♘xe4 19.♖xe4 ♘c4 20.♘c6! ♘d6 21.♘xd8 ♖xe4 22.♙xa7 ♖xa7 23.♖xe4 ♘xe4 24.♖e1 White is better because of the bad rook on a7.]

18.♘4b3 [18.♘f5 18...♙xf5 19.exf5 ♖c7 With Rad8 next and Black is better.]

18...♖c7 [18...d4 19.cxd4 cxd4 20.♘xd4 ♙xd4 21.♘b3+=]

19.♙f4 [19.exd5 19...c4 20.♘d4 ♘xd5∞]

19...♘f3+ 20.♘xf3 ♖xf4



21.exd5? A mistake. White should have played [21.e5 21...♙f5 22.♖c1 ♖xc1 (22...♖xa4 23.exf6 ♖xb3 24.fxg7 ♙xg7 25.♖f4 ♙g6 26.♘h4!) 23.♘xc1 ♘e4



24. ♖xd5 (24.c4↑ looks logical to limit the bishop on a7, get the light squares and get rid of the knight from e4.) 24...c4 25. ♘d4 ♙e6 (XRd5) 26. ♙xc4 ♙xd5 27. ♙xd5 ♘c5 28.g3 ♖ad8∞]

21... ♙f5 22. ♙d3 [22. ♖d2 22... ♖xa4±]

22... ♙xh3!



23.gxh3? A decisive mistake. White could still fight after [23. ♖d2 The idea is to force Black to put the dangerous queen far away from the white king. 23... ♖xa4 (23... ♖g4 24. ♙f1 (XBh3)) 24.gxh3 c4 (24... ♖xb3 25. ♘e5 ♖xd5 26. ♖f4 With compensation over the light squares.) 25. ♘c1 cxd3 26. ♖xd3 ♖ad8 27.c4 b5 Black has the initiative but anything can happen in this position.]

23... ♖xf3 24. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 25. ♙f1 Now all the black pieces can be connected to the attack and White's position is lost.

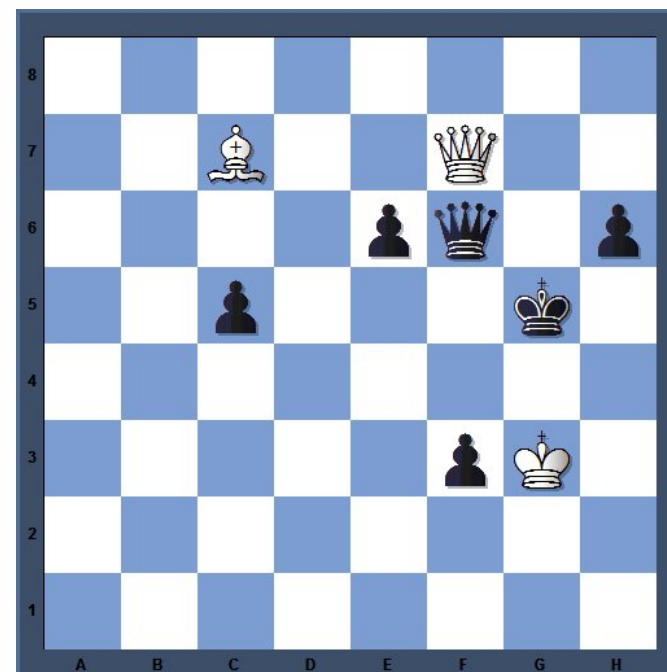
25... ♖e5 26.c4 ♖g5+ 27. ♙h2 ♘g4+ 28.hxg4 ♖xg4 0-1

Surprise section / study

(18) Troitzky

[CEWN]

1. +-

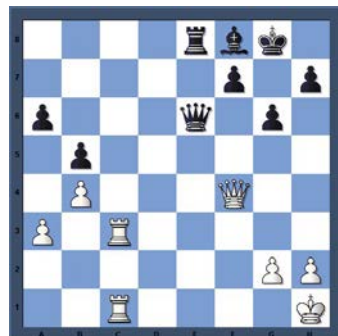


Solutions

(19) Moen, A(2390)-Topalov, V(2771)

ECC, 2013.10.20

[Solutions]



33...♙h6! 34.♖xh6 [34.♖f1 34...♙xc1--+]]

34...♖e1+ 35.♔xe1 ♔xe1# 0-1

(20) Kamsky, G(2725)-Stubberud, O(2327)

ECC, 2013.10.20

[Solutions]



19.♘g6+!! ♔g8 [19...♙xg6 20.♙xb7+-; 19...hxg6 20.♖h3+ ♔g8 21.♖xe6+ ♔h7 22.♙xe4+-]]

20.♘xf8+-

(21) Kjartansson, D(2348)-Korobov, A(2716)

ECC, 2013.10.20

[Solutions]



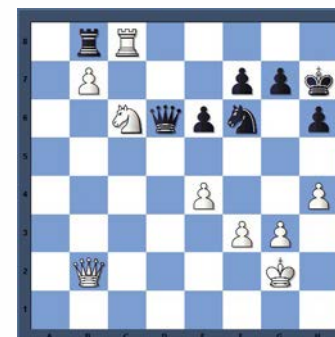
27...♘cd4! 28.♖xd4 [28.♖d5 28...♘xe2+ 29.♖xe2 ♘f4+-; 28.cxd4 28...♖xd6+-; 28.♖b6 28...♖c7 29.♖b4 ♘c6 30.♖c4 b5+-]]

28...exd4 29.cxd4 ♖g5+

(22) Almasi, Z(2707)-Horvath, A(2530)

Bastia rapid, 2013.10.20

[Solutions]



58...♖xb7!! 59.♖xb7 ♖d2+ 60.♔h3 ♖c1! [60...♖e1? 61.♖b2!+-] 61.g4 ♖h1+ 62.♔g3 ♖g1+ 63.♔f4 ♖c1+ 64.♔e5 ♖c3+?? [64...♖c5+ 65.♔f4 ♖c1+=]]

65.♔d6+-

(23) Smirnov, P(2641)-Codenotti, M(2374)

ECC, 2013.10.21

[Solutions]



26. ♖a6!! ♜c6 [26... ♙xg3 27. ♖xc8+-; 26... ♖xa6 27. ♙xa6 ♜c6 28. ♙b5+-]

27. ♙xd6 ♜xd6 [27... ♖xa6 28. ♜xa6+-]

28. ♖c8+ 1-0 [28. ♖c8+ 28... ♗f8 29. ♜a8+-]

(24) Tan, M(2438)-Rasulov, V(2514)

ECC, 2013.10.21

[Solutions]



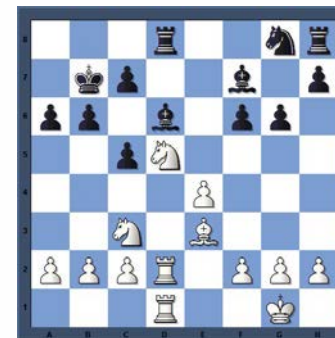
24... ♜fxe6! 25. ♜d7 [25.fxe6 25... ♖f3+ 26. ♙g1 ♙b6+-]

25... ♜6e7 0-1

(25) Naiditsch, A(2724)-Demuth, A(2480)

Bastia rapid, 2013.10.21

[Solutions]



17. ♗xc7! ♙xh2+ [17... ♙xc7 18. ♜xd8 ♙xd8 19. ♜xd8+-; 17... ♙xc7 18. ♜xd6! ♜xd6 19. ♙f4+-]

18. ♙xh2 ♜xd2 19. ♜xd2 ♙xc7 20. ♙f4+ ♙c8 21. ♗a4+-

(26) Terrieux, K(2415)-Balogh, C(2632)

Corsica rapid, 2013.10.19

[Solutions]



30... ♖g5! 0-1 [30... ♖g5 31.g3 (31. ♖e3 31... ♗xg2+-; 31.f3 31... ♗xf3+ 32. ♜xf3 (32.gxf3 32... ♖g1#) 32... ♖xd2+-) 31... ♗f3+ 32. ♜xf3 ♖xd2+-; 30... ♖xe5? 31.g3; 30... ♗xg2? 31. ♜g4 ♗h4 32. ♜xg7 ♗f3+ 33. ♙g3 ♗xd2 34. ♜xg8+ ♙xg8 35. ♙d3=]

(27) Balogh, C(2632)-Greenfeld, A(2545)

Bastia rapid, 2013.10.19

[Solutions]



29. ♖xd5! exd5 [29...cxb2+ 30. ♖b1+-]

30. ♕xc6 1-0 [30. ♕xc6 30... ♖xb2 (30...cxb2+ 31. ♖b1+-)
31. ♖xg7+ (31. ♕xc3+-) 31... ♖h8 (31... ♖xg7 32. ♕xc3+ ♖g8
33. ♕xb2+-) 32. ♕xc3 ♖b1+ 33. ♖a2+-]

(28) Moiseenko, A(2703)-Ganguly, S(2639)

Indonesian Open, 2013.10.16

[Solutions]

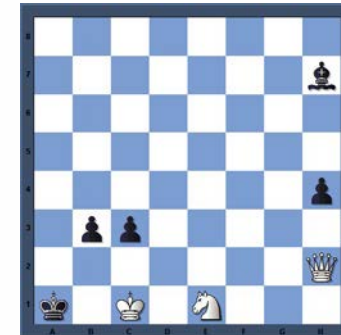


22. ♖xc7+! ♗xc7 23. ♖c1 ♖d7 24. ♗f4! +- ♕xf4 [24... ♖d8
25. ♖xc7 ♖xc7 26. ♕xc7+ ♖e8 27. ♕b8+ ♖e7 28. ♗d6+ ♖d7
29. ♗c5+ ♖c6 30. ♕c7#]

25. ♗xf4 ♖b8 26. ♕xf6+-

(29) Keres

[Solutions]



1. ♗c2+!! ♖a2! [1... ♗xc2 2. ♕b8! b2+ 3. ♖xc2+-]

2. ♗b4+! ♖a1 [2... ♖a3 3. ♗d3! ♗xd3 4. ♕d6+ ♖a2 (4... ♖a4
5. ♕xd3+-) 5. ♕d5!+-]

3. ♕a2+!! bxa2 4. ♗c6! h3 5. ♗d4 h2 6. ♗b3#



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 89

8th of November 2013

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Editorial Preface

The only big event that finished last week was the Anatoly Karpov trophée in Cap D'Agde. In the final the number one of the event Etienne Bacrot played against the one who gave his name to this tournament, Anatoly Karpov himself, who had been showing really fantastic chess. After the first 2 draws in rapid chess, Etienne managed to win his both blitz games, although one has to say he got a little bit lucky.

From next week on, we can follow what are probably the two biggest chess events of the Year 2013. These are of course the WCC match between Carlsen and Anand and the European Team Championship.

To give exact predictions for team events is always very hard, but the teams of Russia and Armenia are clearly big favourites for the first 2 places. It is a bit disappointing that the team of Israel is coming without any of their top players and Ukraine is also playing without Ivanchuk, Ponomarev and Eljanov.

Now let's talk about the WCC. We can find many opinions about the outcome of the matches on different chess sites, so we decided to give a short statement too.

Anand: One of the most talented chess players of all time and the current World Champion. Anand has not been showing very convincing play during the last years in different tournaments, but on the other hand he has always been in top shape for the WC matches. Being 43 years old, Anand could clearly get a problem from a physical point of view as he is playing against a much younger opponent. Can his experience in matches help him?! Surely a bit, but it is very hard to say if this will play a decisive role.

Carlsen: Maybe the right word to express his chess power is to call him a "Chess Terminator". No feelings, extremely

practical, smart, never slowing down chess killing machine. With an amazing rating of 2870 ELO points Carlsen seems to not even be at his top yet! Does Carlsen have any weak points?! Not many, if there are any... We only see him losing very rarely and almost only when he over pushed his position.

Our prediction for the match: If Anand was 10 years younger, it would probably have been much harder to say who is the favourite, but today, it is difficult to imagine a very human World Champion holding up in a 12 games match against the "Chess Terminator".

We will keep you updated live from the European Team Championship, as Csaba is in the team of Hungary and Arkadij plays for Germany.

Enjoy CEWN Nr89!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

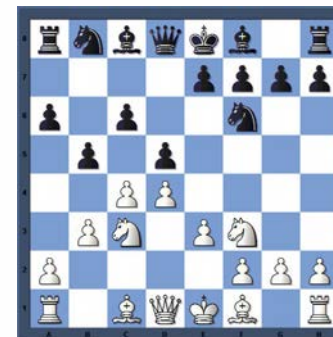
**(1) Bacrot, Etienne(2730)
- Ivanchuk, Vassily(2733) [D15]**

2nd Karpov Trophy KO(1.1), 2013.11.01
[Balogh Csaba]

We are in the knock out part of the Cap'd Agde rapid tournament. Etienne Bacrot convincingly eliminated the 1st seed Ivanchuk with 2-0.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 It was considered to be kind of impossible to guess what Ivanchuk was going to play, but lately he plays the Slav with a6 in all his games against 1.d4.

4...a6 5.e3 b5 6.b3



6...♘f5 A relatively rare continuation. [The main line by far is 6...♘g4]

7.♘d3 [White has a more aggressive option too: 7.♘e5 7...h6 (7...e6 is strongly met by



8.g4! ♗g6 9.h4 and Black has problems with saving his bishop.) 8.g4 ♗h7 9.♗g2 e6 10.O-O Followed by f4 with a nice attacking position for White.]

7...♗xd3 [7...e6 seems to be a better option for Black, after which White has a much harder task to achieve the e4 plan which happened in the game. 8.O-O ♘bd7 Black should not be afraid of doubling his pawns. 9.♗xf5 exf5 10.♖c2 g6



This pawn structure is quite standard in many different openings. Black controls the central squares well. He develops his bishop d6 and gets a playable position.]

8.♖xd3 e6 9.O-O ♗e7



10.e4! White successfully executes the standard plan, after which he gets a stable positional advantage.

10...dxe4 [The tactical justification of the previous move is that after 10...b4 11.e5! bxc3 12.exf6 ♗xf6



13.♗a3! Black has problems with castling, or if he plays 13...♗e7 14.♗xe7 ♖xe7 he is going to miss his dark squared bishop and White will make use of by centralizing his knight on e5 later on. 15.cxd5 cxd5 16.♖fc1! The most exact move to win the pawn back. White immediately doubles his rooks on the opened file. 16...O-O 17.♖xc3± Followed by Rac1 and Ne5, with a clear advantage.]

11. ♖xe4 ♜bd7 12. ♙f4! The ideal square for the bishop, which intends to occupy the d6 square later on.

12... 0-0



13. ♖fd1! We might be familiar with this kind of position without the inclusion of the b5-b3 pair of moves. In that case Black has a slightly worse position with some space disadvantage, however he doesn't have any weaknesses and Black usually holds those games without any special efforts. However in our case, White has a clear target on c6, which is also the reason why he has put his f-rook to d1, he intends to play Rac1 next. Opening the b-file with bxc4-bxc4 always favors White as his bishop controls the b8 square and he gets a free hand to penetrate with his own rooks along the b-file.

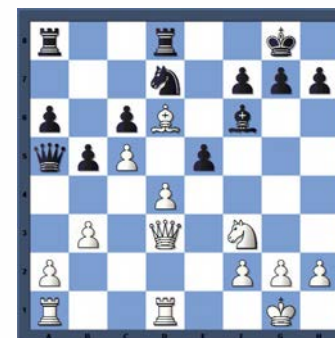
13... ♙a5 A mysterious move. Ivanchuk probably wanted to pin the a1 rook to the defence of the a2 pawn, but he puts his queen out of the battle. [13... ♖xe4 14. ♙xe4 ♙c8 was more logical, although White gets an advantage here as well: 15. ♖ac1 ♖f6 16. ♙e2 ♙b7 17. ♖e5 White has very easy play, but Black still has chances to consolidate. 17... ♖ac8 18. ♙f3 ♖d7 19. ♖c3+= Followed by Rdc1 with the threat of taking on b5 when it hurts the most.]

14. ♖xf6+! Black has no good recapture. He must either let the bishop occupy the d6 square or the knight jump to e5.

14... ♙xf6 [14... ♖xf6 is also bad in view of 15. ♖e5 ♖ac8 16. ♙f3 ♙b6 17. a4! ♖fd8 18. ♙e3± Black is doomed to passivity.]

15. ♙d6 ♖fd8 16. c5 It is nice to have such a bishop on d6, especially when the knight is going to follow him to e5.

16... ♖f8 [16... e5



was the last chance to create some counterplay, although after the very strong 17.g4!! Black ends up in trouble. The point becomes clear later on, White opens the back rank with tempo because he is threatening to trap the bishop with g5. (17. ♙e4 17... exd4 18. ♖xd4 ♖e8! is White's problem and he cannot take on c6 because of Bxd4 and the mate on e1. ; 17.dxe5 17... ♖xe5! would be fine for Black.) 17... g6 18. ♙e4! exd4 19. ♖xd4 ♙xd4 20. ♖xd4± With a big advantage.]

17. ♖e5 ♙xe5 18. dxe5 The d6 bishop destroys all of Black's counterplay. White has many different ways to improve his position, but the best is to play on a kingside attack with h4-h5, Qe4, Rd3-Rg3.



19. ♔e4 ♖ac8 20.h4! An obvious attacking move!

21.h5 ♖e7 [21...♘f8 22.♖d3 is also quite hopeless.]

22.h6 [22.♘xe7! 22...♖xe7 23.h6+- was even stronger to deprive Black of any kind of counterplay by eliminating the knight. We transpose to the game if Black takes on h6, otherwise White mates with Qg4 g6 Qg5-f6.]

22...gxh6 [22...♘f5 was the only practical chance to keep the knight on board. 23.hxg7 ♔d8 24.♖d3 Objectively White is just winning, he can still do whatever he wants while the black rooks have no chance to join to the game.]



23. ♖xe7! White eliminates the only defender. His heavy pieces are coming fast to the attack and Black soon has no defence.

23...♖xe7 24.♔d3! The rook joins the attack along the 3rd rank.

24...♔c7 [24...♖h8 25.♗h4+- White gets his queen to f6 with tempo.]

25. ♖ad1 ♜f8 26. ♜g3+ ♔h8 27. ♜d6! The most precise way to win! White protects the e5 pawn in order to be able to drive his queen to f6. [27. ♜f4 would have allowed 27...f5!]

27...f6 [27...♖g8 is also hopeless: 28.♖xg8+ ♔xg8 29.♖xc6 ♕b7 30.♕g4+ ♔f8 31.♗d6 White has mating attack and the c-passed pawn are deciding the outcome.]

28.exf6 ♖xf6 29.♔d4 Black resigned. Ivanchuk definitely had a bad day, but it is still an impressive positional achievement by Bacrot! **1-0**

**(2) Pelletier, Y.(2578)
- Ivanchuk, V.(2733) [A04]**

2nd Karpov Playoff(6), 2013.10.31

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Before the game, who can guess in what kind of shape Ivanchuk will be?! Lately we have seen him in rather poor shape, often blundering in important games, showing a lot of hesitations and often losing on time. But Ivanchuk, is still Ivanchuk and he proves this with a very nice positional crush over the Swiss number one, Pelletier.

1.♖f3 d6 You never know what Ivanchuk is going to play, even on the first move! :)

2.d4 g6 3.c4 ♘g7 4.♖c3 e5 [4...♗f6 5.e4 would lead us to the main KID.]

5.e4 [5.dxe5 5...dxe5 6.♙xd8+ ♔xd8 seems to be quite OK for Black.]

5...exd4 6.♗xd4 ♖e7 This is Black's idea. The knight is not taking place on f6 but on e7, which has some pluses and minuses. A clear plus is that Black often has the idea of playing f5 and a big minus is that he has no pressure on the e4 pawn.

7.♘e2 O-O 8.O-O ♘bc6 White has to take a first decision, whether to take on c6 or to play Be3.



9.♗xc6 The most principal. [After 9.♘e3 9...f5 Black's position should be close to equal.]

9...bxc6 A very fighting decision.

[After the more simple 9...♗xc6 10.♘e3 White should be doing slightly better. To play Bxc3 is never a real option for Black and now the f5 push is a bit weaker than before. Of course Black can continue with Re8, but the problem with the "bad" bishop on c8 is not that easy to solve and White has a bit more space in the center.]

10.♘e3?! "Too" simple. [I think that 10.♘g5! is a much stronger move, provoking Black into playing h6 first in order to have Qd2 with tempo. 10...h6 Black must get rid of the pin. 11.♘e3 c5 12.♙d2 And compared to the game, White is almost a tempo up.]

10...c5! Black is aiming for the d4 square. Nc6-Nd4 is coming next.

11.♙d2 ♗c6 12.b3 White continues being passive. [It was time for at least a little action: 12.♘g5 Once again this move is quite unpleasant for Black. 12...♙d7 (12...f6?! Of course this move is not really an option, as the bishop on g7 is dead.) 13.♗d5 And maybe White can hope for some advantage because of the bad position of the black queen on d7.]

12...♗d4 With such a strong knight on d4, Black's position is perfectly fine.

13.♘d3



13...a5! A very smart decision. Black is trying to be ready to open the a-file at a good moment by playing a4 and axb3, which is a serious positional threat.

14.♖ae1?! Another strange move by White. White should be thinking about being solid and not playing f4, which would just weaken the position. [14.♖ad1 followed by Rfe1 looks much more natural.]

14...♖e8 15.♘e2?! Another solid but unlucky decision. [15.f4 If you say A, then it is usually better to say B!]

15...♗xe2+ 16.♖xe2 a4 And we can see Black's idea coming true. The b3 pawn is getting weak and is a clear target.

17.b4 Whites tries to survive by finally playing an active move. [A waiting move like 17.♘c2 17...axb3 18.axb3 ♖a2 would leave White with a very unpleasant position. Black's control over the a-file as well as his future plan of playing Bb7 and Qa8 could cause White serious trouble.]

17...cxb4 18.♙xb4



18...c5! Of course Black doesn't let White play c5 himself.

19.♙d2 [19.♙a3 was probably stronger, but it is not a great feeling to have a queen on a3. 19...♘b7 20.f3 ♘c6 With a slightly better position for Black.]

19...♖b8 The b-file is covered and soon we will see how important the a-pawn is for Black.

20.♖d1?! To give up the b-file without a fight is not an option. [Of course 20.♖b1 was the best chance to continue the fight. 20...♖xb1+ 21.♘xb1 ♘e6 22.♘d3 ♙b6 With a clear advantage for Black, but the fight would still have gone on...]

20...♖b2 21.♙c1 And here comes the point:

21...a3! What a glorious moment for Black's strategy. The rook on b2 is now untouchable, which makes White's position almost lost!

22.♖ed2 ♘b7 Putting extra pressure on e4.

23. ♖b1



23... ♖e6 Black protects the d6 pawn in a cool way.

24. ♗f4 This move is losing but it is already hard to find a move which is not... [After 24. ♗xc5 24... ♗h6! looks crushing. 25. ♗e3 ♗xe3 26. fxe3 ♖b6 With an almost winning position for Black.]

24... ♗d4! The last important move and now the game is over. White has no protection against Bxe4 next.

25. ♖xd4 Yannick Pelletier resigns with a scream:

25... cxd4 26. ♖xd4 ♖b6 All in all, a great positional victory of Ivanchuk over a very solid/passive Pelletier. 0-1

(3) Zhao Xue(2579)

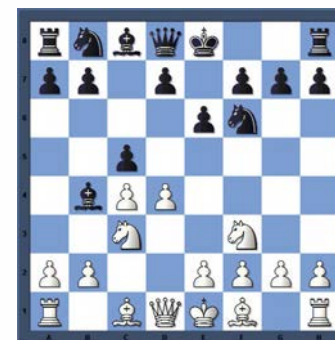
- Pelletier, Y.(2578) [E21]

2nd Karpov Trophy Prelim(10.1), 2013.10.29

[Balogh Csaba]

Black leads a very attractive attacking game.

1. d4 e6 2. c4 ♗f6 3. ♗c3 ♗b4 4. ♗f3 c5



5. d5?! A dubious continuation right at the beginning of the Nimzovitch Defense. Black gets a very good option to undermine White's central pawns. [5.g3 is the main line, which we can see quite often nowadays, even on the highest level.]

5... b5! An excellent reaction. This move involves a pawn sacrifice, but he receives an extremely powerful center, which gives him more than enough compensation.

6. dxe6 fxe6 7. cxb5 White decided to accept the material...



7...a6! Black plays in the spirit of the Volga gambit (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6). He would like to develop his pieces with tempo and if his strong center starts to march with d5-e5, that might quickly swap White off the board...

8.bxa6 ♗xa6 9.a3 White would like to ease the pressure by getting rid of the bishop, but of course Black is not forced to take on c3.

9...♗a5! Keeping the bishop pair and the pin.

10.e3 White gives up castling, but there was nothing better. [White is not in time to develop with 10.g3 because of 10...d5 creating the threat of d4!]

10...♗xf1 11.♔xf1 O-O



12.b4?! White tries to make use of the pin on the a-file, but in fact she tricks herself with this move... [White could

not make some kind of artificial castling by playing 12.g3? 12...♗xc3 13.bxc3 ♖e4 wins for Black. Suddenly the f3 knight has lost its stability. 14.♔g2 ♗f6 Nxc3 threatens to win on the spot. 15.♗b2 The easiest is probably 15...♗c6 16.♖f1 ♗a5!—+ Followed by Nc4 with complete domination!; 12.♗d2! should have been played, although after 12...♗c6 followed by d5, Black has very strong compensation for the pawn and from a practical point of view it is much easier to play for him.]

12...♗xb4! Black can take this way! It is unclear whether the Chinese player simply missed this, or if she planned to play the following move, but she just misevaluated the arising position later on...

13.♗a4 White wins back her extra pawn, but the position slightly opens up, which of course favors Black with such a bad king on f1.

13...♗a5 14.♗xc5 ♗b6 Black always uses the chance if he can develop a piece with tempo.

15.♗d3 ♗e4! Black activates his pieces! Very nice dynamic play! White needs to deal with the king on f1 if she wants to use her h1 rook in this game.

16.♗b2 ♗c6 17.♖c1 [We had already seen that the g3-Kg2 plan destroys the stability of the important f3 knight. White can also not castle artificially by playing 17.h3 followed by Kg1-h2, because after a check on c7, he will need to retreat to g1. Black plays like in the game. 17...♖f5! 18.♔g1 ♖d5! is already more than unpleasant! Let's check a spectacular line to illustrate the strength of Black's attack!

19. ♖d4



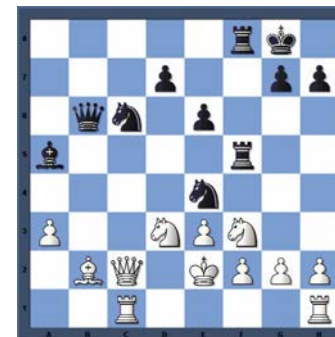
19... ♖xf2! Black wins by force: 20. ♖xf2 ♖xd4 21. ♖xd4 ♖xd4! 22. exd4 ♖xd4+ 23. ♖e2 (23. ♖g3 is met by 23... ♖e3+ 24. ♖h2 ♖c7+-+ mates.) 23... ♖e4+! 24. ♖f1 ♖f8+ 25. ♖f2 ♖b6! +- Black wins in view of 26. ♖a2 ♖c4+-+]



17... ♖f5 A logical attacking move. Black intends to double his rooks on the f-file and also threatens to play Rd5 occasionally. [However the machine is right, that 17... ♖b5! 18. ♖g1 ♖c3! was stronger! White needs to be careful to not lose immediately and even if he finds the only moves he ends up in a suspicious position. 19. ♖xc3 (19. ♖xc3 19... ♖xa3! ♠ Black wins back the piece and continues attacking!) 19... ♖xc3 20. ♖xc3 ♖xa3 21. ♖c1! The only move! 21... ♖b3 22. ♖b2! Another only move! 22... ♖a2 Despite the material disadvantage, White can hardly solve the coordination between his pieces.]

18. ♖c2 [The computer suggests some massive defence with 18. ♖c4!? Black probably needs to play 18... ♖c5 (18... d5 19. ♖c2 ♖af8 20. ♖g1 is unclear.; 18... ♖xf3 19. ♖xe4 Otherwise Black would have played Nd2! 19... ♖f5 20. g3 ♖d5 21. ♖g2 ♖b5 22. ♖g4 g6 Things are unclear here as well.) 19. ♖xc5 ♖xc5 20. ♖xc5 ♖xb2 Black has compensation, but probably only enough for draw.]

18... ♖af8 19. ♖e2 White would like to rescue the h1 rook, but the king gets into trouble in the middle of the board.. . [19. ♖g1 was safer, although Black is doing well after 19... ♖d5! ♠ With the threat of Rxd3 and the bishop on b2 is hanging.]



19... ♖d2!? A highly attractive move with multiple tactical ideas...

20. ♖b1? This is the decisive mistake. [20. ♖xd2? loses to 20... ♖xf2+! 21. ♖xf2 ♖xf2+ 22. ♖d1 (22. ♖e1 22... ♖xe3+-+) 22... ♖xd2+ 23. ♖xd2 ♖xd2+- Black ends up with a winning material advantage.; 20. ♖cd1! was the only move to stay in the game. Black probably intended to play 20... ♖xf2 The point of the previous bishop move was to attack the e3 pawn. 21. ♖xd2! (21. ♖xd2 loses to 21... ♖xd3 22. ♖xd3 ♖c5 23. ♖b1 ♖b5 24. ♖d2 ♖b3+ 25. ♖c2 ♖a5+- With an enormous attack.) 21... ♖xh1 22. ♖d1 Very calm defence by White. It looks like Black has nothing better than 22... ♖b7! 23. ♖xh1



23...♖xf3! 24.gxf3 ♘d4+! 25.♙xd4 ♜xf3+ 26.♔d2 ♜g2+ 27.♙c1 ♜xh1+ 28.♙b2 ♜b8+ 29.♘b4 Only Black can win, but he still needs to work hard for it.]

20...♜a6! After this subtle move, White has no adequate defence. Black simply wants to play Rc5, making use of the pin.

21.♜bd1 ♜c5 22.♜b1 ♜b8 [22...♙c3—+ was even easier. Black is freeing the c3 square for the knight.]

23.♘xd2 [23.♜xd2 is met by 23...♘c3+! 24.♙xc3 ♜xb1 25.♜xb1 ♜xc3—+ With a technical win.]



23...♘c3+ [23...♜xb2! was the most precise move order, but the text move was winning as well. 24.♜xb2 ♘c3+ 25.♙e1 ♜xd3—+]

24.♙e1? [24.♙xc3 White could have set up some resistance

with 24...♜xc3!—+ (But not 24...♜xb1? 25.♘xb1 as suddenly White wins.)]

24...♜xb2! [Not the only way to win, but the nicest one. White resigned in view of 24...♜xb2 25.♜xb2 (25.♘xb2 25...♜e2#) 25...♜xd3 and Qe2 is unavoidable.] **0-1**

(4) **Leitao, R.(2632)**
- **Molina, Rob(2416) [D27]**

80th ch-BRA S/F 1 2013(6.1), 2013.11.03
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Usually we only get a chance for a beautiful combination after a positional domination and in this game it is not different. Leitao outplays his opponent in the middle game and finishes him off with a very beautiful combination!

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 The Queen's Gambit accepted, still a popular opening after more than 100 years of existence.

3.♘f3 [3.e4 is the most popular move for White at the moment.]

3...♟f6 4.e3 e6 5.♙xc4 c5 We are now in the very main position.

6.O-O a6 Of course Black's plan is to play b5 followed by Bb7.

7.a4 The b4 square is not that important.

7...♟c6 8.♚e2 White is preparing to play Rd1, which is very typical for these structures.



8...♚c7 [8...cxd4 9.♚d1 And White is winning the pawn back.]

9.♟c3 ♙d6 [Black is already late with 9...cxd4 10.exd4 ♙e7 because of 11.d5 with a clear advantage for White.]

10.dxc5 Once the black bishop has made a move, White takes on c5 in order to win a sort of half tempo.

10...♙xc5 11.♙d2 White needs to hurry a lot. If Black manages to develop his queenside, the position will just be a draw because of the symmetrical pawn structure.

11...O-O 12.♚fc1 It is also typical in such positions to play Rfc1 and not Rac1. The rook on a1 can often be useful in helping White to play a5 or to disturb Black's play on the queenside.

12...♚d8! A nice move! Black is preparing the Bd7-Be8 maneuver, followed by Rac8 with an equal position.

13.♙d3 This is probably White's best try. Using his slightly better development, White creates the threat of playing Ne4 next and trying to make use of the c-file.

13...♟e5 Slightly risky play by Black. [13...♙d7 looks more solid and it seems like White will at most end up in a minimally better position. 14.♟e4 (14.♟b5?! doesn't work: 14...axb5 15.♚xc5 bxa4) 14...♙e7 15.♟xf6+ ♙xf6 16.♙c3 ♙xc3 17.♚xc3 With a minimal advantage for White.]



14.♙e4! This is exactly why Black should have been more careful!

14...♟xf3+ Now it is clear that White is better. [It is funny, but maybe Black should just have gone back: 14...♟c6 15.♙b1 The

white bishop is taking a better place on b1 than on d3, but nothing too dramatic has happened.]

15. ♖xf3 And Black is in trouble now. First of all Black needs to solve the problems on the c-file and in the long term the pressure on the b7 pawn can become very unpleasant as it is disturbing the development.

15... ♔e5 Black didn't have a choice... He is still hoping to be in time with Rb8 and Bd7.

16. g3! Another very strong move by White. In case Black played Rb8, White is preparing to play e4. At the same time White is defending against any tricks with Bd6 and creating a "safe hole" for the king on g2 in case of any trouble in the future.

16... ♗b4? This is already a serious mistake. [It was the last chance for Black to develop his pieces: 16... ♗d7! 17. ♗xb7 If White doesn't take on b7, Black should be more or less fine. 17... ♖ab8 18. ♗xa6 ♖xb2 With good compensation for the pawn.]



17. ♖d1 Logical and good. White wants to play e4 next.

17... ♖b8 I have no idea why, but Black seems to provoke the following move:

18. e4 Of course! White is better developed and starts the rush on the black defence.

18... g5 Nothing else could prevent Bf4.

19. h4! White opens the position in front of the black king as much as possible, which will be very useful for the future.

19... h6 20. hxg5 hxg5 21. ♗e3 White is taking over the d-file, which also makes the Bd4 move possible.

21... ♖xd1+ Not a nice move to play, but the position is close to lost already.

22. ♖xd1 ♗e7 23. ♗d4 White is on the finishing straight line.

23... ♖c7 24. e5! In a position with a lot of tempting continuations, Leitao chooses the most precise one!

24... ♗d7 25. ♗e4 ♗f8 Black is still hoping to escape with only "a blue eye".

26. ♖h5 ♗d7 Does it seem like Black has survived the worst?! No way!



27. ♗d5!! What a beautiful tactical solution.

27... exd5 [27... ♖d8 didn't help: 28. ♗f6+ ♗xf6 29. exf6 Followed by mate.]

28.e6 Very nice!

28...fxe6 [28...f6 29.♔f7+ ♔h8 And now comes the silent but deadly 30.♔g2 This is of course only one among several winning moves.]



29.♘h7+ What a fantastic final! White mates after 29...Nxh7 30.Qg6 Kf6 31.Bg7 Kg8 32.Bh6 Kh8 33.Qg7. **1-0**

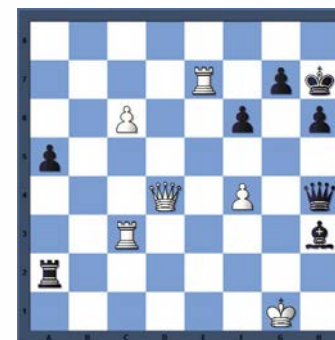
Puzzle section

(5) Iordachescu, V(2614)-Svane, R(2467)

Danube rapid, 2013.11.01

[CEWN]

1. =

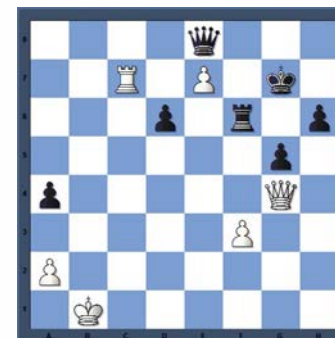


(6) Shankland, S(2605)-Ftacnik, L(2546)

Barcelona GM, 2013.10.29

[CEWN]

1. +-



Cap'd Agde rapid, 2013.10.29
[CEWN]

1... $\mp$



Cap'd Agde rapid, 2013.10.31
[CEWN]

1. $+-$



Bad Wiessee Open, 2013.10.27
[CEWN]

1. $+-$



Bad Wiessee Open, 2013.10.29
[CEWN]

1. $+-$



(11) Bach, M(2247)-Romanov, E(2654)

Bad Wiesee Open, 2013.10.28

[CEWN]

1... -+



(12) Hunt, A(2429)-Kraemer, M(2546)

Bad Wiesee Open, 2013.10.29

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Rozentalis, E(2616)-Poetsch, H(2472)

Bad Wiesee Open, 2013.10.30

[CEWN]

1. +-



(14) Gupta, A(2593)-Danin, A(2589)

Bad Wiesee Open, 2013.10.31

[CEWN]

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Nevednichy, V.(2590)-Saric, I.(2628)

Danube rapid, 2013.11.02

[CE Team]



It looks like a dead draw, but actually White needs to defend precisely in order to save the game.

60...Kb5 61.Kd3 White would like to get his king to b1 to achieve an easy draw.

61...Kb4 62.Kd2 f4+! Otherwise White plays Kc1-b1.

63.Kd3 [63.Kd1 63...Kc4 will transpose to the game.]



63...f5! White gets into zugzwang! He needs to make the first difficult decision.

64.Ke2! The correct defence! White drives his king to d1 to stay ready to play Kc1-b1. [64.Ke4? loses to 64...Kc4! The next step for Black is to transfer his bishop to c3. White cannot parry this. 65.f4 d2 66.f2 c3 67.a3 f6! Black frees the c3 square for his king. 68.Kc3 Kc3 69.Kc2—+ And Be7 next deflects the bishop and Black promotes his pawn.; 64.f5? also loses after 64...Kc4! 65.Kc4 Ka2 Black sends away the bishop from the a1-h8 diagonal and wins the game automatically. 66.Kb4 (66.f4 does not change anything: 66...c1 67.f5 b2 68.f4 f6 69.c1 e7—+ Followed by Ba3 and Black is winning.) 66...c1 67.Ka4 b2 68.f4 f6 69.a3 g5—+ White got into decisive zugzwang as Kb4 loses to Be7.]

64...Kc4! 65.Kd1 Kd3 66.f5 f4! We have reached the critical position. In order to save the game, White needs to find a mutual zugzwang position!



67.f2? White fails! He is lost after this move! The point is that in the position when the white bishop is on b2 and the black one on e3, we have a mutual zugzwang. In that position if Black is to play the game is drawn, while if White is to play he loses. Let's try to understand the reasons.

[67.♘f6 or any other bishop move along the a1-h8 diagonal holds the draw, only Bb2 loses. Black needs to send away the bishop from the long diagonal. 67...♘e3 And when the bishop goes to e3, White must play Bb2 with the idea of (67...♘d2 does not threaten anything and White can continue waiting, since after 68.♘e5 ♘c3 the pawn endgame is drawn. 69.♘xc3! ♔xc3 70.♔c1=)



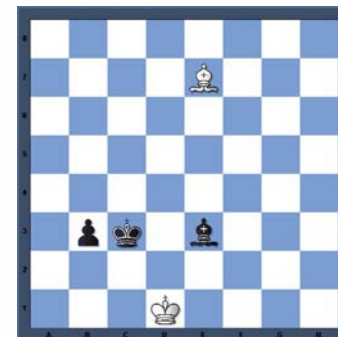
68.♘b2! ♘d4 69.♔c1!= White easily holds the draw.]

67...♘e3! —+ The game is over now! Saric demonstrates it with good technique.

68.♘a3 [68.♘a1 68...♘d4 69.♘xd4 ♔xd4 The pawn endgame with the king on d4 is winning, despite the fact that White can temporarily take the opposition. 70.♔d2 ♔c4 71.♔d1 ♔d3! 72.♔c1 ♔c3 73.♔b1 b2—+; 68.♘e5 68...♘d4—+]

68...♔c3! White is in zugzwang again.

69.♘e7 [69.♔e2 69...♘c5 70.♘c1 ♔c2—+]



69...♔b2! Black drives his king to a2 and he wins with the technique we know from the 64.Be5 line.

70.♘f6+ ♔a2 71.♘c3 ♘c5 The bishop is heading to b2!

72.♘e5 ♘a3 73.♘c3 ♘b2 74.♘d2 ♘f6 75.♘c1 ♘e7 White resigned as Ba3 is coming next. [75...♘g5 was also good enough. A very instructive practical endgame.] **0-1**

(16) Buchal, S.(2312)-Delchev, A.(2643)

17th OIBM 2013(8.3), 2013.11.01
[CE Team]



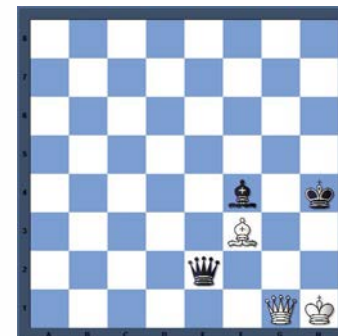
After a long defence, Buchal, who is more than 300 ELO points lower rated than Delchev, finally reached a position which looks to be close to a draw. White seems to be taking both of the Black's pawns, but he has to give his bishop for it. Can Q+B mate against Q+K?!

57...♙f4 58.♙xe4 White got no choice, both black pawns have to be taken.

58...♙xf2 59.♙g1 The only move to defend from the mate on h2.

59...♙e2 Attacking the bishop on e4 and threatening to play f2 next.

60.♙xf3 White has no choice, but do things look that bad?! Usually Q+B against Q is just a draw, but in our case the white king is very badly placed on h1 and the black one on h4 is very active. Delchev will demonstrate how to make use of this during the next moves.

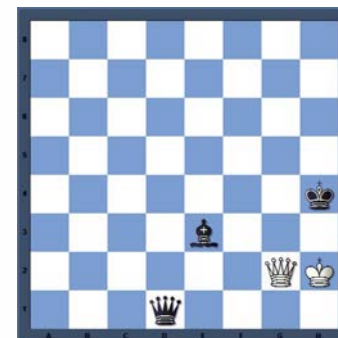


60...♙xf3+ If we take a look at the engine evaluation here, it is quite funny but White's position is totally lost!

61.♙g2 ♙d1+ [61...♙d3 would have saved us 2 extra moves.]

62.♙g1 ♙d5+ 63.♙g2 ♙d3! Delchev finds the right square for the queen. It is very important to take the f1 square under control. White is in zugzwang.

64.♙f2+ [64.♙g1 was also losing after 64...♙e3+ 65.♙h2 ♙d6+ 66.♙h1 ♙d1+ 67.♙h2

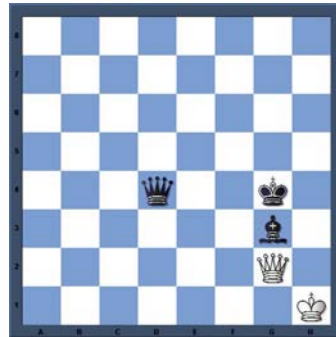


67...♙f4+]

64...♙g4 65.♙g2+ ♙g3 Black is threatening to check on h7 or on d1, depending on where the white queen will move.

66.♙g1 ♙d4+! Black sees the forced mate:

67. ♔h1



67... ♔a1+ 68. ♔g1 ♔h8+ Very beautiful geometrical play. Not often do we see such examples in a practical game. 0-1

Clash of the Titans

(17) Lasker, Emanuel-Janowski, Dawid Markelowicz[D32]

World Championship 11th(5), 1910.11.19

[Miton Kamil]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3. ♘c3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 [4...cxd4 5. ♔a4+ ♕d7 6. ♔xd4 exd5 7. ♔xd5 ♘f6 And Black is trying to get the initiative for the pawn.]

5. ♘f3 ♕e6 Nowadays Black usually plays [5... ♘c6 6.g3 ♘f6 7. ♕g2 ♕e7 8.O-O O-O This is the main position of the Tarrasch Defense.]



6.e4 An interesting decision. Because of his better development Lasker is trying to play in the center. More solid was the typical plan [6.g3]

6...dxe4 [6... ♘f6 7.exd5 (7.e5?! 7... ♘fd7 After Nc6-Qb6 Black will get good pressure against the central white pawns.) 7... ♘xd5 8. ♕b5+ ♘c6 9. ♔a4 ♘xc3 10.bxc3 ♕e7 11. ♕xc6+ bxc6 12. ♔xc6+ ♕d7 13. ♔e4 O-O 14.O-O cxd4 15.cxd4 ♕e6 Black should have enough compensation thanks to the strong light squared bishop.]

7. ♖xe4 White could play more aggressively after [7. ♗b5+



The idea is to not lose any time for recapturing the pawn, but to develop the pieces and create threats as soon as possible. 7... ♖d7 (7... ♗d7 8. ♖e5 cxd4 (8... ♗xb5 9. ♖b3 A nice trick and White is winning.) 9. ♖xd7 ♖xd7 10. ♖xd4 a6 11. ♖xe4+ ♗e7 12. ♗e2 Thanks to the bishop pair White has a stable advantage.) 8. ♖e5 ♖f6 9. ♗g5 cxd4 10. ♖xd4 ♗e7 11. ♖d1 The black pieces are very unpleasantly pinned. 11... O-O 12. ♖a4 (12. ♗xd7 12... ♖xd7 13. ♗xe7 ♖xe7 14. ♖xd7 ♖fd8=) 12... ♖xe5 13. ♖xd8 ♖fxd8 Black solved the practical problems but of course objectively White is better.]

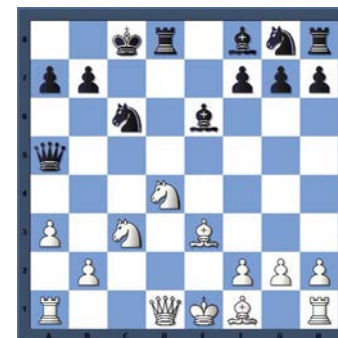
7... ♖c6 8. ♗e3?! [8. dxc5 8... ♖xd1+ 9. ♖xd1 O-O-O∞; 8. ♗g5 was the correct move. 8... ♖a5+ (8... f6 9. ♗d2 cxd4 10. ♗d3 Thanks to his better development and the bad pawn on f6 White has more than enough compensation.) 9. ♗d2 ♖b6 10. dxc5 ♗xc5 11. ♖xc5 ♖xc5 12. ♖c1 ♖e7 13. ♗e2 ♖f6 14. O-O O-O Black's position is solid but on the other hand White has the bishop pair.]

8... cxd4 9. ♖xd4 ♖a5+



10. ♖c3? A huge mistake! After this move White will have big problems to escape the pin on the d-file. [10. ♖d2 10... ♗b4 11. ♖c3 O-O-O And now as the queen is already on d2 White can play 12. ♖xc6 bxc6 13. ♖c1 ♖f6 14. ♗e2 ♖d5∞]

10... O-O-O 11. a3 [11. ♖d2 11... ♖xd4 12. ♗xd4 ♗c5 13. b4 The only move to not lose the piece. 13... ♗xb4 14. ♖c1 ♖b8-+]



11... ♖h6? What a weak move! Black is preparing Nf5 but why not play the simple [11... ♗c5 was just winning immediately! 12. b4 ♗xd4 13. bxa5 (13. ♗xd4 13... ♖g5-+) 13... ♗xc3+ 14. ♖e2 ♖xd1 15. ♖xd1 ♗xa5-+; 11... ♖xd4 12. ♗xd4 ♗c5 13. b4 ♗xd4 14. ♖xd4 ♖xd4 15. bxa5 ♖f6=+]

12. b4 ♖e5 13. ♖cb5 The position looks lost but somehow White holds the d4 square.



13...d5?! [13...a6 14.♖c1! axb5 15.♗xc6 bxc6 16.♖xc6+ ♕c7 (16...♖b8 17.♖c1→) 17.♖a6+ ♕b7 (17...♖b8 18.♖c1 ♕c8 19.♖xb5+ ♕b7 20.♖a4∞) 18.♖c1+ ♕c4 19.♖a5 ♕c7 Otherwise with the queens on the board White will get a strong initiative. 20.♖a6+ ♕b7=; 13...♗xd4! 14.♗xd4 ♕e7 15.♕e2 (15.♖c1+ 15...♖b8 16.♗f3 White solved the problem of the d-file but he lost a lot of time. 16...♖e4 17.♕e2 ♗g4 18.O-O ♗xe3 19.♖xe3 ♖xe3 20.fxe3 ♕f6 Black has a big advantage thanks to his strong bishops and better structure.) 15...♖b8 Avoiding Qc1 and with the idea to play Bf4 next. 16.♖d2 ♖a8± It is still not easy to escape from the pin.]

14.♖c1 White gets counterplay over the c-file and the position becomes unclear.

14...♗xe3 15.fxe3 ♖xe3+ 16.♕e2 ♕e7



17.♖c3! A logical move, with the idea to chase the active

queen, which prevents White from castling. [17.♗xa7+ 17...♖b8 18.♗axc6+ bxc6 19.♗xc6+ ♕b7 20.♖c2 It is hard to say which king is weaker... (20.♗xd8+ 20...♖xd8 21.♖c2 ♖c8→) 20...♖c8 21.♖c3 (21.b5 21...♕xa3±) 21...♖xc3+ 22.♖xc3 ♕f6 23.♖c5 ♖b6 24.♕f3∞]

17...♕h4+? Not an accurate move. Black had several other options: [17...♖xd4!? 18.♖xe3 ♖xd1+ 19.♕xd1 a6 20.♗c3 ♕g5 With good compensation.; 17...♖xc3+ 18.♗xc3 ♗xd4∞Black has good compensation here too.; 17...♖e5 18.O-O (18.♗xa7+ 18...♖c7 19.♗axc6 bxc6 20.♖xc6+ ♖b7 21.♖a4 only leads to perpetual check. 21...♖xd4 22.♖a6+ ♖b8 23.♖b6+=) 18...♖b8



19.♖xc6 a6 (19...♕f6) 20.♖xa6! bxa6 21.♗c6+ ♖b7 22.♗xe5 ♖xd1 23.♖xd1 axb5 24.♗xf7±]

18.g3 ♖e4 [18...♖xc3+ 19.♗xc3 ♕f6 20.♗cb5 ♗xd4 21.♖c1+ ♖b8 22.♖f4+→]

19.O-O ♕f6? The decisive mistake. Black could still fight after [19...♖b8 20.♖f4 ♗xd4 21.♖xe4 ♗xb5 22.♖d3 ♗c3 23.♖d2 ♗xe4 24.♖f4+ ♖a8 25.♖xh4 It is very important to win the dark squared bishop. 25...♖xd3 26.♕xd3 ♗f6 And it will take White a long time to convert this advantage.]



20. ♖xf6! Thanks to this sacrifice White solves the problems with the pin on the d-file and get strong pressure against the black king.

20...gxf6 21. ♕f3 ♖e5 Now White is winning by force!
[21...♕g4 22. ♕xg4+ ♖b8 23. ♘xc6+ ♗xc6 (23...bxc6 24. ♘d6
Followed by Rd3, with very well coordinated pieces.) 24. ♖xc6
♗xd1+ 25. ♕xd1 bxc6 26. ♘d4±]

22. ♘xa7+ ♖c7 23. ♘axc6 bxc6 24. ♖xc6+ ♖b8 25. ♖b6+ ♖c8 [25...♖a7 26. ♗a4+ ♖xb6 27. ♗c6+ ♖a7 28. ♗b7#]

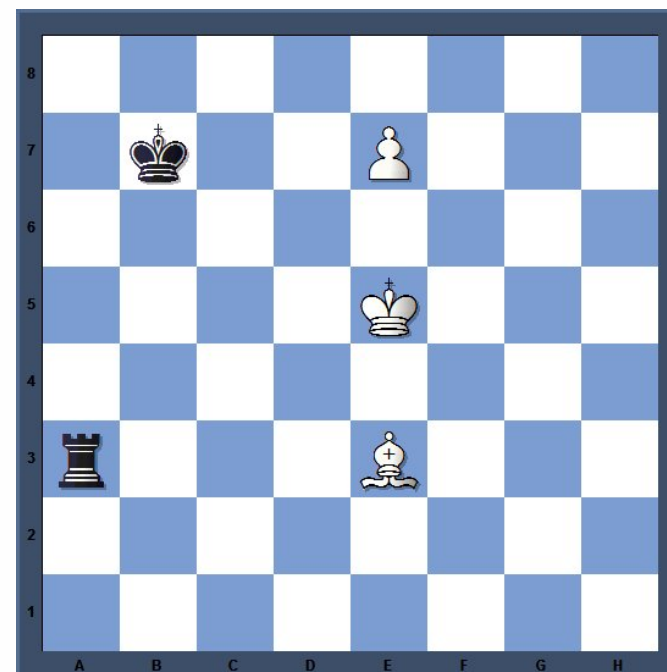
26. ♗c1+ ♖d7 27. ♘xe6 fxe6 28. ♖b7+ ♖e8 29. ♕c6+ And after 29...Kf8 White has 30.Qh6. **1-0**

Surprise section / study

(18) Mattison

[CEWN]

1. +-



Solutions

(19) Moen, A(2390)-Winants, L(2534)

ECC, 2013.10.23

[Solutions]



33...♖xe3+! 0-1 [33...♖xe3+ 34.♖xe3 gxf6--]

(20) Dambacher, M(2493)-Wojtaszek, R(2698)

ECC, 2013.10.24

[Solutions]



42...♕f4+!! [42...♕f2+ 43.♖g2!]

43.♖xf4 ♖d2+ 44.♖e3 [44.♖g3 44...♖xc1--]

44...♖h2+! 45.♖g3 ♖b4+! 46.♖f3 ♕e4+ 0-1

(21) Meribanov, V(2404)-Broekmeulen, J(2435)

ECC, 2013.10.24

[Solutions]



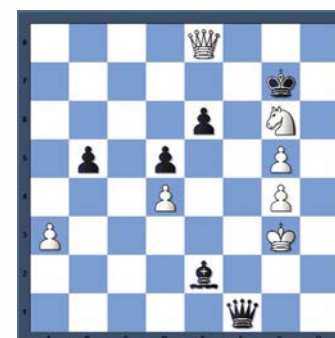
22.♖xh7+! ♕xh7 23.♖h4+ [23.g6+-]

23...♕g8 24.g6 1-0 [24.g6 24...fxg6 25.fxg6 ♕e7 26.♖h7+ ♕f8 27.♖h8#]

(22) Solak, D(2611)-Karttunen, M(2445)

ECC, 2013.10.24

[Solutions]



54.♖h8+! ♕xg6 55.♖g8# 1-0

(23) Stubberud, O(2327)-Gerber, R(2390)

ECC, 2013.10.24

[Solutions]



28...♖c8! 0-1

(24) Sjugirov, S(2635)-Dreev, A(2679)

ECC, 2013.10.25

[Solutions]



27.♘xc6+! 1-0 [27.♘xc6+ 27...bxc6 (27...♖c8 28.♘e7+ ♖b8 29.♘xf5+-) 28.♖b3+ ♖c8 29.♖a8+ ♖d7 30.♖b7#]

(25) Bok, B(2525)-Ikonnikov, V(2564)

ECC, 2013.10.25

[Solutions]



28.♘d4!! [28.♖a7? 28...♖b6+]

28...♖b6 [28...exd4 29.♖a7!+-]

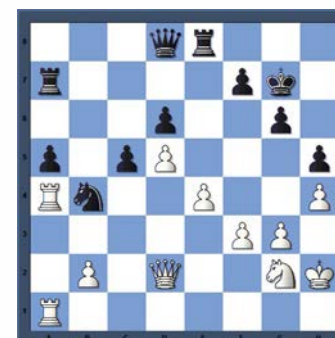
29.♖e7! ♖xc7 30.♖xc7 exd4 31.♖d6 [31.♖c5+-]

31...♘c2 32.♖b1+-

(26) Korobov, A(2716)-Durarbayli, V(2548)

ECC, 2013.10.26

[Solutions]



36.♖xb4! cxb4 37.♖d4+ ♖f6 38.♖xa7+-

(27) Rakhmanov, A(2603)-Kavutskiy, K(2272)

Spice Cup, 2013.10.15

[Solutions]



31...♘g3+! 0-1 [31...♘g3+ 32.hxg3 ♖h6#]

(28) Motylev, A(2676)-Sonntag, H(2377)

ECC, 2013.10.25

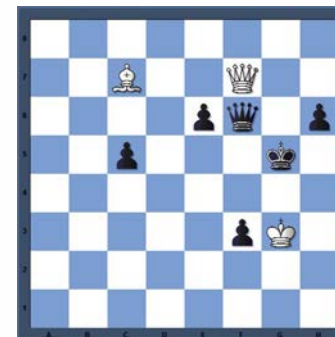
[Solutions]



38.♖xa3! ♖xa3 39.b7 ♖b3 40.♘b4! cxb4 41.b8=♔++-

(29) Troitzky

[Solutions]



1.♕d8!! [1.♕f4+? 1...♖f5 2.♖h5+ ♖e4 3.♖xf3+ ♖d4 4.♕e3+ ♖e5=]

1...♖xd8 2.♖g7+! ♖f5 [2...♖h5 3.♖g4#]

3.♖g4+ ♖e5 [3...♖f6 4.♖h4+! ♖f7 5.♖xd8+-]

4.♖f4+ ♖d5 5.♖d2+ ♖c6 6.♖xd8+-



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

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15th of November 2013

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Editorial Preface

All eyes are on the Carlsen-Anand WCC match.

After the first 2 boring draws, in the 3rd game Anand finally had a quite good chance to go into the lead with the black pieces, but he played too harmlessly. The 4th game of the match was amazing, with both players playing just fantastically and Carlsen being extremely close to go into the lead with a win with Black in the Berlin. And finally Carlsen won the 5th game by pushing hard in a slightly better endgame. Can Anand come back-it is hard to imagine but who knows!

Let's now come to the European Chess Championship.

After 7 rounds France are having a huge run although they are playing without Fressinet, who seems to be one of Carlsen's seconds, and are leading the event. The team of Azerbaijan is also doing well, as well as the teams of Russia and Armenia. We can expect a dramatic finish with only 2 rounds to go.

In the current issue of the CEWN, we bring you commented 3 games of the WCC match plus a game of your commentator. Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Anand, Viswanathan(2775)

- Carlsen, Magnus(2870) [C67]

WCh 2013(4), 2013.11.13

[Miton Kamil]

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 Not a surprise. The Berlin and Najdorf are objectively the best openings nowadays.

4.O-O ♗xe4 5.d4 ♘d6 6.♙xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♗f5 8.♚xd8+ ♗xd8 9.h3

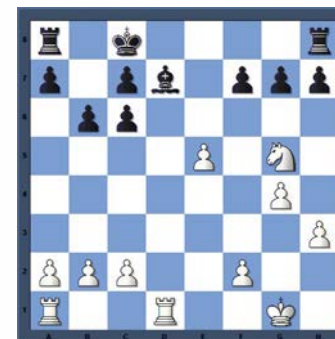


9...♙d7 Black has many different plans here, with the king on e8 or c8, with pawn on h6 or h5, so this move looks very flexible. [9...♚e8 10.♘c3 h5 This is the most popular line. The idea of this move is not to allow White to easily get space after g4 and also to try and fix the white pawns after h4. The disadvantage is that the g5 square is weaker now. The first player who started to play this plan and make it popular is the Russian grandmaster Jakovenko.]

10.♚d1 ♙e7 11.♘c3 [11.e6 11...fxe6 12.♘e5 ♘d6=+]

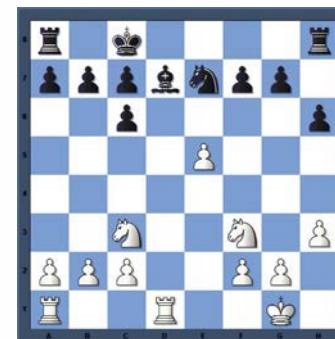
11...♚c8 12.♙g5 Exchanging the bishops is a very logical choice. On the top level White also tried to play [12.g4 12...♘h4 13.♘xh4 ♙xh4 14.♘e4 b6 (14...h5 15.♘c5 ♙e8 16.g5

The idea of catching the black bishop doesn't work: 16...b6 17.♚d4 (17.♘d3 17...f6⇒) 17...♙xf2+ 18.♚xf2 bxc5 Black is fine here.) 15.♙g5 (15.f4 15...h5 16.f5 hxg4 17.hxg4 c5↑ And unexpectedly the white king becomes weak.) 15...♙xg5 16.♘xg5



16...h6! 17.♘xf7 ♚e8 The knight is trapped. 18.f4 ♚f8 19.♚xd7 (19.♘xh6 19...♚xf4=) 19...♚xd7 20.f5 ♚e7 21.e6 ♚xf7 (21...g6∞) 22.exf7 ♚d8 23.♚e1+ ♚xf7 24.♚f2 ♚d2+ 25.♚e2 ♚d1 26.♚f3 c5 27.♚g3 a5 28.♚h4 ♚b1 29.c3 b5 Black is in time with his counterplay on the queenside. 30.♚h5 c4 31.h4 b4 = Dominguez Perez,L-Navara,D/Linares ESP 2013]

12...h6 13.♙xe7 ♘xe7



14.♚d2 Both sides play very logically, but to get an advantage here for White will be very difficult. It is not easy to advance the white pawns on the kingside and Black should soon solve

the problem with his king and activate the bishop, when the position will be completely equal.

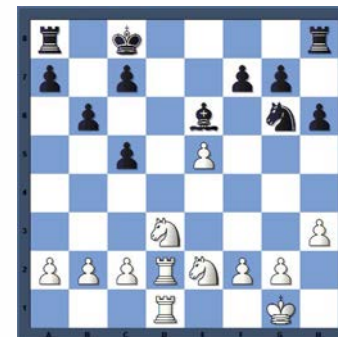
14...c5 15.♖ad1 ♕e6 16.♘e1 Vishy tries to make some progress on the kingside but it is a really hard task. [16.♘e2 Transferring the knight is typical here. 16...♕xa2 It is risky to grab the pawn here. 17.b3 c4 18.♘fd4



18...a6 (18...c5 19.♘b5 cxb3 20.cxb3 ♕xb3 21.♖b1 ♕d5 22.♘d6+ ♖c7 23.♘f4 White has the initiative.) 19.♘c3 c5 20.♘xa2 cxd4 21.♖xd4 cxb3 22.cxb3 ♘c6 23.♖c1 ♖c7 24.♘b4†; 16.a3 looks very slow. 16...b6 17.♘e2=]

16...♘g6 17.♘d3 b6 [17...c4 18.♘c5 ♘xe5 19.♖e2±]

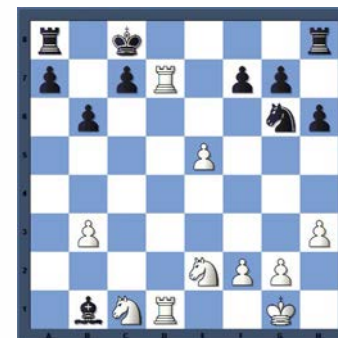
18.♘e2 Vishy tries to show that he wants to press with the white pieces but objectively this move is very risky for him. [18.f4 18...c4 19.♘b4 ♘xf4 20.♘c6 A strange sacrifice. White has some compensation because after Kb7 White will play Nd8, take on e6 and then the rook comes to the active d7 square.; 18.b3 18...c4 Usually only Black can be better when he manages to get rid of the doubled pawns.]



18...♕xa2 A good decision based on simple calculation.

19.b3 c4 20.♘dc1 cxb3 21.cxb3 ♕b1 The bishop escapes...

22.f4 [22.♖d7



22...♖g8! A very strong move which prevents the e6 idea. (22...♘xe5 23.♖e7♖; 22...♖f8 23.e6†) 23.♖xf7 ♘xe5 24.♖e7 ♘c6 25.♖f7 ♕g6± And Black manages to get rid of the white rook on the 7th rank.]

22...♖b7 White has some compensation for the pawn, but of course objectively only the World Champion has to be careful in this position. [22...h5 23.♘d3 (23.♘c3 23...♕f5=+) 23...♕xd3 24.♖xd3 ♖e8 25.♖d7 ♖e7 26.♖d8+ ♖b7 27.♖xa8 ♖xa8 28.♖d8+ ♖b7 29.♖g8 a5 30.♖xg7 b5 The passed a-pawn gives Black the initiative.]

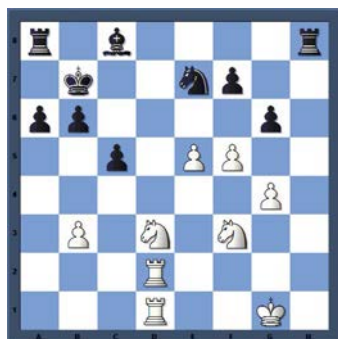
23.♖c3 ♜f5 24.g4 ♜c8 25.♘d3 White managed to slightly improve his position, take some space and limit the bishop, but Black is still a pawn up without any real weaknesses.



25...h5 A typical move. Black reduces the material and opens the h-file to activate his rook.

26.f5 ♘e7 27.♘b5 White needs to play actively and try to create some threats, otherwise Black will consolidate his position.

27...hxg4 28.hxg4 ♜h4 [28...g6 29.♜c2 Black has problems with both the c7 and d6 squares.; 28...a6 29.♘d4 c5 30.♘f3 g6



31.♘f4! gxf5 32.g5 The pawn on f5 is only disturbing Black. **32...♜e8 33.♜d6 ♘c6 34.♜f6 ♘d8 35.♜dd6†]**

29.♘f2 ♘c6 30.♜c2



30...a5 A logical move. Black is going to activate his rook and make the a6 square more safe for the king. [30...g6 The idea of this move is clear, Black wants to destroy the white structure and activate the bishop. 31.e6 (31.♜dc1 31...♘d7 32.e6 fxe6 33.fxe6 ♜e8=+) 31...fxe6 32.fxe6 (32.fxg6 32...♜h6 33.g7 ♜g6 34.♘e4 ♜xg7 (Of course not 34...♜xg4+? 35.♜g2) 35.♘ed6+ cxd6 36.♘xd6+ ♖b8 37.♜xc6 ♜xg4+ 38.♖f2 ♜b7 39.♘xb7 ♖xb7 40.♜xe6 ♜f8+ And Black is winning because White loses the b-pawn by force. 41.♖e1 ♜g1+ 42.♖e2 ♜g2+--+) 32...♜xe6 33.♜xc6 ♖xc6 34.♘d4+ ♖b7 35.♘xe6 ♜e8=+; 30...a6? 31.♜dc1 ♘d7 32.e6 fxe6 33.fxe6 ♜e8 34.♘d4±]

31.♜c4 Not allowing a4 and protecting the g4 pawn.

31...g6 One of the main ideas.

32.♜dc1 ♘d7 33.e6 fxe6 34.fxe6 ♜e8 35.♘e4 A good and active defence by Vishy! White sacrifices another pawn, but now he has the unpleasant idea Nd6.

35...♜xg4+ [35...♜d8 36.♘f6†]

36. ♔f2

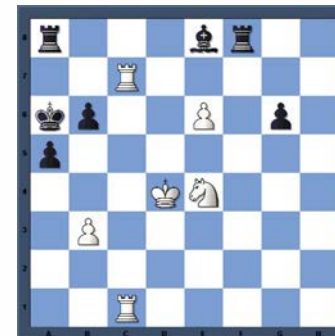


36...♖f4+?! An inaccuracy. Black could have played a better move, but it was really hard to see even for Magnus. [36...♖d8! Preventing Nd6, but this move is based on huge calculation. 37. ♔e3 (37. ♘c5+ 37...bxc5 38. ♖xg4 ♘e5—+) 37...♖d5! 38. ♘bc3 ♖e5 39. ♔f3



And now comes the fantastic 39...♖gxe4! 40. ♖xe4 ♖xe6 41. ♖xe6 ♘d4+ 42. ♔e3 ♘xe6 I think Black is just winning here.]

37. ♔e3 ♖f8 38. ♘d4 ♘xd4 39. ♖xc7+ ♔a6 40. ♔xd4 With such active pieces White will have no problems to make a draw.



40...♖d8+ 41. ♔c3 White wants to keep the king close to the b3 pawn. [41. ♔e3 41...♖d5]

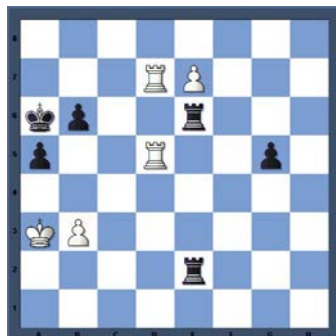
41...♖f3+ 42. ♔b2 ♖e3 43. ♖c8 ♖dd3 Magnus tries to keep some complications, but the position is drawish. [43...♖d4 44. ♘c5+ bxc5 45. ♖xe8 ♖dd3 46. e7 ♖xb3+ 47. ♔a2 ♖bd3 48. ♖a8+ ♔b7 49. e8=♖ ♖d2+ 50. ♔a1 ♖a3+ With perpetual check.]

44. ♖a8+ [44. ♖1c4!?

44...♔b7 45. ♖xe8 ♖xe4 46. e7 ♖g3 47. ♖c3 Black is not able to avoid the rook endgame with 2 against 1 on one side, which is completely drawn.

47...♖e2+ 48. ♖c2 ♖ee3 49. ♔a2 g5 50. ♖d2 ♖e5 51. ♖d7+ ♔c6 52. ♖ed8 ♖ge3 53. ♖d6+ ♔b7 [53...♔c5 54. e8=♖ ♖xe8 55. ♖d5+ ♔b4 56. ♖d4+ And Black cannot come to c3. 56...♔b5 (56...♔c3 57. ♖c4#) 57. ♖4d5+ ♔a6 58. ♖xe8 ♖xe8 59. ♖xg5=]

54. ♖8d7+ ♔a6 55. ♖d5 ♖e2+ 56. ♔a3 ♖e6 A last easy trap...



57.♖d8 but of course Vishy doesn't fall for it. [57.♖xg5? 57...b5-+]

57...g4 58.♖g5 ♜xe7 59.♖a8+ ♚b7 60.♖ag8 a4 61.♖xg4 axb3 62.♖g7 ♚a6 63.♖xe7 ♜xe7 64.♚xb3 And with a b-pawn White doesn't even need to know the Philidor idea! :-)
1/2-1/2

(2) Carlsen, Magnus(2870) - Anand, Viswanathan(2775) [A07]

WCh 2013(3), 2013.11.12

[Balogh Csaba]

After the first two "warm-up games" we started to see real fights in the World Championship.

1.♘f3 d5 [It is very interesting to go through the following game. Carlsen managed to squeeze home an even position against Karjakin earlier this year. He employed the same ideas in the same pawn structure as in our game. 1...♘f6 2.g3 d5 3.♕g2 c6 4.O-O ♕g4 5.c4 e6 6.d3 ♘bd7 7.cxd5 exd5 8.♖c2 ♕e7 9.♘c3 ♕xf3 10.♕xf3 d4 11.♘e4 O-O 12.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 13.♕d2 a5 14.a3 ♘d5 This position is considered to be even. A slow fight has started... 15.♖ab1 ♖d7 16.♖fc1 ♖fe8 17.♖c4 ♘c7 18.h4 a4 19.♕b4 ♘b5 20.♚g2 h6 21.♕c5 g6 22.♖b4 ♕f6 23.♖d2 ♚g7 24.♖c4 ♖a6 25.♖d1 b6 26.♕b4 c5 27.♕d2 ♘c7 28.♖cc1 ♘d5



29.♖h1 Just like against Anand, Carlsen tries to use his queen on the long diagonal. 29...♕e7 30.♚g1 ♖d8 31.♖c2 ♖e6 32.♖g2 ♖a7 33.♖e1 ♖ad7 34.♚h2 ♖c8 35.♖h3 ♖xh3+ 36.♚xh3 h5 The position was even, but Carlsen managed to outplay his opponent in a long struggle. 37.♖b1 ♖a8 38.♚g2 ♖a6 39.b3 axb3 40.♖xb3 ♕f6 41.♖c4 ♖d6 42.♚f1 ♚f8 43.a4 ♘c3 44.♕f4 ♖e6 45.e3 ♘xa4 46.♕d5 ♖e7 47.♕d6

b5 48.♙xe7+ ♗xe7 49.♖xb5 ♘b6 50.e4 ♘xc4 51.♖b8+ ♔g7 52.♙xc4 ♖a7 53.f4 ♙d6 54.♗e8 ♖b7 55.♖a8 ♙e7 56.♙g2 ♖b1 57.e5 ♖e1 58.♙f2 ♖b1 59.♖e8 ♙f8 60.♖c8 ♙e7 61.♖a8 ♖b2+ 62.♙f3 ♖b1 63.♙d5 ♖e1 64.♙f2 ♖d1 65.♖e8 ♙f8 66.♙c4 ♖b1 67.g4 hxg4 68.h5 ♖h1 69.hxg6 fxg6 70.♖e6 ♙h6 71.♙d5 ♖h2+ 72.♙g3 ♖h3+ 73.♙xg4 ♖xd3 74.f5 ♖e3 75.♖xg6+ ♙h7 76.♙g8+ ♙h8 77.♙f4 ♖c3 78.f6 d3 79.♙e3 c4 80.♙e6 ♙h7 81.♙f5 ♖c2 82.♖g2+ ♙h6 83.♖xc2 dxc2 84.♙xc2 ♙g5 85.♙d4 ♙a3 86.♙xc4 ♙b2 87.♙d5 ♙f4 88.f7 ♙a3 89.e6 ♙g5 90.♙c6 ♙f6 91.♙d7 ♙g7 92.e7 1-0 Carlsen,M (2861)-Karjakin,S (2780) Wijk aan Zee 2013]

2.g3 So, Carlsen repeats the Reti Opening, with the main concept to avoid the very long theoretical battles, just to obtain a normal playable position, where he could slowly outplay his opponent.

2...g6 Anand also repeats his successful setup of the first game.

3.c4 And here is the deviation. [3.♙g2 3...♙g7 4.d4 happened in the first round.]

3...dxc4 Anand took without hesitation, showing that he is well-prepared even against such rare sidelines.

4.♖a4+



4...♘c6! A strong reaction. Black is getting ready to occupy

the center with e5 after White takes on c4. At the moment White can focus on his development since Black cannot defend the c4 pawn.

5.♙g2 [White cannot make use of the pin with 5.♘e5? because of 5...♖d5!]

5...♙g7 6.♘c3 e5! Black already wants to play Be6, which was not good before because of Ng5, so Carlsen restores the material balance.

7.♖xc4 ♘ge7 8.O-O O-O



9.d3 The opening part is over. Both players were probably happy, because Anand has equalized, but Carlsen also got a playable position with all the pieces on board.

9...h6 A useful move, which fits to the position to prevent the Bg5 ideas. [It was probably better to start with 9...♘d4! because after 10.♘xd4 (10.♙g5 could be met by 10...♘xf3+ 11.♙xf3 c6 and h6 next, unpinning the knight.) 10...exd4 11.♘e4 Black is in time to get his bishop to d5, like he did in the game. 11...♙e6=]

10.♙d2 White finishes the development by connecting the rooks.

10...♘d4 Black wants to improve his pawn structure by active piece play.

11. ♖xd4 exd4 12. ♗e4 c6 [The drawback of the 9...h6 move becomes clear after 12...♗e6? as White has 13. ♔c1!± attacking the h6 pawn with tempo and creating another serious threat of Nc5, winning the b7 pawn.]



13. ♗b4? This very natural move spoils the initiative. The bishop is of course excellently placed on b4, but White should have executed this plan in a better version. [13. ♔c1! was strong, leaving from the Be6-d5 plan with a tempo and only after 13...♔h7 14. ♗b4 (Or 14. a4 With the idea of playing a5.)]

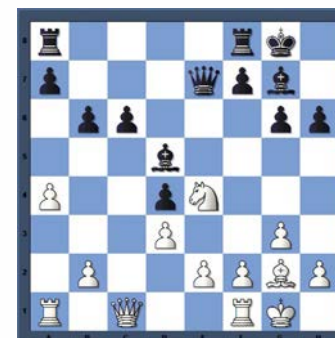
13... ♗e6! Black is able to oppose the g2 bishop by putting his own bishop to d5.

14. ♔c1 ♗d5 Suddenly Black is fine, maybe already a bit better.

15. a4 b6 Black would like to play c5, obtaining an excellent pawn chain and closing the dark squared bishop. [It would have been even stronger to start with 15...a5! 16. ♗a3 (16. ♗xe7 16...♔xe7) 16...b6 and this way Black could have prevented White's counterplay along the a-file.]

16. ♗xe7! To allow Black to lock the bishop out of the game with c5 would have been even worse for White.

16... ♔xe7



17. a5! At least White succeeded in creating counterplay on the a-file. Black can never play b5 because of the c5 square, while White is going to take on b6 on the most favorable moment.

17... ♖ab8 [Black cannot go for the e2 pawn with 17...f5 18. ♗d2 ♗xg2 19. ♔xg2 ♔xe2? as White recaptures a more important pawn after 20. axb6 axb6 21. ♖xa8 ♖xa8 22. ♔xc6± using the fact that the rook on a8 is hanging. The bishop on g7 is really poor now.]

18. ♖e1! White is not intending to open the e-file, he just needed to cover the e2 pawn against the threatening f5.

18... ♖fc8 Black could also have put this rook to e8. Probably Anand had in mind to advance his queenside pawns with c5-b5 and c4, which is of course a very logical plan.

19. axb6 axb6 20. ♔f4 Carlsen tries to invade the opponent's camp on the d6 square, but Anand easily parries this idea.

20... ♖d8 21. h4! White plays the last useful pawn move to reduce the mobility of the black pawns on the kingside. From now on the position becomes very static, and a piece play is awaiting us. The chances are about even at the moment.

21...♔h7 Protecting the h6 pawn in order to play Be5.



22.♘d2 White plays the right idea, to trade the light squared bishops. Later on, if the game develops in a positional manner, the knight might become a much stronger minor piece than the g7 bishop. If the pawn was on d5 instead of d4, we could have a completely different picture, but now the bishop is locked. Anand finds a clever way to preserve his bishop pair.

22...♙e5 23.♖g4 h5! [At first I thought Anand could have forced things by playing 23...♙e6 24.♖f3 ♘d5? but actually White gets an advantage after 25.e4! dxe3 26.♖xe3]

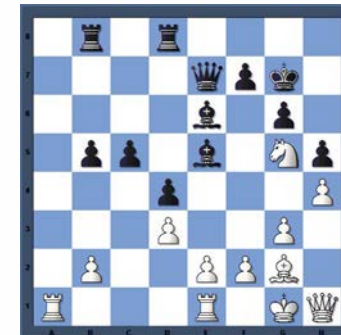
24.♖h3 ♙e6 25.♖h1 A very similar position compared to the game Carlsen-Karjakin. The queen looks ugly in the corner, but it might put pressure on the h1-a8 diagonal as well as support the trade of the bishops. The game is still balanced.



25...c5 Black tries to mobilize the queenside with b5-c4, which could be even more effective now, while the queen is away on h1.

26.♘e4 ♕g7 [To take control over the g5 square with 26...f6?! would have seriously weakened the 7th rank. White could fight for an advantage with doubling his rooks as Black cannot oppose it with Ra8. 27.♖a6]

27.♘g5 b5



28.e3?! Carlsen becomes too optimistic about his position and creates problems mainly to himself. [28.♘xe6+ 28...♖xe6 29.♙h3 would have led to a balanced game although after 29...♖f6 Black pushes c4 and he is the only one who could be better. (29...♖b3 30.♖c6) 30.♖f3 But White should hold thanks to the opposite colored bishops.; 28.♖a6 would have been met by 28...♙c8 and c4 next. Black has the initiative!]

28...dxe3 29.♖xe3 ♙d4 A practical decision by Anand.

[The machine has no fear of the position: 29...♙xb2! 30.♖ae1 ♖b6 31.♙d5! This is the critical position, which indeed looks a bit scary. It is not surprising that Anand refused to go for this line. However the materialistic computer is as always not afraid. (31.♘xe6+ 31...fxe6 followed by Bd4 and pushing the b-pawn is winning for Black. White cannot create counterplay against the damaged black king.)



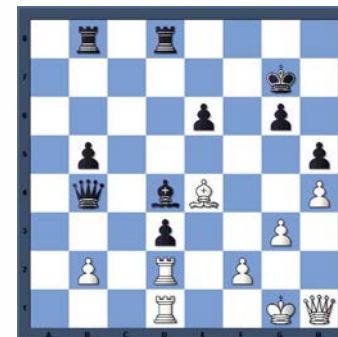
30.♖e2



31. ♖xe6+ fxе6 32. ♗e4! cxd3 33. ♖d2! White prepares to win the d3 pawn back. Black has no chance to protect it, the

33... ♖b4 [33... ♖f8! was the best chance. 34. ♕xd3 (34. ♖h2 34... ♖b4 35. ♖ad1 ♕xf2 36. ♖xd3 ♖f7+ also looks clearly better for Black.) 34... ♖xf2! 35. ♖xf2 ♖d6 Black threatens to play Bxf2 and the d3 bishop is hanging and also Qxg3 when after Qg2 Bxf2 he ends up with two extra pawns. 36. ♖g2! ♖f8 (Not 36... ♕xf2+?? 37. ♖xf2 ♖xd3 38. ♖a7+ Black gets mated) 37. ♖f1 ♕xf2+ 38. ♖xf2 ♖xf2 39. ♖xf2 ♖xd3 40. ♖g2 It is hard to evaluate if White's drawing chances or Black's winning ones are better. Black will advance his extra pawn, but he will always need to count with perpetual check.]

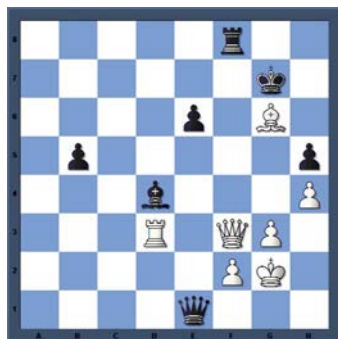
34.♖ad1



35...♗f6 36.♖xd3 ♜xd3 37.♖xd3 [37.♗xd3 with the idea of

Rb1 was simpler to achieve a draw.]

37...♖d8 This is practically a draw offer. [37...♙d4! could still have caused some headaches, although White has two different ways to fight for the draw. 38.♙xg6!? is the most direct! (38.♚e2 38...♗f8 39.♗f3 White should have no problems with the draw, probably Carlsen would have chosen this line, as it is more practical. Black will have no chance to win with the opposite colored bishops. The b-pawn will be excellently blocked and White can create counterplay against the g6 pawn.) 38...♚e1+ 39.♙g2 ♖f8



It looks over, but... 40.♚xf8+! ♙xf8 41.♗xd4 b4 42.♗f4+ ♙g7 43.♙c2= followed by Rf3 and Bb3. White creates a perfect blockade and Black has no chance to win.]

38.♖xd8 ♙xd8 39.♙d3 White wins back the b5 pawn and the game is drawn.

39...♚d4 40.♙xb5 ♗f6 Anand offered a draw here. Carlsen decided to play on until all pieces disappear from the board.

41.♗b7+ ♙e7 42.♙g2 g5 Getting rid of the remaining pawns... The game is dead drawn.

43.hxg5 ♗xg5 44.♙c4 h4 45.♗c7 hxg3 46.♗xg3 e5 47.♙f3 ♗xg3+ 48.fxg3 ♙c5 49.♙e4 ♙d4 50.♙f5 ♙f2 51.♙xe5 ♙xg3+ A nice fighting game! 1/2-1/2

(3) Naiditsch, Arkadij(2727) - Socko, Bartosz(2661) [C19]

19th European Teams(2.7), 2013.11.09

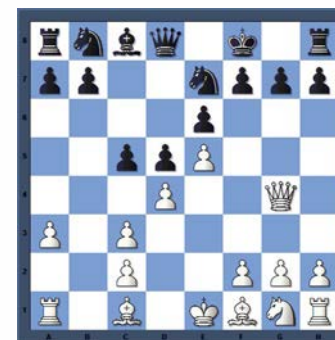
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the second round. The pairing system of the tournament is quite random, so it is impossible to predict who is playing who and why!? We got the team Poland I (Poland has 3 teams participating).

1.e4 e6 After my opponent played 1...e6 (Socko plays a lot of different openings) I was very much hoping to get the variation that we will see in the game.

2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 ♙xc3+ 6.bxc3 ♘e7 7.♗g4 So we are in the very main position of the French Defence. Black has 2 major choices here, to play 7... 0-0 or 7...Qc7. Both of them lead to very unclear play.

7...♙f8?! After this move I said to myself "yes". Socko had already been playing it a couple of times before so I was able to prepare a very unpleasant answer. In general, I can't believe that a move like 7...Kf8 can be a good one. It just looks too ugly!



8.a4! A very strong and logical move. The white bishop wants to go to a3.

8...♔c7 Black is going for the pawn and this is probably the best thing to do. If White was in time to play Nf3-Bd3-O-O and Ba3, Black's position would just fall apart.

9.♔d1 A logical move. Black wanted to play cxd4.

9...cxd4 10.cxd4 ♕c3+ 11.♙d2 ♕xd4 Black is a pawn up, but a better development and the very bad position of the black king on f8 make White's position quite enjoyable.

12.♘f3 ♕e4+ 13.♙e2 ♘bc6 Trying to take another pawn on e5.

14.♙c3 There is of course no reason to give it immediately.

14...♘g6 15.O-O I completed my development.

15...♘f4 A logical decision of my opponent, who tries to exchange my white squared bishop. [15...♘gxe5 would lead to a very dangerous position for Black: 16.♘xe5 ♘xe5 17.♖e1 White clearly has enough compensation for the two pawns thanks to the bishop pair and his open position.]

16.♙d3! I cannot avoid the exchange, but I can improve my pawn structure with it.

16...♘xd3 17.cxd3 ♕f5 Black's position is looking pretty dangerous, but it is clear that White needs to act quickly. If Black was in time to play h6-Kg8-Kh7 I would just be a pawn down.

18.a5 A rather logical move. My idea was to play Ra4 next, followed by maybe Qd2 and Rf4, bringing my rook into the attack.

18...a6? This move just cannot be good. Black is already in trouble and such a loss of a tempo is a serious mistake. [Black should hurry to secure his king's position on h7: 18...h6 19.♖a4 ♕g8 20.♕d2 I think White should have more than enough compensation for the pawn, but the position would remain

unclear.]

19.♕b1! A strong move. White's main idea is to stop Black from playing Bd7. Things are pretty forced now.

19...h6 Black has no choice...



20.♘d4 I am removing the only black defender from the c-file.

20...♘xd4 [Black is not in time for 20...♕xe5 21.♕b2! The most simple. 21...♘xd4 22.♙xd4 ♕g5 23.f4 ♕g6 24.♖f3 White brings all his pieces into the attack and during the game I was sure it had to end with a mate. 24...f6 25.♖g3 ♕f7 26.♖c1 Black's position is just lost.]

21.♙xd4 ♕g8 22.♖c1 At this moment I was thinking for quite a while. 22.Qb6 was also looking very tempting. [22.♕b6 If White was in time for Qc7 Black's position would just be lost, but it seems like I am not. 22...♕xd3 Black wants to play Bd7 next. 23.♖ab1 ♕h7 (23...♙d7 didn't work immediately: 24.♖fd1 followed by Qxb7 and White is winning.) 24.♖fd1 ♕c4 Once again I just don't have enough time for Qc7. 25.♖dc1 ♕a4 26.♖b4 ♕e8 I was calculating until here and could not see a way to stop Black from playing Bd7 next. The position is still unclear, but the move in the game seems to be much more convincing.]

22...♕h7 23.♖c7 ♖d8 So far everything was forced, but the question if Black is in time for Bd7 remains.

24. ♖c5! Probably the only move to keep me on the winning road. [It is a pity, but the most logical 24. ♖e7 doesn't work. 24... ♗d7 25. ♗b6 It seems like White won an exchange, but no... 25... ♗c6 26. ♗xd8 Now comes the fantastic



26...d4!! and White cannot play 27. Bb6 because of Qg5!, with a double attack on g2 and e7. The position is very unclear. I was very happy I found this defence for Black but I am very curious to know whether my opponent saw it as well.]

24...d4 What else to do?! [24... ♖xe5 25. ♖xf7 And White is close to be winning.; 24... ♗d7 25. ♗e7 White is an exchange up.]

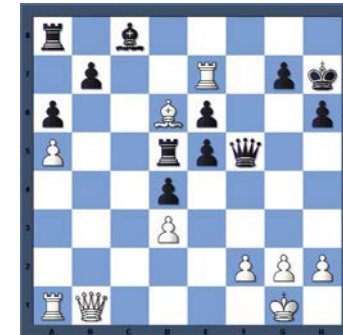
25. ♗e7 I continue my plan of not giving Black any chance to play Bd7.

25... ♖d5 26. ♗d6 The black bishop got stuck on c8 and with it the rook on a8 too.

26...f6 Somehow I had a feeling that my opponent was not too upset with his position, but I was very happy with mine! :)

27. ♖e7 The most simple.

27...fxe5



28. ♖b6 The white queen is going to c7, then I play Re1 and Be5. The game is over.

28... ♖f8 This is losing, but nothing helps anymore.

29. ♖c7 b5 This move surprised me a little bit, as now I have a huge amount of winning moves.

30. ♖f7 [Of course 30. axb6 30... ♗b7 31. ♖f7 would end the game as well.]

30... ♖xf7 [30... ♖g8 31. ♖f8 And White has trapped the black queen.]

31. ♖xf7 ♖xd6 32. ♖c1 The most simple. Black still cannot develop the c8 bishop!

32... ♖d8 [32... ♗d7 33. ♖c7 ♖d8 34. ♖e7 And White is winning.]

33.♖c7 ♜g8



34.g4! A very easy move, but still quite beautiful. Black is totally paralyzed.

34...e4 35.g5 e5 36.♞h5 There is still no time to develop the bishop from c8.

36...♞h8 37.gxh6 gxh6+ 38.♞f1 The funny thing is that the bishop is still standing on its starting position on c8! :) It was a great pleasure to win such a game, but sadly the team played only 2-2. **1-0**

(4) Salgado Lopez, Ivan(2610)
- Balogh, Csaba(2630) [A15]

Warsaw POL(3.6), 2013.11.10

[Balogh Csaba]

I managed to win a nice game in the European Team Championship.

1.c4 My opponent almost always plays 1.e4, so this came as a surprise to me. I knew that he has very good preparation in general, so I decided to play something different than what I usually do.

1...♞f6 I usually play 1...e5 here.

2.♞f3 c6 3.♞c3 d5 4.e3 a6 This is the first time that I employ the Slav with a6. I was hoping to get my opponent to a slightly unexplored territory.

5.d4 b5 6.c5 [6.b3 is the other big main line.]

6...g6



7.♞e5 We are following the latest fashion. White wants to avoid the developing of the b8 knight by attacking the pawn on c6 and later on he also intends to fortify his knight with f4.

7...♞g7 8.♞e2 [I remembered a recent top game, which continued with 8.f4 8...a5! Black plays this against White's queenside approaches with b4 followed by a4! 9.♞e2 h5!

Black is getting ready to play on the light squares, so he works out the points. 10.O-O ♘f5 11.♘f3 ♚c7 To be able to play Nbd7. Very consequent play by Black. 12.♞d3 ♞bd7 13.♞f2 e6 14.♘d2 ♚e7= Black obtained a very comfortable position. Later on the game got even more closed and it finished in a draw. Gelfand-Ivanchuk, Paris 2013.]

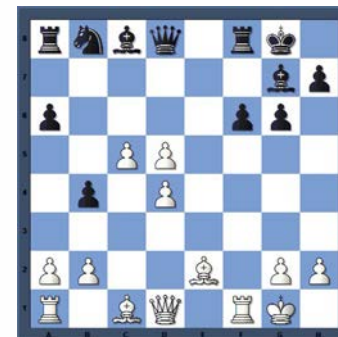
8...O-O 9.O-O White did not play f4, so Black has an alternative to create counterplay in the center, which is the main idea in many lines in the a6 Slav.

9...♞fd7! If White takes on d7, Black will easily achieve e5, while if the knight retreats to d3, e5 is coming immediately with perfect perspectives for Black.

10.f4 ♞xe5 11.fxe5 f6 A principled move to undermine the center! White needs to react actively, otherwise Black quickly overtakes the initiative. [11...♘f5!? is an alternative to avoid the complications, followed by f6 later on.]



12.e4? White finds the right idea to explode the Black center, but executes it in the wrong move order. Now the advantage passes to Black. [He should have played 12.exf6 12...exf6 Black intends to play f5, blocking the e3 pawn, followed by Nd7-f7, Ra7-e7 with a very strong pressure against the backward weakness. 13.e4! b4 This is the critical move. Black wants to win the e4 pawn. 14.♞xd5! cxd5 15.exd5



♔e8 Black threatens to play Nf3 and if the queen retreats then Be6 and Rd8 are coming. Black has a clear edge.]

16...♘xe5 17.♙b3+ ♔h8 I must admit that I did not get the point of 16.Bd1. I thought that due to the threat of Nf3, the queen must retreat to d2 or d1, but both could be met by Bg4 and Rd8 next and Black is just close to be winning. My opponent had a very deep idea in mind.



18.♙e3!! ♘g4! Black takes the dark squared bishop and suddenly the one on g7 becomes the real "master" of the position. [The point is that 18...♘f3+? does not work because of 19.gxf3 ♙xd4 20.♙xd4+ and I am forced to give up my queen and end up being a piece down.; The same idea as in the game could not be done by 18...♘c4? because of 19.♙xc4! and again the queen is not hanging!]

19.♔d3 ♘xe3 20.♔xe3



20...♔f6! A nice plan of centralizing the queen. Otherwise the rook comes to f1 and the queen does not find its place on the board. On e5, it is going to control everything.

21.♖f1 ♔e5 White has no useful move. His heavy pieces are standing on their best positions, while the minor ones are completely paralyzed. The knight should be improved somehow, but then the b2 pawn simply falls. [The endgame after 21...♔d4?? would be excellent, but it is tactically refuted by 22.♖f8+!+-]

22.h3 The next step for Black was to develop the queenside pieces. I could have done it by playing Be6, but I thought the bishop pair could be extremely strong later on. So I was looking for another way to get my rook out from the corner.

22...a5! Black threatens to win with a4 followed by a3 when the bishop leaves and then the c3 knight loses its stability. [22...♙d7 is not as good. 23.♖d1 The bishop is passive on e8, while I also did not want to pin my own rook on d8...]

23.♖d1 [23.a3 23...♙a6 24.♖d1 transposes to the game.]



23...♙a6! The bishop just temporarily goes to a6, the main target was to get the rook into the game via f8.

24.a3 ♖f8 It is hard to dream about a better position than this one. All pieces are excellently placed, while White has no active moves. All the pieces are forced to defend something.

The question is to find out how Black should improve his position now...

25. ♖h1 h5! A good plan! I wanted to get my king to h7, when I often threatens to play Bh6, sending away the queen from the protection of the c5 pawn.

26. ♘c2 ♖h7 27. ♙b1 White simply had no move, so my opponent decided just to wait.

27... ♙c8 I already had the forthcoming actions in mind and decided to change the diagonal. [27...b4!? 28.axb4 axb4 29. ♖a4 ♙b5 was also winning. 30. ♖b6 (30.b3 30... ♙h6 31. ♙g1 This is the only square... 31... ♙g3—+) 30... ♙xb2—+]

28. ♙a2 ♙h6! 29. ♙g1 Otherwise Black takes on c5 and he continues enjoying all the advantages he had before, plus an extra pawn. However all the pieces are standing so well that the position screams for a final blow.

29...b4! Sending the knight to the edge of the board, otherwise the b2 pawn falls.

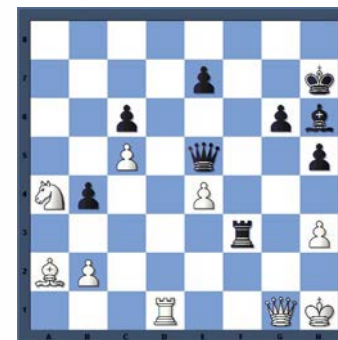
30.axb4 axb4 31. ♖a4



31... ♙xh3 [31... ♙xe4 32. ♖e1 ♙h4—+ was also winning.]

32. ♙h2 This is a kind of resignation. [32.gxh3 was the last chance, although Black can choose between two wins now: 32... ♙xe4+ is objectively even stronger. (32... ♖f3 seems to be

game over, but White has a very nice defence, which I had actually seen in the game:



33. ♙g8+!! (33. ♙g2 33... ♖g3—+ 33... ♙g7 (33... ♙xg8? 34. ♙xg6+ 34. ♙d4! White manages to trade queens and avoids getting mated, but still he ends up in a lost endgame. 34... ♖xh3+ 35. ♙g2 ♖g3+ 36. ♙f1 (36. ♙h2 36... ♙f4 37. ♙xe5+ ♙xe5—+ Black wins the piece back.) 36... ♙xd4 37. ♖xd4 ♙xg8—+ White is helpless against the h- and g-pawns.) 33. ♙g2 ♖f3 34. ♙e6! The only move to defend against Rxh3, but it does not save White. Black has several ways to continue the attack. 34...g5! (A more human win is 34... ♙e3—+ followed by Qf4 and Rf2. White can only watch this, he cannot create any counterplay with such poor pieces like the knight on a4.)]

32... ♙xh2+ [32... ♙xg2+! 33. ♙xg2 ♖f4!—+ was even stronger, but I decided to not risk a sacrifice when the position is winning automatically even without it...]

33. ♙xh2 ♙g4 Black has an extra pawn and the bishop pair continues dominating.

34. ♖d3 [34. ♖d4 34... ♖f1—+ White is in mate net.]

34... ♖f1 Black wants to play h4 followed by Bf4. The game is over.

35.g3 ♙f3 0-1

Puzzle section

(5) Mamedov, R(2647)-Petkov, V(2570)

European Teams, 2013.11.09

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Giri, A(2732)-Jones, R(2435)

European Teams, 2013.11.09

[CEWN]

1. +-



(7) Pelletier, Y(2575)-Nabaty, T(2580)

European Teams, 2013.11.09

[CEWN]

1. +-

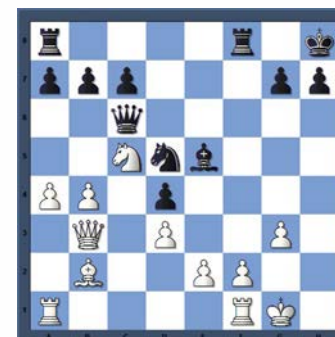


(8) Socko, B(2661)-Mamedyarov, S(2757)

European Teams, 2013.11.10

[CEWN]

1... -+



(9) Jobava, B(2695)-Meier, G(2623)

European Teams, 2013.11.10

[CEWN]

1. +-



(11) Saric, I(2628)-Nabaty, T(2580)

European Teams, 2013.11.11

[CEWN]

1. +-



(10) Petrosian, T(2660)-Fedorchuk, S(2666)

European Teams, 2013.11.11

[CEWN]

1... -+

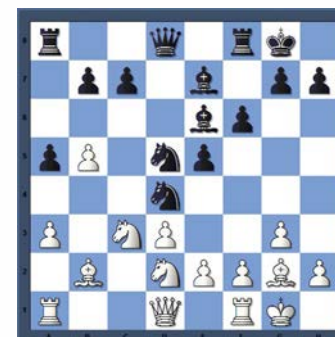


(12) Nevednichy, V(2590)-Gdanski, J(2518)

European Teams, 2013.11.11

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Matlakov, M(2700)-Ftacnik, L(2545)

Czech league, 2013.11.03

[CEWN]

1. +-



(14) Swiercz, D(2627)-Khenkin, I(2612)

European Team, 2013.11.09

[CEWN]

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Carlsen, M.(2870)-Anand, V.(2775)

WCh 2013(5), 2013.11.15

[CE Team]



We are in the 5th game of the WCC match. After the opening Magnus managed to get some advantage, but Anand defended very well. And as we can see now Black still has some work to do to achieve the draw.

43...♖d1 44.e5+ The only move. The white bishop from b1 must get activated.

44...♔d5 45.♘h7 ♜c1+? Maybe the first and the last big mistake of the whole game! This inaccuracy leads to huge trouble.

[Anand had to make an exact calculation: 45...♜a1! An ugly looking move, but probably Black is holding after it. 46.♘g8+ White still does not have anything better than to go for the rook endgame. 46...♔c6 47.♘xb3 ♜xa3 48.♔c4 I guess so far it was easy, but now Black needs to make another very strong move:



48...axb3! The only move which holds a draw. 49.♖h6+ ♔d7 50.♗xc5 b2 51.♞b6 Once again Black needs to be exact: 51...♞c3+! Fixing the result on the spot. During a practical game this is not easy to see at all. 52.♔d5 ♞d3+ 53.♕e4 ♞d2 With a handshake.]

46.♕b2 ♞g1 Anand is going for the g-pawn.

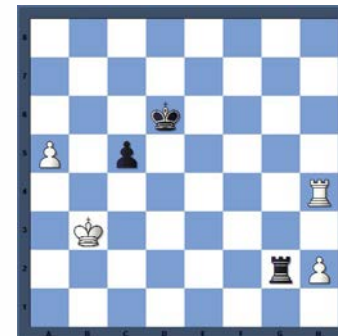
47.♘g8+ ♔c6 48.♞h6+! Great play by Magnus. The black king has to be cut to start with.

48...♔d7 [48...♕b5 didn't work: 49.♘xb3 axb3 50.♗xb3 And White wants to mate by playing a4. Black's position is lost.]

49.♘xb3 axb3 50.♗xb3 ♞xg2 51.♞xh4 White is temporarily 2 pawns up, but the pawn e5 is going to fall. It is still hard to say if this is winning or draw, but Magnus is showing us with his usual perfect technique how it is done. ..

51...♕e6 52.a4 White needs to push his pawns of course.

52...♕xe5 53.a5 ♔d6 If Black could play Kc7 now and hold the pawn with his king, the position would be a draw.

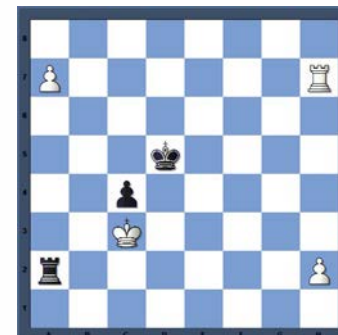


54.♞h7! Another strong move, not allowing the black king to come closer, but the best player in the world doesn't miss such chances.

54...♔d5 55.a6 c4+ Black is too late with his counterplay.

56.♕c3 Now we can see that the pawn on h2 is very useful, as there is no check on g3.

56...♞a2 57.a7

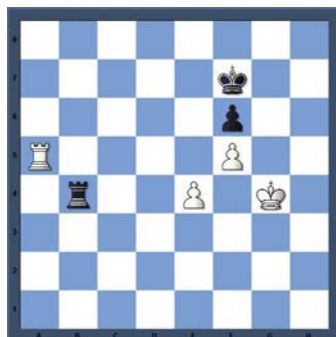


57...♕c5 58.h4 And White won. The idea is simple: bring the pawn to h6 and play Rg7-h7 and queen. The first decisive game of the match, and Magnus proved once again that he is not in India to joke around and that he is taking any chance he gets! 1-0

(16) Radjabov, T.(2715)-Swiercz, D.(2627)

European Teams, 2013.11.10

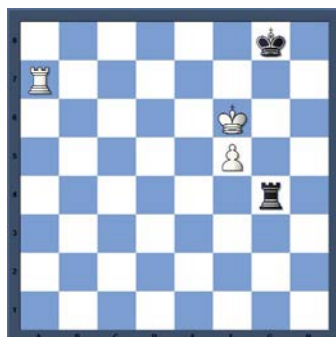
[CE TEAM]



The following endgame is a theoretical draw, but Black must know the right defensive method. One could believe that for grandmasters over 2600 it should not be a problem to hold it, but as we will see, this it is not true.

56.♖a7+ ♔g8 57.♕h5! The only chance for White. If he passively protects the pawn with Kf4, he will be unable to make progress.

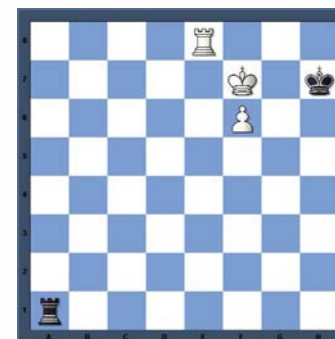
57...♖xe4 58.♕g6 ♖g4+ 59.♕xf6 We have reached the famous drawish position. The right plan is to keep the king on the h- and g-file (on the short side), while giving checks from the a- and b-file (long side) with the rook.



59...♖b4! 60.♖a8+ ♔h7 61.♖e8! White tries to cover his king from the side checks. Now Black should just wait until White gets his pawn to the 6th rank.

61...♖b1 62.♕f7 ♖a1 It is better to keep the rook as far as possible from the king. Black is ready to check from the a-file and also from the first rank now.

63.f6 The following plan is very important!

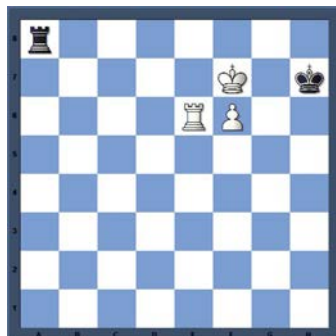


63...♖a7+! [Further waiting with 63...♖a2? loses to 64.♕f8! White pushes f7 next and we get the game's position...]

64.♖e7 ♖a8! This is considered to be the most precise way to avoid the king's move to the 8th rank, but other rook moves are also drawn.

65.♖e6! The most tricky try by White.

[65.♕e6+ 65...♕g6 brings nothing for White.; On 65.♖e1 White must reply with 65...♖a7+! 66.♕f8 (66.♕e6 66...♖a6+=) 66...♕g6!]=]



72.♖e6 ♜a8 73.♞e8 ♜a6+ 74.♚e5 Black soon runs out of checks and the pawn promotes. We can see this theoretical endgame quite often, so it is useful to remember the ideas.
1-0

65...♜a7+? This is the losing move! Black had only two moves to save the game. The key is to keep the rook on the 8th rank! [This could be either done by 65...♜b8 66.♚e7 (66.♞e1 66...♜b7+=) 66...♚g6 67.f7+ ♚g7=; Or by 65...♚h6! White cannot win: 66.♚e7 (66.♞e1 66...♜a7+ 67.♚e8 ♜a8+ 68.♚d7 ♜a7+=) 66...♚g6 67.f7+ ♚g7=; Let's illustrate why the rook should be as far as possible: 65...♜c8? loses to 66.♞e8 ♜c7+ 67.♚e6 ♜c6+ 68.♚e7 ♜c7+ 69.♚d6 Black runs out of checks. 69...♜f7 (69...♜a7 70.♞e7++-) 70.♚e6+-]

66.♚f8! +- The game is over now! The point of putting the rook to e6 is to have f7 check after Kg6!

66...♜a8+ [66...♚g6 67.f7+ ♚h7+- transposes to the game.]

67.♞e8! ♜a6 [67...♜a7 68.♞e7++-; 67...♜a1 also loses. 68.f7 ♜b1 69.♚e7 ♜e1+ 70.♚d6+- White comes down to the rook and then promotes his pawn.]

68.f7 ♜a7 [68...♚g6 69.♚g8+-]

69.♞e1 White wants to check on h1 and on Kg6 Kg8 wins. The rest is very easy. [69.♞d8+- followed by Ke8 is also winning.]

69...♜a8+ [69...♜b7 70.♞h1+ ♚g6 71.♚g8 is the point of 69.Re1. 71...♜xf7 72.♞g1+ ♚f6 73.♞f1+-]

70.♚e7 ♜a7+ 71.♚f6 ♜a6+ [71...♜a8 72.♞e8 ♜a6+ 73.♚e5 ♜a5+ 74.♚d4+-]

Clash of the Titans

(17) Botvinnik, Mikhail-Keres, Paul[D36]

URS-ch20, 1952

[Miton Kamil]

1.d4 ♖f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♗c3** d5 **4.cxd5** exd5 **5.♘g5** ♕e7 **6.e3** O-O
7.♘d3 ♖bd7 **8.♚c2** ♜e8 **9.♗ge2** Of course the other plan is to play 9.Nf3, 0-0 and White can continue with Rb1-b4 or Ne5-f4.

9...♗f8 **10.O-O** c6

11.♜ab1!? This move is logical but also tricky. White is preparing the typical plan b4 to create weaknesses on the queenside. If Black plays 11...a5 then White can come back to the plan f3-e4 (which is called after Botvinnik) because in many cases when Black will play the typical c5 then the b5 square will be very weak. [11.f3 This move was possible immediately. 11...♘e6 12.♜ad1 (12.e4 12...dxe4 13.fxe4 ♗g4 14.♘xe7 ♜xe7 15.♚d2 ♜d7 Black is in time with counterplay. 16.h3 ♜xd4 17.♗xd4 ♚xd4+ 18.♖h1 ♗e5 19.♜ad1 ♜d8 20.♚c1 ♗xd3 21.♜xd3 ♚xd3 22.♜d1 ♚xd1+ 23.♗xd1 ♘xa2=+) 12...♜c8 13.e4 (13.h3 White can also not hurry and for example play Bh4-Bf2-Kh1 but then Black will play over c5. 13...c5↗ 13...dxe4 14.fxe4



14...c5 A typical counterplay idea against the Botvinnik plan. (14...♗g4 15.♘xe7 ♜xe7 16.♚d2± Followed by h3.) 15.♘xf6 (15.♘b5 15...♗g4 With complex play.; 15.d5 15...c4! 16.dxe6 ♗xe6 17.♘xc4 ♚b6+!) 15...♘xf6 16.e5 ♘g5 (16...cxd4 17.exf6 dxc3 18.♘h7++-) 17.d5 ♘d7 18.e6 And White takes the initiative: 18...fxe6 19.dxe6 ♗xe6 20.♘h7+ ♖h8 21.♖h1!XKh8]



11...♘d6?! I don't like this move at all. Black is playing for the simple trick Bh2 but it makes no sense because the bishop will have to go back to e7. Black is losing time for nothing. The normal plan was to develop the pieces and prepare the c5 plan.

12.♖h1 ♗g6 **13.f3** White is preparing the typical f3-e4 break in the center. [13.b4 13...h6 14.♘xf6 ♚xf6 15.b5 ♘d7 16.bxc6 bxc6 And Black should have a good initiative on the kingside.]

13...♙e7 Now we see the drawback of the 11...Bd6 move. [13...h6 14.♙xf6 ♖xf6 15.e4 ♖h4 16.g3 (16.e5 16...♘xe5 17.dxe5 ♖xe5 18.g3 ♖f6 It looks like Black doesn't have enough compensation for the piece.) 16...♖h5 17.e5 ♙e7 18.f4 White is clearly better.]

14.♖be1 [14.e4 14...dxe4 15.fxe4 ♘g4 16.♙xe7 ♖xe7 17.♖d2 c5 A typical idea. Black is going to destroy the white center or win the e5 square for the knights. 18.d5 But even here White can be better thanks to his strong d5 pawn.]

14...♘d7 [14...h6 15.♙xf6 (15.♙xh6 15...gxh6 16.♙xg6 fxg6 17.♖xg6+ ♖h8 18.♖xh6+ ♘h7∞) 15...♙xf6 16.♙xg6 fxg6 White cannot take the g6 pawn as the e3 is also hanging. 17.e4 dxe4 18.fxe4 ♙xd4 19.♖d1 c5 20.♘xd4 cxd4 21.♘d5 ♙e6 22.♖xd4+= We can say that White is a pawn up but Black's position is very solid.]

15.♙xe7 ♖xe7



16.♘g3 White is waiting with the e4 move, but now was the right moment... [16.e4 16...dxe4 17.fxe4 c5 18.♘d5±]

16...♘f6 17.♖f2 Protecting the d4 pawn.

17...♙e6 [17...b6 With the idea of playing c5 and not allowing the e4 push, but of course White plays 18.e4 dxe4 19.fxe4 ♘g4 20.♖g1 c5 21.♘d5 (21.d5+=) 21...cxd4 22.♘xe7+ ♘xe7 With compensation.]



18.♘f5 White missed a good opportunity to get big advantage: [18.e4 18...dxe4 (18...♘f4 19.♙b1±) 19.fxe4 ♖d7 20.e5 ♘g4 Xd4; 18.f4! A strong move, which is hard to see because it is not connected with the f3-e4 plan at all. Now White is unexpectedly getting a huge initiative because the black pieces don't have enough space. 18...♘f8 19.f5 ♙c8 20.e4



20...dxe4 21.♘xe4 The strong pawn on f5 limits the black pieces. White only needs to get rid of the knight from f6 to get a decisive attack. 21...♖d7 22.♘xf6+ ♖xf6 23.♖e5 Followed by Ne4-f5, when White is almost winning.]

18...♙xf5 [18...♖e8 Why not this simple move and White doesn't have e4 anymore because of Bxf5. 19.g4!? Maybe this was Botvinnik's idea?!]

19. ♖xf5 Black is not able to prevent e4 now.



19... ♖b6 [19... ♖e8 20.e4 ♖c7 21.e5 ♖e6 22. ♖b1 ♖b6 23. ♖d1 ♖f8 24.g3 f6 25.exf6 ♖xf6 26.f4 With very unpleasant pressure on the kingside.; 19... ♖f8 20. ♖b1 ♖e6 21. ♖d1 With e4 next.]

20.e4 dxe4 21.fxe4 ♖d8



22.e5 ♖d5 23. ♖e4± A typical move. The knight is going to d6 and Black is not able to push c5 in order to destroy White's center.

23... ♖f8 24. ♖d6 ♖c7 25. ♖e4 ♖e6 26. ♖h4 Forcing Black to create weaknesses around his king.

26...g6 27. ♖xd5 cxd5 28. ♖c1 ♖d7 29. ♖c3 Xf7.Xh7

29... ♖f8



30. ♖f5 ♖fe8 [30...gxf5 31. ♖g3+ ♖g7 32. ♖f6+-]

31. ♖h6+ White doesn't need to win the rook on e7, this is simpler...

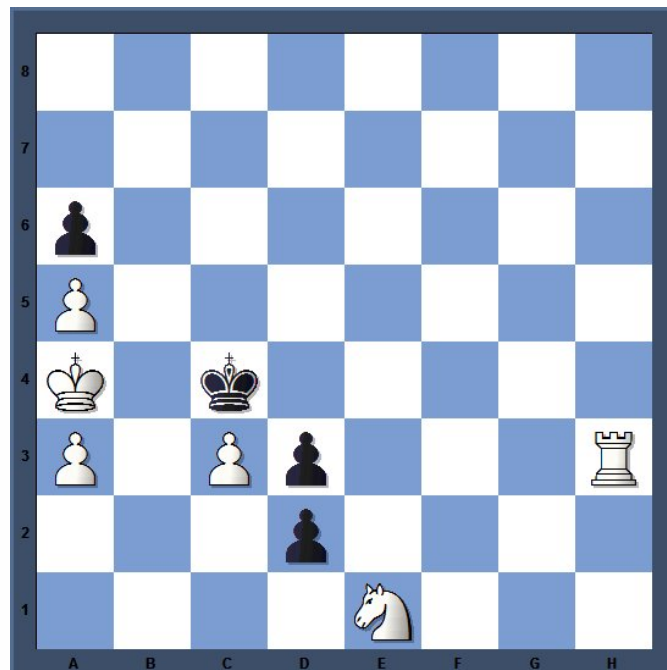
31... ♖f8 32. ♖f6 ♖g7 33. ♖cf3 ♖c8 34. ♖xf7 ♖e6 35. ♖g5 ♖f5 36. ♖h6 ♖g7 37.g4 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Afansiev

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(19) Iordachescu, V(2614)-Svane, R(2467)

Danube rapid, 2013.11.01

[Solutions]



47. ♔d3+! f5! 48. ♖xg7+! [48. ♔xh3?? 48... ♔f2+ 49. ♔h1 ♖a1+]

48... ♔xg7 [48... ♔h8 49. ♖h7+! ♔xh7 50. ♔d7+=]

49. ♔d7+ ♔g6 50. ♔e8+ ♔g7 51. ♔d7+ ♔g6 52. ♔e6+= ♔h5?? 53. ♔f7+ ♔g4 54. ♔g6+ ♔xf4 55. ♖c4+ 1-0

(20) Shankland, S(2605)-Ftacnik, L(2546)

Barcelona GM, 2013.10.29

[Solutions]



39. ♖xa4!! ♔f7 [39... ♖xa4 40.e8=♖++-; 39... ♖b8+ 40.♔a1! ♖xc7 41.e8=♗+! (41.e8=♖ 41... ♖c1#) 41... ♔f7 42.♗xc7+-]

40. ♖c4+? [40. ♖e4+-]

40... ♔g6 [40... ♖e6!! 41.♖c8 d5!! (41... ♖xe7 42.♖c7+-) 42. ♖c5 ♖a4! 43.e8=♖+ ♖xe8 44. ♖xd5+ ♔g7 45.♖c7+ ♔h8 46.♖h7+! ♔xh7 47. ♖f7+ ♔h8 48. ♖f6+=]

41. ♖e4+-

(21) Muzychuk, M(2491)-Ivanchuk, V(2733)

Cap'd Agde rapid, 2013.10.29

[Solutions]



13... ♗a4! 14. ♗xa4 [14. ♗g2 14... ♗xb2+-]

14... ♗xe4 15. ♗c3 ♗xh1+-

(22) Sebag, M(2510)-Zhao Xu(2579)

Cap'd Agde rapid, 2013.10.31

[Solutions]



28. ♖xd4! 1-0 [28. ♖xd4 28... cxd4 29. ♖f6+-]

(23) Delchev, A(2643)-Polster, W(2280)

Bad Wiesee Open, 2013.10.27

[Solutions]



14. ♖e6+!! ♔xe6 15. ♘d1!! ♚xa1 [15... ♖b4+ 16. c3 ♖a5 17. ♖xc8+ +—]

16. d5+! 1-0

(24) Eggleston, D(2399)-Delchev, A(2643)

Bad Wiesee Open, 2013.10.29

[Solutions]

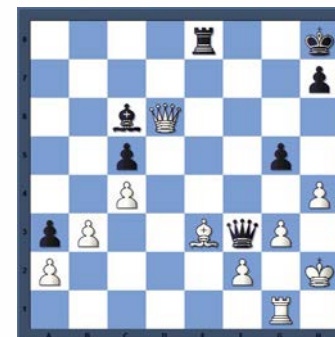


44. ♖f4+! 1-0 [44. ♖f4+ 44... ♔g7 45. ♖xe5+ ♔h7 46. ♖xa1 +—]

(25) Bach, M(2247)-Romanov, E(2654)

Bad Wiesee Open, 2013.10.28

[Solutions]



34... ♖xe3! 35. fxe3 ♖e2+ 36. ♔h3 g4# 0-1

(26) Hunt, A(2429)-Kraemer, M(2546)

Bad Wiesee Open, 2013.10.29

[Solutions]



20. ♘g5+!! 1-0 [20. ♘g5+ 20... hxg5 (20... ♔e8 21. ♘gxe4 +—) 21. ♖d5+ ♔e8 22. ♖xa5 +—]

(27) Rozentalis, E(2616)-Poetsch, H(2472)

Bad Wiesee Open, 2013.10.30

[Solutions]



25. ♘g6!! f×g6 [25... ♗d4 26. ♖g8+ ♔d7 27. ♖xf7+ ♔c6 28. ♖e6+ ♔b5 (28... ♖d6 29. ♘e5+! ♗xe5 30. ♖xd6+ cxd6 31. ♔xg2+-) 29. ♔xg2+-]

26. ♖d7! ♗g7 [26... ♖f8 27. ♖xc7! ♖d8 28. ♖xg6+-]

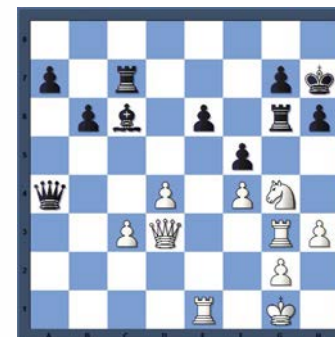
27. ♖xg7 ♖f8 28. ♖h7! +- e3 29. ♔xg2 ♖f6 [29... e2 30. ♖xc7+-]

30. ♖xc7 ♔f8 31. ♖h6+ ♔g8 32. ♖h7+ ♔f8 33. ♖h6+ ♔g8 34. ♖xe3+-

(28) Gupta, A(2593)-Danin, A(2589)

Bad Wiesee Open, 2013.10.31

[Solutions]



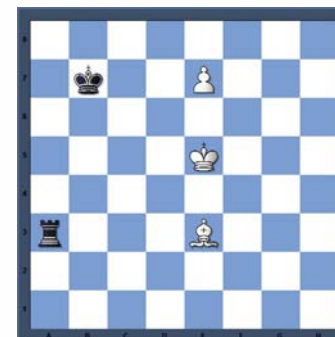
32. ♖xe6! ♗e4 [32... ♖xe6 33. ♖xf5+ ♔h8 34. ♖xe6+-]

33. ♖xe4! f×e4 34. ♖xe4 ♖c6 [34... ♖a1+ 35. ♔h2 ♖xc3 36. ♘f6+!+-]

35. d5! ♖c5+ 36. ♔h2 1-0

(29) Mattison

[Solutions]



3. ♗a7!! ♖a1 4. ♔f4! ♖f1+ [4... ♖e1 5. ♗e3+-]

5. ♗f2!! [5. ♔e4?? 5... ♔xa7!]

5... ♖xf2+ 6. ♔e3! ♖f1 7. ♔e2! ♖h1 8. e8=♖+-



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 91

22nd of November 2013

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Editorial Preface

Magnus Carlsen is the new World Champion!!!

By showing amazing play in all types of positions, Magnus Carlsen proves that nothing and nobody can stop him at the moment. As he beat Anand with a 6.5-3.5 score, Carlsen ends the match 2 games before the official end. Congratulations to the strongest chess player on the planet!

The European Team Championship ended in Warsaw with a win of the Azerbaijan team, the 2nd place went to France, who played a really great tournament and were just not lucky in the last rounds, and the 3rd place to the rating favorites from Russia, who were very lucky in the 8th round of the event.

In the current issue of CEWN we are analyzing the most exciting games from the WCC and some moments from the European Team Championships.

Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Anand, Viswanathan(2775)**
- **Carlsen, Magnus(2870)** [C65]

WCh 2013(7), 2013.11.18

[Balogh Csaba]

We just have passed the half-time of the match. Carlsen was leading to 4-2. After two bitter losses in a row, people were asking themselves whether Anand would try to come back into the match with an "all in game" and risk a third loss or first try to recover with a rather calm game...

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 Carlsen repeats the Berlin, which he employed successfully in the 4th and 6th games of the match.

4.d3 The deviation from the 4th game, where we had seen the Berlin endgame arise after 4.0-0 Nxe4, but we are still following the 6th game.

4...♙c5



5.♙xc6 Here is the new attempt by Anand. The other main line and the previous game continued with 5.c3. White gives up the bishop pair, but he creates some damage in Black's pawn structure.

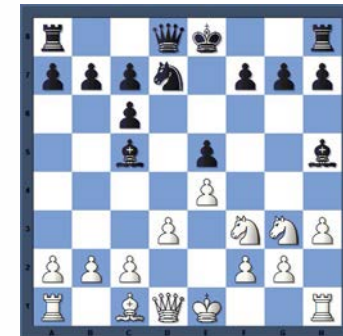
5...dxc6 6.♘bd2 The pawn on e5 cannot be taken because of the double attack with Qd4!

6...♙g4!? This is the novelty on the highest level. [The most recent games continued with 6...♙e6 followed by Nd7. Black scored decently with this move, but both teams probably had their reasons to go for or to avoid this line.]

7.h3 ♙h5 Black saves his bishop pair for a while.

8.♘f1 White employs the typical regrouping of the knight to g3, with the idea of unpinning his other knight. [The point is 8.g4 8...♙g6 9.♘xe5? still does not work because of 9...♙d4!]

8...♘d7 9.♘g3



9...♙xf3 An interesting decision, combined with the next move. Black makes use of the fact that he hasn't castled yet. [9...♙g6!? was playable as well. Black plays f6 next and transfers his bishop to f7. In general when Black succeeds to save his two bishops this way, Black is considered to be fine.]

10.♙xf3 g6! This is Carlsen's point! He paralyzes the g3 knight by taking away its f5 and h5 squares. If Black had castled, then an attack with Bh6 and h4-h5 would be very dangerous, but now Carlsen intends to castle queenside.

11.♙e3 ♙e7 Carlsen is waiting for the trade of the bishops, since then he could win a tempo for reaching the ideal e6

square for his knight, from where it controls two significant central squares on d4 and f4.

12.0-0-0 0-0-0 Both sides have finished their developments and the game is balanced. White has a nominal advantage thanks to his slightly better pawn structure, but this can hardly be used. A slow, positional maneuvering fight begins, where both players try to improve their pieces.

13.♘e2 The knight had no future on g3, while from e2 it might support a d4 or an f4 break later on.

13...♖he8 Black prepares against the opening of the center.

14.♔b1 The a2 pawn was unprotected. Sometimes ideas like Qe6 followed by f5 could have come with a tempo.

14...b6 Just like Anand on the previous move, Carlsen also takes full control over the kingside by placing his king to b7.

15.h4 Finally some action!

15...♔b7 [15...h5 was also perfectly fine, but Carlsen believed that White is unable to create any serious threats by opening the h-file.]

16.h5 ♗xe3



17.♙xe3 [On 17.fxe3 Black might focus his pieces on the kingside. 17...♖g8 18.♖df1 ♗df8 With the idea of f5. Black has

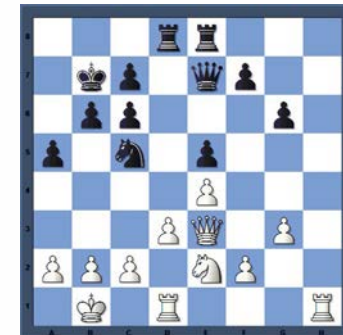
no problems. 19.hxg6 actually just helps Black, he gets a very nice position after 19...fxg6! 20.♙g3 ♘f6! followed by h5 and Ng4. Now the doubled e-pawns are bad, Black overtakes the initiative.]

17...♘c5 The knight is heading to e6, or sometimes even Na4 and Qb4 plans could be dangerous.

18.hxg6 [18.♙h6 makes no sense, because Qxh7 is not a threat due to Rh8 Qg7 Rdg8 trapping the queen.]

18...hxg6 19.g3 [On 19.♖h7 Black uses the same motif to equalize as in the game: 19...♖h8 20.♖dh1 ♗xh7 21.♖xh7 ♙f6 White is unable to increase the pressure on the f7 pawn. Black plays Rh8 next with full equality.]

19...a5 [19...♖h8= was also even.]



20.♖h7 [20.f4 would have led to a mass exchange in the center after 20...f5! 21.exf5 gxf5 22.fxe5 ♙xe5 23.♙xe5 ♖xe5 With equality!]

20...♖h8 21.♖dh1 ♗xh7 22.♖xh7 ♙f6! Black prepares to eliminate the active rook with Rh8.

23.f4



23...♖h8! [Here was a chance to go wrong with 23...exf4 24.♔xf4! ♕xf4 25.gxf4 and suddenly the endgame is better for White. His rook is very active and his pawn structure is also better. 25...♖d7 26.♔c1+= With the idea of Ng3, Kd2-e3 and f5 later on. White could have pressed for very long here, but of course Carlsen does not allow such chances.]

24.♖xh8 [24.fxe5?? is a blunder because of 24...♔f1+ and Rxh7.]

24...♔xh8 25.fxe5 ♕xe5 Black achieved full equality. The fork with d4 does not work because of Qxe4!

26.♕f3 f5! The further trade of pieces brings the draw even closer.

27.exf5 gxf5 28.c3 ♖e6 29.♔c2 ♖g5 30.♕f2 ♖e6 31.♕f3 ♖g5 32.♕f2 ♖e6 A correct draw and another game where Anand was unable to create any initiative against the Berlin wall! **1/2-1/2**

(2) Carlsen, Magnus(2870)

- Anand, Viswanathan(2775) [C67]

WCh 2013(8), 2013.11.19

[Balogh Csaba]

1.e4 Carlsen has already played 1.Nf3 and 1.c4 and now he switches to 1.e4 for the first time during the match.

1...e5 2.♖f3 ♖c6 3.♘b5 ♖f6 Yet another Berlin defence! This is already the 4th time in the match, but the first time that Anand plays it with Black. A clear sign that Anand has not started his final attempts to stay in the match.

4.O-O ♖xe4



5.♔e1 A very solid decision by Carlsen. This line is known to be a very safe choice, when White wants to create a fight with zero chance to lose, but if Black reacts well it is just a draw. With his 2 points advantage, Carlsen is happy with all draws, even with the White pieces, as he gets closer and closer to take the chess crown.

5...♖d6 6.♖xe5 ♘e7 7.♘f1 ♖xe5 8.♖xe5 O-O 9.d4 ♘f6 10.♔e1 ♔e8



11.c3 Carlsen shows his willingness to make a draw in this game. From now on all the ideas are more or less known and unless one side blunders something the outcome is already sure. [The only critical move is 11.♟f4 This pawn sacrifice was discovered recently and if Black is unprepared he might end up in some trouble. 11...♞xe1 12.♞xe1 ♞e8! (The greedy 12...♟xd4 is a mistake since after 13.c3 ♟f6 14.♟xd6 cxd6 15.♞e4!+= Black has difficulties with finishing the development. Na3-c4 is coming next.) 13.♞c3! The only critical move, otherwise Black equalizes with d5. Now that could be met by Nxd5 because the e8 knight is hanging. 13...♟xd4 14.♞d5 c6 15.♞e7+ ♟f8 16.♞xc8



16...♞f6! This important move was played for the first time by Leko and Black reaches equality in all the lines at the end. One example is 17.♞b4+ c5 18.♞d2 (18.♞xb7? 18...♞xf4) 18...♞xc8

19.♞e1 (19.c3 19...♟e5 20.♟xe5 ♞xe5 21.♞xd7 ♞c7=) 19...g5! 20.♟xg5 ♟xf2+! 21.♞xf2 ♞xg5 22.♟b5 ♞d6 23.♟xd7 ♞d8= and Black has no problem.]

11...♞xe1 12.♞xe1



12...♞e8! A known idea. Black wants to occupy the center with d5 in order to obtain a balanced symmetrical position.

13.♟f4 d5 14.♟d3 [14.♞d2 immediately could be met by 14...♟f5!]=]

14...g6! Black solves the coordination of his pieces with this move. A normal development with Be6 could have led to a slightly inferior and passive position after Nd2-f3-e5, but now he is going to play Ng7 followed by trading the bishops on f5!

15.♞d2 ♞g7 16.♞e2 White tries a small positional trick.

16...c6! Good prophylaxis! [The direct 16...♟f5 would have been premature because of 17.♟xf5 ♞xf5 18.♞b5!+= Black is facing problems with his queenside pawns.]

17.♞e1 This is the official novelty, but it can hardly be called an improvement. [The previous draws were agreed for instance after 17.♟e5 17...♟xe5 18.♞xe5 ♟f5 19.♟xf5 ♞xf5 20.♞e1 ♞d6 21.♞b3 ♞xe5 22.♞xe5 f6 23.♞e2 ♟f7 24.♞c5 ♞d6 25.f3 ♞e8 26.♞xe8 ♟xe8= Rozentalis-Bruzon, Montreal 2013]

17...♙f5 18.♙xf5 ♖xf5 19.♘f3 ♘g7 A multifunctional move. Anand prepares to neutralize the e-file and he ensures to come to e8 with the rook. The knight could also be placed on e6. Of course there was nothing wrong with 19...Qd7 for instance either.

20.♙e5 White trades the bishops in order to be able to invade on e7. However this could easily be parried...

20...♘e6 21.♙xf6 ♖xf6



22.♘e5 The last attempts by White. He wants to create some attack on the holes around the black king. He drives his knight to g4, from where it is only one step away from the dangerous checks on f6 and h6. Anand finds the easiest way to neutralize this idea.

22...♖e8! 23.♘g4 ♖d8! [Other moves like 23...♖g7 are leading to some difficulties after 24.♖f3!]

24.♖e5 Black is close to be mated. Nf6 and Nh6 are in the air, but suddenly a small tactical blow saves him, which was obviously foreseen by both players very long ago... [Now on 24.♖f3 24...♘g5! 25.♘f6+ ♖f8 26.♖xe8+ ♖xe8= Black is fine.]



24...♘g7! 25.♖xe8+! The only move and it leads to an exchange of all pieces. Both knight checks would have lost on the spot, because of White's unopened back rank. [25.♘f6+?? 25...♖xf6! 26.♖xf6 ♖xe1#; 25.♘h6+?? 25...♖f8]

25...♘xe8 26.♖xe8+! ♖xe8 27.♘f6+ ♖f8 28.♘xe8 ♖xe8 The draw is inevitable. The players decided to lock the board on both sides before the handshake...

29.f4 f5 30.♖f2 b5 31.b4 ♖f7 32.h3 h6 33.h4 h5 There are 4 games left and Anand needs to show something extraordinary if he wants to retain his title. **1/2-1/2**

(3) Anand, Viswanathan(2775)
- Carlsen, Magnus(2870) [E25]WCh 2013(9), 2013.11.21
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

At this moment of the match Carlsen was leading with +2 wins and in the last games Anand rather made the impression of not wanting to lose any other games than of a fighter who wants to come back into the match. With only 4 games to go, Anand was forced to search for action on the board and that is exactly what he did this game. In a very sharp position, where any human player would choose White, Carlsen defended with amazing precision in the style of a computer, which clearly made Anand very nervous. In what was still an unclear position, Anand shocked everybody and just blundered in 1 move.

1.d4 Anand finally switches to 1.d4, as in the previous games after 1.e4 Anand couldn't do anything against the Berlin.

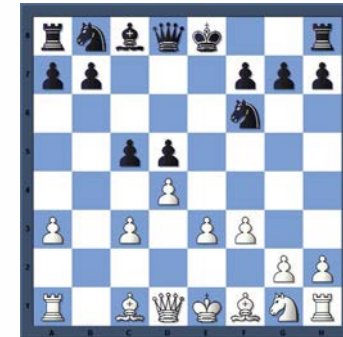
1...♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 I guess it was a little surprise for Anand that Carlsen chose to play the Nimzovich, but of course not a big one.

4.f3! A very fighting move! Anand finally shows that he is ready to go for a real battle.

4...d5 5.a3 ♙xc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 One of the main lines. Anand has played quite a couple of games in this line before.

7.cxd5 exd5 [7...♘xd5 8.dxc5 is the very main line.]

8.e3



8...c4!? An interesting move, clearly prepared by Carlsen. Usually Black doesn't hurry with it and plays 0-0 first. The idea of the immediate c4 is not to let White play Bd3-Bc2. On the other hand, now the queenside is totally closed and it is more easy for White to start a direct attack on the kingside.

9.♘e2 A very logical move. White is preparing to play g4-Bg2-Ng3, which is quite a standard plan.

9...♘c6 The black knight is going to b3. [Maybe a move like 9...h5 would also make sense. Black stops g4 for a while and we know similar ideas with h5 from the Najdorf.]

10.g4 0-0 It is very usual for Black to castle kingside. The position looks dangerous, but with his opening, there is already no choice.

11.♙g2 ♘a5 12.0-0 ♘b3 13.♖a2! Another usual but nice move. The white rook is going to nice square like g2 or maybe even f2 over the 2nd rank.

13...b5 Black quickly starts his play on the queenside. [An attempt to stop White's attack for a while would not bring anything: 13...♖e8 14.g5 ♘h5 15.e4 White is faster.]

14.♘g3 a5 15.g5 White starts his crush on the kingside!

15...♘e8 An important move as it is always better to keep the

knight on e8 in such a structure.

16.e4 White wants to play Bf4 next.

16...♘c7 Black needs to take on c1, as letting White play Bf4 is not an option.

17.♔xc1



17...♖a6! A nice move. Black is at the same time defending against the white attack and preparing the b4 push.

18.e5 A logical move but maybe not the best one. [I think Anand could have been more tricky by starting with 18.f4!? 18...♘c7 (It seems like the position after 18...dxe4 19.♘xe4 b4 20.cxb4 ♔xd4+ 21.♔h1 axb4



22.♖d2 is better for White.) 19.f5 White is sort of trying to win a tempo.]

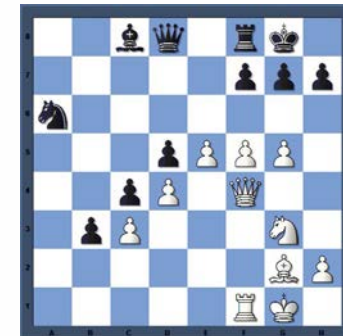
18...♘c7! A very difficult move to play for a human, but computers are very happy with Carlsen's decision. Black doesn't care about White's attack which looks very dangerous and just plays for the b4 push. The funny thing is that Black's only survival idea will soon be to play Ne8 back, but whether Magnus has calculated everything until the end or just trusted his feeling, we will never know. In any case amazing play!

19.f4 What can be more logical for White than to try and bring his pawn to f6!

19...b4 20.axb4 axb4 21.♖xa6 ♘xa6 White forces the black knight to go even more far away from his king.

22.f5 b3 From a human point of view, Black's position just looks lost. White's attack must just be crushing and the b3 pawn is very strong, but only in the endgame. After this move Anand thought for over 40 minutes!

23.♔f4 [Another attacking idea could maybe have been to play 23.♘h5 23...♘c7 24.♔e3 With a lot of different threats. The position is very complicated.]



23...♘c7! The black knight is going back to e8 to defend the g7 square. Really amazing cool play by Carlsen. If we didn't know that a human is playing Black, we might think that Anand is trying to mate an engine!

24.f6 I think Anand panicked a bit too early, or maybe miscalculated the line in the game. [24.♘h5 The position is still very unclear here.]

24...g6 Now the structure is fixed and White must go for the mate at all costs.

25.♙h4 ♘e8 To put the knight on e6 is of course bad because of Bh3.

26.♙h6

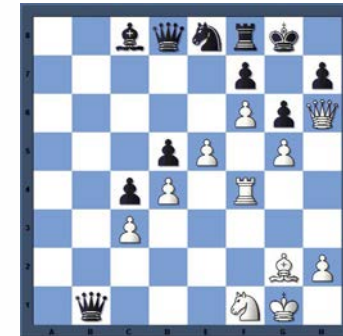


26...b2! A very funny position. All black pieces are on the 8th rank and the rook from f8 is just dead, but it seems like Black is not risking to lose this game! The idea of playing Qa5 or Qb6 next is just too strong.

27.♖f4 Probably the best move.

27...b1=♙+ 28.♘f1?? What a shocking blunder...

[28.♘f1 is the only move to go on. 28...♙d1 Black needs to give back his extra queen to prevent White from mating on the h-file. 29.♖h4 ♙h5 30.♘xh5 gxh5 31.♖xh5 ♘f5 It looks like Black is winning because of Bg6 at the next move, but 32.g6!! is very strong! 32...♘xg6 33.♖g5 With the idea of playing h4-h5 next. Maybe Black's best option is to play 33...Nxf6 and the game would probably end in a draw.]



28...♙e1 Black just stops White from playing Rh4 next and is a full rook up. What a game! Anand was clearly very disappointed that he was not able to mate Carlsen and this might be the only explanation behind his blunder on move 28. Now Carlsen is leading with +3 and there are only 3 games left, which basically makes him the new World Champion. Congratulations! **0-1**

(4) Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime(2742) - Papaioannou, Ioannis(2639) [B01]

19th European Teams(6.1), 2013.11.14
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

1.e4 Vachier-Lagrave was one of the top scorers in the French team which took the bronze medal. With his risky and energetic play he could push his opponent to the limit at an early stage in this game!

1...d5 Not many players still believe in the power of Scandinavian, but Papaioannou is one of them who does and plays it very regularly.

2.exd5 ♖xd5 3.♘f3 Not the main move. [3.♘c3 would lead us to the main lines. 3...♗e5+]

3...♙g4!? A very practical reply for Black who is going for the very fast 0-0-0 and dynamic play.

4.♙e2 ♘c6 After just 4 moves we are almost out of theory, with a very unclear position! This usually happens very rarely in high level games.

5.O-O O-O-O



6.h3!? A good move. Before playing Nc3 or maybe even d4 move, White is checking where the bishop is going.

6...♙xf3 At first sight this move looks like a bad one, but in fact it is not. Black is playing for fast development. [After 6...♙h5 7.♘c3 ♗d6 8.♖e1 White's position is maybe a bit better.]

7.♙xf3 ♗d7 Black's idea is to play Nd4 next and to exchange the knight against the monster bishop on f3, with an equal position.

8.c3 The only way to avoid Nd4.

8...e5 [Black could still have tried to go for the white bishop: 8...♘e5 9.d4 ♘xf3+ 10.♗xf3 With a slightly better position for White.]

9.♖e1 White is stopping f5 for the moment.

9...♘f6 [9...f5 of course didn't work: 10.♙xc6 ♗xc6 11.♖xe5 And Black doesn't have enough compensation for the pawn.]

10.b4 Very provocative play by White. A move like b4 is of course very logical but White is behind a lot with development.

10...♙d6?! Too passive. Now White's bishop pair is going to be very effective. [I think Black should have tried his chances by playing against White's development: 10...e4 11.♙xe4 ♘xe4 12.♖xe4 f5 Being a pawn down is never nice, but the black pieces are much better placed. 13.♖e1 ♙d6 14.d4 ♖de8 And I think Black would have enough play for the pawn.]

11.d3 This move does not stop Black from playing e4.

11...♗f5?! Once again Black doesn't want to give up the pawn.

[11...e4 was clearly the best chance to fight. 12.♙xe4 (12.dxe4 12...♗e6 With an unclear position.) 12...♘xe4 13.♖xe4



13...f5 And Black has enough compensation for the pawn again.]

12. ♖a4 A very aggressive move. [The silent 12. ♖c2 followed by Nd2-Nc4 gives White a clear advantage.]

12... ♗xd3 Black needs to accept the invitation.

13. b5 ♘b8 14. ♕e3! White is very fast with his development his pieces and the monster bishop on f3 will play a decisive role.

14... ♖f5 [It is a pity for Black but 14...e4 doesn't work because of 15. ♖d1 and the black queen on d3 has no moves.]

15. ♘d2 White's last piece is out and now it is of course time to play Qxa7.

15... ♕c5 There are no good moves in a bad position...



16. ♘e4! White continues playing very well. After the black

squared bishop is gone, the white knight will take a great place on c5.

16... ♕xe3 17. ♖xe3 We can now perfectly see why Black should have taken more care about the white bishop on f3.

17... h5 Protecting against Bg4 in some variations.

18. ♖xa7 The a7 pawn died and the b7 is going to die soon. The game is over.

18... ♘d5 19. ♘c5 Black cannot protect the b7 pawn anymore, but with the next move Papaioannou shows us that he has a good sense of humor! :)



19... ♘xe3!! This is clearly more funny than resigning...

20. ♖xb7# And White misses his chance of mating with the bishop by playing 20. Bxb7! :) Great play by Maxime and a very nice game from which we can clearly see how dangerous a bishop pair can be! 1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Godena, M(2501)-Morozevich, A(2727)

European Teams, 2013.11.12

[CEWN]

1... -+



(6) Swiercz, D(2627)-Stefansson, H(2539)

European Teams, 2013.11.12

[CEWN]

1. +-

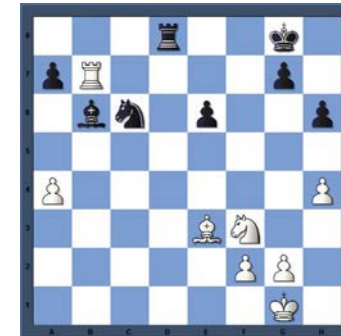


(7) Navara, D(2705)-Giri, A(2732)

European Teams, 2013.11.14

[CEWN]

1... -+

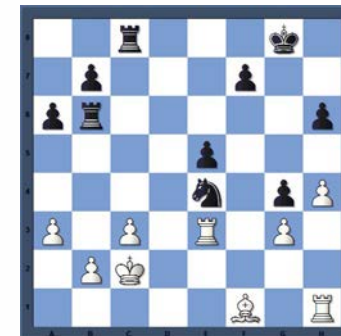


(8) Saric, I(2628)-Banikas, H(2633)

European Teams, 2013.11.15

[CEWN]

1... -+

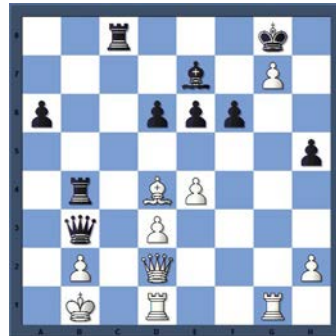


(9) Kotronias, V(2564)-Kozul, Z(2597)

European Teams, 2013.11.15

[CEWN]

1. +-

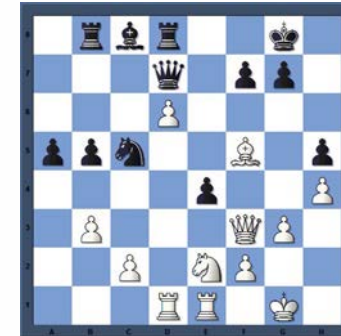


(11) Navara, D(2705)-Jobava, B(2695)

European Teams, 2013.11.17

[CEWN]

1. ±



(10) Swiercz, D(2627)-Saric, I(2628)

European Teams, 2013.11.16

[CEWN]

1... -+



(12) Yang Kaiq(2334)-Wang Yu(2725)

Chinese league, 2013.11.11

[CEWN]

1... -+



(13) Ma, Z(2404)-Zhou Jiancha(2567)

Chinese league, 2013.11.12

[CEWN]

1. +-



(14) Lin Weigu(2454)-Nguyen Ngoc Trungso(2614)

Chinese league, 2013.11.13

[CEWN]

1... ♠

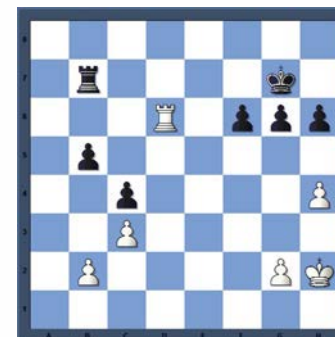


Endgame section

(15) Anand, V.(2775)-Carlsen, M.(2870)

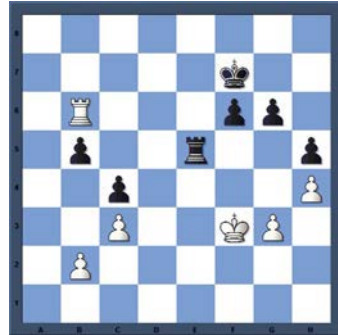
WCh 2013 Chennai, 2013.11.16

[CE Team]



This interesting endgame was reached after passing the first time control. Black has a healthy extra pawn, but his rook is passive. On the other hand the white rook is excellently placed on the 6th rank. It attacks the pawns and stays ready to attack the b5 pawn as well if Black tries to activate his rook. White should be able to hold this.

43...♔f7 [43...h5!? was a better chance according to Carlsen. He admitted that he missed Anand's move in the game... 44.♔g3 ♔f7 45.♔f3 ♖e7 This was in Black's mind. He transfers his rook to e5, which is a serious improvement obviously, but still it should not be enough to win the game.. 46.♖b6 ♖e5 47.g3



Followed by waiting with Kf2-f3. It will be very difficult for Black to make further improvements.]

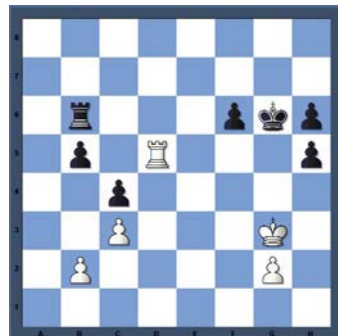
44.h5! A clever pawn sacrifice to destroy the healthy pawn structure. White will only temporarily be two pawns down... [44.♔g3 was also possible. Black will have nothing better than transposing to the 43...h5 line at some point.]

44...gxh5 [44...g5?! is not advisable because it fixes his own pawn on h6. 45.♔g3 ♖e7 46.♗b6 ♗e5 47.♔f3= White plays g4 next and Black cannot make progress.]

45.♗d5! Otherwise Black transfers his rook to e5 and preserves both extra pawns.

45...♔g6 [45...b4 with the idea of bxc3 and Rb3 is always met by 46.♗c5!= Winning the c4 pawn and achieving a draw.]

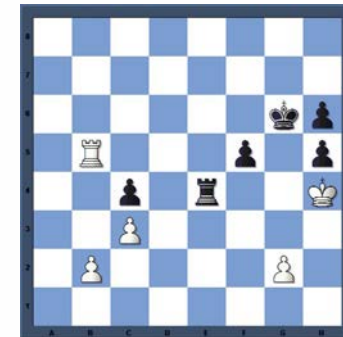
46.♔g3 ♗b6



47.♗c5! A strong waiting move, using the fact that Black has no useful move. If he wants to do something, he must give one of his pawns back.

47...f5 48.♔h4 ♗e6 There was really no more improvement. Carlsen decides to give up his b5 pawn in order to activate his rook. [48...f4 49.♗xh5=]

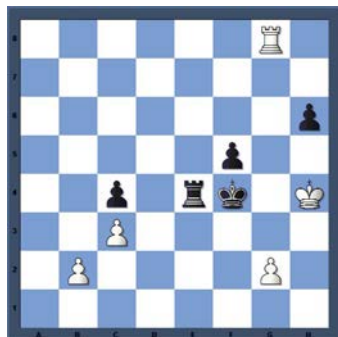
49.♗xb5 ♗e4+



50.♔h3 The game should be an easy draw. I still find it hard to believe that the World Champion simply lost it. Black has two extra pawns on the kingside, but the double isolated h-pawns can hardly be counted as full pawns. Anand was probably expecting a quick finish here, but Carlsen had a very deep last attempt in mind...

50...♔g5 51.♗b8 h4 52.♗g8+ ♔h5

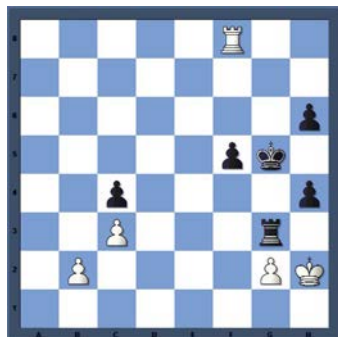
[52...♔f4 53.♖c8 (53.♔xh4? is bad in view of



53...♖e1! Threatening Rh1. 54.♔h5 (54.g3+ 54...♔f3 55.♔h5 loses to the tactical 55...f4! Black creates a passed pawn, because the f4 pawn cannot be taken: 56.gxf4 ♖h1+ 57.♔g6 ♖g1+ 58.♔h7 ♖xg8 59.♔xg8 ♔xf4— and the h-pawn promotes...) 54...♖e2! 55.♔xh6 ♖xb2 Black plays Rc2 next, while after 56.♖c8 ♖xg2 57.♖xc4+ ♔e3 the f-pawn runs and the white king is poorly placed.) 53...♔e3 54.♖c5 ♖f4 55.♖d5= White holds easily.]

53.♖f8 ♖f4 54.♖c8 Anand curiously waits to see how Black tries to make progress... [White could always play 54.♖b8 followed by b3. White should also take care of the Rf1-h1 and rook checks along the 3rd rank, but both can be prevented with the simple Kh2.]

54...♖g4 55.♖f8 ♖g3+ 56.♔h2 ♔g5

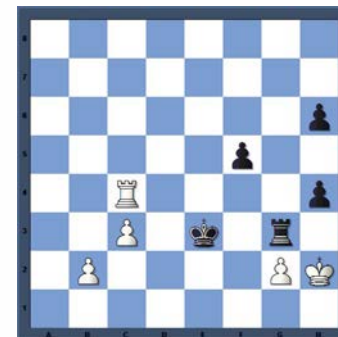


57.♖g8+? Anand misses the fantastic idea of Carlsen... Both players said this was the decisive mistake at the press conference. However the computer would still have saved White with some miraculous line... [White should simply have forced the rook back to g4. 57.♖c8 57...♖g4 58.♔h3= And a draw would have been agreed soon.]

57...♔f4!! Brilliant! At first sight it looks like a blunder because White obtains connected passed pawns after Rc8, but Black is able to create a passed f-pawn, which turns out to be much more relevant than the white ones.

58.♖c8! [58.♖e8? loses to 58...h3! 59.gxh3 ♖e3 Suddenly White is in trouble... 60.♖c8 ♖e2+ 61.♔g1 ♔g3 62.♔f1 ♖xb2 63.♖xc4 f4— wins.]

58...♔e3 59.♖xc4



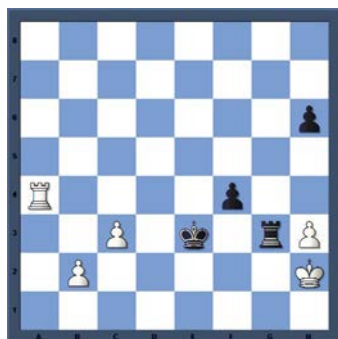
59...f4! White cannot avoid h3! and suddenly the f-pawn becomes extremely dangerous. What a change in the game in just 2 moves. Instead of agreeing to a draw, Black has decisive threats!

60.♖a4? This is actually the decisive mistake. [The machines found the study-like salvation for White with 60.b4! The only move! 60...h3 61.gxh3 ♖g6 62.♖c8 f3 63.♖e8+ ♔d3



64.b5! f2 (64...♖g2+ 65.♔h1 ♜b2 The king must be cut along the g-file and not on the 2nd rank, because now 66.♔g1! holds. In comparison to the lines after 60.Ra4, the black king always stands on e3 and there he wins after Rb1 and f2, as White does not have Kf2...) 65.♜f8 ♔e2 66.♜e8+ ♔d2 (Black cannot make progress after 66...♔f1 67.c4 ♜g2+ 68.♔h1 ♜g1+=) 67.♜f8=; 60.♜c8 immediately loses to 60...♔f2! 61.♜f8 ♜xg2+ 62.♔h3 f3 63.b4 ♜g3+ 64.♔xh4 ♔g2--+]

60...h3! 61.gxh3



61...♜g6! Black is ready to advance his f-pawn. A very interesting situation, because without the c- and b-pawns White could easily hold by giving side checks. White is unable to get rid of the pawns...

62.c4 [62.b4 62...f3 63.♜a8 ♜g2+ 64.♔h1 ♜e2! loses like in the 63. Ra8 line.]

62...f3 63.♜a3+ [63.b4 63...f2 transposes to the game.; Now 63.♜a8 loses to 63...♜g2+ 64.♔h1 ♜e2! 65.♜e8+ (65.♔g1? 65...♜e1+ 66.♔h2 f2) 65...♔d2 66.♜d8+ (66.♜f8 66...f2 67.♔g2 ♔e1--+) 66...♔e1 67.♜a8 ♜e5--+ Freeing the e2 square for the king and f2 next wins.]

63...♔e2 64.b4 f2 65.♜a2+ ♔f3 66.♜a3+ ♔f4 White should continue checking with his rook, but his pawns are preventing this. Really shocking...

67.♜a8 [67.♜a1 loses to 67...♜e6! and Re1 next. 68.♔g2 (68.♜f1 68...♔f3--+) 68...♜e1--+]

67...♜g1! White resigned. A really painful loss, especially in such an important game. Probably only Carlsen could believe that he can still win this game. **0-1**

(16) Morozevich, Alexander(2727)- Van Kampen, Robin(2618)

19th European Teams(8.3), 2013.11.16
[CE Team]



We are in the 8th round in the final game between Russia and the Netherlands. At the moment the score is 2-1 for Russia, so Van Kampen has to win the game and his position is totally winning. It is never easy to play under big pressure but for a professional chess player this is one of the important things you must be able to do.

51. Nc3 Rg1+ Black had a lot of winning moves but this move looks like the most simple one. The g5 pawn is attacked by the rook and Black has enough time to bring the king closer.

52. Kf4 Kc6



53. Kf5! Morozevich takes his practical chance.

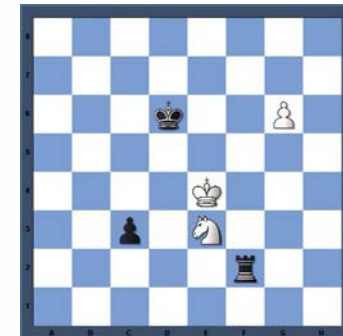
53... Kd6? This move is still winning, but it is a bad practical decision. In winning positions it is important to win as fast as possible to give yourself no chances of going wrong. [53... Rg3! would end the game on the spot. 54. Nc2 (54. Kf4 didn't help either: 54... Rg2 [

54. g6 Now White at least has some theoretical chances for a draw. White's idea is to give back the g6 pawn and quickly run back to d3 with the king.

54... Rg3 The usual idea.

55. Nc2 Rg2 56. Nc3 Rf2+! Van Kampen chooses the right path. White cannot stop Black from playing c2 next.

57. Kf4



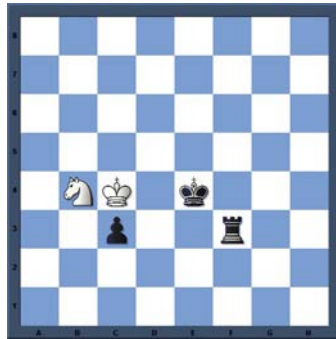
57... Ke6?? What a shocking mistake. I have to admit that the arising position looks totally winning, which can be a little excuse, but I think that Robin's team mates had a bit of a heart attack when they saw this move. [To win the game Van Kampen had to make a little calculation: 57...c2 58.g7 The moves are forced. 58...c1=Q 59.g8=Q Qb1+ 60.Kd4 Qd2+ With mate to follow in a few moves.]

58. g7 White is pushing the black king as far away as possible.

58...♔f7 59.♔d3 ♚f3 I guess Van Kampen thought that this position should be easily winning, but in fact it is already a draw!

60.♔d4 ♔xg7 61.♘c2 ♔f6 62.♔c4 We have a funny position. White cannot win the c-pawn, but on the other hand the black king cannot come closer, only over the g3 square, which would give White enough time for Kb3-Nb4 and Nd5. What a dramatic finish of the game.

62...♔e5 63.♘b4 ♔e4

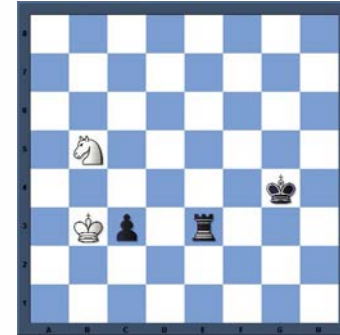


64.♘c2 ♚h3 65.♘b4 ♚g3 66.♘c2 ♚f3 Van Kampen tries, but he can't cross the 3rd rank with his king.

67.♘b4 ♔f5 68.♘c2 ♔g4 Now that the black king is far away, White is in time to win the c-pawn.

69.♘d4 ♚g3 70.♔b3 Black cannot do anything against Nb5-Nxc3 next.

70...♚e3 71.♘b5



71...♔f4 72.♘xc3 ♔e5 73.♔c4 And of course there are no practical chances of winning such an endgame at all.

73...♚h3 74.♘b5 ♚h8 75.♘c3 ♚c8+ Van Kampen keeps on playing for a few moves just to let the air out.

76.♔d3 ♚d8+ 77.♔c4 ♚d4+ 78.♔c5 ♚d3 79.♔c4 ♚xc3+ 80.♔xc3 What a lucky end for the Russian team and a big disaster for Van Kampen! **1/2-1/2**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Bronstein, David I-Kortschnoj, Viktor[D87]

Belgrade(15), 1964

[Miton Kamil]

I chose this game because it was suggested to me by one of our readers, so if there is a game you would like to see commented, don't hesitate to drop us an email!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♙g7 7.♙c4 c5 8.♘e2 O-O 9.O-O ♘c6 10.♙e3 We are at the beginning of the Bc4-Ne2 line in the Grunfeld Defence. Now Black has several ways to play.



10...♘a5 One of the typical moves in this opening because very often Black's idea is to play over the c-file and c4 square. Black could also play [

a) 10...♙g4 11.f3 ♘a5 12.♙d3 (12.♙xf7+ 12...♙xf7 13.fxg4 ♙xf1+ 14.♙xf1 This famous position was played many times between Kasparov and Karpov.) 12...cxd4 13.cxd4 ♙e6 14.d5 Otherwise Black will come to c4. 14...♙xa1 15.♙xa1 f6 16.♙d4 White has the initiative on the dark squares.;

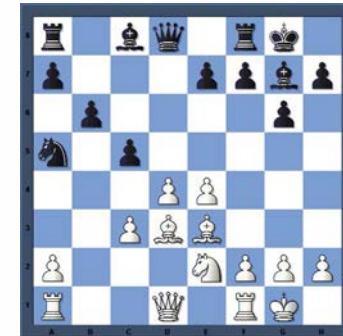
b) 10...♙c7 With the idea of playing Rd8.;

c) 10...e6 has recently become popular as well and the idea is not to allow the h4-h5 plan which sometimes makes sense.;

d) 10...b6!?]

11.♙d3 [11.♙b5 The idea of this move is to provoke a6 and then the b6 square can be weak but of course Black can simply answer 11...♙d7∞]

11...b6



12.♙a4!? White had to develop the queen but this square is not the best one in my opinion. [12.♙d2!↑The main move. White's idea is play Bh6 to weaken the black king after exchanging the bishops and then start an attack (maybe with f4-f5).; 12.dxc5 This move usually gives Black good play because the bishop on g7 starts to play and the white structures is also destroyed. 12...♙c7 13.cxb6 axb6 With good compensation.]

12...e5 A logical move. Black is fighting for the center.

13.♙ad1 [13.d5 Usually the position with a strong pawn on d5 should be good for White but in this case Black will get a strong blocked knight on d6 and after the thematic f5 move Black will get counterplay on the kingside. 13...♘b7↪(13...♙d7 14.♙b5 ♙xb5 15.♙xb5 This option without the light squared bishops is better for White.)]

13...♙d7 [13...cxd4 14.cxd4 exd4 15.♘xd4 ♙b7∞]

14.♙a3 Now when the pawn is already placed on e5 White

has more options to take on c5, so Black plays

14...cxd4 [14...c4? When the pawn is still on d4 this move makes no sense. 15.♖c2 With idea f4.]

15.cxd4 exd4



16.♖xd4! Black's position is very solid and without weaknesses so White's chance is to create pressure against the black king, which is why White exchanges bishops. [16.♗xd4 16...♖xd4 (16...♖c8 17.♖a6+; 16...♖e8 simplest 17.h3!? Preparing f4. 17...♖e7 And Black is very solid.) 17.♖xd4 ♖g4 18.♖a1 ♖xd1 19.♖xd1∞]

16...♖xd4 17.♗xd4



17...♖g4? It is hard to believe that this active move which forces further exchanges is bad for Black. Black should have played [17...♖f6 18.♖a6 ♖fe8 with Rad8 next, then Black's

position should be very solid and White's plans to push f4-e5 will be not easy to realize.]

18.♖e2 ♖xe2 19.♗xe2 After the bishops exchange White has more chances to attack the black king, especially when the knight will come to d5. And additional problem for Black is that the knight on a5 is very far from the play and needs 2 moves to be improved.

19...♖e8 [19...♖f6 20.♗c3 ♗c4 21.♖b3 ♖ac8 22.♗d5 ♖e6 23.f4↑XKg8; 19...♖g5 20.f4 ♖c5+ Exchanging the queens will not help Black now as the c-pawn will be weak. 21.♖xc5 bxc5 22.♖d5 ♖fc8 23.♖c1 ♗b7 24.♗f2 Xc5]

20.♗c3 f6



21.♗d5↑ ♖f7 [21...♖xe4 22.♖fe1 ♖c2 23.♖e7 The black pieces are too far to help the king. 23...♖f7 24.♗xf6+ ♗g7 25.♗e8+ ♗g8 26.♖h4 ♖c3 27.♖e7+--]

22.♖fe1 Preparing the e5 break.

22...♖f8 23.♖g3 The queen comes to the kingside and the white pieces are very well placed.

23...♞c6



24.h4 With the idea to further weaken the black king.

24...♞h8 [24...♞e8 25.h5 g5 26.f4 h6 27.e5! My intuition tells me that White should be close to winning here. 27...fxe5 28.fxg5 hxg5 29.♞f1 ♞h8 30.♞xg5 ♞e6 31.♞xf7 ♞xf7 32.♞f1→]

25.♞c1 ♞b4 26.♞c7 [26.♞c7 26...♞xd5 27.exd5 ♞d8 28.d6 ♞xc7 29.dxc7 ♞c8 30.h5± Black should not be able to hold this position with an unpleasant pawn on c7 and a weak king.]

26...♞c8 27.h5 [27.♞e6 27...♞xc1 28.♞xc1 ♞e8 29.♞d6 ♞d3 30.♞c7 ♞e5 (30...♞xc7 31.♞xc7 ♞f7 32.♞d8+ ♞g7 33.♞e8+- Xf6) 31.f4 ♞g4 32.♞xf7 ♞xf7 33.♞d8+ ♞g8 34.♞e7 White is dominating thanks to his active pieces.]

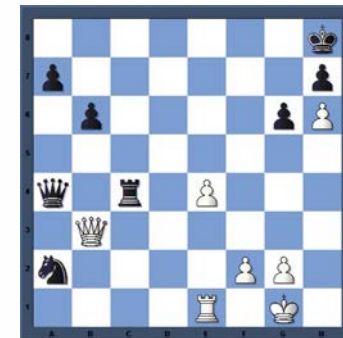


27...♞xa2? Black missed his chance to create more problems

as after taking the a2 pawn the knight will be not able to help defending the king anymore. [27...♞h6 The c7 knight is temporarily pinned and White lost some coordination. 28.e5!? than 28...♞d5 29.exf6 ♞xf6 30.hxg6 ♞xg6 The knight on f6 is much stronger than on a2! The black king is safe now. 31.♞e5]

28.♞c4 [28.hxg6 28...♞xc1 29.gxf7 ♞d3 30.♞a1 ♞xf7 31.♞b5 ♞c1+ 32.♞xc1 ♞xc1∞]

28...b5? is losing immediately. Black could still have fought after [28...♞g8 Not a bad place for the queen because it is protecting the g6 pawn and creating some ideas over the a2-g8 diagonal, but it was not easy to find this move. 29.h6 (29.e5 29...♞xc7 30.♞xc7 ♞xc7 31.exf6 ♞c1 32.♞xc1 ♞xc1 33.♞e5 ♞f7 And Black is fighting.) 29...♞d7 30.♞d5 ♞xc4 31.♞xf6 ♞d8 32.♞xd7 ♞xd7 33.♞b3 White recaptures the knight and although the material is equal White has an advantage because the black king is so weak. 33...♞a4?



This move loses because of the nice 34.♞d1! ♞g8 35.♞d8+ ♞f7 36.♞f3+ ♞e6 37.♞g4+ And White is mating.; 28...♞b4 29.♞ec1→; 28...gxh5 29.♞e6 ♞e8 30.♞xc8 ♞xc8 31.♞d6 ♞d7 32.♞f4 ♞f7 33.♞f5+- Black is not able to prevent a few threats like Rd1-Rd8 or Ng5.]

29. ♖e6 ♜e8 30. ♖xc8 ♜xc8 31. hxg6 hxg6



32. ♜h4+ ♜g8 33. ♜g4 Black is forced to make further weaknesses.

33...g5 [33...♜h8 34. ♖d1+-]

34. ♜f5 ♜d7 35. e5+- Now Black's position is hopeless.

35...fxe5 36. ♜xg5+ ♜h8 37. ♜xe5+ ♜g8 38. ♜g5+ White is simply winning.

38...♜h8 39. ♜h5+ ♜h7 [39...♜g8 40. ♖e5+-]

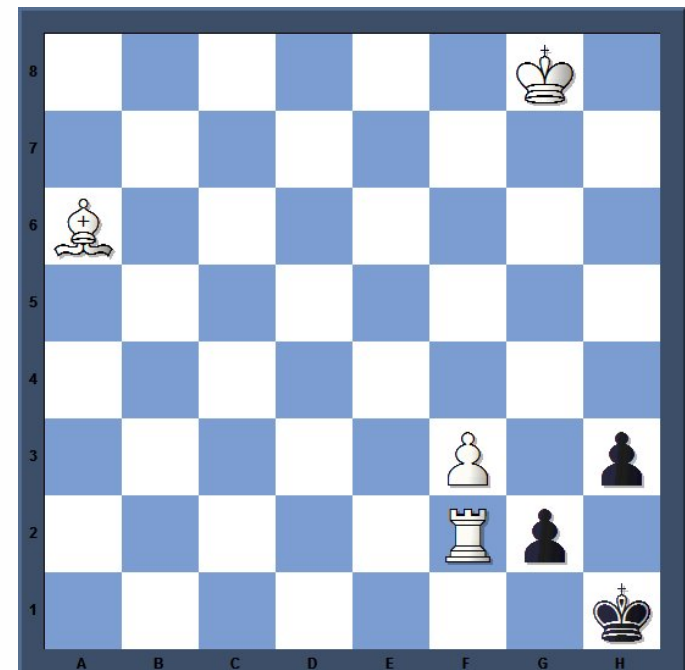
40. ♜e5+ ♜g8 41. ♜g5+ ♜h8 42. ♜f6+ 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Beasly

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(19) Mamedov, R(2647)-Petkov, V(2570)

European Teams, 2013.11.09

[Solutions]

43. ♖f5+! [43. ♙c1+ 43... ♚g7=]

43... ♙g5 44. ♖h4!! 1-0 [44. ♖h4 44... ♖xd7 45. ♙c1+ ♘f4 46. ♙xf4#]

(20) Giri, A(2732)-Jones, R(2435)

European Teams, 2013.11.09

[Solutions]

12. ♖xe4! ♚b6 [12... ♚xe1 13. ♖xd6+-]

13. ♖xd6+-

(21) Pelletier, Y(2575)-Nabaty, T(2580)

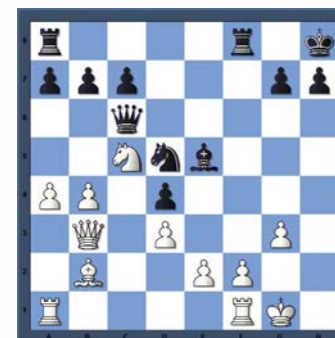
European Teams, 2013.11.09

[Solutions]

32. ♚xe8+! ♚xe8 33. ♖d8 ♚f8 34. c8=♚ ♙xc8 35. ♖xc8 ♚xc8 36. ♖xc8+-

(22) Socko, B(2661)-Mamedyarov, S(2757)

European Teams, 2013.11.10

[Solutions]

23... ♖f4!! 24. ♖e4 [24. gxf4 24... ♚g6+ 25. ♙h1 ♖xf4+-]

24... ♖xe2+ 25. ♙g2 ♚g6+-

(23) Jobava, B(2695)-Meier, G(2623)

European Teams, 2013.11.10

[Solutions]



28. ♖xh7! ♕g3 [28... ♖xh7 29. ♖xf6+ ♖g7 30. ♖xd6+-]

29. ♖xg3+-

(24) Petrosian, T(2660)-Fedorchuk, S(2666)

European Teams, 2013.11.11

[Solutions]



38... ♖e2!! 39. ♕xe2 ♖xf2+ 40. ♔h1 ♖xe2+-

(25) Saric, I(2628)-Nabaty, T(2580)

European Teams, 2013.11.11

[Solutions]



17. ♕xf7+!! ♔xf7 [17... ♔h8 18. ♖xe5! ♖xd1 (18... ♕f5 19. ♖xe1+-) 19. ♖g6#]

18. ♖xe5+ ♔e6 [18... ♖g8 19. ♖b3+! ♔h8 20. ♖g6#]

19. ♕d4+- [19. ♖g4+! 19... ♔xe5 20. ♖xg7+! ♖f6 (20... ♔xe4 21. ♖xe1+ ♔f5 22. ♖e5+ ♔f4 23. ♖g3#; 20... ♔d5 21. ♖d1+-) 21. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 22. ♕d4+-]

(26) Nevednichy, V(2590)-Gdanski, J(2518)

European Teams, 2013.11.11

[Solutions]



14. ♕xd5! ♕xd5 15. e3! ♖f5 [15... ♖e6 16. e4+-]

16. e4+-

(27) Matlakov, M(2700)-Ftacnik, L(2545)

Czech league, 2013.11.03

[Solutions]



40. ♖f4!! 1-0 [40. ♖f4 40... ♜xf4 (40... ♜c8 41. ♙xf1+-) 41. ♜d8+ ♜g7 42. ♜g8#]

(28) Swiercz, D(2627)-Khenkin, I(2612)

European Team, 2013.11.09

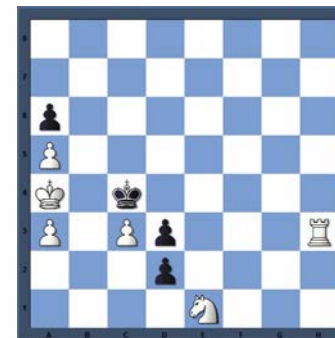
[Solutions]



41. ♜xg6+! hxg6 42. ♜e6+ 1-0 [42. ♜e6+ 42... ♜h7 (42... ♜h8 43. ♜e5+ ♜h7 44. ♜g7#) 43. ♜d7+ ♜g8 44. ♜g7#]

(29) Afansiev

[Solutions]



1. ♜h4+! ♜xc3 [1... ♜d5 2. ♜d4+ ♜e6 (2... ♜c6 3. ♜c4+! ♜b7?? 4. ♜b4+ ♜a7 5. ♜b1+-) 3. ♜e4+! ♜f5 4. ♜f4+! ♜g6 (4... ♜xf4? 5. ♜xd3+ ♜e3 6. ♜b2; 4... ♜g5? 5. ♜f3+!) 5. ♜g4+ ♜h5 6. ♜h4+! ♜g6= (6... ♜xh4? 7. ♜f3+-)]

2. ♜c4+! ♜xc4 3. ♜c2!! ♜c3 [3... d1=♜= ; 3... dxc2=]

4. ♜e3! ♜d4 5. ♜d1 ♜c4 6. ♜c3! ♜xc3=



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 92

29th of November 2013

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Editorial Preface

At the moment we can only see one major chess event going on and this is the World Team Championship in Turkey. Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, USA and China all came here with their best team to win the competition. After 5 rounds, Armenia has a solid lead but we can expect very exciting games and moments in the last 4 rounds.

In the German Bundesliga there are no changes as the team of Baden Baden keeps on winning.

In the current issue we are analyzing the games from the World Team Championship and from the Bundesliga.

We wish you a lot of chess fun with the current issue of CEWN!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Kramnik, Vladimir(2793)
- Aronian, Levon(2801) [D44]

World Teams 2013(1), 2013.11.26
[Balogh Csaba]

It is always nice to watch the World Nr.2 against the Nr.3, especially when they play such an exciting game.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 c6 5.♙g5 dxc4 The Botvinnik variation of the Slav defence is a guarantee for a very interesting fight!

6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.♙h4 g5

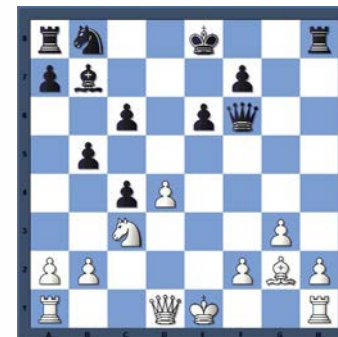


9.♘xg5 hxg5 10.♙xg5 This is of course just the beginning of the theory. Thousands of games were played here so far according to the database. It is very interesting to follow the battle of the probably two best-prepared players of our time in such a sharp line.

10...♙e7!? This is the first surprise. 10...Nbd7 is by far the most common move, but of course the text is also a well-analyzed one.

11.exf6 ♙xf6 12.♙xf6 ♖xf6 13.g3 White had alternatives here, but Kramnik follows the main line.

13...♙b7 14.♙g2



14...♘a6 It is clear that both players were still just at the beginning of their preparation. There are still hundreds of games in the database. Here theory considers 3 main moves.

15.♘e4 The most common move again. [15.♘xb5 seems to lead to a draw after 15...O-O-O! 16.♖a4 cxb5 17.♙xb7+ ♖xb7 18.♖xb5+ ♖a8 White is forced to give perpetual check. 19.♖c6+ (19.♖xa6? loses to 19...♖f3! and White gets mated. 0-0 runs into Rxh2 and mate in a few moves.) 19...♖b8 20.♖b5+ ♖a8 21.♖c6+; 15.a4 is the third option.]

15...♖e7 16.O-O O-O-O Here comes the novelty!



17.h4!? As we will see, White wants to attack with a4, but in that case Black gets strong counterplay with f5. The point of the novelty is to work out the g5 square for the knight.

It is clear that Aronian's camp has also analyzed this idea. [17.a4 happened before in all the games, when Black replies with 17...f5 18.axb5 (18.♘c3!? was considered to be the critical line before this game. It is clear that both players know something here. 18...b4 19.♘e2 c5 20.♙c2) 18...cxb5 19.♖xa6 ♗xa6 20.♘c5 ♙xc5 21.dxc5 ♖xd1 22.♖xd1 b4 is given as a draw after a few more moves.]

17...c5! Black needs to act quickly, otherwise his king gets much more vulnerable after a4!

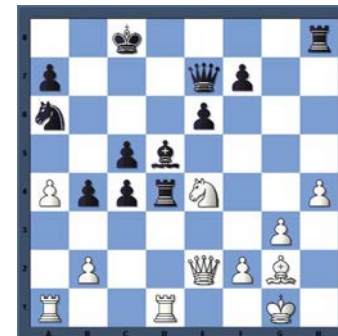
18.a4! The standard attack. White wants to open the a-file, which is why Black is forced to push b4, but then the c4 pawn becomes a target.

18...♖xd4 19.♙e2 b4 The following couple of moves are all connected to the c4 pawn.



20.♖fd1 White tries to remove the defender of the c4 pawn.

20...♗d5 Black stabilizes.



21.♖ac1! Showing a clear intention for an exchange sacrifice. After taking on c4, Black loses his strong bishop on d5 and suddenly the queen combined with the two very active minor pieces are creating serious threats against the naked black king.

21...♖xd1+! Black lures the rook away from the c4 square. [Some random move, for instance 21...♖d8 would run into 22.♖xd4 cxd4 23.♖xc4+! ♗xc4 24.♙xc4+ ♘c7 25.♘c5 With a huge attack.]

22.♖xd1 ♖d8



23.♖c1! Kramnik returns to his strategy! Additionally he wants to play Nd2, gaining the c4 pawn without a sacrifice.

23...♔b7!? Aronian is searching for counterplay along the h1-a8 diagonal. He threatens to win a piece with f5. However Kramnik found a very strong answer!

24.♖xc4! ♕c6 How to deal with the f5 threat? [24...♗xc4 loses to 25.♘d6+ The queen is hanging with check. 25...♔b8 26.♕xc4 ♕b6 27.♘xf7+- Black is hopeless.]

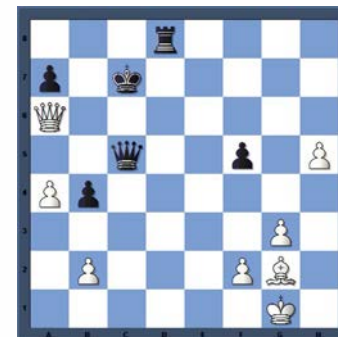


25.h5!! Brilliant! Kramnik realizes that f5 is not really a threat, so he advances his passed pawn. [25.♖c1 is bad because of 25...f5 26.♗xc5 ♘xc5]

25...f5 26.♗xc5! ♗xc4 [And the point is that 26...♗xc5? runs into 27.♕c2! and White wins!]

27.♕xc4 ♕xc5 28.♕xe6+! White takes another pawn before capturing the knight, otherwise Black could have protected it with Kd7.

28...♔c7 29.♕xa6 White is slightly better materially with two pawns and a bishop against the rook and the h-pawn has a big power. The question is whether Black is able to organize counterplay against the white king or not.



29...♖d1+ [On 29...♖d2 Kramnik intended to play 30.♕b7+ ♔d6 31.♕b8+ ♔d7 32.♕f4 White consolidates and the b2 pawn cannot be taken because of 32...♖xb2 33.h6+-]

30.♔h2 f4 [On 30...♕xf2! was stronger. 31.h6! f4! seems to save Black. White has nothing better than perpetual check.]

31.♕b7+ [White might have tried 31.♕e2! 31...fxg3+ 32.fxg3 ♖d7 33.♗f3+= Keeping the initiative, but of course it will be very difficult to convert the advantage.]

31...♔d8 32.♕a8+ ♔e7 33.♕e4+ ♔d8 34.♕a8+ Getting closer to the first time control.

34...♔e7 35.♕e4+ ♔d8 36.♕xf4 A good practical decision to keep the pawn shield around the white king. [A nice line is 36.♕f3 36...♖d2 37.h6 ♖xf2 38.h7 White seems to win, but... 38...fxg3+ 39.♕xg3 ♖xg2+! 40.♕xg2 ♕c7+ 41.♔g1 the pawn cannot be taken because of Qa8 and Qxa7 wins the queen, but after 41...♕c1+ 42.♕f1 ♕g5+= Black holds the draw.]

36...♕xh5+ 37.♗h3 ♕c5! Black consolidates. The only way to make progress would be to advance the pawns, but that is risky because it opens the king's position.

38.a5 ♖d5 [38...♕xa5 was also possible and White probably doesn't have anything better than perpetual, but Aronian did not want to take his queen away from its active position.]

39. ♖f6+ ♔e8 40. ♖e6+ ♔f8 41. ♖f6+ ♔e8 The time trouble is over. Kramnik continues pushing.

42. ♗g4 ♚d4 Black would happily trade the queens because the kingside pawns are not advanced far enough, therefore he has enough time to catch the b2 or the a5 pawn.

43. ♖e6+ ♔f8 44. ♖h6+ ♔e7 45. ♖e6+ ♔f8 46. ♗g2 ♖d6 47. ♖c8+ ♔g7 48. ♖c7+ ♔f8 49. ♖c8+ ♔g7 A great fighting draw! **1/2-1/2**

**(2) Nakamura, Hikaru(2786)
- Kramnik, Vladimir(2793) [E32]**

World Teams 2013(2.2), 2013.11.27
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We know that these two players don't like each other too much and recently Nakamura showed great personal results against Kramnik. In the current game it seems like Kramnik manages to almost equalize but not completely and this is where Nakamura is taking over with great positional play and a very pretty final calculation. We will see a great game by the American Number 1.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♘c3 ♗b4 4. ♚c2 Quite an interesting choice by Nakamura. Lately Kramnik showed great results in the Nimzo with 4. Qc2 but it seems not to bother the American.

4...O-O 5.a3 ♗xc3+ 6. ♖xc3 d5 7. ♘f3 We are in the main line, nothing new so far.

7...dxc4 8. ♖xc4 b6 Black's main idea in this line is to develop quickly and push the c5 move, with big exchanges.

9. ♗g5 ♗a6



10. ♖c3!? An interesting move. The main one is 10.Qa4.

10...h6 A very logical move and quickly played by Kramnik. White needs to decide what to do with the bishop on g5.

11.♗xf6 [After 11.♗h4 11...♞bd7 Black keeps the important option of playing g5 in a good moment.]

11...♞xf6 12.g3 Of course White has to develop his bishop.

12...♗b7 13.♗g2 ♞a6 A very strange looking move to me. I think Black could have avoided placing the knight to such a passive position. [13...c5 looks much more logical. 14.dxc5 (14.O-O 14...♞d7 just looks equal.) 14...♞xc3+ 15.bxc3



15...♞c8 And I think this position is just a draw.]

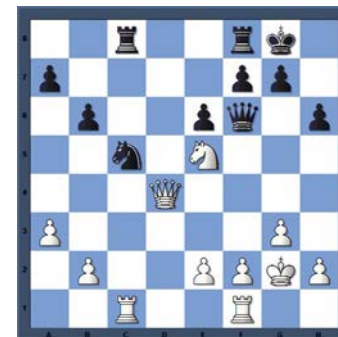
14.O-O c5 15.♞ac1 The position looks like it is close to equal, but Black has to suffer a bit because of the bad knight on a6.

15...♞ac8 Preparing for cxd4.

16.♞e5! A very good practical choice. With this move White chases the queen from f6 and the knight a6 is still in danger of not finding any good square.

16...cxd4 After this move the position is getting very tricky for Black. [Maybe the best option was still to play 16...♗xg2 17.♞xg2 ♞f5 and the black queen is coming back into the game.]

17.♞xd4 ♗xg2 18.♞xg2 ♞c5 The black knight is finally out, but not for long.



19.b4! White is using the moment. b4 is a typical strategic decision in an endgame as the threat of playing b5 followed by Nc6 could be deadly.

19...♞b3 The black knight has nowhere to go.

20.♞xc8 ♞xc8 [Black can of course not take the queen: 20...♞xd4 21.♞xf8+ ♞xf8 22.♞d7+-]

21.♞d7! Another very good move. White is forcing the black rook to go back to a passive square on f8.

21...♞f8 22.f4 An aggressive approach. [After 22.♞f3 Black would face huge trouble. The knight on b3 is almost caught. White's position is much better.]

22...♞f5 Better later than never. Black finally activates his queen.

23.♞f3 ♞c2 24.♞d3 A good move. The endgame is far away from being a draw.

24...♞xd3 25.♞xd3 ♞c1 The black knight is almost caught.

26.♞d2 [I think that after 26.♞d7 26...♞xe2 27.♞xa7 White should also have very good winning chances.]

26...♖c8



27.h4 An usual move, Nakamura just wants to play h5 and fix the black pawn structure. The knight on c1 is cut and is going nowhere. [The direct 27.b5 would probably also lead to about the same position as in the game.]

27...h5 28.b5 The knight is going to the best possible position on c6.

28...♖c7 29.♘c6 ♔h7 Black's position is very ugly. White just wanted to play Rd8-Ra8 and win a pawn.

30.♖b2 The black knight is totally cut off.

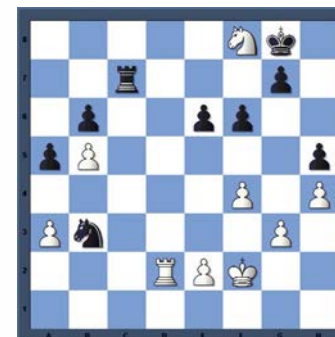
30...a5 31.♔f2 Nice technical play. White is improving the position of his king and wants to play Ke3-Kd2 next.

31...♖d7 32.♘e5 Now Ne5 comes with a tempo.

32...♖c7 33.♖d2! White returns to the d-file, but now Rd6 or Rd7 are both looking deadly as the b6 pawn is going down.

33...f6 34.♘d7 ♘b3 35.♘f8+ Nakamura calculates until the end. [35.♖d6 would also lead to a winning position for White.]

35...♔g8



36.♖d7! was Nakamura's key idea. Before taking the pawn on e6 White is fixing the 7th rank, so Black is forced to exchange the rooks.

36...♖xd7 37.♘xd7 ♘d4 Kramnik tries his last practical chance, but of course Nakamura has calculated it before playing 36. Rd7!

38.a4 ♘xb5 If Black lost the b6 pawn White would be winning anyway.

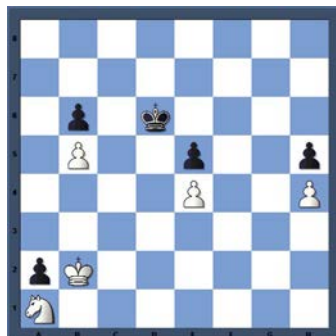
39.axb5 a4 40.♘c5 Of course! The white knight easily stops the a-pawn and the game is over.

40...a3 [40...bxc5 41.b6 a3 42.b7 a2 43.b8=♔+ White is queening first with a check.]

41.♘b3 a2 42.♔e3 It is hard to say why Kramnik continued the game here... The rest doesn't need any comments.

42...♔f7 43.♔d4 ♔e7 44.e4 e5+ 45.fxe5 ♔e6 46.♘a1 fxe5+ 47.♔c3 g5 48.♔b2 gxh4

49. gxf4 ♔d6



50. ♖b3 All in all a great game by Nakamura who made great use of the bad position of the black knight and finished the game with a great combination on move 36. **1-0**

(3) Aronian, Levon(2801)
- Nakamura, Hikaru(2786) [D56]

World Teams 2013(3.5), 2013.11.28

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We will now face a very important game from the 2 leading teams, the USA and Armenia. The clash between these two Top 5 players ended in favor of Aronian, who once again showed a great preparation followed by very nice place in the rook endgame. Let's take a more detailed look at what happened.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♙g5 Could it be Aronian is avoiding the Vienna?! [4.♘c3 4...dxc4]

4...♙e7 5.♘c3 And we are back in the main Queen's gambit.

5...h6 6.♙h4 O-O 7.e3 ♘e4 [7...b6 is the other very popular line.]

8.♙xe7 ♔xe7



9.♞c1 This is still theory and will be for many moves. From a general point of view it is easy to see what's going on. White is a bit better developed but Black's position is very solid. Black is trying to exchange as much as possible to reach a little worse position but hold on to a draw.

9...c6 10.♙d3 ♘xc3 [Of course a move like 10...f5 just looks

bad...]

11.♖xc3 dxc4 12.♖xc4!? A very interesting approach. The main move is 12.Bxc4.

12...♘d7 Black is of course playing for the main idea in the line and that is to play e5.

13.0-0 e5 14.♙c2 This seems to be White's key idea. The threat of playing Qd3 next is quite unpleasant and if Black would play 14...exd4 15.Rxd4 White would be dominating on the d-file, which would leave him with some advantage.

14...♘b6 The most critical move.

15.♖c5 [Of course not 15.♖d3?? 15...e4]

15...exd4 16.♖d3 It is clear that Aronian is still in his preparation, but Nakamura was already probably out as he was spending quite some time for his next moves.

16...g6 The only move.



17.♙b3! By threatening to play Qxg6 next White is winning an important tempo and the control over the d5 square.

17...♙g7 [17...♖xc5 is of course losing. 18.♖xg6+ ♔h8 19.♖xh6+ ♙g8 And after the very strong 20.e4!! White is totally winning.]

18.♖xd4+ ♖f6 19.♖e5 White should of course keep the queens on the board.

19...♙d7 [Maybe Black could have tried 19...♖d8 20.♖b4 ♘d5 21.♙xd5 cxd5 but here too after 22.♖e7 White seems to be better.]

20.h4! a great move and played very quickly by Aronian. What a preparation one more time by the World Nr2.

20...♖ad8 The most logical reply in a complicated position.

21.h5 And now we can see White's main idea is to crush Black's pawn structure on the kingside.

21...♙f5 Once again Black finds a very safe move. The bishop is taking a great place on f5.

22.♖c3 It seems like this move just leads to an about equal endgame. [Maybe a better try would have been 22.♖b4 With a very complex position.]



22...♙g4? After playing great defensive moves, Nakamura makes a mistake. [I think the endgame after 22...♘d7 23.♖a5 ♖xc3 24.bxc3 ♙d3 looks pretty equal, maybe White could be a little better, but this is the maximum.]

23.hxg6 The position is very sharp, but Black is in a bit of trouble.

23...♙xf3 24.gxf3 Now the white king is open, but the white rook on e5 is taking a great place and controlling the very important 5th rank.

24...♘d5 What else to do... [24...♘d7 is not good as after 25.♖e7! the position is very forced but everything is working out for White: 25...♙xc3 26.bxc3 ♙xg6 27.♖d1 ♘c5 28.♖xd8 ♖xd8 29.♙xf7+ ♙f6 30.♖c7 With very good winning chances for White.]

25.♙xd5 cxd5 26.gxf7 Now White is a clear pawn up.

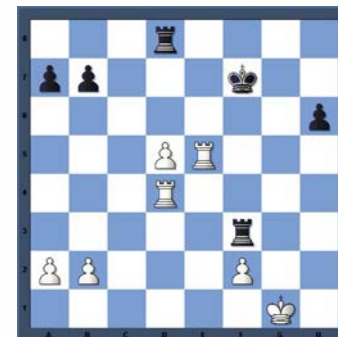


26...d4! A very good practical decision. Black is destroying White's pawn structure in the hope of getting into a rook endgame and save it. A very logical move.

27.exd4 ♖xf7 28.d5 [We would get about the same rook endgame after 28.♖fe1 28...♙xf3 29.♙xf3 ♖xf3 30.♖1e3 With similarly good winning chances as in the game.]

28...♙xf3 29.♙xf3 ♖xf3 30.♖d1 At first sight it is very hard to say if this position is closer to a win or to a draw. If Black managed to exchange one of White's pawns for the h pawn, the position would probably be a draw, but it is not that simple to do.

30...♙f7 31.♖d4!



31...♖e8 Another very logical move. Black cannot continue playing with 2 pairs of rooks on the board with such an open king on f7.

32.♖xe8 ♙xe8 33.♙g2 ♖f5?! This move looks a little strange to me. [33...♖f7 Black would probably have the best drawing chances here although the position is of course still very difficult.]

34.f4 ♙d7 35.♙f3 ♙d6 36.♙e4 Both kings are in the center.

36...♖f8 Black puts his rook behind the pawn, which is correctly played.

37.♖d2 h5 loses on the spot. [Another try was 37...♖e8+ 38.♙f5 ♖f8+ 39.♙g4 h5+ 40.♙g5 h4 41.♖d3 ♖h8 42.♙g4 and here White should probably win the game as well.]

38.f5! White's pawn is now too close.

38...h4 39.♖h2 [A bad idea for White would have been to play 39.♖g2 39...♖h8 40.♖g6+ ♙e7 41.♙e5 h3 and Black might be in time to make a draw.]

39...♖e8+ 40.♔f4 ♖h8 [40...♔xd5 would not have saved Black either.]



41.♖d2+! White is driving the black king even further away. [41...♔c6 42.f6 And White is winning.]

41.f6 ♖e8 [41...♔xd5 42.♔f5]

42.♖xh4 A great game by Aronian with simply no mistakes! We could see one more time how strong Aronian can be, with a very good preparation followed by a great technical game.
1-0

**(4) Vallejo Pons, Francisco(2705)
- Grabarczyk, Miroslaw(2465) [D53]**

Bundesliga 2013-14(3.4), 2013.11.23

[Balogh Csaba]

A very interesting game from the German Bundesliga. Despite Black's lower rating, he was fighting really resourcefully in a difficult position.

1.c4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♙g5 ♙e7 The Queen's Gambit is highly popular and a solid option for Black nowadays.

5.e3 h6 6.♙h4 O-O



7.♖c2 White tries to make use of the fact that he has not developed his knight on g1 yet. Nf3 would always transpose to the huge main lines.

7...♘e4!? Just like in the positions with the knight on f3, this kind of simplification is an existing plan for Black. [7...b6 is an alternative for Black, it leads to different structures.]

8.♙xe7 ♖xe7 9.♘ge2!? This is the novelty of the game. A natural one, as the knight stands well on c3. [The pawn should not be taken 9.♘xe4 9...dxe4 10.♖xe4 because of 10...♖b4+ Black wins back the b2 and the king remains unsafe.; On 9.cxd5 Black has the intermediate move 9...♘xc3 followed by exd5 and Black keeps the material balance. However after the

text move White already threatens to win a pawn with cxd5.]

9...♖xc3 10.♗xc3 c6 Black keeps his center.



11.0-0-0!? This was the whole idea behind Vallejo's setup. Probably he has prepared this at home. White plans to launch an attack with g4-h4-g5. In this kind of positions the placement of the h6 pawn helps White in the attack!

11...♗d7 12.g4 White does not waste any time, he immediately launches his attack.

12...♗f6 [I believe Black should have followed the principles that against a side attack one must open the center. This could have been done by 12...dxc4 13.♗xc4 e5! Black seems to get adequate counterplay in any case.]

13.♖g1 e5! Black needs to open the position, otherwise g5 comes with a crushing attack. It is clear that Black must search for counterplay in the center as a counter attack on the queenside would be too slow...

14.g5 hxg5 15.♖xg5 exd4 16.♖xd4 The game is getting very sharp. Black needs to be careful because White is ready to switch his rook to h4, creating decisive threats. From a positional point of view Black has an excellent position without having a single weakness. Without the queens on the

board Black would have the advantage thanks to his better pawn structure. However the main question is clearly if the attack is breaking through or not...



16...♗e4 Black prevents the Rh4 idea. [The calm 16...♖d8! came into consideration. Black is ready to trade further pieces after dxc4, while after 17.♖h4 the point would be to play (17.cxd5 17...♗xd5 is also OK for Black.) 17...d4! 18.exd4 ♖e1+ 19.♖d1 ♖xf2 Black is fine.]

17.♖g1! White rightly does not change the pawn structure. [To get the pawn to e4 would seriously decrease the chances for a successful attack. 17.♗xe4? 17...dxe4 18.h4 (18.♖g1 18...♗f5 Black has nothing to worry about.) 18...f6! 19.♖xe4 ♖b4 Black's counterplay comes either by Bf5 or Qe1.]

17...♗f5 Black goes for the complications! [17...♗xc3 18.♖xc3 White is eyeing on the g7 pawn. He directly threatens with Rxg7, followed by Rg4 and Qg7 mate. Black is forced to play 18...♖f6 19.cxd5 cxd5 20.♖xd5 ♖xc3+ 21.bxc3+= With an extra pawn, although with the 4 pawn islands it is going to be very difficult to win.]

18.cxd5! Black has no good square to jump to with the knight, however the opening of the c-file looks very dangerous at first sight. On the other hand a pawn is a pawn.

18...cxd5 19.♘xd5 ♖e5 [19...♖e6 would have been met by the elegant



20.♗h3! ♗xh3 (20...♖ac8 **21.♗xf5! ♖xc2+ 22.♖xc2** White gets too many pieces for the queen and he continues the attack. **22...♗c6+ 23.♖b1+-**) **21.♗xe4 ♖ac8+ 22.♖b1±** With a healthy extra pawn, since Bf5 now or after the trade of queens runs into Ne7!]

20.f4! Forcing the queen to a wrong place.

20...♗e6 21.♘c7! A brave decision! White plays materialistically. [He could also have continued like in the 19...Qe6 line: **21.♗h3 21...♗xh3 22.♗xe4±**]

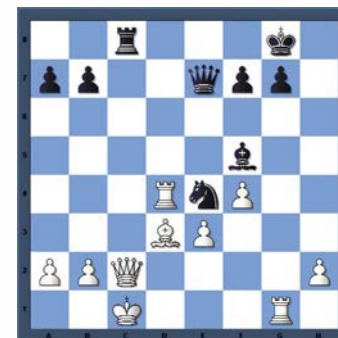
21...♗e7 [The nice idea is that **21...♗xa2** runs into



22.♖a4!+- Trapping the queen!]

22.♘xa8 ♖xa8 23.♗d3! Everything seems to be under control. White has just neutralized the f5 bishop, while on Rc4 he has Rc4. The game seems to be over, but Black finds a nice idea to stay in the game.

23...♖c8



24.♖c4?! Vallejo wants to keep all his material advantage. [It was preferable to give something back with **24.♗xc8+!** **24...♗xc8 25.♖xe4+-** White still has an extra pawn and the two rooks are also stronger than the queen.]

24...♘c5!! This great move suddenly shakes up the board. Black threatens to take on e3 and on g1 afterwards, both with checks.

25.♖xg7+!! Here comes the counterblow!

25...♖xg7 26.♗c3+! White protects the e3 pawn with check before taking on f5!

26...♖g6? Black overlooks a nice tactical idea. [26...♖h6 **27.♗xf5 ♘a4!** was the only way to stay in the game. **28.♗d4 ♖xc4+ 29.♗xc4 ♗xe3+ 30.♖b1 ♘b6** With excellent drawing chances for Black.]

27. ♖xf5+ ♔xf5



28.e4+! Suddenly the black king gets into a mating net in all lines.

28...♔g6 [28...♖xe4 29.♖h3+ ♔xf4 30.♖xc8+–; 28...♔e6 29.♖h3+! is an important detail. 29...♔d6 30.♖xc8+–; 28...♔xf4 29.♖g3#]

29.♖g3+! ♔h5 Both players were probably in some time trouble after such a difficult game, so White decides to repeat once. [29...♔h7 30.♖h3+ ♔g7 31.♖xc8+–]

30.♖f3+ ♔h4 31.♖g3+ ♔h5 32.♖f3+ [Surprisingly Black has nothing after 32.♖h3+ 32...♖h4 33.♖xc8 ♖e1+ 34.♔c2 White is able to escape the checks: 34...♖e2+ 35.♔c3 ♖e3+ 36.♔b4 ♖d3+ 37.♔a3+– and b3 next. Of course it is very risky to go for such a line, human players are looking for a more calm way to win in practical games.]

32...♔h4 33.♖c3!? [Black resigned in view of 33.♖c3 33...♖b3+! The only move to avoid mate. 34.axb3 ♖xc3+ 35.♖xc3! With two extra pawns for White, which should be a technical win. The e4 pawn is poisoned. (35.bxc3 35...♖a3+ is unclear.) 35...♖xe4 36.♖g3+ ♔h5 37.♖g5#] **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Hulak, K(2473)-Mochalov, E(2404)

World Seniors, 2013.11.19

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Rishi, S(2356)-Babujian, L(2510)

Chennai Open, 2013.11.19

[CEWN]

1. +-

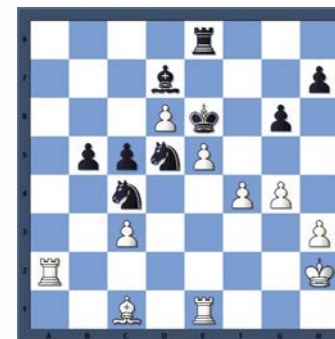


(7) Sethuraman, S(2553)-Naranayan, S(2444)

Chennai Open, 2013.11.20

[CEWN]

1. +-

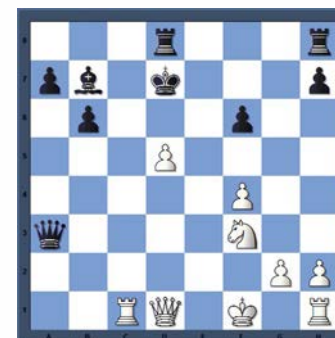


(8) Holt, C(2534)-Berczes, D(2522)

Dallas GM, 2013.11.24

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Harikrishna, P(2709)-Ragger, M(2668)

German league, 2013.11.23

[CEWN]

1. +-



(10) Naiditsch, A(2724)-Beikert, G(2422)

German league, 2013.11.24

[CEWN]

1. +-

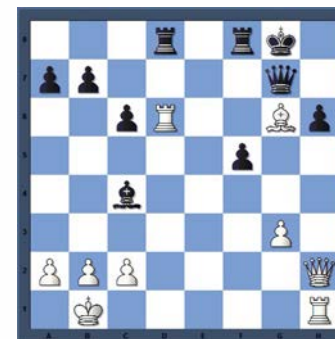


(11) Kravtsiv, M(2609)-Rabiega, R(2507)

German league, 2013.11.24

[CEWN]

1. +-



(12) Kraemer, M(2546)-Efimenko, Z(2661)

German league, 2013.11.24

[CEWN]

1... -+



(13) Parligras, M(2575)-Bogner, S(2552)

German league, 2013.11.24

[CEWN]

1... -+



(14) Mozharov, M(2508)-Bora, S(2195)

Chennai Open, 2013.11.25

[CEWN]

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Grischuk, Alexander(2785)-Bu, Xiangzhi(2683)

World Teams 2013(3.4), 2013.11.28

[CE Team]



Grischuk has been putting some small pressure all game long and Black's position still seems to be a bit worse. White has the bishop pair and theoretically if White managed to bring the rook from the h-file to the a-file, White would get some winning chances.

42. ♖f3



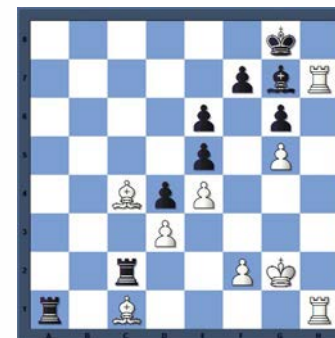
42... ♟d4+!! What a fantastic piece sacrifice! Black is creating a fortress.

43.cxd4 White has to take the piece...

43...cxd4 44. ♘c1 The white bishop has no other square than c1.

44... ♖c2! And the black rook is taking a perfect position on c2.

45. ♙g2 ♖a8 All Black needs to do now is keep on waiting on the a-file. It is a bit shocking, but White cannot improve his position. After Kg3 with the idea of playing f4, Black has the very unpleasant Ra1 move and White does not have the idea of Bf4 anymore because of exf4 check. [It would of course have been a blunder to play 45... ♖a1?



46. ♘f4! A move which is not too difficult to see. 46... ♖xh1 47. ♖xg7+ ♙xg7 48. ♘xe5+ ♙g8 49. ♙xh1 And White is easily winning.]

46. ♘b3 ♖c3 47. ♘c4 ♖c2 Black keeps on waiting and White just cannot improve his position!

48. ♖xg7+ This does not change much.

48... ♙xg7 49. ♖e1 ♖a7 Black continues waiting.

50. ♘b3 ♖c3 51. ♘c4 ♖c2

52. ♔g3



52... ♖b7 It was also possible to continue waiting on the a-file.

53. ♔h3 [53. ♕a3? was of course not possible because of the following nice little trick: 53... ♖xc4! 54.dxc4 ♖b3+]

53... ♖b6 What a surprising fortress by the Chinese player Bu!
1/2-1/2

(16) Bacrot, E.(2730)-Tazbir, M.(2544)

Bundesliga, 2013.11.23

[CE Team]



White has a better endgame thanks to his more active pieces, but it should be quite tough to convert this advantage as Black doesn't have any weakness.

32. ♕e6+! After this intermediate check, White is able to invade his opponent's camp with the rook.

32... ♔g7 33. ♖c8 ♖e7! Black tries to kick out the annoying rook with Re8 and in case of Rc7, he continues pursuing with Re7.



34. ♖b8! A very clever move! White manages to keep his rook in Black's camp.

34...♖e8 35.♖b6 White's next step to increase his advantage is to centralize his king with f3 and Kf2-e3.

35...e4? A very logical prophylactic move to prevent the f3Kf2 plan, but this appears to be the decisive mistake. After Bacrot's precise play, the e4 pawn becomes a crucial target. [White is also better after other moves: 35...h5 36.f3 g5 (Black cannot do anything active, since after 36...♔f6?! 37.♖b7 is unpleasant as Re7 runs into Bd8!) 37.♔f2 ♔g6



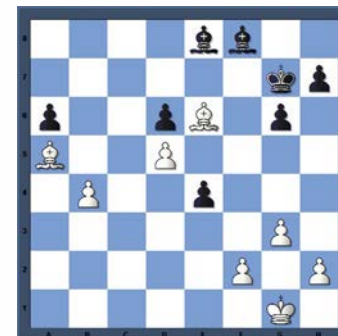
38.♔e3+= The next step could be h3-g4, followed by trading the light squares bishops with Bf5-d3. Afterwards the a6 pawn becomes really weak.]



36.♖b7+! Bacrot finds a very nice simplification!

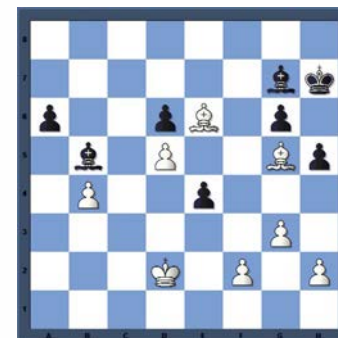
36...♖e7 37.♖b8! In two moves it becomes clear why the rooks should be traded off on the e8 square!

37...♖e8 38.♖xe8 ♗xe8



39.♗d8! This is the key move! The bishop cuts the king off from the e4 pawn. The f8 bishop also remains passive.

39...♗b5 Black prevents the simple plan Kf1-e2-e3. [Knowing what happened in the game, Black could have tried 39...h5 although it allows 40.♔f1! ♗b5+ 41.♔e1 ♔h7 Kd2 could be met by Bh6, so White needs to play 42.♗g5! ♗g7 43.♔d2



43...♗d4 Black temporarily prevents Ke3, but he leaves the d6 pawn alone... 44.♗e3! ♗e5 45.♗f4! ♗xf4+ 46.gxf4± And White will soon win the e4 pawn.]

40.g4! An excellent positional move! White squeezes the king into the corner. He is threatening with mate in two after g5 and Bf6.

40...h6



41.h4! White needs to get his pawn to g5 in order to keep the black king out of the game.

41...♔h8 42.♟f6+ ♟g7 43.♟xg7+ ♔xg7 44.g5! Great job! White not only puts his own pawn on the opposite color of the Black bishop, he also fixes the g6 pawn on the same color as his own bishop. Additionally it prevents Kf6-e5. The rest is already easy, White only needs to walk towards the e4 pawn.

44...hxc5 45.hxc5 Black resigned in material equality. He can only watch the king's march to f4 and then after Bd3, White simply plays Bh3-g2 and wins the pawn and the game. A very nice positional victory! **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Szabo, Laszlo-Botvinnik, Mikhail[E44]

EU-chT (Men) 02nd(9.1), 1961.06.30

[Miton Kamil]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♟b4 4.e3 Nowadays the line with 4.Qc2 is very popular.

4...b6 Of course Black had other possibilities to develop. The main alternative is to play over d5-c5 and fight for equality in the center.

5.♘e2 [5.♟d3 5...♟b7 6.♘f3 O-O (6...♘e4) 7.O-O d5 (7...c5 8.♘a4 cxd4 9.exd4 ♖e8 10.a3 ♟f8 11.b4 a5 A very important move because after 12.b5 d6= Black wants to play Nbd7-e5 and get control of the c5 square.) 8.cxd5 exd5 9.a3 ♟d6 10.b4 With more or less equal play. In the Carlsbad structure the white bishop should be developed on g5 but in this case White's plan is Bb2-Qb3-Ne2-Ng3 and try to open the position on the queenside, which will not be an easy task if the black pawn is placed on c7.]



5...♘e4 6.♟d2 [6.♖c2 6...♟b7 7.a3 ♟xc3+ 8.♘xc3 ♟xc3 9.♖xc3 O-O Black is very solid but White has the bishop pair. White should put the bishop on g2 and he can also try to immediately play Be2 with the idea to sacrifice the

pawn on g2, otherwise Black will equalize thanks to his better development.]

6...♘xd2 7.♙xd2



7...♗b7 looks very natural, but maybe more flexible was [7...O-O And if White will push d5 Black will not need to put the bishop on b7.]

8.a3 ♗e7 [8...♗xc3 9.♘xc3 O-O 10.d5 Followed by Be2-O-O-Rd1 and White will be slightly better thanks to his space advantage and the limited bishop on b7.]

9.d5 O-O 10.g3 c5 I don't like this move because it weakens the light squares. [10...a5 A typical move. Black prevents b4 and wants to transfer the knight to c5. 11.♗g2 ♖a6 12.O-O ♗c5 13.♞ad1 a4∞]

11.♗h3 Preventing d6 and forcing Black to close the position.

11...e5



12.f4! An interesting move. White is going to get the advantage because of the bad bishop on b7. An alternative plan was for example the less aggressive O-O-e4 and then maybe to improve the knight by playing Nc1-Nd3.

12...exf4 13.gxf4 Now the black bishop will be more active but on the other hand White gets a strong center and the possibility to put pressure on the g-file.

13...d6 14.O-O-O → ♞e8 Black is activating his pieces.

15.♗g3 ♗f8 16.♞hg1 White is preparing his attack. [16.♗ce4!? 16...g6 (16...♗d7 17.♙c3 g6 And now not 18.Bxd7 because of Bg7!., but 18.♗h5!→)]



17.f5 White doesn't care about the dark squares as a quick attack is more important. 17...♗g7! → (17...♗a6 18.♞hf1 ♗xc4 19.fxc6 hxc6 20.♗f6+ ♖h8 21.♗xe8 ♗xf1 22.♙c3+-) 18.♞hf1 ♗e5 19.♗h5 gxh5 20.f6 ♖h8 21.♗g5 ♞f8 22.♙d3 with mate]

16...g6 Of course Black needs to put his bishop on g7 and try to create counterplay on the kingside.

17.♗ce4 ♗g7 18.♗g5 Almost all white pieces are already on the kingside and my intuition start to tell me that it will be hard for Black to defend.

18...♗d7 19.e4 White could have played [19.♗h5 but this move had to be based on a deep tactical calculation. 19...gxh5

(19...♙h8 20.f5 White doesn't care about the e5 square again.
20...♘e5 21.fxg6 hxg6



22.♘xf7! ♔xf7 23.♖df1+ ♔g8 (23...♔e7 24.e4+- With the idea Qg5.) 24.♖c2 ♔h7 25.♖f7+-) 20.♖g2 ♘f8 21.♘xf7 ♖f6
22.♘xd6 ♖xe3 23.♖xg7+ ♖xg7 24.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 25.♘f5+ ♔f6
26.♘xe3±]



19...b5! It is time for Black to do something on the queenside.

20.cxb5 Too slow! White should not lose any time and immediately try to mate the black king... [20.♘h5!? White could still use this idea.; 20.e5! A logical and typical idea. White sacrifices the pawn to temporarily close the bishop on g7. 20...♘b6 (20...dxe5 21.♘xf7 ♔xf7 22.♙e6+ ♔e7 23.fxe5 ♙xe5 24.♘e4 With Qg5 next.) 21.e6 f5



22.♘xf5 only 22...♘xc4 (22...gxf5 23.♘xh7 ♔xh7 24.♙xf5+ ♔h8
25.♖xg7 ♔xg7 26.♖c3+ And White will mate.) 23.e7 (23.♖g2
23...♙xb2+ 24.♔b1 ♖a5 With some amazing position usually
called "who mates first".) 23...♖xe7 24.♘xe7+ ♖xe7 25.♖ge1]

20...c4 With the idea to push c3 or activate the knight over c5.

21.♖c2 [21.e5 21...♘c5 22.♔b1 dxe5 (22...♘d3 23.e6 ♙xd5
24.exf7+ ♙xf7 25.♘xf7 ♔xf7 26.f5→ And the black king is less
safe.) 23.fxe5



23...c3 (23...♖xe5 24.♘xf7 ♔xf7 25.♖f2+ ♖f6 26.♖xc5 ♖xd5
27.♖b4 ♔g8 Black solved the practical problems and thanks to his strong bishops he got the better position.) 24.♖xc3
(24.bxc3 24...♖a5±) 24...♖xg5 25.♖xc5 ♖xe5 Black is better
here as well.]

21...♘c5 22.♔b1 Compared to the position after move 19 White didn't improve his attack and at all in the same time

Black did a good job. The position is unclear now.

22...♖d3 [22...♖f6 23.♘h5 gxf5 24.e5 dxe5 (24...♖h6 25.♖xc4) 25.♖xh7+ ♔f8



26.f5 (26.d6!? With the nice idea Qh8!) 26...e4 27.♖g2→♔e7 28.d6+ ♔d7 29.♖xg7+; 22...♗c8 A logical move because the black bishop on b7 is much worse than the white one on h3. 23.♗xc8 ♖xc8 24.♘h5 ♗h8 (24...gxf5 25.e5 ♘d3 26.♖xd3 cxd3 27.♖xd3+-) 25.♖df1 With very complex play.]

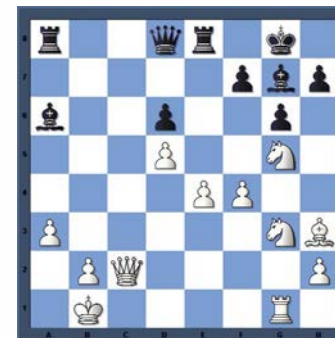


23.♖xd3? It is clear that the knight on d3 is a very unpleasant piece but to give an exchange was too optimistic. White had two other options, for example [23.♘f5 The Hungarian grandmaster had at least a few moments to sacrifice the knight on h5 or f5, it is really strange why he didn't decide to do it especially when it was probably the only way to continue putting pressure against the black king. 23...♖f6 (23...gxf5

24.♗xf5 ♖f6 25.♘h7 ♖xb2+ 26.♖xb2 ♘xb2 27.♖df1→) 24.♘g7 ♖xg7 25.f5 With Rdf1 next.; 23.♘xf7 23...♔xf7 24.♗e6+ ♔f8 (24...♖xe6 25.dxe6+ ♔f8 26.f5→) 25.♖df1 With unpleasant pressure.]

23...cxd3 24.♖xd3 a6 25.bxa6? A very bad move. White gave Black everything! He lost material, opened the b-file, activated the bishops. Instead of this White could again play [25.♘f5!? but it was the last opportunity in this game. 25...♖b6 (25...gxf5 26.♗xf5 ♖f6 27.e5 dxe5 28.♗xh7+ ♔f8 29.♗f5↑ With practical chances.; 25...♗f8 26.♖d4→) 26.♖g3 And White is still fighting.]

25...♗xa6 26.♖c2



26...♗xb2! The decisive hit. Black is simply winning now.

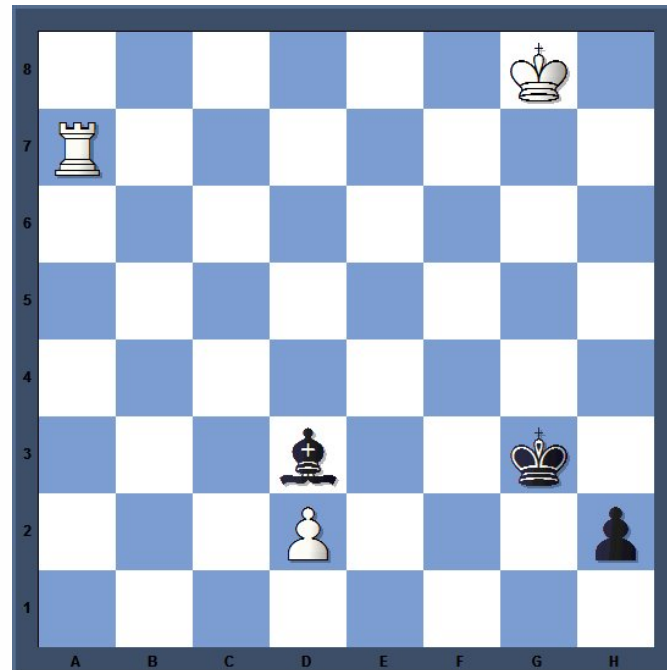
27.♘f5 Sorry but now it is a bit late! :-) [27.♔xb2 27...♖b6+] 27...♖b6 28.♘h6+ ♔f8 29.♘h7+ ♔e7 30.♔a2 ♗c4+ 0-1

Surprise section / study

(18) Kozlowski

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(19) Godena, M(2501)-Morozevich, A(2727)

European Teams, 2013.11.12

[Solutions]

29...♖b2! 30.♔a1 [30.♖xb2 30...♔d1+ 31.♕e1 ♔xe1#]

30...♖xc2 31.♔xd4 ♔xa3—+

(20) Swiercz, D(2627)-Stefansson, H(2539)

European Teams, 2013.11.12

[Solutions]38.♔xb7!! ♔xb7 39.♖xd6 ♔c7 40.♖f7+ ♔xf7 41.♕xf7+—
1-0

(21) Navara, D(2705)-Giri, A(2732)

European Teams, 2013.11.14

[Solutions]27...♖d1+! 28.♔h2 ♖d8!! 29.♖xb6 [29.♖b8 29...♕c7+—+;
29.♖e7 29...♔f8!—+]

29...axb6 30.♕xb6 ♖c6 31.a5 ♖a1 32.g4 ♖xa5—+

(22) Saric, I(2628)-Banikas, H(2633)

European Teams, 2013.11.15

[Solutions]33...♖f2! 34.♖g1 [34.♖h2 34...♖xb2+! 35.♔xb2 ♖d1+
36.♔b3 ♖xe3—+]

34...♖xb2+! 35.♔c1 [35.♔xb2 35...♖d1+ 36.♔b3 ♖xe3—+]

35...♖d8—+

(23) Kotronias, V(2564)-Kozul, Z(2597)

European Teams, 2013.11.15

[Solutions]



28. ♖c1!! ♜xc1+ 29. ♖xc1 ♜xd4 30. ♖c8+ ♔xg7 31. ♕g2+ ♔h7
32. ♕g8+ ♔h6 33. ♕h8+ 1-0 [33. ♕h8+ 33... ♔g5 34. ♕g7+ ♔f4
35. ♕g3#]

(24) Swiercz, D(2627)-Saric, I(2628)

European Teams, 2013.11.16

[Solutions]

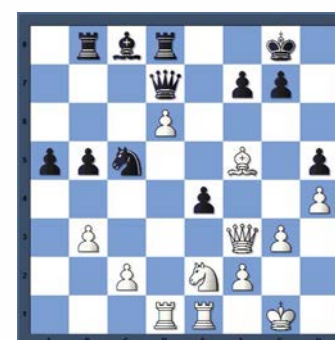


53... ♘d4+! [53... ♘g1+! 54. ♙xg1 d1=♚+! 55. ♕xd1 ♕h5+--+]
54. ♙e4 [54. ♕xd4 54... d1=♚+ 55. ♕xd1 ♕h5+--+]
54... f3+! 55. ♙e3 ♕g5+ 0-1

(25) Navara, D(2705)-Jobava, B(2695)

European Teams, 2013.11.17

[Solutions]



31. ♙h7+!! ♔xh7 32. ♕xh5+ ♔g8 33. ♕xc5±

(26) Yang Kaiq(2334)-Wang Yu(2725)

Chinese league, 2013.11.11

[Solutions]



27... f4! 28. ♕xf4 ♜f8 29. ♘f5 ♕xe6! 30. g4 ♙xf5 0-1

(27) Ma, Z(2404)-Zhou Jiancha(2567)

Chinese league, 2013.11.12

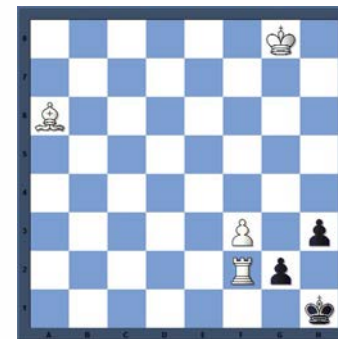
[Solutions]



21. ♘g7+! ♔xg7 22. ♚g6+ ♔h8 23. ♚h6! 1-0

(29) Beasly

[Solutions]



1. ♖f1+!! gxf1=♚ 2. ♘xf1 h2 3. f4! ♔g1 4. ♘g2!! ♔xg2 5. f5 h1=♚ 6. f6= ♚h6 7. f7 ♚g6+ 8. ♔h8 ♚xf7

(28) Lin Weigu(2454)-Nguyen Ngoc Trungso(2614)

Chinese league, 2013.11.13

[Solutions]



26... ♗xe3! 27. ♖c1 [27. ♚xe3? 27... ♚xb2—+; 27. fxe3 27... ♚xg3+ 28. ♔h1 ♚a1! (28... ♚a3 29. ♗f4! ♚xe3 30. ♚e1!∞) 29. ♖fb1 ♚8a2!⌚]

27... ♚a3—+ [27... ♚a1—+]



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 93

6th of December 2013

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Editorial Preface

The World Team Championship is over. The Russian Team took the trophy in a convincing style, being the better team in most of the important matches. 2nd place went to China and 3rd to Ukraine, who lost 2 matches to the Netherlands and Russia after a fantastic start.

The best players on each board were:

1st board: Aronian - Armenia
2nd board: Korobov - Ukraine
3rd board: Fridman - Germany
4th board: Nepomniachtchi - Russia
5th board: Akobian - USA

Already next week we can look forward to the start of London Chess Classic and the Mind Games where basically the whole chess elite is participating.

In the current issue we bring you the most exciting games of the World Team Championship.

Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Movsesian, Sergei(2700)**

- **Ding, Liren(2711) [E71]**

Antalya TUR(4.2), 2013.11.29

[Balogh Csaba]

After Radjabov recently switched to more calm openings from the King's Indian defence, we now have a new pioneer of the line. The young Chinese GM Ding Liren scores impressive victories with black.

1.c4 g6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 ♕g7 4.e4 d6 5.h3 O-O



6.♗g5 Aronian employs this line with big success recently. It is not an accident that his Armenian team mate Sergei Movsesian tries to repeat it. Black has several different options here and he goes for the most common one.

6...c5 [The point of Bg5 is to annoy the black queen with the pin and at the same time prepare to trade the bishops with Qd2 and Bh6. 6...h6 would be a serious weakening. White simple retreats with 7.♗e3 and Qd2 comes with tempo.]

7.d5 e6 8.♗d3 exd5 9.exd5 White would like to get a solid positional advantage with more space. If he succeeds in finishing the development with Nf3 and 0-0, he is going to

have a long-term advantage in the middlegame. [9.cxd5 is the other main move. A few months ago Grischuk introduced a very interesting novelty by playing 9...b5!? The line needs to be tested yet, but Ding Liren was probably also about to play something like this.]

9...♘bd7! With the threat of Ne5 and White cannot save his bishop with Bc2 because of the c4 pawn. Therefore White needs to develop his knight to f3, but it allows an unpleasant check.

10.♘f3 ♖e8+



11.♔f1! In a closed position avoiding castling should not be a problem. White could do it in an artificial way later on with g3 and Kg2. Black must continue acting actively, otherwise he still ends up in a very passive and bad position. [11.♗e3 11...♗h6 is fine for Black. He is going to get a strong e5 outpost for his pieces after the pawn gets on e3.]

11...♘e5! This is basically the novelty on the highest level, but the real novelty is still to come...

12.♘xe5 ♖xe5 13.♔d2 White wanted to maintain the pin with his bishop, but he soon turns out to be the one who is pinned. [Black also gets a playable position after 13.♗f4 13...♖e8 14.♔d2 It is important that Black does not need to worry about the pin anymore and can play 14...♘h5!]



13...b5!! Black has probably prepared this brilliant resource at home. He gets adequate counterplay in all the lines.

14. ♖xb5 [On 14.cxb5 the d5 pawn becomes weak. 14...♗b7 15.♕c4 ♔d7! Threatening Qf5. If White takes on f6, the King's Indian bishop on g7 would guarantee more than enough compensation for the pawn.]

14...♗e4! This is the point of the previous move. Black has deflected the knight from controlling the e4 square.

15. ♕xe4 [15.♕xd8? is bad in view of 15...♗xd2+ 16.♔g1 ♕f5! 17.♕xf5]



17...♗xc4! ♢ Black has this strong intermediate move to grab a pawn and protect d6. Black wins back one of the bishops and obtains an excellent position.]

15...♖xg5 White has an extra pawn, but the strong g7 bishop gives sufficient compensation. White also has the worse bishop, but with the dark squared one it would be a different story... Movsesian tries to make use of the temporarily misplaced rook on g5, but actually he just starts to weaken his own position, while the rook will be saved.



16.f4? [16.g3 followed by Kg2 was preferable, but Black has no problem anyway. He might retreat his rook to e5.]

16...♖g3! The rook is entering the white camp without any fear.

17. ♔f2 ♔h4 Movsesian was probably hoping that the loss of the d6 pawn would compensate the weakened position of his king. However the defects are too big, as Nxd6 would run into Bd4.

18. ♖d1! A resourceful defence. White prepares to sacrifice an exchange in case of Bd4. Unfortunately for him, Black is able to use this bishop from another diagonal as well... [18.♗xd6? 18...♕d4 is hopeless, for instance 19.♔d2 ♕e3—+ wins for Black as he will play Qxf4+ next.]

18...♕h6! The f4 pawn is lost in any case.

19. ♗c3! White finds the best defence again, he intends to play Ne2. [19.♗xd6 would have been met by 19...♕xf4 20.♗xc8 ♕e3! 21.♗e7+ ♔f8! 22.♔c2 Otherwise Black takes the e4

bishop. 22...♖xe7—+ Despite the extra pawn, White has a hopeless position because of his king. All Black pieces are attacking as Re8 and Qf6 are coming next.]

19...♙xf4 20.♘e2



20...♙g4!! An excellent tactical blow! White has 4 different captures, but none of them works.

21.♙f3! The only move to stay in the game! [21.hxg4 21...♖xh1+—; 21.♘xf4 21...♙xd1—; 21.♖xf4 21...♙xe2+ 22.♙xe2 ♖xf4—; 21.♘xg3 21...♙xg3 22.♖d2 ♙xd1 23.♖xd1 ♖xe4—]

21...♙f5! Ding Liren keeps all his attacking pieces on the board. As long as the h1 rook is stuck in the corner, Black does not need to worry about losing an exchange. Black simply wants to play Re8 next. [21...♙xf3!? 22.gxf3 ♖e8 also looks quite tempting, but the text move is even stronger.]

22.♘xf4 [On 22.♘xg3 22...♙xg3 23.♖e2 the best move to continue the attack is 23...♙f8!—+ supporting the rook to come to e8! White has no defence.]

22...♖xf4



23.♙e4! We must really admit that Movsesian uses all his imagination to keep his position together. Unfortunately for him, his opponent keeps on playing the most energetic moves.

23...♖g5! [23...♖h4 was bad in view of 24.♙xf5 gxf5 25.♖d3! White is alive.]

24.h4 White sacrifices a pawn in order to consolidate his position, but it does not save him. [24.♙xf5 24...gxf5 25.♙g1 At first sight it looks like White is able to hold here, but after 25...f4 26.♙h2 ♙h8! 27.♖hg1 ♖g8—+ Black has a winning attack. All the pieces are pinned to the g2 pawn, while Black wants to lift his rook to g6-h6, followed by Qg4 and sacrificing on h3. It takes a lot of time, but White has no adequate defence against it....]

24...♖g4! Attacking two pieces, so White is forced to give up his c4 pawn.

25.♙f3 ♖xc4+ 26.♙g1 ♖f4! Black has an extra pawn and a winning position as the h1 rook is still out of the game.

27.♙e4 Black simplifies the game into a technically won rook endgame.

27...♔xf2+ 28.♔xf2 ♖g4 29.♙xf5 ♖f4+ 30.♔g3 ♖xf5 Black is not only a healthy pawn up, but his pawn structure is also without any weaknesses and at the same time he has clear targets on d5 and b2.



31.♖he1 ♖b8 32.♖d2 ♔f8 Preventing the invasion of the rook to e7.



33.♖e3! White tries to activate his rook. He tries to get it to a6, from where it could pin two pieces into defence, but Ding Liren finds a clever idea to save one of his pieces from passivity.

33...a5! 34.♖a3 ♖b5 A funny position, where all rooks have reached their final destination. If White moves his a3 rook, Black is able to use his b5 rook and the story is the same with the f5 and d2 rooks. The black king joins the game and decides the battle...

35.♖a4 h5 36.b3 ♔g7 37.♔h3 ♔f6 38.g3 ♔e5! The king replaces the task of the f5 rook. It pins the d2 rook to the defence of the d5 pawn and Black has a free rook now.

39.♔g2 Otherwise Black would activate his rook by playing Rf1 or Rf3.

39...f6! 40.♖a3 [If White continues waiting with 40.♖d1 Black strengthens his positions step by step: 40...g5! 41.hxg5 fxg5 42.♖d2 g4! 43.♖d1 And here the easiest way to win is 43...♖b4! 44.♖xa5 ♖d4 45.♖e1+ (45.♖xd4 45...cxd4—+) 45...♔xd5 46.♖e2 ♖d3—+ followed by Rff3.]

40...♔e4 41.♖d1 g5 [41...♖xd5 was also good enough.]

42.♖a4+ ♔e5 43.♖a3 g4 Rf3 and f5-f4 are coming next. White is hopeless and he decides to set a last trap...

44.b4 ♖xb4 White resigned in view of 45. Re3 Re4. [44...axb4?? 45.♖e3# would have been a painful turn of the game.] **0-1**

(2) Ipatov, Alexander(2630) - Kramnik, Vladimir(2793) [A46]

World Teams 2013(6.4), 2013.12.02
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

It is really difficult to beat a weaker player with Black, especially when White's ambitions are just to hold a draw. In the current game it seems like White already managed to build a "pawn wall" but with a great sacrifice Kramnik breaks White's defence.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.♘f3** e6 **3.♗g5** Ipatov was probably a bit afraid of playing the main theoretical lines.

3...h6 A provocation. Black usually chooses 3...c5.

4.♗h4 [4.♗xf6 4...♔xf6 5.e4 would lead us to a very sharp position. White has the center but Black the bishop pair.]

4...d6 Wow! We rarely see Kramnik play so directly for the win. Of course a move like 4... d6 just cannot be good.

5.e3? What a passive move by White. 5.Nc3 or 5.Nbd2 are much more logical moves, as White should clearly try to play e4.

5...g5 **6.♗g3** ♘h5 The black bishop is going to take a nice place on g7.

7.♗d3 ♗g7 **8.♘bd2** ♔e7



9.c3 White continues trying to be as solid as possible. Of course White is not worse here, but he can slowly get into a theoretically worse position. Black is going to have the bishop pair and if he manages to develop his queenside White's position could become a bit worse.

9...♘d7 There is no need to hurry with taking on g3 as the bishop is not going to run away.

10.♔c2 I would prefer to keep the white queen on e2, but that is probably a matter of taste.

10...a6 Black of course wants to put his bishop to b7 and it would be nice to have the b5 move played to have the b6 square for the knight.

11.O-O-O?! Once again White is playing solidly but not the best move. [I think it would make much more sense to castle kingside: 11.O-O 11...b5?! And in case of the careless b5 move White always has 12.a4!]

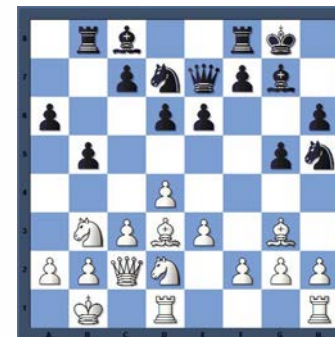
11...b5 **12.♘b3** Directed against Bb7.

12...♖b8 Preparing to play Bb7 and to have Ba8 after Na5.

13.♔b1 [13.♘a5 13...♖b6 would not bring much for White.]

13...O-O [To play 13...♗b7 14.♘a5 ♗a8 would have been an option as well.]

14.♘fd2 White continues his passive-solid play.



14...f5! A strong move! Black is taking over the center.

15.f3 The white bishop finally wants to run away.

15...g3 16.hxg3 c5! And again Black is giving White no time to regroup and he is controlling more and more squares in the center.

17.g4 a5 b6 18.f4 Another "ugly-solid" move by White. He is giving up the last hopes of creating some sort of play and just hopes to survive the game.

18...d5 19.b4 c4! Another good decision by Kramnik. [19...cxb4 would have led to a more unclear position as after 20.cxb4 Bxb4+ 21.gdb3 White is getting quite some play on the c-file.]

20.e2



20...f6 The position is now totally closed, but it is by far not a draw. Black has a few plans to break through. One of them is clearly to build up some play on the kingside.

21.fdf1 e8d7 The bishop on e8 is going to take a very nice position, controlling both the h5 and c6 squares.

22.d1 g4 Not giving White any hopes of playing g4 at some moment.

23.b2 f7 The black rook is going to h7.

24.c1 f8 25.c2 h7 26.h2 e8 27.fh1 d7 28.b2 h5 29.c1 White was just waiting for some moves and in the meantime Black has put his pieces to perfect positions. But what to play next?! Try to make a rush on the h-file by transporting the rook from b6 to the h-file and then play Bf6 and h4?! Kramnik finds another very effective way.



29...e5!! A great breakthrough in exactly the right moment.

30.dxe5 xe5 This was Black's main idea, a piece sacrifice for just a pawn!

31.fxe5 xe5 The pawns on e3 and g3 are hanging.

32.f1 g7 And now the c3 pawn is under attack. All white pieces are just terribly placed and the 2 rooks on the h-file are totally out of play.

33.a3? After this move there is no more hope for White. [Of course White should have kept the c3 pawn by playing 33.d2 and although the white pieces just have no moves, it would not be that easy for Black to finish the game.]

33...xc3+ 34.xc3 xc3 Now Black already has 2 pawns for the piece and there is still total domination on the board.

35.d1 e6 d4 might already be a killer at some moments now!

36.c2 g6 The white pieces still have no squares. The rook

on h7 is even not giving the white knight on a5 any moves.

37. ♖d2 White decides to finally get his pieces out, but all is already too late.

37... ♜xe3 And Black got the 3rd pawn.

38. ♖d1



38... ♕f6 Black's position is totally winning.

39. ♖hh1 d4 40. ♖de1 ♜he7 41. ♖xe3 ♜xe3 What a great finish of a great game! The black pieces are totally dominating the position. We faced a very instructive game, where we saw that by trying not to cross the 4th rank it is usually not possible to hold a draw, even with a rock solid pawn structure. **0-1**

(3) Amin, Bassem(2652)

- Vitiugov, Nikita(2741) [B40]

World Teams 2013(9.1), 2013.12.05

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We are in the last round of the World Team Championship and Russia only needed a draw to become the Champions. Instead of boring-solid play, Vitiugov is going for a game full of action and a nice sacrifice.

1.e4 c5 For many years Vitiugov was playing the French, but lately he switched to Paulsen structures.

2. ♖f3 e6 3.d3 Such a sideline is of course not giving White an opening advantage, but it is clear that White is aiming for non-theoretical play.

3... ♖c6 4.g3 ♖ge7 Black doesn't choose the main set-up. [4...d5 5. ♕g2 ♖f6 should be the main line, with a huge amount of games being played here.]

5. ♕g2 g6 It is very important that Black has not played d6 before, so the d5 move is going to be played without the loss of a tempo.

6.O-O ♕g7



7.c3!? A very logical move. White is putting a "rock" against the bishop on g7 and at the same time he wants to play d4

next.

7...O-O It is hard to understand why Vitiugov is giving White the chance to play d4-e5. [To play 7...d5 first looks much more logical to me.]

8.d4 Of course!

8...cxd4 9.cxd4 d5 Black has to fight for the center, to play a move like 9...d6 is clearly not an option.

10.e5 f6!? The position is getting very sharp. If White is in time to keep his center he should be better, but Black has active light pieces play for it.

11.♖e1 [After 11.exf6 11...♙xf6 12.♘c3 ♘f5 Black has great play because it is so difficult for White to protect the d4 pawn.]

11...♚b6 Black is starting his attack against the d4 pawn. What can be more logical?!

12.♘c3 ♘f5 The d4 pawn is hanging.

13.♘a4 ♚c7 And now the e5 pawn is under attack.

14.g4 There is no time for White to play slow moves. [14.♙f4 would not lead to anything good as after 14...g5 15.exf6 gxf4 16.fxg7 ♚xg7 the d4 pawn is going to fall.]



14...fxe5! A nice piece sacrifice. [After the more solid 14...♘fe7 15.exf6 ♖xf6 16.♙e3 White's position is already

looking better. The d4 pawn is protected and the g4 pawn is stopping Black from playing Nf5 in the future.]

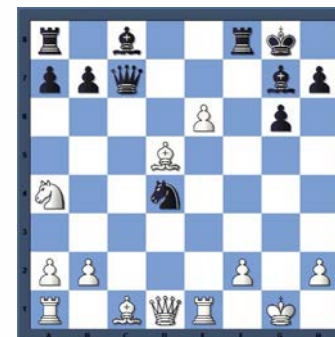
15.gxf5 [15.dxe5 was of course not possible as after 15...♘h6! the black knight is going to f7 over h6, whereafter the e5 pawn is going to be lost.]

15...e4 16.fxe6! A very good decision. There was no hope of keeping the piece as Black would just get too much play for it. [16.♘g5 16...♙xd4 Black seems to be doing better here.]

16...exf3 17.♙xf3 We are facing a really strange position which is very hard to evaluate. Black's development is better, but the pawn on e6 is really unpleasant as he is stopping the development of the bishop on c8 and the rook on a8. The position remains very sharp.

17...♘xd4 [Of course Black is not in time to take the e6 pawn: 17...♚d6 18.♘c3 ♙xe6? 19.♖xe6! ♚xe6 20.♙xd5 White is winning.]

18.♙xd5



18...♖xf2!? A very interesting decision. [The more simple 18...♚e7 19.♘c3 ♙xe6 20.♖e4 ♖ad8 would also give Black good play.]

19.e7+ ♙e6 The only move.

20.♙xe6+ ♘xe6 21.♙xf2 White has to take the rook.

21...♔xh2+ 22.♖e3 What a position! White is a full rook up but his king is running.

22...♔g3+ 23.♖d2



23...♔g5+ Black gives the "right" check. All other checks would give White good winning chances.

24.♖c2 [After 24.♔e3 24...♕d4 25.♔e2 ♕xe3+ 26.♔xe3 ♔d5+ it seems like the white king cannot escape the checks either.]

24...♔f5+! Once again Black is playing correctly. White cannot escape the draw.

25.♖d2 [Of course not 25.♖b3? 25...♕d4+ 26.♖a3 ♕c2+ With a win for Black.]

25...♔g5+ 26.♖c2 ♔f5+ A beautiful draw after a very interesting fight. **1/2-1/2**

**(4) Karjakin, Sergey(2756)
- Khenkin, Igor(2612) [C65]**

World Teams 2013(5.3), 2013.11.30

[Balogh Csaba]

A convincing outplaying of the Berlin defence is a tough challenge nowadays.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 4.d3 A logical approach. Karjakin as the stronger player prefers to keep all pieces on the board instead of heading for the Berlin endgame after 4.0-0.

4...♙c5 5.c3 [On 5.0-0 Black has the additional option to play 5...♘d4 which is why the text move is considered to be more precise.]

5...0-0 6.0-0 d6 [I like the alternative of Black to play 6...♔e8 as Carlsen also played against Anand in the WCC match.]

7.h3



7...♘e7 Black is following the latest fashion. He transfers his knight to g6, where it is clearly better placed. Later on he can more easily achieve the central break with d5. Karjakin introduces a novelty here.

8.♙a4!? This typical move was not played yet in this position. The idea is to avoid the trade of the bishops after Bd7. He is

now ready to play Bc2 in this case. [8.d4 was mainly played before. 8...♗b6 And here are some concrete problems, for example that after 9.♖e1 (9.♘bd2 9...exd4 10.cxd4 d5 11.e5 ♘e4 12.♗d3 ♗f5 13.♙e2 ♘c6! is also fine for Black as Kramnik pointed out!) 9...d5! Black equalizes.]

8...♘g6 9.d4 As they say, the idea behind playing d2-d3 in the Spanish is to play d3-d4 in better circumstances. White needs to fight for the center if he wants to get the initiative.

9...♗b6 10.♖e1 White protects the e4 pawn and he is ready to execute the standard maneuver of the b1 knight to g3.

10...♗d7 Khenkin tries to invent some unusual handling of the position, which turned out to be not a good idea after all... [It is important that Black cannot solve the opening problems directly by playing 10...d5 because of 11.exd5 exd4 12.c4!+= and the d4 pawn is a weakness.; Black should play 10...c6 11.♘bd2 ♖e8 12.♗c2 White needs to overprotect the e4 pawn in order to continue the journey of the knight. 12...h6 13.♘f1 ♘h5∞Standard play for both sides with mutual chances.]

11.♗c2 Karjakin manages to directly show the idea of his novelty 8.Ba4. White needs this bishop to keep realistic chances for an advantage.

11...♖e8 12.♘bd2 h6 Another move that I don't like.

[It was more circumspect to free a square for the b6 bishop against the Nc4 idea with 12...a6 although White has an easier game anyway after 13.♘f1 and Ng3 next.]



13.♘c4! White gets the advantage of the bishop pair. Additionally he has the unpleasant positional idea of playing a4 before taking the bishop. In this case he is threatening with a5, which could only be prevented by playing a6, but then Black is forced to damage his pawn structure by recapturing on b6 with the c-pawn.

13...♗b5 Black fights against the a4 move by trying to force the take on b6, but Karjakin finds a clever solution to refresh the same threat!

14.♘fd2! After this excellent positional move, Black ends up in a worse position as he is unable to parry the a4 idea.

14...exd4 This was the only way to force the take on b6, but it has the drawback that Black gives up the center.

15.♘xb6 axb6 16.cxd4+= White has achieved what he wanted. He has the bishop pair and a strong center against which Black is unable to create enough pressure.

16...c5 [16...d5 would have been met by 17.e5 and White is also clearly better here.]

17.d5 [17.♘f3!? was also possible to keep the tension. White can push d5 whenever he wants, but of course the text move is also fine.]

17...♘d7 Black tries to find counterplay on the dark squares, but he really misses his dark squared bishop.

18.♗f3 The next step for White is to develop the c1 bishop to the a1-h8 diagonal. Black tries to fight against it.

18...♖f6

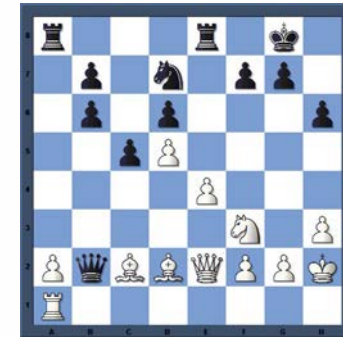


19.♕d2! Another strong move! White reaches the c3 square with the bishop, using the small tactical trick that the b2 pawn cannot be taken because of Rb1 and the b5 bishop is lost.

19...♗f4 20.♖h2! A strong prophylactic move! After the direct Bc3, Black could have played Qg6 with the double threat of Qxg2 and Nxh3. However after getting the king to h2, in the line Bc3 Qg6 White simply plays g3 and Black is forced to retreat as the h3 pawn is protected.

20...♕e2?! A clear sign of despair... [20...♗d3? would have dropped a piece after 21.♕xd3 ♕xd3 22.♕c3 ♖f4+ 23.g3+-; 20...♕d3!? was the best attempt, although White gets a significant positional advantage after 21.♕c3 ♕xc2 22.♖xc2 White is better on both sides. He can either play a4 followed by transferring his knight to c4 or he can initiate a central rush with g3, Nd2, f4 and later on e5.]

21.♖xe2 ♗xe2 22.♖xe2 ♖xb2 Black is doing fine materially by taking two pawns, but his position now has serious damages.



23.♖d1! Defending both hanging pieces and Bf4 is coming next with strong pressure on the d6 pawn.

23...♖xa2 24.♖xa2 ♖xa2 25.♕f4! ♗f6 [The black pawns are too slow on the queenside: 25...b5 26.♕xd6 c4 27.e5+- White has a crushing attack.; 25...♗e5 opens the way for the passed d-pawn. The most effective is to play 26.♕xe5 dxe5 27.♕b3! ♖xf2 28.d6!+- followed by Qd5. Black cannot hold the multiple threats connected to the d-pawn.]

26.♕xd6 ♖xe4 This is equal to resignation. [26...♗xe4 does not change much as White wins after 27.♕xe4 ♖xe4 28.♕c7!+- and the d-pawn runs.]

27.♕xe4 ♗xe4 28.♕g3 White has an extra piece and he still owns the d-pawn.

28...♗c3 29.♖e1! [Black resigned in view of 29.♖e1 29...♗xd5 30.♖e8+ ♗h7 31.♖xf7+-] **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Amin, B(2652)-Baramidze, D(2614)

World Teams, 2013.11.26

[CEWN]

1... -+



(6) Ivanchuk, V(2731)-Mamedov, R(2647)

World Teams, 2013.11.28

[CEWN]

1... =



(7) Yu Yangy(2668)-Nepomniachtchi, I(2721)

World Teams, 2013.11.28

[CEWN]

1... -+



(8) Li Cha(2679)-Aronian, L(2801)

World Teams, 2013.11.29

[CEWN]

1... -+



(9) Ezat, M(2454)-Li Cha(2679)

World Teams, 2013.12.02

[CEWN]

1... -+



(10) Vetoshko, V(2334)-Vovk, Y(2588)

Vasylyshyn memorial, 2013.11.26

[CEWN]

1... -+



(11) Ponkratov, P(2603)-Shinkevich, V(2468)

Yugra Cup, 2013.11.28

[CEWN]

1. +-

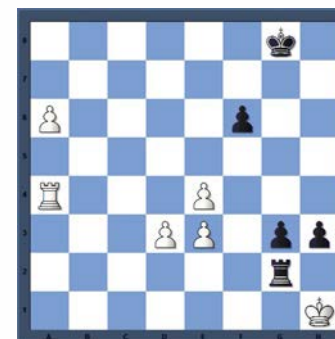


(12) Stukopin, A(2509)-Korneev, O(2637)

Yugra Cup, 2013.11.30

[CEWN]

1... -+



(13) Savchenko, B(2602)-Shinkevich, V(2468)

Yugra Cup, 2013.12.02

[CEWN]

1... -+



(14) Swiercz, D(2627)-Manik, M(2404)

Czech league, 2013.11.30

[CEWN]

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Kryvoruchko, Y.(2701)-Esen, B.(2565)

World Teams, 2013.11.30

[CE TEAM]



The material is even. White has a nominal edge thanks to the protected passed pawn on d5, but it should not be enough for the win because of the opposite colored bishops. The only threat is Qh5, which Black should parry.

37...Qe3? A natural move to force the trade of queens, but surprisingly it might be a decisive mistake... [After 37...Qe1 White can hardly make any progress and the game should quickly end in a draw as 38.Qh5?? turns out to be a blunder: 38...Qf2+ 39.Qh3 Qf1+ 40.Qg4 Qe2+- wins the queen.]

38.Qxe3 Qxe3

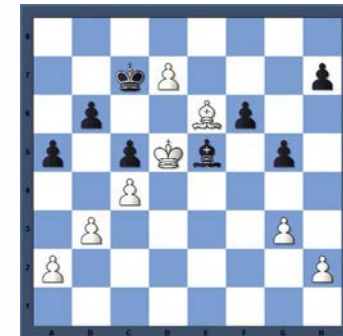


39.d6! White not only succeeds in advancing his pawn to d7, but also opens a straight path for his king to the c6 square.

39...Kd4 Black forces the pawn to d7 in order to be able to get closer with his king.

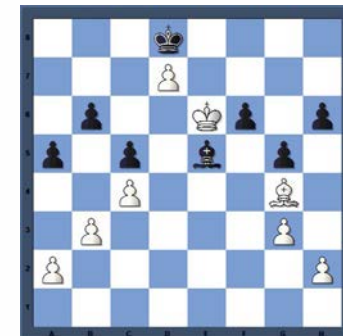
40.Qf3 Qe5 41.d7 Qe7 42.Qe4 Qd8 The game progresses logically. White was threatening to collect the b6 pawn, so Black transfers his king to c7.

43.Qd5 Qc7 It seems like Black was just in time to control everything, but suddenly White creates new threats...



44.Kg4! White frees the e6 square to occupy it with the king, from where he is threatening with Ke7 and also to go for the kingside pawns.

44...h6 45.Qe6 Qd8 Otherwise Ke7 wins.



46.a4! After this great move, Black suddenly finds himself in

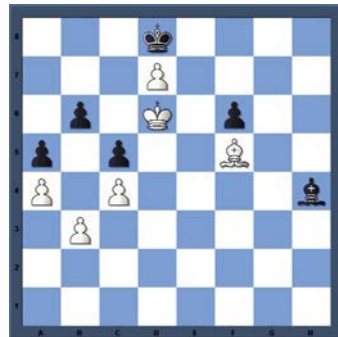
zugzwang. His king cannot move and the pawns are blocked. Only the bishop can move, but it needs to protect the f6 pawn, so all "legal" moves allow White to get to the b6 pawn with the king. [46.♔f7 is too slow as Black is in time to play 46...♙d4 47.♔g6 ♜g1 Black holds.]

46...♙d4 47.♔d6! ♜g1 Black is looking for counterplay, but the queenside pawns are more important.

48.h4 White is going to win the b6 anyway, so why not save some pawns on the kingside.

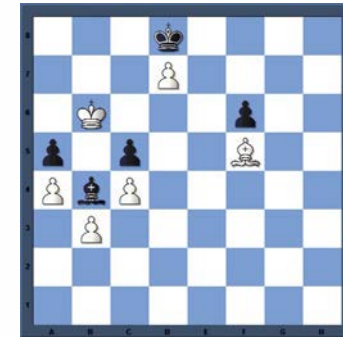
48...gxf4 49.gxf4 h5 It is a good strategy to get rid of the kingside pawns, but it does not save Black. Otherwise if White puts his pawn to h5 and creates a new passed pawn on the queenside, he would also have the option to go for the h6 pawn. [After 49...♙h2+ 50.♔c6 ♜c7 Black gets into zugzwang again. As he has no next move he must move with the bishop and lose the b6 pawn.]

50.♙xh5 ♙f2 51.♙g6 ♙xh4 52.♙f5 The situation is cleared on the kingside, the question is if Black is able to create a blockade on the other side...



52...♙e1 [52...♙g3+ 53.♔c6 ♙c7 does not change anything because after 54.♔b7 Black is in zugzwang.]

53.♔c6 ♙d2 54.♔xb6 ♙b4 It seems like everything is still under control. However if we take a slightly closer look, we quickly realize that if it was Black's turn, he would have no useful move. Therefore the task is easy, White only needs to make a triangulation with his king.

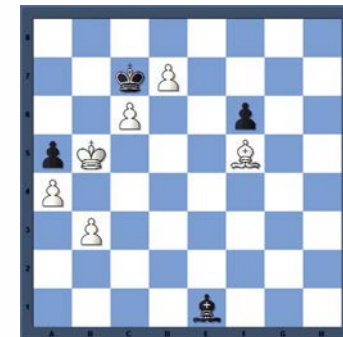


55.♔b7 ♙d2 [On 55...♙a3 56.♔a6 ♙b4 57.♔b6 Black is in zugzwang again.]

56.♔c6 ♙b4 57.♔b6! Here we are! It is Black to move now and he is forced to drop another pawn, as Ke7 allows Kc7.

57...♙d2 58.♔xc5 The rest is already easy...

58...♔c7 59.♔b5 ♙e1 60.c5 ♙d2 61.c6 ♙e1



62.d8=♔+! The final breakthrough!

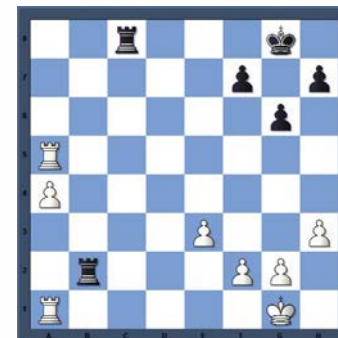
62...♔xd8 63.♔b6 ♕f2+ 64.♔b7! [64.♔xa5 is also winning automatically, but the game is more easy and more in style.]

64...♕g3 65.b4! Black resigned! A highly instructive bishop endgame! We can see that sometimes opposite colored bishop endgames are drawn even with 3 extra pawns, but in other cases one side is winning despite the material equality. Chess is a hard game. :) **1-0**

(16) Sokolov, Ivan(2625)-Akobian, Varuzhan(2625)

World Teams 2013(9.3), 2013.12.05

[CE Team]

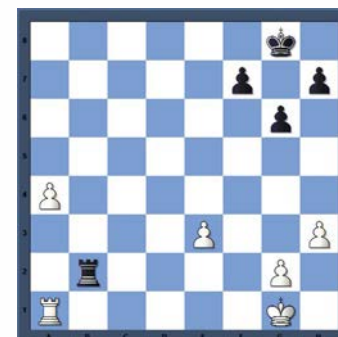


After a nice game Ivan Sokolov managed to get a rook endgame with 2 pawns up. White's position should be winning, but how to continue, with 31.Rf1 or 31. Rb5?!

30...♖cc2 31.♖b5! A very strong move and exactly the right decision. One extra pawn is totally enough to win the game. [After the very wrong 31.♖f1? 31...♖a2 followed by Rc4 White would end up in a rook endgame with 4 vs 3 pawns, which is a theoretical draw.]

31...♖xf2 [31...♖xb5 was not helping either, as after 32.axb5 ♖b2 White is in time to bring his rook to b8. 33.♖a8+ ♔g7 34.♖b8 With an easily winning position.]

32.♖xb2 ♖xb2



33.a5! White should push his pawn as far as possible to restrict the movement of the black rook.

33...♖b7 34.a6 ♖a7 The black rook cannot move, so it is time to activate the king.

35.♔f2 ♔g7 36.♔e2 The white king is going to b5.

36...♕f6 37.♕d3 ♕e5 38.♕c4 ♕d6 39.♕b5 ♕c7



40.♖d1 [Of course a move like 40.♔c5 would also lead to a winning position, but now Black can at least activate his rook. 40...♕b8 And the black rook is finally free.]

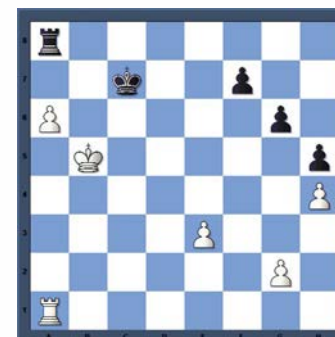
40...h5 [40...♕b8 was losing immediately: 41.♖d8+ ♔c7 42.♖f8]

41.h4 It will end in a pawn endgame, so White is preparing a nice pawn structure for it.

41...♖a8 42.♖c1+! The last exact move, after which the game is over.

42...♕d7 43.♖a1 Now Black cannot stop White from playing a7.

43...♕c7



44.a7 The black rook has no chances of freeing itself, so White changes the game into a completely winning pawn endgame.

44...♕b7 45.e4 ♖e8 46.a8=♔+ ♖xa8 47.♖xa8 ♕xa8 48.♕c6 A nice winning technique by Ivan Sokolov ! 1-0

Clash of the Titans

(17) Yates, Frederick-Alekhine, Alexander[C13]

Kecskemet-A(8), 1927

[Miton Kamil]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♙g5 dxe4 5.♘xe4 We have the Rubinstein line in the French Defence.

5...♙e7 6.♙xf6 ♙xf6 [6...gxf6 leads to more complex play.]

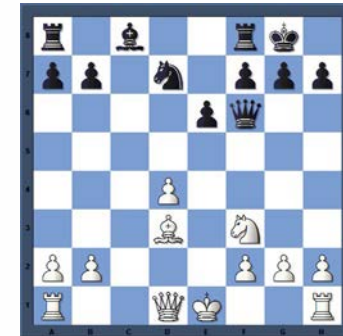
7.♘f3 ♘d7



8.♙d3 [8.♙d2 White is preparing the typical plan of castling queenside and putting pressure on the kingside. Now it is not easy for Black to push c5. 8...c5 9.dxc5 ♙xb2 10.♘d6+ ♔f8 11.♚d1 ♘xc5 12.♙c4 With the idea of castling and playing Qf4. White has a strong initiative.]

8...c5 A typical way to fight for the center in this structure.

9.dxc5 [9.♘d6+?! 9...♙e7 10.♘xc8+ ♚xc8 White lost a lot of time and as the king on e7 is safe Black is just better.; 9.♘xf6+ 9...♙xf6 (9...♙xf6 10.c3 cxd4 11.cxd4 O-O



12.O-O It seems like Black should be fine because of the isolated pawn and the fact that there are not many pieces on the board, but White has better development and as long as Black doesn't solve the problems with the c8 bishop White has a chance to get the initiative. Let's see some example variations: 12...♘b6 (12...b6 13.♙c2 h6 14.♙e4 ♚b8 15.♙c7± Xa7; 12...e5 Exchanging the isolated pawn but helping to finish the development. 13.♙c2 g6 14.♙e4 exd4 15.♚fd1) 13.♙e4 ♘d5 14.♘e5 ♚d8 15.♚c1 b6 16.♙d3 h6



17.♚fe1 (17.♙xd5 17...♚xd5 18.♚c7? ♙xe5—+) 17...♙b7 18.♙xd5 ♙xd5 19.♚c7† Xf7) 10.dxc5 ♙a5+ 11.♙d2 ♙xc5 12.O-O O-O And if Black manages to develop his bishop in time then the position will be equal.]

9...♘xc5 10.♘xf6+ ♙xf6 11.O-O [11.♙b5+ 11...♙d7 12.♙xd7+ ♘xd7 13.O-O And now Black doesn't need to take on b2

but after the simple 13...♔e7 followed by 0-0 he will have equalized.]

11...♖xb2 [11...O-O And Black has no problems at all.]

12.♖b1



12...♔f6! [12...♔c3 was less accurate. 13.♘b5+ ♔e7 14.♔c1 f6 15.♔f4 e5 16.♖fe1 With the idea of sacrificing the knight on e5 for a strong initiative.]

13.♘b5+ ♔e7



14.♔c1! A good place for the queen which can be activated over a3 or on the c1-h6 diagonal.

14...b6 15.♖b4 ♘b7 16.♖f4 Both sides activate their pieces. White has to hurry because his only advantage is that the king is not safe on e7.

16...♔h6 17.♘e5 [17.♔e3 17...♖hd8 18.♘e5 f6=+]]

17...f6 18.♔e3? A big mistake. White should escape with his knight but objectively Black is already better.

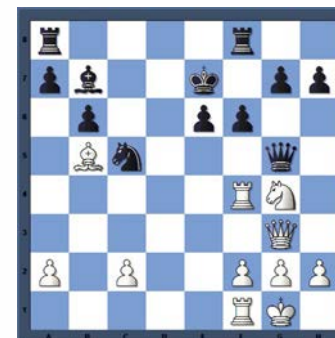


18...♖hf8? Black could simply win after [18...fxe5 19.♔xe5 ♖ac8 20.♖d1 (20.♖g4 20...♖hf8 21.♖xg7+ ♖f7++) 20...♖hd8 21.♖xd8 ♖xd8 22.♔c7+ ♘d7++]]

19.♘g4 [19.♘d3 19...♔g5 (19...♘xd3 20.♔xd3 ♔f7 21.♖d4 ♔g8 22.♖d7 With compensation.) 20.f3 ♘xd3 21.♘xd3 ♖fc8+ With the idea Qc5.]

19...♔g5 [19...♔g6=+]

20.♔g3 White is preparing h4 and maybe for some tricks on the c7 square. [20.h4? 20...♔xh4 21.♘xf6 ♔h6++]]



20...♖f7? seems to be good because the rook on the 7th

rank protects the position and the king can escape over the f8 square, but it is mistake. [20...h5? 21.♖f5! Xc7; 20...♖fd8 This move gives Black the advantage.]

21.♖d4 Now Black has problems with both the d6 and d8 squares.

21...♗f8 [21...e5 22.f4! exf4 23.♖xf4 ♖f8 24.♙c4 ♖e7 25.♘xf6! ♖e1+ 26.♗f2 ♖xg3+ 27.hxg3+—]



22.h4! A strong move! White avoids some ideas with f5 or h5 to exchange the queens.

22...♖f5 [22...♖g6 23.♖fd1+— And now 23...f5 doesn't work because the queen on g6 does not control the d8 square.; 22...♖h5 23.♖fd1 g6 24.♖d8+ ♖g7 25.♖xa8 ♙xa8 26.♖d8 ♘e4 27.♖f4 e5 28.♖f3 f5 29.♘xe5 ♖xf3 30.gxf3 ♖e7 31.♖xa8 ♖xe5 32.♖xa7+ ♖h6 33.♙a4 ♘c5 34.♙b3+—]

23.♖fd1 e5 [23...♙d5 24.c4±]



24.♘h6?! The idea is of course correct, but White should have started with [24.♖d8+! 24...♖xd8 25.♖xd8+ ♖e7 26.♘h6! And now White is winning after 26...gxh6 27.♖g8+—]

24...♖c8



25.♖d8+?! Another mistake! It is nice to win the queen but now Black will solve all the problems with the king. White could have kept very unpleasant pressure after [25.♖g4 25...♖c7 26.♖d6→Now White has the threat Rxf6.; 25.♘xf7 25...exd4 26.♘d6 ♖e6 27.♘xb7 ♘xb7 28.♖f3 With an unpleasant initiative over the light squares.]

25...♖xd8 26.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 27.♘xf7 ♖xf7= Now Black gets easy play.

28.♙c4+ [28.♖a3 With the idea to force some structure weakening.]

28...♙d5 29.♖g4 ♙xc4 30.♖xc4+ ♖e7 31.♖g4 ♖f8 32.♖h2 It is hard to improve the position for both sides.

32...h6 33.♖h3 ♖f7 34.♖h5+ ♖e7 35.♖g6 ♘e6 36.g3 ♖d4

37.a3



37...♖f4! What a complicated position...

38.♔g2 [38.♚d3 38...♖xf2 39.♚a6 f5 40.♚xa7+ ♔f6 41.♚xb6 ♖xc2 With the idea of playing g5 next.]

38...♖xh4=+ With his 2 pawns up Black already has good winning chances.

39.♚d3 ♖d4 [39...♖a4 was a very active place for the rook.]

40.♚a6 ♖d7 41.♚c4 [41.a4 White should have tried to create some weaknesses. 41...♖c7 (41...♘c5 42.♚b5) 42.a5 bxa5 43.♚xa5 ♖xc2 44.♚xa7+ ♖c7 Black should manage to win this.]

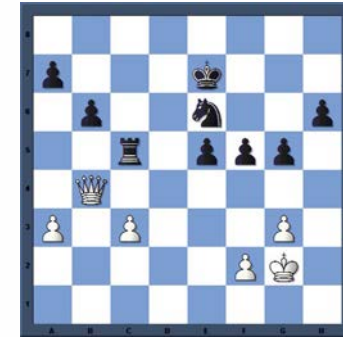
41...♖c7 42.♚b4+ ♖c5 43.♚e4 ♔f7 44.♚b7+ ♖c7 45.♚d5 ♔e7 46.♚e4 It is not easy to improve the position because Black must avoid the checks.

46...♘d4 47.c3 ♘e6 [47...♖xc3 48.♚b7+ ♔f8 49.♚a8+ ♔f7 50.♚d5+ ♔g6 51.♚e4+ With perpetual check.]

48.♚b4+ ♖c5 49.♚a4 ♖a5 50.♚b4+ ♘c5 51.♚g4 ♔f7 52.♚c4+ ♔f8 53.♚a2 ♖a4 Black finally manages to improve his pieces.

54.♔h3 ♔e7 55.♔g2 ♖a5 56.♔f1 ♘e6 57.♚b3 f5 58.♚b4+ ♖c5 59.♔g2 g5 Of course pushing the pawns is the only way for Black to win the game but it gives White additional

chances to create counterplay.



60.f3 [60.♚a4 60...♖a5 (60...a5 61.♚c2 e4 62.a4 At least the b6 pawn is weak now.) 61.♚c6 ♖xa3 62.♚b7+ ♔f6 63.♚h7 ♖]]

60...h5 61.♔f2 ♔f6 62.♔e1 g4 63.♔f2 White is now without hope of getting counterplay while Black will slowly improve his position and win the game.

63...♘g5 64.f4 ♘e4+ 65.♔g2 exf4 66.gxf4 h4 67.♚d4+ ♔e6 68.♚h8 h3+ 69.♔h2 ♘f6 The knight on f6 controls many important squares and White doesn't have many checks.

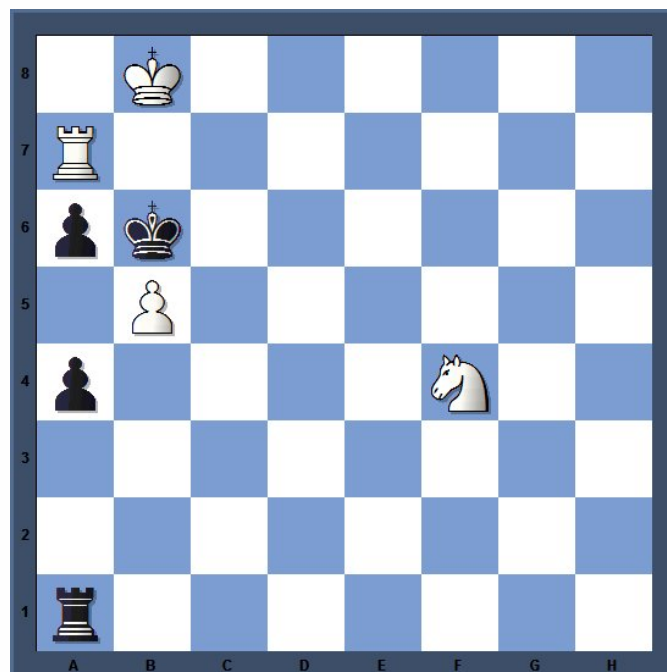
70.♚b8 ♖d5 71.♚c8+ ♔f7 72.♔g3 ♔g6 73.♚c6 ♖d2 74.♔h4 h2 75.♔g3 ♔h5 0-1

Surprise section / study

(18) Gorgiev

[CEWN]

1. +-



Solutions

(19) Hulak, K(2473)-Mochalov, E(2404)

World Seniors, 2013.11.19

[Solutions]



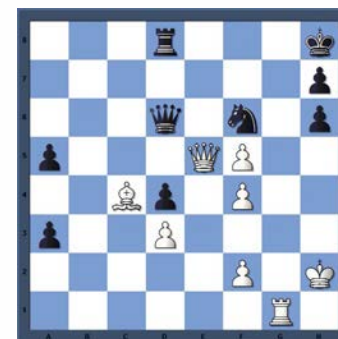
34. ♖c6! gxf5 [34...bxc6 35.dxc6 ♖d8 36.c7 ♖c8 37.b7+-]

35.gxf5 ♕h5 36.♖xe7 ♖xe7 37.♖xe7 bxc6 38.♖xg7 ♕xg7
39.dxc6+-

(20) Rishi, S(2356)-Babujian, L(2510)

Chennai Open, 2013.11.19

[Solutions]



48. ♖g8+! ♖xg8 49. ♕xd6+-

(21) Sethuraman, S(2553)-Naranayan, S(2444)

Chennai Open, 2013.11.20

[Solutions]



30.f5+! gxf5 31.gxf5+ ♖xf5 32.e6! ♙xe6 [32...♖xe6 33.♖f2+ ♖g6 34.♖g1+ ♖h5 35.♖f5+ ♖h4 36.♖g4#]

33.♖f2+ ♖g6 34.d7! ♙xd7 35.♖g1+ ♖h5 36.♖g5+! ♖h4 37.♖xd5+—

(22) Holt, C(2534)-Berczes, D(2522)

Dallas GM, 2013.11.24

[Solutions]



23.♙e5+! fxe5 [23...♖e7 24.♖c7+ ♖d6 25.♙c4+ ♖xc7 26.♙xa3+—]

24.♖g4+ ♖e8 25.♖h5+! ♖f8 [25...♖d7 26.♖f5+!]

26.♖f5+ ♖e8 27.♖xe5+ ♖e7 [27...♖f7 28.♖c7+—]

28.♖xh8+—

(23) Harikrishna, P(2709)-Ragge, M(2668)

German league, 2013.11.23

[Solutions]



29.♙xe5+!! fxe5 30.♖f3+ ♖g8 [30...♖e8 31.♙e6+—; 30...♖g6 31.♖d6+—]

31.♙e6 ♙a6 [31...♖e8 32.♙c7+—]

32.♙xd8 ♖xd8 33.♖fd3 ♙c8 34.♖d6+— ♖f8 [34...♖f7 35.♙xc6 ♙xc6 36.♖xc6 ♖e8 37.♖c7+—]

35.♖xd7 ♙xd7 36.♖xd7 ♖f7 37.♙xc6+—

(24) Naiditsch, A(2724)-Beikert, G(2422)

German league, 2013.11.24

[Solutions]



34.♙xe6! ♖cc7 [34...fxe6 35.♖f8#]

35.♖f6! +— fxe6 [35...♖e7 36.♖xg6+] 36.♖f8# 1-0

(25) Kravtsiv, M(2609)-Rabiega, R(2507)

German league, 2013.11.24

[Solutions]



29. ♖h7+!! ♔f7 [29...♙xh7 30.♖xh6+ ♔g8 31.♖h8+ ♔f7 32.♖h7+-; 29...♜xh7 30.♖xh6+-]

30.♖xh6+- ♔d4 31.b3 [31.♜h5+ 31...♔e7 32.♖e1+ ♔d7 33.♖d1+-]

31...♙d5 32.♙xf5 ♙xh1 33.♜h5+ ♔e7 34.♖e6+ ♔d7 35.♖e4+ ♔c7 36.♖xd4 1-0

(26) Kraemer, M(2546)-Efimenko, Z(2661)

German league, 2013.11.24

[Solutions]



21...♖xc3! 0-1 [21...♖xc3 22.♖xc3 ♙xd4+-]

(27) Parligras, M(2575)-Bogner, S(2552)

German league, 2013.11.24

[Solutions]

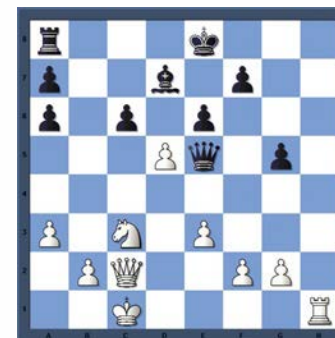


23...♖e7! 24.♖f4 ♜c7!-+

(28) Mozharov, M(2508)-Bora, S(2195)

Chennai Open, 2013.11.25

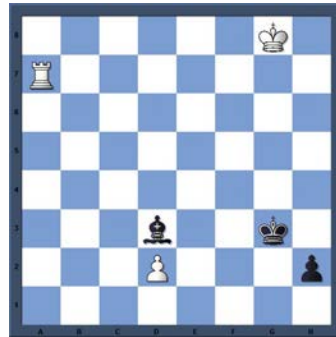
[Solutions]



20.♜e4! ♜xe4 21.♖h8+! ♔e7 22.d6+! ♔xd6 23.♙xe4+ ♔e5 24.♖xa8+-

(29) Kozlowski

[Solutions]



1. ♖a1! ♔g2 2. ♕h8!! ♘f1 3. ♖a7! h1=♔+ 4. ♖h7 ♔g1
5. ♖g7+=



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter



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Editorial Preface

The match between Shirov and Dubov was not as exciting as we might have expected. The match consisted in 6 classical games and ended in a crushing result of 5-1 in favor of Shirov.

Now to the top ongoing events:

In this year's London Chess Classic we can see a mix between Top 10 players and British players. As expected after the first qualification rounds all the top players went through (Anand, Kramnik, Caruana...). Under the Top 8 are also still the two best British players, Adams and Short, who qualified in a convincing way. We can be very curious about the knock-out rounds which are starting now, especially as one of the matches will be Anand-Kramnik.

The World Mind Games are under way as well. With blitz, rapid and "2 board simultaneous" play, we can see a very interesting structure. Top players like Grischuk, Karjakin, Mamedyarov, Wang Yue and many more are fighting for the attractive titles and prize money in China.

As usual we try to bring you the most exciting games in the current issue of CEWN.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Dubov, Daniil(2629)

- Shirov, Alexei(2695) [D44]

Battle of the Generations 2013(2), 2013.12.03

[Balogh Csaba]

The Shirov-Dubov match finished with a 5-1 victory for Shirov. The young Russian played very brave and sharp chess during the entire match, but it is not necessarily a clever decision against Shirov, who could show his best chess.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 e6 5.♙g5 dxc4 The Botvinnik variation of the Slav defence is considered to be one of the most exciting theoretical lines.

6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.♙h4 g5



9.♙g3 A rare continuation. Dubov probably wanted to get his experienced opponent out of his preparation. [Two weeks ago I commented another spectacular game between Kramnik and Aronian, where White went for the main line with 9.♘xg5 9...hxg5 10.♙xg5]

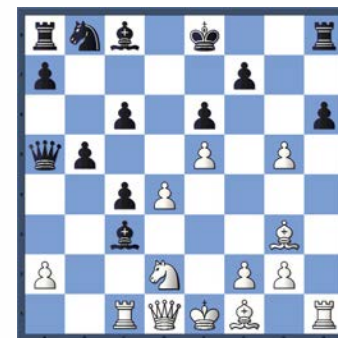
9...♘d5 10.h4 Another rare move by White, which already seems to pass the initiative to Black. [The main and probably the most critical move is 10.♘d2 although after Black's correct reaction 10...h5! he seems to be fine at the end of the lines.]

10...♙a5! The most natural reply. In the next two moves Shirov develops two of his pieces with tempo by putting pressure on the c3 knight.

11.♖c1 ♙b4 [11...g4!? 12.♘d2 h5 was probably an even better option for Black. He would have kept the kingside locked.]

12.hxg5! The best chance. [After the passive 12.♙c2 Black can choose between two promising options 12...g4 (Or the greedy 12...gxh4 13.♙xh4 ♙xa2! Black is going to take on c3 next and trade queen, after which White would hardly have enough compensation for the sacrificed pawns...) 13.♘d2 ♘d7 followed by Bb7, 0-0-0 and c5 looks excellent for Black.]

12...♘xc3 13.bxc3 ♙xc3+ 14.♘d2



14...♘d7! I like this simple developing move the most. If Black manages to castle queenside, he might launch a very strong attack against the e1 king by opening the center with c5! [14...h5 was less convincing because of 15.♙e2 and after Bxh5, White is threatening with Bxf7, winning an exchange.]

15.♖xh6 [After 15.gxh6? 15...♙b7+ Black achieves what he wanted. The h-pawn is excellently blockaded and Black plays 0-0-0 and c5 next.]

15...♖g8! Black rightly preserves the rooks, otherwise the h-pawn gets too dangerous.

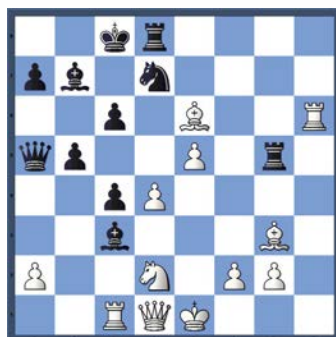
16. ♖e2 ♖b7



17. ♖h5! White is just in time to create counterplay. He is threatening with Rxe6.

17...O-O-O! I guess Shirov did not hesitate much before making this move. The safety of his king is more important than the pawns, from now on he can focus on the attack against the e1 king, but of course White also has his resources. [17...♖f8? is a blunder because of 18. ♖xf7+! ♖xf7 19. ♖f3+ and Rxc3. Suddenly the black king is much weaker.]

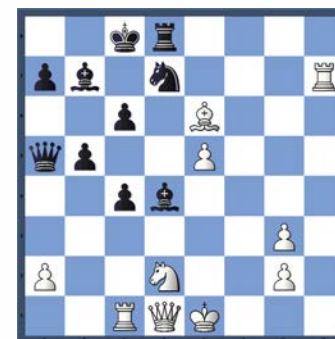
18. ♖xf7 ♖xg5 19. ♖xe6



19...♖xg3! Eliminating a strong defender! After this sacrifice it is clear that the white king will never find a shelter in this game. The question is if Black will be able to focus enough pieces on the attack or if White will manage to trade a few more and consolidate...

20. fxg3 ♖xd4 [20...♖b8 was an alternative to maintain the pin. Black now intends to play Nf8 or Nb6 to threaten with Rxd4. From a practical point of view, Black's chances are much better since one mistake could be fatal to White, but objectively White might hold things together... 21. ♖xd7 ♖xd7 22. ♖d6 ♖e7 (22...♖xd6 23. exd6 ♖c8 is also interesting.)]

21. ♖xd7+! At first I thought White should not have hurried with this capture, but after a bit deeper look the evaluations have changed. [On 21. ♖h7



Black replies with the very strong 21...♖a3! 22. ♖xd7+ ♖b8! Black is a full rook down, but he has an enormous attack... (But not 22...♖xd7? 23. ♖g4 ♖xc1+ 24. ♖e2+- Suddenly White mates.) 23. ♖f1 ♖xe5 Black plays c5 and the other bishop also joins to the game. White can hardly consolidate...; 21. ♖g4 is a similar story to 21. Rh7. 21...♖xe5 22. ♖h7 ♖a3! 23. ♖xd7+ ♖b8 And once again despite the extra rook White has difficulties due to his weak king and uncoordinated pieces.]

21...♖xd7 22. e6? [White should have continued with the simplification policy: 22. ♖d6! 22...♖xe5 23. ♖xd7 ♖xd7 24. ♖f1 ♖c7 It is very difficult to judge this position. In my opinion Black has no problems at all with the bishop pair, but on the other hand the dangers around the king are gone, so White should also be fine. 25. ♖e2 ♖d6 26. ♖e4 With an unclear fight.]

22...♖e7 23.♔f1?! Another inaccuracy, but of course it is extremely difficult to play such positions over the board... [White should have prevented the subtle Qa3 idea with 23.♕f3! 23...c5 24.♕f8+ ♖d8 25.♕xd8+ ♔xd8 Black is going to win the e-pawn with Bd5 and his pawn phalanx on the queenside supported by the two bishops will start to march. Although White has decent chances for counterplay after 26.♘f3 ♗g7 27.♞h5]



23...♕a3! With the idea of Qe3, which turns out to be hard to prevent, as Qe2 or Qf3 leaves the c1 rook unprotected.

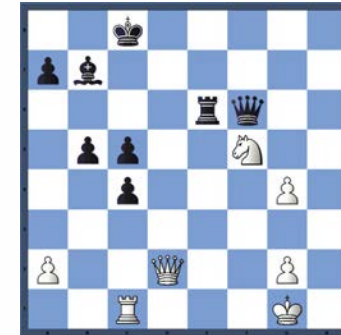
24.♘f3 ♕e3! This is what Dubov probably missed when he played 23.Kf1. Black does not need to move the bishop, he can counterattack the h6 rook.

25.♘xd4? White collapses after the previous shocking move. It is a typical thing in chess that when someone is missing such a tactical blow like Qe3, he loses the game in a few moves because of psychological factors... [White still had 25.♕d2! after which the game goes on... 25...♕xd2 26.♘xd2 ♗e3 27.♞h8+ ♔c7 28.♔e2 ♞xe6 Black's chances are better, but he needs to work hard for the win.]

25...♕xh6 26.♘f5 ♕f6! Saving the rook.

27.g4 ♞xe6 Black is not only ahead materially but his bishop also joins the game after c5 next.

28.♕d2 c5 29.♔g1



29...♕d8 With such pawns on the queenside, Black is always ready to trade queens. White is in a hopeless situation because the endgame is lost, while if he keeps the queens, his king is still very weak...

30.♕f2 ♕d5 31.g5 ♔c7! Black moves his king to b6 to avoid any kind of unpleasant checks. A very strong prophylactical decision, after which the game is practically over.

32.a4 [32.♕g3+ 32...♔b6 33.g6 would have been nicely refuted by 33...♞e5! 34.g7 (34.♘h4 34...♞g5 35.♕f2 ♞g4--+) 34...♞xf5 35.g8=♕ ♕d4+ 36.♔h2 ♞h5+--]

32...♞e5 33.♘h4 [33.♞f1 was met by 33...♞xf5 34.♕xf5 ♕xg2#]

33...♞xg5 34.axb5 ♞g4 35.♞e1 ♕d4 White resigned as he either gets mated or after the queens trade the connected passed pawns are promoting automatically. **0-1**

(2) Shirov, Alexei(2695) - Dubov, Daniil(2629) [B48]

Moscow RUS, 2013.12.07

[Balogh Csaba]

We are in the 5th game of the match, when Shirov turns to 1.e4. His first two white games started with 1.d4.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3



5...♔c7 The Taimanov variation of the Sicilian is very popular nowadays. Shirov stays faithful to his style and goes for the most aggressive setup with queenside castling.

6.♕e3 a6 7.♔d2 b5 This is a rare move that doesn't have a very good reputation. [The reason why players are going for this variation with Black is the line with 7...♗f6 8.O-O-O ♕e7 9.f3 b5 10.g4 ♗xd4 and after both recaptures Bb7. This is of course just the beginning of the recent theory, but at the moment Black shows excellent results with it.]

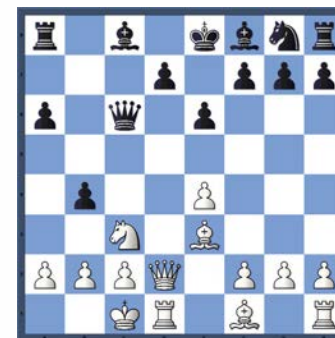
8.♗xc6 [8.O-O-O is the most common move, but Shirov's reply is also a natural reaction on b5.]

8...♔xc6 [8...dxc6 9.O-O-O e5 is the other plan, but it looks like White can get an edge after aggressive play: 10.f4 ♗f6 11.fxe5 ♗g4 12.♕d4 ♕e6 13.♕e2 ♗xe5 14.♔e3 ♕e7 Black is just one move away to get a perfect position with 0-0, but

White plays 15.♔g3! ♕f6 16.♕c5! as it happened in the Gashimov-Bocharov, Cappelle la Grande 2007 game and the black king got stuck in the center.]

9.O-O-O A provoking move. [9.f3 9...♕b7 10.O-O-O leads to the game by transposition.]

9...♕b7 Black does not try to make use of Shirov's move order and transposes back to the main lines. [9...b4 was the critical test of 9.O-O-O. Shirov definitely wanted to use the standard Sicilian sacrifice with



10.♗d5! exd5 11.exd5 The compensation proves to be enough in all the lines. Black does not have enough time to put his king into safety. It takes too much time to develop all the pieces. 11...♔a4 12.d6! ♔xa2 (12...♗f6 13.♔e1+- is already decisive.) 13.♔xb4 ♗f6 14.♕c5+- is the most precise and Black has no defence against Re1.]

10.f3 From now on White simply wants to retreat to e2 with his knight in case of b4.

10...♔c8 11.g4 Shirov immediately launches the standard kingside attack. He is going forward with g5-h4-h5. It seems a bit slow, but actually White arrives very fast and at the same time it is much harder for Black to create something serious on the queenside, where he should attack.

11...♗f6 [11...h6 just temporarily slows down the pawn march.

White plays 12.h4 followed by developing his bishop to h3 or d3 (unpinning his rook on the h-file) and then he is ready to push g5 next.]

12.g5 ♖h5 Black develops one of his pieces and also tries to block the advancing of the pawns. Unfortunately for him, the knight soon turns out to be misplaced at the edge of the board. Shirov obviously knows all these Sicilian ideas by heart...



13.♗h3! The bishop is heading to g4! Without the trade of the d4 and c6 knights, this maneuver is risky because Black could quickly activate his knight with Ne5-c4, but of course White does not need to worry about such things anymore.

13...♗e7 14.♗g4 g6 15.♗xh5 gxh5 White has made a clear achievement by destroying the pawn structure. From now on even positionally he is doing extremely fine, but his attacking chances are also clearly preferable.



16.h4! What could be the point of this move?! Actually it is a strong positional move, fixing the weakness on h5, which turns out to be target of the c3 knight, who only needs 3 moves to get there...

16...a5 It was time for Black to search for counterplay, otherwise White plays Ne2-f4-h5 anyway.

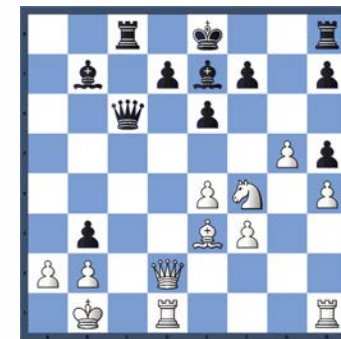
17.♖b1! The standard Sicilian prophylaxis.

17...b4 [17...♗b4 is never serious because of 18.♗d4 White simple neutralizes the pin and also settles his bishop to f6!]

18.♗e2 a4 19.♗f4! Black is very far from creating any serious threats on the queenside, so Shirov calmly continues his plan.

19...b3 [19...a3 is even worse. 20.b3+— followed by occupying the a1-h8 diagonal with the bishop. Black has zero chance to break through with the attack.]

20.cxb3 axb3



21.axb3! As simple as that. Black is very far from occupying the a-file with the queen and rook. [The other standard method to neutralize Black's attempt is 21.a3? however it does not work here because of 21...♖c2+ 22.♖a1 ♗xa3! and suddenly Black is crushing! 23.♖xd7+ (23.♖xc2 23...bxc2; 23.bxa3 23...b2+ 24.♖a2 b1=♖#) 23...♖f8—+]

21...♗b4 Trying to deflect the queen from the c2 square, but

of course White is not forced to accept the sacrifice... [If Black connects his rooks in order to regroup them to a8 and c8 by playing 21...O-O the g7 square suddenly becomes vulnerable: 22.♖xh5 ♖a8 23.♔d4+-]

22.♔f2! ♖a8 23.♖xh5 ♔e7 [White also mates faster after 23...♔a6 24.♖f6+ ♔f8 25.♕c5+ ♕xc5 26.♔xc5+ ♔g7



And here the key is 27.♖h5+! ♔g6 28.♖f4+ ♔g7 29.♔e5+ ♔g8 squeezing the black rook into the corner as without it there is no real threat... 30.♖h5 ♔a2+ 31.♔c2 ♖c8+ 32.♔d2+- Black has no more checks.; 23...O-O loses to 24.♖f6+ ♔h8 25.♕d4+- followed by a decisive discovered check.]

24.♖f6 ♖hc8 [24...d6 is refuted by 25.♖c1! Black cannot cover the c7 square. 25...♔a6 26.♖c7+ ♔f8 Here White has several ways to win as Black has only one check on a2. The easiest is probably 27.♔f1 trying to trade queens with two extra pawns and also to deflect the defender of the b7 bishop. 27...♔a2+ 28.♔c2 ♕a6 29.♔a1+- White wins after 29...♕d3+ 30.♔xd3 ♔xb3+ 31.♖c3!+-]

25.♖xd7+ ♔xd7 [25...♔f8 loses on the spot to 26.g6! and Bh6 or Rxf7 is coming with mate.]

26.♖xd7 ♔xd7 White ended up with a decisive material advantage and it is still not clear what Black is threatening

with. The rest is just a matter of technique...

27.♕a7 A spectacular move to close the a-file and to open the queen's route to b6.

27...♕a6 28.♖d1+ ♔e8 29.h5 Shirov decided to destroy the pawn structure in order to mate his opponent more easily. [29.♔b6? would have allowed 29...♕e2 and Black gets some counterplay...]

29...♕e7 30.g6! fxg6 31.hxg6 hxg6 The e6 pawn has become a target after the pawn sacrifice.

32.♔b6 ♔f7 [32...♕e2 makes no sense now because of 33.♖d2 ♕xf3 34.♔xe6+-]

33.♖d7 ♕e2 34.♔d6 Black resigned. A typical Sicilian game, where White's attack proved to be much more effective. **1-0**

(3) Caruana, Fabiano(2782) - Sutovsky, Emil(2657) [A48]

5th Classic GpD 2013(1), 2013.12.11
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

We will see a very nice "start-finish" win by Caruana in quite a tricky position.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.♘f3 g6** Sutovsky plays the Gruenfeld as his main opening.

3.♗f4 This is why Caruana chooses to play less theoretical lines. After 3.Bf4 we are in some sort of reversed Reti with a tempo more for White. I played it a couple of times myself.

3...d6



4.h3 White wants to avoid the future tricky line with Nh5 and secures the h2 square.

4...c5 A rare move. [One of the main lines for Black is 4...♗g7 5.e3 O-O 6.♗e2 ♘fd7 with a fast e5 push. This position should be fine for Black.]

5.dxc5! A very strong move. Usually a move like dxc5 doesn't bring much to White, but this time it is the right decision. White is better developed and is looking for fast play.

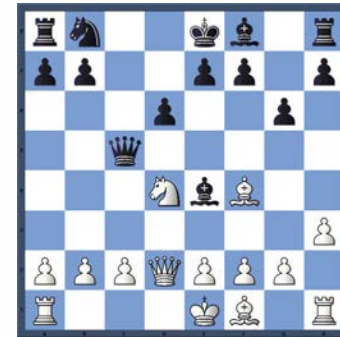
5...♔a5+ Black needs to win the pawn back.

6.♔d2 ♔xc5 7.♘c3 ♗f5? A very strange decision by Black. [It was clearly time to develop the bishop and castle: 7...♗g7 8.e4 (8.♗h6 8...O-O doesn't bring much to White.) 8...O-O 9.♗d3 With a slightly better position for White.]

8.♘d4 A very logical move, putting the knight to a central square and attacking the f5 bishop.

8...♗e4 Black is following his wrong plan.

9.♘xe4 ♗xe4 And here comes the move Black probably blundered...



10.f3! A small, but very strong move. White is in time to put the pawn on e4 and this secures a clear advantage. The h3 move is now not really useful, but Black also lost a lot of time by playing c5-Qa5-Qxc5.

10...♗c6 11.e4 e5? Another bad move. Black continues to be principal, but right here it is already not making any sense at all. [11...♗d7 was better. 12.♗e3 ♔c8 And of course White's position is much better, but Black is still fighting.]

12.♗e3 Caruana calculates with great precision! [12.♘b3 12...♔b6 13.♗e3 would also leave White with a big advantage.]

12...exd4 13.♗xd4 Now the position is getting a bit messy but it seems like it is all working out well for Caruana.

13...♗h6 Black brings his bishop into the game.

14.♕f2 The white queen is aiming for the h4 square.

14...♖a5+ 15.♗c3 And the queen and rook are still both under attack.

15...♖d8 This is probably Black's only practical chance. The idea is to close the white bishop on h8 by playing f6 next.

16.♗xh8 f6 If Black was in time to play Nd7 next, the position would be pretty unclear, but White makes things clear with his next move...



17.♕h4! Caruana is playing a perfect game. The bishop on h6 and the f6 pawn are hanging, so Black needs to sacrifice more material.

17...♗g5 18.♕xh7 ♖a5+ 19.c3 ♘d7 Black finally brought some pieces into the game, but White is already too much material up.

20.♕xg6+ ♖e7 21.h4! Caruana continues giving zero chances to Black and with this move he already has a nice finishing idea in mind.

21...♗e3 22.♗xf6+ ♘xf6 23.♕g7+ ♖e6 And here comes the key move...



24.g3! Black is hopeless against the upcoming Bh3 move, with mate or a win of material.

24...♗f2+ Sutovsky tries the last tricks.

25.♖d2 Cool and good. Black will soon run out of checks.

25...♗e3+ 26.♖c2 ♗xe4+ Nothing helps anymore.

27.fxe4 ♖a4+ 28.b3 The white king is going to hide on b2.

28...♕xe4+ 29.♖b2 ♕f3 Sutovsky gives White the chance to almost mate him! :)

30.♗h3+ A very nice game by Caruana, taking advantage of all of Black's mistakes. **1-0**

(4) Kamsky, Gata(2721) - Ivanchuk, Vassily(2731) [C41]

SportAccord Rapid Men 2013(4.4), 2013.12.12
[Arkadij Naiditsch]

A game between 2 great fighters often ends in a long outplayed endgame, but this time things went more quickly. After very risky play in the opening, Ivanchuk quickly got into trouble and was mated by Gata in nice style.

1.d4 d6 Sometimes Black uses this move order against the 1.d4 players because usually players who play 1.d4 are not going for the Pirc.

2.e4 But Kamsky does.

2...f6 3.c3 e5 In the last years Black has not been afraid of the endgame which could arise after

4.f3 [4.dxe5 4...dxe5 5.♙xd8+ ♔xd8 6.♗c4 ♔e8 And as we can see in the games, White clear has no way to achieve an advantage.]

4...bd7 And we are in the main line of the Philidor.

5.♗c4 ♗e7 6.O-O O-O 7.a4 [7.♖e1 would lead to the same over a different move order.]

7...c6 8.♖e1



8...a5 A very fighting line, even a bit risky for Black. [8...b6

would be the main move here, with the idea of playing Bb7 and a6-b5.]

9.h3 A good prophylactic move against Bg4.

9...b6 I personally think the black knight is wrongly placed on b6, but the position is pretty direct. [Another way to go on for Black would be to play 9...exd4 10.♗xd4 ♗c5 and there are still a lot of games in this position.]

10.♗f1 A very solid move. [Another option was 10.♗d3 but it is not easy to guess where the bishop is better placed.]

10...exd4 11.♗xd4 d5 That was the idea behind 9...Nb6, to play with a quick d5.

12.e5 Thinking about 12. exd5 with an about equal position is of course not an option.

12...e8 Black's idea is to play Nc7, covering the c7 square, and to push c5-d4.

13.♗ce2! A very strong move by Kamsky. The white knight goes to g3 and after Ndf5 or Nh5 it could bring Black a lot of sorrows.



13...f6?! A very risky move, even if Black's idea is totally correct. With the very nice pawn structure c6-d5, if Black was in time to crush the e5 pawn, things would look very promising. [13...♗c7 was probably a better choice.]

14.e6! A very strong move. [Maybe White could also have gone for 14.f4 14...fxe5 Black has no other choice than to give the exchange: 15.fxe6 d6 16.fxf8 xf8 (16...xf8? didn't work as after 17.h5! the e8 knight and e5 pawn are under attack.) 17.b3 And I think White should be better here.]

14...c7 [Black is not in time to win the pawn by playing 14...c5 15.f5 xe6 16.feg3 Both black bishops are hanging now. 16...xf5



17.fxf5 And White clearly has much more than just compensation for the pawn.]

15.fg3 The white knights are heading towards the black king.

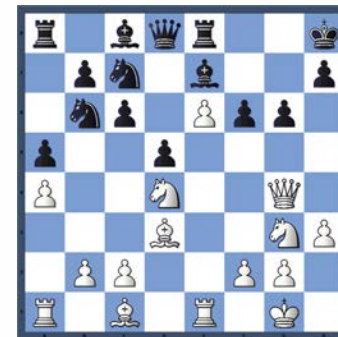
15...e8 [15...c5 of course didn't work as after 16.fdf5 fxe6 17.g4 Black will lose some material.]

16.f3! Another very strong move by Kamsky. Black wants to play 16.Ngf5 Bf8, attacking the e6 pawn and at the same time protecting the g7 square from Qg4.

16...g6 Black doesn't have a choice as White wants to play Qh5 or maybe even Bxh7 Kxh7 and Qh5 followed by Kg8 Qf7 and mate.

17.g4 Another good move. White just wants to play Bxg6 next.

17...h8 Black prevented Bxg6, but here comes another blow:

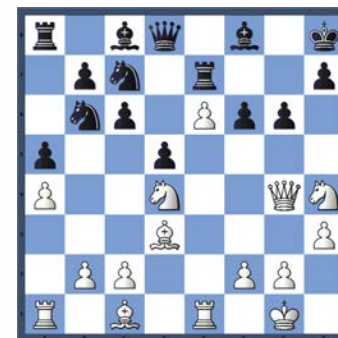


18.fg5! A great and active move by Kamsky, who doesn't give his opponent the time to breathe.

18...f8 Black tries to keep things together. [Of course after 18...gxf5 19.fxf5 White mates on h7.]

19.fh4 And Nxg6 is a deadly threat. Black has no defence against it.

19...e7 Any other move was losing too.



20.fxg6+! A nice finish of the game.

20...hxg6 21.fxg6 White wants to play Bf7 next or first Qh5, the game is over. A great victory by Kamsky, who was the World Number 2 player many years ago, playing a match against Kasparov for the chess crown. **1-0**

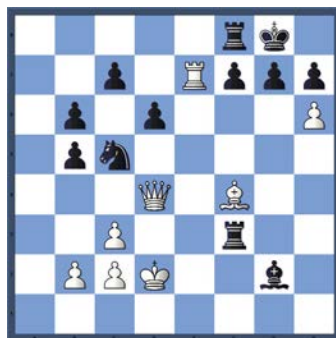
Puzzle section

(5) Baramidze, D(2614)-Akopian, V(2625)

World Teams, 2013.12.03

[CEWN]

1... -+



(6) Petrosian, T(2660)-L'Ami, E(2648)

World Teams, 2013.12.04

[CEWN]

1. +-

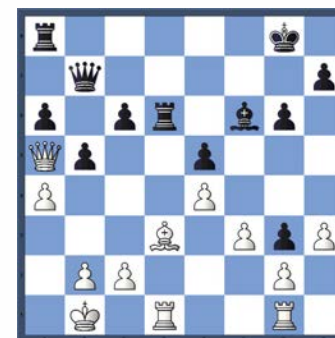


(7) Nepomniachtchi, I(2721)-Shoker, S(2500)

World Teams, 2013.12.05

[CEWN]

1. +-

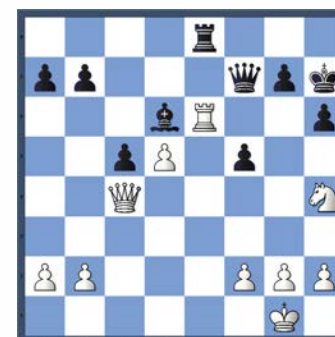


(8) Sjugirov, S(2641)-Pridorozhni, A(2517)

Yugra Cup, 2013.12.04

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Pap, G(2522)-Berkes, F(2677)

Hungarian Championship, 2013.12.05

[CEWN]

1. +-



(10) Toth, E(2477)-Nagy, G(2404)

Hungarian Championship, 2013.12.06

[CEWN]

1... -+

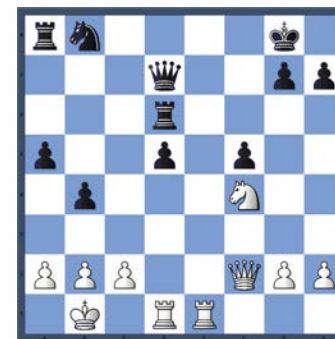


(11) Ter Sahakyan, S(2562)-Sharma, D(2386)

Kolkata Open, 2013.12.07

[CEWN]

1. +-

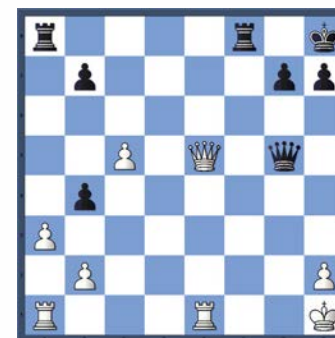


(12) Ravi, T(2335)-Murshed, N(2465)

Kolkata Open, 2013.12.31

[CEWN]

1... -+

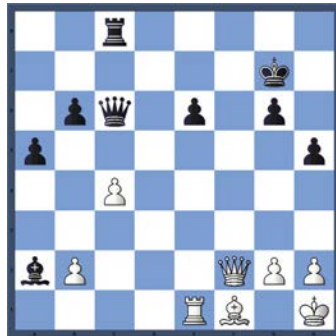


(13) Luther, T(2556)-Bromberger, S(2471)

Austrian league, 2013.12.06

[CEWN]

1. +-



(14) Bosiocic, M(2542)-Mons, L(2428)

Austrian league, 2013.12.06

[CEWN]

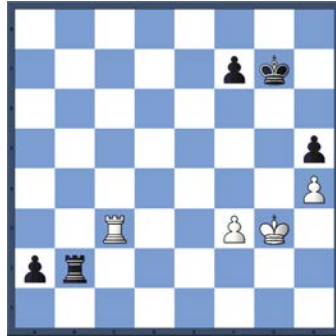
1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Giri, Anish(2734)-Nepomniachtchi, Ian(2721)

SportAccord Rapid Men 2013(1.2), 2013.12.12
[CE Team]



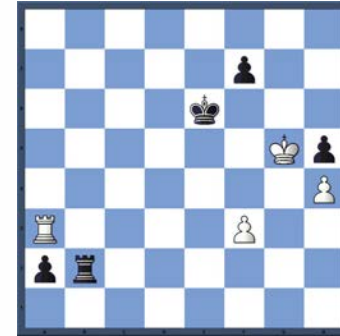
After a great game Black managed to get this rook endgame, but is it a winning one? Hard to say, let's see how the game developed...

40. ♖a3 ♜f6! Of course Black doesn't lose any time and moves closer to the a-pawn with his king.

41. ♔f4 White also needs to take some active measures. The white king is going for the h5 pawn.

41... ♜e6! The only way to go on for Black. [If Black got too greedy and played 41... ♖g2? to protect the h-pawn, then 42. ♖a6+! would cut off the black king! 42... ♜e7 43. ♔f5 This position is probably already a draw. In case the black king walks to b7, White will be in time to play Kf6 and Kxf7 with a draw.]

42. ♜g5



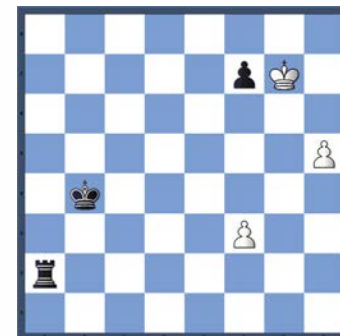
42... ♖g2+! A very important move. In case of the careless 42... Kd5 White has 43.f4! and he would have some drawing chances by playing Kf6 next.

43. ♜xh5 ♜d5 The black king is coming closer to b4.

44. ♜h6 ♜c4 45. h5 White tries to be in time and of course he needs to push his h-pawn as far as possible.

45... ♜b4 46. ♖xa2 [46. ♖a7 was also losing as after 46... ♜b3 47. ♜h7 ♖g1 and a1Q next, Black is winning.]

46... ♖xa2 47. ♜g7 The position is very forced, but Black is in time to win the game with

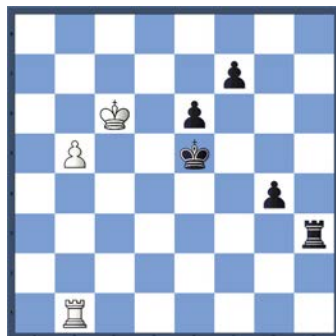


47... f5!! A very strong final move. While the rook is catching the h-pawn, Black is going with his king to e3 and obtaining a winning pawn endgame. White resigned as he saw no

chances, but let us take a look at one more line: 48.h6 Rh2 49.h7 Kc3 50.h8Q Rxh8 51.Kxh8 Kd3 52.Kg7 Ke3 53.Kg6 f4 followed by Kxf3. **0-1**

(16) Czebe, A.(2451)-Horvath, A.(2531)

Hungarian Championship, 2013.12.10
[CE Team]

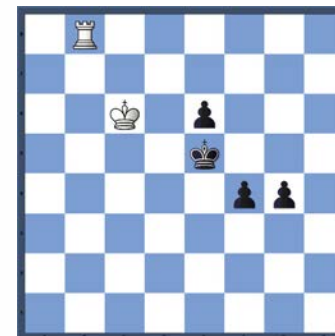


The following very interesting endgame arose between two very good friends of mine. Black is very close to victory, but White also has his hopes thanks to the b-pawn. The winning technique should be to advance the pawns, then to sacrifice the rook for the b-pawn and then promote one of the passers with the help of the king... Such positions are very good exercises to improve our calculating skills. In the game Black was living from the half minute increments, which of course makes his task much harder.

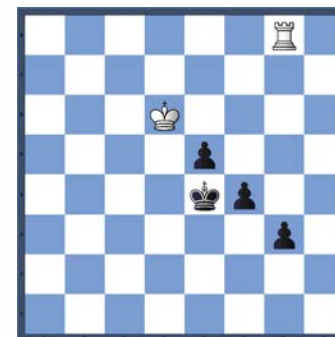
56...f5! The pawns should be advanced together.

57.b6 f4 It seems to be over as b7 loses quite easily, but White finds a very tricky attempt to complicate matters:

58.♖b5+! [The endgame after 58.b7 58...♖h8 59.b8=♙+ ♖xb8 60.♖xb8 is losing for White because of



60...f3! The only winning move!
(60...g3? 61.♖g8 ♙e4 62.♙d6 e5



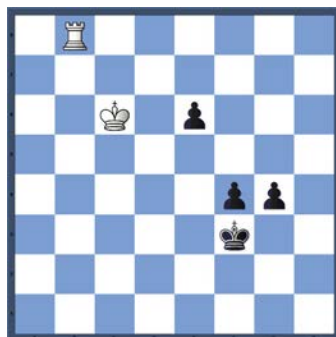
(62...f3 63.♖g4+! forces the king into the pin 63...♙e3 64.♖xg3=) 63.♙e6! And this position is a draw as the following lines show: 63...f3 (63...♙d4 64.♙f5=) 64.♖g4+! ♙e3 65.♖xg3=) 61.♖f8 (61.♖g8 61...f2 62.♖f8 g3--+) 61...♙e4 and g3 next. 62.♖g8 f2 (62...♙f4 63.♖f8+ ♙e3--+) is also good enough.) 63.♖xg4+ ♙e5 64.♖g5+ ♙f6 65.♖g8 ♙f7--+]

58...♙e4 59.♖b4+ ♙f5 Black repeats twice to gain some time.

60.♖b5+ ♙e4 61.♖b4+

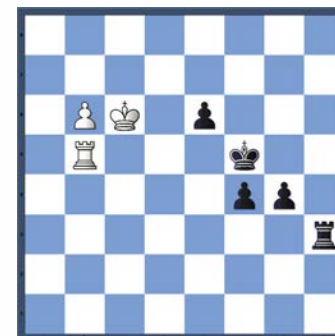


61...Kf5 [61...Kf3! was the best way to win. 62.b7 (On 62.Rb3+ 62...Kf2 63.Rb2+ (63.Rxh3 loses because the pawn promotes with check. 63...gxh3 64.b7 h2 65.b8=Q h1=Q+-) 63...Kg3 White has no more checks and f3 is coming next 64.b7 Rh8 65.b8=Q Rxb8 66.Rxb8 f3 67.Kd6 f2 68.Rf8 Kg2+-) 62...Rh8 63.b8=Q Rxb8 64.Rxb8

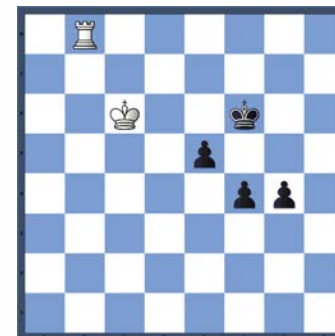


It is a nice exercise to calculate the win for Black: 64...Kg3! (64...g3 also wins, but only if Black finds 65.Kd6 Kg2!!+- (65...g2? spoils the win because of 66.Rg8 Kg2 67.Kg5! f3 68.Kg4 e5 69.Rg7= and White just waits with the rook and holds the draw.)) 65.Kd6 f3 66.Kxe6 (66.Kg5 does not change anything, Black wins after 66...f2 67.Rf8 Kg2 68.Kg4 g3+- and f1Q next.) 66...f2 67.Rf8 Kg2 68.Kg5 g3 69.Kg4 f1=Q 70.Rxf1 Kxf1+-]

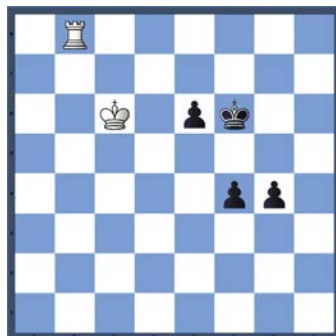
62.Rb3+



62...e5? Surprisingly this most logical move spoils the win... [62...Ke4 would have been the best to transpose to the Kf3 lines, but here it already moves into threefold repetitions.; Therefore the last winning move was the very strange and unhuman 62...Kf6!! 63.b7 (63.Rb4 63...e5 64.b7 Rh8 65.b8=Q Rxb8 66.Rxb8



In the game they got the same position but with the king on f5 and that is drawn, while now Black is winning... It is very difficult to understand chess sometimes. 66...g3! (66...f3? 67.Kd5=) 67.Kd5 g2 68.Rg8 (Here is the difference to the game: 68.Rf8+ Now Black is not forced to go to g4, but plays 68...Kg7+-) 68...f3 69.Kg4 f2+-) 63...Rh8 64.b8=Q Rxb8 65.Rxb8



If Black had provoked the move e5 with 63.Rb4, g3 was the only winning move, while with the pawn on e6 only f3 wins! Amazing! 65...f3! (65...g3? draws now as after 66.♖g8 ♕f5 67.♕d6 e5 68.♕d5 White holds.) 66.♕d6 (66.♖g8 66...♕f5 67.♕d6 ♕f4 68.♕xe6 f2 69.♖f8+ ♕e3-- g3 next.; 66.♖f8+ 66...♕e5 67.♕d7 ♕e4 68.♕xe6 g3-- One of the pawns promotes.; 66.♕c5 66...♕e5! Sheltering the king and threatening with f2 after leaving from Rf8. 67.♖f8 ♕e4 And g3 next. 68.♖g8 f2! 69.♖xg4+ ♕e5 70.♖g5+ ♕f6 71.♖g8 ♕f7--+) 66...♕f5! 67.♖f8+ (67.♖b5+ 67...e5! 68.♖xe5+ ♕f4--+) 67...♕e4 68.♕xe6 g3--+]

63.b7 ♖h8 64.b8=♔ ♖xb8 65.♖xb8 And White holds now in all the lines:



65...g3 [65...♕e4 66.♖b4+! It is important to let the white king approach to the pawns. 66...♕e3 67.♕d5=; 65...f3

66.♕d5 g3 (66...♕f4 67.♖b4+! ♕g3 68.♕xe5 f2 69.♖f4=) 67.♖f8+ ♕g4 68.♕e4 f2 69.♕e3 ♕h3 70.♖xf2! Just in time, otherwise White loses. (70.♕e2? 70...♕g2 71.♖f7 e4 72.♖f8 ♕g1! 73.♖f7 e3!--+ and g2 next.) 70...gxf2 71.♕xf2 ♕g4 72.♕e3=]

66.♕d5! g2 [66...f3 transposes to the 65...f3 line]

67.♖f8+! The only move once again.

67...♕g4 68.♖g8+ ♕f3 69.♕xe5 ♕f2 70.♕xf4 g1=♔ 71.♖xg1 ♕xg1 Nice save by White! In such endgames we can only play well if we calculate flawlessly, there is no theoretical position to learn, only pure calculation! **1/2-1/2**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Fischer, Robert James - Benko, Pal C[C95]

USA-ch(4), 1965

[Miton Kamil]

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.O-O ♙e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♙b3 d6 8.c3 O-O 9.h3 We have the main position of the Ruy Lopez.

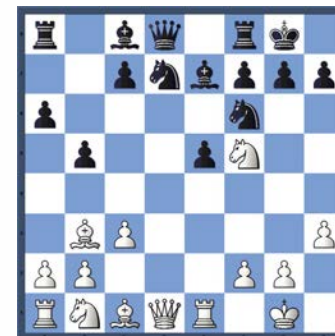
9...♘b8 The Breyer system is still very solid and popular nowadays.

10.d4 **bd7**



11. ♖h4!? An original idea. White immediately creates some threats on the kingside but without developing the queenside it should be too artificially. The main move is [11. ♖bd2 11... ♕b7 12. ♕c2 ♖e8 13. ♖f1 ♖f8 14. ♗g3 g6 Black's position is very solid but of course thanks to a bit more space White has a long term small plus. The plan now is to improve the position on the queenside after b3-Bb2 or a4. The idea to play Bg5 in order to provoke h6 deserves attention too.]

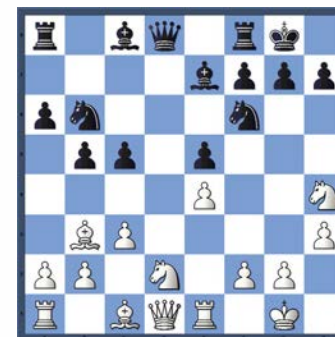
11...♖b6 Black has a few other options:
 [11...♖xe4 This move should be checked first. 12.♗f5 ♖df6
 (12...♗ef6 13.dxe5 dxe5



14. ♖h6! It looks that White gets the initiative now: 14...gxh6
 15. ♖f3 ♗c5 16. ♖g3+ ♗g4 17. ♖xg4+ ♕g5 18. ♕c2 ♖f6 19. h4 e4
 20. ♗xh6+ ♖xh6 21. ♖xg5+ ♖xg5 22. hxg5 ♕f5∞) 13. ♖f3 ♕b7
 (13...♕xf5 14. ♖xf5 g6 15. ♖f3 exd4 16. ♖xe4 ♗xe4 17. ♖xe4+=)
 14. ♕c2 ♗c5 15. ♖g3 ♗e6 16. dxe5 dxe5 17. ♗xe7+ ♖xe7
 18. ♖xe5 ♖ad8 White has the bishop pair but a worse
 development doesn't allow him to take advantage of this
 fact.; 11...♕b7 12. ♗f5 ♕xe4 13. ♖xe4 ♗xe4 14. ♕d5±; 11...g6
 This simple move looks fine too. 12. ♕h6 ♖e8∞]

12. ♘d2 c5 A normal move. Black is fighting for the center.

13.dxc5 dxc5



14. ♖f5 It is time to exchange one of the bishops. [14. ♔f3?!
14...c4 15. ♗c2 g6! XNh4 16. ♘f1 ♞e8]

14...xf5 [14...e8 15.f3 f8 16.f1+= The knight is already

on f5 so White has the typical initiative on the kingside.; 14...c4 15.♘c2 ♘c5 16.♚f3+= With the idea Nf1 and putting pressure on the kingside, which we can also see in Italian games or Berlin systems with d3.]

15.exf5 ♚c7 [15...c4 This move is needed anyway so it was better to play it immediately.]



16.g4↑ A logical move. White is putting pressure on the kingside. [16.c4 It was an interesting idea to win more light squares: 16...♘e8 (16...♚ad8 17.♚e2+=)]

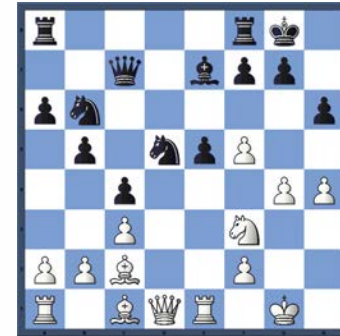
16...h6 Temporarily stopping the pawns advance but in the future it will be more easy for White to open the h-file for the attack. [16...c4 17.♘c2 ♘fd5 18.♘e4 ♚ad8 19.♚f3↑]

17.h4 c4 18.♘c2



18...♘h7?! Objectively this is the best set-up to stop the

g5 break but putting the knight on h7 is very passive and has other disadvantages. More logical was [18...♘fd5 Black should be looking for counterplay on the queenside or over the d-file. 19.♘f3



19...b4!



There is no time to lose, otherwise g5-f6 will crush Black's position. 20.f6! An interesting idea to create pressure while winning tempi. (

a) 20.cxb4 20...♚ad8 With Nxb4-Nd3 next.;

b) 20.♘d2 20...bxc3 21.bxc3 ♘c5 22.g5 ♚ad8 (22...e4 23.♘d4∞) 23.gxh6 ♘xc3 24.♚c1 e4 With a very complicated position.)

20...♘xf6 (20...♘xf6 21.g5 hxg5 22.hxg5 ♘e7 23.♘xe5 ♘c5 24.cxb4 ♘xb4 25.♘e4 The bishop is very important. 25...♚ad8 26.♚g4 ♚fe8 27.♘f4 ♘d6



28. ♖h7+! A nice tactical idea. 28... ♔xh7 29. ♕h5+ ♔g8 30. ♖xf7 Now Qxf7 doesn't work because of g6 and mate. 30... ♖xf4 31. ♖xd8 ♖e7 (31... ♖xd8 32. ♖e8+ ♖xe8 33. ♕xe8+ ♔h7 34. ♕h5+ ♔g8 35. ♖e1+- XKg8) 32.g6 ♖h6 33. ♖e6→ With a strong attack and the knights are too far to help the black king.) 21.g5 hxg5 22.hxg5 ♖ad8 23. ♕e2 ♖fd5 24. ♖xe5 ♖c5∞]

19. ♖f3 f6 Black managed to stop g5 but now the knight on h7 is out of play and the light squares are weak.

20. ♖d2 White can now improve his set-up a bit. 20... ♖ad8 21. ♕f3



21...h5? The decisive mistake! It is hard to explain this weak move. White is going to win the game now thanks to the attack over the g-file. [21... ♖d7 Of course it is hard for Black to take advantage of the d-file but the idea of doubling rooks is not stupid for the future. 22. ♖e4 ♖fd8 At some moment the idea Rd3 might work.



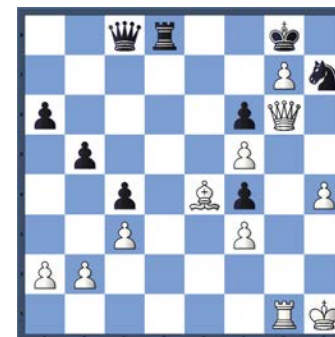
23.g5 Now the g5 break doesn't give White any advantage, he should rather try and somehow improve his position on the queenside. (23.a4 23... ♖xa4 24.b3 cxb3 25. ♖xb3+ ♔h8 26. ♖xa4 bxa4 27. ♖xa4 ♖c6; 23.b3!?) 23...hxg5 24.hxg5 ♖xg5 25. ♖xg5 ffg5 26.f6 gxf6 27. ♖xf6+ ♖xf6 28. ♕xf6 ♖d6 29. ♕xd6 ♖xd6 30. ♖xe5 ♖d5=]

22.gxh5 ♖d5 23. ♖e4 ♖f4 24. ♖xf4 exf4 25. ♖h1 With a simple final attack on the g-file.

25... ♖h8 26. ♖g1 ♖f7 27. ♖g6 ♖d6 28. ♖ag1 ♖f8 Black was not able to create any counterplay and the white pieces are very well coordinated.

29.h6 ♖e5 30. ♖g4 ♖dd7 31.f3 White is in no hurry.

31... ♖c5 32. ♖xc5 ♖xc5 33. ♖xg7 ♖xg7 34.hxg7+ ♔g8 35. ♖g6 ♖d8 36. ♖e4 ♖c8 And now comes the nice tactical move..



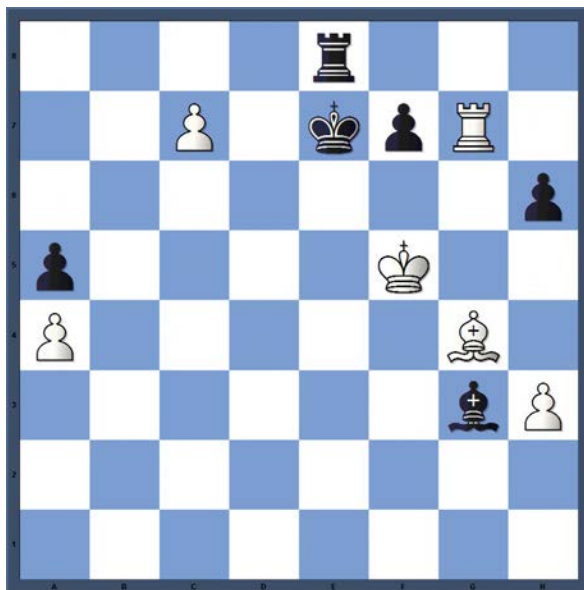
37. ♖e8+! 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Gurvitch

[CEWN]

1. +-

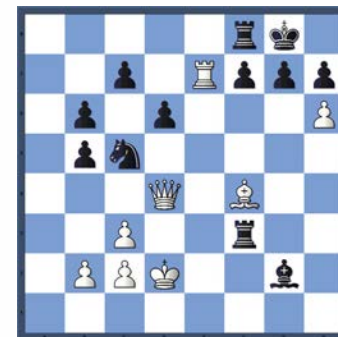


Solutions

(19) Baramidze, D(2614)-Akobian, V(2625)

World Teams, 2013.12.03

[Solutions]



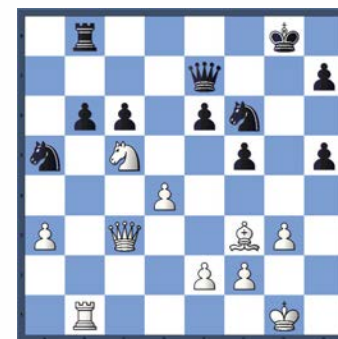
24...♖d3+!! 25.♔xd3 [25.cxd3 25...♘b3+-+]

25...♗xd3 26.cxd3 ♖c8-+

(20) Petrosian, T(2660)-L'Ami, E(2648)

World Teams, 2013.12.04

[Solutions]



29.♔xa5! 1-0 [29.♔xa5 29...bxa5 30.♖xb8+ ♔f7 31.♖b7+-]

(21) Nepomniachtchi, I(2721)-Shoker, S(2500)

World Teams, 2013.12.05

[Solutions]



24. ♖c4+! bxc4 25. ♖xd6 ♖b8 26. ♖c3+-

(22) Sjugirov, S(2641)-Pridorozhn(2517)

Yugra Cup, 2013.12.04

[Solutions]



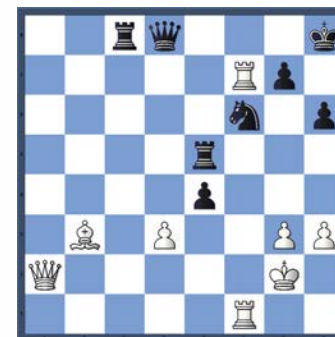
26. g4!! ♕f8 [26... ♖xe6 27. dxe6 ♖f6 28. ♖xf5+-; 26... fxe4 27. ♖e4+-]

27. ♖xf5+-

(23) Pap, G(2522)-Berkes, F(2677)

Hungarian Championship, 2013.12.05

[Solutions]



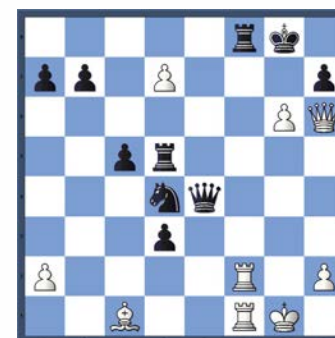
36. ♖1xf6! gxf6 37. ♖a7! ♖g8 38. ♖xf6! ♖g5 [38... ♖xb3 39. ♖xh6+ ♖g8 40. ♖h7+ ♖f8 41. ♖h8+ ♖f7 42. ♖f6+ ♖e8 43. ♖xe5+-; 38... ♖g7 39. ♖a6!+-]

39. ♖f7? [39. ♖a6! 39... ♖ec5 (39... ♖d2+ 40. ♖f2+-) 40. h4! ♖g4 (40... ♖c2+ 41. ♖xc2 ♖xc2+ 42. ♖h3+-) 41. ♖xh6+ ♖g7 42. ♖f6#] 39... ♖g6=

(24) Toth, E(2477)-Nagy, G(2404)

Hungarian Championship, 2013.12.06

[Solutions]



31... ♖e2+! 32. ♖xe2 ♖xf1+ 33. ♖xf1 dxe2+ 0-1

(25) Ter Sahakyan, S(2562)-Sharma, D(2386)

Kolkata Open, 2013.12.07

[Solutions]

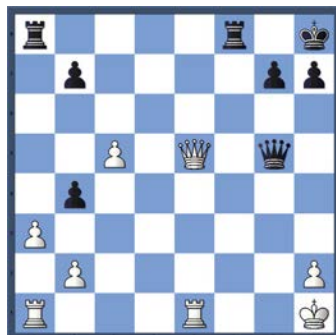


24. ♖xd5!! ♜xd5 25. ♕f3!! ♜xd1+ 26. ♖xd1 ♕c6 27. ♖d8+ ♔f7 28. ♕xc6 ♘xc6 29. ♖xa8 1-0

(26) Ravi, T(2335)-Murshed, N(2465)

Kolkata Open, 2013.12.31

[Solutions]

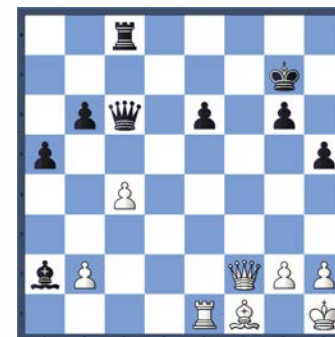


25... ♖f1+! 0-1 [25... ♖f1+ 26. ♖xf1 ♕xe5--]

(27) Luther, T(2556)-Bromberger, S(2471)

Austrian league, 2013.12.06

[Solutions]



31. b3! ♙xb3 32. ♕b2+ ♔h7 33. ♕xb3+-

(28) Bosiocic, M(2542)-Mons, L(2428)

Austrian league, 2013.12.06

[Solutions]



22. ♖c5! ♕xc5 [22... ♕e4 23. ♖e1+-]

23. ♘g5 1-0

(29) Gorgiev

[Solutions]



1. ♖b7+! [1.bxa6 1...♜h1 2.♘d5+ ♔a5=]

1...♔a5 2.bxa6! ♔xa6 3.♘e6! ♔a5 [3...a3 4.♘c5+ ♔a5
5.♘b3+-; 3...♜c1 4.♘c7+ ♜xc7 (4...♔a5 5.♜b5#) 5.♔xc7 a3
6.♜b3+-]

4.♘d4! ♜c1 [4...♜d1 5.♘c6+ ♔a6 6.♘b4+ ♔a5 7.♔c7! a3
8.♘c6+ ♔a4 (8...♔a6 9.♜b6#) 9.♜b4#]

5.♔a7! ♜c5 [5...a3 6.♘b3+-]

6.♜b5+! ♜xb5 7.♘c6#



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 95

20th of December 2013



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Editorial Preface

We just had a fantastic week of chess, with almost all of the best players being active somewhere in the world.

The London Chess Classic was won by Nakamura. In the semi-finals he defeated Kramnik, where he got very lucky to win an almost lost endgame, but afterwards he dominated Gelfand in the final, winning the 1st game convincingly and easily drawing the second one. The open was won by J.L.Hammer, who was the second of Magnus Carlsen during his match against Anand.

In the World Mind Games we saw 3 different chess variations: Rapid, Blitz and Basque (this new variation where you play against the same opponent on 2 boards at the same time is a replacement for blindfold chess).

And here are the winners:

Basque: Karjakin, Mamedyarov, Ponomarev
Rapid: Wang Yue, Leko, Grischuk
Blitz: Karjakin, Aronian, Vachier Lagrave

And the women winners:

Blitz: Hou Yifan, Gunina, Muzychuk Anna
Basque: Zhao Xue, Hou Yifan, Yu Wenjun
Rapid: Gunina, Hou Yifan, Yu Wenjun

At the moment we can follow the World Youth Championships in Al-Ain. An event with around 2000 participants!

We want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a great celebration and of course many presents :) .

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2757)**

- **Karjakin, Sergey(2756) [D90]**

SportAccord Rapid Men 2013(7.4), 2013.12.13

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Mamedyarov is probably one of the most fighting players currently. In some of his interviews he even said: "I just don't know how to make draws"! And of course he didn't disappoint his fans in this game either. After an interesting opening White quickly takes over and ends the game with a sparkling attack.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 Even Karjakin started to play the Gruenfeld.

4.♘f3 ♗g7 5.h4 A shocking looking move, but in fact it is almost the "latest fashion". White is preparing to play h5 as soon as the knight from f6 will move. At the moment White wants to play cxd5 and after Nxd5 to push the very unpleasant h5.

5...c6 [5...dxc4 is the other main option.]



6.♗g5 With this move White sort of changes his strategy to a more calm one. The idea is now to develop the pieces by playing e3-Be2 and hope that the h4 move will be useful someday. **6...♘e4** What can be more logical than to chase

the bishop from g5.

7.e3 It is hard to believe for me that Black can be worse with the bishop pair. [An interesting try could have been 7.♗f4!?]

7...♘xg5 There is no reason to think twice about such a move.

8.hxg5 I think we reached the first critical position.

8...e6? This move just looks terrible to me. Black is closing his own bishop without any reason and it is clear that he will not be in time to play c5 next. White doesn't lose any time and immediately shows where the problems of Black's position are. Now White just wants to play e5 next, so Black is almost forced to take on e4. [8...O-O looks much more logical. It is hard to imagine that White is in time to bring his queen to the h-file, which means that the position should be quite unclear.]

9.e4! dxe4 10.♘xe4 ♔a5+ is probably Black's only chance, as keeping the queens on the board with such an open king position would not lead to anything good.

11.♔d2 ♕xd2+ 12.♙xd2 Let us take a fresh look at the position. White's pawn structure is better and even though Black has the bishop pair, the hole on d6 and much more active pieces promise White very nice play.

12...♘d7 Black is still hoping to play c5, which would finally open the g7 bishop.



13.c5! Mamedyarov continues being principal and playing

against the bad bishop on c8.

13...h5?! The idea of this move is of course correct, it is nice to get rid of the threats on the h-file, but it gives White a full move to create new threats. [13...O-O followed by e5 would at least leave Black with some hope.]

14.b4 Securing the pawn structure, which is very important to keep the black pieces passive, but White was clearly not in a hurry to play it immediately. Maybe 14.Bc4 would have been a better choice.

14...O-O 15.♘c4 Already taking steps of preparation against e5, after which the pawn on f7 is going to become White's target.

15...♖d8 16.♙e3 e5 This move is premature. [Black should have included 16...a5! 17.a3 and only now 17...e5 The possibility of axb4 would give Black some extra chances. Of course White should still be better here.]

17.♘d6 As expected White is going for the f7 pawn.

17...exd4+



18.♙f4 Another important move. The white king not only finds himself in a safe position on f4, but he also takes away Black's opportunity of playing Ne5 next.

18...♘f8 [A very passive move like 18...♖f8 19.♖ae1 followed

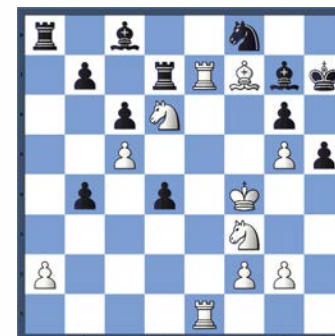
by Re7 would lead to an almost winning position for White.]

19.♘xf7+ [19.♘xf7 19...♙e6 20.♘xd8 ♙xc4 Black has good practical chances here.]

19...♙h7 20.♖ae1 White brings his last passive piece into the game.

20...a5 And of course Black needs to look for some counterplay.

21.♘h2?! What a funny move! White just wants to play g4 next. But this kind of creativity was not really needed. [After the much more simple 21.♖e7 21...♖d7 (21...axb4 didn't help either since after 22.♘xc8 ♖axc8 23.g4 White is mating on the h-file.) 22.♖he1 axb4



23.♘e8 it is hard to imagine Black surviving.]

21...axb4 [White is probably also better after 21...d3 22.g4 d2 23.♖e4 and somehow White has covered all of Black's ideas.]

22.g4 It is very hard for Black not to get mated here.

22...♖xd6? Karjakin panics. [Black should have continued staying cool: 22...d3 23.gxh5 gxh5 24.♘f3 Even if Black's position looks lost, things are actually much more complicated. 24...♙g4! With a very complex position.]

23.cxd6 White is not only an exchange up, but he also has a strong passed d-pawn. Black's position is lost.

23...♖a5 24.♖e7 To put a rook on the 7th rank is never wrong.

24...d3 25.gxh5 White is finally opening the h-file.

25...gxh5 26.♗f3 ♕g4 Black defended from an immediate mate, but the problems on the 7th rank are unsolvable.

27.♗h4 With the threat of playing f3 next, a deadly threat...

27...♖xg5 The last trick.



28.f3 White is of course not falling for it! [Of course not 28.♖xg5?? 28...♕h6+ 29.♖f6 ♕g7+ 30.♖g5 ♕h6+ with a draw!]

28...♕f6 29.fxg4 White is already a full rook up.

29...♖xg4+ 30.♖f5 ♖xh4 And here comes the pretty

31.♖xf6 A very nice win by Mamedyarov, with good strategic play followed by a nice attack. **1-0**

(2) Anand, Viswanathan(2773)

- Kramnik, Vladimir(2793) [D40]

5th Classic KO 2013(1.2), 2013.12.14

[Balogh Csaba]

We are already in the KO part of the London Chess Classic rapid tournament. The first encounter between the two former World Champions was drawn, while in the second game Kramnik crushed Anand convincingly with the black pieces. Let's examine how it happened...

1.♗f3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.d4 ♗f6 4.♗c3 c5 Kramnik employs his favorite Tarrasch defence, like he often did throughout the entire year.

5.e3 Anand aims for a complex line by keeping all pieces on board. [The main line continues with 5.cxd5 5...♗xd5 6.e4 ♗xc3 7.bxc3 cxd4 8.cxd4 ♕b4+ 9.♕d2 ♕xd2+ 10.♖xd2 O-O The position has simplified a bit. The current theory evaluates Black's chances to be fine.]

5...♗c6 A symmetrical opening which requires many subtleties for both sides. In the following moves both players are intending to make their most useful developing moves without touching the f1 and f8 bishops in order to avoid the loss of an important tempo after Black takes on c4 or White on c5.



6.a3 With the idea to take on c5, followed by playing b4 and

fianchettoing the bishop.

6...a6 Black continues his symmetrical policy. The idea is the same as it was in White's previous move.

7.dxc5 White follows the main line and breaks the balance.

7...♙xc5 8.b4



8...♙d6 However this is a sideline, which will most likely become Black's main reaction after our present game. [The main move is 8...♙a7 9.♙b2 O-O 10.♙c2 followed by Rd1. White might hope for an edge according to the theory.]

9.♙b2 Anand plays like in the 8.. .Ba7 line. [Now or in the next move, White usually creates an isolated pawn by playing 9.cxd5 9...exd5 10.♙b2 (10.♙xd5?? obviously never works because of 10...♙xd5 11.♙xd5 ♙xb4+!-+) 10...O-O 11.♙e2 Now Black's most active arrangement of his pieces is 11...♙e8 12.O-O ♙g4 with active play for the isolated pawn.]

9...O-O 10.♙c2 White does not hurry to take on d5 to avoid the quick development of the c8 bishop to g4, while as we already mentioned he intends to make all the useful developing moves before touching the f1 bishop.

10...♙e7 11.♙d1 ♙d8



12.♙e2 Anand finally decides to move his bishop, as he could not find any further improvement of his position. [Slightly more promising was 12.cxd5 12...exd5 13.♙e2 although after 13...♙e6! (13...♙g4 could be met by 14.♙g5! and on 14...♙xe2? 15.♙xd5! wins the game as White mates after Qxh7.) 14.O-O ♙ac8 15.♙b1 ♙b8↪ Black could play Bg4 next with a very active position.]

12...dxc4! Kramnik immediately takes the pawn and wins a tempo as the bishop has left the f1 square.

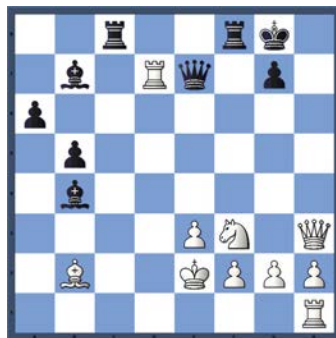
13.♙xc4 b5 14.♙d3 ♙b7 15.♙e4 Anand tries the only and most direct attempt to fight for an advantage, but it is going to backfire. [Even after 15.O-O Black seems to get the upper hand after 15...♙ac8 16.♙b1 ♙e5! 17.♙xe5 ♙xe5 18.♙e2 ♙c7 19.♙xe5 ♙xe5 Black has the initiative thanks to his better pieces.]

15...♙xe4 16.♙xe4 White attacks two pieces at the same time, but Kramnik's counterplay arrives just in time.



16...Rac8! Pinning the queen makes the capture on h7 very risky.

17. ♖b1? It seems like after this most natural move, Black gets a significant advantage. [White should have gone for the critical 17. ♕xh7+ 17... ♖h8 18. ♖b1 Black needs to act urgently, otherwise he ends up with a pawn down. 18... ♗xb4! 19. axb4 ♕xb4+ 20. ♖e2 f5! Trying to trap the h7 bishop and also threatening with Be4. White is forced to give back his extra piece. 21. ♕xf5! (21. ♕g6? loses to 21... ♕e4 and Rc2 next.) 21... exf5 22. ♖xf5 White has an extra pawn, but his king on e2 allows Black to create counterplay. It looks like the game might finish with a forced perpetual check after 22... ♖f8 23. ♖h3+ ♖g8 24. ♖d7



And now: 24... ♕d5! 25. ♖xe7 ♕c4+ 26. ♖d1 ♕b3+ 27. ♖e2 ♕c4+=]

17...f5! 18. ♕d3 [18. ♕xc6 does not come into consideration as Black gets too strong on the light squares. 18... ♕xc6+]]



18...a5! Very strong play by Kramnik. After some less ambitious moves White consolidates with 0-0, but now he is just missing a tempo to solve the problems.

19. bxa5 [19. ♕xb5 could have been met by 19... ♕xb4+! winning a pawn and White does not have enough compensation. 20. ♖e2 (20. axb4 20... ♖xb4+) 20... ♕xa3+]]

19... ♗xa5 20. 0-0 [White does not have time to grab the pawn as after 20. ♕xb5 20... ♕e4 21. ♕d3 ♕xa3! 22. ♕xa3 ♖xa3 Black wins material because of 23. ♕xe4 ♖xd1+ 24. ♖xd1 ♖c1—+ This is the punishment for not connecting the rooks.]

20... ♗c4! The strongest move again. Black increases the pressure by improving his pieces. [20... ♕xf3 is less convincing. 21. gxf3 ♖h4 22. f4 Black has a perpetual, but to get more than that is difficult.]

21. ♕e2 [21. ♕xc4 21... bxc4+ is also quite hopeless. The c-pawn and the bishop pair, combined with the potential attacks after Bxf3 are just too strong.]

21... ♕e4! Activating the bishop with tempo and also preparing for the invasion of the rook to c2.

22. ♖a1 ♗xb2 23. ♖xb2



23...b4! And the game is suddenly over! Black creates a decisive double threat of Rc2, winning the bishop, and the simple bxa3. [On 23... ♖c2 White had 24. ♖xb5 and he is alive.]

24.axb4 [24. ♗d4 24...bxa3—+ is equally hopeless.]

24...♖c2 25. ♖b3 ♖xe2 26. ♗d4 Anand tries to complicate the matters a bit, but unfortunately for him Black has

26...♗d5! 27. ♖d3 ♖h4 [White resigned in view of the following lines: 27... ♖h4 28.h3 (28.g3 28... ♗xg3) 28... ♖g5 29.g3 ♗xg3—+ White gets mated in few moves.] **0-1**

(3) Wang, Yue(2723)

- Ponomarev, Ruslan(2731) [D91]

SportAccord Rapid Men 2013(1.3), 2013.12.12

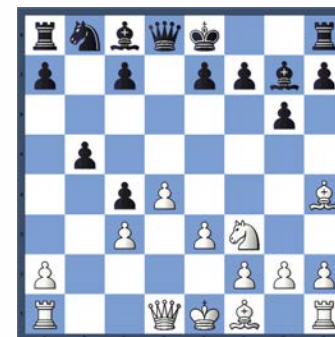
[Balogh Csaba]

Wang Yue won the rapid section of the World Mind games. Let's analyze one of his victories.

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 g6 3. ♗c3 d5 A little surprise. Ponomarev chooses the Gruenfeld defence, which does not really belong to his main repertoire.

4. ♗g5 ♗g7 5. ♗f3 ♗e4 This is considered to be the right setup against the Bg5 systems.

6. ♗h4 ♗xc3 7.bxc3 dxc4 8.e3 b5 Black won a pawn, but White has a stable center and he can create strong counterplay on the queenside with a4. As we will see White gets good compensation for the sacrificed pawn. Quite an atypical line for the Gruenfeld defence, as usually Black plays against the center with active piece play, while here he took a pawn and intends to preserve it for as long as possible.



9. ♗e2 [A more common move order is 9.a4 9...c6 10. ♗d2 White is threatening with axb5 cxb5 Qf3, trapping the a8 rook. 10...a6 11. ♗e2 O-O 12.O-O (On 12. ♗f3 Black has 12... ♖a7! 13.O-O ♗f5 as Kasparov played back in 1997.

His opponent allowed him to settle the bishop on d3, but even if White plays 14.e4 ♖c8 the position would be perfectly fine for Black. Having provoked the e4 push is a huge achievement, from now on Black can play on c5 because the center is weakened. White also needs to forget about the Ne4-c5 plan, which is a common idea in this line.) 12...♔c7 With the idea of playing e5! 13.f4



13...♘d7! Black wants to consolidate on the light squares with f5 and Nf6, maybe even Be6-d5 later on. 14.e4 again weakens the d4 pawn and Black immediately makes use of it by playing (14.f5 14...♘f6; 14.♕xe7 14...♖e8 and the e3 falls.) 14...c5!]

9...♘d7 [For Black it seems to be better to play 9...a6 10.O-O O-O 11.a4 c6 12.♘d2 and we transposed to the 9.a4 line.]

10.a4 c6 11.♘d2! The standard regrouping in this line. The knight frees its square for the bishop and goes to e4-c5 or attacks the c4 pawn as it happens in the game.

11...a6 [11...O-O? was bad in view of 12.axb5 cxb5 13.♕f3± After winning back the pawn on a7, White achieves a perfect position.]

12.♕f3 ♕b7 13.O-O O-O



14.♔b1! An extremely strong subtle move. White creates the simple threat of Nxc4 by pinning the bishop and it turns out to be very difficult to parry.

14...♖b8 Black protects the bishop, but it moves into Bg3. [14...♘b6 would have been met by 15.♘e4! and the knight becomes highly unpleasant on c5! 15...♘d7 already runs into 16.♘d6!± winning back either the c6 or the e7 pawn.]

15.axb5 The only inaccuracy by White in this game. We will get the point a few moves later. [White should have played like in the game, but without including the axb5 axb5 pair of moves. 15.♖d1! 15...♖e8 16.♕g3 e5 (The difference is that 16...♖a8 makes no sense now because of 17.♘xc4!±) ; 15.♕g3 directly is premature because of 15...e5]

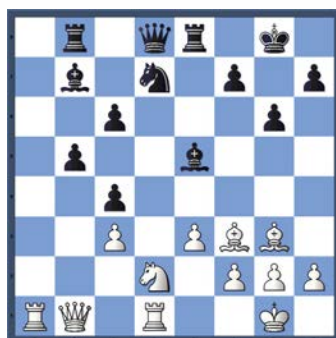
15...axb5 16.♖d1! White prepares to play Bg3, when Black's normal reaction is e5 and then the rook is going to be very well placed on the opening d-file.

16...♖e8 17.♕g3



17...e5? The most natural reaction, but a big mistake. Ponomariov underestimates the opening of the d-file. [Because of the opened a-file, Black had the option of playing 17...Ra8! without fearing Nxc4. Black is suddenly fine.]

18.dxe5! fxe5 Black still doesn't feel the danger of the pin... [18...fxe5 was better even if it immediately gives back the pawn. 19. Qxc4 Re7 20. Qxe5 fxe5 21. Ra7! fxe3 22. hxe3 Ra8 23. Ra2+= White is slightly better thanks to his more active pieces.]



19. Qe4! The main threat is Rxd7 Qxd7 Bxe5 and Nf6 wins next.

19...fxc8?! The decisive mistake. [a) 19...fxg3? is refuted by 20. Rxd7!+- winning a piece.;

b) 19...Kg7! was the only move to leave from the Nf6 check. 20. Qd6! (20. Qc5 wins material, but Black gets very strong counterplay after 20... Qxc5! 21. fxe5+ Rxe5 22. Rxd8 Rxd8 and suddenly Black is out of danger. Black is materially almost fine and also has a target on c3, which could be attacked by Na4 and Rd3.) 20...fxd6 21. Rxd6 With more than enough compensation for the pawn. The position has opened up and the bishop pair starts to work. 21...Re7 22. Ra7+=]

20. Ra7! Black is totally pinned! He cannot avoid losing material.

20...fxg3 [20...Rb7 drops the piece after 21. Rxb7 fxb7 22. fxe5 Rxe5 23. Rxd7+- Re7 24. Qf6+; 20...Rb6 loses to 21. Rxd7+-; 20...Kg7 gives one more move to strengthen White's position: 21. fxe5+ Rxe5 22. Qd6 Re7 23. fxc6+- The game is over.]

21. hxe3! As simple as that. White now threatens to take twice on d7 and play Nf6. [White should not be too greedy with 21. Rxd7 21...fxd7 22. Rxd7 Suddenly Black overtakes the initiative after 22...fxf2+! 23. Qxf2 Rh4+ 24. Qg1 Re6+= and Rae8 next. Black has two pawns and a rook against two minor pieces and White cannot create real threat against the king.]

21...Re6 [21...Kg7 loses to 22. Qd6 Re7 23. fxc6+-]

22. Qc5! Rb6

[22...Re7 23. fxc6+-] Ponomariov had pinned his hopes on this move, but it does not save Black. Wang Yue finds the refutation:



23. Nxd7! Qxa7 24. Nxb8 Qxb8 25. Rd8+ Kg7 26. Qb4!
+— The key move, which had to be foreseen. Black cannot parry the threat of Qf8 and the c8 bishop is lost.

26... Kf6 27. Qf81-0

(4) Wang, Yue(2723)

- Nepomniachtchi, Ian(2721) [A04]

SportAccord Basque Men 2013(4.1), 2013.12.18

[Arkadij Naidtsch]

The game quickly left the theory and then Black decided to grab a pawn, which was a very risky decision. Wang Yue did great in the complications, which was rewarded with a clearly winning position.

1. Nf3 c5 2. c4 Nf6 3. g3 d5 Lately Nepomniachtchi played a lot of games in this line, with both White and Black.

4. cxd5 Nxd5 5. Bg2 Nc6 6. Nc3 Nc7 A solid move. [Just a few months ago Kramnik played 6...g6 7. Ng5!? A very interesting new move which we will clearly see in a lot of future games.]



7. a3! I like this move a lot. White is trying to immediately get play on the queenside. It is very hard for Black to stop White from playing b4 next.

7... Bb8 [After 7...e5 White can simply play 8. b4 and now Black cannot win the pawn on b4 by playing 8...cxb4?! 9. axb4 Bxb4 because of 10. Nxe5! Nxe5 11. Qa4+ and White is much better.]

8. b4 cxb4 The start of a very risky plan by Black. [8...e6 was still not bad, with a slightly worse position for Black.]

9. axb4 b5 It is logical to block the white pawn on b4, but now a lot of black pieces are pretty dangerously placed and it is also not going to be easy for Black to escape with the king from e8.

10. O-O e6



11. ♖b2! Another strong move by White. Wang Yue doesn't care about the b4 pawn and is playing for the initiative.

11... ♗b7 [After 11... ♖xb4 12. ♘a2! With a double attack on g7 and Nxb4. 12... ♗f8 13. ♔c2 White has huge play for the pawn.]

12. ♘e4 Now the f8 bishop will not go anywhere...

12... ♖xb4 At least Black will suffer being a pawn up.

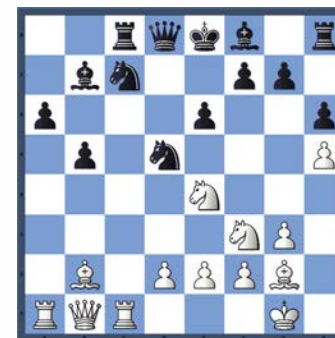
13. ♔b1 A nice move. Now the rook from f1 is going to take a very good position on c1.

13... a6 14. ♔c1 ♘bd5 All white pieces are almost perfectly placed, but Black's position is also looking pretty solid, so how to continue?!

15. h4!? An interesting decision. White does not hurry to force anything and improves his position. [Maybe a move like 15. ♔d3 could also have been an option.]

15... ♖c8 The bishop from f8 cannot move, which means that Black will not castle kingside...

16. h5 h6 White has provoked Black into playing h6 and now we will see why it is so useful for White...



17. ♘e5! If White had tried to play Ne5 before, Black had a move like f6 and now f6 is never possible because of the weakness on g6.

17... ♖g8 This move cannot be good, but it is already hard to give Black any advice. White completely dominates the game.

18. ♘c5 The most simple solution.

18... ♗xc5 19. ♖xc5 ♗g5 20. ♔c1 [20. ♔h7 looks even stronger as after 20... ♖f8 21. ♖ac1 Black cannot defend all his pieces on the c-file.]

20... ♘f4 Black is trying his last tricks.

21. ♗f1 Solid and simple. [21. ♖xc7 was leading to a much trickier win: 21... ♘xe2+ 22. ♗f1 ♘xc1 23. ♗c6+! But these kind of moves are hard to play in the game.]

21... ♔xh5 It seems like Black is a little bit back in the game, but his position is just lost.

22. ♘f3! Defending the h1 mate and at the same time the rook from c5 is attacking the black queen.

22... ♘fd5 23. e4 Black cannot avoid losing some material on the c-file.

23...♙xf3 24.♖g2 Now White is ready to take the black pieces.

24...♔e2 25.exd5 ♚d7! A very creative defence, but unfortunately for Black nothing can stop White from winning the game...



26.d6! Pretty and easy to find.

26...♞d5 27.♙xd5 Black's problem is the c7 square.

27...♔xd6 [27...♗xd5 28.♖c7+ and mate in 2.]

28. ♟xb7 A very nice game by Wang Yue which clearly shows how dangerous it can be to play without having castled, especially when your opponent has at least one open file for the rooks. **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) McShane, L(2684)-Anand, V(2773)

London rapid, 2013.12.11

[CEWN]

1... +-



(6) Caruana, F(2782)-Gelfand, B(2777)

London blitz, 2013.12.14

[CEWN]

1... -+

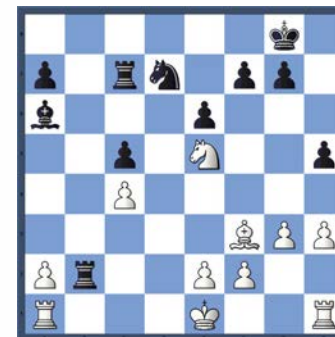


(7) Gelfand, B(2777)-Adams, M(2754)

London rapid, 2013.12.15

[CEWN]

1. ±



(8) Iordachescu, V(2614)-Slavin, A(2366)

London Open, 2013.12.13

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Wang Yue(2723)-Karjakin, S(2756)

Beijing rapid, 2013.12.12

[CEWN]

1... --+



(10) Wang Hao(2735)-Leko, P(2730)

Beijing rapid, 2013.12.13

[CEWN]

1... --+

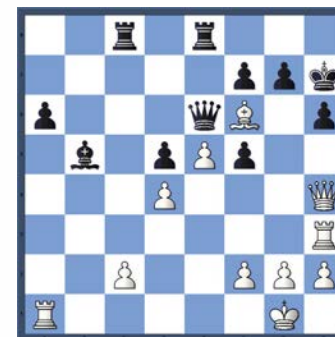


(11) Leko, P(2730)-Grischuk, A(2783)

Beijing rapid, 2013.12.13

[CEWN]

1. +-



(12) Gunina, V(2509)-Kosteniuk, A(2527)

Beijing Woman rapid, 2013.12.12

[CEWN]

1. +-

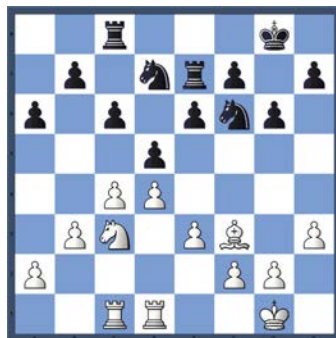


(13) Nepomniachtchi, I(2721)-Ivanchuk, V(2731)

Beijing blitz, 2013.12.14

[CEWN]

1. ±



(14) Banusz, T(2598)-Nagy, G(2404)

Hungarian Championship, 2013.12.10

[CEWN]

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Kamsky, Gata(2721)-Dominguez Perez, Leinier(2754)

SportAccord Blitz Men 2013(1.4), 2013.12.14
[CE Team]



We are in a deep endgame and Black is very close to making a draw. Of course White is a pawn up, but the opposite colored bishop endgames are always very drawish.

58. ♖h3 e5! A good move. Black should not allow White to play Kh4-Kh5.

59. g5! White is also trying his only chance. After 59.fxe5 fxe5 the position is just a draw.

59...fxg5 60.fxe5 ♗g7 Black is getting his bishop out, as if White was in time for Kg4-Kf5 Black's position would just be lost. **61.e6**



61...♗c3? A very inaccurate move when the draw was so close... [All Black needed to do was to regroup his pieces: 61...♗e5! 62.♖g4 ♖f6 Black is in time to get his king to e5. 63.♖f3 ♗d6 The g3 pawn is still under attack. 64.g4 ♖e5 And White has no way to cross the 4th rank with his king.]

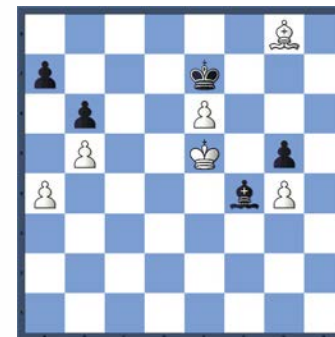
62.♖g4 ♗e1 63.♖f3 Now it is almost the same, but Black can't get his king to e5 because of the e7 move, so the white king is in time to place himself on the e4 square.

63...♖d6 64.g4 ♖e7 All Black can do is wait...

65.♖e4 ♗f2 [Black cannot let the white king go to f7: 65...♖d6 66.♖f5 ♗d2 67.♖f6 followed by e7 and White is winning.]

66.♖f5 doesn't change much, but 66. Kd5 would have been the more simple move.

66...♗e3 67.♖e5 ♗f4+



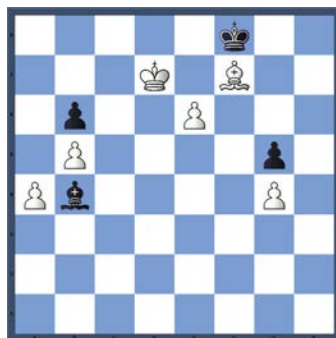
68.♖d5 ♖d8 69.♖c6 The white king is going for the a7 pawn.

69...♗e5 70.♖b7 ♗c3 71.♖xa7 ♗a5 Black tries to maintain the blockade. [71...♗d4 of course didn't work as after 72.♖a6 followed by a5 White is winning.]

72.♖b7 If Black could just pass now the position would be a draw, but Black is in zugzwang and needs to move his king.

72...♔e8 73.♖c7 ♔e7 74.♙f7 And another zugzwang for Black, but this time it's the last one.

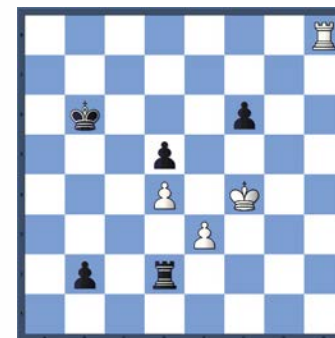
74...♖f8 75.♖d7 ♙b4 and the final



76.a5! As we saw Black only had once chance to save the game. Many opposite colored bishop endgames are much more tricky than we could expect them to be. **1-0**

(16) Stefanova, A.(2486)-Gunina, V.(2509)

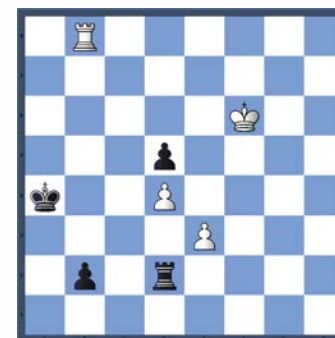
SportAccord Rapid Women, 2013.12.12
[CE TEAM]



It is interesting to study the following endgame and to find out whether Black is able to win with his strong b2 pawn or if White's counterplay arrives in time with Kf5.

53.♖b8+ ♔a5 [The idea of avoiding Kf5 with 53...♖a7 54.♖b3 ♖f2+ does not bring anything for Black, because of 55.♖g3! and the rook is forced to leave the f-file. 55...♖d2 56.♖f4]

54.♖f5 ♔a4 55.♖xf6 We have reached the first critical position, where Black fails to find the winning continuation.



55...♖a3? [55...♖e2!! would have won a significant tempo by directly preventing the Ke5-d5 idea. 56.♖f5 (The point is that

after 56. ♖e5 56... ♜xe3+ 57. ♖xd5 ♜b3! —+ wins.) 56... ♖a3 After Black has protected the b2 pawn, he is already threatening with Re1 and promoting the pawn. So the following checks are forced. 57. ♜a8+ (57. ♖f4? 57... ♜e1—+) 57... ♖b3 58. ♜b8+ ♖c2 59. ♜c8+ And here Black should go for the pawns. 59... ♖d3! 60. ♜b8 ♜xe3! (Not 60... ♖xe3? because it allows 61. ♖e5!) 61. ♜xb2 ♖xd4



This endgame is a theoretical win for Black, as the white king is badly placed on the longer side of the board... 62. ♖f4 ♜e1 63. ♖f3 ♖c3 64. ♜b8 d4 Black wins with the "bridge-building" method. The point of staying on the longer side with the king becomes clear in the following line: 65. ♜c8+ ♖d2 66. ♜a8 d3 And the wrong side is really too short for the rook to give enough checks. 67. ♜a2+ ♖c3 68. ♜a3+ ♖c2 69. ♜a2+ ♖b3—+ The board is not long enough to give one more check to force the king back to c2...]

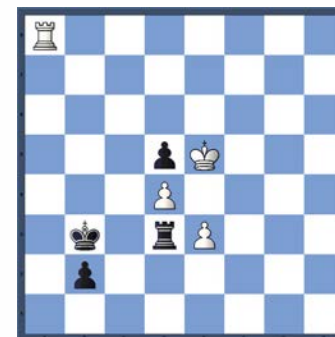
56. ♖e5 White wins the d-pawn and he intends to sacrifice his rook for the b-pawn and then promote one of his pawns with the support of the king. The question is whether the black king is in time to catch the pawns or not.

56... ♜d3! The most challenging attempt by Black. Gunina is threatening to play Rb3! [56... ♜d1 leads also to a draw after 57. ♖xd5 b1=♚ 58. ♜xb1 ♜xb1 White holds for instance after 59. e4 ♖b4 60. e5 ♜e1 61. e6= and Kd6, e7, Kd7 next.]

57. ♜a8+! The only move to avoid Rb3 is to force the king to a bad square.

57... ♖b4 58. ♜b8+ [58. ♖xd5? loses to 58... ♜b3!]

58... ♖a3 59. ♜a8+ ♖b3



60. ♜b8+? The decisive mistake. White loses a fatal tempo with this unnecessary check. [60. ♖xd5! would have held the draw. The key is 60... ♖c2 61. ♜a2! White is able to stop the pawn this way... 61... ♖c1 62. ♜xb2 ♖xb2 White has an extra tempo compared to the game, which is already enough to save the game. 63. e4 ♖c3 64. e5 ♜xd4+ 65. ♖c6 ♜e4 66. ♖d6 ♖d4 67. e6= and e7, Kd7 next.]

60... ♖c2 61. ♜xb2+ White had no more checks because of Rc3 and Black was threatening to play Rb3, so this capture was forced.

61...♔xb2 62.♔xd5



62...♔c3!! The only way to win. In order to win Black needs to bring his king as soon as possible, wasting time on capturing the e-pawn would have spoiled the victory... [62...♖xe3 63.♔c6 The game is drawn in any case: 63...♔c3 (63...♖c3+ 64.♔b6 ♖d3 65.♔c5 ♔c3 66.d5= The rook blocks his own king, because the only winning technique could be Kd3-e4-e5... Now White promotes the pawn in time.) 64.d5 ♔d4 65.d6 ♔e5 66.d7 ♖d3 67.♔c7= Just in time!]

63.♔c5 ♖d1! Freeing the d3 square for the king.

64.d5 [In case of 64.e4



64...♔d3! Black must again focus on bringing the king! (Black again should not be greedy with 64...♖xd4? 65.e5=) 65.e5 ♔e4 66.e6 ♔f5 67.e7 ♖e1 68.♔d6 White is missing only one move with Kd7, but Black is in time again: 68...♔f6—+]

64...♔d3 65.d6 ♔e4 66.♔c6 ♔e5 And on d7 Ke6 arrives in time. An instructive endgame and an important victory for Gunina, who also went on winning the tournament later on.
0-1

Clash of the Titans

(17) Botvinnik, Mikhail-Smyslov, Vassily[D18]

World Championship 20th(12), 1954.04.10

[Miton Kamil]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 dxc4 5.a4 ♗f5 [5...e6]

6.e3 The alternative is [6.♗e5 leads to more complex variations, but nowadays it is hard to say which line is better.]

6...e6 7.♗xc4 ♗b4 8.O-O ♘bd7



9.♗h4 The idea of this move is just to get a position with the bishop pair.

[9.♞e2 is the main move, preparing e4, after which White gets the advantage in the center. 9...♗g6 10.e4 O-O (10...♗xc3 is risky for Black since after 11.bxc3 ♗xe4 12.♗a3 White gets a strong initiative because the black king is weak, even if he escapes to the queenside after 0-0-0.) 11.♗d3 Supporting the e4 pawn. 11...♗h5 Preparing e5. 12.e5 (12.♗f4 is possible too, then Black will play Re8-Rc8 and wait a little bit, with a solid position for him.) 12...♗d5 13.♗xd5 cxd5 14.♞e3 ♗e7 (14...♗g6) 15.♗g5 ♗xg5 16.♞xg5 ♗g6 17.♗e2 Of course White keeps both bishops. 17...♞xg5 18.♗xg5 ♗b8 A typical maneuver with the idea to improve the knight.

This endgame is more or less equal.]

9...O-O [9...♗g4 10.♞b3+ =]

10.f3 [10.♗xf5 10...exf5 11.♞c2 With the idea to play f3-e4, but Black has a few options to get counterplay over the dark squares or after Rc8-c5. This line is fine for Black. 11...g6]

10...♗g6 11.e4 e5 [11...♗xe4? doesn't work because of 12.♗xg6 ♗xc3 13.bxc3 ♗xc3 14.♗xf8 ♗xa1 15.♗xd7 ♞xd7 16.♗e3]

12.♗xg6 hxg6 13.♗e3 ♞e7 14.♞e2 exd4 15.♗xd4

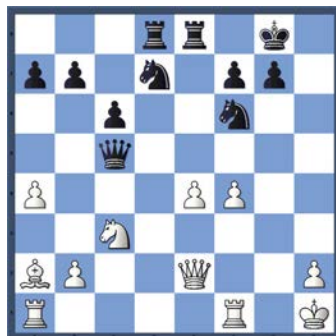


15...♗c5! A logical move. Black exchanges the bishops to get control over the dark squares.

16.♗xc5 ♞xc5+ 17.♗h1 g5 The idea behind this move is to get control of the dark squares and not to allow White to easily play the thematic f4-e5 plan.

18.g3 ♞ad8 19.♗a2 The position is more or less equal. White is trying to get an advantage thanks to his strong bishop, but on the other hand Black has good counterplay over the dark squares since the d4, e5 and especially the b4 squares are weak.

19...♖fe8 20.♞ad1 [20.f4 20...gxf4 21.gxf4



21...♞h5! To avoid pressure Black should exchange queens. (21...♜xe4? 22.♜xe4 ♞e7 23.♞ae1 ♜c5 24.♙b1+-) 22.♞g2 ♞g4 23.e5 ♞xg2+ 24.♜xg2 ♜g4 25.♞ae1 ♜c5 26.♞e2 ♞d3 And Black is on time with counterplay.]

20...♜f8 Black is going to reduce the material over the d-file but after this move White will be able to push the pawns on the kingside. [20...♞b4 A good square for the queen to put pressure on the many weaknesses: b2, a4 and after g4 even e4. 21.♞e3 g4 (21...♞xb2 22.♞b1 ♞a3 23.♞xb7 a5∞) 22.fxg4 ♜e5 23.♞xd8 ♞xd8 24.♞e2 ♜fxg4 25.♙xf7+ ♜xf7 26.♞xg4 ♞xb2 27.♞e6 ♞f8∞]

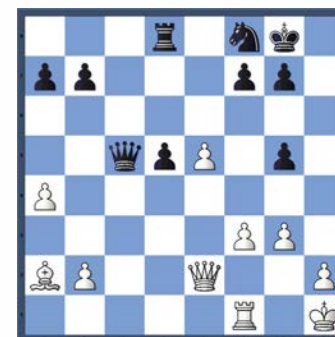
21.♞xd8 ♞xd8



22.e5! The only way to improve the position.

22...♜d5 23.♜xd5 [23.♜e4 23...♞e7 24.f4 gxf4 25.gxf4 ♜e6+- 26.f5 ♜ef4+]]

23...cxd5



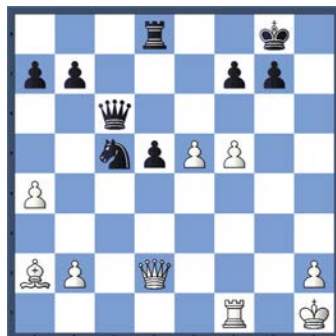
24.♞d2! A good square for the queen to put pressure on both d5 and g5 and to support the f4 move. White also keeps the possibility of playing Rc1.

24...♜e6 25.f4 gxf4 26.gxf4 ♞c6 A slightly passive move.

[26...♜f8!? is always a prophylactic move. 27.f5 ♞d4+-; 26...♞d4 27.♞xd4 ♜xd4 28.♞d1 ♜e6 29.f5 (29.♞xd5 29...♞xd5 30.♙xd5 ♜xf4 31.♙xb7 ♜d3=) 29...♜f4 30.♞d4 (30.♜g1 And the knight on f4 can be under pressure.) 30...g5 31.fxg6 (31.h4 31...♞c8+- With counterplay because after 32.hxg5 Black will give perpetual check.) 31...♜xg6 32.♞xd5 ♞c8 33.♞d7 ♜xe5 34.♞xb7 ♞c2 35.♜g1+= There is not much material left on the board, but of course White has chances of winning this position.]

27.f5 ♜c5

[27...♜c7 Protecting the d5 pawn, but after 28.♞g5 (28.♞c1 28...♞xa4) 28...f6 29.♞h4↑ White has the initiative.]



28. ♕g5! A logical and strong move. Now the white queen is very active. [28.f6 was less accurate. 28...g6 (28...d4+ 29. ♖g1 ♕e4 30. ♕g5 ♕e3+=) 29. ♖c1 ♕xa4 30. ♗xd5 (30. ♖xc5 30... ♕xa2 31. ♕h6 ♕b1+ with perpetual check: 32. ♖c1 ♕e4+ 33. ♖g1 ♕g4+) 30... ♗e6 31. ♕h6 ♕f4 32. ♕xf4 ♗xf4 33. ♗xb7 ♗d3=]

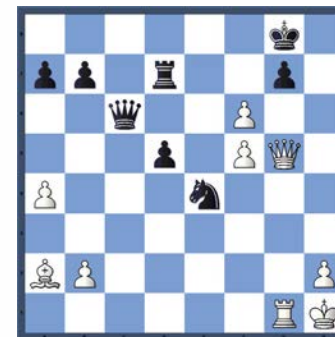


28... ♖d7? The decisive mistake... [Black could still continue the fight after 28...f6 29. ♕g2 ♗d3 (29...fxe5



30.b4! ♗d3 31.f6 ♕d7 32. ♕e4 But not 32.Bxd5?? as the queen will be pinned. 32... ♗f4 33. ♕xe5 With decisive pressure.; 29... ♖f8 30. ♖c1±) 30.exf6 ♕xf6 31. ♗xd5+ ♖f8 32.b3 White is a pawn up, but a long fight is still ahead.]

29. ♖g1 f6 30.exf6 ♗e4



31.f7+! I suppose that Black missed this move when he played 28...Rd7?. White is simply winning now.

31... ♖xf7 32. ♕d8+ ♖h7 33. ♗xd5 Black lost material.

33... ♗f2+ 34. ♖g2 ♕f6 [34... ♖f8 35. ♕h4++-]

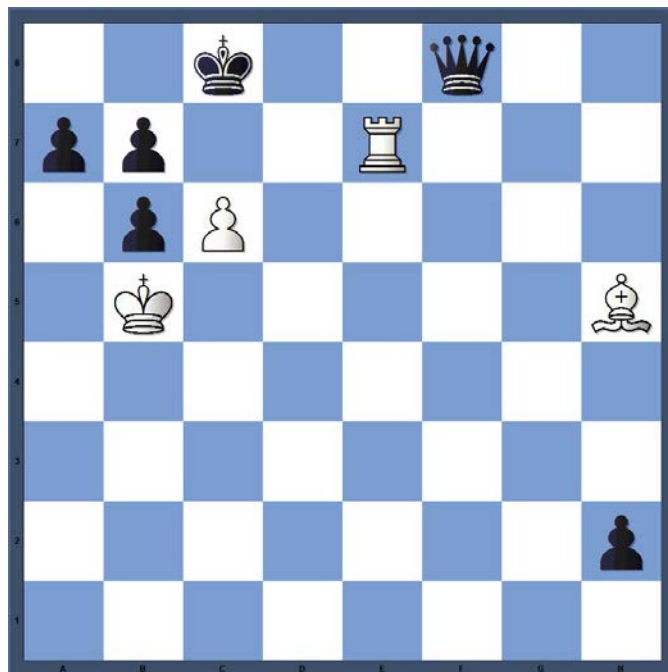
35. ♕xf6 ♖xf6 36. ♖xf2 ♖xf5+ 37. ♗f3 ♖f4 38. ♖g41-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Bron

[CEWN]

1. =

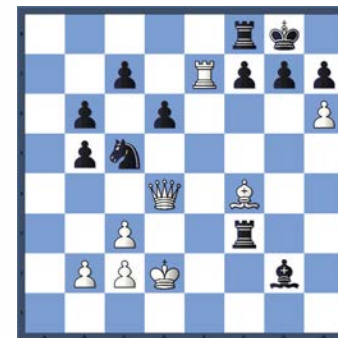


Solutions

(19) Baramidze, D(2614)-Akopian, V(2625)

World Teams, 2013.12.03

[Solutions]



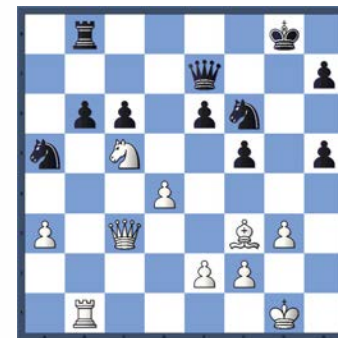
24...♖d3+!! 25.♔xd3 [25.cxd3 25...♘b3+ --+]

25...♘xd3 26.cxd3 ♖c8 --+

(20) Petrosian, T(2660)-L'Ami, E(2648)

World Teams, 2013.12.04

[Solutions]



29.♔xa5! 1-0 [29.♔xa5 29...bxa5 30.♖xb8+ ♔f7 31.♖b7+--]

(21) Nepomniachtchi, I(2721)-Shoker, S(2500)

World Teams, 2013.12.05

[Solutions]



24. ♖c4+! bxc4 25. ♖xd6 ♖b8 26. ♖c3+—

(22) Sjugirov, S(2641)-Pridorozhni, A(2517)

Yugra Cup, 2013.12.04

[Solutions]



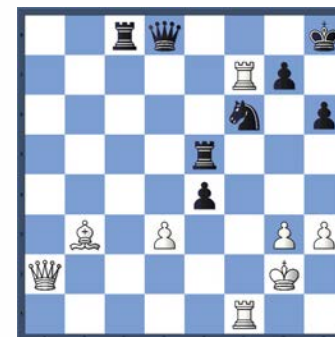
26. g4!! ♕f8 [26... ♖xe6 27. dxe6 ♖f6 28. ♖xf5+—; 26... fxg4 27. ♖e4+—]

27. ♖xf5+—

(23) Pap, G(2522)-Berkes, F(2677)

Hungarian Championship, 2013.12.05

[Solutions]



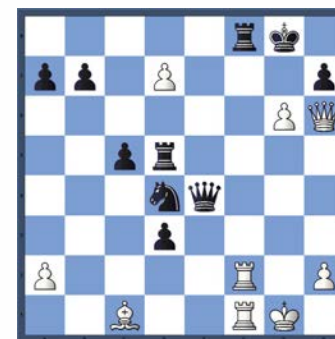
36. ♖1xf6! gxf6 37. ♖a7! ♖g8 38. ♖xf6! ♖g5 [38... ♖xb3 39. ♖xh6+ ♖g8 40. ♖h7+ ♖f8 41. ♖h8+ ♖f7 42. ♖f6+ ♖e8 43. ♖xe5+—; 38... ♖g7 39. ♖a6!+—]

39. ♖f7? [39. ♖a6! 39... ♖ec5 (39... ♖d2+ 40. ♖f2+—) 40. h4! ♖g4 (40... ♖c2+ 41. ♖xc2 ♖xc2+ 42. ♖h3+—) 41. ♖xh6+ ♖g7 42. ♖f6#] 39... ♖g6=

(24) Toth, E(2477)-Nagy, G(2404)

Hungarian Championship, 2013.12.06

[Solutions]



31... ♖e2+! 32. ♖xe2 ♖xf1+ 33. ♖xf1 dxe2+ 0-1

(25) Ter Sahakyan, S(2562)-Sharma, D(2386)

Kolkata Open, 2013.12.07

[Solutions]

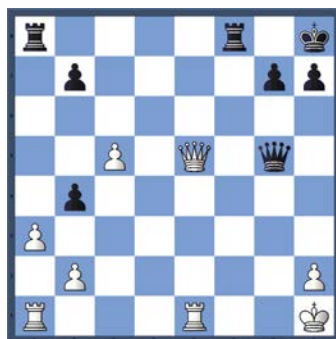


24. ♖xd5!! ♜xd5 25. ♕f3!! ♜xd1+ 26. ♜xd1 ♕c6 27. ♜d8+ ♔f7 28. ♕xc6 ♖xc6 29. ♜xa8 1-0

(26) Ravi, T(2335)-Murshed, N(2465)

Kolkata Open, 2013.12.31

[Solutions]

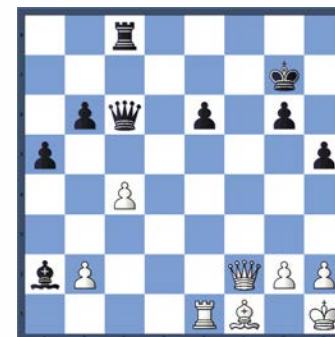


25... ♜f1+! 0-1 [25... ♜f1+ 26. ♜xf1 ♕xe5--+]]

(27) Luther, T(2556)-Bromberger, S(2471)

Austrian league, 2013.12.06

[Solutions]



31. b3! ♙xb3 32. ♕b2+ ♔h7 33. ♕xb3+-

(28) Bosiocic, M(2542)-Mons, L(2428)

Austrian league, 2013.12.06

[Solutions]



22. ♜c5! ♕xc5 [22... ♕e4 23. ♜e1+-]

23. ♖g5 1-0

(29) Gurvitch

[Solutions]



1. ♖h5! ♜xc7 2. ♖xf7+ ♔d8 3. ♖xc7! ♜g8!

[3... ♜xc7 4. ♖xe8+-]

4. ♖c4!! ♜g5+ 5. ♔e6 ♜xh5 6. h4!! +- ♔e8 7. ♖c8 #



Chess **Evolution**

Weekly Newsletter

Issue 96

27th of December 2013

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Editorial Preface

With the New Years issue of CEWN, we are closing the chapter on the Year 2013.

Clearly the biggest winner of 2013 is Magnus Carlsen. With his very convincing win over V.Anand he became the new World Champion.

The second winner of the Year is Vladimir Kramnik. He shared first place with Carlsen in the Candidates and won the World Cup.

In the current issue of CEWN, we are bringing to You a selection of the best moments-games of the Year 2013.

From the next issue of CEWN, we will make some design changes as well as the name will be not "Chess Evolution Weekly Newsletter" anymore.

We are wishing everyone a great new Year 2014 and big thank for staying with us!

Honestly,

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Aronian, Levon(2802)

- Anand, Viswanathan(2772) [D47]

75th Tata Steel GpA(4.5), 2013.01.15

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

How many times have we seen Aronian losing with White in under 25 moves? I can't remember any. We'll now see one of the most spectacular chess games. How much was Anand's analyses? This is hard to say, but probably almost until the end of the game. After the game, he admitted this was his preparation against Gelfand. All in all: super strong novelty, great play, very beautiful finish. A fantastic game.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 Lately, the Slav became Anand's favorite opening.

3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 e6 5.e3 ♘bd7 6.♗d3 dxc4 7.♗xc4 b5 8.♗d3 ♗d6 9.O-O O-O 10.♚c2 ♗b7 11.a3 ♚c8 Everything is theory until here and this is one of the most popular lines of the Meran.



12.♗g5 A fresh idea, which was introduced by Wojtaszek. [The main idea of the Black's move 11... Rc8 becomes visible

after 12.b4 12...c5! This amazing move was played by Anand's second Kasimdzhanov in his game against Topalov. 13.bxc5 ♗xf3 14.gxf3 ♘xc5 15.dxc5 ♚xc5 16.f4 ♘d5 17.♗b2 ♘xc3 18.♗xc3 ♚c7 19.♚fc1 ♚c8 Black is winning back the piece, the position is a draw,]

12...c5! A very strong novelty! Now the game is very tricky and pretty forced... [To win a pawn by playing 12...♗xh2+ 13.♚xh2 ♘g4+ 14.♚g1 ♚xg5 and it seems like Black is just a pawn up, but White is getting great play for it. 15.f3 ♘gf6 16.b4! White's bishop pair, plus his strong center and the very bad Black bishop on b7 is gives White better play.]

13.♗xh7 A very logical move. White needs to take the pawn on h7 - nothing else to do! [Another way to get the h7 pawn was to play 13.♗xh7+ 13...♚h8 14.♗e4 but now Black can equalize very easily by playing 14...♗xe4 15.♗gxe4 ♗b8 and Black is even more than fine. He has the bishop pair, an open position and an eventual attack on the White king. This is great compensation for just a pawn.]

13...♗g4 The beginning of a great mating idea!

14.f4 Aronian runs head first into Anand's preparation. [14.g3? would be a bad way to defend. 14...cxd4 (14...♚h4) 15.exd4 ♗xh2 and Black is easily winning. White can't take on h2 because of Qh4.; 14.h3 would have been a very possible reply, but here Black has excellent play as well. 14...♚h4 with a dangerous attack.]

14...cxd4 15.exd4 It seems like White is pretty solid and the Black rook on f8 is under attack. How to proceed? Anand has an amazing move in his pocket. What a level of preparation!



15...♙c5!! A really amazing move, and a winning one. I guess it might become the move of the Year 2013!

16.♙e2 [If White takes the bishop, it wouldn't help much. 16.dxc5 16...♘xc5 Black wants to take on d3 and, at the same time, to give a check on d4. White has no decent defense against this. 17.♙e2 ♔d4+ 18.♙h1 ♘f2+ and Black is giving mate.; 16.♘xf8 leads to a beautiful mate: 16...♙xd4+ 17.♙h1 ♔h4 18.h3 ♔xh3#]

16...♘de5!! Another wonderful move! Black creates multiple threats and keeps the knight on g4 alive. A really beautiful position.

17.♙xg4 [17.fxe5 and Black is mating after 17...♔xd4+ 18.♙h1 ♔g1+ 19.♙xg1 ♘f2#]

17...♙xd4+ 18.♙h1 ♘xg4 As we can see, things turned out terrible for White. At the moment, we have equal material and Black is attacking the White king with all his pieces.

19.♘xf8 If it's impossible not to die, at least let's get some material.



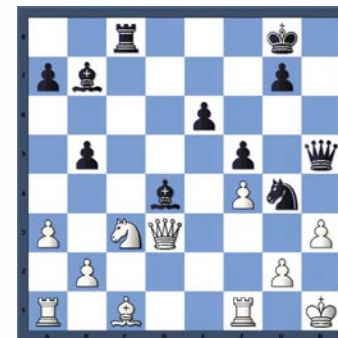
19...f5! Another very good move! Black wants to mate after Qh4. [Of course not 19...♔h4? 20.♔h7+!]

20.♘g6 White has protected from Qh4 for a moment.

20...♔f6 And the game is basically over. Black wants to play Qxg6 and Qh5 next. White has no defense against this.

21.h3 ♔xg6 22.♔e2 Nothing helps White anymore...

22...♔h5 23.♔d3



23...♙e3 What a great finish to a really amazing crush by Black. Anyway, it would be very interesting to know if Anand made any of the moves himself or if it was his preparation until the very end! **0-1**

(2) Kramnik, Vladimir(2801)
- Fressinet, Laurent(2706) [A07]

Alekhine Mem(5), 2013.04.25

[Balogh Csaba]

A brilliant victory by Fressinet! We do not see Kramnik losing in such style with the White pieces too often.

1.♘f3 d5 2.g3 After the Candidates tournament, Kramnik tried to play some "relaxing chess" and kept his deadly weapons for more important tournaments, but he got punished for that.

2...♘c6!? A brave decision by Black. He transposes to the Chigorin Defense, which does not have a good reputation at all, especially if White does not play c4 quickly.

3.d4! Otherwise, Black occupies the center with e5.

3...♙g4



4.♘bd2 A rare sideline, but it seems to be very strong. Black's plan in this whole setup is to castle queenside quickly after Qd7, followed by an attack in center with e5; or, if White castles kingside, he might launch a fast attack with h5-h4. However, White is ready for a quick attack as well, via c3-b4.

4...♚d7 5.h3! Preventing the trading of bishops with Bh3.

5...♙f5 6.c3 Here comes e b4 plan. Black cannot prevent it

with a5 since it does not fit into his strategy to castle long.

6...e5! Black explodes the center. This is a typical plan in this opening, but it usually does not lead to anything good... [Anyway, Black had to hurry with the counterplay, since after the slow 6...O-O-O 7.b4 f6 White gets a big advantage after 8.b5 ♞a5 9.♚a4 b6



10.♙a3! followed by Bb4. We can see in these lines that it is more useful to have the knight on d2 to control the c4 square and stay ready to play Nb3, than to have the bishop on g2. Very deep understanding by Kramnik on move 4.]

7.dxe5 [7.♘xe5!? seems to give a nice advantage as well. 7...♘xe5 8.dxe5 O-O-O 9.♘f3 It is not clear how should Black fight to recover the pawn or to get some compensation for that.]

7...O-O-O This is the point where Kramnik starts to lose the thread.

8.e3?! This is just a waste of tempo, which is enough for Black to get counterplay. [8.♘b3! should have been played. 8...♘ge7 9.♘bd4 with a clear advantage for White!]

8...♘ge7! Black is in time to play Ng6 now, and when he wins back the pawn, he is not worse anymore.

9.g4 White tries to prevent Ng6 by sending the Black bishop

to that square, but this weakens his pawn structure and Black will be ready to make use of it with h5! [9.b4 is too slow now. 9...♘g6]

9...♙g6 10.b4 h5! Fressinet has already foreseen his sacrifice, which Kramnik has probably underestimated.

11.b5 Kramnik has pinned his hopes to this move. When the knight leaves, the e5 pawn is not under attack anymore and he will be able to calmly continue his plans. However, Fressinet had a different idea in mind! [11.♖g1 was better, but Black is fine anyway. 11...hxg4 12.hxg4 ♔e6 and Nxe5 next move.]



11...hxg4!! Black gets two pawns for the piece, but they will dominate White's uncoordinated pieces.

12.bxc6 ♘xc6 13.e6 White tries to exchange some pieces, but it does not solve his problems. [13.♘d4 13...♘xe5 is also better for Black. White simply has no useful moves, while Black has many different ways to improve his position. He could do it by Be7-h4, or gxh3 is also possible to get a third pawn for the piece.]

13...♔xe6! [The tempting 13...fxe6? would have been a grave error because White wins the g4 pawn after 14.♖g1!]

14.♘d4 ♘xd4 15.cxd4



15...♙e7! Another great decision! Fressinet realizes the plan of his opponent - to play Qa4 Kb8 Ba3 -, and the trade of the bishops would seriously ease his position. He rather sends his bishop to the attack with Bh4. [15...♙b4! is also strong, suggested by the computer. Bc3 threatens to trap the rook and after 16.♖b3 ♙xd2+ 17.♙xd2 ♙e4! 18.♖h2 (18.♖g1 18...gxh3 White needs to give up his bishop for the pawn, but then he is simply lost.) 18...♖d6! Trapping the rook. White has an only move. 19.f4 Now on gxf3, Rf2 works, but much stronger is 19...g3! 20.♖e2 ♖g6! and g2 is coming next with a winning advantage. Bg2 is answered by taking and Rxh3.; 15...gxh3?! allows White to play 16.♖a4 ♙b8 17.♙a3∞]

16.♙g2 Forcing Black to take on h3, when the Black pawns become less flexible. On the other hand, it is going to be the third pawn for the piece. [Now on 16.♖a4 16...♙b8 17.♙a3 ♙h4! Black created the direct threat of Qxe3 and is ready to increase the pressure on the f2 pawn.]

16...gxh3 17.♙f3 ♙f5 Black prepares to push g5-g4! White's position is getting more and more unpleasant. He is unable to create any counterplay on the queenside, as the b1 square of the rook is under permanent control by the bishop.

18. ♖a4 [I tried to defend the position with 18. ♘f1 but it did not help. 18... ♜h4! 19. ♘g3 ♙b4+ 20. ♙f1 (20. ♙d2? loses to 20... ♜xd4!)]



20... ♜g6! (The idea of the defense comes after 20... ♙c3?! 21. ♙a3! ♙xa1 22. ♙e7!! Some kind of multi-attacking move. White is back in the game.) 21. ♘xf5 ♜xf5 Bc3 is threatened now and, for instance, after 22. ♙b2 g5! g4-g3 is coming with a crushing attack.]

18... ♙b8 19. ♙a3



19... ♙h4! Black follows his plan and keeps the bishops on the board. Qxe3 is threatened and g5-g4 is coming fast as well. White cannot create any serious threats without the rook on b1. Bc5 is always met with b6.

20. ♘f1 g5! 21. ♜h2 White has to make ugly moves like

this one. He strengthens his f2 weakness and also tries to blockade the h-pawn.

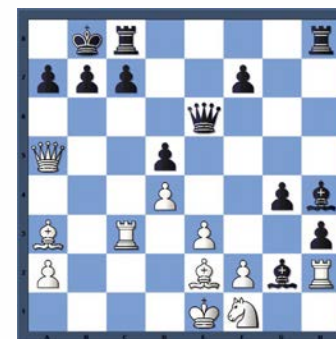
21...g4 22. ♙e2 ♙e4 Black continues pushing. He wants to settle his bishop on g2, trapping the h2 rook and making the f2 pawn more vulnerable. [According to the machine: 22... ♜dg8! was even stronger with the deadly threat of g3 fxg3 Rxg3.]

23. ♜c1 White seems to activate his rook, but actually he still unable to create any real threats. The three pawns on a7, b7, c7 cover all the potential of the queen, rook and two bishops.

23... ♙g2 24. ♜a5 ♜c8! Black had to bring a new defender, but he still has enough pieces left to break through on the other side.

25. ♜c3 Kramnik tries something on the third rank, but it is still unclear what he really wants...

Fressinet finds the way to finish the game in style! [Finally, White could have occupied the b-file, but this time it would have ran into 25. ♜b1 25... ♙xf2+! 26. ♙xf2 ♜f5+—+ and b1 falls.]



25... ♙xf2+!! Not the only way to win, but definitely the nicest and most effective.

26. ♙xf2 ♙xf1 Black simply wants and will promote his h- and g-pawns.

27. ♙xf1 [27. ♙xf1 leads to mate after 27...g3+! 28. ♙xg3 ♜f5!

blocking the king's path back to the f-file. 29.♖b2 ♖cg8+ 30.♔h2 Finally, White has some real threats, but Black is coming first! 30...♖g2+! 31.♗xg2 hxg2+ 32.♔xg2 ♖g8+ and mate to follow.]

27...g3 What to do?! The pawns are rolling!

28.♗f3 gxh2 Black threatens with Qf5 Ke2 Qxf3 Kxf3 h1Q.

29.♔e2 ♜hg8! with the idea of Rg2, closing the bishop's diagonal. On Bxg2, simply hxg2, promoting the pawns.

30.♗c5 a6 [30...b6 was also good.]

31.♗h1 ♜g2+ If White does not take, Qf5 mates.

32.♗xg2 hxg2 White resigned! A brilliancy by Fressinet and something that Kramnik should try to quickly forget. **0-1**

(3) Fridman, Daniel(2667)

- Naiditsch, Arkadij(2716) [E97]

1st GRENKE Chess Classic(6), 2013.02.13

[Arkadij Naiditsch]

Just yesterday I managed to win a nice attacking game against my colleague from the National Team.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.♘f3 O-O 6.♗e2 e5 7.O-O ♘c6 8.♗e3 [8.d5 8...♘e7 We are at the beginning of a huge Classical King's Indian line where both sides have a lot of different plans and ideas.]

8...♘g4 9.♗g5 f6



10.♗h4 [10.♗c1 10...f5 leads to complex play where recently Black has had good results. For example 11.♗g5 ♖d7 12.exf5 (12.d5 12...♘d4∞) 12...exd4 13.f6 (13.♘d5 13...♖xf5 14.h3 ♘ge5 15.♘xe5 dxe5 16.♗g4 ♖f7 17.♗xf5 ♗xf5) 13...♘xf6 14.♘xd4 ♘e4 15.♘xe4 ♘xd4 16.♗d3 ♘e6 17.♖c2 ♘xg5 18.♘xg5 ♖g4 19.♘e4 ♗d7 20.♘c3 ♖ae8 21.♗e4 c6 22.♖ad1 ♗e6 23.♘e2 ♗f5 24.♗xf5 ♖xe2 25.♗xg4 ♖xc2 1/2-1/2 Le Quang Liem-Gharamian,T/ Belfort FRA.]

10...g5 11.♗g3 ♘h6 12.dxe5 [12.d5 12...♘e7 Black is going to push f5 next. After exf5, White will get the e4 square but that's not enough to get a clear advantage because thanks to his active pieces, Black will have good chances to create an

initiative on the kingside.]

12...fxe5 This is the most fighting move. Daniel is a very solid player, so I thought I would get better chances in an unclear position. [12...dxe5 13.♖b3 ♕e7 14.♖ad1 ♖b8 15.♘d5 ♖f7 16.♖a3 a5 17.♖d2 ♙e6 18.h3 ♖fe8 19.♙d1 ♙f8 20.♖e3 g4 21.♘h4 gxh3 22.f4 hxg2 23.♖xg2 1/2-1/2 Ivanisevic,I-Djukic, N/Porto Carras GRE.]

13.h3!? Probably the idea of this move is to play Nh2, looking for an exchange of the light squared bishops in order to play on the light squares. The problem is that Black can push g4, when the White king will not be very safe.

13...♔h8 I was not sure whether to play Kh8 or Nf7. [13...♘f7!? with the idea of preparing Nd4 and after Nxd4 exd4 Nb5, Black will have c5. 14.c5 dxc5 15.♙c4=]

14.c5 Very logical move by White. Now if I manage to put the knight on d4, I will not have the c7-c5 move to support my knight's position.



14...g4 [14...dxc5 15.♖xd8 ♖xd8 16.♘g5 ♘d4= Even here, h the strong knight on d4, Black should not be worse, although this position is very difficult to evaluate.]

15.hxg4 ♙xg4 16.cxd6 cxd6 I think this is the critical moment. During the game I was mainly calculating 17. Nd5 Bxf3 18. Bxf3 Nd4 with a very unclear position. My main

problem is the knight on h6, so if I have enough time to get it to g5, Black should be doing pretty well, but in order to do that, I need 2 full moves which gives White time to create something.

17.♘d2 ♙c8 A nice move. Of course, Black should not exchange the light-squared bishops and my knight is going to g5. [A direct attack would lead nowhere: 17...♖g5 18.♙xg4 (18.♘c4 18...♘d4=) 18...♘xg4 19.♘f3 ♖h5 20.♘h2! and White is better.; 17...♙e6 18.♙c4=]

18.♘c4 ♘d4 19.♘e3 ♘f7 Finally my knight is coming into the game.

20.♘c2 I did not like this move by Daniel. White's knight should be placed on d5 and not on c2.

20...♘g5 [20...♘xe2+ 21.♖xe2 ♖g5 22.♖ad1 h5=]

21.♙d3?! White saves the bishop and prepares Nxd4-exd4-Nb5, but now comes



21...♘df3+! [21...♘de6 was the other option I was considering during the game, but Ndf3 was just too tempting :).]

22.gxf3 ♖d7! Important move. Now I am preparing to take on f3 and give checkmate with Qh3. [22...♘xf3+ 23.♙g2 ♘h4+ 24.♙g1 and Black should repeat moves because other options are worse. 24...♖g5 25.♙e2 ♙h3 26.♙h2 ♙xf1 27.♖xf1±]

23. ♖e2 [23. ♖e1 23... ♖f6→24. ♖a4 ♖f7 (24... ♖h3 Less accurate because the queen on e8 can create some problems for Black. 25. ♖e8+ ♖f8)]

23... ♖f6 That was the key move of a simple idea, just to give mate on the h-file!

24. ♖d5! only move [24. ♖e1 The idea to escape through the f1 square does not help either. 24... ♖h3+ Here Black has quite a few choices to finish the game. One of them is 25. ♖f1 ♖f4 26. ♖g1 ♖h6 27. ♖f1 ♖h3+ 28. ♖g2 ♖f7! A silent but deadly move. Qh5 next with Nf4 and mate can't be avoided by White; It doesn't help to play 24. ♖e3 24... ♖h3 25. ♖g4 ♖xg4 26. ffg4 ♖af8! followed by the lethal Rh6 next.]

24... ♖h6 25. f4 ♖h3+ 26. ♖g2 Here I had 2 options...

26... exf4 [26... ♖xf4+ 27. ♖f3 The position looks pretty unclear from a human point of view, and I was calculating the main Rh3, but the computer gives an amazing win: 27... ♖h2!! Amazing move! White can't defend from mate. Black wants to play Bh6 next and 28. ♖xh2 ♖h3+ 29. ♖g3



29... ♖g2!! followed by Bg4 mate. But how to find this over the board? I don't know :).]

27. ♖h2 A very human move by Daniel, but as usual, the computer finds a better defense. [27. ♖d4 was the only way to go for White. 27... ♖f7 (27... ffg3 28. ffg3 ♖g5 29. ♖f5 ♖xe4∞

During the game I thought I should be better here, but in fact, things are far from clear.) 28. ♖c1 ffg3 29. ffg3 ♖f2 30. ♖xf2 ♖h2+ 31. ♖xh2 ♖xf2+ 32. ♖h1 ♖xd4 33. ♖f1 What a defense by White! 33... ♖xf1+ 34. ♖xf1 ♖d7 Thanks to the pair of bishops, Black is slightly better, but White has good drawish chances.]

27... f3+ 28. ♖xf3 [28. ♖xf3 28... ♖g5+ 29. ♖e3 ♖xh2—+ Black has a free attack now.]

28... ♖g5 29. ♖f4 The only move to take control of the h3 square. [29. ♖g4 29... ♖xg4+ 30. ♖xg4 ♖xg4—+; 29. ♖g3 29... ♖h3+ 30. ♖g1 ♖g4 31. ♖g2 ♖xd1 32. ♖xh3 ♖f3 33. ♖g2 ♖h3+ 34. ♖h1 ♖f4+—+]



29... ♖xh2+ 30. ♖xh2 ♖e5 Not the most precise. [30... ♖f7! would finish the game quickly. 31. ♖g2 ♖xf4 32. ♖h1 ♖d7 followed by Rg8 with a mating attack.]

31. ♖g2 ♖xf4 32. ♖h1 ♖g7 33. ♖f1 ♖e6 [There was no need for 33... ♖h3+ 34. ♖xh3 ♖xh3 35. ♖g4 ♖g5 36. ♖f5∞]

34. ♖d4 Daniel just had a minute on the clock, which makes his position very difficult to play. Objectively, Black has a very strong initiative for the exchange.

34... ♖c4+ 35. ♖e2 ♖xe4 36. ♖xc4? Decisive mistake! Now White is losing by force. The only way to try to survive was [36. ♖g1 36... ♖f6 37. ♖f3 to prevent Nd2 37... ♖xe2+ (37... ♖xb2 38. ♖d4+ ♖xd4 39. ♖xd4∞ Black still has the initiative, but

of course, without the queen, it's not the same as before.)
38. ♖xe2 ♜e8 39. ♖b5 ♜f8→with a strong attack.; 36. ♘f3
36... ♘xf2→+ That's why White needed to play 36.Rg1 first.]

36... ♘d2+ 37. ♖e2 [37. ♖e1 37... ♖xd4 38. ♖h5 h6→+]



37...d5! A very nice move, especially during time trouble.
[Daniel prepared a nice trap: 37... ♖xd4? 38. ♜xh7+! ♔xh7
39. ♖h1+ and suddenly my king is under attack. 39... ♖g6
40. ♜g1+ ♘g5 41. ♘d3+ ♖f6 42. ♖h5 ♖e5+ 43. ♔d1 ♜g8 44. ♜g4
White is a piece down but has practical chances.]

38. ♖c2 [Now at 38. ♘xd5 38... ♖xd4 White has no saving
check on d3 with his bishop.]

38... ♜e8+ 39. ♖d1 ♘xc4 The game is over.

40. ♖c3 Here I had a lot of winning moves, but the move in
the game seemed to be the safest one.

40... ♜e4 41. ♘f5 ♘xb2+ 42. ♖c2 ♜e2+ 43. ♖b3



43... ♖xc3+ 44. ♖xc3 ♘e5+ 45. ♘d4 [45. ♖b3 45... ♘c4→+]

45... ♜e4 and we are in a rook endgame with 2 pawns down
for White and 0 hopes to make a draw. I was very happy when
Daniel gave me a handshake. A nice game to win! :) **0-1**

**(4) Ponomarev, Ruslan(2743)
- Eljanov, Pavel(2707) [C91]**

82nd ch-UKR 2013(2), 2013.06.16

[Balogh Csaba]

An excellent preparation by Ponomarev, which involved an intuitive pawn sacrifice that even the machines did not understand at first sight.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.O-O ♙e7 6.♖e1
White returns to the mainlines instead of the recently so popular anti-theoretical move 6.d3.

6...b5 7.♙b3 d6 8.c3 O-O



9.d4 Ponomarev plays the alternative line to the main Spanish 9.h3. It is sometimes quite effective to search for improvements in slightly forgotten lines. Many hidden ideas can be found and the surprise effect on the opponent is also a decent factor.

9...♙g4 Black must try to put pressure on the center, otherwise White can simply spare the h3 move.

10.♙e3 This is the sharp handling of the position, while Kamsky's favorite 10.d5 is rather positional.

10...exd4 [10...♘xe4? is often a poisoned pawn in the Spanish. Here again White wins after a double attack: 11.♙d5!]

11.cxd4 d5 A typical method of countering White's ideas in the center. Otherwise if White gets his knight out to c3, Black remains without counterplay against the strong center. [The other main option for Black is 11...♘a5 12.♙c2 and Black must play either c5 immediately or after the inclusion of the Nc4-Bc1 pair of moves. Both are with huge theory.]

12.e5 ♘e4 13.h3 ♙h5 Here comes the new idea! In the previous games, White played Nc3 now or without the h3 Bh5 inclusion.



14.♘bd2! The positional point is obvious, White needs to get rid of the strong e4 knight, but it looks like a tactical blunder...

14...♘xd2 Seemingly White has no good takeback, since on Bxd2 the d4 pawn is hanging and after Qxd2 Bb4 wins an exchange. Black can even destroy the pawn structure first with Bxf3 and only then Bb4... What could the plan be?!

15. ♖xd2! ♜xf3 [On 15... ♜b4 16. ♖c2 ♜xe1



17. ♘g5! is very strong 17... ♜g6 18. ♖xc6 ♜a5 19. ♜xd5 White has sacrificed an exchange, but he got the most important d5 pawn and all his pieces are standing actively. Black is already in some trouble, because after 19... ♖b8 20.e6! seems to be very strong.]

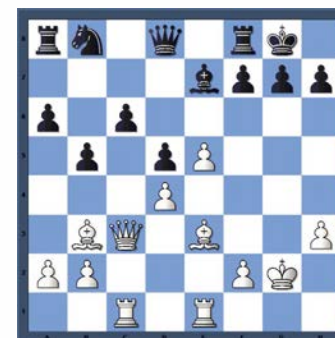


16. ♖c3!! This is the whole point! White had to make this intermediate move to avoid Bb4. The game becomes very sharp, but as the following line shows, White has enough compensation everywhere. [16.gxf3 is bad as after 16... ♜b4 17. ♖c2 ♜xe1 18. ♖xc6 ♜a5 19. ♜xd5 ♖b8+ Black has huge plusses in comparison to the 15...Bb4 line.]

16... ♜xg2 Eljanov plays the computer's recommendation and grabs a pawn. After knowing what happened in the game, I doubt that he would repeat this decision.

[On 16... ♖d7 White needs to make another subtle intermediate move: 17. ♖ec1!! ♜b8 Now on Qxc7, Black could simple retreat the bishop. (17... ♜d8 18. ♖xc7! ♖xc7 19. ♖xc7 And both bishops are hanging. White wins the piece back and gets a big advantage.) 18.gxf3 c6 19. ♜h2 We get the same position as in the game, but here Black does not even have an extra pawn.; 16... ♜b4! is the best option in my opinion. 17. ♖xc6 ♜xe1 18. ♖xe1 ♜e4 19.f3 ♜f5 20. ♜xd5 White clearly has enough compensation for the exchange, but I am not sure if objectively he is better here. In any case, from a practical point of view, White has a much easier game.; 16... ♜xe5 seems to lead to a slightly worse position after 17.dxe5 ♜h5 18.g4! ♜g6 19. ♖ed1 ♜e4 20. ♖c6+= White wins the pawn back and his pieces are better placed.]

17. ♜xg2 ♜b8 18. ♖ac1 c6 Black managed to win a pawn, but at what cost!? White has the bishop pair, the c6 pawn must always be defended by the b8 knight, which locks the rook to the corner. If the c6 pawn falls, the d5 one will automatically drop as well. And the most important factor is that White has an easy and strong attack on the g-file, against which Black cannot launch any kind of counterplay. Black must try to defend, but without the b8 and a8 pieces it is going to be difficult.



19. ♜h2! Opening the g-file for the rooks.

19...f5 [19...a5 does not lead anywhere, White can simple continue his plan: 20.♖g1; Opening the game weakens the Black king too much: 19...f6 20.♖g1! fxe5 21.dxe5± Black has no good defence against Qd3-Bc2.]

20.♖g1 ♖a7 Using the poor rook to defend the g7 weakness along the 7th rank is a resourceful idea, but it does not save Black. [20...f4 critically weakens the b1-h7 diagonal: 21.♕d2 Qd3 and Bc3 are coming next and Black will collapse as he is missing a light-colored bishop.]

21.♖g2! Simple and strong!

21...♙d7 [21...♙e8 is also bad: 22.♖cg1 g6 23.♕h6 ♖f7 24.♕c2 White wants to prepare for the attack with h4-h5 and Qg3 for instance. 24...♕f8 25.♕xf8 ♙xf8 26.h4! ♙h6 27.♙h3 ♙f8 28.h5 Black collapses.]

22.♖cg1 ♖f7 Black tries to keep his pawn on g7 as long as possible to avoid the h4-h5 plan.



23.♕d1!! A very nice way of increasing pressure. Ponomarev drives his bishop to h5 to provoke the g6 weakening.

23...g6 24.♕h5! White does not even waste time on the h4-h5 plan, he goes for the most direct crush with sacrificing on g6.

24...♕f8 25.♕f4! Opening the 3rd rank for the queen in order to join the attack.

25...♙e8 [Black cannot fortify his g6 pawn: 25...♖g7 26.♕h6! ♖f7 27.♕xg6! hxg6 28.♖xg6+ ♙h7 29.♕xf8 ♖xf8 30.♙g3+- With mate to follow soon.]



26.♖xg6+!! A brilliant finish based on an exact calculation!

26...hxg6 27.♖xg6+ Black is simply unable to coordinate a defence because of the pin between the h5 bishop and the e8 queen.

27...♕g7 [On 27...♙h7 28.e6! ♖fe7 29.♖g5 ♙d8 30.♕g6+ ♙h8 31.♙g3 Black is a rook up, but gets mated soon. Too many threats are in the air: Qh4, Rh5, Bf7, Be5.]

28.e6 ♖f8 29.♙c5 [White could already have simplified to a completely winning endgame 29.♖xg7+ 29...♖xg7 30.♕xe8 ♖xe8 31.♕xb8 ♖xb8 32.♙xc6+- but Ponomarev played for more.]

29...♙e7 [On 29...♖e7 30.♖xg7+ ♖xg7 31.♕xe8 ♖xe8 32.♕e5+- is hopeless for Black.]

30.♕d6 ♙h4 31.♙xa7 There is only one check on f2 because of Rg2. A very well deserved victory after a deep preparation and a powerful attack. **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Cmilyte, V(2514)-Zhao Xu(2568)

Beijing woman blitz, 2013.12.14

[CEWN]

1... -+



(6) Sebag, M(2501)-Hou Yifa(2629)

Beijing woman blitz, 2013.12.14

[CEWN]

1. +-



(7) Dzagnidze, N(2557)-Koneru, H(2607)

Beijing woman blitz, 2013.12.14

[CEWN]

1... -+



(8) Paehtz, E(2452)-Cramling, P(2525)

Beijing woman blitz, 2013.12.14

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Gunina, V(2509)-Stefanova, A(2486)

Beijing woman blitz, 2013.12.14

[CEWN]

1. +-



(10) Paehtz, E(2452)-Kosintseva, T(2496)

Beijing woman blitz, 2013.12.14

[CEWN]

1. +-



(11) Sebag, M(2501)-Lagno, K(2543)

Beijing woman blitz, 2013.12.15

[CEWN]

1. +-



(12) Ushenina, A(2501)-Cramling, P(2525)

Beijing woman blitz, 2013.12.15

[CEWN]

1. +-



(13) Gunina, V(2509)-Muzychuk, A(2566)

Beijing woman blitz, 2013.12.15

[CEWN]

1... --+



(14) Muzychuk, A(2566)-Lagno, K(2543)

Beijing woman blitz, 2013.12.16

[CEWN]

1. +-



Endgame section

**(15) Kramnik, Vladimir(2784)-
Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime(2719)**

FIDE World Cup 2013(6.2), 2013.08.27
[CE Team]



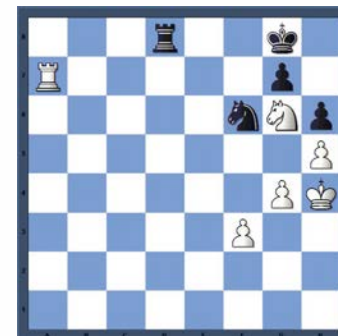
We are in the second game of the World Cup semi-final. Is it a draw or a winning position for White?! In case of a white win, Kramnik would directly proceed to the final, while in case of a draw the players would have to go to tie-break.

44.♖b7 ♜d8! A very strong move. White had the idea of playing Nh4-Nf5, which is now impossible because of Rd7. The knight endgame should be a draw, which means White needs to keep the rooks on the board if possible.

45.♔g3 A waiting move just to check what Black wants to play next.

45...♔g8 Another good and solid move. Black keeps on waiting.

46.♔h4 ♔h7 47.♞a7 ♔g8 As we can see, White cannot really improve anything, so it is time for the last try.



48.f4! White is bringing his last resource, the f4 pawn. Now the move g5 next could be quite unpleasant for Black in many different situations.

48...♔h7 49.♞b7 Another waiting move and checking Black again...

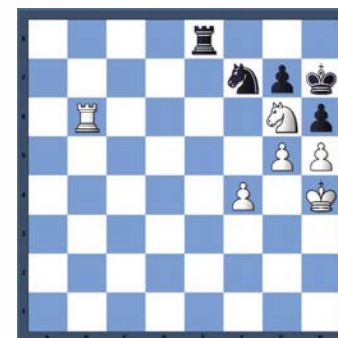
49...♞e4 [49...♔g8 50.♞b4 Followed by g5. The black king would be better placed on h7 now...]

50.♞b4 ♞e8 Black is preparing against g5.

51.g5 ♞d6! Black wins the control over the 4th rank.

52.♞b6 This is probably White's only try. [52.♔g4 wouldn't lead to anything: 52...hxg5 53.fxg5 ♞e4+ And Black manages to exchange the rooks, which should be a huge step in the direction of a draw.]

52...♞f7



53.♞b5! A very good move! [53.♔g4 53...hxg5 54.fxg5 would

also give Black a chance for 54...♖e5+! Trying to find a rescue in the rook endgame... 55.♗xe5 ♜xe5 56.♞b7 ♞a5 57.h6 And here only 57...♙h8!! secures a draw! 58.♞xg7 ♞a4+ 59.♙f5 ♞f4+ 60.♙g6 ♞f6+ And the white king cannot escape the checks.]

53...♞e1 Maxime is going for a very forced line, which is very tricky. [53...♞a8 would have been a more safe way of playing for a draw. White cannot really make big progress here. Of course Black still needs to be careful, but it seems to be a draw.]

54.♗f8+ ♙g8 55.♞b8 The black king is in a mating net, but it is his move.

55...hxf5+ 56.fxf5 ♞h1+! The only chance.

57.♙g3 ♞g1+



58.♙f4! And once again White tries the best practical chance. [After 58.♙h2 58...♞xg5! secures the draw: 59.♗e6+ ♙h7 60.♗xg5+ ♗xg5 61.♙g3 ♗e4+ 62.♙f4 ♗f6 White is an exchange up, but the position is an easy draw.]

58...♞f1+? This move is already losing! [The right move was 58...♗d6! 59.♗g6+ ♙f7 60.♞f8+ ♙e6 With very good chances for a draw.]

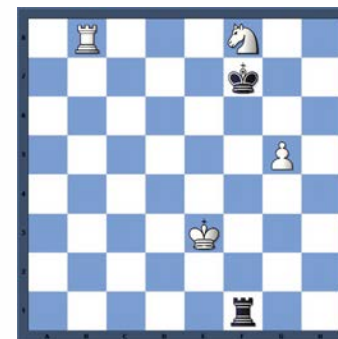
59.♙e3 And it seems like Black is totally lost. White wants to

play Ne6 or Ng6 depending on what Black will do next.

59...g6! In an already lost position, Black finds the only practical chance.

60.hxg6 [Things are not clear after 60.♗xg6+ 60...♙g7 61.♞b7 ♞f5 With quite some chances to make a draw.]

60...♙g7 61.gxf7 ♙xf7 White is a piece and a pawn up, but to defend the pawn on g5 is pretty hard. Black wants to play Rf5 next.



62.♙e4? With this move White misses the win! [62.♗d7 was the only right move! 62...♞f5 63.♞f8+ ♙g6 64.♞g8+ ♙f7 And now 65.♙e4! Winning an important tempo. 65...♞a5 66.♞f8+ ♙g6 The position still looks like a draw, but White has a great trick again: 67.♗e5+! ♙xg5 68.♞f5+! And no matter where the black king is going to, White will give a check with the knight and take the rook on a5.]

62...♞e1+! And the position is a draw!

63.♙f3 ♞f1+ 64.♙g3 ♞g1+ 65.♙f4 ♞f1+ 66.♙e3 ♞e1+ 67.♙f3 ♞f1+ The white king cannot escape from the black checks.

68.♙g2 And once the white king is on the 2nd rank Black has

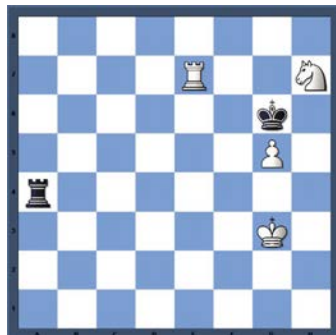
68...♞f5! 69.♗h7 [69.g6+ 69...♙g7 And the g-pawn is lost.]

69...♙g6 Forcing the white rook to come to the 7th rank.

70.♖b7 ♜f4! And Black is cutting the white king.

71.♔g3 ♜a4 It is funny, but White cannot improve his position.

72.♖e7



72...♜g4+ A funny move! :)

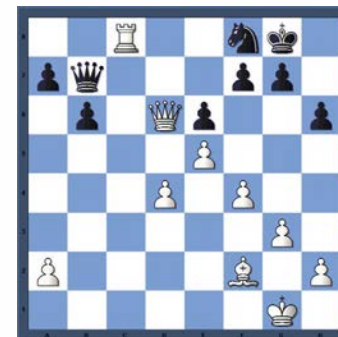
73.♔f3 ♜a4 74.♖b7 ♜h4 Black finally decides to take the g5 pawn, but just waiting on the 4th rank was also fine.

75.♘f6 ♔xg5 76.♘e4+ ♔f5 77.♖e7 ♜h8 And we have a theoretical draw. The rest of the game doesn't really need any comments, as the position is just too easy to hold...

78.♔e3 ♜d8 79.♖f7+ ♔e6 80.♜h7 ♜d1 81.♘c5+ ♔f5 82.♖f7+ ♔e5 83.♘d3+ ♔e6 84.♜a7 ♜h1 85.♔e4 ♜h4+ 86.♘f4+ ♔d6 87.♜a6+ ♔c5 88.♜g6 ♔c4 89.♜c6+ ♔b5 90.♜c1 ♜h8 91.♔e5 ♜h4 92.♜c8 ♜h1 93.♘e6 ♜h5+ 94.♔d6 ♜h6 95.♜c1 ♔b4 96.♔d5 ♜h5+ 97.♔e4 ♜h4+ 98.♘f4 ♔b5 99.♔e5 ♜h8 100.♜c2 ♜h4 101.♖f2 ♔c4 102.♔e4 ♜h8 103.♜c2+ ♔b5 104.♘g6 ♜h1 105.♘e5 ♜e1+ 106.♔d4 ♜d1+ 107.♘d3 ♔b6 108.♜c3 ♜b1 109.♔d5 ♜b5+ 110.♘c5 ♜b1 111.♘d7+ ♔b5 112.♜d3 ♜b4 113.♘e5 ♜b1 114.♘c4 ♔b4 115.♘d2 ♜b2 116.♔c6 ♜c2+ 117.♔b6 ♜b2 118.♔c6 ♜c2+ 119.♔b7 ♜c3 120.♜d8 ♜c5 121.♘e4 ♜c4 122.♜e8 ♜c2 123.♔b6 ♜e2 124.♔c6 ♜e1 125.♘d6 What a dramatic draw! 1/2-1/2

(16) Gelfand, Boris(2740)-Carlsen, Magnus(2872)

FIDE Candidates(3.3), 2013.03.17
[CE Team]

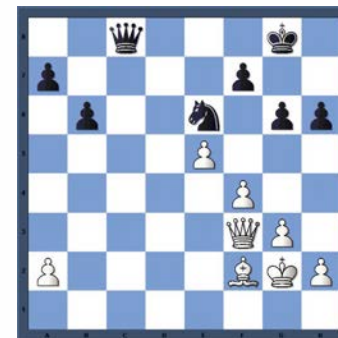


27...♜xc8 We are at move 27. Everything looks equal, so probably a draw agreement will come soon. No way! White's position is much more dangerous than it looks. Black has very good winning chances. Let us take a look.

28.d5! White is exchanging his d-pawn - a very correct decision. Black wants to play Qb7 followed by Ng6-Ne7 and Nd5, killing the f2 bishop.

28...exd5 29.♜xd5 During the next moves, Magnus will show us exactly how to handle such positions. ..

29...g6 securing the position of the knight on e6. 30.♔g2 ♘e6 31.♜f3



31...♔g7 There is no reason to hurry because White has no

direct drawing ideas.

32.a3 h5 Now Black wants to eventually play h4, so White is almost forced to play h4 himself, which weakens greatly the light squares.

33.h4 ♖c2 White's main idea here is to push f5, so Black stops him from doing it. Another idea for White is to exchange the queens, which would lead to an almost equal endgame.

34.♖b7 ♖a4 35.♖f3 By attacking the a-pawn, White is forcing Black's queen to leave the great square on c2.



35...b5! Black has no other ideas than to push his queenside pawns. However, this is strong enough! The next Black moves are simple: a5, Qc4, a4. We see the complete domination of the Black knight on e6 against the White bishop on f2.

36.f5! White has no time to waste.

36...gxf5 37.♖xf5 ♖xa3 38.♖xh5 a5 The position changes completely. The Black king is open, but his pawns on the queenside are just unstoppable. White's only hope to survive is to create something fast against the Black king, which is very difficult because of the "heroic" knight on e6.

39.♖g4+ ♖f8 40.h5?! In a difficult position, White chooses what might not be the best practical chance to fight for a draw.

[40.♖h5 would have given White better chances. The idea is to put the queen on h8 before starting the advance of the h-pawn. But anyway, White still has a lot of work to do here in order to get the draw.]

40...♖c1! Very good move, stopping White's only idea - to play h6.

41.♖e4 b4 The Black pawns are coming closer...

42.♗e3 ♖c7 42...Qc8 also seems to lead to a much better position.

43.♖a8+

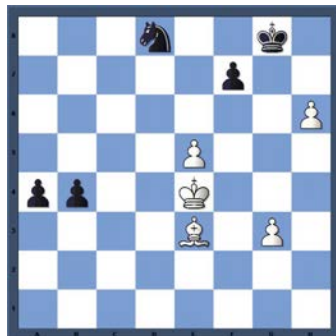


43...♗g7! Very good move by Black. Before the exchange on d8, Black places his king on a better position than f8.

44.h6+ ♖h7 45.♖e4+ ♖g8 As we can see, the Black king on g6 feels very safe! White almost has no attacking ideas and Black's pawns are getting closer...

46.♖a8+ ♖d8 47.♖xd8+ This move loses by force, but it is hard to blame Gelfand for making this decision. [47.♖c6 would have kept the game going a bit longer, but the position just looks pretty lost for White in any case.]

47...♗xd8 48.♗f3 a4 49.♖e4 The White king tries to be on time to hold the Black pawns, but it is not...

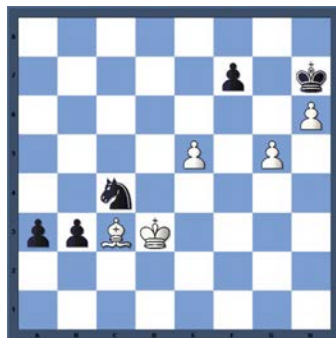


49...c6! The last precise decision by Magnus. The game is over. White cannot stop Black from playing a3 followed by Na5-Nb3, winning a full piece.

50. c1 a5 51. d2 Gelfand tries the last trick...

51...b3 52. d3 c4 53. c3 a3 and the game is over!

54. g4 h7 55. g5



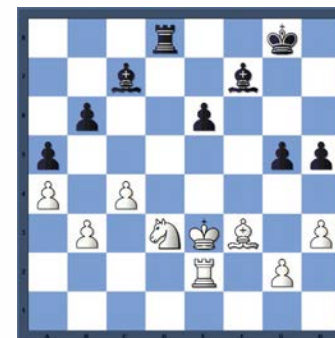
55...g6 White is in zugzwang. The bishop needs to leave the c3 square, which gives the Black knight the possibility to enter on d2.

56. d4 b2 57. c2 d2 Just a perfect play from Black, nothing to say about it. As we could see, the starting position was much trickier than it looked like! **0-1**

(17) Caruana, F.(2781)-Nakamura, Hi(2769)

75th Tata Steel GpA(10), 2013.01.23

[CE Team]



We got to this position after the time trouble. Thanks to the bishop pair, the weak dark squares and the better structure, Black is much better. Let's see how Naka converted his advantage.

40...g7 41. b2 d6 The bishop came here to avoid any pawn exchange.

42. b1 f6 43. f1 e7 44. e4 g8 45. h1 h4 To make moves like this, we have to be sure about everything, but Naka probably has already seen many winning ideas.

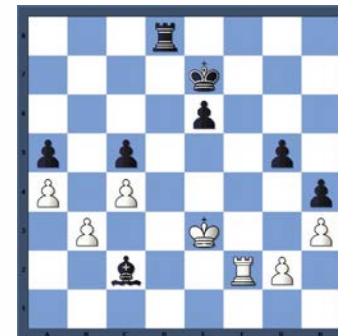
46. f3 f8 47. d1 d8 48. f1 g6 49. e4 h5 Of course, Black keeps the pair of bishops.

50. f3 f8 51. f2 g6 Naka didn't improve his position so much, but he's winning time. This is a typical strategy to convert a long-term advantage.



52. Nxe4 Caruana decides to change the way to defend. He found the other setup with a knight on e4. What would happen if he puts the knight on d3?

[52. Nxd3 Bc5+ (52... Bf4+ 53. Qe2 Bd8 54. Rf1 Bg3 55. c5 (55. Qe3 e5 56. Bd5 (56. Bxe4 Bf4+ 57. Qf3 Bh5+) 56... Bf6 An important place for the rook, in order to push e4. 57. Rf1 e4 58. Nc1 Bf4+ 59. Qd4 Bf6) 55... e5 56. Bg4 bxc5 57. Nxc5 Bxd1 58. Qxd1 Bf2 and White has problems with the knight.) 53. Nxc5 I suppose Caruana wanted to avoid the positions after the exchanges on c5. (53. Qe2 Bd4 54. Qd2 (54. Rf1 e5 55. Qd2 Qd6 But not 55... e4, because of 56. Bxe4! 56. Rf1 g4 A similar idea to the one we'll see in the game. 57. Bxe4 (57. hxg4 h3; 57. Bxg4 e4) 57... gxh3 58. gxh3 Black should easily win this position. For example, the winning plan can be to grab the weak h3 pawn after Be8-Bd7 or Rg8-Rg3.) 54... Bd8 55. Qe2 Bf6 56. Bb7 Bc3 57. Rf1 e5 58. Nf2 (58. c5 Bf6; 58. Bd5 Bxd5 59. cxd5 Bh5+) 58... Bd4 59. Be4 Bf6 60. Bxg6 Bxf2+ 61. Qd3 Bxg2 62. Bf5 Bg3+ 63. Qe4 Bxb3 With two pawns less, the opposite colored bishops won't help.) 53... bxc5 54. Rf2 Bb8 (54... e5 55. Bf2 Rd5 is coming.; 54... Bd8 55. Be4 Bxe4 56. Qxe4 Bf1 57. Bf2 Bd4+ 58. Qe3 e5 59. Bf2 Bf4 60. Bf2) 55. Bd1 Bd8 56. Bc2 From a logical point of view, without bishops, White should have more chances. 56... Bxc2



57. Rxc2 Qf6 (57... Bd4 58. Rf1 e5 59. Rf1 Qe6 60. Bf8) 58. Rf2+ Qe5 59. Rf1 Bb8 60. Bb1 Bb7 61. Bb2 Bf7 62. Bd2 Bf1 63. Bd8 Bb1 and Black got some winning chances]

52... Bc5+ 53. Qd3 [53. Nxc5 53... bxc5 This position has to be lost because White is simply "a pawn down"; 53. Qe2 53... Bf4 54. Nxc5 (54. Nxc5 54... bxc5 55. Rf1 Bd4 56. Bc3 e5 57. Bg4 Qf6 58. Bf3+ Bf4) 54... e5 Now White can't move the rook because after Kf6, he'll lose the knight. (54... Qf6 55. Ne4+ =) 55. Bd5 Bd3+ 56. Qxd3 Bxf1]

53... Bd8+! Black's idea now is to force White to exchange on c5. Then, it will be easier to improve his position. [53... Bf4 This move should be enough as well. 54. Rf1 Bf5 55. Bf2 (55. Bh1 55... Qf7 56. Bf1 Qg7 Black doesn't need to hurry with the final hit on h3. First, he can place his pieces on optimal squares. 57. Bh1 e5 58. Bf1 Bd4 59. Bh1 Qh6 60. Bf1 Bxh3) 55... Bxh3 56. Nxc5 Bf5+ 57. Be4 (57. Ne4 57... h3; 57. Qd2 57... Bd4+ 58. Qe1 Bd6 59. Ne4 Bf4) 57... Qf6 58. Bxf5 exf5 59. Ne6 (59. Nf3 59... h3) 59... Bg4 Bb3]

54. Qc2? Caruana could still fight after:

[54. Qe2 54... Bd4 55. Nxc5 bxc5 But as we said before, this position is just lost.]



54...g4!! A fantastic tactical idea overlooked by Caruana in his long calculation! White's setup is crushed now! [54...♖d4 55.♗e1 ♘b4 56.♗e2 This position is what Caruana expected. His setup now is very solid and it's not easy for Black to improve because the knight on e4 won't allow the Black king to go to b4 or g3. 56...e5 57.♙c1 ♙e6 with the idea of taking the king to g3, but now comes 58.♘g4+ ♘f5 59.♘f3 =; 54...♘b4 55.♗d1]

55.hxg4 h3 56.♗d1 [56.gxh3 56...♗f8 57.♙d3 ♗f4 and White is losing material.]

56...♗f8 57.♙d3 h2 58.♗h1



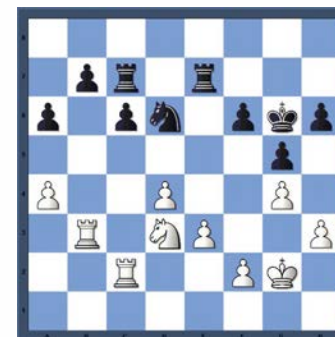
58...♘g1 Without the rook, White can't fight anymore.

59.♙e2 ♘xe4 60.♘xe4 ♙f6 61.♘f3 ♗d8 0-1

(18) Ivanchuk, Vassily(2757)-Radjabov, Teimour(2793)

London ENG(9.3), 2013.03.25

[CE Team]



After move 40 and a little time trouble, we see the following endgame. It is clear that White is pushing, but is it enough to win the game?

41.♘c5 h5 A very logical move. As the defender, it is always good to exchange an extra pawn.

42.♗b1 I am not sure about this move. Black is now able to exchange the knight. [42.♙f3 Not allowing the Black knight to go to e4 looks very logical to me. The White king could go to d3 over e2.]

42...♘e4! I think the right decision. Black's position will be very passive, but very solid.

43.♙xe4 ♗xe4 44.♙f3 ♗ee7 Black is going to hold everything together on the 7th rank.

45.e4 White is centralizing as much as possible. The a5 move is not running away.

45...♗cd7 46.♙e3 ♗d5 47.f3 ♗d6 Black cannot do much more than waiting.



48.♖b6 I am not sure whether this move was right. The White rook must remain passive on d2. [White could have tried to keep both rooks active. 48.a5!? 48...♖d5 (It does not work now 48...♖ed7 49.♖b4 followed by Rb2.) 49.♖c5 ♖xc5 50.dxc5 ♖e5 51.♔d4 ♖e7 Black might hold this, but White is clearly better...]

48...♖ed7 49.♖d2



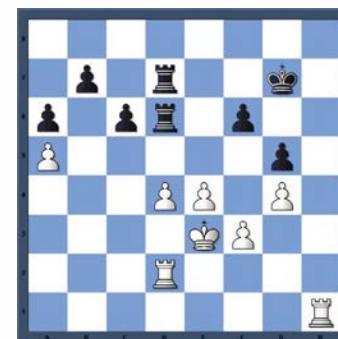
49...hxg4? What a mistake! Black plays very logically, exchanging a pawn, but White is now going to get the h-file, and this is deadly. [49...h4 would lead to a very passive position, which is very difficult to break.]

50.hxg4 ♔f7 51.a5 White made the maximum he could. Now it is time to try to find a winning plan.

51...♔e7 52.♖b1 ♔f7 53.♖h1 Over to the h-file! It is definitely an idea. [53.♖b4? would be a good move with the idea

of playing Rdb2, but Black always counts on 53...c5! with, probably, just a draw.]

53...♔g7



54.♖h5 What can be White's idea now? To play e5 or to play Rdh2 at a good moment.

54...♖d8 Black was probably afraid of playing Kg6 because of [54...♔g6 To make sure that the pawn on g5 is protected against White's e5 push. 55.♖h8! The White rook is entering the position. 55...♔g7 56.♖b8 and White has clearly obtained a lot! An exchange of rooks would be bad for Black because the d5 move would be possible.]

55.♖d1 White is taking away the rook from the 2nd rank, in order to be able to play Rdh1 and have the escape Kf2-Kg3 against Black's Rxd4, without allowing him to play Rd2+ and Rxh2, exchanging the rooks. [55.e5! would have been strong as well, but we will see a similar continuation just the next move.]

55...♖8d7 This move is losing, but it is hard to give Black a good advice here... [It does not help much to play 55...♔g6 56.♖dh1 ♖xd4 57.♖h7 and mate next move.]



56.e5! The final blow...

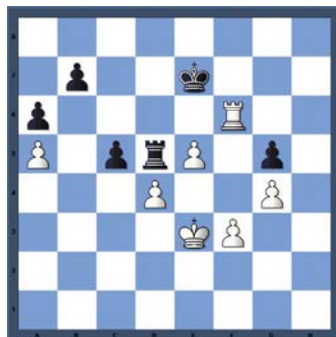
56...♖d5 57.♖dh1 ♔f7 [Loses on the spot 57...♖xd4 58.e6! and Black is losing a rook. 58...♖d3+ 59.♔f2 ♖d2+ 60.♔g3+—]

58.♖h7+ We are now in the technical part of the game.

58...♔e6 59.♖xd7 ♔xd7 60.♖h7+ ♔e6 61.♖h6! There is no reason for White to get seduced by the b7 pawn... The f6 pawn is much sweeter.

61...c5 is probably the best chance for Black, but it is simply too small...

62.♖xf6+ ♔e7



63.♖b6! The last exact move. From now on, things are very easy...

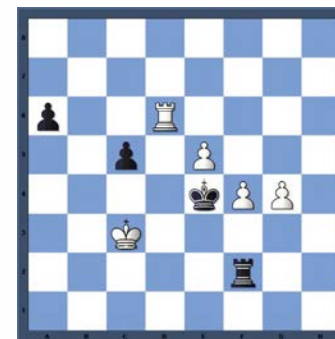
63...♖xd4 [63...cxd4+ 64.♔e4 and the game is over.]

64.♖xb7+ ♔e6 65.♖g7 capturing the g5 pawn away and, with it, winning the game.

65...♖a4 66.♖xg5 ♖xa5 67.f4 The 3 pawns are starting their march.

67...♖a3+ 68.♔d2 ♖a2+ 69.♔c3 ♖f2 trying to create "hole" in the pawns, but it is too late for anything.

70.♖g6+ ♔d5 71.♖d6+ ♔e4



72.♖f6 White can even choose which pawn to push, e- or g-.

72...a5 The e-pawn is closer to the promotion square on the 8th rank :).

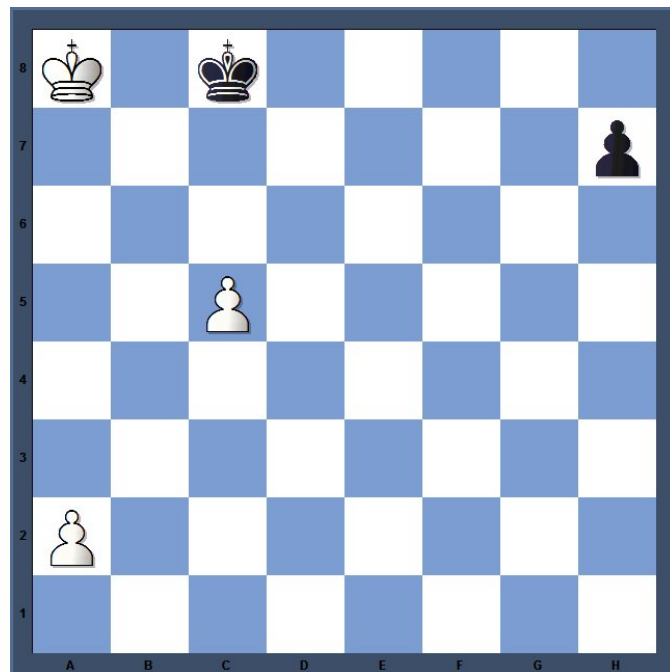
73.e6 ♔d5 74.f5 ♖e2 75.♖f8 ♔d6 76.f6 A really great endgame technique by White! **1-0**

Surprise section / study

(19) Gorgiev

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(20) McShane, L(2684)-Anand, V(2773)

London rapid, 2013.12.11

[Solutions]

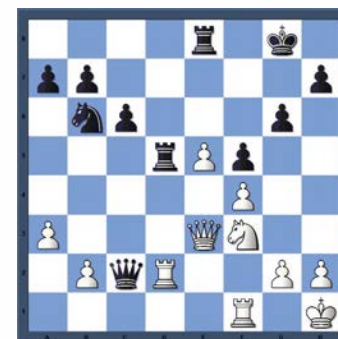


20. ♖f6+!! gxf6 21. ♔xb7 ♘e5 22. ♔xa8+—

(21) Caruana, F(2782)-Gelfand, B(2777)

London blitz, 2013.12.14

[Solutions]



28... ♘c4!! 29. ♔xc2 ♘xe3—+

(22) Gelfand, B(2777)-Adams, M(2754)

London rapid, 2013.12.15

[Solutions]



25.O-O-O!! ♖xe5 26.♙xb2±

(23) Iordachescu, V(2614)-Slavin, A(2366)

London Open, 2013.12.13

[Solutions]



14.♗g5!! ♔xg5 [14...hxg5 15.♙h7+ ♔f8 16.♙h8#]

15.♙xf7+ ♔h8 16.♗g6+ ♔h7 17.♗xe7+-

(24) Wang Yu(2723)-Karjakin, S(2756)

Beijing rapid, 2013.12.12

[Solutions]

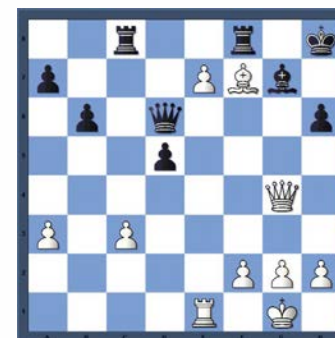


17...♗g6! 18.♙h5 ♗xd4! 19.♖xd4 ♙c3!—+

(25) Wang Ha(2735)-Leko, P(2730)

Beijing rapid, 2013.12.13

[Solutions]



31...♙f6! 32.exf8=♙+ ♖xf8 33.f3 [33.♗xd5 33...♙xf2+-]

33...♙xf7—+

(26) Leko, P(2730)-Grischuk, A(2783)

Beijing rapid, 2013.12.13

[Solutions]



29.c3? [29.♖aa3?? 29...♙xf6!; 29.♙g5! 29...♖g8 30.♖aa3! ♖xc2 (30...♙e2 31.♖ag3 ♙g4 32.♖h4 ♖xc2 33.h3+-) 31.♖ag3!+-] **29...♖g8**∞

(27) Gunina, V(2509)-Kosteniuk, A(2527)

Beijing Woman rapid, 2013.12.12

[Solutions]

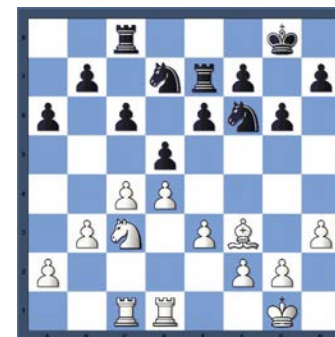


33.♙xf7+! 1-0 [33.♙xf7+ 33...♙xf7 34.♙xc6+-]

(28) Nepomniachtchi, I(2721)-Ivanchuk, V(2731)

Beijing blitz, 2013.12.14

[Solutions]



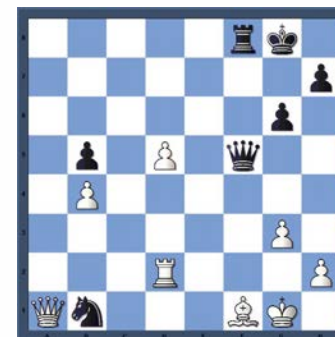
21.cxd5! exd5 [21...cxd5 22.♘xd5!+-]

22.♘xd5! ♘xd5 23.♙xd5±

(29) Banusz, T(2598)-Nagy, G(2404)

Hungarian Championship, 2013.12.10

[Solutions]

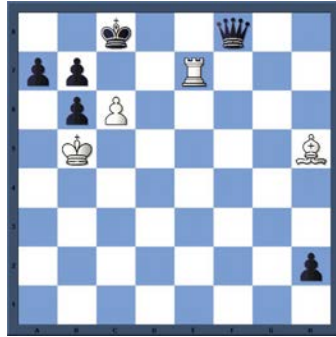


39.♙h3!! ♙xh3 [39...♙g5 40.♙e6+-]

40.♙xb1±

(30) Bron

[Solutions]



1. ♖g4+! ♔b8 2. c7+ ♕a8 3. c8=♚+ ♚xc8 4. ♖xc8 h1=♚
5. ♖xb7+! ♚xb7 6. ♖e8+ ♚b8 7. ♖a6!! ♚xe8 [7...b5 8. ♖xb8+
♚xb8 9. ♖xb5=]



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 97
3rd of January 2014

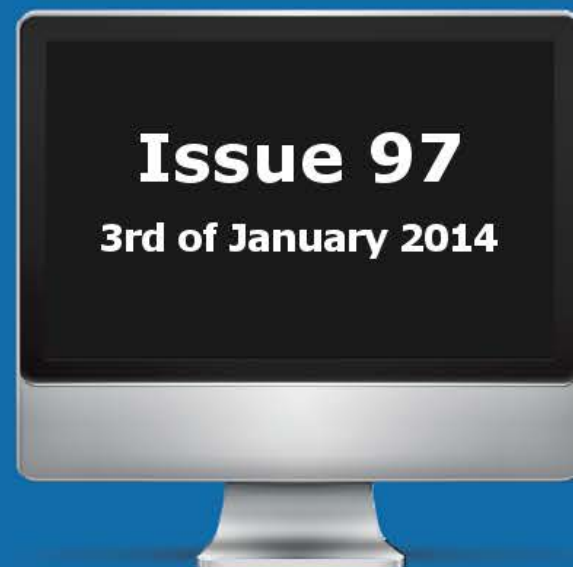


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Editorial Preface

First of all, we hope you all had a great New Year's celebration and want to wish you one more time only the best for 2014!

The World Youth Championship in Al Ain came to an end. As usual India, China and Russia got the most medals.

A lot of Christmas/New Year opens also came to an end.

15 In Zurich Wojtaszek won very convincingly with 6/7, the second place went to Kovalenko and the 3rd to one of your commentators, Balogh Csaba, with an excellent 5.5/7.

18 During the traditional Groningen Open, which was won by Andriasian, the organizers managed to create a 4 classical games match between two chess legends, Anatoly Karpov and Jan Timman. The match ended 2.5-1.5 in favor of Karpov.

26 The next week of chess is looking a bit empty, but from the 11th of January we can follow the top players of the World participating in the Tata Steel Chess tournament with Aronian, Nakamura, Karjakin and many more super stars.

27

We wish you a lot of chess fun with the usual issue of CEWN.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

**(1) Wojtaszek, Radoslaw(2711)
- Klauser, Markus(2386) [E15]**
37th Zurich Christmas 2013(2.1),
2013.12.27



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
2718

Wojtaszek has been in great shape lately. Zurich was not different as he managed to win the event in a very convincing way. We will now see one of his nice victories in the early stage of the tournament. Black tries to be creative very early on and as usual it goes very wrong!

1.d4 Wojtaszek has been Anand's second for the last 3-4 years and we can very often see how well he is doing in the opening, coming up with new interesting ideas.

1...♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.g3 Another game in the Queen's Indian.

4...♙a6 5.♚b3!? Not the main, but a very interesting move for White.



5...d5?! It is hard to imagine this being the best option for Black. [5...♘c6 6.♘bd2 ♘a5 7.♚c3 c5 would take us back to

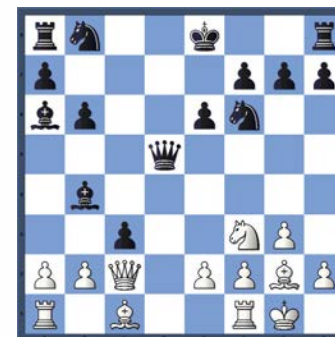
the main line.]

6.cxd5 ♚xd5 [6...exd5 7.♙g2 followed by Nc3 0-0 and a quick Ne5. Now we can see how useful the queen on b3 can be, putting immediate pressure on the d5 pawn.]

7.♚c2!? An interesting move. It was of course also an option to go for an endgame, but with 7.Qc2!? Wojtaszek wants more than just a better endgame. Now Nc3 is coming with tempo and after Bg2 and short castle White will also be threatening the very dangerous Ne5.

7...♙b4+ A logical move as Black has to be fast with castling.

8.♘c3 0-0 The most simple, but not the best. [Black had the option of playing 8...c5! The position is now immediately becoming very sharp. 9.♙g2! is probably also White's only option to fight for an advantage. 9...cxd4 10.O-O dxc3 Once again White needs to find a strong reply:



11.bxc3! Although the position is super complex, White is probably better.]

9.♙g2 ♚b5? This is already a serious mistake. The black queen is taking a bad position on b5. [Black should have looked for active play with 9...♘c6! 10.O-O ♚c4 and although White is probably better, the position is still unclear.]



10. ♖e5! The diagonal is finally open and White is making quick use of it.

10... ♘d5 There is no other way to protect the rook on a8.

11. 0-0! This is probably what Black blundered...

11... ♙xc3 12. bxc3 ♘c6 [12... ♖xe2 was not much better as after 13. ♖xe2 ♙xe2 White has the cool 14. ♖e1! ♙a6 15. c4 winning a full piece and of course getting a winning position.]

13. c4 [13. a4 would end the game too.]

13... ♘xd4 Black already doesn't have a choice.

14. ♖d2 Both black knights are under attack and with the pin from the g2 bishop it is obvious that Black is going to lose some material.

14... ♖c5



15. ♙b2! The last precise move and now the game is basically over as Black is losing a piece. [15. cxd5?! was less precise as after 15... ♘xe2+ 16. ♖h1 ♖ad8 Black is still fighting although White's position is close to winning after 17. ♙b2]

15... ♘xe2+ And the piece is gone...

16. ♖xe2 ♖ad8 17. ♖ac1 Black only has 2 pawns for a full piece, plus White's monster bishop on b2 gives him excellent attacking chances. The game is over.

17... f6 18. ♘d3 A nice and short victory by the Polish Nr1 and we can see how tricky it can get for Black if he is facing unknown openings and not playing precisely enough. **1-0**

(2) Wojtaszek, Radoslaw(2711) - Popov, Ivan(2640) [D11]

Zürich Open,
2013.12.30



GM Csaba Balogh
2646

Radoslaw Wojtaszek convincingly won the Zürich Open with 6 points out of 7 games. We will have a look at his nice victory from the last round.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 The very solid Slav defence is on the board.

4.e3 ♘g4 White has several setups here, but Wojtaszek goes for one of the main one.

5.♖b3 ♖b6 6.♗c3 e6



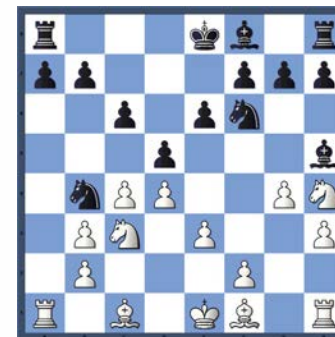
7.♗h4 White aims to get the bishop pair by catching the g4 bishop with h3-g4. Black has no good way to prevent this plan, but the position remains closed and the two bishops will not have such a big importance for the moment.

7...♗h5 8.h3 ♖xb3 The trade of the queens is always a big question in the Slav. Black should usually not be afraid of Qxb6 because it improves his pawn structure, while Qxb3

is always double edged as one has to know if the doubled pawns or the opening of the a-file has bigger value. [In the 5th round of the same tournament Wojtaszek scored another nice victory in this line. His opponent then played 8...♗bd7 9.g4 ♗g6 10.♗xg6 hxg6 11.♗g2 g5 12.♗d2 Wojtaszek-Kovalenko, Zürich 2013.]

9.axb3 ♗a6 The knight is going to occupy an excellent position on b4. White cannot win with cxd5 and Bxa6 because of the intermediate move Nb4 and Black is threatening Nc2 check.

10.g4 ♗b4



11.♔e2! Without the queens on the board White should not worry about having the king in the middle of the board in such a closed position.

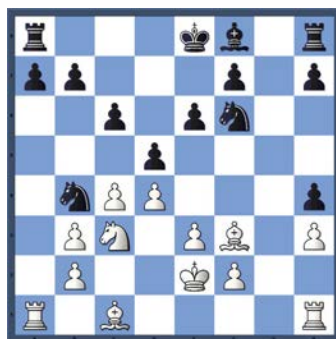
11...g5?! Popov played this move without thinking, clearly showing that he was still in his preparation. The machine gives a very nice evaluation for Black, but if we continue analyzing we come to the conclusion that White's chances are preferable.

12.gxh5! If the knight retreats the bishop survives. However White loses a pawn now...

12...gxh4 Black wins the h5 pawn but the computer wrongly evaluates its importance, as the doubled h-pawns can hardly

be called a material advantage. On the other hand the two bishops slowly start to work.

13. ♖g2 ♜xh5 **14.** ♖f3 ♜f6



15. ♖d2 White does not need to hurry, he simply finishes the development and organizes his play on the queenside. He is going to double his rooks on the a-file and it soon becomes clear that the nice b4 knight might get completely misplaced...

15... ♜d7 **16.** ♖a5 ♜b6 Black provokes the movement of the c4-pawn. In general it is a good idea, but it costs too much time and also the b4 knight loses its support. [Black should definitely have played 16...b6 followed by a5!, stabilizing the b4 knight.]

17. c5 ♜c8 **18.** ♖ha1 ♜a6 Black would have wished to lock the queenside with Nc7 and a6, but White finds a great idea to break the defence!

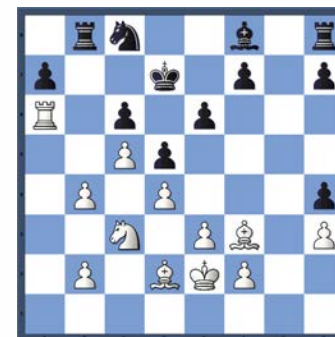
[Other moves, for instance 18... ♖e7 would have been met by 19. ♖5a4 ♜a6 20. b4 ♜c7 21. e4 and Bf4 next, with more than enough compensation for the doubled h-pawns.]



19. ♖xa6! A very deep exchange sacrifice. It soon becomes clear that White can create very strong pressure against the black pawns.

19...bxa6 20. ♖xa6 ♜d7 **21.** b4! White would like to break through with b5, after which the passed c-pawn becomes very strong. Black's pieces are passively placed and he doesn't have enough time to consolidate...

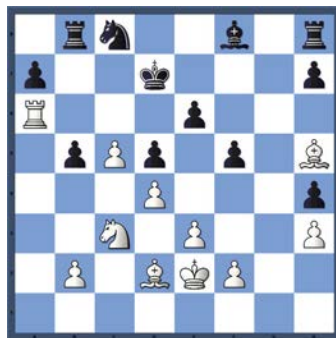
21...♖b8 In the next three moves White sacrifices some more pawns in order to open the center in front of the black king. The rook and the three minor pieces are going to be able to create decisive threats.



22. b5! White does not count the material, he only focuses on the attack.

22...cxb5 23.♘h5!? [The direct 23.e4 was also quite promising if White managed to foresee the following line: 23...b4 24.♗xd5!! exd5 25.♘f4 ♖a8 26.exd5± An amazing position. Despite the extra rook, Black has problems to hold the central pawns supported by the two bishops. d6 is coming next.]

23...♙e7 [If Black tries to fight against the e4 break with 23...f5



24.e4!! anyway would have been a beautiful move. 24...dxe4 (24...fxe4 25.♘g4+- The loss of the e6 pawn followed by Nxd5 would have meant the end of the game.) 25.♘f4 ♖a8 26.♘f7+- Black collapses.]

24.e4! Wojtaszek continues his correct strategy to open the center.

24...b4 [24...dxe4 is once again nicely refuted by 25.♘g5+ f6 26.♗d5+! exd5 27.♘xf6+ ♙d7 28.♘xh8+-]

25.♘g5+! ♙e8 [25...f6 again loses as in the 24...dxe4 line: 26.♗d5+! exd5 27.♘xf6+ ♙d7 28.♘xh8+-]

26.♗a4 ♘e7 [26...dxe4 would have been met by 27.♖xe6+ ♘e7 28.♘f4 With similar stories as in the game. 28...♖b7 29.♖c6! ♙d8



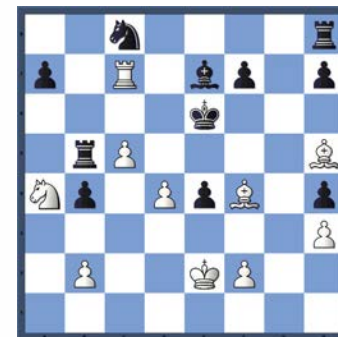
30.♘g4! traps the knight! Black's pieces are completely without coordination!]

27.♘f4 ♖b5 [27...♖a8 is not better either. White wins after 28.exd5 exd5 29.♘f3! and this time the rook is going to be trapped.]

28.♖xe6 [28.♖c6! immediately was even stronger. 28...♙d8 (28...♙d7 29.♖c7+ ♙d8 30.♘xf7+-) 29.♘xf7+- White takes on e6 next and the game is over.]

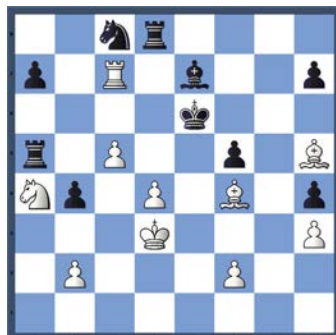
28...dxe4 29.♖c6! ♙d7 [29...♙d8 30.♘g4+- is over on the spot.]

30.♖c7+ ♙e6 Black has managed to save his c8 knight, but now his king gets into a mate net. Wojtaszek brings a new piece to the attack.



31.♙e3! ♖d8 [31...f5 loses to 32.♘e2 ♖a5 33.♘c4+ ♙f6 34.♘e5+-]

32. ♖xe4 f5+ 33. ♖d3 ♖a5



34.b3 A spectacular final position. Black decided to put an end to his suffering in such an awkward position where he cannot move with any of his pieces. White on the other hand wants to improve his position with Kc4 and d5. Black cannot try to create counterplay with Bf6 because Bf7 mates immediately. A dream position for White and a nightmare for Black. A brilliant game! **1-0**

(3) Jobava, Baadur(2705)
- **Oleksienko, Mikhailo(2622) [B00]**

Al-Ain Classic Open A 2013(6.1),
2013.12.24

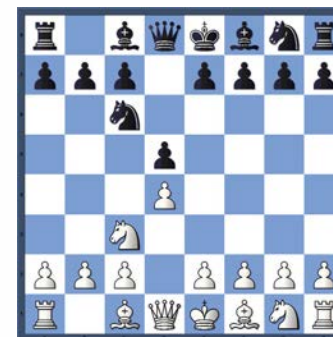


GM Csaba Balogh
2646

A really great and entertaining game with a beautiful mate at the end.

1.d4 d5 2. ♘c3 Baadur Jobava is known for his original and resourceful style. He often chooses tricky openings.

2... ♘c6 A rare response against a rare line. Black's usual answer is 2... Nf6.



3.e4! The most challenging move for sure. White tries to make use of the placement of the c6 knight and the fact that Black cannot hold the tension in the center with c6. Actually there are more than thousand games for this position in the database, but it mainly arose from the move order 1.e4 Nc6 2. d4 d5 3.Nc3.

3... dxe4 [3... e6 would have transposed to an inferior line in the French defence.]

4.d5 ♖e5 5.♔d4! White aims for a very quick development connected with castling queenside.

5...♘g6 6.♙e3 Jobava does not want to waste any time on recapturing the pawn and rather finish the development as soon as possible. [6.♔xe4 is the other main line and a good alternative to the text move. Most of the games continue with 6...♘f6 7.♔a4+ ♕d7 8.♙b5 a6 9.♙xd7+ ♔xd7 10.♔xd7+ ♘xd7 11.♘f3 With a slightly better endgame for White.]

6...e5! A strong reaction by Black. After some careless moves he could have got stuck in with his pieces...

7.dxe6 ♙xe6

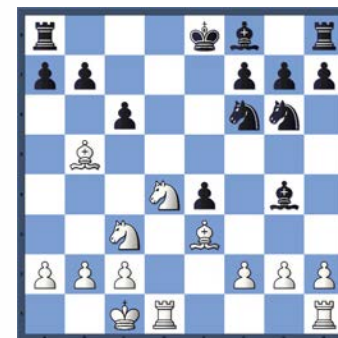


8.♘ge2 This is the novelty of the game. I doubt that it was a prepared one but it is a rather logical one. Black needs to trade the queens now or in the next move as White is threatening to play 0-0-0 and Qa4 and then the knight takes back with tempo as it attacks the e6 bishop. 8.Nxe4 and 8.Qxe4 mainly happened before.

8...♘f6 9.0-0-0 ♔xd4 10.♘xd4 ♙g4 Black saves his bishop with tempo. [After the passive 10...♙d7 White takes the initiative with 11.♘db5 winning back the sacrificed pawn.]

11.♙b5+ White continues his strategy to punish Black for his king who is stuck in the center.

11...c6

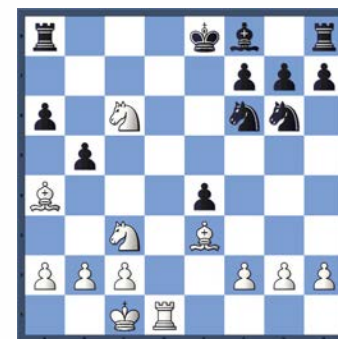


12.♘xc6! I can very well imagine that Jobava made this move without thinking. Such intuitive sacrifices run in his blood.

12...a6! A necessary intermediate move. [On the direct 12...♙xd1 White has 13.♘xa7+ ♔e7 14.♔xd1 and Black has problems with his king.]

13.♙a4! White has to maintain the pin but now the discovered checks with the knight could be met by b5. That is why Black had to include the a6 move...

13...♙xd1 14.♔xd1 ♙e7! Another calm and good reaction. Black tries to ensure the safety of his king. [14...b5



15.♙xb5!! axb5 16.♘xb5 And Black cannot deal with the Nc7 threat. Even 16...♔c8 runs into 17.♘c7+! ♔xc7 18.♔d8#]

15. ♖xe7+! Otherwise Black already plays b5 and castles kingside. On the other hand White is still an exchange down and he trades another attacking piece...

15... ♔xe7 16. ♕c5+ ♔e6 The king is looking for a shelter on the kingside, but in front of his own pawns.

17. ♖e2 Bringing a new attacker. [17. ♖d6+ 17... ♔f5 It is not clear how White should continue here.]

17... ♖hd8 Oleksienko uses finding the best defensive resources. He activates his rook and is not afraid of the direct checks.



18. ♖d4+! White must avoid the trade of the rooks. With the 3 minor pieces he would hardly be able to create mate nets and soon the material disadvantage would count.

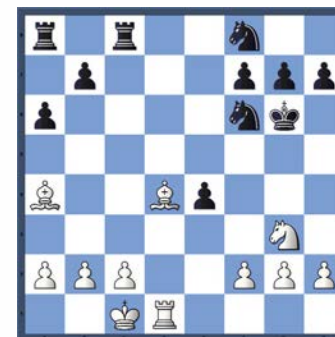
18... ♔e5 19. ♕b6! Threatening to take the rook followed by Nc6, winning another exchange, and also Bc7 mate! The next move is forced again. **19... ♖dc8**



20. ♖e2! Using the fact that the rook has been sent away from the d-file, White refreshes his ideas of when he played 17.Ne2. He wants to pursue the king with Bd4.

20... ♖f8! According to the computer Black found the best defense again. The idea is to drive the knight to e6 in order to control the checks and Black also frees the g6 square for his king.

21. ♕d4+ ♔f5 22. ♖g3+ ♔g6 It looks like Black has solved all his problems and settled his king into safety. However such a creative player as Jobava never runs out of ideas...



23. f4! exf3? Black probably missed the next move, otherwise he would have opened the position in front of his king. [23... h5! should have been played, finally solving the problems around the king. White only has compensation for the exchange... 24. f5+ ♔h6! (24... ♔h7 25. ♕xf6 gxf6 26. ♖xh5 White wins the f6 pawn as well. He has the upper hand...)]

24. c3!! Suddenly the a4 bishop which was already out of the game joins to the attack with extreme power. Black cannot hide his king anymore with h5-Kh7, because the light squared bishop controls everything. From a practical point of view the game is hopeless for Black, but of course the machine still continues defending tenaciously...

24... fxg2 [24... ♖e6! 25. ♕c2+ ♔g5 26. ♕e3+ ♔h4 27. ♖f5+

26...♔g4 [26...♖h4 was not better either. 27.♙d4+ ♘g4
28.♘f5+ ♔h3



27. ♖d4+! ♔h3 And here comes the final blow! [27... ♖f3
28. ♗g1!+- and Bd1 mates next.]



11

(4) Karpov, Anatoly(2619) - Timman, Jan H(2600) [E15]

Karpov-Timman Match 2013(4),
2013.12.29



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
2718

Alongside the Open tournament in Groningen, the organizers decided to hold a match between two chess legends, Karpov and Timman, in 4 classical games. During the past years Timman was still quite an active chess player while Karpov just played some rapid events from time to time. We are in the last game of the match and the first 3 games ended in a draw, but each game was fought until the end.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♘f3** b6 The Queen's Indian was already one of Karpov's favorite openings over 30 years ago, when he was World Champion.

4.g3 is still the main line nowadays.

4...♗a6 **5.b3** [During the last years we more often saw 5.♖c2]

5...b5 A rather rare move. [5...d5 would lead us back to the main lines.]

6.cxb5 ♗xb5 **7.♗g2** ♗b4+ Personally I don't like this move too much as it seems like Black will be a bit worse after [7...d5 followed by Nbf7 and a quick c5 should be the way to go on for Black.]

8.♗d2 a5 a5 is an useful move in many ways.

9.a3 [Another option was maybe to play 9.♘c3 9...♗xc3 Black has to give up the bishop pair. 10.♗xc3 And now the very important 10...a4! not letting White play a4 himself, fixing the Black pawn on a5. I would still choose to play White here, but the position seems to be close to equal.]

9...♗xd2+



10.♖xd2! Of course 10.Nbd2?! would not be the best. The knight's place is on c3!

10...♗c6 Quite a risky decision by Timman as Black could get problems on the c-file. [10...d5 still looks like the best option.]

11.O-O ♖c8 A very typical maneuver. Black brings his queen to a nice position on b7 to gain more control over the e4 square.

12.♖c2 looks a bit too slow. [The more dynamic 12.♘c3 12...♖b7 13.♗fe1! with the idea of playing e4 next would put Black in quite some trouble.]

12...♖b7 **13.♘bd2** Now we can see that White has twisted some ideas. 10.Qxd2 followed by Qc2 and Nbd2 just doesn't make much sense.

13...O-O **14.♗fc1** Black still needs to be careful to equalize here as White's pressure on the c-file is quite unpleasant.

14...♗a7 A very logical move. Overprotecting c7 is never wrong.

15.♗a2 This move was not really needed and it was easier to play 15.Rab1 right away.

15...♗d5 **16.♗b2** d6 Black finally solves his last problem. The knight on b8 has to get out and then the position should be

pretty even.

17. ♖e1 White already doesn't have anything better, but now after the exchange of the light squared bishops, the c6 square is getting weak.

17... ♟xg2 18. ♖xg2 ♜bd7 All black pieces are out.

19. ♔c6 Karpov tries to get quick play on the c-file. A very logical decision and probably the only practical chance.



19... ♜b8? A serious mistake. It was time for more active measures. [19...e5! Black should have tried to create some play, not giving White enough time to stabilize himself on the c-file. 20. ♜bc2 (White doesn't get anything either after 20. ♔xb7 20... ♜xb7 21. ♜bc2 c5!) 20... ♔b8 The position should be close to equal.]

20. ♜bc2 Now Black has huge problems protecting the c7 pawn.

20...h6? looks like g to me. Of course there was still no reason to give up the hopes on the c7 pawn. [20... ♔xc6 21. ♜xc6 ♟e8 would just lead to a worse endgame, but nothing spectacularly bad for Black.]

21. ♔xc7 White is a full pawn up now.

21... ♔a6 22. ♔c4 ♔xc4 It is already difficult to give any advice to Black...



23. ♜xc4! A very interesting moment. White could take on c4 with 3 pieces, but Karpov probably chooses the best one. To control the c-file is more important than having connected pawns.

23... ♟b6 24. ♜c6 ♟e8 [24...d5 was probably a bit more stubborn, but after 25.f3 followed by Kf2-e4 and Ke3 it is also hard to imagine that Black has any chances to survive this game.]

25.e4 Of course White takes control over the center.

25... ♔f8 26. ♟e3 ♔e7 White is a clear pawn up with no counterplay for Black. But White still needs to choose a winning plan.

27.d5!? An interesting way to convert the advantage. [Personally I would play 27. ♟f1 without much thinking. 27... ♔d7 28. ♟e2]

27... ♔d7 Black has all the pieces in the defence.

28.dxe6+ fxe6 29.e5 Now we can the idea of 27.d5!?. White immediately tries to crush Black in the center.

29...d5 A very solid move. There is no hurry. [29...dxe5 is not much better as after 30.♘f3 Black's position is lost.]

30.♖6c5 [Karpov was probably just too lazy to calculate this line: 30.♘f3 30...♘c4 What else... 31.bxc4 ♜xc6 32.cxd5+ ♚d7 33.♘d4 White is also winning here.]



30...♚d8?! After this move there is no more hope. [30...♖c8 After the exchange of one rook Black could have continued to defend a very bad position.]

31.f4 White defends from Nd7.

31...♘d7 32.♖c6 Now White has only the very last step to do, to bring the knight to d4.

32...♘c7 33.a4 Black is completely paralyzed.

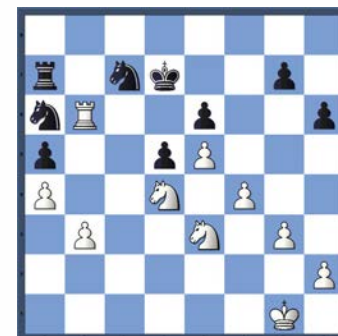
33...♖b6 34.♖xb6 ♘xb6 35.♖c6 What a domination!

35...♘d7 36.♘f3 White makes his last step to a full point, the knight is taking place on d4.

36...♘b8 37.♘d4 ♚d7 I guess it was time for Timman to resign the game, but maybe he was just waiting until the first time control is over.

38.♖b6 It is really a great pleasure to be White here ...

38...♘ba6



39.f5! Creating a passed pawn on the e-file.

39...♘c5 40.fxe6+ ♘5xe6 41.♖d6+ A fighting game, but it is a pity that Timman made it ia bit too easy for Karpov. Giving up the pawn on c7 was really unnecessary. Well, even legends are getting older! :) **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Wang Hao(2735)-Grischuk, A(2783)

Basque rapid, 2013.12.17

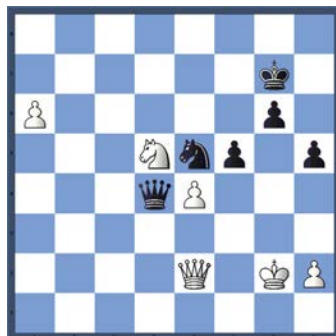
1... -+



(6) Giri, A(2734)-Leko, P(2730)

Basque rapid, 2013.12.17

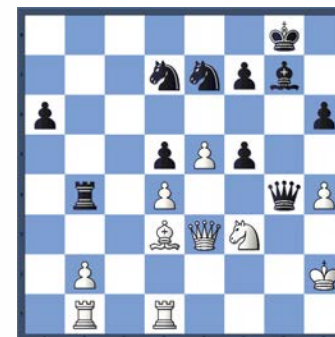
1. +-



(7) Leko, P(2730)-Wang Hao(2735)

Basque rapid, 2013.12.17

1... =



(8) Nepomniachtchi, I(2721)-Wang Yue(2723)

Basque rapid, 2013.12.18

1. =



(9) Radjabov, T(2713)-Grischuk, A(2783)

Basque rapid, 2013.12.18

1... -+



(10) Wang Hao(2735)-Giri, A(2734)

Basque rapid, 2013.12.18

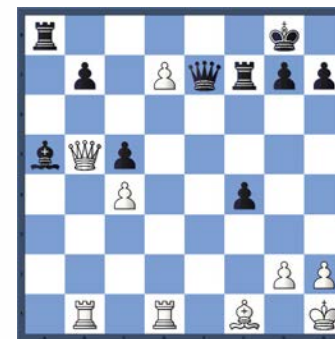
1... -+



(11) Lagno, K(2543)-Sebag, M(2501)

Basque rapid woman, 2013.12.17

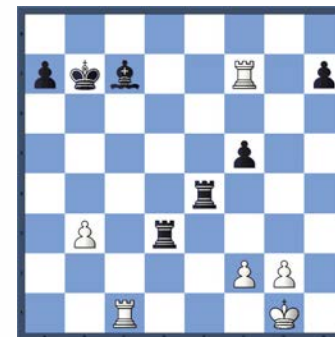
1. +-



(12) Rombaldoni, A(2527)-Georgiev, K(2648)

Padova Open, 2013.12.17

1... -+



(13) Rombaldoni, D(2462)-Solodovnichenko, Y(2586)

Padova Open, 2013.12.17

1. +-



(14) Galkin, A(2615)-Kovalenko, I(2643)

Russian rapid Cup, 2013.12.20

1...-+

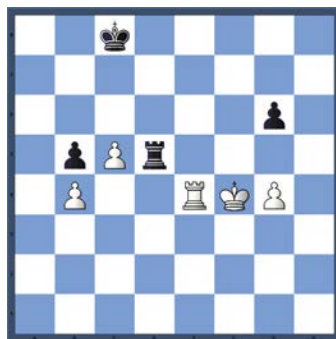


Endgame section

(15) Balogh, Csaba(2648)
- Turner, Matthew(2509)
Zürich Open,
2013.12.27



GM Csaba Balogh
2646



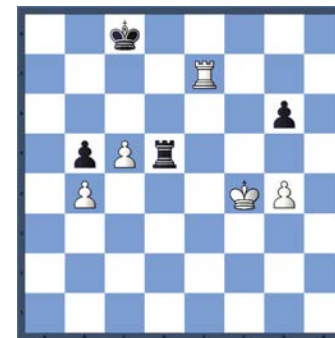
This healthy extra pawn in the rook endgame should be sufficient for the win, but it still requires some technique. The main problem is that the white king cannot pass the 5th rank in order to collect the g6 pawn, while if the rook moves Black checks the b4 pawn with Rd4 and he might get counterplay with his b5 passed pawn.

45. ♖e8+ [45. ♖e6 is not good because after 45... ♖d4+ 46. ♔g5 ♖xb4 47. ♖xg6 ♖c4 Black holds.]

45... ♔c7 [If the king moved to the d-file I was intending to play 45... ♔d7 46. ♖e5 ♖d4+ 47. ♖e4 ♖d5 48. ♔e3! I'm threatening to trade the rooks with Rd4 and after for instance 48... ♔c7 49. ♖e6 Black has no time to find counterplay... 49... g5 50. ♖b6+--]

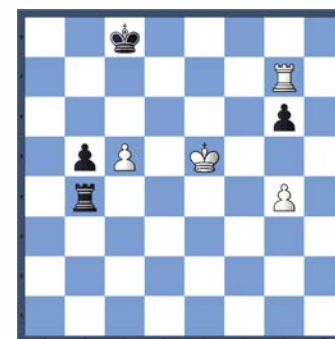
46. ♖e7+! To execute the winning method it is very important to cut the black king along the 7th rank.

46... ♔c8 White only has one winning plan, but it can be executed in different move orders. [46... ♔c6 would have been met by 47. ♖e6+ ♔c7 48. ♖d6! Forcing the trade of rooks and the arising pawn endgame is easily winning for White. 48... ♖xd6 49. cxd6+ ♔xd6 50. ♔g5+--]



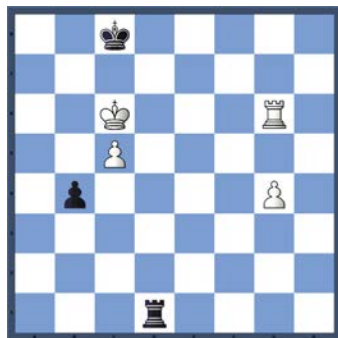
47. ♖g7 Forcing Black to let the king cross the 5th line.

47... ♖d4+ 48. ♔e5! ♖xb4 We have reached the critical position. [48... ♖xg4 loses the same way as in the game: 49. c6+--]



49. c6? After this mistake Black could have survived by miracle... The plan would have been the following: White wants to promote the c-pawn with the help of the back rank

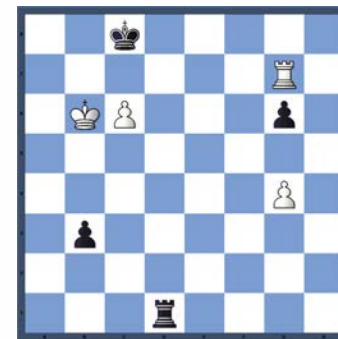
mates and Black cannot avoid it by giving vertical checks because of his own b5 pawn, which gives shelter to the king on b6... [49.♔d5! was the most precise move, with the same idea that happened in the game. 49...♖xg4 50.♕c6 Threatening mate. 50...♔d8 51.♕b7+- And the c-pawn promotes.; 49.♖xg6 was also winning as the following line demonstrates: 49...♖b1 50.♕d6 ♖d1+ 51.♕c6 b4 And now



52.♖g8+! ♖d8 53.♖g7! ♖d4 (53...b3 54.♖c7+ ♔b8 55.♖b7+- wins the pawn.) 54.g5 b3 55.♖c7+ ♔d8 56.♖b7 ♖g4 57.♖b8+ ♔e7 58.♖xb3 White has reached an easy theoretical win. 58...♖xg5 59.♖d3+- wins with the bridge building method.; Another tempting move was 49.♕d6? but it also spoils the win after 49...♖d4+ 50.♕c6 b4 In comparison to the 49.Rxg6 line, White is behind a tempo 51.♖xg6 b3 52.♖g8+ ♖d8 53.♖g7 ♖d2! and Black saves the game by playing 54.♖b7 b2 55.g5 ♖g2=]

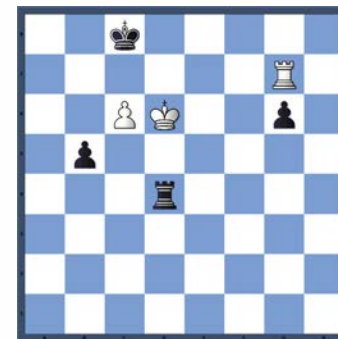


49...♖xg4? After this natural move Black loses. [49...♖b2!! was the only move. The rook must stay on the 2nd rank... We will get the point later. 50.♕d6 ♖d2+ 51.♕c5 b4 52.♕b6! Everything goes according to White's plan, but suddenly after (52.♕xb4 52...♖d4+ 53.♕c5 ♖xg4 is a draw.) 52...b3 53.♖a7 ♖a2!! is the key and Black prevents the mate.; 49...♖b1? doesn't work as Black does not have Ra2 in the end. 50.♕d6 ♖d1+ 51.♕c5 b4 52.♕b6 b3



53.♖a7! ♔d8 54.c7+ ♔d7 55.♕b7 ♖c1 56.♕b8+-]

50.♕d6 ♖d4+



51.♕c5 Without the b5 pawn, it would have been a dead draw, but now Black does not have a check on the b-file after Kb6.

51...♖d3 [51...♖d8 52.♕b6 b4 53.♖a7+-; 51...♖c4+ 52.♕b6

(Obviously White should not be greedy with 52.♔xb5?? 52...♖c2=) 52...♔d8 53.♔b7 b4 54.c7++–]

52.♔b6 b4 In comparison to the 49...Rb2 line, the b-pawn did not reach the 3rd rank, so White can trade the rooks and promote a queen.

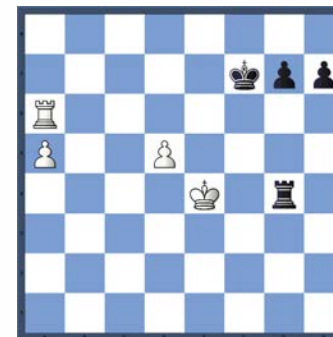
53.♖g8+ [Black resigned in view of 53.♖g8+ 53...♖d8 54.♖xd8+ ♔xd8 55.♔b7 b3 56.c7++– As we have seen we must focus until the last moment in rook endgames, because sometimes such completely won endgames could be spoiled by obvious moves and also the defensive side always has his potentials.] **1-0**

**(16) Kovalenko, Igor(2643)
- Sethuraman, S.P.(2553)**

37th Zurich Christmas 2013(6.6),
2013.12.29



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
2718



White's position of course looks like it's close to winning, as a passed a-pawn and another passed pawn on the d-file should be enough to win the game. The white king on f5 is also very active, but Black still has some counterchances, as the h-pawn can become very fast.

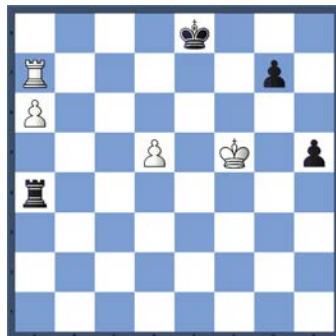
49.♔f5 It is clear that Black's only chance is to try and create some counterplay with the h-pawn and at the same time try to stop the a-pawn by putting the rook behind it.

49...h5 50.♖a7+ Putting the black king on the 8th rank cannot be wrong.

50...♔e8 The black king will try to stop the d-pawn.

51.a6 With the simple threat of playing Rb7-a7 next.

51...♖a4 So far things were quite forced, but what's next?!

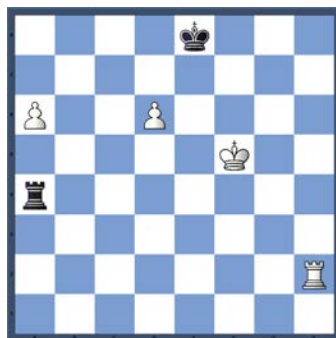


52.d6! The most simple and strong. White is preparing to take with the rook on g7 and Black cannot stop White from doing that.

52...h4 Any other moves just don't make sense.

53.♖xg7 h3 [Now we can see the idea of 52.d6! 53...♖xa6 The white king is in time to take a winning position on e6. 54.♔e6! ♔f8 55.♖h7 With an easily winning rook endgame.] Now after

54.♖h7 h2 55.♔e6! Precise play until the end. [It was still not too late for White to make a mistake by playing 55.♖xh2??



55...♔d7! and the position is a draw.]

55...♖e4+ White wanted to mate in 1 with Rh8.

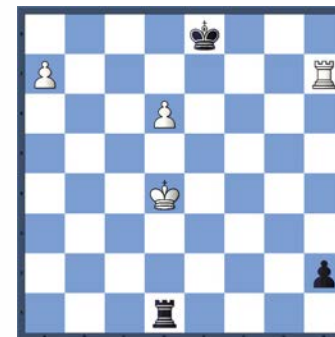
56.♔d5 ♖e1 [Now after 56...♖a4 57.♖xh2 is already winning as Black doesn't have Kd7 anymore because the pawn on d6 is protected by the king on d5. 57...♖xa6 58.♔e6 White is

winning.]

57.a7 The most simple...

57...♖d1+ Black is chasing away the white king from the center, but he cannot save the game.

58.♔e5 ♖e1+ 59.♔d4 ♖d1+



60.♔e3 ♖e1+ 61.♔f2 Black doesn't have any checks anymore.

61...♖a1 62.♖xh2 Of course after 62...Rxa7 63.Rh8 Kd7 64. Rh7 Kxd6 and 65.Rxa7 White is just a rook up. Nice rook endgame technique by the young Russian player. **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Tal, Mikhail

- Botvinnik, Mikhail [D78]

World Championship 23th(11),
1960.04.07



GM Kamil Miton
2591

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.g3 g6 3.♗g2 ♗g7 4.O-O O-O 5.c4 c6 6.b3 [6.d4 6...d5 (6...d6 7.♘c3 leads to a position from the KID.) 7.cxd5 (7.b3 7...♘e4 8.♗b2 transposes to the game.; 7.♖b3 With the idea to hold the center.) 7...cxd5 White is looking for a small plus here but in practice most of the games finish in a draw.]

6...♘e4 7.d4 d5 8.♗b2



8...♗e6 Black is going to force the exchange on d5.

[8...dxc4 9.♖c2!+= (9.bxc4 9...♖b6 10.♖b3 c5 With Nc6 next and Black gets good counterplay over the d4 square.);

8...♗f5 is the most promising plan for Black. 9.♘bd2 (9.e3 9...♘d7 10.♘c3 ♘xc3 11.♗xc3 ♗e4 Black's position is very solid and Radjabov once showed the plan with dxc4 and c5, with the idea to get play against the hanging c4-d4 pawns.) 9...♘d7 10.♘h4!? ♘xd2 11.♖xd2 ♗e6 12.e4 dxe4 (12...dxc4 13.d5!) 13.♗xe4 ♗h3 14.♖fe1 And White got a small advantage thanks to his better structure in the game Nakamura-Leko.]

9.♘bd2 ♘xd2 10.♖xd2! [10.♘xd2 The knight on d2 is very passive and Black immediately equalizes after the typical. 10...c5=]

10...♘a6 [10...dxc4



11.♘g5! ♗d5 (11...cxb3 12.♘xe6 fxe6 13.axb3 With good compensation and Black is not able to get rid of the weak pawn after 13...e5 because of 14.♖b4±) 12.e4 h6 13.exd5 hxc4 14.bxc4±; 10...a5!? This other typical moves with the idea to push a4 and create some weaknesses also deserves attention.]

11.♖ac1 ♖d6 12.♘e5 ♖fd8 13.♖fd1 Both sides develop their pieces to optimal squares. White has an advantage thanks to his better center and the bad knight on a6.



13...Rac8 [13...Qxe5!? 14.dxe5 Qb4 (14...Qc7 15.cxd5 Qxd5 16.e6!?↑ Activating the bishop.) 15.Qc3 Qa3 16.c5 White is better because the queen on a3 is not safe and one of the ideas could be Qh6-Rd4-Rh4.]

14.Qa5↑ White activates the queen.

14...dxc4 [14...Qb4



15.Qxc6! bxc6 16.Qxa6 dxc4 17.Qa3 Qb6 18.Qxb6 axb6 19.bxc4 Qxd4 20.Qxd4 Qxd4 21.Qxe7± Black can get some counterplay against the weak a2-c4 pawns but in general White is a pawn up and has the advantage.; 14...Qxe5 15.dxe5 Qb4 is probably Black's best option because without the queens the position will be safer for him. 16.Qxb4 Qxb4 17.a3 Qa6 18.c5 With Bd4 next. The idea is to improve the position on both sides with a4-b4 and f4-h3-g4, with a long term advantage for White.]

15.Qxc4+= Qc7 [15...Qb4 16.Qa3 (16.Qg5+=) 16...Qxa5 17.Qxa5 Qc7 18.e3 With a clear advantage in the endgame.]



16.Qe1! Because White has more space it is good to keep the queens on the board.

16...Qb8 17.e4 Qxc4 [17...b5 18.Qe3 c5 is an interesting idea to get counterplay in the center but after 19.e5 cxd4 20.Qxc8 Qxc8 21.Qxd4+= White keeps an advantage because of the weak black structure on the queenside.]

18.Qxc4 [18.bxc4



18...c5! (18...e5 19.d5 Qc7 20.h4 With a strong pawn on d5 and two bishops. The idea to play over the dark squares might not be enough for Black, especially since White always has the unpleasant idea Bh3 and Kg2-h5 etc...) 19.e5 cxd4 20.Qxd4 Qc5]

18...♘c7 [18...e5 19.♙h3±]

19.♙h3 e6



20.♙c1! A good idea. The bishop comes into play from the other side and in this case White will get the possibility for some d5 breaks.

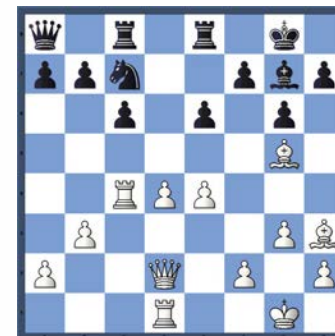
20...♖a8 21.♙g5 Two bishops and a better center give White a clear advantage.

21...♖e8 [21...♖d7 22.d5?! doesn't work yet. (22.♖e3+=) 22...cxd5 23.exd5 ♖xd5 (23...♘xd5 24.♖xc8+ ♖xc8 25.♙xe6!±)]



24.♙xe6 fxe6 (24...♖xd1 25.♙xf7+! A nice tactical idea. 25...♙xf7 26.♖xd1 ♙g8 27.♖d7+--) 25.♖xc7 ♖xd1 26.♖xc8+ ♖xc8 27.♖xd1 The pawn on e6 has no meaning so the position is equal.]

22.♖d2



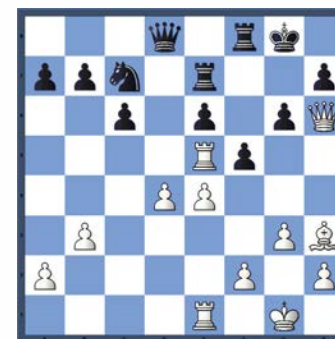
22...f5!? Black doesn't want to stay passive without a plan anymore so the idea of this move is to get the d5 square for the knight, but on the other hand Black gets a weak e6 pawn. [22...♘b5]

23.♙h6 Not obligatory, but Tal immediately wants to create an attack against the king! That's why he wants to exchange the bishops, especially since the black queen is very far away on a8.

23...♙xh6 24.♖xh6 ♖e7 25.♖e1 After f5, the e-file has become weak.

25...♖f8 26.♖c5?! [26.exf5 26...gxf5 27.♖e5+=]

26...♖d8 27.♖e5



27...♖ef7?! Black misses his chance to equalize. [27...♖xd4]

28.exf5 gxf5 29.♙xf5 ♖ef7 Black has counterplay on the f2 square. 30.♖1e4 ♕d1+ 31.♗e1 ♕d4 32.♖5e4 ♕c5 Xf2 33.♙xe6 ♞xe6 34.♖xe6 ♖xf2+ 35.♙h1 ♖f3+ With perpetual check. (35...♖xa2?? 36.♖g4+ ♙h8 37.♖xf7+-) 36.♙g1=; 27...f4 28.♖d1 fxg3 29.hxg3 ♖ef7 30.f4 (30.♖d2 30...♖xf2!) 30...♖d7 And Black gets counterplay.]

28.♖d2 [28.d5 28...fxe4 29.dxe6 ♖xf2 30.e7 ♕d4! A nice trick.] **28...♖d6**



29.♙f1! The bishop is going to get activated from the other side. [29.exf5 29...exf5 30.♙f1 ♙h8 (30...f4 31.♙c4 ♞d5 32.g4+= With a clear advantage because the rooks on the e-file are better than the rooks on the f-file.; 30...b5 Not allowing Bc4 but creating additional weaknesses on the c-file.) 31.♙c4 ♖g7 32.a4 Preventing b5. White is much better thanks to his better pieces and the weak black king.]

29...♖d7 30.exf5 ♖xf5 31.♖5e4



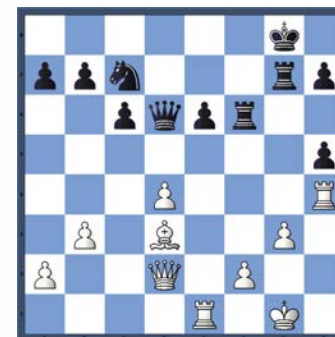
31...♖f6?! Too passive! Black should be putting pressure on the d4 pawn because it is the only way to get counterplay. [31...♖d5! 32.♖1e3 Not allowing Rxd4 but after 32...c5 Black should be fine. 33.dxc5 ♖xd2 34.cxd6 ♖7xd6 And the isolated pawn on e6 will not be enough for White to create some problems in this endgame.]

32.h4↑ As Black has not put pressure on the d4 pawn White is going to play against the king.

32...♙g7 [32...c5]

33.h5 gxh5 34.♖h4 [34.♖g5+ 34...♖g6 35.♖xh5→]

34...♙g8 35.♙d3 ♖g7 [35...♖df7 36.♖e2 ♙f8 Not an easy move to find, with the idea of Rxf2 and keeping the possibility of Qxd4 (avoiding Bxh7) after Rxh5.]



36.♖e5! A strong move, now this rook will take on h5. [36.♖xh5 36...♞d5]

36...♖ff7 [36...♞d5 37.♖exh5↑]

37.♖h6 ♖e7 38.♖exh5 ♞d5 39.♖d2 ♞f6 40.♖h6 ♖d6 It is clear that White has an advantage but Black might be able to hold things together on the kingside, so let's check how Tal is going to improve his position.

41.♖f4 ♖f8 42.♖e3 ♞d5 43.♖xf7 ♖xf7 This was the idea. White exchanges one pair of rooks to avoid counterplay and

now activates the queen to get pressure on the other side.

44. ♖e5 ♜c7 45. ♖c5 And now Black is not able to control both sides!

45... ♖f3 Black is hoping for some Rxc3 tricks. [45...a6 46. ♖d6±]



46. ♕xh7+! +— Now White is winning by force.

46... ♖xh7 47. ♖g5+ ♜h8 [47... ♖g7 48. ♖d8+ ♖f8 49. ♖h8+—]

48. ♖d8+ ♜g7 49. ♖xh7+ ♜xh7 50. ♖xc7+ ♜g6 51. ♖xb7 White is two pawns up in the queen endgame.

51... ♖e4 52. ♖a6 [52. ♖xa7 52... ♖e1+ 53. ♜g2 ♖e4+ 54. ♜f1 ♖b1+ 55. ♜e2 ♖c2+ 56. ♜e3 ♖c3+ 57. ♜f4 is winning too.]

52... ♖e1+ 53. ♜g2 ♖e4+ 54. ♜f1 ♖b1+ 55. ♜e2 ♖c2+ 56. ♜f3 ♖f5+ 57. ♜e3 ♖g5+ 58. ♜e2 ♖h5+ 59. ♜d2 Of course White easily escapes from perpetual checks.

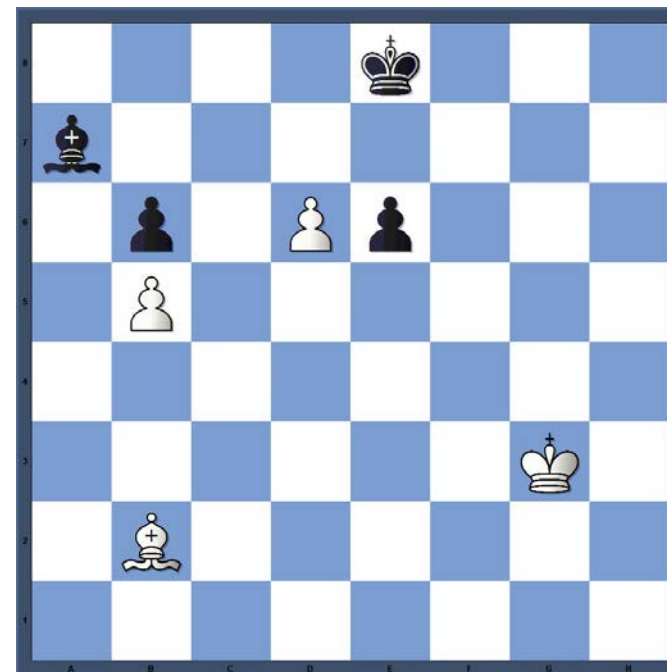
59... ♜f6 60. ♖xc6 ♖a5+ 61. ♖c3 ♖xa2+ 62. ♜e3 ♜f7 63. d5! After the pawn exchange it will be much easier to win.

63... exd5 64. ♖c7+ ♜f6 65. ♖c6+ ♜e7 66. ♖xd5 ♖a1 67. ♖e4+ ♜f7 68. ♜f4 ♖c1+ 69. ♜g4 ♖a1 70. ♖d5+ ♜f8 71. ♜f5 ♖b1+ 72. ♜f6 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Hasek

1. +—



Solutions

(19) Cmilyte, V(2514)-Zhao Xu(2568)

Beijing woman blitz, 2013.12.14



34...♖xd3! 35.♖xd3 [35.♗xf4 35...♘xf4 36.♖xd3 ♘xc1—+]

35...♗xc1—+

(20) Sebag, M(2501)-Hou Yifan(2629)

Beijing woman blitz, 2013.12.14



26.♖xg7+! +- ♔h8 [26...♔xg7 27.♘xe4++-; 26...♗xg7 27.♗xg5+-]

27.♘xe4 ♘xh3+ [27...♖xg4 28.♖xg6++-] **28.♗xh3** 1-0

(21) Dzagnidze, N(2557)-Koneru, H(2607)

Beijing woman blitz, 2013.12.14

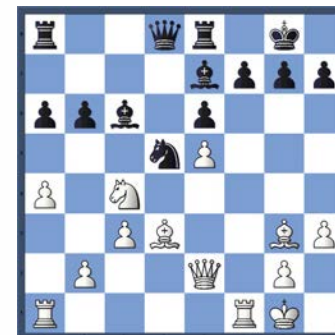


32...♘f4! 33.♖d2 [33.♖c2 33...♗xa4—+]

33...♖xe3 34.♖xe3 ♖xe3—+

(22) Paehtz, E(2452)-Cramling, P(2525)

Beijing woman blitz, 2013.12.14

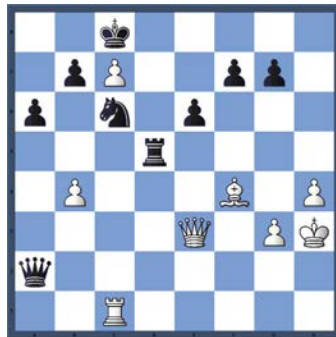


22.♖xf7! ♕c5+ [22...♔xf7 23.♗h5++-]

23.♔h2 ♗g5 [23...♔xf7 24.♗h5+ ♔e7 25.♘h4+ ♔d7 26.♘xd8+-] **24.♖af1**+-

(23) Gunina, V(2509)-Stefanova, A(2486)

Beijing woman blitz, 2013.12.14



31. ♖xc6! ♜b1 [31...bxc6 32. ♕a7+-]

32. ♖c1+-

(24) Paehtz, E(2452)-Kosintseva, T(2496)

Beijing woman blitz, 2013.12.14



17. ♘xd7! ♜xd7 18. ♘e5 ♜e8 [18...♜d6 19. ♜h5 h6
20. ♘g4+-]

19. ♜h5! h6 20. ♘g4! +- f5 21. ♘xh6+! gxh6 22. ♜xh6 1-0

(25) Sebag, M(2501)-Lagno, K(2543)

Beijing woman blitz, 2013.12.15



32. c4! ♙xg2 [32...♙xc4 33. ♖c1!+-]

33. ♜xg2+-

(26) Ushenina, A(2501)-Cramling, P(2525)

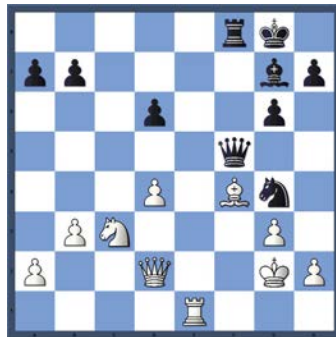
Beijing woman blitz, 2013.12.15



20. ♘xa5! ♙xa5 21. ♙xb4+ ♔e8 22. ♙xa5+-

(27) Gunina, V(2509)-Muzychuk, A(2566)

Beijing woman blitz, 2013.12.15



25...g5! 26.♟xg5 [26.♟xd6 26...♞f3+ 27.♞g1 ♜f2—+]]

26...♞f3+ 27.♞g1 ♜f2! 0-1

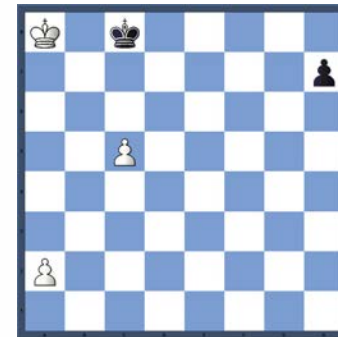
(28) Muzychuk, A(2566)-Lagno, K(2543)

Beijing woman blitz, 2013.12.16



23.♜h6+! gxh6 24.♞xe5+—

(29) Gorgiev



1.c6! [1.a4? 1...h6!! (1...h5? 2.c6 h4 3.a5 h3 4.a6 h2 5.a7=) 2.a5 h5 3.a6 h4 4.c6 h3 5.a7 h2—+]]

1...h6 [1...h5 2.a4! h4 3.a5 h3 4.a6 h2 5.a7=; 1...♞c7 2.a4! ♞xc6 3.a5 ♞b5 (3...♞c7 4.a6=) 4.♞b7! ♞xa5 5.♞c6 h5 6.♞d5 h4 7.♞e4=]]

2.a3!! [2.a4? 2...h5 3.a5 h4 4.a6 h3 5.a7 h2—+]]

2...h5 [2...♞c7 3.a4 ♞xc6 (3...h5 4.a5 h4 5.a6 h3 6.a7 h2=) 4.a5 ♞b5 5.♞b7 ♞xa5 6.♞c6 h5 7.♞d5=]]

3.a4 h4 4.a5 h3 5.a6 h2 6.a7 h1=♞



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 98

10th of January 2014

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Editorial Preface

The Tata Steel tournament is already starting tomorrow, with Aronian, Nakamura, Caruana and many more in the A group. The B group is headed by Wojtaszek and Jobava.

We can be sure that there are many great and spectacular games to come and we will comment a few of them for you in the next issue.

As for other events, there is nothing "big" going on, but a few strong opens have come to an end:

The Basel Open was also won by Wojtaszek with the amazing score of 6.5/7.

At the 89th Hastings Chess Congress a big group of 7 players tied for first place with 6.5/9, but Mchedlishvili had the best tie-break.

The Rilton Cup was won by Hammer (Magnus Carlsen's second) with 7/9.

In the match of 8 classical games between Salem and Khismatulin the score is 3.5-0.5 in favor of the Russian.

That's all for this week and we will be back next Friday evening with the best moment from Wijk aan Zee!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Volkov, Sergey1(2623)**
- **Socko, Bartosz(2657) [E20]**

Rilton Cup 2013-14(7.3),
2014.01.03



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

White scores a brilliant tactical victory...

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♘c3** ♙b4 **4.f3** Volkov uses his pet line, the Nimzowitch with 4.f3, which is a very effective weapon if someone wants to achieve a sharp and fighting position right after the opening.

4...d5 5.a3 ♙xc3+ **6.bxc3** O-O [The main line is clearly 6...c5 but of course the text move is also playable.]

7.cxd5 exd5 **8.e3**

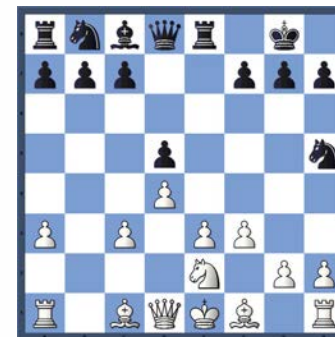


8...♙h5 A direct attempt to complicate the matters. Black is threatening with Qh4 check, because g3 could be met by Nxg3 and the h1 rook falls. [I successfully employed the main line 8...c5 against Volkov back in 2005.]

9.♘e2 The standard placement of this knight, but in general

White would have preferred first to develop his bishop to d3. Now it is a little bit stuck there, which is the point of Black's previous knight move...

9...♖e8



10.g4! The standard move in this opening. A very special structure. White gains space on the kingside and he is not afraid of running with the king because he has full control over the center.

10...♚h4+ 11.♔d2 ♘f6 **12.♚e1!** Obviously White would be very happy to trade queens, as in the arising endgame he would have a clear edge with his great pawn structure and the bishop pair. Black needs to keep the queens on the board and should try to open the position in front of the d2 king.

12...♚h6 13.♘f4 Volkov improves on one of his own games with this novelty. Three years ago he played 13.Kd1.

13...c5! The most direct way to open the position.

14.♙d3 b6?! Black would like to trade the strong bishop with Ba6, but this plan is a bit too slow... [It was better to play 14...cxd4 15.cxd4 ♘c6 Threatening Nxd4. 16.♚g3 ♘d7! Driving the knight to b6, leaving from the g5 threat and giving free way for the queen. This would have been another very sharp game with mutual chances.]

15.h4! White makes use of the misplacement of the black queen!

15...♖fd7



16.♕g6!! What an astonishing move!! White cuts the queen's route to d6 and suddenly it is facing serious difficulties to avoid getting trapped.

16...hxg6 17.g5 ♖h7



18.h5! The queen is still facing the trapping problems and at the same time White launches a very strong attack!

18...♔f8! The only move. Freeing a square for the queen and trying to run away from the upcoming threats along the h-file. [Black loses after 18...gxh5 19.♖xh5 ♕f5 because of the following decisive attack: 20.♖h4 ♕f8 21.g6!+- Attacking the queen and threatening Rh8 mate.]

19.hxg6 ♕g8 20.♖g3! A very calm attacking move! White improves his most dangerous attacking piece. Giving a fatal check on d6 is on his mind.

20...♗b7 [Black cannot successfully defend against the attack with 20...f6 21.♖h7! ♖c6 22.♖h5 ♖e7 and here the strongest is 23.♔c2! followed by Qd6 next. (On the direct 23.♖d6 Black could still have some hope after 23...♖a5) 23...♖a5 24.gxf6 ♖xf6 25.♖f4+- Black collapses.]



21.♖xd5! White wins after this little combination. Volkov opens the diagonal for his queen to go to d6!

21...♖e5 Black tries to complicate the matters with this spectacular diagonal closing idea...Unfortunately for him Volkov was in top shape that day... [21...♕xd5 22.♖d6+ ♖e7 23.♖xd5+- traps the rook on a8!]

22.gxf7! ♖xf7 This is the only move, all other recaptures would have lost on the spot. [22...♔xf7 23.♖f4+-; 22...♖xf7 23.♖h8+-]

23.♖c7 White wins an exchange. He is already doing fine materially and after his central pawns start to march, Black is going to collapse...

23...g6 The only move again, otherwise White would have sent away the knight with g6 and when it moves Qd6 finishes the game.



24.d5! Perfect play. White obviously does not need to hurry with taking one of the rooks. He intends to place his pawns on light squares with e4 and when the c1 bishop joins the attack the game will be over. With such bad pieces, Black can hardly fight against this...

24...d7 25.e4! Following the plan.

25...de5 26.c2! Volkov continues his extremely powerful moves. The bishop is ready to go f4.

26...ac8 27.e6+ White prefers to keep his beast knight rather than giving it up for a passive rook... [27.dxe8!? 27...xe8 28.f4 followed by doubling the rooks on the h-file was also winning.]

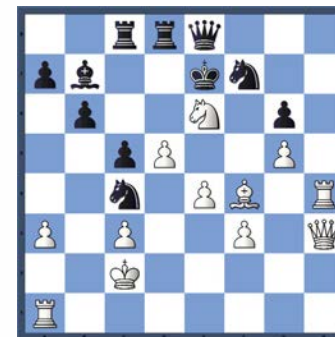
27...e7 28.f4 c4 The blockader could not be held anymore on e5.

29.h4 White prepares for the invasion on h7. The poor queen on g8 is still paralyzed...

29...ed8 Resourceful defence. Black hopes for counterplay with Qe8-a4!

30.a4!? Prophylaxis against the Qa4 idea.

[The machine would have finished the game in brutal style with 30.h3! 30...e8



31.xc5! xc5 32.e6+ f8 33.f6! Threatening Rh8. **33...a4+ 34.c1 e8**



And here comes the final blow: **35.h8+! xh8 36.h8+ d7 37.h3+!** The king is forced back to the danger zone... **37...e8 38.e6+ f8 39.f6+ e8 40.xg6+ f8 41.f6+ e8 42.e6+ f8 43.g6+-** With mate to follow soon. Obviously a human being cannot play like this...

30...e8 [30...xd5 does not help because of the simple **31.xd8 xd8 32.exd5+-** White is material up and he still continues attacking.]

31.f7 [31.h7+- was also winning.]

31...e3+ [31...d7 32.f4! means the end of the game. Qf6 next is decisive.]

32.c1 xd5 The last desperate attempt, but it does not help.

33.exd5 ♖xd5 34.♗f4 It is already White who is an exchange up and the king on e7 is much weaker than the one on c1.

34...♔d7 [34...♖xc7 drops the queen after 35.♗xd5+ ♖xd5 36.♖e4+--]

35.♗xd5 ♗xd5 Black is just about to get compensation with his queen, but two strong defensive moves neutralize all the threats.



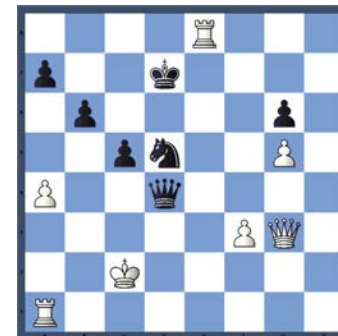
36.♖e4! Parrying the Qe3 check.

36...♔h8 37.♗e5! White is now out of danger and the game is basically over. Black plays on for a few more moves, but it does not affect the final outcome.

37...♗xe5 38.♖xe5 ♗xc3 39.♔d2 [39.♔c2+- was also good enough and the a1 rook joins the game.]

39...♖e8 40.♖xe8 [40.♖ae1 40...♖xe5 41.♖xe5 would have given zero chances. 41...♗xa4 42.♔g4+--]

40...♔xe8 [40...♔d4+ 41.♔c2 ♗d5 was the last chance, which would have forced White to find some only moves to win the game. Although they are not difficult at all...



42.♔e5! ♗b4+ 43.♔b3! ♔d3+ 44.♔c3!+- Black has no more useful checks and the game is over!

41.♖e1 ♔h8 42.♔g4+ ♔d8 43.♔f4 ♔c8 44.♔f6 ♔h4 45.♔c6+ Black resigned. White succeeded to finish the game in style after the brilliant 16.Bg6!! move! **1-0**

(2) Kacheishvili, Giorgi(2578) - Roiz, Michael(2614) [E56]

23rd North American Open 2013(8.5),
2013.12.29



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

White gives a very nice positional lesson, which reminds me on the classical Karpov games.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♗c3** ♙b4 **4.e3** White chooses the Rubinstein variation of the Nimzowitch defence.

4...O-O **5.♙d3** d5 **6.♗f3** c5 **7.O-O** Both players are going for the main line.

7...♗c6 [Recently the variation starting with 7...cxd4 8.exd4 dxc4 9.♙xc4 b6 is considered to be extremely safe for Black, but of course the text move is another huge main line.]



8.cxd5!? This is the modern way to handle this opening. White creates an isolated pawn and starts to organize his play against it. [8.a3 is the most common move.]

8...exd5 **9.dxc5** ♙xc5 **10.h3!** This is the key move of the new setup. Before White prepares to develop his bishop to the long diagonal with b3-Bb2 he prevents Black's very important

resource to pin the knight with Bg4! It is interesting that Roiz was one of the first players who employed this move as White in the modern era, but this time he is on the other side. [10.b3 10...♙g4 is fine for Black.]

10...♞e7 [It is important that Black cannot get rid of the isolated pawn and equalize with 10...d4 because of 11.♗a4! and Black is in trouble. 11...♙e7? loses a pawn after 12.exd4 ♗xd4? 13.♗xd4 ♞xd4 14.♙xh7+!+-]

11.b3! The bishop is going to be excellently placed on b2.

11...♞d8 **12.♗e2!?** White would like to stop d4. The knight was about to go to e2 anyway. It does not only create an excellent blockade against the isolani, but it is also ready to attack with Nf4. [12.♙b2 happened mainly in the previous games. The point is 12...d4 does not equalize completely because of 13.exd4 ♗xd4 14.♗a4! ♗xf3+ 15.♞xf3 ♙d4 Black seems to be fine, but White can make use of the undeveloped queenside pieces... 16.♙xd4 ♞xd4 17.♞ad1 Threatening with Bxh7. 17...♞d8 18.♙c4+= and Black has problems developing the c8 bishop because of the b7 pawn.]

12...♗e5



13.♗f4! Black has given up the control over the d4 square with one of his pieces, so White can also use one of his blockader knights for another task. [After the natural 13.♗xe5 13...♞xe5 14.♞b1 Black succeeds to transfer his queen to the

kingside with 14...♘d6 15.♗f4 ♔g5 and obtains a very active and dynamic position as a compensation for the isolated pawn.]

13...♘d6 [13...♗xd3 Grabbing the bishop pair does not solve the problems. 14.♔xd3+= White has very easy play with Bb2, Rac1 and Rfd1. Sometimes even Ng5 becomes a very strong threat and Black is going to face long term difficulties with the d5 pawn.]



14.♘b2 Black decides to neutralize the strong b2 bishop by trading it, but this leads to the exchanges of some minor pieces. In general the side with the isolated pawn should aim for active piece play, while the one who fights against the isolated should aim for the exchanges and in the endgame the pawn is going to be more vulnerable.

14...♗xf3+ 15.♔xf3 ♘e5



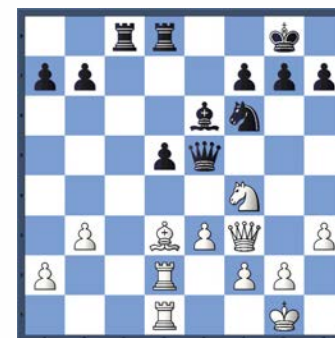
16.♔ab1! A typical Karpov move. The bishops are going to be traded and White wants to execute it in favorable circumstances. He immediately prepares to double his rooks on the d-file to attack the target.

16...♘xb2 17.♔xb2 ♔e5 [17...d4 is still not successful. White has the very strong 18.♔e2! dxe3 19.♔xe3 Despite the fact that Black no longer has weak pawns he is suffering because of his lack of development. 19...♔c7 20.♘c4 (20.♔fe1± is also good.)]

18.♔d2 ♘e6 [18...d4? now runs into 19.♘c4± and Black loses the pawn because of the pin.]

19.♔fd1+= White has achieved what he wanted. He has a small but long term advantage. Black is lacking active counterplay while White can start to think about how to increase the pressure on the d5 pawn.

19...♔ac8



20.♗e2!? A strong positional move in connection with the idea played in the next move. [It seems like both players missed the following tactical shot: 20.♘c4! seems to win the d5 pawn. White is attacking it with all of his pieces. He is ready to take it next and the counterplay with 20...♗e4 does not help because of 21.♔d4 ♗c3 22.♔1d3 ♗xa2 23.♗xd5± Black is in trouble because of the Ne7 threat.]

20...♔d7 21.♔f4! Another excellent decision! As we have

already mentioned, all exchanges favor White. Only the trade of rooks, especially both rooks, could seriously increase Black's defensive chances, everything else just makes his task much harder.

21...♔xf4



22.exf4!? A typical move in the given pawn structure. Our game demonstrates well the strategy behind this recapture. The d5 pawn remains weak and White wants to gain an advantage with his kingside pawn majority. Black had no time to organize the right pawn structure with h5 and g6 because of f5, trapping the bishop. [22.♘xf4+= followed by g4, f3, Kf2 was also very unpleasant.]

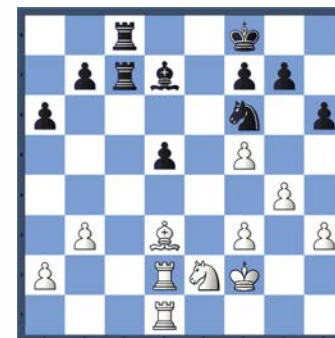
22...♖dc7 23.f5! ♘d7 24.g4! The majority starts to advance. First it is just gaining space and in the moment when it hurts most, it could advance more. The black rooks are completely useless on the c-file, as they have no invading squares.

24...h6



25.f3! Another strong positional move. White takes control of the e4 square and prepares to activate his king, which is of course a key factor in the endgames. Later on this move also supports the h4-g5 plan.

25...♖f8 26.♖f2 a6 Black tries to ease his position by trading the bishops with Bb5. Later Black could at least hope for some counterplay with Rc2. White prevents even this small chance.



27.♘b1! White rightly keeps both of his minor pieces.

27...♘b5 28.♘f4! ♖c1 Black wants to sacrifice his d5 pawn and tries to get some counterplay. [28...♘c6 would have been met by 29.h4!± and g5 is coming next. Black is in trouble.]

29.h4!? White decides to not be greedy and prefers to improve his position instead of taking a pawn. He believes that this opportunity will not run away... [29.♘xd5 29...♖xd1 30.♖xd1 ♘xd5 31.♖xd5 also doesn't give Black enough compensation... 31...♖c1 32.♘e4±]

29...♖xd1 30.♖xd1 ♘c6 Passive, but what to do?! It is already very difficult to suggest something clever.

31.♖e3 White improves his king to the maximum and drives it to d4! After trading one of the rooks, he does not need to worry about getting under some kind of attack anymore.

31...♖d8 32.♖d4 Despite the material equality, it is extremely

hard to suggest a saving plan for Black.

32...♖e8 [32...♘d7 to control the c5 and e5 squares would also have been met by 33.♙e1± g5 is coming next. Black is completely squeezed.]

33.♙e1 ♘c7



34.a4! Preventing the last chance to create some counterplay with Nb5 followed by d4 and Nc3. All black pieces are doomed.

34...♙e8 The arising endgame is hopeless for Black, but I believe his position was objectively lost anyway.

35.♙xe8+ ♗xe8 36.♗c5! Heading to the opponent's camp.

36...♗e7 [36...d4 loses to 37.♙e4 ♙xe4 38.fxe4+- and the d4 pawn is lost.]



37.♘e2! The knight is redirected to d4 to attack the defender of the b7 pawn, which is going to be gathered by Kb6!

37...♙d7 38.♘d4 a5 An ugly move but there was nothing else to do anyway. Black was also in zugzwang. [Basically the only legal move 38...♘e8 would have been refuted by 39.♙d3 ♗c7 40.♙xa6+-]

39.♗b6 ♗d6 40.f6! The last great move of the game and Black decided to end his suffering. [Black resigned in view of 40.f6 40...g6 Here basically all moves are winning. White probably wanted to play (40...gxf6 41.♘f5+ ♗d7 42.♘xh6+- and White simple promotes his h-pawn.) 41.f4+- and g5 next. Black is totally hopeless. A fantastic positional achievement, where it is not easy to point out where exactly Black has gone wrong.] **1-0**

**(3) Salem, A.R. Saleh(2564)
- Khismatullin, Denis(2674) [B12]**

Match(1), 2014.01.07



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

The Caro-Kann with 3.e5 is quite a tricky opening, especially the very aggressive line chosen by Salem. White is quickly a pawn up but Black gets a clear positional advantage. In a slightly worse position White panicked and went for the attack, which clearly went wrong. The game ends with a pretty mate, but to the white king.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 The most critical line.

3...♟f5 4.♞c3 The beginning of a very sharp line. [4.♞f3 4...e6 5.♟e2 would lead us to a much more calm position. This is the currently most played line.]

4...e6 5.g4 White's idea in this line is to develop fast play on the kingside while keeping the center together- not an easy task.

5...♟g6



6.♞ge2 If it was White to move, he would play h4 followed by Nf4.

6...c5 This is of se all still theory but as we can see Black is immediately starting his play against White's center.

7.♟e3 ♞c6 [7...♞e7 is the other main move.]

8.dxc5 White wants to play Nd4 followed by Bb5 next.

8...h5! I like this move a lot, even if the position is very complicated.

9.♞d4 I think Black already has nice play here. [9.♞f4!? would lead to a more dynamic position. 9...d4 10.♞xg6 fxg6 11.♞d3 ♟f7 12.O-O-O Black is a piece up but White is going to have a strong attack. The position is very sharp and unclear.]

9...hxcg4! White's pawn structure is going to be bad for the rest of the game now.

10.♟b5 ♞e7 11.♞xg4 ♟c7 We have reached an interesting position. White is a clear pawn up but it seems like Black is just better! The bishop on g6 is a monster.

12.f4 [12.O-O-O 12...O-O-O would not change much either.]

12...O-O-O



13.♟xc6 [After 13.O-O-O 13...♞xd4 14.♟xd4 ♞f5! followed by Bxc5 White already has a very bad position.]

13...♞xc6 14.♞g3 [Tactical tricks don't seem to work for White: 14.♞xe6 14...fxe6 15.♞xg6 ♟h6! 16.♞d3 d4 17.♞b5

dxe3 Black is much better.]

14...♖xd4 Black is winning the pawn back.

15.♗xd4 ♜xc5 16.O-O-O At first sight White's position doesn't look that bad but things are not that simple. Black is very fast on the c-file and White just cannot solve his problems with the c2 pawn, which is under the attack all the time.

16...♗xd4 17.♞xd4



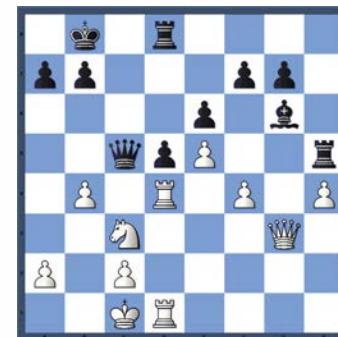
17...♔b8! This is the key move. Black starts his plan which is an active play on the c-file.

18.h4 It is hard to blame White for a move like 18.h4, but it is not helping at all. [18.♔b1 followed by Rc1 and Ka1-Rd2, with the hope of playing Ne2-Nd4 in the future, would have been a tougher defence.]

18...♞c5 Provoking the white rook from h1 to d1.

19.♞hd1 ♜h5 Black is quickly switching to the kingside as the h4 pawn is almost impossible to hold.

20.b4 White rushes into a last attack, but Black just wanted to play Rdh8 followed by Qe7 if needed and the pawn h4 would be just lost.



20...♞b6! A very strong move, not giving White any hopes for counter chances. [20...♞e7 would have been less precise as after 21.♗b5! the knight is getting to d6.]

21.a4 ♜c8! Once again Khismatullin chooses the right path. Now the white knight is very shaky on c3 and the pawn h4 is not playing an important role anymore.

22.♞1d2 ♞c6 White's position is falling apart on both sides of the board.

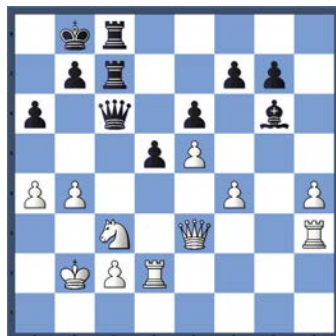
23.♔b2 a6 A careful move, not giving White any chances to play Nb5. [But 23...♞xh4! 24.♗b5 ♞h1 would also have been more than enough to win the game. 25.♗d6? is never possible because of 25...♞xa4 followed by Qa1 mate.]

24.♞h2 ♜hh8! What a great game by Black. After provoking weaknesses the black rook returns to the c-file.

25.♞e3 White's moves do not play a big role anymore, as all he can do is sit and watch. Material is equal on the board but even the computers give an advantage of over -2 for Black. What a domination!

25...♞c7 26.♞dd2 ♜hc8 All black pieces are perfectly placed.

27. ♖h3



27... ♕d7! Another good move by Black. Rc4 will almost end the game soon.

28. ♕b6 ♖c6 29. ♕g1 ♖c4 The b4 pawn is falling and the game with it.

30. ♖d4 There is no other way to save the pawn.

30... ♖xd4 31. ♕xd4 ♖c4 32. ♕b6 d4 33. ♖a2 ♖xc2+ 34. ♖a3 And as usual Khismatullin finishes the game with a "smile".



34... ♖xa2+ leads to a forced mate.

35. ♖xa2 ♕xa4+ 36. ♖b2 ♕c2+ 37. ♖a3 ♕c1+ 38. ♖b3 ♕c2+ 39. ♖a2 ♕b1+ What a fantastic game by Black! Khismatullin got a big advantage with great positional play, then didn't hurry to convert it immediately, rather waiting for the best moment. We can all learn from such games! :) 0-1

(4) Khismatullin, Denis(2674)
- Salem, A.R. Saleh(2564) [D85]

Match(4), 2014.01.10



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

White sacrificed a pawn for good play in the opening, but Black kept on defending well until some moment after which White kept on rolling over Black's defences. We will see a great fighting game.

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♘c3 d5 The Gruenfeld, the number one opening on the top.

4. cxd5 ♘xd5 5. ♕d2 A rather rare move, but a very interesting line for White.

5... ♘b6 One of the main moves. [another main line is 5... ♕g7 6. e4 ♘xc3 7. ♕xc3 c5]

6. e4!? An interesting pawn sacrifice. [6. e3 is the very main line here.]

6... ♕xd4 Black has to take the pawn as letting White get a nice center would lead to a slightly worse position.



7. ♕c2 A development move and White is threatening to play Nb5 next.

7...c6 A logical move but maybe not the best. 7... Qd8 should also be considered as an option.

8.♘f3 We can see that White has a big development advantage for the pawn.

8...♔g7 The black queen is taking the place of Black's bishop and it is hard to imagine this being a wise decision. 8...Qd8 was probably still the right move.

9.a4! A very strong move. White is kicking away the black knight from b6 to secure an excellent development place for the bishop on c4.

9...e5 Black has no choice.

10.a5 ♘6d7 11.♙c4 White's pieces are very well placed.

11...h6?! This move is too slow at a moment where every tempo is very important for Black. [11...♙e7 followed by 0-0 was required. But White of course still has great play.]

12.0-0 ♙e7 13.♖fd1! Another very good move. White does not hurry with quick actions but squeezes Black into a more passive position.

13...0-0 14.♙e3 White doesn't threaten anything concrete, but it is already hard for Black to find a useful move! The pieces on the queenside are practically out of the game and there is no clear way of developing them.

14...♔h7



15.♘e2 White has a logical maneuver in mind. To bring the knight to g3 and play h4-h5, breaking Black's pawn structure. [Maybe 15.♘a4 was another interesting option. It is hard to find a move for Black here.]

15...♖e8?! Too passive again. [A better try for Black was 15...♘c5! It is time to give some material back. 16.♙xf7 ♘ba6 The black pieces are finally out and Black wants to play Bg4 next as well. White's position should be better, but the game would just have started.]

16.♔b3 White prevents Black's Nf8 maneuver, but maybe there was no need to do this. [16.♘g3 16...♘f8 17.h4 followed by h5 also looks very good for White.]

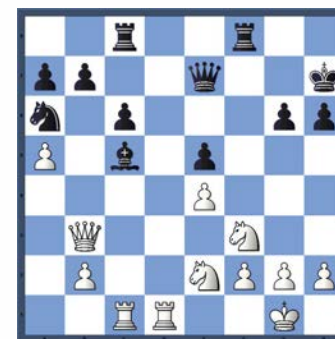
16...♘c5 Black gives back the pawn, which is the right decision.

17.♙xc5 ♙xc5 18.♙xf7 ♖f8 Now the pawns are equal, but White's development advantage remains and a slightly better pawn structure. White is better, but not much better.

19.♙e6 Of course White does not allow Black to play Bg4.

19...♘a6 20.♖ac1 To develop a piece is never wrong.

20...♔e7 Forcing White to take on c8, so the black rook from a8 is finally in the game too. **21.♙xc8 ♖axc8**



22.♘g3 ♔g7 23.♖c3 [It is hard to understand why White did

not play first 23.h4 23...h5 and only now 24.♖c3]

23...♖c7? This is a serious mistake. To let White cover the d-file is deadly. [It is important for Black to exchange one pair of rooks: 23...♖cd8! 24.♖cd3 ♖xd3 25.♙xd3 ♖f7 White is better, but Black is fighting.]

24.♖cd3 The d-file now belongs to White.

24...♙b4 This kind of greediness will of course be punished...

25.h4! White does not care about the a-pawn and starts his mating attack!

25...♙xa5 26.♙c4?! Not the best move. [White could have ended the game with 26.♖d6! threatening to play h5. 26...♖f6 27.♖xf6 ♙xf6 28.h5 And Black's position is just falling apart.]

26...♙b4 After this move nothing can save Black anymore. [The only chance was to play 26...♙f7 27.♘xe5 ♙xc4 28.♘xc4 ♙b4



29.h5 but White still has a big advantage.]

27.h5 White is winning control over the f5 square which means game over for Black.

27...b5 28.♙a2 ♘b8 [28...♘c5 29.♖d6+-]

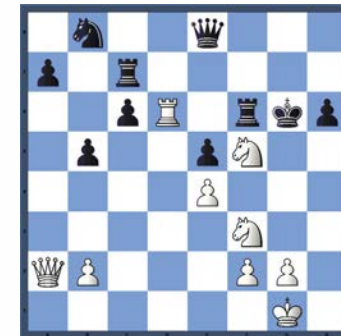
29.hxg6 Black is completely lost.

29...♙xg6 30.♘f5 ♙e8 Now White has a wide range of

choices of how to finish the game. Khismatullin goes for a pretty one:

31.♖d6+! A little beauty.

31...♙xd6 32.♖xd6+ ♖f6 Once again White is looking for the most spectacular finish:



33.♘xe5+! ♙g5 [33...♙xe5 also leads to mate after 34.♙g8+ ♙h5 35.g4#]

34.♘f3+ I think it was time to give up the game, but both players were probably in a bit of time trouble.

34...♙g6 35.♘3h4+ ♙g5 36.♙a3 The white queen is going to g3.

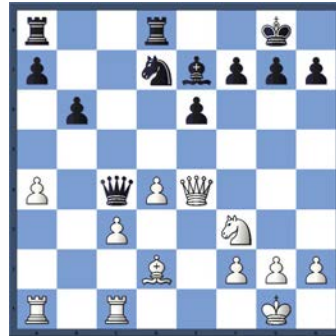
36...♙f8 37.f4+ ♙xf4 38.♙g3+ A very nice win by Khismatullin, with which he made the first half of the match very clear: 3.5-0.5 in favor of the Russian. **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Lobzhanidze, D(2445)-Bok, B(2540)

Groningen Open, 2013.12.26

1... ♠



(6) Kovalenko, I(2643)-Sebenik, M(2497)

Zurich Open, 2013.12.27

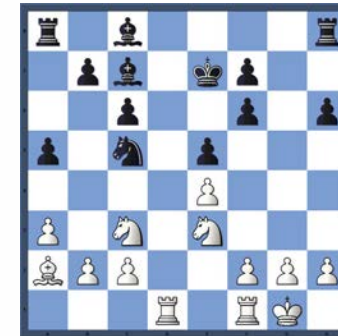
1. ±



(7) Popov, I(2644)-Pikula, D(2499)

Zurich Open, 2013.12.28

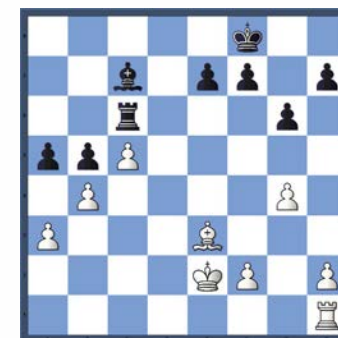
1. +-



(8) Bajarani, U(2500)-Barbot, P(2404)

World Juniors, 2013.12.21

1. +-



(9) Miroshnichenko, E(2626)-Drazic, S(2441)

Al Ain Open, 2013.12.21

1. +-



(10) Geller, J(2542)-Amin, B(2654)

Al Ain Open, 2013.12.22

1... -+



(11) Salem, S(2567)-Arab, A(2433)

Al Ain Open, 2013.12.22

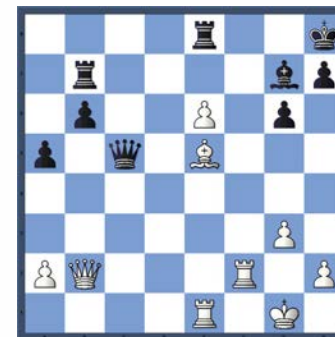
1. +-



(12) Miroshnichenko, E(2626)-Barsov, A(2527)

Al Ain Open, 2013.12.23

1. +-



(13) Salem, S(2567)-Golizadeh, A(2500)

Al Ain Open, 2013.12.24

1. ±



(14) Vishnu, P(2523)-Negi, P(2671)

Indian Championship, 2013.12.26

1. +-



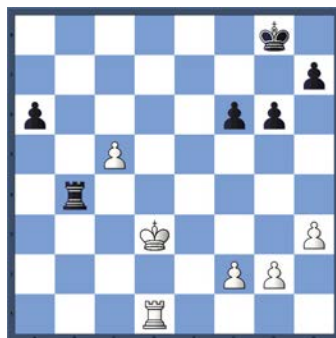
Endgame section

(15) Maciej, Bartłomiej(2583)
- Margvelashvili, Giorgi(2555)

Bay Area International 2014(5.1),
2014.01.05



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



34...Kf7 At first sight it looks like Black has good chances to make a draw in this endgame but his problems are much bigger than it seems.

35.Ke1! A very important move. Of course the position would just be a draw if the black king could cross the e-file, but now Black is facing troubles stopping White's c-pawn.

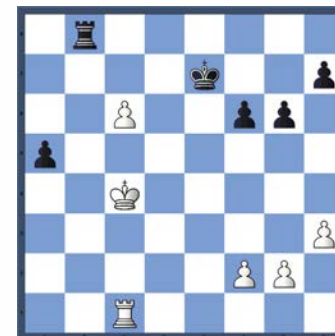
35...a5 Black has no better option. White's threat of playing c6 next was very strong.

36.c6 Kb6 Trying to activate the king by luring the white rook away from the e-file. [36...Kb8 didn't help as after 37.Kc4 a4 38.Kc5 a3 39.c7 White is faster.]

37.Rc1 Kb8 Another only move.

38.Kc4 A good move.

38...Ke7 The black king is almost there, but...



39.c7 White is just faster.

39...Rf8 [39...Rc8 40.Kb5 Kd7 41.Kb6 followed by Kb7 and Rd1. White is winning.]

40.Kb5 Kd7 Black managed to activate his king but he lost the a-pawn.

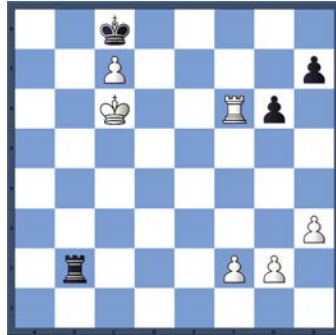
41.Kxa5 Kc8 42.Kb6 And this position is of course easily winning for White.

42...Re8 43.Rc6! The last precise move.

43...Re2 [43...f5 44.Rf6 followed by Kc6-Kd6 with an easily winning position.]

44.Rxf6 Two extra pawns are more than enough to win the game.

44...Kb2+ 45.Kc6



45...Rc2+ 46.Kd6 Rd2+ 47.Kg7 The white king is going for the black pawns.

47...Kxc7 48.h4 Fixing the black pawn structure cannot be wrong.

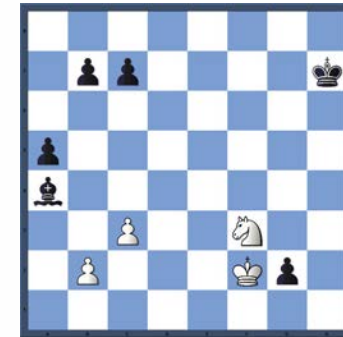
48...Re2+ 49.Kf8 Kd7 50.Kg7 And the last two pawns are falling. We saw an easily winning endgame, but it was quite useful from a practical point of view. **1-0**

(16) Czebe, Attila(2451)
- **Schroeder, Christian(2364)**

Nancy Open, 2013.12.28

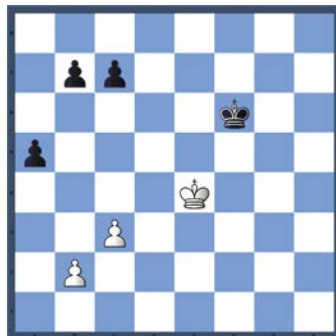


GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

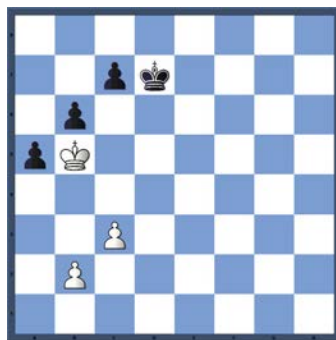


My friend GM Czebe Attila showed me the following interesting endgame. He told me that his feeling was that the position should be drawn, but he failed to calculate an important detail. At the beginning it is very difficult to foresee all the lines, but later on it becomes a very good example to improve our calculating skills. White needs to get rid of the g2 pawn, the question is if he should go for the pawn endgame after Kxg2 Bc6 or Ne5 Bc6 Nxc6 bxc6 and Kxg2. In the first one, Black seemingly has a healthy extra pawn, while in the latter one it is damaged. However the solution is surprising...

1.Kxe5? [1.Kxg2! was the right move. Black's only hope is the pawn endgame, otherwise White brings his king to d2 and moves with the knight. Even the a1 corner is wrong to the bishop's color. 1...Bc6 2.Kf2 Bxf3 3.Kxf3 Kg6 4.Kf4 Kf6]

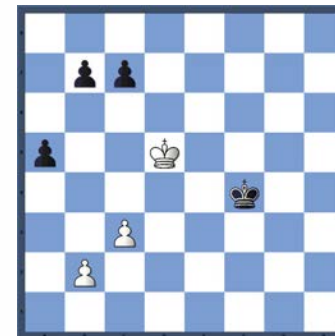


We have reached the critical position. 5.♔d4!! White keeps the distant opposition and holds the draw. (My friend has correctly calculated that the line after 5.♔d5 5...♔f5! is going to win for Black in all the lines. 6.♔c5 (6.c4 6...♔f4 The king is heading towards the pawns... 7.♔d4 ♔f3 8.♔d3 c5—+ wins easily.) 6...♔e4 7.♔b5 ♔d3 8.♔xa5 ♔c2—+ wins.) 5...♔f5 Black should again try to go in the direction of the white pawns. (The attempt to save his own pawns fails to 5...♔e6 6.♔c5 ♔d7 7.♔b5 b6

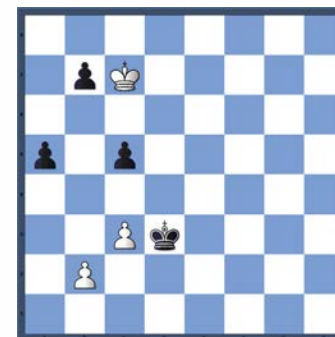


8.c4! with the idea to push c5 and destroy the pawn chain. 8...♔d6 (8...♔c8 makes no sense. 9.c5 ♔b7 10.cxb6 cxb6 11.b4 axb4 12.♔xb4=) 9.b3 Black is in zugzwang, he is forced to allow c5 and the game is immediately drawn. 9...♔e5 10.c5 bxc5 11.♔xc5=) 6.♔d5! We have reached the same position as in the 5. Kd5 line, but this time it is Black to move. As the following variations show, he is in zugzwang! 6...♔f4 (6...♔f6 7.♔c5

♔e5 8.♔b5= draws again. ; 6...a4 7.♔c5 simply collects the pawn.)



7.♔e6! This is why it should be Black to move! White has a quick path to the c7 pawn. 7...♔e4 8.♔d7 c5 (8...♔d3 9.♔xc7 ♔c2 10.♔xb7 ♔xb2 11.c4 a4 12.c5 a3 13.c6 a2 14.c7 a1=♔ 15.c8=♔=) 9.♔c7 ♔d3 (9...b5?? even loses after 10.♔b6 White grabs the pawns faster.)



10.♔b6! It is very important to capture the right pawns. Only calculation helps in such positions. (10.♔xb7? 10...♔c2 11.♔b6 ♔xb2 12.♔xc5 a4 wins for Black!) 10...♔c2 (10...c4 11.♔xa5 ♔c2 12.♔b4=; 10...a4 11.♔xc5 ♔c2 12.♔b4 ♔xb2 13.♔xa4 ♔xc3 14.♔b5=) 11.♔xc5 ♔xb2 12.♔b5 ♔xc3 13.♔xa5 ♔c4 14.♔b6= Just in time!]

1...♔c6 2.♔xc6 bxc6 3.♔xg2 In comparison to the 1.Kxg2 line, Black has a damaged pawn structure but the activity of

the black king turns out to be more relevant.

3...♖g6 4.♖f3 ♖f5 Black holds the opposition this time!

5.♖e3 ♖e5 6.♖d3 [6.c4 loses to 6...a4 7.♖d3 c5 8.♖e3 c6 White is in zugzwang, he is forced to let the black king get to his pawns. 9.♖d3 ♖f4—+ Squeezing out the king and winning the endgame.]

6...♖d5 White had to evaluate this position before he played 1.Ne5. At first sight it is not obvious, but a slightly deeper look allows us to come to the conclusion that the situation is hopeless...

7.b3 [7.c4+ 7...♖c5 8.♖c3 a4—+ and White again loses because of the zugzwang.; 7.♖c2 7...♖c4 8.b3+ Otherwise Black plays Kb3. 8...♖b5 transposes to the game.]

7...♖c5 8.♖c2 ♖b5! [White resigned in view of 8...♖b5 9.♖d3 (9.♖b2 9...c5 (9...a4 also wins.) 10.♖a3 c4—+) 9...c5 10.♖c2 c4—+ Black gets rid of his doubled pawns and creates a passed a-pawn, which decides the fight...] **0-1**

Clash of the Titans

**(17) Alekhine, Alexander
- Euwe, Max[D34]**

Amsterdam m2(7), 1926



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.g3 ♘c6 6.♘c3 In this case White has some additional options to play without the knight on c3, for example [6.♗g2 6...♘f6 7.O-O ♗e7 8.dxc5 ♗xc5 And here White can play 9.a3 (9.♖c2 with the idea Rd1-Bg5-Nc3 to put pressure on the d5 pawn.)]

6...♘f6 7.♗g2 ♗e7 8.O-O O-O We have the main position of the Tarrasch Defence. Now White has the choice between different plans:

9.dxc5 [9.♗g5 is the most popular move.]

9...♗xc5



10.♘a4 An interesting move which was already known so many years ago. Nowadays it is suggested by grandmaster

Boris Avrukh and used by top players. The idea is to create a blockade on the d4 and c5 squares. [10.♘g5]

10...♘e7 11.♘e3 ♘e4 A logical move. Black activates his pieces.

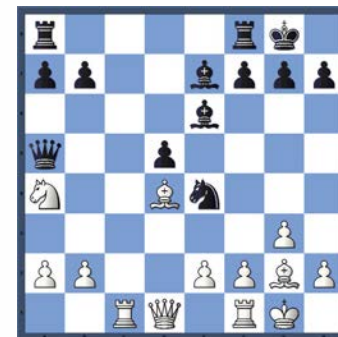
12.♖c1 ♚a5 This is an active square for the queen but on the other hand White might be able to play a3-b4 with tempo. [I also found one of my games in this position: 12...♗e8 13.♘d4 ♘xd4 14.♘xd4 ♘e6 15.♘c3! ♘xc3 16.♖xc3 White has a stable long term advantage because of the weak d5 pawn. 16...♚a5 17.a3 ♖ac8 18.e3+= b5? Black is looking for some counterplay or to reduce the material but this move loses immediately, which I didn't see... 19.♚a1 (19.♖xc8 19...♖xc8



And now 20.♘xd5! +- ♘xd5 21.♚g4) 19...♘f8 20.♖fc1 ♖xc3 21.♘xc3 ♚a4 22.♘d4+= 1/2-1/2 Miton,K-Barbero Senidic,A/Linares ESP 2013 (37)]

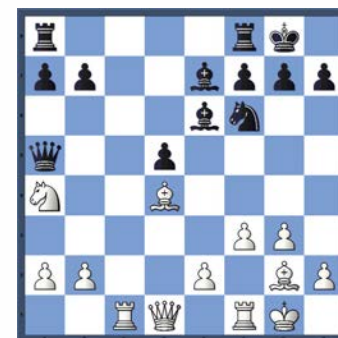
13.♘d4 ♘xd4 [13...♘d7!? And now White is not in time with the a3-b4 idea because the knight on a4 will be hanging. 14.♘xe4 doesn't seem very logical but there is a concrete idea: 14...dxe4 15.♘b3 ♚xa4 (15...♚c7 16.♚d5 White keeps the initiative thanks to his more active pieces.) 16.♚xd7 ♚xa2 17.♚xb7 ♖fb8 18.♚xc6 ♚xb3 19.♚xe4 ♘f6 20.♖c2+= And White is a pawn up.]

14.♘xd4 ♘e6



15.f3 The idea of this move is to chase the knight from its central place and make use of the c5 square. The problem of this move is that it also weakens White's position on the kingside. [15.a3+= gives White a stable plus.]

15...♘f6 The d5 pawn is protected enough so more interesting was [15...♘d6 with the idea to get counterplay on the d4-e3 squares. 16.♘c5 ♘f5⇝]



16.♘c5! White plays according to the plan and doesn't care about the a2 pawn as activity is much more important. [16.a3 Once White has played f3 this move makes less sense. 16...♖ac8⇝]

16... ♖xa2 [16... ♗xc5 17. ♖xc5 (17. ♗xc5 17... ♖fc8 18. ♗d4 ♖xc1 19. ♖xc1 ♖xa2 20. ♖f4 ♖a4 White still has some compensation but nothing more.) 17... ♖xa2 18. ♖a1 ♖xa1 19. ♖xa1 a6 20. ♖c7 With good play for White.]

17. ♗xe6 In this kind of structure this exchange doesn't usually bring White anything special because Black gets rid of his bad bishop and supports the d5 isolated pawn but in this concrete case White gets pressure on the e6 pawn.

17... fxe6 18. ♗h3 ♖a6 19. ♖d3 Of course black cannot exchange the queens because of Bxe6!

19... ♖d6 20. ♖e3 ♖f7



21. ♗c5! White is playing very accurately, because after [21. ♗xa7 21... ♗d7! Black will get good play on the dark squares after Bf6.]

21... ♖d7 22. ♗xa7 ♖fc8 23. ♗d4 White won the pawn back and now thanks to the bishop pair and some pressure on e6 he keep a small initiative.

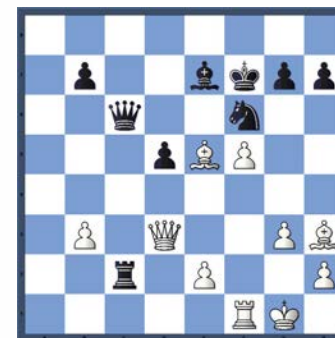
23... ♖a6 23... Ne8 was also interesting, with the idea of exchanging bishops after Bf6.

24. f4 ♖xc1 25. ♖xc1 ♖c6 A logical move. Black wants to reduce the material to avoid the pressure against his king.

26. ♖f1! ♖c4 [26... g6 27. g4↑ With the same idea of opening the position after f5.]

27. b3 ♖c2 28. f5 e5 The only move. By giving up this pawn Black limited White's pieces.

29. ♖d3 ♖c6 30. ♗xe5



30... ♗e4 [30... ♖c1 31. ♗xf6 ♖xf1+ 32. ♖xf1 ♗xf6 33. ♗g2 ♖c1+ 34. ♖f2 ♖c5+ 35. e3 b6 (35... d4) 36. ♗xd5+ ♖f8 The bishop endgame is drawish in this structure but with the queens on the board Black will not be able to create a blockade because of his weak king. 37. ♗c4]

31. ♖d1 White had the idea to give back a pawn in order to activate the pieces again. [31. f6!? A typical and very practical idea. 31... gxf6 32. ♗d7 ♖c5+ 33. ♖g2 ♖g7 34. ♗d4 ♖c7 35. ♗b5 The bishop comes to d3 to protect the e2 pawn. White will play Qf3-Bd3 next and get a strong initiative because of the weak black king.]

31... ♖c1 32. ♖g2? An inaccuracy. White should have played [32. ♖xc1 32... ♖xc1+ 33. ♖g2 ♖c6 (33... ♗d2 34. ♖xd5+ ♖f8 35. ♖f2+- The white king is safe now.) 34. ♗g4±]

32...♖xd1 33.♔xd1



33...d4! ♜ 34.♔g1 [34.♔f1 34...♜xg3+=+]

34...♔d5 35.♙f4 [35.♙xd4? 35...♜c3 36.♔d3 ♔xd4+!-+]

35...d3? Both players were probably in time trouble at this moment. [35...♜c3 36.♔d3 (36.♔c2 36...♙c5!) 36...♔xb3 37.♙f1 ♔b5 38.♔xb5 ♜xb5 39.e3 ♜d6 This should be a draw.]

36.♔xd3 ♙c5+ [36...♔xd3 37.exd3 ♜c5 With practical chances for a draw.]

37.♔g2 [37.♔f1 37...♜xg3+ 38.♔e1 ♙b4+ 39.♔d1 ♔h1+ 40.♔c2 ♔c6+ 41.♔b1 ♜e4 42.♙g4 The white king has escaped and White keeps the advantage.]

37...♔c6



38.♙g4?? A huge blunder after which White just loses a piece.

[38.♔f3 White is two pawns up but it is not easy to convert his advantage because he needs to improve the bishop h3. Objectively the position should be close to a win however.]

38...♜f2+ 39.♔f3 [39.♙f3 39...♜xd3 40.♙xc6 ♜xf4+--+]

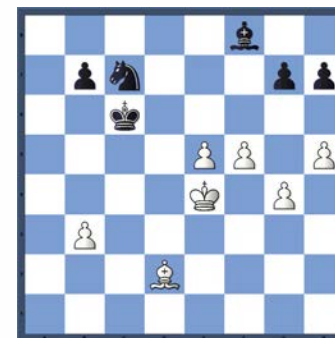
39...♜xg4 40.e4 ♜f6 41.e5 ♔xf3+?! The rule which says that when you have a material advantage you should reduce material doesn't always work. In this case it was better for Black not to exchange queens to keep the possibility of pressuring the white king. [41...♜e4 42.e6+ ♔e7 43.g4 ♙d6+]

42.♔xf3 ♜d5 43.♙d2 Now the white king gets a very active place on e4.

43...♔e7 [43...♙b4 44.♙c1 ♜e7 45.♔e4 ♜c6 With the idea of attacking the b3 pawn with Na5 at some moment.]

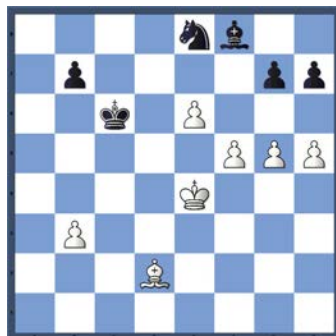
44.♔e4 ♜c7 45.g4 ♔d7 46.h4 White has two pawns for the piece and an active king, which gives him good chances to make a draw.

46...♙f8 47.h5 ♔c6



48.e6?! I don't like this move. Why give Black the possibility to block the white pawns?! [48.g5=]

48...♖e8 49.g5



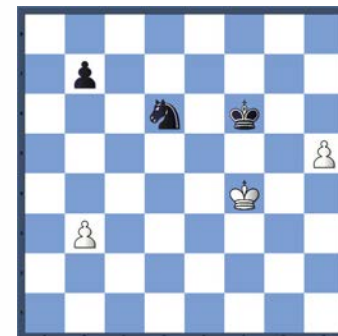
49...h6! Now it will be harder for White to advance the pawns.

50.♔e5 [50.f6 50...gxf6 (50...hxf6 51.♔f5 (51.e7 51...♖xf6+—) 51...♖xf6 (51...gxf6 52.♔g6†) 52.♕xg5 ♖xh5 (52...♖d5 53.♔g6 ♔d6 54.♔f7 ♕e7 55.♕c1 b5 56.♕d2 It might not be easy to improve Black's position because the king on f7 is very active.) 53.e7 ♕xe7 54.♕xe7 White should easily hold the draw here.) 51.gxh6 ♖d6+ 52.♔d3 ♔d5 53.e7 ♕xe7 54.h7 ♖f7 55.♕h6 ♔e5 56.♕g7 ♔f4 57.h8=♔ ♖xh8 58.♕xh8 ♔g5 59.♔e4 ♕b4 With f5 next, then Black will win the h5 pawn and in my opinion also the bishop endgame.]

50...♕e7 51.gxh6 ♕f6+ 52.♔e4 ♖d6+ 53.♔f3 gxh6 54.♔g4 [54.♕xh6 54...♖xf5 55.♕g5 ♖d4+ (55...♕xg5 56.♔g4) 56.♔g4 ♕h8 57.e7 And Black should win the game. 57...♔d7 58.h6 ♖c6 And Black should win the game.]

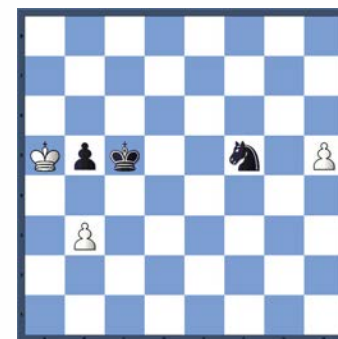
54...♕g7 55.f6 Otherwise Black will play Ne8-Nf6-Kd5 (which is why I didn't like 48.e6) and easily win the white pawns.

55...♕xf6 56.♕xh6 ♔d5 57.♕g5 ♔xe6 58.♕xf6 ♔xf6 59.♔f4



59...b5?? [59...♖f5 60.♔e4 ♔e6 61.♔d3 ♔d5 62.♔c3 ♔c5 Black will eventually win the b-pawn and the game.]

60.h6?? White missed a draw after [60.♔e3 60...♖f5+ (60...♔e5 61.♔d3 ♔d5 62.h6 ♖f7 63.h7 Now the pawn is too far advanced and Black is not able to improve his position.) 61.♔d3 ♔e5 62.♔c3 ♔d5 63.♔b4 ♔c6 64.♔a5 ♔c5



65.♔a6! In this case the white king is very active as he is putting pressure on the b5 pawn, which means the position is drawish!]



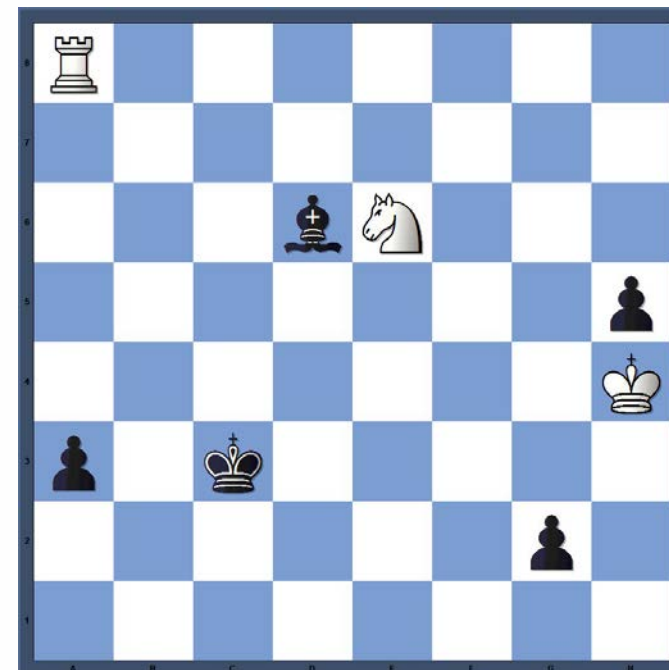
60...b4! —+ Now Black can transfer the knight to a2 in time and easily win the game.

61.h7 ♖g7 62.♙e5 ♘b5 63.♙d5 ♘c3+ 64.♙c4 ♘a2 65.♙c5 ♙xh7 66.♙c4 ♙g6 67.♙c5 ♙f5 68.♙d5 ♙f4 69.♙d4 ♙f3 70.♙d3 ♙f2 71.♙d2 ♘c3 0-1

Surprise section / study

(18) Platov

1. =



Solutions

(19) Wang Hao(2735)-Grischuk, A(2783)

Basque rapid, 2013.12.17

[Solutions]

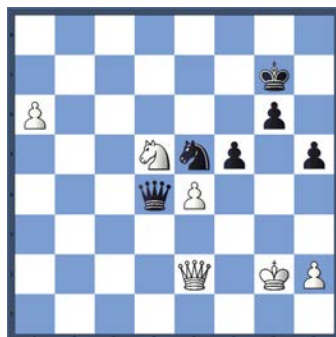


26...♙xd4+! 0-1 [26...♙xd4+ 27.♚xd4 ♖e1+! 28.♙f2 (28.♖xe1 28...♚xd4+-) 28...♚xd4+ 29.♖xd4 ♖xc1+-]

(20) Giri, A(2734)-Leko, P(2730)

Basque rapid, 2013.12.17

[Solutions]

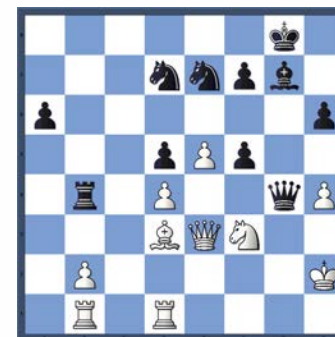


77.a7!! ♚xa7 78.♚b2+-

(21) Leko, P(2730)-Wang Hao(2735)

Basque rapid, 2013.12.17

[Solutions]



37...♖xd4! 38.♘xd4 ♙xe5+ 39.♙h1 ♚xh4+ 40.♙g2 ♚g4+ 41.♙h1=

(22) Nepomniachtchi, I(2721)-Wang Yue(2723)

Basque rapid, 2013.12.18

[Solutions]



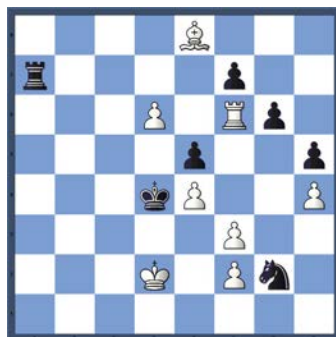
45.♘xd6! [45.♚xe4? 45...♖h1+! 46.♙xh1 ♚c1+ 47.♙h2 ♚f1+-]

45...♘xd6 46.♚xe5+ ♙h7 47.♚e7+ ♙h8 48.♚f6+ ♙h7 49.♚e7+ ♙h8 50.♚f6+ 1/2

(23) Radjabov, T(2713)-Grischuk, A(2783)

Basque rapid, 2013.12.18

[Solutions]



62...♖a2+! 63.♔c1 ♕c3 64.♔b1 [64.♔d1 64...♖a1+ 65.♔e2 ♖e1#]

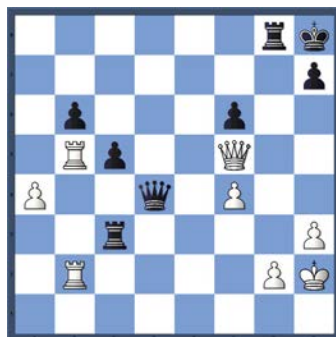
64...♖b2+ 65.♔a1 [65.♔c1 65...♘e1! 66.d7 ♘d3+ 67.♔d1 ♖d2#]

65...♘e1! 66.♙a4 ♖b4! 67.d7 [67.♙d1 67...♘c2+! 68.♙xc2 ♕xc2—+] 67...♖xa4+ 68.♔b1 ♖d4 0-1

(24) Wang Hao(2735)-Giri, A(2734)

Basque rapid, 2013.12.18

[Solutions]

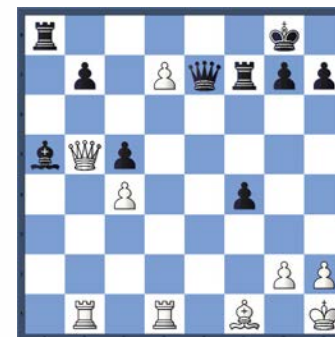


31...♖c1! 32.♖f2 ♕a1! 0-1

(25) Lagno, K(2543)-Sebag, M(2501)

Basque rapid woman, 2013.12.17

[Solutions]

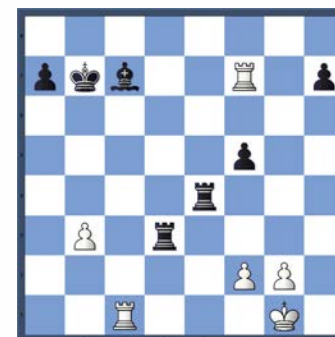


34.♕xa5! ♖xa5 35.d8=♕+ ♕xd8 36.♖xd8++—

(26) Rombaldoni, A(2527)-Georgiev, K(2648)

Padova Open, 2013.12.17

[Solutions]



32...♖c3!! 0-1 [32...♖c3 33.♖xc3 ♖e1#]

(27) Rombaldoni, D(2462)-Solodovnichenko, Y(2586)

Padova Open, 2013.12.17

[Solutions]



15. ♖e6! ♜e8 [15...fxe6 16. ♜xg6+ ♔h8 17. ♜xh5+ ♔g7 18. ♜xg4+-]

16. ♖xf8+-

(28) Galkin, A(2615)-Kovalenko, I(2643)

Russian rapid Cup, 2013.12.20

[Solutions]



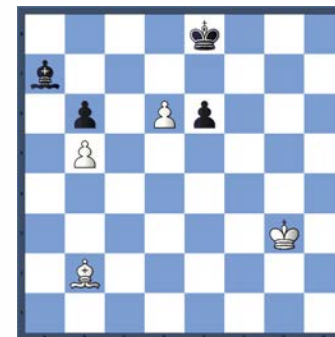
24... ♖d4+!! [24... ♜g4+ 25. ♔e1 ♖d4 26. d3∞]

25. ♔e1 [25.exd4 25... ♜g4+! 26. ♜f3 e4+-]

25... ♖c2+ 26. ♔d1 ♜g4+ 27. ♜e2 d4-+

(29) Hasek

[Solutions]



1.d7+!! ♔xd7 2. ♖e5! ♔c8 [2... ♔e7 3. ♖f4 ♖f7 4. ♖g5 ♔e7 5. ♖g6 ♖d7 6. ♖f7+-]

3. ♖f4 ♖b8 4. ♖xb8 ♖xb8 5. ♖e5 ♖c7 6. ♖xe6 ♖b7 7. ♖d6 ♖a7 8. ♖c6 ♖a8 9. ♖xb6 ♖b8 10. ♖a6 ♖a8 11. b6 ♖b8 12. b7+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 99

17th of January 2014

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Editorial Preface

The tournament of the week is clearly Wijk aan Zee.

This Year the A group has been cut down to 12 players. The B group still consists of 14 players.

After 5 rounds Aronian is leading with 4/5, followed by So and Giri, both with 3.5/5.

In the B group it seems to be going to be a fight of who scores the most between Jobava and Saric. To everyone's surprise, Wojtaszek seems to be in a bad shape or maybe just a bit too tired after his fantastic successes in Switzerland, where he gained over 20 ELO points.

In the current issue we bring you the most striking moments from Wijk aan Zee! Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Caruana, Fabiano(2782)
- Gelfand, Boris(2777) [B90]

Wijk aan Zee NED(1.4),
2014.01.11



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

One wrong plan in the complex middle game led to a nice defeat of Boris Gelfand.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 So this time Gelfand goes for the Najdorf and avoids his recent pet line, the Sveshnikov defence, which starts with 2...Nc6.

3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.f3 Usually White players prefer to start with 6.Be3 to have more options against the 6...e5 and 6...e6 setups, but Gelfand is known to like the 6...Ng4 continuation, so Caruana starts with 6.f3.

6...e5 7.♘b3 ♙e6 8.♙e3



8...h5 This is the latest development of this line. Black has several other setups as well, but then White plays g4 and later on castles queenside after Qd2.

9.♘d5 [Caruana played 9.♙d2 twice last year, but the text move is also a main line. They often actually transpose to each other.]

9...♙xd5 10.exd5 ♙f5 11.♙d3 ♙xd3 12.♙xd3 ♘d7 13.O-O-O is considered to be slightly better for White according to current theory.]

10.exd5 ♘bd7 11.♙d2 Now or in the next move White has to develop his queen to d2 because after g6 Black creates the strategic threat of trading the dark squared bishops with Bh6.

11...g6 12.♙e2 ♙g7 13.O-O O-O



14.♙ac1!? This is the novelty, prepared at home by Caruana. We must admit that it is a really deep one. White's main idea in this line is to create a passed pawn on the queenside with Na5 followed by c4-b4-c5. As we will see, Black is in time to create counterplay if White immediately plays like this... [14.♘a5 14...♙b8 15.c4 is met by 15...e4! Black needs to act quickly otherwise the b4-c5 plan swaps him away. 16.f4 ♘g4! 17.♙xg4 hxg4 Black wants to play f5. 18.f5 It seemed to be very nice for White, but suddenly Black found a fantastic plan to create counterplay:



18...Qh4! 19. Bg5 Qh8! The queen started to work extremely well on the long diagonal. 20. Rab1 Be5 Black was fine in the game Leko-Wojtaszek, Istanbul 2012; 14.c4 is not advisable because of 14...a5 and Black consolidates on the dark squares after b6 and Nc5.]

14...b6! An excellent reply by Gelfand! He prevents the entire Na5 idea. [As long as White has not played c4 14...a5 is not advisable because of 15.a4 and White settles his bishop on b5 next move!]

15.h3!? This move contains two deep ideas again. We have already seen one of them in the 14.Na5 line, where Black played Ng4... The other one becomes clear after the next move. [15.c4 could already be met by 15...a5]

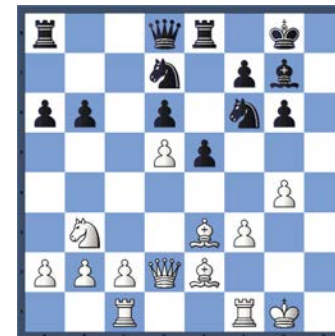
15...Re8



16.g4!? A brave and ambitious decision which worked well in

the game, however a deeper look shows us that Caruana has taken a big risk. White has taken ground on the kingside and tried to restrict the movement of the black pieces.

16...hxg4 17.hxg4



17...Nh7? After this positional mistake White's entire strategy starts to work perfectly. The move itself is principled as Gelfand wanted to take control over the dark squares by trading the bishops with Bf6-g5. [17...e4? was also bad in view of 18.f4 The passed pawn on e4 is perfectly blockaded and the g4-f4-d5 pawns are controlling all the squares of the knights. Black is completely paralyzed here.; However 17...b5! seems to be very strong. The idea is to attack the d5 pawn with Nb6! The tactical justification of this move is 18.Na5 (18.g5? is completely different to the game as Black has 18...Nh5!) 18...Nxd5! works for Black. 19.Nc6 (19.Qxd5 19...Qxa5) 19...Qc7 20.Qxd5 Nf6! is the point! Black wins back the piece and obtains a winning advantage with an extra pawn.]

18.g5! Preventing the Bf6-g5 idea. The h7 knight is standing poorly now and it cannot be improved. White slowly intends to drive his rooks to the h-file. Gelfand obviously expected this move, but he prepared the following response...

18...f5 19.gxf6 Bxf6 This was Gelfand's idea and White cannot avoid the trade of the bishops with Bg5. However, as

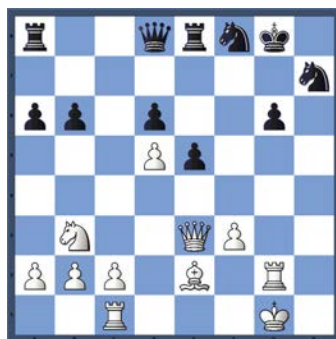
Caruana pointed out, the damage of the black pawn structure becomes critical after some subtle moves!



20...f2! White immediately launches an attack against the g6 pawn.

20...g5 Consequently played, otherwise Black must forget about his strategy after Rg2.

21.Rg2 fxe3+ **22.Qxe3** Ndf8



23.f3! It soon becomes clear that despite missing the dark squared bishop, all the remaining white pieces become extremely well placed and White obtains very strong attacking chances.

23...Ra7! A spectacular move! Black brings his rook into the game along the 7th rank.

24.Rf1 [24.Qh6 directly was also good.; White should not hurry with grabbing the pawn, because it opens the g-file in front of his own king: 24.fxg6 24...fxg6 25.Rxg6+ Rg7 26.Rxg7+ Qxg7 Black gets counterplay after Qh4, Rg8.]

24...Rf7 Black wants to install his rook to f4 in order to cut the queen from the kingside. Caruana does not allow this chance. [24...Rg7 would also have been met by 25.Qh6; 24...Ree7 was probably the best try, followed by Rg7, but White has a nice advantage anyway after 25.f3]

25.Qh6! [White should not be greedy with grabbing useless pawns: 25.fxa6 Black gets very strong counterplay after 25...f6! followed by Nh5-f4.]

25...Qh8 [White plays the same as in the game after 25...Qf6 26.f3! and the knight occupies the e4 square!]



26.f3! Caruana brings the last inactive piece to the game. Black's pieces are totally uncoordinated. It becomes clear that the entire strategy started with Nh7 has been refuted!

26...Rf4 With the idea of playing Rh4.

27.Rg4 [Probably the most precise was 27.Rh2 to prevent Rh4 and to prepare the following plan. Let's say after 27...Re7



30.♘g5! Black resigned as the only way to avoid getting mated is to sacrifice the queen. A very instructive game which shows that sometimes one wrong plan in the middle game is enough to lose the game. **1-0**

28.♔f2! ♖g7 29.♖g1± White hides his king on e2 or if needed he goes to c1 and then his attack breaks through.]

27...b5 The hanging of the a6 pawn was too annoying for Gelfand. [27...♖xg4+ 28.fxg4± is very bad positionally. Black has just opened the f-file himself and White settles his knight on e4 next.]

28.♘e4! [White again should not be greedy with 28.♖xf4 28...exf4 29.♖xf4 Black gets very strong counterplay after 29...♖e5 attacking the d5 pawn and White would not want to put his bishop to e4 as this square belongs to the knight.]

28...♘d7? A blunder in time trouble and in a worse position. [Black should have activated his rook with 28...♖e7 although his position is still significantly worse after 29.♖xf4 exf4 30.♖xf4 ♖e5 31.♔f2! ♖xd5 32.♖h1± The material is balanced, but the white pieces are clearly dominating.]

29.♖xg6 ♖g8



(2) Aronian, Levon(2812) - Caruana, Fabiano(2782) [A34]

Wijk aan Zee NED(2.4),
2014.01.12



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A very important game from the second round between two big favorites of the tournament. There were mutual inaccuracies, but all in all it was a nice win by Aronian.

1. ♘f3 ♘f6 2. c4 A clear sign that with this move order Aronian wants to avoid the Gruenfeld defence or at least that he wants to play an Anti-Gruenfeld line.

2...c5 3. ♘c3 d5 4. cxd5 ♘xd5 5. d4 ♘xc3 6. bxc3 g6 Indeed, Caruana was ready to employ the Gruenfeld today. If White plays 7.e4, they would have immediately transposed to the main lines, but here White has alternatives...

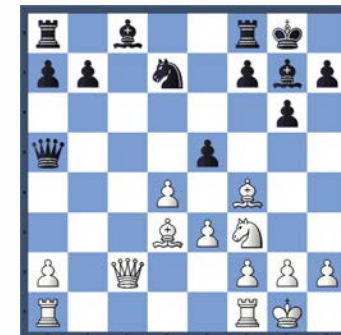


7. ♗f4!? ♗g7 8. e3 I like this kind of development a lot. First White has developed his bishop to a healthy square and he followed it by strengthening d4. The main idea of the Gruenfeld is to allow White to occupy the center and then launch active piece play against it. For instance when the pawn is on e4, Black plays Bg4, Nc6 and Qa5, pressing the d4 and c3 pawns, but now all these are not dangerous at all.

8...O-O 9. ♗d3 The novelty of the game. We were already in a somewhat unexplored territory, but White has played 9.Be2 several times. In case of the knight's development to c6 White has the annoying Be4 idea, pressing the long diagonal. Therefore Caruana prefers to put the knight to d7 in order to have Nf6 on Be4...

9...♘d7 10. O-O White is ready to put pressure on the b7 pawn with Rab1 and Be4. As usual Black needs to look for active counterplay.

10...♔a5 11. ♔c2 cxd4 12. cxd4 e5! A very logical central break by Caruana in order to simplify and equalize the position. Unfortunately for him White is able to keep an edge.



13. ♗g3! White needs to keep some pieces in order to fight for an advantage. Taking everything on e5 would have allowed Black to achieve what he wanted.

13...exd4 14. ♘xd4 The situation in the center is slightly clarified, but White is better developed. Black needs to solve the problem of the c8 bishop, but that turns out to be harder than expected.

14...♘b6! [14...♘c5? drops material after 15. ♗d6!+-; 14...♘e5 15. ♗e4! and Black has serious difficulties with the b7 pawn.; The most illustrative line is 14...♘f6 15. ♔ab1! Black

is facing the same problem, he cannot deal with the b7 pawn. 15...b6 is nicely refuted by 16.♘d6 ♖e8 (16...♗d8 17.♘c6+- is over.)



17.♘b5! ♘d7 18.♘b4!+- trapping the queen!]

15.♙c7! White needs to keep the pressure on the b7 pawn, otherwise Black plays Bd7 and he quickly equalizes.



Caruana finds a clever idea to deal with the b7 pawn. I believe he takes a smart decision. [15.♘e4 was not working here because of the direct tactical idea of 15...f5! 16.♘f3 f4! using the strength of the g7 bishop.]

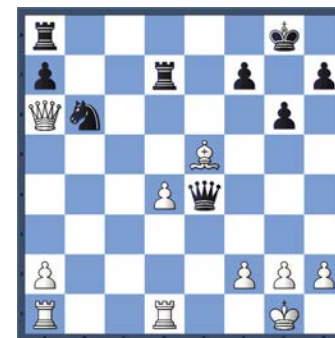
15...♘xd4! 16.exd4 ♘f5 17.♘xf5 ♙xf5 18.♙xb7 Caruana has sacrificed his weakness, but simplified the position. He got rid of the bishop pair and without the light squares bishop he is going to create an excellent blockade on d5. White

does not have enough pieces to make use of the weak dark squares around the black king. White obviously has a healthy extra pawn, but to convert this advantage requires extremely precise technique in the long term, while on the other hand Black has very easy moves. In my opinion it is much better and easier to play this position than the one with the c8 bishop and the b7 pawn.

18...♖fd8 Black doubles his rooks on d-file.

19.♖fd1 ♖d7 20.♙a6 ♙e4 [20...♖ad8 was possible, but Black is not threatening to take on d4 anyway. To keep the a7 pawn is more important.]

21.♘e5



21...♖f8! Black needs to put his pawn on f6 in order to neutralize the dark holes around the king. He is going to create a blockade on the 7th rank with Kg7 and Rff7. This also protects the a7 pawn and then Black will be ready to take on d4.

22.h3 Opening the back rank is a very useful idea.

22...f6 23.♘g3 ♖ff7 It is very cult to assess if Black's drawing chances or White's winning ones are better. Black is threatening to take on d4, so White is forced to make a small weakening.

24.f3 ♖f5 25.♞ac1 White also activates all of his pieces, but the converting part is just about to come.

25...♗g7 26.♗h2 Both sides are leaving from the potential checks. Such moves are played without thinking on the highest level.

26...♞fe7 27.♞c5! White must try to somehow advance his d-pawn, but it requires serious efforts.

27...♘d5! [27...♞d5 was much worse because of 28.a4! kicking out the blockader of the d5 square. Taking twice on c5 loses to Bd6.]

28.♞a5 Increasing the pressure on the d5 square. The entire fight is around that now.

28...♞e6 A small inaccuracy which helps White to activate his e1 rook more easily, but of course it is understandable that Black wanted to leave the pin on the 5th rank. [It was probably better to try 28...♞e2 White is forced to trade rooks because of the Qxf3 threat. 29.♞e1! ♞xe1 30.♞xe1 ♗f7 followed by Qe6, holding the blockading position.]

29.♞e1 ♞f7



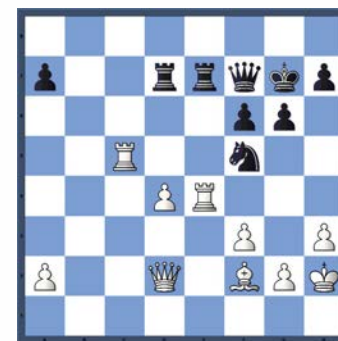
30.♞e4! A great place for the rook. Black must forget about taking it (unless there is something concrete) because then he loses the d5 square and otherwise the e4 rook is pretty

annoying. Caruana tries to get counterplay.

30...♘e3!? Creating the hidden threat of Nf1!

31.♘f2?! [31.♞e1! would have been strong and White manages to mobilize his d-pawn. 31...♘f5 (31...♘d5 loses to 32.♞xd5!+—) 32.d5! and White made serious progress.]

31...♘f5 32.♞d2?! A tactical oversight, which Black fails to exploit. [On 32.d5 Caruana had in mind to create a different blockade after 32...♞xe4! 33.fxe4 ♘d6 and Qe7 next, pressing the e4 pawn.]



32...♞e6 [Missing the tactical opportunity of playing 32...♞xe4! 33.fxe4 ♞e7!!= With a double attack on c5 and e4! All of Black's problems would have been immediately solved.]

33.♞xe6 ♞xe6 34.d5 White succeeded to advance his d-pawn. This is obviously an achievement, but to he still needs to work very hard to make it real.

34...♞d6+ 35.♗g1 ♞b7 [35...♘e7 would have been met by 36.♞a5! White is always ready to trade the d-pawn for the one on a7.]

36.♞e1 Aronian decides to control the back rank with the queen. [Maybe it was more useful to advance the a-pawn as far as possible, as it is going to have a key factor in the game

later on. White does not really need to worry about the checks since he always has Rc1. 36.a4±]

36...♘e7! Black can finally overpress the d-pawn so White is forced to counterattack the a7 pawn. The next moves are more or less forced...

37.♖a5! ♘xd5



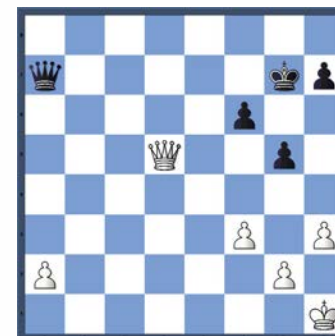
38.♞d1! Improving the circumstances before collecting the a7 pawn.

38...♖d7 39.♖xa7 ♖xa7 40.♘xa7 We are at the last move before the time control and Caruana fails to go for the best practical chance.



40...g5? Positionally a good move, but from now on Aronian plays perfectly and this turns out to be the decisive mistake. [Black could have transposed to a queen endgame with

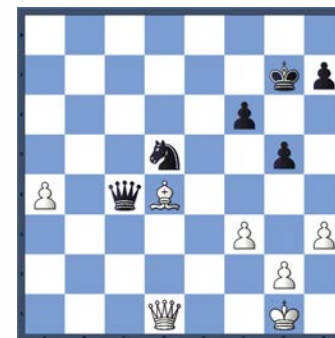
40...♞a3! 41.♞xd5 ♞xa7+ 42.♙h1 g5



Black has excellent drawing chances. White still needs a lot of time and effort to advance the a-pawn and Black will be always be able to create perpetual check threats. I believe Caruana would have saved the game here.]

41.a4! Advancing the passed pawn to a protected square.

41...♞a6 42.♘d4 ♞c4



43.♞a1! Preparing to support the pawn. Black's only chance is to create something against the king with the queen and the knight, but with precise play White always has his resources to parry all the ideas.

43...♞c2 44.a5 ♘f4 45.♘f2 White basically does not even need his queen, the bishop and king protect everything together.

45...♖e2+ 46.♔h2 ♜f4 47.♚f1! Protecting the bishop, so now the pawn is ready to be advanced until a7.

47...♜d3 48.♙d4 [48.♙g3! 48...♚c4 49.♚e2 was even stronger. Black is hopeless.]

48...♚d2! Caruana fights very tenaciously, but it does not help this time. [48...♚c4 49.♚a1+- was over.]



49.♙g1! Leaving from the Qf4 threat and keeping the control over all the squares.

49...♚f4+ 50.♔h1 ♚c4 51.♚a1 ♚c2 A last brilliant trick, but it does not help. [The passive 51...♚a6 is hopeless after 52.♙e3 Threatening Bxg5. 52...h6 53.♚b1+- followed by Qb6 and White wins automatically.]

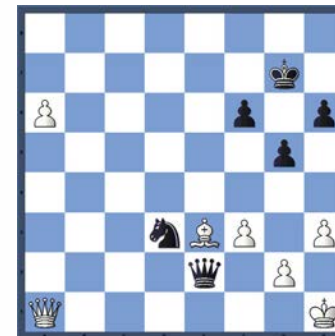


52.♙e3! A necessary intermediate move before pushing the pawn! White attacks the g5 pawn! Black had to lose this

important tempo, but now the pawn runs. [52.a6 could have been met by the hidden 52...♚e2!! and White has no good way to prevent Nf4! One must focus until the last moment!]

52...h6 [52...♚e2 53.♙xg5+-]

53.a6 ♚e2



54.♚g1! Aronian uses his queen very effectively on the 1st rank. [It was still not too late to go wrong with 54.a7?? 54...♜e1!!+- and Black wins!]

54...♚a2 55.a7 The rest is easy, Black is forced to passivity.

55...♜b4 56.♚d1 ♜d5 57.♚d2 ♚a1+ 58.♙g1 A tough game and an important victory for Aronian! **1-0**

(3) Karjakin, Sergey(2759) - Rapport, Richard(2691) [C18]

76th Tata Steel Masters(4.2),
2014.01.15



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

1.e4 An interesting game was played in the 4th round between these 2 young chess stars, a game with a quite big amount of mistakes but a great fighting spirit. In the end the stronger player managed to show who is the boss! :)

1...e6 Lately 1...e6 is one of Rapport's favorite openings.

2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 As usual Karjakin goes for the very main line.

3...♙b4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 ♙xc3+ 6.bxc3 ♖c7 7.♖g4



7...f6 A rare move. [We would be in the main and very sharp line after 7...♘e7 8.♖xg7 ♖g8 9.♖xh7 cxd4 10.♘e2]

8.♘f3! After thinking for a while Karjakin makes the strongest move.

8...c4 Black closes the c-file immediately, which makes sense in order not to give the white bishops space for play, but on the other hand Black will face big problems on the dark squares. [Of course Black is just lost after 8...cxd4? 9.cxd4 ♙c3+ 10.♔d1 ♙xa1 11.♖xg7+—]

9.h4?! The right idea, but this move is premature. Of course it is great for White to bring the pawn to h4, but first Karjakin should have been more solid in the center. [A simple move like 9.♙e2 followed by 0-0 and a4-Ba3 should give White very good play.]

9...♞c6 Black immediately attacks the center.

10.♖g3 fxe5! A strong move. There is no time to waste as if White manages to consolidate Black's position could become very bad.

11.♞xe5 [After 11.dxe5 11...♞h6 seems to be very strong. Another very typical idea. Black is threatening to play Nf5 next, forcing White to give up the black squared bishop. 12.♙xh6 gxxh6 followed by Bd7, 0-0-0 and Rhg8-Rdf8, with fantastic position for Black.]

11...♞f6 12.♙f4?! Not a great decision by White. [12.♞xc6 was still better and after 12...♖xg3 13.fxg3 bxc6 14.♙f4 White might keep a small advantage.]



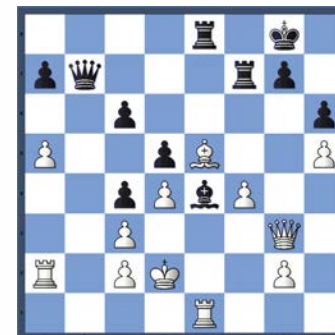
12...♖a5? What a mistake by Black... [Of course Black should have taken the bishop: 12...♞h5 13.♞xc6 White's only chance. 13...♖xc6! Safe and strong. (13...♞xg3 is too risky as after 14.♙xc7 ♞xh1 15.♞e5 0-0 16.♞f3 the knight will be stuck on h1 forever.) 14.♖g5 ♞xf4 15.♖xf4 ♖f8 With a very unclear position.]

15...O-O 16.f3 It seems like White has fixed everything and wants to play Be5 next, after which White's advantage should be very clear, but Black had something in mind... [16...♗e5 would have been more careful.]



19. ♖e2 We are in a very complicated position. White is a

26.a4 ♔b7 27.a5



27...a6 White made huge progress during the last moves. There is no more nasty queen on a4 attacking the c2 pawn and a pawn up is a pawn up.

28. ♖g4 White is probably planning to play Qd1-Qb1 and Rb2.

28... ♖a7? It is clearly not an option to give up the b-file. [28...c5 was maybe still the best move and after 29.dxc5 ♖b5 Black is looking for some counterplay while White's rook is passively placed on a2.]

29. ♖b2 White's position is perfect.

29... ♕f5 30. ♖g3 The only thing left to do is to double the rooks on the b-file.

30... ♖e7 Black tries to reactivate the queen by putting it to a3.

31. ♖b6 [31. ♕d6 probably led to an easier win. 31... ♖xe1+ 32. ♖xe1 ♖xe1 33. ♕xe1 And I think this endgame should be totally winning for White.]

31... ♖c8 32. ♖eb1 ♖a3



33. ♖b7? A huge inaccuracy. [33. ♖1b2! would almost win the game. 33... ♖a4? 34. ♖6b4 ♖xa5 35. ♖b7 And the pressure on the g7 pawn is deadly.]

33... ♖a4! Black takes his last chance, although the position is probably lost anyway.

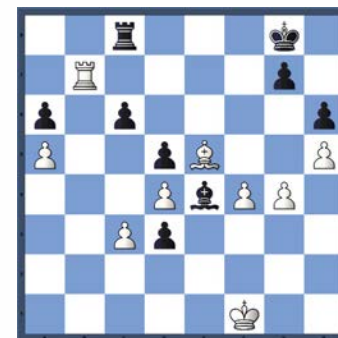
34. ♖1b2 Now things are pretty forced.

34... ♖xb7 35. ♖xb7 ♖xc2+ 36. ♕e1 ♖c1+ 37. ♕f2 ♖d2+ And now White found the winning

38. ♕f1! [38. ♕g1 38... ♖d1+ 39. ♕h2 ♖xh5+ would lead to a draw]

38... ♖d3+ After this move there are no more chances for Black, but other moves were losing too... [After 38... ♕d3+ 39. ♕g1 ♖d1+ 40. ♕h2 ♖xh5+ 41. ♖h3 ♖xh3+ 42. ♕xh3 g6 43. ♖a7 I don't see any hopes for Black to save this endgame.; 38... ♖d1+ 39. ♖e1 ♖xh5 40. ♕g1 leads to a winning position for White.]

39. ♖xd3 cxd3 40. g4 ♕e4



41. f5 White controls everything and the g7 pawn is falling.

41... c5 42. ♖xg7+ ♕f8 43. f6 The game is over.

43... ♖c6 44. ♕e1! Black is hopeless against g5 next. I guess Karjakin was very happy to have won this fight in the end! **1-0**

(4) Wojtaszek, Radoslaw(2711) - Jobava, Baadur(2710) [A52]

Tata Steel Challengers(5.6),
2014.01.16



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

When you play Jobava you can never know which opening to expect. This time the very talented Georgian GM chooses the Budapest Gambit! It was clearly not Wojtaszek's day, but Black still showed great crushing play, so enjoy!

1.d4 ♖f6 **2.c4** e5 What a surprise!

3.dxe5 ♘g4 **4.♙f4** The most ambitious move. [4.♘f3 4...♙c5 5.e3 ♘c6 6.♙e2 O-O seems to lead to a fighting position.]

4...g5 That's the way the gambit is played!

5.♙g3 ♘c6 Although Black's pawn structure is bad, the good development sort of compensates for it.

6.♘f3 ♙g7



7.h4 One of the main lines. White tries to make a quick use of the position of the g5 pawn.

7...♘gxe5 **8.♘xe5** ♘xe5 **9.♘c3** **g4** **10.e3** **d6** The position has sort of stabilized. Black has a monster bishop on g7 and if

White fails to be fast enough with action, Black's position is going to be fine.

11.♙e2 White is planning to castle kingside, a solid decision.

11...♙e6 **12.♖c1** [It was too early to try and get the knight to f4 as after 12.♘d5 12...c6 13.♘f4 Black is in time for 13...♙a5+! and White's pawn on c4 is hanging.]

12...O-O **13.b3?!** This is already clearly too passive. [Here White could already have gone for 13.♘d5! 13...c6 14.♘f4 With a slightly better position for White.]



13...c6! A good move! The white knight on c3 is not standing great anymore.

14.h5?! This is already a move into the wrong direction. [White should have gone for a more solid plan: 14.O-O 14...f5 15.♙d2 ♙e7 16.♖fd1 ♖ad8 With an unclear position.]

14...f5 **15.h6** White is trying to create some play on the kingside but the black king is going to take a safe position on h8 while his white colleague is badly placed on e1.

15...♙f6 **16.♙d2** ♙e7 Jobava is bringing all his pieces into the game.

17.f4?! Not the right choice again. By opening the g-file White is only helping Black. [It would still have been the best choice to admit the mistake and castle kingside. The only problem

now is that the pawn on h6 is very badly placed, so Black is already better. 17.O-O]

17...gxf3 18.gxf3 ♖h8! Strong and logical. The black rook will have great play on the g-file.

19.f4 It is already hard to advice something sensible to White, but a move like f4 cannot be good.



19...♖ad8! Jobava seems to be in great shape! White cannot take the piece on e5.

20.♖c2 [After 20.fxe5 20...dxe5 21.♖c2 Black has the winning 21...f4! 22.♗f2 fxe3 23.♗xe3 ♗h4+—+]]

20...♘g4 Another good move by Black. White's position is falling apart like a card house.

21.♗xg4 ♗g8 22.♘e2 [22.♗f3 would also lead to a bad position. 22...♖xg3 23.♖f2 ♗g6 And Black would go for a similar idea as in the game by pushing d5.]

22...♖xg4 23.♗f2 White's position just looks horrible and Jobava has no mercy!

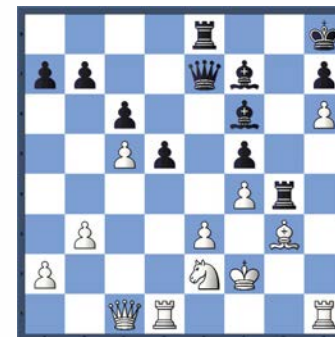
23...d5! What a crush!

24.♖cd1 Black wanted to play d4 or use the d-file.

24...♖e8 An extra threat on the e3 pawn can't be wrong.

25.c5 ♗f7 Black's pieces are coming from all sides.

26.♖c1



26...♖e4 Total domination...

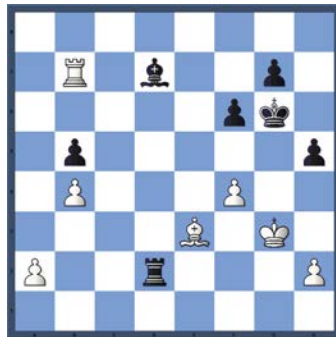
27.♘d4? This blunder does not matter anymore. Of course Black is winning now after 27...Rxg3 28.Kxg3 Rg8. What a fantastic game by Jobava! **0-1**

Puzzle section

(5) Lintchevski, D(2541)-Hammer, J(2612)

Rilton Cup, 2014.01.01

1... -+



(6) Volkov, S(2623)-Grandelius, N(2576)

Rilton Cup, 2014.01.04

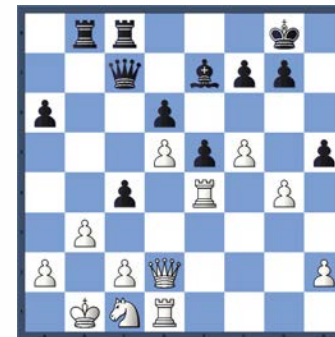
1. +-



(7) Stets, D(2412)-Wojtaszek, R(2711)

Basel Open, 2014.01.02

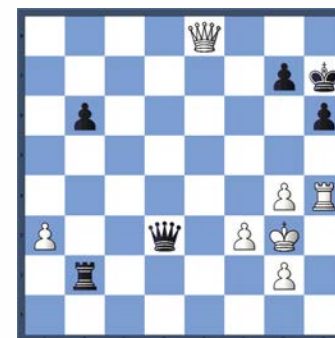
1... -+



(8) Shankland, S(2602)-Bregadze, L(2417)

Bay Area Open, 2014.01.04

1. +-



(9) Mastrovasilis, A(2550)-Warakomski, T(2499)

Cracovia Open, 2013.12.31

1. +-



(10) Kislinsky, A(2501)-Gazik, I(2321)

Christmas Open, 2013.12.31

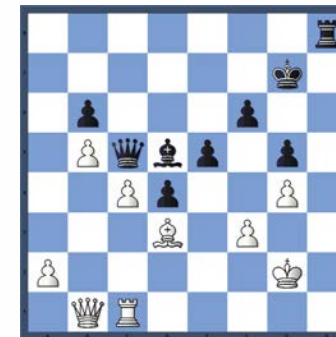
1. +-



(11) Nakamura, H(2789)-Gelfand, B(2777)

Wijk aan Zee, 2014.01.13

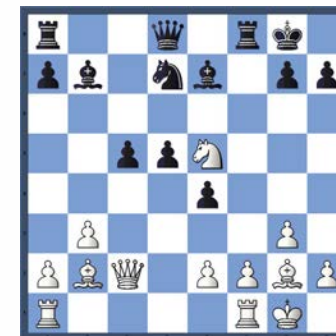
1... -+



(12) Chatalbashev, B(2533)-Gleizerov, E(2534)

Keres memorial, 2014.01.12

1. +-



(13) Aleksandrov, A(2578)-Nikitenko, M(2101)

Belarus Championship, 2014.01.09

1. +-



(14) Wei Y(2601)-Bryan, J(2410)

Bay Area Open, 2014.01.08

1. +-



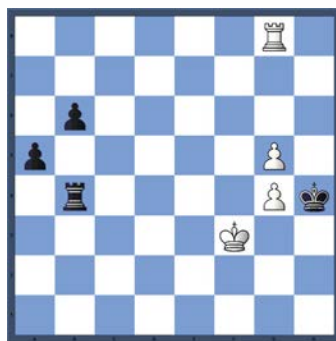
Endgame section

(15) Van Wely, Loek(2672)
- Karjakin, Sergey(2759)

Wijk aan Zee NED(1.2),
2014.01.11



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

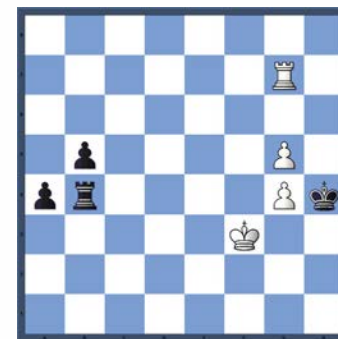


In the following endgame, despite the material equality, White has to fight very hard to save the game. First of all the connected passed pawns are much more useful than the doubled g-pawns. The black rook is excellently placed to support his own pawns and to cut the white king along the 4th rank. The last fact is that whenever White pushes g6, Black catches the pawn with Kg5, g7, Kg6 and then the rook has no good square to leave in order to promote the pawn. Van Wely finds a very clever idea to maintain his drawing chances.

49. ♖g6! White waits until Black runs out of useful moves. Black will soon have to either advance his pawns, which might become targets, or to leave the excellent position on b4 with his rook. [At the moment 49.g6 was simply bad in view of 49... ♗g5 50.g7 ♗g6 and White cannot leave with his rook to attack something.]

49...a4 50. ♖g7! Van Wely is right in realizing that he must have his rook on g8 when the black pawns are on b5 and a4.

50...b5 [50... ♖xg4?? obviously does not work because of 51. ♖h7+ ♗xg5 52. ♖g7+-; The pawns cannot be advanced separately because they get lost: 50...a3? 51. ♖a7 ♖b3+ 52. ♗f4 and White is threatening with mate on h7.]

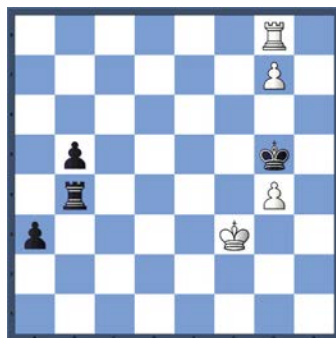


51. ♖g8! Here we are! Black is in zugzwang.

51...a3! Karjakin tries his best chance. [51... ♖b1 allows the white king to advance to the 4th rank. 52. ♗f4! Threatening with mate. 52... ♖f1+ 53. ♗e5 And the draw is unavoidable. In any case White advances his g5 pawn and trades it against one of the queenside pawns... 53... ♗xg4 54.g6 ♗g5 55.g7 ♗g6 56. ♖b8 ♗xg7 57. ♖xb5=; As soon as the rook leaves the protection of the b-pawn, White forces the draw by playing 51... ♖c4 52.g6 ♗g5 53.g7 ♗g6 54. ♖b8 ♗xg7 55. ♖xb5=]

52.g6? This is where White goes wrong... [White could have held the draw after 52. ♖a8! 52... ♖a4! (52... ♖b3+ makes no sense now because of 53. ♗f4 and as usual, White is threatening with mate.) 53. ♖xa4 bxa4 54.g6 a2 55.g7 a1= ♖ 56.g8= ♖ Black can still try playing on, but White must hold.]

52...♔g5 53.g7

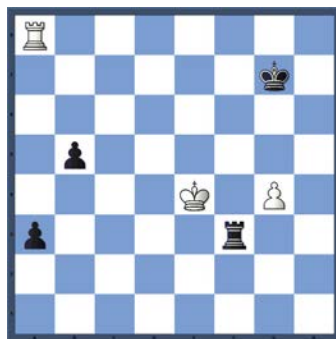


53...♖b3+! This is the problem. White does not have Kf4 with the mate threat anymore and Black succeeded in protecting both of his pawns. He is ready to catch the g-pawn with his king.

54.♔e4 ♔g6 55.♖a8 It is the best chance to give up the pawn and try to activate the king to support the other pawn.

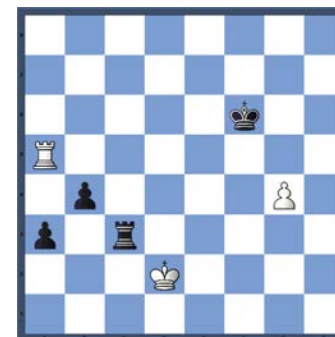
55...♔xg7 56.♔f5 White is threatening with the unpleasant Ra7 check, which would force the king to the back rank. Black needs to act precisely.

56...♖f3+! 57.♔e4 [57.♔g5 is bad as Black has time to consolidate with 57...b4 58.♖a7+ ♖f7—+]

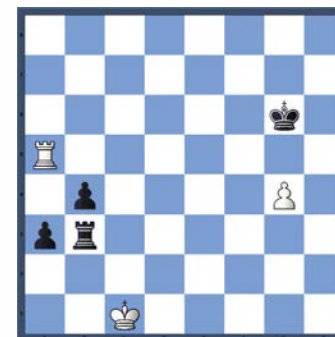


57...♖c3! Karjakin improved the position of his rook. We will see the point in the next move.

58.♔f5 ♖c5+! 59.♔f4? A blunder at the end, but the game was lost anyway. [59.♔e6 59...b4—+ is hopeless.; White could have tried 59.♔e4! 59...b4! (Now after 59...♖c4+? 60.♔d3 The white king is in time to catch the a-pawn in case of Ra4... 60...♖xg4 61.♔c3! b4+ 62.♔b3 With an excellent blocking position.) 60.♔d3 ♖c3+ 61.♔d2 ♔f6 62.♖a5



62...♔g6! And White is in zugzwang. 63.♖a4 (63.♔d1 loses to 63...b3! 64.♖xa3 b2 65.♖a6+ ♔g5 66.♖b6 ♖c1+—+) 63...♖f3 Black creates the threat of a2 as it cannot be taken because of Rf2. 64.♔c1 (64.♔c2 64...b3+—+; 64.♖xb4 is refuted by the following well-known motif: 64...a2! 65.♖a4 ♖f1! 66.♖xa2 ♖f2+—+) 64...♖b3 65.♖a5



65...♖b2!—+ White is zugzwang again. He is forced to allow the black king to g5 and then his position automatically collapses.]

59...♖c4+ 60.♔f5 ♖a4 White resigned. Another difficult rook endgame. **0-1**

**(16) Dominguez Perez, Leinier(2754)
- Caruana, Fabiano(2782)**

76th Tata Steel Masters(4.3),
2014.01.15



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



63...♙d8 Have you ever seen a position with triple doubled pawns?! I can't remember any! It is clear that White is much better, but the win is still far away. Dominguez shows us how it is done with great technique!

64.b6! A great move! By giving up a pawn White is getting his king to b5.

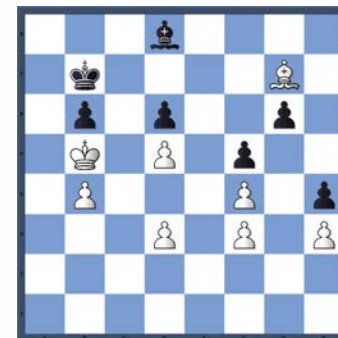
64...cxb6+ 65.♔b5 White's main idea is to put Black into zugzwang and one is not enough to win the game, two zugzwangs are needed!

65...♙f6 66.b4 And here is the first one! Black can't defend both the h4 and d4 pawns.

66...♙e7 67.♙xd4 The d4 pawn is gone...

67...♙d8 68.♙c3 [68.♙f2 would immediately lead to the next zugzwang, but there is no need to hurry for White.]

68...♙e7 69.♙g7 ♙d8



70.♙d4 And here comes the next zugzwang...

70...♙e7 [70...♙c7 71.♙f6 White is just winning here.]

71.♙xb6 ♙f6 72.♙f2 White has won two pawns, but it is still not an easy win!

72...♙c3 [And this is what would happen if Black kept on waiting: 72...♙e7 73.♙d4 ♙d8 74.♙g7 ♙e7 75.♙h6 followed by Bg5, collecting the h4 pawn.]

73.♙xh4 White is 3 pawns up, but it is still not that easy to finish the game. The next stage is to bring the white king from b5 to the kingside.

73...♙d2 74.♙f2 ♙xf4 75.♔a4 ♔a6 76.b5+ Fixing the black king on the b7 square.

76...♔b7 77.♔b3 ♔c7 78.♔c2 And the white king starts to walk...

78...♔b7 79.♙d4 ♙g3 80.♙e3 ♙e5 81.♔b3 ♔c7 82.♔a4 ♔b7 83.♔b4 ♙g3 84.♔c4 ♙e5 85.♔b3 ♙g3 86.♔c2 ♙e5 87.♔d2 Once again Dominguez does not hurry with the winning plan, which is very normal. Anyway all Black can do is stand and wait.

87...♟g3 88.♞e2 ♟h4 89.♞f1 ♟g3 90.♞g2 ♟h4 So the king is on g2, but what next?!

91.♟f2 ♟f6 92.♟e3 ♟h4 93.♟f2 ♟f6 White repeats the moves twice again before playing the right winning plan.



94.h4! Dominguez is going for the break through.

94...♞c7 95.♞h3 ♞b7 Black can only keep on waiting.

96.h5! The right move!

96...gxh5 97.♟h4 ♟d4 98.♟e7 Black cannot defend the h4 square and the d6 pawn at the same time.

98...♟e5 99.♟d8 ♞c8 100.♟g5 ♞b7 Before playing Kh4 White has put his bishop on the very nice position on g5 to make the f4 move easier.



101.♞h4 And the white king starts his movement...

101...♞b6 102.♟e3+ ♞xb5 103.f4 Now both the h5 and f5 pawns are going to fall...

103...♟b2 104.♞xh5 ♞b4 105.♞g5 ♞c3 106.♞xf5 ♞xd3 107.♟g1 ♟c1

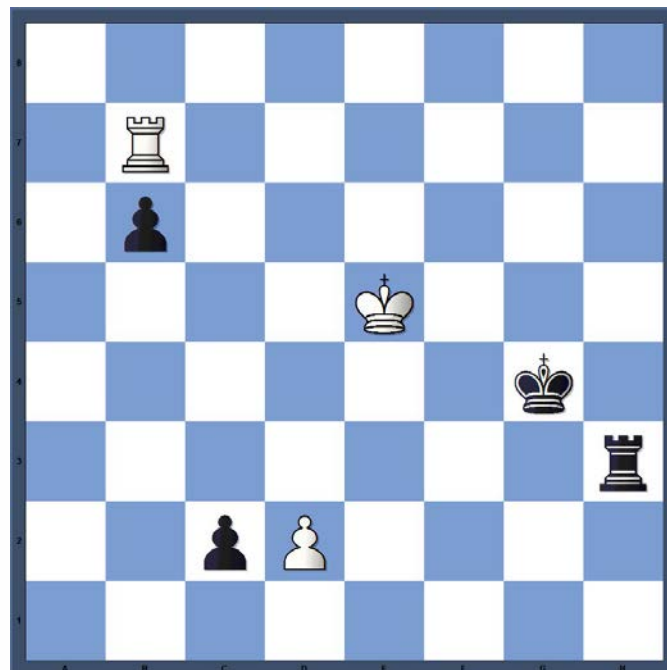


108.♟h2 followed by Ke6 and f5. A really perfectly played endgame by Dominguez, who showed great technical skills!
1-0

Surprise section / study

(17) Lazard

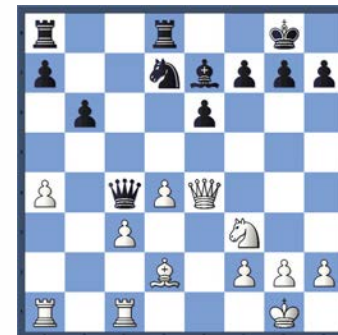
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Solutions

(18) Lobzhanidze, D(2445)-Bok, B(2540)

Groningen Open, 2013.12.26



18... ♖c5! 19. ♙b1! [19. ♙c2 19... ♖b3 20. ♖e5 ♖xa1—+]

19... ♖b3! 20. ♖e5 ♙d5! 21. ♖c6 [21. c4 21... ♖xd2 22. cxd5 ♖xb1 23. ♙axb1 ♙xd5+]

21... ♙f6 [21... ♙d7!? 22. ♖xe7+ ♙xe7 23. c4 ♙xd4 24. ♙xb3 ♙xd2+]

22. ♖xd8 ♖xd2 23. ♙a2 ♖c4 24. ♖xf7 ♙xf7=+

(19) Kovalenko, I(2643)-Sebenik, M(2497)

Zurich Open, 2013.12.27



24. ♖xe6! fxe6 25. ♗xe6+ ♔f8 26. ♗xd7 ♕xd7 27. ♗xb6 ♕e6! 28. ♗c7 ♕xe3+ 29. ♖g2±

(20) Popov, I(2644)-Pikula, D(2499)

Zurich Open, 2013.12.28



20. ♖ed5+! [20. ♖cd5+!]

20...cxd5 21. ♖xd5+ ♔d8 [21...♙f8 22. ♖xc7+-]

22. ♖b6+ ♔e7 23. ♖xa8+-

(21) Bajarani, U(2500)-Barbot, P(2404)

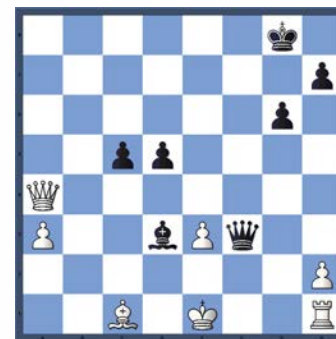
World Juniors, 2013.12.21



26. a4! bxa4 27. b5! ♖e6 28. ♖a1+- [28. b6 28...♗b8 29. ♖c1 ♖c6 30. ♖d3+-]

(22) Miroshnichenko, E(2626)-Drazic, S(2441)

Al Ain Open, 2013.12.21



30. ♕e8+! ♖g7 31. ♕e5+! [31. ♗b2+? 31...♖h6; 31. ♕e7+ 31...♖g8]

31...♖g8 [31...♖h6 32. ♕f4+-; 31...♖f7 32. ♕f4+-]

32. ♕b8+! ♖g7 [32...♖f7 33. ♕f4+-]

33. ♕b2+! ♖g8 34. ♖g1+-

(23) Geller, J(2542)-Amin, B(2654)

Al Ain Open, 2013.12.22



27...♙xd3! 0-1 [27...♙xd3 28.♖xb3 (28.♗xe5 28...♗xb1+-) 28...♖xh5+-]

(24) Salem, S(2567)-Arab, A(2433)

Al Ain Open, 2013.12.22



24.♗f6!! 1-0 [24.♖h8? 24...♙xh8 25.♖xh8+ ♔e7 26.♗f6+ ♔d7 27.♘e5+ ♔c7+-; 24.♗f6 24...♙xf6 25.gxf6+-]

(25) Miroshnichenko, E(2626)-Barsov, A(2527)

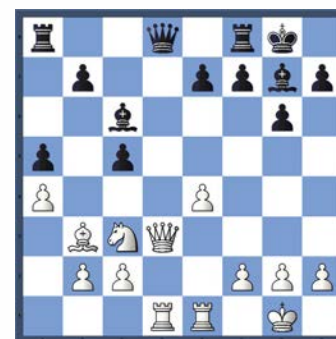
Al Ain Open, 2013.12.23



35.e7! 1-0 [35.e7 35...♙xe5 (35...♖xe7 36.♙xg7+ ♖xg7 37.♖xe8+-; 35...♗xe7 36.♙xg7+-; 35...♖xe7 36.♙xg7+ ♖xg7 37.♖e8+-) 36.♖xe5 ♗b4 37.♗xb4 axb4 38.♖f8+-]

(26) Salem, S(2567)-Golizadeh, A(2500)

Al Ain Open, 2013.12.24



16.♙xf7+! ♔h8 [16...♖xf7 17.♗xd8+-; 16...♔xf7 17.♗c4+-]

17.♙d5±

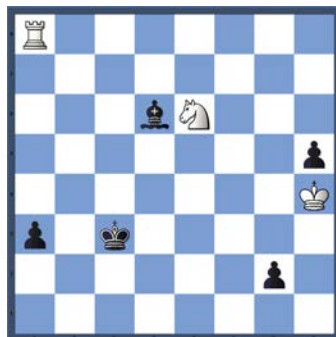
(27) Vishnu, P(2523)-Negi, P(2671)

Indian Championship, 2013.12.26



27. ♘g6+! hxg6 28. ♖xh8+ ♜g8 29. ♖eh7!! 1-0 [29. ♖eh7 29... ♘e6 30. ♜h6++-]

(28) Platov



1. ♘f4! ♜xf4 [1... g1=♚? 2. ♘e2+]
2. ♖xa3+ ♜b2 [2... ♜d2 3. ♖a1=]
3. ♖g3! ♜xg3+ 4. ♜h3! g1=♘+ [4... g1=♚=]
5. ♜xg3=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 100

24th of January 2014

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Editorial Preface

This year the Tata Steel Chess Masters is a one man show. Aronian is showing an amazing preparation followed by almost perfect play. Two rounds before the end of the tournament he has practically secured the 1st place. For the second position there is a fight between Karjakin, Giri and Dominguez.

In the Challengers (B group) we see a fight for the first place between Jobava and Saric, Jobava being more lucky and Saric just showing great fighting chess.

In the current issue we are of course focusing on the games from Wijk aan Zee. Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Rapport, Richard(2691)**
 - **Dominguez Perez, Leinier(2754)**
 [A34]

76th Tata Steel Masters(5.6),
 2014.01.17

Rapport does not want to challenge his opponents in the theory and tries to play creatively right from the opening, but it often backfires...

1.c4 c5 2.♘c3 g6



3.g4?! Such a weird move should obviously never come to a strong GM's mind. Dominguez was also so shocked that for the following couple of natural moves he spent almost an hour. White is going to have longterm difficulties in the future with his damaged pawn structure. The point could only be to put the pawn to g5 and to restrict the movement of the g8 knight a bit.

3...♙g7 4.♙g2 ♘c6 [If Black wanted to avoid the game's continuation, he could have started with 4...d6 5.g5 e6 followed by Ne7 and only then Nbc6.]



GM Csaba Balogh
 Best rating: 2672

5.d3 d6 6.g5 e6 7.h4 After g4-g5 has been played, White is forced to play some extraordinary moves. White tries to attack with h4-h5, which Dominguez rightly decides to stop.

7...h5 Black is ready to finish the development with Nge7, b6, Bb7 and then to overtake the initiative with d5-d4. Rapport knew that in case of a normal development Black could easily execute this plan, therefore he takes another seemingly dubious, but this time in my opinion clever decision.



8.♙xc6+!? White gives up his nice bishop and of course the bishop pair in order to damage the pawn structure.

8...bxc6 9.f4 A necessary follow-up of the previous move! After Black had no need to worry about the d5 square, he was ready to take full control over the center with e5 followed by developing the bishop. White also had to fight for the center.



9...e5! A highly principled move! First of all Black has the

bishop pair and he opens the position to let them work with full efficiency. The second part is rather prophylactic and it will be explained in the 9...Ne7 line. [In case of careless development White's strategy could have worked perfectly: 9...♘e7?! 10.♗f3 Black suddenly has problems with his pawn structure and the c8 bishop. The bishop cannot be activated in his own camp, while opening the position with d5 would seriously weaken the c5 pawn. White would use the typical Nimzo Indian ideas with Qd2, b3, Ba3, Rc1 and Na4. And e5 doesn't work anymore either because after fxe5, Black is forced to recapture with the pawn, which again would seriously weaken the c5 pawn. While if Black waits with 10...O-O for example, then after 11.♔d2 ♖b8 12.b3 White plays Bb2 and Ne4 next, trading the strong bishop. Black ends up with bad pawn structure, a big hole on f6 and the poor bishop on c8.]

10.fxe5 ♗xe5 Compared to the previous line, where Black was suffering with the c8 bishop, he will develop it to g4 and it is going to be very actively placed on a square from where White cannot kick it out. White must try to act quickly.

11.♗f3



11...♗xc3+! Dominguez decided to deal with the d6 pawn with the same strategy as White did a few moves ago.

He gives up his long diagonal bishop, but White has no chance to occupy the a1-h8 diagonal with his bishop to explore the weakened dark squares because of his own c3 pawn. Black's remaining pieces are coming very fast to the game. [11...♗g7 was of course the most natural reaction, but here White wanted to play 12.♗f4 ♗e7 13.♗e4 with quick pressure on the d6 pawn and an unclear game.]

12.bxc3 ♗e7 13.♗f4 O-O In the following moves, White continues playing positionally against the d6 and c5 pawns, but he leaves his king in the center and underestimates the upcoming threats.

14.♗d2 White wants to occupy the e4 square with the knight, from where it is pressing the d6 pawn and is ready to jump to f6. Black had to parry this idea... [It was better to try 14.O-O followed by Qe1-g3. Black also has his resources with Bg4 and Nf5, but we have a game with mutual (maybe slightly better for Black) chances.]

14...d5! Positionally Black weakens his c5 pawn, but now it is more important to play actively and focus all the pieces against the king who is stuck in the center. By going away from f3 with the knight, White clearly shows that he is not intending to castle kingside.

15.♔a4 With the idea of Qa3, White also drives his queen away from his king, underestimating the things that will happen in the game.

15...♗g4! Black can easily focus all his pieces on the backward weakness on e2!



16. ♖h2 Rapport was hoping to solve the problems with this defensive move, but such artificial moves usually don't lead to any good results...

16... ♜e8! Black strengthens his position with each move!

17. ♖b1 [17. ♜a3 was obviously too slow. Black comes with 17... dxc4 18. ♗xc4 ♗f5 creating the threat of Qxd3 and on 19. ♖d1 ♜d5 with the idea of Nxh4 the e2 pawn falls. White is unable to protect his king.]

17... ♜d7 Black brings another piece against the e2 pawn. [



17... dxc4! was even stronger with direct problems: 18. ♜xc4 (18. ♗xc4 loses to 18... ♗d5 with a double attack on f4 and c3 and after 19. ♗d2 ♗xc3! 20. ♗xc3 ♜xd3—+ wins.) 18... ♗d5 With the threat of Nxf4 and Qxd3 and on 19. ♖f2 Black wins after 19... ♗b6! 20. ♜xc5 ♜xd3—+]

18. ♖f2 ♜e6 Black already has an overwhelming advantage, but Rapport also misses a nice tactical shot next move.

19. ♗b3 [Maybe some defensive move like 19. ♖b2 was more advisable, although after 19... ♗f5 20. ♗b3 ♗xh4 21. ♗xc5 ♜f5+ White cannot hope for anything good with such a king.]



19... ♗xe2!! All black pieces were activated to the maximum, so the position was screaming for a blow. Dominguez finds this excellent destructive sacrifice after 3 minutes of thinking!

20. ♖d2 [The sacrifice could not be accepted because after 20. ♖xe2 20... ♜g4! —+ there are too many threats in the air... 21. ♗e5 (21. cxd5 21... ♗xd5—+; 21. ♗e3 21... ♗f5—+) 21... ♜g1+ 22. ♖d2 ♜xb1—+]

20... ♜g4! Black continues pushing with the most active moves!

21. ♗xc5 ♜xh4! Not only grabbing a pawn, but White also has no good way to defend the f2 rook.

22. ♗e3 [22. ♖xe2 22... ♜xf4+ 23. ♖c2 ♗f5—+; 22. ♖xe2 22... ♗f5+ 23. ♖f1 ♜h1#]

22... ♗f5! Dominguez gives no time to White to consolidate.

23. ♖xf5 [White could have avoided getting mated by 23. cxd5 but the endgame would simply have been lost after 23... ♜xa4]

(23...♔g3 also wins.) 24.♘xa4 ♕xd3! 25.♖xd3 ♖xe3+ 26.♔d2 All moves are winning here, but the most precise is 26...♖e5 to leave from the Rxf5 threat. 27.dxc6 ♖d8+ 28.♖c2 ♘e3+ 29.♖b2 ♘d1+—+]

23...gxf5 24.g6 A desperate attempt to create some complications, but of course it does not help... [24.cxd5 24...♔xa4 25.♘xa4 cxd5—+ was also hopeless as Kxe2 f4 wins for Black.]

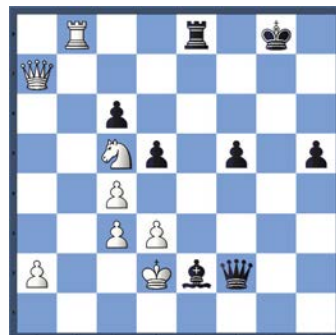


24...♖xe3! It was time for the final blow. Black eliminates the last defender and mates with his remaining three pieces!

25.♖xe3 ♖e8+ 26.♖d2 ♖f2 The game is over...

27.gxf7+ ♖xf7 28.♔xa7+ [On 28.♖c1 28...♖xc5—+ is the simplest...]

28...♖g8 29.♖b8 Allowing a pretty finish.



29...♕xd3+! 30.♖xd3 ♖e2+ And mate in the next move. A crushing victory, which might be useful for the talented Hungarian player to forget about such g4 moves in the opening... **0-1**

(2) Aronian, Levon(2812) - So, Wesley(2719) [A15]

Wijk aan Zee NED(6.3),
2014.01.18



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

The first part of the tournament is clearly dominated by Aronian, who started with 5/6. Let's enjoy one of his victories.

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.♘c3 d5 The Anti-Gruenfeld is on the board. Aronian employs a forgotten line...

4.cxd5 ♘xd5 White has a wide range of choice here. Aronian goes for one which is rather used when White wants to make a draw but of course the story is different this time.

5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 [Most of the games continue with 6.dxc3 6...♙xd1+ 7.♙xd1 and after some precise moves we reach a completely balanced position. 7...f6 followed by e5.]

6...♙g7 Here comes the idea... When White has recaptured with the b-pawn he usually transposes to the main lines with 7.d4, but then there was no point to play the Anti-Gruenfeld.



7.♙e2!? White wants to finish his development before playing d4. With this he would like to give Black less options to attack the central pawns with c5. Black answers with the most natural reaction and anticipates the d4 idea.

7...c5 8.O-O ♘c6 Black has temporarily prevented the d4 move and we might think that with a backward d-pawn White cannot hope for an advantage. However Aronian's home preparation is just about to start.

9.♙a4 White does not give up playing d4. He wants to support it from all directions. With the queen from the side and he has left the d1 square for the rook.

9...♙d7 10.♙a3! Leaving the pin and trying to provoke a small weakening with b6. In that case, later on when the rook occupies the opened c-file (after Rd1, d4, cxd4 cxd4) Ba6 could be very annoying.

10...♙a5



11.♙d1! White waits until Black trades the queen to develop the bishop with tempo. There was still one game in the database and it was played by Aronian's countryman Vladimir Akopian. The Armenians definitely had huge analyses about this position.

11...O-O The novelty. [In the previous game Mamedyarov anticipated the d4 idea in the most direct way by playing 11...e5 A move that a Gruenfeld player hardly makes as it closes the bishop. Now White forgets about the d4 plan and starts to play on the weakened squares. 12.♙c4 (12.♙b3!? was also possible to preserve the queens.) 12...♙xa3 13.♙xa3 b6

14.♖ab1 Aronian had probably prepared something instead of this move. It looks like a waste of time now. 14...♞d8 15.d3 h6 16.h3 ♘a5 17.♙d5 ♙c6 18.♙xc6+ ♘xc6 19.♚f1 ♚e7 20.♚e2 ♞d7 21.c4 f5 22.♙b2 ♚e6 23.♙c3 ♞hd8 24.a4 ♘b4 And a draw was agreed in Akopian-Mamedyarov, Porto Carras 2011.]

12.♞b1 Before pushing d4 White makes a last improvement, forcing a small weakness and leaving the diagonal of the g7 bishop with the rook.

12...b6 13.d4 ♞xa3 14.♙xa3



14...♙g4! A standard Gruenfeld move! Black tries to remove the defender of the central pawns. [It would have been a positional mistake to open the c-file and the diagonal of the a3 bishop: 14...cxd4 15.cxd4 Black has to protect the e7 pawn against d5. 15...♞fe8 16.d5 ♘e5



17.♘d4! += With a nice edge for White. Rac1 is coming next.

The next line illustrates well the point behind forcing the b6 weakening: 17...♞ac8 18.♙a6! And Black cannot hold the c-file because of 18...♞c3 19.♙b4! ♞c7 The only square for the rook. 20.d6! exd6 21.♙xd6 ♞c3 The only square again and White wins a piece after 22.♘e2!+- and when the rook leaves White has Bxe5 and the d7 bishop falls!]

15.dxc5! The critical reaction. White opens the position and tries to make use of his better developed pieces. [Without having taken on d4 15.d5? makes no sense as the a3 bishop remains very passive. 15...♘a5 or Ne5 and Black is more than fine.]

15...♙xc3 16.♙a6! Squeezing Black. Without the queens on the board White never needs to worry about Bxf3. In the endgame the doubled pawns are not bad at all.

16...♞ab8 17.♞dc1 So far Black was defending well but now he fails to solve the problems with a tactical trick.



17...♙xf3 [Now or in the next move Black should have taken 17...bxc5! indirectly protecting the c3 bishop. 18.♙xc5 (With the idea that after 18.♞xb8 18...♘xb8! counterattacks the a6 bishop.) 18...♙b2! 19.♞c2 ♙xf3 20.gxf3 ♙d4= Black achieves equality.]

18.gxf3 ♙d2 [18...bxc5! should still have been taken, with the same ideas as in the previous move.]

19.♖d1 ♘c3 It looks a bit suspicious to put the bishop onto the c-file and in front of the knight, but So believes in his calculation. [White is also slightly better after 19...♘f4 20.♙g2! White simply protects the f3 pawn in case of Ne5. Black is lacking any useful moves as after bxc5 Bxc5 the a7 pawn becomes extremely weak, while after 20...♖fd8 21.♖xd8+! Black cannot recapture, he either loses the b6 or the e7 pawn.]

20.♙g2! Just as in the 19...Bf4 line, Aronian protects the f3 pawn and enjoys the fact that Black is lacking useful moves. White could still improve his position with f4-e5. [The tactical justification of Bc3 was 20.cxb6 20...♖xb6! 21.♖xb6 axb6 22.♖c1 and here Black holds after 22...♖a8!= and both sides lose their pieces.]

20...bxc5 [20...♘f6 21.f4+=; The same story again, Black had no good take back after 20...♖fd8 21.♖xd8+±]

21.♘xc5 ♘b4 Black at least protects the e7 pawn against the threatening Bb5 or Bb7.



22.♘e3! White's advantage lays in the bishop pair, so he needs to preserve it! The bishop also keeps on exerting pressure on the a7 pawn. The black pieces have no stability, they cannot be supported by pawns and the a6 bishop is also very annoying as it limits the movements of the black rooks.

22...♘d6! Black wants to simplify the position and frees the b4 square for his knight to get counterplay against the a-pawn and also to kick out the a6 bishop.

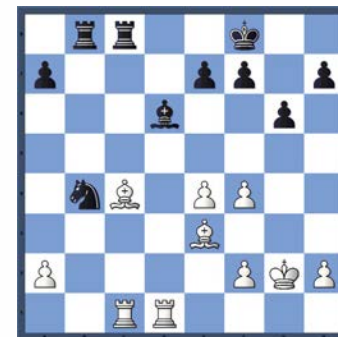
23.♖bc1! Aronian keeps on preserving his remaining pieces to be able to maintain more pressure on his opponent.

23...♘b4 24.♘c4 Black only temporarily solved the problem of the a6 bishop and the knight because a3 is hanging in the air, after which the knight is forced to go back to its bad place on c6 again.

24...♖fc8! So defends tenaciously! [24...a5 could have been met by 25.f4!± and Black has no good way to deal with the e5 threat, after which the bishop has no square.]

25.f4! Aronian keeps the tension! [25.♘xa7!? was actually also possible. 25...♖a8 26.♘e3 ♘xa2 27.♘xa2 ♖xc1 28.♘xf7+! ♙xf7 29.♖xc1+= Black has good chances to hold this endgame because of the doubled f-pawns. Aronian preferred to keep all the pieces, especially since Black was low on time and in this endgame he could easily have reached the time control.]

25...♙f8! Black leaves from the threatening e5 Bc5 Bxc5 Rxc5 Bxf7 check!



Aronian does a brilliant calculating job here. I believe that at this point he had foreseen the following very difficult line and the position arising after move 32.

26.a3 [26.e5 was also possible. 26...♙c5 27.a3 ♙xe3 28.fxe3 ♜c6 29.♙a6 ♜d8 30.♜xd8+ ♜xd8 31.♜c7+= White is clearly better, but Black has chances to survive.]

26...♜c6 27.♙a6 ♙xa3! So again tries to solve the problem with calculation, but Aronian has counted one move further. [27...♜c7 28.♜d3 looks awful, Black is totally pinned.]

28.♜c4! [White has nothing after 28.♙xc8? 28...♙xc1 Black takes the same amount of pieces. 29.♜xc1 ♜xc8; 28.♜a1 could have been met by another intermediate move: 28...♙b2!]

28...♜d8 It is understandable that Black wishes to leave the deadly pin on the c-file. [28...♜c7 is very suspicious. White either plays 29.f5 (Or 29.♜d2 and Rdc2 next.)]

29.♜a1! Two pieces are hanging again, Black needs to continue with his intermediate moves

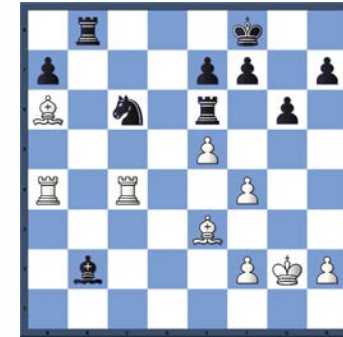
29...♙b2 [29...♜a5 would have been the only chance, although I don't wish to anyone to defend the following position as Black. 30.♜xa3 ♜xc4 31.♙xc4± With an extremely long torture.]



30.♜aa4!! This was the very deep point of Aronian and the c6 knight is trapped. Amazing! That is why both rooks had to move to the 4th rank to control the d4 and b4 squares. Black has only one move to save the knight.

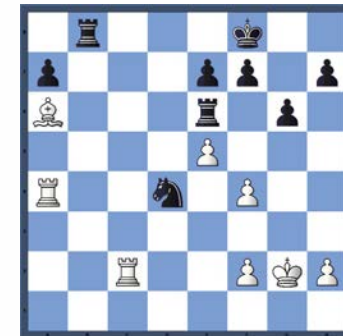
30...♜d6 But now Black gets one more terribly placed piece.

31.e5! ♜e6



32.♜c2!! The last brutally strong subtle move! White frees the c4 square for his bishop and the rook is trapped. Black cannot avoid losing big material.

32...♜d8 [Another nice line is 32...♙d4 33.♙xd4 ♜xd4



34.♜c8+! ♜xc8 35.♙xc8 ♜c6 36.♙d7!+- Winning the knight and the game.]

33.♙xa7! Black's pieces suddenly got completely confused. Now the rook should protect the b2 bishop, but then Rc8 wins the knight. Black has pinned his last hopes to another intermediate move...

33...♜a8 34.♙b5 And as a final blow, the b2 bishop got trapped!

34...♙xe5 35.fxe5 ♖xe5 36.♙e3! A last intermediate move, after which White preserves a healthy extra piece. Black resigned. What fantastic piece play by Aronian! Even such an endgame could be full of hidden tactical resources. **1-0**

(3) Nakamura, Hikaru(2789) - Karjakin, Sergey(2759) [E37]

76th Tata Steel Masters(5.2),
2014.01.17



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We will see a short, but very intense game. In the opening Nakamura managed to surprise Karjakin but Sergey managed to find great moves and White would have been in big danger of losing the game had Black continued in the final position!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.♚c2 The Nimzo with 4.Qc2 seems to be Nakamura's main weapon.

4...d5 [4...O-O 5.a3 ♙xc3+ 6.♚xc3 d5 7.♙g5 is the other very main line in which Nakamura managed to win a very nice game against Kramnik lately.]

5.a3 ♙xc3+ 6.♚xc3



6...♘e4 That's the difference to 4...O-O. Black is trying to act very quickly against White's center.

7.♚c2 c5 White has the advantage of the bishop pair, but Black is a bit better developed, which is why a move like 7...c5 is very logical. Of course it is just the beginning of the theory.

8.dxc5 ♘c6 Black continues the dynamic play.

9.cxd5 exd5 10.e3 O-O 11.♘f3 We are still in a long line of theory.

11...♙f5 12.♙d3 ♖a5+ So far both players were playing very quickly.

13.♔e2!? A risky but interesting move which has never been played before on the top level. [After the usual 13.♘d2 13...♘xd2 14.♙xd2 ♙xd3 15.♖xd3 ♖xc5 the position is almost equal. Black is in time to play the fast d4 next.; And after 13.b4 13...♘xb4 14.axb4 ♖xa1 15.O-O ♙f6 16.♙b2 ♖e7 the position is complicated as well, but it seems that Black is not worse here either.]

13...♖fe8! Logical and strong. Black has the d4 move in mind and of course the rook is just very well placed on e8. [It would have been a much worse idea to play 13...♘b4?! because now after 14.axb4 ♖xa1 15.♖b3! the black queen is almost caught on a1 and White clearly has more than compensation for being an exchange down for a pawn.]

14.♖d1 White is freeing the f1 square for the king.



14...♙g4! Another great move by Karjakin. [Of course it just didn't make any sense to play 14...d4? 15.♔f1 as White would be a healthy pawn up.]

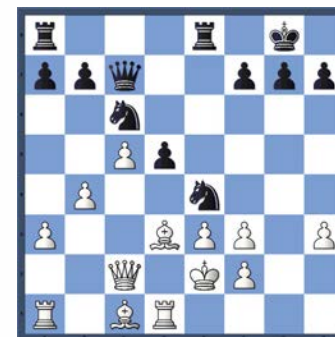
15.b4 A very risky move. Of course Nakamura is as usual fighting for the advantage and 15.b4 is probably the only way

to do it, but Black is getting a very strong attack now. [A more calm way of playing would have been 15.♔f1 15...♘e5 Black has many other ways, but this is one of the logical lines 16.♙e2 ♘xf3 17.♙xf3 (Of course not 17.gxf3? 17...♙h3+ 18.♔g1 ♖e6 and Black is winning.) 17...♙xf3 18.gxf3 ♖a6+ A tricky check. 19.♖e2 ♖xe2+ 20.♔xe2 ♘xc5 And this endgame should be around equal.]

15...♖c7 [15...♘xb4? doesn't work as after 16.axb4 ♖xa1 17.♙b2 ♖a2 18.♖a1 White is trapping the black queen.]

16.h3 White doesn't have anything better. [16.♔f1 was almost losing as after 16...♘e5! 17.♙e2 ♘xf3 18.♙xf3 Black is in time for the mating attack. 18...♖xh2 19.♙xg4 ♖h1+ 20.♔e2 ♖xg2 With a winning position for Black.]

16...♙xf3+ 17.gxf3



17...♘g5 Black is threatening to play Nd4 next. As we can see, the position is very dynamic. White is a pawn up and if he was in time to develop the pieces the game could simply be over.

18.♙b2 White is almost fully developed.

18...d4! Another very good move by Black. The white king is under heavy attack. [18...♖f4 didn't work because of the pretty 19.♙e4!]

19.h4 A very cool move considering white's king is just in the

center. But maybe White just didn't have anything better. [19.♖g1 would lead to a bad position for White. 19...♔h2 20.♖xg5 ♖xe3+ 21.♔d1 ♖xf3 Although the position is complicated, it should be in Black's favor.]

19...♖xe3+ Too easy to miss for a top class player... [19...♔h2 didn't work now as after 20.hxg5 ♖xe3+ 21.♔d2 ♖xf3 White has an escaping square: 22.♔c1 ♖xf2 23.♔b3 With an almost winning position for White.]

20.fxe3 ♔h2+ 21.♔f1 The position seems to be a draw, but is it really?!

21...♔h1+ 22.♔f2



22...♔h2+ Karjakin seems to be happy with a draw, which is not a bad result with Black against the World Nr3, but Black could have gone for much more! [22...♔xh4+ 23.♔f1 ♔h1+ 24.♔f2 The position looks like a draw, but now comes 24...♔xf3+ 25.♔g1 and the amazing 25...♖e8!! and it seems like Black is the one pushing here, even though he is a rook down...]

23.♔f1 ♔h1+ 24.♔f2 ♔h2+ A great and very interesting game! 1/2-1/2

(4) Dominguez, Leinier(2754) - So, Wesley(2719) [C42]

76th Tata Steel Masters(8.2),
2014.01.21



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We will see a short and great attacking game with a great final tactical blow, even though So made it a bit too easy.

1.e4 e5 2.f3 f6 So plays a lot of different openings and lately he started to play the Berlin (like so many others), so it is a bit strange that he switched to the Russian in this game, especially as he has quite bad results in it.

3.fxe5 d6 4.f3 fxe4 5.c3 One of the most fancy lines. Karjakin was probably the one who tried to reach an advantage as White again and again.

5...xc3 6.dxc3 e7 7.e3 White's idea is simple, to castle queenside and attack on the kingside. On the other hand Black's position is very solid and he has a good pawn structure, so in case of exchanges the endgame should most probably in a draw. **7...O-O** [7...g4 is another very solid move for Black, followed by Nc6-Qd7 and O-O-O.]

8.Qd2 b6 This move has become more popular during the last games. [Other main moves are 8...d7 ; and 8...c6]

9.O-O-O b7



10.h4! Very typical but strong! White's idea is to play Bd3 next and then to combine different threats of playing Ng5 or Bg5, trying to create a weakness in the black pawn structure.

10...d7 The black knight is going to take a very nice position on f6, which cannot be wrong.

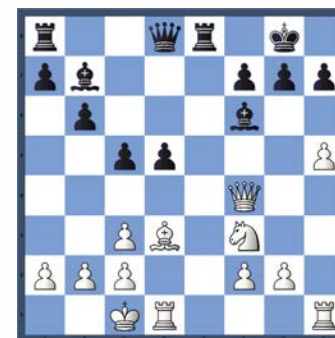
11.d3 f6 Now it is time for White to come up with a clear plan of what to do next?! Black just wants to play Re8 or Qd7, concluding his development.

12.d4!? A very original idea. White gives away his bishop to activate the queen. If Black just did nothing now White would play Qf4.

12...c5 It is also hard to say anything against 13...c5. Very logical play.

13.xf6 xf6 14.f4 d5 Closing the bishop is a risky decision. [14...e8 looked more solid and after 15.b1 White has some attacking ideas connected with h5 or Ng5 next, but of course Black's position is still very solid.]

15.h5 e8



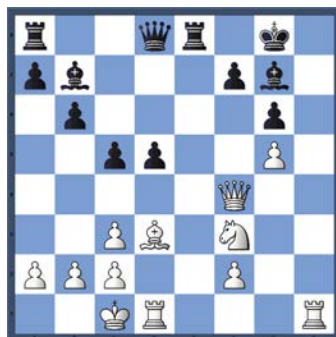
16.g4?! White wants to play g5 next but this leaves the a8-h1 diagonal quite open... [A very interesting option was to play 16.f5 16...g6 17.f4 The queen simply comes back and Black would have big problems defending this position with an open h-file.]

16...g6? A horrible mistake by So. White would be happy to provoke this move in general, even if he had to lose a tempo. [To open the bishop is a must! 16...d4! 17.♖h3 (17.g5 17...♙xf3 18.gxf6 ♜xf6 Black is fine.) 17...dxc3! With a very complicated position.]

17.hxg6 hxg6 The position still doesn't look so simple, but Dominguez finds a winning combination:

18.g5! The beginning of a forced line.

18...♙g7 And here comes the key move:

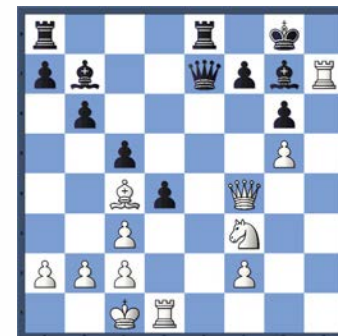


19.♖h7!! It is clear that Black has blundered this move...

19...d4 It is better to open the bishop late than never... [19...♙xh7 would lead to an immediate mate as after 20.♜xf7 Black has no defence against Rh1.]

20.♙c4 ♜e7? Once again So misses his chances for a fight...

[The only chance to continue would have been to go into the following forced line: 20...♙xf3 21.♖xg7+ ♙xg7 22.♜xf7+ ♙h8 23.♜xg6! ♖e7! Black is still fighting. 24.♜f6+ ♖g7 25.♜xf3 ♜xg5+ 26.♙b1 And White's attack might be winning, but Black is still fighting.]



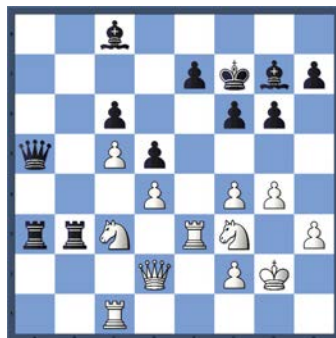
21.♜h4! A silent and deadly move, as after 21...Bxf3 22. Rxg7 Kxg7 23.Qh6 Kg8 24.Qxg6 Kf8 25.Qh6 Kg8 the very nice 26. g6! ends the game. **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Zhao Xue(2567)-Bok, B(2560)

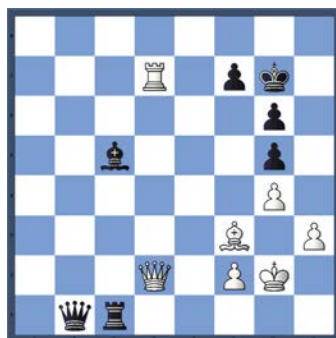
Wijk aan Zee B, 2014.01.14

1. ±



(6) Reinderman, D(2593)-Yu Yangyi(2677)

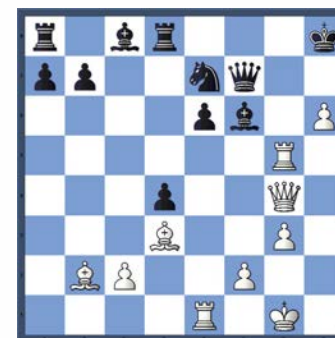
Wijk aan Zee B, 2014.01.14



(7) Brunello, S(2602)-Reinderman, D(2593)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2014.01.16

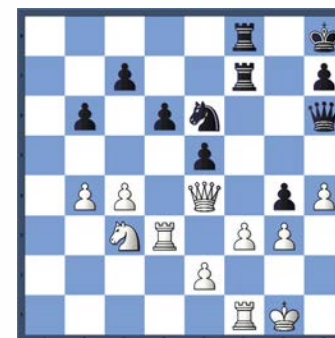
1. ±



(8) Duda, K(2553)-Yu Yangyi(2677)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2014.01.17

1... -+



(9) Saric, I(2637)-Jobava, B(2710)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2014.01.18

1... =



(10) Andriasian, Z(2621)-Pashikian, A(2605)

Armenian Championship, 2014.01.18

1... -+



(11) Grigorian, K(2584)-Grigorian, A(2571)

Armenian Championship, 2014.01.19

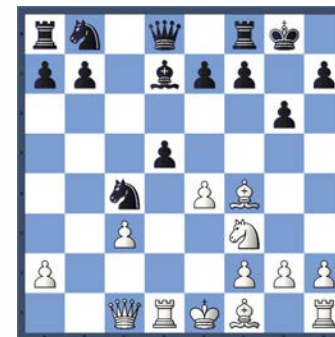
1... -+



(12) Saravanan, V(2341)-Grover, S(2478)

Delhi Open, 2014.01.14

1. +-



(13) Dzhumaev, M(2521)-Nitin, S(2331)

Delhi Open, 2014.01.16

1. +-



(14) Najer, E(2641)-Jurcik, M(2481)

Czech league, 2014.01.18

1. +-



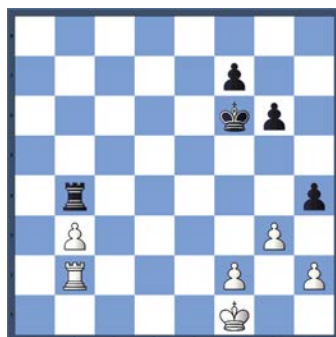
Endgame section

(15) Aronian, Levon(2812)
- Karjakin, Sergey(2759)

76th Tata Steel Masters(9.4),
2014.01.23



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



White's position should be winning. As we know, most of the rook endgames with an extra b-pawn are winning, especially when the rook is standing behind the pawn. Karjakin is trying an interesting way of making a draw, but very precise play by Aronian still makes the game come to a logical end.

47. ♔e2 The white king is going to c3.

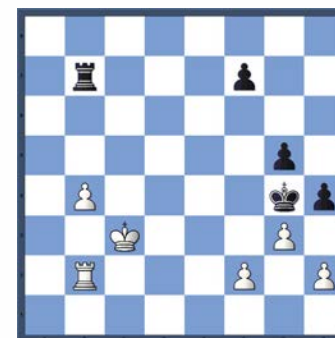
47... ♔f5 [47... ♔e5 didn't save Black as after 48. ♔d3 ♔d5 49. ♔c3 ♔c5 50. ♖e2 White should be able to slowly win the endgame by advancing the b-pawn.]

48. ♔d3 g5 Black is trying to get to the h2 pawn.

49. ♔c3 ♖b7 Rb7 and not Rb8, in order to stop the white pawn on b6.

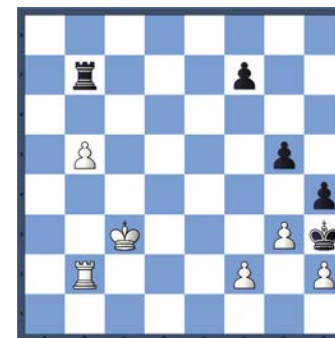
50. b4 And the white pawn starts to move.

50... ♔g4



51. b5! Exactly! The white pawn will stop the black rook from being active.

51... ♔h3 It seems like Black has a real chance to collect the h2 pawn, after which the position would of course be a simple draw, but White has a very strong reply:



52. gxh4!! This move leads to a clear win for White!

52... gxh4 [52... ♔xh4 didn't help either, as after 53. ♔d4 ♔h3 54. ♔e5 White is easily winning.]

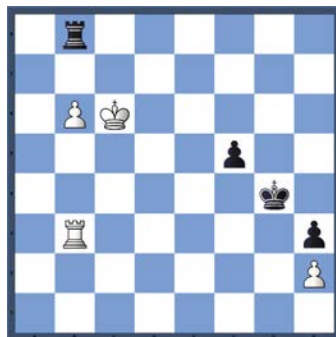
53. f4! The most simple move. White gives up the f-pawn, but promotes the b-pawn. Black is not in time for any counterplay.

53... ♔g4 54. b6 f5 55. ♔d4 ♔xf4 And here comes the last precise move of the game:

56.♖b3! Great technique by Aronian, not even giving his opponent the slightest hope.

56...h3 57.♔d5 ♕g4 58.♕c6 The white b-pawn is a queen...

58...♖b8



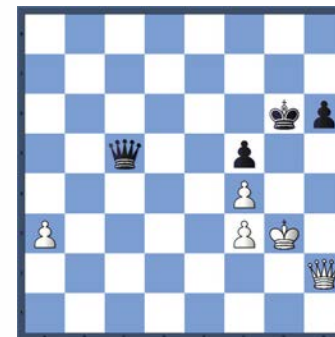
59.♖g3+ Cutting the black king on the h-file.

59...♕h4 60.b7 f4 61.♖g7 A really nice win by White and a very useful endgame to know! **1-0**

(16) Karjakin, Sergey(2759)
- **Naiditsch, Arkadij(2718)**

Wijk aan Zee, 2014.01.18

[CE TEAM]



White has reached the following queen endgame with an extra pawn, however to convert it seems to be extremely difficult because of the doubled pawns on the f-file. Black's main hope is that the a-pawn is not advanced far enough at the moment and his queen is always threatening with different kind of perpetual checks. However Karjakin manages to deal with all this with very resourceful play.

61.a4! The pawn needs to be pushed as far as possible, but White had to foresee the following couple of moves.

61...♖a7 Black attacks the a-pawn and keeps an eye on the g1 square to disturb the king. [61...♖a3 would simply have been met by 62.♖c2±]

62.♖a2! White is supporting his pawn from behind and at the same time he is sometimes threatening with Qe6+ to win the f5 pawn.

62...♔g1+ 63.♔g2 White opens a new front to advance his king to h5! Black tries to avoid this idea.

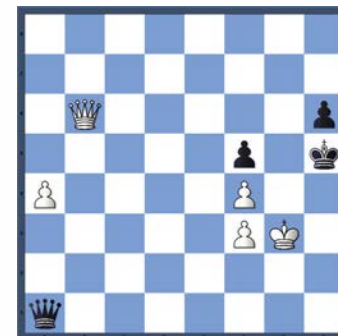


63...♔e1+ [In case of 63...♔a7 White plays 64.♔h4+ ♔h7 65.♔a2! and again White is ready to push his pawn, while Black has only one check... 65...♔e7+ 66.♔h3±; 63...♔a1 64.♔h4+! ♔f6 (64...♔h7 65.♔h5 leads to a similar scenario.) 65.♔h5 ♔xa4 66.♔g6+ ♔e7 67.♔g7+ ♔e8 68.♔e5+ White collects both pawns and obtains very good winning chances.]

64.♔f2 ♔a1 Black would like to keep the option of giving checks on the back rank. [64...♔a5 does not change much: 65.♔d4 ♔e1+ 66.♔g2 ♔e2+ 67.♔f2 White covers the squares. 67...♔a6 68.♔a2±]

65.♔b6+ ♔h5 Black is hoping for stalemate ideas, but his king soon finds himself in a mate net.

[65...♔h7 drops the f5 pawn after 66.♔c7+ ♔g6 67.♔c6+ ♔h7 68.♔d7+ ♔g6 (68...♔g8 69.♔e6+ is the same.) 69.♔e6+ and Black loses the f5 pawn with check, because 69...♔g7 runs into 70.♔e5+--]

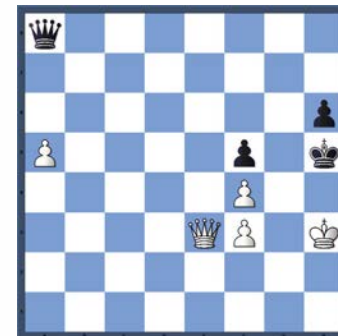


66.♔e3!! This brilliant resource gives White a winning position! White is threatening with mate in one on e8. [66.a5= is a draw on the spot as White cannot use his queen to avoid the perpetual because of the a5 pawn. 66...♔e1+= is a draw on the spot as White cannot use his queen to avoid the perpetual because of the a5 pawn.]

66...♔h8 [66...♔xa4 67.♔e6!+- is the point and Black cannot avoid getting mated!; 66...♔g6 67.♔e6++- wins.]

67.a5! White is finally able to advance his pawn and it is very hard for Black to block the pawn and to cover the mate threats at the same time.

67...♔g8+ 68.♔h3 There is no hope for a perpetual at the moment. **68...♔a8**



69.♔b3? The only mistake by Karjakin...

[The subtle 69.♖e2!!+- would have won the game. Black cannot take the pawn and it is going to advance to a6 on the next move.]

69...♖e8?! [After 69...♔g6! it is not obvious how White should proceed. There is a temporary problem with the f3 pawn. 70.♖e6+ ♔g7 71.♖e5+ ♔g6 72.♔g3 ♖a6 Black is still in the game, although White should win with a good technique. 73.♖a1 ♔h7 74.♖a2 ♔g6 Other moves were not better either. 75.♖g8+ ♔f6 76.♖d8+ ♔g7 77.♖b6 ♖f1 78.a6 White advances the pawn and Qe1 could be met by Qf2 and then a7!]

70.a6 The game is over now. The rest is easy.

70...♖e7 71.♖b1 [71.♖b7 was also good: 71...♖h4+ 72.♔g2 ♖xf4 73.♖f7+ ♔h4 74.♖f6+ ♔h5 75.a7 ♖d2+ 76.♔h3+-]

71...♔g6 [71...♖h4+ 72.♔g2 ♖xf4 is refuted by 73.a7 ♖g5+ 74.♔f1+-]

72.♖g1+ ♔h5 73.a7 The pawn is advancing slowly but surely.

73...♖a3 74.♔g3 ♖a5 [74...♖a6 75.♖e3 ♖g6+ 76.♔h3+-]

75.♖e3 White uses the same idea as when the pawn was still on a4.

75...♖d8 76.♖e5 Impressive technique by Karjakin! **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

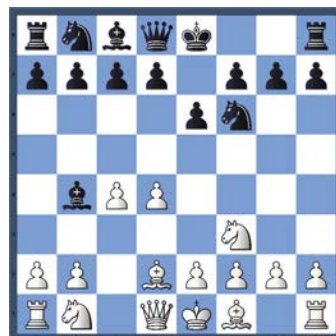
(17) Capablanca, Jose Raul
- Marshall, Frank James[E11]

New York(3), 1927.02.22



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 e6 3.c4 ♙b4+ 4.♙d2



4...♙xd2+ An interesting and solid line which is still played nowadays, but usually Black starts with [4...♞e7 with the idea that after 5.g3 ♙xd2+ 6.♞xd2 ♘e4 is followed by Qb4.]

5.♘bxd2 This is not the best square for the knight. The main move should of course be [5.♞xd2 5...d5 Now White has two plans: 6.g3 (6.e3 6...O-O 7.♘c3 ♞e7 With the idea of provoking White to take on d5, as otherwise Black will play dxc4 and push c5, equalizing the position in the center.) 6...O-O 7.♙g2 c6 8.O-O ♘bd7 With the thematic plan b6-Bb7-c5 and the last games showed that is really hard for White to get any advantage here.]

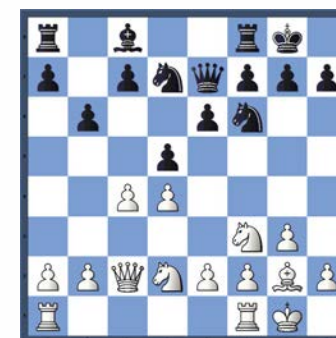
5...d5 6.g3 O-O 7.♙g2 ♘bd7 8.O-O With the knight on d2 the only plan for White which makes sense is to try and play e4.



8...♞e7?! This move is more logical in case Black wants to play dxc4 and e5 next but it usually works when the knight is on c3. [8...b6 followed by Bb7 should solve all of Black's problems.]

9.♞c2 Black suddenly has problems to finish his development because of the c7 pawn.

9...b6 [9...c6 10.e4 (10.♞fe1 10...b6 11.e4 ♙b7!? 12.e5 ♘e8 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.♘f1 White is slightly better because he has more space and some potential pressure on the kingside.) 10...dxe4 11.♘xe4 e5 12.♘xf6+ ♞xf6 13.♞ad1 exd4 14.♘xd4 a5 15.♞fe1 And Black still needs to find some accurate moves to equalize.]



10.cxd5! Now White gets the better structure because Black cannot recapture on d5 with the pawn.

10...♞xd5 [10...exd5? 11.♞xc7 ♞xe2 12.♞fe1±]

11.e4 ♞b4 12.♞c3 [12.♞xc7? 12...♙a6 13.♞fd1 ♞fc8 14.♞f4 ♙e2± And White is losing material because after Re1/c1 comes Nd3 and after Rfb1 Nc2.]

12...c5 [12...♙a6



looks logical but now comes the very strong 13.a3! ♙xf1 14.♙xf1 and White gets a big advantage.]

13.a3! A strong move since Black will always have problems finding a good square for the knight.

13...♞a6 [13...♞c6 14.d5]

14.dxc5 bxc5 [14...♞axc5 15.b4+= (XNc5); 14...♞xc5 15.♞fc1 (15.♞d3!?) 15...♞xc3 16.♞xc3 ♙b7 17.b4 ♞ac8 18.♞ac1 ♞xc3 19.♞xc3 And White keeps a small advantage thanks to his space advantage and the limited knight on a6.]

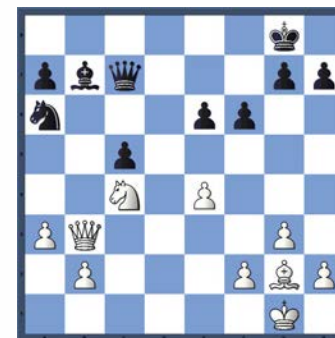


15.♞c4+= ♙b7 16.♞fe5 ♞xe5 17.♞xe5 ♞ad8 [17...♞b8 The idea is clearly to improve the knight by transferring him to d4. 18.♞d6 (Xc5) (18.♞d6 also gives White the initiative.) 18...♞d7 19.♞f4 ♙a6 20.♞fd1 ♞ab8 Thanks to his better structure and the unpleasant knight on d6 White has the advantage but at least the black pieces start to be active and are looking for counterplay.]

18.♞fd1 f6 Black is going to get rid of the very active queen but on the other hand the e6 pawn is weak now.

19.♞c3 ♞xd1+ 20.♞xd1 ♞d8 To reduce the material gives Black more chances to make a draw with this slightly worse position.

21.♞d3 A typical move which idea it is to fight for the d-file. [21.♞xd8+ 21...♞xd8 22.♞b3 ♞c7 (22...♞d7 23.♞a5 ♙a8 24.♙f1 (XNa6))



23.♞d6! ♞xd6 24.♞xb7 ♞b6 25.♞e7 White has a big advantage thanks to his better pieces.]

21...♞b8 22.♞xd8+ [22.♞d6 22...♙a6 23.♞d2 ♞xd6 (23...♞c7 24.e5†) 24.♞xc5 ♞d7 (24...♞xd2 25.♞xe7 ♞d1+ 26.♙f1 ♞xf1+ 27.♙g2+- (XKe8)) 25.♞xe7 ♞xe7 26.♞d8+ ♙f7 27.♞xb8 ♞c7± And Black has chances to save the draw thanks to his activity.]

22... ♖xd8 23. ♖b3 ♘a6



24. ♘h3? White is putting pressure on the e6 pawn, which seems logical, but better was [24.e5 With the idea to play Nd6. 24... ♘xc4 (24... ♖d7 25. ♖d6 ♖xe5 26. ♖xe6+ ♖h8 (26... ♖f8 27.f4+- (XKf8))



27. ♖xe5 fxe5 28. ♖f7+-) 25. ♖xc4 ♖e7 26.exf6 gxf6 27. ♖f4+= With the idea not to allow Nd7 because of Qc7. Black holds all weaknesses but his position is not easy to play.]

24... ♖c6? A huge mistake! It is hard to understand why Black gives the pawn for free...

The right move was [24... ♖f7! Simply protecting the pawn.



25. ♖a5 (25.e5 25... ♖d5↔ With counterplay after 26. ♖d6+ ♖e7 27. ♖xb8 ♖d1+ 28. ♖g2 ♖f1+-+; 25. ♖e3 25... ♖b6 26. ♖xe6+ ♖xe6 27. ♖xb8 ♖xe4 28. ♖xa7+ ♖b7 With a huge initiative over the light squares.) 25... ♖xa5 26. ♖xe6+ ♖f8 27. ♖d6+ ♖f7 With only perpetual check.]

25. ♖xe6+ ♖h8 26. ♖d5+- ♖d4 The knight finally comes to d4 but it costs Black too much.

27. ♖a4 ♖xc4 28. ♖xc4 ♖c8 29. ♖g2 ♖g4 30.e5! White avoided any kind of counterplay with his last two moves.

30... fxe5 31. ♖xc5 h5 32. ♖f8+ ♖h7 33. ♖g8+ ♖h6 34. ♖d6+ g6 [34... ♖g6 35. ♖xe5+-]

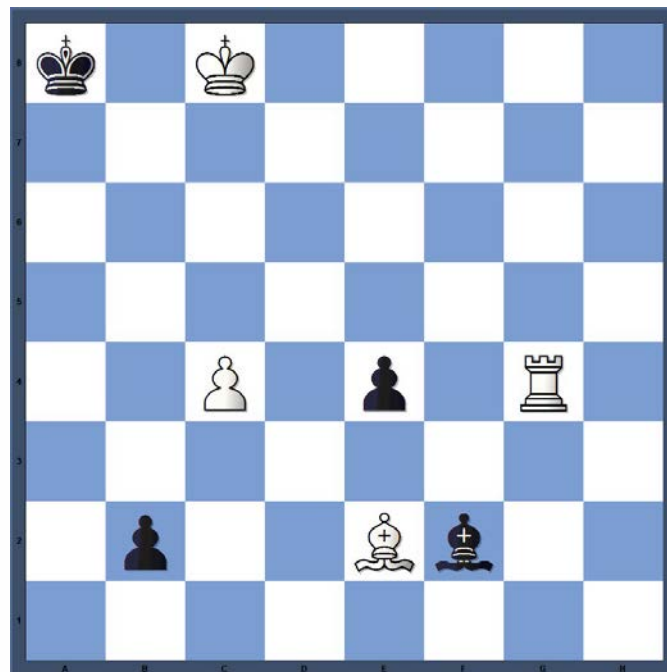
35. ♖f8+ 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Kubbel

[CEWN]

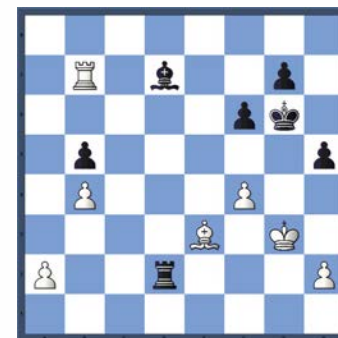
1. =



Solutions

(19) Lintchevski, D(2541)-Hammer, J(2612)

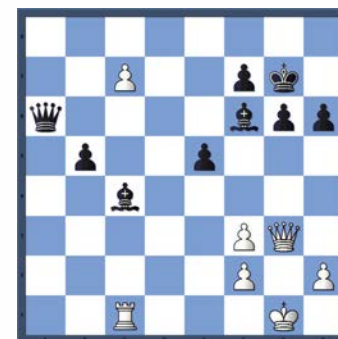
Rilton Cup, 2014.01.01



42...h4+! 43. ♖xh4 ♜d3! 0-1 [43...♜d3 44. ♜c7 (44. ♙f2 44...♜h3#) 44...♙e6--+]]

(20) Volkov, S(2623)-Grandelius, N(2576)

Rilton Cup, 2014.01.04



34. ♜xc4! bxc4 35. ♙h3! +- [35. ♙g4? 35...h5! 36. ♙h3 ♙a1+ 37. ♙g2 ♙d4 38. c8=♙ ♙h4!=]

35...c3 [35...♙a1+ 36. ♙g2 ♙d4 37. c8=♙ ♙h4 38. ♙cg4! ♙xf2+ 39. ♙h1+-] 36. c8=♙+-

(21) Stets, D(2412)-Wojtaszek, R(2711)

Basel Open, 2014.01.02



23...♙g5! 0-1 [23...♙g5 24.♚xg5 (24.♚e2 24...♙xc1 25.♖xc1 cxb3 26.axb3 ♜xb3+-) 24...cxb3+-]

(22) Shankland, S(2602)-Bregadze, L(2417)

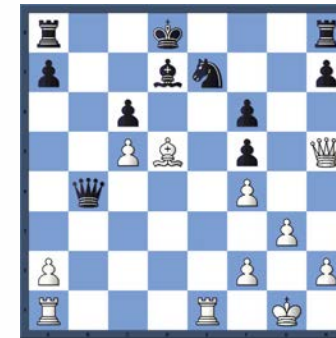
Bay Area Open, 2014.01.04



40.♖xh6+! 1-0 [40.♖xh6+ 40...gxh6 (40...♙xh6 41.♚h5#) 41.♚f7+ ♔h8 42.♚f6+ ♔h7 43.♚xb2+-]

(23) Mastrovasilis, A(2550)-Warakomski, T(2499)

Cracovia Open, 2013.12.31



20.♖xe7! ♙e8 [20...cxd5 21.♚f7+-; 20...♙xe7 21.♚f7+ ♔d8 22.♚xf6+ ♔c7 23.♚d6+ ♔c8 24.♙xc6! ♙xc6 25.♚xc6+ ♔b8 26.♚d6+ ♔c8 27.♖d1+-]

21.♚e2+- [21.♖xe8+ 21...♖xe8 22.♙xc6 ♖e1+ 23.♙g2 ♖xa1 24.♚e8+ ♔c7 25.♚d7+ ♔b8 26.♚d8#]

(24) Kislinsky, A(2501)-Gazik, I(2321)

Christmas Open, 2013.12.31



24.b4! ♚d3 [24...♙xf3 25.bxc5+-] **25.bxc5+-**

(25) Nakamura, H(2789)-Gelfand, B(2777)

Wijk aan Zee, 2014.01.13



43...♙f7? [43...♙xf3+!! 44.♔xf3 e4+! 45.♙xe4 ♕a3+! -+ 46.♙d3 (46.♙g2 46...♖h3+ 47.♙f2 ♖e3+ 48.♙g2 ♖e2+ 49.♙g1 ♖h4--+) 46...♖h3+ 47.♙e2 ♖e3+ 48.♙d2 ♖a5+! 49.♙c2 ♖c3+ 50.♙d1 ♖e1#]

(26) Chatalbashev, B(2533)-Gleizerov, E(2534)

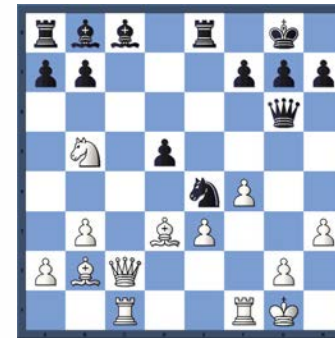
Keres memorial, 2014.01.12



15.♙xe4! ♘f6 [15...dxe4 16.♖ad1+- ♙c8 17.♖xe4+-]
16.♙f3+-

(27) Aleksandrov, A(2578)-Nikitenko, M(2101)

Belarus Championship, 2014.01.09

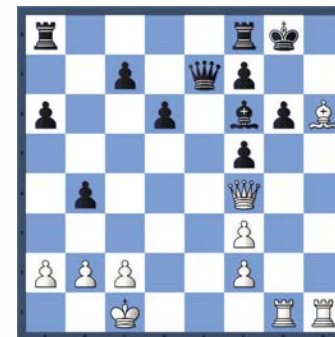


19.♖xc8! ♙xf4 [19...♖xc8 20.♖xc8#]

20.♖xe8+! ♖xe8 21.♖xf4+-

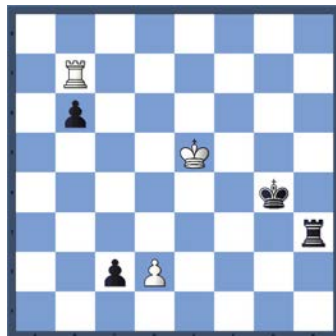
(28) Wei Yi(2601)-Bryant(2410)

Bay Area Open, 2014.01.08



21.♖c4!! +- ♖e5 22.♖xg6+ ♙h7 23.♙xf8+ 1-0 [23.♙xf8+ 23...♙xg6 24.♖h6+ ♙g5 25.♖h4#]

(29) Lazard



1. ♖g7+! ♔f3 2. ♜c7! ♜h5+ 3. ♔d4 ♜c5 4. ♜xc5 bxc5+ 5. ♔d3!
c1=♙ [5...c1=♚=]
6. ♔c4 ♙a3 7. d4!=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 101

31st of January 2014

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Editorial Preface

The Tata Steel Masters and Challengers have come to an end.

Aronian scored a fantastic 8/11 although he lost the last game to Van Wely with White, which was clearly a pity as 9/11 could have been one of the best results in the history of this super tournament. The 2nd and 3rd places were shared by Giri and Karjakin, both with 6.5/11.

In the Challengers group Saric fought his way to the top with a great 10/13. Jobava and Timman shared the second place, both with 8.5/11.

The Gibraltar Open has begun, with 10 players over 2700 ELO! On the very top we find Adams, Vachier Lagrave, Ivanchuk, Eljanov... Just 3 rounds have been played and most of the favorites had a good start.

The Moscow Chess Festival is also on the run. This is another very strong open tournament that is combined with an elite rapid event including Grischuk, Morozevich and many more Top Russian players.

And now let's come to what is definitely the main event of the week, the Zurich Chess Classics, which is the strongest chess tournament in the history of chess by average rating. With Carlsen and Aronian we have the World number 1 and 2 players! Only Kramnik, who seems to be in deep preparation for the upcoming candidates tournament in March, is missing from the very top players. After 2 rounds Carlsen, Nakamura and Aronian all have 1.5/2, while Anand started with a very disappointing 0/2.

That's all for now, so we wish you a lot of fun with the current issue!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Harikrishna, Pentala(2706)
- Nakamura, Hikaru(2789) [B51]76th Tata Steel Masters(8.6),
2014.01.21GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

An impressive positional achievement, which was crowned with a nice tactical blow at the end.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♙b5+ Harikrishna did not want to test himself in a sharp line of Nakamura, he rather goes for the recently popular Bb5 check, where White is aiming for a positional game with a small advantage.

3...♞d7 The most dynamic answer by Black. 3...Bd7 leads to much simpler positions.

4.O-O a6



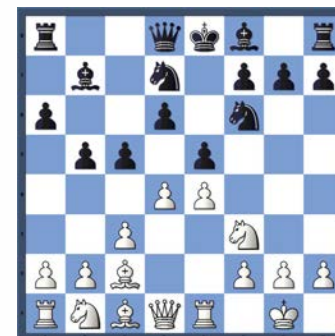
5.♙d3 I have commented the Svidler-Papaioannau game several CEWNs ago, which had seen the same continuation. This ugly-looking move is actually very logical, White wants to occupy the center with c3, Bc2 and d4.

5...♞gf6 6.c3 b5 7.♙c2 ♙b7 8.♞e1 We have reached the

critical position from the opening point of view, where it is still unclear how Black should play. The mentioned Svidler game continued with 8...e6. Nakamura's reaction is the most common move.

8...e5 [A third option is 8...c4 to fight against d4 with the en passant, but the black pawns become slightly weakened after all... 9.a4! e5 10.axb5 axb5 11.♞xa8 ♞xa8 12.♞a3! The most direct play against the b5 pawn. 12...♙e7 (Black cannot hold the pawn for long with 12...♙c6 13.d4 or 13. d3 might be more forcing. 13...cxd3 14.♙xd3 ♞b7 15.♞e2 and Black is in trouble.) 13.♞xb5 O-O Black decided to sacrifice his weakness for compensation. He has a target on e4 and the c1 bishop is locked, but White succeeded to consolidate. 14.♞e2 ♞c8 15.d4 cxd3 16.♙xd3 White was better in Karjakin-Cheparinov, Rhodes 2013]

9.d4 Suddenly we have reached a Ruy Lopez structure from the Sicilian defense. The plans for both sides will already be familiar for us. Black might be a tempo up, but with the c5-d6-e5 pawn structure the bishop on b7 is misplaced. White is going to close the center with d5 and then the bishop will be locked out from the actions and it will take Black some time to drive it back to d7.



9...♙e7 10.♞bd2 White employs the Spanish maneuver of transferring the knight to g3. Opening the center with taking

twice on d4 usually favors White, the knight might jump to f5.

10...O-O 11. ♖f1 ♜e8 Typical Spanish moves. Black gets ready to release the tension in the center and also strengthens his e5 pawn to free his pieces.

12. ♘g3 ♙f8



13.d5! Harikrishna chooses the right moment to close the position. [After another useful move like 13.h3 Black already opens the game with 13...cxd4 14.cxd4 exd4 15. ♘xd4 (15. ♜xd4 15...♜c8) 15...d5! This was not working before without the preparation of Re8 and Bf8 because of e5!]

13...g6 Black takes the f5 square under control. Otherwise White would have settled his knight on f5 and it is not easy to kick it out since g6 always runs into Nh6!

14.b3! The Ruy Lopez middlegames are extremely complex, one must study them very deeply to understand. The fight is usually going on on both sides. White sometimes tries to provoke weaknesses on the queenside with a4, Bd3, Qe2. If Black wants to keep the structure he must transfer his pieces to this side, but then a kingside attack with h3, Nh2 and f4 could be very effective. With his last move Harikrishna prevented Black's typical counterplay of c4, Nc5, a5, Ba6, b4 and Nd3 and he also prepares himself for the queenside play.

[14.a4 was bad in view of 14...c4 White loses control over the b3 square and he cannot put pressure on the b5 pawn, like it happened in the 8...c4 line. Black consolidates with Nc5 next move.]

14... ♘b6! The knight stands well on b6 against the upcoming ideas on the queenside.



15. ♜b1! A deep subtle move, which tries to make use of the misplacement of the b7 bishop with the x-ray. At the moment there are many pieces between them, but in the forthcoming moves both sides are intending to play such moves as c4 or a4, after which the opening of the b-file is already in the air. [15.a4!? is another known plan in such positions. Black has a couple of options here as well, but it is not easy to assess which one is the best. 15...bxa4 (15...c4 transposes to the game after 16.bxc4 ♘xc4 17. ♜b1; 15...♙c8 is a logical move to keep the tension and strengthen the b5 pawn with Bd7.) 16.bxa4 a5!? is also interesting with the idea of c4, Ba6 and driving the b6 knight back to c5, from where it could jump to d3 and b3.]

15...c4 Nakamura tries to sharpen the position, but White is better prepared for the direct actions. [It was probably more advisable to leave the x-ray with 15...♙c8 although White has an easier game after 16.h3! followed by Nh2 and f4.]

16.bxc4! ♖xc4



17.a4! The x-ray starts to work. It is suddenly not easy to deal with the b5 pawn. Nakamura decided to sacrifice it, but he does not get enough compensation. It is worth mentioning that if Black could play Bd7 now, he would be completely fine!

17...♔c7 [Nakamura was probably initially (before playing 15...c4) intending to play 17...♔a5 but White has the very strong 18.♘d2! ♔ec8 (18...♔xc3 drops a piece after 19.♘e2! ♔a5 The only square for the queen. 20.♘xc4 bxc4 21.♔xb7+—) 19.♘xc4 ♔xc4 20.♘d2! Bd3 is coming next and Black cannot avoid losing the b5 pawn. 20...♘c8 21.axb5 axb5 22.♘d3 ♔c5 23.c4!±; 17...♔d7 is also too passive. The d7 square should be occupied by the bishop. 18.♘d3 ♔ec8



19.♔e2 The c4 knight looks nice, but actually it is a clear target. Black cannot remove it because the b5 pawn is always

hanging and White is threatening to simply win a pawn with Rb4. 19...♔c7 20.♔b4 ♔ac8 White can further improve his position by bringing the e1 rook into the game. 21.♘g5! ♘e7 22.axb5 axb5 23.♔a1± Black is in trouble.]

18.axb5 axb5 19.♔xb5 ♘a3 Nakamura takes the bishop pair, but a pawn is still a pawn!

20.♔b3 ♘xc2 21.♔xc2 ♘d7 This is the idea. Black would like to create a solid blockade on the c-file with Nc5, Ba6 and Rec8, Rab8. If he could achieve all this he could still be fine, but of course White also has his ideas...

22.♘e3! After Nc5 the knight could be taken now as recapturing with the pawn is positionally not an option for Black. White would play c4 (to avoid c4-Bc5) and both bishops are bad. Black would have no compensation for the pawn.

22...♘a6 23.♔a3! Threatening to pin the bishop, which forces Black to simplify the position.

23...♘b5 24.♔ea1 ♔xa3 25.♔xa3 White is ready to invade the 7th rank. **25...♔b8** [25...♘c5 26.c4± is also bad.]

26.♔a7 [26.♘d2!? was also possible, but it is only good if White foresees the following brilliant idea. White wants to play c4, so Black should try to parry it: 26...♘b6 and here



27.c4!! ♘xc4 28.♘gf1!! After this shocking move, Black cannot

avoid losing a piece. The threat is Qc1!! and then Rc3! Black is simply unable to leave the pin on the c-file. It is important to play Qc1 first, because Rc3 could be met by the intermediate move Nxe3! (28. Rxc3 28... Nxe3) 28... Rxc8 is refuted by (28... Qxc8 already runs into 29. Rxc3! because the rook is hanging in the end: 29... Nxe3 30. Rxc8 Nxc2 31. Rxb8+-) 29. Rxc3 Nxe3 30. Rxc7 Nxc2 31. Rxc8+-]

26... ♖c8 Black did not want to leave the annoying rook on a7, but otherwise White could have played c4! [26... ♖b7 27. ♖xb7 ♖xb7 28. c4 ♗a6 29. ♗d2± White slowly but surely converts his advantage.]

27. h3 Opening the back rank, just in case. A good prophylactic move.

27... ♗b6



28. ♖c1! Another very subtle move! After Black has focused all his pieces on the queenside in order to fight against c4, the black king is a bit alone and Harikrishna exploits it with a very nice attack.

28... ♗c4 29. ♗h6 Suddenly all of White's pieces are ready for a final blow!

29... ♖c5 [29... ♖b7 also leads to a lost position, but at least Black is not getting mated. 30. ♖xb7 ♖xb7 31. ♗xf8 ♖xf8 32. ♖h6+ ♖g8 33. ♗g5 f6 34. ♗e6±]



30. ♗h5!! And suddenly the game is over! Black cannot avoid getting mated, which is actually not a big surprise. Only the f8 bishop is defending, while all white pieces are around the king...

30... ♗g7 [30... gxf5 leads to forced mate after 31. ♖g5+ ♖h8 32. ♖f6+ ♖g8 33. ♖xf7+ ♖h8 34. ♖xh7#; 30... ♖xa7 is refuted by 31. ♗f6+ ♖h8 32. ♗xf8 Qh6 is coming next and the diagonal closing combination does not help either: 32... ♗e3 (32... ♖xf8 33. ♖h6+-) 33. ♗xd6+- Black collapses.]

31. ♗xg7 ♖xa7 32. ♖h6 It is just too much to hold.

32... f5 [32... f6 does not change anything. 33. ♗xf6+ ♖f7 34. ♗g5+ ♖e7 35. ♗e6+- White will mate soon.]

33. ♗g5 1-0

**(2) Dominguez Perez, Leinier(2754)
- Aronian, Levon(2812) [C84]**

Wijk aan Zee NED(10.3),
2014.01.25



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Aronian was in irresistible form in Wijk aan Zee. Let's examine his 6th win, with which he secured his tournament victory with a round to go...

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 Earlier in this tournament he successfully employed the Berlin (3...Nf6), but this time he goes for his other pet line, the Marschall gambit.

4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.O-O ♙e7 6.d3 We can already consider that this as the new main line to 6.Re1. Dominguez scored a nice win over Caruana several rounds ago.

6...b5 7.♙b3 O-O 8.♘c3 d6



9.a3 This is the latest fashion. After Black has protected his e5 pawn, he was threatening to grab the strong b3 bishop with Na5, therefore White frees the a2 square. 9.a4 is the alternative for White.

9...♘a5 [The mentioned Caruana game continued with 9...♙e6 Dominguez prepared the interesting novelty of

10.♙e3!? and he managed to get an edge later on 10...♙d7 11.♘d5 ♙d8 12.♙g5 ♙xd5 13.exd5 ♘d4 14.♘xd4 exd4 15.a4 ♙f5 16.♙d2 ♖b8 17.axb5 axb5 18.h3 h5 19.♖a7 h4 (19...♘xd5? drops a piece after 20.g4! hxg4 21.hxg4 ♙e5 22.f4! ♙e6 23.♖e1+-) 20.♙f3 ♙xf3 21.gxf3 The endgame was slightly better for White due to the weaknesses of the d4, c7 and b5 pawns.]

10.♙a2 ♙e6 11.♙g5 Dominguez improves his own game against Karjakin, which he just lost a few weeks ago in rapid chess. Black plays the Na5 move in order to control the center with c5, therefore the novelty is very logical, White fights for the d5 square. [11.♙xe6 11...fxe6 It is always hard to know whether the doubled pawns will become weak in the future or if Black's strengthened center will start to work effectively. 12.b4 ♘c6 13.♙d2 d5! 14.♖e1 ♙d6 15.h3 ♘d7 16.♘e2 a5 17.♖b1 axb4 18.axb4 ♖fb8 19.♘g3 d4! Karjakin nicely overtook the initiative and won the game later on. The b4 pawn became a real target. 20.c3 dxc3 21.♙xc3 ♖a4 22.♙b3 ♙h8 23.♖ed1 White succeeded in saving his pawns, but Black obtained an excellent pawn structure after 23...♘d4! 24.♘xd4 exd4 25.♙d2 c5=+ Creating a strong passed b-pawn.]

11...c5 12.b4 This is the novelty. In combination with the next move it looks like a really decent one! [12.♙xf6 12...♙xf6 13.♘d5 g6 14.c3 happened in the previous games, which also looks playable.] **12...♘c6**



13. ♖d5! A concrete move, which seems to be tactically justified in all the lines.

13... ♗xd5 Usually giving up the bishop like this is considered to be an achievement for White, but as we will see, one inaccuracy might change the entire evaluation. [13... ♖xd5 leads to a clearly worse position after 14.exd5 ♗xg5 15.dxe6 fxe6 16.♗xe6+ ♔h8 17.♗d5 In case of opposite colored bishops, the principle says that the side who's bishop is more active is better. In this position the white bishop is clearly better. 17... ♖c8 18.bxc5 dxc5 19.♗xc6 (19.♗e4!+= might be even stronger in order not to change the positional advantage into material one. White continues with c3, Re1 and Ra2-e2 is necessary, winning the e5 pawn in better circumstances.) 19... ♖xc6 20.♖xe5+=]

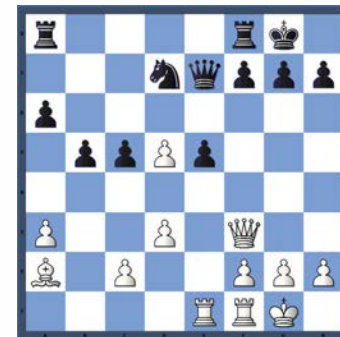
14.exd5 ♖d4 15.bxc5! Forcing Black to give up his d4 knight, otherwise the e5 pawn falls. White also opens the position for his two bishops.

15... ♖xf3+ 16. ♖xf3 dxc5 We have reached the critical position, when Dominguez plays the most natural move, which gives away his advantage. According to Aronian it even passes the initiative to Black.



17. ♖fe1? White activates his rook with tempo, but the position required more concrete measures. [Aronian considered 17.a4 to be the critical move, which disturbs

Black's plan with Nd7. Although bxa4 and b4 both destroy the healthy pawn structure, they don't really come into consideration... 17... ♖d6 seems like the best, but then Black cannot get his nice piece arrangement, like it happened in the game. (17... ♖d7? does not work here because after 18.♗xe7 ♖xe7 19.axb5 axb5 20.d6! the a8 rook is facing problems due to the Bxf7 discovered check idea.) 18.♗b3; The machine suggests the extremely deep idea of 17.♖ae1! seems like the strongest move and the point is that after 17... ♖d7 18.♗xe7 ♖xe7



19.d6! the blocked a2 bishop suddenly becomes a really strong piece. 19... ♖xd6 20.♗xf7+ ♔h8 21.♖d5! White leaves the pin and obtains a clear advantage. We will soon realize the difference to the game...]

17... ♖d7! 18.♗d2 Keeping the pair of bishops is a good idea, but White has problems with the one on a2, which can hardly be activated due to his own d5 pawn. [In comparison to 17.Rae1, in the same line with 18.♗xe7 18... ♖xe7 the a2 bishop becomes really poor if Black plays Qd6. 19.d6 does not work because of 19... ♖xd6 20.♗xf7+ ♔h8 21.♖d5 ♖f6! and the f2 pawn falls! This is the reason why White needs to go to e1 with the a-rook.]

18... ♗d6! Black creates a strong blockade and is ready to launch a dangerous attack with f5! Suddenly it is not

easy to suggest a good plan for White, which is why Aronian considered Black's position more comfortable after 17.Rfe1 Nd7 and suggested instead 17. a4! Great understanding!

19.a4 White tries to open the queenside to get his bad bishop into the game.

19...f5 20.♟b3?! The most natural move is a mistake again. White would like to create tension on the queenside between the rooks and also wants to activate the bishop with axb5 cxb5 and c4! Finally the bishop could join to the game through a4! However the position was more concrete again... [20.♞h3 was more circumspect to anticipate Black's plan.]



20...e4! A breakthrough which suggested itself a lot. Black opens the bishop's diagonal and frees the e5 square for the knight.

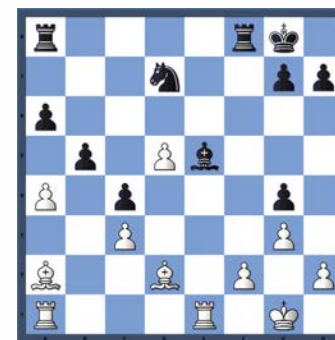
21.dxe4 [21.♞h3 was still stronger, although Black is more than fine here as well.]

21...c4! The whole idea to improve the light squared bishop has collapsed.

22.♟a2 ♞h4! 23.e5! A clever simplification, which leaves White in an only slightly worse position. [23.g3 directly would have run into 23...♞e5! with real problems for White.; 23.h3 was losing after 23...fxe4 24.♞xe4 ♞xf3 25.♞xh4 ♞a3!—+ White cannot deal with the pin!]

23...♟xe5 24.g3 ♞g4! Another very deep move by Aronian! Two moves later it all becomes clear.

25.♞xg4 fxg4 26.c3 White wanted to take the d4 square under control and also to have a chance to bring back the a2 bishop through b1. [26.♞ab1 was also bad in view of 26...♟d4 27.♟e3 ♟xe3 28.♞xe3 ♞f6+ blocking the d-pawn and the a2 bishop is stuck.]



26...♟f6!! And now the idea behind Qg4 becomes clear. Black has created a hole on f3 for his knight! White has no good way to deal with it. Dominguez tries to control it with an e4 bishop, but it creates new problems...

27.♟b1 b4! White is not attacking the c4 pawn anymore, which is why Black uses the pin on the f6-a1 diagonal to create a b3 passed pawn.

28.♞e3 ♞ad8 Black prepares to win the d5 pawn with Nb6 and also protects his knight against Bf5.

29.♟f5 h5 30.♞d1 White has left the pin and threatens to play cxb4, therefore it is time to create the powerful protected passed pawn.

30...b3! 31.♗c1 Aronian eliminates the blockader of the b3 pawn.



31...♗g5! 32.♗e6+ ♔h8 33.♖e2 ♗xc1 34.♖xc1 Black has reached a winning endgame. His pawns are just very strong and the knight also dominates the bishop. It looks nice on e6, but it actually doesn't do anything. The rest is only the easy technical part of the game.

34...♘c5 35.a5 ♖fe8 36.♔f1 g6! Trapping the bishop. Black simply wants to bring his king to f6. White cannot create any counterplay as the b3 pawn restricts his abilities.

37.♖ce1 ♔g7 38.d6 A desperate attempt to complicate the matters, but it does not help.

38...♖xe6 39.♖xe6 ♘xe6 40.♖xe6



40...♖d7! b2 immediately would have been met by Re7-b7.

Now Black simply wants to play Kf7 or just push b2... The game is over.

41.♖e8 ♖xd6 42.♔e2 [There was no time for 42.♖c8 42...b2 43.♖b8 ♖d1+--+]]

42...♖d3 With this victory, Aronian has beat his personal best and improved his live rating to 2834! **0-1**

**(3) Rapport, Richard(2691)
- Nakamura, Hikaru(2789) [A04]**76th Tata Steel Masters(10),
2014.01.25GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Rapport has been playing a lot of strange openings and it usually went very wrong. This game is not an exception. After the opening White is quickly getting into trouble, but Nakamura decided to go into even deeper complications, for which there was no need, which gave White some attacking chances and finally a missed opportunity by Rapport ended the game on the spot.

1. ♖f3 c5 2. b3 Well, what to say to such about move... It can't be the right way to fight for any opening advantage.

2...d6 It seems very logical to me to put d6-e5 against White's bishop on b2.

3.e3 White is preparing the d4 move.

3...e5 4. ♗b5+! A strong check. [4.d4 wouldn't lead to anything for White as after 4...e4 5. ♖fd2 d5 the position is at least equal.]

4...♗c6 Nakamura is going for the complications. [4...♗d7 was a more simple move. 5. ♗xd7+ ♗xd7 6. O-O ♗gf6 With an about equal position.]

5. ♗c3 White is preparing the d4 push which was not possible now because of Qa5.

5...♗f6 6.d4 We already have a very strange position on move 6. It is clear that White's pawn would be even better placed on b2 than on b3, but the position is very dynamic.

6...e4 A correct and typical move.

7.d5 White has nothing else left, it is not an option for White to let Black play d5.



7...a6! This little move makes it all work for Black! [Of course not 7...exf3?? 8.dxc6 and White is winning.]

8. ♗f1 The white bishop needs to return to his starting position. [8.dxc6? would lead to a very bad position as after 8...axb5 9. ♖d2 bxc6 Black has the bishop pair and a strong center.]

8...♗e7 9. ♖d2 ♗f5 Now it is all about whether Black is in time to keep the pawn on e4 alive. In case he manages to, Black just has much more space, which means a clearly better position.

10. ♗b2 The b3 move finally has some sense now. The bishop on b2 is somehow in the game.

10...b5! A good move. Black continues playing on "squeeze" mode. [10...♗exd5 didn't make much sense because of the following great tactical trick: 11. ♖dxe4! ♗xc3 12. ♖xc3 d5 13. ♗d3 White almost managed to equalize.]

11.h3 h5 Not letting White play g4.

12.a3 Black wanted to play b4 and win the d5 pawn.



12...Nc8? This logical move could have turned out to be a serious mistake. [It was more simple for Black to play 12...h4 followed by Rh6 and Rg6 with a pressure on g2. I think Black is clearly better here.]

13.a4? White is returning the favor.. . [13.f3! While the black knight is in a passive position on c8, it was time for White to take strong actions. 13...exf3 What else to play?! 14.Qxf3 And suddenly all white pieces are great. The next white move is 0-0-0 followed by e4-e5. Right out of nothing, Black's position is really looking bad!]

13...b4 14.Ne2 Nd5!? After this move we are entering crazy complications. [14...Qe7 was much more solid and I think Black is better here.; After the careless 14...h4? 15.g4! is a nice tactical move.]

15.Ng3 Nxe3 Black said "A" so he needs to say "B"... [After 15...Qg6 16.Ndx4 White is better.]



16.Qe2! I have a feeling that Nakamura underestimated this move. [16.fxe3 wouldn't lead to anything good for White as after 16...Qh4 17.Qf2 d5 Black already has 2 pawns and a strong attack. 18.Nf3 is an attempt to complicate the game. (18.Qe2 18...Qd6 19.Nf1 Ne7 20.Qe1 Qh6 And White just cannot move!) 18...exf3 19.Qxd5 Qd6 Black should be winning here.]

16...Nxc2+ 17.Qd1 Qg6! A strong move! [After 17...Nxa1 18.Nxf5 d5 19.Nxg7+ Qxg7 20.Qxg7 Qh7 21.Qxa1 we have reached a position which is really difficult to evaluate.]

18.Ndxe4! Rapport correctly takes his chances. [After 18.Qxc2 18...d5 Black's initiative should be crushing.]

18...Qe7?! In a very complex position Black doesn't choose the best move... [18...Ne7 was better and after 19.Qxc2 d5 20.Qe1! the position is very unclear.]



19.Qf3? A bad move. White is going for a "beating" when it was time to think objectively. [After the more concrete 19.Qxc2 19...d5 20.Qd3 dxe4 21.Qxe4 White is clearly better.]

19...Nxa1 The black material advantage is becoming huge.

20.Qc4 [20.Qxa1 was also leading to a bad position for White. 20...d5 21.Nf6+ gxf6 22.Qxf6 Qe4]

20...Nb6! Now Black has only moves, but these only moves

lead to a winning position.

21. ♖f6+ There was nothing else left, it is all or nothing now for White.

21...gxf6 22. ♗xf6 ♔c7 Nakamura stays cool. The black king will feel quite safe on d7.

23. ♖e1+ ♕d7 **24.** ♗xa1 It is too late to win back the material. Black is still a full rook up.



24...♔c6! A very good technical way to convert the advantage. By giving a full rook back Black is exchanging the queens and entering a totally winning endgame.

25. ♔xc6+ ♕xc6 **26.** ♗xh8 h4 Chasing the knight.

27. ♖f1 ♖xc4 **28.** bxc4 ♗d3 Black is a pawn up, he has a passed b-pawn, the bishop pair and many other plusses. The game is over.

29. ♖d2 d5 Two connected passed pawns are better than one! :)

30. cxd5+ ♕xd5 **31.** ♖e5+ I guess that White could have resigned the game now.

31...♕c6 32. ♖h5 ♗g6 We just saw a crazy game with a very rare opening and in an unclear position Nakamura proved to be the better played. **0-1**

(4) Caruana, Fabiano(2782) - Naiditsch, Arkadij(2718) [A05]

76th Tata Steel Masters(10),
2014.01.25



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

At this moment I was having the worst tournament of my chess career. Why? This I asked myself as well, maybe I am just getting older!? :) Caruana was on the second place and it was clear to everybody that anything else than a full point would be a disappointment for the World Nr5. Well, sometimes life is funny. Last year I played Caruana 3 times, I had 3 winning positions and out of those I scored 0.5 points, while now, being in such horrible shape, I somehow managed to win quite a smooth game. How to explain it-no idea!

1.♘f3 Caruana's main move is 1.e4 but I was expecting any opening given the tournament situation.

1...♗f6 2.g3 d5 3.♕g2 So now I had to choose whether to play a Reti after 3...Bf5 or 3...Bg4 or 3...c6, to play the same as against Karjakin which would go into a Catalan after 3...e6 but somehow I thought these openings are too boring and decided to play something more funny.

3...g6 4.c4 The quick 4.c4 is quite a tricky move because of many move orders which are coming after it.

4...dxc4 A more or less rare continuation. [4...♗g7 5.cxd5 ♗xd5 6.O-O ♗b6 would lead to the main KID with g3.]

5.♗a3 A very logical move. The white knight will take a great position on c4.

5...♗g7 6.♗xc4 c5 I need to stop White from playing d4, a move after which Black would be a bit worse.



7.♗fe5?! Caruana made this move after thinking for quite a long time. Personally I don't like it, it is just too early. I think White's position should be a bit better after the simple O-O, d3, Bd2, Rc1.

7...O-O 8.d3 ♗d5 9.♖b3 e6 10.O-O ♖c7 Now we can see why Nfe5 was a bit too early. It is difficult for White to keep the knight on e5 and to go back would just mean a loss of a tempo.

11.f4 White doesn't have a choice.

11...♗d7 12.♕d2!? A little provocation.

12...b6 I just continue playing simple move. To develop the bishop on b7 can't be a bad idea. [To go for the pawn would have been a bad decision: 12...♗xe5? 13.♗xe5 ♗xe5 14.fxe5 ♖xe5 15.♖f2 followed by e4 and I would probably be crushed on the dark squares.]

13.♗f3 ♗b7 14.e4 White needs to do something. I had an easy plan, to play Rac8-Rfd8 next with a very comfortable position.

14...♗b4 14...Ne7 was also possible, but somehow I thought the position of the knight on b4 is a bit more active and of course White cannot play Bxb4.

15.♗c3 White needs to exchange the black squared bishops. If I was in time for Nc6-Nd4 my position could even already be better. [Of course talking the pawn would have been a big mistake as after 15.♗xb4 15...cxb4 16.♖xb4 ♗c5 the black

pieces are just great!]

15...b5 During the game I was not sure if this was the right decision. My c5 pawn is getting a bit weak now, but on the other hand my pieces are getting a bit more active. [15...♖ad8 would have been a solid move and I think the position is quite complicated.]

16.♟xg7 ♞xg7 17.♞c3+ f6 Black's position is looking a little strange with pawns on g6-f6-e6 but it is very solid.



18.♞cd2 [After 18.♞e3 18...♖ad8 Black is fine as well.]

18...♞d6 [Maybe 18...♞b6 would have been a better place for the queen, but it is hard to say.]



19.a3! The only move to keep the game in an unclear area. [During the game I thought that after 19.d4 19...♖ac8 my position should be at least equal.]

19...♞c6 [Once again it would have been a mistake to take the pawn as after 19...♞xd3 20.e5! my whole position is falling apart. 20...b4 21.axb4 cxb4 22.exd6 bxc3 23.bxc3 With a clearly better endgame for White.]

20.♞b3 ♖ac8 21.♖ac1 ♞e7 So far all the moves were pretty logical. The position is very complicated. It is a pity for me that I never have the e5 move because of Bh3! but it is also difficult for White to create any concrete threats.



22.e5? This looks like a serious mistake to me. Now my knight is gaining a great square on d5. [It would have been better for White to play 22.♟h3 with a very complicated position.]

22...♞b6 23.exf6+ ♖xf6 24.♞h1 In many lines I wanted to play c4 so Kh1 is almost forced.

24...♞d5 I now have a really great knight on d5!

25.♞d2 c4! Caruana was slowly getting into time trouble and I felt that c4 should be the right move. Anyhow it was too tempting for me not to transport my knight from d7 to d3, even if I destroy my own pawn structure.

26.dxc4 bxc4 27.♞bd4 ♞c5 28.♖c2! A strong defensive move. Now the rook will defend the b2 pawn and at the same time protect the bishop on g2.

28...♞d3 29.b3 ♞b2! A very nice way to defend the c4 pawn.

[I was calculating for a long time to play 29...♘5xf4 30.gxf4 ♘xf4 31.♖xc4 ♖xc4 32.bxc4 e5 and I could really not evaluate this position. It is hard to say if I have enough power to really mate the white king. The position is very unclear.]

30.♘e5 c3 31.♖f2



31...♖d8! A good move. It is clear that White's position is already very dangerous. I have a strong c3 pawn and the white king could also get in trouble if I could somehow get rid of the g2 bishop. My main enemy is the knight on d4 so it is time to get rid of him.

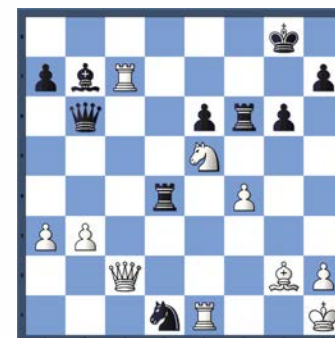
32.♖e1? After this move the game is already over. [My opponent had to find the amazing 32.♖g1!! a move which is very hard to play during a practical game. 32...♘xf4 33.gxf4 ♖xd4 34.♖xc3 It seems like Black has no direct win and the position remains very complicated.]

32...♘xf4 Now the game is over.

33.gxf4 ♖xd4 34.♖xc3 ♘d1! This is why the white queen should have been on g1.

35.♖c7+ ♔g8 A lot of white pieces are hanging now.

36.♖c2



36...♖dxf4! The most simple way of ending the game.

37.♖xb7 [37.♖xd1 37...♖f1+ 38.♖xf1 ♖xf1#]

37...♘f2+ 38.♔g1 ♘h3+ 39.♔h1 ♖f1+ I was very happy to win such a game, although it just improved my mood a little bit. I don't even want to imagine how Caruana felt after such a disaster in such an important 12th round. **0-1**

Puzzle section

(5) Aronian, L(2812)-Van Wely, L(2672)

Wijk aan Zee, 2014.01.26

1... -+



(6) Bok, B(2560)-Goudriaan, E(2431)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2014.01.21

1... -+



(7) Saric, I(2637)-Wojtaszek, R(2711)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2014.01.21

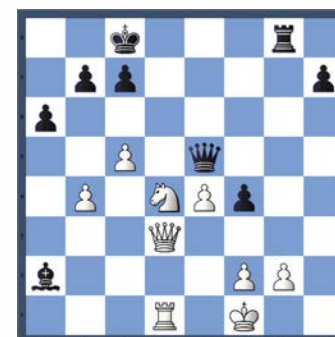
1. +-



(8) Muzychuk, A(2566)-Brunello, S(2602)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2014.01.25

1. +-



(9) Troff, K(2457)-Jobava, B(2710)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2014.01.26

1... =



(10) Sarkar, J(2425)-Macieja, B(2582)

Foxwoods Open, 2014.01.25

1... -+



(11) Perelshteyn, E(2499)-Mikhalevski, V(2536)

Foxwoods Open, 2014.01.26

1. +-



(12) Melkumyan, H(2625)-Hovhanissyan, R(2592)

Armenian Championship, 2014.01.21

1... -+



(13) Simantsev, M(2479)-Mammadov, Z(2432)

Marienbad, 2014.01.23

1... -+



(14) Ftacnik, L(2545)-Vojtek, V(2290)

Slovakian league, 2014.01.25

1. +-



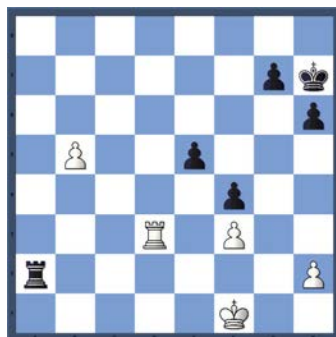
Endgame section

(15) Karjakin, Sergey(2759)
- Dominguez Perez, Leinier(2754)

Wijk aan Zee, 2014.01.26

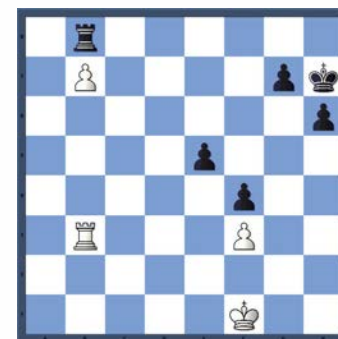


GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

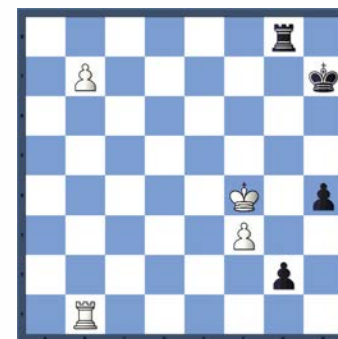


Black has an extra pawn and another one is hanging, but the passed b-pawn seems to give White enough counterplay to save the game. Karjakin's holding technique is really instructive.

46...♖b2! In rook endgames both sides should try to place their own rooks behind the passed pawn. [On the direct 46...♖xh2!? White could get the ideal position for his rook: 47.♖b3! Black is in time to catch the pawn, but his rook becomes passive. 47...♖d2 48.b6 ♖d8 49.b7 ♖b8



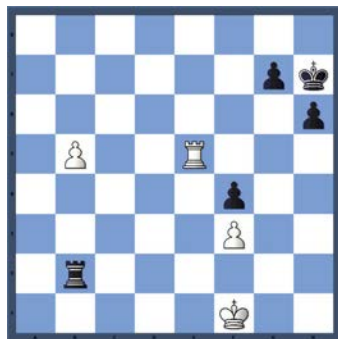
50.♖b6! Cutting the black king from supporting his pawns with Kg6-f5 and that could have been followed by h5-g5-g4. Now the white king simply goes for the e5 pawn. Black's only chance is to advance the pawns as quickly as possible. 50...g5 51.♖e2 h5 52.♖d3 g4 53.♖e4! White holds the draw by only one tempo: 53...g3 54.♖xe5 g2 55.♖b1 The bad luck of Black is the wrong placement of his king. He cannot use the small tactic of Rxb7 because White recaptures with check. 55...♖g8 (55...♖g6 leads to a draw after 56.♖xf4 ♖xb7 57.♖g1 ♖b2 58.♖g3=) 56.♖xf4 h4



It seems like Black simply promotes his pawns, but... 57.♖g1!! h3 58.b8=♔! ♖xb8 59.♖g3= saves the game.]

47. ♖d5 ♜xh2 The white rook can no longer occupy its ideal position and the black one returns behind the b-pawn. Although it costs Black the e5 pawn to achieve this...

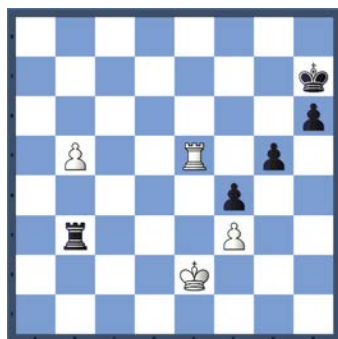
48. ♜xe5 ♜b2 White's chance lays in the b-pawn, therefore he must support it with his king.



49. ♖e1 ♜b3 [49...g5 50. ♖d1 ♖g6 51. ♖c1 ♜b4 52. ♖c2 and Kc3 Rb1 Kc2 next will be similar to the game.]

50. ♖e2 [White could have saved a tempo by playing 50. ♖d2! on the spot. 50...♜xf3 51. ♖c2 Similar to the game.]

50...g5



51. ♖d2! Karjakin gives up his f-pawn in order to send away the rook from the b-file and to be able to advance his pawn.

[The passive defense with 51. ♖f2 simply loses to 51...♖g6 52. ♜e6+ (52. ♖g2 52...♖h5—+ followed by Kh2, check on the 2nd rank and Kg3.) 52...♖h5 53. b6 ♜b2+ 54. ♖f1 ♖h4! 55. ♜xh6+ ♖g3—+ and Black wins!]

51...♜xf3 [Black could not keep his rook behind the pawn 51...♖g6 52. ♖c2 ♜b4 53. ♖c3 ♜b1 54. ♖c2=]

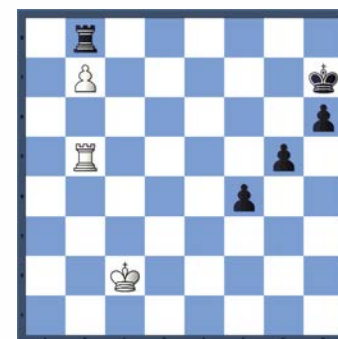
52. ♖c2! Taking control over the b-file. White is now ready to advance his pawn.

52...♜f2+ 53. ♖c3 ♜f1 54. ♖c2! Of course White had to prevent Rb1.

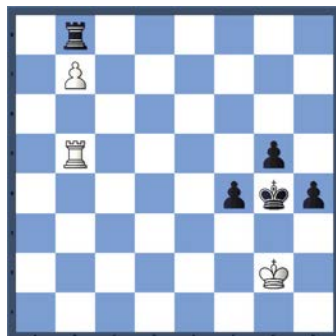
54...♜f2+ Gaining some time...

55. ♖c3 ♜f1 56. ♖c2 ♜a1 [56...f3 would have been met by 57. b6 f2 58. ♜f5 and Black is forced to give up the f2 pawn.]

57. b6 ♜a8 58. b7 ♜b8 59. ♜b5 We have reached a similar scenario to the 46... Rxh2 line. As we will see, Black cannot win the game without his rook, while catching the b-pawn with the king takes too much time and White succeeds to set up a successful defensive position.



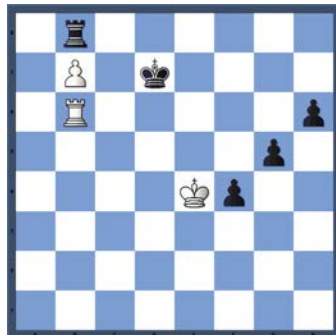
59...♖g6 60. ♖d3 ♖f6 [60...♖h5 61. ♖e2 ♖g4 62. ♖f2 h5 63. ♖g2 h4



66...♔d6 67.♔xg5 ♖f7 68.♔g4 ♔e5 69.♔g3 ♔e4 70.♖xf2 ♖xf2 71.♔xf2 An instructive endgame, which ideas could be used in our practical endgames. **1/2-1/2**

64.♖b3! And the game is drawn as the following lines prove: **64...h3+ (64...f3+ 65.♔f2! h3 66.♖b4+=) 65.♔h2!** Black is in zugzwang **65...f3 (65...♔h4 66.♖xh3+=) 66.♖b4+ ♔f5 67.♔xh3=**; The pawns can easily be stopped if Black just pushes them without support. **60...g4 61.♔e4 f3 62.♔e3 h5 63.♔f2 h4** This is the final destination for the pawns as White now forces a draw with **64.♖b4 ♔f5 65.♖b5+ ♔f6 66.♖b4=]**

61.♔e4 ♔e6 62.♖b6+ ♔d7



63.♔f5! Just in time to attack the g5 pawn before taking on h6. The rest is easy.

63...f3 [63...♔c7 64.♖xh6 ♖xb7 (64...♖g8 65.♖h7+ ♔b8 66.♔g4=) 65.♔xg5=]

64.♖xh6 f2 65.♖h1 ♖xb7 66.♖f1 [66.♔xg5= was also good.]

(16) Aronian, Levon(2812)
- Anand, Viswanathan(2773)

Zurich Chess Challenge 2014(1),
2014.01.30



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



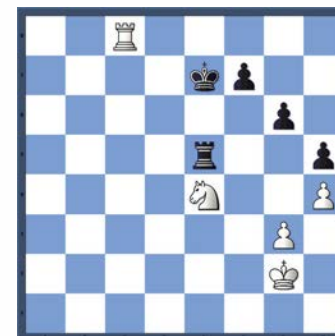
66...♖f1 White is clearly winning, but how to win such a position? Putting pressure on f7 is not enough as the black rook will keep on walking on the f-file. White has 2 main ideas: 1) In case White could exchange the rooks, the game would immediately be over. 2) If White somehow manages to provoke Black into playing f6, the game would be over too.

67.♔e2 A good move. The black rook has only 1 square left on the f-file.

67...♖f5 68.♖c8! Another very good move. White wants to play Rc5 next so the black rook needs to leave the f-file.

68...♖e5 69.♔f3 ♖f5+ Black keeps on waiting, but White has a clear plan.

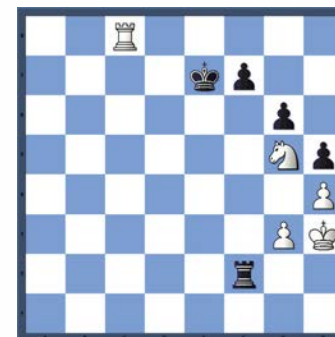
70.♔g2 ♖e5



71.♘g5! The white knight is taking a perfect position on g5 and the threat is to play Rc7 next.

71...♖e2+ 72.♔h3 The white king moves out of the check and the black rook is forced to take back its position on the f-file.

72...♖f2 And here comes the key move



73.♖c4! with the idea of playing Rf4 next! Black cannot prevent Rf4 and at the same time protect the f7 pawn twice. Aronian showed us a very simple and perfect winning plan in such an endgame. **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Nimzowitsch, Aaron
- Rubinstein, Akiba[A06]

Semmering Panhans(7),
1926.03.15



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.♖f3 d5 2.b3 c5 Black has many other possibilities to develop and one of most popular is 2...♗g4

3.♗b2 ♖c6 4.e3



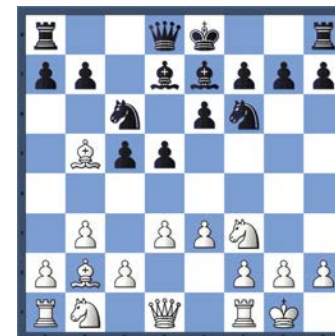
4...♗f6 [4...e6 5.g3 This plan was played by Kramnik recently. 5...♗f6 6.♗g2 ♗e7 7.O-O O-O 8.c4 With the idea to take on d5 and play d4 to use the strength of the bishops.]

5.♗b5 [5.g3 White can maybe still play over g3, but Black has additional Bg4 plans.]

5...♗d7 An important move which doesn't allow to weaken the structure. [5...♗g4 6.h3 ♗xf3 7.♗xc6+ bxc6 8.♖xf3 e6 9.d3 ♗e7 10.♗d2 O-O 11.O-O With Nd7 next t, but thanks to his better structure White keeps a long term small plus, especially since the c5 pawn can be weak after for example c4-Rc1 ideas.]

6.O-O e6 7.d3 [7.d4 7...♗e7 8.♗bd2 cxd4 (8...O-O=) 9.exd4 O-O 10.a3 In this case the bishop on b5 is badly placed and White's plan can be Bd3 back and then Re1-Ne5 etc.]

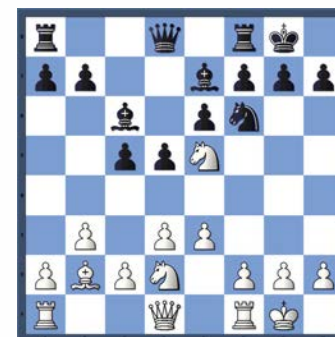
7...♗e7



8.♗bd2 [8.♗xc6 8...♗xc6 9.♗e5 Now Black is not able to escape with the bishop. 9...♖c7 10.♗d2 O-O 11.♗xc6 ♖xc6 With an equal position.]

8...O-O [8...b6!? is an interesting idea. 9.♗xc6 ♗xc6 10.♗e5 ♗b7 And now the bishop can stay on this diagonal.]

9.♗xc6 ♗xc6 10.♗e5



10...♗e8! Of course Black keeps the bishop pair and he will soon get rid of the e5 knight.

11.f4 ♗d7 [11...♖h8!? With the idea to save knight on the board and play Ng8-f6 and then maybe Bd6-Ne7.]

12. ♖xd7 ♜xd7 13.e4 f6 Black limited the bishop on b2 and activated the bishop on e8. [13...d4 was good too and now White probably needs to play 14.f5 otherwise Black would play f5 and put the bishop on the h1-a8 diagonal.]

14. ♜f3 ♗f7 White doesn't have any weaknesses but thanks to the bishop pair Black has a small advantage.

15.a4 b6 16. ♜ae1 a6 Black is preparing the logical plan to play b5-c4 and at some moment he wants to open the position or create some weaknesses.

17.f5 dxe4 [17...e5 18.exd5 ♗xd5 19. ♖e4 With the same structure as in the game. 19...b5 With the idea to push c4 and create a weak pawn on d3 or knight on e4. Black is just better.]

18. ♜xe4 [18.fxe6 18... ♜xe6 (18...exf3 19.exd7 fxg2 20. ♜f2 ♗d8 Followed by Ra7.) 19. ♜xe4 ♜d7 20. ♖c4 ♜ab8 21. ♖e3 And White should equalize thanks to the great f5 square for the knight. 21... ♜be8 (21... ♜fe8 is not accurate. 22. ♖f5 ♗f8



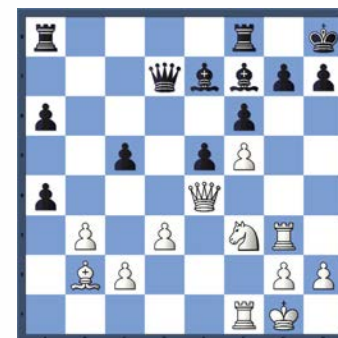
23. ♖h6+! ♜h8 (23...gxf6 24. ♜xf6+--) 24. ♗xf6 ♗d5 25. ♗e5! ♗xe4 (25... ♜xe5 26. ♜xf8+--) 26. ♖f7+ ♜g8 27. ♜xe4 And White has the initiative thanks to his active pieces.) 22. ♖f5 ♗g6=]

18...e5 19. ♜e3 White is going to put the pressure on the kingside, otherwise Black would play b5-c4 and get a huge advantage.

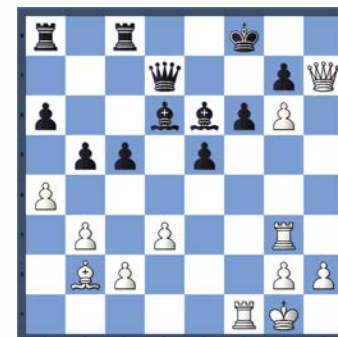
19...b5 [19...c4!? with the concrete idea to play Bc5 leads to an unclear position. 20. ♜g3 cxd3 21. ♜g4 ♗c5+ (21...g5?? 22.fxg6 ♜xg4 23.gxf7+--) 22. ♜h1 ♗d5 23.b4 (23. ♜xd3 23... ♜b7+) 23...h5 24. ♜xh5 ♗xb4 Black is better but in practice it is still not easy to win because of the weak king.]

20. ♜g3 ♜h8 21. ♖f3 White is bringing more pieces to the attack.

21...bxa4?



A huge mistake but White would already have gotten some counterplay, for example after [21... ♗d6 22. ♖h4 ♜fc8 23. ♖g6+ ♜g8 (23...hxf6? 24.fxf6 ♗e6 25. ♜h4+ ♜g8 26. ♜h7+ ♜f8



27. ♜xf6+!) 24. ♜h3 Threatening Rxh7. 24...h6 25. ♜g4 White has ideas of sacrificing on h6 and the position is very complicated.]

22. ♖xe5! A nice tactic.

22... ♖e8 [22...fxe5 23. ♖xe5 ♗f6 24. ♖xf6! gxf6 25. ♗xf6#]

23. ♖g4 ♖g8 24. ♖xf7+ White missed a chance to win the game faster: [24. ♖g6+ 24... ♗xg6 25. fxxg6 h6 26. ♖h3 axb3



Nimzowitsch probably didn't see the following fantastic idea: 27. ♖g5!! And Black is not able to prevent the sacrifice on h6.]

24... ♖xf7 25. ♖xa4 White is a pawn up and he has a better structure. The position is winning but White needs to play accurately.

25... ♖d5 26. ♖g4 ♗d8 A good move. Black is going to activate the bishop.

27. ♖g6! Forcing Black to put the pawn on h6 and then White will have some sacrifice ideas.

27... h6 28. ♖e1 ♖d7 29. ♖e6

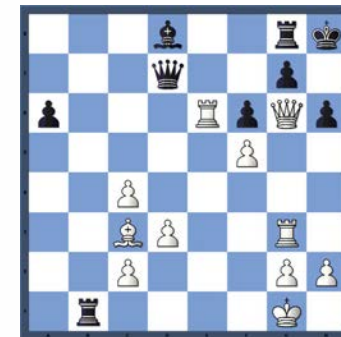


29...c4! A good move. Black is trying to activate his pieces to get practical chances.

30. bxc4? White immediately makes a mistake. The most important was to prepare the sacrifice on h6 very quickly. [30. ♗c1 30... ♖d4+ (30...cxb3 31. ♗xh6 b2 32. ♖h3 b1=♖+ 33. ♗c1#) 31. ♗e3 ♖a1+ 32. ♖f2+- with Bxh6 next.]

30... ♖b8 Black gets a good chance after the c4 move. Not only is the rook coming into play over the b-file but the bishop also over the b6 square.

31. ♗c3 ♖b1+



32. ♖e1? Seems to be logical to exchange an active rook but objectively it was better to play [32. ♖f2 32... ♖c1 33. ♖e2 ♗b6+ 34. ♖f3 ♖f1+ 35. ♖g4 The king is going to be safe on h3. 35... ♗a5 This trick doesn't help. 36. ♗b2 (36. ♗xa5 36... ♖xf5! 37. ♖xf5 h5+ 38. ♖f4 g5+ 39. ♖e4 ♖e8+-) 36... ♖b7 37. ♗d4± And White should slowly be able to consolidate his position.]

32... ♗b6+? Looks logical but is not accurate. Black could play [32... ♖xe1+ 33. ♗xe1



33...Qe7! A very important move with multiple ideas. Now the queen protects the f6 square, can be activated over the e-file and can also help activate the rook. 34.♘c3 (34.♖f1 34...♗e8†; 34.♙f2 34...♙b6 35.♖f1 ♙xf2 36.♖xf2 ♗e8†) 34...♗e2 35.♗g4 ♗xc2 White lost the coordination and the position is unclear.]

33.♖f1 ♗xe1+ 34.♙xe1 ♗a4 [34...♗d4 35.c3 ♗g1+ 36.♖e2± Black has problems to improve the position because the e8 square is not available for the rook.; 34...♗e8 35.♗g4! is a very good prophylactic move as now after 35...Qe7 White has 36.Re4! 35...♗e5 36.♙c3 ♗xf5+ 37.♖e2 ♗f2+ 38.♖e1 ♗xc2 39.♙xf6! ♗e6+ 40.♗e4 ♗xf6 41.♗e8+--]

35.♗h3 ♗f8



36.♙c3! A very strong move based on a precise calculation.

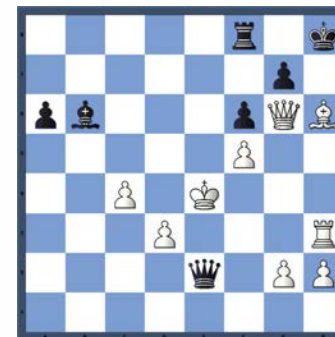
36...♙d8 [36...♗xc2 37.♗xh6+ g6 37...♖g8 38.♗h7+ ♖f7

39.♗xf6+--) 38.♗xh6+ ♖g8 39.♗g6+ ♖h8 40.♙xf6+ ♗xf6 41.♗xf6+ ♖g8 42.♗g6+ ♖h8 43.♗xb6 And White will avoid the perpetual check.]

37.♙d2! White is finally ready for the decisive sacrifice:

37...♗xc2 38.♙xh6 ♗b1+ 39.♖e2 ♗c2+ 40.♖e3 ♙b6+ 41.♖e4 It is very important that the queen controls the e8 square.

41...♗e2+

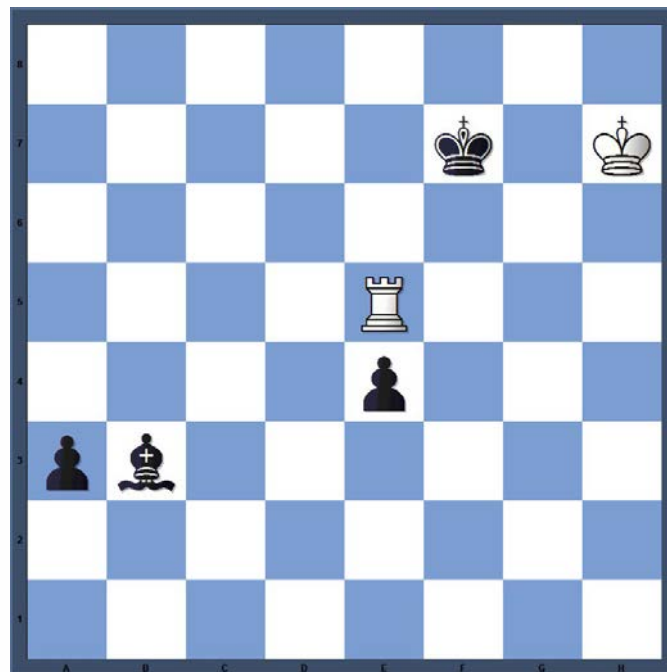


42.♗e3! A very nice game by Nimzowitsch, after the opening he even had a worse position, but then he showed very good attacking skills. 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Daniel

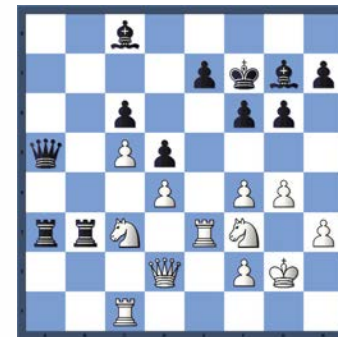
1. =



Solutions

(19) Zhao Xu(2567)-Bok, B(2560)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2014.01.14



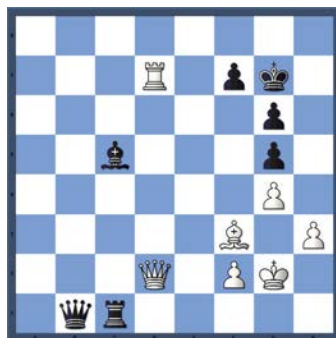
26. ♖xd5!! ♔xd2 [26...cxd5 27. ♔xa5 ♖xa5 28. ♖xb3+-]

27. ♖xd2 ♖xe3 [27...cxd5 28. ♖xb3+-]

28. ♖xe3±

(20) Reinderman, D(2593)-Yu Yangy(2677)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2014.01.14



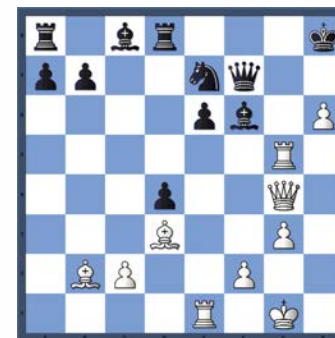
65. ♖d5!! ♜g1+ 66. ♔h2 ♜b8+ 67. ♔xg1 ♜g3+ 68. ♔h1!
[68. ♕g2?? 68... ♜xf2+ 69. ♔h2 ♜g1+ 70. ♔g3 ♜e1+! 71. ♔h2
♕g1+ 72. ♔h1 ♕f2+ 73. ♔h2 ♜g1#]

68... ♜xh3+ 69. ♔g1 ♜g3+ 70. ♕g2! ♜xf2+ 71. ♔h2 ♜h4+
[71... ♜g1+ 72. ♔h3+-]

72. ♕h3 ♜f2+ 73. ♜g2+-

(21) Brunello, S(2602)-Reinderman, D(2593)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2014.01.16



34. ♜g7!! ♕xg7 35. hxg7+ ♜xg7 [35... ♔g8 36. ♜h4 ♜xg7
-35... Qxg7]

36. ♜h4+! ♔g8 37. ♜e4! e5 38. ♕c4+! ♔f8 39. ♕a3! ♔e8!
[39... ♕f5 40. ♕xe7+ ♜xe7 41. ♜h8#]

40. ♕xe7 ♜xe7 41. ♜h5+ ♔d7 42. ♜xe5± ♜g7 [42... ♜f6
43. ♜f5 ♜e7 44. ♜f7±]

43. ♜g5 [43. ♜c5! 43... ♜f6 (43... b6 44. ♜d5+ ♔e7 45. ♜e4+
♔f8 46. ♜f4+ ♔e8 47. ♜e5+ ♔d7 48. ♕b5+-) 44. ♜h7+
♔e8 (44... ♔d6 45. ♜c7#) 45. ♜e5+ ♔f8 (45... ♜xe5 46. ♜f7#)
46. ♜g8#]

43... ♜h8? [43... ♜e7 44. ♜e5! ♜g7 45. ♜c5!]

44. ♜f7+ ♔c6 45. ♜e7! 1-0 [45. ♜g6+ 45... ♔c5 46. ♕d3+-]

(22) Duda, K(2553)-Yu Yangyi(2677)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2014.01.17



30...♘f4!! 31.gxf4 [31.♖e3 31...♘h5—+]

31...♖xf4 32.♙e3 ♖g8! —+ 33.♖f2 ♙xh4 34.fxg4 ♖fxg4+ 0-1

(23) Saric, I(2637)-Jobava, B(2710)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2014.01.18

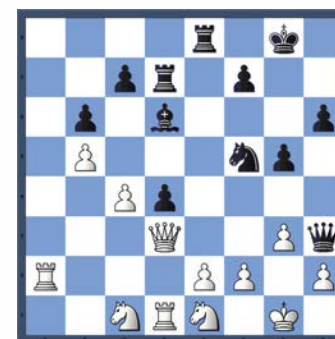


42...a4!! 43.g8=♙ ♖xg8 44.♘xg8 axb3 45.cxb3 ♘e4+!
46.♙a2 ♘d5! 47.♖g3 [47.♘f6 47...♙a4+ 48.♙b2 ♙xb3+
49.♙c1 ♙c3+ 50.♙b1=]

47...♘xg8 48.♙xg8 ♙d2+ 49.♙a3 ♙a5+ 50.♙b2 ♙d2+=

(24) Andriasian, Z(2621)-Pashikian, A(2605)

Armenian Championship, 2014.01.18



33...♖e3!! 34.fxe3 [34.♙b1 34...♘xg3! 35.hxg3 ♘xg3—+]

34...♘xe3 35.♖a8+ ♘f8 36.♙xe3 [36.♙e4 36...♙f1#; 36.♘f3
36...♙g2#] 36...dxe3—+

(25) Grigorian, K(2584)-Grigorian, A(2571)

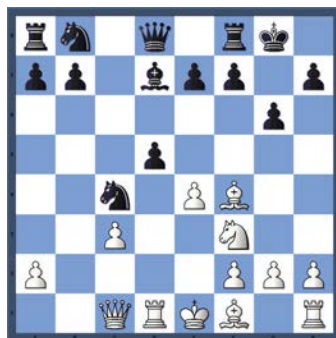
Armenian Championship, 2014.01.19



43...♙xe5! 0-1 [43...♙xe5 44.fxe5 ♘e3+ 45.♙e2 ♘xc4—+]

(26) Saravanan, V(2341)-Grover, S(2478)

Delhi Open, 2014.01.14



15. ♖xc4! dxc4 16. ♖xb8! 1-0 [16. ♖xb8 16... ♖xb8 17. ♘e5+-]

(27) Dzhumayev, M(2521)-Nitin, S(2331)

Delhi Open, 2014.01.16



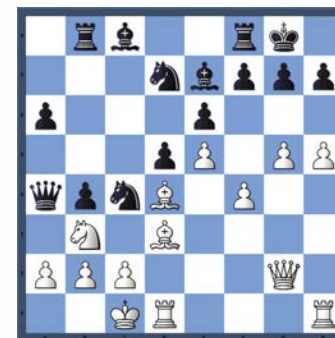
27. ♖xh7+!! ♔xh7 28. ♖xf6!! gxf6 [28... ♖xf6 29. ♖h5+-]

29. ♖h4+ ♔g8 30. ♖g5+! ♖g7 [30... fxg5 31. ♖h8#]

31. ♖xg7+ ♔xg7 32. ♖g5+! ♔f7 33. ♖xf6+-

(28) Najer, E(2641)-Jurcik, M(2481)

Czech league, 2014.01.18

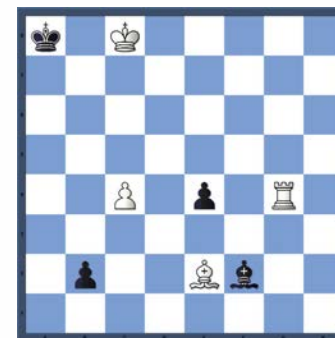


20. ♖xh7+! ♔h8 [20... ♖xh7 21. g6+ ♔g8 22. h6!+-]

21. g6! ♖xa2 [21... f6 22. h6+-]

22. h6! +- ♖c5 23. ♖g5 ♖xd4 24. hxg7+ 1-0

(29) Kubbel



1. ♖d3!! exd3 2. c5! ♖xc5 3. ♖a4+ ♖a7 4. ♖b4! d2 5. ♖xb2 d1=♖ 6. ♖b8+!! ♖xb8



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 102

7th of February 2014

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Our latest book:

F.Libiszewski *Les professionnels*

Price: 9.99 €



Editorial Preface

A great week of chess has just passed.

In the World's strongest event ever, the Zurich Chess Masters (with Carlsen, Aronian, Nakamura, Caruana, Anand, Gelfand) played in blitz, rapid and normal chess ended with an overall victory of Carlsen, who showed another fantastic result of 4/5 in normal chess. His play in blitz and rapid was much less convincing. Second and third places were shared by Caruana and Aronian.

In the World strongest open tournament in Gibraltar 3 players tied for the first place with 8/10: Ivanchuk, who was leading throughout most of the event, last year's winner Vituigov and Cheparinov, who managed to win the last 3 games. Cheparinov was lucky not to play the first rapid match which Vituigov won against Ivanchuk. In the final the Bulgarian managed to beat Vituigov 1.5-0.5 and take home the price of 20.000 Pounds.

The Moscow Open Superfinal in rapid was won by Grischuk in the male section and Charochkina in the female.

In the open section there are many players in the lead after 6 rounds: Grachev, Bartel...

In the female section Kashlinskaya is leading with the perfect score of 6/6.

As usual we wish you a lot of fun with the current issue of your weekly newsletter!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Carlsen, Magnus(2872)**
- **Aronian, Levon(2812) [A29]**

Zurich Chess Challenge 2014(2.3),
2014.01.31



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Carlsen and Aronian were dominating the super-tournament in Zurich. Let's examine the encounter between the world Nr.1 and Nr.2.

1.c4 It is impossible to predict the first moves of the top players nowadays. Carlsen decided to go for the English opening today.

1...♘f6 2.♘c3 e5 3.♘f3 ♘c6 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 ♘xd5 Following the main lines. Actually we have a Sicilian defense with reversed colors, where White has an extra g3 tempo. This prevents Black from playing the sharpest Dragon variations with opposite side castling, but Be7 and 0-0 leads also to a very complex game with chances for both sides.



6.♗g2 ♘b6 A necessary prophylactic move before finishing the development. [6...♗e7? immediately would drop a pawn

after the small tactics 7.♘xe5! ♘xc3 8.♗xc6+ bxc6 9.dxc3±]

7.0-0 ♗e7 White has a wide range of setups here, all of them with many subtleties. Carlsen plays the classical plan with a3-b4, known from the Dragon.

8.a3 0-0 9.d3 a5 now or at the previous move is considered to be less accurate as it gives an excellent post for the knight on b5!



9...♖e8!? Aronian follows the latest fashion. Black intends to overprotect his e5 pawn with Bf8 in order to play Nd4. This is also the main plan in the reversed color Sicilian line, but for some reason, here the most common move is Be6 followed by f6.

10.b4 ♗f8 11.♖b1 A rare move. I doubt that it was a prepared one as Carlsen thought for quite some time. White probably wants to strengthen his b-pawn, knowing that Black is going to play a5 next. [11.♗b2 with the idea of Rc1 and Ne4-c5 is the main line, but Black replies in the same way as he did in the game.]

11...a5! Before occupying the d4 square, Black makes the standard weakening on the queenside.

12.b5 ♖d4



13.e3 [13.♖d2 is a common reaction in such situations. White keeps all the pieces on the board and kicks out the annoying d4 knight with e3 next. 13...a4 14.e3 ♖e6 Nc5 next with an unclear game.; 13.♖xd4?! never really comes into consideration from a positional point of view because after 13...exd4 White ends up with a backward weakness on e2, which could be attacked with Bg4 and also the hole on c3 might tell later on, when Black puts his knight on d5.]

13...♖xf3+ 14.♗xf3 a4! Fixing the targets on a3 and b5. White would have gotten rid of them by playing a4 himself. Black also wishes to install a bishop on b3!

15.♖e2



15...♖a7! Black had to protect the b7 pawn to develop the c8 bishop. It would have been more natural to do it from b8,

because later on that rook should go d8, but in this case the a4 pawn would become more vulnerable. White could have immediately attacked it with Qc2.

16.♗b2 ♗e6 17.♖fc1! Both sides are activating their pieces. White would like to improve his position with Ne4-c5. The other plan to open the position with Rfd1 and d4 made no sense now because it would give up the c4 square and it also moves into the Bb3 tempo.

17...♖d7 [Aronian pointed out that it would have been a great achievement to transfer the knight to c5 17...♖d7?!



but it would have allowed a nice positional sacrifice: 18.b6! Making use of the misplacement of the a7 rook. 18...cxb6 19.♖b5 ♖a5 20.♗c3 ♖a8 21.♗xb7 ♖b8 22.♗c6+= White gets a clear edge.] **18.♖e4**



18...♗a2! Another standard plan. White has attacked the e5

pawn and intended to gain the bishop pair with Nc5, therefore Black transfers his bishop to d5, but first he sends the rook to a slightly worse square.

19. ♖a1 ♘d5 Black is not threatening to play Qxb5 because c7 is the more valuable pawn, but he wants to attack it once more with Ra5. Carlsen finds a clever way to disturb the well-placed black pieces.

20. ♘g4! ♔d8! An excellent response. Black keeps the tension without weakening his position. [20...f5 would have given Carlsen some targets. 21. ♘h3! Maintaining the pin and after 21...♔f7 22. ♘g5 ♔g6 23.e4! the position opens up and the two bishops start to work. White takes the initiative.]

21. ♘c3 Anticipating the Ra5 idea. Black must look for another plan.



21... ♘d7! Black grabs his chance to improve his knight. This maneuver was not working in the 17th move, but the circumstances have changed a bit, which allows Black to change the character of the game with b6 and Nc5!

22. ♘f3 b6 The a7 rook protects both weaknesses from now on. Black should not worry about the c7 pawn anymore. The drawback could be that White might be able to settle a knight or a bishop on c6, but this will probably never happen. On the other hand Black is ready to trade some pieces with Nc5!

[There was a pretty trap if Black plays 22...f5?

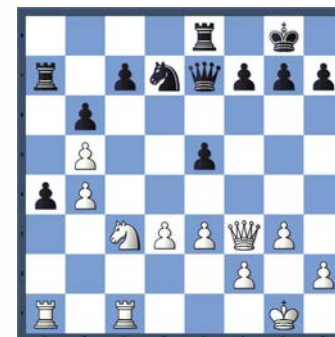


23. ♘d6! White gets the very strong light squared bishop as 23...♘xf3? leads to a forced mate after 24. ♔a2+!! ♔h8 25. ♘f7+ ♔g8 26. ♘h6+ ♔h8 27. ♔g8#]

23. ♘b4!? A double edged move. White creates a doubled pawn, which could be weak, but actually controls the c-file. Black also gets a passed pawn on a4, which might also become a weakness after the opening of the a-file. A few moves later things will become clearer...

23... ♘xb4 24. axb4 ♔e7 25. ♘c3 Carlsen has pinned his hopes to this move. He wants to gain some initiative along the c-file and the d5 square.

25... ♘xf3 26. ♔xf3



26... ♘f6! A calm move to neutralize the important d5 square.

[After the greedy 26...♖xb4?! 27.♖c6 is quite unpleasant. Nd5 is coming next and the c7 pawn will fall.]

27.♖xa4! A clever simplification into a drawish endgame. Carlsen correctly judged that if he continues playing for an advantage Black might overtake the initiative. [27.♖c6 27...♗ea8 could also only be better for Black. Black has easier play against the b-pawns and d3 than White against a4. 28.♖c4 ♖d7 Keeping an eye on the h3 square connected with Ng4 forces White to play 29.♗g2 a3 30.♗a2 ♗e8! 31.♗ca1 ♗d6 Maybe Black had something better here... 32.♖d5 ♖e8 We have reached a kind of mutual zugzwang. Neither side has an useful move. Perhaps Black could try something like Kf8, f6 and Qf7.; The passive 27.♗cb1?! does not really come into consideration. Black gets an easy game. 27...♗d8=+]]

27...♖xa4 28.♗xa4 ♖xb4 29.♗c3 ♖b2 30.♖d1! White is in time to consolidate his position and control all the weaknesses.

30...♗d8 31.♗g2 h6 Opening the back rank.

32.h3 White also gives some extra air to his king and also prevents ideas like Ng4 just in case. A kind of waiting game could have started, but the position is balanced. Aronian decided to force a draw by perpetual check.

32...♗xd3 33.♖xd3 ♖xc1 34.♖d8+ ♗h7 35.♖xc7 ♗e4



Seems to win a piece, but of course both players had foreseen the end of the game...

36.♖xe5! ♗xc3 37.♖f5+ ♗g8 38.♖c8+ ♗h7 39.♖f5+ ♗h8 40.♖c8+ ♗h7 A hard-fought positional battle with many subtleties and a deserved result. **1/2-1/2**

(2) Anand, Viswanathan(2773) - Nakamura, Hikaru(2789) [C65]

Zurich Chess Challenge 2014(2.2),
2014.01.31



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

It seems like almost everyone is playing the Berlin nowadays. In Zurich it was one of the main openings of Carlsen, Aronian, Anand and Nakamura, 4 out of 6! However, after the opening Anand managed to reach a very comfortable advantage but after the logical but maybe premature 15.d4 move the game went into totally unclear areas where Nakamura just managed to hammer the Ex-World Champion away.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 4.d3 So we have an Anti-Berlin with 4.d3. If any of our readers know how to get any advantage in this opening, please don't hesitate to contact us immediately! :)

4...♙c5 5.♙xc6 Strangely White has almost stopped trying 5.c3 or 5.0-0.

5...dxc6 6.h3 One of the main moves. Actually I have never been sure if it is really necessary to avoid Bg4...



6...♙e6 Nakamura chooses quite an aggressive line, which

I would actually not advice to play. [6...0-0 followed by the usual Nd7-Re8-f6 looks very solid.]

7.♘c3 ♙d6 Black is going for the long castle.

8.0-0 0-0-0 So we have reached quite a tricky position. It is clear that White will try to create some play on the queenside and Black on the kingside. White's idea should also be to play Na4 somewhere to exchange the dark squared bishop.

9.a3!? Quite a tricky move by Anand. [9.♘a4 of course didn't work because of 9...♘xe4!]

9...♘h5?! is too direct. [A flexible move like 9...♙b8 could have been one of the options to go on. The king is better placed on b8 than on c8 anyway and White still doesn't have Na4.]

10.♘a4! It is very important for White to get rid of the black squared bishop.

10...♙b6 I am not sure why Nakamura decided to lose one more tempo. [It might have been better for Black to play 10...f6 11.♘xc5 ♙xc5 12.♙e3 ♙d6 and White is probably a bit better because of the nice pawn structure, but nothing too dramatic has happened.]

11.♘xb6+ axb6 12.a4! Another strong move by Anand. White is planing to play a5 and afterwards a6 to try and open the a-file.

12...f6 looks a bit slow, but Black probably didn't have anything better.

13.♙e3 [Why not immediately 13.a5]

13...♘f4 Now Black is threatening to play g5 next.

14.a5 b5 To open the a-file would of course be deadly for Black.



15.d4?! This move is quite a serious mistake as it gives Black a nice chance to complicate the game. [White should have played 15.a6! asking Black the big question whether to take on a6 or not. 15...b6 (15...bxa6 was not much better as after 16.♖xa6 g5 17.d4 the black king on c8 is in terrible shape and White is close to winning.) 16.d4± And we have a similar position as in the game, only a6 is included, which is very important because White has the very important a7 move in a lot of lines.]

15...♟xh3+! Nakamura is taking his chance! Black needs to take extreme measures! [After the slow 15...♟c4?! 16.♖e1 exd4 17.♟xd4 it is clear that White is much better.]

16.gxh3 ♟xh3 So what to do now?!

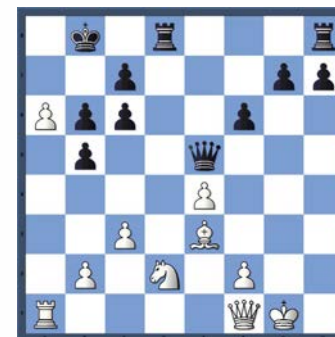
17.dxe5 What else to do?! [17.a6 doesn't bring anything here because of 17...bxa6!; And after 17.♖e1 Black has the very strong 17...♟g4! with the idea of playing f5 next, with a very unclear position. (17...♞e6 18.♟h2 exd4 19.♟d2 would lead to a clear advantage for White.) 18.c3]

17...♞e6 18.♟d2 Protecting the g4 square and the queen.

18...♟xf1 19.♞xf1 ♞xe5 The position has dramatically changed. Black has 2 pawns and a rook against a bishop and a knight. This time it is White who has to be in a hurry to create some direct play on the black king as otherwise Black will be more than fine.

20.c3 Protecting the b2 pawn and securing the Bd4 move, which is a logical decision. [20.a6 Once again White could have included 20...b6 but it would only lead to the position in the game.]

20...♞b8 21.a6 b6



22.♞g2! A nice move by Anand. The queen is perfectly placed on g2. White always has the f4-e5 idea in mind and Qxg7 could also be a possible threat in some lines as well as to play Nf3-Nd4 next, even sacrificing the e4 pawn.

22...♞d6?! A very direct move with the threat of playing f5 next followed by Rg6. [22...♞he8 with a very unclear position was probably a better option.]

23.♟f1? This is already a serious mistake. Such a passive move just can't be right. [Much better was 23.♟b3 What can be more natural than to put the knight on d4? 23...f5 24.exf5 ♞xf5 25.♟d4 ♞g6 26.♟f4 White should be better here.]

23...f5! Now Black is on a roll.

24.exf5 ♞xf5 25.♟g3 ♞d7! The black queen is taking an excellent position on d7. The idea of Black is simple, to play h5-h4 followed by Rg6 and mate.

26.♞e4 It is really hard to find a plan against h5-h4 for White.

26...♞a7! Very cool and strong play. Black is securing his

king's position before starting the final attack.

27.♔g2 Anand probably wanted to bring his rook to h1-it is hard to give a better advice.

27...h5 28.♚f5 A very strange move. White starts to panic. [Following the idea was of course the right choice: 28.♖h1 28...♜d5! Black is of course better, but White is fighting.]

28...♚e8 There will be no exchange of queens!

29.♚e4 ♚f7 The hide and seek game is over. White can't attack the black queen any longer.

30.♔h1 This move loses but the position was probably already lost anyway. [30.♚f5 30...♜f6 is winning for Black.]

30...h4 Chasing the knight from g3.

31.♘e2 ♜e8 All black pieces are joining the attack.

32.♚g4 Another problem of White is that even after the exchange of queens Black's position would still remain much better.

32...♜g6 33.♚h3 This move gives Nakamura the chance to finish the game with a beautiful tactic:

33...♚d5+ 34.♔h2



34...♜xe3! A nice final blow!

35.fxe3 ♚d2 White can't defend the e2 knight in a normal way.

36.♚f1 ♜f6 White resigned because of 37.Qg2 h3! All in all a fighting game, but White could surely have done much better.
0-1

(3) Spraggett, Kevin(2544) - Short, Nigel D(2683) [C72]

Gibraltar Masters 2014(4.14),
2014.01.31



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

We will now have a look at this battle between two well-respected players, which ended in a crushing victory by Spraggett.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 d6 The so-called improved Steinitz variation belongs to Nigel Short's main repertoire nowadays. Black attempts to build a very solid center.

5.O-O ♙d7

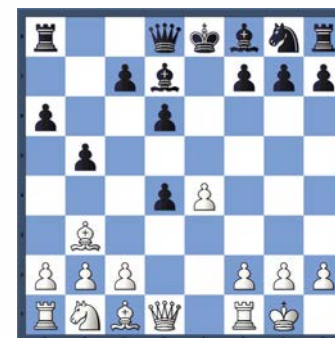


6.d4!? White chooses the most direct treating of the opening. He intends to make use of the delayed development of the black pieces. [6.c3 is the main and most common move, but I personally prefer the text move.]

6...b5?! A concrete, but very risky decision. Black sends the bishop to an excellent place on b3, from where it attacks the f7 pawn. [The critical move is 6...exd4 7.♘xd4 b5 8.♘xc6 ♙xc6 9.♙b3 ♘f6 which was also played by Short many times. The latest development of the theory considers 10.c4! to be very

strong. White consolidates the center with f3 and Nc3 and obtains a small, but stable advantage. Capturing the e-pawn is too dangerous with the king on e8: 10...♘xe4? 11.cxb5 axb5 12.♙d5! seems to be the best. 12...♙xd5 13.♙xd5 ♘f6 14.♙c6+ ♘d7 15.♙g5! With an extremely dangerous attack.]

7.♙b3 exd4 Another suspicious move by Short, which he already tried in a blitz game last year. [7...♘xd4 also looks dangerous for Black after 8.♘xd4 exd4



9.c3! Opening the position in front of the e8 king at the cost of a single pawn! (The point of the b5-exd4 moves was to trap the bishop with 9.♙xd4? 9...c5! and c4 next wins a piece. A famous opening trap, but of course White does not fall into it.) 9...dxc3 10.♙h5! An important provocation of the g6 weakening. 10...g6 (10...♙f6 11.♘xc3 followed by Nd5 looks terrible for Black.) 11.♙d5 ♙e6 12.♙c6+ ♙d7 13.♙xc3! Here is the reason of the g6 provocation. The rook is in trouble. 13...♘f6 14.e5! Black can hardly defend against such an attack.]

8.c3! White uses the same idea as in the 7...Nxd4 line. After cxd4 he would obtain a clear edge with the strong center and active pieces. [8.♘xd4? would once again have fallen into the opening trap of 8...♘xd4 9.♙xd4 c5 10.♙d5 c4-+]

8...dxc3 9.♘xc3 Black is a pawn up, but he needs three moves to ensure the safety of his king by castling.

9...♖a5 Black tries to send away the strong bishop from the f7 square. Developing moves would have lost instantly... [9...♖f6? loses to 10.♗g5! ♖e5 11.f4 ♖c4 12.♕xc4 bxc4 13.e5!; 9...♗e7 10.♔d5!+- Black has no way to defend the f7 pawn.]



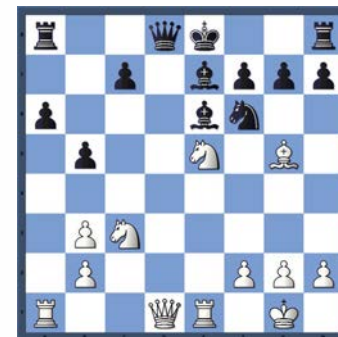
10.e5! This is actually the novelty of the game and it seems like the refutation of the line! White does not waste any time on saving his bishop, he immediately opens the center in front of the king who is stuck in the center.

10...♖xb3 11.axb3! White must open all the fronts if he wants his attack to be successful. The a-file plays an important role in the game.

11...♗e7 Trying to finish the development, but the g8 knight will remain the main problem.

12.♖e1 Logical and strong, bringing a heavy piece to the attack!

12...♗f8 Painful, but Black had nothing better. He left the pin and the threat of exd6 cxd6 Qxd6. [Black has no time for 12...dxe5 13.♖xe5 ♖f6 14.♗g5! Black still cannot castle because of the d7 bishop. 14...♗e6



15.♔f3! White suddenly uses the c6 square. Black has no adequate defence... 15...O-O 16.♖c6 ♔e8 17.♖xe7+ ♔xe7 18.♖e4!+-; Black quickly loses after 12...♖h6 13.♗xh6 gxh6 14.exd6 cxd6 15.♔xd6+-]

13.♗f4! Spragett develops another piece with tempo!

13...♗e6 [13...dxe5 14.♖xe5 and Qf3 next looks too much for Black to deal with.]

14.♖d4! White improves all his pieces with tempo. This time he is looking at the c6 and e6 squares.

14...d5 It is a small achievement by Black to lock the position a bit but the danger is far from over...

15.♔f3! Once again White develops a piece with tempo!

15...h5 Black tries to get some air.

16.h3!? Simple chess. Spragett wanted to further strengthen his position by bringing his rook to d1, but first he had to parry the Bg4 idea. [16.♖xe6+ 16...fxe6 17.♗h6+! also looks quite promising. 17...♔e8 18.♗xg7 ♖h7 19.♗f6± Opening the e-file by taking on f6 looks almost like suicide...]

16...♔e8 Black wanted to finally put his knight to h6, but first he had to leave the pin.



17.♖ed1! An excellent attacking move! Putting the rook to d1 was of course obvious, but realizing the importance of keeping the rook on a1 deserves attention! Nc6 followed by Nxd5 is in the air.

17...♔d7 Black had nothing better.

18.♘dxb5! Equalizing the material, but of course the attack plays a more important role now. White is threatening to play Nxd5!

18...♖b8 Spragett finds a nice way to finish the game in style: [18...♖d8 19.♖xa6+-; 18...c6 19.♘d6+ ♙xd6 20.exd6 ♜f6 21.♙e5+- (21.♘a4+- was also good enough.)]



19.♘dxb5! axb5 [19...♖xb5 is refuted by 20.♘xe7 ♔xe7 21.♖a8+-]

20.♘xe7 ♔xe7 21.♖a8! Suddenly Black gets mated on the back rank. Not even the development of the g8 knight could

help since 0-0 is illegal because Black has already moved with his king before.

21...♖c8 22.♖b7! A perfect and spectacular game by Spragett! **1-0**

(4) Maze, S.(2536) - Navara, D.(2702) [B40]

Gibraltar Masters 2014(8.10),
2014.02.04



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



We will see a nice fighting game with some mistakes, but that is normal. After a slightly unusual opening the game quickly turned into a complicated position. Black managed to reach a solid advantage and was even close to be "much" better, but a very nice queen sacrifice saved the game for Maze.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 In an open tournament like Gibraltar the fighting spirit of the players is especially high. The first prize in this tournament is 20.000 Pounds! That's why often openings like the Paulsen are being played, instead of for example the rock solid Berlin.

3.d3 Maze decides to quickly leave the main lines. Actually this is often a wrong decision for the "weaker" player. In an unclear position it is easier for the "stronger" player to outplay his opponent than in a long line of theory, where the game starts much later.

3...♗c6 4.g3 ♗ge7 A rarely played setup. [More usual is 4...d5 5.♗g2 ♗f6 6.♗bd2 ♗e7 7.O-O O-O and we are back to a position with thousands of games being played.]

5.♗g2 g6 Black wants to get an even nicer version by putting the bishop on g7 and later playing d5.

6.h4!? A very interesting idea by White to try and gain a tempo by provoking the h6 move.

6...h6 [6...h5 would abandon the g5 square. 7.♗g5 ♗g7 8.c3 And White might be a bit better.]

7.O-O ♗g7 8.c3 To "kill" the g7 bishop is usually a good idea.

8...O-O 9.♖e1 White's idea is to play e5 next. [After 9.♗e3 9...b6 10.♔d2 we can see that the h6 pawn is under attack, giving White a development tempo. 10...♔h7 11.d4 ♗a6 It seems like Black also has good play here.; 9.d4 would lead to another unclear position: 9...cxd4 10.cxd4 d5 11.e5 Black quickly opens the f-line. 11...f6! With very unclear play.]

9...e5 is directed against White's e5 and d4 moves. [Another option was to play 9...d5 10.e5 b5 With an unclear game. Now White's plan would probably be Nbd2-Nf1-Nh2-Ng4 and Black would rush on the queenside.]

10.♗e3 b6 11.♔d2 And now we see why the h6 pawn is useful for White: he could play Qd2 with a tempo.

11...♔h7 12.d4 There is no time to waste! [After a slow move like 12.♗a3 12...d5! only Black could probably be better here.]

12...exd4! A good move. Black activates his bishop from g7.

13.cxd4 d5 That is the idea. White's center is starting to get shaky.

14.e5 [14.exd5 was not better as after 14...♘xd5 15.♘e5 ♕b7 White can be in trouble.]

14...♕g4 Black continues putting pressure on the d4 square.



15.♘a3! A good move. White wants to play Nc2 or Nb5 next to gain control over the d4 square.

15...♕xf3 And Black is going for the forced continuation. [Another idea could have been 15...♘f5 16.dxc5 Now Black has a lot of complicated options but the most simple one is 16...♘xe3 17.♖xe3 bxc5 18.♖xc5 ♖c8! Black's initiative should give him some plus here.]

16.♕xf3 ♘f5 17.dxc5 White's moves are forced.

17...♘xe5 [17...d4? is of course very bad because of 18.♕f4+—]

18.♕g2?! Maze shows too much respect for his stronger opponent. [White was just in time for 18.♖xd5 18...♖f6 and now the very difficult to find 19.♘c4! probably saves the game for White. The position should be close to equal.]

18...♘g4! Excellent play by Navara! The black knights are basically crushing White's position.

19.♘c2 There is no other way for White to go on.

19...♕xb2 Cool and strong.

20.♖ad1 ♖f6 Another move with tempo. Black's threat is Bc3

now.

21.♖e2 It is easy to see that White is in big trouble but the game is still not over and Black needs to continue playing accurately to keep the advantage.

21...♘gxe3 22.♘xe3 ♘xe3 23.♖xe3 ♕c3 [23...♖ae8 would lead to a similar position as in the game: 24.♖xe8 ♖xe8 25.♖xe8 ♕d4]

24.♖e2 ♖ae8? A very logical looking move, but probably the final mistake. After this the game is a draw. [Black would keep winning chances after 24...d4 25.♖d3 ♖ae8 and the game would be either a draw or a win for Black.]



25.♖xe8! An excellent decision by White. At first sight the position looks lost, but in fact it is very close to a draw.

25...♖xe8 26.♖xe8 ♕d4 This is what Navara was hoping for, but White had another strong move up his sleeve...

27.♖xd4! This is the only move that saves the game. [27.♖f1 would lose immediately after 27...bxc5 28.♕xd5 ♖d6! followed by Qg3.]

27...♖xd4 28.c6 If there was no white c-pawn the game would immediately be over, but there is this "beast" and Black objectively doesn't have anything better than a draw.

28...♖d1+ Navara plays the best move but it is already not

enough.

29. ♖h2 ♜c2 30. ♙xd5 Protecting the c6 pawn.

30... ♜xf2+ 31. ♙g2 White still wants to play c7.

31... ♜c5 32. ♖d8! A good plan and the most simple! Black has no defence against White's draw idea.

32... ♖g7 33. ♖d7 b5 The b-pawn is running...

34. c7 b4 35. ♙b7! White is forcing a draw.

35... ♜c2+



36. ♖h1 [36. ♖h3 36... ♜f5+ 37. ♖g2 would also lead to a draw after 37... ♜c2+]

36... ♜b1+ 37. ♖h2 ♜xa2+ 38. ♖h1 ♜b1+ 39. ♖h2 ♜c2+ 40. ♖h1 ♜c1+ 41. ♖h2 ♜c2+ And Black doesn't have anything better than to give a perpetual check. A lucky survival for White, but we learned a very useful queen sacrifice idea. **1/2-1/2**

Puzzle section

(5) Nepomniachtchi, I(2732)-Najer, E(2646)

Moscow rapid, 2014.01.31

1. +-



(6) Sos Andreu, E(2285)-Kamsky, G(2709)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.01.28

1... -+



(7) Vitiugov, N(2737)-Haugli, P(2289)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.01.28

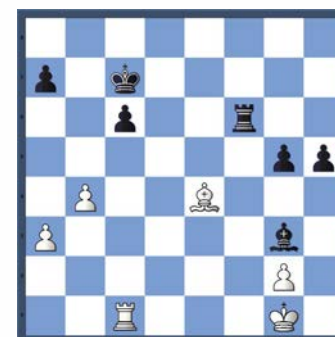
1. +-



(8) Flear, G(2471)-Vachier Lagrave, M(2745)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.01.29

1... -+



(9) Fenollar Jorda, M(2419)-Agdestein, S(2627)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.01.29

1... -+



(10) Gordon, S(2516)-Movsesian, S(2677)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.01.30

1... -+



(11) Ganguly, S(2619)-Maze, S(2536)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.02.02

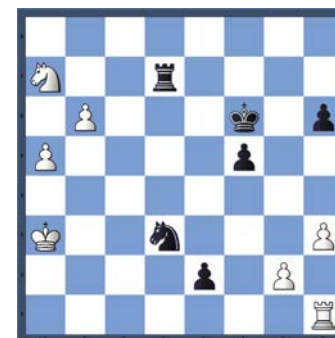
1. ±



(12) Sutovsky, E(2663)-Tan Zhongyi(2489)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.02.01

1... -+



(13) Matlakov, M(2690)-Palachev, P(2349)

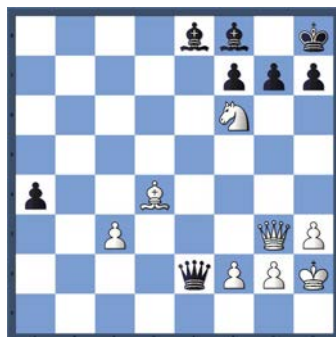
Moscow Open, 2014.02.01

1. +-



(14) Borocz, I(2398)-Feher, G(2345)

Hungarian league, 2014.02.02



Endgame section

(15) Galego, Luis(2465)
- Vitiugov, Nikita(2737)

Gibraltar Masters 2014(2.4),
2014.01.29



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



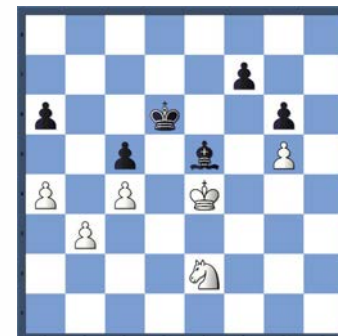
At first sight the position looks like a draw although the advantage is clearly on Black's side. White has a clearly worse pawn structure, but there are not that many pawns left on the board and the white knight could also become quite unpleasant for Black by attacking the c5 pawn.

44...e5! A very strong move. If White was in time to play Ke4-Nf3 and just Ne5 next, the game would quickly end in a draw.

45.fxe5 [45.♖e4 would lead to a similar position as in the game: 45...exf4 46.♗e2 f3 47.♖xf3 ♔d6 48.♖e4 ♗b2 Black is bringing his bishop over a3-b4 and then to d2.]

45...♗xe5 46.♖e4 ♔d6 Quite accurately played. [46...♖e6 would make it easier for White to defend as after 47.♗e2 Black cannot move the bishop away from e5 because of Nf4+.]

47.♗e2



47...♗b2! Black is using all his chances! The black bishop is going to d2 over a3-b4, putting big pressure on the g5 pawn.

48.♖f4 White doesn't have anything better than to keep on waiting.

48...♗a3 49.♖e4 ♗b4 Now Black already wants to play Bd2 so White needs to do something urgently. The knight on e2 is useless now.

50.♗g1! A good move. White needs to protect the g5 pawn with a knight and keep his king on e4 to prevent the black king to cross the 6th rank as if he would get to e5 the game would be over.

50...♗c3! Another very tricky move by Black. [The direct 50...♗d2 51.♗f3 ♗c1 would lead to nothing because of 52.♗e5! White is using a tempo of attacking the f7 pawn to get his knight to d3. 52...♖e6 53.♗d3 With a very unclear position.]

51.♗f3? And this natural move maybe already costs White the game. [The best way to go on was 51.♗h3! 51...♗d2 52.♖d3 ♗c1 and from a human point of view the position looks really bad, but by tactical motives maybe White can survive. 53.♗f2! is White's only hope. (53.♖e4 53...♖e6 54.♗f4+ ♗xf4 55.♖xf4 ♖f6 and Black has a totally winning pawn endgame.) 53...♖e5

54. ♖e4 ♜a3 55. ♔e3 With some drawing chances even though Black also has good winning chances.]



51... ♜b2! White is in zugzwang and can't keep the king on e4 anymore.

52. ♔f4 [52. ♖e1 52... ♜c1 53. ♖f3 ♔e6 The white king needs to move away from e4 which gives Black an easy win by playing Kf5 and Bxg5.]

52... ♜c1+ 53. ♔g4 White has nothing else left than to put his king to g4.

53... ♜e3 54. ♔h4 ♔e6 55. ♔g4 a5! A good move. White is in zugzwang once again.

56. ♖e1 [56. ♔h4 didn't help either. 56... ♔f5]

56... ♔e5 The black king has passed the 6th rank, the game is over.

57. ♖c2



57... ♜c1! Black shows great technique until the end, not even allowing the white knight to move to a3.

58. ♖e1 ♔e4 59. ♖f3 ♜e3 There is no hurry...

60. ♖e1 ♜d2 61. ♖f3 ♜c3 All black pieces are perfectly placed.

62. ♖g1 ♔d3 And the black king is collecting all the white pawns on the queenside. Vituigov showed great technique and we can easily say that from the beginning the endgame was far away from being a draw! **0-1**

(16) Harikrishna, Pentala(2706)
- Edouard, Romain(2658)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.01.31



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



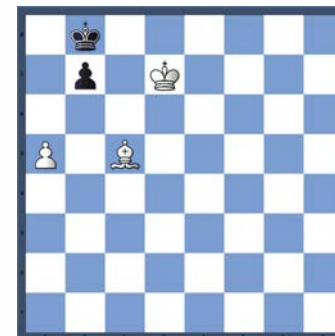
We are facing an important theoretical endgame and knowing it might help us save some of our games...

64...♖xh4! The a-pawn does not fit the promotion square of the bishop, but things are still far from obvious since the b7 pawn blocks the king's route to a8!

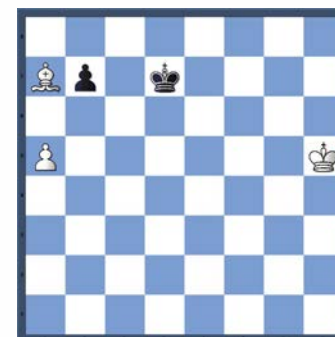
65.♖xh4 ♕d7 66.♖xh5

[Another try is 66.♗d4 66...♖c7 67.♖xh5 (If White tries to cut the way to b8-a8 with 67.♗e5+ 67...♖c6 the bishop is forced to retreat because of the b6 threat. 68.♗d4 (68.♖xh5 68...b6 69.a6 b5= holds easily.) 68...♖c7=) 67...♖b8 68.♖g6 ♖a8 69.♖f7 ♖b8 70.♖e7 ♖a8 71.♖d7 ♖b8 72.♗c5

Without the b7 pawn there would be nothing left to comment, but here White could hope for some kind of zugzwang, which forces the b-pawn to move and it allows axb6, converting it into a b-pawn.



However Black is saved by the help of the stalemate! 72...♖a8 73.♖c7 b6! 74.axb6= (74.♖xb6 is the only move to avoid stalemate, but then White cannot win the the a-pawn. 74...♖b8=)]



66...b6! A very important theoretical motif to remember!

67.axb6 [67.♗xb6 67...♖c8 68.a6 ♖b8= is an obvious draw.]

67...♖c6! This is the point! The bishop is stuck on a7 now.

68.♖g5 ♖b7 From now on Black only plays Ka8-b7 and White cannot win the game.



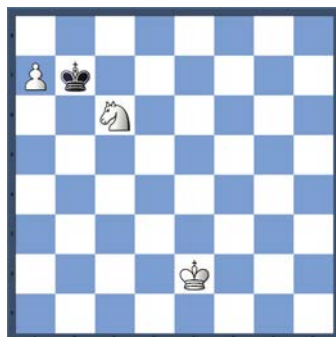
69.♔f5 ♚a8 70.♔e5 ♚b7 71.♔d5 ♚a8 The bishop has no chance to leave the a7 square while the king alone cannot support the b-pawn because of the stalemate.

72.♔c6 [72.♔c5 72...♔b7 73.♔b5 ♚a8 There is nothing left to do for White against the stalemate and unfortunately for him after giving up the bishop, Black takes the opposition with his king... 74.♚b8!? ♔xb8 75.♔a6 ♚a8! 76.b7+ ♔b8 77.♔b6=] **1/2-1/2**

(17) Theoretical endgame



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

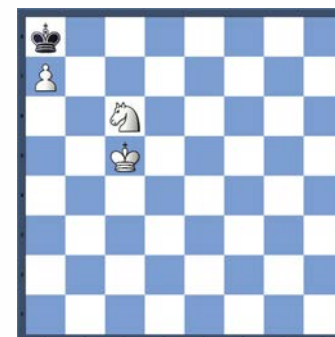


We would like to show you another slightly strange theoretical endgame, where despite his huge material advantage White

is unable to convert it. It does not matter from where the knight protects the pawn (b5, c6 or c8) Black simply waits with Ka8-b7 and holds the draw.

1.♔d3 It is clear that White has no chance to win without the king...

1...♔a8 2.♔c4 ♚b7 3.♔c5 ♚a8 Here is the problem. In order to promote the pawn the king should replace the knight in the protection of the a7 pawn, but this always leads to stalemate... White cannot make progress.



4.♔b6 1/2-1/2

Clash of the Titans

(18) Alekhine, Alexander
- Marshall, Frank James[D06]

Baden-Baden(17), 1925.05.08



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 d5 2.c4 ♘f6?! 3.cxd5 ♘xd5 4.e4 ♘f6 5.♙d3 [5.♘c3+]=]



5...e5! Black is fighting for the center. [5...♙xd4?? 6.♙b5+]

6.dxe5 ♘g4 7.♘f3 [7.f4? weakens the g1-b8 diagonal. 7...♙c5 8.♘h3 ♙h4+; 7.♙b5+ 7...c6 8.♙xd8+ ♙xd8 9.♙e2 ♘xe5 10.♙e3 White keeps a small plus as there are still many pieces left on the board. The main idea should be to push f4, for example : h3-Nd2-h3-f4-Ngf3-Kf2 etc.]

7...♘c6 8.♙g5 [8.O-O 8...♘gx5 9.♘xe5 ♘xe5 10.♙e2 With the idea to play over f4.; 8.♙f4? 8...♘b4+]

8...♙e7 9.♙xe7 ♙xe7 10.♘c3 ♘cx5 11.♘xe5 ♙xe5 [11...♘xe5 12.♙e2 White can also try to keep the bishop. (12.f4 12...♘xd3+ 13.♙xd3 O-O 14.O-O f5 looks logical to win the

light squares and not let White play f5 to limit the c8 bishop. (14...♙e6 15.f5 ♙c5+ 16.♙f2 ♙c4 17.♙g3 f6 Black is also fine here.) 15.♙ae1 ♙f7=) 12...O-O 13.O-O Now White's only plan is to push the f- and e-pawns to create some pressure on the kingside. 13...♙e6 (13...c6 14.f4 ♙d8 15.♙e1 ♘d3



16.♙g3 is interesting. 16...♘xb2 17.f5 f6 (17...h6 18.e5 (18.f6 18...♙c5+ 19.♙h1 ♙g5) 18...♙g5 19.♙f3 White has a huge initiative.) 18.♙ab1 ♘d3 19.♙xd3 ♙c5+ 20.♙h1 ♙xc3 21.♙fd1 Black has problems with the king which is weak and with the development on the queenside as well, so the position is very dangerous for him.) 14.♙d4 (14.f4 14...♙ad8 15.♙e1 ♘d3 16.♙xd3 ♙xd3 17.f5 ♙c4 18.f6 gxf6 White doesn't have any attack here.) 14...♘c6 15.♙e3 ♙ad8 16.f4 (16.♙ad1) 16...♘d4 17.♙d3 c5 Black doesn't have any problems. 18.f5? ♙xf5]

12.h3 ♘f6



13.♙d2+= White is slowly preparing the f4-e5 plan.

13...♙d7 [13...♙e6 14.♚e3 O-O 15.f4 (15.O-O-O 15...♚a5 16.♙b1 b5! Black gets counterplay in time: 17.♙xb5 ♙xa2+∞) 15...♚a5 16.O-O ♜fe8 17.♞ad1 And White will try to push e5-f5 at the right moment.]

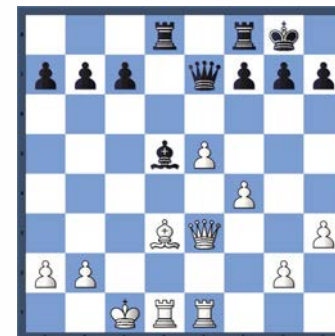
14.♚e3 ♙c6 [14...g5 Temporarily preventing f4 but this move weakens the position too much as now O-O-O is not possible because of the a7 pawn. 15.O-O-O+= With idea to play h4 or g3-f4.]

15.O-O-O O-O



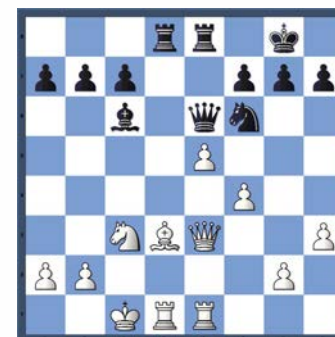
16.f4↑ White starts to push the pawns and gets the initiative.

16...♚e6 The disadvantage of this move is that the queen will be attacked with tempo after f5. Black also had other squares for the queen. [16...♚a5 The idea behind putting the queen here is to get counterplay against the white king but now comes 17.e5 ♘d5 (17...♘d7) 18.♘xd5 ♙xd5 19.♙xh7+! ♙h8 20.♙c2 ♚xa2 21.♚d3+-; 16...♚e7 17.e5 ♞ad8 18.♞he1 ♞fe8 (18...♘d5 19.♘xd5 ♙xd5



20.♙xh7+! And here comes the same tactical motif again! Maybe that is why Black played 16...♚e6. 20...♙xh7 21.♞xd5 ♞xd5 22.♚e4+-) 19.♙c4 to take control of d5 square 19...♚b4 20.♙b3! White has a clear advantage as he has more space and is putting the pressure.]

17.e5 ♞fe8 18.♞he1 ♞ad8



19.f5! Alekhine plays simple but strong chess! He is following the main plan all the time and doesn't care about material as he could have won the pawn after [19.♚xa7 19...♘d5 20.♙c4 (20.♘xd5 20...♙xd5) 20...b6 21.♚a3+= Compared to the game, here Black has at least avoided the unpleasant attack after f5.]

19...♔e7

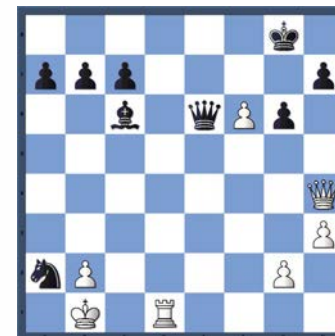


20. ♔g5! [20. ♔xa7? 20... ♞d5↔]

20...♘d5? The decisive mistake. Black could still fight after [20...♔f8 Not an easy move to find. 21.♔h4! (But not 21.exf6 21...♖xe1 22.♗xe1 ♜xd3⇒ and it is not easy to improve the attack because it is not so easy to activate the knight. 23.♗e7 h6 24.♔h4 ♜d6 25.fxg7 ♔xg7 26.♗xc7 ♔xg2↑) 21...♘d5 22.f6 g6 23.♙c4 (23.♘e4? 23...h6⇒) 23...♘xc3 24.♗xd8 ♜xd8



25. ♗xf7+! ♔xf7 26.e6 ♘xa2+ (26...♖d1+ 27.♕c2!+–) 27.♔b1
♖d1+ 28.♖xd1 ♗xe6



29.♔a1!± A nice prophylactical move! Now the idea with Nc3 and a perpetual check on b3-a3 doesn't work, so White is almost winning thanks to the weak black king.; 20...♞d7 21.f6 ♚f8 22.♙f5 h6 (22...g6 23.e6 crushing 23...fxe6 24.♙xe6+ ♔h8 25.f7+-) 23.♚h4 g5 24.♚h5 Black has no moves at all. 24...♖xe5 25.♖xe5 ♞xe5 26.♖xd8 ♚xd8 27.♚xh6 ♚f8 28.♚h7#] **21.f6 ♚f8 22.♙c4!** Now White is winning by force.

22...♘xc3 23.♖xd8 ♖xd8 24.fxg7 ♘xa2+



25.♔b1! A very important move which might have been missed by Marshall... Much worse was [25.♚xa2 25...♔c5+ 26.♔b1 ♖d7!↗(26...♗e8 27.♚xf7+ ♔xf7 28.e6+-)]

25...♔e8 26.e6+— With a crushing attack.

26...♙e4+ 27.♔a1 [27.♖xe4 27...♖d1+ 28.♔c2 ♜a4+ 29.b3+-]

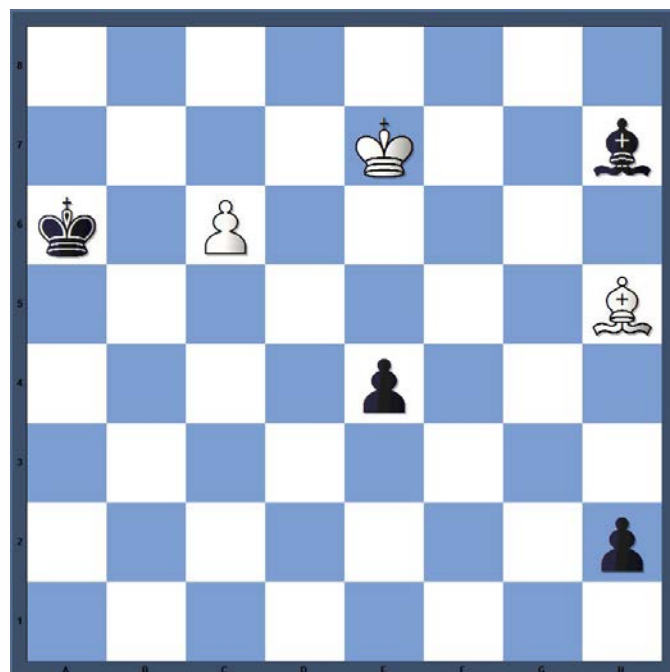
27...f5 28.e7+ ♖d5 29.♔f6 ♔f7 30.e8=♚+ 1-0

Surprise section / study

(19) Kubbel

[CEWN]

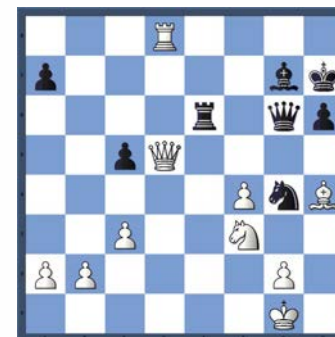
1. =



Solutions

(20) Aronian, L(2812)-Van Wely, L(2672)

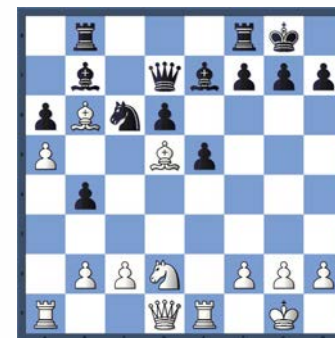
Wijk aan Zee, 2014.01.26



38...♔d4+!! 0-1 [38...♔d4+ 39.cxd4 ♕b1+—+; 38...♕b1+? 39.♕d1!]

(21) Bok, B(2560)-Goudriaan, E(2431)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2014.01.21



18...♖xa5! 19.♖xa5 [19.♔xa5 19...♔xd5—+; 19.♔xb7 19...♖xb7—+]

19...♔xd5 20.♖xd5 ♕c6—+

(22) Saric, I(2637)-Wojtaszek, R(2711)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2014.01.21



29.c5! 1-0 [29.c5 29...♙xb2+ (29...dxc5 30.d6 ♔f8 (30...♖xc6 31.d7+ ♔f8 32.♖a8+ ♔e7 33.♖e8#) 31.d7+-) 30.♔d1+-]

(23) Muzychuk, A(2566)-Brunello, S(2602)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2014.01.25

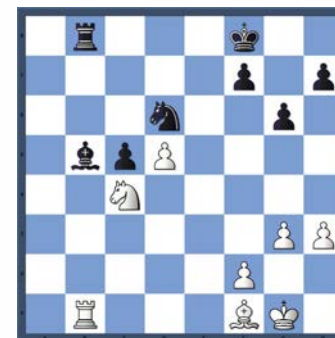


29.♘c6!! ♖e8 [29...♖e6 30.♖d8+! ♖xd8 31.♖xd8#; 29...bxc6 30.♖xa6+ ♔b8 31.♖xa2 ♖g5 32.f3+- ♖d8 33.♖a1+-]

30.♖h3+! 1-0 [30.♖h3+ 30...♙e6 31.♖d8+ ♖xd8 32.♖xe6+ ♖d7 33.♖xg8+-]

(24) Troff, K(2457)-Jobava, B(2710)

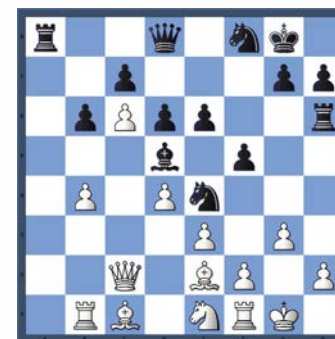
Wijk aan Zee B, 2014.01.26



31...♖d8!! 32.♘xd6 ♙xf1 33.♘b7 ♙d3! 34.♖d1 ♖xd5 35.♘xc5 ♖xc5 36.♖xd3 1/2

(25) Sarkar, J(2425)-Maciejka, B(2582)

Foxwoods Open, 2014.01.25



18...♘c3!! 19.e4 [19.♖xc3 19...♖h4!! 20.gxh4 ♖g6+ 21.♘g2 ♖xg2+ 22.♔h1 ♖xf2+! 23.♔g1 ♖g2+ 24.♔h1 ♖xe2+ 25.♔g1 ♖g2+ 26.♔h1 ♖aa2+-]

19...♘xe2+ 20.♖xe2 ♙xe4+-

(26) Perelshteyn, E(2499)-Mikhalevski, V(2536)

Foxwoods Open, 2014.01.26



18. ♖e5!! ♜g7 [18...fxe5 19.dxe5 ♜d7 20.♞xd7! ♞xd7 21.♜f6+ ♜g7 (21...♞xf6 22.exf6+-) 22.♞h7#]

19. ♜c6 ♞d7 20. ♜xa7+-

(27) Melkumyan, H(2625)-Hovhanissyan, R(2592)

Armenian Championship, 2014.01.21



82...♞a7+! 83.♞a2 ♜a3! 0-1

(28) Simantsev, M(2479)-Mammadov, Z(2432)

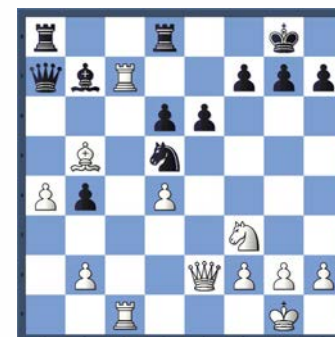
Marienbad, 2014.01.23



20...♞g3!! 0-1 [20...♞g3 21.hxg3 ♞c6+-; 20...♞c6? 21.♞g4+-]

(29) Ftacnik, L(2545)-Vojtek, V(2290)

Slovakian league, 2014.01.25

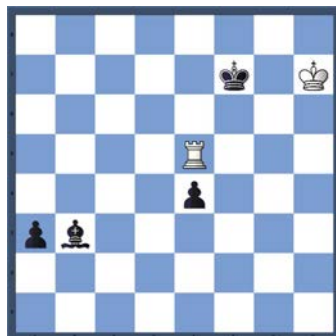


22.♞xf7! ♜xf7 23.♜g5+ ♜f6 [23...♜f8 24.♞xe6 ♜c8 25.♜xh7#; 23...♜g8 24.♞xe6+ ♜h8 25.♜f7+ ♜g8 26.♜h6+ ♜h8 27.♞g8+! ♞xg8 28.♜f7#]

24.♞xe6+ ♜xg5 25.h4+! ♜xh4 26.♞f5! g5 [26...♜f6 27.g3#]

27.♞h3# 1-0

(30) Daniel



1. ♖xe4! ♗c2 2. ♔h8! a2 [2... ♗xe4=]

3. ♖e1! ♗b1 4. ♖e5!! a1=♖ [4... a1=♔=]

5. ♖a5!! ♖xa5=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 103

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Editorial Preface

After a very turbulent week of chess, this time things look much more calm.

In the German Bundesliga the team of Baden-Baden are on their way to what would already be an 8th consecutive title.

Another very nice open, the Bronstein Memorial, is taking place in Minsk and Jobava is the top seed.

That's all from the big events for this week, but we can already be very excited about the upcoming events in March: The Candidates tournament to determine who will challenge Magnus Carlsen, the European Individual Championship in Armenia, Capelle la Grande, Cannes open and the open tournament in Reykjavik.

As usual we wish you a lot of chess joy with the current issue!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

Our latest book:

F.Libiszewski *Les professionnels*

Price: 9.99 €



4 best games of the past week

(1) **Areshchenko, Alexander(2714)**
- **Rustemov, Alexander(2538)**

Schachbundesliga 2013/2014(8.2),
2014.02.09



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We will see a game where Black was too greedy and found himself under a heavy attack. What is nice about the current game is that White was not forcing a direct tactical win, but attacked "positionally" until Black's position practically fell apart.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Areschenko decides to go for a complicated game. [After 3.Nd2 or 3.Nc3 Rustemov is always taking on e4. 3.♘c3 3...dxe4 4.♗xe4 ♕d7 And Rustemov probably played this position over 10.000 times. He has a lot of games in normal chess, but what he especially likes is to play it against computers. On his different ICC accounts he probably has over 100.000 games played against the machines!]

3...c5 4.c3 ♖b6 [It is more usual for Black to start with 4...Nc6 here, but Black has another idea: 4...♘c6]

5.♗f3 ♕d7 This is quite a rare move. Of course Black's idea is to exchange the bishop on b5, but it takes quite some time.



6.♕d3 White has a lot of different options here but 6.Bd3 seems to be the main one. Areschenko played in his previous game again L'ami here: [6.a3 6...♕b5 7.♕xb5+ ♖xb5 8.dxc5 ♕xc5 9.b4 ♕b6 10.a4 ♖d7 and Win won after an unclear game.]

6...cxd4 Black tries to first exchange the c-pawn before playing Bb5. [After the immediate 6...♕b5 7.♕xb5+ ♖xb5 White has the important 8.a4! ♖a6 9.♗a3 followed by Nb5 and 0-0, after which he should have a clear advantage.]

7.♗xd4! This is still theory, but a nice move anyway. The idea is simply not to let Black play Bb5.

7...♕c5 Black is choosing a very risky line and going for the d4 pawn.

8.O-O ♕xd4 9.cxd4 ♖xd4 This is still a theoretical position. White is a pawn down, but a clearly better development, the bishop pair and a chance to dominate on the dark squares are worth it!

10.♗c3 Nb5 is a threat now.

10...a6 This is also a standard move in this position, avoiding the main threat of Nb5.

11. ♖e1 ♘c6



12. ♘e2! A strong move which has been played lately in the game Grischuk-Morozevich from the World Cup tiebreak.

12... ♖xe5? This move is too risky and Black almost immediately ends up in a lost position. [12... ♖g4 13. h3 ♖h5 14. ♘f4 ♘b5 15. ♖b3 ♘e7 16. ♘xb5+ axb5 17. ♖xb5+ ♘bc6 18. ♖xb7 O-O 19. ♖b3 happened in the game Grischuk-Morozevich with a better position for White, but things are far from clear.]

13. ♘g3! Simple and ong. White is almost fully developed and starts his initiative by attacking the pawns on the kingside.

13... ♖c7 14. ♖g4! Weakening the dark squares even further.

14... g6 [14... ♖f8 was not any better. 15. ♘h5 Black cannot defend the g7 pawn in an appropriate way. 15... g6 16. ♖d4 e5 This attempt to win a piece leads to a deadly attack for White: 17. ♖xe5 gxh5 18. ♖b4+ ♖g7 19. ♖g5+ ♖f6 20. ♘f4 With an easily winning position.]

15. ♖d4 Winning a pawn back.

15... f6 Black already doesn't have anything better.

16. ♖xe6+ ♖f7



17. ♘f4! White develops the last piece with tempo.

17... ♖c8 18. ♖e3 [18. ♖d6 also looks very strong. 18... ♘d7 19. ♖e1 With a winning attack.]

18... a5 Pretty strange play by Black, who doesn't seem to be in a hurry to finish his development. [18... ♖d7 was needed. 19. ♖ae1 ♘b5 With the idea of playing Nc6 next. White's position is of course close to winning, but Black is fighting.]

19. ♖ae1 ♖d7 White has a lot of very nice moves here and it is clear that the position should even somehow be tactically winning, but Areschenko finds a very elegant way of not giving his opponent the slightest chance.

20. h4! A great move. White does not hurry to force things and enjoys his position by creating an extra weakness on the g6 square.

20... ♘a6 21. h5 The g6 pawn is under attack. It is difficult to say anything else about Black's position than it just being ugly!

21... ♘c7 And finally Areschenko decides that it is time to finish the game:

22. ♖xc7 ♜xc7 23. ♞g4 Black has no way to defend the g6 pawn. To play g5 is of course not a solution because of Nf5.

23... ♖f8 24. hxc6 hxc6 25. ♕xg6 The material is equal, but White's attack is deadly...

25... ♖d8 26. ♞d4 Areschenko continues keeping the black pieces very passively.

26... ♖h6 Other moves are not much better.



27. ♞c5+! This is the most direct way to put an end to Black's suffering...

27... ♞d6 [27... ♞g7 is of course losing: 28. ♖e7+ ♞xe7 29. ♖xe7+ ♞xe7 30. ♞xe7+ ♞xg6 31. ♞xd8]

28. ♖e8+ ♕xe8 29. ♖xe8+ And the game is over because of 29... Kg7 30. Nf5. A very easy win for White which clearly shows that being under-developed is very risky, even when you're a pawn up. **1-0**

**(2) Nielsen, Peter Heine(2649)
- Von Herman, Ulf(2391)**

Schachbundesliga 2013/2014(8.5),
2014.02.09



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

And now something for the chess joy! We will see a game where Black was totally dominated and what is more, the white king and bishop are completely taking the black queen out of the game. It is one of the games with the biggest domination with equal material that I have ever seen!

1.c4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 Nielsen is a professional coach, but still he is theoretically very strong in a practical game. Peter Heine has been working for Anand for many years and just before the WCC 2012 he was bought by Carlsen. Not the nicest thing to do from the ethical point of view, but does ethic exist on the very high level?!

3.♘c3 ♘c6 4.g3 d6 A bit too passive. Now White is already reaching some opening advantage. [4...d5 and; 4...g6 are the main moves here.]

5.d4 White is taking control of the center.

5...cxd4 6.♘xd4 ♙d7 7.♙g2



7...♚c8? This is already a serious mistake. The idea of Qc8 is logical and not unusual, but at this particular moment Black is not in time. [7...g6 8.O-O ♙g7 We would be back in another line which usually appears after a different move order here.]

8.♘d5! And Nielsen immediately punishes Black for his mistake. Black is not in time for Bh3 now and he cannot develop the pieces in a normal way.

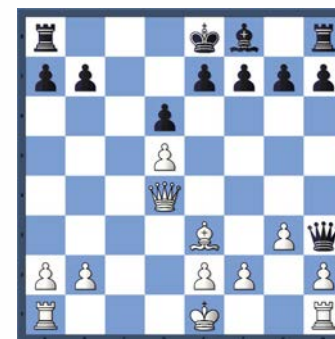
8...♘xd5?! Another unlucky move by Black. [After 8...♘e5 9.♙g5 followed by Rc1 White would get a very strong attack.; It might have been a solution for Black to play 8...♘xd4 9.♚xd4 ♙c6 with a clearly worse position, but things are still not that terrible as in the game...]

9.cxd5 We can already see that Black is under pressure and it will not be an easy task for the f8 bishop to get into the game.

9...♘xd4 [9...♘e5 10.♙d2 followed by Rc1 gives White a big advantage.]

10.♚xd4 ♙h3 Black continues what he started, but now the exchange of the bishops doesn't bring him anything...

11.♙xh3 ♚xh3 12.♙e3 A very logical move. Nielsen is taking control of the c-file. Black's position is already very hard to play.



12...f6? A really horrible move to play! It doesn't matter

what you do, but to play a move like 12...f6? just cannot be a solution. Now the bishop on f8 is really dead and the e6 square is weak. Another very unpleasant thing for Black is that White has a clear plan, which is to enter Black's position over the c-file. However it is very unclear what Black's plan is... [12...♔d7 13.♖c1 e5 14.dxe6 fxe6 15.O-O gives White an almost winning advantage, but here Black would keep theoretical chances to escape in a draw.]

13.♖c1 The c-file is under control.

13...h5 [Black cannot even win the h-pawn because of 13...♔g2 14.♔d2 and the rook on h1 is protected.]

14.♔d2 The white king will feel very comfortable on d2.

14...♔f7 15.♖c7 It is time to take some pawns on the queenside...

15...♔g2 16.♖hc1 h4 Black still can't win the h2 pawn. [16...♔xh2 17.♔e4 followed by Rh1 traps the black queen.]

17.g4! Of course White doesn't let Black play hxg3 and open the h-file.

17...♔g8 18.f3 Totally excluding the black queen from the game...

18...♖h7 19.♔e4 What a domination!

19...g5 20.♔g1 A nice move, not giving Black any chance at all! [Of course White could also win after 20.♖xb7 20...♔xh2 21.♖xa7 ♖xa7 22.♔xa7 And if Black plays 22...♔g2 with the idea of playing h3-h2 next, then White always has 23.♖g1 followed by a4-a5, with totally winning position.]

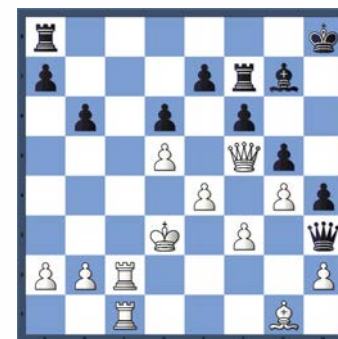
20...b6 21.♔f5 White continues to squeeze Black...

21...♖f7 22.♔d3 Nielsen starts a nice plan by taking the black queen even more out of the game.

22...♔h8 23.♖7c2! A very nice idea.

23...♔g7 24.e4 The queen on g2 is under attack so it needs to choose between 2 "nice squares", h3 or h1.

24...♔h3



25.♔e3! The white king is going to f2, after which the black queen won't be able to move at all anymore...

25...♖e8 26.♔f2 The black queen is trapped. White now basically has a queen against a bishop...

26...♔g8 27.♖c7 a5 28.a4 Very well played. White does not hurry and there was no need for it indeed...

28...♖b8 29.♔e6 ♔f8 [29...f5 doesn't work since after 30.♖xe7 ♔d4+ 31.♔e1 White is totally winning.]

30.♖c8 Exchanging the last active black piece.

30...♖xc8 31.♖xc8 ♔g7 32.♖b8 White is simply going for the b6 pawn. Black is totally paralyzed, what a position!!!

32...f5 33.exf5 ♖f6



34. ♔e4 WOW! I would not like to be Von Herman here... The only black piece that is not placed on a dark square is the queen on h3! :) **1-0**

(3) Giri, Anish(2749) - Belezky, Alexander(2455)

German league(8.1),
2014.02.09



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Anish Giri realized the big difference in strength in a very nice game.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♘c3 ♙b4 4. ♔c2 Black tries to avoid a theoretical battle in the 4.Qc2 Nimzowitsch by choosing a sideline...

4... ♘c6 5. ♘f3 d6



6. ♙d2 This is considered to be the best move according to theory. The entire idea of the 4.Qc2 Nimzo is to gain the pair of bishops with a3 without damaging the pawn structure. White even improves the circumstances now, he wants to recapture with the bishop to keep the control over the important e4 square.

6...O-O 7.a3 Obviously the bishop cannot be saved with Ba5 because b4 followed by c5 simply traps it.

7... ♙xc3 8. ♙xc3 ♔e7 Black fights for the center with e5.

9.e4 [9.e3 9...e5 10.d5 ♖b8 11.♘d2 followed by Bd3 is a more common continuation.]

9...e5 10.d5 Black has managed to close the center and the two bishops only a long term efficiency. However White also enjoys some space advantage.

10...♘b8



[10...♘d4!? could be the only difference as to why White usually plays 9.e3. However Giri has probably prepared the following answer. 11.♙xd4 is less convincing. (11.♘xd4! 11...exd4 12.♙xd4 ♘xe4 13.O-O-O! White needs to play the most direct moves to fight for an edge. Bd3, Rhe1 are coming quickly. (13.♙e2 13...♙f5 would be fine for Black.) 13...♘c5 trying to avoid Bd3, but... 14.b4! (14.♙e2 14...♙d7 would be fine for Black again.) 14...♘d7 15.♙d3+= White is better with the two active bishops.) 11...exd4 12.♙d3 Black equalizes with 12...♙f5! 13.O-O ♙xe4 14.♙fe1 ♙xd3 15.♙xd3 ♙d7 16.♙xd4 a6= followed by trading the rooks on the e-file.]

11.♙e2 ♘h5 Black aims for the standard counterplay with this particular pawn structure. He has Nf4 and f5 ideas in mind.



12.♘xe5! Actually White does not win a pawn with this small tactical trick, but he opens the position for his bishops.

12...♙f6 [Black could also get the g2 pawn back, but the opening of the g-file is not promising anything good for him... 12...♘f4 13.♘f3 ♘xg2+ 14.♙d2! The king is actually quite safe on d2. Black is unable to open the position and White can also execute an artificial castling with Rag1 and Kc1 whenever he feels some danger... 14...♘f4 15.♙hg1 Black is forced to create a big weakening around his king with f6 or g6. Neither of them can lead to anything good...]

13.♘f3 ♘xe4 14.O-O! Another small tactical trick with which White finishes the development. [Unfortunately he could not save his bishop with 14.♙d4 14...♙f5 developing with tempo and threatening to play Ng3. 15.♙d1 c5! 16.dxc6 ♘xc6 Black develops another piece with tempo. It is a sign that things are going into a bad direction, but a concrete line also justifies it: 17.♙e3 ♙fe8 and White must leave his king in the center. 18.O-O ♘xf2! wins a pawn.]

14...♘xc3 [14...♙f5? makes no sense now, as the king has already left the pin. 15.♙d3±]

15. ♖xc3! An important detail, so White can keep his healthy pawn formation. The bishop pair is gone, but White still has the space advantage, his pieces are better developed and he is going to gain another tempo with Re1. White has realistic chances for an advantage.

15... ♘d7 [15... ♖xe2? 16. ♖fe1+- traps the queen.]

16. ♘d4



16... ♘f6?! Black fails to find the right arrangement for his pieces. [The f6 square belongs to the queen from where it has influence on all directions of the board. 16... ♖f6! 17. ♖ae1 (Black never needs to worry about 17. ♘b5 17... ♖xc3 18. bxc3? The c7 pawn cannot be saved, but it is actually poisoned: 18... a6! 19. ♘xc7 ♖a7 and b6 next traps the knight.) 17... ♘b6 18. ♘d1 ♘d7 Followed by Rae8 and aiming for exchanges. Black has good chances to hold.]

17. ♖fe1 ♘d7? Another mistake, which might be called decisive. [17... ♖e8 was the right move and only after that Bd7 to connect the rooks. 18. ♘d3 ♖f8 19. ♖xe8 ♖xe8 20. ♖e1 ♖f8+= With Bd7 and Re8 next, but White should be better after provoking the b6 weakening with Qb3.]

18. ♘f3 ♖d8



19. ♘e6!! A very nice motif! White changes the character of the position in his favor. Black is forced to accept the sacrifice, but then he must immediately give back the material...

19... fxe6 20. dxe6 The bishop cannot be saved because of the e7 threat.

20... ♘xe6 21. ♖xe6 Here we can summarize the benefits of the 19. Ne6 move. It is easy to see the difference between the quality of the pieces. The bishop dominates the knight, while the white heavy pieces are standing actively and the black ones are doomed to passivity.

21... ♖b8 Black had no better way to protect the b7 pawn, because c6 would have fatally weakened the d6 pawn. Rd1 could have come immediately. **22. ♖ae1**



22... ♖f7 [An important detail is that Black could not ease his

position with the following simplification because of another tactical idea: 22...♖e8 23.♖xe8+ ♘xe8 24.♚a5! Simply attacking a7 and after 24...a6 25.♙xb7!+- with the idea of Qd5! White won a pawn.]

23.h4! Giri improves his position by advancing his h-pawn. White wants to push h5-h6 to decisively weaken his opponent's king and if Black plays h6 himself, the light squared bishop starts to work even more efficiently.

23...♙h8 24.h5 h6 This is still better than allowing h6.



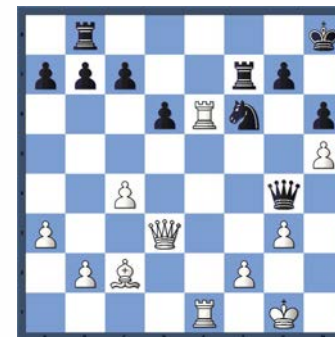
25.♙d1! White immediately changes the diagonal of the bishop! The black king is in trouble and there is no piece to neutralize the bishop.

25...♘g8 Black tries to find counterplay by jumping out with his queen. [25...♚d7 26.♙c2 ♖e8 (26...♘h5? always loses to 27.♖xh6+) 27.♙f5+- Black cannot ease the pressure.; 25...d5 does not help either. White can keep all the advantages of his position by playing 26.c5 d4 27.♚d3 and Bc2 next. Black is paralyzed because the only active move 27...♚d5 is met by 28.♖1e5± and the queen must retreat...]

26.♙c2 ♚h4 27.g3 ♚g4 [27...♚h5? obviously doesn't work because of 28.♙g6+-]

28.♚d3 ♘f6 With the idea to control the h7 square along the 7th rank in case of Rxf6. However White improves his position

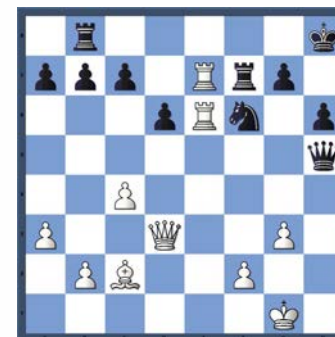
by using another tactical idea.



29.♖e8+! ♖f8 The only move, otherwise Black gets mated in a few moves.

30.♖8e7! The rook starts to penetrate on the 7th rank and the other rook is coming to e6 and is ready to be sacrificed on f6.

30...♖bc8 [30...♚xh5 loses to 31.♖1e6! ♖f7



32.♖e8+! ♖f8 (32...♖xe8 33.♖xe8+ ♘xe8 34.♚h7#)
33.♖xf6!+- And mate is coming soon.]

31.♖1e6 ♘g8 A last desperate attempt to run out from the danger zone.

32.♙g2!? A calm reaction. White wants to send away the queen with f3. Black has no move anyway since Qxh5 is met by Rxf6 Rxf6 Qh7 and the g7 pawn is not protected

anymore. [32.♖xf6? directly does not bring anything:
32...♖xf6 33.♔h7+ ♕f8; 32.♙d1 was also winning: 32...♔g5
33.f4 ♖c5+ 34.♔g2+- and Qg6 next mates soon.]

32...♖f7



33.♖xf6! Giri finds the most elegant way to collect the full point!

33...♖xf6 [33...gxf6 is refuted by 34.♔d5! ♖f8 35.♙g6+-]

34.f3! Sending away the well placed queen and we will get the idea soon...

34...♔g5 The only square to defend the g7 pawn. [34...♔xh5 35.♔h7+ ♕f8 36.♔xg7#]

35.♔h7+ ♕f8 36.♖d7! This is the point of f3! White has time for this silent move as Qf3 is not threatening anymore and also the queen does not cover the d7 square anymore. Black has no defence against Qh8 mate, while he only has one check on d2...

36...♕e8 37.♖xg7 ♖d2+ 38.♔h3 A great game! It was instructive to follow how Giri converted his advantage after 19.Ne6! **1-0**

(4) Ivanchuk, Vassily(2739) - Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime(2745)

Caleta ENG(10.1),
2014.02.06



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

We are in the last round of the Gibraltar Open. Ivanchuk was half a point ahead of the field, therefore he was not against making a draw. Despite having the black pieces, Vachier succeeded to create fire on the board.

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 Ivanchuk wants to play one of the Anti-Gruenfeld lines against Vachier's favorite opening.

2...c5 3.g3 g6 4.♗g2 ♗g7 5.O-O O-O The Symmetrical English is on the board, which usually leads to a calm game with a small edge for White due to his extra tempo.

6.d4 cxd4 7.♘xd4 ♘c6 [The strong alternative is 7...d5 which is considered to give full equality. However it had the serious drawback in the current tournament situation that if White wants he can force a draw with 8.cxd5 ♘xd5 9.♘b5 ♗e6 10.♘d4 ♗c8 11.♘b5 Black cannot avoid the repetition!]

8.♘c3



8...♔a5!? A new direction, which enjoys big popularity even on the highest level since last year, thanks to Grischuk's

efforts. Black creates the direct threat of Qc5 with a double attack. Therefore White has two main choices, 9.Nb3 and 9.Nc2, but in both cases Black switches the queen to h5 with the idea of quickly trading the strong g2 bishop with d6 and Bh3. [8...♘xd4 9.♔xd4 d6 and; 8...♘g4 were the two main lines before.]

9.♘b3 ♔h5 It is unclear at the moment how White should react here. White tried 10.c5, 10.e4 and 10.Nd5, but Black seems to get decent counterplay everywhere. Ivanchuk tries another plan!

10.h3!? White fights against the d6-Bh3 idea in the most direct way and also tries to point out the misplacement of the black queen...

10...d6 11.g4



11...♗xg4! Ivanchuk has provoked this tempting sacrifice. The game gets extremely sharp now... [11...♔h4 is too slow. It would have strongly been met by 12.♗f4! and Black has no time to make use of the h3-g4 weakening because of the misplacement of his queen. The consequent 12...h5? drops a piece after 13.♗g3! ♔g5 14.f4 ♔h6 15.g5+—]

12.hxg4 ♗xg4 13.♗f4! The only move. [13.♔e1 leads to a crushing attack after 13...♗xc3! 14.bxc3 ♔h2+ 15.♔f1 ♔h4! Black had taken the knight two moves ago to avoid Ne4.

16.♙e3 ♘xe3+ 17.fxe3 ♘e5± White has no good defence against the threatening Ng4 and f5-f4 ideas. Even materially Black is doing fine, but the attack is more important.]

13...♙e5! Eliminating the defender of the h2 square! Black also needs to attack precisely, otherwise White quickly pushes back the pieces with f3 for example and ends up with an extra piece.

14.♖d2 Trying to bring another piece to the protection of the h2 square, but with his next move Black manages to clarify things in his favor.



14...g5! White cannot keep the f4 square anymore so the only way to avoid getting mated is to free the f1 square for the king.

15.♙xe5 ♘cxe5 16.♖fc1! As we will see, it is very important to keep the d1 square free for the knight in order to be able to defend the f2 square!

[16.♖fd1 is met by 16...♘xc4 17.♖d4 ♖h2+! 18.♙f1 ♖h4! Here we can see that White cannot protect the f2 square with Nd1. The game is over now. Two spectacular finishes could be 19.♙g1 (19.♘e4 is refuted by 19...♘ce3+! 20.fxe3 f5!—+ Mate is coming soon.) 19...e5! 20.♖xc4 ♖xf2+ 21.♙h1 ♖h4+ 22.♙g1 ♖h2+ 23.♙f1 ♘e3+—+ wins the queen.]



16...f5!? Actually only this is the novelty of the game, but it is quite a scary one as Black intends to attack with f4, Nce5 and f3! The white pieces are all directed to the queenside and it is not easy to switch them back to defence quickly. [The previous game ended in more or less forced draw after 16...♘xc4 17.♖d3 ♘ce3! 18.fxe3 ♖h4! and the game ends with perpetual check in any case... 19.♘d5 (19.e4 19...♖f2+ 20.♙h1 ♖h4+= White is forced to repeat with Kg1, otherwise he loses his queen with Nf2.; 19.♘d1 also leads to a draw after 19...♖e1+ 20.♙f1 ♖g3+ 21.♙g2 ♖e1+=) 19...♖f2+ 20.♙h1 ♖h4+ 21.♙g1 ♖f2+ 22.♙h1 ♖h4+ A draw was agreed in Zhou Jianchao-Matlakov Kazan 2013. Both players were probably familiar with this game, but Vachier had prepared his dangerous improvement at home.]

17.♘d4 Trying to trade one of the attackers with Nf3. [

a) 17.f3? was not an option for White in view of 17...♖h2+ 18.♙f1 ♖g3! and Black wins in all lines: 19.fxg4 (19.♘d1 19...♘h2+ 20.♙g1 ♘hxf3+! 21.exf3 ♘xf3+—+) 19...fxg4+ 20.♙g1 ♖f2 21.♖d5+ e6 22.♖e4 ♘f3+!—+;

b) 17.♘d1!? was the alternative for White, not only protecting the f2 square, but also to bring a defender along the 3rd rank with Rc3-h3! Black also needs to be careful here. 17...♘g6! seems like the only move to drive the knight to f4 and avoid Rh3. (17...f4? 18.♖c3± White holds and soon runs

out of compensation.) 18.♖c3 (18.e3 looks really scary after 18...♙h2+ 19.♔f1 f4!) 18...♘f4 19.♗g3



19...♙h2!! After this extremely solid prophylactic move, Black is going to bring new attackers with Rf6-h6. White seems to be in deep trouble. (After 19...♗f6? 20.e3! ♙h2+ 21.♔f1 ♘xg2 White has 22.♙d5+! and the queen takes back on g2! This is the reason for the "mysterious" Kh8 move!) 20.e3? now loses to 20...♙h2+ 21.♔f1 ♘xg2 22.♗xg2 ♙h1+ 23.♗g1 ♘h2+! 24.♔e2 ♙xg1+-]

17...♙h2+ [On 17...f4?! White successfully defends with 18.♘f3 ♘xf3+ 19.exf3±]

18.♔f1



18...♘xf2!! A brilliant attack by Vachier Lagrave! Ivanchuk had to be really upset at this point to face such an attack after

only 18 moves, when he needs a draw. However he managed to stay calm and found a cold-blooded defence to save the game!

19.♔xf2! Obviously the most natural reaction, but White had two serious alternatives as well and it requires very deep evaluation to make the correct decision. [19.♙xg5+ 19...♔h8 20.♔xf2 proves to be worse after 20...♘g4+! It is important to first send the king to the back rank to avoid Rh1. (20...♗g8? 21.♗h1!+- suddenly wins for White.) 21.♔e1 ♙g1+ 22.♘f1 ♙f2+ 23.♔d2 ♙xd4+ 24.♔c2 ♘e3+ 25.♔b1 We reach this position basically by force after 19.Qxg5. Black has two pawns for the piece, but the white pieces are so poor and cramped on the queenside that only Black can be better. 25...♗f7 After protecting the e7 pawn Black activates his other rook through the g-file. ; 19.♘f3 19...♘xf3 20.exf3 looks good for White at first sight, but



20...♘e4! opens the f-file. 21.♘xe4 fxe4 22.♙d5+ ♔h8 23.♙xe4 ♗f4! Black simply brings his pieces with Rf6 and g4 and White has no adequate defence! 24.♙xb7 (24.♙xe7 24...♗af8+-) 24...♗af8 25.♗c3 g4±]

19...♘g4+ 20.♔f1 f4 This is the point behind the sacrifice on f2. Black creates the deadly threat of Ne3. White needs to find another only move, which had to be foreseen before taking on f2.



21. ♔d3!! Freeing the d2 square for the king. White is already two pieces up, so the king cannot be let to run away... [21. ♘d1? loses to 21... ♘e3+ 22. ♘xe3 fxe3—+; 21. ♘f3? also loses after 21... ♘e3+! 22. ♔xe3 (22. ♔e1 22... ♔g3#) 22... fxe3—+ and the queen cannot be taken...]

21... ♔h4! The king had to be kept in the mate net! [21... ♘e3+? 22. ♔e1 followed by Kd2 wins for White.]

22. ♘d1! Covering the f2 square and creating the threats of Qh3 and Nf3 forces Black to play

22... ♘e3+! 23. ♘xe3 fxe3+ 24. ♔g1 ♔f2+ 25. ♔h1 Black has nothing better than giving perpetual check.

25... ♔h4+ [25... ♔f4 also leads to a draw after 26. ♘f5 ♔h4+ 27. ♘xh4 ♔xh4+ 28. ♔g1 ♔f2+ 29. ♔h2 ♔f4+! 30. ♔h1 ♔h4+=; The tempting 25... ♔f6? does not work because of 26. ♘f5! ♔xf5 27. ♔f1 ♔h4+ 28. ♔g1+— And Black doesn't have a perpetual anymore...]

26. ♔g1 ♔f2+ 27. ♔h1 ♔h4+ An excellent game full of nice tactical motifs. **1/2-1/2**

Puzzle section

(5) Salgado Lopez, I(2597)-Henrichs, T(2477)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.02.03

1. +-



(6) Spragett, K(2544)-Paehtz, E(2458)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.02.04

1. +-



(7) Cheparinov, I(2672)-Kamsky, G(2709)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.02.06

1. +-



(8) Rodshtein, M(2682)-Mareco, S(2582)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.02.06

1. +-



(9) Meister, P(2399)-Fier, A(2572)

German league, 2014.02.08

1. +-



(10) Fridman, D(2602)-Ernst, S(2573)

German league, 2014.02.09

1. +-



(11) Swiercz, D(2630)-Vishnu, P(2468)

Moscow Open, 2014.02.05

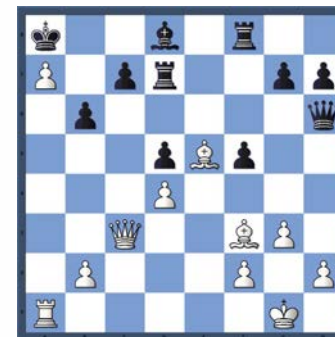
1. +-



(12) Moiseenko, A(2710)-Alekseenko, K(2459)

Moscow Open, 2014.02.06

1. +-



(13) Popov, I(2653)-Kabanov, N(2501)

Moscow Open, 2014.02.07

1. +-



(14) Shomoev, A(2568)-Bortnik, A(2463)

Moscow Open, 2014.02.09

1. +-



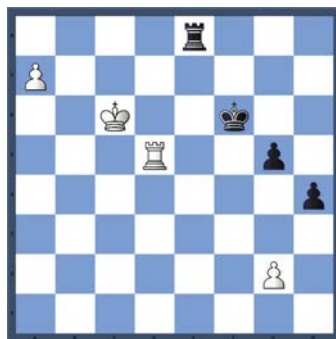
Endgame section

(15) Buhmann, Rainer(2582)
- Kraemer, Martin(2546)

Schachbundesliga 2013/2014(8.1),
2014.02.09

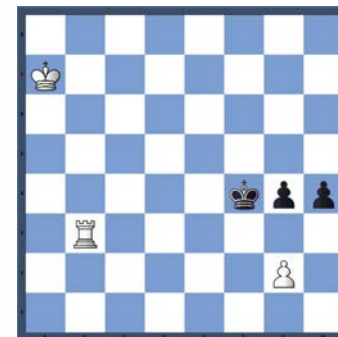


GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



At first sight White's position looks winning, but Black has some escaping chances as he can either give checks by playing Re6-Re7-Re5 or play h3 in a good moment.

47...g4 48.♔b7 White is choosing the most direct way to finish the game. [Another winning idea could be 48.♖d3! It is important to have the rook on the 3rd rank to prevent the black king from getting to g3. 48...♕f5 And now 49.♖b3! with the idea of playing Rb8 next. 49...♖a8 50.♕b7 ♖xa7+ 51.♕xa7 ♕f4



52.♕b6 And as Black cannot create a passed pawn the white king has all the time in the world to come back.]

48...♖e7+ 49.♕b6 ♖e8 Black doesn't have anything better than to keep on waiting.

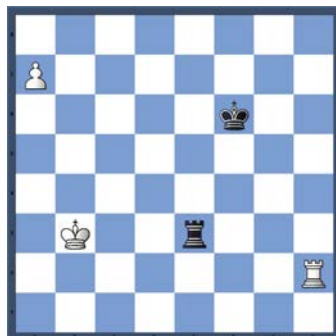
50.♖a5 This move is already forcing Black to take some actions as a8Q is a threat.

50...h3 51.gxh3 gxh3 52.♖h5! A nice finishing move, but an exact calculation was needed. [52.a8=♕? would be a big mistake as after 52...♖xa8 53.♖xa8 ♕g5 54.♕c5 ♕g4 55.♕d4 h2 56.♖h8 ♕g3 57.♕e3 ♕g2 Black would be just in time to make a draw.]

52...h2 An attempt to give a perpetual check.

53.♖xh2 ♖e6+ 54.♕c5 ♖e5+ 55.♕b4 The white king has to come back and at the same time make sure that the black rook doesn't enter the a-file, but it seems like Buhmann has calculated the variation well.

55...♖e4+ 56.♕b3 ♖e3+



57.♔b2 Black doesn't have any checks left.

57...♖e8 And here comes the important finishing move:

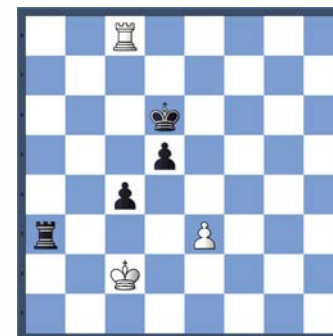
58.♖f2+! White is driving the black king one more file away from the a-pawn before playing Kb3 followed by Ra2 and the march of the king to the b7 square. **1-0**

(16) Mchedlishvili, Mikheil(2630)
- **Bologan, Viktor(2670)**

German league,
2014.02.08



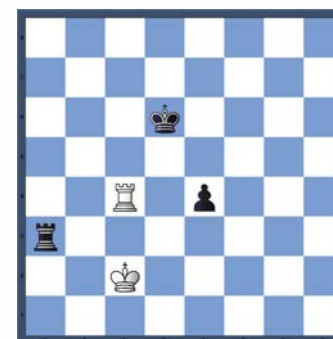
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



White is a pawn down, but the draw should be achievable because the e3 pawn excellently blocks the one on d5, the king is ideally placed in front of the pawns and the rook stands actively, ready to harass the black pawns.

91.e4! White finds the most direct way to simplify the position into a theoretical drawn endgame.

91...dxe4 92.♖xc4



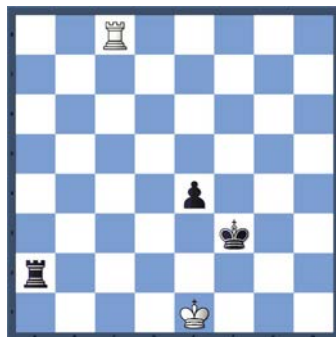
92...♔e5 Things are not as easy as it might look at first sight.

White is not in time to set up the ideal defensive position by putting the king to e2 and playing Rc8 with the idea to give checks forever.

93.♔d2! The most important task is to occupy the right position with the king in front of the pawn.

93...♔f4 94.♖c8! White prepares to check the king from the 8th rank.

94...♖a2+ 95.♔e1 ♔f3! Creating the threat of Ra1 Kd2 e3 check and against Rf8, Black can hide his king on e3.



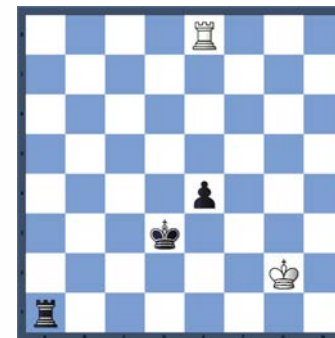
White had no time to set up the ideal defensive method (the one that arose in the 95...Ke3 line). The draw is still achievable but it requires to know the only defensive plan! [After 95...♔e3 we would have reached a well-known theoretical position. 96.♖c3+ ♔d4 97.♖h3 White waits with his rook on the 3rd rank, until Black advances his pawn. 97...e3 98.♖h8!= The king has no shelter against the checks anymore in front of the pawn, so the draw is obvious.]

96.♖e8!! The only move! [96.♖f8+ is refuted by 96...♔e3 97.♔f1 ♖a1+ 98.♔g2 ♔e2—+ and we reach the game's position after 99.Rd8...; 96.♖h8 simply loses to 96...♖a1+ 97.♔d2 e3+ 98.♔d3 ♖d1+ 99.♔c2 e2—+]

96...♔e3 [96...♖a1+ 97.♔d2 and Black does not have e3, which is why the rook needs to stay on e8.]

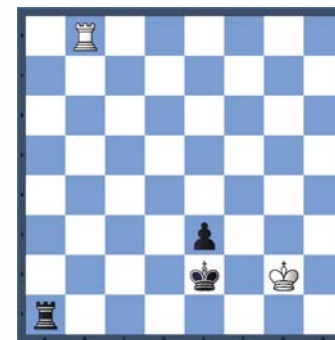
97.♔f1! An important defensive idea is that the king must stay on the shorter side of the board (from the pawn's point of view), while the rook must be ready to check from the longer side!

97...♖a1+ 98.♔g2 ♔d3



99.♔f2! Another only move, to stop e3! From now on White's task is easy and Black quickly admits that he has no winning chance. [It is instructive to examine why other moves are losing: 99.♖d8+? 99...♔e2 100.♖b8 e3

The point is that the longer side of the board is not long enough now and White quickly runs out of checks from the side. If he had his rook on a8 and the black one on b1, he could have held the draw with side checks...



101.♖b2+ (101.♖e8 loses easily to the bridge-building method: 101...♖a7 102.♖b8 ♖g7+ 103.♔h2 ♔e1 104.♖e8 e2 105.♖e6

g5! Here comes the bridge-building! **106.** e8 f2 **107.** f8+ e3 **108.** e8+ f3 **109.** f8+ e4 **110.** e8+ e5--+) **101...** d3 **102.** b3+ (**102.** f3 does not help because of **102...** f1+! **103.** g2 e2--+) **102...** d2 **103.** b2+ c3!--+) And here it becomes clear why the rook should be on the a-file. He has no more checks, Rb8 loses to e2, while Re2 is met by Kd3.]

99... a2+ **100.** e1 h2 [100...e3 **101.** d8+=]

101. f1 e3 **102.** a8 d2 [The last attempt could have been **102...** h1+ **103.** g2 d1 but White holds for instance with the same idea he used before: **104.** e8 d3 **105.** f2=]

103. e1 e2+ **104.** f1 f2+ Black cannot make progress and agreed a draw. Knowing such endgames might allow us to save difficult positions! **1/2-1/2**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Fischer, Robert James
- Panno, Oscar[A04]

Buenos Aires(8),
1970.07.30



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

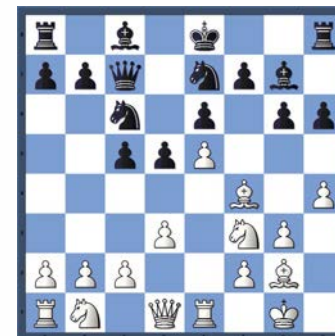
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d3 ♘c6 4.g3



4...g6 This is probably the most popular set-up against this line. Black can also play Nf6-Be7-d5 or d5-Bd6-Nge7.

5.♗g2 ♗g7 6.O-O ♘ge7 7.♖e1 d6 Black can also play more actively in the center:

[7...d5 but this move leads to a slightly different position.
8.e5 The idea of this move is to get the initiative on the dark squares, especially f6. (8.♖e2 White of course doesn't need to hurry with e5 but then Black can push e5 at some point or play 8...♖c7!? Black is waiting to castle to keep the g5 idea.)
8...♖c7 9.♖e2 (9.♗f4 9...h6 10.h4



10...g5! This is the main idea Black should know in this structure. 11.hxg5 hxg5 12.♗xg5 ♘xe5 Black wins the central pawn and gets a good position.) 9...h6 10.h4 b6 (10...b5 Black's long term plan is to open the position on the queenside, which is not an easy task in general.) 11.♗f4 (11.♘bd2 White's plan is usually Nf1-Nh2-Ng4-Bf4 and if he manages to do that than he gets a strategically almost winning position, but for example in this case Black can play the typical and strong 11...g5!) 11...g5 12.hxg5 ♘g6 13.c4 With unclear play.]

8.c3 O-O 9.d4 White gets an advantage in the center. [9.♘bd2



9...a5!? Not the only way to play but this move has an interesting idea if now White plays 10.d4 (10.♘f1 With the idea h4-Nh2, but then Black will play over e5!) 10...cxd4 11.cxd4 d5 12.e5 And now Black is going to put pressure on the d4 pawn. We now also see the point of the 9...a5 move: in many

variations White will have no time to play Nb3 (to protect d4) because of a4! 12...f6 (12...f5 13.f3 a4 14.f5 ♖b6 15.fxa4 ♔a7) 13.exf6 ♕xf6 14.f3 ♕f5↗]

9...cxd4 10.cxd4 d5 11.e5

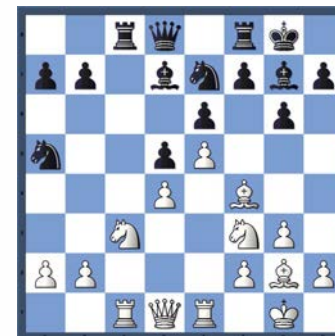


11...♕d7 [11...f6 12.f3 (12.exf6 12...♕xf6 13.f3 ♕f5 14.fxe2 ♖b6↗ Xd4) 12...fxe5 13.dxe5 ♕d7 14.f4 h6 15.h4 Followed by Qd2. White controls the e5 square very well and he has a clear advantage thanks to his space advantage and the potentially weak black king.]

12.f3 ♖c8 White is better because he has more space and because of the limited bishop on g7. In general his plan is to create pressure on the kingside while Black should try to get counterplay on the queenside.

13.f4 [13.h4 13...h6 A prophylactic move as now after h5 Black will answer g5. (13...f6 14.h5↗) 14.f4 ♕a5 15.♖d3 ♕c4 16.b3 ♕a3 17.♖ac1 b5 18.♖d2 ♕h7 19.f3 With the thematic idea to transfer the knight to g4. 19...♖xc1 20.♖xc1 b4 21.f3 ♖b6 22.f4 ♖c8↗ And Black is in time with counterplay because after 23.Qd2 comes Rc2.]

13...♕a5 14.♖c1

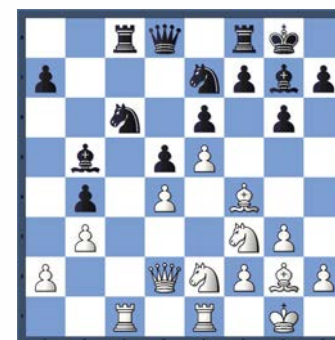


14...b5 Black immediately tries to create some play on the queenside.

15.b3 Preventing Nc4 but on the other hand this move weakens the c-file.

15...b4 16.f3 ♕b5 This diagonal is empty, which means that the bishop doesn't create any threats but at least it is better placed than on d7.

17.♖d2 ♕ac6



18.g4 Preventing Nf5 and slowly advancing the pawns on the kingside.

18...a5 19.f3 [19.f4 19...♖b6 (19...♕xe2 It looks tempting to exchange the knight which can be an important attacking

piece, but the problem is that after b5-b4 Black weakened the light squares. 20. ♖xe2 ♜b6 21. ♕f1+= Xb5;Xa6) 20. ♘f4 h6 21. ♕f6 ♜c7 And it is not easy to improve the pressure for White. 22. ♜c5 ♜fc8 23. ♜ec1? ♘xd4! ♢]

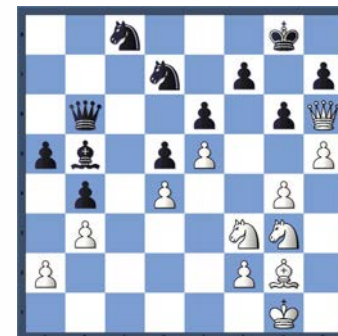
19... ♜b6 20.h4



20... ♘b8! I like this move. Black is going to reduce the material over the c-file and put the knight on d7 to take control of the important f6 square. [20... ♜c7 21. ♕h6 ♜fc8 22. ♜f4! ♗xf7; 20... a4 21. h5 axb3 22. axb3 ♘a5 23. h6! ♘xb3 24. ♜xb4+-]

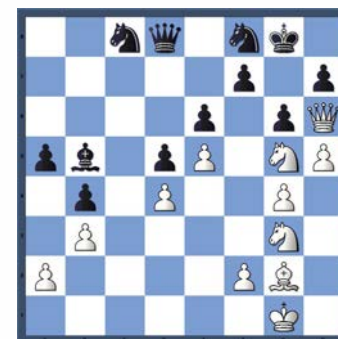
21. ♕h6 ♘d7 22. ♜g5 ♜xc1 [22... f6 23. exf6 ♕xf6 (23... ♘xf6 24. ♕xg7 ♜xg7 25. ♘h5+! ♘xh5 26. ♜xe7+ ♜f7 27. ♜g5 ♜xc1 28. ♜xc1 With a decisive initiative on the dark squares. 28... ♘f4 29. ♜e5+-) 24. ♜e3± All white pieces are ready for the final attack on the kingside. Black's position is very unpleasant.]

23. ♜xc1 ♕xh6 24. ♜xh6 ♜c8 25. ♜xc8+ ♘xc8 26.h5 White has some initiative and Black must be accurate to avoid tactical ideas. [26. ♘g5 26... ♘f8 27. ♘3e4 dxe4 28. ♘xe4 ♜d8 ♢ The only move as the queen has to protect the knight on f8.]



26... ♜d8? The decisive mistake! Black's idea to support the defence with the queen looks very logical but Black should do it in the right move order. [26... ♘f8! Protecting the h7 pawn. 27. ♘g5 Now compared to the game the pawn on d4 is hanging! (27. ♜g5 27... ♜c7 28. h6 ♜e7∞; 27. ♜f4 27... ♜d8 28. ♘g5 ♜e7∞) 27... ♜xd4 28. ♘xh7 ♘xh7 29. hxg6 ♘f8 (29... fxg6 30. ♜xg6+ ♜h8 31. ♜xe6 The knight and pawn are hanging and Nf5 is coming. White has big pressure.) 30. gxf7+ ♜xf7 31. ♜f6+ ♜e8 (31... ♜g8 32. ♜g5+ With perpetual check.) 32. ♘h5 ♜c5 Protecting the knight on f8. 33. g5 ♕d3 ♢]

27. ♘g5 ♘f8



28. ♕e4! A nice move! Thanks to this tactical trick all white pieces are joining the attack. [White could also play 28. ♘xh7 28... ♘xh7 29. hxg6 fxg6 30. ♜xg6+ ♜h8 31. ♜xe6 ♘e7 32. f4 ♜d7 33. ♜xd7 ♕xd7 34. f5! With the simple plan of putting the king on f4 and advancing the pawns.]

28...♔e7 [28...dxe4 29.♘3xe4 With mate to follow.; 28...♙e8 Protecting the g6 square doesn't help anymore: 29.hxg6 fxg6 30.♘h5 ♔e7 31.♘f6+ ♔h8 32.♙d3 And White is winning.]



29.♘xh7! The final blow! White is simply winning now.

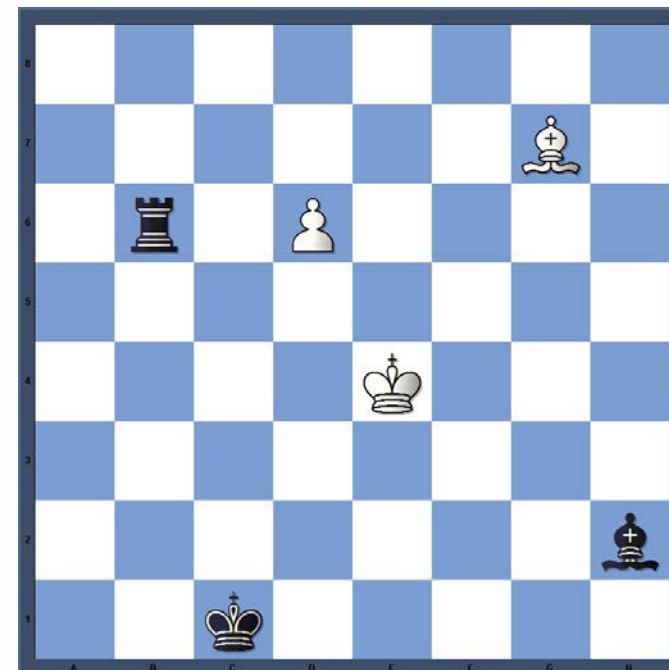
29...♘xh7 30.hxg6 fxg6 31.♙xg6 ♘g5 [31...♔g7 32.♙xh7+ ♔xh7 33.♔xe6+-]

32.♘h5 ♘f3+ 33.♔g2 ♘h4+ 34.♔g3 ♘xg6 35.♘f6+ ♔f7 36.♔h7+ White mate to follow soon. **1-0**

Surprise section / study

(18) Kubbel

1. =



Solutions

(19) Nepomniachtchi, I(2732)-Najer, E(2646)

Moscow rapid, 2014.01.31



27. ♖xe5+!! [27.bxc5? 27... ♗e4!∞]

27... ♜xe5 28. ♘xe5+ ♙g8 29. ♜g1+ 1-0 [29. ♜g1+ 29... ♗g6 30. ♜xg6+ hxg6 31.bxc5+—]

(20) Sos Andreu, E(2285)-Kamsky, G(2709)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.01.28



23... ♘f2!! —+ 24.g4 [24. ♖xf2 24... ♘xh3+ 25. ♙f1 ♘xf2—+]

24... ♗h4!? 25. ♘xc8 ♗g3+ 26. ♙f1 ♘2xh3 0-1

(21) Vitiugov, N(2737)-Haugli, P(2289)

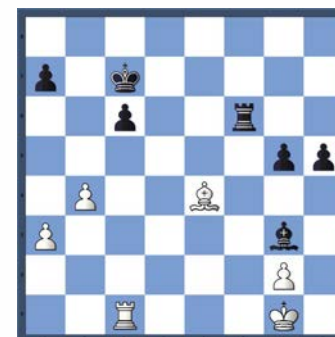
Gibraltar Open, 2014.01.28



22. ♜xc6! ♗g1+ 23. ♙e2 dxc6 24. ♗d8+ ♙g7 25. ♗xe7+—

(22) Flear, G(2471)-Vachier Lagrave, M(2745)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.01.29



35... ♘f2+! 0-1 [35... ♘f2+ 36. ♙h1 (36. ♙f1 36... ♘e3+—+) 36... ♜f4! 37. ♜xc6+ ♙d7—+]

(23) Fenollar Jorda, M(2419)-Agdestein, S(2627)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.01.29

**18... ♖xf3+! 19. ♔h1** [19.gxf3 19... ♕g5+ 20. ♖g3 ♖xd3—+]**19... ♕d6—+****(24) Gordon, S(2516)-Movsesian, S(2677)**

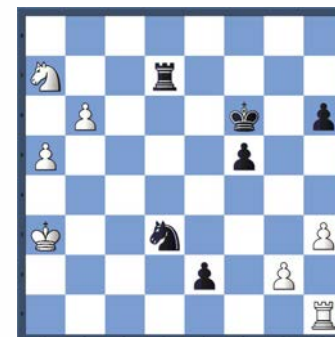
Gibraltar Open, 2014.01.30

**35... ♖f3+!!** [35... ♖xc2? 36. ♕b8+! ♔h7 37. ♕xe4+ dxe4 38. ♖f1! ♖f3+ 39. ♔g2∞]**36. ♔h1** [36. ♕xf3 36... ♕xf3—+; 36. ♔f1 36... ♕d3+—+]**36... ♖xe1—+ 37. ♖xe1** [37. ♖xe1 37... ♕xf2 38. ♕xe4 ♕f1#; 37. ♕xe4 37... ♕xf2—+]**37... ♕xf2! 38. ♕xe4 dxe4 39. ♕xb7 ♕f3+ 40. ♔g1 ♖xc2 0-1****(25) Ganguly, S(2619)-Maze, S(2536)**

Gibraltar Open, 2014.02.02

**14. ♖xc6! ♕xc6** [14... ♖xe3 15. ♖xe7+—+]**15. ♖xd5 ♕xd5 16. ♕xd5±****(26) Sutovsky, E(2663)-Tan Zhongyi(2489)**

Gibraltar Open, 2014.02.01

**44... ♖b4!! 45. ♖c6** [45. ♔xb4 45... ♖d1—+; 45. ♖b5 45... ♖d1—+; 45. ♖e1 45... ♖c2+—+]**45... ♖xc6 46. ♖e1 ♖d5—+**

(27) Matlakov, M(2690)-Palachev, P(2349)

Moscow Open, 2014.02.01



18. ♖e5!! fxe5 19. ♕g4+ ♔h8 20. ♕e4! [20. ♕h5!]

20... ♖g7 21. ♕xe5+ f6 22. ♖xc5! +- ♕xa2
[22... fxe5 23. ♖xa5+-]

23. ♕d4+-

(28) Borocz, I(2398)-Feher, G(2345)

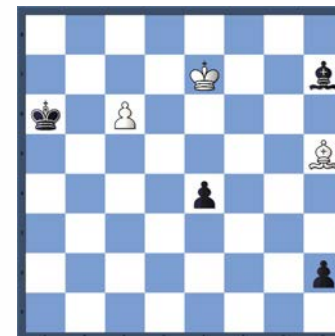
Hungarian league, 2014.02.02



1. ♕h4? [1. ♕b8!! 1... gxf6 2. ♕xf6+ ♕g7 (2... ♖g8 3. ♕g3+-)
3. ♕d6!! ♖g8 (3... h6 4. ♕f8+ ♖h7 5. ♕xg7#) 4. ♕g3+-]

1... h6∞

(29) Kubbel



1. c7! ♖b7 2. ♖d8! ♕f5 3. ♕g6! h1=♕ 4. c8=♕+!! ♕xc8
5. ♕xe4+ ♕xe4



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 104

21st of February 2014

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Editorial Preface

With the current issue we are celebrating 2 years of Chess Evolution Weekly Newsletter. First of all we want to thank everyone who has been with us for all this time already and of course also all the others who joined us later on for the support and nice feedback that we have been getting over these last 2 years.

Lately we made some little modifications, but the structure of the Newsletter is still the same as it was in our 1st issue. We hope you enjoy our work and from our side we are ready to continue for many more years!

Now to the chess events:

Except for team competitions, only 2 big opens came to an end.

The Bronstein Memorial had 3 winners: Jobava, Fedorchuk and Oleksienko, all with 7/9. The Graz Open was won by Melkumyan with a fantastic 7.5/9.

We only have to be patient for two more weeks until the Candidates and the European Championship will start with thousands of nice games!

We wish you a lot of chess fun!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Ivanisevic, Ivan(2626)
- **Acs, Peter(2569) [D10]**

Hungarian league,
2014.02.15



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Ivanisevic is a strong attacking player. He wins many nice games, especially with the white pieces, thanks to his sharp and dangerous openings.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 a6 Acs chooses his favorite Slav opening with 4...a6.

5.♙d3 A rare move, which probably wants to avoid the recently popular line of 5. Nf3 Bf5. Black has several options here, the most common being b5, but the text move is also a very natural reaction.

5...e6



6.b3!? We are already in a more or less new position from a theoretical point of view. As White has already developed his light squared bishop, Black was ready to take on c4 to win the tempo, followed by the standard b5-c5 operation. From now on White intends to recapture with the b-pawn to

strengthen his center and also to develop the bishop to b2 later on. [6.♘f3 would transpose to a main line after 6...dxc4 7.♙xc4 b5 followed by c5.]

6...c5 This looks like a loss of a tempo, but it is actually one of the main ideas of this line. Black takes some ground by freeing his position. He intends to challenge the center with Nc6.

7.♘f3 ♘c6



8.O-O! Very deep preparation, involving a pawn sacrifice.

8...dxc4 [8...cxd4 9.exd4 ♙e7 was an option to avoid the complications, but then White might get a better position with 10.c5 Because of the a6 move Black has no good way to undermine the c5 pawn with b6 and it might also be unpleasant to deal with 10...O-O 11.♘a4! ♘d7 12.♙f4+; 8...♙e7 loses a tempo, so White clarifies the situation in the center: 9.dxc5! ♙xc5 10.cxd5 exd5 11.h3! Preventing Bg4, followed by Bb2 and Ne2-d4, with a typical fight against the isolated pawn, where White's chances are better.]

9.bxc4 cxd4 10.exd4 ♘xd4 There was no way back, Acs had to grab the material, otherwise Black has just given up the center.

11.♘xd4 ♙xd4 12.♙b2 This game was played next to me. Ivanisevic was still blitzing out his moves. Black is seriously behind in development and he needs to lose a further tempo

to move away with the queen. If he succeeds to play Be7 and O-O on the other hand, he will end up with an extra pawn.

12... ♖b6 Black brings back his queen into safety. [12... ♖d8!? would probably be met similarly to the game: 13. ♖f3 ♘e7 14. ♖ad1 White always brings his pieces with tempo. 14... ♖c7 15. ♘e4 ♘xe4 16. ♙xe4 O-O



This position arises after very natural play by both sides. It might be a critical one also from the opening point of view. Black is ready to consolidate with f5 or e5, pushing back the pieces and keeping an extra pawn. Therefore White must use the moment to gain something... 17. ♙xh7+! is the standard series of sacrifice, but it seems to only lead to a draw: 17... ♖xh7 18. ♖h5+ ♖g8 19. ♙xg7! Destroying the kingside, followed by bringing the rook along the 3rd rank. 19... ♖xg7 20. ♖g4+ ♖f6! (20... ♖h6 21. ♖d3 ♙g5! might also be playable, although it looks very suspicious after 22. f4) 21. ♖d3 ♙d6!



With the idea to run away with Ke7. 22. ♖h4+ ♖g6 23. ♖g4+! (The mate can be prevented after 23. f4 23... ♖c5+ 24. ♖h1 f6! 25. ♖g3+ ♖f7 26. ♖h7+ ♖e8—+ The king escapes and Black has two extra bishops.) ; 12... ♖h4!? is the computer's suggestion but for a human it looks suspicious because the queen might get stuck out of the game.]

13. ♖b1 And the queen needs to move again.. .

13... ♖c7



14. ♘e4! White trades a defender and opens the diagonal for the b2 bishop. It is not easy to finish the development because of the g7 pawn and the pressure on the f6 knight.

14... ♙e7 15. ♖f3 Overpressing the f6 knight, so Black is forced to open the long diagonal. [Another attacking option was 15. ♘xf6+ 15... ♙xf6 16. ♙xf6 gxf6 17. ♖h5 followed by Rfe1. The black king will stay in the center forever, although the final breakthrough is still far away. Black will try to shelter his king one e7.]

15... ♘xe4 16. ♙xe4 f6?! After a long thought, Black decided to keep the king in the center. [16... O-O! should have been played. We have the same position as in the 12... ♖d8 line, with only the rook standing on b1 and not on d1. Once again the critical continuation is 17. ♙xh7+ ♖xh7 18. ♖h5+ ♖g8 19. ♙xg7! This could be the only reason why Acs refused

to castle kingside, but it again seems to lead to a perpetual, just as in the 12... Qd8 line. 19...♔xg7 20.♚g4+ ♔f6 21.♖b3 ♕d6 22.♚h4+ ♔g6 23.♚g4+=[

17.♚h5+ Avoiding castling forever.

17...♔f8 White cannot lead a mating attack directly, he must continue with some prophylactic measures. Black has only one dream in this position, to finish the development of the queenside, for example with Bd7-c6. Therefore White puts pressure on the b7 pawn. [17...g6? is obviously a blunder because of 18.♕xg6+]



18.♚f3!? [Another strong move was 18.♖fd1!? 18...♖b8 (The idea is that after 18...♕d7 19.♕xf6! ♕xf6 20.♖xb7 wins.) 19.♕d4 Preventing Bd7 again, this time White could play Ba7. 19...b6 White has a very deep move here: 20.h3!? Not necessary of course, but the point is to still keep the bishop on c8. Black has no useful move with any other pieces and 20...♕d7 allows 21.♕xb6! ♖xb6 22.♖xb6 ♚xb6 23.♖xd7± With a big advantage and here we can see that h3 is a very useful move to have the back rank opened.]

18...♖b8 19.♕d4 White opens the rook's file and intends to confuse Black with Ba7 or Bb6.

19...f5 [Ivanisevic's point of bringing back the queen to f3 becomes clear after the most obvious 19...b6 Now White plays 20.♚e3! and Black has problems with the b6 pawn. To grab the c4 pawn is of course always too optimistic. With a king on f8 one should never grab pawns and open new files for the rooks. 20...♚xc4 loses to 21.♖fc1 ♚a4 22.♚f4!+- trapping the b8 rook.]

20.♖fd1 Activating the last unemployed piece. [It would also have made sense to transfer the bishop back to e3 first with 20.♕a7 20...♖a8 21.♕e3 ♖b8 22.♖fd1 Threatening Bf4. But of course the text move is more human.]

20...♕f6 The e4 bishop is suddenly hanging and Black is ready to trade some pieces to ease his defensive task. White needs to continue precisely.



21.♕b6! [21.♕a7? could be met by 21...fxe4]

21...♚e5 [21...fxe4 is refuted by 22.♚a3+! ♚e7 (22...♕e7 23.♕xc7 ♕xa3 24.♖d8+ ♔f7 25.♖xh8+-) 23.♕c5+-; 21...♚xc4 22.♚g3 ♖a8 White has many tempting options. A spectacular attacking move is 23.♕d8!+- trying to free the d8 square for the rook.]

22.♕c2 ♔f7 Black is one step closer to connecting his rooks, but developing the c8 bishop still looks like a hopeless task.



23.♖b3! White further improves his pieces.

23...h5 Black cannot move with his pieces, so he at least prevents the checks on h5. But of course it is already a bad sign if somebody has to make such moves.

24.♖e3 ♕b2 The only square for the queen.

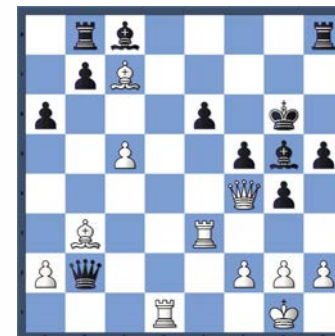
25.♗b3! might look a bit strange, but the bishop is actually going to stand extremely well after c5, getting a new target on e6!

25...g5 Black tries a clever attempt to make some artificial safety for his king on g6, but in a bad position all moves are just bad.

26.c5 ♖g6 27.♗c7! Ivanisevic continues with his precise and energetic moves! [27.♗xe6? immediately would only help Black: 27...♗xe6 28.♖xe6 ♖he8 Suddenly Black connects his rooks and gets rid of his poor c8 bishop.]

27...g4 [27...♖a8 loses to 28.♗xe6! ♗xe6 29.♖xe6 And the difference of having the Bc7 move included is that 29...♖he8 30.♗e5! wins.]

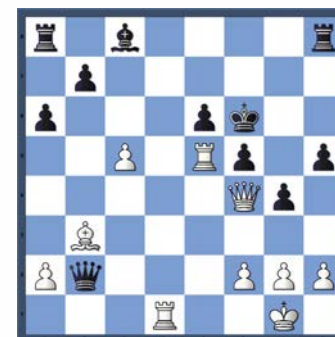
28.♕f4 ♖a8 [28...♗g5 was Acs's intention when he pushed g4, but it has a beautiful refutation!



29.♕e5! ♖xe5 30.♗xe5 ♗xe3 31.fxe3+- Black loses a full rook.]

29.♗e5! Trading the only defender of the king. Black cannot save himself...

29...♗xe5 30.♖xe5 ♖f6 Allowing White to finish the game in style. [30...♖e8 31.♖de1+- The e6 pawn will fall and it also means the end of the game as Kf6 allows Qh6.]



31.♖xf5+! exf5 32.♖d6+ ♖e7 33.♕g5+ Black resigned in view of Rd8 mate. A great attacking game! **1-0**

(2) Shimanov, Aleksandr(2658) - Rasulov, Vugar(2534) [A45]

Minsk Open, 2014.02.17



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

White wins a very nice attacking game after Black's dubious opening choice.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.♗g5** The Trompowsky variation. White likes using this weapon when he wants to get his opponent to less theoretical areas. Black reacts with an ambitious setup. 2...d5 is considered to be the most solid.

2...♘e4 3.♗f4 c5 4.f3 ♖a5+ 5.c3 ♘f6 6.♘d2 cxd4 7.♘b3
All these moves are well-known with thousands of games in the database. Here Black has a wide range of choices. Qd8 and Qb6 are the main moves. The text is the most ambitious and has also been tried in many games, but it seems rather suspicious to me...



7...♖f5?! Forcing White to give up his strong bishop in order to restore the material balance, but White gets too many free tempi by attacking the wandering queen.

8.♗xb8! Quite unusual moves for both sides, but what to do, this is an unusual opening.

8...♖xb8 9.♖xd4! Gaining an important tempo again by attacking the a7 pawn. Black has no b8 knight anymore to develop with Nc6 tempo and White is intending to castle queenside to launch his attack as quickly as possible.

9...b6 10.e4 The queen has no good square to leave, it must move into another tempo to finally get away from the danger zone.

10...♖f4 11.♘h3 ♖c7



12.e5! Pushing back all the black pieces to the 8th rank.

12...♘g8 Many great players - such as Ivanchuk and Svidler - have played like this as Black, but is it really worth the bishop pair to have such a passive position?! If White does not play accurately, things might quickly go in Black's favor.

13.♘f2! This looks like the most accurate move! [13.O-O-O is more common, but in this case Black is able to solve the problem of his g8 knight with 13...e6 followed by Ne7-c6.]

13...♘h6 Trying to activate the knight through f5, but after White's strong reaction the knight ends up at the edge of the board. [Now on 13...e6 White has 14.♘e4 preventing Ne7 because of the check on d6.; Maybe 13...f6 to undermine the annoying e5 pawn was an option, but I doubt that Black could objectively play like this.]

14.g4! White is going to castle queenside anyway, so such moves are easy to make. Of course with the knight on g1 we would have a different story...

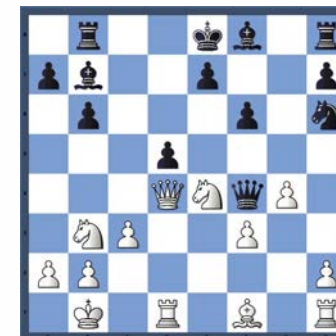
14...♟b7 15.♞e4



15...f5 The only way to get back the h6 knight to the game through f7 and to try and finish the development. However it also has the drawback that the position is going to open and then the king on e8 who will be stuck in the center is becoming more vulnerable.

16.exf6! gxf6 17.O-O-O White's main attacking idea is Bb5 followed by Rhe1, quickly punishing the king. With the following couple of moves Black would like to trade queens to avoid getting mated...

17...♞f4+ 18.♞b1 d5 The endgame would be excellent for Black as he would have no more worries about his king and also the two bishops would soon start to work. However White is not forced to move his knight...



19.g5!! White creates the threat of Nxf6 and the pawn cannot be taken as the rook is hanging on h8. Therefore Black is forced to accept the sacrifice.

19...dxe4 20.♞d7+ Shimanov sends the opponent's king on a long run.

20...♞f7 21.♟c4+ Such checks, developing with tempo, should always be given.

21...♞g6 22.gxf6!? A new file opens on the king. [Actually 22.gxh6 was also perfectly fine. The g-file opens for the rook. Even materially White is holding the balance, but of course the situation of the black king plays a more important role.]

22...♟c8 [On 22...exf6 the best is 23.♞hg1+ ♞h5 24.♞g3+- intending to mate with Rh3 followed by Rg1.; 22...exf3 23.fxe7 should not last long for Black.]

23.♞hg1+ [23.♞e8+!? to force Black to take on f6 would have been even more precise. 23...♞xf6 24.♞c6+ e6 25.fxe4 and Rhf1 next was also just a simple win for White, but the text move is also good.]

23...♞h5 The only move! It seems to be completely winning, but White should continue finding the best attacking moves. [23...♞xf6 24.♞c6+ e6 25.fxe4+- is over.]

24.♞e8+! Haunting the king, but it continues his journey at the rim of the board.

24...♔h4 25.fxe7! Usually the simplest moves are the strongest ones... White will get a new queen soon.

25...♙f5 [25...♙g7 is met by 26.♖xh8 ♙xh8 27.e8=♖+–]



26.exf8=♖ What an amazing position with three queens and an h4 king on the board!

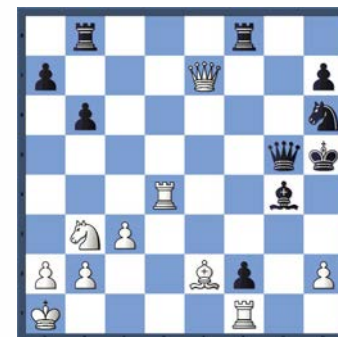
26...exf3+ 27.♔a1 ♖xf8 28.♖e7+ ♔h5 [On 28...♔h3 White has several wins. An easy one is 29.♖d2 and it is difficult to parry the Bf1 mate threat.]

29.♖d4! White continues attacking with tempo. The end should be close!

29...f2 30.♙e2+! ♙g4 31.♖f1 Blocking Black's last hope. White loses one attacking piece, but continues attacking with three, which should still be enough. [According to the machine 31.♙xg4+ 31...♙xg4 32.♖xh7+ ♖h6 33.♖d5+! ♔h4 34.♖xg4+! ♙xg4 35.♖xh6 f1=♖+ 36.♙c1+– was even stronger and Black has no defence, but Shimanov's choice is more human and looks much simpler.]

31...♖g5 White finds a pretty way to obtain a decisive material advantage: [31...♖be8 leads to a lost endgame after 32.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 33.♖xf4 ♖xe2 34.♖4xf2+–; On 31...♖f7 which would have been the best practical chance, the strongest and the most beautiful is 32.♖e6!! ♖f6 33.♖d7! ♖f7 34.♖b5+! ♖g5 (34...♖f5 loses to 35.♖xf4 ♖xb5 36.♙xb5+–) 35.♙xg4+

♙xg4 36.♖d5+– wins decisive material.]



32.♖xg4!! ♙xg4 [32...♖xe7 33.♖e4+ ♔g6 34.♖xe7+– White is a piece up.]

33.♖xh7+ ♖h6 34.♙xg4+ ♔g5 White is even materially ahead, but the f2 pawn could create some counterplay if he makes a mistake. The next move is extremely important in order to continue the hunt of the king!

35.h4+! ♖xh4 The only move, but now new unpleasant checks are coming...

36.♖g7+ ♔f4 37.♙d4!? Bishop moves were also strong, but White brings a new attacker to the game!

37...♖h8 A desperate attempt to trade queens, but of course the mate is coming soon. [37...♖xg4 is refuted by 38.♖xf2+ ♔g3 39.♖g2+ ♔xg2 40.♖xg4+– Everything is falling with check, so Black cannot make use of the weak back rank.]

38.♙e2+ ♔e4 39.♖g6+ ♔d5 40.♖e6+ [Black resigned in view of 40.♖e6+ 40...♔c5 41.b4+ ♔b5 42.♙d4+ ♔a6 (42...♔a4 43.♖b3#) 43.♙e2+ ♔b7 44.♖c6# An entertaining game!] **1-0**

(3) Akopian, Vladimir(2682) - Chatalbashev, Boris(2522) [B07]

Bronstein Mem Open A 2014(6.14),
2014.02.16



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We will see an interesting fighting game where White sacrificed an exchange and even went to b4 with his king, but somehow still won the game!

1.e4 d6 Chatalbashev is one of the few players who love to play the Pirc.

2.d4 f6 3.c3 g6 4.f3 This is one of the main lines. White does not hesitate and develops the queenside pieces quickly in order to be able to castle queenside.

4...f3 [4...c6 and; 4...a6 are the two other main lines here.]

5.f3 White's idea is simple, to play Bh6 at some point or to castle queenside, followed by an attack in the center.

5...c6 [White should not be afraid of moves like 5...g4 because of the simple 6.f3 h6 7.f3 h4 g5 8.f3 g3 and White is better.]

6.h3 I am not sure about this move. We would be back in the main lines after 6.Bh6.

6...O-O Now Black can comfortably castle kingside. Usually White's idea would be to play h4-h5, but it is clear that after 6.h3 it would at least be a loss of a tempo.

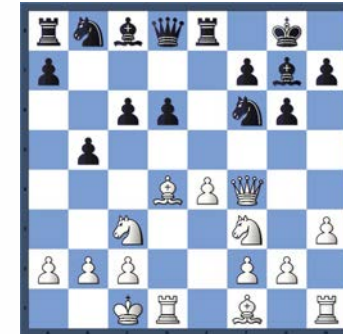
7.f3 e5 Black tries to immediately create some play in the center. [Personally I think a move like 7...b5 followed by Nbd7 and only later e5 also gives Black a playable position.]

8.O-O-O Now White already wants to play dxe5 next.

8...exd4 9.f3xd4 [After 9.f3xd4 9...b5! we end up in a very unclear position.]

9...f8 10.f3f4 A very logical move, protecting the e4 pawn and also putting extra pressure on the d6 pawn.

10...b5 Black finally plays b5. He wants to play b4 next.



11.e5!? White is entering deep complications. [Another interesting try could have been 11.f3c5 11...f3a5 12.f3xd6 and now Black has the nice 12...f3h5! (12...b4 was losing to 13.f3c7!) 13.f3g5 And White might be better, but things are pretty unclear.]

11...f3h5 The white queen has to take a passive place.

12.f3h2 dxe5 [Including 12...b4 would not bring anything for Black. 13.f3e4]

13.f3xe5 f3d7! A good move. At first sight White's position looks much better, but things are pretty unclear. Black can be very fast with Qa5 and b4 and the white queen on h2 is not a great piece.

14.f3xg7 f3xg7 15.f3d3 White is planning to play Ne4 after b4 and he develops a piece at the same time.

15...f3a5 Now b4 move is a threat.



16. ♖he1! There is no time to lose! [After the usual 16. ♔b1 16... ♘c5 the position should be around equal.]

16... ♖xe1 [After the tempting 16... b4 17. ♘e4! looks very strong. 17... ♗xa2 18. ♗d6! Another very strong move. The position is complicated, but White should be better.]

17. ♖xe1 ♘c5 Black almost finished his development.

18. ♗d6 There is no better try for White.

18... ♘xd3+ 19. cxd3 ♕e6! Black is done with his development, all pieces are in the game and he has a solid structure. Black can't be much worse here.

20. ♘e5? A very tricky move, but probably a mistake. [White should have tried to get control over the black squares by playing 20. a3! followed by d4 and Qc5. White's position might be a bit better.]

20... b4! Now things are getting pretty forced.

21. ♘xc6 The only move.

21... ♗g5+ 22. f4



22... ♗h4! This is probably the move that Akopian missed when he played 20. Ne5?. Both the rook on e1 and the knight on c3 are attacked, so White already has no choice but to give up the exchange.

23. ♖xe6 ♘xe6 24. ♘d5! A good practical move. White doesn't care about "gambling" anymore and is ready to run with his king, in the hope to get good play on the dark squares. As we know, the queen and knights can be very dangerous pieces in the attack.

24... ♗e1+ A logical move. The white king needs to run now.

25. ♔c2 ♗e2+ 26. ♔b3 ♗xd3+ 27. ♔xb4 So far everything was forced.



27... a5+! Another nice move by Black. The position is still very tense. Black needs to play very precisely because the white pieces could become very dangerous.

28. ♔a4 ♕g7? This is a serious mistake! Black hands the initiative over to White. [It was much easier to play 28... ♖c2+ 29. ♔a3 ♖c5+ and reach an endgame where Black is clearly better.]

29. ♖e5+ Now it is White's turn to attack!

29... ♕h6 30. ♘e3 Ng4 is a deadly threat.



30... f5?? Black panics... [After 30... ♖e4+! 31. ♖xe4 ♘c5+ 32. ♔b5 ♘xe4 we would still reach a very interesting endgame. It is hard to say who is better here...]

31. ♖xe6 Simple and strong! The game is over now...

31... ♖a6 32. g4 What a sad end of a fighting game for Black!
1-0

(4) Mista, Aleksander(2582) - Najer, Evgeny(2641) [B90]

TCh-CZE Extraliga 2013-14(7.1),
2014.02.15



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Najer is known as a very aggressive and fighting player. His results with White are great, but sometimes he is also just getting crushed, especially when he is Black. We will face a great attacking game by Mista, who evaluates the situation perfectly, sacrifices a rook for 2 pieces and simply mates the black king.

1.e4 c5 As for most fighting players, Najer's main opening is the Najdorf.

2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙e3 So we are in the main line and now Black has to choose whether to play 6...e6 or 6...e5.

6...e6 When I was younger I had a discussion with one of my chess friends about whether the position after 6...e6 is still a Najdorf or a Sheveningen. I myself only played 6...e5 and always have been very stubborn in my opinion that in the Najdorf the pawn has to be placed on e5 and that the rest is Sheveningen! :)



7.g4!? One of the most aggressive lines. [7.f3 is the most played move here, with the idea of Qd2, g4 and 0-0-0 with many thousands of games being played here before.]

7...h6 is probably the most solid move, but it already gives White nice play. [7...e5 would lead to very forced lines. 8.♘f5 g6 (The other main line is 8...h5 9.g5 ♘xe4 10.♘xg7+ ♙xg7 11.♘xe4 d5 With an unclear position.) 9.g5 gxf5 10.exf5 d5 Things are far from clear here, even after many years of computer analyses.]

8.♙g2 A tricky move. Usually White plays 8.h3, defending against Black's e5 push.

8...g5?! A very typical and logical move with the idea of taking control over the dark squares, but now White sort of saved a tempo. [Black already had to go for 8...e5 9.♘f5 g6 Now White has quite a few moves and one of the main ones is 10.h4 gxf5 11.exf5 With a very complicated position.]

9.h4! This is exactly why g5 was a bit too early. White immediately launches very dangerous play.

9...♖g8 Nothing else to do, Black needs to protect the g5 pawn.

10.hxg5 hxg5 11.♙e2 White is getting ready to castle queenside.

11...♘bd7 12.0-0-0 ♙c7 It is hard to blame Black for such a move. [But 12...♘e5 first would probably have been a better option.]



13. ♖f3! An excellent move by Mista who tries to open the position as much as possible, using the fact that Black is still undeveloped.

13... ♗xg4 14. ♕xg5 ♖ge5 Black continues trying to keep the position on the dark squares. [Even if it looks very dangerous 14... ♖c5 might have been a better try. 15. ♕h4 b5 Black's position is looking very shaky, but maybe things are still more or less OK. 16. a3 ♕b7 17. ♖d4 White is better, but the position is complicated.]

15. ♖xe5!? Mista starts a very direct attack with a nice sacrifice, but there was actually no need for it. [The more simple 15. ♖h7 would keep a big advantage and of course Black can't play 15... ♖xf3? since after 16. ♖xf3 ♖xg5 17. ♖xf7+ ♕d8 18. ♕h3 White has a mating attack.]

15... ♖xg5 16. f4 This was White's idea. A sacrifice of 2 pieces for the rook and a try to overroll Black's defence lines.

16... ♖xg2 17. ♖xg2 dxe5



18. f5! Exactly! White is weakening Black's pawn structure even more. Now all the white pieces will join the attack.

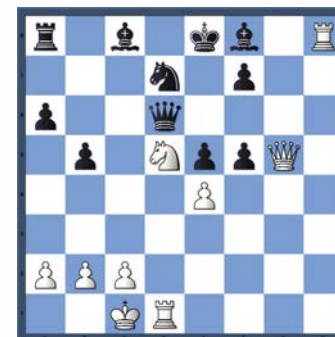
18... exf5 This move is losing, but it hard to find a better one... White's attack is just too strong.

19. ♖d5 ♖c6 [There might be a tougher fight after 19... ♖d6 but after the simple 20. ♖g5 b5 21. ♖xf5 White's attack is still deadly.]

20. ♖h8 b5 Too late Mr. Najer, too late...

21. ♖g5 Threatening to mate on e7.

21... ♖d6



22. ♖xf8+! Mista is finishing the game with a nice final blow.

22... ♖xf8 [22... ♖xf8 23. ♖c7# would have been a prettier end of the game.]

23. ♖d8+ ♖g7 24. ♖g1+ Followed by mate in a couple of moves. We saw a really great attacking game by White and another good example on how dangerous and how quickly it can be over after the smallest inaccuracy in the Sicilian! **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Sargissian, G(2671)-Mochalov, E(2479)

Minsk Open, 2014.02.11

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Gabuzyan, H(2534)-Zhigalko, S(2661)

Minsk Open, 2014.02.12

1... -+



(7) Bernardskiy, V(2565)-Shimanov, A(2658)

Minsk Open, 2014.02.14

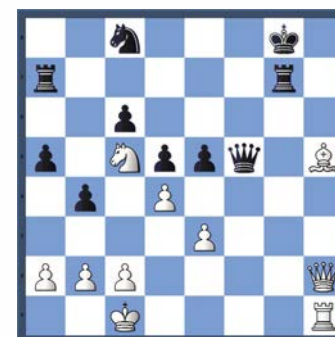
1... -+



(8) Jobava, B(2706)-Savchenko, B(2556)

Minsk Open, 2014.02.15

1. +-



(9) Ter Sahakyan, S(2575)-Grachev, B(2669)

Minsk Open, 2014.02.15

1... -+



(10) Romanov, E(2653)-Gabuzyan, H(2534)

Minsk Open, 2014.02.15

1... -+



(11) Akopian, V(2682)-Chatalbashev, B(2522)

Minsk Open, 2014.02.16

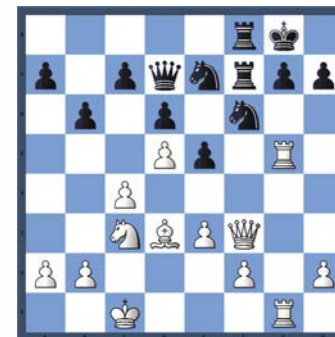
1... -+



(12) Ragger, M(2646)-Danner, G(2336)

Graz Open, 2014.02.15

1. +-



(13) Zelcic, R(2545)-Saric, A(2540)

Croatian Championship, 2014.02.13

1. +-



(14) Simacek, P(2485)-Kryvoruchko, Y(2701)

Czech league, 2014.02.15

1... ♠



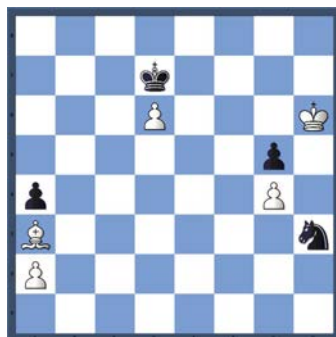
Endgame section

(15) Khalifman, Alexander(2611)
- Akopian, Vladimir(2682)

Bronstein Mem Open A 2014(5.4),
2014.02.15



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

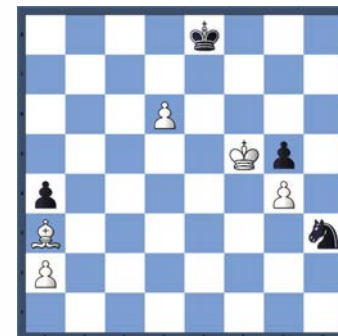


55...♔e6 White is a pawn up while the black knight on h3 is out of the game and his only function is to protect the g5 pawn. The position should be winning for White but things are not that simple. In case Black manages to give up his knight for the g4 and d6 pawns, the position would just be a draw because the a8 square is of the wrong color.

56.♟g6 A good move. Black can't do anything better than to move his king.

56...♔d7 57.♟f5 Once again Black doesn't really have a choice.

57...♔e8 [57...♔c6 would lead to an easy win for White as after 58.♟e6 ♟f4+ 59.♟f6 ♟h3 60.♟e7 the d-pawn is unstoppable.]



58.♟b2! White is using the moment to transfer his bishop from its passive position on a3 to a much more central square on e5, from where it will defend the d6 pawn and at the same time play against the black knight on h3. [58.♟e6 is premature because of 58...♟f4+]

58...♔d7 59.♟e5 White's pieces have taken perfect places.

59...a3 is maybe Black's best chance, at least theoretically the a2 pawn could now theoretically be taken by the knight.

60.♟f6 White puts Black into the last zugzwang.

60...♟f2 Black needs to give up the g5 pawn. [60...♔e8 is not possible: 61.♟e6 ♟f4+ 62.♟xf4 gxf4 63.d7+ ♔d8 64.g5 f3 65.g6 f2 66.g7 f1=♔ 67.g8=♔+ And White is winning.]

61.♟xg5 ♔e6 62.♟h2 Of course White holds on to the d6 pawn and he prepares the march of the g-pawn.

62...♟e4+ 63.♟h5 [63.♟h6 would have led to a more simple win.]

63...♟c3 At least Black is getting the a2 pawn, but White is still in time to get a winning position.

64.g5 ♟xa2 65.g6 ♟b4 The black knight is joining the defence from the c6 square and stopping the d-pawn.

66.g7 ♟f7 67.d7 ♟c6 Both white pawns are stopped, but Black is practically paralyzed.



68.♙e5! The last exact move. The white bishop is the clearly winning the endgame as he is both protecting the g7 pawn and stopping Black's pawn from promoting.

68...♘d8 69.♙a1 a2 70.♚g4 The game is over. All White needs to do is to come back to b3 with the king and take the a2 pawn, then to go c7 with the king and protect the d-pawn. Black can only watch...

70...♘e6 71.♙f3 ♖g8 72.♙e3 ♖f7 73.♙d2 ♘d8 74.♙c2 ♘b7 The last trick...

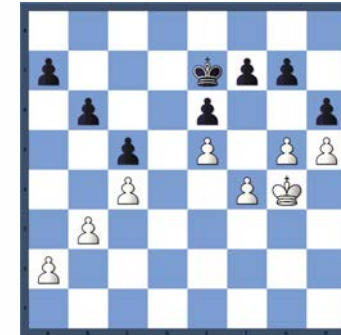
75.♙c3 followed by Kb2. Very nice endgame technique by Khalifman! **1-0**

**(16) Grachev, Boris(2669)
- Tiviakov, Sergei(2639)**

Minsk Open, 2014.02.16



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

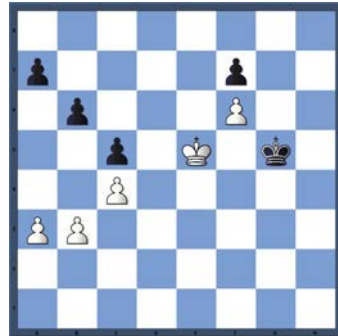


Pawn endgames are always very tricky and require very exact calculation. In the current position White has a big space advantage, but it looks almost impossible to break through as the black pawns are controlling all the invading squares of the king. However White makes a last attempt...

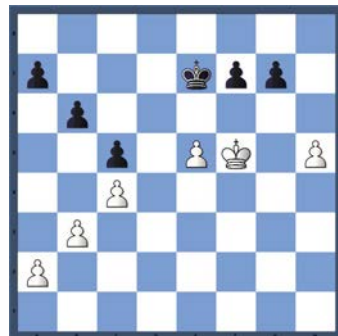
47.f5?? The only attempt to create an invading square for the king, but it is actually a blunder which could have cost to the game. In case of other moves Black would just have waited with the king with Kd7-e7 and held the draw. [If White includes 47.gxh6 47...gxh6 48.f5 he is not threatening to play f6 as the g-pawns are not on the board anymore, which is why Black can simply ignore everything and play 48...♙e8 49.♙f4 ♙d8= With an inevitable draw.]

47...exf5+? The most natural reaction, but it spoils the sudden chance. [47...hxg5! would have won for Black as the following lines demonstrate: 48.♙xg5 (48.f6+ 48...gxf6 49.h6 does not help. 49...f5+ is the simplest, creating a protected passed pawn. (49...♙f8 is also good. 50.exf6 ♙g8 51.♙h5

♔h7 52.♔xg5 e5 53.♔f5 ♔xh6 54.♔xe5 ♔g5 White loses the f-pawn. A last try could be 55.a3 with the idea to play b4, bxc5 and the king is going to take the c-pawn, thus also obtaining a passed pawn. However Black simply plays



55...a5!-+ (55...♔g6? 56.b4)) 50.♔xg5 ♔f8 51.♔h5 (51.♔f6 loses the pawn race by one tempo: 51...♔g8 52.h7+ ♔xh7 53.♔xf7 f4 54.♔xe6 f3-+) 51...♔g8 52.♔h4 ♔h7 53.♔g5 f4!-+ With an easy win. Black takes on h6, creates a new passed pawn with Kg6, f6 and easily converts the extra pawn.) 48...exf5 49.♔xf5



49...g6+!! This sacrifice is the whole point! Black uses the logic of the distant passed pawn. He deviates the king in order to win the e-pawn. 50.hxg6 fxg6+ 51.♔xg6 (51.♔e4 leads to the classical distant passed pawn situation. Black wins by sacrificing it: 51...♔e6 52.♔f4 g5+ 53.♔e4 g4 54.♔f4

g3 55.♔xg3 ♔xe5 followed by Kd4-c3 etc, collecting the pawns.) 51...♔e6 The king excellently stands on e6 as it also wins an important tempo by preventing the king's approach to the f-file... 52.♔g7 ♔xe5 53.♔f7 ♔d4 Black is much faster. 54.♔e6 ♔c3 55.♔d6 ♔b2 56.♔c6 ♔xa2 57.♔b7 ♔xb3 58.♔xa7 ♔xc4-+]

48.♔xf5 hxg5 49.♔xg5 ♔e6 50.♔f4 ♔d7 51.♔f5 ♔e7 [With the king on d7, Black cannot play 51...g6+? because White is not forced to take twice on g6, but plays 52.♔f6! gxh5 53.♔xf7 and wins.]

52.♔f4 [And a draw was agreed since both sides are just waiting. 52.♔f4 52...♔d7 53.♔e4 ♔e6 54.♔f4 ♔e7=] **1/2-1/2**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Arnous de Riviere, Jules
- Morphy, Paul[C58]

Paris m, 1863



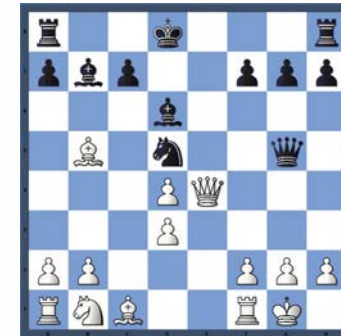
GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4 ♘f6 4.♘g5 In these days most of the players chose very aggressive continuations and many games were very complicated.

4...d5 5.exd5 ♘a5 The main move. An interesting variation to surprise the opponent can be [5...♘d4!? 6.c3 (6.d6? A bad move as White falls into the following trap: 6...♙xd6



7.♘xf7 (7.♙xf7+ 7...♙e7 8.♙b3 ♘xb3 9.axb3 h6 10.♘f3 e4 11.♘g1 ♙f7 With more than compensation.) 7...♙c6 8.♘h8 ♙xg2 9.♙f1 ♙e4+ 10.♙e2 ♘f3#) 6...b5 7.♙f1 ♘xd5 8.cxd4 ♙xg5 9.♙xb5+ ♙d8 Black is hoping to activate the pieces and get the initiative. 10.♙f3 ♙b7 11.O-O e4 (11...exd4 12.d3+=) 12.♙xe4 ♙d6 13.♙e1 (13.d3??



loses to 13...♙xh2+! 14.♙xh2 ♘f4! 15.♙xf4 (15.♙xb7 15...♙h4+ 16.♙g1 ♘e2#) 15...♙h5+ 16.♙g1 ♙xe4 17.dxe4 ♙xb5+); 5...♘xd5 6.d4!]

6.d3 [6.♙b5+ 6...c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 leads to a very complex line.]

6...h6 7.♘f3



7...e4! Not allowing White to coordinate his pieces.

8.♙e2 ♘xc4 9.dxc4 ♙c5 10.h3 White wants to control the important g4 square. [10.O-O 10...O-O 11.♘fd2 ♙g4 12.♙e1 ♙e8 13.♘b3 ♙d6 And Black has a very strong mating attack!]

10...O-O 11.♘h2



11...♗h7 A concrete plan. Black is getting ready to put pressure after f5-f4. [11...e3 12.♕xe3 ♕xe3 13.fxe3 ♖e4 14.O-O (14.♖g1 14...♗d6†) 14...♗g3 15.♗f2 ♗xf1 16.♗xf1 If black doesn't manage to destroy the position in the center White can get a huge initiative after Nc3-e4 etc.; 11...b5 12.O-O (12.cxb5 12...♗xd5 13.O-O ♗e7 Followed by Bb7-f5 and Black gets excellent play.) 12...bxc4 13.♗c3∞]

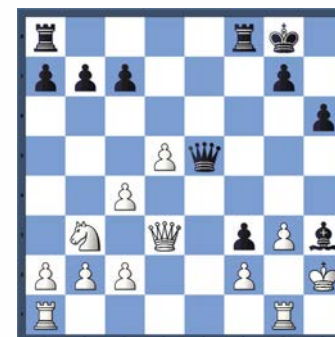
12.♗d2 [12.♗c3 12...f5 13.♕e3 ♕d6 From a practical point of view the white king should of course look for a safer place, but after 14.O-O-O! ♕d7 the position is still unclear.]

12...f5 [12...e3 13.fxe3 ♕xe3 14.♗xe3 ♖e8 15.♗e4 ♗h4+ 16.♖d1 (16.g3 16...♗xe4 17.♗xe4 ♖xe4+ 18.♖f2 ♖xc4 19.c3 ♕xh3-+) 16...♖xe4 17.♗f3! ♗e7 18.♗c3 ♗f6 The idea is to activate the pieces and destroy White's position by playing b5.] **13.♗b3 ♕d6**



14.O-O?! This move is like a "harakiri". White still had the possibility to do castle queenside... [14.♕d2 14...f4 (14...c5!? 15.dxc6 bxc6 16.O-O-O ♗e7∞) 15.O-O-O ♗g5∞]

14...♕xh2+ [14...♗g5 15.f4! The only move to stop the pawns from advancing. 15...exf3 16.♗xf3 ♗e4 17.♗d3 c5!? 18.dxc6 bxc6 19.♕e3 ♗e7 With the idea to play c5 in order to activate the light squared bishop and to limit the knight on b3. Black has compensation for the pawn.; 14...f4 15.♗xe4 ♗g5 16.♗d3 f3 (16...♕f5†) 17.♕xg5 ♕xh2+ 18.♖xh2 ♗xg5 19.♖g1 ♗e5+ (19...♗h4 20.♗d2 ♕g4 21.♗d4 h5 22.♖ae1 fxg2 23.♖xg2 ♗xh3+ 24.♖g1± Xg7) 20.g3 (20.♖h1 20...♗h5 Xh3) 20...♕xh3



21.♗d4! ♗h5 22.♗h4 And without the queens Black's position is worse.]

15.♖xh2 f4 16.♗xe4 ♗g5



17.♗d4??



The decisive mistake! Let's check other options:

[The queen defends the position over the 3rd rank and prevents any sacrifice of the knight on f3. 17. Qd3



17... Qe8! A strong move with the idea to connect the queen to the attack. (17... f3 18. Qxg5 Qxg5 19. Qg1 We already saw this position in the previous line. 19... Qf4 20. gxf3 Qh5 21. Qg3 Qh4 22. f4 Protecting h3 and soon White will get a strong attack. 22... Qxf4 23. Qe1 Qxf2+ 24. Qg1→) 18. Qd4 The knight is going to help. (18. f3 18... Qxh3 19. gxf3 Qh5 With at least a draw.) 18... Qh5 And now Black's idea is to sacrifice on h3. 19. c3 (19. Qd2 19... Qxh3 20. gxf3 Qae8 With the idea to play Re4-Rxd4 or Re3. 21. Qe6 Qf3+ 22. Qg2 Qh4+ 23. Qh1 Qf3=; 19. Qe1 19... Qxh3 20. gxf3 c5 21. dxc6 Qad8↑)



19... Qxh3 20. gxf3 Qae8 21. Qh1 Qe4 22. Qd2 Qh4 23. Qg2 (23. Qaf1 23... Qe3!) 23... f3+ 24. Qf1 Qxh3 25. Qe3 Qg4 26. Qxe4 Qg2+ 27. Qe1 Qxh1+ 28. Qd2 Qxa1 29. Qe6+ Qh7 30. Qxh3 Qxb2+ 31. Qc2 Qxa2∞; 17. Qg6 Objectively this move can be good for white but to play it during the game is almost impossible! 17... Qf5 18. Qh5 Qxc2 (18... Qd6 19. Qd4 f3+ 20. g3 Qxh3 21. Qe1± The black pieces lost coordination...) 19. Qd4 (19. Qd2 19... Qd3 20. Qf1 Qd6 21. f3 Qae8) 19... Qd3 20. Qd1 Qxc4 21. h4 Qe6 21... Qe4 22. Qe6 Qf6 23. Qxf8 Qxf8 24. f3+=]

17... Qf3+! Yes! A simple but nice tactical motif. Black is winning immediately...

18. gxf3 Qh4 19. Qh1 Qxh3 20. Qd2 [20. Qg1 20... Qg5+ 21. Qh2 Qg2#]

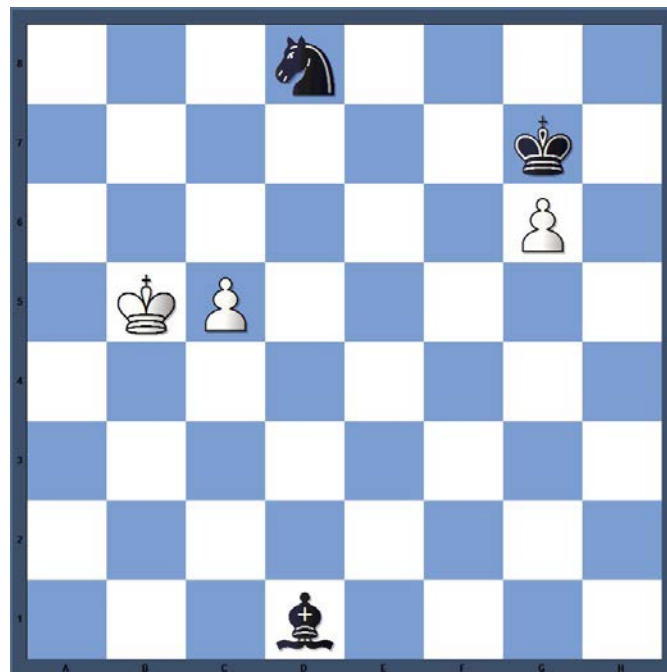
20... Qf6 0-1

Surprise section / study

(18) Troitzky

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(19) Salgado Lopez, I(2597)-Henrichs, T(2477)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.02.03



25. ♔b3+! ♕f7 26. c4!+-

(20) Spragett, K(2544)-Pahtz, E(2458)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.02.04



22. ♖df5!! ♗xf5 23. h3! ♕xg3 [23... ♕h4 24. ♖xf5 ♕h5 25. ♖g7+ ♕f8 26. ♖xh5+-]

24. ♕xg3+-

(21) Cheparinov, I(2672)-Kamsky, G(2709)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.02.06



31. ♖e5! [31. ♘e5?? 31...d6]

31... ♜f8 [31... ♘xe5 32. ♖xe5 ♜e7 33. ♖g5+-]

32. ♖g5+-

(22) Rodshtein, M(2682)-Mareco, S(2582)

Gibraltar Open, 2014.02.06

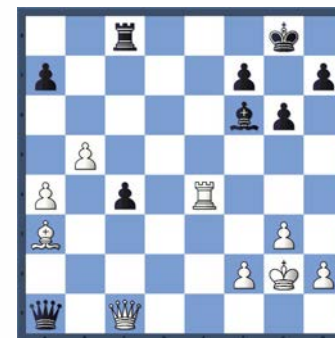


37. ♘xg6! ♘e5 [37...fxg6 38. ♜e6+ ♜h8 39. ♘b2+!+-;
37... ♘e5 38. ♘e4+-]

38. ♘f5 ♘d4 39. ♜f4 1-0

(23) Meister, P(2399)-Fier, A(2572)

German league, 2014.02.08

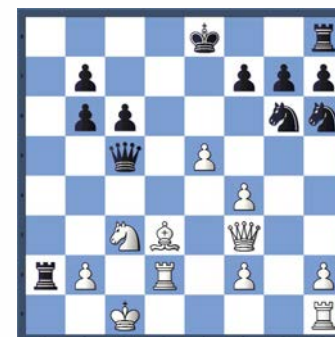


37. ♜xa1? [37. ♜xc4!! +- 37... ♖xc4 38. ♖e8+ ♜g7 39. ♘f8+
♜g8 40. ♘h6#]

37... ♘xa1∞

(24) Fridman, D(2602)-Ernst, S(2573)

German league, 2014.02.09



**21. ♘xg6! hxg6 22. b4!! ♖a1+ 23. ♜b2 ♜xc3+ 24. ♜xc3 ♖xh1
25. e6+-**

(25) Swiercz, D(2630)-Vishnu, P(2468)

Moscow Open, 2014.02.05



27. ♖xe5! ♜f8 [27... ♞xe5 28. ♚c8+ ♜xc8 29. ♜xc8#]

28. ♘d6+-

(26) Moiseenko, A(2710)-Alekseenko, K(2459)

Moscow Open, 2014.02.06



37. ♙xg7!! 1-0 [37. ♙xg7 37... ♚xg7 (37... ♜xg7 38. ♙xd5+-) 38. ♙c6#]

(27) Popov, I(2653)-Kabanov, N(2501)

Moscow Open, 2014.02.07



18. ♙xf7+! ♚e7 [18... ♚xf7 19. ♞xe5+-]

19. ♚g6 hxg2 20. ♜f2+-

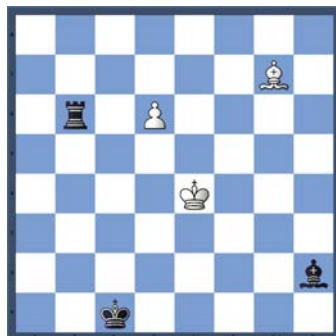
(28) Shomoev, A(2568)-Bortnik, A(2463)

Moscow Open, 2014.02.09



11. ♞xe5! 1-0 [11. ♞xe5 11... ♙xe5 12. ♚d5+! ♜xd5 13. ♙xd5+ ♚g7 14. ♙xe5+-]

(29) Kubbel



1. ♗e5! ♖b4+ [1... ♗xe5 2. ♕xe5=]

2. ♕d5 ♗b5+ 3. ♕c6! ♖xe5 4. d7 ♗e6+ 5. ♕b7! ♖d6 6. ♕c8
♖c6+ 7. ♕b7 ♖c7+ 8. ♕a8 ♖xd7



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

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Editorial Preface

This week there wasn't too much going on either...

In the German Bundesliga, the team of Baden-Baden continues its march and is 4 points ahead of the rest of the field with only 5 rounds to go.

The Chess Festival in Cannes is on the way with Li Chao leading the tournament.

Another big traditional Chess Festival in Capelle-la-Grande is about to start tomorrow.

In 3 days from now the European Individual Championship is also starting in Yerevan and here we can be sure that there are a lot of very interesting games to come!

For our French readers, we can recommend our new book "Les Professionnel" in French language, where most of the best French GMs (Bacrot, Vachier Lagrave, Edouard,...) are answering questions about life, chess and fun.

F.Libiszewski *Les professionnels*

Price: 9.99 €



As usual, we wish you a nice week and a lot of chess fun with us.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Bacrot, Etienne(2730)**
- **Gonda, Laszlo(2535)**

Schachbundesliga 2013/2014(10.2),
2014.02.23



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Etienne Bacrot won a nice positional game with many deep ideas.

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 c6 4.♘c3 e6 5.♙g5 ♘bd7 The Cambridge Springs variation is becoming more and more popular nowadays. Mamedyarov has started to play it permanently and we might possibly see the development of this opening during the Candidates tournament next month.

6.e3 ♖a5



7.cxd5 7.Bxf6 and 7.Nd2 are the other two huge main lines with thousands of games for both. It is still unclear where White should search for the advantage.

7...♘xd5 8.♙d2 [Kramnik invented the interesting novelty of 8.♖c1 and in 2010 he scored a nice win against Shirov,

but since then Black has already found an adequate way to counter this move. 8...♘xc3 9.bxc3 ♙a3 10.♖c2 b6 followed by Ba6 with similar stories to what will happen in our game. Carlsen had beaten Gelfand with the black pieces in last year's Candidates tournament.]

8...♙b4 9.♖c1 h6 10.♙h4



10...♘xc3 A rare move, but it seems to be a completely sound option. The idea is clear, Black would like to get the same structure as in the 8.Rc1 line. The two most common continuations are [10...b6 with the idea of Ba6. 11.a3 ♙xc3 12.bxc3 c5 Here White has a choice between three moves: 13.c4 (13.♙d3 13...♙a6 14.c4 ♖xd2+ 15.♘xd2 cxd4 16.exd4 ♘f4 17.♙e4 ♖c8 18.♙g3 g5 has been played in several games, but Black seems to be fine here as well.; The most concrete is 13.e4 but Black seems to equalize after 13...♘5f6 14.♙d3 ♙b7 15.d5 c4!) 13...♖xd2+ 14.♘xd2 ♘e7 White should have some edge due to the pair of bishops, but as practice shows Black's chances are not bad at all.; 10...c5 is usually met by 11.a3 ♙xc3 12.bxc3 b6 transposes to the 10...b6 line.]

11.bxc3 ♙a3 12.♖b1 O-O Black could also have started with 12...b6, but White cannot prevent this plan anyway.

13.♙d3 b6 14.O-O



14...♙a6 After the trade of the bishops Black seems to be alright. White has the better center, but Black stands without any weaknesses and he is ready to create his counterplay after placing the rooks on e8 and c8 with c5 or sometimes e5.

15.♖fd1 It is unclear whether this rook should stand on d1 or on e1. Both have its plusses. With the rook on e1, White can sometimes launch an attack with e4-e5 and Re4-g4, while now White intends to counter the c5 idea with d5. [If White avoids the trade of the bishops with 15.c4 the trade of the queens eases Black's position. 15...♙xd2 16.♗xd2 does not change the character of the position. Black tries to execute the same ideas. 16...♖fe8= followed by Rac8 and e5 or c5.]

15...♖fe8 Since Black is familiar with the plans, he has a very easy task at this part of the game.

16.♙xa6 ♙xa6 17.♙c2 With the idea to advance in the center with c4! In this case the c5 move could always be met by d5. This is the first moment when Black has to solve a positional problem.

17...♙e7!? The most natural move to trade the bishops. It was clearly misplaced on a3 because the c5 break could not be executed properly as after d5 the bishop remains out of the game. [The alternative was 17...b5! A slightly committing move, but it also looks decent to create a blockade on the c4 square. Black can continue his plan with Rac8 and c5.

The game could follow up with 18.♙g3 ♖ac8 19.♙e2 Trying to delay the c5 break a bit, but Black can improve his position with 19...♗b6 20.e4 ♗a4 21.♖b3 ♙f8 and the c3 pawn is very weak. Black pushes c5 next.]

18.♙g3 White would like to keep all the advantages of his position. His bishop is superior to the one on e7 because it controls many important squares along the h2-b8 diagonal, but it gives time for Black to play c5 before he could prepare to that with c4. [The alternative was 18.♙xe7 18...♖xe7 19.c4 both c5 and e5 could now be met by d5. White might claim a slight edge, but of course the position remains completely playable for both sides. Still, I believe 17...b5 was better than this.]

18...c5! Very good timing! Otherwise White plays c4 and after c5 d5 he can take back with the pawn. Bacrot obviously expected this move, but he had a very deep idea in mind before he played Bg3.



19.d5! Otherwise after cxd4 and Rac8 Black is completely fine.

19...exd5 20.c4! This was the tactical point of White! If he manages to play cxd5, he achieves the same as if he had time to play c4. However Black also has his resources.

20...d4! Excellent counterplay.

21.exd4 ♘f6? But this is a big positional mistake, allowing White to create a protected passed pawn and obtain an advantage. [Obviously Gonda knew that the right positional move is 21...cxd4! but after 22.♗xd4 it looks a bit dangerous. There are some tactical ideas, the d7 knight is in the x-ray and Nb5 is threatening with the very unpleasant Nc7 triple fork. However Black has an ideal response: 22...♗c5 (The simple and more human 22...♖b7 23.♗b5 ♖ac8= also seems to be fine.) 23.♗b5



23...♖a4! Solving the problem tactically. If the tension goes down, Black will have excellent chances due to his better pawn structure. 24.♖xa4 ♗xa4 25.♗c7 ♗c3 is the point and Black is OK!]

22.d5+ = Now White has achieved what he wanted. The d5 pawn is going to be a long-term problem for Black.

22...♖e7 23.♗d6! Preventing the doubling of the rooks.

23...♖ee8 24.♗c7!? A positional trick move, which proves to be successful.

24...♖b7 The queen stands badly on b7 for two reasons. First of all it allows White to play Qa4-c6 and it also stands in the motif in the event of activating the knight with Nd2-e4 (heading to d6). [24...♖ac8 should have been played. White wanted to retreat with 25.♗f4 and on (25.d6? is a positional

mistake to lock the bishop out from the game. Black could simply go around it with 25...♖e6) 25...♖e7 26.♖e1 ♖ce8 27.♖xe7 ♖xe7 28.a4+= followed by opening the back rank with h3. White has a long-term advantage due to the d5 pawn.]

25.♗g3 ♗e5 [Black should have gone back to 25...♖a6+= but positionally it is already a difficult move, since we had the same position after 22.d5, but it was Black to move.]



26.♗d2! It is very important to keep the minor pieces on the board. In the rook endgame the advantage might easily disappear, but now the knight is going to e4, threatening on f6 and d6!

26...♖d7 27.♗e4 ♗g6 Black decided to allow the weakening of the kingside. [27...♗d8 was too ugly to consider it seriously. White is better anyway after let's say 28.a4 then h3, opening the back rank. White now has time for everything.]

28.♗xf6+ gxf6 Bacrot had foreseen that his opponent wants to get his bishop out from the game with f5-f4 and he prepared a very deep trap...

29.h4?! [It would have been much stronger to play 29.a4! 29...f5 30.f3 f4 31.♗f2± and a5 next move. White can trade a pair of rook with Re1 and later he transfers his bishop to c3. White has a big positional advantage.]

29...f5? Falling into the trap. [29...♖g4! could have suddenly

given Black good counterplay. He probably did not want to leave the blockade of the d-pawn, but 30.d6 ♖ad8 is not clear at all.]

30.h5 f4



31.♖b3!! This brilliant move was so shocking that Black, maybe slightly prematurely, resigned. [31.♖b3 The game could have continued with 31...fxg3 32.♖xg3 ♔g7 33.hxg6 f6 Black needs to keep the g-file closed. White is a pawn up and he has a winning position, but some further technique would still have been required. White could play 34.♔d2+- with the idea to trade rooks with Re1. All pawn endgames are winning due to the d5 protected passed pawn. We can be sure that Bacrot would have easily converted the advantage, but still the game could have lasted a bit longer.; On 31.♗h2 31...♘h4 32.♗xf4 ♔g4 33.♗g3 ♘f5 was in Black's mind with counterplay.; 31.hxg6 31...fxg3 32.fxg3 fxg6 33.♔xg6+ ♔g7 White has an extra pawn, but the win is far from obvious because the doubled g-pawns don't have full value.] **1-0**

**(2) Nisipeanu, Liviu-Dieter(2674)
- Kolbus, Dietmar(2302)**

Schachbundesliga 2013/2014(10.6),
2014.02.23



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

An amazing game where the experienced International Master who leads the black pieces employs a shocking plan in the middle game, allowing Nisipeanu to conclude the game in style.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6 So far nothing extraordinary has happened. We are at the initial position of the Classical Sicilian variation, where instead of the main line 6. Bg5 (Rauzer variation), White chooses the very sharp Sozin variation...



6.♗c4 ♗d7!? A rather new direction. Black would like to play a Dragon-like game with g6-Bg7. [6...g6 immediately is considered to be a mistake because of the following tactical trick: 7.♘xc6! bxc6 8.e5! and 8...dxe5?? blunders the queen after 9.♗xf7+!+-; 6...e6 is the main move.]

7.♗b3 ♘a5 It is very logical to take the pair of bishops, but it costs too much time. Black should have first focused on developing his pieces. [7...g6 is the right move to follow the original plan. White's main choice is 8.f3 and here Black can

choose between two moves: 8...♗g7 (8...♘xd4!? is perhaps the strongest. 9.♖xd4 ♗g7 10.♗e3 O-O 11.♖d2 b5 With a typical Dragon-type position with mutual chances.) 9.♗e3 O-O 10.♖d2 transposes exactly to the Dragon!]

8.♗g5! Actively developing the pieces could be the only refutation of Black's opening handling.

8...♘b3?! [It was clearly better to not hurry with the capture, but to play 8...e6! and in this case White cannot make use of the opened a-file.]

9.axb3 Of course White takes towards the center and at the same time opens the file for his rook.



9...♘g8? This and the next move are something one should not even consider for a moment. I don't think it requires any explanation as to why this move is bad. [Black was probably afraid of the line 9...e6 10.♗xf6! and he has no good recapture in view of 10...♖xf6 (10...gxf6 11.♖h5± is more than dangerous. White castles queenside and launches a decisive attack with f4-f5.) 11.♘db5! attacking both the a7 and d6 pawns. This is the reason why Black should not have taken on b3... 11...♗xb5 12.♘xb5±; Maybe Black should have played some move like 9...a6 10.♗xf6 (10.f4 also looks good.) 10...gxf6 11.♖h5 White is better anyway, but still anything is better than retreating a developed piece to its initial position.]

10. ♖f5 Nisipeanu immediately tries to punish his opponent for his passive play. He creates the threat of Nxd6. Bxf5 exf5 would further squeeze Black's position. Afterwards it would be even more difficult to finish the development.

10...f6? Another terrible-looking move. Black cannot hold with such a damage on the pawn structure and it also makes it even harder to finish the development of the kingside pieces. [Again any other move should have been preferred. The most natural one is 10...♗c6 preventing the Nxd6 threat and preparing to send away the bishop with h6. 11.O-O (The move would also have set a small trap. If White attacks two pawns at once with 11. ♖d4 11...e5! saves Black!) 11...h6 12.♗f4 White is better of course, but the game goes on.]

11. ♗e3 ♖b8 A third passive move in a row, but at least this one has its logic. The a7 pawn had to be protected and Black would like to kick out the f5 knight with e6 but he protected the d6 pawn first. But of course it is easy to feel that it will end up badly for Black.

12.O-O e6 Temporarily pushing back the pieces, but Black still needs plenty of moves to develop the kingside.

13. ♖d4 ♖e7 Black can only use the e7 square for developing the pieces, but it means that he loses further tempi to evacuate this square for the other minor piece.



14.f4! There is no time to waste. White plans to open the central lines in front of the king.

14...a6 Another waste of tempo, but we can already consider the position to be objectively hopeless. [14...♖c6 would have been met by the same as the game: 15.f5! ♖xd4 16.♗h5+!+- forcing the king to move.]

15.f5! Working out the e6 and d5 squares for the knights! This f4-f5 is the standard idea of the Bc4 systems, but of course here the circumstances to fulfill this plan are excellent.

15...e5 16. ♗h5+! Taking away the right to castle. The end is near.

16...♗d8 [16...g6 17.fxg6 ♖xg6 is also over. White wins for instance after 18.♖d5 exd4 19.♖xf6+ ♗d8 20.♗xd4 There are too many threats in the air, even such ones as Qa5, but of course there is nothing against the simple Nxd7 and Bxh8 either.]

17. ♖e6+ ♗xe6 [17...♖c8 18.♗f7+- Black is totally paralyzed.]

18.fxe6 g6 [18...♗c7 loses in many different ways, one of them being 19.♖b5 ♗c6 20.♖xd6!+-; 18...♖c7 19.♗f7+- followed by Nd5 is also over.]

19. ♗h4 ♗g7 20. ♖xf6! The most direct finish of the game. With such superior piece, there is not much to calculate if the exchange is worth its value. Black collapses.

20...♙xf6 21.♖xf6 ♖e8



22.♙b6+ [Black resigned in view of 22.♙b6+ 22...♖c8 23.♖f7 And mate in few moves... Poor black pieces, but this is a good example that developing the pieces in the opening is very important, otherwise the punishment might be this painful if we face such a strong attacking player like Nisipeanu.] **1-0**

(3) **Bobras, Piotr(2518)**
- **Anand, Viswanathan(2775)**

Schachbundesliga 2013/2014(10.1),
2014.02.23



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

It is never easy to beat a Grandmaster who wants to make a draw with White, even if you are an ex World Champion. Clearly, in case of a match of 4 games the outcome would be easy to guess, but at a one game at 10 in the morning anything might happen!

1.e4 c5 Judging from Anand's latest games, 1...e5 is his main move.

2.♘f3 e6 And of course the Paulsen is a choice for a fighting game. For so many years Anand was the biggest expert on the Najdorf, but the fear of 2...d6 3.Bb5 probably made the ex World Champion choose the Paulsen, where the game quickly gets out of theory.

3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 a6 5.♙d3 [5.♘c3 is the other main move.]

5...♙c5 For people who don't play the Sicilian this move might look strange, but in fact it is very logical. Before developing the bishop on e7 or a7, Black is chasing the white knight from d4 which leads to a win of half a tempo. The knight is clearly better placed on d4 than on b3.

6.♘b3 ♙a7 A rather rare line. [6...♙e7 7.♖g4 g6 8.♖e2 would lead us to the main position of the line.]



7.♔e2 [A slightly more popular setup for White is 7.O-O 7...♘c6 8.c4 ♘f6 9.♘c3 d6 10.♔h1 with the idea of playing f4 next.]

7...d6 This move is needed anyway.

8.♙e3 ♘c6 Taking on e3 doesn't make much sense as the black rook is often taking a quite good position on a7 because of b5-Rd7-Bb7 ideas.

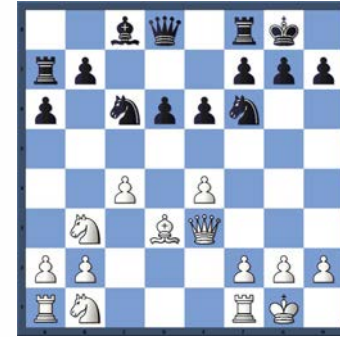
9.♙xa7 Once again White chooses the most solid plan. Nc3 followed by O-O-O would have led to a much more complicated position.

9...♖xa7 10.♔e3 White is not playing for an advantage, but just trying to be solid. A very good strategy against a much stronger opponent.

10...♘f6 11.O-O White is also quite tricky here and doesn't hurry with developing the knight from b1, keeping both options of playing Nc3 or N1d2 in mind.

11...O-O A solid move. [Maybe Black could have tried to bring the game onto sharper territory by playing 11...b5 12.a4 White needs to act against Black's pawn structure: 12...b4 And this position is a bit more unbalanced.]

12.c4 And again White is not trying to play for "anything".



12...e5?! This can't be the right way to go on... [Anand probably didn't want to play 12...d5 because of 13.exd5 exd5 14.cxd5 ♘xd5 15.♔g3 and the position is very close to a draw, but I still think he would have had better chances than in the game here.; another way to go on could be 12...♖e8 with the idea of playing next d5]

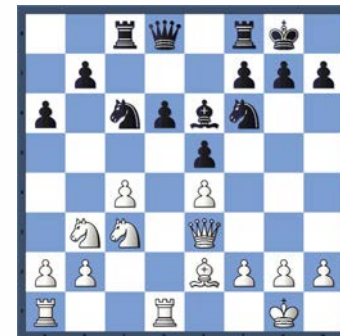
13.♘c3 Now White's position just looks more pleasant.

13...♙e6 Black has to reactivate the rook.

14.♖fd1 Bobras continues playing solid-safe moves, not even pretending to try and achieve an advantage. [14.♖ac1 followed by Nd5 next could have been an attempt to get the upper hand.]

14...♖a8 15.♙e2 White wants to double on the d-file.

15...♖c8 In a slightly worse position with no clear play, even such great players like Anand can't do much...



16.♖d2 And Bobras continues with his safe and logical moves.

16...♔c7 17.♖ad1 ♖fd8 Black of course managed to defend the d6 pawn, but he is still a bit worse.

18.♘d5 This move is basically fixing the draw for White and this is clearly what Bobras was trying to reach. [18.f3 would keep the game alive with a small edge for White because of the better pawn structure.]

18...♙xd5 This move is forced.

19.cxd5 ♘e7 The black knight doesn't have a better square...

20.♖c1 White is winning control back over the c-file.

20...♔d7 21.♖dc2 Bobras doesn't even leave Anand the smallest hope and by those exchanges on the c-file the game is slowly coming to a peaceful end...

21...♖xc2



22.♖xc2 ♖c8 23.♖xc8+ Many hobby players are often shouting: "How can somebody over 2750 make a quick draw against a 2520 GM", but in fact we all play with the same pieces and yes, lower rated GMs are weaker than the Top 10 players in some areas, but the difference is not that big and simple positions can be handled almost at the same level even by a player who is over 250 ELO points lower. **1/2-1/2**

(4) Mista, Aleksander(2584) - Balogh, Csaba(2654)

Schachbundesliga 2013/2014(9.2),
2014.02.22



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Mista is a very dangerous attacking player and in this game he also tried to simply outrun the defence lines of your weekly commentator. But as a true Hungarian player, Csaba is very solid and good in defence, which makes him very hard to beat. In the game we are going to watch White sacrificed, Csaba took, White tried to be creative, but again Csaba was careful and ended up being a full piece up.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 A solid opening for a solid player. Csaba has already been playing the Berlin for many years and he shows very good results in it.

4.d3 This is probably the most fashionable move lately, because Carlsen plays it too.

4...♙c5 5.c3 This is also one of the main lines. The idea is simply to avoid Nd4 next. [Probably the main move so far was 5.♙xc6 5...dxc6 and now White has a wide range of choices like 6.h3, 6.O-O, 6.Nc3, 6.Be3 and some more.; After 5.O-O 5...♘d4 6.♘xd4 ♙xd4 the position is close to equal according to the current theory.]

5...O-O 6.O-O ♖e8 The funny thing is that Csaba scored 2 wins with this position in the current Bundesliga, one with White over Rene Stern and the one we are watching now. A true expert of the Anti-Berlin! :)



7.♖e1 [Maybe 7.b4 7...♙b6 8.♙c4 d6 9.a4 a6 10.♚b3 ♙e6 11.♙xe6 fxe6 12.a5 ♙a7 13.♙e3 ♙xe3 14.fxe3 is the right way to fight for an advantage?! Balogh-Stern, Bundesliga 2014]

7...a6 The idea of the line with 6...Re8 is not to hurry with the d6 move, because in a good moment Black might save a tempo and play d7-d5 at once.

8.♙a4 [After a move like 8.♙xc6 8...dxc6 White's position can never be better because of the weak pawn on d3 and a move like d4 can usually only bring an advantage to Black.]

8...b5 9.♙b3 Another option is to play 9.Bc2, but usually White's bishop is better placed on b3.

9...♙b6 Once again Black does not hurry with the d6 move but maybe it was already time to play it and Mista finds the right plan to make use of this. [9...d6 is the main continuation and has already often been played often on the top level.]

10.a4! Mista chooses what is probably the best plan against Csaba's Berlin. The black b5 pawn is a little weakness now.

10...♙b7 11.♙g5 I think this move might be a bit premature. [An interesting option for White could have been 11.♘a3!? White doesn't attack b5 directly, but now a move like Bg5 could already be a threat. 11...d6 (After a waiting move

like 11...h6 12.♙d2 would put Black into quite an unpleasant situation as axb5 is now a threat and it is hard for Black to find a good way of defending the b5 pawn.; 11...d5 is probably not the best option either. 12.exd5 ♘a5 (12...♙xd5



13.♙g5! A very strong "zwischenzug"! 13...f6 14.♙d2 and White should be better.) 13.♙c2 ♚xd5 14.b4 ♘c6 And once again after the unpleasant 15.♙g5 White is better.) 12.♙g5 b4 Playing this move is not so nice, but what else to do?! 13.♘c4 bxc3 14.bxc3 ♙c5 I think White should be better here, maybe not much but a small and stable plus.]

11...h6 To include h6 is always a good idea.

12.♙h4 d6 Black does not hurry with the g5 move as it has time, but maybe right now the d6 move was not the best option either. [12...♘a5!? 13.♙c2 c5 would have been an interesting option for Black, to have Bc6 after Na3.]

13.♙d5? White clearly miscalculates his chances. [13.♘a3! would again have caused quite some problems to Black. 13...b4 (After 13...g5 14.♘xg5 (14.♙g3 leads to unclear play because of the misplaced bishop on g3.) 14...hxg5 15.♙xg5 ♙g7 it seems like Black doesn't have anything better than Kg7. 16.axb5 axb5 17.♚f3 ♚h8 18.♘xb5 ♚xa1



19. ♖xa1 White has 3 pawns for the piece and quite an unpleasant pin with the bishop on g5. I think White should be clearly better here.) 14. ♘c4 bxc3 15. bxc3 ♙a7 16. ♘e3 And once again White should be the one who dominates the game.]

13...g5! Csaba evaluates the complications totally correctly.

14. ♘xg5 There is no way back for White as after 14. Bg3 Nxd5 his position would be horrible.

14...♘xd5 15. exd5 [15. ♘f3 15...♘f6 and Black is just a piece up.]

15...hxg5



16. ♙g4?! This move is already losing a piece. [16. dxc6 was probably better and after 16...♙xc6 17. ♙g4 f6 Black is of course much better as he has the bishop pair and a great

pawn structure, but maybe White could defend a bit more tenaciously here.]

16...♙c8! Maybe this is the move that Mista missed. Black is forcing the white queen to take away the last square of the h4 bishop.

17. ♙g3 f6 Such a move is too easy to miss for Csaba. The white bishop on h4 is lost now.

18. dxc6 ♙f7 Black is just a piece up and the great bishop on b6 even gives Black some attacking chances on the kingside. The game is basically over.

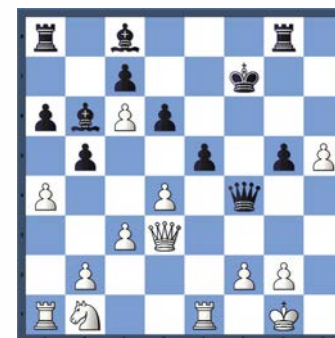
19. ♙xg5 ♙g8 Csabas continues playing the most precise moves. After 19...fxg5 20. axb5 White would at least have some little compensation.

20. h4 White has no choice, as allowing Black to play Rxc5 is not an option.

20...fxg5 21. h5 ♙f6 Black is threatening with the very unpleasant Qf4 next.

22. d4 [After 22. axb5 22...♙f4! 23. ♙xf4+ gxf4 White can just resign.]

22...♙f4 23. ♙d3



23...♙f5 Csaba develops his last piece with tempo.

24. ♔d1 exd4 The game is totally over but White decides to check Black's conversion powers.

25. ♔b3+ ♚f6 The king is taking a very safe position on f6.

26. g3 ♔f3 **27.** ♖d2 ♔xh5 Cool and strong. Now Black is already threatening to mate by playing Rh8 next.

28. ♗e4+ ♚g6 **29.** ♗xd6 cxd6 Thank you for the piece.

30. ♔d5 ♖af8 This was a very interesting opening and White probably twice missed the Na3 idea after which Black would have to solve quite some difficult problems. **0-1**

Puzzle section

(5) Landa, K(2640)-Maze, S(2550)

German league, 2014.02.22

[CEWN]

1. +-



(6) Naiditsch, A(2724)-Nikolic, P(2620)

German league, 2014.02.22

[CEWN]

1. ±



(7) Nielsen, P(2649)-Hobusch, J(2080)

German league, 2014.02.22

[CEWN]

1. +-

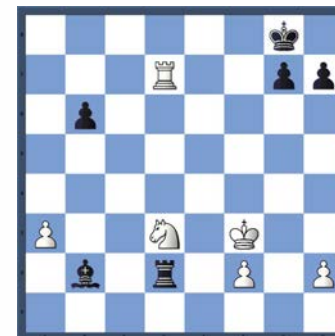


(8) Acs, P(2570)-Schneider, I(2514)

German league, 2014.02.22

[CEWN]

1. +-



(9) Fedorovsky, M(2385)-Muse, D(2408)

German league, 2014.02.22

[CEWN]

1. +-



(10) Hector, J(2503)-Heinemann, T(2461)

German league, 2014.02.22

[CEWN]

1... -+

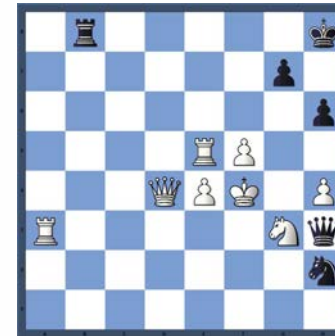


(11) Murdzia, P(2449)-Feygin, M(2512)

German league, 2014.02.23

[CEWN]

1. +-

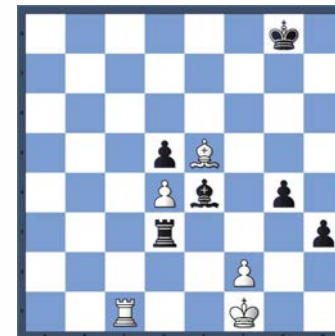


(12) Richter, M(2473)-Acs, P(2570)

German league, 2014.02.23

[CEWN]

1... -+



(13) Thiede, L(2450)-Reich, T(2386)

German league, 2014.02.23

[CEWN]

1... -+



(14) Nyback, T(2599)-Spoelman, W(2578)

German league, 2014.02.23

[CEWN]

1. +-



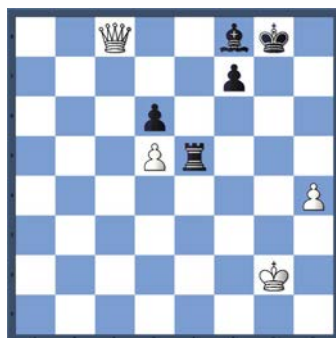
Endgame section

(15) Anand, V.(2775)
- Ragger, M.(2668)

Schachbundesliga 2013/2014,
2014.02.22



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



White is materially ahead, but Black is about to build up a successful fortress. The former world champion tries his best chance.

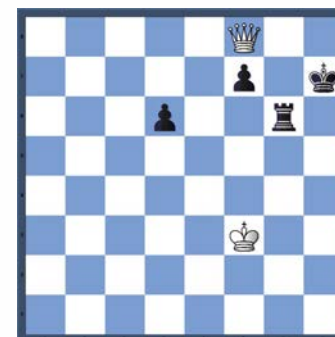
49.h5! White is going to win the bishop with the help of the h-pawn. The pawn cannot be taken because of Qg4+.

49...Bxd5! Ragger is ready to give up his bishop and he eliminates the last pawn. There are many theoretical endgames where the weaker side is able to create a successful blockade with a rook and a pawn against the queen.

50.h6 Black cannot parry the h7 threat. A known defensive method with the f7 pawn is to keep the rook on the 6th rank, cutting the king away from getting access to the f7 pawn... Black uses this idea and drives his rook to g6.

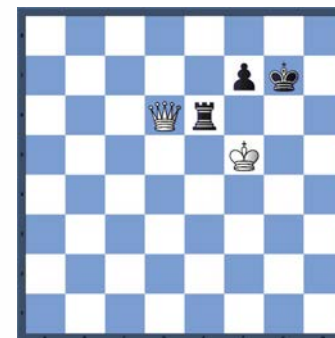
50...Rg5+ 51.Kf3 Rg6! 52.h7+ Kxh7 53.Qxf8 We have reached a much better version to the theoretical drawn

endgame, where the black king stands on g7. Black does not even need his d-pawn in this case. We are going to examine this in the 55.Qxd6 line. However the queen stands excellently on f8, which forces Black to defend accurately to save the game.



53...Rf6+ 54.Kg4 The winning technique of such queen vs rook and pawn endgames is to drive the king behind the pawn so Anand starts his journey to e7. [54.Kg4 goes into the wrong direction. 54...d5 55.Kg5 Rf1 The white king should be on the other side of the f-file, here he cannot make progress.]

54...Rf1 55.Kd5! The d-pawn is going to be lost anyway, so for White it is more important to keep his queen on f8 to avoid Black to organize his defensive setup. [55.Qxd6 illustrates well the famous theoretical endgame: 55...Kg7 56.Kg5 Rf1+ 57.Kf5 Re6=]



It is very useful to remember this position. Here Black only

waits with Re6-g6 and White has no chance to break through this fortress.]

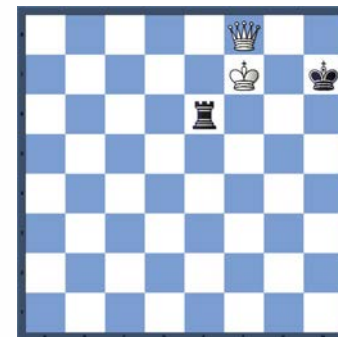
55...♖f5+ The d-pawn is lost anyway, there is no point to waste further efforts on defending it. Black must only focus on keeping his f7 pawn. [55...♖f6 56.♔c6 d5+ (Stubbornly defending both pawns with 56...♔g6? is a big mistake. This allows White to force the king in front of the pawns. This is usually a bad sign for the defensive side. 57.♕g8+ ♔f5 58.♔d5 ♔f4 59.♕g1 Black always ends up in different kinds of zugzwangs. 59...♔f5 60.♕g7+- Black loses the f7 pawn and the game!) 57.♔xd5 will lead to the same as in the game.]

56.♔xd6 [A tricky attempt could have been to keep the d-pawn on the board with the idea to avoid Black's stalemate ideas. 56.♔c6!? 56...♖f6 57.♔d7 Here the only move to hold the draw is

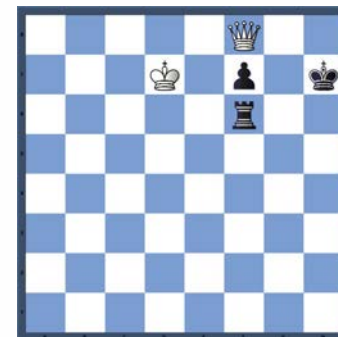


57...♖g6!! Black is ready to advance his d-pawn. The pawn on f7 cannot be taken now because of Rg7. Ke8 runs into Rg8 and after (57...d5? 58.♔e8+- and the king goes to f8, squeezes the king out from h7.) 58.♔e7 ♖g8!! traps the queen! This is the only way to save the game. 59.♕xf7+ ♖g7=]

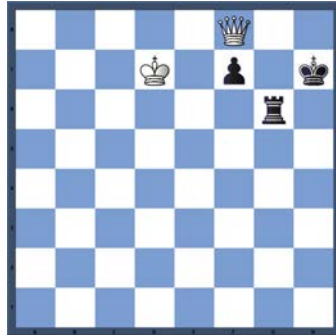
56...♖f6+ 57.♔d7 Anand tries to put his opponent into zugzwang. [57.♔e7 would allow 57...♖e6+ 58.♔xf7 (58.♔d7 58...♖f6=)



58...♖f6+!! This important stalemate trick is a key resource in Black's successful defence.]



57...♖f5? The losing move. [57...♖g6! was the only move to save the game. The king has passed the 6th rank, therefore Black needs to use another defensive method. Ke7 is always met by the stalemate Re6 Kxf7 Rf6! The king can never go to the 8th rank because of Rg8. And if the queen moves Kg7 followed by Re6 leads to the theoretical draw that we have already discussed. The question is what happens if it was Black's turn. 58.♔c7 ♖g5 59.♔d6 ♖g6+ 60.♔d7 In this case Black waits with Rg5-g6!! (60.♔e5 will transpose to the 60.Kd7 line. 60...♖e6+ 61.♔f5 ♖f6+ 62.♔g5 ♖g6+ 63.♔h5 ♖f6=)



Kg7 and rook on the 6th rank is a common practical drawn endgame (the same idea works also with the pawn on any other squares on the 7th rank), but as we have seen the game is still drawn even if the white king has passed the 6th rank or if the queen stands on f8, although this requires very precise defence! **1-0**

60...♖g5! and White cannot make progress. 61.♔e7 ♜e5+ (Or 61...♖g8! is even simpler.) 62.♕f6 ♜e6+! 63.♕f5 (63.♕xf7 63...♜f6+!= is always the same!) 63...♜f6+! The stalemate works also with the pawn on f7! 64.♕g5 ♜g6+ 65.♕h5 ♜f6= Black holds!]

58.♜d6! The king now reaches the f8 square, the game is over.

58...♜g5 [58...♕g7 59.♕e8+- does not change anything.]

59.♜f4 [59.♕e7+- was also winning easily.]

59...♕g6 60.♕e7 ♜f5 [The movement of the pawn always means the end of the game. White soon wins after 60...f5 61.♕e6 ♜h5 62.♜b8+-]

61.♜g4+ ♜g5 62.♜e4+ ♜f5 Anand uses the standard winning method, putting Black into zugzwang each move. [62...♕g7 63.♜f4+- wins the pawn.]

63.♜d3 Any other moves are also winning. Anand slowly goes behind the pawn and Black will end up in a final zugzwang soon. [63.♜g2+ 63...♜g5 64.♜c6+- also wins the f-pawn since Kg7 Qf6 is over.]

63...♕g5 64.♜g3+ ♕h5 65.♕e8 ♕h6 66.♜g4 ♜f6 67.♕f8 Black resigned! An instructive endgame about the defensive and winning methods for both sides. What I can say from my own experience is that the position with the pawn on f7,

(16) **Seger, Ruediger(2374)**
- **Shirov, Alexei(2685)**

Schachbundesliga 2013/2014(10.5),
2014.02.23



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



Shirov managed to slowly outplay his weaker opponent and got excellent winning chances. 2 knights are extremely strong pieces in the attack and White's pawn structure is far from perfect. If White could exchange a rook this would help the defence a lot, but this is only a dream. Shirov demonstrates very nice technique, leaving White no hopes for survival.

45. ♖c4 g5! An excellent move. Nf4 is always going to be a threat now.

46. ♖dc3 Other moves wouldn't save White either. Black's idea is simple and unstoppable: to bring the knight from c7 to f4. It could also happen over Ne8-Nf6 with the threat of Nf4 next.

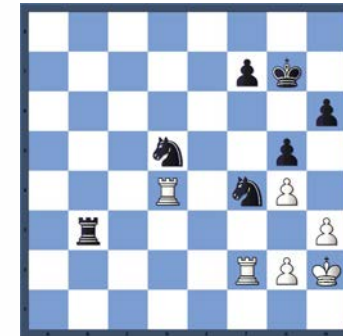
46... ♞d5 The black knights are entering White's position.

47. ♖c2 At least White is winning control over the 2nd rank.

47... ♖xb3 48. ♖f2 White can't do anything but to keep on waiting.

48... ♞ef4 A good idea. Shirov already has a tactical finish in mind.

49. ♖d4

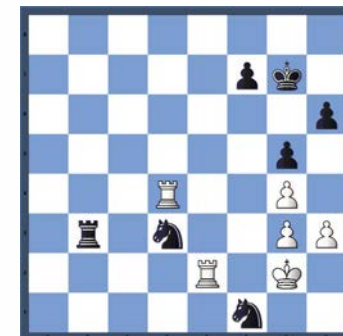


49... ♞e3! And this is the key. Black wants to play Nxe2.

50. g3 [After a waiting move like 50. ♖a4 Black has a forced win after 50... ♞exg2! 51. ♖xg2 ♖xh3+ 52. ♔g1 ♞xg2 53. ♔xg2 ♖h4 With an easily winning rook endgame.]

50... ♞d3 Now Black is already winning by force:

51. ♖f3 [After 51. ♖e2 51... ♞f1+! the game would be over as well: 52. ♔g2



52... ♞xg3 Too easy to miss... 53. ♔xg3 ♞f4+ 54. ♔f2 ♞xe2 55. ♔xe2 ♖xh3 And once again Black has reached an easily winning rook endgame.]

51...♖b2+ 52.♔g1



52...♖g2+ White resigned because of 53.Kh1 Nf2. It is better not to joke with a pair of knights in the attack! :) 0-1

Clash of the Titans

(17) Larsen, Bent
- Tal, Mihail [E99]

Candidates m 3rd place(5),
1969



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 O-O 6.♗e2 e5
7.O-O ♘c6 8.d5 ♘e7 We have the Classical variation of the
King's Indian Defence.



9.♘e1 This move leads to very complex lines. The idea is put
the knight on d3 to support the pressure on queen side. An
alternative for White is [9.b4]

9...♘d7 Of course Black is preparing the thematic plan with
f5 and putting pressure on the kingside.

10.♘d3 f5 11.♗d2 [11.f3 usually only leads to a change in
move order.]

11...♘f6 [11...f4? 12.♗g4 And usually after the exchange of the
light squared bishops the strength of Black's pressure should
be much weaker.; 11...fxe4 12.♘xe4 ♘f5 13.f3 With the idea

Nf2-Bd3, with good control over the important e4 square. 13...♗h6 seems to be logical to exchange the bad bishop but Black is not in time: 14.♗xh6 ♖xh6 15.♔d2 ♜f5 16.f4!↑With a strong initiative.]

12.f3 f4 13.c5 g5 14.♖c1 ♜g6 Very logical play, both sides improve their pieces according to the plans.

15.♜b5 [15.cxd6 15...cxd6



16.♜f2 h5 17.h3 White prevents the main break with g4. 17...♖f7↪With the typical idea Bf8 which protects the d6 pawn and then the rook can go to g7, from where it supports the g4 break and controls the c7 square.]

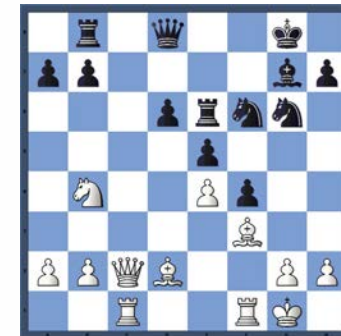
15...♖f7 16.cxd6 cxd6 17.♔c2 With the idea Nc7-Ne6.



17...g4 This is what we call "who first". Tal does not care about White's threats and concentrates only on attacking the white

king. He could have played [17...♜e8 with the idea to avoid Nc7 but those moves are not in Tal style. Now White probably has to build a thematic setup (Nf2-h3) and then try to create some initiative over the c-file.]

18.♜c7 gxf3 19.gxf3 [19.♗xf3 19...♖b8 20.♜e6 ♗xe6 21.dxe6 ♖e7 22.♜b4 ♖xe6



23.♗e1!↑With the idea not to allow Nh4 and transfer the bishop to the better f2 square. White has good compensation thanks to the bishop pair and the weak light squares.]



19...♗h3! Black doesn't lose any time once again! [19...♖b8?! 20.♗h1! ♗h3 21.♜e6 ♖b6 22.♖g1± white avoid attack and put knight on e6,]

20.♜xa8 [20.♜e6!? 20...♖b6+ 21.♗h1 (21.♖f2) 21...♗xf1 22.♗xf1 ♜f8 With an unclear position.]



20...Nxe4! 21.fxe4 [21.Kh1? 21...Ng3+! 22.hxg3 fxg3 23.Rg1 Kh4 With a crushing attack.]

21...Kg5+ 22.Kf2



22...Kg2?? This is already too much, objectively Black should have taken a draw after [22...Kh4+ 23.Kg1 Kg5=]

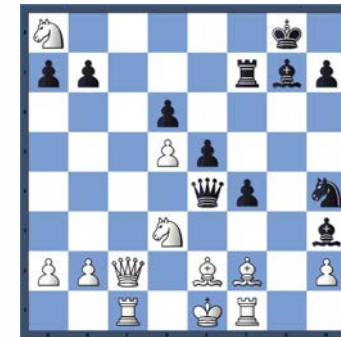
23.Ke1 Nh4



24.Be3?? White should have consolidated his position by playing [24.Nf2! Now if Black plays f3 then White can simply move the bishop over the f1-a6 diagonal and protect the rook on f1 and it looks like Black's attack is very artificial... 24...Nf3+ (24...f3 25.Be3+-; 24...Kxh2 25.Rh1+-) 25.Kd1 (25.Bxf3?? 25...Kxf1#) 25...Nd4 26.Rc3 f3 27.Be3 Ne2 28.Bxe2 fxe2+ 29.Kxe2 Kg4+ 30.Ke1+-]

24...Kxe4! [24...fxe3 25.Rxf7 Kxf7 26.Bh5+!+- And after the queens exchange White should easily win and this was probably the idea behind 24.Be3.; 24...f3 25.Rf2+-]

25.Be2



25...f3→ [25...Ng2+ 26.Kd2 f3 27.Bd1 Bh6+ 28.Kc3 Kxd5 Black also has a huge attack here as the white pieces are very badly coordinated.]

26.Bxh4 Kxh4+ [26...Bxf1? 27.Nf2!±]

27.Nf2 [27.Rf2 27...e4→ Too many white pieces are hanging...]

27...fxe2 28.Kxe2



28...e4! A strong move which doesn't require any special calculations. In blitz games top players play moves like this in a second. [28...♙xf1 might be good too but in this position the bishop is not worse than the rook. 29.♖xf1 ♜xh2 30.♖c8+ ♙f8 31.♜g4+ ♖h8 32.♜g2∞]

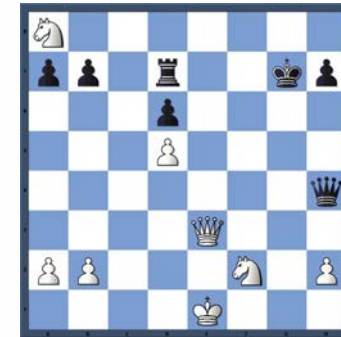
29.♖g1 Other moves also lead to complex positions: [29.♖c7 29...♙xf1 30.♖xf1 ♜f5 31.♖c8+ ♖f7 32.♖c7+ ♖g6↑XNa8;XKf1; 29.♖c4 29...♙xf1 30.♜xf1 (30.♖xf1 30...♖f8! A strong prophylactic move against the check on c8. 31.♘c7 ♜xh2 32.♙e1 ♜g1+ 33.♜f1 ♜xf1+ 34.♖xf1 e3⊕) 30...♜xh2 31.♖c8+ (31.♖xe4



doesn't work because of 31...♖xf2! 32.♜xf2 ♜h1+—) 31...♙f8 32.♖e8∞]

29...e3 Now comes a forced sequence:

30.♜xe3 ♖e7 31.♖xg7+ ♖xg7 32.♖c7 ♙d7 33.♖xd7 ♖xd7
After a few only moves we get this position where Black should of course be better (because of the bad knight on a8) but needs to play very accurately.



34.♜xa7? White immediately makes a decisive mistake. The idea to win the pawn to make way to escape with knight via b6 is bad because the white queen doesn't protect the king anymore. The correct move was [34.♜c3+ 34...♖g8 (34...♜f6 35.♘e4 ♜xc3+ 36.♘xc3 ♖f6 37.♘b5 a6 38.♘c3 Xb6 38...b5 39.♘b6 ♖b7 40.♘c8 ♖e5 41.♘d2 With drawing chances because White is close to get coordination.) 35.♜g3+ (35.♘c7 35...♖f7 36.♜c2 ♜xh2—+ XKe1) 35...♜xg3 36.hxg3 White wants come to the center with the king and wait for the right moment to escape with the knight. This interesting position is not easy to evaluate...]

34...♖e7+! —+ 35.♖d1 [35.♖f1 35...♜c4+ 36.♖g2 ♜xd5+ 37.♖f1 ♜e5 38.♖g2 ♖h8→XKg2]

35...♜c4 And Black is easily winning because the white pieces are badly placed.

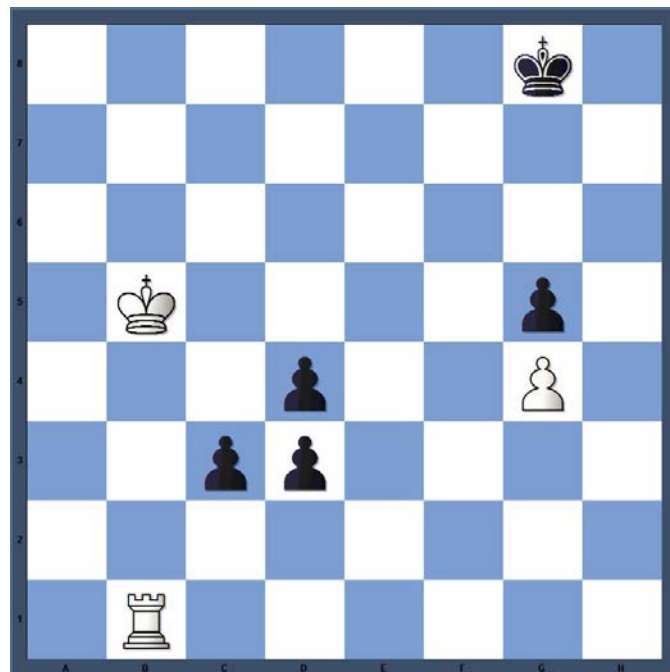
36.♜b6 ♜f1+ 37.♖d2 ♖e2+ 38.♖c3 ♜c1+ 39.♖d4 ♜e3+ 40.♖c4 ♖c2+0-1

Surprise section / study

(18) Weenink

[CEWN]

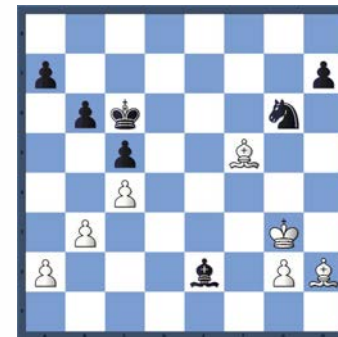
1. =



Solutions

(19) Sargissian, G(2671)-Mochalov, E(2479)

Minsk Open, 2014.02.11



47. ♖f2! ♕d1 48. ♖e1! 1-0 [48. ♖e1 48... ♕h5 49. g4 ♖e7 50. ♕e4+! ♖d7 51. gxh5+—]

(20) Gabuzyan, H(2534)-Zhigalko, S(2661)

Minsk Open, 2014.02.12



36... ♖f2! —+ 37. ♕d2 [37. ♖xf2 37... ♖xf2+ 38. ♖g2 ♖xd1—+; 37. ♕xe5 37... ♖g5+ 38. ♖h4 ♖h2#]

37... ♖xe2—+

(21) Bernardskiy, V(2565)-Shimanov, A(2658)

Minsk Open, 2014.02.14



25...♘xd4! 26.♖xf1 [26.♔xf1 26...♖h1+ 27.♙xh1 ♖xh1+ 28.♔g2 ♚h3#]

26...♚h3 27.♖fb1 ♚h1+ 28.♙xh1 ♖xh1+ 29.♔g2 ♖h2# 0-1

(22) Jobava, B(2706)-Savchenko, B(2556)

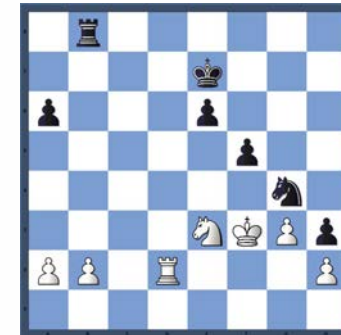
Minsk Open, 2014.02.15



33.♙g6!! ♚xg6 34.♚h8+ ♔f7 35.♖f1+ ♔e7 36.♚f8# 1-0

(23) Ter Sahakyan, S(2575)-Grachev, B(2669)

Minsk Open, 2014.02.15



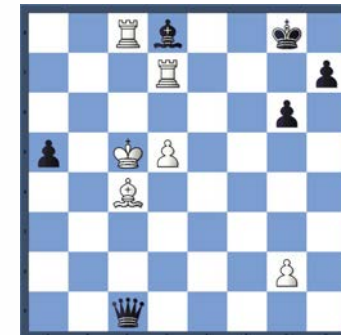
35...♖d8! 36.♖e2 [36.♖xd8 36...♘h2+ 37.♔f2 ♔xd8—+]

36...♖d3—+ 37.b4 [37.♔f4 37...e5+ 38.♔xf5 ♖xe3—+]

37...♔f6 38.a4 e5 0-1 [38...e5 39.b5 ♔g5 40.bxa6 e4#]

(24) Romanov, E(2653)-Gabuzyan, H(2534)

Minsk Open, 2014.02.15



50...♚e3+! 51.♔d6 [51.♔c6 51...♚b6#; 51.♔b5 51...♚b6+ 52.♔a4 ♚b4#]

51...♚f4+! 52.♔c5 [52.♔c6 52...♚xc4+ 53.♔b7 ♚b5+—+]

52...♔f2+! 53.♔d6 [53.♔b5 53...♔b6+ 54.♔a4 ♔b4#;
53.♔c6 53...♔b6#]

53...♔f6+! 0-1 [53...♔f6+ 54.♔c5 ♔b6#]

(25) Akopian, V(2682)-Chatalbashev, B(2522)

Minsk Open, 2014.02.16



20...b4! 21.♖xc6 [21.♖e4 21...b3—+]

21...♔g5+! 22.f4 ♔h4!—+ [22...♔g3!]

(26) Ragger, M(2646)-Danner, G(2336)

Graz Open, 2014.02.15



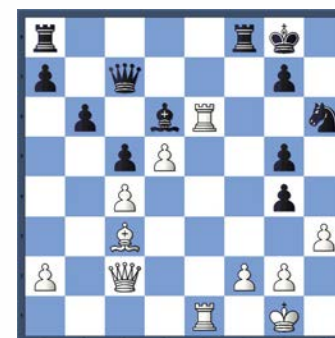
19.♔xf6! ♖xd5 [19...♔xf6 20.♔xg7+ ♔h8 21.♔xh7#]

20.♕xh7+ [20.♔h6+—]

20...♔xh7 21.♔g6+ ♔g8 22.♖xd5 1-0

(27) Zelic, R(2545)-Saric, A(2540)

Croatian Championship, 2014.02.13

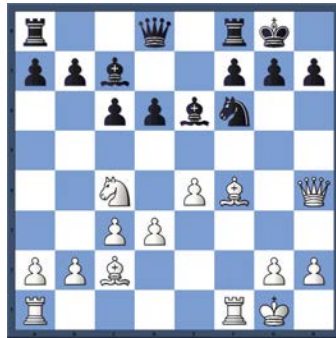


30.♔xh6! ♔xf2 [30...gxh6 31.♔g6+—+]

31.♔h7+ 1-0

(28) Simacek, P(2485)-Kryvoruchko, Y(2701)

Czech league, 2014.02.15



15...dxe4! 16.Ke1 [16.Kxd8 16...Kaxd8 17.dxe4 Kxc4+]]

16...d5! 17.dxe4 Kxf4 [17...dxc4+]]

18.exd5 cxd5 19.Kxf4 dxc4+

(29) Troitzky



1.c6 Kg4 [1...Ke6 2.Kb6 Kg4 3.c7 Kf8 4.Kb7=]

2.c7 Kb7 3.c8=K! [3.c8=K 3...Kd6+-+]]

3...Kxc8 4.Kb6! [4.Kc6? 4...Ka5+]]

4...Kxg6 [4...Kd8 5.Kc7=; 4...Kd6 5.Kc7=]

5.Kc7=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 106

7th of March 2014

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Editorial Preface

The European Championship is on its way and we see a lot of great and fighting games each day. One special jewel of the tournament, the game Shimanov-Jobava, is commented for you in this issue of the CEWN!

After 6 rounds Motylev is leading with the amazing score of 5.5/6, followed by Wojtaszek, Melkumyan and Laznicka-all with 5/6. But there are still 5 rounds to go and a lot can happen.

The Open in Capelle-la-Grande is also under way and we have a huge tie in the lead, with a few more rounds to go.

In the Reykjavik Open 6 rounds have been played and L'Ami, Van Kampen and Amin are leading with 5.5/6.

We want to apologize that this issue of the CEWN got a little bit delayed, but both your commentators are playing, Csaba in the European Championship and Arkadij in Reykjavik Open.

We hope you enjoy your weekly chess program with us! :)

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Khismatullin, Denis(2714)**
- **Duda, Jan-Krzysztof(2563) [B90]**

15th ch-EUR Indiv 2014(4.23),
2014.03.06



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We will see a nice fighting win of the young Polish GM against Khismatullin in the Najdorf, with a nice sacrifice for the initiative and later on a beautiful mating attack! Enjoy!

1.e4 Khismatullin's main move is 1.d4, but maybe he did not take the game too seriously, or maybe he wanted to play a very sharp Najdorf. However it is clear that something will go very wrong...

1...c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘f6 5.♗c3 a6 So another game on the Najdorf, Duda's main opening.

6.h3 Not the main move, but quite a tricky one. I liked to play this move as well. The idea is to play g4 and then f4 immediately, sort of saving a tempo on playing the usual f3-g4 where often later f4 is a good move.

6...e5 Duda is a real Najdorf player, as after 6...e6 7.g4 we would be back in the Sheveningen.

7.♗b3 [Another often played line is 7.♗de2 7...h5]

7...♙e6 8.f4 Khismatullin starts the complications.

8...♘bd7



9.g4 Very logical but risky. [Probably not the best is to play 9.f5 which is quite tempting for White, because it wins the light squared bishop. 9...♙xb3 10.axb3 ♖c8! Blacks wants to play Rxc3 and Nxe4, with big compensation. 11.♙f3 d5! With a very complicated position.]

9...b5 Giving Black the possibility of playing Bc4 as well as the b4 push at any moment.

10.♙g2 White wants to castle kingside and bring his king out of the center.

10...♗b6 Another very typical move in the Najdorf. Black prepares against the g5 move to have Nfd7 and he also gains more control over the d5 square.

11.g5 [After 11.O-O 11...♙e7 the position would remain very unclear.]

11...♗fd7 12.f5 White is trying to control the center, but such a move is always very tricky. The white king will now remain in the center and play can be very fast with a d5 push or b4, after which White's position could fall apart like a card house.

12...♙c4 13.♗a5 A logical move. It is very important for White to win the light squared bishop.

13...♖c8



14.♔d2?! Creative play, but such a move just cannot be good!
[14.♘xc4 14...♖xc4 15.a3 With a very unclear position.]

14...b4! A good choice. Black not only pushed the white knight to d1, but he also escaped with his bishop from the exchange.

15.♘d1 ♕b5 And now the knight on a5 is clearly misplaced.

16.a3 White at least tries to exchange the b-pawn to be able to play the knight back to c3.

16...d5! This is the way to play Najdorf, there is no time to waste. Duda is starting to crush White's position.

17.exd5 [After 17.axb4 17...dxe4 18.♕xe4 Black has the very strong 18...♘c4! With very good play.]

17...♘c4 is the most natural move. [A tricky move like 17...♘xd5 might not work because of 18.♘b7! ♖c7 19.♖xd5 (19.♕xd5 19...♕c6 is good for Black.) 19...♖xc2 20.♖d2 ♖xf5 21.♘e3 and White is better here.]

18.♘xc4 ♖xc4 The white king's position on e1 is starting to be a bit shaky.

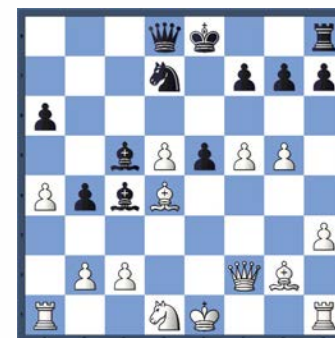
19.a4! This time Khismatullin is doing is right thing as White should try to block the position as much as possible.

19...♖d4 20.♖f2 ♕c4 We can see a typical fighting position of the Najdorf. It is very difficult to say who is better here, but from a practical point of view it is more easy to play with Black. The idea is just more simple, to develop all pieces and attack with all you have!

21.♕e3 White is going to be an exchange up, but it doesn't matter much.

21...♕c5 Almost all black pieces are now in the game.

22.♕xd4



22...exd4! Black needs an open line! [22...♕xd4? would be a bad idea because after 23.♖d2 White is more or less solid.]

23.♖f4 [After 23.♖h4 23...O-O White has 24.♕e4 with the idea of playing f6, but Black is in time with 24...b3! 25.cxb3 ♖a5+ and it is clear that Black's initiative is more than just enough.]

23...O-O 24.♘f2 White continues to try and keep the position together, but Duda is wasting no time for nothing.

24...b3! An excellent move, opening the white king even more.

25.c3?! The game is probably almost over after this move. [The best practical chance to fight was 25.O-O-O 25...bxc2 26.♖d3! White is giving back the exchange to gain control of

the white squares. Black is better, but White is fighting.]

25...♖e8+ What a beautiful position! All black pieces are in the game.

26.♘e4 dxc3 And I guess that by now it is clear that the game will not last for much longer...

27.0-0-0 It is just too late to move the king away from the center... [Not much better was 27.bxc3 27...b2 28.♖b1 ♘b6 and Black is simple overrunning White's defences.]



27...♖b8 A cute move, but it was not really needed. [The simple 27...♖a5 would end the game almost immediately.]

28.d6 [28.♖xb8 28...♘e3+ 29.♙b1 c2+ And Black is winning.]

28...♖b4 Black is going for the white king.

29.♘xc5 ♖e2 [29...cxb2+ 30.♙xb2 ♖e2+ 31.♙b1 b2 followed by Ba2 and b1Q would also lead to mate soon.]

30.♖he1 cxb2+ 31.♙b1 And now Duda finishes the game in style:



31...♘d3+ 32.♘xd3 ♖a3 Black has almost no pieces left, but Qa1 cannot be avoided! What a beautiful crush by the young Polish prodigy. **0-1**

(2) Shimanov, Aleksandr(2649) - Jobava, Baadur(2716) [D16]

15th ch-EUR Indiv 2014(4.5),
2014.03.06



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We will now face one of the most crazy games I have ever seen. Jobava is famous for being a very creative player and Shimanov is also very good in tactics. The crazy play started on move 12 and went on over 20 moves, which is a very rare fact, because most of the games are decided relatively quickly in the tactical phase. Enjoy this parade of tactics and creativity!!!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 d5 This time Jobava decides for something very solid, which we don't see too often in his games. His usual repertoire is more connected to Benoni or KID structures.

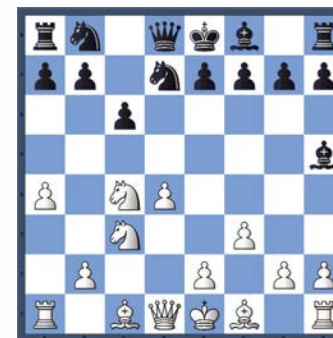
3.c4 c6 4.♘c3 dxc4 5.a4 So we are in one of the main lines of the Slav.

5...♙g4 Not the main move, but not a rare one either.

6.♘e5 ♙h5 7.f3 White's idea is simple: take the bishop h5 out of the game by putting up a pawn-wall with f3-e4. [Lately White is more often trying 7.g3 7...e6 8.♙g2 ♙b4 9.O-O with maybe a little advantage for White and a much more calm position than in the game.]

7...♘fd7 This is still theory and in 2009 Shimanov played this position with the white pieces.

8.♘xc4



8...e5 Now we can see the idea behind 7...Nfd7: to get fast play in the center. In case White would now be in time to play e4 and then Be2-0-0 Black's position would already be quite bad because of the horrible bishop on h5.

9.e4 [Of course not 9.dxe5?? 9...♙h4+ and the knight on c4 is lost. 10.g3 ♙xc4]

9...♙h4+ An important check to weaken the white pawn structure.

10.g3 ♙f6 And now the d4 and f3 pawns are under attack. As we can see, the position is already getting quite forced.

11.dxe5 ♙xf3!? This move is some sort of novelty on the high level. [In Shimanov's previous game 11...♘xe5 was played. 12.♘xe5 ♙xe5 13.g4 ♙g6 14.f4 The black bishop is trapped. 14...♙f6 15.f5 ♙h4+ 16.♙d2 Black has some compensation, but White should have a clear advantage here.]

12.♘d6+ The only move, but a very strong one.

12...♙e7! And this is probably a novelty prepared by Jobava. What a shocking idea to put the king in front of all the pieces, but things are much more complicated than it seems. [After 12...♙xd6 Black would lose on the spot after 13.♙xd6 ♙xh1 and even a full rook up is not helping Black to survive here.]

The position is lost by force. 14. ♖g5 f6 15. exf6 gxf6



16. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 17. ♖e6+ ♖f8 18. ♖xf6+ ♖g8 19. ♖d8+ ♖g7 20. ♖g5+ ♖g6 21. ♖e5+ White is totally winning.]

13. ♖b3!? A very tricky move by Shimanov. [The more solid continuation 13. ♖g5+ 13... f6 14. exf6+ gxf6 15. ♖f4 ♖xd1+ 16. ♖xd1 ♖e5 would at most lead to a slightly better endgame for White.]

13... ♖xe5 [Black would be doing bad after 13... ♖c5 14. ♖c4 ♖xh1 15. ♖xc5 and White's attack is clearly crushing.; But maybe it was time to take the rook: 13... ♖xh1!? 14. ♖xb7 And here comes a very strange, but strong computer move: 14... ♖e6! With very unclear play. Of course White at least has a draw by playing 15. Qb3 Ke7 16. Qb7.]

14. ♖xb7+ ♖f6! No fear! [14... ♖xd6 would also lead to a complicated, but worse position. 15. ♖g1 Threatening to play Be2 next. 15... ♖e6 There are many other moves for Black, but this seems to be the strongest. 16. ♖e2 ♖d3+ 17. ♖d2 ♖f2 18. ♖f1 ♖d4 19. ♖b3+ ♖e7 20. ♖xd3 and only White can be better here.]

15. ♖g1! The best and only move. Black already wanted to play Qxh1.

15... ♖xd6 Black is playing the best. The queen on f3 cannot be saved anymore, so it is time to get as much compensation

for the queen as possible.

16. ♖e2



16... ♖bd7! Strong play! Black is bringing all his pieces into the attack.

17. ♖xf3 ♖c5 Jobava continues playing for the initiative. [Another way to go on was 17... ♖xf3+ 18. ♖f2 ♖fe5 Black has 2 pieces for the queen and quite some attack. 19. ♖b3 Objectively White should be better, but I think Black has quite some practical chances to be back in the game.]

18. ♖d5+ The only move for White!

18... cxd5 Black has to take the knight and let back the white queen into the game. In case of 18... Kg6 19. Nf4 the game would be over.

19. ♖xd5 ♖xf3+ Black has 3 pieces for the queen, which is already a lot, but the bishops on d6 and h5 are hanging and the king on f6 is also badly placed. The position remains very unbalanced and probably favourable to White.

20. ♖f1 [20. ♖f2? is a mistake as after 20... ♖e5! White cannot take on c5 because of Bd4 check.]

20... ♖e5 Once again Jobava plays the most practical move in the position, trying to get the maximum compensation for the queen.

21. ♖xc5 This move is also forced.

21... ♖ac8 22. ♖f2 A logical move, but now Black is getting very strong play. [22. ♖e3 was probably stronger and after 22... ♖hd8 all the black pieces are in the attack, but it is just not enough. 23.g4! ♜xh2+ 24. ♖e1 And White should win the game because of the huge material advantage.]

22... ♜d4 The game continues being very tricky.

23. ♜e3 ♜xe3 24. ♖xe3



24... ♜xh2+ White is always missing one move to be winning. As long as the white king is under attack the game remains very unclear.

25. ♖g2 [25. ♖e1 doesn't lead anywhere after 25... ♜f3+]

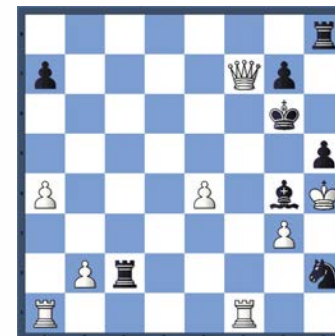
25... ♖c2+ 26. ♖h3 The white king escaped to the h-file, but here White is also in a mating net, what a crazy position!

26... ♜g4+ Jobava continues finding the best practical chances.

27. ♖h4 h5 Finally a move without check, but the white king is caught. Black wants to play Nf3 next with a mate.

28. ♖g5+ The only move. [After 28. ♖gf1+ 28... ♖g6 29. ♖g5+ ♖h7 only Black can be playing for a win.]

28... ♖e6 29. ♖d5+ ♖e7 Not a mistake, but the black king is going into the wrong direction. [29... ♖f6 would probably lead to a draw. 30. ♖gf1+ (After 30. ♖d6+ 30... ♜e6 Black is already better.) 30... ♖g6 31. ♖xf7+ And here Jobava probably missed the very strong



31... ♖h6! and White doesn't have anything better than to force a draw after 32. ♖f6+ gxf6 33. ♖xf6+]

30. ♖b7+ ♖f8? This move already gives White what is probably an advantage, but of course during a practical game and with not much time left on the clock it is hard to blame Jobava for such a logical reply. [Black could still save the game after 30... ♖f6 31. ♖gf1+ ♖g6 32. ♖xf7+ ♖h6 and we are back to the line above.]

31. ♖g5 The white king finally escapes its trap on h4.

31... f6+ 32. ♖f4 ♖e2! Once again Jobava is trying to mate, this time by playing g5.

33. ♖b4+ The only move. The position is still very forced.

33... ♖g8 34. ♖c4+ ♖h7



35. ♖xe2! This is the only way for White to go on.

35... ♗xe2 36. ♖g2 With a double attack on the knight h2 and bishop on e2. After amazing complications we reached an endgame which should be minimally better for White.

36... ♗g5+ Another logical move.

37. ♖e3 ♗g4+ To keep the bishop doesn't make sense as the knight is now going to take a very strong position on e5.

38. ♖xe2 ♖b8 Another logical move.

39. ♖d3! A good move! White is quickly bringing the white king closer to the queenside pawns.

39... a5 And this move probably costs Black the game... [39... ♖b4! would put White in quite some trouble. 40. ♖c3 Giving up the e4 pawn is probably the best option. 40... ♖xe4 41. b4 White should of course be better, but the game is far from over as the black pawns and a very strong knight on e5 would give Black counter chances.]

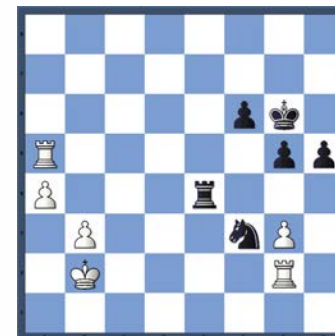
40. ♖c3 ♗g6 41. b3 The time trouble is now over. White is an exchange up and should be winning, even if it is not that easy.

41... ♖c8+ 42. ♖b2 White continues to stabilize his position.

42... ♖e8 43. ♖e1 Everything is finally protected and next White wants to activate the rook from g2.

43... ♗e5 44. ♖d1! Shimanov continues playing a perfect game. White gives up the e4 pawn but goes for the much more important a5 instead.

44... ♗f3 45. ♖d5 ♖xe4 46. ♖xa5



46... h4? And Jobava misses his final chance... [46... ♖g4! with the idea of playing h4 next would have led to a much tougher fight. 47. ♖c2 White needs to give up the g3 pawn. 47... ♖xg3 48. ♖d5! Cutting the f3 knight. White's position should be winning now, but things are still quite tricky from a practical point of view.]

47. gxf4 ♗xf4 48. ♖c2 Now White is just must faster and the game finally comes to an end.

48... g4 49. ♖a8 ♗f5 50. a5 g3 51. ♖g8 Preventing the g-pawn from advancing further.

51... ♖e5 52. b4 g2 53. a6 We just saw a really amazing game where both players played almost perfectly in a very very complicated position. Just a few mistakes by Black gave White a chance for a full point. But what an impressive performance by Shimanov, who managed to play an almost perfect game in a crazy position! **1-0**

**(3) Khismatullin, Denis(2714)
- Golod, Vitali(2573) [A29]**

European Championship,
2014.03.04



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A new player arrived in the 2700+ club. Dennis Khismatullin from Russia is a great fighter, who pushes all the games until the end.

1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.g3 The main move is 3.Nf3 Nc6 and only then 4.g3. With this setup, White would like to keep the option of developing the knight to e2 in some lines. On the other hand, it gives extra options for Black too, he can think about occupying the center with c6-d5.

3...♙b4 4.♙g2 O-O 5.♘f3 ♖e8 [I personally like 5...♘c6 for Black, but the text move is more common.]

6.O-O



6...e4 Golod as a classical player follows the old main line. Recently this move went a bit out of fashion. White seems to get some advantage after undermining the e4 pawn with d3.

7.♘d4 ♘c6 8.♘c2! An important theoretical move! 8. Nxc6 dxc6 would change the structure in Black's favor. He would quickly develop his bishop to f5 and the e4 pawn becomes

very strong, as it locks the g2 bishop and fixes the white central pawns on the 2nd rank.

8...♙xc3 This is the only way for Black to keep his e4 pawn, but it costs him the bishop pair. [8...♙f8 is met by 9.d3 exd3 10.exd3 and d4 next with a small but stable advantage for White.]

9.dxc3 h6 Black tries to limit the movement of the c1 bishop. [The other theoretical option is 9...d6 10.♙g5 h6 11.♙xf6 ♖xf6 12.♘e3 ♙f5 13.f4! is given to be in White's favor.]



10.♘e3! The knight is heading to d5 and then Black will face the unpleasant choice of either leaving it there or improving the white pawn structure by allowing cxd5.

10...d6 There are still over hundred games in the database. Many classical games. The main 11.Qc2 was played by Karpov and Korchnoi and the text move was already tried by Portisch or Huebner.

11.b3 [After 11.♘d5 Black has 11...♙f5 while after 11.b3 or 11.Qc2, Black does not have an useful developing move with the bishop, therefore White first improves his position.]

11...♘e7 White now achieves the desired improvement on the pawn structure. [11...a5 ; Or 11...♙d7 was better.]

12. ♖d5 ♗f5



13. ♖c2! Creating the threat of taking on f6 and then on e4. Black is forced to trade the knights to save the pawn.

13... ♗xd5 14. cxd5 Suddenly the c1 bishop has a bright future on the long diagonal. White intends to play c4, followed by Bb2 and Qc3. Black is going to miss his dark squared bishop.

14... e3! Black realized the forthcoming dangers and he decided to change the pawn formation. [14... ♖e7 15. c4 ♗d7 16. ♗b2 and Qc3 also looks excellent for White.]

15. ♗e4!? A direct attempt to provoke favorable exchanges. [15. f4 was also good, followed by executing the Bb2 c4 plan.]

15... ♖g5 [15... exf2+ would strategically improve Black's position, but he is unable to save the king against the direct threats: 16. ♖xf2 ♗e7 (16... g6 weakens the kingside too much. 17. ♗d3! Threatening with e4 and the h6 pawn falls. 17... h5 18. e4 ♗g7 19. ♖d2 followed by Qh6, with a very strong attack.)



17. ♗h7+! is the point of 15. Be4! 17... ♖f8 White wins after the following spectacular combination: (17... ♗h8 18. ♖xf7±) 18. ♗xh6!! gxf6 19. ♖af1 f5 20. ♗xf5! ♗xf5 21. ♖xf5+ ♗xf5 22. ♖xf5+ ♗g7 23. ♖f7+ ♗h8 24. ♖f6+- Black needs to sacrifice his queen to avoid getting mated, but then he ends up with a huge material disadvantage.]

16. ♖d3 Trying to overpress the e3 pawn, but Black correctly holds the tension.

16... ♗d7 Being greedy and accepting the pawn sacrifice would be big mistake.

17. f4! Khismatullin correctly evaluates that White has effective resources against the h5-h4 attacking plan. [17. fxe3? has a nice refutation: 17... ♗xg3! 18. hxg3 ♖xg3+ 19. ♗g2 (19. ♗h1 19... ♖e5+- wins.) 19... ♗h3! 20. ♖f2 ♗xg2 21. ♖xg2 ♖e1+ 22. ♗h2 ♖e5+- mates soon.; 17. ♗xe3? 17... ♗xe3 18. fxe3 White has won a pawn, but the doubled backward pawns can hardly give him any advantage. Black's game suddenly becomes much easier... 18... ♖e5 and Rae8 next.]

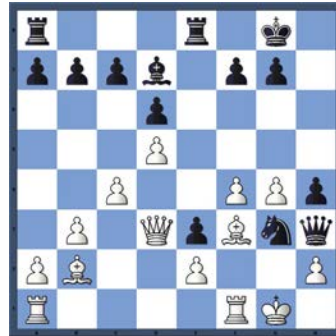
17... ♖g4 18. ♗f3 ♖h3 19. ♗g2 ♖g4 20. ♗f3 ♖h3 21. c4! After repeating twice to get closer to the time control, White goes for the right plan and occupies the long diagonal.

21... h5 [An important detail is that after 21... ♗xg3? 22. ♗g2!! this intermediate move is very important and White takes the knight on the next move. 22... ♖g4 23. hxg3 ♖xg3 White parries the Bh3 threat with 24. ♖f3! ♖e1+ 25. ♗f1+- and Bb2 wins the game.]

22. ♗b2 h4? Consequent play by Black, but it turns out to be a mistake. [Locking the diagonal with 22... f6 should have been played with mutual chances, although I prefer White. He should aim for opening the position with Rc1 and c5.]

23. g4 ♗g3 This was Black's idea, but it runs into a beautiful

refutation.



24.f5!! Protecting the g4 pawn. White has trapped the queen on h3 at the cost of an exchange. [Of course not 24.hxg3?? 24...hxg3—+ and Qh2.]

24...♞e4 Black tries to save his queen with Ng5. [24...♞xf1 25.♞xf1 with the threat of Qd4, looking at the g7 pawn, and at the same time protecting the g4 pawn in order to catch the queen with Bg2. 25...c5 Preventing Qd4, but... (25...f6 is met by 26.♞d4 And now the only move to save the queen from Bg2 is 26...♞xf5 27.gxf5 ♞xf5 28.♞xh4± White has a winning advantage. The bishop pair becomes very strong.) 26.dxc6! ♞xc6 27.♞d4 ♞e5 Black has successfully prevented Bg2, but White traps the queen in another way: 28.♞xc6 bxc6 29.♞f4! (29.♞f3 is premature in view of 29...♞xf3! 30.exf3 e2)]

25.♞d4! ♞f6 [25...f6 drops a piece as after 26.♞xe4 ♞xg4+ 27.♞g2 Black does not have h3...]

26.g5 Black gets mated on the diagonal. He cannot create any counterplay...

26...c5 27.♞f4 The game is over. [27.dxc6+- was also good.]

27...♞e5 [27...♞h7 28.♞g4+-]

28.♞g2 ♞g4 29.gxf6 1-0

**(4) Ganguly, Surya Shekhar(2623)
- Carmaciu, Lucian-Catalin(2423)
[B41]**

Cappelle-la-Grande Open 2014(3.3),
2014.03.03



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A brilliant attacking game by the Indian GM...

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 a6



5.♗e2!? A tricky move against the Sicilian Kan variation, which I also liked employing in the past. In this line, Black usually would like to develop his pieces with b5, Bb7 (which is why he played a6), but now White delays the development of his b1 knight, which gives him a very unpleasant extra option.

5...b5 [For Black it is more advisable to try 5...♘f6 6.♘c3 ♘c6 transposing to the Sheveningen variation, but usually the Kan players are not familiar with this line.]

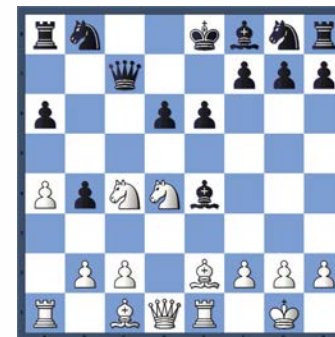
6.a4! The standard undermining procedure to create some weaknesses on the queenside. When the knight is on c3, b4 comes with tempo, but here...

6...b4 7.♘d2! is the whole point of the White's setup! He drives his knight to the excellent outpost on c4.

7...♗b7 8.O-O ♖c7 The standard development of the black pieces. White needs to take care of his e4 pawn first before putting his knight to c4.

9.♖e1 Ganguly already prepares for the following break... In many Sicilian lines White attacks with f4-f5, but here Black is well prepared for this with a quick Nf6 and Bc5. White initiates his play in the center.

9...♘f6 [9...d6 followed by Nf6 would have been more circumspect at first sight, but here again White plays aggressively with 10.♘c4! ♘f6 (10...♗xe4 White wins after the nice tactical strike



11.♘xe6! fxe6 12.♗h5+ ♗g6 13.♗xg6+ hxxg6 14.♖d5+- with a crushing attack!) 11.e5! dxe5 12.♘xe5 The knight cannot be taken because of Bb5, winning the queen, and otherwise the bishop comes to f4 next move with a very promising position.]

10.e5! ♘d5 Black uses the standard plans, but here the difference of having the knight on c4 starts to tell. [10...♖xe5 would have been met by 11.♗xa6! ♖d5 12.♗xb7 ♖xb7 13.a5± and the a- passed pawn is very strong. Nc4 is coming next.]

11. ♖c4 ♗b6 [On 11... ♗e7

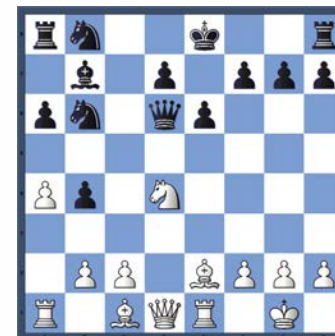


12. ♗f5!! is extremely strong. 12...exf5 13. ♗d6+ ♗xd6 (13... ♖f8 14. ♗xb7 ♖xb7 15. ♗f3+- wins back the pieces with a huge advantage.) 14.exd6+- White wins as the bishop goes away with discovered check and takes either the b7 bishop or the d5 knight.]



12. ♗d6+!! White already foresees the entire combination! Very deep calculation by Ganguly! Black has no choice, he must accept the sacrifice.

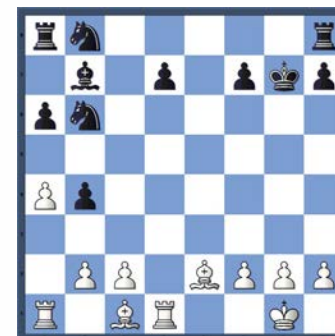
12... ♗xd6 13.exd6 ♖xd6



14. ♗xe6!! There is no way back. White needs to sacrifice to justify his previous move. But where is the mate after trading the queens?!

14... ♖xd1 [14... ♖xe6? 15. ♗g4+-]

15. ♗xg7+! ♖f8 16. ♖xd1 ♗xg7



17. ♖d6!! This was the idea! Ganguly has calculated all the following lines before his 12.Nd6 move. Very impressive! White is a piece down, but the b6 knight is hanging and Bh6 is threatening to squeeze the king followed by a hidden mating attack...

17...f6 [17... ♖e8 leads to a materially lost endgame after 18. ♖xb6 ♖xe2 19. ♗h6+! An important intermediate check to cover the back rank. 19... ♖g8 20. ♖xb7 ♖xc2 21. ♖xb4+-; 17... ♗c6 18. ♗h6+ ♖g8 White has many tempting options here, but the strongest is the subtle 19. ♖ad1! followed by

R1d3-d3. There is no adequate defence against it, because the b6 knight is always hanging if Black tries to drive his other knight to g6. (On the direct 19.♖d3 Black could defend with 19...♘e5) 19...♖e8 20.♖1d3 ♘e5 21.♖g3+ ♘g6 22.♖xb6 ♖xe2 23.♔f1!+- wins.; 17...♘d5 18.♙h6+ ♔g8 19.♙f3+- wins.; 17...♘c8 is refuted by 18.♙h6+ ♔g8 19.♖d4 ♘e7 20.♖e1! Bringing a new attacker to e8! 20...♘bc6 21.♖xd7 ♙c8 22.♖c7+- Bc4 next. Black is totally paralyzed.]

18.♖xb6 White ended up with an extra pawn and a superior position.

18...♖e8 19.♙e3 ♙e4 20.♖xb4 ♙xc2 Besides the material advantage, the bishop pair starts to work and the danger around the black king is not over yet... Everything is basically winning, but Ganguly finishes the game in style!

21.♖c1 ♙f5 22.♖f4! ♙e6 [22...♙g6 23.♖c7+- is also hopeless.]

23.♙d4 ♖f8 24.♖c3! Black resigned as he has no defence against Rg3! What a game! **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Navara, D(2700)-Duda, J(2563)

European Championship, 2014.03.04

1. +-



(6) Palac, M(2561)-Inarkiev, E(2698)

European Championship, 2014.03.04

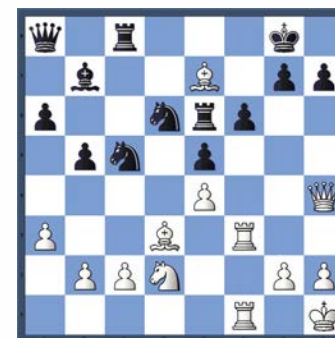
1... -+



(7) Cheparinov, I(2681)-Dzagnidze, N(2546)

European Championship, 2014.03.04

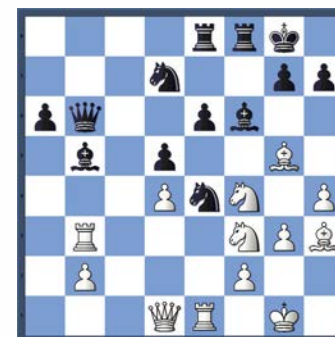
1. +-



(8) Pashikian, A(2612)-Firat, B(2480)

European Championship, 2014.03.04

1. ±



(9) Hovhanissyan, R(2611)-Nadanian, A(2399)

European Championship, 2014.03.04

1. +-



(10) Kravtsiv, M(2601)-Jessel, S(2334)

Cappelle la Grande Open, 2014.03.01

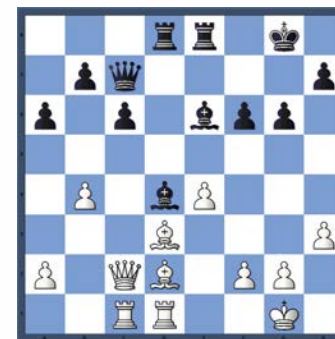
1. +-



(11) Ruecker, B(2265)-Jovanic, O(2526)

Capelle la Grande Open, 2014.03.01

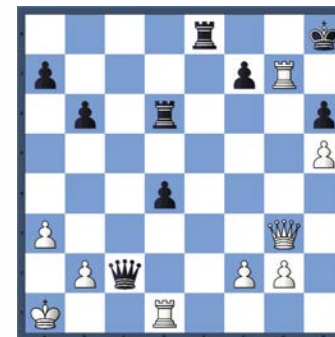
1... -+



(12) Beeke, B(2254)-Ikonnikov, V(2580)

Noteboom Open, 2014.02.28

1. +-



(13) Solodvnichenko, Y(2586)-Loiseau, Q(2394)

Rochefort Open, 2014.02.25

1. +-



(14) Antoli Royo, J(2413)-Dumitrache, D(2453)

Rochefort Open, 2014.02.25

1. +-



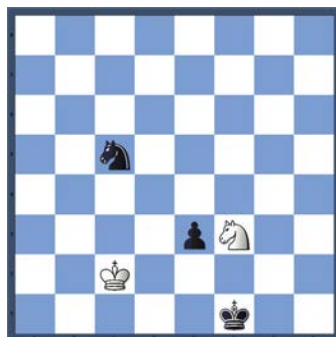
Endgame section

(15) Fedoseev, Vladimir(2641)
- Wojtaszek, Radoslaw(2713)

15th ch-EUR Indiv 2014(6.3),
2014.03.08



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



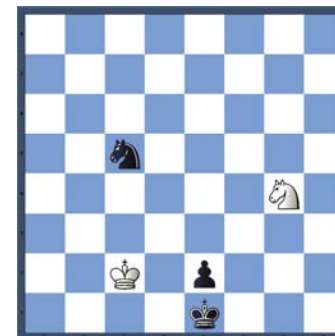
Black was totally winning before, but he gave White chances to reach this knight endgame. Is the position winning or a draw?!

66...e2 67.♖h2+ The only move to fight for survival. [67.♔d2 is immediately losing to 67...♜f2 68.♘e1 ♘e4+]

67...♜f2 [67...♜e1 would lead to about the same position as in the game, just saving us some moves.]

68.♘g4+ ♜f1 I guess Wojtaszek was repeating moves to gain some time because of the 30 seconds increment per move.

69.♘e3+ ♜f2 70.♘g4+ ♜e1 So the king is finally on e1 and it is now time for Black to get a better place for the knight.



71.♘e3 White is driving the knight to c2.

71...♘e6 Wojtaszek also finds the right idea. The black knight has to go to g2.

72.♜c3 ♘f4 73.♘c2+ ♜f2 74.♜d4 ♜f1 75.♜e4 ♘g2 76.♜d4 So the first step of Black's winning idea is done, the knight is on g2 and can chase the white knight from c2 at any moment by playing Ne1.

76...♘e1 [Black cannot achieve playing Ne1 with "comfort": 76...♜f2 77.♜e4 ♘e1?? 78.♘d4 followed by Nxe2 with a draw.]

77.♘e3+ ♜g1 Now Nf3 followed by e1Q is a threat.

78.♜e4 Fedoseev is fighting the best he can!

78...♘f3 This move is also winning.

79.♘c2 ♜f2 The black king finally got to f2, but how to win the game is still a question.

80.♜d5 The only move. [80.♜f4 80...♘d4 wins for Black.]

80...♘d2 Black wants to play Nb1-Na3 or Nb3-Na1. There is no defence for White.

81.♘b4 A last trick...

81...♔f1



82.♘c2 [82.♘d3 82...♘b3 followed by Nc1 next is winning.]

82...♘b3 And the game is over. White cannot do anything against Na1 next.

83.♘e3+ ♕f2 84.♘c2 ♘a1 85.♘b4 The last chance.

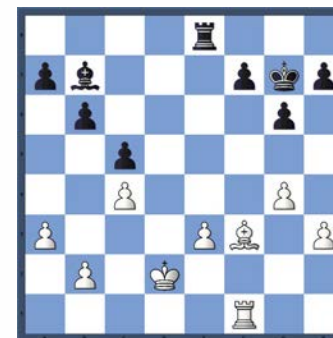
85...♕e3 But Wojtaszek of course avoids White's little trap. The rule of such an endgame is that positions are usually all winning when the black pawn comes to the second rank. Even if the position might be a draw, it is very hard to defend in practice! 0-1

(16) Simonian, Tigran(2425)
- Navara, David(2700)

European Championship,
2014.03.03



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



It seems like the game should end in a draw soon, but Navara finds a very clever idea to test his opponent's resistance a bit longer. The symbolic advantage of the isolated pawn is insufficient for the win, as Black doesn't have enough pieces left to make use of it.

26...♖d8+! At first sight this is just a harmless check, but White has to decide in which direction to go.

27.♕c2?! An inaccuracy. White does not feel the danger. [27.♕e2 would have been more circumspect to have full control over the kingside. 27...♘xf3+ (27...♘a6 28.♖c1 If White does not blunder the Bd5 Rxd5 trick, the game should end in draw.) 28.♖xf3 ♖d6 29.♖f1 and White does not need to worry about Rf6, because after Rd1 he controls all the squares on the f-file.]

27...♙xf3 28.♖xf3



28...♖d6! This was Navara's point with the check on d8. He is threatening to transpose into a winning pawn endgame after Rf6 and it is difficult to avoid the trades as otherwise Black penetrates on the f-file with his rook. The game is still drawn, but White already needs to be very careful.

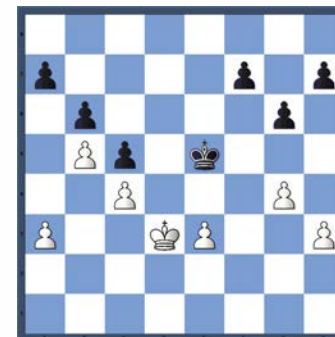
29.b4! White tries to create counterplay! In general in rook endgames both sides should aim for activity. [29.g5 to prevent Rf6 is a mistake. Black gets excellent winning chances after 29...f6! 30.h4 is met by (30.gxf6+ 30...♖xf6 31.♖g3 (31.♖xf6 is hopeless as 31...♙xf6 32.♙d3



32...♙e5—+ leads to the classical pawn endgame where Black easily wins with his distant passed pawn on the kingside. g5-h5-g4 is coming next, trading the g-pawn for the e3 and the black king will be closer to collect all the queenside pawns.)

31...♖f2+ 32.♙c3 ♙f6 33.b4 ♙f5+ With such a passive rook on g3, White can hardly hold. Black starts to create his passed pawn with g5-h5.) 30...h6! Black tries to improve his pawn structure. 31.gxf6+ (31.gxf6+ 31...♖xf6 leads to the same stories as in the 30.gxf6 lines.) 31...♙xh6 Kh5 is coming next and Black should win.; White cannot avoid the trade with 29.♖f2? 29...♖f6 30.♖d2 ♖f3 Black takes too many pawns.]

29...♖f6 30.♖f4! Another great defensive move! White is ready to trade rooks, but only with the improvement of his pawn structure. [30.♖xf6 30...♙xf6 wins for Black. 31.♙d3 (31.♙b3 leads to the same as in the game. Black wins after 31...♙e5 32.bxc5 bxc5 33.♙a4 f5! And even with a tempo less, (in the game the black pawn was on g5) Black wins. 34.gxf5 g5!—+ followed by h5-g4. Black is faster.) 31...♙e5 32.b5 Black is able to create a distant passed pawn again and easily wins the game.



32...g5 33.♙d2 ♙e4 34.♙e2 f5! 35.gxf5 ♙xf5 36.♙f3 h5—+ is over.]

30...g5! [After 30...♖xf4 31.exf4 Black cannot activate his king.]

31.♖xf6?? This is a terrible blunder. White probably overlooked his opponent's breaking through idea. [31.♖e4! White should have kept the rooks on the board. 31...♖f3 White's counterplay now comes in time with (31...cxb4 is a

mistake, because White creates a c-passed pawn much more easily. 32.*axb4* ♖f3 33.c5) 32.bxc5 bxc5 33.♗e5! Here we could have seen the fruits of the excellent defensive moves b4 (to create a target on c5) and Rf4 (to provoke another target on g5). 33...♙g6 34.♙d3 ♖xh3 35.♗xc5 Black cannot mobilize his kingside because of the strong blockader on g4, while going for capturing it takes too much time. 35...♗g3 White has several ways to hold the draw. For instance 36.♗b5 ♖xg4 37.c5 ♖g1 38.♙d2 and the c-pawn is running too fast. Black is forced to make a draw by repetition. 38...♗g2+ 39.♙d3 ♖g1=]

31...♙xf6 32.bxc5 bxc5 33.♙b3 [33.♙d3 33...♙e5—+ wins as it was shown in the 30.Rxf6 line.]

33...♙e5



34.♙a4 Perhaps White only calculated the pawn race if Black goes for the e3 pawn and in the same time White captures the c5, but actually Black does not need to be greedy and he is able to create a passed pawn.

34...f5! 35.gxf5 h5 0-1

Clash of the Titans

(17) Tal, Mihail
- Spassky, Boris Vasilievich [C95]

Tilburg, 1980



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.O-O ♙e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♙b3 d6 8.c3 O-O 9.h3 ♘b8 The very popular and solid Breyer System.

10.d4 ♘bd7 11.♘bd2 ♙b7 12.♙c2 ♖e8 13.♘f1 ♙f8 14.♘g3 g6 Both sides follow the typical plans.



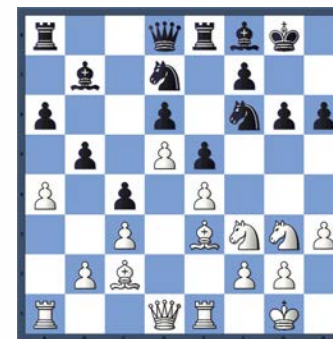
15.a4 A thematic move. White going to take space on the queenside. [15.b3 15...♙g7 (15...d5 Sometimes this idea equalizes the position in the center. 16.♙g5 h6 17.♙h4 g5 18.♘xg5 hxg5 19.♙xg5 exd4 20.e5 ♖xe5 21.♖xe5 ♘xe5 22.cxd4→ With initiative.) 16.d5 White is ready for this move now because after 16...c6 White has 17.c4 and he will keep a long-term advantage as he has more space and there are bad bishops on b7 and g7.; 15.♙g5]

15...c5 [15...exd4 16.cxd4 c5 17.d5 c4 18.♙e3+=; 15...c6 looks very solid. Black's plan is Bg7-Nf8-Qc7-Ne6.]

16.d5 c4 17.♙g5 White is provoking Black to weaken his position.

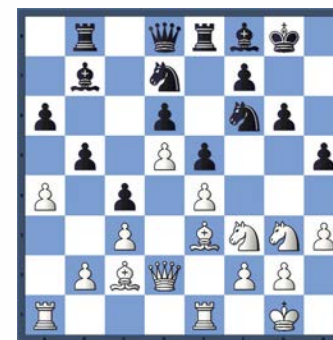
17...h6 [17...♙e7 is more solid as Black keeps the h7 pawn to avoid tactical threats in the future.]

18.♙e3



18...♖b8? This move played by a strong player is hard to explain. Black does not want to fight for the a-file and simply loses time as well. [18...♘c5 19.♖d2 (19.♙xc5 19...dxc5 Black should be fine here.) 19...h5 20.♘g5 With the same idea like in the game: White is preparing to put pressure with the f4 move. (20.♙g5 20...♙e7∞) 20...♘fd7 21.♙h1 with Rf1-f4 next.]

19.♖d2 h5



20.♘g5 Tal is playing in his style, he is going to pressure the

black king after f4. White also had the alternative of playing on the queenside. [20.axb5 20...axb5 21.♖a7 ♜c7 22.♞ea1 ♜a8 And here Black has chances to exchange both rooks, which would help him to equalize.; 20.♞eb1 20...♜c7 21.axb5 axb5 22.b3+= And it is not clear if Black can manage to improve his pieces in time after the typical Nc5-Bc8-Bd7 plan.]

20...♞h7 looks logical to exchange the active knight.

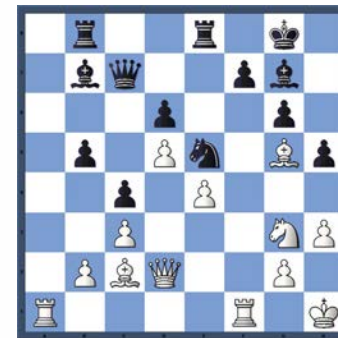
21.♞xh7 ♜xh7 22.♞f1 ♞g8 23.♞h1 ♞g7 24.axb5 axb5



25.f4↑ White is going to put pressure on the kingside but on the other hand the black pieces will get activity over the e5 square and a1-h8 diagonal.

25...exf4 26.♞xf4 ♜e7

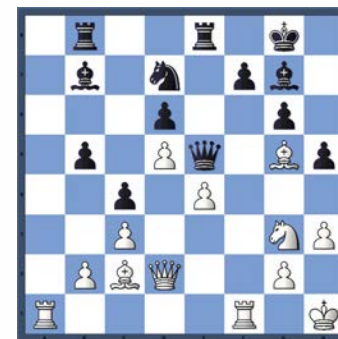
[26...♞e5 27.♞g5 ♜c7 (27...f6 28.♞h6 White has some options to improve his position: put pressure on the f-file, create some tactical idea on h5 or transfer the knight to d4. Black should fight for the a-file and improve his bishop by playing Bc8-Bd7.)



28.♞d1! And now we see the disadvantage of the pawn on h5! With the pawn on h7 the black position would be fine. 28...♞a8 29.♞xa8 ♞xa8 30.♞xh5 gxh5 31.♞xh5± With a decisive attack.; 26...♞e5 27.♞f3 With Raf1 next and after the bishops exchange the dark squares around the king will be weak.]

27.♞g5 ♜e5 The queen is not the best piece to use the e5 square... [27...f6]

28.♞f4 ♜e7 29.♞g5 ♜e5



30.♞f3! Soon all white pieces will be ready for the final action.

30...♞a8 Black should be looking for counterplay but it is already too late. [30...b4 31.♞af1 b3 32.♞b1 (32.♞xf7 32...♞xg3 33.♞f4 ♜h4 34.♞g5= With only a draw;]

32.♙d1 leads to inhuman tactical play: 32...♘c5 33.♖xf7 ♜xg3 34.♖xg7+ ♚xg7 35.♜d4+ ♜e5 36.♙f4 ♘xe4 37.♙g1 ♙xd5 (37...♜d3 38.♙xe5+ ♙h6 39.♙f4+ g5 40.♜xd3 cxd3 41.♙xd6+=) 38.♙xg3 ♘xg3 39.♖e1 ♜e8∞) 32...f6 33.♙f4 ♜e7



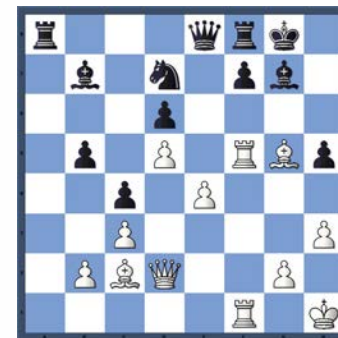
34.e5! A nice move which gives the white pieces great activity. 34...dxe5 35.♙xg6 exf4 36.♘f5 ♜e2 37.♜xf4 ♙xd5 38.♖g3→And Black should not survive here.]

31.♖af1 ♜f8[31...f6 32.♙f4 ♜e7 33.e5→With the same idea as in the previous comment.]



32.♘xh5! White starts the final action! [32.♘f5 32...gxh5 33.♖xf5 transposes to the game.]

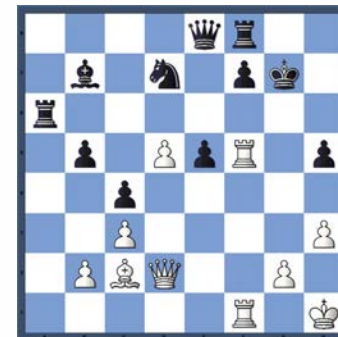
32...gxh5 33.♖f5 ♜e8



34.e5! Activating the c2 bishop.

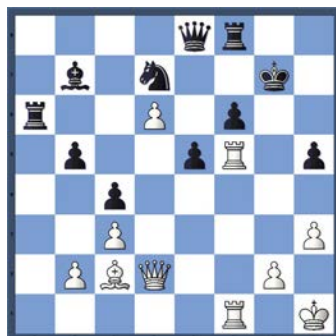
34...dxe5 35.♙h6 Exchanging the defender.

35...♖a6 36.♙xg7 ♙xg7



37.d6! Cutting the black rook. [37.♖xh5 is also winning. 37...♖h8 38.♜g5+ ♜g6 39.♙xg6 fxg6 40.♖xh8 ♙xh8 41.d6+- With Qe7 next.]

37...f6



38.♖g5+! +— Tal certainly saw this idea many moves ahead!

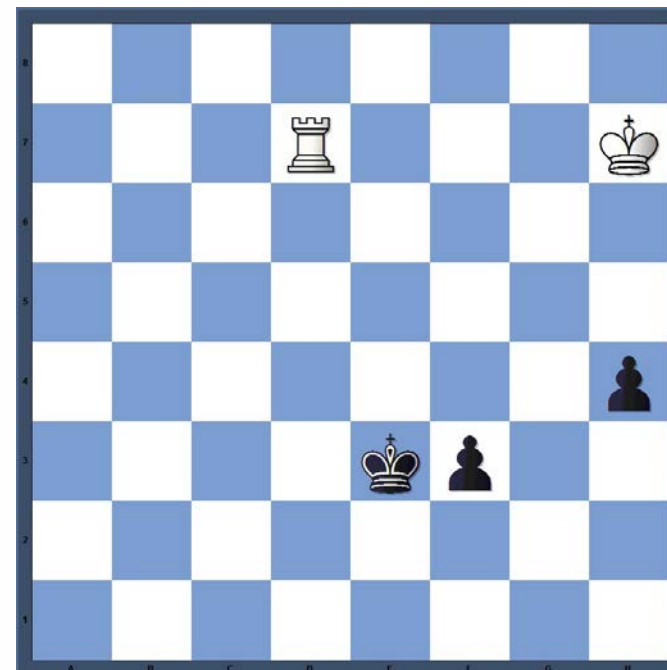
38...♔f7 [38...fxg5 39.♖xg5+ ♔h8 40.♖h6+ ♔g8 41.♖h7#; 38...♔h8 39.♖g3 Followed by mate on h6.]

39.♘g6+ ♔e6 40.♘f5+ ♔f7 41.♖d1 ♖h8 42.♘g6+ ♔e6 43.♘xe8 ♖xe8 44.♖xh5 ♖d8 45.♖g7 ♔xd6 46.♖f7 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Chekhover

1. =



Solutions

(19) Landa, K(2640)-Maze, S(2550)

German league, 2014.02.22



49. ♖xg6! ♔xg6 [49... ♖xg6 50. ♗f5+--]

50. ♖d3+! ♔xg5 51. h4+! 1-0 [51. h4+ 51... ♔h6 (51... ♔xh4 52. ♗f5+ (52. ♗e4) 52... ♔g5 53. ♖g3+ ♔f6 54. ♗e3#) 52. ♗f5+ ♔h7 53. ♗xd6+--]

(20) Naiditsch, A(2724)-Nikolic, P(2620)

German league, 2014.02.22



21. ♕h7+! ♔f8 22. ♖hx6! ♖xg5 23. ♗xg5 fxe6 24. ♗xe6+ ♔f7 25. ♗xd8+ ♖xd8 26. ♕d3±

(21) Nielsen, P(2649)-Hobusch, J(2080)

German league, 2014.02.22

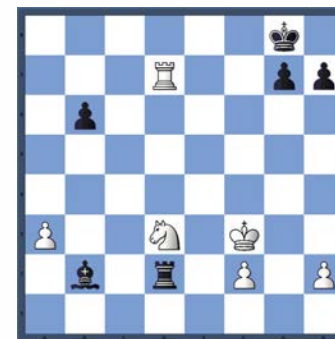


42. ♖xg7! ♖xd4 [42... ♗xe4 43. ♖xh6+--; 42... ♔xg7 43. ♖g4+ ♔h7 44. ♕d3+--]

43. ♖xh6 ♖xc5 44. ♖g5 1-0

(22) Acs, P(2570)-Schneider, I(2514)

German league, 2014.02.22



37. ♖d8+! 1-0 [37. ♖d8+ 37... ♔f7 38. ♗e5+ ♕xe5 39. ♖xd2+--]

(23) Fedorovsky, M(2385)-Muse, D(2408)

German league, 2014.02.22



37. ♖e6+! ♔g8 [37...fxe6 38. ♕h6+ ♔g8 39. ♕h8#]
38. ♖h8+! 1-0 [38. ♖h8+ 38...♔xh8 39. ♕h6+ ♔g8 40. ♕g7#]

(24) Hector, J(2503)-Heinemann, T(2461)

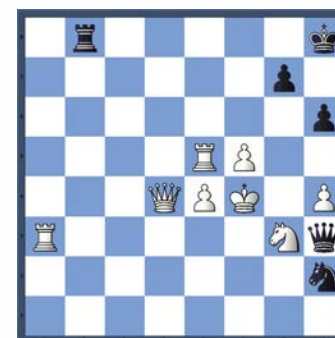
German league, 2014.02.22



44... ♖xe4!! 45. ♕xe4 ♕xe4+ 46. ♕xe4 [46. ♔a1 46... ♕xa3#;
46. ♔c1 46... ♕g5+ 47. ♔d1 ♕d4+ 48. ♔e1 ♕d3—+]
46... ♕f2! 47. ♔c1 ♕xb2+ 48. ♔d1 ♕a1+ 49. ♔e2 ♕xh1—+

(25) Murdzia, P(2449)-Feygin, M(2512)

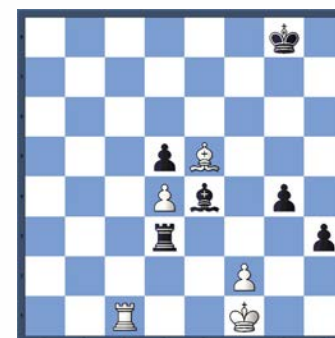
German league, 2014.02.23



50. ♕g1?? [50. ♖e8+!! 50... ♖xe8 51. ♕xg7+!! ♔xg7 52. ♖h5+ ♔f7 53. ♖xh3+—]
50... ♕g4+ 51. ♔e3 ♕f3+ 52. ♔d4 ♕xa3—+

(26) Richter, M(2473)-Acs, P(2570)

German league, 2014.02.23



67...g3! 0-1 [67...g3 68. ♕xg3 (68.fxg3 68...h2—+) 68... ♖xg3!
69.fxg3 h2—+]

(27) Thiede, L(2450)-Reich, T(2386)

German league, 2014.02.23



26...♖xh3! 27.♜xf4 [27.♜xg5 27...♘e2#; 27.♙xh3 27...♘xh3+ 28.♙h2 ♜xg4—+]]

27...♜xf4 28.♙xh3 ♜xc4—+

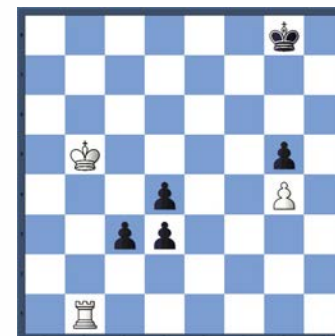
(28) Nyback, T(2599)-Spoelman, W(2578)

German league, 2014.02.23



21.♘xb6!! ♔d8+— [21...axb6 22.♖a8+ ♔e7 23.♙d6#; 21...♘xb6 22.cxb6 axb6 23.♙d6+—]]

(29) Weenink



1.♙c6! d2 [1...c2 2.♖e1!! d2 3.♖e8+ ♙f7 4.♙d7!]=]

2.♙d7!! c2 3.♖b8+ ♙f7 4.♖e8!! d1=♜ 5.♖e7+ ♙f6 6.♖e6+=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 107

14th of March 2014

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Editorial Preface

And the European Individual Champion is Alexander Motylev!!! The Russian played a really amazing tournament, scoring 9/11 points and landing a clear point ahead of the 2nd place. He is probably on his way to Khanty Mansisk right now to help Karjakin, whose second he has already been for many years.

The 2nd place was shared by 8 players with a score of 8/11. The best one on tiebreak happened to be Anton Guijarro David, a relatively unknown young player from Spain with a rating of 2559 and Vladimir Fedoseev, a young player from Russia with a rating of 2641, came 3rd.

Some other excellent news is that Csaba qualified for the World Cup, finishing with 7.5/11!

The Candidates Tournament in Khanty Mansisk has begun with a big surprise in the first round, as Anand very easily beat Aronian with the white pieces. Who would have expected this after Aronian recently played his best chess in years, while Anand played "modestly" to say the least during the last few years.

Kramnik also seems to be in good shape as he won a great game against Karjakin (you will find this game annotated in this issue). Peter Svidler continues playing very good chess and is on 1.5/2.

With every round the tournament is going to become more and more exciting, so for your next issue you can be sure to find great games by the world's best chess players!

Once again we also want to apologize that this issue came with a delay of a few days, but your commentators were very busy playing themselves.

We promise to be on time with the next issue! :)

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

**(1) Motylev, Alexander(2656)
- Riazantsev, Alexander(2689) [B11]**

15th ch-EUR Indiv 2014(6.1),
2014.03.08



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

We will now examine the first board encounter of the 6th round. These two players were leading the field with 4.5 points out of 5 games. After this fine victory Alexander Motylev, Karjakin's second, took the sole lead of the tournament.

1.e4 c6 2.♘c3 d5 3.♘f3 Recently this setup became a very popular weapon against the Caro-Kann defence.

3...♗g4 4.h3 ♗xf3 5.♔xf3 Giving up the bishop pair is the main line, but it cannot guarantee full equality for Black. Black has some alternatives, but those also lead to slightly unpleasant positions.

5...e6 Black tries to keep the position closed to make the two bishops less effective.

6.d3 [6.d4!? is a very serious alternative for White, played by many top players nowadays.]

6...♘f6 At the moment it is not obvious how Black should develop his minor pieces. The text move is the main, but Black has Nd7, followed by Bd6 or Bc5 and Ne7 as well.



7.♘d2 This is the point of the d3 setup. White would like to play 0-0-0 and g4-g5, while in the 6.d4 line, he is rather opting for a calm game with Bd3 and 0-0. White can fight for an advantage in both lines.

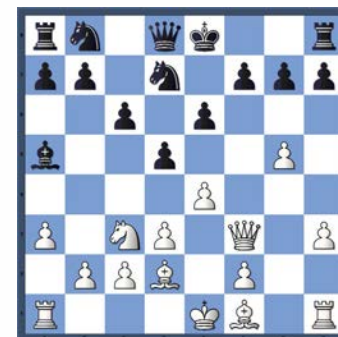
7...♙d6?! I don't like this move, especially in view of what is coming next. [7...♙b4 directly was possible. 8.a3 ♘a5 9.e5 d4!? (9...♞fd7 10.♞g3 looks good for White.) 10.exf6 dxc3 11.bxc3 ♞xf6 12.♞xf6 gxf6 With a slightly better endgame for White.]

8.g4 ♙b4 This is the novelty, hardly a prepared one. It is a bit dubious to play Bb4 in two moves. Black could have played useful developing moves instead.

9.a3 ♙a5 The following two moves for White are standard reactions in this variation.

10.g5! [Black's idea behind losing a tempo is clear. Now after 10.e5 10...d4 11.exf6 dxc3 12.bxc3 ♞xf6 13.♞xf6 gxf6 the pawn on g4 is a weakening. It would be much better placed on g3 to avoid having holes in the structure. Black can also find his counterplay with h5 later. But the game's continuation is just much stronger.]

10...♞fd7



11.d4! After sending away the knight from attacking the e4 square, White occupies the most important central squares and also prevents Black from locking the position with d4. Now he has a very easy game with 0-0-0 and h4-h5-g6. White can hardly hope for more in this opening. It is a bit strange that such a well prepared player and Caro-Kann expert like Riazantsev ended up in such a bad position after only 11 moves.

11...0-0 12.0-0-0 Black also has problems with the placement of his knights. He is lacking space to find adequate squares for them. Therefore Black tries to explode the center, but the white pieces are much better prepared for the opening of the position.

12...e5 13.dxe5 d4 [Black would quickly collapse in the center after 13...♞xe5 14.♞g3 ♞e8 15.exd5 cxd5 16.♙g2! d4 17.♙xb7 dxc3 18.♙xc3+--]

14.♞e2 ♙xd2+ 15.♞xd2 ♞xg5 16.♞xd4! [At first sight it would have been tempting to include 16.♞g1 with tempo, but Black also has an intermediate move: 16...♞xe5!]

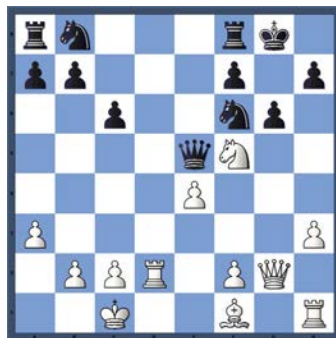
16...♞xe5 [16...♞xe5 looked much more logical, but the problem is that the knight does not have an outpost on e5. 17.♞f5! ♞xf5 18.♞xf5± And Black cannot finish the

development, because Nbd7 runs into f4. Otherwise White has an easy plan, Be2, Rhd1 and penetrate on the d-file. Sometimes Nd6 is very unpleasant. Black has serious problems due to his b8 knight.]

17. ♖f5 ♘f6 This was Riazan tsev's plan, on f6 the knight is more stable and now he could finish the development with Nbd7 and Rad8. Therefore White has to play energetically to achieve something before Black accomplishes his plan.

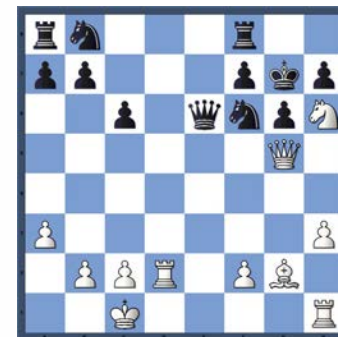
18. ♔g2 [18. ♘c4! looked even stronger in view of the following lines: 18... ♘bd7 (18... ♔xe4 loses to 19. ♘h6+! gxh6 20. ♖g1+ ♔h8 21. ♔xf6#; 18... ♘xe4 19. ♖e2+-) 19. ♖g1 g6 20. ♘h6+ ♔g7 21. ♘xf7! wins material. 21... ♖xf7 22. ♘xf7 ♔xf7 23. ♖xd7+-]

18...g6



19. ♔g5! The most aggressive move. White creates many attacking ideas by pinning the black queen and Qh6 can also sometimes be decisive.

19...♖e8 [19... ♘bd7 was probably better, although after 20.f3 White's advantage is undisputable.; 19... ♔xe4 has a nice refutation: 20. ♘h6+ ♔g7 21. ♘g2 The queen needs to cover the f5 square otherwise Nf5 mates. 21... ♔e6 And now



22. ♖d6! this decisive deflection wins the game! 22... ♔xd6 23. ♘f5+-]

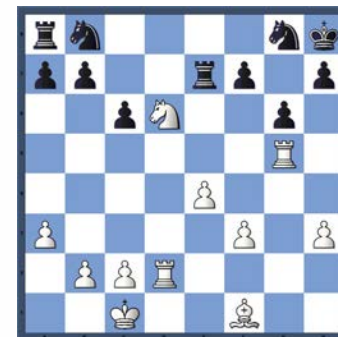
20.f3 ♔h8 Leaving from the annoying check on h6, but it does not solve the problems.

21. ♖g1! [There was a small trick, that White had to avoid 21. ♘h6 or 21.Nd6 21... ♔xg5 22. ♘xf7+ ♔g7 23. ♘xg5 h6 and the knight is trapped.]

21...♘g8 A desperate move, but Black was lost anyway. [21... ♘bd7 22. ♘c4 Black will soon collapse here too.]

22. ♘d6! ♔xg5 23. ♖xg5 [Now even 23. ♘xf7+!? was winning 23... ♔g7 24. ♘xg5 h6 The difference to 21.Nh6 is 25. ♖d8!! ♖xd8 26. ♘e6+ ♔f6 27. ♘xd8+-]

23...♖e7 [23... ♖f8 24. ♘xb7+- White is not only a pawn up, but the b8 knight is still hopeless.]



24.♖e5!! The decisive blow! Black cannot avoid losing material.

24...♖c7 [The f7 pawn could not be saved with 24...♔g7 because of 25.♖xe7 ♜xe7 26.♞e8+ ♚f8 27.♞c7+-; 24...f6 25.♖xe7 ♜xe7 26.♞xb7+- followed by Rd8 is also decisive.]

25.♖e8 Black is totally paralyzed. White wants to play Bc4.

25...b5 26.♞f5! [Black resigned in view of the Rxe8 and Rd8 mate threats: 26.♞f5 26...gxf5 27.♖g2+- An excellent game by Motylev!] **1-0**

(2) Jakovenko, Dmitry(2723) - Shimanov, Aleksandr(2649) [D45]

Yerevan ARM(5.4),
2014.03.07



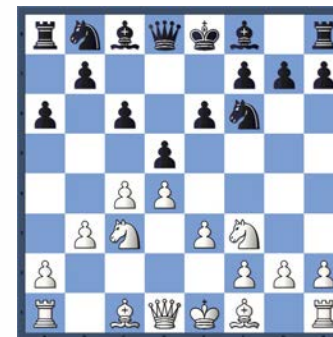
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♞f3 ♞f6 Jakovenko also plays the Slav defence with the black pieces. He is a big expert of this opening.

4.e3 a6 A day later, Jakovenko was facing the same opening but with the other color and he went for the line with 4...Bg4.

5.♞c3 e6 White can choose between at least 10 valuable continuations, but the most common setup was played in the game.

6.b3 With the idea to develop the bishop to d3 and to avoid losing a tempo on recapturing on c4, but taking back with the pawn. Also the c1 bishop would like to get fianchettoed, but Black has a clever move to fight against it.



6...♞b4! This forces White to put his bishop on d2 to neutralize the pin. Later the bishop goes back to d6 and the one on d2 will be slightly misplaced.

7.♞d2 O-O 8.♞d3 ♞bd7 9.O-O ♖e7 We are still just at the beginning of the theory... Here again White has a wide range

of choices.

10. ♖c2 After a few more natural developing moves, such as Rad1 and Rfe1, sometimes even h3, White would like to open the position with e4. With his last move, White has created the positional threat of Ne5! followed by f4. Black should meet this threat with Nxe5 dxe5 Nd7 and f6 undermining next, but now the h7 pawn is hanging.

10...e5 Black himself opens the center, but this leads to a game with an isolated pawn on d5. He is hoping for active piece play to compensate his weakness. [The other option for Black to parry the Ne5 threat is 10...h6 Shimanov has already played it a few years ago, but now he deviates...]

11.dxe5 ♜xe5 12. ♜xe5 ♚xe5 13.cxd5 cxd5



14. ♜e2! White follows the principle which says that the best blockader of an isolated pawn is the knight and he also drives a piece to the kingside to defend against the attacking ideas like Bd6 or Ng4.

14...♙d6! Black needs to keep his pieces to create counterplay for his isolated pawn. [14...♙xd2 15. ♚xd2 leads to a long-term suffering for Black. It is not much fun to defend such positions against a Russian player who plays in Karpovian style.]

15. ♜g3 ♚g5 With the idea of Qh4 and Ng4!

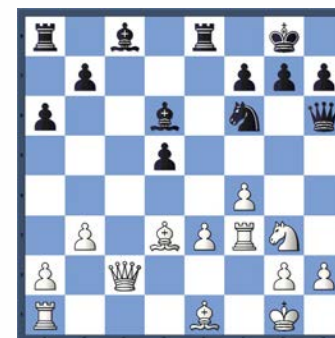
16.f4! [If White plays the most natural 16.♙c3 16...♜g4! is very strong because 17.♙xh7+ leads to Black's advantage after 17...♚h8 18.♙f5 ♜xh2! 19.♙xc8 (19.♚xh2 19...♙xf5+) 19...♜xf1+]]

16...♚h4 17.♚f3! We are still following some games. White would like to counter the Ng4 threat with the simple Nf1 and suddenly he is threatening with Rh3!

17...♚e8 [17...♙g4 is met by 18.♜f5! ♙xf5 19.♙xf5 The black queen is misplaced on h4. Rh3 is coming next. If it was on e7, he could play g6 followed by Ne4 with a comfortable game, but now he cannot achieve this.; 17...g6!? was played in the Cheparinov-Jakovenko blitz game in 2013, where Black eventually later won. Jakovenko has definitely studied this position deeply and he has his ideas how to play it for both sides. Shimanov tried to deviate from his well-prepared opponent.]

18.♙e1 [18.♜f5 18...♙xf5 19.♙xf5 ♜e4! is the point of Rfe8! 20.♚h3? does not work because of 20...♚f2+]]

18...♚h6



19.♙c3! This is the novelty! The 19th move! This shows well the situation chess nowadays... I am quite sure that Jakovenko had analyses over pages about this position and in the game we will see it's fruits. Black needs to react precisely

because White is threatening with Nf5 Bxf5 Bxf5 and g6 does not work as the f6 knight is hanging, otherwise the queen gets trapped after Rh3! [19.♖f5 happened in the previous games. 19...♙xf5 20.♙xf5 g6! 21.♖h3 ♖f8 Black succeeded to save his queen and he settled his knight on e4 and solved the opening problems.]

19...♖g4 [19...♙g4? is met by 20.♖f5! ♙xf5 21.♙xf5 Black has problems to deal with Rh3.; 19...♙c5! seems like the critical move! I wonder what Jakovenko's analysis could be because it seems to lead to a draw after 20.♙e5 (20.♖e1 20...d4! is just fine for Black! 21.♙b2 ♙b4)

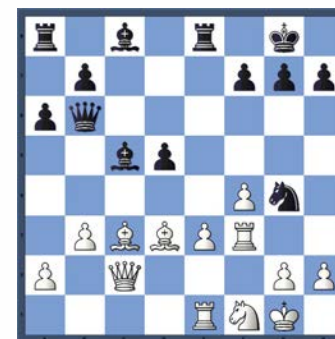


20...♙xe3+! 21.♖xe3 ♖g4 22.♙xh7+! is given as the only move by the machine (22.♖f1 is met by 22...♖xe3 23.♖xe3 ♖xe5! Nice tactics!) 22...♖xh7 (22...♙h8 has a nice refutation: 23.♙xg7+! ♙xg7 24.♖h5+! ♖xh5 25.♖h3+- trapping the queen!) 23.♖xh7+ ♙xh7 24.♖ee1 ♖xe5 25.fxe5 ♙e6 And Black should easily hold this endgame! Jakovenko probably knew all this and hoped that his opponent would lose the thread somewhere, which could of course very easily happen without a preparation.]

20.♖f1 ♙c5 Black must still try to create counterplay, but now White has

21.♖e1! [21.♖h3 is strongly met by 21...♖xe3! 22.♖xe3 (22.♖xh6 22...♖e2+ 23.♙h1 ♖f2+ 24.♙g1 ♖xd3+ 25.♙h1 ♖xc2+-) 22...♙xe3+ 23.♙h1 (23.♙f1 23...♖xh2+-+ and Bxh3 next.) 23...♖f2+ 24.♖xf2 ♙xf2 25.♖xh6 gxh6=+]

21...♖b6 [In comparison to the 19...Bc5 line 21...d4 22.♙b2 ♙b4 is met by 23.♖h3! and the knight on g4 blocks the c8 bishop!]



22.b4!? A clever practical decision as this leads to a better endgame after a forced line. [The computer gives 22.♙xh7+! as an even stronger move. 22...♙f8 (22...♙h8 23.♖h3 ♖h6 24.♖g3 d4 25.♙b2± With a big advantage, but of course to the human mind this is just very unclear.) 23.♖b2! d4 24.exd4 ♖xe1 25.dxc5 ♖xc5+ 26.♙h1 And both the e1 and g7 pawns are hanging. White is winning, but of course it is very difficult to play like this over the board.]

22...♙xe3+ [22...♙xb4? is elegantly refuted by 23.♖a4! with a double attack!]

23.♖xe3 ♖xe3 24.♖f2! All black pieces are pinned, but the game goes on after the following only move:

24...d4! 25.♙xd4 ♖xd4 26.♖fxe3

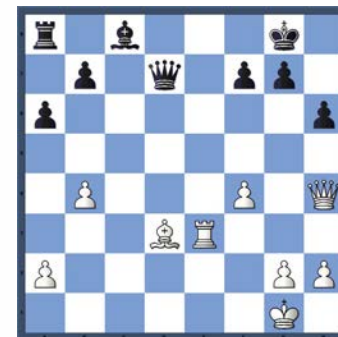


26...♖xe3 [26...♖e6!! was the extremely difficult only move. 27.f5 (27.♙xh7+ is not enough here: 27...♚xh7 28.♖h3+ ♔g8 29.♙xd4 ♖xe1+ 30.♚f2 ♙xh3 31.♚xe1 ♙xg2= Followed by Bc6 and Re8 with a perfect fortress for Black. He has no weakness. Despite his material advantage, White has no winning chance here.) 27...♖xe3 28.♖xe3 ♙d8 29.f6 (29.♙h4 makes no sense now because the h7 pawn is not hanging. 29...♙b6) 29...g6 30.♙c4+= White continues pressing, but Black also has his resources. 30...♙f5 31.♖e7 ♙d1+; 26...♖f8 loses to 27.♙xh7+! ♚xh7 28.♖h3+ ♙xh3 29.♙xd4+-]

27.♖xe3 ♙d7 An ugly move, but Black had no other option to cover the back rank and to leave the pin between the two queens. [27...♙d8 would have been met by 28.♙h4!!+- This was Jakovenko's point, which he had foreseen before playing 22.b4. White wins!]

28.♙h4! Weakening the kingside in order to launch a decisive attack before Black succeeds to finish the development. [28.♙e2 could have been met by 28...♙d4 and Bd7 saves the back rank.]

28...h6 [28...g6 29.f5+- is over for Black.]

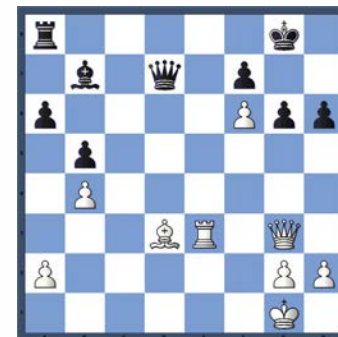


29.f5! There is no time to waste! f6 is coming next.

29...b5 [29...f6 30.♙c4+ ♚f8 (30...♚h7 31.♙h5! is decisive! Qg6 and Re8 is coming next. 31...♙xf5 32.♙d3!+- is an important detail!) 31.♙e4+- also looks quite hopeless.]

30.f6 ♙b7 Here comes the moment where White needs to finish the game. Jakovenko finds the most direct way to do it:

31.♙g3 g6 [31...g5 32.h4! ♙d5 And here the most precise is 33.♚h2!+- leaving from the d1 check and Black cannot prevent the Be4 threat after which the g5 falls and Black gets mated.]



32.♙xg6! ♚h8 A last trick to get counterplay on the g-file, but after White's cold-blooded reaction Black gets mated. [32...fxg6 leads to a hopeless endgame: 33.♙xg6+ ♚h8 34.♙xh6+ ♙h7 35.♙xh7+ ♚xh7 36.♖e7+ ♚g6 37.♖xb7+-]

33.♘d3! ♖g8 34.♗h4! ♜xg2+ 35.♕f1 There was only one check and Black cannot defend against Qxh6! An excellent game! **1-0**

**(3) Kramnik, Vladimir(2787)
- Karjakin, Sergey(2766) [D20]**

FIDE Candidates 2014(2.4),
2014.03.14



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Could it be the last chance that Kramnik to take on the World Championship title?! For over 20 years Vladimir has been one of the best players in the world, he has won everything possible, and we all remember that he was the only person beating Kasparov in a WCC Match! Before the Candidates, Kramnik even rejected to play in the Zurich super tournament to be in a perfect shape. And he is, as with another novelty Kramnik puts big problems to Karjakin, who didn't find any way to save the game

1.d4 d5 Karjakin said in his interview that he was preparing for a month with 4 trainers and here he opens with the Queen's Gambit, an opening he rarely played before.

2.c4 dxc4 And we have the Queen's Gambit accepted.

3.e4 Kramnik chooses the most aggressive line.

3...♘f6 [Another main line is 3...e5 4.♘f3 exd4 5.♘xc4]

4.e5 ♘d5 5.♘xc4 So far there is of course nothing new. From the structure we can see that White has a slight space advantage, but Black is dominating on the white squares.

5...♘b6 6.♘d3 is one of the most popular lines at the moment.

6...♘c6 Black is aiming for a blockade on the d5 square.

7. ♖e3 ♜b4 8. ♖e4 f5 This move is nothing new either. In 2012 Karjakin already played a blitz game against Ding Liren, who continued with the main move 9.exf6.



9. a3!? N A very interesting and probably strong novelty. [The main line goes 9.exf6 9...exf6 10. ♜c3 f5 11. ♖b1 ♜d4d5 with a complicated position.]

9...fxe4 Black accepts the challenge, but his position is getting very dangerous. [Another very logical reply is 9...♜4d5 and now White has quite some moves, but probably an idea could be to play 10. ♖xd5 It looks a bit strange to give up such a nice bishop, but Black is very slow with development. 10...♜xd5 11. ♜e2 followed by Nbc3. It is hard to say if White is really better here, but we can be sure that Kramnik's analyses are very deep, so I guess Karjakin would have had a tough time playing against an human+engine mutant! :)]

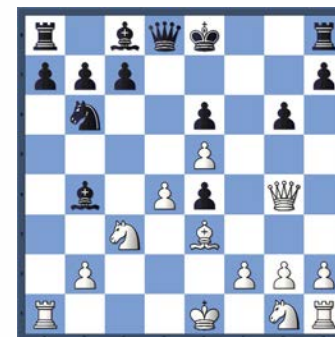
10. axb4 What a strange position, which is very hard for evaluation. Black's pawn structure is very bad, but on the other hand he has control over the light squares and the bishop pair... The position is very dynamic.

10...e6 A very logical move. [After 10...♖f5 11. ♜e2 e6 12. b5 followed by Nbc3 and short castle, I think that White's position somehow looks nice.]

11. ♜c3 White doesn't even try to save the pawn and plays for the initiative, and we can be sure that this was nothing new to Kramnik...

11...♖xb4 12. ♖h5+! A very strong and important move. Before attacking the e4 pawn, White tries to weaken Black's pawn structure as much as possible on the dark squares. [To play 12. ♖g4 with a double attack on e4 and g7 12...O-O 13. ♜e2 would have been another option, but I think that White doesn't have anything special after the simple 13...♖d7]

12...g6 13. ♖g4 Now Black is not in time anymore to castle kingside.



13...♖xc3+ A very human move, but it seems like after this logical move Black is just doing badly. [After 13...O-O 14. ♜e2 ♖d7 15. O-O White keeps the very important option of playing Bg5-Bf6 next.; The best try might have been 13...♜c4 14. ♜e2 ♜xe3 15. fxe3 O-O but after 16. ♜g3 White's position also looks clearly better.]

14. bxc3 ♖d5 Karjakin continues his strategy to play on the light squares and Black's a-pawn could also be very dangerous, but the only problem is that Black is not in time!

15. ♜e2 ♖d7 16. O-O White castles before deciding whether to play Nf4 or Ng3.

16...♖c4 Black cannot protect the e4 pawn. [After the logical 16...a5 17.♘g3! is very strong. 17...♙c6



18.♗xe4! And the game is over... 18...♖xe4 19.♖xe6+ ♔f8 20.♙h6# What a beautiful mate!]

17.♗g3 ♙c6 Black's hope is to exchange the bishop against the white knight, but that is just a dream...

18.♖a5! A very nice move! White continues his rush and Rc5 next looks pretty deadly.

18...O-O-O! A very good practical decision. [After 18...O-O 19.h4 White's attack should be deadly.]

19.♖c5 Kramnik is going for the e6 pawn. [Playing 19.♖xa7 19...♙b8 20.♖a3 was probably quite tempting, but somehow Blacks is still holding on the light squares, although White should be much better.]

19...♖b3 20.c4 ♔b8 Karjakin continues defending very well. [20...♖he8 was losing on the spot: 21.d5 ♙d7 22.d6! ♙c6 23.♗xe4 With a totally winning position for White.]

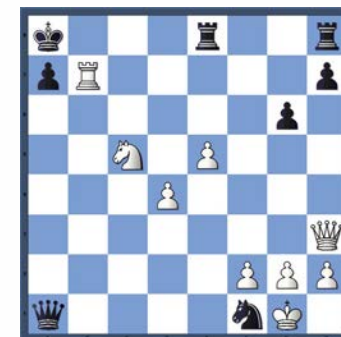
21.♖xe6 ♖de8 Black needs to go for the c4 pawn, as in case White was in time to play d5 the game would be instantly over.

22.♖h3 ♗xc4 The position remains quite sharp.



23.♖xc6! This move had of course been planned for a couple of moves already, but it is still a very nice one. By sacrificing an exchange White is totally destroying Black's pawn structure and the white knight is getting a perfect position on c5. But of course all this required very precise calculation.

23...bxc6 [23...♗xe3 doesn't seem to work: 24.♗xe4 ♖a4 (24...♖d5 25.♖c5 ♖xe4 26.fxe3 And White's central pawns should give him an advantage.) 25.♖xc7! What a beautiful move! 25...♔xc7 (25...♗xf1 didn't work as after 26.♖xb7+ ♔a8 27.♗c5 ♖a1 White has the amazing



28.♖b8+!! ♔xb8 29.♖b3+ with mate to follow soon.) 26.♖xe3 White's central pawns and the great knight basically give him a winning position.]

24.♗xe4 ♗b6 Black tries to consolidate.

25. ♖c5 Finally the big tactical battle is over and White's position is clearly better.

25... ♔d5 26. ♖c1 A logical move. [But 26. ♖a1 might have been even stronger, with the idea of playing Bg5-Qa3 next.]

26... ♔a8 Karjakin was already in some time trouble and it is very hard to give any advice to Black here. All White needs to do is to get the queen out from h3 to a3 to end the game, which is why maybe a move like 26...h5 would have made sense, although Black's position remains very bad.

27. ♖a6 A good decision. White is giving up the great position on c5 to collect the c6 pawn.

27... ♔b7 28. ♖b4 ♔f7 Not giving White the chance to play Qf3 next.

29. ♔g4 [29. ♔g5 with the idea of playing Qa3 next also looks deadly.]

29... ♖d5 30. ♖xc6 The game is almost over...

30... ♖e6 31. ♖a5+ The white attack continues and all Black can do is watch...

31... ♔a8 32. ♔e4 ♖b6 Karjakin continues trying to hold things together.



33. ♔g4! Very well played by Kramnik again. White not only

wants to play Rc5 next, but he also protects from Qf5 in many lines.

33...h5 It is difficult to advise anything better... [33... ♖d8 34. ♖c6 and the game should not last for much longer...]

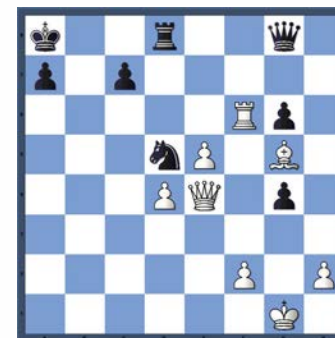
34. ♖c5 The knight on d5 cannot be protected without losing material.

34... ♖d8 35. ♖c6 What a domination of the white pieces!

35... ♖xc6 36. ♖xc6 hxg4 The only thing which stops Black from resigning is the very strong position of the knight on d5, who already got there on move 5!

37. ♖f6 ♔h7 38. ♔g5! Another very tricky move, especially in time troubles. Too many black pieces are hanging and White's e-pawn could also become very dangerous.

38... ♔g8 This blunder in a lost position doesn't really matter anymore...



39. ♖xg6 What a fantastic game by Kramnik. Great preparation followed by great play... Karjakin fought well, but his bad position and Kramnik's amazing left him in a hopeless situation. **1-0**

**(4) Svidler, Peter(2758)
- Andreikin, Dmitry(2709) [B32]**FIDE Candidates 2014(2.3),
2014.03.14GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Lately Peter Svidler showed great chess and his wild car was not really a surprise... He seems to be in better shape than ever and he proves this with a great victory over Andreikin, a player who you clearly want to beat in this event.

1.e4 c5 This move was probably a little surprise for Svidler, as Andreikin usually likes to play the Berlin, which is solid like a rock.

2.f3 c6 3.d4 [Lately the most played move is probably 3.f5]

3...cxd4 4.fxd4 e5 The Kalashnikov! A very rare opening on the highest level, but quite a tricky one. About a year ago, we published a book on the Kalashnikov and from time to time I have also been going through the lines of this aggressive opening for Black.

5.f5 d6 Now White has quite a big range of possibilities...

6.c4 The main move and the safest line. [6.f1c3 6...a6 7.f3a3 would lead to much more sharp lines, for example after: 7...b5 8.f5d5 f5ge7 With a very sharp position.]

6...f5e7 Black is developing the bishop on e7 before playing Nf6, with the simple idea of playing Bg5 soon and to exchange the "bad" bishop.

7.f1c3 a6 It is time to chase the knight from b5 as White wanted to play Nd5 next.

8.f3a3



8...f5e6 Of course this is all still theory and the move in the game is solid, but seems to lead to a slightly better position for White. [8...f5 is the only critical move in my opinion. It is not that easy for White to show a direct way to a clear advantage.]

9.f5e2 f5g5 Andreikin uses the moment to exchange the bishops.

10.f3c2 Svidler covers the d4 square "just in case". [10.f5xg5?! of course didn't work as after 10...f5xg5 11.f5xd6?? f5d8 Black is winning.]

10...f5xc1 11.f5xc1 f5g5 I don't like this move personally. The black queen seems to be misplaced on g5... [The more usual 11...f5f6 12.O-O O-O 13.f5d2 leads to a position with a small plus for White.]

12.O-O Now White already wants to take on d6.

12...f5d8 13.b4 Svidler probably wanted to be sure that Black plays Nf6 and not Nge7 with the idea of castling kingside and possibly f5 or Ng6-Nf4 in the future.

13...f5f6 [13...f5ge7 14.b5 and Black can't return to e7 because the square is already taken...]

14.f5d3 O-O 15.f5d1 It is easy to see that White is better and what is even worse is that it is very hard for Black to find a plan

to go on...

15...♖c8 Black is trying to bring the rook from f8 into the game, but this loses a tempo. [After 15...♘e7 16.♙e3 White would enter a clearly better endgame.]

16.♘d5 White could have waited a bit longer with this move, but to play Nd5 is of course one of White's main ideas.

16...b5 It seems to me like Andreikin blundered White's next move... [16...♙xd5 was more solid. 17.exd5 (17.cxd5 would of course be a mistake as after 17...♘xb4! the queen on g5 is suddenly very useful. 18.♘xb4 ♖xc1--+) 17...♘e7 18.♘e3 And White's position should be clearly better because of the c5 idea, but I think Black can still fight after 18...Rfd8.]



17.♙g3! An extremely strong move by Svidler! At first sight it is not easy to see that White is going to be much better in the resulting endgame... [The simple 17.♘xf6+ 17...♙xf6 18.cxb5 axb5 would give Black good chances to escape.]

17...♙xg3 Black doesn't have a choice. [After 17...♙h6 18.♘xf6+ White reaches a huge advantage with very easy moves: 18...♙xf6 19.cxb5 axb5 20.♙xb5 ♙xa2 21.♙a6! with the idea of playing b5 next, with good winning chances.]

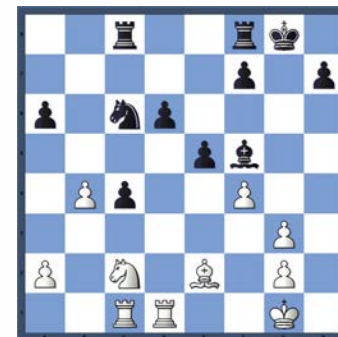
18.♘xf6+ gxf6 19.hxg3 Now Black needs to decide how to take on c4.

19...bxc4?! Black is probably getting into real big trouble now... [19...♙xc4 was a more solid option. 20.♙xc4 bxc4 21.♖xd6 White needs to win the pawn back. 21...♖fd8! The only move to stay in the game. 22.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 23.♘e3 ♘xb4 24.a3 ♘c6 25.♖xc4 ♘d4 Once again we can easily see that because of the pawn structure White's position is clearly better, but Black could have tried to defend for a long time.]

20.f4! A very strong move! Peter does not hurry with taking the black pawns as they will fall automatically. The threat of playing f5 next is deadly! [After 20.♖xd6 20...♖fd8 Black would be almost fine.]

20...f5 There was no other way to prevent f5...

21.exf5 ♙xf5



22.♘e3 And the knight is joining the game with tempo!

22...♙d3 [After 22...♙e6 23.♖xd6 (23.f5 is premature because of 23...♘d4!) 23...♖fd8 Black probably doesn't have anything better than 24.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 25.f5 and White's advantage should be enough to win the game.]

23.♙xd3 cxd3 At first sight the position doesn't seem to be so obvious, but Svidler continues playing great moves...

24.♘f5! A very important and deadly move. The white knight on f5 is perfectly placed and the next threat is to play Rxc6

Rxc6 and Ne7. The black king is already in deep trouble because of the many mating ideas on the back rank in case of exchanges.

24...e4 Andreikin ends his game with a scream! [24...♔h8 would lead to a slow death as after 25.♘xd6 ♖c7 26.♚xd3 Black is totally hopeless.]

25.♘xd6 The most precise move. [White would have needed a better technique after 25.♚xc6 To win a piece is always tempting but after 25...♚xc6 26.♘e7+ ♔g7 27.♘xc6 ♖c8! strangely Black has some counterplay. 28.♘d4 ♖c4 29.♘f5+ ♔g6 30.♘e3 With a winning position for White, but the fight would still continue for some time...]

25...e3 [Playing 25...♚c7 26.♘xe4 is same as resigning.]

26.♘xc8 d2 Andreikin is lookint for some practical chances, but it is already too late...

27.♚xc6 e2 Wow, Black gets a second pawn on the 2nd rank! :)



28.♚cc1! This is the last exact move. White reaches an easily winning rook endgame.

28...exd1=♚+ 29.♚xd1 ♚xc8 30.♚xd2 ♚c3 31.♚d5! This is a very nice finishing move. Black cannot take on g3 because of Rg5 and Ra3 is not possible either because of Ra5. An

excellent game by Svidler! **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Meribanov, V(2410)-Akopian, V(2682)

European Championship, 2014.03.04

1... -+



(6) Salgado Lopez, I(2605)-Riazantsev, A(2689)

European Championship, 2014.03.05

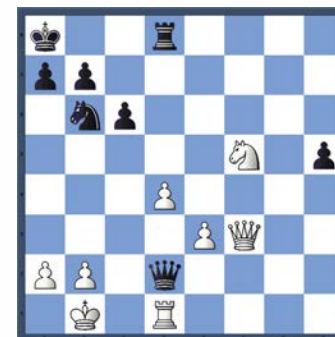
1... -+



(7) Ben Artzi, I(2370)-Beliavsky, A(2570)

European Championship, 2014.03.05

1... -+



(8) Balogh, C(2651)-Rozum, I(2505)

European Championship, 2014.03.06

1. +-



(9) Almasi, Z(2704)-Aleksandrov, A(2544)

European Championship, 2014.03.06

1. +-



(10) Aleksandrov, A(2544)-Qashashvili, A(2378)

European Championship, 2014.03.08

1... -+



(11) Tomashevsky, E(2711)-Perunovic, M(2617)

European Championship, 2014.03.10

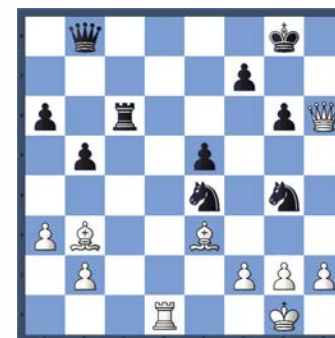
1... -+



(12) Shomoev, A(2581)-Cheparinov, I(2681)

European Championship, 2014.03.10

1. +-



(13) Jones, G(2651)-Urkedal, F(2495)

Reykjavik Open, 2014.03.08

1. +-



(14) Van Kampen, R(2603)-Naiditsch, A(2706)

Reykjavik Open, 2014.03.09

1... -+



Endgame section

(15) Riazantsev, Alexander(2689)
- Pashikian, Arman(2612)

15th ch-EUR Indiv 2014(11.14),
2014.03.14



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



We are in the last round of the European Championship and a draw is no good for both player as the winner would qualify for the World Cup. It is clear that White is pushing but the position is of course a draw.

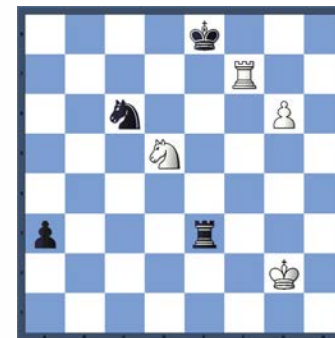
61...a3 62.g6 What else to do, the g-pawn must advance.

62...h6? A big mistake. [62...hxg6 63.hxg6+ e8 would lead to a theoretical draw, even without the a3 pawn, but Pashikian probably didn't want to suffer for the other 50 moves holding the draw, and he might even still have had some hopes to win the game in case of a blunder by his opponent.]

63.f7+! A good choice, White grabs his chance.

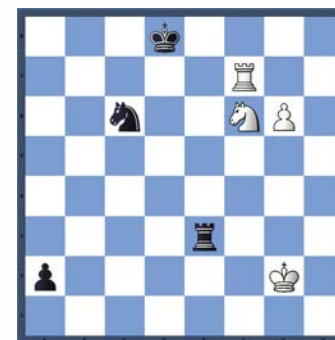
63...e8 64.d5 Suddenly Black's position is looking very dangerous. White wants to play Nf6 followed by g7.

64...a2 This is another mistake, after which the game is already lost. [



64...e5! is of course not an easy move to find in time trouble. 65.hf6+ d8 And White already doesn't have anything better than forcing a draw after 66.f7+ c8 67.f5 fxd5 68.hxd5 a2 69.g7 a1= 70.g8=+]

65.hf6+ d8 66.g7? And White misses his chance! [



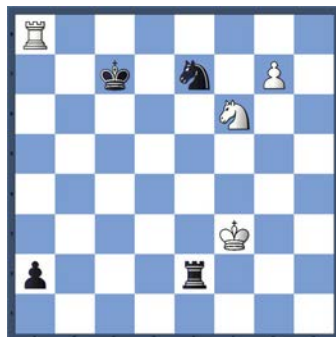
66.f7+! should have been played first 66...c8 and only now 67.g7 f8 There is no other way to stop the white pawn. 68.f1 And White would have won the game.]

66...e7! An excellent resource!

67.f8+ [The game would still have been a draw after 67.fxe7 67...xe7 68.g8= a1= 69.e8+ d6!]

67...♔c7 68.♖a8 ♜e2+! Not giving White any chances as the a2 pawn is saved.

69.♞f3 White is still hoping for Nd5+.



69...♞b7! And another good move by Black crushes all the white hopes. The game is now a draw.

70.♖a3 ♜e6 Black is collecting the g7 pawn.

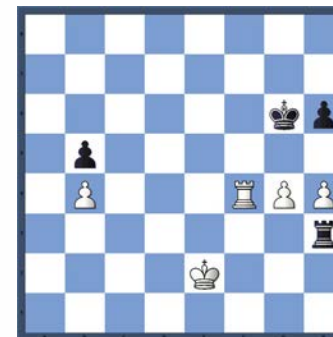
71.♘e4 ♜g6 72.♖xa2 ♜xg7 73.♜g2 ♜xg2 74.♞xg2 What an exciting endgame "out of nothing" and I don't even want to imagine how Riazantsev must have felt after drawing this game after missing a win in 1 move! **1/2-1/2**

**(16) Melkumyan, Hrant(2613)
- Fressinet, Laurent(2709)**

European Championship,
2014.03.07



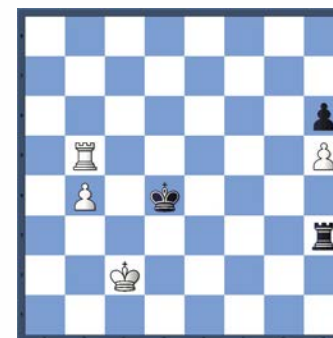
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



White is a pawn up but as we know, in rook endgames the weaker side might always hope for salvation.

52.h5+ ♞g5 53.♜f5+ ♞xg4 54.♖xb5 White obtained a passed b-pawn. He is threatening to move his king to c2 (to avoid Rb3) followed by Rc5 and advancing the pawn. The h-pawn cannot be taken as the king cannot catch the b-pawn, therefore the black king is forced to go to the b-pawn.

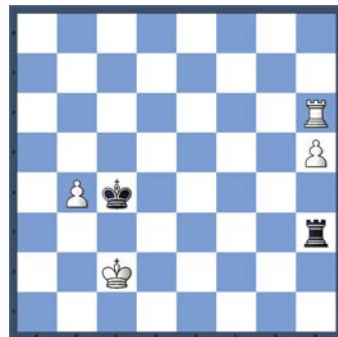
54...♞f4 55.♞d2 ♞e4 56.♞c2 ♞d4



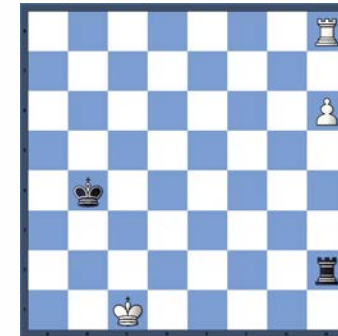
57.♜c5! It is very to parry the Kc4 threat and suddenly Black

finds himself in zugzwang. If the rook moves on the h-file, the white king successfully crosses the 3rd rank and supports the b-pawn, while if the rook keeps the 3rd rank, then the h5 pawn will not be under attack anymore and White can go for the h6 pawn. The consequences of the king moves we see in the game.

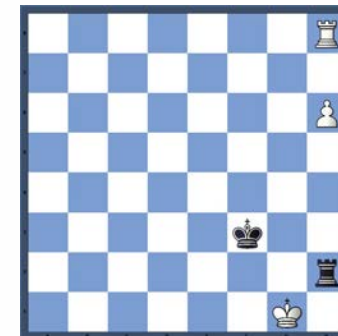
57...♔e4 [It was more challenging to try 57...♖g3!? keeping the white king cut along the 3rd rank even if that costs another pawn. 58.♖c6! ♖h3 59.♖xh6 ♔c4



The only winning move is 60.♖h8! ♖h2+! Black can keep his tenacious defence by forcing the king to the back rank. (Black fails to reach the 7th rank after 60...♔xb4 61.h6 ♔b5 62.h7 If Black could play Kb7, the game would be a theoretical drawn. Black would only wait with his rook and when the white king goes to g6, he starts to give checks and at the end he goes back to the h-file. 62...♔b6 63.♖b8+--) 61.♔d1! Again the only move to win! (61.♔c1 leads to an instructive draw after 61...♔xb4 62.h6



62...♔c3! Getting the king closer with the help of the mate threat. 63.♔d1 ♔d3 64.♔e1 ♔e3 65.♔f1 ♔f3 66.♔g1 And now



66...♖g2+! 67.♔h1 ♖g6 68.h7 ♖f6! This is the key! Black prevents the check on the f-file and the rook cannot leave from h8 because of Rh6 check. 69.♔g1 Threatening to move the rook, but after the last strong move 69...♖f7!= the game is drawn, because Black collects the h-pawn with Kf4-f5-g6!) 61...♔d3! Again the only chance, but now the b-pawn survives. The win remains very difficult though... 62.♔e1 ♔e3 63.♔f1 ♔f3



64. **Rf8+**! The only winning move! The king faces an unpleasant decision, to which pawn's direction he should go... 64... **Ke4** (After 64... **g4** 65. **Ke1!** White comes back to support his b-pawn. 65... **Rxh5** (65... **Rb2** 66. **h6+-**) 66. **Ke2** **Rh3** 67. **Ke2+-** And the black king is cut too far from the pawn. White wins easily after by simply pushing the pawn.) 65. **Rf8+**! Another very important check and now Black must either leave the f3 square or he is getting too far from the h-pawn. 65... **Ke3** (65... **Ke5** loses after 66. **Rh8!** **Ke6** (66... **Ke4** 67. **h6** **Kxb4** 68. **h7+-**) 67. **Ke1+-** and the king will be free to go up on the g-file, because if the rook continues cutting along the 2nd rank h6-h7 wins. 67... **Rd2** 68. **h6** **Ke7** 69. **h7** **Rd7** 70. **Rb8+-**) 66. **Ke1!** **Rxh5** (66... **Rb2** 67. **h6+-**) 67. **Ke2+-** followed by Kc3-c4 and advancing the pawn. The black king is too far cut along the e-file, he has no more chance to survive. This would have been the only way to win for White if Black had played 57... **Rg3**. Yes, rook endgames are really tough indeed!]

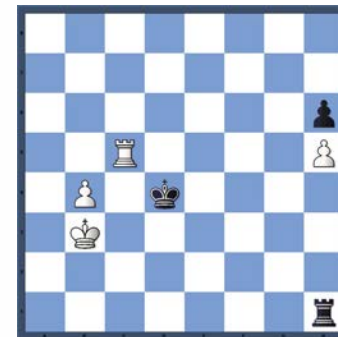
58. **Rc4+**! Driving the king onto the 5th rank to stay in the motif.

58... **Ke5** 59. **Rc3!** Great technique! The rook helps the king to cross the 3rd rank. The pawn cannot be taken on h5 because of Rc5!

59... **Rh1** 60. **Ke3** The win is more or less automatic, because the black king is cut along the c-file, White promotes his b-pawn.

60... **Ke4** 61. **Rc4+** **Ke5** 62. **Rc5+** Protecting the h5 pawn, followed by further activating the king...

62... **Ke4**



63. **Ke4!** The plan is simple, Kb5-b6 and pushing the pawn.

63... **Rh4** 64. **Ke5** **Rh1** 65. **Ke6** White is ready to advance the pawn.

65... **Rf1** 66. **b5** The game is over. Black tries a last trick...

66... **Rf6+** 67. **Rc6** **Rf5** 68. **Rxh6** **Ke4** 69. **Ke6!** [Black resigned as the b-pawn cannot be taken: 69. **Ke6** 69... **Rxb5** 70. **Rc6+**! **Ke4** 71. **Rb6+-** And the h-pawn promotes.] **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Keres, Paul
- Fischer, Robert

Candidates Tournament(15),
1959.10.03



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.♗f3** g6 **3.♕f4** ♕g7 **4.♘bd2** [4.e3 With idea to create the following setup: c3-Nbd2-h3-Be2-0-0-a4.]

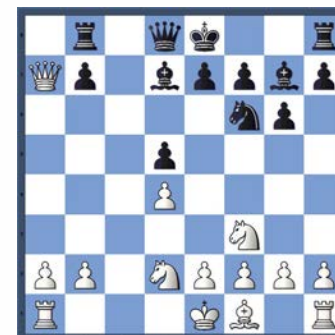
4...c5 Black has many different plans in this position. I suppose the idea of this move is to prevent White from playing over e4 and of course fight for the center.

5.c3 cxd4 6.cxd4 d5 We have a symmetrical pawn structure which we can also see in the Slav Exchange Variation. Usually when Black has a limited bishop on g7 White keeps a stable advantage but in this case the knight is badly placed on d2 (it should be on c3) and the position is equal. [6...d6 7.h3 With the idea of saving the bishop after Nh5. 7...O-O 8.e3 b6 9.♕e2 ♕b7 10.O-O ♘bd7 With equal play.]



7.♕xb8 A concrete move. White is going to win a pawn. [7.e3 7...O-O=]

7...♖xb8 8.♔a4+ ♕d7 9.♔xa7



9...♘e4! White has lost some time in order to win the pawn, so Black is immediately going to take advantage of his better development.

10.e3 [10.♘xe4 10...dxe4 11.♘d2 (11.♘e5 11...♕xe5 12.dxe5 O-O 13.e3 ♖c8! Now White will not be in time to finish his development.... 14.♕e2 ♖c2 15.♕d1 ♖xb2 16.O-O ♕b5 17.♖e1 ♔d2→)]



11...e3! A typical idea. Black gives a second pawn to prevent White from finishing his development too easily. 12.fxe3 O-O 13.♘f3 (13.g3 13...♕c6=) 13...♕c6 14.♖f2 ♖a8 15.♔c5 ♖a5→ Followed by e5.]

10...♘xd2 11.♘xd2 White had an interesting alternative: [11.♔xd2 The king stays in the center but Black is not able

to open the position and activate the pieces after e5 now. 11...O-O 12.♔d3 White wants to escape with the king after Rhc1-Ke1. (12.♔e2) 12...♙g4 13.♘e5 ♙h5 looks strange but Black is preparing f6-e5. 14.g4 ♙xe5 15.gxh5 ♙d6 16.♚a4 (16.hxg6 16...fxg6 17.f4 ♚a8 18.♚xb7 ♙xf4! 19.exf4 ♚d6 With a strong initiative.) 16...e5↗]



11...e5! Black needs to play actively otherwise White will play Be2-O-O and keep his pawn up for nothing.

12.♘b3 [12.dxe5 12...♙xe5 13.♚a3 (13.♔e2 13...O-O 14.O-O ♚c7 Attacking both h2 and b2 and Ra8 is also a threat.; 13.♚c5 13...♙xb2 14.♚b1

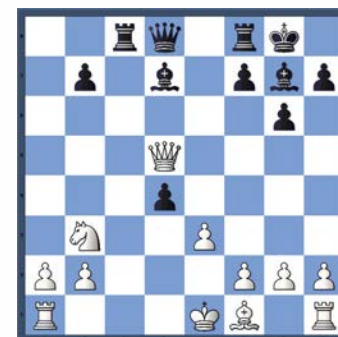


14...♚c8! A strong tactical idea! (14...♙g7 15.♙b5 And here White takes the initiative. Black will not have the pair of bishops and he has problems with the d5 and b7 pawns.) 15.♚xd5 O-O And White will probably not manage

to finish his development without losing some material. 16.♚xb2? ♚c1+ 17.♔e2 ♙g4+--+) 13...♚a8 14.♚b4 (14.♚b3 14...♚a5↑) 14...♚a5 Even in the endgame Black keeps the initiative. 15.♚xa5 ♚xa5 16.♘b3 ♚a4 17.O-O-O (17.♘c5 17...♙xb2 18.♘xa4 ♙xa1 19.♘c5 ♙c3+ 20.♔d1 ♙c6=+ With the idea Ke7-Ra8 and then the a2 pawn can be weak.) 17...♚xa2 18.♚xd5 ♙f6 19.♘d4 ♔e7↗]

12...O-O 13.♚c5 [13.♔e2 13...exd4 14.♘xd4 ♚c7! White will now lose control over the d4 square because of the Ra8 threat. 15.♚a3 ♙xd4 16.exd4 ♚fe8↑]

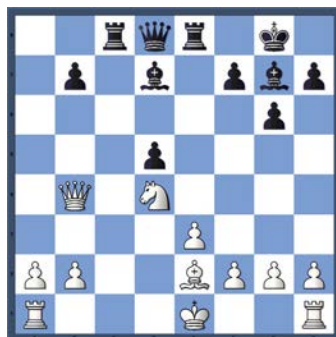
13...♚c8 14.♚b4 [14.♚xd5 14...exd4



15.♙b5! To finish the development is the most important thing. (15.♘xd4 15...♚b6 16.♚xd7 ♚b4+--+) 15...♙xb5 16.♚xb5 dxe3 17.O-O ♙xb2 18.♚ab1 exf2+ 19.♚xf2 And White has some drawing chances because of the reduced material.]

14...♚e8 15.♔e2 exd4 [15...♚c2 16.♔d3 ♚xb2 17.O-O (17.♚c3 17...exd4 18.♚xb2 dxe3 19.♚c2 ♙xa1 20.♘xa1 exf2+ 21.♔xf2 ♚f6+--+) 17...exd4 18.exd4 ♚g5=+]

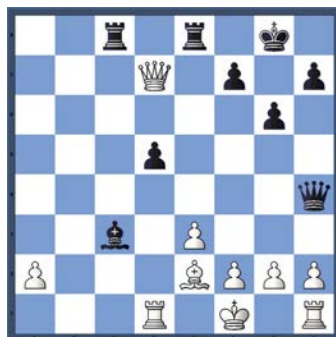
16. ♖xd4



16... ♖h4! The only move which doesn't allow the white king to get to safety.

17. ♖xb7 [17. ♖d1 17... ♖xe3 18. g3 ♖xe2+ 19. ♖xe2 ♖e4+—; 17.g3 17... ♖e4 18. ♖f3 ♖xd4—]

17... ♖xd4 18. ♖xd7 ♖xb2 19. ♖d1 ♖c3+ 20. ♖f1

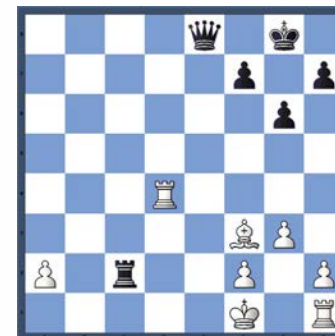


20... ♖d4! Black opens the position in front of the white king.

21. exd4? This is the decisive mistake, but it was impossible to calculate all the variations... White should have played [21. ♖g4 21... ♖xg4!? Black could also have kept the queens. 22. ♖xg4 dxe3 23. fxe3 ♖b8! And White still has problems with his king and his rook on h1.]

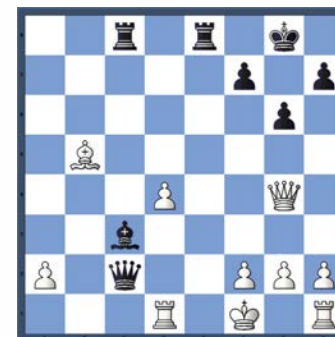
21... ♖e4 [21... h5 22. ♖h3=]

22. ♖g4 [22. ♖b5 22... ♖xd4 23. ♖f3 ♖e6 24. g3 What else to do? 24... ♖c2 (24... ♖xf2 25. ♖g2 ♖c2 26. ♖hf1 Hoping to escape with the king, but now Black plays 26... ♖a7+ 27. ♖h1 ♖b8 with the idea to put pressure over the second rank (with Rbb2 or Qh3). 28. ♖a4 ♖xa2+ 25. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 26. ♖xd4 The position looks like it might be drawish now, but after



26... ♖c3! White loses coordination and is not able to play Kg2 in time. 27. ♖d5 (27. ♖g2 27... ♖xf3!) 27... ♖c1+ 28. ♖g2 ♖xh1 29. ♖xh1 ♖e5 30. ♖d1 ♖e2 31. ♖b3 ♖xf2+]

22... ♖c2 23. g3 Now everything depends on whether White will manage to play Kg2 and consolidate his position or not. [23. ♖b5

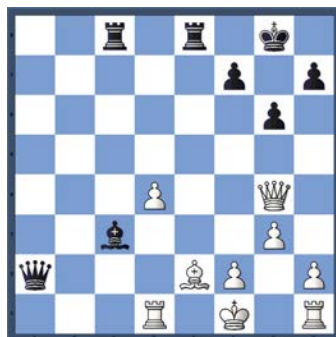


23... ♖e1! 24. ♖f3 (24. ♖xe1 24... ♖xe1+ 25. ♖xe1 ♖b1+ 26. ♖d2 ♖c2+ And Black is winning material.) 24... ♖c3 25. ♖d3 ♖b8! 26. ♖e2 (26. a4 26... ♖xb5! 27. ♖xc3 ♖xc3 28. axb5 ♖c1+ 29. ♖e2

♖d2+ 30.♔f1 ♖e1#) 26...♗xb5 27.♗xc3 ♖xe2+ 28.♔xe2 ♕xc3 29.♔d3 ♕a5 White has some practical chances thanks to his active king and the two passed pawns, but objectively Black should win the game.]



23...♖xa2? Black missed a win here: [23...♕d2! 24.♔g2 (24.♕f3 24...h5 25.♖d7 ♕e3! 26.fxe3 ♗xe3 27.♖d5 ♗cc3—+) 24...h5! 25.♖f3 ♗c3—+]



24.♕b5?? What a blunder! White could have saved the game after [24.♕f3 24...♕d2 25.♔g2 ♕e3 26.♗hf1 ♗c2 27.♔h1 ♗xf2 28.♗xf2 ♖xf2 29.♕c6 (29.♕g2 29...♕xd4 30.♖f3) 29...♗d8 30.♖f3 White will lose the d4 pawn but thanks to the opposite colored bishops and reduced material it should not be too hard to make a draw.]

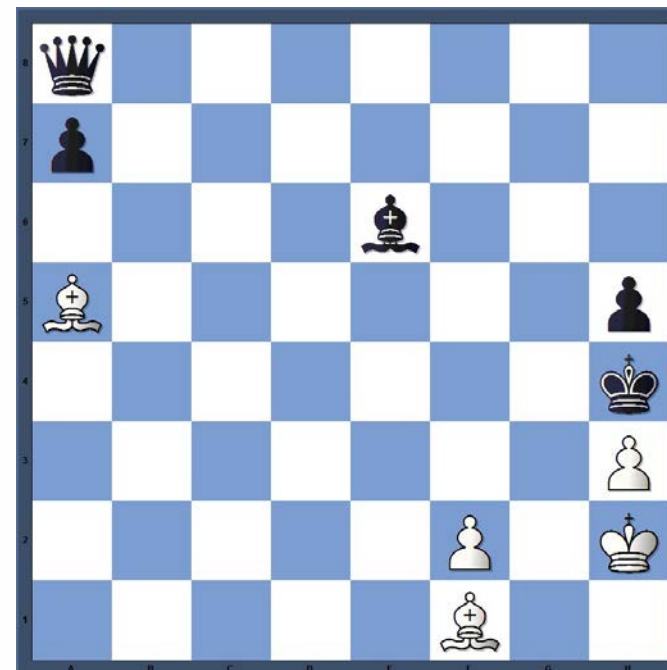
24...♖d5—+ 25.♕xe8 ♖xh1+ 26.♔e2 ♗xe8+ 27.♔d3 ♕e1 0-1

Surprise section / study

(18) Platov

[CEWN]

1. =



Solutions

(19) Navara, D(2700)-Duda, J(2563)

European Championship, 2014.03.04



40. ♖a3!! ♜b2+ 41. ♘f2 ♘g6 [41... ♜xb1 42. ♖h3#]

42. fxg6 ♜xb1 43. ♖h3+ ♜xg6 44. ♖ah7! 1-0

(20) Palac, M(2561)-Inarkiev, E(2698)

European Championship, 2014.03.04

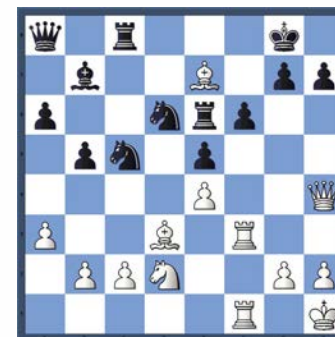


28... ♖xg3! 29. ♜xg3 [29. ♘xg3 29... ♜xh4#]

29... ♙g1!! 0-1

(21) Cheparinov, I(2681)-Dzagnidze, N(2546)

European Championship, 2014.03.04



28. ♙xf6! ♘xd3 [28... gxf6 29. ♖g3+ ♜h8 30. ♖xf6+- ♜ce8
31. ♖h3+- (31. ♜h6+-)]

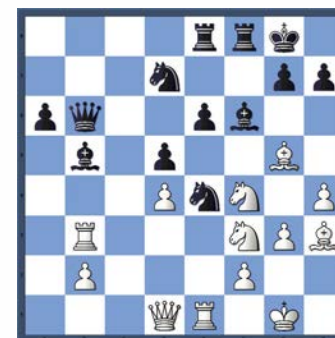
29. ♖g3? [29. ♜g4! 29... ♖xf6 30. ♖xf6 ♘f4 31. ♖xd6+-]

29... ♖c7? [29... ♘e8!∞]

30. cxd3+-

(22) Pashikian, A(2612)-Firat, B(2480)

European Championship, 2014.03.04



27. ♘xd5! exd5 28. ♙xd7±

(23) Hovhanissyan, R(2611)-Nadanian, A(2399)

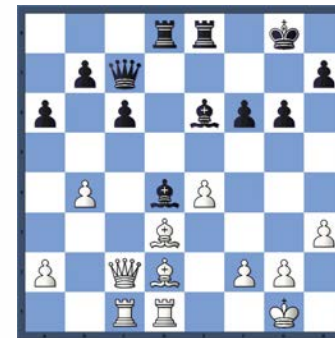
European Championship, 2014.03.04



23. ♖xd7+! ♔xd7 24. ♘xc5+ ♔d6 25. ♖xb4 ♔xc5
26. fxe6!+-

(25) Ruecker, B(2265)-Jovanic, O(2526)

Capelle la Grande Open, 2014.03.01



25... ♕xh3! 26. ♕c4+ [26.gxh3 26... ♖g3+ 27. ♔h1 ♖xh3+
28. ♔g1 ♖g3+ 29. ♔h1 ♖f3+ 30. ♔h2 ♖e5+-]
26... ♔g7 27. ♕f1 ♕e6+-

(24) Kravtsiv, M(2601)-Jessel, S(2334)

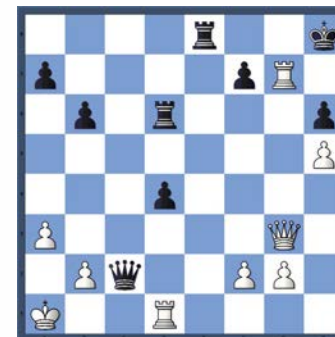
Capelle la Grande Open, 2014.03.01



25. ♘c3! ♔d3 26. ♖xa7 ♖xa7 27. ♕d1! 1-0

(26) Beeke, B(2254)-Ikonnikov, V(2580)

Noteboom Open, 2014.02.28



32. ♖xf7! 1-0 [32. ♖xf7 32... ♖xd1+ 33. ♔a2+-]

(27) Solodvnichenko, Y(2586)-Loiseau, Q(2394)

Rochefort Open, 2014.02.25



30. ♖xg6! d3 [30...hxc6 31. ♗h3+—]

31. ♗xd3 ♖fd8 32. ♗h3+—

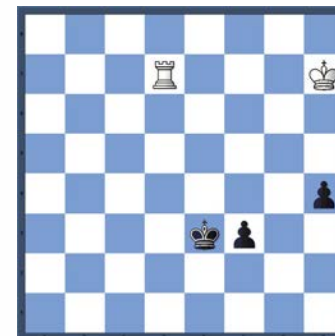
(28) Antoli Royo, J(2413)-Dumitrache, D(2453)

Rochefort Open, 2014.02.25



28. ♘f5!! ♕xe5 29. ♘h6+! 1-0 [29. ♘h6+ 29...gxh6 30. ♗g6+ ♖h8 31. ♕xe5+ f6 32. ♕xf6+ ♖xf6 33. ♗g8#]

(29) Chekhover



1. ♔g8!! f2 2. ♖e7+ ♔f3 3. ♖f7+ ♔g2 4. ♖g7+ ♔f1 5. ♖h7! h3 6. ♖xh3! ♔g2 7. ♖h7! f1=♗ 8. ♖g7+ ♔h3 9. ♖h7+ ♔g4 10. ♖g7+ ♔h5 11. ♖h7+ ♔g6 12. ♖g7+=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 108

21st of March 2014

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Editorial Preface

Things are starting to get very exciting in the Candidates tournament.

After 6 rounds, Anand is leading with 4/6. Who would have guessed before the tournament that Anand might be the Candidate for the World Championship Crown again. With his wins over Aronian and Mamedyarov, Anand also has an excellent tiebreak.

In second place we find Aronian with 3.5/6. Aronian's play has been very shaky, from good to bad, but he is clearly a bit angry about the missed winning opportunities in the game against Andreikin. Kramnik, Topalov and Mamedyarov are on 50% and it is clear that all of these guys will push very hard during the next rounds to get a chance to qualify. We can expect huge fighting games.

Karjakin is only on 2.5/6. He must be very disappointed with the first 6 rounds, but his slightly boring play in the openings makes it easy for his opponents to avoid dangerous positions. Andreikin is on 2/6 and it could have been less...

There are still 8 rounds to go until the qualification for what will probably be the most expensive WCC Match in the history of chess against Magnus Carlsen.

We can be sure that the outcome is going to be very exciting and maybe good nerves will decide the winner.

In the current issue we bring you the best moment from the first 6 rounds of the Candidates tournament. Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Mamedyarov, S.(2757)**
- **Anand, V.(2770) [D11]**

FIDE Candidates 2014(3.4),
2014.03.15



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

It is extremely difficult to win a game on the highest level and doing it with the black pieces, especially in such a convincing way, is just exceptional.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 Mamedyarov was also suffering against the Slav defence in the first round. Against Topalov he tried a sideline with 4.Nbd2 in that game.

4.♚c2 dxc4 5.♚xc4 ♙g4 5...Bf5 is the main line, but the text move is also considered to be fine.

6.♘bd2 A safe setup. White prevents the weakening of his pawn structure and intends to develop his bishop to g2. [6.♘c3 leads to much more wild positions after 6...♘bd7 7.e4 ♙xf3 8.gxf3 e5]

6...♘bd7 7.g3 e6 8.♙g2 ♙e7



9.♘e5 White trades a pair of knights, using the fact that Black

cannot take on e5 due to the loss of the g4 bishop. On the other hand it is not obvious why it is an achievement for White to get rid of some pieces. [9.O-O 9...O-O 10.♚b3 is the other option for White. 10...♚b6 11.♘c4 ♚a6! is the precise reaction, followed by Nb6 and given as equal by theory.]

9...♙h5! Saving the bishop and now Black already wants to take on e5.

10.♘xd7 ♘xd7 11.O-O O-O 12.♘b3 White's chance to get some advantage lays in the queenside play or in the opening of the center and the diagonal of the g2 bishop with e4-d5. At the moment White has created the positional threat of Bd2-Na5 and b4 with a very unpleasant pressure on the b7-c6 pawns. Black needs to prevent it.

12...a5! Intending to push back the knight with a4, or if White plays a4 himself then Black can use the b4 hole with his minor pieces. We are still following some theoretical games.

13.a4 ♙b4 Anand immediately occupies the b4 outpost with his bishop and frees the ideal e7 square for his queen to explode the center with e5.

14.e4 [14.f4 with the idea to prevent e5 could have been met by 14...♚e7 15.e4 f6! followed by Bf7 and e5! This is a standard maneuver in the Slav.]

14...e5 This most natural move is the novelty of the game. Black challenges the central pawns.

15.♙e3 [The white pieces are not developed well enough to create a passed pawn with 15.d5? 15...cxd5 16.exd5 ♚c8 The black pieces are just too active and he overtakes the initiative.]

15...exd4 16.♙xd4 [White could not try to improve his misplaced b3 knight with 16.♘xd4 because of 16...♘e5! and wherever the queen goes 17.♚c2 ♘g4=+ Black grabs the

bishop pair and claims the advantage.]



16...Kf8! The black bishops are standing well, they are controlling the d1 and e1 squares, the ideal places of the white rooks. Black's next task is to control the situation in the center. White's only dangerous idea in the position is to advance the center with f4-e5-f5. With his last move Anand makes an excellent preparation to place his pawn on f6.

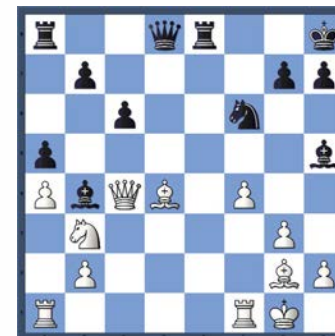
17.e5 [17.f4 17...f6 is also perfect for Black, White cannot make progress.]

17...Re8! Anand already knows that he is going to undermine the e5 pawn with f6, but first he creates a huge weakening!

18.f4 There was no other way to defend the pawn as the e1 square is controlled by the bishop.

18...f6! 19.exf6 [White could not create a passed pawn with 19.e6? 19...Bb6 as he is first forced to give up his strong bishop and then 20.Bxb6 Bxb6+ 21.Kh1 Bxe3! wins an exchange thanks to the double threat of taking on e6 and Be2.]

19...Bxf6 If the pawn was on f2 White would have no problem, but now his king becomes vulnerable. Black is threatening to play Be2.



20.Bf3 A difficult decision, as this further weakens the king's position. The g2 bishop has played an important defensive role. But at least, White can finally use the d-file with his rook. Other moves were even worse... [White cannot close the e-file with 20.Be5 20...Bg4! and Ne3 and Nxe5 are threatening.; 20.Rf2 20...Re7+ is also better for Black. Rad8 is coming next, White still cannot oppose his rooks on the opened files because of the strong black bishops.]

20...Bxf3 21.Rxf3 Re4! Black must play energetically to not give time for White to consolidate.

22.Re3 A logical approach to trade the active rook. [The arising endgame after 22.Bxf6 22...Rxc4 23.Bxd8 Rxd8+ is clearly better for Black. The bishop is in general stronger than the knight when there are pawns on both sides. The a4 and b2 pawns are real weaknesses. Black can attack them for instance by playing b6 and Be7-f6, followed by Rc2 or Rb4. The black rooks are also more active.]

22...Rxe3 23.Bxe3



23...♔e8! An excellent positional move with attacking purposes. At first sight Qe7 looked more natural, but after Bb6 it is not so easy to activate the a8 rook because of the a5 pawn.

24.♘b6 Otherwise Black is able to occupy the d-file with his rook. [24.♘d4 24...♖d8 25.♘xf6 ♔e3+ 26.♔g2 gxf6+ White has serious problems because of his poor b3 knight.]

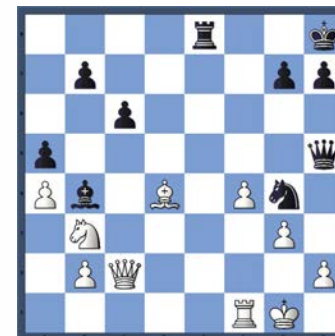
24...♔h5! This is the reason Anand played Qe8. Black is looking at the h2 pawn and sometimes threatening with the very unpleasant Ng4. The queen also covers the a5 pawn, therefore Black is ready to occupy the e-file with his rook. It is really hard to parry the Re8-e2 plan, White is in deep trouble despite the material equality.

25.♘d4 [White cannot defend with 25.♖f1 25...♔e8 26.♖f2 as Black wins after 26...♖e1+ 27.♖f1 (27.♔g2 27...♘g4++) 27...♘g4! 28.♔c2 ♘e3! 29.♘xe3 ♔e2!++]

25...♔e8 26.♖f1 [After 26.♘e5 the strongest is 26...♘d7++ (26...♘g4 27.♔e2 is less clear.)]

26...♘g4! The attack is rolling.

27.♔c2 White would like to push back the pieces with Qg2 and h3. Black is clearly better in any case, but Anand feels the moment and finds the most direct way to break through! [27.h4 loses to 27...♘e3 28.♘xe3 ♖xe3++ and Black cannot hold his g3 pawn.]



27...c5!! The bishop is overloaded on d4. It has no good square to leave, while accepting the sacrifice would enter a deadly pin.

28.♘xc5 [28.♘c3 28...♘e3++; 28.♘e5 28...c4!++ is the most precise and Bc5 wins next.; 28.♘xc5 28...♘xc5+ 29.♘xc5 ♘e3++]

28...♖c8 [28...♘xc5 29.♘xc5 ♖c8++ and b6 next was also winning the piece.]

29.♖d1 [29.♖c1 29...b6++]

29...♘xc5 30.♘xc5 h6!? The easiest. Black opens the back rank to be able to take on c5. It is important that Qxc5 is hanging with check, otherwise White could have the standard trick of Qxc5 Rd8 Rxd8 Qxc5.

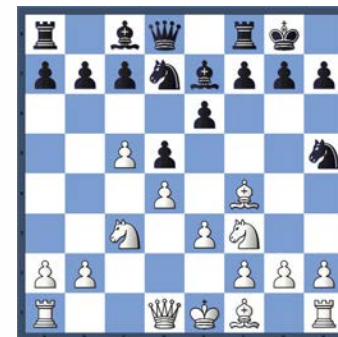
31.♔h1 [Mamedyarov resigned in view of 31.♔h1 31...♘f2+ (Of course not 31...♔xc5?? as it is not check anymore and suddenly White wins after 32.♖d8+!) 32.♔xf2 ♔xd1+ 33.♔g2 ♔d5++] **0-1**

(2) Topalov, Veselin(2785) - Kramnik, Vladimir(2787) [D37]

FIDE Candidates 2014(6.1),
2014.03.19



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



Since their World Championship match in 2006, Topalov and Kramnik did not really play each other. We probably all remember their famous scandal with the toilet case and it seems like they still did not make peace with each other because neither before nor after this game was there a handshake...

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♙e7 The Queen's gambit declined. A very solid opening. Kramnik's idea was clear, he tries to play a safe setup and knows that Topalov will try to crush him at any cost due to their old affair and he will try to fight back if he gets a chance.

5.♙f4 5.Bg5 is the other main line.

5...O-O 6.e3 ♘bd7 White has a wide range of choices here. Topalov chooses the most common move and grabs space on the queenside. With his last move, Black has prepared to play c5 himself.

7.c5 ♘h5 [7...c6 and; 7...♘e4 are also playable alternatives for Black, but Kramnik has already played the text move in several occasions.]

8.♙e5!? This move was seen only in a few games before. During the press conference Topalov called it a dubious move, which can be very dangerous in one game, because the arising lines are very sharp and if Black is not well prepared he might get into danger as it also happened in the game. [8.♙d3 happened in almost all the games before.]

8...c6 9.♙d3 g6 [9...♘xe5 could be met by 10.♘xe5 ♘f6 11.f4+= with a potential attack with g4-g5. Black should look for a more active reaction.]

10.h4!? was played by Topalov without thinking. A deep preparation, since we already had a new position. White would like to save his strong bishop with Bh2, while if Black takes Nxex5, then the h4 move perfectly fits to an attack with g4-h5.

10...f5?! Topalov called this another mistake. Black would like to lock the kingside to stay safer against the potential attacks, but he weakens the dark squares too much. [10...b6! would have been more principled to undermine the queenside. 11.b4 a5! Compared to the game, this works properly now as the bishop on e5 is hanging in some lines. 12.a3 White has to keep his pawn structure, but this allows the standard trade of the light squared bishops, which seems to solve Black's problems. (Now 12.b5 is just bad in view of 12...bxc5 13.bxc6 ♘xe5! 14.♘xe5 cxd4 15.exd4 ♙b4+ and Black is better.) 12...♙a6!]

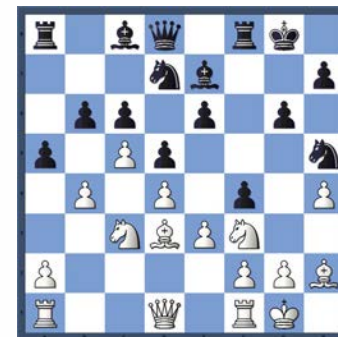
11.♗h2! White manages to save his bishop and the holes on the dark squares combined with the space advantage on the queenside start to tell.

11...b6?! Without being able to play a5 on b4, this move just weakens his own c6 pawn. [11...f4 Playing like in the game, just without the b6-b4 pair of moves, was an improved version for Black.; 11...♗xh4 was also better than the game, although in any case White's position is preferable. He probably simply plays 12.b4 with the idea of b5 and Qa4 with sufficient compensation for the pawn.]

12.b4 f4 [The problem was that 12...a5 is met by 13.b5 ♗b7 14.cxb6 ♖xb6 15.O-O+= followed by Rb1. White is better prepared for the opening of the queenside, especially because of the strong bishop on h2. This is the reason why Kramnik wanted to shut it out from the game with his f4 move.]

13.O-O! Simple and strong! Topalov has already claimed a big advantage at this point.

13...a5 Kramnik tries to be consequent and principled, but White is better prepared for the opening of the queenside. [13...♗xh4 was a better chance, or at least Black has an extra pawn. 14.b5 ♗b7 (14...cxb5 15.c6± is always bad for Black.) 15.♖a4! White seems to be able to overpress the c6 square, but maybe Black might hope for some chances after the very ugly computer move 15...♘b8! (15...cxb5 16.♗xb5+-; 15...♖c8 16.♖xa7+-; 15...♖c8 16.♗xh4+-)]



14.b5! As we had already seen in some lines, this is always the critical breakthrough in this line. It always seems to work properly in this game.

14...bxc5 [14...♗b7 could simply have been met by 15.bxc6 ♗xc6 16.cxb6 ♘xb6 (16...♖xb6 17.♖e2± Black has serious problems with the e6 pawn. White is ready to take on f4.) 17.♗e5± ♗e8 18.♖g4!± White is dominating!]

15.bxc6 ♘b8 16.♗b5 White manages to save his c6 pawn, which completely destroys the coordination between the black pieces. Kramnik tries to eliminate it at any cost, but he does not succeed. White can also support it by playing Ne5.

16...♗a6 [16...c4 is also bad in view of 17.exf4 (17.♖d2 is also fine.) 17...♗xf4 18.♗e2! trading the knights with the idea to open the h2-b8 diagonal.]

17.a4! White obviously keeps his bishop on b5, or at least he is only ready to trade it if he gets connected passed pawns on b5-c6. Black should not go for it.

17...♖c8 Black finally gets rid of the c6 pawn, but his position tactically collapses.

18.dxc5 ♖xc6

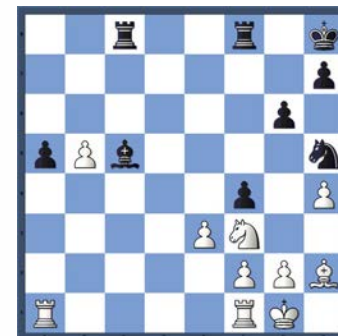


19.♗xd5! The punishment for Black for his weird opening moves. He loses both of his central pawns. It is rare to see Kramnik losing after only 19 moves... I am sure that his bad relationship with Topalov was also affecting this result. [Topalov pointed out that White can claim a positional advantage after 19.♖c1 but of course the move of the game is much better.]

19...exd5 20.♖xd5+ ♔h8 21.♖xc6! [But not 21.♗xc6 because of 21...♗f6! and the bishop cannot be protected.]

21...♖xc6 22.♗xc6 ♖ac8 [22...♗xf1 23.♗xa8 also leads to a healthy material advantage for White. 23...♗a6 (23...♖xa8 24.♗xf1 ♗xc5 25.♗xf4 ♗xf4 26.exf4+- the two extra pawns should easily win.) 24.♗d5 ♗xc5 25.♖c1± should also be a technical win for White.]

23.♗b5! ♗xb5 24.axb5 ♗xc5 White can choose between several tempting simplifications.

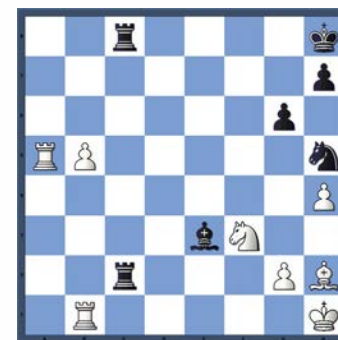


25.♖xa5! Topalov makes the correct decision to remain with only one extra pawn, but with all his pieces in active positions. [The lines after 25.exf4 25...♗xf4 26.♗xf4 (26.♖xa5 26...♗h3+! 27.gxh3 ♖xf3) 26...♖xf4 27.♖xa5 ♖b4 were offering much better practical chances for survival.]

25...fxe3 26.fxe3 ♗xe3+ 27.♔h1 ♖c2? The last inaccuracy, but the position was objectively lost. [27...♗f6 28.♖b1 ♗d5 would have offered some small hopes for Black.]

28.♖b1! White is ready to advance his b-pawn and Black cannot get his rook to the b-file because the bishop on h2 is doing a great job in the entire game.

28...♖fc8 [28...♗b6 29.♖a6+- and Black cannot keep the blockade.; Black cannot get any counterplay with 28...♗f4 as White simply advances his pawn: 29.b6+-]



29.♖aa1! A last precise move before advancing the b-pawn.

White had to control his back rank.

29...♙b6 30.♙e5+! Giving some air for the king on h2 with a tempo!

30...♖g8 31.♖a6! Black cannot hold his bishop and he is forced to give free way for the b-pawn.

31...♙e3 32.b6 ♖c1+ 33.♖xc1 ♖xc1+ 34.♖h2 ♖b1 White can choose between several easy wins. Topalov goes for the most direct one.

35.g4! ♙f4+ [35...♗f4 drops a piece after 36.♗g5 threatening with mate on a8! 36...♖f8 37.b7! ♖xb7 38.♖f6+ ♖e7 (38...♖g8 39.♙xf4+-) 39.♖f7+-]

36.♖g2 ♙xe5 37.♗xe5 ♗f4+ 38.♖f3 ♗e6 [There was a pretty win after 38...♗d5 39.♖a8+ ♖g7 40.♖a7+! ♖f6 41.♗d7+! ♖e6 42.b7+- and White promotes his pawn!]

39.b7! ♖b3+ 40.♖f2 ♖b2+ 41.♖e3 [Black resigned in view of 41.♖e3 41...♖b3+ 42.♖d2 he is getting out of checks and after 42...♗f8 43.♖a7!+- followed by Nc6 promotes the pawn. After Kramnik's inaccuracies in the opening, Topalov just won a perfect game.] **1-0**

(3) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2757) - Svidler, Peter(2758) [A81]

FIDE Candidates 2014(6.3),
2014.03.19



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

After a horrible start of 0.5/3, Mamedyarov made his come back into the tournament with his 2 White wins over Andreikin and Svidler. In the current game, I guess both players were quickly out of theory and the game got pretty messy, but in the complications Svidler made a horrible blunder with 24...h6, after which the game was practically lost.

1.d4 f5 Wow, what a surprise. It is hard to say why Svidler chose to play the Dutch and especially the Leningrad variation, which he might want to call "St.Petersburg" because of his home town! :)

2.g3 There are a lot of move orders which lead to the position in the game. Clearly the system with developing the bishop on g2 is the most popular one.

2...f6 3.f3 g2 g6 As a Gruenfeld player, Svidler of course develops his bishop to g7.

4.f3 g7 5.O-O O-O 6.c4 d6 7.c3 So we are in the very main position of the Leningrad system.



7...e8 The most critical line.

8.b4 A very rare move which has almost never been played on the top level and it seems to just give Black great play. [After the main move 8.e1 8...f7 9.e4 fxe4 White has 2 options: 10.fxe4 (10.fg5 is another interesting option.) 10...c6 And we are in a sharp position. 11.c3!? This interesting move was played by Sargissian not so long ago and White might be doing better here.]

8...e5! There is of course no need to wait with the e5 move as it is the main idea of the line.

9.dxe5 dxe5 10.a3 Now we can see Mamedyarov's plan: his idea is to quickly put big pressure on the queenside, letting Black get quite some play in the center.

10...e4 Another very logical and good move. The white bishop on g2 is dead now.

11.d4 f7 Solid play, but it seems not to be the best Black could have done. [To me 11...f7! looks very strong. 12.b3 (After 12.b5 12...d8 the white queen is in a very unpleasant pin.) 12...c6! Black should not care about the pawn structure, the development of the bishop on e6 is much more important. 13.xc6 bxc6 followed by Be6. I personally like Black's position more here although things are of course still complicated.]

12.b3 c6 Of course Black needs to get rid of the white knight from d4.

13.xc6 xc6 [13...bxc6 was probably not the best already as after 14.a4! the white knight is going to take a great place on c5 and the f3 move at some point might finally free the white bishop on g2.]

14.b5 ♖e8



15.f3! A very important move as White needs to free his bishop on g2. If Black was on time to develop with Be6-Rd8-Rd7 White's position might get pretty bad.

15...♗e6 A logical move, but once again just second best. [The immediate 15...a6! looks very strong. Now after 16.bxa6 Black can simply take back with the rook and get an excellent position. 16.♖ad1 axb5 17.♘xb5 ♗e6 Black's position still looks to be at least equal.]

16.♖ad1 a6 Svidler finally plays a6, but now things are getting very messy.

17.bxa6! A good move. The position is getting very forced now.

17...♖xa6 18.fxe4 White is going for the e-pawn.

18...fxe4 19.♘xe4 ♘xe4 20.♗xe4 ♖xf1+ 21.♖xf1

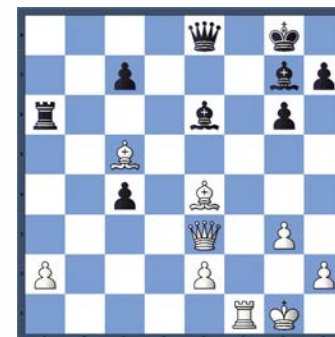


21...b5! This was of course Svidler's idea before playing 16...a6. If Black was in time to play Bxc4 followed by Re6, his position would of course be a dream, but it is White's move...

22.♖e3 Maybe not the best, but practically a very unpleasant move. [After 22.♗c5 22...♗xc4 23.♗d5+ ♗xd5 24.♖xd5+ ♖e6 Black's position looks to be without any risk and because of the better pawn structure Svidler would clearly check Mamedyarov's defensive technique.]

22...bxc4? Svidler misses his chance. [22...♖d7! was very strong, but it is of course a hard move to play in a practical game. On the other hand it is also a big pity to miss such opportunities. 23.♗d5 (After 23.♗c5 23...♗xc4 Black's position already looks clearly better.) 23...bxc4! Could it be that Svidler missed this move?! 24.♖d1 ♖h8 After this cool and very strong move, with the idea of playing Bg8 next, Black's position is clearly better.]

23.♗c5! A strong move. There is no direct threat, but White has a few unpleasant ideas, like playing Bd4 next, making the black king weaker etc...



23...♖c8?! Another unlucky decision... Svidler clearly lost his touch for the position. [Black had to hurry with bringing his rook to the 8th rank: 23...c6! 24.♖d1 ♖a8 The position is probably still around equal here.]

24.h4?! Mamedyarov also misses his first chance. [The very strong 24.♖d1! with the idea of playing Qg5 next would have put huge problems to Black. The 8th rank is unprotected and the black rook on a6 is practically out of the game.]

24...h6? What a shocking move by Svidler... It is very hard to say what exactly he missed... [After 24...♖xa2 25.h5 ♖a1 White's position might be better, but Black's chances to survive are good.]



25.♟xg6 Mamedyarov says thank you...

25...♟d5 [25...♟h3 of course also loses: 26.♟f7+ ♔h8 27.♖f2]

26.h5 [26.♟f5 also looks very strong.]

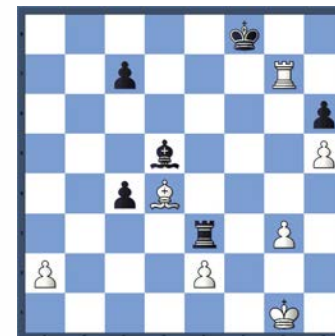
26...♚d7 After this move the game is probably over. [There was still a chance left to fight after 26...♖a8 with the hope of playing Qh3 next, or at least finally gain control over the 8th rank, but of course Black's position is very bad.]

27.♟d4! A very strong move. Without the bishop on g7 the only defender of the king will be gone...

27...♖e6 It is hard to suggest anything better. The position is just lost.

28.♟f7+ White starts a winning combination.

28...♚xf7 29.♖xf7 ♖xe3 30.♖xg7+ ♔f8 Mamedyarov now finds a very nice move to end the game on the spot:



31.♖g5! A nice finishing move of a fighting game with some mistakes on both sides. Now after 31...hxg5 32.Bxe3 White's passed h- and a-pawns guarantee an easy win. It is clear that Svidler must have been very disappointed with his own play if he just resigned on the spot. The mystery mistake 24...h6? still keeps a big question mark... **1-0**

(4) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2757) - Andreikin, Dmitry(2709) [D45]

FIDE Candidates 2014(4.1),
2014.03.17



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Mamedyarov managed to reach some advantage with his tricky opening and later on he created dangerous threats around the black king with a nice pawn sacrifice. It seemed like the game would be over quickly, but in the time trouble things started to get messy and Black had a chance to save the game, but Andreikin chose the wrong path which led to a lost position on the spot.

1.d4 It is never easy to prepare against Mamedyarov as he plays both 1.d4 and 1.e4.

1...d5 2.c4 c6 Another Slav, which is probably the second most popular opening at the moment, after the Gruenfeld.

3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 White chooses a positional line to avoid a theoretical battle.

4...a6 The Slav with a6 currently stands quite well. Black's idea is simple: to be solid in the center and play b5 in a good moment.

5.♘f3 e6 At first sight a move like e6 doesn't look that good, but of course it is all still theory and well-known. The black bishop on c8 is just closed for some time and Black usually develops his pieces by playing c5 or b5.

6.a3!? A very rare line, but personally I like this move. The idea is that White is prepared for c5, after which for example dxc5 Bxc5 and b4 is coming with a tempo and after Black's b5 White could react with c5 and again the a3 move is quite useful

because of the upcoming b4 move.

6...♘bd7



7.♔c2 [White would lose some sort of "half tempo" after 7.♘d3 7...dxc4! 8.♘xc4 b5 9.♘d3 ♘b7 and Black is perfectly fine.]

7...♔c7?! This move looks somewhat artificial and there was no reason for it. [7...♘e7 looks more normal.]

8.e4! Exactly. White is taking over the center, which guarantees a small but pleasant advantage.

8...dxe4 9.♘xe4 c5 This is also very typical play by Black. We are getting into some sort of "French exchange" structures.

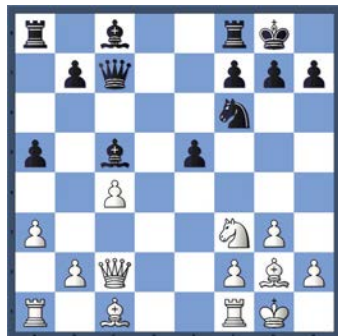
10.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 11.dxc5 Another very logical move.

11...a5! Black is taking control over the important b4 move which is clearly a must. [11...♘xc5 12.b4 With a clear advantage for White.]

12.g3 is an interesting move, but White could also have continued with the simple [12.♘d3 What can be more natural than to castle quickly?! 12...♘xc5 13.O-O b6 14.♘g5 ♘b7 15.♘xf6 gxf6 16.♘e4 With a small plus for White.]

12...♘xc5 13.♘g2 O-O 14.O-O Both sides are now fully developed.

14...e5! A nice move. At first sight it seems to be quite dangerous because Black is losing control over the white squares and the bishop on g2 is becoming very strong, but as he has the initiative on his side, Black is perfectly fine.



15.♘g5 Developing a piece with a tempo is never a bad idea.

15...♖a6 A strange-looking move... [A more simple and in my opinion probably better option would have been 15...♗e6 Andreikin might have been afraid of 16.♗xf6 gxf6 17.♘h4 but in fact White's play on the kingside is not in time. 17...♖fd8! and Black's position is fine.]

16.♖ae1 White has spotted a weakness, the e5 pawn, and of course White needs to act quickly, as in case Black was in time to develop, White's position would be at most equal.

16...♖e8 17.♙c3!? Creating the double threat of attacking the e5 pawn and preparing to play b4 next.

17...h6 This also seems to be the best for Black. The pawn on e5 was very hard to defend.

18.♗xf6 gxf6 19.b4 The position remains complicated and pretty forced. Theoretically Black could be doing well here if White was slow with his play on the kingside.

19...♗f8 20.♘h4 White has no choice and starts his play as fast as possible.

20...axb4 21.axb4 ♗e6 Black is going for the direct play, but it seems like Andreikin clearly underestimated what is going to happen... [21...♖d8 would have been a more careful decision. Black just wants to play Rad6 and Rd4 next, dominating the center.]

22.c5 What else...

22...b6 This was clearly Black's plan, but now White is getting a very strong pawn on c6.

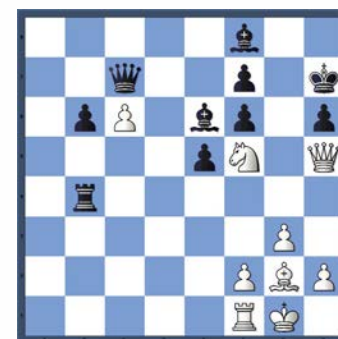
23.c6! ♖a4 24.♖b1 ♖d8 Andreikin is going for the b4 pawn, but leaving his kingside a bit alone...

25.♙f3 You don't ask Mamedyarov twice about an attack, he just loves it!

25...♖d4 26.♘f5 Nobody cares about the b4 pawn anymore. [26.♙xf6?! is a mistake as after 26...♗g7 27.♙f3 e4 the c6 pawn is lost.]

26...♖dxb4 27.♖xb4 ♖xb4 28.♙h5 Now Nxh6 is already a threat. Black's main problem is that it is very hard to get rid of the c6 pawn.

28...♙h7



29.♖d1 White wants to play Rd7.

29...♙c8 30.♘e3 What a nice domination on the white squares. A very typical position where things seem to be

more or less fine for Black, but in fact the position is on the verge of being lost.

30...f5 Andreikin tries to escape with an active play, which is hard to blame, but now all his pawns are becoming targets. [30...♖d4 was probably a better defensive move and now White would have a pleasant choice of playing 31.Rxd4 with a better position or maybe 31.Rb1, keeping the rooks on the board.]

31.♗d5! A great move. The black bishop on e6 is keeping things together, so Mamedyarov exchanges the best piece and as we know, the queen and knight are very dangerous pieces in the attack.

31...f4 Black has no choice... White just wanted to play Bxe6 and Rd7.

32.♘c2 ♖a4 33.♙xe5 Material is now equal...

33...♗g7 34.♗e4+?! Mamedyarov is going for another pawn, but the game is becoming very forced. [It is hard to say why White did not play 34.♙d6 as I think he is close to winning here.]

34...♙g8 35.♙xf4 f5! Black's only chance is to do something quickly.

36.c7 ♖xe4 Both players were already in time trouble.

37.♖d8+

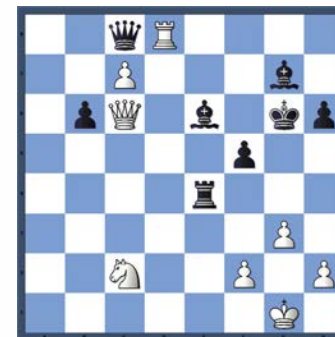


37...♙f7?? And Andreikin blunders... [After 37...♙h7 38.♙d6 ♙a6 39.♙c6 White is probably still better, but the game is quite unclear.]

38.♙d6 ♙a6 39.♖d7+! This is why the black king's position on f7 is much worse.

39...♙g6 40.♙c6 And the game is over. Black cannot stop the c-pawn from promoting.

40...♙c8 41.♖d8



41...♖c4 42.♙xc4 We saw quite an interesting game, with a nice pawn sacrifice for the initiative. In the end Mamedyarov was a bit lucky, but all in all this is a totally deserved victory!
1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Aronian, L(2830)-Mamedyarov, S(2757)

FIDE Candidates, 2014.03.14

1. +-



(6) Nuber, B(2359)-Jianu, V(2574)

European Championship, 2014.03.10

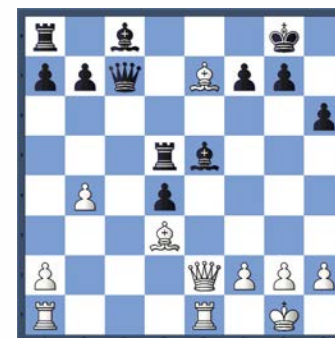
1... -+



(7) Navara, D(2700)-Shomoev, A(2581)

European Championship, 2014.03.11

1. +-



(8) Najer, E(2633)-Inarkiev, E(2698)

European Championship, 2014.03.11

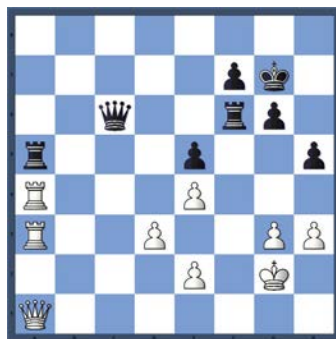
1. +-



(9) Dvirnyy, D(2575)-Polgar, J(2693)

European Championship, 2014.03.11

1... -+



(10) Balogh, C(2651)-Quparadze, G(2507)

European Championship, 2014.03.11

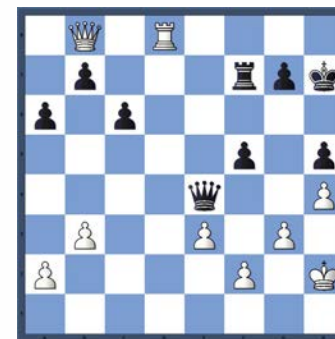
1. ±



(11) Esen, B(2563)-Tomashevsky, E(2711)

European Championship, 2014.03.11

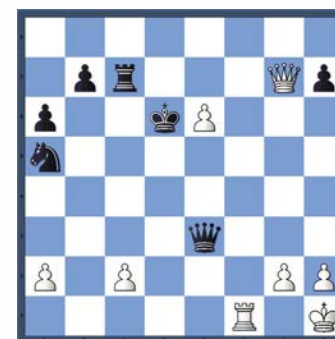
1. +-



(12) Iordaschescu, V(2583)-Petrosyan, M(2336)

European Championship, 2014.03.11

1. +-



(13) Qashashvili, A(2378)-Balogh, C(2651)

European Championship, 2014.03.14

1... -+



(14) Polgar, J(2693)-Yilmaz, M(2557)

European Championship, 2014.03.14

1. +-



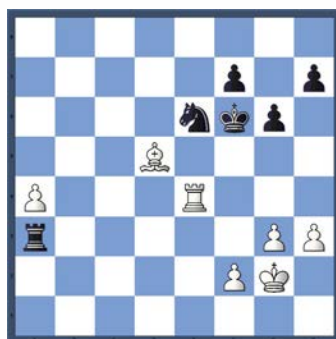
Endgame section

(15) Aronian, Levon(2830)
- Andreikin, Dmitry(2709)

FIDE Candidates 2014(6.4),
2014.03.19



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

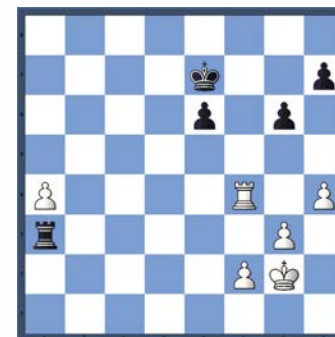


In the 6th round of the Candidates, Aronian missed an important win against Andreikin to join Anand in the lead. After a more or less one sided game, Aronian could have finished the game even earlier, but this not so simple endgame appeared.

38. ♗xe6? What a shocking mistake by World Nr2 player! The aprising rook endgame is almost a draw. [The simple 38. ♗c6 followed by Bb5, h4, and trying to bring the white rook to a7 would have given White much better winning chances. Black's position would be extremely hard to hold.]

38...fxe6 We know that the endgame 3vs3 pawns on the kingside with an extra a-pawn is a draw and the slightly damaged black pawn structure doesn't change that evaluation.

39. ♖f4+ ♔e7 40.h4 The white rook is standing perfectly on f4, but Black can always chase it away with e5.



40...h5! The last important move in the game for Black. Of course White wanted to play h5 next and after gxh5 try to play Kh3-Kh4 at a good moment.

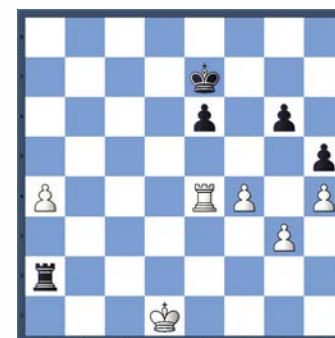
41. ♖e4 ♔f7 42. ♔f1 White's only idea can be to bring his king to the a-pawn.

42...♖a2 Of course Black doesn't let White play Ke2.

43. ♔e1 ♔f6 Black keeps on waiting until the white king is a bit more far away from the f-pawn.

44. ♔d1 ♔e7 Now Rxf2 is already a threat.

45.f4 It is hard to suggest anything better for White. [After 45. ♖f4 45...e5 the game should be a draw.]



45...♖a3 It is time to collect some pawns.

46.♔c2 ♖xg3 47.♚d4 [47.♔b2 would also lead to a draw as after 47...♔d7 the black king is in time to hold the a-pawn. 48.a5 ♔c7 49.♚xe6 ♖g4 And both the h4 and f4 pawns will fall, leading to an instant draw.]

47...♚e3 The most simple.

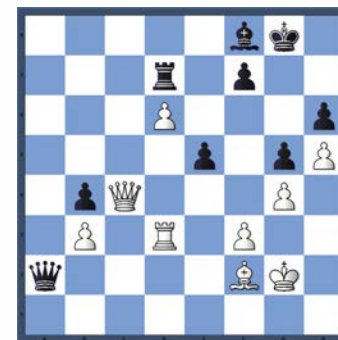
48.♔b2 e5 It is clearly a big pity for Aronian not to win an endgame with very good winning chances and such a mistake could maybe cost him the final victory?! **1/2-1/2**

(16) Svidler, Peter(2758)
- **Kramnik, Vladimir(2787)**

FIDE Candidates,
2014.03.15



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



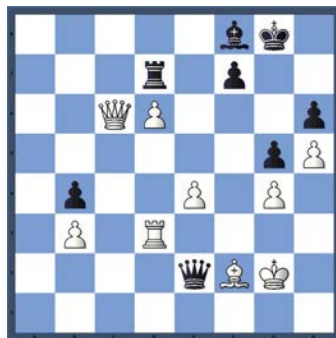
This is not a typical endgame which we usually comment, but an amazing position where in a seemingly hopeless situation Kramnik finds a miraculous defence and saves the game.

41.♚c6?! is objectively a mistake, but who could blame Svidler for missing the following continuation. White seems to be easily winning, his d-pawn supported by all his pieces seems to be decisive. [White should have been greedy and grab the pawn: 41.♚xb4! 41...♚a6 42.♚d5 ♖xd6 (Keeping the material balance with 42...♚xd6 is risky due to the pin on the d-file. 43.♚c4 ♚b7 44.♚d3+-) 43.♚xe5± White has an healthy extra pawn and very good chances to win the game.]

41...e4!! The first shocker by Kramnik. Black weakens the pawn structure in order to be able to create counterplay against the white king. [41...♚d8 42.d7+-; An important detail is that after 41...♚e2 42.♚e3! is winning: 42...♚xd6 43.♚xd6! ♚xe3 44.♚xf8+! ♔xf8 45.♚xe3+-]

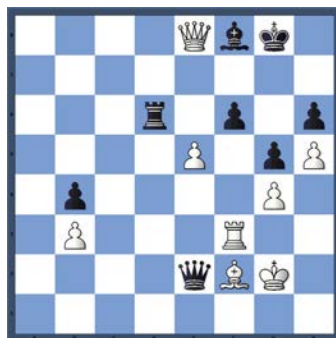
42.fxe4 There was nothing better than accepting the sacrifice, but now the g4 pawn becomes a target. [42. ♖xe4 42... ♖xd6= equalizes.; 42. ♖xd7 42... exd3 43. ♖c8 d2 Black's d-pawn is faster.]

42... ♖e2!



43. ♖f3! Svidler had to give up his strong d-pawn, but suddenly the black king becomes vulnerable after the opening of the f-file. [43. ♖xd7 43... ♖xd3 44. e5 ♖e4+=]

43... ♖xd6 44. ♖e8 f6 45.e5! Svidler had probably foreseen this position long ago and thought that he is going to win soon. However the real cold shower is just about to come. [45. ♖g6+ 45... ♖g7 Black holds.]



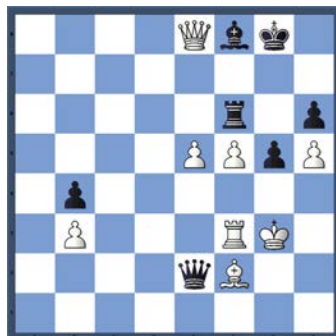
45...f5!! What a brilliant idea, combined with the next move! [The point was that 45... ♖xe5 is refuted by 46. ♖xe5 fxe5

47. ♖xf8+! ♖xf8 48. ♖c5 ♖e7 and White has a decisive tempo until the black king leaves the pin... 49. ♖xb4! ♖e6 50. ♖xd6 ♖xd6 51. ♖f3 ♖d5 52. ♖e3+- With an easily won pawn endgame with the distant passer. White gives up his b-pawn and collects the e5 and runs faster towards the kingside pawns.; 45... ♖a6 46. ♖c8+- leaving the pin also wins for White.; 45... ♖e4 46. ♖g6+! is another important nuance. 46... ♖xg6 47. hxg6 fxe5 48. ♖xf8+! ♖xf8 49. ♖c5+- and the g-pawn promotes.]

46.gxf5 [46. ♖xf5? 46... ♖xg4+]

46... ♖f6!! Just amazing! Another only move by Black and suddenly he is safe. The white king is too exposed to be able to make progress. [46... ♖e4 was also tempting , as in comparison to the 45... Qe4 line, White cannot trade queens, but here White wins after 47. e6 ♖g4+ 48. ♖h2 ♖xf3 49. ♖f7+ White collects all the material with checks! 49... ♖h8 50. ♖xf8+ ♖h7 51. ♖f7+ ♖h8 52. ♖f6+ ♖g8 53. ♖g6+ ♖h8 54. ♖xh6+ ♖g8 55. ♖xg5+ ♖h7 And here the winning move is 56. ♖h4! ♖e2+ 57. ♖g2 ♖xh5 58. ♖e4+- and Black has no adequate defence against the march of the pawns. He runs out of checks after Rd2 Kg3.]

47. ♖g3 Trying to free the bishop by leaving the pin, but Black has another only move! The white queen had no good square to leave the pin on the e-file. [47. ♖c8 47... ♖xe5; 47. ♖b8 is met by 47... ♖xf5! 48. ♖xf5 ♖g4+; 47. e6 47... ♖e4 And Black holds in all the lines.]



47...♔e4! A last exact move and Black has nothing to worry about anymore. Qh4 Kg2 Qe4 is threatening. White has no useful move. Somehow all his pieces are immobilized and they are lacking any harmony.

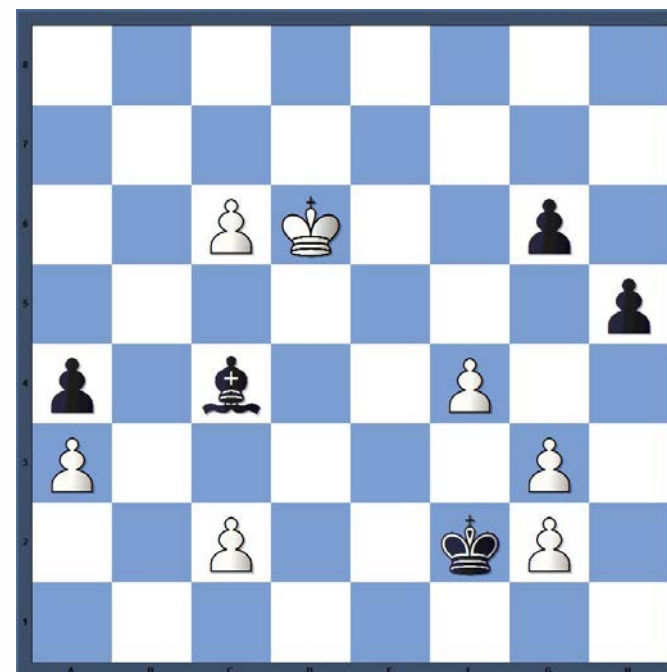
48.♘c5 [48.♔b8 48...♖xf5]

48...♔e1+ 49.♘f2 ♔e4 50.♘c5 ♔e1+ 51.♘f2 What a defence by Kramnik! **1/2-1/2**

Surprise section / study

(17) Moeller

1. =



Solutions

(18) Meribanov, V(2410)-Akopian, V(2682)

European Championship, 2014.03.04



22...♖xe4! 23.♗xe4 ♕g4+ 24.♖h2 ♕h3+ 25.♖g1 ♖e8!
—+ **26.♗f3** [26.e3 26...♕g4+! 27.♖h2 ♖e5! 28.♕xe5 ♕h3+
29.♖g1 ♗e2#] **26...♖e5 27.♕xe5 dxe5 0-1**

(19) Salgado Lopez, I(2605)-Riazantsev, A(2689)

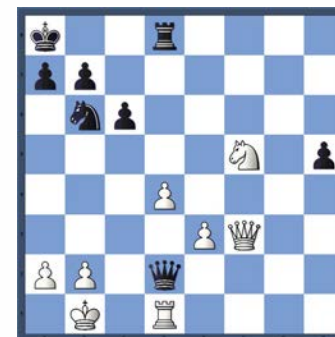
European Championship, 2014.03.05



31...♖d5! 0-1 [31...♖d5 32.♗f6 ♗e2+ 33.♖b1 ♖xd1#]

(20) Ben Artzi, I(2370)-Beliavsky, A(2570)

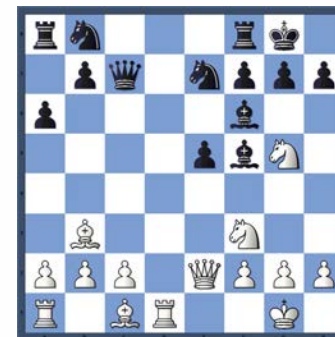
European Championship, 2014.03.05



35...♗c4! 0-1 [35...♗c4 36.♖xd2 ♗xd2+ 37.♖c2 ♗xf3—+]

(21) Balogh, C(2651)-Rozum, I(2505)

European Championship, 2014.03.06

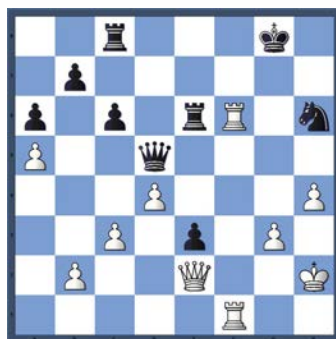


15.♗e4? [15.♗xf7! 15...♖xf7 16.♗xe5!! (16.♕c4? 16...♗ec6!)
16...♗xe5 17.♕xe5! ♕xe5 (17...♕b6 18.♕xe7+—) 18.♖d8#]

15...♗xe4 16.♕xe4+=

(22) Almasi, Z(2704)-Aleksandrov, A(2544)

European Championship, 2014.03.06



39. ♖xh6! ♜xh6 40. ♔g4+ ♚h7 41. ♔xc8+- e2 42. ♖e1
♜e6 43. ♔xb7+ ♚g6 44. ♔c8 ♜e4 [44... ♔f5 45. ♔g8+ ♚h5
46. ♔g5+ ♔xg5 47. hxg5 ♚xg5 48. ♚g2+-]

45. ♔xa6+-

(23) Aleksandrov, A(2544)-Qashashvili, A(2378)

European Championship, 2014.03.08

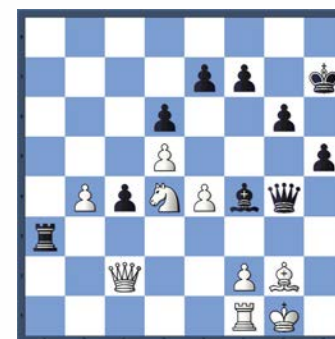


31... ♜xf2! 32. ♔xc6 [32. ♔xf2 32... ♔xf2+ 33. ♚h1 ♔xg3+-]

32... ♜xg2+! 33. ♚xg2 ♜xe3+ 34. ♚h2 ♜g4+ 0-1 [34... ♜g4+
35. ♚g1 ♜xe1+! 36. ♜xe1 ♔f2+ 37. ♚h1 ♔h2#]

(24) Tomashevsky, E(2711)-Perunovic, M(2617)

European Championship, 2014.03.10

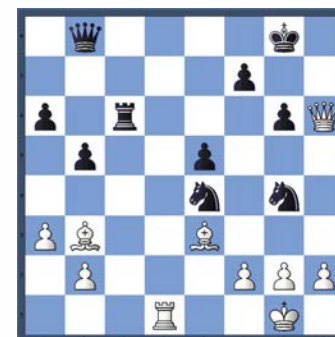


30... ♜h3! 31. ♜a1 ♜h2! 32. f3 ♔g3 33. ♚f1 [33. ♔e2
33... ♜h1+! 34. ♚xh1 ♔h2#]

33... ♚e3 0-1

(25) Shomoev, A(2581)-Cheparinov, I(2681)

European Championship, 2014.03.10



34. ♚xf7+! ♚xf7 35. ♔h7+ ♚f6 [35... ♚f8 36. ♔h8+-;
35... ♚e6 36. ♔d7+ ♚f6 37. ♔xc6+-]

36. ♔h4+ ♚f5 37. f3+-

(26) Jones, G(2651)-Urkedal, F(2495)

Reykjavik Open, 2014.03.08



28. ♖c5! ♜xg7 [28... ♜xf6 29. ♖f8#]

29. ♜xe6 ♖xe6 [29... fxe6 30. ♖f8#]

30. g4!! d4

[30... ♜h4 31. ♖f8+ ♜f6 32. ♖d8+ ♜e5 33. ♖xh4+—]

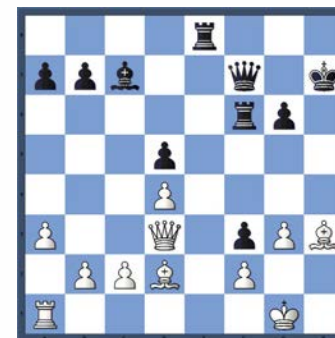
31. ♖f8+ ♜f6 32. ♖d8+! ♜e7

[32... ♜g7 33. ♖f8+ ♜g8 34. ♖h6+—]

33. g5+! ♜xg5 34. ♖xe7+—

(27) Van Kampen, R(2603)-Naiditsch, A(2706)

Reykjavik Open, 2014.03.09

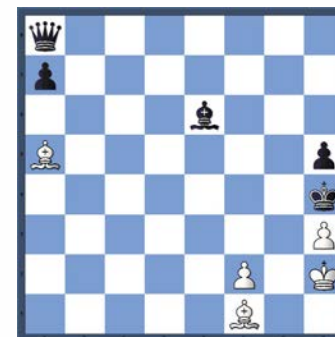


39... ♖xg3! 40. fxxg3 ♖c7!! 41. ♖f4 [41. ♜h2 41... ♜e2+—+]

41... ♜xf4! 42. gxf4 ♖xf4—+ 43. ♖g2 [43. ♖f1 43... ♖g3+ 44. ♜h1 ♜e2—+]

43... fxxg2 44. ♖h3+ ♜g8 45. ♖xg2 ♖xd4+—+

(28) Platov



1. f4!! ♖xh3! [1... ♖e4 2. ♖d8#; 1... ♖d5 2. ♖e1#]

2. ♖e1+! [2. ♖xh3? 2... ♖e8!—+]

2... ♜g4 3. ♖xh3+ ♜xf4 4. ♖d2+! ♜e5 5. ♖c3+! ♜d6 6. ♖b4+! ♜c7 7. ♖a5+! ♜b8 8. ♖g2!=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

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Editorial Preface

In the Candidates 12 out of 14 games have been played.

Anand clearly is up to a one man show. The Ex World Championship is playing solid and good chess, while all the other participants seem to be under big pressure and blunder surprisingly much. Could it be that Anand's expectations before the Candidates were not too high, or maybe he changed something radical in the way he is playing, but anyhow it seems like we are going to see a rematch between Anand and Carlsen.

Aronian is the only one who can still theoretically stop Anand from winning the Candidates, but for this Anand needs to lose the last both games and the chance that it is going to happen is very very small.

A big surprise is the bad shape of Kramnik, who just seems to blunder in almost every second game. I haven't seen Kramnik play games like against Karjakin or Svidler in a long time. Mamedyarov is playing great fighting chess throughout the tournament. Risking a lot, winning-losing, continuing pushing, it is a great pleasure to watch his games, but with a result of 6/12 he hasn't been lucky enough to be a contender for the qualification.

The play of Karjakin is rather solid, no big risks, no big gains and in my opinion 6/12 is a nice result for the young Russian. Clearly Svidler will be disappointed with the score of 5.5/12, but he also just made too many "bad" moves. Great play was often just followed by a disaster.

For Topalov the tournament also turned out to be more of disappointment on 5.5/12. Good games were followed by bad ones, but what is nice is that Veselin never lost his fighting spirit and all the games are well fought until the bitter end. Andreikin is on 5.5/12 as well and doesn't seem to hurry on

winning or trying to win any of the games.

Can we expect an exciting finish? I would say rather not, as Anand just has too much experience to let somebody steal his 1st place, but in chess you never know and surprises do happen!

In the current issue, we are of course focusing all our attention on the Candidates!
Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

**(1) Kramnik, Vladimir(2787)
- Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2757)
[D38]**

FIDE Candidates 2014(7.4),
2014.03.21



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

After a long theoretical battle, Kramnik managed to achieve a very nice position and it was even looking like White's win should not be far away, but by blundering a nice tactic by Black the game got very chaotic. Before move 40, Mamedyarov already looked like he was the one who was winning and indeed he had a big chance to close the game. Suddenly, the game turned one more time after Black's blunders and finally Kramnik was the one with a full point in the tournament cross table. A really exciting and fighting game.

1.d4 Kramnik continues starting his games with 1.d4, usually he likes to vary it sometimes with 1.c4.

1...♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 White continues repeating his main repertoire. Kramnik usually avoids playing the Nimzo with White, as he is actually one of the biggest experts with Black.

3...d5 4.♘c3 ♙b4 [4...dxc4 already happened in the Anand-Kramnik game in round 3 with a short draw, but we can be sure that Kramnik had some novelty in mind.]

5.cxd5 [5.♔a4+ 5...♘c6 is the other main line.]

5...exd5 6.♙g5



6...b7 A relatively rare move order by Mamedyarov. [A more popular line is 6...h6 7. h4 c5 8.e3 c4 with very sharp and unclear play.]

7. c2 White is going for a slightly unusual move order. [It could be that Kramnik wanted to avoid 7.e3 7...h6 8. h4 g5 9. g3 e4]

7...c5 8.e3 a5 9. d3 And we are back in a very popular line of the Ragozin that has been played on a high level for many years.

9...c4 10. f5 O-O 11.O-O e8 12. d2 This is also all is theory. White's move 12.Nd2 is very logical, because very soon we will see that his main idea is to play f3-e4.

12...g6 13. xd7 xd7



14.h4!? A very interesting move in my opinion and also quite

a rare one. On the top level it was just played once in the game Cheparinov-Mamedyarov in 2007, where White quite easily won. The idea of the h4 move is simply to play h5 in a good moment, which could be quite unpleasant for Black. Keeping the idea of f3-e4 and later attacking the black king in mind, a move like h4 makes perfect sense. [In a rapid game against Svidler, Kramnik tried 14.e4 14...xc3 15. xc3 xc3 16.bxc3 dxe4 17. xc4 b6 but the position is just close to equal.]

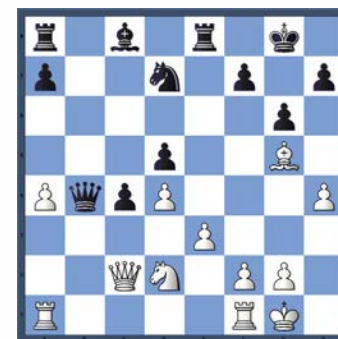
14...b5?! Mamedyarov improves on his game, but to me this move just doesn't look like the right one. In the game Cheparinov-Mamedyarov happened: [14...b6 15.f3 f8 16.e4 g7 17. e3 with some advantage for White.]

15.a4! A typical and very strong move. First of all White is forcing Black to give up his dark squared bishop.

15...xc3 There is no other way to defend from axb5.

16.bxc3 b4 Another forced move.

17.cxb4 xb4 And here comes White's maneuver which basically crushes all Black's hopes of being fine:



18.b1! The key move and of course Kramnik saw it before playing 15.a4!. The white knight is going to take a fantastic position on c3, from where the pawn on d5 is going to be under attack and the f3-e4 idea is getting quite realistic.

18...♔d6 Mamedyarov decides to put his queen on c6. [Maybe 18...♔a5 would have been a better choice, but in any case White's advantage is clear.]

19.♘c3 ♕c6 20.♖fb1 White can always gain control over the b-file by playing Bf4 which makes things even harder for Black. Now the threat is to play Rb5.

20...♙a6 21.♔d1! Another great move by White. The white queen is going to take a perfect position on f3, attacking the d5 pawn and helping developing an attack on the kingside.

21...f6 Probably the only way to defend the d5 pawn in a nice way.

22.♙f4 [Maybe 22.♙h6 would have saved White a tempo?!]

22...♖ad8 Black tries to stay solid in a very passive and bad position.

23.♔f3 ♘f8 24.♙h6 White is not giving Black a chance to play Ne6 next. Black's pieces are almost totally paralyzed.

24...♗f7 25.♖b2 White continues to put his pieces to perfect positions. The b-file is now under eternal control.

25...♘e6 26.♖ab1 ♘g7 Black finally brought his knight into the game, but it does not improve his position a lot.

27.g4! Kramnik is correctly playing for domination. There is not reason to give Black an opportunity of playing Nf5.

27...♔g8 Black is doing bad, but solid. It is still not that clear how to break the black fortress.

28.♔f4 Kramnik continues what he started, improving the pieces to the maximum. Maybe White's idea could be to prepare f3-e4 now...

28...♔f7 Black probably doesn't have any better option than just keep on waiting. [A move like 28...♔d6 29.♔xd6 ♖xd6

would just lead to a very bad endgame.]

29.e4!? Finally Whites had enough of "slow play" and the action starts.

29...♘e6 [White calculated the forced line after 29...dxe4 30.d5 ♕d6 31.♖b7+! This move is not too difficult to find, but it still needs to be evaluated correctly. 31...♙xb7 32.♖xb7+ ♖e7 33.♔xd6 ♖xd6 34.♖xe7+ ♔xe7 35.♙xg7 And White's position is probably just winning. 2 pieces and a passed d-pawn is too much...]



30.exd5? White blunders after having played a great game. [30.♔e3 would have caused huge problems to Black. 30...♘c5 (After the more passive 30...♘c7 31.f3 White's position is just fantastic.) 31.exd5 ♕d7 (31...♖xe3 32.dxc6 ♖xc3 33.dxc5 White should be close to winning here.) 32.♔f3 White is a pawn up and the black king is more exposed than the white one, so White's advantage should be quite serious here.]

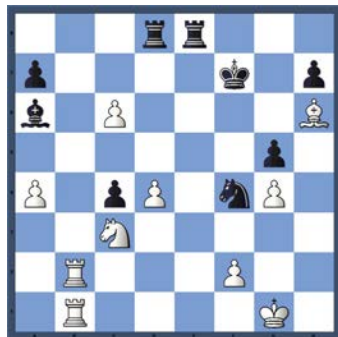
30...♘xf4 31.dxc6 At first sight this endgame just looks winning for White, but Black has a great trick:

31...g5!! It is quite obvious that Kramnik overlooked this reaction. Suddenly White cannot save the bishop on h6.

32.hxg5 What to do for White?! [It is not an option to play 32.h5 32...♖xd4 as with a dead bishop on h6 Black's position should be close to winning.; After 32.c7 32...♖xd4 33.hxg5 fxg5

34. ♖b8 ♗e6 it is also very hard to say whether White can save the game or not...]

32...fxg5



33.c7 Now Black has two very pleasant options: [33. ♗xg5?? of course just loses to 33... ♗h3+]

33...♖d6 [As already mentioned in the line above, the position after 33...♖xd4 34. ♖b8 ♗e6 is much better for Black.]

34. ♗xg5 It's better to get a pawn than nothing at all.

34...♗h3+ 35. ♖g2 ♗xg5 36.d5 White's position looks lost, but still 2 pawns and some active play can sometimes lead to complications, especially in zeitnot.

36...♗c8! A strong move. The black bishop is finally not staring at the c4 pawn anymore, but instead attacking the g4 pawn and stopping the c7 pawn.

37. ♖b8 White keeps on trying his chances. [37. ♗b5 loses on the spot after 37...♖xd5 38. ♗xa7 ♖d7!]

37...♖f6 It seems like Black has everything under control and just wants to play Rd4 next.

38. ♖a8! Kramnik finds the only resource to keep the game going. The idea is to play Rbb8 next.

38...♖f4 39.f3! Once again the only move to stay in the game.

[39. ♖bb8 is losing as after 39...♖xg4+ 40. ♖f1 ♗f3 a mate on g1 is coming.]



39...♖xf3? After having done everything right, Mamedyarov suddenly miscalculates, but the winning line was of course very hard to find... [39... ♗xf3 was the winning move. 40. ♖g3 I guess Mamedyarov stopped to calculate the variation here, but it was too early... 40...♖xg4+! 41. ♖xf3 And now Black has the amazing 41...♖g6!! What a fantastic move, which is of course very hard to find during the game. Black's position is totally winning because of the tactical threats and White cannot avoid losing some of his material.]

40.d6? And Kramnik also misses his chance to escape. [40. ♖bb8! White should have had no fear. 40...♖xc3 41. ♖xc8 Of course White's position looks very dangerous, but in fact Black doesn't have anything better than giving a perpetual check after 41...♖c2+ 42. ♖g3 ♖c3+ 43. ♖g2]

40...♗xg4 The time trouble is over and Black is back on the winner's road, although the position remains very sharp.

41. ♖xe8 Both players took some time to relax after the crazy zeitnot and the game continues on a high level.

41...♔xe8 42.♖b8+ ♔f7



43.♖d8! White finds the only practical chance. The idea of playing d7 next is a huge threat and although the white king is lonely and unprotected Black needs to play very accurately.

43...♕h3+ Of course Black has no time to lose.

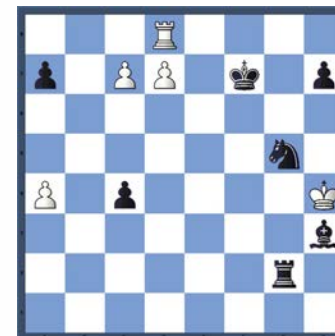
44.♔h2 [44.♔g1 44...♖f1+ 45.♔h2 ♖f2+ would lead to the position in the game.]

44...♖xc3! The right move. [After the premature 44...♖f2+ 45.♔g3 ♖g2+ 46.♔f4! the white king would escape.]

45.d7 As we can see, things are looking very forced.

45...♖c2+ 46.♔g3 ♖g2+! Now the white king can't escape anymore.

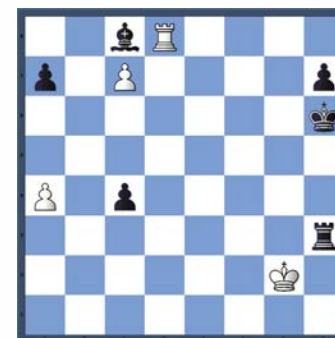
47.♔h4 [47.♔f4 47...♕e6+! Black is just in time to cover everything. 48.♔f3 ♕xc7 49.♖f8+ ♔xf8 50.d8=♖+ ♕e8 Two pieces and two extra pawns should be enough to win the game easily.]



47...♕e6!! What a fantastic move! White is in time to queen, but not in time to save the game!

48.♖f8+ The only move. [48.c8=♖ would lead to mate in 2... 48...♕f3+ 49.♔h5 ♖h2# What a beautiful position!]

48...♔xf8? This move is so hard to understand! After playing some fantastic moves, Mamedyarov suddenly makes a huge error when the win was so close. [48...♔g6! was leading to a winning position. 49.♖g8+ (49.♖f6+ 49...♔xf6 50.d8=♖+ ♔f7 And as the white queen has no more checks Black will just mate the white king.) 49...♔h6! Now we are in a very forced line. 50.♖xg5 ♖h2+ 51.♔g3 ♕xd7 52.♖d5 ♖h3+ 53.♔g2 ♕c8 54.♖d8 At first sight the position might look like a draw, but once again Black's position is winning thanks to a beautiful resource:



54...c3! 55.♖xc8 c2 And Black is queening first...

49.c8=♔+! Exactly! [49.d8=♔+ 49...♔f7 was winning for Black.]

49...♔g7?! Mamedyarov panics... [The trick now is that after 49...♔f7 White promotes to a knight! 50.d8=♘+! Could it be that Mamedyarov blundered this?! 50...♔f6 But the position should still be close to a draw. 51.♘xe6 ♘xe6 52.♔xc4 ♔g7 With very good chances to save the game.]



50.♔b7! After this move, the game is over.

50...♘f3+ Nothing saves Black anymore. d8Q check is a threat and the rook on g2 is hanging.

51.♔xf3 ♔h2+ It is clear that Mamedyarov must have been very frustrated to see his position is now lost when the win was so close.

52.♔g5 h6+ 53.♔f4 ♔h4+ 54.♔e5 What an amazing game! All in all, it is clear that White should be very happy achieving a full point, although the first 30 moves of the game were clearly dominated by Kramnik, while the next 20 went to Mamedyarov. It is then only with the huge blunder 48...Kxf8 that Black made a present to his opponent. **1-0**

(2) Topalov, Veselin(2785) - Svidler, Peter(2758) [B49]

FIDE Candidates 2014(12.1),
2014.03.27



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We will see a great positional win by White, who manages to outplay his opponent in a very equal looking position. From the opening point of view, this game could also be very interesting.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 Svidler as plays his favourite Paulsen. There are not many players from the top level who still believe in this opening.

3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 [The Paulsen with 4...a6 is also a very fighting opening: 4...a6]

5.♘c3 ♔c7 6.♘e3 a6 So we are in the very main lines.

7.♘e2!? Not the most popular, but a very tricky move. [7.♔d2 would lead us to some sharp lines, for example like in the Karjakin-Svidler game that was played just a week ago during the Candidates.]

7...b5 The most critical move. [After 7...♘f6 the game could turn into the main Sheveningen line: 8.O-O ♘e7 9.f4 d6 10.a4]

8.♘xc6 dxc6 A very rare move and personally I think a very risky strategic decision. [8...♔xc6 would be the normal move, which was played in many games even on the top level. 9.♘f3 ♘b7 10.e5 ♔c7 11.♘xb7 ♔xb7 12.♔d3 With very unclear play.]



9.a4! Very strong play. White has no time to lose. If Black was in time to develop his pieces, White's position would not be better because of the great pawn structure a6-b5-c6.

9...b4 [It would be a bad idea for Black to try and keep his pawn structure: 9...b7?! 10.axb5 axb5 11.♖xa8+ ♕xa8 12.O-O followed by Qa1 and strong play on the a-file. Black is just not in time with his development.]

10.♘b1 The white knight is going to take a perfect position on c4.

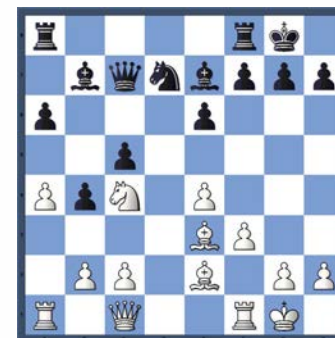
10...♗f6 11.♘d2 c5 Black is trying to develop his bishop to b7, which is not a great position, but what else to do?! It is already clearly too late for switching the plan and playing e5-Be6.

12.f3! White defends the e4 pawn and puts a wall against the b7 bishop.

12...♕b7 13.♘c4 ♘d7 This move also just looks too slow... [It would probably have been a better choice to play 13...♕e7 14.O-O O-O 15.♖e1 with a similar idea as in the game to play c3 and White should be also be clearly better here.]

14.♖c1 Of course White could have castled first, but Topalov probably wanted to be sure that the Nb6 move never works. Now of course White always has the Bf4 idea.

14...♕e7 15.O-O O-O



16.♕f4!? A very nice positional move. Before opening the c-file with c3, White is weakening Black's position even more. [After 16.c3 16...bxc3 17.♖xc3 ♖fb8 White should still be better, but maybe Black would get some play on the b-file and Bf6 could also be strong at some moment.]

16...e5 Black doesn't have anything better than playing e5. In case of moves like 16...Qc8 of course the d6 square would get very weak.

17.♕g3 Now White has the double idea of playing Ne3-Bc4 and try to explore the d5 square, or to try and open the position by playing c3. At first sight the position could seem to be close to equal, but in fact White has a big advantage!

17...h6?! Strangely Svidler doesn't seem to hurry. His move is preparing Bg5, but now White is going to crush in the center. [17...a5!? with the idea of playing next Ba6 looks like a better option to me. Black really needs to act against White's c3 move.]

18.c3! Topalov continues to play in a great style. White is preparing his play on the c- and d-files.

18...a5 19.♖c2 White has no reason to hurry and first places his pieces to perfect positions.

19...♟a6 20.♞fd1 ♞fd8 21.b3 A move a move like b3 could be useful in the future.

21...♟g5 22.♟f2 Avoiding some of Black's tricks connected with playing Be3 at some good moment.

22...♞f8 Svidler tries to bring his knight to e6 and afterwards to threaten playing bxc3 and Nd4.

23.cxb4 Of course White doesn't wait for Black to play Ne6 next.



23...cxb4?! After this move, the game is maybe almost lost. [Black's position would be much more hard to break after 23...axb4 24.h4 ♟e7 25.♞e3 ♞e6 26.♟xa6 ♞xa6 27.♞c4 Of course White's position is much better, but Black is still fighting, especially with the upcoming Nd4 move.]

24.♟b6! White launches some concrete play to not give Black a chance to play Ne6.

24...♞xd1+ 25.♞xd1 ♞b8 [After 25...♞e7 26.♞d5 Black is already losing some material.]

26.♟f2 ♞c7 [And again Black is not in time to get the knight into the game: 26...♞e6 27.♞b6 ♞a7 28.♞d7 And White is an exchange up.]

27.♞d5 Once again 2 pawns are hanging, on a5 and e5.

27...♞c8 28.h4 Topalov decides not to give Svidler any

chances. [28.♞c5 also looks very strong. 28...♞d8 (28...♞xc5 This queen sacrifice doesn't work as after 29.♟xc5 ♞xc5 30.♞d1 White's advantage should be close to winning.) 29.♞xe5 ♞e6 30.♞d5 White is a clear pawn up.]

28...♟e7 29.♞d2 Now the pawn on a5 is already hanging.



29...♞d8?! And this last inaccuracy already leads to a lost position. [White would still have had to show some technique after 29...♟xc4 30.♟xc4 ♞d8 and Black is fighting in a very bad position.]

30.♟b6 The pawn on a5 is simply gone.

30...♞xd5 31.♞xd5 ♞b8 32.♞xa5 There are no more hopes for Black.

32...♟xc4 33.♟xc4 ♞d6 34.♟f2 The most simple, White prepares to play Qb6 followed by a5-a6-a7.

34...♞d1+ 35.♞h2 The position is just too hopeless. We just saw a really great positional game where White basically didn't have to calculate any variations and got a decisive advantage. A very nice game to learn from! **1-0**

(3) Andreikin, Dmitry(2709) - Topalov, Veselin(2785) [D30]

FIDE Candidates 2014(7.2),
2014.03.21



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Andreikin scored his first win in a highly unusual game.

1. ♖f3 d5 2. d4 ♖f6 3. c4 e6 4. ♗g5 h6 5. ♗xf6 ♖xf6 6. ♖bd2

Andreikin employed this sideline successfully against Kramnik last year. That game continued with 6...g6 and was analyzed in detail in our newsletter. Topalov was well prepared and came up with an effective plan.

6... ♗e7 Black wants to finish the development as fast as possible with 0-0 followed by challenging the central pawns with c5. Usually Black is worried about getting his queen misplaced on f6, but here White cannot do anything with it.

7. ♖c2 This is the novelty. Hardly an improvement, but Black was also fine in the previous games.

7...O-O 8.e3 [White obviously should not go for poisoned pawn with 8.cxd5 8...exd5 9. ♖xc7? ♖c6 followed by Bf5 and Nb4, with more than enough compensation. White needs too many moves to castle.]



8...c5! With his Qc2 move, White wanted to prevent or at least make it harder to execute the c5 idea, but Topalov is not afraid of a pawn sacrifice for the initiative.

9.dxc5 [If White starts with 9.cxd5 9...exd5 10.dxc5 Black can either transpose to the game with Nd7 or he has an extra possibility of playing 10...♗f5]

9... ♖d7! Black would like to recapture the pawn. White should try to keep it somehow, otherwise Black simply ends up in a slightly better position thanks to the two bishops.

10.cxd5 exd5 [10... ♖xc5!? was an alternative to sacrifice a pawn. White still needs a few moves to secure his king's position, but this gives Black enough time to find counterplay. 11.dxe6 ♗xe6 12. ♗c4 (12. ♖d4 12... ♖ac8 looks very dangerous.) 12... ♗f5 White already has to be very careful to avoid getting into trouble. 13.e4! (13. ♖c3 13... ♖a4 14. ♖xf6 ♗xf6=+ wins back the pawn with a better endgame.) 13... ♖xe4! 14. ♖xe4 ♖g6 15. ♖fd2 ♗b4 Black wins back the piece, but White is just in time to solve the problems. 16.O-O ♗xd2 17. ♖xd2 ♗xe4 18.f3 with equality.]

11. ♖b3 Trying to hold the pawn as long as possible.

11...a5 12.a4 Knowing the consequences, this is a slightly risky decision.

[12. ♗e2 was safer, although it gives Black a very easy game. 12...a4 13. ♖bd4 ♖xc5 14.O-O ♗d7 Black has an isolated pawn, but the two bishops and the active pieces give him the initiative. Rfc8 is coming next with a tempo.]



12...b6! Black wants to open the files as long as the king stands on e1! The bishop is coming to b4 with a really unpleasant check!

13.c6! The only chance to keep the position closed.

13...♗b4+



14.♔d1! Of course such moves are not advisable in general. However in the current position this is the best chance. White is going to place his knight on d4 and his bishop on b5. The structure is static, therefore it is very difficult to open the center on the d1 king. [14.♖bd2 would have strongly been met by 14...♗c5 15.♗b5 ♕f5 Black at least wins back the b2 pawn as Qc1 loses to Nb3.]

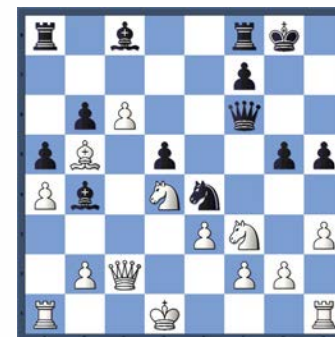
14...♗c5 [14...♗b8!? was a good alternative, but for such a strong dynamic player as Topalov, such backward moves are not coming into his consideration. White cannot hold the c6

pawn for long... 15.♗bd4 ♕c5 16.♗b5 ♕g4! Threatening to play Bxd4, therefore the only move is 17.h3 ♕xf3+ 18.♗xf3 ♗xc6 Black restored the material balance and is ready to open the center with d4! Black has an edge here.]

15.♗bd4 ♗e4? An active move, but Topalov misses Andreikin's subtle plan and he soon ends up without compensation. [The key of Black's counterplay would have been to destroy the stability of the d4 knight. The most effective way to do this was 15...♗g4! 16.♗b5 ♗e6! 17.♔c1 ♕c5! Black focuses all his pieces on the two white knights. White cannot hold them for long, which means the salvation of Black's problems.]

16.♗b5 g5? Topalov was sure that the only way to connect the rooks and give shelter to his king was Ke2, Rhd1 and Kf1, therefore he prevented this idea with the g4 plan and the f2 falls. However, Andreikin had a different idea in mind, where he could hide his king and the g5 move soon becomes a self-destructing operation... [16...♗g4 was more natural, although there is no full compensation after 17.♔e2!± (17.♔c1 is less clear now because of 17...♗h5! and Bg6 next.)]

17.h3 h5



18.♔c1! An unique idea by Andreikin! The point is already clear: he simply wants to play Kb1-a2 and Rad1, executing an

artificial long castle. The d4, b5 and c6 pieces are so stable that Black has no chances to create any counterplay.

18...♙c5 [The tactical justification of White's plan was that 18...g4 19.hxg4 hxg4 is met by 20.♙b1! White can simply ignore the hanging piece, because after gxf3 gxf3 he gets an enormous attack on the kingside. 20...gxf3 21.gxf3 ♘g5 22.♙a2! The a1 rook joins the attack. An illustrative line to finish the game is 22...♖e8 23.♖ag1 ♙f8



24.♖xg5! White had other wins too, but this is the most pretty one. 24...♖xg5 25.♖h8+ ♙e7 26.♖xe8+ ♙xe8 27.c7+! ♙f8 28.♖c6! winning the a8 rook and the game as 28...♖a7 loses to 29.♖e8+ ♙g7 30.♖xc8+- the c-pawn promotes soon.]

19.♙b1 Only one move is left to connect the rooks.

19...♖e8 [19...g4 is met by the same as before: 20.hxg4 hxg4 21.♙a2+-; 19...♙xd4 20.exd4 (The endgame after 20.♙xd4 20...♖xf2 21.♖xf2 ♙xf2 22.♖c1± is also very promising. White advances his c-pawn next. He can activate his a1 rook along the 3rd rank.) 20...♙f5 21.♙d3+- followed by Ne5 with an healthy extra pawn and a better position for White.]

20.♙a2 ♖a7 Black has basically lost the battle. He is a pawn down and left without any counterplay. White brings both of his rooks to the game.

21.♖ad1 ♙f8 Black has no useful move... Perhaps Topalov

wanted to get his king away from the kingside in order to sometimes threaten to play g4, but White parried this idea forever with his next move.

22.♖hf1 Protecting the f2 pawn in order to free the f3 knight.

22...♙g7 [22...g4 already doesn't make any sense as the f2 pawn is not hanging. 23.hxg4 hxg4 24.♙g1+- followed by Ne2-f4.]

23.♙a1!? White does not need to hurry. Andreikin hides his king to the safest square on the board. He already prepares for the forthcoming plan of winning the d5 pawn and he leaves from the Be6 pin just in case.

23...♙f8



24.♙e2! All white pieces are improved to the maximum, it is time to deliver the final blow!

24...♖d8 25.h4! Working out the f4 square for the knight.

25...g4 26.♙f4! This double threat on h5 and d5 finishes the game.

26...♙g8 27.♙xd5 [Black resigned in view of 27.♙xd5 27...♖f5 28.♖xe4 (28.♙xb6+- is equally good.; 28.♙d4 28...♖xd5 29.♙b3+- also wins on the spot.) 28...♖xe4 29.♙f6+ ♙g7 30.♙xe4 ♖xd1+ 31.♖xd1 gxf3 32.gxf3 ♙e7 33.♙d6+- With a decisive material advantage. The

cold-blooded king maneuver brought White the full point. It was working extremely well in this game, but we don't recommend to try this in your own games, only in some exceptional cases.] **1-0**

(4) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2757) - Aronian, Levon(2830) [E20]

Khanty-Mansiysk RUS(9.3),
2014.03.23



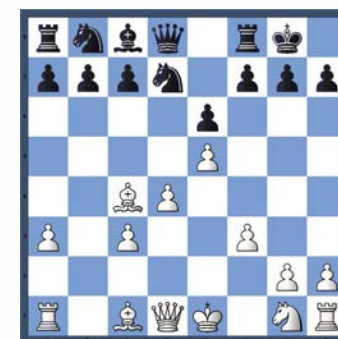
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

At this moment of the tournament Aronian was sharing the lead with Anand, but he had to press in each game to win the tournament regardless the color he played. Mamedyarov was ready for the complications and an amazing game was played...

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.f3 The Nimzowitsch with 4.f3 is a guarantee for a sharp struggle! It did not take Aronian as a surprise and he blitzed out the following rare, but very interesting moves...

4...O-O 4...d5 or 4...c5 are considered to be the main lines nowadays.

5.e4 d5 6.e5 ♘fd7 7.cxd5 [A nice opening trap occurs after 7.a3?! 7...♙xc3+ 8.bxc3 dxc4 9.♙xc4? Otherwise Nb6 saves the pawn, but now a pretty tactical idea wins material using the misplacement of the f3 pawn.]



9...♘xe5! 10.dxe5 ♙h4+ and the bishop is lost.]

7...exd5 8.a3 [A principled move is 8.f4 with the idea to get the ideal development of the pieces after Nf3 and Bd3, but Black quickly uses his lead in the development and opens the center with 8...c5!]

8...xc3+ 9.bxc3 f6! Black has to undermine the center, otherwise he ends up in a bad position with a huge space disadvantage.

10.exf6 A sad necessity. [There is no time for holding the structure with 10.f4? because of the tactical strike 10...fxe5 11.dxe5 Nxe5! 12.fxe5 Qh4+ and White collapses as after 13.Qd2 Qf4+-+ the f1 bishop falls.]



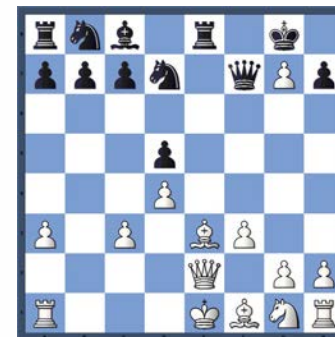
10...Qe8+!? This is basically the novelty of the game. The position remains unclear, but objectively I believe Black is fine! I am quite sure that this line is going to be tested more frequently from now on. The move intends to disturb the development of the white pieces. [10...Qxf6 was mainly played before, but now White could finish the development with 11.Qd3 and Ne2 next.]

11.Qe2 In case of Be2 or Ne2, Black simply recaptures with Nxf6 and White faces difficulties with finishing the development. Now the queen gets misplaced, it prevents the Bd3, Ne2 plan, but at least he wins some material.

[11.Qf2 runs into 11...Nxf6 with the threats of the unpleasant checks on e4 and g4.]

11...Qf7! White would have been happy to play the endgame with the bishop pair, but of course Aronian had different ideas in mind.

12.fxg7 Qe8 13.Qe3



13...Nc6! Aronian was still blitzing the moves. Quite an unpleasant feeling, but Mamedyarov has managed to come up with the best reaction. Many players would have quickly collapsed with such a pin on the e-file and the threat of Na5-c4!

14.Qd2! Evacuating the first piece from the pin. It seemingly moves into the Nc4 motif, but White had a clever exchange sacrifice in mind... [The idea to close the e-file with 14.f4 with the idea of Nf3-e5 fails to 14...Nf6! 15.Nf3 Qg4! and White does not succeed to get his knight to e5, which means he ends up in trouble.; 14.Qf2 would also have been met by 14...Nf6! again with the threats of Ng4 and Ne4.]

14...Na5! Nb3 is threatening and the other knight is ready to go to b6 and from there to c4.

15. ♖b1! ♜b6



16. ♖b4! There was no other way for White to continue the game. Mamedyarov wants to sacrifice the exchange and afterwards he will finally be able to finish the development. He will have a small material disadvantage, but he might hope for adequate compensation against the exposed black king.

16... ♜ac4 17. ♕xc4 dxc4 This seems like the first inaccuracy by Black. Aronian wants to settle his knight on d5, so White is forced to continue his exchange sacrificing policy. [17... ♜xc4! seems to be stronger. 18. ♖xc4 dxc4 19. ♖f2 ♕f5 20. ♜e2 ♕d3 21. ♜f4 ♖e7! 22. ♖e1 ♖ae8 23. ♜xd3 cxd3 24. ♖xd3 This line was more or less forced from White's point of view and materially he is already doing fine. However the pin on the e-file seems to give Black an edge as White is lacking any dynamic play. 24... ♖b3! followed by b5-a5-b4 seems to be very strong. It is difficult to suggest an idea for White and otherwise Black is just better.]

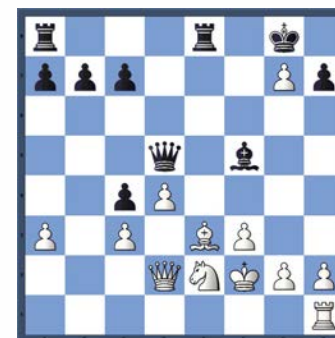
18. ♖b5! The desperado rook continues its journey and White is now ready to sacrifice it on d5! A mutual inaccuracy is coming in the next pair of moves...

18... ♕f5 [18... ♜d5 was more forcing. 19. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 20. ♜e2 ♕f5 21. ♖f2 and we transpose to the game.]

19. ♖f2 [19. ♖e5!? White could have finally solved the

problems on the e-file without giving material for it. Ne2 is coming next and White is suddenly doing fine.]

19... ♜d5 20. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 21. ♜e2 We have reached the next critical position. In comparison to the 17... Nxc4 line, the queen on d5 stands in the Nf4 tempo. Objectively Black should still be fine, but from a practical point of view it is already easier to play the position with White. His plans are suggesting themselves, while Black must always choose between several options and it is very difficult to give a preference to one of them.



21... a5 It is a very logical plan to create counterplay on the queenside with b5-b4, but after all it turns out to be a mistake. [Now on 21... ♖e7 22. ♕g5 is unpleasant, because Re6 runs into Nf4, while to take the g7 pawn is not an advisable idea, because that plays an important defensive role from Black's point of view. That could be met by Bf6!; I believe the best was 21... ♖ad8! 22. h4 ♖d7 trying to double the rooks like this. The position is very unclear and all results are possible.]

22. h4! White would like to defend his g7 pawn with h5-h6. Capturing it always allows plans like Bf4-e5 followed by Qg5, with a very dangerous attack.

22... b5 [22... ♖a6 was another idea of a5, but White could continue his initial plan with 23. h5 because Rae6 runs into Nf4!]

23.h5 b4 The consequent continuation of a wrong plan! Black sacrifices a pawn, but he can finally activate his rook along the a-file.

24.cxb4 axb4 25.axb4 ♖b5 Aronian was annoyed by the Ra3 Nc3 idea and he prepares to take the b4 pawn in this case. However from this moment on, Mamedyarov sizes his initiative with each move! [25...♖a3 runs into 26.♘c3! and somehow the only logical place for the queen was on d6, but then Nb5 works. After other moves, like 26...♕f7 27.h6 White is doing very well.; 25...♙d3! would have been the only chance, now on Nc3 Qd6 is possible and the b4 is under attack. 26.♘f4 ♕d6 27.h6 ♖a3 With mutual chances, but I already prefer White, as if he could give a check that would be decisive.]

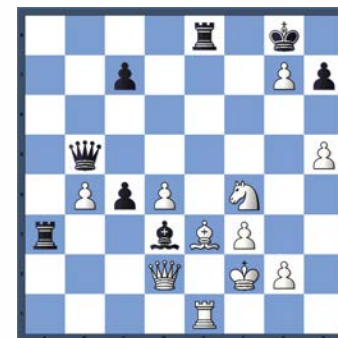
26.♖e1 A good prophylactic move against Ra3.

26...♙d3 [The initial idea of the previous Qb5 to play 26...♖a3 is refuted tactically by 27.♘c3 ♕xb4



28.♙h6! Using the power of the g7 pawn, White is threatening with deadly checks on the back rank. 28...♖b8 (28...♖xe1 29.♕xe1 ♙d7 30.♘d5! ♕xe1+ 31.♙xe1+- Ne7 or Nf6 wins.) 29.♕e3!+- is over. Black cannot parry the Qe8 threat!]

27.♘f4 ♖a3



28.d5! Very well played! One check could be decisive, but for this White needs to open the e-file. He is ready to play Bd4 or Bc5.

28...♙b1!? Nice resource by Black, but it does not help. He creates the threat of Ra2 and also prepares to push c3 as the d3 is not hanging anymore. The bishop should not be taken because of Rae3. [28...♖e8 could lead to something similar as in the game. 29.♙g3! Preventing Ra2. 29...♖a2 30.♕c3+- Black is in trouble.]

29.♙g3! As simple as that! White leaves from the Ra2 threat and he refreshes his ideas with Bd4 or Bc5.

29...c3 30.♕c1! A double attack. The bishop and the rook can only be saved with Rb3, but this lures away a defender from the 8th rank. Black can no longer think about Raa8...

30...♖b3 31.♙c5 ♖xe1 [31...c2 is met by 32.h6+- with the idea of Nh5-f6!]

32.♕xe1 ♕d7 White can choose between different wins here, but Mamedyarov continues with the most human moves.

33.h6 ♖f7 34.♘h5! [The machine suggests the even stronger 34.♖e5! with the idea of Nh5-f6. 34...♙f5 35.♘h5!! ♖xh5 36.♖e7! ♖g6+ 37.♙f2 ♖b2+ 38.♙e3 ♖xh6+ 39.f4 and mate is inevitable, but of course only a computer would play like this. 39...♖xg7 40.♖e8+-]

34...♙g6 Allowing a beautiful combination to finish the game, but it was over anyway. [34...♖xh5 35.♖e6+ ♖f7 36.♖c8+-; 34...♖g6+ 35.♙h4+- Black runs out of checks.]



35.♖e8+!! ♖xe8 36.♘f6+ ♙f7 37.♘xe8 White is ready to jump back to f6 with his knight.

37...♖a3 The only way to stop White from queening, but this leads to a hopeless bishop endgame... [37...c2 leads to a forced mate after 38.♘f6! c1=♖ 39.g8=♖+ ♙xf6 40.♖e6+ ♙g5 41.♖g4+ ♙f6 42.♙d4+ ♙f7 (42...♙e7 43.♖e6+ ♙d8 44.♙f6#) 43.♖e6+ ♙f8 44.♙g7#]

38.♘f6 ♖a8 39.g8=♖+ ♖xg8 40.♘g8 ♙xg8 41.♙f4 White is two pawns up. The technical part of realizing the advantage is quite easy. White can create passed pawns on both sides, which is the key of the opposite colored bishop endgames....

41...♙d3 42.♙e5 ♙f7 43.♙e3 ♙f1 44.g4 [Black resigned in view of 44.g4 44...♙e2 45.d6! cxd6+ 46.♙xd6 ♙xf3 47.g5 ♙e2 48.♙c5 and White simply promotes the b-pawn with the help

of the king. The black king cannot go to that direction because it always allows the breakthrough of g6 hxg6 h7! The bishop stands very well on e3, because it protects the g5-h6 pawns and neutralizes the c3 pawn. A great game and a fantastic win for Mamedyarov. But from the opening point of view Black could have gotten an edge if he had played 17...Nxc4.] **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Kramnik, V(2787)-Mamedyarov, S(2757)

FIDE Candidates, 2014.03.21

1... -+



(6) Abdulla, A(2518)-Gomes, M(2409)

Kolkata Open, 2014.03.19

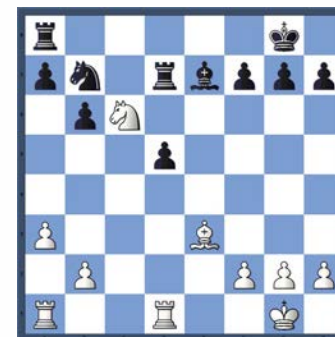
1. +-



(7) Haznedaroglu, K(2462)-Fedorchuk, S(2647)

Kolkata Open, 2014.03.20

1. +-



(8) Landa, K(2645)-Abishkek, K(2286)

Kolkata Open, 2014.03.22

1. +-



(9) Vidit, S(2602)-Abdulla, A(2518)

Kolkata Open, 2014.03.23

1. +-



(10) Short, N(2674)-Debashis, D(2508)

Kolkata Open, 2014.03.24

1. +-



(11) Kamsky, G(2709)-Shankland, S(2611)

Eastern Class, 2014.03.16

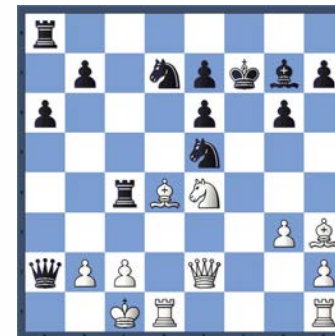
1. +-



(12) Nabaty, T(2586)-Loncar, R(2358)

Zagreb Open, 2014.03.19

1. +-



(13) Sedlak, N(2562)-Antic, D(2462)

Serbian Central Championship, 2014.03.18

1. +-



(14) Dvoirys, S(2560)-Panov, M(2153)

Ural Championship, 2014.03.23

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Topalov, Veselin(2785)
- Karjakin, Sergey(2766)

FIDE Candidates 2014(11.2),
2014.03.26



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



After a long game Black had to defend a slightly worse endgame and it finally seems like he is almost done with a defence. But accurate play is still needed.

38...♟xb6! A great decision by Karjakin. Black is giving up the exchange but clearly getting enough compensation. [Of course a move like 38...♞f5 should be enough to make a draw, but still Black would need to be a little bit careful after 39.♞xa5 ♟xb6 40.♞xa6 ♟xe3 41.♞xb7 ♞xb7 42.♞xe3 as White keeps some minimal chances for a win.]

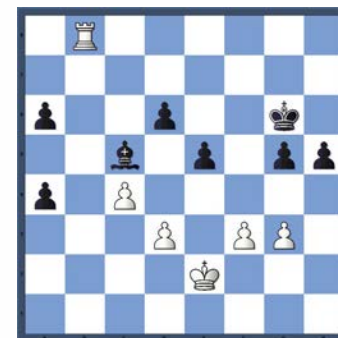
39.♞ab2 White has no choice but to take the exchange.

39...♟xe3 40.♞xb7 ♞xb7 41.♞xb7 ♟c5 This is not an easy position to evaluate. It seems like White could be doing a bit better, but in fact the position is just a draw. The black bishop

on c5 is a monster pieces and Black has enough time to bring his a5 pawn to a3. Another option is to play h4 in a good moment and maybe even to be lucky to get the king to f4 after that.

42.♞b8 White needs to bring the rook to the 8th rank, from where it is possible to give checks or to play Ra8-Rxa6.

42...a4



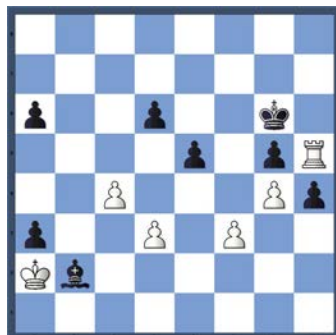
43.♞d1! White is keeps control. [A careless move like 43.♞a8? 43...a3 44.♞xa6 would already lead to a winning position for Black! 44...h4 45.g4 h3 46.♞f1 ♞f6 And White cannot stop Black from playing e4 next. 47.♞a8 e4! followed by Ke5-Kf4 with an easy win]

43...h4 44.♞g8+ ♞f6 45.g4 Now the white rook is going to protect the h-file, the king will take care of the a-pawn and position is just a draw.

45...♟f2 46.♞h8 ♞g7 [An attempt to break through now leads to unclear play: 46...e4 47.fxe4 ♞e5 Now White has the important 48.♞f8! followed by Rf5 check and I think only Black is risking something here.]

47.♞h5 ♞g6 48.♞c2 And we can already see that both sides cannot do much here...

48...♙d4 49.♚b1 a3 50.♚a2 ♙b2



51.♙b3 The position is just a draw.

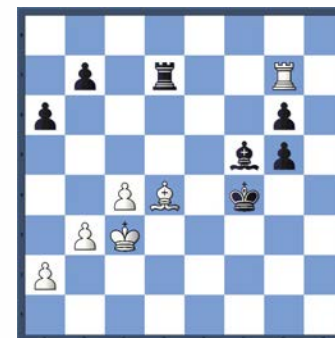
51...♙c1 52.♚a2 ♙b2 53.♙b3 a5 54.♚a2 a4 55.♙b1 ♙d4
56.♙a2 ♙b2 57.♙b1 ♙d4 An interesting endgame and we just saw how easy it could be to lose a drawn position by being a bit too careless... 1/2-1/2

(16) Svidler, P.(2758)
- Karjakin, S.(2766)

FIDE Candidates 2014,
2014.03.22



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



Black has an extra pawn, but the doubled g-pawns can hardly be called a decisive factor and also the opposite colored bishops are increasing the chances of the defensive side. However Karjakin finds a brilliant way to convert his advantage.

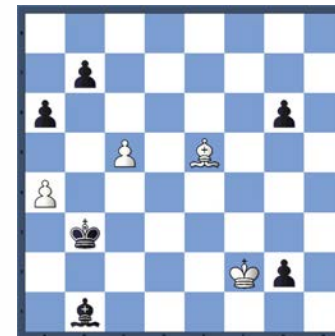
64...♖xd4!! Black eliminates the bishop and the doubled g-pawns turn out to be fatal. [It is interesting to study the consequences of the bishop endgame: 64...♖xg7 65.♙xg7 g4 (It is important that Black cannot try to cut the white king's way towards the g-pawn with 65...♙e3 because of 66.♙h6!) 66.♙d2 g3 67.c5 White puts his pawns on dark squares to avoid getting attacked by the bishop. 67...♙f3 (67...g2 68.♙d4 ♙g3 69.♙g1 makes no difference.)



68.♔e1! Only this way White can hold. (68.♙d4 instructively loses to 68...♙g2! 69.♔e1 ♙h1!—+ and the pawn promotes.) 68...g2 (Now on 68...♙g2 69.♙e5! this is the key and the king can neither go to h1 nor to f2. 69...♙d3 70.b4 ♙h3 71.a3 g2 72.♙f2=) 69.♙d4 And it looks like White has created a successful blockading position! The only attempt could be to go for the queenside pawns with the king. 69...♔e4 70.♙g1 ♙d3 71.♙f2 ♔c3 72.♙h2 ♙b1 (On 72...♔b2 the easiest draw is 73.b4 ♙xa2



74.♙f4! ♔b3 75.♙d2= followed by Be1 and waiting with Kg1-f2. Black cannot create a passed pawn on the queenside, which would be obligatory for the win.) 73.♙e5+ ♔c2 Here the situation is more tricky, but White can achieve a study-like draw by playing 74.a4! ♙xb3



75.a5! This is of course logical, followed by putting the bishop to b6 and then passing with the king, but it is far from over, because Black can create a zugzwang. 75...♙e4 76.♙c7 ♙b4 77.♙b6 g5 78.♙g1 g4 79.♙f2 g3+ 80.♙g1 ♙c6 Here it is! White is forced to give up one of his pawns. 81.♙c7 ♙xc5 82.♙b6+ ♔c4 White is forced to move again with the bishop, which allows Black to create his passed pawn. 83.♙d8 b5! 84.axb6 ♙b7 It seems to be over, but actually the game is drawn because Black cannot promote his a-pawn because White sacrifices his bishop and a stalemate arises. 85.♙e7 a5 86.♙d6 a4 87.♙e7 ♙b3 88.♙d6= and a3 is met by Bxa3. Black can only avoid stalemate by giving up his g2 pawn, but then the g3 also falls and there will be no winning material left on the board.]

65.♙xd4 b6!! Another very cool move! Karjakin does not hurry with pushing his passed pawns, but he spends a tempo on protecting the important b-pawn. [65...g4 is met by 66.♙xb7 g3 67.♙e7 g2 68.♙e1 ♙f3 69.b4 White gets his counterplay! 69...♙f2 70.♙c1 g1=♔ 71.♙xg1 ♙xg1 72.b5 axb5 73.cxb5 and the game is drawn by force. 73...g5 74.b6 ♙c8 75.♙e5 and Black loses the g-pawn in any case. 75...g4 (75...♙f2 76.b7! ♙xb7 77.♙f5=) 76.♙f4= followed by b7.]

66.♙c3 Svidler tries to get his king behind the g-pawn, but another brilliant move is coming by Karjakin... [White has no time to go for the b-pawn: 66.♙b7 66...g4 67.♙xb6 g3—+ and

Re6-e1 does not work now.; 66.♖e7 66...g4 67.♖e1 ♔f3 68.b4 g3—+ The pawn inevitably promotes and White is unable to create any counterplay.]



66...♔e3!! After cutting the king, Black only needs to push his pawn. Svidler tries his only chance... A very nice example where the bishop simply dominates the rook.

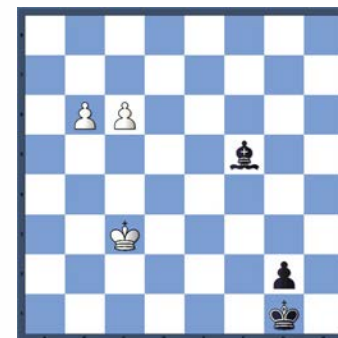
67.♖b7 g4 68.♖xb6 g3 69.♖d6 Hoping for the same salvation as in the 65...g4 line, but things are different now because the white king stands further from the g-pawn.

69...g2 70.♖d1 g5 [70...♔f2 will lead to the same.]

71.b4 ♔f2 72.a4 White tries a kind of pawn race, but he is slower... [72.b5 also fails in view of 72...axb5 73.cxb5 g1=♖ 74.♖xg1 ♔xg1 75.♔d4 g4 76.♔e5 ♕c8 77.♔f4 ♔f2—+ White is missing one tempo, he should play b7 now...]

72...g1=♖ 73.♖xg1 ♔xg1 74.b5 axb5 75.axb5 g4 76.c5 g3 77.c6 [77.b6 is worse because after 77...♕e4 White cannot advance his pawns.]

77...g2 78.b6

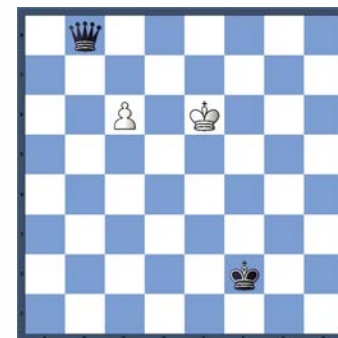


78...♔f2! The only winning move! The point becomes clear 3 moves later.

79.b7 g1=♖ 80.b8=♖ ♖c1+ 81.♔d4 Otherwise White loses his queen right away.

81...♖e3+! The winning check! That is why the king must stay on f2!

82.♔c4 [82.♔d5 also drops the queen after 82...♕e6+ 83.♔d6 ♖f4+ 84.♔xe6 ♖xb8—+]



85.♔d7 If the pawn gets to c7, the game would be a theoretical draw, but Black can avoid it by playing 85...♖b5! (After let's say 85...♔e3?? 86.c7 ♖b5+ 87.♔d8 ♖d5+ 88.♔c8 the king is heading to the corner. 88...♔d4 89.♔b8 ♖d6 90.♔a8!= And White is saved by the famous stalemate idea! The same

stalemate idea also works with an a7, c7, f7 and h7 pawn, but with the b7, d7, e7 and g7 pawn Black is winning.) 86.♔d6 ♕e3 and now c7 does not work anymore because of 87.c7 ♖e8--+]]

82...♗e6+ White resigned as Qb3 is coming next! Brilliant endgame technique by Karjakin! **0-1**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Petrosian, Tigran V
- Bykhovsky, Anatoly A[D37]

Moscow-ch, 1968



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.c4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♗e7 4.♗f4 ♘f6 5.e3 O-O 6.♖c1 c5 7.dxc5 ♘c6 8.♘f3 ♗xc5 9.a3 We can find this position even on the highest level nowadays.



9...d4 [9...dxc4 10.♗xc4 ♖xd1+ 11.♖xd1 b6 12.♖e2 ♗b7 13.♖hd1 gives White some edge in the endgame thanks to his better development, especially as the white king is closer to the center.; 9...a6 10.cxd5 exd5 11.♗d3 ♗a7 12.O-O d4 A typical plan to get rid of the isolated pawn but after 13.exd4 ♘xd4 14.♘xd4 ♖xd4 15.♗e3 ♖h4 16.♗xa7 ♖xa7 17.♖a4 ♖xa4 18.♘xa4 White keeps the initiative in the endgame anyway. Black needs to play accurately to consolidate his pieces.]

10.exd4 ♘xd4



11.♘e5 [11.b4 11...♘xf3+ 12.♖xf3 ♗d4 Black wants to push e5-e4 to get counterplay. 13.♘b5 e5 14.♗g5 ♖e8 15.♗xf6 e4 16.♗xd8 exf3+ 17.♖d2 ♖xd8 18.♘xd4 ♖xd4+ 19.♖c3 fxg2 20.♗xg2 ♖g4 21.♖hd1 And thanks to his more active pieces White is clearly better here, as in the Gelfand-Grischuk game.]

11...b6 is a normal way to develop, but Black could also try [11...a5 The idea is to prevent b4 but Black is losing too much time. 12.♗d3+; 11...♘c6 12.♘xc6 bxc6 The structure should not be a problem because Black is much better developed. 13.♗d3 (13.♖xd8 13...♖xd8 14.♗e2 ♗d4∞ With c5 or e5 next.) 13...♗xf2+ 14.♖xf2 ♖d4+ 15.♖f3 e5 16.♗e3 e4+ 17.♘xe4 ♗g4+ 18.♖f2 ♘xe4+ 19.♗xe4 ♖xe4 With equal play.]

12.♗d3 ♗b7 13.O-O



13...h6?! I don't like this move at all. The pin after Bg5 seems

to be dangerous and in my opinion Black is just losing time and weakening the king, as White will have possibilities to sacrifice on h6. [13...♖c6 14.b4 (14.♖xc6 14...♗xc6 15.♕g5 h6 16.♗h4 ♔d4⇒) 14...♗e7 (14...♗d4



15.♖f3! A strong move. White is simply hunting the black bishop. 15...e5 (15...♗xc3 16.♔xc3 ♔c8 With a solid but slightly worse position for Black.) 16.♖xd4 exf4 17.♖xc6 ♗xc6 18.♔e1 And White keeps a stable advantage thanks to his better structure.) 15.♔e2 ♔d4 16.♖xc6 ♗xc6 17.♕g5 ♗d6 With the idea to exchange queens after Qe5. (17...h6 18.♔fd1!) 18.♗xf6 ♔xf6 19.♗e4 ♔ac8 20.♗xc6 ♔xc6 21.♖e4 ♔e7 And Black equalizes.]

14.♔e1 ♖c6

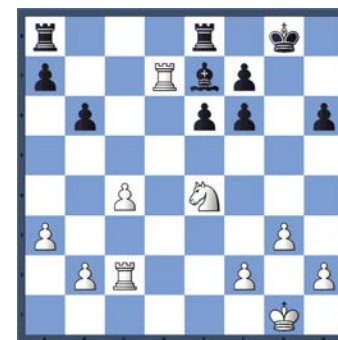


15.♔c2! White is going to activate the rook over the d2 square. [15.b4? is a blunder because of 15...♗xf2+ 16.♔xf2 ♔d4+

17.♔g3 g5—+; 15.♖xc6 15...♗xc6 16.♔e2 a5 17.♔cd1 ♔e7=]



15...♔c8? The idea is to play Nxe5 and Qc6 to pressure the g2 square, but this move is a mistake. [15...♔d4 16.g3 (16.♗g3 16...♖xe5 17.♗xe5 ♔g4! The idea of exchanging the queens by playing Qd4-Qg4 is thematic.) 16...♖xe5 (16...♔ad8 17.♖b5 Trapping the queen.) 17.♗xe5 ♔g4 18.♗xf6! ♔xd1 19.♔xd1 gxf6 20.♗e4 Eliminating the pair of bishops, otherwise Black will play f5 and get a better endgame. 20...♗xe4 21.♖xe4 ♗e7 22.♔d7 ♔fe8



23.g4! Preventing f5.; 15...♔e8 The idea is the same as in the game but this move is more accurate and we will soon see why. 16.♖g4 ♖xg4 17.♔xg4 f5 18.♔g3 ♔f6! and compared to the game the queen is better placed on e8 and now the threat is Rg6, attacking the g2 square.]



16. d4! Easy but strong. White simply eliminates the knight from f6 which helps defend the black king and after that White will get a strong attack.

16... dxe7 17. dxf6+ [17. dxf6+! 17... gxh6 18. dxf6 d8 19. e3 And Black is not able to defend his position.]

17... dxf6 18. dxe4 [18. dxb5 18... d4 19. dxd4 dxd4=]

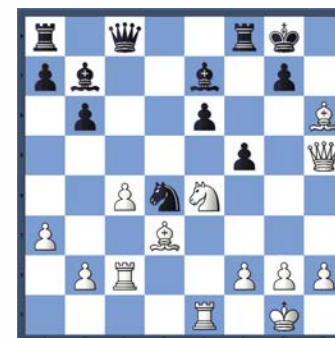
18... dxe7



19. g5 Slowly all white pieces start to attack the king and Black's position is already very bad.

19... d8? The decisive mistake. Maybe Black could still have fought after [19... d4 with the idea to bring at least one piece to defend the kingside. 20. dxf6 My intuition tells me that after this move Black should not survive, which is probably true but Black will have some defensive resources. 20... gxh6

(20... f5



21. dxf6! dxf6 22. e3 c7 With the idea to sacrifice the queen on g3. (22... fxe4 23. g3+ f6 24. g5+ f7 25. g6#) 23. d5 dxf6 24. g5+ f7 25. h5+ g7 Ke7 was not possible because of Qh4+. 26. g3+ dxf6 27. hxg3 dxc2 28. g5+ f7 29. xc2 With a material advantage for White.) 21. c3 (21. e3 21... f5 22. d3



22... d7! 23. g6 f5 24. d5 dxf6 25. g5 h5 f7 And Black is fine!; 21. d6 21... d7 (21... dxd6 22. g4+ And White will recapture two pieces.) 22. g6 f5 23. g6+ h8 24. e3 d3+! And Black closed the 3rd rank!) 21... f5 22. g4 With huge pressure.; 19... f5 20. d3 d4 21. d2+]

20. c3 f5 21. d3 [21. g6 was also winning: 21... dxd3 22. dxf6 f8 23. dxd3 fxe4 24. d7 d8 25. c7+]

21...♘f6



22.♖xf5! The white pieces are optimally placed, so it is time for the decisive blow!

22...♗xc3 [22...exf5 23.♗xf5 XQc8;XKg8]

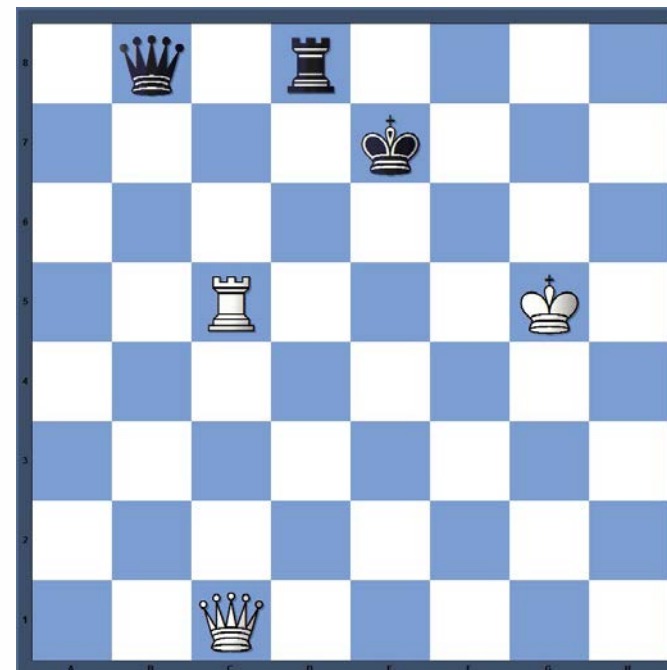
23.♖xh6+! g6 24.♔g6+ ♗g7 [24...♖f8 25.♗xh6+ ♖e7 26.bxc3 ♖xd3 27.♗g5+ ♖f8 28.♔xd3+- XKf8]

25.♗xh6 ♖d7 26.♔h7+ ♖f8 27.♖xe6 ♖e7 28.♖f6+ ♖e8 29.♔g8+ 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Rinck

1. +-



Solutions

(19) Aronian, L(2830)-Mamedyarov, S(2757)

FIDE Candidates, 2014.03.14



14. ♖de4!! dxe4 15. ♖xe4 ♖h4 16. g3! ♖h3 17. ♖f2! ♖xf1+
18. ♖xf1+—

(20) Nuber, B(2359)-Jianu, V(2574)

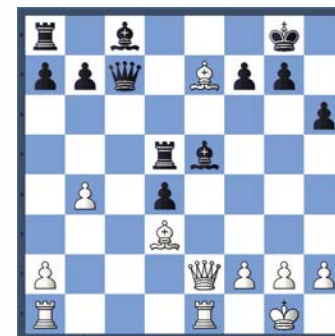
European Championship, 2014.03.10



15... ♖g4! 16. f4 ♖xg5—+

(21) Navara, D(2700)-Shomoev, A(2581)

European Championship, 2014.03.11



20. ♖e4! ♖xh2+ 21. ♖h1! ♖f5 [21... ♖f5 22. ♖xd5 ♖xd3
23. ♖xd4+—]

22. ♖ac1 1-0 [22. ♖d8!? 22... ♖xd8 23. ♖e8+ ♖xe8 24. ♖xe8+
♖h7 25. ♖xc8 ♖xc8 26. ♖xf5+ ♖g8 27. ♖xc8+—; 22. ♖ac1
22... ♖d7 23. ♖xh2+—]

(22) Najer, E(2633)-Inarkiev, E(2698)

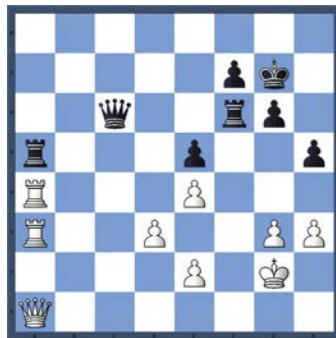
European Championship, 2014.03.11



35. ♖xe5+! ♖e6 [35... fxe5 36. ♖f3+—]
36. ♖xc6 [36. ♖xd8!+—] 36... ♖xd1+ 37. ♖h2 ♖h1+ 38. ♖g3 g5
39. ♖h5 ♖xe4+ 40. ♖f3 ♖d2+ 41. ♖e2 ♖xb3 42. ♖f3!+—

(23) Dvirnyy, D(2575)-Polgar, J(2693)

European Championship, 2014.03.11



47...♔c2!! 48.♖xa5 [48.♖a2 48...♖xa4!-+; 48.♔a2 48...♔d1-+]

48...♔xe2+ 49.♔g1 ♕e3+! [49...♖f2? 50.♖a2!=]

50.♔h1 ♖f2 0-1 [50...♖f2 51.♔xe5+ ♔h7-+]

(24) Balogh, C(2651)-Quparadze, G(2507)

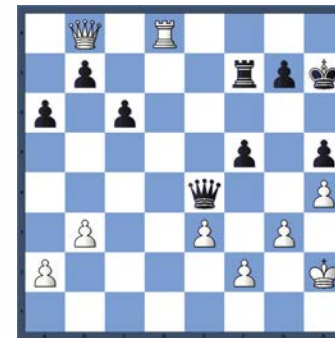
European Championship, 2014.03.11



20.♘xb6! ♘xb6 21.♔a5! ♘d5 22.♖xd5! ♕xa5 23.♖xa5±

(25) Esen, B(2563)-Tomashevsky, E(2711)

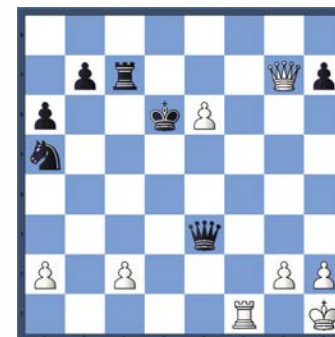
European Championship, 2014.03.11



36.♖h8+! ♔g6 37.♔d6+ ♖f6 38.♔d1! 1-0 [38.♔d1 38...♔g4 39.f3! ♕b4 40.f4+-]

(26) Iordaschescu, V(2583)-Petrosyan, M(2336)

European Championship, 2014.03.11



28.♖d1+! ♔c6 29.♔d7+!! 1-0 [29.♔d7+ 29...♖xd7 (29...♔b6 30.♖b1+ ♔a7 31.♔xc7+-) 30.exd7+-]

(27) Qashashvili, A(2378)-Balogh, C(2651)

European Championship, 2014.03.14



41...♙f5+!! 42.♚xf5 [42.♖xf5 42...♖c4+! 43.♖f4 ♖xf4+ 44.♚xf4 ♖xf4+ 45.♙xf4 ♚xf4+ 46.♖g4 ♚f2+--; 42.♙h5 42...♚d1+! (42...g6+?? 43.♚xf5! ♙xf5 44.♖xf5 ♖xf5 45.♖f8+ ♙h7 46.♖h6#) 43.♖gf3 g6+ 44.♙h6 ♖h7#]

42...♚d1+! [42...♖xf5 43.♙xf5∞]

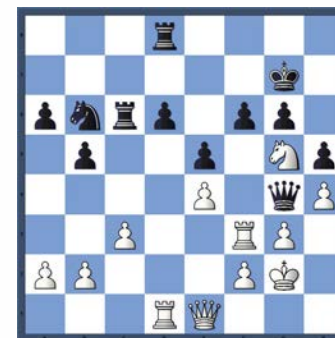
43.♙g5 [43.♙h3 43...♖xf5 44.♖xf5 ♚d7+; 43.♖gf3 43...♖xf5 44.♖xf5 ♖c4+ 45.♖f4 ♖xf4+ 46.♙xf4 ♚d4+--]

43...♖xf5+ 44.♙xf5 [44.♖xf5 44...♖c4 45.♙c3 ♚c1+--]

44...♚d5+ 45.♙g4 ♚e6+ 46.♙h5 ♚h6+ 47.♙g4 ♚g6+ 48.♙f3 ♖f1+ 49.♙e2 ♚xf3 50.♖xf1 ♚xf2+ 0-1

(28) Polgar, J(2693)-Yilmaz, M(2557)

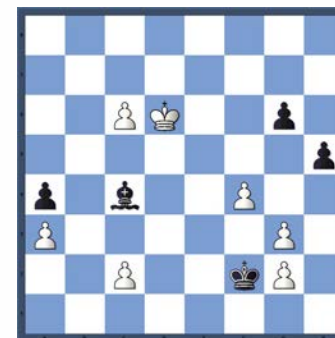
European Championship, 2014.03.14



29.♖f5!! fxg5 [29...gxf5 30.f3+; 29...♚xd1 30.♙e6+ ♙f7 31.♙xd8+--]

30.f3! ♚xf5 31.exf5 gxf5 32.♚e3+--

(29) Moeller



1.g4!! [1.f5? 1...gxf5 2.♙c5 ♙e2! 3.♙b6 (3.c7 3...♙a6+-- 3...♙g4+--)]

1...hxg4 2.f5! gxf5 3.♙c5! ♙a6 4.♙b6! ♙c8 5.♙c7! ♙e6 6.♙d6! ♙c4 7.♙c5!



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 110

4th of April 2014

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Editorial Preface

The Candidates tournament is over. Anand is the new challenger for the World Championship Match against Magnus Carlsen!!! Who would have guessed before the tournament that Anand would have his comeback... With very good and solid play Anand managed to win 3 games and make 11 draws, which was more than enough for the first place. Congratulations!

2nd place went to Karjakin, who started very badly with 2.5/7 and finished with an amazing 5/7 in the second leg of the event, beating Aronian in the last game with Black.

A very big surprise was the -1 score of Aronian, who was clearly one of the favorites to win the event, and it seems like he will have to wait at least 2 more years before getting a chance to grab the World crown.

I guess Kramnik cannot be too happy with 50% either, he made too many easy blunders which are very untypical for him and made his play look very unstable.

All in all, it was probably one of the most fighting events we ever saw, where everybody was beating everybody (except for Anand). It has been really great fun to watch!

The Polish Championship has ended with a victory of Wojtaszek, but just on a tiebreak, over Gajewski, as they both scored 7/9. 3rd place went to the young Polish talent Duda who lost the last 2 games and finished on 6/9.

The Latvian Railway rapid tournament was won very convincingly by Ivanchuk.

The Chebanenko Memorial in Moldova, another rapid tournament, was won by Bologan.

That's all for this week and we wish you a lot of fun watching the finals of the German Bundesliga in Eppingen, with all the 16 teams playing in the same place!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

**(1) Duda, Jan-Krzysztof(2563)
- Wojtaszek, Radoslaw(2713) [B96]**

Polish Championship(8),
2014.04.01



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We will see the crucial game of round 8 for the 1st place in the Polish Championship. At that moment the young Polish GM Duda was leading with an amazing 6/7, followed by Gajewski on 5.5/7 and Wojtaszek on 5/7. A win was almost a must for the Polish Nr1, who has been the second of Anand for many years. What is hard to say is if Radoslaw even made one move by himself in the current game!? We will witness an amazing preparation in an extremely sharp line of the Najdorf.

1.e4 Duda is just 16 years old and seems to be great in tactical positions. He is playing the Najdorf himself with Black, so from the beginning it was clear that the game was going to be an extremely fought one.

1...c5 The Najdorf is also the main opening of Wojtaszek. Maybe it is because he is working with Anand or just because he worked by himself a lot, but Radoslaw became a theoretical beast, especially in his main repertoire.

2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 Sometimes when you are young, you want too much and too quickly... [Looking at the tournament situation and realizing that the opening knowledge of your opponent is probably bigger than yours, a positional line like 3.♙b5+ was probably a better practical choice.]

3...cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 So we are in the main position of the Najdorf.

6.♘g5 This is probably the most concrete and sharp answer for White. [During the Candidates, we saw a lot of games on 6.h3 but of course this can't be the critical line to put the Black into trouble. A nice game to watch here is Anand-Mamedyarov, where Black equalized quickly.]

6...e6 7.f4 h6 Not that long ago Black started to include 7...h6 before playing Qb6. [For many years 7...♖b6 was one of the main moves in the position but it seems like at the current moment the position after 8.♖d2 ♖xb2 9.♖b1 ♖a3 10.e5 is evaluated as dangerous for Black.]

8.♘h4 ♖b6

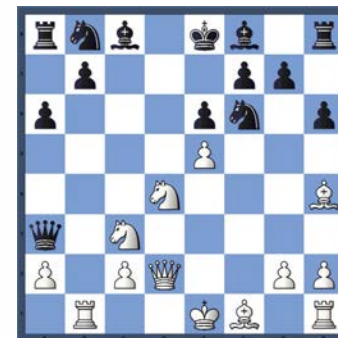


9.♖d2 Not the only option for White. [9.♖d3 and; 9.a3 are the other main choices, especially since 9.a3 makes sense now, to try and make use out of Black's h6-Bh4 inclusion other than by playing Bf2.]

9...♖xb2 The beginning of a very sharp and forced line.

10.♖b1 ♖a3 11.e5 [Another main line was 11.f5 but it seems that it leads to a draw after: 11...♘e7 12.fxe6 fxe6 13.♘c4 ♘xe4 14.♘xe4 ♘xh4+ 15.g3 ♘g5 16.♘g5 hxg5 17.♘xe6 ♘xe6 18.♘xe6 ♖xg3+ 19.hxg3 ♖xh1+ 20.♖e2 ♖h2+ 21.♖e3 ♖xd2 22.♖xd2 ♖a7 with an equal position in Vallejo-Morozevich 2011.]

11...dxe5 12.fxe5 Now Black has 2 choices:



12...g5! is clearly the most critical continuation. [12...♘d5 is the other main choice, but now another very forced line leads to a dangerous position for Black: 13.♘xd5 exd5 14.e6 ♘xe6 15.♘xe6 fxe6 16.♘d3 ♘e7 17.♘g6+ ♖d8 18.♘xe7+ ♖xe7 19.O-O ♘d7 20.♖f7 ♖c5+ 21.♖h1 ♖f8 22.♖xg7 ♖f6 23.♘d3 and I think Black is risking clearly more than he can gain here, like in Naiditsch-Yilmaz 2013.]

13.exf6 gxh4 14.♘e2 Of course this is all still theory and Wojtaszek has even played a game here. The position is very forced and hard to evaluate. A lot of crazy computer lines, a lot to remember. Basically White is either going to mate or he is going to be in trouble because he is a pawn down, has no bishop pair and a bad pawn structure.

14...♖a5! A very strong move and of course still a theoretical one. The black queen is going to take a great position on g5 and is now preventing White from playing Bh5.

15.O-O ♘d7 16.♖h1 We are still following the game of Nisipeanu-Wojtaszek from 2011. But a lot of new games have also been played in this position.

16...♖g5 We are slowly reaching the main position.

17.♖f4 e5 Black is forced to accept the challenge as White wanted to play Ne4 with a winning position.

18. ♖d5 White is sacrificing a piece to try and crush Black's position.

18...exd4 19. ♖xd4 ♔d8! This is still theory and the only move for Black. We finally reached the main position for analysis. as I analysed the current situation a lot myself, because it is critical for the evaluation of the line with 7...h6. But even with a good computer it is very hard to make a clear suggestion of what to do next or to be sure about the correctness of the analyses as the position is very complex.



20. ♗g4N This move seems to be a novelty, but clearly it was not a surprise to Wojtaszek. The white queen has no good squares now. [Nisipeanu continued with 20. ♖d1 and Black replied with the very strong 20...h3! 21.g3 ♗d6 and after a tactical battle Black won the game.; 20. ♗e7!? seems to lead to a forced draw. 20...♖e5 21. ♖d2 ♗xe7 22.fxe7+ ♖xe7 23. ♗g4 What a crazy position, but computers are very strong here: 23...f5! Strangely this is the best move for Black here. 24. ♖xf5 ♖e8 25. ♖d5 b6! 26.h3 ♔c7 27. ♖xh6 ♖b8 28. ♖f4+ ♔b7 29. ♖d4 ♔c7 30. ♖f4+ With a draw like in Guseinov-Areschenko 2013.]

20...♗c5! 21. ♖d2 [at 21. ♖c4 21...b5 Black would win an important tempo for development here.; 21. ♖d1 looks bad because White will never have Rd1 to put pressure on the d7 knight.]

21...♗d6!! Such a move is just impossible to find over the board. It is clear that Wojtaszek knew it and yes, chess is sometimes a game of work!

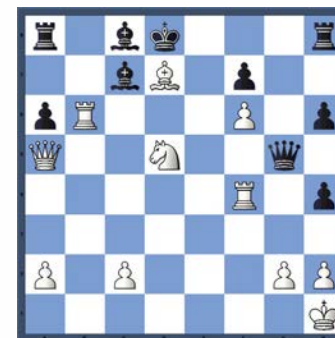
22. ♖a5+ This human move is definitely losing. [After 22. ♖d4 22...♖xd2 23. ♖xd2 ♗c5 Black should be close to winning.; 22. ♖d1! seems to me to be the only move which should be considered. 22...♖b8 (Of course not 22...♗xf4 23. ♗xf4 and White's pressure on d7 is deadly.)]

22...b6 I guess Duda was still very happy here, not seeing what was coming just 2 moves from now...

23. ♖xb6 White's attack seems to be crushing.

23...♗c7! The only move. [23...♗xb6?? 24. ♖xb6+ ♔e8 25. ♖xd6 with an easy mate to follow.]

24. ♗xd7 Black's position seems to be lost, but in fact it is winning because of the amazing next move:



24...♖e5!! This is the key move which Black clearly had to know before playing 21...Bd6. It looks strange, but White can just resign now! Black wants to play Qa1 and defended his bishop on c7. There is no way for White to defend all his pieces. [After 24...♗xd7? White would win the game on the spot by playing 25. ♖b8+! ♖xb8 26. ♖xc7+ ♔e8 27. ♖xb8+ ♗c8 28. ♖xc8#]

25.♔g1 This move is losing, but it seems like there was already no escape for White. [After 25.h3 25...♙xd7 Black is just a piece up for no compensation.]



25...♖b8 A nice move. [25...♙xd7 would lead to a slightly more tricky position, as after 26.♔c5 White would keep some practical chances 26...♖e8 although Black's position should be winning of course.]

26.♖b4 White can't defend the b6 rook. [Of course White is also lost after 26.♖xb8 26...♙xa5 27.♖xc8+ ♔xd7 28.♖xh8 ♖xd5 with an easily winning position for Black.]

26...♙xb6+ Black is just a full rook up.

27.♘xb6 ♖e3+ We could see one more time how much chess has changed. On the top level, analyses are deep and players have to remember a lot not to get in deep trouble in the early stages of the game. **0-1**

**(2) Gajewski, Grzegorz(2631)
- Tomczak, Jacek(2544) [A28]**Polish Championship(9),
2014.04.02GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We will see a nice game from the shared winner of the Polish Championship, who only became second on the bucholz tiebreak being 0.5 points behind Wojtaszek, as both had 7/9 points. After an unclear opening White played a very interesting exchange sacrifice to get the game into a strategically unclear situation. Being under pressure, Black finally made a miscalculation and lost.

1.c4 Many people think that by playing 1.c4 players are trying to avoid main lines of theory, but of course this is not true. The best example for this are Kramnik or Aronian, who played 1.c4 for many years very successfully, with deep analyses.

1...d6 2.c3 The trick of White by choosing this move order, is to avoid the Queen's Gambit.

2...e5 [If Black tried to reach it anyway by playing 2...e6 3.e4 d5 4.e5 d4 5.exf6 dxc3 6.bxc3 ♖xf6 7.d3 it is not so easy to equalize for Black.]

3.d3 d6 4.e3 White chooses to play the Paulsen reserved with a tempo up. Of course this can't lead to an opening advantage, but to unclear play. [The main continuation is 4.g3]

4...d5 This is clearly the most critical, why not to take a center in case you can...

5.cxd5 dxd5

6.f5 With this move, White is sort of forcing Black to take on c3, because otherwise it is hard to defend the e5 pawn in a nice way.

6...dxc3 7.bxc3 f6 This is also very logical play. Another option could be 7...Bd7 but there is no big reason to avoid White's d4 move.

8.d4 This move is also almost forced if White plays for anything as Black just wanted to castle, with a very comfortable position.

8...e4 Of course, what else?!

9.d2 g5! An important move! By attacking the bishop on b5 and the g2 pawn Black is winning a very important tempo for development.

10.f1 [Of course a move like 10.fxc6+? 10...bxc6 would lead to a great position for Black because of the weak white squares.]

10...g6 Another good choice. Black should not hurry with playing f5 as it would make the bishop on c8 look stupid.

11.g3 White has no other way to develop his pieces.

11...O-O 12.g2 e8 The rook on e8 is nicely placed, so this move is needed anyway. [12...f5 13.O-O and probably Black

has to put the rook on e8 anyway: 13...♖fe8]

13.0-0 ♘g4?! Why force the white queen to c2 before playing Bf5?! Maybe Black was a bit afraid of White's f3 push, but it is very hard to imagine that it would work for White. The pawn on e3 would be a clear weakness.

14. ♖c2 ♘f5 [14...♘e2 15.♘xe4 and White is just a pawn up.; And of course as usual a move 14...f5?! would be a clear mistake because 15.f3! is very strong. The bishop on g4 is out of play and the pawn on f5 is a huge weakness. 15...exf3 16.♗xf3 followed by Nh4 with a big advantage for White.]



15. ♖b1! White is starting a very original and strong plan! [More conservative would be 15.a4 followed by Ba3]

15...♖ab8 16. ♖b5 This was the key idea of Gajewski. White wants to give an exchange on f5 to collect the key pawn on e4.

16...a6 Black has nothing better...

17. ♖xf5 Of course when You say A you say B!

17...♖xf5 18. ♘xe4 We have quite a difficult position for evaluation. White is a bit of material down, but the bishop pair and the strong pawns in the center give White very good play. In fact Black is in big positional danger and needs to act quickly against the rolling pawns of White. All in all,

White's position is clearly easier to play and he is probably even better.

18...♖h5 19. ♘g2 Gajewski is preparing the e4 move.

19...♗a5 Black is preparing the c5 push, but it will be not enough for equal play.

20. e4 c5 [Maybe Black would have better chances by playing 20...b5 but of course White should be doing better as well after 21.e5 ♘f8 22.♘f3 with similar ideas as in the game.]

21. e5 ♘f8



22. ♘f3! A very nice move. White is winning an extra tempo.

22...♖g6 [22...♖h3 23.♗e4 and White is winning an extra tempo because of the Ng5 threat.]

23. ♘e4 ♖h5 Black needs to keep on waiting.

24. ♗f3 Now that the bishop is greatly placed on e4, White has time to consolidate the pieces.

24...cxd4 25. cxd4 ♗c6 26. ♖g2 A solid prophylactical move. [Maybe 26.♘f4 with the direct idea of playing d5 next could be strong too.]

26...f6 Black panics in a bad position. [Objectively we have to say that it is very hard to find the right moves here for Black, for example after logical 26...♖bd8 27.♘e3 ♗e7 with the idea

of bringing the knight to d5 White is just winning by playing 28.h3! and Black can't avoid big material losses because of the g4 threat.]



27.h3! Excellent play! g4 is a deadly threat.

27...f5 Black is trying the last trick...

28.♕d5+! After this move Black's position is just lost. [Of course not 28.♕xf5?? 28...♖xf3+ 29.♔xf3 ♜xd4+ 30.♔g2 ♜xc2 and Black is winning.]

28...♔h8 29.♞g5 White is threatening to play Qxf5 and Nf7, the game is over.

29...♞xd4 30.♖c4 Just too many black pieces are hanging, there is no escape.

30...♞c6 31.♞f7+ ♔g8



32.♞xc6 And of course after 32... Qxf7 33.Bd5 White would win a queen. A very nice positional win by Gajewski with the great idea of Rb1-Rb5 and Rxf5, which can be very useful in many different structures. **1-0**

(3) Anand, Viswanathan(2770) - Andreikin, Dmitry(2709) [B18]

FIDE Candidates 2014(12.4),
2014.03.27



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A very nice game was played by Anand, where he spoiled the win only in the last moment. We must add, that draw was a perfectly fine result for him in view of the tournament standing and possibly if he had to win, he would have won this game too.

1.e4 It is quite impossible to predict Andreikin's opening choice. He plays something new in almost all his games, this time he goes for the Caro-Kann defence.

1...c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♗xe4 ♘f5 5.♗g3 ♘g6 6.h4 h6 7.♗f3 e6 This is quite a sideline compared to 7...Nd7, however in the Anand-Carlsen WCC match last year Carlsen played this system in the first round and reached an easy draw. Andreikin decided to repeat it and check what Anand had planned as an improvement.

8.♗e5 ♘h7 9.♘d3 ♘xd3 [The pawn on d4 is poisoned: 9...♙xd4?



10.♗xf7! wins decisive material for White. 10...♙xf7 (10...♘xd3

11.♗xh8+—) 11.♘g6+! ♘xg6 12.♙xd4+—]

10.♙xd3 ♗d7 11.f4 ♘b4+ 12.c3 ♘e7 13.♘d2 ♗gf6 14.O-O-O O-O Nothing new has happened until this moment. We have basically reached the initial position of the 7...e6 line.



15.♙f3 This is the improvement, but not a novelty yet. White intends to push f5, but first he had to leave the pin on the d-file in order to be able to recapture with dxe5. [In the match, Anand played 15.♗e4 but it leads to a more or less forced draw after the mass of exchanges: 15...♗xe4 16.♙xe4 ♗xe5 17.fxe5 ♙d5 18.♙xd5 cxd5 and a draw was agreed soon in Anand-Carlsen, Chennai 2013.]

15...♙c7 Black not only develops his queen, but also keeps an eye on the e5 knight to parry the f5 threat! He is ready to execute the typical Caro-Kann break with c5! The next move of Anand is aimed against this plan.

16.c4! A strong prophylactic move. Black has a much harder task to play on the queenside now.

16...a5 With the idea of trading the bishops with Bb4, White reacts with the usual prophylactic move... [16...b5 does not work as the c6 pawn is hanging, but even if Black prepares for this with let's say Rac8, this move could always be met by 17.c5 locking the queenside. It is true that Black gets the d5 square for his knight, but the attack on the kingside becomes a more

relevant factor. White will remove his knight from g3 and then launch an attack with g4-g5!; The other break with 16...c5 is also wrong as White has the very strong reply of



17.d5! This is a standard break, with which all the Caro-Kann players are familiar... 17...exd5 (17...Nxe5 18.fxe5 Qxe5 19.g4! traps the queen!) 18.Nf5! Rfe8 19.Qg3+- with a crushing attack.]

17.♖b1 With the idea to free the c1 square for the bishop in case of Bb4.

17...♜ad8 18.♙c1 a4 This is the novelty. [18...♜fe8 happened before. 19.♞e2 c5 (The standard reaction of Black when the knight leaves the g3 square is 19...h5!? which must be the critical move, but Anand had definitely prepared something here...) 20.g4! with a very strong attack in the Topalov-Dreev, New Delhi 2000 game.; 18...c5 is still met by the usual 19.d5! with exactly the same ideas as in the 16...c5 line.]

19.♞he1 White strengthens his e5 knight, therefore he is ready to push f5! Black must quickly look for counterplay. [19.♞e2 must again be met by 19...h5!]



19...a3 Accepting the pawn sacrifice should never come into consideration. First of all, those doubled pawns could hardly be counted as a healthy extra pawn and it would also expose the king too much.

20.b3 ♙b4 Black confuses the harmony between the pieces and prepares the following central break.

21.♞e3 c5 [21...♜fe8!? could have been a last useful preparation.]

22.d5! Always this move, otherwise Black quickly overtakes the initiative with cxd4 and Nc5.

22...exd5 23.cxd5 [23.♞f5!? was a serious alternative. 23...dxc4 (23...d4 keeps the pawn with tempo, however after 24.♞e2 the white pieces are so dominating that the attack with Qg3 or with the simple g4-g5 will break through. Against such an attack the only defensive idea could be to open the center with dxc4!) 24.♞g3 ♞h5



25. ♖xd7! Eliminating a defender! (On the direct 25. ♖g4 Black has 25... ♖df6!) 25... ♖xd7! The only move! Both queens are hanging! (25... ♖xd7 26. ♖g4+— wins. Black cannot avoid losing huge material and White continues attacking.) 26. ♖xh6+! (26. ♖g4 26... ♖d1! is Black's subtle defensive resource!) 26... ♖h7 27. ♖xd7 ♖xg3 28. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 29. ♖xg3 ♖xh6 30. bxc4 ♖e8 and the complications are over and the arising position should be drawn.]

23... ♖b6 24. ♖ed3 [Just as in the previous move 24. ♖f5!? was very interesting and it seems to lead to draw again after 24... ♖bxd5 25. ♖g3 ♖h5! (25... g6 is dubious in view of 26. ♖xg6! fxc6 27. ♖xg6+ ♖h8



28. ♖e7! Black is forced to sacrifice his queen to avoid the mate on g7! 28... ♖xe7 29. ♖xe7 ♖xe7 30. ♖xh6+ ♖h7 31. ♖xd8 ♖xd8 Black has some material advantage, but the pawn storm on the kingside is going to swap him away... 32. g4+—) 26. ♖xh6+

♖h7 27. ♖g5 gxh6 28. ♖f5+! Driving the king to the wrong square. 28... ♖h8 29. ♖xh5 ♖xe3 and White has nothing more than a perpetual check: 30. ♖xh6+ ♖g8 31. ♖g5+ =]



24... ♖c8? The decisive mistake. Black was too annoyed by the Nf5 ideas and wanted to prevent it in the most direct way, but this is just too slow. [According to the machines 24... ♖bxd5 should have been played. 25. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 26. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 27. ♖xd5 ♖d8 It is very unhuman to give material like this. In my opinion White is just clearly better with such a knight on e5 and the g3 one is going to be activated as well, but the machine stubbornly defends Black... 28. ♖c4; 24... ♖c8 was logical to put a blockader on d6, but it could have been met by 25. ♖g4! ♖xg4 26. ♖xg4 with extremely good attacking chances after Nh5 and f5. The bishop also joins the attack on h6 and the rook could also be switched to g3.; 24... c4 had a direct problem as after 25. bxc4 ♖xc4 26. ♖xc4 ♖xc4 27. ♖d4! the queen has no good square to go to. The bishop on b4 has lost its fortress and it gets into trouble after 27... ♖c5 28. ♖b3!]

25. d6! The d-pawn is just too strong.

25... ♖fe8 [Black cannot create counterplay with 25... c4 because of 26. bxc4 ♖xc4 27. ♖d4! Nxe5 fxe5 wins a piece due to the double attack. 27... b5 28. ♖c6!+— White wins a piece as the knight is threatening to jump to three directions, e7, b4

and d8.]

26. ♖h5! The attack rolls after this move! White often has the option of swinging his rook over to g3.

26... ♖e6 White can choose between many winning lines. [26... ♖f5 27. g4+- is also over.; 26... ♖xh5 27. ♖xh5 ♖e6 loses to 28. d7! ♖e7 29. ♖d6+- trapping the queen.]



27. ♖xf6+ [The most direct would have been 27. d7 27... ♖c7 Now the strongest is (27... ♖bxd7 28. ♖xf6+- wins a piece.; 27... ♖fxd7 is refuted by 28. ♖g4! g6 29. ♖xf7 (29. f5 29... ♖xe5 30. fxg6+- is also mating.) 29... ♖xf7 30. f5+- Black gets mated soon.) 28. f5! ♖xe5 29. ♖xf6+ gxf6 (29... ♖h8 30. ♖h5+- followed by Bxh6 is over.) 30. ♖xh6+- and mate is coming soon.]

27... ♖xf6 28. d7 [28. ♖g4!? was also winning in view of the following lines: 28... ♖e6 (28... ♖f5 29. ♖xh6+ gxf6 30. ♖g4+ ♖h7 31. d7+- wins the rook on f5.) 29. f5 ♖e1 30. ♖xh6+! gxf6 31. ♖g4+ ♖h7 32. ♖h5+- and mate is inevitable.]

28... ♖c7



29. ♖g4! White is threatening to play Rg3. The d7 pawn completely paralyzes Black's potential defenses. Andreikin tries the best practical chance to complicate the matters a bit...

29... c4 30. ♖g3 g6 [30... ♖f8 is refuted by a pretty deviation of the f8 bishop: 31. ♖xa3!+-]

31. h5! cxb3 32. ♖xb3 Both sides are heavily attacking the opponent's king, but White is clearly ahead. Although Andreikin continues his resourceful play and causes further tasks to solve.

32... ♖a4 33. hxc6 fxc6 [33... ♖c3+ loses to 34. ♖xc3 ♖xc3 35. gxf7+ ♖h7 36. ♖g8+! ♖xg8 37. fxg8=♖+ ♖xg8 38. d8=♖+-]

34. ♖xb4! Anand is rightly not afraid of the c3 check!

34... ♖c3+ 35. ♖c2



White with the extra piece, but here things are not that clear. We must admit that the resourceful defence of Andreikin in the hopeless position has brought its fruits!] **1/2-1/2**

35...b5! Again the best practical chance. Most of the players would already have collapsed, but Andreikin tries until his last breath. [35...♖xd1+ or Nxa2 are met by 36.♔c4!+- and the queen takes back on d1 with decisive material advantage and also the d7 pawn is still on the board.]

36.♖b3! ♘a4! Threatening Qc3! [36...♖xd1 37.♔xd1+- is over.]

37.♔f3? In the time pressure Anand makes a mistake. [It would have been much easier to play 37.♕d2 37...♖c5+ 38.♖xa3+- followed by Kb2 and there is nothing left to try for Black.]

37...♖c5+! 38.♖c2 ♘a4+! 39.♖b3 ♖c5+ 40.♖c2 ♘a4+ Finally the players have passed the time control and they received an extra hour. Anand was thinking for some time and decided to repeat the moves and agree a draw as he saw that all the other games were finished and a draw was a good result from his point of view.

41.♖b3 [41.♔c4! White was actually winning after 41...bxc4 42.♕xa3 with the threat of Be7. 42...♔b6 43.♔d5+ ♖h7 44.♔xc4+- Black cannot create any serious threats because of the pawn on d7, but on the other hand it is understandable that Anand did not want to risk this when a draw would take him a huge step closer to the final victory.; 41.♖d2 41...♔d6+ 42.♖d3 ♔f7! followed by Rfxd7 should also be winning for

**(4) Andreikin, Dmitry(2709)
- Aronian, Levon(2830) [A45]**FIDE Candidates 2014(13.1),
2014.03.29GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Before the penultimate round Aronian was standing on +1, while Anand was leading with +3, therefore Aronian decided to make a final attempt to catch Anand and played a dubious opening line.

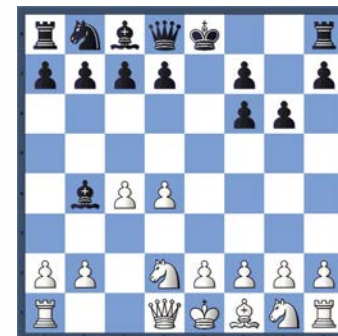
1.d4 ♘f6 2.♗g5 As usual Andreikin chose to play a sideline (the Trompowsky variation) instead of challenging the preparation of his extremely well-prepared opponents.

2...g6 Normally Aronian plays 2...d5 or 2...e6, but this time he went for something different to let his opponent think right from the beginning..

3.♗xf6 exf6 4.c4 [If White plays some standard moves, like 4.e3 Black achieves his ideal setup after 4...d5 5.g3 c6 6.♗g2 f5 followed by Nd7-f6, with a very comfortable position.]

4...♗b4+ Somehow I do n't believe that after playing g6, the bishop should be developed on the f8-a3 diagonal. [4...f5 It was much more consequent to play like Svidler two years ago: 5.♘c3 ♗g7 6.g3 O-O 7.e3 d6 8.♗g2 ♘d7 9.♘ge2 ♘f6 10.O-O although I believe White's position is slightly preferable. Vitiugov-Svidler, St.Petersburg 2012]

5.♘d2 Only 5 moves were played and we have already reached a new position. Black has already made some doubtful decisions, but the next one is the real mistake...



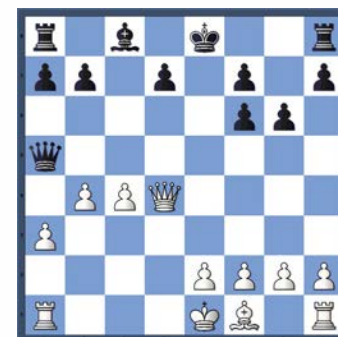
5...c5? This is very strange. Black clearly wants to confuse his opponent, but he just destroys his own pawn structure. After the next move he is even forced to give up the bishop pair, the only trump of his position.

6.a3! ♗xd2+ 6...Ba5 could have simply been met by 7.dxc5 as White is ready to protect his pawn with b4.

7.♙xd2 cxd4 8.♘f3! White wants to recapture the d4 pawn with his knight in order to avoid giving some tempo after Qxd4 Nc6.

8...♘c6 [Black could have tried to get rid of his isolated d-pawn with 8...d5 but White has probably planned to play 9.c5!+= followed by Nxd4, keeping all the advantage of his position. After Qe7 the pawn can be defended by the rook from c1.]

9.♘xd4 ♘xd4 10.♙xd4 ♙a5+ 11.b4



11...♖e5 Black tries to improve his pawn structure, but White is not forced to take on e5.

12.O-O-O?! This allows Black to create his counterplay. [12.♖d1! was more circumspect after all, but it was very difficult to foresee all the consequences. 12...b6 (Now on 12...a5 13.b5 is much stronger, because Black cannot finish his development so easily. Now on 13...d6 14.♖xd6 can be taken. 14...♖c3+ 15.♖d2±) 13.e3 (13.h4!?+= is also very interesting with the idea of activating the h1 rook via the 3rd rank!) 13...♖xd4 Black was forced to trade queens if he wants to develop his bishop, otherwise the d7 pawn was hanging. 14.♖xd4 ♙b7 15.f3+= followed by Be2, Kf2 and Rhd1, with a clearly better endgame due to the better pawn structure.]

12...a5! 13.b5 Naturally White wants to avoid the opening of the a-file.

13...d6! A strong dynamic move! Black quickly wants to put pressure on the c4 pawn with Be6 and Rc8.

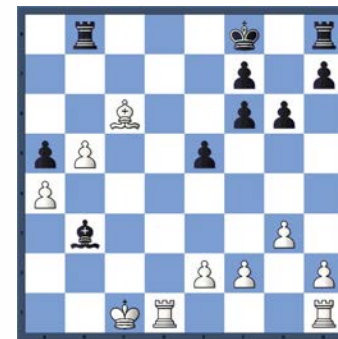
14.♖xe5+ Andreikin comes up with a very deep positional idea. He probably had already foreseen his 20th move! [14.e3 could have been played, but White can hardly hope for an advantage after 14...♙e6 15.♖b2 ♖e7 16.♙e2 ♖hc8 followed by Rc5 and Rac8. 17.f4 ♖xd4+ 18.♖xd4 ♖c5 19.♖hd1 ♖d8 followed by f5 with a balanced game. The a5-b5 pair of moves are a huge achievement for Black. Black's pawn structure is not worse anymore.]

14...dxe5 15.g3 Of course it would be excellent to develop the bishop to g2, pressing the b7 pawn, but the question is what happens if Black quickly attacks the c4 pawn...

15...♙e6 16.♙g2 ♙xc4 [16...♖c8 17.♙xb7 ♖xc4+ 18.♖b2+= should be a pleasant endgame for White with the passed pawn on b5!]

17.♙xb7 ♖b8 18.♙c6+ ♖f8 Ke7 would have been more logical to connect the rooks, but it would have moved into the Rd7 tempo!

19.a4 ♙b3 Both players had foreseen this position very long ago. Aronian was probably very happy as he double attacks the rook and the a4 pawn after which the b5 pawn might also fall, but Andreikin has calculated much deeper and came up with a shocking exchange sacrifice. [The e2 pawn has no relevance here as White plays 19...♙xe2 20.♖d7 ♖g7 21.♖a7± and obtains powerful connect passed pawns.]



20.♖b2!! ♙xa4?! Black is lost after this move because the bishop gets a bit loose on a4, but his position was very difficult anyway. [The critical move was 20...♙xd1 21.♖xd1 and the point of White is that the black rooks are uncoordinated, while White is ready to pick up the a5 pawn. All the endgames are extremely dangerous for Black as the king might go to c5 and advance the b-pawn. The bishop is simply dominating the rooks. Black has no chance to create his passed pawn on the queenside because of the doubled pawns. Despite not even having a pawn for the exchange, only White can have the advantage and it is understandable that Aronian did not go for this line. But the materialistic computers are of course still showing some defensive ideas for Black. 21...♖e7 could be met by (21...♖g7 22.♖c3! (22.♖d7 22...♖hd8 gives

a free tempo to Black as Ra7 could have been met by Rd2.) 22...♖hd8 23.♗xd8 ♖xd8 24.♔c4 and the endgame wins for White as the following line shows: 24...♔f8 25.b6 ♔e7 26.♔c5 f5 27.b7 ♖b8 28.♔d5 ♔d7 29.♔b6 f6 30.♔xa5+-) 22.♗d7+ ♔e6 23.♗a7 wins the pawn, but Black might hope for some counterplay along the d-file. 23...♖hd8 24.♔c3 ♖d1 25.♗xa5 ♖bd8 26.♗a7 For a human eye this is just hopeless, but the computer continues defending Black...]

21.♗d5! The bishop is trapped on a4, but Black has some tactical ideas to save it.

21...♔e7 [21...♔g7 is also bad because of 22.♔a3! (22.♗a1 22...♖hc8!) 22...♔c2 23.♗d2! leaving from the Bf4 threat and after 23...♔f5 White simply plays 24.♔a4+- and Kxa5. The b-pawn and the strong c6 bishop will decide the outcome of the game.]

22.♔a3! [Aronian's trick was 22.♗a1 22...♖hc8! and Black saves his bishop due to the threat of Rxc6.]

22...♔c2 23.♗d7+ ♔f8 White can choose between many different wins here. Both players were already in severe time pressure and Andreikin gives practical chances for Black to survive...



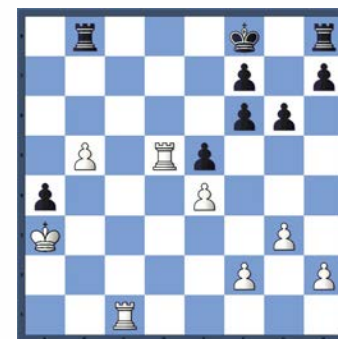
24.e4 Andreikin keeps trying to trap the bishop. He closed his way back to f5 and threatens to catch it with Rc1. [One

promising win was 24.♗d2 24...♔f5 25.♔a4+- with basically an extra pawn and easy win for White, as Black's doubled f-pawns are completely useless.; The machine recommends 24.♔d5 24...♖xb5 25.♗c1+- a direct tactical blow, which forces Black to sacrifice an exchange on d5 and enter a lost endgame.]

24...a4 [24...f5 loses to 25.f3! fxe4 26.♗c1! ♔d3 27.♔a4! White has time for all the moves. After protecting the b5 pawn he recaptures the e4 and wins the game. 27...♔g7 28.fxe4+-]

25.♗c1 [25.♔d5! would have won much more easily. 25...♔g7 (25...♖xb5 26.♗xf7+ ♔e8 27.♗c7+-) 26.♗xf7+ ♔h6 27.♗b7+- The b-pawn is supported by all the white pieces, while the a4 is rather just a weakness which pins the bishop to its defence.]

25...♔b3 26.♔d5 ♔xd5 27.♗xd5 This endgame is still highly unpleasant for Black, but as we know, the defensive side might always hope for salvation in rook endgames.



27...♔g7 Black needs to bring his h-rook to the game.

28.♗c7 [28.♔xa4 would allow some counterplay with 28...♗a8+ 29.♔b4 ♗a2]

28...♗b6! An excellent idea. Black frees the a8 square for his other rook to get activated through the a-file. [Defending passively with 28...♗a8 does not lead to any good: 29.b6

♖hb8 30.b7 ♖a7 31.♗dd7+—]

29.♖c6 [29.♔xa4 29...♖a8+ 30.♔b4 ♖a2 31.♔c5 ♖b8 is very similar to the game, Black gets counterplay.]

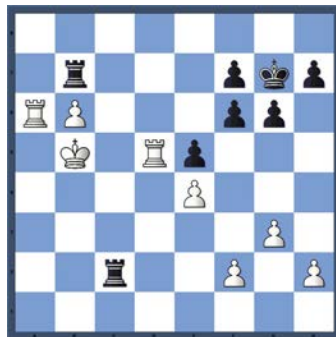
29...♖b7! Black needs both of his rooks to retain his chances. One of the rooks should try to block the b-pawn, while the other one must go to create counterplay by attacking the white pawns. [29...♗xc6 is hopeless. 30.bxc6 ♖c8 31.♖c5 ♔f8 32.♔xa4 ♔e7 33.♔b5 wins easily. 33...♔d6 34.♗d5+—]

30.♔xa4 ♖a8+ The rook is ready to invade, Black is back in the game.

31.♖a6 Of course White would still like to trade rooks, but Black is not forced to help him...

31...♖c8 32.b6 Both players were in huge time trouble and the game became very sharp again. The tournament was played without increments after the moves and Aronian was the one who made the last mistake.

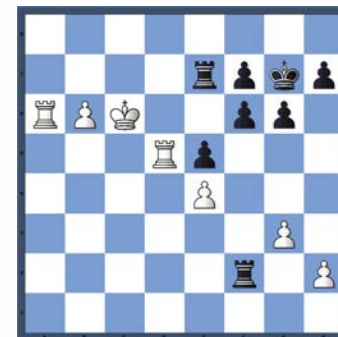
32...♖c2 33.♔b5



33...♗xf2? Black is lost after this move. [It was still essential to leave from the Kc6 tempo before capturing the f2 pawn. It is already unclear whether White is any better or if he already spoilt all his advantage. 33...♖b8! The a6 rook cannot move because of Rb2. 34.♗d3 is logical to support the pawn from

behind and avoid getting checks on b2. 34...♗xf2 35.♖b3 ♗xh2 36.♖a7 ♖e2 37.b7 ♖xe4 38.♔b6 White will queen his pawn, but Black already has 4 pawns and some chances to save the game. But if White succeeds to attack the f7 pawn with both of his rooks, he might have realistic chances to win the game.]

34.♔c6! ♖e7 When Aronian took on f2, he probably missed the next great move! [34...♖b8 is now met by 35.♔c7 ♖e8 36.b7+— when the white rooks are excellently placed to meet both checks with Rc6 or Rd7.]



35.♖aa5!! A very subtle move with the idea to cover the king from the checks along the 2nd rank. [35.b7 35...♖c2+ and the b7 pawn falls.]

35...♖e6+ [35...♗xh2 36.b7+— the pawn promotes and Black could not eliminate all the pawns to obtain some chances for survival.]

36.♗d6 ♖e7 37.♗dd5 Andreikin repeats twice to get closer to the time control.

37...♖e6+ 38.♔c7! The checks along the 2nd rank are completely neutralized by the rooks on the 5th rank, while the white king easily hides himself from the checks of the other rook.

38...♖e7+ 39.♔c8 ♖e8+ 40.♔d7 No more checks and the

b-pawn is going to be advanced. The rest is very easy.

40...♔f8 [40...♖b8 41.♔c7+-]

41.b7 ♖e7+ [41...♖b2 42.♖ab5+-; 41...♖xh2 42.♖a8+-]

42.♔c6 ♖e6+ 43.♔c7 ♖e7+ 44.♔b6 [Black resigned in view of 44.♔b6 44...♖e6+ 45.♔a7 ♖e7 46.♔a8 and the pawn promotes.] **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Kramnik, V(2787)-Svidler, P(2758)

FIDE Candidates, 2014.03.25

1... ♠



(6) Kramnik, V(2787)-Topalov, V(2785)

FIDE Candidates, 2014.03.29

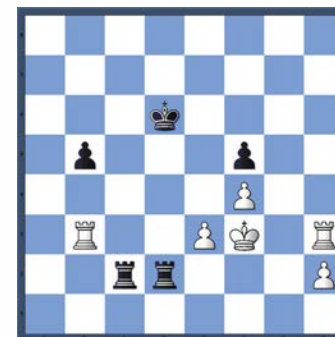
1. +-



(7) Kovalenko, I(2626)-Kulaots, K(2560)

Latvian Railway rapid, 2014.03.28

1... -+



(8) Van Wely, L(2684)-Shirov, A(2713)

Latvian Railway rapid, 2014.03.29

1. +-



(9) Kovalev, V(2548)-Shirov, A(2713)

Latvian Railway rapid, 2014.03.29

1... -+



(10) Lysyj, I(2655)-Fedoseev, V(2641)

Latvian Railway rapid, 2014.03.30

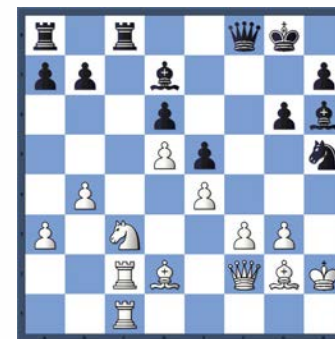
1... -+



(11) Zygouris, H(2241)-Kotronias, V(2568)

Greek Championship, 2014.03.30

1... -+



(12) Pavlidis, A(2340)-Dimitrov, A(2340)

Greek Championship, 2014.03.30

1. +-



(13) Stukopin, A(2544)-Vorobiov, E(2590)

Moscow Championship, 2014.03.30

1. +-



(14) Duda, J(2567)-Wieczorek, O(2408)

Polish Championship, 2014.03.25

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Karjakin, Siergiej(2766)
- Anand, Viswanathan(2770)

FIDE Candidates 2014,
2014.03.29

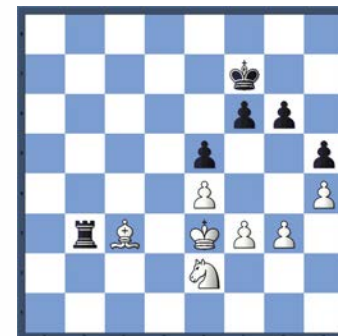


GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



The only one game where Anand was in danger of losing was the one against Karjakin in the penultimate round. It was extremely important for him to hold as otherwise the tournament would have remained open until the last moment, while with a draw he was already declared to be the champion with a round to go... White has an obvious material advantage, but the win is rather doubtful, because the pawns are on the same side and any kind of progressing plan leads to exchanges of some further material, which of course brings the defensive side closer to the draw.

44...♖b3+ 45.♙c3



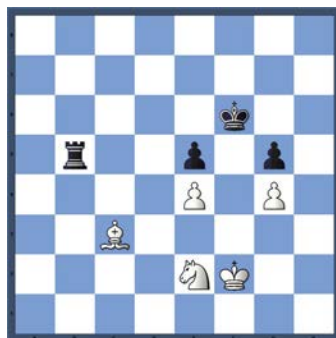
45...g5! An excellent defensive move! Black prevents the f4 idea and initiates some exchanges. The move could have the drawback that it weakens the e5 pawn, but Anand correctly evaluated that White is unable to arrange his pieces to attack it and also in some occasions he is ready to create counterplay by advancing his h- passed pawn. [In case of waiting with 45...♖a3 Anand was rightly afraid of 46.f4! exf4+ 47.gxf4 followed by e5 fxe5 fxe5, creating a passed pawn, which could be advanced after Nf4.]

46.hxg5 fxc5 47.♙f2 [47.♙d2 could have been met by 47...h4! (Other moves were wrong: 47...♖b5? 48.♘c1! and Nd3 next!; 47...♙e6? 48.f4! A tactical trick! The pawn cannot be taken because of the Nd4 check, so Black loses his e5 pawn.) 48.gxh4 gxh4 and the h-pawn saves the game.]

47...♖b5! The only move! [Obviously 47...♙e6? was more natural, but it would have run again into the tactical trick of 48.f4! gxf4 49.gxf4 exf4 50.♘d4+]]

48.g4 A committing decision! White tries to fix another weakness on g5. There will already be two pawns fixed on the dark squares, which could be attacked by both minor pieces. However Black also gets a protected passed pawn. [48.♘c1 now could have been met by 48...♖c5 49.♙d2 ♖c2 50.♙e3 h4 again with excellent drawing chances.]

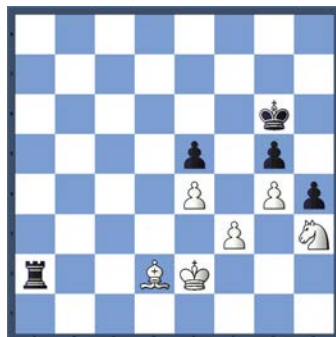
48...h4! This passed pawn plays a key role in the successful defense. [The endgame after 48...h4 49.f4 49...h4 is lost for Black 49...Kf6 in view of the simple plan of



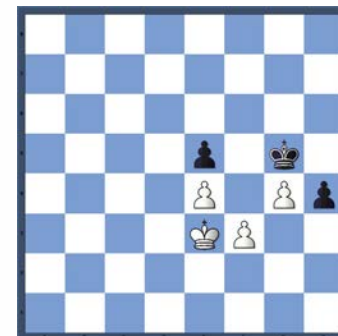
50.♖g1! ♜b3 51.♙d2!+- and Nf3 next, winning the g5 pawn.]

49.♖g1 With the idea of Nh3 and Bd2. [49.♖c1 would once again have been met by 49...♜c5!]

49...♜c5! 50.♙d2 ♜c2 51.♙e2 ♜a2 52.♖h3 ♙g6! This is a very important defensive position. White cannot grab the g5 pawn because the arising pawn endgame is drawn...



53.♙d3 [53.♖xg5 53...♜xd2+ 54.♙xd2 ♙xg5 55.♙e3



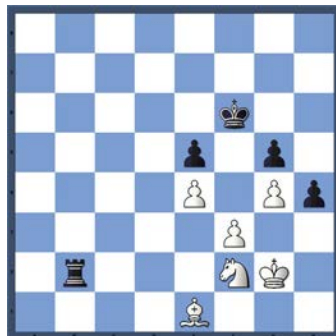
55...♙h6!! This is the only move and the point becomes clear soon. (55...h3? simply loses to 56.♙f2 ♙f4 57.♙g1!+- and on Kxf3 the g-pawn promotes, otherwise Kh2 wins.; 55...♙g6? also loses after 56.f4! h3 57.f5+! this is the point! White manages to save the pawn with check and Kf3 wins next move!) 56.♙f2 (56.f4 56...h3 is a draw now as exf4 is coming next.) 56...♙g5 57.♙g2 ♙g6 58.♙h2 ♙h6! Or Kf6 are equally good, the point is when White plays Kh3 Black must be ready to respond with Kg5! 59.♙h3 ♙g5= White cannot make progress.]

53...♜b2 54.♙e3 [The pawn cannot be taken on g5. In case of Nxg5 we transpose to the previous line, while after 54.♙xg5 Black has 54...♜h2! winning a piece.]

54...♜b3+ 55.♙e2 ♜b2 After finding all these defensive plans, Anand has a very easy task to hold. Karjakin keeps on trying for a while, but he cannot achieve anything.

56.♙d1 ♜b3 57.♙e2 ♜b2 58.♙d3 ♜a2 59.♖f2 ♜a3+ 60.♙c3 ♜a2 61.♙e3 ♜a3 62.♙d2 ♜a2+ 63.♙e1 ♙f6 64.♙f1 [64.♖d3 is met by 64...h3! 65.♙xe5+ ♙e6 and h2 next wins the piece. As we can see, the h-pawn gives Black adequate counterplay in any of the White attempts.]

64...♖a3 65.♘d1 ♔e6 66.♔g2 ♜b3 67.♙a5 ♜a3 68.♙b6
 ♜a2+ 69.♘f2 ♔f6 70.♔h3 ♜a3 71.♔g2 ♜a2 72.♙d8+ ♔g6
 73.♙e7 ♜b2 74.♙c5 ♜c2 75.♙d6 ♔f6 76.♔f1 ♜c1+ 77.♔g2
 ♜c2 78.♙b4 ♜b2 79.♙a5 ♜a2 80.♙d8+ ♔g6 81.♙e7
 ♜b2 82.♙c5 ♔f6 83.♔g1 ♜b1+ 84.♔h2 ♜b3 85.♔g2 ♜b2
 86.♙a3 ♜a2 87.♙b4 ♜b2 88.♙e1



88...h3+!? Continuing waiting with rook moves was also good enough for the draw, but Anand decided to force the draw in a tactical way.

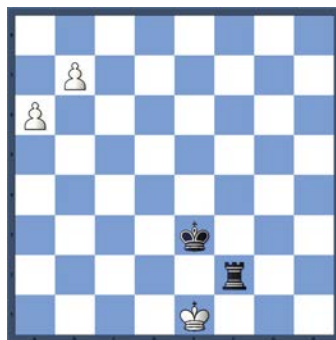
89.♔f1 [89.♔xh3 89...♜e2 90.♘d3 ♜e3 wins a piece.; 89.♔g3 89...h2! 90.♔g2 (90.♔xh2 90...♜e2) 90...h1=♚+ 91.♔xh1 ♜e2 92.♘d3 ♜e3 White loses one of his minor pieces in any case.]

89...h2 90.♘h1 ♜b1 91.♔e2 The draw was agreed as White has no next move. He can either wait with Kf2-e2 or with Ng3-h1. In both cases Black just plays Ra1-b1. **1/2-1/2**

(16)



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



This is one of the famous rook endgames from the category "good to know".

1...♖h2! The only move to save the game! [It would be easy to go wrong with 1...♖b2? 2.♔d1! Now by moving towards the rook first and afterwards away from the rook, White is in time to win an important tempo! 2...♔d3 3.♔c1 ♔c3 (3...♖b6 4.a7 with an easy win for White.) 4.a7 White put his both pawns on the 7th rank, which means game over for Black. 4...♖h2 5.♔d1 ♔d3 6.♔e1 ♔e3 7.♔f1 ♔f3 8.♔g1 followed by queening one of the pawns.]

2.♔f1 [Now White is already not in time to go to other side anymore: 2.♔d1 2...♔d3 3.♔c1 ♔c3 4.♔b1 ♖h1+ 5.♔a2 ♖h2+ 6.♔a3 ♖h6 7.♔a4 ♖xa6+ 8.♔b5 ♖a1 With a draw.]

2...♔f3 3.♔g1 ♖g2+! Once again Black is holding with only moves.

4.♔h1 ♖g8! After vertical checks Black continues with

horizontal ones.

5.a7 White has "almost" won but this time Black is in time:

5...♖h8+ 6.♔g1 ♖g8+ 7.♔f1 ♖h8 8.♔e1 As we can see the position is very forced.

8...♔e3 9.♔d1 ♔d3 10.♔c1 ♔c3 11.♔b1 It seems like the white king has escaped, but...

11...♖h1+ 12.♔a2 ♖h2+ 13.♔a3 ♖h1! The only move to save the game again!

14.♔a4 ♔c4 15.♔a5 ♔c5 And White doesn't have anything better than to return to 16.Ka4, with a draw. **1/2-1/2**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Smejkal, Jan
- Smyslov, Vassily[B06]

Hastings 6869(10),
1968



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 g6 2.d4 ♘g7 3.c3 d6 4.f4 This setup looks a bit strange. Usually White doesn't lose any time for c3 when he plays the plan with f4.

4...♗f6 5.e5 Now is move number 5 and White is still moving only pawns! This must be too much...

5...♗d5 [5...dxe5 6.fxe5 ♗d5 7.♗f3 c5 A typical move. The idea is to create a strong knight on d5 and weaken the d4 pawn. 8.♙c4 (8.c4 8...♗b4 9.d5 ♙f5 10.♗a3 ♗d7 with good counterplay against the white central pawns.) 8...cxd4 9.cxd4 O-O Black has a good position.]

6.♗f3 O-O



7.♙c4 c6 In my opinion Black could play more actively: [7...♗b6 8.♙b3 c5 9.dxc5 dxc5 10.♙e2 ♙f5 Xd3]

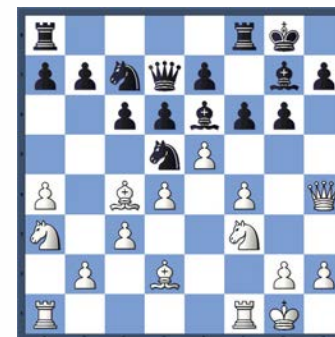
8.a4 A thematic move in Pirc. White prevents b5. [8.O-O]

8...♗a6 9.O-O ♗ac7 10.♙e1 A normal move. White is preparing the transfer of the queen to the kingside.

10...f6 Black wants to destroy the strong central pawn structure and activate his g7 bishop at the same time. [10...♙g4 11.♙h4 (11.♙g3 11...♙xf3 12.♙xf3 dxe5 13.fxe5 f6 14.exf6 exf6 followed by f5, with a solid position.) 11...♙xf3 12.♙xf3 e6 13.♙f2 dxe5 14.dxe5 (14.fxe5 14...c5) 14...f6 Black can play this move because of the bad development of the white pieces.]

11.♙h4 ♙e6 12.♗a3 White develops his pieces and prevents some Nxf4 tricks.

12...♙d7 13.♙d2



13...b5 Black is looking for the initiative on the queenside. [13...dxe5 14.fxe5 fxe5 15.♗xe5 ♙xe5 16.dxe5 At the moment it is not easy for White to take advantage of the missing bishop on g7 but of course in the future the black king will be potentially weak and thanks to the bishop pair White has a stable advantage.; 13...♙g4 14.♙ae1 with a better position for White.]

14.♙d3 ♗b6 [14...bxa4 15.c4 ♗b6 16.♙ae1 ♙ab8 17.♙c3 White keeps the initiative thanks to his space advantage.; 14...a6 15.♙ae1+ c5 doesn't work because of

16. axb5 axb5 17. exd6 exd6



18. ♖xb5! ♖xb5 19. ♕xb5 ♖xb5 20. ♖xe6 and White is a pawn up.]

15. axb5 cxb5 16. ♖ae1 White improves his pieces and it is not easy to stop them before the decisive attack starts.

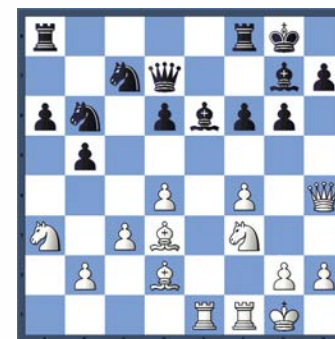
16... a6 [16... ♖c4 17. ♖xc4 ♕xc4 (17... bxc4 18. ♕c2 f5 19. ♖g5 h6 20. ♖xe6 ♖xe6 21. g4 White will crush his opponent on the light squares.) 18. ♕xc4+ bxc4 19. e6!? (19. f5?! is premature here: 19... ♖xf5 20. exd6 exd6 21. ♖e7 ♖d5 22. ♖xg7+ ♖xg7 23. ♕h6+ ♖h8 24. ♕xf8 ♖xf8 25. ♖g5 ♖xf1+!-+) 19... ♖b5 (19... ♖xe6 is not possible because of the following tactical idea: 20. ♖h3 f5



21. ♖xe6! ♖xe6 22. ♖g5+-) 20. ♕c1 ♖d5 21. g4 White has to be on time! 21... ♖xe6 22. f5 gxf5 23. gxf5 ♖c7 (23... ♖xf5?! 24. ♖e5)

24. ♖xe7 ♖f7 25. ♖xf7 ♖xf7 26. ♕f4 d5 27. ♖h1 and White keeps the initiative.]

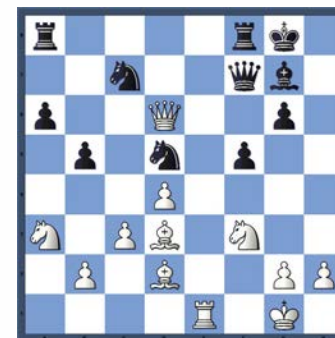
17. exd6 exd6



18. ♖xe6! A nice tactical idea based on a strategic understanding.

18... ♖xe6 [18... ♖xe6 19. f5 ♖fc8 (19... g5 20. fxe6+-) 20. fxe6 It is better to keep the pressure than to take the piece! 20... hxe6 21. ♕xg6 ♖f8 22. ♕b1 With an unpleasant position for Black.]

19. f5! g5? The decisive mistake. Black could still have fought on after [19... ♖e8 20. fxe6 hxe6 21. ♖g3 f5 22. ♖e1 ♖f7 23. ♖xd6 (23. ♖g5 23... ♖d7 24. ♖h4 ♕f6 and the h7 square is protected!) 23... ♖bd5



24. c4! Now Black needs to move away his active knight or activate the white knight from a3... 24... ♖ad8 25. ♖g3 bxc4

26. ♖xc4 White has the Ne5 threat and a very strong initiative.;
19...gxf5? 20. ♔h3±]



20. ♖xg5! +— Now White is winning very quickly as the black king is very weak and as in many previous examples we can note that most of the black pieces are very far from supporting the kingside...

20...fxg5 21. ♕xg5 ♔d7 [21...♔f7 22.f6 h5 23.fxg7 ♔xg7 24.♕f5 With a decisive attack.]

22.f6 ♕h8 23.♕f5 [23.♖f3 also wins.]

23...♖e6 24. ♔g4 ♖f7 25. ♔h5+ ♖g8 26. ♔g4 ♖f7 27. ♕xh7
Of course no draw! :-) White is temporarily a rook down, but Black just cannot hold this position with his weak king...

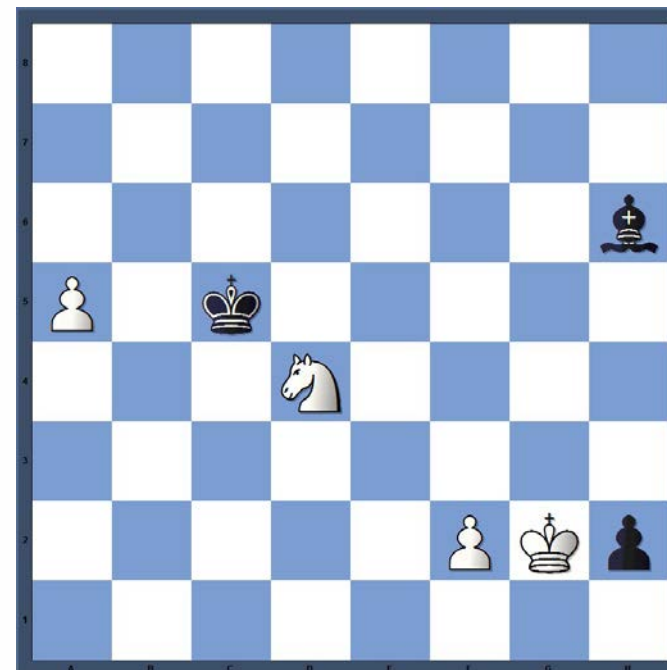
27...♖e8 28.f7+ ♖xf7 29.♕g6 ♖d8 30. ♔h5 ♔e6 [30...♕g7 31.♕xd8 ♖xd8 32.♖xf7+—]

31. ♔xh8+ ♖d7 32. ♕xf7 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Reti

1. +—



Solutions

(19) Kramnik, V(2787)-Mamedyarov, S(2757)

FIDE Candidates, 2014.03.21



48...♔xf8?? [48...♔g6!! 49.♖g8+ (49.d8=♖ 49...♖g4#) 49...♔h6! 50.♖xg5 ♖h2+! 51.♔g3 ♕xd7+-]

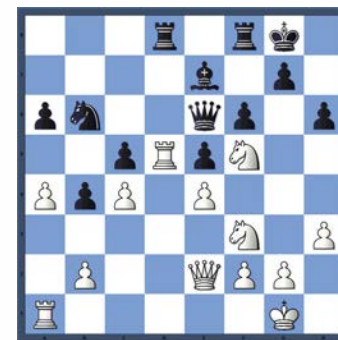
49.c8=♖+! [49.d8=♖+? 49...♔f7!+-]

49...♔g7? [49...♔f7! 50.♔h5! (50.♖b7? 50...♖g4+ 51.♔h5 ♔e7!+-)]

50.♖b7! +- ♕f3+ 51.♖xf3 ♖h2+ 52.♔g5 h6+ 53.♔f4 ♖h4+ 54.♔e5 1-0

(20) Abdulla, A(2518)-Gomes, M(2409)

Kolkata Open, 2014.03.19



25.♕3h4! [25.♕3d4! 25...cxd4 26.♖g4 ♖f7 27.♕xh6+-]

25...♕xd5 [25...♖f7 26.♕g6! ♕xd5 27.cxd5+-]

26.♖g4! 1-0

(21) Haznedaroglu, K(2462)-Fedorchuk, S(2647)

Kolkata Open, 2014.03.20



23.♖xd5! ♖c7 [23...♖xd5 24.♕xe7+ ♔f8 25.♕xd5+-]

24.♕xa7! ♖xa7 25.♕xb6+- ♕d6 26.♖ad1 ♖ab7 27.♕xc7 ♖xc7 28.g3+-

(22) Landa, K(2645)-Abishkek, K(2286)

Kolkata Open, 2014.03.22



26. ♖xe7+! ♜xe7 27. ♖xd7! ♜c6 [27... ♖xd7 28. ♜f6+ ♔g7 29. ♜xd7+-]

28. fxe5! ♜d4 [28... ♖xd7 29. ♜f6+ ♔g7 30. ♜xd7+-]

29. ♜f6++- ♔h8 30. ♖f2 1-0

(23) Vidit, S(2602)-Abdulla, A(2518)

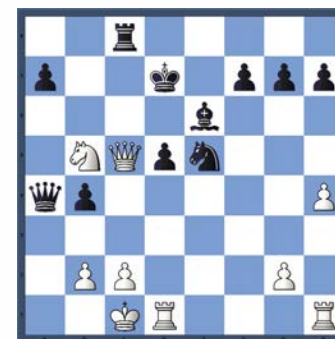
Kolkata Open, 2014.03.23



23. ♖b8! 1-0 [23. ♖b8 23... ♖xb8 (23... ♖d7 24. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 25. ♜xc5 dxc5 26. ♜xc7+-) 24. ♜e7+ ♔f8 25. ♜xc6+-]

(24) Short, N(2674)-Debashis, D(2508)

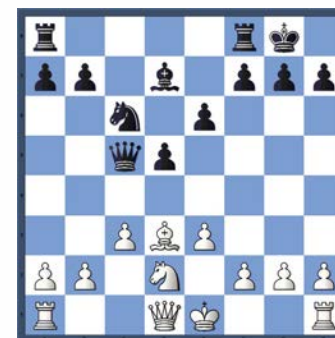
Kolkata Open, 2014.03.24



21. ♖xd5+! 1-0 [21. ♖xd5+ 21... ♜xd5 22. ♖xd5+ ♔e7 23. ♖xe5+ ♔f8 24. b3! ♖xb3 25. ♖f5+-; 21. ♖d6+? 21... ♔e8 22. ♜c7+ ♖xc7 23. ♖xc7 ♖a1+ 24. ♔d2 ♖xb2∞]

(25) Kamsky, G(2709)-Shankland, S(2611)

Eastern Class, 2014.03.16



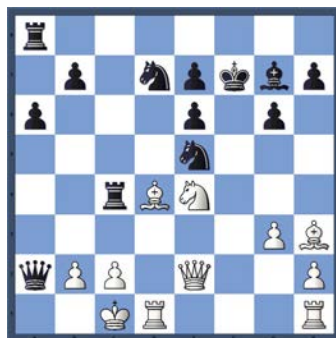
13. ♜xh7+!! ♔xh7 14. ♖h5+ ♔g8 15. ♜e4! ♖c4 16. ♜g5+- ♖fd8 17. ♖xf7+ ♔h8 18. ♖h5+ ♔g8 19. ♖d1 [19. ♖h7+ 19... ♔f8 20. ♖h8+ ♔e7 21. ♖xg7+ ♔d6 22. ♜f7+-]

19...e5 20. ♖f7+ ♔h8 21. e4! +- ♜e7 [21... ♜g4 22. f3+-]

22. ♖xe7 ♜b5 23. ♖d2+-

(26) Nabaty, T(2586)-Loncar, R(2358)

Zagreb Open, 2014.03.19



20. ♖xe6+! ♔e8 [20... ♖xe6 21. ♘g5+! ♔f6 (21... ♖d6 22. ♖xe5+--)] 22. ♖f2+ ♖xg5 23. ♖f4+ ♖h5 24. ♖h4#]

21. ♖xd7+! [21. ♖xc4?? 21... ♖h6+ 22. ♖e3 ♘xc4--]

21... ♘xd7 22. ♘d6+! ♔f8 23. ♘xc4 1-0

(27) Sedlak, N(2562)-Antic, D(2462)

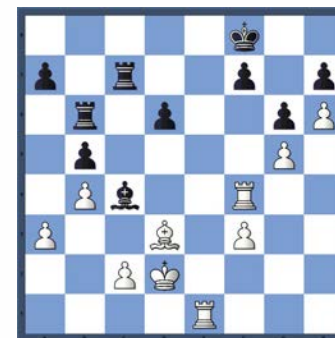
Serbian Central Championship, 2014.03.18



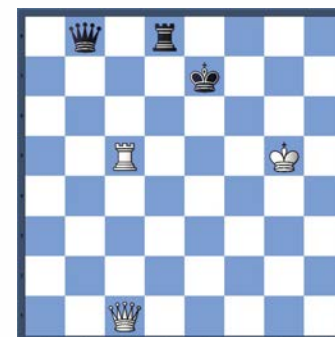
24. ♘f5+! 1-0 [24. ♘f5+ 24... gxf5 25. ♖xh6+ ♖xh6 26. ♖f1!+-]

(28) Dvoirys, S(2560)-Panov, M(2153)

Ural Championship, 2014.03.23



29. ♖xg6! hxg6 30. h7! ♔g7 **31. ♖e8!** ♖xh7 **32. ♖h4+** ♖g7 **33. ♖eh8!** 1-0

(29) Rinck

1. ♖c7+! [1. ♖e3+? 1... ♖f7 2. ♖f5+ ♖g7 3. ♖e7+ ♖h8 4. ♖f6+ ♖h7 5. ♖h6+ ♖g8=]

1... ♖d7 [1... ♖f8 2. ♖f4+--]

2. ♖c5+! ♖d8 [2... ♖e6 3. ♖f5+--]

3. ♖h6!! ♖xc7 [3... ♖xc7 4. ♖f8#; 3... ♖a8 4. ♖f8+ ♖xc7 5. ♖xa8+-] **4. ♖f8+** ♖d7 **5. ♖xb8**

Solutions

(18) Kramnik, V(2787)-Svidler, P(2758)

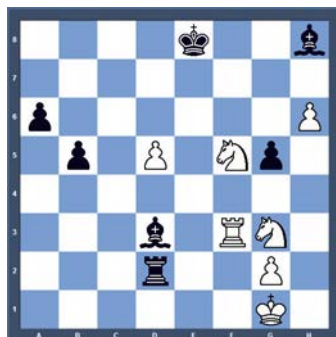
FIDE Candidates, 2014.03.25



32...♙xh2+! 33.♔xh2 ♚xf1—+

(19) Kramnik, V(2787)-Topalov, V(2785)

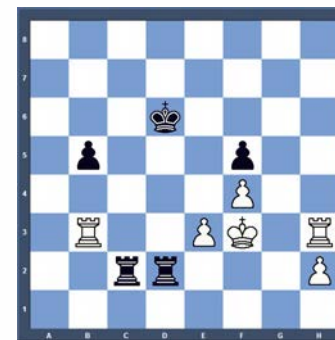
FIDE Candidates, 2014.03.29



46.♘g7+! ♔e7 47.d6+! ♔xd6 48.♖f8!+—

(20) Kovalenko, I(2626)-Kulaots, K(2560)

Latvian Railway rapid, 2014.03.28

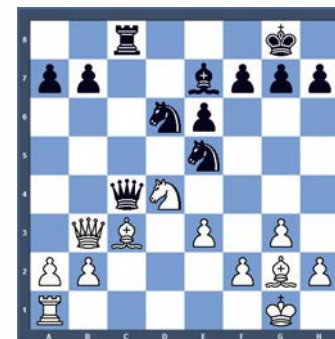


49...♖f2+! 50.♔g3 ♖g2+! 51.♔h4 [51.♔f3 51...♖cf2#]

51...♖g4+ 52.♔h5 ♖c8! 0-1

(21) Van Wely, L(2684)-Shirov, A(2713)

Latvian Railway rapid, 2014.03.29

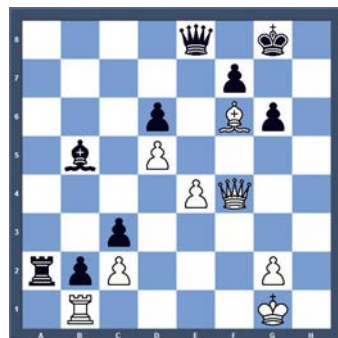


25.♘xe6! ♚xb3 [25...♚xe6 26.♚xe6 fxe6 27.♙xe5+—; 25...fxe6 26.♙xe5+—]

26.axb3 ♖xc3 27.bxc3 fxe6 28.♖xa7 ♘d3 29.♙xb7+—

(22) Kovalev, V(2548)-Shirov, A(2713)

Latvian Railway rapid, 2014.03.29

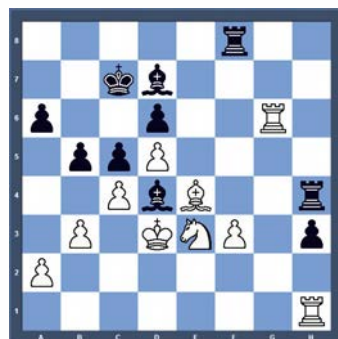


29...♖a1! 30.♗h4 ♜xb1+ 31.♕h2 [31.♕f2 31...♜f1+ 32.♕e3 ♜xf6—+]]

31...♗e5+! 32.♘xe5 dxe5—+ 33.♗d8+ ♕g7 34.♗c7 ♜f1 35.♗xe5+ ♕h7 0-1

(23) Lysyj, I(2655)-Fedoseev, V(2641)

Latvian Railway rapid, 2014.03.30

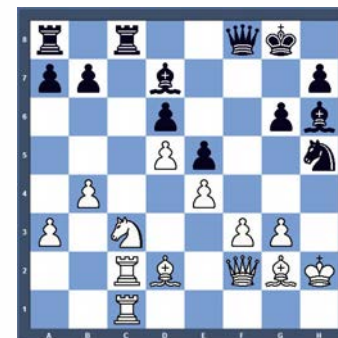


40...♜xe4! 41.fxe4 [41.♕xe4 41...♜e8+—+]]

41...♜f3 42.♜e1 h2 0-1 [42...h2 43.♜h6 ♘h3!—+]]

(24) Zygouris, H(2241)-Kotronias, V(2568)

Greek Championship, 2014.03.30

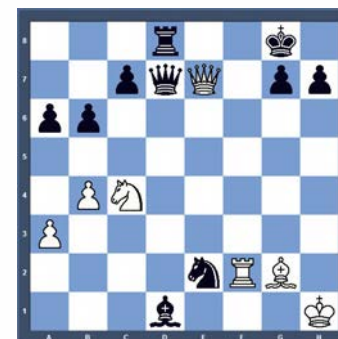


25...♘xg3!! 26.♘d1 [26.♗xg3 26...♘xd2 27.♜xd2 ♗h6+ 28.♕g1 ♗xd2—+; 26.♕xg3 26...♘f4+! 27.♘xf4 ♗xf4#; 26.♘h6 26...♗xh6+ 27.♕xg3 ♗f4#]]

26...♘xe4 0-1

(25) Pavlidis, A(2340)-Dimitrov, A(2340)

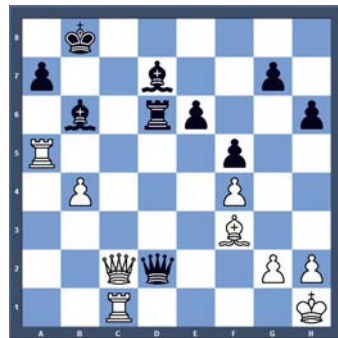
Greek Championship, 2014.03.30



36.♜f8+! ♜xf8 37.♗xd7 1-0

(26) Stukopin, A(2544)-Vorobiov, E(2590)

Moscow Championship, 2014.03.30



32. ♖xa7!! ♜c6 [32... ♔xa7 33. ♖a1+ ♕b8 34. ♖a8#; 32... ♜xa7 33. ♕c7#; 32... ♕xc2 33. ♖a8+ ♕c7 34. ♖xc2+-]

33. ♕xd2 ♖xd2 34. ♖xg7 ♜xf3 35. gxf3+-

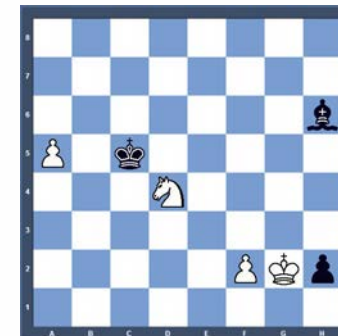
(27) Duda, J(2567)-Wieczorek, O(2408)

Polish Championship, 2014.03.25



24. ♜f7+ ♔h8 25. ♕h6! 1-0

(28) Reti



1. ♕h1!! ♜c1 [1... ♜f8 2. ♜e6+-; 1... ♜g7 2. ♜e6+-; 1... ♜g5 2. ♜e6+-; 1... ♜f4 2. ♜e6+-; 1... ♜d2 2. ♜b3+-; 1... ♕xd4 2. a6+-]

2. ♜b3+ ♕b5 3. ♜xc1+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 111

11th of April 2014

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Editorial Preface

Another great week of chess has passed and a new one is right in front of us!

The team of OSG Baden-Baden has won the German Bundesliga for the 9th consecutive time, with a perfect score of 15 winning matches.

The second place went to the team of EV Mühlheim Nord and SV 1930 Hockenheim took third.

At the moment a lot of very interesting events have just begun:

- 1) The Russian Team Championship for men and women, with Grischuk, Karjakin and many more.
- 2) A very strong open in Dubai and we keep our fingers crossed for Csaba, who is playing there.
- 3) The Women Grand Prix in Khanty-Mansisk.

As usual, we try to bring you the best games from the recent events. Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Akopian, Vladimir(2674)
- Tabada, Jobannie C(2210) [B90]

16th Dubai Open 2014(3.14),
2014.04.09



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Maybe some do not remember, but Akopian was a Top 10 player for some time. Lately he is doing more coaching than actively playing, but his result for the Armenian national team championship are still great. In the current game the opponent of course has 450 ELO points less, but we are all playing with the same pieces and to win a game is never easy. Akopian is showing us his great attacking skills and we can consider this game to be a good example of "what not to do" with Black.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 It is never easy to play the Sicilian against a much stronger opponent, especially since problems in the theoretical lines could lead to big troubles in the early stage already.

3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙e3 So we are in the most classical line. Black has 3 major choices now: 6...Ng4, 6...e5 or 6...e6.

6...e6 So Tabada is choosing the Sheveningen system.

7.f3 This is also the most classical and main move. [7.g4 7...e5 8.♘f5 g6 leads crazy and sharp positions.]

7...b5 8.♚d2 [8.g4 immediately is another popular line and the idea is to avoid the Nbd7-Nb6 line.]

8...♘bd7 9.g4 ♘b6



10.a4!? I personally think that this is one of the most interesting lines for White.

10...♘c4 [Of course after 10...bxa4? 11.♘xa4 ♘xa4 12.♚xa4 White's position is just better because of the weak pawn on a6 and White still has the option of castling kingside.]

11.♙xc4 bxc4 12.a5 [Another interesting option is 12.g5 12...♘d7 13.f4 ♙b7 14.f5 ♘c5 15.♚g2 with very sharp play, like in Areshchenko-Shirov 2012.]

12...♙b7 This is of course all still theory. Even in this position we can find some games of Kasparov from the year 2000.

13.♘a4 The main move. The position is very sharp. White is trying to gain control on the dark squares and have some action in the center, while Black is trying to be solid and crush White's center by playing d5.

13...d5 is also the main move and very logical. Why waste any time for nothing, it is time to be active in the center.

14.g5 ♘d7 15.O-O-O White is bringing all his pieces into the attack.



15...Rc8? just looks too slow. [The most critical is probably 15...dxe4! Now White has a big range of moves: 16.f4 is maybe not the best. (16.Rhf1!? This very interesting move was played by Van Oosterom in a correspondence game.) 16...Rb8 17.Qc3 Qe7 18.f5 exf5 19.Rxd7 Qxd7 20.Qe5+ Qe7 21.Qxb8+ Qc8 22.Qe5 f6 23.gxf6 gxf6 24.Qd4 Qc6 happened in the game Leko-Shirov from 2012 where Black won.]

16.Qc3! Strong and logical. White stops Black from playing dxe4.

16...Qc7 [After 16...dxe4 17.fxe6! Black's position is falling apart. 17...fxe6 18.f6! With a deadly attack.]

17.exd5 There is no reason anymore to give a pawn on e4. [17.f6! 17...fxb6 18.axb6 Qxb6 19.f5 also looks promising for White.]

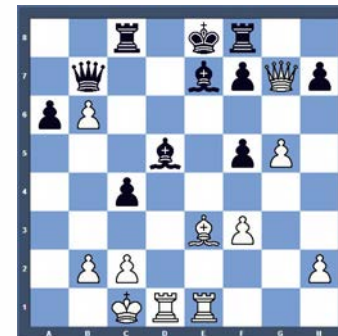
17...Qxd5 18.Rhe1 A nice move. White brings his last piece to a perfect position on e1 and prepares for a lot of tactical blows.

18...Qb7 Black's main problem is not only that the king is on e8, but as also the bishop on f8 and the g7 pawn, which makes it is really hard to find a way to castle. [For example if Black tried to castle by playing 18...Qe7? the game would be practically over after 19.f5! as there is no way to avoid the loss of material.]



19.f5! Another nice move by Akopian. Black's position is already looking very shaky.

19...Qxb6 20.axb6 Rg8 This move just can't be good, but what else to play?! [At first sight a development move like 20...Qe7 looks good, but White has an amazing blow! 21.f5! exf5 22.Qxg7 Rf8 and here comes White's main idea:



23.g6!! The black king is getting attacked from all sides. 23...hxg6 24.f6 with the idea of Qxf8 next. Black's position is lost. 24...Qd7 25.Qxe7+ Qxe7 26.Qe5+ Qe6 27.Qd6+ Qf6 28.Qxf8 with an easily winning position for White.]

21.f5 Akopian doesn't give Tabada any break. All white pieces are ready for the final action against the black king.

21...Qc6 [21...exf5 is also losing. 22.Rxd5! Qxd5 23.f4+ Qd7 24.Rd1 and White's position is just winning.]

22. ♖f4 White maybe has no direct threat, but the black pieces just can't move any longer. The position is just hopeless.

22... ♖d8 23. ♖c7 ♖d7 Of course a lot of moves should lead to a winning position here, but Akopian chooses the easiest one, which is clearly a good practical decision. "You should not calculate more than needed".

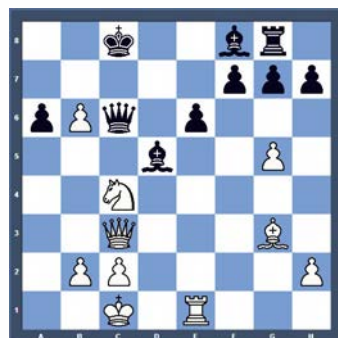
24. ♘e3! The strongest black pieces, the bishop on d5, is getting kicked out from his position. I guess by now even Tabada lost his last hopes to survive the game.

24... ♖xf3 [24... ♖e7 would be a bit more stubborn, but after 25. ♘xd5 ♖xd5 26. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 27. f4 White's position is just winning.]

25. ♖xd7 ♖xd7 26. ♘xc4 Threatening Ne5.

26... ♖c8 27. ♖g3 Threatening both Nd6 and b7 and Black cannot defend from both of them.

27... ♖d5



28. b7+! A very nice attacking game with good tactical motives! This is something we can really enjoy! :) **1-0**

**(2) Motylev, Alexander(2685)
- Najer, Evgeniy(2655) [C84]**21st TCh-RUS 2014(2.5),
2014.04.08GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We will see a really crazy game, where at first it seems like Black's sacrifice just can't be correct, but then move by move his attack seems to get stronger and stronger and it ends up with the white king getting mated-a very rare thing for the Spanish game.

1.e4 e5 2.♖f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 Alexander Motylev just had probably the best 2 months of his life chesswise. He became European Individual Champion with an amazing score of 9/11 and he was the second of Karjakin in the Candidates, where Karjakin took unshared second place.

3...a6 4.♗a4 ♘f6 5.O-O ♗e7 6.d3 It is hard to call this move a sideline. Not so long ago 6.d3 was very popular and White was having quite good results in it. But in the last couple of years Black seems to be doing fine and games of Aronian, Anand etc showed that White probably doesn't have too much to hope for. One of the ideas of playing 6.d3 is to save a tempo on the Re1 move but on the other hand, White is not able to get the c3-d4 lines anymore.

6...b5 [6...d6 is also possible.]

7.♗b3 O-O [7...d6 is maybe a bit more precise as now Black is already threatening to play Na5 next and exchange the b3 bishop.]

8.♘c3 Using the fact that the e5 pawn is unprotected in case of Na5.

8...d6 Na5 is a threat now.

9.a3 ♖a5 is the main move. [After 9...♗e6 10.♗e3 ♖d7 11.♘d5 ♗d8 12.♗g5 White is maybe a bit better. Dominguez-Caruana Wijk aan Zee 2014]

10.♗a2 c5 Najer is switching from the very main lines. [10...♗e6 seems to be the most critical. 11.♗g5 c5 With quite an unclear game, like for example in Dominguez-Aronian from Wijk aan Zee 2014: 12.b4 ♘c6 13.♘d5 ♗xd5 14.exd5 ♘d4 15.bxc5 ♘xf3+ 16.♖xf3 dxc5 17.♗fe1 ♘d7 With very unclear play where Aronian could quite easily have outplayed his opponent.]



11.b4!? An interesting try to play for the advantage. [11.♘d5 11...♗xd5 12.♗xd5 ♗b7 13.b4 ♗xd5 14.exd5 ♘b7 15.c3 ♖c7 16.♗e1 f5 and Black's position seems to be fine. Anand-Adams, Grenke Chess Classics 2013]

11...♘c6 12.♘d5 A very typical move. Now Black has many options.

12...♘d4! The right reaction! Black should not wait for White to play c3 next or maybe Nxe7 and Bg5 with a very comfortable position.

13.bxc5 [After 13.c3 13...♗xf3+ 14.♖xf3 the position should be just close to equal.]

13...♖xd5 [After the immediate 13...♗g4 White has a nice sacrifice: 14.♖xd4! Who cares about a queen?! :) 14...♗xd1



15.♗c6 ♖xd5 Black already needs to give back the queen, as after a queen move White would take the e7 bishop and then the d1 one, leaving him with 3 pieces vs queen which is clearly in his favor. 16.♖xd8 ♖axd8 17.♗xd5 ♗xc2 18.c6 ♗xd3 19.♖e1 White is a pawn down, but he has a monster pawn on c6 and is probably doing slightly better in this endgame.]

14.♗xd5 It is hard to blame Motylev for such a move, as White's position just looks better after it. [14.♖xd4! would lead to a slightly better endgame. 14...♖c3 15.♗c6 ♖xd1 (White has a nice trick after 15...♖e8 16.♖xe7+ ♖xe7 and 17.cxd6! winning a pawn! 17...♖xd6 18.♖e1 ♖xa2 19.♖xa2 White is just a pawn up.) 16.♖xd8 ♗xd8 17.♖xd1 dxc5 18.♗e3 And this endgame also looks slightly better for White.]

14...♗g4! This move is already almost forced, but it is a very nice positional exchange sacrifice anyway.

15.♗xa8 ♖xa8 White is an exchange and a pawn up, but things around the white king could get very dangerous...

16.cxd6 ♗xd6 17.♗b2 This move is also very logical, White is developing a piece and forcing Black to take on f3.

17...♖xf3+ 18.gxf3 ♗h5 And here we are probably in the first critical position.



19.d4 Motylev continues playing very human and logical moves. [If White tried to protect the f3 pawn with a rook by playing 19.♖e1 19...♖d8 Black is keeping the idea of f5 in mind and also Qh4-Qh3. 20.♖e3 ♗c5 With a very dangerous attack on the white king.; Maybe White could have tried 19.♖d2! Black has a lot of different moves now, but for example after 19...♖c8 20.♖g5 ♗xf3 21.♖f5! White would force Black to enter an endgame and I think White's position should be better.]

19...♖c8 White can't allow Black to play Qh3.

20.♗g2 [In case of 20.dxe5 20...♖h3 Black just wants to mate by playing Bf3 next. 21.♖d2 ♖e8! A very strong killer move. It seems like White is hopeless against Re6-Rg6.]

20...f5! Najer is just playing a perfect game! Black has no time to lose and brings his rook into the attack.

21.dxe5 White doesn't have anything better.

21...fxe4 22.♖d5+

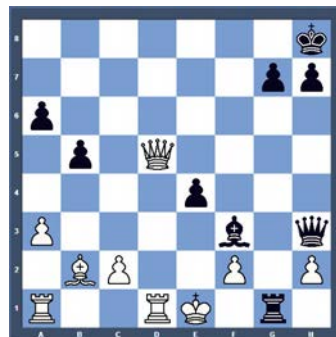


22...♖f7! Najer plays for a win and calculates things perfectly. [22...♔h8 would probably lead to a draw. 23.♙xe4 It seems like White can't avoid losing some material... 23...♗xf3+ 24.♙xf3 ♜xf3 25.♔xf3 ♜f5+ 26.♔g2 ♜g4+ 27.♔h1 Black has at least a perpetual check here, but he could play for more with 27...Bc5.]

23.e6 This is the difference to Kh8, White attacks the f7 rook with tempo.

23...♗xf3+ 24.♔g1 ♜e7 Another cool and strong move by Najer. Black is already a full rook down but the position seems to be winning!

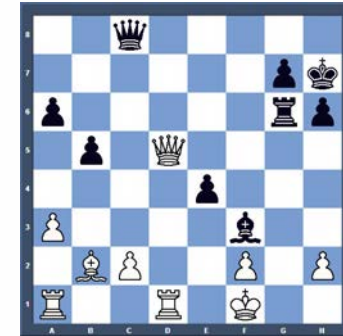
25.♙xd6 ♜xe6 26.♙d5 h6 Black is planning to play Kh7-Rg6. [26...♔h8 was probably leading to an immediate win. 27.♜fd1 (27.♗e5 was also losing. 27...♜g6+ 28.♗g3 h6 with the deadly idea of playing Qh3 next.) 27...♜g6+ 28.♔f1 ♜h3+ 29.♔e1 ♜g1+



30.♔d2 e3+! Black is winning the queen and getting a totally winning position.]

27.♜fd1 By having sort of extra tempo, the white king is in time to escape a forced mate.

27...♔h7 28.♔f1 ♜g6



29.♔e1? A blunder in a bad position. [The only chance to go on was to play 29.♙d4! finally getting rid of the nasty e3 threat. 29...♙xc2 30.♜d2 ♜c8 Of course Black's attack looks deadly, but White could have continued the fight with 31.♜dd1 with a very bad position, but some practical chances to escape.]

29...♙xc2 The double threat of Qe2 and Rg1 with mate is leaving White no other choice but to resign. A really fantastic attacking game by Najer and also a very important one for the evaluation of this line. **0-1**

**(3) Wagner, Dennis(2481)
- Shirov, Alexei(2685) [D45]**

Bundesliga 2013-14(13.5),
2014.04.04



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A very sharp game, typically in the style of Shirov. The game also looks very important from a theoretical point of view.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 e6 5.♘f3 ♘bd7 The starting position of the Meran, where White can choose between two very serious lines, 6.Bd3 and 6.Qc2.

6.♔c2 ♙d6 7.♙d3 O-O 8.O-O dxc4 9.♙xc4 b5



10.♙e2 The players are following the latest fashion. 10.Bd3 is an equally huge and complex main line.

10...♙b7 Black slowly prepares the freeing central break with e5 or sometimes with b4 followed by c5 also works.

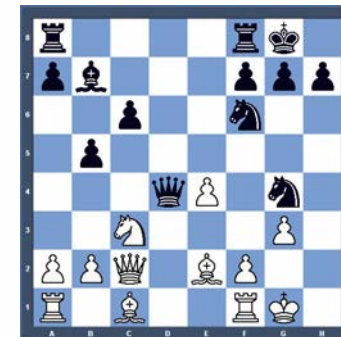
11.e4 [11.♖d1 is the most common move, when Black usually plays 11...♔c7 leaving the pin on the d-file and refreshing his e5 idea.]

11...e5 This reply is always obligatory to the e4 move. Black cannot allow White to push e5.

12.dxe5 ♘xe5 13.♘d4!? This forgotten move was found by

the French GM Fressinet. There is a very deep positional idea behind it. The move is very logical of course, White would like to install his knight to f5, which could guarantee him a clear edge, but it moves into a tactical trick...

13...♘eg4 14.g3 ♙c5! This is Shirov's improvement and the start of the wild complications! [13.Nd4 was considered to be dubious because of 14...♙xg3 winning a pawn, but Fressinet has discovered the following plan: 15.hxg3 ♔xd4



16.♔d1! White forces the trade of the queens and enters an endgame with a pawn down. However, there are plenty of plusses for White. First of all, he has the pair of bishops. The knights do not have any stability on g4 and f6, they could easily be squeezed back with f3, Ne5, f4 and e5 next. Black got rid of his strong bishop and ended up with the passive one on b7. These facts told Fressinet that White should have pleasant compensation for the pawn. 16...♔xd1 17.♖xd1 ♖fe8 (17...♖fd8 happened in another game, which continued with 18.f3 ♖xd1+ 19.♘xd1 ♘e5 20.♙e3 ♖d8 21.♘f2 a6 22.♖c1 and f4 is coming next. It is very unpleasant to play with Black without having any active plan and just to watch how his opponent improves his position with each move. Anand's second Wojtaszek won a game like this.) 18.f3 ♘e5 19.♙e3 a6 20.♖d6 ♖ad8 21.♖ad1 ♖xd6 22.♖xd6 h5 23.b4 White is squeezing again! 23...♖e6 24.♖d1 Obviously White keeps the rooks as he controls the

only opened file. 24...♖e8 25.♔f2 ♘g6 26.♙d4 Black could already not handle the pressure and decided to enter a bad endgame after 26...h4 27.gxh4 ♘xh4 28.♙xf6 gxf6 29.♖d7 ♙a8 30.♖a7 White won back the pawn and kept his positional advantages. Fressinet-Ragger, Bundesliga 2013.]

15. ♘f5 ♖e8 Black activates his pieces with each move.

16. ♙f4! White would like to jump to d6 with his knight at some point. If Black was forced to give up his c5 bishop, he would end up in similar troubles as in the 14...Bxg3 line.

16... ♖b6! Only the most direct moves are possible now, but of course Shirov has a special feeling for such things. After one inaccuracy Black could quickly collapse. [16... ♘xf2 is materially fine for Black, but positionally terrible... 17. ♖xf2 b4 18. ♘d1 ♘xe4 19. ♙f3! ♘xf2 20. ♘xf2± Black has two pawns and a rook against the two minor pieces, but those are so well placed that only White can be better.]



17. ♔g2! A dynamic move by White. He could have defended his f2 weakness passively with Nd1 or give up the bishop with Bg4, but such moves cannot give him any advantage.

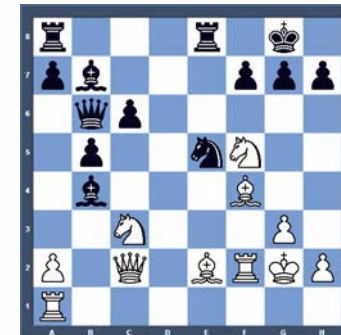
17... ♘xf2 Black goes for the challenge. Allowing White to push him back with f3 at some point would have led to the victory of White's opening strategy.

18. e5 ♘d7! Threatening to take the e5 pawn is a key factor

in Black's play. [18... ♘d5 drops a piece after 19. ♘xd5 cxd5 20. b4! Black does not have enough compensation. 20... d4+ 21. ♔xf2±]

19. b4 Winning the piece again, but this time Black gets three pawns and attacking potential as counterplay.

19... ♙xb4 20. ♖xf2 ♘xe5 Black would like to create real threats on the long diagonal by opening it with c5 and in case of Kg1 Qc6.



21. ♘xg7! Trying to finish the game with a decisive blow, but Black also has his resources! [After 21. ♖af1 the best seems to be 21... ♙f8 as before playing c5 it is useful to bring a defender to parry the sacrifices around the g7 square forever. 22. h3 c5+ 23. ♔h2 c4 and Nd3 is coming next. The game is completely unclear, but I believe it is more easy to play with Black.]

21... c5+! [21... ♔xg7 is refuted by 22. ♙xe5+ ♖xe5 23. ♖xf7+! ♔xf7 24. ♖xh7+ and now the king has no good square. Ke8 drops the e5 rook after Qh8, while after 24... ♔e6 White has 25. ♙g4+! this is a huge difference to the game. 25... ♔d6 26. ♖d1+ ♔c5 27. ♘e4++— leads to mate in few moves.]

22. ♔h3! Temporarily this is the safest square for the king on the board. [22. ♔g1? or 22. Kf1 run into 22... ♖c6! and Black is mating first.]

22... ♙c8+! An important intermezzo to provoke the g4

move! [22...♔xg7 again loses to 23.♙xe5+ ♖xe5 24.♖xf7+! ♔xf7 25.♚xh7+ ♔e8 (25...♔e6 26.♙g4+-) 26.♙xb5+ ♙c6 27.♚h8+-]

23.g4 ♔xg7! The right moment to accept the sacrifice! [23...♗xg4 leads to a funny position: 24.♙xg4 ♙xg4+ 25.♔xg4 ♔xg7 Despite the g4 king White is just winning. Black does not have enough material to create serious threats. 26.♖af1+-]

24.♙xe5+ [24.♗d5 Bringing a new attacker looks tempting, but Black has the important defensive move 24...♚g6]

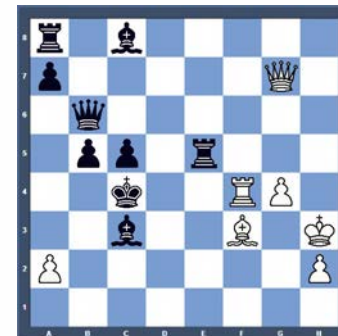
24...♖xe5



25.♖xf7+! A necessary sacrifice, otherwise Black consolidates and wins. However without the Bg4 check, White does not have more than perpetual check.

25...♔xf7 26.♚xh7+ ♔e6 27.♚g6+ ♔e7 [Black also cannot hope for more than a draw, because 27...♔d7 leads to mate after 28.♚f7+- and either Rd1 or Bf3 wins next move.]

28.♚g7+ ♔e6 29.♚h6+ [29.♖f1? looks tempting again, but Black takes too much material: 29...♙xc3! A cold-blooded defence, but there is no real danger at the moment. 30.♖f6+ (30.♚f7+ 30...♔d6 31.♖f6+ ♙e6+-) 30...♔d5 31.♙f3+ ♔c4 32.♖f4+ (32.♖xb6 32...♖h5+ 33.♔g2 ♙xg7+-)]



32...♔d3! 33.♚h7+ ♔d2 White ran out of checks and the extra material brings home the full point for Black.]

29...♔e7 30.♚h7+ ♔e6 31.♚g6+ ♔e7 32.♚g7+ ♔e6 33.♚g6+ This looks like it was a perfect game! :) 1/2-1/2

**(4) Salem, A.R. Saleh(2558)
- Ivanisevic, Ivan(2633) [B29]**

Karpos Open 2014(7.7),
2014.04.03



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A brilliant game was played by the young GM from the Arabian Emirates. Ivanisevic is a very creative player and he often wins games like the following one, but this time he is on the suffering side.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 Salem is a 1.d4 player, therefore Black tries to surprise his opponent with a tricky sideline.

3.♘c3 [3.e5 3...♘d5 4.♘c3 is probably White's best reaction.]

3...d5 The consequent continuation. Black could have transposed to a classical Sicilian with 3...Nc6, but the text move follows the idea of leading the opponent to an unexplored territory.

4.e5 d4 4...Ne4 and 4... Nfd7 are also alternatives.



5.♘a4! This is already a novelty and a very strong one. It is quite rare to see one between two GMs right on move 5. In general, this move is against the principles because the knight should not be placed at the rim of the board, but there is a very concrete idea behind it! [5.exf6 happened mainly in

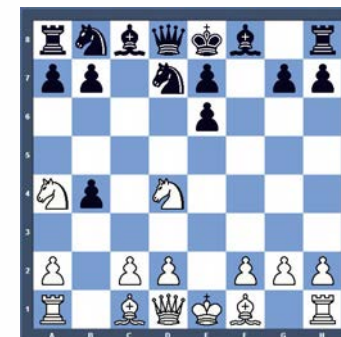
the previous games, although Black usually obtained a nicely playable position after 5...dxc3 6.fxg7 cxd2+ 7.♗xd2 ♗xg7]

5...♗fd7 The c5 pawn had to be protected, but this allows the standard sacrifice which completely confuses the development of the black pieces.

6.e6! fxe6 With his sacrifice, White has created a doubled pawn which hardly can be called a real material advantage. White might put big pressure on the e6 pawn with Bc4, Ng5, Qe2 and 0-0 followed by Re1 and Black faces difficulties in completing his development. With his next move, White aims to improve the situation of his misplaced a4 knight.

7.b4! White undermines the d4 pawn and also frees the way for the knight to b2-d3, from where it might either jump to e5 or f4.

7...cxb4 8.♗xd4 An amazing position, which cannot be evaluated on a positional basis. Black has an extra pawn and the a4 knight is still out of the game, but in my opinion White's attacking potential gives him more than enough compensation for the deficits. From a practical point of view, White definitely has the easier game.



8...♗f6 9.♗b5+ ♗d7 A concrete attempt to make use of the misplacement of the a4 knight. [9...♔f7 was more natural at first sight, but White obtains excellent compensation here

as well after 10. Nf3 Qa5 11. Qe2 with a nice edge and Black cannot win the a4 knight with 11...a6 in view of 12. Ng5+ Kg8 13. Bc4 wins. 13... Qxg5 14. Qxe6+ Kxe6 15. $\text{Bxe6\#}$ Not bad... :)



]

10. Ng5+ ! Small tactical trick, using the fact the the bishop is pinned. White has restored the material balance.

10... Qa5 This was Black's point but White has a very strong reply to maintain his strong pressure:



11. c4 ! Great! White protects his a4 knight and also keeps his bishop on b5 to avoid the unpleasant check on e5. [The harmless 11. Bxd7+ 11... Nbx7 12. Nb2 would have allowed Black to trade the queens after 12... Qe5+ and without the queens on board, there is no more danger anymore for Black.]

11... Qf7 [11... bxc3 is simply met by 12. Nxc3 ! Bxb5 13. Nxb5+ — and the knight cannot be taken in view of Nc7! ; 11... Bxb5 12. cxb5+]

12. Ng5+ Kg8 Black tries to put his king into safety, but on g8 it is hardly any better than it was in the center.

13. Bc5 Finally the knight arrives to the game and it immediately turns out to be an extremely strong piece. [13. Qe2+ also looked very strong.]

13... Bg4



14. Be8!! The first brilliant move of the firework!

14... g6 There was no other move to avoid mate. The following sacrifice is even missed by the computers. They only find it in big depth or after making the next 3 moves. [14... Bxd1 15. $\text{Bf7\#}$; 14... Nxe8 15. Qxg4+ — is also hopeless for Black.]



15. ♖xg4!! ♜xg4 16. ♕f7+ ♔g7 17. ♜ce6+ ♔f6 [17... ♖h6 is met by the calm 18.d4!+- and Black gets mated after the discovered check of Ne4 next move!]



18.f4!! The key move behind the queen sacrifice! Bb2 is coming next and the haunt of the king is starting. White only has one bishop for the queen, but Black cannot prevent the fatal threats. [18. ♕b2+ right away was a mistake in view of 18... ♖e5+! 19. ♕xe5+ ♜xe5 and Black is fine.]

18...h6 [18... ♜c6 does not make big difference. 19. ♕b2+ ♔f5 and White wins for instance after 20.h3+-]

19. ♕b2+ ♔f5 Here White goes for the most trivial and most human win...

20. ♜d4+ [The machine suggests 20. ♜f3!? 20... ♖h7 21. ♜h4+ ♔e4 22. ♕xg6+!+- mate.]

20... ♔f6 [20... ♖xf4 leads to forced mate in many different ways. One of them is 21. ♜e2+ ♔xg5 22.h4+ ♔f5 (22... ♖h5 23. ♜f4#)



23.O-O ♔e4 24. ♕xg6+ ♖f5 25. ♕xf5#]

21. ♜b3+ White is satisfied with winning the queen and ending up with an extra piece.

21...e5 22. ♜xa5 ♜c6 [22...hxc5 23. ♕d5+- is totally over.]

23. ♜xc6 bxc6 24. ♕e6 hxc5 25. ♕xg4 The game is over. White has an extra bishop and still continues attacking.

25...gxf4 26. ♕f3 ♕c5 27. ♕xc6 ♖ad8 28. ♕d5 ♔f5 29.d3
What a game!!! **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Sjugirov, S(2653)-Karjakin, S(2742)

Russian league, 2014.04.07

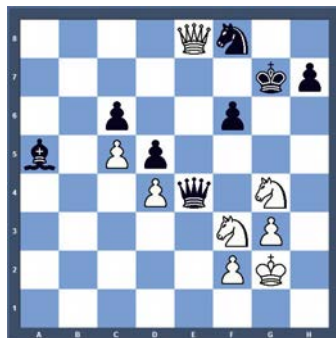
1... -+



(6) Bologan, V(2649)-Predke, A(2491)

Russian league, 2014.04.07

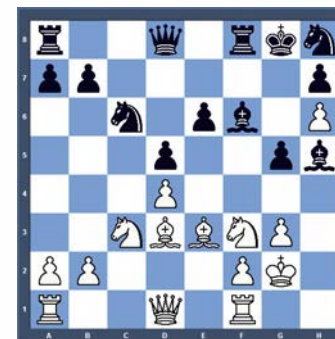
1. ±



(7) Shirov, A(2702)-Zhu Che(2462)

Chebanenko rapid, 2014.04.02

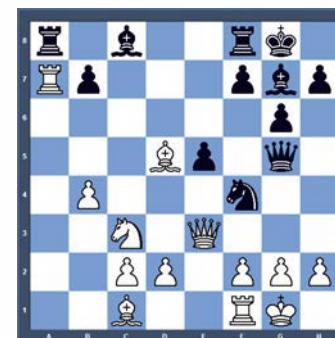
1. +-



(8) Zajarnyi, A(2274)-Shirov, A(2702)

Chebanenko rapid, 2014.04.02

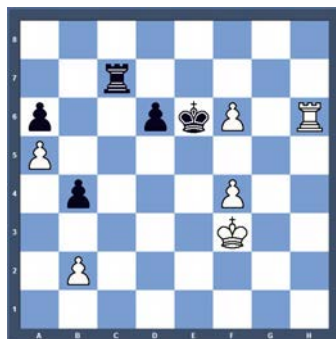
1... -+



(9) Le Quang Lie(2710)-Rosen, E(2304)

College Final Four, 2014.04.05

1. +-



(10) So, W(2738)-Moradiabadi, E(2585)

College Final Four, 2014.04.06

1. +-



(11) Bartel, M(2662)-Swiercz, D(2631)

Polish Championship, 2014.04.01

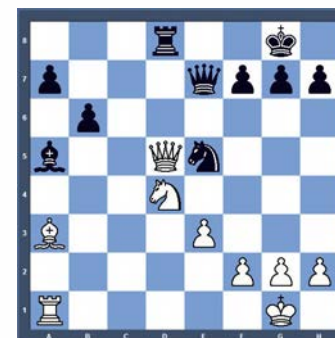
1. ±



(12) Peralta, F(2613)-Tesik, C(2344)

Karpos Open, 2014.03.31

1. +-



(13) Yilmaz, M(2567)-Stern, R(2513)

German league, 2014.04.06

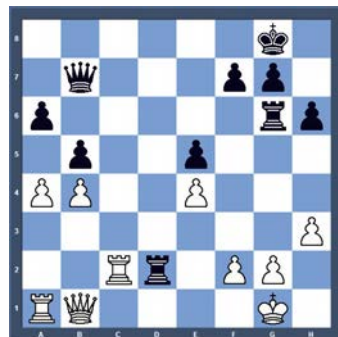
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(14) Von Herman, U(2391)-Janssen, R(2471)

German league, 2014.04.06

1... -+



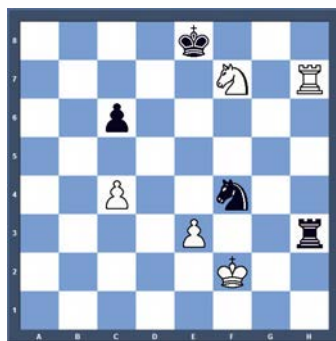
Endgame section

(15) Buhmann, Rainer(2582)
- Belezky, Alexander(2455)

Bundesliga,
2014.04.05



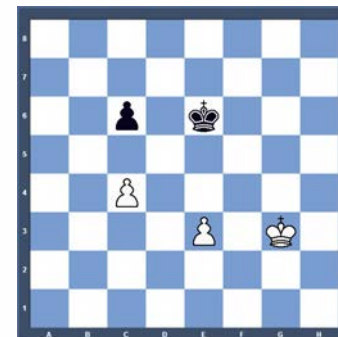
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



Black has just played Nh5-f4, unpinning his rook. White has the opportunity to simplify the position to a pawn endgame, which should be easily winning at first sight due to the extra pawn, but...

59. ♖xh3 ♜xh3+ **60.** ♔g2 The knight is trapped, so Black is forced to accept his faith...

60... ♔xf7 **61.** ♔xh3 ♔e6 **62.** ♔g3 In general pawn endgames are only about calculation. We have the same story here too. Black has three moves, but he must foresee accurately the forthcoming mutual zugzwang positions and he must choose the one which favours him.



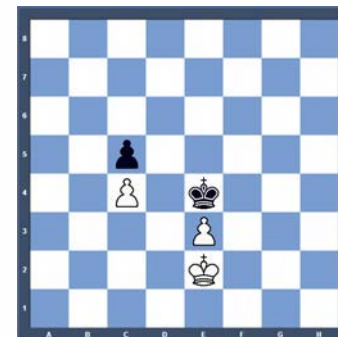
62... ♔e5! [Going for the c4 pawn is too slow, as Black loses the pawn race after 62... ♔d6 63. ♔f4 ♔c5 64.e4 ♔xc4 65.e5 ♔d5 66. ♔f5+-; 62... ♔f5 63. ♔f3 ♔e5 is met by 64.e4! and here Black gets into zugzwang. 64...c5 (64... ♔d4 65. ♔f4+- White is faster again.) 65. ♔e3+- This is the mutual zugzwang position, where if it White's turn the game is drawn, while if Black is to move he loses.]

63. ♔f2 [63. ♔f3 63...c5 transposes to the game after the 68th move.]

63... ♔e4 **64.** ♔e2 Before advancing the e-pawn, White tries some triangulation, but it does not change anything this time.

64...c5! 65. ♔d2 ♔e5 **66.** ♔e1 [66. ♔d3 66... ♔f5 67.e4+ ♔f4= Another mutual zugzwang position. White is forced to give up his e-pawn, while if it was Black's move he was lost.]

66... ♔e4 **67.** ♔e2



67...♔f5! Precise calculation was needed again, although it was already easy as we are familiar with the ideas. [67...♔e5? would have lost after 68.♔f3 ♔f5 69.e4+ ♔e5 70.♔e3+—]

68.♔f3 ♔e5 69.e4!? White had tried everything, there was no other way to make progress, so he tries his last chance.

69...♔d4 70.♔f4 White wins pawn race here again, but the pawn reaches the c2 square, which is a theoretical drawn position.

70...♔xc4 71.e5 ♔b3! It is very important that the black king should head towards the corner to reach the famous stalemate idea.

72.e6 c4 73.e7 c3 74.e8=♔ c2 White cannot win as he cannot squeeze the king out from the b1-a1.

75.♔e1 ♔b2 76.♔b4+ ♔a1 77.♔c3+ ♔b1 78.♔b3+ ♔a1! This is the key! Black is always threatening to promote his pawn, either with the support of the king from b1 or after the check the pawn capture leads to stalemate! The game is drawn!

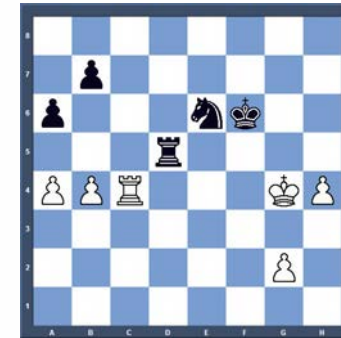
79.♔xc2 1/2-1/2

**(16) Debashis, Das(2504)
- Balogh, Csaba(2656)**

16th Dubai Open 2014(3.5),
2014.04.09



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



After being in a very dangerous position in the middle game, Csaba managed to survive the troubles and things are looking very promising at the current moment. White just has 2 pawns for the piece and all black pieces are nicely placed, but still the position is not that easily winning as it maybe looks like. White always has the strong drawing idea to sacrifice the g- and h-pawns and try to exchange both black pawns, after which of course the endgame rook+knight vs rook would be a simple draw.

47.g3 White can't do anything better than to keep on waiting and at the same time putting Black in front of a difficult decision, to exchange the rooks or not...

47...♖d4+? A very human decision, but it seems to be the wrong one! [Much stronger would have been 47...b5! Usually Black should avoid the exchange of pawns, but this time it is the right choice. 48.axb5 axb5 49.♖e4 And here comes another very strong move: 49...♖d3! practically putting White

in a position of zugzwang. Black's position should be winning here...; 47...♖d3 was also a possibility.; Or even 47...♔e5 which looks quite aggressive, but White can't really do much, Black just wants to play Rd8-Rg8 next. In all cases Black clearly has very good winning chances.]

48.♖xd4 ♜xd4 Maybe Csaba thought that his position is winning, but Debashis finds the right way to hold a draw:



49.♔f4! White's only chance is to hurry with his king to the queenside and at the same time prepare h5-g4-g5.

49...♜c6 [49...♜e2+ was not winning either. 50.♔e3 ♜c3 51.a5 White keeps all his queenside pawns alive... 51...♔e5 (51...♜d5+ 52.♔d4 ♜xb4 53.♔c5 ♜c6 54.♔b6 This position is just a draw.) 52.♔d3 and Black can't win the kingside pawns and save time to avoid the exchange of the queenside pawns, so the position is a draw.]

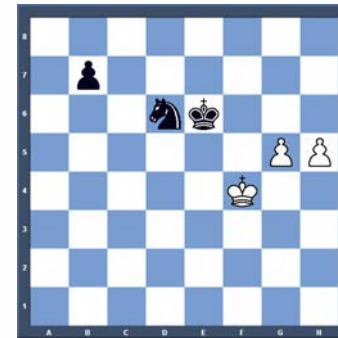
50.b5 Of course White should exchange a pawn before pushing the h- and g-pawns.

50...axb5 51.axb5 ♜a7 White can't protect the b-pawn, but there is no need for that.

52.g4! Once again Debashis finds the best chance to save the game.

52...♜xb5 53.h5 Before moving to the queenside with his king, White tries to push the pawns as far as possible.

53...♜d6 54.g5+ ♔e6



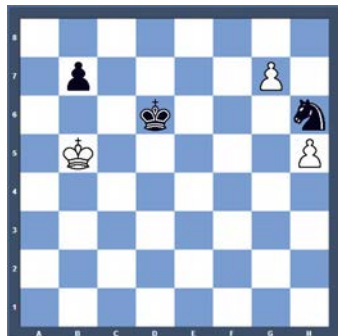
55.g6 ♔f6 Now the pawn is already on the 6th rank, so White can be quite relaxed and start his journey to the queenside.

56.♔e3 ♔e5 Black is almost never in time to take the h-pawn, so Csaba is trying to stop the white pawns with his knight and play some sort of winning pawn endgame. [56...♜f5+ 57.♔e4 ♜g3+ 58.♔d5 ♜xh5 59.♔c5 followed by Kb6 and draw.]

57.g7 Another correct calculation by Debashis, the position is now going to be a forced draw.

57...♜f5+ 58.♔d3 ♜h6 Black stops the white pawns with his knight, but he can't win the game... [Of course not 58...♜xg7?? 59.h6 ♜e6 60.h7 ♜f4+ 61.♔c4 ♜g6 62.♔c5 followed by Kb6-Kxb7 with a draw.]

59.♔c4 ♔d6 60.♔b5

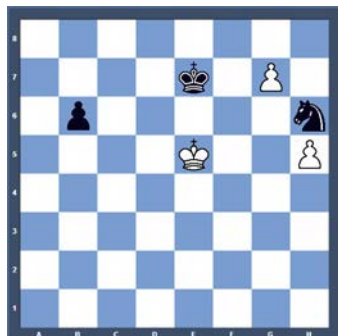


60...♔c7 Black managed to stop the white pawns and at the same time hold on to the b-pawn, so it all seems to be good, but...White is now able to combine promoting ideas with attacking the b-pawn, so the position remains a draw.

61.♔c5 b6+ 62.♔d5 ♔d7 63.♔e5! The threat of playing Kf6 is just deadly and Black has nothing better than to repeat moves...

63...♔e7 [63...♔c6 64.♔f6 b5 65.♔g6 and White could already be the one who is winning.]

64.♔d5 ♔d7 65.♔e5 ♔e7

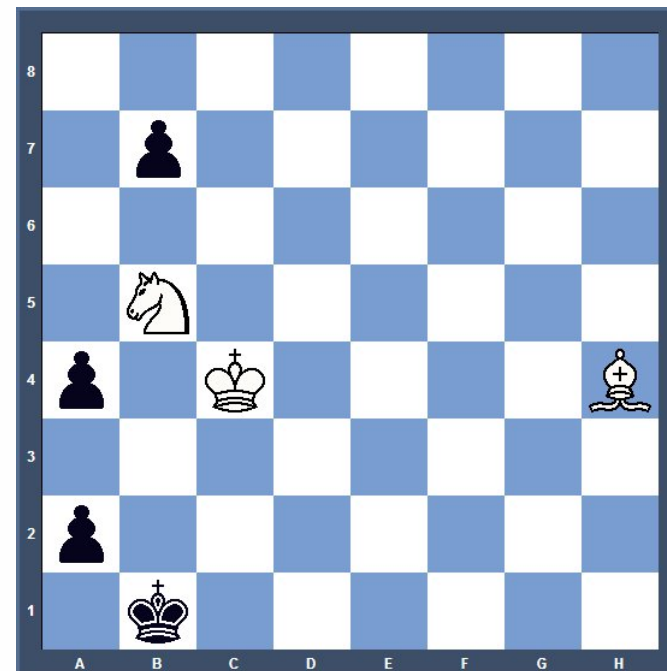


66.♔d5 A slightly unlucky draw for your weekly commentator but the decision of trying to simplify the position is just not always the correct one. If he had kept the rooks on the board, we could be almost sure that Csaba would have won the game at some point. **1/2-1/2**

Surprise section / study

(17) Troitzky

1. +-



Solutions

(18) Kramnik, V(2787)-Svidler, P(2758)

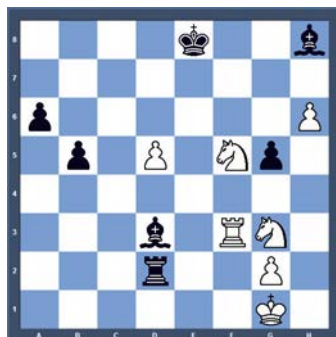
FIDE Candidates, 2014.03.25



32...♙xh2+! 33.♔xh2 ♚xf1—+

(19) Kramnik, V(2787)-Topalov, V(2785)

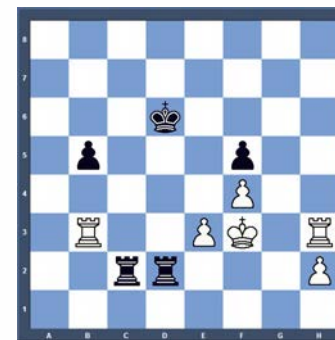
FIDE Candidates, 2014.03.29



46.♘g7+! ♔e7 47.d6+! ♔xd6 48.♖f8!+—

(20) Kovalenko, I(2626)-Kulaots, K(2560)

Latvian Railway rapid, 2014.03.28

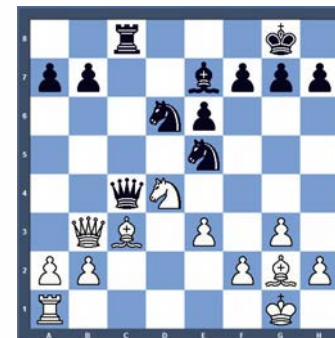


49...♖f2+! 50.♔g3 ♖g2+! 51.♔h4 [51.♔f3 51...♖cf2#]

51...♖g4+ 52.♔h5 ♖c8! 0-1

(21) Van Wely, L(2684)-Shirov, A(2713)

Latvian Railway rapid, 2014.03.29

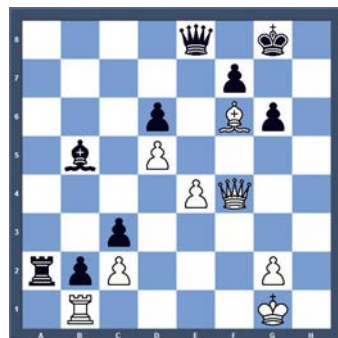


25.♘xe6! ♚xb3 [25...♚xe6 26.♚xe6 fxe6 27.♙xe5+—; 25...fxe6 26.♙xe5+—]

26.axb3 ♖xc3 27.bxc3 fxe6 28.♖xa7 ♘d3 29.♙xb7+—

(22) Kovalev, V(2548)-Shirov, A(2713)

Latvian Railway rapid, 2014.03.29

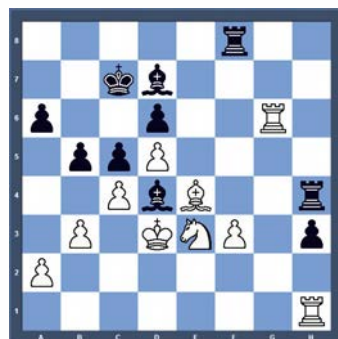


29...♖a1! 30.♗h4 ♜xb1+ 31.♕h2 [31.♖f2 31...♜f1+ 32.♕e3 ♜xf6—+]

31...♗e5+! 32.♘xe5 dxe5—+ 33.♗d8+ ♕g7 34.♗c7 ♜f1 35.♗xe5+ ♕h7 0-1

(23) Lysyj, I(2655)-Fedoseev, V(2641)

Latvian Railway rapid, 2014.03.30

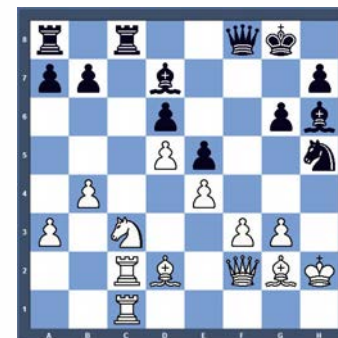


40...♜xe4! 41.fxe4 [41.♕xe4 41...♜e8+—+]

41...♜f3 42.♜e1 h2 0-1 [42...h2 43.♜h6 ♘h3!—+]

(24) Zygouris, H(2241)-Kotronias, V(2568)

Greek Championship, 2014.03.30

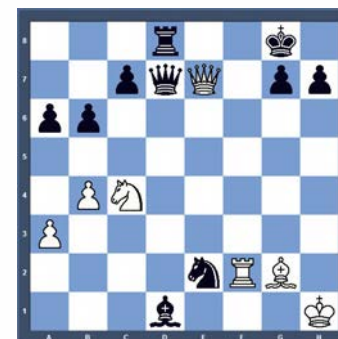


25...♘xg3!! 26.♘d1 [26.♗xg3 26...♘xd2 27.♜xd2 ♗h6+ 28.♕g1 ♗xd2—+; 26.♕xg3 26...♘f4+! 27.♘xf4 ♗xf4#; 26.♘h6 26...♗xh6+ 27.♕xg3 ♗f4#]

26...♘xe4 0-1

(25) Pavlidis, A(2340)-Dimitrov, A(2340)

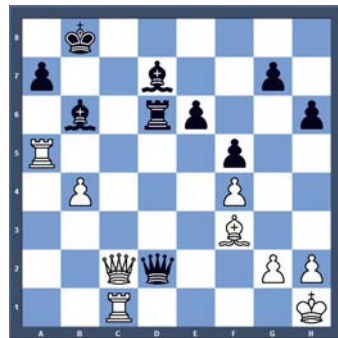
Greek Championship, 2014.03.30



36.♜f8+! ♜xf8 37.♗xd7 1-0

(26) Stukopin, A(2544)-Vorobiov, E(2590)

Moscow Championship, 2014.03.30



32. ♖xa7!! ♜c6 [32... ♔xa7 33. ♖a1+ ♕b8 34. ♖a8#; 32... ♜xa7 33. ♕c7#; 32... ♕xc2 33. ♖a8+ ♕c7 34. ♖xc2+-]

33. ♕xd2 ♖xd2 34. ♖xg7 ♜xf3 35. gxf3+-

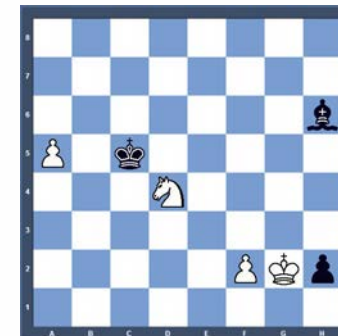
(27) Duda, J(2567)-Wieczorek, O(2408)

Polish Championship, 2014.03.25



24. ♜f7+ ♔h8 25. ♕h6! 1-0

(28) Reti



1. ♕h1!! ♜c1 [1... ♜f8 2. ♜e6+-; 1... ♜g7 2. ♜e6+-; 1... ♜g5 2. ♜e6+-; 1... ♜f4 2. ♜e6+-; 1... ♜d2 2. ♜b3+-; 1... ♕xd4 2. a6+-]

2. ♜b3+ ♕b5 3. ♜xc1+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 112

18th of April 2014

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Editorial Preface

The very strong Dubai Open was won by Romain Edourd with a fantastic score of 8/9. The 2nd place was share by Iturrizaga and Kuzubov, both with 7/9.

The Russian Team Championship was dominated by the team of "Malachite", while 2nd place went to "SHSM" and "St.Petersburg Chess Federation" came third.

The championship included players like Karjakin, Svidler, Grischuk, Morozevich, Leko, Dominguez and many more top grandmasters.

The best performance of the event was scored by Grischuk with 6/7, which took him to the 3rd place in the live ranking list with an ELO of over 2790!

In the Women's FIDE Grand Prix Hou Yifan is dominating with 6/7.

During Easter a lot of opens will be going on and one of them is the Neckar Open (with almost 800 participants), where one of your commentators, Arkadij Naiditsch, is participating.

We wish you all a happy Easter and great family times.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Korobov, Anton(2698)**
- **Edouard, Romain(2670) [D02]**

16th Dubai Open 2014(9.1),
2014.04.15



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are in the last round of Dubai Open. Korobov is on 6/7 and Edouard is leading with a fantastic score of 7/8. For Korobov the deal is easy, win or nothing, which doesn't make the game easier to play for Edouard, who can be sure that his opponent will try everything to win.

1.d4 d5 2.♟f4 Gata Kamsky likes to play this sort of opening, going for a long term game and at the same time taking out his opponents from the long theoretical lines. The bad thing about 2.Bf4 is of course that White is not hoping for any opening advantage.

2...♞f6 3.♞f3 g6 A very safe opening. [Another option is to play here instantly 3...c5 followed by Nc6 and e6.]

4.e3 ♟g7 5.h3 White is usually playing h3 to avoid the Nh5 move as it is important not to exchange the bishop on f4.

5...O-O 6.♞bd2 c5 7.c3 [Of course White can't play 7.dxc5?! 7...♞fd7! Black is winning back the pawn on c5 and getting very comfortable play.]

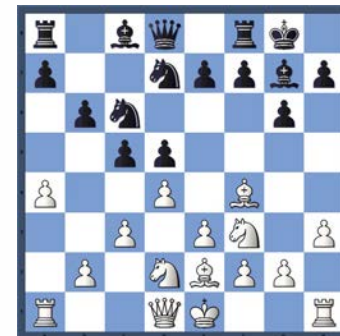
7...b6 A solid choice. [After the inaccurate 7...♞c6?! 8.dxc5! White is already in time to keep the pawn on c5. 8...♞d7 9.♞b3; The most simple way to equalize seems to be 7...♞b6 8.♞b3 c4 9.♞xb6 axb6 and this endgame should not be worse for Black.]

8.a4 Black has to decide whether to play Ba6 or not now.

8...♞c6 I am not sure about this choice to keep the bishop on c8, as it is becoming quite a passive piece now. [8...♟a6 looked more simple and after 9.♟xa6 ♞xa6 10.O-O ♞c7 I cannot imagine White having anything serious to put pressure on Black's position.]

9.♟e2 Now Black has to solve the problem with his bishop on c8.

9...♞d7 Black is going for the e5 push. [9...♟f5 10.O-O ♞e4 was another possible way to continue.]



10.♞b3!? White is now getting what he wanted: an unclear game.

10...e5 A very human reaction. Black is going for a position with a pawn down but good compensation for it. [A more risky move would have been 10...♟b7 11.♞xd5 The position is getting very sharp. 11...cxd4 (The immediate 11...♞xd4 12.♞xb7 ♞c2+ 13.♟d1 ♞xa1 14.♟b5 leads to a position where White will catch the black knight by playing Ke2 next with a much better position.) 12.exd4 ♞xd4 Now this move makes more sense as the e-file is open. 13.♞xb7 ♞c2+ 14.♟d1 ♞xa1 It is very hard to say who is better here.]

11.♞xd5 [Of course after 11.dxe5 11...♞dxe5 Black would reach his dream position.]

11...exf4 12.♔xc6 fxe3! A strong move. [After 12...♖b8 13.e4 White's pawn up would dominate over the compensation of Black.]

13.fxe3 Not an easy decision. [13.♔xa8 also looks quite tempting. 13...exd2+ 14.♘xd2 At first sight Black doesn't have any compensation, but in fact the position is much more complicated. 14...cxd4! 15.cxd4 (After the more passive 15.O-O 15...♘c5 Black has very strong compensation.) 15...♖e8 (15...♔e7 16.♔e4 White is in time to protect everything and castle.)



16.♘c4! is the only move which might give White some advantage, but during the game it is not an easy thing to find 16.Nc4! because it looks pretty dangerous to continue playing without castling.]

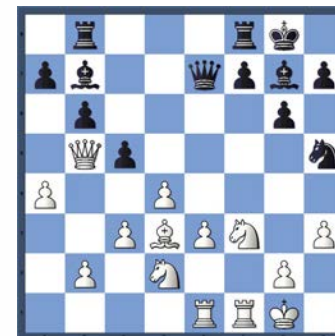
13...♖b8 Black is hoping for fast play in the center and the pressure on the e3 pawn of White and the bishop pair could also give him enough play for the pawn.

14.O-O The most logical move. Korobov also had in mind to put pressure on the f7 pawn if possible by playing Bc4.

14...♘f6 15.♖ae1 ♔e7 [Trying to win the pawn back by playing 15...♘h6 would lead to nothing after 16.♘c4! White is going to be very strong on the f-file. 16...♘d7 17.♔d6 ♘xa4 followed by Ne5 and a strong attack. 18.♔g3]

16.♘d3 ♘b7 17.♔b5 White managed to be solid in the center, but the white queen is a bit out of the game on b5.

17...♘h5



18.♔b3! A good move. White is avoiding f5 move and at the same time bringing his queen back.

18...♔h8 19.d5 I am not sure about this move. [Another possibility was 19.e4 19...cxd4 20.cxd4 ♖bd8 21.e5 and I think White should be better here.]

19...♘g3 20.♖f2 f5! Black stops the e3 pawn from moving and controls the dark squares. It is hard to say if White is better here...

21.e4 fxe4 [After 21...♔d6 22.c4 fxe4 23.♘xe4 ♘xe4 24.♘xe4 ♖be8 25.♖fe2 ♘c8 I think Black should be able to hold this position because of the very strong g7 bishop.]

22.♘xe4 ♘xe4 23.♖xe4 Of course White is taking the e-file under control.

23...♔f7 24.♘c4! A good move. Now the pawn is still on c3, which kills the g7 bishop.

24...♖bd8 Black needs to go for the d5 pawn, the position is pretty forced.

25.♖fe2 A very human move, but maybe not the best. [Maybe White should have tried to hold on to the d5 pawn by

playing 25.♖d2 25...♗c8 26.♚d1 and I think White would have realistic chances to be better here.]

25...♗xd5 26.♗xd5 ♖xd5 Black's main enemy on d5 is gone so Romain could take some kind of a breath.

27.♖e7 White is going for the a7 pawn as there is no other hope of being better.

27...♚f5 28.♖xa7 The white rook on a7 is out of the game, but on the other hand White wants to play Re7. Black needs to act immediately.



28...♚d3? Black misses a great chance to equalize. [28...♖d3! with the double idea of playing Rxf3 and Bd4 would probably soon lead to a handshake. 29.♚e6 ♖xf3 30.gxf3 ♚xf3 White cannot avoid perpetual check.]

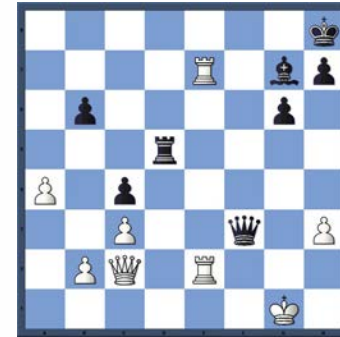
29.♚c2 The white queen is back in the game. [29.♖ee7 would not lead to anything good for White after 29...♖xf3! and the white king is facing all the black pieces totally alone.]

29...c4!? A good practical decision. [29...♖xf3 30.♚xd3]

30.♖ae7?! A slightly strange move. [30.♚xd3 looks much simpler. 30...cxd3 31.♖ee7! With the idea of taking on g7 and playing Rad7. 31...♗f6 (31...♖xf3 loses to 32.gxf3 d2 33.♖e8+ ♗f8 34.♖xf8#) 32.♖ed7 and I think White's chances to win the game would be pretty good.]

30...♖xf3! Once again Black is doing all he can to mess up the position.

31.gxf3 ♚xf3 The white king is under the attack, but being an exchange up should be enough for White to find some defensive motif. The bad thing is that Korobov was already in quite some time trouble.



32.♚e4?? What a shocking blunder! [White had to find 32.♖d2! and Black has no good retreat with his rook. 32...♖g5+ 33.♖g2 White is in time to hold things together and has very good chances to win the game.]

32...♖g5+ And suddenly the game is just over. What a dramatic finish, after 33.Kh2 Qg3 34.Kh1 Qg1 mate. This is another game where we could clearly see that White was pushing all game long, finally reaching a position with very good winning chances and then blundered mate in 2. It is never easy to play under pressure in the last round! **0-1**

**(2) Grishchenko, Sergey1(2436)
- Jobava, Baadur(2706) [A52]**

21st TCh-RUS 2014(7.1),
2014.04.13



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

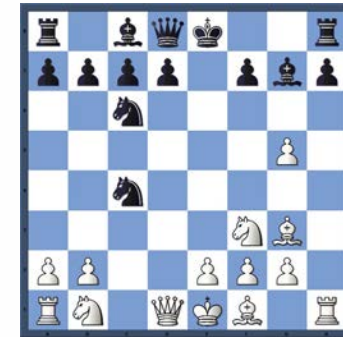
Lately Jobava played a lot of exciting games and we commented on a few of them in the past weeks. It seems like Grischchenko sort of caught Jobava in the preparation and missed good opportunities to get an advantage, but the position still remained very sharp and somehow from the game we could say that Jobava was avoiding a draw which ended up badly for him.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e5 Not so long ago Jobava won a nice game against Wojtaszek in Wijk aan Zee with this "risky" opening.

3.dxe5 ♘g4 4.♙f4 is clearly the main line. [After the more solid 4.♘f3 4...♙c5 5.e3 ♘c6 6.♘c3 O-O 7.♙e2 ♘gxe5 Black's position seems to be fine to me, for example watch the game Gelfand-Rapport.]

4...g5 5.♙g3 ♙g7 6.♘f3 ♘c6 7.h4! is still theory, but it is clear that Grischchenko is going for the reputation of the line.

7...♘gxe5 8.hxg5 ♘xc4 What a crazy position already on move 8. Clearly Black is doing very badly positionally, but the white pawn on b2 is hanging and probably will get lost so White needs to be fast with his actions.



9.♘c3 A good move. White is going for a crush of Black's position.

9...♘xb2 Jobava accepts the challenge, but I think it just looks very dangerous. [Maybe Black could have played 9...d6 10.e3 ♙e6 White's position looks better but things are still very unbalanced.]

10.♙b3 [Another very interesting option for White seems to be 10.♙c2!? 10...♘a4 Black doesn't have anything better. 11.♘b5 d6 And now plays the very nice 12.O-O-O! with a very dangerous attack.]

10...♘a4 11.♘d5 [Right now the same idea with the long castle is not as strong as before. 11.♘b5 11...d6 12.O-O-O ♘c5 The white queen on b3 is under attack and the position is very unclear.]

11...d6



12.g6!? Wow! What a move by White! [Of course White could

have played 12.♖d1 with the idea of playing Nf4-Nh5 but I think with playing 10.Qb3 White already had the 12.g6!? move in mind]

12...♟e6! seems to be the only move for Black. [After the greedy 12...♟xa1 White has the winning idea of playing 13.♟h4! Black cannot hold on to his queen... 13...hxg6 14.♟xd8 ♖xh1 15.♟g5 and White's position looks winning.]

13.♟h4 Maybe not the best move for White. [13.gxf7+!? looks quite interesting. 13...♞f8 is one of the lines, but of course Black also has many other options... 14.♟h4 ♞c8 15.♞xa4! The beginning of a very nice plan... 15...♟xa1 16.♞f4! Another great move, first it is even hard to see what can be White's idea... 16...♟xd5



17.♟f6!! What a fantastic move! 17...♟xf6 18.♞xf6 Black can't save his rook on h8 so White should be better here.]

13...♞d7?! Not a mistake, but probably not the best move either. [Black should have played 13...♟xd5! 14.♞xd5 ♟c3+! An important moment. White needs to decide whether to put his King to d1 or to play Nd2. 15.♞d2 (15.♞d1 15...hxg6! A difficult move to find, but Black seems to be doing perfectly fine afterwards. 16.♞e4+ ♟e5 17.♞xa4 ♟xa1 18.♟xd8 ♖xh1 The position of course remains very crazy, but I think only White can be risking here.) 15...♞d7 16.gxf7+ ♞xf7 17.♞e4+ ♞d7

Black's chances also look better to me here, but of course in such a position any result is possible.]

14.♟f6! A great tactical trick!

14...fxg6 [After 14...♟xd5? 15.♞e3+ White is just winning.]

15.♞xc7+ was the idea behind 14.Bf6!.

15...♞xc7 16.♞xe6+ ♞f8 Let us take a fresh look at the position. Both kings' positions are open and things look very confusing. Black is a pawn up but it does not matter much here. It is White to play and it is clear that every tempo is very important. The game remains very unclear.



17.♖d1 White brings his rook to the center and also defends from Qa5 check with Rd2.

17...♞b4 Jobava continues going for the most unclear lines. [After the more solid 17...♞c5 18.♞xd6+ ♞xd6 19.♖d6 ♟xf6 20.♖xf6+ ♞e7 21.♖f4 this resulting endgame looks pretty equal to me.]

18.♖h4 White brings his rook into the defence over the 4th rank and at the same time threatens the black king with Rf4 ideas.

18...♞c2+ 19.♞d2 ♖e8 A very human move, but Black misses a fantastic move... [19...♞d4!! Chess can be beautiful sometimes! 20.♟xd4 The only move to avoid Qc3

mate. 20...♙xd4 21.e3 And of course once again Black was threatening to play Qc3. 21...♘c5 The position remains crazy but I think that Black's chances should be preferable.]

20.♙xg7+ ♖xg7 21.♚b3 Suddenly the knight on c2 has no escape squares.



21...♚a5+! The best move. Black can't save the c2 knight anyway, so Jobava is trying his chances in the attack.

22.♙xc2 ♜c8+ 23.♙b1 ♘c3+ It is still hard to say who is better, but I feel it somehow should be White. The rook on h4 is standing very strongly, defending the white king and at the same time it can be dangerous to the black one.

24.♙b2 ♘xd1+ 25.♚xd1 ♚b6+ Black is going for the f2 pawn.

26.♙a1?! White should not have resigned on the f2 pawn that easily [26.♚b3!? 26...♚c5 27.♙a1 With the idea of playing Qb2 check. The position remains very unclear.]

26...♚xf2 Now Black already has 2 pawns for the rook vs knight+bishop and the pawns g2-e2-a2 can also be weak in the endgame. Black finally took over the game.

27.♜b4 ♜c7 This move probably gives White a chance to escape. [27...♚e3! looks stronger. 28.♜xb7+ ♙h6 The black king feels very comfortable on h6 while his white colleague is going to be under a heavy attack. Black is clearly better here.]

28.♚xd6! Grischenko is taking his chances.

28...♜hc8 [28...♚xf1+ just leads to a perpetual: 29.♜b1 ♜c1 30.♚e7+ ♙g8 31.♚e8+ ♙g7 32.♚e7+]]

29.♚e5+ White starts to check the black king.

29...♙g8 30.♚e6+ ♙h8 31.♚e5+



31...♜g7 What a winning will by Jobava! But right here it looks a bit stupid as White's position is just much better and Black can at most hope for an escape... [Of course after 31...♙g8 32.♚e6+ the game would end in a draw.]

32.♜b1 The white queen is controlling the whole board from e5 and the black rooks are uncoordinated, which means that White has enough time to finally finish his development.

32...h6 33.♘d4?! It seems like both players had some time trouble. [After the simple 33.e3 33...♜c2 34.♚e6 Black would face huge troubles.]

33...♙h7 34.g3 The white bishop is finally coming out from f1.

34...♜e8! A strong move. Black is back.

35. ♖e6



35... ♖f7 Once again Jobava is avoiding the draw! [Black could have forced a draw with the simple 35... ♖xe6 36. ♗xe6 ♕d4+ 37. ♖b2 ♕d1+]]

36. ♗h3 Now all white pieces are in the game and Black's position is very dangerous.

36... ♗g8 37. ♖d1 [37. ♖f1 doesn't work as after 37... ♗xf1+ 38. ♗xf1 ♖xf1+ 39. ♗b2 Black has the killing 39... ♗f7! winning back the knight on e6.]

37... h5? And finally a blunder by Jobava decides the outcome of this crazy game... [After 37... ♗f6 38. ♗xf6 ♖xf6 39. ♖f4 White's position is maybe a little better, but a draw should still be the logical outcome.]



38. ♖f1! Now the g5 square is not protected by the pawn on

h6.

38... ♗xf1+ 39. ♗xf1 ♖xf1+ 40. ♗b2 And as Black doesn't have Kf7, White is just winning.

40... ♖f7 41. ♗d5 Black can't avoid Ng5 next. What an unpleasant end for Jobava after a crazy game and twice avoiding a forced draw. But anyhow, it was a great and very exciting game to watch and learn from! :) **1-0**

**(3) Demuth, Adrien(2482)
- Balogh, Csaba(2656) [E12]**16th Dubai Open 2014(7.11),
2014.04.13GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

I did not play my best chess at all in Dubai open, but managed to win an interesting game.

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.d4 b6 The Queen's Indian defence was my old repertoire. I employ it quite rarely nowadays, rather as a surprise weapon.

4.a3 ♗b7 5.♘c3



5...g6 A rare continuation with the aim to get out the opponent from his book. The main line is clearly 5...d5.

6.d5 White chooses the most ambitious reply and tries to take control over the center until Black spends his time on fianchettoing his bishops. 6.g3 or 6.Qc2 lead to more calm games.

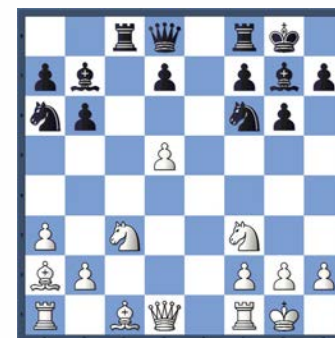
6...♗g7 7.e4 O-O 8.♗e2 It is time to finish the development. White has a huge space advantage, therefore the only way to continue the fight is to undermine the d5 pawn.

8...exd5 9.exd5 c6! Trying to activate the queenside pieces. If White wants to fight for an advantage, he must try to keep

his d5 pawn to restrict the movement of the black pieces.

10.O-O cxd5 11.cxd5 ♘a6 12.♗c4?! This was a bit strange to me. White would like to strengthen his d5 pawn against the Nc7 ideas, but he should have done it after Nc7 is played. Actually the knight was rather intending to jump to c5 and now the bishop has moved into a tempo. [12.♗g5 was played in the previous games, although I don't see any problem for Black after 12...h6 13.♗h4 ♖e8]

12...♖c8 13.♗a2



13...♘c5 Suddenly White misses his bishop from the f1-a6 diagonal and Black is already having serious threats there with Ba6 and on Re1 Nd3!

14.♖e1 ♖e8! was an important move to control the e5 square. [14...♗a6 was obviously the first idea, but suddenly after the very strong 15.♘e5! White controls the d3 square and obtains a very unpleasant knight on e5. Black cannot kick it out with d6 in view of Nc6-e7, while in the next move White pushes d6 and puts very strong pressure on the f7 pawn.]

15.♗e3 White would like to neutralize the strong g7 bishop with Bd4. [15.♖xe8+ must be recaptured with 15...♘xe8! (15...♖xe8 runs into the direct 16.♘b5! with the double threats on d6 and a7!) 16.♗g5 ♖c7 17.♖c1 ♖b8 Ba6 is coming next, I like Black's position.]

15...♟a6 Consequently following the plan. [15...d6 was a safer continuation followed by Ba6.]

16.♟d4? Natural, but the complications favor Black. [The critical move was 16.d6 as after the black bishop has left the h1-a8 diagonal, it is more easy to play this move. White opens the diagonal for his own bishop on a2 and creates the deadly threat of Ng5! Therefore Black should play 16...h6! (16...♟d3 is tempting but bad. 17.♟g5! ♜f8 (17...♟xe1? 18.♟xf7+- traps the queen.) 18.♞a4! Probably White did not see this exchange sacrifice, which gives him more than enough compensation. 18...♟xe1 19.♞xe1 ♟d3



20.♟d4! White does not even have a pawn for the exchange, but he is totally dominating with his excellent pieces. Re7 is the threat. 20...h6? loses to 21.♟xf7! ♜xf7 22.♞e7+-)]

16...♟d3 [16...♞xe1+ was wrong because after 17.♟xe1 White controls the d3 square.]

17.♞xe8+ ♟xe8! It was necessary to trade the bishops, as the one on d4 was giving full control over the position. Without that the b2 pawn and the c3 knight are more vulnerable. [17...♞xe8 18.♞a4 would have been fine for White!]

18.♟xg7 [18.♞a4 is met by 18...♟xb2 19.♞xa6 ♟xd4 20.♟xd4 ♜xc3 21.♞xa7 ♟d3 Despite the material equality, Black has an overwhelming advantage. The queen is out of the game,

the a2 bishop has no future and Black has direct threats like Qh4. The machine already considers it to be a winning advantage.]

18...♟xg7! It was a bit unpleasant to move into the Qd4 check, but to control the f6 square plays a more important role. Now it is not easy to deal with the b2 pawn for White. [18...♟xg7 19.♟e4 and White gets counterplay on the f6 square. Nxb2 runs into Qd4!]



19.♞a4 The critical move, but Black can go for the pawn as he is just in time to control everything. [19.♞d2 19...♞f6 is also highly unpleasant. Black is threatening to play Nxb2 again, which can hardly be prevented. A passive move like 20.♟d1 ♟d6+ leads to a huge positional advantage for Black. White is running out of useful moves.; On 19.♞b1 Black wins the pawn. 19...♟xb2! 20.♞xb2 ♜xc3 21.♞d4+ ♞f6! protects the rook.]

19...♟xb2! 20.♞xa6 ♜xc3 At first sight White could have something against the b2 knight or the c3 rook, but nothing works properly for him.

21.♞xa7 White restores the material balance, but this is kind of admitting the huge disadvantage. The position is similar to the 18.Qa4 line, the queen on a7 is out of the game and the bishop on a2 is dead. It is enough for Black to create a decisive advantage. [21.♞b5 21...♟d3 and White cannot trap the pieces.; The important line, which I had to foresee before

grabbing the b2 pawn was 21. ♖e2 21... ♘d3 22. ♖d1



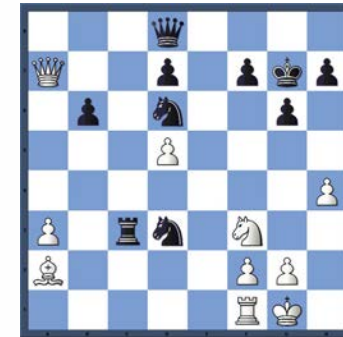
22... ♘c1! (Other moves are not great. For instance 22... ♘f4 23. ♖e5+ ♖f6 24. ♖xe8) 23. ♖e5+ Otherwise Black takes on a2, protects his rook and has a clear extra pawn. 23... f6! 24. ♖xc3 ♘e2+—+ wins.]

21... ♘d6 Activating the knight. The black pieces are dominating.

22.h4 White opens the back rank in order to have some ideas like Rb1.

22... ♘d3 Going for a new target on f2! Black threatens with Ne4! [Unfortunately I missed a pretty finish with 22... ♖xf3!! 23. gxf3 ♘b5 24. ♖a6 ♘d4—+ The knights are just killing. Qxh4 is coming next. White is unable to organize an adequate defence. A possible finish could be 25. ♖b1 ♖xh4 26. ♖xb2 ♖g5+! 27. ♔h2 (27. ♔f1 27... ♖c1+ 28. ♔g2 ♖xb2—+ with extra material and the a2 bishop is trapped.) 27... ♘xf3+ 28. ♔h3 ♖g1 White cannot avoid getting mated in a few moves. 29. ♖e2 ♖h2+ 30. ♔g4 ♘e5+ 31. ♔g5 f6#]

23. ♖f1 White tries to strengthen his f2 pawn, but now the punishment comes from another direction:



[The last chance would have been to counterattack the b6 pawn with 23. ♖b1 although Black is totally winning after 23... ♘e4! 24. ♖xb6 ♖xb6 25. ♖xb6 ♘dxf2 Threatening to mate in two with Rc1-h1 and after 26. ♖b1 ♖xa3—+ Black has an extra pawn and a better position.]

23... ♘c1! The decisive blow, it is over now.

24. ♖a6 Some desperate attempt, but of course such a move cannot help. [The point is that after 24. ♖b1 24... ♘e2+! 25. ♔h1 ♖xf3! 26. gxf3 ♖xh4+ mates: 27. ♔g2 ♘f4+ 28. ♔g1 ♖g5+ 29. ♔h2 ♖g2#]

24... ♘xa2 25. ♖e2 ♘c1! This knight does a great job in this game. The point becomes clear in the 26. Qb2 line. [25... ♖xa3? 26. ♖b2+]

26. ♖d2 The rest is easy, now all moves are winning for Black. [After 26. ♖b2 Black preserves his extra piece with 26... ♖f6! 27. ♖xc1 ♖xf3!—+]

26... ♖c7 [26... ♘e4!? 27. ♖d4+ ♘f6—+ was also a simple piece up as the rook cannot be taken in view of Ne2.]

27.h5 I already could not focus here because I expected resignation and gave some minor practical chance... Of course all moves are just winning.

27...♖c4 28.h6+ ♔f8 29.♞e1 ♜d3 30.♞g5 The last try, but White is basically not threatening anything. Black can go for further material...

30...♜xe1 31.♜e5 Attacking the queen and threatening with Qd8 Ne8 Nd7, but Black can simply prevent both. [It was important that after 31.♞d8+ 31...♜e8 32.♜e5 Black has 32...♜f3+! 33.gxf3 ♞c1+ 34.♔g2 (34.♔h2 34...♞f4+ 35.♔g2 ♞xe5--+) 34...♞f1+ 35.♔g3 ♞g1+ 36.♔f4 ♞h2+--]

31...♞c7 [Now the difference to the 31. Qd8 line is that after 31...♜f3+ 32.gxf3 ♞c1+ 33.♔h2 Black has no check on f4...]

32.♞f6 There is no threat at all. After both checks on g7 or h8 the king will be safe on e7.

32...♞c1 [Only after some completely senseless move like 32...♜c2?? White could suddenly turn the game in his favor with 33.♜xg6+! hxg6 34.h7+--]

33.♔h2 ♔e8 Leaving from that Nxg6 idea.

34.♞h8+ ♔e7 35.♞xh7 ♞c2 and White finally resigned. **0-1**

(4) Nepomniachtchi, Ian(2732) - Svidler, Peter(2756) [C45]

21st TCh-RUS 2014(7.1),
2014.04.13



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

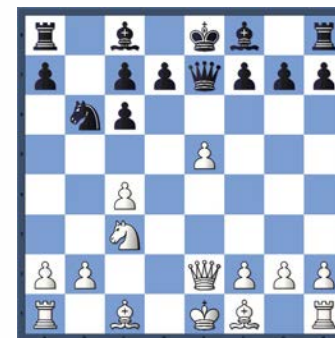
A fascinating game was played in the last round of the Russian league.

1.e4 e5 2.♜f3 ♜c6 3.d4 The Scotch opening. Nepomniachtchi uses this weapon occasionally as an alternative to the Spanish.

3...exd4 4.♜xd4 ♜f6 4...Bc5 is the other huge main line.

5.♜xc6 bxc6 6.e5 ♞e7 7.♞e2 ♜d5 8.c4 ♜b6 [8...♞a6 is the other option for Black, also with very interesting lines.]

9.♜c3



9...♞a6!? This is already a sideline. 9...Qe6 is the most frequently seen continuation.

10.♞e4 [10.b3 is met by a quick attack against the e5 pawn with 10...O-O-O 11.♞b2 ♞e8 12.f4 f6 White was not in time to castle, therefore exf6 is not possible. 13.O-O-O fxe5 14.fxe5 ♞xe5 15.♞xe5 ♞xe5 Black has won a pawn, although the strong b2 bishop and the passive a6 and b6 minor pieces give White enough compensation. In the Karjakin-Kramnik

Dortmund 2012 game, Black soon preferred to give back his material advantage with d5 and the game simplified to a draw.]

10...g6 [Now on 10...O-O-O? White could play 11.c5! as the queen is not pinned. 11...♙xf1 12.cxb6 ♙a6 13.bxa7 ♔b7 14.♙e3 White is better.]

11.♙f4 [Black has the nice trick that after 11.c5 11...♙xf1 12.cxb6 he can play 12...f5! with the idea that either the e5 or the g2 pawn will fall!]

11...♔b4! This is the novelty of the game! It looks like a strong one and it leads to a draw more or less by force.

12.e6! Forcing the matters. Extreme complications are about to arise. [12.O-O-O 12...♖b8 looks dangerous from White's point of view.]



12...♔xb2! Svidler rightly accepts the challenge. Black wins material, but a long king run is about to start. [12...fxe6 leads to a worse endgame after 13.♙e5 ♖g8 14.c5! Many pieces are hanging. The only way to not lose big material is 14...♔xe4+ 15.♙xe4 ♙xf1 but White gets a pleasant edge after 16.♙f6+ ♔f7 17.♖xf1 ♙c4 18.♙xd7 ♖d8 19.O-O-O+= White is clearly dominating.]

13.exd7+ ♔xd7 14.♔d4+! The only move! White leaves from the Re8 threat and protects his knight with check. [14.♖d1+?

14...♙d6 wins as the rook is coming to e8!]



14...♙d5!! Another only move and what an amazing one. Svidler had either foreseen the forthcoming line or he just had a flawless intuition?! Or is he still following his preparation?! [14...♙d6 is more human, but it leads to a worse position after 15.♖b1 ♖he8+ 16.♙e3 ♔a3 17.c5! and White wins material. Black does not have enough resources to create counterplay against the e1 king. 17...♙xf1 18.♙xf1±]

15.cxd5! There is no way back for White neither...

15...♔xa1+ 16.♙d2 ♙xf1! [There was no perpetual check with 16...♔b2+ 17.♙d1 ♔a1+ 18.♙c2+- as there are no checks left.]

17.dxc6+ ♔xc6! Other moves lead to quick mate.

18.♔d5+ ♔b6 It looks extremely scary, but there is no win for White! The f1 bishop fortunately controls the Qb5 mate, while Be3 is simply met by c5. Nepomniacchi continues haunting the king.

19.♙a4+! ♔a6 20.♔c6+ ♔a5 21.♙xc7+ ♔b4 Fantastic! What a king! Svidler had to see this position long ago and he was right that there is no more than a perpetual check for White.



22. ♖e4+ [22. ♖b7+!? is a tricky alternative, Black needs to find 22... ♖c4! 23. ♘b2+ (23. ♖b3+ 23... ♖d4 24.f4!? and here the only move to avoid the Be5 mate is 24... ♗e8! and the game ends with perpetual check after 25. ♗xf1 ♖xf1 26. ♖b2+ ♖c4 (26... ♖d5? trying to hide the king once again loses to 27. ♖b7+! ♖c4 (27... ♖e6 28. ♖c6+ ♖f5 29. ♖d5+ ♖f6 30. ♗e5+ ♖f5 31. ♖xf7+ ♖g4 32. ♖d7+ ♖h5 33. ♖h3#) 28. ♖a6+ +- wins the f1 queen.) 27. ♖b3+=) 23... ♖d4



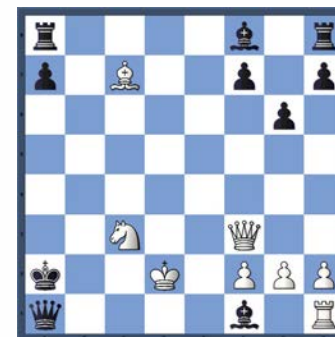
Here White needs to find the only way to save the game: 24.f4! ♗e8 25. ♖xa7+ ♗c5 26. ♖a4+ ♖d5 27. ♖d7+ ♖e4 28. ♖c6+ ♖d4 29. ♖d7+= with a perpetual again.]

22... ♖a3! Only forward! [22... ♖b5? leads to mate after 23. ♖d5+! and ♖b3 mates next move or after 23... ♗c5 24. ♖xc5+ ♖xa4 25. ♖a5#]

23. ♖f3+! Trying to give the same mate on b3, but Black of

course continues the journey with his king and eliminates the a2 pawn!

23... ♖xa2! 24. ♘c3+



24... ♖a3! And of course another only move! The knight has no good discovery check. Other king moves were losing: [24... ♖b2 loses to the brilliant 25. ♖b7+ ♖a3



26. ♖c2!!+- what a shocking move again! After this subtle king move, there is no good way to prevent the mate on b3.; 24... ♖b3? is refuted by 25. ♖d5+ ♖a3 26. ♖a5+ ♖b2 27. ♖xa1+ ♖xa1 28. ♖c2! (28. ♗xf1+ 28... ♖b2 29. ♗b1+ ♖a3 30. ♖c2+- is equally good with a mate on b3 next!)]

25. ♘a2+! A brilliant last trick! White tries a desperado knight in order to be able to win the queen, but Black is not forced to accept the sacrifice! [25. ♘d5+ 25... ♖a2 26. ♘c3+ ♖a3=]

25...♔a4!! [25...♔xa2? loses after 26.♚d5+ ♔a3 27.♚a5+ ♔b3 (27...♔b2 28.♙e5+-) 28.♚xa1 ♙b4+ 29.♔e3 ♖he8+ 30.♙e5+-]

26.♚c6+ ♔a3 27.♚f3+ ♔a4 There are no more ideas left for White to try.

28.♚c6+ ♔a3 29.♚f3+ And a draw was agreed. It would be interesting to know until which moment the players were following their preparations. I would not be surprised if both of them had known all of this. In any case, an amusing and perfect game! **1/2-1/2**

(5) Grachev, B(2659)-Shirov, A(2702)

Russian league, 2014.04.08

1... $\overline{\mp}$



(6) Jakovenko, D(2726)-Jobava, B(2706)

Russian league, 2014.04.08

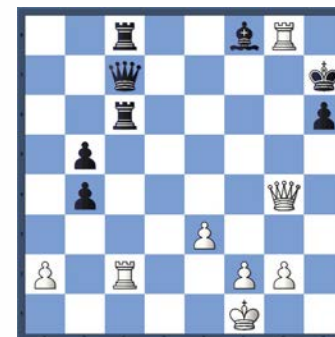
1... $\mp$



(7) Smirnov, P(2624)-Grishchenko, S(2436)

Russian league, 2014.04.08

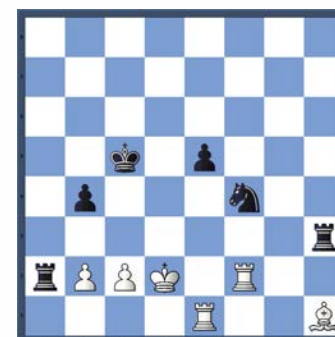
1. $+-$



(8) Kobalia, M(2633)-Artemiev, V(2636)

Russian league, 2014.04.09

1... -+



(9) Prizant, J(2521)-Nepomniachchi, I(2732)

Russian league, 2014.04.10

1. ±



(10) Kobalia, M(2633)-Dominguez, L(2757)

Russian league, 2014.04.11

1... -+



(11) Grachev, B(2659)-Simonian, T(2427)

Russian league, 2014.04.11

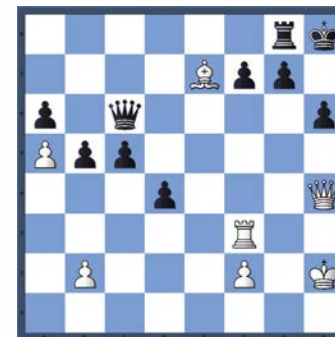
1. +-



(12) Geller, J(2504)-Nozdrachev, L(2413)

Russian league, 2014.04.11

1. +-



(13) Dominguez, L(2757)-Frolyanov, D(2578)

Russian league, 2014.04.12

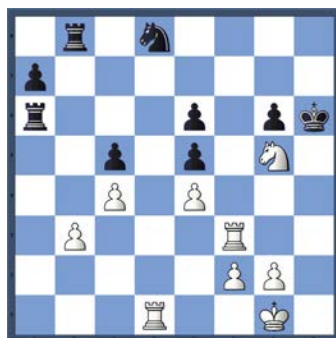
1. +-



(14) Shirov, A(2702)-Maletin, P(2582)

Russian league, 2014.04.13

1. +-

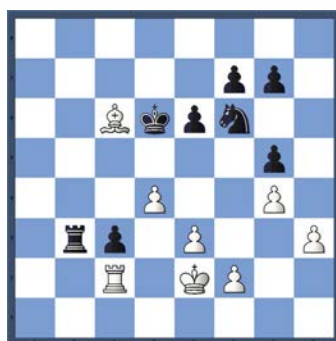


Endgame section

(15) Vitiugov, Nikita(2747)
- Tomashevsky, Evgeny(2697)
21st TCh-RUS 2014(4.2),
2014.04.10



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

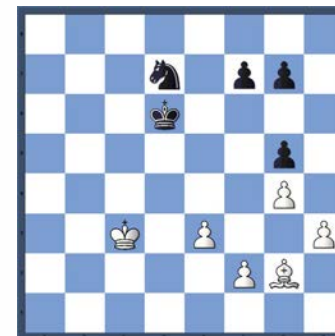


White was a bit better all game long and tried to put as much pressure as possible. It is easy to see that Black cannot save the c3 pawn, as White's next moves are Kd3 and Rxc3. On the other hand Black's drawing chances are quite good as there is not much material left on the board, but very precise play is needed and this is exactly what Tomashevsky will show.

43. ♕g2 e5! A very important move. Black needs to exchange one more pawn and save time to secure the dark squares. If White was in time to take the c3 pawn and not let Black play e5, White would probably have very good chances to win the game.

44. ♖d3 exd4 White has to decide how to take on d4.

45. exd4 [After 45. ♖xd4 Black just needs to play a waiting move. 45... ♘d7 46. ♖xc3 ♖xc3 47. ♖xc3



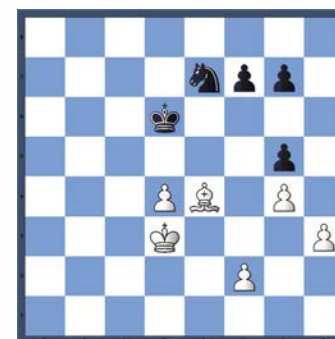
47... ♔e5! Stopping White from playing f4. White's only idea now could be to go to e8 with his king, but it just takes too long and Black will quickly start to attack the f2 pawn with his knight. The position should be close to a draw.]

45... ♖a3 Black is just waiting for White to take on c3.

46. ♖xc3 And of course White doesn't have anything better than to take.

46... ♖xc3+ 47. ♖xc3 ♘g8! A nice blocking move. All black pieces will be placed on the black squares, making it impossible for White to proceed.

48. ♖d3 ♘e7 49. ♕e4



49... f6 What can be the plan for White now? To go to b7 with the king just doesn't make any sense because Black could keep on waiting with Kd7-Kd6, so Vitiugov is trying the only

idea.

50. ♖e3 ♜c8 **51.** ♖f3 ♜e7 **52.** ♖e2 ♔e6 **53.** ♖e3 ♔d6 After moving around a bit, White tries his only chance:

54.f4 but Black keeps playing very accurately.

54...gxf4+ 55.♖xf4 White wants to play h4 with some chances.



55...g5+! 56.♖f3 ♔c7 White just cannot improve his position.

57.♙d3 ♜c8 Of course Black could have kept on waiting, but Tomashevsky decides to even improve the fortress a bit.

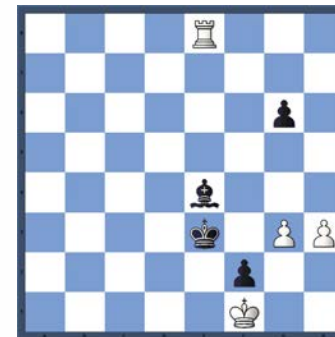
58.♙f5 ♜d6 59.♙e6 ♔d8 White simply has no plan of improvement. A nice positional lessons of how to steer this kind of endgame into a draw. **1/2-1/2**

(16) Analysis

2014.04.13

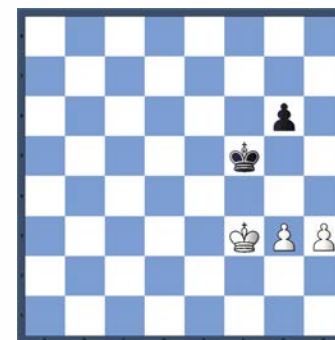


GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



The following position could have arisen from a blitz game. This endgame contains many instructive theoretical positions.

1...g5! The only move to save the game! We will see the point in the pawn endgame. [The most natural 1...♖f3? loses after 2.♙xe4! ♖xe4 3.♖xf2 g5 (3...♖f5 is refuted by 4.♖e3! (But not 4.♖f3? as it transposes to the drawn position analyzed below. 4...g5) 4...♖e5 (4...g5 5.♖d4!+- With an easy win!) 5.♖f3 ♖f5



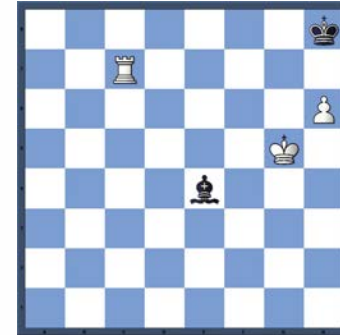
6.h4! and White wins because after 6...g5 he has the very

important intermediate check with 7.g4+! ♔f6 8.h5+- ♔e5 9.♕e3 ♕d5 Black cannot cut the king's path like he does in the main line as he is not in the square of the h-pawn anymore. 10.h6+-) 4.♕e2 ♕f5 (4...♕e5 5.♕e3 ♕d5 6.♕f3 ♕e5 7.♕g4 ♕f6 8.♕h5 ♕f5 9.g4+ ♕f4 10.♕g6+-) 5.♕d3! This is the key and White wins the opposition and manages to squeeze the opponent's king. 5...♕e5 6.♕e3 ♕f5 7.♕d4+-]

2.♖xe4+ [The alternative is 2.h4 2...gxh4 3.gxh4 ♔f3 4.♖f8+ ♕g3 5.♕e2! White is able to save his h-pawn, but it is still not enough to win the game. Preventing Bd3 and the h4 pawn cannot be taken because of Rf4. 5...♕c2 6.h5 ♕g4 7.h6 ♕g5 8.♖h8 ♕g6 9.♕xf2 ♕b1 The following position is a theoretical draw. Black only waits with his bishop and White cannot make progress. Whenever he pushes h7, Kg7 grabs the pawn.

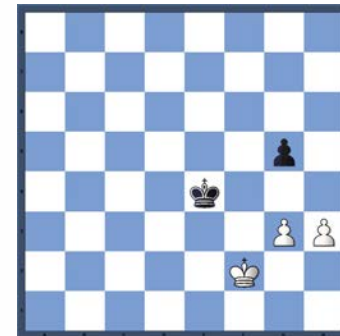


10.♕e3 ♕c2 11.♕d4 ♕b1 12.♕e5 ♕c2 13.♖c8 This is the only way to change the character of the position, but as we will see even with a rook on the 6th rank there is no win for White. (13.h7 13...♕g7=) 13...♕b1 14.♖c6+ ♕h7 15.♕f4 ♕d3 16.♕g5 ♕e4 17.♖c7+ ♕h8=



White cannot make progress here. Black continues waiting with the bishop on the b1-h7 diagonal and the game is drawn. Sooner or later White probably tries his last trick with 18.h7 ♕xh7 19.♕h6 ♕g8!= with a famous draw as Rc8 is stalemate.]

2...♕xe4 3.♕xf2

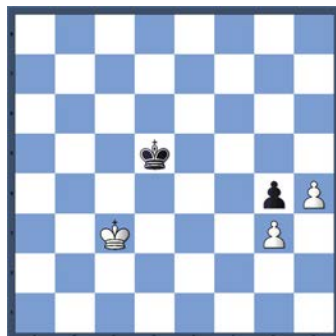


3...♕f5! As we have already seen, if White could play Kd3 his position would be winning as he would win the fight for the opposition. Now things are different because Black has the important g4 resource.

4.♕e3 [On 4.♕f3 4...g4+! is the only move, but good enough to save the game on the spot. 5.hxg4+ ♕g5=]

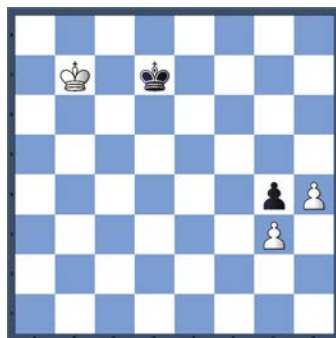
4...g4! At first sight this is a blunder as it helps White to create a protected passed pawn, but... [4...♕e5!? 5.♕d3 ♕d5= also holds. There is no way to make progress. 6.g4 ♕e5 7.♕e3 ♕d5=]

5.h4 ♖e5 6.♖d3 ♖d5 7.♖c3



7...♗e5! Black keeps the opposition on the diagonal! He could not go to c5 as the h-pawn would have promoted, but he is still able to cut the white king. He just stands within the e4-e8 and d4-d8 squares, where he is able to catch the h-pawn and puts his king according the rules of the opposition. [7...♗e4? going for the g3 pawn is too slow. 8.♖c4 ♗f3 9.h5 ♗xg3 10.h6 ♖f2 11.h7 g3 12.h8=♔ g2 and against the g-pawn, White wins. He forces the black king in front of the pawn and then he approaches with his king 13.♔f6+ ♖e1 14.♔g5 ♖f2 15.♔f4+ ♖e1 16.♔g3+ ♖f1 17.♔f3+ ♖g1 18.♖d3+--]

8.♖c4 ♖e4 9.♖c5 ♖e5 10.♖c6 ♖e6 11.♖c7 ♖e7 12.♖c8 ♖e8 13.♖b7 ♖d7! Keeping the opposition.



14.♖a6 A tricky attempt to lure the king away from the

h-pawn, but it does not help...

14...♗e6! Now Black uses the method of the distant opposition!

15.♖b5 ♖d5 16.♖a4 ♖e4 17.♖a3 A last try, as the black king cannot go to the 3rd rank.

17...♗e5!= And the game is drawn as Kb3 is met by Kd5 or Ka4 Ke4. 1/2

Clash of the Titans

(17) Szabo, Laszlo
- Bronstein, David I [A53]

Candidates Tournament(5),
1953.09.06



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 d6 3.♘f3 ♘bd7 4.g3 e5 5.♗g2 c6 Black keeps the additional possibility of developing the bishop to e7. The plan with g6-Bg7 transposes to the main lines.

6.dxe5 [6.♘c3 6...e4 (6...♗e7 7.O-O O-O 8.e4 One of the secrets behind this set-up is to activate the bishop over d8 in case White will close the center with d5.) 7.♘g5 d5 8.cxd5 cxd5 With complex strategic play. White's plan is to put pressure on the d5 pawn after for example Qb3-Nh3-Bg5-Nf4 and Black should support the d5 pawn, which is why one of the ideas is to play Bb4 to exchange the knight on c3.]

6...dxe5 7.O-O ♗c5 8.♘c3 O-O 9.♖c2 ♖e7



10.♘h4 A thematic plan.

10...♖e8 [10...g6 11.♗g5 with the unpleasant threat Ne4.]

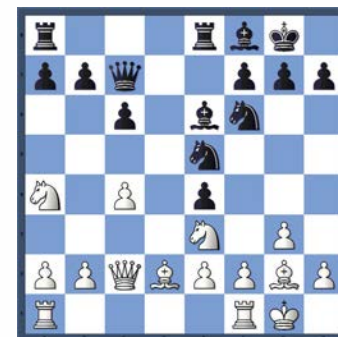
11.♘a4 White is hunting the black bishop.

11...e4 [11...♗b4 12.a3 ♗a5 13.b4 Black saved the bishop but lost many tempi. 13...♗c7 14.♘f5 ♖f8 15.b5 White's position is clearly better thanks to his more active pieces.]

12.♘f5 ♖e5 13.♗h3 Preparing Bf4.

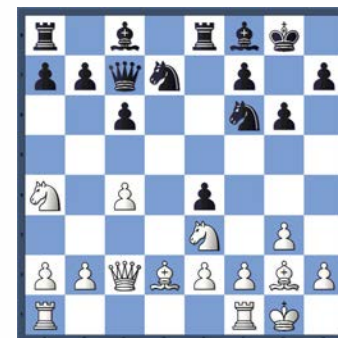
13...♗f8 14.♗d2 [14.♗f4 14...♖a5 15.♘d6?! ♗xd6 16.♗xd6 ♖h5 17.♗g2 ♘e5 Black overtakes the initiative here.]

14...♖c7 15.♗g2 g6 [15...♘e5 16.♘e3 ♗e6



17.♖fd1 (17.♗xe4? The e4 pawn is weak but to take it right now is premature: 17...♘xe4 18.♖xe4 ♘xc4! 19.♘xc4 ♗h3 20.♖c2 ♗xf1 21.♖xf1 b5 is the last important move in this variation.) 17...♖ad8 18.♖ab1 With the idea b4-b5. White has a stable plus.]

16.♘e3 [16.♘h6+ 16...♖g7∞The knight is very riskily placed on h6.]



16...♔e5 [16...♘c5 Black would be happy to exchange a few pieces, but let's check if this move works tactically: 17.♙c3 It seems like the e4 pawn is lost but now comes 17...♘g4! 18.♘xc5 ♙xc5 19.♘g4 ♙xc4 20.♙xe4 ♔e7 Black wins back the e2 pawn and gets an equal position. 21.♙f3 ♙h3 is bad because of 22.♚fe1 ♙xf2+!]

17.f4 A strange move. White wants to improve his position but this is the wrong way. First of all this move weakens the king and secondly Black simply gets rid of his weak e4 pawn. [17.♙c3 17...♔e7 18.♚fd1+= Black has probably played too many queen moves here.]

17...♔h5 [17...exf3 18.exf3 ♘c5+= gives Black good play.]



18.h3!? is an interesting and concrete idea. White sacrifices the pawn to activate his pieces and get the initiative.

18...♔xe2 19.♚ad1 ♔d3 20.♔c1 ♔d6 21.g4 ♔c7 Black won a pawn but this process took a long time, during which White improved his pieces and he now wants to create pressure by advancing his kingside pawns. [21...b5]

22.♙c3 ♙g7 [22...b5 is a concrete move which reduces material and solves Black's practical problems. 23.♙xf6 (23.cxb5 23...cxb5 24.♙xf6 ♔xc1 25.♚xc1 ♘xf6 26.♘c5) 23...bxa4 24.♙c3 ♘c5+= Xd3]

23.g5



23...b5? This mistake leads to an unpleasant position. Black should have played [23...♘h5 but after 24.♙xg7 ♘xg7 25.♘g4 ♙h8 26.♚fe1 White has good compensation thanks to his initiative on the dark squares.]

24.gxf6 ♙f8 25.cxb5 cxb5 26.♘d5 ♔c6 27.f5 ♙b7 [27...bxa4 28.fxg6 hxg6 29.♘e7+ ♙xe7 30.fxe7 ♔c5+ 31.♙h2 ♔xe7 32.♔h6 ♘e5 33.♚d5+-]

28.fxg6 hxg6



29.♘e7+ After this move the black king will be very weak.

29...♙xe7 30.fxe7 b4 [30...bxa4 31.♔h6+-]

31.♙xb4 ♔xa4 32.♙c3 ♚xe7 33.♔h6 [33.♔g5 was probably more accurate. 33...♚e6 (33...♚ae8 34.♚xd7 and Qf6 next.)

34. ♖h6 ♗e5



and now compared to the game White has the strong 35. ♖d6! with tempo. 35... ♖ae8 36. ♗xe5 ♖xe5 37. ♖xg6+ fxg6 38. ♖xg6+ ♖h8 39. ♖f7+-]

33... ♗e5



34. ♖g5? An inaccuracy. White should have played [34. ♗xe5! but of course before exchanging his strong bishop White has to be sure that all variations lead to a win, which is why this kind of moves are not easy. 34... ♖xe5 35. ♖d6 ♖a5!



This strong move has multiple ideas! Black protects the rook on e5, prepares Rg5 (with the idea to support the g6 square) and threatens Qc5. (35... ♖e8 Supporting f7 and g6, but is not enough as White can still play 36. ♖xf7! ♖xf7 (36... ♗xf7 37. ♖h7+ ♖f8 38. ♖f6+) 37. ♖xg6+ ♖xg6 38. ♖xg6+- And White will win the rook in two moves.) 36. b4! An amazing move! After this pawn sacrifice the black pieces lose coordination... (36. ♖ff6 36... ♖g5+) 36... ♖xb4 37. ♖ff6! It looks like Black cannot avoid a decisive blow on g6 now.]

34... ♖e8? The decisive mistake. Black could have saved the game after [34... ♖ae8 35. ♖d8 ♖e6! (35... ♖xd8 36. ♖xe7+- and three pieces are hanging.) 36. ♖xe8+ (36. ♖f6 36... ♖xd8 37. ♖xe6 ♖d1+ 38. ♖h2 fxe6 39. ♗xe5 ♖d7 40. ♖xg6+ ♖f8 White probably doesn't have more than a perpetual here.) 36... ♖xe8 37. ♖f5 ♗f3+ 38. ♗xf3 exf3 39. ♖h4 f2+! It is not clear which king is weaker now... 40. ♖xf2 ♖e1+ 41. ♗xe1 ♖xe1+ 42. ♖h2 ♖h1+ 43. ♖g3 ♖g1+ 44. ♖f4 ♖c1+ 45. ♖e5 ♖e3+ It will be hard for the white king to escape from the checks.]

35. ♖f4! This move was impossible when the black queen was on a4.



35...♖c8 Black is trying to eliminate the extremely strong bishop at all costs, but unfortunately for him it is already too late!

36.♖h4 ♗xc3



37.♗h6? [37.♗f6 would have led to mate very quickly, but both players were probably in time trouble.]

37...f6? It seems unreal, but Black could have been back in the fight after [37...f5 38.bxc3 ♖f7 and the black king might have chances to escape! In this case the white pieces on the h-file will stand badly and Black will get counterplay. 39.♖d6 ♗e6 40.♗h7+ ♖f6↖]

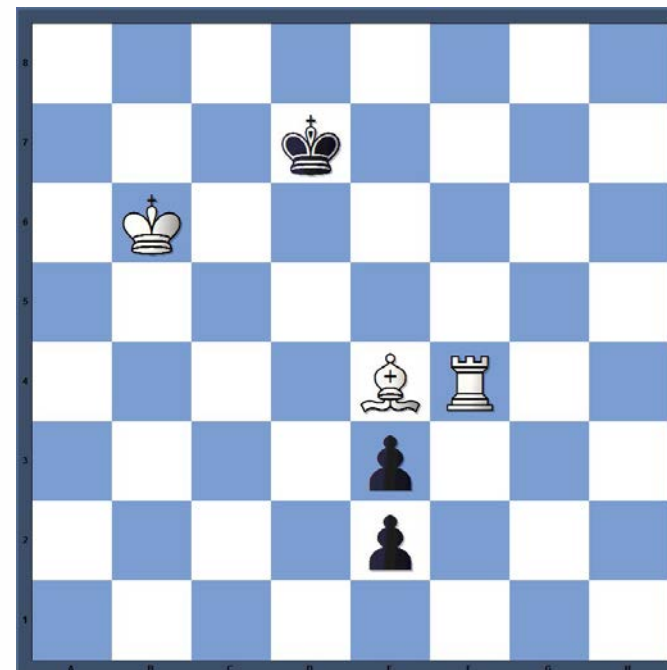
38.bxc3 ♗g7 39.♖d8! A simple tactical shot!

39...♗xd8 40.♗h8+ ♖f7 41.♗xd8 g5 42.♖h6 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Rinck

1. +-



Solutions

(19) Sjugirov, S(2653)-Karjakin, S(2742)

Russian league, 2014.04.07

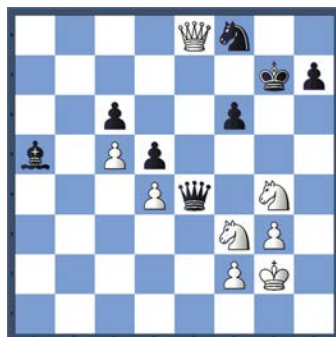


32...f4! 33.♖xf4 [33.exf4 33...♘d3+ 34.♙f1 ♜e1+-+]]

33...♘d3+ 34.♙f1 ♘xf4+-

(20) Bologan, V(2649)-Predke, A(2491)

Russian league, 2014.04.07

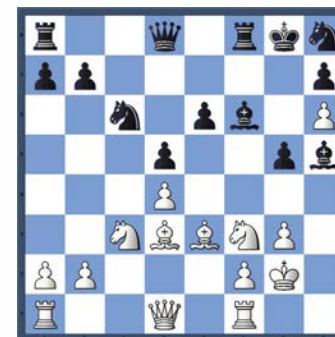


45.♘xf6! ♜xe8 [45...♙xf6 46.♜xf8+-+]]

46.♘xe8±

(21) Shirov, A(2702)-Zhu Che(2462)

Chebanenko rapid, 2014.04.02



18.♘xg5!! ♙xg5 [18...♙xd1 19.♙xh7#]

19.♜xh5+-

(22) Zajarnyi, A(2274)-Shirov, A(2702)

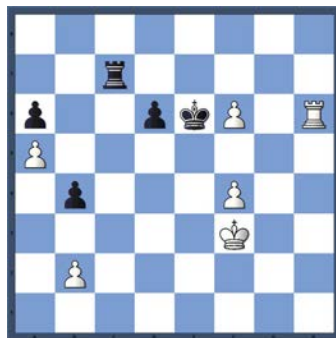
Chebanenko rapid, 2014.04.02



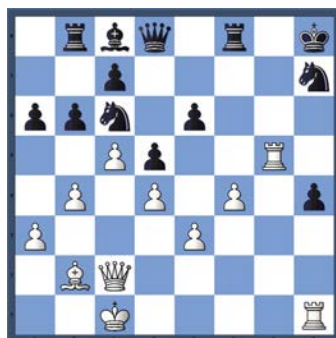
15...♘h3+! 16.♙h1 ♜xe3 17.fxe3 ♜xa7+-

(23) Le Quang Lie(2710)-Rosen, E(2304)

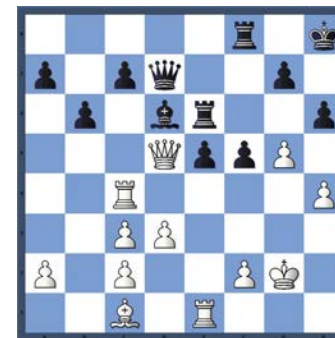
College Final Four, 2014.04.05

**44.f7+!** ♔xf7 [44...♔e7 45.♖h8! ♔xf7 46.♖h7+-]**45.♖h7+ 1-0****(24) So, W(2738)-Moradiabadi, E(2585)**

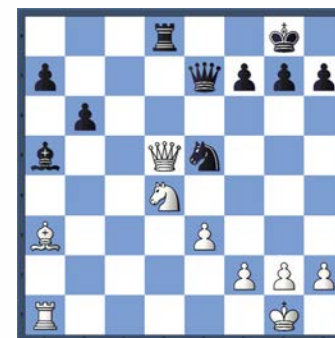
College Final Four, 2014.04.06

**24.♖xh7+! 1-0** [24.♖xh7+ 24...♔xh7 25.♖xh4#]**(25) Bartel, M(2662)-Swiercz, D(2631)**

Polish Championship, 2014.04.01

**23.♖xc7! ♖xc7** [23...♔xc7 24.♖xd7+-]**24.♖xe6+-****(26) Peralta, F(2613)-Tesik, C(2344)**

Karpos Open, 2014.03.31

**24.♖xa5! 1-0** [24.♖xa5 24...bxa5 25.♔xe7+-]

(27) Yilmaz, M(2567)-Stern, R(2513)

German league, 2014.04.06

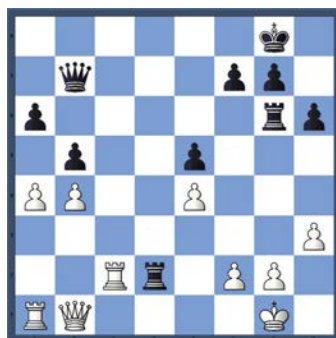


24. ♔e4! hxg5 25. ♔g6! ♖xd4 [25... ♖e7 26. ♗e4+-]

26. ♔xe8+-

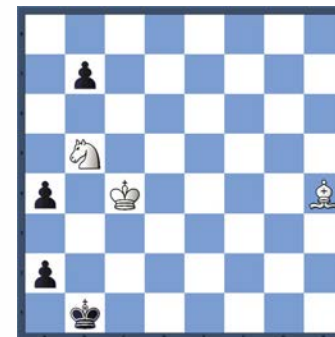
(28) Von Herman, U(2391)-Janssen, R(2471)

German league, 2014.04.06



28... ♖xg2+! 0-1 [28... ♖xg2+ 29. ♗xg2 ♗xe4+ 30. ♗g1 ♖xc2-+]

(29) Troitzky



1. ♗a3+! ♔b2 2. ♗f6+! ♔xa3 3. ♗a1! b5+ 4. ♔c3 b4+ 5. ♔c4 b3 6. ♔c3 b2 7. ♗xb2#



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 113

25th of April 2014

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Editorial Preface

In the Women Grand Prix Hou Yifan easily came first with the impressive score of 8.5/11. Olga Girya somewhat surprisingly came second with 7/11 and 3rd place went to Alexandra Kosteniuk with 6.5/11.

The Neckar-Open was won by Laznicka with the fantastic score of 8/9 points!

Now let's come to what is clearly the main event of the week, the "Gashimov Memorial".

In the A group we saw quite a few surprises and clearly the biggest one is the double "00" of Magnus Carlsen in rounds 4 and 5 against Caruana and Radjabov. Magnus had a great start with his wins against Mamedyarov and Nakamura, but maybe somehow lost a bit of his concentration in the next games.

Anyhow, after the 5th round only one player has a "+" score and this is Radjabov with 3/5. We can expect a very exciting second half of the event.

In the B group Etienne Bacrot is making his way with 4/5. Eljanov is in second position with 3.5/5. We can also follow a lot of fighting and exciting games here.

In the Asian Continental Yu Yangyi is leading with 6.5/8 and there is only one more round to go.

We hope you all enjoy this week's games!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Wojtaszek, Radoslaw(2716)
- Safarli, Eltaj(2656) [D70]

Vugar Gashimov Mem B 2014(4.4),
2014.04.23



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



Another great game by Wojtaszek, who seems to continue being in great shape! After a theoretical battle, White managed to gain some positional plus and converted it into a deadly attack on the black king with some tactical motives.

1.d4 Before the first move it was clear that this game was going to be very interesting, at least from the opening point of view. Safarli showed great theoretical knowledge lately, playing the Gruenfeld and Wojtaszek, well, we do not need to say much about someone who has been Anand's second for more than 4 years.

1...d6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 is one of the most interesting lines to try against the Gruenfeld and of course you must be ready to play the KID in case Black doesn't play an early d5.

3...d5 So we are in the Gruenfeld. [3...g7 4.e4 d6 5.d3 O-O and this is already the KID.]

4.cxd5 dxd5 5.e4 b6 6.d3 g7 7.e3 The idea of this line is simple. White is trying to keep his strong center alive and Black is attacking it with all he has.

7...O-O 8.Qd2 c6 9.O-O-O

9...Qd6 Of course we are still following theory.

10.b5 Not the only option for White. [Another very interesting attempt is 10.h4 10...Td8 11.b5 Qd7 12.h5 a6 13.d3 and now Black needs to be very accurate. 13...xd4! (The game Nakamura-Caruana 2013 continued with 13...d4? 14.hxg6 hxg6 15.xd4 Qxd4 16.Qe1 and White is already totally winning!) 14.hxg6 fxg6 15.d5 was played in the game Piorun-Svidler 2013, with a very unclear position.]

10...Qd7 11.f4 is nothing new and actually quite logical. White wants to consolidate the center further and develop his pieces by playing the very natural Nf3 next.

11...Td8!? An interesting novelty! [In the previous games we saw 11...Qe6 12.d3 d4 13.Qe2 dxe3 14.Qxe3 b4 15.b1 Td8 16.f3 with very sharp play, like for example in Wang Hao-Svidler 2013.]

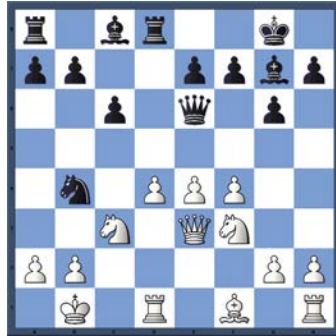
12.f3 Wojtaszek is getting the game back into the "main lines". [12.d5!? could be another interesting try.]

12...Qe6 13.d3 d4 Now we are back to the main line, just over the different move order: 11...Rd8 and not 11...Qe6 immediately.

14.Qe2 [After 14.xc4 14...Qxc4 Black would get nice play, especially because of the upcoming Bg4 threat.]

14...♖xe3 15.♔xe3 Black achieved a lot. He exchanged the black colored bishop, but gave up the center in return. The position is very dynamic.

15...♞b4 16.♞b1 c6 A solid move against White's d5 push and at the same time preparing to go back with the knight to d5.



17.♕e2 A logical move, but somehow if we look at the position it is very tempting to try something more dynamic. [At first sight it is hard to see why not to try 17.♞g5 17...♔d6 18.♕c4 with a nice attack on the f7 pawn. 18...e6 And after the simple 19.a3 I think White's position looks better.]

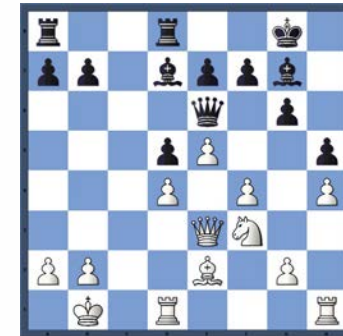
17...♞d5 What can be more logical than this move?!

18.♞xd5 cxd5 19.e5 We are in quite a tricky position. If Black was in time with developing his bishop from c8, playing Rac8 with some action on the c-file, White can just be worse because the black bishop on g7 is not going to be passive forever and can join the game by playing e6-Bf8. On the other hand, White is going to start direct play on the black king and the position remains very tense.

19...♕d7 [Probably White is doing better after 19...♔b6 Black wants to develop his bishop to f5. 20.h4 ♕f5+ 21.♕d3 and I think White should be the one who is pushing here.]

20.h4 White is not losing any time!

20...h5 [If Black didn't pay any attention to White's attack and for example played 20...♔ac8 21.h5 ♔c7 22.hxg6 hxg6 23.g4 followed by f5, with a very dangerous attack.]



21.g4! A great move! White does not care about a sacrifice of a pawn to open Black's king position.

21...hxg4 22.♞g5 All white pieces are suddenly in the attack.

22...♔b6 23.h5 f6 Safarli is trying to save himself with tactics. [After 23...gxh5 White had the strong 24.♕d3! ♔ac8 25.♔xh5 with a deadly attack on the h-file.]

24.e6! Another very strong move by Wojtaszek.

24...fxg5 [24...♕c8 didn't work because of 25.f5! and it seems like there is no more escape for Black, especially with such passive pieces placed on the 8th rank.]

25.exd7 gxh5 Black can't let White play hxg6.

26.f5 A good move. [26.♔xe7 would lead to a very interesting position because of 26...♕f6! 27.♔e3 ♔xd7 and things are pretty unclear.]

26...♔xd7 27.♔xh5 Black's position is looking very dangerous, but the bishop on g7 is still a very strong piece that is not only putting pressure on d4 but also defending the black king very well.

27...♔f8 [After 27...♙f6 White seems to be getting a winning advantage by force after a long line: 28.♖xg5+! ♙xg5 29.♗xg5+ ♔f8 30.♖h1 ♗xd4 31.♗h6+ ♗g7 32.♗h8+ ♗xh8 33.♖xh8+ ♔g7 34.♖xa8 with a probably winning endgame for White.]

28.♗xg5 White continues trying to open Black's position as much as possible. [28.♙xg4 doesn't lead anywhere as after 28...♗f6! Black has blocked the whole board! 29.♖xg5?? is of course losing to 29...♙h6]

28...♙xd4



29.♗d2! A great move! After taking the g5 pawn, White is looking for attacking chances on the open g- and h-files.

29...♙g7 [29...♙f6 didn't help either as after 30.♙xg4 ♖ad8 31.♗h2 White will mate on the h- or g-file in the next few moves.]

30.f6! Amazing play by White! Wojtaszek completely crushes Black's position by opening it to the maximum.

30...exf6 Black didn't have anything better. [30...♙xf6 31.♖f1 and mate will follow shortly.]

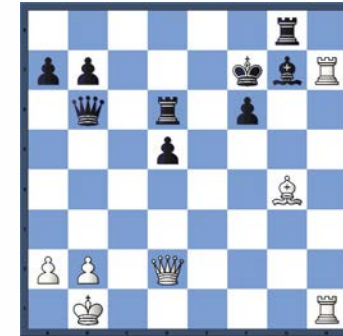
31.♙xg4 By now at last it is clear that White is crushing. If we look back into the game it is even hard to say where Black's mistake was...

31...♖d6 Nothing really helps anymore, White is attacking the black king from all sides.

32.♖dh1 Rh8 is coming next.

32...♔f7 33.♖h7 Now Qh6 is a deadly threat.

33...♖g8



34.♖e1! is the last precise move. White wants to mate by playing Bh5-Re8.

34...♖dd8 The position is lost and there are no more "good moves" for Black.

35.♙h5+ ♔f8 36.♗e2 With the double threat of playing Qe8 or Qe7. What a fantastic game by Wojtaszek and one of the best examples I have ever seen on the theme "attack with opposite colored bishops". Just great! **1-0**

**(2) Rapport, Richard(2698)
- Laznicka, Viktor(2673) [B13]**

18th Neckar Open 2014(8.1),
2014.04.21



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



We are in the 8th round of the Neckar Open. Both players are leading the event with a great score of 6.5/7. One thing I have to add is that it is the biggest traditional open in Germany, with over 700 participants and a lot of Top GMs. It is also a very hard open to play in because of the daily double rounds, so sometimes you get a 10-hours chess playing day.

1.e4 Lately Rapport has played a lot of crazy openings, but his favourite seems to be 1.b3.

1...c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.♘d3 This is more or less a random line for a long term play. White does not expect to get an opening advantage, but of course White's position is very safe.

4...♘c6 5.c3 White's idea here is to wait as long as possible with the development of the knight from g1, so not to give Black a chance of moving his bishop from c8.

5...♘f6 6.♙f4 is also a logical move. Stopping Black from playing e5 at some moment and still asking him how he wants to proceed with his development.

6...g6!? In my opinion this is one of the best choices. [For example after 6...e6?! 7.♘f3 White has a small advantage because of the bad bishop on c8.]

7.h3 Rapport is preparing the development of his knight to f3.

7...♙f5 At first sight this move looks a bit strange as now Black is getting a little damaged pawn structure, but on the other hand the pawn on f5 will open new perspectives for the black rook on the g-file and at some moment a move like Ne4 will be possible.

8.♙xf5 White has no choice but to take on f5, otherwise the position would just be perfect for Black.

8...gxf5 9.♙b3 I am not sure about this move at all as the white queen is not in a great position on b3. [9.♘f3 looks more logical. 9...♖g8 10.O-O e6 I still believe that Black is fine here, but the position is quite complex. Black is going to attack on the kingside with a future queenside castle and White will try to crush the black king on the queenside.]

9...♙d7 Black defended the b7 pawn and is preparing to castle queenside.

10.♘f3 [10.♘e2 looks safer for White. 10...♖g8 11.g3]

10...♖g8 11.g3 [Now it seems to be already quite dangerous to play 11.O-O because of 11...♟h5! 12.♙h2 ♙h6 with multiple ideas of playing or f4 or Bf4, with a big pressure on the white king.]

11...♟h5! A good move. Black is starting his play first.

12.♟e5 [In case of 12.♙d2 12...♞e6+ is an important check. 13.♞f1 O-O-O Black is clearly better.]

12...♟xe5 13.♙xe5



13...f6! Laznicka is playing a great game. Black's impulsive play is putting White under big pressure.

14.♞d1 is the only move to go on, as 14.Bf4 Nxf4 would just lead to a lost position for White.

14...♟g7 Safe and good. [Another option could have been 14...♖g5 15.f4 fxe5 Black is giving an exchange for the initiative. 16.fxe5 ♟xg3 17.♖g1 f4 With very unclear play, but to me Black's position looks very promising.]

15.♙f4 O-O-O Black is preparing to play e5 next.

16.♙e3?! And this is already quite a serious mistake. [White should have been much more careful about his development. 16.♟d2 16...e5 17.dxe5 ♞e8 (17...fxe5 didn't work as after 18.♙xe5 ♞e8 19.f4 White is OK.) 18.♞e2 ♙d6 With a probably

slightly better position for Black, but nothing too tragic has happened.]

16...e5 Now White's position is already very dangerous. Black is crushing in the center and White's king has no real place to escape.

17.dxe5?! Rapport seems not to care at all about Black's activity and his own minor developed pieces. [It was really time for 17.♟d2 but after Black's 17...♟e6! of course White's position is just bad.]

17...fxe5 18.♙xa7 Rapport is taking the pawn, and well, what else to do?! The position is already very bad and worse than to lose the game you can't really reach in chess.

18...♞c6! A very good move. Black is preparing the d4 push and at the same time securing the c-file.

19.♞b3 d4 20.O-O The white king tries to escape, but on g1 a lot of mating threats will also be in the air.



20...♟e6! Black is just playing a perfect game. Now Laznicka just wants to play Nf4 next to end White's suffering.

21.♟d2 [After 21.cxd4 21...♟f4 22.d5 ♞xd5 the game would not have lasted too long. Black's attack is deadly.]

21...♙c5!! What a great final blow! [21...♟f4? was premature as after 22.♞c4 the queens are going to be exchanged.]

22.cxd4 [The key point of the move 21...Bc5 is easy to see after 22.♖xc5]



22...♘f4! After blocking the c-file, Black is simply mating the white king. 23.f3 ♖xg3+ 24.♔h2 ♖xh3+ 25.♔g1 ♗g6+]

22...♘xd4 Nothing can save White anymore.

23.♗e3 Of course Black has a lot of winning moves here, but Laznicka is finishing the game in style:



23...♘e2+ Very nice! Of course after 24.Qxe2 Black will play Rxd2 and Qg2 mate. This game must have been quite a disappointment to Rapport, but it is another good example of how dangerous it can be to play without development. **0-1**

(3) Nakamura, Hikaru(2772) - Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2760) [B12]

Vugar Gashimov Mem 2014(3.1),
2014.04.22



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

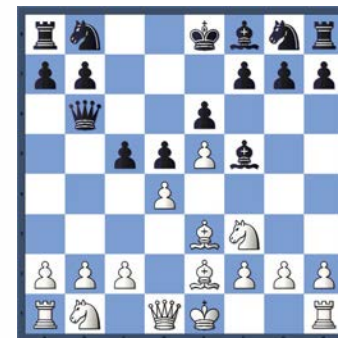
Both players had a bad start after losing to Carlsen and drawing their other game. Nakamura and Mamedyarov were eager to come back in the tournament. A sharp fight was to be expected.

1.e4 c6 A little surprise from both sides. Nakamura more often starts with 1.d4, while Mamedyarov usually plays 1...c5 or 1...e5.

2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♟f5 4.♞f3 e6 5.♟e2 The current main line of the Advance Caro-Kann. Here Black has a wide choice, but he decides to go for the sharpest and most concrete line.

5...c5 The main move. White has a space advantage, therefore Black tries to take some ground on the queenside. He also would like to put his knight on c6, where it is clearly more active than on d7. This is the standard plan for Black, but sometimes he develops his pieces first. White is better developed and the opening of the game should favor him.

6.♟e3 ♞b6 Protecting the c5 pawn and counterattacking on b2. White should not waste time on covering the pawn, which would allow Black to perfectly complete his development. [6...cxd4 7.♞xd4 ♞e7 is the other huge alternative for Black.]

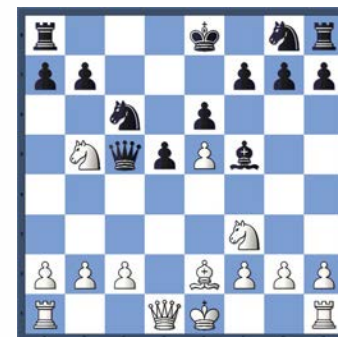


7.♞c3! A fast development is more important than the material. We are just at the beginning of the long theoretical lines.

7...♞c6 [Grabbing the pawn is considered to be risky because of 7...♞xb2 8.♞b1! ♞xb1+ (8...♞xc3+ 9.♟d2 ♞xc2 10.♞xb7+—wins.) 9.♞xb1 and Black cannot avoid the penetration of the rook on the 7th rank, which causes too big problems for him.]

8.dxc5!? However this is a sidepath. [Most of the games continue with 8.O-O 8...♞xb2 9.♞e1 cxd4 10.♟xd4 ♞xd4 11.♞xd4 ♟b4 12.♞b1 ♟xc3 13.♞xb2 ♟xe1 14.♞xe1 White is a pawn down again, but he has very strong compensation for it. Although sometimes it is only enough to gain back the material and the game heads toward a draw. 14...b6]

8...♟xc5 9.♟xc5 ♞xc5 10.♞b5! This is the point of dxc5. Black has a perfect pawn structure, but he has some concrete problems to solve around the c7 and d6 squares.



10...♔f8 Black had no time for the perfect arrangement of the pieces with Nge7 and 0-0. The strategy is clear for both sides for the later stage of the game. White should try to open the position somehow (mainly with c4 at some point), exploiting the fact that it will take the h8 rook a lot of time to join the game, while Black should aim for exchanges as the position without queens would favor him.

11.♘bd4 ♘ge7 12.0-0 ♙e4 13.♖e1! White protects his important e5 pawn against the threat of Bxf3 Nxf3 Ng6. In this case he simply moves his bishop away.

13...♚b4 This is the novelty. After all it looks like a dubious one. Black would like to create some weakening on the queenside to avoid setting up the healthy pawn formation with c3, stabilizing the d4 knight... [The previous games continued with 13...h6 with the idea to execute an artificial castling after Kg8-h7. Note that this would be much better than a quick g6-Kg7, because it would weaken all the dark squares around the king. White might go for Qd2-f4-f6 and later Ng5. 14.c3 White stabilizes his knight and prepares to trade the very strong bishop on e4 with Bd3.]



14.a3! Excellent intuition by Nakamura. He knows that moves like Rb1 or b3 are too slow and passive, he wants to obtain the healthy pawn formation with c3. He had to judge whether the

sacrificed pawn will be worth its value for an active rook on the 7th rank or not.

14...♚xb2 Maybe Qb6 is more safe, but then Qb4 loses its point.

15.♖b1 ♚xa3 16.♖xb7 A dynamic player like Nakamura does not hesitate long before sacrificing a pawn if he sees this position. The king on f8 becomes really vulnerable. White has very easy attacking plans like Ng5 or Qd2-f4, while Black's defensive tasks are much harder, because there are no concrete lines and he must choose between several different plans and it is impossible to evaluate which one will be the best. From a practical point of view White's perspectives are much more promising.

16...♙xf3 Black tries to get rid of some pieces to decrease the level of the danger. [Black cannot get rid of the strong rook with 16...♖b8? 17.♖xb8+ ♘xb8 18.♚b1! and suddenly the queen replaces the rook on b7 with even bigger power!; 16...h6 to prevent the Ng5 ideas, threatening the main weakness on f7 would probably have been met by 17.♚d2 The queen is heading to f4 and at the same time White wants to occupy the b-file with his other rook with the idea of a potential doubling on the 7th rank.]

17.♘xf3 h6 Black takes the g5 square under control.

18.♚d2! The usual plans, the queen is heading to f4 and the rook gets ready to be doubled on the b-file.

18...g5 Black prevents Qf4 and quickly intends to play Kg7 and Rfb8. White has no time to waste. [18...♘g6 was too slow. 19.♙d3 ♚g8 20.♙xg6 fxg6 Black is missing only one move to play Kh7, but it is enough for White to strengthen his pressure with 21.♖c7! Sending the knight away from c6 to free the d4 square for his own knight. 21...♚a6 (21...♘e7 22.♘d4

and the e6 falls.) 22. ♖c3 ♜c8 Black cannot hold the knight in view of the elegant 23. ♕d3! ♕xd3 24. ♜xc8+ White saves his rook with check and recaptures the queen. 24... ♙f7 (24... ♙h7 25. ♜xh8+) 25. ♜c7+!+-]



19.h4! The most natural attacking move! White not only destroys the pawn structure in front of the black king, but also fights for the f4 square to occupy it with the queen.

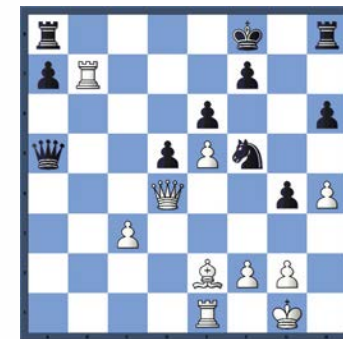
19...g4 20. ♖d4 ♕a5 The trade of the queens would solve the problems, but White is not forced to accept it. [20...g3 was an interesting defensive idea to weaken the king a bit. However it has its drawback that it also opens the f-file on his own king. 21.fxg3 ♕xg3 22. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 23. ♜f1 ♜h7 24. ♜f4! Suddenly Black is in deep trouble after this very subtle move. White simply prevented Qxe5 and wants to play Bh5. 24... ♜g7 (24... ♖xe5 drops a piece after 25. ♕b4+ ♙g7 (25... ♙g8 26. ♜b8+ ♜xb8 27. ♕xb8+ ♙g7 28. ♕xe5+-) 26. ♕d4! +- and the pin is deadly. 26... ♕e1+ 27. ♜f1 ♕xe2 28. ♜xf7+-)]



25. ♕h5! ♖xe5 The same happens after 25...Nd8. 26. ♜b3!+- trapping the queen!; 20... ♖xd4 21. ♕xd4 h5 is too passive. 22. ♕d3+- followed by Ra1 or Reb1 and Qf4 with total domination.; 20... ♖xe5 loses to 21. ♕f4 with the double threat of Qxe5 and Nxe6. 21... ♕d6 22. ♕xg4+-]

21.c3! Keeping the strongest attacking piece, the queen. White is still a pawn down, so he must focus on gaining some benefits from his attacking perspectives.

21... ♖xd4 22. ♕xd4 ♖f5



23. ♕d2! A difficult move to find! Instead of concrete attempts to break through, Nakamura temporarily goes to passivity. The g4 pawn is hanging and the other plan is Bd3, trying to kick out the knight from its outpost. [23. ♕xg4 drops too many pawns. 23... ♕xc3 24. ♜eb1 ♕xe5; 23. ♕f4 allows 23... ♕xc3 24. ♜c1 ♕d4! forcing the trade of queens!]

23...d4 Mamedyarov looks for counterplay in active play. In general this is the right idea, but this time it does not help... [23...g3 24.♟d3 ♚c5 25.♞f1!± also looks very promising; 23...h5 24.♟d3+- should lead to a quick defeat for Black.]

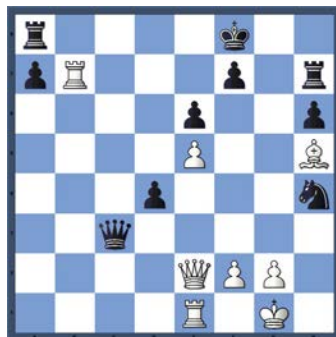
24.♟xg4 ♚xc3 25.♞e2! Obviously.

25...♞xh4 looks greedy, but there was already no adequate defence for Black. The main threat was Bxf5 exf5 and e6 with a mating attack. Black parried this idea. [The d-pawn does not bring salvation: 25...d3 26.♞e4 d2 27.♞d1 There is no defence for Black. 27...♞e8 28.♟xf5 exf5 29.♞xf5 ♚c4 30.♞xd2+-; 25...♞e8 has a nice refutation: 26.♟xf5 exf5



27.e6! ♞xe6 (27...fxe6 28.♞e5+-) 28.♞xf7+! mates soon.]

26.♟h5 ♞h7



27.♞e4! The most obvious move, but it actually required

subtle calculation. Nakamura has done a perfect job. White is winning in all lines.

27...♞c8 Leaving from the Rxf7 Rxf7 Qxa8 threat. [27...f5!? would have been a spectacular defence, but it also loses after 28.exf6! ♞xb7 29.♞xe6! White is a rook down, but the threat of Qe8 Rxe8 Rxe8 mate is too strong! (29.♞xb7 only leads to a draw because Black can prevent the mate on f7 with 29...♞xe1+ 30.♟h2 ♞e5+ 31.g3 ♞xf6 32.♞xa8+ ♟g7=) 29...♞c8 30.♞d6+ ♟g8 31.♞g3+ ♟h7 32.♞xh4+- and the black king is too exposed. He cannot hold for long.; 27...♞f5 is refuted by 28.♞xf7+! ♞xf7 29.♞xa8+ ♟g7 30.♞e4!+- and Rg4 mates.]

28.♞xh7 ♞xe1+ 29.♟h2 ♞xe5+ 30.g3 There are no more checks left for Black, which means the end of the game.

30...♞c7 [30...♞xh5 31.♞h8#]

31.♞b8+ ♟e7 32.♞xf7+ ♟d6 33.♞f8+ A perfect victory by Nakamura! 1-0

**(4) Bacrot, Etienne(2722)
- Guseinov, Gadir(2621) [E94]**Shamkir AZE(3.5),
2014.04.22GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Bacrot got a nice edge from the opening thanks to his excellent preparation. Then he managed to finish the game in style...

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 4.e4 d6 5.♘f3 O-O 6.♗e2 e5 7.O-O Many Azeri players employ the King's Indian defence as their main weapon. Bacrot himself is also a specialist of it with the black color. Here the main move is 7...Nc6, but Guseinov goes for his petline.

7...exd4 8.♗xd4 ♖e8 9.f3



9...♘c6 The two Azeri GMs Guseinov and Mamedov have plenty of games on this sideline. Black aims to play on the dark squares and wants to put pressure on the center with his minor pieces.

10.♗e3 ♘h5 This knight is heading to f4.

11.♘c2! This is the start of Bacrot's deep preparation. White leaves from all the kind of Nf4 motifs by removing his knight

from d4. If he manages to consolidate with Qd2 and Rad1, he could claim a small but stable edge due to his very strong center. [The most common move by far is 11.♗d2 but Black is considered to be more or less fine after 11...♘f4 12.♗fd1 ♘xd4 13.♗xd4 ♗xd4+ 14.♗xd4 ♘xe2+ 15.♘xe2 b6 16.♘c3 ♗b7 Black slowly prepares to undermine the e4 pawn with Qg5 and f5. At some point White jumps with his knight to d5, where it is going to be taken and the arising heavy piece endgame is considered to be very slightly better for White, but Black usually holds.]

11...♗e5 Black plays in the spirit of the opening. The main threat is Qh4 and if White prevents it with let's say Qe1, he continues playing on the dark squares with Nf4. [11...f5 is simply met by 12.♗d2 and Rad1 next. 12...fxe4 has the direct problem that the knight on h5 becomes misplaced. 13.fxe4 ♘f6 14.♗g5 With an unpleasant pin.]



12.♘d5! The idea is clear. White brings a piece to control the f4 square. He directly prevents Nf4 and against Qh4 he intends to play f4 himself! [12.f4? weakens the e4 pawn. 12...♗xc3 13.bxc3 ♘f6 wins the most important white pawn.]

12...♘e7 A logical attempt to get rid of the strong knight. [The other critical move is 12...♗xb2 but Mamedov lost a very nice and short game against Ding Liren, who blitzed out the

following ambitious moves: 13.g4! ♘g7 (13...♙xa1? 14.♚xa1 should not come into Black's mind as the danger on the long diagonal and the holes on f6, g7, and h6 are too much without the dark squared bishop.) 14.♖b1 Black has saved his knight, but it blocks the bishop's route back to his camp... 14...♙f6 15.f4! The most energetic move again. White goes for an instant crush. 15...♖xe4 16.g5 ♙e7 17.♙d3 ♖e6



18.♙c1! Black is two pawns up, but his pieces are totally doomed. White put his bishop on the long diagonal and soon won the game. Ding Liren-Mamedov, Istanbul 2012]

13.♙g5! This is the novelty, which seems to cause real problems for Black. It is very strange, that Guseinov, who plays this line as his main repertoire, did not know about it because it is the computer's main suggestion and it gives White a clear edge. Bacrot has basically just followed his analysis. [In the previous game White played the tempting 13.f4 but Black managed to get counterplay after 13...♘xd5 14.exd5 ♙xb2 15.♖b1 ♙g7 16.♙xh5 ♙f5! followed by recapturing the piece and Black is fine.]

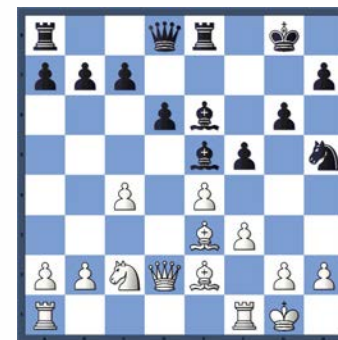
13...f6 14.♙e3! After the f6 weakening has been provoked, White is threatening to trap the bishop with f4.

14...♘xd5 [14...♙xb2? 15.♖b1 ♙e5 16.f4+- wins a piece.]

15.♚xd5+ ♙e6 16.♚d2! Controlling the important f4 square

and threatening to play f4 again, winning the bishop.

16...f5 There was nothing better. Black had to open the way for his bishop, but this weakens his pawn structure in front of his king. [16...♙xb2? always loses to 17.♖ab1 ♙e5 18.f4+-; 16...g5 is simply met by 17.g3! with all the problems Black had before and now additionally White has the f5 square, where he can put his knight later on.]



17.f4! With the idea to create real damage in front of the king after taking on h5.

17...♙g7 [If Black had accepted the sacrifice, White had prepared a deep plan to strengthen his attack: 17...♙xb2 18.♖ab1 ♙g7 19.♙xh5 gxh5 20.♙d4! After the exchange of the defender, the king becomes really vulnerable. 20...b6 Trying to save the material advantage, but here comes the point: 21.♖b3! This is the reason why Guseinov was worried to take on b2 and of course it seems to be completely understandable. 21...h4 22.♙xg7 ♚xg7 23.exf5 ♙xf5 24.♘e3! Black faces real problems now. Be6 moves into the f5 tempo. Otherwise Nd5 is coming, followed by a highly unpleasant check on d4, while after 24...♙e4 (24...♚f6 25.♘d5) 25.♘g4! is strong and Qd4 next move!]

18.♙xh5 gxh5 19.♙d4! Just like in the 17... Bxb2 line, White trades the strong defender bishop to enable himself to lead

an effective attack.

19...♔d7 [19...♙xc4 loses to 20.♙xg7 ♙xf1 (20...♔xg7 21.♔d4+-) 21.♙c3!+- This subtle retreat creates the double threat of Rxf1 and Qd4!; 19...fxe4 20.♙xg7 ♔xg7 21.f5 is also extremely suspicious, as f6 is coming next. Perhaps this could have been a better practical chance, but objectively it is not going to be a lot of fun either.]

20.♖f3! A nice way to bring to rook into the attack.

20...fxe4 [20...h4 parries the direct threat of Rg3, but it does not solve the problems at all. Suddenly the h4 pawn becomes a target. 21.exf5 ♙xf5 22.♘e3 Black has problems with protecting the h4 pawn. The material is balanced at the moment, so the loss of the pawn means entering a technically lost position. 22...♙e4 (22...♖f8 23.♙xg7 ♔xg7 24.♔f2±) 23.♖h3! ♙xd4 24.♔xd4 ♔g7 Black at least manages to avoid getting mated, but after 25.♔xg7+ ♔xg7 26.♖xh4 and Kf2 next, White is just a healthy pawn up.]

21.♖g3 ♖e7



22.♘e3! An excellent position for the knight. Not only blockading the e-pawn, but it also supports the crushing plan of f5-f6!

22...♖f8 [Black can unpin his bishop with 22...h4 23.♖g5 h6

but after 24.♖h5!+- he is still completely lost. White can collect all the pawns anytime, but the f5-f6 threat is still hanging in the air with a quick mate.]

23.♖f1 All white pieces are excellently placed now! Black has a hopeless position.

23...h6 [23...h4 24.♖g5 h6 25.♖h5 h3 26.f5+- and the attack is breaking through.]



24.f5! All conditions are given to execute the final blow!

24...♙xf5 25.♙xg7 ♖xg7 26.♔f2! The point of the sacrifice. After this simple move, White wins the piece and also the game.

26...♖g5 [26...♖xg3 27.hxg3!+- (It was still not be too late to spoil the game. After 27.♔xg3+? 27...♔h7 28.♔f4 ♔g6! Black suddenly holds as he can unpin himself with Rf7.)]

27.♘xf5 Black plays some unnecessary moves and soon resigns...

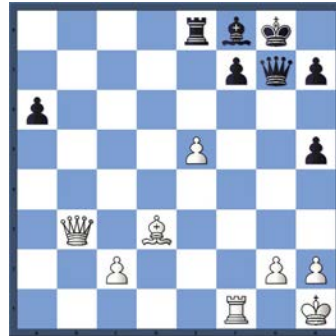
27...♔h7 28.♖xg5 hxg5 29.h4 gxh4 30.♔f4 ♔e6 31.♔g5 What a nice game! It will be interesting to check how Guseinov and Mamedov try to improve on their opening. **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Hou Yifan(2618)-Girya, O(2450)

Woman Grand Prix, 2014.04.19

1. +-



(6) Dao Thien Hai(2490)-Ghaem Maghami, E(2556)

Asian Continental, 2014.04.18

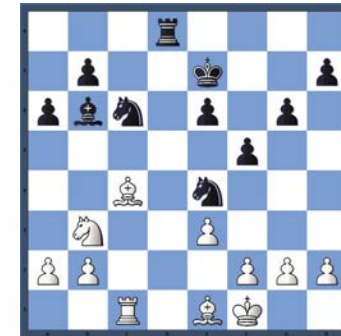
1... -+



(7) Bu Xiangzhi(2699)-Sengupta, D(2531)

Asian Continental, 2014.04.19

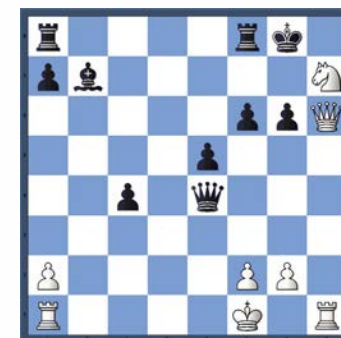
1. +-



(8) Nisipeanu, D(2686)-Izzat, K(2383)

Doeberl Cup, 2014.04.18

1. +-



(9) Lillevold, F(2182)-Gajewski, G(2631)

Fagernes Open, 2014.04.15

1... -+



(10) Bok, B(2590)-Gajewski, G(2631)

Fagernes Open, 2014.04.15

1. +-



(11) Elsness, F(2483)-Urkedal, F(2494)

Fagernes Open, 2014.04.18

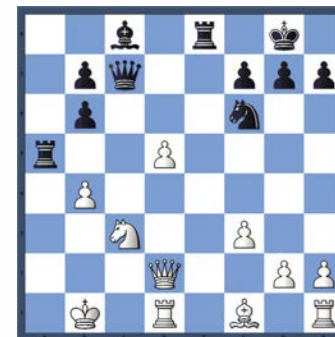
1. +-



(12) Quesada Perez, Y(2493)-Gonzalez Vidal, Y(2551)

Concreto Open, 2014.04.18

1... -+



(13) Hevia, A(2520)-Ramirez, A(2595)

Concreto Open, 2014.04.19

1. +-



(14) Kashimdzanov, R(2693)-Malaniuk, V(2554)

Polish rapid championship, 2014.04.13

1. ±



Endgame section

(15) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2760)
- Caruana, Fabiano(2783)

Vugar Gashimov Mem 2014(5.3),
2014.04.24



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



All game long White was putting pressure and he finally reached an opposite colored bishop+queen endgame with a pawn up and good winning chances. Anyhow, it is hard to find a way to break through Black's defence. Mamedyarov is showing us perfect technique based on very exact calculation.

61.e4!! A fantastic move. Of course White's main idea is to play e4-e5, but now the black queen is getting very active and White will be forced to give a full piece!

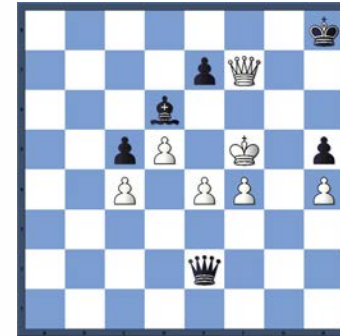
61...♖c3 Letting White play e5 was of course not an option.

62.♖xf7 ♜xd3+ 63.♔g4 was the key idea behind White's play. White is a piece down for 2 pawns, but the mating threat of playing Qf8 next and the future idea of playing e5 are seriously complicating Black's life.

63...♞e2+! Caruana finds his best defence chances.

64.♔f5 h5! Black at the same time defends from Qf8 mate and wants to play Qg4.

65.♞f8+ ♔h7 66.♞f7+ ♔h8



67.♞g6 White is pushing very hard, but is the position really winning?!

67...♞xc4? A mistake. [The only chance to fight was to play 67...♞f3! attacking the f4 pawn. 68.♞g5 Things are looking bad for Black, but another beautiful move seems to save the game. 68...♔h7! Not giving White the chance to play Kg6 and it is hard to see how White could improve his position here.]

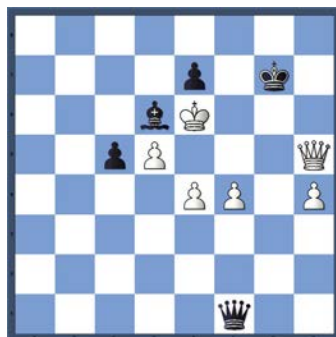
68.♞xh5+ Now the game is almost over by force.

68...♔g7 69.♞g6+ A good move. The white king is going to take a great position on e6 and Qg6 is needed to protect the e4 pawn.

69...♔h8 70.♔e6 ♞f1 There is no more real hope for Black.

71.♞h6+ ♔g8 72.♞g6+ ♔h8 73.♞h5+ Probably in a bit of time pressure, White decides to first give a couple of checks before playing the final e5 push.

73...♔g7 74.♚g4+ ♔f8 75.♚h5 ♔g7



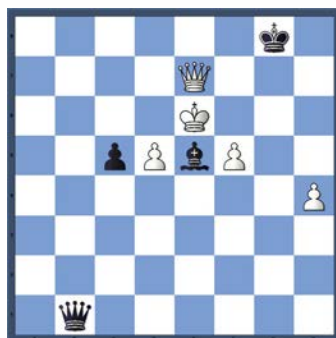
76.♚g5+ The white queen finally takes its best position.

76...♔f8 77.e5 ♚b1 Nothing can save Black anymore.

78.♚h6+ ♔g8 79.♚g5+ [The simple 79.exd6 also seems to give White a totally winning position.]

79...♔f8 80.f5 But of course f5 is very strong. White not only wants to play exd6 but f6 is also a deadly threat.

80...♙xe5 81.♚xe7+ ♔g8



82.♚xe5 Black's only hope now is to give a perpetual check, but there are clearly not enough checks for that.

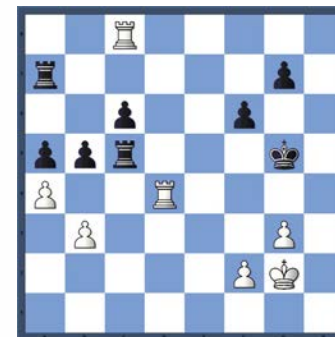
82...♚b2+ 83.♔e6 ♚e2+ 84.♔f6 And the white king has escaped. A very important victory for Mamedyarov to come back into the tournament after his bad start. 1-0

(16) Wojtaszek, Radoslaw(2716)
- Eljanov, Pavel(2732)

Gashimov memorial,
2014.04.21



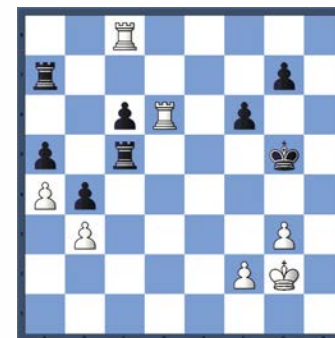
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



Black has an extra pawn, but as we know in rook endgames the defensive side might always hope for salvation. However, Eljanov realizes his material advantage with perfect technique!

42...b4! Black fixes the weakness on b3, so after it falls he obtains a very strong protected passed pawn on b4.

43.♖d6



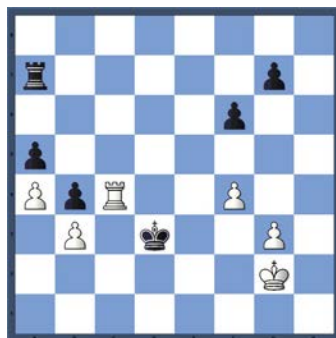
43...♙f5!! An excellent move! Black gives back his material

advantage, but he activates his king. It is heading towards the b3 pawn. [43...♖c3 is a much worse version after White plays 44.♙cxc6! ♜xb3 45.♙a6! ♜xa6 46.♙xa6; The passive 43...♙a6 does not come into consideration because 44.♙c7= yields enough compensation.]

44.♙dxc6 ♜xc6 45.♙xc6 ♔e4! The idea is to win the b3 pawn with Rd7-d3. At the same time White will collect the a5 pawn, but Black's king will excellently support his own b- passed pawn.

46.♙c4+ White tries to prevent the Rd7-d3 idea by luring the king to the d-file. [46.g4 does not change much: 46...♙d7! 47.♙c5 ♜d5 48.♙c4+ ♔d3 49.♔g3 ♔d2 and Rd3 next. It will be similarly hopeless as in the game.; The problem is that after 46.♙c5 46...♔d4 White cannot hold his rook on c5. He must either give up the control over the c3 square or the attack of the a5 pawn.]

46...♔d3 47.f4

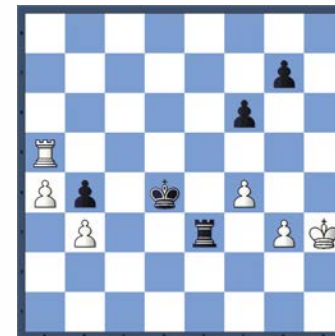


47...♙e7! The black king has prepared to support the b-pawn, therefore it is time to collect the b3 pawn with the rook.

48.♙c5 ♜e3 49.♔h3 [49.♙xa5 is equally hopeless if Black plays the right plan. 49...♔c3 50.♙a7 ♔xb3 51.♙xg7 ♔a2! This is the key! Black should not be greedy with taking on a4, because that pawn actually gives a perfect shelter for the

king against the checks along the a-file. Black only needs to advance his b-pawn and it automatically promotes. 52.a5 b3 53.a6 b2 54.a7 ♙a3--+]]

49...♔d4 50.♙xa5



50...♙e7!! Another very subtle and brilliant move by Eljanov, which deprives White from any kind of counterplay. Black inevitably collects the b3 pawn with Kc3 and the 7th rank is also protected. [50...♙xb3 51.♙a7 is less clear. For instance after 51...♙b1 52.♙xg7 b3 53.♔g4 b2 54.♙b7 ♔c3 55.♔f5= This is the right defensive strategy for White. He tries to eliminate all the pawns and sacrifice his rook for the b-pawn. Afterwards he starts to advance his own pawns saves the game.]

51.♙b5 [51.♔g4 51...♔c3 52.♔f5 ♔xb3--+ followed by Ka2 and pushing the pawn. White cannot create a passed pawn to get some counterplay.]

51...♔c3 52.a5 ♙a7 53.f5 [53.a6 53...♙xa6 54.♙b7 could be met by 54...g6 and f5 next. This is the reason why Wojtaszek decided to fix the g7 pawn with his 53th move.]

53...♔xb3 54.a6 ♙xa6 55.♙b7 White does everything he can to save the game. He plays with the right strategy and wins a pawn on the kingside in order to enable himself to create a passed pawn, but unfortunately for him Black is progressing too quickly.

55...♔a3 56.♖xg7 b3 57.♖b7 b2 58.g4 [58.♔g4 would be the principled idea to bring the king to g6 and pushing the g-pawn to avoid getting cut off, but Black has 58...♖a4+ 59.♔h5 ♖b4—+ and White cannot give up his rook for the b-pawn.]

58...♖a4! [The last strong move and White resigned in view of 58...♖a4 59.♖xb2 Black was threatening to play Rb4. 59...♔xb2 60.♔h4 ♔c3 61.♔h5 ♔d4—+ White is just too slow. What a flawless performance by Black!] **0-1**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Alekhine, Alexander
- Reshevsky, Samuel Herman[B05]

Kemer(8), 1937



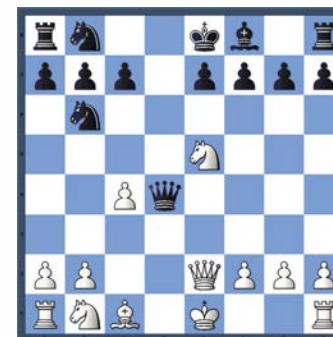
GM Kamil Miton
 Best rating: 2655

1.e4 ♟f6 2.e5 ♟d5 3.d4 d6 4.♟f3 ♟g4 There are also two other options: [4...dxe5 5.♟xe5 c6; 4...g6]

5.c4 [5.♟e2 5...e6 6.O-O ♟e7 7.c4 ♟b6 8.exd6 cxd6 9.h3 ♟h5 10.♟c3 O-O 11.b3 White has a stable advantage as he has more space and the knight on b6 is very limited.]

5...♟b6 6.♟e2 dxe5 7.♟xe5 [7.c5 7...e4 8.♟g5 ♟xe2 9.♔xe2 ♟d5 10.♟xe4 e6 Thanks to useful square on d5 Black should not have any problems.]

7...♟xe2 8.♔xe2 ♔xd4



9.O-O Thanks to this pawn sacrifice White is going to have the better development. Also the position of the black queen is unsafe.

9...♘d7 Black immediately gets rid of the active knight on e5. Worse is [9...e6 10.♖d1 ♜h4 (10...♞c5 11.b4! ♞xb4 12.♞f3 f6 13.♞h5+ g6 14.♘g6+-) 11.♞f3 f6 12.g3 ♞h3 13.♞xb7 fxe5 14.♙e3 XRa8 14...♘d7 15.♙xb6 ♘xb6 16.c5 ♙xc5 17.♞c6+ ♔f7 18.♞xc5 Black's position is very bad because of his many weaknesses.]

10.♘xd7 ♘xd7 11.♘c3 c6 Black avoids the unpleasant Nb5 threat. [11...e6 12.♘b5 ♞b6 13.♙f4 ♖c8 14.♖fd1 ♙e7 15.b4! Black will not be able to escape with the king on the time. 15...a6 (15...♙xb4 16.♖ab1+-) 16.♞d3 ♘f6 17.♙e3 c5 (17...♞c6 18.♘a7+-) 18.bxc5 ♙xc5 19.♙xc5 ♖xc5 20.♘d6+ with Rb1 next and White is winning.]

12.♙e3 ♞e5 13.♖ad1 Black has no weaknesses but White's development is much better.

13...e6 14.♞f3 White is preparing many ideas like Nb5 ,Rxd7 or Bf4.



14...O-O-O This will only temporarily solve the problems with the king. [14...♞f6 15.♞g3 ♞e5 Trying to exchange the queens. 16.♙f4 ♞f5 17.♖fe1 With good compensation.; 14...♙e7 15.♘b5! Threatening Bf4. 15...cxb5 16.♖xd7 (16.♞xb7 16...♖d8) 16...♙xd7 17.♞xb7+ ♞c7 18.♖d1+ ♙d6 19.♖xd6+ ♙xd6 20.♙f4+ e5 21.♙xe5+ ♙xe5 22.♞xc7+± In this case the queen is much stronger than two rooks.]

15.♙xa7 [15.♞xf7 15...♙d6!± (15...♞f5? 16.♞xf5 exf5 17.♙xa7 b6 18.♘a4 and Black will be not able to catch the bishop.)]

15...♞a5 16.♙d4 ♞f5 17.♞g3 e5 18.♙e3



18...♙b4 looks natural but Black had other interesting ideas. [18...h5! The idea is to exchange queens and if White plays 19.f3 then after 19...h4 20.♞f2 h3 21.g3 ♙e7 the light squares around the white king are weaker and Black will keep more possibilities for future counterplay.]

19.♘a4 ♙a5 Otherwise after Nb6 Nxb6 Bxb6 White gets control of the d-line.

20.f4! White is going to connect other pieces to the game.

20...♙c7 [20...e4 21.♙d4 With the idea to transfer the queen to a3 to attack the black king.]

21.b3 To prevent the idea with Qc2. [21.fxe5 21...♞c2 (21...♞xe5 22.♙f4+-) 22.b3 ♘xe5 23.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 24.♞xg7 ♞e2 The white pieces completely lost coordination and Black will get a decisive initiative because of the many threats like Ng4 or Rd1.]

21...f6 Black wants to solve the problems with the f-file. [21...♞g6 was good for Black.]

22.fxe5 ♖e6



23.h3 Prophylaxis based on some deeper calculation. [23.♖xg7 could be risky in a practical game. 23...♖hg8 (23...♖dg8 24.♖xd7+ ♖xd7 25.♖xd7 ♔xd7 26.exf6 followed by Nc5, with a huge advantage.) 24.♖h6 ♖g4 (24...♖g6 25.♖xh7 ♖dg8 26.g3 and White simply stopped the pressure on the g-file.) 25.g3 ♖xe5 26.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 27.♖f4 and White managed to consolidate.]

23...♖hg8 24.♕d4 ♖xe5 [24...♕xe5 25.♕xe5 ♖xe5 26.♖f2 White keeps the queens as the black king is weaker, but the position is around equal.]

25.♖c3 ♖d7 Preventing Nb6.

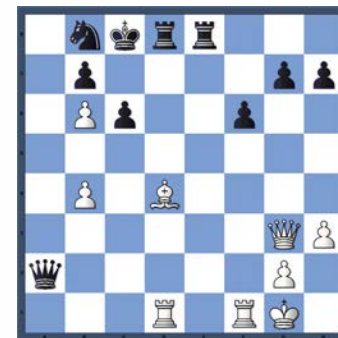
26.c5 White wants to prevent Qd6 and advance his queenside pawns. [26.♖fe1 26...♖f5 (26...♖d6 27.♕e5 ♖xe5 28.♖xe5 ♖xe5 29.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 With a worse but solid position for Black.)]

26...♖ge8 27.b4 ♖b8 Black activates his rook on d8 but better was [27...♖xa2! 28.♖b6+ (28.♖a1 28...♖d5+ The white king is also not safe and Black has threats over the n2-b8 diagonal or Re2.) 28...♖xb6 29.cxb6 And now comes Black's counterplay: 29...♖e2 30.♖f3 ♖xd4!↑]

28.♖b6+ ♕xb6 29.cxb6 ♖xa2 Black wins the pawn, but not

in the right moment as White gets strong pressure now.

30.♖g3 The c7 square is very weak.

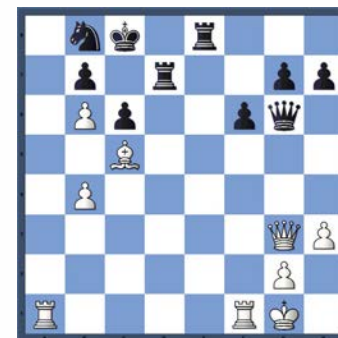


30...♖d7? [30...♖f7 is the only move to keep Black in the game, but after 31.b5 White's pressure is very unpleasant.; 30...♖a6 31.♖a1 ♖d5 32.♖xa6 ♖xd4+ 33.♖h1+—]

31.♕c5? White could have won immediately after [31.♕xf6! 31...gxf6 32.♖xd7 ♖xd7 33.♖c7+ ♖e6 34.♖e1++—]

31...♖f7 32.♖a1 [32.b5 32...cxb5 33.♕d6→Black should not survive here.]

32...♖g6

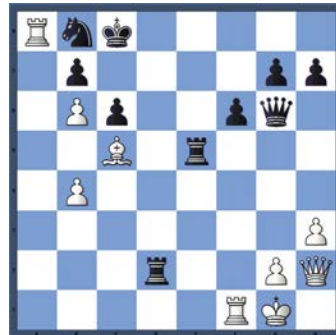


33.♖h2 Of course White keeps the unpleasant Qc7 mate threat.

33...♖e5 A logical move which prevents threats on the c7 square. [33...♟a6 34.b5 cxb5 35.♖fc1 ♖e2 Black is looking for counterplay. 36.♙f2+ (36.♙e3+ doesn't work because of 36...♖c2 37.♖xc2+ ♜xc2 38.♖c1 ♖d1+) 36...♖c2 37.♜g3 ♙d8 38.♜b3 ♖xc1+ 39.♖xc1 ♜f7 40.♜xb5 This position is very difficult to play for Black because of his very bad king and knight.]

34.♖a8?! [34.b5↑was possible because of a similar combination as in the game. White has the initiative. 34...♖xc5?? is a blunder because of 35.♖a8 ♖e5 36.♜xe5! fxe5 37.♖xb8+ ♟xb8 38.♖f8+]

34...♖d2?? The decisive mistake. After the correct [34...♜d3 the position could be totally unclear because Black's heavy pieces are very active.]



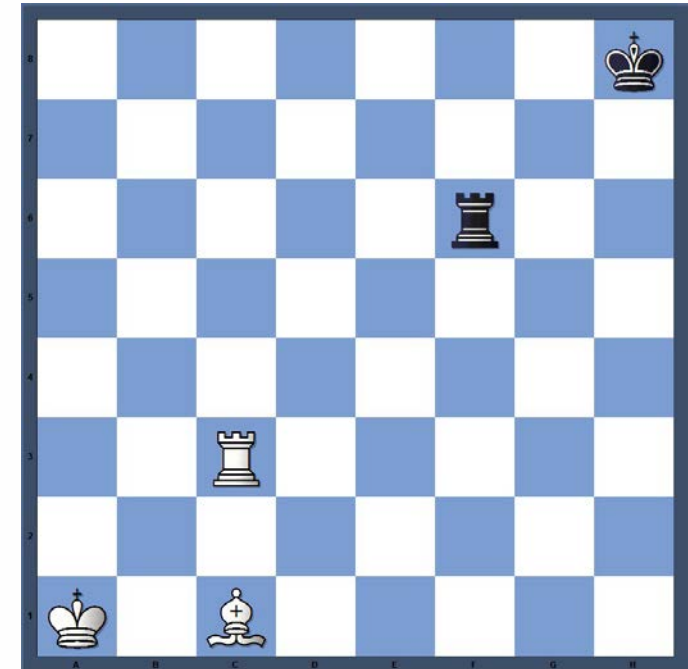
35.♖xb8+! A nice tactical finish.

35...♟xb8 36.♜xe5+1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Bianchetti

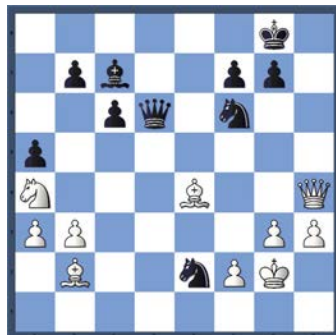
1. +-



Solutions

(19) Grachev, B(2659)-Shirov, A(2702)

Russian league, 2014.04.08

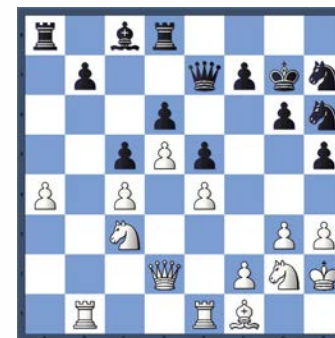


29...♖xg3! 30.♗xf6 [30.♖xg3 30...♖xg3+ 31.fxg3 ♖xe4—+;
30.fxg3 30...♖d2+ 31.♖f3 g5! 32.♗h7+! (32.♖h6 32...g4+!
33.hxg4 ♖xh6—+) 32...♖xh7 33.♖d4±]

30...♖xe4 31.♖xe4 ♖h2+ 32.♖f1 ♖xh3+ 33.♖e2 gxf6—+

(20) Jakovenko, D(2726)-Jobava, B(2706)

Russian league, 2014.04.08

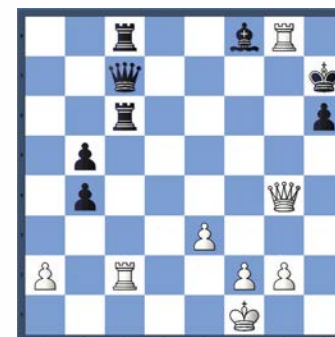


28...♗xh3! 29.♖h4 [29.♖xh3 29...♖g5+ 30.♖h2 ♖f3+
31.♖h1 ♖xd2—+]

29...♗c8±

(21) Smirnov, P(2624)-Grishchenko, S(2436)

Russian league, 2014.04.08



37.♖xf8! ♖xf8 [37...♖xc2 38.♖g8#]

38.♖e4+ ♖g7 39.♖xc6+—

Russian league, 2014.04.09



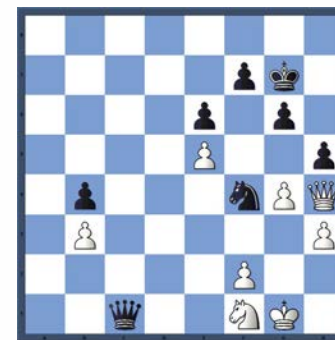
(23) Prizant, J(2521)-Nepomniachchi, I(2732)

Russian league, 2014.04.10



**8. ♔f3! g6 9.g4! ♞d7 [9...fxg4 10. ♔xf6+-]
10.gxf5±**

Russian league, 2014.04.11



61...♖e2+! 0-1 [61...♖e2+ 62.♔g2 g5! 63.♙xh5 ♘f4+ 64.♔g1 ♘xh5--+]]

(25) Grachev, B(2659)-Simonian, T(2427)

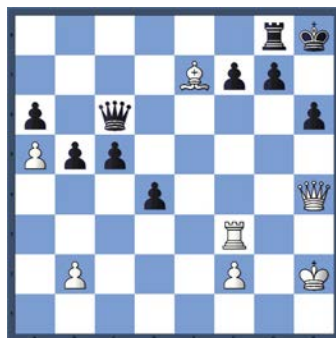
Russian league, 2014.04.11



28. ♖g6! ♜d6 [28...hxg6 29.hxg6 ♞xg6 30.♙f4+ ♔g7
31.♙xc7+-; 28...♞xg6 29.hxg6+-]
29. ♙xf7+-

(26) Geller, J(2504)-Nozdrachev, L(2413)

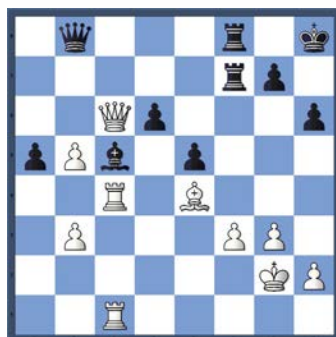
Russian league, 2014.04.11



35. ♖f6! +- ♚e4 [35... ♛d5 36. ♖xh6+! gxh6 37. ♛xh6#;
35... gxf6 36. ♛xh6#]

36. ♛xe4 1-0**(27) Dominguez, L(2757)-Frolyanov, D(2578)**

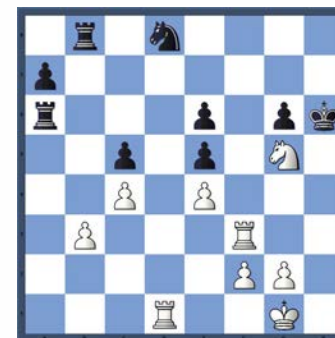
Russian league, 2014.04.12



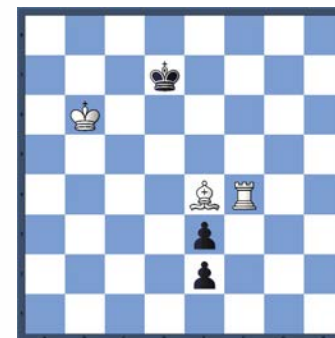
44. ♖xc5! dxc5 45. ♛g6 1-0

(28) Shirov, A(2702)-Maletin, P(2582)

Russian league, 2014.04.13



30. ♖xd8! 1-0 [30. ♖xd8 30... ♖xd8 31. ♘f7+ ♚g7 32. ♘xd8+-]

(29) Rinck

1. ♘f5+! [1. ♘c6+? 1... ♚d6 2. ♖d4+ ♚e5 3. ♖e4+ ♚d6 4. ♖xe3
e1=♖ 5. ♖xe1=]

1... ♚d6 2. ♖d4+ ♚e7 [2... ♚e5 3. ♖e4+ ♚xf5 4. ♖xe3+-]

3. ♖e4+ ♚d8! 4. ♘d7!! [4. ♖xe3? 4... e1=♖ 5. ♖xe1=]

4... e1=♖ [4... ♚xd7 5. ♖xe3+-]

5. ♘b5! +- ♚d2 6. ♖e8#



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 114

2nd of May 2014

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Editorial Preface

A great week of chess has just ended.

In the Gashimov Memorial Carlsen proved once again who is the world number 1. After a great start we saw Magnus lose 2 games in a roll, which is a shocking rarity for the World Champion who seems to be so very stable, but after a swift recovery Carlsen scored 4/5 in the final games and became the clear winner with 6.5/10. On the second place with 5.5/10 points we find Caruana, who also played very good chess and only lost the battle for first place in the last round against Carlsen.

In the B tournament, which was also very strong, the first place went to Eljanov with 6/9. Motylev was clear second with 5.5/9 and Wang Hao and Bacrot shared 3-4th places.

The Women's World Championship in blitz and rapid chess (without Hou Yifan and Koneru) was another very interesting event.

In the rapid section it was a very tight race until the end. Finally the 1st place was shared between Lagno and Kosteniuk, both with 10.5/15, but thanks to her better tiebreak Lagno was the lucky winner!

3rd place surprisingly went to Olga Girya with 10/15, and she had a better tiebreak than Stefanova and Anna Muzychuk, who also scored 10/15.

In the blitz section Anna Muzychuk made her way to the top with an amazing score of 23/30 and two and half points more than the second placed Dzagnidze with 20.5/30. 3rd place went to Kosintseva Tatiana with 20/30.

This week we will try to focus our commentaries on these main events and we hope you will enjoy the great performances by the best chess players in the world!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2760) - Carlsen, Magnus(2881) [E34]

Vugar Gashimov Mem 2014(6.2),
2014.04.26



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

The players arrived in different moods to this game. Carlsen had just unexpectedly lost two games in a row, while after a bad start Mamedyarov won a nice game against Caruana...

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.♚c2 The Qc2 system of the Nimzowitsch is the pet line of Mamedyarov.

4...d5 5.♘f3 Trying to surprise Black by driving the game to a less explored territory at a very early stage of the game. The two big main lines are 5.cxd5 and 5.a3 and Mamedyarov has employed both of them before.

5...dxc4 Carlsen accepts the sacrifice and shows that he is ready for a sharp game. Black wins a pawn and he is able to protect it with b5, but White gets a very strong center and aims to create compensation with active play.

6.♙g5 [6.e4 is also met by 6...b5 7.a4 c6 saving the extra pawn.]

6...b5 7.a4 c6



8.g3 Logical development of the pieces. The black pawn chain on c4-b5-c6 is safe at the moment. It is clear that White cannot increase the pressure on the c4-b5 pawns, therefore he fianchettoes his bishop to attack the backward c6 pawn with some Ne5 ideas. [It is important to mention that 8.♘xf6 should be recaptured by 8...gxf6 with the idea to have 9.axb5 cxb5 10.♖e4 ♖d5! We can be familiar with this motif from many different openings.]

8...♗b7 9.♘g2 ♗bd7 With his last two prophylactic moves, Black has prevented Ne5 and neutralized the direct threats on the long diagonal, connected with the pin on g2-a8 after axb5 cxb5. These were more urgent than castling...

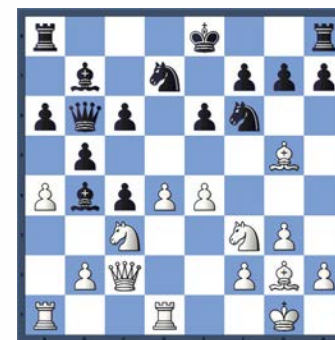
10.O-O ♖b6! After White has castled, he left the pin of the bishop and he was threatening to take on b5. Carlsen must keep his extra pawn at any cost, otherwise White gets a pleasant edge. [10...a6 is not as good in view of 11.♗e5 and the knight cannot be taken. Additionally White has opened the long diagonal, therefore he is threatening again with axb5 axb5Nxb5!]

11.e4?! White changes the plan and tries to compensate with his strong center, but I believe it is a wrong idea. [I liked 11.♗e5! much more, with the following ideas: 11...♗xe5 12.♘xf6! (12.dxe5 12...♗d5 is fine for Black with the extra pawn. He keeps his healthy structure on the kingside and he is ready

to play h6 followed by O-O.) 12...gxf6 (12...♗f3+!? is interesting to avoid change of the pawn structure. 13.♘xf3 gxf6 Black is a pawn up, but his king is exposed. It will never be safe even after castling. White might search for compensation with Ne4.) 13.dxe5 f5 (13...fxe5 is a bit risky. The king gets too exposed and White can effectively use the e4 square with his pieces. 14.♖e4 with a strong initiative. There is the double threat of Qxe5 and axb5 as well.) 14.♗fd1 followed by e4, trying to make use of the d6-f6 holes. The bishop on b7 is poor.]

11...a6! Knowing the next two moves, everything becomes clear. Black strengthens his b5 pawn with the c5 idea in mind. [11...O-O was still premature in view of 12.♘xf6! ♗xf6 13.e5 ♗d5 14.♗g5! and Black is forced make a huge weakening in front of his king: 14...g6 and the hole on f6 or ideas like Qe4-h4 might be very dangerous.]

12.♗fd1



12...h6! The last preparation before castling. Carlsen takes the g5 square under control to avoid the idea we had seen in the 11...O-O line.

13.♗e3 [13.♘xf6 It makes no sense to give the bishop now, because White cannot create any serious threat. 13...♗xf6 14.e5 ♗d5 15.♗e4 O-O followed by Be7 and c5 with a healthy

extra pawn. Ng5 never works.]

13...O-O Things have developed perfectly from Black's point of view. He managed to preserve his extra pawn. White cannot create any concrete threats, he might only hope for some positional compensation.

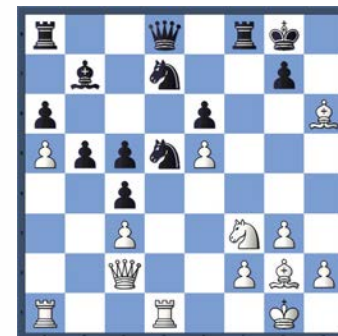
14.d5 c5 Creating a passed pawn with d6 would cost the important e4 pawn after Bxc3, while after 15.dxe6 Qxe6 White has no compensation at all. [14...♗c5 15.dxe6 fxe6 was also better for Black, but Carlsen wanted to open the diagonal of his b7 bishop.]

15.a5! A creative move. Mamedyarov tries to deflect the queen from the e6 square to at least create some weaknesses in Black's camp after exchanging the pawn formation dxe6 fxe6. It also has the drawback that there is no pressure anymore on the b5 pawn and also the a5 pawn becomes a weakness, but from a positional point of view Black was already winning, therefore Mamedyarov correctly tries his best chance to create some complications on the kingside...

15...♔d8 [15...♗xa5 would have been a mistake. 16.dxe6 The queen cannot recapture now, while after 16...fxe6 17.e5! ♖d5 18.♗xh6! suddenly White is fine due to the Qg6 idea.]

16.dxe6 fxe6 The bishop on b7 starts to work as well, but at least White has succeeded in weakening the kingside a bit.

17.♖h4 Protecting the e4 pawn and heading to g6. [There was a very nice an important line if had White tried 17.e5 17...♗xc3 18.bxc3 ♖d5 19.♗xh6



The same as in the 15...Bxa5 line, but probably both players had seen that Black wins after 19...♔xf3!! 20.♗xf3 (20.♔g6 20...♔f7 21.♗xg7 looks tempting because White takes on e6 and d5, but Black has the nice refutation 21...♖f4!! opening the g-file. 22.gxf4 ♔xg7 23.♔xe6+ ♖h8 24.♔h3+ ♔h7—+ wins.) 20...♖xe5 Black attacks the f3 bishop with tempo and also covers the g6 square, therefore the h6 bishop is also hanging. 21.♗xd5 (21.♔e4 21...♖xf3+ 22.♔xf3 gxf6—+; 21.♗g2 21...gxf6—+) 21...♗xd5+ Suddenly the white king gets into trouble on the light squares.]

17...♗xc3 18.bxc3 ♔e8! Simple and strong. Black controls the g6 square and prepares to bring his a8 rook into the game. He has also created the direct threat of playing g5! and the knight has only one place to retreat, but Nf3 drops the e4 pawn...

19.f4 ♔d8 20.h3 White was annoyed by the Ng4 move, when the bishop has no good square to leave.



20...Rf7! Very nice regrouping of the pieces. Black stands a bit passively, therefore he wants to initiate the trade of some pieces. The knight had no good square to leave from d7, but now it is ready to jump to f8, overtaking the queen's task to control the g6 square and the other rook is ready to occupy the d-file as well.

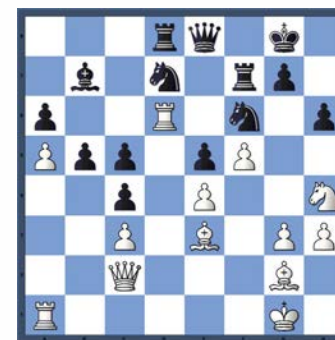
21.Rd6 [21.g4 was an active option, with the idea that if Black plays like in the game 21...e5! then the d6 square is still free and White might occupy it with the knight. However after 22.f5 Black gets a big advantage after



22...exf4! 23.fxd6 fxe3! 24.fxe8 Rxe8 Black is going to win the e4 pawn as well and he gets two knights and three pawns against the queen, but the quality of his pieces is more important. 25.Rd1 fxe4 26.fxe4 Rxe4 followed by Ne5-d3, with a probably winning advantage!]

21...e5! Fixing the weakness on e4! White is forced to lock the position, otherwise he even loses that pawn.

22.f5



22...f8! Excellent technique! Black transforms his material advantage into a huge positional edge!

23.fxc5 Rxd6 24.fxd6 Rd7 25.fxf8 Sad, but there was nothing better. White ends up with his poor bishop on g2, a very weak e4 pawn and the big hole on d3. [25.fxc5 25...Rd3+ also wins for Black.; 25.Rd1 25...Rd8+]]

25...Rxf8 26.Rd1 Otherwise Black would have played Rd3.

26...Rc5+ 27.Rh2 [27.Rh1 loses to 27...Re3! (27...fxe4? did not work here because of 28.fxe4 Rxd1+ 29.Rxd1 fxe4 30.Rd8+ Rh7 31.fg6+ and suddenly White wins.) 28.Rxd7 fxd7+ and the e4 pawn falls soon.]

27...fxe4! [Pretty little combo at the end. White resigned in view of 27...fxe4 28.fxe4 Rxd1 29.Rxd1 fxe4+ and the Qd8, Ng6 idea does not work because of Qf2 and Black mates first. Otherwise he is a pawn down and more material will be lost soon.] **0-1**

**(2) Eljanov, Pavel(2732)
- Guseinov, Gadir(2621) [E94]**

Vugar Gashimov Mem B 2014(8.3),
2014.04.28



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Pavel Eljanov convincingly won the B tournament of the Gashimov memorial. He played very good positional chess, let's check one of his victories.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.♘f3 O-O 6.♙e2 e5 7.O-O In the last issue I commented the Bacrot-Guseinov game, where Black played his pet line 7... exd4, but got crushed in a nice game. I mentioned that it would be interesting to follow how Black will try to improve his game as it was his main repertoire. We did not need to wait for long, as Guseinov decided to give up his system and tried another sideline.

7...♘bd7 The main continuation is 7...Nc6.

8.♙e3 ♚e7 Another rare move. 8...c6, 8...Ng4 or 8...Re8 are more common.

9.♚c2 exd4 Black clearly wants to play an open game and a similar structure as in his previous line with 7...exd4, therefore he avoids the 9...c6 10.d5 line. However the queen is not so well placed on e7. In these structures, Black usually tries some c6, Nc5, Re8, a5-a4 and Qa5 maneuvers.

10.♘xd4 ♜e8 11.f3 a6 If Black wanted to play c6, he should have done it before with the queen on d8. He tries to play some original chess, but White always has the option to jump Nd5 and after Nxd5 and cxd5 the pawn formation change would be in his favour.



12.♚d2! With his last move, Black took the b5 square under control. He was intending to play c5, sending the knight to the dubious b3 square. Therefore White improves his queen's position, as it does not need to protect the e4 pawn anymore and frees the c2 square for his knight. c5 would be a huge mistake now, because after Nc2, Bg5 (or Bf4) and Ne3 the hole on d5 starts to tell.

12...♘b6 This is clearly a sign that things are going into a bad direction. The knight stands badly on b6, something like Ne5 was more natural, although White is better there as well. The only point I see is that Black has temporarily parried the Nd5 idea by taking it twice and the e3 is hanging. But White has many different ways to improve his position.

13.♘c2 Protecting the e3 bishop opens the possibility for the Nd5 move again. White does not need to hurry with anything concrete though, since Black is lacking any active plans due to his space disadvantage.

13...♙e6 14.b3 Covering everything. White intends to play Rae1 and then decide with which tempting plan to continue, Nd5, or Bd4, or Bh6 and Bh8 some f4-f5 attacking ideas. All are looking nice, but first Black needs to do something and White can react according to the situation..

14...♘fd7 15.♜ae1 f5 Obviously Black does not want to sit

and wait until he gets beaten, but White is perfectly prepared for the opening of the position.

16. ♖d4 It is very logical to trade the King's Indian bishop, especially now that position is about to open and the black king might get more vulnerable.

16...c5 This move again only helps White, because the d6 pawn becomes much weaker, while it is hard to find a benefit for Black. It is difficult to suggest something for Black, White was clearly better anyway. [Maybe something like 16...♞c5 17. ♖xg7 ♜xg7 18.exf5 ♖xf5 19.♞e3 also with a perfect position. The knight on b6 is completely out of the game and it is hard to imagine that it will be improved.; 16...fxe4 17.♞xe4 just brings the white knight to the game.]

17. ♖xg7 ♜xg7 18.exf5 ♖xf5



19. ♖d3! Simple and strong. White trades the good pieces of his opponent and leaves him with his bad knights. The d6 pawn becomes a real target.

19...♞h8 [Again, it is not easy to suggest something clever. Maybe 19...♖xd3 20.♜xd3 ♞e5 21.♜xd6 (White can also keep all his advantages with 21.♜d2±) 21...♞exc4 22.bxc4 ♜xc3 23.♜xb6 ♜xc2 24.♜xc5± with an extra pawn, but in the heavy piece endgames, the weaker side always has some chances.]

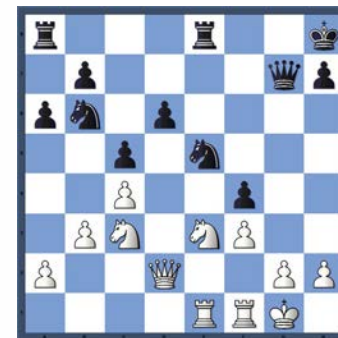
20. ♖e4 [20.♖xf5!? 20...gxf5 21.♞e2 the d6 pawn is hanging and Nf4 is coming next, also with a big, perhaps already decisive advantage.]

20...♞e5 [20...♖xe4 21.♞xe4+-; On 20...♜ab8 White should probably once again play 21.♖xf5 gxf5 22.♞e2 and like in the 20th move, the rook is not better at all on b8.]

21. ♖xf5 [White could have accepted the sacrifice with 21.♜xd6 but he was probably afraid of 21...♞exc4 22.bxc4 ♞xc4 and the c3 knight is hanging, but White wins after a small tactical trick: 23.♜xc5! (23.♜d3 23...♞b2 24.♜e3 ♞c4 Black would try to force a repetition here.) 23...♜xc3 24.♜e3!+- wins the c4 knight. Probably both players missed this move.]

21...gxf5 22.♞e3 Human chess. Black has more and more problems with his position and he is unable to create any active counterplay.

22...f4 [22...♜f6 23.f4 23.Ne2 is also strong. 23...♞c6 24.♞e2 This time the knight is heading to g3 to win the f5 pawn. 24...♜ad8 25.♞g3 ♞d4 26.♞c2! After getting rid of the last active piece, Black ends up in a positionally lost position with his f5, d6 weaknesses and the useless knight on b6.]



23. ♞f5! Eljanov calculates precisely and wins material.

23...♔g6 24.♘xd6! ♘xf3+!? A nice counterblow, but it does not help. [An important line was 24...♚ad8 25.♚xe5! ♚xe5 26.♘f7+! ♔xf7 27.♔xd8+-- and the b6 knight also falls.]

25.♚xf3 ♚xe1+ 26.♔xe1 ♔xd6 27.♘e2 ♚f8 [27...♚e8 28.♔c3+--]

28.♔c3+ ♔g8 29.♚xf4! White's efforts finally bring their fruits and one of the weaknesses falls. The knight is still out of the game on b6, therefore the rest should just be a matter of technique.

29...♔d1+ [29...♚xf4 30.♔g3+ ♔f7 31.♔xf4+ ♔xf4 32.♘xf4] The endgame is also lost, but perhaps it was still a better practical chance, because the queens on board only helped White to create additional ideas. Whereas here, Black might still hope for some simplification with Nd7 and b5.]

30.♔f2 ♚xf4+ 31.♘xf4 ♔b1 32.♔d2+— The black king is weak and the permanent problem on b6 is still existing.

32...♔f7 33.♔f3 ♔e7 34.♔e3+ ♔d6 35.♔e6+ ♔c7 36.♔e5+ ♔c6 37.♔e4+ The human way to convert the advantage into a full point. There is nothing to calculate after the queens are gone and the material advantage plus the better king and knight decide the game.

37...♔xe4+ 38.♔xe4 ♘d7 39.g4 b5 40.♘d3 With the idea to have Ne5 after Nb6.

40...♔d6 41.♔f5 Keeping the king away from the kingside pawns. If Black drives his king to f7-g7 to stop the pawns, White switches direction at some point and collects the queenside with his king and knight.

41...bxc4 42.bxc4 ♘b6 43.♘e5 ♘a4 44.h4 ♘c3 45.a3 ♘e2 46.♔f6 a5 47.g5 ♘c3 48.♘d3 and Kg7 next. Black resigned the hopeless fight. It looks like the exd4 systems in the King's

Indian are facing some problems now, so maybe Black should rather opt for the closed systems. **1-0**

(3) Muzychuk Anna (2561)
- Gunina Valentina (2507) [B15]

WWBC 2014(14.1),
2014.04.27



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We will see a nice attacking game from the tournament winner. We should not be too harsh about the opening or the future mistakes, as it is just a blitz game. But it is impressive to see with what great dedication Anna Muzychuk is mating her opponent's king.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 3.Nc3 is not as popular as 3.e5 nowadays, but on the other hand, for example Anand still likes to play it a lot.

3...e6?! Of course such a move cannot be a good one. Black is closing the bishop on c8, which should lead to a slightly better position for White.

4.♘f3 A good decision. [Maybe Black was hoping for 4.e5?! 4...c5! and in such structures the knight on c3 is clearly misplaced.]

4...♘f6 Gunina continues provoking the e5 push.



5.♗g5 [Personally I prefer 5.♗d3 with the simple idea of castling next. It is hard to say what could be Black's idea here... 5...♗b4 Maybe this?! 6.e5 ♘e4 But now White can just play 7.♗xe4! dxe4 8.♘g5 with a big advantage.]

5...♗e7 [Maybe from a practical point of view it would be interesting for Black to try 5...♖b6 with a double attack on e4 and b2. 6.♗d3 seems to be the right way to go on for White anyway. (After 6.e5 6...♖xb2! things are already very unclear.) 6...♖xb2 7.♗d2 And of course White should have enough compensation.]

6.♗xf6 [Here 6.♗d3 also looks very logical to me.]

6...♗xf6 7.♖d2 White is going for a quick 0-0-0, but Black has the bishop pair and a very solid center. The position is not that clear at all.

7...♘d7 8.O-O-O ♖a5?! Clearly not the best, as now Black is losing the option of playing b5 next. [8...b5! looks much stronger, with the simple idea of playing Nb6 or b4 next. 9.exd5



9...cxd5! White is winning the b5 pawn but Black is going to have excellent play for it on the queenside.]

9.♖b1! A strong move. White wants to play Nxd5 next.

9...b6 Gunina is too optimistic about her position. [Objectively the best option would probably be 9...dxe4 10.♘xe4 ♔xd2 11.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 12.♖xd2 with a slightly better endgame for White.]

10.♔f4! A very strong move. White is launching direct play on the black king's position and what is also very important is that the black queen on a5 is totally out of the game.

10...♙a6 It is hard to blame Gunina for such a logical move, especially in a blitz game, but probably after this move the game is almost over. [10...b5 was still the best move.]

11.♙xa6 The beginning of the end...

11...♔xa6 12.exd5 Things are pretty forced now.

12...cxd5



13.♘xd5! This is what White was playing for. Black was not in time to castle and is getting mated now!

13...exd5 14.♖he1+ ♔d8 It seems like the king's position on d8 is more or less solid, but here comes the second punch:

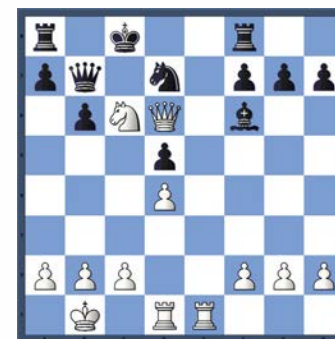
15.♘e5! Amazing play by Muzychuk, especially since she needed to have seen 15.Ne5 before playing 13.Nxd5, which is quite difficult in a blitz game.

15...♖f8 [After 15...♙xe5 16.dxe5 White should also be winning, as the threats of playing Rxd5 or Qxf5 and e6 are deadly.]

16.♘c6+ The only move, but White's position is just winning now!

16...♔c8 17.♔d6 It is great to see how well knight and queen are cooperating in the attack!

17...♔b7 Maybe Black was still hoping to be OK because of Qc7 next.



18.♖d3! Another very strong maneuver. White wants to play Rc3 next, and Black is hopeless against it!

18...♖d8 [After 18...♔c7 White has the simple 19.♔xd5 followed by Rc3. Black's position is completely hopeless...]

19.♖c3 Followed by Ne7.

19...♙xd4 It is nice to see Gunina has a good sense of humor, as she gives White the chance to end the game with Nxa7 or Ne7 mate.



20. ♖e7# A very beautiful picture and a great attacking game by the current Women's World Champion in blitz chess! **1-0**

**(4) Carlsen, Magnus(2881)
- Caruana, Fabiano(2783) [A49]**

Vugar Gashimov Mem 2014(10.2),
2014.04.30



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are in the last round of the Gashimov Memorial. Both Carlsen and Caruana had 5/8 at this moment, so this was the game for the first place. After a not very ambitious opening, White managed to complicate the game anyhow. First it looked like Magnus should be on the right road to the tournament win, but I think that in the middle game Caruana had good chances to be perfectly fine. After the mistake 20...f5? and the great 28.e3! and 29.Rd3! Magnus left no more chances for survival to his opponent though.

1.d4 Carlsen also plays 1. e4 but somehow I have the feeling that when he is trying to win a game he is more likely to pick 1.d4.

1... ♖f6 2. ♖f3 With this move order, White is maybe trying to avoid the main lines of the Gruenfeld, which is the main opening of Caruana.

2...g6 3.g3 ♗g7 4. ♗g2 c5 Black has a wide range of options here and the move order is very important.

5.c3 This move is of course not the main one and Carlsen was probably trying to avoid the main theory. [5.c4 5...cxd4 6. ♖xd4 would lead us to one of the very popular lines.]

5...d5 Maybe not the most exact way to continue for Black. [I am wondering why Caruana did not go for 5...cxd4 6.cxd4 d5 7.O-O O-O 8. ♖e5 e6 as this symmetrical line is considered very harmless for Black.]



6.dxc5! Why not take a pawn if you can! Now the game is getting very complicated. White is going to be a pawn up, but Black will dominate the center.

6...O-O 7.O-O Before the action, both players secure their kings' positions.

7...a5 Good and typical play. Of course White's main idea could be to play b4 to secure the c5 pawn and also to develop strong play on the queenside. Now White needs to look for a plan to hold the c5 pawn and to develop his bishop on c1 and knight on b1.

8.♙e3 White found a nice plan with Be3-Qc1. This is not only giving White the possibility of playing Bh6 at some moment, but also to bring the rook into the game with Rd1.

8...♘c6 After this move White will definitely not have any trouble to keep the c5 pawn alive. [An interesting try could have been 8...♘g4!? 9.♙d4 (After 9.♙d2 9...♘a6 Black is perfectly fine.) 9...e5 Now the game is getting forced. 10.h3 exd4 11.hxg4 dxc3 12.♘xc3 ♙xg4 White is a pawn up, but the bishop pair should give Black very good chances to hold. 13.♙xd5 ♙xd5 14.♘xd5 ♘a6 I think that maybe White is minimally better, but objectively the game should end in a draw.]

9.♘a3 Black's main idea could be to play e5 and in that case White is going to bring his knight over b5 to d6.

9...a4 Maybe Caruana was slightly worried about White's Qa4-Qh4 maneuver.

10.♙c1 Here we see the main idea of White's 8.Be3.

10...e5 11.♙d1 ♙e7 The position is still very complicated, but White's chances are probably already better.

12.♘b5 Of course the white knight is going to d6.

12...♙e6 Black tries to be solid.

13.♘g5! A strong move. With this tactical idea, White is gaining a tempo.

13...♙g4 14.♘d6 The point is that Black cannot take the pawn on e2.

14...h6 [14...♙xe2? doesn't work because of 15.♙xd5! ♘xd5 16.♙xd5 and White is winning because of the pressure on the f7 pawn.]

15.♘f3 ♙h7 The position is still very complicated. White slowly needs to try and get some play on the queenside as Black is just too solid in the center.

16.h3 It is hard to say if this move was really needed. Maybe it was more simple to play 16.Qd2-Qe1, securing things even more on the kingside.

16...♙e6



17.b4?! A very logical move, but I think it is too early as now Black is getting excellent chances to get back into the game. [17.♘e1 with the idea of playing Nc2 and maybe Nb4 could have stabilized White's advantage.]

17...axb3 Now the position is getting very dynamic.

18.axb3 ♖xa1 19.♚xa1 ♘e4! An excellent move! Black is making his dream idea to play the f5 move come true!

20.♘d2 White didn't have a better move. [Of course Black is just doing great after 20.♘xe4? 20...dxe4 21.♘d2 f5]



20...f5? Caruana is missing an excellent chance.

[After 20...♘xd6 21.cxd6 ♚d7 Black's position is looking solid, but maybe White could still be slightly better.; But after 20...d4! White could already be the one who's in trouble! 21.♘2xe4 dxe3 22.fxe3 White is 2 pawns up, but Black's play is very direct and dangerous. 22...f5 23.♘d2 ♚g5 24.♘f1 e4 and I think Black has full compensation for the lost material. The control over the dark squares, an attack on the kingside as well as the "dead" white bishop on g2 give Black excellent chances.]

21.♘2xe4 dxe4 White exchanged on e4 and managed to keep the monster knight on d6.

22.♚b1! I think this is a great move. White is not only preparing to push b4-b5 but also playing against the f4 move by putting extra pressure on e4.

22...f4 Black has nothing else left, Caruana needs to try his chances in the attack.

23.♙d2! Another good defensive move by White, the bishop is going to be a great protector on e1.

23...e3 24.♙e1 ♙f5?! After this move Black's chances to survive are becoming very small. [Maybe the best move was 24...exf2+ 25.♙xf2 fxg3 26.♙xg3 ♚g5 27.♙h2 and now the tricky 27...e4 trying to open the position as much as possible. Of course White is better here, but Black would still keep practical chances.]

25.♚c1 [I think that after 25.♘xf5 25...gxf5 (25...♖xf5 26.g4 gives White a huge edge.) 26.g4! White's position is looking close to winning.]

25...h5 Caruana wants to activate the bishop from g7 over the h6 square, but he is just not in time.



26.fxe3! A strong move. White has a very nice positional idea in mind...

26...fxg3 27.♗xg3 ♔g5 This is what Caruana was playing for, but White has an ace in his pocket...

28.e4! This is exactly the move that refutes Black's 25...h5.

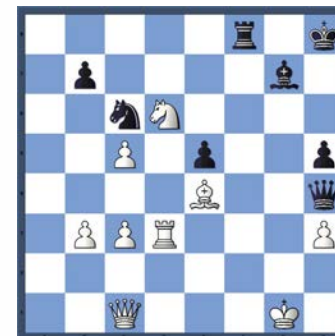
28...♔xg3 29.♖d3! Another excellent move. White stops Black from getting any kind of play on the kingside.

29...♔h4 30.exf5 gxf5 After some exchanges, White is still a healthy pawn up.

31.e4 I guess this move ends all of Black's hopes. The bishop on g7 is dead now and the black king is maybe even weaker than the white one. All White needs to do is to play b4-b5 and create a passed pawn.

31...fxe4 31...f4 is not any better.

32.♗xe4+ ♔h8



33.♔e3 Good and solid.

33...♖f4 34.♗g2 Everything is protected and White can start thinking about the b4-b5 push.

34...♔e7 35.♔e2 The pawn on h5 is under attack.

35...♔h4 36.b4 And the white pawns start to roll. White's position is totally winning.

36...e4 A practical decision. In a lost position Caruana at least tries to activate his pieces to have some theoretical chances for some tricks.

37.♗xe4 ♗e5 38.♖d5 Once again everything is protected and the white pieces are controlling the board.

38...♗g8 This move already clearly shows that the game is over.

39.b5 ♖f5 40.c6 bxc6 41.bxc6 So move 40 has been reached and White is 2 pawns up, the black king could find himself under some serious attack soon and another big problem is the c6 pawn, which just seems to be unstoppable.

41...♔e7 42.♗d6 White is bringing his knight to b5 to end what he started, to queen the c-pawn.

42...♖g5



43.♘b5 And the c7 move already cannot be stopped.

43...♔e6 44.♖d8+ ♔h7 45.♔e4+ Another accurate move.

45...♖g6 46.c7 ♔a6 47.c8=♔ ♔a1+ 48.♔f2 ♔b2+ 49.♔e1
White is a full queen up and after 49...Qa1 White has the simple
50.Rd1. We saw a very interesting and fighting game with
a lot of different ideas. With this victory, Carlsen grabbed
another 1st place in one of the world's strongest tournaments.
Congratulations! **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Eljanov, P(2732)-Wang Hao(2734)

Gashimov memorial B, 2014.04.26

1... ♠



(6) Sethuraman, S(2576)-Yu Yangyi(2667)

Asian Continental, 2014.04.22

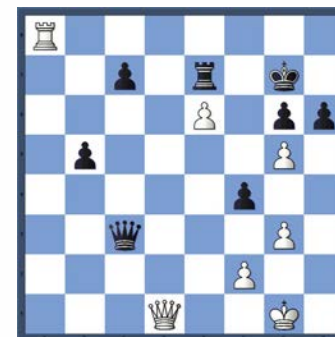
1... -+



(7) Negi, P(2640)-Idani, P(2502)

Asian Continental, 2014.04.22

1. +-



(8) Wen Yang(2581)-Sasikiran, K(2680)

Asian Continental, 2014.04.25

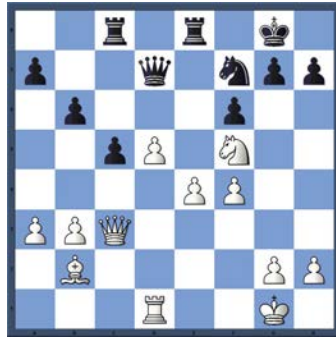
1. +-



(9) Gundavaa, B(2507)-Lalith, B(2594)

Asian Continental, 2014.04.25

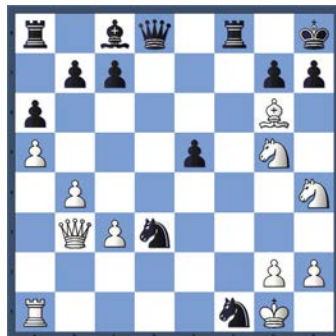
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(10) Vajda, L(2597)-Li, Z(2326)

Sydney Open, 2014.04.26

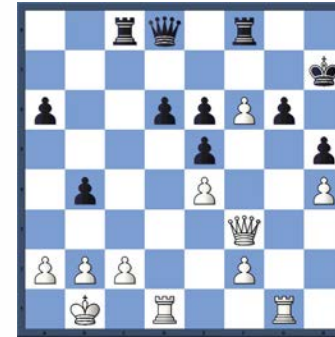
1. +-



(11) Kosintseva, T(2496)-Lagno, K(2543)

World Woman rapid Championship, 2014.04.23

1. +-



(12) Fominykh, M(2296)-Ushenina, A(2501)

World Woman rapid Championship, 2014.04.23

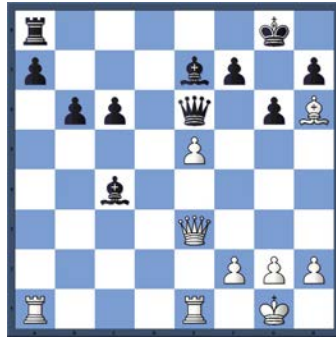
1... -+



(13) Zhao Xue(2552)-Krush, I(2491)

World Woman rapid Championship, 2014.04.24

1. ±



(14) Lagno, K(2543)-Zhao Xue(2552)

World Woman rapid Championship, 2014.04.25

1. +—



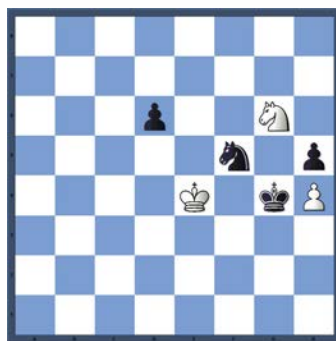
Endgame section

(15) Safarli, Eltaj(2656)
- Eljanov, Pavel(2732)

Gashimov memorial B,
2014.04.24



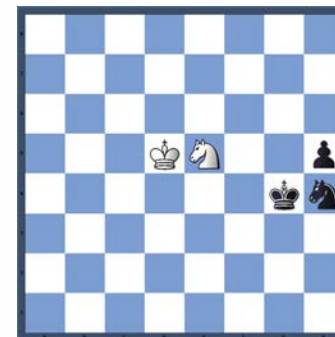
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



Despite the limited material, Black is able to realize his advantage and Eljanov does it with perfect technique!

65...d5+! This is the only way! We will see that is is very important to drive the white king as far away as possible from the h-pawn. [65...d5 leads to a draw after 66.f4 f5 (66...d5+ can now be met by 67.dxd5 and Black cannot avoid losing his h-pawn.) 67.d5 f5 68.fxf5 holds.]

66.f5 d5 67.fxe5+ White should sacrifice his knight for the pawn, therefore he must try to work with his pieces in harmony. [67.fxe7 quickly loses to 67...f5 and Black inevitably advances his h-pawn, because 68.f5 runs into 68...f4+ 69.fxf4 fxf4--]



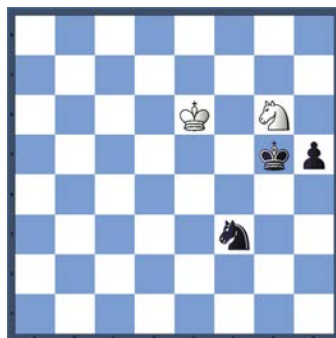
67...f4! It is very important the keep the white king away from the pawn. [67...f3 would have been a big mistake because of 68.f4 f5 69.f5 and Black cannot make progress.]

68.f5 [Another try is 68.f3 but Black wins after 68...f3 69.f4 f5! controlling all the important squares and the pawn is ready to be advanced. 70.f5 h4 71.f3 h3-- White finds himself in zugzwang! His king cannot move, while all the knight moves allow h2.]

68...f3! Again the only way to win! Black sends the centralized knight away from e5. [68...f2 makes no sense because after 69.f6 the h-pawn cannot be pushed in view of Ng6.]

69.f6 [69.f3+ 69...f3-- and the knight gets too far from the pawn. h4 is coming next.]

69...♔g5



70.♔f7 This is the best defensive attempt. When the pawn reaches the 3rd rank, it basically automatically promotes due to different kinds of zugzwang. White must try to keep his knight on g6, but with nice maneuvering Eljanov succeeded to make progress.

70...♖d4! 71.♔g7 ♖e6+ 72.♔f7 [The point is that 72.♔h7 is refuted by 72...♖f8+! 73.♖xf8 h4 74.♖e6+ ♔g4—+ and the pawn cannot be stopped.]

72...♖f4 The human way to deflect the knight from g6. [Actually 72...♖f8!? was winning here too. 73.♖e5 (73.♖xf8 73...h4 74.♖e6+ ♔g4—+ is over again.) 73...♔f4! 74.♖d3+ ♔g3!—+ and again the pawn promotes automatically.]

73.♖e5 ♔f5! The pawn could not be pushed at once.

74.♖f3 ♔g4 75.♖e5+ ♔g3! Very well played and Black is now finally ready to push his pawn.

76.♔f6 h4 77.♔g5 h3 78.♖g4 The difficult part of the job is already done. The rest is easy. All the plans are winning for Black....

78...♖e6+ [78...♖d3 79.♔f5 ♖f2 is also good with the same technique as the pawn has reached the 3rd rank. 80.♖e3 ♔f3 81.♖f1 ♔g2 82.♖e3+ ♔g1—+]

79.♔h5 ♖f4+ Eljanov was in time pressure, therefore he makes some extra time with the 30 secs bonus increment per move. This is the right technique in general.

80.♔g5 ♖g6 81.♖e3 [81.♔h5 81...♖e5—+; 81.♔f5 81...♖e5! —+ is elegant! 82.♖e3 ♔f2 83.♔f4 h2—+]

81...♔f2 82.♖g4+ ♔f3 Black decides to win by triangulation. Other moves were also good enough. The end is near.

83.♖h2+ [83.♔h5 83...♔g3 84.♔g5 ♖e5 85.♖e3 ♔f2 86.♔h4 h2—+]

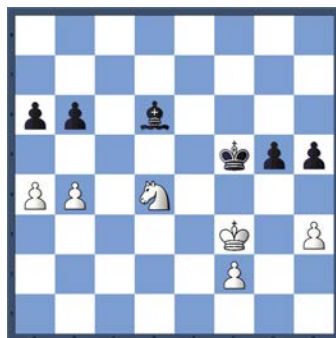
83...♔g2 84.♖g4 ♖e5 85.♖e3+ ♔f2 White resigned. It is a bit surprising to me, but White could not improve his defence, he was lost after 65...d5! **0-1**

(16) Bacrot, Etienne(2722)
- Eljanov, Pavel(2732)

Vugar Gashimov Mem B 2014(7.3),
2014.04.27



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



After a really passive and not too good game, Etienne has reached a very difficult endgame. Maybe at the first sight White's position is looking pretty "holdable" but in fact he is facing huge problems. As we know, a bishop is much stronger than a knight in a fight on both sides of the board. The black king is also placed very nicely on e5 and can reach both the queenside and the kingside pawns. Another idea for black could be to exchange his g-pawn against White's h-pawn to get a passed pawn on the h-file. All this makes it difficult for White to lead this endgame into a draw.

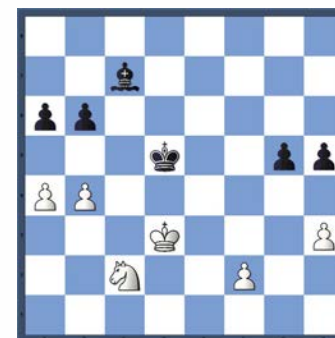
41...♔e5 42.♖c2 White is trying to cover the squares in the middle of the board to not let the black king pass the 4th rank.

42...♗c7 A tricky waiting move. [It is of course too early for 42...♔d5 43.♖e3+! as after 43...♔d4 White has 44.♖f5+!]

43.♗e3 White needs to keep the opposition.

43...♔d5 44.♔d3 And here comes another waiting move by

Black:



44...♗d8! Another very unpleasant waiting move by Eljanov who is checking what White will do next. White also needs to be very careful about Black's g4 push at some good moment, with the idea of hxg4 h4!

45.f3 A very human move, but now Black's idea of playing Ke5-Kf4 is becoming very real. [45.♖e3+ didn't help much. 45...♔e5 and Black's next move could be Kf4.; And after 45.♖d4 45...♗f6 46.♖c2 ♔e5 47.♗e3 ♗e7 White is getting in some sort of zugzwang. Depending on White's move, the black king could try to cross the 5th rank and the white knight on c2 is now totally fixed on protecting the b4 pawn.]

45...♗e7 [45...♔e5 is premature now since after 46.♖d4 Black can't play 46...♔f4?? because of 47.♖e6+ followed by Nxd8.]

46.♖e3+ White needs to do something as no more waiting moves are possible in this position.

46...♔e5 47.♖c4+ Bacrot tries to rescue the game with some forced play. [Black would probably have had to work much harder after 47.♔c4 47...♗d8 48.♖g2 and of course White's position is on the verge of being lost, but it is not that easy to see how Black should break through.]

47...♔f4 Now things are pretty forced.

48.♖xb6 ♕xf3 49.♘d5



49...♕d6 Pawns are equal, but we can see how much stronger the black bishop is than the white knight. Black has two major ideas here, to play g4 hxg4 and h4 or just to play Kg3-Kxh3. [49...g4! was leading to a much quicker win. 50.hxg4 h4 51.♖xe7 h3 White can't stop the h-pawn. I guess Eljanov saw this line, but decided that the move in the game would also lead to a winning position and why risk miscalculating something...]

50.♖f6 White is going for the h-pawn.

50...♕xb4 51.♖xh5 ♕g2 Things are still pretty forced. It is bad luck for White that the a1 square is black, otherwise he could give away the knight for the g5 pawn...

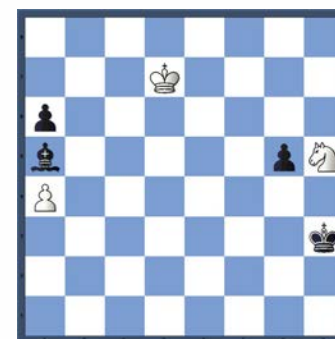
52.♕e4 ♕xh3 53.♕f5 White is only missing one tempo to play Nf6 next and create a fortress on the g4 square.

53...♕e7! The only winning move in the position! [After 53...g4?? 54.♖f4+ ♕g3 55.♘d5 ♕f3 the position seems to be winning, but it is a draw. 56.♖xb4 g3 57.♖d3! The white knight is just in time to stop the g-pawn from promoting. 57...g2 58.♖e1+]]

54.♕e6 White's position is lost as Black is threatening to

simply play g4-g3-g2.

54...♕d8 55.♕d7 ♕a5



56.♖f6 White is hoping for a trick...

56...♕e1 But there is no fooling Eljanov! [After 56...g4?? 57.♖xg4! ♕xg4 58.♕c6 ♕c3 59.a5! followed by Kb7 and Kxa6, the game is a draw.]

57.♕c8 The last chance. White wants to play a5 next.

57...a5! The game is over. What a great technique by Eljanov and a very important win for the tournament situation. **0-1**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Morphy, Paul
- Harrwitz, Daniel[C41]

Paris m1(6), 1858



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.♙xd4 White usually plays [4.♘xd4 4...♘f6 5.♘c3 ♗e7 and here White has different ways to develop his pieces, but thanks to his space advantage he should have a stable advantage.]

4...♘f6 [4...♘c6 5.♗b5 ♗d7 6.♗xc6 ♗xc6 7.♗g5 ♙d7 8.♘c3 followed by 0-0-0 and Rhe1. White has a strong initiative.]

5.e5 dxe5 Black could keep the queens on the board after [5...♙e7 6.♗e3 dxe5 7.♘xe5 but also in this case is not easy to solve the practical problems, for example after 7...♘bd7 8.♘xd7 ♗xd7 9.♘c3 ♙b4 10.♙e5+]

6.♙xd8+ ♙xd8 7.♘xe5 The white advantage is that the black king is stuck in the center.

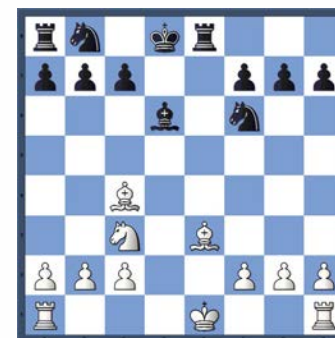


7...♗e6?! Black could have solved the problems by playing

[7...♗b4+! 8.c3 ♙e8 A typical move! Black develops his pieces with tempo and gets counterplay. 9.cxb4 ♙xe5+ 10.♗e2 ♘c6 With Nxb4 or Nd4 threats. Now the white king is not better than the black one.]

8.♘c3 ♗d6 9.♘c4 ♗xc4 This exchange gives White a stable advantage. Black could have tried to save the bishop pair: [9...♗b4 10.♗d2 ♘bd7 11.O-O-O ♗c5 (11...c6 12.a3 ♗e7 13.♗f4) 12.♗e3 ♗xe3+ 13.♘xe3 It seems like after this exchange Black can finally improve his king by playing 13...c6 but after 14.♗c4 ♗xc4 15.♘xc4 ♙c7 16.♘d6 ♙hf8 17.♙he1 White managed to keep the initiative. It is hard to stop Re7 now.]

10.♗xc4+= ♙e8+ 11.♗e3



11...♙e7 Black is looking for a safe place for the king. Let's check what could have happen after the natural [11...♘g4 12.O-O-O ♘xe3 13.fxe3 f6 (13...♙xe3 14.♗xf7) 14.♘b5! White needs to play very actively, otherwise Black can even get a better position because of the structure. 14...♙e7 15.♗d3 (15.♘xd6 15...cxd6 and in this case the white bishop should not bring White any advantage, as the black knight is going to e5 and Black's position is very solid.) 15...h6 Now the light squares become weaker. (15...g6 16.h4! With the idea to activate the rook.) 16.♗g6! and after a rook move White can use a few ideas like Be4 or Nd4-Nf5.]

12.0-0-0 a6 Preventing Nb5, but Black's play is very slow.

13.♘g5 [13.♗d5+ 13...♗xd5 14.♘xd5 ♗c6 (14...c6 15.♘xf7) 15.♘xc6 bxc6 16.♖d4 With the idea to put pressure on the weak pawns over the 4th rank. This endgame is very unpleasant for Black.]

13...♗d7 14.♗e4 h6 [14...♘e5 15.f4 ♘xf4+ 16.♘xf4 ♗xe4 17.♖he1 f5 18.♘d5 White wins the pawn back and will keep a stable plus thanks to the two bishops.]

15.♘xf6+ [15.♗xd6 15...cxd6 16.♖he1+ ♔f8 17.♖xe8+ ♗xe8 18.♘f4 maybe gives White an even bigger advantage than in the game.]

15...♗xf6 16.♗xd6 cxd6 White has the advantage because of two reasons. First of all bishops usually cooperate with rooks better than knights and secondly the black structure is worse.

17.♖he1+ ♔f8 18.♖xe8+ ♗xe8 White exchanges one pair of rooks to avoid counterplay.



19.♘d5 ♖b8 20.♘f3 The bishop is better placed on this diagonal.

20...g6 21.c3 Preparing to improve the king.

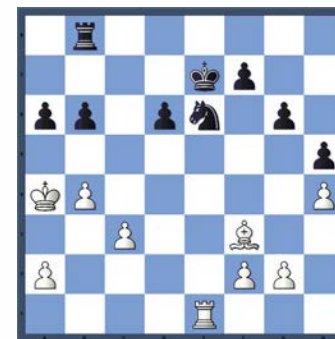
21...♔e7 22.♖e1+ ♔f8 White won a tempo because after [22...♗d7 he had 23.♘d5! and Black is forced to move the

f-pawn, after which Black's position on the kingside will be very weak.]

23.♔c2 ♗c7 24.♔b3! The king is one of the most important pieces in the endgame.

24...♗e6?! The idea of this move is to close the e-file to allow the black king to come support the queenside, but the knight was very well placed on c7 to stop the white invasion! [For example 24...d5 25.a4 (25.♔b4 25...b6) 25...a5]

25.♔a4 b6 26.b4 h5 27.h4 ♔e7



28.♖e3! A good move. From the 3rd rank the white rook can protect the c3 pawn and pressure the f7 pawn at the same time.

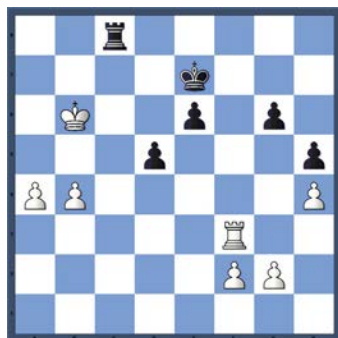
28...♔d7 29.♘d5 ♖e8 30.♔b3 ♖g8 Black has to wait.

31.♖f3 ♔e7 32.a4 White is slowly going to create a second weakness.

32...a5?! I don't like this move because now the white king has an open way to come for the b6 pawn. Black was probably afraid of a5 with the idea of fixing the weak pawn on a6.

33.♘xe6 A concrete idea. White decides to give the bishop to come to b5 with the king. [33.♔c4 33...axb4 34.cxb4 ♖c8+! and Kb5 is not possible because of Nd4.]

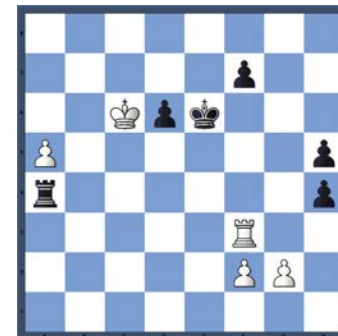
33...♔xe6 Black could probably have saved the game after [33...fxe6 34.♔c4 ♖c8+ 35.♔b5 d5! This defensive idea was very difficult to find. 36.♔xb6 (36.bxa5 36...bxa5 37.♔xa5 ♔d6= And the black pieces are very active.) 36...axb4 37.cxb4



37...♖b8+ The frontal attack is one of the very important defensive methods in rook endgames. 38.♔a5 ♖a8+ 39.♔b5 ♖b8+ 40.♔c6 It looks like the a-pawn should decide the game, but after 40...♖xb4 41.♖a3 ♖c4+ 42.♔b5 ♔d6 43.a5 ♖c2 44.a6 ♖b2+ The white king is unexpectedly disturbing his own pawn. 45.♔a5 ♔c7 Black is on time!]

34.♔c4 g5 With hope for counterplay.

35.♔b5 axb4 36.cxb4 gxh4 37.♔xb6 ♖b8+ 38.♔a5 ♔d5?! This move is too slow! Black should have used the frontal attack all the time, just like in the previous comment. [38...♖a8+ 39.♔b5 ♖b8+ 40.♔c6 ♖xb4 41.a5 (41.♖e3+ 41...♔f5 42.♖a3 ♖b2 43.a5 ♖xf2 44.a6 ♖xg2 45.a7 ♖g8 46.a8=♖ ♖xa8 47.♖xa8 h3 Only Black can win the game here.) 41...♖a4



42.♔b5! ♖a2 43.a6± With the typical and very unpleasant idea Rf4-Ra4!]

39.♖d3++— Now White is easily winning.

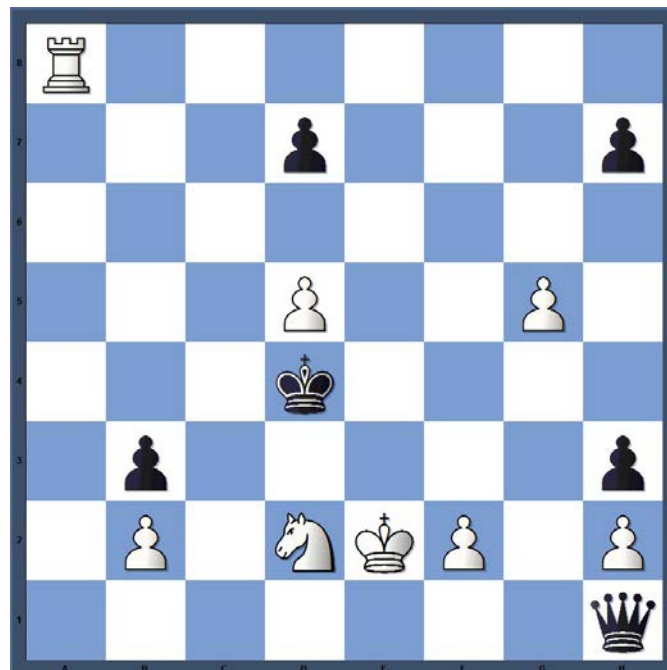
39...♔c4 40.♖xd6 ♖xb4 [40...♖a8+ 41.♖a6+—]

41.♖d4+ ♔xd4 42.♔xb4 f5 43.f4 ♔e3 44.a5 ♔f2 45.a6 ♔xg2 46.a7 h3 47.a8=♖+ ♔g1 48.♖f3 Unfortunately for Black he still has the h5 pawn. After 48...h2 49. Qg3 Kh1 and 50.Qf2, mate will follow in the next move. **1-0**

Surprise section / study

(18) Kubbel

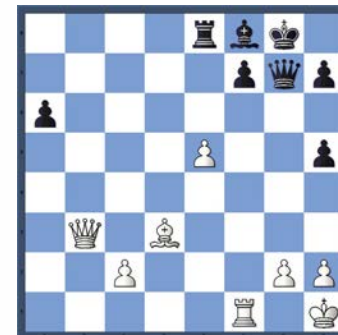
1. +—



Solutions

(19) Hou Yifan(2618)-Girya, O(2450)

Woman Grand Prix, 2014.04.19

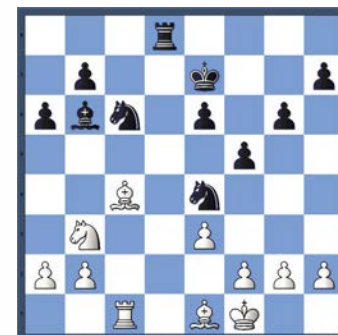


36. ♖xf7! [36. ♘c4 36... ♙h8]

36... ♙xf7 37. ♘c4 ♙xc4 38. ♙xc4+—

(21) Bu Xiangzhi(2699)-Sengupta, D(2531)

Asian Continental, 2014.04.19



22. ♘xa6! bxa6 23. ♖xc6+—

(20) Dao Thien Hai(2490)-Ghaem Maghami, E(2556)

Asian Continental, 2014.04.18



18...♘xg3!! 19.fxg3 [19.♘xh3 19...♘xe2#; 19.♘xg6 19...♙g2#]

19...♖xg3+! 20.♔f2 [20.hxg3 20...♙xg3+ 21.♘g2 ♙xg2#]

20...♙xh2+ 21.♔e1 ♖xe3—+ [21...♘f6!?—+]

(22) Nisipeanu, D(2686)-Izzat, K(2383)

Doeberl Cup, 2014.04.18



23.♘g5!! ♙xg2+ 24.♔e2 1-0 [24.♔e2 24...♙xg5 25.♙h7#]

(23) Lillevold, F(2182)-Gajewski, G(2631)

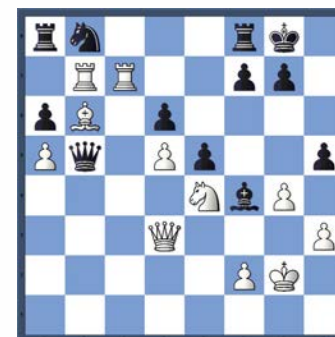
Fagernes Open, 2014.04.15



22...♘d2! 0-1 [22...♘d2 23.♖xd2 ♙xd2! 24.♙xd2 ♖xg2+ 25.♔h1 ♖dxd2—+ (25...♖gxd2+—+)]

(24) Bok, B(2590)-Gajewski, G(2631)

Fagernes Open, 2014.04.15



30.♘f6+! gxf6 31.♙g6+! ♔h8 [31...fxg6 32.♖g7+ ♔h8 33.♖h7+ ♔g8 34.♖bg7#]

32.♙xh5+ ♔g8 33.♙g6+ ♔h8 34.♙xf6+ ♔g8 35.♙g6+ ♔h8 36.♖xf7 1-0 [36.♖xf7 36...♙xd5+ 37.f3 ♙d2+ 38.♙f2+—]

(25) Elsness, F(2483)-Urkedal, F(2494)

Fagernes Open, 2014.04.18



25. ♖e6+! ♜xe6 [25... ♙h8 26. ♖xd6+-]

26. dxe6 ♜d8 27. ♘xe5!+-

(26) Quesada Perez, Y(2493)-Gonzalez Vidal, Y(2551)

Concreto Open, 2014.04.18



19... ♜xd5!! 20. ♜xd5 [20... bxa5 20... ♜xc3+-]

20... ♘f5+! 21. ♘d3 [21... ♙b2 21... ♜xd5! 22. ♖xd5 ♜c2+ 23. ♙a3 ♜a8+-]

21... ♜xd5 22. ♖c2 [22... ♘xf5 22... ♜xd2+-]

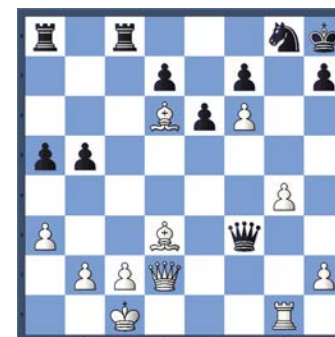
22... ♜xd3! 23. ♜xd3 [23. ♖xc7 23... ♜c3+-]

23... ♜c8! 24. ♜d8+ [24. ♖xc7 24... ♘xd3+-]

24... ♜xd8 25. ♖xf5 ♜c3+- [25... ♜d4+-]

(27) Hevia, A(2520)-Ramirez, A(2595)

Concreto Open, 2014.04.19



25. ♖g5! 1-0 [25. ♖g5 25... ♖xf6 (25... ♜xf6 26. ♘e5+-) 26. ♘e5+-]

(28) Kashimdzanov, R(2693)-Malaniuk, V(2554)

Polish rapid championship, 2014.04.13



18. ♖xc6! ♜xc6 19. ♔d5+ ♚h8 20. ♔xc6+—

(29) Bianchetti



1. ♕b2! ♜f8 [1... ♖g8 2. ♜g3+-; 1... ♖h7 2. ♜c7+-; 1... ♜a6+ 2. ♜a3+-; 1... ♜f1+ 2. ♜c1+-; 1... ♜h6 2. ♜g3+! ♖h7 3. ♜g7+ ♖h8 4. ♖b1!+-]

2. ♜c7+ ♖g8 3. ♜g7+ ♖h8 4. ♖a2! +- ♜a8+ 5. ♜a7+ ♖g8 6. ♜xa8+



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

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Editorial Preface

A lot of tournament have begun, while some other have finished. Let us take a look at the main events:

Navara won the Czech National Championship with the great score of 8/9.

In the "4 Nations Chess League" the team of Guildford became the clear champion after winning all their matches.

The already traditional and very strong Open in Nakhchivan is on the way with a lot of GMs between 2600-2700.

From this week on we are able to follow two new great events:

The Capablanca Memorial in Cuba with Ivanchuk, Dominguez, Bruzon, Vallejo, Almasi and Wesley So and the US-Championship, without Nakamura but with Gata Kamsky!

We hope you will enjoy this week's games!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **David, Alberto(2579)**
- **Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime(2758)**
[A15]

Condino ITA(1.1),
2014.04.30



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A nice example on the theme how to launch an effective attack in case of same side castling.

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.b4 Vachier-Lagrave is known for his extremely deep knowledge of the Gruenfeld defence. White would like to avoid the long theoretical lines and decides to handle the position in an original manner.

3...♗g7 4.♗b2 O-O 5.g3 White fianchettoes both of his bishops. He delays the decision whether to play in the center or on the queenside.



5...c6! Creating the positional threat of playing a5. The move has prevented the principled reply of b5, while in case of a3, Black might quickly attack the b4 pawn with Na6 and Qb6. Additionally the pawn is going to be well placed on c6 because it limits the power of the g2 bishop.

6.♘a3! I like this answer a lot. White prepares to strengthen his b4 pawn with Nc2 and the direct a5 could be met by b5!, followed by recapturing with the knight.

6...♖b6 Vachier is a tactical player and he looks for tactical motifs right in the opening. The d6-e5 plan from the game was also possible.

7.♘c2 d6 The c6-d6- e5 is the most logical way to occupy the center, because it locks both white bishops. [A principled follow-up of Qb6 could have been 7...♘e4!? The double attack on f2 and b2 forces White to take a committing decision. 8.c5 (8.d4 creates a nice outpost for the knight on d4, as it cannot be kicked out with d3 anymore. 8...d5) 8...♖d8 9.♗xg7 ♔xg7 and the c5 pawn allows Black the undermining ideas of b6 and d6. Black has solved the opening problems.]

8.♖b1! Protecting the b2 bishop. [On the natural 8.♗g2 Black had interesting options, like 8...♘e4 as c5 is not an option for White anymore and on 9.d4 a5 10.a3 ♗e6 with a quick attack on the queenside pawns, with the idea to create holes on the light squares. 11.c5 ♖b5 Black has the initiative.]

8...e5 9.♗g2 [If White was better developed, he could have achieved favourable exchanges on the pawn structure by playing 9.c5 9...dxc5 10.bxc5 ♖a5! (10...♖xc5 immediately does not work because of 11.♗a3!) 11.♗xe5 ♖xc5



White has traded his sidepawn for a central one, which would be excellent, but there are some concrete problems with which it is not easy to deal. Black is again threatening to play Ng4 or Bf5.]

9...e4 Vachier wants to grab the initiative, but he opens the a1-h8 diagonal. I am not sure if it was the best idea. [Simply developing with 9...♖e8 10.O-O a5 11.a3 ♘g4 was comfortable for Black.]

10.♘fd4 a5 11.a3 [Because of the fact that White could take back with the knight on b5, he should have played 11.b5! with the idea to open the queenside and after 11...c5 12.♘b3 a4 temporarily pushes back the pieces, but Black seriously weakens his d5 square 13.♘ba1! Ne3 and Nac2 are coming next, both knights are heading to d5. Sooner or later White will also undermine the e4 pawn with d3 and he achieves an edge.]

11...axb4 12.axb4 ♘bd7 Logical development of the pieces. The knight is heading to e5, which was the whole point of the e4 push.

13.O-O ♖e8 14.♙c3 [14.♖a1!? made sense. The b2 bishop does not need to be protected anymore, therefore White might fight for the opened file. If Black trades the rooks, the queen will be excellently placed on a1, strengthening the pressure on the long diagonal.]

14...♘e5 15.♘e3 This is the moment, when Black decides to launch an attack against the king.



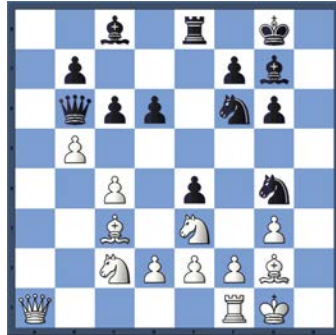
15...h5 The position is closed and the center is locked, therefore such an action is completely justified. Black would like to annoy his opponent with h4. If White prevents it by playing h4 himself, he would give an excellent outpost on g4 for the black minor pieces.

16.♖a1 ♖xa1 17.♙xa1 h4 Consequently following the plan.

18.b5 [If White was afraid, he could have exchanged the queen with 18.♙a5 but at the moment it was not obvious what Black wants on the kingside, therefore White decided to make progress on the queenside, where he is better.]

18...hxg3 19.hxg3 ♘eg4 The plan is clear. Black would like to mate on h2 and he only needs two moves to drive his queen there with Qc5-h5.

20.♘dc2 The most logical move. White opens the long diagonal and prepares to take on g4 and put his other knight to e3. The Qc5 move seemingly loses a piece, however Vachier-Lagrave finds a brilliant idea to make it work. [20.♘b3! should have been played, preventing the Qc5 idea and opening the long diagonal.]

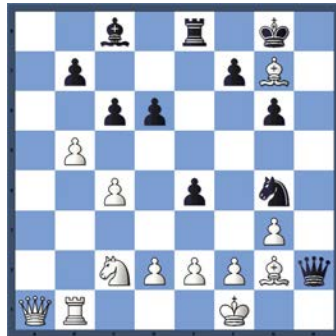


20...♔c5!! Black had to foresee the entire line which happened in the game. It required extremely good calculation.

21.♖xg4 ♜xg4 22.♙xg7 [22.♞e3 prevents the mate, but drops a pawn after 22...♙xc3 23.♔xc3 cxb5=+]]

22...♔h5 23.♖b1 White thought that there is only one check on h2 and he ends up with an extra piece. But Black had seen things much further.

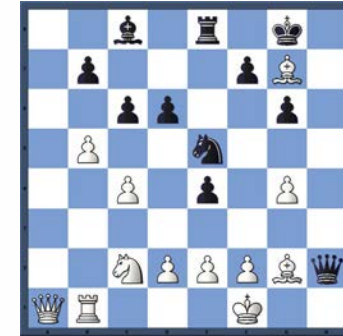
23...♔h2+ 24.♙f1



24...♞e5!! With this calm retreat Black has prepared the decisive threat of Bh3 with the idea of Qh1 mate! There is no adequate defence against it.

25.g4!? A very nice defensive attempt along the 3rd rank, but Vachier finds another beautiful tactical blow! [25.♞e3 is

refuted by 25...♙h3 26.♙e1 ♔g1+ 27.♙f1 ♙xg7—+ and White cannot survive for long with such a pin on the back rank. Black simply wants to leave the pin with Kg8 followed by Ng4, deflecting the defender of the f1 bishop.]



25...♞f3!! What a move! The only way to win! White gets mated in any case. [25...♙xg4? is bad in view of 26.♙xe5! attacking the queen, so Bh3 does not work at once, while after 26...♖xe5 27.♖b3! and Rg3 protects everything!]

26.exf3 Otherwise White would have played Qg1.

26...exf3 27.♙xf3 ♙xg4! The point of Nf3! Mate is now inevitable and White resigned. [27...♙xg4 28.♙xg4 (28.♙g2 28...♙e2+ 29.♙e1 ♔g1+ 30.♙f1 ♙xf1#; 28.♔c3 28...♙h3+ 29.♙g2 ♙xg2#; 28.♞e3 28...♙xf3 29.♙e1 ♔g1#) 28...♔h1# It is amazing that from seemingly nowhere Black suddenly gave mate in a few moves.] **0-1**

**(2) Georgiev, Vladimir(2553)
- Caruana, Fabiano(2783) [A04]**

46th TCh-ITA 2014(7.1),
2014.05.04



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Right after the Gashimov memorial finished, Caruana and Nakamura traveled to play in the Italian league. In the following game, we will see how easily Caruana outplays his lower rated GM opponent with the black pieces, by avoiding any theoretical discussions as he was afraid of some forced drawish line.

1.♘f3 d6 2.d4 g6 Playing the Pirc defence is usually a sign Black is trying to win. Black aims for an asymmetrical position.

3.e4 ♘g7 4.♘c4 Here the main line is a setup with Nf6, 0-0, Nbd7 and e5, but Caruana decides to develop his pieces in another way.

4...a6 5.O-O Usually the setups with Nf3 against the Pirc are considered to be very solid systems, but on the other hand not the most dangerous ones at all. White only plays for a small edge due to his space advantage.



5...e6 6.♖e1 ♞e7 7.c3 Strengthening the center, followed by transferring the b1 knight to g3 through d2-f1, like in the Spanish opening.

7...O-O 8.♘b3 A useful move to leave from the d5 positional threat to explode the strong center. From this point of view d5 is a mistake because White can play e5, locking the g7 bishop and creating serious holes on the dark squares of Black's camp.

8...♞d7 9.♞bd2 b5 I don't know how this setup is exactly called, but actually it is quite good if we play against weaker players. Black builds a flexible position with Bb7 and c5 and afterwards it is White's turn to find a plan and to decide how to arrange his pieces.

10.a4 White decides to open a front on the queenside. In my opinion it would have been better to continue the journey with the knight to g3 and keep the queenside untouched.

10...♘b7 11.♞e2 ♖b8! Black indirectly protects his b5 pawn as the trade of it to the one on e4 would clearly favour him and he keeps his main goal to undermine the center with c5.

12.axb5 axb5 13.h4 White is confused where to play. Two moves ago he initiated some actions on the queenside, while now he launches an attack on the kingside. [13.♞f1 13...c5 14.♞g3 was still preferable, with the idea to enable the development of the c1 bishop.]

13...c5! Black consequently follows his plan.

14.h5



14...♖c6! Forcing a serious decision. As White cannot protect his d4 pawn with Be3, he is forced to open the diagonal of the g7 bishop and give the nice e5 square for the knights.

15.hxg6 hxg6 It is not clear what White achieved with this h4-h5-hxg6 plan, he rather just wasted some important tempi.

16.d5 exd5 17.♗xd5 c4! Another strong positional move, creating an outpost on d3 for the knight, where it is going to be placed really annoyingly from White's point of view.

18.♞f1 Finally the knight goes to its place, but it is a bit too late.



18...♞ce5! The trade of the light squared bishops was clearly

a must for Black to avoid any kind of dangers around his king. And of course it was principled too to exchange the best piece of the opponent.

19.♗f4 White changes the pawn structure, but it only helps Black. [19.♗xb7 19...♖xb7 20.♗e3 with the idea of Bd4 and Ne3-d5, but it is too slow. Black gets a pleasant edge after 20...♞d3 21.♖ed1 ♖e8 22.♞g3 b4! suddenly all black pieces are excellently placed and they are ready to open the queenside to increase the advantage.; The best chance would have been 19.♖d1 trying to keep a piece on d5 and also leaving from the Nd3 tempo. 19...♞d3 20.♗g5 This tempo was not possible before, when the knight was on e5, because of the intermediate check on f3 and the bishop falls. 20...♖e8 21.♞e3 ♞7c5 and Black is better.]

19...♗xd5! [The trick was that 19...♞d3 is wrong in view of 20.♗xd6 ♞xe1 21.♖xe1 and White is suddenly fine.]

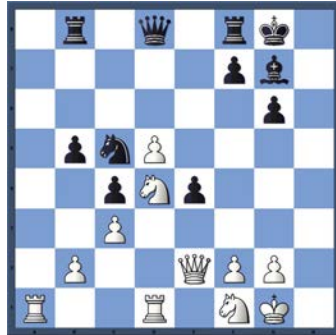
20.♗xe5 A sad necessity. [On 20.exd5 Black can already go for the exchange with 20...♞d3! 21.♗xd6 ♞xe1 22.♖xe1 because he saves his material advantage by playing 22...♖e8!⌘]

20...dxe5! Black needs to preserve his knight to reach the d3 square. It will close the d-file and the d5 pawn becomes separated.

21.exd5 ♞c5 22.♖ed1 [22.♞xe5 loses to 22...♖e8 23.f4 ♞d3! (But not 23...f6? because White can leave the pin with tempo by playing 24.♖f2!)]

22...e4 Black strengthens his outpost on d3 first. [22...♞d3 immediately could have been met by 23.♞e1]

23.♞d4 [White did not want to defend passively with 23.♞e1 23...♖d6 followed by Rfe8 or Ra8 and the knight jumps to d3. White is lacking any counterplay.]



23...♙xd4! Giving up the strong bishop is usually a difficult decision and there must be serious reasons to justify it, but now White is unable to create any threats against the king and he just ends up in a hopeless situation because of the fork on b3.

24.cxd4 [White has no compensation after 24.♖xd4 24...♘b3 25.♖ad1 ♘xd4 26.♖xd4 f5—+]]

24...♘d3 The game is basically over. The d-pawns are getting lost soon and the knight on d3 is dominating the entire board.

25.♘e3 [25.♙xe4 25...♘xb2—+ There will be nothing to stop the c- and b- connected passed pawns.]

25...♙f6! The first pawn falls.

26.b3 ♙xd4 27.bxc4 bxc4 28.♖a4 ♖b2 29.♖d2 [The game ends here. I don't know what happened, maybe White resigned without waiting for the following finish: 29.♖d2 29...♖fb8! 30.♖xc4 And Black now mates with 30...♖xd2! 31.♙xd2 ♖b1+ 32.♙h2 ♙e5+—+ and Qh5 or Rh1 next, mate in few moves. A very convincing victory by Caruana.] **0-1**

(3) Adams, Michael(2752) - Vachier Lagrave, Maxime(2758) [B90]

4NCL 2013-14(11.111),
2014.05.05



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are in the decisive match in the English league, between the 2 big favourites, the teams of Wood Green and Guildford, who tried to get their best possible line-up. Adams, who has been playing very well the whole last year and reached an ELO of over 2750, is facing Vachier Lagrave, a young French superstar who seems to win ELO in every event he is playing at the moment and is already the World Nr11! We can be sure to see him soon in the Top 10. Adams tried to keep the game cool, but things quickly became very complicated and Maxime was able to take more correct decisions and reached a better endgame. Afterwards he showed great technical skills and didn't give Adams any chances to escape. This is really an almost perfect game by Black.

1.e4 c5 Maxime is one of few top players who still did not switch to the Berlin, as his Najdorf seems to bring him a lot of points at the moment.

2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 [Actually Adams also likes to play the more calm 3.♙b5+ but it seems like because of the importance of the match the Englishman decided to go for the very main lines.]

3...cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙e3 So we are in the main position of the Najdorf, where Black has 3 major choices: 6...e6 or 6... e5 or the move of the game, 6...Ng4.

6...♘g4 I think 6...Ng4 is one of the most dangerous moves

for White and especially lately Black had excellent results in this variation. The game is very quickly becoming unstable and this is exactly what the almost 20 years younger French superstar wants against his much older opponent.

7. ♖g5 h6 8. ♗h4 g5 9. ♗g3 ♖g7 And we are in the main position. White has a lot of options here.



10. ♖d2 One of the main moves. [10. h3 ; 10. ♗e2 are the other 2 main lines with long theoretical analyses.]

10... ♖c6 11. ♖b3 In case we take a general look at the position, we can maybe make up a few global things: White is clearly going to play against Black's h6-g5 by pushing h4 and trying to open the position to be able to get some play against the black king which is on e8. On the other hand, Black has an excellent bishop on g7 and the idea of b5-b4 or Be6-Rc8 is a guarantee for strong play on the queenside. The position is very dynamic.

11... b5 12. h4 Adams improves on his own game. [Against Gelfand Adams continued with 12. f3 12... ♖ge5 13. ♗f2 but after the strong 13... ♖a5! Black might already be the one with better chances.]

12... b4 12... h4g4 t also be possible, but it seems to lead to more or less the same.

13. ♖a4 most safe [13. ♖d5 could also lead to a very interesting position. 13... ♗xb2 14. ♖b1 and White is getting quite strong play for the pawn.]

13... gxf4 Black can't let White take on g5.

14. ♗xf4 A difficult decision as 14. Rxh4 was of course also possible.

14... ♗d7 Black is playing against the white knight on a4 who can now easily be caught.

15. f3 White is giving away the initiative. [15. O-O-O was more principled. 15... ♖ce5 Black has to go into the tactics. 16. ♖xb4 ♖b8! A strong and important move. (After the tempting 16... ♖g6 White has a very nice tactical blow: 17. ♖xd6! the position is complex, but it seems like things are pretty good for White.) 17. ♖a3 and only now 17... ♖g6 with a very unclear position.]



15... ♖ce5! Black is not wasting any time! Now White's pawn structure is going to be heavily damaged.

16. fxg4 ♗xa4 17. O-O-O Of course White's only chance now is the attack on the black king.

17... ♗d7 A logical move, preparing a5-a4 and wanting to take on g4.

18. ♗e2 This move can't be wrong either. White completes

his development and maybe wants to play Nd4-Ng4 or maybe even g5.

18...♘g4 A greedy and maybe somewhat risky move. [18...♚c7 was maybe another option for Black. 19.♚xb4 a5 Black has excellent play.]

19.♚xb4?! This is already a mistake. [In my opinion after a move like 19.♙b1 against Black's h5, followed by Rhf1 and Nd4. White could have gotten quite strong play in the center for the pawn.]

19...a5! Now it is Black who is going to attack and also has a better pawn structure and a monster bishop on g7.

20.♚b7 Where else to go?! [After 20.♚d2 20...♚b6 Black's play on the queenside is just crushing. We should also not forget that Black can still castle kingside to improve the strenght of the attack.]

20...♖b8 [It was easy to go wrong with 20...a4? and after 21.♘c5! with an already winning position for White.]

21.♚a7 ♖a8 22.♚b7 After repeating the moves once, Black finds the right approach to continue the game.



22...♚b8! A very strong move! Of course Black's attack is half as strong without the queens, but the pressure on the b2 pawn is still very unpleasant.

23.♚xb8+ ♖xb8 24.c3 There is no other way to defend against the upcoming a4 move.

24...a4 25.♘d4 ♘e3 Maybe Black could even not hurry with Ne3 and play 25...Rg8 first.

26.♖dg1 ♖g8 We can take a fresh look on the position. Material is equal, but both pawn structures are very strange. Black's big advantage is the open b-file where the rook on b8 is just perfectly placed and the bishop on g7 can also become a very dangerous piece in case Black could do something on the a1-h8 diagonal. The white pieces are a bit passively placed and all this gives Black a clear advantage.

27.♙f2 Adams wants to get rid of the annoying knight on e3.

27...♘g4 28.♙e1 [After 28.♙xg4 28...♙xg4 Black's bishop pair would give him a big advantage.]

28...♙e5! A very good move! Black not only activates the rook on g8, but first brings his bishop to e5 and only after that he wants to play Nf6 and start the play against the e4 and g2 pawns.

29.♙b1 ♘f6 Now we can see how important Be5 was.

30.♙f3 White tries to keep things together.

30...h5 Another good positional move. All black pieces are almost perfectly placed.

31.♙h4 This is probably not the best move, but it is very hard to give clear advice to White what to do instead.

31...♘g4 The black knight is going to c4.

32.a3 [After 32.♙e1 32...♘e3 the threat of playing Nc4 next is very dangerous.]

32...♖e3 33.♙e2 Adams keeps on trying to be as solid as possible.



33...♗xd4! A fantastic move! Black is giving away his great dark squared bishop, but he gains full control over the light squares. Maxime is showing great understanding of the game.

34.cxd4 ♕b5 This is the key move. White cannot avoid the exchange of the bishops.

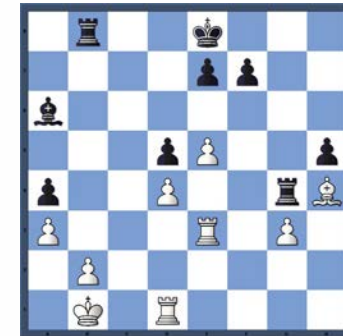
35.♖h3 A logical decision. Adams tries to get a bad, but opposite coloured endgame in which there is always a chance to escape to a draw. [After 35.♙xb5+? 35...♖xb5 White cannot defend against Rxf2 or Nc4.]

35...♙xe2 36.♖xe3 This endgame might look quite harmless at first, but I think White's position is very bad. The pawn on a4 is blocking both white pawns and the e4-d4 pawns are clearly potential targets for the black pieces.

36...♙a6 37.e5 Maybe not the best move either. [I think White would have better chances to escape after 37.♙e1 White needs to bring the bishop into the game. 37...♖g4 38.♖c1 and of course Black's position is much better, but I think White is keeping some chances to make a draw.]

37...♖g4! A very nice move. Black is forcing White to play g3 and killing his own bishop, which is totally out of play on h4.

38.g3 d5 39.♖d1



39...♔d7! Another very good move. Of course Black is avoiding playing a move like e6. The black king will be perfectly placed on e6 now.

40.♖d2 ♕c4 White is totally paralyzed!

41.b4 What else to do?! Black has an easy plan, to play Ke6, Rbg8-Re4-Rgg4.

41...axb3 42.♖b2 ♔e6 White still doesn't have anything against Black's deadly plan. His position is just hopeless.

43.♖f3 ♖bg8 44.♖ff2 White keeps on waiting.

44...♖e4 But with 2 of the black rooks entering the position, there is simply no hope. Black's attack is also getting stronger because of the opposite coloured bishops and the terrible position of the white bishop on h4.

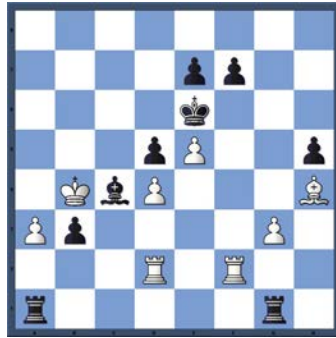
45.♖d1 ♖gg4 46.♖c3 ♖e3+ Black continues the invasion.

47.♖b2 ♖ge4 48.♖dd2 Adams is trying to save the game by covering the second rank.

48...♖e1 But now Black is going to do his dirty work on the 1st rank.

49.♖h2 ♖g1 50.♖hf2 ♖ee1 The threat is to play Ra1-Ra2.

51.♔c3 ♖a1 52.♕b4



52...♖a2 What a game... I hardly remember Adams losing so painfully and especially with the white pieces. A real masterpiece game by VachierLagrave! **0-1**

(4) Navara, David(2706) - Oral, Tomas(2515) [E60]

ch-CZE 2014(5.1),
2014.04.30



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

David Navara is by far the best Czech player of the last 10 years. David was already very talented in the young years, showing great results at the World Junior and his ELO rating has been above 2700 for a couple of years already. In the current Czech national Championship, Navara once again showed his class by winning it with a great score of 8/9. Here is one of his attacking wins.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 We've already commented on 3.f4 in a couple of previous issues and this move is usually made against players who are playing the Gruenfeld as Black.

3...e6 is by far not the main move, but lately even on top level a few games have been played in this tricky line by Black. [3...d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘b6 6.♘c3 ♙g7 7.♙e3 O-O 8.♙d2 is the beginning of the very sharp and main line here.]

4.e4 White is practically forced to play 4.e4. If Black was in time to play d5 next, the f3 move would simply not make any sense.

4...d5 5.cxd5 An interesting and quite new approach. [In previous games White usually liked to continue with 5.♘c3 5...dxe4 6.fxe4 and not so long ago Vachier Lagrave found the following very nice idea: 6...c5! (After 6...e5 7.d5 ♙c5 8.♘f3 White's position looks better to me.) 7.d5 ♙g7 8.♘f3 exd5 9.exd5 O-O 10.♙e2 ♖e8 11.O-O ♙f5 With very unclear play.]

5...exd5 6.e5



6...♞h5 Of course the black knight is going to h5 with the idea of playing Qh4 next. Now it is all about timing, Black is going to attack the white center with c5-Nc6 and White will try to keep it safe and use his space advantage.

7.♞e2 c5 Black hurries with the attack on the most important d4 pawn, but maybe another idea could have been even more effective. [7...f6!? looks like an interesting option as well to destroy White's center.]

8.♞bc3 ♞c6 [8...cxd4? doesn't work because after 9.♞xd4 ♞h4+ Black is winning the exchange but losing the game. 10.g3! ♞xg3 11.hxg3 ♞xh1 12.♞xd5 With the killing threats of playing Nc7 or Nf6. White is totally winning.]

9.♞e3 ♞e6 This move looks a bit too slow. [I think Black should have tried the more direct 9...cxd4!? 10.♞xd4 ♞xe5 Of course things are looking dangerous, but it is not easy to see a direct win for White. 11.♞b3 White has a lot of other possibilities, but this is just the most natural one. 11...♞g7 12.♞b5+ ♞d7 13.O-O O-O 14.♞xd5 With some edge for White, but Black's position looks pretty solid.]

10.♞d2 Quite logical, but why not take the pawn on c5 ?! Not a bad move, Black is preparing to castle queenside, but I think Black had a better one. [10.dxc5!? looks pretty logical to me.

10...♞g7 Blacks tries to play for development. 11.f4 O-O 12.g3 White's position is looking pretty solid. 12...f6! Black's on ly chance, but I still think the advantage should be on White's side here.]

10...♞a5 [10...♞g7! looks very logical and strong. 11.dxc5 (After 11.g4 11...h5 Black is gaining control over the f5 square.)



11...♞f5 and I can't imagine that White can have any advantage here as the black pieces are perfectly placed and the upcoming d4 idea or just Qa5-0-0-0 seems to give Black great play for the pawn.]

11.g4 [11.O-O-O 11...♞g7 12.g4 could have led to the same position as in the game.]

11...♞g7 12.♞g5 An interesting approach. White is trying to keep the black king in the center by not him allowing to castle queenside. [12.O-O-O 12...h5 13.dxc5 hxg4 14.fxg4 would also lead to a very complicated position.]

12...h5! Of course Black is not losing any time.

13.♞f6! A strong reply from Navara. The position is becoming very sharp.

13...hxg4 14.fxg4 ♞xg4 A very tempting move, but a very exact calculation is needed for it. The game is now entering an endgame where both kings are under pressure. [A more

solid choice could have been 14...♖h7 15.♗g2 cxd4 16.♘xd4 ♘xd4 17.♙xd4 ♖c8 with very unclear play.]

15.♘xd5 ♙xd2+ 16.♙xd2



16...♗f3? This is already a blunder. [Black should have been more careful with 16...♖c8! A silent but very important move. Not only is the black king feeling himself uncomfortable on e8, his colleague on d2 is also quite badly placed. 17.♗g2 White also has other moves, but it is tempting to develop the pieces first. 17...♗xe2 18.♙xe2 ♘xd4+ 19.♙d3 Black is a pawn up, but White should have good compensation for it. The position is really hard to evaluate.]

17.♘c7+ Soon we will see what Oral missed...

17...♙d7 18.♘xa8 ♗xh1 And now comes the moves that Black obviously missed when he played 16...Bf3:



19.h4! A fantastic move! White is not only defending the pawn on h2, but also threatening to play Bh3 next, winning the bishop on h1.

19...♗e4 [Not much better is 19...♗d5 because of 20.♘c3]

20.♗h3+ The white knight is out of game on a8, but the black king is too badly placed, which allows White to very quickly gain a decisive initiative.

20...♗f5 Not a nice move to play, but there was nothing else left.

21.♗xf5+ gxf5 22.d5! An excellent move. Navara continues putting his opponent under pressure.

22...♘e7 23.♘f4 All white pieces are greatly placed, but the knight on a8 is still almost caught, which makes things more difficult.

23...♘g8?! Black panicks too early... [The only way to go on was 23...♖h7! Black's position looks on the verge, but it is very hard to find something concrete to break through and in case of 24.d6 ♘c6 25.♘c7 Black is in time for 25...♗e6! and maybe White is still better, but nothing too special has happened.]

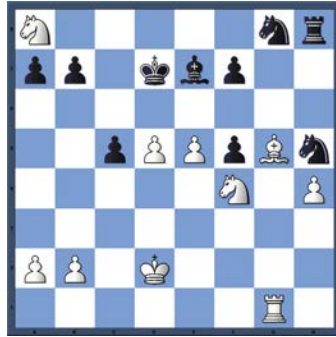
24.♗g5 White just wants to play Re1 and e6 next.

24...♗e7 Black is fighting. The bishop on g5 has to be exchanged of course.

25.♖g1! A good move, now the g7 knight is White's target.

25...♘h5? Black cannot handle the pressure... [The only way for Black to continue the fight was 25...♖h7! Black needs to keep the knight on g7 to control the e6 move. 26.d6 ♗xg5 27.♖xg5 White's position looks much better, but Black has a little trick. 27...f6! is the only chance, as the e5-d6 pawns are just too powerful and need to be destroyed. 28.♖g6 fxe5

29. ♖d3 ♜e6 And now White already needs to find the very strong 30. ♖c7! to be on top in this position.]



26.e6+! Too easy to miss.

26...fxe6 Navara is accurate again.

27. ♜g6! Black can't avoid the loss of material now, at 27...Rh7 is following 28.Bxe7 and in case of Nxe7 Nf8 and Nxh7. Once again we could see an interesting game by Navara, who is usually playing very creatively and is excellent at calculation!

1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Bezgodova, S(2094)-Cramling, P(2507)

World Women rapid Championship, 2014.04.25

1... -+



(6) Kislinsky, A(2483)-Dobrovolsky, L(2334)

Czech Championship, 2014.05.01

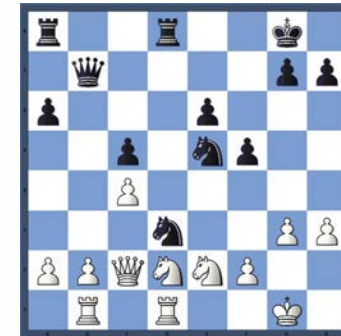
1. +-



(7) Svoboda, S(2334)-Babula, V(2553)

Czech Championship, 2014.05.02

1... -+



(8) Portisch, L(2464)-Rapport, R(2698)

rapid match, 2014.05.03

1... -+



(9) Dastan, B(2439)-Smirnov, P(2626)

Nakchivan Open, 2014.05.05

1. +-



(10) Rzayev, B(2432)-Korneev, O(2618)

Nakchivan Open, 2014.05.05

1... -+



(11) Savchenko, B(2559)-Guliev, L(2386)

Nakchivan Open, 2014.05.05

1. +-



(12) Iskandarov, M(2403)-Shanava, K(2551)

Nakchivan Open, 2014.05.05

1... -+



(13) Barnaure, V(2508)-Nevednichy, V(2552)

Romanian Championship, 2014.05.01

1. +-



(14) Ortiz, I(2604)-Otero, D(2481)

Sisniega memorial, 2014.05.04

1. +-



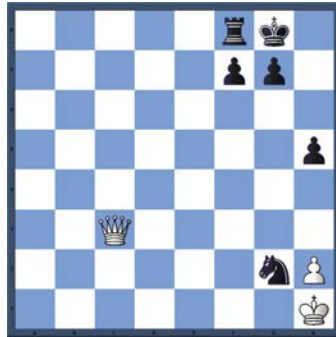
Endgame section

(15) Mamedov, Rauf(2660)
- Shanava, Konstantine(2551)

Nakhchivan Open 2014(4.4),
2014.05.07



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



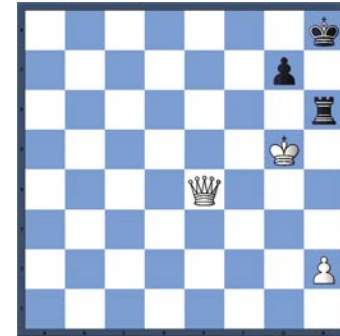
White is a queen up, but of course Black has excellent chances to build a fortress. But the thing is, which plan to chose?!. Should Black put the pawn on g6 and rook on e6 or maybe g6 and try to get the rook to f5 if possible?! Or maybe just play Re8-Re6 immediately without caring about the h5 pawn? Shanava is showing us the most simple way to make a draw:

39. ♖xg2 f5! An excellent move! Black enters a well-known drawn position. A much harder task would be to defend the position after g6 and Re8-Re6 because White would put his king on g6 and try to enter the position over Kh6 and of course to put g6 and Rf5 is just not very realistic, as it would be easy for White to prevent this plan.

40. ♖c6 ♖f6! Black does not care about the h- and f-pawns.

41. ♖e8+ ♔h7 42. ♖xh5+ ♖h6 43. ♖xf5+ ♔h8 White can't do anything to improve his position. Black will just keep on moving by playing Rf6-Rh6 or Kg8-Kh7.

44. ♔g3 ♖f6 45. ♖h5+ ♖h6 46. ♖f7 ♖f6 47. ♖e8+ ♔h7 48. ♔g4 ♖h6 49. ♖e4+ ♔h8 50. ♔g5



50... ♖f6 And as we see, White just has no idea of how to improve his position. **1/2-1/2**

(16) Black to move



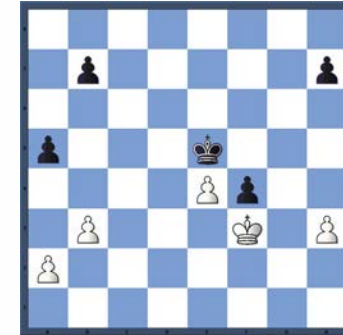
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



I have studied some endgames and I came across the following very instructive and useful example. In pawn endgames, pure calculation helps the most and here is one advise how we could easen our task in cases when the side who has the last reserve tempo wins. The player who is to move should always consider moving a pawn which has already moved! First we check how it goes if it was Black to move and in the next example we see if it was White's turn.

1...a5! Only this move wins!

2.h4 White also tries to follow the principle... [2.a4 loses to 2...h6 as we have a symmetrical position and Black moves the last... 3.b3 b6 4.h4 h5—+; 2.b3 We only need to calculate a bit and then we quickly come to the conclusion that Black wins after



2...b5! 3.a3 (3.h4 3...b4 4.h5 h6—+) 3...a4 Black decides how far to push his h-pawn according to how White reacts on the queenside... 4.bxa4 (4.b4 4...h6 5.h4 h5—+) 4...bxa4 5.h4 h5—+]

2...a4! 3.h5 h6 4.b4 axb3 5.axb3 b6! 6.b4 b5—+ and Black won the fight for the tempo.

(17) White to move



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



If it is White's turn, he wins after

1.h4! a5 2.h5! a4 Both sides are principled again. [2...h6 3.a4 b6 4.b3+- is easier.; 2...b5 3.h6 b4 4.b3+-; 2...b6 3.a4 h6 4.b3+-]

3.h6! b6 [3...a3 is nice, but it does not help in view of 4.bxa3 b5 5.a4! bxa4 6.a3+- giving back the tempo!; 3...b5 4.a3+-]



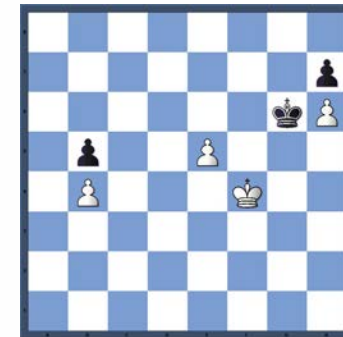
4.b4! and Black ends up in zugzwang in the next move.

4...axb3 [4...b5 5.a3+-]

5.axb3 b5 6.b4! White won the fight for the tempo! Here Black can prolong the resignation a bit by going for the h-pawn, but he still loses...

6...♖e6 [6...♖f6 7.♖xf4 ♖g6 8.♖e5! ♖xh6 9.♖f6 ♖h5 10.e5+-]

7.♖xf4 ♖f6 8.e5+ ♖g6



9.♖e4! The last required accuracy! [But not 9.e6? because of 9...♖f6 10.e7 ♖xe7 11.♖e5 ♖f7 12.♖d5 ♖g6 13.♖c5 ♖xh6 14.♖xb5 ♖g5= and both pawns promote at the same time.]

9...♖xh6 10.♖d5 ♖g7 11.♖d6 h5 12.e6 h4 13.e7+- White is a tempo faster. If we end up in a similar situation in our game, we should still try to calculate as far as possible, but these two examples showed in which direction we should look for the solution. Otherwise calculating all possibilities for both sides right from the first move would take all our time...

Clash of the Titans

(18) Fischer, Robert James
- Olafsson, Fridrik[B92]

Reykjavik(4),
1960.10.09



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙e2
The Boleslavsky Variation is not an aggressive system against the Najdorf.

6...e5 [6...e6 leads to the Scheveningen.; 6...g6 leads to a Dragon with the bishop already on e2.]

7.♘b3 [7.♘f3]

7...♙e7



8.♙g5 The idea of this move is to look for play on the light squares. The alternative is to develop the bishop to e3.

8...♘bd7 [8...♙e6 9.♙xf6 ♙xf6 10.♚d3 O-O (10...♘c6 11.O-O-O ♘d4 (11...♚b6 deserves attention.) 12.♘xd4 exd4 13.♘d5 ♙xd5 14.exd5 White is slightly better.) 11.O-O-O ♙e7 12.♘d5 ♙xd5 13.♚xd5 ♚c7 14.♙b1 ♘d7 With good play for Black because the white pieces are not able to take control of the light squares and especially of d5.]

9.a4 A typical move. White takes space on the queenside.

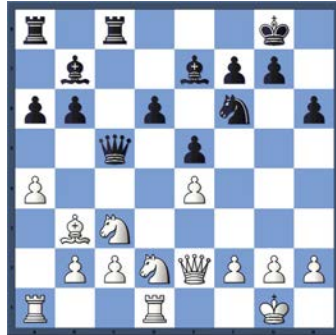
9...O-O 10.O-O h6 11.♙h4 b6 [11...♚c7 With the idea to prevent Bc4 but then White has 12.♘d2 followed by Bc4-Qe2.]

12.♙c4 ♙b7 13.♚e2 ♚c7 [13...♘xe4 This trick sometimes works but not now: 14.♘xe4 ♙xh4 15.♘d6 ♙c6 16.♘xf7+-]

14.♚fd1 ♚fc8



15.♘d2 A thematic plan. The knight on b3 was completely out of the game so White is improving him, but it was more accurate to exchange bishops first. [15.♙xf6 15...♘xf6 16.♘d2 The idea is to take control of the d5 square and it is not easy for Black to find some counterplay. 16...♚c5 (16...♘xe4 doesn't work because of 17.♘d5!; 16...♙c6 17.♘f1 ♚b7 but now the c2 pawn c2 is not under pressure and White can simply play 18.♘d5+=) 17.♙b3



17...d5! Otherwise after Nf1 White would get a stable advantage. 18.exd5 ♖xd5 19.♙xd5 ♙xd5 20.♚xe5 ♙e6 21.♚xc5 ♚xc5 Black has compensation thanks to the bishop pair.]

15...g5! A good move which is not dangerous for Black. Now the white bishop is limited and the idea to play over the light squares will not be useful.

16.♙g3 ♜f8 17.f3 White wants to improve the bishop but this move weakens his position a bit.

17...♜e6 18.♙f2 ♚g7 [18...♜f4 19.♚f1 d5 gives Black good play.]

19.♚h1 ♜f4 20.♚e3 With the idea to put pressure on the b6 pawn but now still comes



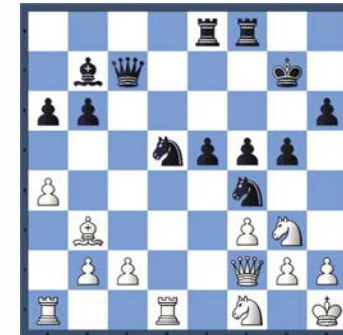
20...d5! 21.exd5 ♙c5 22.♚e1 ♙xf2 [22...♙b4 was possible

too.]

23.♚xf2 ♜6xd5 24.♜ce4 [24.♜xd5 24...♜xd5 (24...♙xd5 25.♙xd5 ♜xd5 26.♜f1 With the idea to use the weak f5 and h5 squares.) 25.♙b3 With the idea to play Nc4 next. The black king is a little weak, but objectively the position should be equal.]

24...f5 A good move, Black is putting pressure on the kingside. [24...♜b4 25.♙b3 ♜xc2 26.♚ac1 ♜d3 27.♚g3 ♜xc1 28.♚xc1 ♚d8 29.♙xc2 ♚d4 30.h4 With unclear play.]

25.♜g3 ♚f8 26.♙b3 ♚ae8↑ 27.♜df1



27...h5 An interesting idea. Black sacrifices the h-pawn to get some extra tempi and additional pressure over the h-file. [27...g4 28.♙xd5 ♜xd5 29.fxg4 ♜f4 30.♜e3 fxg4↑; 27...♜e7 With the idea Ng6-Nh4 or Ng6-h5-h4.]

28.♜xh5+ ♚g6 29.♜xf4+ [29.♜hg3 29...♜f6 30.♜e3 e4↑ With huge pressure.]

29...♜xf4 30.♜g3 g4 With unpleasant threats over the diagonal. Black could win the game almost by force but calculating all variations was almost impossible. Let's check: [30...e4 The idea is the same as in the game, Black is going to open the position for the final attack. 31.fxe4 fxe4 Black was probably afraid of 32.♚e3



which looks like it stops the e3 move, but... 32...Nc2!
33. Qxg2 Rf3 34. Qd4 With the idea to exchange queens on d6.
(34. Qe1 34...e3 35. Qd5 Rf2+ 36. Qg1 Qh7! A nice and decisive
queen maneuver. 37. Nf1 Qxd5 38. Rxd5 Qh3—+)

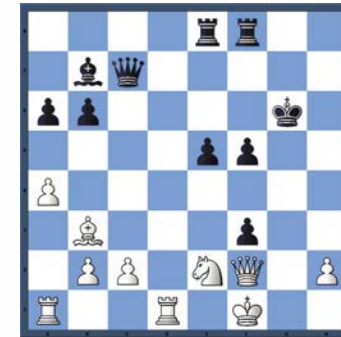


34...Rf3+! black is on time 35. hxc3 e3+ 36. Qd5 (36. Qh2
36...Qh7+ 37. Qg1 Qh1#) 36...Qxd5+ 37. Qxd5 Qxc2+ 38. Qf3
(38. Rxd2 38...Qxd2+ 39. Qxd2 exd2 40. Rxd1 Rxd8 41. Qf3 Qf5—+)
38...Qf2+ 39. Qg4 Qe2+ 40. Qf3 Re4+—+]

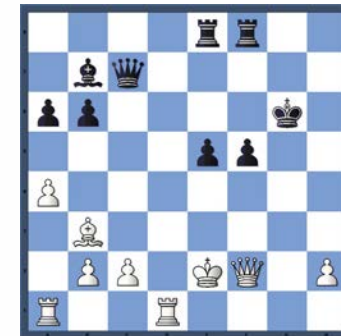
31. Ne2 White wants to get rid of the strong f4 knight. [31. Rg1
Supporting the g2 pawn, but after 31...Rh8 Black has the
unpleasant Rxh2 threat.; 31. Rxd2!?]

31...Nc2!? [31...Rh8—gives Black a strong attack.]

32. Qxg2 gxf3+ 33. Qf1



33...e4?? After a very well played game Olafsson makes a
decisive mistake. It is clear that he didn't want take the knight
immediately to stop White from getting the rooks into attack
over the g1 square, but we will see that it was not dangerous.
[33...fxe2+ 34. Qxe2



34...f4! A strong move. Black takes control over the important
e3 and g3 squares. 35. Rg1+ (35. Qh4 35...f3+ 36. Qf2 Qc5+
37. Qf1) 35...Qh5 And White is not able to connect the queen
to the final mating attack. The position is very unclear now.]

34. Qh4! +— White overtakes the initiative now.

34...f4 Preventing Nf4, but it is too late.

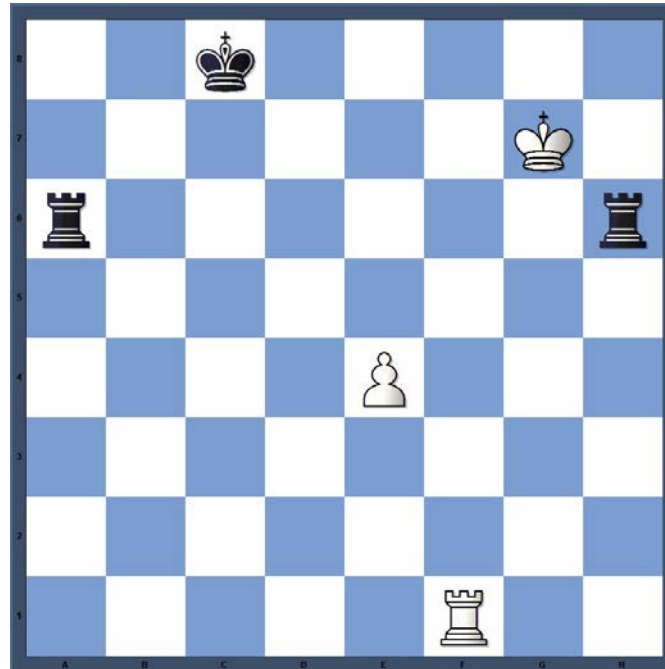
35. Qg4+ Qh6 36. Rxd7 White is winning by force now.

36...fxe2+ 37. Qe1 Qc5 38. Qg7+ Qh5 39. Qh7+ Qg5
40. Rg7+ Qf6 41. Rg6+ Qe5 42. Qg7+ 1-0

Surprise section / study

(19) Kozlowski

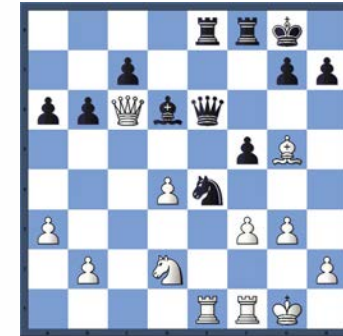
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Solutions

(20) Eljanov, P(2732)-Wang Hao(2734)

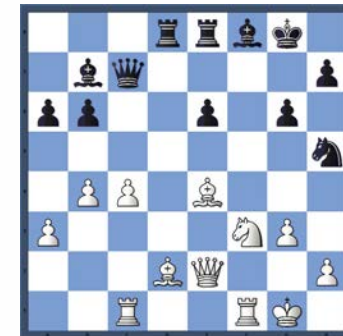
Gashimov memorial B, 2014.04.26



21...♙xg3! 22.♖xe6+ ♜xe6 23.hxg3 [23.fxe4 23...♙xe1
24.♜xe1 ♜g6--+] 23...♘g5+

(21) Sethuraman, S(2576)-Yu Yangy(2667)

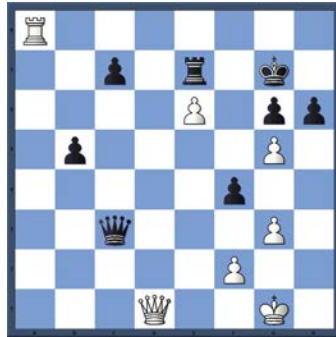
Asian Continental, 2014.04.22



25...♘xg3! 26.hxg3 ♜xg3+ 27.♖g2 [27.♙h1 27...♜h3+
28.♘h2 (28.♙g1 28...♜g4+--+) 28...♜xd2 29.♜xd2 ♙xe4+
30.♙g1 ♜g3+--+] 27...♜xg2+ 28.♙g2 ♙xe4--+

(22) Negi, P(2640)-Idani, P(2502)

Asian Continental, 2014.04.22



33. ♖e8!! 1-0 [33. ♖e8 33... ♜xe8 (33... ♜c5 34. ♜a1+ ♔h7 35. ♜h8#) 34. ♜d7+ ♚f8 (34... ♚h8 35. ♜xe8+ ♚g7 36. ♜f7+ ♚h8 37. e7 (37. ♜xg6+-) 37... ♜e1+ 38. ♚g2 ♜e4+ 39. ♚h2 fxg3+ 40. ♚xg3 ♜d3+ 41. ♚h2 ♜d6+ 42. ♚g2 ♜c6+ 43. ♜f3+-) 35. ♜f7#]

(23) Wen Yang(2581)-Sasikiran, K(2680)

Asian Continental, 2014.04.25



28. ♜xh6+! gxh6 29. ♜f5 1-0 [29. ♜f5 29... ♜g7 30. ♜xc8+-]

(24) Gundavaa, B(2507)-Lalith, B(2594)

Asian Continental, 2014.04.25

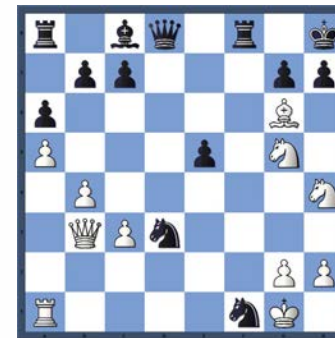


23. ♜xg7! ♜g4 [23... ♚xg7 24. ♜xf6+ ♚f8 25. ♜g7+ ♚e7 26. d6+! ♚d8 27. ♜f6+-]

24. ♜d3! ♜xe4 25. ♜e6+-

(25) Vajda, L(2597)-Li, Z(2326)

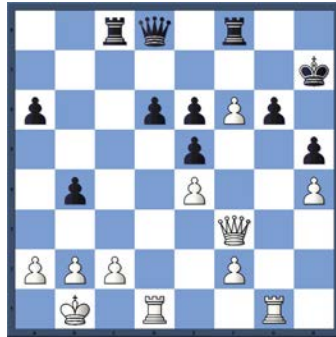
Sydney Open, 2014.04.26



20. ♜g8+!! 1-0 [20. ♜g8+ 20... ♚xg8 (20... ♜xg8 21. ♜f7#) 21. ♜xh7+ ♚h8 22. ♜g6#]

(26) Kosintseva, T(2496)-Lagno, K(2543)

World Woman rapid Championship, 2014.04.23



27. ♖xg6! ♔xg6 28. ♖g1+ 1-0 [28... ♖g1+ 28... ♔h6 (28... ♔f7 29. ♖g7+ ♔e8 30. ♖xh5+-) 29. ♖e3+ ♔h7 30. ♖g7+ ♔h8 31. ♖h6#]

(27) Fominykh, M(2296)-Ushenina, A(2501)

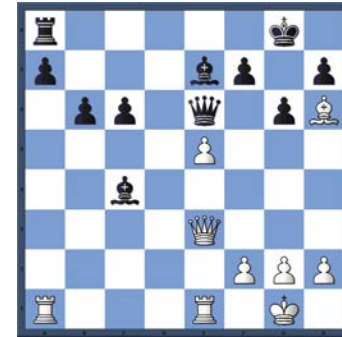
World Woman rapid Championship, 2014.04.23



17... cxb4! 18. ♗xd8 ♖xc2 19. ♗xf7 ♖xb2+-

(28) Zhao Xue(2552)-Krush, I(2491)

World Woman rapid Championship, 2014.04.24



24. ♖xb6! g5 25. ♖xa7! ♖e8 [25... ♖xa7 26. ♖b8+-]

26. ♖xe7! ♖xe7 [26... ♖xe7 27. ♖xc6+-]

27. ♗xg5+-

(29) Lagno, K(2543)-Zhao Xue(2552)

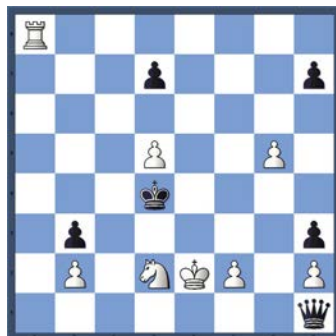
World Woman rapid Championship, 2014.04.25



18. ♖h4! ♗xh4 [18... ♔f7 19. ♖xh7 ♗xh4 20. ♗xh4+-]

19. ♗xh7+ ♔f8 20. ♗xh4+-

(30) Kubbel



1.g6!! [1.♖a1? 1...♔g2 2.♖g1 ♕xd5]

1...hxg6 [1...♕xd5 2.♖a4+ ♔e5 3.gxh7+-]

2.♖a1! ♕g2 [2...♕xa1 3.♘xb3+ ♔xd5 4.♘xa1+-]

3.♖g1! ♕xd5 [3...♕xg1 4.♘f3+-]

4.♖g4+ ♔c5 5.♖g5! ♕xg5 6.♘e4+ ♔d4 7.♘xg5+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 116

16th of May 2014

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13th World University
Championship

Katowice
Poland



August 18-24
2014

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Editorial Preface

Another great week of chess has just passed.

In the men's US Championship we will probably see a fight for the first place between Akobian and Kamsky, but there are still a lot of rounds to go and things will definitely become more exciting.

In the women's section, as every year, there is a tough fight for the first place between Irina Krush and Anna Zatonskyh and here too everything will be very interesting until the end of the event.

In the traditional Poikovsky tournament in Siberia we have a big surprise and this is the great play of Ivan Saric, who started the event with 4/5 and is shared leader with Morozovich. Just half a point behind we find Jakovenko with 3.5/5.

In the Capablanca Memorial in Cuba, Wesley So and Dominguez will probably decide the tournament win between them. A slight disappointment is the current score of Ivanchuk, who is only on 2/6.

As usual we wish you all a lot of chess fun with this issue of your weekly newsletter.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Ivanchuk, Vassily(2753)**
- **Almasi, Zoltan(2693) [C45]**

49th Capablanca Elite 2014(3.3),
2014.05.10



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Ivanchuk is clearly one of the most interesting players of the past 20 years and he still continues surprising us with amazingly great play but also sometimes with things like "losing on time around move 30 " or by just blundering some material. In the current game, Ivanchuk is sacrificing a piece for the attack, but Almasi finds the best defensive ways and this finally leaves him with a clear material advantage.

1.e4 To guess the first move of Ivanchuk is just imposibile, so many players don't really prepare for him and just repeat their main repertoire.

1...e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 Almasi has been playing the Berlin for many years already.

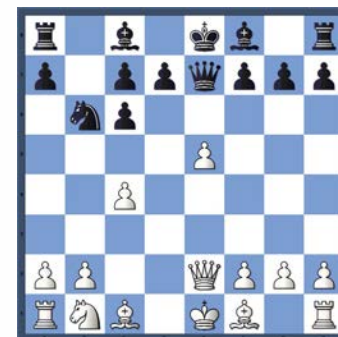
3.d4 So no Berlin and we are entering the Scottish opening instead.

3...exd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 This seems to be the main line at the moment. [4...♙c5 was the very main move for many years, but somehow now White is achieving quite a good result in 5.Nb3 or 5.Nxc6, so Black switched to 4...Nf6 more and more.]

5.♘xc6 [We currently see quite a lot of games in the following line: 5.♘c3 5...♙b4 6.♘xc6 bxc6 7.♙d3 d5 8.exd5 cxd5 9.O-O O-O but I think all this leads to an equal position and it can't be considered as a real try to get any advantage in the opening.]

5...bxc6 6.e5 ♖e7 7.♖e2 ♘d5 8.c4 So we are in the main line and so far things were pretty forced. Now Black has two main options: 8... Ba6 and 8...Nb6.

8...♘b6



9.b3 A relatively rare move. [Usually White was playing 9.♘c3 9...♖e6 10.♖e4 but it seems that Black found a direct way to equalize after 10...♙b4 11.♙d2 ♙a6 12.b3 ♙xc3 13.♙xc3 d5 14.♖f3 dxc4 15.♙e2 O-O 16.O-O ♖ad8 17.♖ac1 c5 happened in the game Caruana-Bacrot in 2013 and I think that if White is better here, it is very minimal and practically the position should be close to a draw.]

9...♖e6 Almasi has already played this move in 2010 against Tregubov. [A more popular answer for Black is 9...a5 with the idea of playing a4 quickly, then exchange of the rooks on the a-file and only after that play d5.]

10.♙b2 A new move. Almasi-Tregubov had continued with [10.g3 10...d5 11.exd6 ♙xd6 12.♙b2 O-O with a nice position for Black because of the much better development.]

10...♙b4+ Slightly dangerous play by Almasi, who is not trying the usual d5 or a5-a4 ideas, but is more concerned about fast play against the e5 pawn.

11.♘d2 O-O 12.O-O-O As we can see, the position is already

very sharp and dangerous for Black. The bishop on c8 might remain a "dead" piece. [12.a3!? might have been an interesting option.]

12...♖e7 Black might want to play Ba3 next or maybe he was just avoiding a3.

13.♘e4 At first sight Black's position is not looking nice, White is well developed and just maybe wants to play Qc2-Bd3 next or maybe Qh5 or Qg4 with attacking ideas.



13...♖e8! A really fantastic move by Almasi. He is not only defending against the Nf6 threat, but also wants to play d5 or d6 next, depending on White's move. White's problem now is that the knight on e4 is hanging and it is very difficult to do something against it.

14.♘f6+!? Not a very correct sacrifice, but a very interesting one anyway. [After a slow move like 14.♖c2 14...d5! 15.♘g3 a5 Black's play on the queenside gives him a clear advantage.]

14...gxf6 15.♖g4+ ♔h8 16.exf6 ♖f8 The last 2 moves were forced, now White needs to try and continue the attack.

17.♖h4 White wants to continue with Bd3, but in any case Black would have played d5 after almost any of White's moves.

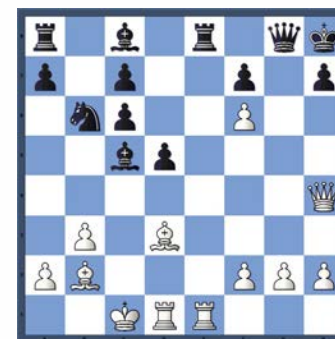
17...d5! A good move. In any case the black bishop from c8

has to come into the game.

18.♘d3 ♖g8 [Of course 18...h6? would have been a big mistake because of 19.♖b1! with the idea of playing Bc1 next, attacking the h6 pawn.]

19.c5 Ivanchuk continues being inventive. White needs to gain back the control over the e1 square to play Rhe1 and bring another rook into the attack, so who really cares about another pawn when you are a full piece down.

19...♘xc5 20.♖he1



20...♘g4! I like this move a lot. Before playing the natural Bd7, Black is provoking the f3 move, just to be sure that in the future White is not going to have the idea of Rd3-Rh3 somewhere if possible.

21.f3 ♘d7 22.♖e7 The only chance for White to survive is to keep on creating some threats.

22...♘e3+! Almasi continues playing a great game. By playing 22...Be3 with the idea of c5 and d4, Almasi is closing the monster bishop on b2.

23.♖b1 c5 The bishop on b2 is almost closed.

24.♖h5 White is attacking the f7 pawn which forces Black to take on e7.

24...♖xe7 [Of course not 24...d4?? 25.♖xf7]

25.fxe7+ ♜d4 Blacks keeps on being accurate. [25...d4? was a mistake because of 26.♖e1! and White wants to play Rxe3 next. The position would now be really unclear.]

26.♜xd4+ cxd4 27.♚e5+ Black is a full piece up and White's only chance left is the e7 pawn.

27...♚g7 28.♚xc7 White has 2 pawns for the piece at the moment, which is not much, but at least something. The bigger problem is that being a piece up and having a passed pawn in the center, Black's chances to develop a strong attack on the white king are very good.

28...♚f6 29.♖e1 ♖e8 The e7 pawn is blocked and the black king is safe, so it is time to switch to the final act of the game, the attack on the white king.

30.♚xa7 is clearly a move of desperation, but there is already nothing White can do. Black played a very good game, defending his position like Tigran Petrosian in his best games! :)



30...♜f5! Another strong move. Black is exchanging the last white defender.

31.♜xf5 ♚xf5+ 32.♚b2 ♚g5! Qd2 is a deadly threat now.

33.♚b1 ♚g6+ The white king has no good squares to go to,

after a move like 34.Ka1 Black has 34...Qc2.

34.♚b2 ♚xg2+ And the game is over. After 35.Kb1 d3 followed by Qc2 is just not worth playing. We just saw an interesting game and a great defence by Almasi, which brought him a deserved full point. **0-1**

(2) Kamsky, Gata(2713) - Erenburg, Sergey(2633) [D00]

ch-USA 2014(4.3),
2014.05.11



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

As in many of his latest games, Kamsky is not really trying to reach any advantage out of the opening and is just playing "something" in the hope to outplay his opponent in the later stages of the game. The current game is a good example of it. Black had no problems at all after the opening and reached a pretty equal position, but an inaccuracy first got Erenburg into a bad position and later on with strong play Kamsky pretty much overrode his opponent's defence lines.

1.d4 d5 2.♘g5 What to say about such a move.. It is just a random move like many others.

2...h6 To include h6 can't be bad for Black.

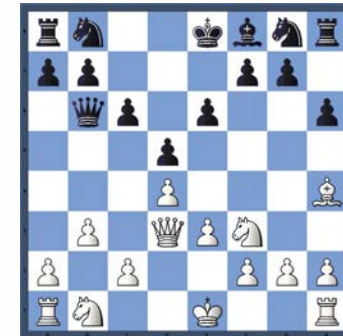
3.♘h4 c6 A solid way to go on. Another choice could be to just play 3...Nf6 and after 4.Bxf6 exf6 I believe Black should be OK as well.

4.♘f3 ♖b6! A strong move right now. It is quite difficult for White to defend the pawn in a nice way and Black is going for Bf5-e6 after which it is clear that 2...h6 was a very useful move and also that White has no advantage.

5.b3 To play a move like 5.Qc1 is also not very pleasant.

5...♘f5 6.e3 e6 7.♘d3 We can see similar ideas in the Slav, where White is trying to reach a small plus by exchanging the white squared bishops and pushing e4 at some point.

7...♘xd3 8.♖xd3



8...♘e7! An excellent move! The black knight is going to f5 and taking the h4 bishop, which is very important. By now it is clear that the position is just equal.

9.c4 White cannot escape the exchanges so he is at least trying to get the control over the center.

9...♘f5 Of course Black is finishing what he started.

10.♘g3 ♘d7 There is no hurry with taking on g3.

11.♘bd2 ♘xg3 It is hard to say why Erenburg just took on g3, I think a move like 11...Be7 was looking at least as logical as the move in the game. Black should not fear White's e4 push, because after dxe4 Nxe4 White's pawn on d4 is becoming a clear target for the black pieces.

12.hxg3 g6?! This is already a very strange decision. [The position is still looking equal after the simple 12...♘e7]

13.e4?! This move by White also looks absolutely unnecessary. [The more silent 13.g4 with the idea of asking why Black actually played 12...g6. In case of 13... Bg7 White would start his play on the queenside by playing for example a3-b4 with some small plus.]

13...dxe4 14.♘xe4



14...O-O-O! Erenburg is making the right evaluation of his position. On one hand it looks a bit dangerous to castle queenside when White can castle kingside and start the attack on the black king, but on the other hand the d4 pawn which Black can target immediately is making this possible. Black is in time to create strong and quick play in the center.

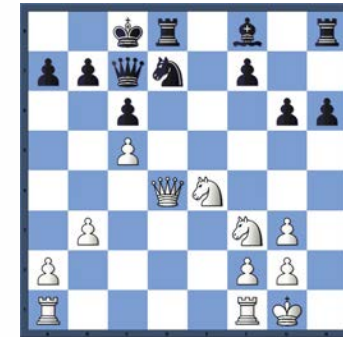
15.O-O White is ready to start the rush on the black king, with for example a move like b4 next.

15...e5! Exactly! Black is not wasting any time and is playing for the control of the dark squares, where his bishop could become a very strong piece.

16.c5 Black just wants to play f5 next.

16...♔c7 17.♔c3 [17.dxe5 also doesn't lead to anything as after 17...♘xe5 18.♔c3 ♘xf3+ 19.gxf3 Black has the very cool 19...♖h7! followed by f5 next and I think only Black could be better here.]

17...f5? This is a serious mistake after which White is clearly taking over. [Of course Black should have taken on d4: 17...exd4! 18.♔xd4 (18.♘xd4 18...♔e5! with a double attack on the e4 and c5 pawns. 19.♖fe1 ♘xc5 Black is a healthy pawn up.)



18...♖h7 and once again the wonderful Rh7 move leads to a slightly better position for Black.]

18.♘d6+! Such a move is impossible to miss.

18...♔xd6 19.cxd6 ♔xd6 20.dxe5 So after a exchanges White got a strong e5 pawn and some chances for an attack on the queenside, while Black now needs to be very careful in order to still be ok.

20...♔e7?! Black continues losing important time. [Probably the best chance to go on was to play 20...♔c5 21.♔b2 of course White needs to keep the queens on the board, as the endgame would just be perfect for Black. 21...♖he8 and Black can continue defending successfully.]

21.b4 White is starting his play.

21...♔b8 White of course wanted to play b5.

22.a4 An interesting strategic move from Kamsky who doesn't seem to care about the open d-file, but tries to open the black king's position as much as possible.

22...♖he8 23.♖fe1 This is an important moment for Black. Where to put the knight, to e6 or to d5?!

23...♘f8 [After 23...♘b6 24.b5 ♘d5 White has a nice move with a double attack: 25.♔c1! targetting the pawn h6. White should be better here.]



24.b5 White continues his plan. [Another option could have been to play 24.♘d2!? followed by Nc4-Nd6, with an advantage for White.]

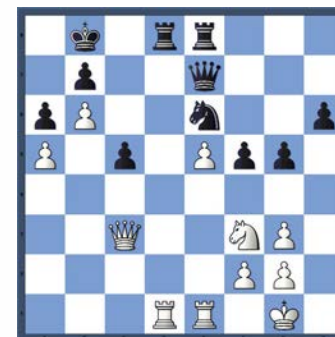
24...c5 25.b6 A logical move, but maybe now Black is getting some chances. [25.a5 was a safer move. 25...♘e6 26.b6 With a better position for White.]

25...a6?! After this move Black's position is becoming very bad. [25...axb6 was the only chance to go on. Black just can't keep the b6 pawn alive, which is terrible news for the black king. 26.♘d2! And again the idea of Nd2-Nc4 is crushing Black's plans. 26...♖d4 27.♘c4 ♘d7 28.♖ab1 With a very dangerous position for Black, but still not a lost one.]

26.♖ad1 After the job with demolishing Black's pawn structure and getting the pawn to b6 is done, White is taking control over the d-file.

26...♘e6 27.a5 This move is clearly not a mistake, but it was not really needed. [White could have proceeded with exactly the same idea as in the game. 27.♖d6! and Black still cannot take the rook because of 27...♖xd6? 28.exd6 ♕xd6 29.♕f6 ♕xb6 30.♕f7 ♕c6 31.♘e5 ♕xa4 32.♘d7+ and White is winning the rook on e8.]

27...g5 After this move it is all over. [Black's last chance to fight was 27...♖xd1 28.♖xd1 ♖d8 29.♖xd8+ ♕xd8 30.♕c4 and of course White's position is much better, but Black could have tried to go on with 30...Qd7, with the idea of Kc8-Kd8-Ke7 and holding a bad position.]



28.♖d6! A very strong move! Now of course Black cannot take the rook on d6 and White can simply increase the pressure on the d-file.

28...h5 Black is totally in panic and makes some random moves, but the position seems to already be lost. [After 28...♖xd6 29.exd6 ♕xd6 30.♕f6 Black's position is also looking hopeless. We can see how important the white pawn on b6 is.]

29.♖ed1 The d-file is under White's control.

29...f4 30.♕c4 With the simple threat of playing Qxe6 next.

30...♖c8 Black is avoiding it, but here comes the other "evil":

31.gxf4 was not really needed, but why not. Black can't do anything anyway.

31...gxf4



32.♖1d5 A nice move. White has a lot of threats and Black is almost in zugzwang!

32...♙f7 33.♖xc5+ ♔b8 34.♖c7 Another fighting win by Kamsky where Erenburg had a good chance to at least not be worse. It is hard to recommend Kamsky's way of playing, but usually in the end the player with the highest rating wins... **1-0**

**(3) Onischuk, Alexander(2668)
- Shankland, Samuel L(2634) [D19]**

Saint Louis USA(4.4),
2014.05.11



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Onischuk scored a nice clear-cut win in the US Championship.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 dxc4 Black goes for the popular Slav defence.

5.a4 ♕f5 6.e3 The calm continuation. [The other huge main line is 6.♘e5 and it usually leads to very sharp positions.]

6...e6 7.♕xc4 ♕b4 8.0-0 0-0 We have reached another crossroads. Onischuk plays the most frequent and probably the most challenging move, but 9.Nh4 is another serious alternative for White.

9.♙e2 With the idea to occupy the center with e4, after which White can develop his c1 bishop. Black also has plenty of setups here, but Shankland goes for the line, which everybody employs recently...

9...♘bd7 10.e4 ♕g6 11.♕d3



11...♕h5 The most forcing continuation. By pinning the knight, Black has prepared the freeing break with e5,

therefore White has to play it himself, but it gives the d5 square for the knight. The move is popular since the Kramnik-Topalov World Championship match in 2006, where Kramnik successfully employed this line with Black in more games.

12.e5 ♖d5 **13.♗xd5** [13.♗e4 is a typical move in such positions, but here Black can play 13...♙e7 followed by c5, undermining the center.]

13...cxd5 14.♙e3 White has left the pin and intends to play Ng5. Black has a wide range of choices here:

14...♙e7 The most direct defence against Ng5, but it gives up the pair of bishops. [I recently played 14...♖e8!? which has the idea of 15.♗g5 ♙g6 16.♙xg6 fxg6! (After 16...hxxg6 Black has to deal with the g5 knight. 17.♙f4 f6 seriously weakens the pawn structure, the pawn on g6 becomes a target. 17...♙e7 18.♙e3 with the ideas of Qh4 Nf8 f4 and Rf3-h3.) 17.♙h3 ♗f8 and Black has protected both of his pawns and he can kick out the annoying knight with h5.]

15.♗g5 ♙xg5 16.♙xg5



16...♙xg5 This is an inaccuracy. Shankland probably mixed up the move order. [It is considered to be better to start with

16...♙g6 and only after 17.♙e2 (17.♙b5 makes no sense now as Black simply plays 17...a6) 17...♙xg5 (Or 17...♗b8 immediately) 18.♙xg5 ♗b8 driving the knight to a more active place on c6 from where it attacks the d4 pawn and controls the important b4 square to avoid any kind of progressing plans like b4-b5.]

17.♙xg5 ♙g6 18.♙b5! White saves his bishop with tempo and the knight has no good square to leave from d7.

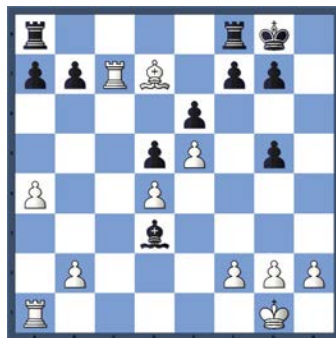
18...h6!? A tricky move... [Black has no time for 18...♗b8 19.♖fc1 a6 with the idea to establish the knight on c6 and all is fine, but White wins after 20.♙e7! axb5 21.♙xf8 ♙xf8 22.♖c8+ ♙e7 23.♖ac1+- and the pin is fatal. R1c7 wins next.; 18...♗b6 19.a5 and Nc4 runs into b3, while Nc8 Rfc1 is not really an option for Black.]

19.♙xd7! Only this simplest continuation gives an advantage. [19.♙xh6 19...♗xe5 20.♙xg7 wins a pawn, but after 20...♗f3+! 21.gxf3 ♙xg7 White cannot be better with such poor pawns.; 19.♙e7 seemed to win, but after 19...♖fc8! (19...♖fe8 20.♙h4!+- really wins the piece.) 20.♙xd7 ♖c7 Black wins back the piece and survives.]

19...hxxg5 20.♖fc1! Simple and strong. Onischuk uses the fact that Black cannot oppose his rook on the c-file and he invades the 7th rank.

20...♙d3 Trying to drop the bishop into defence. [Other moves like 20...a5 also lead to a bad position after 21.♖c7 ♖fb8 22.♖a3!± Because of rook-lifting motif it was important to occupy the c-file with the f-rook.]

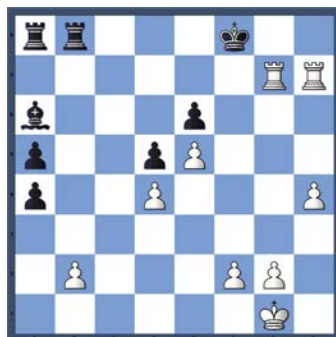
21.♖c7



21...a5!? Another clever attempt by Black to consolidate. The idea is if White grabs the pawn, Rfb8 and Black gets adequate compensation against the b2 pawn. Otherwise he intends to put his bishop to a6 and he prevented the b4-b5 idea. However Onischuk finds a subtle refutation... [21...♗a6 22.b4 was problematic for Black.; 21...♖ab8 22.♖a3 is also bad.]

22.♖a3! ♗a6 23.♖g3! Attacking and actually winning the second weakness. f6 never works as the e6 pawn falls, therefore White wins a pawn. Of course Black had expected this when he entered this defensive setup and he planned to play

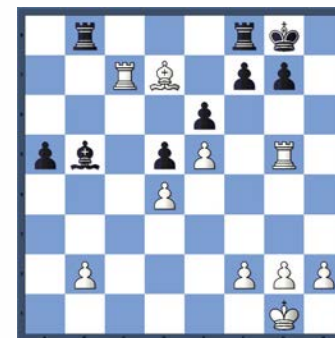
23...♖ab8 [In case of 23...♖fb8 24.♖xg5 b5 White wins again after 25.♗xe6! fxe6 26.♖xg7+ ♔h8 27.♖h7+ ♔g8 28.♖cg7+ ♔f8 and here 29.h4! with the idea of h5-h6 and Rh8 mate. Black has to play 29...bxa4 with the idea of Bd3 and here



30.♖g3!! White wins after this extremely deep move! He simply prevented the Bd3 threat and wants to continue his idea to push h5-h6. The b8 rook cannot leave the 8th rank because the a8 rook falls after Rh8! 30...♖c8 31.h5 ♖c1+ 32.♔h2 ♖ac8 33.h6!+- and Black cannot avoid getting mated in a few moves. The direct threat is Rh8 and Rg7 mate, but White also threatens with Rgg7 and Rh8 is inevitable.]

24.♖xg5 b5 It seems like Black opens the b-file and gets his compensation for his missing pawn because the b2 is very weak and the g5 rook seems to be completely misplaced. However, the truth is that the rook on g5 is placed excellently due to the tactical motif

25.axb5 ♗xb5



26.♗xe6!! It is instructive that even in endgames we should focus on finding tactical ideas.

26...♗c4 The only chance for Black to create some counterplay with his a-pawn, but it is too slow. [26...fxe6 leads to forced mate: 27.♖xg7+ ♔h8 28.♖h7+ ♔g8 29.♖cg7#]

27.h4! Opening the back rank and launching a quick attack with h5-h6.

27...♖xb2 28.♗d7 Preventing a4 and threatening with e6! [28.h5 28...♖b6 and the bishop needs to move, but then h6

is not a threat anymore. Still of course 29.♕d7 should be winning with the extra pawn.]

28...♖e2 [28...♖b6 does not change anything. 29.e6 threatening to play e7 and after 29...fxe6 30.♕xe6+ ♖xe6 31.♖gxg7+ ♔h8 32.♖h7+ ♔g8 33.♖cg7#]

29.e6 [29.♖a7 29...♖b8 30.♕f5+- was also good enough.]

29...a4 [29...fxe6 was still mate after 30.♕xe6+!+-]



30.♖e5! The most precise! White creates the threat of e7, therefore the following moves are forced... [30.♕xa4 30...♖xe6 Black has a practical chance by reaching 3 vs 2.]

30...♖xe5 31.dxe5 fxe6 32.♕xe6+ ♔h7 33.♖a7 ♔g6 [On 33...♖e8 White defends his important e5 pawn with tempo: 34.♕f5+ ♔h6 35.f4+-; The best chance was 33...♕b3 White has some different wins here. The computer gives the most convincing one as 34.♖a6! (After the direct 34.♕d7 Black could hope with 34...♖f7 35.e6 ♖e7) 34...d4 35.♕d7! wins the a-pawn and he is in time to stop the d-pawn... 35...d3 36.♕xa4 ♕xa4 37.♖xa4 ♖d8 (37...d2 38.♖d4+-) 38.♖a1 The d-pawn falls soon. 38...♔g6 39.f3 ♔f5 40.♔f2 ♔xe5 41.♔e3+- and the 3 against 1 endgame arises inevitably, which of course wins easily.]

34.g4! Threatening to take on a4, because after Re8 White

will have Bf5 check. [But not 34.♖xa4? because of 34...♖e8 and Black gets practical chances again.]

34...♔h6 [34...♕b3 loses to 35.♕f5+ ♔h6 36.♖a6+- suddenly mates.]

35.♕f7 Black resigned. Mixing up the moves in the opening has cost Black a lot... **1-0**

**(4) Fressinet, Laurent(2711)
- Blomquist, Erik(2492) [D11]**

Malmo, 2014.05.15

GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

The big difference between the two players was telling in this game, but it was still a spectacular win by Fressinet.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6



4.g3!? From time to time we meet this surprise weapon against the Slav defence on the highest level. White would like to play a Catalan structure, but of course having played c6 instead of e6 gives Black many extra options. First of all, he can develop his c8 bishop to f5 or g4 followed by e6, with a very solid structure. He can play g6, which transposes to the g3 Gruenfeld, where the c6-d5 setup is considered to be the most solid and Black can also take on c4 with the idea to protect the extra pawn with b5.

4...dxc4 5.♙g2 ♙f5 There were many games on this move, but strong players play differently. [5...b5!? 6.♘e5 ♙b7 7.O-O e6 was played by Shirov recently.; To me the most logical development seems to be 5...♘bd7!? 6.♙c2 ♘b6 7.♘bd2 g6 8.O-O ♙g7 9.♘xc4 ♙f5 10.♙c3 ♘xc4 11.♙xc4 O-O which

happened in the Grischuk-Aronian 2013 game and in both cases we reach a playable position for both sides.]

6.O-O After developing the bishop to f5, the plan of b5 makes no sense, because the c6 pawn cannot be supported with Bb7 anymore. White could play Ne5 or a4 with excellent prospects on the h1-a8 diagonal.

6...♘bd7 7.♘a3! White wins the pawn back, but it matters a lot under which circumstances. The way Black plays, White just gets a huge advantage...

7...♙a5? This plan of driving the queen to a6 exists and is known from different lines, but in this particular situation it is pointless, as it gives White a tempo and the queen just gets misplaced... [7...♘b6 should definitely have been played. White wins back the c4 pawn anyway and he has some space advantage, but in such situations the trade of the pieces helps to the side who is lacking space. 8.♘e5 e6 9.♘axc4 ♘xc4 10.♘xc4 White is slightly better, but of course this is just the beginning of the game. Black might try to exchange the strong bishop on g2 as well with Be4...; 7...b5 was bad in view of 8.♘e5! winning back the c6 pawn and then the b5 pawn also becomes vulnerable. 8...♘xe5 9.dxe5 Nd5 moves into the e4 fork, while 9...♘e4 10.♙c2! ♙d5 11.♙f4 followed by Rd1 is also bad for Black.]

8.♘xc4 ♙a6 9.b3 g6? Another unnatural move, which takes the important g6 square away from the f5 bishop. Black soon faces real problems because of it. [On 9...e6 Black was probably afraid of 10.♙f4 with the threat of Nd6. White grabs the bishop pair and also prevents Black from castling, but he could still play 10...♘b6! 11.♘fe5! (The tempting 11.♘d6+ is wrong because of 11...♙xd6 12.♙xd6 ♘e4! with the double threat on d6 and Nc3. 13.♙b4 ♘d5! again with tempo and Nc3 is also threatening.)]

10.♟b2 [10.♞g5!? was a strong alternative, directly showing the misplacement of the f5 bishop by threatening with e4. 10...h6 11.e4! hxg5 (11...♟g4 is even worse. 12.f3 hxg5 13.fxg4± and the g5 is going to fall and e5-e6 is also in the air.) 12.exf5 gxf5 13.♟xg5± The change of the pawn formation clearly favors White. The king on e8 becomes vulnerable and the opening of the position strengthens the two bishops.]

10...♟g7 [If Black tries to avoid the things that happened in the game with 10...♟e4 White gets an advantage anyway with 11.♞cd2 ♟d5 12.♞e1!+= and the threat of e4 forces Black to give up his bishop on d5.]

11.♞fd2! Simple and strong! White would like to occupy the center with e4.

11...0-0 [11...♞b6 could have been met by 12.e4 ♟e6



13.♞e3!+= I like this move a lot positionally. White has space advantage, while the black pieces in front of their pawns have no coordination and target, therefore White keeps all his pieces on board.]

12.e4 ♟g4 13.♞c2 ♞e8 I am not sure about the point of this move, but White has already achieved a pleasant edge. [Even after some more logical move like 13...♞b6 White is better

after 14.♞e3 ♟e2 15.♞fe1 ♟d3 16.♞c3 The bishop is nice on d3, but actually it does not do anything and Black only has problems with defending it.]

14.♞fe1! Improving the pieces.

14...♞c8 [Probably the original idea of Ne8 was 14...♞d6 but White wins material after 15.h3 ♟e6 16.d5! cxd5 (16...♟xb2 17.♞xb2 cxd5 18.exd5 ♟f5 19.g4 ♟d3 20.♞xe7+-) 17.♟xg7 ♞xg7 18.exd5 ♟f5 19.♞c3+- and g4 or or Rxe7 wins next move.]

15.♟f1 Another strong positional move, which forces Black to make a decisive weakening on the queenside in order to save the queen from the pin. [However White had a nice direct win 15.♞e3! 15...♟e6 (15...♟e2



16.♞d5!!+- is the point and White wins material!) 16.d5! Using the pin on the c-file, White traps the bishop. 16...♟xb2 17.dxe6! ♟xa1 18.exd7 ♞d8 19.dxe8=♞ A nice career for the d-pawn, he took 3 minor pieces in a row... 19...♞fxe8 20.♞xa1+-]

15...b5 16.♞e3 ♟e6



17.a4! Very well played. White is going to take on b5, luring the c-pawn away and it will lead to even bigger domination in the center.

17...♖b7 18.axb5 cxb5 19.♖b1 White is ready to advance his central pawns. The advantage is growing with each move.

19...♘b8 [If Black tries to go to the other direction with his bishop 19...f6 20.d5 ♕f7 21.b4! White will play Nb3 next, with a decisive positional advantage. Black is just totally doomed.]

20.d5 ♕d7



21.e5 What a very nice position from White's point of view. The entire black army is paralyzed, one of his pieces is worse than the other. [White could also have played 21.♕xg7 21...♘xg7 22.b4!+- again with the idea of Nb3-c5. White is just winning.]

21...e6 22.♕d4! As we will see, Fressinet wants to occupy the c5 square with his knight, but not with the b4 Nb3 plan as I suggested in the previous moves, but he supports it with the bishop and also wins a tempo by attacking the a7 pawn. [22.d6 22...f6 gives some small hope for Black, but of course his position is objectively still bad. For instance 23.exf6 ♘xf6 24.b4± and Nb3 again next move.]

22...a6 23.dxe6 fxe6 [23...♕xe6 24.♘e4± is equally bad for Black.]

24.♘e4 ♕c6 [On 24...♘c6 25.♘c5 wins the a6 pawn with tempo. 25...♖c7 26.♘xa6 ♖d8 27.♖b2!+- White was able to save his important e5 pawn.]

25.♕g2 [25.♕h3! was actual ly even stronger and it is not easy to protect the e6 pawn. Black is in trouble in all the lines. 25...♕xe4 loses to (25...♖e7 26.♕c5+-; 25...♖d7 26.♘g5 ♖xd4 27.♕xe6+ ♖h8 28.♕xc8+-; 25...♖f7 26.f4!+- Threatening Ng5.) 26.♕xe6+ ♖h8 27.♕xc8!+- Counterattacking the queen and White has a decisive material advantage.]

25...♖d8 [25...♕xe4 26.♕xe4 ♖c7 27.♘g4± also looks terrible for Black from a positional point of view.]

26.♕c5 ♕xe5 A desperate attempt to confuse the opponent, but Fressinet calculates well and finds the winning continuation. [26...♖f7 loses to 27.♘g5 ♕xg2 28.♘g2+- and the e6 pawn or the exchange falls.; 26...♖f5 could have been the best practical chance to complicate the matters a bit, although after 27.f4!+- (27.♘xf5 27...exf5 is unclear.)]

27. ♖xf8 ♜xa1



28. ♘c5! The most convincing way to victory. White wins in all the concrete lines:

28... ♔f7 29. ♘g4! Not the only way to win, but the most pretty one. Some knight tango at the end of the game.

29... ♔xf8 [29... ♔xf8 30. ♘xe6+ ♔g8 31. ♘h6+--]

30. ♘xe6 [Black resigned in view of 30. ♘xe6 30... ♔a3 (30... ♔d6 31. ♘h6+ ♔h8 32. ♔xa1+--)] 31. ♘h6+ ♔h8 Black made some wrong decisions in the opening stage of the game and his position just fell apart. 32. ♘xd8+--] **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Bacallao, Y(2522)-Bogner, S(2593)

Capablanca B, 2014.05.09

1. +-



(6) Molner, M(2522)-Gareev, T(2653)

US Championship, 2014.05.11

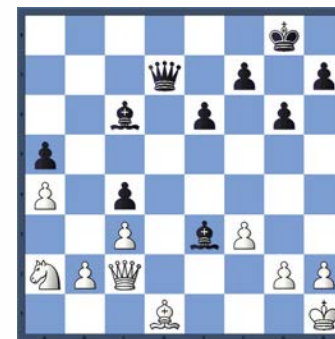
1... -+



(7) Mammadov, Z(2453)-Smirnov, P(2626)

Nakchivan Open, 2014.05.07

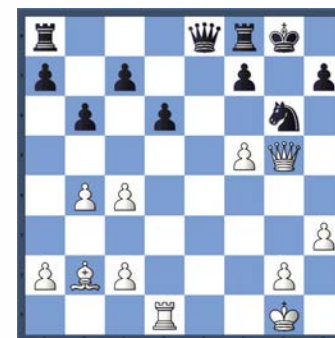
1... -+



(8) Paichadze, L(2535)-Agasiyev, K(2405)

Nakchivan Open, 2014.05.10

1. +-



(9) Gagunashvili, M(2560)-Mamedov, R(2660)

Nakchivan Open, 2014.05.12

1... -+



(10) Aitbayev, A(2420)-Kozganbayev, E(2362)

Kazakhstan Championship, 2014.05.08

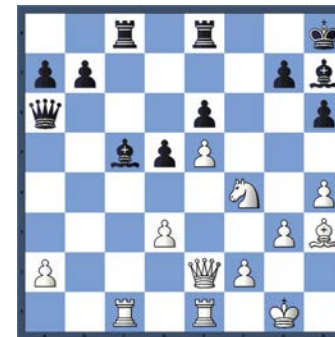
1. +-



(11) Fressinet, L(2711)-Burmakin, V(2578)

Porticciu Open, 2014.05.09

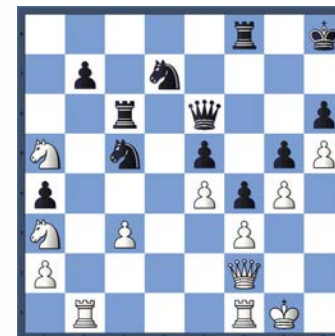
1. +-



(12) Koziak, V(2502)-Edouard, R(2692)

Porticciu Open, 2014.05.09

1... -+



(13) Peralta, F(2607)-Nicolas Zapata, I(2303)

Llucmajor Open, 2014.05.11

1. +-



(14) Landa, K(2655)-Gordon, S(2518)

4NCL, 2014.05.05

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Saric, Ivan(2666)
- Eljanov, Pavel(2732)

15th Karpov GM 2014(4.1),
2014.05.14



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



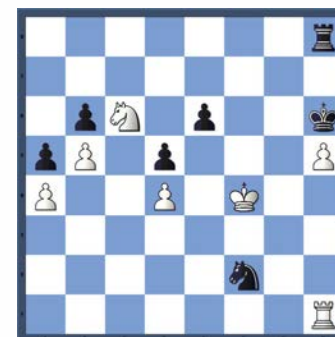
White's position is clearly better but the win is still far away. Ivan Saric shows us great technique by giving Eljanov no chances for escape.

41.h5! A strong move. White needs to create a passed h-pawn, with the idea of sacrificing it at some point and to then be in time to play Kf4-Ke5 with very good chances to win the game.

41...gxh5 42.gxh5 ♖h6 Eljanov decides to stop the h-pawn with his king and to try and be active with his rook and knight. [In case of 42...♖f6 43.♖f4 (Black would be happy to see White playing 43.h6? 43...♗g3! followed by Nf5, winning the h-pawn.) 43...♗c3 At least Black is trying to win the a-pawn. 44.h6 ♗xa4 45.♖g4 followed by Kh5 and Rf1 next. White's position is looking pretty close to winning here.]

43.♖f4! Another strong move. White is not losing time and tries to enter Black's position with his king.

43...♗f2 Black is trying to get his knight to d3 to stop White from getting to e5 with the king.



44.♖b1! Another very accurate move by Saric, taking the b2 square under control. [After for example 44.♖a1 44...♗d3+ 45.♖e3 Black has the very important move 45...♗b2! followed by Nc4, with probably a draw.]

44...♖xh5 [44...♗d3+ of course didn't work since after 45.♖e3 the black knight has no more squares.]

45.♖e5 So the h-pawn played its role perfectly. The black king had to lose time to pick it up and the white king managed to enter Black's position. Now both the e6 and b6 pawns are weak.

45...♖g5 After this move the position is lost by force. [45...♖g4 would have given Black more chances for escape. 46.♖xe6 ♖f4 47.♖xd5 ♗g4 and of course White is a pawn up and should win the game, but Black would still have some tricks.]

46.♖g1+! A very strong move again.

46...♗g4+ 47.♖d6 White doesn't even need to waste time on a move like Kxe6, after which the position would of course be

winning too.

47...♔f4 White's threat was also to play Ne5.

48.♔c7 e5 Black is trying his last hope, to at least get a passed pawn.



49.♖xg4+ Saric is finishing the game in style. [Of course the position after 49.♔xb6 would also be winning for White. It is just impossible to stop the b-pawn.]

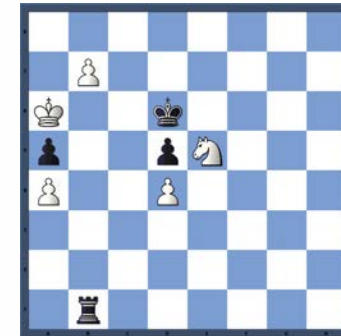
49...♔xg4 50.♖xe5+ For the moment Black is a full exchange up, but his position is totally hopeless. White is going to take the b-pawn and there is nothing Black can do to stop White from promoting the pawn.

50...♔f5 51.♔xb6 ♔e6 Eljanov tries to bring his king as close as possible, in the best case to the 8th rank.

52.♔a7 White already wants to end the game by playing b6-b7. Of course 52.Kxa5 would have won the game too.

52...♖h7+ 53.♔a6 ♔d6 54.b6 ♖h1 There is still some small hope of stopping the b-pawn...

55.b7 ♖b1 Black wants to play Kc7 next.



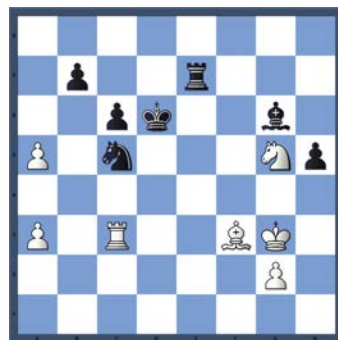
56.♖d3! Of course such a move is hard to miss. Black is not in time for Kc7-Kb8, because of 56...Kc7 57.Nc5 and now White threatens to play Ka7 so 57...Kb8 58.Nd7+ Kc7 59.b8, with an easily winning pawn endgame. We just saw great endgame technique by the still young Croatian Ivan Saric, who probably had by far the best year in his chess career so far, winning the Corsican Rapid, the B group in Wijk aan Zee and qualifying for the World Cup in the European Championship. **1-0**

(16) Gareev, Timur(2653)
- Akobian, Varuzhan(2643)

US Championship,
2014.05.12



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

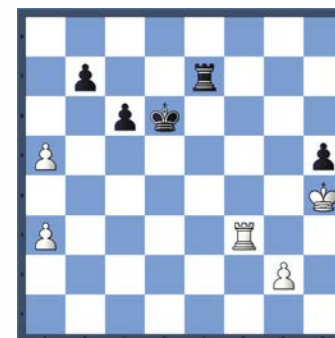


Despite the material equality, Black has realistic chances to play for the win because the doubled a-pawns cannot be counted as healthy ones and Black has a c6 passed pawn, which might become dangerous in all the endgames.

41...♖e4+! Black rightly aims for simplifications. The power of the c-pawn increases with the exchanges of the pieces.

42.♗xe4+ ♕xe4 43.♔h4? White probably blunders the deep idea which comes two moves later. [White should have entered to the endgame 43.♕xh5 43...♖g7+ 44.♔f4 ♕xg2=+ and the position should be drawn due to the limited material, but of course Black can still press very long without any risk of losing.]

43...♕xf3 44.♖xf3



44...♖h7!! It is easy to miss such moves, because the human mind usually follows the principles that one should play actively in rook endgames and if the h5 pawn can be defended from h7 and from e5, then he starts to calculate only the latter one, because it also attacks the a5 pawn. However the key is that the b7 pawn is protected and Black simply wants to advance his c-pawn. [On 44...♖e5 White could have played 45.♖f7! ♖xa5 46.♖xb7 and the game should be drawn.]

45.a4 A slightly mysterious move, but White was already in a difficult situation. [45.♖f5 does not help 45...c5 and the h5 pawn cannot be taken, because the king is not in the square of the c-pawn.; 45.♔g5 would have been the most logical reaction, with the idea to play Kg6 followed by attacking either the h5 or the b7 pawn, depending on where the rook moves. Although Black can continue with 45...♖g7+ 46.♔xh5 ♖xg2 47.♖f7 ♖b2 The white king is very far from the queenside where the action is going on... 48.♔g4 ♖b3 49.♔f4 ♔d5 followed by c5. 50.♖d7+



50...c4 It is difficult to establish if Black is winning or not, but in any case this would have been the only chance for White to hold.]

45...e5!? Black plays very subtle chess. He only wants to advance his c-pawn after avoiding his opponent's idea to get rid of his a-pawn. [However there was no need for such deepness, as Black could simply have played 45...c5 46.a6 bxa6 47.f6+ Only this could be White's idea, but Black is winning after 47...d5 48.xa6 c4 49.a8



49...c7! The c-pawn is too advanced. The only saving idea could be to sacrifice the rook for it, grab the h-pawn and try to promote the g-pawn, but it is just too slow... 50.xh5 c3 51.d8+ e4 52.d1 c2 53.c1 d3 54.g4 d2 55.a1 c1= 56.xc1 xc1 57.g5 e3 58.g6 f4 59.g7 f5!—+ And it is over because of the mate threat.]

46.g3 Another mysterious move, but it was already hard to be clever... Black's task is easy in any case. [46.f8 46...c5 47.c8 d4 Slowly but surely promoting the pawn.; 46.g5 also loses after 46...c5 47.g6 c7 48.xh5 c4 like in the 45...c5 line. 49.c3 d4 50.c1 c3 51.g4 c2 52.g5 c3 The black b-pawn remains on the board, so it does not matter if White succeeds to promote his g-pawn, Black will take it and collect the a-pawns one by one.]

46...c5 47.g5 [On 47.f4 Black wins for instance after 47...g7 with the threat of trading the rooks with Rg4 and after taking twice he plays Ke4, cutting the king's route to catching the c-pawn... 48.xh5 xg3—+ The white king is just too far to hold...]

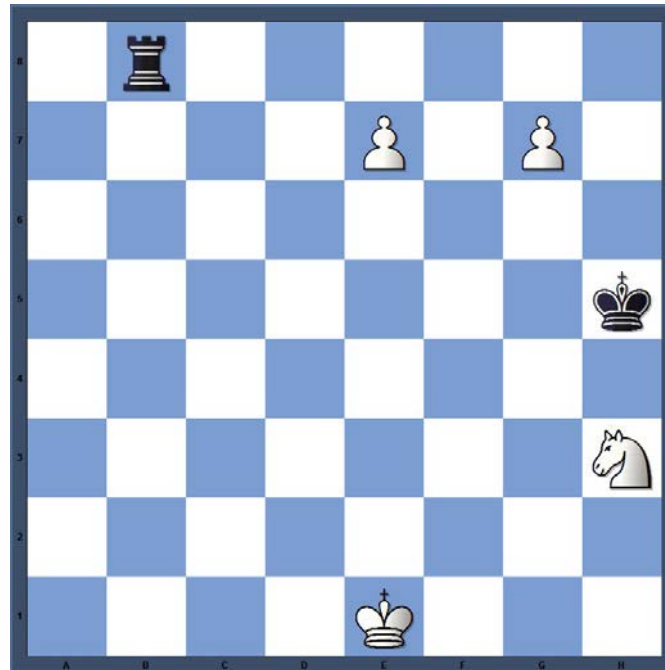
47...c4 The rest of the moves are automatic for Black.

48.g6 c7 49.xh5 c3 50.f1 c2 51.c1 d4 52.g4 c3 And White resigned. It was instructive how hopeless White was against the c-pawn, but the key of the success was 44... Rh7! **0-1**

Surprise section / study

(17) Lazard

1. +-



Solutions

(18) Bezgodova, S(2094)-Cramling, P(2507)

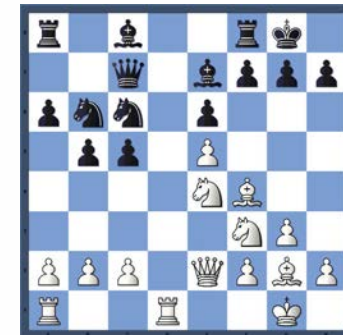
World Women rapid Championship, 2014.04.25



35... ♖g1+! 36. ♔xg1 ♘xe2+ 37. ♕f2 ♘xc1+-

(19) Kislinsky, A(2483)-Dobrovolsky, L(2334)

Czech Championship, 2014.05.01



14. ♘f6+! gxf6 [14... ♖h8 15. ♘g5+- (15. ♖e4+-)]

15. exf6 ♖a7 16. ♘g5 ♕xf6 17. ♖h5 ♖d8 [17... ♕xg5 18. ♖xg5+ ♖h8 19. ♖f6+ ♖g8 20. ♕h6+-]

18. ♕xc6 1-0

(20) Svoboda, S(2334)-Babula, V(2553)

Czech Championship, 2014.05.02



28...♖e1! 29.♔c3 [29.♔xe1 29...♔xd2! 30.♔c3 (30.♔xd2 30...♖f3+ 31.♔f1 ♖xd2+-) 30...♖f3+-]

29...♔g2# 0-1

(21) Portisch, L(2464)-Rapport, R(2698)

rapid match, 2014.05.03



30...♖xe4! 31.fxe4 [31.♖xe7 31...♖f2+ 32.♔g2 ♖xf3+ 33.♔g3 ♖xd1+-]

31...♔xe4! 32.♔xe4 ♔xe4 0-1 [32...♔xe4 33.♖xe4 ♖xe4+ 34.♖g2 ♖xg2#]

(22) Dastan, B(2439)-Smirnov, P(2626)

Nakchivan Open, 2014.05.05



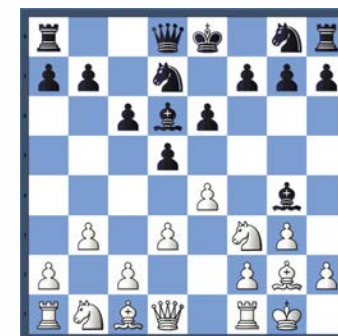
19.♖d5!! exd5 20.♖xd5+ ♔h8 [20...♔f7 21.e6+-]

21.♔f3!! ♔f6 [21...♖c6 22.♔xh7+ ♔xh7 23.♔h5#; 21...♖f6 22.exf6 ♔xf6 (22...♖xf6 23.♔xh7+ ♔xh7 24.♔h5#) 23.♖d4+-]

22.♔h5 h6 23.exf6 ♖xf6 24.♔g6+- ♖g4 [24...♖xd5 25.♖xh6+-] 25.♖d4

(23) Rzaev, B(2432)-Korneev, O(2618)

Nakchivan Open, 2014.05.05



7...♔f6! 8.c3 ♖e5! 9.♖f4 [9.♖bd2 9...♖xd3+-]

9...♖xf3+ 10.♖xf3 ♖xf3 11.♔xf3 g5+-

(24) Savchenko, B(2559)-Guliev, L(2386)

Nakchivan Open, 2014.05.05



30. ♖xf7+! ♔e8 [30... ♖xf7 31. ♕xe6+ ♔f8 32. ♕f7#; 30... ♔d8 31. ♕a8+-]

31. ♕c6+! 1-0

(25) Iskandarov, M(2403)-Shanava, K(2551)

Nakchivan Open, 2014.05.05



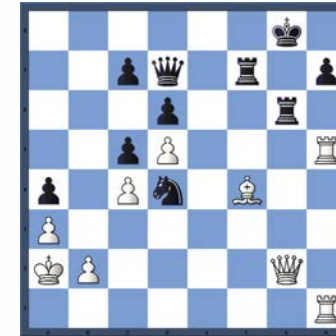
26... ♖xe4! 27. ♖c1 [27. ♖xe4 27... ♖d1#]

27... ♖d2 28. ♖d1 [28. ♖xb7 28... ♖e2+ 29. ♔h1 ♖xc1+-]

28... ♖d3+-

(26) Barnaure, V(2508)-Nevednichy, V(2552)

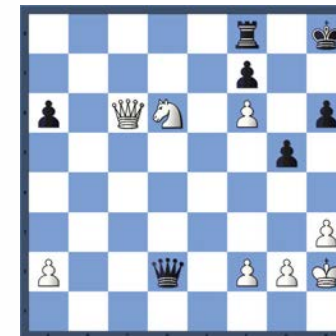
Romanian Championship, 2014.05.01



34. ♕xg6+! hxg6 35. ♖h8+ ♔g7 36. ♖g5! 1-0

(27) Ortiz, I(2604)-Otero, D(2481)

Sisniega memorial, 2014.05.04

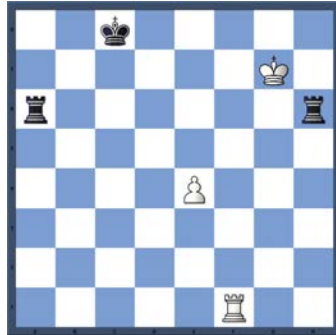


41. ♖xf7+! ♔g8 [41... ♖xf7 42. ♕e8+ ♔h7 43. ♕xf7+ ♔h8 44. ♕g7#; 41... ♔h7 42. ♕e4+ ♔g8 43. ♕g6#]

42. ♖xh6+ ♔h8 43. ♖g4+- ♕xa2 [43... ♕f4+ 44. g3 ♕f5 45. ♕xa6+-]

44. ♖e5+-

(28) Kozlowski



1. ♖f8+ ♔d7 2. ♗f7+ ♔e6 3. ♗f5 ♗h4 4. ♗f6+ ♔e5 5. ♗xa6



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 117

23rd of May 2014

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Editorial Preface

Once again a lot of top events came to an end in the current week:

The US Championship was won by Gata Kamsky after tiebreak since 3 players (Kamsky, Lenderman, Akobian) had finished on an equal score of 7/11. In the first tiebreak game Lenderman was eliminated by Akobian and then in the final match Kamsky had no trouble to secure another US Championship Title.

In the women section we had a similar situation, where Krush, Zatonskih and Abrahamyan all managed to finish on 6.5/9 and had to play the tiebreak as well. First Abrahamyan won her mini match against Zatonskih but in the final the title once again went to Krush, who already crushed for the 6th time the US Championship.

In the Capablanca Memorial in Cuba, Wesley So made his way to the top with a great result of 6.5/10. 2nd place went to Bruzon with 5.5/10 and 3rd to Dominguez with 5/10.

The super tournament in Poikovsky was won by Morozevich with 6/9, followed by Jakovenko with 5.5/9 and Shirov and Bacrot shared the 3rd place with 5/9.

The 22nd Siegeman and Co Chess Tournament was won by Fressinet with 3.5/5.

The next week seems to be a bit empty from major chess events, so we hope you enjoy the current issue with the best moment from the biggest chess events!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

**(1) Motylev, Alexander(2687)
- Eljanov, Pavel(2732) [C84]**

15th Karpov GM 2014(6.4),
2014.05.17



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are going to see a very nice positional win by the current European Champion Alexander Motylev, who was also the second of Karjakin for many years. It is a very difficult job to combine your own chess career and having somebody for who you are working most of the time, but it seems like Motylev managed to find the right way.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 We are entering the main line of the Spanish opening. Motylev was probably happy not to see 3.. ♘f6 and another Berlin...

4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.O-O ♙e7 6.d3 In the last 5 years, the 6. d3 line got a lot of attention on the top level. The idea is simple, to save a tempo on playing Re1. Currently in the main line with 6.Re1 followed by c3 White is showing "nothing" against the Marshall (one of the main openings of Aronian for example) so to avoid going into deep analyses 6.d3 is a pretty good choice.

6...b5 [6...d6 is another possible way to go on here.]

7.♙b3 d6 Black is threatening to play Na5 now and to exchange the bishop on b3.

8.a3 is quite a new way of trying to achieve a slightly better position. [8.c3 8...O-O 9.♘bd2 ♘a5 10.♙c2 c5 was played in a lot of games, but I think Black should be doing fine here.; 8.a4 has been another main line for quite a while, but it looks like

here as well Black even has a few options which lead to a safe position. 8...b4 (8...♙d7 is also very safe.) 9.h3 O-O 10.♘bd2 ♙e6 and Black is perfectly fine.]

8...O-O 9.♘c3 This is White's idea, to quickly bring the knight to the d5 square.

9...♙g4 Black is threatening to play Nd4 next.

10.♙e3 There is no other good way of defending from Nd4.

10...♘d4 11.♙xd4 exd4 12.♘d5 This position is by far not new and has been analysed a lot lately because of the recent games from the Super Tournaments. At first sight it is hard to imagine White having any advantage, but things are more tricky. White has a better pawn structure and the general idea of playing f4 could theoretically be unpleasant for Black.

12...c5 a very logical move, Black is protecting the d4 pawn and he will also be able to play Be6 next.



13.a4! Very strong and deep play. Usually we can say "never play where you are weaker", but this time things are looking a bit different. White needs to have an extra threat of opening the a-file at any moment and the bishop on b3 is a very strong piece, holding everything together.

13...♙e6 14.♘xf6+! The next very important positional decision. White does not take the bishop on e7 after which

the position would be around equal, but he is planning a very long term plan where the white knight is going to be a better piece than Black's bishop.

14...♙xf6 15.♙xe6 fxe6 16.♚e2 The 16.Qe2 move is not really made for threatening e5, but more for connecting the rooks and be more flexible.

16...♚d7 17.b3 Of course White doesn't allow bxa4.

17...♚c7 I find this move a bit strange. [The main question for me is, does White get a real chance after 17...e5 followed by the simple b4 and then Rf7-Raf8. Of course White can be doing better with a maneuver like Nd2-Nc4 and somewhere try to break Black's position with the f4 push, but I still think that Black has excellent chances to keep the balance, although of course his position would be a bit passive.]

18.♖fe1 Motylev tries to force a decision of Black as to play e5 or not, to have a more clear situation in the center.



18...♙e5?! This move just can't be good. Black should not look for play on the kingside as it just helps White.

19.g3 A good move. White's main idea is still to play f4 at some point and now Nh4-Ng2 is an excellent plan to support it.

19...h6 20.♗h4 ♚f7 Black doesn't really seem to have a plan.

21.♗g2 Motylev is playing very safely. [I think it was time to play f4: 21.f4 21...♙f6 (21...g5? 22.fxe5 gxh4 23.♚g4+) 22.♗f3 and I think White's position is already a bit better.]

21...♙f6 is directed against the f4 move.

22.♖a2! A very nice move. By threatening Rea1 White is forcing Black to make a decision. To play b4 and close everything on the queenside, which would make things easy for White to focus on the play on the kingside, or the resign the a-file, which is always a very dangerous decision.

22...e5 Better later than never, but the white knight on g2 is now0 better placed than on f3 before.

23.♖ea1 So what to do now for Black, b4 or Rac8?

23...♖ac8?! I think this is already quite a serious positional mistake. To give up the only open file just can't be good. [23...b4 24.♖f1 With maybe a minimally better position for White because of the upcoming f4, but nothing too dramatic has happened. Black also has an easy plan with Rae8 and maybe d5 next, so I think there is nothing to worry about as Black.]

24.axb5 Of course White is taking control over the a-file.

24...axb5 25.♖a7 Smart play om Motylev. By exchanging a pair of rooks, White's combination of queen+knight is becoming stronger.

25...♖c7 Of course Black cannot let White dominate on the 7th rank.

26. ♖xc7 ♜xc7



27. ♘e1! A strong move! The white knight has nothing more to do on g2 and is getting into the game over the f3 square. Another idea of White could for example be to play h4-Nf3-Nh2-Ng4.

27... ♜c6 Very straightforward play for the d5 push, but does it bring anything good to Black?! [27... ♜d7 Not allowing White to play Qg4 on the spot. Black's position is worse, but still pretty safe.]

28. ♜g4 The white queen took a great spot on g4.

28... d5? It is clearly not Eljanov's day, who is pushing d5 in almost the worst possible moment. Now the white knight is going to be the hero on his perfect e4 square.

29. exd5 ♜xd5 30. ♘f3 Too easy to miss. The Nd2-Ne4 maneuver is almost deadly to Black. Queen+rook+knight is a very dangerous combination in the attack.

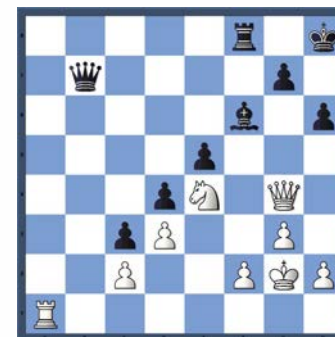
30... c4 Black tries to create at least some play on the queenside.

31. bxc4 bxc4 32. ♘d2 c3 Black's hope now is clear, to somehow reach a rook endgame where White's c2 pawn could be a possible weakness, but all this is not really realistic.

33. ♘e4 Motylev reached the maximum he could dream of. He has a position where his knight is clearly stronger than the black bishop, the rook is active on the open file, the queen has a great position on g4 and the white king is very safe. From a practical point of view, White's position could already be almost winning!

33... ♜b7 Stopping the white rook from entering the 7th rank.

34. ♙g2 ♙h8



35. h4 Typical and logical. White is not only preparing to play Kh2 and get out of the pin, but Qh5-g4-g5 could also be a dangerous break.

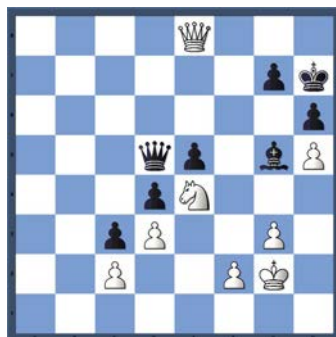
35... ♜a8 What else can Black do?!

36. ♜xa8+ ♜xa8 37. ♜f5 This move does not change anything, because Black just doesn't have any play at all. [37. ♜g6 could also have been played immediately.]

37... ♜d5 38. ♜g6 ♙d8 Black's position is so hopeless and White has a lot of different plans to improve.

39. ♜e8+ ♙h7 40. h5 Motylev decides to play for the total control of the white squares. Now the easy threat is to play Kh3-Kg4-Kf5 and the funny thing is that Black has no ways to even give a check.

40...♗g5



41.♔h3 ♚a2 Eljanov ends his suffering by making a fatal error, but I guess there was really no pleasure in suffering a slow death here anymore.

42.♘d6! Black cannot defend against Nf7 next. We just saw a great example and a deep strategical plan which Motylev started in the opening phase of the game and could fulfill in a perfect way, although of course with a bit of help of his opponent. A great game to learn understanding pawn structures and how dangerous things can become in case of resigning the only open file. **1-0**

**(2) Kamsky, Gata(2713)
- Akopian, Varuzhan(2643) [D00]**

ch-USA TB 2014(2),
2014.05.20



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

This is the tiebreak for the US Championship final. Of course Kamsky was a clear favorite, especially knowing his excellent skills in playing important games where he can very often prove what excellent nerves he has and his great play in rapid chess. As usual Kamsky just tried to reach a solid position out of the opening, then slowly outplayed his opponent move by move and secured the US Championship title and a nice price money!

1.d4 d5 2.♗f4 Once again we see Kamsky playing his favourite 2.Bf4.

2...c6 Black is starting a very solid setup.

3.e3 ♗f5 Before playing e6, the bishop of course has to be developed to f5.

4.♘f3 White does not hurry with the moves of the c-pawn to keep the c4 move as an option.

4...e6 5.♗e2 ♗d6 Black continues playing the most safe moves.

6.♗g3 [In my opinion White has no advantage after 6.♗xd6 6...♚xd6 followed by Black's setup with Nf6-Nbd7-O-O and maybe e5 or c5 later.]

6...♘f6 7.♘bd2 [Maybe a try for White could be to include 7.♘h4 7...O-O! (After 7...♗g6 8.♘d2 White could gain some sort of a tempo.) 8.♘xf5 exf5 and I think Black is doing perfectly fine here because Ne4 is coming next.]

7...O-O 8.c4 White is gaining a bit of space and now we see why Kamsky was not in a hurry to play c3 before. Another very tricky thing is that White does not castle kingside to keep some attacking chances in mind in case Black played Bxg3.



8...♘e4! A strong and solid move! It is exactly the right way to play this kind of position. Black needs to exchange one pair of knights to be able to play Nd7-Nf6.

9.♖b3 White tries to avoid the Nd7 move.

9...♙xg3?! Not the most accurate move. [9...♘xg3 looks much more logical to me. 10.hxg3 and after the important 10...♖b6! I think the position is just equal.]

10.hxg3 ♘d7 Akobian correctly evaluates that the b7 pawn is not hanging.

11.♘xe4 [After 11.♖xb7 11...♖b8 12.♖xc6 ♖xb2 Black has great play for the pawn.]

11...♙xe4 12.O-O Good and solid play. In such a position White could be tempted to try some attack on the kingside, but usually it doesn't bring much. Black could be very fast with his counterplay in the center by playing c5, which would open the position and now already the white king on e1 would feel quite uncomfortable.



12...♖b8?! Akobian continues playing the most safe moves which slowly brings him into some little trouble. [12...c5 looked much more logical. White still cannot take the b7 pawn because of Rb8. 13.♖fd1 ♖b6 and I think that if White has some advantage, it should be minimal.]

13.♘d2 ♙g6 14.♖a3! Very strong positional play! White is not only attacking the a7 pawn, but also acting against Black's c5 move. We can already see that White has some advantage as he has more space.

14...a6 15.♖ac1 An immediate b4 could have been another option.

15...♖e8 16.b4 White is slowly taking over the space and preparing to have good play on the queenside.

16...♖e7 17.♖b2 dxc4?! Akobian again plays the most safe move, but his position is getting worse and worse... [Of course after 17...e5 18.cxd5 cxd5 19.♖c7 White would also be better because of the control over the c-file.; But I think that after the simple 17...♘f6 with the idea of playing Ne4 next and exchanging another pair of knights, Black's position is still very solid. If White tried to play c5 with the idea of a4-b5, Black always has the e5 move in mind.]

18. ♖xc4 e5 We can see similar motives with dxc4 and e5 in a lot of games in the Slav, but this time White is already better prepared and the position of the black bishop on g6 is not ideal, as the bishop belongs to the e6-f5 squares.

19. ♖fd1 exd4



20. ♖xd4 To control the d-file is one of the most important things for the evaluation of the position here.

20... ♖f6 21. ♖cd1 White's advantage is getting stronger. The d-file is under control and White's future idea could be in playing a4-b5. Even the exchange of one pair of rooks would not save Black from having an unpleasant position.

21... c5?! Black panics. [Black had to play 21... ♖ed8 and defend a bad position, but at least the exchange of a pair of rooks would make it a bit more possible.]

22. bxc5 ♖xc5 23. ♖d6! Kamsky evaluates the things right in the tactics and goes for the b7 pawn. As we can see, the black bishop on g7 is almost out of game!

23... ♖f8 [23... ♖e7 also lost a pawn too 24. ♖xa6!]

24. ♖xb7 Kamsky has no fear of the pin on the b-file and there are not many reasons to be afraid. White always has the Rb4 move just in case.

24... ♖a7 [White would have more technical problems after 24... ♖e5]

25. ♖b4 ♖e4 Black brings the bishop back into the game, but he is already a full pawn down.

26. ♖d6 ♖xb4



27. ♖xb4 Suddenly we can see that the game is almost over. The a6 pawn could be a theoretical target, the white knight on d6 is a fantastic piece and the black rook on f8 is still out of the game.

27... ♖d5 [27... ♖g6 28. ♖a5 and White should collect the a6 pawn soon.]

28. ♖f5! A strong move. White is not only threatening a small tactical blow, but also preparing a dangerous attack on the black king.

28... ♖e8 [After 28... ♖e6? White would be able to win with a small tactical motif: 29. ♖e7+ ♖h8 30. ♖g6+! hxg6 31. ♖xf8+ with a totally winning position.]

29. ♖f4 ♖e6? Akopian gives another pawn, after which the position becomes totally hopeless. [29... ♖b6 would be the only way to fight in a very bad position.]



30. ♖xg7! A small tactic which decides the game.

30... ♔xg7 31. ♕g5+ ♔f8 32. ♕xf6 I guess that in a standard game Akobian would just resign here, but in a rapid games theoreticly everything can happen, so Black makes a few more moves.

32... ♔g8 33. ♕g5+ 2 pawns up plus the attack make things too easy here...

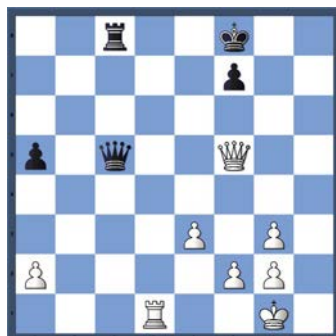
33... ♔f8 34. ♕d3 And the greedy Kamsky collects the 3rd pawn. The h7 pawn can't be saved anymore.

34... a5 35. ♕xh7 Now it was really time to resign...

35... ♖c8 but Akobian continues his suffering.

36. ♕f5 ♕xf5 37. ♕xf5 3 pawns up and the attack!

37... ♕c5



38. ♖d8+ And only the win of the rook could stop Akobian from keeping this game going on. Of course it is a rapid game and Black did not play too well, but Kamsky showed us very nice positional play and how quickly things can turn in a peaceful looking position. **1-0**

(3) Jakovenko, Dmitry(2730) - Sutovsky, Emil(2642) [D71]

15th Karpov GM 2014(5.2),
2014.05.16



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

We are going to examine a fine positional win by Jakovenko in the style of Karpov from his best period.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** g6 Sutovsky is a Gruenfeld expert and Jakovenko goes for the g3 system.

3.g3 ♙g7 **4.♙g2** d5 Black has many options here. The one played in the game is mostly in the spirit of the Gruenfeld, Black opens the position and gives his opponent the opportunity to occupy the center, but he is intending to put it under pressure with his minor pieces.

5.cxd5 ♘xd5 **6.♘f3** ♘b6 **7.♘c3** ♘c6 **8.e3** O-O **9.O-O** This is considered to be the initial position of this variation. Black's main option by far is Re8 (a preparation to the e5 break in the center). GM Le Quang Liem recently tried the move that happened in the game and Sutovsky decided to repeat it...



9...a5 This move is typical in the 9... Re8 system as well. Black takes some ground on the queenside with a5-a4.

10.♙e2! I guess this is the right move. Actually the same continuation as White recently plays against the 9...Re8 line. White wants to strengthen his center with Rd1, preparing for a central offensive with d5-e4. [Giri has prevented the the a5-a4 idea with the direct 10.b3 but this allows Black to execute the central break 10...e5! with the idea of 11.d5 e4! showing us the drawback of the weakening of the long diagonal.]

10...♙e6 This move is also known from the 9...Re8 line. Black tries to confuse the arrangement of the white pieces with the threat of Bc4. [On 10...a4 White could follow his plan with 11.♖d1 with the d5-e4 idea.]



11.♘d2! The most direct way to prevent the threat and White keeps in mind the idea of transferring one of his knights to c5 through the e4 square. [11.b3 would allow 11...a4!; 11.♖d1 is now met by 11...♙c4 and the queen has no good square to leave. Qc2 and Qe1 move into Nb4, while Qd2 is clearly not the place where the queen should stay. Black could simply continue with a4.]

11...a4 **12.♖d1!** A deep multifunctional move. White creates the x-ray on the d-file to sometimes threaten with d5. He also leaves from the Bc4 move to prepare the Nde4-c5 plan.

12...♖a5 Another standard plan by Black to control the d5 square. [12...♙d7 would have moved into 13.♘de4 and Nc5

tempo.; There is no time for 12...♔c8? and Rd8, because of 13.d5 That is why Black plays Ra5...]

13.♖b1! Another subtle plan. Jakovenko makes use of the placement of the a5 rook and he wants to solve the pressure on the queenside by playing b4, which would be a huge achievement for White, while if Black takes it then Nxb3 comes with tempo and then it jumps to c5 with another tempo.

13...♟f5 Trying to confuse the pieces by forcing one of the knight to the pin, but Jakovenko continues the game in style...



14.b4!! After this excellent intermediate move, White gets a serious positional advantage!

14...axb3 [14...♟xb1? 15.bxa5+- drops a piece.; 14...♖a8 15.♟de4± followed by b5 and Ba3 and later Rbc1 Nc5, with excellent prospects for White. In this case the a5-a4 plan would just create a weakness, it was more principled to take on b3.]

15.♟xb3 ♟xb1 [Another positive point of the excellent placement of the knight on b3 is that the pawn on d4 is well protected and in case of 15...♖a8 White can occupy the center with 16.e4! ♟d7 17.♟e3± again with a clear positional advantage. It is clear that Black is unable to create any pressure on the center now, therefore his entire strategy fails.]

16.♟xa5 ♟xa5 17.♟xb1 White claims a clear edge now. He gained the bishop pair and he still has a strong center. The undermining strategy of e5 is not the same anymore as it opens the position for the two bishops. White has clearly won the opening battle and Black is forced to defend passively...

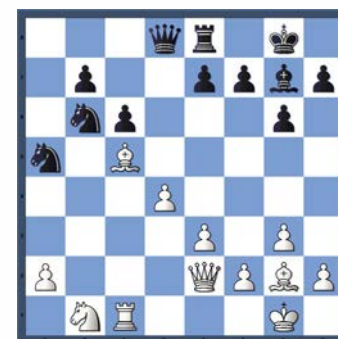
17...♔a8 18.♟a3! The bishops start to work.

18...♖e8 19.♖c1! Small, but very strong moves. White improves his pieces with each move. He also takes under control the c4 square to avoid knight jumps and additionally attacks the c7 pawn.

19...c6 There was nothing better, but now the a5 knight is kind of trapped, it has no way back to its camp. Jakovenko continues his subtle play based on the new target on a5!

20.♟c5! A very unpleasant move! The knight has no good square to leave from b6.

20...♔d8 [20...♟d5 moves into 21.e4 with tempo.; 20...♟d7 21.♟b4! with the threat of Qd2, as Black has no Nc4 anymore with the knight on d7.]



21.♟b4! The play against the a5 knight has started, Black must try to find different kind of tactical ideas to save it from the direct loss.

21...♘d5 22.♙e1 [White could have already won a pawn with 22.♙xd5 22...cxd5 23.♚b5 ♘c6 24.♚xb7 ♘xb4 25.♚xb4± with a big advantage, but Jakovenko decided to keep the tension, as Black suffers even more with his knight on a5.]

22...♚b6 Black wants to strengthen his knight with the rook from a8. [On 22...e6 White can win a pawn with 23.♚c5 b6 24.♙xa5! bxa5 25.♚xc6± White has an extra pawn and a better position.]

23.♘c3 [23.♘a3 was probably even stronger with the idea 23...♚a8 24.♚c5!± and it is not easy to prevent the threat of Rxa5 Rxa5 Nc4!]

23...♘xc3 [The only move was 23...e6 but White has a big advantage anyway after 24.♘e4 (Or 24.♚c2 with the idea of Rb1.)]

24.♚xc3 Now the trouble around the a5 knight is even bigger. There are already direct threats to trap it with Rc5 or Ra3 and on Ra8 Qd2 and the knight falls.

24...♚b1 [Black could have tried a last desperate attempt to get some counterplay with 24...e5 25.♚a3 exd4 26.♚xa5 dxe3 but after 27.♚a3 exf2+ 28.♙xf2!+- there are only two pawns for the bishop, which is clearly not enough.]



25.♚d2! One more eye on the a5 knight. The threat is Rc1, winning the piece.

25...♚a8 [25...b6 weakens all the pawns on the queenside. White wins after 26.♚c1 ♚b5 27.♙f1 ♚d5 28.♚b4+- all pawns are hanging.]

26.♚c1! ♚b5 [26...♚b6 27.♚c5+- is also over.]

27.♚c5 ♘c4 28.♚c1! and Black resigned in view of losing the knight. A perfect game by Jakovenko. We can mention that he passed the half of the board just a few times, but his manoeuvres and deep positional threats were so strong in his own camp that it led to the quick collapse of Black. **1-0**

(4) Jakovenko, Dmitry(2730) - Saric, Ivan(2666) [D78]

Poikovsky RUS(7.2),
2014.05.18



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

And here comes another positional masterpiece by Jakovenko...

1.d4 **f6** **2.c4** **g6** **3.g3** The g3 system again, but this time his opponent goes for the most solid c6-d5 setup.

3...c6 **4.** **g2** **d5** **5.** **f3** **g7** **6.O-O** We have reached the initial position of this variation, where White has a very wide range of choices...

6...O-O



7. **b3** With the idea to develop the knight to c3, which was not so good immediately because Black could have taken on c4 and it was not easy to win the pawn back.

7... b6 The standard reaction to Qb3. Neither side wants to take the other queen, because it would just improve the opponent's pawn formation and open the a-file. Black covers the b7 pawn and frees his c8 bishop to develop.

8. **c3** **d8** Black strengthens his d5 pawn. The alternative 8...Bf5 has also been played in many games.

9. **d1** **a6?** A positional blunder. [9... f5 happened in the previous games and it is the right way to continue.]



10. **xb6!** White releases the tension for concrete reasons. He is able to create favorable changes on the pawn structure. [10.cxd5 is premature in view of 10... xb3 (10...cxd5 11. xb6 axb6 would be what White is aiming for, when the doubled b-pawns are separated and weak.) 11.axb3 xd5 12. xd5 xd5 Black is fine.]

10...axb6 **11.** **a4!** This is the only this way White can force his opponent to recapture on d5 with the pawn. Without this move, the trade of the queens would just have helped Black. [On 11.cxd5 11... xd5 12. xd5 xd5 and b5 next, with a perfect game for Black.]

11... d7 There was no other way to protect the b6 pawn, but now... [The black knight gets trapped after 11... b4 12. xb6 xa2 13. xa2 xa2 14. d2± and Ra1 next.]

12.cxd5! **cx****d5** White achieved what he wanted. He got the structure with the separated doubled b-pawns. It is instructive to follow how Jakovenko converts this advantage into a full point.

13. ♖f4 The most active square for the bishop, keeping an eye on the c7 square.

13...e6 14. ♘c3 [14.a3! was also strong to prevent any kind of counterplay along the a-file connected with Nb4. It is important that Black cannot get rid of his doubled pawns by playing 14...b5? 15. ♘c3 b4 because the knight is pinned. 16.axb4]

14... ♖f6 15. ♘a4! Admitting the mistake. White forces the knight back to d7 to avoid the development of the c8 bishop.

15... ♖d7 16. ♖e5 In the game it works perfectly and White has an edge in all the lines, but I would still prefer the a3 move, mentioned in the 14th move. Jakovenko tries to deflect the defender of the b6 pawn, while if he takes on e5 with the bishop, the dark squares are becoming extremely weak...

16... ♗xe5 [16... ♖xe5? was refuted by the intermediate move 17. ♘xb6!+-; However 16... ♖ac5! could have solved Black's biggest problems. 17. ♖xd7 (On 17. ♖c3 17... ♖xe5 works already.; 17. ♘xb6 17... ♘xb6 18.dxc5 ♖a4 is also fine for Black.) 17... ♖xa4



18. ♘xb6! ♘xb6 19. ♖c7 This was probably in Jakovenko's mind when he played 16.Ne5. White indeed wins a pawn,

but Black gets strong compensation after 19... ♖d7! 20. ♖xb6 ♖dc8 with active pieces. Black wants to invade the 2nd rank. 21. ♖c5 can be met by (21. ♖d2 21... ♖f8! and Bb4 next, sending the rook away and then the rook goes to c2.) 21...b6! 22. ♖xb6 ♖cb8 23. ♖c5 ♖xb2 and Black equalized.]

17.dxe5 The doubled e-pawns are rather strong this time. The one on e5 squeezes Black and makes all the dark squares weak and the f4 bishop can use that. Another very important fact is that White is ready to push e4, undermining the d5 pawn, getting rid of the doubled pawn and opening the diagonal of the g2 bishop. Black has still problems with developing the c8 bishop.



17... ♖b4 [17... ♖ac5 is also met by 18. ♖c3!± keeping the structure.]

18. ♖c3 ♖g7 Black would like to release the tension on the dark squares by pushing his pawn to h6 (to prevent the Bg5 ideas). [18... ♖c6 would have been met by 19. ♖g5! ♖f8 20.f4 and e4 comes next, with an undisputed advantage, but it was still better than the game for Black.]



19.e4! The opening of the position would mean the end for Black. He must try to find some tactical ideas to stay alive...

19...d4 [19...c5 could have been met by 20.g5 e8 21.f6+ g8 22.a3 b3 23.ab1+- after parrying the concrete threats the d5 pawn falls and the game is over.]

20.b5 [Of course not 20.xd4? 20...c2]

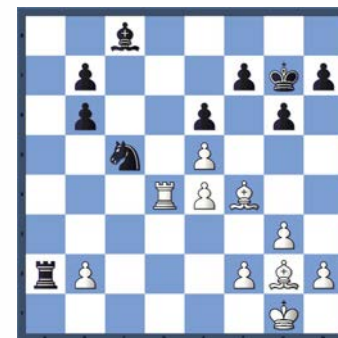
20...c5 [20...d3 does not change much. 21.a3 c2 22.ac1 The days of the d3 pawn are counted... 22...c5 drops a piece to 23.xc2! dxc2 24.xd8+-]

21.xd4 [21.g5!? 21...d7 22.d6 was also about to be winning.]

21...xd4 [Perhaps 21...bd3 was a better practical chance, although White is much better after 22.e3 with the idea that both Nxb2 and Nxe5 run into Nf5 and an exchange drops. 22...d7 (22...d7!? Maybe Black should have played some ugly move like this, but it cannot end well for him...) 23.g5 Finally Black could develop his bishop, but now the d4 knight is not hanging anymore, therefore White drives his bishop to f6. 23...dc8 24.f6+ g8 25.b3±]

22.xd4 c2 23.ad1 xd4 24.xd4 xa2 The situation has clarified. White still preserves his big advantage because

the doubled b-pawns are still on the board, the c8 bishop is still poor and kind of trapped and the threats around the dark squares with Bg5-f6 are even more dangerous because the position is more opened. But the next move is very important!



25.h4! Opening the back rank is more important than the b2 pawn! [25.b4 was wrong in view of 25...a1+ 26.f1 d7! and Black is back in the game.]

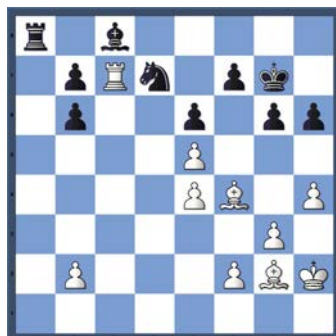
25...d7 [25...xb2 was refuted by 26.d8 d7 27.g5! The black king gets into a mate net. For instance after 27...c6 28.f6+ g6 29.g4 xe4 30.f3 g5 is coming with mate: 30...xf6 (30...g5 31.xe4 xe4 32.hxg5+ g6 33.g8#) 31.g5+ g7 32.exf6#]

26.c4! a1+ [26...c5 already runs into 27.b4!+-]

27.h2 a8 All black pieces are paralyzed.

28.c7 [28.b4 was also very thematic in order to take the c5 square under control, the last place where the knight could have jumped out to and now all three black pieces are in a cage. 28...h6 29.c7+- with Bf1-b5 next.]

28...h6



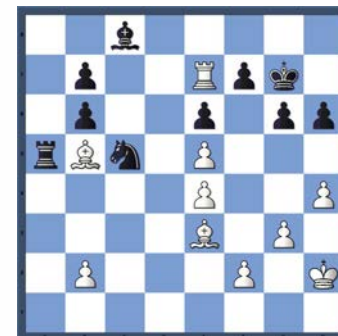
29.♙f1! Jakovenko transfers his bishop to b5 to further paralyze the black pieces. Black soon gets into zugzwang.

29...♘c5 30.♙b5 ♘a6 [30...♘xe4 was refuted by 31.♙e8!+- The black king gets into a mate net again. There is no way out from it with such poor pieces.]

31.♞e7 ♘c5 Black succeeded to prevent the Be8 threat, because now it runs into Kf8!

32.♞c7 White repeats twice to get closer to the time control.

32...♘a6 33.♞e7 ♘c5 34.♙e3! ♞a5 [34...♘xe4 loses to the subtle 35.♞c7!+- refreshing the threat of Be8, which Black cannot parry.; 34...♙d7 does not help either. 35.♞xd7! (35.♙xd7 is less clear because of 35...♙f8! 36.♞e8+ ♞xe8 37.♙xh6+ ♙e7 38.♙xe8 ♙xe8 39.♙e3 ♘xe4 40.♙xb6 White still has decent winning chances, but compared to what Black had before, things are already unclear. 40...♘d2) 35...♘xd7 36.♙xd7+- with a technical win.]



35.b4! Jakovenko finds the winning simplification.

35...♞xb5 36.bxc5 bxc5 [36...♞a5 37.♞c7 ♞a8 38.cxb6+- is a real zugzwang, the white king marches around and goes to d8. Black can only watch...]

37.♞c7 Finally the bishop fulfills its destiny. It is lost and the game is over. Black prolongs the game with some moves...

37...b6 38.♞xc8 ♞b4 39.♞b8 ♞b5 40.♙g2 ♞b4 The timetrouble is over. White is just a piece up for nothing. All moves are winning, Jakovenko decides to catch the black king in the corner...

41.♞b7 ♞b5 42.f4 ♙g8 43.h5 gxh5 44.♙f3 ♞b3 45.f5 b5 46.f6 h4 47.gxh4 b4 48.♞b8+ ♙h7 49.♞f8 ♙g6 50.♞h8 Black finally resigned the hopeless struggle. **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Almasi, Z(2693)-Bruzon, L(2682)

Capablanca memorial, 2014.05.17

1. +-



(6) Eljanov, P(2732)-Bologan, V(2655)

Poikovsky, 2014.05.16

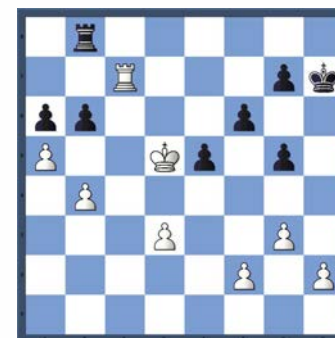
1... -+



(7) Fressinet, L(2711)-Grandelius, N(2587)

Malmo, 2014.05.17

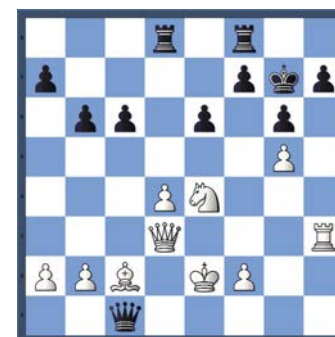
1. +-



(8) Filip, L(2455)-Kovalenko, I(2611)

Iasi Open, 2014.05.13

1. +-



(9) Iordachescu, V(2597)-Miedema, R(2390)

Iasi Open, 2014.05.14

1. +-



(10) Fedorchuk, S(2638)-Solodvnichenko, Y(2574)

Llucmajor Open, 2014.05.14

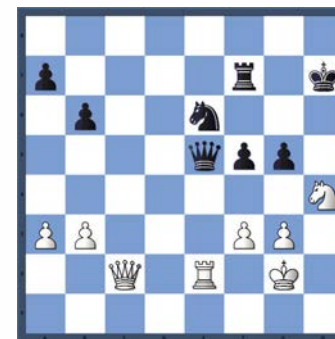
1. ±



(11) Skytte, R(2437)-Agdestein, S(2625)

Llucmajor Open, 2014.05.15

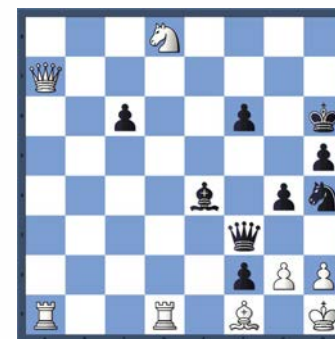
1... -+



(12) Pashikian, A(2626)-Ziatdinov, R(2387)

Agzamov memorial, 2014.05.18

1. +-



(13) Grachev, B(2658)-Plenkovic, Z(2400)

Croatian Teams, 2014.05.15

1. +-



(14) Czarnota, P(2526)-Navara, D(2708)

Polish league, 2014.05.18

1... -+



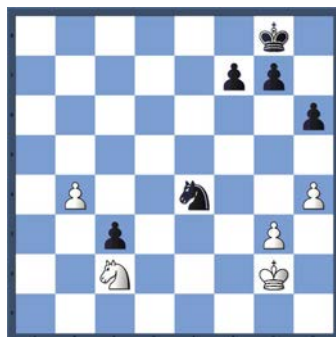
Endgame section

(15) Almasi, Zoltan(2693)
- Ivanchuk, Vassily(2753)

Capablanca memorial,
2014.05.16



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



Black has reached an endgame with an extra pawn, but the passed pawn on b4 gives White excellent drawing chances.

44. ♖f3 f5 Black tries to fortify his knight on e4 to avoid losing the c3 pawn, but this allows further exchange of some pawns and White gets closer to the draw. [44... ♖d6 could have been met by 45. ♖e3 ♖f8 46. ♖d4 ♖e7 47. ♖d3 and the pawn is lost. Black could only avoid this by keeping his knight on e4.]

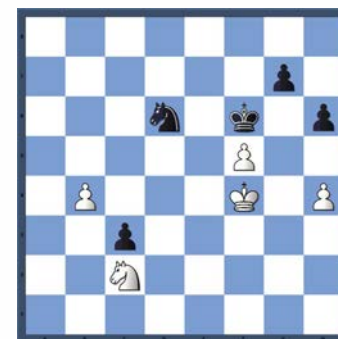
45. ♖f4 ♖f7 Black gets into the square of the b-pawn. [45... g6 46. g4 is similar to the game.]

46. g4 White wants to restore the material balance, but this allows Black to maintain some practical chances. [46. ♖xf5 46... ♖xg3+ 47. ♖f4 ♖h5+ 48. ♖e4 was an even simpler draw. Kd3 comes next.]

46... ♖d6! Ivanchuk finds his chance. A pair of pawns gets off the board and White ends up with a weak h-pawn.

47. gxf5 [47. ♖e5? would have been a blunder because of 47... fxg4 48. ♖xd6 g3]

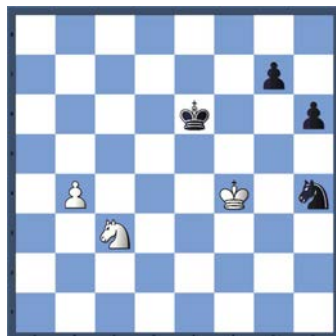
47... ♖f6 White has a wide range of choices here and it is easy to go wrong. However Almasi finds the most precise way to hold the draw. He trades his kingside pawns for the one on c3...



48. ♖e3 [Other moves, for instance 48. h5 48... ♖xf5 49. b5 are not so clear anymore. 49... ♖d6 50. b6 ♖e6 Black quickly runs to catch the b-pawn and the one on h5 is still weak. White already has some problems. 51. ♖e3 ♖c4+ 52. ♖d3 ♖xb6 and Nd5-f6 next.]

48... ♖xf5! This small tactical trick allows Black to continue his pressing for the win.

49. ♖d5+ ♖e6 50. ♖xc3 ♖xh4 The idea behind going for this simplification is clear. White wants to lure the black king or the knight with his b-pawn and at the same time get between the black pawns with the king and sacrifice his knight for them.



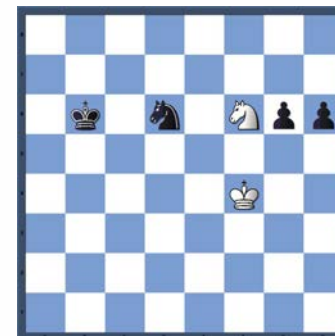
51.b5 ♖f5 [51...♔d6 does not change much, White achieves what he wants after 52.♗e4+ ♔d5 53.b6 ♔c6 54.♕g4 ♗g6 (54...♗g2 55.♕f5= and Kg6 next.) 55.b7 ♔xb7 56.♗c5+ ♔c6 57.♗e6=]

52.b6 ♗d6 The last task for White is to attack the pawns with the knight.

53.♗e4 ♔d5 The pawn endgame is winning for Black, but White is not forced to trade knights. [53...♗b7 54.♗g3 ♔f7 Black could save his pawns like this, but without his knight he cannot make progress. White simply waits with his pieces on the kingside. 55.♕g4 g6 56.♗e2 ♔f6 57.♗f4= Black has no chance to win, the knight is always ready to get sacrificed.; Of course not 53...♗xe4?? 54.b7+—]

54.♗g3 g6 [54...♔c6 leads to a draw after 55.♔e5!= when the knight loses its outpost on d6, White will be able to play Nf5!]

55.♗e4 ♔c6 56.♗f6 ♔xb6 Black finally won the pawn, but his king is too far away from the kingside and White is able to catch the pawns...



57.♗g8 [And the draw was agreed in view of 57.♗g8 57...♗f7 (57...h5 58.♗e7=) 58.♗xh6! ♗xh6 59.♕g5= We can see that in such endgames there is no real chance to win and White even had several ways to hold. It is very important to study such practical endgames to be able to make the right decisions in our own games. If we are on the stronger side, we should not simplify to such endgames, while if we are defending a difficult position, we might aim for such endgame with a pawn down to hold the game easily.] **1/2-1/2**

**(16) Krush, Irina(2489)
- Abrahامyan, Tatev(2366)**

ch-USA TB w 2014(1),
2014.05.20



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



We are in the final rapid tiebreak game match for the US Championship. Krush is of course a big favourite, but sometimes it is just a matter of better nerves to decide the winner. In this rapid game, the evaluation of the position had changed a lot of times, until Krush managed to reach a totally winning rook endgame, but suddenly things got out of control and this 4 rooks endgame appeared. Does Black have any drawing chances here?

66. ♖c6! A good move. At first sight it is not that clear where the white king is going, but Krush found the best hiding spot for her king.

66... ♜f6+ It is difficult to advice anything better to Black.

67. ♖b7 ♜xg4 White is just a pawn up and as we know rook endgames have a tendency of ending in a draw. On the other hand, the white king supports the movement of the a-pawn

while his colleague on h8 is very far away from the action. In case of a rook exchange White should be totally winning.

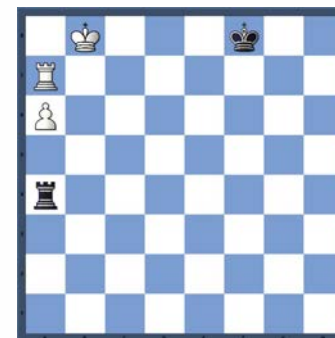
68. ♔a8!! This move ends the game! Black cannot defend against White's Rb8 and the exchange of one pair of rooks. It is a bit funny that the white king needed to reach the a8 square to finally decide the game in Krush's favour.

68... ♚g8 The black king is trying to come closer, but it is too late.

69. a5 The Rb8 move is not going to run away.

69... ♜a4 70. a6 Once again there is no reason to hurry with Rb8.

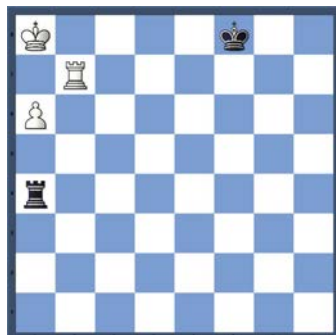
70... ♜f8+ 71. ♜b8 ♜b4 This move makes things easy. [A more difficult win for White would have occurred after 71... ♜xb8+ 72. ♚xb8 ♚f8 Black is trying to keep the rook active on a4 and at the same time to get his king as close as possible to the a-pawn.



73. ♜a8! An excellent move. White has the double idea of playing Kb7 check and maybe at some good moment a7 as well. 73... ♚e7 (73... ♚g7 didn't help as after 74. ♔a7 followed by Rb8-Rb6 and Kb7-a7 White is winning.) 74. ♔c7 ♜a2 and now 75.a7! and Black is losing the game.]

72. ♜b7! The last exact move which was needed.

72...♖a4 73.♖xf8+ ♔xf8



74.a7 Now White just wants to play Kb8 next and Black has no defence against it.

74...♔e8 75.♔b8 ♔d8 76.a8=♚ A really funny rook endgame where the black king was just a bit too far away to save the game. **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Capablanca, Jose Raul
- Lasker, Emanuel[D13]

New York(14),
1924.04.05



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 ♖f6 **2.c4** c6 **3.♗c3** d5 **4.cxd5** cxd5 We have the Slav Exchange Variation.

5.♗f3 [5.♗f4 This move order gives White the possibility to create pressure on the queenside a bit faster. The knight can also be developed to e2.]

5...♗c6 **6.♗f4**



6...e6 After this move the bishop will be a bit passive. Nowadays more solid are moves like [6...♗f5 or; 6...a6]

7.e3 ♗e7 [7...♗h5 The idea of exchanging the bishop can be used immediately. 8.♗g5 ♖b6 9.a3 With the trap that is not possible take on b2 because of Na4. (9.♖b1 doesn't help because of 9...h6 10.♗h4 g5 11.♗d2 ♗g7 12.♗g3 ♗f5∞) 9...h6

10.♗h4 g5 11.♗g3 ♗xg3 12.hxg3 ♗g7 Black has a good game, soon he will be play g4 and then open the position after e5.]

8.♗d3 [8.h3 with the idea to save the bishop after Nh5.]

8...O-O **9.O-O**



9...♗h5! This idea to exchange the bishop looks good for Black.

10.♗e5 f5 [10...f6?? 11.♗g5! g6 12.♗xh7+–; 10...♗xe5 11.dxe5 (11.♗xe5 11...♗f6 12.♖c1 ♗d7 White can try to create an attack after f4-Rf3-Rh3 but Black's position is very solid anyway.) 11...g6 The black knight is temporarily out of the game but on the other hand without the dark squared bishop White is not able to create some serious threats.]

11.♖c1 ♗f6 **12.♗xf6** [12.h3 forces Black to exchange. 12...♗xe5 13.♗xe5 ♗d7 14.♗f3 a6 with the idea b5-Bb7.]

12...gxf6 Black takes control of the e5 square. [12...♗xf6 13.♗a4 (13.♗b5 The idea to take control of the e5 square is too slow. 13...♗d7 14.♗xc6 ♗xc6 15.♗e2 ♗b5=) 13...♖d6 14.♗b5 ♗e7 15.♖b3 White is slightly better.]

13.♗h4 ♖h8 **14.f4** ♖g8 **15.♖f3** This is probably not the best plan. White should have played on the queenside.

15...♙d7 16.♖h3



16...♙e8 is a bit risky because it gives White possibilities to sacrifice on f5. [16...♙d6 was an interesting idea to put the knight on e7 to protect the d5-f5 pawns in order to avoid sacrifices. 17.♘xd5?! exd5 18.♘xf5 ♙xf5 19.♙xf5 ♖g7 20.♙h5 ♙g8=+]

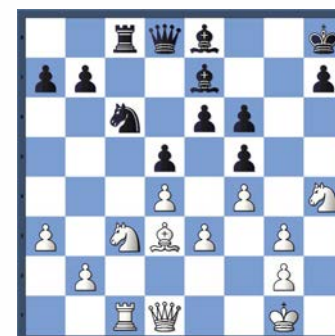
17.a3 [17.♘xf5 17...exf5 18.♙xf5 ♙g6 19.♙e6 ♖g7 20.♙xd5



20...♘b4! Black gets counterplay. If White now plays 21.♙c4? then Black has 21...♙c8! with a double attack against the bishop and the rook as well, because of Qxh3 and Bc2 next.]

17...♖g7 18.♖g3 There was nothing to do for the rook on h3 anymore.

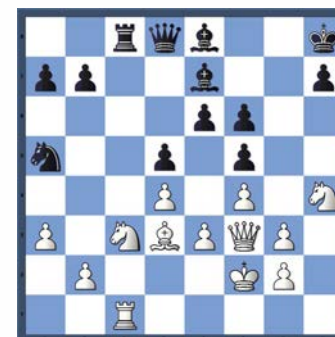
18...♖xg3 19.hxg3 ♖c8



20.♙f2 White missed the chance to get the initiative after [20.g4! Now comes a very forced line: 20...fxg4 21.♙xg4 f5 22.♘xf5 exf5 23.♙xf5 ♖c7 24.♙e6 ♙d7 25.♘xd5 ♙xe6 26.♙xe6 ♘xd4! 27.♙e5+ ♙f6 28.♙xc7 ♘e2+ 29.♙f1 ♘xc1 30.♙xb7 and it looks like White has the more active pieces and too many pawns.]

20...♘a5 [20...♖c7 was more accurate to avoid g4 ideas because compared to the previous line the rook on c8 will not be hanging.]

21.♙f3?! [21. g4 was more aggressive, White has no time to put the rook on h1 first as Black is on time with his counterplay on the queenside.]



21...♟c4 [21...♟xa3 22.♞h1! An interesting idea. White gives the pawns but wins some tempi by creating pressure. (22.bxa3 22...♟b3 23.♞c2 ♟a1 24.♞c1=) 22...♟xb2 23.♟d1 ♟a3 24.g4→]

22.♞e2 It looks like the Cuban grandmaster is not strict in his plans Black already has a good position.

22...♟d6 23.♞h1 ♟e4+!? 24.♟xe4 fxe4 [24...dxe4 25.g4 fxg4 26.♞xg4 f5 27.♟xf5 exf5 28.♞xf5 ♟g6 29.♞xg6 ♟h4+ 30.♞xh4 ♞xh4+ 31.♞g3 ♞h5 With unclear play.]

25.♞g4



25...f5? [25...♟f7 26.♟g6+ (26.f5 26...exf5 27.♟xf5 ♟f8∞) 26...♟xg6 27.♞xg6 ♞g8 28.♞xg8+ ♟xg8 With equal play. White is not in time to destroy the structure because after 29.f5 Black has 29...♟xa3!; 25...♟xa3]

26.♟xf5! exf5 27.♞xf5 h5 28.g4↑ White has two pawns for the piece and pressure against the weak black king. [28.♟xd5 28...♞c2+ 29.♟g1 ♞d6 is an important move to prevent Qe5, with unclear play.]

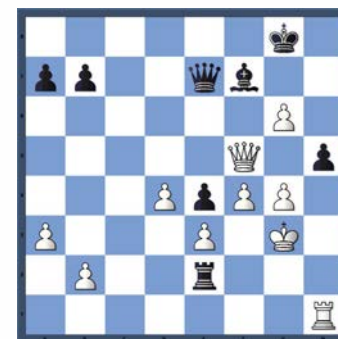
28...♞c6 29.g5 [29.♟xd5!?]

29...♟g8 looks logical to escape from the h-file, but White could play g4 anyway.

30.♟xd5?! [30.g4!→]

30...♟f7 31.♟xe7+ [31.♟c3 31...♞b6 White lost many tempi to win the d5 pawn, which is why Black gets counterplay now: 32.♟xe4 ♞c2+→]

31...♞xe7 32.g4 hxg4? is a mistake. Black should not have given White the possibility to attack over the h-file. A better move was [32...♞c2+ 33.♟g3 ♞e2 34.g6



34...h4+! A very important move. (34...♞xe3+ 35.♟f2 ♞f3+ 36.♟g2 ♟e8 37.♞xh5 ♞g7 38.♞d5+ ♟f8 39.♞f5+ ♟g8 40.♞e6+ ♟f8 41.♞h7+→) 35.♞xh4 ♞xe3+ 36.♟g2 ♞e2+ 37.♟f1 ♞e1+!=]

33.♞h7+ ♟f8 34.♞h6 ♟g8 [34...♞xh6 35.♞xh6+ ♟g8 36.g6 ♟e6 with the hope to stop the f5-d5 moves but now comes 37.g7!+→]

35.♞f5+ ♟g7 [35...♞f7 Now White can win another pawn or play 36.♞e5 The queen is very active here and White is not in a hurry with winning the black pawns to avoid counterplay over the light squares.]

36. ♖xc6 bxc6



37. ♔g3 [37. ♖xg4 37... ♖b7 Black is looking for counterplay. 38. b4 ♖b5 39. ♖h5 ♖d3 40. ♖h6+ ♔f7 41. ♖f6+ ♔e8 42. ♖xc6+ ♔f8 43. ♖c1 ♕c4 44. ♖e1 and the white pawns should advance soon.]

37... ♖e6? The decisive mistake. The only one chance was to keep the queens on the board, for example by playing [37... ♕d5 38. ♖xg4 ♖b7⇐]

38. ♖xg4 ♖xf5+ 39. ♖xf5+- Now White is easily winning.

39... ♕d5 40. b4 a6 41. ♖g4 [41. ♖e5 41... ♖g6 42. a4]

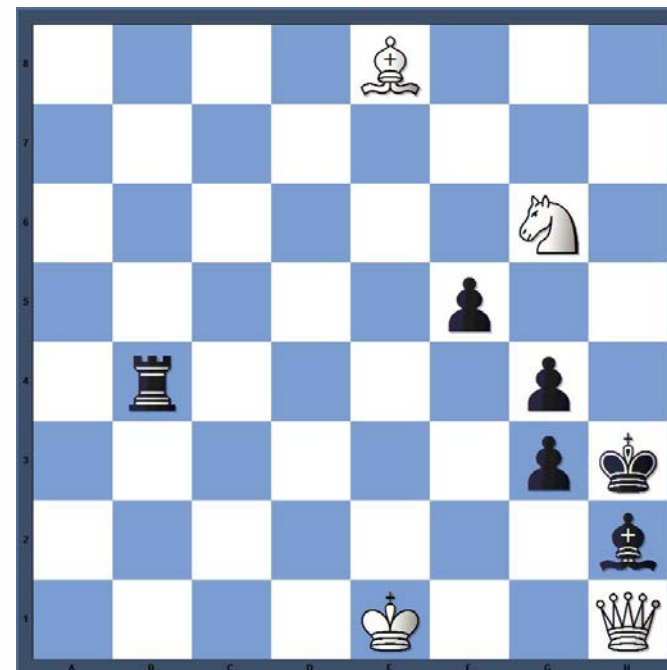
41... ♕c4 42. f5 ♕b3 43. ♖f4 ♕c2 44. ♖e5 ♖f7 45. a4 ♖g7 [45... ♕xa4 46. ♖xe4+- And the b4 pawn holds both black pawns!]

46. d5! ♕xa4 47. d6 c5 48. bxc5 ♕c6 49. ♖e6 a5 50. f6+ 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Troitzky

1. +-



Solutions

(19) Bacallao, Y(2522)-Bogner, S(2593)

Capablanca B, 2014.05.09



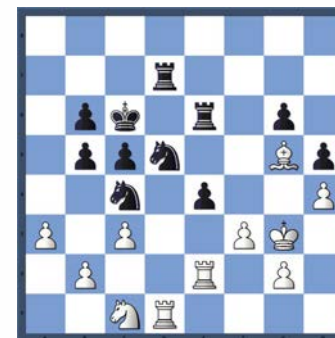
16. ♖xe5!! fxe5 17. ♕d5+ ♔h8 18. ♖xh5+ ♕h7 19. ♕g5! ♖e8 [19... ♖d7 20. ♕e4!+-]

20. ♖xf8+! ♖xf8 [20... ♕xf8 21. ♕f7! ♖d7 22. ♕f6+ ♕g7 23. ♕xg7+ ♔xg7 24. ♖g5+ ♔xf7 (24... ♔h8 25. ♖f6#) 25. ♖f1+ ♔e8 26. ♖h5+ ♔d8 27. ♖f8+ ♔e7 28. ♖f7#]

21. ♖f1! ♖e8 22. ♖f7! +- exd4 23. ♕f6 ♖e3+ 24. ♔g2 1-0

(20) Molner, M(2522)-Gareev, T(2653)

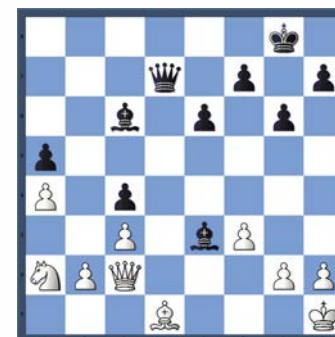
US Championship, 2014.05.11



68... ♖xc3! 0-1 [68... ♖xc3 69. ♖xd7 (69. bxc3 69... ♖xd1+-) 69... ♖xe2+-]

(21) Mammadov, Z(2453)-Smirnov, P(2626)

Nakchivan Open, 2014.05.07



36... ♕xa4!! 37. ♖xa4 ♖d2! 38. g3 [38. h3 38... ♖e1+ 39. ♔h2 ♕g1+ 40. ♔h1 ♕f2+ 41. ♔h2 ♕g3#]

38... ♖f2 0-1

(22) Paichadze, L(2535)-Agasiyev, K(2405)

Nakchivan Open, 2014.05.10



22. ♖f6! 1-0 [22. ♜h6? 22...f6]

(23) Gagunashvili, M(2560)-Mamedov, R(2660)

Nakchivan Open, 2014.05.12



31... ♖e2+! 32. ♔xe2 ♜xg2+ 33. ♔e3 [33. ♔d3 33... ♜xd7+--]

33... ♖f2+ 34. ♔f4 ♖e3+ 0-1

(24) Aitbayev, A(2420)-Kozganbayev, E(2362)

Kazakhstan Championship, 2014.05.08

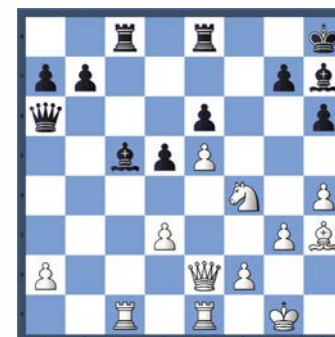


25. ♘c5!! ♜xc5 [25... ♖xe1 26. ♜h6+ ♔h8 27. ♘f6+--]

26. ♜h6+ 1-0 [26. ♜h6+ 26... ♔g8 27. ♜xf7! ♔xf7 28. ♜xh7+ ♔e8 (28... ♔f8 29. ♜f1+--)] 29. ♖xg6+ ♔f8 30. ♜f7#]

(25) Fressinet, L(2711)-Burmakin, V(2578)

Porticciu Open, 2014.05.09



34. ♘xe6! ♜xe6 [34... ♖xd3 35. ♜g4+--]

35. d4! ♖d3 [35... ♜xe2 36. ♜xe2+--]

36. ♜e3 ♖c4 37. dxc5 ♜ce8 38. ♖xe6+--

(26) Koziak, V(2502)-Edouard, R(2692)

Porticciu Open, 2014.05.09



30...♘xe4!! 31.♚e1 [31.fxe4 31...♖xc3 32.♘c2 ♜xg4+--]

31...♘g3! 32.♘xc6 ♘xf1 [32...♜xc6 33.♖f2 e4--]

33.♘d4 [33.♜xf1 33...♜xc6±] 33...♜xa2±

(27) Peralta, F(2607)-Nicolas Zapata, I(2303)

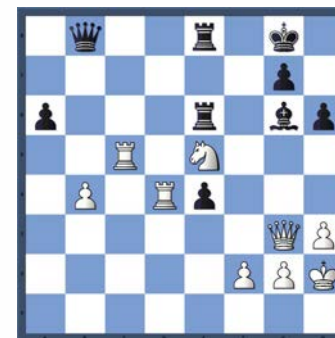
Llucmajor Open, 2014.05.11



38.♜h8+! ♔f7 39.♜xg7+! 1-0 [39.♜xg7+ 39...♔xg7
40.♙d5+--]

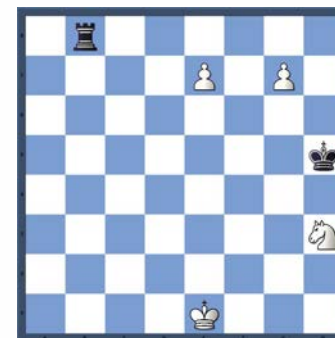
(28) Landa, K(2655)-Gordon, S(2518)

4NCL, 2014.05.05



34.♖d7!! ♜xe5 35.♖cc7!+-

(29) Lazard



1.♘f4+ ♔h6 2.♘e6! ♜e8 [2...♖g8 3.♘f8+-; 2...♔g6
3.♘d8+-]

3.g8=♜! ♜xg8 4.♘f8! ♜g5! 5.♘g6!! [5.e8=♜ 5...♖e5+!
6.♜xe5=]

5...♖xg6 6.e8=♜+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 118

30th of May 2014

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Editorial Preface

The Asian team championship was dominated by China one more time in both sections, men and women. We of course have to add that almost none of the teams were represented by the country's best players.

Clearly the event of the week is the French team championship, with a lot of top chess players participating in it like Vachier Lagrave, Jakovenko, Fressinet, Riazantsev, Navara, Van Wely and many more.

As usual, the team of Clichy seems to be unstoppable and has a perfect score of 6 wins in 6 games, beating their strongest rival, the team of Bischwiller, with the great score of 6-2. It is hard to imagine now that anybody could take the title away from them.

A strong open in Hungary, Zalakaros, is also under way. The fight for the first places is still on, with top seated players like Rapport, Berkes, Beliavsky, Erdos and many other grandmasters.

That's all for this week! We can already be very excited for next week, when the super tournament in Norway is going to begin, including Carlsen himself fighting for the victory in his home country.

Enjoy this issue with the most exciting games from the World's best chessplayers!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Sasikiran, Krishnan(2669)
- Yu, Yangyi(2675) [E12]

Asian Nations Cup 2014(5.2),
2014.05.25



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



A very convincing positional victory, with which India beat China in the Asian Nations Cup.

1.d4 f6 2.c4 e6 3.f3 b6 4.a3 The a3 system of the Queen's Indian is a bit out of fashion nowadays, but of course it is still a very serious opening. White wants to develop his knight to c3 and prevent Bb4. The main line is 4...Bb7 5.Nc3 d5, but Black has an alternative as well.

4...f6 Just like against the 4.g3 system, Black has this option to create some discordination between the white pieces by attacking the c4 pawn.

5.f3 This is a main line in the 4.g3 system and a sideline here. Black reacts with the same move as in the other line, but there will be differences. [5.f3 c2 5...f6 6.f3 c3 c5 is the main line and here we can see the point of 4...Ba6, that the queen does not support the thematic d5 push anymore, which can be taken twice now.]

5...c6? A concrete move to threaten with Na5, but at this moment it looks rather dubious to develop a piece in front of a pawn. [Black had many other options, for instance 5...c5 6.d5 exd5 7.cxd5 d6 followed by g6, Bg7 with a playable position for both sides.]

6.f2! This is the first big difference. White is going to occupy the center with e4! The same move is senseless in the 4.g3 line, because Black has Nb4 with tempo and the queen has to go back to b3...

6...a5 Here comes the second difference. In the 4.g3 system the bishop is supposed to develop to g2, but here it has a more natural destination.

7.e4! White has created a beautiful center and he develops his bishop to d3. It is be clear now that Black has completely misplayed the opening with this dubious Nc6-a5 maneuver...

7...f7 [7...d5 would be thematic, but here comes a third point why the a3 pawn is better than the g3. White wins a piece after 8.b4! fxc4 9.f4 a4++ and the bishop falls on a6.]

8.c3 c5 9.d5 It is difficult to dream about more in this opening from White's point of view. He gained a nice space advantage, the a5 knight is poorly placed and b4 is always hanging in the air to trap it. The bishop has spent 2 tempi to reach the b7 square, but it would stand better on its initial c8 square.

9...exd5 10.exd5



10...♙e7 Another sad necessity, but Black could not develop his bishop to the more active long diagonal, because after d6 or after reaching the g7 square, White wins the knight with b4. The bishop is obliged to control the b4 square.

11.♙d3 ♙a6 Black desperately looks for a way to improve the situation of his a5 knight.

12.b3 O-O 13.O-O ♘b7 The knight goes to d6, but it is not clear if it will be any better placed there than it was on a5. Black has no chance to open the queenside with b5 and the bishop on a6 remains dead. Sasikiran continues the game with the most natural developing moves...

14.♖e1 ♘d6 15.♙f4 ♖e8 16.h3 A useful move to open the back rank and to secure the bishop's position on the h2-b8 diagonal.

16...♙f8



17.♙e5! I like this move a lot as it follows the principles that in a position with space advantage, the stronger side should avoid trading pieces. White would have a clear edge also after trading a pair of rooks, but why allow Black to ease his position.

17...g6 18.♖e3! Bringing the last inactive piece to the game, the a1 rook also joins to the battle. Black cannot even make an active move like Bh6, because the knight is hanging on d6. He is forced to continue his artificial maneuvers, but his position is getting worse and worse with each move.

18...♘h5 19.♖ae1 ♘g7 Black would like to jump out from the squeezing with Ndf5 and d6, but with his next move Sasikiran deprives his opponent even from this possibility...



20.g4! ♙b7 Well...The move makes no sense, but it is hard to suggest anything better. As the saying goes, in a bad position all moves are bad...

21.♙d2 Sasikiran is eyeing the h6 square with his queen, in connection with some Ng5 mating ideas.

21...a6 22.a4! The counterplay on the queenside was neutralized in one move.

22...f5 Kind of suicide, but the game was already over from a positional point of view. [22...b5 was just dropping a pawn

after 23.cxb5 axb5 24.♖xb5 ♖xb5 25.♗xb5+- Black has no compensation.]



23.♗xd6! Sasikiran finds the direct refutation of Black's active attempt to break out. The move is only justified by concrete reasons, otherwise White would never have given up his strong bishop...

23...♖xe3 [23...♗xd6 loses to 24.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 25.gxf5 gxf5 26.♗xf5+- White is a pawn up and continues attacking with Ne4 and Qh6...]

24.♖xe3 ♗xd6 25.♖h6! This is the point! The threat of Ng5 is decisive.

25...♗e7 26.gxf5! White opens the lines in front of the king.

26...♗xf5 [On 26...gxf5 the prettiest and strongest move is 27.♗e4! to refresh the Ng5 threat and on 27...fxe4 28.♗xe4+- Black gets mated very soon.]

27.♗xf5 gxf5



28.♖h1! The most effective move again. The end is near...

28...♗f6 [Black did not want to allow the following nice finish of the game: 28...♖f8 29.♖g1+ ♖h8 30.♗e5! and Ng6 wins next move! 30...♖xh6 31.♗f7#]

29.♖g1+ ♖h8 30.♗h4! [Black resigned. 30.♗h4 Ng6 cannot be parried. 30...♗xh4 31.♖g7# A very nice and easy game, which all happened due to one unfortunate plan in the opening with Nc6-a5.] **1-0**

(2) Sokolov, Ivan(2650)
- Navara, David(2708) [D14]

Saint-Quentin FRA(1.1),
2014.05.24



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A tense and entertaining battle with many nice tactical shots.

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 c6 4.cxd5 The exchange Slav used to be a coward opening in the past, where the weaker players tried to force a draw, but nowadays, thanks to the research of some top players it can also be used as a very sharp weapon.

4...cxd5 5.♘c3 ♘c6 6.♙f4 ♙f5 Things have developed symmetrically so far and this is the moment where White has the chance to break it with the following move.



7.♙b3 [7.e3 7...e6 is considered to be the drawish line. Bd3, Qb3, Bb5; all moves are leading to draws.]

7...♘a5 8.♙a4+ ♙d7 9.♙c2 After forcing back the bishop, the queen occupies its diagonal. Many games have been played recently in this position, even on the highest level. Navara goes for one of the most critical lines.

9...e6 10.e3 ♙e7 11.♙d3 ♘c6 The knights at the edge of the

board are never good and the move also prepares for the upcoming maneuver... White has to prevent the positional threat of grabbing the strong bishop with Nb4.

12.a3 [12.♙e2 is the alternative with the idea to have Bb1 on Nb4, followed by sending back the knight with a3. Black plays the same moves as it happens also in the game here.]



12...♘h5! The knights are jumping to get one of the bishops. The next move is very important for White too and it is also known from many different openings.

13.♙e5! White is ready to give up his bishop, but only at the cost of a weakening with f6 or after Nxe5 dxe5 the other knight on h5 remains completely misplaced at the edge of the board. [13.♙g3 could be met by 13...♘xg3 14.hxg3 g6 without having forced the f6 weakening, Black just gets a perfect structure.]

13...f6! This move can only be played in connection with the next move. [13...♘xe5 14.dxe5 White is threatening with g4, trapping the knight. Black has to do some artificial maneuvers to rescue it with g6-Ng7, but the knight is going to be misplaced there too. Additionally White has gained a nice outpost for his own knight on d4.]

14.♙g3 [The greedy 14.♙xh7 14...fxe5 15.♙g6+ ♙f8 16.♙xh5 loses a piece after 16...exd4 17.exd4 ♙e8! 18.♙h3 ♙g6. It is never advisable to enter such a pin.]

14...f5! Black had to close the b1-h7 diagonal. [It was wrong to include the grabbing of the bishop in view of 14...♘xg3?! 15.hxg3 f5]



White could have exploded the structure with 16.g4! g6 (16...fxg4 17.♗xh7 and Bg6 threatens.) 17.gxf5 gxf5 and once more: 18.g4! fxg4 19.♗xh7± with a strong attack. White is going to castle queenside.]

15.♗e5 White saves the bishop again, with the same idea as before. Nxe5 could be met by dxe5 and the knight on h5 remains misplaced, while the other knight is going to be excellently placed on d4.

15...O-O 16.h3 A move with double purpose. White wants to launch an attack with g4 and also frees the h2 square for his bishop. We are still following some theoretical games.

16...♗f6



17.g4!? The most critical continuation. Opening the h-file by taking on g4 looks very scary, while allowing gxf5 exf5 might leave the d5 pawn to be loose. The game becomes very concrete now. [17.♗h2 17...♖c8 18.O-O is a rather positional alternative, but Black gets an equal game after 18...♗e4=]

17...♗e4 18.gxf5 ♖xf5! The top Ukrainian GM Pavel Eljanov introduced this move last year with very deep analysis behind it. Positionally this reaction is kind of suicidal because the e4 knight loses its outpost. However as we know chess is a concrete game and all direct lines prove that Black gets counterplay in any case.

19.♗xe4 This is the novelty, definitely a prepared one. [19.♗xe4 was played before. 19...♖xf3 20.♗d2 White won a pawn, but after 20...♗xe5! 21.dxe5 ♖f8 22.♗xh7+ ♖h8 Black got excellent compensation. White cannot really continue his attack, while the black pieces are coming with Rc8, Bh4. White has serious problems finding some kind of shelter for his king. 23.♖e2 ♖c8 24.♗b1 d4! Eljanov opens the lines in front of the king. 25.♗d3 dxe3 26.fxe3 ♗e8! Bh5 was coming next, Black won few moves later.]

19...dxe4 20.♗xe4 White won a pawn, but he lost his strong bishop. Black still needs to continue with direct and precise moves to get adequate compensation.

20...♖b6! Threatening to win a piece with Qxb2 and Black also wants to bring his other rook to f8 to collect the f2 pawn.

21.b4 [21.O-O-O does not seem to work properly. Black gets a decisive attack after 21...♖c8! Too many threats are hanging in the air. The main one is the simple Nxe5 and on Nxe5 Bxa3! and the c3 knight falls. White has no defence according to the machines.]

21...♖af8 Bringing the last inactive piece into the game.

22. ♖g1 This time it is White who needs to look for counterplay. Black's pieces are all prepared for a blow. Threats such as Nxb4 axb4 Bxb4 with a dangerous pin are hanging in the air.

22... ♖f8 If the f3 knight moves, Black could already take on e5 and the f2 is also hanging. The next move suggests itself to close the f-file.

23. ♕f4 [23. ♖g3 leads to problems after 23... ♖a6! creating a double threat of Qc4 and Nxe5 Nxe5 Rxf2 Nxf7 Qf1 mate. 24. b5 loses to 24... ♖a5 25. ♖d2 ♖xe5 26. dxe5 ♕xb5—+ with a crushing attack.]



23... ♖xb4! A very tempting sacrifice, which was also kind of forced to gain counterplay. This is a move that we should play by intuition, as it is impossible to calculate until the end, but we can feel that Black is going to have something for the piece.

24. axb4 ♕c6 A human reaction, winning back the piece. [The computer suggest 24... ♕xb4 25. ♖d2 and here the highly unhuman 25... ♖f8! followed by Rc8 with adequate compensation, but of course if a human plays like nowadays, he will be accused of cheating.]

25. ♖xe6 [25. d5 can be met by the intermediate move 25... ♕xb4 and the d5 is hanging next.]

25... ♖xb4? This is actually a blunder. Navara did not want

to enter an inferior endgame after Bxf3 Qxb6 axb6, therefore he left the pin first, but his queen could have ended up in trouble.. . [25... ♕xb4! 26. ♖d2 ♖f6! was the way to play, when White needs to force a draw: (26... ♕xf3 leads to a worse endgame after 27. ♖xb6 axb6 28. ♖a8+ ♖f8 29. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 30. ♖d3+= White has the better structure and the connected d- and e- passed pawns might become very strong. Also the doubled b-pawns are quite useless, but Black might still hope for salvation with his two bishops.)



27. ♖xg7+! (Other moves are risky, for instance 27. ♖c8+ 27... ♖f8 28. ♖g4 ♖g6 29. ♖g5 (29. ♖h5 29... ♕xf3 30. ♖xf3 ♕xc3+ 31. ♖xc3 ♖c8+ Black mates soon.) 29... h6 Black wins back the piece and continues attacking.) 27... ♖xg7 28. ♖g1+ All black moves lead to perpetual check: 28... ♖h8 (28... ♖f8 29. ♕h6+ ♖xh6 30. ♖xh6+ ♖e7 31. ♖g5+ ♖f8 32. ♖g8+ ♖e7 33. ♖g5+=) 29. ♕e5 ♕xc3+ 30. ♖xc3 and this time it is Black who needs to force a draw by 30... ♖a5+! White has nothing better than 31. ♖b2 ♖b4+ 32. ♖a2 ♖a4+=]

26. ♖d2! Centralizing the king! :) Of course it looks very scary, but the c3 knight becomes an extremely good defender of the king.

26... ♖b2+ [On 26... ♕xf3 White suddenly traps the queen with 27. ♖gb1! that could have been an unplesasant surprise...]

27. ♖d3 ♜xf3 The knight on c3 covers all the checks on e2, e4 and b5. White does not need to take any defensive measures and he can focus on his own attack.

28. ♖xg7+!? This is also winning, but there was a much simpler way. [28. ♖xa7 28... ♜f8 29. ♖a8 and Black has no good defence against Rxf8 Kxf8 Qc8 check. 29... ♜h8 loses to 30. ♜e5+- creating a new threat of Rxf8 Rxf8 Bxg7 mate.]

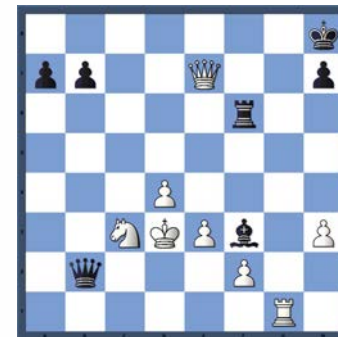
28... ♜xg7 The following couple of moves are forced:

29. ♖g1+ ♜h8 30. ♜e5+ ♜xe5 31. ♜xe5+? This is a mistake. White might still be winning, but that would have required a very brave king maneuver... [31. ♜xf7 was the way to win. Black cannot defend against the mate on g8, he must try to force a perpetual check with his remaining pieces. The c3 knight covers everything, therefore only a bishop sacrifice comes into consideration: 31... ♜e2+ 32. ♜xe2 ♜b5+ 33. ♜d2 ♜b4+ (It is very important that after 33... ♜b2+ 34. ♜d1!+- the f7 queen covers the b3 square, while other checks on the first rank are met by Nc1.) 34. ♜c3 ♜xc3+ 35. ♜xc3 ♜a5+ Black soon runs out of checks. 36. ♜d3 ♜a3+ (36... ♜a6+ 37. ♜c4+-) 37. ♜e2 ♜a6+ 38. ♜f3 ♜c6+

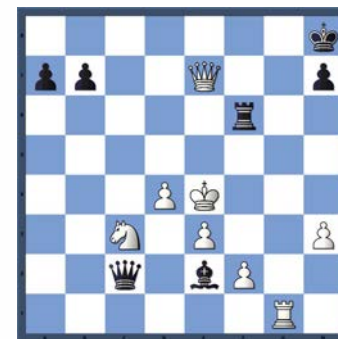


39. ♜g4! ♜e4+ 40. f4+- It is over now. No more checks for Black and White is coming with Qf8, dxe5 or Qf6 followed by Kh4 mate.]

31... ♜f6 32. ♜xe7 The story is the same as in the 31. Qxf7 line. Black has no defence and he must try to force a draw with his remaining pieces. The next sacrifice is obligatory to allow new checks.



32... ♜e2+! 33. ♜xe2 Objectively a mistake, but noone should blaim Sokolov for this. It allows perpetual check. [33. ♜e4 would still have given him an advantage, but who could go for such a line... White was probably also low on time, because the game was very tense before and then it is just impossible to go for a king walk. 33... ♜c2+



34. ♜d5! ♜f5+ (34... ♜b3+ 35. ♜e5+-; 34... ♜f3+ 35. e4 ♜b3+ 36. ♜e5+-) 35. ♜e5 ♜d7+ 36. ♜e4 After a nice slalom between the pawns White is winning in the end. It is important that Black cannot use his rook due to the pin and the queen and bishop are not enough to create decisive threats. White still

needs some only moves... 36...♖c6+ 37.d5 ♖c4+ 38.♗d4 ♗d3+ 39.♕e5 ♜f5+ Finally the rook joins to the attack, but suddenly (39...♖c7+ 40.♕xf6+-) 40.♕e6++- is check!! Black needs to trade queens, but then the endgame is lost due to the strong d-pawns.]

33...♖b5+ 34.♕d2 [34.♕e4?? 34...♖f5#; 34.♕c3?? 34...♜c6+]

34...♖b2+ 35.♕d3 A draw was agreed in view of Qb5. [The difference to the 31.Qxf7 line can be seen after 35.♕d1 now the b3 square is not covered and Black can force the draw with 35...♖b3+! 36.♕e1 ♖b1+ 37.♕d2 ♖b2+= A great fighting game. There were some mistakes, but in such sharp positions only computers are able to play perfect chess.] **1/2-1/2**

(3) Schlosser, Philipp(2586) - Navara, David(2708) [A06]

TCh-FRA Top 12 2014(5.1),
2014.05.28



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We don't often see White being crushed in such a peaceful opening as the one in the current game and Schlosser is usually very solid with the white pieces, but Navara's great idea 12...Bc5! put him in front of huge problems. A good game to learn from as to how to unbalance the position early on and simply overrun the defensive lines of your opponent.

1.♘f3 d5 2.e3 A rare move order, but a very possible one. Sometimes White chooses this move order to avoid the main Slav, or maybe the main Queen's gambit.

2...♘f6 3.c4 Now Black has to decide whether to go for a Slav or Nimzo pawn structure.

3...e6 Navara prefers to keep the game symmetrical for now.

4.d4 ♗e7 [Black more often plays 4...c5 5.♘c3 ♘c6 For now Black doesn't break the symmetry. 6.a3 a6 7.dxc5 ♗xc5 8.b4 ♗a7 9.♗b2 A lot of games have already been played in this position and actually it is not that easy for Black to equalize the game completely.]

5.♘c3 [Maybe a slightly more precise move order for White could be to start with 5.b3]

5...O-O Black continues waiting to see what White will do next.

6.b3 A logical move. White need to somehow develop the bishop from c1. [Of course White can't hope for any advantage after 6.♗e2 6...dxc4 Now that White has moved the bishop

from f1, Black can take on c4, winning some sort of a tempo.
7. ♖xc4 c5 The position is just equal now.]



6...c5! This is the right reaction on White's b3 move. Black is trying to quickly develop fast play in the center.

7.cxd5 [7. ♖b2 doesn't bring any advantage since after 7...cxd4 8.exd4 ♖c6 the position of the white pieces on b2 and c3 isn't great.]

7...cxd4 Before taking on d5, Black is luring the white queen to d4.

8. ♖xd4 [After 8. ♖xd4 8... ♖xd5 the position would just be equal.]

8...exd5 In fact this is still theory, but we can already see the plans of both side. White is trying to consolidate and play against the isolated pawn on d5 and if he was is in time to castle kingside Black would be slightly worse, but on the other hand Black will quickly try to develop some play in the center.

9. ♖b2 White is just 2 moves away from being better: Be2 and 0-0.

9... ♖c6 10. ♖d3 At first sight this move might seems strange, but on the other hand White is planning to play Rd1 in the future. 10.Qd1 would not bring any advantage because of 10...Bg4 with a fast d4 push and equalization but probably it

would already be the best White could reach here.

10... ♖b4 Black is acting in the right way, trying to use the better development for quick actions.

11. ♖d2 ♖g4 A very nice move. It is not really clear how to act now for White.

12. ♖d4 What can be more logical than to put the knight on d4. [Black's idea becomes clear after 12. ♖e2 12... ♖e4 13. ♖xe4 dxe4 14. ♖d4 ♖xe2 and by exchanging the bishop on e2 the black knight can take a fantastic position on d3.]



12... ♖c5!! What a fantastic and unusual move. Black is ready to give up a nice bishop and even lose a tempo for it, but in the current position it is exactly the right decision. The white knight on d4 is stabilizing the position and again White is still undeveloped, so Black should try to do everything to open the position immediately.

13. ♖c1?! Not careful enough... White should already have felt the danger. [After 13.f3 13... ♖xd4 14.exd4 ♖f5 15. ♖f2 the white king is on f2, but the e4 square is covered well and White's position is safe. The position looks about equal to me.]

13... ♖xd4 Now Black is starting his rush!

14. ♖xd4 exd4 is already not possible because of the check on the e-file.

14...♘c6 Of course Black is using the moment to push d4, which is the key move in all positions with an isolated pawn.

15.♚a4 After this move Black's attack is just becoming unstoppable! [White would maybe keep better chances to survive after 15.♚d3 15...d4 16.♘b5 White is giving away a full pawn, but at least the queens are being exchanged. 16...dxe3 17.♚xd8 exf2+ 18.♙xf2 ♖fxd8 19.♙xf6 and White would keep some chances to survive, although the endgame is of course very bad for him.]

15...d4! Black's dream is coming true.

16.♘d1 It is a pity, but White already doesn't have anything better.

16...♖e8 A preparation for the d3 move. [It is hard to say why Navara did not play immediately 16...d3 as it is difficult to find a decent reply for White. 17.♙c3 ♖e8 With the threat of playing Ne4 next. It is hard to imagine White surviving here with a bishop on f1.]

17.♙b5 At least White is getting the bishop out now.



17...d3 Black is at least winning an exchange now.

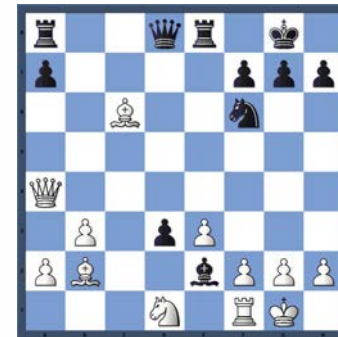
18.0-0 White has nothing better to avoid Black's d2 or Ne4 moves.

18...♙e2 Black is an exchange up now as Re1 is never possible

because of d2.

19.♖xc6 This move is losing, but hard to give White a better advice. [19.♙xc6 didn't help because of 19...d2! 20.♖c2 bxc6 with a totally winning position for Black.]

19...bxc6 20.♙xc6 White is trying to have at least a pawn for the exchange, but Navara is not letting him survive at all.



20...d2! An excellent move to include before playing Rc8.

21.♙d4 After this move, all is lost. [White should at least have tried to keep up the fight a bit longer by playing 21.♙xa8 21...♚xa8 Cool and strong, Black is going to be an exchange up. 22.♙xf6 gxf6 23.f3 ♖d8 Black's king's position is a bit open, but the strong pawn on d2 takes away any hopes White could have. Black's position should be winning, even if some small technical troubles could appear.]

21...♖c8 Now Black is just 2 exchanges up, plus he kept the pawn on d2 alive. The game is over.

22.♘c3 White could have kept the knight on d1 to suffer a bit longer, but this would not have changed the final result of the game.

22...♙xf1 23.♙xf1 And here comes the last small tactic:



23...Rxe6! Chasing away the bishop from c6 to play Rxc3. Game over.

24. Bf3 Rxc3 A great game by Navara, even if things went a bit too smoothly and White could have put up a bit more resistance. Especially the idea of 12...Bc5 can be very useful to remember! **0-1**

(4) Volokitin, Andrei(2638) - Baklan, Vladimir(2636) [C11]

TCh-FRA Top 12 2014(2.3),
2014.05.25



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

It is a bit strange to see Volokitin on a rating of 2638. For many years Andrei was very close to 2700 and over it a few times. In the current game, White got a promising position out of opening, but a very sharp one and with just one greedy move things turned completely and Black could develop a deadly attack.

1.e4 e6 Baklan is a big specialist in French playing it almost all life long

2.d4 d5 3. Nc3 3.Nc3 is clearly the most principled move, putting a lot of pressure on Black's position from the start.

3... Nf6 [3... Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7. Bg4 Bc7 8. Bxg7 Bg8 9. Bxh7 cxd4 10. Ne2 is the other very sharp line which is quite critical in the current theory.]

4.e5 [4. Bg5 is the other main move.]

4... Nfd7



5.f4 Quite typical for the French, the game will involve a fight

for the central pawns. Black will as usual attack the d4 pawn with c5 and Nc6 and White will try to keep solid and develop some play on the kingside, where he has more space.

5...c5 6.♘f3 ♘c6 7.♙e3 Of course this is all still theory.

7...♙e7 Black is preparing to castle kingside, followed by the usual a6-b5.

8.dxc5 [8.♙d2 followed by Be2 and 0-0 is the other possible way to go on. Also the idea of Nd1 and c3 is interesting.]

8...O-O 9.♙d2 White is preparing to castle queenside.

9...♘xc5 10.O-O-O a6 is one of the main moves for Black. The idea is simple, to play b5-b4 with a quick play.

11.♙f2 White chooses a very aggressive setup. [11.♘d4 would be a more solid way to go on.]



11...b6! A very nice move. Black must keep his knight on c5 at any costs. Of course Black is cancelling his idea of playing b5, but he has a new one.

12.g4?! I am not sure if this move was really needed. [12.f5!? 12...♙h8 13.h4 and things are very unclear.]

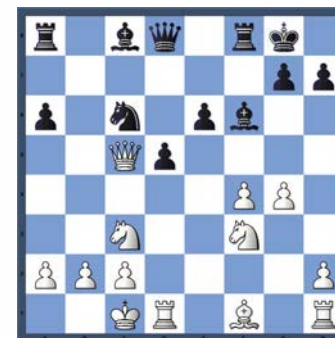
12...f6 Now we can see Black's idea behind 11. ...b6. The white queen on f2 is now getting exposed and the f4 pawn could become a weakness.

13.exf6 White already has no choice but to take on f6, stopping Black from playing fxe5 himself.

13...♙xf6 This is the critical position.

14.♙xc5? And this is already a serious positional mistake. Whatever you do, you just can't give up the black squared bishop, who is holding almost everything together. Another very negative point for White is that Black's play on the b-file could lead to a very dangerous attack, as the combination of Bf6 and Rb8 is very strong. [A possible way to go on was 14.♙e1 14...♙c7 15.♙g2 and the position would remain complicated.]

14...bxc5 15.♙xc5 White was greedy and went for the pawn, but now Baklan is showing us perfectly why moves like Bxc5 should never be played.



15...♙c7! A perfect move. Black is defending the knight on c6 and at the same time attacking the f4 pawn.

16.f5 Opening the position even more when it is clear that the black pieces are going to be dominating the entire board is not the best decision either. [Maybe the best move was 16.♘e2 trying to keep things together as much as possible, but of course after 16...♙b8 17.c3 ♙d7 Black's attack is also going to be very dangerous.]

16...♖b8! Another excellent move by Baklan. Black is fixing the b2 pawn and is ready for the final blow.

17.fxe6 Volokitin continues not feeling the danger and opens the position even more.

17...♟xe6 Black is not getting tempted by a possible win of material. [17...♖f4+ was not the best since after 18.♖d2 ♖xf3 Black is a piece up, but White has a nice "zwischenzug": 19.♟g2! and the game would be back in unclear waters.]

18.g5 Volokitin finally tries to get rid of the monster bishop on f6, but it is already too late to save the game.

18...♟xc3 Black does not care anymore about exchanging the perfect bishop and is forcing a direct end of the game.

19.♖xc3 ♖f4+ From now on everything is very forced.

20.♘d2 This was the only possible reply because of the Qxf3 threat.



20...♘b4! This is probably the last important move in the game. Black is attacking the a2 pawn and at the same time he wants to play Rfc8 to put pressure on the c2 pawn. White has no decent defence against it anymore.

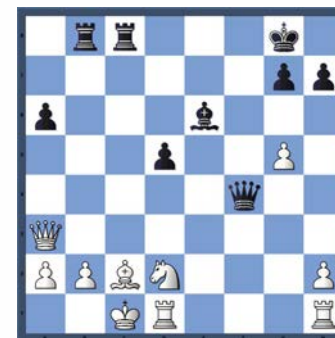
21.♖a3 The only way to avoid a direct loss of material. [21.♖b1 21...d4 and the a2 pawn is going to fall.]

21...♖fc8 What a perfect domination of the black pieces. We don't see this kind of attack against the white king very often, especially in the French defence.

22.♟d3 [22.c3 was losing to 22...d4 as dxc3 is unavoidable.]

22...♘xc2 The most simple. 22...Bf5 was of course winning too.

23.♟xc2



23...♟f5 The game is over. Rxc2 can't be avoided.

24.♖c3 ♖xc3 25.bxc3 ♖e3 A pretty way to finish White. Black just wants to play Qxc3 next.

26.♖df1 ♟e4 27.♖hg1 ♖xc3 28.♘xe4 dxe4 We just saw a very beautiful game and a great example of what White should never do. **0-1**

Puzzle section

(5) Bologan, V(2655)-Sutovsky, E(2642)

Poikovsky, 2014.05.20

1. +-



(6) Naroditsky, D(2543)-Molner, M(2522)

US Championship, 2014.05.19

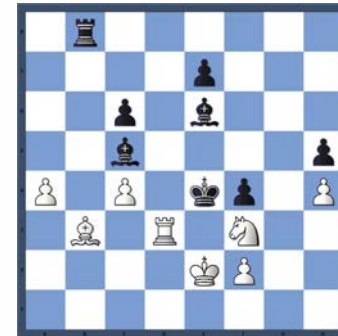
1. ±



(7) Fodor, T(2462)-Kovalenko, I(2611)

Zalakaros Open, 2014.05.25

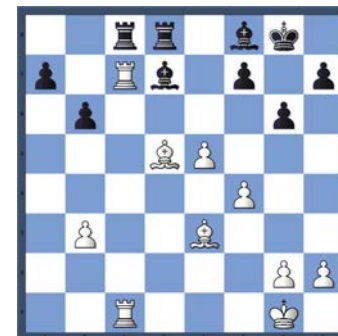
1. +-



(8) Shulman, Y(2560)-Danelia, M(2237)

Chicago Open, 2014.05.22

1. +-



(9) Chandra, A(2440)-Sadorra, C(2611)

Chicago Open, 2014.05.25

1... -+



(10) Anand, V(2785)-Massoni, M(2338)

Rapid match, 2014.05.19

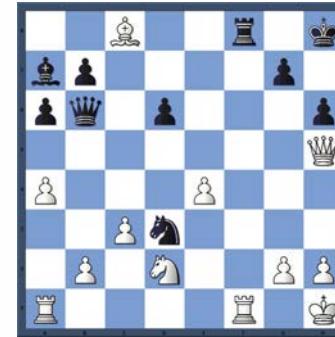
1. +-



(11) Kalugampitiya, R(2145)-Ding Liren(2714)

Asian Nations Cup, 2014.05.23

1... -+



(12) Korneev, O(2618)-Gubta, A(2619)

Agzamov memorial, 2014.05.23

1... ±



(13) Fressinet, L(2711)-Fier, A(2575)

French league, 2014.05.24

1. +-



(14) Salgado Lopez, I(2627)-Bauer, C(2628)

French league, 2014.05.26

1... -+



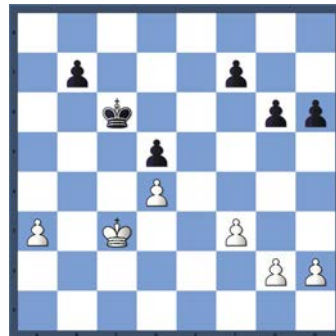
Endgame section

(15) Pelletier, Yannick(2577)
- Volokitin, Andrei(2638)

French league,
2014.05.24



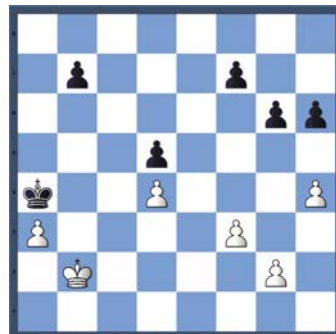
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



The following pawn endgame looks very drawish, but actually that is far from being true...

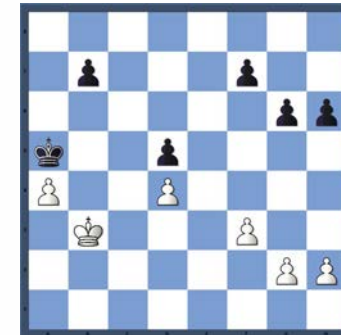
39...♔b5 The first task is to activate the king as much as possible.

40.♔b3 White had to prevent Ka4. [Other moves, for instance 40.h4 were losing easily after 40...♔a4 41.♔b2



41...b5!—+ and b4 is coming next, opening the path towards the d4 pawn. Black inevitably wins the pawn and the game afterwards.]

40...♔a5 41.a4 White wanted to prevent Black's plan of playing b5, with the idea that when White gets into zugzwang and he is forced to move with his king, Black plays Ka4 and wins with b4, like it was pointed out in the 40.h4 line. [41.f4 could be met by 41...h5 42.g3 b5! 43.h3 f6! Every tempo plays an important role now. Black's task is to be the last one who makes his pawn move on the kingside to put his opponent into zugzwang. 44.h4 (44.g4 44...h4 45.f5 g5—+ leads to the same.) 44...f5 and White is forced to move with his king, but it allows 45.♔b2 ♔a4 46.♔a2 b4 47.axb4 ♔xb4 48.♔b2 ♔c4—+]



41...f6 Actually 41...g5 and 41... h5 were equally good. The only important thing was to preserve the decisive b7-b6 tempo until the last moment. Black wins with the same motif in all the lines, but let's check all the possibilities. The key is that the kingside is going to be locked after both sides make their available pawn moves and the outcome of the battle will be decided on the queenside. Black should play b5 in the moment when the white king stands on b3 in order to win the fight for the opposition. Therefore, when the white king goes to a3, Black must have the relevant tempo of playing b6 and

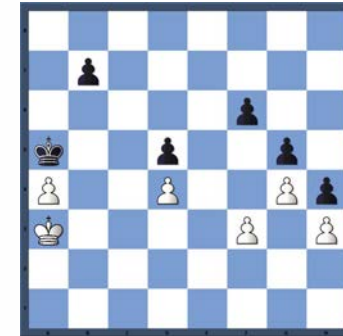
only after Kb3 b5. But this only comes at the last stage, first all tempi must be spent on the kingside...

42.♔a3 [42.f4 42...h5 43.g3 g5 43...f5 would have been a huge mistake as it would have left White with two more tempi with his h-pawn... 44.f5 g4 45.♔a3 and here comes the breakthrough, as there are no more moves left on the kingside. Black must play b5 when the king is on b3, therefore he now plays 45...b6! 46.♔b3 b5! 47.axb5 ♖xb5 48.♔c3 ♔a4—+ squeezing out the king and collecting the d4 pawn.; 42.g4 loses to 42...h5 43.♔a3 (43.gxh5 43...gxh5 44.♔a3 h4 45.♔b3 h3 46.♔a3 the kingside is basically locked, because f4 can be met by f5, therefore it is time to execute the winning plan: 46...b6! 47.♔b3 b5 48.axb5 ♖xb5 49.♔c3 ♔a4—+) 43...h4 44.h3 g5 45.♔b3 Now the king is on b3, so the b6 tempo should not be spent. 45...b5! 46.axb5 ♖xb5 47.♔c3 ♔a4—+; 42.h4 42...h5 43.g4 If Black calculates well, he sees that White does not have any more tempo on the kingside, so he can play (43.g3 43...g5 44.♔a3 (44.hxg5 44...fxg5 45.f4 The pawns would be promoted in the same time, but there is one big difference that the black king is still in the square of the f-pawn... 45...gxf4 46.gxf4 ♔b6! 47.f5 ♔c6—+ and the h-pawn cannot be stopped.) 44...gxh4 45.gxh4 b6! 46.♔b3 b5 47.axb5 ♖xb5 48.♔c3 ♔a4—+) 43...b5 44.axb5 ♖xb5 45.gxh5 gxh5 46.f4 f5 47.♔c3 ♔a4—+]

42...h5 Black wins with the same motifs like it was demonstrated in the lines above.

43.g3 g5 44.g4 [44.h3 makes no difference. 44...h4 45.gxh4 (45.g4 transposes to the game.) 45...gxh4 46.♔b3 b5 47.axb5 ♖xb5—+]

44...h4 45.h3



45...b6! As we already know, Black plays b5 only when the white king goes to b3 to win the fight for the opposition.

46.♔b3 b5! 47.axb5 ♖xb5 [White resigned in view of 47...♖xb5 48.♔c3 ♔a4 Black wins the d4 pawn automatically. 49.♔d3 ♔b3 50.♔d2 ♔c4 51.♔e3 ♔c3 Black has squeezed out the king move by move and he has the tempo of Kc4-c3 forever to finally collect the d4 pawn. 52.f4 ♔c4 53.f5 ♔c3—+ An instructive endgame.] **0-1**

**(16) Rapport, Richard(2701)
- Fodor, Tamas Jr(2462)**

33rd Zalakaros Open 2014(4.6),
2014.05.26



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



After a long and fighting game, Rapport finally finds himself in a position with a clear advantage. The passed a-pawn and the chance of winning the h-pawn give White good chances to win. Still it is not clear if the position is winning or not because of the very few pawns left on the board.

46. ♖g5+ White has no chance to bring his rook to the a-file to protect the a-pawn, so Rapport decides to take Black's h-pawn- what can be more logical?!

46... ♔d6 47. ♖xh5 ♖a8 But now White's a-pawn is getting lost.

48.g4 Strangely enough this move seems to lead to a forced draw! [White would keep quite some winning chances after 48. ♔d2 48... ♖xa6 49. ♔d3 The white king would feel very comfortable on c4 and only after this the push of the g-pawn could become very unpleasant for Black.]

48... ♖xa6 49.g5 At first sight Black's position seems to be lost.



49... ♖b6!! Fantastic calculation by Fodor. In case of a passive defence like 49...Ra8 White should be close to winning after 51.g6 followed by g7 and Rh8. Every chess position is based on tactical motives so even when things seems to be going very wrong, it is never too late to search for tactical defence possibilities.

50.g6 White's pawn is almost "there".

50... ♗b4! This was of course Fodor's plan before playing Rb6. Black is entering a rook endgame which is very forced.

51. ♔d2 ♔e6 [51... ♗xc3+ 52. ♔xc3 ♔e6 would lead to the same position as in the game.]

52. ♖g5 is White's only chance. [Of course after 52.g7 52... ♔f7 53. ♖g5 ♗xc3+ 54. ♔xc3 and now 54... ♔g8 Black is reaching an easy draw rook endgame.]

52... ♗xc3+ 53. ♔xc3 ♖b8 is the only way to defend from g7-g8.



54. ♖g3 Winning half a tempo.

54... ♜f6 Black wants to play Kg7.

55. g7 ♜g8 Fodor continues to calculate things very precisely.

56. ♜d4 All moves are forced.

56... ♜xg7 57. ♜xg7 ♜xg7 58. ♜c5 ♜f6! The black king can't save the c-pawns, but he doesn't need to.

59. ♜xc6 ♜e5 60. ♜xc7 ♜d4 What a great defence by Black, based on exact calculation in a very bad looking position!
1/2-1/2

Clash of the Titans

(17) Alekhine, Alexander
- Erdelyi, Stefan[B40]

Prague ol (Men)(13),
1931.07.21



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.c4 ♘c6



4.d4 is premature. White could play [4.♘c3 4...♘f6 5.♕e2 The idea is to wait a bit with the d4 move. 5...d5 6.exd5 exd5 7.d4 Fighting for the center. 7...♕e6 8.cxd5 ♘xd5 9.O-O ♕e7 10.dxc5 ♘xc3 11.bxc3 ♔xd1 12.♖xd1 ♕xc5 13.♘g5+= After exchanging this bishop White will keep a stable advantage.]

4...cxd4 5.♘xd4 ♘f6 6.♘c3



6...d6 leads to a hedgehog structure but Black had a better move. [6...♕b4 In the Paulsen Variation there is a similar line but instead of the knight on c6 Black has a pawn on a6, so the big difference is that thanks to his good development Black is ready to put pressure on the white central pawns. 7.♘xc6 White is forced to improve the black structure. 7...bxc6 8.♕d3 (8.e5 8...♘e4) 8...e5 With good play for Black.]

7.♕e2 a6 8.O-O Usually in this structure the black knight is placed on d7. In this case one of Black's ideas is to exchange on d4 and then develop the bishop on the h1-a8 diagonal. [8.♘c2!? 8...♕e7 9.O-O O-O 10.f4∞]

8...♔c7 9.b3 White develops his bishop on an active diagonal. The alternative was [9.♕e3 9...♘xd4 10.♕xd4 ♕e7 11.♔d3 O-O 12.♔g3 A typical square for the queen to pressure the g7 pawn. (12.♘a4 12...♘d7 13.♔g3 ♕f6 14.♖fd1 ♕xd4 15.♖xd4 e5 From a strategical point of view after the exchange of the dark squared bishops this move is usually possible. 16.♖d2 ♘f6 17.♘c3 ♕e6 With an equal position.) 12...e5 (12...b6 13.e5†) 13.♕e3 ♕e6 14.♖ac1 ♖fc8 15.b3 ♔a5 A strong move. Black is preparing the thematic b5 or Bd8-Bb6 and because of the bad queen on g3 Black should get counterplay.]

9...♙e7 10.♙b2 O-O [10...♘xd4 11.♙xd4 O-O 12.♘a4+= and Black is not able to play Nd7-b6.]



11.♘c2 White wants to keep the pieces on the board since he has more space.

11...♖d8 12.♘e3 ♘e5 With the idea to transfer the knight to d7. [12...b6 13.♖c1 ♙b7?



14.♘cd5!± This trick is the main problem for Black when the knight is placed on c6 and not on d7.]

13.♙e1 Probably after f4 White wants to put the queen on g3. [13.f4 13...♘ed7 14.f5 b6 Because the knight is already on e3 White is not able to create pressure on the e6 square. 15.fxe6 fxe6 16.♘cd5 is interesting but doesn't work: 16...exd5 17.♘xd5 ♙c5+ 18.♙d4 ♘xd5 19.♙xc5 ♘c3 20.♙c2 ♘xe2+

21.♙xe2 bxc5± In this position three pieces are much stronger than a queen.]

13...♙c5 Temporarily preventing f4, but the queen is not perfectly placed on c5. [13...b6 14.f4 ♘ed7 15.♙g3 ♙b7 16.♙h1 ♙f8∞Protecting g7. Now the e4 pawn is hanging.]

14.♘a4 ♙a7 15.♖d1 An interesting concept based on the weak b6 square.



15...♖b8 [15...♘xe4!? 16.♙d4 ♙b8 17.♘b6 ♖a7 18.♘xc8 Maybe White should not hurry with this move. 18...♖xc8 19.♙xa7 ♙xa7 In my opinion Black has good compensation.; 15...♘ed7 16.♙d4 b6 17.f3 ♙b7 18.♙b4 ♖ab8 (18...a5 19.♙d2) 19.♘xb6 ♙xe4 20.♘xd7 ♙xd7 21.♙a5 ♙b7∞; 15...b5!? A typical idea. Black exchanges the b-pawn for the e- one, which is usually good for them. 16.cxb5 (16.♙d4 16...♙b7 17.♘b6 ♖b8∞) 16...axb5 17.♙xb5 ♘xe4∞]

16.c5! A good move. Black is not in time with Nd7-b6.

16...♘c6 [16...♘g6]

17.cxd6 ♖xd6 18.e5? This move gives Black good play. White missed a nice idea after [18.♖xd6 18...♙xd6



And now comes the unexpected 19.♟xf6! Paradoxically without the bishop White will get pressure over the dark squares. 19...gxf6 20.♞g4 ♔d4 (20...♟e7 21.♚c1! h5 22.♞h6+ ♔g7 23.♟xh5 ♞d8 24.♞xf7 ♞xf7 25.♚c7 ♔f8 26.♞b6+—) 21.♚c1 ♟e7 22.♟f3 Threatening Qh6-Rd1 and the black king is in trouble.]

18...♚xd1 19.♟xd1 ♞d7 20.f4 b5 21.♞c3 ♟c5=+ After e5-f4 the white king can be weak, which is why Black gets the initiative here.

22.♟c1 ♞e7 [22...♟b7 23.♞e4 (23.♔h1) 23...♞cxe5! 24.♞xc5 ♚xc5 25.fxe5 ♚xc1 26.♚xf7 ♞xe5 Black is just a pawn up.]

23.♔h1 ♟b7 24.♟c2 ♚a8 25.♚e2 ♞g6 [25...♚c8=+]



26.f5? Alekhine feels that his position is slowly getting worse and worse, so he decides to give onw pawn to at least

complicate the position a little bit. [26.♞ed1 With the idea to exchange the active bishop on b7 after Be4. 26...♚c8=+]

26...exf5 27.♟xf5 ♞dxe5+ Black has better pieces and a material advantage.

28.♞g4 ♚e8 29.♞xe5 ♚xe5 30.♚g4 ♞h4



31.♟xh7+ ♔f8? Black could easily win after [31...♔xh7 32.♚xh4+ ♔g8 33.♚g3 ♚e6 and White is not able to hold the weakness on g2.]

32.♟e4! A great tactical defending idea.

32...♚xe4 White forces Black to temporarily close the pressure over h1-a8 diagonal and thanks to this White has time to create his threats. [32...♟xe4 33.♞xe4 ♚xe4 (33...♚xc5 34.♚c8+ ♚e8 35.♚xc5+ ♔g8 36.♚f2 f6=) 34.♚h5 The same idea as in the game. 34...♔g8 35.♚xf7+ ♔h8 36.♚h5+ ♔g8=]

33.♚h5 The g2 pawn is not hanging now and White creates the Qxc5, Qxf7 and Qh8 threats.



33...g6?? A huge mistake. Black has two better options: [33...f5 34.♖xf5+ ♜xf5 35.♜xf5+ ♖g8 36.♜xe4 and Black has nothing better than 36...♙xe4 (36...♙a7

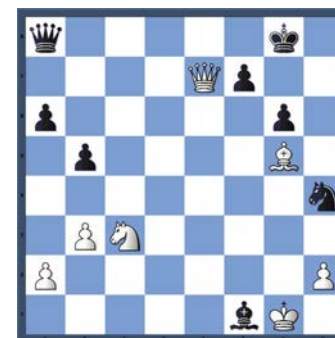


Now comes the nice 37.♜f6+! gxf6 38.♜g6+ ♖f8 39.♜xf6+ White is now mating by force: 39...♙e8 40.♜e6+ ♖d8 (40...♙f8 41.♙h6#) 41.♙g5+ ♖c7 42.♜e7+ ♖c6 43.♙f4 b4 (43...♙b8 44.♜e6+ ♖c5 45.♙e3+ ♖b4 46.♜e7+ ♖c3 47.♜c5+ ♖b2 48.♙d4+ ♖b1 49.♜c3 ♙xg2+ 50.♖g1) 44.♜c7+ ♖b5 (44...♖d5 45.♜d6+ ♖e4 46.♜e5+ ♖d3 47.♜e3+ ♖c2 48.♜d2+ ♖b1 49.♜c1+ ♖xa2 50.♜c2+ ♖a1 51.♙e5+) 45.♜c4+ ♖a5 46.♙c7+ ♙b6 47.♜c5#) 37.♜xc5 ♙xg2+ 38.♖g1 White will silly prevent the mate on g2 after Qf2 next and the position is drawish.; 33...♖g8 34.♜xf7+ ♖h8 35.♜h5+ ♖g8=]

34.♜xc5+?? White could simply win after [34.♜h8+ 34...♙e7 35.♙g5+ ♖d7 36.♜xa8 ♙xa8 37.♜xe4 ♙xe4 38.♙xh4+—]

34...♜e7?? The second huge mistake in a row. Black could still fight after [34...♖g8 35.♜xe4 ♙xe4 36.♖g1 ♙xg2 White must be careful because of his weak king. For example now the best move is 37.♜f6 The idea is not to allow Black to improve his queen's position. For example now after 37...Bh3 White will answer 38.Qc6 or after 37...Qd8 38.Qd6, but in general the position is unclear.]

35.♙g5! ♙xg2+ 36.♖g1 ♙xf1 37.♜xe7+ ♖g8 [37...♖g7 doesn't change anything. 38.♜f6+—]



38.♜d8+! After the queens exchange two black pieces will be under attack.

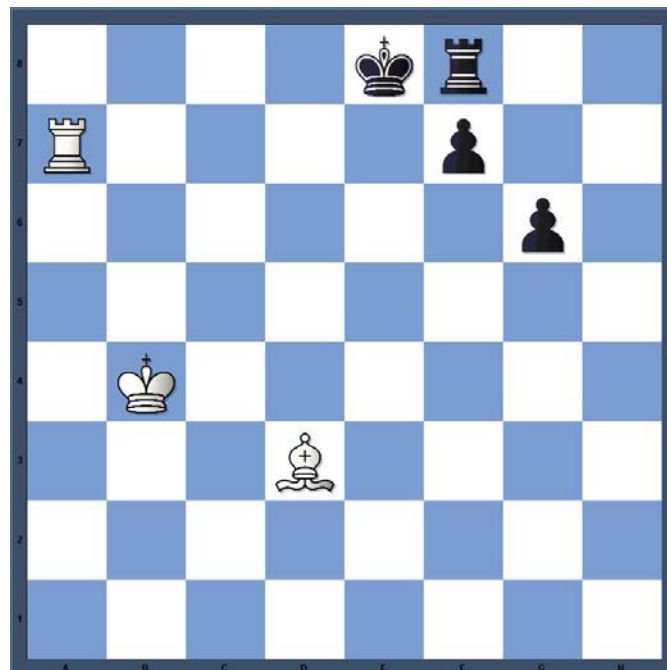
38...♜xd8 39.♙xd8+— ♜f3+ [39...b4 40.♙xh4 bxc3 41.♖xf1 c2 42.♙g5+—]

40.♖xf1 ♜xh2+ 41.♖e2 ♜g4 42.♜d5 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Hacek

1. +-



Solutions

(19) Almasi, Z(2693)-Bruzon, L(2682)

Capablanca memorial, 2014.05.17



25. ♘f3?∞ [25.c4! 25... ♖xb4 26. ♕f3!! +- bxa5 27. ♘c6+-]

(20) Eljanov, P(2732)-Bologan, V(2655)

Poikovsky, 2014.05.16



47... ♖c4! 48. ♕d1 [48. ♗xe5 48... ♖xe4+-+; 48. ♕xe5 48... ♖xc3!+-]

48... ♖xe4+-+

(21) Fressinet, L(2711)-Grandelius, N(2587)

Malmo, 2014.05.17



45.b5! axb5 [45...bxa5 46.bxa6+—]

46.a6+— ♖d8+ 47.♔c6 b4 48.♔b7 b3 49.♚c3 1-0

(22) Filip, L(2455)-Kovalenko, I(2611)

Iasi Open, 2014.05.13



28.♚xh7+! 1-0 [28.♚xh7+ 28...♔xh7 29.♚h3+ ♔g7 30.♚h6+ ♔g8 31.♔f6#]

(23) Iordachescu, V(2597)-Miedema, R(2390)

Iasi Open, 2014.05.14

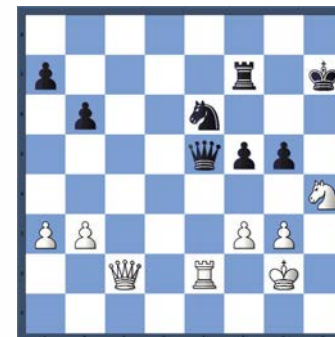


19.♔xe6+! ♔xe6 20.♚g4+ ♔f5 21.♔f3! +— ♚h5
[21...♔e7 22.♔h4! ♔xh4 (22...♚xh4 23.♔g5+—) 23.♔g5+ ♔e8 24.♚e6#]

22.♔g5+ ♔e7 23.♚xf5+—

(25) Skytte, R(2437)-Agdestein, S(2625)

Llucmajor Open, 2014.05.15



37...♔d4! 38.♚xe5 ♔xc2 39.♔xf5 ♚xf5! 0-1 [39...♚xf5 40.♚xf5 ♔e3+ 41.♔f2 ♔xf5—+]

(24) Fedorchuk, S(2638)-Solodvnichenko, Y(2574)

Llucmajor Open, 2014.05.14



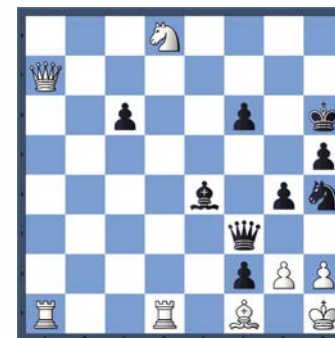
19. ♖e8! ♜c7 [19... ♖xe8 20. ♜xf7+ ♔h8 21. ♜xe8+ ♜f8 22. ♜xf8#; 19... ♘d7 20. ♜xf7+-]

20. ♖xf8+ ♔xf8 21. ♜a3+ c5 [21... ♜e7 22. ♜xa7 ♜e1+ 23. ♘f1+-]

22. ♜xa7 cxd4 23. ♜xd4±

(26) Pashikian, A(2626)-Ziatdinov, R(2387)

Agzamov memorial, 2014.05.18

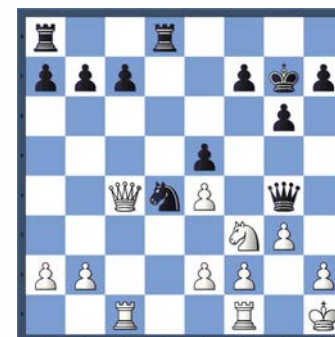


40. ♘f7+! [40. ♖d7?? 40... ♜xg2+ 41. ♘xg2 ♘xg2#]

40... ♔g6 41. ♘e5+! fxe5 42. ♖d6+ 1-0

(27) Grachev, B(2658)-Plenkovic, Z(2400)

Croatian Teams, 2014.05.15



21. ♜xf7+! ♔xf7 22. ♘xe5+ ♔g7 23. ♘xg4+- 1-0

(28) Czarnota, P(2526)-Navara, D(2708)

Polish league, 2014.05.18



24...♙xg2!! 25.♙xg2 ♖ac8! 26.♚d6 [26.♚b7 26...♖c1+
27.♙h2 (27.♙f1 27...♚b1--+) 27...♚h5--+ (27...♚xf2--+)]

26...♖c1+ 27.♙h2 [27.♙f1 27...♚b1--+]

27...♚xf2! --+ 28.♖g3 ♗f5 29.♚d5 ♗xe5 30.♚xe5 ♗xg3
0-1 [30...♗xg3 31.♚xg3 ♖h1+! 32.♙xh1 ♚xg3--+]

(29) Troitzky



1.♙c6! ♖b1+ 2.♙e2 ♖xh1 3.♙g2+! ♙xg2 4.♗f4+ ♙g1
5.♙e1!! g2 6.♗e2#



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Top GM Secrets

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Editorial Preface

Let's first discuss the events of the past week:

The French Team Championship was won for the 3rd time in a row by the team of Clichy: Vachier Lagrave, Jakovenko, Fressinet, Van Wely and many more. It was not really a surprise for such an amazingly strong team, which clearly dominates the league.

The 2nd place went to Bischwiller and the 3rd to Mulhouse Philidor.

22 The 33rd Zalakaros Open in Hungary was won by Kovalenko with 7/9.

26 Now let's get to what is clearly the main event of the week: the Norway Chess tournament.

28 After the 3rd round, Caruana leads with 2.5/3 and we can say that Carlsen was very lucky to draw his game against the Italian, who was very close to make a perfect start with 3/3. At the moment Caruana has also crossed the 2800 mark in the live rating list. Congratulations!

Grischuk had a bad start, blundering in the first game, but with 2 victories in a row he is back in the tournament, also achieving his best live rating ever of 2797.

The main attention was of course focused on Carlsen's games, who had a slow start with just 3 draws.

And clearly the main surprise of the event is the great play of Simen Agdestein, who is now on 1.5/3, but could easily be on 2/3 with a bit more precise calculation.

There are 6 more rounds to go and the tournament is going to be super exciting, especially since Carlsen is clearly planning to win at least 3 out of his next 6 games.

The Russian higher league in Vladivostok is under way, which is an amazingly strong open tournament. Just 3 rounds have been played here too, so the main excitement is still to come.

As usual we hope you enjoy our comments from the main events played by the best players in the world!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Grischuk, Alexander(2792)** **- Aronian, Levon(2815) [A18]**

2nd Norway Chess 2014(3.2),
2014.06.05



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We don't often see Aronian having trouble in the opening, usually the World Number 2 is very well prepared. He might even be the best prepared player in the world. But this time it was different. It seems like Grischuk managed to surprise Aronian in an opening which Aronian likes to play himself with White! After 8...Nc6 it seems like Black is already in trouble. Basically the game already ends on move 14(!), when Grischuk manages to catch the black queen in the middle of the board! Amazing!

1.c4 ♘f6 Aronian usually plays 1...e5, but it seems like for this game he was not in the mood to go for his main repertoire.

2.♘c3 White usually chooses this move order against Nimzo players, who don't like to play e5 or c5, but Aronian plays them both, so it is a bit strange to see Black play 2...e6 now.

2...e6 3.e4 This is the key idea of 1.c4 and 2.Nc3. Of course nothing too dramatic has happened but now Black needs to be accurate to equalize.

3...d5



4.e5 [4.cxd5 makes less sense. 4...exd5 5.e5 ♖e4 6.♗f3 ♕f5 7.♕e2 c5 8.d4 ♗c6 9.O-O cxd4 10.♗b5 d3 11.♕xd3 ♕c5 and Black has an excellent position. Aronian-Lysij, World Cup 2013.]

4...d4 is the main move.

5.exf6 dxc3 6.bxc3 ♖xf6 Now in this position White has two major choices:

7.d4 This is probably the very main move. [In the line 7.♗f3 7...e5 8.♕d3 it is important for Black to remember to play 8...♕g4!? and it seems that it is hard to gain any advantage here for White, even if there are still a lot of complicated lines. 9.♕e4 ♗d7 10.♕xb7 ♖b8 11.♕d5 c6 12.♕e4 ♗c5 13.♖e2 ♗xe4 14.♖xe4 ♕xf3 15.♖xf3 ♖xf3 16.gxf3 ♗d7 Black is a pawn down, but White's bad pawn structure and the domination on the b-file give him enough compensation to evaluate this position as equal. Naiditsch-Movsesian, Wijk aan Zee 2013.]

7...e5 We are following the main stream. Black's idea is to launch fast play against White's center.

8.♗f3 ♗c6 A very rare move and a move which seems to be very risky because Black's development is far from being fine. [The main line continues with 8...exd4 9.♕g5 ♖e6+ 10.♕e2

♕e7 11.O-O O-O 12.cxd4 ♕xg5 13.♗xg5 ♖e7 14.♗f3 c5 with a very slight advantage for White.]



9.♕g5! A good move. Before playing d5, White is making sure that the black queen will be placed on g6.

9...♖g6 10.d5 Of course! Black's idea is clear, to hold on to the black squares, try not to lose anything immediately, but all this is harder to do than it looks like.

10...♗b8 This is nothing new for the theory either.

11.h4 A strong move, which has already been played by Najer back in 2012.

11...♗d7 Black almost managed to consolidate, so White needs to act quickly and directly.

12.♕d3! This novelty seems to be very effective and it hides a very tricky trap.

12...e4? After this move Black's position already seems to be lost. [12...♖h5 doesn't look good either since after 13.♕e2 ♖g6 White is a tempo up, because usually the white bishop is still on f1 here.; Maybe the best try for Black is to play 12...♖d6 13.O-O f6 Keeping the idea to play on the dark squares. 14.♕e3 ♗c5 But now White has a strong idea: 15.♕xc5 ♖xc5 and



16.♘d2! followed by Ne4 and c5. It is hard to imagine Black being ok here.]

13.h5 It is hard to say if Grischuk knew everything until here, or maybe just found the great idea of catching the queen over the board.

13...♔f5 Nothing else makes sense. To give up the e4 pawn equals being almost lost, so Aronian played 13... Qf5 without thinking for too long.



14.♖h4!! What a fantastic move and a surprising idea! The black queen on f5 is being caught by the h1 rook! WOW!

14...exd3 Nothing really helped anymore already... [14...♘c5 was losing on the spot: 15.♙xe4 ♘xe4 16.♔e2 with a totally winning position for White.]

15.♖f4 The black queen has no more squares, but at least

Black has a piece and a rook, which maybe gives some chances for survival.

15...♘c5 16.♖xf5 ♙xf5 White's first target is clear, the d3 pawn has to be taken.

17.♘d4! Grischuk continues playing the best moves! First of all the bishop from f5 has to move, and secondly the white knight is going to take a perfect position on b3, chasing the black one from his perfect position on c5, so the d3 pawn is getting lost.

17...♙d7 There is nowhere else to go...

18.♔f1 Grischuk does not hurry with Nb3 as this move is not going to "run away".

18...♙d6 19.♘b3 f6 This move doesn't make things better, but Black's position was lost anyway. [19...♘e4 didn't help either. 20.♙e3 Solid and good. 20...O-O 21.♔xd3 After the d3 pawn is getting lost, there is no more hope for Black. 21...♖fe8 22.c5 The game should be over soon.]

20.♙e3 b6 Aronian is hoping to create a blockade.

21.♘xc5 bxc5 22.♔xd3 O-O Black's chances for a draw are not very big, but still White needs to continue playing well.



23.♔d2! Another excellent move by Grischuk. The idea is to

play Bf4 next and Bxd6, after which the d6 pawn is going to be a potential target for the white queen.

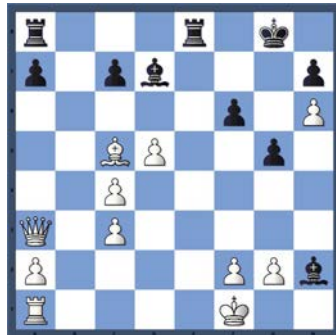
23...♙e8 Aronian is trying all he can to keep the game going. By provoking the white pawn to go to h6, Black is hoping to avoid the bishop exchange with g5.

24.h6 g5 But now Grischuk finds a new target:

25.♖b2! The c5 pawn is going to fall.

25...♙d7 26.♖a3 ♜fe8 27.♙xc5 I guess many players would have resigned here, but maybe Aronian's practical hope was that Grischuk really likes to get into deep time trouble and as we saw in round 1 - when Grischuk blundered in 1 move to Caruana in a slightly better position - in time trouble anything can happen.

27...♙h2 Black keeps on trying to create some counter chances.



28.♜e1 ♙f5 29.♜xe8+ ♜xe8 30.♙e3 The position of the white king is secured.

30...♙f7 31.♙e2 Before starting the final action, White is putting his king on the most safe square and that is d2.

31...♙e5 32.♙d2 ♙g4 I guess by now Aronian's moves were more random than anything else.

33.♜xa7 That's another pawn gone...

33...♙g6 34.a4 ♙xh6 35.a5 c6 Aronian keeps on fighting when it is even hard to imagine how White could make a mistake...

36.dxc6 ♜c8 37.f3 ♙f5 38.g4 ♙e6



39.♜e7 Only one more move to play until move 40...

39...♙xc4 40.♙d4 Additional time was added to Grischuk and the position is totally winning, so the game is over. A really nice opening trick gave the World Number 3 a very important victory over the World Number 2. **1-0**

On the other hand, White is going to start an attack on the kingside and the d4 square can be nice for the knight from b3.

13. ♖e2 of course White is going for 0-0-0. To put the queen on e2 followed by a possible g4-Bg2 is quite a standard plan.



13... ♘d7! Personally I like this move a lot. Black needs to put his knight on e5 and there is no reason to keep the knight on f6 which could get under attack after g4-g5, so Grischuk decides to bring it directly to e5.

14. 0-0-0 ♘ce5 [Trying to exchange the dark squared bishops is usually the right choice, but not here as after 14... ♗g5 15.g3! the exchange on f4 would leave White with a great pawn structure.]

15. ♘d5 [White could also have played 15. ♖b1 15... 0-0 16. ♘d4 with a very unclear position.]

15... ♗xd5 Once again I think this is the right decision for Black. He should not allow White to take on e7.

16. ♖xd5 [After 16.exd5?! 16... 0-0 the position can only be in Black's favor.]

16... 0-0 17. ♖b1 So far both players are playing a very good game. A move like Kb1 is a very useful one anyway, so Topalov decides to make it instantly.

17... ♖c7 Another typical and very useful move. Black wants

to play Nb6 or b5. [17... ♘b6?! was premature as after 18. ♖d4! White is covering the c4 square.]

18. ♖d1 ♘b6 A very hard decision to judge. Black would ideally like to play: Nec4-Bf6-Rfc8 and Na4, but it is a very long term plan. [Maybe a more simple solution could have been 18...b5 19.h4 ♘c4 20.g4 ♗f6 and I don't think that Black's chances are worse here.]



19.h4! A very strong move and a manoeuvre to remember.

19... ♘ec4 20. ♖h3 This was the main point of 19.h4! The rook from h3 is going to control the 3rd rank which is very important!

20... ♗f6 21.c3 So Black did what he wanted to do, but what's next?! White's plan is very clear: in case Black is going to be passive, g4-g5-h5 could be a very dangerous for the black king.

21... ♖fe8 22. ♘d4 I don't think this is the best move. [To me the logical 22.g4 looks pretty strong. It is not an easy task now to find a "good move" for Black and a sacrifice afterwards. 22... ♘xb2?! doesn't seem to work since after 23. ♖xb2 ♘a4 and the very important 24. ♖f2! ♘xc3+ 25. ♖xc3 ♖xc3 26. ♖c1 White should be better.]

22... ♖c5! Black is preparing the d5 push.

23. ♖f5 We are now entering very big complications. [23. ♖f3 wasn't better since after 23... ♖ac8 White already needs to be very careful because Black's Nxb2 is hanging in the air.]

23...d5 24.e5!? A very interesting and practical move.



24... ♗xe5?! This move gives White a strong attack. [24... ♗xe5 looked stronger, but here too White has a lot of different options like 25.Rg3 or 25. Qc2. It is easy to see that White has some compensation for the pawn, but Black should probably not be worse in any case. A pawn is a pawn.]

25. ♖g4! Exactly! The pawn on g7 is a clear target now.

25...g6 [When he played 24...Bxe5 Grischuk had probably blundered that after 25...h5 26. ♖g5 ♖f2 he seems to be winning thanks to the double attack against the bishop f4 and b2, but after the simple 27. ♗c1! Black would be in big danger to get mated.]

26.h5?! Topalov misses his chance... [26. ♗h6+ was very strong. 26... ♖g7 27. ♗c1 with the threat of playing h5 next.]

26... ♖f2 As we can see, the position is very sharp.

27. ♗h6+ The only way to go on.

27... ♖g7 28. ♗c1 White wants to play Rf3 next, so Black's move is forced.

28...f5! This is why 26.h5 was a clear inaccuracy.

29. ♖f3 Unluckily for White, there is no escape from the queens' exchange.

29... ♖xf3 30. ♖xf3 Things continue to be very sharp. White remains a pawn down, but the threat of playing g4 or maybe Bxc4 keep a lot of tension in the position.

30... ♖ad8 A very logical move. Now White only has the idea with g4 left.



31.g4 d4?! As usual Grischuk was in time trouble and he makes a miscalculation. [31...f4 would lead to an about equal endgame. 32.g5! White wants to play Ng4 next. 32...gxh5 33. ♗f5+ ♖h8 34.b3 ♗d6 35. ♗xd6 ♖xd6 36. ♗xf4 and the game would most probably end in a draw.]

32.hxg6? What a present by White! [It is obvious that it is not an easy calculation, but we have to admit it is not the most difficult move to find either. 32.gxf5! 32...dxc3 In this crazy position, White has an amazing mating idea: 33.fxg6! Could it be that Topalov has missed this?! 33... ♗d2+ (33... ♖xd1 34. ♖f7+ ♖h8 35. ♖xh7#) 34. ♗xd2 ♖xd2 35. ♗f5+ ♖g8 36. ♖xd2 cxd2 37. ♖c2 and it is hard to say if White is winning or Black can hold the draw, but White is clearly better.]

32...hxg6 33. ♖fd3? Topalov is totally losing the control over

his position. [The best way to go on was still 33.gxf5 33...dxc3 34.♖xd8 ♜xd8 35.bxc3 with good chances for a draw.]



33...♘d5! Grischuk doesn't miss his chances. White's problem is that the knight on h6 is caught.

34.cxd4 [34.gxf5 already didn't help since after 34...♘ce3 Black is winning the h6 knight.]

34...♙f4 And the game is over!

35.♙xf4 ♜xf4 36.♖f3 Giving Black a chance for a very nice finishing move:



36...♖e1! Of course after 37.Rxe1 Black plays Nd2 and 28...Nxf3. A very nice fighting game with a lot of tension and nice positional manoeuvres from which we can learn a lot. **0-1**

**(3) Jakovenko, Dmitry(2730)
- Ipatov, Alexander(2613) [E15]**Saint-Quentin FRA(9.3),
2014.06.01GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Another classic win by Jakovenko in his usual positional style.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.g3 ♙b7 5.♙g2 The g3 system of the Queen's Indian defence. Black has a wide range of options here. The most common continuation by far is 5...Be7, but Black would like to drive the game onto a less explored territory.

5...g6 Black fianchettoes both of his bishops.

6.O-O ♙g7 7.♘c3



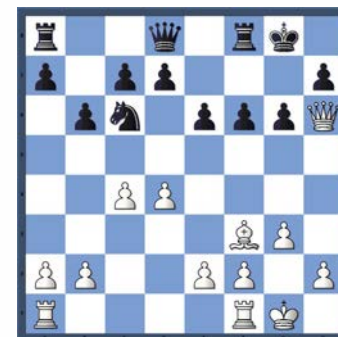
7...♘e4 Carlsen played like this in a blitz game last year. This is a standard reaction in this variation. White was ready to occupy the center with d5 followed by e4, therefore Black initiates exchanges to make it less effective. [7...O-O 8.d5! and e4 next gives White a comfortable edge.]

8.♘xe4 ♙xe4 9.♙g5! Developing with tempo and preparing to trade the bishop on the long diagonal with Qd2 and Bh6.

[9.d5 is already much worse, because it does not lock the b7 bishop. Black could simply undermine it by playing 9...c6]

9...f6 This move was played by great players like Spassky or Eljanov, but on the other hand it is a clear achievement for White to weaken his opponent's pawn structure. [9...♖c8 was played by Carlsen, but White can claim an edge after 10.♖d2 intending to trade the bishops with Bh6 and after 10...h6 11.♙e3 Black has difficulties with castling because of the h6 pawn.]

10.♙e3 ♘c6 11.♖d2 O-O 12.♖fd1! White activates his rook and strengthens his center. [The text move is also a last preparation for Bh6, which, if played immediately, could have been met by 12.♙h6? 12...♙xh6 13.♖xh6 ♙xf3! 14.♙xf3



14...♘xd4! Black overtakes the initiative with this exchange sacrifice. **15.♙xa8 ♘xe2+** An important intermediate move. **16.♖g2 ♖xa8+ 17.f3 ♘d4=+** followed by e5 or c5, consolidating the strong knight on d4. Black has two pawns for the exchange and enjoys a clear advantage.]

12...♘e7 Black improved his knight and he is ready to grab the bishop pair with Nf5, but White was intending to play his next move anyway.

13.♙h6 ♙xh6 14.♖xh6 d5 It was time for Black to fight for the center. [He could not do it by playing 14...c5?! because of

15.dxc5! bxc5 16.♔e3! and Black is forced to give up his strong bishop in order to save the c5 pawn.]

15.♔e3! A strong positional move! The queen has already done its job on h6 by trading the bishops and White cannot hope for any kind of mating attack. The queen is the most valuable piece and of course Jakovenko wants it to participate in the battle, therefore he pulls it back.

15...♘f5 16.♔c3 c6 Black wanted to avoid ending up with a backward pawn on c7. White had in mind to take cxd5 and on exd5 Rac1 followed by b4-b5 and a longterm pressure against the c7-a7 weaknesses.



17.♘h3! A known move in this system! Black has fortified his bishop on e4 and it seems like a strong one, which controls the entire board and should be exchanged. However instead of some moves like Nd2, Jakovenko plays much more ambitiously and by removing his bishop from the long diagonal he is threatening to play Nd2 with the ideas of f3 and Nxe4. In some other lines this move does not work properly, but White plays Bf1 with the same Nd2 idea. Black is now forced to give up his bishop for the knight, but then White might claim a small but stable advantage.

17...♘xf3 18.♔xf3 We can now feel the damage of the f6 move. Black's pawns are much weaker and especially the e6

pawn is a clear target. White might even think about pushing e4 dxe4 Qxe4 followed by returning the bishop to g2, with strong pressure on both the e6 and c6 pawns. Black decides to change the structure.

18...dxc4 19.♔xc6 ♔d5



20.♔a4! Another excellent positional decision. White has serious potential on the long diagonal after the bishop is coming back to g2, but he can only use it effectively if he keeps the queens and does not change the pawn structure. [20.♔xd5 20...exd5 21.♘xf5 gxf5 In the endgame, White could not make use of damaged kingside, it is rather Black who might think about some edge with his passed pawn on the queenside.]

20...♘d6 Black would like to close the diagonal by putting his knight on e4, followed by f6-f5. [20...♘xd4 would have dropped some material after 21.♘g2! ♘xe2+ 22.♔f1 ♔e5 23.♔e1+-]

21.♘g2 ♘e4 22.♔ac1! The most logical and the strongest move. [It was very tempting to play 22.f3 22...♘d6 23.e4 and now the only move is 23...♔b5! (23...♔a5 24.♔d7! wins a pawn.) 24.♔xb5 ♘xb5 Here White has a choice between two moves, but none of them gives him a clear advantage: 25.♘f1 (On 25.♔ac1 25...♘d6 26.e5 ♘f5 the c4 pawn cannot be

taken because of Ne3!) 25...♖ac8 26.♖ac1 In comparison to the game, Black could bring his a-rook to c8, which changes the evaluation because the f3 pawn is hanging at the very end of the line: 26...♘d6 27.e5 ♘f5 28.♙xc4 (28.♖xc4 28...♘e3 29.♖xc8 ♖xc8 30.♖d3 ♘xf1 31.♙xf1 ♖c2 White has won a pawn, but the active rook gives Black excellent drawing chances.) 28...♖xc4! 29.♖xc4 ♘e3 30.♖dc1 ♘xc4 31.♖xc4 fxe5 32.dxe5 ♖xf3 and Black holds. Jakovenko had probably calculated this line and he rightly took the decision to play 22.Rac1!]

22...b5 [22...♖fc8 White was intending to play 23.f3! ♘d6 24.e4 ♖b5 (24...♖a5 25.♖d7+- We can once again see the drawback of the f7-f6 move: the e6 pawn becomes vulnerable.) 25.♖xb5 ♘xb5 26.♙f1! ♘d6 27.e5 ♘f5 Now White can play 28.♙xc4 ♖xc4 29.♖xc4 ♘e3 30.♖dc1 ♘xc4 31.♖xc4± with a healthy extra pawn and a more active rook.; 22...♖ac8 simply drops the a7 pawn: 23.♖xa7±]



23.♖a6! The pawn chain had to be separated. White is ready to undermine the pawns with a4! and prevented Black from playing a6. Additionally White is threatening to win a pawn with Bxe4 and Qxb5, therefore the next move is forced.

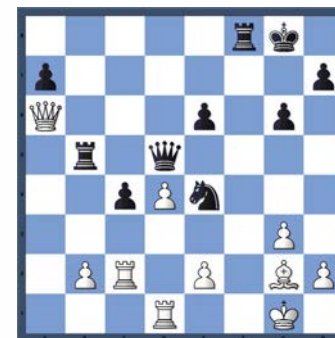
23...f5 24.a4! Consequently following the right plan. Black's pawn chain falls apart and the rooks are joining the game.

24...♖ab8 25.♖c2 White prepares for the opening of the b-file

and protects his b2 pawn.

25...f4 Black decides to look for counterplay on the kingside. [An alternative was 25...♖f7 trying to keep things together, but White could have simplified to a very pleasant endgame with the following more or less forced line: 26.axb5 ♖xb5 27.f3 ♘f6 28.f4 ♘e4 (There was nothing better as 28...♖d7? loses to 29.♙c6) 29.♖c8+ ♔g7 30.♖xc4 ♖xc4 31.♖xc4 ♖xb2 32.♙xe4 fxe4 33.♙f2± and the e4 pawn is extremely weak and when it falls the game should be lost.]

26.axb5 fxg3 27.fxg3 ♖xb5 [Black could not increase the pressure on the f-file with 27...♖f5 because of 28.♖f1! ♖g4 29.♙f3±]



28.e3! A perfect consolidating move! White protects the d4 pawn to free his rook and he opens the second rank to cover the f2 square with the other rook.

28...♖b3 29.♖e1! Jakovenko plays some temporary defensive moves to keep his structure and suddenly the black pawns on a7, c4 and e6 are getting loose.

29...♖fb8 30.♖xa7! [30.♖xc4 was less clear in view of 30...♖xb2 31.♖d3 and Black is able to escape from the pin with 31...♖a5!]

30...♖xb2 31.♖f1? The only mistake by White in the game,

which could have given Black some saving chances... [The winning continuation was 31.♖xb2! 31...♖xb2



32.♕f3!! An extremely hard move to find. White first gave up the second rank, then he plays a waiting move to prevent the Rxf2 ideas. Black has simply no defence against Rf1, when White is mating with his queen and rook. Anytime the queen leaves the pin from d5, White wins the knight with Qa8 check. 32...♖b7 does not help. (32...♗f5 33.♗a8+ ♔g7 34.♗xe4+-; 32...c3 33.♖f1+-) 33.♗a8+ ♔g7 34.♖f1! Threatening mate on f8 after Bxe4, which cannot be prevented... 34...♖f7 35.♕xe4!+-]

31...♖b1? [31...♖b7 was the only move. 32.♗a2 Here Black has a difficult choice. He has some options and in all of them he must suffer in a worse position, but he has good saving chances as well. 32...c3 (32...♗g5 33.♖e1 ♗f5 34.♗xc4 ♖b1 This kind of active counterplay also gives chances, but of course White is a pawn up.) 33.♗xd5 exd5 34.♕xe4 dxe4 35.♖xc3 ♖b3 As Black I would go for this endgame, where I believe in Black's saving chances, but of course it is going to be a long torture...]

32.♖f2! White manages to keep the important f-file with this move! Black cannot escape from the pin between the bishop and the queen. [The difference as to why White did

not include the check on f7 was that after 32.♗f7+ 32...♔h8 33.♖f2 ♖xf1+ 34.♖xf1 ♗g5! Black succeeds to leave the pin, while in the game the b8 rook was hanging.]

32...♖b7 [32...♖xf1+ 33.♖xf1 ♖f8 does not change the outcome. 34.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 35.♗b8+ ♔e7 36.♗f4+-]

33.♗a3! Keeping the eye on the f8 square. Rf8 is actually threatening with mate, against which Black can only defend by dropping material. White is additionally threatening to play Rf4, winning the piece. The game is over.

33...♗d6 [33...♔g7 34.♖f4+-]

34.♗xd6 ♖xd6 35.♕xb7 ♖xb7 36.♖f6 ♖e7 37.d5 1-0

(4) Carlsen, Magnus(2881) - Giri, Anish(2752) [A34]

2nd Norway Chess 2014(1.3),
2014.06.03



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Carlsen is back in action in the Norway Super tournament. In the first round he was trying hard to squeeze out the full point, but Giri neutralized all his attempts with very precise defence.

1.c4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 Giri is considered to be an excellent theoretician and recently employs the Gruenfeld defence, therefore Carlsen tries to drive the game to some Anti-Gruenfeld territory.

5.e3 ♘xc3 [5...g6 immediately can be met by some tricky lines, such as 6.♗b5+ ♗d7 7.♞b3 ♘xc3 8.♘e5! White grabs the initiative.]

6.bxc3

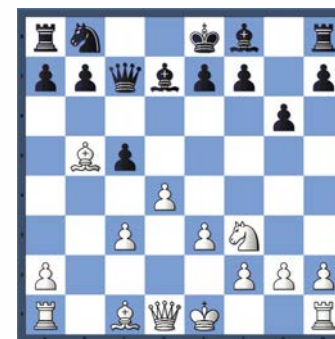


6...♞c7!? A novelty right in the 6th move and a very clever one I must say. We can see the point in the 6...g6 line, which was played in almost all the games before. [On 6...g6 7.h4!? (7.d4 transposes to the game.)]

7.d4 Obviously the h4 move made no sense now, because Black would develop his bishop on the other diagonal after occupying the center with e5. White had nothing better than d4, but now we are back the Gruenfeld structure, which is what Black was aiming for.

7...g6 8.♗b5+ A standard idea in this structure, White would like to confuse the development of the black minor pieces.

8...♗d7 [8...♘d7 is strongly met by 9.♗a3 when it is very hard to deal with the c5 pawn. 9...cxd4 (9...b6 now loses to 10.♘g5! Black has no good way to parry the Qf3 double threat on f7 and a8. 10...♗b7 11.dxc5±) 10.♞xd4 forces some artificial move like Rg8 or f6, but neither of them is something what Black would like to play.]



9.a4! This move is connected to the previous check on b5. White would like to keep his annoying bishop on b5. Black has two direct choices to deal with it, but none of them are satisfactory. Bxb5 axb5 is clearly a structural improvement for White, while a6 weakens the queenside a lot and after retreating the bishop to d3 or e2 White could put the b7 and b6 squares under long term pressure with Ba3, Qb3 and Rb1.

9...♗g7 10.O-O O-O 11.♗a3! Carlsen follows his opening strategy. He wants to get some benefits on the queenside. It is important to mention that in comparison to many Gruenfeld

systems, the white pawn stands on e3 instead of e4, therefore it is much more difficult for Black to create some counterplay against the center, especially against the d4 pawn.

11...b6! Black would like to keep the structure. [11...cxd4? 12.cxd4 is clearly rse for Black. The a3 bishop becomes very strong now and the rook is coming to c1 with tempo, whereafter the queen does not have a good square to leave.]

12.dxc5!? This move is always critical in this structure. It is a double-edged choice, it might work well if White manages to gain some benefits against the weak c5 pawn, but on the other hand if White cannot make any direct use of it, the opening of the g7 bishop only favors Black.

12...bxc5 13.♔d5 The consequent follow-up after taking on c5. If the c5 pawn was traded against the one on c3, the opening of the c-file would clearly favor White as the rook could come to c1, creating many unpleasant threats against the queen.

13...♙xb5 Forcing the changing of the pawn formation is already an achievement by White. Obviously the rook cannot be taken, because the queen gets trapped after Bc6.

14.axb5 ♘d7 15.♖fd1 ♖fd8! The most logical move, but it required good calculation. [The alternative was 15...♙xc3 16.♖ac1 ♘b6 but White gets a pleasant edge after 17.♔b3 ♙f6 18.♖xc5 ♔b7 19.♘e5! White would like to install his knight to c6, from where it attacks the e7 weakness and establishes control over both opened files (c- and d-files). 19...♙xe5 20.♖xe5+= Black might miss his bishop on the long diagonal and the e7 pawn is also weak.; 15...♖ad8? is now strongly met by 16.♔c6!± and the c5 pawn is in trouble.]



16.♘g5 Carlsen feels that he must push hard for the advantage now, otherwise if Black consolidates with Rac8 and Nb6 he equalizes completely. [On 16.♔c6 Black has 16...♖ac8 and White cannot strengthen his position.]

16...e6 17.♔c6 ♔xc6 Giri chooses the direct way to play. [The calm 17...♖ac8 was also possible. Giri was probably afraid that after provoking the e6 move, White might establish his knight on d6, but I doubt it could create real problems for Black. For instance: 18.♔xc7 ♖xc7 19.♘e4 (19.♖ac1 was probably Carlsen's intention, but Black has no problem after 19...♖b8 20.c4 a6 21.bxa6 ♖a8 22.♖d6 ♙f8= and taking back the a6 pawn next.) 19...♖b8! Leaving the pin. 20.♖ab1 f5 21.♘g5 (21.♘d6? 21...♘b6± The knight is actually trapped on d6!) 21...♖b6 and Black is fine.]

18.bxc6 ♘e5 19.c7! The only attempt to put Black further problems. [White could have forced a draw by playing 19.♖xd8+ 19...♖xd8 20.c7 ♖c8 21.♙xc5 ♖xc7 22.♙xa7 ♖xc3=]

19...♖dc8! The only move!

20.f4 Carlsen had probably foreseen this position very long ago and pinned his hopes to the invasion of his rook to d7, creating real problems against the f7 pawn. However, Giri also had something in mind to make this entire idea less effective.



20...h6! A very strong intermediate move, which sends the knight away from attacking the f7 pawn. [20...♖c4 21.♚d7± was problematic for Black.]

21.♗e4 ♗c4 22.♚d7 ♗b6! Black gets access to the c7 pawn. Carlsen once again finds the only way to fight for an advantage with a stylish exchange sacrifice.



23.♚ad1! ♗xd7 24.♚xd7 The rooks have no opened files and the c7 pawn remains very dangerous, therefore the sacrifice seems to be completely justified even after first sight. Nd6 is a deadly threat now, the next move is an onlyone!

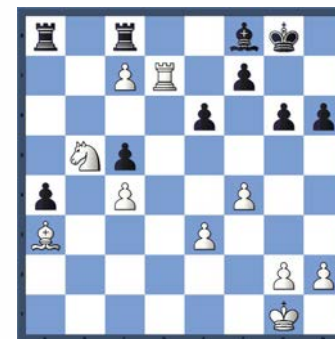
24...♗f8! 25.c4 [25.♗xc5 seems to lead to a forced draw after 25...♗xc5 26.♗xc5 ♖f8! (26...a5 is wrong in view of 27.♗a4!± and Nb6 next!) 27.♗e4 ♖e8 The move was forced because

of the Nd6 threat and now White has no other choice, than repeating the moves with 28.♗f6+ ♖f8 29.♗e4= otherwise Black pushes a5...]

25...a5! With the idea to win the main enemy with Ra7!

26.♗c3 Carlsen drives his knight to b5 to avoid the Ra7 threat. [26.♗f6+ was tricky, but it does not bring anything in case of the correct reaction: 26...♖h8! (26...♖g7? loses to 27.♗b2! as Black has no good way to parry the Nd5-b6 manoeuvre. 27...♚a7 28.♗e5!+- Black is doomed.) 27.♚xf7 (Also after 27.♗b2 27...♗g7 works well.) 27...♗g7 Black is alright.]

26...a4 27.♗b5



27...♚e8! Suddenly the knight got far away from the f6 square and Giri finds a clever manoeuvre to neutralize the strong rook on d7. Whatever White plays he will make a last preparation with Rac8 and then Re7 is coming next.

28.e4 ♚ac8! [Of course not 28...♚e7? 29.♚xe7 ♗xe7 30.♗a7!]

29.♗a7! [On 29.♖f2 Black can already play 29...♚e7! with the idea that after 30.♚d8? (30.♚d2 It makes no sense to continue to play like this, since Black can always give back the exchange on c7.) 30...♚exc7!+- wins for Black as the d8 rook is hanging.]

29...♖a8 30.♘b5 ♗ac8 31.♘a7 ♗a8 32.♘b5 A correct draw!
We can see that if someone wants to hold Carlsen, they must defend precisely in the entire game without the slightest inaccuracy. **1/2-1/2**

Puzzle section

(5) Aronian, L(2815)-Svidler, P(2753)

Norway blitz, 2014.06.02

1. +-



(6) Aronian, L(2815)-Karjakin, S(2771)

Norway blitz, 2014.06.02

1... -+



(7) Agdestein, S(2628)-Svidler, P(2753)

Norway blitz, 2014.06.02

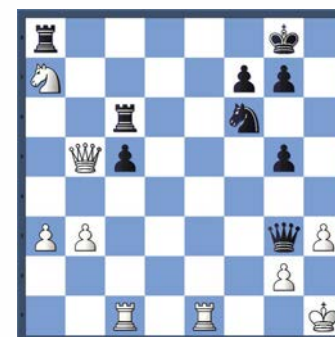
1... -+



(8) Aronian, L(2815)-Kramnik, V(2783)

Norway blitz, 2014.06.02

1... -+



(9) Horvath, C(2560)-Beliavsky, A(2620)

Zalakaros Open, 2014.05.28

1... -+



(10) Horvath, J(2507)-Sean, W(2385)

Zalakaros Open, 2014.05.30

1... -+



(11) Kovacevic, A(2560)-Solumonovic, I(2448)

Bosna Open, 2014.06.01

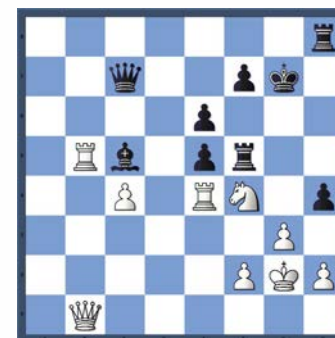
1. +-



(12) Kislinsky, A(2485)-Eggleston, D(2407)

Orlova GM, 2014.05.31

1. +-



Orlova GM, 2014.06.01

French league, 2014.05.27

Endgame section

(15) Karjakin, Sergey(2771)
- Agdestein, Simen(2628)

2nd Norway Chess 2014(3.1),
2014.06.05



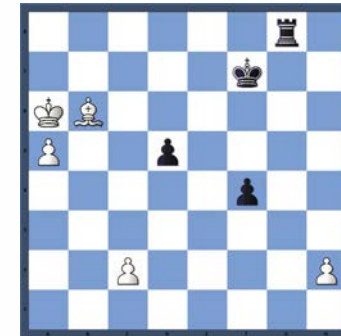
GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



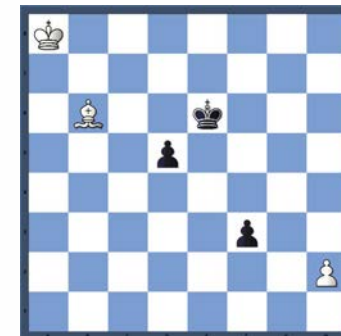
After a long fight and a good game by Black, it seems like he should have some chances to win the game here, but as we know, in such endgames where the pawns on both sides are running, exact calculation decides the game. Sometimes a bishop can also be almost as strong as a rook because he covers the entry squares of the opponent's pawn and at the same time helps to promote his own pawn.

54...f4 This move is a must. Black needs to try and advance the f-pawn as far as possible.

55.a5 And this is also the only way to go on for White.



55...f3? After this natural move the position is just a draw. [Black could have won the game based on a very exact calculation, which is hard to make during the game. 55...♔e6! A very important move. Black is winning a decisive tempo in comparison to the position in the game. 56.♔b5 (56.♔b7 is not possible because of 56...♖g7+! 57.♔c6 ♖g2! and Black's threat of playing Rxc2 is deadly. White is totally lost.) 56...♖g2 Now we are getting a similar position to the game, just with a clear tempo up for Black because the white king is on b5 and not on b7. 57.a6 ♖xc2 58.a7 ♖c8 It is still not that easy to see that Black is in time to win the game. 59.♔a6 f3 60.♔b7 ♖e8 61.a8=♖ ♖xa8 62.♔xa8 But after



62...♔e5! White cannot do anything against Black's d4 push. 63.h4 d4 Black is winning.]

56.♔b7 Now White is just in time to save the game.

56...♖g2 57.a6 ♖xc2 58.a7 As in the lines above, Black gives his rook for the a-pawn in the hope to be in time with the d4 push.

58...♖a2



59.h4 [59.a8=♖ should also lead to a draw: 59...♖xa8 60.♔xa8 ♔e6 61.h4 ♔e5 62.h5 and White is just in time.]

59...♔f6 60.h5 ♔g5 By luring the black king to the h-pawn, White can now comfortably come back with his own king.

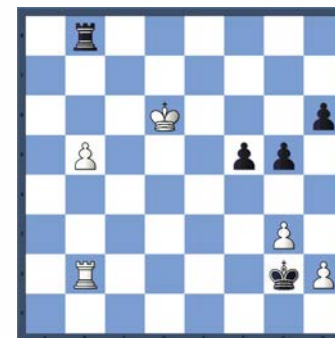
61.a8=♖ ♖xa8 62.♔xa8 ♔xh5 63.♔b7 And the position is a draw because Kc6 comes next. We just saw a very exciting endgame which can be used for practical calculation in any training session and of course this is a big pity for Agdestein, who could be on 2/3 in one of the world's strongest tournaments! **1/2-1/2**

**(16) Fressinet, Laurent(2711)
- Kosten, Anthony(2455)**

French league, 2014.05.29

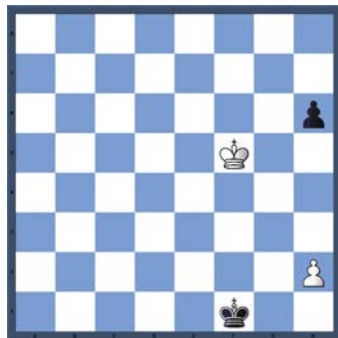


GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

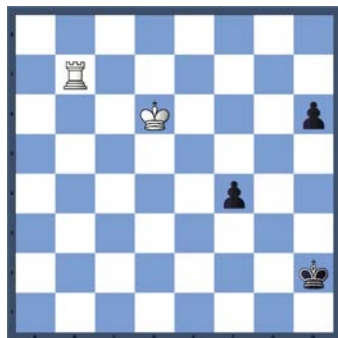


The last move was Rb2, White has protected his h2 pawn with check and he is ready to promote his b5 passed pawn. However, it is still far away from b8, meanwhile Black should be able to create his counterplay with the f-pawn. The first very critical moment is here, where should the black king go now?!

48...♔f3?! Black decided to turn back and support the f-pawn on the most direct way. [The best was 48...♔g1! Black had to be afraid of 49.♔e5! (49.b6 is too slow 49...f4 50.gxf4 gxf4 51.♔c7 ♖f8 52.b7 f3 53.b8=♖ ♖xb8 54.♖xb8 f2 White king is too far away, he should force a draw by 55.♖g8+ ♔xh2 56.♖f8 ♔g2 57.♖g8+=) 49...♖f8! The f-pawn is Black's only hope for salvation, he must keep it at any cost. 50.b6 f4 51.gxf4 gxf4 52.b7 f3 53.b8=♖ ♖xb8 54.♖xb8 f2 55.♖f8 f1=♖ 56.♖xf1+ ♔xf1 57.♔f5

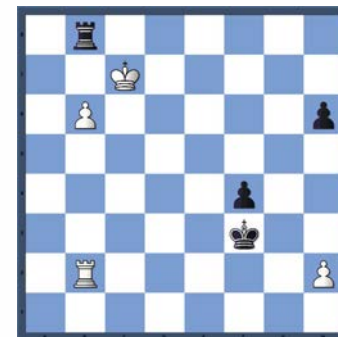


After a couple of more or less forced moves, we have reached the last critical position...The next move is very important: 57...♔f2! Or 57...Ke2 is also good for draw with the same idea. (However the most obvious 57...♔g2?? is losing in view of 58.h4 ♔f3 59.h5+- and Kg6 next wins the game.) 58.h4 ♔e3! This is the point of Kf2, Black must approach with his king from the side! 59.h5 (59.♔g6 59...♔f4 60.♔xh6 ♔f5!= is an important theoretical drawn. Kg7 is met by Kg4, while h5 Kf6 squeezes the white king to the h-file.) 59...♔d4! Only this way Black can hold the draw! 60.♔g6 ♔e5 61.♔xh6 ♔f6= 62.♔h7 ♔f7 63.h6 ♔f8 64.♔g6 ♔g8=; 48...♔h3? is also logical, to keep the h2 pawn under attack, but it loses because Black cannot support the f2 square with his king... 49.b6 f4 (49...♔xb6+ 50.♔xb6 ♔xh2 51.♔e5+-) 50.gxf4 gxf4 51.b7 ♔xb7 (51...f3 52.♔c7 ♔xb7+ 53.♔xb7+- Here is the problem. Black cannot make progress, his f-passed pawn is completely useless now.) 52.♔xb7 ♔xh2



White is just in time to catch the f-pawn: 53.♔f7! ♔g3 54.♔e5 f3 55.♔e4 f2 56.♔e3+-]

49.b6 f4 50.gxf4 gxf4 51.♔c7



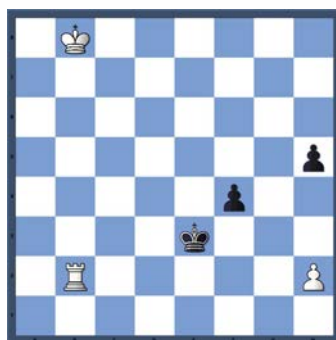
51...♔f8?! It is amazing! This most obvious move to support the pawn from behind, what everybody would play without thinking with the idea to spare some time for the forthcoming critical moments might be the losing mistake. .. [51...♔h8! 52.b7 ♔e3 should have been played. We need to think very deeply to understand the point...The next move is White's key resource to continue playing for the win: 53.♔b6! (53.b8=♔ leads to draw after 53...♔xb8 54.♔xb8 f3 55.♔e8+ ♔d3 56.♔f8 ♔e2 57.♔d6 f2 58.♔e5 f1=♔ 59.♔xf1 ♔xf1 60.♔f5 and we reached the same position as in the 48...Kg1 line, where we already know, that Kf2 and Ke2 are holding the draw, while Kg2 loses after h4!) 53...f3 54.♔xh6! ♔xh6 55.b8=♔ f2= White does not have any real winning chances, because the f-pawn is too far advanced and it keeps the queen busy...]

52.b7 h5? The decisive mistake. [52...♔e3 53.♔b3+ ♔e2 54.♔b6! This is the critical test of Black's defense again. Promoting the pawn would transpose to the same draw as in the 51...Rh8 line. 54...f3 55.♔e6+ ♔d3 56.♔f6! ♔xf6 57.b8=♔



The difference to the 51...Rh8 line is, that the black pawn could only reach the 3rd rank now. It is very difficult to give a correct evaluation, what happens after 57...♖f4! (57...f2? is refuted now by 58.♔d8+ ♕e2 59.♔e7+!+- after this important intermediate check White can already capture the rook.)]

53.b8=♔ ♖xb8 54.♕xb8 ♕e4 Black has just realized his mistake in the 52nd move... [He was intending to play 54...♕e3 but White wins after



55.♖b5! White has enough time to collect the h-pawn and the catch the f-pawn... 55...f3 56.♖xh5 f2 57.♖f5 ♕e2 58.h4+-]

55.♕c7 The rest is already easy. White can choose between different wins. Fressinet calculates the most principled way of winning to bring the king closer as fast as possible...

55...f3 56.♕d6 h4 [56...♕e3 loses now to 57.♕e5 f2 58.♖b1

♕e2 59.h4 f1=♔ 60.♖xf1 ♕xf1 61.♕f4 and Black misses one tempo... 61...♕e2 62.♕g5 ♕e3 63.♕xh5+- Black should play Kf5 now to hold...]

57.♖b4+ ♕e3 58.♕e5 f2 59.♖e4+ ♕d3 [The trick was 59...♕f3 60.♖xh4! f1=♔ 61.♖f4+ ♕g2 62.♖xf1 ♕xf1 63.h4+-]

60.♖f4 ♕e2 61.♕f5 f1=♔ 62.♖xf1 ♕xf1 63.♕g4 and the game is over. Black is not in time to squeeze his opposition to the h-file.

63...♕f2 [63...♕g2 64.h3 ♕f2 65.♕xh4 ♕f3 66.♕g5+-]

64.♕xh4 Black resigned. **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Tal, Mihail
- Grigorian, Karen [A29]

Yerevan(4), 1982



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.♘f3 ♘c6 4.g3



4...♙b4 Black also has other options: [4...d5 5.cxd5 ♘xd5 6.♙g2 ♘b6 (6...♙e7? 7.♘xe5) 7.O-O ♙e7 8.a3 O-O 9.d3 ♙e6 10.b4 f6 leads to very complex play. This line has recently been popular on the top level.; 4...♘d4 5.♙g2 (5.♘xe5? 5...♙e7) 5...♘xf3+ 6.♙xf3 ♙c5 7.O-O O-O with more or less equal play.]

5.♘d5 Another kind of position is possible if White allows the exchange on c3: [5.♙g2 5...O-O 6.O-O ♙xc3 7.bxc3 d6 8.d3 h6 Black's position is very solid. White can try to transfer the knight to d5 (Ne1-Nc2-Nb4) or play e4 with the idea Nh4-f4.]

5...a5 [5...e4 6.♘h4 O-O 7.♙g2 ♙e8 8.O-O d6 Threatening g5, but after 9.d3+= White is better.]

6.♙g2 d6 7.O-O O-O 8.e3 White is preparing d4 to occupy the

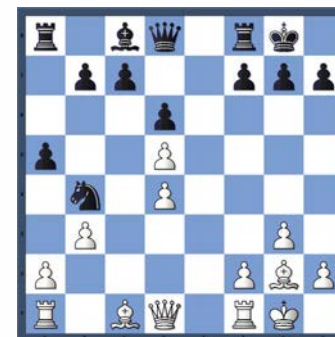
center and limit the black bishop. [8.d3 8...h6 Preventing Bg5 and now White needs to play e3-d4 anyway.]

8...♙c5 9.b3 [9.d4 9...♙a7]

9...♘xd5 10.cxd5 ♘b4 11.d4 [11.♘e1 With the idea to force the black knight to go to the bad a6 square but after 11...c6 the knight will go back to a central place.]

11...exd4 12.♘xd4 ♙xd4 [12...♙e8 13.♙b2 gives White a stable advantage.]

13.exd4



White's bad structure is compensated by the bad knight.

13...♙e8? I think this is a mistake. Black had a last chance to solve the problems with the knight by playing [13...c6 14.dxc6 bxc6 with Be6-Bd5 next and Black's position should be good.; 13...♙f5?! 14.a3 ♘d3 15.♙e3 ♙d7 16.♙d2]

14.a3 ♘a6 15.♙d2 b6 16.b4! ♘b8 [16...axb4 17.axb4 ♙b7 18.♙c2 And Black will soon have problems with the c7 pawn.]

17.bxa5 bxa5

It is clear that Black wants to develop the pieces as soon as possible, as then the position will be good for him. Tal stays true to his style since he now starts to play in a very dynamic way.



18. Re1! A nice move. Tal is preparing to put pressure on the kingside, which is why he exchanges the rooks.

18...a4 19. Wh5 d7 20. de4 [20. dg5 This move also develops a huge attack and below are some example variations: 20...Re1+ (20...f6



21. de4! Re4 22. Re4 fxg5 23. Rae1 with the idea to play Re8. 23...g6 (23...a6 24. Re7 with the idea to play Qf7.) 24. Wh6 Wf8 25. Wxg5 a6 26. Rf4+-) 21. Re1 Wf8 22. de4 h6 23. d3 a6 24. dd2 and the g4-g5 plan should be decisive.]

20...g6 [20...h6 21. dxh6!+- No calculation is needed for this sacrifice!]

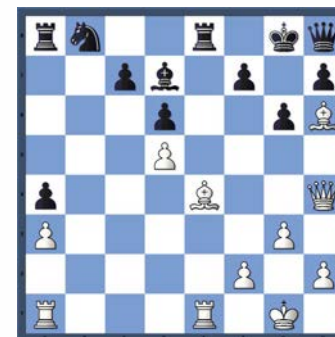
21. Wh6 Wf6 The queen is coming to help in defence but after the g6 move the black king is too weak.

22. dg5 Wxd4 This pawn doesn't mean anything.

23. Wh4 Threatening Bf6.

23... Wg7 [23... df5 24. dxf5 Re1+ 25. Re1 Wxh4 26. dxh4 gxf5 27. Re8+-]

24. dh6 Wh8 The only square to hold the diagonal. If the black queen had gone to c3 or d4 then the rook would have attacked it.



25. df5! The begining of a fantastic combination. White could also have won after [25. dd3 25... a6 26. dxa6 Rxa6 27. Re8+ dxex8 28. We7! Wxa1+ 29. dg2+-]

25... Wc3 [25... Rc8 26. We7!+- White has many tactical ideas because of the weak back rank.]

26. Re8+ dxex8 27. Rc1 We5



28. ♔d8! gxf5

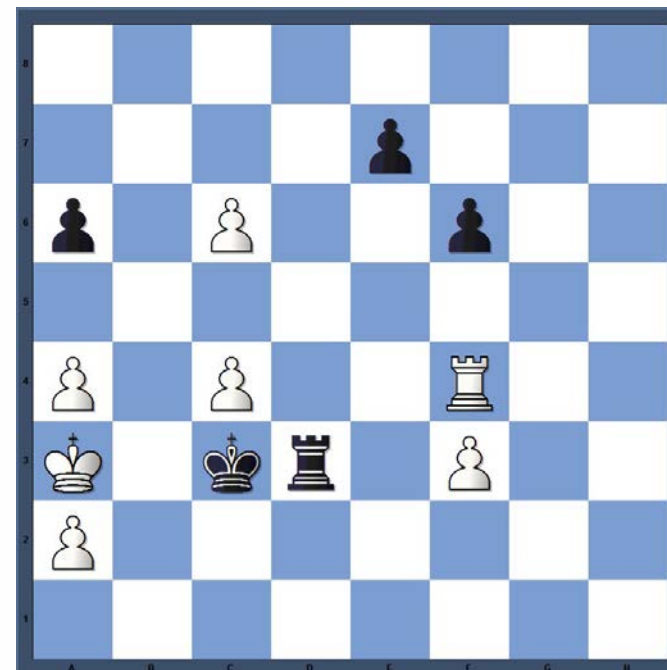


29. ♔f1! The most accurate move. The idea is of course Re1. [29. ♔d2 doesn't seem to make any difference, but after 29... ♘c6! 30. ♔xa8 ♘d4 Black gets counterplay over the weak light squares!] **1-0**

Surprise section / study

(18) Salkind

1. +-



Solutions

(19) Bologan, V(2655)-Sutovsky, E(2642)

Poikovsky, 2014.05.20



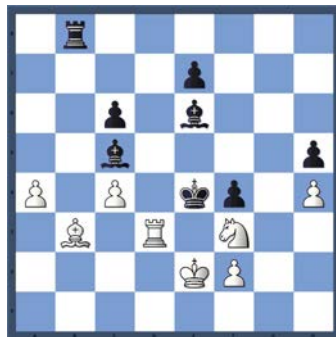
39. ♖h6+! [39. ♗xc1 39... ♖xc1! 40. ♗xc1 ♖f4+ 41. g3 ♖d2+!=]

39... ♖g8 40. ♗xc1! [40. ♗xc1 40... ♖d6+!]

40... ♖d4 41. ♗d2 ♖g1+ 42. ♖g3+- ♖d1 43. ♗c3 1-0

(20) Fodor, T(2462)-Kovalenko, I(2611)

Zalakaros Open, 2014.05.25



60. ♖d5!! 1-0 [60. ♖d5 60... cxd5 (60... ♗xd5 61. ♗c2#; 60... ♖xb3 61. ♗d2# (61. ♗g5# ; 61. ♖e5#)) 61. ♗c2#]

(21) Naroditsky, D(2543)-Molner, M(2522)

US Championship, 2014.05.19



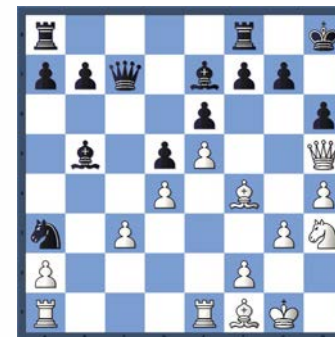
11. ♖e1!! [11. ♗e3? 11... ♖xa2]

11... ♖d8 [11... ♖xa2 12. ♗c7+ ♖d8 13. ♗xa8+-; 11... ♖xe1 12. ♗c7+! ♖d8 13. ♖xe1 ♗xc7 14. ♖xe4±]

12. ♗f4± [12. ♖xe4 12... ♗c6 13. dxc5 ♗xd5 14. ♖g4±]

(22) Anand, V(2785)-Massoni, M(2338)

Rapid match, 2014.05.19



21. ♗xh6! gxh6 22. ♖xh6+ ♖g8 23. ♗f4! ♖d7 24. ♗h5+-

(23) Chandra, A(2440)-Sadorra, C(2611)

Chicago Open, 2014.05.25



36...Rf3!! [36...Rxf3! 37.Rxf3 (37.gxf3 37...xf3+! 38.Rxf3 ♖e1+--+) 37...♞e1+ 38.♞g1 ♞xg1+ 39.♞xg1 ♘xf3+--+]]

37.g4 [37.♘h3 37...♞xd4--; 37.gxh3 37...xf3+ 38.Rxf3 ♞e1+--+]]

37...Rxf3 0-1

(24) Shulman, Y(2560)-Danelia, M(2237)

Chicago Open, 2014.05.22



25.xf7+!! ♞xf7 26.Rxd7+! Rxd7 27.Rxc8 Rd3 28.♞f2! ♞e7 [28...Rxb3 29.e6+! ♞e7 30.f5! gxf5 31.♞g5+ ♞xe6

32.Rxf8+--]

29.Rc7! ♞e6 [29...Rxb3 30.f5! gxf5 31.♞g5+--]

30.g4 ♞h4+ [30...Rxb3 31.f5+--]

31.♞f3 Rd7 [31...Rxb3 32.♞e4 Rb4+ 33.♞d4+--]

32.f5+--

(25) Kalugampitiya, R(2145)-Ding Lire(2714)

Asian Nations Cup, 2014.05.23



23...♞g1+! 0-1 [23...♞g1+ 24.Rxg1 ♘f2#]

(26) Korneev, O(2618)-Gubta, A(2619)

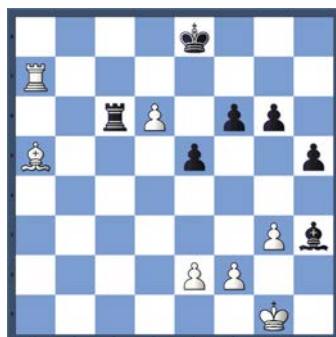
Agzamov memorial, 2014.05.23



21...♟xe5! 22.♞d4 [22.♞xe5 22...♟xd6 23.♞e1 ♟xc5+]
22...♟d3! 23.♞xd3 ♞xc5! 24.♟f4 ♞d5! 25.♞e3 ♟xd6
26.♟xd6 ♞xd6+

(27) Fressinet, L(2711)-Fier, A(2575)

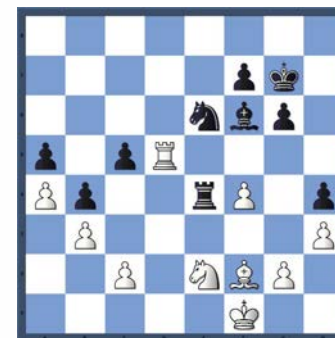
French league, 2014.05.24



41.♞e7+! ♟f8 42.d7! 1-0

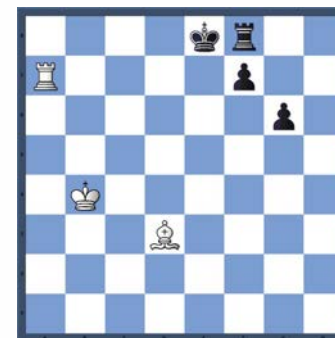
(28) Salgado Lopez, I(2627)-Bauer, C(2628)

French league, 2014.05.26



38...♞xe2! 0-1 [38...♞xe2 39.♟xe2 ♟xf4+ 40.♟f3 ♟xd5+-]

(29) Hacek



1.♟f5!! gxf5 [1...♟d8 2.♟c5+-]
2.♟c5! f6 [2...♟d8 3.♟d6+-]
3.♟d6 ♞g8 [3...♞f7 4.♞a8#]
4.♟e6! ♟f8 5.♟xf6! ♟e8 6.♞a8+ ♟d7 7.♞xg8+-



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Top GM Secrets

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Editorial Preface

The main event of the week in Norway just came to an end. Sergey Karjakin took the clear first place with 6/9 for the second year in a row.

The young Russian played a lot of long games, showed great fighting spirit and great physical shape. The 2nd place went to Magnus Carlsen with 5.5/9. It is hard to imagine him being too happy about his performance, especially considering his missed win in round 8 against Svidler.

The 3rd place went to Grischuk with 5/9. He had an up and down tournament but managed to finish it with a victory over Kramnik with the black pieces.

The Russian higher league had 3 winners, all on 6.5/9. Igor Lysyj had the best tie-break, followed by Zvjaginsev and Jakovenko.

It was a very fighting event with a lot of great games played in it.

We can be very happy about the fact that already in 3 days the World Championship in Rapid and Blitz is going to start in Dubai, with almost everyone from the Top 10 participating in it, including Carlsen, Aronian, Nakamura, Karjakin, Grischuk and Anand. We can expect a lot of tension and excitement.

With best chess wishes,

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Svidler, Peter(2753)
- **Carlsen, Magnus(2881) [A27]**

2nd Norway Chess 2014(8.4),
2014.06.12



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We don't often see Carlsen missing big winning chances, but this time it is definitely the case and one more time against Svidler (we still remember his game in the last Candidates, where he lost with White in a much better position). After the opening Black manages to reach a very nice position, followed by a great attack and finally when it seems like White would already resign in a couple of moves, Carlsen makes a huge miscalculation which leads the game into total unclear waters.

1.c4 1.c4 seems to be more fashionable again.

1...e5 And 1...e5 is probably the most played answer for Black right now.

2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.♘f3 f5 is quite a rare line, but personally I think it deserves a lot of attention. Black is quickly getting strong in the center, which helps develop attractive play. [3...♘f6 is the main move.]

4.d3 [Maybe another option is 4.d4 4...e4 5.♘g5 with an interesting position.]

4...♘f6 5.g3 is also pretty standard development for White. The bishop is taking place on g2, where he will control the a8-h1 diagonal.

5...♙b4 Strategically interesting play. Black makes 2 moves to give up his bishop against the knight on c3, which seems to be strange. In fact Black is trying to create a damaged pawn structure for White and on the other hand doesn't want to lose time with g6-Bg7.

6.♙g2 ♙xc3+ 7.bxc3 d6 And already on move 7, we are in a very fighting position which was clearly Carlsen's goal.

8.O-O O-O The first moment of the game where White needs to have a thought about the future plans. Black's idea is simple, to play Qe8-Qh5 and develop an attack on the kingside.



9.♖b1?! A normal move, but it is hard to see Svidler's idea, especially since he is playing already on the next move Qb3, which makes the move Rb1 look very strange. [The immediate 9.♙b3 looks much more logical to me. White's play should be connected with pushing c5.]

9...♙e8 Black continues with the usual plan.

10.♙b3 b6! A very strong move! Black is stopping White from his only play connected with c5. Of course 11.c5 doesn't work now because of 11...Be6.

11.♘h4 What else to do?! It is hard to find a clear plan for White.

11...♘a5 Black is preparing to create a strong attack.

12. ♔a3?! Another move by Svidler which I can hardly explain. The white queen is taking a very bad position on a3 without obvious reasons. [12. ♔c2 seems to be a lot more normal to me.]

12... ♖b8 13. ♙e3 Once again Svidler seems not to be afraid of Black's play on the kingside and the only question is "why"?!



13...f4! All black pieces are nicely placed, so it is time to launch the action. With this pawn sacrifice Black is bringing almost all his pieces into the attack, which looks pretty deadly, especially since the white queen on a3 is totally out of the game.

14.gxf4 To take on f4 is already a must.

14... ♔h5 15. ♘f3 ♙h3 16. ♙xh3 ♔xh3 17. ♙h1 White is fighting not to get mated on the spot.

17... ♖be8!? In a position with a lot of good moves, Magnus continues bringing all his pieces into the attack and doesn't care about temporary material losses.

18. ♔b2 Defending from the exf4 threat. [In case of 18. ♔g1 18...exf4 19. ♙xf4 ♖xe2 Black's position is just winning.]

18...e4! Black continues playing a great game, totally outplaying his opponent. By playing 18...e4 Carlsen is putting his opponent in front of a difficult decision. In case the knight

from f3 is going to move the threat of playing Ng4 could be deadly, and in case of taking on e4, the black knight from a5 is joining the attack with Nxc4. What a horrible position for White!

19. ♘g5 ♔h5 Black wants to play Ng4.

20.dxe4 [20. ♔g1 wasn't better since after 20...exd3 21.exd3 h6 the knight has no squares to escape.]

20... ♘g4 21. ♘f3 ♘xc4 The game seems to come to an end.

22. ♔b3 ♖xe4 The material is equal and Black has a very strong attack...

23. ♖g1 d5 Carlsen is securing the last open diagonal, not giving White any chances at all.

24. ♔b5 It is hard to call Svidler's play a fight, it is more like waiting for the end of the game.



24... ♖xf4? What a miscalculation by Carlsen! We don't often see the World Nr.1 blundering something, but this time it is clearly the case. [One of the easy options for Black was to play 24...c5 and White is totally paralyzed.; Another easy line is 24... ♘cxe3 25.fxe3 ♘f2+ 26. ♔g2 ♘h3 which should be enough for an easy win.]

25. ♙xf4 Probably when playing 25.Bxf4 Svidler still could not believe his luck.

25...♖xf2+ 26.♔g2 ♜xe2 Maybe now comes the move that Carlsen blundered or underestimated:

27.♕f1! The only move, but it is more than White could expect having a lost position. The game is getting very tricky now.

27...♖e4 [27...♜xf3 already didn't work since after 28.♜g3 ♜e4 29.♜d7 only White can be better.]



28.♜xg7+ Svidler finds his best chance to fight. [After 28.♕xe2 28...♖xc3+ 29.♕f2 ♖xb5 30.♜xb5 c5 we would reach quite a strange material situation, but one thing is clear here and that is that Black cannot be worse and is probably even better.]

28...♕f8 After this move, Black will probably not have any more chances to play for a win. [Of course it is looking dangerous, but maybe the best way to continue was still 28...♕xg7 29.♜d7+ ♜f7 30.♕h6+ ♕f6 In this very sharp position, it is not that simple to find moves for both sides, but it seems like Black has better chances overall.]

29.♕xe2! Since the mistake of 24...Rxf4 Svidler keeps on finding the only moves to stay in the game.

29...♖xc3+ Black can't do anything better than winning the white queen.

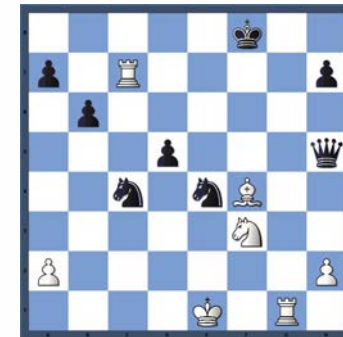
30.♕f2 ♖xb5 31.♜bg1 And suddenly we can see that the

position has become totally unclear! From a material point of view, Black of course has a big advantage, but White has a very dangerous attack.

31...♖c3 Black is trying to get the knight to e4.

32.♜xc7 Not a bad move, but why not get the rook from g1 first to g7?! [32.♜g8+ looks more logical. 32...♕f7 33.♜1g7+ ♕f6 34.♜xc7 ♖e4+ 35.♕g2 and I think White would keep excellent practical chances to win the game. It is really hard as Black to keep all the white threats in vision.]

32...♖e4+ 33.♕e1 In this very dangerously looking position for Black Carlsen finds a great move:



33...♖c5! A very strong move. Black wants to play Nd3 as well as Ne6. [Of course not 33...♜xf3? 34.♕h6+ ♕e8 35.♜g8+ with mate.]

34.♜c8+ ♕f7 35.♜c7+ ♕f8 36.♜c8+ Black can't avoid the perpetual check.

36...♕f7 37.♜c7+ ♕f8 We just saw a slightly unusual game. Black totally outplayed White and it seemed like the game was over, but with a huge blunder and later on missing again some chances Carlsen could even have gotten himself into trouble. Overall, chess is based on tactics, so it is never too late to blunder! **38.♖g5 1/2-1/2**

**(2) Caruana, Fabiano(2791)
- Karjakin, Sergey(2771) [A35]**

2nd Norway Chess 2014(9.1),
2014.06.13



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are in the last round and Karjakin is the tournament leader with 5/8, followed by Carlsen and Caruana with 4.5/8. In the current game, Caruana maybe got some little advantage out of opening and tried his best to push Black's position to the limit. It seems like White has maybe pushed too hard and suddenly Black got excellent winning chances, which Karjakin converted in a perfect manner. Actually we have to admit that it seems like Karjakin is going to be very soon the contender for the WCC match against Carlsen. Sergey has improved a lot during the last 2 years, he has a huge preparation and just amazing physical shape.

1.♘f3 A slow start of the game by Caruana, but it is just the beginning.

1...♞f6 2.c4 c5 Karjakin sticks to his main lines. Already in the last events he showed how well he is prepared, for example in the games against Mamedyarov or Nakamura.

3.♘c3 ♞c6 4.g3 [4.d4 is the other main move.]

4...d5 [4...g6 is possible as well.]

5.cxd5 ♞xd5 6.♙g2 ♞c7 From the structure, we are some sort of "Benoni reversed".

7.a3 In many line s, White's main idea is to play a3-b4 which would make the bishop on g2 even stronger. Why start with 7.a3 and not first 7.d3 or 7.0-0, this can show only very deep

analyses of the players. One thing is clear, 7.a3 is played against 7...e5, when 8.b4 is looking strong.

7...g6 A very solid move. The bishop is going to take a nice position on g7.



8.h4!? A very interesting move. White is trying to include the moves h4-h6 to have the option of playing Be3 and Qd2 with the attack on h6 and winning half a tempo.

8...h6 Of course to play 8...h5 is not an option for Black, which would make the g5 square just perfect for the white knight, and 8...Bg7 also looks risky because of 9.h5.

9.d3 ♙g7 10.0-0 ♞d7 The bishop has to be developped on d7 in any case, so the black rook can take a nice position on c8. [10...♞e6 seems to lead to the same position over a different move order.]

11.♙e3 ♞e6 The lack pieces are nicely placed so we can be sure that in case White is better here, it should be very minimal.

12.♞b1 Caruana chooses the most logical plan in the position, to play b4. [A plan to keep the black king from castling would lead to nothing after 12.♞d2 12...♞cd4 followed by Bc6, with an excellent position for Black.]

12...♞c8 Karjakin continues his healthy, solid play.

13.♘e4 b6 14.b4 cxb4 The right reaction. Of course Black should not give White a chance of playing bxc5.

15.axb4 ♘cd4 Might be premature, but it is not a bad move of course. [Maybe a bit more precise would be to start with 15...O-O and now it is really hard to find an idea for White. 16.b5 (16.h5 16...g5; 16.♖d2 16...f5) 16...♘cd4 We are back to the position in the game, just without giving White any extra chances of playing b5.]

16.♙xd4 ♘xd4 17.♘xd4 ♙xd4



18.e3 Very logical and good play. The black bishop will be blocked by the "wall" of white pawns. [18.h5 18...g5 doesn't change much.]

18...♙g7 19.b5 It is also logical to block the black pawn structure with b5, but maybe White could have tried to create some more direct play on the kingside. [19.h5!? looks like an interesting option. 19...g5 20.d4 O-O 21.♖e2 followed by Rfd1 and maybe White can keep on putting some pressure in the hope to be able in the future to create some play on the kingside.]

19...O-O 20.d4 ♖c7 Black continues being very solid. [20...e5 seems premature since after 21.dxe5 ♙xe5 22.h5 g5 23.f4 Black could get into some trouble.]

21.f4 Caruana is playing against the e5 move e5, but I think 21.f4 is a too drastic measure. In the long run the white pawns could become targets and the black bishop from g7 is going to join the game after Bf8-e6. [I believe White could try to be a bit better after 21.h5 21...g5 22.♖e2 with some pressure.]

21...♖c8 Black is trying to provoke exchanges on the c-file, after which Black should not be in danger anymore.

22.♖b2 To let Black play Rc2 is not an option.



22...♖d8 [Maybe Black could have tried to play 22...♙e6 with the idea of playing Qd7-Rfc8. I can't imagine White being better here.]

23.♙h2 ♙e6 24.♖ff2 ♙f5 Another very solid move, but now maybe White is taking the initiative back. [Maybe an option was to play 24...f5 which is usually a mistake, but this time Black is controlling the c-file, which helps a lot. 25.♘d2 ♖c3 with good play for Black.]

25.♖bc2 White has finally covered the c-file.

25...a5! A very good move. Black is getting rid of his only weakness, the a7 pawn.

26.♖c1 Caruana is clearly playing for a win. [26.bxa6 26...♖xc2 27.♖xc2 ♖xa6 would lead us to a position where a draw should be the most expected result.]

26...♖xc2 27.♖xc2 ♔b8 All Black needs to do now is to exchange one pair of rooks.



28.♖c6! Caruana finds a nice idea to create at least some trouble.

28...♗d7 29.♘c3 The key move behind 28.Rc6.

29...e6 Finally the black bishop is close to be back into the game, just one move is missing. [Of course it would be a serious mistake for Black to be greedy and play 29...♗xc6? 30.bxc6 followed by Nb5, with a close to winning position for White.]

30.♖c4 [Playing 30.h5 30...gxh5 wouldn't bring White anything.]

30...♗f8 [30...♖c8 didn't equalize since after 31.♗c6 White keeps on putting pressure.]

31.♗c6 ♔d6 It seems like White has managed to achieve some advantage, but it is still hard to say if this little better can be enough to create some serious threats. White's main idea is clear, to play Na4 and put pressure on the b6 pawn.

32.♘a4? The right idea in the wrong moment. [A simple move like 32.♗c2 with the idea of playing Na4 next could be quite unpleasant for Black. White should also not forget about the h5 push...]



32...♗xc6! Black is using the fact that White cannot play bxc6 in this moment.

33.♖xc6 [After 33.bxc6 33...b5 34.c7 bxc4 35.cxd8=♔ ♔xd8 36.♗xc4 only Black could be better.]

33...♗b4 White doesn't have a decent way to defend the b5 pawn.

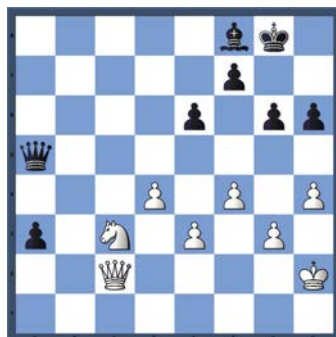
34.♘c3 What else to play?! 34.Nxb6 Qxb5 would lead to a much better position for Black.

34...a4! 35.♗c2 a3 36.♖xb6 Now maybe White's position is already becoming lost, but it is hard to blame Caruana for this mistake, as it is really difficult to find a better option. [Maybe White should have tried his practical chances after 36.h5 36...gxh5 37.f5 and of course Black has a lot of solid moves, but White would at least have plenty of tricks which could be unpleasant in a practical game.]

36...♖c8 Now things are developing really badly for White...

37.♖c6 ♖xc6 38.bxc6 ♗c4 39.c7 ♗xc7 40.♗b3 ♗a5 The time trouble is over and it is very unclear how White is going to survive such a position. One of the main problems is that f4 is already played, which doesn't only make the e3 pawn a target, but the white king is also not feeling in a great shape seeing the 2nd rank "naked". I think we could evaluate the current position as lost in a practical game.

41. ♖c2 [Maybe White would have had better chances after 41.e4 followed by d5, but it is also hard to imagine anything else than a victory from Black here.]



41... ♜b4! A very strong move. Black wants to play Qc4 next which makes White move his knight away from c3.

42. ♘a4 ♜e1 And the queen is entering White's position. The game is over.

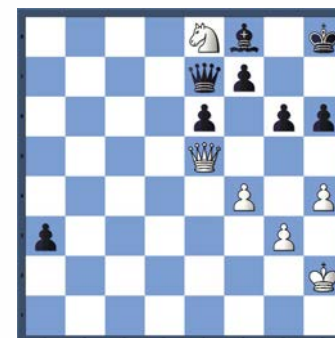
43. ♘c5 Caruana is starting his last attack, but of course Karjakin is not very impressed.

43... ♜xe3 44. ♘d7 ♜xd4 45. ♜c8 ♜b4 Another very solid move, not even giving White hopes of thinking for a chance to escape.

46. ♘f6+ ♜g7 47. ♘e8+ ♜h8 All black pieces are protecting each other.

48. ♜c7 ♜e7 Karjakin is accurate until the end. With the last little calculation Sergey is making his triumph perfect by winning the Norway Chess tournament for the second time in a row in front of Magnus Carlsen.

49. ♜e5+



49...f6 This move is just too simple to miss.

50. ♘xf6 ♜g7 51. ♜b8+ ♜f8 What to say about such a game, where White is pushing and suddenly one inaccuracy costs him the game. Of course we have to admire how Karjakin proves again and again to be a really great defender with an eagle eye which is never missing a counter chance in case there is one! **0-1**

**(3) Rapport, Richard(2701)
- Gajewski, Grzegorz(2650) [D38]**

HUN-POL Friendly Match m 2014(2.3),
2014.06.09



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Rapport won a nice attacking game in his usual creative style.

1.♘f3 d5 2.d4 ♘f6 3.c4 e6 4.♘c3 ♙b4 This is the initial position of the Ragozin defense. Recently it is frequently employed even by Carlsen and Aronian.



5.♙b3!? A relatively rare line with a lot of poison in it. If Black is not well prepared, he might quickly end up in a worse position.

5...c5 6.dxc5 ♘c6 The main continuation. [The second of Carlsen, GM Jon Ludwig Hammer recently tried 6...♘a6 7.a3 ♙xc3+ 8.♙xc3 ♘xc5 9.cxd5 ♙xd5 10.♙e3 ♘ce4 11.♙e5 ♙xe5 12.♘xe5 ♘d5 Black was fine in Goganov-Hammer, Yerevan 2014 game.]

7.♙g5 Theory is developing rapidly in this line. According to the games, it is unclear at the moment whether Black should play 7...Qa5, 7...h6 or 7...dc4. One top player chooses this one, another that one...

7...♙a5 [However 7...d4?! is considered to be bad because of 8.O-O-O! ♙xc5 9.e3 White makes use of the pin.]

8.♙xf6 dxc4 9.♙xc4 gxf6 10.♖c1 We are still following plenty of high level games, both players were blitzing out their moves. White strengthens his c3 knight in order to be able to save his queen from the exchange after Qxc5.

10...♙xc5 11.♙h4



11...♙e7 Black's pawn structure is damaged and he would like to find shelter for his king behind his pawn phalanx. White intends to develop his bishop to g2, therefore castling queenside is very risky, while castling kingside is does not look a very safe place neither.

12.g3 ♙xc3+ This capture would have sooner or later become necessary, because after leaving the pin with Bg2 and O-O, White was threatening with Ne4.

13.bxc3! White weakens his pawnstructure in order to keep his attacking chances. [On 13.♖xc3 13...♙b4 would have forced the trade of the queens and Black equalizes.]

13...b6 14.♙g2 ♙a6 This is the novelty. A logical one to prevent castling, but a deeper look shows us, that it is a dubious one. [14...♙b7 15.O-O h5 was played by Leko, although he did not manage to equalize due to the powerful moves

of Radjabov 16.♘d4 ♖ac8 17.♞b1 ♜c7 18.♞fd1 ♘xd4 19.cxd4 ♚g5 20.d5! ♚xh4 21.d6+ ♚e8 22.dxc7! ♚c4 23.♞bc1 ♚xc1 24.♞xc1 ♙c8 25.♞d1+= With a clearly better endgame for White. Radjabov-Leko, Zug 2013]

15.♘d2! White transfers his queen to the more active e4 square. Black must waste an important tempo on protecting his knight and he cannot offer the queen's exchange with Qg5. [15.♘d4? was not possible to use the pin in view of 15...♘xd4 16.♙xa8 ♘xe2+- Black wins material.]

15...♞ac8 16.♘e4 ♚f5



17.g4! Sending the queen to a really awful place.

17...♚g6 It is going to take a lot of time to bring back the queen to the game, but other moves would have lost even faster. [17...♚f4? loses to 18.e3 ♚e5 19.f4+- and the f6 falls.; 17...♚e5? 18.O-O!+- and Black has no defense against f4, after which the f6 falls.]

18.f4 Very strong move to create different attacking ideas such as f5 to open the f-file on the main weakness on f6. [However 18.♚g3! was even stronger with the following ideas: Black has to cover the d6 square 18...♘e5 (The most natural 18...♞hd8



is refuted by the hidden 19.c4!! and Black has no defense against Qa3! Not only the king is in trouble, but also the a6 bishop is hanging.) 19.g5!± (19.c4 19...♘xc4 is now less clear.)]

18...♘d4 Black desperately searches counterplay, but he creates even bigger problems. [18...♞hd8 suggested itself, but White gets a very strong attack here as well after some powerful dynamic moves 19.O-O! ♙xe2 20.f5 White should do everything in order to strengthen the pressure on the f6 square 20...♚g7 21.g5! White seems to crush, but Black also has his resources (21.♞f2 is too slow because Black is in time to get rid of the strong knight on e4 21...♙d3! 22.fxex6 ♙xe4) 21...fxg5 22.f6+ ♚xf6! Only move to stay in the game, but the attack continues after 23.♘xg5! ♙xf1 24.♞xf1 ♚g6 25.♘xf7+-it looks extremely dangerous, although the computer still believes in the defensive resources.]

19.♞d1! A subtle move , which forces the knight to an unfortunate square due to a small tactical trick.

19...♘c2+ [19...♘xe2 loses to 20.♘xf6! ♚xf6 21.♞d7+! ♚xd7 22.♚xf6+-]

20.♙f2! The knight is clearly misplaced on c2. The Nd4-c2 manoeuvre has sent the rook to a better place and also helped White to connect his rooks. It has a small achievement too, that

the plan to put the rook to f1 and push f5 is more difficult to execute.

20...♖hd8 21.♙f3! A very deep move! The main point can be seen in the 21.Ng3 line. [21.♘g3 was in White's mind with the idea of Be4, doubleattack on g6 and c2 and also to transfer the knight to h5 afterwards. However Black had a brilliant defense here 21...♖xd1 22.♖xd1



22...♘e3!! 23.♙xe3 ♖c2 and suddenly Black gets very strong counterplay. An illustrative line is 24.♖e1 only move according to the computer 24...♙xc3+ 25.♙f2 ♖d4+ 26.♙f1 ♙xf4+ 27.♙g1 (27.♙f3?? 27...♙xf3+) 27...♖c1 with an unclear game.]

21...h6 Black probably wanted to defend against another threat of g5 and on f5 Bh5 followed by g6 check. [21...♙b7 could have strongly met by 22.f5! exf5 (22...♙g7 23.fxe6 fxe6 24.g5! is also crushing.) 23.♘g3! ♙xf3 24.♘f5+ ♙f8 25.exf3+- and Black is completely dominated. The main differences are in the situation of the knights and the queens.]

22.♘g3! The sacrifice of Ne3 and Qc2 makes no sense anymore since the king has a route back to f2-g2. White is threatening with Be4 winning a piece.

22...♖xd1 23.♖xd1 ♖c4 [23...♖xc3 loses to the motif what we had already seen 24.♙e4 ♙g8 25.♘h5 ♙h8 26.♘xf6! ♙xf6

27.♖d7+! ♙xd7 28.♙xf6+-]

24.♘h5! Creating the "usual" threat of Nxf6 Qxf6 Rd7!

24...♙b5 Black manages to cover the d7 square, but now the problems are coming from different direction:



25.♙g3! Another subtle attacking move! White gives up the pressure on the f6 square for an even bigger threat. The new target is on the d6 square, the queen is ready to go there after the f5.

25...♙g8 Black leaves from the f5 tempo, but it does not solve the problems...

26.f5 e5



27.♘xf6! The situation of the white pieces and the

misplacement of the black pieces were calling for a final tactical blow. Rapport does not miss such a chance.

27...♔xf6 28.♖d6+ ♔g7 [28...♔e7 leads to quick mate after 29.♕xe5+ ♔f8 30.♖d8+--]

29.♕h4! Another silent attacking move, but it was already easy to find. Black has no defense.

29...♕f8 [On 29...♕h8



the fastest and prettiest mate is 30.♖g6+! fxf6 (30...♔f8 31.♕d8+ ♔e8 32.♕d6#) 31.♕e7+ ♔g8 32.♕d5#]

30.♕xh6+ ♔g8 31.♖g6+! [Very nice final blow! Black resigned in view of 31.♖g6+ 31...fxg6 32.♕d5+ ♕f7 33.♕xg6+ ♔h8 34.♕xf7--] **1-0**

**(4) Fedoseev, Vladimir(2662)
- Zvjaginsev, Vadim(2642) [D00]**

67th ch-RUS HL 2014(9.3),
2014.06.13

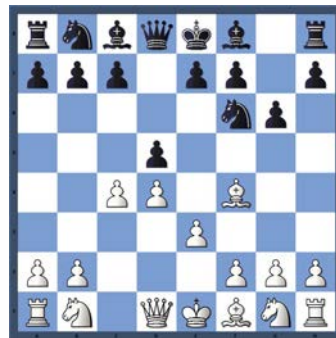


GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

We are in the final round of the Russian Higher league. The tournament, where the first 5 players qualify to the Russian Superfinal, where they join to Kramnik, Grischuk, Karjakin and the other top players. The winner of this game had a guaranteed place there, but draw were not enough for them. My good friend Vadim Zvjaginsev manages to win a brilliant tactical game. The game is full of unusual, but beautiful tactical motifs.

1.d4 d5 2.♘f4 White tries to drive the game to less explored territories.

2...♞f6 3.e3 g6 4.c4 An ambitious move. Usually the players who quickly develop their bishop to f4 like to set up a very solid position with c3, but in this game White logically wanted to create complications. Now we reached a Gruenfeld-like position and both sides played in the spirit of this opening and used many typical tactical and positional ideas.

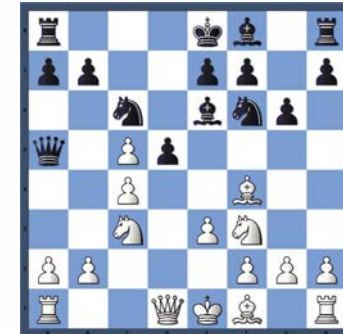


4...c5!? In the spirit of the Gruenfeld to play against the center. [4...♞g7 5.♞c3 would have transposed to a huge main line of the Gruenfeld, but Zvjaginsev himself does not employ this opening, therefore he handles the opening with the typical moves but in the same time he avoids some theoretical discussions.]

5.dxc5 ♞c6 Zvjaginsev consequently continues his idea to avoid transpositions. We have already reached a new position. [However if Black had played 5...♞g7 6.♞c3 we have again transposed to a position with thousands of games...]

6.♞f3 ♞e6 [The most natural and objectively stronger move 6...♞g7! would have been a transposition again after 7.♞c3]

7.♞c3 ♞a5 The most consequent move again, but White can make use of, that the bishop has not developed yet to g7 and the pressure on c3 is that big at the moment. [7...dxc4 was dubious in view of 8.♞g5! White wins the c4 pawn.]



8.♞b3! White attacks the b7 pawn and suddenly it is not easy to deal with this simple threat. Black has no adequate way to protect it, some passive moves like Nd8 obviously does not come into consideration, neither the trade of the queens with Qb4 because White is pawn up. Black is basically forced to do the following intuitive sacrifice.

8...♞g7! 9.♞xb7 0-0! Who says A must say B too. A piece

does not count now, Black must focus on the e1 king, which still needs two tempi to castle kingside and Black should find his counterplay on the c3 square. Ne4 is a very dangerous threat.

10. ♖xc6?! Too greedy! [10. ♖b5! White should have been satisfied with two extra pawns and offered the trade of queens. White would have had the advantage in this case, but who could refrain to a "free" piece on c6...]

10... ♘e4! We have reached the dream of all Gruenfeld players. Such a dynamic position.

11. ♘d4 White tries to close the bishop and prevents the main Bxc3 threat. [On 11. ♘d2 11... ♘xd2 12. ♖xd2 dxc4 is very unpleasant. All diagonals and files are opened on the exposed king. White has nothing better than 13. ♖e2 ♖b4 14. ♖b5 but then Black wins back the material and gets a good position after 14... ♗xc3 15. ♖xb4 ♗xb4]

11... ♗xc3 12. a3! Very nice resource also from White! Black was threatening with different kind of discovered checks with the knight, but all of them could be met by b4! Only one check prevents it, but first Black activates one of his rooks.

12... ♖ac8 13. ♖b7



13... ♘a2+!! What an amazing move, which forces the king

to run! [13... ♘e4+ 14. b4 ♖a4 15. ♖b5+- forces the trade of the queens and White wins.; 13... dxc4 14. ♖b4 ♖xb4 15. axb4+- also with a winning advantage.]

14. ♖d1 [14. b4 could now be met by 14... ♖xa3! this is the point of the unexpected Na2 move to close the rook on a1!]

14... ♖a4+ 15. ♖e1 [15. ♖b3 White obviously would like to trade queens with such a vulnerable king, but it did not work tactically in view of 15... ♖xb3+ 16. ♗xb3 dxc4 17. ♘d4 ♖fd8! The dynamic plays continues even without the queens on board. 18. ♖xa2 c3 19. ♖a1 ♗xd4 20. exd4 ♖xd4+ 21. ♖c2 cxb2 22. ♖xb2 ♖xf4+- Black soon ends up with material advantage.]

15... ♖a5+ Unfortunately Black is forced to repeat moves. [15... dxc4 might look good at first sight, but Black does not have enough compensation after 16. ♖xa2! ♗xd4 (16... c3 17. b3) 17. exd4 c3 18. ♖a1 ♖xd4 19. ♖b4!+- and White covers everything.]

16. ♖e2?! Objectively a mistake after which Black is better, but it was impossible to foresee what will be the outcome of the complications.. White should have agreed to the repetition with 16. Kd1, but the tournament situation also forced White to continue this exciting fight.

16... ♖xc5! Grabbing some material and indirectly protecting the a2 knight.

17. ♘xe6 [17. ♖xa2? 17... ♖xc4+ 18. ♖f3 ♖xa2+-]

17... fxe6 [17... ♖xc4+ was also strong, but Zvjaginsev did not want to send the king to the kingside, he preferred to keep it in the center... 18. ♖f3 (On 18. ♖e1 Black wins with the pretty blow



18...c3+! 19.bxc3 xc3+ 20.e2 xa1 21.f8 White is still ahead materially, but there is a forced mate... 21...c3+! 22.f3 d1+! 23.g3 e4+ 24.h3 h5#) 18...e4+ 19.g3 fxe6 with a promising position for Black!]

18. ♖b3 White tries to bring back the queen to the defense and also would finally like to take that knight on a2 off the board...



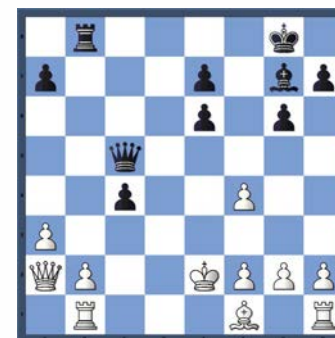
18...dxc4! Excellent reaction! Black sacrifices a piece again, but he locks the white queen to the corner, which gives him more space to build up his attack against the king, which is still standing in the center.

19. ♖xa2 e5!? Zvjaginsev decides to advance his pawn to e4 to squeeze white even more and to avoid defenses like f3-Kf2.

[However Black had an even stronger move, which leads to win in beautiful lines:



19...xf4!! Eliminating the defender of the b8 square. 20.exf4 b8! 21.b1



21...b3!! This would have been just amazing! Black is a full rook down, but he basically caged all white pieces. Black is winning in all lines: 22.h4 Nice idea to bring a defender and exchange an attacker with Rh3, but it is too slow (22.e1 trying to free the bishop, but Black does not allow it 22...a5+! 23.d1 d5+ 24.e1 and the winning combination is: 24...c3+! 25.bxc3 e4+ 26.d2 xb1-+) 22...f5 23.h3 c2+ 24.e1 xh3 25.gxh3



25...c3+! 26.bxc3 ♖xa2—]

20. ♗g3 e4 21. ♖d1 A desperate attempt to hide the king on the queenside, but it is easy to feel, that it should not be successful. However to find its refutation requires enormous play. [Unfortunately for White 21.f3 trying to hide the king with Kf2 and Be2 did not help in view of 21...exf3+ 22.gxf3 ♗h6! 23.f4 e5! is going to be crushing! Black opens all the lines on the king.]

21... ♖fd8+ 22. ♖c2



22... ♖f8!! This is shocking! The idea itself is very nice and logical, Black would like to push c3 with a crushing attack and first he leaves the pin. But why he moves with his king to f8 and why not to h8? Actually only Kf8 was winning and the reason could not be calculated, Zvjaginsev could only believe to his intuition. [22... ♖h8 could have met by exactly

the same moves as White was defending in the game 23. ♖d1! ♖xd1 24. ♖xd1 c3 it looks over, but it is actually not 25.b3! ♖d8+ (25...c2+ 26. ♖c1 ♖c3 seems to be over, but White saves himself with 27. ♗c4! ♖d8 28. ♖xc2! and Black does not have more than perpetual check. 28... ♖a1+ 29. ♖b1=) 26. ♖c1 ♖d2 27.b4! completely unexpected at such attacking pieces, but White survives 27... ♖h5 28. ♖b3 ♖b2 29. ♖a4!!+— And here is the difference! White is threatening with Qe8 mate! This is the reason, why Black had to put his king to f8, to cover the backrank mate! Amazing!]

23. ♖d1 [There was no time for 23. ♗e2 23...c3—+ is over, Rd2 or cxb2 is coming next.]

23... ♖xd1 24. ♖xd1 c3 25.b3! Perfect defensive skills, but it does not help this time. White would like to close the c-file by developing the bishop to c4. [25.bxc3 25... ♖xc3—+ leads to mate soon.; 25.b4 25...c2+ 26. ♖c1 ♖c3]

25... ♖d8+! Only this wins! [25...c2+ 26. ♖c1 ♖c3 looks also very tempting, but it leads only to draw after 27. ♗c4! White is ready to take on c2. 27... ♖d8 28. ♖xc2 ♖a1+ 29. ♖b1 ♖c3+ 30. ♖c2=]

26. ♖c1 ♖d2 27.b4



27... ♖h5!! Zvjaginsev finds again the only way to win! The d1 square is the key in Black's attack.

28.♔b3 ♖b2! 29.♙c4 Kind of resignation, but there was nothing better. [And in comparison to the 22...Kh8 line, on 29.♔a4 there is no threat on e8, so Black has time to play 29...♙d5!-+; 29.♔c4 leads to forced mate after the pretty 29...♖b1+! 30.♙xb1 ♔d1+ 31.♙a2 ♔c2+ 32.♙a1 ♔b2#; 29.♔d1 29...♖b1+-+]]

29...♖xb3 30.♙xb3 ♔e2 31.♙c2 ♔a6! The most precise move. Before going to c4, Black first weakens the b4 pawn.

32.a4 ♔c4 33.♖d1 ♙e8 34.♖e1 ♔a2 White resigned. What a game!! **0-1**

Puzzle section

(5) Grischuk, A(2792)-Caruana, F(2791)

Norway Chess, 2014.06.03

1... -+



(6) Grischuk, A(2792)-Agdestein, S(2628)

Norway Chess, 2014.06.08

1... -+



(7) Salgado Lopez, I(2622)-Wei Yi(2634)

Leon rapid, 2014.06.07

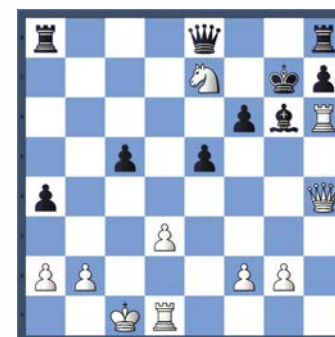
1... -+



(8) Fedoseev, V(2662)-Vorobiov, E(2587)

Russian Higher league, 2014.06.05

1. +-



(9) Belous, V(2586)-Shimanov, A(2643)

Russian Higher league, 2014.06.05

1... -+



(10) Najer, E(2653)-Usmanov, V(2428)

Russian Higher league, 2014.06.05

1. +-



(11) Belous, V(2586)-Matlakov, M(2689)

Russian Higher league, 2014.06.07

1... -+



(12) Najer, E(2653)-Demchenko, A(2613)

Russian Higher league, 2014.06.07

1. +-



(13) Vestrukhin, O(2401)-Andriasian, Z(2611)

Nezhmetdinov memorial, 2014.06.03

1... -+



(14) Popov, I(2650)-Kharlov, A(2477)

Nezhmetdinov memorial, 2014.06.06

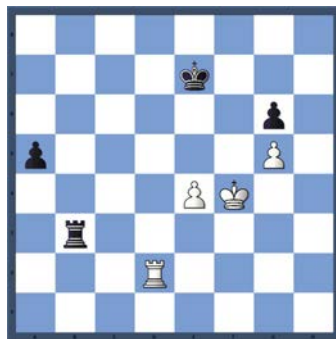
1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Kramnik, Vladimir(2783)
- Caruana, Fabiano(2791)

Norway Chess 2014,
2014.06.08



After defending stubbornly in a very difficult position, Caruana has achieved the following drawish rook endgame. Despite having only 2 pawns against 2, White can still continue pushing, because after the following strong manoeuvre he manages to get dominating pieces.

47.♖d5! a4 [There was no time for active defense with 47...♙e6 48.♞xa5 ♜b1 with the idea of giving checks from behind, because White is in time to send back the king with 49.♞a6+]

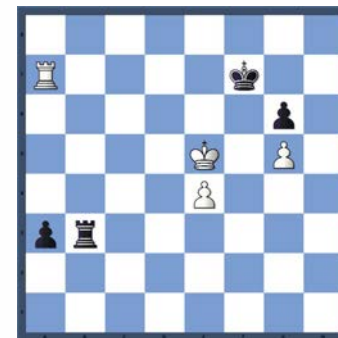
48.♞a5 a3 49.♙e5! This is what White was aiming for. He succeeded to activate his king and his rook is perfectly placed on a5, because it stops the a-pawn and is ready to squeeze the black king to the backrank with a check.



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

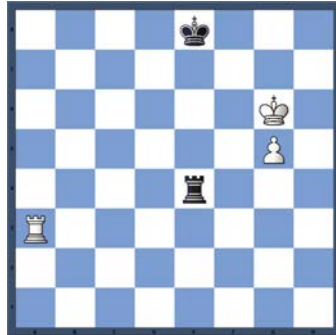
49...♙f7! Black had no useful move, but this one is a clever waiting move to see how White wants to proceed.

50.♞a7+



50...♙e8?? But this is a terrible blunder, after which White is winning. Caruana simply forgot about the g7 square. [50...♙f8 would have saved the game, although White might continue pressing for a while 51.♙d6 (51.♙f6 makes no sense now because after 51...♞b6+ the king must retreat) 51...♞b6+ 52.♙c5 (52.♙d7 52...♞b5! forces the king back, otherwise the g5 falls and the e-pawn cannot be advanced. 53.♙e6 ♞b6+= (Of course not 53...♞xg5?? 54.♙f6+--)) 52...♞b3 53.e5 Black has several ways to hold here. An easy one is 53...♙e8 54.♙d6 (54.e6 54...♞d3= and the king is cut. White has no chance to win.) 54...♞b6+ 55.♙d5 ♞b5+ 56.♙e6 ♞b6+= White cannot make progress.]

51.♙f6 ♞b6+ 52.♙g7! [Black - perhaps a bit prematurely - resigned in view of the following lines: 52.♙g7 52...♞b3 (52...♞e6 53.♞xa3 ♞xe4 (53...♞b6 54.♞f3 ♞e6 55.♞f6 ♞xe4 56.♙xg6+-- is also lost, because the king cannot get in front of the pawn.) 54.♙xg6+--

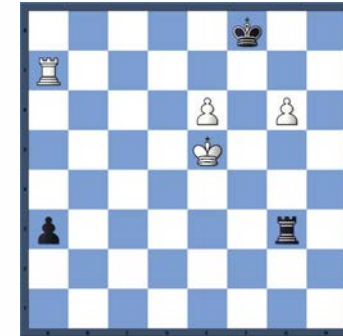


This is a theoretical win, because the black king cannot get in front of the pawn. With the king on g8 and the rook on e8, the game was drawn, but now White gives Ra8 check next move followed by Kg7 and g6 and wins by using the "bridge building" method.) 53.♔xg6 ♔f8 is the best chance, but White wins slowly 54.e5 ♖e3 55.♔f5 ♖f3+ 56.♔e4 ♖g3 57.♔f4 White is finally ready to advance one of his pawns 57...♖b3 58.e6 ♖b4+! The is again the only move to put up further resistance. (58...♖c3 59.g6 And the game is over because from the checks White can hide his king on f6, while otherwise White is threatening to promote his pawn with 59...♖b3 60.e7+! ♔e8 61.g7+- and the king goes to h7 from the checks.) 59.♔f5 ♖b3 60.g6 ♖f3+ That is why Black had to give the check on the 4th rank two moves ago. Now he can continue harassing the pawns along the 3rd rank. 61.♔e4 ♖g3

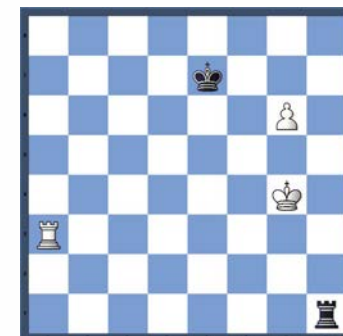


White still needs to show good technique to convert the

advantage. The winning manoeuvre is 62.♖a8+! ♔e7 63.♔f5! ♖f3+ 64.♔e5! If the black pawn and the rook was on the 2nd rank the game would have ended in a draw. However now the line is not long enough for the rook to give checks... 64...♖g3 (64...♖e3+ 65.♔f4 ♖xe6 66.g7+-) 65.♖a7+ ♔f8



Here comes the next step for White. It is still very easy to go wrong, but the win is the following: 66.e7+! ♔e8 67.♔f6 Important to note that without the a-pawn Black could achieve the draw by stalemate after Rxc6! Kxc6, but now there is no hope for such things. 67...♖f3+ 68.♔g5 ♖g3+ 69.♔h5 White uses the same technique as before. Making use of the fact that the line is not long enough for the rook, he can give only one more check on the 3rd rank. 69...♖h3+ (69...♖b3 70.g7 ♖g3 71.g8=♖+ ♖xc6 72.♖a8+ ♔xe7 73.♖xc6+-; 69...♖g2 70.♖xa3 ♔xe7 71.♔h6+-) 70.♔g4 ♖h1 71.♖xa3 ♔xe7



72.♖f3!+- The last nuance!

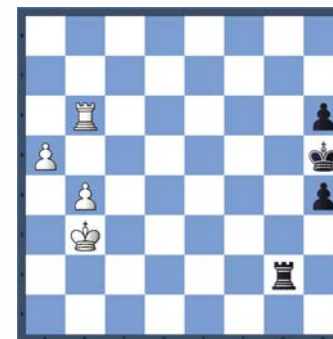
The only way to win is to cut the king along the f-file. White proceeds with Kg5 and g7, while after checks he goes with his king to g7 and wins with the "bridge building" method. Black was lost in the final position and I am sure, that Kramnik would have won the game, but I recommend to all of you to continue such positions because the win is far from obvious. It is never too late to resign.] **1-0**

(16) Karjakin, Sergey(2771)
- **Kramnik, Vladimir(2783)**

2nd Norway Chess 2014(8.5),
2014.06.12



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



After a long fighting game, where White was pushing for many moves, the victory was finally close. White has 2 passed pawns supported by the king on b3, so the position should just be winning, but still exact calculation is needed. Black's h4 pawn is very dangerous and White cannot protect it in the usual way, from h8, because of the second black pawn on h6. Let us take a look at how precisely Karjakin is converting his advantage.

57.a6! It is always a good idea to push your own pawns as far as possible.

57...♖g3+! Black is also trying to make things as hard as possible for White. Before bringing the h-pawn into action, Black is trying to get the white king into a bad position.

58.♔c4 The right decision. [58.♔a4? would lead to a crazy position. Now Black has the very strong 58...♖g1! The black rook is going to take care of the a-pawn from a1. 59.♖b5+

It seems like White already doesn't have anything better.
59...♔g4



60.♖a5 White protects from Ra1. 60...h3 Now both sides are queening. 61.a7 h2 62.a8=♚ h1=♚ Of course White cannot be worse here, but it is hard to say if he has winning chances.]

58...♖g4+ Before trying to stop the a-pawn, Black is trying to get the white king away from the pawns a bit.

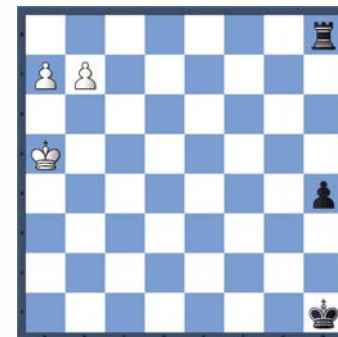
59.♔d3 ♖g8 [59...h3 was losing on the spot: 60.a7 ♖g3+ 61.♔e2 ♖a3 62.♖b5+ ♔g4 63.♖a5]

60.♖b5+ White chooses the most simple way. The white rook is going to a2 to stop the black pawn from moving.

60...♔g4 61.♖a5 h3 62.♖a2 Things are still very forced because Black has 2 h-pawns.

62...♖a8 63.b5 h5 And the double h-pawns are running.

64.♔e3 Karjakin continues playing very well. [64.♔c4 seems to win a tempo, but it is a dangerous move to make in a practical game. 64...♔g3 65.♔b4 h2 66.♖a1 ♔g2 67.♔a5 h1=♚ 68.♖xh1 ♔xh1 69.b6 h4 70.b7 ♖h8 71.a7

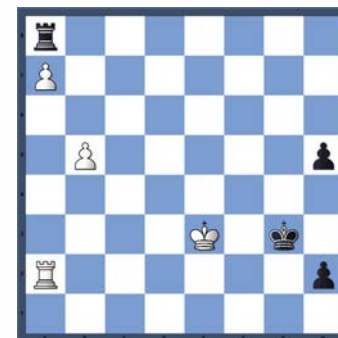


71...h3 and White is only winning because of 72.a8=♚!]

64...♔g3 Black needs to try and force h2.

65.a7! The last important move. After this things are getting too easy to miss.

65...h2 Black doesn't have a choice since b6 was coming.



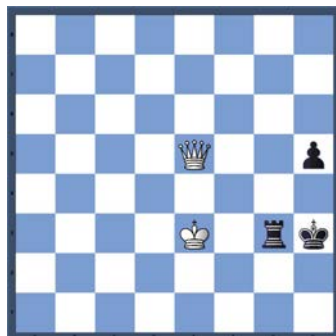
66.♖xh2 This was the idea behind 64.Ke3.

66...♔xh2 [66...♖xa7 would lead to a totally lost rook endgame: 67.♖xh5]

67.b6 ♔h3 Kramkin is trying to create a fortress.

68.b7 ♖xa7 69.b8=♚ ♖g7 Black's position is hopeless, there are no drawing chances with a pawn on h5. But still maybe White would have to show a bit more technique in case of 69...Ra3.

70. ♔e5 ♖g3+



71. ♔f2 h4 72. ♔e4 and the game is over. The black rook has no more squares left and Black is losing the pawn, which leaves him with no chances to survive the game. A great demonstration of exact play from the beginning until the end by Karjakin. **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Fischer, Robert James
- Unzicker, Wolfgang[C69]

Siegen ol (Men) fin-A(7),
1970.09.21



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗b5 a6 4.♗xc6 dxc6 5.O-O We have the Ruy Lopez Exchange Variation.

5...f6 One of the main lines. Instead of this move Black has a lot of different other options to play.

6.d4 exd4 7.♘xd4



7...♘e7 A rare move. Usually Black plays the endgame after [7...c5 8.♘b3 (8.♘e2 8...♖xd1 9.♗xd1 ♗d7 10.♘bc3 O-O-O 11.♗e3 ♗e8 12.♗d2 ♗c6 13.♗ad1 b6 14.f3 (14.a4! Maybe White doesn't need to lose time for the f3 move. The idea is to force Black to play a5 and then the white knight gets the important b5 square.) 14...♘e7 With a more or less equal position.) 8...♖xd1 9.♗xd1 ♗g4 In this case Black forces the f3 move to have a check on c5 later on. 10.f3 ♗d7 (10...♗e6 11.♗f4 c4

12.♘d4 O-O-O 13.♘c3 ♗f7∞) 11.♗f4 O-O-O 12.♘c3 c4 13.♘a5 ♗c5+ 14.♖f1 b5 Because of the knight on a5 White has to go for a forced variation: 15.♘d5 ♘e7 16.♗xc7 ♘xd5 17.♗xd5 ♖xc7 18.♗xc5+ ♖b6 19.b4 cxb3 20.♘xb3 ♗e6 It looks like Black should have enough compensation for a draw.]

8.♗e3 ♘g6 9.♘d2 ♗d6 10.♘c4 O-O 11.♖d3 Both sides very logically finish their development.

11...♘e5 As he has less space, Black reduces the material. [11...♖e7!?]

12.♘xe5 ♗xe5 13.f4 ♗d6 [13...♗xd4 The idea to equalize the position with different colored bishops is not enough, for example: 14.♗xd4 b6 (14...f5 15.♖c3 ♗f7 16.♗ad1) 15.♖e3 c5 16.♗c3 ♗b7 17.f5! With the idea to improve the position over e5. White has a stable advantage.]



14.f5! Because White controls the dark squares very well Fischer decided to limit the light squared bishop first. This thematic idea was used in a famous game between Lasker and Capablanca. [14.♖b3+!? This alternative was interesting too. 14...♖h8 (14...♗f7 15.e5±) 15.♘f3! (15.♘e6 The idea to get rid of the black pair of bishops is bad because of 15...♗xe6 16.♖xe6 ♗e8 17.♖c4 ♖e7 and White has problems on the e-file.) 15...♖e7 16.e5! fxe5 17.fxe5 ♗c5 18.♗xc5 ♖xc5+ 19.♖h1! With the threat Ng5 or simply e6.]

14...♔e7



15.♟f4! White is preparing a long term plan with an e5 break.

15...♟xf4 16.♞xf4 ♟d7 [16...c5 17.♞b3! and Black is losing the c5 pawn because of Qd5.]

17.♞e1 [17.♞b3+ 17...♟h8 18.♞xb7?? ♟d6--+]]

17...♞c5 This move looks unnecessary to me. Anyway Black's idea is to activate the bishop over c5-Bc6. [17...c5!? 18.♞b3+ ♟h8 19.♞f3 ♟c6 20.e5 ♟xf3 21.♞xf3 fxe5 22.♞xb7 ♞ab8 23.♞xa6 ♟h4! An important and active place for the queen. (23...♞xb2 24.♞c4+=) 24.♞fe3 ♞xb2 With good drawing chances because the position has a tendency to reduce.]

18.c3 ♞ae8 [18...♞d6 19.♞e3 (19.♞c4+ 19...♟h8 20.♞h4 ♞ae8 21.♞e3 h6 and Black has very easily prevented all of White's tactical ideas.) 19...c5 20.♞f3 ♟c6 21.e5 fxe5 22.♞xe5 ♞ae8 is similar to the game, but the white pieces are worsely coordinated in this case.]

19.g4 White is playing accoridng to the plan just to take advantage of the extra pawn on the kingside.

19...♞d6 20.♞g3 ♞e7 [20...g5!? 21.♞f3 (21.fxg6 21...hgx6 and now White's structure is weaker.) 21...♞xg3+ 22.♞xg3 c5 23.♞f3 ♟c6 24.e5 ♟xf3 25.♞xf3 ♞xe5 26.♞xe5 fxe5 27.♞d3 It looks like White is clearly better because of the strong f5 pawn and he has the simple plan to come to e4 with the king and control the d-file, but Black has counterplay ideas: 27...♟g7 28.♟f2 (28.♞d7+ 28...♞f7 29.♞xf7+ ♟xf7 The pawn endgame is drawish.) 28...♟f6 29.♟f3 h5!⇒ With the idea to activate the rook over the h-file.]

21.♞f3 c5 [21...♞fe8 doesn't change anything. 22.e5 fxe5 23.♞fe4↑]



22.e5! [22.g5 was also possible.]

22...fxe5 23.♞fe4 ♟c6 24.♞xe5 ♞fe8 25.♞xe7 ♞xe7 26.♞e5 h6 Black took the decision to prevent the pawns from advancing. We should note that one kind of defending is "active defence", for example: [26...h5!? 27.g5 (27.h3 27...h4 28.♞h2 This position doesn't look promising for White.; 27.gxh5 27...♟e8⇒) 27...h4! 28.♞f4 ♟d5 29.♟f2 (29.♞e2∞) 29...♞g2+ 30.♟e3 ♞xb2 (30...♞d5 31.♟f2=) 31.f6 ♞xc3+ 32.♟f2 ♞e6 33.f7+ ♟f8 34.♞d1 ♞b2+ 35.♞d2



35...Qxd2+! 36.Qxd2 Rxe5 37.g6 ♔d5 38.Qf4 ♚e7 39.Qxh4 ♕xf7 40.gxf7 ♚xf7+ 41.♖g2 ♚f6 and even without pawns on the queenside, this position would be drawish. Black just keeps playing Rf6-Rh6 and White is not able to improve the position.]

27.h4 ♕d7 Passive defending, Black prevents the g5 move but takes out the bishop from the active diagonal. [27...♚d2 active 28.♚f2 ♚d5 29.♘xc6 ♚xe1+ 30.♚xe1 bxc6 and it is not easy to improve the position because of potential perpetual checks.; 27...♕d5 28.g5 hxg5 29.hxg5 ♕xa2 30.f6 ♚e6 31.f7+ ♖f8 32.♖f2±; 27...♚f6]

28.♚f4 ♚f6 Preventing g5.



29.♚e2! A strong prophylactic move.

29...♕c8 30.♚c4+ ♖h7 31.♘g6 [31.♚xc5 31...♚xh4=+]

31...♚xe2 32.♚xe2 So far we can say that Black is defending quite well.

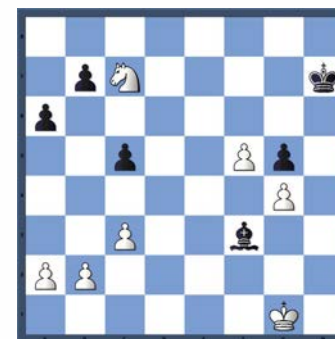


32...♕d7? But here comes the decisive mistake! Black allows White to exchange queens and after that he cannot get any counterplay anymore. [32...♚d6! was the correct move which gave Black possibilities to check the white king, for example after: 33.♚e8 ♚d1+ 34.♖f2 ♚d2+ 35.♚e2 ♚d6±]

33.♚e7! ♚xe7 34.♘xe7 g5 The only way to activate the king.

35.hxg5 hxg5 36.♘d5 ♕c6 37.♘xc7! The most accurate move. [37.♘e3 37...♖g7 38.♖f2 ♖f6 Thanks to his active pieces and the potentially weak g4 pawn Black has practical chances for a draw.]

37...♕f3



38.♘e8! Another very accurate move because the bishop is a

strong fighter on both sides! Fischer save the g4 and f5 pawns at the same time. [38.♖e6 38...♙xg4 39.♖xc5 ♖b6 (39...♙f3 40.♙f2 ♙c6 41.♖e6 ♙h6 42.♙g3±) 40.♖d7 ♙xf5 41.♖xb6 ♙g7 and Black still has some chances.]

38...♙h6 39.♖f6 ♙g7 40.♙f2 ♙d1 41.♖d7! A nice trick which Fischer of course saw a few moves earlier.

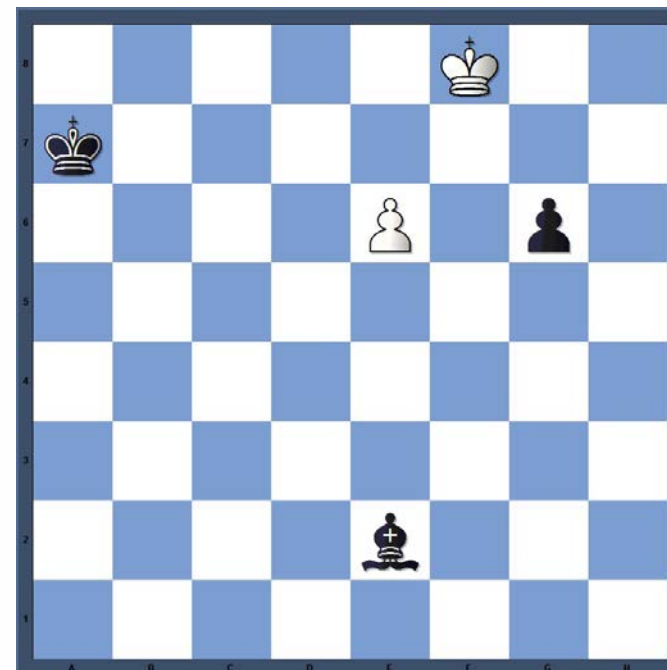
41...c4 [41...♙xg4 42.f6+ ♙g8 43.f7+--]

42.♙g3 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Reti

1. =



Solutions

(19) Aronian, L(2815)-Svidler, P(2753)

Norway blitz, 2014.06.02



25. ♖xf5! gxf5 26. ♔xf5+— ♚f8 27. ♔e5 ♘f6 28. ♙xc6 1-0

(20) Aronian, L(2815)-Karjakin, S(2771)

Norway blitz, 2014.06.02



26... ♔f5!! —+ 27. ♔d1 [27. ♚b8 27... ♘xg3 28. ♔xf5 ♘xf5—+]

27... e5! 28. ♚xf8+ [28. dxe5 28... ♔xc8—+]

28... ♔xf8—+

(21) Agdestein, S(2628)-Svidler, P(2753)

Norway blitz, 2014.06.02

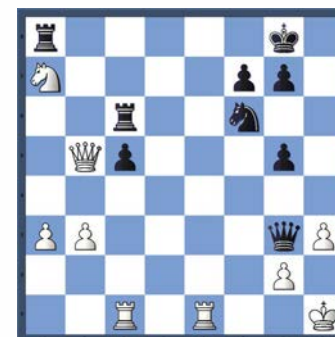


25... h5+! 26. ♔xg5 [26. ♔f3 26... ♙xf5—+; 26. ♔xh5 26... ♚h7+ 27. ♔g4 ♚h4+ 28. ♔f3 ♚f4+ 29. ♔xe3 ♚xf1—+]

26... ♚g7+ 27. ♔h4 ♙f6+ 28. ♔xh5 ♙e8+ 29. ♔h6 ♚h7# 0-1

(22) Aronian, L(2815)-Kramnik, V(2783)

Norway blitz, 2014.06.02



34... ♚c7? [34... ♘g4!! 35. hxc4 ♚h6+ 36. ♔g1 ♔h2+ 37. ♔f2 ♚f6+ 38. ♔e3 ♚d8!—+]

35. ♘c6∞

(23) Horvath, C(2560)-Beliavsky, A(2620)

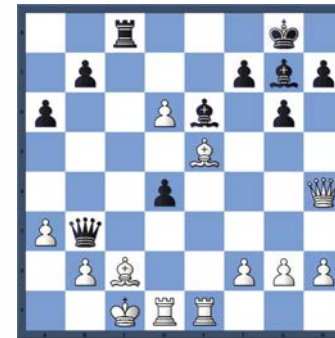
Zalakaros Open, 2014.05.28

**16...♖xe2!** 0-1 [16...♖xe2 17.♙xe2 ♜a5 18.a4 ♜xa4+-]**(24) Horvath, J(2507)-Sean, W(2385)**

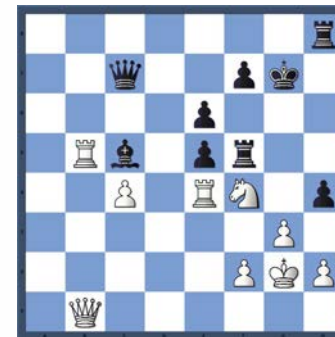
Zalakaros Open, 2014.05.30

**21.♙xc3!!** 1-0 [21.♙xc3 21...♙xc3 22.♖h8+ ♙xh8 23.♖xh8#; 21.♙xc3? 21...♙b4+!! 22.♙xb4 (22.♙c1 22...♙a3+ 23.♙d1 ♙a1+! 24.♙xa1 ♖xa1+ 25.♙c1 ♖d8+ 26.♙e1 ♖xc1#) 22...♖a1#]**(25) Kovacevic, A(2560)-Solumonovic, I(2448)**

Bosna Open, 2014.06.01

**27.♙d8+!!** [27.♖d2 27...d3 28.♙d8+!!]**27...♖xd8** [27...♙f8 28.♙xc8+-]**28.♙xb3+-****(26) Kislinsky, A(2485)-Eggleston, D(2407)**

Orlova GM, 2014.05.31

**28.♙xe6+! fxe6 29.♖b7 ♖xf2+ 30.♙h3+-**

(27) Simantsev, M(2464)-Andreev, E(2508)

Orlova GM, 2014.06.01



17...♖xd3!! 0-1 [17...♖xd3 18.♗xd3 ♕f3! -+ 19.♖fd1 ♘xe4 20.♗f1 ♗h1#]

(28) Vachier Lagrave, M(2758)-Vaisser, A(2531)

French league, 2014.05.27

[Solutions]



16.♘xd5!! cxd5 [16...♙xe5 17.♘xf6+ ♖h8 18.♖xd8 ♖axd8 19.♘xg4+-]

17.♖xd5! ♙xe5 [17...♘xd5 18.♗xd5+ ♖h8 19.♙xd8+-]

18.♖xd8+ ♖h7 19.♙d3+- [19.♙d3+ 19...g6 20.♖xa8 ♙f4+ 21.♖b1 ♖xa8 22.♙xf6+-]

(29) Salkind

1.c7 a5! 2.♖d4!! [2.c8=♗ 2...♖c2#]

2...♖xf3 [2...♖xd4+ 3.♖b2+-]

3.♖f4! ♖g3 [3...♖d3 4.♖f2+-]

4.♖g4! ♖h3 [4...♖d3 5.♖g2+-]

5.♖h4! ♖g3 6.♖h3!! ♖xh3 7.c8=♗+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 121

22nd of June 2014

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Editorial Preface

Carlsen made one of his dreams come true, to become a triple World Champion in the same year! With his convincing victories in the World Championship in Rapid and in Blitz, which were held in Dubai, Carlsen proved once again to be quite unreachable in all the different time controls. The final standings in rapid saw Carlsen on top with 11.0/15 and the 2nd place was shared by Caruana, Anand, Aronian and Morozevich, all with 10.5/11. The final standings in blitz once again saw Carlsen on top with 17/ 21 and the 2nd and 3rd places were shared by Nepomniachtchi and Nakamura, both with 16/ 21.

The women's Grand Prix in Georgia has begun with a good start for the two main contenders, Hou Yifan and Koneru, who have 2/2 and 1.5/2.

We hope you enjoy the analysed games from the World Rapid and Blitz Championship!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Karjakin, Sergey(2771)**
- **Anand, Viswanathan(2785) [A13]**

FIDE World Rapid 2014(10.4),
2014.06.17



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

1.♘f3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 ♘f6 4.♗g2 The idea of this move order is to play a Catalan structure but not hurry with d4.

4...d4 [4...dxc4 5.♖a4+ leads to the main lines.]

5.b4?! A typical idea in this kind of the structures. White is going to take space on the queenside but unfortunately for him this move is not accurate. White should play [5.O-O 5...c5 6.d3 ♘c6 7.e3 ♗e7 8.exd4 cxd4 with typical play for the Benoni.]



5...♗xb4! The best and most concrete reaction.

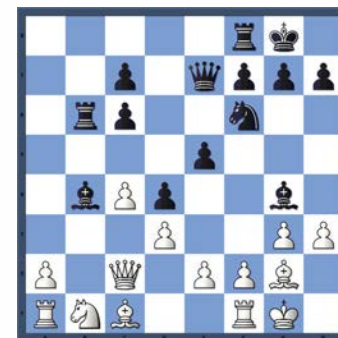
6.♖a4+ ♘c6 7.♘e5 ♖b8 The only strong move. The rook escapes from the long diagonal and will also protect the bishop on b4 after the exchange on c6.

8.♘xc6 [8.♗xc6+ 8...bxc6 9.♘xc6 ♖d7-+; 8.♗a3 8...♖d6 (8...♗xa3 9.♘xa3 O-O 10.♘xc6 bxc6 11.♖xa7 ♖b6 12.♖a5 ♖e7 The black pieces are better coordinated and the simple plan c5-e5-e4 gives Black a good initiative.) 9.♘d3 a5 10.♗xb4 axb4 11.c5 ♖e7 12.♘xb4 ♗d7 13.♗xc6 bxc6 14.♘a6 ♖b7 15.♖xd4 e5 16.♖c4 ♗e6 17.♖c3 O-O 1/2-1/2 Landa,K-Mista,A/Bochum GER 2014 (58)]

8...bxc6 9.♖xa7 ♖b6 10.♖a4 The white queen needs to escape from this unsafe place.

10...O-O 11.O-O e5 12.d3 ♗g4 13.♖c2 ♖e7 White gets a better structure but Black has a big advantage in development. The black initiative is very strong.

14.h3



14...♗h5! Anand doesn't let Karjakin develop the knight to d2. This way he provokes the g4 move which weakens White's position. [14...♗f5 Preparing a break over e4. 15.♗g5 (15.♘d2) 15...♖fb8 16.♘d2 ♗c3 17.♖ab1 ♖b2 18.♖c1 h6 19.♗xf6 ♖xf6 20.♖xb2 ♖xb2 21.♘e4 ♗xe4 22.♗xe4 And it is not clear if Black should hurry to capture on e2 22...♖xe2 because after (22...c5) 23.♖a3 the white pieces will be activated.]

15.♗g5 ♖fb8 16.g4 ♗g6 17.♘d2 ♗xd2 18.♖xd2 h6 [18...♖b2 19.♖d1 h5 20.a4! The only chance to get rid of the black pieces' activity is to advance a pawn! 20...hxg4 21.hxg4 ♖e6

22. ♟xf6 gxf6 23. f3 ♔g7∞]

19. ♟xf6 ♚xf6 20. ♖fc1 [20. a4 20... ♖b2 21. ♚d1 c5 22. a5 ♚a6 23. ♖e1 And it is not easy to improve Black's position.]

20... h5 21. a4 hxg4 22. hxg4 e4 This move activates the black pieces.

23. dxe4 ♖b2 24. ♚d1 [24. ♖c2?! 24... ♖xc2 25. ♚xc2 d3! 26. ♚c1 d2 27. ♚d1 ♚c3 And the d-pawn will be decisive.]

24... ♚e5 25. ♖cb1 [25. f3 This move doesn't look nice. The bishop on g2 is very limited but the one on g6 is not active either. The most important thing is that at least the white king is safe.]

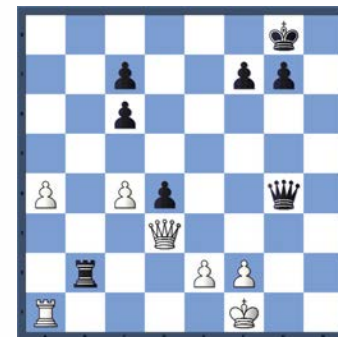
25... ♟xe4 26. ♖xb2 ♖xb2



27. ♟xe4? White's position is very unpleasant because of the very active black pieces and weak white king. The only counterplay chance for White is the a-pawn. [27. a5! White needs to hurry! 27... ♟xg2 28. a6 (28. ♟xg2 28... ♚f4→) 28... ♟e4 29. a7 ♟h7 30. a8=♚ ♚g5 31. ♖a3 ♚h4 32. ♖f3 (32. f3 32... ♚g3+ 33. ♟f1 ♚h3+=) 32... d3! 33. ♚e8 f5! A strong move which closes the diagonal and makes it possible to take on f3. (33... ♟xf3? 34. ♚xd3+; 33... ♚xg4+ 34. ♖g3 dxe2 35. ♚e1 ♚h4 36. ♖h3 ♚xh3 37. ♚xe4+ ♟g8 38. ♚e8+ ♟h7 39. ♚e3±) 34. gxf5 ♟xf3 35. ♚g6+ ♟g8 36. ♚e8+ With perpetual check.]

27... ♚xe4 28. ♚d3 ♚xg4+ 29. ♟f1 [29. ♚g3 29... ♚xe2 30. a5 d3 31. a6 d2→ Black is faster.]

29... ♚h4 30. ♟g2 ♚g4+ 31. ♟f1



31... ♚h4? Anand repeats the moves. He overlooked a good possibility to continue the game after [31... ♚h5 Compared to the move in the game the e2 pawn will be hanging. 32. ♚f3 (32. ♟g2 32... ♖xe2 33. a5 ♖e6→) 32... ♚xf3 33. exf3 c5 34. a5 ♖b7 35. a6 ♖a7 36. ♟e2 f6 37. ♟d3 ♟f7 38. ♟e4 ♟e6 With the plan c6-Kd6-Kc7-Kb6.]

32. ♟g2 ♚g4+ 1/2-1/2

**(2) Riazantsev, Alexander(2692)
- Harikrishna, Pentala(2726) [E12]**FIDE World Rapid 2014(1.17),
2014.06.16GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

1.d4 After the opening, White managed to get a solid advantage which made him go for a very tempting sacrifice which looked really promising. With a great defence and because of a miscalculation by White, Black managed to defend from all threats, which left him with extra material. All in all a very interesting game.

1...♟f6 2.c4 e6 3.♟f3 Riazantsev has been a second of a lot of players and last year he was also the coach of the Russian women's team. His theoretical knowledge is on a really high level, but somehow from time to time he misses very nice practical chances.

3...b6 4.a3 The idea of the a3 move is simple, not to allow Black to play Bb4 on White's Nc3.

4...♟b7 5.♟c3 ♟e4 A rarely played move and to me it looks a bit strange because Black is just getting a bit worse straight from the opening. [5...d5 is of course the main continuation.]

6.♟xe4 Of course White should not let Black play Nxc3.

6...♟xe4 The most solid reply.

7.e3 [7.♟g5 This move is really tempting, but it seems to give Black good play. 7...♟e7 8.♟xe7 ♟xe7 9.♟d2 ♟b7 10.e4 White has covered the center but Black has the very strong 10...c5! and White doesn't have 11.d5 because of exd5.]

7...♟e7 8.♟d3 ♟b7?! This is already clearly not what Black

should have done. Now White's position is getting clearly better. [A possible way of playing was 8...♟xd3 9.♟xd3 d5 and White is minimally better but nothing too important has happened.]



9.e4! A strong move! White is immediately taking the center, which guarantees him better play.

9...O-O 10.O-O d6 Black is trying to be passive-solid.

11.b4 White is preparing to put his bishop on b2 or to play d5 and c5 in the future. [11.d5 would also give White some positional advantage and now it is easy to see that Black's bishop on b7 is bad.]

11...c5 It is hard to say if it is really a useful move for Black, maybe to continue being solid was a better choice with 11...Nd7.



12.bxc5! A strong move! Before closing the center with d5, White is opening the b-file, which is clearly a good idea!

12...bxc5 13.d5 Limiting the black bishop on b7.

13...♞d7 14.♞b1 ♞c7 15.♞c2 h6 16.♞b2 ♞ab8 17.♞fe1 ♞fe8
 [17...♞f6 Exchanging these bishops is a logical idea. 18.♞xf6
 ♞xf6 And now the only chance for White to look for an
 advantage is 19.dxe6 fxe6 20.e5 but after 20...♞g4 21.exd6
 (21.♞h4!?) 21...♞xd6 the white king finds himself under some
 pressure.]



18.e5! A good move which activates the white pieces.

18...exd5?! [18...♞f8∞]

19.♞h7+ The beginning of a nice tactical idea.

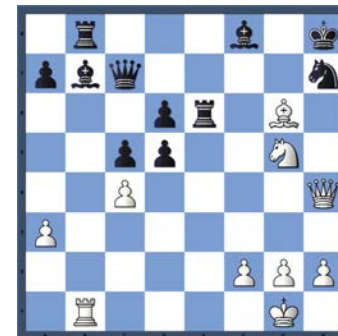
19...♞h8 20.e6 fxe6 21.♞xg7+ ♞xg7 22.♞g6+ ♞h8
23.♞xh6 ♞f8 24.♞h4 ♞f6 [24...♞e5 25.♞g5+-]

25.♞g6+ [25.♞c2+ 25...♞g8 26.♞xf6 ♞g7 27.♞h4+-]

25...♞h7 [25...♞g7 26.♞g5 ♞h7↔]

26.♞g5 After some forced moves we got a position where White's attack is decisive.

26...♞e7 27.♞xe6 ♞xe6



28.♞xh7?? What an amazing blunder, probably caused by time trouble. White could win after [28.♞xe6 28...♞e7
 29.♞xh7+ ♞xh7 30.♞xh7 ♞xh7 31.♞xf8+ ♞xf8 32.♞xb7+ ♞g6
 33.cxd5 ♞f5 34.♞e7! Objectively the position should be
 winning, but White still needs to show accurate play.]

28...♞h6! [28...♞xg6 29.♞xf8+ ♞g7 30.♞h7+-]

29.♞f5 [29.♞xh6 29...♞g7 Black consolidates on the time.]

29...♞e7 0-1

(3) Jobava, Baadur(2688)
- Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2799)
[A45]

World Rapid Ch 2014(3.1),
 2014.06.16



GM Csaba Balogh
 Best rating: 2672

We are in the 3rd round of the World rapid Championship. The ratings should not confuse anyone, those are the rapid ratings. The tournament was played with 15+10 time control. Jobava won a brilliant game in his usual creative style.

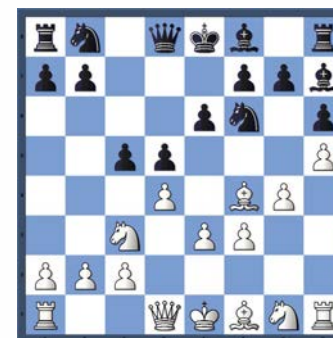
1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 d5 3.♙f4 Jobava likes this kind of unusual openings. He already played it in several games.

3...♙f5 The most natural reaction. Black develops his bishop before playing e6 and c5. If he succeeds to do this he might quickly overtake the initiative because of the misplacement of the white knight on c3, therefore White should continue with unusual moves.

4.f3 e6 5.g4! Consequent play. There is no way back for White, he must do something extraordinary in the spirit of the position to keep the initiative.

5...♙g6 6.h4 h6 7.e3 c5 This is the deviation to the previous Jobava game. [It seems to be more circumspect to take control over the b5 square before pushing c5. 7...a6 8.h5 ♙h7 9.♙d3 c5 followed by Nc6 was completely fine for Black in the Jobava-Hovhannisyan, Yerevan 2014 game.]

8.h5 ♙h7



9.♘b5! White is finally able to consolidate his pawn formation with c3.

9...♘a6 There was no other way to parry the Nc7 threat, but now the knight on b5 becomes extremely annoying, because it cannot be sent away with a6 or c6. To be able to play a6, Black should go away with his knight, but it has the duty to control the c7 square and the rook cannot replace it from c8, because it is also busy guarding the a7 pawn.

10.c3 ♙e7 11.♙d3 It is time to finish the development.

11...♙xd3 12.♙xd3 ♘d7 Black prepares to castle, but first he prevents the g5 attacking potentials. [Black cannot get rid of the b5 knight with 12...♙b6 with the idea of c4, because White can fortify it with 13.a4]

13.♘e2 [Grabbing the bishop with 13.♘d6+? would positionally be a good idea, but it does not work directly in view of 13...♙xd6 14.♙xd6 ♙b6! with a double attack.]



13...O-O The first stage of the game is over. We can say that White has some space advantage, but Black has a flexible position without any weaknesses. White might play on a kingside attack, while Black should aim for a central break with e5. We have reached a playable position for both sides with mutual chances and two highly creative players start to play very exciting chess.

14.a4 A useful waiting move to stabilize the situation of the b5 knight.

14...♟f6 Mamedyarov chooses the most direct way to push e5, but it allows White a good possibility to prevent it and in the same time improve his position. [14...♞e8 followed by Bf8 and e5 was probably stronger, but the text is also very natural.]

15.♟d6! ♞e8 16.f4! Preventing the e4 break forever and the f4 pawn supports the g5 break as well. The only drawback could be the hole on e4, but Black is first of all very far from driving his knight there and even if he succeeds White could trade it with Ng3.

16...♞b6 Black hopes to get his knight to c4. [16...♟h4+ It doesn't make much sense to force the king to move, because

the position is closed and the king even feels comfortable at the middle of the board. 17.♞f1 followed by Kg2 or Kd1-c2 is also possible.]



17.g5! Jobava has very good tactical feelings. He sacrifices a pawn to explode the pawn structure in front of the king. [17.b3? is wrong because it only helps the black knight to occupy the c4 square. 17...c4!; 17.dxc5 It is not logical to open the center because White has just launched a flank attack and to lead it successfully, the center should be closed. 17...♞c4]

17...hxg5 18.h6! g6 Black must keep the h-file closed.

19.fxg5 ♟xg5 20.h7+ ♞g7 The best chance. Black should control the f7 and g6 squares with the king. [20...♞h8 is worse in view of 21.♟e5+! f6 22.♞d6! Nf7 is threatening. 22...♞f8 23.♟f4! The g6 pawn is hanging and the attack seems to break through. 23...♟xf4 24.♞xf4 ♞xd6 loses to 25.♞xg6+ ♞g7 26.O-O-O+- and Rdg1 next wins.]

21.♟e5+! White must lead the attack energetically, otherwise Black consolidates his position and maintains an extra pawn.

21...f6 [On 21...♟f6 22.♞d6 ♞f8 White wins nicely with 23.♞xf7! ♞xf7 24.♞f4!+- There is no defence against the Qxg6 and Nxe6 threats.]

22. ♖d6 [The winning move was 22. ♖f4! 22... ♗xf4 (22... ♗xe5 is nicely refuted by 23. ♖h8=♖+! ♖xh8 24. ♖xg6+ ♔f8 25. ♖xh8+ ♔e7 26. ♖xe6#)]



23. ♖g1!! It is very difficult to find such moves in a rapid game, even for such a resourceful player like Jobava. Black has no adequate defence. 23... ♗g5 (23... ♗g5 does not help because of the pin. 24. ♖xg5+-) 24. ♖xf4+- And the attack is breaking through: 24... ♗xe5 25. ♖xg5+ ♔h8 26. ♖g6 ♖e7 (26... ♖e7 27. ♖f6+-) 27. ♖d6! Trying to deflect the queen from the g7 square with the threat of ♖f7. 27... ♖f8 28. O-O-O And Black gets mated. An illustrative line is: 28... ♖c4 29. ♖g8+! ♖xg8 30. ♖xg8=♖+ ♖xg8 31. ♖h1+ ♖h7 32. ♖f7#]

22... ♖h8 White is behind in material and his pieces are hanging. There is no time to retreat, he must create new threats in each move. [Objectively the only move was 22... ♗xe5 23. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 24. ♖h8=♖+ ♖xh8 25. ♖xh8 ♖xh8 26. O-O-O and despite the material advantage, the machine says Black has good drawing chances, but I believe the extra queen should give White excellent winning chances.]

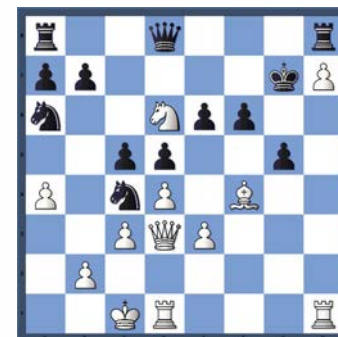
23. ♖f4! ♗xf4 24. ♗xf4 [The same idea as in the 22. ♖f4 line was winning again: 24. ♖g1!! 24... ♗g5 (24... ♗g5 25. ♖xg5+-) 25. ♖xf4 ♗xe5 26. ♖xg5+ ♔f8



27. ♖g8+! ♖xg8 28. ♖xg8=♖+ ♔xg8 29. ♖g6+- And mate on f7 will follow on the next move, either with the queen or the knight.]

24... ♗g5 25. O-O-O! Bringing the other rook to the attack. ♖d6 followed by sacrifices on g5 are in the air.

25... ♖c4 [On 25... ♖xf4 White wins after all moves, but the most beautiful is 26. ♖g6+!! ♔xg6 27. ♖d6#]



26. ♖h6!? What a fantastic move! White wins material because Black can only prevent the ♖g6 threat if he sacrifices his queen. [However it was even stronger to play 26. ♖xc4 26... ♖xc4 27. ♖e2 with the idea to continue the attack with ♖h5. 27... ♖xh7 (27... ♖xf4 28. ♖g2+ ♔f7 29. ♖hg1+-) 28. ♖xh7+ ♔xh7 29. ♖h5+ ♔g7 30. ♖h1 ♖h8 (30... ♖xf4 31. ♖g1+ ♔f8 32. ♖h7!+- A silent move instead of some checks, White

creates the inevitable mate threat on g7.) 31. ♖f3! ♜c8



32. ♕xg5!! fxg5 33. ♖f1! and Black cannot prevent the Qf6/Qf7 threats followed by Rh1. 33... ♜f8 34. ♜xb7+-]

26... ♖xh6 is the only move to avoid getting mated, but now the queen falls. [26... ♖xd6 27. ♜g6+ ♜f8 28. ♕xd6+ ♜xd6 29. ♜xf6+ ♜e8 30. ♜xh8+-]

27. ♖f7+ ♜g7 28. ♖xd8 ♜axd8 We have reached another critical position. White is just slightly ahead materially and after some harmless moves like Bg3 Rxd7 the position would already be fine for Black. White needs to continue his attack and he can do it in different ways:

29.b3 It is logical to push back the active knight with tempo. [29. ♖g1!? was also good with the idea of 29... ♖xh7 30. ♕xg5! fxg5 31. ♖xg5+ ♜h8 32. ♜f1!! ♜g7 33. ♜f6 ♜d7 34. ♖h5+ ♜g8 35. ♜xe6+ ♜df7 36. ♖xd5+- Black has serious problems.]

29... ♖b6 [Opening the g-file should not come into Black's mind: 29... gxf4 30. ♖g1+ ♜f8 31. ♜g6 ♜e7 32. bxc4+-]

30. ♖g1! Jobava prepares the decisive blow on g5.

30... ♖xh7



31.e4! Another very spectacular attacking move, just as 26. Rh6. Without a sacrifice White wants to destroy his opponent's pawn structure in front of the king with e5, while dxe4 Qxe4 opens new threats on b7 and e6. [31. ♕xg5 was also winning. 31... fxg5 32. ♖xg5+ ♜h8 33. dxc5! With a deadly threat on d4, so Black has to play 33... ♖d7 but now 34. c6! and the knights are losing their stability. Black loses material.]

31... ♜h8 [31... dxe4 32. ♜xe4+-; 31... cxd4 32. e5!+-]

32.e5! The final blow! Black is helpless against the threats, but Jobava had to foresee the key move few moves later.

32... gxf4 33. ♜g6 ♜f8 34. exf6 [Black resigned in view of 34. exf6 and f7 is coming next in any case with mate in the next moves. For instance after 34... ♖d7 35. f7 with the threat of Qg8 Rxd7 36. f8Q mate! 35... ♜xf7 (35... ♜hxf7 36. ♖h1+-) 36. ♜g8#] **1-0**

(4) Caruana, Fabiano(2840) - Jobava, Baadur(2688) [C10]

World Rapid Ch 2014(5.2),
2014.06.16



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A nice attacking game by Fabiano Caruana, who intuitively sacrificed two pawns for longterm compensation.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘c6 Jobava has tricky rare lines, which are especially dangerous in rapid games, where his opponents do not have enough time to work out the right plans. However in this game, Caruana manages to find a very unpleasant reply...

4.♘f3 ♘f6 White has a wide choice here and Caruana continues with a rare move.

5.♙d3 [5.e5 is the main, when Black continues with 5...♘e4 6.♙d3 ♙b4 with hundreds of games.]

5...♙b4 6.♙g5



6...dxe4 Jobava deviates from his own blitz game. [He played 6...♘e7 before but after 7.♙xf6 gxf6 8.O-O c6 9.♘e2! ♘g6 10.c4!+= White was better in Fressinet-Jobava, Beijing 2012.]

7.♙xe4 ♘e7 Black unpins his queen and would like to install his knight to d5. [Black had an option to gain the bishop pair with 7...h6 because 8.Bh4 runs into g5, but White gets an advantage after 8.♙xf6! ♙xf6 9.O-O Despite Black having two bishops, the one on c8 is very passive, while on the other hand the e4 bishop is doing an excellent job. 9...O-O If White wants to he can get rid of the two bishops with 10.♘b5 ♙a5 11.c3! followed by the Na3-c4 plan! The e4 bishop continues dominating.]

8.♙d3 ♘ed5



9.O-O! The first intuitive sacrifice. I must say that it is a very tempting one, especially because the alternatives were pinning himself with Qd2 or retreating passively with Bd2. White has an obvious lead in development and all his minor pieces are standing perfectly. A pawn in the opening should be worth one more tempo.

9...♘xc3 [Black would miss the dark squared bishop if he goes for the pawn with 9...♙xc3 10.bxc3 ♘xc3 11.♙e1! (White must be careful not to fall for 11.♙d2? 11...♘ce4! when Black manages to simplify the position. 12.♙xe4 ♘xe4 13.♙xd8 ♘xd2 14.♘d2 ♙xd8) 11...♘cd5 12.c4 followed by Rd1 with more than enough compensation.]

10.bxc3 ♙xc3 11.♙b1 One more piece occupies an active

position. White intends to play Rb3, sending back the bishop and later the rook might participate in a very strong kingside attack along the 3rd rank .

11...h6 12.♘h4 White maintains the pin and keeps all his active pieces on board.

12...c6! A clever move. Black prepares to take on d4 in case of Rb3, which was not possible right away because at the end White would have won the queen with Bb5+. [12...O-O is strongly met by 13.♖b3! ♘a5 (13...♘xd4?? loses to 14.♘xd4 ♙xd4 15.♘h7+!+-) 14.♙c1! This is very strong, because Black has no more hope to unpin his queen. g5 will always be taken now. Ne5-g4 is threatening, Black is in trouble. For instance: 14...b6 15.♘e4 ♖b8 16.♘e5! ♙xd4 17.♘xf6 ♙xe4 18.♖g3+- and finally the rook plays an important role in the attack.]

13.♖b3!? Here comes the second intuitive sacrifice. This kind of moves comes again by feeling. White could first have defended his pawn with Be2 and only then Rb3, also with very strong compensation, but still, one does not want to make a passive retreating move when the opponent is trailing in development.

13...♘xd4 Black had no choice, but now White gained new hopes for counterplay to quickly activate his rooks on the d-file. [13...♘a5 could have been met by 14.♘e5! ♙xd4 15.♘xf6 gxf6 16.♘xf7! ♙xf7 17.♘g6+!+-]

14.♘c4 Caruana wants to occupy the d-file with tempo.

14...♘b6 15.♖d3 ♙e7



16.♘e5! This is what White was aiming for. All his pieces are attacking. The c8 bishop is still stuck and it also locks the rook to the corner. Black also has serious problems with his king. He cannot keep it in the center for long, but castling is not better either.

16...g5 Jobava understandably wanted to leave this pin. [Despite the bad circumstances, Black could have solved his situation by 16...♙c5! 17.♙e2 ♘c7! and it looks like White has nothing better than 18.♖fd1 but now we can reach a drawish endgame after 18...b5! 19.♘b3 ♙xe5! 20.♙xe5 ♘xe5 21.♖d8+ ♙e7 22.♖xh8 ♘b7 23.♖xa8 ♘xa8 Black has two pawns for the exchange, he should not face any difficulties.; 16...O-O? was wrong in view of 17.♘g4! and 17...g5 loses to 18.♘xh6+ ♙g7 19.♘xg5+!-]

17.♘g3 ♘e4 Black welcomes all kinds of simplifications. To get rid of the g3 bishop is a special achievement, but he still did not solve the problems of his c8 bishop and his king. [17...O-O could have strongly been met by 18.♙h1! unpinning the f-pawn to be able to launch a very dangerous attack with f4 next.]

18.♙e2 ♘xg3 19.hxg3 ♘c7



20. Rfd1 Black is still two pawns up, but there is no doubt that he felt very bad in the current position. It is hard to find a move for him.

20... Rf6 [The problem was 20...O-O? would have dropped material after 21. Rxd7! Bxd7 22. Rxd7 Rf6 23. Rxc7+-; The only move was 20... Bxe5 21. Rxe5 O-O temporarily solving the problems around the king, but it is still unclear how Black could bring his c8 and a8 pieces to the game. Black will face serious difficulties after 22.g4!? with the idea of Rh3, sometimes switching the rook to the attack.]

21. g4 Rg7 [21... Rf5 runs into 22. Rxd2!+- with the big threat on d8 and 0-0 loses to Nxe6.; On 21... Rxe7 22. Rxe1! is very strong, to switch the queen to the a1-h8 diagonal. It is very difficult to defend. An attempt to use the c8 bishop with 22...e5? loses to 23. Bxe5! O-O (23... Bxe5 24. Rxd8+ Rxd8 25. Rxe5+ Bxe6 26. Rxe8+-) 24. Bxf7! Rxe1+ 25. Rxe1 Rxf7 26. Re7+-]

22. Rf3! The game is objectively over here. Even the machines admit that the compensation is getting too strong now. The king cannot find a shelter...

22... Bd8 Black tries to cover the f6 square to be able to castle kingside. [22...O-O does not help in view of 23. Rf6!+-; 22... Re7 cannot lead to anything good after 23. Rxe3+-;

22...h5 23. Rf6+ Rf8 White has different wins, but the easiest is probably 24. Rxe3 Threatening Qc5+. 24... Rg6 (24...b6 25. Rxe4+-) 25. Bd3 Rh6 26. Rxc5+ Rg7 27. Re7+- Creating too many threats. Qxc7 or Ne8 followed by mate on f7.]



23. Rxd8+!! Another sacrifice which screams to be played. The king will be mated soon in the middle of the board...

23... Rxd8 24. Rf6! A silent move to lock the queen. It is just terrible to look at the black pieces, they can only watch how the 4 white pieces haunt the exposed king in the middle of the board.

24... g4 [24... Re7 25. Rxe5 Rxd8 loses to 26. Rxc5+ Rxd6 27. Re4! and on 27... Rxd4 the key is: 28. Rxf7+! Rxf7 29. Bxd6+- and the queen falls.]

25. Rxd2+ Re7 [25... Re7 26. Rb4+ also leads to mate in few moves.]

26. Rf4+ [Black resigned in view of the mates in few moves. 26. Rf4+ 26... Re6 27. Rb3+ Ra5 (27... Rc5 28. Re5+ Rxc4 29. Rxc3#) 28. Rxd2+ Ra4 29. Rb4#] **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Iturrizaga, E(2653)-Nakamura, H(2775)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.16

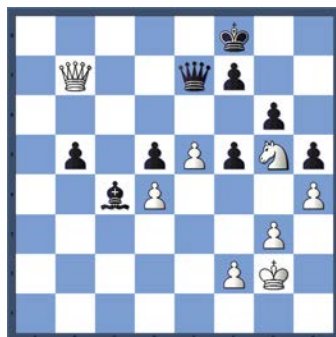
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(6) Amin, B(2635)-Radjabov, T(2724)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.16

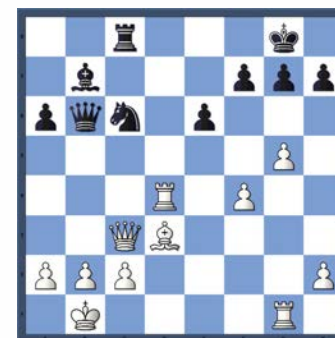
1. +-



(7) Yu Yangy(2675)-Svidler, P(2753)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.16

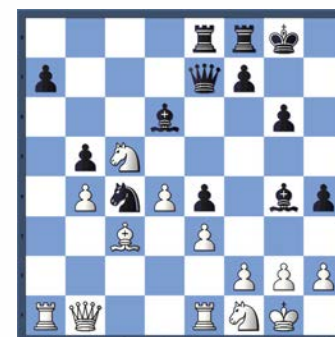
1. +-



(8) Milov, V(2622)-Karjakin, S(2771)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.16

1... -+



(9) Harikrishna, P(2726)-Najer, E(2653)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.16

1. +-



(10) Fier, A(2580)-Ragger, M(2632)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.16

1... =



(11) Moiseenko, A(2707)-Caruana, F(2791)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.16

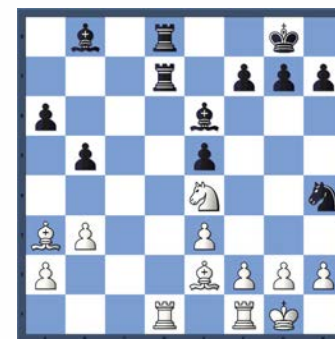
1... ♠



(12) Le Quang Lie(2712)-Bologan, V(2661)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.16

1. +-



(13) Safarli, E(2649)-Radjabov, T(2724)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.16

1... -+



(14) Zhurikhin, A(2333)-Najer, E(2653)

Russian Higher league, 2014.06.11

1... -+



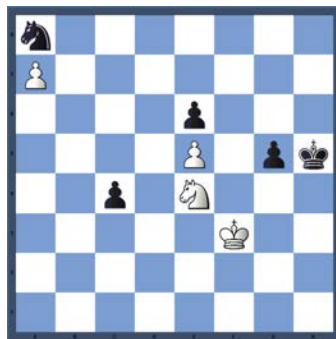
Endgame section

(15) Tomashevsky, Evgeny(2695)
- Matlakov, Maxim(2689)

Russian Higher league,
2014.06.13

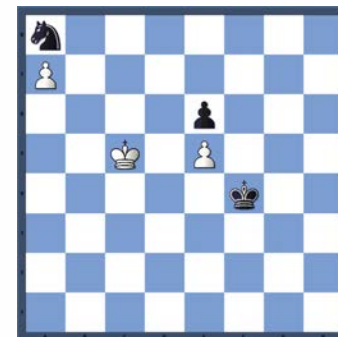


GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



I have just seen the following fantastic study-like endgame. White is a pawn down, but if we take a deeper look, he is the only one who can play for win if he goes with his king to the queenside to collect the c-pawn and then to trap the knight on a8. He is going to sacrifice his knight for the g- passed pawn.

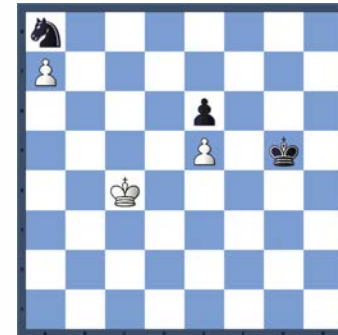
57.♔e3! ♕g4! [An amazing position arises from the line 57...g4 58.♔d4 ♕h4 59.♔xc4 g3 60.♖xg3 ♕xg3 61.♔c5 ♕f4 Here we are! The white king should go to b7, but if he does so immediately, the black king squeezes him into the corner with Ke5-d6-c7. However we can realize that the position when the white king is on c6 and the black one is on e5 is a mutual zugzwang. If it was Black's move, he must move his king, but then after Kb7 he does not have Kd6-c7 anymore. White only needs to work out the execution of the winning plan.



62.♔d6! (62.♔c6? 62...♔xe5 63.♔b7 ♔d6 64.♔xa8 ♔c7=) 62...♕f5 And here comes the shocking move: 63.♔d7!! ♔xe5 64.♔c6!+- and zugzwang. Kb7 wins next.]

58.♔d4 ♕f4 59.♖xg5! White's strategy is the same as in the 57...g4 line.

59...c3 [59...♔g5 is actually the simpler way to draw, but only in a study-like way again. 60.♔xc4



60...♔g6!! Only this move holds. If we already know the motifs, this move is easy to find. Black must drive his king to c7 on the shortest way, without getting into zugzwang with king on e5... (60...♔f4? 61.♔c5 ♔xe5 62.♔c6+-) 61.♔c5 ♕f7 62.♔d6 (On 62.♔c6 Black is in time to play 62...♔e7 63.♔b7 ♔d7 64.♔xa8 ♔c7=) 62...♔e8 63.♔xe6 ♖c7+ and the game is drawn, because 64.♔d6 is not possible in view of 64...♖b5+=]

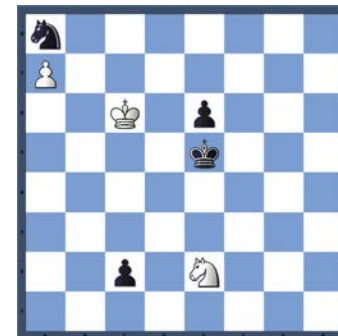
60. ♖h3+ ♜f5! [60...♔g3? loses to the same motif again, the black king gets too far... 61.♔xc3 ♜xh3 62.♔d4 ♜g4 63.♔c5 ♜f4 64.♔d6! +- And we have reached the same position as in the 57...g4 line. 64...♜f5 65.♔d7!! ♜xe5 66.♔c6+-]

61. ♖g1! The tasks of the white pieces are the same as before. The knight must stop the passed pawn and the king should go for the knight on a8.



61... ♖c7? The decisive mistake. It was very difficult to calculate the lines, especially with only seconds on the clock... [61...c2 62.♖e2 ♜g6!! should have been played. We actually have the same position like without the e2 knight and c2 pawn on board. We will soon understand why... 63.♔c5 (63.♔c3 63...♜f5=) 63...♜f7 64.♔c6 ♜e7 65.♔b7 ♜d7 66.♔xa8 ♜c8= And the game is drawn because the knight cannot leave the c1 square and Black only plays Kc8-c7.]

62. ♜c5 ♜xe5 63. ♖e2! c2 64. ♜c6 ♖a8 We have reached the same position again as without the c2 and e2 pieces on board. We already know that Black is in zugzwang now, therefore the next move is obvious.



65. ♖c1!! And Black resigned because of the zugzwang. Kb7 is coming next. [65.♔b7? would have spoiled the win again in view of 65...♔d6 66.♔xa8 ♜c7=] **1-0**

**(16) Carlsen, Magnus(2881)
- Anand, Viswanathan(2785)**FIDE World Rapid 2014(12.1),
2014.06.18GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Carlsen was better for most of the game, but after a terrible blunder Anand got excellent winning chances.

44...♖b8! Black's position looks winning, but White still has a lot of pawns and all White needs to do is to win the a3 pawn after which the game would be a draw. With the silent **44...Rb8!** Anand is putting White into a first zugzwang.

45.g5 What else to do?! [45.♘c1 doesn't help. 45...♖c8+ 46.♔d2 ♔d5 And Black is easily winning since the white king is cut on the c-file.]

45...♟f5 Black is starting to collect the white pawns.

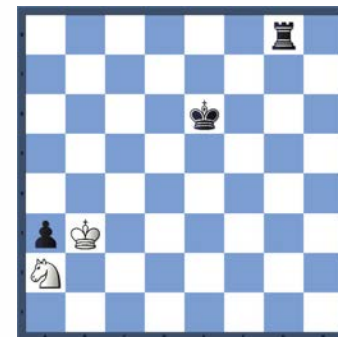
46.d5 Once again White has nothing better than this.

46...♟xe5 47.g6 By giving away the pawns White manages to finally lure away the black rook from the b-file, which will allow him to play Kb3.

47...♟xd5 48.g7 ♟e6 Black wants to collect the last pawn by

playing Kf7.

49.g8=♚+ ♖xg8 50.♟b3 The white king has finally managed to get to b3, but does it save the game?!



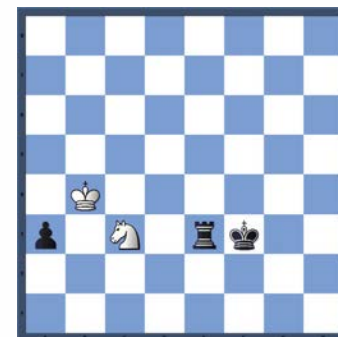
50...♖g3+! The most precise way of winning the game. [50...♖a8 was probably also winning. 51.♘c3 ♟e5 52.♟a2 ♟d4! The black king has to get to b4. 53.♘b5+ ♟c4 Black is just in time to win the game: 54.♘xa3+ ♟b4]

51.♟b4 [51.♘c3? of course doesn't work because of 51...a2]

51...♟e5 52.♘c3 All Black needs to do now is to bring his king to b1 to end the game.

52...♖e3 Preparing the march for the king. The rook on e3 will cut the white knight's checks.

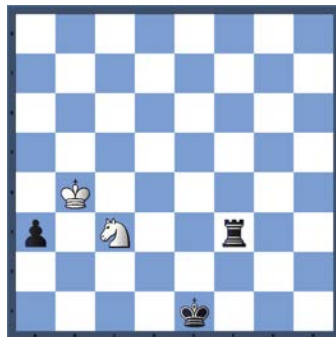
53.♟c4 ♟f5 54.♟b4 ♟g4 55.♘a2 ♟f3 56.♘c3



56...♔g2 Avoiding the trap... [56...♔f2 would have been a huge mistake. 57.♘d1+ ♔e2 58.♘xe3 a2 59.♘c2 And the white knight is just in time to stop the a-pawn.]

57.♘d5 ♖f3 58.♘c3 ♔f1 The black king is finally coming closer.

59.♔c4 ♔e1 60.♔b4



60...♖h3 White can't do anything about Kd2 next. The position is hopeless. Carlsen managed to win the Rapid and the Blitz Championship in a very convincing manner anyway, but I guess that Anand was very happy about his win, especially because of the upcoming World Championship match in November.

Clash of the Titans

(17) Robatsch, Karl
- Fischer, Robert James[B86]

Capablanca Memorial(11), 1965



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙c4 e6
7.a3 A slightly passive move for a Sicilian. The idea is to save the bishop on the diagonal but why not play for example 7.a4. The main line is 7.Bb3 and 0-0 next, or Bg5-Bd2.

7...♙e7 8.♙a2 O-O 9.O-O b5 10.f4 ♙b7



11.f5! A thematic plan. White is going to get control of the light squares and activate the bishop on a2. The most important is to do that very quickly. [11.♙e2 is probably already too slow. 11...♘bd7 12.e5 (12.♙xe6 Usually this idea makes sense when the black king is still in the center. 12...fxe6 13.♘xe6 ♙b6+ 14.♙e3 ♙c6 15.♘xf8 ♙xf8=+ Black is better because of

the weak e4 pawn.) 12...dxe5 13.fxe5 ♙c5 14.♙e3 ♙b6 break over e5 looks not good because white gets limited bishop and weak pawn. 15.♙ad1 ♘e4 (15...♘xe5 16.b4∞) 16.♘xe4 ♙xe4=+ Xe5]

11...e5 12.♘de2 ♘bd7 [12...♘xe4 In case black decides to take the pawn White will quickly get the initiative on the kingside. 13.♘xe4 ♙xe4 14.♘g3 ♙b7 (14...d5) 15.f6 This pawn sacrifice activates the white pieces. (15.♙g4 15...♙f6 16.♘h5 ♙h8∞) 15...♙xf6 16.♘h5 ♙e7 17.♙g4 g6 18.♙h6 With strong pressure.]

13.♘g3 ♙c8 14.♙e3



14...♘b6 Black could also play : [14...♙xc3!? A typical idea. Black sacrifices an exchange, but for that he gets the central pawn and destroys the white structure. 15.bxc3 ♘xe4; 14...a5 With the idea to fight for the d5 square. 15.♙d3 (15.♙f2 Protecting the c2 pawn. 15...b4 16.axb4 axb4 17.♘d5 ♘xd5 18.♙xd5 ♙xd5 19.♙xd5 ♘f6∞ Followed by d5.) 15...b4 16.axb4 axb4 17.♘d5 ♘xd5 18.♙xd5 ♙xd5 19.exd5 ♘f6 With an unclear position.]

15.♙xb6 This exchange weakens the dark squares, but on the other hand White takes control of the important d5 square.

15...♔xb6+ 16.♔h1 ♔e3 An interesting move. Black activates the queen and starts regrouping his pieces. The bishop will go to b6. [16...a5!? leads to an interesting variation: 17.♘h5 0Nde2-Ng3-Nh5 is a typical plan. White is going to exchange the important f6 knight which defends the king and fights for the d5 square. 17...♘xh5 18.♔xh5 b4 19.axb4 axb4 20.♘d5 ♕xd5 21.♕xd5 ♖xc2



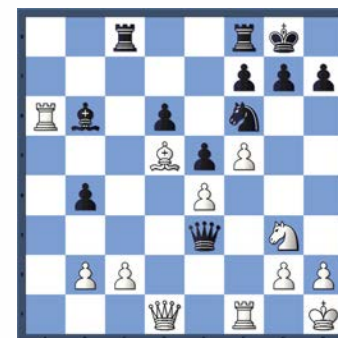
22.f6! We already saw this idea! White opens the f-file to activate the rook. 22...♕xf6 23.♔xf7+ ♖xf7 24.♖a8+ ♕d8 25.♖xf7 h6 26.♖c7+ ♔h7 27.♖xc2 And two rooks are clearly better than a queen. White has a big advantage.]

17.♘d5 [17.♖f3 17...♔h6 18.♔e2 followed by Rd1 would be more solid.]

17...♕xd5 18.♕xd5 ♕d8 A typical maneuver which we can mainly find in the Sveshnikov. Black just improves the bishop. [18...♘xd5 19.exd5 ♖c4]

19.a4 White activates the rook over the a-file. [19.c3 19...♕b6 20.♖f3 ♘g4!↗; 19.♕b3 19...♘xe4 20.♘xe4 ♔xe4 21.♔xd6 With a more or less equal position.]

19...♕b6 20.axb5 axb5 21.♖a6 b4



22.♘h5?! White wants to create pressure against the king. Unfortunately for him the black pieces are already very active and Black gets good counterplay. Saving the bishop was a better option. [22.♕b3 22...♕c5 23.♔f3∞]

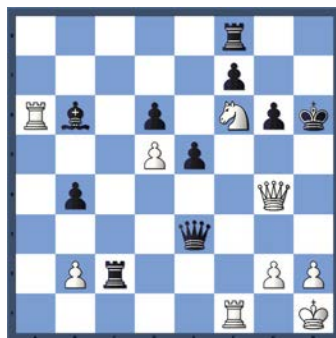
22...♘xd5 23.♔g4 [23.exd5 23...♖c4 24.♖f3 ♔d4 25.♖d3 ♔f2=+ And slowly the white king becomes weaker than the black one.]

23...g6 24.exd5 ♖xc2 25.fxg6 hxg6 26.♘f6+ ♔g7 White doesn't even have a perpetual check.

27.♘h5+ [27.♔h4 Because of the weak first rank Black is on time with his counterplay: 27...♖f2! (27...♖h8? 28.♘h5+! ♖xh5 29.♔f6+ ♔h6 30.♖a8+-) 28.♔xf2 ♔xf2 29.♖xf2 ♕xf2 30.♘e4 ♕d4 31.b3 ♖c8⊕]

27...♔h6 [27...♔h8 28.♔h4 g5⊕]

28. ♖f6



28... ♖f2! A strong move which eliminates the active white rook.

29. ♖a1 ♖a8 30. ♗xb4 [30. ♖ae1 30... ♔g7 (30... ♖xf6? 31. ♗h4+) 31. ♖h5+ ♔f8 The black king escapes to a safer place. Black has a winning position.]

30... ♔g7 31. ♗xd6 [31. ♖g4 31... ♗f4 32. ♗xf4 ♖xf4—+ And the white pieces completely lost their coordination.]

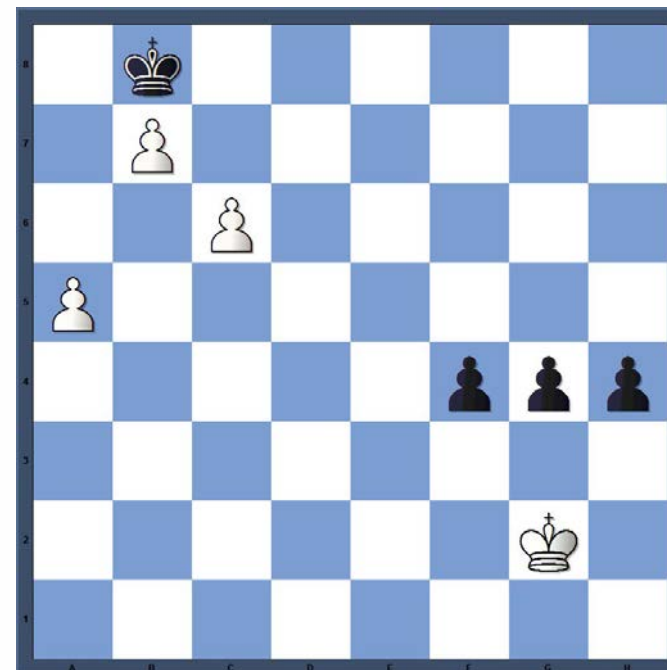
31... ♗e2 The weakness of the first rank doesn't allow White to continue the game.

32. ♖e8+ ♖xe8 33. ♖fe1 ♗b5 0-1

Surprise section / study

(18) Behting

1. +-



Solutions

(19) Grischuk, A(2792)-Caruana, F(2791)

Norway Chess, 2014.06.03



38...♖xd3! 39.exd3 ♜b2—+ 0-1

(20) Grischuk, A(2792)-Agdestein, S(2628)

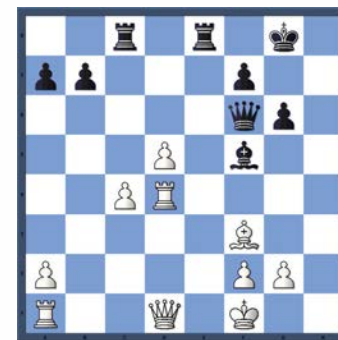
Norway Chess, 2014.06.08



39...♔g6?! [39...♖xg2+!! 40.♖xg2 (40.♔xg2 40...♖e4+ 41.♔f2 ♖xc6—+) 40...♖xf4+ 41.♔g1 ♔b7! 42.♖c2 ♖g3+! (42...♔xc6?? 43.♖h7+ ♔e8 44.♖e7+! ♔xe7=) 43.♔f1 ♖xh3+ 44.♔g1 ♔xc6—+]

(21) Salgado Lopez, I(2622)-Wei Y(2634)

Leon rapid, 2014.06.07

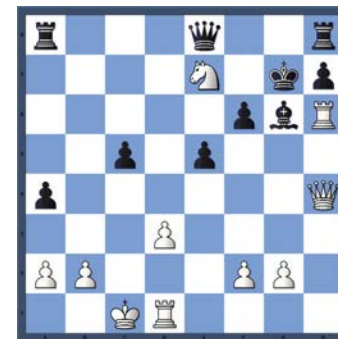


23...♕c2!! 24.♖xc2 [24.♖d2 24...♖xc4! 25.♖xc4 ♖xa1+—+]

24...♖xd4—+

(22) Fedoseev, V(2662)-Vorobiov, E(2587)

Russian Higher league, 2014.06.05



23.♗f5+! 1-0 [23.♗f5+ 23...♕xf5 24.♖xf6+ ♔g8 25.♖xf5+—]

(23) Belous, V(2586)-Shimanov, A(2643)

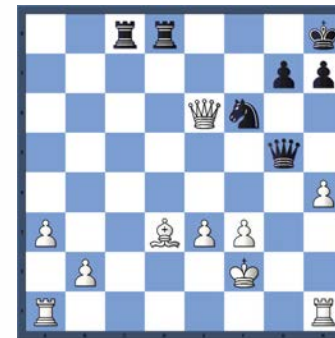
Russian Higher league, 2014.06.05

**27...♖h6!**—+ 0-1**(24) Najer, E(2653)-Usmanov, V(2428)**

Russian Higher league, 2014.06.05

**27.♕xb5! ♖xc2+** [27...♗xb5 28.♖xd5+—]**28.♖xc2 ♔xb5** [28...♕xc2 29.♕c4 ♘e3 30.♖e1 ♘xc4 31.♘xc4+—]**29.♖c4+—****(25) Belous, V(2586)-Matlakov, M(2689)**

Russian Higher league, 2014.06.07

**26...♖c2!** 0-1 [26...♖c2+ 27.♕xc2 ♖d2+ 28.♔e1 ♗g2 29.♗c8+ ♘g8—+]**(26) Najer, E(2653)-Demchenko, A(2613)**

Russian Higher league, 2014.06.07

**25.♕h6!! ♘ef5** [25...♖xh6 26.♘xd7+ ♗xd7 27.♖xf8+—]**26.♖xf5!!** [26.♕xf5 26...♖xh6]**26...♘xf5 27.♕xf8 ♖xf8 28.♕xf5 exf5 29.♘xd5+—**

(27) Vestrukhin, O(2401)-Andriasian, Z(2611)

Nezhmetdinov memorial, 2014.06.03



12...b5!! —+ **13. ♖d3** [13. ♖c3 13... ♘e2+—+; 13. ♖c1 13... ♘e2+—+]

13... ♘xf3+! 14. ♙xf3 ♚xd3—+

(28) Popov, I(2650)-Kharlov, A(2477)

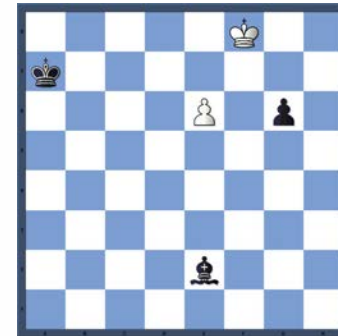
Nezhmetdinov memorial, 2014.06.06



23. ♘d5! exd5 24. ♚xd5 ♙f7 [24... ♙h7 25. ♚g8+ ♙g6 26. ♚xf8! (26. ♚xf8 26...d5!∞) 26... ♚xf8 27. ♚xf8+—]

25. ♚xf7+—

(29) Reti



1. ♙e7!! g5 2. ♙d6! g4 3. e7! [3. ♙c5? 3...g3 4. e7 ♙h5—+]

3... ♙b5 4. ♙c5! ♙d7 5. ♙d4 ♙b6 6. ♙e3 ♙c7 7. ♙f4 ♙d6 8. e8=♚! ♙xe8 9. ♙xg4=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 122

29th of June 2014

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Editorial Preface

After a very turbulent and exciting time at the World Rapid and Blitz Championships, things became calmer this week.

In a Chinese Island Province Hainan the 5th Danzhou Super tournament is taking place, but this year with the participation of 2 European players (usually it was a round robin with 10 Chinese players), Ruslan Ponomariov and your weekly commentator Arkadij Naiditsch. The tournament has just begun, so more excitement is to be expected from the next week.

In the 9th Edmonton International tournament there are no surprises. The tournament is dominated by Ivanchuk and Wesley So, as both are on 4.5/5. The level difference is pretty easy to see between the two Super Grandmasters and the rest of the field. It will be interesting to follow how many points both players will have at the end of the tournament.

The Greek team championship has also begun, with the participation of Csaba Balogh, but this year it seems to be more like a nice holiday event.

That's all for the current week, we hope you enjoy the games from the current issue of your weekly newsletter.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Naiditsch, Arkadij(2705)
- Bu, Xiangzhi(2693) [B31]

5th Hainan Danzhou 2014(4.5),
2014.06.28



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Bu Xiangzhi is a Chinese player from my generation. The first time we met, if I remember correctly, was at the World Juniors U-12, so about 16 years ago. Later on Bu has always been one of the World's strongest juniors, but strangely he never made it to the Top 20 in the World. I was preparing for a very tough fight, because Bu is actually a positional player who is very strong in defence and very hard to beat.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 Black's opening choice was not a surprise for me, in December 2013 we had the same opening in the World Team Championship.

3.♗b5 g6 This is also an often played move by Bu, but not the main line. [3...d6 4.O-O ♗d7 5.♖e1 a6 6.♗f1 ♘f6 7.c3 ♗g4 This happened in our last game, with a long theoretical battle after which I got a very promising endgame, but could not convert it into a full point.]

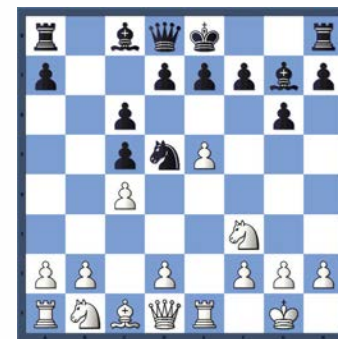
4.♗xc6 bxc6 Not a very popular move, but some of the Chinese players like this line. [4...dxc6 is of course the main move.]

5.O-O ♗g7 6.♖e1 Now Black has a couple of choices.

6...♘f6 is the main move. [6...♘h6 7.c3 O-O 8.d4 ♗b6 is the other possible line, but here White seems to be doing better. I played it myself with Black a couple of times without any big

success.]

7.e5 ♘d5 8.c4



8...♘c7 At first sight the knight jumps are looking a bit strange, but in fact things are very complicated here. Black's idea is simple, to play d6 at some point and open the way for the bishop pair. For White the idea is clear as well, try to develop clear play as quickly as possible, using the development advantage.

9.d4 cxd4 10.♖xd4 The white queen is going to take an excellent position on h4.

10...♘e6 This is a very rare move. [A more usual position would appear after 10...O-O 11.♖h4 f6 12.exf6 exf6 13.♗d2 and maybe White has a minimal advantage, but Black's position is very safe.]

11.♖h4 White already wants to play Bh6 now. It is very important to exchange the black squared bishop.

11...d6?! It is hard to say if this was Bu's preparation, or maybe my opponent just mixed up some move order because it seems like from now on I am getting clearly better play. [11...h5 is for example a very playable option for Black.]

12.exd6 The most logical and simple move. [12.♖d1 is the other move about which I was thinking during the game. It

is really hard to say what could be Black's next move here. 12...h6 Maybe this was Black's idea?! 13.exd6 g5 14.♔e4 O-O?! and Black is trying to play for compensation.]

12...♔xd6 [In case of 12...exd6 13.♕g5!? f6 14.♕h6 White is reaching his target of exchanging the bishops, which leaves Black with a clearly worse pawn structure.]

13.♖c3 A natural move, so I played it quickly.

13...h6 After quite some thinking Bu decided to play very riskily. Of course it is easy to understand that Black does not want to let White play Bh6, but now the black king is getting stuck in the center.

14.♕e3 I also played this move quickly. My next idea is clear, to play Rad1 and maybe Nd4.



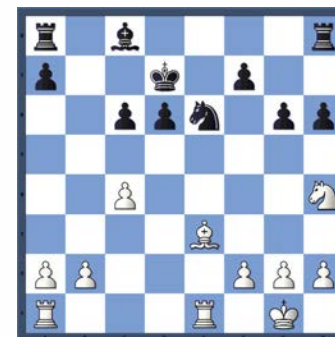
14...♕f6? I think here Bu thought for almost half an hour. [During the game I was mostly calculating 14...♔b4 and now I thought of these 2 options: 15.♖ab1!? (After the tempting looking 15.♔e4 15...♕b7 (15...O-O 16.♔xc6 ♕b7 17.♔b5 gives White a clearly better endgame.))]

15.♖e4 Now I am getting a much better endgame. [Another possibility was 15.♔e4 15...♖c5 (15...♖g5 was losing to 16.♕xg5 hxg5 17.♖b5) 16.♕xc5 ♔xc5 17.♖a4 ♔d6 18.♖ad1 ♔c7 19.♖d4 and White's position should be clearly better, but

I thought that the move in the game could be even stronger.]

15...♕xh4 16.♖xd6+ exd6 17.♖xh4 It is easy to see that Black's position is very dangerous. The pawn on d6 is very weak and the opposite colored bishops give White an extra piece for the attack.

17...♔d7 This was clearly my opponent's idea. Black wants to play c5 next, then put his king to c7 or c6 and defend the d6 pawn with Rd8. A good plan, but it is clear that my opponent missed my next move.



18.f4! Maybe the key move of the game. From now on the game will develop into only one direction. It is very hard for Black to find a solution as to how to defend from the coming f5.

18...♕a6 This is not a solution, but other moves also lead to a bad position. [In case of 18...♔c7 19.f5 gxf5 20.♖xf5 h5 21.♖ad1 ♔d8 I have the strong and silent 22.♕f2! with the idea of playing Bg3 next. White's advantage should be enough to win the game here.]

19.b3 The black bishop on a6 is going to spend the rest of the game as a "dead" piece.

19...g5 This move is already losing a pawn but there is not really a much better option available in the position.

20.fxg5 hxg5 21.♘f5 The white knight took a perfect position on f5 and Rad1 is coming next.

21...d5 [Not much better was 21...♙c7 22.♖ad1 ♜hd8 23.♙d2! with the idea of playing Ba5 next. White should be close to winning here.]

22.♖ad1 ♙b7 And now a small tactical blow decides the game:



23.♙xg5! A move which is clearly not very difficult to find, but a nice one anyway.

23...♜h5 [Of course Black can't take on g5 because of 23...♘xg5 24.♖e7+ ♙c8 25.♘d6+ and the bishop is lost.]

24.h4 I am a pawn up, all my pieces are protected and still Black is clearly suffering with his king on d7.

24...♜g8 25.♘g3 The white knight is going to f6 over e4.

25...♜hxg5 Already a clear sign of despair... [In case of 25...♜hh8 26.♘e4 ♙c7 27.♘f6 ♜d8 28.♙d2 ♙b6 29.h5 White's position should also be very close to a winning one.]

26.hxg5 ♜xg5 My position is totally winning, but still it is better not to give any chances and finish the game as quickly as possible.

27.♘e4 ♜g6



28.b4! The last exact move of the game. My knight is going to c5 and the black bishop on b7 is never going to enter the game.

28...♙c7 Nc5 was coming in any case.

29.♘c5 ♙c8 The last moves of the game are not really interesting anymore.

30.cxd5 ♘xc5 [After 30...cxd5 31.♖xd5 ♜xg2+ 32.♙xg2 ♘f4+ 33.♙f3 ♘xd5 34.♖c1 the endgame would be very easily winning for White.]

31.d6+ Of course 31.bxc5 was also possible, but this looks prettier.

31...♖xd6 32.bxc5 Now the exchange of rooks is forced.

32...♖xd1 33.♖xd1 ♙e6 34.a3 ♙b7 35.♖b1+ ♙a6



36.♖b4 The white king will slowly go to d6 and the c6 pawn is going to fall. After the game I was very happy because usually beating Bu Xiangzhi is a very difficult task and from the tournament situation it was a very important win for me, because Bu was leading with 2.5/3 and I was on 2/3 before the game. **1-0**

**(2) Panjwani, Raja(2440)
- So, Wesley(2744) [A09]**

9th Edmonton Int 2014(3.2),
2014.06.23



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We will see a very crazy game and another proof of how well Wesley So is feeling in tactical positions.

1.♘f3 d5 2.c4 For quite some time White has stopped to play this move order and we will see one more time why.

2...d4! Exactly the right reply. Black is taking over the center.

3.b4 This could be the preparation of Panjwani, but this line is considered to be bad for White. [In the line 3.e3 3...♘c6 4.exd4 ♘xd4 5.♘xd4 ♔xd4 6.♘c3 c6 7.d3 Black has the excellent move 7...♘h6! and of course Black is not afraid of Bxh6 and otherwise the black knight is going to d4 over f5, with a nice position.]

3...f6! Another good move. Black wants to play e5 next, with just a better position.

4.e3 White needs to do something and to do it as quickly as possible.

4...e5 5.c5 We are just on move 5 and the game is already very sharp. [Of course not 5.exd4 5...e4 and Black is much better.]

5...a5 Of course. Black is trying to crush White's pawn structure and from now on things start to be pretty forced.

6.♗b5+ This move is hard to understand, but it seems like preparation. Why White is trying to provoke the c6 move of Black is hard for me to understand. Maybe to avoid Nc6 in some lines, but it is only a speculation.

6...c6 7.♟c4 axb4 Black is trying the most principled move. [I think that after 7...dxe3 8.fxe3 e4 9.♞d4 axb4 Black's position should be better.]



8.♞xe5 Let the fun begin! [8.exd4 8...exd4 followed by Bxc5 and Black's position is clearly better.]

8...fxe5 We have a very strange position. It is funny to see that the first 8 moves of Black were only with pawns. [8...♞h6 9.♞d3 ♟f5 and probably Black has at least equalized.]

9.♞h5+ g6 [9...♞d7? would of course be a mistake since after 10.♞f5+ ♞c7 11.♞xe5+ White would be winning.]

10.♞xe5+ ♞e7 11.♞xh8 ♞f6 White is an exchange up, but the queen is trapped on h8. As well the position of the bishop on c1, knight on b1 and rook a1 is everything else but great. The game is very dynamic.

12.d3 A logical move. White wants to play Nd2 next and develop the pieces, but the question is why not play Bb2 with the threat of playing Bxd4. [The simple 12.♟b2 looks just killing, but Black also has an excellent reply: 12...♟e6!! Nobody cares about the d4 pawn! (12...♞bd7 13.♟xd4 ♞e5 14.O-O and White is just winning.) 13.♟xd4 ♞bd7 14.♟xe6 ♞xe6 followed by O-O-O and Bh6. The white queen is trapped on h8 and is going to be taken.]



12...♟e6! A strong move. The idea of Black is Nbd7 and O-O-O.

13.♞d2 [In case of 13.♟xe6 13...♞xe6 14.♟b2 ♞bd7 15.♟xd4 O-O-O followed by Bh6, Black is better.]

13...♞bd7 14.a3 White is trying to open the a-file to have axb4 after Black's O-O-O.

14...dxe3 A logical move. With the queen still trapped on h8, Black is trying to open the position as much as possible to gain some attacking chances. [Another very interesting position would appear after 14...♞e5 15.♞e4 is probably White's best reply. 15...♞xe4 16.♞xe5 ♟xc4 The strange thing is that although we are entering an endgame now and White is an exchange up, the black pieces are so nicely placed that probably Black's chances are even better. 17.♞xe7+ ♟xe7 18.dxc4 d3 I would rather be Black here.]

15.fxe3 b3! What a great move by So! Black is not only getting a very strong pawn on b3 now, but also wants to play O-O-O and Bh6.



16. ♖e4? And finally White is making a mistake. [It is really not an easy task for White to find a good reply here, but let us take a look at one of the most logical moves possible: 16.O-O 16...O-O-O Now it is clear that White will not be able to save the queen from h8, but at least it would be good to get as much material as possible. 17. ♕b2 ♕f5! This is the key move, Qxe3 and Bh6 or Bg7 are the threats now. 18.e4 (18. ♖e4 didn't help: 18... ♕g7 19. ♖xg7 ♖xg7 20. ♖xf6 ♖xc5 With a winning position for Black.) 18... ♕h6 19. ♕xf6 ♖xf6 20. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 21. ♖xb3 ♖e5 And although things are far from clear, Black's material advantage should be enough to give him better play.]

16... ♖xe4! So doesn't miss his chance and calculates the complications perfectly!

17. ♕xe6 ♖h4+ Could it be that White missed this unpleasant check?!

18.g3 [18. ♖e2 was losing immediately. 18... ♖f2+ 19. ♖d1 ♖df6 With mate to follow very shortly.]



18... ♖xg3 19. ♖g1 [19. ♕xd7+ was also losing. 19... ♖xd7 20.hxg3 ♖xh1+ 21. ♖f2 The material is equal now, but it is clear that the white king is much weaker than his colleague. 21... ♖d8! A nice finishing move. Black wants to play Kc8 next, bringing all his pieces to the attack. The game is basically over.]

19... ♖e4+ It is nice to see how nicely the black pieces are dominating the game.

20. ♖d1 ♖dxc5 and another Black piece is entering the attack with a tempo.

21. ♖e5 [After 21.dxe4 21... ♖xh2 Black is mating with the upcoming Rd8.]

21... ♖f2+ Now Black is winning another pawn on d3 with tempo.

22. ♖e2



22...fxd3 Black has at least 100 deadly threats. What a powerful game by Wesley So!

23.♔d4 ♕f2+ A great end of a fantastic game. I guess not many players would like to repeat the current opening anymore after seeing such a crush. **0-1**

(3) Moiseenko, Alexander(2707) - Lu Shanglei(2546) [A80]

FIDE World Rapid 2014(8.36),
2014.06.17

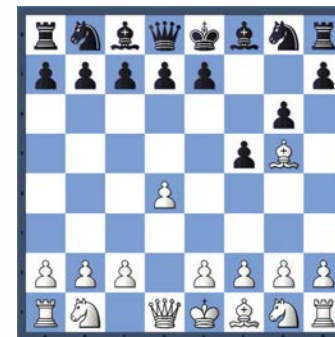


GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Let's examine a very nice miniature with some unusual sacrifices.

1.d4 f5 2.♘g5 A very rare move with the idea to confuse the development of the black pieces a bit. White pins the queen and he prepares to create doubled pawns in case of Nf6.

2...g6 The standard development of the Dutch variation. [2...h6 is positionally wrong because after 3.♘d2 the weakness in the black pawnchain (h7-g6-f5) will cause longterm problems for Black.]



3.♘c3 The whole idea of the white concept is a quick development of the pieces and to launch an attack with either h4-h5 or with e4 opening the center in front of the king.

3...♘f6 Black was clearly not familiar with this opening and he makes a dubious move. [3...♘g7 is more natural and also the main line, where White has two choices: 4.e4 (Or 4.h4) 4...fxe4 5.♘xe4 Actually Moiseenko has recently tried both options and both lines lead to very original positions.]

4.h4! [4.♗xf6 is premature, because after 4...exf6 5.e3 Black can lock the center with 5...d5! If White could have developed his bishop to c4, he might have hoped for an advantage, but now Black is fine, the doubled pawns are not bad at all as they control all the important central squares.]

4...h6 Another inaccuracy, Black critically weakens his g6 pawn and damages his own pawn structure. [Black wanted to prevent 4...♗g7 5.h5! with the idea of a nice exchange sacrifice after 5...♘xh5 6.e4! It is better to include this move first to open the position on the king and only after 6...fxe4 7.♖xh5! gxh5 8.♙xh5+ ♖f8 9.♘d5! ♘c6 10.♗c4→The attack looks very dangerous around the f7 square, which cannot be neutralized with Qe8, because after the trade of the queens, the c7 and the a8 fall.]

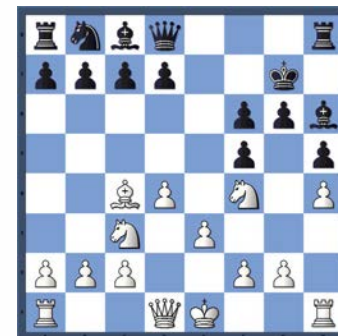
5.♗xf6 exf6 6.♘h3! White immediately points out to drawback of the h6 move and drives his knight to the f4 outpost to attack the weakness on g6.

6...h5 Logical, but too slow. Black wanted to avoid the demolition of his kingside pawn structure with Nf4 and h5. [6...♗b4 should have been played, although White has a clear advantage here as well. 7.♘f4 ♖f7 8.h5 (8.♙d3 is also good.) 8...g5 9.♘d5 ♗xc3+ 10.♘xc3 and the f5 pawn becomes a longterm target, which could be attacked effectively with e3, Bd3 and Qf3.]

7.♘f4 ♖f7 8.e3 The bishop is coming to c4 with tempo.

8...♗h6 Another logical move to get rid of the strong knight, but it is already the decisive mistake...The refutation is quite nice. [8...c6 would have been principled to lock the center again with d5, but White retains a big advantage with the strong 9.d5! avoiding Black to build up his ideal formation. Bc4 is coming next.]

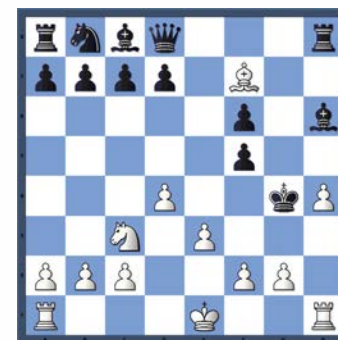
9.♗c4+ ♖g7



10.♘xg6! This is the momentum that White had to use. Moiseenko manages to punish his opponent for his mistakes in the opening.

10...♖xg6 11.♙xh5+!! This beautiful queen sacrifice is the point!

11...♖h7 [11...♖xh5 leads to mate after 12.♗f7+! ♖g4



13.♘e2 White is threatening with mate in one with f3, the only move to delay it is (Or 13.f3+ 13...♖g3 14.♖f1! and Ne2 or Rh3 mates next move.) 13...f4 but now 14.f3+ ♖f5 15.e4# is quite nice.]

12. ♔f7+ ♘g7



13. ♘d5! White is a piece down, but his attack is crushing! The Nd5 move was a very important attacking move to prevent Black's main defensive sources with Qe8 or Qf8, as both now lose to Nxf6!

13... ♖f8 [13... ♔f8 14. ♘xf6+ ♔h6 15. ♔h5#; 13... d6 14. h5+- and h6 or Qg6 wins next.; 13... c6 also loses to 14. h5! cxd5 15. ♔g6+ ♔g8 16. ♘xd5+ ♔f8 17. ♔f7#]

14. ♔h5+ ♘h6 15. ♔xf5+ ♔h8 [15... ♔g7 does not change anything, White wins for instance after 16. h5 with the threat of Qg6. Or 16. Rh3 is also strong enough to bring another attacker... 16... ♔e8 17. ♘xc7+-]

16. ♔g6! The bishop is trapped on h6, the game is over!

16... ♘g7 17. ♔h5+ [Black resigned in view of 17. ♔h5+ 17... ♔g8 18. ♘e7# Theory is very well developed nowadays and we can rarely meet such 11. Qxh5 sacrifices in grandmaster games at such an early stage of the game.] **1-0**

**(4) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2743)
- Vallejo Pons, Francisco(2698)
[D39]**



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

FIDE World Blitz 2014(1.7),
2014.06.19

The next game is from the World blitz Championship. Despite the very short time control (3 minutes plus 2 seconds per move) Mamedyarov leads a very nice attacking game.

1.d4 d5 [Usually we reach the game's position from the following move order: 1... ♘f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♘f3 d5 4. ♘c3 dxc4 5. ♘g5 ♘b4 6. e4]

2.c4 e6 3. ♘c3 ♘b4 4. ♘f3 ♘f6 The game starts as a Ragozin defence, but two moves later they transpose to the...

5. ♘g5



5...dxc4 The Vienna variation. This used to be a very popular opening not so long ago even on the highest level, but now it went completely out of fashion for some reason...

6.e4 h6 This is the new way to handle this opening, introduced by Kramnik in 2009 on the highest level. [The classical Vienna goes with 6...c5 with very sharp and

interesting lines.]

7. ♖xf6 ♜xf6 8. ♙xc4 White has a nice center, but if Black succeeds to explode it with c5, he might quickly equalize thanks to the pair of bishops.

8...c5 White has tried many different setups at the early stage of the development of this line, but the only unpleasant option which might cause problems is already clear. It is the one which was used by Mamedyarov in this game.

9.e5 ♜d8 10.O-O O-O [10...cxd4 11. ♘e4! will lead to the game with transposition.]

11. ♘e4 cxd4 This is the critical moment of this opening, where the white players have found a great attacking idea to retain the initiative:



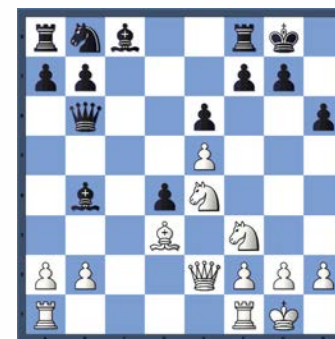
12. ♜e2! The point is that if White restores the material balance and takes back the pawn on d4, Black gets a very easy development with Bd7 and Nc6. The pieces are coming with tempo, the d-file is opening quickly, which will be occupied by the rooks soon and the mass of exchanges would lead to equality. However, the strategy of White is to keep the d4 pawn on the board, which gives a good shelter for his pieces to launch an effective attack and also limits the movement of the black pieces. The attacking idea is the following, White brings back his bishop to d3, followed by Ng3 and Qe4... [12. ♘xd4

12... ♜c7 is strong now because of the double attack. In some similar lines this does not work, but even then Black is fine with Bd7 and Nc6.]

12... ♜b6 A flexible move. Black does not decide yet where he develops his knight, he decides according to White's play. Sometimes it might go the c6, but in other cases Nd7-f8 is an important defender of the long diagonal (after Bd3-Qe4).

13. ♙d3! White follows his plan, other ideas do not come into consideration now.

13... ♜d8 [The problem is that



13... ♙d7 with the idea of 14.Ng3 Bc6 to prevent Qe4 does not work in view of the nice 14. ♘f6+! gxf6 15.exf6 Qe4 is threatening and after most defensive moves, like 15... ♙c6 16. ♘e5!+- wins the game. Mate is coming soon with Qg4.]

14. ♘g3! [14. ♘f6+? is not dangerous now, because the d7 square is not occupied by the bishop and Black has 14...gxf6 15.exf6 ♘d7!+-]

14... ♙d7 [The alternative was 14... ♘d7 15. ♜e4 ♘f8 when White should continue with an unexpected move: 16. ♜h4! With a very hidden idea to take control over the e7 square and threatening to trap the b4 bishop with a3 and b4. (The most natural 16. ♘h5 or 16.Qg4 could be met by 16... ♙e7! 17. ♜g4

g6 Black is alive.) 16...♖e8 Giving the option for the bishop to retreat to e7, but now (16...♙d7 loses to 17.a3!+- and b4 next.) 17.♘h5 ♙e7 18.♘f6+! gxf6 19.exf6 White is threatening to play Qxh6, therefore Black is forced to give back his extra piece, but then his king remains exposed and faces a very strong attack. 19...♙xf6 20.♖xf6 e5 21.♖h4→Of course White keeps the queens on board and brings his rook to e1. Black really misses his g-pawn here.]

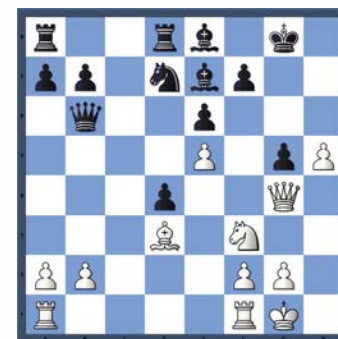
15.♖e4 g6 16.♖g4 The most natural attacking move to prepare some sacrifices on g6. [16.♖f4!? 16...♙f8 17.♘e4 was a very strong alternative. After the most natural move 17...♙c6 with the idea to take on e4 or Nd7 and retain the extra pawn, but Black gets into serious trouble after 18.♘f6+ ♖g7 (18...♖h8 is also bad in view of 19.♘g5!! hxg5? (19...♖c7 20.♙xg6! fxg6 21.♘xe6 ♖e7 22.♘xd8 ♖xd8 23.♖ad1 with a very strong attack. White will be fine even materially, but Black's undeveloped queenside will cause even bigger problems.) 20.♖xg5! ♖g7 21.♖h4!+- Black gets mated.)



19.♘h4! Black has no good way to parry the threats around the g6 square. 19...♙d7 20.♘h5+! gxh5 (20...♖g8 21.♘xg6! fxg6 22.♙xg6+- Black cannot prevent Qf7!) 21.♖g3+ ♖h8 22.♘g6+! fxg6 23.♖xg6+- could have been a very nice attack too. 23...♙f6 24.exf6 ♖c7 25.f7+- and Qh7 next.]

16...♙e8 This was the other point of Bd7, Black wanted to strengthen his kingside with his bishop, he only needs to drive his knight to f8 to consolidate. Black has successfully parried the direct threats, but Mamedyarov advances his h-pawn to make to kingside even more vulnerable:

17.h4! ♘d7 18.h5 ♘f8 [18...g5 was more natural, although the attack seems to be very strong after 19.♘e4! preparing to sacrifice on g5! (19.♘xg5 did not work immediately because of the intermediate move 19...♙xe5!) 19...♙e7 20.♘exg5! hxg5



21.h6! This is given to be very strong by the machine. The main idea is to create the mate threat on g7 with the queen. A possible finish could be 21...♖dc8 with the idea to consolidate with Qd8, but White wins after 22.♘xg5! ♘xe5 23.♙h7+!! ♖h8 (23...♖f8 24.♘xe6+! and Qg7 mates next.) 24.♘xf7+! ♙xf7 25.♖g7#]

19.♘h4 [Perhaps it was even stronger to play 19.hxg6 19...fxg6 20.♖h4! ± White wins the h6 pawn because of the motif that we already know from the 14...Nd7 line, that White is threatening to trap the bishop with a3 and b4, as he just has taken under control the e7 square. 20...♖g7? 21.a3+-]

19...♔h7

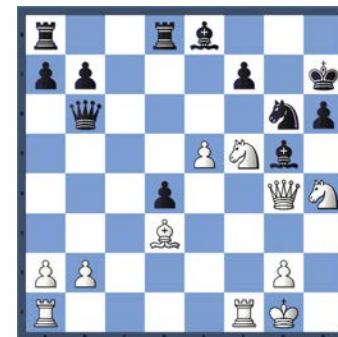


20.f4! Very nice attack leading, f5 is coming next with sacrifices to destroy Black's kingside.

20...♙e7! Black cannot create any counterplay, his only hope is to bring all his pieces to the defence.

21.f5 exf5 22.♘gxf5 ♙g5? The decisive mistake, but it was impossible to defend against such an attack, especially in a blitz game, but even with an hour on the clock, I am quite sure that Black would have been mated. [However the position is perhaps not that bad yet if Black plays 22...gxf5 23.♘xf5 ♙g5 although after 24.♘d6+ ♔g8 25.♖f6→I would be worried of getting mated. White is threatening to take on h6 and also to activate the last inactive piece on a1 is quite unpleasant.]

23.hxg6+ ♘xg6 [23...fxg6 also loses after 24.♘d6! ♖xd6 25.♖xf8 ♖e6 26.♖af1+- It is not a surprise that Black has no defence. White is only one pawn down for such a]



24.♘xh6! Mamedyarov finishes the game in style. The white pieces are calling for a final blow!

24...♙xh6 [24...♔xh6 25.♘f5+ ♔h7 26.♖xg5+-]

25.♖f6 ♙e3+ 26.♔h1 ♖c7 27.♖af1 White had many other wins too, but it is nice to invite the last attacking piece too. The game is over.

27...♖xe5 28.♖xf7+! ♙xf7 29.♖xf7+ ♔h8 [29...♔g8 30.♖xg6+-]

30.♘xg6+ Black resigned . A very high quality game, which could have been played even with classical time control. **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Wang Hao(2729)-Amin, B(2635)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.16

1. +-



(6) Van Wely, L(2654)-Svidler, P(2753)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.17

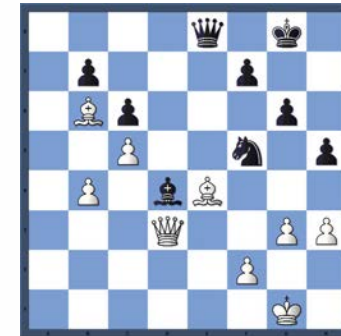
1. +-



(7) Sriram, J(2375)-Sandipan, C(2594)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.17

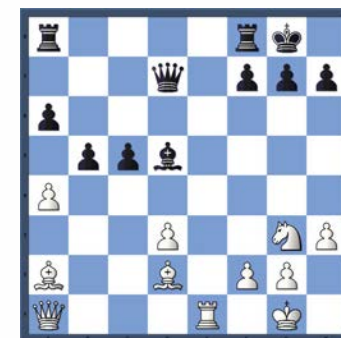
1... -+



(8) Svidler, P(2753)-Najer, E(2653)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.17

1. +-



World rapid Championship, 2014.06.17

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.17

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.17

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.17

(13) Jobava, B(2713)-Van Wely, L(2654)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.17

1. +-



(14) Mamedyarov, S(2743)-Polgar, J(2685)

World blitz Championship, 2014.06.19

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Aronian, Levon(2815)
- Carlsen, Magnus(2881)

World blitz Championship,
2014.06.20



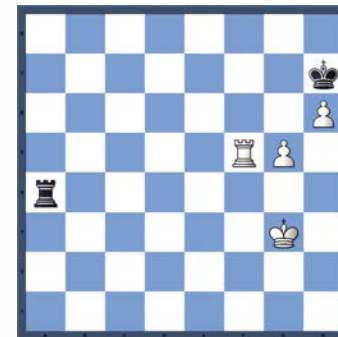
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



The following rook endgame is a theoretical draw despite the two extra pawns. It is very useful to remember this position, so we could save some difficult endgames in our own practice. Actually the strategy to hold is quite simple: Black sends the king back with side checks and in the certain moment he puts his king between the pawns...

69...♖a7+ 70.♔f6 [Avoiding the checks by approaching the rook does not change anything: 70.♔e6 70...♖a6+ 71.♔d7 ♖a7+ 72.♔c6 Black gives all the checks to lure the king far away and then plays 72...♔g6=]

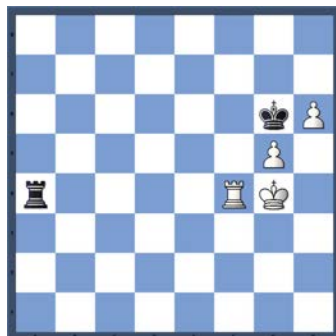
70...♖a6+ 71.♔e5 ♖a5+ 72.♔f4 ♖a4+ 73.♔g3 White would like to hide his king from the checks on h5. Giving more checks would already make no sense, therefore it is time to make the key move:



73...♔g6! 74.♖f8 The g5 pawn is indirectly protected because of h7 and promotion and White is threatening to play Rg8 with a winning check! [On 74.♖e5 Black could simply wait with 74...♖b4 followed by moving with the rook along the 4th rank, waiting for White to make some progress. The only winning attempt will be Aronian's idea to go to the 8th rank with the rook sooner or later.]

74...♖a3+ This is the easiest way to hold. The king cannot go to h5 anymore, and the only way to continue the game is to bring back the rook. [It is useful to remember the other defensive method as well: 74...♖a7 Let's say, if there was no chance for giving checks from the side, Black could also hold with this motif. The idea is 75.♖g8+ (75.♔g4 75...♖a4+ transposes to the game.) 75...♔h7!= and there is no check on g7 thanks to the Ra7 move. The rook is forced to go away along the 8th rank, but then the king also retreats to his ideal square to g6!]

75. ♔g4 ♖a4+ 76. ♖f4



76... ♖a6! This is the famous theoretical draw. Black has prevented the checks on the 6th rank and in the next moves he only waits with his rook along the 6th rank. White cannot make progress.

77. ♖b4 [77. ♖f6+ 77... ♖xf6 78. gxf6 ♔xf6 79. ♔h5 ♔f7= is obviously a draw.]

77... ♖c6 78. ♖e4 ♖b6 79. ♔f4 ♖a6 Of course both players knew exactly that the game is drawn. Aronian tries a last attempt, but Carlsen simply neutralizes it.

80. ♖e8 ♖a4+ 81. ♔e5 ♖a5+ 82. ♔f4 ♖f5+ Black is already forcing a draw. [82... ♖a4+ 83. ♖e4 ♖a6= was also good enough.]

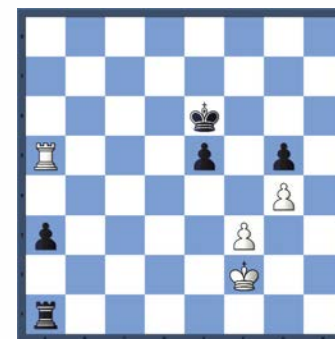
83. ♔e4 ♖xg5 84. ♖g8+ ♔xh6 85. ♖xg5 ♔xg5 1/2-1/2

(16) Krush, Irina(2484)
- Ivanchuk, Vassily(2738)

9th Edmonton Int 2014(6.1),
2014.06.26



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



All game long White tried to hold a difficult position and finally we are in a very interesting rook endgame. Let us take a look at how the game developed.

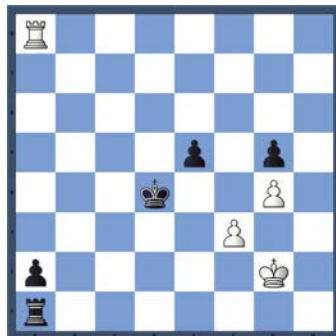
62... ♖a2+ Of course Black should not hurry with playing a2 after which the rook on a1 would have no moves. Black's idea in a perfect case should be to get his king to a2 and at the same time not to lose the e5 and g5 pawns.

63. ♔g3 White of course just keeps on waiting.

63... ♔d6 64. ♔h3 The correct move. To move the rook from a5 would be a crucial mistake because the black king would immediately cross the 5th rank.

64... ♔c6! Black is trying his only winning chance. [Let us take a look at how White would hold the position in case Black would push the pawn to a2: 64... ♖a1 65. ♔g2 a2 all White

needs to do now, is to keep the rook on the a file 66. ♖a8 ♔d5
67. ♖a7 ♔d4 68. ♖a8



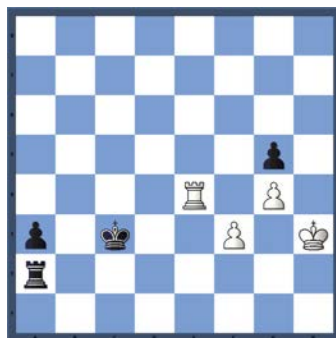
68... ♔e3 69. ♖a3+ ♔e2 70. ♖a4 and Black is not able to make any progress.]

65. ♖xe5 Of course the e5 pawn needs to be taken. Black wanted to play Kb6 and in case of Ra8 just Kb5 and the black king would help the a-pawn to promote.

65... ♔b6 66. ♖e6+ The most simple way of making a draw. White is planning to keep on checking the black king until it will be possible again to bring his rook to the a-file.

66... ♔b5 67. ♖e5+ ♔b4 68. ♖e4+ [Of course not 68. ♖xg5?? 68... ♖a1 69. ♖g8 a2 and Black is easily winning.]

68... ♔c3



69. ♖e3+! A good practical decision. Before getting the rook

on the a-file, White is trying to lure the black king as far away from the a-pawn as possible.

69... ♔d2 70. ♖e5 White is defending very well and not giving Black any winning chances. White not only wants to play Ra5 but Rxg5 is also already a threat.

70... ♖a1 [Black can not play for a win with 70... ♖b2? 71. ♖xg5 a2 72. ♖a5 ♔c1 73. g5 as the white pawns are too fast.]

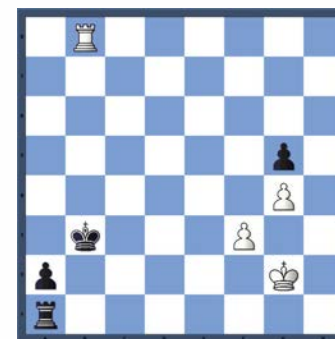
71. ♔g2 a2 72. ♖a5 And finally we are back in a theoretical draw position.

72... ♔c3 73. ♖a8 White keeps the passive defence which secures an easy draw.

73... ♔b3 Black wants to play Rc1 next.

74. ♖b8+ The last exact move. From now on nothing exciting can happen anymore.

74... ♔c3 75. ♖c8+ ♔b3 76. ♖b8+ ♔c3 77. ♖c8+ ♔b3 78. ♖b8+



78... ♔c3 79. ♖a8 ♔b3 80. ♖b8+ ♔c3 Irina Krush showed a great defence in a not so easy rook endgame. **1/2-1/2**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Capablanca, Jose Raul
- Czerniak, Moshe[B22]

Buenos Aires ol (Men) fin-A(3),
1939.09.04



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 ♖c6 [4...♗f6 5.♗c3 e6 6.♗f3 leads to the main positions. Black has two plans, with Bb4 and Be7.]

5.♗f3 [5.♗c3 probably transposes to the main lines after 5...Nf6 because taking the pawn should be very risky for Black, for example : 5...dxc4 6.♗xc4 ♗xd4 7.♗f3 ♗xf3+ 8.♖xf3 ♗f6 9.O-O and White has a strong initiative for the pawn.]

5...♗g4 6.cxd5 ♖xd5 7.♗e2 e6 8.O-O ♗f6 9.♗c3 ♖a5 10.h3 ♗h5



11.a3 White is not only preparing b4, but Qb3 as well. [If White immediately plays 11.♖b3 then Black plays 11...♖b4! since without the queens Black will have less problems.]

11...♖d8 12.g4 Capablanca decides not to lose any time since

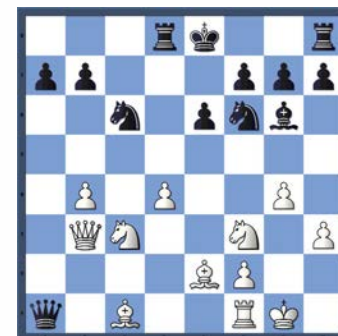
he is better developed and plays very actively. [12.♖b3!? 12...♖d7 13.♗e3 With the idea of Rd1-d5 or g4-Ne5 at some point.]

12...♗g6 13.b4 [13.♗b5 13...♗d6=+]



13...♗xb4!? Black decides to play very concretely. More solid was [13...♖c7 14.♗e3 ♗e7 15.♖c1 O-O 16.♖b3 (16.b5 16...♗xa3 17.bxc6 ♗xc1 18.♖xc1 ♖xc6 19.♗e5∞) 16...♖b8 17.♖fd1 If black manages to stop the d5 break then the position should even be better for him. 17...♗e4↔]

14.axb4 ♖xa1 15.♖b3 Now White is hunting for the black queen.



15...♖xd4 [15...O-O 16.♗b2 (16.♗a3 16...♗c2!) 16...♗a5 17.bxa5 ♖xa5 The material situation is not bad for Black but after 18.♗a3 the white pieces get strong activity. 18...♖fe8

19.♙b5 ♘d7 20.♞e5 (20.d5!?) 20...♞xe5 21.dxe5 ♙d3
22.♙xe8 ♙xf1 23.♙xf7+ ♖xf7 24.♖xf1 ♜xe5 25.♜xb7+ ♖g8
Black needs to be very careful now.]

16.♙a3 [16.♞xd4 16...♞xd4 17.♜c4 ♜xc3—+]

16...♙c2 17.♜xc2?! White could create more practical problems after: [17.♜xa1 17...♙xb3 18.b5 ♜d8 19.bxc6 bxc6 Once again we have a situation where the material is not enough for Black, as White has a strong initiative thanks to his active pieces. 20.♞e5 ♞d5 21.♞b5↑]

17...♜xa3 18.♞b5

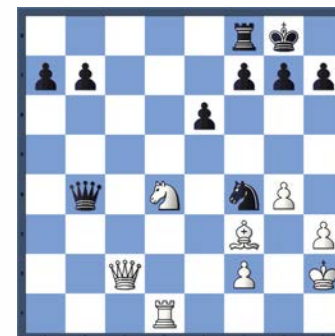


18...♜xb4?! Probably more accurate was to reduce the material after: [18...♜xg4+ 19.hxg4 ♜xb4 20.♞e5 (20.♞c7+ 20...♙d7+) 20...O-O 21.♞xc6 (21.♜b1 21...♜f4 22.♞xc6 bxc6 23.♞xa7 ♞xg4∞) 21...bxc6 22.♜xc6 ♞xg4 Black can't be worse here.]

19.♞fxd4 ♞xd4 20.♞xd4?! White missed the chance to leave the black king in the center and get strong pressure after [20.♜c8+! 20...♙e7 21.♜c7+ ♞d7 22.♞xd4 ♜xd4 23.♜d1 ♜a4 24.♜d6+ ♙e8 25.♜c1→XKe8]

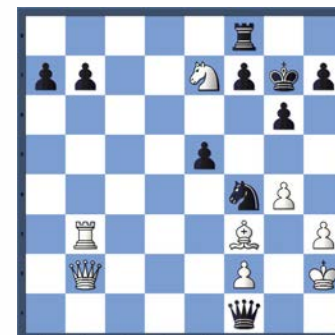
20...O-O 21.♜d1 ♞d5 [21...♜d8 22.♜c7↑; 21...♜e7 22.♙f3 ♜d8 With a solid position for Black.]

22.♙f3 ♞f4 23.♙h2



23...e5?! I don't like this move at all because now the d5 and f5 squares will be useful for White. [23...♜e7 A very solid move which prevents Qc7 and prepares Rd8 or Qh4.]

24.♞f5 g6 25.♞e3 [25.♜b1 With the simple idea just to check on e7 and then win the b7 pawn, so Black plays 25...♜a3 26.♜b3 ♜a1 with the counterplay idea Qf1. 27.♜b2 ♜f1 (27...♜xb2 28.♞e7+ ♖g7 29.♜xb2 b6 30.♞c6 White is winning a pawn.) 28.♞e7+ ♖g7



29.♜xe5+ f6 30.♜e3 Taking the knight on f4 would lead to a draw by perpetual check. 30...♜xh3+ 31.♙g1± The white pieces are more dangerous than the black ones.]

25...♞e6 [25...♜e7 26.♞d5 ♞xd5 27.♜xd5 b6 28.♜a4 After the e5 move Black has weakened his light squares, which is

why White is better here.]

26. ♖d5 ♙a3 **27.** ♖d3 ♙a1 **28.** ♖d1 ♙a3 **29.** ♖d3 ♙a1
30. ♙d2 With the idea Qh6.

30... ♔g7 **31.** ♙e2 With the idea Rd1.

31...f6 **32.** ♙e3 We still have material equality but the white pieces already have great active positions, which is why Black's position is very difficult. White is preparing Ra3.

32...a6? Black could still fight after [32... ♙a6 with the idea 33. ♖a3 ♙d6 and is not possible to take the pawn on a7.]

33. ♖d1 The white pieces are very well coordinated. The black pawns and king are weak. White has a decisive initiative.

33... ♙b2

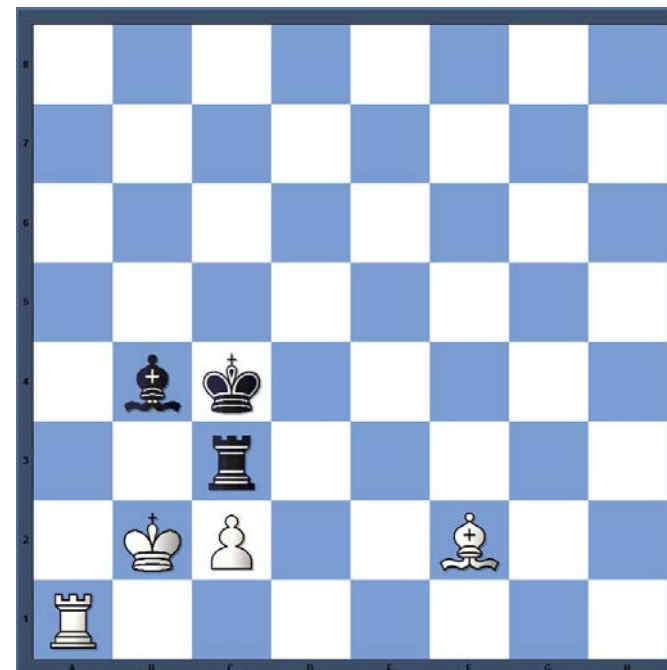


34. ♖c3! ♖d4 **35.** ♖b1 ♙c2 **36.** ♙e4 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Kubbel

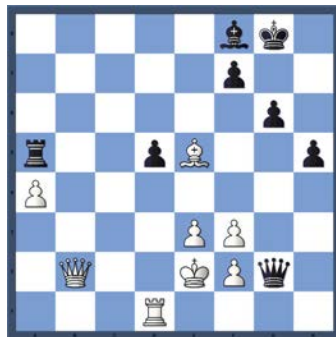
1. +-



Solutions

(19) Iturrizaga, E(2653)-Nakamura, H(2775)

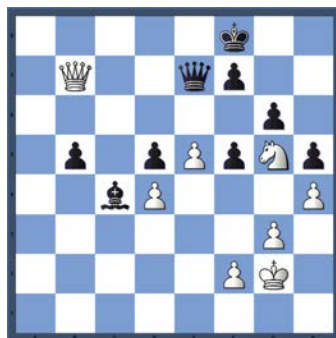
World rapid Championship, 2014.06.16



39. ♖b6! ♜g5? [39... ♜xa4 40. ♜f6 ♜a2+ 41. ♙b2! ♜xb2+ (41... d4 42. ♜xd4+-) 42. ♜xb2+- h4 43. ♜xd5 h3 44. ♜f6! h2 45. ♜d7+-] **40. ♙f4 ♜f5 41. ♜xa5+-**

(20) Amin, B(2635)-Radjabov, T(2724)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.16



43. ♘h7+! 1-0 [43. ♘h7+ 43... ♙e8 44. ♘f6+ ♙f8 45. ♜c8+ ♙g7 46. ♜g8+ ♙h6 47. ♜h7#]

(21) Yu Yangy(2675)-Svidler, P(2753)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.16

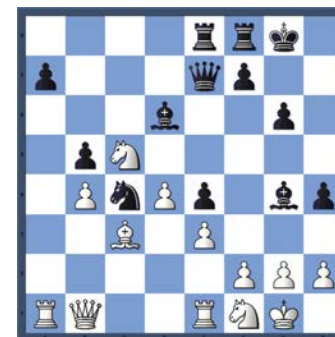


22. ♙xh7+! ♙xh7 [22... ♙h8 23. ♜dd1+-]

23. g6+! fxc6 24. ♜h3+ ♙g8 25. ♜xe6+ ♙f8 [25... ♙h8 26. ♜g3+-] **26. ♜d6+ ♙g8 27. ♜dd1+-**

(22) Milov, V(2622)-Karjakin, S(2771)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.16

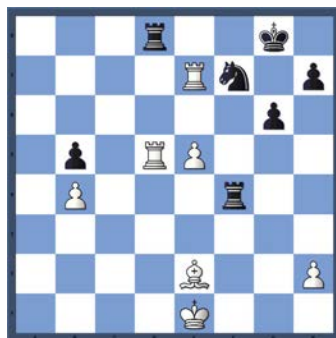


25... ♙f3! 26. gxf3 ♜g5+ 27. ♙h1 [27. ♘g3 27... hxc3 28. hxc3 exf3 29. ♘e4 (29. ♜d1 29... ♜g4+-) 29... ♜f5! 30. ♘xd6 ♜h3+-]

27... exf3 28. ♘g3 hxc3+- 29. fxc3 f2 30. ♜e2 ♙xc5 31. dxc5 ♜xe3 32. ♜xe3 ♜xe3 0-1

(23) Harikrishna, P(2726)-Najer, E(2653)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.16

**38. ♖xf7! ♕xf7** [38... ♖xd5 39. ♖xf4+-]**39. ♖xd8+-****(24) Fier, A(2580)-Ragger, M(2632)**

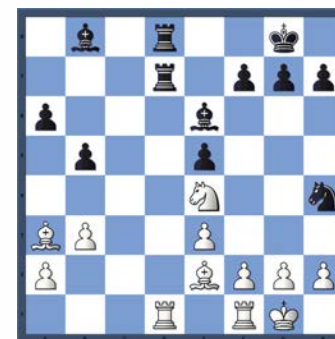
World rapid Championship, 2014.06.16

**27... ♖d4+! 28. ♖g3 ♖d8! 29. ♖d1!! ♖xd1!** [29... ♖e5+? 30. f4]**30. ♖xg7! = ♖e1+ 31. ♖h3 ♖h1+ 32. ♖g3 ♖e1+=****(25) Moiseenko, A(2707)-Caruana, F(2791)**

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.16

**15... ♕c5! 16. ♖f4 ♖xe5! 17. ♖xe5 ♖e8 18. ♖f5 ♖xe2+****(26) Le Quang Lie(2712)-Bologan, V(2661)**

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.16

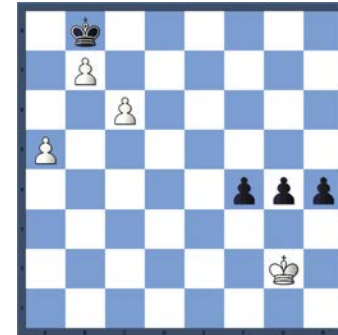
**28. ♕e7! 1-0** [28. ♕e7 28... ♖xd1 (28... ♖xe7 29. ♖xd8+-) 29. ♕xd1! +- ♖c8 30. ♕xh4+-]

(27) Safarli, E(2649)-Radjabov, T(2724)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.16

**25...♔e2!—+ 0-1****(28) Zhurikhin, A(2333)-Najer, E(2653)**

Russian Higher league, 2014.06.11

**32...♖c6!—+****(29) Behting****1.♔g1!! [1.a6? 1...g3!—+]**

1...♔a7 [1...g3 2.♔g2 ♔c7 3.b8=♖+!! ♔xb8 4.a6+—; 1...f3 2.♔f2 h3 3.♔g3 ♔c7 4.b8=♖+!! ♔xb8 5.a6+—; 1...h3 2.♔h2 f3 3.♔g3 ♔c7 4.b8=♖+!! ♔xb8 5.a6+—]

2.b8=♖+!! ♔xb8 3.a6 f3 4.♔f2 h3 5.♔g3 h2 6.♔xh2 f2 7.♔g2 g3 8.♔f1+—



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 123

6th of July 2014

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Editorial Preface

The 5th Hainan Danzhou super tournament ended with a double victory of the Chinese players Bu and Ding Liren, both with a very good 6.5/9. The 3rd-4th places were shared by your commentator and Ponomariov with 5.5/9.

In the Edmonton International, as expected, we saw a total domination by Ivanchuk and So who totally crushed the field. Ivanchuk finally scored 8/9 and So came second with 7.5/9.

The Greek league been won by PS Peristeriou.

There is not much else going on from the main chess events, but from next week on we can look forward to the start of the Dortmund Schachtage with Caruana, Kramnik, Leko,...

We hope you enjoy this week's issue with some nice positional wins.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Bu Xiangzhi(2693)**
- **Wei Yi(2634) [A15]**

5th Hainan Danzhou GM(6),
2014.07.01



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Bu seems to know his countrymen very well as he scored an amazing 4,5/5 score with the white pieces. In the current game against the probably strongest/ youngest GM in the world, Wei Yi, who is just 15 years old, Bu chooses a very solid opening and enters a slightly better endgame, which doesn't seem to be so serious at first, but slowly but surely he outplays his opponent which makes Wei Yi panic and lose the game on the spot at some point.

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 The best Chinese players usually choose the Slav or KID.

3.b3 Well, not the most aggressive opening choice. Bu's strategy was probably just to play a chess game without going too deep into the theoretical lines.

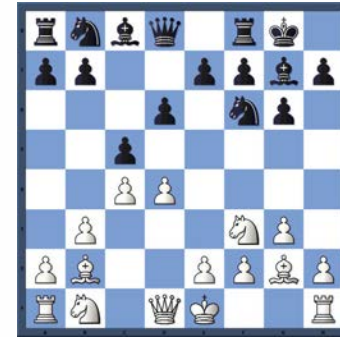
3...♗g7 4.♗b2 0-0 5.g3 A double fianchetto opening is actually more tricky than it looks like, how to react now for Black?!

5...d6 is a possible reply, but I don't think it's the strongest one. To me the best reaction seems to be 5...c5 followed by Nc6 and d5. I think White should have no advantage there. In case of 5...c6, with the idea of playing d5 next, White could get a small advantage by playing d3 (not d4) and then Nbd2.

6.d4 was probably played against the e5 move.

6...c5 is another possible move, but I think one more time Black is not playing the most principled. [6...e5!? seems to be the right way of playing to me, so in case of White's 7.dxe5 Black always has Ng4 or Nfd7, so there is no reason to be afraid of it. The next black move could be Nbd7, with an interesting position.]

7.♗g2



7...♔a5+ Quite a creative move. Black is provoking the white bishop to c3 to have the d5 idea, but on the other hand maybe it is too creative because the black queen is not going to have the best position on c7.

8.♗c3 [8.♘bd2 8...♗e4 looks more promising for Black.]

8...♔c7 9.♘bd2 Black wanted to play Ne4.

9...cxd4 Now we can see Black's idea.

10.♘xd4 d5 If we look at the position from a logical point of view, Black lost a tempo with playing d6 and then d5 and the queen on c7 is only going to stand under attack, so I think White's position should be better here.

11.0-0 Bu continues with logical moves. White should never be afraid of e5 because of Nb5.

11...♖d8 12.♖c1 ♔d7 A cool move by Black in what is already quite a difficult position. It is not easy to find a way to develop

the pieces. [12...dxc4 was losing on the spot: 13.♖xc4 e5 14.♗a5]

13.♘c2 Black already threatened to play e5 and it seems like the white knight has to move from d4, so Bu decides to play Nc2 with the future idea of playing Ne3-Nd5, which is quite logical. [Also possible was 13.♘4f3 and White would take the e5 square under control, which would make the g2 bishop even stronger.]

13...dxc4



14.♗a5! Very strong play! [After the peaceful 14.♖xc4 14...♗c6 Black should be fine because of the bad position of the white knight on c2.]

14...♖e8 15.♗xc4 Now the black rook is much more passively placed on e8.

15...♗c6 16.♗b4 I guess Bu planned this move when he played 13.Nc2. It looks quite strange to give up the bishop, but on the other hand the white knight and the bishop on g2 give White a clear initiative. The black bishop on g7 is somehow out of the game.

16...♗xa5 Black has to take on a5.

17.♖xd7 [Of course not 17.♗xa5? 17...♖b5!]

17...♗xd7 To play 17...Nxd7? is of course not an option.

18.♗xa5 b6! The only move after which Black is not losing the b7 pawn.

19.♗c4 White is transferring his knight over e5 to c6. [After 19.♗ac6 19...a5 20.♗d3 ♖ac8 Black keeps on fighting for equality.]

19...♖ac8 20.♗e5 The position almost looks like a draw, but White still keeps putting pressure, so Black needs to continue being very accurate.

20...♗f5 Maybe after this little inaccuracy Black is already finding himself in a bad position. [It seems like the best way to fight was 20...♗b5 Of course White has different options too, but let us take a look at the most logical one: 21.♗c6 ♗xc6 22.♗exc6 ♖c7 Black is very passive but also very solid. 23.♗a6 ♖b7 24.♖fd1 e6 Of course White is still better, but it is very hard to prove that there are realistic chances for a win here.]

21.♗bc6! Another very strong move by White. The idea is to win the control over the c-file.

21...♖c7 22.♗d4 Attacking both the f5 bishop and the c7 rook.



22...♗d5?! Once again Black doesn't take his best chance. [After 22...♖xc1 23.♖xc1 ♗e4 24.♗dc6 White has a solid

advantage.; The right way to defend seems to be 22...♖ec8! 23.♖xc7 ♖xc7 24.♘xf5 gxf5 25.♖d1 h6 and of course White is better here, but Black's chances for a draw are not that bad. In case White tried to win material with 26.♖d8+ ♔h7 27.♘xf7? Black could even take over the game with 27...♖c1+ 28.♕f1 ♘e4 as the position is already totally unclear.]

23.♘xf5 gxf5 24.♖xc7 ♘xc7 25.♘c6 After some forced exchanges, we are entering a position where White has a huge advantage. Not only the knight on c6 guarantees White a small plus, but the black knight from c7 doesn't have any good squares either and White just wants to enter with his rook to d7 by playing Rd1-Rd7. Black's position is on the verge of being lost.

25...♘b5 26.♖d1 Of course not letting Black play Nd4.

26...♕f6 27.a4 Another nice move by White. It is clear that Black's only option is to somehow get an opposite colored bishop endgame with a pawn down and try to save it. By playing a4 White doesn't give Black any hope for it.

27...♘c3



28.♖d7 a5 Black continues defending passively. [Black should have tried 28...♘xe2+ 29.♔f1 ♘c3 30.♖xa7 and of course White's position is close to winning, but maybe Black could hope for some tricks with moves like e5, followed by e4

with some practical chances. In case Black just waited, White is just going to play b4-a5 and the a-pawn is going to be very hard to stop.]

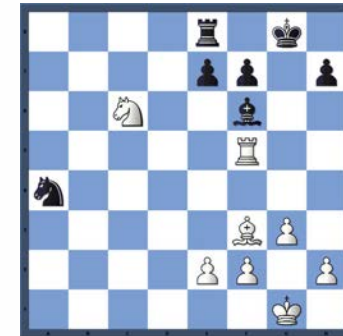
29.♕f3! Solid and strong. White also keeps the Bh5 idea in mind.

29...b5?! Black panicks and after this move the game is lost. [To a very bad, but still a fighting position would lead 29...e5 30.♕h5 ♖f8 and there doesn't seem to be a forced win for White, although Black's position is just horrible.]

30.axb5 ♘xb5 31.♖d5 Now White just ends up a pawn up.

31...♘c3 32.♖xf5 a4 It is too late for exchanges...

33.bxa4 ♘xa4



34.e4! Accurate until the end. Black can't stop White from playing e5 and Bh5 next. It is game over.

34...♕g7 35.♕h5 A very clean positional win by Bu, showing great domination of the bishop+knight, which is quite typical for Catalan structures where White often has a strong bishop on the a8-h1 diagonal. A nice game to learn from! **1-0**

**(2) Xiu Deshun(2550)
- Ding Liren(2714) [D45]**

5th Hainan Danzhou GM(9),
2014.07.04



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



We are in the last round of the tournament and Ding Liren really needs a win to catch up with Bu and if he had a better tie-break it would even mean a tournament victory. It is never easy to win with Black, but we will see how he clearly shows a better understanding of the position and finally White blunders under pressure and transposes into a pawn endgame, which was very well calculated by Ding Liren.

1.d4 d5 I guess this was a little opening surprise for Xiu Deshun, as most of the Chinese players mainly play the Slav.

2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 c6 And we are back to the Slav.

5.e3 ♘bd7 Actually one thing is quite funny and that is that most of the Top Chinese players are working together, which means they should have quite similar opening preparation. Now the question is, how do they manage to get a good or bad position after the opening, having almost exactly the same files?! I have been wondering about it for a long time...

6.♚c2 ♕d6 7.♕d3 dxc4 8.♕xc4 b5 9.♕d3 ♕b7 This is a not very often played move order for Black, but not a rare one either.

10.0-0 White wants to enter the main position in case of Black's 10...0-0. [I think the critical line should be 10.e4 10...e5 11.dxe5 ♘xe5 12.♘xe5 ♕xe5 13.f4 with a very fighting position, Bacrot-Nakamura, Biel 2013]

10...a6 This is the difference to 9...0-0 or 10...0-0. Black is trying to use the tempo to prepare the c5 push as fast as possible.

11.♘g5 This is usually a typical move, but here it is just wrong. Black did not castle yet so he doesn't need to defend the h7 pawn. [White could still play 11.e4 ; or 11.a4]

11...♚c7! Black is attacking h2 and at the same time preparing the c5 push, typical but nice anyway.

12.h3 [In case White would try a pawn sacrifice with 12.♘ge4 12...♘xe4 13.♘xe4 ♕xh2+ 14.♚h1 ♕d6 I don't see any compensation for White at all. 15.♘xd6+]

12...c5 So Black managed to play c5, which is always the key move in this kind of structures. Now White already needs to play very accurately not to get into a worse position.

13.♘ge4 The white knight has nothing to do anymore on g5.

13...♕e7 14.♘xf6+ [In case White tried to be tricky with 14.dxc5 14...♘xc5 15.♘xf6+ (15.♘xc5 15...♚xc5 We are back into the position from the game.) 15...gxf6! would crush all White hopes. Black's next moves could be Rg8 or even 0-0-0. White's position could be close to lost here!]

14...♘xf6 15.dxc5 ♚xc5 As we can see, Black is better developed with the symmetrical pawn structure which clearly

gives Ding Liren a small advantage. Of course with exact play, White should be able to hold his position.

16.e4 A little provocation by White, but of course the e4 move should be the right idea, just White could have started with 16.a3 first and only then have played e4.



16...♖c8 Ding Liren doesn't seem to be too interested in an endgame with a pawn up. [16...b4 looks quite tempting, but after 17.♙e3 (17.♞b3 doesn't lead anywhere. 17...♞c6 18.♘e2 ♘xe4 19.♘d4 ♞d5 With a pawn up for Black.) 17...♞c6 18.♘e2 ♞xc2 19.♙xc2 ♙xe4 20.♙a4+ ♚f8 21.♞ac1 the question is how much better is Black here?! White has some drawing chances because it is not that simple for Black to get the rook from h8 into the game.]

17.a3 O-O 18.♞e2 White is putting his pieces very solidly.

18...♞e5! A very tricky move.

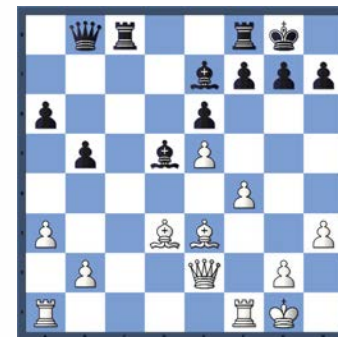
19.f4 It is not great for White to play f4-e5 in such pawn structures, there can never be an attack on the black king and by playing f4-e5 White is weakening his own king. But what else to do?! Black just wants to play Rfd8 next and White has no nice development moves. [Of course 19.♙e3? 19...♘xe4 just loses a pawn.]

19...♞b8 20.e5?! too early, White could have waited with

playing e5 at least till Black really forces it [For example 20.♙e3 looks very normal. 20...♞fd8 21.♞ac1 With a slightly forced position for White, but it is pretty holdable.]

20...♘d5 21.♘xd5 ♙xd5 At first sight, this position looks equal, but in fact it is very unpleasant for White and during the next moves Ding Liren is going to show us why.

22.♙e3



22...g6! A strong positional move. The g6 move is useful anyway and Black is preparing to play h5-h4 in the future, to fix the white pawn structure even more.

23.a4?! The idea of exchanging the pawns is of course the right one, but currently it is not the right moment for it. [23.♞ac1 looks more solid. White's idea should clearly be to exchange both pairs of rooks as fast as possible.]

23...♙c4! Another right decision by Black. The white squared bishops have to be exchanged, which will make it easier for Black to expose the domination on the white squares and the white king is also getting weaker.

24.♞fc1 ♙xd3 25.♞xd3 ♞xc1+ One pair of rooks is going to be exchanged anyway.

26.♞xc1 bxa4 [After 26...♞d8 27.♞e4 bxa4 28.♞xa4 White seems to be holding somehow.]

27. ♖xa6 ♜b3 28. ♜e2 ♜b8 29. ♜c2 Black has improved his position almost to the maximum. Now Black's advantage is already more visible, White has a weakness on b2 and the f4 pawn could also be a potential target.



29...h5! Another excellent positional move. Black wants to play h4 next, fixing White's bad pawn structure.

30. ♜c1 Xiu Deshun is playing too passively. [30. ♜d4 would probably give better chances.]

30...♜d8 Black is bringing his rook into the attack.

31. ♜h2 ♜d3 Of course a move like Rd3 can't be a bad one, but was it really needed?! If I was Black, I would have kept the rooks on the board and played a move like 31... Kg7. I think in a practical game White's position is very hard to defend.

32. ♜d2! White is using the moment and exchanges the rooks.

32...♜xd2 33. ♜xd2 Now the defensive task is getting a bit more easy for White, but the position is still bad. Almost any endgame could be lost for White because of the horrible pawn structure.

33...h4 It can't be a bad thing to fix the white pawn structure.

34. ♜f2 ♜f8! Once again Black finds the right way to go on.

35. ♜e3 ♜e8 36. ♜d2 ♜b4?! This kind of move is really hard

to explain but it is obvious that Black blundered something. [Black should have played the more solid 36... ♜c4 with the idea of playing Bb4 next and then if possible Kd7-Kc6. White's position is really difficult to defend.]

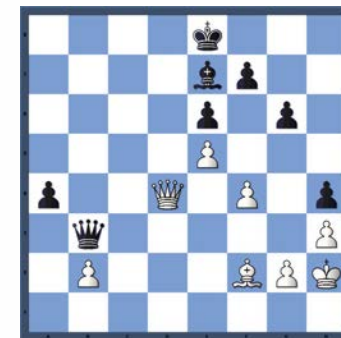
37. ♜d4 ♜e7 Well, it is better to recognize one's own mistake as fast as possible.

38. ♜f2 Another strange move by White. [38. ♜e4! would not let the black king stand in the center. 38... ♜d7 would be too dangerous now. 39. ♜d4+]]

38...♜c2 is not the best move either, but probably both players were in time trouble. After move 40 the games gained in quality again.

39. ♜e3 ♜b3 Qe4 was possible again.

40. ♜f2 After the 40th move both players got extra 30 minutes, so Ding Liren had to think about how to get the best winning chances and he finds it.



40...♜b4! With the exchange of the queens Black's winning chances are not getting worse because of the great position of the black king on e8, who gets to the center faster than White's one from h2.

41. ♜g1 It seems like White doesn't have anything better already.

41...♔xd4 42.♙xd4 ♕d7 43.♖f2 ♖c6 And here comes the move with which White throws away the game:

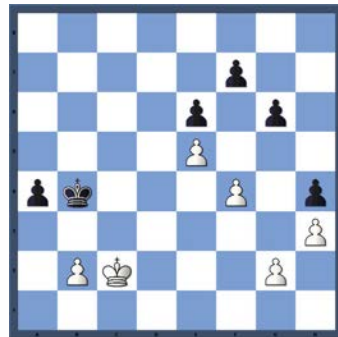
44.♖e3? A clear miscalculation in a bad position. [44.♖e2 was a more resistant move, but after 44...♖b5 45.♖d3 ♖b4 46.♖c2 ♖c4 47.♙f2 Black clearly keeps good winning chances, with the g5 idea in a good moment.]

44...♙c5!! Black perfectly calculates the pawn endgame and evaluates it as winning!

45.♖d3 ♙xd4 46.♖xd4 ♖b5 From now on all moves are pretty forced.

47.♖c3 ♖c5 Black is winning the opposition and is entering the 4th rank with his king.

48.♖d3 ♖b4 49.♖c2



49...♖c4 And again White cannot stop the black king.

50.♖b1 White is trying to go for the a4 pawn, but nothing helps anymore. [50.♖d2 50...♖d4 and the game would be over immediately.]

50...♖d3! The last precise move of the games, but it is just too easy too miss.

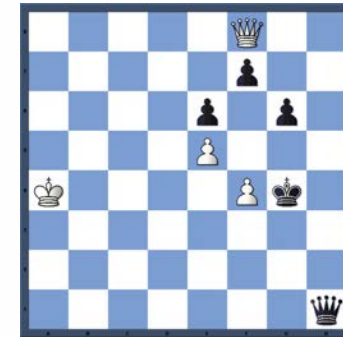
51.♖a2 ♖e3 Now we are entering a totally winning queen endgame.

52.♖a3 ♖f2 [52...♖xf4 was of course also possible.]

53.♖xa4 ♖xg2 54.b4 The pawns are running...

54...♖xh3 55.b5 ♖g4 56.b6 h3 57.b7 h2 58.b8=♖ h1=♖ Black is a pawn up and the f4 pawn is going to fall. There is no hope for White to survive here.

59.♖f8



59...♖e4+ All in all we saw a nice positional win by Black from which we can clearly see what White should not do in Slav and of course how dangerous such a peaceful looking pawn structure can actually be. **0-1**

**(3) Balogh, Csaba(2648)
- Petrov, Marijan(2438) [B45]**Greek league,
2014.07.03GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

I have managed to win a nice attacking game. The attack itself was already quite easy and I had a wide choice of good moves, but I was very happy about one of my moves in the middlegame, which had a deep idea behind it. After my opponent played the most obvious move and missed my point, it determined the entire game...

1.e4 c5 2.♘e2 Usually I don't do such things in the opening and I actually wanted to transpose to the open Sicilian, just with this move order I wanted to avoid a particular line, that my opponent plays from time to time.

2...♗c6 3.♗bc3 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♗xd4 We are back to the classical Sicilian main lines.

5...♗f6 [The highly popular continuation nowadays is the Taimanov Defence: 5...♖c7]

6.♗db5



6...♗b4 A quite annoying line, especially when the White

player wants to win, because it leads the game to a one sided position, where White has a very small, but longterm advantage, but Black's position is solid and very hard to crack. [More common is 6...d6 7.♗f4 e5 8.♗g5 when we have suddenly transposed to the Sveshnikov variation with an unusual move order.]

7.a3 ♗xc3+ 8.♗xc3 Gaining the pair of bishop without even having to damage the pawn structure should be an achievement for White.

8...d5 9.exd5 exd5 10.♗d3 O-O 11.O-O d4 12.♗e2 We have reached the initial position of this line, where Black can choose between several plans. At the moment, White has the pair of bishops and a well blockaded isolated pawn on d4. Black should aim for trading the light squared bishops, which would definitely ease his defensive task. [12.♗e4 is more logical, but less good because Black can get rid of the two bishops by playing 12...♗f5! 13.♗g5 (13.♗xf6+ 13...♖xf6) 13...♗xe4! 14.♗xe4 h6! and one of the bishops must take a knight, but then the advantage evaporates. 15.♗h4 (15.♗xf6 15...♖xf6) 15...g5 16.♗xc6 bxc6 17.♗g3 ♖d5= is considered to be equal.]

12...♗g4 The most natural move with the idea of creating an annoying pin and trading the bishops with Bh5-g6. [Another option with the same idea is 12...♖d5 White should prevent the Bf5 plan with 13.♗f4 ♖d6 14.♗h5! and theory gives an edge for White.]

13.f3 This unpinning move is necessary, even though it creates a hole on e3 for the black knight. [The best would be if White could play 13.♗g5 13...♖d6 14.♖d2 but here Black has 14...♗xe2! 15.Bxe2 moves into Ne4. 15.♖xe2 ♗fe8 16.♖f3 (16.♖d1 16...♗e5 Black either becomes very active or he takes the bishop pair.) 16...♗e5 17.♖g3 ♗h5 and Nxd3 next solves

the opening problems.]

13...♘h5 14.b4 Actually I played this move without thinking from memory, but after taking the conclusions of this game, I would rather say it is an inaccuracy. The idea would be a quick attack against the d4 pawn with Bb2 or b5, but Black has his resources to neutralize it. [More natural and better is 14.♘g5 14...♖d6 15.♗d2 when White should have a small edge.]

14...♗b6! Well played, Black has to strengthen his d4 pawn.



We have reached the moment when I played the move I was proud of after 30 minutes of thinking.

15.♗f2!? The novelty of the game. I started my calculation with the three most natural moves, but I was unable to find an advantage in any of them, which forced me to check some artificial alternatives. The main point of the move is to create the threat of Bb2 followed by taking on d4, which wins a pawn, because Black cannot take it twice in view of Bxh7 discovery check, winning the queen. As long as the rook was on f1, Black would have taken on d4 with check. The move is also useful in the sense that it leaves from the Ne3 fork in some lines, when White plays Bb2 and Black replies with Nd5. My opponent realized my idea of Bb2 and strengthened his d4 move with the most logical Rad8, but it runs into the second part of my plan... [The most common move was 15.♘f4 15...♘g6

16.♘g6 hxg6 Black threatens to play Ne5, therefore 17.f4 is possible, with the idea to launch a very dangerous attack, but I was worried about 17...♘e7! 18.♗f3 ♘f5 and Black prevents the attack and starts to jump on the e3-e4 squares. With the pawn on f2, White would have an edge, but now the e3 square is just too weak.; On the direct 15.♘b2 15...♗ad8 consolidates the d4 pawn. 16.b5 ♘e5 17.♘xd4 ♗xd4 18.♘h7+ ♖xh7 19.♗xd4 ♗xb5 Black is fine.; 15.♘g5 15...♘d5 16.♗d2 ♘g6 is also OK for Black.]

15...♗ad8? Black defends against the Bb2 threat, but moves into another idea. [A natural move which ignores White's idea like 15...♗fe8 runs into 16.♘b2 ♗ad8 17.b5 ♘e5 18.♘xd4! wins a pawn as Qxd4 at the end is not a check anymore. 18...♗xd4? 19.♘xd4 ♗xd4 20.♘h7++-; 15...a6 is also wrong because of 16.♘g5 ♘d5 17.♘e4! This is another point of Rf2, that there is no d3 check now. White gets a big advantage. 17...♘e3 18.♗d3 The e3 knight is not supported well and White wins a pawn in view of the double threat on h7 and Nxd4. 18...♘g6 19.♘xg6 hxg6 20.♘xd4!±; However after the strong 15...♘g6! Black seems to equalize. That is why I believe that 14.b4 is an inaccuracy.]

16.♘g5! White has not determined the situation of the c1 bishop and after Black has prepared for the real threat, Bb2, suddenly the bishop develops on the other diagonal more effectively.

16...♘e5 Black could not allow me to take on f6, seriously damaging the structure and he seemingly just improves his position with each move. He safely covers the f6 knight now, is ready to take on d3 or to play Bg6. However a plan changes the entire evaluation:



17. ♖g3! ♜g6 18. f4! Suddenly the bishop on g6 gets trapped!

18... ♜xd3 The only move, but it burries the g6 bishop for the entire game. [The tactical justification of the idea was that 18... ♜eg4? drops a piece in view of 19. ♜xf6! ♜xf2 (19... ♜xf6 20. f5+-) 20. ♜xd8! ♜xd1 21. ♜xb6+- White ends up with an extra piece from the complications.; 18... ♜xd3? also loses to 19. fxe5]

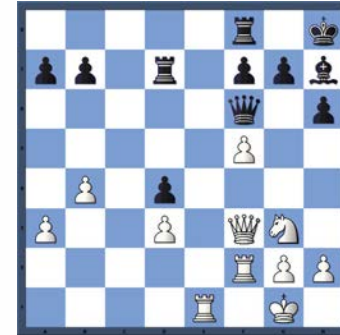
19. cxd3 h6 Black had to give a square to his bishop because of the f5 threat.

20. ♜xf6 ♜xf6 21. f5 ♜h7 This was the position I was hoping for when I played 15. Rf2 and surprisingly I did not make any miscalculation this time. White has gained a big advantage due to the difference between the strong knight either on e4 or h5 and the poor bishop on h7, which just has a really small chance to enter the game again.

22. ♜f3 White brings his heavy pieces to the game with tempo.

22... ♜d7 23. ♜e1 The most important opened file belongs to White now as well. The advantage is increasing with each move.

23... ♜h8 As they say, in a bad position there are only bad moves.



We have reached another critical moment. White is better in any case, but he has to decide about his next plan. He can play positionally with Rfe2 for instance, with a great positional advantage thanks to the h7 bishop, or try to launch an attack with f6, which on the other hand opens the diagonal of the bishop. I decided to go for the latter one... [Black could not fight for the e-file with 23... ♜e7 because it moves into 24. ♜e4 ♜e5 25. f6! and Black faces a very a strong attack.]

24. ♜h5! I think that this is the most effective way to attack in connection with f6.

24... ♜d8 [I expected 24... ♜g5 but it was also bad in view of 25. f6 g6 (25... gxf6 26. ♜xf6 ♜c7 and in the worst case White wins a pawn after 27. ♜xh7 ♜xh7 28. ♜e4+ Taking on d4 next and maintaining good attacking chances.) 26. ♜g3+- and the bishop is dead.; Objectively the best was 24... ♜c6 but who would like to enter an endgame where he is practically a piece down and moreover Black also destroys his pawn structure with this move. 25. ♜xc6 (25. ♜g4 25... f6 26. ♜fe2 is also promising.) 25... bxc6 26. ♜e5!± Black has 3 weak pawn on the queenside and his bishop is stuck.]

25. f6 gxf6? This helps, but Black was lost anyway. [On 25... g6 26. ♜g7! is strong. Black cannot even trade a pair of rooks with Re8, while White is sometimes threatening to play Rfe2-e8, creating problems on the back rank. But a

simple attack on the h6 pawn with the queen is also quite unpleasant. 26...♔c7 (26...♖d6 is always met by 27.♖e7+-) 27.♔h3



White has a pretty finish here with: 27...h5 28.♘h5!! gxh5 29.♖f5!! Rxh5 is killing and on 29...♙xf5 30.♔xf5+- Black cannot prevent the mate.; 25...g5 White has many good moves. Perhaps the most effective is 26.h4 ♖d5 (26...♖g8 27.hxg5 ♖xg5 28.♘g7! I like this knight a lot, which excludes the black rook from g8 and supports Re8!; 26...gxh4 27.♔f4+-) 27.♖e7+-]

26.♔f4! My opponent missed that White was not forced to take on f6, but the loss of the h6 pawn will cause even bigger problems. [White was also winning after 26.♘xf6 26...♖e7 27.♖ef1 ♙g6 This was his idea, trying to consolidate with Kg7 next, but White wins after 28.♔f4 ♙g7 29.♘g4+-]

26...f5 The only move, but it is equal to resignation. [26...♖g8 27.♘xf6+-]

27.♔xh6 f6 All moves are winning here, which is not a big surprise if we look at the position.

28.♖e6 [28.♖xf5 was also good.]

28...♖e7 [28...♖df7 29.♖xf5+-]

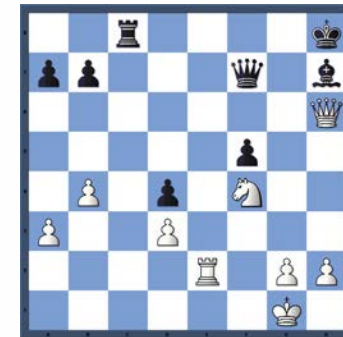
29.♖fe2 ♖ef7 [29...♖xe6 30.♔g7#]

30.♖xf6! White already has an extra pawn and he still maintains the mating attack. The game is over...

30...♔c7 [On 30...♔c8 I was ready to play the pretty 31.♖e7! as the c1 square is covered by the queen. Black gets mated.; 30...♖xf6 31.♔g7#]

31.♖xf7 ♔xf7 32.♘f4 White is threatening to play Ng6 Qxg6 Qxf8!

32...♖c8 [32...♖e8 loses to 33.♖xe8+ ♔xe8 34.♔f6+ ♙g8 35.♘e6+- Mate is coming soon.; 32...♖g8 33.♔d6+- is equally hopeless.; 32...♙g8 33.♔g5+ ♙h8 (33...♔g7 34.♔xg7+ ♙xg7 35.♘e6+-) 34.♖e7+-]



33.♖e7! Everything else was also winning, but I could not resist playing such a move.

33...♖c1+ 34.♙f2 ♖c2+ 35.♙f3 [Black resigned. The knight stands perfectly on f4, from where it doesn't just prevent the check on d5, but also wins the queen in case of 35.♙f3 35...♔xe7 36.♘g6+ ♙g8 37.♘xe7+- Objectively 15.Rf2 is not an improvement because Black equalizes after Bg6!, but definitely a very tricky attempt to get an edge.] **1-0**

(4) Azarov, Sergei(2610) - Korley, Kassa(2412) [C42]

2nd DC International 2014(3.1),
2014.06.27



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

White wins this game in very nice style. First he gets an edge by obtaining a space advantage, then he improves all his pieces to the maximum and at the end, when all the circumstances justify it he launches a decisive attack against the black king and finishes the game with some spectacular blows.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 Black tries to be safe by choosing the super-solid Petroff/ Russian defence.

3.♘xe5 d6 4.♘f3 ♘xe4 5.c4 A rare line, which hardly causes serious problems for Black, but it might be very effective as a surprise weapon. White would like to avoid the standard strengthening of the center with d5.

5...♙e7 [The point is that if Black plays 5...d5 6.♘c3! ♘xc3 (6...♘f6 7.d4 is also a good Petroff for White.) 7.dxc3+= White gets an edge because taking on c4 would leave the black king vulnerable on d8, even without the queens on board.; Perhaps the best reply is 5...♘c6 and on 6.d4 (6.♘c3!? 6...♘xc3 7.dxc3 is interesting.) 6...d5 is a much better version compared to the 5...d5 line. 7.♘c3 ♙b4!]

6.d4 O-O [6...d5 is met by 7.♘c3 when playing Bb4 in two moves makes no sense, while 7...♘xc3 8.bxc3 should be a favorable exchange for White.]

7.♙d3 ♘f6 This move is already kind of admitting that something went wrong in the opening and White can claim an edge thanks to his space advantage.

8.h3! A very useful move before castling. White restricts the mobility of the c8 bishop, which wanted to go to g4, but now has no useful development.

8...♞e8 9.O-O ♘bd7 Black has much less space for manoeuvring with his pieces, but it is going to be tough to beat him anyway as he has no weaknesses at all. He intends to transfer his knight to g6, play Bd7, c6, Qc7 and Bf8. This setup is known in another line of the Petroff too, but here White has a better version.

10.♘c3 ♘f8 11.♞e1 Azarov chooses the most natural development to all his pieces.

11...♘g6



12.♞c2! This is also the best square for the queen to create a battery on the b1-h7 diagonal. White can sometimes play Bg5,

because h6 might weaken the outpost of the g6 knight.

12...c6 Black delays the Bf8 retreat to avoid the pin after Bg5. That is why White developed his queen first to keep this extra option for his bishop.

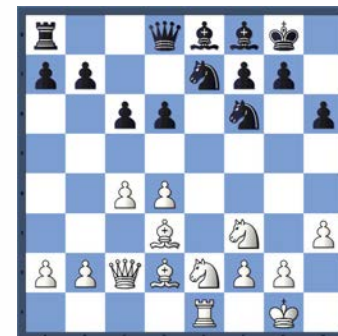
13.♖d2 The rooks are also connected now.

13...♗d7 Everything went smoothly for White so far, here is the first question how to improve the position. In my opinion the transfer of the knight to the kingside with Ne2-g3 would also make sense, but Azarov chooses another plan. As my coach said when I was younger, when Karpov does not find plan in a position, he always doubles his rooks...

14.♖e2 ♗f8 It was time to trade a pair of rooks to ease the position and to have more space for manoeuvring. [If Black starts with 14...♖c7 15.♖ae1 and only then 15...♗f8 16.♗g5 is unpleasant as it is not easy to deal with the f6 knight.]

15.♖xe8 ♗xe8 16.♖e1 h6 This is an unnecessary weakening. Black was clearly annoyed by the Bg5 options after Qc7, but it would have been more important to keep the safe outpost of the g6 knight. Additionally this move allows a very nice attacking option for White, which was executed effectively by Azarov in the game... [16...♗d7 should have been played, followed by Qc7 and Re8. Ignoring the Bg5 idea, allowing the capture on f6, just to get rid of some pieces and try to hold the endgame afterwards. Of course it is suffering, but in the current circumstances, this was the least worse option.]

17.♗e2 ♗e7 Black is becoming more and more passive. [Probably he was afraid of 17...♖c7 18.♗xg6!? fxg6 19.♗f4 creating some weaknesses and the knight jumps to e6 next. Still, it would have been a better try.]



18.g4! Black's passive pieces are calling for punishment. By using the h6 pawn, White launches an attack (and also takes space) in front of his king. According to the principles the right counterplay to such ideas is the opening of the center, but here White is able to keep it locked after both c5 and d5 by pushing through his own pawn.

18...♗d7 [18...d5 or 18...c5 would not achieve its goal, Black should have tried 18...b5 when White has to keep the structure with 19.b3 bxc4 20.bxc4 Opening the b-file is not a huge achievement, but it might only favor Black later on to find some counterplay. But of course White is better and c5 is still met by d5 while d5 is met by c5.]

19.♗g3 A last improvement before opening the new front.

19...♖c7 Black finally wants to bring his rook to e8 to initiate exchanges, but it is already too late. White breaks through!

20.g5! hxg5 21.♗xg5 Due to the threat of the two moves mate with Bh7 followed by Nxf7, Black cannot play Re8.

21...♗e8 Black protects his f7 pawn. White finds a brilliant idea to strengthen his attack. [It would have been better to parry the Bh7 threat with 21...g6 although White has a great position after the subtle 22.♖d1! transferring the queen to a more active position on f3! Black has no time for 22...♖e8 because of 23.♖f3 ♗g7 24.♗3e4!+- with decisive problems

around the f7 pawn.]

22. ♖h7+! ♔h8



23. ♖e4!! A very nice exchange sacrifice with the idea to transfer a heavy piece to h4.

23...g6 [Black has no defence after 23... ♖xe4 24. ♖xe4 f6 (24...g6 25. ♖h4 ♔g7 is refuted by 26. ♖xg6! ♖xg6 27. ♖f5+ ♔f6 28. ♖e4!+- White has other wins too, but this is the most precise according to the computer. Nh7 wins next.) 25. ♖e6! ♖c8 26. ♖h4! The only move to temporarily avoid mate is 26...g5 but White wins after 27. ♖xg5! fxg5 28. ♖xg5+- and the game is over.; The best chance would have been 23... ♖g6 but White has a winning advantage here as well after 24. ♖xg6 fxg6 25. ♖xe8! ♖xe8 26. ♖xg6+- Nf5 is coming next with decisive threats.] **24. ♖h4 ♔g7**



25.d5! Another great tactical blow! White brings another extremely strong attacker as Bc3 will create a deadly pin next! The game is over.

25...♖d7 26. ♖c3 ♖f5 27. ♖h5+! [Black resigned in view of 27. ♖h5+ 27...gxh5 28. ♖xf5 Black cannot hold the pin of his f6 knight for long. One possible finish could be 28... ♖e7 29. ♖xd7 ♖xd7 30. ♖h7+ ♔f8 31. ♖xf7#] **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Yu Yangyi(2675)-Ma Qun(2609)

Danzhou, 2014.06.30

1. +-



(6) Ivanchuk, V(2739)-Shankland, S(2632)

Edmonton, 2014.06.29

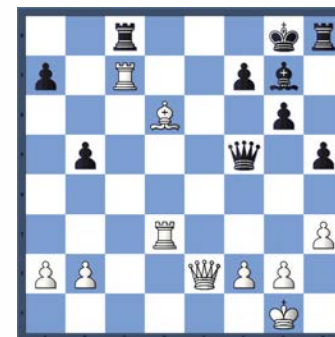
1. +-



(7) Hou Yifan(2629)-Stefanova, A(2488)

Lopota, 2014.06.24

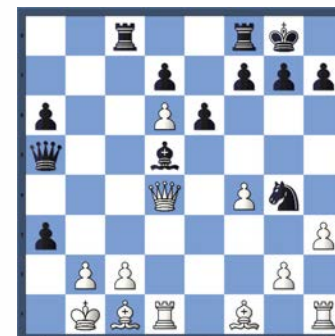
1. +-



(8) Cuartas, J(2483)-Zherebukh, Y(2616)

Montcada Open, 2014.06.26

1. ±



(9) Das, S(2352)-Vishnu, P(2459)

Montcada Open, 2014.06.27

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(10) Naroditsky, D(2559)-Ramirez Garcia, J(2287)

Montcada Open, 2014.06.28

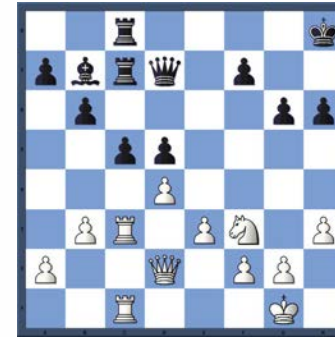
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(11) Bruzon, L(2694)-Yogesh, G(2101)

DC Internation Open, 2014.06.26

1. +-



(12) Azarov, S(2610)-Filipovich, D(2076)

DC International Open, 2014.06.26

1. +-



(13) Boros, D(2474)-Bruzon, L(2694)

DC International Open, 2014.06.27

1. +-



(14) Pert, R(2430)-Hebden, M(2544)

Kings place Open rapid, 2014.06.15

1... -+



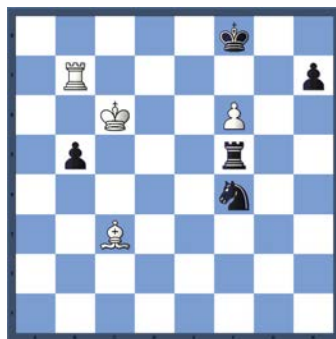
Endgame section

(15) Harikrishna, P.(2726)
- Dvirnyy, D.(2549)

Greek league,
2014.06.30



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

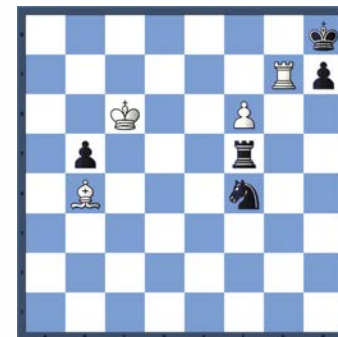


The following study-like position was reached. Black's last move was Rd5-f5 to avoid the promotion of the pawn after Bb4 check, followed by f7-f8. Despite being a pawn down and the limited amount of pieces, White is able to create brilliant threats...

56. ♖b4+! ♔g8 [56... ♕e8 immediately loses to 57.f7+! ♜xf7 58.♜b8#]

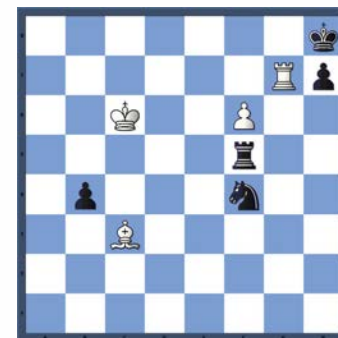
57. ♜g7+! Squeezing the king into the corner, but the key is the next move...

57... ♔h8

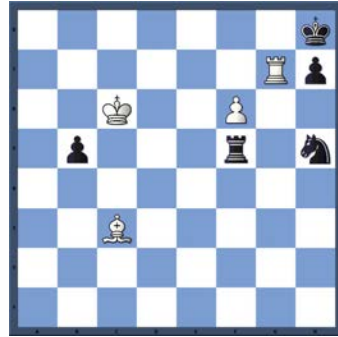


58. ♕c3! As simple as that! This battery on the a1-h8 diagonal is creating beautiful threats... Black has only one move here to survive, which he did not manage to find. I recommend to everyone to stop here for a while and try to calculate the lines.

58... ♘e6? [58...b4 is refuted by



59.f7! bxc3 60.♜g8#; 58... ♘h5 is the most natural, but White wins after the shocking...

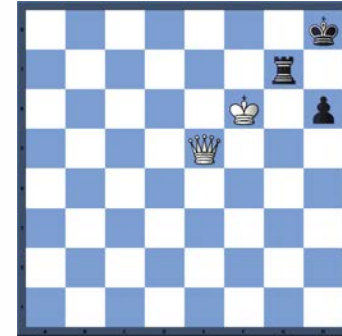


59. Rg5!! Rxf6+ and the trick is that White is not forced to take the rook, but he simply leaves from the check and then both the knight and the rook are going to fall. (59... Rxf6 60. f7+-) 60. Rxb5+-; The only defence was 58... Nd5! which leads to an important theoretical endgame after 59. Rg5 (59. f7 now runs into 59... Rxf7!! Another only move! 60. Rxf7+ Nxc3 and Black survives.) 59... Rxf6!! Other moves were losing again. (59... Rxf6+ 60. Rxd5+-) 60. f7+ Nxc3 61. f8=Q+ Rg8 62. Qf6+ Rg7 63. Qxc3

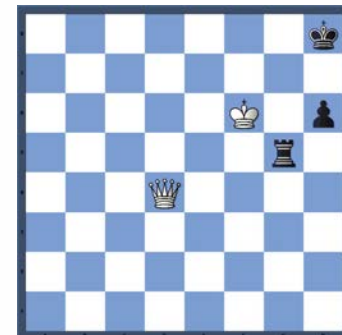


Here we are! This position is a theoretical draw (of course the b-pawn does not matter). Black has to put his pawn on h6. 63... h6 64. Rxb5 Rb7 65. Rc6 It is very important that Black should not let the white king pass the 7th rank and reach the f8 square. If he gives a check, White goes Kd7-e8 and at the end, there will be no check on g7. Therefore the right defence

is to wait with the king. 65... Rh8! 66. Rd6 Rh7 67. Re6 Rh8 68. Rf6 Rh7 69. Re5 Rh8



This is the maximum that White could reach and now he cannot make progress if Black defends accurately. Let's check some attempts: 70. Qe8+ Rh7 71. Qh5 (71. Qf8 71... Rg6+ 72. Rf7 Rg5 And the king will be forced to retreat by checks due to the unfortunate situation of the queen. Actually the f8 square is the only place where the white queen controls both the g7 and the g8 square, but he still cannot win. He is in a kind of zugzwang, White is forced to retreat with the queen, but then Black sends back the king too with checks...) 71... Rg5 72. Qf7+ Rh8 Actually the position Black must be careful about is the one with the king on f7 and queen on f6, which is winning for White and let's examine the reasons why: 73. Qe8+ Rh7 74. Qe4+ Rh8 75. Qd4



Here the only move is: (75.♔f7 is still useless because of the checks: 75...♖g7+) 75...♖g7!! (Other moves are losing, for instance 75...♔h7 76.♔f7 ♖g8 77.♜f6 ♖g5



This is the winning position for White and the method is very subtle: 78.♜e6!! sets Black into the decisive zugzwang. The rook has 3 protected squares, on g5, g7 and g8, but soon he loses all of them... 78...♖g8 79.♜f5+ ♔h8 80.♜f6+ ♔h7 81.♜e6! Another zugzwang in order to let the white king reach the ideal f8 square! 81...♖g5 82.♔f8+- This is the end, because the black rook is forced to go to a square where it is not protected... 82...♖g7 (82...♖g1 83.♜e4+ ♔h8 84.♜d4+ ♔h7 85.♜xg1+-) 83.♜f5+ ♔h8 84.♜f6+-)]

59.♖e7! White not only threatens to play f7, but also with backrank mate on e8.

59...♖c5+ 60.♔d6 ♔g8 [60...♖xc3 61.♖e8+ ♔f8 62.♖xf8#]

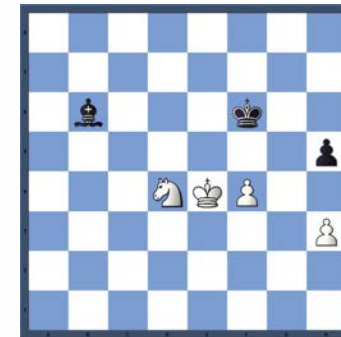
61.♕d2 Black resigned. There was nothing left to do. **1-0**

(16) Ma Qun(2609)
- Naiditsch, Arkadij(2705)

5th Hainan Danzhou GM(9),
2014.07.04



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

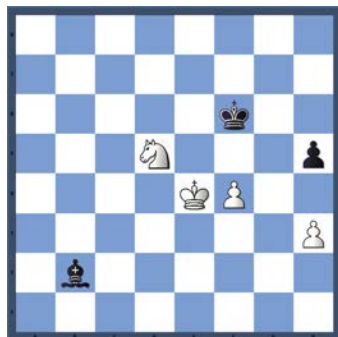


In a very interesting game I blundered in time trouble and got into a very bad endgame. After inaccurate play by my opponent, I managed to reach this drawish looking endgame, but making a draw is still not as simple as it looks. In case the white king manages to get to f5, it would be the end of my h-pawn as well. The idea of White is simple, to get his knight to d5 and after to play f5 and maybe Nf4, provoking my pawn to h4, where it would be an easier target.

53...♕a5! I find the right way to hold the position. I need the bishop on the diagonal a1-h8 to stop White from playing Ke5 later on. [Of course the pawn endgame is just lost for Black: 53...♕xd4? 54.♔xd4 ♔f5 55.♔e3 ♔f6 56.♔e4 ♔e6 57.f5+ ♔f6 58.♔f4 h4 59.♔g4 and I am losing the h-pawn too.; Keeping the bishop on the diagonal b8-h2 would be a mistake: 53...♕c7 54.♔f5 ♕b8 55.♔e3 ♕d6 56.♔d5+ ♔e6 57.f5+ ♔f7 58.♔f4 h4 59.♔f3 followed by Kg4, with very good winning chances for White.]

54. ♖f5 ♜c3 55. ♘e3 White is getting the knight to d5 as planned.

55... ♜b2 56. ♘d5+ And here comes the difference where we can see why it was so important to have the bishop on the right diagonal:



56... ♜g6! Not allowing White to play f5 that easily because of Kg5.

57. h4 White can't improve the position without playing h4, but now the h4 pawn is standing on the black square and is a perfect target for the black bishop. [57. f5+ 57... ♜g5 leads to an immediate draw.]

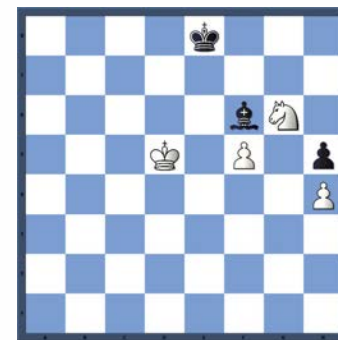
57... ♜g7! The most simple way of making a draw. White doesn't have anything better than playing f5 anyway and I am already preparing the transfer of my bishop to d2.

58. f5+ ♜f7 59. ♘f4 After this move the position is of course a draw. [The last chance for White was hoping for my mistake after 59. ♜f4 59... ♜h6+ 60. ♜e5 but now I had planned 60... ♜d2! followed by Be1 with a draw.]

59... ♜f6 60. ♘g6 The white knight can't move away from g6 because the h4 pawn is hanging, so White's only chance is to protect the pawn with his own king from g3 and to play Nf4 to attack the h5 pawn. All this is just too long and Black now

easily holds this endgame.

60... ♜e8 61. ♜d5



61... ♜d7 The white king can't enter anywhere.

62. ♘e5+ ♜e7 63. ♘f3 My opponent decides to give a try with the knight on f3, but it is basically the same.

63... ♜d7 64. ♘g5 ♜e7 I just keep on waiting...

65. ♘f3 ♜d7 66. ♘g5 ♜e7 67. ♜e4 ♜d6 68. ♜f4 ♜d5 69. ♘h7 So finally the game is coming to an end...

69... ♜xh4 70. f6 ♜e6 71. ♘g5+ ♜xf6 72. ♘e4+ ♜g6 73. ♘g3 ♜f6 74. ♘h5 Maybe the game looks like an easy draw, but believe me, it took me a while to figure out where to keep my bishop and to find 53...Ba5! **1/2-1/2**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Unzicker, Wolfgang
- Botvinnik, Mikhail[B08]

Varna ol (Men) qual-A(4), 1962



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♗f3 ♕g7 5.♕e2 O-O 6.♕f4

For me this is not the best place for the bishop. The main move is [6.O-O Here Black has a few possibilities to develop, for example: Bg4-Nc5 with the idea e5 or a6-b5/ b6-Bb7.]

6...♗c6



7.d5 [7.O-O 7...♕g4 With the idea to play e5 to fight for the d4 and e5 squares.]

7...e5 8.dxe6?! After this move Black will easily equalize. The way to try and get an advantage was [8.♕g5 8...♗e7 (8...♗b8 9.h3 Preventing Bg4 and also preparing the typical g4 move. 9...h6 10.♕e3 ♗h5 (10...c6!? to fight for the center.) 11.g3 f5 12.exf5 gxf5 13.♗xe5 ♗xg3 14.fxg3 dxe5 15.♖d2↑ White is going to castle queenside and keep the pressure on the kingside.

15...b6) 9.♖d2 h5!? 10.O-O-O ♗h7 11.♕h4 f5 Black is not forced to hurry with the f5 move. 12.exf5 gxf5 13.♗g5 ♗f6 With very complex play.]

8...♕xe6 9.O-O White can usually fight for an advantage in this structure thanks to his space white advantage, but in this case the white pieces, especially the bishops, are not well placed and Black will soon equalize the position in the center after the logical d5 move.

9...♖e8 10.♖e1 [10.♕b5 10...♕g4 11.♕xc6 bxc6 12.h3 ♕xf3 13.♖xf3 ♗d7 Black is fine.]

10...h6 Black could immediately play [10...d5 11.exd5 (11.e5 11...♗e4∞) 11...♗xd5 12.♗xd5 ♕xd5 With a completely equal position. 13.♕xc7? ♖xc7 14.♖xd5 ♕xb2 with Bc3 next.]

11.h3 g5 12.♕e3



12...d5= 13.exd5 ♗xd5 14.♗xd5 ♖xd5 15.c3 ♖xd1 16.♖exd1 ♖ad8 17.♕b5 ♕d5 18.♗d4 [18.h4 Compared to the game White could first play this move to weaken the black structure. 18...g4 (18...♕xf3 19.gxf3 gxh4 20.♖xd8 ♖xd8 21.♕xc6 bxc6 22.♕xa7 ♖d2 23.a4! White has the initiative thanks to the strong a-pawn. 23...♖xb2 24.a5 ♕xc3 25.a6↑) 19.♗d4 ♕xd4 20.♕xd4 a6 21.♕xc6 ♕xc6 22.♖e1 with the idea Kh2-Kg3.; 18.♕xc6 18...♕xc6 19.♕xa7?? b6-+]

18...♗xd4 19.♗xd4 a6 20.♗xc6 ♗xc6



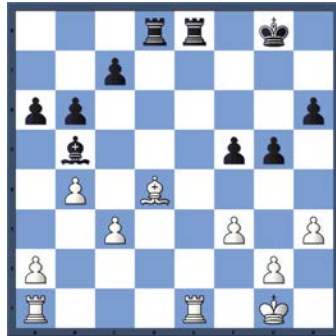
21.♖e1 The position should of course be drawish but thanks to slightly more active pieces Black is trying to create problems.

21...f5 Preparing Kf7 and f4, which limits the white bishop and fixes the weaknesses.

22.f3 ♗b5 Preparing b6-c5 which helps Black to take control of one of the files and come to the second rank. Otherwise White simply plays Kf2 and exchanges both rooks.

23.b4 White secures the bishop on d4, but on the other hand this move weakens the structure and the light squares as well.

23...b6

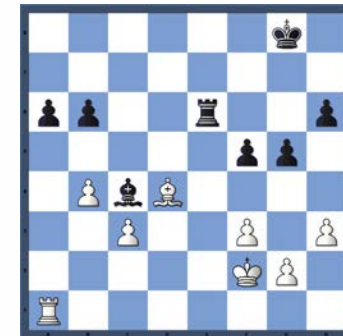


24.♖xe8+?! Why give up the e-file for nothing? [24.♖f2 24...♖xe1 25.♖xe1 c5 26.bxc5 bxc5 27.♗xc5 (27.♗e3? 27...f4 28.♗c1 ♖d3=+ XBc1) 27...♖d2+ 28.♖g1 ♖xa2 29.♖e6! White is on time with his counterplay. 29...♖h7 30.♗f8=]

24...♖xe8 25.a4 ♗c4 26.a5 White wants to secure the bishop on d4 and build a position where all pieces will protect each other. How we will see soon this task is not easy.

26...♖e6 27.axb6 cxb6 This structure is already better for Black, but the position should still be drawish. However the far passed pawn almost always gives chances to create practical problems.

28.♖f2

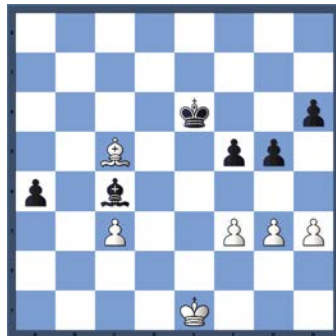


28...♖f7 One of the plans to improve the black position can be to transfer the king to the queenside. [28...♖e2+ 29.♖g1 and the b6 pawn is hanging.]

29.♖e1 ♖xe1 30.♖xe1 a5 31.bxa5 bxa5 32.g3 White prevents f4. [32.f4 32...gxf4 33.♗e5 a4 34.♗xf4 a3 35.♗c1 a2 36.♗b2 Because of the passive bishop Black is easily winning. 36...♖e6 37.♖f2 ♖e5 With the idea Ke4-Kd3.]

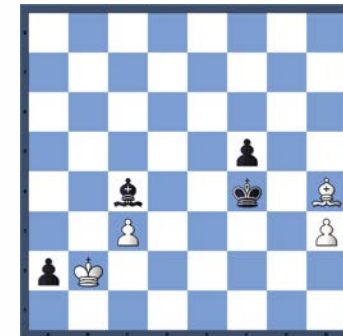
32...a4

33.♔d2? The critical moment! White should not let Black advance the pawn to a2. [33.♙c5! A logical move! White stops the a-pawn and also the bishop will attack the black pawns from behind. 33...♙e6



34.f4! A very important move! White has to escape with the pawns to dark squares! Otherwise Black would fix them on light squares and then easily win. (34.♙d2 34...f4! (34...h5 is a bad move ,now White has two drawish moves: 35.f4 (35.♙e3 35...a3 36.♙c2 a2 37.♙b2 ♔f6 38.f4! (38.h4? 38...gxh4 39.gxh4 ♙e5! with f4 next! 40.f4+ ♙e4 The white bishop is too passive here. 41.♙d2 ♙f3 with Kg3 next.) 38...g4 39.hxg4 fxg4 40.♙b6 ♙e7 41.♙a1 with an easy draw because in case

Black transfers the king White will put the bishop on h4.) 35...gxf4 (35...h4 36.gxh4 gxf4 37.h5 ♙f6 38.h6 ♙g6 39.♙f8=) 36.gxf4 ♙d5 37.♙f8 ♙e4 38.♙h6 a3 39.♙c2 h4 40.♙g5 ♙f3 41.♙xh4 ♙xf4 42.♙b1 With a draw because White will give up the bishop for the f-pawn.) 35.g4 ♙f1 36.♙e1 (36.♙f8 36...♙xh3 37.♙xh6 a3 38.♙c1 ♙f6 With an easy win because of the weak f3-g4 pawns.) 36...♙xh3 37.♙f2 ♙f7 (37...♙d5 38.♙a3 ♙c4 39.♙f8 ♙b3 40.c4! ♙xc4 41.♙xh6 a3 42.♙xg5 a2 43.♙f6=) 38.♙a3 ♙g6 39.c4 h5 40.gxh5+ ♙xh5 41.c5 ♙d7 42.♙b4 ♙g6 The black bishop will force the white king to protect the f-pawn and then the black king comes to the queenside to help promote the a-pawn.) 34...gxf4 35.gxf4 ♙d5 36.♙f8 ♙e4 37.♙d2 h5 38.♙h6 h4 39.♙g5 a3 40.♙c2 a2 41.♙b2 ♙f3 42.♙xh4 ♙xf4



And the position is a draw because after the bishop sacrifice for the f-pawn we will get a theoretical situation with the wrong corner on a1.]

33...a3 34.♙c2



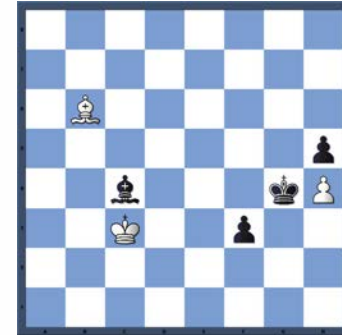
34...h5! This important move gives Black options to create a second passed pawn.

35.h4 [35.♙e3 35...♖g6 After h4 next Black will fix a weak pawn. 36.f4 (36.h4 36...f4 37.gxf4 gxf4 38.♙f2 h3 39.♙g3 h4 40.♙h2 ♗f5 41.♗b1 ♙e2 42.♗a2 ♙xf3 43.♗xa3 ♙g4 with Ke4-Kf3-Kg2 next.) 36...h4! 37.gxh4 (37.♙f2 37...g4 38.hxg4 h3 39.gxf5+ ♗xf5 40.♙g1 ♗g4 Black is coming to g2.) 37...gxh4 38.♙f2 ♗h5 39.♗b1 ♙f1 40.♗a2 ♙xh3 41.♗xa3 ♗g4 42.♗b4 ♙f1 43.♗c5 h3 44.♙g1 ♗g3 And once again after Kg2 White is not able to stop the h-pawn.]



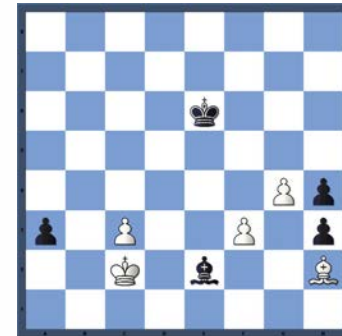
35...f4! 36.♙e5 [36.♙f2 36...gxh4 37.gxh4 ♖g6—+]

36...♗e6 37.♙c7 gxh4 38.♙xf4 [38.gxh4 38...♗f5 39.♙d6 a2 40.♗b2 ♙d5 41.♙c7 ♙xf3 42.♗xa2 ♙d5+ 43.c4 ♙xc4+ 44.♗b2 ♗g4! The most accurate! (44...♗e4 45.♗c3 f3 46.♙b6=) 45.♗c3 f3 46.♙b6



46...♗xh4! (46...♙a6 47.♙f2 ♗h3 48.♗d2 ♗g2 49.♗e3 White is on time!) 47.♗xc4 ♗g3—+ White is not able to stop both pawns.]

38...h3 39.g4 h4 40.♙h2 ♙e2

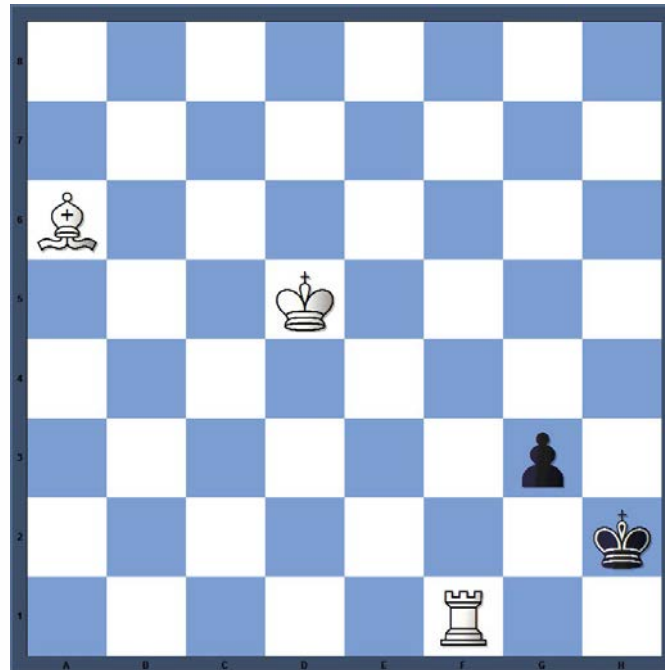


The winning plan after 41.Kb3 is to take both white pawns and come with the king to g2, you can check if White manages to do that on time? **0-1**

Surprise section / study

(18) Reti

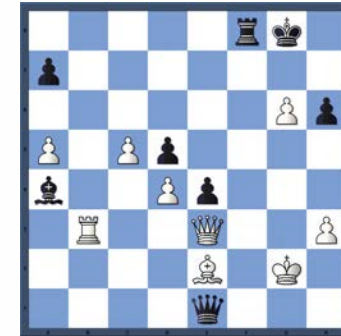
1. +—



Solutions

(19) Wang Ha(2729)-Amin, B(2635)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.16

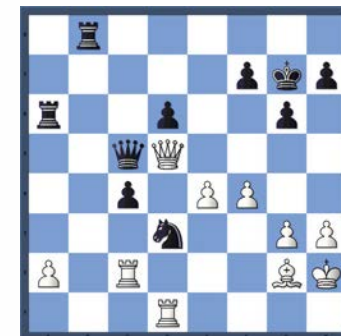


47. ♖c4! ♜xb3 [47... ♚xe3 48. ♖xd5+ ♚g7 49. ♖xe3+—]

48. ♚xe1+—

(20) Van Wely, L(2654)-Svidler, P(2753)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.17



32. ♖xd3! cxd3 [32... ♚xd5 33. ♖xd5+—]

33. ♖xc5+—

(21) Sriram, J(2375)-Sandipan, C(2594)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.17



32...♘g3!! 33.♔xg3 [33.♔xd4 33...♘e2+-; 33.♘f3 33...♔e1+-]

33...♔xe4+-

(22) Svidler, P(2753)-Najer, E(2653)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.17

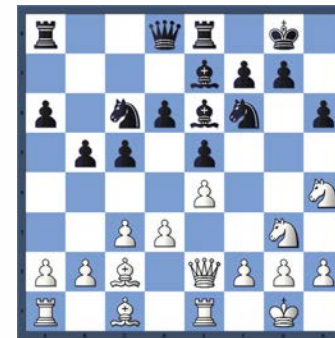


23.♘h6!! gxf6 24.♘h5 f6 25.♘xf6+ [25...♔e4!! 25...♘xa2 (25...♔h8 26.♘xd5 ♔xd5 27.♘xf6+-) 26.♔g4+ ♔h8 27.♘xf6+-]

25...♔xf6 26.♔xf6 ♔f8 27.♘xd5+ ♔xd5 28.♔xh6±

(23) Polgar, J(2685)-Ragger, M(2632)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.17



15...♘xe4! 16.♘xe4 [16.dxe4 16...♘xh4±; 16.♔xe4 16...d5= 17.♔e2 ♘xh4+-]

16...♘xh4±

(24) Debashis, D(2484)-Matlakov, M(2689)

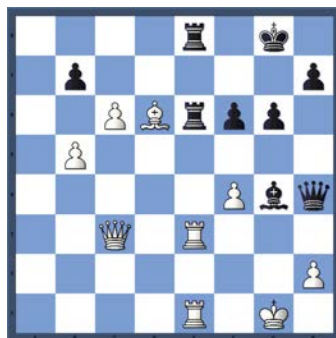
World rapid Championship, 2014.06.17



22...♘xh2! 23.♔xh2 ♔xg5±

(25) Bacrot, E(2720)-Yu Yangy(2675)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.17



33...♙f3!! 34.f5 [34.♖xe6 34...♙g4+ 35.♙f2 ♙g2+ 36.♙e3 ♖xe6+-+]

34...♖xe3 35.♖xe3 ♙g5+ 36.♙f2 ♙g2+ 37.♙e1 ♙g1+ 38.♙d2 ♙d1# 0-1

(26) Ringoir, T(2506)-Cheparinov, I(2682)

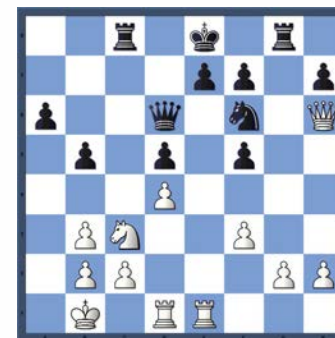
World rapid Championship, 2014.06.17



24...♙f3!! 0-1 [24...♙f3 25.♙xf3 (25.fxe5 25...♙g2#) 25...♙xf3+ 26.♙h1 ♙xd2+-+]

(27) Jobava, B(2713)-Van Wely, L(2654)

World rapid Championship, 2014.06.17



19.♙xd5! ♙xd5 [19...♙xd5 20.♙xd6+-]

20.♙xf6+-

(28) Mamedyarov, S(2743)-Polgar, J(2685)

World blitz Championship, 2014.06.19



11.♙d5!! 1-0 [11.♙d5 11...♙xd2 (11...cxd5 12.♙xa5+-) 12.♙c7#]

(29) Kubbel



1. ♖a4! ♜a3! [1... ♔b5 2. ♜xb4+ ♕xb4 3. ♙e1+-]

2. ♜xb4+! [2. ♜xa3 2... ♙xa3+ 3. ♕xa3 ♖c3=]

2... ♕xb4 3. ♙e1+! [3. ♙c5+ 3... ♖xc5 4. ♕xa3 ♖c4=]

3... ♕a4 4. ♙c3!+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 124

13th of July 2014

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Editorial Preface

The European Women Championship in Bulgaria is under way. After 6 rounds Gunina is leading with 5.5/6, followed by Zhukova and Javakhishvili, both on 5/6. There are still 5 rounds to go and everything can happen.

In the Dutch Championship Sipke Ernst is leading with 3.5/5. Giri and Smeets are not participating, while the favourite Loek Van Wely is on a modest 2.5/5.

From tomorrow on we can be very excited about the start of the Dortmunder Schachtage, with Kramnik, Caruana, Adams, Leko, Ponomarev and the 3 German players Naiditsch, Meier and Baramidze. 8 players, 7 rounds round robin.

The double round robin in Biel is also starting in a couple of days, with : Vachier Lagrave, Giri, Wojtaszek, Harikrishna, Motylev and Yifan Hou. It is going to be very exciting to see if the Women World Champion can compete with the top male Grandmasters.

We hope to bring you great games from the Top level chess events next week and hope you enjoy this week's issue!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Ortiz Suarez, Isan(2588)
- Quesada Perez, Yuniesky(2642)
[B94]

2nd DC International 2014(9.2),
2014.06.30



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

We are in the last round of the DC International tournament and two Cuban GMs are fighting for the top prizes. The game becomes very sharp as both players need a win and White comes out victorious from the complications...

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘f6 5.♗c3 a6 The Najdorf Sicilian is a very good option to obtain an imbalanced game. White also goes for the sharpest variation.

6.♕g5 ♗bd7 This sideline has become quite fashionable nowadays. The idea is to wait with the e7-e6 move and in some lines play e7-e5 at once. [6...e6 is the main move.]

7.f4 ♔c7 8.♔f3 [Another main move is 8.♔e2 when Black could make use of sparing the e7-e6 move and play 8...e5 9.♗f5 h6 10.♕xf6 ♗xf6 Theory considers Black to be alright.]

8...b5 [The alternative is 8...h6 9.♕xf6 (On 9.♕h4 Black could play again 9...e5 10.♗f5 exf4 with the idea of g5.) 9...♗xf6 10.f5! followed by 0-0-0 with very interesting positions.; 8...e6 would be a transposition to the old main lines.]

9.0-0-0 [9.e5 does not win material, since Black has the intermediate move 9...♕b7]

9...♕b7 10.♕d3 The standard development of the pieces. White quickly wants to bring his rook to e1 and put or even

sacrifice his knight on d5 (after Black plays e6) to create problems for the king on the e-file.



10...g6!? Here comes the point of restraining the e7-e6 move. Black can develop his bishop to a more active place on the long diagonal, because the d6 pawn is not weakened. When the pawn is on e6 and the black bishop leaves the d6 pawn, the different kind of sacrifices on b5 (lets say Bxb5 axb5 Nxb5 followed by Nxd6 check) are very dangerous. [10...e6 is still a transposition to the huge theoretical lines.]

11.♗d5 The most natural reaction to open the e-file. If Black had time to play Bg7 and 0-0, he would have obtained a perfect position.

11...♗xd5! The right capture, despite the fact that it weakens the e7 target even more. It is more important to keep the b7 bishop to control the c6 square. [11...♕xd5 12.exd5 is bad because Nc6 is coming next.]

12.exd5 ♗b6? A mistake, perhaps a decisive one, because it gives White enough time to lead a successful attack. [The right move was 12...♕g7! 13.♔he1 ♕f6! is quite an unusual motif to neutralize the pressure on the e7 square, after which Black seems to be fine. It was actually played in some games. I tried the most direct way to punish Black before allowing him to castle kingside: 14.♗c6 but Black has 14...♕xg5 15.fxg5 ♕xc6

16.dxc6 ♖e5



Black seems to overtake the initiative, but White has a beautiful tactical shot to force a perpetual check: 17.♖xe5! dxe5 18.♗xg6!! hxg6 19.♖d7 And there will be the same finish, wherever the black queen goes: 19...♗a5 20.♖xe7+! ♔xe7 (The ambitious 20...♗d8?? loses after 21.♖d7+ ♔c8 22.♗g4!+- and Black cannot solve the pin.) 21.♗f6+ ♔e8 22.♗xh8+ ♔e7 23.♗f6+=]

13.♖he1! White knows that he has no time to waste on protecting the d5 pawn. He must use the fact that the black king is still in the center.

13...♗xd5 [13...♖xd5 allows 14.♗e4! with a decisive pin.]



14.♖xb5!! This great tactical blow refutes Black's entire idea of playing 12...Nb6.

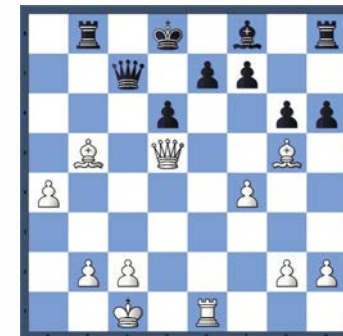
14...axb5 [14...♗c6 15.♗e2 looks like a crushing attack. Black cannot even take the knight because the simple Bxb5 wins the queen.; 14...♗c5 is refuted by 15.♗e4! ♗xe4 16.♗xe4 and there are too many threats to parry. White wins. 16...axb5 17.♗xe7+-]

15.♗xb5+ ♔d8 16.♖xd5! This is the point, after which the sacrifice on b5 does not even cost that much material to White. He is going to have a pawn for the exchange, but it is more important that the black king is extremely vulnerable and all white pieces are excellently placed for a decisive attack.

16...♖xd5 [On 16...♖xa2 17.♖d3! is very strong with the idea of Rc3! Black cannot prevent it with Bg7 because the e7 pawn is hanging, while after 17...♖a1+ 18.♔d2 ♖xe1 19.♖c3!+- (19.♔xe1 19...♗g7)]

17.♗xd5 ♖b8 18.a4! Simple and strong! White protects his bishop in order to threaten Qxf7. It is not easy to protect this pawn and if it falls the game will be over.

18...h6



19.♗f6! Another nice attacking move, which keeps the black pieces totally under domination. The bishop can never be taken in view of the mate on e8. [19.♗xf7? was premature because first Black parries the e8 mate with 19...♖xb5! and

only then he takes on g5.]

19...♖h7 At least the f7 pawn is protected, but Black has no useful move.

20.a5! Well played again! White wants to promote his a-pawn with a6, Bd4 and a7. It not easy to parry this simple idea as Black is lacking useful moves.

20...♙c5 [20...♙xa5 loses to 21.♙xd6+!+-; The key line was 20...♙c8 21.♘d4 e6 (21...♙xa5 22.♘d7+! ♔xd7 23.♙xa5+-) when Black could hope for salvation, but...



22.♖xe6!! beautifully refutes the entire idea... **22...fxe6** **23.♙xe6+ ♔b7** (23...♙d8 **24.♙e8#**; 23...♖d7 **24.♘b6+-** is over.) **24.a6+ ♔a8** **25.♙d5+-**]

21.♙xc5! The last accurate decision. White correctly calculates that the simplification leads to an easy technical win for him.

21...dxc5 22.♖d1+ ♔c8 [22...♙c7 **23.♘e5+-**]

23.♘a6+ ♖b7 24.♘xb7+ ♙xb7 25.♘xe7! Other moves were also winning, but this is the easiest from a human point of view because the arising rook endgame is completely hopeless for Black.

25...♘xe7 26.♖d7+ ♔a6 27.♖xe7 ♙xa5 There is a saying that all rook endgames are drawn and it is true that often the

defensive side can hold very difficult looking positions even when they are material down. However in our case, White is not only a pawn up, but he also has the active rook. The position wins by itself as Black cannot use his rook. The game is practically over.

28.♙d2 ♙b5 29.♙c3 ♖g7 30.♙d3 g5 An attempt to free the rook, but of course White keeps it locked in with his next move.

31.f5! g4 32.f6 ♖g5 [32...♖h7 **33.♙e4+-** is also completely lost of course.]

33.♖xf7 ♖f5 34.♖f8 ♙c6 35.f7 ♙d7 36.♖a8 1-0

**(2) Kaufman, Larry(2329)
- Bruzon Batista, Lazaro(2696)
[E80]**

42nd World Open 2014(1.2),
2014.07.02



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

I have chosen this game because of its amazing tactical motif in the middlegame, with which Bruzon has gained a decisive advantage.

1.d4 ♖f6 **2.c4** g6 **3.f3** ♙g7 **4.e4** d6 **5.♗c3** The initial position of the King's Indian defence, Saemisch variation. Bruzon is a very strong positional player with solid openings, but in the first rounds of the open tournaments, he must play sharper openings and he can show his tactical skills as well.

5...a6 **6.♙e3**



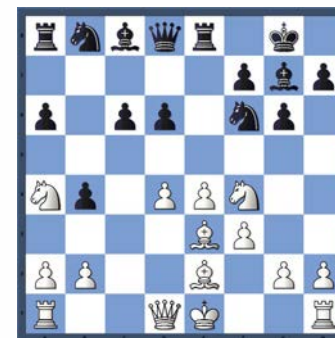
6...c6 A rare line, which might get bigger popularity in view of the recent Carlsen-Grischuk game, that we discuss here a bit later. White has built a strong center and Black would like to get counterplay on the queenside with b5. If White prevents it with the most direct a4, Black gets a very nice hole on b4 for his knight, which he uses with the plan of a5 and Na6-b4.

7.c5 A standard reply in this line to make b5 less effective. It has a positional point, that dxc5 dxc5 would leave Black with a big hole on b6

7...0-0 **8.♗ge2** The drawback of the Saemisch variation is that White has to make some artificial manoeuvres to finish the development.

8...b5 Black must continue playing actively, otherwise White finishes his development and obtains a clear advantage due to his strong center.

9.cxd6 **exd6** **10.♔d2** A natural move in this line, but it might be a waste of time in the current position. White should have focused on developing his minor pieces rapidly to settle his king into safety with 0-0. [The mentioned Carlsen-Grischuk game continued with 10.♗f4 10...♔e8 11.♙e2 but Grischuk outplayed the World Nr.1 with extremely strong and energetic moves: 11...b4 12.♗a4



12...♗d5! Grischuk uses the pin on the e-file. In case of Nxd5 cxd5, the e4 pawn gets under pressure, therefore Carlsen was forced to retreat 13.♙c1 ♗b6! The knight was already hanging, but now Black again prevents White from castling because the d4 pawn is hanging after Nxa4.

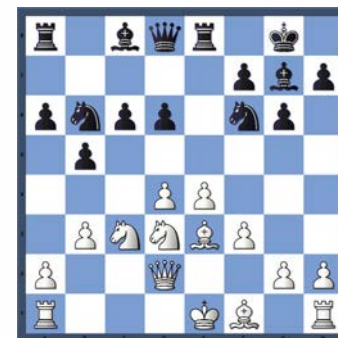
14. ♖xb6 ♔xb6 15. ♕e3 d5! White was missing only one move again to consolidate, but Black was in time to explode to center! 16. ♔d3 (16.e5 runs into 16... ♕xe5!) 16... dxe4 17. fxe4 The hanging pawns on e4-d4 are becoming a clear target for the black pieces. Black continues playing energetically. 17... a5! With the idea Ba6! 18. ♖d1 Carlsen desperately tries to cover his central pawns... 18... ♕a6 19. ♔c2 ♕xe2 20. ♖xe2 ♖d7 21. O-O ♖f6 22. ♖g3 ♖g4 23. ♕f2 ♖ad8 White was in big trouble in the Carlsen-Grischuk, Dubai 2014, World rapid championship game, but due to the stubborn defense and some blunders of Grischuk in time pressure, Carlsen not only saved, but even won the game... Bruzon was definitely familiar with this game and he tried to use similar motifs in his own game.]

10... ♖e8 11. ♖c1 ♖bd7 Black prepares to explode the center with c5!

12. ♖d3?! White tries to fight against c5, but this is too slow... [Black is fine even after 12. ♕e2 12... c5! 13. O-O (13. dxc5 13... ♖xc5 14. O-O ♕b7 also looks good for Black.) 13... cxd4 14. ♕xd4 White once again only needs one or two moves to gain a perfect position with Nb3 and Rad1, but this is enough for Black to launch his counterplay and get rid of his isolated d-pawn with 14... b4! 15. ♖a4 d5! 16. exd5 ♔a5! 17. ♕d1 ♕b7! Black overtakes the initiative. One must play the King's Indian and Gruenfeld defence in such style to be successful.]

12... ♖b6! Black is threatening Nc4 and prepares the following hidden tactical blow...

13.b3



13... ♖bd5!! A brilliant strike, similar to Grischuk's plan. Bruzon had to foresee the keymove, which comes 3 moves later... The opening of the e-file and the pin of the e3 bishop give Black a decisive advantage.

14. exd5 [14. ♕f2 leads to a very suspicious position as well if Black continues playing the most energetic moves: 14... ♖xc3 15. ♔xc3 ♖xe4! 16. fxe4 ♖xe4+ Forcing the king to move to the center. 17. ♔d2 (On 17. ♕e2 17... ♕g4 18. ♖c1 ♔e7 Black wins back the sacrificed piece and gains a material advantage.) 17... c5! → With a very strong attack. White's pieces are disorganized.]

14... ♕h6! Obviously the point of the sacrifice on d5 was to make use of the pin on the e-file.

15. f4 [15. ♖d1 loses to 15... ♕xe3 16. ♖xe3 ♖xd5—+]

15... ♖g4! Black pressures the e3 bishop with all his pieces, but White still seems to cover everything with his next move...

16. ♖d1 White needs only one move, Be2 to consolidate, but...



16...Ra7!! This is just great! Black sacrifices a piece and then such a subtle move, Ra7! White cannot parry the Rae7 threat, Black wins material in any case. [16...Qe7 was much worse because White is able to give back the piece in a good version: 17.dxc6 Qxe3 18.Qxe3 Qxe3+ 19.Qxe3 Rxe3+ 20.Qf2 Without the queens on the board, the attack is not dangerous. White is fine here.]

17.Qe2 [17.dxc6 17...Qae7 is very bad. White faces an enormous attack. 18.Qe5 A pretty attempt to close the e-file, but it does not help: 18...Qxe3 19.Qxe3 (19.Qxe3 19...dxe5 20.dxe5 Qxe5—+) 19...Qxf4—+]

17...Qxe3 18.Qxe3 Qae7 Black wins back the piece and gets a big advantage due to his very active pieces.

19.0-0 [19.Qf2 is also bad. 19...Qxe3 20.Qxe3 Qxe3 21.Qxe3 And here the strongest is probably 21...c5—+ followed by Bg7!, creating very serious threats with the bishops and the queen.]

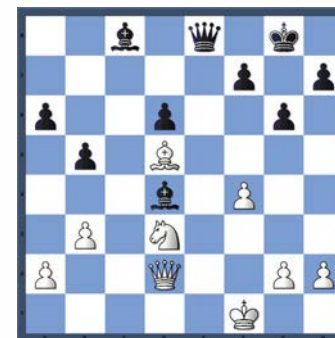
19...Qxe3 20.Qae1 cxd5 The simplest solution. Black has ended up with an extra pawn and two strong bishops. [However it was even stronger to play 20...Qg7 Of course such moves are rather for computers, humans are satisfied and we are not searching for better than the 20...cxd5 option. 21.Qb4 (21.dxc6 21...Qxd4 22.Qh1 Qf5—+ The pins are winning

for Black. If the knight moves, Bc3 wins material.) 21...c5! 22.Qc6 Qxd4! 23.Qxd4 (23.Qxd8 23...Qd3+ 24.Qh1 Qxd2—+) 23...cxd4—+ with an extra passed pawn plus the deadly pin on the e-file.]

21.Qf3 White rightly goes for simplifications and he gets some practical hopes for survival.

21...Qxe1 22.Qxe1 Qg7! The bishop had nothing left to do on h6 and he attacks the new weakness on d4.

23.Qxe8+ Qxe8 24.Qxd5 Qxd4+ 25.Qf1 White successfully avoided the big losses, but the healthy extra pawn and the two bishops should give Black a technically winning position.



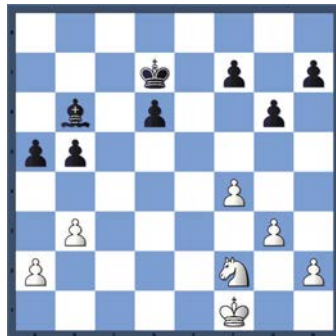
25...Qb6 26.Qf2 Qf5! Activating the bishops and preventing Ne4.

27.g3 [White cannot send away the bishop from the b1-h7 diagonal with 27.g4 because Black has 27...Qb1! and on 28.Qb2 Qe3!—+ wins.]

27...a5 [Here probably it would have been more precise to play 27...Qe7 with the idea of Qf6, creating new threats with the two bishops against the exposed king. However Bruzon was already satisfied with his achievements and he decided to allow his opponent to trade queens and he wanted to convert his material advantage in the endgame.]

28. ♖e2 ♜f8 29. ♖xe8+ ♜xe8 30. ♗c6+ The best chance again to trade the pair of bishops. Otherwise Black could have fixed the weakness on a2 with b4 and would have threatened with Bb1!

30... ♗d7 31. ♗xd7+ ♜xd7



32. ♘e4 White gets some very small practical hopes to build a fortress. However the problem is not only the extra pawn, but also the principle that in the endgames with pawns on both sides, the bishop is superior to the knight. Bruzon wins the game with good technique...

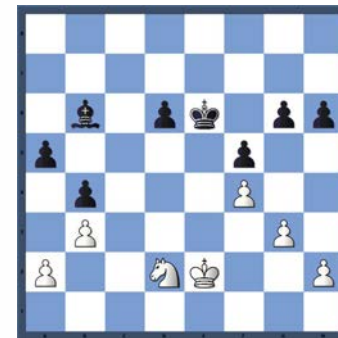
32... ♗h6 Black wants to activate his king with Ke6 and prevents Ng5.

33. ♖e2 ♜e6 Black does not decide yet, which direction he will go with his king. He might very quickly march to h3, but the same is true about going to d5-d4-d3. White waits with his king on e2, to have Kf3 on Kf5 and Kd3 on Kd5.

34. ♗c3 [On 34. ♖d3 34... ♗c5 protecting the d6 pawn and Kf5-g4 is coming next. 35.g4?! only helps Black in view of 35...f5! and the king gets activated.]

34... ♗b4 35. ♗e4 f5! Restricting the movement of the knight and preparing the forthcoming idea...

36. ♗d2



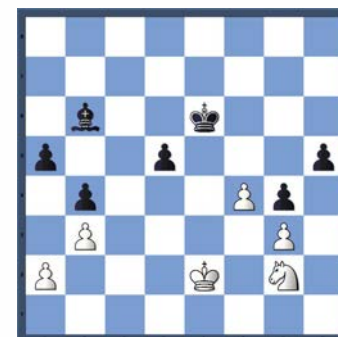
36...g5! Very well played! Before starting any actions with his extra pawn, Black creates new weaknesses on the kingside for his bishop by fixing the pawns on dark squares. Black is threatening to play g4 now!

37.h3 [37.fxg5 37...hxg5 38.h4 Creating a passed pawn does not change much. 38...g4! fixes the weakness on g3. 39. ♗c4 ♗c7 40. ♖f2 d5 41. ♗b2 f4! 42.gxf4 ♗xf4 43. ♗d3 ♖f5—+ With an easy technical win, similar to the game.]

37...g4! Black again fixes the weakness on g3. Now the white king is forced to stay on e2 to cover the f2 square, but this gives much more space for Black to improve his position.

38.hxg4 fxg4 39. ♗c4 ♗c7 The bishop temporarily goes into passivity, but he sends back the knight with d5 and then he drives back his bishop to b6.

40. ♗e3 h5 41. ♖d3 d5 42. ♗g2 ♗b6 43. ♖e2



43...♔f5! It is very nice to see how Black improves his position move by move. If we compare what we had after 32.Ne4, Black has already progressed so much by advancing effectively his pawns.

44.♘e1 ♔e4 45.♘d3 ♙d4 Black restricts the mobility of the knight again. [45...h4!? 46.gxh4 g3 was also good, but Bruzon does not hurry with the final break. 47.♘e1 ♔xf4--+]]

46.♘e1 ♙f6 47.♘d3 h4! 48.♘c5+ [48.gxh4 48...♙xh4-- is also hopeless.]

48...♔f5 49.gxh4 ♙xh4 50.♘b7 ♔xf4 51.♘xa5 g3 [White resigned as the pawn promotes in a few moves: 51...g3 52.♔f1 ♔f3 53.♘c6 g2+ 54.♔g1 ♙f2+--+] A nice game, especially the combination with Nbd5 and Ra7, but the endgame technique was also instructive.] **0-1**

(3) Zhukova, Natalia(2451) - Muzychuk, Mariya(2521) [A57]

15th ch-EUR w 2014(5.2),
2014.07.10



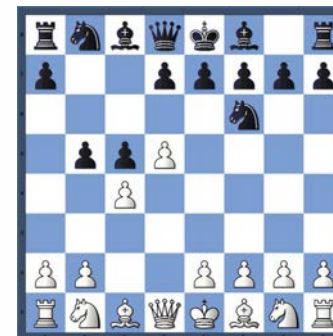
GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We will see a very nice attacking game by Zhukova who seemed to surprise her Olympic team colleague in the opening, then outplayed her in the middle game and when things almost seemed to be over they almost slipped away, but luckily White's position was too winning.... A very interesting game is awaiting us!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 What is nice with women chess is that we see a lot of random openings.

3.d5 is of course the main move, but 3.Nf3 is possible too.

3...b5 In one of the top events, Bologan played 3 Volga games in a row and he ended up not scoring too many points... On a high level it is considered to be a very risky opening for Black, especially after the games of Carlsen with White.



4.a4!? Wow, what a move! I have never seen 4. a4 before in any games I can remember, but it actually makes perfect sense. At 4.Nc3 of course Black is planning to play 4...b4.

There is as well a line with 4.Bg5 and now Nisipeanu liked to play 4...b4, but the move in the game is provoking Black to take on c4, which makes the development of the Nc3 and e4 possible. [4.cxb5 4...a6 5.bxa6 ♟xa6 6.♟f3 would lead us back to the main lines.]

4...bxc4 5.♟c3 The a4 move made the b4 square weak, but it is hard for Black to make use of it.

5...d6 The usual way to play for Black.

6.e4 g6 [Maybe Black was afraid of playing 6...♟a6 because of 7.f4 followed by Nf3 and e5 and Black's position looks dangerous.]

7.♟xc4 The c4 pawn has to be taken sooner or later.

7...♟g7 8.h3! A very important positional move. [To play 8.♟f3 and allow 8...♟g4 would lead to quite an unclear position in my opinion. Black would develop the pieces with Nbd7, 0-0, Ne8 and Rb8, getting good play on the b-file.]

8...O-O 9.♟f3 ♟a6 I think Black is not choosing the right piece. It is important for Black to exchange the useless bishop from c8. [9...♟a6 looks like the right move to me. I would not say that White is doing better here, but the position is very unclear.]

10.O-O ♟b4



11.♞e2 Zhukova is using the mistake of her opponent and already not letting Black even dreaming of playing Ba6. The white queen is well placed on e2 and the key idea of White is to push e5 now.

11...♟d7 Stopping e5 and planning to play Nb6 next.

12.a5 Of course White does not allow the Nb6 move.

12...♟e5 Generally in the Benoni structures, it is very important for Black to exchange one light piece because Black sort of lacks space, but now White is getting very fast play connected with the f4 push. As we can also see, the knight on b4 is very poorly placed and is totally out of the game and what is even worse, in some lines he is blocking Black's active play on the b-file connected to Rb8.

13.♟xe5 ♟xe5 14.♟h6 The most natural, before playing f4 White is putting her bishop to h6.

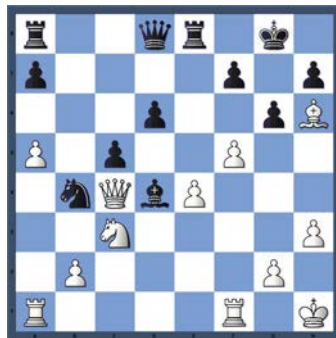
14...♞e8 15.f4 ♟d4+ 16.♞h1 White wants to play f5 now and maybe later on double on the f-file, so Black needs to hurry.

16...e6! A good move. There is no time to waste for Black.

17.dxe6 A logical move, but maybe not the best. [17.♟g5!? also looks interesting. 17...f6 The black queen had no good squares. 18.♟h6 The provocation of the f6 move is clearly huge for White, now the black king is already in big trouble.]

17...♟xe6 18.f5 Zhukova starts to go for the black king.

18...♟xc4 19.♞xc4 White's attack is looking pretty dangerous, so Black needs to act very accurately.



19...g5?! I think Black clearly underestimates White's next move. [19...♔d7 looks more solid, but after 20.♖ad1 White seems to keep a promising position with good attacking chances.]

20.f6! Excellent play! By sacrificing the f-pawn, White is fully opening the position in front of the black king and gaining strong play on the f-file.

20...♟xf6 Black can't do anything else. White just wanted to play Qe2-Qh5.

21.♖f5 Chess can be easy! White wants to double up on the f-file.

21...♖e6 22.♖af1 ♔e7 Black wants to get the last piece into the game by playing Re8 and putting a nice trap for White.



23.♖f3! Zhukova shows no mercy! [The very tempting 23.♟d5?! would lead to nothing for White. 23...♟xd5 24.♖xd5 (24.exd5 is not winning because of 24...♖e1! 25.♖xf6 ♖xf6 26.♖xe1 ♖xh6) 24...♖e8 25.♟xg5 ♟xg5 26.♖xg5+ ♖g6 with good chances to save the game for Black.]

23...♟xc3? Black panics... [Black had to find the difficult move 23...g4! 24.♖g3 ♟e5 25.♖xg4+ ♖g6 and White's position looks better, but things are far from clear.]

24.♖xg5+ Now White is just mating on the dark squares and the knight on b4 is still totally out of the game.

24...♖g6 25.♖xc3 ♖d8 Black already didn't have anything better but at least Mariya is trying her chances to push d5.

26.♖xg6+ Not a bad move, but not the most accurate one either. [26.♖g7+ wasn't great either, as after 26...♖xg7 27.♖xg7+ ♟h8 28.♖gx7 ♖e6 29.♖f8+ ♖xf8 30.♖xf8+ ♖g8 31.♖xg8+ ♟xg8 it is not easy to say if this endgame is winning or not.; But 26.♖ff5! with the idea of playing h4-h5 next seems to be very strong. I can't see any defence for Black.]

26...fxg6 27.♖c4+ White's position really looks winning, but actually it is not that simple to achieve a full point.

27...d5 28.exd5 ♟xd5 Now the question is how to end the game. Black seems to be totally paralyzed, but it is not that simple for White to find how to improve the position either.



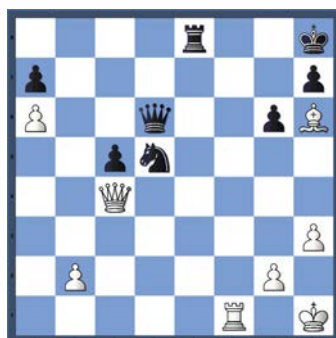
29.a6! Not finding anything concrete, White just improves her position. The pawn on a6 is fixing the black pawn on a7, which could become a potential weakness in many lines.

29...♔d6 Black doesn't really have many options to improve either and needs to keep on waiting.

30.♔b5 This move does not do any harm, but is a bit strange... The white queen has nothing to do on b5. [30.♕e3 looks very strong now. Not only the c5 pawn is going to fall, but with it also the a7 pawn.]

30...♖b8 31.♔c4 ♖e8 32.♖f1 So after moving back and forth a bit the situation hasn't changed a lot.

32...♗h8?! Black finally blunders in what is a close to lost position, but still in case of 32...Rd8 it would be interesting to see how Zhukova wanted to improve on her play of the last moves. Objectively of course Be3 would still be a killer.



33.b4! White is using the moment for the final blow! The 7th rank of Black is unprotected, so the b4 pawn can't be taken. The game is over.

33...cxb4 34.♔d4+ We just saw a great attacking game by White, where good positional play was supported by aggressive play towards the black king. I guess any player would be happy after winning such a game! **1-0**

(4) Van Wely, Loek(2657)
- Van Kampen, Robin(2636) [D35]

ch-NED 2014(1.1),
 2014.07.06



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
 Best rating: 2737

For very many years Loek Van Wely was the Dutch Superstar, playing regulary in Wijk aan Zee and other top events, but lately things didn't develop too well for the Dutch man as we can see on his ELO rating and probably as well we will not see him anymore on the top board from his country because of Anish Giri who almost 100 ELO points ahead of him already. Anyhow, we will see now a great attacking game by Loek, who first tricks his young oponent in the opening a bit and finishes the game with a great attack.

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 There are a lot of tricky move orders in the closed systems where both players need to be very careful in the opening stage.

2...e6 3.♘c3 d5 4.d4 So we are back in the Queen's Gambit.

4...♘bd7 [4...♙e7 is the other main move.]

5.cxd5 Usually White does not take that early on d5. There are 2 main moves, 5. Bg5 and 5.Bf4. Why in the current game White took on d5 we can only guess. Maybe Loek was afraid of some forced line in 5.Bg5 c6 (back to Slav) or maybe a line with 5.Bf4 dxc4, who knows....

5...exd5 [5...♘xd5 6.e4 would lead to a better position for White.]

6.♙f4 6.Bg5 is also possible, but now that Black can't play Bd6 immediately the move 6.Bf4 makes sense.

6...c6 7.♙c2 A move like Qc2 includes 2 ideas: 1) White is maybe preparing 0-0-0 and 2) never to let the black bishop out from c8 to f5.



7...♘h5 It is hard to say if this is the right way to go on for Black, but personally I don't like this move too much. [7...♙e7 would lead us to one of the main positions where Black is usually playing Nf8-Ng6 and 0-0, with a very solid position.]

8.♙d2 A very solid move. [8.♙e5!? also clearly deserves attention here. 8...♘xe5 9.dxe5 followed by 0-0-0 and e4 and White has the initiative.]

8...♘hf6 is quite a typical move. It looks like a loss of a tempo, but the white bishop is badly placed on d2.

9.e3 ♙d6 10.♙d3 White still keeps on waiting with 0-0-0, which is a smart decision. Still the typical idea for the Queen's Gambit with 0-0 and then a3-b4 is an option.

10...0-0?! A very risky move and there was no reason for Black to give White such a clear play. Moves like 10...Nb8 or even 10...Nf8 would still have led to a safe position.



11.g4! This is exactly what White was playing for! Now that Black castled kingside, White is immediately starting the action on the kingside! Black is already in some trouble.

11...♖xg4 Not a nice move to play, but nothing else was already possible. The threat of playing g5 next can't be stopped. After a move like 11. ...g6 12.h4 followed by h5 would finish the game quite early and the usual pushes like 11...c5 are just too late already because of White's g5.

12.♙xh7+ ♔h8 13.♖g1! Another strong move by White. The rook should anyway take the position on g1, so White is trying to chase away the knight from g4 as soon as possible to castle queenside.

13...f5? This is already a heavy mistake. Black should have tried to keep things as solid as possible and not open his king's position even further. [To a still dangerous but playable position would lead 13...♖gf6 14.♙d3 ♖b6 15.O-O-O ♙g4 16.♙e2 ♖c8 and Black keeps on fighting.]

14.♙g6 [Of course White is not falling into the trap that after 14.♙xf5? White has



14...♗de5! This move is not very hard to find but a beautiful one anyway! 15.♗xe5 ♙xf5 16.♗g6+ ♔g8 And Black is already better here.]

14...♖f6 Clearly before playing 13...f5 Black was aiming for this move, but it all looks like a bad road trip which Van Kampen is taking.

15.h3 The most simple and strong move.

15...♗h6 [15...♖xg6 wasn't any better since after 16.hxg4 followed by O-O-O White gets a very strong attack on the black king.]

16.O-O-O The last preparations for the decisive attack are done.

16...♖g8 Black is trying to consolidate his pieces by defending the g7 pawn with the rook and he wants to play Nf8 next. Not a bad idea, but it is just too late...

17.♗e2 White is just playing a perfect game. The white knight is going to take a fantastic position on f4 and White is also preparing a great spot for the d2 bishop which is very soon going to be the key piece of the game.

17...♘f8



18.♗e5! Exactly! Who cares about a pawn when all the pieces going to be in the attack!

18...♙xe5 Black's position is probably already just lost. In case Black didn't take on e5, White would just play Nf4 next.

19.dxe5 ♔xe5 20.♙c3 Now we can see how important the 17.Ne2 move was. The bishop which was standing so passively on d2 is now a monster piece.

20...♔e4 21.♔d2 Of course no exchange of queens!

21...♙d7 Black still hopes to be in time with his development, but Van Wely has another great finishing idea in mind...

22.♗f4 [22.f3 22...♔h4 23.♗f4 would also lead to a position with a big advantage for White.]

22...♙e8 How to finish the game?! All white pieces are perfectly placed and there must just be something...



23.f3!! And indeed, Loek does find a beautiful finishing move. White finds a way to activate the queen from d2 and combine it with the threat of playing Qxh6 mate!

23...♔xf3 24.e4 This is of course the follow-up move of the 23.f3 idea.

24...d4 Nothing helps anymore. There are no good moves in a lost position... [After 24...fxe4 25.♔df1 Black is losing his queen.; And after 24...♔xe4 25.♗h5 the threat of playing Qxh6 would force Black to resign on the spot.]

25.♙xd4 ♔d8 And the game comes to an end after the very practical

26.♗e6 The rook on d8 is hanging and Qxh6 is a deadly threat. Black is forced to lose too much material. After 26...Rxd6 27.Nxd4 Qxe4 28.Rge1 the bishop on e8 is lost, so White would be a rook up. A very beautiful and powerful game! **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Zhao Jun(2603)-Xiu Deshun(2550)

Danzhou, 2014.07.03

1... -+



(6) Socko, M(2462)-Kulon, K(2341)

European Woman Championship, 2014.07.07

1. +-



(7) Sjugirov, S(2643)-Igambergenov, A(2328)

Polugaevsky memorial, 2014.07.03

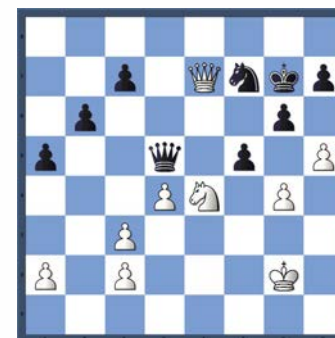
1... -+



(8) Kryakvin, D(2579)-Ziatdinov, R(2348)

Polugaevsky memorial, 2014.07.04

1. +-



(9) Bochkarev, A(2302)-Timofeev, A(2597)

Polugaevsky memorial, 2014.07.07

1. +-



(10) Melkumyan, H(2647)-Kholopov, A(2339)

Benasque Open, 2014.07.04

1. +-



(11) Popov, I(2618)-Colon Garcia, E(2335)

Benasque Open, 2014.07.04

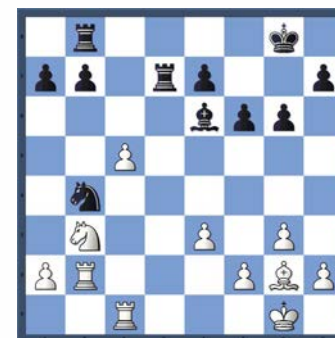
1. +-



(12) Bachmann, A(2652)-Antoni Royo, J(2443)

Benasque Open, 2014.07.05

1. +-



(13) Vojinovic, J(2297)-Markus, R(2607)

Palacin Open, 2014.07.04

1. =



(14) Herraiz Hidalgo, H(2446)-Zharebukh, Y(2618)

Montcada Open, 2014.06.29

1... -+



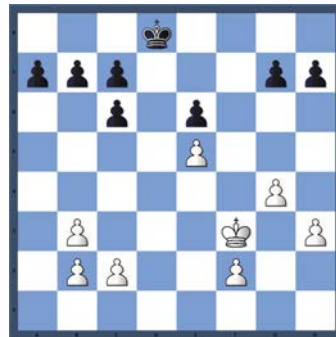
Endgame section

(15) Kamsky, Gata(2717)
- Priyadharshan, K.(2433)

World Open,
2014.07.03



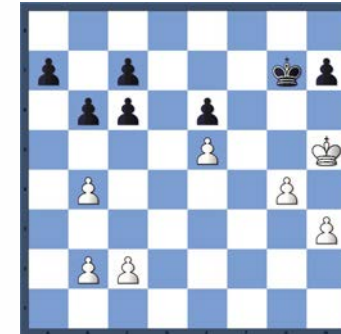
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



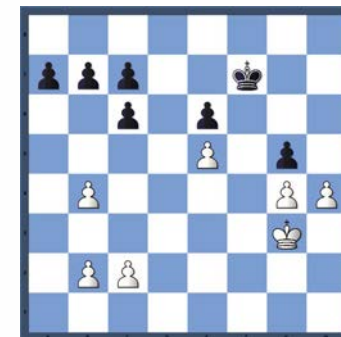
We have reached a typical Berlin pawn endgame. When Black plays for a draw and aims for simplifications at any cost, he might end up in this lost pawn endgame. The point is the following, White has 4 vs 3 pawns on the kingside and he can easily create a passed pawn with f4-f5, while on the other side, Black has 4 vs 3 too, but due to the doubled c-pawns he is unable to create a passed pawn. The only chance for Black is to create a fortress somehow, but as we will see, he is unable to do it successfully. This factor decides the outcome of the game. Kamsky's technique is very instructive.

27.b4! This is a strong positional move, to fix the black pawns on the queenside. At the later stage, when the time comes to break through on the kingside, all tempi will be very important. White has time to take these prophylactic measures before starting his own plans, because Black cannot do anything anyway.

27...♔e7 [27...g5 does not prevent White from creating a passed pawn. White would continue with 28.♔g3 ♔e7 29.f4! h6 This is the best chance to try and keep the kingside closed, but White manages to invade with his king anyway... (29...gxf4+ 30.♔xf4 ♔f7 loses easily to 31.♔g5 ♔g7 32.♔h5 b6

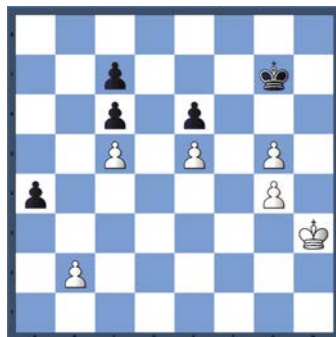


33.g5+— Black soon runs out of tempi, he will be forced to move with his king, but then Kh6 followed by g6 wins, because White gets access to the e6 pawn.) 30.h4 ♔f7 (30...gxf4+ 31.♔xf4 ♔f7 loses easily again. This time, White does not have Kg5-h6, but he wins after 32.h5! ♔g7 33.g5 b6 34.gxh6+ ♔xh6 35.♔g4+— Again with the same method. Black soon gets into zugzwang and when he moves with his king, Kg5-f6 will decide the game.) 31.fxg5 hxg5

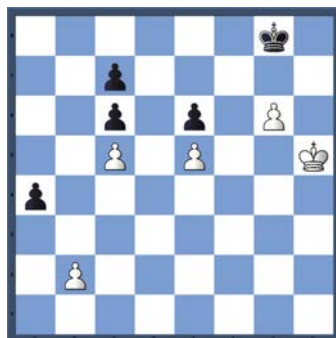


32.hxg5! looks like a dubious decision at first sight, but actually White must open a way for his own king to invade on

the kingside. 32...♔g6 33.♔h4 b6 34.c4 It is time to spend all the tempi on the queenside for both sides and then the king manoeuvres with zugzwang part begins... 34...a5 35.bxa5 bxa5 36.c5 a4 White is the first who gets into zugzwang, otherwise if he could have played Kh5 and g6, then it would have been over immediately. However, losing one of the g-pawn does not change anything, White wins after 37.♔h3 ♔g7 A tricky attempt to keep a fortress. (37...♔xg5 38.♔g3 ♔h6 39.♔h4 ♔g6 40.g5 ♔f5 Other moves transpose to the 37...Kg7 line. 41.♔h5 ♔xe5 42.g6 ♔f6 43.♔h6+--)



38.g6! This is the only way to break through. Otherwise Black waits with his king on h7-g7 and when White goes Kh4, Black replies with Kg6. 38...♔xg6 39.♔h4 ♔h6 40.g5+ ♔g6 41.♔g4 ♔f7 42.♔h5 ♔g7 43.g6 ♔g8



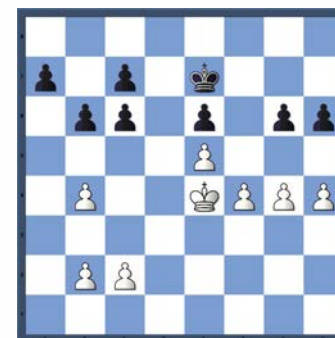
This is a very important position! We can use this motif in

many pawn endgames. White wins by a triangulation, giving the tempo to his opponent. .. 44.♔h4! Or 44.Kg4 is also good with the same idea. (White should not fall into the trap with 44.♔h6 44...♔h8 45.g7+?? ♔g8 46.♔g6 a3 leads to stalemate!) 44...♔h8 (44...♔g7 45.♔g5+-- is over as White invades on f6!) 45.♔g4! ♔g8 46.♔h5! The triangulation is done! Black cannot play Kg7 in view of Kg5 and zugzwang and after 46...♔h8 47.♔h6! ♔g8 48.g7+-- there is no stalemate anymore. Black must play Kf7, but then Kh7 wins.]

28.h4 Kamsky improves the circumstances before executing the plan of f4-f5.

28...g6 [If Black decides to go for a waiting policy with 28...♔f7 29.♔e4 ♔e7 30.f4 ♔f7 31.f5 ♔e7 32.♔f4 ♔f7 White wins after 33.♔g5 ♔e7 (33...h6+ creates a hole on g6. 34.♔h5+-- Black soon runs out of tempi again and then Kg6 wins.) 34.h5! ♔f7 35.h6!+-- and the king invades.]

29.♔e4 h6 30.f4 b6



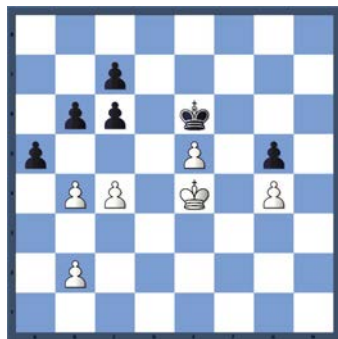
31.f5! The time has come for the final break. It is important to mention that White saves all his tempi on the queenside for the later stage of the game, when he needs to set Black into the final zugzwang.

31...g5 This is the only chance to temporarily keep the white king away from the camp, but it does not help either... [31...gxf5+ 32.gxf5 ♔f7 33.fxe6+ ♔xe6 34.h5+- wins easily. Black soon needs to move with this king and then Kf5 wins. White does not even need his tempi here, because Kf4-e4 is another way to set Black into zugzwang.]

32.hxg5 hxg5 33.fxe6! ♔xe6 This is the moment when perfect calculation is required. White must count how to spend the pawn moves to set Black into zugzwang and let his king invade on f5.

34.c4! Black loses after all the moves:

34...a5 [34...a6 is met by 35.c5! bxc5 (35...b5 36.b3+-) 36.bxc5 a5 37.b3+-; 34...c5 35.b5+-; 34...b5 35.c5! a6 36.b3!+- in all lines Black gets into zugzwang and Kf5 wins next.]



35.b5!! The last accuracy! [35.bxa5 spoils the win, because after 35...bxa5 36.c5 a4 it is White who gets into zugzwang... 37.♔d4 ♔f7=]

35...cxb5 [35...c5 36.b3+-]

36.cxb5 a4 White is in zugzwang again, but the huge difference to the 35.bxa5 line is that White has gained another invading square for his king, now he can enter to the black camp through d5!

37.♔d4! ♔e7 38.♔d5 ♔d7 39.e6+ ♔e7 40.♔e5 Black resigned! An instructive endgame and a flawless technique by Kamsky! **1-0**

**(16) Ionescu, Irina(2253)
- Gunina, Valentina(2501)**

15th ch-EUR w 2014(1.4),
2014.07.06

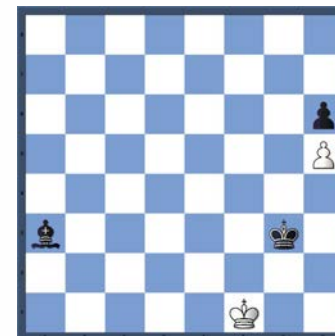


GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



Black was trying to win all game long, but the much lower rated Ionescu defended well and finally reached this difficult looking endgame. Let us take a look at how bravely White defended it.

44...♙f8 Black is making a waiting move, but not the best one. The bishop on f8 is getting under attack. [White would have to make a much more exact calculation after 44...♙a3! The only square where Black is preparing to play Kf3 after White's Kd1. 45.♙d1 ♙f3 Now things are getting very forced. 46.♘e1+ ♙xf4 47.♘d3+ ♙e3 (47...♙g4 would lead to about the same position as in the game.) 48.♙c2 f4 49.♘xf4 Not such an easy line to calculate from the beginning... 49...♙xf4 50.♙xc3 ♙g4 (50...♙xe5 51.♙d3 ♙f4 52.♙e2 ♙g3 53.♙f1



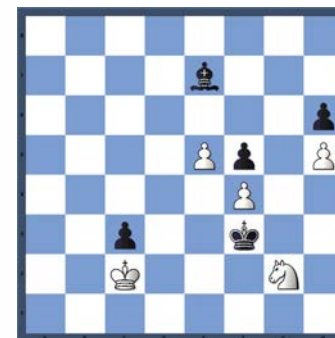
53...♙c5 And we would end up in this very complicated, but drawn position. Actually for those who enjoy studies, it is an interesting position to take a look at.) 51.♙d3 ♙xh5 52.♙e2 ♙g4 53.♙f2 ♙h3 54.♙g1 The white king is just in time to save himself in the corner with an obvious draw.]

45.♙d1! A good move! It is very important to take away the c3 pawn, which is the most dangerous threat.

45...♙e7 [45...♙d3 didn't help because of 46.♘e1+; And after 45...♙f3 46.♘h4+ Black can't take the pawn on f4 because of Ng6+. Now we can clearly see why 44...Ba3 was Black's best try.]

46.♙c2 [46.♙e2 would give Black another try to go for Ba3.]

46...♙f3



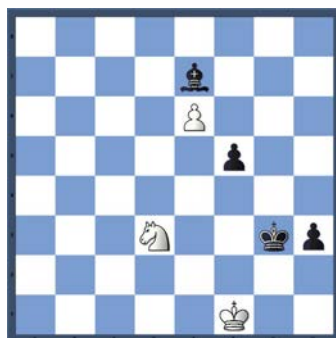
47.♘e1+ As usual, the knight is going to d3 to stop the f-pawn from promoting.

47...♔xf4 48.♘d3+ ♔g4 Black is trying to get the h-pawn, which is the most difficult to hold for the knight. [To a similar position as in the line above would lead 48...♔e3 49.♔xc3 f4 50.♘xf4 ♔xf4 51.♔d3 ♔g3 52.♔e2 ♔g2 53.e6 With a totally drawn position.]

49.♔xc3 ♔xh5 50.♔d4 [50.♔d2 would have been the more careful move. The basic idea of White remains the same, to get the King to h1 and to sacrifice the knight for the f-pawn.]

50...♔g4 51.e6 h5 52.♔e3 ♔g3 53.♔e2 The h-pawn is advancing, but the white king finally found the right direction and goes to h1.

53...h4 54.♔f1 h3



55.♔g1 What is funny now is that the e6 pawn saves the game! In case White didn't have the e6 pawn, Black would just have put White into an easy zugzwang and it would be very difficult to predict the outcome of the game.

55...♕d6 56.♔h1 Now all White needs to do is keep on waiting with the king in the corner.

56...♕e7 [56...h2 doesn't lead anywhere. 57.♘e5 f4 58.♘c4 ♕e7 59.♘d2 And White plays Nf1 next.]

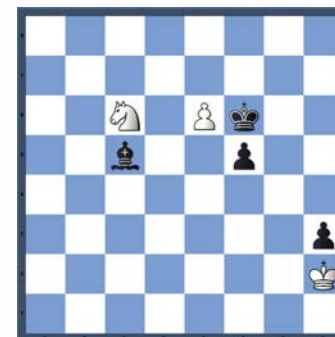
57.♔g1 ♕g5 58.♔h1 ♕f6 59.♔g1 ♕e7 60.♔h1 After having no success with the bishop manoeuvres, Black tries her last

chance, to try and win the e6 pawn without losing the h3 pawn- which is of course impossible.

60...♔g4 61.♘e5+ ♔g5 62.♔h2 And the h3 pawn is falling.

62...♔f6 63.♘c6 [63.♘f3 would secure the draw as well.]

63...♕c5



64.e7 An easy calculation which leads to a drawn pawn endgame.

64...♕xe7 65.♘xe7 ♔xe7 66.♔xh3 ♔e6 Not a perfect, but all in all a nice defence by White and a deserved draw. Sometimes a very promising position is just a dead draw in chess... **1/2-1/2**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Steinitz, William
- Lasker, Emanuel[C54]

World Championship 05th(4),
1894.03.23



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4 ♙c5 4.c3 [4.b4 We should mention that the Evans Gambit was a very popular opening at this time.]

4...♘f6 5.d4 [5.d3 leads to the Italian Game.]

5...exd4 6.e5 [6.cxd4 6...♙b4+ 7.♙d2 ♙xd2+ 8.♘bxd2 d5! 9.exd5 ♘xd5 10.♙b3 ♘ce7 Black controls the d5 square. The position is equal.]

6...d5 7.♙b5 ♘e4 8.cxd4 ♙e7 [8...♙b6 That move is more popular probably because of the fact that the bishop on b6 is placed more actively.]

9.♘c3 O-O



10.♙d3 White is going to get rid of the active knight from e4.

10...f5 A thematic move. [10...♙f5]

11.exf6 ♘xf6 is a slightly passive move, Black should have played [11...♙xf6! 12.♙e3 (12.O-O 12...♘xd4 13.♘xd4 ♙xd4 14.♘xe4 dxe4 15.♙b3+ (15.♙xe4 15...♙xf2+) 15...♙h8 16.♙xe4 ♙f6 Black takes the initiative because of the pressure on b2 and f2.) 12...♙f5 13.O-O ♙d7 Black managed to hold the knight on e4. The position is unclear.]

12.♙e3 [12.h3 12...♙e6 13.a3! Preventing Nb4. 13...♙d7 14.♙c2+=]

12...♘b4 usually doesn't make much sense because the knight will have to go back anyway. [12...♙g4 13.h3 ♙xf3 (13...♙h5 14.g4 ♙f7 15.a3 With the idea of Qc2 and O-O-O.) 14.♙xf3 ♘b4 15.♙b1 c6 16.a3 ♘a6 17.♙d3 ♘c7∞]

13.♙b1



13...♘g4 Black decides to go for concrete action but it will not bring anything good.

14.a3 ♘xe3 15.fxe3 ♙h4+ 16.g3 [16.♙e2 16...♘c6 17.♘xd5 ♙g4 For the pawn Black has a chance to get the initiative on the e- and d-files.]

16...♙g4 17.O-O ♙e8 18.axb4 [18.gxh4 18...♙xe3+ 19.♙g2 Black doesn't have any compensation here. 19...♘c6 20.♘xd5 ♙xf3+ 21.♙xf3 ♙xf3+ 22.♙xf3 ♙xf3 23.♙xf3 ♘xd4+

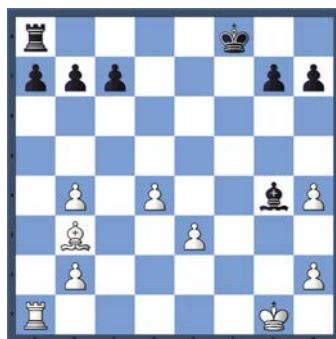
24.♔e3 ♘b3 25.♘xc7 followed by Ba2.]

18...♖h5 19.♘xd5 [19.gxh4 19...♙xf3 20.♖e1 ♖ae8 21.♖g3 ♖xe3 22.♙c2+- With the idea Re1 or Qg5. White's position is safe.]

19...♖xf3 20.♘f4 ♖xf4 21.♖b3+ ♖f7 22.♖xf7? White could easily win after [22.♖a5+-]

22...♖xf7 23.♙a2 [23.♙xh7+?! 23...♙f8 24.♖xf7+ ♙xf7 25.gxh4 g6 26.♖a5 ♙h5 27.♖d5 ♙e7]

23...♖xb3 24.♙xb3+ ♙f8 25.gxh4



25...♙e7 White is pawn up in the endgame but because of his weak pawn structure, the winning way is still long.

26.♙d5 [26.b5!?]

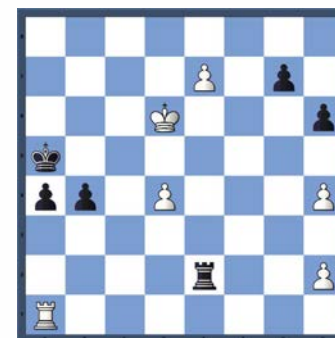
26...c6 27.♙e4 a6 28.♖a5 h6 29.b5 White gets rid of the weak pawn. From a logical point of view this is good but on the other hand it will allow Black to create a distant passed pawn.

29...cxb5 30.♙xb7 ♖a7 31.♙c6 ♙d7 32.♙xd7 ♙xd7 33.♙f2 ♙c6 34.♙e2 ♙b6 35.♖a1 [35.b4?! 35...♖c7↪36.♖a2 ♖c3 37.♖b2 ♙c6 38.♙f3 ♙d5 Black's pieces are very active.]

35...a5 36.♙d3 a4 37.e4 ♖f7 Black activates his rook.

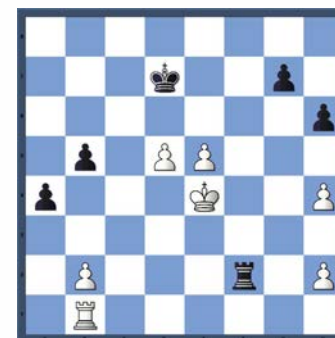
38.e5 ♖f3+ [38...♖f4 39.e6 ♙c7 40.♖e1 ♖f8 41.e7 ♖e8 42.♙c3+-]

39.♙e4 ♖f2 40.♖b1 White saves material, but the idea to push the pawns immediately was good too. [40.♙d5 40...♖xb2 41.e6 ♖e2 42.♙d6 ♙a5 43.e7 b4



44.♖c1! (44.♙d7 44...b3 45.e8=♖ ♖xe8 46.♙xe8 b2 47.♖b1 a3-+)]

40...♙c6 41.d5+ ♙d7



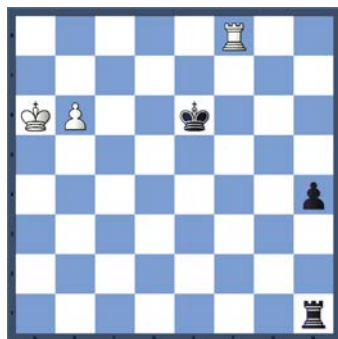
42.♙d4 [42.♖g1! 42...g5 43.hxg5 hxg5 44.♖xg5 ♖xb2 45.♖g7+ ♙d8 46.e6 White is clearly winning as his pawns are more advanced.]

42...♖d2+ [42...♖xh2 43.e6+ ♙e7 (43...♙d6 44.♖e1 ♖xh4+ 45.♙d3 Black is not able to stop the white pawns. 45...♙e7 46.d6+--)] 44.♖f1 ♖xh4+ 45.♙c5 ♖c4+ 46.♙xb5 ♖c2 47.♖f7+ ♙e8 48.d6 ♖xb2+ 49.♙xa4 ♖d2 50.d7+ ♙d8 51.♖f8+ ♙e7

52.♖e8+ ♔f6 53.d8=♚+ ♖xd8 54.♖xd8 ♔xe6 55.♔b3 White will easily take the black pawns.]

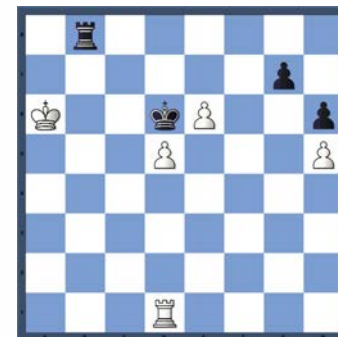
43.♔c5 ♖c2+ 44.♔xb5 ♖e2 45.e6+ [45.♖g1 A strange move, but maybe winning as well. 45...♖xe5 46.♖xg7+ ♔d6 47.♔xa4 ♖e2 48.b4 ♖xh2 49.b5 ♖xh4+ 50.♔a5 ♖h1 51.b6 And the b-pawn decides the game.]

45...♔d6 46.♖d1 [46.♔xa4 46...♔xd5 47.b4 ♔xe6 48.b5 ♔d7 49.♖g1 ♖xh2 50.♖xg7+ ♔c8 51.♔a5 ♖xh4 52.♔b6 ♖h1 53.♖g8+ ♔d7 54.♔a6 (54.♔b7 54...h5 55.♖g3 ♔e6) 54...♔e6 55.♖f8 h5 56.b6 h4



57.♖f3! (57.b7 57...♖a1+ 58.♔b6 ♖b1+ 59.♔a7 ♖a1+ And the white king cannot escape the checks.) 57...h3 58.♖a3 A perfect place for the rook. White is winning now.]

46...♖xb2+? Black starts to take the pawns in the wrong order. More accurate was [46...♖xh2! 47.♔xa4 ♖xb2 48.h5! Fixing the black pawns. (48.♖e1 48...♖b8) 48...♖b8 49.♔a5 (49.♖d4 49...♖b1 50.♖e4 (50.♖b4 50...♖a1+) 50...♖b8 And White is not able to improve the position here.) 49...♔c5 50.♔a6 ♔d6



51.♔a7 White needs to get back with his king, otherwise he won't be able to promote his pawns. 51...♖g8 The king from a7 has a long way to back to the center so Black is on the time with his counterplay. (51...♖b2 52.♖e1!+-) 52.♔b6 g5 53.hxg6 ♖xg6 54.♔b5 h5 55.♖e1 (55.♔c4 55...h4=) 55...♖g7 56.♔c4 h4 57.♖e4 h3 58.♖h4 h2 59.♖xh2 ♖g4+ 60.♔d3 ♔xd5 With a draw.]

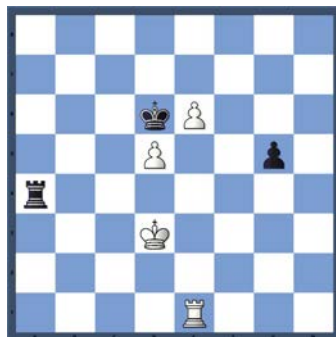
47.♔xa4 ♖xh2 48.♖e1 ♖a2+ 49.♔b5 Compared to the previous variations the white king is already much closer to the pawns!

49...♖a8 50.♔c4 [50.e7 50...♖e8 51.♔c4 g5 (51...♖xe7 52.♖xe7 ♔xe7 53.h5+-) 52.♖e6+ ♔d7 53.♖xh6 gxh4 54.d6 ♔c6 55.♔d4+-]

50...g5 51.hxg5? A big mistake! White should have played [51.e7+- leads to the previous variations with 50.e7, where White was winning.]

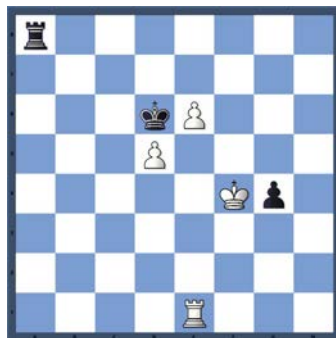
51...hxg5 52.♔d4 ♖a4+ Black is just losing time as he will have to go back to the 8th rank anyway. [52...g4 53.♔e4 (53.♖c1 53...♖a4+) 53...g3 54.♖d1 g2 55.♔f3 g1=♚ 56.♖xg1 ♔xd5=]

53. ♔d3



53... ♖a3+? This is already the decisive mistake, it was the last chance to go back with the rook and keep counterplay with the g-pawn. [53... ♖a8 54. ♕e4 ♜f8! 55. ♕d4 g4 56. ♜e3 ♜f4+ 57. ♜e4 ♜f8 58. e7 (58. ♜xg4 58... ♜f5=) 58... ♜e8 59. ♜xg4 ♜xe7 60. ♜g6+ ♕d7 61. ♕c5 ♜h7 62. ♜a6 ♜h1 63. ♜a7+ ♕c8 64. ♕c6 ♜c1+ 65. ♕d6 ♜h1 66. ♜a8+ ♕b7 67. ♜e8 ♜h6+ And Black is defending from the long side.]

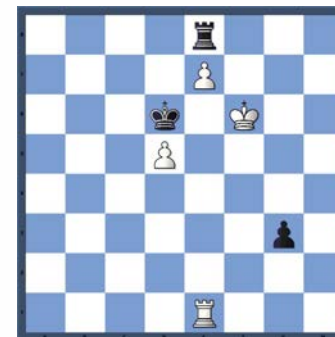
54. ♕e4 g4 55. ♕f4 ♜a8 [55... g3 56. e7+-]



56. e7? After this blunder the position is drawish again. [56. ♕xg4 56... ♕xd5 (56... ♜f8 57. ♕g5+-) 57. e7 ♜e8 58. ♕f5 ♕d6 59. ♕f6+-]

56... ♜e8 57. ♕f5 g3 [57... ♜xe7=]

58. ♕f6



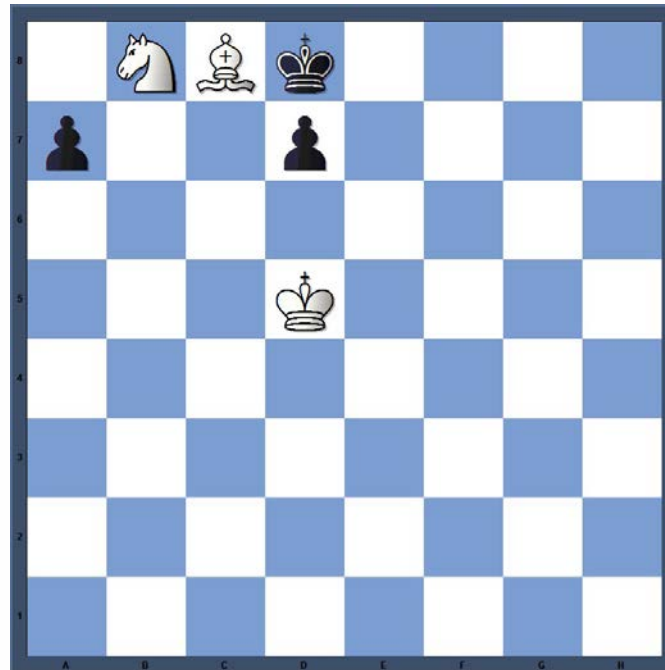
58... ♕d7?? And what a huge blunder yet again! [After 58... g2 the game is drawn unless White blunders with 59. ♕f7?? ♜xe7+]

59. d6! g2 60. ♜g1 After 60... Kxd6 White will play 61. Rd1+ and Kf7 next. **1-0**

Surprise section / study

(18) Gunst

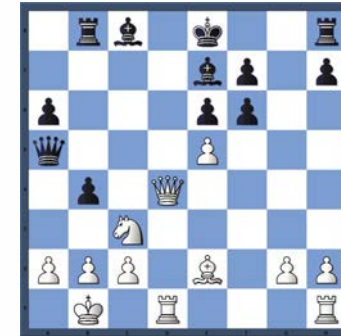
1. +—



Solutions

(19) Yu Yangyi(2675)-Ma Qun(2609)

Danzhou, 2014.06.30



16. ♖b5!! ♜b6 [16...axb5 17.exf6 ♕d8 18.♕f3+—; 16...♜xb5 17.♕xb5+ ♜xb5 18.exf6 e5! 19.♜h4 ♕d8 20.♜g5 ♜f8 21.♜he1+—]

17.exf6 ♜xd4 18. ♖c7+! ♕d7 19.♜xd4+ ♕d6 [19...♜xc7 20.fxe7 ♜e8 21.♜hd1 ♜xe7 22.♜c4+ ♕b7 23.♜d8+—]

20.♜hd1 [20.♖xa6 20...♕xa6 21.♕xa6+—]

20...♜xc7 21.♜xd6+—

(20) Ivanchuk, V(2739)-Shankland, S(2632)

Edmonton, 2014.06.29

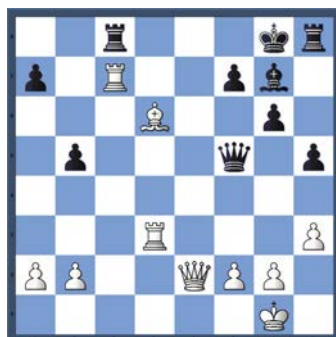


28. ♖b7! b4 [28... ♖xb7 29. ♗xe5+-; 28... ♗b8 29. ♗xd8+ ♗xd8 30. ♖xa6+-]

29. ♖xb4 ♗xd1+ 30. ♗xd1 ♗b8 31. c6! ♘xc6 32. ♖c3+-

(21) Hou Yifan(2629)-Stefanova, A(2488)

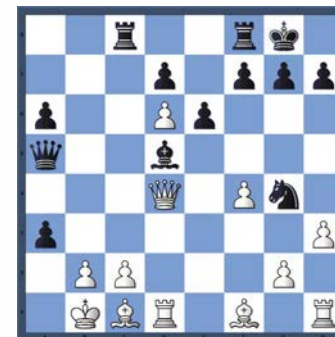
Lopota, 2014.06.24



24. g4! hxg4 25. hxg4+- 1-0

(22) Cuartas, J(2483)-Zhrebukh, Y(2616)

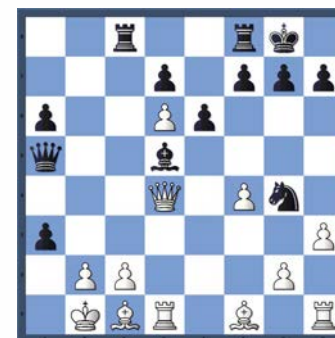
Montcada Open, 2014.06.26



18. ♕d2!! [18. hxg4 18... ♕a2+!! 19. ♖a1 (19. ♖xa2 19... axb2+ 20. ♖xb2 ♗b8+) 19... axb2+ 20. ♖xb2 ♗xc2!] **18... ♖c5** [18... ♖d8 19. hxg4+-] **19. ♖xc5 ♗xc5 20. hxg4± ♗b8 21. b4 ♕e4 22. ♕d3 ♕xd3 23. cxd3+-**

(23) Das, S(2352)-Vishnu, P(2459)

Montcada Open, 2014.06.27



27. ♗xg7!! b3 [27... ♖xg7 28. ♖g5+-; 27... ♕xg7 28. ♕xg7+ ♖xg7 29. ♗g1+-] **28. ♗g8+! ♗xg8** [28... ♖xh7 29. ♖xf5+ ♖xg8 30. ♗g1+-] **29. ♕xf6+ ♗g7 30. ♕xg7+ ♖xg7 31. ♗g1+ 1-0**

(24) Naroditsky, D(2559)-Ramirez Garcia, J(2287)

Montcada Open, 2014.06.28



25. ♖xf7+! ♔xf7 [25... ♕xf7 26. ♖xh6+ ♔g8 27. ♘f6+-; 25... ♖xf7 26. ♖xh6+ ♔g8 27. ♖xg6+-]

26. ♘xe5+ 1-0

(25) Bruzon, L(2694)-Yogesh, G(2101)

DC Internation Open, 2014.06.26



22. dxc5 bxc5 23. ♖xc5! ♖xc5 **24. ♖xc5 ♖xc5 25. ♖d4+ ♔g8**
26. ♖xc5+-

(26) Azarov, S(2610)-Filipovich, D(2076)

DC International Open, 2014.06.26

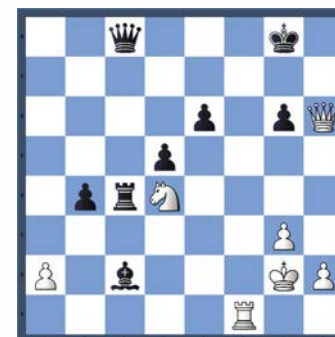


21. ♕xa7! ♘e4 [21... ♖xb7 22. ♖xd8+-; 21... ♖xd2 22. ♖xb8+ ♕f8 23. ♖xd2 ♖c1+ 24. ♔h2 ♖xd2 25. ♕f3+-]

22. ♕xe4 ♖xe4 23. ♖c7+-

(27) Boros, D(2474)-Bruzon, L(2694)

DC International Open, 2014.06.27



40. ♘xe6! ♕e4+ [40... ♖xe6 41. ♖f8#]
41. ♔g1+- 1-0

(28) Pert, R(2430)-Hebden, M(2544)

Kings place Open rapid, 2014.06.15



27...♔b2!! 28.♘e7+ [28.♙xb2 28...cxb2 29.♖c2 ♜xc6 30.♜xc6 ♜a1 31.♜b6 ♙c4—+]

28...♙f8! 29.♙e4 [29.♙xb2 29...cxb2 30.♘xc8 bxc1=♙ 31.♜xc1 ♜xc8—+]

29...♙xe7—+

(29) Reti



1.♜f3! g2 2.♙f1!! g1=♙ 3.♜h3#



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 125

20th of July 2014

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Editorial Preface

Loek Van Wely is the new Dutch Champion after beating Tiviakov 2-0 in a tie-break match. In normal chess they both scored 4.5/7. It is already the 7th time that Van Wely holds the Dutch trophy in his hands.

In the female section nobody could stop Anne Haast who scored a great 5.5/7. Second place went to Bianca Muhren with 5/7.

The European Individual Women's Chess Championship was won very convincingly by Gunina with a great 9/11. Tatiana Kosintseva won silver with 8.5/11 and the 3rd placed was shared by a lot of players with 8/11.

In the current week three super tournaments are still under way:

In the Dortmund Schachtage Caruana is leading with an amazing score of 3.5/4. With only 3 rounds to go, it is hard to imagine somebody possibly stopping him from winning the event. A big surprise is Kramnik's 1.5/4. Usually things are running very smoothly for the Russian in Dortmund and he already won the tournament an impressive 10 times!

In Biel things are pretty tight, but what is very nice to point out is that Hou Yifan is doing great! Maybe she can become the second woman in the history of chess to be able to fight on the top level. We analyse for you her great win against Anish Giri from the first round.

In the ACP Golden Classics 2014 (a very strange name for a private tournament) it is a fight between Wesley So and Jobava for the first place. The other top, GM Nepomniachtchi things are running far from smoothly and he is only on 2/5.

We wish you a great week and enjoy the games from the world's best chess players.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

**(1) Mista, Aleksander(2609)
- Areshchenko, Alexander(2701)
[B91]**

Najdorf Memorial(7),
2014.07.18



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.g3

A very rare line against the Najdorf Variation.



6...g6 Black could also play: [6...e6 ; 6...e5]

7.♗g2 ♗g7 8.O-O O-O 9.h3 White is preparing to develop the bishop on e3 and also prevents Bg4.

9...♘c6 10.♗e3 [10.♘de2 Sometimes White avoids the knights exchange, but is hard to believe that this passive move could bring White any chances for an advantage, for example: 10...♖b8 11.♘d5 ♘d7 This is also a typical reaction. Black is going to chase the knight from d5 after e6. 12.c3 b5 13.♘d4 ♘de5 14.f4 ♘xd4 15.cxd4 ♘c6 16.♗e3 e6 17.♘c3 ♖b6 1/2-1/2 Sharapov,E-Zhigalko,S/Cappelle la Grande FRA 2011 (22)]

10...♗xd4 [10...♕d7 With the idea Rc8-b5. Black is not in a hurry with the exchange on d4. 11.g4 White castled kingside so to attack on the kingside makes no sense at all. 11...♖c8 12.g5 ♗e8 13.♗xc6 ♕xc6 14.♖d2 f5! Black takes the initiative. 15.gxf6 ♗xf6 16.♕d4 ♗h5 17.♕e3 ♖a5 18.♖ab1 ♖f7 19.♖fd1 ♖cf8 20.♗e2 ♖e5 21.♖d3 ♖f6 22.♖b3 ♗h8 23.♖d4 g5 24.♖d2 ♖g6 With a huge advantage for Black. 0-1 Alekseev,E-Istratescu,A/Poikovsky RUS 2007 (38)]

11.♕xd4 ♕e6 12.♖e1 White is preapring to move the knight to d5. [12.e5 The idea to activate the bishop after e5 is not enough as Black will very easily manage to solve the problems with the b7 pawn. 12...dxe5 13.♕xe5 ♖c8↑]

12...♖c8



13.♗d5 [13.e5 13...dxe5 14.♕xe5 b5=]

13...♕xd5 is maybe premature. Black should not hurry with opening the e-file. [13...♗d7 14.♕xg7 ♖xg7 15.♖d4+ ♖g8 16.♖e2 (16.c4 16...♗e5 With a double attack on c4 and h3.) 16...b5 17.♖ae1 ♖e8∞And at least White has no pressure over the e-file yet.]

14.exd5 ♖e8 15.♖e2! This structure is very well-known.

White's idea is to create pressure over the e-file and on the kingside after the pawns advance. Black should look for counterplay on the queenside.

15...♗d7 [15...♖c4 16.♖d3 ♖c7 17.♖ae1+=]

16.♕xg7 ♖xg7 17.♖d4+ ♗f6 18.g4↑ ♖g8 19.♖ae1 Black should not have any problems with defending e7 pawn. The more important task for him is to create counterplay in time.

19...♖a5 20.c3 [20.♖xe7? 20...♖xe1+ 21.♖xe1 ♖xe1+ 22.♗h2 ♗d7=+]

20...♖c7 21.a3



21...♖b5? I don't like this move. Black is losing too much time to offer the queens exchange, which of course White will refuse. Instead of this Black could try to create weaknesses, for example with [21...b5 22.f4 ♖a4 23.♖d2 a5! 24.f5 b4 and Black is more less in time.]

22.♗h2! Avoiding the queens exchange after f4.

22...♖f8 23.f4 ♖c4 24.♖d2! Of course the white queen is needed for the attack.

24...b5 Now it is already too late, White is much faster with his attack.

25.f5 a5



26.♖e4! The decisive blow! The white rook can now be connected to the attack over the 4th rank.

26...♙xd5 [26...♘xe4 27.♖xe4 ♙c5 28.♙h6+ ♔g8 29.♖xe7! followed by f6.; 26...♙c5 27.♙h6+ ♔g8 28.g5 ♘xe4



29.f6! exf6 30.♖xe4 ♖xe4 31.gxf6 With mate to follow.]

27.♙h6+ ♔g8 28.♖e6 A nice game by the Polish GM whose play seemed to be very easy and logical, but very effective.
1-0

(2) Hou, Yifan(2629)
- Giri, Anish(2750) [B51]

Hans Suri Mem 2014(1.3),
2014.07.14



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

In the history of chess, only one woman could play on the highest level and this is Judit Polgar. At her best shape she even managed to enter the Top 10. Hou Yifan, the current Women's World Champion and clearly the strongest female player ever (after Polgar) seems to do fine as well against men. Yifan is very close to enter the Top 100 and already proves in the first round of Biel...

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♙b5+ is a very popular move at the moment. There have always been a few Top GMs who liked 3.Bb5, but especially after the games of Carlsen this move went into big fashion.

3...♘d7 is the most fighting reply for Black. [The main line is clearly 3...♙d7 and now in the latest games White seems to push a bit after 4.c4!? and strangely Black did not show a clear way to equalize so far.]

4.d4 The most principled. White also has moves like 4.0-0 or 4.c3.

4...cxd4 5.♙xd4 a6



6...♙e2!? Quite an interesting and rare move. [We would be in the main lines after 6.♙xd7+ 6...♙xd7 7.O-O and now White's idea is usually connected with the c4 move.]

6...♞gf6 7.O-O e5 Giri is already planning a pawn sacrifice which just looks too dangerous. [The simple 7...e6 8.c4 b6 9.♞c3 ♙b7 would lead us to hedgehog structures where the white queen is not so perfectly placed on d4. Anyhow he might be in time to regroup and get some small plus.]

8.♚e3 d5 It is clear that Black had planned the d5 move before playing e5.

9.exd5 Of course!

9...♙c5? It seems like Giri does not take his opponent too seriously. There was no reason for Black to take such rushed actions. [After 9...♞xd5 10.♚d3 ♞5f6 Black's position is maybe a bit worse, but White has nothing too spectacular.]

10.♚d2! The queen is taking a perfect position on d2 not only to protect the d5 pawn, but as well to prepare the c4-b4 pawn pushes.

10...O-O 11.c4 So Black is a full pawn down and in case White will be in time to play something like b4-Nc3-Bb2 the game could already simply be over. Black needs to react very quickly here.

11...e4 is probably the best try for Black, as at least the knight is going to take a great position on e5.

12.♞d4 ♞e5 White's position is clearly better, but Black has many tricks for example connected with Nfg4-Qh4 or Qc7 with the idea of playing Ng4 next. White needs to be careful.



13.b4! Another strong decision by Hou Yifan, the move in the game is much stronger than something like 13.Nc3. Now White will have the idea of playing c5-d6 to totally kill all of Black's hopes.

13...♙a7 14.♞c3 ♙g4 Black continues to try and create some complications. [Maybe a slightly better try to save the game could have been 14...♞d3 15.♞c2! (15.♙xd3 is premature since after 15...♙xd4 16.♙e2 ♙e5 the black bishop on e5 gives Black some attacking chances.) 15...♞xc1 16.♚axc1 and of course White is a full pawn up and has a much better position, but Black's bishop pair could give him some theoretical chances to survive the game.]

15.c5! Another very good move by White based on an exact calculation. White is using the moment that the pawn on d5 can't be taken to get the bishop on a7 completely out of the game.

15...a5 [15...♞xd5 didn't really help since after 16.♞xe4 White is just a clear pawn up.]

16.a3 Of course the structure must be kept.

16...♖xd5 This is not the best move order. [To get a better version Black should have played 16...♗b8 Before taking on d5 Black is provoking the bishop to b2. 17.♗b2 ♖xd5 18.♖xe4 ♗xe2 Of course White is a clear pawn up, but Black might keep some fighting chances.]

17.♖xe4 ♗b8 And now we see the difference to 16...Bb8, White has another move than to play now 18.Bb2:

18.f3 Hou Yifan is playing a perfect game. There is no reason for White to exchange the bishop on e2 who is controlling the knight e5.

18...♖f4?! A mistake never comes alone. Giri makes another clear miscalculation, but I must admit that it is difficult to find a good move in a bad position. [18...♗h5 would lead to the same result as in the game since after 19.♖f5 the threat of playing Qxd5 gives White enough time to put the knight to d6.]



19.♖d6! The last important move of the game. Black is losing material.

19...♗xd6 [19...♖xe2+ 20.♗xe2 would lead to the same position as in the game over a different move order.]

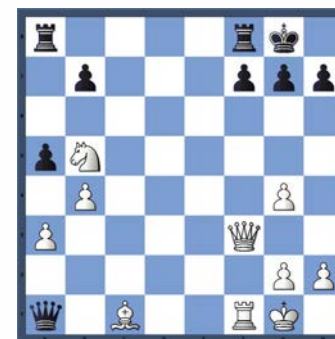
20.cxd6 ♖xe2+ 21.♗xe2 ♗xd6 22.♖b5 I guess this is the

move Giri blundered.

22...♗f6 [22...♗b6+ didn't help since after 23.♗e3 Black is losing the g4 bishop.]

23.fxg4 The most simple. White has a big material advantage and the attack too!

23...♖f3+ 24.♗xf3 ♗xa1



25.♗e3 Precision until the end. White wants to play Bc5 next, putting pressure on the f7 pawn. The game is totally over.

25...♗f6 26.♗xf6 gxf6 27.♖c7 The white knight is coming to d5.

27...♖ac8 [27...♖ad8 28.♗h6 and the f8 rook has no squares.]

28.♖d5 A great game by Hou Yifan who perfectly used the mistakes of her opponent. I guess with this win she gained a lot of respect from the top players who will not try to play with her like with a little girl, sacrificing pawns for a doubtful initiative. **1-0**

(3) Kramnik, Vladimir(2777) - Meier, Georg(2632) [A30]

Dortmund GER,
2014.07.12



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A shocking game by the former World Champion Vladimir Kramnik, who completely misplays the opening part with White and gets convincingly outplayed by his much lower rated opponent, Georg Meier.

1.c4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.g3 ♘c6 4.♙g2 d5 5.O-O Kramnik likes hiding his main repertoire against "weaker" opponents, but this time it does not work out properly. I would already consider this move to be an inaccuracy, because it allows Black to occupy the center and obtain a space advantage. [From a theoretical point of view the critical move is definitely 5.cxd5 5...♘xd5 and here either 6.♘c3 (or 6.d4)]

5...d4!



6.a3 Another dubious decision, giving Black a free tempo to consolidate his center. [After White allowed d4, it would have been necessary to play like a Benoni defence with reversed colors and undermine the center with 6.e3 6...e5 7.exd4 and Black has a choice between 7...exd4 (7...cxd4 8.d3 We have a

reached the Benoni with reversed colors, which means that White has an extra tempo, which can be useful for him.)]

6...e5 7.d3 a5! A typical prophylactic move against the b4 idea, which is the most common counterplay in this kind of Benoni structures. [Some developing move like 7...♙e7? would have allowed White to give sense to his previous moves with 8.b4! and the pawn should not be taken in view of 8...cxb4 9.axb4 ♙xb4 (9...♘xb4 10.♘xe5 is a good trade for White, giving up a side pawn for a very important central one.) 10.♘xe5! White wins back the pawn with this little combination, which is known again from the Benoni with reversed colors. 10...♘xe5 11.♙a4+ ♘c6 12.♙xc6+ bxc6 13.♙xb4± followed by Ba3 with a huge advantage.]

8.e4 I believe that the opening the position with 8.e3 would have been preferable again. The text move locks the center and leaves Black with more space for manoeuvring the pieces due to the d4 pawn.

8...♙e7 9.♘e1 This is White's hope to gain space and counterplay on the kingside with the f4 plan.



9...h5! The standard reaction in this structure! The center is locked, therefore an attack on the side is justified. As the following lines show, this move is a perfect preparation for White's only existing plan of playing f4.

10.f4 White decided to allow h4, but his position was already difficult and in my opinion clearly worse. It is incredible that such a strong player and theoretician could end up in a worse position with White after only 9 moves. [Stopping the attack with 10.h4 creates a hole on g4. Playing f4 does not come into consideration anymore after this move and White has no other counterplay, therefore he should look for another solution.; 10.h3 is a usual reaction to counter the sideattack with the idea to have g4 on h4 and keep the g4 square under control to be able to push f4. But it also has the huge drawback that after 10...h4! 11.g4 ♖d7 Black has weakened the dark squares a lot. He intends to trade the bishops with Bg5 and another plan to consolidate the control of the dark squares could be Nf8-g6 and settling a strong knight on f4 after trading the bishop. In case of 12.f4 the weaknesses of the dark squares are still there. 12...exf4 13.♗xf4 ♘de5=+ followed by Bd6 and Ng6, working out the f4 and e5 squares for the knight. Black has a clear advantage.]

10...h4! 11.f5 White tries to lock the position, otherwise if Black gets a knight on e5 and the position opens the attack on the kingside would become even more dangerous.

11...hxc3 12.hxc3



12...g6! Another strong positional decision! Black

undermines the advanced pawn and opens new files in front of the white king to be able to lead a successful attack. Black also wants to open the diagonal of his c8 bishop.

13.♘d2 White decides to allow gxf5 with the hope of obtaining a strong light squared bishop after opening the long diagonal and square for the knight on e4. However the opening of the g-file turns out to be a more relevant factor... [13.fxc6 13...fxg6+ is also a positional disaster for White. Black could use the g4 square with his minor pieces.]

13...gxf5 14.exf5 Meier rightly evaluates that one strong bishop on g2 does not solve White's problems. It is relevant that he controls e4 and White cannot settle a knight there.

14...♖g8! An important intermediate move before focusing on the development of the queenside pieces. Black not only attacks the g3 weakness, but also prevents the positional idea of g4-g5 and if possible f6, sending away the f6 knight to be able to install his own knight on e4.

15.♔f3



15...♗d7! Black prepares to castle queenside and the bishop will play an important role on d7, because he wants to remove his knight from c6 and replace it with his bishop to get rid of the only strong piece of his opponent.

16. ♖f2 It is very hard to suggest something for White and Kramnik does not find plan either, but this allows Black to complete the development and make all the useful moves. In my opinion White is already strategically lost!

16... ♜b6 Black prepares for long castling to connect his rooks. The king will be perfectly safe there, because the only way to open the position with the b4 break is controlled by 5 black pieces and supported by only one white one.

17. ♖e2 O-O-O 18. ♘e4 ♜b3 An annoying move that destroys even more the harmony between the white pieces. Black occasionally wants to invade on d1.

19. ♘f2 Kramnik decided to control the d1 square, but now his pieces are tied up even more. [19. ♘d2 allows 19... ♜d1! and White has no time for trapping the queen with 20. b3 and Bb2, because of 20... ♖xg3! 21. ♜xg3 ♜xe2-+]

19... a4 Meier had the plan of freeing the c6 square for his bishop and he had in mind to drive his knight to b3.

20. ♙h6



20... ♙f8! An excellent positional move again. Black happily trades the dark squared bishops, because then he more easily doubles his rooks on the g-file. White faces a very unpleasant choice again, he either supports his opponent idea, or he

retreats with his bishop, but it cannot go to d2 because of the b2 pawn, while going to c1 is extremely ugly...

21. ♙xf8 ♖dxf8 22. g4 ♖g7! Very consequent and straightforward play by Meier!

23. ♘e4 ♘xe4 24. ♜xe4 ♖fg8 25. ♙f3



25... f6! Black makes progress with each move. What should be the next plan?! To make the g4 pawn more vulnerable, he should trade the light squared bishops. For this he needs to remove his knight, but it leaves the e5 pawn unprotected. Therefore the next move already suggests itself again:

26. ♖g2 ♘d8! Black finds an excellent place for his knight on f7, from where it can go to g5, might attack the g4 pawn from h6 or sometimes even Nd6 is possible and of course Black is ready to play Bc6 as well.

27. ♜e2 ♙c6 28. ♙xc6 bxc6! This is the most direct. The doubled pawns are not bad now at all, I would even call them useful, because they control the d5 square against the possible invasion of the queen. Black also does not want to waste a tempo to take his knight into a wrong direction, as it is already on his way to f7-h6.

29. ♜e4 ♙c7 Black wants to continue his plan of Nf7, but first he had to protect the c6 pawn.

30. ♖f3 ♖f7 The game is over! White cannot avoid losing material and his position collapses.

31. ♖f1 [31. ♖h4 with the idea of Ng6 is refuted by 31... ♗g5 32. ♖e2 ♖h3+—+ and Nf4 next.; 31. ♖h2 also loses to 31... ♗g5 White must protect the d3 pawn. 32. ♖e2 ♖h3+ 33. ♖h1 ♖f4—+]

31... ♖d6! The g4 pawn falls, which means the end of the f5 pawn as well.

32. ♖e2 ♖xg4 33. ♖f2 ♖xf5 White could have resigned here, but Kramnik decided to continue until his opponent passes the timecontrol...

34. ♖d2 ♖xg2+ 35. ♖xg2 ♖xg2+ 36. ♖xg2 ♖xb2 37. ♖f3 ♖d6 38. ♖h2 ♖xa3 39. ♖e2 ♖b2 40. ♖h7+ ♖b6 41. ♖e7 ♖b7 The knight covers all the checks. A positional masterpiece and a huge success by Georg Meier and a disaster for Kramnik, who clearly had a terrible day. **0-1**

(4) Caruana, Fabiano(2789) - Ponomarev, Ruslan(2723) [C42]

Dortmund GER,
2014.07.13



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Fabiano Caruana won a very nice game against the Petroff defence. In a well-known position he introduces a new plan (or rather he brings back an old plan), which seems to create some problems for Black.

1.e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♖f6 3. ♖xe5 d6 4. ♖f3 ♖xe4 5. ♖c3 The most popular setup nowadays against the rock-solid Petroff defense. Somehow the biggest experts, Kramnik, Gelfand, Giri have started to play other openings as Black.

5... ♖xc3 6.dxc3 ♗e7 7. ♗e3 White prepares to castle queenside after Qd2. Black has a choice here between two very serious plans, which will determine the later course of the game. One is to castle kingside, which often leads to sharp attacking positions with h4 or quickly developing the pieces and castle queenside is considered to be a more safer option.

7... ♖c6 8. ♖d2 ♗e6 9.O-O-O ♖d7 10. ♖b1 ♗f6 [It is important not to hurry with 10...O-O-O because White gets an edge after 11. ♖d4! White is threatening Bb5 and also to simply take on e6, getting a longterm advantage due to the two bishops. Black cannot play 11... ♖xd4 12. ♖xd4± because of the double attack on g7 and a7.]



11.h3 This is the forgotten plan, which probably will come back to the fashion after this game. White wants to take ground on the kingside and fianchetto his bishop with g4 and Bg2. [Another plan is 11.♕g5 11...♕xg5 12.♖xg5 O-O-O 13.♗xe6 ♔xe6 Black is very slightly worse, but he should be able to hold.; 11.h4 was the main move and after 11...h6 White has a wide choice. Ponomarev is a big expert here, he played 3 games recently with white. The last one went with 12. Be2 and he tried before 12.Bb5 and 12.Nd4.]

11...h6 An useful waiting move to avoid the Ng5 ideas of grabbing the bishop pair. [11...O-O-O is still premature because of 12.♗d4 ♗xd4 13.♕xd4 and Black must allow the destroying of his pawn structure with Bxf6, otherwise he faces the double attack on g7 and a7. 13...♕xd4 14.♔xd4]

12.b3 White also replies with an useful move. Black plays Ne5 many times in this line with the threat of Nxf3 and Nc4. White takes the c4 square under control, therefore he could play Nd4 in this case!

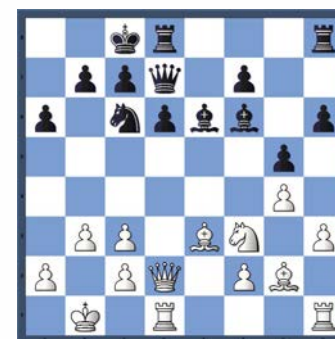
12...a6 Another useful preparation for O-O-O, which fits the structure perfectly. Black wants to avoid the double attack which was seen in the 11...O-O-O line.

13.g4 O-O-O 14.♕g2 g5 Knowing what happened in the game, we can say that this move was wrong and White was

better afterwards. However if we take a deeper look, we will see that it is not so easy to play with Black. [The most natural move would have been 14...♔b8 but after



15.♗e1! which I am quite sure was the deep home preparation of Caruana and the worry of Ponomarev. White plays Nd3 next followed by f4 or even Nf4 and I don't see how Black could equalize... 15...h5 is logical to disturb the structure, but still White gets an edge after 16.g5 ♕e7 17.♗d3+]



15.♗d4! Caruana perfectly reads the new situation after Black has changed the pawn structure and he also changes his plan. The pawn on g5 becomes a target...

15...♗xd4 16.cxd4 d5 White was threatening to play d5, but now...

17.f4! This is the point! White is threatening to play f5 (also to take twice on g5), therefore Black is forced to trade on f4, but it leaves him with two pawn islands (f7-h6). We can conclude that White has a small, but longterm edge because of this.

17...gxf4 18.♗xf4 h5



19.g5! Of course, White should not help his opponent to get rid of his weak pawns. Keeping the tension is very important.

19...♗g7 20.♖de1 [It seemed to be more circumspect to play 20.h4!? to stop Black from playing this move and fix a target on h3.]

20...h4! Black has a passive position, but small hopes like fixing the pawn on h3 are increasing his drawing chances, because it pins two white pieces to protecting the pawn.

21.♗e5! Another strong positional move by Caruana. He trades the dark squared bishops and intends to organize his play on the freshly weakened squares, rook to e5, queen to f4 and so on. [21.♖e3 was tempting, but Black can parry the Rc3 threat with 21...♗b8 22.♖c3 ♖c8 followed by Bf8-d6.]

21...♖dg8 22.♖f4 ♖d8 Black wants to keep an eye on the g5 pawn, but it is never really hanging because the rook will defend it from e5. Black has a difficult position anyway, he is lacking active plans and the only question is how White

should make progress. Caruana slowly starts to improve his pieces before making any concrete decisions.



23.♗f1! White transfers his bishop to d3, from where it is threatening sometimes with g5-g6, destroying the outpost of the e6 bishop or trading it with Bf5, making the f7 weakness more vulnerable.

23...♖b8 24.♗d3 ♗c8! Ponomarev was rightly afraid of the g6 threat and leaves from the x-ray of the rook. [In case of 24...♖d7 25.♗xg7 ♖xg7 26.♖f6! ♖hg8 27.g6!± would have worked because Bxh3 runs into Re7!]

25.♖b2! Caruana continues improving his position, he does not change anything to let his opponent suffer in his cramped situation.

25...♗xe5 26.♖xe5 ♖g7 27.a4! Another small improvement. White takes ground on the queenside, he is ready to squeeze Black with a5.

27...a5 [After 27...♖hg8 White reaches a better endgame with 28.♖xh4 ♖xg5 29.♖xg5 ♖xg5 and here he can choose between two pleasant options: 30.♖f2+= (30.♖xg5 30...♖xg5 31.h4 ♖h5 32.♗e2 ♖h6 33.h5+= is also clearly better for White with the distant passed pawn, but perhaps it is better to keep the queens on board.)]

28.♔a2 Caruana was already in some time pressure and he decided to make some waiting moves as his opponent is lacking useful plans anyway.

28...♔a7 [Trying to jump out with 28...♖h5 does not help. 29.♖he1 Black must avoid the invasion of the rook on the back rank. 29...♖h8 30.♖1e3+= White just improved his rook.]

29.♖d2 ♔b8 30.♖f4 ♔a7 White was just getting closer to the time control, but of course the game does not finish with a repetition...

31.♖he1!? Finally White changes the character of the game by trading the h-pawns. His idea is to open the position and trying to make use of the difference in the activity between the rook on e5 and the one on g7.

31...♙xh3 32.♖h1 ♙c8 [Perhaps it was better to play 32...♙e6 33.♖xh4 ♖hg8 (33...♖xh4 34.♖xh4+=) 34.♖h5 c6+= Building a kind of fortress by pressing the g5 pawn with full power. Black starts to play Ka8-a7 from now on and wait how White makes progress. It is not so easy because the white heavy pieces are also quite busy with protecting the g5 pawn.]

33.♖xh4 ♖xh4 34.♖xh4 b6? A positional blunder. Ponomariov misses the nice regrouping of the queen to c6. [34...c6 should have been played. 35.♖f4+= White is clearly better, but the situation is the same as in the 32...Be6 line, that White still needs to show the winning plan, but his pieces are pinned to the defence of the g5 pawn.]

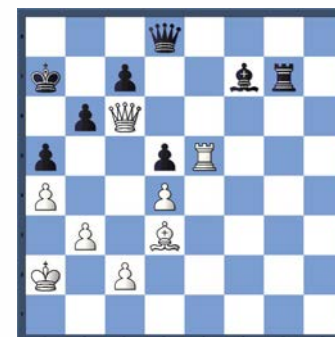
35.♖h6! ♖g8 36.♖c6! Suddenly Black is in deep trouble. The d5 pawn is hanging and it is not easy to deal with it.

36...♙e6 [36...♙b7 is met by 37.♖f6! ♖xf6 38.gxf6 and the rook invades to e7! Black should play Be6 now, but White nicely deflected the bishop to b7 first. Black had probably forgotten about this idea.]

37.g6! This breakthrough seems to be decisive. The e6 bishop loses its stability and Black collapses.

37...♖g7 Allowing a beautiful finish, but other moves were also bad. [37...♙d7 38.♖xd5 fxg6 39.♙e4 The king becomes too weak. 39...c6 (39...♖c8 40.♖e7+-) 40.♖d6+-; The endgame is lost after 37...♖d6 38.♖xd6 cxd6 39.♖e3 White is threatening to take on f7 and checking the bishop with Re7 and if Black avoids it by playing 39...♔b8 he moves into another motif: 40.♙f5!! ♙xf5 41.gxf7 ♖f8 42.♖e8+- Somehow the black king could not find its place...]

38.gxf7 ♙xf7



39.♖e7!! This brilliant combination wins the game on the spot. Caruana found it with only one minute on his clock, but of course that is why he is a 2800 player...

39...♖xe7 40.♙a6!! This is the point and Black gets mated in any case. Ponomariov was also impressed by Caruana's performance and allowed his opponent to mate him.

40...♔xa6 41.♖a8# 1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Baramidze, D(2616)-Naiditsch, A(2705)

Dortmund, 2014.07.13

1... -+



(6) Hou Yifan(2629)-Giri, A(2750)

Biel, 2014.07.14

1. +-



(7) Jobava, B(2713)-Nepomniachtchi, I(2730)

Bergamo, 2014.07.14

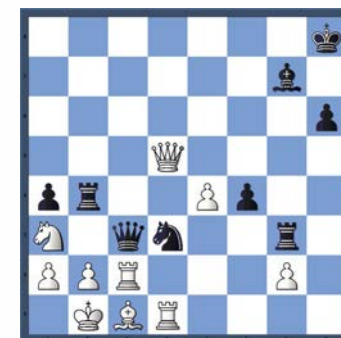
1. +-



(8) Pogonina, N(2508)-Zhukova, N(2451)

European Woman Championship, 2014.07.08

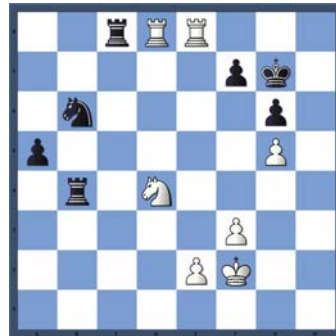
1... -+



(9) Gunina, V(2501)-Javakhishvili, L(2474)

European Woman Championship, 2014.07.14

1. +-



(10) Van Wely, L(2657)-L'Ami, E(2650)

Dutch Championship, 2014.07.25

1. +-



(11) Spoelman, W(2571)-Ernst, S(2554)

Dutch Championship, 2014.07.12

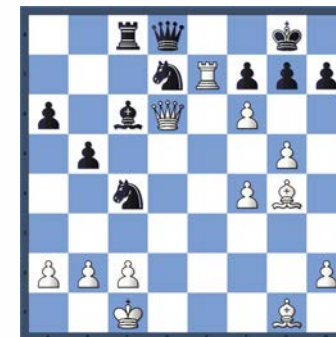
1. +-



(12) Bok, B(2586)-Spoelman, W(2571)

Dutch Championship, 2014.07.13

1. +-



(13) Czerwonski, A(2380)-Shimanov, A(2644)

Najdorf memorial, 2014.07.14

1... -+



(14) Bauer, C(2649)-Prie, E(2493)

JCL Open, 2014.07.09

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Sutovsky, Emil(2620)
- Nepomniachtchi, Ian(2730)

ACP Golden Classic 2014(5.3),
2014.07.17



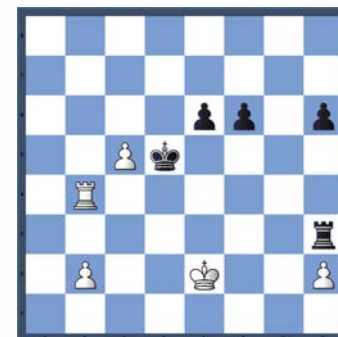
GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



After the opening White had a clear advantage in the endgame, but step by step Black outplayed his opponent so we finally see this very dangerous rook endgame for White. Black is going to be a pawn up because it is impossible to save the h2 pawn and the black king is also very active. At first sight White's position just looks lost, but Sutovsky finds a way to finally get a draw.

44.c4! The only move! White's only chance is to use the passed c- and b-pawns to get the black king's attention and in the meantime try to get rid of the e6 pawn, after which we will find ourselves in the theoretically drawn rook endgame with f- and h-pawns, which is still quite hard work to hold. ..

44...♖xh2+ The pawn on h2 has to be taken either way... [To nothing would lead 44...♙e5 45.c5 ♖d5 and now White has the very important



46.♖b6! White is giving up the c5 pawn but taking the e6 pawn, which secures a draw. 46...♖xh2+ 47.♙f3 Black can't avoid Rd6 next, so the position is a draw.]

45.♙d3 ♖h3+ 46.♙d2 The position of the white king on d2 is also solid and the main idea remains to play c5 and Rb6.

46...♙e5 Unluckily for Black, there is nothing better. For example pushing the h-pawn would not bring any success: [46...h5 47.c5 Now c6 is already a serious threat. 47...♖g3 48.c6 ♖g8 Black just lost too much time and White is achieving a comfortable draw: 49.♖c4 ♙e5 50.b4 ♙d6 51.b5 Black is even the one that should be careful now.]

47.c5 White is playing for the Rb6 idea

47...♖h2+ 48.♙c3 ♙d5



49. Rxc4 is of course a possible move, but actually it was not really needed. [49. Rxb6 would lead to a draw: 49... Kxc5 50. Rxe6 Rf2 Now in the best case Black can reach the h-f pawn and rook endgame. 51. Kd3 Kd5 52. Rb6 White is keeping the b-pawn alive, which secures an easy draw.]

49... Kc6 White wanted to play c6 of course.

50. b4 Rh3+ 51. Kd2 Ra3 [Black needed to be bit careful because of the nice trick which we can see after 51... f5? 52. b5+! Because of the bad position of the black rook on h3 all this is working... 52... Kxb5 53. c6 Kxc4

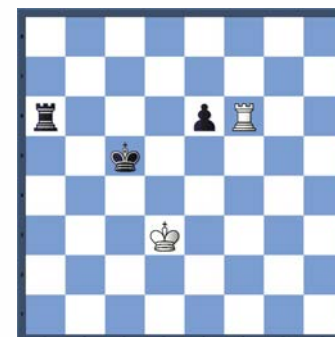


54. c7 And there is no way to stop the c7 pawn from queening.]

52. Rh4 The most simple. Now the exchanges of pawns are unavoidable.

52... Kb5 53. Rh6 And the pawns are falling on both sides.

53... Kxb4 54. Rxf6 Ra6 55. Kd3 Kxc5



56. Rf4 Any move already leads to a draw...

56... Ra3+ 57. Ke2 Kd5 58. Rh4 e5 59. Rb4 e4 60. Rb8 Kd4
And once again we could see that even a very promising looking rook endgame has a huge tendency to end up in a draw... **1/2-1/2**

(16) Adams, Michael(2743)
- Kramnik, Vladimir(2777)

Dortmund,
2014.07.13



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



In a very complex middlegame, Kramnik succeeded to outplay Adams, but he failed to convert the winning advantage into a full point.

47...a4? Kramnik miscalculates something. He gives back one of his extra pawns to get rid of the rooks and he thought that the arising endgame should be winning for him because he collects the kingside pawns. But things are not so easy... [47...b6—+ should be a technical win for Black. He can already advance his a-pawn next, followed by b5 as he prevented Kc5.]

48.♔c5 ♜e4 49.♔b5! Adams had no choice. He must take the pawn and hope for a miracle. [49.♔d5? did not work in view of 49...♜e5+! 50.♔d4—+ and b5 next.]

49...♔e6 50.♜xa4 In this kind of position it is much easier to be on the defensive side. We always have to play only moves, while our opponent must calculate hard each move to not miss anything in the winning line.

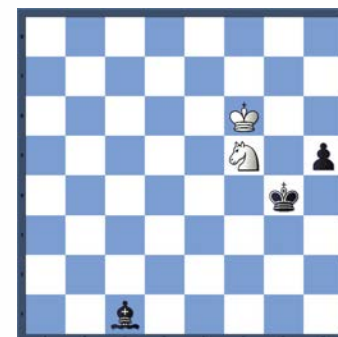
50...♜xa4 51.♔xa4 ♔d5 The path to the h3 pawn is not shorter if Black plays Ke5, he must go through the e4 square anyway. [Another winning attempt was 51...♔e5 52.♔b5 ♜g5 53.♔b6 h5 54.♔xb7 h4 Advancing the h-pawn is a big achievement for Black and he only now goes towards the h3 pawn, but this takes too much time and White is in time to bring his king back... 55.♔c6 ♔f4 56.♔d5 ♔f3 57.♜d6 ♔g2 58.♔e4 ♔xh3 59.♔f3 ♔h2 60.♔f2!= Squeezing the black king to the h-file. White plays Ne4 next and Black cannot make progress.]

52.♔b5 ♔e4 53.♔b6 ♔f3 54.♔xb7 ♔g2 55.♔c6 ♔xh3 56.♔d5 ♔xg4 All moves were more or less forced so far. Kramnik must have foreseen this before playing 47...a4, but the arising position is drawn...

57.♔e6! White wins back one of the pawns, but the position still remains tricky...

57...h5 [Both 57...♜g5 and 57...Kg5 run into 58.♜xh6+!=]

58.♔xf6 ♜c1 The last hope for Black is to somehow set White into zugzwang and force him to move with his knight, when the pawn could be advanced.



59.♔e5! The most natural and best move. White approaches to the corner with the idea to sacrifice the knight sometimes as the h1 square does not fit to the bishop's color. [59.♔g6?

to protect the knight and keep the h5 pawn under attack is a mistake because after 59...♙g5! White gets into zugzwang. 60.♘d6 h4 61.♗e4 ♙e3 The bishop dominates the knight now. 62.♘f6+ ♔f3—+ and the pawn promotes automatically.]

59...♙d2 60.♔e4! [Another moment to go wrong was 60.♔f6? but here the win is much more complex than in the 59.Kg6 line: 60...♙f4 61.♔e6



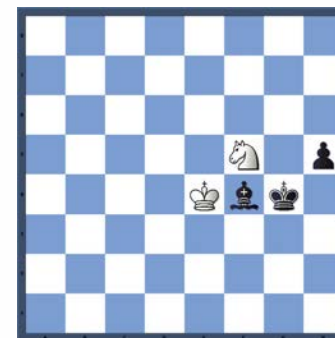
61...♔g5! White is in zugzwang again. Only the knight can move. 62.♘d4 White temporarily prevents the advance of the pawn, but he gets into zugzwang again... 62...♙b8! 63.♘f5 (63.♘f3+ is met by 63...♔g4 and Black advances his pawn next.) 63...♙c7! 64.♘d4 ♔f4! 65.♘f5 ♙d8!—+ Here we are! The next zugzwang. Only the knight can move again, but this time it does not have any good squares. Black pushes h4 next.]

60...♙g5 Before playing the thematic 60...Bf4, Kramnik tries some other ideas to set black into zugzwang.

61.♔e5 ♔f3 62.♘d4+! White did not have Ke4 now, but this time he could give a check and then go back to f5.

62...♔g2 63.♘f5 White is ready to wait with Ke4, there is no chance for a zugzwang here.

63...♔f3 64.♘d4+ ♔g4 65.♘f5 ♙d2 66.♔e4 ♙f4 It seems like Black achieves what he wants, but Adams has a nice resource to save the game.



67.♘h4! And Kramnik admits that he cannot make progress and agrees to a draw... [Actually 67.♔d3! was also drawn and quickly going to h1!]

67...♔xh4 68.♔xf4 ♔h3 69.♔f3 1/2-1/2

Clash of the Titans

(17) Botvinnik, Mikhail
- Tal, Mihail [E81]

World Championship 24th(17),
1961.04.28



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 g6 2.e4 ♘g7 3.c4 d6 4.♞c3 ♞f6 5.f3 We have the Samisch Variation.

5...♞bd7 6.♙e3 O-O



7.♙d3 [7.♞h3 Sometimes White develops the knight to f2, especially if Black is going to transpose to the Benoni after c5.; 7.♞d2 ; 7.♞ge2]

7...e5 [7...c5 Because the white bishop can come to d3 very quickly, Black could try this to fight in the center. 8.♞ge2 (8.d5 This move makes no sense with the bishop on d3 because Ne5 will come with tempo. 8...e6) 8...cxd4 9.♙xd4 (9.♞xd4 9...e6 10.O-O d5! A typical idea.

Black equalizes the position in the center and after all the exchanges on d5 he will play Nb6.) 9...b6 10.O-O ♙b7 followed by e6, with solid position for Black.]

8.♞ge2 Let's check what could happen if White closed the center: [8.d5 8...♞c5 (8...♞e8 9.♞d2 (9.♞ge2 is not accurate because of the tricky 9...♙h6! and Black activates the bishop or will exchange him.) 9...f5 10.O-O-O a6 Preparing to play b5 at some moment. 11.♞b1 ♞h8 12.exf5 gxf5 13.♞ge2∞ (13.g4 13...e4! is a typical idea to open the bishop and get the useful e5 square. 14.fxe4 fxe4=+) 9.♙c2 ♞h5 10.♞d2 f5 11.exf5 gxf5 (11...♙xf5 12.♙xc5!? An interesting idea to take control of the light squares, especially e4, and play against the limited bishop on g7. 12...dxc5 13.O-O-O e4!?) 12.O-O-O∞]

8...♞h5 9.dxe5 With the Samisch setup (Bd3-Ne2-f3) this move can not bring anything good for White. Most logical was [9.d5 9...♞c5 10.♙c2 ♞f4!? is an interesting idea to get active play. 11.♞xf4 (11.O-O 11...♞g5↑) 11...exf4 12.♙xf4



12...f5! 13.O-O g5 (13...fxe4 14.fxe4 ♞d7 also with compensation.) 14.♙e3 f4 15.♙d4 ♞d7 Black is blocking the e5 square and then creates pressure on the kingside with h5-g4 etc.]

9...dxe5 10.O-O c6 11.♖d2 ♕e7 12.♗ad1 ♘c5 13.♙b1 The bishop on b1 and knights on c3 and e2 are very limited and the d4 square can also be weak, so Black has not problems at all.

13...♘e6 14.♖e1 ♙f6 Black is trying to exchange the bishops, as then the dark squares will become weaker.

15.♙h1 ♘hf4 16.g3 ♘xe2 17.♘xe2 h5 With the idea to weaken the white king after h4 and then maybe play Kg7-Rh8.

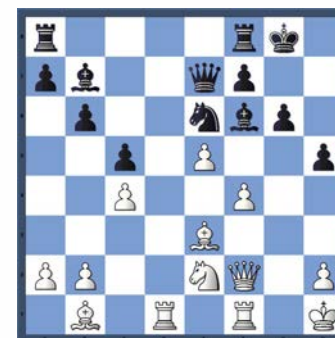
18.♖f2 b6



19.f4 is the only way to activate the pieces, but on the other hand this pawn advance further weakens the white king.

19...exf4 20.gxf4 ♙b7 21.e5 [21.c5 To close the bishop is too optimistic: 21...♘xc5 22.e5 ♙g7 23.♙xc5 ♖xc5 24.♖xc5 bxc5 25.♘c3 ♗ad8 with Rd4 next.; 21.f5 This move could give White the initiative. 21...♘g7 (21...♘g5 22.♖g2 c5 23.♘c3 ♙xc3 24.♙xg5 ♙f6 25.♙h6 g5 Of course not Bxf8 but 26.♙xg5!±) 22.fxg6 fxg6 23.♘f4 c5 24.♖g2 Black has big problems with the weak g6 pawn here.]

21...c5+



22.♗d5!? An original idea.

22...♙g7 23.♙g1 [23.f5 23...♘c7--+]

23...♘c7 24.♘c3 ♘xd5 [24...♗ad8 25.♙e4∞]

25.cxd5 ♗ad8 26.♙e4 What an interesting position. Black is an exchange up but White has compensation thanks to his strong central pawns. The problem in Black's position is the fact that the pawn is on h5 and is not possible to push f6 with the idea to break the white structure.

26...♙a8 27.♖g3



27...b5?! Tal is very impatient, he is trying to complicate the position, but after this move Black simply loses the pawn. But

on the other hand is hard to suggest some plan for Black, maybe Rd7-Rd8.

28. ♖f2 [28.d6 28... ♖e6 29. ♗xa8 ♖xa8 30. ♗xc5 ♖c4 31.b4 a5 32.a3 axb4 33. ♗xb4 ♖fc8 34. ♖f3 with Nd5 next.]

28... ♖d7 [28... ♖c8 29. ♗xb5]

29. ♗xc5 ♖fe8 30. ♖g3 ♖c8 31.b4 ♔h8 32. ♖f3 White missed a win based on very deep calculation: [32.e6! 32...fxe6 33. ♖xg6 ♗xc3



34. ♔h1!! A very difficult move to find. (34. ♖xh5+ 34... ♔g8 35. ♔h1 ♖xc5! The back king will escape over f8-e7.) 34... ♗xd5 (34... ♖xc5



35. ♖g1!! What a fantastic move again! White doesn't care about material, he just wants to mate. Black has not defence.) 35. ♖xh5+ ♔g8 36. ♖g1+ ♖g7 37. ♖h7+ ♔f7 38. ♖xg7+ ♗xg7 39. ♗xd5 exd5 40. ♗d4 ♖g8 41. ♖f5+ ♔e7 42. ♖g5+ ♔f7 43. ♖xd5+ White should win because of the weak black king.]

32...a6 33. ♔h1 Botvinnik is not in a hurry. A break over e6 was possible here as well, but it would lead to very complex play. [33.e6 33...fxe6 34. ♗xg6 ♔g8 35.f5!; 33. ♖g2 With the idea to keep the f3 square for the bishop after f5.]



33...f5! 34.exf6 [34. ♗c2 34... ♗f8]

34... ♗xf6 35. ♗xg6 The white structure is finally destroyed, but Black had to sacrifice two pawns for it.

35... ♖g4 36. ♖d3 [36. ♖xg4 36...hxg4 37. ♗xe8 ♖xe8 38. ♖c1 ♗xc3 39. ♖xc3 ♗xd5+ 40. ♔g1 ♖e2 And Black should quite easily hold the draw.]

36...♖g8



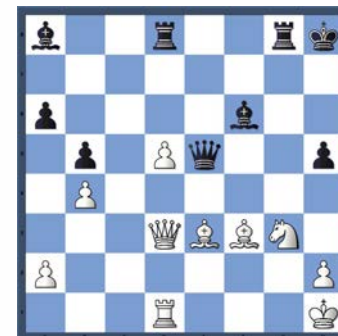
37.♙e4? Botvinnik is looking for consolidation, which is why he takes back the pieces from their active places. More promising was [37.♖g1! 37...♙xf4 (37...♙xg1+ 38.♙xg1 ♖xg6+ 39.♙f2 (39.♙xg6 39...♖g8) 39...♙g7 40.♘e4± White is two pawns up and has the more active pieces.) 38.♙e2 Suddenly Black has problems with the king. 38...♙h6 (38...♙e5 39.♙d2! Xh6.) 39.♙e3 ♙xg6 40.♖xg6 ♖xg6 41.♙xh5+ ♙g7 42.♙h6+ ♙f7 (42...♖xh6 43.♙g4+) 43.♘e4!]

37...♖ce8 38.♙f3 ♙xf4 [38...♙h3 39.♖d1 ♖g3 40.♙f2 ♖xf3 41.♙g6 ♖xf4 42.♙xe8+ ♙g7 43.♖g1+ ♖g4 44.♖xg4+ hxg4 45.♙g1 ♙xc3 46.♙xa8 ♙f3 With a draw after perpetual check Qd1-Qf3.]

39.♘e2 [39.♙e4 39...♙h4 40.♖xf6 ♙xf6 41.♙d4 ♖e5—+]

39...♙h4 40.♙f2 ♙g5 41.♘g3 White loses the pawn and Black's pieces are active as well. Now Black's position is almost winning.

41...♖d8 42.♙e3 ♙e5 43.♖d1



43...♖g4! Activating the rook.

44.a3 [44.♙xg4 44...♖xd5—+]

44...♙b7 These are just waiting move without any deep idea. [44...♖h4±]

45.♙b6 ♖d7 46.♙e3 ♖h4 47.♘f1 Again too passive, why not play [47.♙g2]

47...♖c4 48.♙g2 ♖g7 49.♙d2 h4 50.h3 ♙b2 The most practical way. Tal starts to reduce the material. [50...♙h5 With the unpleasant idea Rxg2 Kxg2 Qg6+ and Rc2 next could finish this game faster.]

51.♙xb2 ♙xb2 52.♙c5 ♖d7 [52...♙xa3 53.♙d4 ♙xb4 54.♙xg7+ ♙xg7 55.d6 ♙xg2+ 56.♙xg2 ♖c8 57.d7 ♖d8 58.♘e3 ♙f7 59.♘d5 ♙d6 (59...♖xd7 60.♖f1+) 60.♖a1 ♖xd7 61.♖xa6 With drawing chances.]

53.♘e3 ♖c1 54.♖xc1 ♙xc1 55.♙d4+ ♙g8 56.♘g4 The white pieces came back to active squares but it is already too late, as without heavy pieces on the board the black king is safe.

56...♙g5 [56...♖e7 57.d6 (57.♘e5 57...♙f4) 57...♖e1+ 58.♙g1 ♙xg2+ 59.♙xg2 ♖d1 60.♙c5 ♙f7 61.♘e5+ ♙e6—+]

57. ♔g1



57... ♜xd5 Black decides to change the material situation but it is enough for him to win the game anyway.

58. ♞e5 [58. ♜f6 58... ♜c1--]

58... ♜xg2 [58... ♜d8 59. ♜b6 ♜d6 60. ♜c5--]

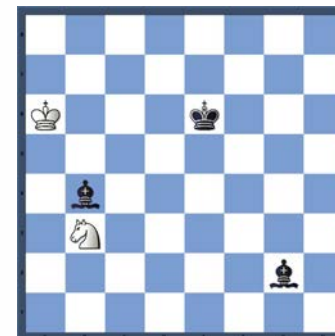
59. ♞xd7 ♜xh3 60. ♞c5 ♜c8 61. ♔f2 ♔h7 62. a4?! The last chance was to take control of the h-pawn first. [62. ♜e5 62... ♔g6--]

62... bxa4 63. ♞xa4 ♜f4 Now White is not able to stop the h-pawn.

64. ♔f3 h3 65. ♜g1 h2 66. ♜xh2 ♜xh2 67. ♔e4 [67. ♞c5 67... ♜d6--]

67... ♜d7 68. ♞c5 ♜b5 69. ♔d5 ♔g6 70. ♞e4 ♔f5 71. ♞c3 ♜f1 72. ♔c5 ♜e5 [72... ♜g1+]

73. ♞b1 ♔e6 74. ♞d2 ♜d6+ 75. ♔b6 ♜g2 76. ♞b3 ♜xb4 77. ♔xa6 White managed to exchange the last pawns but the endgame with two bishops against a knight is theoretically lost, especially in this case when the white king is already on the rim.

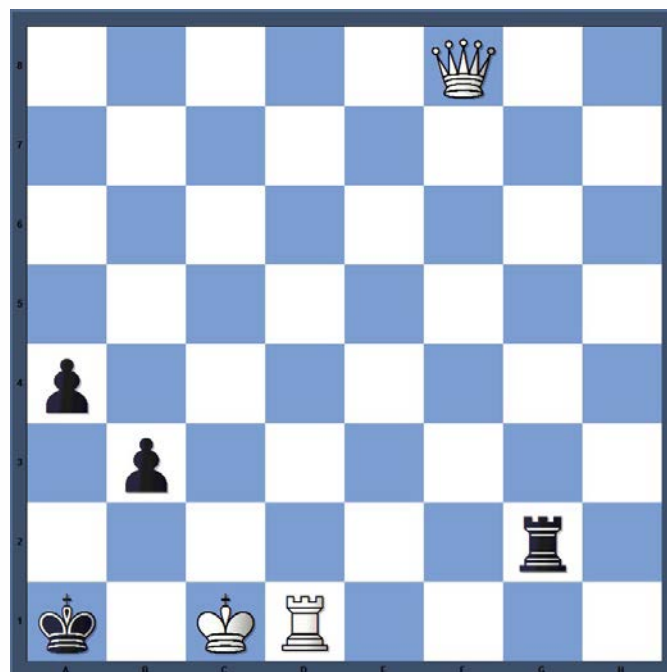


77... ♜f1+ 78. ♔b6 ♔d6 79. ♞a5 ♜c5+ 80. ♔b7 ♜e2 81. ♞b3 ♜e3 82. ♞a5 ♔c5 83. ♔c7 ♜f4+ And the white knight will be caught very soon... **0-1**

Surprise section / study

(18) Kasparian

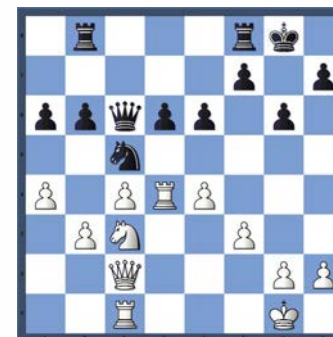
1. +—



Solutions

(19) Zhao Ju(2603)-Xiu Deshun(2550)

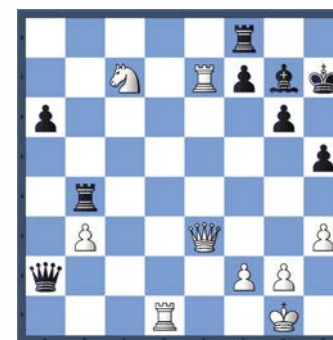
Danzhou, 2014.07.03



20... ♖xb3!! 21. ♙xb3 ♜c5 22. ♖d1 e5—+

(20) Socko, M(2462)-Kulon, K(2341)

European Woman Championship, 2014.07.07



33. ♘e6! ♜g8 [33...fxe6 34. ♖xg7+! ♙xg7 35. ♖d7+ ♜f7 (35... ♙g8 36. ♙xe6+ ♙h8 37. ♙e5+ ♙g8 38. ♙g7#) 36. ♙e5+ ♙g8 37. ♖d8+ ♜f8 38. ♙xe6+ ♙g7 39. ♙e7+! ♜f7 40. ♙e5+ ♜f6 41. ♖d7+ ♙h6 42. ♙xf6]

34. ♘g5+ ♙h8 35. ♘xf7+ ♙h7 36. ♙h6+! [36. ♙h6+ 36... ♙xh6 37. ♘g5+ ♙h8 38. ♖h7#]

(21) Sjugirov, S(2643)-Igambergenov, A(2328)

Polugaevsky memorial, 2014.07.03



19...♔xg2+! 20.♔xg2 ♖f4+ 21.♔f3 ♖xd3—+

(22) Kryakvin, D(2579)-Ziatdinov, R(2348)

Polugaevsky memorial, 2014.07.04



37.h6+! ♔xh6 38.♔f8# 1-0

(23) Bochkarev, A(2302)-Timofeev, A(2597)

Polugaevsky memorial, 2014.07.07



23...♖d2 24.♖a8 [24.♖xd2 24...♖xd2 25.♔c1 ♕e5 26.g3 ♔xf2—+] 24...♖xd1! 0-1

(24) Melkumyan, H(2647)-Kholopov, A(2339)

Benasque Open, 2014.07.04



22.♖xc7! 1-0 [22.♖xc7 22...♖xc7 23.♕xd6 ♔d7 (23...♔e8 24.♕xc7+—) 24.♕xc5+—]

(25) Popov, I(2618)-Colon Garcia, E(2335)

Benasque Open, 2014.07.04



24. ♖xg6! ♜xd4 [24...fxg6 25. ♜g7+ ♔h8 26. ♜xf8+]

25. ♜xd4+-

(26) Bachmann, A(2652)-Antoni Royo, J(2443)

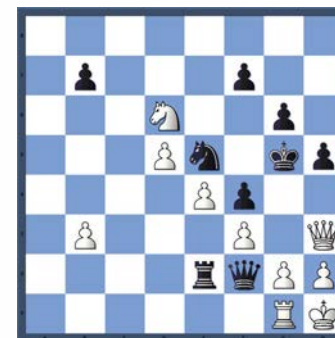
Benasque Open, 2014.07.05



22. c6! 1-0 [22.c6 22...bxc6 (22... ♖xc6 23. ♖c5+-) 23. ♖c5 ♜d6
24. ♖xe6 ♜xe6 25. ♜cb1 c5 26. ♖d5+-]

(27) Vojinovic, J(2297)-Markus, R(2607)

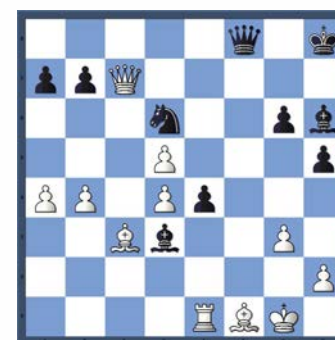
Palacin Open, 2014.07.04



36. ♖xf7+!! ♖xf7 37. ♜e6= ♜e1 38. ♜e7+ ♔h6 39. ♜f8+=

(28) Herraiz Hidalgo, H(2446)-Zharebukh, Y(2618)

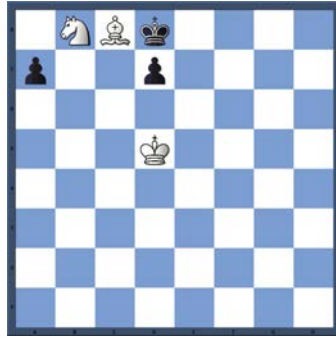
Montcada Open, 2014.06.29



37... ♖e3+! 38. ♔h1 [38. ♜xe3 38... ♜xf1#]

38... ♖xf1 39. ♜xe3 ♜f2 0-1

(29) Gunst



1. ♖b7!! [1. ♖a6 1... ♔c7=]

1... ♔c7 2. ♖a6! ♖xb8 3. ♔d6! ♔a8 4. ♔c7 d5 5. ♖b7#



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 126

27th of July 2014

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Editorial Preface

A fantastic week of chess has come to an end. A lot of top tournaments have finished. Let us start with the main ones:

Dortmunder Schachtage: Nobody could face up to Caruana who crushed the event with 5.5/7 and is now officially over 2800 ELO on the next rating list. The World Nr3 showed strong and powerful play and totally deserved the tournament win. The big surprise was the 2.5/7 result from Kramnik, who already won the Dortmund supertournament 10 times. It started with the disaster game against Meier and continued in a similar way until the end...

The Biel Chess Festival was dominated by the young French Vachier-Lagrave who finally won it with a score of 6/10 and he could even have scored more. The 2nd place went to the solid Wojtaszek and the 3rd place was shared by Hariskrishna, Hou Yifan(!) and Giri.

It was great to see the current women's World Champion doing very well against some top players and we might soon have a new Judit Polgar.

A very strange tournament in Italy which was called ACP Golden Classics (what it has to do with ACP is hard to understand, except for the participation of Sutovsky) ended with a one-way victory of Wesley So, who scored a great 4.5/6.

During an open tournament in Israel, a rapid match between Gelfand and Svidler was organized, where Svidler could once again prove his great rapid skills with a final score of 5-3 for the Russian.

That's all for this week from the top world events. Already on the 1st of August we can be excited about the start of the Chess Olympiad in Tromsø. Your two commentators are both going to play for their respective teams of Hungary and Germany.

We hope you enjoy this week's issue!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

**(1) Motylev, Alexander(2698)
- Vachier Lagrave, Maxime(2766)
[B90]**

Hans Suri Mem 2014(7),
2014.07.21



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

A very exciting game which ended in a strange way is awaiting us. It is hard to say how far each player knew the theory and actually it doesn't matter, White played a very powerful game with a great piece sacrifice but the position remained quite complicated. Just when things seemed to be developing very well for him, Motylev made a horrible blunder which just left him a piece down in a hopeless position.

1.e4 c5 Vachier remains one of the few players from the very top who did not switch to the Berlin and shows again and again how good his Najdorf is.

2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 Motylev's games are also great to watch, he has no fear from the main lines, even against stronger opponents.

3...cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♙e3 One of the most popular lines in the Najdorf. Probably 6.Bg5 still remains the main move.

6...♗g4 This could not have been a surprise for White. We commented a great victory from Maxime already in previous issues over Adams in the same line.

7.♙g5 h6 8.♙h4 g5 9.♙g3 ♙g7 We are in a sort of main position in the 6...Ng4 line and White has to choose which line to play now.



10.♘e2 Motylev goes for a very concrete line.

10...h5 Other moves are also possible for Black, but of course 10...h5 is clearly the main move. In general Black should not allow White a control over the white squares in such structures and needs to play in a very dynamic way as every tempo counts.

11.h4 This was clearly the plan behind Be2. As we can easily see, things are already very complicated, but of course it is still theory.

11...♗c6! A strong move.

12.♗b3 White doesn't have anything better. [The promising-looking 12.♗xc6 12...bxc6 13.hxg5 doesn't lead anywhere for White after 13...♖b8! followed by Qa5 and only Black can be better here.]

12...gxf4 Now the pawn on h4 already needs to be taken:

13.♗xh4 [Usually a move like 13.♖xh4 is not that good because of 13...♗ce5 followed by maybe Ng6 and the rook on h4 is clearly misplaced.]

13...♗e6 This is also very typical play. Black is going to be strong on the queenside, so Vachier-Lagrave frees the c8 square for his rook.

14.♖d2 White wants to castle queenside.

14...♖b6 Black is fixing the f2 pawn to avoid 0-0-0. [14...♖c8 is the other possible move and all this is still well-known.]

15.♗d5! This move looks very strong to me and it might even question the 14...♖b6 move as now the game is becoming very forced.

15...♗xd5 16.exd5 Where to put the black knight now, to d4 or e5?!

16...♗d4 Probably the right choice. [In case of 16...♗ce5 17.c3! White is in time to block the bishop on g7 and the pawn h5 could be a potential target in the future.]



17.c3!? Motylev clearly had this in mind when he played 15.Nd5! [In case of the more passive 17.♗xg4 17...hxg4 18.O-O-O ♗f5 19.♗g5 ♖xh1 20.♖xh1 the position already doesn't look better for Black, but after 20...a5!? I think I would clearly choose to be Black here.]

17...♗f5 [To be greedy would be a bad decision now: 17...♗xb3 18.axb3 ♖xb3 19.♗d1 ♖b6 20.♖a4! The white rook is joining the game from a4, which brings a lot of trouble to Black.]

18.♗xg4 White needs to act quickly too. To let the bishop h4 get exchanged is not an option.

18...hxg4 19.♖g5 We have quite a strange position with both

kings still uncastled.

19...e6 A nice move at first sight, but it might have been a mistake. [I think the right way for Black to go on was 19...♘h4 20.♙xh4 ♙xh4 21.♙xh4 The pawn on g4 can't be saved, but Black clearly has compensation for it. 21...a5! Typical play against the b2 pawn. 22.♙xg4 ♔f8 I think it is hard to say who is better here, as Black's threat of playing a4 next is very powerful and after 23.♙a4 ♙a6 Qd3 or b5 are coming next. The position seems unclear to me.]

20.♙xg4! A strong move in quite a complicated position. [20.dxe6 doesn't give White any advantage since after 20...fxe6 21.♙g6+ ♔f8! the black king feels perfectly safe on f8.]

20...♙f6 Black is going for the h4 bishop.



21.dxe6! A perfect sacrifice in a position, where it is not easy at all to see that White will have enough for the piece. [21.g3 would lead to an unclear position since after 21...O-O-O Black definitely has compensation for the pawn.]

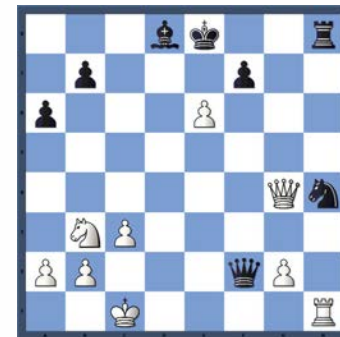
21...♘h4 22.O-O-O It might be that this was all White's preparation... It is hard to say, but in any case it is great play by the Russian. Black has a lot of moves now, White is having no concrete threat, but the two pawns and Black's open king give White strong compensation for the piece.

22...♙xf2! A very strong move which was not easy to make at all. Black is not only taking a pawn which is never wrong, but he also wants to play Qf5 next, which is a very important move in many lines.

23.♙xd6?! doesn't seem to be the best possible continuation of the attack... [23.exf7+ looked more promising for White. 23...♙xf7 (23...♙f8 didn't work because of 24.g3 ♙f5 25.♙xh4!) 24.♙hf1 Now the king's position on f7 is very dangerous. 24...♙e3+ 25.♙b1 ♙e6 26.♙b4 I think White's attack should give him some advantage here.]

23...♙d8?! Not a bad move, but not the best either... [It seems like Black could equalize the game after 23...♙f5! 24.exf7+ A difficult move to find... 24...♙f8! 25.♙xf5 (25.♙b4 25...♙e7 and Black is winning.) 25...♘xf5 26.♙xh8+ ♙xh8 27.♙b6 And we are in an endgame which would probably end in a draw.]

24.♙xd8+ ♙xd8 Once again White is in a position with a huge choice of moves...



25.♘d2! Motylev handles everything perfectly well. The threat of playing Ne4 can be deadly in many lines and at the same time the knight on d2 is protecting the white king from checks and Rf1 is also a threat now.

25...♙e3 is probably also the only move for Black.

26.exf7+ Actually this move is strong in case Motylev calculated all the complications correctly, which he didn't, otherwise a move like 26.g3 could have given White safer play.

26...♖xf7 27.♔f1+ ♕f6 Black was defending well and we should not forget that in case White doesn't find anything concrete then Black is going to remain a piece up with a better position.

28.♔d7+? A huge mistake which costs White the game when the win was so close... [



28.♔e4! 28...♔xe4 (28...♔g5 29.♔xb7+ White already has 3 pawns for the piece and the attack, which gives him a clear advantage.) 29.♖xe4 ♖h6 30.g3 ♖g2 I guess until here things were easy to calculate, but now Motylev missed the amazing



31.♖d2!! The trick is that the black knight on g2 doesn't have

any squares and the white king is capturing it. A rare thing! 31...♖e7 32.♔xf6 ♔xf6 33.♖xf6 ♖xf6 34.♖e2 followed by Kf2 with a winning pawn endgame for White.]

28...♔e7 Now somehow all the black pieces are protecting each other and the young Frenchman is taking over the game.

29.♔d3 Another inaccuracy... [29.♔g4 Keeping the black king on f7 for some time would give White good chances to escape.]

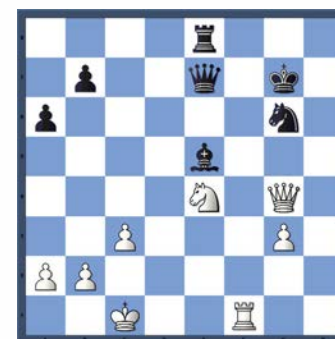
29...♖g7 30.♖e4 ♕e5 White doesn't have any more threats left, which is a very bad sign. All Black needs to do now is to bring his knight back from h4.

31.♔e2 ♖g6 Of course...

32.g3 What else, it is not an option to let Black play Nf4...

32...♔e8! A good move. The pressure on the e-file is very dangerous now for White.

33.♔g4



33...♔e6! A strong decision, not letting White any chances.

34.♔h5 After this move the game is basically over. [34.♔xe6 was a tougher defence, but after 34...♔xe6 35.♖c2 I think Black should still have very good winning chances in the endgame.]

34...♔xa2 And the game is over...

35.♘c5 The blunder of the rook makes no difference anymore.

35...♔a1+ It is a really big pity for White to lose the way it happened, but in fact White only had one moment where very creative thinking combined with exact calculation could lead to victory. Chess is a cruel game! :) **0-1**

(2) Svidler, Peter(2751)
- **Gelfand, Boris(2753) [D81]**

Gelfand-Svidler Rapid 2014(5),
2014.07.23



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

In a very interesting rapid match out of 8 games Svidler managed to defeat Gelfand with a score of 5-3 but as we will see in the current game, Gelfand also had his moments in the match. After the opening, the position quickly became very sharp and then Gelfand completely crushed the defence lines of the 7-times Russian Champion with very active and powerful play.

1.c4 g6 The move order does not really matter for the current game, soon we will be in the Gruenfeld.

2.d4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 d5 Gelfand continues with his favourite opening for the past years, with which he was very successful in the match against Anand for the WC title. The Gruenfeld has also been the main opening of Svidler for at least the last 10 years. The strange thing in chess is that sometimes it is really hard to play against your own main repertoire...

4.♔b3 is not the main move, but it is of course nothing new either.

4...dxc4 As usual Black immediately starts his play against the white center.

5.♔xc4 ♕e6 6.♔b5+ ♕d7 7.♔b3 [To take the pawn is very dangerous for White: 7.♔xb7 7...♘c6! The pawn on d4 is hanging, which gives Black enough time to get great play. 8.e3 ♖b8 9.♔a6 ♘b4 10.♔e2 c5! Such positions are very usual for the Gruenfeld... Who cares about pawns when all the black

pieces will be in the game. White's position is already very dangerous.]



7...c5! Of course this is still theory, but it is a great move anyway. Black doesn't waste any time and is looking for active play.

8.d5 [8.dxc5 is the other possible move which leads to more or less equal play.]

8...b5! Another strong move by Black. Of course in case White has enough time to play e4 and develop the pieces to castle kingside, Black's position would be pretty poor.

9.xb5 10.a5+ 10.c3 a6 A move with multiple ideas. Of course the simple Rb8 can be strong, especially with the idea of Bg7 and putting pressure on the b2 pawn, but we will also soon see the other move which Gelfand had in mind.

11.f3 White is preparing the e4 push. [In case of 11.e4 it seems like Black has the strong 11...c4! The black knight wants to take a great position on c5. 12. a3 It is dangerous for White to keep the queens on. (12. xc4 12... b4 and Black's play is very dangerous again.) 12... xa3 13.bxa3 c5 14.e5 g4 with big complications.]

11...c4 This was the second idea behind 10...Na6. For White it is usually too dangerous to take the pawn on c4 and the black

knight is getting the excellent c5 square.

12. d1 [12. xc4 didn't work: 12... b4 Nc2 is a heavy threat. 13. b3 b8 Nd2 is the next threat. which gives Black clearly more than just compensation for the 2 pawns.]



12...e6!? Black continues playing very dynamically. Of course a move like 12... Bg7 was possible, but maybe after 13.e4 White could keep some advantage. Right now the game is getting totally messy.

13.e4 Playing 13.dxe6 is not an option because of 13...Bxe6 followed by Rd8.

13...exd5 14.e5? And this looks like a clear miscalculation by Svidler... [To a very unclear position would lead 14.exd5 and now Black has a lot of different ways to continue, maybe even 14...0-0-0 could be an option! 14... c5 15. xc4 O-O 16. e2 ab8 Black is 2 pawns down, but the white king is still in the center. It is really hard to say who is better here. Maybe White is able to keep things together, but it might also be that Black is doing perfectly fine here. A very interesting position...]

14...d4! This is the move that Svidler clearly underestimated. What to do now for White?!

15.exf6 [Not better is 15. xd4 15... b4 and White has no good defence against Nc2 next. 16. d1 xe5+ with a mating

attack for Black.]

15...dxc3 We have a funny position. Many of the black pieces are out, while ALL of White's pieces are still placed on their starting positions! This just can't go well!

16.bxc3 How to mate the white king now?



16...O-O-O!? Oh yes, Gelfand in on a rush! Black also had other nice moves like 16...Bc5 or just 16...Nc5, but clearly 16...O-O-O looks like the most beautiful move!

17.♔d2 It is hard for White to find a better defence.

17...♕a4 Before starting the final attack, Black is putting the white queen on a very passive position on c1 and at the same time opening the d-file for the rook.

18.♖c1 [18.♖e2 18...♖e8 and the game is over.]

18...♖e5+ Once again Black picks the best move. Before playing Nc5 Gelfand is putting his queen on the best central square possible.

19.♕e2 Trying to escape with the king to f1 to avoid getting mated immediately...

19...♖c5 What a domination of the black pieces!

20.♖f1 It is clear that Black has "almost" won the game, but still White is sort of fighting. His idea could be to play Nh3-Nf2.

20...♖d3! The last important move of the game. Usually the exchange of pieces is not the best way in case of an attack, but this time it is a perfectly correct decision. The bishop on e2 holds things together and the black rook will take a great position on d2, while the bishop from f8 is going to c5.

21.♕xd3 ♖xd3 22.♖e2 [22.♖e1 22...♖f5 with similar ideas as in the game.]

22...♕c5 Black's pressure will soon explode into a nice mating net around the white king.

23.♖g3 ♖hd8 The last black piece is in the game, just fantastic!

24.♖e1 Svidler tries to exchange queens...



24...♕e3 But of course there is no escape from Black's attack!

25.♕xe3 ♖xe3 It was just too much for Peter... Now at 26.Qf2 the simple 26...Qxc3 is winning. What a powerful game by Boris Gelfand, who is already a chess oldtimer and one of the few players who is able to keep a great chess level with over 40. **0-1**

(3) So, Wesley(2744) - Jobava, Baadur(2713) [A40]

ACP Golden Classic 2014(6.3),
2014.07.18



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Wesley So is improving very quickly. He is convincingly winning one tournament after another and he already has a live rating of 2755. We examine one of his victories from his latest success in the ACP Golden Classics Bergamo.

1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 Jobava is known for his creative style and he often likes choosing unusual openings. So was very well prepared even for this line.

3.e4 The most direct way to fight for the initiative is to occupy the center.

3...♟b7 4.♟d3 ♟b4+ [4...f5 and; 4...♞c6 with the idea of Nb4 are the main alternatives for Black.]



5.♞f1!? This is already a very rare move, which was played instantly by So. Positionally it is perfectly principled, because White has a space advantage and therefore keeps all pieces on the board. Black cannot make use of the temporary weakness of the king on f1 due to the closed structure and White will execute a kind of artificial castling with g3-Kg2 soon.

5...♟e7 Black had to retreat the bishop to finish the development and avoid getting it trapped.

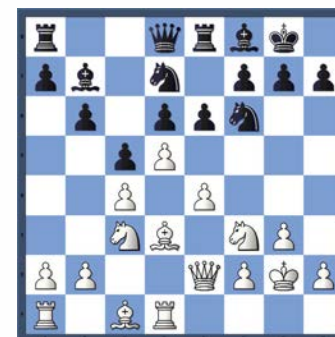
6.♞c3 d6 7.♞f3 White develops all his pieces to their most natural squares and enjoys a longterm space advantage. White keeps the game locked against any kind of freeing breaks, c5 is met by d5, d5 is met by cxd5 exd5 e5 and e5 is met by d5.

7...♞f6 8.g3 It is time to connect the rooks. The king will stand safely on g2 as Black has no chance to open the a8-h1 diagonal for his bishop.

8...O-O 9.♞g2 ♞bd7 10.♞e2 c5 It was time to gain some space, Black had no more useful developing moves.

11.d5 It is not much fun to stand like this, especially for such an active player like Jobava. He often employs the Benoni, where both of his bishops are standing better on g7 and on c8.

11...♞e8 12.♞d1 ♟f8



13.dxe6!? A committing decision. White changes the structure for another kind of superior formation. [13.♞c2+= leaving the pin and keeping the structure was also good enough for an advantage.]

13...fxe6 Black would like to have control over the d5 square,

but he remains with a backward pawn on d6 against which White focuses all his pieces in the next moves. The capture on e6 was well timed by Wesley, because after fxe6, both rooks and the bishop would have been better placed on f8 and e7. [13...Rxe6 14.Ke2+ and Nd5 next also looks quite good for White.]

14.♟c2! White opens the d-file for the attack against the d6 pawn and also intends to disturb his opponent with the annoying Ba4 move, pinning the black pieces.

14...a6 [14...d5? would be tempting to use the pin on the e-file, but unfortunately for Black, White is not forced to take on d5, but rather plays 15.e5!]

15.♟f4 ♖c7 16.♞d2! The tension is growing. White would like to provoke the e5 move, after which Black ends up with a horrible structure, lacking any counterplay, only passive pieces and a hole on d5.

16...♞e5! This is the only chance. Creating doubled pawns on e5 is not necessarily good for White, since if Black could install a piece on d4 afterwards, that might end up badly for him.

17.♞ad1 ♟c6?! Black would like to get counterplay with b5, but he misses a positional idea...



[17...♞f7 should have been played, followed by Bc6, Qb7 and

if White allows it, b5. But White is still better, for instance after 18.♟a4 ♞ed8 19.♞g5 ♞xg5 20.♟xg5+ with f3 next, followed by Bf4 back and e5.; The handy 17...♞ad8? did not work in view of 18.♞xe5 dxe5 19.♞xd8 ♞xd8 20.♟xe5!+- winning a pawn.]

18.♟xe5! dxe5 19.♟a4! A very strong positional decision! After trading the strong light squared bishop, the doubled e-pawns become rather weak and what is more important is that Black ends up with his poor bishop on f8. The queen is forced to protect the e5 weakness, therefore to initiate exchanges along the d-file is not an easy task.

19...♟xa4 [The tactical justification of the manoeuvre was that 19...♞xe4? is met by 20.♟xc6 ♞xc3 21.bxc3 ♖xc6 22.♞g1! ± This is the point and White jumps to e5 with his knight. Black is lost positionally. 22...e4 23.♞e5+-]

20.♞xa4 b5?! Jobava did not want to suffer in a passive position and tries to create counterplay on the queenside, but White is well prepared for it. [20...♟e7 should have been played to support the exchanges on the d-file. 21.♞c3 ♞ad8 22.♞xd8 ♞xd8 23.♞xd8+ ♟xd8 I guess Jobava did not like this option because of 24.♞d1!? creating the threat of Nxe5 and also to play Qa4 next move, but Black has a defence: 24...♞d7! (24...♟e7 25.♞a4± provokes a5, which seems to be too much for Black, giving up even the b5 square.; 24...♞d7 has a nice refutation: 25.♞a4 ♖b7 26.♞xe5! ♞xe5 (26...b5 27.♞d1+-) 27.♞e8#)]

21.cxb5! So calculates well and accepts the sacrifice.

21...axb5 22.♞xb5 Black was hoping for something against the a4 knight and the e4 pawn is also hanging, but nothing seems to work...

22...c4 A very tricky attempt to trap the queen with Ra5!

Reb8 is another threat to win the a4 knight. However White had expected this move before capturing the b5 pawn and found the refutation beforehand. [22...♖eb8 23.♔c4 and the e6 pawn is hanging with check after Rb4.; 22...♗xe4 simply runs into 23.♖e2! ♗d6 (23...♗f6 24.♗xe5+--) 24.♔xc5! ♔b7 25.♔b6! preserving the extra pawn and the superior pieces.]

23.♖c2! As simple as that! White attacks the c4 pawn and also leaves from the Nxe4 tempo. Both Ra5 and Reb8 are met by Qxc4 and all pieces are recovered! [23.♗c3? 23...♖a5; 23.♗b6? 23...♖ab8]

23...♖ec8 24.b3 White attacks the c4 pawn once more and finally frees his queen from protecting the a4 knight. He is also threatening to play Qxe5 now. [24.♖dc1+-- was also winning.]

24...♔b8 is kind of admitting that Black got outplayed. Jobava tries to search some practical chances in the endgame, but converting the extra material should not cause any problems for White. [24...♖a5 would have been met by 25.♔b6! and White preserves his material advantage.]

25.♔xb8 ♖axb8 26.bxc4 ♗xe4 27.♗xe5 White ended up with two extra pawns. Despite the fact that those are slightly isolated from each other, White is able to save both of them.

27...♖b4 28.♗b2 ♗c5 29.f4 White naturally would like to stabilize his excellent knight on e5.

29...♗e7 30.♗bd3 Simplifying the position and exchanging the blockader of the c-passed pawn.

30...♖a4 31.♗xc5 ♖xc5 32.♖b1 The rook also invades along the b-file. The rest is very easy.

32...♖c8 33.c5! White advances his c-pawn by using the weakness of the back rank.

33...g5 34.c6 ♗d6 [34...gxf4 for instance loses to 35.c7 ♗d6

36.♖b8! ♖xb8 37.cxb8=♔+ ♗xb8 38.♖c8+ ♔g7 39.♖xb8 ♖xa2+ 40.♔h3 fxg3 41.hxg3+-- The extra piece decides the game.]

35.♗d7! gxf4 36.♗b6 f3+ 37.♔f2 Black resigned. So managed to catch Black in the opening and Jobava could not use his creative style in the passive position. **1-0**

(4) Adams, Michael(2743) - Baramidze, David(2616) [C95]

42nd GM 2014(7.4),
2014.07.20



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

In my opinion, Adams played great chess, but was unlucky to be on -1 before the last round. In the last round he was able to come back to 50

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.O-O ♙e7 6.♖e1 Baramidze only plays the Breyer variation from the Ruy Lopez main lines, therefore Adams does not avoid the Marshall Gambit with the recently popular 6.d3, but goes for the old main lines.

6...b5 7.♙b3 d6 8.c3 O-O 9.h3 The initial position of the classical Ruy Lopez. Black has a wide choice of playable options here, all with thousands of games in it.



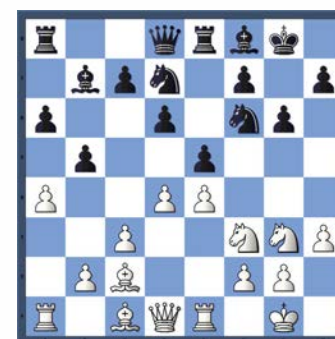
9...♞b8 This is the Breyer variation. Black transfers his knight to the more healthy square on d7 in order to be able to occupy the center with c5.

10.d4 ♞bd7 11.♞bd2 ♙b7 12.♙c2 ♖e8 White also has numerous setups here. Adams goes for the old main line and executes the standard Ruy Lopez manoeuvre of driving his

knight to g3. Another plan involves actions on the other side with a4 and Bd3, when the d2 knight might sometimes be used on the queenside.

13.♞f1 ♙f8 14.♞g3 g6 Another crossroads has been reached. Recently it was more common to play 15.b3 here, but a few days earlier Ponomarev easily reached a winning position against Baramidze with the old main move and Adams decided to repeat it...

15.a4



15...c5 This is the standard reaction to a4. Black wants to take twice on d4 followed by some d5 break, therefore White is forced to lock the center with d5. But then Black has c4 with the idea of Nc5 and the undermining plans of b3 are already not dangerous, because White cannot take back on b3 with the pawn. Without the a4 move, Black would rather have played Bg7 or c6.

16.d5 White not only gains a space advantage with this move, but also restricts the mobility of the b7 bishop.

16...c4 17.♙g5 A multipurpose move. White creates a pin and intends to sometimes trade the bishops with Qd2 and Bh6, after which the king might face a dangerous attack if White gets his queen to h6 and the knight jumps to g5. As a prophylaxis, Black often plays h6, but this is a weakening of

the kingside.

17...h6 [Two days earlier Baramidze tried the following sideline: 17...♖b8 18.♙d2 ♘c8 Black tries to improve his bad bishop by transferring it to d7. Our main game shows well what happens if Black leaves it on b7... 19.axb5 axb5 20.♖a7 ♗c5 21.♖ea1 ♘g7



22.♘e3 White had an advantage, but Baramidze blundered with his next move: 22...♖e7? 23.♘xc5! dxc5 24.♖xe7 ♙xe7 25.♙g5! and the e5 pawn is lost. Despite this, Black miraculously survived this hopeless position... Ponomariov-Baramidze, Dortmund 2014.]

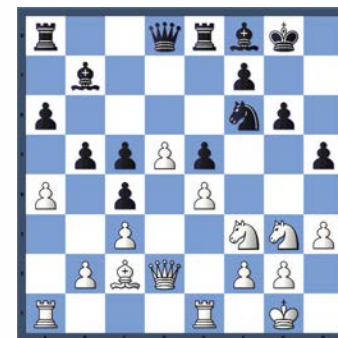
18.♘e3 ♗c5 The old school said that Black should not be afraid of creating doubled pawns on c5, because it leaves White with his bad bishop on c2 and Black might get a very strong one on the missing diagonal with h5-Bh6. However the computers forced us to reconsider this option...

19.♙d2 First White develops his queen with tempo and forces another weakening.

19...h5 20.♘xc5!? This is a move that would never come to the mind to an old generation GM, but the new computer style shows that the weakness of the black queenside pawns will play a more important role than lacking the strong bishop. [20.♘g5 was the main move, which was played in hundreds of

games and Black replied with 20...♘e7 followed by Nfd7 with mutual chances.]

20...dxc5



21.♖eb1! A very nice follow-up of the previous move. White prepares to open the queenside with b3 after which the b5 pawn becomes a real target.

21...♗d7? Black wants to consolidate his situation on the queenside by driving the knight to b6, but this is too slow and it does not work properly because of some subtle ideas... [In my opinion, Black should have played 21...♖b8 with the idea to transfer the bishop to c8-d7, which was not possible immediately because of axb5 and Black is pinned. 22.♗f1!? looks very interesting. After giving up the dark squared bishop, White should forget about giving mate and focus his pieces on the queenside. (22.b3 22...cxb3 23.♘xb3 has concrete problems, as Black could answer with 23...h4! 24.♗xh4 ♗xe4 25.♗e4 ♙xh4 and the trade of a flank pawn against the strong central one should favor Black.) 22...♘c8 23.♗e3 ♘d7 24.♙e2 ♘h6 White should be better, but it is unclear how White should make progress.]

22.b3! ♗b6 The consequent continuation, but Black misses the next move. [Objectively it was better to play 22...cxb3 although White is better after 23.♖xb3 b4 (23...c4 24.♖b2+=

White quickly puts pressure on the b5 pawn.)



24.a5!+= This was the key move of Adams's plan. He not only separates the b4 pawn by preventing a5-Ba6, but also prepares to settle his own bishop on a4 from where it is going to confuse the coordination between the black pieces.]



23.♖e2! Another subtle move, which creates real problems for the b5 pawn. The idea is simple, White wants to take on c4 and he leaves from the Nxc4 tempo, therefore the b5 pawn is going to hang. Black is in deep trouble, he has no good way to solve the problems on the queenside...

23...cxb3 24.♙xb3 c4 [On 24...♞d7 25.c4! is very important positionally. 25...♞xa4 (25...b4 drops an exchange after 26.a5 and Ba4.) 26.♙xa4 bxa4 The two knights and the superior pawn structure will dominate the two bishops. 27.♞d2± with

the ideas of Qa5 and Ne2-c3-a4.; 24...b4 is also bad because of 25.a5! ♞d7 26.♙a4±]

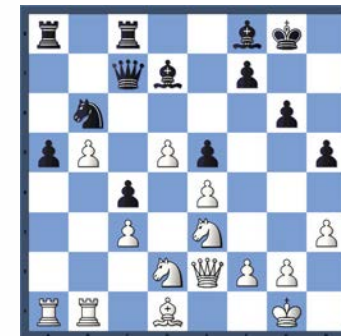
25.♙d1! This is very deep again. Adams keeps the second rank opened to not waste any time on putting pressure on the b5 weakness.

25...♙c8 Black realized that the pawn is lost and he starts to improve his pieces, hoping for longterm compensation. [25...♞d7 would have strongly been met by 26.♞b2! winning a pawn.]

26.axb5 a5 27.♞d2! The new target is on c4! White focuses all his pieces on that pawn.

27...♞c7 28.♞gf1! Bringing another piece to attack the weakness.

28...♙d7 29.♞e3 ♞ec8 Black seems to control the situation around the c4 square and hopes to create his counterplay on the dark squares, but Adams finds a subtle plan again to increase the pressure.



30.♞f3! White frees the e2 square for the bishop, after which the c4 pawn is hanging again.

30...a4 [Saving the pawn by giving up the dark squared bishop (the last hope) should come into consideration: 30...♙h6 31.♙e2 ♙xe3 32.♞xe3+- White has an extra pawn

and his pieces are better. He might improve his position by doubling his rooks on the a-file, forcing the a4 move and then drive one of his rooks to b4, after which the c4 pawn falls.]

31. ♖e2 Another pawn is lost. Black does not have enough compensation, the game is gone.

31... ♖a5 32. ♘dxc4 ♘xc4 [32... ♖xb5 had a nice tactical refutation.



33. d6! ♘xd6 (33... ♖c6 34. ♖xb5 ♖xb5 35. ♘xb6 ♖xb6 36. ♘c4+- wins. This is the main point of the 33.d6 move!) 34. ♖xb5 (34. ♖f6+- is also winning.) 34... ♘xb5 35. ♘xd6 ♘xe2 36. ♖f6! The game is over because the rook is hanging, but the main threat is the mate after Nef5! 36... ♖d8 37. ♘ef5 gxf5 38. ♘xf5+-]

33. ♘xc4 This is already the second extra pawn. The blockade on the dark squares is not a real hope for Black. The rest is only a matter of technique.

33... ♖e8 Black strengthens his f7 pawn to parry the d6 threat.

34. b6 ♖d6 35. ♘d3 White frees the c4 square for his knight.

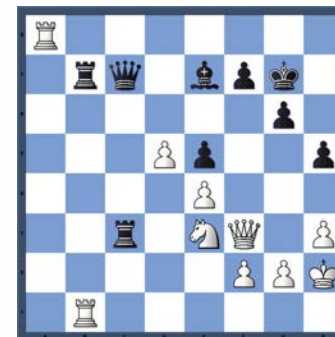
35... ♖ac5 36. ♘c2 ♖xc3 37. ♘xa4 ♘xa4 38. b7! A strong intermediate move to avoid any kind of counterplay. [38. ♖xa4 38... ♖c1+ 39. ♖xc1 ♖xc1+ 40. ♖h2 ♖xb6 41. ♖a8+- is also winning, but the text is much better as White preserves

his b-pawn.]

38... ♖b8 39. ♖xa4 ♖c7 40. ♖a7 ♖g7 The time trouble is also over. There is no more hope for Black. Adams finds a pretty way to finish the game...

41. ♖h2 Avoiding all kinds of check on c1.

41... ♘e7 42. ♖a8 ♖xb7



43. ♘f5+! [Black resigned in view of 43. ♘f5+ 43... gxf5 44. ♖xh5! and Black cannot neutralize the 8th rank. 44... ♘d8 45. ♖xb7 ♖xb7 46. ♖xd8+- A well-deserved win for Adams, who outplayed his opponents in some other games too, but spoiled the wins in time trouble.] **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Kramnik, V(2777)-Baramidze, D(2616)

Dortmund, 2014.07.15

1. +-



(6) Naiditsch, A(2705)-Ponomarev, R(2723)

Dortmund, 2014.07.19

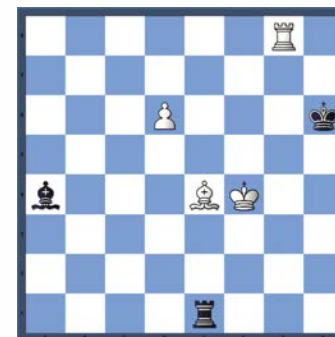
1. +-



(7) Giri, A(2750)-Wojtaszek, R(2733)

Biel, 2014.07.16

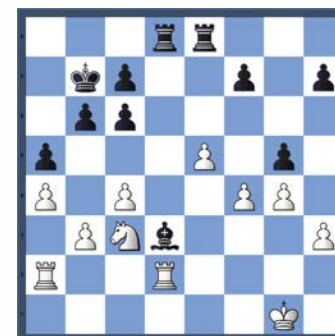
1. +-



(8) Motylev, A(2698)-Harikrishna, P(2726)

Biel, 2014.07.16

1. +-



(9) Giri, A(2750)-Motylev, A(2698)

Biel, 2014.07.17

1. ±



(10) Vocaturo, D(2584)-Sutovsky, E(2620)

Bergamo, 2014.07.18

1... -+



(11) Melkumyan, H(2647)-Krysztofiak, M(2423)

Najdorf memorial, 2014.07.15

1. +-



(12) Markowski, T(2572)-Mista, A(2609)

Najdorf memorial, 2014.07.16

1. +-



(13) Macieja, B(2607)-Areshchenko, A(2701)

Najdorf memorial, 2014.07.17

1. +-



(14) Petrosian, T(2629)-Mista, A(2609)

Najdorf memorial, 2014.07.19

1. +-



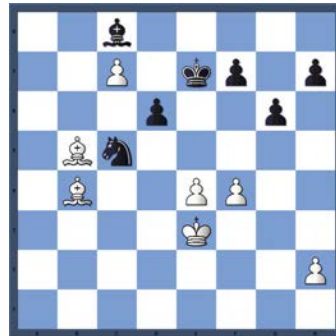
Endgame section

(15) Gunina, Valentina(2501)
- Kosintseva, Tatiana(2476)

European Woman Championship,
2014.07.16



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



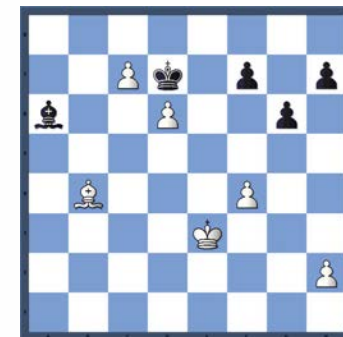
This was the endgame between the European Champion Valentina Gunina and the silver medalist Tatiana Kosintseva. The material is balanced, but we can quickly realize that Black is facing serious difficulties due to the c7 passed pawn and the strong pair of bishops. White has a direct threat as well, he wants to make use of the pin and push e5!

44...♘a6! A clever decision. Black tries to escape into an opposite colored bishop endgame, but this required very good evaluation of the arising endgame. [Trying to bring the king closer with 44...♙d7? drops a piece after 45.♙xc5! dxc5 46.♙a6+-; 44...f6 with the idea of preventing e5 does not really reach its aim, because White can anyway push 45.e5! fxe5 46.fxe5 ♖e6 47.♙d4 Black is in trouble.]

45.♙xa6 White accepts the sacrifice and grabs the material with e5 next move. [Perhaps, if White had been aware of

the consequences, it would have given her more chances to keep both bishops on the board and play 45.♙a5!? 45...♘c5 46.♙b6 Black must suffer, but at least he managed to get out of the pin. The bishop was better placed on b4.]

45...♙xa6 46.e5 ♔d7 47.exd6 This is the critical position that both players had to evaluate. Of course those protected passed pawns on c7-d6 are extremely scary, but as we know in opposite colored bishop endgames, the defensive side might hope for salvation even in hopeless-looking positions. Black is safe on the kingside, he can cover all his pawns with his light squared bishop. The question is whether White is able to do something with his passed pawns or Black is able to create a blockade...



47...♙c4 To avoid any kind of zugzwang, Black must block the king's path with his own king. When White wants to invade on e7, he must put his king to d7, while if White tries on b7, he should stand on c8.

48.♙d4 ♙e6 49.♙e5 h5 Black keeps all his pawns on light squares to avoid getting them under attack.

50.h4 ♙f5 51.♙f6 ♙e8 [51...♙e6 52.♙c5 ♙e8 (To illustrate the possible zugzwangs, it might arise after 52...♙c8 53.♙e7 when Black is forced to give up his f7 pawn.)]

52.♟c3 ♟e6 53.♔g7 White cannot invade there, but why not try...

53...♟d7 54.♟f6 ♟e6 55.♟e7 ♟d7 56.♔f6 ♟e6 57.♔e5 Gunina admits that there is no chance to invade on the kingside, therefore she drives her king to the other side, but Black is able to set up a successful blockade there too.

57...♔d7 58.♔d4 ♔c6! This is the easiest and now White has no chance to break through.

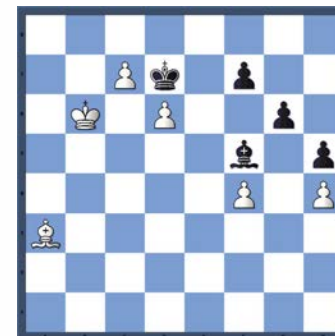
59.♔e4 ♔d7 60.♔e5 ♔c6 61.♔f6 ♔d7 62.♔g7 ♔e8 63.♟f6 ♟d7 64.♟d4 ♟e6 65.♟c5 ♟d7 66.♟a3 ♟e6 67.♔f6 ♟f5 [67...♔d7 was another easy draw.]

68.♔e5 ♔d7 [A wrong defensive plan would be 68...♟c8 69.♔d5 ♔d7 70.♔c5 ♟a6 71.♔b6 ♟c8 The movement of the bishop and the king is limited, so White is able create a decisive zugzwang:



72.♟c5! White waits with bishop moves on a3-b4-c5 until Black loses all his tempi on the kingside. The c8 bishop cannot move, while after 72...♔e6 73.♔c6! wins, because Black finds himself in another zugzwang. 73...♟d7+ 74.♔b7+-]

69.♔d5 ♟e6+ 70.♔c5 ♟f5 71.♔b6



71...♔c8! and Black starts waiting with his bishop on the h3-c8 diagonal. The game is drawn.

72.♟b2 ♟g4 73.♔c6 ♟d7+ 74.♔d5! 1/2-1/2

**(16) Melkumyan, Hrant(2647)
- Sandipan, Chanda(2597)**

Najdorf Mem Open A 2014(8.6),
2014.07.19



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



White was pushing all game long and finally this very promising rook endgame arose. Melkumyan is demonstrating very good technical skills from which we can take a good example on how to proceed in similar rook endgames.

31.a5! A strong move! In rook endgames with a passed pawn White should usually try to push the pawn as far as possible and get the rook behind the pawn.

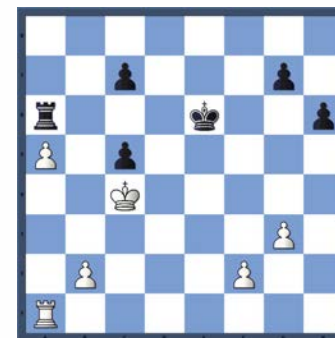
31...♖d6 The only black rook move which makes sense. The pawn has to be stopped as soon as possible. [Black would lose immediately after 31...♗b3 32.♗e8+ ♕h7 33.a6 and there is no way to stop a7-a8.]

32.♗a1 Of course. Fixing the black rook on a very passive position on a6.

32...♗a6 33.♕f1! Another right decision. The white king should go in the direction of the passed pawn.

33...♕g8 Black also doesn't have anything better than bringing his king to the center.

34.♖e2 ♖f7 35.♖d3 ♖e6 36.♖c4



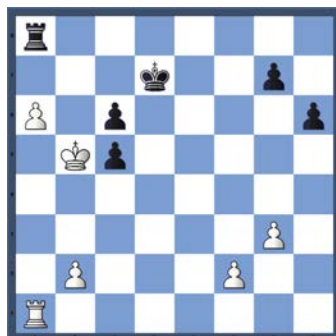
36...♖d7 Black is hoping to activate his rook by sacrificing the c5 pawn. [36...♖d6 wasn't better since after 37.♖b5 ♗a8 38.♗d1+! White is cutting off the black king from the queenside. 38...♖e6 39.a6 Black is not able to stop the white pawn because of Ra1-a7 next and in case of 39...♗b8+ 40.♖xc5 ♗xb2 41.♗a1 White is also easily winning.]

37.♖b5! A good decision. White does not care about the c-pawn and first puts the black rook into a very passive position. [37.♖xc5? would be a mistake since after 37...♖c8! followed by Rf6 the position is probably still winning, but White would now face technical problems.]

37...♗a8 [Black is not in time for 37...♗f6 because of 38.a6 followed by a7-a8]

38.a6 Precision until the end. The threat is now to play a7-Ka6.

38...c6+



39. ♖b6 Kb7 next is a deadly threat.

39...♜b8+ 40. ♖xc5 Finally White takes the c5 pawn in the best possible moment.

40...♖c7 41.a7 Fixing the black rook on a8.

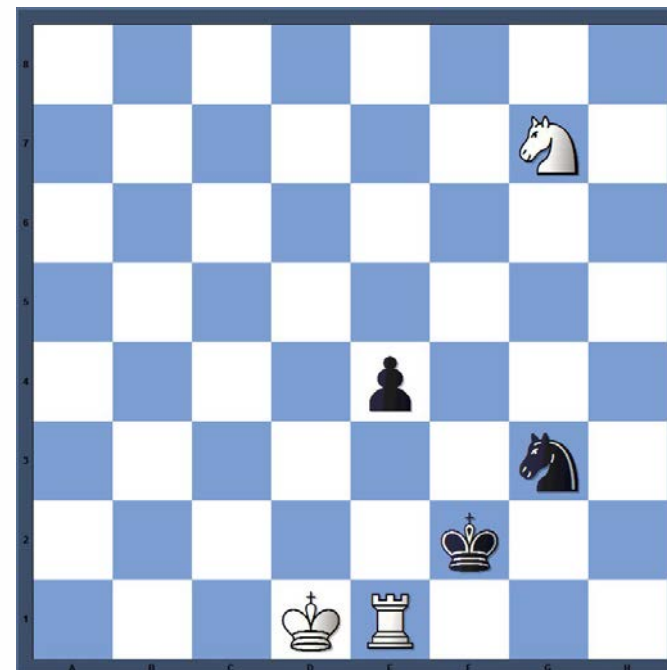
41...♜a8 And here comes the last exact move:

42. ♜e1! The threat of Re7 is deadly. In case of 42...Kd7 White is winning with 43. Kb6 and of course the pawn endgame after 42...Rxa7 43.Re7 Kb8 44.Rxa7 Kxa7 and 45.Kxc6 is totally winning. It was an easily winning endgame for White, but it is still important to know how to convert the advantage. **1-0**

Surprise section / study

(17) Liburkin

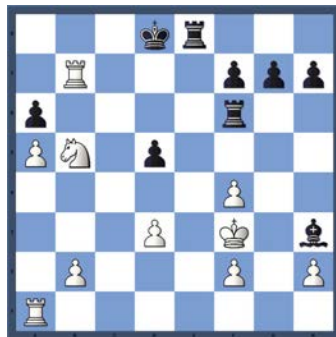
1. +-



Solutions

(18) Baramidze, D(2616)-Naiditsch, A(2705)

Dortmund, 2014.07.13



28...♔c8! [28...axb5? 29.a6 ♕c8 30.♖b8]

29.♖a7 ♖b8! 30.♖a8+ ♖xa8 31.♘c7+ ♖b7 32.♘xe8 ♖e6!

33.♘xg7 ♖g6! 34.♘e8 [34.♘h5 34...♕g4+—]

34...♕g4+! 35.♖e3 ♖e6+ 36.♖d4 ♖xe8—+

(19) Hou Yifan(2629)-Giri, A(2750)

Biel, 2014.07.14



19.♘d6! ♕xd6 20.cxd6 ♘xe2+ 21.♖xe2! ♖xd6 22.♘b5!
+— ♖f6 [22...♖b6+ 23.♕e3+—]

23.fxf4 ♘f3+ 24.♖xf3 ♖xa1 25.♕e3+—

(20) Jobava, B(2713)-Nepomniachtchi, I(2730)

Bergamo, 2014.07.14



36.♖g5! ♖xd6 37.♖xf5! ♕d5 [37...♖c6 38.♖xh7+ ♖f8
39.♕e4! ♖xe4 40.♕xd6+ ♖e8 41.♖g8+ ♖d7 42.♖xf7+ ♖xd6
43.♖xb8+—; 37...f6 38.♖xh7+ ♖f8 (38...♖f7 39.♕g6+ ♖f8
40.♖xf6+ ♕xf6 41.♖f7#) 39.♖d1+—]

38.♖xh7+ ♖f8 39.♖g6! ♖e7 40.♖xg7+—

(21) Pogonina, N(2508)-Zhukova, N(2451)

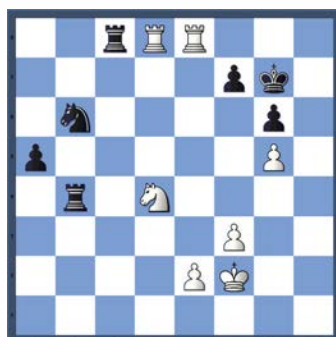
European Woman Championship, 2014.07.08



52...♖xb2!! 53.♔a8+ ♕h7 54.♖xc3 ♘xd1+ 55.♔c2 ♘xc3—+ 56.e5 ♘e4 57.♔a5 ♖c3+ 58.♔d1 ♖d4+ 59.♔e2 ♖xc1—+

(22) Gunina, V(2501)-Javakhishvili, L(2474)

European Woman Championship, 2014.07.14



47.♘e6+! 1-0 [47.♘e6+ 47...♕h7 (47...fxe6 48.♖e7#) 48.♖h8#]

(23) Spoelman, W(2571)-Ernst, S(2554)

Dutch Championship, 2014.07.12



29.♔e1!! dxc3 [29...♖fe8 30.♔h4 ♕f8 31.♖xg7 ♕xg7 32.♔h6+ ♕g8 33.♔h8#]

30.♖xg7+! ♕xg7 31.♕xc3+ f6 32.♕c4!! +- ♘d5 [32...♖h8 33.gxf6+ ♘xf6 34.♕xf6+ ♕xf6 35.♔c3+ ♕e7 36.♔g7+ ♕d6 37.e5+-; 32...♘b6 33.♖h7+ ♕xh7 34.♔h4+ ♕g7 35.♔h6#]

33.exd5 cxd5 34.gxf6+ [34.♔e6+-]

34...♖xf6 [34...♘xf6 35.♔h4+- dxc4 36.♔h7#]

35.♔e6 ♖d8 36.♕xd5 b5 37.♕xf6+ 1-0 [37.♔f7#]

(24) Van Wely, L(2657)-L'Ami, E(2650)

Dutch Championship, 2014.07.25



13. ♖e7+! ♔h8 14. ♜g6+! 1-0 [14. ♜g6+ 14...hxg6 15. ♖h4+ ♔g8 16. ♜xd8+-]

(25) Bok, B(2586)-Spoelman, W(2571)

Dutch Championship, 2014.07.13



24. ♖e6!! ♜f8 [24...fxe6 25. ♜xe6+ ♔f8 (25...♔h8 26. fxg7#) 26. ♜f7+ ♔e8 27. fxg7+-]

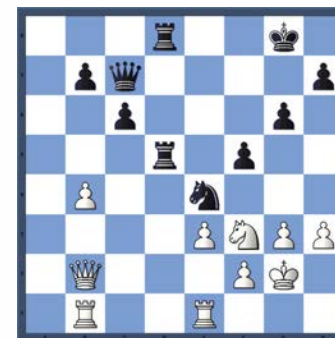
25. fxg7! ♜xg7 26. ♜d4!! ♜f8 [26...fxe6 27. ♜xg7+ ♔f8 28. ♜xe6+-; 26...♜xd4 27. ♜xf7+ ♔h8 28. ♜xh7#]

27. ♜xc4! ♜d7 [27...bxc4 28. ♜xg7 ♔xg7 29. ♜xc8+-]

28. ♜d3+-

(26) Czerwonski, A(2380)-Shimanov, A(2644)

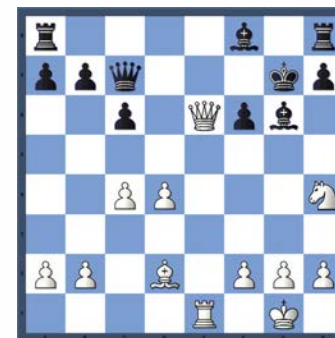
Najdorf memorial, 2014.07.14



30... ♜d2! 31. ♜xd2 ♜xd2 32. ♜b3+ ♔f8 0-1 [32...♔f8 33. ♜f1 ♜xg3+-]

(27) Bauer, C(2649)-Prie, E(2493)

JCL Open, 2014.07.09



20. ♜h6+!! ♔xh6 21. ♜xf6 ♜d8 22. ♜f5+ ♔h5 23. g4+! ♔xg4 **24. ♜e4+ ♔f3** [24...♔h5 25. ♜h4#]

25. ♜e3+ ♔g4 26. ♜g3+ ♔h5 27. ♜g5# 1-0

(28) Kasparian



1. ♔a3+ ♖a2 2. ♖d2 ♖xa3 3. ♖b2 ♖a2 4. ♖b1#



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 127

1st of August 2014

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Editorial Preface

There are just a few days left until the beginning of the biggest chess event in the world, the 41st Chess Olympiad for men and women in Tromsø, Norway.

In the men's section it is going to be very hard to stop Russia from taking gold.

The first seed in the women's section are China, with Hou Yifan on board 1.

Meanwhile a few big opens came to an end:

The Politiken Cup 2014 was won by Bu Xiangzhi with an amazing score of 9/10. 2nd place was shared by some players on 8/10 and according to the tiebreak Jones Gawn came second, followed by Matlakov Maxim.

The 101st British Chess Championship 2014 had 2 winners, both with 8.5/11: David Howell and Jonathan Hawkins.

The huge open tournament in Pardubice was won convincingly by Nisipeanu with 7.5/9.

In the round robin in Lake Sevan 2014, Sjugirov took the lead with 3/4 followed by Santosh Vidit, Fedoseev and Melkumyan, all on 2.5/4.

We wish you a lot of fun watching the Chess Olympiad and of course to enjoy this week's issue of your weekly chess newsletter.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Nisipeanu, Liviu-Dieter(2686)**
- **Haba, Petr(2502) [D12]**

25th Czech Open A 2014(7.2),
2014.07.24



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We will see an easy win from the future tournament winner in a nice and dynamic manner. After the opening White managed to get some advantage and used a little mistake of Black to quickly get a promising position and convert it into a mating attack.

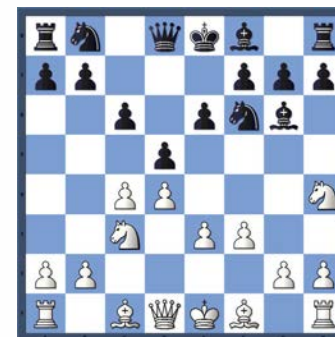
1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 c6 4.e3 So we have a Slav with e3. Now Black has a couple of major lines, such as 4...Bg4 or 4...e6 or 4...a6.

4...♙f5 5.♘c3 e6 6.♘h4 Logical and of course nothing new. White wants to exchange the bishop in order to get a minimal advantage thanks to the bishop pair.

6...♙e4 Black is going for a forced line. [6...♙g6 is the other main line, which is more positional.]

7.f3 Of course White is consistent in hunting down the black bishop.

7...♙g6



8.♙b3 This move is also pretty standard. White develops his queen to a nice position on b3 and at the same time asks Black to put his queen on not such a great position.

8...♙c7 Of course this is still theory. From c7, the black queen is ready to create extra pressure on the h2 pawn which is now going to be under attack in case of Nxg6 and hxg6.

9.♙d2 ♙e7 10.g3 This move sort of has to be played anyway. White still does not hurry with taking on g6 and first tries to play all the prophylactical moves.

10...♙h5?! In my opinion this move is a clear mistake. The idea of saving the bishop is great, but now the black pawn is going to go to g5, which leaves the black king open and Black is also just losing a lot of time. [The normal 10...♘bd7 would lead us to a well-known position.]

11.♙e2! A simple and good move. White is defending from g5 and Bxf3 and at the same time maybe preparing to castle kingside, which is quite smart, since after Rc1 the black queen could be really misplaced on c7.

11...g5 Black does not feel the danger and continues with the wrong idea.

12.♘g2 ♕g6 13.O-O! A simple but strong move. White already has a lot of tactical ideas in mind.

13...♘bd7 It is hard to blame somebody for such a development move, but maybe after 13...Nbd7 Black's position is already very difficult. [13...h6 also didn't help much because White can anyway play 14.e4! dxe4 15.fxe4 ♘xe4 16.♘xe4 ♕xe4 17.♕h5 and White's attack is just crushing.]



14.cxd5! A very nice move! How to take back now?!

14...cxd5 It is not great at all to open the c-file, especially with the knight on d7, but on the other hand Black already didn't have anything better. [14...♘xd5 15.e4 just leads to a horrible position for Black.; And after 14...exd5 15.e4! we can see that cxd5 was an important move because of the double attack on f7. 15...dxe4 16.fxe4 and Black can't take on e4 because f7 is hanging, which gives White an almost winning position.]

15.♖ac1 Of course White is taking over the c-file.

15...♔b6 Black has no other move because of the Nb5 threat.

16.♔xb6 Usually in such situations White should keep the queens on the board to have better attacking chances, but in our concrete situation Nisipeanu makes the right choice.

16...axb6 Of course not a nice move to make, but Black didn't

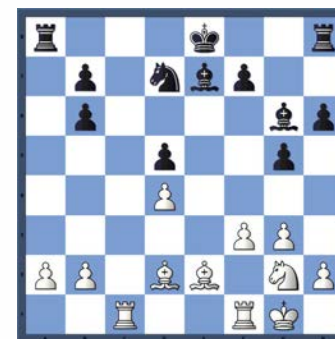
have a choice. [16...♘xb6 wasn't any better since after 17.♘b5 Black has no good way of defending from the Nc7 threat. 17...♔f8 18.e4 and the whole black position is falling apart.]

17.e4! Another excellent move, White is doing much better in development so the point is to open the position as much as possible. [Of course 17.♘b5 was possible too, but after 17...O-O the white pawn on a2 is hanging, which makes White lose an extra tempo on a move like a3 and that would give Black chances to defend his position.]

17...h6 Black continues to "die slowly". [Maybe from a practical point of view a slightly better move was 17...dxe4 18.♕xg5 but here it is hard to find a good move for Black too. 18...exf3 19.♕xf3 O-O 20.♕xb7 ♖a5 would lead to a position with a pawn down for Black, but maybe some practical chances for a draw.]

18.exd5 A simple and strong move.

18...♘xd5 19.♘xd5 exd5 The black king is still on e8 and White can combine the ideas of Rc7 and moves like Ne3 or f4.



20.♖c7?! Quite a serious mistake which could lead to unclear play. [20.♘e3 would lead to a very big advantage: 20...♘f6 21.a3! with the idea of playing Rc3-Rfc1 next or Rc3-Rb3, attacking the b6 pawn. All black pieces are badly placed and

it is hard to imagine Black not losing any material during the next moves.]

20...♔d8 21.♖fc1 ♜b8? Haba misses his undeserved chance to come back into the game... [Black should have continued with 21...♙f6! 22.♖xb7 (The threat becomes visible after 22.♙e3 22...♞c5! and White is losing an exchange.) 22...♙xd4+ 23.♙e3 ♙xb2 The position looks really unclear now.]

22.♙b5 Now White is totally crushing the black defensive lines.

22...♞f8 23.♞e3 The d5 pawn is going to fall.

23...♙d6 Black has a little hope to at least get rid of the rook from c7 but Nisipeanu has a different plan than going back with it...

24.♞xd5! A pretty finishing move!

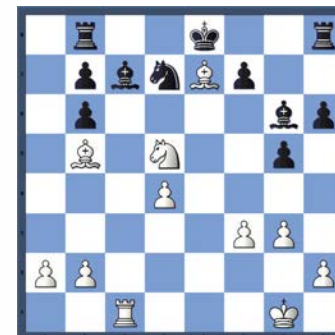
24...♙xc7



25.♙b4! White wants to mate the black king by playing Be7 next and Rxc7. There is no decent defence.

25...♞d7 26.♙e7+ A lot of moves are winning here already.

26...♔e8



27.♖e1 with the double threat of playing Nxc7 and Nf6.

27...f5 And indeed there is no more reason to play on here because of 28.Nxc7 Kf7 and 29.Bxd7, with a big material advantage for White plus a deadly attack. A nice game by White which shows pretty well how dangerous it is to play without development in a position where your center could become a target at anymoment. **1-0**

(2) Wojtaszek, Radoslaw(2733) - Harikrishna, Pentala(2726) [D85]

Hans Suri Mem 2014(9.2),
2014.07.23



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

After Black chose a bad line in the Gruenfeld, Wojtaszek nicely outplayed his opponent.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♙g7



7.♙b5+!? A rare line with the idea to confuse the development of the black pieces. It clearly came as a surprise to Harikrishna and he wanted to avoid a theoretical battle and rather replied with a dubious sideline.

7...♘c6?! In the Gruenfeld defence White usually gets a strong center and Black should quickly set it under pressure. The most effective way to do it is the c7-c5 break, but now the black knight prevents this option. [The critical position arises after 7...c6 8.♙a4 O-O 9.♘e2 when Black has various setups, such as b5 followed by c5, or e5. In any case Black should attack the center with his own pawns.; If Black plays 7...♘d7 he must for get about the most effective way to attack

the d4 pawn with c5 and Nc6.; 7...♙d7 is met by 8.♙e2 and the bishop is slightly misplaced on d7.]

8.♘f3 [8.d5 is wrong because Black can unpin himself with 8...a6! (8...♙xc3+ is not as good since after 9.♙d2 White gets strong compensation. 9...♙xa1 10.♙xa1) 9.♙a4 b5 Black saved the piece and White only weakened his own structure.]

8...O-O 9.O-O ♙a5 Black refreshes the c5 idea, but this costs too much time, which allows White to consolidate his center and obtain an advantage.

10.♙f4 This strong novelty was played without thinking by Wojtaszek, clearly showing that he is still in his preparation as it was also the best move according to the machines. The bishop was developing before to e3 and g5, but on f4 it appears to be more useful.

10...♙d7



11.♙e2! A very logical retreat to keep the light squares under control. Now the knight is misplaced on a5, otherwise it could have jumped to c4.

11...c5 12.d5! If White is able to create this passed pawn without being afraid of some direct ideas, he should go for it. It will bring him benefits at the later stage of the game and also limits the movement of the black pieces.

12...♟g4 [12...♟xc3 was wrong in view of 13.♞c1 and the trade of the c-pawns would favor White as he is better prepared for the opening of the position, while protecting it with Bb4 and thus leaving the important long diagonal should not come into consideration.; However 12...e6 would have been more principled to undermine the center, although White has an clear advantage here as well. 13.♞d2 exd5 14.exd5+= followed by bringing the rooks to e1 and d1.]

13.e5! This is the reason why the bishop is standing better on f4. It supports the march of the center, which is getting stronger and stronger with each move. White must be careful with such decisions, because these pawns might quickly get under attack, but Wojtaszek calculates well that he will be able to consolidate.

13...♞d7 With the double threat of Rad8 and Qf5 after which Black wins the e5 pawn. [13...e6 14.h3 (14.d6 is also good.) 14...♟xf3 15.♟xf3 exd5 16.♟xd5 with a clear advantage.]



14.♞e1! The key move, which White had to see before advancing his e-pawn. This prevents the Qf5 idea as White could simply retreat to g3 with the bishop and after Bxf3 Bxf3 the e5 is protected! [14.h3 immediately was wrong in view of 14...♟xf3 15.♟xf3 ♞f5!]

14...♞ad8 [14...♞f5 15.♟g3±]

15.h3! Another important intermediate move to ensure the safety of the central pawns. The bishop does not find its place, White is threatening to trap it, while giving it up for the knight would help White to consolidate his center. [On the direct 15.c4 Black could have played 15...♟xf3 16.♟xf3 and 16...♞xc4]

15...♟f5 [15...♟xf3 16.♟xf3± Black stands without counterplay, the e5-d5 pawns are safe.]

16.c4 The right timing and now it becomes clear that White has won the opening battle as Black has no adequate counterplay against the center.

16...e6 17.♞d2 Developing with tempo.

17...b6 18.d6 [18.♞ad1 was also good to keep the tension. All the black attempts to strengthen the pressure are failing: 18...exd5 (18...♞a4 is met by 19.g4! ♟e4 20.♞g5! and the bishop gets into trouble. 20...♞xc4 (20...exd5 loses to 21.♞xe4 dxe4 22.♞xd8 ♞xd8 23.♞xd8+ ♟f8 24.♟h6+-) 21.♟xc4+- winning a piece.) 19.cxd5 ♟e4 20.d6±]

18...♟e4! Black was rightly afraid of some Bf1 and g4 ideas, trapping the bishop, therefore he transfers it to the long diagonal.

19.♞g5 ♟b7 20.♞ad1 [20.♞ac1± was possible to avoid the 20... h6 option.]

20...♞h8 This is sort of admitting that things are going badly as it gives White a free move. [The only chance would have been 20...h6 21.♞f3 ♟xf3 22.♟xf3 ♞xc4 23.♞c1 b5! and at least Black has an extra pawn, although the compensation is more than enough after 24.h4 (24.♟xh6? does not work because of 24...♞xe5! and Black takes on f3 with check.)

24...♔h7 25.h5 g5 26.♕h2 followed by Be4 and f4 with a very strong attack, but at least Black is materially ahead.]

21. ♖e3 ♘c6



22. ♘f3! Preventing the Nd4 move and now all black pieces are doomed to passivity, while White has many different ways to increase his advantage, for instance he can start to advance his h-pawn. It is instructive to see the effect of having space advantage!

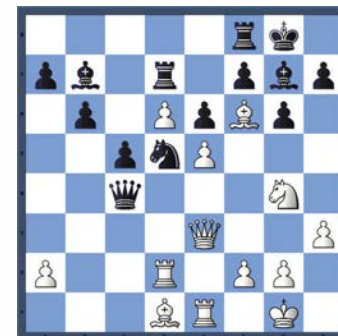
22...♘b4 23. ♖d2 ♖a4 Trying to obtain some counterplay, but White has many resources to push Black back.

24. ♕d1 Preventing the Nc2 threat with tempo.

24...♖a6 After the black queen has gone to the queenside, Wojtaszek suddenly focuses his pieces to a final attack.

25. ♕g5! ♖d7 26. ♕f6! Trading the dark squared bishops significantly weakens the black king. White is threatening to win on the spot with Qh6!

26...♕xf6 [26...♔g8 could be met by 27. ♘h2!? ♖xc4 28. ♘g4 Black gets mated. For instance after 28...♘d5



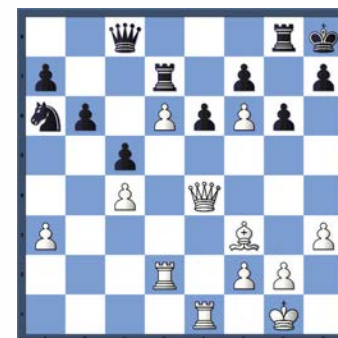
29. ♖h6! is pretty! 29...♕xf6 (29...♘xf6 30. ♘xf6+-) 30. ♘h6#; 26...♖xc4 loses to 27. ♖h6! ♖g8 28. ♘g5+-]

27. exf6 ♕xf3 Otherwise Qh6 followed by Ng5 is coming with mate.

28. ♕xf3 ♖c8 Black would like to drive his knight to d4, which could finally give him some counterplay.

29. ♖e4?! White misses the direct win. [On 29. ♖h6 Black could still save himself with 29...♖g8 30. ♖e4 ♖f8; However 29. ♖g5!! was winning. Black is helpless against the following mating attack: 29...♖g8 30. ♖e4! ♖f8 31. ♖h4 Black has no counterplay and the threat is simply Rh6, Qh4 and Rxh7. Black can only watch until White executes this plan. 31...♖xd6 always loses to 32. ♖xd6 ♖xd6 33. ♖xh7+ ♔xh7 34. ♖h4#]

29...♖g8 30. a3 ♘a6



31.♘d1! Having more space allows more manoeuvres with the pieces. White transfers the bishop to a4, from where it prevents the Nc6-d4 counterplay and also supports the d-pawn.

31...♖b8 32.♘a4 ♜dd8 33.g4!? White has time to do whatever he wants. Wojtaszek wants to strengthen his f6 pawn, after which a rook transfer to h4 will be decisive.

33...♞a6 [33...♘d7 34.g5+-; 33...g5 cannot be played because White is changing the diagonal again: 34.♘c2! ♜g6 35.♞e3! ♜xf6 36.♞xg5 ♘d7 37.♞h4 h6 38.f4+- and g5 next wins.]

34.♞c2 White does not even give up his a-pawn.

34...♞b7 Trying to get the knight again to d4.

35.♞c3! This subtle move lays a hidden a trap and Black falls into it.

35...♘c6? Black was happy to finally get his knight out to d4, but this turns out to be the final mistake. [35...♘d7 36.g5+- was also quite hopeless.]

36.♘xc6 ♞xc6



37.♜xe6! This was the point of allowing Nc6. White wins material.

37...♜gf8 [37...fxe6 loses to 38.f7+ ♜g7 39.♞f6 (Or 39.d7 39...h6 40.♞f6 ♞a8 41.f8=♞+ ♜xf8 42.d8=♞+-) 39...♜f8 40.d7+-]

38.♞e5! The rook is still untouchable, therefore White overprotects his d6 pawn and is ready to invade with Re7.

38...♞f3 [38...fxe6 39.f7#]

39.♞e3 ♞c6 [39...♞xe3 40.♜xe3+- The endgame is also hopeless. Re7 is coming next.]

40.♜e7 ♜d7 [Black resigned in view of the upcoming mate: 40...♜d7 41.♞h6 ♜g8 42.♜e8+- and Qg7 next.; 40...♜xd6 would not change anything: 41.♞h6 ♜g8 (41...♜xf6 42.♞xf8#) 42.♜xf7+-] **1-0**

(3) Negi, Parimarjan(2645) - Edouard, Romain(2679) [C11]

Politiken Cup 2014(9.4),
2014.07.28



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are going to see a very fighting and interesting game. Early in the opening White is trying a piece sacrifice, when actually it is very hard to say if he really has enough compensation for it. But...the French board 4 does not manage to find the best moves and quickly finds himself under a heavy attack which ends with a material win for White.

1.e4 e6 Over the years, the French defence finds less and less fans on the top level.

2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e5 [The other main move for White is 4.♙g5 but now usually Black is playing 4...dxe4 5.♘xe4 ♘bd7 One of the biggest experts in this line is Meier Georg.]

4...♘fd7 5.f4 c5 6.♘f3 ♘c6 7.♙e3 From a logical point of view this line looks really dangerous for Black, as White captured the center and the black bishop on c8 is badly placed. The only black advantages are the play against the d4 square and the very solid pawn structure.



7...♙e7 is one of the main lines. [The very forced line starting with 7...cxd4 8.♘xd4 ♙b6 9.♙d2 ♙xb2 10.♙b1 is just very dangerous for Black as the latest games have shown.; And the current line seems to give White a clear advantage: 7...♙b6 8.♘a4 ♙a5+ 9.c3 c4 10.b4]

8.♙d2 O-O Here White has a choice between different options. The main question is whether to castle king- or queenside.

9.dxc5 Negi goes for the most aggressive continuation.

9...♘xc5 10.O-O-O ♙c7 This is al so a theoretical move. I think this line looks really strange for Black. What is the black queen doing on c7?! To play f6 is never a threat and White is going to start a strong attack on the kingside very soon.

11.♙b1 A good prophylactical move.

11...a6 12.♙e1 White is transferring the queen to the kingside, which is very logical, but why not over the f2 square?! [12.♙f2 Now Black would probably continue with 12...b6! followed by f6! next and the white queen will be badly placed on f2.]

12...b5 What can be more logical than the idea of playing b4 next.

13.♙xc5 White wants to develop the bishop to d3, but it is such a pity to give up the bishop for it. [13.f5!? was leading to very interesting complications: 13...♘xe5 14.♙g3 with very unclear play, but it seems like White is not risking much.]

13...♙xc5 14.♙d3 Maybe White wants to play Bxh7 next, or maybe a move like f5.

14...♙e7 Defending from the direct threats, but sort of a bit too passive play. [I think 14...f6 looks more natural as now that White does not have the black squared bishop anymore, the f6 move is getting more powerful. 15.♙h4 h6 16.♙h5 White

wants to play Qg6. 16...♘b4 and the position is very unclear.]

15.f5!? Negi is starting a direct attack on the black king. The only advantage of this is that White is never risking to lose because of the perpetual check which White can give during the next couple of moves.

15...b4 the only move for Black



16.f6! Of course this move is the key of all white attempts.

16...gxf6 [16...bxc3?? was losing on the spot: 17.♙xh7+ ♔xh7 18.♚h4+ ♔g8 19.♘g5 and White is mating.]

17.♚g3+ [White could make a draw by playing 17.♙xh7+ 17...♔xh7 18.♚h4+ ♔g7 19.♚g4+]

17...♔h8 18.♚h3 The game is becoming very sharp and it is obvious that White is not too happy with a draw.

18...f5 19.♙xf5! Of course this move is not too difficult to find, but it is a nice one anyway. [A move like 19.g4?? leads to nothing for White because after 19...bxc3 20.gxf5 exf5 Black is just a piece up.]

19...exf5 20.♘xd5 So far things were very forced, but now Black needs to take a decision about where to put the queen. Of course it should be the 7th rank to be able just in case to be able to play f6 at some point, but whether to play Qb7 or Qa7 is a difficult question.

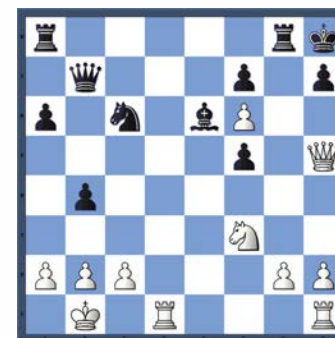
20...♚b7! This is probably the right choice and it was probably made by intuition. The black queen will have more options from b7 than from a7 in the future.

21.♘f6?! Once again White is clearly playing for a win, but is it not too much to wish for?! [To a drawish endgame would lead 21.♚h6 21...♔g8 and now comes the difference compared to 21.Nf6: 22.♘xe7 ♚xe7 23.♚xc6 White has won back the piece, but after 23...♙b7 the active black pieces probably give Black enough for equality.]

21...♙xf6 22.exf6 It is really hard to evaluate such a position without going into deep calculations. For now White wants to play Ng5 and for some time it is going to be his only threat.

22...♔g8 23.♚h5 White keeps the idea of playing Ng5 and also the idea of playing h4 and Ng5 next.

23...♙e6



24.♔d3!? An interesting slowplay of the attack, but Black is a full piece up!! [24.♘g5 24...♔xg5 25.♚xg5 ♔g8 and Black is much better.; 24.h4 also didn't work because of 24...♙xa2+!! and now Black is already the one who has a direct attack on the king. 25.♔a1 (25.♔xa2 25...b3+ 26.♔a1 bxc2 and White is just lost.) 25...♔g6 26.♘g5 h6 and here things also look very badly for White.]

24...♖c7?! In a complicated position Black makes a mistake. [To move the bishop away from e6 is very important to avoid the trick with h4 and Ng5, as the bishop is hanging on e6 in many lines. 24...♗c4! 25.♖d2 (25.h4 doesn't work because of 25...♗g6 26.♗g5 h6) 25...♖b5 followed by f4 and I think Black should be better here.]

25.h4 Now we can see why it was so important not to have a bishop on e6.

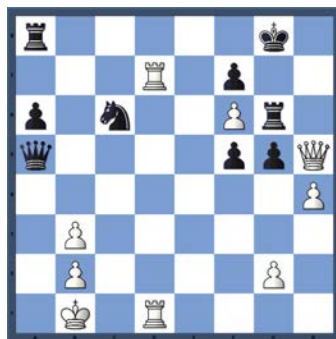
25...♗g6 only defense from Ng5

26.♗g5 ♗xa2+ The only move. [26...h6 was losing to 27.♗xe6]

27.♖xa2 h6 What a crazy position. The material on the board is totally even and both kings' positions are open. It is very hard to say who is better here...

28.♖hd1 White is threatening to play Rd7 next.

28...♗e5?! Once again Black doesn't pick the best move. [The right move was 28...♖g8! which is of course not so easy to find. 29.♖d7 b3+! The position is very forced again. 30.cxb3 ♖a5+ 31.♖b1 hxg5 It seems like Black is on top, but here comes



32.♖xf7!! ♖xf7 33.hxg5 and once again we are back into a total mess. Black is probably not risking much to lose here,

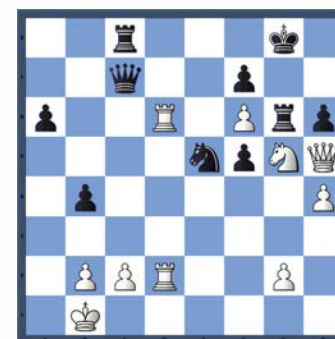
but it is hard to say if Black really has more than a draw.]

29.♖d6 A good move. [After 29.♖e3 29...♖g8 and the silent 30.♖b1 the position of course remains very complicated but it seems like slowly White is taking over.]

29...♖f8 Taking under control the f7 pawn. [After 29...♖c8 White has the very strong 30.♖a1! (30.♗xf7+ of course didn't work immediately because 30...♖xf7+ comes with check.)]

30.♖b1 ♖c8 31.♖1d2 A solid move, but as well as in previous lines 31.Ka1 would also be good.

31...♖g8 After this move it is all over, but could Black still save the game?! [Maybe 31...♖e8 could be a try, but now White also has the very strong 32.♖e2! The idea becomes clear after 32...♖xd6 33.♗xf7+ ♗xf7 34.♖xg6! with a totally winning position for White. But such moves are really hard to find during a practical game.]



32.♖d1! A very nice finishing move. Black can't keep the control over the 8th rank.

32...hxg5 33.♖d8+ Now everything is forced...

33...♖h7 34.♖xc8 ♖xc8 35.♖d8 ♖xd8 Black didn't have a choice. [35...♖c6 was losing to 36.♖h5+ ♖h6 37.♖h8+ ♖xh8 38.♖xh6+ ♖g8 39.♖g7#]

36.♖xd8 After all the excitement White ended up in a totally

winning position with a queen up.

36...gxh4



37. ♔e7 The last exact move. Black has a choice between losing the f7 pawn or the knight on e5 and both mean losing the game. A great win by Negi who dealt perfectly well with the complications and a lot of nice tactical motifs. It would also be very interesting to know whether this could all be Negi's preparation?! **1-0**

(4) Matlakov, Maxim(2685) - Timman, Jan H(2610) [A20]

Politiken Cup 2014(9.3),
2014.07.28



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

After a long theoretical battle, White leads a very nice mating attack...

1.c4 e5 2.g3 ♘f6 3.♗g2 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.♘c3 ♘b6 6.♘f3 ♘c6 7.O-O



7...♗e7 We are at the very beginning of the English opening. Recently it is getting more and more popular. The point is to play a Sicilian opening with reversed colors, where White has an extra tempo. We are actually in the Sicilian Dragon now, but instead of the very sharp lines with opposite side castling, Black plays the more solid Be2, 0-0 system. White has a wide choice here, the young Russian GM chooses one of the main lines.

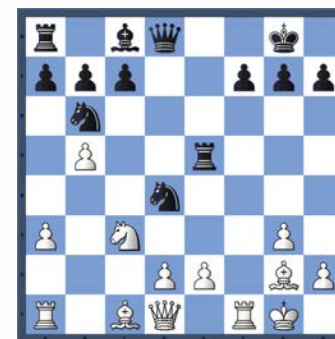
8.a3 O-O 9.b4 ♖e8 This is the standard idea also in the Sicilian. Black would like to strengthen his e5 pawn with Bf8, followed by Bg4 and Nd4. [However, probably because of the game's continuation, it is more popular on the highest level to

continue with 9...♗e6 10.♖b1 (Now on 10.b5 10...♘d4 11.♘xe5? ♗b3! 12.♖e1 ♘c2 wins.) 10...f6 with hundreds of games.]

10.b5!? White grabs the central pawn. It is actually a rare line, but it looks very dangerous to me. [10.d3 10...♗f8 is more common, again with hundreds of games.]

10...♘d4 11.♘xe5 ♗f6 12.f4! The right decision! White gives back the material advantage, but gets the pair of bishops instead. [Otherwise the compensation becomes too strong, for instance after 12.♘f3? 12...♘xe2+! works. 13.♘xe2 ♗xa1--+]]

12...♗xe5 13.fxe5 ♖xe5 At sight things are going badly for White because the b5 pawn is under attack and there is an even bigger threat to develop with tempo, Bg4, followed by Qe7 and Re8, putting very big pressure on the backward e2 pawn. White is basically forced to continue with another sacrifice...



14.e3! ♘xb5 15.♘xb5 ♖xb5 Black is already a pawn up, but the rook on b5 is misplaced and the position has opened up, so the power of the two bishops might become real.

16.a4 We are still following some games. White would like to strengthen the pressure on the h1-a8 diagonal by advancing the a-pawn with tempo to a6. [The machine actually suggests an interesting alternative, which I like even

more than the game: 16.♔c2!? followed by Bb2, with longterm compensation. In my opinion this position is much easier to play with White.]

16...♖a5 Quite an unusual middlegame and the task of the rook on a5 is to block the pawn. [It seems to be better to play 16...♗f5! aiming for simplifications. (16.Qc2 also prevents this idea.) 17.♗xf5 (On 17.a5 17...♗xf1+ 18.♔xf1 ♘d5 followed by Be6. Black successfully closes the h1-a8 diagonal. White still has strong compensation, but the trade of the rooks favors the defensive side to realize his extra pawn in the future.) 17...♕xf5 18.a5 (White could restore the material balance with 18.♕xb7 but then the black pieces become too active: 18...♖b8 19.♕g2 ♘c4 It is better to keep the initiative than letting the pieces out...) 18...♘c4 (18...♘d5 could now be met by 19.♔b3!) 19.♔b3 ♘d6 Black seems to consolidate. The point is that after 20.a6 b6! 21.♕xa8 ♔xa8 suddenly it is Black who has very strong pressure on the h1-a8 diagonal.]

17.♔b3 ♕e6 18.♔b4 White wants to advance his a-pawn at any cost.

18...♘c4? Timman wants to keep his blockader on a5, but after the next move it gets completely out of the game. Black was ready to give back his b7 pawn for active piece play after Rb8, but White has a much better choice.

[18...♖h5! should have been played to escape with the rook and if White continues his plan with 19.a5 ♘c4 20.♔xb7 ♕d5 21.♕xd5 ♖xd5 Black is fine. We can notice that the right defensive strategy always consists of giving back the pawn for some other kind of benefit. Either getting the pieces quickly activated or trading the strong g2 bishop.]

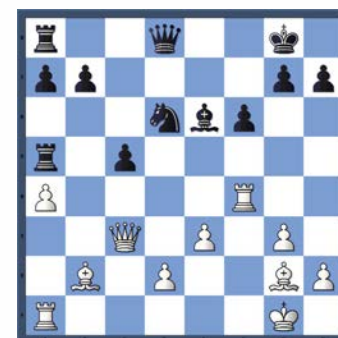


19.♗f4! This was probably missed by Timman. White is threatening to take on c4. Black has only one move to avoid losing material, but it is extremely ugly.

19...c5 A sad necessity. Black can go away with his knight next move as he protected his a5 rook, but now it turns out to be even more misplaced on a5 because it cannot come back into the game along the 5th rank.

20.♔c3 ♘d6 21.♕b2 The bishops start to work!

21...f6



22.g4! Principled and strong! White needs open the a1-h8 diagonal to launch a mating attack. It is not easy to deal with the g5 threat.

22...♘e8 Timman tries to cover the g7 square. [22...h6 just delays the faith, as White plays 23.h4!; On 22...♘f7 White

again plays 23.h4! refreshing the g5 threat. 23...h6 24.♖af1 Preparing for sacrifices on f6. For instance after 24...c4 25.♖xf6! gxf6 26.♖xf6 Black gets mated on the long diagonal: 26...♘e5 27.♖xe6+–; If Black prevents g5 with 22...c4 he suddenly gets into trouble after 23.♖d4! Creating a deadly pin. Rxd6 is threatening to win a piece because the a5 falls and if it goes away along the 5th rank then Qb4 or Ba3 decides the game, while Ra6 moves into Bxb7.]

23.g5! White happily sacrifices a pawn just to open the diagonal.

23...f5 [On 23...fxg5 White simply retreats. 24.♖f2 Ra6 is coming with the mate threat on f8. Black cannot prevent it with Qe7, because the a5 rook is also under attack. There is no adequate defence for him. A possible finish could be 24...c4 25.♖af1 ♘f6 26.♖xf6! gxf6 27.♖xf6+– again with a mate on the long diagonal.]

24.♖e5! White does not give Black any time to consolidate. He is always punishing his opponent with the most direct moves.

24...♖d6



25.♖xf5!! Black collapses after this exchange sacrifice. White gets rid of the important defender on e6 and brings new pieces to the attack with the other rook to f1 and the g2

bishop, which might go to d5 or e4.

25...♙xf5 [25...♖xe5 is also hopeless. 26.♖xe5 ♙b3 White has several wins here. One of them is 27.♖a3 ♙xa4 28.♙c3 ♖a6 29.♙xb7+– and the two bishops are too strong.]

26.♖xf5 [It was actually even stronger to give an intermediate check 26.♙d5+! 26...♙h8 (26...♙f8 cannot lead to anything good after 27.♖xf5+ ♙e7 28.♙c3 ♖a6 29.♙xb7+–) 27.♖xf5 White is threatening with Qf7 and mate on g8, because the knight is obliged to defend the g7 square. 27...c4 28.♖f1! the new attacker is coming with tempo. Qf8 is threatening and after 28...♘c7 29.♖f7!+– wins.]

26...♖e7? This is a blunder, but Black's situation was already very difficult. [26...♘c7 was the last chance, but White gets a decisive advantage after some energetic moves: 27.♙e5 ♖e7 (27...♖e6 loses to 28.♖xe6+ ♘xe6 29.♙c3! ♖a6 30.♙xb7+– This motif is coming back in many lines.) 28.♙e4! g6 29.♖f6! ♖xf6 30.gxf6 and Black loses material. The knight is hanging and the other threat is the usual Bc3 Ra6 Bxb7. 30...♘e6 31.♙c3 ♖a6 32.♙xb7+–]

27.♙e4 The game is over, Black gets mated. [27.♙d5+!? 27...♙h8 28.♙e4!+– was also winning on the spot.]

27...c4 [27...g6 28.♙d5+–]

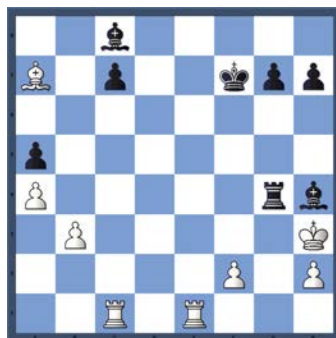
28.♖xh7+ ♙f7 29.♖f1+ ♙e6 30.♖h3+ ♙d6 31.♙a3+! ♖c5 32.♙xc5+ ♙xc5 33.♖f5+ [Black resigned in view of 33.♖f5+ 33...♙d6 34.♖d5+ ♙c7 35.♖xb7+– A very nice game by Matlakov! It was instructive to see the work of the bishop pair, but the misplacement of the a5 rook played another important role in the success.] **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Kovacevic, A(2564)-Studer, N(2375)

Biel Open, 2014.07.17

1... -+



(6) Swiercz, D(2617)-Minko, V(2318)

Biel Open, 2014.07.18

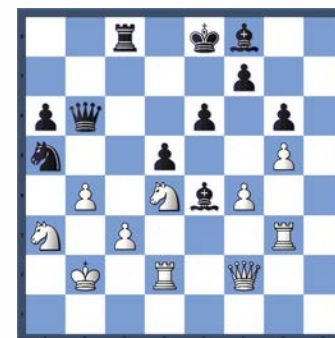
1. +-



(7) Bok, B(2586)-Molner, M(2504)

Biel Open, 2014.07.19

1... -+



(8) Bachmann, A(2652)-Escobar Forero, A(2460)

Iberoamerican Championship, 2014.07.24

1. +-



(9) Sjugirov, S(2643)-Fedoseev, V(2668)

Lake Sevan, 2014.07.28

1. +-



(10) Inarkiev, E(2666)-Bocharov, D(2560)

Primorsky Debut, 2014.07.26

1. +-



(11) Poetsch, H(2477)-Nisipeanu, LD(2686)

Pardubice Open, 2014.07.26

1... -+



(12) Cornette, M(2532)-Rapport, R(2701)

Politiken Cup, 2014.07.23

1. =



(13) Romanov, E(2643)-Smerdon, D(2519)

Politiken Cup, 2014.07.26

1. +-



(14) Zhao Ju(2610)-Zhou, J(1938)

Chinese league, 2014.07.24

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) **Giri, A.(2750)**
- **Vachier-Lagrave, M.(2766)**

Biel, 2014.07.23



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



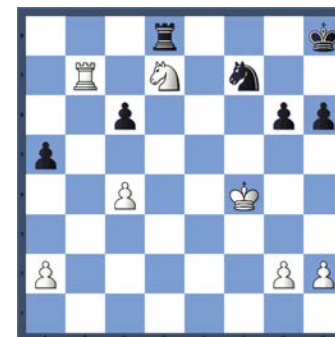
The material will be balanced after White takes back the g4 pawn, but the active pieces - especially the rook on the 7th rank - allow White to continue fight for an advantage.

33. ♖xg4 h6 The knight had to be stabilized on g5 to avoid getting mated on h7.

34. ♘d7!! A very subtle line-closing move, with the idea of preventing the black rook to get activated along the d-file. An additional point is to threaten with Ne5! [34.h4 was tempting, but Black survives after 34... ♖d4+! and the king is forced to move into 35. ♖g3 ♘e4+! 36. ♘xe4 ♖xe4 37. ♖a7 ♖xc4 38. ♖xa5= with an obvious draw.]

34... ♘f7! The best defence! Black not only defends against Ne5, but also creates the threat of the little combo Rxd7 Rxd7 and Ne5 checks the rook.

35. ♖f4 White still enjoys the more active pieces and also his king is closer to the battle field. In case of the exchanges of some pieces, this might play a very important role!



35...g5+! The most stubborn defence again! Black pushes back the king to the 3rd rank, in view of all active moves running into some tactical motifs. Ke4 and Kf5 blunders Nd6, while Kg4 loses to Rxd7.

36. ♖e3 The most logical reply, to get the king closer to the vulnerable queenside. [Knowing what could have happened in the game, it made sense to try 36. ♖g3!? 36... ♘d6 37. ♖c7! (37. ♖b8 now is less strong because after 37... ♖xb8 38. ♘xb8 c5 39. ♘d7 ♘xc4 40. ♘xc5 ♖g7= in comparison to the game, the white king is very far from the a-pawn.)]

36... ♘d6? Black was under big pressure in the entire game, therefore he also got into timetrouble. Vachier-Lagrave plays the most natural move again and attacks the c4 pawn with tempo, but this time it turns out to be the decisive mistake. [Black should have activated his rook with 36... ♖e8+! 37. ♖d3 ♖e1 (37... ♘e5+ is a mistake because 38. ♘xe5 ♖xe5 39. ♖c7± looks very suspicious from Black's point of view as his king is terribly placed and cutted into the corner.)]



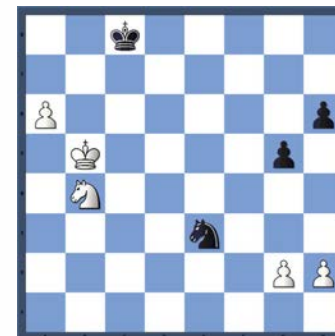
37. ♖b8! A surprising simplification, but a deeper look proves that it is extremely logical since Black cannot save his queenside pawns because his king is too far from the action.

37... ♜xb8 38. ♘xb8 ♙xc4+ 39. ♔d4 White is temporarily down a pawn, but now his moment is coming.

39... ♗b6 40. ♘xc6 a4 41. ♕c5 ♘c8 42. ♖b4 ♗b6 43. ♕c5 White just repeats once, of course he does not want to make a draw.

43... ♗c8 44. ♖b4 ♗b6 45. ♖b5! ♗d5 46. ♖xa4 ♖g7 Black finally has some time to bring his king closer, but it is too late. The a-pawn decides the game. [Going for the pawns was also slow. White wins easily after 46... ♗e3 47. ♖b5 ♗xg2 48. a4 ♗f4 49. a5 Black cannot sacrifice his knight for the a-pawn. 49... ♗d5 (49... ♗e6 is met by 50. ♖b6!+- and a6 next, the pawn promotes.) 50. ♕c5 ♗c7 51. ♖b6 ♗d5+ 52. ♖b7+- and the pawn is unstoppable.]

47. ♗b4 ♗e3 48. ♖b5 ♖f7 49. a4 ♖e6 50. a5 ♖d7 51. a6 ♖c8 [51... ♖c7 loses in the same way as the game: 52. ♖c5!+- and Nd5 next.]



52. ♖c5! A very nice final move! After other moves Black could have fought on. [Black resigned in view of the following lines: 52. ♖c5! White is threatening with Nd5, sending away the well-placed knight from e3. 52... ♖b8 (On 52... ♗xg2 White can already play 53. ♖b6 ♖b8 54. a7+ ♖a8 55. ♗d5+-) 53. ♗d5! ♗xg2 54. ♖b6+-; 52. ♖c6?! 52... ♖b8 53. ♗d5 ♗c4 Black could still have hoped...; 52. ♖b6?! 52... ♗c4+ was less clear.]

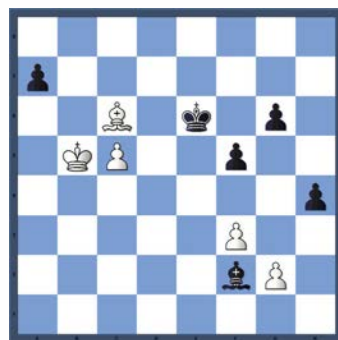
1-0

(16) Jones, Gawain C B(2665)
- Bu, Xiangzhi(2693)

Politiken Cup 2014(9.1),
2014.07.28



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



We are in a very interesting opposite colored bishop endgame. Usually these endgames with a pawn down are drawish, but here Black has the a-pawn plus the chance of creating a passed pawn on the h-file, which could be very dangerous for White

40.f4 Jones is trying to solve the problems in a tactical way and it might be the right decision although it doesn't work. [In this line we can see Black's threat in case White would put his pawn on c6 and the bishop to d7: 40.♖e8 40...g5 41.c6 ♜b6 42.♜d7+ ♖e5 43.♖c4 ♖f4 and there is no way to stop Black from playing Kg3 and Kxg2 followed by h3, with a winning position.; In case White would keep on waiting on the long diagonal with 40.♖c4 40...♖e5 41.♜b7 g5 42.♜c6 ♖f4 43.♜b7 ♖g3 44.♜d5 the last accurate move of Black is 44...f4 not falling for the following trick: 44...Kxg2 45. f5! and fxe5.]

40...♜e3 Of course Black is going for the f4 pawn.

41.♜e8 ♖f6 42.♖c6?! This move is definitely losing. [42.c6 was also losing by one tempo: 42...♜xf4 43.♖a6 g5 44.♖xa7 g4 45.♖b7 As we can see, things are very forced. (White is not in time to get back to e2 with his king. 45.♖a6 45...h3! Using the fact that White can't play Bc6. 46.gxh3 gxh3 47.c7 White needs to give up the c-pawn to be able to stop the h-pawn. 47...♜xc7 48.♜c6 ♖e5 49.♖b5 ♖d4 with an easy win for Black.) 45...♖g5 46.c7 ♜xc7 47.♖xc7 f4 48.♖d6 The white king is not in time to stop the black pawns. 48...f3 49.gxf3 gxf3 50.♖e5 f2 51.♜b5 h3 52.♖e4 h2 53.♖f3 h1=♚+]]

42...♜xf4 43.♖b7 g5 44.♖xa7 g4 We have a similar position as in the line above, just that White already had the pawn on c6.

45.♖b6 ♖e5 The black king is moving in the direction of the g2 pawn.

46.♖b5 ♖d4 Of course Black doesn't give White the chance to play Kc4-Kd3-Ke2.

47.♜d7 The last trick...

47...h3! Of course Black is not blundering anything.

48.gxh3 gxh3 49.♜c6 h2 50.♜h1 All Black needs to do now is to play Ke3 and f4-f5.

50...♜b8 51.♖c6 f4 White can't do anything against Ke3 and f3 next.

52.♖b7 ♖xc5 Of course 52...Be5 was winning too.

53.♖xb8 ♖d4 54.♖c7 ♖e3 55.♖d6 As we can see now, Black had a winning endgame from the beginning thanks to the bad position of the white king, as well as White's unlucky pawn structure, which allowed the black king to enter to g3 so easily.

55...f3 0-1

Clash of the Titans

(17) Petrosian, Tigran V
- Krogius, Nikolai V[D03]

URS-ch27(19), 1960



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 g6 3.♗g5 ♗g7 4.♘bd2 This setup cannot give White any advantage.

4...d5 5.e3 O-O 6.♗d3 ♘bd7 7.c3



7...♞e8 Black decides to get an advantage in the center after play e5. The alternative was [7...c5 8.O-O b6 with the idea Bb7-Ne4 or Qc8-Ba6, exchanging the light squared bishops.]

8.♗f4 ♘h5 9.♗g5 ♘hf6 [9...h6 10.♗h4 g5 11.♘e5! is probably the way to get the initiative. (11.♘xg5 11...hxg5 12.♞xh5 gxh4 and there is no mate on h7.; 11.♗g3 11...♘xg3 12.hxg3 g4 13.♘e5 ♘xe5 14.dxe5 ♗xe5 15.♞xh6 ♗g7 16.♞h1 e5! The king on g8 is safe and Black has a strong center.) 11...♘xe5 12.dxe5 gxh4 13.♞xh5 c5 14.♘f3!]

10.♞b3 Developing the queen and delaying the e5 move a bit.

10...c6 [10...e5?! 11.♗xf6 ♗xf6 12.♞xd5 exd4 13.cxd4 ♘e5 (13...c5!?) 14.♗c4 ♘d3+ 15.♞f1 ♞xd5 16.♗xd5 ♘xb2 17.♞b1 ♘a4 18.♗xb7 ♗xb7 19.♞xb7 c5 With some chances for compensation, but objectively White is better.]

11.O-O e5



12.e4! It is time to play a bit more actively! White is fighting for the center.

12...exd4 13.cxd4 dxe4 [13...h6 14.♗xf6 (14.♗h4 14...g5 15.♘xg5 hxg5 16.♗xg5 ♞b6+) 14...♘xf6 15.e5 ♘h7∞It is not easy for White to improve the position on the kingside.]

14.♘xe4 ♞b6 [14...♞c7 looks more accurate. Black forces the exchanges of pieces, which is good for them. 15.♞fe1 (15.♘c3 15...♘b6; 15.♘e5 15...♘xe5 16.♘xf6+ ♗xf6 17.♗xf6 ♘g4+) 15...♘xe4 16.♗xe4 ♘f6 With equal play.]

15.♘d6! ♞e6 16.♘xc8 ♞xc8 By exchanging this bishop White stopped Black from controlling d5.

17.♗c4 Black cannot exchange the queens because of the a7 pawn.

17...♞e7 18.♞a3! Of course White needs the queens to be able to develop an initiative.

18...♖ee8



19.♕d2! A strong move. White creates the threats of Ba5 and Ng5.

19...♕f8 20.♖a4 ♖c7 [20...♖xb2 21.♖ab1 b5 22.♖xb2 bxa4 23.♖b7 With a strong initiative.]

21.♖b3 ♖b6 22.♕a5 White is fighting for the important d5 square.

22...♖e4 23.♖ac1 Preparing potential breaks over d5.

23...♖d6 24.♕d3 ♕g7



25.h4! ↑ A fantastic move. It looks like the black king is more or less safe but with this move White is creating pressure against the g6-f7 pawns.

25...♖cd8 26.h5 gxf5? Black should not destroy the structure around the king, but the position was already unpleasant. [Better was 26...♖h8 27.g3 with the idea Kg2-Rh1 and a huge initiative.]

27.♖c5 ♖e4 28.♖xh5 ♕xd4 These complications will not help Black... His position is lost because of his weak king.

29.♖h4 ♖c5 30.♕xh7+ ♖g7 31.♖b4 White's position is so good that even a queen sacrifice was enough to get an almost winning position. [31.♕xd4 31...♕xb3 32.♕f5+ ♖f6 (32...♖f8 33.♖g4) 33.axb3→]

31...♕f6 32.♖g4+ ♖f8 33.♕b4 ♖d5 34.♖h5 ♖d7



35.♖g8+?! [35.♖xd5 35...cxd5 36.♖d1 ♖c6 37.♖g8+ ♖e7 38.♖e1+ ♖e5 39.♕xe5+-]

35...♖e7 36.♖e1+ [36.♖xd5 36...cxd5 (36...♖xg8 37.♖xc5 ♕xc5 38.♕xc5+ ♖d8 39.♕xg8+-) 37.♖e1+ ♖e5 38.♕xc5+ ♖xc5 39.♕xe5 ♖xg8 40.♕d3+ ♖d6 41.♕xc5 ♖g7 42.♕xb7+ ♖c7 43.♕c5 ♖xh7 44.♕d3 White is only a pawn up here.]

36...♖e5 37.♖g3 ♖d8 38.♕xe5 ♖dx5?? What a blunder! [38...♕xe5 The rook on d5 should protect the knight on c5. 39.♖g4 a5→]

39.♖hx5 ♕xe5 40.♖h4+ ♖c8



41. ♕f5+?? Both players were probably in time trouble.
[41. ♕xc5 41... ♕h2+ 42. ♖f1+-]

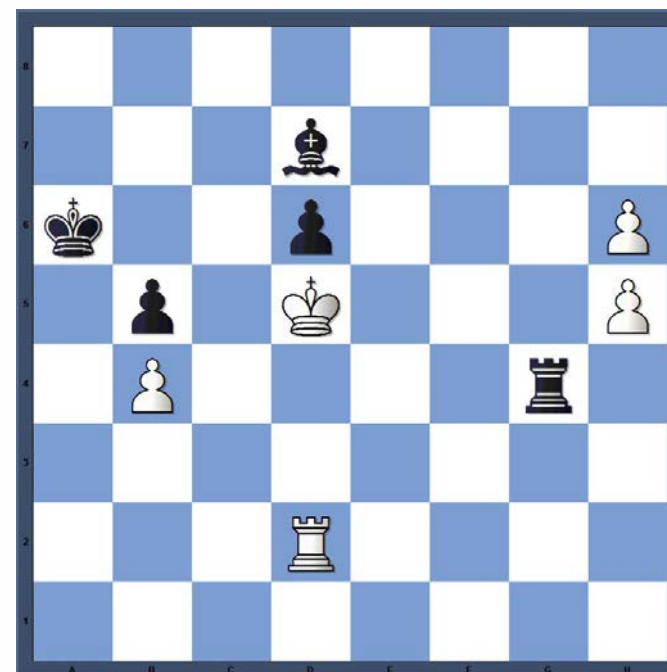
41... ♖b8?? [Why not 41... ♗e6 and White only has a small plus thanks to the bishop pair.]

42. ♕xc51-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Troitzky

1. +-



Solutions

(19) Kramnik, V(2777)-Baramidze, D(2616)

Dortmund, 2014.07.15



28. ♖xg7+? [28.fxg7+! 28...♔g8 29.♖f4! ♔xg7 (29...♖xf3 30.♖xh6+-) 30.♖xe3+-]

28...♔e8 29.fxe7 ♖xf3! 30.♕xf3 ♜xd4∞

(20) Naiditsch, A(2705)-Ponomarev, R(2723)

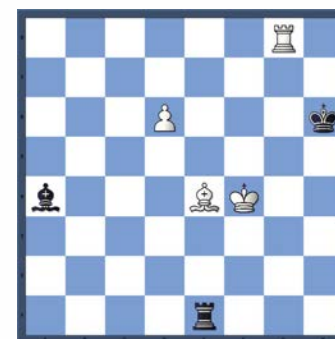
Dortmund, 2014.07.19



47. ♜xg6+! ♖xg6 48.♖e7+ ♔g8 49.♖e8+ 1-0 [49.♖e8+ 49...♔h7 (49...♔g7 50.♖e7+ ♔f6 51.♖f8+-) 50.♖e7+ ♖g7 (50...♔h6 51.♖h8#) 51.♖h5+ ♔g8 52.♖e8#]

(21) Giri, A(2750)-Wojtaszek, R(2733)

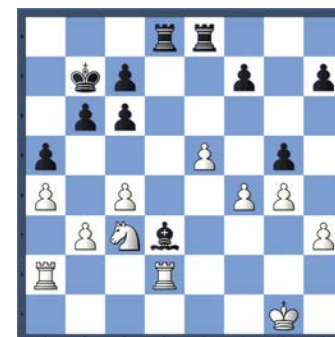
Biel, 2014.07.16



83. ♖g6+! ♔h5 84.♖e6! 1-0

(22) Motylev, A(2698)-Harikrishna, P(2726)

Biel, 2014.07.16



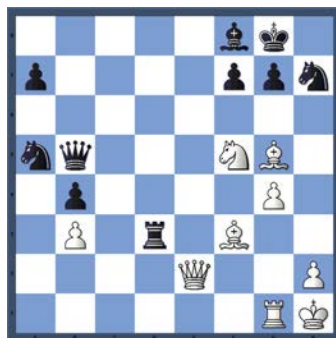
27. ♖a1!! [27.♖d1!!]

27...♖d7 [27...gxf4 28.♖ad1+-; 27...♕g6 28.♖xd8 ♖xd8 29.f5+-; 27...♖e7 28.♖ad1 ♖ed7 29.fxg5±]

28. ♜e4! ♖ed8 29.♜xg5+-

(23) Giri, A(2750)-Motylev, A(2698)

Biel, 2014.07.17



36. **d4!!** ♔d7 [36... ♖a6 37. ♕f4+- ♕c5 (37... ♗f6 38. ♖a1+-) 38. ♕e4+-; 36... ♖xg5 37. ♖xd3±]

37. ♖xd3 ♗xg5 38. ♖d1±

(24) Vocaturo, D(2584)-Sutovsky, E(2620)

Bergamo, 2014.07.18



25... ♖b1! 26. ♖c2 [26. ♖xb1 26... ♖xb1 27. ♖xb1 ♖xf6+-]

26... ♖8b2 27. ♖d3 ♖xf6! 0-1 [27... ♖xf6 28. ♖xb1 ♖f2+ 29. ♔h1 ♖xb1+ 30. ♖xb1 ♖xe3+-]

(25) Melkumyan, H(2647)-Krysztofiak, M(2423)

Najdorf memorial, 2014.07.15



22. ♖xe6! fxe6 23. ♖xe6 ♖xe6 24. ♕xe6+-

(26) Markowski, T(2572)-Mista, A(2609)

Najdorf memorial, 2014.07.16



20. ♗f7!! ♔xf7 21. ♖xh7 ♔e8 [21... ♖g8 22. ♖xd6+-]

22. ♖xg7+- ♖c6 23. ♕f6 1-0

(27) Macieja, B(2607)-Areshchenko, A(2701)

Najdorf memorial, 2014.07.17



22.e6! fxe6 23.♔f6! ♖c6 24.♘xc6 ♕xc6 25.♘a3! 1-0
[25.♘a3 25...♘c5 26.♘b2 ♖xb2 27.♔xb2+-]

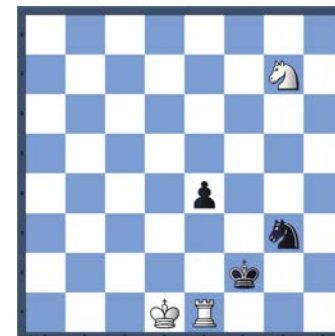
(28) Petrosian, T(2629)-Mista, A(2609)

Najdorf memorial, 2014.07.19



27.b4+! axb4 28.cxb4+ ♔xb4 29.♘c6+ ♔xa4 30.♘xd8+-

(29) Liburkin



1.♘e6! e3 2.♘c5! [2.♘f4 2...e2+! 3.♘xe2 ♘f1!! = 4.♘c3 ♘e3+
5.♔d2 ♘f1+=]

2...e2+ 3.♔d2 ♘f1+ 4.♔c1! ♔xe1 5.♘d3#



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 128

8th of August 2014

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Editorial Preface

The 41st Olympiad in Tromso is under way and as we are both playing here, we will come back with a detailed report in the next issue.

Today Arkadij beat Magnus Carlsen with the black pieces.

We hope you enjoy watching the Chess Olympiad and wish you a lot of fun with this week's issue of CEWN!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Shirov, Alexei(2709)**
- **Sulskis, Sarunas(2544) [C57]**

41st Olympiad Open 2014(2.36),
2014.08.03



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Shirov has managed to show again what he likes the most in chess and he won a great attacking game.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗c4 ♘f6 4.♘g5 A well known line, which leads to huge complications. The Italian opening starts with 4.d3 and it leads to more solid positions.

4...d5 5.exd5 ♘xd5? A brave decision! This practically invites White to sacrifice a piece for a huge attack. Of course, one should not ask Shirov twice to go for it... [The classic main line goes with 5...♘a5 6.♗b5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.♗e2 h6 with an extra pawn for White, but his pieces end up a misplaced, which gives Black strong compensation for it.]

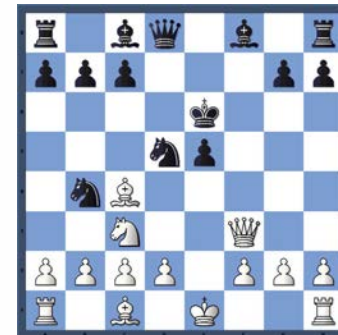


6.♘xf7! This sacrifice was played in more than thousand games. The king is forced to move into the center, where White can quickly develop an attack against it, based on the pin of the c4 bishop. On the other hand, Black takes a piece

and if he manages to consolidate he is going to win the game.

6...♔xf7 7.♗f3+ ♔e6 8.♘c3! Developing with tempo and putting further pressure on the main target on d5.

8...♘b4 We are still following hundreds of games. Black not only defends the d5, but also counterattacks the c2 pawn and intends to strengthen his d5 knight with c6!



How to continue with White? [The alternative is 8...♘e7 which is strongly met by 9.d4! opening the center. White intends to pin the other knight with Bg5, followed by queenside castling with a very dangerous attack.]

9.a3!! Another great sacrifice based on excellent intuitions. White gives his useless a1 rook for the d5 knight before Black could have played c6. This move is justified even materially, because White only gives an exchange, but the knight is going to be trapped on a1.

9...♘xc2+ Black has no choice, he must accept the gift.

10.♔d1 ♘xa1 11.♘d5! Creating is deadly pin and bringing a new attacker is more important than giving a check. [11.♗xd5+ 11...♔d7 followed by c6 and Kc7 is fine for Black. 12.♗g4+ ♔d6]

11...♔d6

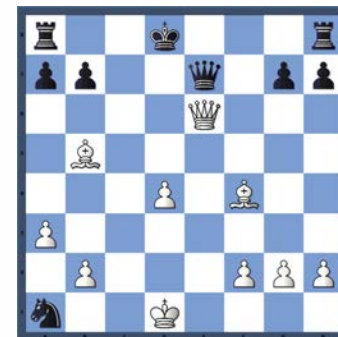


12.d4!! Excellent and very principled play! White opens the center in front of the king. With this move he wants to bring his last two unemployed pieces to the game, the rook could quickly come to e1, while the bishop might appear on f4!

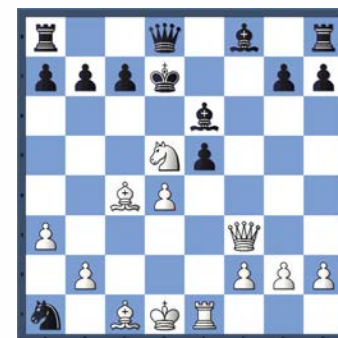
12...♟e6 Black tries to ensure a path for the king back to c8.

13.♞e1! White must lay the most energetic moves, otherwise his rook down is going to tell. [13.dxe5+? 13...♔d7]

13...b5 [Other moves lead to beautiful mates as well. For instance after 13...c6 14.♞xe5! cxd5 (14...♟xd5 15.♞xd5+ is the same as 14...cxd5.) 15.♞xd5+! ♟xd5 16.♞xd5+ And the queen cooperating with the bishop pair of bishops successfully haunts down the black king... 16...♔c7 17.♟f4+ ♟d6 (17...♔c8 loses to 18.♞f5+! ♞d7 19.♟e6+-; 17...♔b6 18.♞b5#) 18.♞c5+! ♔d7 19.♞xd6+ ♔e8 20.♞e6+ ♞e7 21.♟b5+ ♔d8 (21...♔f8 22.♟d6+-)]



22.♟g5! ♞xg5 23.♞d7# We can be sure, that Shirov would have finished the game like this if his opponent would have chosen 13...c6.; 13...♔d7 loses to the brilliant



14.♟b6+!! It is very important to keep the king in the center and not allow it to c8-b8.. 14...axb6 15.♟xe6+ ♔xe6 16.♞xe5+ ♔d7 17.♞f5+! All checks are based on preventing ♔c8 and meanwhile it is going to lead to mate. 17...♔c6 18.d5+ ♔b5 19.♞d3+- and mate is coming soon.]



14.♘b4! Another spectacular move, which leads to a technically won position. [However, it was even stronger to play 14.♞xe5!! 14...bxc4 15.♘f4! and Black is helpless against the threats... 15...♙f7 (15...♙d7 16.♘xe6 ♞f6 17.♞d5+ ♙d6 18.♘c5+ ♙d8 19.♞xa8#) 16.♞d5+! is the point! 16...♙xd5 17.♞xd5+ ♙e7 18.♞e6#]

14...bxc4 [On 14...♙xc4 15.♞xe5! is the most precise, Qc6 is threatening with mate 15...♞d7 16.♙f4+- is over.]

15.♞c6+ ♙e7 16.♙g5+ ♙f7 17.♙xd8 ♞xd8 18.♞xc7+ ♞d7 19.♞xe5+- Lets stop to count the material. Black has two bishops and a rook for the queen and two pawns, which could be unclear, but the right evaluation of the position is out of question, because the black pieces are undeveloped and misplaced...

19...♞d6 20.d5! But of course, Shirov continues playing the most straightforward moves to not give any breath to his opponent!

20...♙d7 21.♞f4+ [21.♞e4+- was also winning.]

21...♙g8 22.♞xc4 White eliminates the c4 pawn in order to trap the knight on a1, since it has lost its escaping square on b3.

22...a5 [22...♙a4+ 23.♙d2 ♘b3+ does not change anything.

The knight is still trapped after 24.♙c3 ♘a5 25.♞c7+-]

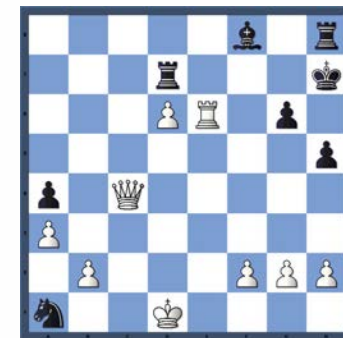
23.♘d3 a4 Trying to rescue the knight, but of course it is too slow.

24.♘c5 Threatening to send away to d6 rook with Nxd7, Ne4 or Nb7 and then d6 check is coming with mate.

24...h5 Trying to give some air to the king.

25.♘xd7 ♞xd7 26.d6+ ♙h7 27.♞e6! Total domination!

27...g6



[On 27...♘b3 the easiest is 28.♞xa4 ♘c5 29.♞c2+- winning the knight and the game.]

28.♞xg6! Finishing the game in style! [Black resigned in view of 28.♞xg6 28...♙xg6 29.♞e6+ ♙g5 (29...♙g7 30.♞xd7+-) 30.f4+! ♙xf4 31.g3+ ♙f3 (31...♙g5 32.h4#) 32.♞e2# Well, we must admit, that it is bit a risky to play such opening against Shirov or at least we should not be surprised to end up losing like this.] **1-0**

(2) Gelfand, Boris(2753) - Amonatov, Farrukh(2590) [E94]

41st Olympiad Open 2014(2.10),
2014.08.03



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A fantastic game, which shows how important is the preparation in today's chess. Gelfand practically wins this game without making a single move by himself. The only difficult thing was to recall the home analysis.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.♘f3 O-O Amonatov is considered to be a King's Indian expert, but this time he chooses wrong line in it.

6.♙e2 e5 7.O-O exd4 This is already a bit dubious, the main line starts with 7...Nc6.

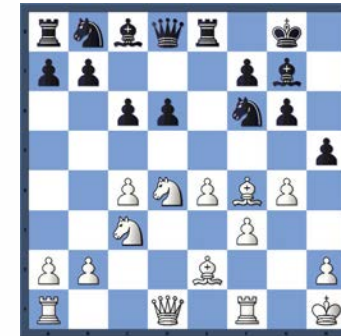
8.♘xd4 ♖e8 9.f3 c6 10.♙h1



10...♘h5 This concrete line was played recently by the biggest King's Indian experts, such as Radjabov, Grischuk and Topalov, but the latest development of the theory shows, that Black faces big problems here. Black is threatening with Qh4 followed by Ng3 or Qe5. Without knowing anything about this from the white side, this could be very dangerous. However Gelfand shows us all the details...

11.g4! ♘f6 12.♙f4 Black has been pushed back and White intends to put big pressure on the backward d6 pawn with Qd2 and Rad1. The only critical move was considered to be

12...h5 with the idea to make use of the g4 weakening and trying to change the structure to Black's favor.



13.♘f5!! This has already been played in several games and it seems to refute to entire idea of Black! Black is forced to accept the sacrifice, otherwise White simple takes on d6 with the knight, but then the attack on the open g-file appears to be crushing. [In the previous games, White mainly played 13.g5 13...♘h7 14.♙d2 ♘d7 with a very complicated game.]

13...gxf5 14.gxf5 d5 The most principled reaction. Against a flank attack, one must search counterplay and open the center! [Arkadij has commented the Shomoev-Ganguly game in a previous issue of our newsletter, which continued with 14...♘bd7 15.♖g1 ♙h8 16.♙e1 ♘e5 17.♙h4 and White won later with another brilliant mating attack.]

15.cxd5 cxd5 16.♖g1! This is the novelty and it seems to be crushing. [Last year, the Kasimdzhanov-Topalov game had seen the continuation of 16.e5 16...♙xf5 17.exf6 ♙xf6 18.♘xd5 ♙xb2 with a very complicated game, which later finished with a draw.]

16...♙h8 Leaving from the pin and the Bh6 direct threat. [The

alternative was 16...dxe4 which is strongly met by 17.♘xe4! Despite being able to trade queens, Black ends up in trouble in beautiful lines... 17...♚xd1 is objectively the best defense, but it also leads to difficult position. .. (17...♘xe4 18.fxe4 ♚xd1 19.♖axd1 White is still threatening with Bh6. 19...♙h8 seems to solve the problems, but here comes the unpleasant surprise.

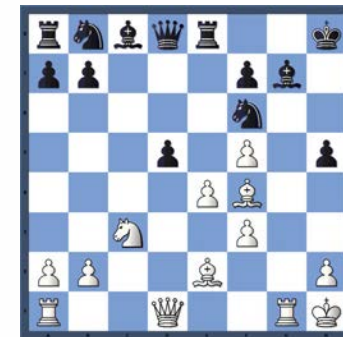


20.f6! ♘xf6 21.♖d5! and suddenly Black misses his undeveloped pieces on the queenside to defend successfully. 21...♙g4 22.♙xg4 hxg4 23.♖xg4 ♙g7 The only way to avoid the Rh5 mate, but it also loses to 24.♖h5+ ♙g8 25.♖hg5+-; 17...♙xf5 18.♘d6 ♙g6 looks very good to close the g-file, but it also fails to save the game if White finds the following nice attacking moves: 19.♙c4! Pinning the king creates the threat of Rxc6. 19...♙h7 20.♙xf7! ♙xf7 21.♚c2+! ♙g8



22.♖xg7+!! There is no way back in such positions! On the

other hand it is also possible to find such moves by logic, because White must eliminate the main defender of the king, but of course calculation plays the most role in this phrase of the game... 22...♙xg7 23.♙h6+! ♙g8 (23...♙xh6 24.♘xf7+ ♙g7 25.♘xd8+-) 24.♖f5!+- and White is helpless against the mate with Qg5 or Rg1.) 18.♘xf6+ ♙h8 (After 18...♙f8 White uses the motif, what we had already seen in the 17...Nxe4 line 19.♘h7+! ♙g8 20.♖axd1 ♙xh7 21.f6! and the rook joins to the attack along the 5th rank. 21...♙xf6 22.♖d5 ♙g4 23.♙d3+ ♙h8 24.fxg4+-) 19.♖axd1 ♙xf6 20.♖d6! ♘d7 21.♙b5 White will end up with some extra material and he keeps on attacking.]



17.♖xg7!! Without the preparation it is an extremely difficult move to make, because White has to foresee the very deep 21st move!

17...♙xg7 18.♚g1+ ♙h8 It is important to keep the h7 square free for the knight against the Qg5-h6 threats, but it also has a drawback, that the king stands on a dark square in the perspective of the bishop. The next move points it out. .. [18...♙h7 19.♚g5+- is crushing as Black cannot play Nh7.]

19.♙g5! ♙xf5 Black is a 2 rook up and he tries to give back some material in order to quickly bring the a8 rook into the defense. I must admit, de Amonatov defends resourcefully, but this time it does not help. Other moves were also

losing: [On 19...♖g8 20.♘xd5 ♘xd5 21.♙xd8 ♖xg1+ 22.♖xg1 ♘c6 23.♙h4 and White wins back the piece and gets a winning position, because if the d5 knight moves it leads to even bigger problems... 23...♘f4 24.♙f6+ ♔h7 25.♖g7+ ♔h6 26.♖g8+- and mate on h8.; 19...♘bd7 20.♘xd5+-; 19...dxe4 20.♘d5! ♘bd7 21.♖d4!+- Beautiful cooperation of the white pieces. He focuses all the forces on the f6 knight and Black cannot keep it anymore and he collapses.]

20.♘xd5! [20.exf5 is too slow 20...♘bd7 and Black could continue resisting with Rc8-c6 or Rg8 next move.]

20...♘bd7 Black is still a rook up and he seems to consolidate finally, but the cold shower is just about to come:



21.♖d1!! A silent attacking move creates the deadly pin on the d-file. This destroys all the efforts of Black. It is interesting to mention, that I was speaking to another top GM about this game and he told me, that he also knew about the 21.Rd1!! winning move, but Gelfand was the lucky one, who could play it in the practical game. This is how the best players are prepared to the game and where the current computer chess stands at the moment.

21...♖g8 Black had nothing better, but he ends up materially down and his king remains exposed.

22.♘xf6 ♖xg5 23.♖xg5 ♖xf6 24.♖xh5+ ♔g7 [24...♙h7

25.♖xd7+- is also hopeless.]

25.exf5 White has two extra pawns and he continues attacking. The rest is matter of technique, Gelfand does not give any chance to his opponent.

25...♘b6 [Black could not even centralize his knight 25...♘e5 is met by 26.f4! and the knight does not have a good place to leave 26...♖c6+ 27.♔g1 ♖b6+ 28.♔f1 ♘c6 29.f6+- Black gets mated after Qh6 next move.]

26.♖g4+ ♔f8 27.♖b4+ ♖e7 28.♖c3! Spectacular!

28...f6 [28...♖xe2 loses to 29.♖e1!+- and Qh8 mates next move!]

29.♖g1 ♖c8 30.♖d2 Black resigned, there was no way to put up more resistance. **1-0**

**(3) Carlsen, Magnus(2877)
- Wojtaszek, Radoslaw(2735) [B26]**

41st Olympiad Open 2014(4.3),
2014.08.05



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 c5 2.♘c3 After the game Carlsen said he played the Closed Sicilian because Wojtaszek is a good active player and we will see it turned out to be a perfect decision.

2...d6 3.g3 ♘c6 4.♙g2 g6 5.d3 ♙g7 6.♙e3



6...e5 White also had two other options to develop: [6...e6 7.♙d2 ♘ge7 8.♘ge2 ♘d4 is very important, otherwise White will play d4! 9.♘c1 O-O 10.O-O ♖b8 11.♘d1 (11.f4 11...f5 A typical move which stops White from putting pressure on the kingside.) ; 6...♘f6 7.h3 O-O 8.♘ge2 ♖b8 A typical plan with the idea of looking for counterplay after opening the position on the queenside. 9.f4 Now 9... b5 is premature because of 10.e5! and White wins the piece so 9...♙d7 10.O-O b5 11.♙d2 with the idea g4-f5 and attacking the black king. The position is very complex.]

7.♘h3 An original idea, but this is not the best place for the knight. [7.♙d2 7...♘ge7 8.♘ge2 (8.h4 8...h5∞; 8.♙h6 8...O-O 9.h4 f6! There is a nice trap here: 10.h5?? ♙xh6 11.♙xh6 g5--+ with Kh8-Ng8 next.) 8...O-O 9.O-O ♘d4 10.f4∞]

7...♘ge7 8.f4 ♘d4 9.O-O O-O 10.♙d2 ♙d7 [10...b6 was possible as well. 11.♘d1 (11.f5 11...gxf5 12.exf5 ♙xf5!) 11...♙b7 12.c3 ♘dc6 13.f5 gxf5 14.exf5 f6 and Black gets counterplay in the center with d5 next move.]

11.♘d1 A typical idea. White is preparing the c3 move.

11...♙c8 12.♘df2 ♘dc6 13.c3



13...b5? A huge strategical mistake! After this move Carlsen slowly starts to kill Black's position! It was necessary to stop White from activating the knight from h3 too easily. [13...b6! 14.♖ad1 gives more or less equal play where both sides need to play some waiting moves.]

14.fxe5! Because the pawn on c5 is hanging Black needs to recapture on e5 with a piece, but then White gets the advantage in the center and the f4 square for the knight.

14...♞xe5



15.♙h6! A good move which weakens the black king and we will later see how strong White's pressure gets over the dark squares.

15...♞7c6?! I don't like this move which doesn't prevent d4 anyway and Black only loses the control over the d5 square. [15...♙d8 16.♙xg7 ♞xg7 17.♞f4 ♙b6 18.♞ad1 ♞ac8 19.♙e2 (19.b3 19...b4! Black avoids d4 or exchanging the queens.; 19.d4 19...cxd4 20.cxd4 ♞c4 21.♙e2 b4 22.b3 ♞a3 with the idea Rc2 and Bb5. Black is on time!) 19...b4]]

16.♙xg7 ♞xg7 17.♞f4 ♙d8 18.♞ad1 White is preparing d4.

18...♞c8



19.♙e2! A nice move which prevents Nc4 with tempo and Ng4 as well in case White will push d4.

19...h5 Black was forced to weaken his position even more. [19...♙b6 20.♞d5± and d4 next.]

20.d4 cxd4 21.cxd4 ♞g4 22.h3 ♞xf2 23.♙xf2 White has a better center and the weak black king gives White a decisive initiative.

23...♞e7



24.♞d3! A good place for the rook to be connected to the attack.

24...b4 25.♞f3 ♙e8 [25...♙g8 26.g4 hxg4 27.hxg4 ♙xg4 28.♞g3 ♙d7 29.♙h3 ♙xh3 30.♞xh3 ♙g4+ 31.♙h1 with a decisive attack.]

26.g4! +— White opens another file. Black is lost.

26...hxg4 27.hxg4 ♙b5 [27...♙xg4 28.♞g3 ♙d7 29.♙h3 f5 30.exf5 ♙xf5 (30...gxf5 31.♙g2+—) 31.♞xg6+—]

28.♞e1 ♙d8 29.g5 ♙b6 It is too late for counterplay here.

30. ♖h3 ♜cd8



31. ♖e6! Now White has additional threats with the sacrifice on f7.

31... ♖e8 32. ♖d5 ♜xd5 33. ♖xd5 Black is not able to do nothing, White will mate over the f- or h-file. 1-0

(4) Kasimdzhanov, Rustam(2700)
- Kramnik, Vladimir(2760) [D37]

41st Olympiad Open 2014(6.5),
2014.08.08



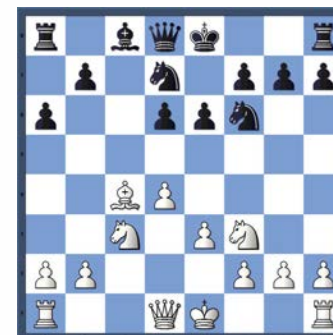
GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♘f3 d5 4. ♘c3 ♘bd7 5. ♖f4 dxc4 6.e3 [6.e4 6... ♖b4 7. ♖c2 b5=+]]

6... ♖d6 [6... ♘b6 7. ♖xc4 ♘xc4 8. ♖a4+ ♖d7 9. ♖xc4 ♖d6 10. ♖g3+= White has a better center.]

7. ♖xd6 [7. ♖xc4 7... ♖xf4 8.exf4 O-O 9.O-O White could try to get some advantage here after for example Qe2-Rad1-Ne5 etc but on the other hand White's structure is a bit destroyed and it is not easy to make some break in the center like d5 or f5.]

7...cxd6 8. ♖xc4 a6 [8...b6 9.O-O (9. ♘b5 9... ♘b8 10. ♖b3 a6 11. ♖a3 ♖e7) 9... ♖b7 10.d5 e5 11. ♖c1 a6 12.a4 O-O White is slightly better thanks to more space and the limited bishop on b7.]



9.a4! Fighting for space! [9.e4 9...b5 10. ♖d3 ♖b7 11.a3 O-O! 12.O-O! ♖c8 13. ♖c1 ♖b6 Black is very solid and the counterplay over b4 will come soon.]

9...d5 10.♟d3 b6 11.O-O O-O 12.♞b3 [12.e4 12...dxe4 13.♟xe4 ♟b7 14.♟d6 ♟d5 and Black controls the d5 square.]

12...♞e7 [12...♞c7 13.♞fc1 ♞b8 14.♞c2 ♟b7 15.♞ac1 ♞c8 16.♞b4+=]

13.♞ac1 We have a symmetrical structure where White keeps a little advantage thanks to three factors: the weakness on b6, a better bishop and a potential initiative over the dark squares.

13...♟b7 14.♞c2 ♞fc8 15.♞fc1 The problem in Black's position is the fact that it is not easy to double the rooks on the c-file because of White's tactical ideas.

15...♞d6 doesn't help preventing the Ne5 move. [15...♞c7 16.♟e5 ♟xe5 (16...♞ac8 17.♟xd7 ♟xd7 18.♟xa6 ♞xc3 19.♞xc3 ♞xc3 20.♞xc3 ♟xa6 21.♞c7±) 17.dxe5 ♟d7



18.♟xh7+! ♟h8! Black saved the position, but it was hard to see this variation. (18...♟xh7 19.♟xd5 ♟xd5 20.♞d3+ ♟g8 21.♞xc7 ♞g5 22.e4 ♟c5 23.♞1xc5 bxc5 24.exd5 ♞xe5 25.d6 ♞e1+ 26.♞f1 ♞d2 27.♞xc5 ♞xd6 28.♞c1±) 19.♟e2 ♞c4! 20.♟d3 ♟c5 21.♟xc4 ♟xb3 22.♟xb3 It looks like White

controls the situation very well even without the queen, but Black gets some play now. 22...♞b4 23.♟d4 f6±24.f4∞; 15...♟e4 16.♟xe4 dxe4 17.♟d2 f5 18.♟c4± Xb6]

16.♟e5! ♟xe5 [16...♞c7 17.♟xf7! Another tactical trick. 17...♟xf7 18.♟b5 axb5 19.♞xc7 bxa4 20.♞c2 ♟a6 (20...♞a7 21.♟b5+-) 21.♞xa4 ♟b7 22.♞b3 ♟a6 23.♟xa6 ♞xa6 24.h3+= (24.♞b7? 24...♞c6!+-)]

17.dxe5 ♞xe5 18.♞xb6 ♞cb8



19.♟e2! A good move which activates the rooks and improves the knight.

19...♟d7 [19...d4 20.♞xd4 ♞g5 21.♟g3 ♞d8 22.♞c4 ♞ac8 23.♞xc8 ♟xc8 24.♞xc8 ♞f8 25.♟xa6±]

20.♞d4 In general Black's structure looks good but the problem is the pieces, which are very limited.

20...♞d6 [20...♞xd4 21.♟xd4 ♞c8 (21...♟e5 22.♟e2+=) 22.♞c7 ♞ab8 23.a5 and White keeps a stable advantage.]



21.f4! White wants to save the important d4 square. [21.♖c7 21...e5 22.♙h4 ♘f6 23.♘g3 ♜c8!⇒(23...g6? 24.♘f5 gxf5 25.♙xf5 with a decisive attack.)]

21...e5 [21...♜c8 22.♜xc8+ ♜xc8 23.♜xc8+ ♙xc8 24.b4+= White is slightly better thanks to the distant passed pawn and the control over the dark squares.]

22.fxe5 ♞xe5 23.♙f4

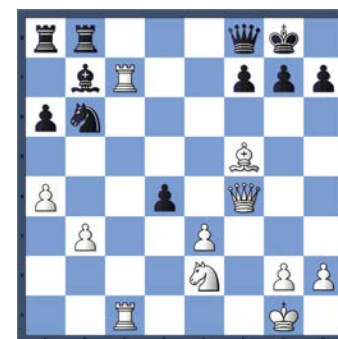


23...♙e7?! This very passive move gives White the opportunity to come on the 7th rank with tempo. It is hard to say why Kramnik didn't want to play [23...♜e8 looks very natural. 24.♜c7 ♜ab8 25.♘d4 g6 26.b4↑; 23...♜c8 This move was the best, but here Kramnik probably missed 24.♙f5 (24.♘d4 24...♜xc2 25.♜xc2 ♜e8∞) 24...g6 25.♜xc8+ ♙xc8 26.♜xc8+ ♙g7!= this great idea!]

24.♜c7 ♙e8 25.♙f5 ♘c4 [25...♙c6 26.♘d4 ♙xa4 27.♙e6 ♙d7 28.♙xd7 ♘xd7 29.♘f5+- White has too many pieces in the attack.]

26.♙d7 ♙f8 [26...♙xe3+ 27.♙xe3 ♘xe3 28.♘d4 Kramnik probably didn't want to get this position where his pieces have no moves at all! 28...♘c4 29.♘c6 is winning by force. 29...♙xc6 30.♙xc6 ♜c8 31.♜xc8+ ♜xc8 32.♙xd5 ♘b6 33.♜xc8+ ♘xc8 34.♙b7 ♘b6 35.a5 ♘c4 36.b4+-]

27.b3 ♘b6 28.♙f5 d4



The last hope to activate the pieces!

29.♜xf7! Not the only move, but still nice! [29.♘xd4 29...♘d5 30.♙h4 g6 31.♘e6+-]

29...♙xf7 [29...♙xf7 30.♙xh7+ ♙f8 31.♙d6+ ♙e7 32.♜f1+-]

30.♙xh7+ Black will get mated soon. **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Svidler, P(2751)-Samhuri, B(2256)

Olympiad, 2014.08.02

1. +-



(6) Agdestein, S(2630)-Al Qudaimi, B(2396)

Olympiad, 2014.08.02

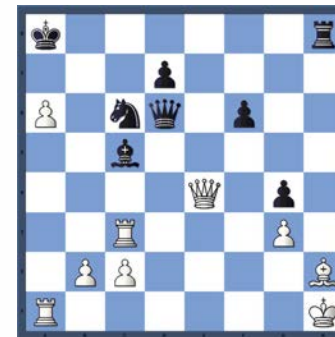
1. +-



(7) Guerrero, A(2318)-Polgar, J(2676)

Olympiad, 2014.08.03

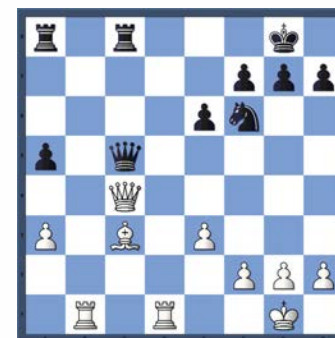
1... -+



(8) Onischuk, A(2659)-Rios, C(2427)

Olympiad, 2014.08.03

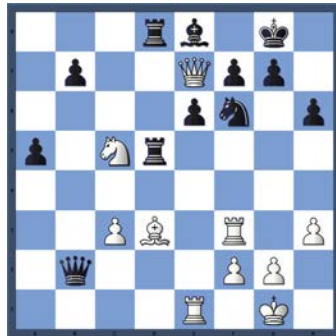
1. +-



(9) Mamedov, R(2659)-Greet, A(2431)

Olympiad, 2014.08.03

1. +-



(10) Dominguez, L(2760)-Dias, P(2416)

Olympiad, 2014.08.03

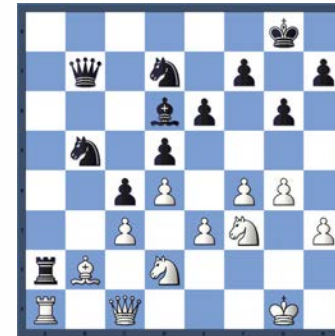
1... ♠



(11) Onkoud, A(2383)-Hracek, Z(2634)

Olympiad, 2014.08.03

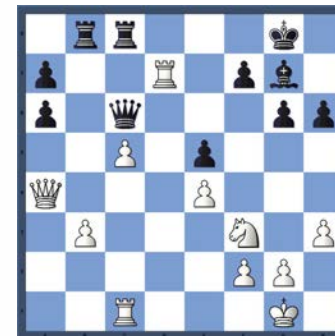
1... -+



(12) Vocaturo, D(2587)-Steel, H(2399)

Olympiad, 2014.08.03

1. +-



Olympiad, 2014.08.03

1... - +



Olympiad, 2014.08.03

1. $+-$



Endgame section

(15) Shanava, Konstantine(2563)
- Ipatov, Alexander(2614)

Olympiad,
2014.08.04



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



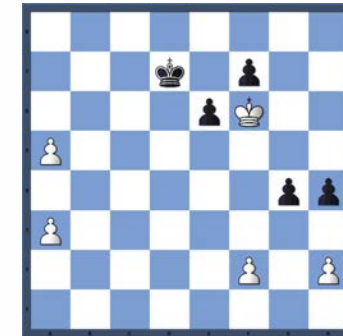
We are examining a study-like pawn endgame. White seems to be completely winning, as he can sacrifice his distant passed pawns to lure to black king away from the kingside, meanwhile he might collect the pawns one by one with his king. However Ipatov finds a brilliant idea to save the game...

48.♔d4 h5!! This is the start of the fantastic plan. Black needs to find several only moves to hold the draw. [Other moves are losing, for instance 48...♔c6 49.♔e5 ♔b5 50.♔f6 g4 51.♔xf7 ♔xa5 52.♔xe6+- and the black king is too far away.; Black cannot block the king's path with 48...♔d6 because of 49.a6! ♔c6 50.♔e5+-; 48...f6 does not help either 49.♔c5 ♔c7 50.a6 g4 51.a7 ♔b7 52.♔d6 e5 53.♔e6 h5 54.♔xf6+- and in comparison to the game, Black is a tempo down and it turns out to be critical.]

49.♔e5 h4!! Only move again! Even if Black finds the right

idea, he must execute it in the correct moveorder. [49...g4 loses to 50.♔f4! with the threat of Kg5! 50...f6 51.♔g3! Collecting the h5 pawn first. 51...♔c6 52.♔h4 ♔b5 53.♔xh5 f5 54.♔g5 ♔xa5 55.♔f6+-]

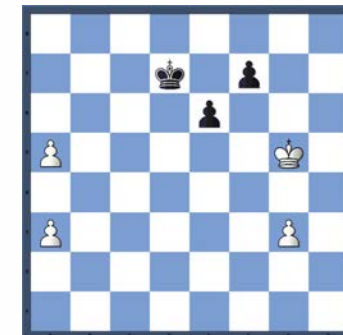
50.♔f6 g4!



51.♔g5! White also needs to be careful now. [51.♔xf7?? even loses the game, because Black is able to create passed pawn with 51...e5! 52.♔f6 e4 53.♔f5 e3 54.fxe3 g3+-]

51...g3! 52.fxg3 [Of course not 52.hxg3?? 52...h3+-]

52...hxg3 53.hxg3



53...e5! Another very important move! By sacrificing the g-pawn, Black has successfully created a protected passed e-pawn, but it has to be as far advanced as possible.

[53...♔c6? loses in view of 54.♕f6 ♔b5 55.g4! ♔xa5 56.g5 ♔b5 And White promotes his pawn faster after 57.♕xf7! e5 58.g6 e4 59.g7 e3 60.g8=♚+— This is the reason why Black should reach with his pawn the 5th rank.]

54.g4 [54.♕f5 54...f6= will be the same as the game.]

54...♔c6 55.♕h4!? A last tricky attempt to win the game, but Ipatov continues defend perfectly.



[Now in case of 55.♕f5 55...f6 56.♕xf6 the pawns are promoting in the same time 56...e4 57.g5 e3 58.g6 e2 59.g7 e1=♚ 60.g8=♚= Black can either give perpetual check or just simple take on a5 and the a3 pawn remains useless. 60...♚xa5]

55...f6! The last accuracy! [All the excellent previous moves would have turned to be useless if Black plays 55...♔b5? the point of 55.Kh4 was to put the pawn on g5 to avoid Black protecting his e-pawn with f6. 56.g5! ♔xa5 57.♕g4 ♔a4 58.♕f5+—]

56.g5 There was nothing left to try. Black was ready to collect the a-pawns, White also had to get rid of the kingside pawns...

56...fxg5+ 57.♕xg5 ♔b5 58.♕f5 ♔xa5 59.♕xe5 ♔a4 60.♕e4 ♔xa3 An awesome resource by Black! We can see, that in pawn endgames (also in other type of endgames)

the passed pawns are playing a very important role. White seemed to have all the chances to win due to his a-pawns, but Black found the salvation in creating a e-passed pawn too...

1/2-1/2

Clash of the Titans

(16) Smyslov, Vassily
- Ribli, Zoltan[B14]

Candidates sf2(5), 1983



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 e6 3.c4 d5 4.♘c3 c5 5.cxd5 ♘xd5



6.e3 White more often plays [6.e4 6...♘xc3 7.bxc3 cxd4 8.cxd4 ♘b4+ 9.♘d2 ♘xd2+ 10.♙xd2 O-O 11.♘c4 and White keeps a stable plus thanks to his better center.]

6...♘c6 7.♘d3 ♘e7 8.O-O O-O 9.a3 cxd4 Black has the alternative to not hurry with taking on d4, for example: [9...b6 10.♙c2 ♘xc3 11.bxc3 g6 12.♘b2 ♘f6 Preventing e4. 13.♙ad1 ♘b7 14.♙e2 White should try to push e4 at some moment but in general Black's position is very solid.]

10.exd4 ♘f6 11.♙c2 [11.♙e1 A logical move, in some cases White can try to connect the rooks into the attack after Re4. 11...♘xd4 12.♘xd4 ♘xd4 13.♘h7+ ♙xh7 14.♙xd4 ♘xc3 15.♙xc3 The white pieces are more active and Black needs to play accurately to the equalize position.; 11.♘c2 with the idea Qd3.]

11...h6 12.♙d1 ♙b6 Black creates pressure against the d4 pawn and the other possibility was to play the main plan Nce7-b6-Bb7, with the idea of taking control of the important d5 square.

13.♘c4 [13.♘h7+ 13...♙h8 14.♘e4



14...♙d8! (14...♘ce7 15.♘e5! and White can transfer the rook into the attack after Rd3 next!)]

13...♙d8 14.♘e2 A slightly passive move, but at least White has a concrete idea to regroup the pieces. [14.♘e3 14...♘xe3 (14...♘ce7 15.♘e4→) 15.fxe3 ♘d7 16.♙ac1 ♙ac8 with two bishops Black can not be worse.]

14...♘d7 15.♙e4 ♘ce7 16.♘d3 White creates a threat but it took too much time and Black managed to put a good setup already.



16...♙a4?! Strange, why let White give a check on h7? [16...♘g6! simply gives Black a good position and in case of h4-h5, he will play Nf8 and control the h7 square.; 16...♘f5 17.g4 ♙c6 18.gxf5 ♘c3 19.bxc3 ♙xe4 20.♙xe4 exf5 21.♙xf5+= The three pieces are stronger than the queen.]

17.♙h7+ ♚f8 18.♖e1 ♙b5 With the idea of getting better control over the light squares after the bishops' exchange.

19.♙xb5 ♙xb5 20.♘g3 The knight joins the attack.

20...♘g6 [20...♖ac8 21.♘h5 (21.♙d2) 21...♘f5 22.♙d2 ♘xd4 23.♘xd4 ♙xd4 24.♘g3 ♙xf2+ 25.♙xf2 ♙c5+ 26.♙e3 ♘xe3 27.♖xe3 ♖d2+ 28.♘e2 f5∞]

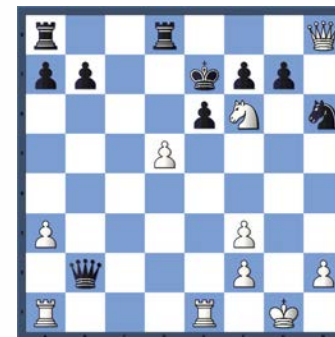
21.♘e5 ♘de7 [21...♙xe5 22.dxe5 and Black is not able to stop Nh5.; 21...♘ge7 22.b3 with the nice idea to activate the bishop over the a3 square.]

22.♙xh6! Here come the decisive blows!

22...♘xe5 23.♘h5! [23.dxe5 23...♙xe5 24.♘h5 ♘f5 25.♙g5 was winning as well.]

23...♘f3+ 24.gxf3 ♘f5 25.♘xf6 ♘xh6 26.d5! A strong move which prevents Qg5 and opens the e-file.

26...♙xb2 27.♙h8+ ♚e7



28.♖xe6+! White is now winning the queen by force.

28...fxe6 29.♙xg7+ ♘f7 [29...♙d6 30.♘e4+]

30.d6+ ♖xd6 31.♘d5+ ♖xd5 32.♙xb2 b6 Black would have chances to create a fortress after the rook exchange, but in this case there is too much material on the board and the black king is weak.

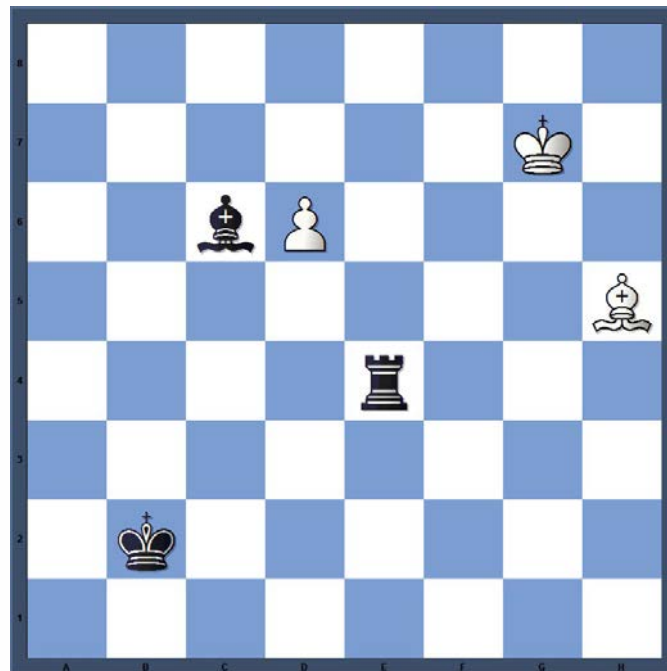
33.♙b4+ ♚f6 34.♖e1 ♖h8 35.h4 ♖hd8 36.♖e4 ♘d6 37.♙c3+ e5 38.♖xe5 ♖xe5 [38...♖c8 39.♙a1 But not Qb2 because of Nc4!]

39.f4 ♘f7 40.fxe5+ ♚e6 41.♙c4+ 1-0

Surprise section / study

(17) Platov

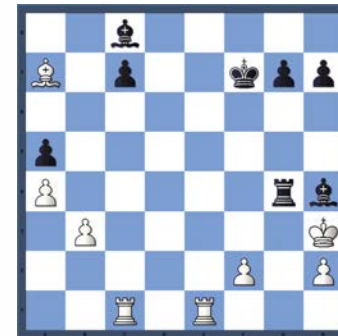
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Solutions

(18) Kovacevic, A(2564)-Studer, N(2375)

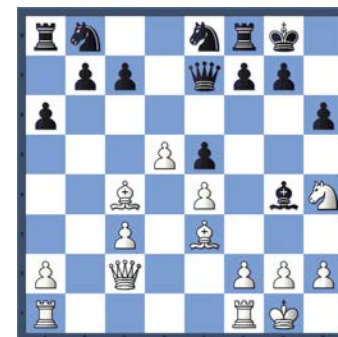
Biel Open, 2014.07.17



30...♙d8! 0-1 [30...♙d8 31.♖ed1 ♜g6+--]

(19) Swiercz, D(2617)-Minko, V(2318)

Biel Open, 2014.07.18



16.♘g6! ♚d6 [16...fxg6 17.d6+--]

17.♘xf8+—

(20) Bok, B(2586)-Molner, M(2504)

Biel Open, 2014.07.19



32...Rxc3! 33.Rxc3 Qxb4+ 34.Kc1 [34. Qb3 34...Qxa3#]

34...Qxc3+-+ 35.Qac2 Qc4 0-1

(21) Bachmann, A(2652)-Escobar Forero, A(2460)

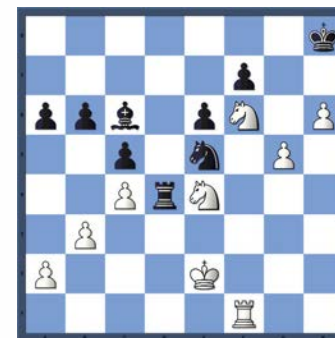
Iberoamerican Championship, 2014.07.24



29.Qxe6! fxe6 30.Qxe6+! Qf8 31.Rc8+- [31. Qc4+- ;
31. Qxd8+ 31...Qxd8 32.Rc8+-]

(22) Sjugirov, S(2643)-Fedoseev, V(2668)

Lake Sevan, 2014.07.28



40.g6!! fxg6 [40...Rxe4+ 41. Qxe4 Qxe4 42.gxf7+-;
40...Qxg6 41. Qg5+-]

41.Qg5! Rh4 42.Qd5! [42. Qg4! 42...Qd7 43. Qe5!+-]

42...Rh2+ [42...exd5 43. Rf8#; 42...Rhx6 43. Rf8+ Qg7
44. Qxe6+ Qh7 45. Qf6#]

43.Qd1! Qd7 44.Qe7+-

(23) Inarkiev, E(2666)-Bocharov, D(2560)

Primorsky Debut, 2014.07.26



28. ♖b6! ♕xd2 29. ♖xd2 ♖c7 30. ♖xd7 ♖d8 31. ♖xe5! ♖xd2
32. ♖c4+ 1-0

(24) Poetsch, H(2477)-Nisipeanu, LD(2686)

Pardubice Open, 2014.07.26



26... ♖xe3! 27. ♕xe3 ♖e8 0-1 [27... ♖e8 28. ♕f4 (28. ♕c1+ 28... ♖e2+; 28. ♕d2 28... ♖e2+)] 28... ♖e2+--]

(25) Cornette, M(2532)-Rapport, R(2701)

Politiken Cup, 2014.07.23



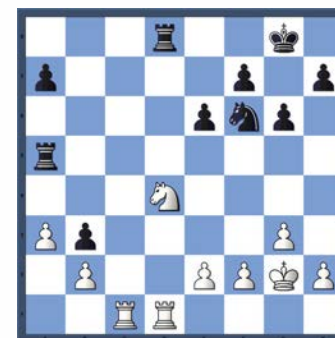
28. ♕xf6+! ♕xf6! [28... ♖xf6? 29. ♕g5+ ♖h7 30. ♕h5+ ♖h6 (30... ♖g7 31. ♕g5+--)] 31. ♖f7+ ♖g8 32. ♕xh6 c1=♕+ 33. ♕xc1+- ♕d4 34. ♕h6 ♕d3 35. e7+-]

29. ♖g5+! ♖h7 [29... ♕g6? 30. ♖xg6+ ♖xg6 31. ♕e4+--]

30. ♖h5+ ♖g7 31. ♖g5+=

(26) Romanov, E(2643)-Smerdon, D(2519)

Politiken Cup, 2014.07.26



23. ♖xe6! 1-0 [23. ♖xe6 23... ♖xd1 24. ♖c8+ ♖e8 25. ♖xe8#]

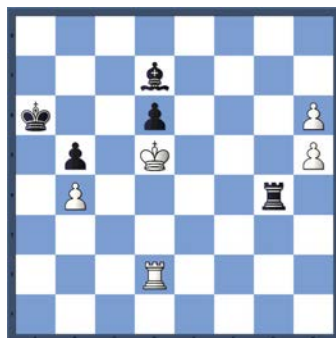
(27) Zhao, J(2610)-Zhou, J(1938)

Chinese league, 2014.07.24



24. ♘d4! ♙xf4 25. ♘xe6+ ♚e7 26. ♘xf4++—

(28) Troitzky



1. h7 ♖g5+ 2. ♔xd6 ♗xh5 3. ♕c7! ♘e6 [3... ♗xh7 4. ♗a2#]

4. ♕b8! ♘d5 [4... ♗xh7 5. ♗d6#]

5. ♗xd5! ♗xd5 6. h8=♗!! [6. h8=♗ 6... ♗d8+! 7. ♗xd8=]

6... ♗d6 [6... ♕b6 7. ♗h6++—]

7. ♕c7! ♗g6 8. ♗a8#



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 129

17th of August 2014

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Editorial Preface

In this issue of the CEWN we want to focus all our attention on the Olympiad and its heroes!

Let us start with the winners:

In the women section the Russian team seemed to be unstoppable after beating China with 2.5/1.5, in a match where Lagno (who just changed the federation from Ukraine to Russian) beat Hou Yifan, the undisputed strongest women player in the history of chess after Polgar. Hou Yifan played a great event and even managed to gain some more ELO points, but this central match was lost by China, which freed the way for the Russian team.

In the 10th round, the girls from Ukraine managed to beat Russian with 2.5/1.5, thanks to a victory of Zhukova, but this did not matter any longer because of the lead of 3 points of the Russian team.

So the final ranking was not really a big surprise:

1) Russia 2) China 3) Ukraine.

In the open section there were a lot of surprises and many ups and downs.

Before the event it seemed like the Russian team would just be unstoppable with Kramnik, Grischuk, Svidler, Karjakin and Nepomniachtchi, but as it already happened in many team events before, Russia is somehow just unlucky and this Olympiad was not different. By winning the last 3 games, the Russian team only managed to finish in shared 2nd and finally took the 4th place, which is a clear disappointment for a team of such superstars.

The real stars of the event were the team of China! In 44 games played, the Chinese players lost just one single game, which

is simply sensational. The main scorer of the team was Yu Yangyi, with an amazing performance of 9.5/11. Ding Liren also played an excellent event, scoring 7.5/10.

The 2nd place went to Hungary, and this a lot to do with the great performance of one of your commentators, Balogh Csaba, who was the top scorer of his team and brought very important points on numerous occasion. With a score of 7/9 and a performance of 2839, Csaba practically pushed his team to one of its biggest successes!

Many congratulations to Csaba for this amazing performance!!!

The 3rd place went to the team of India (without Anand, Harikrishna, Ganguly) which came right out of nowhere, beating Germany in the 10th round with 2.5/1.5, then getting lucky with the pairing in the ultimate round, where they defeated Uzbekistan with a score of 3.5-0.5, securing a tiebreak which would be enough to take the 3rd place at the Chess Olympiad.

So once again the final ranking:

1) China: the first victory for China in the open section of Chess Olympiads and a totally deserved one.

2) Hungary: 4 solid results and the phenomenal play of Csaba Balogh, this was the secret of the Hungarian team.

3) India: who left the superstars at home and worked up the tournament step by step, playing solid and good chess.

Not only the Russian team was very disappointed on the way home from Tromso, the French team clearly had a lot to think about too. In the 10th round France and China were the 2 leading countries and China won their match very luckily with 2.5-1.5. In the last round, France got unlucky another time with the pairing to get Russia and then losing 2.5-1.5 again.

The team of Azerbaijan also deserved more than shared 2nd place and finally taking 5th position. They played a great event, having very tough pairings.

Another sad hero was the team of Bulgaria, which was playing really well and collapsed in the last rounds. Veselin Topalov anyhow took the gold medal on the 1st board with a fantastic result of 6.5/9 and a performance of 2872.

Magnus Carlsen also didn't have anything to laugh about as he lost 2 games. One with Black to Ivan Saric from Croatia and one with White to your weekly commentator Arkadij Naiditsch.

In the FIDE elections nothing too spectacular happened. As expected, Ilyumzhinov will rule the Chess World for another 4 years. The ECU elections saw the expected victory of Azmaiparashvili.

All in all, it was a friendly Chess Olympiad with a lot of great games, good hospitality from the organizers and of course thousands of great fighting chess games!

In 2 years from now, the next Chess Olympiad will be hosted in Baku, Azerbaijan, which according to the current rumours is going to be something very special.

We also want to apologize for the lately delay of the CEWN, but both your commentators were playing and we didn't want to lower the level of our weekly newsletter. Already from the next issue onwards everything should be in time again. We hope for your understanding!

Have a great week of chess!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Saric, Ivan(2671)
- Carlsen, Magnus(2877) [C61]

41st Olympiad Open 2014(10.1),
 2014.08.12

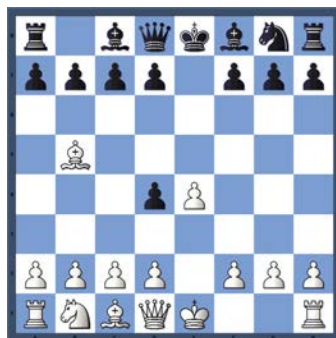


GM Csaba Balogh
 Best rating: 2672

Carlsen played a dubious opening and he got convincingly beaten by the Croatian grandmaster.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘d4 A rare move. The Bird defence of the Ruy Lopez. Black aims to change the pawn structure and obtain an unusual position where he could later outplay his opponent.

4.♙xd4 exd4



5.♙c4!? A counter-surprise! It actually has the idea to prevent the main development of the black pieces by putting immediate pressure on the f7 pawn. [The most common move is 5.O-O but here Black could play 5...♙c5 followed by Ne7 and O-O.]

5...♘f6 [Now 5...♙c5 loses a pawn after 6.♙xf7+! ♔xf7 7.♙h5+-- and Qxc5.]

6.O-O! [6.e5 seems very strong at first sight, because the knight has no good place to leave, but he can play 6...d5! and Black is fine!]

6...d5 Carlsen was already out of book and this time he did not manage to find the right solution. White turns out to be clearly better a few moves later. [6...♘xe4 is the critical move, but it does not equalize either: 7.♙xf7+! ♔xf7 8.♙h5+ g6 9.♙d5+ ♔g7 10.♙xe4 ♙f6 11.d3+= followed by Bf4 and Nd2 with a stable advantage due to the better pawn structure and the weakened position of the black king.; Now on 6...♙e7 7.e5 already works as d5 drops a piece.]

7.exd5 ♙e7 Black must hurry to finish the development to avoid big problems around his king. [7...♘xd5 is met by 8.♙h5! c6 9.♙e5+ and the d4 falls, while Ne7 should not come into consideration as it blocks the development.]

8.♙f3 White protects his extra pawn and obtains a clear advantage after only 8 moves against the World Champion...

8...♙g4 [8...O-O 9.d3±]

9.♙f4 O-O Carlsen decided to not count the pawns anymore and tries to create compensation with quick development. However there is no logical reason why Black should have any counterplay for the sacrificed pawns.

10.h3 It is useful to open the back rank and ask the bishop where it wants to go before grabbing the d4 pawn.

10...♙d6 11.♙xd4 c5 Black tries to improve his pieces with tempo. He keeps on attacking the queen to confuse the coordination.

12.♙d3 [White should not fall into the trap of 12.dxc6?? 12...♙h2+!-+]

12...♙h5 13.♘c3 White is two pawns up, but it takes some

time to connect his rooks by developing the c1 bishop. Black has 2-3 moves to find counterplay, but there is no good solution to solve this problem.

13...♖e8 [On 13...a6 White always responds with 14.a4 avoiding the trap of the bishop with b5 and c4.; 13...♘g6 is met by 14.♙f3 ♘xc2 15.d3+- and the bishop is trapped on c2 and there is still an extra pawn left.]



14.f4! A very strong move! White wants to play d3 and Bd2, but first he needs to remove the queen from the d3 square. With his last move, Saric closed the diagonal of the d6 bishop and prepares to play Qg3!

14...a6 15.a4 ♙d7 16.♙g3! Continuing the plan. White only needs d3 and Bd2 to be completely winning.

16...♘e4 [16...♖ab8 is not serious in view of 17.a5 simply parrying the b5 threat.]

17.♘xe4 ♖xe4 18.b3! After the trade of the knights, the a1-h8 diagonal is opened and the bishop developing to b2 might create very unpleasant threats. [18.d3 18...♖e2 is also good for White, but less clear than the game.]

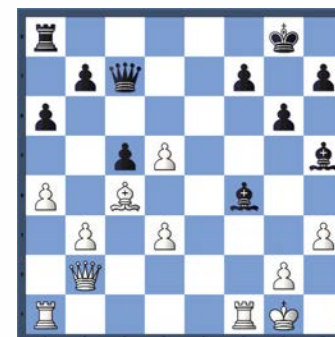
18...♙c7 Black attacks the f4 pawn and provokes d3 in order to be able to invade to the 2nd rank. [18...♖ae8 19.♘b2 ♘f8 20.♘d3 ♖4e7 21.♘f6+- and the rook is trapped.]

19.d3 ♖e2 20.♙g5! Very concrete play! Suddenly the bishop on h5 feels uncomfortable.

20...g6 [20...♘g6 loses to 21.f5 h6 (The same would have happened after 21...f6.) 22.♙g4!+- with a doubleattack on g6 and e2.]

21.♘b2 Thanks to the Qg5 move, the long diagonal became vulnerable. Qf6 is a decisive threat.

21...♘e7 [21...♖xc2 is refuted nicely by 22.♙f6 ♖xb2 23.♙xb2 ♘xf4 Black cannot hope for counterplay on the dark squares because of the following tactical strike:



24.d6! ♙xd6 25.♘xf7+! ♙xf7 26.♖xf4+! ♙xf4 27.♖f1+-]

22.♘f6! White is ready to trade the bishop because if he gets his queen to f6, d6 becomes a decisive threat. Additionally White is still two pawns up. [22.♙h6 22...♘f8]

22...h6 23.♘e5!? [23.♙h4 was also winning, but the text move is nicer.]

23...♙d8 [23...hxg5 24.♘xc7+- is also hopeless. White is threatening with g4 or d6 and he is two pawns up.]



24. ♖xh6! Very well calculated by Saric, he had to foresee to upcoming ideas before playing 23.Be5.

24... ♜xe5! Carlsen has pinned his hopes to this small tactical trick that after fxe5 Bg5 traps the queen, but Saric has prepared a counterblow!

25. d6!! The key is to open the diagonal of the bishop and the threat of take on f7 becomes decisive. [25.fxe5? 25... ♙g5]

25... ♜e2 [The point is after 25... ♙f8 26. ♙xf7+! ♔xf7 27. ♖h7+-- and fxe5 wins.]

26. dxe7 ♜xe7 27. f5+— The rest is easy. White has decisive material advantage and keeps on attacking.

27... ♖h4 A last trap...

28. ♖f4 [Actually even if White misses the trap with 28.fxg6 28... ♜xg2+! 29. ♔xg2 ♙f3+ 30. ♜xf3 ♖xh6 31.gxf7+-- White remains winning.; The easiest would have been 28. ♙xf7+ 28... ♔xf7 29.fxg6+ ♔e8 (29... ♔e7 30. ♖g7+--) 30.g7+--]

28...g5 29. ♖xh4 gxh4 White decided to trade queens and win the endgame with the material advantage.

30. ♜f4 ♜xc2 31. ♜xh4 ♙e2 32. ♜e4 White is ready to invade on the 7th. The bishop has no safe square on h5 anymore after eliminating the h4 pawn, because g4 traps it.

32... ♜d2 [32... ♔f8 33. ♜e1 is also over.]

33. ♜e7 ♙xd3 34. ♙xf7+ ♔f8 35. f6 ♜d8 36. ♙h5 ♔g8 37. ♜e8+! [A nice finish to the game. Black resigned in view of 37. ♜e8+ 37... ♜xe8 38.f7+!+--] **1-0**

(2) Kramnik, Vladimir(2760) - Vallejo Pons, Francisco(2698) [D37]

Tromso NOR(8.1),
2014.08.10

Kramnik has obtained a comfortable advantage in the opening part with precise play, but then he chose a wrong plan, which allowed Vallejo to find adequate counterplay and win the game in style.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 dxc4 The Vienna defence. It used be a very popular opening, but recently it went out of fashion.

5.e4 ♗b4 6.♗g5 c5 7.♗xc4 cxd4 8.♘xd4



8...♞a5 This is a sideline and it is considered to lead to slightly worse positions. Kramnik also manages to prove it in the game. [The main lines are starting with 8...♗xc3+ 9.bxc3 ♞a5]

9.♗d2 In comparison to the 8...Bxc3 line, White is able to save his healthy pawn structure, but on the other hand Black also keeps his bishop pair.



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

9...♞c5 10.♗b5+! The only way to avoid the loss of a piece.

10...♗d7 11.♘b3 ♞c7 This is Vallejo's preparation and basically the new move. Only a few games have been played with it before. [11...♞e7 happened mainly before when White keeps all the pieces on board with 12.♗d3!]

12.♞c1! The idea is the same again, White would like to avoid any exchanges. He is threatening with a discovery attack by a knight jump and Bxb5 loses to Nxb5 and Nc7. Bxc3 just gives up the pair of bishops after Rxc3. Basically Black has nothing better than playing

12...♘c6 but now the bishops stay on the board.

13.O-O O-O 14.♞e2 ♞fd8 Both players develop their pieces to the most natural squares.

15.♗g5!? This move connected with the next one is a very deep plan. White forces back the bishop to e7 to unpin himself and then the plan of f4-e5 can be more effective. [On the direct 15.♗e3? White loses the important e4 pawn after 15...♗xc3; However 15.♗d3!? makes sense. The bishop is better placed on d3, it protects the e4 pawn, therefore White could follow up with Be3 and f4! 15...♞ac8 16.♗e3; 15.f4 is premature in view of 15...e5 16.f5 and White has no time to jump to d5 with his knight, Black comes first with 16...♞b6+! 17.♞h1 ♘d4 and Black has suddenly the advantage.]

15...♗e7 16.♗e3! White is threatening now with f4-e5 and if Black plays e5 Nd5 is very strong! [It was more natural to start with 16.f4?! however it did not work tactically because of 16...h6! 17.♗h4



17... Nxe4!! Suddenly Black wins a pawn with this nice combination: 18. Bxe7 Qb6+! An important intermediate check to attack the b5 bishop. 19. Kh1 Nxe7! 20. Bxd7 (20. Qxe4 20... Bxb5 Black is also a pawn up here.) 20... Nxc3! Another intermediate move. 21. Rxc3 Rxd7+ and Black has ended up with an extra pawn from the massacre.]

16...a6 17. Bd3 Be8 Vallejo lays a small trap and Kramnik surprisingly falls for it.

18.f4?! This is of course the right idea, but the execution is wrong. [White should have prepared to the f4 move with 18. Bb1 and only next f4.]



18... Ng4! A very unpleasant blow! Suddenly White is forced to give up one of his strong bishops.

19. Qxg4 [It was actually much stronger to play 19. Nd5!

19... exd5 20. Qxg4 dxe4 21. Bxe4 maybe White still keeps some initiative, but Kramnik definitely got confused by missing Ng4 and he makes a wrong decision again.]

19... Rxd3 20. Bf2 Black made a huge improvement, but he must find a resource to oppose the idea of Kramnik to play e5 and Ne4 next move.



20... Qd8! I like this multifunctional move a lot. One point is to leave the pin on the c-file and e5 can strongly be met by Nb4! The other point is that when the white knight arrives to e4, it is threatening on the dark squares with Nf6 for instance, but the black queen controls it well.

21.e5 Nb4! Creating the threat of Nxa2 and also the knight is ready to occupy the nice central d5 square.

22. Nc5 [On 22. Ne4 Black does not need to worry about anything and can just play 22... Nxa2! ; 22.a3 22... Nd5 is also fine.]

22... Rd2 Another big improvement for Black, as having a rook on the opponent's 2nd rank is always a big achievement.

23. B3e4 [23. Bxb7 leads to a worse endgame for White after 23... Qb8! 24. Nd6 Bxd6 25. exd6 Rxf2! 26. Rxf2 Nd3 Winning back the exchange and then the d6 pawn. In the arising endgame, the bishop will be superior to the knight and the

white king will be more vulnerable due to the f4 weakening.]

23...♖xb2 24.♖fd1 [24.♘xb7 24...♙d5+ Black is dominating.; 24.♘d6 comes to mind with the point that Bxd6 is met by the Nxb7 intermediate move and Nxd6 next, but Black could simply play 24...♘xa2! 25.♖cd1 ♕xd6 26.exd6 ♕c6 with material advantage and active pieces. The d6 passed pawn is well blockaded and Black can also close the d-file anytime by putting a minor piece to d5.]

24...♘d5 25.♘f6+ Kramnik uses the fact that Black cannot take twice on f6, because Bd4 comes with double attack at the end. But Black has better alternatives. [25.f5 was another natural attacking move, but Black defends successfully here too after 25...exf5 26.♙xf5 ♕c6! 27.e6 f6!+ and everything is under control. After some defensive moves Black's moments are about to come.]

25...♕xf6 26.exf6 g6! [26...♙xf6? 27.♕d4! was the point of 24.Rfd1.]

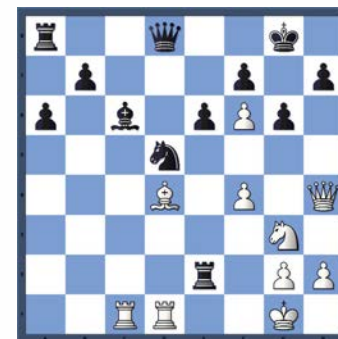
27.♕d4 ♖xa2 At first sight it looks a bit scary with such an exposed king on g8. But actually White can only threaten with Qh6-g7 mate, but it can easily be parried by removing the bishop and playing Qf8. Black is already two pawns up. If he manages to avoid getting mated in the next few moves, he will be end up winning.

28.♙h4 ♕c6! Perfect! Attacking on g2 and defending with Qf8 at the same time.

29.♘e4 [An important detail is that 29.♘e6 runs into 29...♖xg2+! (29...fxe6 30.f7+ and Qxh7 is ok for White.) 30.♙xg2 ♘xf4+ 31.♙g1 ♘xe6—+ With a winning advantage. Even materially Black is fine with his 3 pawns for the exchange, but both of his minor pieces are excellently placed, they parry all the threats of the opponent and suddenly the

white king turns out to be more exposed.]

29...♖e2 30.♘g3 [30.♘g5 30...h5 (30...♘xf6 is also good 31.♕xf6 ♙xf6 32.♙xh7+ ♔f8 should win for Black, but 30...h5 is less scary.)]



30...♘xf4! This pretty combination wins the game. The weakness of the g2 square turns out to be decisive.

31.♙xf4 [31.♘xe2 31...♘xe2+ 32.♙f1 ♘xc1 33.♙h6 ♙f8—+ The three extra pawns win the game.]

31...♙d5! This is the point and White must go into a totally lost endgame to avoid getting mated...

32.♘e4 [32.♙f3 is refuted by 32...♖xg2+!—+]

32...♙xe4 33.♙xe4 ♖xe4 The rest is easy. White could have resigned, but he decided to reach move 40, as probably Black was in some time trouble.

34.♕b6 g5! A perfect technical move! Black gives air to his king and intends to drive him to g6 to pin one of the white pieces to the protection of the f6 pawn.

35.♖d2 h6 36.♕d8 a5 37.♕e7 a4 38.♖c3 ♙h7 39.h3 ♙g6 40.♙h2 ♖f4 The time trouble is over and Kramnik resigned the hopeless fight. **0-1**

**(3) Ding, Liren(2742)
- Gajewski, Grzegorz(2659) [E00]**

41st Olympiad Open 2014(11.2),
2014.08.14



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

This is the game which secured China the gold medal for the first time in the history of Chess Olympiads. Ding Liren played a really fantastic tournament and in the last round it was not any different. After quite a long theoretical line, Gajewski just made one unprecise move which was enough to get into deep trouble and get crushed by the Chinese superstar.

1.d4 Strangely there are not many Chinese players who start their games with 1.e4.

1...♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Sometimes White chooses this move order to avoid some lines in the Catalan or Benoni.

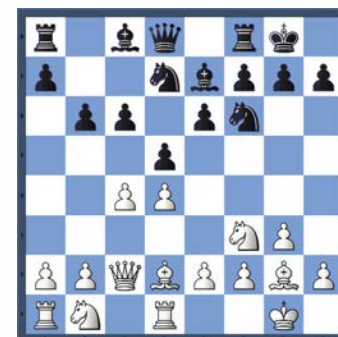
3...♙b4+ Gajewski is a very original player with a lot of different "strange" opening ideas, as maybe some of you know his famous Gajewski variation in Spanish, which stood for quite some time...

4.♙d2 ♙e7 5.♙g2 d5 But in the final game of the Chess Olympiad even Gajewski is going for a solid opening like the Catalan.

6.♘f3 O-O 7.O-O c6 So we are in one of the main lines. White has a choice now between 2 moves, 8. Qc2 or 8.Bf4.

8.♙c2 ♘bd7 Black can also start with 8...b6.

9.♖d1 b6



10.b3!? Quite an interesting and rarely played move. [10.♙f4 would lead us to the main lines.]

10...a5 Black is going for the plan with Ba6 and b5, which is very logical and this is why to include the a5 move is standard, but maybe Black could also go for the plan with c5. [In my opinion the best for Black is 10...♙b7 11.♙c3 (11.♘c3 11...♖c8 followed by c5.) 11...♖c8 12.♘bd2 c5 and I think the position should be close to equal.]

11.♙c3 To put the bishop on c3 and the knight on d2, this was the plan of the b3 move.

11...♙a6 12.♘bd2 b5 The idea of b5 is of course right-but only in case Black is in time.

13.e4! A very typical and the only right reaction. White has to act quickly in the center.

13...bxc4 14.bxc4 ♘xe4 [In case of 14...dxc4 15.♙f1 White is a bit better but still it would probably have been the best option for Black to go on.; 14...dxe4 15.♘e5 does not help Black at all.]

15.♘xe4 dxe4 Here comes the key idea:



16. ♖e5! The pawn on c6 and the pawn on e4 are hanging.

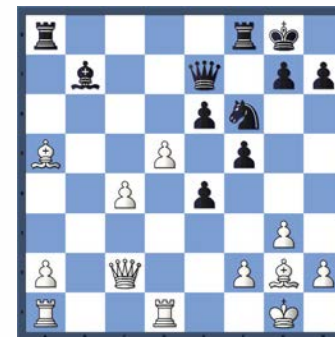
16...f5 A very risky decision! [Probably a better option would have been to play 16... ♖xe5 17.dxe5 ♙c7 18. ♘xe4 h6 19. ♙a4 and of course White is much better here, but Black would keep drawing chances after for example 19...Rfc8.]

17. ♖xc6 ♙e8 18. ♘xa5 White has no fear and this is the right choice.

18... ♖f6 19. d5 The young Chinese player wants to crush his opponent totally. [A bit more careful play would also give White a solid plus: 19. ♖xe7+ 19... ♙xe7 20. a3 ♖fc8 21. ♘b4 ♙e8 22. ♘f1 and it seems that White is able to avoid having to play the c5 move, which would give Black some chances to be solid on the white squares.]

19... ♘b7 After this move Black's hopes are becoming very small... [The only chance to fight was 19...exd5 20.cxd5 (After 20. ♖xe7+ 20... ♙xe7 21.cxd5 ♘d3 Black is perfectly fine.) 20... ♘d6 and the position is of course better for White, but Black has some counter chances with Bd3 or maybe Qh5 and Ng4. The position is not that clear from a practical point of view.]

20. ♖xe7+ ♙xe7



21. ♘c3 Quite a strange move. [Why not just play 21.d6 21... ♙d7 22. ♘b4 and I think White's position should be close to winning.]

21...exd5 22. ♖ab1 ♖f7 This move is too slow. [22... ♖fd8 was probably better and after 23. ♘xf6 gxf6 24. ♙b3 ♘c6 25. ♙b6 of course Black's position is very dangerous, but the pawns are equal so there are always drawing chances because of the limited material on the board.]

23. ♘xf6 ♙xf6 24. cxd5 White is a full pawn up.

24... ♖d8 Another little mistake. [Of course Black should not allow the d6 move: 24... ♙d6 and still Black's position would be a hard nut to break...]

25. d6! The pawn on d6 can't be taken, so White is very close to fix such an important victory.

25... ♘a6 [25... ♖xd6 was of course losing on the spot: 26. ♖xd6 ♙xd6 27. ♖xb7 ♖xb7 28. ♙c8+]

26. ♙c6 The most simple.

26... ♘d3 There is nowhere else to go...



27. Rxd3! With this exchange White is basically securing the victory because sometimes even a passed a-pawn could be enough for the victory.

27...exd3 28. Qd5 It is even impossible for Black to find a way not to lose the game immediately.

28...Qf8 Everything else is losing as well...

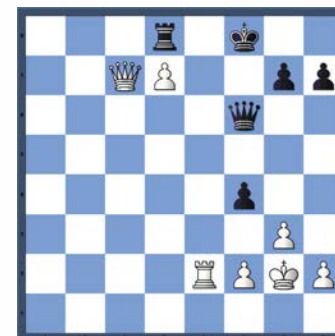
29. Qxf7 Qxf7 30. Rd1 is good enough to win the game, but even faster would have been [30. Qc7 30... Qd7 31. Rb8 and it is over.]

30...Qxa2 31. Qc7 Qa8 32. d7 White does not need to hurry with taking on d3, as the d-pawn is not going to run away...

32...d2 33. Rxd2 Qa1+ 34. Kg2 Qf6 Black has transferred his queen to f6 but it does not really matter anymore. The pawn on d7 is just too strong and the black king is going to get under attack sooner or later...

35. Re2 The black pieces are totally paralyzed.

35...f4



36. Qc5+! This is the winning move. The white queen is going to h5.

36...Qf7 37. Qh5+ Qg6 Black can't do anything else.

38. Qd5+ Qf8 39. Re5 Rf5 next is a deadly threat.

39...fxg3 40. hxg3 What a great victory by Ding Liren in another very powerfully played game and overall a performance of over 2830! Great play. **1-0**

(4) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2743) - Nakamura, Hikaru(2787) [D10]

41st Olympiad Open 2014(11.1),
2014.08.14



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are in the last round of the Olympiad and in case of victory, both teams would have a chance to share the 2nd place. It was clear that this was going to be a very fighting game, especially between such fighting players like Mamedyarov and Nakamura.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 dxc4 Already very soon we will enter a very sharp line of the Slav.

4.e3 b5 Black keeps on holding on to the c4 pawn.

5.a4 is of course the main theoretical move. White is forcing Black to play the b4 move.

5...b4 6.♘e4 The pawn on c4 is hanging again.

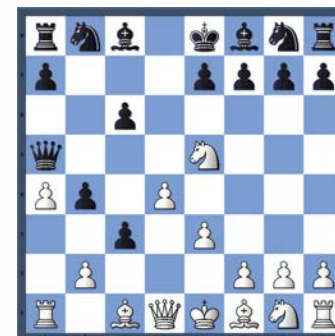
6...♔d5 We are in a very rare line but for sure White has prepared this nice idea at home.

7.♘d2 c3 The most logical move. [In case of 7...♙a6 8.♔c2 the c4 pawn is going to fall and White should be better because of a slightly better development.]

8.♘df3! An excellent opening idea! White does not take first on c3 which would give Black extra options, but is trying to play for development.

8...♔a5 A logical move, White is going to play Ne5 next anyway with the idea of playing Bc4, so the black queen has to move from d5.

9.♘e5



9...♘f6 I think that with this move Black has missed his best chance to equalize. [I think the critical move is 9...cxb2 10.♙xb2 b3+ White has to exchange the queens now: 11.♔d2 ♕xd2+ 12.♔xd2 ♘f6 and of course White can't be worse here, but Black's idea is simple as well, to play e6, c5, Bb7 and Nbd7. I think Black has good chances to be doing fine here.]

10.♘gf3 e6 The position is of course still unclear, but somehow White's initiative seems to be more than enough for the pawn down.

11.♙d3! Another good move. White tries to castle as quickly as possible.

11...♙a6 [After 11...cxb2 12.♙xb2 ♙e7 13.O-O O-O 14.♔e2 followed by Rfc1 I think White should be better.]

12.bxc3! Now that White can castle next move to take on c3 is the right choice.

12...bxc3 13.O-O Black's position is already really hard to play. How to develop the knight from b8, or how to stop White just from playing Qc2 next and the c4 pawn is going to fall very soon.

13...♘bd7 Nakamura wants to try his chances in complications and maybe this is the right practical decision.

[After 13...♙d6 14.♙a3 White's position is just much better.]

14. ♖xc6 Of course!

14... ♔b6



15. ♗fe5! Another very right decision by Mamedyarov. White should keep on going with the active play. Right now the move a5 is a threat.

15... ♙b7 Defending from the a5 move and attacking on c6 at the same time.

16.a5 ♔c7 17.♔a4 White's play is perfect once again. The next move of White could be a6 or Ba3.

17... ♙d6 [17... ♙xc6 didn't help much since after 18. ♖xc6 ♖c8 19. ♗e5 White's position should already almost be winning.]

18.a6 Logical, but maybe not the best. [18. ♙a3 looks very strong. 18...O-O 19. ♙xd6 ♔xd6 Maybe now the move that Mamedyarov underestimated is 20. ♔a3! and after the exchange of queens the c3 pawn would fall immediately. 20... ♔c7 21. ♗xd7 ♗xd7 22. ♗e7+ ♖h8 23. ♖fc1]

18... ♙xc6 19. ♔xc6 O-O After this move Black's position is looking almost lost to me. [Maybe the best chance to go on was 19... ♖c8 20. ♔xc7 ♙xc7 but after 21.f4 Black also has to defend a very unpleasant endgame.]



20. ♔xc7! Sometimes the strongest move are the most simple ones.

20... ♙xc7 21. ♗xd7 ♗xd7 22. ♙a3 White is using the moment that Black can't play Rfc8.

22... ♖fd8 [22... ♖fc8? 23. ♙e4! The white bishop is getting to b7. 23... ♖ab8 24. ♙b7 ♖d8 25. ♖fc1 and the c3 pawn is falling.]

23. ♖fc1 Black can't protect the c3 pawn any longer.

23...e5 Nakamura tries to complicate the game at least a little bit. [23... ♙a5 24. ♙e7 and White is winning.]

24. ♙e4 [24. ♖xc3 was of course possible as well.]

24... ♖ab8 25. ♖xc3 ♙a5 26. ♖cc1 The most safe and solid move. White is a pawn up, he has the bishop pair and another potential object of attack is Black's a7 pawn. All this should be enough to win the game.

26... ♙b4 What else to do?! White just wanted to play Bb7 next.

27. ♙xb4 ♖xb4 White's position is winning, but still some exact calculation is needed.



28.♖c7! White's play is accurate until the end. Black's tricks are not working.

28...exd4 29.♖xa7 Now Black has 2 options:

29...dxe3 [The other option was 29...♘c5 30.♙d5! attacking the f7 pawn makes Black's position resignable... 30...d3 31.♙xf7+ ♔f8 32.♙h5 with an easy win for White.]

30.♖xd7! A small but nice tactic, which White of course had to calculate before playing 28.Rc7.

30...♖xd7



31.a7 Black can only stop the a-pawn by giving a rook for it.

31...exf2+ Nothing else is possible... [31...♖xa7 was also losing since after 32.♖xa7 g6 33.f3 White even managed to keep 3 pawns, which gives Black no hopes at all for a draw.]

32.♙xf2 ♖xa7 33.♖xa7 White is a piece up for a pawn which means a winning position, but still Mamedyarov is showing us how things should be done here.

33...g6 Black's best chance is to have the king on g7 and keep on protecting the f7 pawn.

34.♙e3 White wants to play Bd5 next.

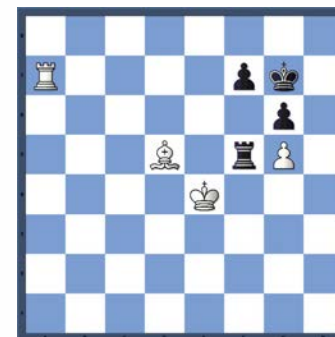
34...♖b6 Black's only chance is to get the rook to the f-file.

35.♙d5 ♖f6 So Black is almost paralyzed, but how to win this position with White?!

36.g4 White is preparing the g5 push in the right moment.

36...h6 37.♙e4 ♙g7 38.h4 White is almost ready to play g5 now, which would lead to a winning pawn endgame.

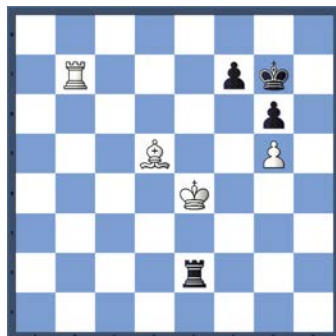
38...♖f1 39.♖b7 [The immediate 39.g5 39...hxg5 40.hxg5 ♖f5 with the key idea



41.♖xf7+! ♖xf7 42.♙xf7 ♙xf7 43.♙d5 ♙e7 44.♙e5 ♙f7 45.♙d6 ♙g7 46.♙e7 was also winning for White.]

39...♖f2 40.g5 This of course also leads to an easy win.

40...hxg5 41.hxg5 ♖e2+



42.♔d4 White easily escapes to d6 with his king after which Rxf7 would decide the game. A really great victory by Mamedyarov and such an important one for his team which won against the Americans with a result of 2.5-1.5 and shared the 2nd place! Congratulations! **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Moradiabadi, E(2598)-Laznicka, V(2676)

Olympiad, 2014.08.04

1... -+



(6) Vajda, L(2561)-Rapport, R(2704)

Olympiad, 2014.08.12

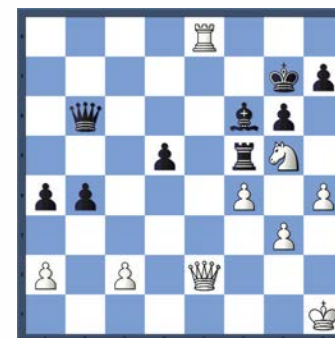
1... -+



(7) Bruzon, B(2664)-Rodshtein, M(2671)

Olympiad, 2014.08.06

1. +-



(8) Megaranto, S(2527)-Leitao, R(2649)

Olympiad, 2014.08.06

1. +-



(9) Tiviakov, S(2664)-Toufighi, H(2424)

Olympiad, 2014.08.08

1. +-



(10) Jianu, V(2579)-Kovalev, V(2532)

Olympiad, 2014.08.08

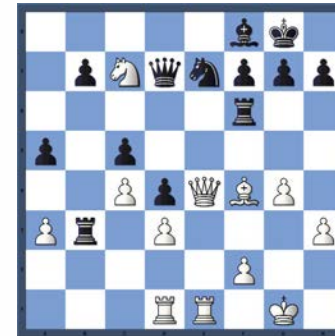
1. +-



(11) Anton Guijarro, D(2624)-Balogh, C(2637)

Olympiad, 2014.08.06

1... -+



(12) Rapport, R(2704)-Sutovsky, E(2624)

Olympiad, 2014.08.11

1. +-



(13) Le Quang Liem(2710)-Adams, M(2740)

Olympiad, 2014.08.06

1... -+



(14) Meier, G(2646)-Kamsky, G(2706)

Olympiad, 2014.08.11

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Eljanov, Pavel(2723)
- Balogh, Csaba(2637)

Olympiad,
2014.08.14



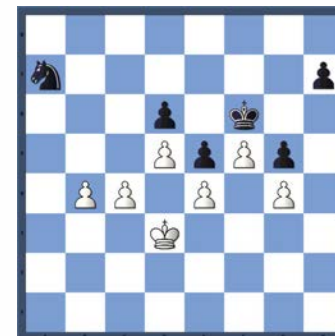
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



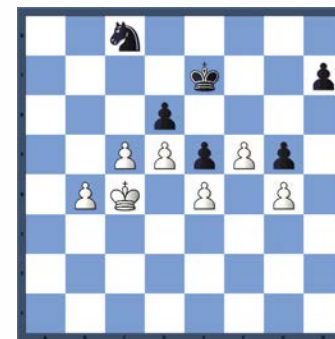
White is a pawn up and has a strong protected passed pawn on f5, but it seems I created a perfect blockade. It looks like White cannot make progress, because he cannot access to the black pawns with his king. My opponent tries his last chance.

48. ♖c4! White would like to enter the black camp with his knight. Black faces a very difficult decision, he should either defend passively with Nc8, allowing the knight to enter but keeping the king outside or accept the sacrifice and create two more passed pawns for White.

48... ♖c8! This is the clean way to hold. Black is able to defend both of his weaknesses with his knight from c8 and a7, the white knight cannot win the game alone. [However it is very interesting to analyze what happens after 48... bxc4+ 49. bxc4

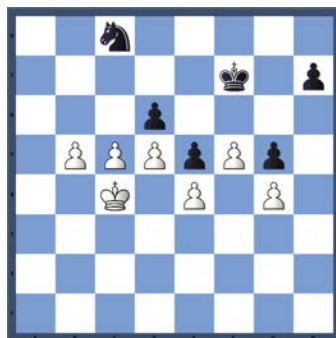


49... ♖c8 50. c5 ♖e7 51. ♖c4 (51. c6 is wrong as the knight is able to stand between the two passed pawns. 51... ♖b6 52. b5 ♖f6 Whenever the white king goes to a5 53. ♖c3 Black makes use of his h-pawn and creates a passed pawn with 53... h5! 54. gxh5 g4 55. ♖d3 ♖g5 56. ♖e2 ♖xh5 57. ♖f2 ♖g5 58. ♖g3 ♖c8 59. ♖g2 ♖b6= and the draw is inevitable. Both sides are forced to block the opponent's passed pawns.)



51... ♖f7!! This is the only move to make a draw! As we will see, in comparison to the 51. ..Kf6 line, it is very important to avoid the promotion of the d-pawn with check. (The most natural move 51... ♖f6? loses after 52. b5! dxc5 (52... h5 53. b6 dxc5 54. ♖xc5 transposes to 52... bxc5.) 53. ♖xc5 h5 54. b6! ♖xb6 55. ♖xb6 hxg4 56. d6! g3 57. d7 g2 58. d8=♔+ Check! This is the point!; 51... h5 loses to 52. gxh5 ♖f6 53. ♖d3 g4 54. h6+- the white king catches the g-pawn and Black is lost.)

52.b5



52...h5!! The only move again. (52...dxc5? is a wrong move order as White wins after 53.♔xc5 h5 54.d6! ♜xd6 55.♔xd6 hxg4 56.b6 g3 57.b7 g2 58.b8=♚ g1=♚ 59.♚c7+ ♔g8 60.f6+—) 53.b6 Compared to the 52...dxc5 start, White cannot advance his d-pawn. 53...dxc5! with the idea of Nd6 check after b7! 54.♔xc5 ♜xb6! 55.♔xb6 hxg4 56.d6 g3 57.d7 g2 58.d8=♚ g1=♚+ and this time Black promotes with check and gives perpetual check! So the objective evaluation is draw after 48...bxc4, but it was much easier to avoid the capture of the knight.]

49.♜a5 ♔f7 Black only its with the king and if White attacks the d6 pawn he goes Nc8, while after Nc7, he goes Na7...The defence is pretty easy from now on.

50.♜c6 ♔f6 51.♜d8 h6 Not necessary, but I decided to protect the g5 pawn. Keeping it on h7 does not change the outcome.

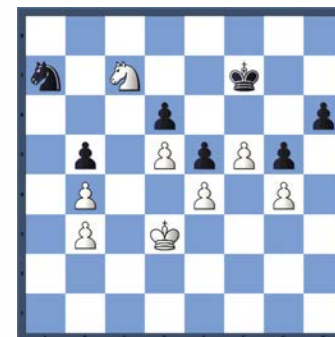
52.♜e6 ♔f7 53.♜c7 ♜a7 54.♔d2 [54.♜xb5? makes no sense, because after 54...♜xb5 55.♔c4 ♜a3+ the king must retreat and he cannot advance the b-pawn.]

54...♔e7 55.♔c2 We were both down to 2 minutes.

My opponent decided to make some extra time with the 30 seconds increment per move before trying the last attempt to make progress. In general, this technique is advisable. If the position was winning, some extra time would definitely help to convert the advantage.

55...♔f7 56.♔c1 ♔e7 57.♔d1 ♔f7 [Black obviously should not go for 57...♔d7?? because of 58.f6! and the black king is unable to block the f-pawn.]

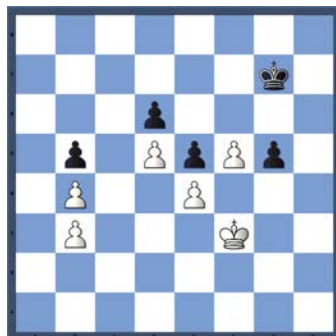
58.♔e1 ♔e7 59.♔f2 ♔f7 60.♔f3 ♔e7 61.♔e3 ♔f7 62.♔d2 ♔e7 63.♔d3 ♔f7



64.f6!? Here comes the last attempt, but it does not change the logical result. White gains back the h-pawn later.

64...♔xf6 65.♜e8+ ♔e7 66.♜g7 ♜c8 67.♜f5+ ♔f6 68.♜xh6 Of course, the trade of the passed f-pawn for the useless h-pawn helps Black in the succesful defense, but White had no way to progress anyway.

68...♜e7 69.♔e3 ♜c8 [The pawn endgame after 69...♔g6 70.♜f5 ♜xf5+ 71.gxf5+ was also drawn, but I did not want to calculate such things. Keeping the blockade with the knights on the board was riskless. 71...♔g7 72.♔f3



72...♔h7! Black waits on g7-h7 and when the king goes to g4, Kh6 blocks the way to h5. 73.♔g4 ♔h6 74.f6 ♔g6 75.f7 ♔xf7 76.♔xg5 ♔g7! holding the opposition and the draw.]

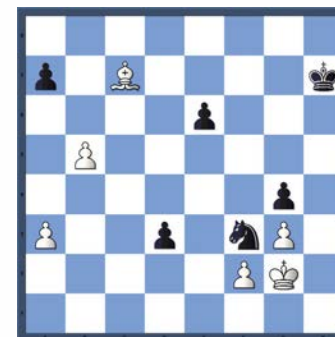
70.♖f5 ♘f7 71.♔d3 ♔f6 72.♗e3 ♔f7 73.♗d1 ♔e7 74.♗c3 ♗a7 Here my opponent agreed to a draw, with which Hungary held Ukraine 2-2 and gained the silver medal in the Olympiad. **1/2-1/2**

(16) Carlsen, Magnus(2877) - Naiditsch, Arkadij(2709)

41st Olympiad Open 2014(7.1),
2014.08.09



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



It is never easy to comment your own game and especially such an emotional one like against the current World Champion, but I will try to stay objective. I didn't play too well in the opening and was quickly a pawn down in a bad endgame, but strangely enough Carlsen started to give me chances and already before the time trouble we had a very messy position. With very little time on the clock, my opponent played few "uncontrolled" moves which finally led to the position we see on the board.

41.♔f1 There is no other move to stop Black from playing d2.

41...♗d4 The time trouble was over, so I took a fresh look at the position. With not too complicated calculations, I could see that I was going to be a pawn up but it was still hard to judge whether this endgame was winning or drawn. I was very motivated to give my absolute best as it is not often I have the chance of beating the best chess player in the world...

42. ♖e1 This move is also forced as I wanted to play d2.

42... ♟xb5 The white pawns are falling.

43. ♜b8 The bishop from b2 is attacking the a7 pawn which does not allow Black to play e5 now because of a4.

43... ♟xa3 44. ♖d2 [44. ♜xa7 was losing to 44... ♟c4 and the black king is going to f3.]

44... a5 In any case I need to push the a-pawn.

45. ♜xd3 So far things were pretty forced, but now I had a couple of moves to choose from.



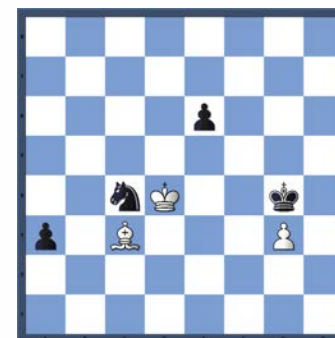
45... ♜g6!? The right decision. I don't need to hurry with the a4 move, based on the line in the next variation.

46. ♜e4 is White's only chance. [46. ♜c3 was losing as after 46... ♜f5 we will see why 44... Kg6! was the right decision: 47. ♜b3 It seems like White has caught the black knight, but... 47... ♟b5 48. ♜c4 now comes the very important 48... a4! 49. ♜xb5 a3 The white bishop from b8 can't stop the a-pawn. 50. ♜a7 e5 and Black is winning.]

46... a4 Of course my idea should be to push the a-pawn as far as possible.

47. ♜e5 ♟c4 48. ♜c3 a3 It is still not that clear if this position is a winning one or not because so little material is left on the board.

49. ♜f4 [In case of 49. ♜d4 49... ♟b6 (49... ♟b2 was another possible option.) 50. ♜e5 ♟d5 51. ♜d4 ♜f7 Black should be winning because White does not have the option of playing Kf4.; Maybe the best chance for White was 49.f3!? 49...gxf3 50. ♜xf3 and now Black needs to choose the right square: 50... ♜f5! (50... ♜g5 just leads to a draw: 51. ♜e4 ♜g4 52. ♜d4



52... ♟b2 53. ♜e5 ♜xg3 54. ♜xe6 ♜f3 55. ♜d5 ♜e3 56. ♜c5 ♜d3 and White is just in time with 57. ♜b4) 51. ♜e2 (Now 51.g4+ was already working: 51... ♜g5 52. ♜e4 ♜xg4 53. ♜d4 ♟b2 54. ♜e5 ♜f3 55. ♜xe6 ♜e4 and as we can see White is missing the important tempo from the line above.) 51... ♟b2 and it seems like Black's winning chances are good here.]

49... ♜h5 Of course I need to hold on to the g4 pawn.

50. f3 e5+! This move was not very hard to find, but still a very important one. I need the control over the g5 square.

51. ♔e4



51... ♘d6+ 52. ♔e3 And here comes the key move:

52... ♔g5 Now I already want to play exf3 and e4 and White does not have the Kf4 move anymore because my king is on g5.

53. fxg4 [Of course not 53. ♙xe5?? 53... ♘c4+]

53... e4 [53... ♔xg4 was also possible.]

54. ♔d2 ♘b5 I wanted to be sure to have the e3 move in the future, in case the white king would try to go to b3, which is why I decided to chase away the bishop from c3 first.

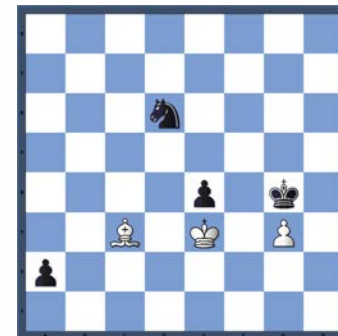
55. ♙e5 ♔xg4 Kf3 is the threat.

56. ♔e3 ♔f5 57. ♙a1 ♘d6 and I am back with the knight to d6. Next move is Kg4.

58. ♔d2 ♔g4 59. ♔e3 Of course I can't take on g3 immediately, so I improve my position even more.

59... a2 The g3 pawn is falling next.

60. ♙c3 [60. ♔f2 60... ♘c4 does not help White at all.]



60... ♔xg3 The g3 pawn is gone, so my next plan is to bring the king back to f5 and to play Nc4.

61. ♙a1 ♔g4 62. ♔d2 Everything else is losing as well.

62... ♔f3 With the moment of the handshake I understood that I won a game with Black against the strongest oponent I have ever played before. My team also won with the smallest score of 2.5-1.5. A moment of happiness! :) **0-1**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Petrosian, Tigran V
- Hort, Vlastimil[D32]

Sarajevo 15th(7), 1972



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1. Nf3 c5 2. b3 d5 [2... Nf6 3. Bb2 g6 Black is not on time with this move because of 4. Bxf6! exf6 5. d4 with e3-c3-g3 next, with the idea to limit the dark squared bishop and then White can look for a positional advantage thanks to his better structure.]

3. e3 Nf6 4. Bb2



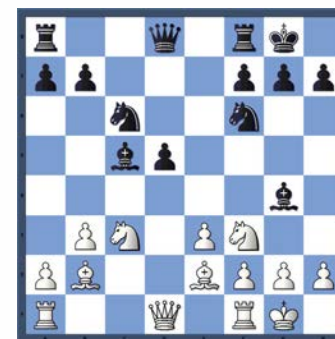
4...e6 5.c4 Nc6 6.cxd5 exd5 [6... Nxd5 this move was possible as well but now Black needs to solve the problems with the g7 pawn.]

7. Be2 Be7 8. O-O [8.d4 8...cxd4 9. Nxd4 Bb4+ 10. Bc3+ =]

8...O-O [8...d4!? 9. Bb5! White immediately fights for the d4 square!]

9...O-O (9...dxe3 10. Bxc6+ bxc6 11.dxe3 With a clear advantage for White because of the weak pawns. The two bishops will not help Black in this position.) 10. Bxc6 bxc6 11.exd4 cxd4 12. Nxd4 In case Black manages to activate the bishops, he might be able to get compensation, but it looks like Black will be not on time, for example: 12... Bd6 13. Wf3+ =]

9.d4 Bg4 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11. Nc3



11... Nc8? ! In my opinion more accurate is [11...a6 Black prevents the typical Nb5 move and keeps the opportunity to escape with the bishop to the very flexible a7 square. 12. Rc1 Ba7 (12... Wd6 13. Na4 Ba3! ? 14. Bxa3 Wxa3 15. Wd2 Rac8 and the black queen is creating practical problems.) 13. Na4 Rc8 (13... Ne4 14. Bxa6) 14. Bxf6 Now comes some complex and forced play, but in general it looks like Black has good compensation thanks to the pair of bishops and the weak white queenside. (14. Nc5 14... We7 15. Bxf6 Wxf6 16. Nxb7 (16. Wxd5 16... Nb4 ⚡) 16... We7 17. Bxa6 Nb4+) 14... Wxf6 15. Wxd5 We7 ⚡ 16. Bd3 With the idea of escaping with Qe4. 16... Nb4 17. We5 Wxe5 18. Nxe5 Rxc1 19. Rxc1 Nxa2 20. Ra1 Nb4 21. Bxa6 bxa6 22. Nxc4 f5 23. Ne5 f4↔]

12. Rc1 [12. Nb5! ?+=]



12...e7?! A very passive move. Usually the side with isolated pawns should try to play actively. [12...a6 is too late now because of 13. dxd5!; 12...d6 is probably the best. Of course Black allows Nb5, but at least he saves the bishop on an active diagonal. 13. dxb5 b8 14. exf6 gxf6 15. gxd5 g2+]]

13. d4! Now White very easily takes the d4 square under control.

13...xe2 [13...xd4 14. exg4 e6 15. f3±]

14. cxe2 d7 15. f4+= f8 16. d3 With the idea to get the useful f5 square.

16...e4 [16...e5 17. g5+=]



17. xc6! A very deep positional move. Petrosian decides to change the plan, he is now going to play against the hanging pawns.

17...bxc6 [17...xc6 18. ccd1 with unpleasant pressure against the d5 pawn.]

18. c2 Black is running out of plans, so he needs to wait as the ideas with pushing the central pawns are too slow.

18...f8 [18...d6!? 19. h5 (19. ffc1 19...xf4 20. exf4 e8 21. d4 f6 22. a4) 19...f6 20. ffc1 f5 21. f4 xf4 22. exf4 gxf4 23. f3 d6 24. xc6 xc6 25. xc6 (25. xd5+? 25...d7 26. xc6 e3+ 27. h1 e2 and White has a problem!) 25...d5+ Black should have counterplay because of the slightly weak white king.; 18...f6 19. xf6 dxf6 20. d4+= With a typical blockade on the c5 and d4 squares.]

19. ffc1 b7 Probably with the idea to take control of the a6 square and prepare c5.



20. e2! A nice idea! White has already put his pieces on optimal positions so it is time to create some weaknesses.

20...e8 21. g4 The idea is to provoke the f6 or g6 moves, which would weaken the black position.

21...g6? is losing immediately. [21...c5 22. d1 (22. g5 22...cd8 23. f3 d6 24. xd5 xe3 25. xc5+=) 22...d4 23. exd4 cxd4 24. xc8 xc8 25. xc8 xc8 26. xd4 c2 (26...d8 27. d2) 27. f3 d3 28. xc3 xc3 29. d2+=]

22. ♔d1 White could win after [22. ♘xd5 22...f5



23. ♔d1!! What a nice move! 23... ♖ed8 (23...cxd5 24. ♖xc8 ♖xc8 25. ♖xc8 ♗xc8 26. ♗xd5+-) 24. ♗d4+-]

22... ♗d6? The decisive mistake, but the position was already very unpleasant for Black. [22... ♗g7 23. ♗xg7 ♖xg7 24. ♗d4+ ♗g8 25. ♘d3±]

23. ♘xd5! ♖cd8 [23...cxd5 24. ♖xc8 ♖xc8 25. ♖xc8+ ♗xc8 26. ♗d4 f6 27. ♗xd5+-]

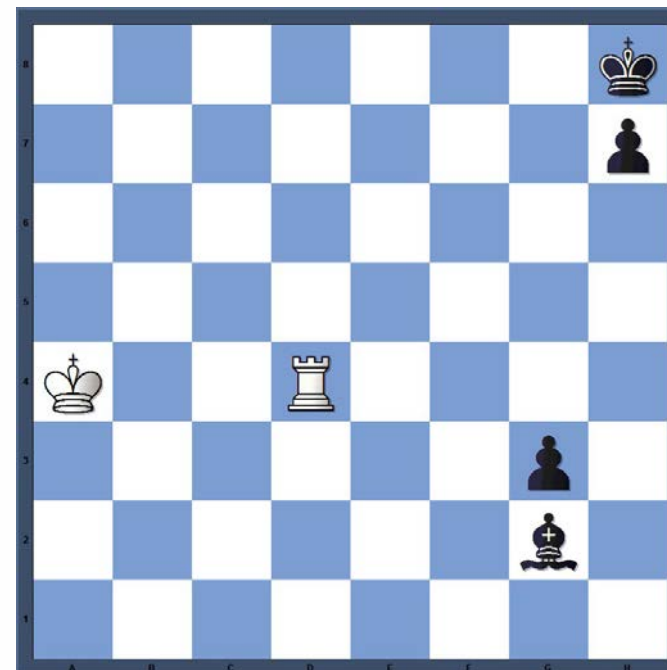
24. ♖xc6 ♗b8 25.f4 Avoiding Be5.

25... ♖e6 26. ♗d4 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Korterling

1. =



Solutions

(19) Svidler, P(2751)-Samhour, B(2256)

Olympiad, 2014.08.02



12. ♖xd5!! ♜xd5 [12...hxg5 13. ♖xc6 bxc6 14. ♖xe7+-]

13. ♖xc6! bxc6 14. ♕xe7 ♜xe7 15. ♖xd8 ♜xd8 16. ♖xe7+-

(20) Agdestein, S(2630)-Al Qudaimi, B(2396)

Olympiad, 2014.08.02

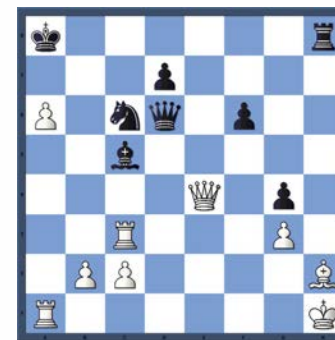


28. ♖xf7+! 1-0

[28. ♖xf7+ 28... ♜xf7 29. ♖xg6+ ♜h8 30. ♖xh6+-]

(21) Guerrero, A(2318)-Polgar, J(2676)

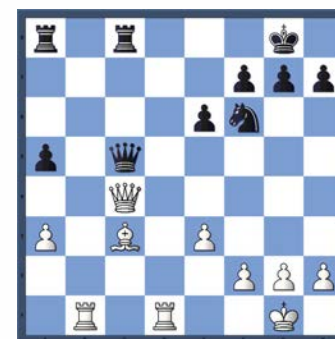
Olympiad, 2014.08.03



33... ♜xh2+!! 34. ♕xh2 ♖d2+ 0-1 [34... ♖d2+ 35. ♕h1 (35. ♖g2 35... ♖h6+ 36. ♖h3 ♖xh3#) 35... ♖h6+ 36. ♕g2 ♖h3#]

(22) Onischuk, A(2659)-Rios, C(2427)

Olympiad, 2014.08.03



22. ♜d8+! 1-0 [22. ♜d8+ 22... ♜xd8 23. ♖xc5+-]

(23) Mamedov, R(2659)-Greet, A(2431)

Olympiad, 2014.08.03



33. ♖xe6!! fxe6 [33... ♖xd3 34. ♕f8+ ♔h7 35. ♕xg7#]

34. ♖xf6! ♖xd3 [34... gxf6 35. ♕h7+ ♔h8 36. ♕e4! ♔g8 37. ♕xd5+-]

35. ♕xe6+ ♔h7 36. ♕f5+ ♕g6 [36... g6 37. ♖e7+-; 36... ♔h8 37. ♖f8#]

37. ♕xg6+ ♔h8 38. ♖e8+! ♖xe8 39. ♕xe8+ ♔h7 40. ♕e4+ ♔g8 41. ♕e6+ 1-0 [41. ♕e6+ 41... ♔h7 42. ♕f5+ ♔g8 43. ♖f8#]

(24) Dominguez, L(2760)-Dias, P(2416)

Olympiad, 2014.08.03



39... ♖xa2? [39... ♖d3!! 40. ♖xd3 (40. ♔g2? 40... ♖h4+) 40... ♖xf4+ 41. ♔h2 ♖xd3 42. ♔h3 ♖xe5+]

40. ♕h2∞

(25) Onkoud, A(2383)-Hracek, Z(2634)

Olympiad, 2014.08.03

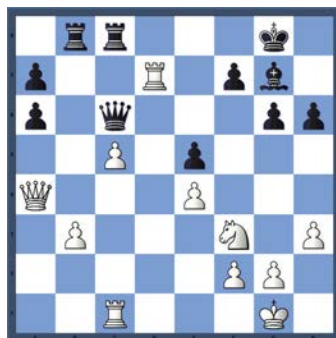


23... ♖xd4!! 24. exd4 [24. ♖xa2 24... ♖e2+ 25. ♔f2 ♖xc1+-]

24... ♖xb2—+ 0-1

(26) Vocaturo, D(2587)-Steel, H(2399)

Olympiad, 2014.08.03



25. ♖d8+! 1-0 [25. ♖d8+ 25... ♔h7 (25... ♖xd8 26. ♕xc6+-) 26. ♕xc6 ♖xc6 27. ♖xb8+-]

(27) Lopez Azambuja, N(2255)-Perunovic, M(2602)

Olympiad, 2014.08.03

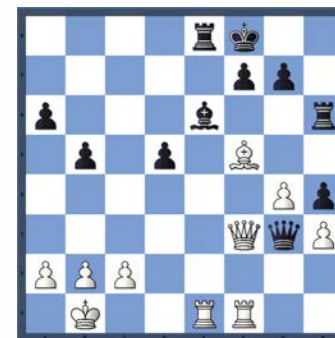


21... ♘g3!! 22. ♕d3 [22. ♕d1 22... ♕xc1! 23. ♘xc1 ♖xc1! 24. ♕xc1 ♘e2+ 25. ♔f1 ♘xc1+-]

22... ♕xc1+! 23. ♘xc1 ♖xc1+ 24. ♔h2 ♘f1+ 25. ♔g1 ♘c5+-

(28) Negi, P(2645)-Kovalyov, A(2622)

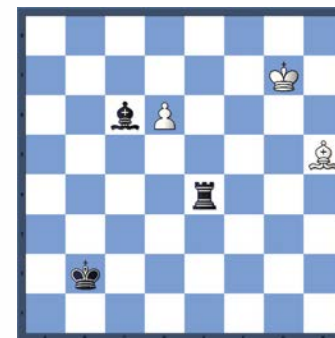
Olympiad, 2014.08.03



32. g5! ♕xg5 [32... ♕xf3 33. ♖xf3 ♘xf5 34. ♖xe8+ ♔xe8 35. gxh6+-]

33. ♘xe6+- ♖f6 34. ♕g4+- [34. ♘d7!?+-]

(29) Platov



1. ♘f3! ♖c4 2. ♘d5!! ♘xd5 [2... ♖g4+ 3. ♔f8! ♘b5 (3... ♘xd5 4. d7 ♖g8+ 5. ♔e7=) 4. ♘e6! ♖d4 5. ♔e7=; 2... ♖c1 3. ♔f8! ♘b5 4. ♘e6=]

3. d7 ♖c7 4. ♔h8! ♖xd7



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 130

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Editorial Preface

The Chess Olympiad has just finished and many new tournaments have already begun, here are just a few of them:

In Latvia the Riga Technical University Open 2014 is under way with many strong GMs, including the best Latvian player Alexei Shirov.

Melkumyan and Rapport are leading with 7/8 and one round to go.

The French Championship (without Vachier-Lagrave) is as expected dominated by Fressinet, who had an amazing start with 4.5/5, and Bacrot who quickly recovered after the first round loss and is now on 3.5/5.

In the 21st Abu Dhabi Masters 2014 the favorite Wang Hao is not doing great, with a very slow start of 2/4. The other favorites like Kryvoruchko or Areschenko had better results so far.

The Turkish team Championship is also taking place with players like Mamedyarov, Ding Liren, Wang Yue and many more.

For the current week, we still bring you some games from the Chess Olympiad as well as the fresh games from running events. Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Bok, Benjamin(2587)**
- **Rapport, Richard(2704) [C41]**

Riga Tech Open A 2014(8.2),
2014.08.23



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Richard Rapport is just 18 years old and only a week ago he became a Silver Medalist with the Hungarian team and it seems like he just can't get enough of chess. The future will show if the young Hungarian will be the next Caruana, but for the moment he is crushing all the players under ELO 2650, while having big difficulties with stronger opponents. In the current game, White is quickly choosing a very wrong plan and finding himself in a bad position where Rapport finds a beautiful way to finish his opponent's suffering.

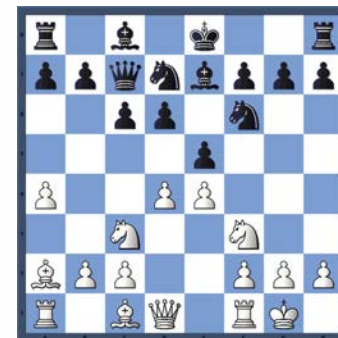
1.e4 d6 It is very hard to predict the openings of Rapport, who likes to start with White for example with 1.b3 or 1.f4 and doing similar things with the black pieces.

2.d4 f6 3.c3 e5 4.f3 bd7 So we are entering the Philidor. Actually quite a tricky opening, as it is not that easy for White to prove a clear advantage, one of the experts of the opening is Jobava who likes a lot playing it with Black, and even tried few times with the reverse color, who likes it can watch the game: Jobava-Adams.

5.e4 e7 6.a4 Usually White is choosing the move order 6.0-0 but it does not really matter.

6...c6 7.0-0 c7 Black does not hurry with castling, actually to me it is unclear why...

8.a2 Quite a typical move. White wants to develop the pieces with h3, Be3 and Qd2.



8...h6?! This is already too much. In many lines the move h6 will be contra-productive for Black because of the weakness of the g6 square which gives White a chance to play Nh4 with a double threat of Ng6 and Nf5-of course in case of Black's castle, which must happen during the next moves.

9.dxe5?! Why play such a move?! Quite a serious positional mistake. [9.h4! looks very strong and it is hard to see what Black would play now?! It is impossible to stop White from playing Nf5 next with a clearly better position and something like 9...Nb8 I do not really consider an option...; 9.h3 9...O-O 10.e3 would lead to the usual play.]

9...dxe5 Now Black is gaining the very important c5 square for the knight. Don't play moves like 9.dxe5?! in your own games! :)

10.h4 Not a bad move, but already too late to hope for an advantage.

10...c5 And here comes the difference with 9.Nh4...



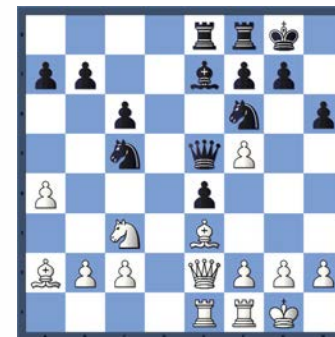
11...♖xf5 12.exf5 Usually the exchange of the knight against the c8 bishop is good for White in case it is possible to keep the pawn structure. In the current situation White will not be able to make use of the bishop pair and the f5 pawn will quickly become a target for the black pieces.

12...0-0 13.♖e3 White's position is still looking solid, but Black has a nice move in mind.

13...e4! Very strong play! The black queen is going to take a fantastic position on e5 now and it is not that clear how to protect the f5 pawn in the near future.

14. ♔e2 ♚e5 15. ♖ae1 White is trying to escape to a draw.

15...♖ae8 No draw—at least for now. [A handshake would follow quickly after 15...♔xf5 16.♙xc5 ♘xc5 17.♘xe4 with an equal position.]



16. ♔c4? This move is even hard to explain... Probably White has miscalculated something, but I have no idea what. Black is going not only going to be a full pawn up, but he will also have a very dangerous attack on the white king. [16.f3! was the only way to go on. 16... ♖d6 17.g3 ♜xf5 And now White needs to find a difficult move like 18. ♔d1! Black's position is of course not worse here, but it is hard to say if Black is really better. Probably the position should be around equal.]

16...♟d6 Before taking the f5 pawn, Black is weakening the white structure on the kingside.

17.g3 ♔xf5 Qh3 and Ng4 is a deadly threat now.

18.♔d4 Bok is trying to get rid of the knight on f6, but this mission is mission impossible... [18.♖d1 18...♔h3 and the game should also be over soon.]

18...♘cd7! A very nice move. Black is keeping the threat of playing Qh3 alive plus at some point a move like Ne5 could become a threat as well.

19.♙e2 [White could have defended a bit tougher after 19.♙xf6 19...♘xf6 20.♙e2 with the hope of playing f3 at some moment but of course Black's position is superior, being a full pawn up with great play.]

19...♘e5! After this it is all over... Black is gaining the e5 square for the knight which basically ends the game.

20.♘xa7 Better to die greedy than just to die! :)

20...♘xc3 21.♙xc3 ♘e5 22.♘c5 ♘f3+ 23.♙g2 Black already has quite a few winning moves and Rapport is finishing the game in style!

23...♖e5 24.♘xf8



24...♙h3+ 10/10 for the beauty! :)

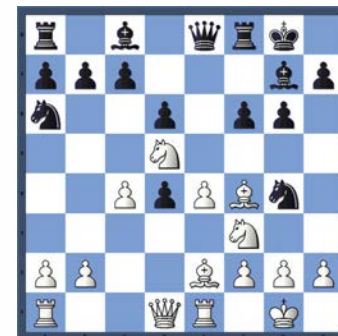
25.♙xh3 ♖h5+ 26.♙g2 ♖xh2# WOW, we don't often see White get mated this way already on move 26! A very nice game on what White definitely should not do in the Philidor and of course some great mating motives. **0-1**

(2) Bacrot, Etienne(2720) - Maze, Sebastien(2565) [E91]

89th ch-FRA 2014(2),
2014.08.18



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



We will see a great positional victory of the long-term French Nr1 who was just overtaken during the last years by Vachier Lagrave. After a long theoretical fight, Black had a positionally dangerous position and missed his chance to make things complicated after which they started to get worse and worse. The final position in the game is a just a very ugly picture from Black's point of view.

1. ♘f3 ♘f6 2. c4 g6 3. ♘c3 ♗g7 4. e4 d6 5. d4 O-O 6. ♗e2 So we are in the main line of the KID, which is also the main opening of Bacrot with Black. The funny thing here is that Maze was the team captain of the French team for the last European Team Ch and the current Olympiad, so he clearly knew how well Bacrot's preparation could be-or maybe the other way around?! We will see in just a few moves from now...

6... ♘a6 Of course 6...e5 is the main line, but this is also an interesting line.

7. O-O e5 8. ♗e3 ♘g4 9. ♗g5 ♖e8 10. ♖e1 All is theory and all is well-known.

10... exd4 11. ♘d5 f6 12. ♗f4 And here comes the important move without which Black couldn't continue playing this line:

12... d3! Known-but important and nice.

13. ♗xd3 ♘e5 14. ♗xe5 A shocking looking move, but still theory, otherwise I guess nobody would ever give the dark squared bishop for the knight. White's idea is to launch very fast play on the queenside.

14... dxe5 [14...fxe5 does not stop White from playing 15.c5!]

15. c5 This was of course the main idea behind 14.Bxf4. Black can't save the knight on a6 from being taken which will ruin the pawn structure forever.

15... ♖f7 Defending the c7 pawn and preparing Bf8- a very solid choice. [Another option for Black could be 15...c6 16. ♗xa6 cxd5 17. ♖xd5+ ♗e6 18. ♖xb7 ♖b8 but the white queen finds the only spot: 19. ♖c7 ♖xb2 and of course White is better here, but maybe things are not that bad for Black either.]

16. ♗xa6 bxa6 And here comes the second very important move:



17.c6! Of course in case Black was in time to play c6 and hunt the white knight away from the d5 square, Black's position would be just excellent with the bishop pair.

17...Rb8 Maze is trying to bring his rook from a8 into the game, which is very logical. [17...Qxc6 doesn't work since after 18.Rc1 Qb7 19.Rxc7! Rxc7 20.Nxc7 Qxc7 21.Qd5+ the rook on a8 is lost.]

18.Qc2 The pawn on c6 was already hanging and needed protection.

18...Bf8 The black bishop will take a nice place on d6.

19.Red1! A very good move with quite a deep idea. The main thing White needs to do is to transport his knight from f3 to c4 or d3 or if possible to c3 to make the position perfect. In the meantime Black of course must do anything to stop White from the transportation of the knight and maybe start annoying the knight on d5 or maybe try to get some play on the b-file or even push f5.

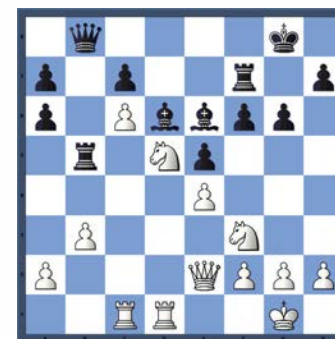
19...Be6 20.Rac1 Rb5 So far the play from both sides was very logical. Black wants to play Rc5 now, or maybe Bxd5 could be an option as well, with the idea of playing Bd6 and then f5-e4.

21.Qe2 Protecting from Rc5 and at the same time attacking

at some moment the a6 pawn which could limit the moves of the rook from b5.

21...Qb8 A risky move because the black queen is going to take a passive place on b8, but on the other hand it gives Black a bit of dynamic play for a couple of moves. [21...Bxd5 doesn't look bad either. 22.Rxd5 (22.exd5 22...Qd8! and it is hard for White to find a way to defend the d5 pawn.) 22...Rxd5 23.exd5 Qb8 Of course White is a bit better, but it would be hard to prove a real advantage here.]

22.b3 Bxd6 Black is trying to prepare as much as possible the Bxd5 move.



23.Nc3 The most important move in the game. Once we will see how the game went, 23. Nc3 was clearly the right decision, but Black could have done much better. [23.Ne3 doesn't seem to bring anything. 23...Rb6 24.Nd2 Qe8 and Black is quickly attacking the c6 pawn.; But probably an interesting choice to go on could have been 23.Rc4 The white rook would be very useful on the 4th rank in case of Bxd5. 23...Bg7 24.Qd3 with a positional game and a small plus for White.]

23...Rb6? A huge mistake after which White will finally be able to get the knight from f3 into the game. [23...Rc5 was the only right decision! 24.Qxa6 (In case of 24.Na4 24...Rxc1 25.Rxc1 Qb5 Black is in time to take a perfect position on

b5 and the next moves could be Rf8-Rb8. What is the most important is that the white knight is still on f3.) 24...♔b4 This is the key move and without having foreseen it of course 23...Rc5 would just be a mistake. 25.♔d3 White has no other move. 25...♖xc6 and I think the position should be close to equal.]

24.♘a4! An excellent move. Winning another important tempo for the upcoming Nd2.

24...♖b5 25.♘d2 White managed to do what he dreamed about, the knight from f3 is coming!

25...♔c8 It is really difficult to give any advice to Black. The position doesn't seem to be so bad, but in fact things could already be terrible in couple of moves. There is no clear plan for Black how to escape from Nc4 next.

26.h3 A prophylactical move, not allowing Black to play Bg4, which would force White into a move like f3 which is better avoided.

26...♔g7 27.♘c4 The first step is done, the knight is on c4.

27...♘f8



28.♘cb2! White continues his great positional play. Now the knight is going to c5! The key square. Black just has no choice but to avoid this maneuver, but how?!

28...h5 Desperation, but there are just no more good moves in the position... [An attempt to stop White from the maneuver with 28...♙a3 29.♖c2 doesn't lead anywhere since after 29...♙xb2 30.♖xb2 ♖f8 31.♖bd2 White's domination on the d-file is decisive.]

29.♘d3 ♙h7 30.♘dc5 The knight is on c5, which means that Black has to exchange the white squared bishop and the d7 square is getting weak. White's position is almost winning!

30...f5 After this move all is lost... [30...♙d6 would probably make the game a bit longer. 31.♘xe6 ♙xe6 32.♘c3 with fantastic position for White.]

31.♘xe6 ♙xe6 32.exf5! Simple and strong, using the moment that Black can't play gxf5 because of Qxh5.

32...♙xf5 33.♘c3 The white knight is getting back into the game and hoping to take a place on e4.

33...♖b4 Avoiding Ne4.

34.♖d5 Attacking e5 and preparing Rcd1-Rd7.

34...♖f4 [In case of 34...♙g7 35.♖cd1 followed by Rd7 next and the game would not last for many more moves either...]

35.♖xe5 ♙c8 36.♘e4 ♙h6 37.♖d1 What a domination of the white pieces. The game is just over.

37...♔h8



38.♖e6 There is no reason for White to hurry to win as quickly as possible, Etienne clearly enjoys his position.

38...♖4f5 39.g3 White just continues to improve his position...

39...♔g7 40.h4 a5 The time trouble is over.

41.♔g2 And so is the game... Black's position is just a disaster and all because of one wrong decision taken in the middle game. A great game on the topic that patience is often rewarder better than direct actions in chess! **1-0**

**(3) Topalov, Veselin(2772)
- Wojtaszek, Radoslaw(2735) [B90]**41st Olympiad Open 2014(10.5),
2014.08.12GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Veselin Topalov won the gold medal on the first board at the Olympiad. He played really great chess during the entire tournament, let's examine one of his victories.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6

The Sicilian Najdorf defence. Perhaps, since Kasparov retired, Topalov became the biggest expert of it, he plays it successfully with both colors. However Wojtaszek also knows it extremely deeply as he is one of the main seconds of Anand. We are facing a huge encounter in the opening.

6.♙e3 e5 7.♘b3 ♙e6 8.f3 ♘bd7 [It is interesting that in 2013, in the same encounter, Black had won a nice game with 8...h5 but it was Wojtaszek who deviated from that game...]

9.g4 [9.♙d2 is the other option.]

9...b5 10.g5



10...b4! A standard intermediate move in this line. The point

is, White has advanced his g-pawn in order to send away the knight from f6 and then to settle his knight on d5. With this b4 push, Black is ready to trade knights, which would be favorable for him and if the knight goes away he can already play Nh5, while in case of Nd5 Black can preserve his bishop. [10...♘h5 11.♙d2 followed by 0-0-0 and Nd5 later.]

11.♘d5! Black's plan turns out to be succesful to eliminate the d5 knight with his own knight and preserve the bishop, but this was still the best option for White, otherwise his knight gets misplaced, while now he at least slightly improves the pawn structure.

11...♘xd5 12.exd5 ♙f5 13.♙d3! This bishop had to be traded. The white one had no other perspective, while the one on f5 was standing perfectly.

13...♙xd3 14.♙xd3 ♙e7 15.h4 O-O



16.a3!? This novelty came without thinking, clearly a prepared one. It has its pluses and minuses too. The positive side is that it makes use of the b4 push and after the undermining the a6 pawn becomes vulnerable and White also gets closer to his standard improvement of his position by transferring his knight to a5-c6! The drawback is the situation of the white king. So far, its safest place could have been

on b1, but after opening the queenside, it is hardly an option anymore... [The previous games continued with 16.O-O-O 16...a5 17.♘d2 a4 18.♙b1 f5 19.f4 with a very sharp position in the game Leko-Kasparov, Bled 2002.]

16...bxa3 This is the right decision. Wojtaszek knows that he is going to lose the a-pawn after this move, but he aims for compensation. [16...a5 would probably have been met by 17.axb4 axb4 18.♖xa8 ♖xa8 19.♙d2!+= followed by Ra1-a7 with very active pieces and a weak b4 pawn. Black is very far away from creating some danger against the king on d2.]

17.♖xa3 a5 18.♙b5! Black cannot protect the a5 pawn anymore, but he goes for quick counterplay.

18...♙c7! Black attacks the c2 pawn and he is ready to bring his f8 rook into the game with tempo.

19.♘xa5! Topalov still follows his preparation! Quite an impressive one. [19.♙c6 looked promising, but Black is fine after 19...♙xc6 20.dxc6 ♘b8 21.♘xa5 d5! as the rook is hanging and Black is also threatening with Rxa5 followed by check on b4, Bd2 Bxa5 Bxa5 and Nxc6.]

19...♖fb8! Wojtaszek feels the position very well and he keeps on finding the best moves over the board. [The alternative was 19...♙xc2 but after 20.O-O!+= the white king is out of danger temporarily. It is important that the knight is hanging on d7, therefore Black is forced to lose a tempo, but then the white knight arrives to c6, which guarantees him an edge because suddenly the e7 bishop does not find its place on the board.]

20.♙c6



20...♙xc6?! This is the moment when Wojtaszek goes wrong. [20...♘d8! would have been the right move, when Black gets adequate compensation in all lines: 21.♙xc7 (21.O-O 21...♖xa5 22.♖xa5 ♙xa5 23.♙xd7 ♘b6 24.♘xb6 ♙xb6+ 25.♖f2 ♙c5 Black wins back one of the pawns and the game should be drawn.) 21...♘xc7 22.♘b3 ♖xa3 23.bxa3 ♖a8 wins back the pawn and equalizes.; 20...♙d8 is also bad because of 21.♙c3! and Nc6 next with an extra pawn for White!]

21.dxc6! [21.♘xc6? did not work due to the unfortunate placement of the white king. 21...♖xa3 22.♘xe7+ ♙f8 23.bxa3 ♖b1+]

21...d5 Black has pinned his hopes to this intermediate move and it indeed looks like very strong compensation, but somehow White consolidates with a simple move.

22.♖a2! ♘d8 [White is better also after 22...♘f8 as he can for instance go for 23.c7 ♖c8 24.♘c6! ♘d6! The only move, otherwise Black loses a piece. 25.♖xa8 ♖xa8 26.♙e2 d4 (26...♘xc7? 27.♘e7+ ♙h8 28.♘xd5) 27.♖a1! ♖c8 28.♘d2 ♖xc7 29.♖a6± Black won back the pawn, but positionally he is doing very badly. The white pieces are dominating and he dangerously starts to advance his pawn with b4-b5. Additionally the d6 bishop is pinned, White often threatens

to take on d4 and the bishop cannot leave the e5 pawn unprotected.]

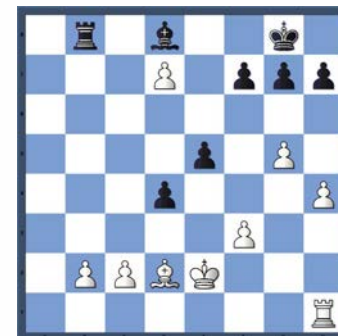
23.cxd7 ♖xa5 24.♖xa5 ♗xa5+ 25.♔e2 We have reached an endgame with an extra pawn for White. However at the moment it is very hard to evaluate if it is going to be enough, because it is very difficult to ensure the safety of the d7 pawn.

25...d4 [25...♖xb2? simply loses to 26.♖a1+-; It would have been very principled to play 25...f6 with the idea to bring the king to f7-e6 and also to open the back rank. White must play resourcefully to maintain the advantage now. 26.♖a1 ♗d8 27.gxf6 gxf6 28.♗c5! ♔f7 Black finally leaves the back rank, therefore he is threatening with Rb7! 29.♖a7! This great move gives probably a winning advantage, because b4 is coming next. The tactical justification is really unique: 29...♖xb2 loses to



30.♖a8! ♖xc2+ 31.♔f1 ♖xc5 32.♖xd8+- and Black cannot avoid queening because after Ke7, Rc8! wins, while after 32...♖c7 33.♖f8+!+-]

26.♗d2 ♗d8 [26...♗xd2 also leads to problems after 27.♔xd2 ♖d8 28.♖e1! f6 29.gxf6 gxf6 30.f4! This is a key resource to maintain the advantage! Black is missing only one move (Kf7) to solve the problems, but it is enough for White to create problems.]

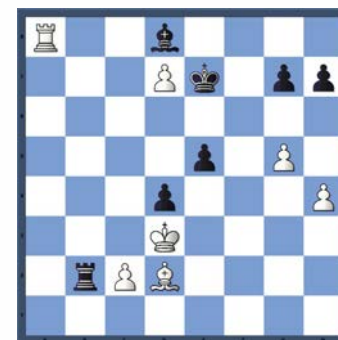


27.♔d3!? A very nice motif! Topalov liked the Re1-f4 idea in the 26...Bxd2 line and decided to use the same plan with the bishops on the board too!

27...f6 [27...♔f8 is too slow. 28.♖e1 f6 29.f4!; The critical was 27...♖xb2 28.f4 ♔f8 (28...exf4? 29.♖e1+-; 28...f6 transposes to the game.) 29.♖e1 ♔e7! 30.♖xe5+ ♔xd7 31.♖d5+ ♔c8 32.♖xd4± White should be winning, but Black has practical chances if he could create some counterplay with Rb1-h1.]

28.f4! ♖xb2 29.fxe5 fxe5 30.♖a1! Topalov starts to use his tactical skills even with limited material on board. The d7 pawn gives White many hidden resources! [30.♖e1 is less good in view of 30...♖b7! 31.♖xe5 ♖xd7]

30...♖b8 Only move! [30...♖b7? 31.♖a8 ♖xd7 32.♗a5+-; The most natural 30...♔f7 loses tactically to 31.♖a8 ♔e7



32.g6! freeing the g5 square for the bishop and on 32...h6

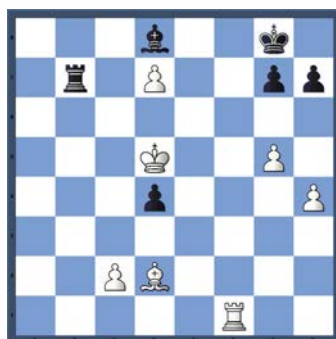
33. ♖xh6! gxh6 34. g7+- wins.]

31. ♖e4 [31. ♖a5!? was also strong!]

31... ♖f7 32. ♖xe5 ♖b7 A very nice defensive attempt, but it does not help this time.

33. ♖f1+! [33. ♖d6 does not lead anywhere because of 33... ♖b6+ 34. ♖d5 ♖b7 35. ♖c6 ♖b6+ and Rb7!]

33... ♖e7 [33... ♖g8 loses like in a study: 34. ♖e6 ♖b6+ 35. ♖d5 ♖b7



36. ♖f4!! What a brilliant idea! 36... ♖xd7+ 37. ♖d6! ♖e7 (37... g6 38. ♖e6+- and Rf8 next wins.) 38. ♖e6! ♖xd6+ 39. ♖xe7+- and mate or winning the rook.]

34. g6! Another tactical blow and now Black is helpless! Bg5 is the threat!

34... ♖b5+ [34... hxg6 35. ♖g5+ ♖xd7 36. ♖f7+- wins material.]

35. ♖xd4 ♖b6+ [35... hxg6 loses to 36. ♖c4! opening the d-file! When the rook moves, Bg5 check and Kxd7 Rd1 wins. Even after 36... ♖b8 37. ♖g5+ ♖xd7 38. ♖d1+ ♖e8 39. ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 40. ♖xd8 ♖xd8 41. ♖d5+- the pawn endgame is hopeless.; 35... ♖xd7 36. gxh7 ♖h5 37. ♖g5 ♖xh7 38. ♖e5 ♖xg5 39. hxg5]

36. ♖c4 ♖c5+ 37. ♖b3 ♖xd7 [37... hxg6 38. ♖b4+- Another motif. Somehow the black pieces are very unlucky in this endgame, they always stay in some kind of trick.]

38. ♖f7+ ♖e6 39. ♖xg7 Black resigned! A great game by Topalov! Objectively the 16.a3 novelty does not give an advantage, but it was a perfect idea for one game. The way of converting the advantage was also very instructive. **1-0**

**(4) Shirov, Alexei(2709)
- Markos, Jan(2602) [B29]**41st Olympiad Open 2014(11.21),
2014.08.14GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Markos tries a tricky sideline in the Sicilian defence, but Shirov seemed to know how to get an advantage against it. White plays a flawless game and it is also interesting from a theoretical point of view.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 I am not sure about the name of this sideline, but sometimes even strong GMs are trying to surprise their opponents with this move.

3.e5 [3.♘c3 3...d5 is the alternative.]

3...♘d5 4.♘c3 e6 This is the sharp reaction and the point of this line, but it seems to lead to White's favor after some complications. [4...♘xc3 5.dxc3 followed by Bf4, Qd2 and 0-0-0 is also considered to be better for White. The e5 pawn restricts the movements of the black pieces.]

5.♘xd5 exd5 6.d4 ♘c6 Black had a worse pawn structure and he decides to sacrifice the d5 pawn for quick development. These are all known and have been played in close to thousand games. White should accept the offer, otherwise Black plays d6 and solves the problems around his bad pawns.

7.dxc5 ♘xc5 8.♔xd5 ♔b6



9.♘c4! This is very important! White must prefer the active piece play and the initiative instead of passively protecting his extra pawn. [On 9.♔d2 9...O-O 10.♘d3 d6! and Black either wins back the pawn or forces the white king to move, but then the compensation will be more than enough.]

9...♘xf2+ 10.♔e2 O-O 11.♖f1 ♘c5



12.♘g5! This is still theory! White must choose the most direct moves and attack the weakness on f7, before Black could have opened the center with d6 on the exposed king on e2.

12...♘xe5 This seems to lead to a better endgame for White by force. [The main line continues with 12...♘d4+ 13.♔d1 ♘e6

14. ♖e4! d6! The only chance for Black to gain counterplay is to open the lines in front of the king. (14... ♗e7 could be met by 15. ♖d6! and Black is squeezed.) 15. exd6 ♖d8 16. ♗d3! ♗xd6 17. ♖h5 This has all been played before and Black seems to be in some trouble. There are threats against the h7 and f7 pawns, so he has nothing better than 17... f5 18. ♖xd6 ♖xd6 (18... g6 could be met by the intermediate move 19. ♖xc8!) 19. ♖xf5 ♖f8 (19... ♖xh2 restores the material balance, but White is dominating. 20. ♖f7+ ♖h8 21. ♗g5 Trying to make use of the weak back rank. 21... ♖g8 22. ♗e3±) 20. ♖f7+ ♖h8 21. ♖f4± with an extra pawn. The white king is safe on d1.]

13. ♖xf7! Another important detail! [13. ♖xe5 is much worse in view of 13... d5! and all black pieces are coming to the game with tempo. 14. ♗xd5 ♗g4+ 15. ♖e1



15... ♖ae8! 16. ♗xf7+ ♖h8 17. ♖xe8! Only move! (17. ♗xe8 is refuted by 17... ♖a5+! 18. c3 ♗f2+—+ and the queen falls.) 17... ♖xe8+ 18. ♗xe8 ♖a6 with a very unpleasant attack against the white king. White is a piece up, but he has serious problems with finishing the development.]

13... ♖xf7 14. ♖xf7 ♖e6+! Black had no choice, he was forced to go into a worse endgame otherwise he gets mated.

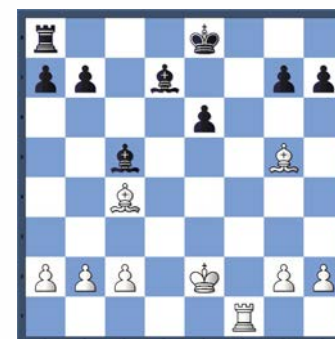
15. ♖xe6 dxe6 16. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 [16... ♗xf8 17. ♗e3 White has a better pawn structure and Black also has problems with

developing the c8 bishop, since Bd7 runs into Rd1 and the e6 falls.]

17. ♗g5! The following couple of active moves are significant to maintain the initiative, otherwise the symbolic advantage of having an isolated pawn on e6 might evaporate.

17... ♗d7 18. ♖f1+! An unpleasant check, both king moves have their own problems.

18... ♖e8 [18... ♖g8 is even worse in view of 19. ♖d1! and the e6 pawn is lost unless the bishop returns to c8, which allows Rd8.]



19. ♗d3! White creates a huge weakness on the kingside.

19... g6 [19... h6 20. ♗g6# is pretty.]

20. ♖f4! Perfectly played by Shirov! After provoking the weakening, White transfers his rook to h4 and the pawn is lost. There is no adequate way to keep the material balance.

20... ♗e7 The best chance to get rid of one of the active bishops, but this does not save the pawn either. [20... ♗c6 21. ♖h4 ♗xg2 22. ♖xh7+—]

21. ♗xe7 ♖xe7 22. ♖h4 ♗c6 [22... ♖h8 also drops material after 23. ♗xg6+—]

23. ♖xh7+ ♖f6 White has won the pawn and now comes the

technical part of the game. Shirov does not give any chance to his opponent.

24.g4 with the idea to play h4 and g5.

24...♔g5 25.♔e3! Offering Black to choose between two very bad options. Either to trade the g-pawns and create a h-passed pawn or to allow the squeezing with Be2 followed by h4 and g5!

25...♔xg4 [25...♖g8 is even worse 26.♙e2!+- and h4, g5 is coming next.]

26.♙xg6 ♖f8 27.♙e4! White already has an extra pawn and his active rook on the 7th rank decides the outcome of the game.

27...♙xe4 28.♔xe4 ♖f4+ [28...♖f2 29.♖g7+ ♔h3 30.♔d3+- followed by capturing the queenside pawns is also totally winning.]

29.♔e5 ♖f2 30.♖g7+ ♔h3 Shirov calculated well that after the simplification the 2 vs 1 endgame will be easily winning as the black king will be too far away from the queenside...



31.♔xe6 ♖xc2 32.♖xb7 ♔xh2 33.a4 ♔g3 [33...a5 does not change much. White wins after 34.♖b5 ♔g3 35.b3 ♖c3 36.♔d5 ♔f4 37.♔d4 ♖h3 38.♔c4+- and the a5 falls.]

34.b4 a5 35.bxa5 ♖c4 36.♔d5 ♖xa4 37.♖b5 [Black resigned in view of 37.♖b5 37...♔f4 38.♔c6+- followed by Kb7 and promoting the a-pawn. A very nice victory by Shirov, which shows the way to get an advantage against the 2...Nf6 line.]
1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Markus, R(2602)-Hracek, Z(2634)

Olympiad, 2014.08.05

1. +-



(6) Petr, M(2530)-Sedlak, N(2554)

Olympiad, 2014.08.05

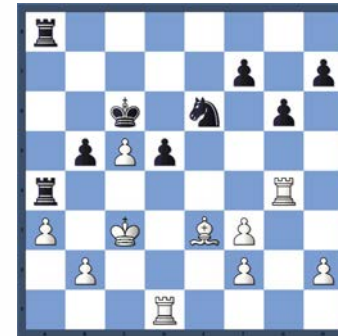
1... -+



(7) Ivanchuk, V(2744)-Mamedyarov, S(2743)

Olympiad, 2014.08.12

1... -+



(8) Leko, P(2740)-Lupulescu, C(2625)

Olympiad, 2014.08.12

1. +-



(9) Adams, M(2740)-Grandelius, N(2571)

Olympiad, 2014.08.12

1. ±



(10) Pelletier, Y(2578)-Lim Yee Weng(2311)

Olympiad, 2014.08.12

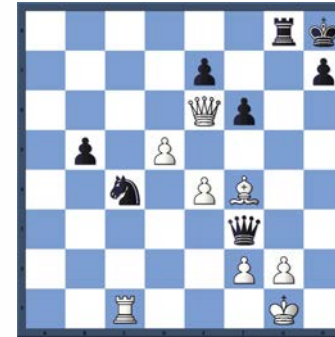
1... -+



(11) Illingworth, M(2439)-Khuseinkhodzaev, M(2410)

Olympiad, 2014.08.12

1. +-



(12) Rasmussen, A(2522)-Pancevski, F(2464)

Olympiad, 2014.08.12

1... -+



(13) Aronian, L(2805)-Navara, D(2716)

Olympiad, 2014.08.14

1. +-



(14) Ftacnik, L(2571)-Kovalenko, I(2650)

Olympiad, 2014.08.14

1. +-



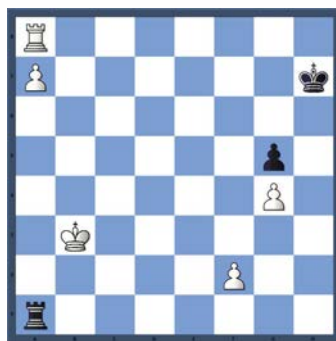
Endgame section

(15) Negi, Parimarjan(2645)
- Kasimdzanov, Rustam(2700)

Olympiad, 2014.08.14



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



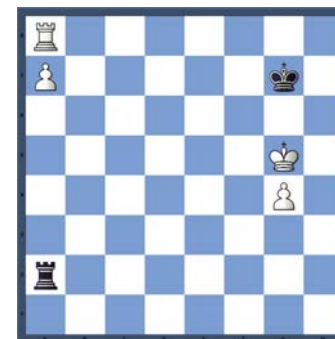
We are studying a very instructive rook endgame, which is a theoretical draw, but Black must defend precisely to hold.

51...♔g7 The point is, White cannot use his rook because the loss of the a-pawn leads to a dead draw immediately with 2 against 1. If the white king goes to b6 to free the rook, Black gives a check, sends the king away from the a7 pawn and then he goes back to the a-file. There will only be one detail that Black must be careful about...

52.♔c4 ♖a2 Kasimdzhanov starts to defend with the right strategy. He keeps on attacking the f-pawn with the rook. We will see later why this is so important.

53.♔d5 ♖d2+ [53...♖a1 is also good.]

54.♔e4 ♖e2+ 55.♔d3 [55.♔f5 leads to a very important theoretical draw after 55...♖xf2+ 56.♔xg5 ♖a2 Despite the two extra pawns, White cannot win. Black only waits with his rook and when the king arrives to b6, he gives check from the b-file.]



57.♔f4 ♖a1 58.g5 ♖a2 59.g6 The g-pawn cannot send the black king away from its ideal position, Black continues waiting with 59...♖a1 and the game is drawn. The same theoretical draw exists if White has an h-pawn instead of the g, then Black puts his king to h7 and waits. However in case of any other pawns, White is winning, for instance with an f-pawn, he advances it to f6 and on Kf7 Rh8! is a very important motif to win the game with the idea of Rxa7 Rh7 winning the rook.]

55...♖a2 56.f3 ♖a3+ 57.♔d4 The black rook is excellently placed on a3, keeps an eye on both a7 and f3 pawns.

57...♖a1 Not a mistake, but it was more principled to wait with Kh7 and keep the rook on its ideal position.

58.♔e5 ♖a5+ 59.♔d6 ♖a6+ 60.♔c7 ♖a3!



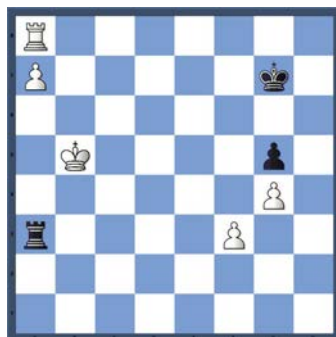
61. ♖c6 It looks White is just moving, but he lays a deep trap, which Kasimdzanov fails to realize. The only existing winning idea is to get the king to the 6th rank and create the threat of moving the rook away (Rc8 for instance) and after Rxa7 Rc7 transposes to a winning pawn endgame. This is the only thing that Black must be careful about.

61... ♜c3+! Therefore Black sends the king away from the 6th rank.

62. ♖d5 ♜a3! And returns to the ideal square.

63. ♖c5 ♜a6 Kh7 was also possible.

64. ♖c4 ♜a3 65. ♖b5! Here we are, the critical position! Black failed to sense the danger and he went away from the ideal square with his rook.



65... ♜a1? The losing move. [The only move to hold was

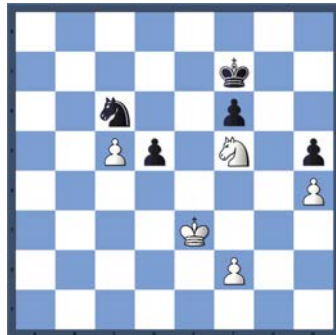
65... ♖h7! or if the king was on h7, Black should have played Kg7! The point is to keep the f3 pawn under attack. If White goes 66. ♖b6 ♜b3+! 67. ♖c6 ♜c3+ 68. ♖d6 ♜d3+ 69. ♖e6 ♜e3+ 70. ♖f5 (70. ♖d5 70... ♜d3+ 71. ♖c4 ♜a3= also holds.) 70... ♜xf3+ is hanging with check and we transposed to the theoretical draw which arose in the 55.Kf5 line. 71. ♖xg5 ♜a3=]

66. ♖b6! Suddenly White is winning. Black is forced to give checks, but at the end the king arrives to f5 and the f3 pawn is not hanging anymore.

66... ♜b1+ 67. ♖c6 ♜c1+ [67... ♜a1 loses to the motif we mentioned after the 61st move. 68. ♜d8 ♜xa7 69. ♜d7+ ♜xd7 70. ♖xd7+—]

68. ♖d6 ♜d1+ [68... ♜a1 is again refuted by 69. ♜c8! ♜a6+ 70. ♜c6+— and Rc7 next.]

69. ♖e6 [Black resigned in view of 69. ♖e6 69... ♜a1 (69... ♜e1+ 70. ♖f5+—) 70. ♜d8! ♜a6+ 71. ♜d6 ♜xa7 72. ♜d7+ ♜xd7 73. ♖xd7 ♖f6 74. ♖d6+— and Ke5 next with an easily winning pawn endgame. White wins the g5 pawn automatically by squeezing the black king away... We can be sure that Kasimdzhanov was familiar with all the ideas, but still he could not focus at the end of the 5th hour and lost his concentration and the game.] **1-0**

**(16) Melkumyan, Hrant(2655)
- Neiksans, Arturs(2572)**Riga Tech Open A 2014(4.2),
2014.08.19

White has been better all game long and little by little Melkumyan improved his advantage, so we see this very interesting knight endgame. White is clearly better, but is this position winning or not, that is very hard to say. White's idea is clear, to bring his king to b5 to give the c-pawn the much needed support. The exchange of knights should also lead White into a winning endgame.

41. ♔d3 As planned, the white king is going to b5.

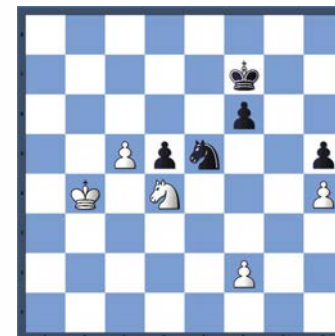
41... ♚g6 It is some sort of pity to get the black king away from the action, but there is simply no other move which makes sense. The black knight can't move from c6 because of Kd4 and in case Black would play something like 41...Ke6 42.Nd4 would end the game on the spot.

42. ♘d4 The white knight is taking a great position on d4.

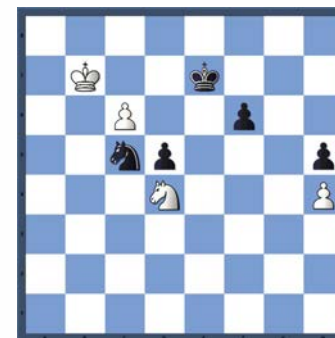
42... ♜e5+ 43. ♔c3 ♚f7 and the black king is coming back to stop the c-pawn from moving.

GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

44. ♔b4



44... ♚e7 [A much more interesting win White would have to find after 44... ♘d3+ 45. ♔b5 ♜xf2 Now White's only hope is the c-pawn... 46. ♔b6 ♘e4 47.c6 So far things were easy to see, but now the fun is starting: 47... ♚e7 (47... ♘d6 was losing immediately since after 48.c7 Black can't stop White from playing Nb5 soon. 48... ♘c8+ 49. ♔b7 ♘d6+ 50. ♔b8 and Nb5 next will decide the game.) 48. ♔b7! A very strong move with the deep idea of putting Black into a zugzwang. (48.c7? would only draw: 48... ♔d7 49. ♔b7 ♘c5+) 48... ♘c5+



49. ♔c7! Black is in zugzwang. If the black king moves to e8, the white king goes to d6 and in case of a knight move, the white king could go to b8. 49...f5 50. ♘xf5+ ♔e6 51. ♘d4+ ♔e7 So the f-pawn is gone, but still it is not that simple to win the game, another zugzwang is needed... 52. ♔b6 ♘e4 53. ♔b7!

♞c5+ 54. ♔c7 and once again Black finds himself in a position of zugzwang, but this time there is nothing more to sacrifice. The game is over.]

45. ♖b5 ♕d7 The white domination is now much more obvious.

46. f4! A nice move. White is not only kicking out the black knight from e5, but the position of the white pawn on f5 can also become useful.

46... ♞g6 47. c6+ ♕c8 [After 47... ♔c7 48. ♔c5 ♞xf4 Black won the pawn, but can't stop the c-pawn from queening: 49. ♞b5+ ♖b8 50. ♕d6 followed by c7 and Na7, with an easy win.]

48. f5



48... ♞e7 [Here too the h-pawn can't be taken because of 48... ♞xh4 49. ♖b6 ♞g2 50. ♞b5 followed by Nd6 and c7.]

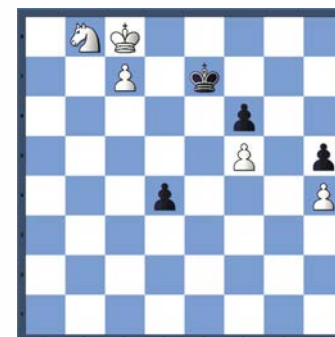
49. ♖b6 ♕b8 50. ♞b5 ♕c8 The black pieces can't move any longer, so White is finishing the game in a nice manner:

51. ♞a7+ The knight from a7 will very soon come back into the game over the c6 square.

51... ♕d8 52. c7+ ♕d7 53. ♖b7 White wants to play Nc6 next and Black can't do anything about it...

53... d4 54. ♞c6 ♞c8 Black didn't have a choice.

55. ♞b8+ ♕e7 56. ♕xc8



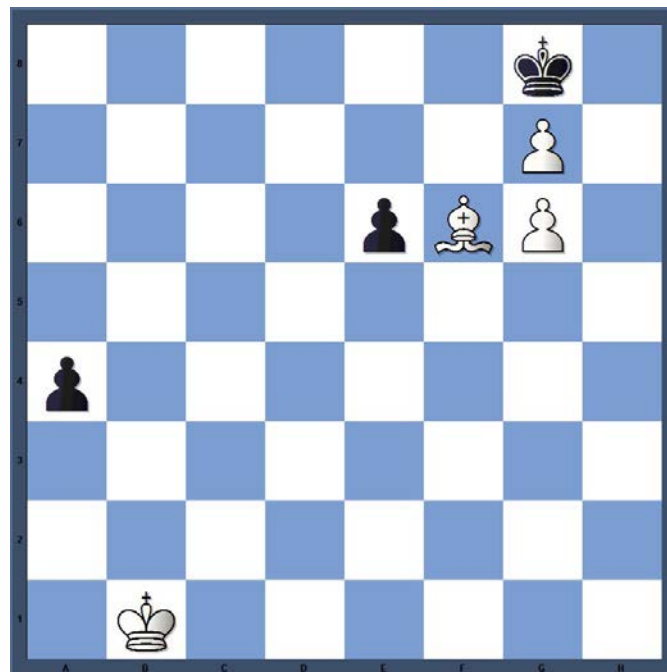
56... d3 and White is just faster...

57. ♕b7 We just saw great technique by Melkumyan and one more proof that knight endgames should often be evaluated like pawn endgames. A passed pawn and a better king's position are often more than enough to secure a victory. **1-0**

Solutions

(18) Moradiabadi, E(2598)-Laznicka, V(2676)

Olympiad, 2014.08.04



25...♞f2+! 26.♔g1 ♞xh3+! 27.♔h1 ♚g1+!! 0-1 [27...♚g1+
28.♚xg1 ♞f2#]

(19) Vajda, L(2561)-Rapport, R(2704)

Olympiad, 2014.08.12



21...♙h2+!! 22.♘xh2 ♖d6 23.♘f1 ♖xd4—+

(20) Bruzon, B(2664)-Rodshtein, M(2671)

Olympiad, 2014.08.06



38. ♖g8+! 1-0 [38. ♖g8+ 38... ♔xg8 (38... ♔h6 39. ♘f7#) 39. ♕e8+ ♔g7 40. ♖f7+ ♔h6 41. ♖xh7#]

(21) Megaranto, S(2527)-Leitao, R(2649)

Olympiad, 2014.08.06



34. ♘hf5!! gxf5 **35. ♖h6+** ♔g8 **36. ♘xf5** ♕xf5 [36... ♖f7 37. ♖f3+-] **37. ♖xf5!** [37. exf5? 37... ♖f7]

37... ♘e5 [37... ♖f7 38. ♖g5+! fxg5 39. ♖h8#]

38. ♕xe5! dxe5 [38... fxe5 39. ♖h5+-]

39. ♖f3! ♕c5+ **40. ♔f1** 1-0

(22) Tiviakov, S(2664)-Toufighi, H(2424)

Olympiad, 2014.08.08



20. c3+= [20. ♖xd8! 20... ♖xd8 21. ♕xf6! gxf6 22. ♘xe6! fxe6 23. ♖xe6+ ♔g7 24. ♖f7+ ♔h6 25. ♖xf6+-]

(23) Jianu, V(2579)-Kovalev, V(2532)

Olympiad, 2014.08.08



22. ♘c5! ♖ac8 [22... dxc5 23. ♖xe5+ ♔g8 24. ♖xe4+-]

23. ♘xa4 ♖xc3 **24. ♘xc3** ♕xb1 **25. ♖xb1+-**

(24) Anton Guijarro, D(2624)-Balogh, C(2637)

Olympiad, 2014.08.06



27...♖xf4! 28.♔xf4 ♘g6 29.♔g3 ♘d6 30.♖e8+ ♘f8!
31.♔h4 ♘xc7—+

(25) Rapport, R(2704)-Sutovsky, E(2624)

Olympiad, 2014.08.11

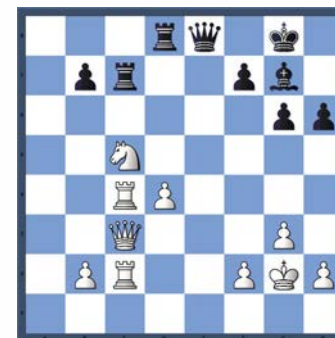


19.♘h6! ♖f7 20.♘xg7! ♖xg7 21.♔xf5+— ♔h8 [21...♔f7
22.♘xe4 dxe4 23.♔xe4+— ♖c8 24.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 (24...♔xg7
25.♔e6+—) 25.♔g4+—]

22.♖xg7 ♔xg7 23.♔xd5 ♘xf2 24.♔xc6+—

(26) Le Quang Lie(2710)-Adams, M(2740)

Olympiad, 2014.08.06

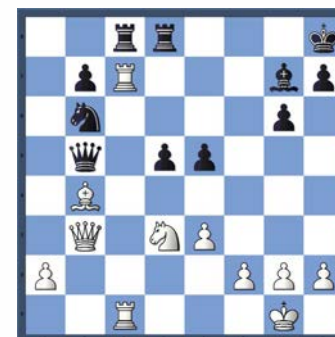


34...b5! 35.♖b4 ♖xc5! 36.♔xc5 ♘f8! 37.♔xb5 [37.♔c3
37...♘xb4 38.♔xb4 ♔e4+ 39.♔g1 ♔xc2—+]

37...♔e4+—+

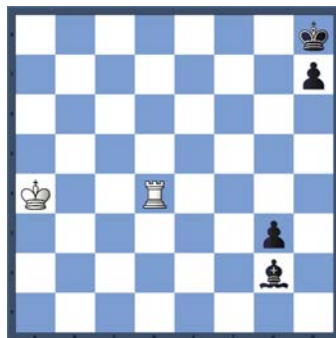
(27) Meier, G(2646)-Kamsky, G(2706)

Olympiad, 2014.08.11



28.♘f8!! 1-0 [28.♘f8 28...♔xb3 (28...♘xf8 29.♔xb5+—)
29.♘xg7+ ♔g8 30.axb3 ♖xc7 31.♖xc7+—]

(28) Korterling



1. ♖d8+! ♔g7 2. ♖d3 ♙c6+ 3. ♙b4 g2 4. ♖g3+ ♔f6 5. ♙c5!
 ♙b7 6. ♙d4 h5 7. ♙e3 h4 8. ♙f2!! hxg3+ 9. ♙g1! ♔g5
 [9... ♙a6 10. ♙xg2=]



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

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Editorial Preface

A lot of big and small events are going on:

Of course the main attention of the chess world is focused on the 2nd Sinquefeld Cup 2014, with 6 superstars playing a double round robin: Carlsen, Aronian, Caruana, Nakamura, Topalov and Vachier-Lagrave.

After the first 2 rounds we can already say that Caruana continues being in top shape, winning with Black against Topalov and with the white pieces against Vachier-Lagrave.

In the current week's issue, we commented the crazy game between Vachier-Lagrave and Magnus Carlsen from round 1.

In Russia a new rapid tournament was organised between the Russian European Champions of the past years and it was won easily by Nepomniachtchi with a score of 7.5/9.

The Riga Technical University Open was won by Melkumyan and Rapport, both on 7.5/9.

The 21st Abu Dhabi Masters also had 2 winners as Kuzubov and Tigran Petrosian shared the first place with 7/9.

The French Championship had a convincing winner in the person of Fressinet, who achieved a great score of 8.5/11. The second place went to Etienne Bacrot with 7.5/11 and Romain Edouard took bronze with 7/11.

The last stage of the Women's Grand Prix is under way without big surprises and it is hard to imagine somebody stopping Hou Yifan from complete domination in the women events.

As usual we wish you a lot of fun with the current issue of our newsletter and a great week.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime(2768)
- Carlsen, Magnus(2877) [C45]

Sinquefield Cup 2014(1.1),
2014.08.27



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We will see a very high level game with a lot of interesting tactical ideas and great fighting spirit. Already after the opening things are getting very complicated and the position becomes totally unclear. At some moment when it seems a draw should be the outcome of the game, Carlsen tries to complicate things and the position becomes unclear again. As many fighting games, it all ends in a perpetual check.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 It seems like Maxime had enough of the Berlin and decided to check Carlsen in the Scotch.

3...exd4 4.♘xd4 ♙c5 is not the main stream reply. [4...♘f6 is clearly the move that currently questions the Scotch as an opening, with chances for an advantage.]

5.♘b3 is clearly the best try for White, as all other moves lead to a comfortable position for Black.

5...♙b6 6.♘c3 ♘f6 Now the game is becoming very sharp. [6...♘ge7 is the more solid reply, followed by 0-0 and f5.]



7.♙e2 White's idea is of course mainly to play e5 next, but Bg5-0-0-0 could be another possible option.

7...a5 This is not a novelty either and it was clearly analysed by Carlsen before.

8.e5 The fun is starting now!

8...0-0 Black didn't have a choice.

9.exf6 and here comes the key of the a5 move.

9...a4! Very nice. The white knight has no other moves from b3 than to d2 and of course it doesn't work because of Re8.

10.♘d5! is clearly the most dangerous move for Black. White gives back the piece, but is preparing to get dangerous attacking possibilities on the black king because of the f6 pawn.

10...♙e8 Before taking the piece back on b3, Black includes the Re8 move because it is a very useful move for the future anyway.

11.♙e3 axb3 12.♙g4 Of course White doesn't miss the chance of playing Qg4.

12...g6 Now the question is what to play next?!

13.♙c4! Excellent play by White! Who cares about a pawn in a such a rough position. White is not only preparing to play 0-0

and finally get the king out of the center, but Qf4-Qh4 could also be a dangerous threat now. [White could go very wrong with 13.cxb3? 13...♙a5+ 14.♔d1 ♖e5 and there is no good way to hold the knight on d5. 15.♙c4 b5 Black is already winning.]



13...♗b4! What a fantastic move by Carlsen! [13...bxc2 would lead to a dangerous position for Black. 14.O-O ♙xe3 15.fxe3 Now of course Black has a couple of moves, but the idea of playing Ne7 is always very dangerous. 15...d6 16.♖h4 ♔h8 17.♖h6 ♖g8 18.♗e7 and White seems to be better.]

14.♗xb4 White had to take on b4.

14...d5 15.♖f4 dxc4 White only has one idea left, but a very powerful one, to play Qh6 at a good moment.

16.O-O This move is simply the best. White needs to play for the initiative. [16.♖d1 doesn't work since after 16...bxc2 17.♖xd8 the bishop on e3 is pinned. 17...c1=♖+]]

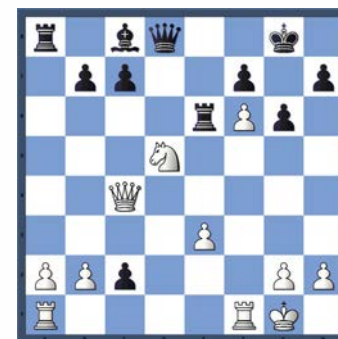
16...bxc2 17.♗d5 The only move for White, but a strong one! Of course Black can't take the knight because of Qh6.

17...♖e6! An excellent defensive move by Carlsen. While I was watching the game live, it reminded me very much of a game of 2 computers, as all moves of both players were just perfect, which shows how precise and accurate the calculation of the

very best players is.

18.♖xc4 is the best again as Bxb6 was already a threat. [White doesn't have any advantage after 18.♗e7+ 18...♔h8 19.♙xb6 ♖xb6 20.♖ac1 and now the most simple for Black is 20...♙f5 with an equal position.]

18...♙xe3 19.fxe3 Black's position looks very dangerous. Ne7 is a threat and the material is equal, so if Black doesn't have anything direct, things could go very well for White.



19...b5! The only move for Black!

20.♖c5 [20.♗e7+?? of course loses to 20...♖xe7]

20...♙b7 The black bishop is out on b7 now, which gives Black quite some counterplay.

21.♗e7+ Now Black has to pick between 21...Kh8 and 21...Rxe7, which leads to a pretty obvious draw.

21...♔h8 What a fighting spirit by Carlsen who clearly chooses to play for a win. [21...♖xe7 22.fxe7 and now the move which is hard to miss is 22...♖d2 White doesn't have anything better than to force a draw after 23.♖f2 (23.♖g5 is almost losing after 23...♖e8 followed by Rxe7.) 23...♖d1+ 24.♖f1 ♖d2 with a draw.]

22.♖xc2 ♖aa6 Black's idea is sort of to go "around the white knight" with all the pieces but it is of course a very dangerous

strategy with such a bad king on h8.

23. ♖ac1 What can be more logical than to attack c7. [23. ♖ad1 would lead to an unclear position. 23... ♖ad6 and for example after 24.a3 it is very hard to say who is better here, but the position should probably be around equal.]

23... ♖xf6 From now on things are forced. The pawn on f6 needs to be taken.

24. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 25. ♖xc7 What a crazy position which is not that easy to play for a human, but our both actors seem to calculate not much worse than a strong engine and just play a perfect game.



25... ♖d2?! Maybe the first mini mistake of the game. [25... ♖d3! was the move that would give Black some chances to play for a win. 26. ♖c3 (Now it is already very bad for White, because the Queen on d3 is protecting the f5 square. 26. ♖b8+ 26... ♖g7 27. ♖g8+ ♖h6 28. ♖f8+ ♖h5 29. ♖c5+ g5 30. ♖xg5+ ♖h4! First Black needs to provoke the g3 move. 31.g3+ ♖xg5 32. ♖g7+ ♖g6 33. ♖e5+ and here comes the difference to the line in the game: 33...f5! 34. ♖f4+ ♖f6 and Black is winning.) 26... ♖xc3 and because of the terrible position of the white knight on e7, Black is a bit better here.]

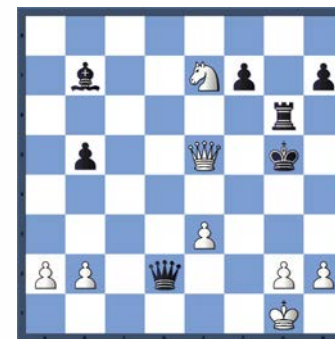
26. ♖b8+ Now we end up in a forced line which leads to a draw.

26... ♖g7 27. ♖g8+ ♖h6 28. ♖f8+ ♖h5 29. ♖c5+ All moves are forced.

29...g5 30. ♖xg5+ White has nothing better because of the deadly threat Qxg2.

30... ♖xg5 31. ♖g7+ ♖g6 Black can't do anything about stopping White from the perpetual check either.

32. ♖e5+



32...f5 All moves are correct.

33.h4+ White had many ways to force a draw and this is one of them.

33... ♖h5 34. ♖xf5+ ♖h6 35. ♖f8+ ♖h5 36. ♖f5+ ♖h6 37. ♖f8+ ♖h5 38. ♖f5+ We just saw a really fantastic game with a lot of great tactical motives and a very spectacular finishing part with a perpetual check. An especially high level game. **1/2-1/2**

**(2) Savchenko, Boris(2596)
- Rapport, Richard(2704) [B07]**

Riga Tech Open A 2014(9.1),
2014.08.24



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Both players, Savchenko and Rapport, are playing very creative chess. In many cases both of the opponents are choosing a creative move instead of a practical one, so we are going to see one of the most craziest game I have ever seen. After a total mess from move 14 until 40, the game finally ends in a perpetual check. A really fun game to watch is ahead of us!

1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 e5 Another game with the Philidor by Rapport.

4.♘f3 exd4 This was a popular line, but lately it has been very rarely played on GM level.

5.♘xd4 ♙e7 6.♙f4 is one of the most sharp moved, but also one of the most central lines.

6...O-O 7.♚d2 White wants to castle queenside as quickly as possible and start the attack on the kingside.

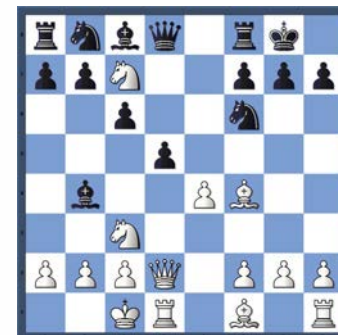
7...d5 and here starts the crazy line!

8.♘db5 This is of course all theory, the next moves for both sides are forced.

8...♙b4 Any other move is bad for Black.

9.O-O-O c6! Of course this is all known, but it is still a nice move by Black.

10.♘c7



10...♘xe4 Now White needs to choose between 2 moves.

11.♚d4 I am not sure at all if this is the best square. [11.♚e3!? is at least an interesting option.]

11...♙xc3 12.bxc3 ♚e7 and the craziness is starting! Black can't save the rook on a8, but of course he is getting strong compensation. White's king's position is open and the knight on e4 is a monster piece.

13.♚d3 It is hard to find another defence against Qa3.

13...♙e6 A very nice move. Black is not only developing the pieces, but also preparing to play c5 next.

14.♘xa8 c5 As we can easily see, the position is very sharp and very hard to evaluate.

15.♚e3 [15.♚a4 is not good since after 15...♘xf2 White is losing material.]

15...c4 Of course, chasing the rook away from d3 and getting ready to play Qa3.

16.♚d4 ♚a3+ 17.♙d1 White didn't have anything better already.

17...♘xc3+ 18.♙d2 is also the only move for White. [18.♙e1 is just bad due to 18...♘c6! with a double attack on d4 and a8.]

18...♖b1+ 19.♔d1 Black can already force a draw after 19...Nc3, but the position is looking very promising and of course you don't need to ask Rapport twice if he wants to play for a win...



19...♖c6! The strongest move in the position. Black is using the fact that White cannot exchange the queens and wins some material back.

20.♖c7 [In case of 20.♔xa3 20...♖xa3 21.♖d2 ♖xa8 Black's position should be close to winning.]

20...♖xd4 21.♔xd4 If we take a fresh look at the position now, Black is still some material down, but he continues having a strong attack which gives him clearly more than just compensation.

21...♖c3+ Very logically played, the knight does not belong to b1.

22.♔d2 ♖e4+ 23.♔e2 ♔xa2 Black already has 3 pawn for the piece and the white king is still on the run.

24.♔f3 It seems like White doesn't have anything better.

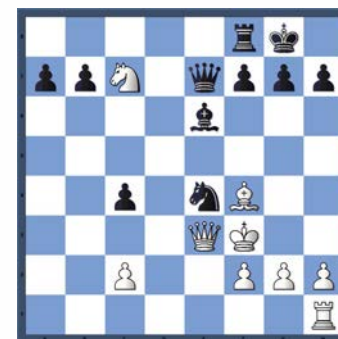
24...♔a3+?! What a strange decision by Black. [Much more logical is 24...♔xc2 Why not take such an important pawn?! 25.♖xd5 White is trying to at least stay in the game. 25...♖xd5 26.♔xd5 and now Black has the very strong and safe 26...♖e8

Qxf2 is the threat now. 27.♔d4 b5 Black has 3 pawns for the piece, the white pieces are badly placed and the king is on f3, so I think Black's position should be close to winning.]

25.♔e3 ♔e7 and here comes the move that Rapport probably underestimated:

26.♖xc4! Very nice calculation by White and anyhow it is clear that he needed to do something with the bishop on f1.

26...dxc4 also seems to be the best for Black. [26...♔h4 doesn't bring anything since after 27.♔e2 strangely the white king is quite safe.]



27.♖xe4 Wow! What a position. The white king is in the middle of the center, but it seems like there is no mate! [27.♔xe4 was of course losing: 27...♖g4+ 28.♔e3 ♔a3+! 29.♔d4 ♖d8+ with an easily winning position for Black.]

27...g5 An interesting try but this move is too dangerous! There are soooo many interesting moves for Black that it is really hard to choose a continuation, especially during a practical game, where Rapport was definitely thinking that he just must be winning somehow. [After 27...♔f6 28.♔d4! seems to hold things together for White.; Maybe Black could have tried 27...♖g4+ 28.♔d4 ♔b4 29.♖d5 ♔a4 with a very crazy position.]

28. ♘g3 A cool and good reply by Savchenko.

28... ♖f6 [28... f5+? 29. ♔f3 and now it is already White who is winning.]

29. ♘e5?! A very human reply, but not the best. [29. ♖d4 looks very strong. 29... ♖f5+ 30. ♔e3 ♖xc2 Although White gave the pawn on c2, finally the rook is getting into the game. 31. ♖d1 and I think White is already the one that could have big ambitions here.]

29... ♖f5+ [After 29... ♘f5+ 30. ♔d4 ♖d8+ 31. ♔c3 ♖e7 32. ♖a1 White is clearly better because the king on c3 is actually feeling quite safe.]

30. ♔d4 f6 The position remains very sharp, but slowly White is taking over. The white king only needs to reach the c3 square to give White a clear advantage.

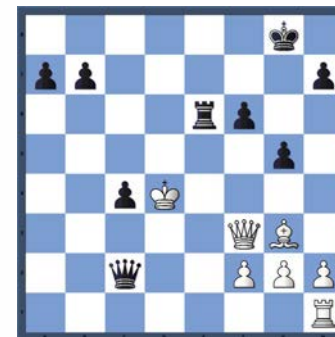
31. ♖xe6! Savchenko is playing a great game in a complicated position but actually a move like Nxe6 is very logical, as less black pieces mean smaller mating chances.

31... ♖e8 32. ♘g3? White misses a fantastic win. [32. ♘xf6! was leading to a win. 32... ♖xf6+



33. ♔d5 The king is a strong piece! **33... ♖f5+** **34. ♔d6** Black is out of checks, which means "game over". The white king on d6 holds everything together... What a funny position!]

32... ♖xe6 33. ♖f3 ♖xc2 and we are back to a very complicated position...



34. ♖xb7! In a very complex position and being short on time, Savchenko continues playing very well. White's position looks extremely dangerous again with the king on d4, but Black doesn't have anything more than just a draw...

34... ♖d2+ Black needs to give a check and the move in the game leads to a draw by force. Black doesn't seem to have anything more than that.

35. ♔c5 ♖a5+ White also needs to be very careful with the king moves. One mistake and the game could be over immediately.

36. ♖b5 and now it is White's turn to play for a win... [36. ♔d4 36... ♖d2+ with a draw.]

36... ♖a3+! The right check! Black is forcing White to take the c4 pawn to open the position of the white king even further.

37. ♖xc4 ♖e4+ Finally the useless rook on e6 is entering the game.

38. ♔d5 ♖b4 Once again the best move. Both players are handling the time pressure perfectly, playing a very high level of chess.

39. ♖e8+ ♔g7 40. ♖e7+



40... ♖g6 So the time trouble is over and the question is, does White have anything more than a perpetual check?!

41. ♖e8+ ♔g7 42. ♖d7+ Savchenko doesn't find anything and there is just nothing. It is not possible to play for a win with a totally opened king on d5-even with a piece up.

42... ♖g6 43. ♖e8+ ♔g7 44. ♖e7+ ♔g6 45. ♖e8+ What a game! 1/2-1/2

(3) **Fressinet, Laurent(2708)**
- **Dorfman, Iossif(2571)** [E60]

89th ch-FRA 2014(3.1),
2014.08.19



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Fressinet dominates the French Championship with very good games. Let's check one of his wins against the experienced Dorfman.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 c6 Black chooses the most solid setup against the King's Indian with g3.

4. ♖g2 d5 5. ♖a4!? A rare move with the idea to confuse the development of the black pieces. White would like to take on d5 using the fact that Black cannot recapture with the pawn.



5... ♘fd7! A perfect reaction. Unpinning the king in order to keep the strong central pawn on d5. [5... ♖g7 6.cxd5 ♘xd5 7. ♘f3 is what White was aiming for. He might hope for a longterm space advantage. Black should try to take back with the pawn on d5 if he wants to fight for equality.; 5... ♘bd7 is weaker, because after 6.cxd5 cxd5 the knight is misplaced on d7. It belongs to c6 in this structure.]

6. ♖c2 [Now on 6.cxd5 6... ♘b6 7. ♖b3 cxd5 the knights reach their optimal places, because the Nb8 can develop to c6.]

6...♘b6!? This is the novelty, in my opinion a strong one. It forces White to do something with the c4 pawn. In case of cxd5 cxd5, Black is fine again because he can develop his knight to c6 and also Bf5 will come with tempo. The only question is if White pushes c5, but then Black will be able to undermine the advanced pawns either with e5 or with b6.

7.c5 ♘6d7 8.♘f3 [The most direct move to prevent the e5 break, 8.f4? creates too many weaknesses. Black grabs the initiative with 8...b6 and later the plan of Nf6, Bf5 and occupying the e4 square becomes unpleasant.]



8...e5! This freeing break is known from the Slav defence. Black should not wait until White plays Bf4 and starts to squeeze with the space advantage.

9.♘xe5 [9.dxe5 9...♘xc5 looks promising for Black. He might develop his bishop to f5 or just play Nbd7, Bg7 and 0-0.]

9...♘xe5 10.dxe5 ♘a6 This seems to be an inaccuracy which gives the initiative to White. It was very difficult to evaluate over the board if Na6 or Nd7 should be preferable. The concrete lines show us the reasons. [10...♘d7! Perhaps Dorfman was afraid of 11.b4 This could be a reason why he put his knight to a6. (11.0-0 is probably what Fressinet wanted to play. White would like to open the center quickly with e4, trying to gain some benefits from the king in the center.

11...♘xe5 12.e4 d4! Black must try to keep the position closed to avoid a dangerous attack. At first sight, this looks very suspicious, because 13.f4 ♘g4 14.h3 ♘e3 15.♙xe3 dxe3 16.♚c3 seems to create real problems, but the computer is not afraid and simply plays 16...♖g8! 17.♚xe3 ♚e7 18.b4 a5 Black wins back the material and the game remains unclear with mutual chances.) 11...a5! (11...♘xe5 is wrong in view of 12.♙b2 and on Bg7 f4 wins a piece.) 12.♙b2 axb4 13.e6 ♘f6 14.exf7+ ♚xf7= followed by Bg7, Rf8 and Kg8- a kind of artificial castling- and Black has no problem.]

11.0-0 ♙f5 [11...♘xc5 was more natural and probably also better, although White seems to have the initiative here as well after the subtle 12.♘d2! preparing to break the strong center with e4! Black should have gone for this anyway.]



12.e4! A principled move! White undermines the strong d5 pawn and also opens the center to create some problems for the black king.

12...dxe4 13.♙e3?! This is wrong... Fressinet probably underestimated Black's intention of castling queenside. [Otherwise he would have played 13.♖d1! 13...♚e7 14.♙e3 ♘xc5 15.♘d2! White is threatening with Nc4-d6. Black has no time to finish the development with Bg7, 0-0, because the c5 knight has to be protected. 15...♚xe5 could be met

by 16.♖xe4! ♗xe4 (16...♖xe4 17.♗d4 wins the exchange.) 17.♗xe4 ♔xe4 18.♔c3 wins back the sacrificed material and the king remains in the center. The attack should be crushing.]

13...♔d3! Black would happily trade queens as the endgame could only be better for him, but White does not need to agree...

14.♔c1! Fressinet probably thought that Rd1 was coming next move and the queen might get into serious trouble. That is why he did not play 13.Rd1, however Dorfman comes up with a very strong idea.

14...O-O-O! White was always counting on castling kingside and suddenly the king goes to the other direction. [On 14...♖d8 15.♗g5! is strong.]

15.♖a3 Trying to finish the development and settling the knight to d6. [In comparison to 14...Rd8, now on 15.♗g5? Black has 15...♗xc5! 16.♗xd8 ♖xd8 with more than enough compensation. Black is threatening with e3! His pieces are completely dominating, White is doomed to passivity.; 15.♖c3 15...♗xc5 also looks fine for Black.]



15...♗e7? This is logical as Black connects his rooks, but it is wrong. [After 15...♔d5! Black seems to be better. The point is that after Bxc5 Bxc5 Nxc5, the d3 square should be free for the

knight! Of course, it is very hard to realize these subtle ideas during the game. 16.♖c4 ♗xc5=+]

16.♖c4 ♖xc5 [On 16...♗xc5 White could play 17.♗xc5 ♖xc5 18.b4! and Black cannot jump to d3, which is why he should have removed his queen to d5. White has the advantage now. 18...♖e6 19.♖e1+= and Nd6 next move. Still, this should have been preferable for Black.]

17.♖d6+! ♗xd6 [17...♖xd6 18.exd6 ♔xd6 19.♔c4+= Black is doing fine materially, but White continues attacking and many pawns are hanging (f7, e4, a7).]

18.exd6 ♖e6 19.♖d1 ♔b5 20.h3! A very useful move. White is threatening with g4, trapping the bishop, opens the back rank and also prevents the Bg4-f3 idea of Black to trade the bishops or throw the queen into the attack with Qh5!

20...h5



21.♔c3! Another excellent positional move! The point is to take under control the e5 square and suddenly the black queen gets into trouble. [On the direct 21.♗f1 21...♔e5 is possible.]

21...c5 Black opens an escape route for the queen, but this is too big a weakening in front of the king. [Other moves were not better, for instance 21...♖b8 loses to 22.a4! ♔a6 23.♗f1!

and the queen is trapped.]

22.b4 Sacrificing by feeling! Fressinet opens the b-file for his rooks to lead a successful attack against the b7 pawn. [22.♙f1 22...♚c6 23.b4+- was also good.]

22...♚xb4



23.d7+! A nice intermediate move to bring all the pieces with tempo. The pawn cannot be taken because of the h8 rook.

23...♙b8 24.♚e5+ ♙a8 25.♖ab1 ♚a4 26.♖d6 Improving all the pieces. White wants to play Qd5, which was not so good immediately because of Qc6. The pawn still cannot be taken on d7 because of the h8 rook and otherwise Black cannot organize his defence. [26.g4!? was also winning with the idea of 26...hxg4 27.hxg4 ♙xg4 28.♙xe4 and the b7 pawn is too big a problem to deal with. 28...♚xd1+ 29.♖xd1 ♙xd1 30.♚d5+-]

26...♚xa2 27.♖a1 ♚c4 28.♙f1 ♚b4 29.♖xe6! Black resigned in view of Bxc5 and Rxa7 mate or winning the queen. **1-0**

(4) Wei Yi(2638) - Miroshnichenko, Evgenij(2602) [B01]

Turkish league(5.6),
2014.08.22



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

China's biggest hope is the 15 years old Wei Yi, who indeed has all the chances to become a top GM, but this time he runs into a very nice defeat...

1.e4 d5 The Scandinavian defence. Wei Yi is very strong in the main lines, therefore it was a clever choice by Miroshnichenko to play something less explored.

2.exd5 ♚xd5 3.♘c3 ♚d6 4.d4 ♘f6 5.♘f3 g6 [One of the alternatives is 5...a6 where White's strongest reply is 6.g3 Probably Wei Yi mixed up these lines...]

6.g3 It looks natural to fianchetto the bishop and also to prepare for the other bishop to develop with tempo to f4, but it turns out to be an inaccuracy... [The best is 6.♘b5! followed by c4, building a very strong center. Practice already shows that Black is unable to put enough pressure on it, therefore White claims an edge in the end.]

6...♙g7 7.♙g2



7...♔a6! This is the drawback of the g3-Bg2 plan and the point of avoiding playing a6 or c6 in the 5th move. White cannot castle kingside.

8.♘f4 c6 9.♔d2 This is the ambitious continuation, keeping the queens on the board and castling queenside, but objectively I believe that it is a wrong idea because Black's attack comes too fast. [It is more solid to play 9.♔e2 9...♔xe2+ 10.♘xe2 but of course the probability for a draw has increased a lot.]

9...O-O 10.O-O-O b5! Black does not need to waste more time and he immediately launches his attack on the queenside. Even the queen is well placed now on a6.

11.a3? Another wrong decision to slow down the attack. It works with the opposite effect. [White should have played 11.♔b1 11...b4 12.♘e2 although after 12...♘f5 followed by Nbd7 and Nd5 or Ne4 seems to be completely fine for Black.]



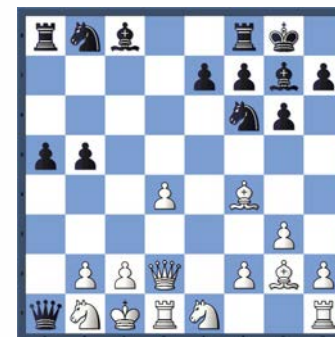
11...b4! A perfect sacrifice, which was underestimated by the young Chinese. At first sight it does not look that dangerous indeed, but after some extremely strong energetic moves, all black pieces come into the attack.

12.axb4 ♔a1+ 13.♘b1 a5! The most natural attacking move again! Black would like to open the a- and b-files in order

to quickly attack the weakest point in White's camp, the b2 pawn! However, Black had to count with the next move beforehand:

14.b5 The critical test of the previous move. This pawn advance seems to paralyze the black pieces and White is threatening with Ne5. Accepting the pawn with cxb5 seems to drop a piece after Ne1 or g1, because White attacks the a8 rook and the b8 knight is also hanging. However, Black had something in mind...

14...cxb5! 15.♘e1 The most natural move again with the knight to open the diagonal. Of course on e5 it would have been more active, but it closes the f4 bishop and the knight is not under attack anymore on b8. On e1, it could become an important defender of the king.



15...♔a6! 16.♘xb8 ♘e6! This was the point which Black had to foresee before playing 13...a5, or maybe even before 11...b4. Black creates the double threat of Rxb8 and Ba2 and White has no adequate defence against both of them, therefore Black wins back the piece and his attack continues to roll.

17.♘e5 ♘a2 18.♔c3 Of course it is not over yet. In case of Qxb1 Kd2, the queen is trapped. Black finds a strong intermediate move before capturing the knight to send away the queen from the protection of the b2 pawn.

18...b4! 19.♔c7 [19.♔d3 also loses after 19...♖e6 20.♔d2 (20.c3 20...bxc3--+ Rc8 next, White cannot hold such an enormous attack.) 20...♖xb2! (But not 20...♙xb1? 21.♘f3 and White wins.) 21.♘f3 ♖c8--+ with a crushing attack.]

19...♖xb1+ 20.♔d2 ♖xb2 21.♘d3 ♖a3 22.♖a1 White still had realistic hopes to survive, as the black pieces are temporarily discoordinated. He intends to hide his king on the kingside with Ke2, Rhe1 and Kf1. However the next move destroys all the hopes.



22...♘e8!! A brilliant retreat! The point is to send away the queen from the c-file in order to continue the attack with Qc3 and Bc4! The queen has no good square to leave.

23.♖c5 Other moves are also losing: [23.♖b7 23...♖c3+ 24.♔e3 ♙c4--+; 23.♖xe7 23...♖c3+ 24.♔e3 Black has several wins, one of them is 24...♘d6 25.♙xd6 ♖xd4+ 26.♔e2 ♖xd6 27.♖xa2 ♖e6--+; 23.♖c8 23...♖e6--+ followed by Nd6 next with tempo and Rc8.]

23...♘d6! This great regrouping of the knight allows Black to occupy the c-file with the rook, which decides the outcome of the game.

24.♙xg7 ♖c8! Tempo!

25.♖g5 [25.♖e5 25...♘c4--+]

25...♙xg7 The easiest and most human. Black has an extra pawn and leads a crushing attack. It is over now... [However the machine shows that 25...♖xc2+ 26.♔xc2 ♘c4--+ was even stronger, but there was no need for such a sacrifice.]

26.♖hc1 ♖c3+ 27.♔e2 ♙c4 28.♔f1 b3! Black wins further material.

29.♔g1 ♙xd3 30.cxb3 Equal to resignation, as White is a piece down for nothing. [30.cxd3 does not change anything: 30...b2! 31.♖xc3 bxa1=♖+--]

30...♖xd4 31.♖xe7 ♖xc1+ A very nice win by Miroshnichenko. The game does not show the real strength of Wei Yi... **0-1**

Puzzle section

(5) Wang Hao(2730)-Dimakiling, O(2371)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2014.08.20

1. +-



(6) Areshchenko, A(2684)-Tissir, M(2366)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2014.08.20

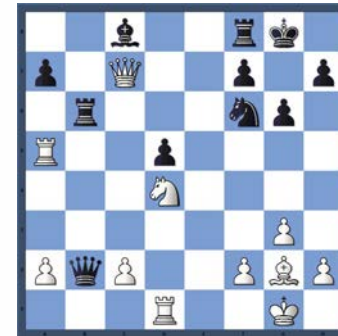
1. +-



(7) Neverov, V(2498)-Areshchenko, A(2684)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2014.08.21

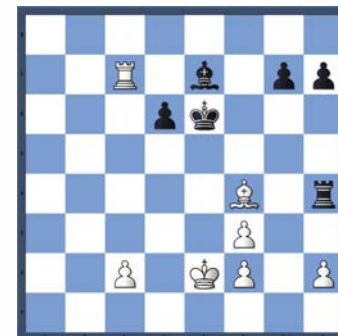
1... -+



(8) Efimenko, Z(2641)-Grover, S(2492)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2014.08.21

1. +-



(9) Sumets, A(2622)-Berescu, A(2458)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2014.08.21

1. +-



(10) Gopal, G(2558)-Istratescu, A(2656)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2014.08.24

1. +-



(11) Batchimeg, T(2346)-Koneru, H(2598)

Sharjah GP, 2014.08.25

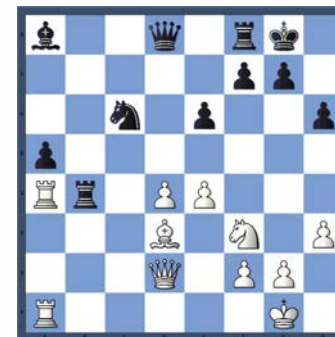
1. +-



(12) Golod, V(2574)-Simonian, T(2405)

Riga Open, 2014.08.19

1. +-



(13) Cheparinov, I(2681)-Dubov, D(2614)

Turkish league, 2014.08.21

1. +-



(14) Tabernig, B(2369)-Prohaszka, P(2595)

Riga Open, 2014.08.19

1. +-



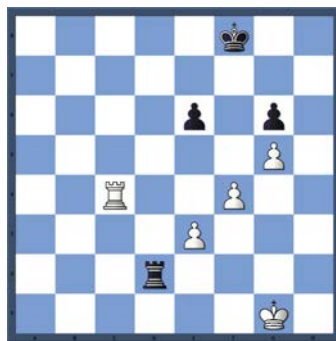
Endgame section

(15) Ding Liren(2742)
- Harikrishna, Pentala(2725)

Turkish league,
2014.08.19



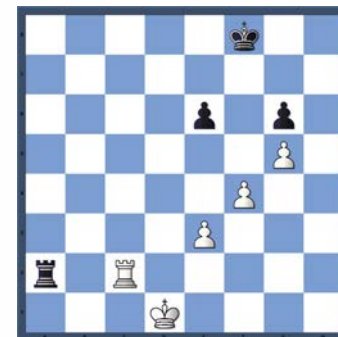
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



White is a pawn up, but as we know in rook endgames it is often not enough to win the game, especially when the pawns are on one side. White's chances are slightly better than usual because the black pawns are disconnected. Black's main triumph is the excellent position of his rook to cut the king along the 2nd rank and he has a positional threat to get rid of one pair of pawns with e5, when the arising 2 vs 1 endgame would already be a dead draw. To prevent this, Ding Liren finds a subtle plan.

41.♖c5! White prevents e5 and intends to bring his king to d1 followed by Rc2 to escape from the back rank. Black cannot avoid this, he can only wait at this stage.

41...♖e2 42.♖e5 ♕e7 43.♕f1 ♖a2 44.♕e1 ♕f7 45.♕d1 ♕e7 46.♖c5 ♕f7 47.♖c7+ ♕f8 48.♖c2 White could not make progress without using his king.

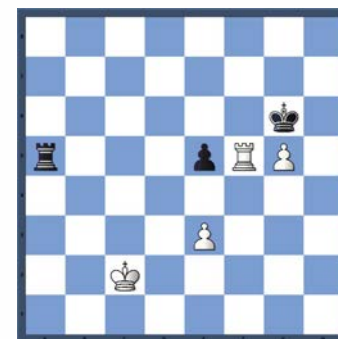


48...♖a5! After the rook has left the 5th rank to free the king, Black could refresh his simplification idea and support the e5 push.

49.♖c6 ♕f7 50.♕c2 e5! The most natural, but Black had to foresee a very important defensive plan...

51.♖f6+! ♕g7 52.f5! White has this counterblow in mind to continue playing for the win. Allowing exf4 exf4 made no sense, the winning chance would have gone down to zero then.

52...gxf5 53.♖xf5 ♕g6



54.e4! This is the point of the f5 break! The rook stands perfectly on f5, it protects the g5 pawn and attacks the e5 weakness. Suddenly the other rook is placed poorly on a5, White needs two moves (Kc3-b4) and the e5 pawn is lost.

Black cannot parry this idea, but he can still hold the draw with a nice motif.

54...♖c5+! Asking the king to decide which direction to go.

55.♔b3 In case of Kd3, the rook is safe on c5, Black would have simply waited with Kh5 and holds the draw. Here comes the question about what Black should do against the Kb4 threat.

55...♖c1! 56.♖xe5 ♖c8! Very clever defence! The point is the same as at the beginning, that White cannot win without his king. Black cuts it along the c-file and it cannot support his own pawns. The only way to make progress is again the use of the rook, but as soon as White plays Rc5, Black attacks the e4 pawn and one of the pawns is lost...

57.♔b4 ♖c1 Black only waits along the c-file.

58.♔b5 [58.♖c5 58...♖e1= White is forced to return to e5 with the rook, but then Black also goes back to c1.]

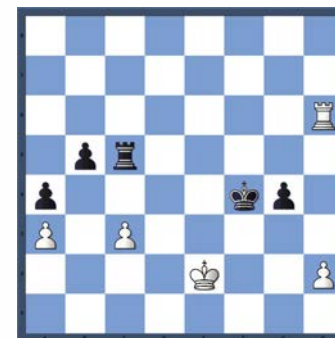
58...♖c8 59.♔b6 ♖c4 60.♔b7 ♖c1 61.♖a5 ♖c4 62.♖e5 ♖c1
Draw agreed! An instructive endgame. **1/2-1/2**

**(16) Chabanon, Jean-Luc(2485)
- Bacrot, Etienne(2720)**

89th ch-FRA 2014(9.1),
2014.08.26



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



White tried to make a draw from the opening and played the exchange variation in the KID. All went fine, but from around move 20 onward White started to play everything else than well, so finally after the time trouble Black already had quite some advantage. White's pawn structure is bad and the black king is clearly more active than the white one, but of course as we know, a lot of rook endgames are drawn with good defensive play.

41.♖f6+? There was no reason to panic, Black should have calculated the line where he keeps the c3 pawn more carefully. [41.♔d3 Simply protecting the c3 pawn. 41...♖d5+ 42.♔e2 ♖e5+ 43.♔d2 Now Black can't improve the position of the rook anymore, but there is still a chance to go for the h2 pawn now. 43...♔f3 44.♖f6+ ♔g2 45.♖g6 ♖e4 This position looks dangerous for White, but actually it is just a draw. 46.♖h6 Cool and safe. Black doesn't have enough resources to improve the position, so it must be a draw.]

41...♔g5 Now Black is going to be a pawn up.

42.♖b6 ♜xc3 43.♖xb5+ ♔h4 The pawn on a3 is falling, can White still save the draw?!

44.♔f2 White has to stop Black from playing Kh3.

44...♜xa3 45.♜a5 Of course the white rook belongs to a5.

45...♜f3+ [Black can't win the game after 45...♜a2+ 46.♔g1 g3 47.hxg3+ ♔xg3 48.♔f1 with an easy draw.]

46.♔g2 a3 Black wants to play Rb3-Rb2 check and a2, White needs to act.

47.♜a8 is probably White's only chance.

47...♜c3 48.♜h8+ White is playing the only moves.

48...♔g5



49.♜a8 Black's idea is clear, to run with the king to b2 and to play a2, but White will win the g4 pawn in the meantime. The position remains quite tricky.

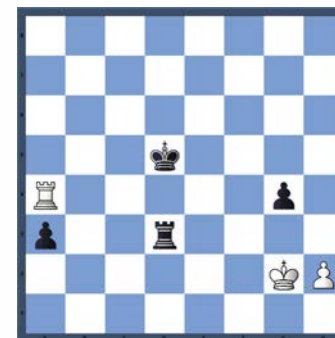
49...♜d3 This move also leads to a winning position for Black, but Black could already have gone for a direct kill... [49...♔f5 is the most logical move. 50.♜a5+ The most simple now. (50.♜a4 was losing immediately: 50...♜c2+ 51.♔g3

a2 52.♜a5+ ♔e4 and White is never in time to win the g4 pawn without losing the h2 pawn.) 50...♔e6 (50...♔e4 only leads to a draw: 51.♜a4+ ♔d3 52.♔g3! ♔c2+ 53.♔xg4 ♔b3 54.♜xa3+ ♔xa3 55.h4 ♔b4 56.h5 and Black is not in time to come back with his king, so the position is a draw.) 51.♔f2 ♔d6 52.♔e2 ♔c6 53.♔d2 ♜f3 54.♜a4 ♔b5 with an easily winning position for Black.; 49...♜c2+ wouldn't lead to anything 50.♔g3 a2 because of 51.♜a5+ ♔f6 52.♔xg4 ♜xh2 53.♔f4 and the position is a draw because the white king is going to b3.]

50.♜a7 [50.♜a5+ was losing to 50...♔h4 followed by Rd2 and a2.]

50...♔f4 and Black decides that it is time to run with his king.

51.♜a4+ ♔f5 52.♜a5+ ♔e4 53.♜a4+ ♔d5 Black's idea is to keep the white king on g2, cut off along the 3rd rank, which will make it easier for Black to stop the white h-pawn.



54.♔f2 The position is lost, but White should have tried [54.♜xg4 as now Black needed to find a not so simple win: 54...♜d4! (54...♔c5 was also winning. 55.♜a4 ♔b5 56.♜a8 ♔b4 57.h4 and again Black would need to find



57...Rd4! a very hard move to make. (57...Kb3 58.h5 and the position is already a draw!) 58.h5 Rh4 and Black is winning.) 55.Rg8 Kc4 56.Ra8 Kb3 57.Kg3 a2 and Black is winning easily.]

54...Kc5 55.Ke2 Kb5 Now everything is very simple.

56.Ra8 Rh3 57.Kd1



57...Kb4 Rxh2 is the threat now.

58.Rg8 a2 All in all nice technique by Bacrot and of course it was a terrible mistake by White to give up the c3 pawn. **0-1**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Rubinstein, Akiba - Johner, Paul F [E38]

Karlsbad(15), 1929.08.18

[Jan-Krzysztof Duda / Kamil Miton]

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♗c3** ♘b4 **4.♚c2** c5 The most popular moves are 4...0-0 or 4...d5.

5.dxc5 ♗a6 **6.a3** ♘xc3+ **7.♚xc3** ♗xc5 **8.f3** Nowadays theory considers [8.b4 8...♗ce4 9.♚b2 as a the strongest. White has good chances to get an advantage. 9...d5 10.c5]



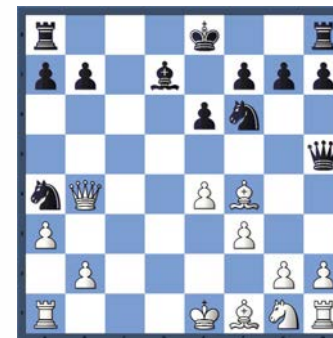
8...d5 Black is going to open the position because he has the better development. The move [8...a5 seems to be too slow. 9.e4 d6 10.b4! axb4 11.axb4 ♖xa1 12.♚xa1 ♗b3? and White has a check on a4: 13.♚a4+--]

9.cxd5 ♚xd5?! Not accurate. After this move White will develop his pieces with tempo. Black should play [9...b6 10.b4 ♗a4 11.♚b3 b5 12.e4 a6 and White should give back the pawn in the right moment because development is the most important thing. 13.♘e3 (13.♘d3 13...exd5 14.e5 ♚e7 15.♖a2 O-O 16.♖e2∞) 13...exd5 14.e5 ♗g8 15.♗e2 ♗e7 16.♗d4 O-O 17.♘d3+=]

10.e4 ♚h5 **11.♘f4** [11.♗h3 11...♗cd7 12.♗f4 ♚c5 13.♚xc5 ♗xc5 14.♘e3 thanks to the pair of bishops and his strong center, White has a promising endgame.]

11...♗a4 [11...O-O 12.♘d6 (12.g4 12...♗xg4 13.fxg4 ♚xg4 14.♚g3 e5↔) 12...♗fxe4 13.fxe4 ♗xe4 14.♚e5 ♚xe5 15.♘xe5± and Black doesn't have enough for the piece.]

12.♚b4 ♘d7



13.b3 ♗b6 [13...♗c5 Of course the knight is placed more actively here, but to play this move Black had to calculate a slightly complex and forced variation: 14.g4 ♚h4+ 15.♘g3 ♚g5↔With counterplay. 16.f4? ♚g6 17.♚xc5 (17.f5 17...♚xg4--+) 17...♚xe4+ 18.♘e2 ♖c8! 19.♚f2 ♖c2 20.♚f3 ♖xe2+!]

14.♘d3 ♘c6 **15.♗e2** We should note that the structure f3-e4-b3 limits the black pieces.

15...♗fd7 **16.♗d4** [16.♖c1 with the idea to prevent Qc5.]

16...♚h4+ **17.♘g3** ♚f6 **18.♖c1** [18.O-O 18...a5 19.♚c3 (19.♚d6 19...♗c8!) 19...♖c8 20.♗e2 ♚xc3 21.♗xc3 ♗c5 22.♘c2+= The question is whether 22...a4 works now with the idea to get useful squares for the black knights.]

18...a5 **19.♚c3** ♖c8 **20.♗xc6** ♖xc6 **21.♚xf6** gxf6 [21...♖xc1+ 22.♗d2 ♖c2+ is an important move which doesn't allow White

to get control over the d-file. 23.♔xc2 gxf6 24.♟b5 ♔e7 25.♖d1+= with a clear advantage for White.]

22.♖xc6 bxc6 23.♟d6 I suppose that the idea of this move is not to allow Ke7. [23.♔d2 23...♘c5 24.♟f2 ♘bd7 25.♟c4 ♔e7 26.♔c3+= Two bishops are much stronger than knights. 26...♖g8 with the idea to provoke moves by pawns which can weaken the white position a bit.]

23...♘e5

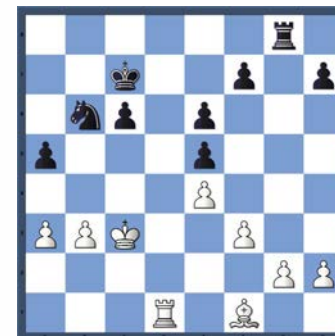


24.♟xe5? A big surprise! Sometimes even the best strategical players made unexpected weak moves. I have no idea why Rubinstein got rid of his strong bishop.

24...fxe5 25.♔d2 ♔d7 26.♖d1 ♔c7 Now the position is equal.

27.♔c3 ♖g8 [27...♖d8 28.♟e2 ♖xd1 29.♟xd1 c5! A very important move. Black doesn't let White create a distant passed pawn, the knight controls the c4 square and White is not able to improve his position. 30.g3 f6 31.f4 exf4 32.gxf4 h6=]

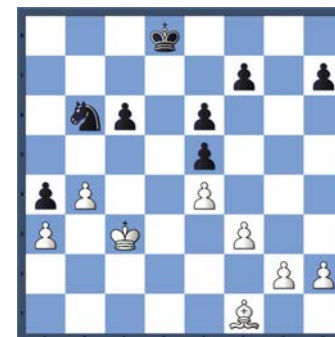
28.♟f1



28...♖d8? Not accurate. [28...c5!= Once again Black should play this important move.]

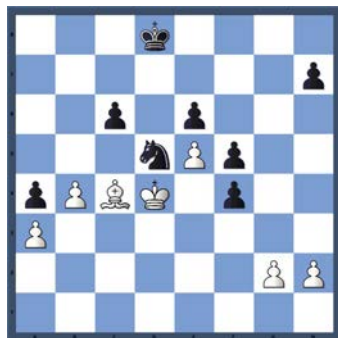
29.♖xd8 ♔xd8 30.b4! Now White gets a promising endgame.

30...axb4+ It was hard to take this decision, as Black also had alternatives: [30...a4



31.f4!! JK.Duda. - Otherwise Black plays f6 and White will not be able to improve his position, for example: (31.g3 31...f6 32.f4 exf4 33.gxf4 e5!=; 31.b5?! 31...c5) 31...exf4 (31...f6? 32.fxe5 fxe5 33.g4+- with an easy win for White.) 32.♔d4 f6 (32...♘d7 33.e5!1) 33.e5 f5 (33...fxe5+ 34.♔xe5 f3 35.gxf3 ♔e7 36.♟d3 h6 37.f4 White keeps the initiative, for example: 37...♘d7+ 38.♔e4 ♔d6 39.f5 e5 (39...exf5+ 40.♔xf5 c5 41.bxc5+ ♘xc5 42.♟b5+=) 40.♟c2 ♘b6 41.f6 ♔e6 42.f7 ♔xf7 43.♔xe5 ♘c4+ (43...♔e7

44.♔f5 ♕f7 45.♙e4±) 44.♖d4 ♜xa3 45.♙xa4 ♕e6 46.♖c5!
(46.♙xc6? 46...♜c2+ with a draw after Nxb4 next.)) 34.♙c4!
♕e7 (34...♜d5



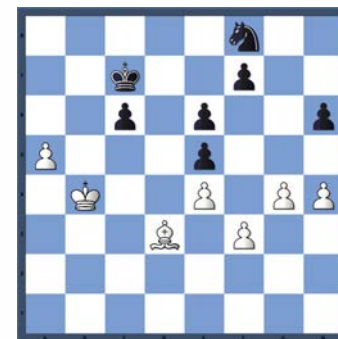
35.♙xd5!! Miton - Unexpectedly it looks like the pawn
endgame is losing for Black! 35...exd5 (35...cxd5 36.♖c5! This
is the point! White is winning thanks to maneuver Kb5-Kxa4.)
36.e6! JK.Duda - The most accurate. (36.♖c5 36...♖d7 37.b5
cxb5 38.♖xb5 (38.♖xd5? 38...b4) 38...♕e6 39.♖xa4 ♕xe5
40.♖b3 ♕e4↑and the black d- and f-pawns are faster than
the a-pawn.) 36...♕e7 37.♕e5 f3 38.gxf3 f4 39.h4 h5 40.♖f5!+-
and Black is in zugzwang.) 35.b5 (35.♖c5 35...♜d7+ 36.♖xc6
♜xe5+ 37.♖c5 ♜xc4 38.♖xc4 e5=) 35...cxb5 36.♙xb5 ♜d5
(36...♖d8 37.♖c5 ♖c7 38.♙e8+- (38.♙c6?! 38...♜c4±))
37.♙xa4 ♜e3



38.g3! JK.Duda (38.♙c6 38...♜c2+ 39.♖c3 ♜xa3 40.♖b3
♜b1 and White can't catch the knight.) 38...♜d5 39.♙c6 f3
(39...fxg3 40.♙xd5 exd5 41.hxg3+-) 40.♙xd5! Miton 40...exd5
41.♖e3+- The distant passed pawn is decisive.]

31.♖xb4 ♖c7 32.a4 ♜d7 33.a5 h6 34.♙d3 ♖b7 35.♙c2
♜b8 36.♙d3 ♜d7 It looks like White is not able to improve
the position but Rubinstein finds a fantastic winning plan...
Let's see:

37.g4 ♖c7 38.h4 ♜f8

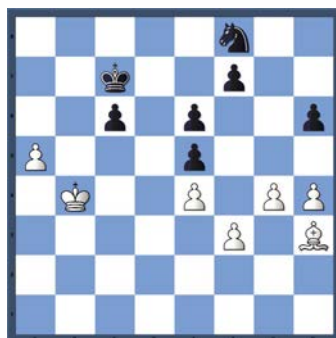


39.♙f1 White is not in a hurry and prepares everything very
accurately. Probably Rubinstein could use his idea even in
this position but Black had some defensive tricks- let's check
some example variations: [39.h5! 39...♜h7 40.♖c5 ♜f8 41.g5!
hxg5 42.h6 ♜d7+ 43.♖b4 ♜f6 (43...♜f8 44.a6 ♖b6 45.a7 ♖xa7
46.♖c5 ♖b7 47.♖d6 ♜g6 48.♖d7+-) 44.a6 ♖b6 45.a7! ♖xa7
46.♖c5 ♖b7 47.♖d6 ♖c8



48.♔xe5 (48.♔e7 is less accurate because of 48...♖g8+ 49.♔xf7 ♜xh6+ 50.♔g7 g4! 51.♔xh6 g3 52.♙f1 c5 53.♔g5 c4 54.♔g4 c3--+) 48...♜h7 49.♔d6 ♔d8 50.e5+-]

39...♜d7 40.♙h3 ♜f8

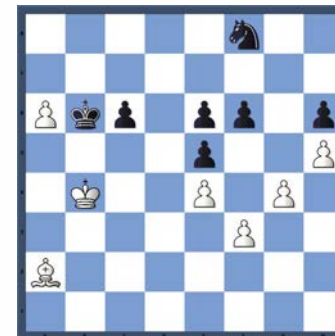


41.h5!! White is creating another distant passed pawn as g5 is threat. To avoid this Black needs to play

41...f6 but now the e6 pawn becomes weak and thanks to this White wins the game! [41...♜d7 42.g5 hxg5 43.h6 ♜f8 44.♙g4+- with the idea Bh5. We will now see why Rubinstein first transferred the bishop to h3.]

42.♙f1 ♜d7 43.♙c4 ♜f8 44.♙b3 ♜h7 45.♔c5 [45.♙xe6 45...♜g5]

45...♜f8 46.♙a2 ♜d7+ 47.♔b4 ♜f8 48.a6 ♔b6



49.a7! A typical idea. White sacrifices the pawn to open the way for the king which will grab all the pawns on the kingside.

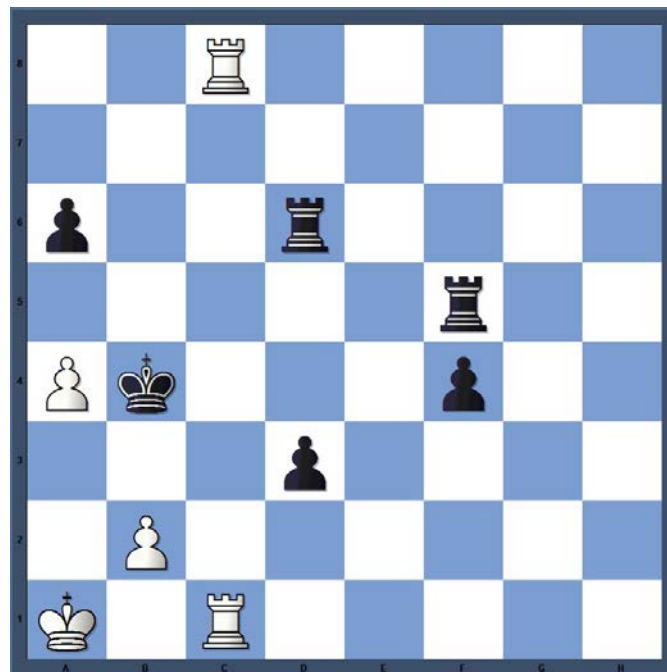
49...♔xa7 50.♔c5 ♔b7 [50...♜h7 51.♔xc6 ♜g5 52.♔d7 ♜xf3 53.♙xe6+-]

51.♔d6+- ♔b6 52.♔e7 ♜h7 53.♙xe6 ♔c7 54.♙c4 ♜g5 55.♔xf6 ♔d6 56.♔g6 ♔e7 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Kubbel

1. +—



Solutions

(19) Markus, R(2602)-Hracek, Z(2634)

Olympiad, 2014.08.05



35. ♖xh5!! gxh5 36. ♘f5+ ♔g8 [36... ♔f8 37. ♙e3+—]

37. ♙e3! ♘f8 38. ♙g5+ ♘g6 39. ♙d8+ ♘f8 [39... ♔h7 40. ♙e8+—]

40. ♙xc8!? [40. ♘h6+! 40... ♔g7 41. g4!! hxg4 (41... ♔xh6 42. ♙xf8+ ♔h7 43. ♙xf7+ ♔h8 44. ♙f8+ ♔h7 45. g5+—) 42. ♘f5+! ♔g8 43. h5!+—]

40... ♙xc8 41. ♘e7+ ♔g7 42. ♘xc8+—

(20) Petr, M(2530)-Sedlak, N(2554)

Olympiad, 2014.08.05

**27...♖xd3 28.♖xd3** [28.fxe4 28...♖e3±]**28...♘c5 29.♙c2 ♘xd3 30.♙xd3 ♙xa4 31.♙xh7 g6! 32.h4 ♙d6 33.g4 ♙e7 34.h5 ♙f6! 35.h6** [35.hxg6 35...fxg6--]**35...♙g5!** 0-1 [35...♙g5 36.♙g8 ♙xh6 37.♙xf7 ♙d7! 38.♙f2 ♙g7--]**(21) Ivanchuk, V(2744)-Mamedyarov, S(2743)**

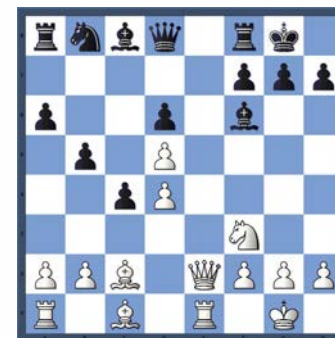
Olympiad, 2014.08.12

**25...d4+!** 0-1 [25...d4+ 26.♙xd4 ♖c4+ 27.♙b3 ♖d8--]**(22) Leko, P(2740)-Lupulescu, C(2625)**

Olympiad, 2014.08.12

**31.♘g6?!** [31.g5!! 31...hxg5 32.♘g6 ♖xf2 33.♖xf2 ♖f7 34.h6! +- gxh6 (34...♖xf2 35.h7+-) 35.♙xh6 ♖xf2 36.♙h8+ ♙f7 37.♙h7#]**31...♖xf2 32.♖xf2 ♖f7+=****(23) Adams, M(2740)-Grandelius, N(2571)**

Olympiad, 2014.08.12

**19.♙h6!! ♙d7** [19...♘d7 20.♙e4+-; 19...gxh6 20.♙e4+-]**20.♙e4 ♙f5 21.♙xf5 ♙xf5 22.♙xf5 gxh6 23.a4! +- bxa4** [23...b4 24.♖ac1+-] **24.♖xa4+-**

(24) Pelletier, Y(2578)-Lim Yee Wen(2311)

Olympiad, 2014.08.12



25...♙xf2+! 26.♖xf2 ♔xh2+ 27.♖e3 [27.♖e1 27...♔h1+ 28.♖d2 ♖xd5+--]

27...♙xe2 28.♔c7+ [28.♖xe2 28...♖xg3+ 29.♖d2 ♖xd5+--]

28...♖a8 29.♘c5 ♔xg3+ 0-1 [29...♔xg3+ 30.♔xg3 ♖xg3+ 31.♖xe2 ♖g2+--]

(25) Illingworth, M(2439)-Khuseinkhodzaev, M(2410)

Olympiad, 2014.08.12



29.♔xg8+! 1-0 [29.♔xg8+ 29...♖xg8 30.gxf3+--]

(26) Rasmussen, A(2522)-Pancevski, F(2464)

Olympiad, 2014.08.12



17...♘f3+!! 18.gxf3 [18.♖h1 18...♘xh2--]

18...♔h3 19.f4 [19.♖e1 19...♖ae8!--]

19...♘g4 20.♖e1 [20.f3 20...♙c5+ 21.♖h1 ♔xf1#]

20...♖ae8! 21.♙e3 [21.♘e4 21...♔xh2+ 22.♖f1 ♔h1+ 23.♖e2 ♖xe4+--]

21...♘xh2-- 22.f3 ♘xf3+ 23.♖f2 ♘h4 24.♖g1 ♖xe3 0-1

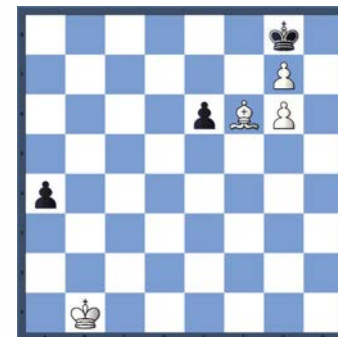
(27) Aronian, L(2805)-Navara, D(2716)

Olympiad, 2014.08.14



26. ♖xc4! bxc4 27. ♘e5++— 1-0

(29) Prokop



1. ♘e5! a3 2. ♖c2! a2 3. ♖d3 a1=♚ 4. ♘xa1 e5 5. ♖e4 ♚xg7
6. ♖f5!+—

(28) Ftacnik, L(2571)-Kovalenko, I(2650)

Olympiad, 2014.08.14



37. ♚xc5! hxg3 [37...dxc5 38. ♖xg6 ♘f2+ 39. ♖g2+—]

38. hxg3 [38. ♚xd6! 38...♘f2+ 39. ♖g2+—]

38... ♚h6 39. ♖xd6 ♘hf6 40. ♖g2+—



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 132

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Editorial Preface

This week's main topic can only be Caruana, Caruana, Caruana and once again Caruana.

In the currently running Sinquefield Super Tournament, which is the strongest chess tournament in the history of chess by average rating, Caruana started with 7 wins in a row against the best chess players in the world, including Magnus Carlsen himself. It is just amazing! It is only in the 8th round that Magnus Carlsen got very lucky to escape to a draw with Black, having a close to lost position.

How can we explain such a miraculous performance by the World Nr2 Caruana Fabiano, who already has a live rating of 2836!?

There are simply no words and it seems that in case Caruana manages to keep this level of play, now I would not bet on Carlsen to stay World Champion for many more years.

In the last 2 rounds Caruana is facing Nakamura and Aronian and both are having a bad tournament, so maybe we will see a record score in history of chess of 9.5/10 points in an absolute top event. This would just be amazing!

It is hard to speak about the other players when after 8 rounds one player has a 3-point lead over everyone else. But all in all Carlsen is playing solidly, Topalov is doing pretty well too, for Vachier-Lagrave the tournament could have been much worse because he saved a few very bad positions and for Aronian and Nakamura the event is just a disaster.

Personally I am very excited to see the last 2 rounds and whether Caruana manages to achieve this all-time record and all-time highest performance for a super tournament.

Meanwhile Vallejo Pons has won the Spanish Championship with the great score of 7.5/9.

In the Women's FIDE Grand Prix in Sharjah the domination of the Chinese girls is obvious. Ju Wenjun is leading with great 8/10, followed by Hou Yifan with 7.5/10.

The Spanish Team Championship is under way with top players like Giri, Ivanchuk, Bacrot...

Already tomorrow a round robin tournament called "Grenke Chess Classics 2014" with 8 top German players is going to start in Baden-Baden, where one of your commentators is going to participate.

We wish you a nice weekend and hopefully you will be able to follow the excitement of the 2 final rounds of the Sinquefield Cup!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

**(1) Topalov, Veselin(2772)
- Vachier Lagrave, Maxime(2768)
[B90]**

2nd Sinquefield Cup 2014(5.3),
2014.08.31



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Two weeks ago I commented the Topalov-Wojtaszek game from the Olympiad, a huge theoretical fight between two great Sicilian Najdorf experts. Here comes another one and Topalov once again shows extreme understanding of this very difficult and complex line.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘f6 5.♗c3 a6 The initial position of the Najdorf defence.

6.f3 e5 7.♗b3 ♘e6 8.♘e3 Black has a wide choice here.

8...♘e7 One of the main moves. [In the mentioned game, Wojtaszek went for 8...♗bd7 9.g4 b5]

9.♔d2 O-O 10.O-O-O



10...a5 A very sharp line. Black goes for a direct attack with a5-a4-a3, but it also has the drawback that it creates a big

hole on b5, which can be vulnerable if White manages to avoid the direct threats. [10...♘bd7 11.g4 b5 is the most common variation, where White has recently employed the subtle 12.♙g1! delaying the g5 push for a move because of some concrete reasons.]

11.a4! White has tried various setups here, but this seems to be the best. White consolidates the b5 square and keeps his knight on b3 which should have gone to an unfortunate square if Black pushes a4. The drawback of this move is the b4 square. Black immediately drives his knight there, where it might turn out to be dangerous attacking piece and it also supports the d5 break.

11...♘a6 12.g4 Topalov knows what he does, as he also plays this line with Black. He wants to send away the f6 knight to avoid the d5 break and also launches an attack against the opponent's king, which is principled in case of opposite side castling. [The Caruana-Topalov game last year continued with 12.♙b5 12...♘c7 13.♙b6 ♙c8 14.♙xc7 ♙xc7 15.g4 ♙fd8 16.g5 ♘h5 with an interesting game that Black went on to win later. Compared to the present game, White is missing his dark squared bishop a lot here.]

12...♘b4 13.♙b1 A standard prophylactic move to avoid tactical ideas.

13...♙c7 [13...d5 does not work immediately because of 14.g5 d4 In many lines this idea turns the initiative to Black, but here 15.gxf6 ♙xf6 16.♘xd4! exd4 17.♙xd4± wins a pawn.]

14.g5 ♘h5 15.♙b5 ♙ac8 Both players are developing their pieces to the ideal squares.



16.♙hg1 A standard move in this line, which might look a bit mysterious at first sight. White has successfully prevented the d5 break and the queenside is fixed, so he does not need to worry about any attacking plans. White has different ways to improve his position, one is the regrouping of the knight with Nc1-d3, trading the strong one on b4 and working out the d5 square for the other knight. The aim would be to jump with the knight to d5 and being able to recapture with a piece, keeping the structure and the pawn on e4. Black does not want to just sit and usually looks for counterplay with f5. The Rhg1 move is a perfect preparation for this.

16...f5 17.gxf6 Consequent! White opens the g-file for his rook. [However, in this particular situation it seems to be even stronger to play 17.♘d5! The point is that after Black has occupied the f5 square he cannot react with Nxd5 exd5 and Bf5, attacking the c2 pawn, while retreating the bishop drops the a5 pawn. 17...♙xd5 18.exd5 ♙xc2+ 19.♙xc2 ♙xc2 20.♘xa5± is also perfect for White. The b7 pawn is hanging and Bd2 is threatening to win some material.]

17...♙xf6 18.♙g2 ♘h5 [18...♙f7 19.♙g5 also looks fine for White, with the idea to play f4 and in case of exf4 Nd4 could be very unpleasant!]

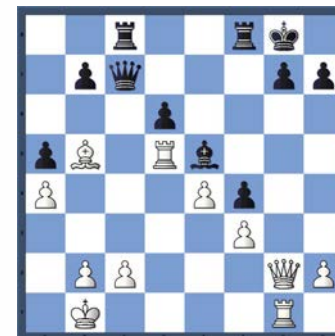


19. ♖c1! A perfect positional plan! As we already discussed, White wants to trade the strong b4 knight and then occupy the d5 square and take back with a piece. This entire strategic plan is about working out the light squares and to obtain an opposite colored bishop middlegame, where the white one will be more active.

19... ♜f6 20. ♖d3 ♜xd3 Other moves are not better: [After some useful move like 20... ♔h8 White continues his plan with 21. ♖xb4 axb4 22. ♖d5 ♜xd5 23. ♖xd5 The b4 pawn and the opened a-file do not give Black any extra attacking ideas. The b5 bishop is controlling everything.; 20... ♖c6 is interesting to keep the knight and try to jump to d4, but White keeps the advantage with 21. f4! exf4 22. ♖xf4 ♖xf4 23. ♜xf4 Black has no time to take on c3 because the d6 pawn is hanging with tempo and after 23... ♖e5 24. ♖d5 ♜xd5 25. ♖xd5 White is perfectly again with the two bishops in an open position.]

21. ♖xd3 ♖f4 Black's defensive strategy involves to getting a strong dark squared bishop on the long diagonal, but as we will see that bishop will only look strong.

22. ♜xf4 exf4 23. ♖d5 ♜xd5 24. ♖xd5 ♜e5 Both sides have achieved their aims, but who was right?! We have reached an opposite colored bishop middlegame and the principle says, the player who has the more active bishop is better...



25. c3! This is the key! White completely neutralizes the e5 bishop with this move, while he is going to transfer his own bishop to the a2-g8 diagonal. The drawback of the a5 move can be perfectly seen now. White can maneuver with his pieces as he wishes, creating more and more weaknesses in Black's camp.

25... ♖f6 Black tries to trade a pair of rooks with Rg6, which would ease his defense, but Topalov rightly avoids it.

26. ♜f2 b6 Black prevents the potential threat of Qa7, which could cause the end of the a5 pawn after the retreat of the b5 bishop.

27. ♜a6 ♖b8



28. ♜d3! White frees the b5 square in order to pin all the black pieces to the b6 pawn with Rb5 and then he wants to transfer his bishop to c2-b3!

28...♔h8 29.♖b5 ♜f7 It is hard to suggest any plan for Black. Vachier decides to trade the annoying rook on b5 by maneuvering his own rook to c5. In general this should be a good idea to get rid of some pieces and ease the pressure. Meanwhile, Topalov has time to improve his position.

30.h4 Another very useful move. White is squeezing on the kingside with h4 to create potential tactical ideas in the future.

30...♞a7



31.♞c2! Suddenly White activates his queen along the b3-e6 diagonal. It is amazing how effectively White can use the light squares, while Black is completely useless on the dark ones.

31...♜c7 32.♞b3 ♜c5 33.♞e6 ♜xb5 34.♙xb5 A pair of rooks is traded. At least the problems are temporarily solved around the b6 pawn, but suddenly another thing might give reasons for Black to worry about. The white pieces are still more active, he is threatening with Rg5-f5-f7 and if Black sticks to his exchanging policy, even the opposite colored bishop endgame could be easily lost for him, because the white king simply marches to c6 on the light squares and Black cannot protect his queenside pawns.



34...♜f8 I assume Black played this move with the idea to trade queens with Qf7, but then he changed his mind... [Black cannot hope for any counterplay with 34...♞c7 35.♜g5 ♞c5 White simply continues his plan: 36.♜f5 and there is only one check on g1...]

35.h5 [35.♞c4 was also possible to keep the queens on the board. 35...♞f7 36.♞c6]

35...♞c7 [It would have been more consequent and the only practical chance to play 35...♞f7 36.♞xf7 ♜xf7 although this endgame is going to be a long torture, which I don't wish to anyone... 37.♙c4!? (37.♙a2 37...♜c7 38.♙b3 ♙g8 39.♙c4+ ♙f8 is also bad, but Black might continue suffering.)]

36.♙a2 Topalov prepares for the endgame and improves his king by driving it to b3. Black cannot create any threats against it even there.

36...♞d8 37.♞g4 ♞c7 38.♙b3 ♜c8 Black is hoping for some tricks with Bxc3, but it will never work... [38...♞f7+ was more resistant, although the torture starts again with 39.♙c4 ♞e7 40.♜d1 followed by Rd5-b5. Sometimes Qg1 afterwards, or h6 g6 and Rxe5 could be decisive. Black's chances to survive are very small...]

39.♞e6 ♞c5 [39...♙xc3 loses to 40.♜c1!+-]



40.♖g5! Excellent play by Topalov! White switches his rook to f5-f7 again. Black is simply unable to control all the ideas around the light squares.

40...♖b8 41.♖f5 [Black was so impressed that he resigned! It might look a bit premature, but it is justified as the following lines show. First of all, White is threatening with Be8 and the mate is unavoidable on f8! 41.♖f5 41...♖c8 is the most tenacious, but the endgame is easily winning for White: (41...h6 42.♗e8!+-; 41...♖c7 42.♗e8! ♗f6 Here the nicest win is: 43.♖xf6! gxf6 44.h6! Black cannot avoid getting mated in a few moves. 44...♖d8 (44...♖b7 45.♖xf6+ ♔g8 46.♗b5+-) 45.♖f7! ♖xe8 46.♖xf6+ ♔g8 47.♖g7#) 42.♖xc8+ ♖xc8 43.♖f7 Threatening Rb7 and after 43...♖b8 44.♗c6 comes Kc4-b5. Despite the material equality and the opposite colored bishops, Black can resign. A masterpiece by Topalov!] **1-0**

(2) Tomashevsky, Evgeny(2701) - Nepomniachtchi, Ian(2714) [A04]

5th Yaroslav the Wise Rapid(5.3),
2014.08.26



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Nepomniachtchi was the convincing winner of this rapid tournament, but in his game against Tomashevsky, he ran into a very nice defeat.

1.♘f3 Tomashevsky wants to avoid the Gruenfeld defence and he starts with Nf3, c4 to keep more options for an Anti-Gruenfeld line.

1...c5 2.c4 ♘f6 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.♗g2 ♘c6 6.♘c3 ♘c7 An old line, which comes back to fashion again. Black would like to build a strong center with e5, which he could do successfully in case of some harmless moves by White. Theory is developing quickly even in such sidelines and Tomashevsky plays a subtle continuation.

7.a3!? With the idea to explode the strong c5 pawn with b4 to gain more control over the center and the queenside.

7...♖b8 Nepomniachtchi has already tried this move in some games. This motif can be seen in different lines and the point is to meet the b4 move with cxb4 axb4 and b5, blockading the queenside and Black leaves from the h1-a8 diagonal with his rook. [A new direction was successfully played by Karjakin twice nowadays: 7...g6!? This is slightly unusual here, because Black usually develops his pieces with e5 and Be7. 8.h4 h6 To meet h5 with g5. 9.d3 ♗g7; The point of the 7.a3 move becomes clear in case of Black's standard reaction.

Now on 7...e5



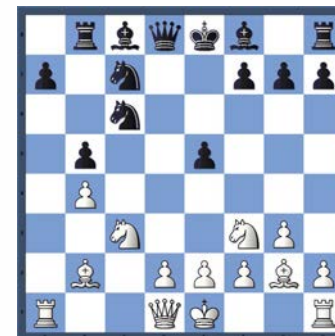
8.b4! cxb4 9.axb4 ♗xb4 10.♖xe5! this tactical idea wins back the pawn and the central e5 pawn has a much bigger value than the one on the queenside, therefore White is clearly better. 10...♗xe5 11.♔a4+ ♖c6 12.♗xc6+ bxc6 13.♔xb4± and Ba3 next, keeping the king in the center.]

8.b4! White can execute his undermining plan on the queenside without losing a pawn.

8...cxb4 9.axb4 b5 [9...♗xb4 could be met by 10.♔a4+ ♖c6 11.♗e5 is again perfect for White.]

10.♗b2 This is the novelty over Nepomniachtchi's previous game, which continued with 10.0-0. This one followed by the moves that we will see in the game was definitely a prepared plan.

10...e5 A consequent reaction! Black occupies the center and attacks the b4 pawn.



11.♔c1!! This extremely deep move was the idea of hurrying to develop the bishop to b2. White indirectly attacks the c6 knight, as he has created the threat of Nxb5. When Black prevents this idea somehow, the Ne4-c5 plan becomes very unpleasant. Qc2 would have served the same ideas, but that would have moved into the Nxb4 tempo.

11...♖b6 Black protects the knight and is threatening again with Bxb4. [11...♗xb4 loses to 12.♗a2!± as the black pieces lose their coordination.; 11...♗b7 is similar to the game. 12.♗e4! f6 (12...♗xb4 13.♗xe5 ♔c8 14.♔b1±) 13.♗c5 ♗xc5 14.♔xc5± White achieved what he wanted.]

12.♗e4! White would happily trade the e5 pawn for the b5. Black must waste another important tempo on protecting it and his king remains in the center.

12...f6 13.0-0 ♗xb4



14.d4! Principled and strong! White opens the central lines in front of the king to make use of the discoordination of the black pieces. Black is already in deep trouble.

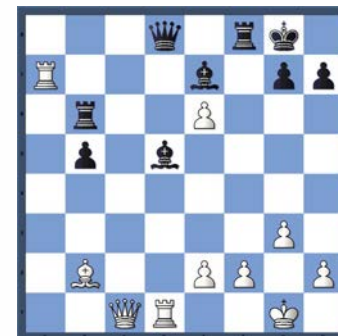
14...f5 Black tries to lock the center with e4 when the knight goes away, however Tomashevsky had something different in mind. [14...exd4 does not solve the problems because of 15.♘xd4! ♘xd4 16.♙xd4 ♙xd4 17.♚xc7 Black collapses. 17...♚d7 (17...O-O 18.♖xa7 f5 19.e3+- wins the rook on b6.) 18.♖fc1 ♙xc7 19.♖xc7+- The rooks on the 7th rank decide the outcome of the game.; 14...♙f5 does not help either since after 15.♘h4! ♙d7 (15...♙xe4 16.♙xe4 ♘xd4 17.♙xd4 exd4 18.♖xa7+-) 16.♖d1+- Black has no adequate defence against the opening of the game.]



15.♘xe5! An excellently calculated piece sacrifice, which gives White a decisive advantage. If one takes a look at the position, it can easily be realized that it is calling for a tactical shot, but that must be well calculated.

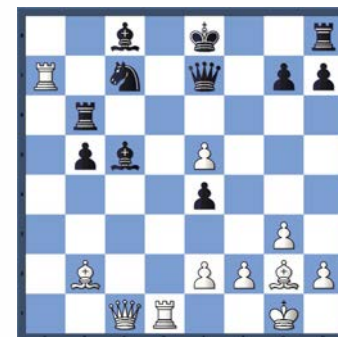
15...♘xe5 16.dxe5 fxe4 17.♖d1! As simple as that! Black has problems with covering his pieces on the c-file. Both white rooks are joining the game with great power.

17...♚e7 [17...♘d5 also loses after 18.♙xe4 ♙e6 19.♖xa7 O-O 20.♙xd5 ♙xd5 21.e6! There are too many pins and threats, Black cannot defend... 21...♙e7



White has different ways to win, but the most spectacular is definitely 22.♙g5!! ♙xg5 23.♖xg7+ White wins back all the sacrificed material one by one... 23...♙h8 24.♖xg5+ ♖f6 25.♖gx5 ♙e7 26.♖d8+ ♙g7 27.♖1d7 ♖xe6 28.♖xe7+ ♖xe7 29.♖d6+-; 17...♙d7 18.♙h3!+- is a key move!]

18.♖xa7! ♙c5 [18...♙b7 loses to 19.♖xb7! ♖xb7 20.♙c6+-]



19.♙d4! Another very strong move and Black cannot hold his minor pieces on the c-file anymore.

19...♙xd4 [19...♖c6 is refuted by 20.♙xe4+-]

20.♖xc7 ♙xf2+ 21.♙h1! Taking the bishop was also winning, but this is more simple.

21...♙d7 Up to this point Tomashevsky played brilliant chess. He is completely winning after each move. He could have

chosen some shorter ways to convert the advantage, but the outcome of the game never saw any doubts...

22.e3 [22.♖dxd7 22...♙xd7 23.♖xd7 ♔xd7 24.♕h3+- and a queen check on the c-file next would have been decisive.]

22...♙xe5 23.♖dxd7 ♕xe3 [23...O-O Black was always missing this tempo to settle his king into safety. This time it was already too late: 24.♖xg7+ ♙xg7 25.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 26.♙c7+-]

24.♙xe3 [After 24.♙a3+- the mate is inevitable.]

24...♖a6 25.h4 O-O 26.♖xg7+ [26.♙c5+- was again a slightly shorter way to mate with the two rooks on the 7th rank.]

26...♙xg7 27.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 28.♕xe4 The game is over. Tomashevsky was probably low on time and Black decided to play some unnecessary moves...

28...h6 29.♙d4+ ♖ff6 30.♙d7+ ♔f8 31.♙xb5 ♖ae6 32.♕f5 ♖b6 33.♙e5 ♖fd6 34.♔g2 ♔f7 35.♔h3 ♖dc6 36.♔g4 ♖c4+ 37.♔h5 ♖cc6 38.g4 ♔f8 39.g5 hxg5 40.hxg5 ♖d6 41.♙h8+ ♔f7 42.♙h7+ ♔e8 43.g6 ♖d2 44.♙h8+ ♔e7 45.♙e5+ ♔f8 46.g7+ ♔g8 47.♕e6+ ♖xe6 48.♙xe6+ ♔xg7 49.♙h6+ Black finally resigned. A fantastic game! **1-0**

(3) Caruana, Fabiano(2801) - Topalov, Veselin(2772) [B46]

2nd Sinquefeld Cup 2014(6.1),
2014.09.02



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

The rise of the new superstar Fabiano Caruana began already a few years ago, but what the only 21-year old Italian is showing in the Sinquefeld Cup is just unreal! 7 straight wins in the strongest chess tournament in history! Unbelievable. From a professional point of view I can tell that Caruana is not very lucky and his opponents don't blunder-he is simply playing much better chess. Great preparation, great positional play, great in tactics and precise in converting his advantage, this is what Caruana is showing us in his last games. And in the current game we will see a great example of how good Caruana Fabiano really is. After the opening Black makes a minimal mistake and gets himself in trouble. By playing solid/strong moves White's advantage is getting bigger and bigger and Caruana doesn't miss the moment to finish his opponent with a nice winning strike!

1.e4 Caruana almost always sticks to 1.e4.

1...c5 Topalov is also a very fighting player and almost every single one of his games in full of action, which is why his main opening is the Sicilian.

2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 What is also nice about the play of Caruana is that he is always going for the main lines and usually has some new little idea in his pocket.

5...a6 Not the most popular line, but quite a tricky one.

6.♘xc6 Clearly the main move. From a general point of view

of course it is never great to give Black the possibility of having a strong center, but now the move a6 will be useless.

6...bxc6 7.♘d3 d5 8.O-O ♘f6 So far things were very usual and now White has quite a few choices.



9.♖e1 is one of the main moves. Another possible plan for White is the idea with f4, it can be played over several move orders and it is usually connected with putting the queen on e2.

9...♘e7 is also the main move of theory and a very logical one. Black is preparing to castle kingside after which Black's position would be perfectly fine, so White needs to act quickly.

10.e5 The most logical move.

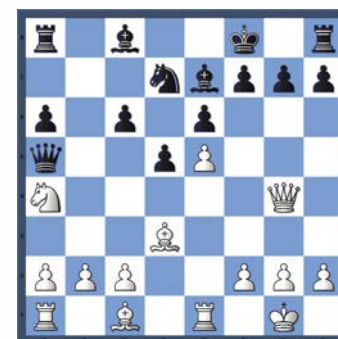
10...♞d7 11.♚g4 This is the idea of the move before 10.e5. The pawn on g7 is under an unpleasant attack.

11...♙f8 is clearly the main move. Caruana already has quite some experience in this position as he is playing it with both colors. After 11...g6 12.Bh6 the position is sharp, but White seems to have an advantage.

12.♞a4 An interesting move. White is trying to sort of save a tempo on playing the b3 move-which is actually useful anyway, so it is quite unclear if it actually brings White anything more than just being a different move order. [12.b3

12...c5 13.♞a4 is the more usual move order. White's idea is clear, to play c4 and fix the black pawn structure.]

12...♚a5 Topalov is immediately reacting and trying to figure out the difference. [Maybe Black should have continued with the usual 12...c5 and now White has a choice between getting back to the normal line with 13.b3 or try 13.c4 ♚a5 14.♚d1 d4 and for me it is very hard to say if White really did something important in comparison to 13.b3. It seems to me that Black is doing fine here.]



13.♖e2! A very unusual and a very strong move. White is preparing the Bd2 move and at the same time in many lines the rook on e2 could be very well placed, for example in case of the f4 push followed by Rf1.

13...h5?! Maybe not a bad move, but a very risky one. Black is launching some play on the kingside, where it is actually the black king who is finding himself "naked". [13...c5 looks much more solid. 14.♘d2 ♚c7 (14...♞xe5? 15.♖xe5 ♚xd2 16.♞b6 ♖b8 17.♞xc8 ♖xc8 and now White has 18.♖xd5 with a very big advantage.) 15.c4 Once again Blacks seems to not be able to take on e5 and in case of not playing Nxe5 the move Qa5 was just a loss of a tempo. 15...♞xe5 16.♙f4! ♞xg4 17.♙xc7 and because of White's great development Black's position is very dangerous here.]

14. ♖f4 There was no other place to go because the knight on a4 is hanging.

14...g5 If you say A with the h5 move you need to say B with the g5 move.

15. ♘d2 is also the only move for White.

15... ♖c7? I think this is already a serious mistake. By leaving the queens on the board, the h5 and g5 moves become clearly contra-productive. White is only getting more attacking targets. [Usually in the Sicilian it is a good idea for Black to exchange the queens if possible and here it is no different: 15...gxf4 16. ♘xa5 Now Black has a lot of different moves, but for example after 16... ♖g8 if White is better here, it should be minimally better.]

16. ♖g3 Now the g5 pawn became a target.

16...h4



17. ♖g4 Could it be that Black made a miscalculation and was hoping to win the pawn on e5 when playing 13... h5?!

17... ♖g8 [17... ♘xe5? of course doesn't work because of 18. ♖xe5! ♖xe5 19. ♘c3 and the rook on h8 is falling.]

18. ♖ae1 Simple and good. The e5 pawn is protected.

18...c5 What else?!

19. c4 dxc4 This move can't be good either as Black is opening the position further while his king has a very unsafe place on f8. [19...d4 was a better move. 20.b3 ♘b7 21. ♘b2 with the plan of playing Be4 and Nd3 at the right moment. The problem in comparison to the usual structures with the pawns on h7 and g7, where Black is doing more or less fine, is that now the pawns on h4 and g5 are very badly placed and are under constant attack. White clearly has a big advantage here.]

20. ♘xc4 ♘b7



21. h3! I like such moves a lot! Black's only chance is to use the long diagonal a8-h1 and maybe at some good moment to play h3 himself, so Caruana is stopping all the black hopes and at the same time h3 could be a very useful move for the future.

21... ♖d8 22. ♘c3 ♘b8 Topalov is trying to at least get his knight to d4.

23. ♖e3 Another very strong silent move by Caruana. It stops Black from playing Nc6 and White wants to play b3-Nb2-Nd3, bringing his last piece into the attack. Black is almost paralyzed.

23... ♘c6? After this move all is lost! Black is falling into the trap. [23... ♖g7 was better. Black now wants to play Nc6-Nd4, with a very bad position, but at least the fight would go on.]

24. ♖xe6! Black gets what he was asking for. To play with an open pawn position and a king on f8 is very dangerous.

24... ♖xe6 25. ♖f3+ Black has 2 moves now:

25... ♖e8 [Topalov was probably initially planning to play 25... ♖g7 but here White is winning with a very nice combination too: 26. ♖h5 ♖df8 27. ♖f6!! Black has no defence against the mating attack... 27... ♖xf6 28. exf6+ ♖xf6 29. ♖xg5+ Winning back the piece and getting a totally winning position.]



26. ♖xe6 There is no more escape here for Black.

26... ♖g7 [26... ♖d4 was not much better since after 27. ♖xg8+ ♖d7 28. ♖f7 ♖xf3+ 29. gxf3 White is 2 pawns up and he still has his mating attack.]

27. ♖h6 Precision until the end...

27... ♖d4 I guess Topalov still had little hopes to survive this game, but not after the next move!

28. e6! A very beautiful move! Of course White also had many other moves which probably would have won the game as well, but it is great to see how precise Caruana is acting in winning positions, practically not giving his opponents any chances for survival.

28... ♖xf3+ Black doesn't really have many options...

29. gxf3 The rook on g7 is hanging and in case of 29... Rg8 White has an easy win with 30. Qh5.

29... ♖f8 30. ♖h5+ ♖e7 Now the most simple move is



31. ♖xg7 What a great game by Caruana! Logical strong moves and a beautiful finish. Could it be that we finally see somebody who could be a match for Carlsen- or even somebody who is stronger?! **1-0**

(4) Vallejo Pons, Francisco(2698) - Arribas Lopez, Arribas(2503) [D27]

79th ch-ESP 2014(5.1),
2014.08.29



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Vallejo has clearly been the best Spanish player for many years. He participated in a lot of super tournaments like Linares, Monaco or Bilbao, but usually without big success as he is having trouble playing the very best chess players. On the other hand in the lower categories Paco has always been very effective. Right now we are going to see a game of the winner of this year's Spanish championship with a great overall score of 7.5/9, where he was in a great attacking mood, practically tearing his opponents' positions apart with powerful calculation and great tactical blows.

1.d4 Vallejo is playing a lot of tricky openings with White, but the start of the current game will be very solid

1...e6 A provocation for the French defence which could appear after 2.e4.

2.c4 d5 3.♘f3 White chooses not to go for the classical Queen's Gambit.

3...dxc4 A rare move order, but a possible one.

4.e3 A very solid move and we are back to one of the main lines of the Queen's Gambit accepted.

4...♘f6 5.♙xc4 a6 A lot of different move orders are possible here, but of course there is nothing wrong with starting with 5...c5.

6.O-O c5 Now White has to choose...



7.♙b3 is one of the main moves. We also often see 7.dxc5, entering a minimally better endgame for White, or 7.Qe2 with the idea of playing Rd1 next.

7...b5 Black is picking a very risky line, which is exactly the right reaction. It is important for White to win control over the c4 square, which can be used by the knight. [7...cxd4 8.exd4 ♘c6 9.♘c3 ♙e7 and we are in a classical position which has been played very often on any kind of level.]

8.a4! b4 [To hold the b5-c5 pawns is very difficult for Black: 8...♙b7 9.axb5 axb5 10.♖xa8 ♙xa8 11.♙e2 The attack on the b5 pawn is very unpleasant. 11...c4 12.♙c2 and White should be clearly better here because of the b3 or e4 ideas.]

9.♘bd2 9.e4 was also possible, but it leads to the same position as in the game over a different move order.

9...♙b7 10.e4! A very important move that puts the whole variation of Black into question.

10...cxd4 Other moves weren't better. [10...♘xe4 was almost instantly losing since after 11.♘xe4 ♙xe4 White has a wide choice of good moves, but the most simple is 12.♖e1 and in case of 12...♙d5 13.dxc5 ♙xb3 14.♙xb3 ♙xc5 15.♙g5 White just has a winning position.]

11.e5 ♘fd7 12.♘c4 Now we can see how great the white

knight is feeling on the c4 square.

12...♖c6



13.♗g5 A very typical move in this kind of position. In case Black was in time for Be7 and 0-0 everything would be great, but of course it is just impossible. White's development is just fantastic, which gives him a lot of different tactical ideas.

13...f6 Now Black's position is going to be overrun by the white pieces... [After 13...♗c7 14.♖c1 Black's position is also very dangerous.]

14.exf6 gxf6 Black's position is on the verge and this is easy to see, but White still needs to find the right attacking moves to prove it.



15.♖e1!! An excellent decision by Vallejo. White spots the

right weakness and this is the e6 pawn. [15.♗xd4 would lead to a crazy position: 15...♗xd4! 16.♗h5+ ♖e7 17.♗f4 with very unclear complications.]

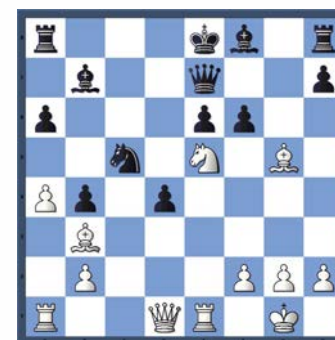
15...♗c5 is the only move for Black. [15...fxg5 is of course losing: 16.♖xe6+ ♗e7 17.♗d6+ ♖f8 18.♗xb7 with a totally winning position for White.]

16.♗fe5! Another great attacking move in a complicated position, not giving Black any rest.

16...♗xe5 [16...fxg5? 17.♗h5+ ♖e7 18.♗f7#]

17.♗xe5 What to do now for Black?! White wants to play Qh5 next or even moves like Rc1 or Nd3, with even stronger pressure on the e6 pawn, could almost already decide the game.

17...♗e7 Not a bad move. Black is protecting the e6 pawn and defending from Qh5 because he is freeing the d8 square for his king to escape the mating threats.



18.♗d3 Absolutely correct play by White, not getting tempted by a win of material. [18.♗h5+ is a much worse move since after 18...♗d8 19.♗f7+ ♖d7 it is not that clear if White has anything better than to give a perpetual check after 20.♗e5+ (20.♗xh8? 20...♗xb3) 20...♗d8 21.♗f7+]

18...♖xb3 19.♔xb3 Black managed to exchange a couple of pieces, but the main problems remains. The king is open and the pawn on e6 is still under heavy attack.

19...♔f7 [It is bad luck for Black that 19...♗d5 is not working because of 20.♔xd5! exd5]



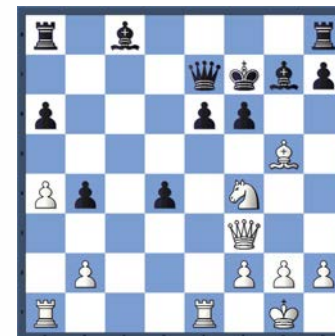
21.♗xf6 and White is winning the material back. **21...♔f7**
22.♗xe7 ♗xe7 It is easy to see that this endgame must be winning for White, for example after **23.♖e5** Black is going to lose a few of his pawns during the next moves.]

20.♗f4! A nice finishing move. The pressure on the e6 pawn is just too much to handle for Black.

20...♗c8 There is no other possibility of defending the e6 pawn without losing a lot of material. [Of course White is winning after 20...fxg5 **21.♖xe6 gxf4 22.♖xe7+ ♔xe7 23.♔xb4+** and **Qxb7** next.]

21.♔f3 Attacking the a8 rook and threatening Nd5.

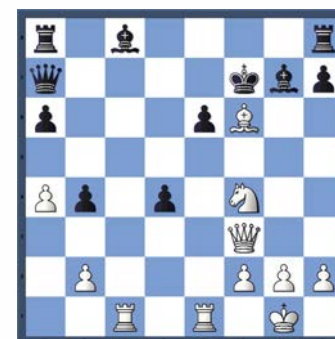
21...♗g7 There were already no better moves for Black.



22.♖ac1 A nice move! Sometimes a threat is stronger than the direct action. White wants to play **Qxa8** or **Nd5** now, followed by **Rc7**. [After **22.♔xa8 22...fxg5** of course Whites position should still be winning, but Black would keep on fighting.]

22...♔a7 All the moves were losing by now...

23.♗xf6! Finishing in style! **23.Nh5** or **23.Nd5** would be the "cold" end for Black.



23...♗xf6 24.♗h5 Black can't defend from **Qxf6** or **Nxf6** next.

24...♔e8 [24...♔e7 would lead to a prettier mate: **25.♗xf6 ♔xf6 26.♖c7+ ♔g6 27.♔g3+ ♔h6** and the nice **28.♖e5** Black can't escape the mate during the next moves, the threat is to play **Qh3-Qh5** mate.]

25. ♔xf6 Black's position is just a disaster and he doesn't even have any material advantage, so it was time to resign. A really very nice game by Vallejo, although we could feel a clear difference in level. **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Nakamura, H(2787)-Caruana, F(2801)

Sinquefield Cup, 2014.08.31

1... -+



(6) Rakhmanov, A(2626)-Vidit, S(2602)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2014.08.26

1... -+



(7) Kuzubov, Y(2667)-Vidit, S(2602)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2014.08.28

1. ±



(8) Zhao Xue(2508)-Koneru, H(2598)

Sharjah WGP, 2014.08.31

1. +-



(9) Nepomniachtchi, I(2714)-Potkin, V(2610)

Yaroslav rapid, 2014.08.26

1. +-



(10) Moiseenko, A(2707)-Nepomniachtchi, I(2714)

Yaroslav rapid, 2014.08.27

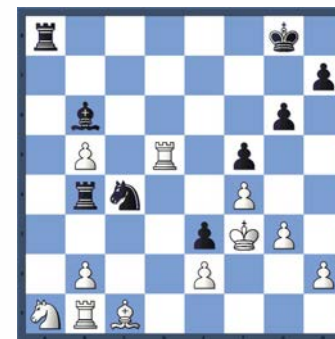
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(11) Gorlanov, V(2251)-Zvjaginsev, V(2659)

St. Petersburg rapid, 2014.08.30

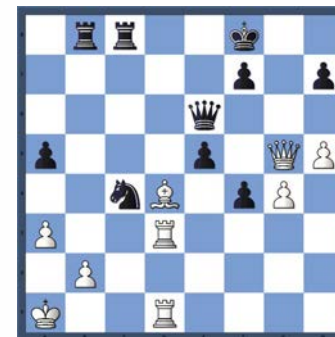
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(12) Sysolyatin, E(2289)-Khismatullin, D(2681)

St. Petersburg rapid, 2014.08.31

1. +-



(13) Moiseenko, A(2707)-Aleksandrov, A(2595)

St. Petersburg rapid, 2014.08.31

1. +-



(14) Romanov, E(2643)-Moiseenko, A(2707)

St. Petersburg rapid, 2014.08.31

1... -+



Endgame section

(15) Koneru, Humby(2598)
- Hou Yifan(2661)

Sharjah WGP,
2014.08.28



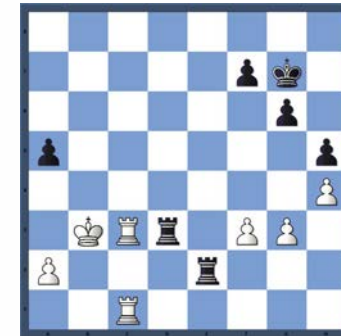
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



It seems like an easy draw, but this evaluation is far from reality. Black has more active rooks and the white pawns on the kingside are weak and vulnerable. They are missing the king from g2 and this allows Black to play for a win.

35...♖d3! 36.♞c3 ♜e2+! One of the rooks is going to penetrate.

37.♞b3 [White cannot neutralize both rooks with 37.♞1c2 because 37...♞xc3! 38.♞xc3 ♜e3+ wins a pawn.]



37...a4+! An excellent decision! Hou Yifan wants to eliminate the queenside in order to avoid any counterplay, which the a2 pawn could cause after taking on a5. [37...♞xc3+ 38.♞xc3 ♜g2 was worse, because White is in time to play 39.f4! a4+ (On 39...♞f6 40.a3! and Ka4 next!) 40.♞xa4 ♞xa2+ 41.♞b5 In comparison to the 37...a4 line, where the black rook stands on g2, Black is missing one tempo to attack the g3 weakness in time with Kf6-f5-g4. 41...♞f6 42.♞c6 ♞f5 43.♞d6= White is in time to counterattack the f7 pawn and holds the draw.]

38.♞a3 This is the best chance since White saves the pawn on a2. [38.♞xa4 runs into big difficulties after 38...♞xc3 39.♞xc3 ♞xa2+ 40.♞b5 ♞g2! This is the crucial tempo! 41.f4 ♞f6 42.♞c6 ♞f5 43.♞d6 ♞g4 and Black wins! 44.♞e7 ♞xg3 45.♞xg3+ ♞xg3 46.♞xf7 ♞xf4 47.♞xg6 ♞g4—+ White cannot squeeze the king to the h-file.]

38...♞xc3+ 39.♞xc3 ♜g2 40.♞d3 [On 40.f4 40...♞f6 Black improves his position with Kf5-g4. White has no useful move anyway, as the rook must protect the g3 pawn, while taking on a4 loses as we have seen in the 38.Kxa4 line.]

40...♞xg3? In my opinion Black should not have hurried with this capture. [He could simply have improved his king first with Kf5 or Ke5, as White has no useful move anyway. 40...♞f6 followed by Kf5 or Ke5 and only then to take on g3. I believe Black should objectively be winning.]

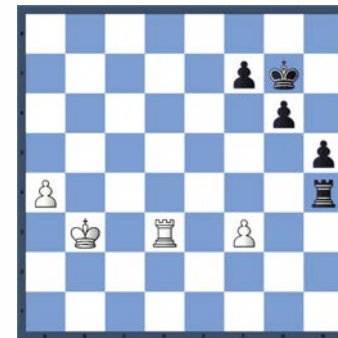
41. ♖xa4 ♜h3 42. ♔b3? The is the losing move! I understand the point, that Koneru wants to advance her a-pawn and she expects her opponent to stop it from behind with Rh1-a1. Therefore she keeps her king on b3 in order to be able to prevent this idea with Kb2. However White blunders another way how Black can stop the a-pawn. [It was more logical and also much better to play 42. ♔b5 to support the promotion of the a-pawn with the king. 42... ♜xh4 43. a4 ♜h1 (43... ♜f4? makes no sense now: 44. a5 h4 45. a6) 44. a5 g5 45. a6 h4 46. a7 ♜a1 47. ♔b6 h3



48. ♜d2! We could get this position from many different move orders after 42. Kb5. White is threatening with Rh2, therefore the next move is forced: 48... f5 49. ♔b7 This is the critical point. Black would like to sacrifice his rook for the a-pawn and promote his own pawns, but White can defend succesfully here: 49... g4 (49... ♔g6 is met by 50. ♜d6+! ♔h7 (50... ♔h5?? even loses to 51. ♜a6 and Qh8 checks the queen at the end.) 51. ♜a6! (51. ♜d2 already loses in view of 51... ♜xa7+! 52. ♔xa7 g4 53. fxg4 fxg4 and the pawns are promoting themselves. 54. ♜d4 h2--+) 51... ♜xa6 52. ♔xa6 h2 53. a8=♔ h1=♔ 54. ♔b7+ ♔g6 55. ♔c6+ Black is forced to agree a draw in view of the perpetual check, because 55... ♔h5?? drops the queen after 56. ♔e8+! and Qh8 next.) 50. fxg4 fxg4 51. ♜d4!= and White captures the pawns since after h2, the g4 pawn is hanging with

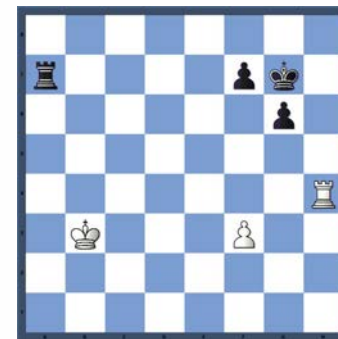
check.]

42... ♜xh4 43. a4



43... ♜f4! This was the idea which was most probably missed by Koneru. Black stops the a-pawn from f6. The rook stands perfectly on f4, because it also cuts the white king and as soon as White plays a6, Rf6 a7 Ra6 wins the pawn. Otherwise Black simply advances his own passed pawn. Black is winning.

44. a5 h4 45. a6 ♜f6! 46. a7 ♜a6 47. ♜d4 ♜xa7 48. ♜xh4



48... ♜c7! The last key move! Black cuts the king far away from the f3 pawn. The rest is very easy, he only needs to make progress slowly on the kingside and White can only watch this.

49. ♜f4 ♜c1 50. ♔b2 ♜c5 Black is threatening to simplify to a winning pawn endgame after Rf5!

51.♖a4 [51.♖b3 loses to 51...♗f5! 52.♗xf5 gxf5 53.♖c4 ♖g6 54.♖d5 ♖g5 55.♖e5 f6+ 56.♖e6 f4—+ and Kh4-g3 next.]

51...♖f6 52.♗a7 g5 53.♗b7 ♖g6 54.♗a7 f6 Black improves his position move by move.

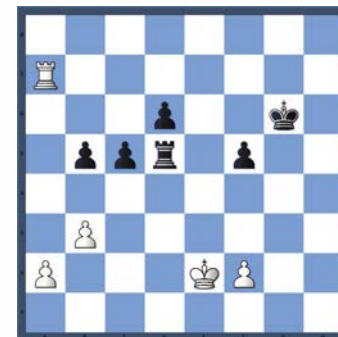
55.♗a6 ♖f5 56.♗a4 ♗e5 [White resigned in view of the threat Re3. In case of 56...♗e5 57.♗a3 ♖f4 refreshing the Re3 idea 58.♖c2 ♗e3 59.♗a6 f5—+ wins.] **0-1**

(16) Nakamura, Hikaru(2787) - Topalov, Veselin(2772)

2nd Sinquefeld Cup 2014(8.3),
2014.09.04



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



Nakamura is having a horrible tournament in his home country and this game was no exception. After the opening Nakamura quickly got a worse position in the Berlin, then things got worse and worse and finally he found himself in this very bad looking rook endgame. During the next moves we will see great technique by Topalov and a good example of how to convert such positions.

45...b4! A great positional decision. Black had couple of choices, but 45.. .b4! looks just great. It is clear that White will have to play a3 at some point and Black has prepared a very nice future winning plan.

46.a4 bxa3 The most simple.

47.♗xa3 and here comes the winning move:



47...Re5+! Perfectly played by Black. Now the white king has to choose whether to stay on the kingside or to protect the queenside.

48.Ke3 Queenside it is... [To stay on the kingside would lead to the same result as in the game: 48.Kf3 48...Kf6! now the black king will slowly come closer to the b-pawn and White can't do anything about it. The position is totally lost and the white king is nicely cut off on the e-file.]

48...Kg5 The black king is going for the f -pawn.

49.Ra6 White is trying to disturb Black by attacking the weakest pawn on d6, but of course it does not really help to save the game.

49...Re1 The most simple. First Black is forcing the white king to come back to d2

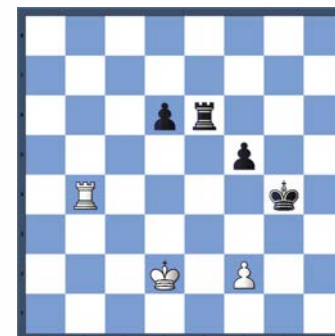
50.Ke2 and only now he is defending the d6 pawn.

50...Re6 Black is now ready to proceed the movement of his king and White can't do anything about it.

51.Rb6 Nakamura decides to at least exchange a pawn to have some theoretical chances of drawing the position.

51...Kg4 52.b4 cxb4 There is no reason even to think about any other moves, Black is easily winning here.

53.Rxb4+



53...Kf3 As we can see, it is only a matter of time until the f2 pawn is going to fall and to get a drawn position the white king should have been placed on the "short side", so on h2, which is simply impossible because he is cut off along the e-file.

54.Ke1 f4 55.Rd4 White is waiting for Black to win the game.

55...Re4 The d6 pawn is not important anymore.

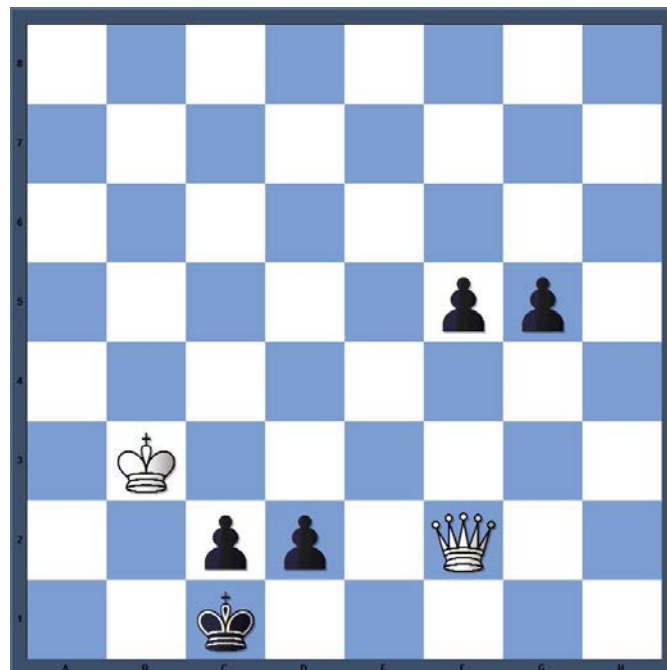
56.Rd2 d5 Of course 56...Kg2 would win the game as well...

57.Ra2 Kg2 followed by f3, Kf1 and Re2. We just saw perfect technique by Black and a few easy looking, but not that easy to play positional decisions which we should remember for our own games! **0-1**

Surprise section / study

(17) Kubbel

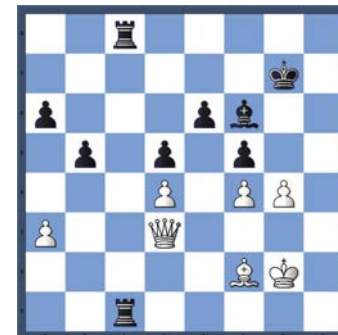
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Solutions

(18) Nakamura, H(2787)-Caruana, F(2801)

Sinquefield Cup, 2014.08.31



44...fxg4?! [44...♙h4!! 45.♙xh4 (45.gxf5 45...♖8c2+-) 45...♖8c3! 46.♙e2 ♖3c2+-] **45.♙e2**±

(19) Rakhmanov, A(2626)-Vidit, S(2602)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2014.08.26



23...♘f3!! **24.gxf3** [24.♖xf3 24...♙xe1+-+]

24...♙xf4+- **25.♙e4 ♙g3**+-

(20) Kuzubov, Y(2667)-Vidit, S(2602)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2014.08.28



24. ♖xa5!! ♜f4 [24... ♜xa5 25. ♕xd5! cxd5 26. c6!! (26. ♖xb7? 26... ♜xc5) 26... ♖xc6 (26... bxc6 27. ♖b8+--)] 27. ♖xb7! ♕d7 (27... ♖xb7 28. ♜e8#) 28. ♖b8+ ♕c8 (28... ♖c8 29. ♖xc8+ ♕xc8 30. ♜e8#) 29. ♖c7!+- (29. ♖b6+-)]

25. ♖g3 ♜xa5 26. ♖xf4+-

(21) Zhao Xue(2508)-Koneru, H(2598)

Sharjah WGP, 2014.08.31



20. ♖e4! ♜d8 [20... ♖xa1 21. ♖xa8+ ♜f8 22. ♜e7+--]

21. ♜e7+--

(22) Nepomniachtchi, I(2714)-Potkin, V(2610)

Yaroslav rapid, 2014.08.26

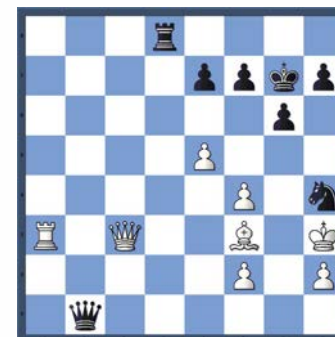


28. ♜a7!! ♖xa7 29. ♖xe5+!! ♕xe5 [29... ♜xe5 30. ♜xe5+-]

30. ♜xe5 1-0

(23) Moiseenko, A(2707)-Nepomniachtchi, I(2714)

Yaroslav rapid, 2014.08.27



33... ♖f1+! 34. ♜xh4 ♖xf2+ 35. ♜h3 ♜d2+-

(24) Gorlanov, V(2251)-Zvjaginsev, V(2659)

St. Petersburg rapid, 2014.08.30



30...♘a3! —+ 0-1

(25) Sysolyatin, E(2289)-Khismatullin, D(2681)

St. Petersburg rapid, 2014.08.31

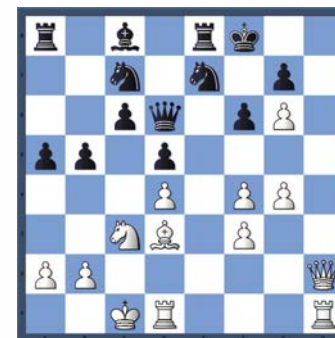


41.♙c5+! ♖xc5 42.♖d8+ ♖xd8 43.♖xd8+ ♔e8 44.♗h6+
[44.♗f6! 44...♗xd8 45.♗xd8+ ♔g7 46.h6+ ♔g6 (46...♔xh6
47.♗f6#) 47.♗f8 ♔g5 (47...♖c6 48.♗g7#) 48.♗xc5+—]

44...♔e7 45.♖xe8+ ♔xe8 46.♗xh7+—

(26) Moiseenko, A(2707)-Aleksandrov, A(2595)

St. Petersburg rapid, 2014.08.31



21.♗h8+! ♘g8 22.♗xg7+!! 1-0 [22.♗xg7+ 22...♔xg7
23.♖h7+ ♔f8 24.♖f7#]

(27) Romanov, E(2643)-Moiseenko, A(2707)

St. Petersburg rapid, 2014.08.31



6...exf3! 7.exf3 [7.♘xc7+ 7...♗xc7! 8.♙xc7 ♙b4+—+]
7...d6—+

(28) Kubbel



1.♖1c4+! ♔a5 [1...♔b3 2.♗e4! d2 3.♗c3#]

2.♗8c5+! ♜xc5 [2...♔b6 3.a5+ ♔b7 4.♗c7+ ♔b8 5.♗c8+ ♔b7 6.♗4c7#]

3.b4+! ♔xa4 [3...♔b6 4.bxc5+-]

4.bxc5+ ♔b3 5.cxd6 ♔xc4 6.d7+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 133

14th of September 2014

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Editorial Preface

The Grenke Chess Classics 2014:

The top 8 German players played a round robin event and your commentator managed to win it with 5/7. The 2nd and 3rd places were shared by David Baramidze and Daniel Fridman.

The Spanish team championship was won by the team of "Merida Patrimonio de la Humanidad" with Ivanchuk, Kryvoruchko, etc playing first boards.

Clearly the main news of the week was that Carlsen signed the contract for the World Championship match against Anand, which will happen in Sotchi in November.

Already from next week onward, we can be very happy about the following tournaments:

The European Club Cup in Bilbao, where almost all the top GMs from all over the world are participating!

And of course the "Bilbao Masters", a round robin with Aronian, Anand, Ponomarev and Vallejo, playing a double round event.

We wish you a lot of fun with this week's CEWN!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

3 best games of the past week

(1) **Naiditsch, Arkadij(2715)**
- **Meier, Georg(2652) [E21]**

GRENKE Classic 2014(3),
2014.09.08



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Just a few months ago I lost a very unpleasant game against Meier with a blunder, so this time I wanted to get my revenge.

1.d4 Meier is a big hero in his exchange French and I was too scared of it this time...

1...♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.♘f3 ♙xc3+ It is hard to imagine this line being the best for Black, but it is not that stupid. Meier played it as well in the first round to Wagner and won easily with Black.

5.bxc3 d6 Black's idea is simple, to play Nbd7-e5-Qe7 and maybe b6-Bb7, being very solid with the pawn structure and playing against White's bishop pair.



6.g4 An interesting try! My bishop pair needs space, so of course an opening of the position is clearly good for White.

6...O-O A very logical move. Of course 6...Nxg4 is just a bad move because of 7.Rg1, but maybe 6...Ne4 followed by a quick d5 and c5 could be a try for Black as well.

7.g5 ♘fd7 8.h4 The idea at the moment is not so much an attack on the black king, but more to squeeze Black's position to limit the options.

8...♘c6 [After a move like 8...e5 I can always show no reaction with 9.♙g2 and maybe followed by 0-0 or Nd2-Ne4 maneuver. I think White is already clearly better here.]

9.♙g2 ♔e8 My opponent keeps the pawn structure flexible, but of course a move like 9... Qe8 is again a very passive one. I think better would have been 9...Ne7 directly.

10.h5 e5 It is already hard to find a better option, as White was maybe ready to sacrifice a pawn with g6 next already. [10...f5 11.d5 also looks very bad for Black.]

11.g6 is maybe not the best move, but I was just too tempted to play it. The bad part of playing 11.g6 is that I give the f6 square to the black knight. [A better decision would probably have been to first play a move like 11.♙c2 asking Black what his next move is going to be.]

11...h6! The only move! Black needs to keep the position as closed as possible. [11...fxg6 didn't work because of 12.hxg6 ♙xg6 13.♘h4 with a huge attack against the black king coming up.]

12.♘h4 I am going for the white squares. Of course White's position is looking very good, but in fact Black is very solid.

12...♘e7 Another good defensive move! [Another option could have been 12...♘f6 but this move is really looking very dangerous for Black. Now I always have the idea of playing somewhere Bxh6 and g7. 13.♙g1 Now Bxh6 is already a threat.

13...e4 14. ♖c2 Black's position looks very dangerous to me.]



13.c5! A cool move! When I saw during the game that I can push c5, I was sure it should be the right way to go on. I need space for my bishops, so I open the position to the max. [13. ♖g1 was of course a normal move as well.]

13...dxc5 [To play 13...fxg6 14.cxd6 cxd6 15.dxe5 ♘xe5 16. ♖xd6 looks really bad for Black as the white bishops just must be better here.]

14. ♖g1 This was my point behind playing c5 first. Now I have not only weakened Black's pawn structure, but the idea of Qb3 somewhere could also be dangerous for Black.

14...fxg6 15.hxg6 Maybe I did not take the best decision, but during the game the idea of playing Qb3 and Bxh6 next seemed very hard to stop. [15. ♘xg6 was also very interesting. 15... ♘xg6 16. ♗d5+ ♔h8 17.hxg6 White wants to play Bxh6 next. 17...exd4! An amazingly strong move and very hard to find. 18.cxd4 (18. ♗xh6 doesn't work because of 18... ♖e5! but from a human point of view this is almost impossible to find.) 18... ♘f6 19. ♗f7 ♖e7 20. ♗xh6 ♗xf7 21.gxf7 gxh6 22. ♖d2 ♖xf7 23. ♖xh6+ ♘h7 with a very unclear position.]

15...♖f6? After a very long think, Meier finds nothing better than this practically losing move. [The only, but very strong was 15... ♘b6! From a human point of view this is a very

strange move as White can chose which pawn to take, c5 or on e5, but in both cases Black's pieces are suddenly becoming very active. 16.dxe5 (After 16.dxc5 16... ♘c4 Black seems to be doing just great! Strangely White has no good move and Black just wants to play Be6-Rd8 next.) 16... ♘f5 17. ♘xf5 ♗xf5 and again we are in a very unclear position, but probably in case somebody is worse here, it is White !]

16. ♖b3+ Of course I go for the sacrifice on h6, which actually just seems to win.

16...♗f8



17. ♗xh6! was not too difficult to calculate, but a nice move anyway.

17...c4 [Of course White is just winning after 17...gxh6 18.g7+ ♖xg7 19. ♗xb7+ There is no need to look for a forced mate. 19... ♖h8 20. ♗xa8 White is just an exchange up.]

18. ♖xc4 ♘b6 This might be the line why Meier actually played 15...Rf6?, but of course it is not difficult to find the winning move for White here.

19. ♖d3! Easy and strong.

19...gxh6 Of course this move is losing instantly, but in case of not taking on h6, all I would need to do is to play Bg5 next with a winning position.

20.g7+ ♔f7 [Meier probably blundered that after 20...♔g8 I have the nice 21.♗e4! and Black has no decent protection against Bh7 next.]

21.♗f3 Bh5 is coming.

21...♔g8 22.♗h5+ ♔e6 Of course many moves are winning here, but I chose the most simple one.

23.dxe5 ♖f4 and now after



24.♗g6 ♗xg6 25.♗xg6 there is no protection against Bh7 next. All in all it was not a game without mistakes, but a very important tournament point for me! **1-0**

(2) Svetushkin, Dmitry(2580) - Kryvoruchko, Yuriy(2708) [B40]

TCh-ESP Div Honor 2014(3.1),
2014.09.06



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

An extremely exciting game was played in the Spanish team championship. It was not perfect, but both players found remarkable ideas in a very difficult middle game!

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 Black is ready to play a sharp Paulsen variation in the Sicilian, but White prefers to keep the position closed and aims for a maneuvering fight.

3.d3 ♗c6 4.g3 d5 5.♔e2 [Another setup is 5.♗bd2 with the same idea to avoid the trade of the queens after dxe4. Usually Black plays the same as in the 5.Qe2 line. 5...♗f6 6.♗g2 ♗e7 7.O-O O-O 8.e5 ♗d7 9.♖e1 with an attacking plan on the kingside with Nf1, h4 and so on, while Black builds up his counterplay on the queenside with b5-b4, a5.]

5...♗f6 6.♗g2 ♗e7 7.O-O O-O 8.e5 ♗d7



9.c4!? This is the difference to the 5.Nbd2 setup. White is still able to develop his knight to c3 and he tries to exert pressure on the d5 pawn to force Black to decide what to do with the d5 pawn. After both d4 and dxc4, White gets the e4 square for

the knight and the diagonal of the g2 bishop opens up.

9...b5!? A very interesting attempt to fight for the center at the cost of a pawn. This reminds me of the Volga gambit! [Recently some high level games continued with 9...d4 10.h4 ♔h8 11.♘f4 f5! and Black locked the kingside in Svidler-Karjakin 2014. The point of the previous Kh8 move was that after 12.exf6 gxf6 13.♚xe6 is not with check and Black can play 13...♘de5]

10.cxb5! White chooses the right way to accept the sacrifice. [White could also have won the pawn with 10.cxd5 10...exd5 11.♘c3 with a double attack, but then the compensation should be enough after 11...♖b6 12.♘xb5 a6 13.♘c3 ♕g4 and it is not easy to deal with the threat of Nd4.]

10...♖a5



11.♘fd2! An excellent move! At first it is not easy to see the point, but soon it all becomes clear. Black's idea is to undermine the queenside with a6 (like in the Volga gambit) and after bxa6 Bxa6 compensating very strongly on the queenside, as the d3 pawn might become very weak. Svetushkin correctly realized that the a6 move should be answered by a4 and White should save his b5 pawn at any cost to avoid the very unpleasant compensation. Therefore he brings back his knight to d2 to avoid Nb3 after a4 and

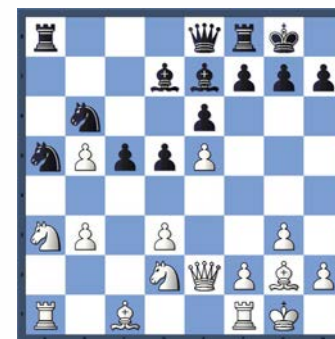
prepares to strengthen the b5 pawn with his other knight from a3! [11.♚c2!? was also possible with the same idea to control the b3 square and play a4 and Na3 next.]

11...a6 12.a4! [12.bxa6 12...♕xa6=+ is already better for Black. Nc6 is threatening to win the e5 and also with Nb4. This is exactly what Black was playing for when he played b5!]

12...♘b6 with the clear plan to win the b5 pawn with Bd7. [The computer suggests 12...♚b6 13.♘a3 ♕b7 but in this case, I don't see how Black should strengthen the pressure on the b5 pawn to be able to seize the initiative on the queenside. 14.♚e1]

13.b3 White's intention is to play Bb2-c3 and clarify the situation on the queenside, therefore Black must urgently act before White could consolidate.

13...axb5 14.axb5 ♕d7 15.♘a3 ♚e8?! This is logical, but Kryvoruchko probably missed the next move of his opponent. [Black should have played 15...♘c8! with the same idea to win back the pawn after Na7 and the difference is that after 16.♘ac4 the a5 knight is not hanging (compared to Qe8) 16...♕xb5 is equal.]



16.♘ac4!! A brilliant positional piece sacrifice! Black has no choice, he must accept the sacrifice...

16...dxc4 17.bxc4 White simply recaptures. He already has two pawns for the piece, but it is more important to realize the misplacement of almost all the black pieces. The g2 bishop turns out to be a beast on the long diagonal, which cannot be neutralized with the one on d7. Black finds a clever idea to save the a5 knight, but this creates new problems...

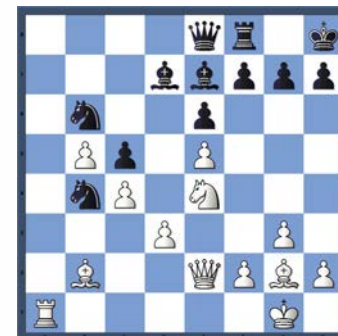
17...♘c6!? A nice tactical idea! [On 17...♙a7 White can choose between some tempting options: 18.♘e4 (18.♘b3 is also good to win back some material. 18...♘xb3 19.♙xa7 followed by Bb2 to get rid of the d4 knight and the rook on the seventh rank combined with the strong bishop on g2 paralyzes Black completely.)]

18.♙b2! Svetushkin prevents the centralization of the c6 knight and continues playing on intuitively, using the fact that despite Black solving the problem of one of his poor pieces (the a5 knight) there are still many more left. [18.♙xa8 allows Black to have a centralized knight after the intermediate move 18...♘d4!]

18...♙xa1 19.♙xa1 ♘b4 [In case of 19...♘d4 20.♙xd4 cxd4 21.♘b3 White will be fine even materially after taking on d4, but the march of the queenside pawns looks even more scary from Black's point of view.]

20.♘e4! White plans another sacrifice on f6! Kryvoruchko knows exactly what his opponent is thinking about, but his poor pieces don't allow him to find an adequate defense against the coming attack.

20...♙h8 Black leaves from the check on f6 and also from gxf6 exf6 Qg4-Qg7 mate. [I tried to defend with 20...f5 but White gets a winning advantage after 21.exf6 gxf6 22.d4! cxd4 23.♙xd4 ♘c8 24.b6+- Black's pieces are simple too bad.]



21.♘f6! Consequent and strong! Svetushkin sees that the poor placement of the black pieces should allow him to execute a decisive blow.

21...♙d8! The only move! [The knight could not be taken as after 21...gxf6 22.exf6 ♙d6 23.♙h5!+- Be4 comes next with an inevitable mate on h7.]

22.♙h5 [It was actually even stronger to start with 22.♙e4! The difference is that after 22...♙xf6 23.exf6 g6 24.♙a7+- is threatening with Qe3, attacking the c5 pawn and dropping the queen to h6. Many times Bxg6 also wins, using the fact that fxc6 f7 and hxc6 Qh6 are both mate. The two bishops are killing.]

22...♙xf6 [22...gxf6 is refuted by 23.exf6 ♙xf6 24.♙e4!+-]

23.exf6 g6 24.♙h6 [Unfortunately for White 24.♙xc5 does not work because of 24...♘xd3 and Black gets rid of the b2 bishop.]

24...♙g8 25.♙e4 Protecting the d3 pawn. White even has some slow ideas like h4-h5 in mind.

25...♘c2 Black wants to close the a1-h8 diagonal with Nd4, but the problem is the same as in the 19...Nd4 line, that after Bxd4 cxd4, the c- and b- passed pawns start to march with the support of the bishop and rook. [The best chance would have been 25...♘xd3! 26.♙xd3 ♙xb5 Black finally makes use

of his poor bishop, although his position remains suspicious after 27.♖a3 ♗xc4 28.♗c2 White even has some g4 ideas in mind with the threat of Qxh7 Kxh7 and Rh3 mate! ; 25...♖f8 leads to a lost endgame: 26.♖xf8 (The pretty 26.♖g7+!? also wins: 26...♖xg7 27.fxg7+ ♖xg7 28.♗xg7+ ♔xg7 29.♖a7+- and Rb7 or Rc7 next.) 26...♖xf8 27.♗e5 ♖c8 28.♖a7+- Black is completely squeezed. Rb7 or Bc7 wins next move.]

26.♖a7 ♗c8 [On the direct 26...♗d4 27.♗xd4 cxd4 28.c5 comes with tempo. 28...♗c8 29.♖b7+- Those connected pawns should decide the outcome.]

27.♖a8 ♗d4 28.♗xd4 cxd4

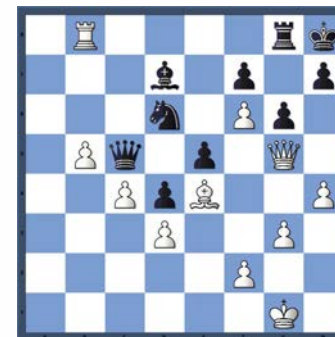


29.♖f4! A difficult move to find! The queen was standing well on h6, but the f6 pawn had to be protected. White could not advance the c-pawn immediately because the b5 was hanging. Now the plan is simply to push h4-h5, as Black has no useful move anyway.

29...♖b6 30.♖b8 This seems to be unnecessary because the queen stands better on c5. [White should have started with 30.h4 30...♖c5 31.♖h6! The new threat is b6, which cannot be taken by the knight and after Qxb6 h5 is going to be mate in few moves. The only move is 31...♖h5 but now the endgame is lost after 32.♖xh5 gxh5 33.♖a6!+- and b6 next move! The pawn promotes.]

30...♖c5 31.h4 e5 32.♖g5? Until this moment, Svetushkin has played a nearly perfect game, but this mistake allows his opponent a miraculous survival. [32.♖h6 was the winning move. Svetushkin was probably worried about the f6 pawn, that could be lost after 32...♖d6 but White wins with 33.♖b7 ♗e8 34.h5! ♖xf6 35.hxg6+- and Black has no good recapture on g6.]

32...♗d6! Suddenly the black pieces are jumping out, which could not happen if the queen was on h6. Perhaps, Svetushkin was counting with this move and he had planned his very nice response beforehand, but he missed something later.



33.♗xg6! A great tactical shot, but Black also had something in mind! [33.♖xg8+ 33...♔xg8 34.♖h6 ♗e8! saves Black from the mate!]

33...♗c8!! A fantastic resource! Black closes the 8th rank and lets more pieces to focus on the defense. Both sides have to be precise now! [33...fxg6 was refuted by 34.f7! ♖xb8 35.♖f6#; 33...♖xb8 34.♖h6 fxg6 35.♖g7#]

34.h5! The tension is growing! White is threatening with Qh6 and on fxg6 f7 decides the game. Therefore, Black is forced to take the f7 square under control.

34...♔c7! [34...fxg6 loses again to 35.f7! ♞xf7 36.♔f6+ ♖g7 37.b6! and b7 next wins!]

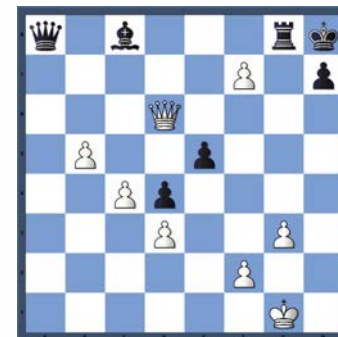
35.♖a8



35...♔b7! Black continues defending perfectly. He sends away the active rook and intends to create counterthreats with Bh3 and mate on g2. [35...fxg6 was still losing because of 36.hxg6 hxg6 (36...♖xg6 37.♔xe5+- Black is helpless against f7 or c5!) 37.b6 ♔f7 38.♔h4+ ♔h7 39.c5+- Despite the two extra pieces, the 3 passed pawns decide the game in White's favor.]

36.♔h6! Another only move, this time by White! The game turns to a forced stage where all moves are necessary and if somebody fails to find one, he loses.

36...fxg6 37.hxg6 ♖xg6 38.♔f8+ ♖g8 39.♔xd6 ♔xa8 40.f7! Despite the extra rook and bishop, the game seems to be over. White is threatening with Qf6 or Qe5 mate, but in the last move of the time trouble Black finds the way to escape.



40...♖xg3+!! 41.fxg3 ♔a1+ 42.♔f2 ♔a2+! Only this check leads to perpetual, but the point is still about to come...

43.♔f3 ♔a8+! This is the reason why the queen had to give the checks on the a-file. Now the king is forced to go back. [43...♙b7+ loses to 44.♔g4 ♔e2+ 45.♔g5 ♔e3+ 46.♔f6 ♔h6+ 47.♔e7+- the king runs away and the f-pawn promotes.]

44.♔f2 [44.♔c6?? 44...♙b7 loses as both Qxb7 Qxb7 and f8Q Qxf8 are check!]

44...♔a2+ 45.♔f3 ♔a8+ 46.♔f2 Draw agreed! A fantastic game, where both players should have gained the full point for their achievements! **1/2-1/2**

(3) Iturrizaga, Eduardo(2660) - Giri, Anish(2758) [A34]

TCh-ESP Div Honor 2014(2.2),
2014.09.05



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Iturrizaga managed to surprise Giri in the opening, who chose a wrong plan and got into trouble right after the opening...

1.♘f3 Giri frequently plays the Gruenfeld defense, therefore White starts with 1.Nf3 to keep more options to react against it. This is an advantage for the 1.d4 players, that they can trick their opponents with the move orders (1.d4, 1.Nf3, 1.c4 often transpose to each other), while an 1.e4 player cannot transpose from one line to another.

1...c5 2.c4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 Giri's opening choice proves, that he was intending to play the Gruenfeld as now after 5.d4 or 5.e4 we would transpose to those lines. However White has alternatives now by keeping the pawn temporarily on d2.

5.♖b3



5...♘c7?! This is a move after which White already seems to get an advantage. [Few days later on in the same tournament, Ivanchuk was much better prepared against the same opponent and played 5...e6! 6.g3 ♘c6 7.♗g2 ♗e7 8.O-O O-O The black pieces are standing much more healthily compared to our game. 9.♖d1 White tries the same idea as against Giri to open the center with d4, but Black reacted well with 9...♗b6 10.d3 e5 Ivanchuk managed to consolidate the center and obtain some space advantage. He was definitely out of problems. The game finished with a draw after a tough fight.]

6.♗e5! An excellent positional move, which confuses the communication between the black pieces. The main idea is to avoid the ideal development of the b8 knight to c6.

6...e6 7.g3! The bishop belongs to the long diagonal to exert pressure on the b7 pawn and control the important central squares.

7...♗d7 [7...♗e7 8.♗g2+=; On 7...♗d6 8.♗c4 White wins an important tempo by threatening to grab the bishop pair and after 8...♗e7 9.♗g2 ♗c6 White has a nice option to size the initiative with 10.♗xc6+! bxc6 11.d3 This idea is known from many openings, even with reversed colors Black sometimes takes on c3. The point is to set the doubled c-pawns under big pressure with Be3, Rc1, Ne4, Qa4 or Qa3, focusing all the pieces against the pawns. The lack of the light squared bishop could be neutralized by O-O and f3 later.]



8.♘c4! Another excellent positional move! White keeps his strong knight on the board, because the other one is misplaced on d7 as it is far away from the c6 square. The knight is well placed on c4 in such structures.

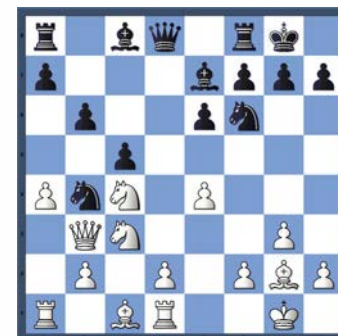
8...♙e7 9.♙g2 0-0 10.a4 Another standard move in such structures. White wants to stabilize his c4 knight. It was not under threat by some b5 moves, so White could also have started with 0-0, but the a4 move will be useful anyway.

10...♘f6 11.0-0 ♘cd5 Black tries to improve his pieces, but it costs too much to time to jump with the knights. Iturrizaga finds the fastest way to make use of the undeveloped queenside pieces.

12.♖d1! With the idea to open the center with d4! The nice d5 knight might lose its stability.

12...b6 13.e4! 13.d4 was also possible, but this proves to be even stronger.

13...♘b4



14.d4! The previous e4 move was based on this central break! It is all very principled, White should open the center to gain the benefits of his more active pieces.

14...cxd4 15.♙f4! Another excellent positional move! White does not hurry to recapture the d4 pawn. It is not running away. White intends to play Nb5, annoy his opponent on the c7 and d6 squares and also to take back on d4. White has prevented the e5 move with Bf4! [15.e5 15...♘fd5 16.♖xd4 ♙b7 17.♘b5 would also have given White an edge, because the hole on d6 will be more relevant than the one on d5. But I like much more the way how Iturrizaga played.]

15...♙a6 [If Black wants to save his pawn with 15...♙b7 16.♘b5 ♘c6 White simply plays for huge positional compensation with 17.♖ac1 followed by jumping to d6 with the knight. In general it is not a good idea to passively defend such pawns, because Black soon runs out of useful moves.]

16. ♖b5 d3 Black tries to save the pawn as long as possible, but he runs into different, more serious problems. [16... ♗xb5 17. axb5 is also bad for Black. Suddenly the knight on b4 cannot retreat. White is threatening with Ra4 or Bd2.; 16... ♖c6 17. e5 ♖d5 18. ♖cd6± with the domination of the white pieces.]



17. ♗c7! White perfectly uses the lack of coordination between the black pieces. It might be strange at first sight, but in the following lines we can see how big the problems really are.

17... ♗xb5 Giri desperately tries to sacrifice his queen, but he does not get enough compensation for it. [The best defense would have been 17... ♖d7 which runs into 18. ♖e5 ♖c8 19. ♖ac1 It is getting worse and worse after each move... 19... ♗xb5 20. axb5 ♗c5 21. ♗d6 ♖d8 22. ♗xc5 bxc5 23. ♖xd3 ♖xd3 24. ♖xd3± Probably this is the best for Black, but this one is also quite bad. He is going to lose the c5 pawn and the bishop is going to dominate the knight after a well-timed e5 push.; 17... ♖c8 leads to a lost position by force after 18. ♖cd6 ♖d7 19. ♖xb4 ♗xb5 20. ♖xb5 ♖xc7 21. e5 ♖d5 22. ♗xd5 exd5 23. ♖ac1+- followed by Qxd5 and the d3 pawn also falls.]

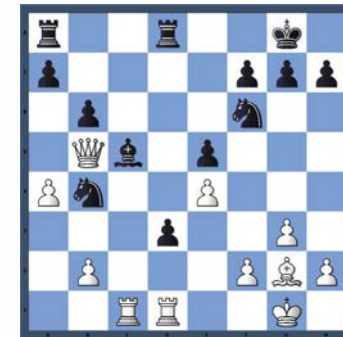
18. ♗xd8 ♗xc4 19. ♖xc4 ♖fxd8 Black has two knights and the d-passed pawn for the queen, which is clearly not enough, but White needs to make some precise moves first to prove it.

20. ♖ac1! It is important to occupy the c-file to avoid any activity with Rac8. [On the direct 20. e5 20... ♖ac8! is less clear.]

20... e5 Otherwise White would have opened the diagonal by playing e5 himself. [20... d2 does not change anything. Black will drop this pawn soon after 21. ♖c3 ♗c5 22. ♖e2+-]

21. ♖b5! Attacking the new target and leaving from the Rd4 tempo, which could have been played after 21. Bf1.

21... ♗c5 [21... ♖d7 22. ♗f1+-]



22. ♖xc5! This is the right technique! White gives back some material, but he still keeps some. It is more important to get rid of the strong bishop. The e5 pawn also falls...

22... bxc5 23. ♖xc5 a5 24. ♖xe5 White is ready to remove his queen and push e5. Black cannot even activate his a8 rook because of the a5 pawn. The game is basically over, but Giri tries to put up some more resistance.

24... ♖e8 25. ♖f5 ♖a7 26. ♖c5 ♖a6 27. ♖b5 ♖a7 28. e5 Now the bishop also joins to the game.

28... ♖d7 29. f4 The black pieces are still missing harmony, which was the biggest problem for him in the entire game.

29... ♖b8 30. ♖c4 ♖b6 31. ♖c5 ♖d7 32. b3 Neutralizing the

b6 knight. Now he must forget about the Na4 and Nc4 jumps and the a5 pawn is hanging.

32...♘6d5 33.♙e4 ♖bd8 34.♖d2 White is winning after other moves too, but Iturrizaga does not want to give any chances to his opponent. He blocks the pawn and leaves from the potential Nc3 and Ne3 moves.

34...g6 35.♚xa5 Now even the b4 knight has lost its fortress.

35...♖b8 36.♚c5 Black resigned. A convincing win by White, although Ivanchuk's improvement with 5...e6 seems to solve the opening problems for Black. **1-0**

Puzzle section

(4) Caruana, F(2801)-Nakamura, H(2787)

Sinquefield Cup, 2014.09.05

1. +-



(5) Fressinet, L(2712)-Oparin, G(2540)

Spanish league, 2014.09.04

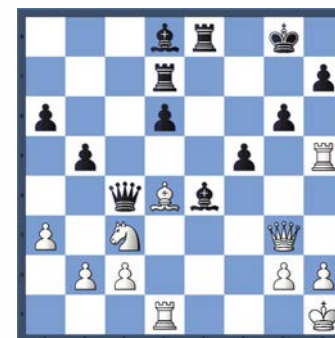
1. +-



(6) Navara, D(2708)-Maksimenko, A(2507)

Polish league, 2014.09.07

1. +-



(7) Karjakin, S(2777)-Malakhov, V(2696)

Moscow blitz, 2014.09.06

1... -+



(8) Grachev, B(2673)-Riazantsev, A(2678)

Moscow blitz, 2014.09.06

1. +-



(9) Paravyan, D(2428)-Reshetnikov, A(2498)

Moscow blitz, 2014.09.06

1. +-



(10) Dubov, D(2614)-Mozharov, M(2555)

Moscow blitz, 2014.09.06

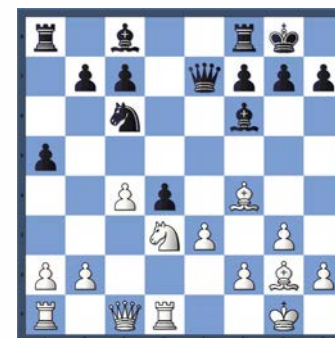
1. +-



(11) Belous, V(2584)-Morozevich, A(2731)

Moscow blitz, 2014.09.06

1... -+



(12) Dubov, D(2614)-Karjakin, S(2777)

Moscow blitz, 2014.09.06

1. +-



(13) Najer, E(2646)-Riazantsev, E(2678)

Moscow blitz, 2014.09.06

1. +-



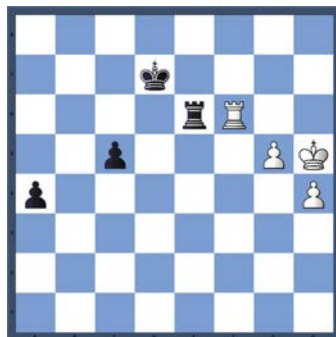
Endgame section

(14) Bacrot, Etienne(2729)
- Harikrishna, Pendyala(2725)

Spanish league,
2014.09.07



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



Bacrot played a nearly perfect game and reached this completely winning rook endgame. The connected passed pawns supported by the king are clearly faster than Black's pawns.

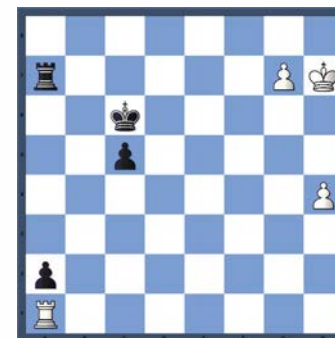
54.♖f1! This is the easiest way to stop the black pawns and the g-pawn promotes automatically. Black could have simply resigned here in conscience, but Harikrishna decided to play on...

54...a3 55.g6 a2 56.g7 ♖e8 57.♔h6 This is the end of the story. White plays Kh7 next and promotes his g-pawn. Bacrot was definitely expecting resignation, but his opponent finds a last trick...

57...♖a8 58.♖a1 This was not even necessary as a1Q was not a threat. White could simply have played 58.Kh7.

58...♔c6 59.♔h7 [White could anytime play 59.♖xa2 59...♖xa2 60.g8=♔+- when Black would just have congratulated his opponent, but White thought it does not matter what he plays, the game is over anyway...]

59...♖a7! Here is the last trick...



60.♔h8?? A shocking blunder, after which the game is drawn...There was simply no other legal move on the board which could have spoiled the win. [Even after the completely senseless Kg8, which just blocks the pawn, White is winning. Any nonsense rook moves except of Rb1 were winning too. The human 60.Rxa2 always wins on the spot. Probably the simplest was 60.h5 60...♔b5 61.♔h8+- and Black would finally have resigned.]

60...♖a4!! This amazing move saves the day for Black. This is how cruel chess can be. One blackout from the mind and the achievement you built up in 5 hours can slip away in one move. Black gets both of the pawns and promotes his own c-pawn with the help of the king.

61.h5 [61.g8=♔ 61...♖xh4+ 62.♔g7 ♖g4+= will be the same as the game.]

61...♖h4! White cannot save his h-pawn.

62. ♖xa2 ♜xh5+ 63. ♔g8 ♜g5 64. ♔f7 ♔d5 65. ♜a8 [65.g8=♔ does not change anything. The white king is too far from the pawn. 65...♜xg8 66. ♔xg8 c4 67. ♔f7 c3 68. ♔f6 ♔d4= Kd3 and c2 next.]

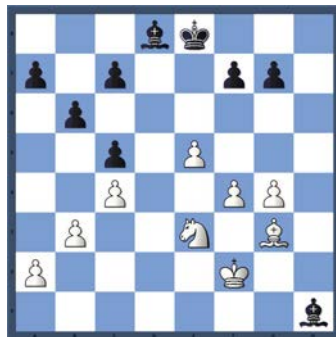


65... ♜xg7+! Harikrishna calculates perfectly the arising endgame. The black king supports the pawn and in the same time keeps his shoulder against the white king to approach towards the pawn. [65...c4?? would have been a counterblunder because of 66. ♜a5+ +–]

66. ♔xg7 c4 67. ♔f6 c3 68. ♔f5 [68. ♜c8 does not change anything. 68...♔d4 and Kd3 comes next followed by c2 and Kd2.]

68... ♔d4 69. ♔f4 [On 69. ♜d8+ it is important to keep the white king away from the pawn with 69...♔e3!= (69...♔c4? loses to 70. ♔e4! c2 71. ♜c8+ ♔b3 72. ♔d3+–)]

69...c2 70. ♜c8 ♔d3 71. ♔f3 ♔d2 72. ♜d8+ ♔c3 73. ♜c8+ ♔d2 74. ♜d8+ ♔c3 75. ♜c8+ ♔d2 76. ♜xc2+ ♔xc2 Draw agreed! I must say, such are the most painful moments in a chessplayer's career. Something that he will never forget. We are lucky to be outside of this game and we should learn from other's mistake and take the right consequences. We should never slip our focus from the game until it has not finished, otherwise such tragedies might happen! **1/2-1/2**

**(15) Naiditsch, Arkadij(2715)
- Wagner, Dennis(2499)**GRENKE Classic 2014(6),
2014.09.11GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

This was another game in the Berlin, as lately somehow everybody is playing this opening against me. This time I managed to get a small advantage out of the opening and slowly managed to get my pawns "rolling". Still to break Black's position is not that simple.

36. ♖g2! A very important move. If Black was able to keep the bishop pair, the position should be very close to a draw.

36...c6 Anyhow there is no way to defend against Kg1.

37. ♖g1 ♗xg2 38. ♖xg2 So I reached the dream of the Berlin wall, to play a bishop endgame practically with a pawn up because of Black's bad pawn structure.

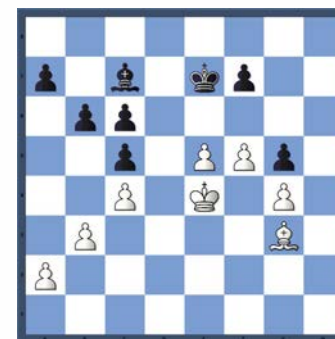
38...g5 This move probably makes things easier for White. [38...g6 was probably a tougher defense. **39. ♖f3 ♖d7 40. ♖e4 ♗e7 41. f5** Now I want to play e6+ next, so Black is forced to take on f5 which frees the way for the white king. **41...gxf5+ 42. gxf5 ♗d8** Black can't do anything except to wait. **43. ♖f4**

♗e7 44. ♖g4 ♗f8 45. ♖g5 and the white king is marching... **45...♗g7 Kf6** has been a deadly threat **46. f6 ♗f8 47. ♖f5** and Black can't stop the upcoming e6 move, with a winning position for White. **47...♗h6 48. e6+ fxe6+ 49. ♖g6** The f-pawn is almost a queen.]

39. ♖f3 Of course 39.f5 was possible as well.

39...♖d7 [39...gxf4 **40. ♖xf4 ♖d7 41. ♖f5** and White is easily winning by bringing first the bishop to f6 by playing Bf4-Bg5-Bf6 and after playing g5.]

40. f5 ♖e7 41. ♖e4 ♗c7



42. ♗e1 White's plan is simple, first to force Black to play the f6 move and for that I need to attack the g5 pawn.

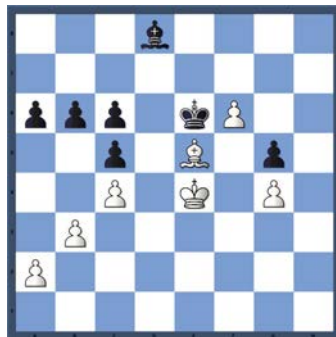
42...♗d8 43. ♗d2 f6 [43...♖d7 was of course losing. **44. f6 ♖e6 45. ♗xg5 ♗c7 46. ♗f4** followed by g5-Kf3-Kg4 and g6.]

44. exf6+ ♖xf6 45. ♗c3+ ♖f7 46. ♗e5 It is important to first put the bishop on e5 with a simple idea which we will see during the next move.

46...a6 Black doesn't have anything better.

47. f6! The last important move of the game. By giving the f-pawn I am getting my king to f5 which will allow me to win the black g-pawn.

47...♔e6 Black wants to play Bxf6 next. [47...♘xf6 48.♔f5 would lead to a similar position as in the game.]



48.f7 was the point of playing f6. Sooner or later the black king will have to take the f7 pawn and I will get the f5 square.

48...♘e7 49.♘c7 Now Bd8 is a deadly threat.

49...♔xf7 Black doesn't have a choice.

50.♔f5 The next step now is to win the g5 pawn.

50...b5 51.♘e5 b4



52.♘b2 The g5 pawn can't be saved.

52...♘d8 53.♘c1 ♘f6 54.♘xg5 ♘d4 and all I need to do now is to bring the g-pawn in action.

55.♘d8 ♘c3 56.g5 ♘d4 57.♘f6 ♘c3 58.g6+ ♔g8 The black

king is pushed away and my king is going for the queenside pawns.

59.♘e5 ♘d4 60.♔e6 followed by Kd6 and all the black pawns are going to fall. **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

(16) Botvinnik, Mikhail
- Keres, Paul [E28]

World Championship 18th(10),
1948.03.25



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♞c3 ♙b4 4.e3 O-O 5.a3 White is going to transpose to the 4.a3 variation. The two main alternatives are [5.♙d3 and; 5.♞e2]

5...♙xc3+ 6.bxc3



6...♞e8 The main plan for Black is [6...c5 with the typical idea to fix the weak pawn on c4. 7.♙d3 ♘c6 (7...d5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.♞e2 b6 10.O-O ♙a6 11.♙xa6 ♞xa6 12.f3 The evaluation of this line mostly depends on whether White manages to push e4 in the right moment. I recommend to check the famous game Botvinnik-Capablanca.) 8.♞e2 b6 9.e4 ♞e8 10.O-O Both sides have clear plans, Black creates pressure against the c4 pawn and White prepares an attack on the kingside. 10...♙a6 11.f4 f5!→After Ng3 Black can even play the strong

g6 move because White will not be able to activate the dark squared bishop.]

7.♞e2 e5 8.♞g3 d6



9.♙e2 It looked more active to develop the bishop to d3. [9.♙d3 and now let's check some example variations about strategical fighting in this structure: 9...b6 (9...♞c6 10.O-O e4 11.♙c2 ♞a5 12.f3! Activating all white pieces. 12...exf3 13.♞xf3 ♞xc4 14.e4 with great compensation for the pawn.) 10.O-O (10.f3! Preventing e4-Ba6.) 10...e4 11.♙c2 ♙a6 12.f3 ♙xc4 13.♞f2 d5 (13...exf3 14.♞xf3 ♞bd7 15.e4!) 14.fxe4 dxe4 (14...♞xe4 15.♙xe4 dxe4 16.♞g4 ♞d7 17.♞f4 (17.♞f5 17...f6) 17...♞xg4 18.♞xg4 ♞d7 19.♞xe4 ♞f6 20.♞xe8+ ♞xe8) 15.♞f4 ♞bd7 16.♞xe4 ♞xe4 17.♙xe4 ♞f6!? 18.♙xa8 ♞xa8 19.♞f3 ♙d5 and Black is not worse as he is controlling the light squares.]

9...♞bd7 10.O-O c5 A typical move. Black doesn't only fix the weakness on c4 but also stops the Bc1 from getting activated in case White sacrificed the pawn after c5. [10...♞b6 11.c5! (11.a4 11...♙e6! 12.d5 ♙c8 White doesn't have the idea with c5 now because the d5 pawn is hanging. In the next moves Black will transfer his knight to c5 and get a very promising position. 13.e4 ♞bd7=+) 11...dxc5 12.dxe5 ♞xd1 13.♞xd1 ♞xe5 14.e4 ♞e8 15.♙f4=]

11.f3



11...cxd4? A huge strategic mistake! Without any reasons Black allows White to get rid of two problems, the weak c4 pawn and the passive Bc1. [11...dxf8 is the most logical. 12.e4 dfg6 13.f3e3 (13.f2f2!? with the very tricky idea to transfer the knight to d5.) 13...b6 14.f2d2 h6 15.a4 a5∞with long-term play.; 11...e4 12.fxe4 dxe4 13.dxe4 fxe4 14.f3d3 f7e7 (14...dxf6 15.f2xf6+-) 15.e4†]

12.cxd4 dxb6 13.f3b2 exd4



14.e4! The most accurate move to keep all advantages in the position. [14.exd4 14...d5! and the bishop on b2 is limited. 15.c5 dxc4 16.f3xc4 dxc4 17.f2c2 f2d5=+; 14.f2xd4 14...dxa4!±]

14...f3e6



15.f2c1! Very accurate again. [15.f2xd4 15...dxa4! 16.f3c1 f2b6 White's initiative over the diagonal is over and Black gets counterplay.]

15...f2e7 This move makes sense. Black keeps the possibility to play Ne8 with the idea to protect the weaknesses on d6 and g7 and prepares Rc8-Rc7.

16.f2xd4 f2c7? The decisive mistake. [16...dxa4 is too late now. 17.f3a1 f2b6



18.c5! dxc5 19.e5+-; 16...dxe8 Black is worse but still fighting.; 16...f2c8]

17.c5! dxc5 18.f2xc5 f2f4 Stopping Rg5, but only temporarily... [18...f2d8 19.f2e3 with a huge attack over the dark squares.]

19. ♖c1 ♔b8 [19... ♖d7]

20. ♖g5! Four pieces in the attack is too much and Black is not able to avoid the blow on g7.

20... ♘bd7

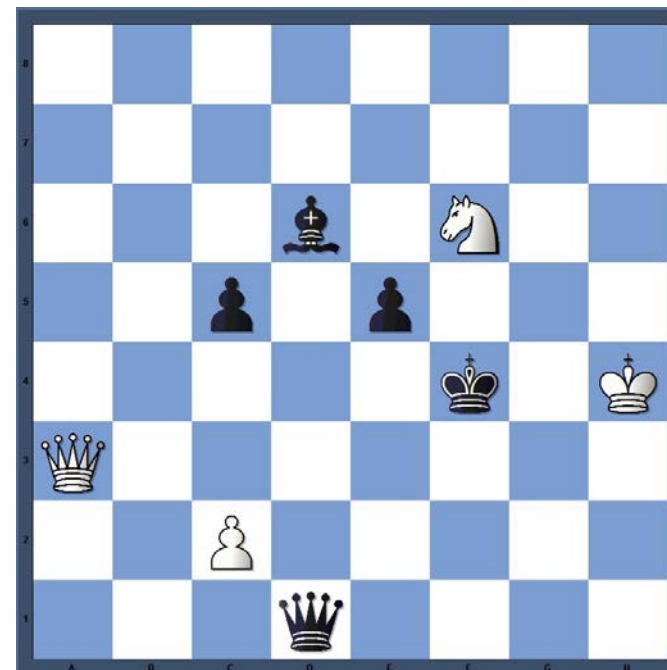


21. ♖xg7+! ♔xg7 22. ♘h5+ ♔g6 23. ♔e3 1-0

Surprise section / study

(17) Rinck

1. +-



Solutions

(18) Nakamura, H(2787)-Caruana, F(2801)

Sinquefield Cup, 2014.08.31



44...fxg4?! [44...♙h4!! 45.♙xh4 (45.gxf5 45...♖8c2—+) 45...♖8c3! 46.♜e2 ♖3c2—+]

45.♜e2+

(19) Rakhmanov, A(2626)-Vidit, S(2602)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2014.08.26

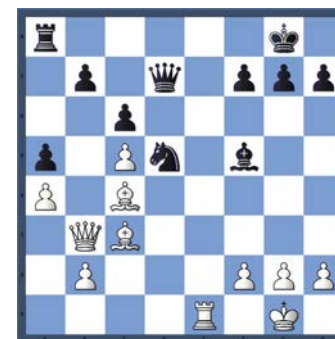


23...♘f3!! 24.gxf3 [24.♖xf3 24...♜xe1+—+]

24...♜xf4—+ 25.♜e4 ♜g3—+

(20) Kuzubov, Y(2667)-Vidit, S(2602)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2014.08.28



24.♙xa5!! ♘f4 [24...♖xa5 25.♙xd5! cxd5 26.c6!! (26.♜xb7? 26...♖xc5) 26...♜xc6 (26...bxc6 27.♜b8+—) 27.♜xb7! ♙d7 (27...♜xb7 28.♖e8#) 28.♜b8+ ♙c8 (28...♜c8 29.♜xc8+ ♙xc8 30.♖e8#) 29.♜c7!+— (29.♜b6+—)]

25.♜g3 ♖xa5 26.♜xf4+—

(21) Zhao Xue(2508)-Koneru, H(2598)

Sharjah WGP, 2014.08.31



20.♜e4! ♖d8 [20...♜xa1 21.♜xa8+ ♘f8 22.♘e7+—+]

21.♘e7+—

(22) Nepomniachtchi, I(2714)-Potkin, V(2610)

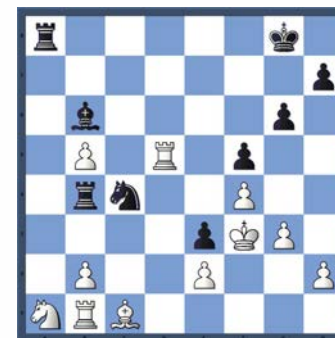
Yaroslav rapid, 2014.08.26

**28. ♖a7!! ♜xa7 29. ♜xe5+!! ♙xe5 [29... ♜xe5 30. ♜xe5+-]****30. ♜xe5** 1-0**(23) Moiseenko, A(2707)-Nepomniachtchi, I(2714)**

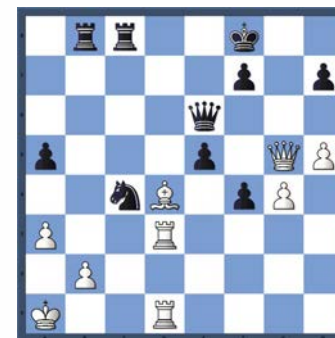
Yaroslav rapid, 2014.08.27

**33... ♜f1+! 34. ♔xh4 ♜xf2+ 35. ♔h3 ♜d2+-****(24) Gorlanov, V(2251)-Zvjaginsev, V(2659)**

St. Petersburg rapid, 2014.08.30

**30... ♘a3!+-** 0-1**(25) Sysolyatin, E(2289)-Khismatullin, D(2681)**

St. Petersburg rapid, 2014.08.31

**41. ♙c5+! ♜xc5 42. ♜d8+ ♜xd8 43. ♜d8+ ♜e8 44. ♜h6+ [44. ♜f6! 44... ♜xd8 45. ♜xd8+ ♔g7 46. h6+ ♔g6 (46... ♔xh6 47. ♜f6#) 47. ♜f8 ♔g5 (47... ♜c6 48. ♜g7#) 48. ♜xc5+-]****44... ♔e7 45. ♜xe8+ ♔xe8 46. ♜xh7+-**

(26) Moiseenko, A(2707)-Aleksandrov, A(2595)

St. Petersburg rapid, 2014.08.31



21. ♖h8+! ♜g8 22. ♖xg7+!! 1-0 [22. ♖xg7+ 22... ♔xg7
23. ♜h7+ ♔f8 24. ♜f7#]

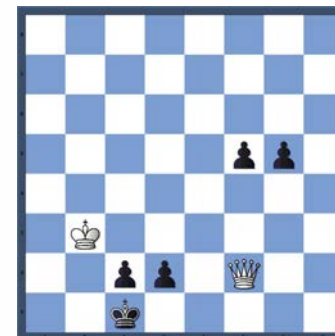
(27) Romanov, E(2643)-Moiseenko, A(2707)

St. Petersburg rapid, 2014.08.31



6...exf3! 7.exf3 [7. ♜xc7+ 7... ♖xc7! 8. ♜xc7 ♜b4+—+]
7...d6—+

(28) Kubbel



1. ♖e3! f4 2. ♖f2!! d1=♖ 3. ♔c3! f3 [3...g4 4. ♖xf4+ ♔b1
5. ♖b4+ ♔c1 6. ♖b2#; 3... ♖d5 4. ♖xc2#]
4. ♖e3+ ♔b1 5. ♖b6+ ♔c1 6. ♖b2#



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

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Editorial Preface

The last week has been all about Bilbao, where 9 from the Top 10 players in the World were playing.

The Bilbao Masters with 4 players, Anand, Aronian, Ponomarev and Vallejo, took place as a double round robin event. Already after 5 rounds (from a total of 6) Anand had won the tournament as he had a fantastic start with 4/5, but his loss in the last round to Aronian of course made the perfect tournament look a bit "less perfect". So the 2nd place went to Aronian who had the same final score as Anand with 4/6, but less wins, which made the tiebreak. Ponomarev and Vallejo both finished on 2/6.

The European Club Cup was won pretty easily by the super star team SOCAR Azerbaijan with Mamedyarov, Topalov, Adams, Giri, Wang Hao, Radjabov, Korobov and Safarli, with a perfect score of 7/7. The second place went to the team of G-Team Novy Bor with a very good score of 6/7 and the 3rd place to Malakhov with 5.5/7.

The next week will be a bit of a silent one, with only the Baku Open under way.

Of course in the current issue we are focusing our attention on the chess action from Bilbao! Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Topalov, Veselin(2784)**
- **Morozevich, Alexander(2731)**
[A56]

30th ECC Open 2014(2.1),
2014.09.15



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

After a very sharp middle game, White manages to get a stable advantage and got the game into a clearly better queen endgame where he finds a great winning plan-to go with his king all the way to e7, which supports the movement of the passed d-pawn and also creates some threats around the black king. A very nice game to watch and learn from.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 It is usually very hard to guess the opening choice of Morozevich, who plays a lot of different lines.

3.d5 g6 So we are entering some sort of Benoni structures.

4.♘c3 ♗g7 5.e4 O-O 6.♘f3 What is nice about Topalov is that he is usually playing the main lines and is not afraid of anything. [6.e5 could also have been an option, but in such positions it is hard to say if an early pawn push is good or bad... 6...♗e8 7.f4 d6 and Black is launching fast play against the white central pawns.]

6...d6 We are back in the Benoni.

7.♗d3 [7.h3 Usually White is avoiding the Bg4 move.]



7...e6 Morozevich was probably thinking that White is going to play h3 next anyway. [7...♗g4 could maybe be a try for Black.]

8.O-O [8.h3 8...exd5 9.exd5 ♖e8+ 10.♗e3 ♗h6 11.O-O is considered to be the main line here.]

8...exd5 9.exd5 ♗g4 Of course, Black is using the moment and exchanging the bishop against the knight, which is usually the right choice in such pawn structures.

10.h3 ♗xf3 11.♖xf3 ♘bd7 12.♖d1 White's idea is to limit the black knights by playing f4 and g4, thus gaining some more space and Black should be looking for active and fast counterplay.



12...h5 Very aggressive play by Morozevich. Black could also have considered the plan with Ne8-Nc7-f5 and then to prepare a6 and b5.

13. ♖e4 ♜e5 Black wants to play Bf4 next

14. f4



14...f5 As we can see, the game is very sharp. [14...♗d4+ 15.♖h2 f5 (15...♗df6 16.♗g5!± with the idea Nf3.; 15...♞e7 16.g4 ♗hf6 (16...♗g7 17.f5!) 17.♗g3+=) 16.♗g5 ♗df6 17.♗f3± (But not 17.♗e6?! 17...♗g4+! 18.♞xg4 fxg4 19.♗xd8 g3+ 20.♖h1 ♞axd8∞)]

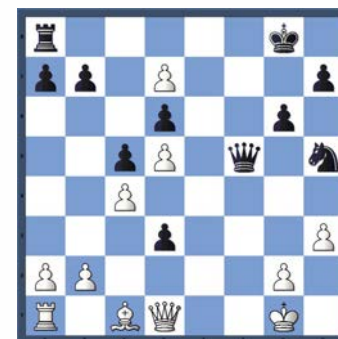
15.fxe5 is the most concrete move. [15.♗g5 15...♗xf4 16.♗xf4 ♗xf4 17.♗e6 ♗e3+ 18.♖h1 ♞h4 19.♗xf8 ♞xf8± with more than just compensation.]

15...fxe4 16.♞xf8+ ♞xf8 It is clear that White can't be worse here, but whether the position is better is still unclear. The black knight could become quite dangerous and for the moment Black also has the f-file.

17.e6! seems to be the very right decision. White wants to play with the dark squared bishop against the knight, which makes the pawns on d6 and c5 potential targets.

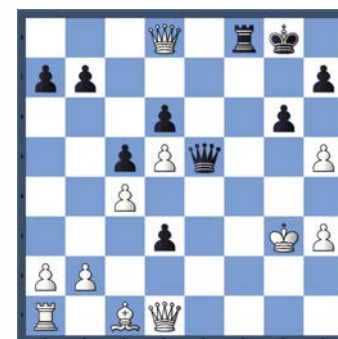
17...exd3 Black doesn't find anything better.

18.exd7 ♞f5



19.g4 White continues playing very dynamic chess.

19...♞xd7 [19...♞e4 20.gxh5 ♞f8 with the idea of looking for perpetual check. 21.d8=♞! ♞d4+ (21...♞xd8 22.♗h6+—) 22.♖h1 ♞e4+ 23.♖h2 ♞e5+ 24.♖g2 ♞e4+ 25.♖g3 ♞e5+



26.♖h4! and the white king escapes from the checks! 26...♞e4+ 27.♞g4 ♞e1+ 28.♞g3 ♞e4+ 29.♗f4+—]

20.♞xd3 [20.gxh5 20...♞xh3 21.♞e1 ♞g4+ 22.♖h2 ♞f8 23.♗d2 (23.♞e6+ 23...♞xe6 24.dxe6 ♞f1—) 23...♞xh5+ 24.♖g2 ♞g4+=]

20...♗f6 It is still not that easy to prove White's advantage.



21. ♔f3! A very strong move. Before getting the bishop on c3, White is securing the kingside from all the tricks with Nxg4 and as well stopping Black from playing Rf8.

21... ♖g7 [21... ♖f8 22. ♗h6 ♖f7 23. ♖e1 and Black is paralyzed.]

22. ♗d2 [22. ♗f4 22... ♖e8 (22... ♗d7 23. ♗xd6 ♖xb2 24. ♖f1±) 23. ♖f1 (23. ♗xd6?! 23... ♗e4⇒) 23... ♗e4



24. ♗h6! ♖e7 25. ♔g2 It looks like Black will be in zugzwang soon, after Kh8 White will play the decisive Qf7 and in case Black will for example play Rd8 then Re1 with the idea Bf4-Bxd6 leaves White a pawn up.]

22... ♗d7 23. ♗c3 ♗e5 Black had an interesting alternative: [23... ♖f8!? 24. ♖e4 (24. ♖e2 24... ♖f7 25. ♖e1 ♖f4 26. ♔g2 ♗e5 27. ♗xe5 dxe5) 24... ♖f7 25. ♖e6 ♖xe6 26. dxe6 ♗b6 (26... ♗e5 27. ♗xe5 dxe5 28. ♖d1 ♖e8 29. ♖d6 ♖e7 30. ♔f2±) 27. ♖d1 ♗xc4

28. b3 ♗a3! 29. ♗b2 ♗b5 30. a4 ♗d4 31. ♗xd4 cxd4 32. ♖xd4 ♖f3 33. ♖xd6 ♔f8 with good drawing chances.]

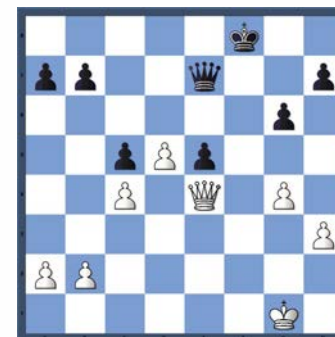
24. ♖e4 Now things are getting more clear. White has a solid positional advantage.

24... ♖f8



25. ♖f1! This is also the right decision. Topalov is aiming for a queen endgame which promises him good winning chances.

25... ♖e7 26. ♖xf8+ ♔xf8 27. ♗xe5 dxe5 White has reached the most he could get out of the position. What can be the next plan?!



28. ♖e3! A great move! White frees the e4 square for his king!

28... ♖d6 [28... e4 29. ♖f4+ ♔g7 30. g5 e3 31. ♔f1! e2+ 32. ♔e1±; 28... b6 29. ♔g2 ♖f6 30. ♖f3! +–]

29.♔g2 and the white king is coming!

29...♔g8 30.♔f3 It is really a bad luck for Black that it is even hard to find any counterplay.

30...♖a6 31.♔e4! The best move once again! Probably 31.Qxc5 would also bring White very good winning chances, but Topalov's 31.Ke4 is much more accurate. All White needs is his d-pawn...

31...♖xc4+ 32.♔xe5 ♖xa2 [32...♔f7 33.♔d6+--]

33.♔e6! Topalov first puts his king to a perfect position and prepares to combine the mating threats to the black king with the promotion of the d-pawn. Black's position is hopeless.

33...♖xb2 34.♖f3 Qf7-Qf8 mate is a dangerous threat! :)

34...♔g7 35.g5 and there is no defence against Qf7! What a great and clean win by Topalov. **1-0**

(2) **Bosboom, Manuel(2424)** - **Leko, Peter(2734) [A14]**

30th ECC Open 2014(1.3),
2014.09.14



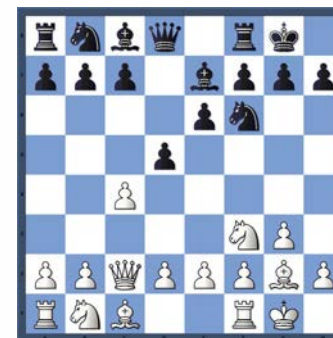
GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Peter Leko has been a top player for almost 20 years and has even been the world number 2 for some time. What we know about Leko is famous, his super dry chess style with an attitude of "it is better to make 10 draws than to win 5 games and lose 5 games". To win a game against Leko is a really hard job, but not for the over 300 ELO lower rated Dutch player Bosboom apparently, who just destroyed Black's position already on move 20, so Leko had nothing else left than to resign on move 26. An amazing game!

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 e6 Leko is choosing to play his main repertoire.

3.g3 d5 4.♘g2 ♘e7 5.O-O O-O So we are in the Catalan. Leko has huge experience here with both colors.

6.♖c2 A rare move, of course the main is 6.d4.



6...b6?! What a strange decision. Why not just play 6...c5 or 6...d4?

7.cxd5! A good choice.

7...♘xd5 It would still maybe have been better to play 7...exd5 even here and the position would be close to equal. [7...exd5 8.d4 ♙b7 9.♘c3 ♘a6 10.♖d1 ♗e8 11.♘e5 c5 with typical play.]



8.a3 Another very good move by White. Bosboom is preparing to strike with the e4 move and Black's position is already quite dangerous.

8...♙b7 9.d4 Now the question is how to defend from the upcoming e4? Maybe there is just no way anymore...

9...♘f6 [9...c5!? 10.dxc5 (10.e4 10...♘f6) 10...♘d7!? is an interesting idea to get active play. (10...♙xc5 11.♘g5 g6 12.♘e4 ♙e7 13.♙h6†) 11.cxb6 (11.c6 11...♖c8 12.♘d4 ♘b8=) 11...♙xb6=]

10.♘c3 It is impossible to stop White from playing e4.

10...c5 A typical move, but it is coming just one move too late... [10...♘bd7 11.e4 c5 12.dxc5 (12.d5 12...exd5 13.exd5 ♘xd5 14.♘xd5 ♙xd5 15.♖d1 ♙e6 16.♘e5 ♘xe5! 17.♖xd8 ♗axd8=) 12...♘xc5 13.♖d1 ♙c8 14.♘d4+= with a typical slightly better position for White.]



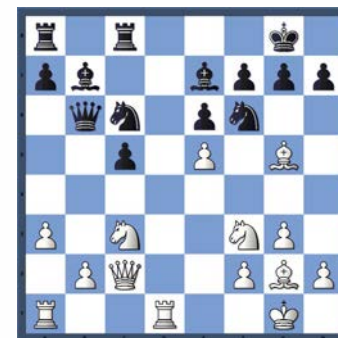
11.dxc5! White's play is perfect again. There is no reason to wait for Black to play cxd4.

11...bxc5 [11...♙xc5 12.♖d1 ♘bd7 13.♙f4+=]

12.♖d1 White is gaining control over the d-file, which can't be bad...

12...♙b6 13.♙g5 Once again Bosboom is taking a good decision. White not only wants to push e4-e5 at some point, but he is also maybe preparing Bxf6 and Ne4, with big positional pressure, and Nbd7 is never possible because of Rxd7. Black's position is already on the verge.

13...♖c8 14.♖ac1 Maybe this was a bit unnecessary. 14.e4 looks very nice. [14.e4 14...♘c6!? 15.e5



15...♘d4! 16.♘xd4 cxd4 17.♙xb7 ♙xb7 18.♖xd4 (18.exf6

18...gxf6) 18...♘d5 19.♙xe7 ♘xc3 20.bxc3 ♖xe7 with maybe good practical chances for a draw.]

14...♘a6 15.e4 Here comes the attack!

15...♙f8 16.♙xf6 gxf6



17.e5! White starts crushing Black's position.

17...♙g7 [17...f5 18.g4!→]

18.♖d6 ♖c7 19.♖cd1 What a great domination of the white pieces. Not only is Black's king in potential danger, but the domination on the d-file could also already be a reason to be in trouble.

19...♖d8 20.♘b5 White is on the winning march!

20...♖a5



21.♘g5! White is just playing a perfect game!

21...♖xd6 22.♖xh7+ ♔f8 23.♘xd6 Too many black pieces are hanging. The game is totally over.

23...fxg5 [23...♙xg2 24.exf6 ♙xf6 25.♖xf7#]

24.♙xb7 ♖d8 White is a pawn up and he has a deadly attack, so here even the 300 ELO points are not making any difference anymore.

25.♖h5! Wow, what a nice finish. White is preparing something special for Black...

25...♖d7 There was no other way to protect the f7 pawn and now White plays [25...♖c7 26.♙xa6 ♙xe5 27.♘e4+- and the rook is protected.]

26.♘c4 Black is losing a full piece! We just saw a really amazing game by White, great play combined with nice positional moves and tactical ideas. I can't remember Leko losing a game like this. **1-0**

**(3) Ponomariov, Ruslan(2717)
- Vallejo Pons, Francisco(2712)
[B90]**

7th Grand Slam Masters(3),
2014.09.16



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Ponomariov started the event with two losses, but he managed to strike back with a very nice game.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 It is quite impossible to predict Vallejo's opening choice. This time he went for the Sicilian Najdorf and Ponomariov plays one of the most popular lines against it.

6.h3 Black has plenty of setups as well, Vallejo goes for one which was recently employed by Topalov and Cheparinov.

6...e6 7.g4 ♘e7 8.♘g2 ♘fd7



9.♘ce2 A novelty right in the 9th move, with a completely new idea behind it. White wants to castle kingside and intends to lead an attack with f4-f5. The e2 knight might effectively join the attack later through f4 or g3-h5. [9.♘e3 was played mainly before, followed by Qe2 and 0-0-0, but Black was doing well in the most recent games. It is not a surprise that White was

looking for something different.]

9...♘c6 10.c3 Preparing to take back with the pawn on d4 to strengthen the center. In general the idea of such retreats like Nce2 is to occupy the center and build up a hedgehog structure with c4, but here White has already showed his intentions with g4, that he is going to play on the kingside, therefore it is more logical to keep the queenside closed with c3.

10...h5 A blunder! Vallejo knows that Ponomariov was going to castle kingside and he wanted to scare him by opening the h-file. However, he misses a nice tactical idea... [Black could have played 10...O-O 11.O-O ♔c7 12.f4 with mutual chances, although I believe White's play is easier.]

11.gxh5 ♖xh5 Otherwise White protects his extra pawn with Ng3.



12.♘xc6! In general such captures on c6, improving Black's pawn structure by bringing one pawn towards the center, don't come into consideration but chess is a concrete game...

12...bxc6 13.♘d4! Vallejo has probably missed this double attack, otherwise he would never have played h5. The rook is forced to move into a very ugly place to avoid losing material.

13...♖c5 14.b4! Ponomariov sees the following pretty

combination and temporarily sacrifices a pawn.

14...♖xc3 [14...♖c4 is refuted by 15.♗f1! ♖xc3 16.♗b2 trapping the rook!]

15.♗b2 ♖c4



16.♘xe6! This knight sacrifice is the point behind the 14.b4 move. The knight cannot be captured because of forced mate...

16...♖b6 [16...fxe6 loses to 17.♖h5+ ♔f8 18.♖h8+ ♔f7 19.♖xg7+ ♔e8 20.♖g6+ ♔f8 21.♗g7+ ♔g8 22.♗h6+ ♔h8 23.♖g7#]

17.♗xg7+ ♔f8 White has won a pawn, but Black will most likely regain the material by taking on b4. It is more important that the black king became exposed and the b2 bishop together with the g7 knight and the queen, which soon comes to the game through h5 or d2-h6, are able to create decisive threats.

18.0-0! Ponomariov does not waste time on protecting the b4 pawn. 18.a3 could have been met by a5 anyway. White rather hurries to secure the safety of his king and focuses his forces on the attack.

18...♗e5 19.♗h5! is better than Nf5, as White keeps all the attacking pieces on the board.

19...♖xb4 [19...♖xb4 was also bad in view of 20.♗c3 ♖c4 21.♖d2 with a very strong attack.]

20.♖b1 The material is balanced again, but White improves some of his pieces with tempo by attacking the black queen.

20...♖c5



21.♗h1! With the idea to attack with f4-f5 or Qd2-h6. [21.♖d2 was premature in view of 21...♗g5! and Qxg5 drops the queen because of Nf3! After 21.Kh1, Black does not have such defensive ideas.]

21...♗g6 [Black cannot exert pressure on the b-file with 21...♖b8 22.f4 ♖cb4 because White simply leaves with tempo: 23.♖c1 and then moves the bishop away and continues attacking.]

22.♗f6! At first sight this move is wrong because it allows Nf4 or Nh4, but Ponomariov has prepared some tactical ideas against these moves and otherwise the knight perfectly supports the attack from f6. 22.f4 Nh4 would have been unclear, that was the point of 21...Ng6.

22...♖b8 Trying to trade some pieces or sacrificing on b2. [22...♗h4 loses to 23.♖d2! and Black has no adequate defense against Qh6. 23...♗xf6 24.♗xf6 ♗xg2 leads to forced mate after 25.♖h6+ ♔e8 26.♖h8+ ♔d7 27.♖d8+ ♔e6]

28. ♖e7#; 22... ♘f4 also loses to 23. ♖d2!+- and mate on h6!, while Qg5 loses to Nh7!]



23. ♖d2 White follows his standard plan and it is also good enough. [However it was even stronger and nicer to play 23. ♘c1!! White wins material in view of 23... ♖xb1 (23... ♘xf6 24. ♖xb8+-) 24. ♘h6#]

23... ♘xf6 24. ♘xf6 The black king becomes even more exposed after giving up the dark squared bishop, but there was nothing better as Black had to eliminate the f6 knight to avoid getting mated.

24... ♖b5 Black tries to avoid getting into trouble along the b-file, but it allows White to keep one more attacking piece. [24... ♖xb1 25. ♖xb1 and Rb8 should be also decisive.]

25. ♖bd1! The last strong move and the game is over. The d6 pawn is under attack, after which a decisive check on d8 is inevitable. Vallejo commits a kind of suicide with his next move, but his situation was already hopeless.

25... d5 Black himself opens the center, when his king intends to move to e8 from the check on h6.

26. ♖h6+ ♔e8 27. exd5 cxd5 Almost all the moves are winning now. Ponomarev has a pleasant choice.

28. ♖fe1+ ♔d7 [28... ♘e6 29. ♖xe6+ fxe6 30. ♖xg6+-]

29. ♖g7 ♖f8 30. ♘xd5 ♖xd5 31. ♖xd5+ ♔c7 32. ♘e5+ ♔c6 33. ♖xf8 Black resigned as Rd8 wins another piece. This Nce2 plan is a very interesting idea and it requires further testing. Vallejo's attempt to counter it with h5 was nicely refuted tactically. **1-0**

(4) Grischuk, Alexander(2789) - Rodshtein, Maxim(2678) [A07]

ECC Open(3),
2014.09.16



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A very unusual and brilliant game was played by Grischuk.

1.♘f3 d5 2.g3 Rodshtein is a very good theoretician, he is one of the main seconds of Gelfand and Aronian since a very long while. Grischuk cleverly decides to lead the game to less explored territories and he plays the Reti opening.

2...c6 3.♗g2 ♕f5 4.c4 dxc4 This is a new direction. Just a few games have been played so far, with excellent results for Black.

5.♘a3 This is the way how White needs to regain the material and the trade should be in his favor, as Black has given up his strong center. However, there is a tactical point behind 4...dxc4.



5...e5!? Black wants to build a different kind of strong center.

6.♘xc4 [The point behind the whole idea is 6.♘xe5?? loses a piece to 6...♗xa3 7.bxa3 ♔d4—+ and the double attack wins.]

6...e4



7.♘fe5! This is the novelty, which seems to be a very strong one and it causes problems for Black. We can be sure that Grischuk was well prepared for this move. Nobody dared to jump to the center before, because the knight seems to get trapped after f6, but White always has some resource to save it. [Just a day before our game another battle between two GMs continued with 7.♘h4 7...♗e6 8.♘e3 ♘f6 The knight is misplaced on h4. 9.f3 White naturally tries to bring back the knight to the game. Black finds a spectacular way to continue: 9...♗c5 10.♘hf5 O-O 11.fxe4 g6 12.♔c2 ♘bd7 13.♘h4 ♗xe3 14.dxe3 ♘g4



With an unusual pawn structure. Black must be completely fine here, as the tripled pawns and the e5 square compensate for the small material deficit. Teterev-Matlakov, ECC 2014.]

7...♔c7 Black tries to play against the knights, as they are pinned together, but the queen soon turns out to be misplaced on c7. I did not find equality after other moves neither. [In case of 7...f6 White always wants to save his knight with 8.♘e3! freeing the c4 square for the other knight and the f6 move turns out to be a big weakening in Black's camp. 8...♙e6 9.♘5c4 f5 Black is completely undeveloped, White can launch a quick attack with 10.d3! exd3 11.O-O! The e-file is going to open and the rook will create serious problems for Black.; On 7...♙e6 Grischuk had probably prepared 8.♔c2! with the idea 8...f6 9.♘g4! saving the knight in a different way. The f6 move is a weakening again. Bxg4 drops a pawn after Qxe4 and taking the bishop next.]

8.d4! White not only ensures his knight in the center, but also prepares to develop his bishop to f4 with a very unpleasant tempo.

8...f6 Black is already forced to do something concrete, otherwise he simply ends up in a bad position after Bf4. [8...exd3 9.♘xd3 The big lead in development guarantees White an advantage.]

9.♘e3! White uses the same intermediate move to save his knight.

9...♙e6 10.♘5c4 f5 11.O-O ♘f6

If Black manages to finish the development with Be7 and O-O, he might solve his opening problems and the d5 square could be a big triumph for him in the future. Grischuk plays very principled chess. He undermines the e4 pawn, opens the diagonal for his fianchettoed bishop and wants to make use of the situation of the black king, which needs some moves to get into safety.



12.f3! exf3 13.♔xf3!? Grischuk was already planning the following fantastic tactical breaks. [White could also have gotten an advantage if he handled the position in a positional manner: 13.♙xf3 13...♘bd7 14.♔d3! g6 15.♘g2! This is the key idea if White takes back on f3 with the bishop! Bf4 is coming next move and Black faces serious difficulties.]

13...g6 Black tries to strengthen his weakness on f5, but it further delays the development with one tempo. [In case of 13...♘bd7 Grischuk had planned the following tempting exchange sacrifice:



14.♔xf5!! ♙xf5 15.♘xf5± and Bf4 followed by Nd6 check, or just e4-e5 swaps away Black from the board.]



14.g4! The most direct move, following the same principle to open the position on the black king which is stuck in the center. However the move required a lot of calculations, which was impossible to do because the position is too complex and there are no forced lines. The intuition plays a much bigger role at finding such moves!

14...f4 [14...fxg4 would have been met by 15.fxg4 fxg4 (15...xc4 16.f4 d6 17.Re3+ c8d8 18.d5+- The situation of the king on d8 cannot lead to anything good. White soon opens the center with d5 and Black should quickly collapse.) 16.Re3! Quite an unusual way to increase the pressure. 16...d7 17.b3 e7 18.d6+- Black collapses again.; Perhaps the best response would have been 14...bd7 15.gxf5 gxf5 16.c2 O-O-O 17.fxf5 White has an extra pawn and a clear advantage, but Black might hope for counterplay on the g-file after Nh5, preventing Bf4.]



15.g5! Another difficult move to find, which required again some precise calculations and a lot of intuition. [A strong alternative was 15.fxf4! 15...xf4 16.d5! A beautiful motif. The queen is trapped! Black can get 3 pieces for it with 16...xd5 17.fxf4 fxf4 but after 18.b3! Black is too much behind in development. White will be able to get a decisive advantage by playing the most direct and energetic moves.]

15...h5 At first sight Black is fine. He managed to consolidate his f5 weakness and both white knights are hanging. There is no way back for Grischuk, he must follow the plan he has started with 12.f3 and keep on opening the position to create decisive threats against the e8 king.



16.d5! cxd5 17.fxd5 Black has different ways to win a piece, but all of them are bad.

17...c5+ [17...xc4 loses to 18.c3 c5+ 19.e3! This is the best, otherwise Black would have the option to play Qd4! 19...fxe3 The queen is not hanging because of the e2 threat. But White has the very strong 20.fxe3! fxe3+ 21.h1! d4 22.c7+ f7 23.fxe6 fxd1+ (23...xe6 24.f3+- will end up badly for Black with such a king.) 24.fxd1 xe6 25.fxe3+ Even without the queens, White is mating with his remaining pieces. The black pieces are unable to participate in the defense. 25...f5 (25...f7 26.f1+-)]



forced line: 22. ♖f6+ 22... ♔e7 23. ♚xd6+ ♔xd6 24. ♖d1+ ♔e7 25. ♖d7+! ♔f8 26. ♖xe6+- and mate is coming soon. Just brilliant play by Grischuk!] **1-0**

26. ♖d5+ ♔g4 27. h3+ ♔h4 28. ♖e4+ ♔g3 29. ♖d3+ ♔f2 30. ♖f3#]

18. ♖ce3! fxe3 [A better try would have been 18... ♕g7 trying to castle as quickly as possible, but White wins here as well after 19. b4! ♖d4 (If 19... ♖c8 20. ♕a3! threatening with Rc1. Black cannot castle because of Ne7! 20... ♕xa1 21. ♖xa1 and Qe5 wins next move!) 20. ♖xd4 ♕xd4 21. ♖xf4! ♖xf4 (21... ♕xa1 22. ♖xe6+- Somehow, Black is unable to consolidate. His pieces are just too bad.) 22. ♖xf4 ♕xa1 23. ♕xb7+- winning back the rook and keeping the decisive advantage.]

19. b4! [Actually 19. ♕xe3 19... ♖d6 20. ♕d4 was also winning, but the text move was even better.]

19... ♖d6 [19... ♖c8 loses quickly to 20. ♕b2 ♕g7 21. ♕xg7 ♖xg7 22. ♖d4+-]

20. ♖xe3! Grischuk once again finds the most precise move to continue the attack. White is threatening to win the queen with Rxe6 Qxe6Nc7! [20. ♕b2 was tempting, but it allows some counterchances after 20... ♖c6! 21. ♕xh8 O-O-O Black continues resisting.]

20... ♖a6 21. ♕b2 With the knight on a6, Black cannot castle queenside as it would drop his queen after Rc1 Kb8 Be5.

21... ♕g7 22. ♖f6+! [Black resigned in view of the following

Puzzle section

(5) Schramm, C(2401)-Movsesian, S(2663)

ECC, 2014.09.14

1. +-



(6) Navara, D(2722)-Broeckmeulen, J(2425)

ECC, 2014.09.14

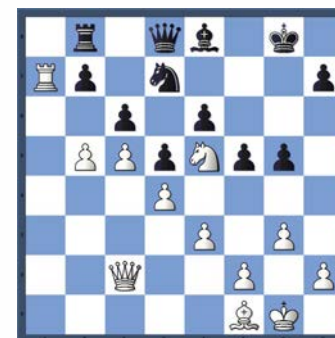
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(7) Potkin, V(2610)-Wintzer, J(2268)

ECC, 2014.09.14

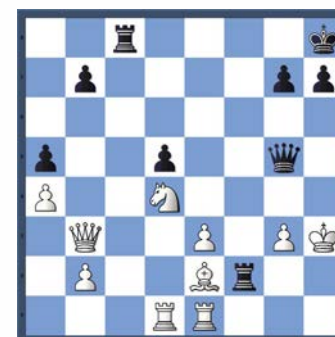
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(8) Mamedov, R(2660)-Andonovski, L(2305)

ECC, 2014.09.14

1. +-



(9) Zhigalko, A(2584)-Vitiugov, N(2742)

ECC, 2014.09.15

1... -+



(10) Petenyi, T(2459)-Wojtaszek, R(2736)

ECC, 2014.09.15

1... -+



(11) Navara, D(2722)-Varga, Z(2459)

ECC, 2014.09.15

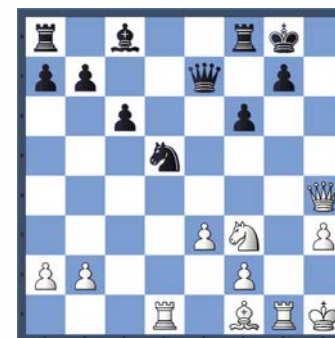
1. +-



(12) Hracek, Z(2638)-Csiba, D(2359)

ECC, 2014.09.15

1. +-



(13) Guseinov, G(2615)-Koch, T(2456)

ECC, 2014.09.15

1. +-



(14) Andersen, M(2470)-Metzger, C(2215)

ECC, 2014.09.15

1. +-



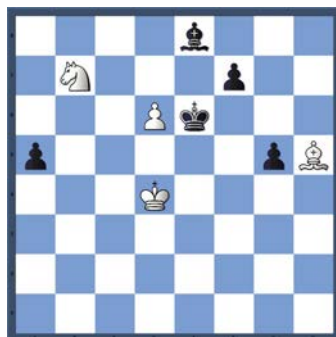
Endgame section

(15) Topalov, Veselin(2784)
- Grischuk, Alexander(2789)

30th ECC Open 2014(6.1),
2014.09.19



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



Topalov was pushing all game long. After the opening Grischuk quickly got a worse position and it seemed like it would be difficult for Black to survive until move 40, but the Russian kept on fighting, so we finally reached this endgame. White is a piece up, but it is all about whether White can promote the d-pawn or not. Black's a- and g- pawns could become fast runners too.

53. ♖f3 A very strong and logical move. White is transferring his bishop to d5, a central position from where it can control the a2 and the g2 squares to be able to stop both black pawns.

53...a4 Black has to push the pawns...

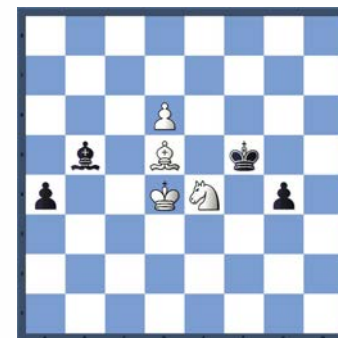
54. ♗d5+ ♔f6 The bishop is perfectly placed, so it is time to get the b7 knight into the game.

55. ♖c5 ♗b5 The only move.

56. ♗e4+ White continues to play very well, now Black needs to decide to give a pawn or to let the white king into the central square.

56...♔f5 [Not better was 56...♔g6 57.♔e5 followed by Nf6 and d7 and Black is clearly not in time to be fast enough with the g-pawn.]

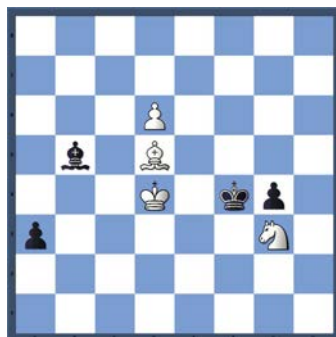
57. ♗xf7 g4 58. ♗d5 White's position already looks very promising, but some accuracy is still needed.



58...a3 [58...♔f4 was also losing since after 59. ♗f6 White is just going for the g-pawn. 59...g3 60.d7 ♗xd7 61. ♗xd7 The black king on f4 is terribly placed and can't cross the 4th rank. 61...a3 62. ♗c5 a2 63. ♗b3 The white knight stops the a-pawn and the bishop the g-pawn, so all White needs to do next is to bring his king to g1 and take the a-pawn and then the g-pawn, so the position is easily winning.]

59. ♗g3+ is still not a mistake.

59...♔f4



60. ♖e4?? After this move the position might be already be a draw. What a horrible error when the win was so close... [60. ♖e2+ was winning. 60... ♔f5 61. ♔c5 All moves are coming with tempo and the white knight is going for the a-pawn. 61... ♕d7 62. ♖d4+ ♔e5 63. ♖c2 The a-pawn is falling, so the game is over.]

60...g3! Of course Grischuk is taking his chance!

61. ♖c3 ♔f5! This is clearly the move that White missed when he played 60. Ne4??. White can't win any material now.

62. ♕e4+ [62. ♖xb5?? 62...g2 63. ♕xg2 a2 followed by a1Q.]

62...♔e6 63. ♕g2 ♕d7



64. ♔c5 The d6 pawn needs to be protected.

64...♔e5 Now the question is how to improve White's position next.

65. ♕d5 ♕e6 66. ♕c6 ♕d7 67. ♕h1 ♕e8 68. ♖a2 ♕d7 Black just keeps on moving with the bishop.

69. ♖b4 ♕e8 70. ♕d5 ♕d7 71. ♖d3+ ♔f6 g2 is a threat now.

72. ♖b4 No, Topalov can't find anything...

72...♔e5 73. ♖d3+ ♔f6 74. ♖b4 ♔e5 It is amazing , but this position might just be a miracle draw! What bad luck for the Bulgarian player when the win was so close! **1/2-1/2**

(16) Sandipan, Chanda(2619)
- Frischmann, Rick(2254)

ECC Open, 2014.09.14



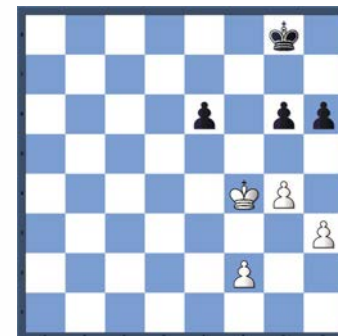
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



A shocking endgame, where the white player with almost 400 rating points more and an extra pawn is going to lose. We must add that this endgame should be objectively drawn even if White simplifies with trading the h6 pawn for the one on e5. Sooner or later White should advance his pawns in order to make progress, but this will expose the king and Black will hold the draw by giving checks.

42.e6!? A clever attempt to break the pawn chain after fxe6 Qxh6, but unfortunately for White, Black can trade the queens and the arising pawn endgame is drawish.

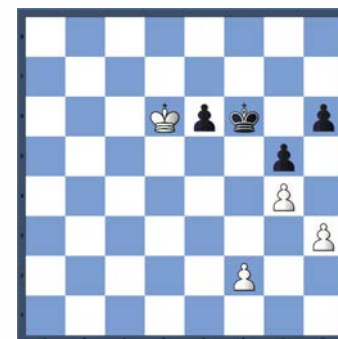
42...♔xe6! 43.♔xe6 fxe6 44.♔f4 Such endgames could be easily winning sometimes. White has the more active king and the better pawn structure.



44...g5+! The only move to hold! It is very important to fix the pawns on h3 and f2 or f3 to avoid getting into zugzwang by using these tempi with the pawns. [We can see the importance of the 44...g5 move in the 44...♔f7 line. Black might get into trouble after 45.h4! ♔f6 46.g5+ hxg5+ 47.hxg5+ ♔f7 48.♔e5 ♔e7 49.f4+- and Kf6 or Kd6 wins next.]

45.♔e5 ♔f7 46.♔d6 The only move to continue playing for the win. [46.f3 46...♔e7 is an easy draw.]

46...♔f6



47.♔c7?? After this terrible blunder, White is losing. Sandipan was playing for some kind of zugzwang and he clearly miscalculated something... [The game was drawn after 47.♔d7 47...♔f7 48.f3 with the idea to set Black into zugzwang and invade with the king, but Black holds after 48...♔f6]

49.♔d6 White must retreat. (Because 49.♔e8? loses to 49...♕e5 50.♔f7 ♕f4 and Black is faster.) 49...♕f7=]

47...♕e5! [The point of Kc7 was to meet 47...♔e7? with 48.♔c6 ♕f6 49.♔d6 ♕f7 50.♔d7 ♕f6 51.♔e8 and in comparison to the 47.Kd7 line, the pawn is still on f2 which turns out to be a decisive tempo. 51...♕e5 52.♔e7 ♕f4 53.♕xe6 ♕f3 54.♔f5 ♕xf2 55.♕g6+- This time White grabs the pawns first.]

48.♔d7 ♕d5! Probably White forgot about this move in his previous calculations. Black advances his pawn to e5 first and only then he goes for the f2 pawn. This wins a significant tempo!

49.♔e7 e5! 50.♔f6 ♕e4 51.♔g6 [51.♔e6 does not change anything, Black wins after 51...♕f3 52.♕xe5 ♕xf2 53.♔f5 ♕g3-+]

51...♕f3 52.♕xh6 ♕xf2 53.♕xg5 e4 And Black is faster!

54.♔f6 e3 55.g5 e2 56.g6 e1=♔ 57.g7 ♔e8 58.h4 ♔g3 59.h5 ♔g4 60.h6 ♔h5 [White resigned in view of 60...♔h5 61.h7 ♔g6+-+ In all the pawn endgames, calculation plays the most important role. White was too optimistic about his position and after blundering the 48...Kd5! resource, the loss was already inevitable.] **0-1**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Botvinnik, Mikhail
- Taimanov, Mark Evgenievich
[E40]

URS-ch20 playoff-1pl(4), 1952



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.e3 ♘c6 A rare move. Usually Black plays 4... 0-0 with the idea to fight for the center after d5-c5.

5.♘e2 d5 6.a3



6...♙e7 [6...♙d6 7.cxd5 (7.c5 7...♙e7 8.b4∞ and is not clear if White takes more space or Black will get counterplay after e5.) 7...exd5 8.g3 ♘e7 9.♘b5 (9.♙g2 9...0-0 10.0-0 ♖e8 11.f3 c5↔ A typical move which prevents the plan with e4.) 9...0-0 10.♘xd6 ♔xd6 11.♙g2 a5 12.a4 ♙f5 13.f3 ♖fe8 14.0-0∞wit hg4 next and White has chances to get an advantage.]

7.cxd5 exd5 8.♘f4 0-0 [8...♙f5?! 9.♖b3 ♘a5 10.♔a4+ c6 11.♙d2± and Black has problems with the knight.]

9.♙e2 [9.♙d3 looks more active. 9...♘b8! Black needs to lose some time to improve his knight, but this is the best way to play. 10.0-0 (10.h3 10...c6 11.g4∞) 10...c6 11.b4 ♘bd7 12.b5! with the idea to create a weakness and activate the bishop from c1.]



9...♙f5?! In my opinion Black should improve the knight. [9...♘b8 10.0-0 (10.g4!?) 10...c6 White has the better development but very bad pieces, which usually are placed differently. 11.♙f3 (11.♘d3 11...♘bd7 12.♙d2 ♖e8 13.b4∞) 11...♘bd7 12.e4 dxe4 13.♘xe4 ♘xe4 14.♙xe4 ♘f6 15.♙f3 ♙d6 Black is doing well.]

10.g4! ♙e6 11.♘xe6 [White could not hurry with the exchanges and simply take space on the kingside after 11.h4!]

11...fxe6 12.0-0 [12.g5 12...♘e8 13.h4 ♘d6 14.♙d2 with the idea to try and castle queenside.]

12...♔d7 [12...e5? 13.dxe5 ♘xe5 14.g5+—]

13.f4



13...♞d8! A good move with the idea to improve the knight and keep the possibility to play over c5.

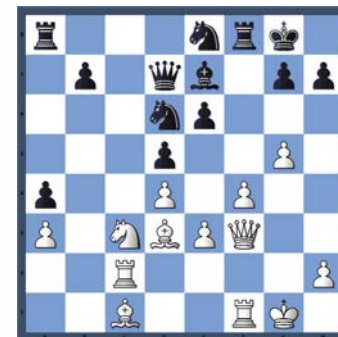
14.♙d3 ♞f7 [14...c5 15.g5 ♞e8 16.dxc5 ♙xc5 17.b4 ♙b6 18.♞a4!↑ and Black is not on time with counterplay. White wants take on b6 and activate his second bishop over b2.]

15.b4! Preventing c5 and preparing the rook transfer over the second rank.

15...a5 16.b5 ♞d6 A very good place for the knight, from where it fights for the important squares b5, c4, e4 and f5.

17.♞f3 a4 18.♞a2 c6 Black is looking for counterplay but it was more accurate to secure the position on the kingside. [18...g6 19.♞g2 ♞f7 20.f5∞]

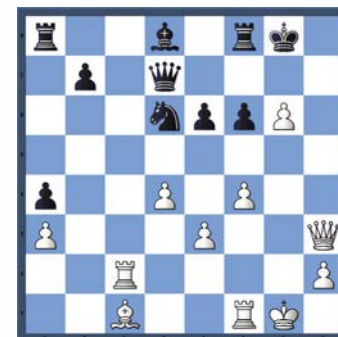
19.bxc6 ♞xc6 20.♞c2 ♞d7 21.g5 ♞fe8 [21...♞fe4!? is an interesting idea. 22.♙xe4 (22.♞xe4 22...dxe4 23.♙xe4 ♙xg5∞) 22...dxe4 23.♞xe4 ♞xe4 24.♞xe4 ♞ac8↔ Black has compensation thanks to the weak light squares and the a3 pawn.]



22.♙xh7+! No choice! Otherwise Black would take full control of the game after playing g6.

22...♞xh7 23.♞h3+ ♞g8 24.♞xd5 [24.g6 24...♞f6—+]

24...♙d8 25.g6 ♞f6 26.♞xf6+ gxf6 After a few forced moves we have the first critical moment.



27.g7?? What an amazing blunder! White should have started with [27.♞g2! 27...♞e8 28.g7 ♞f7 29.♞f3 White is preparing to mate over the h-file. 29...♞c8 Black needs to hurry with counterplay! 30.♙b2



30...♖c7!! A fantastic move! The most accurate square for the rook, Black is preapring Qc8 (with the idea Rc1) and at the same time (after Qc8) preventing White's idea of playing Qh8 -Nxh8- gxh8Q -Kxh8- Rh3-Rh7!! 31.♙h4 ♕c8 (31...f5 32.♙h5) 32.♖h3 ♖c1+ 33.♗xc1 ♙xc1+ 34.♚f2 ♙c2+↗]



27...♖e8?? Both players didn't realize that the g7 pawn can simply be captured! [27...♙xg7! and there is no mate! Black will escape! 28.♙h5 (28.♖g2+ 28...♙f7) 28...♖f7]

28.♙h8+ ♙f7 29.♙h5+ ♙g8 [29...♙e7 30.♙h7+—]

30.♖g2 ♘f7 31.♖f3+— Now White is simply wining...

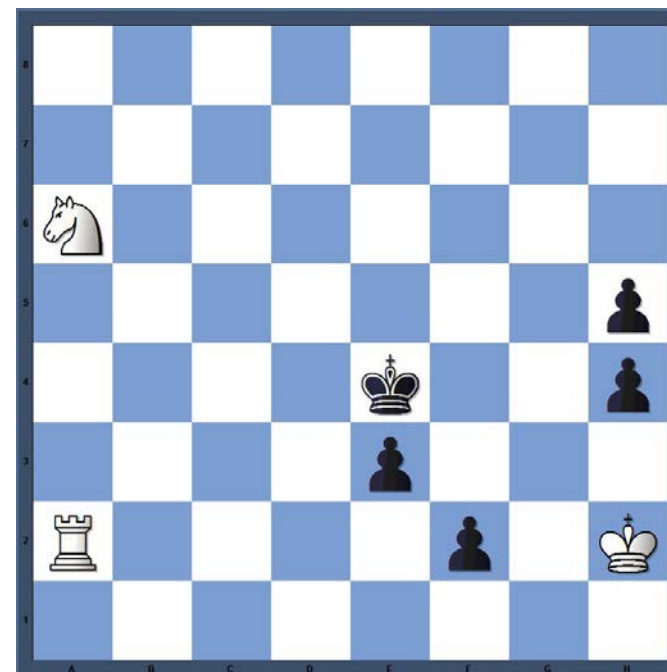
31...♖a5 32.♙h4 e5 33.♖h3 ♙xh3 34.♙xh3 exf4 35.exf4 ♗b6 [35...♖e1+ 36.♙f2 ♖xc1 37.♙h7+! ♙xh7 38.g8=♙+ ♙h6 39.♙g6#]

36.♗b2 ♖b5 37.♙f1 ♗a5 38.♖c2 ♖b3 39.♙d7 ♖be3
40.♙xa4 ♖e1+ 41.♙f2 ♗c7 42.♙xe8+ 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Troitzky

1. =



Solutions

(19) Caruana, F(2801)-Nakamura, H(2787)

Sinquefield Cup, 2014.09.05



40. ♖f2? [40. ♖xg6+! 40... ♖xg6 41. e6 ♜h7
42. e7 ♖g8 43. ♜f6+-]

40... ♜e7+ 41. ♜e4 ♖a4∞

(20) Fressinet, L(2712)-Oparin, G(2540)

Spanish league, 2014.09.04

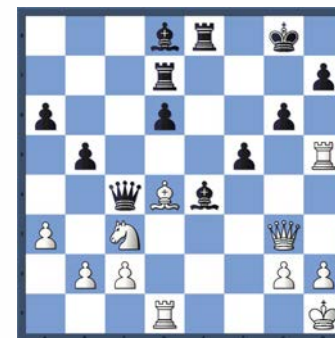


38. ♖d6! ♖c2 [38... ♜e6 39. ♖xe6! fxe6 40. ♜g6+-]

39. ♜g6+! ♜g8 40. ♖xf8+ ♜h7 41. ♖xf7+-

(21) Navara, D(2708)-Maksimenko, A(2507)

Polish league, 2014.09.07



24. ♖xh7 ♖xh7 [24... ♜xh7 25. ♖h3+ ♜g8 26. ♖h8+ ♜f7
27. ♖g7+ ♜e6 28. ♖xg6+ ♜e7 29. ♖f6#]

25. ♖xg6+ ♜f8 26. ♖xh7+-

(22) Karjakin, S(2777)-Malakhov, V(2696)

Moscow blitz, 2014.09.06



18... ♖xh2+! 0-1 [18... ♖xh2+ 19. ♜xh2 ♖h8+ 20. ♜h3 ♖f2+
21. ♜h1 ♖xh3#]

(23) Grachev, B(2673)-Riazantsev, A(2678)

Moscow blitz, 2014.09.06

**26. ♖c8+! ♕g7 27. ♘e8+ ♖f8** [27... ♖h6 28. ♘xe5+-]**28. ♘f6+ ♕g7 29. ♖g8+! ♕xf6 30. ♖h8+ 1-0**
[30. ♖h8+ 30... ♖f5 31. ♖xe5#]**(24) Paravyan, D(2428)-Reshetnikov, A(2498)**

Moscow blitz, 2014.09.06

**32. ♖xe8! 1-0**

[32. ♖xe8 32... ♖xe8 33. ♘f6+ ♕h8 34. ♘xe8+-]

(25) Dubov, D(2614)-Mozharov, M(2555)

Moscow blitz, 2014.09.06

**17. e5! dxe5 18. fxg5 hxg5 19. ♘e4! ♖g6** [19... ♘xe4
20. ♖xf7+-]**20. ♙xg5+-****(26) Belous, V(2584)-Morozevich, A(2731)**

Moscow blitz, 2014.09.06

**15...g5!+-**

(27) Dubov, D(2614)-Karjakin, S(2777)

Moscow blitz, 2014.09.06



15. ♖xe5! dxe5 [15... ♗xe5 16. ♗xe5 dxe5 17. d6+-]

16. d6 ♖a7 [16... ♗xd6 17. ♗xa8+-; 16... ♖a6 17. dxe7 ♗xe7 18. ♖fc1+-]

17. ♗xc5! ♖d7 18. dxe7 ♗xe7 19. ♗xb5+-

(28) Najer, E(2646)-Riazantsev, E(2678)

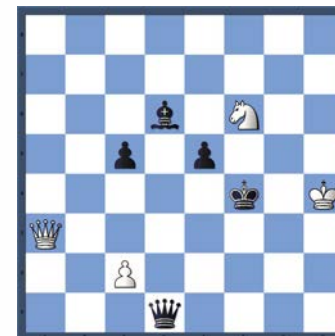
Moscow blitz, 2014.09.06



27. ♖xd5!! [27. ♗xe6+ 27... fxe6]

27... exd5 28. ♗e6+!! 1-0 [28. ♗e6+ 28... ♗xe6 (28... fxe6 29. ♗xe7#) 29. ♗h6#]

(29) Rinck



1. ♗d5+!! ♗xd5 [1... ♖e4 2. ♗c3+-; 1... ♖f5 2. ♗e3+-]

2. ♗g3+ ♖f5 3. ♗g5+! ♖e4 [3... ♖e6 4. ♗g8+-]

4. ♗g2+! ♖d4 5. c3+! ♖c4 6. ♗a2+! ♖xc3 7. ♗xd5+-



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Top GM Secrets

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Editorial Preface

After a very turbulent last week with the European Club Cup and the Bilbao Masters, we are in a calm week of chess.

In the Baku Open, where a lot of 2600+ players are participating, Ernesto Inarkiev is leading with 5/6, followed by a lot of players on 4.5/6, such as Areschenko, Artemiev, Lupulescu, Krasenkow and many more.

15 The Tseshkovsky Memorial was convincingly won by Baadur Jobava with a great 7.5/9, a full point ahead of 5 other players.

18 The World Youth Championship is also under way in Durban, South Africa, but it is pity to see that almost none of the leading young chess stars are participating in it. All in all, Indian chess kids are dominating a lot of age groups, followed by Russians, so there are no big changes in comparison to previous years.

25 For next week we can already be very excited about the start of the Grand Prix series in Baku, Azerbaidjan.

As usual we hope you enjoy the best games of the week selected by your 2 commentators!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Shaposhnikov, Evgeny(2536)
- Bukavshin, Ivan(2613) [B80]

Tseshkovsky Mem 2014(8.4),
2014.09.24



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are going to see a typical Sicilian game: fight, fight fight. In the beginning of the game White picks a rare line and gets immediately countered in the center, after which in a complicated position White is starting to go wrong. Black is ending the game with a beautiful combination!

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 In open tournaments we see openings like the Paulsen much more often than in round robin top events. The simple reason is that you really need to win some games to get the chance to take some price.

3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 So no Paulsen, which usually starts with 4...a6 or sometimes 4... Nc6, which actually I don't count as Paulsen! :)

5.♘c3 d6 This is a clear line for "let's play!".

6.♗e3 [6.g4 should clearly be the main line here, which counts as quite dangerous for Black.]

6...a6 and we are back in the main position of the Sheveningen/Najdorf.

7.♗e2 is one of the main moves. White prepares to castle kingside. The other two main moves are 7.f3 or 7.g4.

7...♔c7 Black has a lot of different move orders here.

8.g4 Quite a strange move! The combination of moves Be2-g4

rarely fits well together. It is clear that White wants to save some sort of tempo on playing f3 because of the future g5 and immediate f4, but Black also has different resources.



8...d5!? A very interesting reply and probably a preparation by Bukavshin.

9.exd5 White's move is forced.

9...♗b4 This was Black's idea. Actually this all looks quite strange to me. Black is giving up the very important dark squared bishop and doesn't have great development either... In my opinion Black should be risking more than it is possible to gain here.

10.dxe6 Another forced move as Black wanted to take on c3 followed by Nxd5.

10...♗xc3+ 11.bxc3 ♔xc3+ Using the fact that White has no other move than to play Kf1.

12.♔f1 fxe6 So let's take a fresh look at the position. The material is equal but things are looking very strange. White has the bishop pair and a better development, but the king on f1 is very badly placed. In case Black was in time to develop his pieces and play e5, White's position could become very bad, so White needs to act quickly.

13.♗f3?! White is trying to stop Black from playing Nd5, but

the bishop on f3 is taking a very bad position and after Nd5 the exchange is not so great for White in general. [After 13.♖b1 13...O-O 14.♔d3 ♔c7 Black's position seems to be promising because it is really hard for White to prevent the e5 move.; 13.g5 is premature since after 13...♘d5 Black is doing great.; The most logical move is probably 13.♙g2 13...O-O and now it is hard to say what to do next for White, a safe option is 14.♔d3 ♔xd3 15.cxd3 e5 16.♘f5 ♘c6 and the position is probably about equal, but White could still try to push for a win.]

13...O-O Black's king is safe, but White's one is not.

14.♙g2



14...♔c7 is a possible option, but somehow it looks a bit too slow. [Black could have started with 14...e5 15.♘f5 ♕xf5 16.gxf5 ♔c7 followed by Nc6 or e4. I think only Black can be better now.]

15.g5? This is already a serious mistake. Why push Black into playing Nd5? And of course White is making the bishop c8 a beast by giving him all the white squares. [15.♖b1 would lead to a complicated position now.]

15...♘d5 Of course!

16.♕xd5 exd5 So the position has changed a lot again! We still have equal material, but the position of the white king is

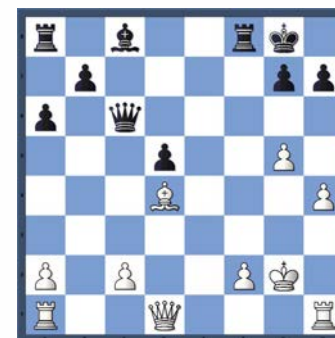
very open and Black's attack is only getting stronger because of the opposite colored bishops.

17.h4 Another very strange move by White. It seems like Shaposhnikov was not aware at all of what was going to happen to him already in couple of moves from now...

17...♘c6 A good choice. Black exchanges the strongest white piece, the knight d4, before starting the action on the kingside.

18.♗xc6 ♔xc6 18...bxc6 was also a good move.

19.♕d4 [19.♔d4 wasn't any better since after 19...♕f5 Black is going to be at least a full pawn up because the c2 pawn is lost.]



19...♖f4! A very nice move! Before playing Bf5, Black brings his rook into the attack and also frees the f8 square for the rook on a8 to join the action.

20.f3 The only move as Black was threatening to play Bg4.

20...♕f5 The c2 pawn is hanging.

21.c3 It seems like White is more or less solid, but in fact Black's attack is unstoppable.

21...♖f8 Black has a clear idea now: to put maximum pressure on the f3 pawn, for example by playing Bg6-Bh5 or maybe

Qg6-h6.

22. ♖e1 This move gives Black the chance to end the game with a beautiful combination! [22. ♖e2 22... ♖g6 and Black's position should just be crushing!]

22... ♗g4! Of course Black had a few moves which would give him great attacking chances, but why not end the game with a very nice piecesacrifice!?

23. fxf4 The only move.

23... ♖xg4+ 24. ♖h2 [24. ♖h3 24... ♖d7! and White is hopeless.]

24... ♖e4 What a nice plan by Black! After being so strong vertically, his rooks are now crushing horizontally.

25. ♖g3 ♖ff4 A beautiful move!

26. ♗f2 Once again White just has no choice, 26.Bf2 is the only move which defends from Rxh4.

26... ♖d6! This is the last pretty idea! By pinning the white king Black is threatening to play Rxh4 next again. The white king can never go to the g-file because of Rg4 and White would lose his queen, so the only thing left is to move to h3.

27. ♖h3 ♖e6+ The black queen is coming closer...

28. ♖h2 ♖e5 White resigned because of 29.Kh3 Qf5 and the game is over because of 30.Kh2 Rxf2. A very nice game by Black and actually an interesting idea with Qc7 and a fast d5!
0-1

(2) Salem, A.R. Saleh(2594) - Zhigalko, Sergei(2677) [E12]

Baku Open 2014(6.4),
2014.09.27



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Right from the opening the game is getting chaotic. Both sides are ready for a big fight! At first it looks like Black should be doing fine, but with a lot of tactics White is able to take over and convert his development advantage into a material one. A very interesting game is ahead of us...

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♗f3 White decides not to enter the Nimzo with 3.Nc4 Bb4.

3...b6 This has been standing as a solid opening for at least the last 60 years!

4.a3 Of course moves like 4.g3 or 4.Nc3 are more popular, but 4.a3 also deserves a lot of attention, especially since in the latest games White is scoring very well with it.

4... ♗a6 is probably the main move. The idea of 4... Ba6 is simply that it is not that easy to defend the c4 pawn for White. 5.Nbd2 would block the bishop on c1 and the queen on c2 could not be in the best position.

5. ♖c2 ♗b7 Black lured the white queen to c2-the mission is done- so now it is time to place the bishop to b7.

6. ♗c3 c5 and that's the key: if the white queen was placed on d1, White would have the great d5 move, but now 7.d5 is connected to very complicated play because Black can just take twice on d5.

7.dxc5 This is nothing new either. Black wanted to play Bxf3 and win the d4 pawn so White takes on c5.

7...bxc5 8.♟f4 White is already preparing to put pressure on the d-file! Clearly Black wants to play d6 Nc6 or even try to play d5, so White has to get ready for the action in the middle. White's next move could be Rd1 or even 0-0-0.

8...♘h5 Black is asking White where he wants to put his bishop.

9.♟e3 The most logical move, but now e4 is never possible.

9...♟e7 Black is logically preparing to castle kingside.



10.g4!? White is starting the action. A more "silent" plan for White could have been with g3-Bg2 but probably Black should be doing fine after 0-0 and even f5-f4. Now things are quickly becoming very crazy.

10...♘f6 11.g5 ♘h5 The white pawn on g5 can of course be a weak one, but on the other hand it could be great to have it for the future because moves like Bf6 or Nf6 are possible anymore. [After 11...♘g4 12.♟f4 f6 13.g6 White should be clearly better.]

12.0-0-0 White needs to go "all or nothing"!

12...♟xf3 It is hard to blame Black for this logical move, but it seems like White is better after it. [I think Black should have continued with the more calm 12...O-O and now White has a lot of moves, but 13.♘e4 looks very tempting. 13...♚c7

White's position looks better, but things are unclear and Black is soon going to have his own play with Nc6-Rab8 on the white king.]

13.exf3 ♘c6 Black is trying to be fast with his play. [13...♟xg5?! 14.f4! White is just winning.]

14.f4 White wants to play Be2 next.

14...g6 Black is trying to be very solid by planning to play Ng7-Nf5 next. [14...♘d4 would be premature since after 15.♟xd4 cxd4 16.♚xd4 I can't see why Black should be fine here...]

15.♘e4 I think this move comes a bit too early. [Why not first play 15.♟g2 15...♚c8 and now maybe something like 16.♚d3 and it is going to be very difficult to castle for Black without losing the d7 pawn, so White should be clearly better here.]



15...♘d4! Zhigalko takes his chance to complicate matters.

16.♚c3 White can't take twice on d4 because the f4 pawn is hanging.

16...♚c7 is probably not the best. [Black could reach a very unclear position after 16...O-O 17.♘xc5 ♟xc5 18.♟xd4 ♚c8 White is a pawn up, but the king on c1 could be in trouble and the f4 pawn is also weak. I think the position is very unclear here.]

17. ♖xc5 Of course!

17... ♗xc5 18. ♗xd4 ♗xd4 [18... ♖xf4+ was losing since after 19. ♗e3 White is winning the rook on h8.]

19. ♖xd4 ♖xf4 [It was already too late to hope to be fine after 19...O-O 20. ♖d2 as White's Rd4-Qd2 are perfectly placed, so the pawn up gives White a clear advantage.]

20. ♖f3 As we can see the position is still very complicated.

20... ♗d5 is the only way to defend the rook on a8 and save the knight from f4.

21. ♖b1



21... ♖e5?! A very dangerous move without the chance to gain anything. [Safer was 21... ♗b6 but here after 22.h4 followed by h5 White's position is also looking better.]

22. ♖d3 is one of many good moves. [Another easy solution could have been 22. ♖e4 22... ♖f5 23. ♖xf5 gxf5 24. ♖d4 with a clearly better endgame for White.]

22... ♗f4 [After 22... ♗b6 23.f4 White is clearly better.]

23. ♖e3! A very nice move which puts Black into big trouble.

23... ♖f5+ [After 23... ♖xe3 24.fx3 ♗h5 25. ♗g2 White would be enjoying a fantastic endgame where the black knight on h5 is totally out of the game.]

24. ♖a1 The knight on f4 is hanging and can only be defended with the Black's next move.

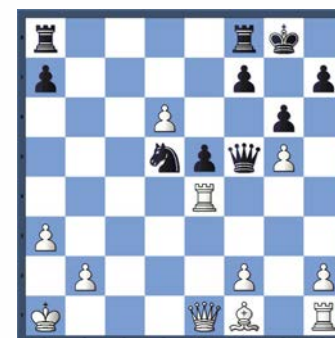
24...e5 25. ♖e4 d6 What else to do?!

26.c5! White is crushing Black's position! If Black could manage to keep the pawn structure, of course the position would be at least equal, but it is just impossible to keep things together here.

26...O-O There was already nothing much else to do...

27.cxd6 ♗d5 [27... ♖ae8 28. ♗b5 and White's position seems to be winning.]

28. ♖e1 Cool and strong!



28... ♖ad8? This move loses on the spot. [Black could have fought harder after 28... ♖ab8 but of course White is much better after 29. ♗c4]

29. ♖xe5 Now the 2nd pawn is gone.

29... ♖f3 30. ♗e2 The knight on d5 is still hanging.

30... ♖b3 31. ♖d1! The last accurate move which forces the exchange of the queens and this decides the outcome of the game. All in all an interesting game and good play by White!
1-0

**(3) Anand, Viswanathan(2785)
- Vallejo Pons, Francisco(2712)
[D20]**

7th Grand Slam Masters(4.1),
2014.09.18



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



Anand had a perfect warm-up tournament before his World Championship match. He won convincing games, such as this one.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 The Queen's gambit accepted. Anand himself played it as Black some time ago.

3.e4 ♖c6 3...e5 and 3...Nf6 are more popular main lines nowadays, but the text move also has huge theory.

4.♟f3 ♟g4 5.d5 ♟e5 6.♟f4 ♟g6 7.♟e3 e5 8.♟xc4 ♟f6 9.♟c3 We are still at the beginning of this opening, with hundreds of games in the database.

9...a6 This is considered to be the best to avoid the trade of the light squared bishops after Bb5. [In case of 9...♟d6 10.♟b5+ ♟d7 11.♟xd7+ ♟xd7 12.O-O is very similar to the game.]

10.♟e2 Anand unpins himself and intends to improve his knight with Nd2-c4.

10...♟d6 11.♟d2

11...♟xe2 This is a positional mistake, after which White's game becomes very easy and comfortable. [All the experts of this variation play 11...♟d7 keeping the bishops and Black plays b5 next, followed by c6 undermining the center. 12.♟c4 is met by 12...♟b4 The e4 pawn is hanging and if White protects it, b5 works again sending back the knight and then c6 at some point.]

12.♟xe2 O-O 13.O-O White is ready to build a pleasant setup with Nc4, Rfd1, Rac1. The g3 move is always useful to neutralize the g6 knight. If Black does not succeed to free himself with c6, he must suffer long-term in a worse position with less space.

13...♟e7 [After the trade of the bishops, the move 13...b5 is rather a weakening. White could create some holes with 14.a4 b4 15.♟d1+= and the queenside pawns are vulnerable.]



14.♖fd1 Anand knows that Black should aim for the c6 undermining, therefore he prepares with his rook to the opening of the d-file.

14...♖ac8 [14...♗f4 with the idea to work out the e5 square for the minor pieces. But White is not forced to take. 15.♙f3 and g3 next, sending back the knight.]

15.g3 A very useful move to open the back rank and to paralyze the g6 knight.

15...h6 Black also spends a useful tempo before pushing c6. Vallejo was afraid of some Bg5 pins, after which the knight's jump to d5 could be very unpleasant.

16.♖ac1 c6 Black does not wait longer. [In case of 16...♖fd8 17.♗c4+ is better for White again. He might improve his position with grabbing some space on the queenside with a3-b4. Without the c6 move, Black cannot hope for equality, but in the game White was perfectly prepared to meet this break.]

17.♗c4 White prepares to land a piece on d5, with which he gives up his structural advantage, but his pieces are going to dominate the black ones.

17...cxd5 18.♗xd5 [18.♗b6!? was also good to have a knight on d5. Perhaps Anand wanted to avoid some kind of exchange sacrifice, like 18...♖xc3 19.bxc3 dxe4 but White is better after

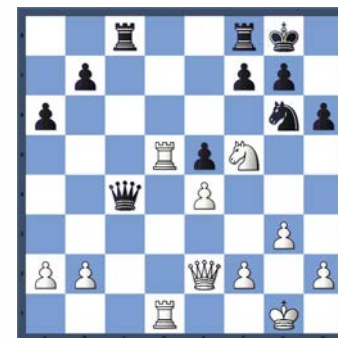
20.♙c4 Nc8! is threatening.]

18...♗xd5 19.♖xd5 ♕c5 Less pieces, less problems, but it does not solve everything. The hole on d5 gives White a very pleasant initiative. [On 19...♖fd8 20.♖cd1 ♕c7 21.♕c5 ♙f6 22.♗e3+= keeps the advantage.]

20.♖cd1 ♕xe3 [Perhaps it was better to get rid of a pair of rooks with 20...b5 White needs his knight on e3 to stay ready to jump onto the holes f5 and d5. Therefore the right move is 21.♕xc5 ♖xc5 22.♗e3 ♖xd5 23.♖xd5! It is better to fight for the d-file and use the knight on the f5 square. Black cannot equalize with 23...♖d8 24.♗f5 ♙f6 because after 25.♙d3! ♖xd5 26.exd5!± a new problem arises. The d-passed pawn cannot be blockaded well.]

21.♗xe3 ♙b4 Vallejo realized that he is unable to neutralize the activity of the white pieces and he starts looking for counterplay.

22.♗f5 ♖c4 Black tries to provoke a serious f3 weakening, after which there is always hope for Black to get counterplay against the king. However Anand finds a nice way to push back the heavy pieces. [On 22...♙c4



the endgame would also yield an advantage, but it is much better to keep the queens on the board and play for more. 23.♙f3! ♙xa2 24.h4! with the threat of h5 and Qg4 or

the same with reversed move order. Black has no adequate defense.]

23. ♖d6! Protecting the e4 pawn with tempo.

23... ♖c6 24. a3 Sending the queen back to passivity to free the e4 pawn.

24... ♖b3 25. ♖5d3 ♖b6 26. ♖f5! The knight also returns to its initial place. In the last 3 moves, White has seemingly only retreated with his rook to d3 from a more active square, but actually he has done much more... Black is now left without any counterplay and he must think how he could defend against the deadly threat of h4-h5 and Qg4.

26... ♖e8 Black would like to get rid of the strong f5 knight with Ne7.

27. ♖d7! Simple prophylaxis against Ne7 and of course it is always useful to have a rook on the 7th rank. [27. ♖g4 27... ♖c2 Or; 27. h4 27... ♖e7 were less clear.]

27... ♖f6 [27... ♖c7 does not help. 28. ♖f3 attacking the f7 weakness and Nxe6 is threatening. 28... ♖e7 29. ♖1d6! sends the queen away from the 6th rank to create the following decisive mating idea: 29... ♖c5 30. ♖xe7+ ♖xe7 31. ♖d8+ ♖h7 32. ♖f5+ g6 33. ♖f6+-]



28. ♖g4! Black has no defense against the simple h4-h5.

28... ♖c6 [28... ♖xb2 29. h4+-; 28... ♖c8 29. h4 ♖c2 is met by 30. ♖f1! and h5 wins next move.]

29. h4 h5 A last try to trade the h-pawn for the one on e4 with the hope that the f5 knight might lose its base, but it weakens the king too much.

30. ♖xh5 ♖xe4 31. ♖d8 ♖c6 [On 31... ♖e6 the easiest win is 32. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 33. ♖d6+-]

32. ♖g5! Refreshing the h5 threat.

32... ♖e6 33. ♖1d6 [Black resigned in view of 33. ♖1d6 33... ♖xd8 34. ♖xd8+ ♖h7 35. ♖h5# Such kind of wins against strong players are very helpful for the confidence before the real challenge against Carlsen.] **1-0**

**(4) Caruana, Fabiano(2801)
- Roiz, Michael(2579) [C95]**30th ECC Open 2014(4.2),
2014.09.17GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Caruana has continued his fantastic winning streak also in the European Club Cup. He was crushing one opponent after another in very nice games:

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.O-O ♙e7 6.♖e1
Recently 6.d3 was by far the most popular variation, but lately the old main line 6.Re1 has started to come back into fashion.

6...b5 7.♙b3 d6 [7...O-O 8.c3 d5 is the Marschall gambit and the reason why White has started to go for the 6.d3 line, but Roiz has never tried this opening.]

8.c3 O-O 9.h3 The initial position of the Ruy Lopez main lines. Black has various possible options here, Roiz goes for the Breyer variation.

9...♘b8 10.d4 ♘bd7 11.♘bd2 ♙b7 12.♙c2 ♖e8 13.♘f1 ♙f8 14.♘g3 g6



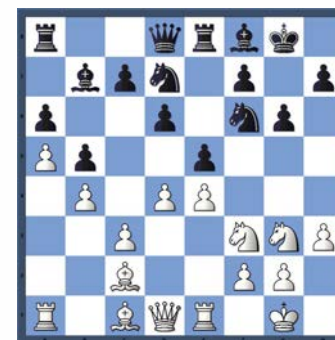
15.a4 A few issues ago I commented the Adams-Baramidze

game, which reached the same position. Black plays a rare move now, which caught Caruana by surprise.

15...♘b6!? Trying to force White to decide what he wants to do on the queenside. [The Adams game and the main line goes with 15...c5 16.d5 c4]

16.a5!? After a long thought, Caruana decided to close the queenside. To be honest, I have never seen that this idea could give an White an advantage, but Caruana had a very deep idea behind it. [In general it is better to keep the tension with 16.b3 and I believe White should also have done this here. 16...bxa4 (On 16...♙g7 17.♙d3! is the standard way to strengthen the position, force Black to decide what to do with the b5 pawn. Usually for Black the best is to hold it with c6, but it closes the diagonal of the b7 bishop and therefore White can develop with Be3 (the e4 is not hanging anymore after exd4) and Qd2.) 17.bxa4 a5 I have seen this reaction sometimes as an idea of Nb6, but it looks like White is better after 18.♙d3! and Bb5 next!]

16...♘bd7 17.b4 We reached a typical Ruy Lopez middlegame with all the pieces on the board and many hidden plans in a position in which the stronger player can outplay his opponent.



17...♙g7 I think that this most natural developing move is

a mistake. White was intending to close the center with d5, followed by undermining the b5 pawn with Bb3 and c4. Black should always meet the d5 move with the c6 undermining, but after the bishop has left the f8 square, the d6 pawn is going to be loose. Black will be forced to spend an important tempo to protect it first. Black has prepared to push d5 himself, which would have been an even better version than in the previous move, but of course White knew exactly what is going on and he locked the center. [The computer suggests 17...exd4 18.cxd4 c5 This is possible, but for a human it is always difficult and not advisable to give up the center like this. The position looks quite scary after 19.bxc5 dxc5 20.e5 ♘d5 21.♘g5 and e6, followed by sacrifices on Nxh7 Kxh7 Qh5. But the computer is stubborn...; 17...c5 is met by 18.d5 which leads to a typical Ruy Lopez middlegame, when White has an edge due to the space advantage and he continues with the standard attacking plan Be3, Qd2, Nh2 and f2-f4.; It looks like to me like the equalizer would have been 17...d5! 18.♘xe5 ♘xe5 19.dxe5 ♘xe4! This involves a pawn sacrifice, but Black gets adequate compensation for it. (19...♖xe5 20.♙f4 ♖e8 21.e5 is better for White.) 20.♘xe4 dxe4 21.♙xd8 (21.♙f4 21...c5) 21...♖axd8 22.♙g5 ♖c8 23.♙xe4 ♙xe4 24.♖xe4 c5! Or f5 first and when the rook retreats c5! Suddenly all white pawns on the dark squares become vulnerable and Black should have enough compensation to hold the draw without too much difficulty.]

18.d5! ♖b8 Black protects the d6 pawn and intends to undermine the center with c6. This is definitely the right plan, but the right execution is unclear. He could have tried Rc8 and take back with the rook on c6, Qe7 or Qc8 and preparing to recapture with the queen on c6. In any case, we get quite similar positions and I believe White's position is preferable everywhere.

19.♙b3 ♘f8 One more preparation move. After the c6 move, the knight will be much better placed on e6 than on d7. [On 19...c6 20.dxc6 ♙xc6 21.♖a2 (The computer suggests a very interesting attacking plan with 21.♘g5!? 21...♖f8 22.h4 and h5 next. This is also quite an interesting idea.)]



20.♖a2 A very deep maneuver to activate the white pieces. The course of the game has completely justified Caruana's decision! [Another positional plan would have been 20.c4 20...bxc4 21.♙xc4 c6 22.dxc6 ♙xc6 23.♙d3+= also with an advantage, but Caruana wanted to decide the game on the kingside with an attack.]

20...c6 21.dxc6 ♙xc6 22.♖d2 ♖d8 23.♖d3! A small and strong move! White opens the diagonal of the bishop to have better coordination between the pieces and in the same time he keeps the potential Ng5 and Rf3 attacking motifs in mind. Actually it is quite annoying for Black to deal with the d6 pawn. Black is never able to execute the d5 break and otherwise it pins his heavy pieces to its defense. White can also strengthen the pressure with a Be3-b6 maneuver.

23...♖d7 [If Black tries to avoid the Ng5 ideas and plays 23...♙e8 White keeps an edge after 24.♙e3 ♘e6 25.♙d2 followed by Bb6 and Rd1 with a clear advantage.]



24. ♖g5! Perfectly played! Caruana feels the moment is right to launch an attack. White has different ways to increase the attack, one is h4-h5, another even more dangerous one is f4-f5 as taking on f4 Bxf4 leads to the loss of the d6 pawn or big problems on the f7 square after White occupies the f-file. At the same time White is ready to play Nx f7 Rxf7 Rxd6, getting two pawns and a rook for the two minor pieces, which is also good for him.

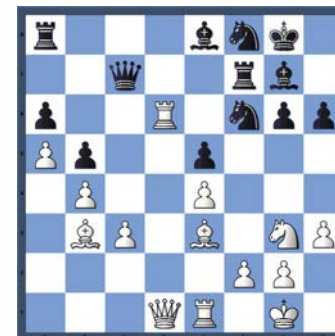
24... ♖c7 [24... ♖e8 is also met by 25.f4!±]

25. ♕e3 [Perhaps it was stronger to play 25.f4 and on 25...h6 26. ♖xf7! ♖xf7 27. ♖xd6 but the way Caruana played was also very convincing.]

25...h6 It is very annoying to have such an attacking knight on g5. It is understandable that Roiz wanted to deal with it. On the other hand, after the sacrifice on f7, the h7-h6 move turns out to be a big weakening and Black gets into trouble on the g6 square.

26. ♖xf7! suggested itself, as even materially White is doing fine after taking on d6.

26... ♖xf7 27. ♖xd6 ♕e8

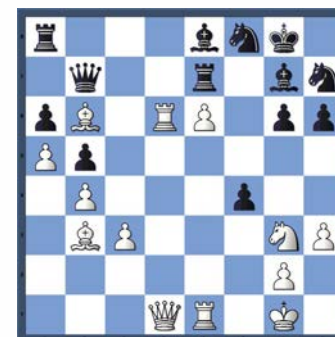


28. ♕b6! A very deep intermediate move before increasing the pressure with f4! [28.f4 immediately is less clear. Black might hope for counterplay after 28... ♖xc3]

28... ♖b7 [Now on 28... ♖xc3 Caruana had prepared the hidden idea 29. ♕c5!! and suddenly the black queen is trapped... 29... ♖c8 30. ♖e3 ♖b2 31. ♖d2+—]

29.f4! The attacking is rolling now! White would like to get a pawn to e5!

29... ♖6d7 [29...exf4 is refuted by 30.e5 ♖6h7 31.e6 ♖e7]



And here the prettiest win, which Caruana had foreseen before pushing 29.f4, is 32. ♖d7! ♕xd7 33.exd7+ ♖h8 34. ♖xe7+—; 29... ♖e7 30. ♕c5+— is also hopeless for Black. There are too many pins and he cannot hold the e5 square.]

30.f5 We can see the drawback of the h6 move now. White creates two extremely nice attacking squares on f5 and h5 for his knight and queen.

30...♟xb6 [30...g5 31.♟d5 ♚b8 32.♟h5+- Black is totally dominated!]

31.axb6 ♚h7 White can choose between the different winning plans and the material is also in his favor.

32.♟d5 ♚b8 33.♟xa8 ♚xa8 34.♚f1 Keep on attacking, Caruana brings one more piece against the opponent's king.

34...gxf5 35.♚xf5 ♚b8 [35...♚xf5 36.♟xf5 ♚xe4 is met for instance by 37.♚g4! ♚xg4 38.hxg4+- and the b-pawn promotes.]

36.♚xf7 ♟xf7 37.♟f5 Black resigned! No words on Caruana's play! **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Persson, M(2239)-Safarli, E(2655)

ECC, 2014.09.16

1... -+



(6) Harikrishna, P(2725)-Bator, R(2422)

ECC, 2014.09.16

1. +-



(7) Bartel, M(2636)-Engquist, T(2348)

ECC, 2014.09.16

1. +-



(8) Franco Alonso, A(2471)-Ibragimov, I(2555)

ECC, 2014.09.16

1... -+



(9) Laurusas, T(2440)-Zhigalko, A(2584)

ECC, 2014.09.16

1... -+



(10) Radjabov, T(2717)-Sasikiran, K(2680)

ECC, 2014.09.17

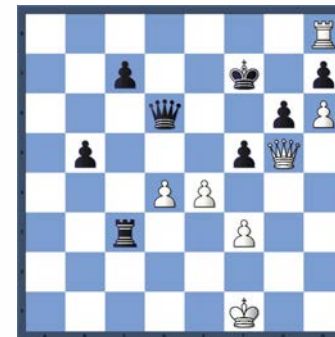
1. +-



(11) Navara, D(2722)-Durarbayli, V(2614)

ECC, 2014.09.18

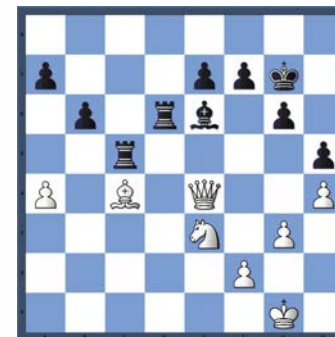
1... -+



(12) Sasikiran, K(2680)-Guseinov, G(2615)

ECC, 2014.09.18

1. +-



(13) Navara, D(2637)-Van Kampen, R(2722)

ECC, 2014.09.19

1... -+



(14) Nakamura, H(2782)-Dambacher, M(2497)

ECC, 2014.09.19

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Durarbayli, Vasif(2614)
- Kamsky, Gata(2681)

ECC Open,
2014.09.19



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

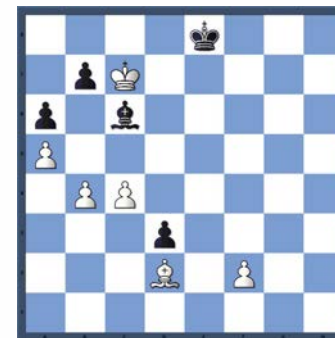


White has an extra pawn, but there are opposite colored bishops on the board. In such cases, sometimes even 2-3 extra pawns are not enough to win if the defensive side manages to create a fortress. In opposite colored bishop endgames, the passed pawns play a key role! In this position White is winning, because he has two passed pawns that are far enough from each other and this prevents Black from building a successful defense.

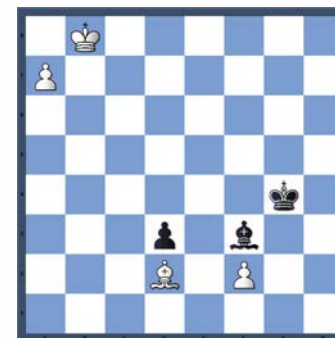
58.b4 White intends to create his passed pawn on the queenside with b5.

58...♔f6 [Another defensive attempt is 58...♔e8 with the idea to meet the b5 plan with axb5 cxb5 Kd8 and in case of a6, bxa6, bxa6 Kc8 and run with the king to the corner. Afterwards the game is a dead draw, because Black only needs to give up his bishop for the f-pawn and the a8 square does not fit to the

color of the d2 bishop. Therefore White should play 59.♔c7! to avoid the marching of the king to a8. 59...♔e7 (Black cannot stop the creation of the passed pawn with 59...♘c6 because of the following elegant breakthrough:



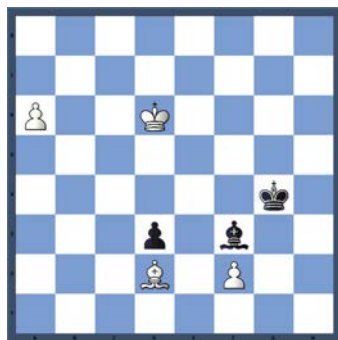
60.b5! axb5 61.a6!+- wins.) 60.b5 axb5 (Avoiding the trade with 60...♔e6 does not change anything as White creates his second passed pawn with 61.bxa6 bxa6 62.c5 ♔d5 63.♔b6+-) 61.cxb5 ♔e6 62.a6 bxa6 63.bxa6 The a-pawn itably promotes. The last chance for Black is to run for the f2 pawn as fast as possible. 63...♔f5 64.a7 ♔g4 65.♔b8



And in this position, Black is in decisive zugzwang. At the moment White is not threatening to promote the pawn, because after Bxa8 Kxa8 Kf3 Be3 d2 Bxd2 Kxf2 is a draw. But Black is forced to make a move with which he neutralizes this saving idea. If it was White's turn, he would give the tempo to

his opponent with let's say Bc1! and we reach the same story with the zugzwang. 65...♔h3 (65...♙e4 66.f4!+- and White can already promote the a-pawn. Black has no more chance to trade the d-pawn for the f- because the white bishop is ideally placed on c1-e3 diagonal.) 66.a8=♔ ♙xa8 67.♔xa8 ♙g4 68.f4!+- Again just in time to avoid Kf3! Now the king comes back from a8 and White wins automatically.]

59.b5 axb5 60.cxb5 ♔f5 61.a6 bxa6 62.bxa6 ♔g4 Kamsky tries the same idea as in the 58...Ke8 line and indeed, White has no time now to promote the a-pawn, because the king quickly gets to the g2 square and after Be3, d2 holds the draw.



63.♔e5! White has already done the job on the queenside, he has created his passed pawn there. Therefore he rushes back with his king to protect the f2 pawn and to send away the bishop from the f3 square in order to advance the pawn to f4, where it is already protected by the white bishop. [63.a7? 63...♔h3=]

63...♔h3 64.♔d4 ♔g4 65.♔e5 ♔h3 66.♔f4 Naturally White should send away the bishop.

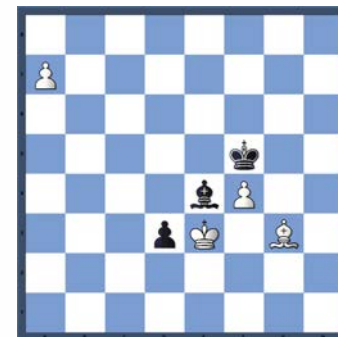
66...♙c6 [66...♔g2 67.♔e3+- leads again to zugzwang. Black can only move with his bishop, but it allows the advance of the f-pawn.]

67.a7 ♙a8 Basically all moves are winning now. In any case, White will start to advance his f-pawn and we reach the same position which will occur in the game.

68.♙e1 ♙b7 [On 68...♔g2 69.♔e3 ♔h3 70.f4 ♔g4 71.♙d2+- transposes to the game.]

69.♔e3 ♔g4 70.f4! ♔f5 71.♙g3 71.Bd2 or driving the bishop to the e5-b8 diagonal were also good enough to win. In any case, White eliminates the d-pawn.

71...♙e4 [On 71...♔g4 72.♔xd3+- is possible as the bishop cannot be taken because of f5!]



72.♙h2! Another zugzwang! Black must give up his d-pawn.

72...♙g2 73.♔xd3 ♔e6 74.♔d4 ♙f3 75.♔c5 ♙e4 76.♔b6 ♙d7 This could still be a draw if the passed pawns were not far enough from each other. The black king is able to keep the white one away from the a8 square, but here with the other distant passed pawn, White is able to lure the the king away to the other side, opening the path for his own king.. If White had his pawns on d4 and a7, then the game would be drawn as Black simply keeps his bishop on the long diagonal and when White plays Kb6, threatening with Kc7, Black answers with Kd7, then after Kc5 with the threat of d5, Black goes back to e6 with the king and otherwise just waits with his bishop, therefore zugzwangs are not possible.

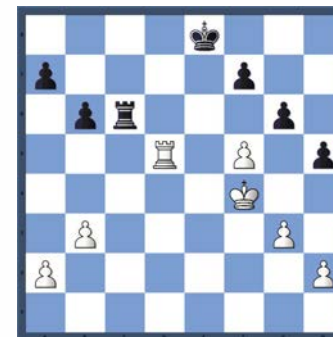
77.f5 [Black resigned in view of the following line: 77.f5 77...♙d5 78.♙f4 ♙e4 79.♙g5 This is just one of the winning plans. The point is to advance the pawn to f6, where it is protected by the bishop and at the same time it is threatening with promotion after f7, because the bishop also controls the e7 square. 79...♙d5 80.f6 f7 is a decisive threat now and on 80...♙e6 81.♙c7+- and Kb8 wins next. We should remember that distant passed pawns are very important in opposite colored bishop endgames.] **1-0**

(16) Berkes, Ferenc(2649)
- Iskandarov, Misratdin(2398)

Baku Open 2014(3.5),
 2014.09.24



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
 Best rating: 2737



White is clearly better in this rook endgame because of the active king, but still the win is far away. White's idea is clear, to create a passed pawn on the kingside and hope not to lose any pawns on the queenside. Berkes manages this in great manner.

33.fxg6! A strong move. White is fixing the black pawn structure before playing Kg5.

33...fxg6 34.♙g5 Now the danger for Black is to lose both pawns g6 and h5 after which the game would be over immediately.

34...♖c2 It seems like there are no better resources for Black. White just wants to play Rd3-Rf3 next.

35.h4 ♖c3 Black needs to get the g3 pawn, as to let White play Kxg6-Rxh5 followed by Rg5 and h5-h6 would just equal immediate resignation.

36.♔xg6 ♖xg3+ 37.♖g5! Another very important move! Before winning the h-pawn, White is putting the rook to g5 where it will not only protect the king from the checks, but also cut the black king on the g-file.

37...♖h3! Black is also defending well. The rook has to be behind the passed pawn.

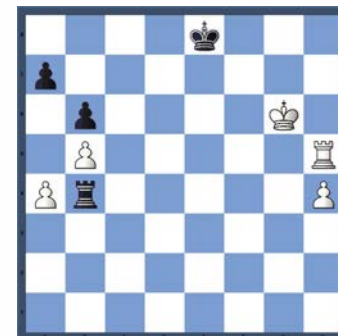
38.♖xh5 ♖h2 Black is trying to win a pawn on the queenside which is very logical, but it leads to a forced loss. [38...♔e7 wouldn't have saved the game either. 39.♖h7+ ♔d6 (In case of 39...♔e6 40.h5 ♖g3+



41.♔h6 a5 42.♖b7 White is winning another pawn which of course leads to an easily winning position.) 40.h5 ♖g3+ 41.♔f5 a5 and here comes the very strong 42.♖h6+! ♔c5 43.♖g6 followed by h6 and the white king will go to g7 with an easy win.]

39.a4 ♖h3 40.b4 ♖b3 41.b5 White has fixed the black pawn structure and very soon we will see why this was so important.

41...♖b4 The a4 pawn is falling, but Black can't save the game.



42.♖h8+! Berkes calculates the complications correctly and goes for the forced win.

42...♔e7 43.h5 The h-pawn is running.

43...♖g4+ There is nothing else to do...

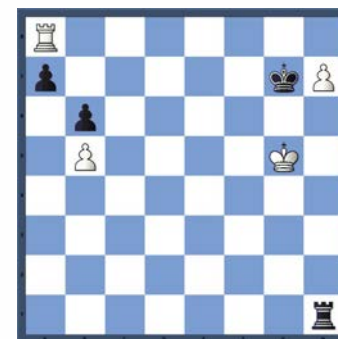
44.♔f5 ♖xa4 45.h6 White's idea is to play h7 to have Ra8 Rxh7 and Rxa7-Rxh7 agzr Rh4.

45...♔f7 All Black needs to do is to play Rh4 next, but there is just no time for it.

46.♖a8! The last exact move!

46...♖h4 47.♔g5 ♖h1 and White is forcing Black to enter a losing pawn endgame.

48.h7 ♔g7



49.h8=♔+ After 49....Rxh8 50.Rxa7 Kg8 51.Ra8 Kg7 52.Rxh8

Kxh8 53.Kf6 White is going to collect the b6 pawn and promote his own one. What we can see from this game is that rook endgames with an extra pawn on the different side of the board are very dangerous for the defensive side and sometimes even just lost. **1-0**

Clash of the Titans

**(17) Fischer, Robert James
- Larsen, Bent[B88]**

Candidates sf1(5),
1971.07.18



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘f6 5.♗c3 ♗c6 6.♙c4
e6 7.♙b3 ♙e7 8.♙e3 0-0**



9.0-0 The alternative for White is a plan with 0-0-0. [9.♔e2 9...a6 10.0-0-0 ♔c7 with the idea to attack over g4, often linked with a sacrifice on f5. This line is called Velimirovich Attack.]

9...♙d7 Black decides to play without a6, which is very natural in this kind of the structures. [9...a6 10.f4 ♗xd4 (10...♔c7∞) 11.♙xd4 b5 12.e5 (12.a3 12...♙b7∞) 12...dxe5 13.fxe5 ♗d7 14.♗e4 ♙b7 15.♗d6 ♙xd6 16.exd6∞]

10.f4



10...♞c8 looks a bit unnatural but the idea is to prevent f5 and Black has few other options to play. [10...♞xd4 11.♞xd4 ♞c6 12.♞e2 b5 is a thematic idea. 13.♞xb5 ♞xb5 14.♞xb5 ♞xe4 15.f5∞ White is trying to activate the Bb3, but the position is unclear. 15...d5? doesn't work because of 16.fxe6 fxe6 17.♞c6! ♞d6 18.♞xf8+ ♞xf8 19.♞xd6 ♞xd6 20.♞xa7±; 10...♞c8 11.f5↑; 10...♞a5 is a very logical idea in many Sicilian Variations. Black is going to exchange the Bb3 which is potentially a very strong piece. 11.e5! forcing Black to put the knight on a bad square. 11...♞e8 12.♞g4 ♞xb3 13.axb3 and White keeps some initiative thanks to his space advantage and the limited knight on e8.]

11.f5! Fischer was not afraid of 10...Qc8 and anyway he is playing according to the plan that the activation of the pieces through the f5 break is most important! [11.♞db5 makes no sense because of 11...♞b8 and a6 next.]

11...♞xd4 [11...♞e5 12.fxe6 fxe6 13.♞f5↑]

12.♞xd4 exf5 [12...e5 13.♞e3+= White is clearly faster in the fight for the d5 square.; 12...♞c6 13.fxe6 fxe6 14.♞e2+= (14.♞xf6 14...♞xf6 15.♞xd6 ♞h8 16.♞xe6 ♞d8 17.♞xc8 ♞xd6 18.♞g4 ♞d2 and Black gets counterplay.)]

13.♞d3! [13.exf5 13...♞xf5 14.♞xf6 (14.♞f3!?) 14...♞xf6

15.♞d5 ♞d8 16.♞h1∞]

13...fxe4 14.♞xe4 After this pawn sacrifice the white pieces are becoming very active.

14...♞xe4 15.♞xe4 ♞e6

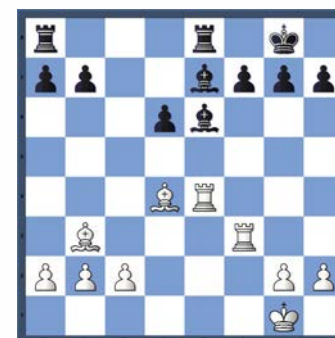


16.♞f3! ↑ The next piece joins the attack.

16...♞c6 17.♞e1 An interesting decision. From a logical point of view White should keep the queens on the board but Fischer doesn't lose any time and connects the next rook into play. [17.♞g3 17...♞xe4 18.♞xg7+ ♞h8—+; 17.♞f4 gives White the initiative as well.]

17...♞xe4 18.♞xe4 It is clear that Black's task now is to give back the pawn to stop White's initiative and limit the material.

18...d5 [18...♞fe8!?



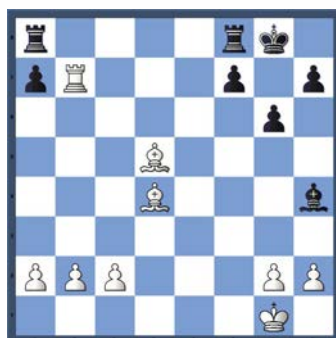
19.♙xe6 (19.♞xe6 leads to a position where White will have more practical chances. 19...fxe6 20.♙xe6+ ♔h8 21.♞f7 ♙f8 (21...♙f6 22.♞xf6!) 22.♙d5 ♞ab8 (22...♞e7 23.♙xg7+!) 23.c4†) 19...fxe6 20.♞xe6 ♞ac8! is an important move which provokes c3. (20...♙f8 21.♞xe8 ♞xe8 22.♙xa7 ♞a8 23.♙d4 (23.♞a3? 23...d5 24.♞a5 ♞xa7+-) 23...♞xa2 24.♞b3±) 21.c3 ♙f8 22.♞xe8 ♞xe8 23.♙xa7 ♞a8=]

19.♞g3 g6 20.♙xd5 ♙d6 [20...♙xd5 21.♞xe7 ♞fe8 22.♞ge3 The position seems to be drawish but White keeps some pressure thanks to the weak dark squares and the strong rook on the 7th rank.]

21.♞xe6 ♙xg3 22.♞e7



22...♙d6 Black could have gotten counterplay after the forced [22...♙h4! 23.♞xb7



23...♞ae8! Active defense is the most effective. 24.g3 ♞e1+ 25.♙f2 ♞d1 26.c3 (26.♙c5 26...♞xd5 27.♙xf8 ♙xf8 28.gxh4 ♞d2+ 29.♙g3 ♞xc2=) 26...♞d2+ (26...♙f6 27.♙e2 ♞xd4 28.cxd4 ♙xd4 29.b4±) 27.♙e1 ♙g5± and the rook on d2 is very unpleasant.]

23.♞xb7 ♞ac8 [23...♞ab8 This trick doesn't work because of 24.♞xa7 ♞xb2 25.♞xf7! +- ♞b1+ 26.♞f1+]

24.c4 a5 25.♞a7 ♙c7 [25...♙c5 26.♙xc5 ♞xc5 27.♙f2+-]

26.g3 [26.a3 White immediately creates 2 passed pawns which should quickly decide the game. 26...♞fe8 27.♙f1! A strong prophylactic move. 27...♞e7 28.b4 axb4 29.axb4 ♙d6 30.♞xe7 ♙xe7 31.b5 ♙d6 32.b6 ♙f8 33.b7 ♞b8 34.♙b6!+- White takes control of the c7 square and now the simple winning plan is to promote the c-pawn.]

26...♞fe8



27.♙f1! ♞e7 28.♙f6! Very accurate! White prevents Black from doubling the rooks on the e-file. [28.♙c3 28...♞ce8±]

28...♞e3 29.♙c3 h5 Black is looking for some chances but his pieces are paralyzed.

30.♞a6 [30.♙xa5? 30...♙xa5 31.♞xa5 ♞ce8! 32.♞b5 g5 and the white king will get into trouble.]

30...♙e5 [30...♙h7 31.♞c6±]

31.♙d2! [31.♙f2 31...♖xc3 32.bxc3 ♜xc3 33.♖xg6+ ♔h7 34.♖a6 ♔g7 35.♙f3 ♖c7 and with opposite colored bishops sometimes one pawn is not enough.]

31...♖d3 32.♙e2 ♖d4 [32...♖xd2+ was the last hope but here Black is 2 pawns down. 33.♙xd2 ♜xb2 34.♖xg6+ ♜g7 (34...♙h7 35.♖a6 and White wins the next pawn.) 35.♖g5 h4 36.gxh4±]

33.♜c3 ♖cxc4 [33...♖g4 34.♜xe5 ♖e8 35.♖a8+—]

34.♜xc4 ♖xc4 35.♙d3 [35.♜xe5 35...♖e4+ 36.♙d3 ♖xe5=]

35...♖c5 36.♖xa5 ♖xa5 37.♜xa5 ♜xb2 38.a4 The a-pawn will decide the game! [38.♜b4 preventing Kf8.]

38...♙f8 39.♜c3! +— White promote the pawn with tempo.

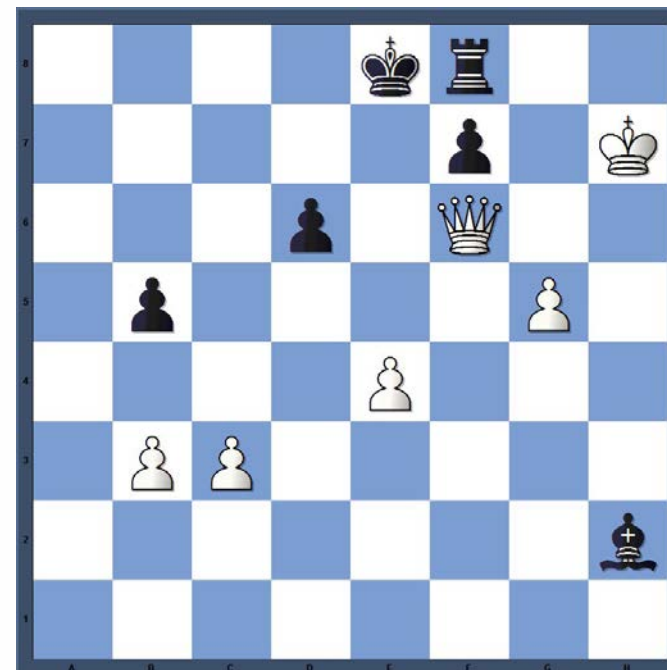
39...♜xc3 40.♙xc3 ♙e7 41.♙d4 and pawns endgames with distant passed pawns are always easily winning.

41...♙d6 42.a5 f6 43.a6 ♙c6 44.a7 ♙b7 45.♙d5 h4 46.♙e6 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Reti

1. +—



Solutions

(19) Schramm, C(2401)-Movsesian, S(2663)

ECC, 2014.09.14



22. ♖xf4!! [22. ♗xf4 22... ♗xe4!]

22... ♗xd3 [22... exf4 23. ♗g5 h5 24. gxh5+--]

23. cxd3 exf4 24. ♗g5! h5 25. gxh5+-- ♗xa3 26. ♗c3!+--

(20) Navara, D(2722)-Broeckmeulen, J(2425)

ECC, 2014.09.14

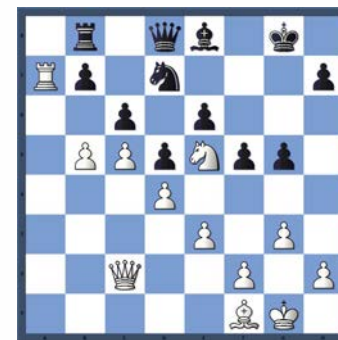


22. ♖xg7+!! ♗xg7 23. ♗xh6 ♗h8 24. ♖g5! ♖e5 [24... ♖g8
25. ♖h4+--; 24... ♗xe4 25. ♖h5! ♗xf2+ 26. ♖g2+--]

25. ♗g7! 1-0

(21) Potkin, V(2610)-Wintzer, J(2268)

ECC, 2014.09.14



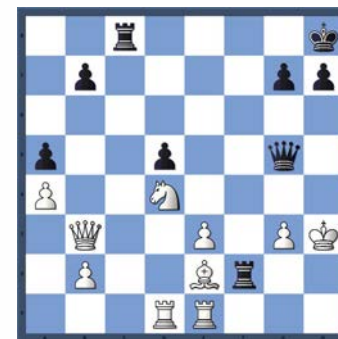
29. ♗xc6! bxc6 30. bxc6 ♖a8 [30... ♗f6 31. c7+--]

31. c7 [31. ♖xa8 31... ♖xa8 32. cxd7+--]

31... ♖c8 32. ♖a2 ♖xa7 33. ♖xa7 1-0

(22) Mamedov, R(2660)-Andonovski, L(2305)

ECC, 2014.09.14



28. ♗f5!! ♖xf5+ 29. ♗g4 ♖f6 30. ♖xd5! ♖xb2 [30... ♖h6+
31. ♖h5+--]

31. ♖d8+ ♖f8 32. ♗xc8 1-0

(23) Zhigalko, A(2584)-Vitiugov, N(2742)

ECC, 2014.09.15



40...♖f1+? [40...♖xe2!! 41.♔xe2 ♜b2+ 42.♖d2 ♜c1—+]

41.♔e3∞

(24) Petenyi, T(2459)-Wojtaszek, R(2736)

ECC, 2014.09.15



30...♖xe4!! 31.♖xe5 [31.♔xe4 31...♜xg5—+]

31...♖4xe5 32.♜f3 ♖xd5! 33.♜xd5 e2 34.♖e1 ♔c3—+

(25) Navara, D(2722)-Varga, Z(2459)

ECC, 2014.09.15



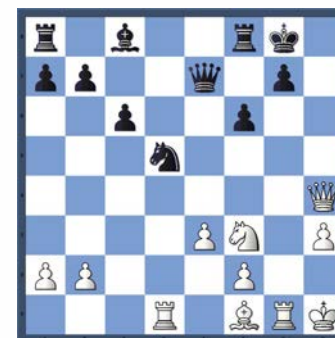
36.♔f6! ♖xd6 37.♖c8+ ♔e8 38.♔e5! ♖xf3 [38...♖d7 39.♖xe8+ ♔f7 40.♖c8+—]

39.♖xe8+ ♔f7 40.♔xd6+— ♖d3 [40...♔xe8 41.gxf3+—]

41.♖e7+ 1-0

(26) Hracek, Z(2638)-Csiba, D(2359)

ECC, 2014.09.15



28.♖xd5! [28.♔d3 28...f5]

28...cxd5 29.♔d3+— g5 [29...♔f7 30.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 31.♜h7#]

30.♔xg5 fxg5 31.♖xg5+ ♜xg5 32.♜h7#

(27) Guseinov, G(2615)-Koch, T(2456)

ECC, 2014.09.15



25. ♖xf6! ♗xf6 26. ♘e7! ♜f5 [26... ♖d7 27. ♖xg6+ ♜h8
28. ♖xh6#; 26... ♖e7 27. ♖xe7+ ♜h8 28. ♖xg6+-]

27. ♘xc6+-

(28) Andersen, M(2470)-Metzger, C(2215)

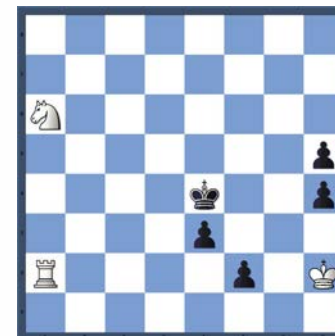
ECC, 2014.09.15



18. ♘xc5! +- ♗g3 [18... ♖h4 19. ♗g3+-; 18... ♘h2+ 19. ♜xh2
♖h4+ 20. ♜g1 dxc5 21. ♖d6+-]

19. ♘xd6 ♗xh2+ 20. ♜h1+-

(29) Troitzky



1. ♘c5+! [1. ♖xf2? 1... exf2 2. ♜g2 ♜e3 3. ♜f1 h3+-]

1... ♜f3 2. ♖xf2+! exf2 3. ♘e4! ♜xe4 [3... f1=♖ 4. ♘d2+=;
3... f1=♘+ 4. ♜h3 ♜xe4 5. ♜xh4=]

4. ♜g2 ♜e3 5. ♜f1! = h3= [5... ♜f3=]



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 136

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Editorial Preface

The mini match out of 4 classical games between Laznicka and Rapport had a clear winner: 3-1 for Rapport. The games were exciting, but also not without mistakes.

The Baku Open was won by Inarkiev and Lupulescu, as both ended on 7/9.

And we come to the main event of the week, the start of the 1st FIDE Grand Prix.

In the first round Gelfand played a great game against Andreikin and Caruana managed to beat Karjakin in a very big fight where Karjakin made a huge mistake before the time trouble in a slightly better position.

The second round was also spectacular and there were a lot of missed chances.

After only 2 rounds it is of course too early to say anything, but the question for me is, can somebody or something stop Caruana from winning almost all his games?! The play of the World Nr2 is just amazingly good!

Another very strong open has begun on the Isle of Man, where Adams and Vachier-Lagrave are the top seeded players.

The Croatian team championship is also starting on the Island of Bol, with Navara, Naiditsch, Almasi, Malakhov and many more close to 2700 GMs.

As usual we bring you a selection of the best games of the past week, enjoy !

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) **Kuzubov, Yuriy(2663)**
- **Onischuk, Vladimir(2593) [A15]**

Baku Open 2014(5.9),
2014.09.26



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A great fighting game between two Ukrainian GMs. In a complex middlegame, Black nicely outplays his opponent move by move.

1.c4 ♘f6 2.g3 g6 3.♗g2 ♕g7 4.e4 O-O Black plays the King's Indian defense anyway, therefore he does not pay attention on White's tricky Anti-Gruenfeld moveorder.

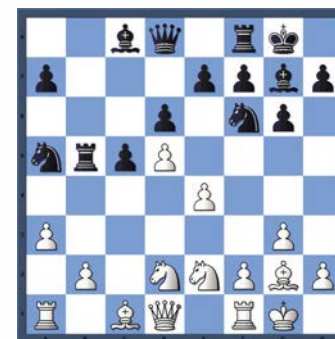
5.♘e2 d6 6.O-O c5 7.d4 ♘c6 8.d5



8...♗a5 In a famous line of the King's Indian g3 system, White has his knights on c3 and f3 and his pawn on e2. He plays there, Nd2, followed by Qc2, b3 and Bb2 and it is considered to be slightly better for him. Here, somehow the placement of this e2 knight looks a bit unfortunate, Black's counterattack on the queenside connected with the b5 move comes more effectively.

9.♘d2 ♖b8 10.a3 White tries to be consequent and looks for an idea, that his knight is not on c3, standing in the long diagonal. He intends to use the misplacement of the a5 knight and tries to get some benefits from the b2-b4 idea.

10...♘d7! Black improves his knight (by driving it to e5) and the circumstances of playing b5. He also prevents temporarily the b4 threat. [10...b5 was a mistake, White's strategy could have worked now after 11.cxb5 ♖xb5]



12.b4! cxb4 13.♖a4! followed by taking back on b4 and the a5 knight becomes really poor.]

11.♖b1 Both players are following their initial ideas, White refreshes the b4 threat.

11...♘e5! An important tempo before executing the b5 break.

12.♖c2 Protecting the c4 pawn, b4 is a threat again. [I was looking for an alternative for White 12.b3 with the idea to develop the bishop to b2 and later playing f4. One drawback could be the Nd3, capturing the dark squared bishop and the remaining one of g7 could become extremely strong, but it already allows b4, as the c4 pawn is not under attack any longer. However the computer suggests a brilliant idea: 12...b5 13.cxb5 ♕d7 14.b4 (14.a4 is met by 14...a6 15.bxa6 ♖b6 like in the game with more than enough compensation.) This was my point with 12.b3, keeping the queen on d1. In the game

Black plays Bxb5 and the e2 is hanging.



Here comes the fantastic move: 14...♞xb5!! 15.bxa5 ♞xa5 Black is simple giving a piece for a single pawn, but all his pieces are standing so perfectly and the white ones are so badly, that the machine is giving the advantage to Black! For instance 16.♞b2 loses to (16.f4 16...♞d3 and c4 is coming next if White prevents the direct Ba4 with total domination.) 16...♞a4 17.♞c1 ♞d3—+]

12...b5! Black had no more time to delay this break, b4 was coming next.

13.cxb5 ♞d7! 13...Rxb5 14.b4 would have been the triumph of White's strategy again, but Black intends to grab the b5 pawn with the bishop, which could create decisive threats on the f1-a6 diagonal.

14.♞c3 Trying to get rid of the strong light squared bishop, but Black is not forced to restore the material balance, which could again met by Bxb5 Nxb5 Rxb5 and b4! [14.b4? runs into 14...♞xb5!; After 14.a4 White must forget about his b4 plan. Black gets excellent compensation after 14...a6 15.bxa6 ♞b6 Qxa6 next. Black pieces are extremely active and there are many holes on the light square in White's camp.]



14...c4! Black creates two very nice holes for his knights on d3 and on b3 and finally prevents the b4 idea.

15.a4 White decides to keep his extra pawn, but the activity of the black pieces are going to compensate him for this small deficit. [It would have been stronger to simplify the situation on the queenside with 15.b4 although Black is more than fine here as well after 15...cxb3 16.♞xb3 ♞xb3 17.♞xb3 ♞a5 and Rfc8 is coming next followed by knight jumps to d3 or c4.]

15...a6! Like in the Volga gambit! Black opens the b-file by temporarily sacrificing another pawn.

16.bxa6 [It was the last moment to push 16.b4 16...cxb3 17.♞xb3 ♞xb3 18.♞xb3 ♞a5 19.♞d2 ♞fc8 is again good for Black, but White has decent chances to hold the draw after the mass of simplification on b5.]

16...♞b6 17.♞f3 It is time for White to finish the development and trying to trade some of the active pieces, but Black has different idea about this...

17...♞d3! Of course! Why to trady such a nice knight if it could be installed to d3?! [Tough, Black is better also after 17...♞xf3+ 18.♞xf3 ♞xa6 followed by Nb3 , winning back the a4 pawn or jumping to d4.]

18. ♖e3 ♜xa6 19. ♙d4 Again with the same story like two moves before with 17.Nf3. White tries to trade an active piece to easen his defense, but the history repeats itself:



19... ♖h6!! Another excellent positional move! Black intends to jump Nb3 next move, taking the strong dark squared bishop after which his own bishop goes back to the long diagonal and rules the board in the entire game.

20. ♜e2 ♘b3 21. ♙e3 ♙g7! Yet again! Black's strategy to keep his best pieces on the board works perfectly. White cannot offer the trade of those bishops longer and he is going to lose the a4 pawn.

22. ♙g5 Searching for counterplay, but it turns out to be a loss of tempo. White was in trouble anyway.



22...h6! This motif is known also from the Volga gambit, just

as many others before. The e7 pawn cannot be taken, because the bishop gets trapped...

23. ♙e3 [23. ♙xe7 loses to 23... ♜fe8 24. ♙h4 g5—+]

23... ♙xa4 Black restores the material balance and his active pieces keep all the advantages he had before.

24. ♘d2 [In case of 24. ♘xa4 24... ♜xa4 25. ♘e1 trying to trade some pieces, Black could play 25... ♜b5 for instance, with the idea with the idea to confuse White about taking on d3 or not. Obviously the d3 pawn would become extremely strong, Black could use it for the invasion of his rook with Rfc8-c2.]

24... ♙d7 Well, if White did not take the bishop, Black decides to preserve it. As more pieces as more problems for White...

25. ♘xb3 ♜xb3 White got rid of one of the active knights, but now the rooks are coming against the b2 pawn and the power of the g7 bishop and the d3 knight is getting stronger and stronger.

26. ♜a1 ♜c8 27. ♜a2 ♜b8 28. ♘d1 ♙b5 Black creates this pin, which turns out to be very unpleasant for White. He is threatening with c3, trying to leave from it with 29.Qd2, it runs into Nxb2 Nxb2 c3! While Qc2 moves into Nb4 fork... [28... ♘xb2 was also winning material 29. ♘xb2 ♜xb2 30. ♜xb2 (30. ♜xc4 30... ♙b5! is the point, Black wins an exchange! 31. ♜xb2 ♙xb2—+) 30... ♜xb2 31. ♜xc4 ♙b5—+]

29. ♘c3 ♘xb2 Both weak pawns are fallen on the queenside. It is already Black who is up a pawn!

30. ♘xb5 ♜xb5 31. ♜a7



31...c3! I like this idea again a lot! Black does not waste time to preserve his extra pawn, he rather promotes his passed pawn.

32. ♖xb5 ♜xb5 33. ♖xe7 ♘c4 34. ♙c1 [The only chance would have been 34. ♖c7 34... ♘xe3 35. fxe3 ♙e5 but it is also quite hopeless with such big difference between the two bishops and together with the c3 passed pawn, Black should win the game.]

34...♖c8! Supporting the passed pawn from behind!

35. ♙h3 ♖cc5 White cannot create any counterplay, Black slowly promotes his c-pawn.

36. ♖e8+ ♙h7 37. ♖e7



37...♙d2! —+ It is over now. Re1 moves into Nf3, while in case of Bxd2 cxd2 the pawn promotes after Rc1 and Rbb1 next.

38. ♖d1 c2! 39. ♖xd2 ♖b1 40. ♙g2 ♖xc1 White resigned! A perfect game by Onischuk Vladimir! Such level of play we usually see only by the very top GMs! **0-1**

**(2) Sveshnikov, Evgeny(2502)
- Shirov, Alexei(2701) [B20]**Shirov-Sveshnikov Rapid m(1),
2014.09.26GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

1.e4 c5 2.b3 Sveshnikov played the Alapin Sicilian (2.c3) in all his life. He also turned back to it in the next games of this match, but first he tried another sideline. This is an interesting option to play without much theory, Morozevich often employs it in blitz games or sometimes even Kramnik plays like this, when he starts with 1.e4.

2...♘c6 3.♙b2 e5 Black has various setups here. Shirov chooses a logical answer to close the diagonal of the fianchettoed bishop. The drawback of it is the hole on d5, White focuses his minor pieces on this square.

4.♙c4 ♘f6 5.♘c3



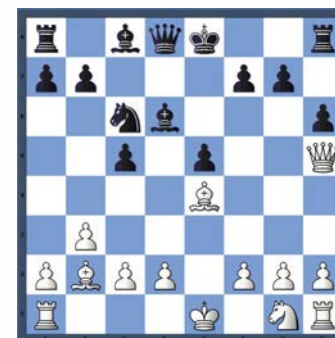
5...♗xe4!? Typical Shir ov. He is searching for a way right in the opening to complicate the matters. [Objectively, I believe finishing the development with 5...♙e7 is better.]

6.♗xe4 d5 Black wins back the piece and he manages to solve the problem of the d5 square with this tactical idea.

The question is, if he will have enough time to consolidate his position, especially to solve the pressure of the e5 pawn...

7.♙d3 dxe4 8.♙xe4 ♙d6 9.♙h5! Very well played, the only way to fight for the advantage! Sveshnikov knows, if Black manages to castle and plays f6 or f5, he achieves a very comfortable position. Therefore he puts pressure on the e5 pawn and prevents his opponent from the direct castling. [After 9.♗f3 9...O-O 10.O-O f6 Black is fine.]

9...h6 This is the novelty! Black prepares to castle short and he invites his opponent to grab the e5 pawn, which opens the e-file for a potential attack. [9...♙e7 10.♗f3 happened in some previous games.]



10.♙xc6+ White goes for the material, which turns out to be a wrong decision. [10.♗f3 is met by 10...g6 when White has no good square for his queen.; However after the very strong 10.f4! on the other hand it is also very logical to press even more the main target, White seems to get an advantage 10...O-O (10...g6 11.♙e2 White wins the e5 pawn anyway; 10...exf4 11.♙xg7 ♖g8 12.♙xc6+ bxc6 13.♙xh6 I am not sure if Black has enough compensation for the pawn.) 11.♙xc6 bxc6 12.fxex5 must be better for White again.]

10...bxc6 11.♙xe5 O-O! As simple as that. Black soon forces the king to move with Re8. Excellent intuitions by Shirov, the

analysis show, that Black has enough compensation for the pawn in all the lines.

12. ♖xd6 [12. ♘f3 loses to 12... ♖xe5 13. ♘xe5 ♔d5! and White cannot parry the doublethreat of f6 or Re8.; 12. ♖c3 is met by 12... ♖e8+ 13. ♔f1 We reach a Marschall Gambit kind of compensation. Black does not hurry to do anything quickly, he plays for longterm counterplay, using the fact that the h1 rook cannot participate in this game. Black has different good ways to continue, a logical one is 13... ♖e6 14. ♘f3 ♔d7 Developing and threatening with Bg4 15.h3



15...a5 trying to open a new front on the queenside. White cannot connect his rooks. 16.a4 c4! destroying the healthy pawn structure and getting rid of the doubled pawns. Black has a very strong initiative.]

12... ♖e8+ 13. ♘e2 [13. ♖e5 loses to 13... ♔d4! Black wins material in view of 14. ♘f3 ♔xa1!—+ using the pin.]

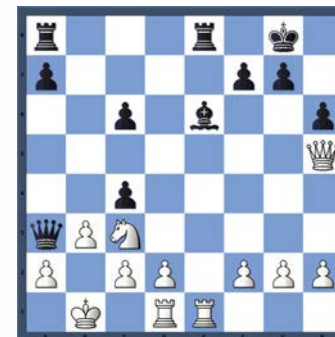
13... ♔xd6 14.O-O-O? An ambitious move, which causes all the forthcoming problems. Sveshnikov would like to preserve his extra pawn and he does not believe, that Black's attack could be dangerous here. However Shirov was on different opinion! [After the solid 14.O-O 14... ♔xd2 15. ♘g3= White gives back the pawn and gives up also the fight for the advantage, but the game should have finished in a draw in this case.]

14...c4! Of course! I guess, this came without too much hesitation. This is the first kamikaze pawn, which has the task of opening the lines in front of the king. Black also opens the diagonal for his queen to a3.

15. ♘c3 [I was trying to defend with 15. ♔b2 but Black leads a successful attack after 15...a5! 16. ♘c3 cxb3 17.axb3 a4! Very consequent attacking plan. Black intends to bring more attackers with Be6 and Reb8. 18. ♘xa4 Black wins after 18... ♖xa4! 19.bxa4 ♔b4+ 20. ♔c1 ♔a3+ 21. ♔b1 ♖e6—+ and mate is coming soon.]

15... ♔a3+ 16. ♔b1 ♖e6! Black prepares for a sacrifice on b3! Perhaps White did not sense the danger at the moment when he castled long, but only 3 moves later everything is obvious.

17. ♖he1



17... ♖ab8! The most natural is the strongest move again! Of course, the move suggests itself, the difficulty lays in that Black had other seemingly promising alternatives as well, but those were less accurate... [17...cxb3 18.axb3 ♖xb3 (Now on 18... ♖ab8 19. ♖e4! is a good defensive idea with Ra4. That is why, it is better to wait with taking on cxb3.) 19. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 20.cxb3 ♔xb3+ Seems to win as Rb8 is coming next, but Shirov had calculated perfectly, that White is able to defend himself with 21. ♔a1! ♖b8 22. ♖b1 ♔a3+ 23. ♘a2 just keeping

everything together.]

18. ♖a1 [Now on 18. ♖e4 18...c5!—+ and only next move Black takes on b3 and then he pushes c4 again.]

18...cxb3 19.cxb3 ♙xb3! The most precise again! [19...♖xb3 20.♖b1 ♖xc3 looks winning, but White has a nice resource again to stay in the game 21.♖xe6! ♖xe6 22.♖b8+ ♔h7 23.♚f5+ forces the black rook to g6, but then, there is no mate on the back rank 23...♖g6 24.dxc3 ♚c1+ 25.♖b1 ♚xc3+ 26.♖b2 Black has an extra pawn, but he must work hard for the win. It is not so easy to use the g6 rook.]

20. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 21.♖h1 This is sad, but it was already too late to do something. [21.♖b1 is met by 21...♙c2 and the rook cannot cover the e1 square and the b-file as well. Rb8 is coming enxt with mate. 22.♖h1 ♖b8—+]

21...♙c2! The bishop very well on c2. It controls the important b1 square to avoid the Rb1 defense after Rb8. White has no adequate resource against it, he can only delay the defeat.

22. ♘b1 ♚b4 23.a3 ♚b6 Black still wants to play Rb8 in each move.

24. ♚h4



24...♙e4! The most precise again! Shirov closes the 4th

rank and Rb8 is really coming next with a decisive effect. [On 24...♖b8 25.♚b4 White could still suffer.]

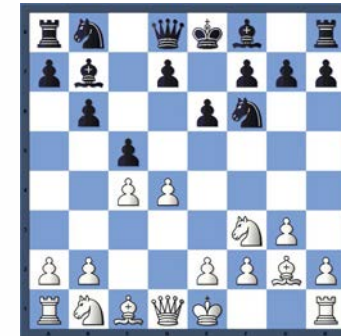
25. ♘c3 ♖b8 26. ♘a4 ♚d4+ [White resigned in view of 26...♚d4+ 27.♘c3 ♚xd2—+ Very nice attacking game by Shirov, but from the theoretical point of view, White could have get an advantage by playing 10.f4, therefore I consider 5...Nxe4 to be an inaccuracy.] **0-1**

**(3) Gelfand, Boris(2748)
- Andreikin, Dmitry(2722) [E15]**

Baku FIDE Grand Prix 2014(1.4),
2014.10.02



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



Andreikin is clearly the main surprise of the event. With one very good tournament (the last World Cup) Andreikin qualified for the WCC Candidates and for the current Grand Prix. But it seems that the Russian is not really ready to play against the very best chessplayers of the world. We will see a great one-sided crush by Boris Gelfand!

1.d4 e6 Sometimes Black gives White the chance to enter the French...

2.c4 but of course Gelfand doesn't!

2...♘f6 3.♗f3 Gelfand usually avoids the Nimzo which could appear after 3.Nc3 Bb4.

3...b6 Andreikin also plays 3...d5.

4.g3 ♘b7 [4...♙a6 is the other main line.]

5.♙g2 c5 is a very risky line for Black. [5...♙e7 is the usual continuation. 6.O-O O-O Black is waiting for White to play 7.♗c3 before going 7...♗e4 Grischuk likes to play this line with Black.]

6.d5! Direct, straight and strong. Gelfand doesn't like to joke in the openings. He is usually very well prepared and has a lot of interesting opening ideas in his pocket.

6...exd5 7.cxd5!? This is already almost a novelty for the top level, although this move looks very logical to me. [7.♗g5 and; 7.♗h4 were the most played moves in previous games and Gelfand himself has played 7. Nh4 once.]

7...♙xd5 The pawn has to be taken, otherwise White is just much better. [7...♗xd5? 8.♗h4 and White is winning a piece.]

8.♗c3 ♙c6 Black had 2 options and I think the move in the game is the most logical. [The other option was 8...♙b7 9.e4 (9.O-O 9...♙e7 10.e4 might also be interesting.) 9...♗xe4 10.♗d5 ♗c6 11.O-O with a strong attack on the black king.]

9.e4 Gelfand is clearly in his preparation and to play such a position over the board is very hard for Black. White's play is quite simple, he develops pieces and starts to attack. Right now the threat is to play e5.

9...d6 A very human reply. [In case of 9...♗xe4 White had 2 interesting options: 10.♗d5 (After 10.♗xe4 10...♙xe4 11.♙e2 ♙e7 12.O-O the position also looks really dangerous for Black. 12...♗c6 Now White has 2 major options of either playing 13.Re1 or 13.Bf4 and both look pretty attractive.)

10...♘e7 11.O-O O-O 12.♙f4 White's initiative is very dangerous here because of the bad development of the black pieces.]

10.O-O It is easy to see that White has great compensation for the pawn. The black pieces are very poorly placed.

10...♘e7 Andreikin wants to castle.



11.♞h4! A very strong and typical move. The white knight wants to get to f5 after which White has the idea of playing f4-e5 or putting pressure on the d6 pawn.

11...g6?! This move just doesn't look good. Black had to secure the king's position. [Black should have castled in any case 11...O-O 12.♞f5 and now play something like 12...♞bd7 and of course Black's position is clearly worse, but the whole fight would still be ahead of us.]

12.♙h6 Of course White prevents Black from castling.

12...♙f8 It is already not easy to recommend anything better. White just wants to play f4, Qd2 and Rad1, with crushing play in the center.

13.♙xf8 13.Qd2 was maybe also possible, but the move in the game just looks very logical.

13...♙xf8 14.♙d2 White just wants to play Rad1 and take the d6 pawn. [14.e5 is premature since after 14...♞e8 White's

position is of course still very good, but we are entering complications that are not really needed.; An interesting option was 14.f4 preparing e5. 14...♞g7 15.e5 White's attack looks very dangerous here.]

14...♞e8 [14...♞g7 would lead to about the same position as in the game. 15.♙ad1]

15.♙ad1 is the most simple. [15.♙h6+ is not any better because after 15...♞g8 16.♙ad1 ♞d7 17.f4 ♙e7 Black could try to hold things together even if White is of course better here.]

15...♞g7



16.f4 White is starting the crushing attack. Now Gelfand can choose if he wants to play e5 or maybe f5.

16...♙c8 In a very bad position, Andreikin makes things very easy for White. The queen is not greatly placed on c8.

17.♞d5 Good and strong! White is preparing the e5 push and putting the knight on d5 first to avoid the exchange of the bishops.

17...♙f8 18.e5 Wow, what a domination of the white pieces!

18...dxe5 White has a lot of very tempting moves and Gelfand is picks the best one!

19.f5! An excellent move! Black has no defence against the

upcoming f6.

19...♔d8 [19...f6 20.fxg6 hxg6 21.♖xg6 and Black can't play 21...♖xg6 because 22.♗e7+ wins the queen.]

20.f6+ ♗xf6 It was time to resign, but Andreikin probably wanted to cross the 20 moves border. [20...♔h8 would lead to a complete disgrace: 21.♖h6 ♖g8 22.♗e7 What a position!]



21.♗f5+ ♔h8 [21...gxf5 22.♖g5+ ♔h8 23.♗xf6 followed by mate on h7 soon.]

22.♖h6 ♖g8 23.♗xf6 After 23...Qxf6 24.Rd6 the fight would not continue for many more moves before White would mate the black king. A very nice game by White and clearly not well done by Andreikin, whose pieces Nb8 and Ra8 remained on their starting positions for the whole game. **1-0**

(4) Laznicka, Viktor(2675) - Rapport, Richard(2713) [A41]

Rapport-Laznicka m 2014(1),
2014.09.30



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are in the first game of this mini match out of 4 games between Laznicka and Rapport. Laznicka is a more solid player with a very solid style, while Rapport is more "crazy" and it is already impossible to guess even his first move. An interesting confrontation of styles. In the current game, we are quickly entering a very fighting position where things seem to be a bit better for White but with one inaccurate move Laznicka allows Rapport to show his tactical skills which results in a mating attack on the white king.

1.d4 d6 Well, I guess Laznicka did not expect this! :)

2.c4 Actually I could never understand why most of the 1.d4 players don't like to enter the Pirc? I think to dominate in the center is never a bad idea! :)

2...e5 3.♗f3 This is one of the main lines for White, but it all looks like Black gets what he wanted, namely very unclear play.

3...e4 4.♗fd2 f5 We have quite a strange position already. White is clearly going to develop his play on the queenside and Black's play is going to be on the kingside. If we look at the results, Black is just crushing here.

5.♗c3 c6 I am not sure about this move at all. Black's idea of playing d5 is very double-edged as it will give White quick play. Personally I would prefer to play 5...Nf6 without c6 and

keep my pawn structure flexible.

6.e3 ♘f6 **7.♗e2** White does not hurry with the b4 move, but why not actually?! Maybe it will not run away, but I think 7.b4 is looking very logical, followed by Qb3 and a4-Ba3, where White might even think about castling queenside.



7...♘a6 Stopping White from playing b4, but allowing him to have other attractive ideas. [7...♗e7 was more solid.]

8.♔a4?! A very unnatural move. The white queen belongs to b3 and not to a4. [White had a great different plan right now: 8.O-O 8...♗e7 and the very strong 9.f3! Since Black lost time with the c6 and Na6 moves, White is now in time to develop very nice play in the center.]

8...♘c7 9.b4 a6 a6 is a very useful move in many different positions.

10.♔b3 Of course the white queen has to leave the a4 square.

10...d5 Black tries to keep the center together. The knight on c7 is a very strong piece now.

11.a4 Very typical and logical, as White's idea should be to play b5 somewhere.

11...♗e6 12.♗b2 White is preparing the b5 move, but why put the bishop on such a passive square?! [12.♗a3 looks much

more natural to me.]

12...♗e7 It is time to end the development.

13.O-O O-O 14.b5 A good choice. [White should not play a move like 14.c5?! because it allows Black to keep the center stable and start his play on the kingside with moves like 14...g5.]



14...♔h8 This prophylactic move is very useful. In many lines Black is able to play dxc4 now.

15.♔fb1 Not a bad try, but again I can't understand why Laznicka doesn't want to exchange the black squared bishops which I think would be clearly positive for White. [15.♗a3 would be my choice here]

15...dxc4 Rapport decides enough is enough and goes for the open fight!

16.♗xc4 After this move I think White has lost most of his advantage. [16.♘xc4! should have been the right move and it is not that simple for Black to make a move. White wants to play bxc6 and enter over the b-file. I think White's position is clearly better here.]

16...♘cd5! Exactly! Now the white knight on d2 is just a dead piece.

17.bxc6 bxc6 18.♗a3 White finally decides to exchange the

black bishops, which is a good idea, but Black's play is already on the run.

18...♟xa3 19.♞xa3 White's pawn structure is clearly much better, so Black needs to act fast!

19...♘g4! Exactly the right choice. Suddenly the things around the white king are not safe at all anymore!

20.h3?! is not the best... [White should have first played 20.♟xd5 20...cxd5 (20...♞h4 21.♟xe6 ♞xf2+ 22.♞h1 ♘xe3 23.♞g1 ♞xd2 24.♞a2 seems to lead to a better position for White.) 21.h3 It seems like White doesn't have anything better because of Black's threat of playing Qh4 next. 21...♘xf2 22.♞xf2 f4 and we are in the good version for White in the current game position.]



20...♘xf2! Of course! Such moves Rapport makes "a tempo"!

21.♞xf2? This is already a clear blunder... [After 21.♟xd5 Black already had 21...♘h3+! (White would be better after 21...cxd5 22.♞xf2 f4 23.exf4 ♞h4+ 24.♞g1 ♞xf4 and the amazingly strong 25.♘ce4! The white queen is covering the e3 square. 25...dxe4 26.♞f1 with a big advantage for White.) 22.gxh3



22...♞g5+ Now the position is very unclear. **23.♞h1 cxd5 24.♘e2 f4** Practically it is maybe even easier to play with Black in this very complicated position.]

21...♘xe3!! A great move and it is clear that Laznicka blundered it!

22.♞c5 After this move it is all over. [White should have tried to fight after 22.♞xe3 22...♞g5+ 23.♞e2 ♞xg2+ when his position just looks lost, but in fact the fight goes on: 24.♞d1 (24.♞e1 24...e3 and the game would be over.) 24...♟xc4 (After 24...e3 25.♞b2! things are pretty unclear.) 25.♘xc4 ♞f1+ 26.♞c2 ♞d3+ 27.♞c1 ♞xc4 Black is better, but in a practical game White keeps some chances for survival.]



22...♞g5 The game is over now. Black just has too many different threats. Right now the main one is Qxg2.

23. ♖f1 [23. ♘e2 23... ♔xg2+ 24. ♔xe3 f4+ 25. ♘xf4 ♔g3+ 26. ♔e2 ♖xf4 with a winning mating attack.]

23... ♘d5 is the most simple. The knight on d2 is hanging and White is hopeless.

24. ♔e1 ♔g3+ followed by Nxc3. In case we look back at the game now, White was clearly better out of the opening, but step by step he missed the most critical lines until he completely collapsed in the tactical complications. **0-1**

Puzzle section

(5) Mamedov, N(2624)-Pourramenazali, A(2429)

Baku Open, 2014.09.23

1. +-



(6) Wen Yang(2598)-Agasiyev, K(2394)

Baku Open, 2014.09.23

1. +-



(7) Guliyev, N(2546)-Abdulov, O(2344)

Baku Open, 2014.09.23

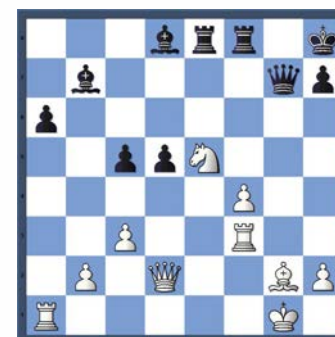
1. +-



(8) Artermiev, V(2650)-Baryshpolets, A(2540)

Baku Open, 2014.09.24

1... -+



(9) Yilmazyerli, M(2454)-Onischuk, V(2593)

Baku Open, 2014.09.28

1... -+



(10) Zhigalko, S(2677)-Ghaem Maghami, E(2593)

Baku Open, 2014.09.28

1. +-



(11) Georgiadis, N(2451)-Huss, A(2382)

Suisse Championship, 2014.09.27

1. +-



(12) Bui Vinh(2411)-Brunello, S(2552)

Durban Open, 2014.09.23

1... -+



(13) Grover, S(2492)-Mareco, S(2585)

Durban Open, 2014.09.27

1. +-



(14) Smirnov, P(2611)-Darini, P(2442)

Baku Open, 2014.09.27

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Shirov, Alexei(2701)
- Sveshnikov, Evgeny(2502)

Rapid match (4),
2014.09.27



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



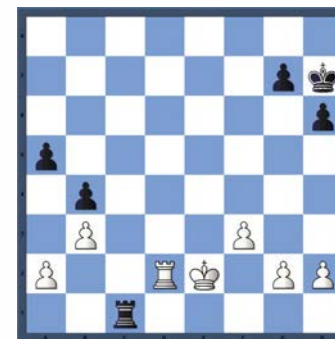
White has an extra pawn, but as we know in rook endgames, the defensive side always has chance to hold. Black's aim should be to eliminate all the pawns from the queenside and reach a 3 vs 2 endgame, which is a theoretical draw. However there is no direct way to get rid of the pawns, therefore White can hope to convert the advantage.

44. ♔e2 White activates his king, which plays an important role in creating the winning plan. It could be something like, Ke3, Rd2, covering the c2 square and then Ke4 and in a good moment Rd5.

44... ♖c1 Black should have also brought his king to the center with Kg6-f6.

45. ♖d5! The rook should be placed on d2 to cover all the pawns and White wins an important tempo by attacking the a5 first.

45... ♖c2+ 46. ♖d2 ♖c1 [Another defensive attempt is 46... ♖c3 cutting the king along the 3rd rank, but here White could play 47. ♔d1! with the idea of Rc2, Rd3 Ke2 and driving to king to the center. 47... ♔g6 (Unfortunately for Black 47... a4 does not work, because after 48. bxa4 ♖a3 49. ♔e2 ♔g6 50. ♖b2! ♖xa4 51. ♔d3+- White is going to win the b-pawn with Kc4-b5!) 48. ♖c2 ♖d3+ 49. ♔e2 ♖d5 50. ♔e3 will be similar to the game. In my opinion, White has good winning chances after advancing the kingside pawns, but in any case this is the only hope for Black.]



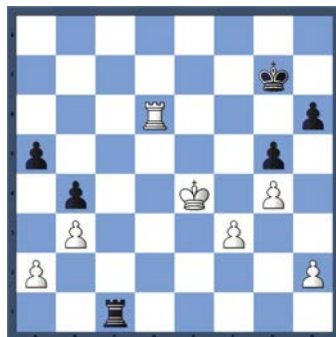
47. ♔d3! White is threatening to cross the c-file with his king after playing Rc2 and when the rook moves, Kc4-b5 should be winning.

47... ♖c3+ 48. ♔e4 ♖c1 White has done the first step to win the game by activating his king. Rd5 is still met by Rc2, attacking all the pawns on the 2nd rank, therefore the next step is logical. Shirov advances his kingside pawns with two main ideas behind it. First of all, he is up a pawn on that side, therefore to increase the advantage he should create a passed pawn. He also evacuates the 2nd rank in order to threat with Rd5, winning another pawn.



49.g4! g5? This is definately the decisive mistake. Perhaps, White was winning anyway, but this definitely just helps to convert the extra pawn. Black weakens his own pawns and opens a path for the white king to penetrate on the kingside. [On 49...♖a1 to prevent Rd5, White is winning after 50.♔f5! (To start with 50.h4 is less accurate, because Black frees his king with 50...♔g6 51.h5+ ♔f6 and it is not so easy yet to win.) ; The best defense was again to bring the king 49...♔g6! when White should probably transpose to the 49...Ra1 50.h4 line by playing h4, because the direct 50.♖d5 ♖c2 51.♖xa5 ♖xh2 gives Black counterplay to create an h- passed pawn. The trade of the b4 pawn for the one on a2 is another little help for Black to get closer to draw, while going for the b4 pawn with Kd3-c4, allows Black to play Rf2.]

50.♖d7+ ♔g6 51.♖d6+ ♔g7



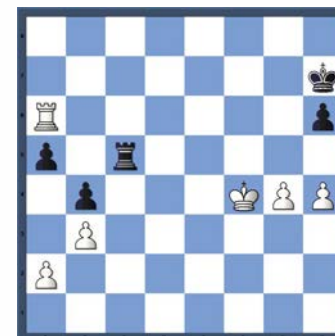
52.♖a6! After the serious g5 weakening, it is time to set Black into passivity.

52...♖c5 [52...♖c2 is already met by 53.♖xa5 ♖xh2 54.♔f5! and Black cannot avoid check on a7 and Kg6 next. 54...♖f2 55.♖a7+ ♔f8 56.♔g6 ♖xf3 57.♔xh6+- and the g5 also falls.]

53.h3 Shirov intends to create a passed pawn with f4. He has time for everything now, as Black does not have anything better than passing with his king on g7-h7.

53...♔h7 54.f4 gxf4 55.♔xf4 ♔g7 56.h4 Slowly but surely, White is making progress.

56...♔h7



57.♖a7+! Shirov lives with the chance to squeeze the black king to the 8th rank. In rook endgames, it is always a good idea, what the defensive side should try to avoid.

57...♔g8 [57...♔g6 loses to 58.h5+ ♔f6 59.♖h7+- is the justification of giving the 57.Ra7 check!]

58.g5! Accomplishing the plan of creating the passed pawn!

58...h5 [58...hxg5+ does not change anything, White wins after 59.hxg5 ♔f8 60.♔g4! The king keeps the g5 pawn as a shield to cross the 5th rank. 60...♔g8 61.♔h5+- followed by Kh6 and g6 next.]

59.g6 ♖d5 60.♗e7! Here comes the last step. White sends the rook away from the 5th rank with Re5 to penetrate with his king.

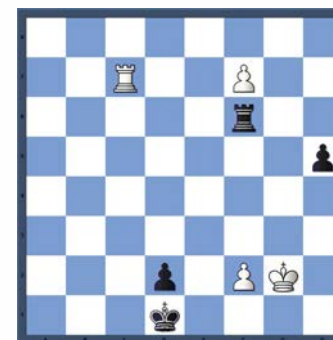
60...♗d2 61.♔g5 ♖xa2 62.♔h6 ♔f8 63.♗a7 Black resigned as the g-pawn promotes in few moves. **1-0**

**(16) Areshchenko, Alexander(2664)
- Inarkiev, Ernesto(2672)**

Baku Open 2014(9.1),
2014.09.30



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



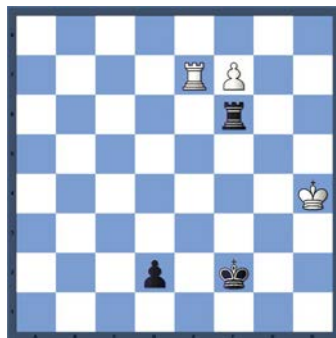
We are in the last round of the Baku Open and we have this very interesting endgame. It is clear that Black is better, but whether the position is winning is still very unclear. If Black didn't have his h-pawn it would just be a draw as White would just put his king to f1 and wait. But the h-pawn plays a decisive role as it doesn't give White the chance to just wait.

68.♔g3 A very logical move, stopping Black from playing h4. White even wants to give up his rook for the d-pawn in some variations and be in time with his king to support the f-pawn, thus securing the draw.

68...h4+! Black is trying his best practical chance! [68...♔e2 doesn't lead to anything since after 69.♗e7+ ♔f1 70.♗d7 it is impossible to improve the position.]

69.♔g2? This is a mistake, but the position is still a draw. [White needed to be brave and play 69.♔xh4! Not an easy move to make with little time on the clock. 69...♔e2 (69...♗xf2

70. ♔g5 with a draw.) 70. ♖e7+ ♕xf2 and here comes the move that White probably missed:



71. ♕g5!! The only move that saves the game! (71. ♖d7?? 71... ♕e3 72. ♖e7+ and the key idea of Black is 72... ♕f4 with the threat of playing d1 and Rh6 mate. White is lost.) 71... d1=♖ 72. ♕xf6 Black is a queen up, but with the strong pawn on f7 White should easily be holding the draw.]

69...h3+! Now the difference is that White will not have Kg5 anymore.

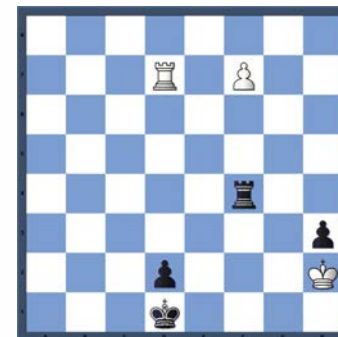
70. ♕h2 is the only chance. [70. ♕xh3? 70... ♕e2 71. ♖e7+ ♕f3 and Black is winning.]

70...♕e2 71. ♖e7+ ♕xf2 Black has collected the f2 pawn for free.

72. ♖d7 ♕e1 73. ♖e7+ ♕d1 74. ♖d7 and we are back to where we were, except that the f2 pawn is gone. The question now is whether Black can force White to play Kxh3 to get the winning position.

74...♖f5 A waiting move, as both players were probably playing on their increment.

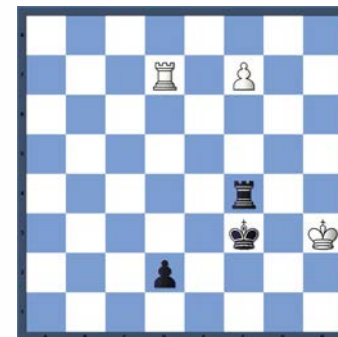
75. ♖e7 ♖f3 76. ♖d7 ♖f4 It seems like Black is just making some random moves, but in fact Inarkiev is preparing a very pretty trap.



77. ♕xh3?? Falling into Black's trap... To make a draw, all White needed to do was to continue waiting with his rook [The right move was 77. ♖e7 77... ♖f6 78. ♖d7 and I don't see how to improve the position for Black. It is just impossible to force White to play Kxh3 and the only way is to play Rf2, after which Black has no more mating ideas. 78... ♖f2+ 79. ♕xh3 ♕e1 80. ♖e7+ ♕f1 81. ♖d7 Once again the position is just a draw.]

77...♕e2 The only move.

78. ♖e7+ ♕f3 79. ♖d7 I guess Areshchenko thought that because of the bad position of the rook on f4 it is just a draw, but it is not!



79...♖f6! Very beautiful, but not too hard to find.

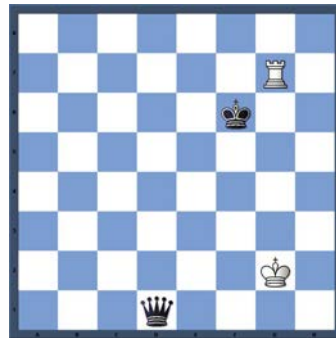
80. ♕h4 ♕e3! This is the key. Black wants to play next Rxf7 so White is forced to give a check.

81. ♔g3 After this move we are entering a Q vs R endgame, which of course is winning for Black. [After 81. ♖e7+ 81... ♔f4 Black is simply winning because of the double threat of playing d1Q and Rh6 mate!]

81... ♖f3+ Precision until the end... [It was not too late for a mistake: 81... ♖xf7? 82. ♖xf7 d1=♚ and White achieves a draw after 83. ♖e7+ ♔d2 84. ♖d7+ ♔c1 85. ♖xd1+ ♔xd1]

82. ♔g2 ♖xf7 83. ♖xf7 d1=♚ 84. ♖e7+ ♔f4 The black king is escaping over the f4 square.

85. ♖f7+ ♔g5 86. ♖g7+ ♔f6



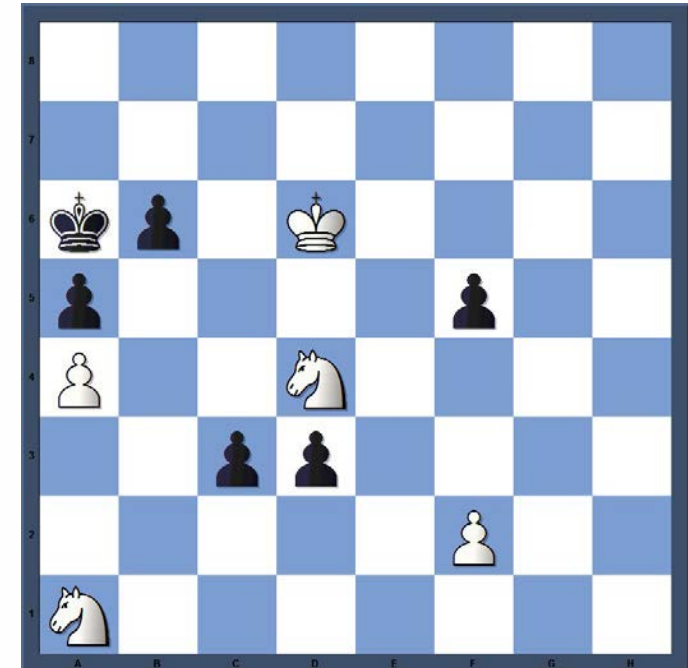
87. ♖g3 This is already an easily winning position and doesn't require any comments.

87... ♔f5 88. ♔h2 ♔f4 89. ♖a3 ♚c2+ 90. ♔h3 ♚h7+ 91. ♔g2 ♚b7+ We just saw a very interesting rook endgame and of course Black was a bit lucky to win it, but still as we could see it is never too late for a mistake... **0-1**

Surprise section / study

(17) Godes

1. +-



Solutions

(18) Persson, M(2239)-Safarli, E(2655)

ECC, 2014.09.16



26...♖xd4! 27.♖xd4 ♕xd4! 0-1 [27...♕xd4 28.♖xd4 ♖c1+-]

(19) Harikrishna, P(2725)-Bator, R(2422)

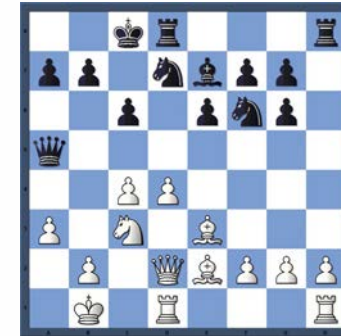
ECC, 2014.09.16



19.♗xd6+! ♕xd6 20.bxc5+-

(20) Bartel, M(2636)-Engquist, T(2348)

ECC, 2014.09.16



18.♗d5! ♕xd2 19.♗xe7+- ♖c7 20.♗xd2 ♖de8 21.♗f4+ ♖d8 22.♗xc6+ bxc6 23.♗f3+-

(21) Franco Alonso, A(2471)-Ibragimov, I(2555)

ECC, 2014.09.16



21...♗xf2+! 0-1 [21...♗xf2+ 22.♖xf2 (22.♖f1 22...♗xd5 23.♕xd5 ♗xe1 24.♕xf7+ ♖h8+-) 22...♕c5+-]

(22) Laurusas, T(2440)-Zhigalko, A(2584)

ECC, 2014.09.16

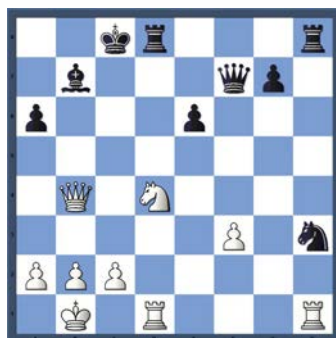


26...xf2+! 27.♔f1 [27.♔xf2 27...e3+! 28.♔xe3 ♕xb1 29.♔xb1 ♖g4+--+]

27...e3--+ 28.♖b7 exd2 29.♖xe7 d1=♔+ 30.♔xf2 ♖g4+ 31.♔f3 ♔d4 32.e3 ♔f6--+

(23) Radjabov, T(2717)-Sasikiran, K(2680)

ECC, 2014.09.17



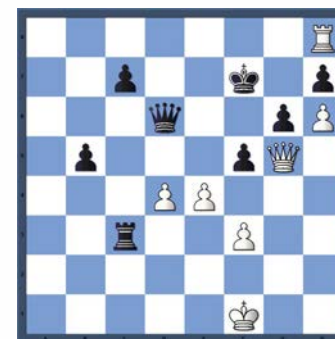
25.♔c5+! ♔b8 [25...♔c7 26.♔xc7+ ♔xc7 27.♖xe6+--+]

26.♖xh3! ♔d7 [26...♖xh3 27.♖c6+! ♔xc6 28.♔b6+!+--+]

27.♖xh8 ♖xh8 28.♔e5+ ♔a8 29.♔c1+--

(24) Navara, D(2722)-Durarbayli, V(2614)

ECC, 2014.09.18



32...♖xf3+! 33.♔e2 [33.♔g2 33...♖f2+!]

33...♖f2+!! 34.♔e3 [34.♔xf2 34...♔xd4+ 35.♔f1 ♔xh8--+]

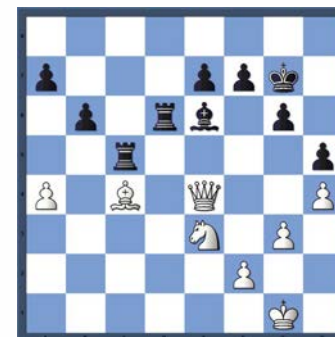
34...♖a2--+ 35.♖xh7+ ♔g8 36.♖xc7 ♖a3+ 37.♔e2 ♔h2+

38.♔e1 ♖a1+ 39.♖c1 ♖xc1+ [39...♔h1+ 40.♔e2 ♖a2+--+]

40.♔xc1 ♔h1+ 41.♔d2 ♔xh6+ 0-1

(25) Sasikiran, K(2680)-Guseinov, G(2615)

ECC, 2014.09.18



36...♖xc4!! 37.♖xc4 ♖d1+ 38.♔h2 ♔d5! 39.♔e5+ ♔h7 40.f3 ♔xc4= 41.♔xe7 1/2

(26) Navara, D(2637)-Van Kampen, R(2722)

ECC, 2014.09.19



26...♖xg4! 27.♔h1 [27.♙xg4 27...♖xg3+-; 27.♚xg4 27...♖xe1+-]

27...♙e4 [27...♖e8+-]

28.♚xg4 ♖xf3 29.♘xe4 [29.♘xf3 29...♙xf3+ 30.♚xf3 ♚xh4+ (30...♖xe1) 31.♙g2 ♚g5+-]

29...♚xe4 30.♚xe4 ♖xe4 31.♖xe4 ♖xf1+ 32.♙g2 dxe4 33.♙xf1 g5 34.hxg5 hxg5 35.♙f2 g4 0-1

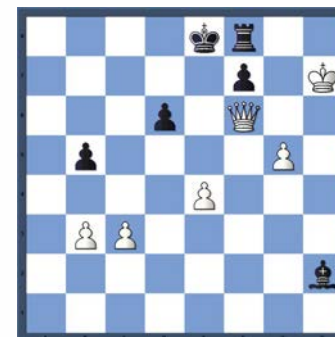
(27) Nakamura, H(2782)-Dambacher, M(2497)

ECC, 2014.09.19



38.♖xe4! fxe4 39.♙xe5 ♖xe5 40.♖f8+ ♖e8 41.♚e7! 1-0

(28) Reti



1.♙h6! [1.♙g7 1...♙e5 2.b4 (2.c4 2...♙xf6+ 3.gxf6 b4!) 2...♙h2!! 3.♙h6 ♙e5=]

1...♙e5 2.♙g7!! ♙h2 [2...♙xf6+ 3.gxf6+-]

3.c4! bxc4 [3...b4 4.c5 ♙e5 5.cxd6 ♙xf6+ 6.gxf6+-]

4.e5!! [4.bxc4? 4...♙e5]

4...♙xe5 5.bxc4! ♙xf6+ 6.gxf6 ♖h8 7.♙xh8 ♔d7 8.♙g8 ♙e6 9.♙g7+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 137

12th of October 2014

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Editorial Preface

In the FIDE Grand Prix we see a mixture of very interesting and fighting games, while others involve surprisingly careful play. One of the biggest surprises was probably the loss on time by Grischuk, who defended very well in a very difficult rook endgame and when the draw was already so near, Gelfand just won on time. Another big surprise is the win of Andreikin over Caruana in the moment when Andreikin had 1.5/6 and Caruana was the tournament leader with 4.5/6. In the interview, Caruana said that he played a horrible game beginning from move one 1.e4 d5? :) As we can see, the World Nr2 is not losing his "dark" humor.

In the Isle of Man the last rounds will decide of the winner. Vachier Lagrave, Adams, Howell and Short will probably fight for the top prices.

In the Croatian league the team of Zagreb is dominating the Championship with Malakhov and Korobov on the first 2 boards.

The Millionaire Chess Open in Las Vegas is also under way, with a 1st price of 100.000 Dollars in the main tournament section. Surprisingly the line-up is everything but great though, as with the exception of Wesley So and Le Quang, there are no GMs over 2700 participating in it.

In a few days 2 interesting matches are going to begin between Giri-Shirov and Timman-Jobava at the Unive Chess event 2014. Of course there will also be an open tournament running besides the matches.

Enjoy issue Nr 137!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

3 best games of the past week

(1) Tomashevsky, Evgeny(2701) - Radjabov, Teimour(2726) [D85]

Baku FIDE Grand Prix 2014(8),
2014.10.10



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 ♖f6 **2.c4** g6 **3.♗c3** d5 **4.cxd5** ♖xd5 **5.♙d2** Nowadays it is a normal tendency that top players look for an advantage in rare lines.

5...♗b6 The idea of this move is to attack the d4 pawn immediately, so that White is not able to play the e4 move. [5...♙g7 6.e4]

6.e3 [6.♗f3 ; 6.♙f4]

6...♙g7



7.f4!? This is the point of 6.e3. White is taking space and preventing the thematic e5 move.

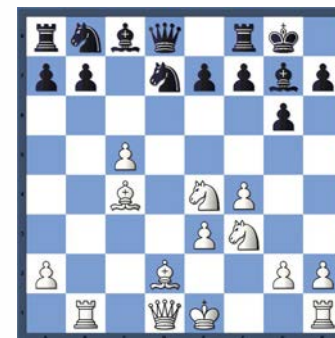
7...c5 Black is fighting for the center. You can see the first game with this idea with e4-f4 below: [7...O-O 8.♗f3 ♙g4 9.h3

♙xf3 10.♖xf3 c6 11.h4! ♗8d7 12.h5 e6 13.hxg6 hxg6 14.e4 f5 15.g4 ♗f6 16.gxf5 exf5 17.e5 ♗g4 18.d5 cxd5 19.O-O-O with initiative. 1/2-1/2 Svidler,P-Gelfand,B/London ENG 2013 (31); 7...♗8d7 8.♗f3 c5 9.d5+ =]

8.dxc5 ♗6d7 **9.♗e4** [The following way of protecting the pawn is worse: 9.♗a4 9...e5 10.♗f3 exf4 11.exf4 O-O 12.♙e2 b6! 13.O-O ♗xc5 14.♗xc5 bxc5 15.♙c3 ♙xc3 16.bxc3 ♗d7 17.♖b1 ♗b6 18.♗e5 ♙f5 19.♖b5 ♖c7= 0-1 Wang Hao-Giri,A/Beijing CHN 2013 (32)]

9...♙xb2 **10.♖b1** ♙g7 **11.♙c4** By giving the pawn back White gets two important developing moves.

11...O-O **12.♗f3**



12...♗f6 [12...♖c7 13.♖b3 e6 (13...♗xc5? 14.♗xc5 ♖xc5 15.♗g5 Xf7 15...e6 16.♙b4+-) 14.O-O ♖c6 15.♗fg5 White is very active. 15...♗a6 16.♖c2 (16.♙xe6 16...fxe6 17.♗xe6 ♖h8 18.♗xg7 ♗axc5 19.♗xc5 ♗xc5 20.♖b2 ♙g8∞) 16...♗dxc5 17.♙b5 ♖d5 (17...♖c7) 18.♙c3 f6 19.♗xf6+ ♙xf6 20.♙xf6 ♖xf6 21.♖bd1 ♖f5 22.e4 ♖g4 23.♖d8+ ♙g7 24.♙e2 ♖h4 25.g3 ♖h6 26.♙xa6 ♗xa6 27.♖xc8 ♖f8 28.♖b2+ ♙g8 29.♖xa8 1-0 Gunina,V-Lagno,K/Warsaw POL 2013]

13.♗eg5 [13.♗xf6+ 13...♙xf6 (13...exf6 14.O-O ♖e7∞ and the knight exchange gives Black easier play.) 14.e4 e5 15.fxe5 ♙g7 16.O-O ♗c6 17.♙c3 ♖xd1 18.♖fxd1 ♗d8 19.♙a5 ♗e6 20.♙d5

♙h6 21.♚f2± 1-0 Gleizerov,E-Bok,B/Sarajevo BIH 2014 (30)]

13...e6 14.O-O h6 [14...♙e7 15.♘e5 ♘c6 16.♘xc6 bxc6 17.♙a4+=]

15.♘xf7! ♚xf7 16.♘e5



16...♚f8 Radjabov decides to keep the material, but he could also give the rook for development, for example: [16...♘c6 17.♘xf7 ♙xf7 18.f5! White needs to press! 18...gxf5 19.♙xf5 ♙g8 20.♙c2 ♙h8 21.♙f4 with a very complex position.; 16...♘e4 17.♘xf7 ♙xd2 18.♙f3 ♘c3 19.f5!→and Black should not survive here.]

17.♘xg6 ♚e8



18.f5↑ White already has two pawns for the piece, a development advantage and pressure against the black king.

18...♘a6 [18...♙h7 with the idea to solve the problem with the pin over the diagonal. 19.fxe6 ♙xe6 (19...♙xg6 20.♙c2+--) 20.♙xe6 ♚xe6 21.♘f4 ♚e7 22.♙c2+ ♘e4 (22...♙g8 23.♙c3→)



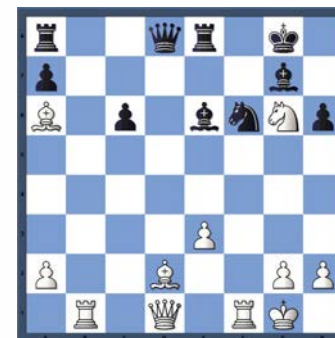
23.♙xb7! ♙xd2 24.♙xd2 ♘xd2 25.♙xe7 ♘c6 26.♙c7 ♘xf1 27.♙xf1 ♘e5 28.♘e6 ♙g8 29.c6 with the threat Rxc7. 29...♘c4 30.♙xa7±]

19.c6 [19.♙c2 19...♘xc5 20.♙c3↑All pieces are very active and White has very unpleasant pressure.]

19...bxc6! [19...♘c5]

20.fxe6 ♙xe6 [20...♙xe6 21.♘f4 ♘c7 22.♙c2 ♘cd5 23.♘xe6 ♙xe6 24.♙b7↑]

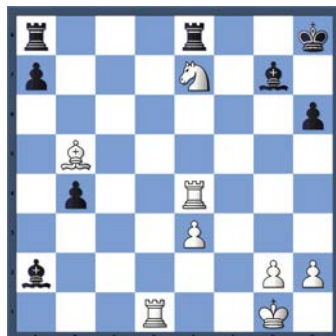
21.♙xa6



21...♘e4! We just see typical practical defense. Black gave

the piece back, but the character of the position completely changed as now Black is active as well.

22. ♖b4 ♜xa2 23. ♘e7+ ♚h8 24. ♙xd8 [24. ♖f4 24...c5 (24... ♖xb1 25. ♘g6+ ♚h7 26. ♙xb1 ♙b6 Many pieces are hanging, but White gets the advantage after the forced 27. ♖xe4 ♙xa6 28. ♖xe8 ♖xe8 29. ♘f8+ ♚g8 30. ♙h7+ ♚f7 31. ♙g6+ ♚g8 32. ♙xe8 ♙a1+ 33. ♚f2 ♙f6+ 34. ♚e2 ♙b2+ 35. ♚f3 ♙f6+ 36. ♚e4 ♙h4+ 37. ♚d3 ♙xb4 38. ♘e6+ ♚h7 39. ♙xc6+=) 25. ♖xe4 ♙xd1+ 26. ♖xd1 cxb4 27. ♖b5



27... ♚h7! is a strong move because the most important thing is to save the unpleasant b-pawn. 28. ♖xe8 ♖xe8=]

24... ♖axd8 25. ♘xc6 ♖xb1 26. ♘xd8 ♖xd8 27. ♖xb1



27... ♖b8! The last accurate move which leads to an endgame with opposite colored bishops.

28. ♖d3 ♘c3 29. ♖xc3 ♖xb1+ 30. ♖xb1 ♖xc3 31. ♚f2 1/2-1/2

**(2) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2764)
- Grischuk, Alexander(2797) [A86]**

Baku FIDE Grand Prix 2014(5),
2014.10.07



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

**1.d4 f5 2.c4 ♘f6 3.g3 g6 4.♙g2 ♙g7 5.♘c3 d6 6.♗f3 O-O
7.O-O**



7...♞e8 This is a typical move in the Leningrad System. Black is preparing to play e5 and also very often the queen is transferred into the attack after h6-g5-Qh5. [7...c6 This is the main line and the most solid move for Black, which was played for example by Nakamura many times.; 7...♘c6 The idea of this move is to play e5, but this is not the best way for Black. 8.d5 ♘a5 (8...♘e5 9.♗xe5 dxe5 10.♞b3 ♙h8 11.c5 h6 12.♞d1 g5 13.♙d2+= with the idea Rac1-Be1.) 9.b3 is an interesting option for White. (9.♞a4 9...c5 10.dxc6 ♗xc6∞) 9...♗e4 10.♗xe4 ♙xa1 (10...fxe4 11.♗d4 c5 12.dxc6 ♗xc6 13.♙e3±) 11.♗eg5 c5 12.e4 fxe4 13.♗h4→and the black king is under strong pressure.]

8.♞e1 ♞f7 [8...e5 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.e4!↑This is the point of 8.Re1, but even this position is still unclear, which Kamsky proved in his game against So.; 8...♗e4? 9.♗xe4 fxe4 10.♗g5+—]

9.e4 fxe4 A few games finished very quick after [9...♗xe4 10.♗xe4 fxe4 11.♞xe4 ♙f5?



12.♗g5! ♞f6 13.♞h4 h6 14.♙d5+ e6 15.♗xe6! ♙xe6 16.♞f4 ♞e7 17.♞e4 ♞f6 18.♙xb7 ♞f7 19.♞xe6 ♞xe6 20.♙xa8 c6 21.d5+— 1-0 Pelletier,Y-Koch,J/Mulhouse FRA 2011 (26)]

10.♗g5 [10.♗xe4 10...♗c6 11.♗eg5 (11.d5 11...♗xe4 12.♞xe4 ♗e5 13.♞f4 ♗xf3+ 14.♞xf3 ♞e8 15.♞xf8+ ♞xf8=) 11...♞xc4 with very complex play. Black won the pawn but the queen will be in trouble. 12.♙f1 ♞d5 13.b3 ♞f5 14.♙d3 ♞g4 15.h3 ♞d7 16.♗e6 ♞xe6 17.♞xe6 ♙xe6 18.♗g5 ♙d7 19.♙e3± 1-0 Reinderman,D-Muzychuk,A/Aix-les-Bains FRA 2011 (49)]

10...♞xc4 11.♗gxe4 ♗xe4 12.♞xe4 ♞f7 The queen is now back to a defensive position.

13. ♖f4 ♕f6



14. ♘d5 White has compensation for the pawn thanks to his active pieces.

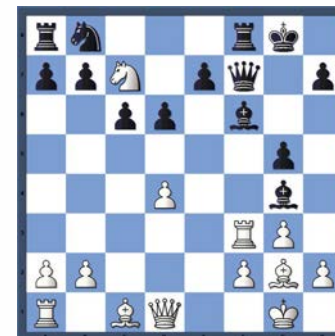
14...g5 is an important move which forces White to put the rook on f3 and then one of Black's threats will be Bg4. [14...♖a6 15. ♖b3 (15. ♘xf6+ 15...exf6 16.d5 with the idea b3-Bb2 and it looks like White will have the initiative.) 15...c6 16. ♘xe7+ ♖g7 17. ♘xc8 ♖xb3 18.axb3 ♖xc8 19.d5 Otherwise Black would play the strong d5. 19...c5 20. ♖fa4 ♖c7 21. ♕f1 ♘b4 22. ♖xa7 ♖xa7 23. ♖xa7 ♕d4 and in my opinion Black should be fine here.]

15. ♖f3 [15. ♘xc7 15...gxf4 16. ♕xf4 ♘c6 17. ♘xa8 ♘xd4†]

15...c6 [15...♘c6 16. ♕e3 (16. ♕xg5? 16...♖xd5+-) 16...♖h8 (16...♕g4 doesn't always work because of 17. ♖xf6 ♕xd1 18. ♖xf7+-) 17. ♘xc7 ♖b8 18. ♘d5 ♖g6 and the rook is badly placed on f3.]

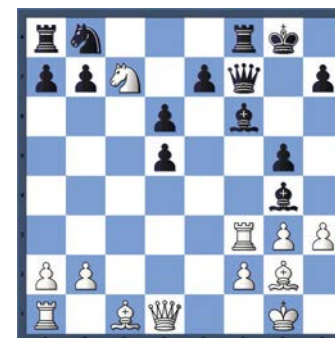
16. ♘c7 [16. ♘xf6+ 16...exf6 17. ♕xg5 ♕g4 18. ♖xf6 (18. ♕h6!? 18...♖e8 19.h3 ♕xf3 20. ♕xf3†) 18...♖xf6 19. ♖xg4 ♖xf2+ 20. ♖h1 ♖f5 21. ♖h4 ♘d7 22. ♕e4 ♖f7 23. ♕e7 ♖fe8 24. ♕xd6 ♖e6 25. ♕b4 ♖ae8† and Black has the initiative.]

16... ♕g4



17.d5 [17. ♘xa8 17...♕xf3 18. ♕xf3 ♘a6 19.d5 ♕g7 (19...c5 20. ♕h5 ♖g7 21. ♖b3 ♕d4 22. ♕e3 c4 23. ♖xc4 ♕xe3 24.fxe3 ♖xa8 25. ♖f1 ♖f8 26. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 27.b4+= White is slightly better since Black has problems with the knight.) 20. ♕g2 (20. ♖g2 20...g4) 20...♖xf2+ 21. ♖h1 ♖xa8 22.dxc6 bxc6 23. ♕xg5 ♖b8; 17. ♖xf6 17...exf6! and the knight on c7 is lost.]

17...cxd5 18. ♕xg5 [18.h3



18...e6! is the most accurate. (18...♕xf3 19. ♕xf3 e6 20. ♘xe6!±) 19. ♖xf6 ♕xd1 20. ♖xf7 ♖xf7 21. ♘xa8 ♘a6 22. ♕xg5 ♕a4 23. ♖c1 ♖xa8=]

18...♖d7 [18...♖a6]

19.♗xa8 [19.♕xf6 19...♕xf3 20.♖xf3 ♗xf6 21.♗xa8 ♖xa8=]

19...♕xf3 [19...♖xa8 20.♖xf6 ♗xf6 21.♖b3 e6 22.f3 ♕f5 23.♖c1+= with the queens on the board, White has a chance to prove the advantage of the bishop pair.]

20.♖xf3 ♕xg5 21.♖xd5 ♖xd5 22.♕xd5+ ♔h8 23.♗c7 ♖c8 24.♗e6 ♕f6 [24...♖c1+ 25.♖xc1 ♕xc1 26.♕xb7 ♕xb2=]

25.♖e1 ♗c5 After this sequence of forced moves, the position is drawish now. [25...♕xb2 26.♕xb7 ♖c1 27.♖xc1 ♕xc1=]

26.♖e2 ♗xe6 27.♕xe6 ♖c1+ 28.♔g2 ♖b1 29.♕d5 ♖xb2 30.♖xb2 ♕xb2 31.♕xb7 An interesting fighting game, but probably only for the fans, as it looks like both players had prepared this line very well. **1/2-1/2**

(3) Caruana, Fabiano(2844) - Gelfand, Boris(2748) [B90]

Baku FIDE Grand Prix 2014(2.2),
2014.10.03



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

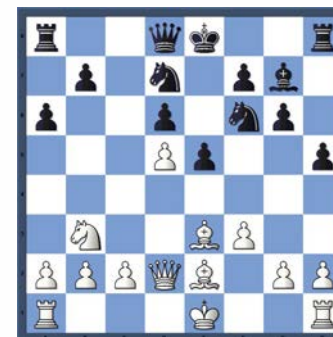
Caruana and Gelfand continue their thematic opening discussion in the Sicilian Najdorf defense.

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.f3 White avoids the 6.Be3 Ng4 variation and starts with the 6.f3 moveorder. This one also allows an extra option for Black, to try the 6...Qb6 line, but Gelfand rather chooses his favorite 6...e5.

6...e5 7.♗b3 ♕e6 8.♕e3 h5 9.♖d2 ♗bd7 10.♗d5 Caruana has already played many games for this position, including one against Gelfand...

10...♕xd5 [10...♗xd5 11.exd5 ♕f5 is the alternative for Black.]

11.exd5 g6 12.♕e2 ♕g7



13.♗a5 Caruana deviates from his own game against Gelfand with this move. The move has several ideas. First of all, it

attacks the b7 pawn and tries to get the c6 square for his knight. Second, White has pawn majority on the queenside and the longterm idea to make use of it is the plan of c4, b4, c5. However if White starts with c4, then Black has the strong response to push a5, followed by b6, creating strong blockade on the dark squares. [The previous encounter from the January of 2014 went with 13.O-O 13...O-O 14.♖ac1 b6 15.h3 ♜e8 16.g4 also with an extremely complex game, which was later won by Caruana. I have commented also this game in a previous CEWN.]

13...♞c7 Black naturally does not want to allow the knight's jump to c6.

14.c4 e4 Black creates his counterplay in the center and on the kingside, where he has his pawn majority. He also opens the diagonal for his strong bishop and creates some nice squares for his knights on e5 or in case of 15.f4 on Ng4.

15.O-O exf3 16.gxf3! This looks illogical at first sight, but White's kingside is much safer if he controls g4 square. White could later play Rf2 and Bf1, controlling all the important squares on the kingside. [16.♙xf3 is strongly met by 16...♘g4! White is forced to give up the pair of bishops.]

16...O-O 17.b4 ♜fe8 18.♞ac1 Both sides are making their most useful developing moves. The game is heading in still waters in a complex position, when suddenly Gelfand takes a fantastic decision...



18...♞xe3! An intuitive exchange sacrifice! Black is aiming for compensation on the dark squares, all his pieces are becoming very active. [In case of some logical and calm continuation like 18...♞e7 doubling the rooks on the e-file, White maintains an advantage after 19.♙f4 ♜ae8 20.♞f2!+= followed by Bf1. The two bishops are perfectly neutralizing the e-file and White creates serious threats, connected with c5!]

19.♞xe3 ♜e8 White is facing a difficult decision. The e3 bishop was controlling perfectly the c1-h6 and the g1-a7 diagonals. Now, the queen is forced to choose which diagonal to give Black. He must allow either Bh6 or Qb6.

20.♞d2 [In case of 20.♞f2 Black gets excellent compensation after 20...♙h6 21.f4 ♜e4!]

20...♙h7?! Black would like to get his bishop to h6, but this is a bit too slow kind of execution of the right plan.. [It was much stronger to play 20...♞b6+! 21.♙h1 ♙h6! 22.f4 This is already an achievement, since Black has spared the Kh7 move. But White had nothing better. (On 22.♞xh6 22...♞xe2 White's pawns are loose. The b4 is hanging, the knight is suddenly misplaced on a5. The e2 rook turns out to be very active and it can be exchanged with Re1 because of taking and Qxb4. We can see the power of the black pieces in the next variation: 23.a3 looks natural to protect the b4, but it is actually losing:

23...♔d4! Threatening to attack the h2 pawn with the queen and after 24.♖ce1



24...♘g4!! wins decisive material as 25.fxg4 leads to mate 25...♔e4+--+) 22...♘e4 23.♔e1 It is clear that Black has enough compensation here. He can choose here between some tempting options 23...♘ef6 (23...♔d4 is more human to active even more the pieces 24.♘xb7 ♘df6 with terribly active pieces.)]

21.♘b3 White is an exchange up, therefore Caruana changes the plan and tries to consolidate his position, but bringing back his pieces. This is a very clever reaction and the move also serves to meet the Qb6 idea with c5! [However the machine considers 21.♔g2 21...♘h6 22.f4 ♘e4 23.♔d3 to be much stronger with an advantage for White. In such positions, it is impossible to compete with the strongest machines. At the end, always he will be the one who is right! Caruana's 21.Nb3 was more human decision.]

21...♘h6 22.f4 ♘e4 23.♔e1 The white pieces are temporarily pushed back, but they are preventing all the direct threats. Therefore Gelfand decides to continue activating his pieces...

23...♘df6 [23...♔b6+ 24.♔h1 ♔e3? with the same purpose to active the pieces is much worse, because of 25.♘f3 and White consolidates.]

24.♘d3 White must operate with small moves, using the fact that Black cannot gain any benefits from the pin on the e-file. White intends to play Rc2-e2!



24...♔d7! Very nice answer also from the Black side. The last piece which could be improved was the queen, therefore Gelfand drives it to h3 or g4! [There is a forced line to win a pawn with 24...♘c5 25.♔d2 ♘xd3 26.♔xd3 ♔b6+ 27.c5 ♔xb4 but now White maintains the initiative after 28.♖c4 ♔b5 29.a4 ♔d7 30.c6+ =]

25.♖c2! White continues his plan and also prepares to meet the Qg4 check with Rg2. There Black plays the more direct queen move.

25...♔h3 attacking the d3 bishop.

26.♔d1 The most human reaction again, but this is an inaccuracy, allowing a tactical blow for Black. [The computer suggests the inhuman 26.♔e2 protecting the bishop, but it leaves the queen in the pin and also deprives himself from playing Re2. It is impossible to make such moves for a human, but the machine claims an advantage for him. 26...♘f2 (26...♘g3? is met by 27.♔f3!) 27.♘xg6+ fxg6 28.♔xf2 ♔e4 29.♘d2 ♔xf4 30.♔e2 is gives on White's favor but of course the position is looking extremely dangerous, very difficult to go for it.; 26.♘xe4 is wrong because of 26...♔xe4 27.♔g3 ♔f5!]

Black wins a pawn and keeps his very dangerous pieces.]



26...xf4! The small tactical shot solves the problems. All pieces were standing perfectly, so the position was calling for a direct blow.

27. f3 Caruana decides to play on. [White could have forced a draw with 27. f4 27... e3+ 28. ff2 fxf2 29. fxf2 g4 30. f3 fxf2 31. fxf7+ h8 32. f6+ g8 33. fxg6+ f8 34. f6+ with perpetual check. Neither side can avoid this line is White takes back on f4.]

27...xf3 28. fxf3 Black is still down materially, as he has only one pawn for the exchange, but his very active pieces supported with further active moves are giving him enough compensation.



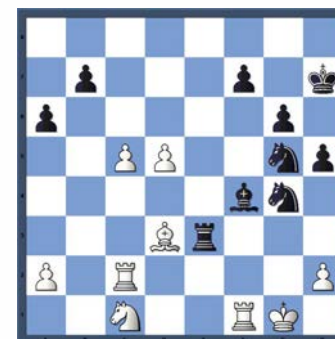
28...g5! The bishop cannot be taken because of Nh3 and

Black invades with his rook along the e-file.

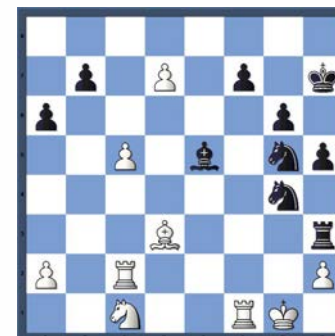
29. f1 e3! 30. c1 g4! Very nice play by Gelfand! White's position is still looking very dangerous, despite that the queens are off the board.

31. c5 Caruana is looking for counterplay with the c- passed pawn.

31...dxc5 32. bxc5



32...e8? This is too passive, not in the spirit of the position. [The right move was 32... e5 with the idea to play Rh3, which was not possible right away as the the bishop was hanging on f4 (Nh3 works no longer). 33. d6 (On 33. c6 33... bxc6 34. dxc6 e7 and Rh3 next.) 33... h3! 34. d7



34...hx2+! 35. g2 (35. f2 35... f2 36. d8= f h3#)

35...♖e3+ 36.♔f2 ♘c7 with Black's advantage, but both players has spent most of their time in the complex middlegame and it was very difficult to find these ideas.]

33.h4? The most human move again, but it spoils the win. White misses an unexpected tactical blow:



[33.♔h1! was the winning move, the bishop is hanging now on f4. If it goes away, h4 sends away the knight and wins the f7 pawn with check. 33...♖e3 (33...♘e3 34.h4) 34.♖e2! also wins.]

33...♖e3!! This brilliant move forces perpetual check! [Caruana was probably expecting 33...♖h3+ 34.♔g2 ♖e3 but here the difference is 35.♖f3! and white is winning.]

34.hxg5 White had nothing better.

34...♖g3+ 35.♔h1 [35.♖g2? loses to 35...♘e3+ 36.♔h1 ♖h3+]

35...♖h3+ 36.♔g2 ♖g3+ 37.♔h1 ♖h3+ A great fighting draw!
1/2-1/2

Puzzle section

(4) Dominguez, L(2751)-Kasimdzhanov, R(2706)

Baku GP, 2014.10.02

1. +-



(5) Grischuk, A(2797)-Karjakin, S(2767)

Baku GP, 2014.10.03

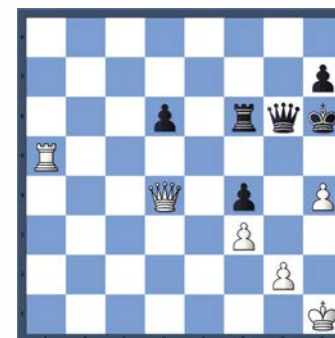
1. +-



(6) Dominguez, L(2751)-Tomashevsky, E(2701)

Baku GP, 2014.10.03

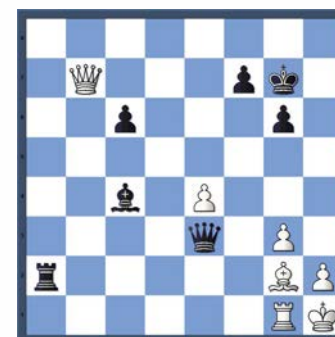
1. +-



(7) L'Ami, A(2386)-Vachier-Lagrave, M(2757)

Isle of Man, 2014.10.04

1... -+



(8) Gormally, D(2488)-Granda Zuniga, J(2674)

Isle of Man, 2014.10.05

1. +-



(9) Wei Yi(2641)-Muthaiah, A(2215)

World Juniors, 2014.10.06

1. +-



(10) Darini, P(2442)-Kovalenko, I(2650)

Baku Open, 2014.09.30

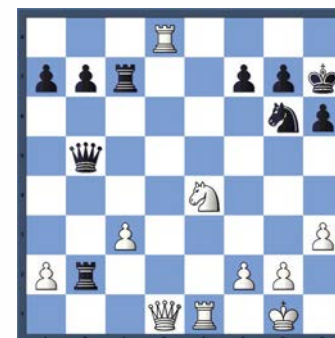
1... -+



(11) Gara, A(2322)-Romanov, E(2647)

Oslo Open, 2014.09.30

1. +-



(12) Papp, G(2559)-Istratescu, A(2653)

Oslo Open, 2014.10.04

1. +-



(13) Alekseev, E(2675)-Lintchevski, D(2555)

St. Petersburg rapid, 2014.09.28

1. +-



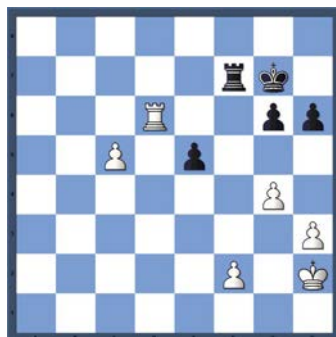
Endgame section

(14) Andreikin, Dmitry(2722)
- Caruana, Fabiano(2844)

Baku FIDE Grand Prix 2014(7),
2014.10.09



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

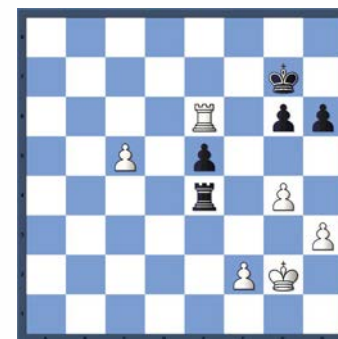


49.♔g2 The pawn has to be protected, but White also had another option. [The logical move 49.♖d2 with the idea of putting the rook behind the pawn, which is usually good. 49...♖c7 50.♖c2 ♔f6 51.♔g3 ♔e6 would lead to an endgame where White needs to calculate accurately whether the position is winning or not, because the black king is coming to d5. So Andreikin makes the practical decision in the game not to enter these complications.]

49...♖f4! Black is trying his best chance and this is to get the rook behind the c-pawn. In case of passive play by Black, the white king will slowly come to e3 and then e4, after which the game would be over.

50.♖e6 White is winning a second pawn on e5, but probably another move would have led to an easier win... [50.c6 looks easier. 50...♖c4 51.♔f3 Now the white king needs to get to d3. 51...g5 52.♔e3 e4 Black is trying to create a fortress, but of course it doesn't work because of 53.f3! and White's position is totally winning.]

50...♖e4 Before giving the e5 pawn, Caruana wants White to weaken the second rank.

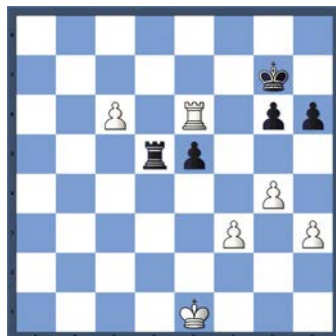


51.f3 [51.♔f3 51...♖e1 and it is not so easy for White to cross the e-file with his king.]

51...♖e2+ 52.♔f1 So the e5 pawn is lost, but now the white king is of course very badly placed on f1. [Of course not 52.♔g3? 52...♔f7 followed by Rc2 next and Black has very realistic drawing chances.]

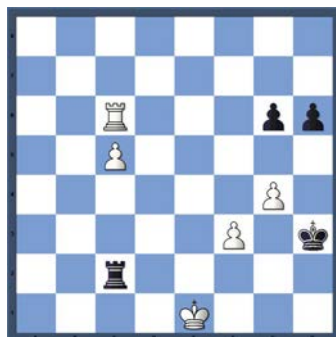
52...♖d2 A strange looking move, but maybe Black's best chance. [After 52...♖c2 53.c6 ♔f7 54.♖d6 Black just can't do anything about White playing Ke1-Kd1.]

53.♖xe5 [Black's idea would come true after 53.♔e1? 53...♖d5 54.c6



54...♔f7! and the white rook is sort of trapped on e6. 55.c7 ♖xc5 56.♗xe5 ♜xc7 with a drawn position.]

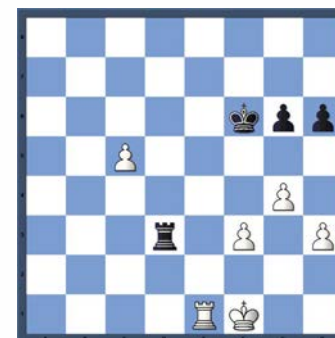
53...♕f6 This allows White to finally put his rook behind the c-pawn. [53...♜c2 might give Black slightly more practical chances. Now White has a lot of different options, but let us check the most logical one: 54.♜e7+ ♔f6 55.♜c7 White's idea is to play Rc8, c7 and the push the f-pawn until f6. Of course this all just happens in case Black puts his king to g7 and keeps on waiting, so he needs to act quickly. 55...♕g5 56.♕e1 The white king is close to d1. 56...♕h4 57.♜c6 ♕xh3



58.♕d1 is the most accurate. 58...♜c3 59.♜xc3 and White is still winning.]

54.♜e2! Exactly! The white rook is going to be perfectly placed on the c-file.

54...♜d1+ 55.♜e1 ♜d3



56.♜c1! White should not care about the f3 pawn, as the c-pawn will guarantee him a winning pawn endgame.

56...♜xf3+ 57.♕e2 The black rook needs to hurry back to c8 now.

57...♜a3 58.c6 ♜a8 59.c7 ♜c8 All White needs to do now is to bring his king to the center.

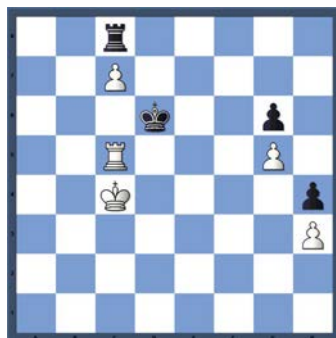
60.♜c5 [Of course 60.♕e3 60...♕e5 61.♜c5+ ♕d6 62.♕d4 would win as well.]

60...♕e6 61.♕d3 h5 Black can't take the c7 pawn because of the winning pawn endgame for White and the rook can't move from c8. The position is totally lost.

62.g5 Of course White does not exchange the pawns.

62...♕d6 63.♕c4 The white king is going to b6.

63...h4



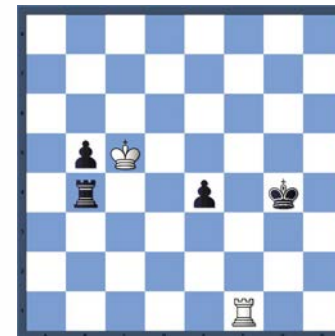
64. ♖b5 and Black resigned because the pawn endgame after 64...Rxc7 65.Rxc7 Kxc7 66.Kc5 Kd7 67.Kd5 K77 68. Ke5 Kf7 69.Kd6 is totally winning for White. A great victory by Andreikin in a game where not many would have guessed the outcome with the right result. **1-0**

(15) Filippov, Anton(2589)
- **Saric, Ivan(2678)**

Croatian league,
2014.10.05



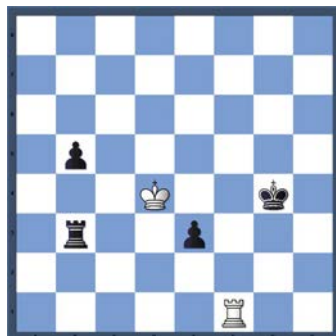
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



Black has two extra pawns and his position is winning. However after the most natural move, White suddenly holds the draw in a very instructive way.

1... ♖b3?? Saric wants to save both of his pawns, but his rook remains passive. [1... ♖c4+ was the winning move 2. ♖xb5 (2. ♖d5 2...e3 is already hopeless as the king cannot come closer to the e-pawn.) 2... ♖c8—+ and the king is cut along the c-file. The e-pawn automatically promotes with the help of the king.]

2. ♔d4 e3

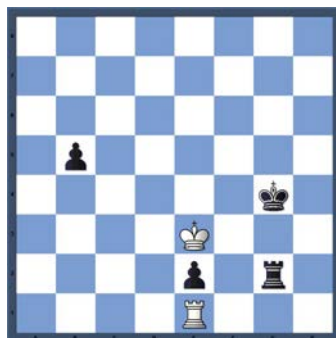


3. ♔e4! Perhaps, Saric has underestimated this move and the game is drawn. The point is to keep the shoulder against the black king to avoid coming to f3. White is threatening with Rg1 check, sending the king even further followed by Re1 and taking on e3, as the white king will be in the square of the b-pawn.

3...e2 [3... ♔g3 prevents Re1, but moves into 4. ♖f3+ ♔g2 5. ♖xe3=; 3...b4 4. ♖g1+ ♔h3 5. ♖e1= and White takes on e3 next move.]

4. ♖g1+ ♖g3 [4... ♔h3 5. ♖e1 ♖b2 6. ♔f3= ends in a draw again.]

5. ♖e1 ♖g2 6. ♔e3! Threatening again to take the pawn, but Black also has a tricky response now...



6... ♔f5! After any other moves, White would have taken on

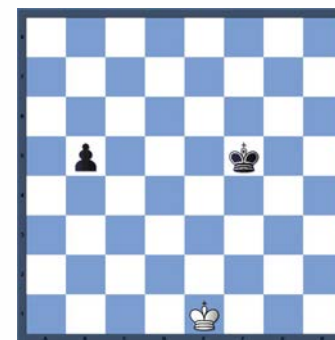
e2, but now the pawnendgame is lost after Rxe2.

7. ♔f3! If Rxe2 does not work directly, then White should improve the circumstances. [In case of 7. ♖xe2 7... ♖xe2+ 8. ♔xe2 ♔e4! and Black takes the opposition. The rest is an easy theoretical win 9. ♔d2 ♔d4 10. ♔c2 ♔c4 11. ♔b2 ♔b4! 12. ♔a2 ♔c3—+ etc...]

7... ♖g4 [7... ♖h2 is met by 8. ♔g3 and Rxe2 next. White holds, because he also cuts the black king along the e-file. Without it's support, the b-pawn cannot be promoted.]

8. ♔xe2 This is the most principled to approach towards the pawn, but it requires perfect calculation... [White also holds after 8. ♖xe2 8... ♖f4+ 9. ♔g3! (9. ♔e3?? transposes again to the lost position 9... ♖e4+ 10. ♔d3 ♖xe2 11. ♔xe2 ♔e4—+)]

8... ♖e4+ 9. ♔d2 ♖xe1 10. ♔xe1 We reach an instructive theoretical draw. Black cannot win despite getting the distant opposition, because of the misplacement of his b-pawn...



10... ♔e5 The most challenging move for White... [10... ♔e4 is now met by 11. ♔e2! This time it is White who keeps the oppositon and the game is drawn. 11... ♔d4 12. ♔d2 ♔c4 13. ♔c2 ♔b4 14. ♔b2= etc.]

11. ♔d1! Excellent! White can only leave the first rank, if Black puts his king on the 4th rank... [11. ♔d2?? loses again to

11...♔d4–+]

11...♔d4 [On 11...♔d5 12.♔c1! ♔c5 13.♔b1! and here we can see the misplacement of the b-pawn. If it was on b6, Black was winning with Kb5, but now he cannot hold the opposition any longer and the game is drawn after 13...♔b4 (Or 13...♔c4 14.♔c2=) 14.♔b2=]

12.♔d2! b4 13.♔c2 [Draw was agreed in view of the well-known stalemate 13.♔c2 13...♔c4 14.♔b2 b3 15.♔b1 ♔c3 16.♔c1 b2+ 17.♔b1 ♔b3=] **1/2-1/2**

Clash of the Titans

(16) Botvinnik, Mikhail
- Larsen, Bent[D36]

Noordwijk(1), 1965



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.c4 e6 2.♘c3 d5 3.d4 ♘f6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.♗g5 c6 6.e3 ♗e7
7.♚c2 O-O 8.♗d3 ♘bd7



9.♘ge2 This system is actually named after Botvinnik nowadays. Usually White develops the knight to f3, for example [9.♘f3 9...♗e8 10.O-O ♘f8 11.h3 ♗e6 (11...g6 Black is preparing a maneuver which will help him to exchange the light squared bishops. 12.♗ab1 ♘e6 13.♗h4 ♘g7 14.b4 a6 15.a4 A typical plan with the idea to create some weaknesses on the queenside. 15...♗f5 16.b5 axb5 17.axb5 ♗xd3 18.♚xd3 ♘f5 19.♗xf6 ♗xf6 20.bxc6) 12.♗ab1 (12.♘e5 12...♘d6d7!]

A strong move which guarantees Black the important exchange. 13.♗xe7 ♗xe7 14.f4 f6 15.♘f3 White can try to attack over g4 but Black will be on time with his counterplay over c5.) 12...♘d6d7 13.♗f4!+= with b4-a4-b5 next.]

9...h6? This move is bad for two reasons: 1. Black will not be able to realise the thematic knight transfer Nf8-Ng6 2. the black king becomes weaker and White gets the additional plan of castling queenside. [9...♗e8]

10.♗h4 ♗e8 [10...♘h5 11.♗xe7 ♗xe7 12.O-O-O!?→]

11.f3 This is the point of Botvinnik's plan. White is preparing the e4 move, with the idea to take control of the center.

11...c5 Black is fighting for the center as well!

12.O-O a6



13.♗ad1 [13.a4!? with the idea to prevent b5, but now Black can play 13...cxd4 14.exd4 (14.♘xd4 and here the pawn on a4 is not needed.) 14...♘b8!?∞with the idea to improve the knight, ideally by transferring it to b4.]

13...b5 14.♗f2 [14.dxc5 14...♗xc5 15.♘xd5? (15.♗h1!∞)



15...xd5! 16. exd8 Qxe3 17. Kb1 Qxd1+ 18. Kh1 Qf2+ 19. Rxf2 exf2 20. a5 b7= and the two rooks are much stronger than the queen here!]

14...c4 15. f5 b6 16. g3 The structure has changed, so White is back to his plan with e4 and Black should try to get some initiative on the queenside.

16...f8 [16...b4 17. exxc8 Rxc8 18. Qce2=]

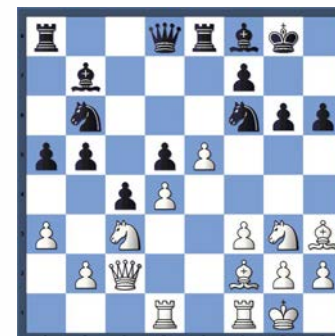


17.a3! Black didn't push b4 in the last move so White stops it at least temporarily.

17...b7 18.e4 g6 19. h3 Other moves are not enough, for example [19.e5 19...gxf5 20.exf6 Qxf6 21. Qxf5 Qg6=; 19. exg6 19...fxg6 20.e5 Kh7 21.exf6 Qxf6=]

19...a5! Black needs to hurry!

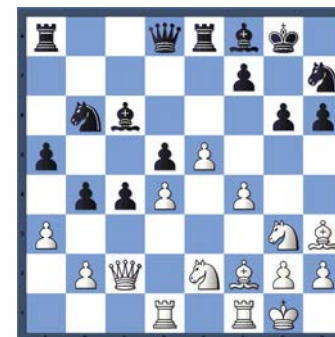
20.e5



20...b4 21. Qce2 [21.exf6 21...bxc3 22.bxc3 Qxf6=]

21...h7 22.f4 Both sides play according to their plans.

22...c6 [22...bxa3 23.f5! g5 24.f6 axb2 25. f5 Qxf6 26.exf6 Qxf6 27. Qh5+-]



23.Qa1!? An interesting decision. White protects the pawn and escapes from the Ba4 threat, although players with Tal's style could easily play [23.f5!? 23...a4 24. Qb1 Qxd1 (24...g5) 25.fxg6 fxg6 26. Qxg6+ Qg7 27. Qe3! Qf8 28. Qxf8+! Qxf8 29. Qxh6 Qa7 30. Qh5+-]

23...a4 24. Qb1



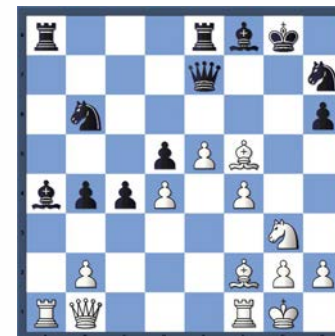
24...f5! A typical idea. Black is trying to stop White's pressure.
[24...c3 25.bxc3 ♘c4 26.f5! Again! 26...♘d2 27.♙d3 ♘xf1
28.fxg6→]

25.axb4 axb4



26.♘xf5! White had no choice if he wanted to keep his attack going!

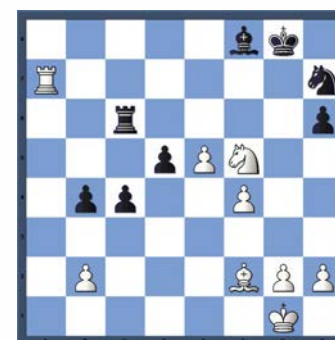
26...gxf5 27.♙xf5 ♙e7 28.♘g3 This is the critical moment! White has 2 pawns and a strong attack for the piece. The position is very complex but here Larsen made a big mistake:



28...♙d7? From a logical point of view this exchange can be good for Black, but unfortunately in this case it is not because it allows White to activate his queen. [28...♙b5 leads to an unclear position after 29.♘h5 ♙h8∞]

29.♙xd7 ♘xd7 30.♙g6+ ♙g7 31.♙c6! ♙xa1 32.♙a1 ♙f7 33.♙a7 ♘xe5? This is the last mistake. Black could still have fought on after [33...♘b8 34.♙b6 ♘d7 35.♙b5 ♙e7 setting the trap that if White plays 36.f5 then Black has 36...♘xe5!→]

34.dxe5 ♙e6 35.♙xe6+ ♙xe6 36.♘f5 ♙c6



37.♙f1+— The black pawns are not dangerous, White is a pawn up and has the better pieces, so the position is just winning for him.

37...c3 38.bxc3 bxc3 39.♙e3 ♙c5 [39...c2 40.♙c1 ♙b6 41.♙e2+—]

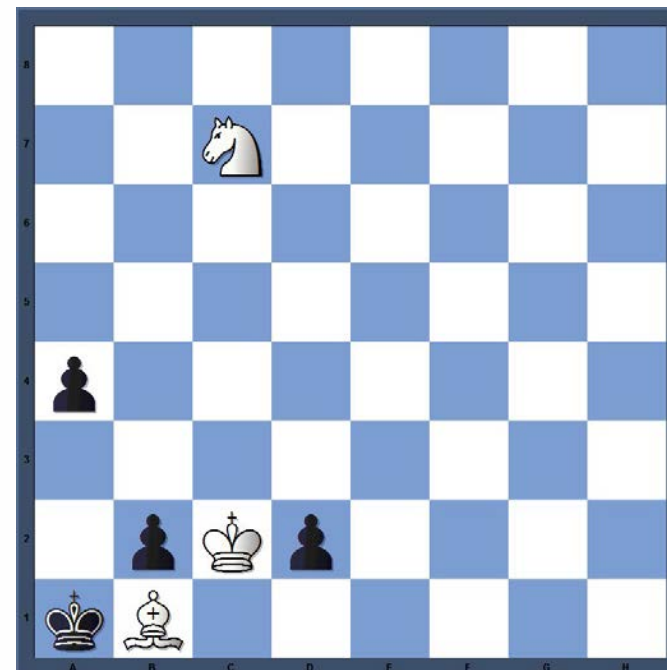
40. ♖xc5 ♜xc5 41. ♖a1 ♘f8 42. ♔e2 ♘e6 43. g3 h5 44. ♔d3 d4 45. ♘d6 [45. ♘xd4 45... ♜d5]

45... ♜c7 46. ♘e4 ♔h7 47. f5 ♘d8 48. ♘f6+ ♔h6 49. ♘d5 ♜b7 50. e6 ♘c6 51. ♜a6 ♘e5+ 52. ♔xd4 1-0

Surprise section / study

(17) Prokes

1. =



Solutions

(18) Mamedov, N(2624)-Pourramenazali, A(2429)

Baku Open, 2014.09.23



35. ♖xd5! ♜g6 [35...exd5 36. ♜g5+ ♜g7 (36... ♜g6 37. ♜xd8+-; 36... ♖f8 37. ♙xd7+-) 37. ♜xd5+ ♜f7 38. ♜xd7+-] 36. ♙e3 1-0

(19) Wen Yang(2598)-Agasiyev, K(2394)

Baku Open, 2014.09.23



21. ♜xd5! ♜xd5 [21... ♜xe2 22. ♜xd8+-; 21... ♙xd5 22. ♜xc2+-]

22. ♜xc2! ♜xb5 23. ♜c3+ ♖h6 24. a4! ♜b6 25. ♜d7+-

(20) Guliyev, N(2546)-Abdulov, O(2344)

Baku Open, 2014.09.23



18. ♙dxe6! fxe6 19. ♜xe6+ ♖h8 20. ♜xd7!! ♜xd7 [20... ♙xd7 21. ♜h6+-]

21. ♙xf6+- ♜d2 [21... ♜xf2+! 22. ♖xf2 ♙c5+ 23. ♖e2 ♜xe6+ 24. ♙xe6 gxf6 25. ♙xc5 bxc5 26. ♜xf6+-]

22. ♙c3+- [22. ♙g6+! 22... hxc6 23. ♙xc6+! ♖xc6 24. ♜xc6+ ♖f8 25. ♜h6+ ♖f7 26. ♙g6+ ♖e6 (26... ♖g8 27. ♜h7+ ♖f8 28. ♜f7#) 27. ♙xe8+ ♖e5 28. ♜xd2+-]

(21) Artermiev, V(2650)-Baryshpolets, A(2540)

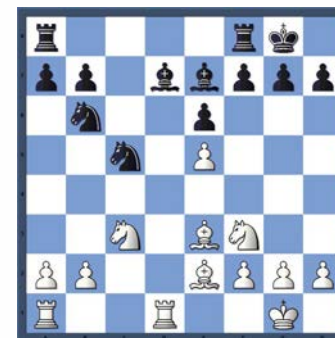
Baku Open, 2014.09.24

**35...♖xe5! 36.♖g3** [36.fxe5 36...♖xf3—+]**36...♔h6!—+****(22) Yilmazyerli, M(2454)-Onischuk, V(2593)**

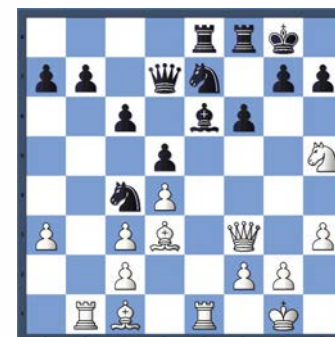
Baku Open, 2014.09.28

**46...g5! 47.♗xg5 ♔xg5! 48.♖xf4 ♖e3+ 49.♔f2 ♖xh3—+****(23) Zhigalko, S(2677)-Ghaem Maghami, E(2593)**

Baku Open, 2014.09.28

**15.b4! ♗ca4 16.♖xd7! ♗xd7** [16...♗xc3 17.♖xe7 ♗xe2+ 18.♔f1 ♗c3 19.♖xb7+—]**17.♗xa4+—****(24) Georgiadis, N(2451)-Huss, A(2382)**

Suisse Championship, 2014.09.27

**16.♗h6! ♗f5** [16...gxh6 17.♖xe6 ♔xe6 18.♔g3+ ♗g6 19.♗xg6+—]**17.♗xf5 ♗xf5 18.♖xe8 ♖xe8 19.♗xg7+—**

(25) Bui Vinh(2411)-Brunello, S(2552)

Durban Open, 2014.09.23

**10...♙c2! —+ 11.e3** [11.♖e1 11...♘b6—+]**11...♙xd1—+****(26) Grover, S(2492)-Mareco, S(2585)**

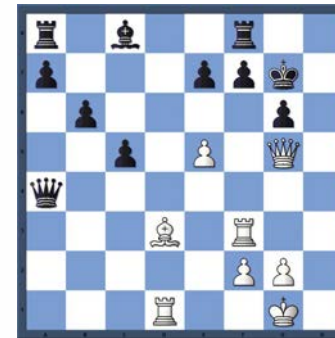
Durban Open, 2014.09.27



21.♘g5!! ♙xf2+ [21...hxc5 22.♙xc5+ ♖f8 23.♙d8+ ♖g7 24.♙g3+ ♖h6 25.♙xc8#; 21...♙f8 22.♘xe6+ fxe6 23.♙g3+ ♖h8 24.♙xc8#]

22.♖xf2+—**(27) Smirnov, P(2611)-Darini, P(2442)**

Baku Open, 2014.09.27

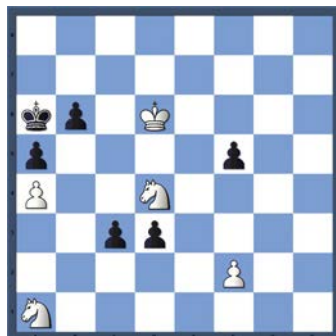


27.♙xf7+!! ♙xf7 28.♙xc6+ ♖f8 [28...♖h8 29.♙h6+ ♖g8 30.♙h7+ ♙xh7 31.♙d8+ ♖f7 32.♙f8#]

29.♙c2!! ♙e8 30.♙a4! [30.♙d3!! 30...♙g7 (30...♙f6 31.♙g5!! ♙g6 32.♙f3+—; 30...♙f5 31.♙h6+ ♙g7 32.♙g3 ♙f7 33.♙xf5+—) 31.♙f3+ ♙f7 32.♙xf7+— ♙xf7 33.♙c6 ♙b8 34.♙c7 ♙a8 35.♙d8+ ♖g7 36.e6+—]

30...♙f5 31.♙h6+ ♙g7 32.♙xe8+—

(28) Godes



1. ♖ac2! f4 [1...d2 2. ♘e3+-; 1...dxc2 2. ♘xc2 b5 3. axb5+ ♔xb5
4. ♕d5+-]
2. ♘b5!! dxc2 [2...d2 3. ♘xc3+-]
3. ♔c7! c1=♚ 4. ♕b8! +- f3 5. ♘c7#



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 138

19th of October 2014

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Editorial Preface

The 1st Grand Prix tournament in Baku came to an end with quite a surprising outcome.

The first place was shared by 2 participants, with a score of only +2, so 6.5/11. One of them was not so difficult to predict, and that is Caruana, who was actually very unhappy about his own play as he mentioned in several interviews, and Boris Gelfand! It seems like the older Gelfand gets, the better his place. He is already 44 years old, but playing very solid and strong chess, without giving big winning chances to his opponents. The 3rd place was shared by 5 players and one of them was Grischuk, who scored 3.5/4 in the last rounds, saying in an interview that it happened only because he changed to a hotel which had windows! :)

Another big surprise was the play Dominguez who scored a very negative 3/11 and dropped a lot of rating points.

The Millionaire Open was won by So who beat Robson 1.5-0.5 in the final. It was clearly a very disappointing tournament for the organizers, with just 2 players over 2700 ELO and just around 500 participants instead of the expected 1000+.

The 2 matches in Unive 2014 came to an end as expected. Giri-Shirov was a crush with a final score of 4.5-1.5 in favor of the former and the match Jobava-Timman ended with the same result, but here Timman missed a lot of opportunities.

In the World Junior Championship Goryachkina defended her title with a fantastic 11/13 and a 1.5 point lead over Khademalsharieh and Chumpitaz, who both finished on 9.5/13.

In the open section the Chinese did it again: 1st place goes to Lu Shanglei with 10/13, 2nd place to Wei Yi with 9.5 and the 3rd place to the Russian talent Fedoseev, also with 9.5.

Next week onward, we can look forward to the start of the German Bundesliga, the Corsican Rapid with Anand, Hou and many more and the 2nd FIDE Grand Prix in Tashkent.

With best greetings,

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Gelfand, Boris(2748) - Radjabov, Teimour(2726) [E06]

Baku FIDE Grand Prix 2014(10.1),
2014.10.13



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

It is very rare to see such a clear-cut game on the highest level. Radjabov makes a small positional mistake in the opening (he probably mixed up the move order) and Gelfand cruelly makes use of it.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 Radjabov was heading to the Queen's Gambit after 4.Nc3 Be7. He could expect it, because Gelfand already had a game against Kasimdzhanov in this tournament and usually he does not change his openings too often. However he decides to turn his back on his old repertoire and plays the Catalan opening.

4.g3 ♙e7 5.♙g2 O-O 6.O-O dxc4 This is considered to be the most solid setup for Black, but there are many subtleties that one should be familiar with.

7.♞c2 a6 8.♞xc4 8.a4 is the other huge main line.

8...b5 9.♞c2 ♙b7 10.♙d2 ♙e4 This is the main line, but recently the biggest experts, Aronian, Karjakin and Leko all play 10...Bd6!

11.♞c1 ♙b7 The main move again. Black leaves from Nc3 and Nbd2 developing with tempo. [In case of the most natural development 11...♘bd7 with the intention to equalize with c5, White gets a pleasant edge after 12.♙a5! This is the point of the entire 10.Bd2 setup. 12...♞c8 13.♘bd2 ♙a8 14.♞c2 ♞e8

Black is ready to equalize again with c5, but... 15.b4! and Black has to suffer with a lack of space and weak queenside pawns.]

12. ♖f4 [Now on 12. ♖a5 Black could play 12... ♗c6 as this is the point of the retreat to b7.]

12... ♗d5



13. ♖d1!? This very tricky move by Gelfand was tried in just a few games. White retains the development of the b1 knight. [There were hundreds of games with 13. ♗c3 13... ♗xf4 14. ♖xf4 Black has a wide choice here and one of the main and most decent ones is Qd6, which was played Radjabov in the game.]

13... ♗xf4 14. ♖xf4



14... ♖d6?! Radjabov does not feel the difference between

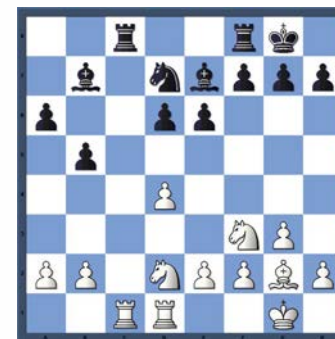
Rd1 and Nc3 and he gets into deep trouble after the next move! The critical move is 14. ...Nd7, which requires further testing to get a clear evaluation.

15. ♗bd2! This is the point of keeping the knight on b1! Suddenly it is heading to b3, from where it is ready occupy the weak squares on a5 and c5 and the most important point is that it prevents Black from executing the freeing break with c5! If Black cannot play c5, he must be ready for longterm suffering.

15... ♗d7 [15... ♖xf4 16. gxf4 These doubled pawns are rather strong. 16...c5 does not equalize if Black cannot take back with the knight. 17. dxc5 ♖xc5 18. ♗e5 ♖xg2 19. ♖xg2+= and Ne4 or Nb3 is coming next with a typical Catalan endgame, which does not seem much, but actually it is very unpleasant for Black.]

16. ♖ac1 White gets the ideal placement for his rooks.

16... ♖ad8 The c7 pawn is indirectly protected. As the following lines show, the d7 knight is standing in some tactical motifs and Black decides to protect it. [The freeing break with 16... ♖xf4 17. gxf4 c5 does not work now because of 18. ♗e5! ♖xg2 19. ♗xd7 wins the c5 pawn. This kind of idea was the reason why Black played Rad8.; The most natural 16... ♖ac8 also allows the tactical shot 17. ♖xd6 cxd6



18.♖e5!! Without this move, White would not have anything, but now it is close to be decisive. 18...dxe5 (18...♙xg2 19.♖xd7±) 19.♙xb7 ♖xc1 20.♖xc1 exd4 21.♙xa6 and the b5 pawn plus the Rc7 threat are too much for Black to deal with.]

17.♖b3! All the pieces are standing perfectly. It is very sad news for Black that he must forget about c5! This is what White is playing for and the most he can get in the Catalan Opening. [17.♖xc7 was refuted tactically by 17...e5! and the rook is hanging.]

17...♙d5 Another clever attempt by Radjabov to gain counterplay, but Gelfand does not fall for the temptation and he continues with perfect positional moves.

18.♖fd2! White is ready to trade the bishops, whereafter he can also use the c6 square for penetrating with his rooks or knight. [White could have taken a pawn, but after 18.♖xc7 18...e5! 19.♖c1 e4! 20.♖fd2



20...f5 suddenly the initiative passes to Black! Gelfand does not give such a chance and he prefers to keep all the positional advantages to the material ones.]

18...♖b6 Radjabov keeps on trying to compensate the c7 weakness with active piece play. [18...♖c8 is met by 19.♖xd6 ♙xd6 (19...cxd6 20.♙xd5 exd5 21.♖a5± is also not much fun for Black.) 20.e4 ♙a8 21.e5 ♙xg2 22.♖xg2 ♙e7 23.♖c6± with

a hopeless endgame.]

19.♖xc7! Gelfand already grabs the pawn, as the knight has left the d7 square and e5 is simply met by Qxe5!

19...♙xb3 [Other moves are not equalizing either: 19...♖xf4 20.gxf4 ♙d6 (20...♙xg2 21.♖xg2 ♖d5 22.♖a7 ♖xf4+ 23.♖f3±) 21.♖a7 again with a healthy extra pawn for White.; 19...e5 was still the tactical test, but it does not work properly: 20.♖xe5 ♖xe5 21.dxe5 ♙xb3 22.axb3 ♙b4 23.♖c2± looks scary, but White closes the d-file with Be4-d3! and retains his extra pawn!]

20.♖xb3 ♖c4 [20...e5 works again in view of the pin on the d-file, but after taking on b3, a new diagonal is opened for the queen. 21.♖c1+—]

21.♖xd6 ♙xd6 22.♖a7 White's going to end up with an extra pawn in all lines and it is clear now that Black cannot get enough compensation...

22...a5 Another nice try by Radjabov, but Gelfand does not give him any chance today...

23.♖b1! Temporarily going into passivity, but after some consolidating moves White saves his extra pawn and activates his rook. [On 23.♖xa5 Black could have hoped for counterplay with 23...♙c5! 24.♖c7 ♙xd4 25.♖xc4 bxc4 White is better, but the appearance of the opposite colored bishops give Black chances for survival.]

23...♙b4 [23...a4 is met by 24.♖c5 ♙xc5 25.dxc5 and the c-passed pawn becomes very strong. 25...♖d2 26.c6+—]

24.a3 ♖d2 Trying to get the opposite colored bishops endgame, but White is not forced to go for it. [24...a4 25.♖c5+— was somewhat better, but also quite hopeless for Black.]

25.axb4! Simply perfect play Gelfand, although this part of the game is already quite easy on this level.

25...♟xb1 [25...♟xb3 26.bxa5 ♖xd4 27.a6 ♖a4 28.♖d1+- is also resignable. Bc6 is coming next.]

26.bxa5 White has a very strong passer on a5, which is excellently supported by all the white pieces, especially by the g2 bishop and additionally the knight is trapped on b1, so White is threatening the direct Be4!

26...f5 27.♖c7! The new threat is Rc1 against which Black cannot do anything.

27...e5 [27...♖c8 loses to 28.♖xc8 ♖xc8 29.a6 ♖c7 30.♙b7+- a7 next and the pawn promotes.]

28.♖c1 Black resigned. It was amazing that after one single mistake with Qd6 in the opening the position simply collapsed by itself. **1-0**

(2) Indjic, Aleksandar(2554)
- Lu, Shanglei(2533) [A80]

Pune(13), 2014.10.19



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 f5 2.♟c3 ♟f6 3.♙g5 d5 A logical reaction. Black prevents the plan with e4 and limits the knight on c3.



4.e3 In this variation White also has two other plans: [4.♙xf6 4...exf6 5.e3 ♙e6 and White develops the pieces Bd3-Qf3-Nge2 with the idea h3-g4, when Black plays Nc6-Qd7-a6-0-0-Bd6, with a very solid position.; 4.f3 with the idea Qd2, 0-0-0 and a quick break in the center with e4.]

4...g6 Usually Black plays [4...e6 5.♟f3 ♙e7 6.♙d3 O-O 7.O-O c5 (7...♟e4 8.♙xe7 ♖xe7 9.♟e2!) 8.dxc5 ♙xc5 (8...♟c6!? with the idea not to hurry with capturing on c5, but taking the initiative in the center after e5.) 9.♟e2!+= This kind of maneuver is typical because the knight on c3 is badly placed. White is preparing c4.]



5.h4! A good move and another typical idea.

5...♘g7 6.h5 White doesn't allow Black to easily and comfortably develop.

6...♙e6 [6...♗xh5 7.♖xh5 gxf5 8.♙xh5+ ♔f8 9.O-O-O↑ with a very unpleasant position for Black, as White has huge compensation here and easy play with Ne2-Nf4-Bd3-Rh1 etc.]

7.h6 White takes space and the pawn on h6 will also disturb Black's development. [7.hxg6 7...hxg6 8.♖xh8+ ♙xh8 9.♗h3 ♙f7∞]

7...♙f8



8.f4?! I don't like this move. Now the position is closed and the pawn on h6 unnecessary. The black pieces are not

perfectly placed, so it was more logical to prepare a break in the center after f3-e4. For example: [8.♗h3 8...♙f7 9.♙d2 ♗bd7 (9...e6 10.f3+= with the idea O-O-O and e4 next.) 10.O-O-O c6 11.♙f4! preventing e5, but if Black tries anyway then 11...e5 12.dxe5 ♗g4 13.f3 ♗xe5 14.e4↑]

8...♙f7 9.♗f3 e6 10.♗e2 ♙e7



11.♗c1 From a strategical point of view it looks very good as White is going to take the e5 square under control, but he is losing too much time for this knight transfer. An interesting option was: [11.c4!? with the idea to play Nc3 back and maybe c5-b4 etc.]

11...♗g4 [11...♗e4 12.♙xe7 ♙xe7 13.♗d3+=]

12.♙d2 O-O 13.♙xe7 ♙xe7 14.♗d3 ♗d7 How to improve White's position now?

15.♗f2 [15.O-O-O 15...c5 16.dxc5 ♖fc8 17.♙b1 ♗xc5 18.♗xc5 ♖xc5∞ and the f7 bishop will be activated over e8.]

15...♗df6 16.c3 c5 17.♗xg4



17...dxe4! Black is trying to complicate the position.

18.♞c2?? This is the decisive mistake! White should have played [18.♞f6+ 18...♞xf6 19.♞d1 White keeps a solid position, but black has already taken the initiative. 19...c4!? (or 19...g5 with pressure over the g-file after Kh8-Rg8.) ; 18.♞d1 was an interesting move. 18...fxg4 19.♞e5 g3 20.dxc5 ♞f2 (20...♞xc5 21.♞d4 ♞xd4 22.exd4 ♞e8 23.♞h4 g5 24.fxg5 ♞f2→) 21.♞d4 ♞e8 (21...♞xh1

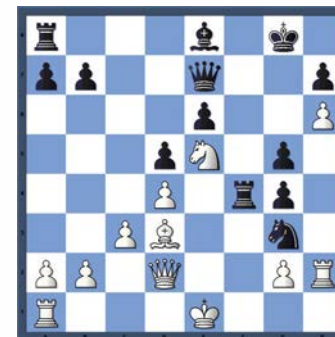


22.♞c6!) 22.♞g1 ♞c8 23.b4 g5→and b6 next.]

18...fxg4 19.♞e5 cxd4 20.exd4 ♞e8 21.♞c1 [21.O-O-O 21...♞xf4 22.♞d3 ♞f2 23.♞hf1 g3→]

21...♞g3 22.♞h2 The white pieces lost their coordination and Black is ready for the final action: [22.♞g1 22...♞h4→+]

22...g5! 23.♞d3 ♞xf4 24.♞d2



24...♞a4! A nice move! Black doesn't let the white king escape.

25.b3 ♞af8! The last piece comes into play.

26.♞e3 ♞f1 27.♞g1 ♞xh2 28.♞xh2 ♞c7 29.♞d2 ♞f2+ 30.♞e2 ♞xe2+ 31.♞xe2 ♞xc3 Thanks to this victory Lu Shanglei became the World Junior Champion. Many congratulations! **0-1**

**(3) Radjabov, Teimour(2726)
- Dominguez Perez, Leinier(2751)
[D70]**

Baku FIDE Grand Prix 2014(7.5),
2014.10.09



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

We are facing a very sharp and exciting battle, where both players are calculating well and the game ends with a perpetual check.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 Dominguez wants to play the Gruenfeld defence and Radjabov opts for the recently popular 3.f3 system.

3...d5 In the spirit of the Gruenfeld. [3...♗g7 4.e4 is a transposition to the King's Indian Saemisch variation.]

4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘b6 6.♘c3 ♗g7 7.♗e3 O-O 8.♔d2 We have reached another crossroads. Dominguez goes for the old main line...



8...e5 [A few rounds earlier in this tournament, Caruana had defeated Svidler with the white pieces in the recently popular line 8...♘c6 9.O-O-O ♔d6]

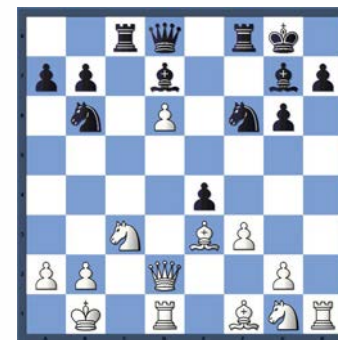
9.d5 c6 Perfectly in the spirit of the opening. Black has developed his pieces and allowed his opponent to occupy the center and then he seeks for counterplay by undermining it.

10.h4 This is all well-known with lots of games and theory behind it...

10...cxd5 11.exd5 ♘d7 12.h5 ♘f6 13.hxg6 fxg6 Positionally this is a wrong decision, but the h-file could not be opened because Black gets mated after Bh6. Of course, positional factors are irrelevant in such sharp positions.

14.O-O-O ♗d7 15.♔b1 ♖c8 16.d6 [16.♔a1 is the other main line. In a previous issue, we have commented another fascinating game from the Anand-Gelfand World Championship match, which continued with 16...e4 17.♗d4 ♘a4]

16...e4! A very logical decision. Black opens the diagonal for his Gruenfeld bishop, just like Gelfand did against Anand.



17.♔a1 This is the novelty and the deviation from the previous Dominguez game. Radjabov was definitely very well prepared as he could expect all the previous moves from his opponent. [A year ago Grischuk played 17.fxe4 17...♘g4 18.♗g5 ♔e8 19.♘f3 and here Dominguez improved the Rodshtein-Navara game with 19...♖f7! 20.♗e7 ♖xc3! 21.bxc3 ♔c8! 22.♖c1 ♘a4! Blitzing out all these moves! Quite an impressive preparation!

23. ♖g5 ♖c5! 24. ♗xf7 ♗xc3+ 25. ♖xc3 ♗xc3 26. ♗h6+ ♔g7 Despite the extra rook, White has nothing better than allowing perpetual check with 27. ♖d5 ♖b4+ 28. ♖b3 ♖xe4+ 29. ♖c2 ♖e1+ 30. ♖c1 ♖e4+ 31. ♖c2 ♖e1+ 32. ♖c1 ♖e4+ 33. ♖c2 1/2 Grischuk-Dominguez Perez, Thessaloniki 2013. It is interesting that despite the extremely sharp position, most games finish in a draw with some kind of perpetual check.]

17... ♖e8 Dominguez even knew about this 17. Ka1 move as his answer arrived without much thought and Radjabov also blitzes out his next move...

18. ♗h3 Well, it is time to develop the kingside. White intends to go to g5, bringing another piece to the attack.

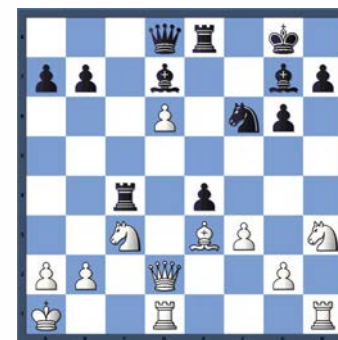
18... ♗c4 After a long think, Dominguez decided to grab the pair of bishops and opens the way for his queen to develop to it's most dangerous attacking place to a5! This was new also for Radjabov, since after the necessary take on c4, he was also thinking for an hour in the very complex position. [The computer suggests 18... ♗a4 just like Gelfand played against Anand. Radjabov has probably prepared at home 19. ♗xa4 ♗xa4



20. ♗e2! with the idea to connect the rooks and play Rc1 next! If Black does not do something directly, the middlegame might turn to be very bad for him because of the d6 passed

pawn. 20... ♖c2 (On 20... ♗xd1 21. ♗xd1! and Bb3 Kh8 Ng5 is coming with decisive threats. Black's attack is over and the upcoming White one is going to be extremely dangerous.) 21. ♖d4 ♖xe2 22. ♖c4+ ♔h8 23. ♗g5 looks very dangerous...]

19. ♗xc4+ ♖xc4 Both players were out of their preparation and it was time to calculate the variations on their own. Of course it is very difficult task as both sides have numerous resources and nothing is forced, but one mistake could be decisive. Things were happening very fast so far, but soon due to the complex position, both players found themselves in time trouble. White now needs to decide, as he must choose between Bh6 and Ng5. Both moves have their pluses and minuses.



20. ♗g5 Activating the knight. A check on d5 could be fatal for Black! [20. ♗h6 was the most logical continuation (at least to me), trying to trade the strong bishop. 20... ♗h8 was what Radjabov was afraid of. Of course, it is very difficult to deal with such complications over the board. (20... exf3 is the computer's suggestion. It gives a line which ends in equality after 21. gxf3 (On 21. ♗xg7 21... fxg2! 22. ♖xg2 ♔xg7 looks very dangerous for Black, his king is seemingly much more vulnerable, but the machine is happy and enjoys his extra pawn.) 21... ♗xh6 22. ♖xh6 ♗xh3 23. ♖xh3 (On 23. ♖xh3 23... ♖e6 24. ♗e4 ♖d7 Black seems to protect everything.)

23...♔d7∞) 21.♘g5



The inclusion of the Bh6 Bh8 pair of moves is good White since a check on d5 could lead to mate right away. The drawback is that it closes the h-file, so the sacrifices on h7 are much harder to execute and White no longer has the option to neutralize the long diagonal with Bd4 like it happened in the game... However the machine likes White after 21...exf3 22.♔he1! fxg2 23.♘d5! Indeed, it looks very dangerous.]

20...exf3 21.♘xf3! A clever, cold-blooded decision. White intends to put his bishop on d4 and the knight serves perfectly protects it. [21.gxf3 was more in the spirit of the position at first sight. Keeping the strong attacker on g5, but somehow Black's attack develops faster with 21...♔a5! Black has Rxc3 in mind and the a1-h8 diagonal could cause real problems to White. 22.♘d4 does not work now in view of 22...♔xd4! 23.♔xd4 ♔xg5]

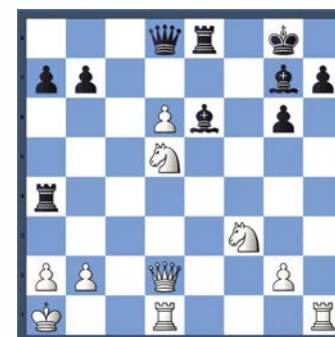
21...♘g4! Black also finds the right solution in the complex position. He now gets a nice possibility to meet the Bd4 move. [On 21...♔a5 22.♘d4 is good for White. He continues with Rde1 and invading e7. The minor pieces are covering everything now.]

22.♘d5! Excellent calculation also by White! Radjabov had to foresee the final position... [On 22.♘d4 Black was intending

to play 22...♘xd4 23.♘xd4 ♘e3! implenting an annoying knight to e3, which cannot be disturbed by Rde1 in view of Rxd4 and check on c2! 24.♔c1 ♔f6 Black has full control over the position and the dark squares. The pawn on d6 might also become a weakness now as the rook does not support it anymore from behind. Black could win it with Rc6.]

22...♘xe3 23.♘xe3 ♔a4! Creating the decisive threat of Be6! White has only one way to deal with it!

24.♘d5! ♘e6!



25.♘e7+! Perfect play by both players and it leads to a draw at the end! [25.♘g5 was tempting, but it loses to 25...♔xd6! A very nice queen sacrifice, which cannot be accepted... 26.♘f6+ ♘xf6 27.♔xd6 ♔xa2+ 28.♔b1 ♔xb2+ 29.♔a1 (29.♔c1 29...♔c8+--+) 29...♔b4+ 30.♔d4 ♘xd4+-- wins.]

25...♔xe7! [25...♔f8 is possible, but better avoided. 26.♘e5! ♔xa2+ (26...♘xe5 27.♔df1+! ♘f5 28.♘xf5+--+) 27.♔b1 ♔xe7 28.dxe7+ ♔xe7 29.♔xh7 and the black king is more vulnerable.; 25...♔h8?? leads to a quick mate after 26.♔xh7+! ♔xh7 27.♔h1+]

26.dxe7 ♔xa2+ [It was possible to continue the fight with 26...♔xe7 27.♔d8+ ♔f8 28.♔xf8+ ♔xf8 29.♔xh7 ♔xa2+ 30.♔b1 ♔xb2+ 31.♔c1 but the game should end with a draw anyway.]

27.♔b1 ♖xb2+! 28.♜xb2 ♕f5+! 29.♔a2 ♕e6+ [29...♜a5+ also just leads to perpetual check: 30.♜a3 ♕e6+ 31.♔b1 as the queen cannot be taken because of e8Q and the e6 falls, Black is forced to make a draw: 31...♕f5+ 32.♔a2=]

30.♔b1 ♕f5+ 31.♔a2 ♕e6+ 32.♔b1 A very nice game! Both players would have deserved to gain more than half a point.
1/2-1/2

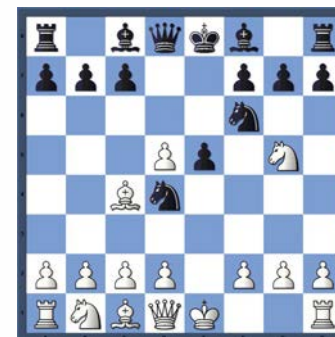
(4) Wei, Yi(2641) - Duda, Jan-Krzysztof(2599) [C57]

Pune(13), 2014.10.19



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4 ♘f6 4.♘g5 d5 5.exd5 ♘d4 It is a big surprise to see this old and interesting line on this level but the situation before the last round forced the Polish GM to go "all-in". [5...♘a5 6.♙b5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 is the main line.; 5...♘xd5? 6.♘xf7! ♔xf7 7.♜f3+ ♔e6 8.♘c3 ♘e7 9.d4 with decisive pressure.]



6.c3 is the main move and other moves don't bring White any advantage. [6.♘c3 6...h6 7.♘f3 (7.♘ge4 7...♘xe4 8.♘xe4 b5! and Black recaptures the d5 pawn.) 7...♙g4 8.♙e2 ♕xf3 9.♕xf3 ♕b4 10.O-O O-O 11.♜e1 ♜e8= with the idea to exchange on c3, f3 and then take on d5.; 6.d6? 6...♜xd6 7.♘xf7?? is a famous trap! (7.♕xf7+ 7...♔e7 threatening h6. 8.♙b3 ♘xb3 9.axb3 h6 10.♘f3 e4 11.♘g1 ♔f7) 7...♜c6 8.♘xh8 ♜xg2

9. ♖f1 ♜e4+ 10. ♘e2 ♞f3#



]

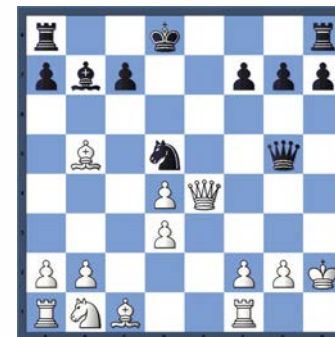
6...b5 7. ♘f1 [7.cxd4 7...bxc4 8. ♜a4+ ♜d7 9. ♜xd7+ ♘xd7 10.dxe5 ♞xd5+ Black controls the light squares.; 7. ♘d3 7...♘f5+]]

7...♞xd5 8.cxd4 ♜xg5 9. ♘xb5+ ♖d8



10. ♜f3 [10.O-O 10...♘b7 11. ♜f3∞]

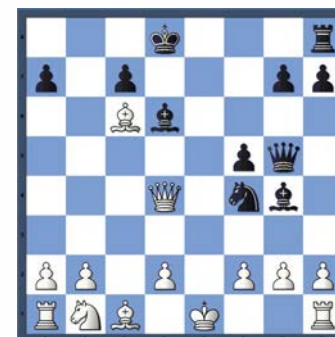
10...exd4 [10...♘b7 11.O-O (11. ♜xf7? 11...♞f6++ threatening Bd5 and Qxg2.) 11...e4!? (11...♞b8∞) 12. ♜xe4 ♘d6 The black pieces are very active. 13.d3? and this is a huge mistake which was played in one famous Fischer game, where Black is winning now after a nice combination: (13. ♞e1 was the right move.) 13...♘h2+! 14. ♙xh2



14...♞f4!! 15. ♜xb7 (15. ♜xf4 15...♜xg2#; 15. ♘xf4 15...♜h4+ 16. ♙g1 ♘xe4 17.dxe4 ♜xf4++) 15...♜h4+ 16. ♙g1 ♞e2#]

11. ♘c6 ♞f4 [11...♞b4 12. ♘xa8 ♞c2+ 13. ♙d1 ♘g4 14. ♙xc2 ♘xf3 15. ♘xf3 ♜c5+ 16. ♙d1 d3 17. ♞c3 ♜xf2 18.b3 White has the advantage because he will slowly manage to develop his pieces.]

12.O-O [12. ♘xa8 12...♘g4 13. ♜e4 ♘d6 14. ♘c6 f5 15. ♜xd4



15...♞e8+! 16. ♘xe8 ♜e7+ 17. ♜e3 Black can now win thanks to the check on e8: 17...♞xg2+ 18. ♙f1 ♞xe3+ 19.dxe3 ♜e4++)

12...♘g4 13. ♞e1 ♘d6 14. ♜e4 Black has to prevent the mate on e8.



14...♙d7 is a safe option, but Black could also try [14...♗e2+ 15.♖f1! (15...♙xe2?? 15...♙xe2 16.♙xe2 ♙c5!-+) ; 14...♙e2!? threatening Nh3. 15.g3 f5 (15...d3 16.♗c3 ♙b8∞) 16.♙xd4 ♗h3+ 17.♖h1 (17.♖g2 17...♗f4+=) 17...♙e8 18.♙g2 preventing Bf3+. 18...♙g4 with very complex play. 19.♙d5 ♙b8 20.f3 ♗f2+ 21.♖g1 ♗h3+ 22.♖h1=]

15.d3 ♙xc6 16.♙xc6 ♙d5 17.♙xd5 ♗xd5 After a very complicated opening we now have a simple, equal endgame.



18.♗d2 ♖d7 [18...♗b4 19.♙d1 ♗xd3?! 20.♗c4 and White takes the initiative.]

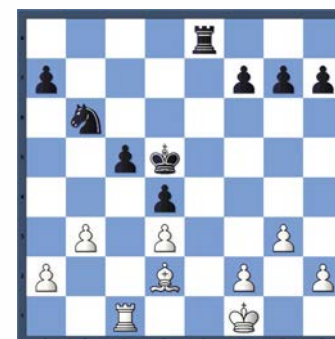
19.♗c4 ♙he8 [19...♗b4 20.♙d1 ♙he8 21.♖f1]

20.♙d2 c5 21.♖f1 ♙ac8 possibly with the idea to activate the rook by playing Rc6-Ra6, but it is very hard to improve the

position.

22.g3 ♗b6 23.♗xd6 The position is of course still equal, but in my opinion White had more solid options: [23.♗a5 23...c4 24.♙xe8 ♖xe8 25.dxc4 ♗xc4 26.♗xc4 ♙xc4 27.♙c1 ♙xc1+ 28.♙xc1 ♖d7 29.♖e2 ♖c6 30.♖d3 ♖d5 31.♙d2 and White even has a small plus here.; 23.♙xe8 23...♙xe8 24.♙e1 ♗xc4 25.dxc4= (25.♙xe8 25...♗xd2+-+)]

23...♖xd6 24.♙xe8 ♙xe8 25.♙c1 ♖d5 26.b3 is the only move to stop c4.



26...♙e6 Black is trying to create some threats over the 6th rank.

27.f4 White is going to improve his king, but this move also weakens some squares.

27...f5 Black's position is hard to improve, but he could for example try: [27...♗d7 28.♙c4 ♙a6 29.♙c2 ♗f6 30.h3 (30.b4 30...♗d7; 30.♖e2 30...♗g4 31.h3 ♗e3! 32.♙xe3 ♙e6+ 30...♗e8 31.♖e2 ♗d6 32.♖f3 ♗b5 with the idea Nc3.]

28.♖f2 ♙h6 29.♖g2 ♙e6 30.♖f3 ♙h6 31.♖g2 ♙e6 32.♖f3 ♙h6 33.♙h1 ♗d7 [33...♗c8 34.h3 ♗d6 with the idea Nb5-Nc3, but then White plays 35.♙e1=]

**34.h3 ♖b8 35.♖e1 ♗c6 36.♙g2 ♖e6 37.♖xe6 ♙xe6 38.a3
h5 39.♙f3 g6 40.♙e2 ♙d5 41.♙d1 ♗e7 42.♙e2** The
position is drawish.

**42...♙e6 43.b4 cxb4 44.♙xb4 ♗c6 45.♙f8 ♙d5 46.♙d2
a5 47.a4 ♗d8 48.♙e7 ♗e6 49.♙c2 ♗c5 50.♙d8 [50.♙xc5
50...♙xc5 51.♙b3 ♙d5=]**

**50...♗xa4 51.♙xa5 ♗c5 52.♙b4 ♗e6 53.♙e7 ♙c6 54.♙b3
♙b5 55.♙f6 ♗c5+ 56.♙c2 ♗e6 57.♙b3 ♗c5+1/2-1/2**

Puzzle section

(5) Caruana, F(2844)-Grischuk, A(2797)

Baku GP, 2014.10.12

1... -+



(6) Nakamura, H(2764)-Kasimdzhanov, R(2706)

Baku GP, 2014.10.12

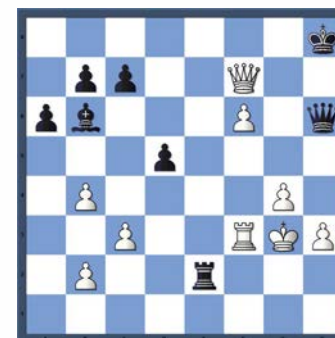
1. +-



(7) Shirov, A(2691)-Giri, A(2768)

Baku GP, 2014.10.12

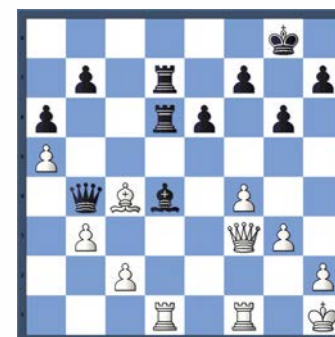
1... -+



(8) Wan Yunguo(2489)-Le Quang Liem(2706)

Las Vegas Open, 2014.10.09

1. +-



(9) Shankland, S(2633)-Felgaer, R(2577)

Las Vegas Open, 2014.10.10

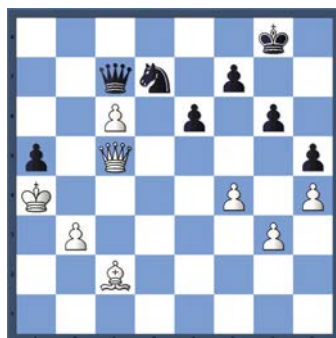
1... -+



(10) Azarov, S(2639)-Matamoros, C(2517)

Las Vegas Open, 2014.10.11

1. +-



(11) So, W(2755)-Gareev, T(2612)

Las Vegas Open, 2014.10.12

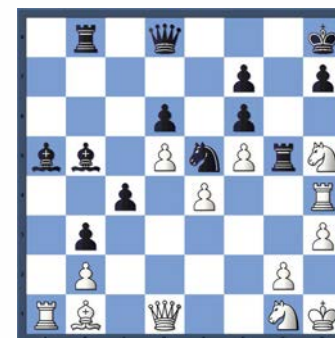
1. +-



(12) Short, N(2646)-Howell, D(2657)

Isle of Man Open, 2014.10.12

1. +-



(13) Gaehwiler, G(2360)-Bok, B(2591)

World Juniors, 2014.10.07

1. +-



(14) Vidit, S(2635)-Tari, A(2450)

World Juniors, 2014.10.11

1... -+



Endgame section

(15) Gajewski, Grzegorz(2643)
- Naiditsch, Arkadij(2710)

Bundesliga 2014-15(1.3),
2014.10.18



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



Straight from the opening I had a slightly worse position, but with solid play I reached something where I thought the game would just end just in a draw very soon. Usually R+B is stronger in an endgame than R+N, but my pieces are in the center and the rook on b5 is very nicely placed.

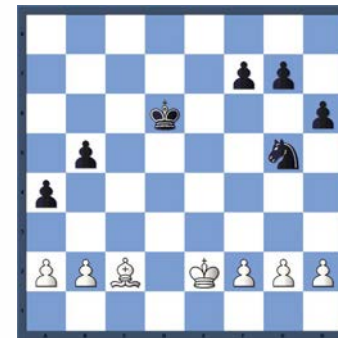
27...♔e7 28.♖d5?! This is clearly not a move to play for a win, but a try to get a worse position. An easy move like 28.Rd2 would be enough for a draw offer.

28...♖xd5 29.♗xd5 b5 In an endgame, the most important factor is the position of the king, but the second most important is space, so of course I play 29...b5 to gain as much space on the queenside as possible.

30.♔e2 ♔d6 My king is going to take a nice place on c5.

31.♗b3 a4 Gaining more space.

32.♗c2



32...♗e6 32...Kc5 would lead to the same.

33.♔e3 ♔c5 The position is of course still a draw, but White needs to be quite careful. In case I for example manage to get White to play a3 and then get my knight to c4, White could already be in big trouble, but of course with accurate play the game should still end in a draw.

34.♗h7?! Another very strange move by my opponent. [White's bishop would be best placed on 34.♗d3 followed by the pawn moves on the kingside, which would always give White counterplay. Black could try the maneuver Nd4-Nc6 now and maybe Ne5 or Na5-c4. This is all practical play where White needs to defend a bit accurately, but there is still nothing more than a draw here.]

34...♗d4 So I am bringing my knight to c6 as planned.

35.♔e4 This is yet another move in the wrong direction. Obviously my opponent was very excited about the Bg8 move.

35...♗c6 Setting a little trap.

36.♗g8?! This is already a serious mistake. With little time on the clock, Gajewski doesn't feel the danger.

[36.♔e3 36...♘e5 already leads to a very unpleasant endgame for White.]



36...f5+! This was my idea based on Ne7+.

37.♔f4 A normal practical decision with little time on the clock. [Probably the best move for White was 37.♔xf5 but how to take such a risky decision with only few minutes on the clock?! 37...♘e7+ 38.♔e6 ♘xg8 39.♔f7 Now Black has a few options:



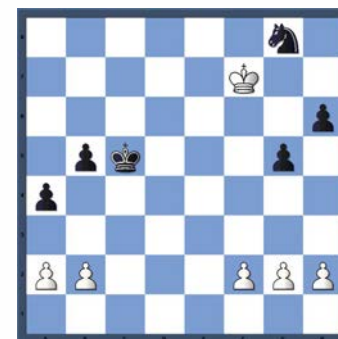
39...♘f6 Of course Black keeps the knight. (39...♔b4? would be a mistake since after 40.♔xg8 a3 41.bxa3+ ♔xa3 42.♔xg7 ♔xa2 43.f4 b4 44.f5 b3 45.f6 b2 46.f7 b1=♔ 47.f8=♔ ♔b2+ 48.♔xh6 ♔xg2 the position is still a draw, with practically White would keep great chances to win here.) 40.♔xg7 ♘g4 and maybe the position should still be considered as unclear,

but from a practical point of view, it is looking very risky for White.]

37...g5+ Of course I take my chance to win even more space.

38.♔xf5? and my opponent makes a miscalculation. Now Black is just winning. [38.♔e3 38...♘e5 would lead to a very difficult position for White.]

38...♘e7+ 39.♔e6 ♘xg8 40.♔f7 My knight on g8 is caught, but thanks to my advanced pawns on the queenside, Black is winning now.



40...♔b4! This is not too hard to find, but it was the only winning move in the position.

41.♔xg8 a3 The idea is that I am not losing any time by going "around" the white pawns with my king.

42.bxa3+ ♔xa3 I think that in his calculations, Gajewski missed that after 43.g3 Black is winning thanks to the strong 43... g4!, blocking the white pawns.

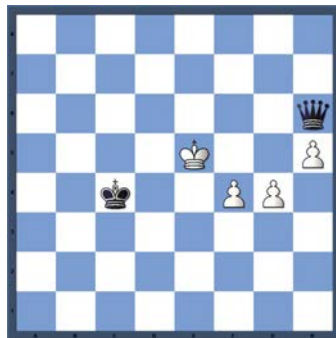
43.♔g7 ♔xa2 44.♔xh6 To be honest, I expected my opponent to resign here, but strangely the game went on.

44...b4 45.♔xg5 b3 46.h4 b2 47.h5 b1=♔ 48.g4 ♔h7 Luckily I am very strong with a queen up! :)

49.f4 ♔b3 All I need to do now is to come closer with my king,

as my queen is easily holding the 3 pawns.

50. ♖f6 ♜h6+ 51. ♖e5 ♖c4



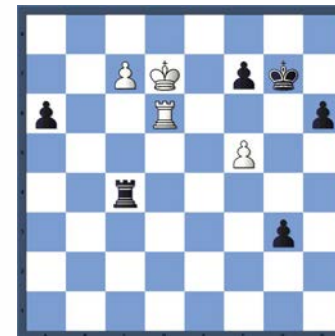
52. f5 ♜g5 53. ♖e6 ♜xg4 54. h6 ♜h3 We just saw a quite typical endgame and how easy it is to lose the game in case we stop feeling the danger-even in a very safe position. **0-1**

(16) Gelfand, Boris(2748)
- Kasimdzhanov, Rustam(2706)

Baku GP,
2014.10.09



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



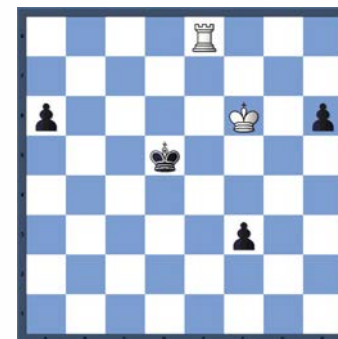
This study-like endgame was reached after 6 hours of play and both players were exhausted and down on time. White is winning, but to find the solution is basically impossible for a human mind, especially under such circumstances.

51. ♜d3? The most natural move to catch the passed pawn, but it leads to draw in a forced line. [The winning line starts with 51.f6+! 51... ♖h7 (51... ♖g6? is a blunder because the king moves into a tactical motif after 52. ♜c6! ♜xc6 (52... ♜d4+ 53. ♖e7 ♜e4+ 54. ♖f8+- and the king finds a safe shelter against the checks.) 53. ♖xc6 g2 54. c8=♜ g1=♜ 55. ♜g8+! points out the drawback of Kg6!) 52. ♜d3! (52. c8=♜ leads to the same draw as the game and the 51. c8Q line: 52... ♜xc8 53. ♖xc8 ♖g6 54. ♖d7 g2 55. ♜d1 ♖xf6 56. ♜g1 h5 57. ♜xg2 ♖f5=) 52... ♖g6 53. ♜xg3+ ♖xf6



54. Rg8!! This is a move only computers can find! Actually with the tempi we will reach the same situation if we promote the pawn at once and play Kd7 or after Rg8 and take back with the rook on c8. The only difference is the placement of the rook and it turns out that this one is winning, while c8Q is a draw. (54. c8=♚ leads to the usual draw after 54... ♜xc8 55. ♖xc8 h5 56. ♖d7 ♖f5) 54... ♖e5 (54... h5 55. c8=♚ ♜xc8 56. ♜xc8 ♖f5 (56... h4 57. ♖d6 ♖f5 is a transposition.) 57. ♖d6 h4 58. ♜h8 ♖g4 59. ♖e5 h3 60. ♖e4 ♖g3 61. ♖e3 White has an extra tempo in comparison to the game and it turns out to be decisive... 61... ♖g2 62. ♖e2 h2 63. ♜g8+ Black cannot play Kf1, which would be obligatory to save the game. 63... ♖h3 (63... ♖h1 is another standard way to hold with the defensive side. White is forced to leave the g-file with the rook to avoid stalemate, but then the Kg2 forces a repetition. However the extra pawns of Black are preventing the stalemate and White wins by simply mating the king with 64. ♖f2 f5 65. ♜e8 and Re1.) 64. ♖f2+- and Rh8 wins the queen.; 54... ♜d4+ makes no sense, because the rook is too close to the pawn and White can play 55. ♖c6 ♜c4+ 56. ♖d6 ♜d4+ 57. ♖c5 and Black has no check on the c-file. With the rook on the 3rd rank, the story would be different.) 55. ♜e8+!! Another computer move! It seemingly just drives the king to a better place to support one of his pawns, but things are different... Black faces a difficult choice of which one of his pawn he should

support... (The most obvious 55. c8=♚ leads to a draw after 55... ♜xc8 56. ♜xc8 f5! 57. ♜e8+ (White is not in time to catch the f-pawn with 57. ♜c5+ 57... ♖e4 58. ♖e6 f4 The black king blocks the shortest way to the pawn and going around with the king takes too much time... 59. ♜c4+ ♖e3 60. ♖f5 f3 61. ♖g4 f2 62. ♜f4 ♖e2= and White is just too late to play Kg2.. .) 57... ♖d5! It is very important to keep the white king away as long as possible. 58. ♖e7 (58. ♜f8 58... ♖e4 59. ♖e6 f4 Another very unlucky situation for White. With the black pawn on h7, he could win with Kf6, f3, Kg5 Ke3, Kg4, f2 and Kg3! But the lucky placement of the h-pawn saves Black!) 58... f4 59. ♖f6 f3



60. ♜e3! White has successfully stopped the f-pawn, but his king got too far away from the a-pawn. Black starts to advance his other passer... 60... f2 61. ♜f3 a5 62. ♜xf2 ♖c4 63. ♖e5 a4 The plan is easy, a3, Kb3 and a2. The black king stands perfectly again and blocks the path of the other king back to the corner. 64. ♜f3 ♖b4 65. ♖d4 a3 66. ♜f6 a2 67. ♜a6 ♖b3 68. ♖d3 ♖b2 and we have reached exactly the same draw as in the game, but the position is mirrored! Amazing! 69. ♜b6+ ♖c1 70. ♜xh6 a1=♚ 71. ♜h1+ ♖b2 72. ♜xa1 ♖xa1=) 55... ♖d4 (55... ♖f4 56. c8=♚ ♜xc8 57. ♜xc8 h5 58. ♜h8 ♖g4 59. ♖d6+- transposes to the 54... h5 line.) 56. ♜f8! Well, it is getting totally unhuman. It seems like White never wants to promote his pawn... This is the only winning move again. 56... a5

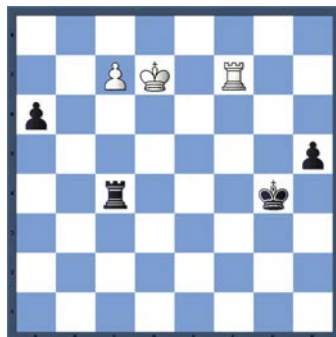
57.♖xf7 White is threatening to play Rf4! 57...♔c3 Black must advance to his a-pawn, but this move blocks the rook's way and White suddenly wins after 58.♖f4! ♖xf4 (58...♖xc7+ 59.♔xc7 ♔b3 60.♔b6 a4 61.♔b5 a3 62.♖f3+ ♔b2 63.♔b4 a2 64.♖f2+ ♔b1 65.♔b3+-) 59.c8=♔+- The rest still requires some technique, but it should already be easier than what we had before.; 51.♖c6? is wrong in view of 51...♖xc6! 52.♔xc6 g2; 51.c8=♔ leads to the game after 51...♖xc8 52.♔xc8 g2 53.♖d1 ♔f6 54.♖g1 ♔xf5 55.♖xg2 h5 56.♔d7 h4 57.♔d6 ♔f4!= and h3 next with a draw. But not 57...h3 because 58.Rg3 wins the h-pawn.]

51...♔f6 52.♖xg3 ♔xf5 Black sacrifices his rook for the c-pawn and promotes his h-pawn with the help of his king.

53.♖f3+ [53.c8=♔ 53...♖xc8 54.♔xc8 h5 55.♔d7 h4 and the same draw as in the game is inevitable.]

53...♔g4! Of course, the f-pawn does not count now. Black needs to keep his focus on the h-pawn.

54.♖xf7 h5

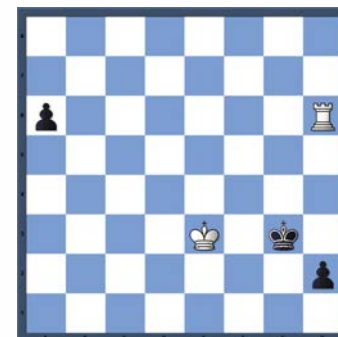


55.♖g7+! Unfortunately for White the game is drawn, but Gelfand shows us the best technique to play for the win. White gets behind the h-pawn with his rook with tempo.

55...♔f3 56.♖h7 ♔g4 57.♖h6! The best try again! White is

threatening to play Rc6 and from the checks the king goes to g7. Therefore Black is forced to take on c7 and like this the white king is closer to catch the h-pawn.

57...♖xc7+! 58.♔xc7 h4 59.♔d6 h3 60.♔e5 ♔g3 61.♔e4 h2 62.♔e3



62...♔g2! This is an important theoretical draw (the a-pawn does not count now).

63.♖g6+ ♔f1! And the game is drawn as Rh6 is met by Kg2. Gelfand decides to finish the game in style. [But not 63...♔h3? because of 64.♔f2! and Rh6 wins the promoted queen.]

64.♖xa6 h1=♔ 65.♖a1+ ♔g2 66.♖xh1 ♔xh1 67.♔e4 1/2-1/2

Clash of the Titans

(17) Tal, Mihail
- Benko, Pal C[C10]

Candidates Tournament(10),
1962.05.17



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♙g5 [4.e5 4...♘fd7 5.f4 c5 6.♘f3 ♘c6 leads to another kind of structure.]

4...dxe4 5.♘xe4 ♘bd7 6.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 7.♘f3



7...c5 A typical idea, fighting for the center.

8.♙c4 [8.♙b5+ 8...♙d7 9.♙xd7+ ♖xd7 10.♖e2 with idea Ne5-Qb5 or 0-0-0.; 8.♙d3 8...cxd4 9.O-O ♙c5 10.♖e2 White is in no hurry with recapturing the d4 pawn. He can create pressure on the kingside, for example with Ne5-Rae1-f4-Qf3.]

8...cxd4 9.O-O ♙e7 10.♖e2 h6 This kind of move is always very dangerous because it later gives White possibilities to sacrifice.

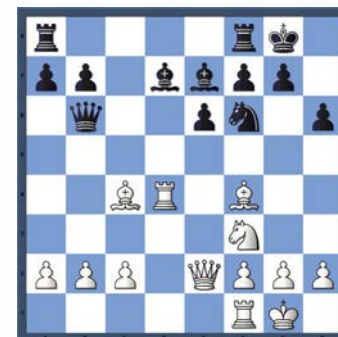
11.♙f4 O-O 12.♖ad1 ♙d7 [12...♖b6 13.♘xd4 (13.♙b3 13...♖d8) 13...♖xb2 is similar to the game. White gets the initiative for

the pawn. Let's check some example variations: 14.♘b5 The idea of this move is to trap the black queen or rook. (14.♘f5 14...exf5 15.♖xe7 ♙e6 16.♙xe6 ♖ae8! Black is fine thanks to this trick!; 14.♖d3 14...♖b4 15.♖g3 ♙d6! and Black is on time.) 14...♖b4 15.♘c7



15...b5! Another typical idea. Black's idea is to give the pawn in order to activate his pieces. (15...♖b8 16.♘e8 ♖a8 17.♘xf6+ ♙xf6 18.♙d6 ♖a5 19.♙xf8 ♖xf8 and now all depends on whether Black will manage to develop his pieces.) 16.♘xa8 bxc4 17.♘c7 ♖c5

13.♖xd4 ♖b6



14.♖d3! A typical Tal move. White is preparing the rook transfer to g3. Other moves were too slow, for example: [14.c3 14...♖fd8 15.♖d3 ♙c6 16.♘e5 ♖xd3 17.♙xd3 ♙e8= without any problems for Black.]

14...♙b5 [14...♚xb2?? 15.♙e5 and Black is losing material.]

15.♙xb5 ♚xb5 16.♘e5 ♚xb2 [16...♖ad8 17.c4 ♚c5 18.♖g3 It looks like White doesn't have enough pieces for an effective attack. 18...♙h8 (18...♙d6) ; 16...♚a4 17.c4∞avoiding Qe4.]

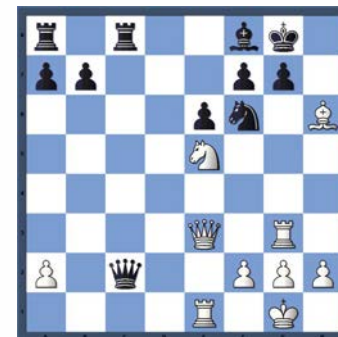
17.♖g3



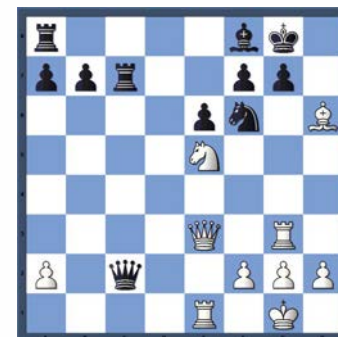
17...♖fc8! Black decided to defend the position actively, the alternative was very solid: [17...♙h8 18.♖b3 (18.♙xh6 18...gxh6 19.♚e3 ♘h7 20.♚xh6 ♚xe5—) 18...♚xa2 19.♖xb7 ♘d5 and White has compensation but nothing more.]

18.♙xh6 ♙f8 19.♚e3 ♚xc2 [19...♘h5!? 20.♖g5 ♖c3 21.♚e4 ♚b4 22.♚e2 ♘f6 23.♚d2 ♘e8=+ and the white pieces have lost their coordination.]

20.♖e1 White is not hurrying with any concrete action, like a sacrifice on g7. [20.♙xg7 20...♙xg7 21.♖xg7+ ♙xg7 22.♚g5+ ♙h7 23.♚h4+ ♙g7 24.♚g5+ ♙f8 25.♚xf6 only leads to a draw but objectively it was the best way to play for White. 25...♚f5 26.♚h8+ ♙e7 27.♚h4+= f6 28.♚b4+ ♙e8 29.♘c4 ♚c5 30.♘d6+ ♙d7 31.♚xb7+ ♙xd6 32.♖d1+ ♙e5 33.♖e1+ ♙d6=]



20...♖c7! A good move. Black is defending the position over the 7th rank and at the same time he wants to play Rac8. [20...♘d5 21.♚g5 (21.♚f3 21...♚f5!) 21...f6 22.♚xg7+ ♙xg7 23.♖xg7+ ♙f8 24.♘g6+ ♙e8 25.♖xe6+ ♙d8 26.♖d6+ ♙e8=; 20...♚e4?? 21.♚xe4 ♘xe4 22.♖xe4+— and the c1 square is under control.]



21.h3! Another typical Tal move. To create practical problems White prefers to keep the tension, even if objectively it is not the best move. The idea behind this move is also to avoid threats on the first rank. [21.♙xg7 21...♙xg7 22.♖xg7+ ♙xg7 23.♚g5+ ♙f8 24.♚xf6∞]

21...♖ac8 [21...♚h7!?∞; 21...♘d5! 22.♚d4 f6 23.♘g4 ♙h8 24.♖xe6 ♚f5!± Black's pieces are better coordinated and White is losing material.]

22. ♖xg7 ♖xg7 23. ♖xg7+ ♖xg7 24. ♖g5+ ♖f8 25. ♖xf6
Thanks to his active pieces White has full compensation. Black had the chance to give some material back now, but didn't seize it...

25... ♖h7 [25... ♖f5 26. ♖h4 Here Black could reduce the material by playing 26... ♖c1 27. ♖h6+ ♖g8 28. ♖xc1 ♖xc1+ 29. ♖xc1 ♖xe5=]



26. ♖e3! Now we see how important the 21.h3 move was.

26... ♖f5 27. ♖h8+ ♖e7 28. ♖h4+ ♖f6 [28... ♖e8 ; 28... f6 29. ♖b4+ ♖e8 30. ♖b5+ ♖e7 31. ♖b4+ ♖e8 32. ♖g4 a5∞]

29. ♖b4+



29... ♖e8? is the decisive mistake. Black could have saved the position after [29... ♖c5! and again we have an example

of how to actively defend a position. The main task for Black is to exchange the active white pieces, even at the cost of some material. 30. ♖d3 (30. ♖xb7+ 30... ♖8c7 31. ♖b4 a5 32. ♖a3 ♖d8∞) 30... ♖c3 31. ♖h4+ ♖f6 32. ♖xf6+ ♖xf6 33. ♖xc5 ♖xc5=]

30. ♖b5+ ♖f8 [30... ♖e7 31. ♖f3 ♖g7 32. ♖xf7+ ♖xf7 33. ♖xf7 ♖xf7 34. g4± and White should easily be winning here thanks to his passed pawns.]

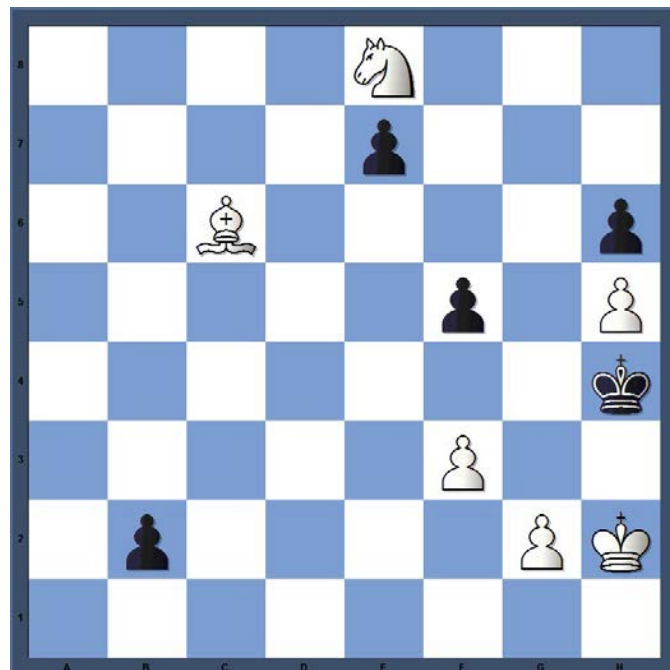
31. ♖f3 ♖d8 [31... ♖g7 32. ♖h2±]

32. ♖b4+ ♖e8 33. ♖g3 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Platov

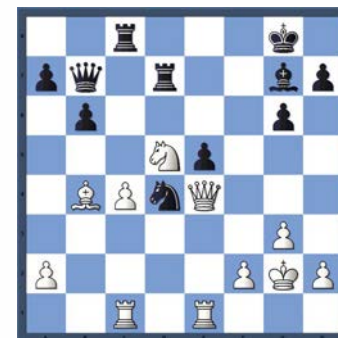
1. +-



Solutions

(19) Dominguez, L(2751)-Kasimdzhanov, R(2706)

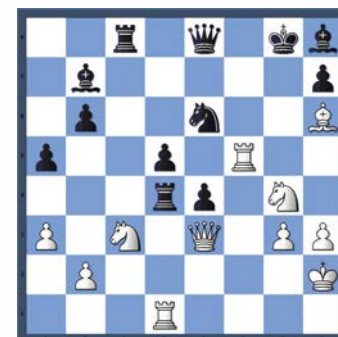
Baku GP, 2014.10.02



26.a4?∞ [26.♘e7+!! 26...♖xe7 27.♙xe7 ♜xe7 28.♚xd4!+-]

(20) Grischuk, A(2797)-Karjakin, S(2767)

Baku GP, 2014.10.03



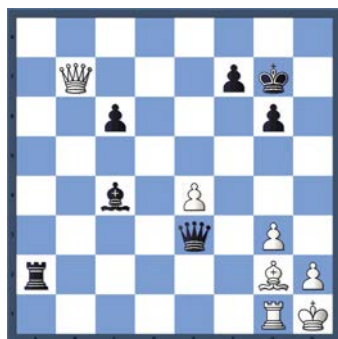
32.♖df1± [32.♙f8!! 32...h5 (32...♖xd1 33.♘h6#; 32...♘xf8 33.♘h6+ ♙g7 34.♖df1+- (34.♖xd4+-)) 33.♘h6+ ♙h7 34.♘f7! ♜xf8 35.♖xh5+ ♙g6 36.♘xh8+! ♙xh5 37.g4+ ♙h4 38.♘g6#]

(21) Dominguez, L(2751)-Tomashevsky, E(2701)

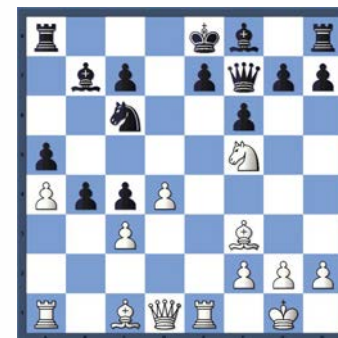
Baku GP, 2014.10.03

**74. ♖g5?** [74.g4!! 74...fxg3 75. ♕e3+ ♔g7 76. ♖g5+-]**74... ♕f7+=****(22) L'Ami, A(2386)-Vachier-Lagrave, M(2757)**

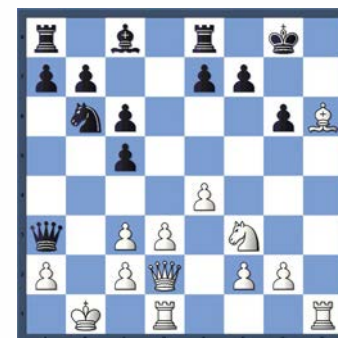
Isle of Man, 2014.10.04

**31... ♖xg2! 32. ♔xg2** [32. ♖xg2 32... ♕e1+ 33. ♖g1 ♕xe4+ 34. ♖g2 ♕e1+ 35. ♖g1 ♕d5#]**32... ♕xe4+ 33. ♔h3** [33. ♔f2 33... ♕e2#]**33... ♕e6+ 34.g4 ♕f3+ 35. ♖g3 ♕xg4+** 0-1 [35... ♕xg4+ 36. ♔h4 ♕f6+ 37. ♔xg4 ♕f5+ 38. ♔h4 ♕h5#]**(23) Gormally, D(2488)-Granda Zuniga, J(2674)**

Isle of Man, 2014.10.05

**16. ♘h6!!** 1-0 [16. ♘h6 16...gxh6 (16... ♕g6 17. ♕h5+-) 17. ♕h5+-]**(24) Wei Y(2641)-Muthaiah, A(2215)**

World Juniors, 2014.10.06

**17. ♕f8! f6** [17... ♕e6 18. ♖h8+! ♔xh8 19. ♕h6+ ♔g8 20. ♕g7#; 17... ♖xf8 18. ♕h6+-]**18. ♕h6** [18. ♖h8+! 18... ♔f7 19. ♘g5+! fxg5 20. ♕xg5 ♔e6 21. ♖h7+-]**18... ♔f7 19. ♕g7+** [19. ♘g5+! 19...fxg5 20. ♕xg5+-] **19... ♔e6**

(25) Darini, P(2442)-Kovalenko, I(2650)

Baku Open, 2014.09.30



24...♘f3+! 0-1 [24...♘f3+ 25.gxf3 ♔g5+ 26.♔h1 ♖xd2+-]

(26) Gara, A(2322)-Romanov, E(2647)

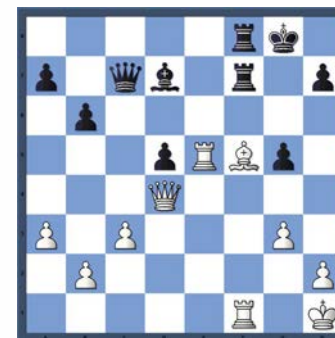
Oslo Open, 2014.09.30



32.♖d5!! ♔c6 33.♘g5+! hxg5 34.♔h5+ ♔g8 35.♖d8+ 1-0
[35.♖d8+ 35...♘f8 36.♖xf8+! ♔xf8 37.♔h8#]

(27) Papp, G(2559)-Istratescu, A(2653)

Oslo Open, 2014.10.04



34.♕e6!! ♕xe6 35.♖xg5+ ♖g7 36.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 37.♔f6+
♖f7 [37...♔f7 38.♔d8+ ♔e8 39.♔xe8+ ♔xe8 40.♖xg7+-;
37...♔g8 38.♔xe6+-]

38.♔xe6+-

(28) Alekseev, E(2675)-Lintchevski, D(2555)

St. Petersburg rapid, 2014.09.28



27. ♖af1!! ♜e7 [27... ♘xd5 28. ♖xf8+-; 27... ♖xf5 28. ♜xa8+-; 27... ♗g8 28. ♜xa8! ♖xa8 29. ♖f8+ ♖xf8 30. ♖xf8#]

28. ♜e5! ♜xb4 [28... ♜xe5 29. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 30. ♖xf8#]

29. ♜xc3!+-

(29) Prokes



1. ♘b5! d1=♜+ 2. ♙xd1 ♜xb1 3. ♘a3+! [3. ♘c3+ 3... ♙a1 4. ♙c2 a3-+]

3... ♙a2 4. ♙c2! ♙xa3 5. ♙b1= ♙b3



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 139

24th of October 2014

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Editorial Preface

The Corsican rapid was won by Hou Yifan! Finally the 2nd best woman player in the history of chess (after Judit Polgar) can match with the men on the highest level. A very big surprise was the loss of Anand to Fedorchuk in the semi-finals, where Hou Yifan only qualified in the Armageddon game against Robert Ruck from Hungary. In the final Hou Yifan won very convincingly against Fedorchuk with a 2:0 score.

Now to main current event, the 2nd FIDE Grand Prix in Tashkent:

Vachier-Lagrave is leading with 2.5/3. A nice win over Caruana, a nice win over Kasimdzhanov and a solid draw against Radjabov sounds like a fantastic start!

It seems like Caruana is lacking his usual rock solid stamina, as the World Nr2 blundered quite a lot lately and also missed great winning chances, so his 1/3 doesn't come as a surprise. I guess after a few weeks' break we would see Caruana back in top shape, but it is just the 3rd round of the Grand Prix

Mamedyarov had a rather unlucky start as he lost a winning rook endgame to Andreikin, but he quickly recovered with his win over Gelfand and is now on 1.5/3.

Another very interesting player is Jobava, who continues playing his extraordinary openings. We will see how far he can go with them on the highest chess level during the next 8 games, but at the moment he is also on 1.5/3.

A lot of open tournaments are also going on:

The very strong Chigorin Memorial in St.Petersburg is under way with a lot of GMs from 2550-2670 participating in it.

The European Youth Championship in Batumi is another

interesting event.

The traditional Cap d'Agde open and rapid event is taking place this week as well.

The American Continental as well as the Spice Cup are the other top events which deserve attention.

This week we analyse the best games from the German Bundesliga as well as the games from the Grand Prix in Tashkent for you. Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

PS: Your weekly commentator Arkadij Naiditsch got married to a wonderful girl on the 23rd October! :)

4 best games of the past week

(1) Karjakin, Sergey(2767) - Jakovenko, Dmitry(2747) [A05]

Tashkent FIDE GP 2014(3.2),
2014.10.23



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Jakovenko is known as a great theoretician and a huge specialist of the Berlin defence. Karjakin decided to drive the game to less explored areas.

1. ♖f3 ♜f6 2. g3 The Reti opening is becoming more and more popular nowadays.

2...d5 3. ♘g2 c5 4. O-O g6 5. d4 cxd4 6. ♜xd4 ♙g7 Suddenly the game has transposed to the g3 system of the Gruenfeld defence with reversed colors, therefore White enjoys an extra tempo compared to those lines.



7. ♜b3! Jakovenko admitted that he missed this move in his preparation. From one side, it is understandable, since it looks illogical to run away from the center with the knight, especially since it was not even under attack. On the other hand, this is the main idea also with reversed colors. White

wants to put quick pressure on the center (in the spirit of the Gruenfeld) with Nc3 and e4.

7...O-O 8.♘c3 e6 9.e4! Very well played! White makes use of his extra pawn and opens the diagonal of his bishop. In the normal line with the reversed colors the knight is already developed to c6 and Black could answer with d4! But it is impossible now, so he must open the position.

9...dxe4 10.♗xe4 ♘xe4



11.♖xd8! Karjakin evaluates the consequences deeply. He understands that the trade of the queens favors him even if it brings the rook to the opened file with tempo. [On 11.♗xe4 Black could play 11...♖c7! and he could easily solve the development of the c8 bishop with Nc6, b6 and Bb7, because the queen on c7 perfectly holds the position together. Bf4 could always be met by e5!]

11...♖xd8 12.♗xe4 ♘c6 13.c3! This is the difference between the two bishops on the long diagonal. White could easily neutralize the pressure on the b2 pawn and he is ready to develop the one on c1 to e3 followed by bringing his rook to d1, while Black's task is much harder...

13...e5 Trying to develop the c8 bishop. [13...a5 with the idea to push a4-a3, weakening the queenside and give a target for the g7 bishop on c3, but White answers with the simple

14.a4! and Black has only created weaknesses for himself. White plays Be3-b6 next.; Black cannot connect his rooks with 13...♗d7 as it always runs into 14.♗c5!]

14.♗e3 f5 Jakovenko tries to defend actively. [Another attempt was 14...♗f5 trading the strong bishop. But of course it damages the pawn structure and Black cannot hope for full equality after 15.♗xf5 gxf5 16.♖fd1+= In the long term, White will use his pawn majority on the queenside, while Black will be unable to do the same on the kingside due to the doubled pawns.]

15.♗g2 ♗f8 Black intends to develop his bishop to e6 and prevents the Nc5 idea. [A logical move would have been 15...e4 closing the diagonal, but unfortunately from Black's point of view it does not reach its aim, because White activates his bishop again with 16.f3! exf3 17.♗xf3+= and Black did not win anything on the business.]



16.♖fe1! Another deep move by Karjakin. Putting pressure on the e5 pawn creates more problems for Black than occupying the open file. [On 16.♖fd1 Jakovenko wanted to play 16...♗e6 17.♗c5 ♗xc5 18.♗xc5 White has gained the two bishops, but 18...e4 closes the one on g2. Black wants to activate his knight with Ne5-d3 and the logical undermining play with 19.f3 is now met by 19...♖xd1+ 20.♖xd1 exf3 21.♗xf3 ♗xa2 The tactical

justification is that White cannot penetrate with his rook on the 7th rank, because of 22.♖d7 ♘e5!]

16...♗e6! A clever decision by Jakovenko. He rather sacrifices a pawn for active counterplay than suffering passively.

17.♗g5 Karjakin grabs the material.

17...♖e8 18.♗xc6 bxc6 19.♖xe5



19...♗d5! Black doesn't have anything concrete, just positional compensation! Black has the two bishops, he is intending to swap all the rooks off the board and then White could hardly avoid reaching an opposite colored bishop endgame, where Black should be able to hold with a pawn down. This kind of compensation is known from the Marshall and the biggest experts like Aronian and Leko usually hold such endgames without too much difficulties.

20.♗f4 ♗g7! Forcing White to give up the e-file. [On 20...♖xe5 21.♗xe5 ♖e8 22.f4! was Karjakin's point and the bishop stands perfectly on e5. It closes both files of the black rook (controls the b8 square too) and trading it with Bg7 should never come into consideration as Black should pin his compensation to the two bishops.]

21.♖xe8+ ♖xe8 22.♘d2! White wants to reduce the power of

the two bishops with c4. The rook cannot invade on e2, since it will be sent back after Kf1!

22...a5 Jakovenko continues with his very natural human moves. He advances his pawn to a4 to reduce the movement of the white pawns. If White plays a4 himself it is not the same story as in the 13... a5 line because then White will be unable to create a passed pawn with b4 because of the strong bishop on g7. Black would transfer his rook to e7-b7.

23.c4 ♗f7 24.♖b1 a4 25.b3 axb3 26.axb3 This trade was a small achievement for both sides. White has finally freed his pieces, he can use his knight and rook as they are not obliged to protect the pawns anymore, but of course it is still extremely difficult to make progress, as the bishops are keeping their eyes on the pawns. Black also had a positional benefit, he had 2 pawn islands before on the queenside and he managed to get rid of one of them.

26...h6 27.h4 ♖e7?! Jakovenko has defended perfectly so far, but he starts to lose the track now. He drives his rook to the b-file, but it is a bit slow now since it allows White to create a passed pawn. [It was better to play 27...♖d8 driving the rook to the very active place on d3! 28.b4 is now met by 28...♗c3 29.♘f1 ♗xc4 30.♗xh6 The trade of these two pawns clearly eases Black's defensive task. White will be unable to make progress now. Black can play any waiting move, for instance 30...♖d3 31.♘e3 ♗b5= and Black is safe.]

28.b4 ♗c3? This seems to be the decisive mistake. [The draw should still have been secured after 28...♖b7! Black is now threatening Bc3 and the difference is that after 29.b5 cxb5 30.cxb5 he could use his two bishops to send away the white rook from the support of the passed pawn. 30...♗a2! 31.♖b4 ♗c3! 32.♖a4 ♗d5 winning the b-pawn. The 3 vs 2 after Bxh6 should already be a very easy draw.]

29.b5 cxb5 30.cxb5 ♖b7



31.b6! This is the difference to 28... Rb7. White had time to advance the pawn to the 6th rank and now it can be safely protected.

31...♗a2 [31...♗d4 32.♗c7+- traps the rook. White only needs to activate his knight.; 31...♗a5 32.♗e3!+- saves the pawn again. Nf3-e5 is coming next.]

32.♖b5! The b-file is long enough now to have a free square for the rook against the bishops.

32...h5 33.♗f3 ♔f7 [33...♗c4 loses to 34.♖c5]

34.♗e5! traps the bishop! Black is forced to take, but it is equal to resignation.

34...♗xe5 35.♗xe5+ [Without the two bishops, Black has no hope to survive, so he resigned in view of 35.♗xe5+ 35...♔f6 36.f4+- fixing another weakness on g6, followed by bringing the king to c5! Black is helpless as his pieces are completely tied up and they are unable to create any counterplay. The bishop cannot attack anything as everything stands on dark squares, the king must protect the g6 pawn and the rook must blockade the b-pawn.] **1-0**

(2) **Almasi, Zoltan(2695)**
- **Bogner, Sebastian(2599) [B98]**

Bundesliga 2014-15(2.10),
2014.10.19



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A highly spectacular game was won by my countryman Zoltan Almasi against my teammate in the German league.

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 The Sicilian Najdorf opening.

6.♗g5 White goes for the old main line. Recently, 6.h3, 6.f3 and 6.Be3 are the most common continuations, but there was a time when almost everybody played this text move against the Najdorf.

6...e6 7.f4 Black has a wide range of choices here. Bogner chooses a rather rare line.

7...h6 8.♗h4 ♗e7 9.♖f3 This, followed by 0-0-0 is the standard development of the pieces in the 6.Bg5 setup.

9...♖c7 10.O-O-O ♗bd7



11.♗e2! According to the theory, in case of the inclusion of the h6-Bh4 pair of moves, the bishop should develop to

e2 to parry Black's freeing attempt... [On the direct 11.g4 Black stops the attack with 11...g5! 12.fxg5 ♖e5 and Nfxg4 next is perfect for him.; In most of the lines the standard development is 11.♗d3 but here it once again runs into 11...g5! 12.fxg5 ♖e5 Nfg4 is coming next. Black wins back the g5 pawn and he successfully worked out the e5 square for his knight. 13.♖e3 ♗fg4 14.♖d2 ♗g6]

11...O-O [Now on 11...g5 White could play 12.fxg5 ♖e5 13.♖e3 ♗fg4 14.♖d2! It is important that the g4 knight is under attack, therefore Black's options are limited... 14...♖g8 15.♗xg4 ♗xg4 16.♗f3± preserving the extra pawn.]

12.g4 The most natural attacking move! Strangely, 12.Qg3 is given as the main line by theory. This is a more principled attack, as it makes use of the fact that Black has weakened his kingside with h6 and the g4-g5 maneuver opens the g-file with tempo.

12...b5 13.g5 hxg5 14.♗xg5 b4! Black must also hurry with his counterplay. [There is no time for 14...♗b7 since White crushes after 15.♖hg1 b4 16.♗h6! g6 17.♗xe6! fxe6 18.♖g2+-]

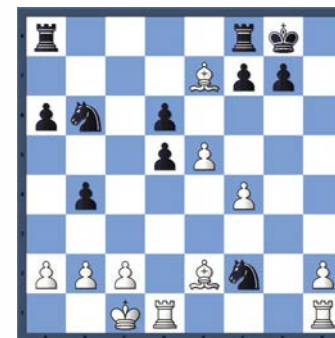


15.♗d5! A typical Sicilian knight sacrifice. White lures the e6 pawn away in order to settle his other knight to the excellent attacking position on f5. In other lines, sometimes

the opposite sacrifice works well with Nf5 and after exf5 Nd5, but now it makes no sense as the d5 square is controlled by the knight.

15...exd5 16.♗f5 White directly attacks the e7 and he puts pressure on the g7 pawn, the main defender of the black king. Such sacrifices cannot be calculated until the very end, some lines had to be foreseen and in others, very strong intuition is required.

16...♗c5 The most natural defensive move. Black protects his e7 bishop and opens the diagonal for his other bishop. [16...♖d8? is nicely refuted by 17.♗xg7! This devastating sacrifice is the main point behind the 15.Nd5 move! 17...♗xg7 18.♖hg1 The lines are quickly opening on the king. Black has no adequate defence. 18...♖g8 19.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 20.e5+!+- and mate is coming soon.; The computer suggests 16...♗b6 The best reply here is 17.♗xe7+! (Now on 17.♗xg7 17...dxe4 18.♖g3 ♗xg7 19.♖hg1 ♖g8 the machine strangely only sees a perpetual check after 20.♗xf6+ ♗xf6 21.♖h4+ (21.♖xg8 21...♗f5) 21...♗e6 22.♖h3+ ♗f6=) 17...♖xe7 18.e5! This unusual motif works perfectly here, just as in the game. 18...dxe5 (Probably the best defence is 18...♗g4 but it does not equalize either 19.♖xg4! ♗xg4 20.♗xe7 ♗f2



21.♗xd6! White does not go for the exchange, but rather

grabs two important pawns and keeps the initiative of the two bishops. 21...♖fc8 22.♙xb4 ♘xh1 23.♖xh1± The two pawns and the bishop pair are more than enough compensation for the exchange.) 19.fxe5 ♖xe5 20.♙xf6 ♖xf6



21.♖xf6! This could be a shocking blow for Black. He is a piece up and if he does not get mated he is going to win the game. The most dangerous attacking piece is the queen, Black should normally be very happy with its trade, but now he gets mated because of the opening of the g-file. 21...gxf6 22.♖hg1+ ♔h8 23.♖d4! This is the point! White drops his rook to the h-file. 23...♙f5 24.♖h4+ ♙h7 25.♙d3! f5 26.♙xf5+- and mate in the next move.; 16...♖e8? also loses to 17.♘xg7! ♔xg7 18.♖hg1+-]

17.♘xe7+! Almasi finds a very nice motif to win back the piece. [Now on 17.♘xg7



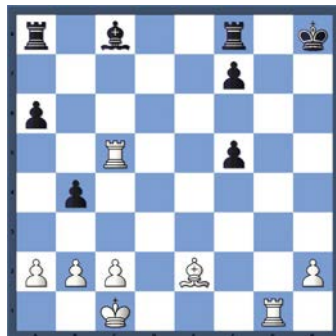
17...b3!! is a brilliant counterblow. It is very difficult to find it for a human, but the machine points out that after 18.axb3 ♙g4 19.♖g2 ♘fxe4 20.♙xe7 which would win for White without the b3-axb3 pair of moves, now suddenly Black is the one who mates first: 20...♘xb3+! 21.♔b1 ♘c3+!! 22.bxc3 ♖xc3+- and Black's attack comes faster! This is a rather typical turn of events in the Sicilians with opposite side castling.]

17...♖xe7 18.e5! dx5 19.fxe5 ♖xe5 [Black could have entered a slightly inferior position after 19...♙g4 20.♖xg4 ♖xe5 White has nothing better than 21.♙xf6 ♖xf6 22.♖xd5 with a more pleasant position. White can quickly attack the f7 pawn with Rf1, Bc4, Rdf5. Or create threats on the h-file after Rh5. The endgames are always better for him, because the bishop is stronger than the knight and the black pawns can be more vulnerable. 22...♖ac8 23.♔b1+=]

20.♙xf6! ♖xf6 21.♖xf6! The same things can be said as in the 16...Nb6 line. It is not easy to find such ideas, because White wanted to launch a mating attack when he sacrificed his knight on d5 and then we could understand that one does not even think about some line where White exchanges the queen. But Almasi has calculated deeper...

21...gxf6 22.♖hg1+ ♔h8 23.♖xd5 White wins back the piece because of the Rh5 threat. [23.♖d4? does not work now. Black could successfully parry the threats on the h-file with 23...♘e4! 24.♖xd5 f5]

23...f5 24.♖xc5 The complications are over. The material is even, but White can claim a clear edge because of his superior pawn structure. Not only the doubled f-pawns, but also the b4 and a6 pawns are pretty weak.



24...♙e6 Black prevents the Rc4-h4 threat and finally finishes the development, but now the a6 pawn has been left alone.

25.♖a5! ♖g8 26.♖f1! A very subtle move! This rook is very useful in the fight against the f5 pawn. Now it becomes a clear target, while after the trade on g8, it could have turned out to be a dangerous passed pawn... It is important that Rg2 does not work immediately because of Bf3! [26.♖xg8+ 26...♖xg8 27.♖xa6 ♖g2 is unclear. The f5 pawn gives counterplay.]

26...♖ac8



27.b3! Another very subtle move! Almasi understands his opponent's idea and he makes a very strong prophylactic move against it. [On the direct 27.♖xa6 Black solves his problems with 27...♖g2 28.♙d3 ♙c4! This is why White played b3 (he also opened his back rank). 29.♙xc4 ♖xc4 and the c2 pawn falls.]

27...♖g2 28.♙d3 The c2 pawn is safe now as the bishop on d3 is safe. Black has no chance to trade it.

28...♖xh2 [On 28...♖c6 White keeps a big advantage after 29.h3 ♖h2 30.♖f4 ♖xh3 31.♖xa6± and the b4 pawn will also fall.]

29.♖xa6 Only 3 pawns on each side are left on the board, but the f7-f5 can hardly be counted as two healthy pawns and the main problem is the one on b4. White is going to attack it with Rf4 and Rb6 and if it falls, the triple connected passed pawns will decide the game.

29...♖h4 Defending against Rf4.

30.♖a5! White is threatening to take on f5. After Bxf5 Bxf5 he can take with both rooks, because after Rxf5 Rh2 Rh5 check saves the c2 pawn or after Raxf5 Rh2 R5f2 saves the important c2 pawn. [30.♙xf5 was wrong again because of 30...♙xf5 31.♖xf5 ♖h1+ 32.♙b2 ♖h2=]

30...f4 [30...♖h2 31.♖b5+- is also bad.]

31.♖b5 ♖h3 A last trick, threatening to take on d3, but of course White leaves the pin...

32.♙b2 The game is over. The b4 pawn falls and the a-b-c passers start to advance.

32...f3 33.♖xb4 ♖g8 34.a4 ♙d5 35.a5 ♙g7 36.♙e4 Almasi decides to simplify into a completely won rook endgame.

36...♙xe4 37.♖xe4 White can even trade his a-pawn for the one on f3, the remaining connected c-b pawns are easily winning against the f7.

37...♙f6 38.♖e3 ♖gg3 39.a6 ♙g5 40.♖xf3! [Finishing the game in style! Black resigned in view of 40.♖xf3 40...♖xf3 41.♖xf3 ♖xf3 42.a7 and he cannot stop the pawn. A great Sicilian battle!] **1-0**

(3) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2764) - Nakamura, Hikaru(2764) [D31]

Tashkent FIDE GP 2014(4.6),
2014.10.24



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are going to see a great fighting game, with a lot of different tactical ideas and a very interesting material-structure constellation. The final result of the game is a draw-but it doesn't reduce the interest in it at all! Both players played very well.

1.d4 Mamedyarov is a very aggressive player with White and his score with White is as well better than the one with Black. Shakhriyar often shows interesting opening ideas.

1...d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗e7 and we have another game in the Queen's Gambit. Mamedyarov and Nakamura are not playing this position against each other for the first time, so of course it is going to be very interesting to see what White has prepared this time.

4.cxd5 exd5 5.♗f4 is one of the most critical lines.

5...c6 Black is preparing to play Bf5 next, which is not possible without the c6 move because of Qb3.

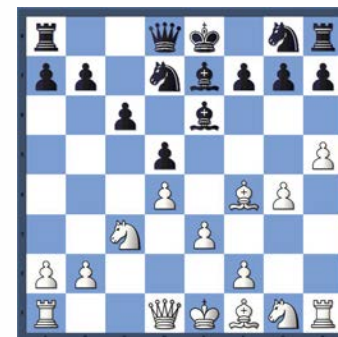
6.e3 White wants to play Bd3 next, with a slightly better position.

6...♗f5 and of course Black develops the bishop to f5. Now at moves like Qb3 he always has Qb6.

7.g4 This is of course all theory and quite a popular line which Nakamura has also played with White already.

7...♗e6 8.h4 White's idea is to win maximum space on the kingside and hope to later develop the pieces in a normal order, while having a space advantage.

8...♘d7 9.h5



9...♘h6! A great move by Black! The knight is taking a better position on h6 than on f6 and soon we will see why. [After the more usual 9...♘gf6 White continues with 10.f3 and it is not that simple for Black to find a clear way what to do next.]

10.♗e2 is the right choice. [10.f3?! 10...f5! and Black's play on the kingside could become very dangerous.]

10...♘b6 [After 10...f5 11.gxf5 (Another option could be 11.♗xh6 11...gxh6 12.gxf5 ♗xf5 13.♗g4 ♗xg4 14.♖xg4 ♘f6 and we have a position which is very difficult to evaluate. Maybe White can hope to be better here, but on the other hand Black could develop fast and dangerous play, so things are very unclear.) 11...♘xf5 12.♘f3 and of course the position is unclear, but maybe White could hope for some advantage.]

11.♘h3 Mamedyarov is also creative. Maybe White wants to play Bxh6 and Nf4 at some moment.

11...g5!? What a move! The game is getting very complicated now. [Black could also have continued with 11...O-O ; or 11...♖c8 which is a useful move in case White would want to

castle queenside.]

12.hxg6 White of course has to take on g6.

12...hxg6 Black now has the positional threat to play g5 next and then maybe f6-Nf7-Qd7 and 0-0-0, with an excellent position.



13.♕e5!? is a very nice tactical idea of Mamedyarov which destabilizes Black's position, which looks so solid.

13...f6 Black has nothing else, because White would play Nf4 next anyway.

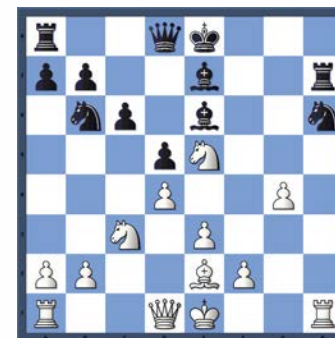
14.♖f4 Things are now becoming very tactical.

14...fxe5 Black makes the right calculation. [In case Black would want to win a piece after 14...♕f7 White has the amazing 15.♞c2!! a silent but deadly reply. Black can't protect the g6 pawn. 15...fxe5 16.♖xg6 ♜g8 17.♖xe5 and White has a clear advantage.]

15.♖xg6 is the most logical, but White also had another choice. [After 15.♖xe6 15...♞d6 16.g5 ♞xe6 17.gxh6 we have a very interesting position which is very difficult to evaluate. From the feeling, Black should be doing fine here, but of course the central position of both kings makes the game very dynamic.]

15...♞g8?! I think Nakamura miscalculated something when

he played this move. [Black should have tried to keep the extra piece with 15...♞h7 16.dxe5 (After 16.♖xe5 Black has the amazing move



16...♕h4!! A very hard move to find during a practical game and maybe this is exactly the move that Nakamura missed. In case Black didn't have 16...Bh4!!, White's position would be clearly better, but now Black is not only closing the h-file, but also putting pressure on the f2 pawn. Black is much better here.) 16...♞d7 17.♖f4 O-O-O 18.♞c2 ♜hh8 and I can't imagine Black being worse here. A piece up is a piece up!]

16.♖xe7 ♞xe7 17.♞xh6 So White has won back the piece and is a pawn up.

17...e4 Black tries to close the position and be ready for putting pressure on the g4 pawn.

18.a4! A very logical and strong move. White wants to play a5-a6, chasing away the black knight from b6 and at the same time destroying the black pawn structure.

18...♖d7 19.♞b3?! White misses a great chance of being much better. [After the correct 19.♞d2! 19...♖f6 20.♞h1 White is transporting all his heavy pieces to the kingside. 20...♞d7 21.♞g1 I can't see any compensation for Black for being a pawn down. White should be clearly better here.]

19...♟f6 Now the g4 pawn is lost.

20.♖c1 Mamedyarov is preparing an exchange sacrifice.

20...♙xg4 [In case of 20...♟xg4 White would continue similarly as in the game with 21.♖xe6 ♜xe6 22.♞xb7 ♖d8 23.♗d1 and I think White's position is looking very promising.]



21.♖xf6 Of course this is what White was playing for with Qb3-Rc1.

21...♞xf6 22.♞xb7 ♖d8 All Black moves were forced until here. We now have an extremely complicated position and it is very difficult to say who is better here. White's problem is the open king on e1 which could very quickly be under attack.

23.♞xa7 Why not take a pawn if you can...

23...♖f8 A logical move, but Black also had many other interesting continuations. [23...♙f3 could be an option or; 23...♙d7 which looks like a stupid move, but the bishop from d7 is going to defend the c6 pawn which is very important. 24.♞c5 (24.♗d1?! 24...♞d6! and Black would already be better.) 24...♖b8 with a very unclear position.]

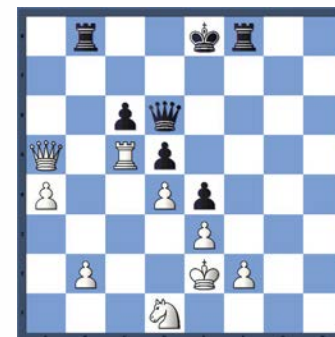
24.♗d1 Of course the f2 pawn needs to be protected.

24...♙xe2 25.♙xe2 ♞d6 Black wants to start some play on the b-file.

26.♖c5 This move looks a bit strange... Of course White wants to double on the c-file, but the idea is very slow. [Maybe a more promising try to fight for an advantage could have been 26.b4!? reminding Black that the king on e8 is open as well. 26...♞xb4 27.♖xc6 ♖f7 28.♞a6 and I think White's position is a bit better.]

26...♖b8 Of course Black is putting his rook on the b-file.

27.♞a5



27...♔d7! Nakamura is putting his king to the perfect place from where it is protecting the c6 pawn, while connecting the rooks at the same time.

28.♞c3 We have quite a funny position. White is an exchange down but he has two pawns for it, which is more than enough from a material point of view, but the knight on d1 is very passive and can never be moved because the f2 pawn would immediately be under attack. Black also doesn't really have any big plans here, so I think the position is just equal now.

28...♖a8 29.a5 ♖fb8 30.b4 White is of course trying to keep the queenside closed and as solid as possible.

30...♖b5 By exchanging the rooks, the game is more or less coming to a peaceful end. Maybe 30...♞b7 could have been a try for Black to develop some play on the queenside,

but of course White could be in time with Nb2-Na4-Nb6 and the position would remain complicated.

31. ♖xb5 Of course White should not let Black take on c5.

31...cxb5 32. ♔c5! Attacking the b5 pawn and threatening to play Nc3.



32...♖c8! Black also shows perfect play, in understanding that the pawn on b5 is not important.

33. ♖xb5+ ♔e6 Black wants to play Rb8 next and take the b4 pawn.

34.a6 [In case of 34. ♖a4 Black has the strong 34...♖c7! and I think White's position starts looking dangerous.]

34...♖a8 Winning back the a6 pawn with a draw offer... Indeed, the position is just equal and the game would probably end up in a draw, but both player could have made a few more moves to be "sure" about the result. Anyhow, this was a very interesting and exciting game! **1/2-1/2**

(4) Kasimdzhanov, Rustam(2706) - Jobava, Baadur(2717) [C10]

Tashkent FIDE GP(3),
2014.10.23

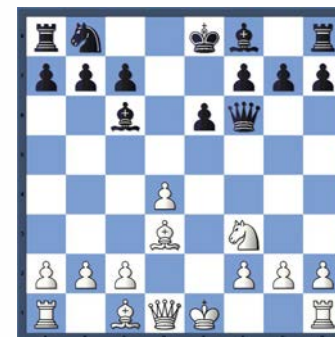


GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

1.e4 The games of Jobava are usually very exciting. A lot of "strange" opening ideas combined with aggressive and crazy play makes his chess shine so bright. Of course sometimes such opening experiments lead to unpleasant positions so it is going to be very interesting to see how well he will be doing against the very best players.

1...e6 2.d4 d5 3. ♖c3 dxe4 4. ♖xe4 ♕d7 Our good friend Baadur likes unpopular lines. The main move in the Rubinstein Variation is [4...♖d7]

5. ♖f3 ♕c6 6. ♕d3 ♖d7 I know one nice trap which can be use on beginner's level. If Black plays [6...♖f6 then after 7. ♖xf6+ ♖xf6??



8. ♕g5 ♕xf3 9. ♖d2!! and the black queen is trapped!]

7.O-O ♖gf6 8. ♖g3 is a possible, but not the main setup. [8. ♖xf6+ 8...♖xf6 gives Black good chances to equalize;]

8.♖ed2!? The knight on g3 is not always useful so usually White goes for this setup.]

8...g6 and here comes the "crazy play". Who would ever even think of playing the g6 move?! It seems like it is just weakening the black squares, but in fact Jobava is playing against the knight on g3 by cutting him completely. [8...♙e7 9.♚e2 O-O Black has two ways to fight for the center, b6-Bb7-c5 or Bxf3-c6-Qe8-e5. 10.♖d1 ♙xf3 (10...b6) 11.♚xf3 c6 White has a long-term advantage thanks to his space advantage and the bishop pair.]

9.c4 Who can blame Kasimdzhanov for wanting to punish Jovaba for his opening experiments!? [To a slightly better position for White would lead 9.b3 9...♙g7 10.♙a3 ♙f8 11.♙b2 ♙g7 12.c4 O-O 13.♚e2+= As we can see, White is very solid. 13...♙xf3 14.♚xf3 c6 and in this case the bishop on g7 seems to be better placed than on e7, but White's advantage is still clear.]

9...♙g7



10.d5!? Kasimdzhanov gets provoked onto a sharp territory. Usually the Nr.1 of Uzbekistan is trying to be solid and Jovaba is the one who likes unbalanced positions, so maybe from a practical point of view this was not the best choice for White. [10.♙f4 10...O-O 11.♖e1+= was the solid option.]

10...exd5 11.♖e1+ ♙f8 12.cxd5 is maybe premature, since after this move Black gets a strong and untouchable bishop on d5. [12.♖d4 12...♙g8 (12...dxc4 13.♖xc6 bxc6 14.♙xc4 ♖b6 15.♚c2+= of course White doesn't exchange queens.) 13.♙f4! (13.♖gf5 is too optimistic, but very interesting. 13...gxf5 14.♖xf5 dxc4 15.♙xc4 In a practical game White has a strong attack, but of course the computer is easily defending Black's position. 15...♖b6 16.♚b3 ♖xc4 17.♚xc4 ♖e4!± and Black is better.)]

12...♙xd5 13.♚c2 White is preparing to put his rook on d1.

13...c6 [Of course not 13...♙xf3?! 14.gxf3 c6 15.f4! and the strong bishop from d5 is gone, which gives White good play.]

14.♖g5 ♙g8 15.♙f4 We have a very interesting position. Black is a pawn up, but his king is on the run, so White clearly has good compensation.

15...♖f8 A very good defensive move. [15...h6 16.♖5e4 ♖xe4 17.♖xe4 ♙h7 18.♖ad1 with very active play. White can try Nd6 or Nc3 with idea to get rid of the bishop from d5 or at some moment h4-h5.]

16.♖ad1 ♚a5 Black keeps the logical h6-Kh7 moves in mind and first tries to irritate White on the queenside a bit.

17.a3 A solid move, but maybe 17.b3 was a bit stronger to limit the black bishop on d5. [17.♖e7? 17...♚b4-+]]

17...♖d8 [After 17...h6 18.♖5e4 ♖xe4 19.♙xe4 White's chances should probably be at least equal here.]

18.♙d2 [Another option for White could have been 18.♖e7 but now Black has 18...♖d7 with very unclear play.]

18...♚b6 19.♙e3 ♚c7 Black could probably have gone back to a5, but a quick draw is clearly not an option for Baadur with his great fighting spirit.

20.h3?! is clearly too slow... [Much stronger was 20.♘d4!? with the idea to improve the position after Qc3. 20...♙xg2? 21.♙e5+—]

20...h6 and Black starts his "development".

21.♘5e4 ♘e6 There are a lot of white pieces in the center, but Black's position is very solid and we should not forget that a pawn down puts big pressure on White to do something.

22.♘xf6+ ♙xf6 23.♙e4 White slowly panicks. Black seems to slowly solve all his problems and just be a pawn up! White is looking for a forced draw. [23.♙xg6 didn't work: 23...fxg6 24.♙xg6+ ♙g7 25.♙f5 ♘f8!± and White doesn't have Nh5 because of Qxg2 mate.]

23...♙g7 24.♙xa7? is of course a terrible decision, but White's position was already worse. [White should have tried to save the game after 24.♙xd5 24...♖xd5 25.♖xd5 cxd5 26.♙xc7 ♘xc7 27.♙xa7 A lot of pieces were exchanged, but of course Black's position is still better here. 27...♙xb2 28.♖b1 ♖a8! 29.♙b6 ♙e5 Black managed to keep his pawn up. 30.♙xc7 ♙xc7 31.♖xb7 ♙xg3 32.fxg3 ♖xa3 33.♖d7 and it is hard to say if this rook endgame is winning or drawish, but Black's chances to win the game here would be at least 50

24...b6 The white bishop on a7 is trapped.

25.♙xd5



25...♘d4! —+ This is clearly the move that White has blundered. Black is winning an exchange now.

26.♙a4 ♖xd5 27.♙a6 and here comes another excellent move from Jobava:

27...♙d7! Great tactical play! Jobava creates two deadly threats, to play Nf3 and to play Ra8. White's position is lost.

28.♖xd4 White decides to give away the exchange, but the chances to draw here are minimal.

28...♙xd4 29.♙xb6 c5 Keeping the monster bishop on d4.

30.♙a5 ♙xb2 Pawns are equal now...

31.♙c4 ♙d4 All Black needs to do now is to win the a-pawn.

32.♙c3 ♖a8 33.♖e3 White is in time trouble, but there were already no moves to save the game...

33...♖xa3 A great psychological trick by Jobava in the opening, practically provoking White onto a sharp territory—which clearly doesn't suit such a positional player as Kasimdzhanov- and later on outplaying White in a tactical battle! **0-1**

Puzzle section

(5) Bachmann, A(2645)-Parente, R(2071)

American Continental, 2014.10.18

1. +-



(6) Anand, V(2785)-Skomorokhin, R(2364)

Corsica, 2014.10.19

1. +-



(7) Dimitrov, R(2445)-Hou Yifan(2673)

Corsica, 2014.10.19

1... -+



(8) Kravtsiv, M(2563)-Edouard, R(2659)

Corsica, 2014.10.19

1. +-



(9) Hou Yifan(2673)-Dimitrov, R(2445)

Corsica, 2014.10.19

1. +-



(10) Giri, A(2768)-Shirov, A(2691)

Unive match, 2014.10.18

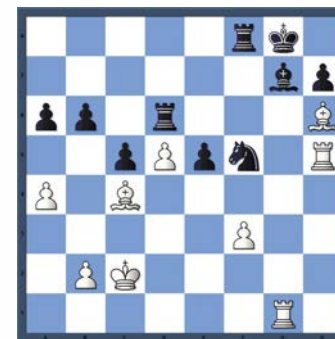
1. +-



(11) Dubov, D(2627)-Szlag, M(2456)

German league, 2014.10.18

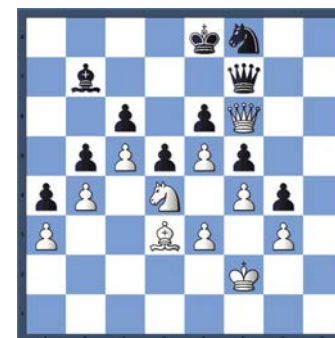
1. +-



(12) Baramidze, D(2605)-Korpa, B(2426)

German league, 2014.10.18

1. +-



(13) Schenk, A(2491)-Motylev, A(2682)

German league, 2014.10.19

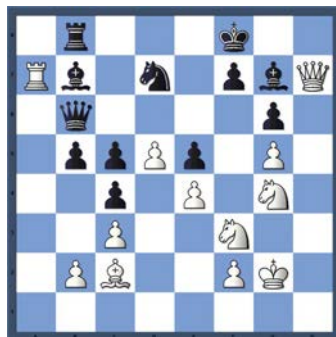
1. +-



(14) Firman, N(2458)-Baramidze, D(2605)

German league, 2014.10.18

1. +-



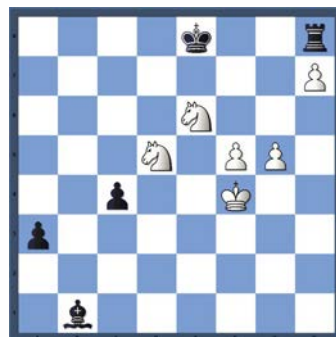
Endgame section

(15) Naumann, Alexander(2560)
- Jorczik, Julian(2400)

German league,
2014.10.18

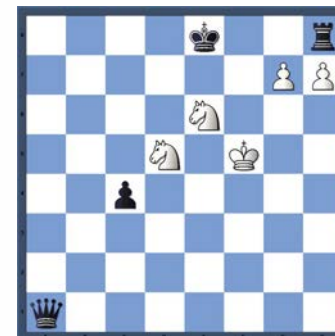


GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

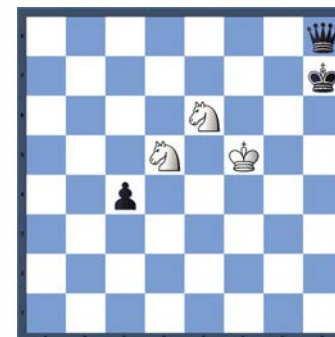


We might think that this position is from a study, but actually it was reached from a game with classical time control... Black plays the most natural move, which changes the objective evaluation...

57...a2? [As the further analysis will tell, Black should have eliminated the pawn first and only then promote his passed pawn. The winning continuation was 57...bxf5! 58.♔xf5 a2 59.g6 a1=♔ 60.g7



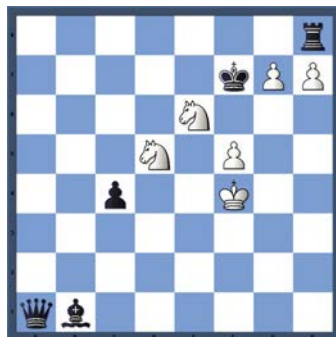
White is threatening to play g8Q, so the right move is 60...♔f7! Black is ready to take on h7, therefore White does not have anything better than to play 61.gxh8=♔ ♔xh8 62.♘g5+ ♔g7 and Black is winning. The last trap that Black should not fall into is 63.♘e6+ ♔h6!—+ (But not 63...♔xh7?)



64.♘f6+! ♔h6 65.♘g4+ and the knights are forcing perpetual check, as 65...♔h5 moves into 66.♘f4+! ♔h4 67.♘g6+]

58.g6 a1=♔ 59.g7 White is threatening g8Q. Black finds the best chance to play for the win.

59...♔f7!

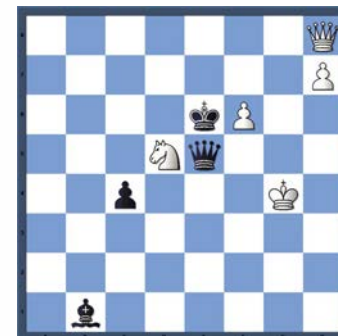


60.f6!! Fantastic!!! I personally would never believe that this is a game and not a study. This last move is the reason why Black should have taken that pawn in the initial position. White has closed the a1-h8 diagonal and he is threatening to take the rook. Despite the huge material advantage Black has no win, the knights are controlling everything.

60...♔xe6 Here comes the blunder, after which Black is winning again... [60...♖xh7 is met by 61.♘g5+! ♔g8 Otherwise White promotes the g-pawn with check, but now 62.♘e7#! is mate!]

61.gxh8=♚? White had two different ways to draw... [61.g8=♚+ was the difficult way to hold the draw, the idea becomes clear few moves later. ... 61...♔d6 62.♚xh8 With the king on d6, the game is drawn. 62...♚e5+ 63.♔g4 ♘f5+ 64.♔g5 This is the difference! The bishop is not protected on f5 by the king and Black cannot create a successful mating net. 64...♘xh7+ 65.♔h6=; The easiest draw was 61.♘c7+ 61...♔d7 62.gxh8=♚ ♚d4+ 63.♔g3 ♚e3+ 64.♔g4= and Black does not have more than perpetual check.]

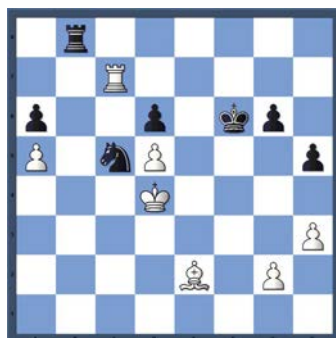
61...♚e5+! 62.♔g4



62...♘f5+! 63.♔f3 Sad, but other moves would have led to a quick mate. [63.♔g5 63...♚g3+ and the bishop is not hanging. 64.♔h5 ♚g4+ 65.♔h6 ♚g6#]

63...♚xd5+ Black now wins thanks to the very effective cooperation of the queen and bishop.

64.♔f2 ♚d4+ 65.♔f3 ♘e4+ 66.♔g3 ♚e3+ 67.♔h4 ♚f2+ 68.♔g4 ♘f5+ [White resigned in view of the forthcoming mate: 68...♘f5+ 69.♔h5 ♚h2+ 70.♔g5 ♚g3+ 71.♔h5 ♚g4+ 72.♔h6 ♚g6#] **0-1**

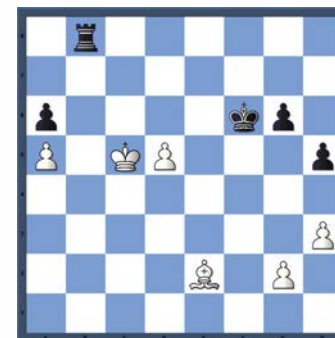
**(16) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2764)
- Gelfand, Boris(2748)**Tashkent FIDE GP(3),
2014.10.23GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

White was pushing all game long and somewhere around move 30 it looked like the win was not too far away for Mamedyarov, but with great defence Gelfand managed to get this difficult endgame, but with quite some chances of making a draw.

42...♖xc5! An excellent try and probably the only real hope for White to win this endgame. [A move like 42...♖c6 doesn't lead to anything after 42...♙e7 and of course the game would just immediately end in a draw after 43.♙xa6 ♖a8 since Black is winning back the a5 pawn.]

42...dxc5+ 43.♙xc5 We have a very interesting position. Black is an exchange up, but it is clear that only White is playing for a win here. The a6 pawn is going to fall and the white d- and a-pawns are going to be very dangerous. Still, a

rook is a very strong piece in an endgame and this gives Black good chances to save the game.



43...♖c8+! A strong move! The white king needs to be removed from the c-file to make it possible for the black king to come to d6 square.

44.♙b6 Now Black has two options.

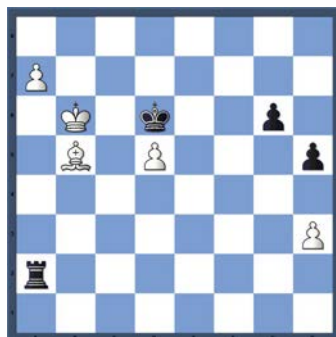
44...♙e5 This is one of the two correct moves. [Another option for Black was the strange looking 44...♖d8!? and it is funny, but there is no win for White. 45.♙xa6 (45.♙c4 45...♖d6+ and the a6 pawn is saved.) 45...♖d6+! is the only move that holds the draw. 46.♙b7 ♖xd5 Now we see why Rd6+ was so important (because the a5 pawn is hanging now). 47.♙b6 ♖d6+ and the position is just a draw.]

45.♙xa6 ♖c2! Gelfand is playing perfectly. It is very important for Black to attack the g2 pawn.

46.♙f1 Protecting the g2 pawn and at the same time threatening to play a6-a7-Ba6.

46...♖f2?! is a slightly strange decision, even if not a mistake. Black could have drawn much more easily after [46...♙d6! The black king is back to help the rook to stop the a-pawn. 47.a6 ♖b2+! A very important check, forcing the white bishop to leave the protection of the g2 pawn.]

48. ♖b5 ♜xg2 49. a7 ♜a2

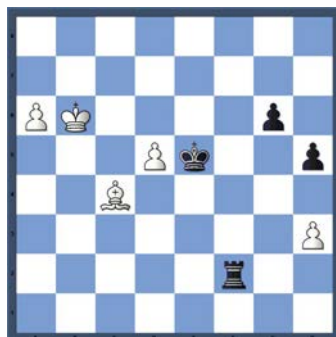


50. ♖b7 ♜xa7+ 51. ♖xa7 ♖xd5 and all Black needs to do now to reach a draw is to go to h8 with the king.]

47. ♖c4 ♜xg2? This move is already a serious mistake. [47... ♖d6 would take us back to the drawish line we saw before.]

48. a6 Now it is already difficult for Black to stop the a-pawn because the white bishop on c4 covers the a2 square.

48... ♜f2! Black's position is on the verge of being lost, but Gelfand finds the best chances to save the game again. [48... ♜b2+ 49. ♖c6 and Black is lost.]



49. ♖c5!! A really fantastic move by White which wins the game. The key idea is that White wants to play Bb5-Bc6!

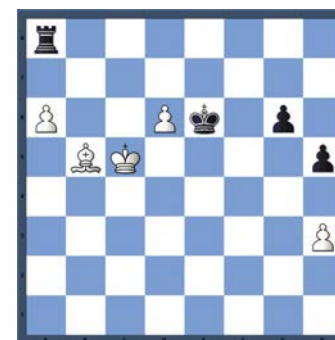
[Black seems to hold the draw after 49. a7 49... ♜f8 50. ♖c6 g5 The g-pawn is going to save the game! 51. d6 ♜c8+! 52. ♖b7 ♜d8 and the game should end in a draw.]

49... ♜f8 Black doesn't have anything better. [49... g5 was also losing. 50. d6! White is just faster. 50... g4 51. d7 ♜f8 52. hxg4 hxg4 53. ♖d5 The white bishop on d5 is stopping the black pawn and at the same time supporting the upcoming a7-a8Q. Black's position is hopeless.]

50. ♖b5 The white bishop is going to c6.

50... ♜a8 Black stops the Bc6 move, but now the d-pawn is rolling...

51. d6 ♖e6



52. h4! A very nice technical move! Now Black doesn't have any counterplay at all.

52... g5 Other moves were also losing.

53. hxg5 h4 54. d7 White just has too many passed pawns...

54... ♖e7 White wanted to play Bc6.

55. g6 h3 56. g7 Black can't stop White from playing Bc6 next.

56...h2



57. ♖c6 Very nicely played by Mamedyarov and of course Gelfand is going to be very disappointed that he didn't manage to hold the endgame when the draw was so close!
1-0

Clash of the Titans

**(17) Capablanca, Jose Raul
- Zubarev, Nikolay[D24]**

Moscow, 1925



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3. ♘f3 dxc4 4.e4 [4.e3 4... ♘f6 (4...b5 5.a4 c6 6.axb5 cxb5 7.b3+=) 5. ♖xc4 c5 6.O-O a6 transposes to the main variations of the Queen's Gambit Accepted.]

4...c5 5.d5 [5. ♖xc4 5...cxd4 6. ♘xd4 ♘f6 7. ♘c3 White keeps a small advantage thanks to his space advantage.]

5...exd5 6.exd5 ♘f6 7. ♖xc4 ♖d6 8.O-O [8. ♔e2+ 8... ♔e7 9. ♔xe7+ ♔xe7 10. ♘c3 ♖d8 and without queens the black position should be safer.]

8...O-O 9. ♖g5 ♖g4 10. ♘c3 ♘bd7



11. ♘e4! Because the d5 pawn is blocked Black's position is very solid, which is why White needs to play actively.

11...♔c7 Let's check some other possibilities for Black:
 [11...♙xf3? 12.♚xf3 ♘e5 (12...♙e5 13.d6†) 13.♚f5! ♘xc4
 14.♘xf6+ gxf6 15.♙xf6+–; 11...♙e5! 12.h3 ♙xf3 (12...♙h5 13.g4
 ♙g6 14.♘e5 ♘xe5 15.♙xf6 gxf6∞) 13.♚xf3 ♚b6



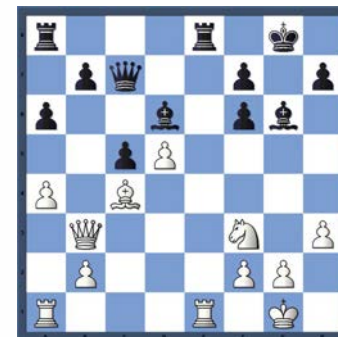
14.d6!? A typical move with the idea to activate the bishop and get the initiative over the light squares. 14...♘xe4 15.♚xe4 ♙xd6 (15...♚xd6 16.♚ad1 ♙d4 17.♙e7 ♚e5 18.♚xe5 ♘xe5 19.♙xf8 ♘xc4 20.b3 ♘b2 21.♙xc5 ♙xc5 22.♚d7±) 16.♚ad1 ♘e5 17.♙d5 ♚ab8 18.♚fe1= White has compensation.]

12.♙xf6 ♘xf6 [12...♙xh2+?! 13.♙h1 ♚f4 14.♙e7 ♚h6 15.♘xh2 ♙xd1 16.♚axd1 ♚fe8 17.d6± The white pieces are much stronger than the queen. Black's position is very bad.]

13.♘xf6+ gxf6 White managed to weaken the black structure but it is still not enough to prove an advantage yet. We can say that White did the first step.

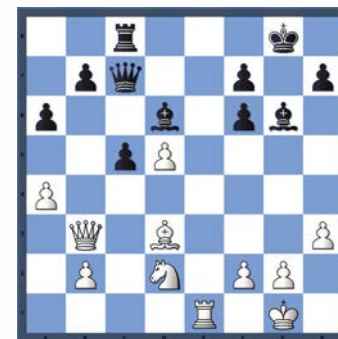
14.h3 ♙h5 [14...♙xf3? 15.♚xf3± and White will create pressure over the b1-h7 diagonal.]

15.♚e1 ♚fe8 16.♚b3 a6 17.a4 ♙g6



18.♙d3! The bishop on c4 was limited by the pawn on d5, so Capablanca is going to regroup his pieces.

18...♚d7 [18...♚ac8!? and if White plays according to the plan 19.♘d2 then 19...♚xe1+ 20.♚xe1



20...c4! 21.♘xc4 (21.♙xc4? 21...♙f4) 21...♙h2+ 22.♙h1 ♙xd3 23.♚xd3 ♚xc4 24.♚xc4 ♚xc4 25.♙h2 ♚xa4= with a draw.]

19. ♖d2



19... ♖e7?! is too slow. Black should have played [19... ♗e5! with the idea to activate the bishop and prevent Nc4 (because of Qxd5). 20. ♗xg6 hxg6 21. ♖e4 ♗d4 22. ♖ad1 ♖g7 preventing Rxd4. The position is unclear.]

20. ♗xg6! Improve the black structure seems to be illogical but Capablanca has a concrete reason.

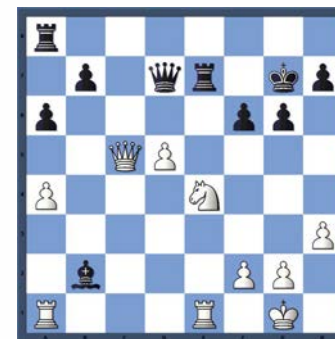
20...fxg6 This move weakens the black king and especially the e6 square. A more solid alternative was [20...hxg6 21. ♖e4 ♖g7 22. ♖f3 f5 23. ♖xc5! ♖xe1+ 24. ♖xe1 ♖c7 25. ♖c1+= with a pawn up, but thanks to the strong bishop on d6 White still has a long way ahead of him to win this game.]

21. ♖e4 ♖g7 22. ♖c3 [22. ♖xd6 22... ♖xd6 23. ♖xe7+ ♖xe7



24.d6! and thanks to the strong d-pawn White keeps a very unpleasant initiative, for example 24... ♖e4 25. ♖b6 (25. ♖d7 25... ♖d8 26. ♖b6 ♖d7 27. ♖xc5 ♖xa4 28. ♖d2+=) 25... ♖c6 26. ♖xc6 bxc6 27. ♖c1 ♖d8 28. ♖xc5 ♖xd6 29.g4+= with Ra5 next.]

22... ♗e5 23. ♖xc5 ♗xb2



24. ♖g5 [24. ♖ab1↑]

24... ♖ae8? is an inaccuracy. Black missed a good chance to defend the position after [24... ♖e5! 25. ♖xe5 (25. ♖e6+ The point was that this move doesn't work because of 25... ♖xe6!) 25... ♗xe5 26. ♖e6+ ♖f7 27. ♖b1 b5!→Black managed to limit the material and get rid of the weak pawn on b7.]

25. ♖e6+ White also keeps an advantage after [25. ♖xe7+ 25... ♖xe7 (25... ♖xe7 26. ♖e6+ ♖f7 27. ♖b1 ♖xc5 28. ♖xc5±) 26. ♖e6+ ♖g8 (26... ♖f7 27. ♖b1 ♗e5 28. ♖xb7+→) 27. ♖b1 ♗e5 28.a5±]

25... ♖f7 26. ♖ab1 ♗e5 27. ♖c4 ♖c8 28. ♖b3 ♗b8 Black could have tried to defend more actively. [28... ♖c3 and now if White plays 29. ♖xb7 ♖xb7 30. ♖d8+ ♖f8 31. ♖xb7 ♖d3 then Black get could counterplay.]

29.g3 ♖d6 [29...b5!? 30.axb5 axb5 31. ♖xb5 ♖xb5 32. ♖xb5 ♖d7 It was an interesting idea to give the pawn in order to

avoid practical problems with the weak king.]



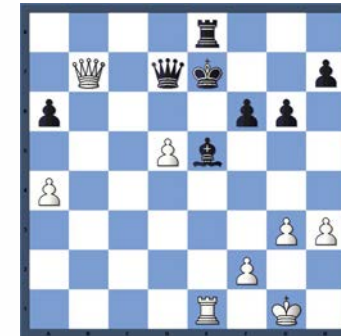
30. ♖f4! Capablanca demonstrates fantastic play. He understood that the knight on e6 was very well placed, but it didn't bring any direct threats, which is why he is regrouping again- to improve the position his rook needs come toe6!

30... ♖ce8 31. ♖e6 ♖d7 32. ♖xe7+ ♔xe7 33. ♖xb7 ♕xf4



34. ♖e1+!! This the point! It is clear that the Cuban champion saw this idea a few moves before. White is winning after this nice combination! [34.gxf4 34... ♖xb7 35. ♖xb7+ ♔d6 and Black has good drawing chances thanks to his active king.]

34... ♕e5



35. d6+! ♔e6 36. ♖b3+ ♔f5 37. ♖d3+ ♔g5 38. ♖e3+! The black king cannot escape to a safe place. [38.f4+? 38... ♔h6∞]

38... ♔f5 39. ♖e4+ ♔e6 [39... ♔g5 40. ♖h4+ ♔f5 41. ♖g4#]

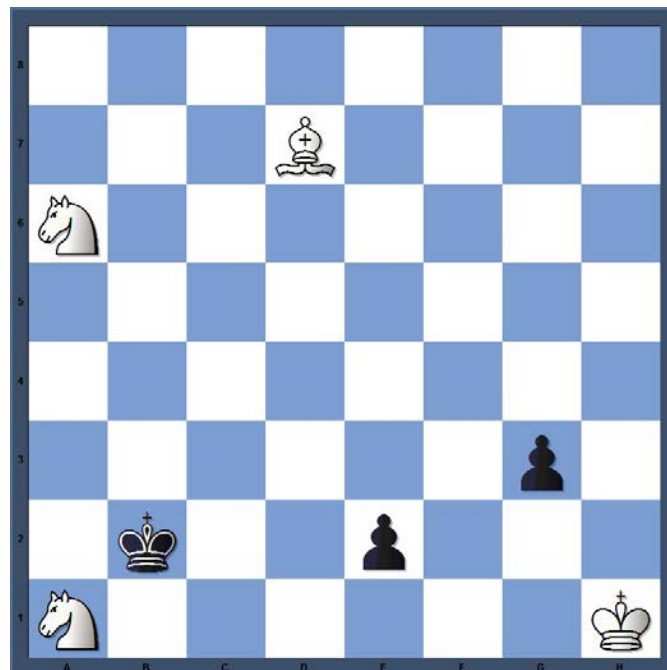
40. ♖c4+! The white queen needed five checks to force the black king to take on d6.

40... ♔xd6 41. ♖d1+ ♔e7 42. ♖xd7+ ♔xd7 43. ♖xa6 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Gorgiev

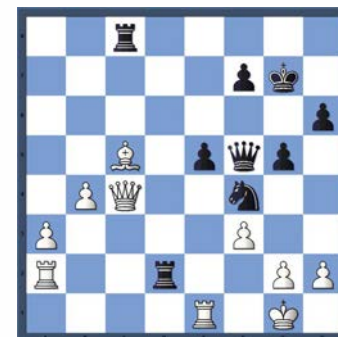
1. =



Solutions

(19) Caruana, F(2844)-Grischuk, A(2797)

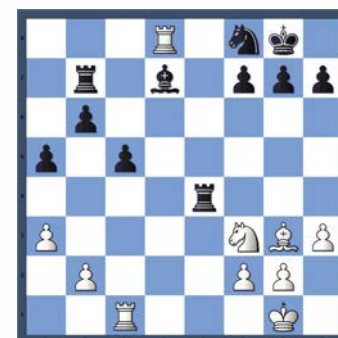
Baku GP, 2014.10.12



33... ♖xg2! 34. ♜xd2 ♜xe1—+

(20) Nakamura, H(2764)-Kasimdzhanov, R(2706)

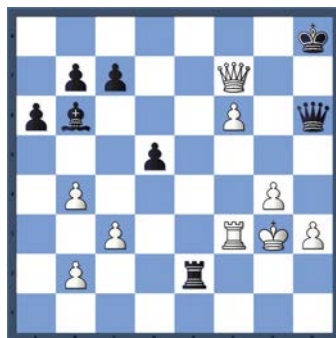
Baku GP, 2014.10.12



24. ♜e1! 1-0 [24. ♜e1 24... ♜xe1+ 25. ♜xe1 f6 26. ♜d6+—;
24. ♜d6? 24... ♜e8!]

(21) Shirov, A(2691)-Giri, A(2768)

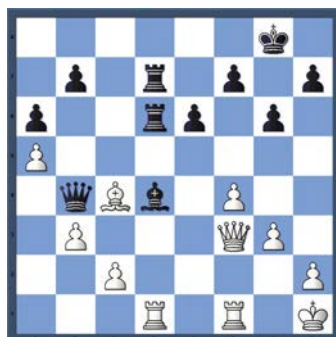
Baku GP, 2014.10.12



32...♗g1! 33.h4 ♗h2+! 34.♔h3 ♗d6 0-1

(22) Wan Yunguo(2489)-Le Quang Liem(2706)

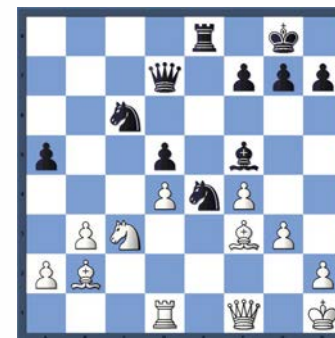
Las Vegas Open, 2014.10.09



32.♖xd4! ♖xd4 33.c3 ♔xa5 34.cxd4+-

(23) Shankland, S(2633)-Felgaer, R(2577)

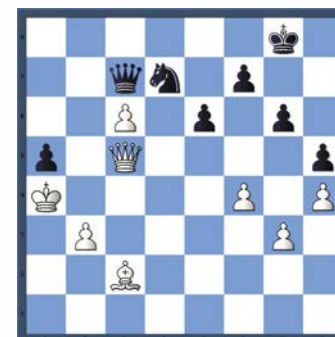
Las Vegas Open, 2014.10.10



29...♘b4?∞ [29...♘xc3! 30.♗xc3 ♖e3 31.♖c1 (31.♗d2 31...♖xf3 32.♗xf3 ♗e4+-) 31...♖xf3! 32.♗xf3 ♗e4+-]

(24) Azarov, S(2639)-Matamoros, C(2517)

Las Vegas Open, 2014.10.11



58.cxd7! ♗xc5 59.d8=♔+ ♔g7 60.♗d2+- 1-0

(25) So, W(2755)-Gareev, T(2612)

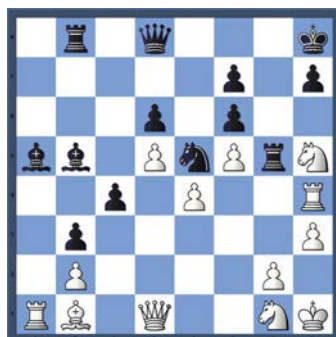
Las Vegas Open, 2014.10.12



25.gxf4! ♟xh3 26.♞xg6! fxg6 27.♟xh3+—

(26) Short, N(2646)-Howell, D(2657)

Isle of Man Open, 2014.10.12

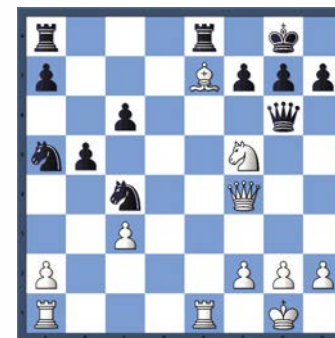


27.♞xa5! ♞xa5 28.♟xf6 ♟g7 [28...h6 29.♞xh6+ ♟g7
30.♞c1!! ♟xh6 31.h4+—]

29.♟xh7 ♞h8 30.♞c1!! f6 31.♟xf6! ♟xf6 [31...♞xh4
32.♞xg5+—] 32.♞xh8+—

(27) Gaehwiler, G(2360)-Bok, B(2591)

World Juniors, 2014.10.07

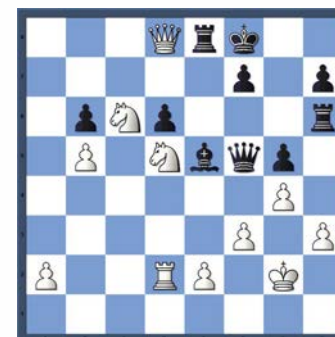


23.♟d8!! f6 [23...♞axd8 24.♞xe8+ ♞xe8 25.♟e7+! ♞xe7
(25...♟h8 26.♟xg6+—) 26.♞b8+ ♞e8 27.♞xe8#]

24.♟xa5 ♟xa5 25.♟e7+ ♞xe7 26.♞xe7+—

(28) Vidit, S(2635)-Tari, A(2450)

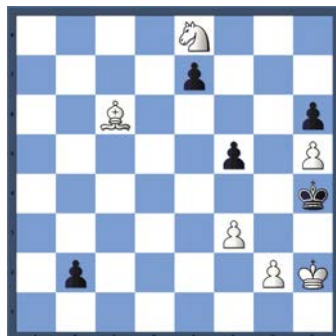
World Juniors, 2014.10.11



40...♞b1! 41.♞xg5 ♞xh3! 42.♟xe5 [42.♟xh3 42...♞h1#]

42...♞h1+ 43.♟f2 ♞h2+ 44.♟g3 ♞g2+ 45.♟f4 ♞h2+ 0-1

(29) Platov



1. **Nf6!!** **exf6** [1...b1=♔ 2.g3+ ♔g5 3.♗h7+! ♔xh5 4.♕e8#]
 2. **g3+** ♔g5 [2...♔xh5 3.♕e8+ ♔g5 4.f4+ ♔g4 5.♕b5!]
 3. **f4+!** ♔xh5 4.♕e8+! ♔g4 5.♕b5! b1=♔ [5...♔f3 6.♕d3+-]
 6. **♕e2#**



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 140

31st of October 2014

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◇ Solutions	30

Editorial Preface

All the attention of the week is clearly on the 2nd FIDE Grand Prix in Tashkent.

After 9 rounds we have quite a surprising situation:

With 6/9, the sole leader and is not Caruana, Karjakin or Gelfand, it is Dimitri Andreikin, who looks like he never wants to win a single game, but with his very solid style he collects the "free points" that opponents give to him. The 2nd-3rd places are shared by Nakamura and Mamedyarov and these two are playing both very fighting and entertaining chess.

Caruana seems to be too tired, as he has been missing good winning chances in a couple of games already and is on 50%. It is clearly a very disappointing tournament for Boris Gelfand, who shared 1st place with Caruana in the previous Grand Prix. The happiness was also very short for Vachier-Lagrave, who started so well with 2/2 but somehow couldn't win any more games and even lost one.

As expected, Jobava shows very exciting chess! He got lucky in a few games, but he has an unstoppable desire of creating some mess on the board. He outplayed a lot of his opponents very nicely, but the loss to Andreikin with the white pieces in the 9th round is clearly a hard blow in a tournament that was going so well.

In the last 2 rounds we are going to see a lot of tension, as both Nakamura and Mamedyarov need to fight for the tournament win to be able to get into the top 2 places and qualify for the Candidates 2015.

There are a few other big events currently under way:

The World Senior Championship is held in Greece and one of the biggest German Opens in Bad Wiesse, but without the participation of any 2700 rated players.

At the European Youth Championship we saw a domination of the Russian kids.

That's all for the current week and we can already be very excited about the upcoming World Championship match between the World Champion Magnus Carlsen and the challenger Vishy Anand, which starts on the 7th of November in Sochi, Russia.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Karjakin, Sergey(2767) - Jobava, Baadur(2717) [B10]

Tashkent FIDE GP 2014(5.1),
2014.10.26



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

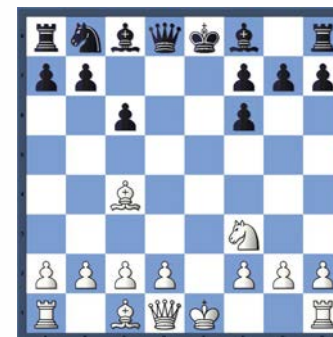
Jobava wins a very nice attacking game with the black pieces.

1.e4 c6 2.♘f3 Karjakin usually plays the very sharp Advance variation against the Caro-Kann (2.d4 d5 3.e5), but this time he chooses a rather calm setup to avoid Jobava's creativity in the middlegame.

2...d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 [3...♘g4 is the most common reaction.]

4.♘xe4 ♘f6 5.♘xf6+ exf6 White should have a very small, but longterm advantage due to the better pawn structure.

6.♘c4



6...♔e7+!? This clever check confuses the development of the white pieces. At such an early stage of the game, White should avoid trading queens, but then he should retreat with his bishop to a more passive position.

7. ♘e2 ♚c7! Black does not waste time with his queen moves, because it belongs to c7 anyway. White cannot make use of the delaying of the development, because Bd6 followed by 0-0 is coming in time.

8.d4 ♘d6 9.0-0 0-0 10.h3 A useful move to avoid the bishop's development to g4.

10...♞d8 I like this move a lot! Black does not decide yet, where to develop his c8 bishop, he improves his other pieces first with Nd7-f8 and develops the bishop only afterwards, according to White's setup. It is not easy to assess the ideal arrangement of the white pieces. White should first decide whether he wants to build up his position with c4 or c3. Both are playable and both have their pluses and minuses. Karjakin chooses the more aggressive one with c4... [In case of 10...♘f5 White could head for a superior endgame with 11.♘d3! ♘xd3 12.♚xd3 followed by Bd2 and Rfe1. In all the endgames, Black will feel the drawback of his doubled pawns, as White will be able to create a passed pawn on the queenside, while Black cannot do the same on the kingside.]

11.♘e3 ♘d7 12.c4 ♘f8 13.♘d3 White activates his bishop. We can see the effect of the 6...♙e7 check here. The bishop was misplaced on e2, it had to be removed also from the e-file as White is going to occupy it with his rooks.

13...♘g6 14.♚c2 ♘e6 15.♞fe1?! was played too quickly and Karjakin probably missed Black's reaction! [15.♘f5! should have been played, although Black is only very slightly worse after 15...♚d7 16.♘xe6 fxe6 getting rid of the doubled pawns. Black is slightly worse because of the f7-f6 weakening of the e6 pawn, although it should not be adequate after Black regroups his pieces with Re8, Rad8 and Bb8, with a flexible position.]



15...♚d7! An excellent move! Such tactical players like Jobava easily find such ideas. Black is willing to sacrifice on h3! It is actually very dangerous and from White's point of view it is not easy to prevent it at all.

16.♘d2 Karjakin is not afraid, he continues improving his position. [16.♘f1 was much safer, but very passive. Black could activate his pieces with 16...♘f5 immediately occupying the diagonal. 17.♚c3 a5 followed by Re8 and sometimes even Be4 and f5-f4 ideas could be dangerous.]

16...♘h3! Of course! Black is consequent. This sacrifice cannot be calculated, only intuition helps, but Black can easily foresee that a draw by perpetual check will always be in his hand and he can decide to give it or to play for more.

17.gxh3 ♚xh3 18.♘xg6 The only move, otherwise the knight joining the attack will prove decisive. [18.♞e3 is refuted by 18...♘h4! 19.♘h4 ♘h2+ 20.♙h1 ♘g3+ 21.♙g1 ♚h2+ 22.♙f1 ♚xf2#]

18...hxg6 19.♞e3



19...g5! Great play! Black wants to send away the knight with g4 to be able to give a check on h2. Objectively the game is drawn, but in a practical game White has a much harder task, because he must always choose between 2-3 seemingly equivalent moves, but some of them could be worse than the others.

20.c5 [20.♘e5 was a tricky alternative, Black should react precisely with 20...♙e6! (20...♙h5 looks more natural. The knight is under attack and then a check on h2 is possible. But suddenly White has the extremely strong

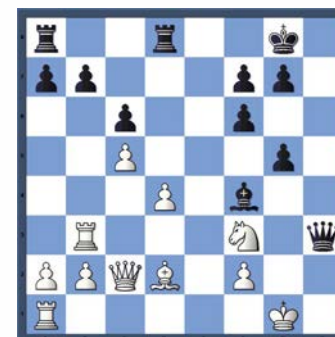


21.♙g2!! fxe5 22.♖h1 ♙g6 23.♗eh3! This is the point and Black can only avoid getting mated by losing big material... 23...♙f8 24.♗h8+ ♙e7 25.♙xg6 fxc6 26.♙xg5+-) 21.♙g2? is not strong anymore, as Black can neutralize the h-file with 21...fxe5 22.♗h1 f5 freeing the f7 square for the king.; From a

practical point of view, the best move seems to be 20.♗ae1 20...g4 21.♙f5! and the game ends in a draw after (21.♘e5 21...♙h5) 21...g6 22.♙xf6 gxf3 23.♙xf3 ♕h2+ The endgame after 23...Qxf3 Rxf3 is also just a draw. 24.♙h1 ♕g3+ 25.♙g1 ♕h2+= Karjakin had seen this line, but he was still hoping for something more...]

20...♕f4! [20...g4? did not work in view of 21.♘e5 and cxd6 next.]

21.♗b3



21...♕c7! Another great decision by Black! Jobava keeps his strong attacking bishop on the board and he creates the decisive threat of Rxd4! Nxd4 Bh2 Kh1 Bg3 and Qh2-f2 mate. [21...g4? did not work because of the nice defensive resource 22.♙f5! and suddenly White wins!; Black could have forced a draw with 21...♙g4+ 22.♙f1 ♙h3+ 23.♙g1 (23.♙e2? loses to 23...♗e8+ 24.♕e3 ♕xe3 25.♗xe3 ♗xe3+ 26.fxe3 ♙g2+ and the knight falls.) ; 21...♗xd4 also did not work immediately, because of 22.♕xf4 ♗xf4 23.♘h2! The only move, but it's good enough!]

22.♙c4 Karjakin parries the Rxd4 threat and intends to defend with Qf1. [22.♗e1? allows 22...♗xd4! 23.♘xd4 ♕h2+ 24.♙h1 ♕g3+ 25.♙g1 ♙h2+ 26.♙f1 ♙xf2#; 22.♗xb7? also loses to 22...♗xd4!]

22...♔h5 Black removes his queen from the pin and refreshes the g4 threat! [It was more forcing to start with 22...♔g4+ 23.♔f1 with a transposition to the game.]

23.♔g2 Karjakin sets a devilish trap again, but Jobava does not fall into it. [23.♖xb7 is simply met by the cold-blooded 23...♖ac8 f3 is hanging and g4 is coming next.]

23...♔g4+! [23...g4? was seemingly decisive, but suddenly after



24.♘h4!! White is the one who wins the game as Rh1 is coming next and White preserves his extra piece. 24...♔xh4 25.♖h1 traps the queen.]

24.♔f1



24...♖e8! Logical and strong! Black cuts the king from his

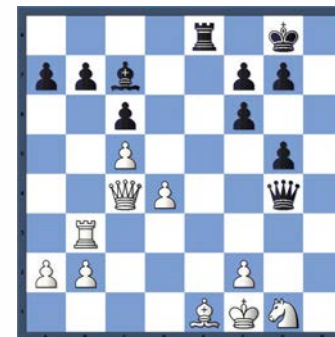
evacuating route along the e-file. Black is threatening Re4 and Qh3-Rg4 mate.

25.♖e1 ♔h3+! Jobava uses his queen extremely effectively in this game. He sends the king back to g1 to avoid the recapture with the king on e1 followed by running to the queenside.

26.♔g1 ♖xe1+ 27.♘xe1 ♔g4+! And he removes the queen from the pin again, before bringing the other rook to the attack. [27...♖e8 is met by 28.♘e5!]

28.♔f1 ♖e8! It is getting more and more unpleasant after each move.

29.♘g1 Trying to open the 3rd rank to bring the rook into the defense. [29.♘d2 does not help either. Black wins after 29...♔h5!—+ as there is no adequate defense for White.]



29...♘h2! Both players were already down on time, but Jobava continues with his perfect attacking moves.

30.♘e2? A blunder, but the position was bad anyway. [30.♘h3 was the only move, but Black gets a huge advantage after 30...♔e4! threatening on e1 and h1. The only move is 31.♖e3 ♔h1+ 32.♔e2 ♖xe3+ 33.fxe3 g4 and White must sacrifice one of his minor pieces to stop the g-pawn. 34.♘f2 (34.♘f4 34...g3—+) 34...♔f3+ 35.♔d2 g3—+]

30...♖xe2! Finishing the game in style!

31.♖xb7 [31.♙xe2 31...♙g1#]

31...♖e6 0-1

(2) Gelfand, Boris(2748)
- Vachier Lagrave, Maxime(2757)
[D83]

Tashkent FIDE GP 2014(6.1),
 2014.10.27

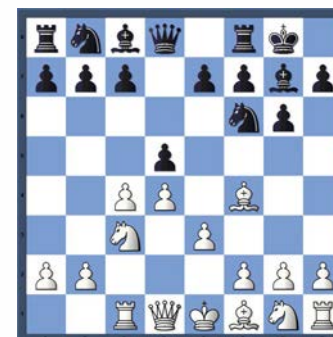


GM Csaba Balogh
 Best rating: 2672

A very exciting game, but not without mistakes.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 Vachier plays his favorite Gruenfeld defense and Gelfand chooses a slightly forgotten setup.

4.♙f4 ♙g7 5.e3 O-O 6.♖c1 White develops his queenside first and wants to get prepared for the standard c5 break.



6...c5 Vachier follows the old main line and sacrifices a pawn for activity, in typical Gruenfeld style. [White's setup used to be popular some time ago, but it went out of fashion because of the reply 6...♙e6 7.♙b3 c5! 8.♙xb7 ♙b6! with some very sharp and long lines, which lead to a draw in the end. Perhaps Gelfand wanted to check his opponent's memory or he prepared some improvement at home...]

7.dxc5 ♖a5 This is the main move, when White plays 6.Nf3 instead of 6.Rc1. The difference is that White can simply capture one more pawn now, because he can safely defend his c3 knight against threats like Ne4. [7...♙e6 is more common and probably also better.]

8.cxd5 ♜d8 After sacrificing two pawns, Black must find the most active moves to generate some compensation against the undeveloped kingside. [8...♞e4 9.♞e2 is the key resource of playing 6.Rc1 instead of Nf3. White is considered to be fine here.]

9.♙c4 e6 This is the novelty. Hardly a prepared one, because Black does not equalize. [9...♜xc5 10.♙b3 is also better for White.]

10.♞e2 ♞xd5 [Black could restore the material balance with 10...exd5 11.♙d3 ♜xc5 but he ends up with a positional disadvantage after 12.O-O ♞c6 13.♞b5 White has a very nice development of his pieces and an easy play against the isolated pawn on d5.]



11.♙d6! A very nice and unusual motif! White protects his extra c5 pawn and closes the d-file.

11...♞xc3 12.♞xc3 b5! Black may only try to compensate with such kind of active moves. Any Gruenfeld players must look for such opportunities. [12...b6 runs into the

unpleasant 13.♜f3!; A highly important point to confirm White's advantage is in the variation 12...♞a6 13.O-O ♞xc5



The pin on the d-file seems to be good for Black, but actually he is losing a piece after 14.b4!! ♜xb4 15.♙xc5+—]

13.♙d3! Unpinning the d-file again. [On 13.♜f3 Black has the strong reply 13...♙d7! 14.♜xa8 ♙c6 trapping the queen and the difference to the 12...b6 line is that after 15.♜xb8 ♜xb8 16.♙xb8 bxc4 the bishop was hanging and Black is fine.]

13...b4 14.♞e4 The human move. Gelfand strengthens his position by centralizing his knight. [The machine suggests 14.♞b5!? threatening to jump with both minor pieces to c7. It is not obvious what Vachier had in mind here.]

14...b3+! [14...♙xb2 turns out to be a bad alternative after White's great reply 15.O-O! Finally the king has found safety and White keeps a huge positional advantage. The fortress of the c5 pawn and d6 bishop completely paralyzes Black. 15...♙xc1 16.♜xc1 Black is going to end up in serious trouble on the dark squares. 16...♜xa2 is an attempt to prevent Qb2, but it fails to 17.c6!+— and c7 next wins the game.]

15.♜d2 ♜xd2+ 16.♞xd2 bxa2

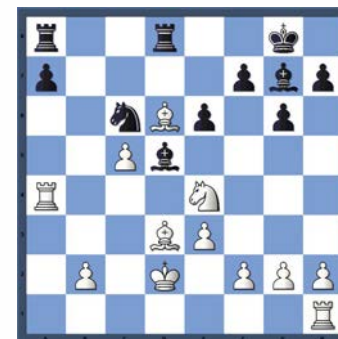


17.♖a1 After a couple of natural moves, Black still needs to solve some problems. His problem is the same as before, he could maintain the balance materially, but then he ends up in a positionally bad situation. Vachier rightly decides to keep the activity and tries to win back the material later at better circumstances.

17...♗b7 The idea is correct, but this is probably not the best execution. [17...♘c6 seems to be stronger. The idea is 18.♖xa2 f5 19.♘c3 ♘b4 20.♖a4 ♘xd3 21.♙xd3 ♗e5 winning back the material like this. Black is finally close to equality.; 17...♗xb2 18.♖xa2 ♗g7 leads to a too passive position after 19.♖b1 ♘c6 20.♙e2! is a strong prophylactic move to avoid any kind of danger on the d-file and Black faces serious difficulties in finishing the development. The bishop on d6 is just too strong. 20...♗d7 is strongly met by 21.♗a6!]

18.♖xa2 ♗d5 19.♖a4 ♘c6? This is the first clear mistake. It allows White to consolidate his position and create a very dangerous passed pawn with b4-b5. [19...♗xb2 leads to the usual problems with the passivity. 20.♖b1 ♗g7 21.f3 protecting the g2 pawn just in case and White is threatening Nc3. Black is in positional trouble. 21...♘c6 22.♘c3±; 19...a5! was the right move to prevent b4 and only next Nc6 and Nb4 if it is possible. Black has compensation, but it is unclear whether it is sufficient or not. However, this was definitely the

way to play. 20.f3 with the idea of Nc3, preventing Black from developing his knight to c6, but he could play 20...♘d7]



20.b4! This is the first moment when White could be sure that he had won the opening battle. Probably this led to Gelfand relaxing and he starts to make mistakes...

20...♗e5 Vachier still pins his compensation to active pieceplay.

21.b5 The first inaccuracy. Gelfand wanted to improve his position by keeping all the advantages he had before, but this allows some counterplay... [White should have gotten rid of some active pieces with 21.♗xe5! Of course, it is a very difficult decision to give up that nice bishop on d6. 21...♗xe5 (21...♗xe4 is met by 22.♗d6 ♗xg2 23.♖g1 ♗b7 24.b5 with a positional win.) 22.♙e2 Leaving the d-file. White still keeps the extra pawn and the only way to win it back leads to a clearly worse position after 22...f5 23.♘g5! Keeping an eye on e6 and the knight is heading to f3. 23...♗xg2 24.♖c1 ♗d5 25.♗c4!± with serious problems.]

21...f5 22.♘c3 Another human move, sending away the strong bishop, but it is a mistake. [The machine shows that the only way to keep the advantage is 22.♘g5! 22...♗xg2 (22...h6 is met by 23.♗xe5 ♗xe5 24.♘f3 keeping the extra pawn.) 23.♖e1! Such moves are impossible to find for a

human. White seemingly just moves into Nf3, but the concrete lines still show a clear edge for him... 23...♙d5 (On 23...h6 24.♘xe6 ♘f3+ 25.♔e2 ♘xe1 26.♙c4!+- White first takes back one of the rooks and then the knight on e1.) 24.e4! This is the point of putting the rook to e4! 24...♘xd3 (24...fxe4 25.♙xe4±) 25.♔xd3 fxe4+ 26.♘xe4 The bishop on d6 controls the important f8 and b8 squares of the black rooks. The strong c5-b5 passers guarantee an edge.]

22...♙xg2 23.♖ha1 is the most natural move to attack the a7 weakness, but it is another mistake. Gelfand underestimates the pin on the long diagonal and Vachier makes use of it with some powerful moves. [23.♖d1 should have been played.]

23...♘xd3 24.♔xd3

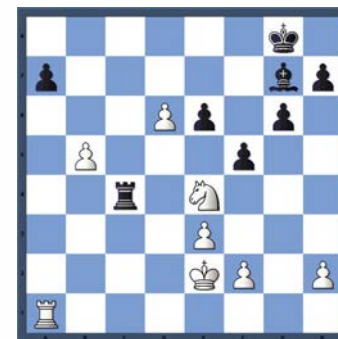


24...♖ac8! Suddenly things are becoming very unpleasant. Everything is hanging because of the pins. Rxc5 is a threat, Bxc3 Kxc3 Rxd6 is another one and the direct Rxd6 is also hanging in the air. What a turn of events! This could have led to a quick collapse, but Gelfand manages to stay cool and saves the game...

25.♖c4! The only move to cover as many things as possible.

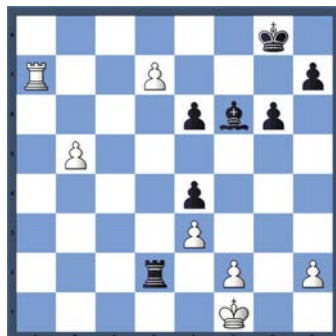
25...♙e4+! Vachier feels the moment, he must try to win material, otherwise the a1 rook leaves the pin.

26.♔e2 ♖xd6 27.cxd6 ♖xc4 28.♘xe4 [28.d7! was the accurate move order! Only after 28...♙f6 29.♘xe4! fxe4 30.♖xa7 transposes to the game.]



28...fxe4 [28...♖c2+!! would have given Black a big advantage. But of course, it is again a move which normally never comes to human mind... 29.♔f1 Black can choose between two very pleasant continuations here: (29.♔d1 is met by 29...♖c8! and Black wins the piece at much better circumstances than in the game.) 29...♖c8 (29...♙xa1 30.d7 ♖d2! 31.♘xd2 ♙f6 followed by winning the pawn with Kf7-e7. Black will end up with an extra pawn, but it is unclear whether a 4 against 3 on the kingside is sufficient for the win or not.) 30.♘c3!? A nice move, but it does not solve all the problems... (In the line 30.♖xa7 30...fxe4 Black has a better version compared to the game. Black manages to stop the passed pawns just in time. 31.b6 ♙e5! 32.b7 ♖b8 33.♖a8 (On 33.d7 33...♔f8 34.♖a8 ♔e7! Just in time!) 33...♙xd6+-) 30...♙xc3 31.♖c1 ♔f7 32.d7 ♖d8 33.♖xc3 ♖xd7 again with an extra pawn, but in rook endgames, the defensive side can always hope for survival. If White manages to trade the queenside pawns, the 4 against 3 should already be a draw.]

29.d7 ♙f6 30.♖xa7 ♖c2+ 31.♔f1 ♖d2 [31...♖b2 leads to a similar draw as in the game after 32.♖a8+ ♔g7 33.d8=♔ ♙xd8 34.♖xd8 ♖xb5 35.♖d4=]



32.b6 Black is forced to give up his bishop to stop the passed pawns and the arising rook endgame turns out to be a draw.

32...♔f8 33.♖a8+ ♔e7 34.b7 ♕e5 35.b8=♔ ♕xb8 36.♖xb8 ♖xd7 37.♖b4 ♔f6 A great fighting game! 1/2-1/2

(3) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2764) - Karjakin, Sergey(2767) [E20]

Tashkent FIDE GP(8),
2014.10.29



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

A very interesting game with a lot of tactical ideas and interesting play from both sides is awaiting us. In the opening I guess it is easy to see that Black was very well prepared and equalized pretty quickly. Then instead of making a fast draw, Karjakin strangely played for a win in a position where he definitely couldn't be better, but luckily for him, the position was still about equal.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♕b4 4.f3 Lately the Nimzo with 4.f3 is Mamedyarov's favourite. For a long time the 4.f3 move was very rarely played on the top level, but in the last 5 years it is getting more and more fashionable. Even in the WCC match Anand-Carlsen, White got very big advantage after the opening by playing 4. f3.

4...d5 Another popular move is 4...0-0 and White needs to play 5.a3 anyway, because in case of 5.e4 d5! Black seems to have good play, as in Mamedyarov-Aronian.

5.a3 ♕d6 is quite a rare move, but not a stupid one at all. Because of the f3 move, White's pawn structure is not that solid anymore and Black wants to launch quick play in the center. Of course Black's main reply is 5...Bxc3.

6.e4 Of course White tries to be fast in dominating the center.

6...dxe4 7.fxe4



7...e5! is of course a known move, but still a nice one to remember. Of course Black should stop White from playing e5 at any costs.

8.d5 O-O 9.♘f3 ♕g4 Actually this position looks quite strange to me. Black's play is clear, it is all about dominating the dark squares, but is it really an equal position? White's central pawns are so strong and Black sort of lost a tempo by playing Bb4-Bd6-e6 and then e5.

10.h3 ♕h5 Black giving up the bishop pair would be the same as to agree being worse.

11.♕d3 White is preparing to castle kingside.

11...♕c5! Another very important move. If White managed to castle kingside, then to play Be3 and maybe Ne2-Ng3 I can't imagine Black's position being OK. Karjakin loses another tempo just to stop White from castling kingside, but maybe now White can switch the plan to castling queenside?!

12.g4 It is time to get active!

12...♕g6 13.♕c2 A strange looking move, but in fact a pretty logical one. White stops Black from playing Bd2 next and is preparing to play b4 next. [If White tried to castle queenside with 13.♖e2 13...♕d4 14.♕d2 ♘bd7 followed by Nc5 would

give Black excellent play.]

13...♖e8 Black is preparing to go for f8 in case of b4 and protecting the e5 pawn at the same time.

14.♕g5 h6 15.♕h4 So far the game was very logical and both players were playing quite quickly. We can see that the position is very complicated here and every move is very important.

15...c6 Black is starting his play against the white center, which is very typical.



16.b4 A very tempting move, but in hindsight we could say that it is maybe not the best try. [16.♖d2!? with the idea of castling queenside looks very interesting to me.]

16...♕e7 A very strong move! The black bishop is taking a better place than on f8, because Black wants to keep the idea of playing Nxex4 and Nxd4 in mind. Otherwise it would of course be a hard move to make. The e5 pawn is hanging and now the answer to the question as to why Black played Re8 is that he just wanted to provoke the b4 move. All this is not very logical, but the computer is very happy with Black's play, so we can be quite sure that Karjakin was still in his preparation.

17.O-O [17.♘xe5? of course didn't work because of 17...♘xe4! and Black is doing very well.]

17...a5 Wow! Black doesn't care about the e5 pawn and tries to destroy White from all sides. After his first very unhuman move, we could now be sure that Karjakin is still in his preparation. Now White has a lot to calculate... [It would be a bad idea for Black to get greedy with 17...♖xd5? 18.exd5 ♗xc2 19.♔xc2 ♗xh4 20.♖ad1 and all white pieces are actively participating in the game, which gives White clearly more than just compensation for the lost pawn.]

18.♗xe5 is a very tempting move and probably also the best. [If White tried to play directly in the center with 18.♗xf6 18...♗xf6 19.c5 Black would get excellent play with 19...♗a6! and although position is very unclear, I think only White can be in danger here.]

18...axb4 19.♗xg6 Once again White probably didn't have anything better. [In case of 19.axb4 19...♖xa1 20.♔xa1 Black has



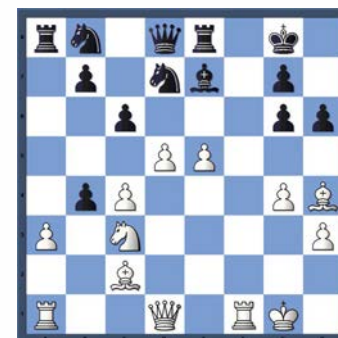
20...♗xd5! with a good position for him.]

19...fxg6 What a position! So many different moves are possible here!

20.e5 [Once again 20.axb4 doesn't bring White anything more than a more or less equal position. 20...♖xa1 21.♔xa1 ♗xd5 22.♗xe7 ♗xe7 and slowly Black will play Nd7 and get the knight to e5. White is maybe minimally better here, but the

game should most likely end in a draw.]

20...♗fd7 Black has to go back.



21.♗xe7 is clearly the most critical reply. At first sight White's position looks very promising, but in fact Black's play seems to be enough to hold the position on equal territory. [21.♗xg6? 21...♗xh4 22.♗xe8 ♔xe8 and Black is much better.; A nice position for practical chess could arise after 21.♗g3 21...bxc3 22.e6 White is a full piece down, but the very strong pawns and a possible future attack on the black king make things extremely complicated here. This is a nice position for deep analysis, which we are not going to enter. We are just going to judge this position as very unclear!]

21...♔xe7 22.♗xg6 White didn't have anything better as Black just wanted to play Qxe5.

22...bxc3?! A very strange move. Karjakin starts to play for a win in a position where it is very unlikely that he can be better. [22...♔xe5 would lead to an immediate draw after 23.♗xe8 ♔g3+ 24.♔h1 ♔xh3+ 25.♔g1 ♔g3+]]

23.♗xe8 ♔xe8 White has a rook and a pawn against the black knights, which of course gives Black a slight material advantage, but the white central pawns remain very dangerous and I think only White can be better here.

24.e6 ♘f6



25.♔d3! White is preparing to play Rae1 to support the central pawns in their movement. An easy move when we see it, but a hard move to play, as White also had a lot of other different ideas in the position.

25...cxd5 26.cxd5 ♘a6 Karjakin's idea is of course to bring the rook from a8 back into the game.

27.♖ae1 ♘c7 Karjakin finds the only way! [27...♖d8 28.d6 and White would be winning on the spot.]

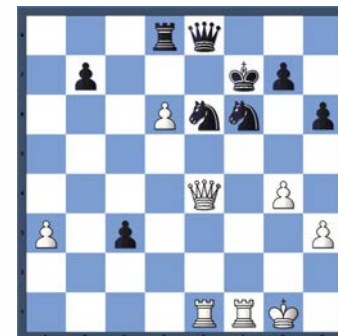
28.d6 White needs to give up one of the pawns, but puts Black in a dangerous pin.

28...♘xe6 29.♔c4 is a good try. [Black is OK after 29.♔xc3 29...♖d8]

29...♙f7 The only move to hold things together, but it is easy to see that Black's position is very dangerous.

30.♔e4! An excellent move! White is attacking the b7 pawn and at the same time he wants to play Rxf6.

30...♖d8! Once again Karjakin plays the best move!



31.♖xf6+ White didn't have anything better. [31.♔xb7+ 31...♔d7 and the black pieces are joining the game.]

31...gxf6 32.♔h7+ ♙f8 33.♔h8+ ♙f7 34.♔h7+ ♙f8 It seems like White doesn't have anything, but Mamedyarov finds another resource.

35.♖f1!? This move leads to a draw anyway, but it puts Black in front of some more trouble first.

35...♘f4! is the only move that saves the game! There was no other defense to stop White from playing Rxf6.

36.♔xh6+ ♙f7 The black king is better placed on f7 than on g8 because of the extra protection of the f6 pawn.

37.♔h7+ ♙f8 38.♔h6+ ♙f7 39.♔xf4 White is a pawn up, but the strong c3 pawn and the open position of the white king gives Black enough play to keep the position equal.

39...♔e6 is the most logical move. Black wants to play Rxd6 next.



40. ♖f3 attacking c3 and b7.

40... ♜e5! is another very good move by Black. The queen always threatens to get to g3 from e5 and at the same time it protects the f6 and c3 pawns.

41. ♜xb7+ and in fact this position is a total draw. After 41.. . Kg6 White doesn't have anything better than to play 42.Qb1 Kg7 43.Qb7 with a draw. A very interesting and exciting game, but what is a bit strange is that the game was played perfectly by both players, with zero mistakes! What a high level game!
1/2-1/2

**(4) Gelfand, Boris(2748)
- Jobava, Baadur(2717) [A40]**

Tashkent FIDE GP(8),
2014.10.29



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

When you play Jobava, you never know which opening will show up on the board and you must be ready for a hard fight. Of course Jobava is much more dangerous with White than with Black, but he can sacrifice something or start to play very aggressively in any position. Such an approach is very risky, but sometimes it brings great winning games and here we come to the current one. After the opening I think White's position should be clearly better, but Gelfand tries to destroy Black with 8.Qg4 and gets himself in big danger where Jobava finishes him off without any mercy.

1.d4 e6 Sometimes Black starts with this move order against the 1.d4 players, knowing they are probably not going to enter the French defense after 2.e4.

2.c4 b6 Personally I could never understand this opening choice. White is immediately winning the control over the center and is just a bit better.

3.e4 ♘b7 4.♙d3 A very good move order for White, which shows again how well Gelfand is prepared in the opening phase of the game.

4...♗b4+ Black needs to exchange the bishop to get a bit more space for the pieces.

5. ♖d2 ♗xd2+ 6. ♘xd2 d6 Black's idea is to play e5 or c5, but in both cases White will most probably react with d5, after which position of the black bishop on b7 will be very unlucky.



7. f4! looks like a very strong move to me! In chess space advantage is very important, so why not take it if you can!

7... ♘d7 Black continues preparing the c5 or e5 pushes, which needs to be done already during the next moves.

8. ♖g4? I can't explain this move of Gelfand. There was absolutely no need for White to enter very unclear complications. [White is just better after an easy move like 8. ♘gf3 8... ♗e7 9. O-O O-O and now White has a lot of different options, but maybe a solid move like 10. ♖c2 should clearly give White some advantage. Rael is coming next.]



8... ♘gf6! Of course! Black only had this move and you don't need to ask Jobava twice if he wants to enter complications...

9. ♖xg7 Maybe it was still better for White to just play 9. Qh3 but of course if you say A it is difficult to stop yourself from saying B...

9... ♖g8 10. ♖h6 ♖xg2 Now the position has changed a lot. White is still dominating in the center, but the disadvantage of the central pawns is that they could quickly start hanging when the black pieces are going to target them. The position is already very unclear now.

11. ♘gf3 ♖e7 Black is preparing to castle queenside and White also needs to pay attention to moves like d5 and e5, which could destroy the pawn center.

12. ♖h3 A good move. The rook has to be chased away from the 2nd rank.

12... ♖g7 is also very logical, leaving the g8 square for the a8 rook after O-O-O.

13. O-O-O ♘g4! A very strong move! [After 13...O-O-O 14. ♖hg1 ♖dg8 Black looks fine, but White has this fantastic move: 15. ♖g5! and the rook on g5 can never be taken because of fxg5, so White is better here.]

14. ♖g3?! Once again White chooses the wrong path... [A stronger reply was 14. ♖g2! 14... ♘df6 Black also had other options, but this seems to be the most logical one to me. 15. h3 White probably needs to enter this forced line, as in case Black was in time with Nh5, White's position could collapse. 15... ♘e5 16. ♖xg7 ♘xd3+ 17. ♖c2 ♘f2 Black is winning back the exchange and it is very hard to say who is better here.]



14...♘df6! 15.♘g5?! White doesn't choose the best option again. After this move Black is getting all he wished for. White had to take extreme measures already: [15.♞dg1! looks like the right practical choice to me. 15...♘h5 The f4 pawn is falling. 16.♞e1 ♘xf4 17.♙c2! with the idea of playing h3 next and trying to use the fact that Black still did not castle. I think White's chances of creating a huge mess are very good here.]

15...h6 sending the white knight to a terrible position on h3.

16.♘h3 O-O-O So Black got all he wanted: all pieces are in the game, Rdg8 is coming soon to gain control over the g-file, White's central pawns became targets for the black pieces and the knight on h3 is in a terrible position. Black is already much better here and what is even worse is that it is very hard for White to find any decent idea of what to do next.

17.♞de1 White is trying to hold things together in the center, but he lets Black improve his position even more. [17.♞f3 would have been a better choice in hindsight...]

17...♘h5! Black is playing a perfect game! Jobava brings his queen to a very unpleasant position on h4.

18.♞f3 ♞h4 Whites position is very close to collapsing and still it is very hard to say what can be his next move?!

Black wants to play f5, d5, or maybe just Rdg8. At some moment tactical ideas with Nxh2 could also be possible, or even e5.

19.♞e2 defending from the direct Nxh2 threat.



19...♙b8 A good prophylactical move. [But why not just play 19...f5! with the idea to play Nh6 next. I think Black is already much better.]

20.♙c2 This move is not really helping White, but it is very hard to give a better advice. Maybe a move like 20.Qf1 was already White's best option, but it is hard to play such moves during a game as they just look too ugly.

20...f5! 21.♞f1 freeing the f3 square for the knight.

21...♘hf6 and one more piece is attacking the e4 point.

22.♘f3 ♞h5 23.exf5 exf5 White's position is getting worse and worse. The strong white center is gone and all the minuses of his position are still there, especially the knight on h3 and the rook on h1, which are totally out of the game.

24.d5 at least closing the bishop on b7.



24...Re8! Another very strong positional move. All Black needs to do to win the game now is to win control over the e-file and Jobava is doing just that. [Black had another very unhuman way of going on with 24...a6 and the funny thing is that White can't do anything about Black's threat of playing Nxd5 next. 25.b3 exd5 26.d4 de3 27.c6+ Kc8 and Black is winning.]

25.Rxe8+ Kxe8 White can't stop Black from playing Re7 next.

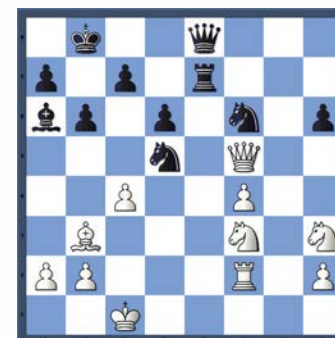
26.Kd3 Re7 27.Rf1 [After 27.Kxf5 27...Re2 Black has about 1000 different tactical threats and White's position is also just lost.]

27...e3 28.Rf2 [28.Re1 was also losing to 28...xc4! A nice tactical blow! 29.Rxe7 Kxe7 30.Kxc4 Ke3+ 31.d2 Kxh3 leaving Black with a pawn up and an easily winning position.]

28...a6 The c4 and d5 pawns are now the targets.

29.b3 exd5 and Black is finally starting to take White's material...

30.Kxf5



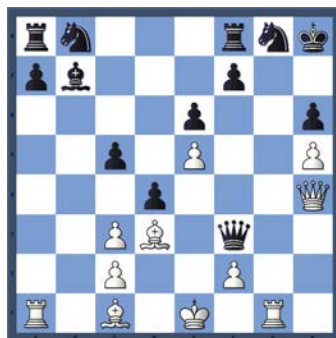
30...xc4 after 31.Bxc4 Re1 32.Nxe1 Qxe1 33.Kc2 Ne3 Black is winning the white queen. A really great game by Jobava, who combined tactical motives with very strong positional play against the white center and a great example on how dangerous it can be sometimes when pieces are playing against central pawns! **0-1**

Puzzle section

(5) Robson, R(2628)-Recuero Guerra, D(2424)

SPICE Cup Open, 2014.10.22

1. +-



(6) Le Quang Liem(2706)-Troff, K(2532)

SPICE Cup Open, 2014.10.24

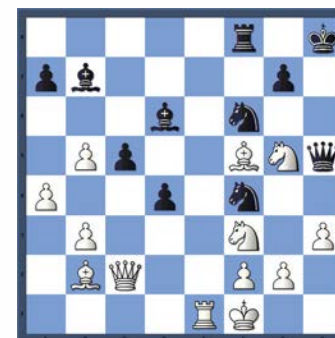
1... -+



(7) Vera, R(2449)-Leon Hoyos, M(2512)

SPICE Cup Open, 2014.10.25

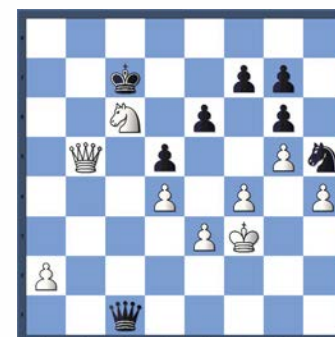
1... -+



(8) Matlakov, M(2692)-Iljiusheno, I(2433)

Chigorin memorial, 2014.10.21

1. +-



(9) Rodshtein, M(2678)-Munguntuul, B(2433)

Chigorin memorial, 2014.10.21

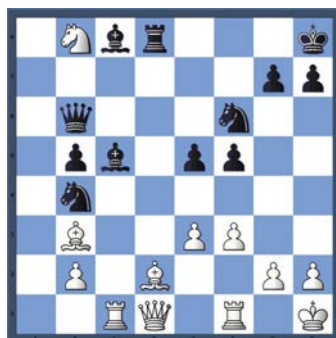
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(10) Ivanisevic, I(2623)-Prizant, J(2511)

Chigorin memorial, 2014.10.22

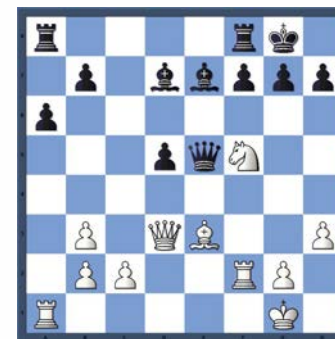
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(11) Timofeev, A(2598)-Bublei, P(2339)

Chigorin memorial, 2014.10.24

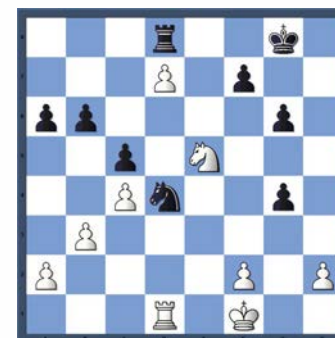
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(12) Shankland, S(2633)-Hernandez Guerrero, G(2531)

American Continental, 2014.10.24

1. +-



(13) Hracek, Z(2646)-Antoniewski, R(2552)

Slovakian league, 2014.10.25

1. +-



(14) Kamsky, G(2706)-Bhat , V(2511)

US league, 2014.10.21

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Nakamura, Hikaru(2764)
- Caruana, Fabiano(2844)

Tashkent GP,
2014.10.27



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



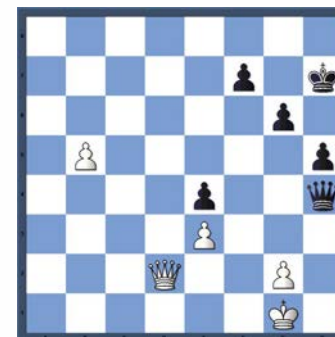
Black is a pawn up and he is threatening mate in two after Qf2, but Nakamura finds a very nice motif after which he turns to be the one who is playing for the win.

52. ♖a8+ [Actually, White could also play 52. ♖f1 covering the f2 square and threatening the f7 pawn with Qe8. Black has nothing better than forcing a draw by perpetual check: 52... ♖xg2+ 53. ♗xg2 ♕g4+ 54. ♗f2 ♕f3+ 55. ♗e1 ♕xe3+ 56. ♗d1 ♕d3+ and the king must protect the rook... 57. ♗e1 ♕e3+=]

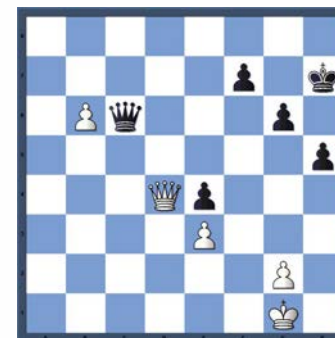
52... ♗h7 53. ♖h8+! This is the point! Nakamura simplifies to a queen endgame.

53... ♗xh8 54. ♕c3+ ♗h7 55. ♕xd2 In queen endgames, there is the general rule that the quality of the pawns is more important than the quantity! Black is a pawn up, but it costs a lot of time for him to create a passed pawn, while White

already has a very dangerous one on b5. Suddenly Caruana must be very careful to not lose the game...



55... ♕g5 56. b6 h4! Caruana finds a very clever idea. He wants to sacrifice his h-pawn in order to expose the white king. The g2 pawn gives a safe shelter against the checks, but after removing it, Black can always hope for a perpetual. [Some careless moves like 56... ♕c5 57. ♕d4 ♕c6 might lead to quick defeat after

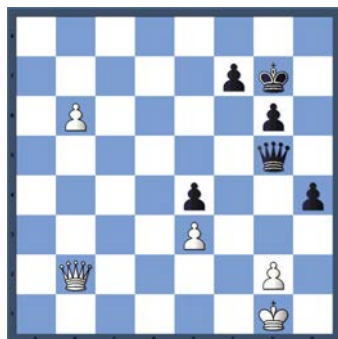


58. ♕b2! ♕b7 59. ♕b5! followed by Qc5-c7 and the b-pawn promotes.; 56... ♕b5 57. ♕d6 is also suspicious.]

57. ♕f2 The best try. White improves his queen by attacking the f7 pawn. [Black's point was that 57.b7? does not work immediately because of 57... ♕b5! and White cannot protect his main triumph.; 57. ♗h1 is met by 57...h3! 58.gxh3 ♕b5=

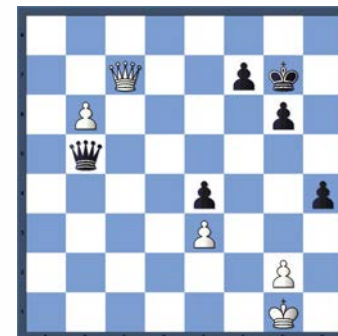
and White is forced to allow perpetual check on f1-f2 after protecting the b-pawn with either Qd6 or Qd4.]

57...♔g7 58.♚f4 [58.♚b2+ would have been a more tricky attempt.]



58...♔g8! It is quite difficult to find this move, since it is very illogical to move into the b8Q check. (The most natural 58...♔h7 is strongly met by 59.♚b3! protecting the e3 pawn and attacking f7 with check. This causes Black some real problems, because after Kg8 the b-pawn promotes with check, while Kg7 loses to b7 h2 and Qb2, protecting the g2 pawn with check and White queens next.) 59.b7 (Now on 59.♚b3 Black is in time to play 59...h3) 59...♚xe3+ and Black gives perpetual. 60.♔f1 If the king moves to the h-file, Black holds the draw with checks on g3 and e1. 60...♚d3+ 61.♔e1 ♚g3+ White cannot escape from the checks... 62.♔d1 ♚d3+ 63.♔c1 ♚f1+ 64.♔c2 ♚d3+=]

58...♚b5 59.♚c7 White is ready to advance his pawn. His queen safely covers the h2-b8 diagonal from the checks after the king moves to h2. But here comes the whole point of Caruana's defensive idea:



59...h3! 60.gxh3 [60.b7 also leads to a draw after 60...hxg2 Black is threatening with Qf1, therefore the next moves are forced: 61.♔xg2 ♚e2+ 62.♔g3 ♚f3+ with a draw.]

60...♚b1+ 61.♔g2 ♚b2+ 62.♔g3 ♚f6! Black cannot stop the b-pawn, but he can successfully play on perpetual check.

63.b7 ♚f3+ 64.♔h2 ♚f2+ 65.♔h1 An instructive endgame! **1/2-1/2**

(16) Jakovenko, Dmitry(2747)
- Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2764)

Tashkent FIDE GP(9),
2014.10.31



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



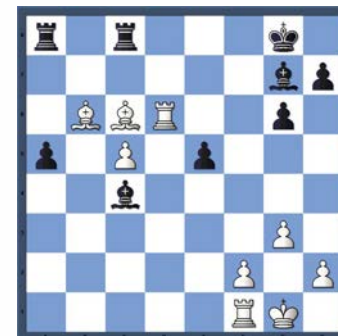
White had a huge opening advantage, but step by step Black recovered and with the last move 26.c5? White made a serious mistake, going for the upcoming endgame.

26...♔xa2! Of course Black needs to enter the endgame. White wanted to play Rd6 next.

27.♔xa2 ♕xa2 28.♖d6 White is trying to get the c6 pawn. How to judge such a position?! It is not that simple, because the position is pretty tactical, but from general point of view we can see a few things: Black's a-pawn is at least as strong as White's c-pawn. White's advantage is that the bishop on e4 is stopping the black bishop from g7 to get activated.

28...♕c4! A strong move. Black is attacking the f1 rook and at the same time he wants to protect the c6 pawn with Bb5.

29.♖b1?! After this logical move, White's position is already very dangerous, maybe almost lost! [29.♕xc6? was also a big mistake because of

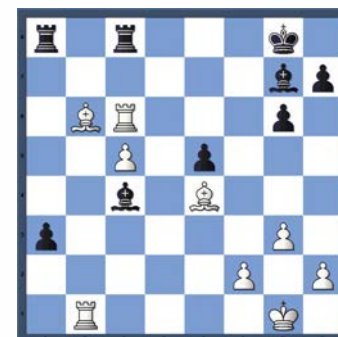


29...♖xc6! 30.♖xc6 ♕xf1 31.♔xf1 a4 and nothing can stop the a-pawn!; The following exchange sacrifice is also clearly bad for White: 29.♖xc6 29...♕xf1 30.♔xf1 a4 31.♖xc8+ ♖xc8 32.♕b7 This try to win the exchange back ends in nothing: 32...♖e8 33.c6 a3 34.c7 and now the important 34...♔h8! leaves Black with excellent winning chances.; I think White should have gone for 29.♖a1 29...♕b5 (29...a4 is not good because of 30.♖xc6) 30.♖xa5 ♖xa5 31.♕xa5 ♕f8 Black is winning the c5 pawn. 32.♖d7 ♕xc5 33.♕c3 and I think White's chances to make a draw are promising here.]

29...a4 How to stop Black's a-pawn now?!

30.♖xc6 [30.♕xc6? was immediately losing to 30...♖xc6! 31.♖xc6 a3]

30...a3



31.♖xc8+? This was clearly not the day of Jakovenko, who

is usually playing so solidly. White misses his only chance to continue the fight. [It was not very difficult for White to find that it was time for a passive defense: 31.♖d6 31...a2 32.♖a1 ♖a4 33.♖d2 and of course Black is better here, but White's chances to survive the game are not that bad.]

31...♖xc8 Black now wants to bring the bishop back into the game by playing Bd8 next. White's problem is that the bishop from e4 can't move because Black would immediately play e4 himself and the a-pawn would become a queen.

32.c6 a2 33.♖a1 ♖f8 The black bishop finally joins the game.

34.c7 Black wanted to play Bb4-Bc3.



34...♗d6! The last important move! The c7 pawn will be taken now, after which White can't do anything better than to give the rook for the a2 pawn, which would just leave Black with a clear piece up.

35.♗b7 ♗xc7 Mamedyarov is precise until the end.

36.♗xc8 ♗xb6 What a sad end for White, who was close to winning already after 20 moves of the game and then totally collapsed in the endgame. **0-1**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Alekhine, Alexander
- Saemisch, Fritz[A31]

Baden-Baden(11),
1925.04.29



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.c4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 b6 A rare move. Black has a few other ways to play, for example: [4...♘c6 5.♘c3 e6 leads to the main position where White has a few plans.; 4...e5 5.♘b5 d5 6.cxd5 ♘c5 gives Black an interesting initiative for the pawn.; 4...g6 5.♘c3 ♘g7 6.e4 transposes to a position from the Maroczy System.]

5.♘c3 ♘b7

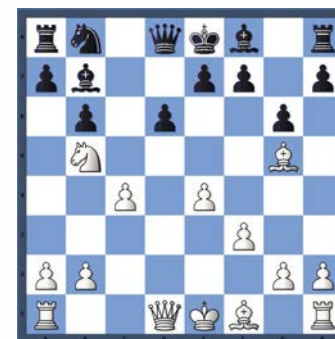


6.♙g5 The main move is [6.f3 White is preparing e4 to take the center and limit the black bishop on d7. 6...d6 7.e4 e6 The position transposed to a very complex hedgehog structure.

8.♙e2 ♙e7 9.♙e3 O-O 10.O-O a6 11.♙d2 ♘bd7 12.♙fd1 ♙c7 13.♙ac1 ♙ac8 14.♙f1 ♙b8 Both sides have some plans, White usually tries to prove his advantage after a4-b4-Nb3-a5 and Black should wait for the right moment to break in the center after d5 or play Bd8-Bc7 and Kh8-Rg8-g5 etc...]

6...♘e4 It looks logical for Black to exchange pieces.

7.♘xe4 ♙xe4 8.f3 ♙b7 9.e4 f6 looks ugly, let's check more natural moves, for example: [9...g6 10.♘b5 threatening Nd6. 10...d6 (10...♙c8 11.♙d4 forcing f6 or Rg8.)



11.c5!! A fantastic break! Thanks to this sacrifice White will activate the next pieces and get a decisive initiative. 11...bxc5 (11...dxc5 12.♙xd8+ ♙xd8 13.♘d6!+-) 12.e5! dxe5 (12...♙a5+ 13.♙d2 ♙b6 14.exd6 exd6 15.♙c3 ♙g8 16.♙d2 with the threat Ba5 or simply O-O-O.) 13.♙xd8+ ♙xd8 14.♙c4 f6 15.O-O-O ♘d7 16.♙e6! ♙c6 17.♙xd7+ ♙xd7 18.♙d1 fxg5 19.♙xd7+ ♙c8 20.♘c7 ♙b8 21.♘a6+-; 9...♘c6!?)]

10.♙e3 ♘c6 [10...e5 with the idea to take control of the dark squares after the bishops exchange. 11.♘b5 ♘a6 (11...♙b4+ 12.♙f2 d6 is not on time because of 13.c5!) 12.♘d6+ ♙xd6 13.♙xd6 ♙e7 14.♙d2 ♘c5 15.♙e2 O-O 16.O-O+=]

11.♘b5 ♙b8 [11...a6 12.♘c3 e6



13. ♖a4! Otherwise Black would equalize after Bc5. (13. ♖d2 13... ♗c5=) 13...b5 14.cxb5 axb5 15. ♗xb5 ♖a5+ 16. ♖c3 ♗b4 17.a4 ♗xc3+ 18.bxc3 ♖xc3+ 19. ♖f2+=]

12. ♖d2 g6 13. 0-0-0 d6

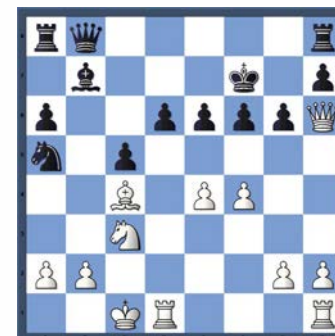


14. ♗h6! The black pieces are not perfectly placed, which is why Alekhine is going to create pressure against the black king. [14.h4 14...h5∞]

14...a6 [14... ♖e5!? with the idea Nf7, bringing the knight closer to the weak king.]

15. ♖c3 ♗xh6 16. ♖xh6 ♖a7 with the idea that after 17.Qg7 the king escapes thanks to 0-0-0! [16... ♖f7 with the idea Qf8, but White has the thematic 17.c5! We don't need to calculate this kind of sacrifice, it is just obligatory to keep the pressure and initiative! 17...bxc5 18. ♗c4+ e6 19.f4 with the idea f5.

19... ♖a5



20. ♗xe6+! ♖xe6 21. ♖g7 ♖f8 22.f5+ ♖e5 23. ♖c7+-]

17. ♖d5 ♖f7 [17...0-0-0 18. ♖e3+-]



18.c5! White activates the bishop and the black king is in trouble.

18...bxc5 Black missed a great chance for counterplay after [18...b5! 19.cxd6 ♖d4 threatening Qc5. 20. ♖e3 e5↔Black has practical play and the pawn on d6 doesn't have a big meaning.]

19. ♖xe7! Another great blow! [19. ♖c7 19... ♖e5 20. ♖xa8 ♗xa8↔]

19... ♖xe7 [19... ♖xe7 20. ♖g7+-]

20. ♖xd6?! It is clear that Alekhine didn't see Black's next move. More accurate was [20. ♕c4+ 20... d5 (20... ♖e8 21. ♖xd6+-) 21. exd5 ♘f5 22. d6+ ♖e8 23. ♖f4+- with g4 or Re1 next and White's attack is too strong.]



20... ♕d5! An amazing defensive idea! Black prevents the check on c4 and the bishop is untouchable because of Nf5!

21. ♖xa6? It is typical that after a missed move the next reaction is not the correct one. White could still keep the initiative after [21. ♖xd5 21... ♘xd5 22. ♕c4 ♖e8 23. ♕xd5 ♖c8 24. ♖d1]

21... ♖b7!



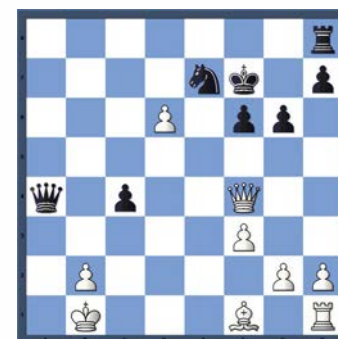
22. ♖xa8 ♖xa8? Black had a big chance to get final counterplay after [22... ♖xa8 Why not activate the next

pieces? After a few moves the white king will be very weak compared to the black one! 23. ♖xh7+ The pawn on h7 has no meaning. 23... ♖f8! 24. exd5 ♖xa2 25. ♖h6+ ♖g8 26. ♖d2 White managed to defend the b2 pawn but it is not enough. 26... ♖a1+ 27. ♖c2 ♖g7! An easy but nice move. Black prepares the knight activation after Nb4 and he is winning thanks to his strong attack.]

23. exd5 ♖xa2 24. ♖f4 White's idea is to consolidate the position, but more accurate was [24. ♕d3 just developing the pieces and keeping the possibility of playing Bb1 after the check on a1. 24... ♖b8 25. ♖xh7+ ♖f8 26. ♖h6+ ♖g8 27. ♖d2 ♘xd5! X Kb1]

24... c4!? Black could also try [24... ♖a1+ just pinning the white pieces on the first rank. 25. ♖c2 ♖d8! 26. d6 ♘d5 27. ♕c4 ♖xh1 28. ♕xd5+ ♖g7 29. ♖e3 ♖xg2+ 30. ♖c3 ♖b8+ and Black is on time.]

25. d6 ♖a1+ 26. ♖c2 ♖a4+ 27. ♖b1 [27. ♖c1 27... ♖a1+=]



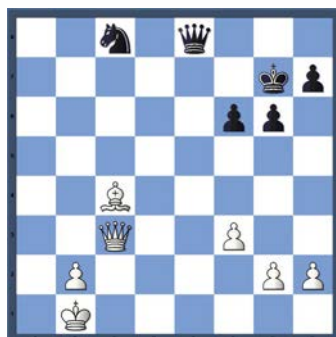
27... ♖d1+? A big mistake! Black could develop an initiative after [27... ♘d5!! 28. ♖xc4 (28. ♕xc4 28... ♖g7! with many ideas like Nc3, Nb4 or Ra8.) 28... ♖d1+ 29. ♖c1



29...c3+!! 30.bxc3 Bb8+-+]

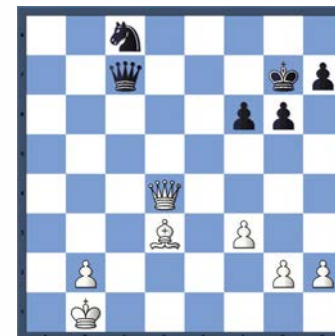
28. Qc1 Qxd6 29. Bxc4+ Kg7 30. Rd1± Now White remains a pawn up and most important is the fact that the white pieces are consolidated.

30... Qc6 31. Re1 Nc8 32. Qc3 Re8 33. Rxe8 Qxe8



34. Qd4! An easy but technical move. On a central square the queen controls a lot of squares. This sounds easy, but this kind of move shows technical skills!

34... Qe7 35. Bd3 Qc7



36.g4! Another strong move! Because the advantage of the b-pawn is not enough, White is going to create some weaknesses.

36... Qf7 [36... Qxh2? 37. Qd7+-+]

37. h4 Bb6 38. h5 gxh5 39. gxh5 Qc6 40. Be4 Qb5 41. h6 Qb3 42. Bc2 Qb5 43. Qd3! +- is the most practical move.

43... Qxd3 44. Bxd3 Nc8 45. Bxh7 Nd7 46. Qc1 [46. Bd3 46...f5 47. b4 Qg6 48. b5 Qxh6 49. b6 Qg5 50. Bb5+-]

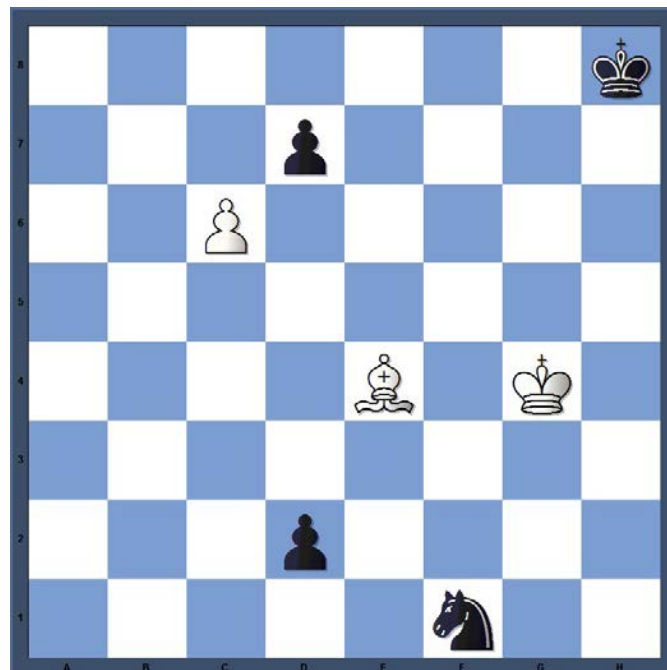
46...f5 47. b4 Nd5 48. b5 [48. Bxf5?! 48... Nxb4 with some hope to sacrifice the knight for the f-pawn.]

48... Qe6 49. Qd1 Qd6 50. f4 Nxf4 51. Bxf5 Nd5 52. Be4 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Selezhnev

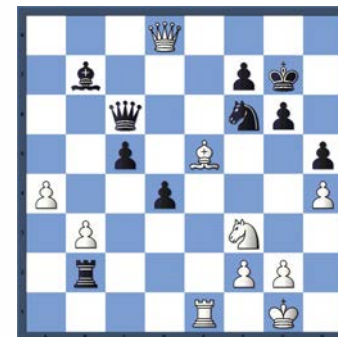
1. =



Solutions

(19) Bachmann, A(2645)-Parente, R(2071)

American Continental, 2014.10.18



28. ♖e4! g5 [28... ♙xe4 29. ♗xf6+ ♔h7 30. ♙h8#]

29. hxg5+—

(20) Anand, V(2785)-Skomorokhin, R(2364)

Corsica, 2014.10.19



21. ♖xh7! [21. ♗xg6? 21... fxg6]

21... ♗xf4+ 22. ♔d1 ♙a4 [22... ♗xd3 23. ♖h8#]

23. ♙d2+—

(21) Dimitrov, R(2445)-Hou Yifan(2673)

Corsica, 2014.10.19



25...♔a8! 0-1 [25...♔a8 26.♖xd3 ♘h4+ 27.♙g1 ♔g2#]

(22) Kravtsiv, M(2563)-Edouard, R(2659)

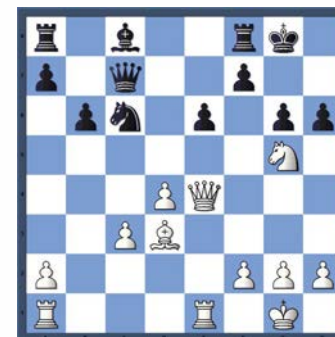
Corsica, 2014.10.19



17.♘d5!! h4 18.♔h3 exd5 19.exd5 ♘xd5 [19...♙xd5 20.♙xf6+-; 19...♙d7 20.f5! +- ♙d8 21.♖xe7! ♙xe7 22.♙xf6+ ♙xf6 23.fxg6+ ♙e7 24.♖xf7+ ♙d8 25.♙f5! ♙xf5 26.♔xf5+-]
20.♙xh8+-

(23) Hou Yifan(2673)-Dimitrov, R(2445)

Corsica, 2014.10.19



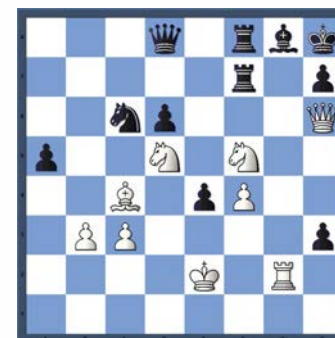
17.♘xf7! ♔xf7 [17...♖xf7 18.♔xg6+ ♙f8 (18...♖g7 19.♔e8#) 19.♔xh6+ ♙e7 20.d5+-; 17...♙xf7 18.♔xg6+ ♙e7 19.d5+-]

18.♔xc6 ♙d7 [18...♙b7 19.♔xe6+-]

19.♔e4 [19.♔b7 19...♔xf2+ 20.♙h1 ♔f7 21.♖f1 ♔g7 22.♖xf8+ ♖xf8 23.♔xa7+-] **19...♔xf2+ 20.♙h1±**

(24) Giri, A(2768)-Shirov, A(2691)

Unive match, 2014.10.18



31.♘h4!! ♔xh4 [31...hxg2 32.♘g6#]

32.♖xg8+! ♖xg8 33.♔xh4+-

(25) Dubov, D(2627)-Szlag, M(2456)

German league, 2014.10.18



33. ♖xf5! ♜xf5 34. ♖xg7+ ♔h8 35. ♖g5! ♜f7 36. ♖h5!+-

(26) Baramidze, D(2605)-Korpa, B(2426)

German league, 2014.10.18

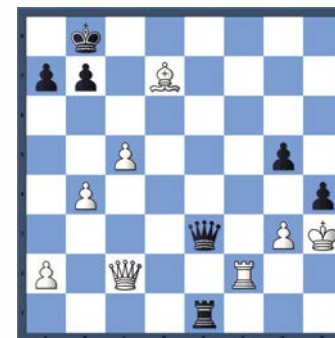


39. ♘xb5 ♜xf6 [39...cxb5 40. ♙xb5+ ♘d7 41. ♜xf7+ ♔xf7 42. ♙xd7+-]

40. ♘d6+ ♔d7 41. exf6+-

(27) Schenk, A(2491)-Motylev, A(2682)

German league, 2014.10.19



36. ♔g4? [36. ♜b3!! 36... ♜xf2 37. ♜g8+ ♔c7 38. ♜c8#]

36... ♜d4+ 37. ♔xg5

(28) Firman, N(2458)-Baramidze, D(2605)

German league, 2014.10.18



35. ♘h6!! ♙xh6 [35... ♜xa7 36. d6! ♔e8 37. ♜xg7+-]

36. ♘xe5!! 1-0 [36. ♘xe5 36... ♘xe5 37. ♜h8+ ♔e7 38. ♜xe5+ ♔d7 39. ♜xb8+-]

(29) Gorgiev



1. ♖c2! ♔xc2 2. ♘b4+ ♕d2 3. ♘d3! ♔xd3 4. ♙b5+ ♕e3
5. ♙xe2 ♕f2 6. ♙f1! ♕xf1



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 141

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Editorial Preface

The 2nd FIDE Grand Prix in Tashkent came to an end with a big surprise. Andreikin managed to get clear first place with 7/11. Andreikin is a player who is very hard to judge, sometimes making quick draws with White and often playing sidelines, but on the other hand he is very good at collecting points when it is needed and he doesn't let the opponent escape when he is better.

The 2nd place was shared by Nakamura and Mamedyarov. Nakamura escaped a lot of dangerous positions so I think he can be very happy with the final result, while Mamedyarov is probably less happy, as he was playing much more aggressive and attractive chess and maybe half a point more in the crosstable would have been a deserved result.

Jobava's final result of 6/11 is also worth mentioning, as he was playing crazy openings, crazy games and doing crazy interviews! This guy is a real entertainer!

It is very difficult to say what went wrong with Gelfand, but something went wrong very seriously. 3.5/11 is probably one of his worst results during the last few years.

Now let's come to the main current event, the "Petrosian Memorial", which is an 8-players round robin with 7 superstars and Inarkiev, who qualified for the tournament by winning a very strong open a couple of months ago.

Grischuk had the best start with 2/2 and played great chess. A big change in his style is easily visible, as he is not in deep time trouble so much anymore and crossed 2800 for the first time in the live ratings! It is going to be very exciting to follow whether he can keep us this great shape.

And of course from tomorrow on all eyes are on Sochi, where Carlsen is defending his title against Anand. Does Vishy have

a chance?! From our point of view- no. Why should he? The last match ended with a result of 3 losses and 0 wins and while Anand got older, Carlsen is just getting stronger and stronger, so why should the Indian player have a chance this time?! We feel that Anand's only chance might be to catch Carlsen in the opening, but the Norwegian's team is not sleeping either, so it is going to be a hard mission.

The games are starting tomorrow, so of course in the next issue we will be paying most of our attention to the WCC match!

We wish you a great weekend and a lot of fun with this week's issue!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

(1) Grischuk, Alexander(2795) - Inarkiev, Ernesto(2688) [A13]

Petrosian Memorial 2014(1),
2014.11.04



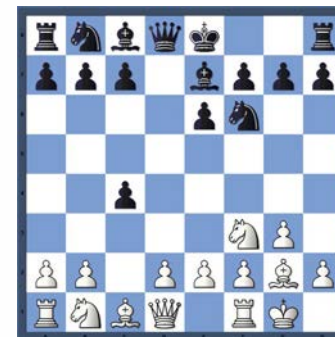
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Grischuk convincingly outplays his opponent positionally. It is very instructive to see the way he uses the bishop pair.

1. ♘f3 Grischuk wants to avoid the theoretical discussions against his lower rated opponent.

1... ♞f6 2. c4 e6 3. g3 d5 4. ♙g2 dxc4 5. O-O!? A rare move. White usually wins back the pawn right away with 5. Qa4.

5... ♙e7 This is already an inaccuracy, which allows White to recapture the c4 pawn at better circumstances. Black should have tried to hold the extra pawn - at least for a while - with 5... a6 or 5... Nbd7, with the idea b5 and Nb6.



6. ♞a3! After Black wasted a tempo on playing Be7, he will hardly decide to take on a3, giving up the two bishops. The doubled a-pawns are not necessarily bad in such situations,

as Black might miss his dark squared bishop after a4 and Ba3, or just Bb2 and White also has a lot of potential on the opened b-file.

6...c5 Consequently played after the previous move. Black occupies the center.

7. dxc4 c6 8. b3 O-O 9. Bb2 White has finished the development and he is ready to open the center with d4. It is very strange, because seemingly Black has done everything correctly, but he found himself in some trouble. He should have his bishop on b7 to equalize, but b6 drops an exchange after Nfe5! Otherwise, he is just not well prepared for the d4 push and he ends up in a cramped position.

9... Bb7 10. d4! Rf8 Inarkiev tries to put all his pieces to a healthy square, in general this is a good idea, but this time it does not help. Grischuk continues the game with very concrete and powerful moves.

11. dxc5! 11.Rc1 was also good, but Grischuk feels that the moment has already come to gain some direct benefits.

11... Bxc5 12. Nd6! Installing a terribly strong knight to d6. Giving up the dark squared bishop would be a positional disaster for Black. Inarkiev tries to temporarily ignore the knight and later kick it out with Qe7 and Rd8.

12... Rc7 13. Rc1! Bringing a piece to the game with tempo is always welcomed.

13... b6 The only move. [The natural 13... Bb6 already drops an exchange after 14. Nb5 Rc8 15. Ba3 Ne7 16. Bxc8+-]



14. Ng5! White must play concretely, otherwise he gets pushed back by Qe7. There are many positional and tactical threats in the air. The main one is to attack the h7 pawn with the queen, when Bxf6 is a decisive threat. Grischuk had to foresee this move before playing 11. dxc5, otherwise he would have chosen the calm 11.Rc1.

14... Qe7 [14... Nd5 attacking both knights, but it does not solve the problems since after 15. Nge4± Black is forced to give up his dark squared bishop.]

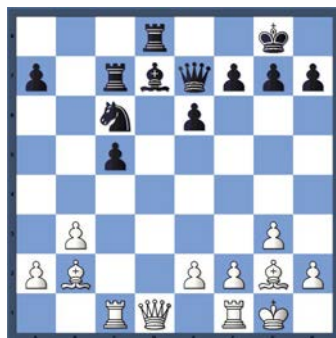
15. Nge4! Simple and strong. The queen has occupied the retreating square of the bishop to e7, therefore Black loses his important dark squared bishop.

15... Nxe4 16. Nxe4 Rd8 [There is a beautiful line if Black tries to save his bishop, as 16... Bb4 is strongly met by 17. Be5! Rcc8 18. Bd6! Bxd6 19. Nxd6 19.Qxd6 guarantees a big advantage and with superior pieces too. Both players were probably counting that recapture, but the machine recommends this even stronger one with a neat tactical point: 19... Rc7 20. Qd2! with the idea to play Rfd1 and on 20... Rd8



21. ♖xf7!! wins material! 21... ♔xf7 (21... ♕xf7 22. ♔f4+ checks the rook.) 22. ♖xc6+- Quite a unique motif!

17. ♖xc5 bxc5 It is hard to dream about more than this. White has gained the two bishops and there is a clear target on c5! But of course, converting the advantage requires good technique.



18. ♔e1! I was always a big fan of this kind of move! White improves his queen by driving it to c3.

18... ♖cc8 19. ♔c3 ♖d4 20. ♖fe1 The knight is going to be pushed back with e3, but first the check on e2 had to be covered.

20... f6 Black was forced to weaken his pawn structure even more to avoid getting mated on g7.

21. e3 ♖b5 22. ♔a5! We can see the strength of the Qe1

maneuver now. The queen has finally reached its ideal square on a5 after making a stop on c3 to force a weakening. Now it keeps an eye on both isolated pawns on the queenside.

22... ♕e8 23. ♖ed1!? Grischuk is not in a hurry. He believes that Black's position is going to fall apart by itself as he has no useful move. [White could have won material by playing 23. a4! 23... ♖d6 24. ♕a3!+- (But not 24. ♖xc5? 24... ♖b7)]

23... ♔c7 It is difficult to suggest something for Black. Inarkiev decides to trade the well-placed queen on a5, but it does not solve the problems...

24. ♖xc7 ♖xd1+ 25. ♖xd1 ♖xc7 26. ♖c1 White is ready to strengthen the pressure on c5 with Ba3, while the other strong bishop prevents the defensive possibility of Na6 because of Bb7.

26... ♖d8 Searching for counterplay along the d-file. [26... ♖d5 is met by 27. ♕a3!; 26... ♖b5 is refuted by 27. a4! ♖d6 28. ♕a3 grabbing the weakness next move.]

27. ♕c3 Grischuk sticks to his policy to avoid any counterplay and to squeeze his opponent slowly. [There was actually nothing wrong with 27. ♖xc5 and the point is that Black cannot simplify to an opposite colored bishop endgame with 27... ♖d1+ 28. ♕f1 ♖b5 because of 29. ♖c1! with a technical win.]

27... ♖d5 Black continues looking for active counterplay. [Perhaps it was more tenacious to defend passively with 27... ♖a6 28. ♕a5 ♖b8 otherwise White plays Bf1. Now Black could reply with Bb5, therefore White simply strengthens his position with 29. e4 followed by f3 and Kf2. White could transfer his bishop to d2-e3 and the other bishop will attack the knight with Bf1 at some point. Black cannot hold.]

28. ♕a5 ♖b6 [28... ♖c8 29. ♕f1 is similar to the game.]

29. ♖f1 [29. ♖h3 would have won the pawn on the spot. White can take on c5 next as he does not need to pin himself after the check on d1, but he can play Kg2.]

29... ♗g6



30.f3! White opens the back rank, intends to bring his king towards the center and wants to limit the movement of the black pieces with e4, closing the bishop and taking away the d5 square from the knight!

30... ♖c8 31. ♖a6 ♖c6 [31... ♖c7 is met by 32.e4±]

32. ♗b5 ♖c8



33.b4 Grischuk finally decides to gain material!

33...c4 [33...cxb4 leads to a lost endgame after 34. ♖xc8+ ♗xc8 35. ♖d7 ♗b6 36. ♖xe6+ ♖f7 37. ♖xf7+ ♗xf7

38. ♖xb4+— This should be an easy technical win for White. Not only does he have an extra pawn, but there are also pawns on both sides, when the bishop is considered to be stronger than the knight, as it can be more easily switched to the other side.]

34. ♖xb6 axb6 35. ♖xc4 White has converted his two bishops advantage into an extra pawn.

35... ♖d8 [35... ♖a8 is met by 36. ♖d7! (It is better to not give the chance to enter to a rook endgame after 36.a4 36... ♖d3 37. ♖c6 ♖xb5 38.axb5 ♖f7 39. ♖xb6 ♖a4 when Black might hope for survival.)]

36. ♖d4 White is ready to transfer to a bishop endgame, which would be easily won with the passed a-pawn.

36... ♖c8 37.a4 ♖c3 [The rook endgame is hopeless after 37... ♖e8 because White wins another pawn: 38. ♖xe8 ♖xe8 39. ♖d6!+—]

38. ♖d6 [38.a5 was also winning 38...bxa5 39.bxa5 ♖xe3 40.a6 ♖a3 41. ♖a4 and the pawn promotes.]

38... ♖xe3 All moves are winning now. Grischuk does not give any chances...

39. ♖f2 ♖b3 40. ♖xb6 ♖b2+ [40... ♖xb4 drops the rook after 41. ♖b8+ ♖f7 42. ♖e8+—]

41. ♖e3 The time trouble is over and so is the game. There is no way to stop the queenside passers.

41... ♖b3+ 42. ♖d4 e5+ [42... ♖xb4+ is met by 43. ♖c5 ♖b1 44.a5+— and the a-pawn automatically promotes with the support of the 3 white pieces.]

43. ♖c5 ♖xf3 44. ♖c4+ ♖f8 45. ♖d6 ♖e8 46. ♖b8 Black resigned as Bb5 is coming next! A nice positional crush in Karpov style. **1-0**

**(2) Kramnik, Vladimir(2760)
- Inarkiev, Ernesto(2688) [D37]**Petrosian Memorial 2014(2),
2014.11.05GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A tough start for Inarkiev. After getting positionally outplayed by Grischuk in the first round, he is facing Kramnik with the black pieces again. This time he falls to a tactical masterpiece.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♙e7 The Queen's Gambit declined is considered to be rock solid, but Kramnik manages to drive the game to wild waters.

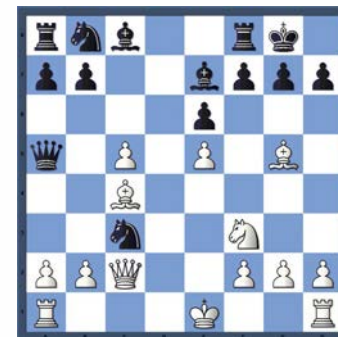
5.♙c2 A rare move. The two main lines are 5. Bg5 and 5.Bf4. [5.♙g5 5...h6 6.♙xf6 (6.♙h4 is the main move here.) 6...♙xf6 7.♙c2 dxc4! 8.e3 c5! is Black's correct reaction, which is why Kramnik starts with 5.Qc2.]

5...O-O As far as I know, 5...c5 is an interesting option for Black with the idea to have 6.dxc5 d4 and White is not in time to pin with Rd1.

6.♙g5 c5 [Now on 6...h6 7.♙xf6 ♙xf6 White plays 8.O-O-O followed by e4 next move. The Mamedyarov-Bacrot game finished with a nice crush by White and it was commented by Arkadij in a previous CEWN.]

7.dxc5 dxc4 8.e4! We are still following the theory, but it is already given as better for White. It is also confirmed by the time consumption of the players, as Kramnik has blitzed out his moves, while Inarkiev was already in deep thought.

8...♘fd7 [The most common move is 8...♙a5 9.e5 ♘d5 10.♙xc4 ♘xc3



11.O-O! This was played by Kasparov against Karpov in their WC match in 1987 and Kasparov gained an edge. Black cannot save his extra piece with 11...♘d5 because of 12.♙xd5 ♙xg5 13.♘xg5 and mate is threatening on h7!]

9.♙f4! A logical retreat. Kramnik does not ease his opponent's position by trading pieces. The bishop on f4 is going to be well placed, controlling the important squares on the h2-b8 diagonal. A standard reaction in many opening is to send it away by Nh5, but it does not work anymore.

9...b5 The novelty of the game, but not a prepared one, as Black ends up in a difficult position... [9...♘xc5 10.♙xc4 followed by normal development with O-O, Rfd1 and Rac1 is also better for White.]

10.cxb6 ♘xb6 The material is balanced, but the c4 pawn is isolated and weak. The white pieces are also better placed and developed, so everything confirms White's advantage. It is interesting to mention that in the other game commented by me this week, Inarkiev ended up with the same unfortunate pawn structure against Grischuk.

11.♙d1 ♙e8 12.♙e2 Kramnik finishes the development.

12...♖a6



13.♘e5! A very strong intermediate attack on c4 to confuse Black's ideal piece arrangement. [In case of some normal move like 13.O-O Black could have replied with 13...♖c5 14.♘e5 ♘a6 followed by Rc8 and he gets a much better version than the game with the knight on c5, which is ready to occupy the d3 square after sending away the knight from e5.]

13...♖b4 Black had no time to get the ideal Nc5-Ba6 arrangement.

14.♔c1 ♘a6 15.a3 ♘c6



16.b4! A great positional move, using the pin on the e2-a6 diagonal. It limits the movement of the black pieces and prevents Na5-b3. White is threatening sometimes with b5 or

if Black leaves the b4 square a4-a5 could be very strong. It also gets rid of the backward b2 pawn. The only drawback is that it makes a passed pawn from the c4, but it is excellently blockaded by the knight, so it cannot be counted as a real minus.

16...♙f6



17.♘f3! Just like 9.Bf4 in the opening, this is another excellent positional retreat to keep the pieces on the board. White intends to push back with e5 and b5 is already threatening to win a piece. [17.♘g4 is worse in view of 17...♙d4! and e5 next! It is important to control the d4 square. 18.b5 now is met by Bxc3 check and the b5 pawn falls.; 17.♘xc6 17...♔xc6 18.e5? and Bf3 next does not win an exchange, but loses to 18...♔xg2]

17...♙xc3+ Black pins his counterplay to the light squares on the queenside. He intends to play Bb5, Na4, a6 and c3 at some point.

18.♔xc3 ♔c8 The dark squared bishop is missing, therefore White was threatening with Bd6. Inarkiev frees the rook from f8 before starting his Bb5 plan...

19.O-O ♙b5 20.♙d6 ♔d8 21.e5 Of course, it is nice to install such a bishop to d6! It paralyzes Black and cuts him from the connection to the kingside. All black pieces are driven to

queenside and a potential attack against the g8 king could be decisive. Of course at the moment White is also far from the decisive breakthrough, but he can be there in just a few moves.

21...h6 Black was afraid of Ng5, which is quite understandable.



22.♘d4 Kramnik opens the way to queenside. He is ready to drop the queen there and after Nxd4 Rxd4 the rook is only one move away from g4 and another potential attacking idea could be f4-f5, launching another kind of very dangerous attack.

22...a6 23.♙f3 Forcing Black to invite the rook the 4th rank.

23...♞xd4 24.♖xd4 ♙c6



25.♙e2 It is very clever to keep the two bishops on the board.

The light squared bishop could be very useful and have many different functions. However, it is already debatable where that bishop should go. 25.Bh5 was an alternative, where the bishop might take part in the attack by keeping an eye on the f7 pawn. 25.Bd1 also had its point. It goes to c2 and something like Bb1 and Qc2 could create decisive threats. Ba4 drops the c4 pawn. Kramnik decides to retreat to e2, pinning the black pieces to the c4 pawn.

25...♙b5 26.♖g4 ♞h8 There was no other defense for Black against Qg3, as a move with the g-pawn would be a decisive weakening.

27.♞g3 [27.♖c1 would have been more circumspect, with the idea to drop the rook into the attack along the 3rd rank.]

27...♖g8 [Black could actually have gotten decent counterplay by playing 27...c3! 28.♖xg7 ♖g8! Forcing a couple of exchanges. (28...♙xe2 is also tempting, but it runs into 29.♖xf7 ♖g8 30.♞f4 ♖g6 31.♖f8+ ♞xf8 32.♙xf8 ♙xf1 33.♞xf1 and White is able to stop the c-pawn. 33...c2 34.♙xh6 ♖c8 35.♞h4! ♞g8 36.♙c1 is a strange computer line, but White seems to be winning after all.) 29.♖xg8+ ♞xg8 30.♞f3 ♞d5 followed by Qg6. White should be better with the extra pawn, but the safely protected pawn on c3 gives Black decent counterplay.]



28.♖h4! Changing the target. After the black rook has

blocked the king's path, Rxh6 gxh6 Qxh6 could be mate. Therefore White is threatening with Qe3, doubleattacking on b6 and h6!

28...♞d8 Keeping an eye on h4 prevents Qe3. [28...c3 loses to 29.♟xb5 axb5 30.♞e3! +- ♞d5 31.♞xh6+ gxh6 32.♞xh6#; 28...♞d5 29.♞g5 is also very strong.]

29.♞f4! ♞e8 Black seemingly prevents the Rxh6 threat by freeing the g8 square for the king... [29...g5 is strongly met by 30.♞c1! (But not 30.♞xh6+? because after 30...♟g7 White is forced to trade queens to save the rook, but of course it is not his idea... 31.♞f6+ ♞xf6 32.♞xf6 ♞d5 33.♞f3 c3 with compensation for the pawn.)]

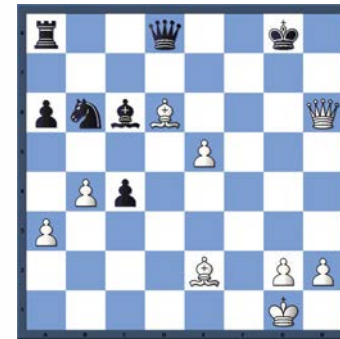


30.♞xh6+!! A brilliant tactical blow!

30...gxh6 31.♞xh6+ ♟g8 32.f4?! is very tempting, but the wrong follow-up after the rook sacrifice. White intends to lift the rook to the 3rd rank, but the same idea could have been executed in a more effective version. [32.♞d1! with the idea of Rd4 was winning. 32...c3 White has different wins, but a pretty one is 33.♞d3! ♟xd3 34.♟xd3 f5 35.exf6 ♞a7 36.♞g6+ ♟h8 37.f7+- and Be5 mates next move.]

32...♟c6 33.♟f3?! The most natural human move, trying to get the rook to the 3rd rank, but Black has a hidden defense... [33.f5! was the winning continuation, although the winning

line is almost impossible to find for a human. 33...exf5 34.♞xf5 ♞e6 35.♞g5+ ♞g6 36.♞xg6+ fxg6 37.♞xg6+ ♟h8 38.♞h6+ ♟g8



This is all forced and it seems like a draw. However White can play for more with 39.♟g4! ♟d5 40.e6! White creates the decisive threat of Be5 or Qg6 check first and then Be5, therefore Black is forced to take more material... 40...♞xd6 41.♞g6+ ♟h8 42.♞f6+ ♟g8 43.♞f7+ ♟h8 44.♟f5! and White wins! 44...♞a7 45.♞xa7 ♟b7 46.♞xb7 and there is no perpetual check with a single black queen. 46...♞d4+ 47.♟f1 ♞f4+ 48.♞f3+-]

33...♞c8? Missing the chance. [33...♞c8!! suggested by the computer seems to save Black from the biggest problems. 34.♟xc6 ♞xd6! (34...♞b6+ loses to 35.♟c5 ♞xc6 36.f5! The simple threat is f6 and Qg7! 36...♞e4 with the idea of f6 Qh7, but White wins after 37.♞g5+ ♟h8 38.♞h5+ ♟g8 39.fxe6+- and there are problems on f7!) 35.exd6 ♞b6+ 36.♞f2 ♞xc6 37.♞f3 ♞xf3 38.gxf3 ♞ad8 White ends up with two extra pawns, but this is a typical situation when the rooks are going to be superior to the queen. In my opinion, the draw is the most likely result now.]



34.f5! Kramnik does not give Inarkiev any more chance. He brings the f1 rook to the game with decisive effect.

34...exf5 35.♔g5+! An important intermediate check to start with! [The direct 35.♙xc6 allows 35...♖e6!]

35...♔h8 36.♙xc6 ♖e6 [36...♙xc6 White can choose between several win here. One of them is 37.♖xf5 ♖e6 38.♔h5+ ♔g8 39.♙xf7++-]

37.♖xf5 Threatening with Qh5 and taking on f7 with check.

37...♖a7 38.♔h4+ ♔g7 39.♖h5 ♙g8 40.♙e4 There is no defense against the mate! **1-0**

**(3) Jobava, Baadur(2717)
- Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2764)
[A70]**

Tashkent FIDE GP 2014(11.2),
2014.11.02



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

When two players like Mamedyarov and Jobava are meeting over the board, we can expect a real firework on the board and this is what we get! Mamedyarov would share the first place with a win and Jobava would get to share 2nd place with a win as well, so this was a high stakes game!

1.d4 Jobava used to play any opening possible, for example a lot of his games start with 1.b3.

1...♘f6 2.c4 and 2.Nc3 is one of Jobavas favorites as well, but it seems like he is taking this game very seriously and is going for the main lines.

2...c5 An interesting opening choice by Mamedyarov, who more often plays 2...e6 with a solid position or the Gruenfeld or Slav, but this time it seems like Shakhriyar can't wait to get a fighting position and chooses the Benoni.

3.d5 e6 4.♘c3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 We are in the very main line of the Benoni.

7.♘f3 ♙g7 Jobava goes for one of the most concrete lines and things are getting pretty forced. Generally the 8.h3 move is of course made to avoid Bg4, as in Benoni structures it is usually very good for Black to exchange the c8 bishop for almost any white piece.

8.h3 O-O 9.♙d3 Protecting the e4 pawn for the future.



9...b5 is one of the main lines. In case Black does not act dynamically, White wants to play 0-0 and on a6 he always has a4, so it is not that simple to find a clear future play for Black. 9...b5 is therefor counted as the most critical reply.

10. ♖xb5 ♜xe4 Mamedyarov seems to have been working a lot on the Benoni to be ready to play such a crazy line. [Another line is 10...♞e8 11.O-O a6 12.♜a3 ♜xe4 13.♞e1 ♜f6 14.♞xe8+ ♜xe8 15.♙g5 ♜f6 16.♜c4 and White is a bit better.]

11. ♙xe4 ♞e8 From now on, things are very forced.

12. ♜g5 White needs to protect the e4 bishop.

12...♞a5+ is the only way to go on. [12...h6? would be a big mistake because after 13.♜e6 fxe6 14.O-O White is just winning.]

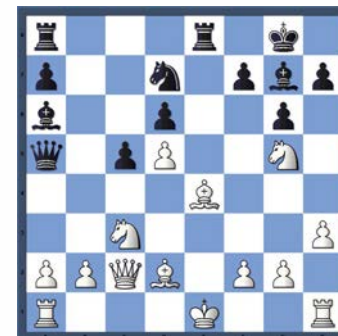
13. ♜c3 It seems like White is doing well, but here comes Black's main idea:

13...♙a6! Of course this is all a preparation, but anyhow it is an excellent idea! Black is a full piece down and not trying to recapture it quickly but instead playing for the initiative! You don't often see such play!

14. ♙d2 What can be more logical than protect from Bxc3 and at the same time develop a piece and get ready to get the white king away from e1 by castling queenside.

14...♜d7 Mamedyarov still doesn't care about winning the piece back and is getting fully developed first.

15. ♞c2 White is ready to castle queenside.



15...♞ab8! What a fantastic move! I don't know if Mamedyarov made it at the board or knew it, but we just see a super rare case where one side is a full piece up, the other side has no direct threats and the position is still very unclear! Black is actually waiting for White to castle queenside and by playing 15...Rab8 is focusing the pieces in the future direction of the white king. The bishop on g7 and rook on b8 put very dangerous pressure on b2.

16.O-O-O The white king is in safety, or at least it seems so...

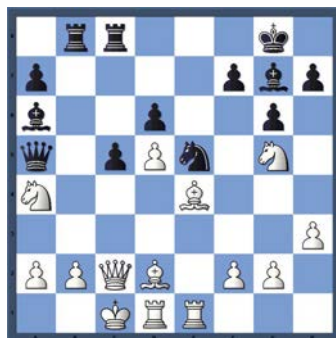
16...♜e5 Black continues what he started, the knight is going to c4 to create even more pressure on b2, which is actually very dangerous for White. After Jobava played the most logical moves, it is now time to think about how to defend against Black's threats and we should not forget that White is a full piece up!

17.♞he1! A very strong move, based on a precise calculation.

17...♞ec8 Black is not falling into the trap. [The first question is of course why not to play 17...♜c4? and the answer is that 18.♙d3!! is an amazingly strong reply. It seems like bad

luck, but nothing is working for Black, for example: 18...♖xe1 19.♗xe1 ♖xb2 White's position is looking dangerous, but in fact it is just winning! 20.♗e8+ ♕f8 21.♙a4!! leaving White with a winning position.]

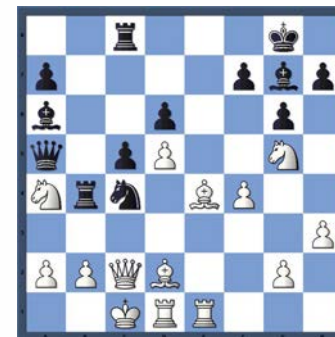
18.♘a4 Once again Jobava is making the most logical move, attacking the queen on a5 and defending the b2 pawn. Black's position seems to be getting critical, but Mamedyarov has another amazing move in mind!



18...♖b4!! Wow! Black is not only defending the queen, but at the same time attacking the a4 knight. A position can't be much more crazy than what we see now!

19.f4 is one of the best moves in the position, but White had another interesting option: [The silent 19.b3!? looks interesting as well. White's idea is to play Kb1 next and simply take on b4. 19...♙b5 is probably the main move here, with the idea of playing g4 next. (Maybe a bit too early would be 19...c4 20.♕xb4 ♙xb4 21.♙b1 and of course the position remains very tactical, but maybe Black doesn't have enough compensation for the rook.) 20.f4 White has many other moves as well 20...c4! with a total mess and it is impossible to say who is better here without an in-depth analysis.]

19...♘c4



20.♕f5! A very good move. White is chasing the rook from c8 to take on b4 next. [20.♕xb4 would be premature since after 20...cxb4 Black just has too many threats on the c-file.]

20...♖cb8 Black can't do anything else. [20...gxf5?? 21.♙xf5 and White is easily winning.]

21.♕xb4 ♙xb4 So White is a full rook up, but the position still remains unclear. The pawn on b2 is hanging and the bishop on f5 as well.

22.a3?! This is the first moment where White goes wrong, as Jobava missed a very strange but very strong reply by Black. [22.♙b3! was probably the best move as now Black can't avoid the exchange of the queens any longer. 22...gxf5 23.♗e7 (Black seems to be OK after 23.♙xb4 23...cxb4 24.b3 ♕b5)]



22...♘a3! Of course there is no way back in such a position!

23.bxa3 ♖xa3+ 24.♔d2 White's position seems to be solid and although the white king is open on d2, it is hard to see anything direct, but here comes the move that Jobava had clearly underestimated by playing 22.a3:



24...♜g3!! What a move! Black is a rook and a piece down and now he makes an unforeseen move after which he is probably better! The main threat is to play Qxf4 next.

25.♖b1! The only defense! White is trying to escape by starting giving some material back. [After 25.♘d3 25...♜xf4+ 26.♞e3 ♘d4 Black is just close to winning.; 25.♔c1 was just losing on the spot as after 25...♜xf4+ 26.♞d2 gxf5 27.♘f3 ♜b4 Black is mating the white king.]

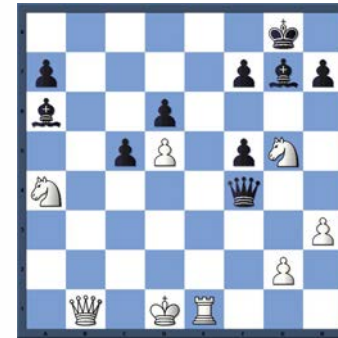
25...♜xf4+ Black starts to collect some material back.

26.♔d1 ♜xb1+ winning the a4 knight.

27.♜xb1 Black is giving two checks first.

27...♜d4+ 28.♔c1 ♜f4+ 29.♔d1 gxf5 Mamedyarov is fighting for the 1st place in the Grand Prix! [At first sight 29...♜xa4+ looks very strong, but now we are entering a long forced line: 30.♜c2 ♜d4+ 31.♜d2 ♜a1+ 32.♜c1 Black has nothing better than to enter the endgame by playing 32...♜xc1+ 33.♔xc1 and after the nice move 33...♘h6!]

the position remains very forced. 34.♞e8+ ♔g7 35.h4 gxf5 Black has 3 pawns for the exchange, but White has good chances to escape after 36.♞e7 followed by Rd7 and the outcome of the game would probably be a draw anyway.]



30.♞e8+ Jobava is getting rid of the monster bishop on g7.

30...♘f8 Both knights are hanging.

31.♘xc5! is the only move with which White can escape into a draw!

31...♜d4+ [31...dxc5 32.♜b8! This was the idea behind Nxc5! 32...♜d4+ 33.♔e1 ♜g1+ 34.♔d2 ♜d4+ with a perpetual check.]

32.♔c1! The only move which holds a draw!

32...♜xc5+ 33.♜c2 The white queen joins the defense.

33...♜g1+ 34.♜d1 ♜c5+ 35.♜c2 ♜g1+



36. ♔d1 Black has nothing better than making a draw...

36... ♜xg2 The last try, but it doesn't change anything any longer of course.

37. ♜h5 is the safest move.

37... ♜g1+ and Black forces a draw by perpetual check. What an amazing game and what kind of fantastic calculation by both players who played an almost perfect game in a very complicated position, with a lot of possible continuations!
1/2-1/2

**(4) Karjakin, Sergey(2767)
- Kasimdzhanov, Rustam(2706)
[A22]**

Tashkent FIDE GP 2014(11.5),
2014.11.02



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

An interesting pairing as Kasimdzhanov was Anand's for many years, then worked for the website chess24 and lately became the second of....Karjakin! To play somebody who basically knows all you know -at least in the openings- is not an easy task. A slightly strange fact about Karjakin is that the young Russian keeps on announcing that he wants to become World Champion, but a World Champion doesn't make 17 draws in a row. Karjakin's style is ultra solid, with very strong preparation, but he is clearly lacking ambition, which is pretty strange, as usually Karjakin is winning when his opponents want to beat him too much, with a good example being the game Giri-Karjakin. Anyhow, in the current game White is going totally to destroy Black's position, first positionally and later on with a little combination. A very nice game is awaiting us!

1.c4 Karjakin also plays 1.e4.

1... ♘f6 2. ♘c3 e5 I think 2...e5 is clearly the most critical move with the move order 1.c4 2.Nc3.

3.g3 d5 is the main move. Another popular setup for Black is 3...Bb4 or 3...Nc6 and Bc5.

4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5. ♘g2 ♘b6 6.d3 ♘e7 7. ♘e3 White picks a tricky move order. Not developing the knight from g1 too early has the idea not to allow Black to play Nc6 because of Bxc6.

7...O-O 8.♖c1 White makes another useful move, asking Black what he wants to play next.



8...♜e8 Black also makes an useful waiting move, hoping for White to play Nf3 next and to get Nc6 in. [8...♞c6 9.♟xc6 bxc6 10.♞f3]

9.a3 ♟f8 Now finally White runs out of "waiting-improvement" moves so he plays

10.♞f3 ♞d7?! What a strange decision by Black. Why not 10...Nc6 with a very usual position. I think the knight's position on d7 is just wrong.

11.O-O c6 is an usual way of blocking the g2 bishop, but now White's idea of playing b4-b5 can become a dangerous positional threat.

12.♞b3!? An interesting move. White is trying to lure the black knight to c5. [A more simple move could be 12.b4 12...a5! It is very important for Black to activate the rook from a8. 13.♞b3 axb4 14.axb4 ♞f6 15.b5 and I think White's position should be a bit better, but of course it would be much better to do all this without the opening of the a-file.]

12...♞c5 is the most logical move even though the knight will have to leave the c5 square soon because of b4. It is very hard to find a better move for Black. [After 12...♞f6 White has

the very strong 13.♞g5! and Black can't defend the f7 pawn in a "nice" way and of course a move like 13...♟e6? is just a positional mistake. 14.♞xe6 and White is much better.; 12...h6 with the idea of playing Nf6 next. 13.♞fd1 and White is already threatening to play d4 next. Black is just too slow.]

13.♞c2 This is a nice square for the queen.

13...♟g4 14.b4 ♞cd7 Now White has a lot of different plans. The usual play connected with b5, or maybe choose a plan connected with d4, or maybe transpose the knight to c5 could be very nice as well. Black's position is very passive so White has a lot of time.



15.h3! I think that this is a very strong positional move by Karjakin! Before taking some action, Karjakin is asking Black where he wants to keep his bishop?!

15...♟f5 The black bishop should be placed on e6, but now it is not possible because of Ng5, so Kasimdzhanov is taking a temporary place on f5, which is of course not a great position.

16.♞d2 A logical move, but it gives Black chances to get back into the game. [I think that 16.g4 looks much more logical since after 16...♟g6 now that the black bishop can't go to e6, White has 17.♞b3 followed by action on the queenside and I think his position should be much better here.]

16...h6?! Black is not fighting back! [In any case Black should have tried to get some play with 16...a5! and things are not that clear anymore!]

17.♖b1! Another very good positional move! Now moves like a5 are probably not working anymore and at the same time White is getting ready for play on the queenside.

17...♖c8 18.♖fc1 ♜f6 Black has not much to do, so Kasimdzhanov decides to at least put his knight on d5.

19.♘c5 At first sight it is difficult to say if it is good or bad to exchange the dark squared bishops, but in fact it is good for White as later on he will have the c5 square for his knight.

19...♜fd7 Black keeps on playing passively, but is it quite difficult to find something better. [Not much better is 19...♖d7 20.g4 ♘e6 21.♘xf8 ♖xf8 22.♜de4 and the knight is getting to c5, with a clear advantage for White.]



20.♜ce4 The black pieces have less and less space.

20...♖c7 21.a4 A good move! Karjakin does not go for any forced continuation and keeps on improving his position. This is a very good strategy in this kind of position where your opponent has no direct play.

21...a6 [It was maybe best to play 21...♜d5 but after 22.♖b2 it is still pretty hard to find a normal move.]

22.♘xf8 ♖xf8 23.♜c5 White have everything it was possible to dream about. The knight on c5 is untouchable because of bxc5, the b7 pawn is a clear target and Black has no counterplay at all on the kingside.

23...♜f6 24.♖b2 The queen is better placed on b2 than on c2 and finally White wants to play b5 next.

24...♖e7?! After this move Black's position is probably already just lost. [24...♜bd7 and Black keeps on fighting in a bad position.]

25.a5 Exactly! White is using the fact that the black knight has nowhere else to go than to take a disastrous position on a8.

25...♜a8 There is nothing else left... [25...♜bd5 26.e4 would lose a piece.; 25...♜bd7 26.♜xb7 is losing a pawn.]

26.e4 White is starting a rush on Black's position. First he is fixing the black bishop on the diagonal h7-b1.

26...♘h7 27.♜c4 ♖fe8 28.f4 Another good move. White is totally dominating in the center and it is still unclear for Black what to do next and how to get the knight from a8 back into the game without losing some material.

28...exf4 29.gxf4 ♖b8 Black is trying to get the knight from a8 to c7 without losing the b7 pawn.



30.♖e5! A fantastic move by Karjakin. I guess many people

would try to directly win some material or start an attack, but in fact the threat of a positionally lost endgame is much stronger! White is practically not giving Black any chances at all.

30...♔f8 At least looking for some fight... [In case of 30...♘c7 31.♔xe7 ♖xe7 32.♘d6 White's domination is just amazing! During the next moves White doesn't even need to hurry with winning anything quickly, he can just keep on improving the position by playing Kf2-Ke3.]

31.♔d6 ♖e7 Black has nothing else left, this is the only way to avoid a horrible endgame.

32.f5 Killing the h7 bishop.

32...♘c7 Finally the knight is back in the game, but it is already too late...

33.♔f4 ♘fe8 What an ugly position for Black and Karjakin keeps on enjoying playing slow moves...

34.♔h2 White is preparing a final attack on the kingside.

34...♔h8 35.♙f3 Freeing the g-file.

35...♙g8 36.♘e5 What an amazing domination of the white pieces!

36...♘f6 37.♖g1 White is totally winning.

37...♘b5 is giving White a chance to finish the game with a little tactical blow.



38.♘e6! A very nice finish of a great positional game!

38...g5 A desperate move...

39.♘xf8 [39.fxg6 was winning on the spot as well.]

39...gxf4 40.♘fg6+ White is going to be an exchange up.

40...fxg6 41.♘xg6+ We just saw a fantastic positional win by Karjakin, who played very cleverly without and practically squeezed his opponent into despair... **1-0**

Puzzle section

(5) Caruana, F(2844)-Gelfand, B(2748)

Tashkent GP, 2014.10.28

1. ±



(6) Karjakin, S(2767)-Giri, A(2768)

Tashkent GP, 2014.10.28

1. +-



(7) Jakovenko, D(2747)-Caruana, F(2844)

Tashkent GP, 2014.11.02

1... 干



(8) Zhao Yuanhe(2091)-Wei Yi(2641)

China zonal, 2014.10.30

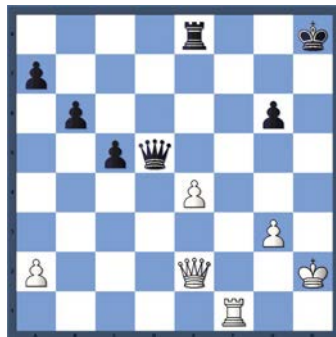
1... -+



(9) Liu, Y(2364)-Zhao, Y(2091)

China zonal, 2014.11.02

1. +-



(10) Bivol, A(2208)-Smirin, I(2655)

Chigorin memorial, 2014.10.25

1... -+



(11) Smirin, I(2655)-Nezad, H(2400)

Chigorin memorial, 2014.10.26

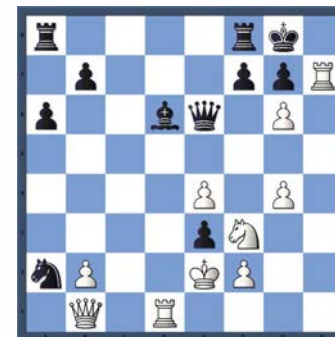
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(12) Deglmann, L(2340)-Delchev, A(2633)

OIBM, 2014.10.27

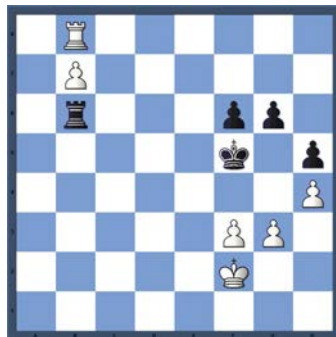
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(13) Melkumyan, H(2678)-Meins, G(2439)

OIBM, 2014.10.29

1. +-



(14) Rambaldi, F(2454)-Delchev, A(2633)

OIBM, 2014.10.31

1. +-



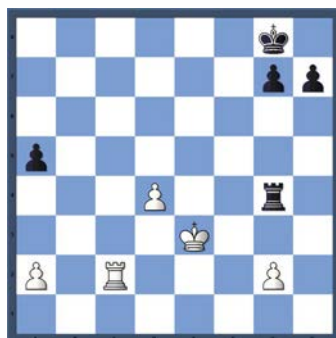
Endgame section

(15) Gelfand, Boris(2748)
- Andreikin, Dmitry(2722)

Tashkent FIDE GP 2014(10.4),
2014.11.01



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



In the current position White is a bit better because of the more central position of the king and the passed d-pawn. Of course Black's chances to hold are very good, but sometimes it is not that simple to defend a worse endgame where a mistake could lead already to big trouble. Andreikin is going to show us a great defense which is a perfect example on how to defend this quite typical rook endgame.

36...♔f7 Of course. It is important to bring the king to the center as quickly as possible, in the best case to d6.

37.♖e2! A great move by Gelfand! White's idea is to go "around" the d4 pawn with the king and cut the black king on the 3rd rank.

37...♖g6! Excellent defense by Andreikin. The most important for Black is to get his king to the d-file. [Of course

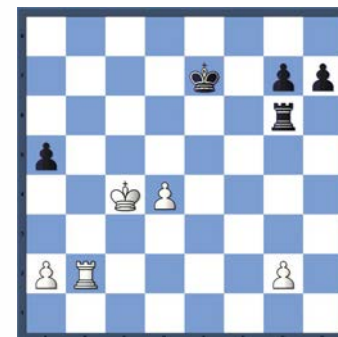
not 37...♔e6?? 38.♔f3+ ♔f5 39.♖e5+ and White is winning the rook.]

38.♔d3 ♖e6 Now we can see why the previous move was so important for Black.

39.♖b2 White can of course not enter the pawn endgame...

39...♖g6 The most safe move. White can't do anything about Black playing Ke7 next.

40.♔c4 ♔e7 So the little time trouble is over and both players have some time to think again. White's only hope now is to get the black a-pawn and be very fast with the own a-pawn, but it costs a lot of time and it is actually pretty hard to win the a5 pawn. The position is very close to a draw, but Gelfand still tries everything to play for a win.



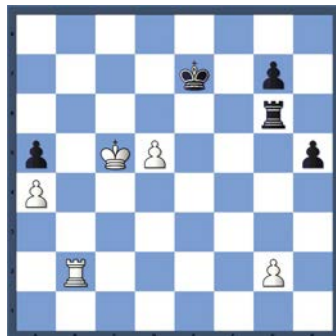
41.♔b5 Checking how Black is going to defend the a-pawn.

41...♖d6 A good and very safe move! Black is not only attacking the d4 pawn but he also maybe wants to start pushing his own kingside pawns.

42.♔c5 ♖g6 and the rook can go back to g6. Passive, but very solid play by Black.

43.a4 h5 and the black pawns start to advance too.

44.d5



44...h4 Fixing the g2 pawn and also preparing to get the own pawn to g4 and to play h3 later.

45.♔b5 A second attempt to get the a5 pawn.. .

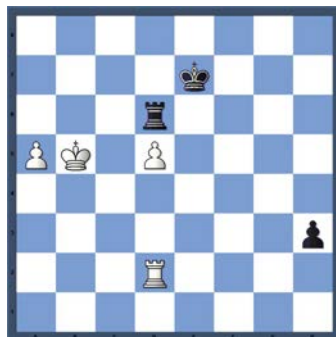
45...♖d6 and we see a pretty similar defense by Black.

46.♖d2 Gefland is winning the a5 pawn, but of course it doesn't help to win the game anymore, as the black pawn are very fast now.

46...g5! There were also other ways to hold a draw, but this is clearly the most easiest one.

47.♔xa5 g4 Black is going to create a passed h-pawn.

48.♔b5 h3 49.gxh3 gxh3 50.a5 Both pawns are running.



50...♖h6 Black is fixing the white rook.

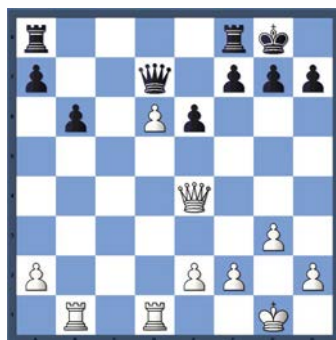
51.♖h2 ♔d6 and the black king is comfortably holding the a-pawn.

52.a6 ♔c7 53.♔c5 ♖xa6 54.♖xh3 ♖g6 We just saw a great defense by Andreikin with a lot of standard tools which are quite important to know for practical rook endgames. **1/2-1/2**

**(16) Giri, Anish(2768)
- Jakovenko, Dmitry(2747)**Tashkent GP,
2014.10.29GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Giri was supposed to be satisfied with the outcome of the opening, as he seems to get a superior endgame in any case. However, Jakovenko was still in his preparation and he sacrifices his queen to build up an unbreakable fortress.

19...Qxc5! [The endgame after 19...Qxd6 20.cxd6 Qd7 is going to be quite unpleasant and Black will face longterm suffering for Black because of the passed pawn on d6.

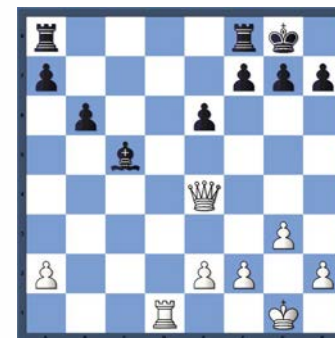


21.a4! White could not achieve anything directly on the c-file

with Rbc1 as Black simply opposes his rook on c8. Therefore the best is to gain further positional advantages with a4! White is ready to sacrifice his a-pawn in order to invade on b7 and even if Black parries this concrete idea the pawn will be excellently placed on a4, always ready to create a weakness with a5. 21...Qab8 (21...Qac8 is strongly met by 22.a5! bxa5 (22...Qc6 23.axb6 axb6 24.Qd4 White has successfully created a weakness on b6 and he intends to advance his pawn to e4-e5!) 23.Qb7±) 22.Qb4 Qfc8 23.e4! and Black is going to have a tough day...]

20.Qbc1 Qxd6! This is the point! Other moves were losing on the spot. [20...Qa5? 21.Qc4+-; 20...Qc3? 21.Qd3+-]

21.Qxc5 Qxc5 Black is slightly down materially with his rook, bishop and pawn for the queen, but he has weaknesses. The bishop gives full control for the queenside, while Black is able to defend himself with his rooks on the kingside. Trading a pair of rooks would always easen Black's defensive task. White should have some more material to be able to convert his advantage. For example if both sides had a knight, that would seriously increase White's winning chances.



22.Qd3 [Occupying the 7th rank does not give White real benefits as Black could answer with 22...Qd7 22...Qfd8 23.Qb7 (On 23.Qb7 23...Qxd7! 24.Qxa8+ Qf8=) 23...a5 24.Qf3 Qd1+

25.♔g2 ♖f8= White cannot create more pressure against the only weakness in Black's camp, the f7 pawn.]

22...a5! A good positional move! Black puts his queenside pawns on dark squares to be able to protect them with the bishop.

23.a4 Giri also reacts well positionally. The a4 pawn alone neutralizes the pawn majority on the queenside.

23...♖ae8!? Jakovenko decides to advance his defensive front a rank forward. A clever idea, but it was not obligatory. [23...♖a7 covering the 7th rank would have been another defensive setup.]

24.♔g2 e5 25.♚e4 ♖e6 26.♖d5 [26.♖d7 does not bring anything neither. Black could chase the rook from the 7th rank with 26...♖fe8 27.♚b7 ♖8e7 28.♖d8+ (28.♖xe7 28...♗xe7=) 28...♖e8=]

26...♖fe8



27.g4! The positionally correct move again! White takes ground on the kingside. The ideal formation of the pawns are e3-f2 (to neutralize the c5 bishop) and g5-h5 to sometimes threaten g6 or h6. Unfortunately for White, despite all his great efforts, he has no chance to win the game...

27...h6 Opening the back rank.

28.e3 g6! Giving more air to the king.

29.h4 ♔g7 30.♔f1 Black has put all his pawns and pieces to their ideal squares, so it is time for him to wait and see how White intends to make progress...

30...♔g8 31.♔e2 ♔g7 32.♔f1 The king could not help on the queenside, so Giri decides to go back.

32...♔g8 33.♔g1 ♔h8 34.♖d7 ♖6e7 35.♖d1 ♔g7 36.♔g2 ♖e6 37.♖d5 ♔h8 38.g5 [38.h5 is met by 38...g5 39.♖d7 ♔g7 40.♚f5 ♖8e7= White cannot make progress.]

38...hxg5 [38...h5= was also good enough to keep the h-file closed.]

39.hxg5 ♔g8 40.♔g3 ♗f8 41.♖d7 ♖6e7 42.♖d1 ♖e6 43.♔g2 ♗c5 44.♖h1 White got this extra option thanks to Black's 38th move, but it still does not bring anything. Jakovenko neutralizes all the attacking threats with

44...♗f8! 45.♚h4 ♗g7 and there is only one check on h7...

46.♚e4 ♗f8 47.♖b1 ♗b4 48.♖h1 and a draw was agreed as Bf8 is coming again. An instructive example that in different kind of endgames, the defensive side should always keep the possibility of setting up a fortress in mind. **1/2-1/2**

Clash of the Titans

(17) Bronstein, David I
- Botvinnik, Mikhail[B63]

World Championship 19th(6),
1951.03.26



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 d6 6.♙g5
e6 7.♚d2 We have the Rauser Variation.



7...h6 The idea of this move is to force White to exchange on f6. Nowadays Black has more popular options, for example [7...a6 8.O-O-O ♙d7 and White has a choice between two plans, either with f4 or f3.; 7...♙e7 8.O-O-O O-O; 7...♚b6!?]

8.♙xf6 [8.♙h4? is a mistake because of the typical trick 8...♘xe4!]

8...gxf6 [8...♚xf6? 9.♘db5 ♚d8 10.O-O-O+- and White is winning the pawn.]

9.O-O-O a6 10.f4 ♙d7 11.♚b1 ♙e7 [11...♚b6 with the idea to chase the knight from its central position.]

12.♙e2 with the idea Bh5. White could also play [12.g3 with Bh3-f5 and the idea get control of the d5 square.; 12.♙c4 looks more active but Black can get quick counterplay after 12...b5 13.♙b3 ♘xd4 14.♚xd4 a5=]

12...♘xd4 13.♚xd4 ♚a5 Black develops the queen and prevents Bh5.



14.♖hf1 [14.f5!? The idea of this standard plan is to take control of the light squares, but the disadvantage is that Black gets the useful e5 square. Let's check some example variation: 14...♚e5 15.♚d2 h5 Preventing Bh5. 16.♙f3 ♙c6 17.♘e2 ♙xe4 (17...O-O-O 18.♘f4↑ with the idea to create pressure on e6, h5 and f7.) 18.♙xe4 ♚xe4 19.fxe6 fxe6 20.♘f4± threatening Re1, so Black is forced to play e5 and then White will get the d5 square for the knight and a very strong initiative.]

14...h5



15.♖f3! A typical rook activation.

15...♔c5 16.♔d2 Of course this endgame is without any problems for Black.

16...♙c6 17.♖e3 One of the ideas in these structures is the trick with Nd5, which is why Black plays

17...♔a5 [17...O-O-O 18.♘d5!]

18.♙f3 O-O-O 19.♔d3 [19.♘d5 19...♔xd2 20.♘xe7+ ♔d7 21.♖xd2 ♔xe7 Black's position is good as the queens were exchanged.]

19...♖d7! Once again Black is preventing Nd5.

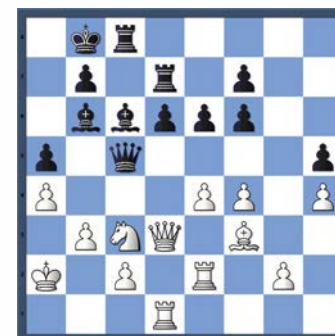
20.h4 White fixed the h5 pawn, but on the other hand the g-file is weaker now.

20...♙b8 21.a3 ♙d8! A good idea. Black is improving his bishop.

22.♙a2 ♔c5 [22...♙b6?? 23.b4+—]

23.♖e2 a5 with the idea b5-b4. [23...f5!? 24.exf5 ♔xf5 25.♔xf5 exf5 The position is equal because of the weak h4 pawn.]

24.a4 ♙b6 25.b3 ♖c8



26.♔c4 The stake of each world championship game is very high and Bronstein understood that he was not playing for the advantage anymore, so he decided to make a draw. [26.f5 26...exf5 27.♘d5 ♙xd5 28.exd5 ♔b4 with the initiative over the dark squares.]

26...♔xc4 27.bxc4 ♖h8 28.♙b3 ♖dd8 Black has two bishops and the better structure, but the character of the position is closed, so it is hard to find and improvement ideas.

29.♖d3 ♙g1 Threatening Bh2.

30.♖ed2 ♔c7 31.♘e2 ♙f2 32.♖d1 ♙c5 [32...♙xh4!? 33.g3 f5 34.exf5 ♙f6 35.fxe6 fxe6=]

33.♘g3 ♖dg8 34.♘e2 White is waiting. [Worse was 34.♘h5 34...♖h6! A nice move, after which White is losing coordination. (34...♙xe4 35.♘xf6 ♙xd3 36.♘g8 ♙g6 37.h5 ♙xh5 38.♖h1 ♖xg8 39.♖xh5=) 35.g4



35...f5! 36.g5 fxe4 37.gxh6 exf3 38.♖f6 ♜h8 39.h7 ♔d8! The king comes to e7 and thanks to the powerful bishops Black has a big advantage.]

34...♜h7 [34...♜g4!? with the to idea change the character of the position a little bit. 35.♙xg4 hxg4 36.♘g3 ♜xh4 37.♞e1 ♜h2 38.♞e2 ♔d8 with the idea to bring the king to g6 and push f5. Black is better.]

35.f5 e5 Stopping Nf4.

36.♘c3 ♙d4



37.♞xd4 White can allow himself to play this move because Black will not be able to open the position. [37.♘b5+ 37...♙xb5 38.cxb5 was enough for a draw as well.]

37...exd4 38.♞xd4 ♜hg7 39.♘e2 ♜xg2 This is the only way to complicate the position.

40.♙xg2 ♜xg2 41.♘f4 ♜g3+ 42.♙b2 ♜g4 43.♘xh5 ♜xh4 44.♘xf6 ♙b6 Black activates the next piece at the cost of a pawn.

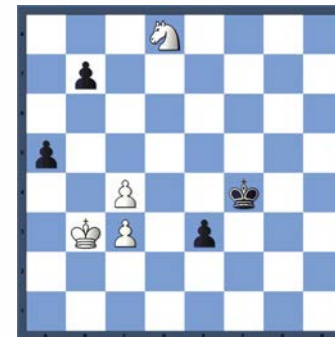
45.♞xd6 ♙c5 46.e5 ♜d4 [46...♜f4 47.♘d7+ ♙xd7 48.♞xd7 ♜xf5 49.♞xb7 ♜xe5 50.♞xf7 ♙xc4 with an easy draw.]

47.♞xd4 ♙xd4 48.♘g4 [48.e6 48...fxe6 49.fxe6 ♙e5=]

48...♙xa4 49.e6 fxe6 50.f6 [50.fxe6 50...♙e4 and Black will catch the pawn after Kf5.]

50...♙e8 51.♙b3 White is winning the piece but there is not enough material on the board to win the game. [51.♘h6 51...e5 52.f7 ♙xf7 53.♘xf7 e4 54.♘d6 e3 55.♘f5+ ♙e4=; 51.c3+ 51...♙xc4 52.♘e5+ ♙d5 53.f7 ♙xf7 54.♘xf7 b5=]

51...e5 52.c3+ ♙e4 53.♘h6 ♙f4 54.f7 ♙xf7 55.♘xf7 e4 56.♘d8 e3



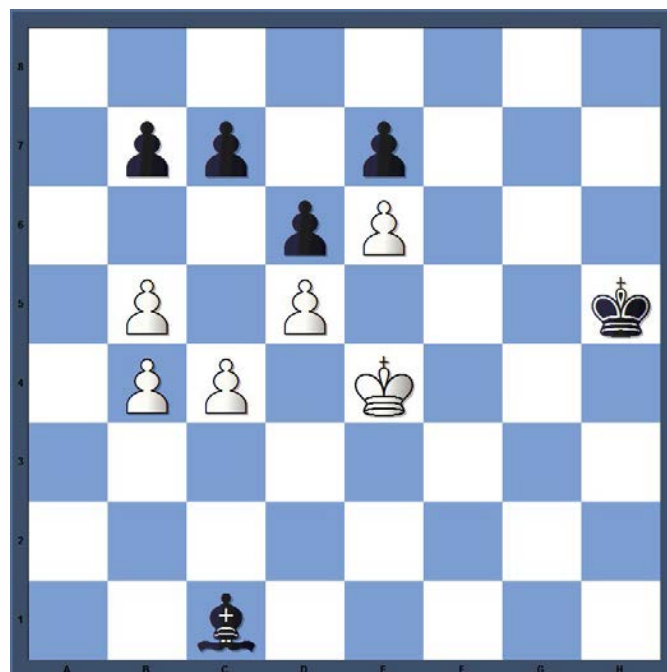
57.♙c2?? What an amazingly huge blunder! The game should have finished in a draw after [57.♘e6+ 57...♙f3 58.♘d4+ ♙f2 59.♙a4 e2 60.♘c2 e1=♙ 61.♘e1 ♙xe1 62.♙xa5 ♙d2=]

57...♙g3! White forgot about this optically longer way for the black king and now the pawn will be promoted! **0-1**

Surprise section / study

(18) Isenegger

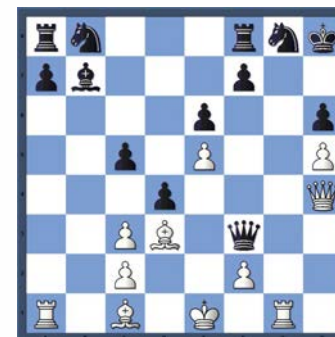
1. =



Solutions

(19) Robson, R(2628)-Recuero Guerra, D(2424)

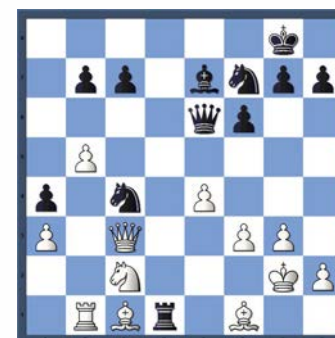
SPICE Cup Open, 2014.10.22



24. ♖xh6! ♜xh6 25. ♔g5+- ♜f5 26. ♔f6+ 1-0

(20) Le Quang Liem(2706)-Troff, K(2532)

SPICE Cup Open, 2014.10.24



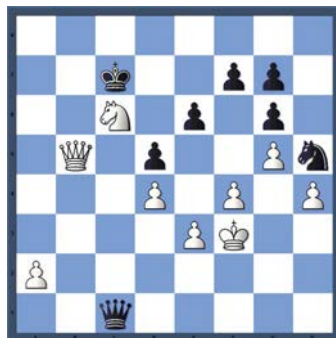
30... ♜d2! 31. ♜xd2 ♜xb1 32. ♜c4 ♔d6+-

(21) Vera, R(2449)-Leon Hoyos, M(2512)

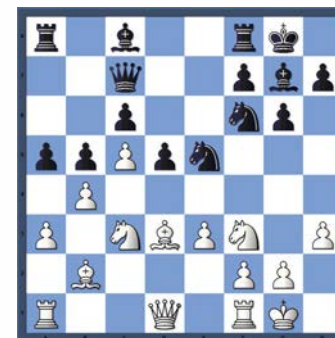
SPICE Cup Open, 2014.10.25

**27...♖xg2! 28.♗g6** [28.♔xg2 28...♜xg5+—+]
28...♖xe1! 29.♔xe1 ♜h6—+**(22) Matlakov, M(2692)-Iljiusheno(2433)**

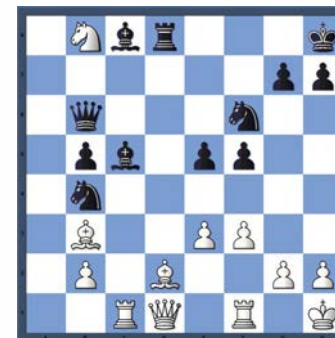
Chigorin memorial, 2014.10.21

**65.♜b8+!** 1-0 [65.♜b8+ 65...♔d7 66.♜d8+ ♔xc6 67.♜c8+ ♔d6 68.♜xc1+—]
(23) Rodshtein, M(2678)-Munguntuul, B(2433)

Chigorin memorial, 2014.10.21

**14.♖xb5! ♖xf3+ 15.♜xf3 ♜e7** [15...cxb5 16.♗xf6+—]
16.♖d6+—**(24) Ivanisevic, I(2623)-Prizant, J(2511)**

Chigorin memorial, 2014.10.22

**23.♗xb4! ♗xb4** [23...♜xd1 24.♜fxd1+—]
24.♜c6! 1-0 [24.♜c6 24...♜xd1 (24...♜a5 25.♜c2+—) 25.♜xd1 ♜xb8 26.♜d8+—]

(25) Timofeev, A(2598)-Bublei, P(2339)

Chigorin memorial, 2014.10.24



21. ♖xd5! 1-0 [21. ♖xd5 21... ♖xd5 (21... ♖e6 22. ♘xe7+ ♖xe7 23. ♕c5+-) 22. ♘xe7+ ♖h8 23. ♘xd5+-]

(26) Shankland, S(2633)-Hernandez Guerrero, G(2531)

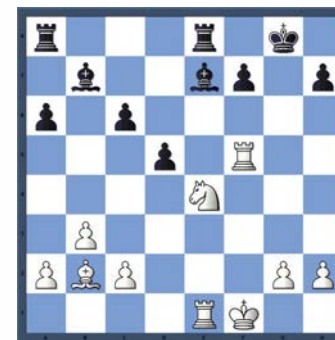
American Continental, 2014.10.24



31. ♖xd4! cxd4 32. b4 1-0 [32. b4 32... ♖f8 (32... f6 33. c5 bxc5 34. bxc5 fxe5 35. c6 ♖f7 36. c7 ♖e7 37. c8=♖+-) 33. c5 bxc5 34. bxc5 ♖e7 35. c6 ♖d6 36. ♘xf7+-]

(27) Hracek, Z(2646)-Antoniewski, R(2552)

Slovakian league, 2014.10.25



23. ♘d6! 1-0 [23. ♘d6 23... ♕xd6 24. ♖g5+ ♖f8 25. ♕g7+ ♖g8 26. ♕e5+ ♖f8 27. ♕xd6+-]

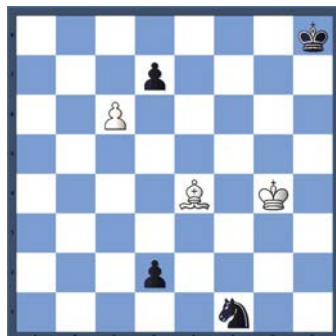
(28) Kamsky, G(2706)-Bhat, V(2511)

US league, 2014.10.21



27. ♘xf7! ♖xf7 28. ♖xe6+ ♖f8 29. ♖xb6! 1-0 [29. ♖xb6 29... ♖xb6 30. ♖e3+-]

(29) Selezhnev



1. ♘f3! ♜h2+ [1...dxc6 2. ♘e2 ♜e3+ 3. ♔f4 d1=♚ 4. ♘xd1 ♜xd1 5. ♚e5=]

2. ♚h5! ♜xf3 [2...dxc6 3. ♘e2 c5 4. ♚g5 c4 5. ♚f4 c3 6. ♚e3=]

3. c7! d1=♚ 4. c8=♚+ ♚h7 5. ♚xd7+! ♚xd7=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 142

16th of November 2014

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Editorial Preface

Let's first quickly go through the finished events:

The round robin in Moscow which was named after the great World Champion Petrosian was won by Grischuk with the fantastic result of 5.5/7 and a performance of almost 3000 ELO, which also brought him the World Nr3 spot in the live rating list, with his personal record of 2810. Second place went to Kramnik with 4.5/7 and 3rd place was shared by Gelfand and Aronian, both with 4/7.

Right after this event, most of the participants had to fly to Sochi to play a double round blitz event which was named after the great World Champion Mikhail Tal, who was a fantastic blitz player himself.

In the blitz event nobody could stop Mamedyarov and only Grischuk even came close during the last rounds but it wasn't enough to stop the Azeri from clinching the tournament victory.

Now let's get to the main event, **the World Chess Championship** between Carlsen and Anand.

After 5 games, the score is 2.5-2.5.

In the 2nd round Carlsen managed to win a nice game with White from an opening position, where probably a draw should have been the normal outcome, but Anand, made few slight errors, then few more and the game been over. It seemed like the match is going to be a repetition of what we have seen a year ago, but no, directly in the next round Nr3, Anand tried an interesting opening idea, put Carlsen under a lot of pressure and won easily the full point! Wow, this has been really a big surprise, and I guess Carlsen been a bit angry at his team for getting such an opening surprise where there

should be no surprises.

The games 4 and 5 has been not really spectacular, the Black side had to be accurate and fight for a draw, but all been without any side having a real chance of getting into the lead. What is really different to the previous match is, Anand is searching a tactical fight and is clearly much better prepared than the last time. We already saw a lot of different openings and clearly there are going to be more to come. It is an open fight! As well the level of play somehow seems to involve more little mistakes than in the first match, especially on the side of Carlsen who is usually playing super exact technical positions.

To us, Carlsen stays a clear favourite to win the match, but probably we are going to see a lot of action and exciting games and maybe, just maybe Anand will have his chance!

The other event that is currently under way is the Ukrainian Championship, with all the best players participating in it, such as Ivanchuk, Eljanov, Ponomarev, Korobov, Kryvoruchko etc... Eljanov and Korobov had the best start with 2/2, while Ivanchuk started rather poorly with 0.5/2.

In the current issue we of course focus most of our attention on the WCC Match. Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

We are happy to announce, that Chess Evolution will cooperate with Hungarian Chess Federation in the prestigious event of World Chess Olympiad U-16. Chess Evolution will also devote two issues from our newsletter to share with you the best games, the most interesting moments and the nicest combinations played by the young stars.

FIDE Youth Chess Olympiad Hosted by Hungary Already Breaks Records

Only four months after the Chess Olympiad in Tromsø where the greatest chess players of the world competed against each other it is already time to have a look at the best talents of the next generation. In December this year Hungary may organize a Chess Olympiad for the first time, the competition for youth aged under 16 years. The event takes place in the city of Győr and with more than a month to the start the organizers have already confirmed the entries of more participant nations than ever before at any Youth Chess Olympiad. It really seems that the best chess talents of all five continents will be present in Hungary between 12th-22nd December. Awarding the right of organization to Hungary is a clear sign of high international recognition of chess life in the country which is rightly confirmed by the fact that Judit Polgar who has been leading the FIDE world rankings for more than 25 years has agreed to be the face of the event representing talent and the Hungarian chess traditions all in one person or we could even say legend. By mentioning Judit Polgar let us not forget that after FIDE tightened on a rule that had existed earlier participation of girls are now guaranteed. In each team a maximum four of the five team members can be a boy.

The promo video of the Youth Chess Olympiad 2014 features Judit Polgar, Csaba Balogh, Olympic Silver medalist, Benjamin Gledura who was European Champion of his age group and Kata Karacsonyi who was the first to follow in the footsteps of Judit Polgar to win the National Championship topping all boys in their age groups.

You can see the video by clicking on this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZu0iBrc5rE>

You can find more information about the FIDE U-16 World Youth Chess Olympiad 2014 on the official website of the event:



4 best games of the past week

(1) **Carlsen, Magnus(2863)**
- **Anand, Viswanathan(2792) [C65]**

WCh 2014(2),
2014.11.09



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

The second game of the match and the first one where Carlsen leads the white pieces. All the top players are able to play any openings with both colors and it is always interesting to see what they have prepared for the match in their training camps...

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 So Anand plays the Berlin defense, just like Carlsen neutralized his 1.e4 openings in their previous WC match.

4.d3 Carlsen does not want to play the Berlin endgame, he rather aims to keep all the pieces on the board.

4...♙c5 5.O-O d6



6.♖e1 Well, it becomes clear now that Carlsen just wants to avoid a theoretical battle, he does not play for an advantage, he just wants to get a playable position where he can slowly

outplay his opponent. [The main move and the analyzed territory starts with 6.c3]

6...O-O 7.♙xc6 [7.c3 transposes to the theory. Black's most common reply here is 7...♘e7 and that is why Carlsen prefers to take on c6, giving up the bishop pair, but damaging the pawn structure.]

7...bxc6 8.h3 A useful move against Ng4 followed by f5 and it also prevents Bg4.

8...♖e8 9.♘bd2 ♘d7 A typical maneuver in this type of position. Black would like to execute the d5 break to open the position for his two bishops, but for this he needs to protect the e5 pawn. The knight is heading to f8-g6, after which d5 is possible. The position is closed, therefore such kind of maneuvers are justified.

10.♘c4 ♙b6 Not a necessary , but a useful move, before continuing the knight transfer.

11.a4 a5 12.♘xb6 A strange decision at first sight, to improve the pawn structure without the knight getting attacked. We might think that White had more useful moves, but in a few moves everything becomes clear... [12.♙d2 12...♘f8 followed by Ng6, Qf6 (or f6) and d5.]

12...cxb6 [Actually even 12...♘xb6!? is completely fine, followed by c5 and f5. 13.d4 exd4 14.♘xd4 c5 is OK for Black.]

13.d4 The logical follow-up after taking on b6.

13...♙c7 Anand would like to continue his knight's journey to f8-g6, which was not possible right away in view of dxe5 dxe5 Qxd8 Rxd8 and Nxe5.



14. ♖a3! This is the first point why Carlsen took on b6 so fast. He wants to use his rook along the 3rd rank, but the real idea just becomes clear in two moves.

14... ♟f8 15.dxe5 dxe5



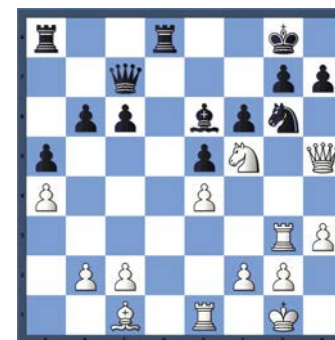
16. ♟h4! Carlsen had this position in mind when he took on b6. He wants to attack with Rg3, followed by Bh6 and Nf5. In case of the defensive attempt Ng6, closing the g-file, he might bring a new attacker with Nf5 followed by h4-h5. It is amazing how effectively Carlsen managed to bring life to the position, although his position is not better yet, as Black also has his resources.

16... ♖d8 17. ♖h5 f6 Strengthening the e5 pawn and opening the 7th rank to be able to successfully defend the g7 weakness, maybe even with Ra7 at some point.

18. ♟f5 Black has a wide choice here. Anand fails to find the best option... [If White starts with 18. ♖g3 Black defends himself with 18... ♖f7 19. ♖f3 ♟g6! 20. ♟f5 (20. ♟xg6 20... hxg6= White cannot make use of the doubled pawns as he cannot attack the g6 pawn with another piece. Black continues with Be6 and doubles his rooks on the d-file.) 20... ♖h8 and it is not easy for White to continue the attack because 21.h4 drops the pawn after 21... ♟xf5 and Nxh4 next.]

18... ♟e6 [Black should have played 18... ♖f7! sending back the attacking queen as after the trade White should forget about giving mate... 19. ♖e2 ♟g6 20. ♖g3 ♟xf5 21.exf5 ♟e7 and Black is fine. He can create counterplay against the f5 pawn and Rd4 is an important resource in many lines.; 18...g6 weakens the kingside too much. 19. ♟h6+ ♖h8 20. ♖h4 White is better.; 18... ♟xf5 19.exf5 is also preferable for White. The f8 knight is misplaced now compared to the final position of the 18...Qf7 variation. White plays Rg3 next followed by Bh6 or Re4-g4 or breaking the pawn chain with f4!]

19. ♖g3 ♟g6



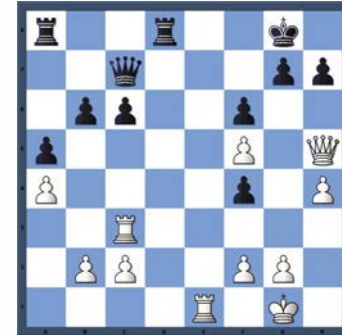
20.h4 Consequently played! Once the pawn arrives to h5,

that could be decisive. White clearly has the initiative on the kingside, while Black cannot compensate on the d-file as all invading squares of the rooks are perfectly under control. [20.♗h6!? was an interesting alternative. 20...gxf6 21.♖xg6+ hxf6 22.♗xg6+ ♔f8 23.♗xf6+ ♗f7 (23...♗f7? loses to 24.♗h8+ ♗g8 25.♖e3 and Black has no adequate defense.) 24.♗xh6+!? is the computer's suggestion. (Carlsen thought that he had nothing more than a perpetual check with 24.♗h8+ 24...♗g8 25.♗f6+) 24...♔e8 25.♗h8+ ♗f8 (25...♔d7 is met by 26.♖d1+ ♔c7 27.♗xe5+ ♔b7 28.♗d6+ ♖xd6 29.♖xd6 The 4 pawns for the bishop should guarantee an edge.) 26.♗xe5 ♔f7 27.♗d4 and Re3 next move looks very dangerous.]

20...♗xf5 [Now on 20...♖d7 21.♗h6! is even stronger than before. 21...gxf6 (21...♔h8 loses to 22.♖xg6! hxf6 23.♗xg7+ ♔g8 24.♗h8+ ♔f7 25.♗h6+ ♔e7 26.♗xf6+--; 21...♖f8 is strongly met by 22.♗g4! gxf6 23.h5) 22.♗xh6 and h5 is coming next with a very strong attack.]

21.exf5 ♗f4 [21...♗f8 is too passive and White gets an advantage after 22.♗h6 ♖d7 23.♖e4! ♖a7 24.f4! is very bad for Black.]

22.♗xf4 exf4 23.♖c3 Black has successfully traded the minor pieces and he is safe now from getting mated. However, this heavy piece endgame is extremely unpleasant for him. Both white rooks are more actively placed, the rook is going to e6 next move, making all the queenside pawns vulnerable. It cannot be avoided by Rd6 as the rooks must control the back rank. The situation of the f-pawns also favors White, as the one on f4 is much weaker than f5.



23...c5 24.♖e6 ♖ab8 A clear mistake, as Anand had missed the next move. [24...h6 should have been played with the idea to open the back rank and to be able to react with Rd4 to Rc4! But White still keeps an edge after 25.♗f3 ♖ab8 26.♖c4 ♖d4 27.c3! ♖xc4 28.♗d5 ♔h7 29.♗xc4 White is clearly better because of the weak f4 and b6 pawns.]

25.♖c4! An excellent move! Carlsen transfers his rook to e4 after which he is threatening to penetrate on the 7th rank and also to give mate on e8. It also keeps an eye on the f4 pawn!

25...♗d7 [25...h6 26.♖ce4 is also very bad for Black.]

26.♔h2! Prophylaxis against the queens' exchange! [26.♖xf4 allows 26...♗d1+ 27.♗xd1 ♖xd1+ 28.♔h2 ♖d2 with excellent chances to draw.]

26...♖f8 [26...♗d1? is now refuted by 27.♖e8+!+-]

27.♖ce4 [There was nothing wrong with 27.♖xf4 but Carlsen wants more by creating the Re7 threat.]

27...♖b7 28.♗e2 Refreshing the Re7 idea. [28.♗f3 was perhaps even stronger, taking on f4 next. Black has no compensation.]

28...b5! A desperate attempt to gain counterplay.

29.b3 [Carlsen said that he forgot about 29.♖e7 29...♔d6! initially when he went for Rce4 and Qe2 instead of collecting the f4 pawn. However White should still have gone for this line and now play 30.f3! (30.♖xb7?? 30...f3+) 30...♖xe7 31.♖xe7 bxa4 32.♔e4! +- Black is a pawn up temporarily, but all his pawns start to fall in the next moves. Qb7 is a decisive threat now and 32...♔h8 loses to 33.♖e8! threatening to deflect the queen with Qc6 or Qd3 and mate on the back rank. 33...g6 34.fxg6 (34.♖e7 also wins and Qb7 next.) 34...hxg6 35.♔xg6+-]

29...bxa4 30.bxa4 ♖b4 Black at least manages to ease his position by trading one of the active rooks.

31.♖e7! A great move with a beautiful trick behind it...

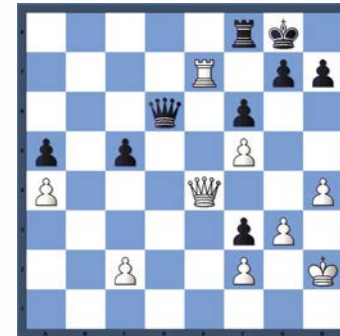
31...♔d6 Anand does not fall into the trap. [31...♔xf5 loses to 32.♖xb4 axb4]



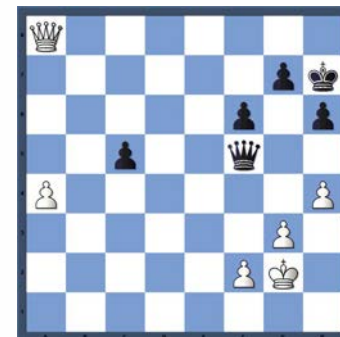
33.♔c4+! ♔h8 34.♔f7!! ♖g8 (34...♖xf7 35.♖e8+ ♖f8 36.♖xf8#) 35.♖e8+-]

32.♔f3?! An inaccuracy. [32.f3! was stronger again. 32...♖xe4 33.♔xe4+- with more or less the same position as in the 30.f3 line! Qb7 is the decisive threat.]

32...♖xe4 33.♔xe4 f3+! 34.g3



34...h5?? A terrible blunder finishes the game. [Black had some chances to survive after 34...♔d2! 35.♔xf3 (35.♔c4+ 35...♔h8 36.♔xc5 ♖d8 is also an extra pawn for White, but it is not easy to make progress because of the pressure on the f2 pawn. This is the reason why it was better for White to play f3 twice before. Black opens the back rank with h6.) 35...♔xc2 36.♔g2 By protecting the f2 pawn, White creates the threat of Qd5 Kh8 Qf7! 36...♔h8 (36...♔xa4? loses nicely again: 37.♔b7! The direct Qd5-f7 maneuver did not work immediately, as Black covers the e8 square, therefore White includes the intermediate move 37...♔g4 and only now 38.♔d5+ ♔h8 39.♔f7! ♖g8 40.♖e8+-) 37.♔c6 h6 38.♖a7 ♔xf5 39.♖xa5 White retains the advantage, but it is going to be difficult to convert into a full point. 39...♖c8?! leads to an instructive position. 40.♖a8! ♖xa8 41.♔xa8+ ♔h7



42.♔c6! and White is probably winning because of the

excellent position of the queen on c6! It stops the c-pawn and Black has no adequate defense against the simple advance of the a-pawn!]

35. ♔b7+—1-0

(2) Anand, Viswanathan(2792) - Carlsen, Magnus(2863) [D37]

WCh 2014(3),
2014.11.11



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

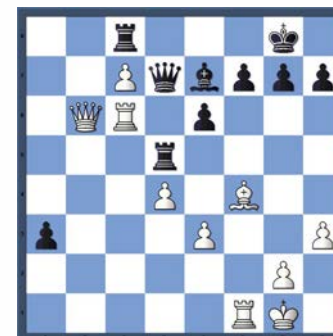
Just like in the WC match in 2012 against Gelfand, Anand strikes back right after his loss. As we go deeper into the game, it turns out to be very difficult to understand how Carlsen and his team prepared for this game...

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 Carlsen deviates from the first game of the match, where he employed the Gruenfeld defense.

3. ♘f3 d5 4. ♘c3 ♙e7 The Queen's Gambit declined is highly popular nowadays on the highest level.

5. ♙f4 O-O 6.e3 ♘bd7 7.c5 c6 The old main line. [Within a week, Kramnik twice successfully played the new fashionable move 7... ♘h5 which should be the better option for Black.]

8. ♙d3 [The alternative is 8.h3 I would like to draw your attention to the following game: 8...b6 9.b4 a5 10.a3 ♙a6 11. ♙xa6 ♖xa6 12.b5 cxb5 13.c6 ♖c8 14.c7 b4 15. ♘b5 a4 16. ♖c1 ♘e4 17. ♘d2 ♘df6 18.f3 ♖a5 19. ♘xe4 ♘xe4 20.fxe4 ♖xb5 21. ♖xa4 ♖a5 22. ♖c6 bxa3 23.exd5 ♖xd5 24. ♖xb6 ♖d7 25.O-O ♖c8 26. ♖c6



We have exactly the same position as in the game, the only difference being that the pawn is on h3, which is of course useful for White, but not a decisive difference as White is close to be winning in any case. It is quite sure that Anand knew about this game. Only the correct move order played an important role, but it was also shown by Aronian as we will see later in the game... This game, just like our present game finished in a few moves. 26...h6 27.♖fc1 ♔h7 28.♔a6 ♖f5 29.♘d6! ♘h4 30.♔xa3 Black resigned soon in Tomashevsky-Riazantsev, Moscow 2008]

8...b6 9.b4 a5 Black tries to undermine the queenside, but White successfully keeps the pawn structure and saves the space advantage.

10.a3 ♘a6 11.♘xa6 [11.O-O is the old main line.]

11...♖xa6



12.b5! A nice breakthrough, but it is all theory... Both players were blitzing out the moves.

12...cxb5 13.c6 White seems to win a piece as the knight has no other free square than b8, but it loses to the fork with c7! However

13...♔c8! saves the piece by pinning the c3 knight.

14.c7 This is the point of the b5 break and the pawn sacrifice.

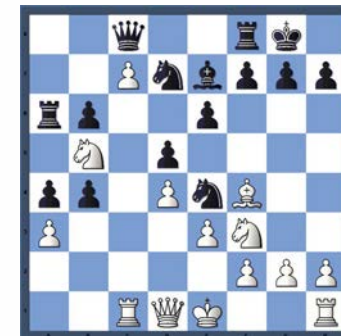
White creates a powerful passed pawn on c7, which paralyzes the black pieces.

14...b4 15.♘b5! Strengthening the c7 pawn!

15...a4! A very important resource for Black. He should try to kick out the b5 knight from its safe place. It prepares Ra5 and also prevents Qa4, which would stabilize the knight.

16.♖c1! Supporting the c-pawn from behind and White creates the decisive threat of Bd6, after which he inevitably frees the d6 square for the knight, which would send away the queen from c8 and the pawn promotes.

16...♘e4 Preventing Bd6! [16...bxa3? 17.♘d6+- is over.; 16...♖a5 is also met by 17.♘d6! ♖xb5 18.♘xe7 and the best for Black is to sacrifice an exchange before White could take on b4 and a4. 18...b3 19.♘xf8 ♘xf8 20.O-O must be better for White, Qd3 is coming next.]



17.♘g5!! This was Aronian's novelty last year. It was very strange that Carlsen did not know anything about it. He spent more than 40 minutes here. White tries to deflect the pieces from the d6 square. [17.♘d2 was less convincing in a previous game, because Black could play 17...♘c3 18.♘xc3 bxc3 19.♖xc3 b5 followed by Nb6-c4.]

17...♘df6 After a long thought, Carlsen repeated Adams's reply. [17...♙xg5 18.♙xg5 ♖a5 Here probably the most precise is (18...♘xg5? 19.♘d6 ♕a8 20.c8=♖+-) 19.♖e2! ♖xb5 20.♖xb5 ♘xg5 21.axb4 with a strong initiative due to the c7 pawn. Black's pieces are discoordinated. ; Compared to the 17.Nd2 line 17...♘c3 is now met by 18.♘xc3 bxc3 19.♖d3! with tempo! 19...♙xg5 20.♙xg5 Black is lacking his very important dark squared bishop. White takes on c3 next and saves his c7 pawn for the entire game. It cannot be taken now as the a6 is hanging then.; 17...♘xg5 runs into 18.♙d6!! The only move is (18.♙xg5 18...♘f6 is less clear.) 18...♖a5 but it does not solve the problems since after 19.♙xe7 ♖xb5 20.axb4 ♖e8 21.♖xa4 ♖xe7 22.♖xb5 Black is in trouble again.]

18.♘xe4 ♘xe4 [18...dxe4 frees the d5 square for the knight, Bd6 could met by Nd5, but now 19.♘d6! ♙xd6 20.♙xd6 is again better for White, because the c7 pawn is safe.]

19.f3! The usual story! The fight is around the d6 square.

19...♖a5

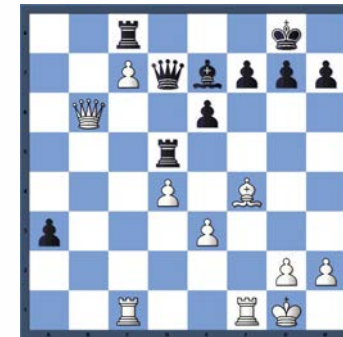


20.fxe4! This is the novelty to the Aronian game, but now we transpose to the previously mentioned Tomashevsky-Riazantsev game, where the only difference is the pawn on h3. [20.♖e2 also looked strong, but Black has the strong answer 20...♖d7! 21.fxe4 ♖c8! and the b5 knight is

suddenly trapped! 22.exd5 exd5 23.axb4 ♖xb5 24.O-O ♖xb4 and Black was fine. Aronian-Adams, Bilbao 2013]

20...♖xb5 21.♖xa4 ♖a5 22.♖c6 bxa3 23.exd5 ♖xd5 [23...exd5 24.O-O is also bad for Black. White takes on b6 next move or in case of b5 or Ra6 the d5 falls. The c7 passed pawn is much more dangerous than the one on a3. As soon as the pawn gets to a2, it becomes a weakness as it cannot be supported well enough, while the c7 pawn is completely safe because of the f4 bishop.]

24.♖xb6 ♖d7 25.O-O ♖c8



26.♖c6! Depriving Black from any kind of counterplay. He cannot bring his d5 rook back to the game with Rb5. Anand had an extra hour and a winning advantage even according to the machines. He also admitted that this position was existing in his home analysis, but the strange thing is that he did not even require a strong novelty or something to stand like this, it was enough to be familiar with two top games, Aronian-Adams and Tomashevsky-Riazantsev. It is very hard to understand how Carlsen could end up in this position...

26...g5 This is already a kind of desperate move. Black realized that he is lacking useful moves, while White can

increase his advantage by playing Rfc1 followed by Qa6 and Rb6-b8 for example. [26...♙g5 instantly loses to 27.♙xg5 ♖xg5 28.♖d6!+- and Rd8.]

27.♙g3 [27.♙e5 was also strong enough.]

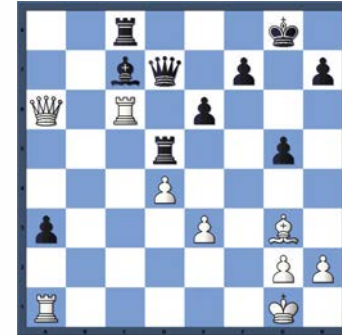
27...♙b4 A nice try confuse the matters, but it does not help. Black pins his hopes to Bd2, counterattacking the e3 pawn or sometimes Ba5 might be a small hope for salvation... However Anand reacts perfectly! [27...♖a5 was a critical line to check. It would be a huge improvement for Black if he could transfer his rook to a8. That would support the a-pawn and also control the c8 promoting square. Unfortunately for Black, it runs into 28.♖xe6! ♙xe6 29.♙xa5 ♙xe3+ 30.♙h1 White is threatening with the direct win of Qf5! 30...♙d3 31.♖e1+- leaves Black in a hopeless situation. Qe5 or d5 is coming next. Black has no chance to advance the a-pawn, the c7 is always much faster.]

28.♖a1! An excellent prophylactic move! Black must forget about his Bd2 idea as it always drops the a3 pawn and Black has no useful move left.

28...♙a5 This loses, but it was probably already over. [In case of some waiting move like 28...h6 White could improve his position with 29.h3! opening the back rank, just in case. 29...♙h7 30.♖a2! followed by Rac2, after which the bishop is hanging on b4 and White plays Qa6, Rb6-b8 next. Black cannot create any counterplay.]

29.♙a6 White is threatening to play Rxa3.

29...♙xc7 [29...♙b4 30.♖b6!+- and Rb8 wins next.; 29...♖xc7 30.♙xc7 ♙xc7 31.♖xa3+- is also hopeless.]



30.♙c4! The last precise move! Black loses huge material because of the pin on the c-file. [Black's last trick was 30.♖ac1? which seems to be winning as well, but actually after 30...♖a5! Black pushes a2 next and survives.]

30...e5 31.♙xe5 ♖xe5 32.dxe5 White is an exchange up and Black still cannot leave the deadly pin on the c-file.

32...♙e7 33.e6 [The last trap to be careful about was 33.♖c1 33...a2 34.♙xa2? ♙xe5 and Black might hope for salvation. Everything else is just winning for White.]

33...♙f8 34.♖c1 A very important win for Anand to win back his confidence and to come back in the match. It will be very interesting to follow how such a game will affect the match.

1-0

**(3) Carlsen, Magnus(2863)
- Anand, Viswanathan(2792) [B40]**WCh 2014(4),
2014.11.12GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 This is a little surprise because Anand usually plays the Najdorf, but of course it is normal that for a match you have to prepare new weapons.



3.g3 Carlsen didn't want to enter the main lines and chose a quiet option.

3...♗c6 4.♙g2 d5 Black had many other plans but this one looks very solid and logical as Anand immediately fights for the center.

5.exd5 exd5 6.O-O ♗f6 7.d4 ♙e7 8.♙e3 [8.dxc5 8...♙xc5 9.♙g5 (9.♙e1+ 9...♙e6 10.♗g5 makes no sense because Black gets counterplay against the f2 pawn. 10...O-O 11.♗xe6 fxe6 12.♙xe6 ♗e4+) 9...♙e6 10.♗c3 The idea of this setup is to put pressure on the d5 pawn, which is similar to the Tarrasch System, where White's structure is a bit different as the pawn is on e2 instead of c2. 10...O-O (10...d4 11.♙xf6 ♙xf6 12.♗e4

♙e7 13.♗eg5+ and after taking on e6 White will get full control over the light squares.) 11.♙d3 h6 12.♙xf6 ♙xf6 13.♗xd5 ♙xb2 14.♙fb1 ♙a3 15.♙xa3 ♙xa3 16.♗c7 ♙ab8 17.♗xe6 fxe6 18.♙e1 e5 with equal play.]

8...cxd4 [8...♙b6!?]

9.♗xd4



9...♙g4! is probably the most accurate move. [After the natural 9...O-O White could play 10.h3 and now Black has no good square to develop the bishop, as after 10...Be6 White at some moment can exchange on e6 and get the advantage of the two bishops and after 10...Nxd4 11.Bxd4 this exchange is in White's favor.]

10.♙d3 ♙d7 Preventing h3.

11.♗d2 O-O 12.♗2f3 ♙fe8 13.♙fe1 ♙d6 14.c3 h6 Because there are a lot of pieces on the board White is not able to take advantage of the isolated pawn.

15.♙f1 White is preparing the h3-Nh4 idea.

15...♙h5 16.h3 ♙g6 The black bishop is going to the strong e4 square, from where it will reduce the strength of his opponent on g2.

17.♙ad1 ♙ad8 Both sides placed their pieces on optimal positions, so it is time to do something concrete now.



18. ♖xc6! [18. ♖b5 18... ♖b8 19. c4 ♖c8 20. cxd5 ♖xd5 (20... ♖xd5 21. ♖xh6!) 21. ♖fd4 ♖e4 and Black is not worse.]

18...bxc6 19.c4 Carlsen starts to create some potential threats on d5 and a7.

19...♖e4 20.♖d4 ♖h7 The knight is going to e6. [20...♖e6!?]

21.cxd5 ♖xd5 Anand will be able to exchange more pieces now. [21...cxd5 22. ♖a6 and thanks to his better structure White keeps some small plus.]

22. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 23. ♖d3 [23. ♖a6 23... ♖f5! 24. ♖h4 ♖c2↗]

23...♖f8



24. ♖h4 is maybe premature. More flexible was [24. ♖c3+= with the same idea of bringing the knight to the very useful f5 square.]

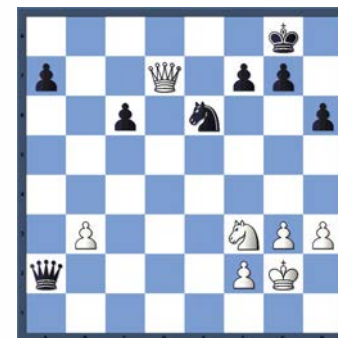
24...♖e5! Anand sticks to his plan of just exchanging pieces.

25. ♖xd5 [25. ♖xe5 25... ♖xe5 26. f4?! weakens the white king. 26... ♖e8 27. ♖f5 (27. ♖xd5 27... cxd5 28. ♖xd5?? ♖e1+—) 27... ♖e6 28. ♖xd5 cxd5 29. ♖xd5 ♖b6+=]

25...♖xd5 [25...cxd5 26. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 27. ♖f3 ♖e8 28. ♖xd5 (28. ♖g2+= White has the better structure.) 28... ♖xh3 29. b4 White keeps some initiative thanks to his more active pieces and a distant passed pawn, but objectively the position is drawish.]

26. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 27.b3 ♖e6 28. ♖f3 ♖f6 29. ♖g2 [29. ♖e1 29... ♖d8=]

29...♖d8 30. ♖e2 ♖d5 [30... ♖xd1 31. ♖xd1 ♖b2 (31... c5 32. ♖d5+=) 32. ♖d7 ♖xa2]

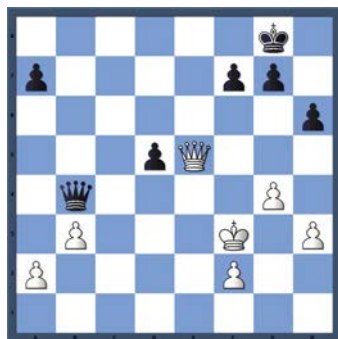


33. ♖e5! ♖xb3 34. ♖xf7+ ♖h7 (34... ♖h8? 35. ♖g6+ ♖h7 36. ♖f8+—) 35. ♖f5+ (35. ♖d7 35... ♖f4+! 36. ♖xf4 ♖d5+) 35... ♖h8 36. ♖xc6 a6 37. h4 and white keeps some initiative thanks to some mate ideas like h5 next and then Ne7 etc...]

31. ♖xd5 cxd5 32. ♖e5 ♖f5 33. ♖d3 ♖d4 34. g4 ♖d7 Of course Black should not exchange queens because then White will have more chances to take advantage of the passed pawn. [34... ♖xe2 35. gxf5 ♖d4 36. ♖g3!? ♖xf5+ 37. ♖f4 ♖e7 38. ♖e5 An active king and the plan of playing b4-a4-b5 next gives

White the initiative.]

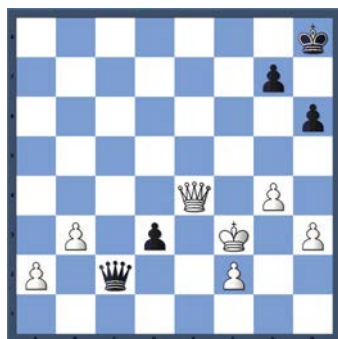
35. ♖e5 ♜e6 36. ♔g3 ♜b5 37. ♞f4 ♞xf4 38. ♔xf4 ♜b4+ 39. ♔f3



39...d4! In time trouble Anand is going to defend actively.

40. ♜e8+ ♔h7 41. ♜xf7 ♜d2! White is a pawn up but thanks to the d-pawn Black's counterplay is enough. [41... ♜c3+? 42. ♔e4 d3 43. ♜f3! and Black loses the important d-pawn.]

42. ♜f5+ [42. ♜xa7 42... ♜d1+! (42...d3?! is less accurate because of 43. ♜e3! ♜c2 44. ♜e4+ ♔h8



45. ♔g2! A fantastically strong move! 45... ♜e2 (45... ♜d1 46. ♜a8+ ♔h7 47. ♜f3 ♜c2 48. ♜e4+ wins a tempo.) 46. ♜a8+ ♔h7 47. ♜f3 ♜c2 48. ♜e4+ ♔g8 49. h4+= and is not easy to improve Black's position because White has the idea

of winning a tempo which we saw in previous variations.) 43. ♔g2 d3 44. ♜e3 d2 now Black is on time, so White needs to give a perpetual check. 45. ♜e4+ ♔h8 46. ♜e8+=]

42... ♔h8 43. h4 ♜xa2 44. ♜e6 ♜d2 [44...d3? 45. ♜e8+ ♔h7 46. ♜e4+=]

45. ♜e8+ ♔h7 46. ♜e4+ ♔h8 47. ♜e8+ ♔h7 1/2-1/2

**(4) Anand, Viswanathan(2792)
- Carlsen, Magnus(2863) [E15]**WCh 2014(5),
2014.11.14GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♞f3 b6 4.g3 ♘b4+ A solid choice where you don't find too much complex theory.

5.♘d2 [5.♞bd2]

5...♘e7 Black had other possibilities to develop: [5...♘xd2+ 6.♚xd2 ♘a6 7.b3 c6 8.♘g2 d5 9.O-O O-O 10.♚c1 ♞bd7 with a very solid position where its hard to prove an advantage for White.; 5...♚e7 6.♘g2 ♘b7 7.O-O ♘xd2 8.♚xd2 O-O 9.♞c3 d5 (9...♞e4 10.♞xe4 ♘xe4 11.♚f4+)=] 10.cxd5 exd5 11.♚ac1+;

6.♞c3 ♘b7 7.♘g2



7...c6! Carlsen has provoked the Bd2 move to transpose into a Catalan structure. This is a typical idea because then White is not able to play over b3-Bb2.

[7...O-O 8.O-O d5 (8...♞e4?! makes no sense at all because Black is a tempo down compared to the known line.) 9.cxd5 exd5 10.♘f4+=]

8.e4! Fighting for the center immediately.

8...d5 9.exd5 [9.e5 9...♞e4 10.cxd5 cxd5 11.O-O O-O∞White will not be able to create any kingside pressure as is usual in this kind of structure, because of the bad bishop on g2 and the strong knight on e4.]

9...cxd5 10.♞e5 O-O 11.O-O



11...♞c6 [11...♞bd7 is less accurate because of 12.♚a4↑and the pawn on d4 is not hanging.]

12.cxd5 [12.♘g5 doesn't bring White any advantage. 12...♚c8 (12...h6 13.♘xf6 ♘xf6 14.cxd5 ♞xe5 15.dxe5 ♘xe5 16.dxe6 ♘xg2 17.exf7+ ♚xf7 18.♚xg2 ♘xc3 19.bxc3 ♚f6 Black's active pieces and the weak white structure give Black good drawing chances.) 13.♚e1 dxc4 14.♚a4 ♞xe5 (14...♚e8∞) 15.dxe5 (15.♘b7 15...♚xd4+) 15...♘xg2 16.exf6 gxf6 17.♘h6 ♘f3 18.♘xf8 ♚xf8=]

12...♞xe5 [12...♞xd5 13.♞xd5 exd5 14.♚a4 ♞xe5 15.dxe5 ♘c5 16.♘c3+= White has a long-term advantage because of the weak d5 pawn.]



13.d6 [13.dxe5?! 13...♞xd5 and here only Black can be better.]

13...♞c6 [13...♙xg2 14.dxe7 ♞xe7 15.dxe5 ♙xf1 16.exf6 ♞xf6 17.♞xf1 ♞fd8 18.♙e3+= Black's position is very solid but White has some potential chances to create pressure against the a7-b6 pawns, so I prefer his position.]

14.dxe7 ♞xe7 15.♙g5 Anand needs to hurry with the break in the center, as if Black managed to create a blockade on d5, White could be worse.

15...h6



16.d5! ♞a5 [16...♞ad8 17.dxc6 ♞xd1 18.♞fxd1 ♙c8 19.♙xf6 ♞xf6 20.♞ac1 and from a practical point of view White has easier play thanks to his strong pawn on c6.]

17.♙xf6 [17.d6 17...♞d8 18.♙xf6 ♞xf6 19.♞e2 ♞fd8↪ The d-pawn could be weak here.]

17...♞xf6 18.dxe6 ♞xe6 [18...fxe6 19.♙xb7 ♞xb7 20.♞e2 ♞c5 This should be an easy draw despite the weak e6 pawn.]

19.♞e1



19...♞f6! is the best square for the queen because after Nd5 the b2 pawn will be hanging.

20.♞d5 ♙xd5 [20...♞xb2 leads to a draw by force: 21.♞e2 ♞a3 22.♞e3 ♞b2 23.♞e2 ♞a3 24.♞e3 with a move repetition or Black can play 24...♞c5 25.♞c1 ♞c4 26.♞f6+ (26.♞e7+ 26...♞h8 27.♞xc4 ♞xc4 28.♙xb7 ♞ad8↪) 26...gxf6 27.♞g4+ ♞g5 28.♞xc4 ♙xg2 29.♞xg2 ♞xg4 30.♞xg4+ ♞h7=]

21.♙xd5 [21.♞xd5 21...♞ad8 (21...♞xb2 22.♞xa8 ♞xa8 23.♙xa8+= and the two rooks can be stronger because of the potential weakness on f7.) 22.♞e5 ♞xe5 23.♞xe5 ♞d2↪]

21...♞ad8 22.♞f3 ♞xb2 [22...♞xf3 23.♙xf3 ♞d2 24.♞e2 ♞xe2 25.♙xe2+= and one of Fischer's and Kasparov's classical games proved that this kind of endgame is drawisch but Black must be careful as the bishop is always stronger with pawns on both sides, so in case the rooks will be exchanged Black should create a setup with the knight on c7 and the king on d6.]

23. ♖ad1



23... ♗f6! is the most solid move. The white pieces became very active so it is time to exchange queens and fix the draw, as other moves were already very risky. [23... ♖d7 24. ♗f5! ♖c7 (24... ♖fd8? 25. ♗xf7+--) 25. ♗e4 g6 26. ♗f4 ♖fc8 27. ♗xh6 ♗f6 28. h4↑]

24. ♗xf6 gxf6 25. ♖e7



25... ♗g7! The most accurate move, preventing the tactical Bf7 threat. [25... ♗c6 26. ♖c7 ♗e5 (26... ♗b4? 27. ♗xf7+) 27. ♖xa7 (27. f4 27... ♖d7!) 27... ♖d6 28. ♗b3 (28. f4 28... ♖fd8=) 28... ♖xd1+ 29. ♗xd1 ♖d8 30. ♗b3 ♖d7 31. ♖a8+ ♗g7 32. ♖b8 ♖d6 33. ♖b7+=]

26. ♖xa7 ♗c6 27. ♖b7 [27. ♖a4 was the last chance to keep the pawns on the queenside.]

27... ♗b4 28. ♗b3 ♖xd1+ 29. ♗xd1 ♗xa2 30. ♖xb6= ♗c3 Now the position is completely drawn.

31. ♗f3 f5 32. ♗g2 ♖d8 33. ♖c6 ♗e4 34. ♗xe4 fxe4 35. ♖c4 f5 36. g4 ♖d2 37. gxf5 e3 38. ♖e4 ♖xf2+ 39. ♗g3 ♖xf5 1/2-1/2

Puzzle section

(5) Morozevich, A(2724)-Inarkiev, E(2688)

Petrosian memorial, 2014.11.08

1... -+



(6) Kramnik, V(2760)-Morozevich, A(2724)

Petrosian memorial, 2014.11.10

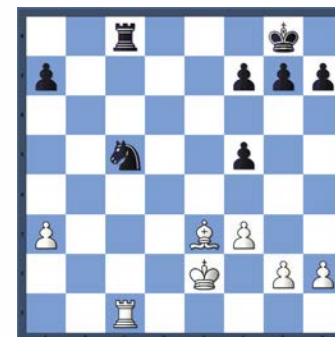
1. +-



(7) Shomoev, A(2569)-Riazantsev, A(2678)

Ugra Cup, 2014.11.05

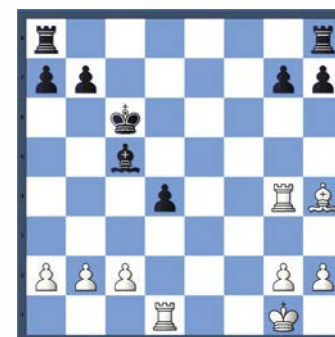
1... -+



(8) Sjugirov, S(2673)-Matsenko, S(2482)

Ugra Cup, 2014.11.07

1... -+



(9) Blanco, H(2440)-Rakhmanov, A(2636)

Caracas, 2014.11.06

1... -+



(10) Georgiev, K(2618)-Brunello, S(2568)

Durres Open, 2014.11.04

1. +-



(11) Meier, G(2647)-Medveg, Z(2510)

German league, 2014.11.07

1... -+



(12) Gruenberg, H(2377)-Cuenca Jimenez, J(2476)

German league, 2014.11.07

1... -+



(13) Saltaev, M(2476)-Fish, G(2466)

German league, 2014.11.08

1. +-



(14) Svane, R(2506)-Zeller, F(2445)

German league, 2014.11.09

1... -+



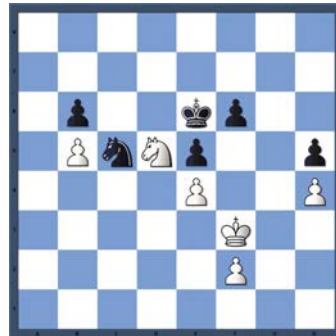
Endgame section

(15) **Morozevich, Alexander(2724)**
- **Aronian, Levon(2797)**

Petrosian memorial,
2014.11.05



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



Instead of a quick draw, the game becomes extremely interesting due to a terrible blunder by Morozevich...

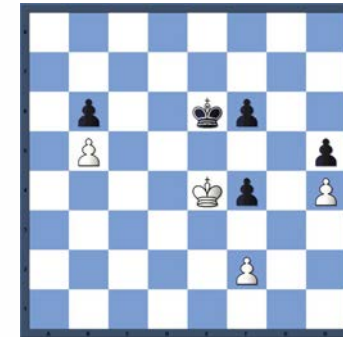
47. ♖e3? A tactical oversight, which gives Black a sudden chance. [After the natural 47. ♜xb6 47... ♜b3 followed by Nd4 next, winning the b5 pawn and the game ends in a draw.]

47... ♜xe4! Of course, Aronian never spoils such a chance.

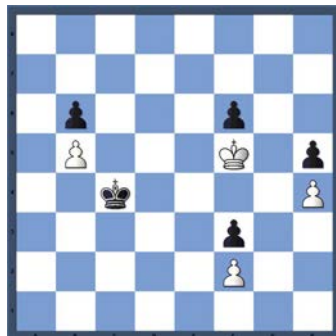
48. ♜f4+!? was played almost without thinking, trying to pretend that everything is under control. [48. ♖xe4? 48... f5+ wins.; 48. ♜xb6 48... ♜d6 49. f4 would have been a practical decision. White is a pawn down, but the limited material on the board should allow him to hold the draw relatively easily.]

48... ♖f5?! Aronian also takes a decision with less than a minute of thinking. This is a very strange mistake, because as

we will see, that pawn endgame would have been very tricky, while now it is just a draw... [The critical line is 48...exf4+ 49. ♖xe4



49...f3! Perhaps Aronian forgot about this option, trying to send the king to a passive position. The arising pawn endgame is a very good example to improve our calculating skills... (Probably Aronian only checked the possibility of quickly going towards the b5 pawn, but it leads to draw after 49... ♖d6 50. ♖f5 ♖c5 51. ♖g6 ♖xb5 52. ♖xh5 This is not the only way for White to play, but the most principled one. White does not waste time on capturing the f-pawns, since it is more important to advance the h-pawn as fast as possible. 52... ♖c4 53. ♖g4 The pawns are promoting at the same time.) 50. ♖f4! The only move, trying to keep the black king away from the opposition. (50. ♖xf3 loses easily after 50... ♖f5 and White is forced to let the black king in. 51. ♖g3 ♖e4 52. f3+ Otherwise Black goes Kf4 and collects the h4 or the f2 pawn. 52... ♖e3 53. ♖g2 f5 54. ♖g3 f4+ 55. ♖g2 ♖e2—+ wins.) 50... ♖d5 51. ♖f5! The only move! Taking on f3 costs too much time in the pawn race... (51. ♖xf3 51... ♖c5 52. ♖e4 ♖xb5 53. ♖f5 ♖c4 54. ♖xf6 b5—+ and Black is faster because the f6 king blocks the way...) 51... ♖c4



52.♔g6! The h5 pawn is more important than the one of f6. White needs to promote his h-pawn, therefore he should not waste time on any other things. (52.♔xf6? loses in view of 52...♔d3!! Black was very tricky in the last move, pretending to go for the b5 pawn, but actually the real target was the one on f2! (52...♔xb5 53.♔g6 ♔c6 54.♔xh5 b5 55.♔g4 b4 56.h5 is a draw.) 53.♔g5 ♔e2 54.♔xh5 ♔xf2 55.♔g4 ♔g2—+ and Black is faster.) 52...♔d3! 53.♔xh5 ♔e2 54.♔g6 (54.♔g4? was another way to lose the game on the spot: 54...♔xf2 55.h5 ♔e3 56.h6 f2 57.h7 f1=♔ 58.h8=♔ ♔f3+ 59.♔h4 ♔h1+—+) 54...♔xf2 55.h5 ♔e3 56.h6 f2 57.h7 f1=♔ 58.h8=♔ ♔xb5



59.♔xf6 We basically reach this position by force from the 48...exf4 line. This is a theoretical draw, but I must say that in a practical game Black's chances to win are decent! I don't wish to anyone to defend an endgame like this, because it is going to be 100 moves of torture.]

49.♔xh5 ♔d6 50.♔g3+ ♔e6 [50...♔g6 does not change much. 51.h5+ ♔h6 52.f4= trading all the pawns.]

51.h5 f5 52.f4 ♔c4+ [Black has no time to create a passed pawn with 52...e4 53.h6 ♔f6 54.h7 ♔g7 55.♔d4 55.Nxf5 also leads to draw, but this one is the most easy. 55...♔xh7 56.♔e5= and the f5 falls.]

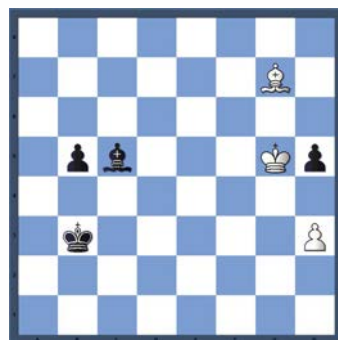
53.♔e2 exf4 54.h6 ♔f6 55.h7 A draw was agreed as White takes on f5 next. 1/2-1/2

**(16) Gelfand, Boris(2759)
- Svidler, Peter(2743)**

Tal Memorial Blitz 2014(13.5),
2014.11.14



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



We are in a blitz game, but anyhow this game clearly deserves attention, as already very soon we are going to see a funny endgame.

56...b4 Black is pushing his pawn, what else?!

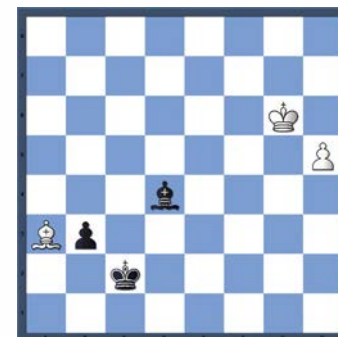
57. ♖xh5 ♜c4! Great play with only a few seconds on the clock by Svidler. [57...♜c2 leads to a draw after 58.h4 b3 59.♖g6 ♜f8 60.♜e5 ♜b4 61.h5 ♜c3 62.♜xc3 ♜xc3 63.h6 b2 64.h7 b1=♚+ 65.♜g7]

58. ♜g6 White can't stop Black from playing Bd4.

58...♜d4?! [58...b3 59.♜b2 ♜d4 would be more exact to not give White the chance to play Bf8.]

59. ♜h6 [A more tricky try would have been 59.♜f8 and now Black needs to be careful. 59...♜c5 comes back to the winning plan of playing b3 first. (59...b3? leads to a draw after 60.♜a3 ♜c3 (60...♜b5 61.h4 ♜a4 62.♜c1 and Black can't chase the

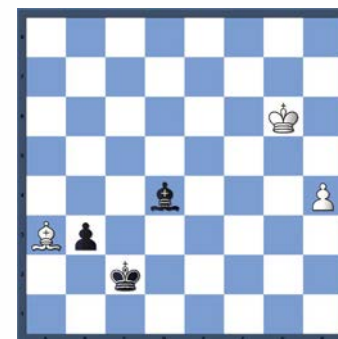
white bishop from the diagonal a3-c1.) 61.h4 ♜c2 62.h5



62...♜c5 with the same idea as in the game, but just with an extra tempo for White. 63.♜xc5 b2 64.h6 b1=♚ 65.h7 with a draw.) 60.♜g7 b3 and Black is back on the winning track.]

59...b3 60. ♜c1 ♜d3 Black is going to take away all the square from the white bishop, which is needed to promote the b-pawn.

61.h4 ♜c2 62.♜a3



62...♜c5 The b-pawn is a queen, but the game is far from over.

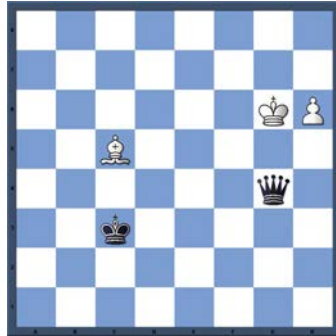
63. ♜xc5 b2 64.h5 b1=♚ 65.h6 In case White managed to reach a position where the pawn is on h7 and the king on g7, even if he had to give up the bishop to reach it, it would be a draw.

65...♔c3+ A good move. Black needs to bring his king as close as possible to the h6 pawn.

66.♔g7 ♚b7+ 67.♔g6 ♚c6+ 68.♔g7 ♚c7+ The black queen is coming closer and closer with checks.

69.♔g8 [69.♔g6?? 69...♚xc5 70.h7 ♚f8--]

69...♚g3+ 70.♔f7 ♚f4+ 71.♔g6 ♚g4+



72.♔f6 is White's only chance. [72.♔f7 72...♚f5+ 73.♔g7 ♚g5+ 74.♔h7 ♚xc5 and Black is simply winning.]

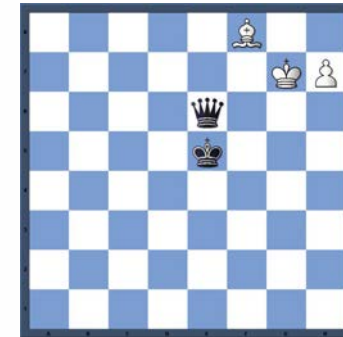
72...♚h5?! is not the best. [72...♚g8 followed by Qh7 would win the game immediately, because all Black would need to do is to bring his king to e4.]

73.♚f8 ♔d4 74.♔g7 ♚g5+ 75.♔f7 Now that the h6 pawn is not hanging, White has the possibility of playing Kf7, threatening to play h7 next.

75...♚f5+ 76.♔g8 [76.♔g7 76...♔e5 would lead to the same position as in the game.]

76...♚e6+ 77.♔g7 ♔e5 The black king is in time to help the queen.

78.h7



78...♔f5! A nice move, as White can't queen the pawn now.

79.h8=♞! White takes his only chance and promotes to a knight. [79.h8=♚ 79...♚g6# What a beautiful mate! :)]

79...♚e5+ [79...♚d7+ 80.♔g8 ♔f6 would win faster.]

80.♔g8 This position is winning, but it is still a fight. White has a little chance to regroup the pieces into Bg7-Ne5, after which we would reach a theoretically drawn position, which is useful to know!

80...♔e6 81.♚g7 ♚b8+ 82.♔h7 ♚c8 83.♔h6 ♔f5 The black king is coming closer and closer.

84.♔h7 ♚e8 Now Black is trying to get White into zugzwang to make the g7 bishop move.

85.♔h6 ♔g4 86.♔h7 ♔g5 Black came as close as he could.

87.♚h6+ ♔f5 88.♚g7 So we have the same position as a few moves ago, except that it is Black to move.

88...♚h5+ 89.♔g8 ♔e6 This position is still not that easy to win, especially in a blitz game.

90. ♖f8



90... ♖h7! but finally Svidler makes Gelfand move the bishop from g7 and of course he doesn't let the knight from h8 into the game.

91. ♗a1 ♖a7 and the a1 bishop has no good squares. After 92. Bg7 the queen is mating on the 8th rank and if the bishop goes to any other square White is losing the bishop because of the check on b8 or c5. What a funny endgame! :) 0-1

Clash of the Titans

(17) Rubinstein, Akiba
- Tarrasch, Siegbert[D06]

Berlin Tageblatt+, 1928



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.c4 c5 2. ♘f3 ♘f6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4 d5 [4... ♘c6 5. ♘c3 e6 leads to the main positions.]

5.cxd5 ♘xd5



6.e4 White is taking the advantage in the center.

6... ♘f6 [6... ♘b4!? threatening Qxd4! 7. ♖a4+ (7. ♗e3 7... ♘8c6 8. ♗b5 ♗d7 9. ♘xc6 ♗xc6 10. ♗xc6+ ♘xc6 11. ♘c3 e6 and the position is equal because of the reduced material.) 7... ♘8c6 8. ♘xc6 ♘xc6 9. ♗e3+= and White keeps the possibility to develop the knight to d2.]

7. ♘c3 e5 [7...e6 8. ♘db5 a6 9. ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 10. ♘d4 ♗b4 11.f3 ♖e7 12. ♗d2 and White can be better because of a few factors: the bishop on b4 is not placed perfectly, the b6 square can be weak and White has more space.; 7...a6 8.e5 ♘d5 9.e6! ♗a

typical sacrifice idea to stop Black from developing his pieces so easily.]

8. ♖db5 [8... ♗b5+ 8... ♕d7 9. ♕xd7+ ♖bxd7 10. ♖f5 White can look for a some small plus thanks to the potentially weak d5 square.]

8... ♖xd1+ [8...a6 9. ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 10. ♖a3 b5 11. ♖c2 ♕e6! (11... ♕b7 12.f3! and the bishop on b7 is limited. 12... ♖bd7 13.a4! A typical idea to weaken the black queenside.; 11...b4 12. ♖a4 ♖xe4 13. ♕e3 with a huge initiative for White, when 0-0-0 and Bc4 can come next.) 12.f3 ♖bd7 13. ♕e3 ♕c5 followed by Ke7 with equal play.]

9. ♖xd1



9... ♖a6 The king on d1 has no meaning. Black was forced to put his knight on the inactive a6 square, which will be the reason of Tarrasch's loss, since now Rubinstein will demonstrate great technique.

10.f3 [10. ♕e3 10... ♖g4 11. ♕xa7 ♖xa7 12. ♖xa7 ♕d7 13. ♖e1 ♕c5 14. ♖ab5 ♖b4⇐]

10... ♕c5



11. ♖a4! ♕e7 12. ♕e3 The previous move allowed White to get a good diagonal for the bishop.

12... ♕d7 13. ♖c1 O-O



14.a3! preparing a a3-b4 setup, which will limit the black pieces even further.

14... ♖fd8 [14... ♖fc8 15. ♖xc8+ ♖xc8 16. ♕xa7±]

15. ♖e1 ♖e8! A logical move. Black is going to exchange the inactive knight for his strong opponent on b5.

16. ♕e2 ♖d6 17. ♖ac3 ♖xb5 18. ♖xb5 b6 [18... ♖dc8 19. ♖f2 (19. ♖xc8+ 19... ♖xc8 20. ♖xa7 ♖c2 21.b4 ♖a2⇐) 19... ♖c5 20. ♖hd1 with the idea to play Nd6 or Rd5 and Black will be

forced to exchange one of the bishops for the knight and defend a worse endgame.]

19.b4! ♟e6 20.♟f2 ♞d7 21.♞hd1! A strong move which stops the rook from a8 from activation.

21...♞xd1 22.♞xd1 ♟f8



23.g3! The white pieces are placed on optimal positions, so now is the time to improve the position by getting more space or creating some additional weaknesses.

23...♟e8 24.f4 f6 25.fxe5 [25.♟c1]

25...fxe5 White created a weak pawn on e5.



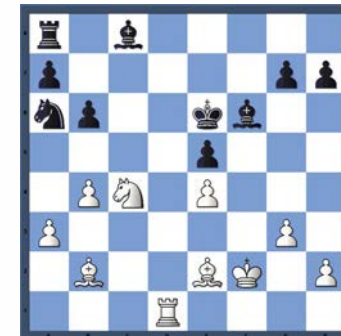
26.♟c1! preparing to put pressure against the e5 pawn.

26...♟c8? [26...♟f8! was not an easy move to make, but the last chance to hold the position. 27.♟b2 ♟f6 and White has

no check on d6 since the king is on f8 now. 28.♞d6 (28.♞c7 28...♟e7 29.♞c6 ♟d7 30.♞d6+ ♟e7=) 28...♞c7 29.♞c4 ♟xc4 30.♟xc4 ♟e7 White is better thanks to the bishop pair, but the black pieces are well coordinated.]

27.♟b2 ♟f6 28.♞d6+ ♟e7 29.♞c4 White didn't fall into the trap. [29.♞xc8+? 29...♞xc8 30.♟xa6 ♞c2+=]

29...♟e6



30.♞xe5! +— The decisive blow!

30...♞c7 [30...♟xe5 31.♟c4+ ♟f6 32.♞d6+ ♟e7 33.♟xe5+—]

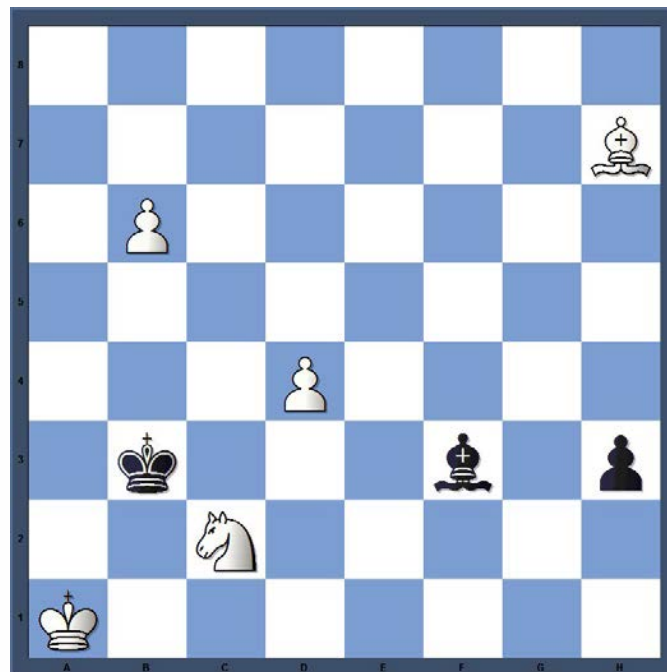
31.♟c4+ White is easily winning now.

31...♟e7 32.♞c6+ ♟f8 33.♟xf6 gxf6 34.♞d8+ ♞e8 35.b5 ♟b7 36.♞d7 ♟xc6 37.bxc6 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Gabovich

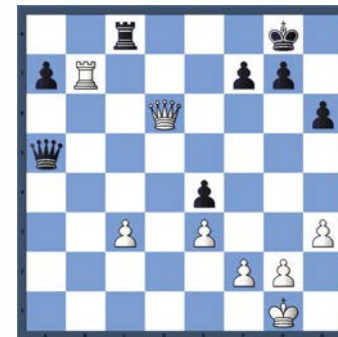
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Solutions

(19) Caruana, F(2844)-Gelfand, B(2748)

Tashkent GP, 2014.10.28

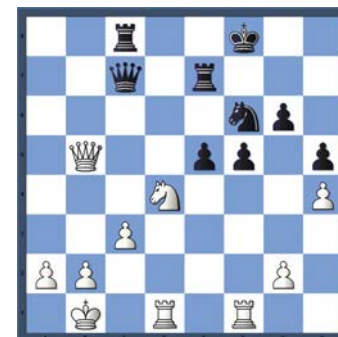


26. ♖xf7! ♜xc3 [26... ♙xf7 27. ♚d7+ ♜f6 28. ♚xc8±]

27. ♖xa7±

(20) Karjakin, S(2767)-Giri, A(2768)

Tashkent GP, 2014.10.28



29. ♚a6! ♜g7 [29... exd4 30. ♚xf6+--; 29... ♜f7 30. ♜b5+--]

30. ♜e6+ ♜xe6 31. ♚xe6+--

(21) Jakovenko, D(2747)-Caruana, F(2844)

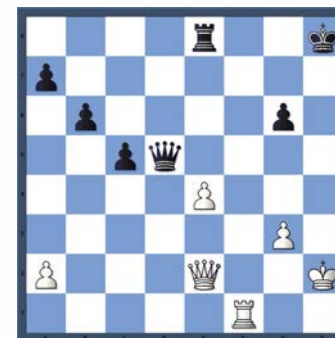
Tashkent GP, 2014.11.02



27...♘xd5! 28.♔xe7 ♘xe7+

(23) Liu, Y(2364)-Zhao, Y(2091)

China zonal, 2014.11.02



29.♖f8+! 1-0 [29.♖f8+ 29...♖xf8 (29...♔h7 30.♖xe8+-) 30.exd5+-]

(22) Zhao Yuanhe(2091)-Wei Y(2641)

China zonal, 2014.10.30



15...d2+! 16.♔xd2 ♔xd2+ 17.♔xd2 exf4! 0-1 [17...exf4 18.♔xf4 ♔xg5 19.♔xg5 ♘xe4+ 20.♔e3 ♘xg5+-]

(24) Bivol, A(2208)-Smirin, I(2655)

Chigorin memorial, 2014.10.25



19...f5! 20.exf5 ♘f6! 0-1 [20...♘f6 21.♔h4 ♘f3+-]

(25) Smirin, I(2655)-Nezad, H(2400)

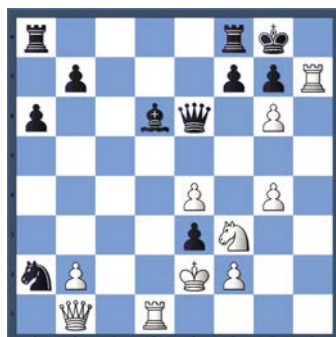
Chigorin memorial, 2014.10.26



32. ♖f6+! 1-0 [32. ♖f6+ 32...gxf6 33. ♕xf6 ♖xd3 (33... ♖g7 34. ♖h7+ ♔f8 35. ♖xg7#) 34. ♖h8#]

(26) Deglmann, L(2340)-Delchev, A(2633)

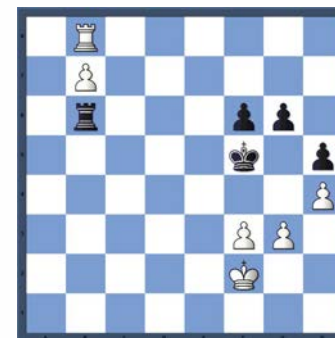
OIBM, 2014.10.27



23. ♖h8+!! 1-0 [23. ♖h8+ 23... ♕xh8 24. ♖h1+ ♕g8 25. ♖h8+!! ♕xh8 26. ♖h1+ ♕g8 27. ♖h7#]

(27) Melkumyan, H(2678)-Meins, G(2439)

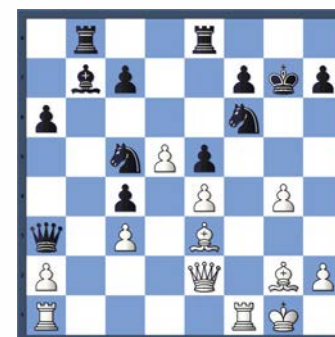
OIBM, 2014.10.29



56. g4+! 1-0 [56. g4+ 56...hgx4 (56... ♕f4 57. ♖e8!! ♖b2+ 58. ♖e2 ♖xb7 59. ♖e4#) 57. fxg4+ ♕xg4 (57... ♕f4 58. h5+-) 58. h5! g5 (58...gxh5 59. ♖g8+-; 58... ♕xh5 59. ♖h8+-) 59. h6+-]

(28) Rambaldi, F(2454)-Delchev, A(2633)

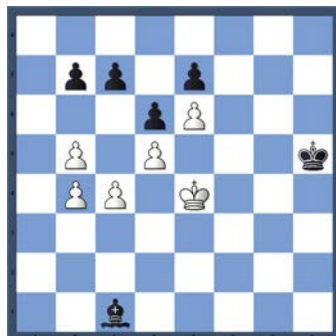
OIBM, 2014.10.31



21. ♖xf6! ♕xf6 22. ♖f2+ ♕g7 [22... ♕e7 23. ♕xc5+-]

23. ♕h6+! 1-0 [23. ♕h6+ 23... ♕xh6 (23... ♕g8 24. ♖f6+-) 24. ♖f6#]

(29) Isenegger



1.b6! cxb6 2.c5! bxc5 [2...dxc5? 3.d6!]

3.bxc5 ♖a3! [3...dxc5? 4.d6!; 3...♔g6? 4.c6!]

4.c6! bxc6 5.dxc6 d5+! 6.♔f5! [6.♔xd5? 6...♗d6—+]

6...♗d6 7.c7! ♗xc7



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 143

21st of November 2014

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Editorial Preface

Carlsen is only 2 games away from retaining his chess crown! This is not a surprise, but if we look at the games the match is everything but clear. Carlsen looks surprisingly tired, doesn't play very accurately in the openings and even blunders tactical blows.

Anand, who is extremely well prepared as usual, is just not taking his chances, which is a huge pity both for him and his team.

So the situation seems to be very critical for Anand, as with only 2 games to go and only one with the white pieces, the Indian will probably have to go "all in" in the last game of the match. The current score is 5.5-4.5 and in 4 days from now we will see whether Carlsen managed to successfully defend his chess crown.

In the current issue we bring you full coverage on the match by commenting all its games.

In one of the strongest ever Ukrainian Championship there are 3 leaders before the final 11th round and these are Kuzubov, Eljanov and Ponomariov. We are going to see a very interesting ultimate round.

This week there is also the match between Aronian and Nakamura in Saint Louis. There will be 3 different time controls: classical, rapid and blitz. This will definitely be a very exciting event to follow.

That's all for now and in the next issue we will already know the name of the new World Champion!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

We are happy to announce, that Chess Evolution will cooperate with Hungarian Chess Federation in the prestigious event of World Chess Olympiad U-16. Chess Evolution will also devote two issues from our newsletter to share with you the best games, the most interesting moments and the nicest combinations played by the young stars.

FIDE Youth Chess Olympiad Hosted by Hungary Already Breaks Records

Only four months after the Chess Olympiad in Tromsø where the greatest chess players of the world competed against each other it is already time to have a look at the best talents of the next generation. In December this year Hungary may organize a Chess Olympiad for the first time, the competition for youth aged under 16 years. The event takes place in the city of Győr and with more than a month to the start the organizers have already confirmed the entries of more participant nations than ever before at any Youth Chess Olympiad. It really seems that the best chess talents of all five continents will be present in Hungary between 12th-22nd December. Awarding the right of organization to Hungary is a clear sign of high international recognition of chess life in the country which is rightly confirmed by the fact that Judit Polgar who has been leading the FIDE world rankings for more than 25 years has agreed to be the face of the event representing talent and the Hungarian chess traditions all in one person or we could even say legend. By mentioning Judit Polgar let us not forget that after FIDE tightened on a rule that had existed earlier participation of girls are now guaranteed. In each team a maximum four of the five team members can be a boy.

The promo video of the Youth Chess Olympiad 2014 features Judit Polgar, Csaba Balogh, Olympic Silver medalist, Benjamin Gledura who was European Champion of his age group and Kata Karacsonyi who was the first to follow in the footsteps of Judit Polgar to win the National Championship topping all boys in their age groups.

You can see the video by clicking on this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZu0iBrc5rE>

You can find more information about the FIDE U-16 World Youth Chess Olympiad 2014 on the official website of the event:



5 best games of the past week

(1) Anand, Viswanathan(2792)
- Carlsen, Magnus(2863) [D97]

WCh 2014(10),
2014.11.21



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

There are only 3 more games to go and Anand gets the white pieces twice. Does he need to push and take some risks or maybe keep it for the final game?! It is hard to choose the right strategy when you are playing Magnus Carlsen who seems to be almost impossible to beat. After the opening Black's position seemed to be solid, but something quickly went wrong and Anand clearly had his chances to put Carlsen under pressure, but maybe because of tiredness or maybe a lack of self-confidence Anand quickly let his advantage slip away.

1.d4 Anand of course continues playing 1.d4 because Carlsen did actually not manage to show such a strong preparation here and Anand had some good winning chances.

1...♘f6 2.c4 g6 Carlsen is back to the Gruenfeld after playing a few games in the Queen's Gambit. To me this seems to be the right choice because it seemed from the games that Anand was very well prepared in the QG with a lot of new ideas.

3.♘c3 d5 4.♘f3 ♙g7 5.♚b3 Anand is going for a different line than in the 1st game of the match where he tried to surprise Carlsen with an interesting idea in the Bd2 line.

5...dxc4 6.♚xc4 O-O The Gruenfeld is one of the most analysed openings and especially by Anand's team, who had

the same job already in the match with Gelfand who played ONLY the Gruenfeld defense.

7.e4



7...♞a6 This is one of the main lines of theory. Sometimes the Gruenfeld is not that easy to understand, it seems like White has the center, more space, but Black's aggressive play which usually starts immediately against the d4-e4 pawns and the strong bishop on g7 makes the opening one of the most solid and most played on the top level.

8.♙e2 c5 9.d5 Moves like .dxc5 don't usually bring any advantage in the Gruenfeld. The c5 pawn is going to fall and Black will get a great position.

9...e6 This is of course all theory but anyhow we see a good example on how to play against strong central pawns and this is to break them!

10.O-O White has no better options in the position.

10...exd5 11.exd5 ♖e8 So now the situation has changed a lot. White has a passed d5 pawn but of course the pawn is not dangerous at the moment. Carlsen's main problem is the knight on a6 which stands very passively. White usually wants to put the rook on d1 as quickly as possible and then push the d-pawn as far as it goes.

12. ♖g5 The bishop has to be developed and of course it is hard to understand why there is a need to provoke Black into playing h6, but already in couple of moves we will see why Anand played first 12.Bg5 and not Be3.

12...h6 Black has to get out of the pin, White just wanted to play Qh4

13. ♖e3 ♖f5 A very usual way of playing and still theory. Black wants to play Ne4 to make the g7 bishop strong and to get some play in the center.

14. ♖ad1 ♖e4 is a very logical move, but maybe now White reaches a better endgame almost by force. [14...♖b6 looks interesting to me as well, attacking the b2 pawn and just preparing to play Rad8 or maybe Qb4. The exchange of queens should be good for Black.]

15. ♖xe4 White can't let Black play Nd6.

15...♖xe4 [To take with the rook doesn't make much sense: 15...♖xe4 16. ♖c1 and the rook on e4 can easily get attacked.]



16. ♖c1! A very strong move and White's key idea is coming true with 12.Bg5 and provoking Black into playing h6. Now the h6 pawn is hanging and at the same time White maybe wants to play Bb5 or just to push d6.

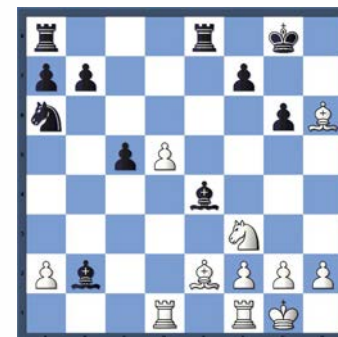
16...♖f6 A very solid move. [16...♖b6 would probably lead

to about the same position as in the game. 17.d6 (17. ♖xh6 17...♖xb2 and we are back to the position of the game.) 17...♖xb2 and here as well White's initiative looks dangerous, but in fact I think Black is perfectly fine.]

17. ♖xh6 An important pawn has been taken, so now the white bishop can support the d-pawn from the g5 square.

17...♖xb2 Black needs to win the pawn back.

18. ♖xb2 ♖xb2 I think we reached a critical position of the game now. Things are looking very dangerous for Black as the d-pawn could become the match winner, but on the other hand, if there is nothing concrete, Black will slowly get things under control and then the position will be nothing but equal.



19. ♖g5! A very nice try by Anand! [19. ♖b5 is of course a bad move, since after 19...♖ed8 Black is doing great.; 19.d6 This tempting-looking move doesn't seem to bring any advantage because of 19...♖b4! (19...♖c6 20. ♖c4 and White is better.) 20. ♖c4 (20. ♖g5 20...♖d5! Black's position is very dangerous, but it all seems to work out. 21. ♖b5 (21. ♖xd5 22. ♖c4 ♖e5) 21...♖ed8 and Black is even better.) 20...♖xf3 21.gxf3 ♖d4 and Black has nothing to be worried about thanks to his solid bishop on d4.]

19...♖d4! Another very good move. At first sight nobody

would like to give up the e4 bishop, but there is nothing better to do and the d4 bishop will compensate quite a lot. [19...♗xg2? 20.♗xa6! ♗xf1 21.♗xf1 and White has two pieces for the rook.; Another solid looking option could be 19...♗f5 but now the d-pawn is already becoming very dangerous. 20.♗b5 ♖ed8 21.d6 ♜b4 Black is trying to bring back the pieces into the game. 22.♖fe1! with the threat of playing Re7 next and I would not like to be Black here...]



20.♗xe4? A very strange move and I think clearly not the best one from a practical point of view. White had a much stronger looking option and Anand definitely needed to fight for the win, so why not keep things a bit more complicated?! [Why not just win an exchange by playing 20.♗b5! 20...♗xd5 is the only way to go on. (Very bad for Black is 20...♖e5 21.♖fe1!) 21.♗xe8 ♖xe8 22.♖fe1 White is an exchange up, but of course Black's bishop pair is very powerful and gives some compensation, but why should this position be equal?! I see no reasons for that. I think White's chances should be clearly better here, especially since the black king could be in danger as well. So now the next question is, why did Anand not do it?! Was he too afraid that the c-pawn would actually give Black great play or that he could even lose the game here?! In any case, I think White should have gone for this position according to the tournament situation where a win was badly

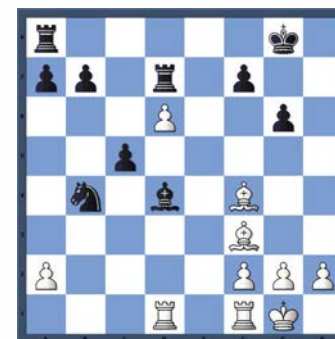
needed!]

20...♖xe4 21.♗f3 White is still a bit better, but the bishop on d4 holds things together.

21...♖e7 All Black needs to do is to get the a6 knight into the game to equalize.

22.d6 ♖d7 23.♗f4 White is still better, but the advantage got smaller. Still Black needs to be very careful with the d6 pawn.

23...♜b4 Black is attacking the a2 pawn and even maybe wants to play Nc6.



24.♖d2?! I think that after this move the position is just equal. [White should have tried to get the control over the e-file: 24.a3 24...♜c6 25.♖fe1 ♖ad8 Black wants to take on d6. 26.♖b1! (After 26.♗g4? 26...♖xd6 27.♗xd6 ♖xd6 Black is an exchange down but thanks to his great bishop on d4 he should have no trouble holding things together.)]

24...♖e8! Of course! The e-file is under Black's control, which is very important.

25.♖c1 ♖e6 Black is preparing the Be5 move next and White can't to anything about it.

26.h4 with the idea of playing h5 next, but it all just comes too late to bring any real winning chances.

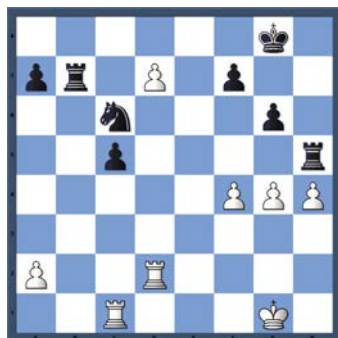


26...♙e5! The last exact calculation by Black!

27. ♙xe5 ♖xe5 Black wants to play Nc6-Nd4 next.

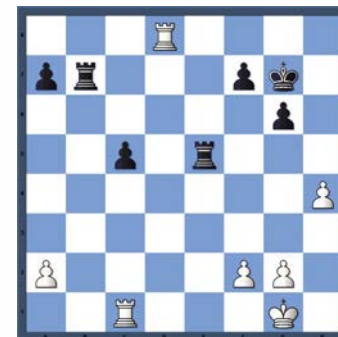
28. ♙xb7 White doesn't have anything better.

28...♖xb7 29.d7 ♘c6 30.d8=♔+ [30.f4 also leads to a draw: 30...♖h5 (30...♖f5 is also possible, but it is a move for people with strong nerves! :) 31.g4 ♖xf4 32.♖xc5 ♖xg4+ 33.♙f2 and Black holds the position thanks to the only move 33...♖bb4! which is a draw because of Rbf4 next.) 31.g4



31...♖h8! 32.d8=♔+ (We can see why Rh8 was needed in the following line: 32.♖xc5 32...♘d8 33.♖c8 ♙g7 protecting the d8 knight.) 32...♘xd8 33.♖xd8+ ♙g7 34.♖xh8 ♙xh8 with a totally drawn position.]

30...♘xd8 31.♖xd8+ ♙g7



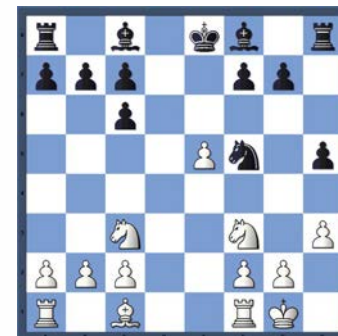
32.♖d2 and of course this rook endgame is a dead draw. A sad outcome of the game for Anand, who in my opinion missed a few chances to put Carlsen under pressure and again we could see that Carlsen did not manage to equalize completely out of the opening. All in all a very important draw for Carlsen, who is now only 2 games away from remain the Chess King. **1/2-1/2**

(2) Carlsen, Magnus(2863) - Anand, Viswanathan(2792) [C67]

WCh 2014(9),
2014.11.20



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



There are just 4 games to go until the end of the match and with 4 draws Carlsen would protect his WCC title thanks to his 1-point lead. Both players are clearly a bit tired, but usually we see Carlsen in very good physical condition and playing every game until the end. What we are going to see in the current game is the opposite. Clearly Carlsen decided to just take a "rest day" and focus on defending with the black pieces in the next game. We will see a short and very boring draw, but an important one for the theory of the Berlin. Anand seems to close one of the lines here.

1.e4 e5 No more Sicilian s and actually why not?! Anand needs to fight in each game and look for chances, but it seems like his strategy is to make a comeback with the white pieces.

2.f3 c6 3.b5 f6 4.O-O Carlsen continues trying to break the Berlin endgame.

4...xe4 5.d4 d6 6.xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 f5 8.xd8+ xd8 9.h3 e8 10.c3 h5 This is the main line for Black. It counts as very solid, but the disadvantage of the move h5 is that Black can almost never be better now. The g5 square is very important.

11.e2 This is a new try in comparison to game 7, where Carlsen continued with 11.Bf4, which is the main line, and managed to get some winning chances after 30 moves of theory. But being aware that Anand's team very likely managed to find a clear equalization, Carlsen is switching to a sideline.

11...b6! In my opinion this move is "closing" the 11.Ne2 line. As we will see in the game, White is going to make the most natural moves and just doesn't get anything better than a draw.

12.d1 White doesn't need to hurry with Nf4 because actually the knight's position is not that great, so Black can easily play for the Be7-g5 idea.

12...a6 Another very good move! Black is ready to lose a tempo to force White to play Nf4.

13.f4 is the most logical. Of course a move like 13.Ned4 is not really an option because with the exchange of one pair of knights in the Berlin Black is usually doing fine.



13...♖b7! This is yet another very important move in Anand's preparation. Black wants to push c5 next and White basically has only one logical option and that is to play

14.e6 I don't see any other logical continuation for White.

14...♗d6! and this is the last important move which Anand definitely knew was equalizing completely. The game is basically over...

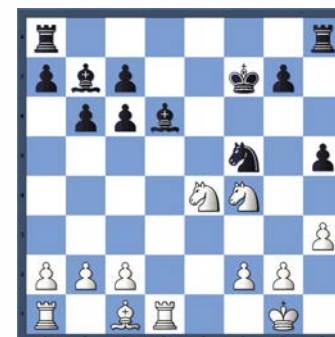
15.exf7+ again White didn't really have a choice. [After 15.♘g5 15...fxe6 16.♗fxe6 ♔d7 Black would already be the one fighting for an advantage.]

15...♔xf7 16.♘g5+ White needs to act quickly, as in case Black managed to get the rooks into the game, the bishop pair would dominate the game in the long term.

16...♔f6 The most simple. Of course 16...Kg8 could be an option as well, but then the rook would be very poorly placed on h8.

17.♘e4+ And Carlsen starts to repeat the moves, which is a very normal decision. White didn't manage to get anything out of opening and with only 3 more games to go Carlsen keeps a comfortable advantage of one point!

17...♔f7



18.♘g5+ ♔f6 Of course Black can't avoid the repetition either...

19.♘e4+ ♔f7 20.♘g5+ and the score is 5-4 for Carlsen. **1/2-1/2**

**(3) Carlsen, Magnus(2863)
- Anand, Viswanathan(2792) [B41]**WCh 2014(6),
2014.11.15GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We often hear people say that World Champions never blunder. In fact, World Champions blunder very rarely and even more rarely a one-move tactic. And what is even more rare is that after a blunder the opponent doesn't use the mistake and exactly this is the case in the current game. How to explain such a moment? There have been many suggestions, but I just believe that Magnus Carlsen was just very very lucky! A very emotional game is awaiting us and maybe a game that decided the outcome of the match...

1.e4 Carlsen continues playing 1.e4 because of his fantastic score against the Berlin, which is Anand's main opening.

1...c5 2.♘f3 e6 And again we see 2...e6. We can also see a big change in the match strategy of Anand, who is now looking for complicated fighting positions rather than trying to hold a solid draw with Black.

3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 a6 This probably came as a surprise- or maybe not. The Paulsen is a very rare opening on the very top level, but it is a fighting opening and often leads to unclear positions.

5.c4 5.Nc3 or 5.Bd3 are more common moves and also the ones usually played by Carlsen.

5...♘f6 6.♘c3 ♘b4 Black is starting a quick attack against White's center.

7.♙d3 is again not the main move, but I believe it deserves a lot of attention. The endgame which we will reach already in a couple of moves is far from being an easy draw.



7...♘c6 From a practical point of view this is a strange decision by Anand. From the first moves it seemed like Black was going for a fight and then with 7...Nc6 he entered a slightly worse endgame. How to understand that?! [7...♙c7 and; 7...d5 are the other 2 major possibilities here, which lead to pretty unclear positions.]

8.♘xc6 For the next moves things are getting forced.

8...dxc6 [In case of 8...bxc6 White has two nice-looking options: 9.a3 (After 9.e5 9...♘g4 10.f4 White's position also looks better.) 9...♙xc3+ 10.♙xc3 and the bishop pair should give White a comfortable advantage.]

9.♙xd8+ ♙xd8 10.e5! A very important move. If Black was in time to play e5 himself, White's position could never be better.

10...♘d7 The only move. [10...♘e4?! 11.a3! It is very important for White to get the black dark squared bishop. 11...♙xc3+ (11...♙a5 12.b4 and White is doing great.) 12.bxc3 ♘xc3 and here comes the crusher:



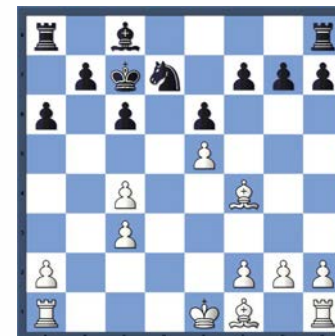
13.a4! preventing Black from playing Na4, so now the knight on c3 is almost trapped and needs to come back. 13...♘e4 14.♙e3 and once again the knight is in trouble. White is just a pawn down but has fantastic play.]

11.♙f4 Of course not 11.f4 which would fix the structure even further and make the c1 bishop as good as dead.

11...♙xc3+ This move is also almost forced. White wanted to play Kd2 next followed by a3.

12.bxc3 So now it is time to take a fresh look at the position. White has the bishop pair, more space and the better development, but a horrible pawn structure on the queenside. But is it enough to make the position equal?! I don't think so. I believe that White is seriously better here, it is a long-term advantage and soon we will see how unpleasant it is to play this position with Black.

12...♔c7 The king is better placed on c7 than on e7, to protect the b-pawn at some point and to support the play on the queenside.



13.h4! A typical and very strong move! White gains more space and he has the idea of playing Rh3-Rg3 to try and create some play on the kingside- and that is where the action will start already very soon.

13...b6 Black is developing the bishop from c8, which is a must.

14.h5 threatening h6.

14...h6 15.O-O-O ♙b7 So the pieces have been developed and now it is time for White to think what to do. next

16.♖d3!? is a very interesting way of playing this position. More standard moves could be g4 and Rg1, trying to play g5 next, or maybe Rh3 and Rg3, but Carlsen's idea is deeper. Black's idea could be to play c5, Rad8 and Nb8 and then White would have the choice of exchanging the rook or let Black control the d-file.

16...c5 17.♖g3 The g7 pawn is a target!

17...♖ag8 Black has no choice as after 17... Rhg8, 18.Bd3 and Bh7 would have come next.

18.♙d3 ♘f8 Black is preparing to play g6 next.

19.♙e3 A prophylactic move against g6.

19...g6 It is hard for me to believe that to open the h-file can be good for Black. [Maybe Black could have chosen a more passive strategy with 19...♘d7!? when the e5 pawn is under attack and White needs to either to go back to f4 with the bishop and try to find something better on Nf8 than Be3, or maybe to play 20.f4 but now the e3 bishop became a much weaker piece. 20...f5!? could be a try for Black to fight for equalization, but of course only White is trying to play for a win here.]

20.hxg6 ♗xg6



21.♖h5 [21.♖xh6? doesn't work for the moment as after 21...♗xe5 22.♙f4 ♖d6 Black equalizes.]

21...♙c6 Maybe Black wants to play Ba4 and Rd8, targeting the d1 square.

22.♙c2 ♖b7 A waiting move and also leaving the pin in case Black could take the e5 pawn at some point.

23.♖g4 This move is hard to understand. Does Carlsen think the rook is better placed on g4 than g3?! I don't know... Black never threatens to attack the c4 pawn and White's idea of playing g3 at some moment is just impossible because of Bf3. But of course White doesn't do any harm to his position, since

all Black can do is just keep on waiting.

23...a5 24.♙d1 with the idea of playing g3?! I don't know...

24...♖d8 25.♙c2 ♖dg8 After repeating g moves twice, Carlsen starts the usual idea of getting his king to a more central position, but the way he starts it is everything but accurate...



26.♙d2?? What a shock for the people in the playing hall. The World Champion is blundering 2 pawns in a 2-moves tactic! Can you imagine what would have happened if in this moment somebody screamed "Nxe5"?! [26.♙d1 with the same idea, but not allowing the Nxe5 blow, was maybe Carlsen's intention.]

26...a4?? After only one minute of thinking, Anand doesn't play it! I guess this might have been the longest 60 seconds of Carlsen's life and had Anand played 26...Nxe5 he would probably have been a clear favourite to win the match... [The crushing move was of course 26...♗xe5! 27.♖xg8 ♗xc4+ 28.♙d3 and now comes the move that Anand might have blundered?! We will never know, but for me it is very hard to believe that it is possible to miss it in the calculations...



28...b2+! 29.Ke2 Rxf8 and Black's position just looks totally winning.]

27.Ke2 What a relief for Carlsen, the game goes on and White keeps his big advantage!

27...a3 fixing the a2 pawn of White in deeper endgame

28.f3 A solid and good move. White still doesn't threaten anything concrete but he keeps on improving the position.

28...Rd8 allowing Bxg6 in the hope of getting some play on the d-file and the a3 pawn could also become strong at some moment.

29.Ke1 There is no reason for White to give Black any play. [29.fxg6 would not be the best in my opinion. 29...fxg6 30.Rxg6 a4! Black wants to play Bc2-Bd3 and get the c4 pawn. White should still be much better here, but the game would get more dynamic and Black would have some practical chances.]

29...Rd7 Anand resigns himself to passive defense. Actually I think he quits too early. Of course it is very unpleasant to defend just by moving the king, but it would not be that easy for White to break through either. I think 29... Rdg8 back would have been a better practical choice for Black.

30.fxc1 Another cool move by Carlsen. To keep the a3 pawn under attack could be useful.

30...Ra8 Anand is trying to look for complications as he is planning to play Ba4.

31.Ke2 It seems like the moves 29.Ke1 or 31. Ke2 are just senseless, but they are not. White got what he wanted, Black's kingside is crushed and the only thing that is needed now is to take the material in an accurate way.

31...a4



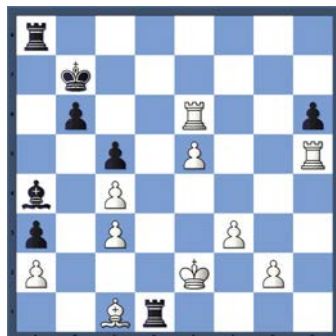
32.fxe4+ Of course before taking on g6 White forces the black bishop back to c6.

32...fxc6 [32...Ka7 33.fxa8 Kxa8 34.fxa3 and I see no compensation for Black.]

33.fxg6 White is starting to collect the pawns.

33...fxg6 34.Rxg6 White is a pawn up and the e6 and h6 pawns are hanging. The game is over.

34...a4 35.Rxe6 Rd1



36. ♖xa3 White keeps on collecting the pawns.

36... ♖a1 37. ♖e3 is the most safe.

37... ♖c2 38. ♖e7+ and now the black king is even the one who is in danger. What a game! If it wasn't for this terrible blunder it would have been an accurate and very nice win by Carlsen, perfectly fitting his style, but how to explain a 2 moves blunder like 26. Kd2?? Maybe the World Champion is feeling somewhat immortal, but already game 3 showed this is not the case... In the next game it is clear that it is going to be very hard for Anand to recover and of course his team is going to very depressed after holding their breath for 60 seconds and just screaming after Anand did not play Nxe5. It is also hard to imagine that Carlsen is not going to keep his WCC crown now, but we will know more in about 10 days from now! **1-0**

(4) Carlsen, Magnus(2863) - Anand, Viswanathan(2792) [C67]

WCh 2014(7),
2014.11.17



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

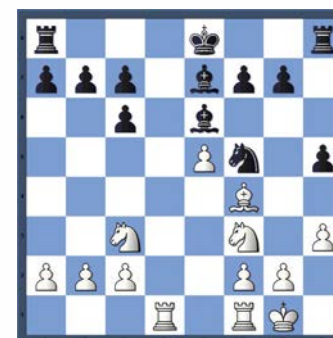
An amazing 122-moves fight, which was almost a record beater in the history of the World Championship matches.

1.e4 e5 Anand comes back to 1...e5 after two Sicilian games in rounds 4 and 6.

2. ♖f3 ♖c6 3. ♖b5 ♖f6 Just as in the 2nd game of the match, Anand plays the Berlin defense, but this time Carlsen decides to go for the endgame...

4. O-O ♖xe4 5. d4 ♖d6 6. ♖xc6 dxc6 7. dxe5 ♖f5 8. ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 9. h3 Carlsen himself usually plays the 9...Bd7 setup as black.

9... ♖e8 10. ♖c3 h5 This is considered to be the most solid setup, played frequently by Kramnik, Karjakin, Aronian and other top players. White also has a very wide choice here, Carlsen follows the latest development of this line and copies the game Giri-Radjabov, Tashkent, played just a few weeks ago. **11. ♖f4 ♖e7 12. ♖ad1 ♖e6**



13.♖g5 White would like to grab one of the bishops. Usually giving up the dark squared bishop for one of the knights solves the opening problems, but here Black would face difficulties because he cannot send away the strong bishop from g5, which controls the d8 square. White would double his rooks on the d-file, creating serious problems.

13...♖h6 14.g3 A common move in the Berlin structure. White prevents h4, after which it is much harder to make progress on the queenside with f3-g4.

14...♗xg5! 15.♗xg5 ♖g6 The difference to the capture on g5 on the 13th move is that White cannot keep his bishop on g5.

16.h4 A pawn sacrifice which is necessary to keep the initiative. [Many games finished with a draw after 16.♗f4 16...♖h4! The h3 pawn is hanging and the only way to save it allows perpetual check: 17.♔h2 ♖f3+ 18.♔g2 ♖h4+ 19.♔h2 ♖f3+=]

16...f6! 17.exf6 gxf6 18.♗f4 ♖xh4 19.f3! Otherwise Bh3 followed by Nf3 was threatening to win an exchange. White had to take the f3 square under control.

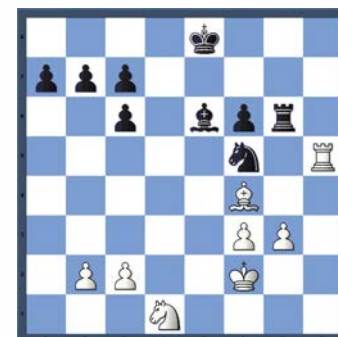
19...♖d8 Finally the rook comes into the game.

20.♔f2 ♖xd1 21.♖xd1 [21.♖xd1?! runs into 21...♖xf3! 22.♔xf3 ♗g4+ 23.♔e4 ♗xd1 24.♖xd1 ♖g7 and only Black can be better with the 2 pawns and the rook against the minor pieces.]

21...♖f5 22.♖h1 ♗xa2 We are still following a dozen of games.

23.♖xh5 [23.b3 does not trap the bishop because of the misplacement of the d1 knight. Black has 23...♗b1!]

23...♗e6



24.g4! This was basically, Giri's improvement a few weeks ago. [In the previous games White played 24.♗xc7 which restored the material balance, but allowed the trade of the rooks. 24...♖h6! 25.♖xh6 ♖xh6 and the opposite colored bishop endgame is drawish.]

24...♖d6 [An alternative is 24...♖d4 but it fails to equalize after the strong reply 25.♖e3 ♖g7 The white rook should not be allowed to occupy the 7th rank. 26.♖h8+ ♔d7 27.g5! using the tactical point that fxc7 drops a piece after Be5!]

25.♖h7 ♖f7 [The Giri-Radjabov game continued with 25...f5 26.g5 ♖f7 27.♖h5 ♖g8 28.♔g3 ♖h8 29.♖xh8+ ♖xh8 30.♗xc7 ♖g6 White had some advantage because of the protected passed pawn on g5, but Black built up a successful blockade and held the draw rather comfortably. Probably Carlsen prepared some improvement somewhere before.]

26.♖e3! The next three moves were played instantly by Carlsen, showing that he is still in his preparation, while Anand just started to spend his time. Black is a pawn up, but the c7 is very weak and all the white pieces are excellently placed, while the black ones are rather passive, especially the rook on g6. [26.♗xc7 would have again allowed the simplification 26...♖h6! as 27.♖g7? loses to 27...♔f8 as the

rook is trapped.]

26...♔d8 Anand tries to protect all his pawns. [I tried another defense with 26...♖g8 27.♙xc7 ♖h8 with the idea to exchange the bad rook, but White is able to save it with a very nice tactical motif: 28.♖g7! ♔f8 29.♖g6 ♖h6 30.♙d6+! ♔e8 31.♖g8+= ensuring a small advantage.]

27.♘f5 Further paralyzing the black pieces. The knight cannot be taken as after gxf5 Black loses a piece.

27...c5 A logical answer. Black is not facing any direct threat yet, therefore he advances his queenside, where he has two extra pawns.

28.♘g3! Still without thinking. Quite an impressive preparation by Carlsen's Team! The threat is Ne4 or Nh4, followed by Bg3-h4, pressing the f6 pawn. Black cannot really move with his pieces, it is difficult to organize a defense.

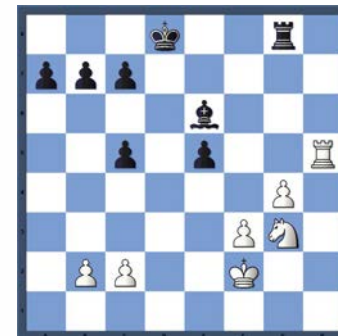
28...♘e5 Anand would like to transfer his knight to d7 from where it protects the f6 weakness and still closes the 7th rank. Rh8 is met by Rg8 and if the knight reaches the d7 square, we could say Black has created a safe blockading position. However, there is a critical line, which leads the game to an unusual endgame by force.

29.♖h8+! [29.♘e4 29...♘d7 and Black holds.]

29...♖g8 [29...♔d7 is met by 30.♘e4! as Nd7 is no longer possible. The f6 and the c5 pawns are hanging.]

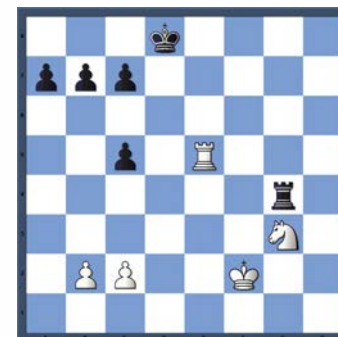
30.♙xe5! A small tactical motif, the rook cannot be taken.

30...fxe5 31.♖h5



31...♙xg4! The best practical chance! If White could have taken on e5, the connected passers would have become unstoppable. [An illustrative line is 31...♔d7 32.♖xe5 b6 33.♘e4± followed by Kg3 and White is ready to advance his pawns, while the black ones are perfectly controlled by the active rook and the knight.]

32.fxg4 ♖xg4 33.♖xe5 What can we say about this endgame? To be honest, I personally thought that White was going to win, not necessarily because the position is won, but because defending such an endgame against Carlsen is almost impossible. Carlsen admitted at the press conference that he initially thought his position was winning, but Anand's perfect defense seems to prove that it is holdable.

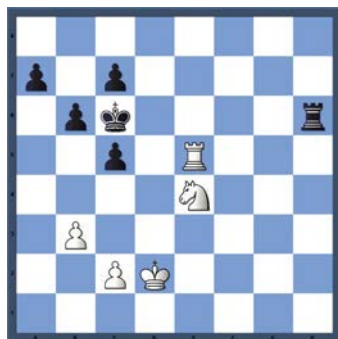


33...b6 [It would be a huge achievement for Black if he could trade a pair of pawns. To hold 3 against 1 should already

be a very easy task. Unfortunately 33...♖b4 34.b3 c4? runs into 35.♙e4! b5 36.♙e3 a5 Black is ready to take on b3, but 37.bxc4! bxc4 38.♘e2+— Despite the success of trading a pawn, Black is easily lost as he destroyed his own pawn structure. White puts his knight on c3.]

34.♘e4 ♖h4 35.♙e2 White brings his king towards the queenside to ensure the safety of his pawns.

35...♙h6 36.b3 ♙d7 37.♙d2 ♙c6



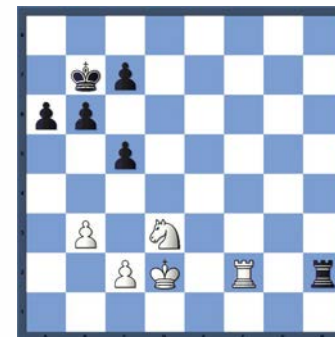
38.♘c3 In the long term the winning plan would be to install the knight to d5, followed by attacking the c7 pawn with the rook. Carlsen uses the advised method for executing his plan. He has all the time to do something, therefore he does not hurry with anything, but rather moves around with his pieces, making his opponent more exhausted for when the critical moment will be reached. In general, this is advisable also to gain some time with the 30 seconds increments after each move or to get closer to the time control. In this game, Carlsen did not need any of them, he just wanted to make Anand more tired...

38...a6 39.♙e4 ♖h2+ 40.♙c1 ♖h1+ 41.♙b2 ♖h6 42.♘d1 ♖g6 43.♘e3 ♖h6 44.♙e7 ♖h2 45.♙e6+ ♙b7 46.♙c3 ♖h4 47.♙b2 ♖h2 48.♘d5 ♖d2! is an important resource to send away the knight from its ideal place. White should play c4 now

and then Re7 wins inevitably, but of course it does not work now.

49.♘f6 ♖f2 50.♙c3 ♖f4 Intending to answer with Rd4 on Nd5. White just creates small threats, but it still forced Black to stay fully concentrated, which of course drains his energy.

51.♘e4 ♖h4 52.♘f2 ♖h2 53.♙f6 ♖h7 54.♘d3 ♖h3 55.♙d2 ♖h2+ 56.♙f2 An interesting moment! White offers the trade of rooks. Should Black accept it or not?

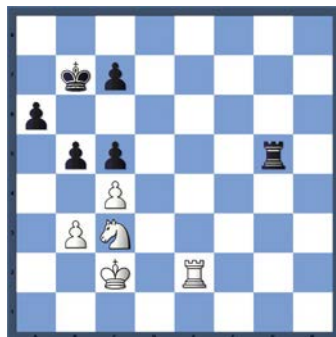


56...♖h4! Anand correctly keeps the rooks on the board! [Let's examine the endgame after 56...♖xf2+? 57.♘xf2 ♙c6 58.♙d3 ♙d5 I believe that White should win relatively easily with the following technique: 59.c4+ ♙e5 60.♘e4 ♙f5 61.♘c3 ♙e5 (61...c6 62.♘a4+—) 62.♘d5 ♙d6 63.♙e4 Step by step squeezing back the black king... 63...b5 (63...♙d7 64.♙e5 will lead to the same result...) 64.♘c3 c6 (64...♙c6 65.♙e5 ♙b6 66.♙d5+—) 65.♙f5 a5 Black can trade only one pawn, the other one will stay on the board and will win the game. 66.♙f6 ♙d7 67.♙e5+—]

57.c4 Carlsen finally decides to make progress. He works out the d5 square for his knight.

57...♖h3 58.♙c2 ♖h7 59.♘b2 ♖h5 60.♙e2 ♖g5 61.♘d1 Anand finds a very clever defensive setup against the threatening Nc3-d5 and Re7!

61...b5! 62.♘c3



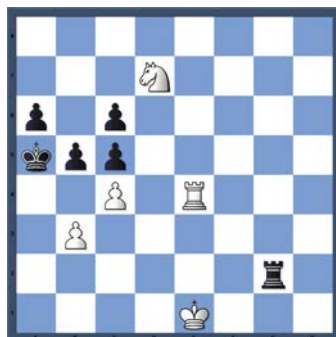
62...c6! Black takes his defensive line a rank forward. It is very important that the black rook protects the c5 weakness along the 5th rank.

63.♘e4 ♖h5 64.♘f6 ♗g5 65.♖e7+ ♔b6 66.♘d7+ ♔a5 We can see the point of Black's defense. The c5 pawn is protected, while the black king is ready to gain counterplay by going to b4! Carlsen finds the most challenging continuation again.

67.♖e4! Stopping Kb4 with cxb5 check!

67...♖g2+ 68.♔c1 ♖g1+ 69.♔d2 ♖g2+! After pushing c4, the king got exposed, so Anand lures it away from the pawns by giving checks.

70.♔e1



70...bxc4! Perfect timing! This move is only good if it forces a draw, but it does now.

71.♖xc4 [White has no winning chance after 71.bxc4 71...♔b4 72.♘e5 ♔c3 73.♘c6 ♖a2 followed by advancing the a-pawn. Protecting the c4 pawn engages the white pieces, he cannot make progress...]

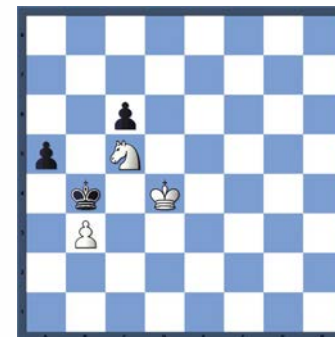
71...♖g3 72.♘xc5 ♔b5! Black is threatening with Rxb3 and the c4 rook is hanging.

73.♖c2 a5 All white pieces are stuck. All pieces are defending one another, only the king can move, but it also cannot head toward the b-pawn, because after Kd1 or Kd2 Black trades the rooks and the c5 falls.

74.♔f2 ♖h3 75.♖c1 White is ready to approach the queenside now as the trade of rooks is not a worry anymore.

75...♔b4 76.♔e2 ♖c3! Not the only, but the most forcing way to draw.

77.♘d3+ Giving up the pawn is equal to a draw offer... [The critical line was 77.♖xc3 77...♔xc3 78.♔e3 ♔b4 79.♔d4



79...♔b5!! This idea had to be foreseen before offering the rook exchange. Only the knight can move, but it most control the b4 square and 80.♘d3 runs into 80...a4 81.b4 a3 82.♔c3 a2 83.♔b2 ♔c4= winning the b-pawn!]

77...♖xb3 78.♞a1 ♖c4 The rest is easy. Carlsen plays on to make his opponent tired for the forthcoming games...

79.♜f2 ♖b5 80.♞b1+ ♖c4 81.♜e4 ♞a3 82.♜d2+ ♖d5 83.♞h1 a4 84.♞h5+ ♖d4 85.♞h4+ ♖c5 86.♖d1 ♖b5 87.♖c2 ♞g3 88.♜e4 ♞g2+ 89.♖d3 a3 90.♜c3+ ♖b6 91.♞a4 a2 92.♜xa2 As black, the best strategy in such cases to give up the pawn as fast as possible and don't waste the energy for 30-40 moves to defend it. Sacrifice it and then start to count the 50-moves rule towards the draw.

92...♞g3+ 93.♖c2 ♞g2+ 94.♖b3 ♞g3+ 95.♜c3 ♞h3 96.♞b4+ ♖c7 97.♞g4 ♞h7 98.♖c4 ♞f7 99.♞g5 ♖b6 100.♜a4+ ♖c7 101.♖c5 ♖d7 102.♖b6 ♞f1 103.♜c5+ ♖e7 104.♖xc6 Here we are! The position is a dead draw, although there were some examples in the history when a good player lost it, but it is not going to happen in a World Championship match. There are plenty of good defenses and Anand demonstrates one of them...

104...♞d1 105.♞g6 ♖f7 106.♞h6 ♞g1 107.♖d5 ♞g5+ 108.♖d4 ♞g6 109.♞h1 ♞g2 110.♜e4 ♞a2 111.♞f1+ ♖e7 112.♜c3 ♞h2 113.♜d5+ ♖d6 114.♞f6+ ♖d7 115.♜f4 ♞h1 116.♞g6 ♞d1+ 117.♜d3 ♖e7 118.♞a6 ♖d7 119.♖e4 ♖e7 120.♞c6 ♖d7 White cannot even squeeze the king to the 8th rank. Carlsen finally agrees to a draw...

121.♞c1 ♞xc1 122.♜xc1 Huge efforts by both players. Carlsen tried hard, but Anand defended perfectly! **1/2-1/2**

(5) Anand, Viswanathan(2792) - Carlsen, Magnus(2863) [D37]

WCh 2014(8),
2014.11.18



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

After the marathon of the previous day, it was Anand's turn to put pressure on Carlsen with the white pieces. However Carlsen's perfect preparation allowed him to hold the draw effortlessly.

1.d4 ♜f6 2.c4 e6 3.♜f3 d5 4.♜c3 ♞e7 Carlsen turns back to the Queen's Gambit declined, which he employed without success in the 3rd game of the match. This time he was much better prepared...

5.♞f4 O-O 6.e3 c5 is a deviation of their previous game, which continued with 6...Nbd7, but of course this is another main line with thousands of games in the database, although it is slightly out of fashion nowadays.

7.dxc5 ♞xc5 8.a3 ♜c6 9.♞c2



9...♞e8 This was a surprise! Just a few games were played by GMs with it. The idea is to support a quick central break with e5-d4. White has numerous options to react and Anand chose the most human way. [The main line is 9...♞a5 but White is

recently able to get some advantage. I have commented in a previous CEWN the Jakovenko-Onischuk game from 2012, which was a quite convincing win for White.]

10. ♖g5 Pinning the knight and leaving from the e5 threat. [White cannot get a standard position against an isolated pawn with 10.cxd5 10...exd5 because the e8 rook is perfectly placed again, pinning the king allows Black to get rid of the weakness with d4 next move. 11. ♖e2 d4; 10. ♖d1 is probably met by 10...e5 11. ♖g5 d4 12. ♘d5 ♖e7; 10.O-O-O 10...e5 11. ♖g5 d4 12. ♘d5 ♖e7 In both cases, the white king becomes vulnerable.]

10... ♖e7 Black unpin s himself, but this retreat is already a confirmation that 10.Bg5 should be the right move. [10...h6 is also logical, but Black does not seem to get adequate compensation after White simply grabs the pawn: 11. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 12.cxd5 exd5 13. ♘xd5 ♖d6 14. ♖d1 followed by Be2 and 0-0.]

11. ♖d1 [11.O-O-O was an option again, but of course it is risky to go for such a position without knowing anything about it against Carlsen, who was extremely well prepared for this day.]

11... ♖a5 Black creates the pin this time. He is threatening to play Ne4, seriously damaging the pawn structure after taking on c3!

12. ♖d3 h6 Defending the pawn with tempo and opening the back rank for the future.

13. ♖h4 [13. ♖xf6 13... ♖xf6 14.cxd5 exd5 15. ♖h7+ ♖h8 16. ♖xd5 obviously does not work now because of 16... ♖xc3+ and the rook falls.]

13... dxc4! As it happens in many different openings, where a similar pawn structure arises, Black only releases the tension when White has already spent a tempo on developing his light squared bishop.

14. ♖xc4 a6 Everything comes instantly by Carlsen.

15.O-O b5 16. ♖a2 The most natural retreat. If Black finishes the development with Bb7 and Rac8 then he just gets full equality, therefore White has no time to waste, he must try to create some kind of threat. Anand finds a clever way to build a battery on the b1-h7 diagonal! Unfortunately for him, it did not surprise Carlsen, who continued blitzing out his moves...

16... ♖b7 17. ♖b1 [The alternative was 17. ♖xf6 17... ♖xf6 18. ♘e4! (18. ♖d7 immediately does not lead anywhere because of 18... ♖e7!) 18... ♖e7 19. ♖d7 Everything comes with tempo, it is getting very suspicious, but Black holds... 19... ♖b6 20. ♖b1 White is threatening to play Nf6 and mate with Qh7-h8. With the rook on d7, Black cannot escape through the e7 square. 20...g6 21. ♖c3 (On 21.h4 21... ♖ac8! comes just in time and White is forced to leave the b1-h7 diagonal with his queen because of the threatening discovered attack.) 21... ♖ad8! No fear! 22. ♖xe7! seems to be crushing, but the final blow is just about to come! 22... ♖xe7 23. ♘f6+ ♖f8 24. ♘h7+ White is forced to give a perpetual check! (It seems like 24. ♘d5? is winning because of the mate on h8 or the queen falls, but...



24...d4!! What a counterblow! Suddenly Black wins! I am sure that Carlsen's preparation included this amazing move! 25. dxb6 (25. dxd4 25...exd5 26. d5 d4! is another shock for White! Closing the h8 square with tempo.) 25...dxe2+ 26. g8 h1 dxc3 27. bxc3 d6 the white knight is trapped and Black wins! 24...g8 25. d6+]



17...ad8! was played still without thinking, clearly showing that Black is still in his preparation. A blood-freezing move, but actually there is only one check on h7 and then the king runs away...

18. dxf6 dxf6 19. de4 [19. h7+ 19...g8 20. de4 looks very dangerous, but Black survives after 20...xd1! 21. xd1 d8! and White has nothing better than to trade everything and force a draw... 22. xd8+ (22. c1? 22...xb2 wins for Black.) 22...xd8 23. h8+ e7 24. xd8+ xd8 25. d6=]

19...e7! The bishop temporarily blocks the king's route to e7, a check on h7 would be decisive, but the knight has no good square to leave from e4.

20. c5 White at least gets rid of the bishop pair, but at the same time with this simplification he admits that Black has solved the opening problems. [Another attacking idea is 20. g3 20...g6 21. h4 threatening with h5 and exploding the kingside, but Black is again in time to save himself with 21...xd1 22. xd1 c8 sending away the queen from the b1-h7 diagonal. Qd3 moves into Rd8, while other queen moves are already not dangerous.]

20...xc5 21. xc5 This is the moment when Carlsen started to think. What a fantastic preparation!

21...b4 Aiming for further simplifications. [There was no problem with 21...xd1 22. xd1 d8 23. c1 b4= (Or 23...c8=)]

22. c1 [White only temporarily wins a pawn with 22. xa5 22...xa5 23. axb4 This doubled pawn cannot lead to any advantage. One way to force a draw is 23...d4 24. b3 dxf3 25. xd8 (25. gxf3? 25...d2 wins an exchange.) 25...xd8 26. bxc4 e2 27. c1 xc4! restoring the balance by using the weak back rank.; 22. c2 22...g6 is also equal.]

22...bxa3 23. bxa3 xc5 24. xc5 de7 25. f1 c8 The trade of the rooks is inevitable and the arising symmetrical endgame is just a draw.

26. d3 ed8 27. xc8 [27. e2 does not change anything. 27...xc5 28. xc5 c8=]

27...xc8 28. xc8+ de8 29. d2 Trying to create some problems with Nb3-c5, but of course such a threat can be easily parried...

29...♖b6 30.♗b3 ♗d7 31.♗a5 ♕c8 Temporarily moving into passivity, but White does not have enough pieces to make use of it.

32.♖f1 ♖f8 33.♖e1 ♖e7 34.♖d2 ♖d6 35.♖c3 ♗e5 36.♗e2 ♖c5 37.f4 ♗c6 38.♗xc6 ♖xc6 39.♖d4 f6 40.e4 ♖d6 41.e5+ Otherwise Black closes the center with e5. [A draw was agreed in view of 41.e5+ 41...fxe5+ 42.fxe5+ ♖c6 and White cannot make progress. An impressive preparation, which basically secured Carlsen a free day with the black pieces. It is going to be very interesting to see which team will deviate from this game... Was this 9... Re8 just a one game idea or does Anand need to search for another opening...] **1/2-1/2**

Puzzle section

(6) Ponomariov, R(2711)-Areshchenko, A(2655)

Ukrainian Championship, 2014.11.01

1. +-



(7) Zubov, A(2588)-Moiseenko, A(2701)

Ukrainian Championship, 2014.11.11

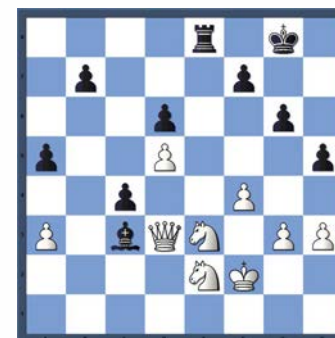
1... -+



(8) Eljanov, P(2719)-Kuzubov, Y(2661)

Ukrainian Championship, 2014.11.16

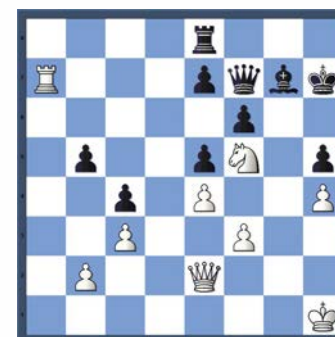
1... -+



(9) Tomashevsky, E(2714)-Kramnik, V(2760)

Tal memorial blitz, 2014.11.13

1. +-



(10) Karjakin, S(2770)-Gelfand, B(2759)

Tal memorial blitz, 2014.11.14

1... -+



(11) Grischuk, A(2795)-Mamedyarov, S(2757)

Tal memorial blitz, 2014.11.14

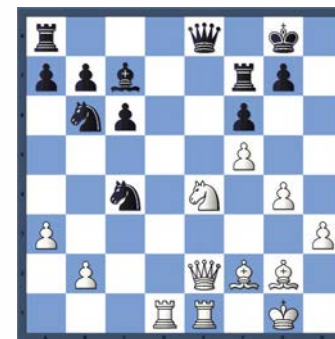
1. +-



(12) Kramnik, V(2760)-Tomashevsky, E(2714)

Tam memorial blitz, 2014.11.14

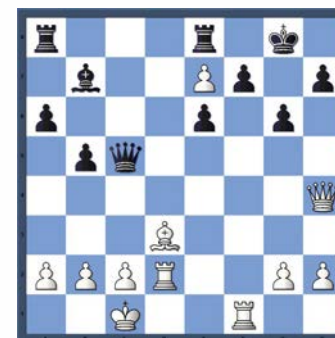
1. +-



(13) Savchenko, B(2598)-Shomoev, A(2569)

Ugra Cup, 2014.11.12

1. +-



(14) Shahinyan, D(2431)-Andriasian, Z(2609)

Mayor Cup Yerevan, 2014.11.16

1... -+



(15) Zhao Xue(2514)-Ni, S(2262)

Chinese league, 2014.11.15

1. +-



Endgame section

(16) Kryvoruchko, Yuriy(2706)
- Bogdanovich, Stanislav(2590)

Ukrainian Championship,
2014.11.14



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



We are in the last move of the time trouble and Black makes a serious mistake in terms of maintaining the advantage.

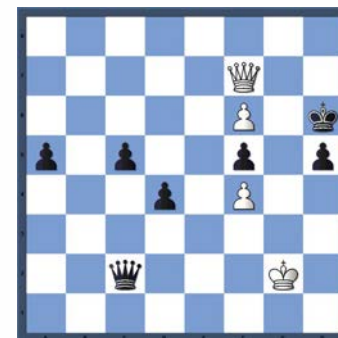
40...♙g4? A very important rule in queen endgames is that the quality of pawns is much more important than the quantity! The key element of this game is the pawn on f6. Any other white pawns are irrelevant, but as long as that one is on the board, White will have all the chances to secure enough counterplay to hold, despite being momentarily a pawn down and later it will be even more... [Black should have eliminated the dangerous passed pawn with 40...♙f7! 41.♙c6 c4 followed by Kg6. Black has good chances to win.]

41.♙b7+! White must play actively and pin all his hopes to the f6 pawn. Defending the h4 and f4 pawns passively equals resignation.

41...♙h6 42.♙f7! That is the point! White is ready to give

a check on f8 and then according to the circumstances give more checks or advance the f-pawn, which will then only be one square away from promotion.

42...♙xh4+ 43.♙g2 ♙g4+ 44.♙h1 ♙d1+ 45.♙g2 ♙xc2+ Black collects all the pawns with check, he is already 3 pawns up, but his position is not winning. The f6 pawn is too strong.



46.♙g1 ♙c1+ 47.♙g2 ♙b2+ 48.♙g1 ♙a1+ 49.♙g2 ♙b2+ 50.♙g1 ♙b1+ 51.♙g2 ♙e4+ 52.♙g1 ♙e1+ 53.♙g2 ♙e4+ 54.♙g1 ♙e3+ 55.♙g2 ♙e2+ 56.♙g1 ♙g4+ 57.♙h1 ♙h3+ 58.♙g1 ♙g3+ 59.♙h1 At this point, Black should have realized that he cannot win, but it is very difficult to admit this when you have such a big material advantage. Black continues to play for a win, but he soon turns out to be losing...

59...h4 With the idea to open an evacuating path for the king along h5-g4 and to threaten h3 and Qg2 mate. [59...d3 is met by 60.♙f8+ ♙h7 61.♙f7+ with perpetual check.; 59...♙g6 60.♙f8+ ♙h7 61.♙e7+ (61.f7 is also good enough because of the Qe7 threat.) 61...♙g8 62.♙d8+ ♙h7 63.♙e7+ also holds by perpetual.]

60.♙f8+ ♙h5? Consequent, but this could have been the decisive mistake. [Black should have allowed perpetual check with 60...♙h7 61.♙f7+=]



61. ♖e8+! Suddenly the f-pawn turns out to be too strong and White is winning in a study-like way.

61... ♔g4 [It is already too late to turn back with 61... ♔h6 as it loses to 62. ♖h8+ ♔g6 63. ♖g7+ ♔h5 64. ♖xg3 hxg3 65. f7+—]

62. ♖e2+! The first thing is to guarantee the king's safety and then White can advance his f-pawn. Black probably blundered this check when he went 60... Kh5. [62. f7? is premature in view of 62... ♔f3! threatening with mate on g2. 63. ♖g8 (63. ♖a8+ 63... ♔f2 and mate follows in the next move.) could be a saving idea, but not in this position, because of



63... ♔f2!! creating the threat of Qh3. 64. ♖xg3+ hxg3 65. f8=♖ g2+ 66. ♔h2 g1=♖+ 67. ♔h3 ♖g3#]

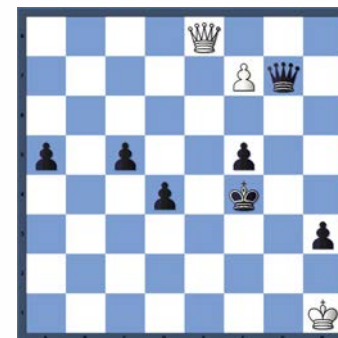
62... ♔xf4 [62... ♔h3 loses more easily because of 63. f7 ♖g7 (63... d3 64. ♖f1+ ♔g4 65. f8=♖+—) 64. ♖h2+ ♔g4 65. ♖g2+—]

63. f7! A very nice position. White is fighting with 1 pawn against 5, but that one is the most advanced and the most relevant one.

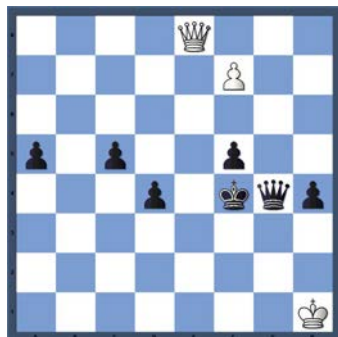
63... ♖g7! The best chance again! [63... ♖h3+ runs into a countercheck with 64. ♖h2+ ♖xh2+ 65. ♔xh2+—; 63... d3 64. ♖f1+— and f8Q next.]

64. ♖e8! It is very important to have the Qg8 option for White to avoid getting mated on g2. [64. ♖e7 is met by 64... ♔f3 and White is forced to give a perpetual here: 65. ♖b7+ ♔f2 66. ♖b2+ ♔f3 67. ♖b7+—]

64... ♖g4! Black finds the most tenacious defense again, which brings him back the half point for the huge risk he has taken before. [64... ♔f3 loses to 65. ♖g8! ♖e5 66. f8=♖ and Black has only one check. 66... ♖e1+ 67. ♖g1+—; 64... h3



is tricky, but it fails to 65. ♖b8+! White drives the king to a wrong place before playing Qg8! (The direct 65. ♖g8 allows 65... ♖e5! 66. f8=♖ ♖e1+ 67. ♖g1 ♖e4+! This is the key and the reason why White needs to give a check on b8 first. 68. ♔h2 ♖e2+ 69. ♔xh3 ♖h5+ 70. ♔g2 ♖f3+ 71. ♔h2 ♖h5+— with a perpetual.) 65... ♔f3 66. ♖g8+— without the check on e4, Black is lost.]



65.f8=♔? White returns the favor, since Black has a perpetual check now... [The winning move was 65.♔b8+! 65...♔e3 (65...♔f3 66.♔g8!+-) 66.♔g8! (Still not 66.f8=♔ 66...♔f3+ 67.♔h2 ♔f2+ 68.♔h3 ♔f3+= and White cannot take on h4 in view of Qg4!) 66...♔e4+ (66...♔f3+ 67.♔g2+- no more checks as Qd1 runs into Qg1 check!; 66...♔h3+ 67.♔g1+- and there are no more checks for Black.) 67.♔g1 ♔b1+ 68.♔h2 ♔a2+ 69.♔h3+- and once again, the game is over.]

65...♔f3+ 66.♔g1 ♔g3+ 67.♔f1 ♔f3+ 68.♔e1 ♔c3+! The king cannot escape from the checks...

69.♔f1 ♔f3+ 70.♔e1 1/2-1/2

Clash of the Titans

**(17) Petrosian, Tigran V
- Smyslov, Vassily[E12]**

URS-ch28, 1961



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.d4 ♘b7 5.a3 This line is named after Petrosian.



5...d5 is the most logical plan. [5...c5 makes no sense because after 6.d5 exd5 7.cxd5 the bishop on b7 is badly placed.]

6.cxd5 White has two other possibilities. [6.♘g5 and; 6.♔c2]

6...♘xd5 [After 6...exd5 the game could for example continue with 7.g3 (7.♘f4 7...♘e7 8.e3 O-O 9.♘d3 c5 10.O-O ♘bd7 White can try to play for hanging pawns after dxc5 or Ne5-Qf3-Rd1, with the idea to create some pressure on the kingside.) 7...♘e7 8.♘g2 O-O 9.O-O c5 10.♘f4 ♘a6 11.dxc5 ♘xc5 (11...bxc5 12.♘e5†)]

7.e3 [7.♔c2 7...♘xc3 8.bxc3 ♘e7 9.e4 O-O 10.♘d3 c5 11.O-O White is better thanks to his strong center, but many games

showed that Black has counterplay over the c-file.]

7...♙e7 8.♙b5+ This check nt change much because Black will fight for the center after c5 anyway.

8...c6 9.♙d3 c5 10.♘xd5 [10.O-O?! 10...cxd4 11.♘xd5 ♙xd5 12.e4 (12.exd4 12...O-O can not bring White any advantage because Black controls the h1-a8 diagonal, especially the important d5 square.) 12...♙d8 13.♘xd4 O-O 14.♘f3 ♘d7↗ and Black is very quick, as Nc5 or Bf6 are coming.]

10...♙xd5 11.dxc5 [11.e4 11...♙d7 12.dxc5 ♙xc5 13.b4! is the most accurate since now 13...Be7 doesn't work because of 14.Ne5 and Bb5 next. (13.♙e2 13...O-O 14.O-O ♘c6= with the idea to exchange more pieces on the d4 square.) 13...♙d6 14.♙b2 O-O 15.O-O+= White has more space.]

11...♙xc5



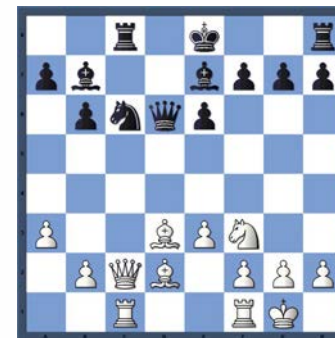
12.♙d2! A strong move. Petrosian is immediately going to put his pieces on their best places. The bishop is going to c3 and the rook to c1.

12...♘c6 [12...O-O 13.♙c1 ♙d6 14.♙c2 h6 15.♙c3 ♘d7 16.O-O (16.♙d1 16...♙c6=) 16...♙xf3! 17.gxf3 ♙f6 is a typical idea, first destroying the white structure then getting rid of White's bishop pair. 18.♙fd1 ♙e7 19.♙h7+ (19.♙b4 19...♘c5=) 19...♙h8 20.♙e4 ♙ab8 21.♙xf6 ♘xf6 22.♙c7 ♙fe8 and White is not

able to improve the position. Black can slowly come with the king to f8.]

13.♙c1 ♙d6 14.♙c2 ♙c8 [14...h6?? is losing because of 15.♙b5 ♙c8 16.♘d4+-]

15.O-O



15...h6 Black wants to castle as soon as possible, but an interesting option was [15...♙f6 The idea is very simple, just to be the first on this active diagonal. 16.♙e4 (16.♙fd1 16...♙b8↗) 16...♙d7 (16...♙b8? 17.♙a4±) 17.♙fd1 (17.♙a4 17...♘d8! and Black holds the position.) 17...♘d4 This is a very forced line. (17...♘e7 18.♙c3 ♘d5 19.♙xd5 exd5 20.♙d2 ♙xc3 21.♙xc3 and the knight on d4 will be much stronger than the bishop, so White has a strategical advantage. An interesting endgame in this structure was played between Capablanca and Reshevsky in 1936.) 18.♙xc8+ ♙xc8 19.♘xd4 ♙b7 (19...O-O 20.♘c6† followed by Bb4 and the black pieces lost coordination.) 20.♙xb7 ♙xb7 21.♙b4 is the only way to keep the black king in the center. 21...♙xd4 (21...♙e7? 22.♘c6! ♙xb4 23.♙d8#) 22.♙xd4 e5 23.♙d3 h5 with the idea to activate the rook over the 6th rank. The position is complex.]

16.♙fd1 O-O 17.♙c3 ♙b8 It looks liked Smyslov solved the problems and his position is safe but now comes



18. ♔a4! A great move! Petrosian improves his queen, which gives him an extremely strong attack!

18... ♖fd8 19. ♔e4 forces Black to make some weaknesses around the king.

19... ♗g6 [19... ♗f6 20. ♔h7+ ♔f8 21. ♗xf6 gxf6 22. ♔xh6+ ♔e7 From a practical point of view maybe it was the best idea to give the pawn in order to solve the problems with the king. 23. ♔h4±]



20. ♔g4! with the idea Bxg6. The black pieces are all very far away from their king and can't help in defense.

20... ♗h5 [20... ♔h7 21. ♗xg6+! fxc6 22. ♔xe6 ♖f8 23. ♗h4! ♗xh4 24. ♖d7+ ♗e7 25. ♖xe7+ ♗xe7 26. ♔xe7+ ♔g8 27. ♔g7#]

21. ♔h3 White is still threatening Bxg6!

21... ♗f5 After this move White gets a new target on e6! The best chance for Black was [21... e5 22. ♗xg6 (22. g4!?→) 22... fxc6 23. ♔e6+ ♔f8 24. ♗xe5 (24. ♔xg6 24... ♖xd1+ 25. ♖xd1 ♗d8→) 24... ♖xd1+ 25. ♖xd1]



25... ♖d8! 26. ♖c1 ♖d6 27. ♗xd6 ♔xd6 and it looks like Black can save the game.]

22. ♗c4 ♖xd1+ 23. ♖xd1 ♔f7 [23... ♗d8 24. ♗e5±]



24. e4! A strong move which crushes Black's position.

24... ♔f4 Black is hoping to exchange the queens.

25. ♖e1 ♔g4 But he is not on time...



26.exf5! +— Petrosian probably saw this a few moves ahead. White is simply winning now.

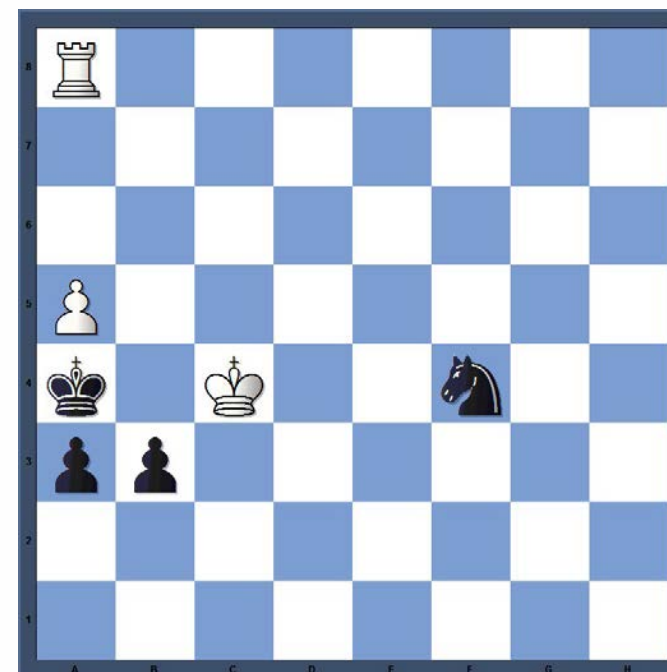
26...♔xc4 27.fxg6+ ♕e8 28.g7 e5 [28...♔f7 29.♔xh5+ ♕g8 30.♔h8+ ♕f7 31.♔h7 ♖g8 32.♔h5#]

29.♔xh5+ ♕d7 30.♖d1+ ♗d6 31.♗xe5 ♘d4 32.♘xd4 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Prokes

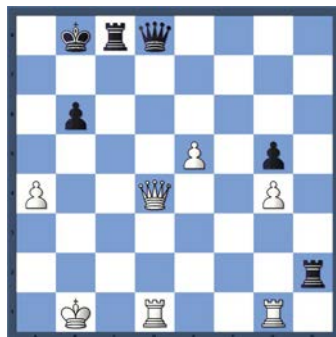
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Solutions

(19) Morozevich, A(2724)-Inarkiev, E(2688)

Petrosian memorial, 2014.11.08



41... ♔c7? [41... ♖c1+!! 42. ♕xc1 (42. ♖xc1 42... ♔xd4—+) 42... ♔c7+ 43. ♖b1 ♔c2+ 44. ♖a1 ♔a2#]

42. ♔d6=

(20) Kramnik, V(2760)-Morozevich, A(2724)

Petrosian memorial, 2014.11.10

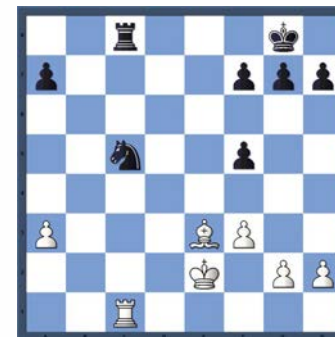


31. ♘h3!! ♔xh3 [31... ♘e8 32. hxg7+—]

32. ♖xg7+ ♔h8 33. ♕xf6+—

(21) Shomoev, A(2569)-Riazantsev, A(2678)

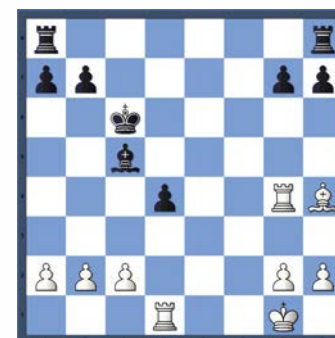
Ugra Cup, 2014.11.05



27... ♖e8! 28. ♖xc5 f4=

(22) Sjugirov, S(2673)-Matsenko, S(2482)

Ugra Cup, 2014.11.07



24... d3+! 25. ♕f2 [25. ♖h1 25... dxc2 26. ♖c1 ♖ad8! 27. ♕xd8 ♖xd8 28. ♖e4 ♖d1+ 29. ♖e1 ♖xe1+ 30. ♖xe1 ♕e3—+]

25... dxc2 26. ♖c1 ♖ad8! 0-1 [26... ♖ad8 27. ♕xc5 ♖d1+ 28. ♖f2 ♖xc1—+]

(23) Blanco, H(2440)-Rakhmanov, A(2636)

Caracas, 2014.11.06



41...♖h1+! 0-1 [41...♖h1+ 42.♙xh1 ♘f1#]

(24) Georgiev, K(2618)-Brunello, S(2568)

Durres Open, 2014.11.04



28.♙c4+! ♔h8 29.♖a2! 1-0

(25) Meier, G(2647)-Medvegy, Z(2510)

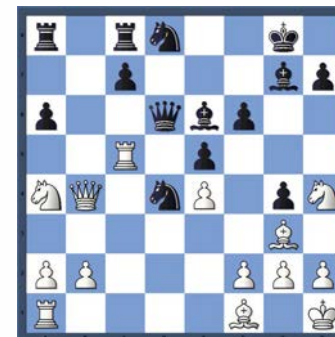
German league, 2014.11.07



26...b4! 27.♙xb4 ♙a6—+

(26) Gruenberg, H(2377)-Cuenca Jimenez, J(2476)

German league, 2014.11.07



23...♘c2! 0-1

(27) Saltaev, M(2476)-Fish, G(2466)

German league, 2014.11.08



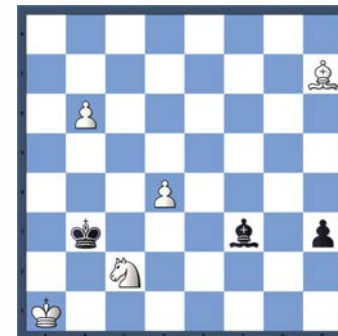
24. ♖xc4! 1-0 [24. ♖xc4 24... ♜xh3+ 25. ♙xh3 ♖xc4 26. ♙xe6+ ♜h8 27. ♙xc4+-]

(28) Svane, R(2506)-Zeller, F(2445)

German league, 2014.11.09



27...e5! 28.fxe5 fxe5 29. ♖xe5 ♜xd4+! 0-1 [29... ♜xd4+ 30. ♜xd4 ♖c1+-]

(29) Gabovich

1.b7! ♙xb7 2.d5! ♙xd5 [2...h2 3. ♙e4]
3. ♜e3! h2 [3... ♙f3 4. ♜f1; 3... ♙g2 4. ♜g4]
4. ♙e4! ♙xe4 5. ♜f1! h1=♚=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 144

30th of November 2014

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Editorial Preface

Magnus Carlsen is the new and old World Champion. The Norwegian secured a winning score of 6.5-4.5 thanks to a victory in the 11th game with the white pieces, so the 12th game was not needed.

The match was much tougher than the final score seems to reflect. Anand had a lot of chances which he didn't take advantage of. If we look at the match and stop the games after move 20, Anand would have been the clear favorite, but the games went on and Anand kept on making mistakes, which Carlsen used to his advantage.

Clearly the critical moment of the match was game 6, with a double blunder of both players. In games 8 and 10 Anand could also have pushed Carlsen to the verge, but he missed his chances and of course in the game 11 Anand was clearly better out of the opening, had more time and a very pleasant position. But then what happened next was really strange... Anand totally lost control and just gave an exchange without any objective reason for it, so Carlsen just took it and the match was over.

Overall we witnessed a very fighting match with a lot of ups and downs, which clearly shows how the tension was affecting both players and under such pressure, even the best players can crack.

On almost the same day the Ukrainian Championship came to an end, where the first place was shared between Kuzubov and Eljanov with 7.5/11 and a full point ahead of Korobov and Ponomarev, who shared the places 3-4th with 6.5/11.

The play of Ivanchuk, who started the tournament badly and continued playing interesting chess but was making too many mistakes, was a big disappointment to many chess fans from all over the world.

The Russian Super Cup was won by Jakovenko who won the final match against Matlakov 1.5-0.5

The Nakamura-Aronian match in Saint Louis ended 2-2 in the classical control and 9.5-6.5 in favor of Nakamura in the blitz. The games were very spectacular but far from great, as neither of the players seemed to be in their best shape.

Now let's come to the current events:

What is probably the strongest open tournament in the history of chess has begun in Doha, Qatar, where the top seeds are Giri, Kramnik and Mamedyarov and the field includes 14 players over 2700 ELO.

Already in a few days the Russian Super Final will start, but this year it is going to be much weaker than in previous editions....

As usual we are commenting on the most exciting moments from the last week. Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

We are happy to announce, that Chess Evolution will cooperate with Hungarian Chess Federation in the prestigious event of World Chess Olympiad U-16. Chess Evolution will also devote two issues from our newsletter to share with you the best games, the most interesting moments and the nicest combinations played by the young stars.

FIDE Youth Chess Olympiad Hosted by Hungary Already Breaks Records

Only four months after the Chess Olympiad in Tromsø where the greatest chess players of the world competed against each other it is already time to have a look at the best talents of the next generation. In December this year Hungary may organize a Chess Olympiad for the first time, the competition for youth aged under 16 years. The event takes place in the city of Győr and with more than a month to the start the organizers have already confirmed the entries of more participant nations than ever before at any Youth Chess Olympiad. It really seems that the best chess talents of all five continents will be present in Hungary between 12th-22nd December. Awarding the right of organization to Hungary is a clear sign of high international recognition of chess life in the country which is rightly confirmed by the fact that Judit Polgar who has been leading the FIDE world rankings for more than 25 years has agreed to be the face of the event representing talent and the Hungarian chess traditions all in one person or we could even say legend. By mentioning Judit Polgar let us not forget that after FIDE tightened on a rule that had existed earlier participation of girls are now guaranteed. In each team a maximum four of the five team members can be a boy.

The promo video of the Youth Chess Olympiad 2014 features Judit Polgar, Csaba Balogh, Olympic Silver medalist, Benjamin Gledura who was European Champion of his age group and Kata Karacsonyi who was the first to follow in the footsteps of Judit Polgar to win the National Championship topping all boys in their age groups.

You can see the video by clicking on this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZu0iBrc5rE>

You can find more information about the FIDE U-16 World Youth Chess Olympiad 2014 on the official website of the event:



4 best games of the past week

(1) **Carlsen, Magnus(2863)**
- **Anand, Viswanathan(2792) [C67]**

WCh 2014(11),
2014.11.23



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

The 11th game of the match- and at the same time the last one- was very dramatic. We will see how Anand is got a great position out of the opening, played the great b5 move, after which it was clear that Black was doing more than fine without any big risk of losing the game, and then he suddenly sacrificed the exchange without any reason and got himself in a very bad/ dangerous position where Carlsen didn't give him any more chances of playing the 12th game, as he secured a 6.5 points to 4.5 lead. A very sad end for Anand who could have turned around the match or at least have gotten a good mood for the 12th game by making a safe draw.

1.e4 As in all his games, Carlsen continues opening with 1.e4.

1...e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 Another game on the Berlin, which is not a surprise.

4.O-O ♗xe4 5.d4 ♗d6 6.♙xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♗f5 8.♔xd8+ ♔xd8 9.h3



9...♙d7 Anand is switching from the Ke8-h5 variation to the Bd7 one, which has actually been very popular in the latest games, often played by Caruana and Adams.

10.♘c3 This is one of the main moves, but it is the "old variation". [10.♞d1 is the move played recently. The idea is to force Black to decide immediately what to do next with the king. 10...♙c8 (10...♙e7 Now White has a lot of different move orders but his ideas are of course mainly connected to the g4 move or Bg5.) 11.♘g5 ♙e8 12.g4 ♘e7 13.f4 leads to very sharp play.]

10...h6 Preventing Ng5 or Bg5.

11.b3 ♙c8 and now of course Black doesn't stay in the center any longer, but secured the king's position. All this is of course well-known theory.

12.♙b2 c5! It is very important not to make any mistakes in the move order here for Black and of course Anand is well aware of the details. It is important first to take the d4 square under control before playing b6.

13.♞ad1 b6 In this position White has tried a lot of different possibilities but Black seems to be fine in all of them.

14.♞fe1 Personally I don't see a big sense in the position of the white rook on e1.

14...♙e6 15.♘d5 White wants to play Nf4 and take the bishop on e6 with a small edge.

15...g5! and of course Black doesn't allow it.

16.c4 ♙b7 17.♙h2 White is preparing g4, followed by Kg3, which is a very typical idea for the Berlin.

17...a5! It is very important for Black to provoke White into playing a4 and we will see why in couple of moves!

18.a4 White can't allow Black to play a4.



18...♘e7! Another excellent move by Anand, who I am pretty sure was still in his preparation. There is no reason to wait for White's g4 because anyway he doesn't have anything better to play and the black knight has to take position on g6.

19.g4 I don't think White has a better plan in the position.

19...♘g6 20.♙g3 White's idea should clearly be to play on the kingside, with moves like h4 or maybe first Nf6 and then h4.

20...♙e7 Another very good move by Anand. Before starting the action on the queenside, Black brings his h8 rook into the game. [20...♙g7 was also possible, but after 21.♘f6 maybe White will be able to play h4 next with some pressure.]

21.♘d2 I don't like this move at all. Why get the knight to e4?! I think White's plan should be connected with playing h4

and not f4. [White can't reach any advantage after 21.♘xe7 21...♘xe7 22.♖d2 ♖ad8 23.♖ed1 ♖xd2 24.♖xd2 ♘g6 Black's position is very solid, but White is not risking being worse here either.]

21...♖hd8 22.♘e4 ♙f8 So White and Black both are solid in the center and it is not easy to see what either's plan is actually.

23.♘ef6 Maybe White is preparing the Nh5-f4 idea.



23...b5!! and here comes the shock for Carlsen. This was the very idea for which Anand was playing by provoking the a5-a4 moves. Black is starting his play on the queenside first.

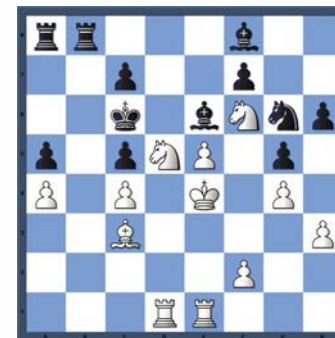
24.♙c3 What else to do?! [After 24.axb5 24...a4 25.bxa4 ♖xa4 Black's play on the queenside is very dangerous and his position is at least equal, but probably already better.]

24...bxa4 25.bxa4 Black managed to open the b-file, which is a huge improvement of the position.

25...♙c6 The king is taking an excellent position on c6 and Black is starting to plan his entry on the b-file.

26.♙f3 Carlsen tries to keep things together by bringing his king to e4, but we can already feel that White is in quite some trouble.

26...♖db8 27.♙e4 We are in a critical position. Black has a lot of nice options now: it is tempting to play 27...Rb3 as well moves like 27...Bg7 or Be7, which look very nice with the simple idea of playing Bxf6. The position is not that easy to evaluate, but personally I think that White is already in quite some serious trouble.



27...♖b4?? What a shocking decision by Anand! There was absolutely no reason to sacrifice the exchange. Maybe he felt that he was close to change the outcome of the match, but still, why give an exchange and play a very dangerous looking position rather than just continuing playing a slightly better position with an extra 12th game in the pocket?! It is hard to explain this decision by a player with so much experience as Anand.

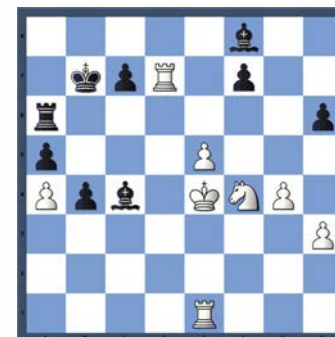
28.♙xb4 Carlsen just says "thank you".

28...cxb4 Black's idea can only lie in his play connected to the b-pawn and this can only happen in case Black manages to remove the knight from d5, so he needs to somehow play c6.

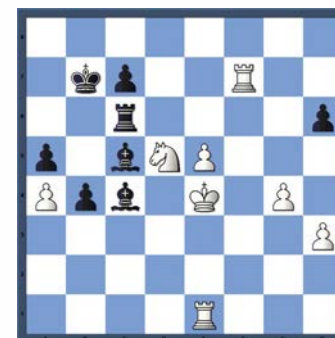


32...♙xc4 33.♖d7 ♜a6 Maybe this is the move Anand was playing for, but White is winning by force now. [33...♜e8 was not much better since after 34.♘d5 ♙d6 35.♙d4 followed by Rxf7 next, White is almost winning.;

And after 33...♙c8 34.♖ed1 ♜d6 White has 35.♗7xd6! cxd6 36.♖c1 winning the c4 bishop.]



35...♗c5 Black still has some hope because of the bishop pair, but not for long...



36...♖xc7 37.♘xc7 ♔c6 Black has nothing else to play. [White's calculation is visible after 37...♖xc7 38.♖c1 b3 39.♖xc4 b2 40.♖xc5+ ♔b6 41.♗b5+ Of course this is a very

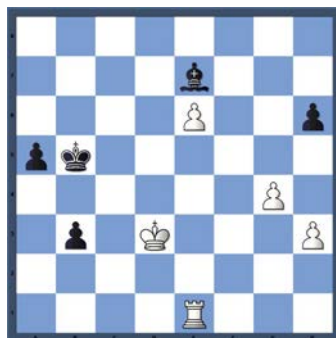
easy line to see for a World Champion, even under the pressure of winning the WC title.]

38. ♖b5! This is the last exact move of the game. White wants to play Nd4 next so Black is forced to take on b5.

38... ♗xb5 39. axb5+ ♔xb5 40. e6 40.Kd3 would basically lead to the same position as in the game, just over a different move order.

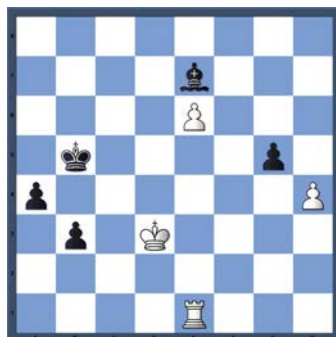
40... b3 41. ♖d3 White is threatening to play e7 next.

41... ♗e7 Actually White has a couple of different wins in the position, but of course Carlsen picks the most simple one.



42. h4 White creates another passed pawn.

42... a4 43. g5 hxg5



44. hxg5 Black is just too slow with his counterplay.

44... a3 45. ♖c3 Stopping all the black pawns from moving. Anand resigns the game and the WC match. What a dramatic and very emotional last game and of course what a mistake by Anand to sacrifice the exchange. **1-0**

**(2) Jakovenko, Dmitry(2745)
- Matlakov, Maxim(2685) [A15]**Russian Cup Final 2014(4.1),
2014.11.23GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

We are in the final of the Russian Cup, where Jakovenko convincingly beats his young opponent.

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♗f3 c6 3.g3 d5 4.♕g2 We have transposed from the English to the Reti opening.

4...♕f5 4...Bg4 is the other main line.

5.O-O e6 6.cxd5 This is the right moment to take on d5 to challenge Black's opening preparation. [Trying to delay it with 6.d3 allows Black a good extra option with 6...dxc4 7.dxc4 ♘bd7 7...Qxd1 is also possible. This line is more common with the bishop on g4, but it stands better on f5. 8.♘c3 h6 Intending to save the strong bishop against the Nh4 positional threat. 9.♕f4 ♕e7 Black was doing fine in some recent games.; 6.♖b3 is met by 6...♖b6 7.♖xb6 axb6 8.cxd5 exd5 followed by b5, with an excellent position for Black.]

6...exd5 [On 6...cxd5 7.♖b3 is already much stronger, because after 7...♖b6 8.♖xb6 axb6 9.♘c3+= in comparison to the 6.Qb3 line, the doubled b-pawns are separated and weak. They might quickly get under attack by d3 and Be3.]

7.d3 ♘a6 8.a3 It seems like White just would like to get a playable position with b4 and Bb2. [Jakovenko deviates from the recently played 8.♘c3 8...♕e7 9.♘d4 ♕g6



10.e4 This plan is considered to be critical from the opening point of view. If White manages to consolidate in the center, he might get a big advantage with f4. However, the following game shows that Black is excellently prepared for this plan, due to his prophylactic Na6 move... 10...O-O 11.♖e1 (11.e5 11...♘d7 12.f4 looks dangerous, but Black has 12...♕c5! 13.♕e3 ♖e7! when Black prevents the direct f5 threat by having Qxe5 with a double attack on e3 and d4 and otherwise he is going to undermine the advanced pawns with f6 and the premature action of White backfires.) 11...♕c5 (Black is doing well also after 11...♘c5 keeping an eye on the d3 pawn.) 12.♕e3 ♖e8 13.f3 ♘d7 14.♘c2 ♕xe3+ 15.♖xe3 ♖b6 16.♘a4 ♖a5 17.♘c3 ♘b4 Black was more than fine and he had already refused a moves repetition with Qb6 in the game Svidler-Tregubov, Bilbao 2014, although he later went on to lose...]

8...♕e7 9.b4 ♘c7! A good reaction. After the a3-b4 moves, the knight must forget about the c5 square, where he was initially intended to go, but there was a drawback in White's play too, that Black is suddenly ready to change the pawn structure in his favor by undermining the queenside with a5. That would force White to take on a5, but it leaves the a3 pawn isolated and also taking outward from the center is never recommended. Jakovenko finds a clever idea to avoid this plan...

10.♘d4! [On the natural 10.♙b2 Black could finish his plan with 10...a5 11.bxa5 ♖xa5=]



10...♞d7?! A very strange mistake on this level. Giving up the bishop pair so easily cannot be a great idea. [Black should simply have played 10...♙g6 when White would have completed his maneuver started in the previous move with 11.♘b3! preventing a5. 11...O-O 12.♙b2 ♘d7 followed by Bf6 with a playable position for both sides.]

11.♘xf5 ♞xf5 I guess that Black's idea behind 10...Qd7 was that after Nb3 he can exchange the bishops with Bh3, while now White has no good way to avoid the positional threat of a5. However, taking the light squared bishop is a bigger achievement for White than being able to execute the a5 break for Black...

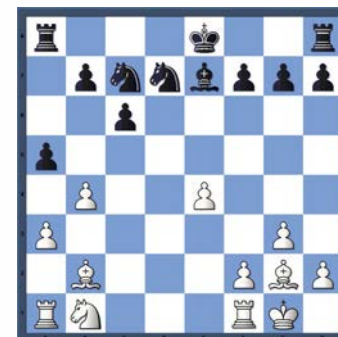
12.♙b2 a5



13.e4! Jakovenko knows that his opponent went wrong before and he tries to seize the initiative right away.

13...dxe4 14.dxe4 ♞d7 [14...♘xe4? cannot lead to anything good after 15.♙xg7 ♞g8 16.♙b2 as the black king is stuck in the middle of the board.; is not great for Black either. 14...♞e6 15.bxa5 ♞xa5 16.♘d2! O-O 17.♘b3! The knight occupies the ideal f5 square with tempo. Now the rook is hanging, then it attacks the queen from d4 and when it gets to f5, Black is already in trouble.]

15.♞xd7+ ♘xd7 [Despite the queens being off, Black runs into a very strong attack after 15...♙xd7 16.♘d2! axb4 17.♘c4 threatening Nb6. Black should try to hide his king, but he has no time for it. 17...♙e8 Disconnecting the rooks cannot be good, but there was nothing better for Black. 18.axb4 ♙xb4 19.♞xa8+ ♘xa8 20.♞a1 ♙e7 21.♞a7 Black is in trouble as the b7 pawn falls. Rb8 loses to Be5!]



16.b5! A great positional move! White had to compare the options of taking on g7 right away and allowing axb4, opening the a-file and eliminating all the white pawns from the queenside, with the temporary pawn sacrifice that happened in the game. [16.♙xg7 16...♞g8 17.♙b2 axb4 18.axb4 ♞xa1 19.♙xa1 ♙xb4 White should still be better because of the two bishops, but it is much less obvious than in the game.]

16...♖xb5 17.a4 ♖d6 18.♗xg7 ♖g8 19.♗d4! The ideal retreat ! 19. Bh6 would have allowed Black to get rid of the bishops after Bg5. 19.Bb2 moves into Nc4 with tempo, while 19.Bc3 occupies the knight's ideal development. Black cannot trade the bishops now with Bf6 as it drops a piece after take and e5, while c5 is a huge weakening, as after removing the bishop, the knight occupies the d5 square in two moves.

19...♖c4 20.♖c1! The most accurate move again, depriving Black from his counterplay. [After the natural 20.♖c3 Black could have seriously eased his position by playing 20...♗c5! getting rid of the bishop pair.]

20...♗ce5 21.♖d2 O-O-O The black king feels relatively safe on the queenside behind his pawns, especially since the b-file can be closed with Bb4.

22.♖b3 Jakovenko immediately points out the drawback of the previous move, that the a5 pawn is left alone and Black can never think about b6 as it leaves the c6 pawn unprotected (after f4).

22...♗b4 23.♖c2 White leaves from the Nd3 tempo. A serious threat could be Bc3, trading the defender of the a5 pawn, after which Black has no adequate way to save the pawn.

23...♖b8



24.♖f1! I like this move a lot! The point can be seen in the 24.f4 line! White improves the circumstances of the Bc3 and the f4 moves and also brings his king towards the center, which is generally a good approach in endgames. [24.♗c3 could have been played right away. Jakovenko was most probably afraid of 24...b6 (24...♗xc3 is bad in view of 25.♖xc3 b6 26.f4 and the c6 falls.) 25.♗xb4 axb4 26.f4 ♖d3 27.♖xc6 ♖7c5! when Black creates counterplay with his b4 passed pawn. However the computer finds an unexpected move to retain the advantage... 28.♖xc5! It looks very suspicious to create such connected passed pawns, but somehow Black is unable to advance them. 28...bxc5 29.♖d1! Kb7 runs into e5. Otherwise White plays a5 and Bf1. 29...b3 drops the pawn after Rb6.; The most human move is 24.f4 24...♖d3 (24...♖g6 25.♗c3 wins a pawn.) 25.♖d1 but here comes the unexpected blow 25...♖e1!! It is easy to miss such moves and Black takes on g2. This is the reason of playing 24. Kf1! A very deep idea indeed.]

24...c5? The effect of the Kf1 move! Black was so shocked that he does not have this Ne1 resource that he sacrificed a pawn for basically nothing... It is true that he is lacking any useful moves and his position was already bad because f4 or Bc3 was coming next, but still any other move would have been better than this...

25.♖xc5 ♖xc5 26.♗xe5+ Perhaps Black forgot that White can take this knight?! Now White is just a pawn up... [Possibly Matlakov had expected 26.♗xc5 when after 26...♖c8! 27.♗xb4 axb4! (But not 27...♖xc2? 28.♗d6+) 28.♖b2 ♖d3 followed by Rc3, Black gets very strong counterplay with his b4 passed pawn.]

26...♖a7 27.♗f4 Driving the bishop back to e3.

27...b5 A desperate attempt to find counterplay with the

a-pawn, but it again rather just helps White to convert his advantage. [27...♖d3 28.♔e2 ♗gd8 White can demonstrate the power of the two bishops with 29.♕g5 ♗8d7 30.♕h3 ♗7d6 31.♕e3 b6 32.♕f5+- wins the h7 pawn because of the main threat of pushing e5!]

28.axb5 ♖b6 29.♕f3 White transfers his bishop to e2 to start the haunt of the black king after taking on b5.

29...♗d3 [29...♖xb5 30.♕e2+ ♖b6 31.♕e3+- is more or less over.]

30.♕e2 ♗c3 31.♗xc3 ♕xc3 32.♗d1 a4 Finally the pawn starts to run, but of course it is too slow...

33.♕e3 ♗c8 [33...a3 loses to 34.♗d6+ ♖b7 35.♕c4!+- stopping the a-pawn first and now the c5 is hanging, just as Bd5 is a decisive threat against the king.]

34.♗d6+ ♖a5 [34...♖b7 loses again to 35.♕c4+-]

35.♗c6 The human win. [The machine recommends the brilliant 35.b6 35...a3 36.♕xc5! a2 37.b7! a1=♖+ 38.♖g2 wins as the rook is hanging and Ra6 is threatening with mate in one. Obviously with a human mind, it is better to not allow our opponent to promote a queen with check, if we have other easy ways to win the game...]

35...♗xc6 36.bxc6 ♜xe4 [36...♜e6 was slightly more resistant, although it would not have changed the outcome... 37.♕c4 ♕e5 38.♖e2 a3 39.♖d3+- is the easiest, catching the a-pawn and at some point White pushes f4-f5 to win the game with the two extra pawns.]

37.c7 ♜d6 38.♕c5 [Black resigned in view 38.♕c5 38...♜c8 39.♕g4+-] **1-0**

(3) Kryvoruchko, Yuriy(2706) - Eljanov, Pavel(2719) [B12]

83rd ch-UKR 2014(9.3),
2014.11.20



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

The Ukrainian Championship was a really hard fought tournament. All players wanted to win their games with both colors, therefore there were many very interesting encounters such as the following one.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♕f5 The Advanced variation of the Caro-Kan defense.

4.♜f3 e6 5.♕e2 ♜e7 Black avoids the theoretical battle in the extremely sharp 5...c5 lines and drives the game to a less explored territory.

6.c3 h6 7.♜bd2 ♜d7 8.O-O ♖c7 Black slowly prepares for the standard c5 break followed by Nc6, gaining space on the queenside and putting pressure on the central pawns.

9.♗e1 Preparing for the knight maneuver to f1-g3. [In such positions it is more common to play 9.♜b3 preparing for the c5 move.]

9...a5 A very interesting and deep plan by Eljanov, knowing what happened two moves later. We will come back to the details after the 11th move... Black intends to take space on the queenside with a4.

10.a4 The most natural reaction, not allowing Black to take ground.

10...♘g6 11.♗f1



11...c5! This is the standard break, but not after playing a5. Black would like to gain space and finish the development with Nc6, Be7 and 0-0 and if he succeeds, he ends up with a perfect position. However, it takes many moves and there should be a direct problem with the king standing in the center. White has won many nice games by blowing the center with a well-timed c4. Kryvoruchko plays the most natural moves, but after all, Black's plan seems to work perfectly.

12.♗b5 This should be the drawback of including the a5-a4 pair of moves. The bishop has a very nice square on b5 and the explosion of the center with c4 seems to be even stronger now.

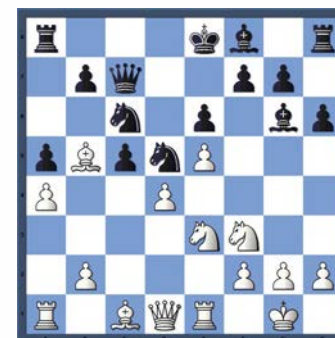
12...♗c6 13.c4 Very principled play, but Black consolidates with some very calm moves.

13...♗b6! It is necessary for Black to hold the d5 square to be able to recapture with a piece. [13...dxc4 is strongly met by 14.d5! exd5 15.♗e3! and Nxd5 next. This is a typical example of how Black usually collapses in such positions.]

14.cxd5 [14.♗e3 14...0-0-0 is going to be a transposition.]

14...♗xd5 15.♗e3 White continues with the most natural moves, trying to put pressure on the center as fast as possible

until Black had no time to secure the safety of his king.



15...0-0-0!? A very brave decision, but here we can see another point of including the a5-a4 pair of moves. The drawback was the creation of the hole on b5, but there is another point as well, the hole on b4 turns out to be much more relevant. Black will effectively occupy it with his minor pieces and also the pawn structure on the queenside is fixed, so it is much more difficult to launch an attack against the black king as b4 never works for White. [15...♗d8 is actually also possible, with the idea to castle kingside after Be7.]

16.♗c4 White occupies all the holes on the queenside and intends to attack the a5 pawn with Bd2. [The machine tries to release the tension on the d4 pawn with 16.♗xc6 but on the other hand it gives up the nice bishop on b5. Black seems to be fine after 16...♗xc6 17.♗d2 ♗b4; 16.♗xd5 16...♗xd5 attacking on d4 and intending to finish the development with Be7 and Rhd8 looks also better for Black.]

16...♗db4! Black had no time to waste, so Eljanov looks for counterplay on the c2 square and he intends to win the pawn on d4. White tries to point out the drawback of this move...

17.♗f4 After the knight has left the d5 square, White prepares to install his knight to d6! [17.♗d2 was another logical way to continue and Black must react accurately with 17...cxd4!]

17...♖xd4! [The alternative 17...♖c2 was wrong again.
18.♗d6+! ♔b8 (18...♖xd6 is not the same as in the game.
19.exd6 ♕xd6 20.♕xd6 ♖xd6 21.♕xc6! The point is Qxc6 runs
into Ne5! and after taking on g6, the c2 knight is hanging.
21...bxc6 heavily weakens the king's position. 22.♖c1 ♗xe1
23.♖xe1± with a very strong attack.) 19.dxc5 ♗xa1 20.♖xa1
That beautiful knight on d6 guarantees more than enough
compensation for the exchange.]

18. ♖d6+



19.exd6 ♟xd6 20.♟xd6 ♔xd6 I must say that the outcome of the middlegame is a bit strange to me. Black has a

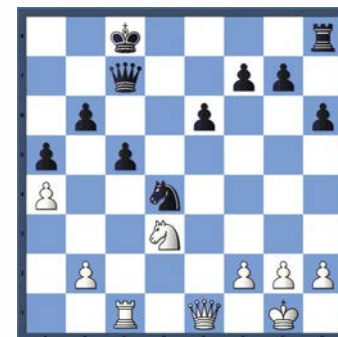
huge advantage despite the very natural play of both sides. Normally in such cases, there should be equality, but now it is not true.

21. ♖e5 Giving back the exchange is a clear sign of despair.
[In case of 21. ♖xd4 21...cxd4 22. ♖c1+ ♔b8 ♚ we can clearly see the domination of Black's position. Even materially he is doing fine with the two pawns for the exchange, but the supported d4 passed pawn causes the biggest problems. Black has no weaknesses in his camp, there is nothing for White to attack with his rooks...]

21...♘bc2 22.♖c1 ♘xe1 23.♔xe1 Black has converted his initiative into two extra pawns. Now the initiative has passed to White, but Black has enough resources to consolidate.

23...♔c7! Protecting the important a5 pawn without weakening the position. [The most natural 23...b6 weakens the h1-a8 diagonal and White could make use of it with 24.♕a6+ ♖b8 25.♞xg6 fxg6 26.♔e4 with counterplay.]

24.  d3  xd3 25.  xd3 b6



26.b4! A necessary sacrifice to find counterplay. Otherwise the two extra pawns yield an easy win for Black.

26...axb4 27.a5 ♖b3! 28.axb6 ♔xb6?! The first inaccuracy by Eljanov in this game, although his position remains winning.

Black is already three pawns up, but his king got exposed. [The most straightforward way to win was 28...♞d6! delaying the capture on b6 and pinning the white pieces instead. 29.♞d1 (29.b7+ 29...♞b8! (But not 29...♞xb7 after which 30.♜xc5+! ♜xc5 31.♞xb4+ ♞c6 32.♞a4+ ♞c7 33.♞a7+ ♞c6 34.♞a4+ holds by perpetual check.)) 29...♞d8! and White cannot create counterplay. 30.♜b2 ♞xb6—+]

29.♞b1 c4 30.♜e5 [On 30.♜xb4 30...♞d8 31.♞c3 ♜d2—+ also wins for Black. Qxf2 Kxf2 Ne4 is a hidden threat.]

30...♞d8 Black finally brings his inactive rook to the game.

31.♜xc4 ♞c5 32.♜e3 [Unfortunately for White 32.♞xb3 32...♞xc4 33.♞xb4 did not work because of the unopened back rank. 33...♞xb4! 34.♞xb4 ♞d1+]]



32...♞d3! Black gave back one pawn, but two are still left from his material advantage. It was more important to bring the h8 rook into the game and the perfect cooperation of the black pieces deprives White from finding sufficient counterplay. A nice idea to improve the position could be to drive the king to the comfort zone to g8.

33.h3 White misses the next strong move, but his position was lost anyway. [33.♞e2 33...♞c3—+]

33...♞c3! A very strong move, which forces the trade of the rooks with Rc1 next move! White cannot avoid it and of course all kinds of exchanges brings Black's victory closer...

34.♞e2 ♞c1+ 35.♞xc1 ♜xc1 36.♞f3 b3! 37.♞xf7 [37.♞a8+ 37...♞c7—+ and there are no more checks.]

37...♜e2+! White has no good square to leave from this check! [But not 37...b2?? 38.♞g8+! followed by Qxg7 check and Qxb2.]

38.♞f1 [38.♞h2 is refuted by 38...♞c7+ 39.♞xc7+ ♞xc7 40.♜d1 ♞c6—+ simply promoting the b-pawn with the help of the king.]

38...♜d4! Black is threatening with mate on c1 and also to promote the b-pawn in 2 moves with check. The game is over.

39.♞g8+ ♞b7 40.♞xg7+ ♞a6 41.♜d1 b2! [White resigned as 41...b2 42.♜xb2 ♞c1+ is mate.] **0-1**

(4) Korobov, Anton(2680) - Ivanchuk, Vassily(2726) [E15]

83rd ch-UKR 2014(11.3),
2014.11.22



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are going to see a very wild game, which is maybe to be expected when Korobov and Ivanchuk meet, since both are very creative and fighting players. After the opening, Ivanchuk managed to get a very promising position thanks to a great exchange sacrifice, but in time trouble he misses his chance to convert his advantage and the game ends in a draw.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 A very solid opening choice from Ivanchuk, who simply plays every opening!

4.g3 ♟a6 5.b3 ♟b4+ 6.♟d2 The provocation of the bishop to d2 looks strange, but in fact it is clearly the main line. The white bishop belongs to b2 and not on d2, which is a good place for the knight from b1.

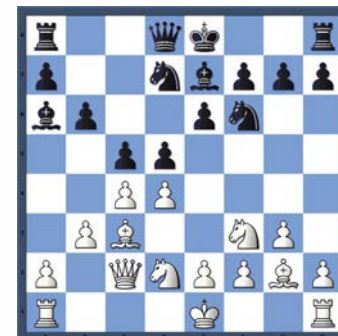
6...♟e7 7.♟g2 c6 Black of course wants to play d5 next. Another main line is 7...d5 8.cxd5.

8.♟c3 d5 9.♘bd2 White used to often play 9.Ne5 first.

9...♘bd7 Black is preparing c5, which is the main idea of this line.

10.♚c2 Does Korobov really want to castle queenside? Or is this move made to play e4 next?!

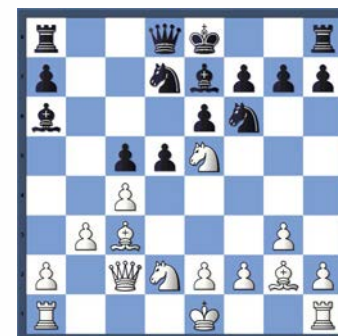
10...c5! Ivanchuk doesn't waste any time and attacks the white center. The white queen can be pretty badly placed on c2 because of the upcoming Rc8 move.



11.dxc5 White tries to unbalance the position. [In case of the simple 11.O-O 11...♚c8 the exchanges in the center would lead to a pretty equal position.]

11...bxc5 This is the right choice. [Another easy choice could have been 11...♘xc5 12.cxd5 Black gets an isolated pawn. 12...exd5 (12...♘xd5 13.♟xg7) 13.♘d4 and I think that Black's position is fine as well, but sometimes it is not that pleasant to play such a pawn structure knowing that theoretically it could be a dangerous position because of the weak pawn on d5.]

12.♘e5 Another aggressive move by Korobov. [12.e3 to avoid d4 would have been a much more solid choice, with a roughly equal position.]



12...d4! Ivanchuk plays a great positional exchange sacrifice! This is clearly something we should remember for our own games.

13. ♖xd7 This move is forced.

13... ♗xd7 **14.** ♕a5 Another forced move.

14... ♔c8 **15.** ♕xa8 White needs to take the exchange otherwise after Bb7 Black would just be much better.

15... ♔xa8 **16.f3** This move looks a bit strange to me. [Why not to castle queenside first?! Maybe the reason is to save a tempo on the f3 move. 16.O-O-O ; After 16.O-O an attempt to attack immediately is 16...h5 (16...O-O 17.a3 and White is probably better.) 17.e4 h4 and I think White's position looks really dangerous.]

16...O-O 17.O-O-O So which plan to chose now for Black?!

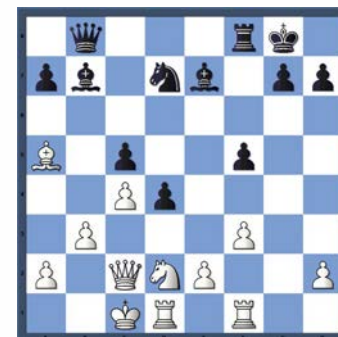
17... ♕b7! Another very good positional move. Before starting to push the f- and e-pawns, Black is trying to improve the position of his pieces as much as possible because any opening of a file could be a disaster for Black since the white rooks would immediately win on power.

18. ♖hf1 **f5** Black's pawns start to roll. Black just wants to play e5-e4 next.

19.g4! A good decision. Korobov is looking for counter chances, as to stand and wait for e5-e4 is not an option. But as we can see, White is already under quite a lot of pressure despite being a clear exchange up! What a deep understanding of chess Ivanchuk has to give up an exchange for just slowplay!

19... ♔b8 The black queen is joining the game and of course Black is trying to keep the position as closed as possible.

20.gxf5 exf5



21.b4!? Very creative play by White. Many other players would probably have chosen to play something like 21.Rf2, trying to be as solid as possible, but not Korobov, who doesn't like to be under pressure of getting squeezed and looks for chances in an open fight.

21... ♕g5 The black bishop on e3 is going to be a beast! [The position after 21...cxb4 22. ♖b3 ♗e5 is very unclear but at least now White has a clear plan of what to do next.]

22. ♖b1 ♕c6 Black continues following the strategy of keeping the position as closed as possible, allowing White to play b5 now, after which the white rooks would have no open files.

23. ♖b3 and White continues his best to open the d-file.

23... ♕a4 **24.** ♖b2 Does Korobov want to put his King to a3? Maybe he is trying to chase the bishop from a4, but it is extremely risky.

24... ♔b7 Maybe this move was already too slow. Moves like 24... cxb4 followed by Nc5 or just Be3 would have given Black a clear advantage in my opinion.

25.f4! White is using the fact that Black can't play Bf6.

25...♙e7 Not falling into the trap... [25...♙f6? would be a big mistake because after 26.♖xf5 d3+ 27.♙b1 dxe2 White has this little check: 28.♖e6+! ♙h8 29.♖xe2 with a big advantage for White.]

26.♖d3 ♖e8 Ivanchuk spots the weakness in White's position and this is the e2 pawn.

27.♖d2 ♙f6 All black pieces are perfectly placed.

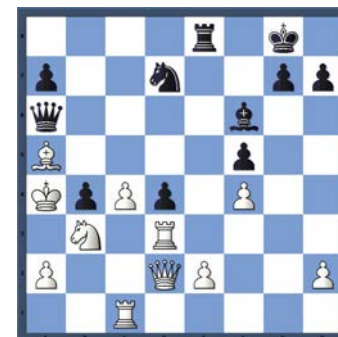


28.♙a3? This move gives Black the chance of practically winning the game in 2 moves. [White should have continued with 28.♖g1 taking the g2 square under control, but Black's position is clearly much better anyway.]

28...♖a6? This is clearly not the best move. [The simple 28...♙xb3 29.axb3 ♖g2 would almost put an end to the game, as White can't hold the e2 pawn. 30.♖e1 ♙h4 and Black is just winning.]

29.♖c1 [In case of 29.b5 Black has a slow move like 29...Qe6 which leads to a nice position, but he can also play 29...♙xb5! 30.cxb5 ♖xb5 threatening to play c4 next, with a total mess!]

29...cxb4+ 30.♙xb4 [30.♙xa4 is losing on the spot because



30...♖b8! comes with the deadly threat of playing Qc6 next.]

30...♙xb3+ 31.♙xb3 ♖b8 The game seems to be almost over, but Korobov keeps on finding the only moves.

32.a3! is the only way to go on!

32...♙c5+ 33.♙a2 ♙e4! A good choice. [In case of 33...♙xd3 34.exd3 Black's position should be a bit better, but the white c-pawn gives him good chances to survive.]

34.♖b2! Once again Korobov grabs his only chance and this is to give up his queen!

34...♙c3+ too tempting not to play it...

35.♙xc3 ♖xc4+ This pawn of course had to be taken.

36.♙a1 ♖xb2 37.♙xb2 So now we have a very interesting position. White has 2 rooks for the queen and a pawn which is materialy speaking around equal, but the black king's position is very safe, while the white king is exposed and the pawns on e2, f4 and h2 could be potential targets, all of which clearly gives Black some edge here.



37...Ke6 It is hard to say whether to give the d4 pawn was the best decision. [Black didn't need to hurry and could just have played 37...a4 followed by h6-Kh7 and then let's see what happens.]

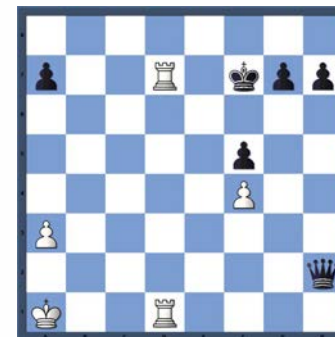
38. exd4 Of course White needs to take his chance.

38...xe2 39. ccd1 exd4+ 40. exd4 exxh2 Ivanchuk makes the right choice on move 40. [After 40...h6 White has the very strong 41. d1d2 and now both f4 and h2 pawns are protected and it is going to be very hard for Black to improve the position, which is probably just a draw now.]

41. d8+ The only move. White needs to do something right now or just resign because the Black pawns would start to roll.

41...f7 42. 8d7+ g8 Ivanchuk starts to repeat the moves, but why?! [After 42...g6 43. d6+ h5 44. xg7 h6 Blacks seems to keep good winning chances and is clearly not risking anything. 45. d1 h3 46. gb2 f3 followed by Kh4-h5, kh3-h4 etc. White would need to show an excellent defense to save the game here.]

43. d8+ f7 44. 8d7+



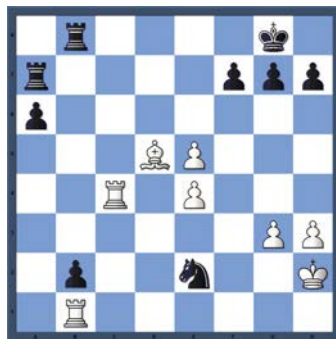
44...Kg8 It is a bit of a pity that such a great and interesting game ends in such a draw, especially for Ivanchuk who played fantastically but missed an easy win once and later on could not convert his advantage. **1/2-1/2**

Puzzle section

(5) Ponkratov, P(2624)-Kokarev, D(2624)

Russian Cup, 2014.11.18

1. +-



(6) Artemiev, V(2660)-Savchenko, B(2598)

Russian Cup, 2014.11.18

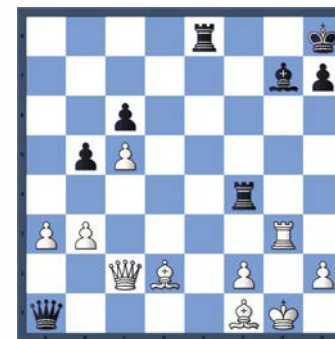
1. +-



(7) Ponkratov, P(2624)-Khismatullin, D(2679)

Russian Cup, 2014.11.20

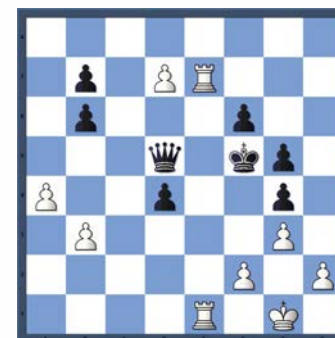
1... -+



(8) Khismatullin, D(2679)-Matlakov, M(2685)

Russian Cup, 2014.11.21

1. +-



(9) Korobov, A(2680)-Kryvoruchko, Y(2706)

Ukrainian Championship, 2014.11.18

1. +-



(10) Bogdanovich, S(2590)-Kovchan, A(2585)

Ukrainian Championship, 2014.11.18

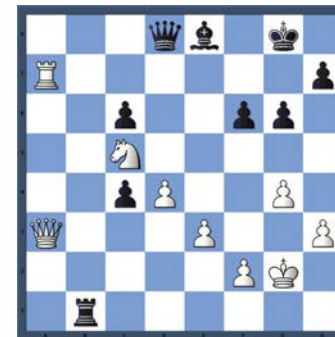
1... -+



(11) Kuzubov, Y(2661)-Zubov, A(2588)

Ukrainian Championship, 2014.11.18

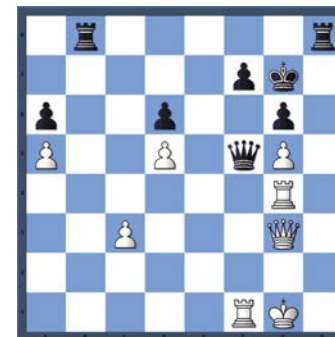
1. +-



(12) Kovchan, A(2585)-Kuzubov, Y(2661)

Ukrainian Championship, 2014.11.19

1... -+



(13) Moiseenko, A(2701)-Eljanov, P(2719)

Ukrainian Championship, 2014.11.21

1... =



(14) Ponomarev, R(2711)-Bogdanovich, S(2590)

Ukrainian Championship, 2014.11.21

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Eljanov, Pavel(2719)
- Zubov, Alexander(2588)

83rd ch-UKR 2014(11.1),
2014.11.22



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



We are in the last round of the Ukrainian Championship and Eljanov is one of the leaders and needs a win to share the first place.

41.f5! In my opinion this is an excellent move. White is a clear pawn up, but there is quite a good chance that Black will manage to hold the position in case both pawns could be exchanged on the queenside, so White doesn't give Black any chance for consolidation by playing Bd7 or trying to exchange both pawns by playing a6.

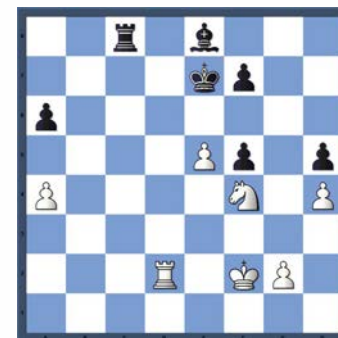
41...a6 What can be more logical than a pawn exchange and making the e8 bishop stronger?! [41...gxf5 didn't make any sense because now White has the extra option of playing 42.g3 attacking both pawns, e5 and h5.]

42.g3 White is following his plan.

42...gxf5 Black had 2 options here. [The other possibility was 42...axb5 43.fxg6 fxg6 44.axb5 but here as well White has quite some winning chances.]

43.bxa6 [43.hxh5 would be premature since after 43...axb5 44.axb5 hxb5 45.g7 d7 Black is holding.]

43...bxa6



44.a5 The white a-pawn is most probably going to fall, but Eljanov lets his opponent work for it.

44...c4 Black is going for the a-pawn and what can be more logical than to attack the f4 knight to win atempo?

45.g3 **46.d5+** I don't think this is the best practical choice. [In my opinion White would have gotten serious winning chances after 46.hxh5 46...cxa5 47.fxd6 cxe5 48.fxa6 and because of the passed h-pawn and the very unlucky position of the black bishop on e8 White can hope for a full point here. Of course the position should objectively be a draw, but to defend it is far from easy.]

46...f8?! A very strange move... Now White gets very dangerous play. [Safer was 46...e6 47.hc7+ e7 White needs to try his only chance: 48.fxd6 cxa5 49.hd5+ f8 50.fxd8 g7 51.hf6 c6 and now we have a quite similar position as in the game, just in a slightly better version for

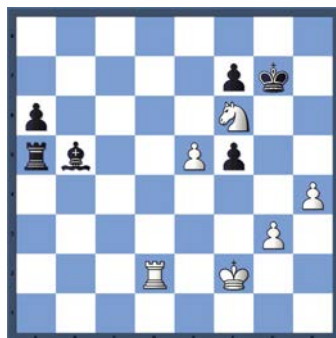
Black.]

47. ♖f6 Rd8 is coming.

47...♗b5 [47...♗c6 Attempting to put the bishop to a better position would not work because of 48. ♖d6 and Black has to play Bb5 which brings us back to the position in the game.]

48. ♖xh5 ♖xa5 **49.** ♖f6 White is counting on his h-pawn.

49...♔g7



50. ♔e3! A strong move. Eljanov brings his king into the game.

50...♔g6 Black is defending against the Kf4 threat.

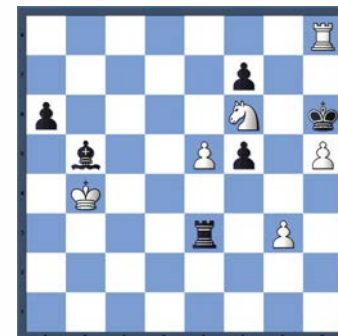
51. ♖d8 and the white rook enters. Now is the question, what is White's threat?!

51...♖a3+ 52. ♔d2 Black is trying to get the white king away from the kingside, which is very logical.

52...♖a2+ 53. ♔c3 ♖a3+ **54.** ♔b4 Now that the white king is far away, Black can try to attack the e5 pawn.

54...♖e3 55. h5+! Excellent calculation by Eljanov! The h-pawn starts to move.

55...♔g5 56. ♖g8+ ♔h6 **57.** ♖h8+



57...♔g7 The only move. [57...♔g5 58.h6 ♖xe5 59.h7 and Black can't stop White from playing Rg8.]

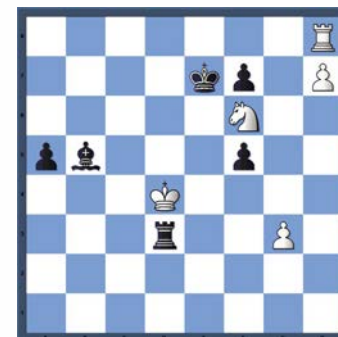
58. ♖g8+ ♔h6 **59.** ♖h8+ ♔g7 Eljanov probably wanted to gain some time by repeating the moves.

60. ♖h7+ ♔f8 **61.** h6 ♖xe5 Black didn't have any better move... [61...♖xg3 62. ♖h8+ ♔e7 63.h7 and the h-pawn is a queen!]

62. ♖h8+ ♔e7 **63.** h7 It is a pity for Black, but there is no way to stop the h-pawn!

63...a5+ 64. ♔c3 Not falling for any tricks...

64...♖e3+ 65. ♔d4 ♖d3+



66. ♔c5 The white king escapes from checks, so Black resigned. We saw great endgame play by Eljanov, who used

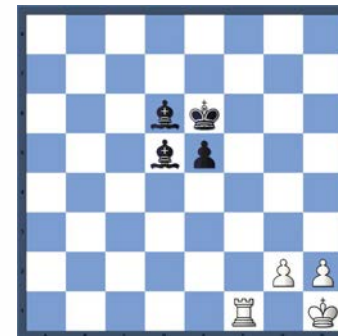
his chances to put Black under a lot of pressure and finally won the endgame thanks to his excellent technique! **1-0**

**(16) Zubarev, Alexander(2588)
- Ponomariov, Ruslan(2711)**

Ukrainian Championsip,
2014.11.19



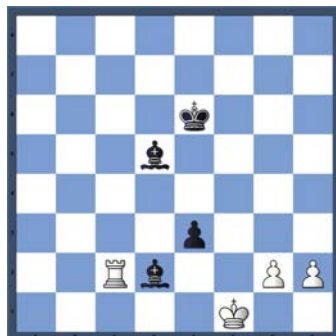
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



Sacrificing the rook for the pawn and a bishop would secure the draw, but the power of the bishop pair is especially strong in such positions. Ponomariov converts the advantage with nice technique. White's connected passers are quite useless, because they are not advanced enough to create counterplay.

42...e4 43.♖c1 White intends to bring his king towards the passed pawn. [White had no other move, as 43.h4 gives the important g3 square for the bishop, from where it perfectly supports the e-pawn. 43...♗g3 44.h5 e3—+; 43.g4 loses to 43...e3+ 44.♔g1 ♗c5—+ and e2 next.; 43.♔g1 43...♗c5+—+ forces the king back to the corner.]

43...♗b4 44.♔g1 ♗d2 45.♖c2 e3 46.♔f1 White temporarily manages to block the e-pawn and he creates the threat of Ke2 with the idea to sacrifice the rook on d2. Black finds the only move to win, the other bishop joins to the game...



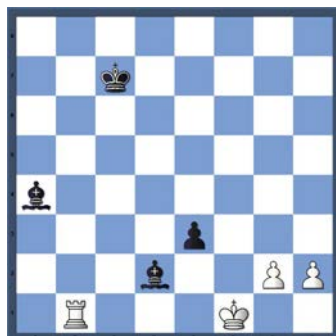
46...b3! 47...c8 White must control the c4 square, otherwise Bc4 followed by e2 wins.

47...d7 48...c5 d6 49...c8 a4! Changing the diagonal, but keeping the same idea in mind, Bb5 check followed by e2.

50...b8 [50...e2 loses faster to 50...b5+ 51.d1 (51.f3 51...e2+) 51...a5! The bishops are cooperating perfectly. They cover the e8 and d8 squares and support the promotion of the e3 pawn. 52.c2 a4+]]

50...c7 [50...d1 also requires some technique, but at the end it brings the same result. 51.e8 h5 52.e4 d5 53.e7 d4 54.h3 b4 55.e6 d3 56.g4 f7 57.e5 d6+ White must leave the e-file, but then e2 wins in the next move.]

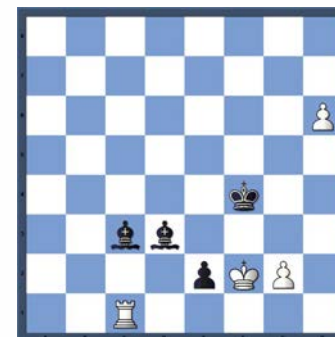
51.b1 The most tenacious defense, but it does not help. [51.b2 loses on the spot to 51...d1!+]]



51...c2! 52...a1 d3+ It is obligatory to send the king away from the e2 square, because then White could always threaten to take on e3 or d2.

53.g1 d6! The white king is far away now, so Black has time to activate his king. [53...e2 is too hasty as White could play 54.f2]

54.g3 with the idea to bring the king to g2-f3. [I was trying to make use of the h-pawn with 54.h4 54...e5 55.h5 f4 56.h6 c3 This is the prettiest win. (56...g3 is also good enough, Black is ready to push his e-pawn. White cannot prevent it by playing 57.a3 because 57...e2! still wins. 58.xd3+ g4 59.d4+ f5 60.g4+ e5+) 57.c1 e2 58.f2



58...e1=! 59.xe1 d4+ This pretty mate net helps Black to convert the advantage.]

54...e5 55.h3 [55.g2 is met by 55...e4+ 56.f1 f3 which will be similar to the game.]

55...c4 56.g2 d5+ This is the easiest, to prevent the king from coming to f3.

57.f1 f3 White is already completely paralyzed, but Black still needs to work a bit for the win, because after e2, Kf2 still controls the promotional square.

58.g1 [White does not want to open an entrance to the

kingside by moving one of his pawns. 58.h4 is met by 58...♔f5 followed by Kg4-g3 and then e2 wins.; 58.g4 also helps because of 58...♔f4 and Kg3 next.]

58...♔e4 The king's support of the passed pawn decides the outcome...

59.♖a7 [59.♔f1 59...♔d3 60.♔g1 ♘c3 61.♖c1 ♔d2 62.♖b1 ♘e4—+ and e2 next move wins.]

59...♔d3 60.♖e7 ♘b4 61.♖e8 Black can choose between many different winning plans.

61...♘e1 [Taking control over the e-file with 61...♘h5 62.♖e5 ♘f7—+ followed by Bd6 next move and when the rook leaves the e-file e2 wins.]

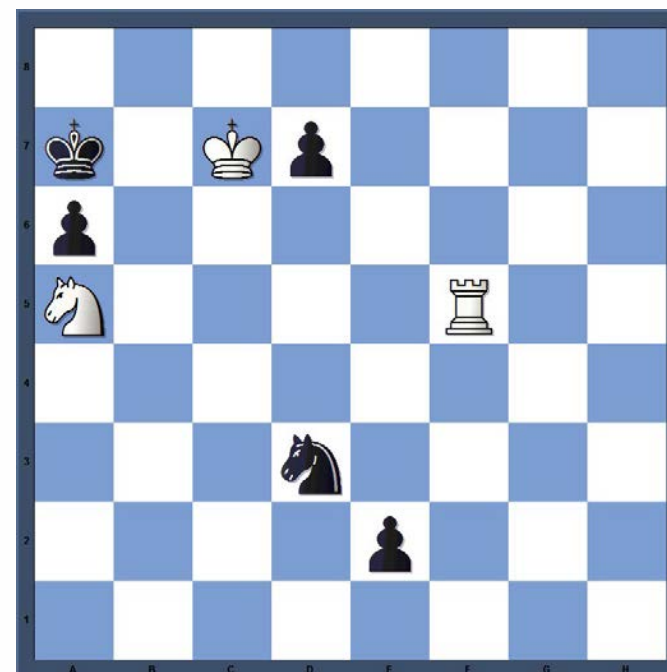
62.♔f1 [62.g4 62...♘f2+ 63.♔f1 ♘h4—+ There is no check on d8, so e2-e1Q are the next two moves.]

62...♘xg3 63.♖d8+ ♔e4 64.♖e8+ ♘e5 65.h4 ♘h5 66.♖e7 ♔f5 67.♔g2 e2 [White resigned in view of 67...e2 68.♔f2 ♔f6! and the rook cannot hold the e-file, therefore Bg3 promotes the pawn next. It was instructive to see how hopeless White was in this endgame, despite doing fine materially, but the strength of the bishop pair and the passed pawn decided the game.] **0-1**

Surprise section / study

(17) Kubbel

1. =



Solutions

(18) Ponomarev, R(2711)-Areshchenko, A(2655)

Ukrainian Championship, 2014.11.01



19.b3! ♖xa5 [19...♙d2+ 20.♙d1+-]

20.♖xa5 ♜xa5 21.♞xg5+-

(19) Zubov, A(2588)-Moiseenko, A(2701)

Ukrainian Championship, 2014.11.11

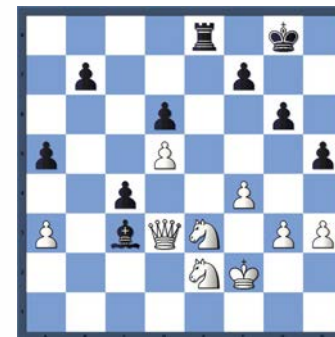


39...♘xd3! 40.♞d2 [40.♖xd3 40...♖h6+! 41.gxh6 ♜xb2+-]

40...♘xf2! 41.♞xf2 [41.gxf6 41...♞xg3#] **41...♞xg5+-**

(20) Eljanov, P(2719)-Kuzubov, Y(2661)

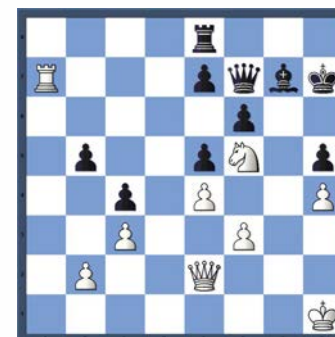
Ukrainian Championship, 2014.11.16



36...♙e1+! 0-1 [36...♙e1+ 37.♙xe1 cxd3+-]

(21) Tomashevsky, E(2714)-Kramnik, V(2760)

Tal memorial blitz, 2014.11.13



28.♘d6! ♞e6 [28...exd6 29.♖xf7+-; 28...♞f8 29.♘e8+-]

29.♘xe8 ♞h3+ 30.♙g1+-

(22) Karjakin, S(2770)-Gelfand, B(2759)

Tal memorial blitz, 2014.11.14



39...♙xg3! 40.♖f1 [40.♔xg3 40...♙g5+ 41.♔h3 ♙g4+ 42.♔h2 ♖xf2#]

40...♙d6 41.♙a5 ♙g5+ 0-1

(23) Grischuk, A(2795)-Mamedyarov, S(2757)

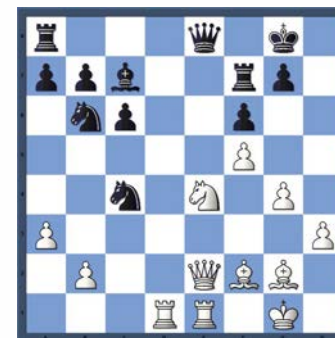
Tal memorial blitz, 2014.11.14



33.♙d4+ ♙f6 34.♖g8+! 1-0 [34.♖g8+ 34...♔xg8 35.♙xf6+-]

(24) Kramnik, V(2760)-Tomashevsky, E(2714)

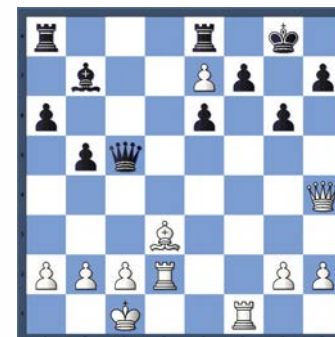
Tam memorial blitz, 2014.11.14



28.♘xf6+! gxf6 29.♙xe8+ ♖xe8 30.♖xe8+-

(25) Savchenko, B(2598)-Shomoev, A(2569)

Ugra Cup, 2014.11.12



23.♖xf7! ♔xf7 24.♙xh7+ ♔f6 25.♙xg6+ ♔e5 26.♙h5+! ♔d6 27.♙g6+ [27.♙xb5+! 27...♙d5 28.♙xe8+-]

27...♙d5 28.♙xe8+-

(26) Shahinyan, D(2431)-Andriasian, Z(2609)

Mayor Cup Yerevan, 2014.11.16



31...♖d2+! 32.♔e1 [32.♕f3 32...♘e5+ 33.♕f4 ♘g6+ 34.♕f3 ♖xd1+-]

32...♖xd1+! 33.♕xd1 ♘b2+ 0-1

(27) Zhao Xue(2514)-Ni, S(2262)

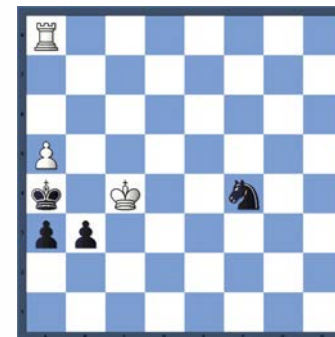
Chinese league, 2014.11.15



19.♘d7! hxg5 20.♘xf6+ gxf6 21.hxg5 f5 22.♖c3! f6 23.gxf6! ♕xg2 [23...♕f7 24.♖h7+ ♔e8 25.♖e7+ ♕d8 26.♖e5+-; 23...♖ad8 24.f7+ ♕xf7 25.♖h7+ ♔e8 26.♖g7+-; 23...♖f7 24.♖e5+-]

24.♖e5! ♖b7 [24...♕xh1 25.♖g3+ ♔f7 26.♖g7+ ♔e8 27.♖e7#]

25.♖g3+ ♔f7 26.♖h7++-

(28) Prokes

1.♖b8! a2 [1...b2? 2.a6]

2.♖b4+! ♔xa5 3.♖b8! b2 [3...a1=♖ 4.♖a8=]

4.♖a8+! ♔b6 5.♖xa2! b1=♖ 6.♖b2+! ♖xb2



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 145

7th of December 2014

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Editorial Preface

A few first-class chess tournaments have come to an end. Here are the results of the most major ones:

Probably the strongest open in the history of chess took place in Qatar. 14 players with ratings over 2700 ELO participated, including such heavyweights as Kramnik, Giri, Mamedyarov, Vachier-Lagrave and many others.

The winner of the open (with an amazing score of 7.5/9) is Yu Yangui, a young Chinese GM. He is rated over 2700 already and is progressing quickly, so we can expect to see him in the world's top-10 quite soon. The 2nd and 3rd places were shared by Giri and Kramnik (7/9). Both of them have performed very well and have each won 6 games in a row at a certain point of the event.

A small, yet strong GM round robin tournament with just 6 players occurred in Barcelona. Csaba Balogh, one of the commentators of "Top GM Secrets", took the first place with a score of 3.5/5. Congratulations on another great result!

The results of the Russian Superfinal were quite surprising. Igor Lysyj played very solid enterprising chess and clinched the title with a score of 5.5/9. The 2nd place went to Dmitry Jakovenko with 5/9 and the 3rd - to Denis Khismatullin, who was quite amused to win a bronze medal with a modest result of 4.5/9. The biggest upset of the tournament was Sergey Karjakin finishing last.

In the female section Valentina Gunina has been just unstoppable. She started with 0/2 and "did a Caruana" by winning all the remaining 7 games. What a run! The 2nd place with 6/9 went to the experienced veteran Alisa Galliamova and the 3rd - to the young chess prodigy

Aleksandra Goryachkina (5.5/9).

The London Classic has attracted 6 chess stars and many other players, who will be competing in a number of entertaining events.

Hikaru Nakamura dominated the rapid open tournament and finished with a spectacular 9.5/10 score. The 2nd and 3rd places went to Anish Giri and Fabiano Caruana respectively.

The blitz event was a double round robin featuring Caruana, Anand, Nakamura, Kramnik, Giri and Adams. Adams, Nakamura and Kramnik scored 17 points each (3-1-0 scoring system). Michael was declared winner on tie-break.

The London Classic itself is just about to start. There will also be an interesting side match between Gawain Jones and Romaine Edouard.

Next week the World U-16 Olympiad is going to take place in Hungary. We will be focusing on the strongest young players and sharing with you annotations to fighting and brilliant games. Stay tuned!

We hope you will enjoy the current issue, featuring the duels of the very best GMs in the world.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

FIDE Youth Chess Olympiad Hosted by Hungary Already Breaks Records

Only four months after the Chess Olympiad in Tromsø where the greatest chess players of the world competed against each other it is already time to have a look at the best talents of the next generation. In December this year Hungary may organize a Chess Olympiad for the first time, the competition for youth aged under 16 years. The event takes place in the city of Győr and with more than a month to the start the organizers have already confirmed the entries of more participant nations than ever before at any Youth Chess Olympiad. It really seems that the best chess talents of all five continents will be present in Hungary between 12th-22nd December. Awarding the right of organization to Hungary is a clear sign of high international recognition of chess life in the country which is rightly confirmed by the fact that Judit Polgar who has been leading the FIDE world rankings for more than 25 years has agreed to be the face of the event representing talent and the Hungarian chess traditions all in one person or we could even say legend. By mentioning Judit Polgar let us not forget that after FIDE tightened on a rule that had existed earlier participation of girls are now guaranteed. In each team a maximum four of the five team members can be a boy.

The promo video of the Youth Chess Olympiad 2014 features Judit Polgar, Csaba Balogh, Olympic Silver medalist, Benjamin Gledura who was European Champion of his age group and Kata Karacsanyi who was the first to follow in the footsteps of Judit Polgar to win the National Championship topping all boys in their age groups.

You can see the video by clicking on this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZu0iBrc5rE>

You can find more information about the FIDE U-16 World Youth Chess Olympiad 2014 on the official website of the event:



4 best games of the past week

(1) Giri, Anish(2776) - Oleksienko, Mikhailo(2620) [B12]

Qatar Masters Open 2014(4.1),
2014.11.29



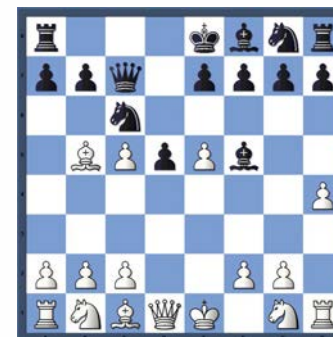
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Another very spectacular miniature crush by Anish Giri! Oleksienko likes choosing tricky sidelines, but sometimes they don't work out properly.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♖f5 4.h4 My favorite 4.h4 system in the Advanced variation of the Caro-Kan defense is getting very popular nowadays even on the highest level.

4...c5 A rare line, which turns out to be quite dubious after all. [4...h5 is the main line.; 4...h6 is the main alternative to 4...h5.; The point of both moves with h-pawn is to free the h7 square for the bishop in order to complete the normal development with e6, c5 and Nc6. 4...e6?? immediately drops a piece after 5.g4 ♗e4 6.f3 ♗g6 7.h5+—]

5.dxc5 ♘c6 6.♗b5 ♔c7



7.♘e2! This looks like a very strong novelty. I don't

know whether it is a prepared one or found over the board. Both are possible, because giving back the pawn for fast development is very logical. [7. ♘f4 happened before, but maybe Oleksienko had the machine-aided idea to play 7...e6 with the point, that after 8.g4 trying to trap the bishop 8... ♖a5+! 9. ♗c3 ♖b4! gives very strong counterplay for Black!]

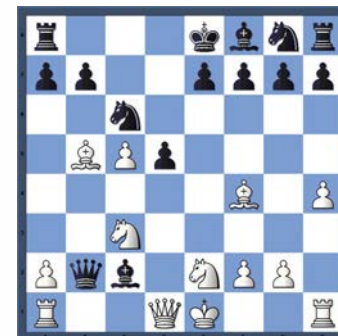
7... ♖xe5 A brave, but not a great decision. White gets too many tempi and the undeveloped kingside pieces deprives Black from castling to the safety. [7...e6 is better, although White is doing well here as well 8. ♘e3 ♖xe5 9. ♗bc3 Black still has some difficulties with finishing the development, because 9... Nf6 runs into trapping the queen with 10.Bf4 and otherwise Nd4 is coming soon.]

8. ♘f4! Very nice play, reminds me to the games of the previous century, when people could play romantic chess with many sacrifices without being affected by the long computer-analyzed theoretical variations. Giri sacrifices all his queenside pawns, in order to complete the development as fast as possible.

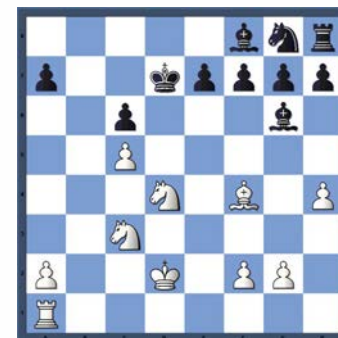
8... ♖xb2 There is already no way back for Black. [8... ♖e6 looks also terrible after 9.O-O and Nd4 comes next with tempo!]

9. ♗bc3! Developing with tempo!

9... ♗f6 [9... ♘xc2 is met by



10. ♖xd5! ♖xa1+ 11. ♔d2 ♖d8! (11... ♖xh1? leads to quick mate 12. ♘xc6+ bxc6 13. ♖xc6+ ♔d8 14. ♘c7+ ♔c8 15. ♘b6+ ♔b8 16. ♖c7#) 12. ♘xc6+ bxc6 13. ♖xd8+ ♔xd8 14. ♖xa1 ♘g6 15. ♗d4 ♔d7



Black seems to be in control. He needs only one move to play e6, attacking the c5 with tempo, followed by Nf6-d5 and he consolidates his extra pawn. However, White has an enormous way to seize the initiative: 16.h5!! ♘xh5 17. ♖b1!+- the rook joins to the game and it should decide the game. Suddenly the black king faces a terrific attack.]

10.O-O! Obviously White does not waste time on protecting the c2 pawn. Now all the pieces are developed and it is time to punish Black for grabbing too many pawns instead of taking care of the kingside pieces.

10...♖b4 Trying to evacuate the queen from the danger zone. [10...e6 is met by 11.♖b1 ♜xc2 12.♞e1! keeping the queens on board to keep the attack even more dangerous. 12...♙xc5 13.♙a4 ♞d3 14.♖xb7 The game is over. Black was missing just one tempo to castle short, now the knight on c6 drops. 14...♞a6 loses to 15.♙xc6+! ♜xc6 16.♖c7 ♞b6 17.♘a4+-; 10...♞xc2 is refuted by 11.♞xc2 ♙xc2 12.♘d4+- wins.; 10...♙xc2 11.♞d2+- is also over, Black cannot leave the deadly pin.]



11.♖b1! White has already sacrificed two pawns, so the one on c5 should not be counted. It is more important to activate the rook, again with tempo!

11...♞xc5 12.♙a4! Simple and strong, White opens the b-file and it is not easy to protect the b7 pawn.

12...e5 Trying to develop with tempo by giving back one of the pawns. [12...O-O-O can never end in anything good. All white pieces are joining to the attack 13.♖b5! ♞c4 (13...♞a3 14.♞b1!+-) 14.♙b3!+- the queen is trapped!]

13.♙xe5 ♘g4 [Unfortunately for Black, he could not play 13...♙e7 14.♖xb7 O-O because of the simple 15.♙xc6 ♞xc6 16.♖xe7+-]

14.♙g3 O-O-O Well, this is equal to resignation, but there was nothing else to do. Dropping the b7 pawn would have led to

the same result, the pin on a4-e8 turns out to be deadly.

15.♙xc6! Sometimes the simplest moves are the strongest. White eliminates the only defender of the king and intends to bring all his pieces to attack again with tempo...

15...♞xc6 16.♘b5 ♙c5 17.♘ed4 White attacks something in each move and meanwhile he gets all his pieces to better places.

17...♞f6 18.♞f3 [Black decides to finish this terrible suffering. The only question when will he get mated. White is threatening to take on f5 and also to drop the queen to the queenside with Qc3! Some illustrative lines: 18.♞f3 18...♙e6 (18...♙xd4 19.♘xd4 ♞xd4 20.♞xf5+ ♖d7 21.♖xb7!+-) 19.♘xa7+ ♙xa7 20.♞c3+ ♙d7 21.♖xb7+-] **1-0**

**(2) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar(2757)
- Giri, Anish(2776) [A22]**Qatar Masters Open 2014(5.1),
2014.11.30GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A shocking game, where a top player is losing in 21 moves with white.

1.c4 Mamedyarov is a 1.d4 player, but probably he wanted play some less theoretical position against Giri, who is well-known from his huge preparation.

1...♘f6 2.♘c3 e5 3.g3 ♙b4 4.♙g2 O-O 5.e4 ♙xc3 6.bxc3



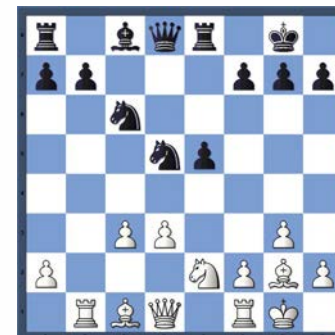
6...♖e8!? Probably this came as a surprise to White. [The main move is 6...c6 and it usually transposes to the game by different moveorder. However Mamedyarov's countryman and good friend played an interesting rare move here 7.d4 which most probably White wanted to repeat. However, Giri's start with 6...Re8 deprives White from this possibility because of the simple exd4 and White cannot take back with the pawn as the pawn is hanging on e4.]

7.d3 c6 8.♘e2 d5 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.exd5 ♘xd5 We are back to the theory now, but this is rightly considered to be very

comfortable for Black.

11.♖b1 White's benefits in this position are the two bishops, from which especially the one on g2 is extremely strong, controlling the long diagonal. White tries to put even more pressure on the b7 pawn to disturb the development of the c8 bishop. However it turns out to be too slow. [11.O-O 11...♘c6 12.h3 an attempt to avoid the happenings of the game, but Black is completely fine after (12.♗b3 12...♘b6 13.♖d1 ♙e6! followed by trading the strong bishop with Bd5, Black ends up with better pawn structure and a slight advantage.) 12...♙f5 and Nb6 next. Black's target is the pawn on d3, which will get under big pressure after Qd7 (attacking on h3 with tempo) and Rad8.]

11...♘c6 12.O-O



12...♙g4! A very unpleasant move to deal with, pointing out the drawback of the slow 11. Rb1 move. Black is threatening to take on c3. White must close his nice bishop to unpin himself.

13.f3 [13.♙d2 is met by 13...♗d7 and Rad8 next. White has problems with the d3 pawn and the g4-d1 pin.]

13...♙f5 This is the most principled retreat to keep an eye on the d3 weakness. [13...♙e6 also makes sense to avoid the complications. Black wants to play Qd7, Rad8 and Nb6. Now on 14.♖xb7 ♘b6 Black simple traps the rook, he is threatening

to take it with Qc8 , Bc8 or Na5 and now after 15.f4 ♖c8! works.]

14. ♖xb7 The critical test, otherwise White ends up in much worse position from the positional point of view.

14... ♜b6 15.f4! Opening the diagonal again! White tries to save his rook.

15... e4! Excellent reply! Giri prefers to keep the initiative to grabbing material. White still needs to work to save his rook, meanwhile, Black locks the g2 bishop or taking everything on e4, leaves White with a very exposed and vulnerable king's position. [15... ♖c8 is now met by 16.fxe5! ♖xb7 (16... ♜g6 17. ♜d4! is strong. It saves the rook.) 17. ♖xf5 White has two pawns for the exchange and suddenly all his pieces are becoming very active. The initiative passes to White, this is what Black should avoid.]

16. ♖b3? A mistake, but White's position was very difficult to play. [The only move was 16.dxe4! 16... ♜xe4 17. ♖b3! (17. ♖xd8 drops a piece after 17... ♜xd8! 18. ♖c7 ♜xg2 19. ♜xg2 ♖xe2+--; 17. ♜xe4 17... ♖xe4 is also bad. The e2 knight is hanging, the b7 rook is still trapped and the king is weak. This is too much for white.. . 18. ♖c2 ♖d5 19. ♖d1 ♖c4-- the knight has no free square!) 17... ♖f6 with more than enough compensation for the pawn, but still this would have been the only chance for White.]

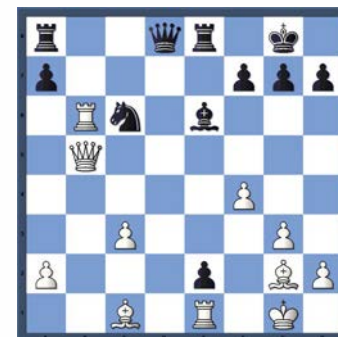
16... ♜e6! Protecting the f7 pawn with tempo.

17. ♖b5 exd3! White opens the diagonal again, but of course he takes a pawn for free and all the concrete variations justify, that Black is winning in all the lines.

18. ♖xb6 [18. ♖xc6 18... dxe2 19. ♖e1 ♖c8 20. ♖b5 ♜c4-- will be the same as the game.; 18. ♜xc6 is strongly met by the intermediate move 18... ♜c4!-- followed by taking on e2!

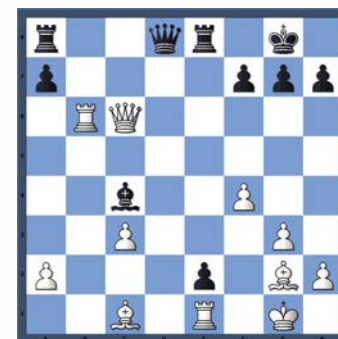
Otherwise the queen could have taken backward to e2.; 18. ♜d4 18... ♜xd4 19. cxd4 ♖xd4+ 20. ♖h1 d2-- promotes the pawn.]

18... dxe2 19. ♖e1 Black has more than one promising continuation, but Giri finds a beautiful way to convert the advantage to full point.



19... ♜c4! Giri works out a spectacular win, in which the e2 pawn is important to be protected. [19... axb6 20. ♜xc6 ♖a5 21. ♖xe2 is also winning for Black, but White can still fight.; On the direct 19... ♖d1 20. ♖f2 ♖ad8 White can put up resistance with 21. ♖xe2 ♖xe2+ 22. ♖xe2 axb6 23. ♜xc6]

20. ♖xc6 [20. ♖xc4 20... ♖xb6+--; 20. ♜xc6 20... ♜xb5 21. ♖xb5 ♖d3-- Black ends up with material advantage and an e2 pawn!]



20... ♖d1! 21. ♖f2 ♖ad8!! This is the point! [White resigned

in view of the threat of taking on Qxe1! Kxe1 and Rd1 check followed by promoting the queen with mate! 21...♖ad8 The only move to avoid getting quickly mated is 22.♙xe8+! (22.♙f3 22...♙xe1+! 23.♙xe1 ♖d1+ 24.♙f2 e1=♙+ 25.♙g2 ♙f1#) 22...♖xe8 23.♖b2 ♙d3—+ the Black ends up with winning material advantage!] **0-1**

(3) Yu, Yangyi(2705) - Kramnik, Vladimir(2760) [C65]

Qatar Masters Open 2014(9.1),
2014.12.04



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

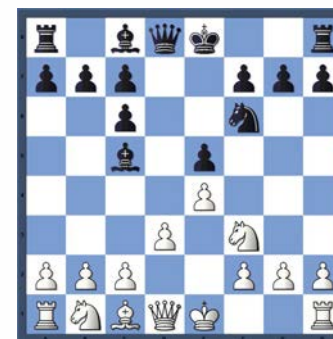
We are in the last round of the Qatar Open and at the first board of it. Kramnik is leading the event with 7/8 points, where he won the last 6 games after having started the event with 2 draws. Yu Yangyi is his direct competitor with only 0.5 points behind. Clearly, Kramnik wasn't expecting a short draw and was prepared for a very tough game. What actually happened was a disaster from Black's point of view. White has managed to get comfortable play. Kramnik tried to solve his problems in a tactical way, but missed Yu Yangyi's brilliant replies. White won a very nice game.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♗f6 As usual, Kramnik is playing his favourite Berlin

4.d3 This is also quite expected. The Chinese players tend to avoid endgames.

4...♙c5 the very main line. Another possible answer is 4...d6

5.♙xc6 dxc6



6.♗bd2 White's idea in this line is to play for a better pawn

structure, but usually Black is doing very solid here and showing reasonably good results

6...♙e6 one of the main moves, avoiding White's Nc4 next

7.O-O now White wants to take on e5

7...♘d7 protecting the e5 pawn and preparing Ng5

8.♘b3 White attacks the c5 bishop and wants to play Ng5 next

8...♙b6 What bishop should Black give up: the dark-squared or the light-squared one? [in case of 8...♙e7 9.d4 and White is doing a bit better; 8...f6 9.♘xc5 ♘xc5 10.♙e3 White has a small edge due to having a better pawn structure]

9.♘g5 Of course, White is going for the Black's bishop pair. Should Black be in time to play f6, White would be at least not better

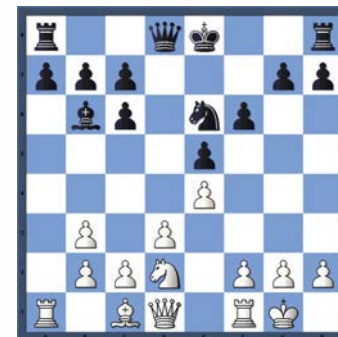
9...♙xb3 10.axb3 a very interesting situation from the positional point of view.

10...f6 What can be more logical than chasing away the knight from g5 and strengthening the center?

11.♘f3 ♘f8 I am not sure about this move. Of course, the Black knight belongs to e6-it is a great square, but maybe it would have been simpler to just castle short, then to play Re8 and only after that go for Nf8-Ne6

12.♘d2! What a great move by Yu. White is not only planning to get the knight to c4-probably the best location for the piece, but as well wants to weaken Black's pawn structure

12...♘e6



13.♙h5+! this was the main idea of the early Nd2. Really deep positional play by White, who is not afraid of losing 2 tempi on weakening Black's pawn structure

13...g6 14.♙d1 Now Black has to decide what to do next. White's idea is simple: to play Nc4 followed by Kh1 and f4

14...♙c5 Kramnik is preparing to play b5 - a very risky plan, because now Black's pawn structure is going to be really vulnerable! [Maybe Black could have tried castling long 14...♙e7 15.♘c4 and the seemingly shocking 15...a6!? with the idea is to castle long 16.♘xb6 cxb6 17.f4 O-O-O and probably White is doing a bit better, but things are far from clear. An excellent position of the Black knight on e6 always provides some counter-chances]

15.♘c4 b5 Kramnik is persistently following his plan

16.♘a5 ♙d7 Seems like the White knight on a5 is doing "nothing", but very soon it will become the key piece on the board

17.♙e3! a move that Kramnik has clearly underestimated. White not only wants to exchange the Black bishop, but the main idea is to play Qd2-Qc3, after which the pawn c6 is going to be very hard to defend. Also, we should not forget that one day White's control over the a file will offer him an advantage

in the endgame.

17...♙b6 avoiding the direct exchange of the bishops and hoping to play c5 next. It's clear that Black has done something very wrong. To play Bc5-Bb6 and then again Bc5-Bb6 can't be recommended

18.b4 White continues following his positional plan

18...O-O 19.♖d2 Qc3 is coming and Kramnik decides to try his chances in active play

19...f5?! I think this has been a clear miscalculation



[Black should have continued with a tough and passive defense 19...c5 20.bxc5 ♙xc5 21.♙xc5 ♘xc5 22.♖e3 and of course White is doing clearly better, but Black's position is still very solid]

20.exf5! another perfect choice by White. Before playing Qc3 it is important to open Black's position as much as possible in the center

20...gxf5 21.♖c3 the pawns e5 and c6 are under attack

21...f4 This must have been Kramnik's idea. Things are getting forced now

22.♙xb6 Nothing else to play

22...cxb6 23.♘xc6 The only correct choice. Could it be that

Kramnik has underestimated this move of White when he played 19... f5?! [a big mistake for White would be to play now 23.♖xc6? now Black has a few decent options 23...♖f7 is one of them 24.♘b3 ♖ac8 25.♖e4 f3 with a very unclear game]

23...♖d6 [White is winning in case of 23...♖ac8 24.♘xe5 ♖d6 and now comes a very nice move 25.♖b3! small, but nice tactics. Black can't take on e5 25...♖xe5 26.♖fe1 and White is winning back the e6 knight and keeping a winning position]

24.♖xa7! Yu Yangyi keeps cool and continues disposing of Black's pawns. This is clearly the strength of the Chinese players: they have no emotions during the game and calculate lines very precisely, making few mistakes [24.♘xe5 24...♘d4]

24...♖xa7 25.♘xa7 f3 Kramnik went all-in with his counter-play. Would you be afraid here as White?



26.♖c6! White continues playing just perfectly! The White queen on c6 will not only attack the e6 knight, but will as well protect the White king in many ways on the diagonal a8-h1 [position would be much less clear in case of 26.♘xb5 26...♖d7 27.♖c4 ♙h8 and Black wants to play Nf4 next with a very dangerous attack]

26...♖e7 of course, Black needs to keep the queens on the board

27. ♖xb5 ♕h8 Black tries his last chance [not helping Black at all is 27...fxg2 28. ♖xg2 ♕h8 29. ♖h1 and the White king is feeling safe on h1]

28.g3! another very cool and strong move! Black is not in time to create any real threats on the light squares

28...♖f7 The Black queen is going to h3 via f5

29.♖a1 White wants to play Ra8 next. As more pieces are exchanged, Black's attack is getting extinguished. By now we can already state that White is just totally winning

29...♘g5 the rest of the game is a pain for Black

30.♖a8 ♖e7 Black doesn't even have a single threat and White is already two pawns up



31.h4 ♘h3+ 32.♖f1 The Black knight on h3 will soon be stranded.

32...e4 33.♖xe4 This encounter was quite one-sided. Yu Yangyi played a really fantastic game with great positional play and later on, when needed, demonstrated his ability to calculate accurately. Kramnik tried to make things complicated, but clearly missed something, and White had no difficulties securing the full point. This must have been the most important tournament victory in Yu Yangyi's career so far. Congratulations on the very strong and brave play! **1-0**

(4) Nepomniachtchi, Ian(2714) - Vitiugov, Nikita(2738) [C19]

67th ch-RUS 2014(9.3),
2014.12.07



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are in the last round of the Russian Superfinal. Nepomniachtchi (4.5/8) needs a win to get a theoretical chance on the title. Vitiugov (3.5/8) is more or less playing for fun. Ian is a quite popular and well-known player internationally. He has few great results in classical chess and many great ones in rapid and blitz events. Moreover, he has been one of the seconds of Magnus Carlsen. Another thing worth mentioning about Ian is his "crazy" chess. Many original ideas, sometimes very strange, irrational play and clearly no fear or losing make his games very exciting to watch!

1.e4 Ian is playing almost all the openings possible. For example in Round 2 of the tournament he started with 1.f4 against Karjakin and won a very nice game

1...e6 this move should have been expected. Vitiugov has been a French Defense player for ages and has written a very good book on the opening

2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 The very main line. 3.Nd2 another popular move, followed by 3...c5, where Black is actually doing fine at the current moment

3...♗b4 a little surprise. Usually Vitiugov plays 3...Nf6

4.e5 c5 5.a3 ♗xc3+ 6.bxc3 ♘e7 7.♖g4 with this move we are entering a long theoretical line. A calmer option for White is to

play 7.h4, which is getting more and more popular lately. The main idea is to play h5 and win some space on the kingside, which will be very important later in the game



7...cxd4 one of the sharpest lines! [7...♖c7 would lead to the same position as in the game after a transposition; 7...O-O 8.♙d3 f5 9.exf6 ♜xf6 10.♙g5 ♜f7 11.♙h5 g6 12.♙d1 is another popular line where things are far away from clear]

8.♙xg7 ♜g8 9.♙xh7 ♙c7 In the current position a lot of games have been played at the highest level and it seemed like Leko has found a way to be doing better with White, but maybe things are more complicated than the current theory implies

10.♘e2 ♘bc6 11.f4 So far the play has been pretty much forced.

11...dxc3 the main move

12.h4 This is not something most people would be analyzing. Notably, Nepomniachtchi himself has played a couple of games here as both Black and White before, so probably the position is well-known to him [12.♙d3 seems to be one of the main moves to analyse 12...d4 13.♘xd4 (13.♘g3 13...♙d7 14.♙e2 O-O-O 15.♜b1 is the other interesting choice for White. The position is quite complicated) 13...♘xd4 14.♙xd4 ♙d7 15.♜g1 ♘f5 16.♙f2 ♙c6 17.♙d3 this was a game between Leko

and Caruana where White has achieved a winning position, but managed to spoil it and achieve just a draw. It seems like people have found a defense for Black. If you like to analyze complex position, this is a treat for you!; 12.♘xc3 12...♘d4 13.♙b2 ♙d7 14.O-O-O ♙b6 15.♙d3 ♘df5 is another way to proceed for White. This position is also very sophisticated.]

12...♙d7 13.♙d3



13...d4! a very typical and important move for this kind of positions. Black's idea is to open the position as much as possible in order to launch an attack on the White king on e1

14.h5 and, of course, White's idea is to make use of the h free pawn, which secures almost every time a winning endgame

14...O-O-O 15.♜b1?! to me this move looks a little strange. Of course it is good to put the rook on b1, but maybe it would have been even better to start by pushing the h pawn as far as possible?! [15.h6 should be clearly the main move here. It has been tried before by many strong grandmasters.]

15...♙b8 Black's idea now is to get the bishop to b7. This idea is nothing new as well.

16.g3? This move looks logical, but in fact I think it is not the best one. White really had to play 16.h6

16...♙c8 Black continues with the manoeuvre

17.♙g2 b6 and now it is really hard for White to find the right plan what. It is clear that White's play should be on the kingside, but why did White play g3-Bg2 instead of h6-h7 and g4, saving at least a tempo?

18.♙f3 ♙b7 19.g4 White decides that the g4 move is needed anyway. It stops Black from playing Nf5 at a certain point. On the other hand, Black will now start his rush on the White king's position. White's play over the last 4 moves looks too slow.



19...♞a5! Great play by Black! Not only the exchange of the light-squared bishops is now forced, which clearly weakens White's position, but as well the Black knight is going to c5!

20.♞h3 And this move is really strange. Maybe White was hoping to gain control over the d3 square with his rook from h3, but it actually doesn't matter much anymore [White really had to push his h pawn 20.h6 20...♙xf3 21.♞xf3 ♞b7 22.h7 ♞h8 and I think Black's position should anyway be better here. It is difficult to find a defense against Nc5-d3]

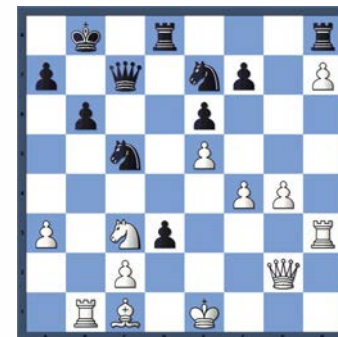
20...♙xf3 21.♞xf3 ♞b7 so the Black knight is going to c5

22.h6 better later than never

22...♞c5 23.h7 ♞h8 What can White do now? How to stop Black from playing d3 next? I don't know

24.♞g2 not helping much, but at least it irritates the opponent

24...♞d7 strong move, but Black could have already forced a win here. There is no way of stopping Black from playing d3. White's position is just lost [Black could have gone for 24...d3! 25.♞xc3 and the very nice



25...♞a4! (of course not 25...dxc2 26.♞xc2) 26.♞xa4 dxc2 attacking the b1 rook and threatening to play Rd1 next. There is no escape for White 27.♞a1 ♞d1+ 28.♞f2 and after the cool, killing move 28...♞c4! the game is over]

25.f5 [not helping as well is 25.♞b4 25...d3 Black destroys White's position 26.♞xc3 dxc2 27.♞xc2 ♞d3+ 28.♞f1 ♞xb4 29.axb4 Black is an exchange up already 29...♞d5! seems to end the game on the spot. The White king will get mated very soon, or White is going to lose the h7 pawn and the game.]



25...d3 26. Nxc3 Qd4! a fantastic move! White can't defend the knight on c3 in a normal way



27. Qd2 What to say about Whites position here?! A move like 27.Kd2 could only have brought a smile on Vitiugov's face :)

27...Nd5 Black continues playing safe and strong moves

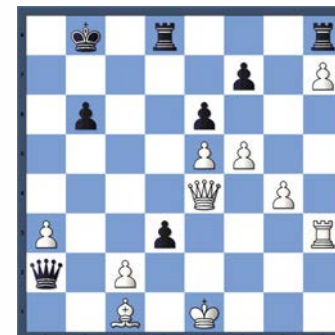
28. Nxd5 Ne4+ Another Black piece joins the attack

29. Qd1 Black is just a pawn down, but really almost all the White pieces are hanging now [White had a nice option of getting mated in the middle of the board after 29.Qe1 29...dxc2 30.Qxc2 Qg1+ all is forced now 31.Qe2 Qf2+ 32.Qd3 Qxd5+ 33.Qxe4 Qd4# what a beautiful mate :)]

29...Qxd5 30. Qe1 [Of course, losing is 30.Qxd3?? 30...Nc3+ followed by Qxg2 with a full queen up]

30...Qa2 the rook on b1 can't be protected

31. Qxb6+ axb6 32. Qxe4 White is trying to fight, but it doesn't really work out well



32...Qb1! the last precise move of the game. The bishop on c1 can't be protected

33. cxd3 [not helping is 33.Qe3 33...d2+]

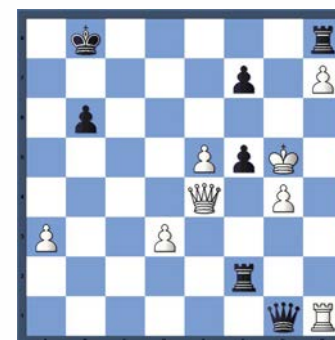
33...Qxc1+ 34. Qe2 Qc8 Surprisingly, White hasn't resigned by this point

35. Qf3 Qc2 Black is a up plus having a mating attack. Looks enough to win at least 2 games :)

36. Qg3 Qg1+ and the checkmate is approaching

37. Qf4 Qf2+ 38. Qg5 exf5 Vitiugov starts taking pawns

39. Th1



39...fxe4 and finally White threw in the towel and admitted

that this game has been nothing else than a disaster from the beginning till the end. Actually, it is a great example of what to do for Black and what to avoid for White in such structures.

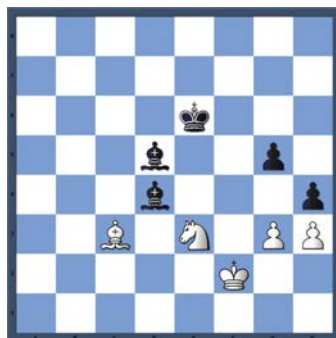
0-1

Puzzle section

(5) Khartikeyan, M(2497)-Eljanov, P(2719)

Qatar Masters, 2014.11.26

1... -+



(6) Debashis, D(2485)-Moiseenko, A(2701)

Qatar Masters, 2014.11.26

1... -+



(7) Sundararajan, K(2415)-Ivanisevic, I(2643)

Qatar Masters, 2014.11.26

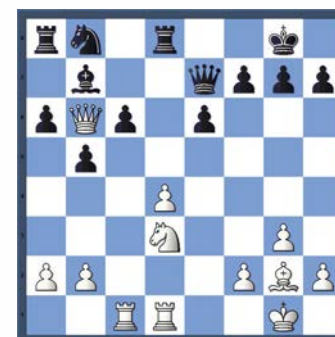
1... -+



(8) Kryvoruchko, Y(2706)-Hovhanessyan, R(2591)

Qatar Masters, 2014.11.27

1. +-



(9) Sandipan, C(2603)-Eljanov, P(2719)

Qatar Masters, 2014.11.28

1... -+



(10) Gabuzyan, H(2565)-Edouard, R(2659)

Qatar Masters, 2014.11.28

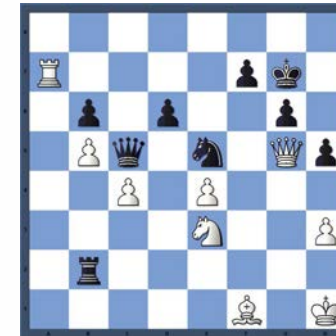
1... -+



(11) Fedorchuk, S(2664)-Krush, I(2453)

Qatar Masters, 2014.11.28

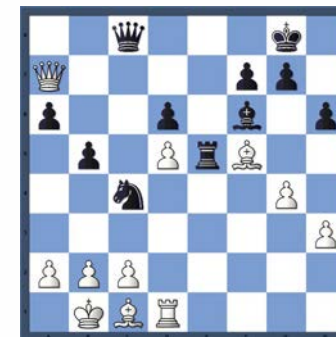
1... -+



(12) Seyb, A(2412)-Safarli, E(2628)

Qatar Masters, 2014.11.28

1... -+



(13) Christiansen, J(2310)-L'Ami, E(2618)

Qatar Masters, 2014.11.29

1... -+



(14) Mista, A(2619)-Aravindh, C(2485)

Qatar Masters, 2014.11.30

1... -+



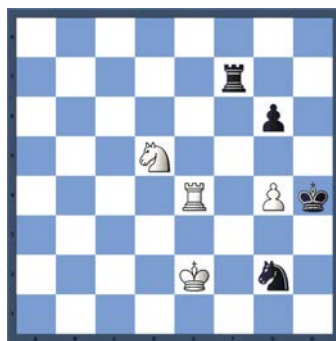
Endgame section

(15) Harika, Dronavalli(2505)
- Harikrishna, P.(2725)

Qatar Masters,
2014.11.26



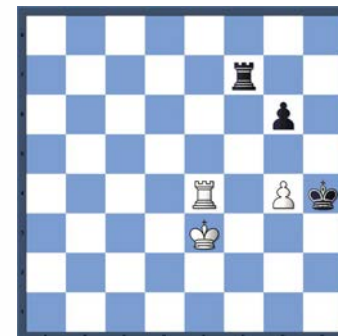
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



The material is quite limited and the outcome should be a draw, although Black can still press a bit, because his rook cuts the white king along the f-file and the g4 pawn has good chance to fall.

64. ♖e3 Not a mistake objectively, but the arising rook endgame requires very accurate defense by white. [From practical point of view, it is much easier to sacrifice the knight for the pawn and hold easily the rook vs the rook+knight. 64. ♖e7 64...g5 65. ♖f5+ ♔h3 66. ♖d4= and Ne6 or Nf3 next.]

64... ♖xe3 65. ♔xe3



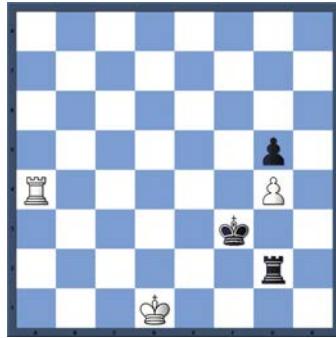
65... ♔g3! The move, which creates the biggest problems. Black shoulders the king away from the g-pawn. White cannot avoid losing it and unless he could get his king somehow under the g-pawn, White is going to lose the game. [65...g5 is another principled try with the idea to fix the weakness on g4 and play Kg3 next. White holds after 66. ♔e2 ♔g3 67. ♖d4 ♔g2 Black tries to cut the king with another line away, but White starts counterattack... (67... ♖e7+ is met by 68. ♔f1=; Important, that the pawn endgame is drawn 67... ♖f4 68. ♖xf4 ♔xf4 69. ♔f2 ♔xg4 70. ♔g2= White has the opposition.) 68. ♖d5 ♖e7+ 69. ♔d2 ♖g7 70. ♔e2= holds the draw.]

66. ♖a4? The decisive mistake, Black is winning now. [The only move to save the game was 66.g5! White holds fairly easily, because the only way to win the g5 pawn allows the white king to get to g1. 66... ♖f5 67. ♔e2 ♖xg5 68. ♔f1 ♔h2 69. ♖h4+!= Important to avoid Rf5, which could have forced again the white king got out under the pawn.]

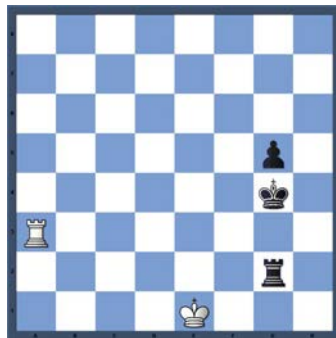
66... ♖e7+! Cutting the king with another line is a serious achievement for Black.

67. ♔d2 g5! Fixing the weakness and getting the pawn a square closer to the promotion.

68.♖a1 Trying to defend with the frontal attack method, but it does not help. [In case of waiting policy 68.♖b4 Black wins after 68...♔f3 69.♖a4 ♖e2+ 70.♔d1 ♖g2

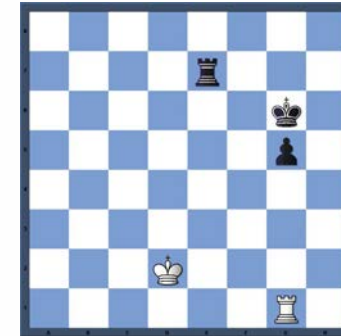


Black wins the pawn and White has no time to get under the pawn. 71.♖a3+ (71.♔e1 runs into 71...♖g1+! important intermediate check to keep the king away 72.♔d2 ♖xg4—+) 71...♔xg4 72.♔e1 White seems to hold, but...



72...♖g3! The only winning move! Black wants to cut the king again with Rf3! The only attempt for White is 73.♖a4+ ♔h3 74.♔f2 g4! 75.♖a8 ♔h2! hides the king away. After preventing Kg1, Black is threatening again with Rf3. 76.♖h8+ ♖h3 77.♖g8 (77.♖f8 77...g3+—+ promotes the pawn automatically.) 77...♖f3+ 78.♔e2 ♔h3—+ and Black wins with the bridge-building method.]

68...♖e5 [68...♔xg4 is also winning 69.♖g1+ is White's idea and Black cannot keep his king in front of the pawn 69...♔h5 70.♖h1+ ♔g6 Black is ready to push g4, therefore the only move is 71.♖g1



We have reached a very important theoretical position! 71...♖e5! is the winning move. Black protects his pawn and prepares to activate the king, as after the check he can already go forward with his king. However with the white king on d3, the position is drawn, as White could play Kd4, attacking the rook forces it to leave it's ideal position 72.♔d3 ♔f5 73.♖f1+ ♔g4 74.♖g1+ ♔f3—+ is winning now!]

69.♖g1+ [69.♔d3 69...♔xg4 70.♖g1+ ♔f3—+]

69...♔f2 70.♖h1 ♖d5+! Driving the king even further. Black should always live with such possibilities.

71.♔c3 ♔g3 72.♖g1+ ♔f3 73.♔c4 ♖d2 74.♔c3 ♖g2 75.♖f1+ ♔xg4 The rest is easy, Black only needs to use the bridge-building!

76.♔d3 ♔g3 77.♔e3 g4 78.♖f8 ♖a2 79.♖g8 ♔h3 80.♔f4 ♖a4+ [White resigned in view of 80...♖a4+ 81.♔e3 g3 82.♔e2 (82.♔f3 82...♖a3+—+) 82...♔g2 83.♖g7 ♖e4+ 84.♔d3 ♖e5 85.♔d2 ♔f2 86.♖f7+ ♔g1 87.♖g7 g2 This is the bridge-building. 1. Black cuts the king with lines away from the pawn. 2. Advances his pawn to the 2nd rank. 3. Puts

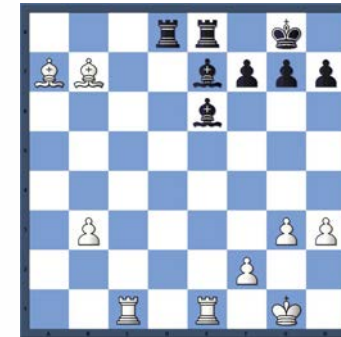
his rook to the 5th rank to get a shelter for his king. 4. He rescues his king from behind the pawn. 88.♖g8 ♔f2 89.♗f8+ ♔g3 90.♗g8+ ♔f3 91.♗f8+ ♔g4 92.♗g8+ ♖g5—+ The bridge has been built up and the pawn promotes.; 80...♗f2+ 81.♔e3 g3—+ leads to the same.] **0-1**

(16) Zvjaginsev, Vadim(2655) - Lysyj, Igor(2686)

67th ch-RUS 2014(7.1),
2014.12.05



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

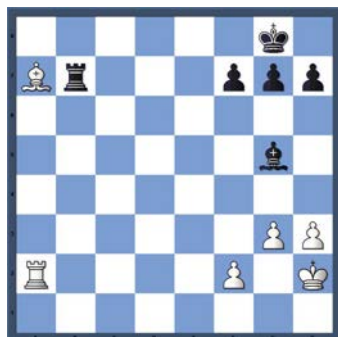


White is a pawn up, but the b3 pawn is under attack. In case Black manages to win the b3 pawn, the position is, of course, a draw. In case b3 pawn survives, White's chances to win the game are very good.

28...♟a3 a very natural move, although it already makes the things for Black very tricky. Instead Lysyj should have calculated the lines very accurately and reached a forced draw [Here is the line: 28...♟xb3 29.♟c6 This position looks lost at first glance, but it should be drawn after 29...♟g5! the only move 30.♗xe8+ (In case of 30.♟xe8 30...♟xc1 31.♟xf7+ ♔xf7 32.♗xc1 ♖d1+ 33.♗xd1 ♟xd1 this opposite color bishop endgame is just a dead draw) 30...♗xe8 31.♗b1 Black's position looks lost, but Black can escape by making a few only moves



31...♙a2! a very strong resource 32.♖b2 ♜c8 and again the only move for Black 33.♙b7 (33.♙d7 33...♜d8 and the position is equal) 33...♜c1+ it's very hard to find this idea over the board 34.♙h2 ♜b1! attacking the White rook and simultaneously exploiting the position of the White bishop on b7 35.♜xa2 ♜xb7

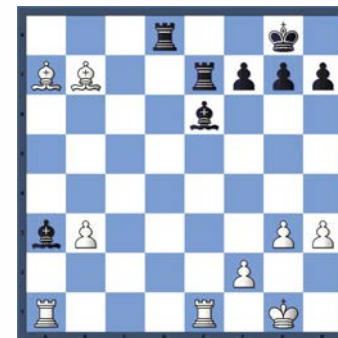


36.♙e3 and again a move which is not that easy to see from far away 36...h6 now it's time to shake hands]

29.♜a1 White is trying his best chance!

29...♜e7?! this move still holds, but now the variations are becoming quite challenging to find for a human! [a more simple way of fighting for a draw was to play 29...♙b2 30.♜a2 ♙c3 31.♜e3 ♙d2 32.♜e2 ♙b4 and it is very hard to find a way

for White to save the b3 pawn from falling. The game should probably end peacefully.]



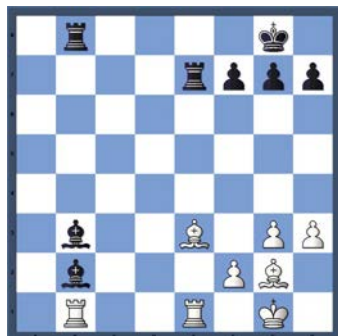
30.♙b6! an excellent move by White who is taking all his chances!

30...♜b8 31.♙g2 What to do now for Black?! To play a bad endgame being a pawn down or to go for the risky complications?

31...♙xb3 Lysyj is trying his luck [31...♜xb6 32.♜xa3 g6 would lead to a position a pawn down, but Rb6 is perfectly placed, putting pressure on the b3 pawn, and Black has the idea of playing Re8-Reb8 next. It is a 50-50 position from a practical point of view: White's chances of winning and drawing are more or less equal.]

32.♙e3 What a funny position! The material is equal and almost nothing is left on the board, but Black's pieces are under the attack and the 8th rank is weak. Therefore, White has excellent chances all of a sudden.

32...♙d6? after this move the position is already lost [The position should still be drawn after 32...♙b2 33.♜ab1 looks like White is winning, but Black has an amazing strong reply



33...♙a4! 34.♖e2 ♘e5 35.♖xb8+ ♘xb8 36.♖a2 and again Black is just in time to save the game with precise moves 36...♙e8 37.♙c5 ♖c7 38.♙d4 ♖d7 39.♙b6 ♙d6 40.♖a8 ♖e7 it is almost impossible to play at this level for a human]

33.♖a6! Zvjaginsev doesn't miss his chance

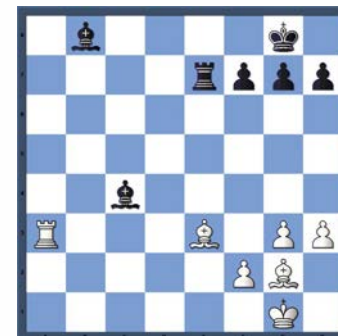
33...♙c7



34.♖b1! ♙e5 [Of no avail is 34...h6 35.♖a3 ♙e6 36.♖xb8+ ♙xb8 37.♖a8 ♖e8 38.♙f4 winning a piece and the game]

35.♖a3 Black can't avoid losing material

35...♙c4 36.♖xb8+ ♙xb8

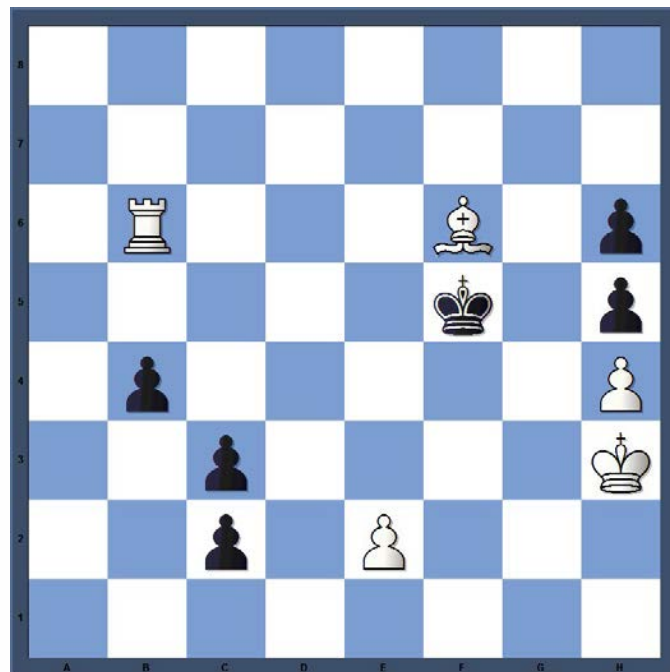


37.♖a8 What an instructive endgame! Very rarely we get to see such a horizontal and vertical play of the pieces on a board where almost no more pawns are left! **1-0**

Surprise section / study

(17) Prokes

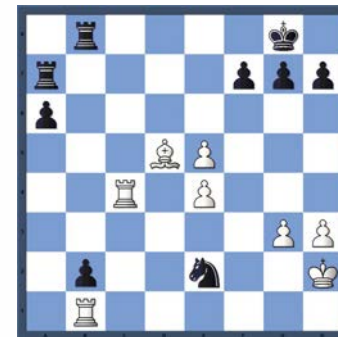
1. =



Solutions

(18) Ponkratov, P(2624)-Kokarev, D(2624)

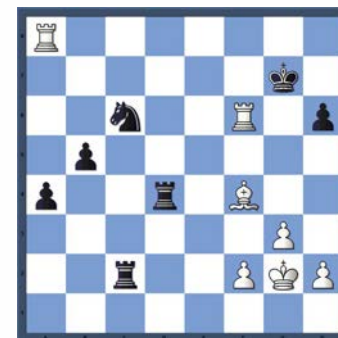
Russian Cup, 2014.11.18



39. ♖xb2! 1-0 [39. ♖xb2 39... ♖xb2 (39... ♖d8 40. ♖xe2+-) 40. ♖c8#]

(19) Artemiev, V(2660)-Savchenko, B(2598)

Russian Cup, 2014.11.18



37. ♖xc6! ♖xc6 38. ♗e5+ ♔f7 39. ♗xd4+-

(20) Ponkratov, P(2624)-Khismatullin, D(2679)

Russian Cup, 2014.11.20



31...♖xf2! 32.♔xf2 ♜f8+ 33.♜f3 ♜xf3+ 34.♔xf3
 ♜xf1+--+ 35.♔e4 [35.♔e3 35...♙h6+ 36.♔d4 ♜f6+ 37.♔d3
 ♜g6+ 38.♔c3 ♙g7+--+; 35.♔g4 35...♜g2+--+; 35.♔g3
 35...♙e5+--+]

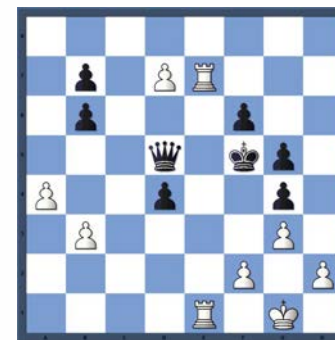
35...♜g2+! [35...♜e2+ 36.♔f5]

36.♔f4 [36.♔f5 36...♜g6+--+]

36...♙h6+! 37.♔e5 ♜d5+ 38.♔f6 ♙xd2--+

(21) Khismatullin, D(2679)-Matlakov, M(2685)

Russian Cup, 2014.11.21



37.♜1e2? [37.♜f7!! 37...d3 38.♜e8! d2 39.♜xf6+! ♔xf6
 40.d8=♜+ ♜xd8 41.♜xd8+--]

(22) Korobov, A(2680)-Kryvoruchko, Y(2706)

Ukrainian Championship, 2014.11.18



38.♜d6?+= [38.♙g6!! 38...♜h2+ (38...fxg6 39.♙xe6+ ♔f8
 40.♙xc8 ♙xc8 41.♜h8+--+; 38...♜c3 39.♙e7+--+) 39.♔e3+--]

(23) Bogdanovich, S(2590)-Kovchan, A(2585)

Ukrainian Championship, 2014.11.18



30...♘xd5!! 31.exd5 ♖xa2!! 0-1 [31...♖xa2 32.♖xa2 (32.♔xa2 32...♖a8+ 33.♔b1 ♖a1#) 32...♖xe1+! 33.♖xe1 ♕d3+ 34.♖c2 ♕xc2+ 35.♔c1 ♕d3+ 36.♔d1 ♖c2#]

(24) Kuzubov, Y(2661)-Zubov, A(2588)

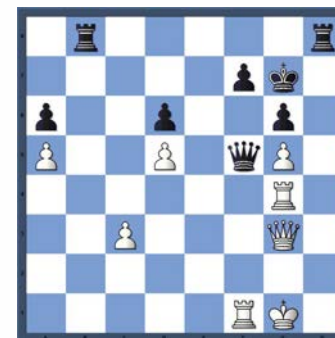
Ukrainian Championship, 2014.11.18



47.♖g7+! 1-0 [47.♖g7+ 47...♔h8 (47...♔xg7 48.♘e6+ ♔f7 49.♘xd8+-) 48.♖a7+- (48.♘e6 48...♖d5+ 49.f3+- ♖xe6 50.♖f8+-)]

(25) Kovchan, A(2585)-Kuzubov, Y(2661)

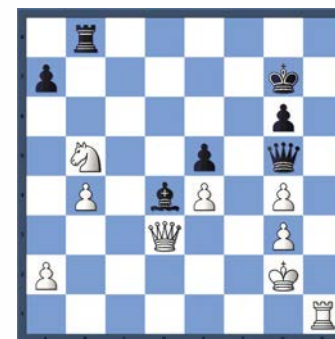
Ukrainian Championship, 2014.11.19



39...♖h1+! 0-1 [39...♖h1+ 40.♔xh1 ♖xf1+ 41.♔h2 (41.♖g1 41...♖h8+) 41...♖b2+-+]

(26) Moiseenko, A(2701)-Eljanov, P(2719)

Ukrainian Championship, 2014.11.21



35...♖xb5! 36.♖xb5 ♖d2+ 37.♔h3 ♖h6+ 38.♔g2 ♖d2+=

(27) Ponomarev, R(2711)-Bogdanovich, S(2590)

Ukrainian Championship, 2014.11.21

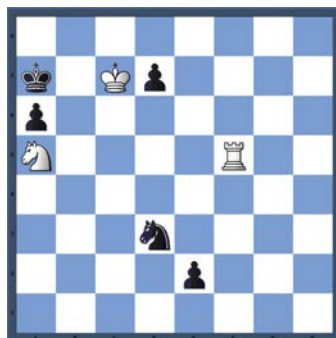


15. ♖g6! [15. ♖xf7? 15... ♕xf4+!]

15... ♖g8 [15... fxg6 16. ♗xg6+ ♔d8 17. ♖xd4+-]

16. ♖he1 ♗e6 17. ♗f5! 1-0 [17. ♗f5 17... ♕b4 18. ♗xe6 fxe6 19. ♖xe6+-]

(28) Kubbel



1. ♖d5! [1. ♖f7? 1... ♗e5+-; 1. ♗c6+ 1... dxc6 2. ♖f7 (2. ♗xc6 2... ♗b4+-) 2... ♗e5 3. ♖g7 e1=♕+-]

1... e1=♕ 2. ♖xd7! ♕xa5+ [2... ♗e5 3. ♗c6+! ♗xc6 4. ♗xc6+ ♗b8 5. ♖d8+=; 2... ♕e5+ 3. ♗c6+ ♗b8 4. ♖d8+=]

3. ♗c6+ ♗b8 4. ♖d8+! ♕xd8=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 146

17th of December 2014

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◇ Solutions	28

Editorial Preface

We are enjoying another fantastic week of Chess. The London Chess Classics, the Mind Games in China and the U-16 Olympiad in Hungary are the Top 3 events of the week.

Our long-term subscribers know that we usually try to bring you commented games from the strongest players in the world, but this week and next one, we will make an exception and focus on the U-16 Olympiad where many upcoming young stars are competing for their countries. The games might be not as tight as on the highest level, but that makes them even more fun to watch, because they can sometimes turn for 180 degrees a couple of times! :)

But let's first come to the finished event in London:

In the classical tournament with only 5 rounds (a 6-players round robin) there was a share for first place between Anand, Kramnik and Giri, who all finished on 3/5. Then followed Nakamura on 2.5/5, Caruana on 2/5 and Adams on 1.5/5. Nakamura played his usual fighting chess, while Anand tried to be as safe as possible, winning just one game in the Berlin with Black!! Kramnik played more attractive chess and his result of +1 was fully deserved. Michael Adams was clearly the "black cat" of the event as he played really great chess, but scored far less points than he could have. A result of 1.5/5 is just crazy if you look at the positions he got. Giri as usual showed great preparation and fighting chess in each game and finished on a deserved result, while Caruana could have scored a bit more, but with a loss in round 1 it was difficult to recover from it later on.

All in all this was a great and very interesting event.

The Mind Games in China:

Who is not in London is in China! A fantastic line-up is competing in Rapid, Blitz and Basque Chess (where you play your opponent on two boards simultaneously, once with the white pieces and once with the black pieces) and the name of the man of the hour is Grischuk!!

After winning the rapid event in great style with 5/7, he went on to win the blitz event with 19.5/30. It is an amazing result to win both events unshared! The second man's name is Vachier Lagrave, who finished second in rapid with 4.5/7 and as well second in blitz, with 18.5/30.

In the Women section, Russian champion Gunina won the rapid with 5.5/7, while second place went to Hou Yifan with 5/7 and Ushenina finished 3rd with 4.5/7.

In the blitz event, Hou Yifan was unstoppable as she scored 22.5/30, while 2nd-3rd places were shared by Gunina and Anna Muzychuk, both with 19.5/30.

And now we come to the U-16 Olympiad that is currently under way in the city of Gyor, in Hungary. 54 teams from 38 countries and 5 continents (which amounts to a total of 257 players) are competing in the biggest U-16 Chess Olympiad in history, which is a team event where every team must have a female player.

The organizers tried to make the event as good as possible, as this is the first step of the preparation in order to try and host the Chess Olympiad in 2020. A nice hotel, a great playing hall and many side events are provided to the players with the clear intention to show that Hungary is not only a leading country for professional chess players, but also a great host with powerful organizational abilities. The opening ceremony of the event took place in the National theatre with ballet, Latin dance and a lot more spectacular events on show.

A lot of interesting and funny games have been played between the young chess players and we bring you the most crucial ones, which feature great fighting spirit and nice tactical blows. The competition will be played over 10 rounds and we have not even reached the halfway mark as only 4 rounds having been played so, so it is too early to say who is going to be the winner...

We hope you enjoy the games of the young and talented! :)

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

5 best games of the past week

(1) **Haring, Viktor(2051)**
- **Tabatabaei, M.amin(2363) [C67]**

orld Youth U16 Olympiad(1.2),
2014.12.13



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

In general young players like attacking chess, but the Iranian talent with the black pieces shows very deep understanding in the very difficult Berlin endgame...

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 4.O-O ♘xe4 5.d4 ♘d6 6.♙xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♘f5 8.♚xd8+ ♚xd8 Here we are! The Berlin endgame. It is very risky to go for it with both colors if you have not studied the positions deeply enough. We will see how easily one can get outplayed...

9.♘c3 ♙d7 The Bd7-Kc8 systems are considered to be an attempt to win or at least to get a sharp position, while the Ke8 systems are rather for a draw.



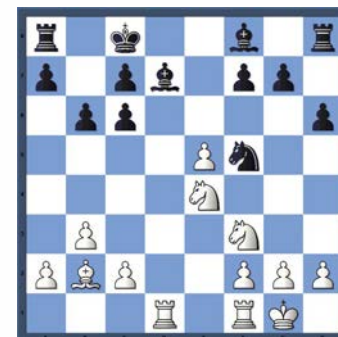
10.♘e4 I believe that this is already an inaccuracy. It is better to make other developing moves first and decide about the direction of the c3 knight later. White usually employs the

Ne2-f4 plan with the idea to support an e6 break. Now the knight is heading to g5, but this can easily be parried.

10...h6! Getting control over the g5 square and restricting the mobility of the e4 knight.

11.b3 ♖c8 12.♙b2 b6 The standard plan for Black. The long term idea is to connect the rooks and make use of the bishop pair.

13.♖ad1



13...c5! This is a known idea when the knight leaves the c3 square. Black gains space on the queenside with c5, using the fact that White cannot play Nd5 anymore. Black wants to accomplish the Kb7 plan. He wants to move his bishop to e6 (where it will be better placed than on c6, because the e5 pawn should be blockaded) without being afraid of g4, sending away the knight, followed by Nd4!

14.♖fe1 ♘e7 Another useful maneuver to drive the knight to c6 and the bishop to e6. It was executed effectively by Kramnik in his WC match against Kasparov back in 2000. One point is to harass the white pawns with Nb4 and another is to leave from the potential space grabbing plan of h3-g4-f4, which is considered to be White's most dangerous plan. [14...♙e6 was also possible right away.]

15.h3 ♖e6 16.♘h2 White would like to support his g4-f4-f5 plan and he strengthens his g4 pawn in case of the standard counterattack g4-h5. However the knight gets a bit misplaced, it should have gone to d2.

16...a5! Black wants to use his rook along the a-file!

17.♘f1 [The point is that 17.a4 is strongly met by 17...c4! destroying the pawn structure! Here we can see why Nfd2 would have been preferable.]

17...a4 Suddenly the a8 rook joins the game without losing a single tempo.

18.♘e3 axb3 Well, it is always a question whether Black should hurry with releasing the tension. Sometimes when Black cannot gain some direct benefits along the a-file, it backfires and White occupies the a-file...

19.axb3 ♖a2 20.♖b1 [In case of 20.♙c3 Black switches the direction of the e7 knight and retreats to 20...♘f5 playing against the weakness on c2.]



20...g5! Black basically just employs the standard ideas of this opening and his position is getting better and better with each move. He prevents White's main idea of playing f4 (g4-f5) and intends to activate his pieces with Nc6-Bg7 and Rd8. Suddenly all his pieces are standing perfectly, White has many

weaknesses to deal with and the two bishops are also getting stronger with each move.

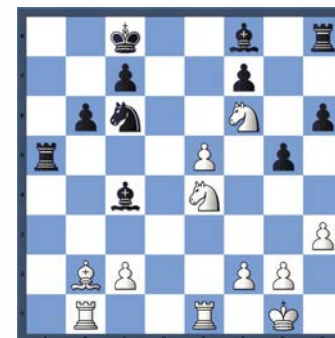
21.♘f6 ♘c6 Black sometimes wants to put his knight on d4.

22.♘d1 Not the best move, but one can understand that White wanted to kick out that annoying a2 rook with Nc3.

22...c4 Getting rid of the doubled pawns and opening the diagonal for the f8 bishop to develop to a more active square. [22...♘d4 was also strong.]

23.♘c3 [23.bxc4 23...♙xc4 The tactical line that Black had to check before pushing c4 is 24.e6 opening the long diagonal, but Black was rightly not afraid of it, since he can simply grab the pawn: 24...♙xe6 and White cannot make use of the pin. 25.♘h5 ♖g8 26.♘f6 ♖g6! There is no way to force a repetition.]

23...♖a5 24.bxc4 ♙xc4 25.♘ce4



25...♙e6! After the bishop has done its job and exchanged the doubled pawn on c4, it retreats to the ideal position on e6, blockading the e5 pawn.

26.♙c3 [26.♖a1 26...♙b4 is also perfect for Black.]

26...♖a2 27.♖e2 [White should have exchanged the active rook, but of course Black's advantage is undisputable anyway. 27.♖b2 27...♖xb2 28.♙xb2 ♙b4]

27...♙e7 Black is ready to use his last missing piece by playing Rd8.

28.♖a1 ♖xa1+ 29.♙xa1 ♔b7! This is even stronger than Rd8, because the rook is going to penetrate along the a-file.

30.♔h2 ♖a8 31.♙c3 b5 [31...♖a2 followed by b5 was even stronger to pin the e2 rook to the protection of the c2 weakness.]

32.♘g3 [White should have tried to look for counterplay with 32.♗e1 although his position remains quite hopeless after 32...♖a2 33.♖b1 b4 34.♙xb4 ♘xb4 35.c3 c5 36.cxb4 cxb4 This endgame with such a strong passed pawn on b4 supported by the two bishops should be easily won for Black.]

32...b4 33.♙e1 ♖a2 The material is balanced, but the game is over. White cannot avoid losing his most important pawn on c2.

34.f3 ♘d4 35.♗e4 ♘xc2 36.♘g8 b3 Black finishes the game in style, but of course all other moves were also winning.

37.♙c3 [37.♘xe7 37...b2—+]

37...♙b4! 38.♙xb4 b2 A very impressive performance by Black and a model game for the Berlin! **0-1**

(2) Zhang, Jiabao(2089) - Litvinov, Maxim(2238) [C53]

World Youth U16 Olympiad(2.4),
2014.12.14

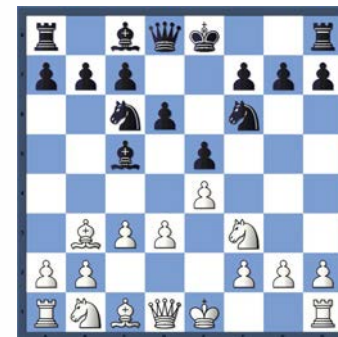


GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A very nice attacking game by the young Chinese player against the rating favorite from Russia.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4 ♙c5 4.c3 ♘f6 5.d3 The Italian opening often ends up in similar positions and structures like the Spanish (or Ruy Lopez).

5...d6 6.♙b3 White prepares to save his bishop against the potential Na5 and Be6 ideas.



6...a6 A standard prophylactic move to save the bishop. On c5 it stands in the d3-d4 central break, therefore Black removes it along the diagonal. Bb6 with the same purpose might be met by Nbd2-c4, grabbing the bishop pair.

7.O-O O-O 8.♘bd2 White intends to employ the Spanish knight maneuver to the kingside through f1-g3.

8...♙a7 9.h3 A necessary and useful preparation to take the g4 square under control. [In case of the direct 9.♗e1 Black

could reply with 9...♘g4! 10.♞e2 ♔h8 11.h3 ♘h6! followed by f5 with a dangerous attack.]

9...♘e7 Black also fers his knight to the kingside. In general it is a very useful plan, because it allows him to fight for the center with c6-d5. However, White seems to be faster to explode the center... [9...h6 is considered by theory to be the right way to equality. The line goes with 10.♞e1 ♞e8 11.♘f1 ♙e6 12.♙c2 d5!]

10.♞e1 ♘g6 11.♘f1 The e5 pawn must be overprotected to execute the c6-d5 break, but it costs Black further tempi.

11...h6 12.♘g3 ♞e8



13.d4! White gains space in the center, he is going to have more ground for maneuvering with his pieces.

13...c6 What is the next step for White? He should finish the development of his pieces. The next one should be the bishop on c1, which is ideally placed on e3. However it is met by exd4 and White cannot recapture with the pawn, which would be necessary to maintain the center and the advantage, because the pawn is hanging on e4. By following this thinking, we come to the conclusion to play [13...♙e6 trying to ease the position by trading pieces is met by 14.♙c2! saving the bishop, followed by Be3 and Qd2.]

14.♙c2! overprotecting the e4 pawn. This is a known plan for the Spanish and Italian opening players.

14...♞c7 15.♙e3 ♙e6 16.♞d2 b5 Black decides to gain some space on the queenside. It was probably preferable to activate the a8 rook with Rad8. [16...d5 This central break solves the problems in some similar position, but not in this case because of 17.♘xe5! ♘xe5 18.dxe5 ♙xe3 (18...♞xe5 19.♙f4 traps the queen!) 19.♞xe3 ♞xe5 20.f4! ♞c7 21.e5 White manages to keep his strong center and he has many dangerous attacking plans, such as f5-f6, Qd3 or Nh5-Qg3.]

17.♘f5! Brining one more attacker and White is ready to sacrifice on h6! Bxh6 gxh6 Qxh6 is already a decisive threat, with which it is not easy to deal.

17...♙xf5 [17...d5 is a principled break to open the center, but it also runs into



18.♙xh6! ♘xe4! The critical move! (18...dxe4 19.♙xg7 ♙xf5 20.♙xf6+- and Qh6 is coming.; 18...gxh6 19.♞xh6 ♙xf5 20.exf5+- wins back the piece, because the f6 knight is also hanging.) 19.♙xe4 dxe4 20.♘xg7 exf3



21. ♖h5! is the right move, with some spectacular lines to follow: (21. ♖xe8? gives up the initiative and with the two pieces for the rook, Black consolidates. 21... ♖xe8) 21... ♖e7 (21... exd4 22. ♖g5! Qf6 is threatening with mate on g7 and after 22... ♖e7 23. ♖f6+ ♖h8 24. ♖h5! ♖xf6 25. ♖g5+ ♖g7 26. ♖h6+ ♖g8 27. ♖xf6+- wins.; 21... f5 is met by 22. ♖g5! ♖f7 23. ♖xe5 with a very strong attack.) 22. ♖g5 ♖d6 (22... ♖f8 is refuted by 23. ♖f6+ ♖h8 24. ♖h6! ♖e7 25. ♖g5!+- and Black cannot parry the Qh5 threat!) 23. ♖e7!! What a fantastic move! (23. ♖f6! is also winning.) 23... ♖xe7 24. ♖h6 f5 (24... ♖f8 25. ♖f6#) 25. ♖xg6+ ♖h8 26. ♖f6 Qh6 is threatening. On Qg7 Qh5 mates. The only move is (26. ♖xe5 also wins, but the other move is nicer.) 26... ♖g8 and now the easiest solution is 27. ♖xe8 ♖xe8 (27... ♖xe8 28. ♖f6+ ♖h7 29. ♖xe5+- and Re7 next.) 28. ♖xe5+-]

18. exf5 ♖f8 [18... ♖f4 19. ♖xf4 exf4 20. ♖xf4 Black does not have enough compensation for the pawn.]



19. ♖xh6! White feels the moment and executes the decisive blow! Qg5 is threatening so Black is forced to accept the sacrifice.

19... gxf6 20. ♖xh6 ♖8h7 [20... ♖e7 does not change the outcome. White can simply play 21. dxe5 dxe5 22. ♖xe5 ♖d6 23. ♖d1+- and the f6 knight falls.]

21. ♖g5! Exchanging defender! White has created two threats. One is to lift the rook to e3-g3 and the more direct one is Nxh7 Nxh7 and f6!, opening the bishop's diagonal.

21... ♖d8 [21... ♖xg5 22. ♖xg5+ ♖f8 23. ♖xf6+-]

22. ♖xh7 [22. ♖e3 was also winning.]

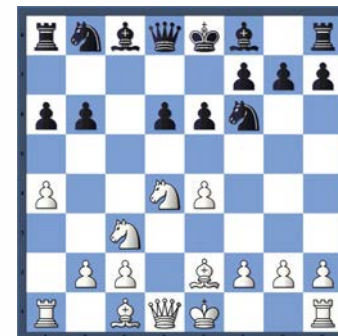
22... ♖xh7 23. f6! ♖xf6 24. ♖e3 Black resigned! A perfect game by White, who was clearly not playing at an under 2100 level, but the ratings of the young players are often misleading. **1-0**

(3) Karthikeyan, Murali(2497) - Nikitenko, Mihail(2379) [B90]

World Youth U16 Olympiad(2.1),
2014.12.14



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



Another nice attacking game in the Najdorf. White quickly tricks Black in the opening and gets a very strong attack with a great piece sacrifice! A nice game to watch and enjoy!

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.a4 A rather quiet line. Usually this move is played against people who like to play the Najdorf with e5, but of course in case of e6 we are entering the usual Sheveningen positions.

6...e6 [6...e5 7.Nf3 could give White a slightly better move order than in the normal line with 6.Be3 e5 7.Nf3 because the bishop on e3 is not very usefully placed. Now White's idea could be to play Bg5 and then Bc4, in order to try and dominate over the d5 square, with some positional advantage.]

7.♖e2 b6?! The idea of putting the bishop to b7 is correct, but to do it immediately is very risky. The usual plan would be to first play Be7-0-0 and only after that to play either b6 or the normal Nc6, which would lead back to the main lines.

8.♘f3!? is an interesting try to immediately take advantage of the b6 move. White is preparing the e5 push.

8...♞fd7 Black is afraid of e5. [Of course after 8...♞b7? White is almost winning after 9.e5!; But Black should maybe have tried to continue with 8...♞a7 followed by Rd7 and Bb7, which looks a bit strange, but is actually quite OK for Black.]

9.0-0 [There is no reason for White to hurry with 9.e5 9...d5]

9...♞b7 [In case of 9...♞e5 White can play the solid 10.♞e2 and continue with f4 and Bf3 back next, when the black knight from e5 will need to go back, thus giving White a good version of the variation.]

10.e5 d5 Black is entering the fight. [After 10...♞xf3 11.♞xf3 ♞a7 White can reach a small plus after 12.exd6 ♞xd6 13.♞d1 with a pleasant position for White.]

11.♞g4!? is a very creative move in comparison to a normal move like 11.Re1. White wants to play f4 next so Black is practically forced to take on e5 in order to avoid being clearly worse.

11...♖xe5



12.♗xe6! White continues what he started!

12...♗c5? After this move things start to go very wrong for Black... [Black had to be brave and take on e6: 12...fxe6 and now White has several options. 13.♔e1 Playing for the attack! (13.♔h5+ is not so good since after 13...♗g6 14.♗xe6 Black has the chance to give some material back in order to force the exchange of queens. 14...♔h4! 15.♔f5 ♔f6 White can't avoid the exchange. 16.♔xf6 gxf6 17.♗c7+ ♔f7 18.♗xa8 ♗xa8 and Black's position actually looks better here, although things are still very complicated.) 13...♗bc6 Protecting the e5 knight and attacking the white knight on d4. 14.♗xe6 ♔d7 15.♗xd5 Black's position looks almost lost, but things are still very complicated. 15...♔f7! is a very strong reply! The black king will hide on g8. White has 2 pawns and some attack, but the black pieces are in the game, so we have a very complicated position.]



13.♗xd5! 13.Bh3 would have given White a clear plus, but Karthikeyan wants to mate the black king!

13...♗xd5 The only move.

14.♗f5 Double attacking on d5 and g7. It is clear that Black can't save both, so the bishop from d5 has to move.

14...♗e6 The most solid move. The bishop on e6 is going to protect the king.

15.♗xg7+ ♔e7 16.♔h5 White's attack is very dangerous! We should also not forget that White already has 2 pawns for the piece and the black king feels anything but safe on e7.

16...f6? White is probably just winning after this move. [Another possibility was 16...♗bd7 but after 17.♔e1 White also has a very strong attack.]



17.♔d1! An excellent move! The white rook is perfectly placed

on d1.

17...♖b7 What else to do?! To play with Nb8-Ra8 is not really an option...

18.♗f5+ is not the best. [Simpler was 18.♗xe6 18...♔xe6 19.♗d5 with many different threats. White's position is close to winning.]

18...♗xf5 Black misses his chance to defend more tenaciously. [Black should have kept his bishop on e6 at any costs: 18...♗f8 But still, after a simple move like 19.♗e4 White's attack is very strong.]

19.♗d5+ ♔d6 is losing more quickly, but Black already didn't have any good moves. [Tougher was 19...♔e6 but here White has 20.♗f4+ ♔e7 21.♗xf5 and Black is doing very badly.]

20.♗xf5 Now the knight moving from d5 is a deadly threat.

20...♔c6



21.b4! Another excellent move by White! The black king is getting into more and more trouble.

21...♗d6 22.♗e4! This move is basically ending the game! Black has no defense against the knight move from d5 any longer.

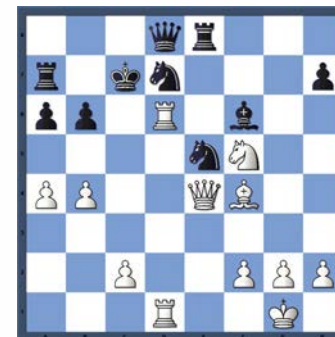
22...f5 23.♗e7+ ♔c7 24.♗xf5 White has 3 pawns for the

piece and continues the attack!

24...♗e7 25.♗f4 Bringing yet another piece into the attack...

25...♗f6 26.♗d6 ♗e8 27.♗ad1 White has at least 5 different direct threats. The game is over!

27...♗a7



28.♗xd7+ A really very well-played game by Karthikeyan, who is clearly very gifted in tactical skills! **1-0**

(4) Puccini, Jack(2188) - Radovic, Luka(2352) [B90]

World Youth U16 Olympiad(3.1),
2014.12.14



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are going to see a great attacking game by Puccini, who mated his clearly higher rated opponent in a furious mating attack! White chose a very fighting opening with quite a long theoretical line, where Black quickly made a mistake and found himself facing a mating attack...

1.e4 c5 In junior championships we much more often see fighting openings like the Sicilian than the Berlin let's say, which of course makes the games much more fun to watch for the spectators.

2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 We are in the Najdorf.

6.♙c4 The Sozin variation is one of the sharpest ones with the most direct play. Lately it hasn't been played too often on the high level because it seems that Black is doing perfectly fine in it, but anyhow, very precise knowledge of theory is needed for Black not to quickly get into trouble in these very sharp lines.

6...e6 [A little trick is that in case of 6...b5?! White needs to play 7.♙d5! ♘xd5 8.exd5 with a much better position for White.]

7.♙g5



7...♙e7 Another possibility for Black is to play 7... Nbd7.

8.♙b3 b5 A risky move where Black needs to know exactly what he is doing!

9.♙f3!? Many years ago I played this line myself as White and I believe it is a good line to try and quickly get your opponent into trouble.

9...♙c7 The correct move. Black can't play 9...Bb7 because of 10.Bxe6! fxe6 11. Nxe6 and the g7 pawn is also going to fall, leading to a very good position for White.

10.e5 This is all still theory and the beginning of very sharp complications.

10...♙b7 11.exd6 ♙xd6 12.♙e3 Now White has a lot of different threats which are connected to the blow against the e6 pawn.

12...♙e5?! is already a small mistake and it immediately leads to trouble... [12...♙c5! would have been the right answer. 13.O-O-O ♘c6! is a very hard move to find over the board, but of course not if you are familiar with it! 14.♙xf6 gxf6 15.♘d5 Black's position looks very dangerous, but in fact it is White who needs to be afraid of getting a worse position.



15...♔e5! The best move. 16.♔xe5 ♘xe5 17.♘c7+ ♔e7 18.♘xa8 ♘xg2 19.♖hg1 ♘xa8 is one of the most simple ways for Black to be fine here. White is an exchange up, but Black has the bishop pair and a great pawn structure, which gives him at least an equal position and probably even a slightly better one.]

13.0-0-0 As we can already see, the position is very direct. White wants to start the attack on the black king with all his pieces and every move counts here, so he needs to be very accurate.

13...♘bd7 A very dangerous move. [After a normal move like 13...O-O 14.f4 ♘xd4 15.♖xd4 ♘bd7 16.♖hd1 White is slightly better.]

14.♘xe6!? The start of very interesting tactical complications. White could of course have continued with 14.f4 and gone back into the main line.

14...fxe6



15.f4! This is the difference to Black's move order of not castling first and playing 13...Nbd7.

15...♘xc3 What else to play?!

16.♔xe6+ ♔d8 The black king is under a massive attack, but a piece is still a piece.

17.bxc3 Logical and good. White has to win some material back. Now the threat is to play Bxf6, so Black needs to do something very urgently.

17...♖e8 Black is bringing his rook into the game, which is very logical. [Another option could have been to try and run away with the king: 17...♔c8 18.♘xf6 gxf6 White now has a lot of different options to continue the attack and we will just take a look at the most "normal ones": 19.♖d6 It can't be bad to double the rooks on the d-file. 19...♖d8 20.♖hd1 Black is totally paralyzed and pinned. 20...♖a7! The black rook will protect the d7 knight from a7! Very creative and not easy to find... 21.♔f5 is one of the possible moves to continue the attack with the idea of playing Be6 next. Black's position remains very dangerous and almost impossible to hold during a practical game.]

18. ♖f7 is a possible way of playing, but White had another interesting option: [Why not be greedy and play 18. ♗xf6+ 18...gxf6 19. ♖xf6+ ♔c8 20. ♗e6 ♗c6 21. ♖f7 ♖d8 22. ♖d4 followed by Rhd1 and winning the black h-pawn. White must just be better here!]



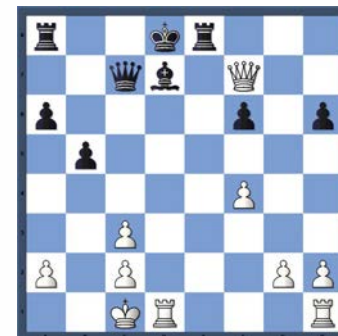
18...h6? Black blunders a tactical blow! [It was really time for Black to remove his king from the dangerous d-file: 18... ♔c8! 19. ♗e6 ♖xe6! 20. ♖xe6 ♗c6 and White must still be better, but Black wants to play Kb7 next and finally get the rook from a8 into the game. His position is still playable.]

19. ♗xf6+! White doesn't miss his chance!

19...gxf6 20. ♗e6 Before taking on d7, White decides to exchange the bishops, which is a normal decision. [The immediate 20. ♖xd7+ was of course possible too.]

20...♗c6 [20... ♖xe6 21. ♖xe6 is also over for Black.]

21. ♗xd7 ♗xd7 and of course now comes



22. ♖xd7+! Black probably missed this tactical idea.

22... ♖xd7 23. ♖d1 ♖a7 Black doesn't have a choice.

24. ♖xd7+ ♖xd7 and White continues with taking all the black pawns.

25. ♖xf6+ ♔c7 26. ♖xa6 Black's position is totally hopeless! The white pawns will start to advance not only on the kingside, but also on the queenside, so this is a good moment to resign. A very nice game by Puccini, who was well prepared and made a great tactical blow on e6 in connection with a slow move like f4. Well done! **1-0**

**(5) Zhou, Jiangnan(2100)
- Donchenko, Alexander(2523)
[E20]**

World Youth U16 Olympiad(4.1),
2014.12.15



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

The highest rated player of the field is the German Alexander Donchenko, who nicely outplays his opponent. A Chinese player, even with a relatively low rating, should never be underestimated as they are all very strong and usually underrated, although this game does not prove this fact.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.f3 The Nimzowitsch with 4.f3 is a very sharp system in general. Black tries to find a setup where he can keep the game in calm waters.

4...O-O 5.a3 ♗xc3+ 6.bxc3 White gets the bishop pair and a very strong center, but Black compensates it with his superior pawn structure. He immediately focuses his attention against the c4 pawn with a known arrangement of his minor pieces.

6...c5 7.e3?! This is too passive, not in the spirit of the opening and not consequent after playing f3. [White should play actively and occupy the center with 7.e4 which is the critical continuation from the opening point of view.]

7...♘c6 8.♙d3



8...b6! All the black moves are directed against the c4 pawn. He intends to develop with Ba6, Na5 and Rc8, putting maximum pressure on the weakness!

9.a4? This is wrong again. White is doing badly on the queenside, he should organize his play in the center, where he has his pawn majority. [9.♘e2 9...♗a6 10.e4 is the natural follow-up, even if White lost a tempo compared to 7.e4. White creates the unpleasant threat of Bg5, after which is it not easy to deal with the pin! The right way to counter this plan is 10...♘e8 preventing Bg5 and sometimes it might help on the queenside with Nd6.]

9...♗a6 Consequently following the plan!

10.♙e2 ♙c7 A logical positional follow-up, putting another eye on c4. [Black could have already played for even more with 10...cxd4 11.cxd4 is strongly met by (11.exd4 is terrible from a positional point of view. Black could seize his advantage with a nice break: 11...e5! Opening the center against the king on e1. White doesn't only have a poor pawn structure, but his pieces are also undeveloped. 12.dxe5 (12.d5 12...♘a5 is also a catastrophe for White. Rc8 wins the pawn next.) 12...♘xe5! White collapses.) 11...♘b4! 12.♗a3 ♘xd3+ 13.♙xd3 ♙e8 and White has no good defense against Rc8, Qc7 or d5. Black is going to win a pawn and there is no compensation for it.]

11. ♖a3 ♜fe8 12.g4? Kind of desperation. White launches a kingside attack, but Black is ready to counter it. [White was aware that he was doing poorly in case of some slow move like 12. ♘h3 12... ♘a5 but it was still better than the game.]



12...e5! The principled reaction! White launches a flank attack and Black counters it with a well-timed central break!

13.d5 Trying to lock the position with e4, but Black is coming first.

13...e4! A very strong intermediate move, which completely destroys the white pawn structure.

14.fxe4 [14.dxc6 14...exd3 15. ♖xd3 ♜xc6—+ is also hopeless. All the white pawns are hanging and he ended up with a dead bishop on a3.]

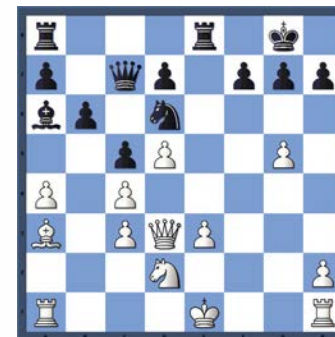
14...♘e5 One can normally only dream about such beautiful knights. I am a big fan of the two bishops, but this is a tragic scenario for them. If we look at the ones on d3 and a3 our hearths start to ache.

15.g5 By trapping the knight White at least manages to get rid of one of his bishops, but the main problem on a3 remains on the board.

15...♘xd3+ 16. ♖xd3 ♘xe4 17. ♘f3 The material is balanced, but the superiority of the pawn formation and the pieces give

Black a decisive advantage.

17...♘d6! 18. ♘d2



18...♘xc4! Black finds a pretty tactical blow to increase his advantage.

19. ♘xc4 ♜f4! This is the nice point and Black wins back the sacrificed piece.

20.O-O-O ♜h4! Another very clever move! Black wants to keep the queens on the board as the white king is much more vulnerable than the black one. The white pawns are extremely shaky and the queen is the most valuable piece with which Black could put even more pressure on them.

21. ♖de1 ♘xc4 22. ♜f5 ♜e4! Total domination on the light squares and the bishop on a3 is still dead...

23. ♜hg1 [There was no time for 23. ♖xd7 in view of 23... ♜f2!—+ and White cannot deal with the simple threat of Bb3 or Bd3 and mate on c2.]

23...g6 Black uses the same idea as before. He sends away the queen to invade on f2!

24. ♜xd7 [24. ♜f6 24... ♜ae8 is also hopeless. It is funny that the c3 pawn is the key of the position, as it locks the bishop up. Without that pawn, the bishop could have been a beast on b2!]

24... ♖f2 **25.** ♖h3 White resists for a few more moves with the resource of Qg2, but Black finishes the game in the fastest way.

25... ♖a2! **26.** ♗b2 ♗d3 White resigned, as there is no defense against Qb1! The principle says that in middlegames with opposite colored bishops, the side who has the more active bishop is better. Well, it seems to be justified in this game. **0-1**

Puzzle section

(6) Puccini, J(2188)-Ghosh, D(2516)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.13

1... -+



(7) Karthikeyan, M(2497)-Loh, Z(2075)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.13

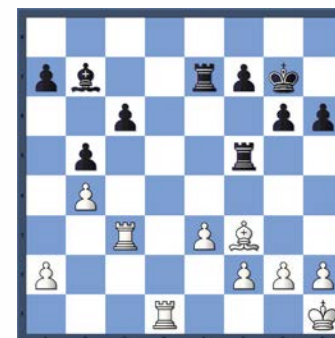
1. +-



(8) Boldoo, E(2093)-Kozak, A(2307)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.13

1... ㄱ



(9) Tuncer, T(2210)-Syvalahti, T(1923)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.13

1. +-



(10) Kumaran, B(2316)-Zarubitski, V(2219)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.14

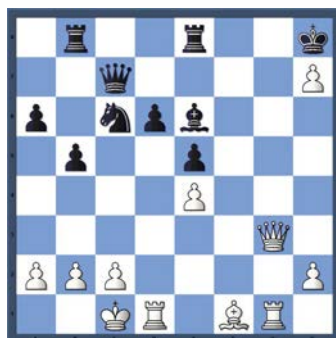
1. +-



(11) Tutisani, N(2301)-Bjerre, J(2073)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.14

1. +-



(12) Asgarizadeh, A(2371)-Ghosh, D(2516)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.14

1... -+



(13) Vrtiakova, A(1866)-Zhang, J(2089)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.14

1... -+



(14) Jarmula, L(2307)-Bakalchuk, J(2300)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.15

1... -+



(15) Chetrari, N(2117)-Ivic, V(2176)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.15

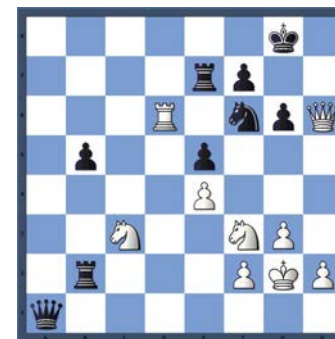
1. +-



(16) Pechac, J(2182)-Kosakowski, J(2106)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.15

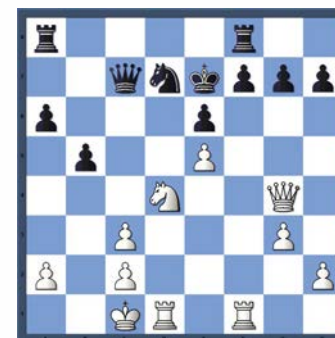
1... -+



(17) Moller, S(2133)-Tsiros, F(2147)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.15

1. +-



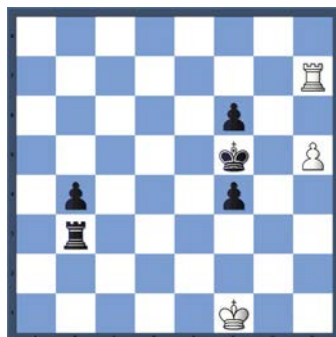
Endgame section

(18) Korpa, Bence(2415)
- Snihur, Piotr(2161)

World Youth U16 Olympiad(3.2),
2014.12.14



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



After a "shaky" game, Black's position looks close to winning. He is 2 pawns up and the white king on f1 is very passive, both of which are a good signs for a full point. On the other hand, a lot of rook endgames are famously drawn, so the result of the game still unclear.

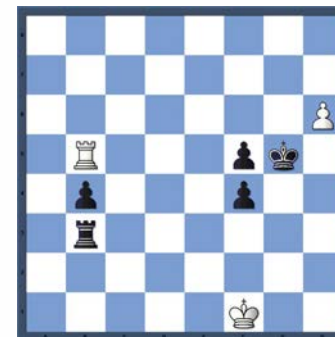
50. ♖b7! White's only chance to achieve a draw is to somehow collect the b-pawn for the h-pawn, so clearly the rook is taking a perfect position on b7.

50... ♔g5 A good choice! Black needs to stop the h-pawn. [50... ♔g4 looks good, but doesn't lead anywhere: 51.h6 ♔f3 52.♔g1! and Black can't stop the h-pawn without losing the b-pawn.]

51. ♖b5+ White is fighting!

51... f5 Black wants to play Kxh5 next.

52.h6 The best practical decision, hoping for Black to make a mistake...



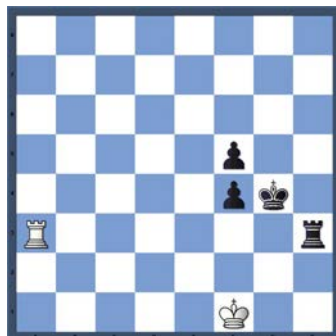
52... ♖h3?? And what a mistake this is! Snihur was probably thinking that his position is winning with the double f-pawns, but it is not ! [The simple 52... ♔xh6 53. ♖xf5 f3 54. ♖b5 ♖b2 followed by transferring the king to c6 would have given Black the win!]

53. ♖xb4 I guess it was a huge relieve for Korpa, who is rated 300 points above his opponent.

53... ♖xh6 54. ♖b3 The funny thing about this position is that no matter how many pawns Black has on the f-file, the position remains a draw! And during the next moves White is going to show us a perfect defense.

54... ♔g4 55. ♔f2 ♖h2+ 56. ♔f1 ♖a2 57. ♖c3 Perfect play. The white king has to be standing on f1 and the rook on the 3rd rank, waiting for the f3 move and only then going back to the 8th rank, from where it will check the black king.

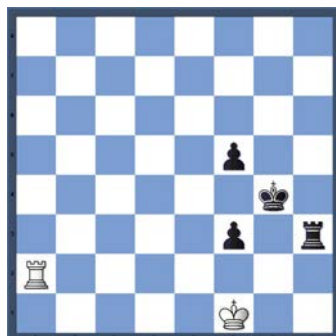
57... ♖h2 58. ♖a3 ♖h3



59.♖a2 Stopping Kg3, after which White would play Rg2+.

59...♜b3 60.♖g2+ ♜g3 61.♖a2 ♜f3+ 62.♔g2 ♜b3 63.♔f2 ♜h3 64.♔f1 Black did not manage to improve his position at all, so he is at last playing f3.

64...f3



65.♖a8! Exactly! Now White has the saving Rg8+ after Kg3.

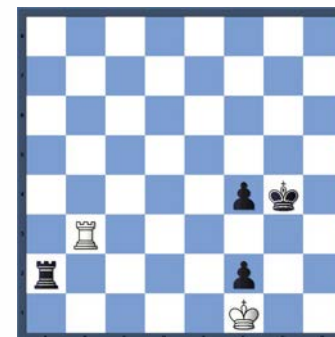
65...♜h1+ 66.♔f2 ♜h2+ 67.♔f1 ♜b2 68.♖g8+ ♔f4 69.♖a8 and again White keeps on waiting.

69...♔g3 70.♖g8+ ♔f4 71.♖a8 ♜b4 72.♔f2 ♜e4 73.♜b8 Black can't improve his position any longer.

73...♜e2+ 74.♔f1 ♜a2 75.♜c8 f2 the last try

76.♜c3! Now White keeps on waiting for the other black pawn to advance...

76...♔g4 77.♜b3 f4



78.♜c3 ♜d2 79.♜a3 ♔f5 80.♜b3 ♔e4 81.♜a3 ♜d3 and of course this is a draw after the easy 82.Rxd3 Kxd3 and 83.Kxf2 Ke4 and 84.Ke2, with opposition. A very practical endgame which is good to be aware of for your next tournament games!
1/2-1/2

(19) Korpa, Bence(2415)
- Czupor, Attila(2107)

World Youth U16 Olympiad,
2014.12.13

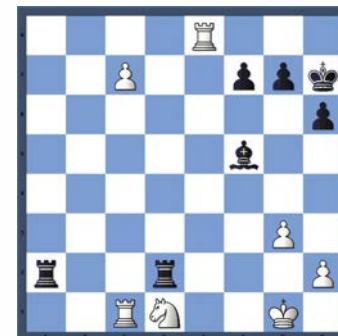


GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

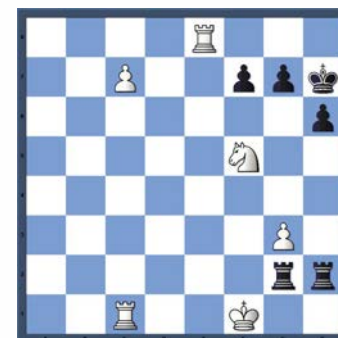


A very interesting endgame has been reached. White has a huge trump on c6, but Black has prepared to get counterplay on the 2nd rank with his rooks.

33.g4 A clever attempt to fight for the win. White tries to send the bishop to an unprotected place in order to support the promotion of the c-pawn. [On the direct 33.c7 Black saves the game with 33...♖bb2! We can see the point of 33.g4 now, as in case of 33...Bxg4 34.c7 and Rbb2, the bishop is hanging on g4.; The best try to win was the hidden knight move 33.♞d1!! with the idea to prevent Rbb2 and also to transfer the knight to e3. White wants to advance his c-pawn now. 33...♗e4 (In case of 33...♗a4 34.c7 ♗aa2 White has the important resource of

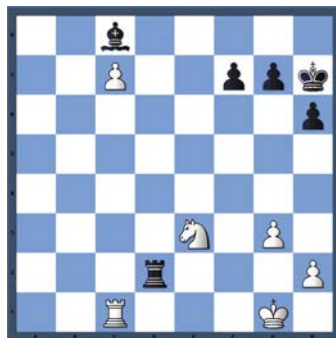


35.♞e3! preventing the check on g2 and attacking the bishop at the same time! It seems to be over, as Bh3 is met by g4, Be6 Rxe6 wins and Bd7 Rd8 is also over, but Black can continue resisting with 35...♖xh2! 36.♞xf5 ♗ag2+ 37.♞f1



37...♖b2! The only move again! (37...♗a2? loses and the difference is quite deep: 38.♗h8+! ♞xh8 39.c8=♖+ ♞h7 40.♖b7! prevents the mate on h1 and after 40...♗hf2+ 41.♞g1 ♗xf5 42.♖b1!+- wins one of the rooks as g4 is coming next.) 38.♗h8+! ♞xh8 39.c8=♖+ ♞h7 40.♖c6! is the only way to continue the game. 40...♗hf2+ 41.♞g1 ♗xf5 A very tricky endgame has been reached, similar to the final position of our game. It is very difficult to assess whether White's position is winning or not. Without a pair of rooks on the board the game is an easy draw, because Black builds up an unbreakable fortress by putting his pawns on h5 and g6.)

34. ♖xe4 ♗xe4 35. c7 ♗b7 36. ♘e3 ♖e2! (36... ♗c8? is nicely refuted by



37. ♘c4!+- and the rook has no good square to leave. In case of Re2 Nd6 wins as Re8 does not work and if Ra2 Nb6 promotes the pawn.) 37. ♖c3 White retains his chances, but the game should probably end in a draw.]

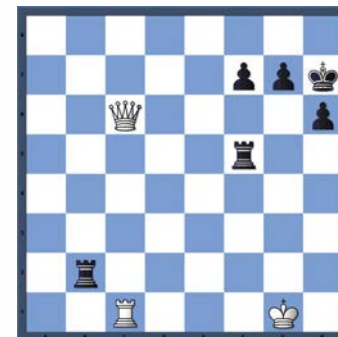
33... ♖bb2! Black had foreseen and correctly judged the arising position with a queen down...

34. gxf5 ♖xf2 35. c7 ♖g2+ 36. ♔f1 ♖gf2+ 37. ♔e1 White can avoid the perpetual, but he still cannot win the game...

37... ♖xh2! Creating the mate threat on h1 forces White to sacrifice his rook.

38. ♖h8+ ♔xh8 39. c8=♖+ ♔h7 40. ♖c6 ♖he2+ 41. ♔f1 [Of course not 41. ♔d1?? 41... ♖bd2#]

41... ♖f2+ 42. ♔g1 ♖xf5 Black holds fairly easily now. The white king is exposed, so Black is always threatening with perpetual checks. White has no time to activate his rook along the 7th or 8th rank, while trading a pair of rooks is an easy theoretical draw as we will see...



43. ♖e4 g6 44. ♖c8 ♖a5 [A draw was agreed in view of there not being any time to play Qd4 and after 44... ♖a5 45. ♖h8+ ♔xh8 46. ♖d4+ ♔h7 47. ♖xb2 The game is drawn since White cannot break through. It is interesting to mention that even if Black gives up his g- and h- pawns, Black still holds... 47... ♖a6 48. ♔g2 ♖e6 49. ♔g3 h5 50. ♔h3 h4 Of course there is no need for such measures, it is just a demonstration. 51. ♔xh4 g5+ 52. ♔xg5 ♔g8 and Black holds by only playing Rg6-e6 and Kg8-g7. White cannot make progress.] **1/2-1/2**

Clash of the Titans

(20) Alekhine, Alexander
- Tsvetkov, Alexandar K[B50]

Buenos Aires ol (Men) prel-B(1),
1939.08.24



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.c3 ♘f6 4.e5!? The combination of the c3 and e5 moves doesn't look promising for White. Usually White plays [4.h3 Black can't take the pawn because of Qa4+. 4...♘c6 5.d3 (5.d4? 5...cxd4 6.cxd4 ♘xe4 7.d5 ♔a5+)]

4...dxe5 5.♘xe5



5...♘c6 An original idea. Black is not afraid of getting doubled pawns because of his good development and the potential weakness on d3. [5...e6 was more solid and Black should have no problems at all here.]

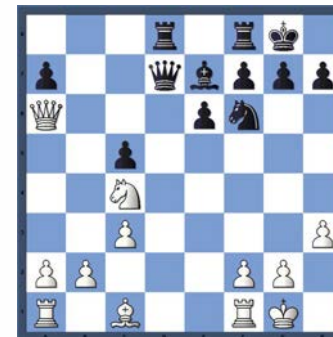
6.♘xc6 bxc6 7.♘c4 ♘f5 8.d3 e6 9.♔f3 Attacking c6 and preparing Nd2.

9...♔d7 10.h3 Alekhine probably wanted to keep the queen on f3, which is why he wanted to avoid Bg4 followed by Bd6.

10...♘e7 [10...♘d5 The idea of this move is to exchange the bishop on c4. 11.O-O ♘b6 12.♘a6!? The bishop is not active here but after 12...♘e7 13.♘d2 O-O 14.♘e4 White is still slightly better.]

11.♘d2 ♔d8 12.O-O ♘xd3 13.♘xd3 ♔xd3 14.♔xc6+ ♔d7 15.♔a6 The structure has changed but Black still has some weaknesses on the queenside.

15...O-O 16.♘c4



16...♔c7 Alekhine is going to exchange queens because then it will be easier for him to create some pressure against the c5 and a7 pawns.

17.♔a5 [17.♘g5!?]

17...♔xa5 [17...♔b7!? 18.♘e3 ♘d5! 19.♘xc5 ♘f4 f3 doesn't work because of Rd5. 20.♘e3 ♘xc5 21.♔xc5 ♔xb2=+ 22.♔xa7 ♔a8! and Black takes the initiative.]

18.♘xa5 ♔d6 19.♘e3 ♔a6 20.♘b3 [20.♘c4 20...♔a4 with the idea to provoke b3 to create a weakness on c3 and Black will have counterplay after Nd5-Bf6.]

20...♔c8?! is not the most accurate move. Black should have played [20...c4! and now Black will get the good d5 square for

the knight and counterplay against the b2 pawn.]



21.c4! += A very strong move. Alekhine limited the black pieces and the weakness on c5 is also fixed.

21...♖f8 22.♜fd1 ♜d6 I'm not sure this exchange is good for Black. Usually the weaker side should keep both rooks to have more counterplay possibilities.

23.♜xd6 ♜xd6 24.♜d1 ♖e7



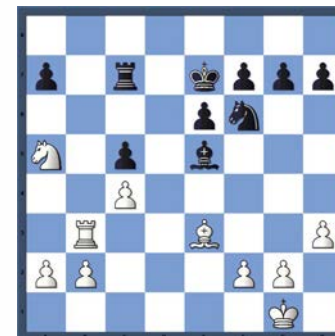
25.♞a5 White is activating his pieces. [25.♜d3!? 25...♜b8 26.♜xc5 ♜xc5 27.♞xc5 ♜xb2 28.♜a3 ♖d6 29.♞b3 ♞e4 with the hope to defend actively, but of course White is better.]

25...♜e5! A logical move. Black activates the bishop and provokes the b3 move, which will stop White from transferring the rook over the 3rd rank.

26.♜d3! Alekhine improves his position with each move.

26...♜c7 [26...♜xb2 27.♜b3 ♜d4 (27...♜e5 28.♜b7+ ♜c7? 29.♞c6+--) 28.♜b7+ ♖e8 29.♜xa7 and with his rook on the 7th rank, White keeps some pressure.]

27.♜b3



27...♞d7 [27...♜d4!? 28.♜xd4 cxd4 29.♜d3 e5 30.f4! is the only move to destroy Black's pawn structure but Black has some hope to save the game thanks to his active king. 30...♖e6↖]

28.f4! Alekhine put his pieces on the optimal squares, so now is the time to improve the king!

28...♜d6 [28...♜d4 29.♜xd4 cxd4 30.♜d3+--]

29.♖f2 ♞b6 30.♖f3 ♖d7 31.♜d3 ♖e7 32.g4 White slowly takes space.

32...f6 33.h4 ♞a4 34.♜b3 ♞b6 35.♜b5 ♖d7 36.h5 ♖e7 37.a3 It looks like Alekhine could win the pawn after [37.b4 37...♞d7 38.♞b3 but maybe he was waiting for a better moment.]

37...♖d7 38.♖e4 ♖e7 39.♖d3 ♖d7 40.♞b3 ♞a4 41.♞d2 ♖c6 42.b3 ♞b6 43.♞e4 ♞d7 44.♜a5 ♜e7 45.♞c3 White is waiting for the right moment to finally push b4.

45...♖b7 46.♘b5 ♔b6



47.b4! a6 48.♘c3 ♔c7 [48...♖c7 49.♘a4+ ♔b7 50.♘xc5+ ♘xc5+ 51.♙xc5 ♙xc5 52.bxc5 and White will easily improve his position after Ke4 -f5 or Ke4-g5-h6, with the idea to activate the king.]

49.♖xa6 cxb4 50.♘b5+ ♔d8 51.axb4 ♙xb4 52.♖xe6+— ♙c5 53.♙d2 ♘f8 54.♖c6 ♘d7 This is the last nice moment in the game. White is pawn up but Black controls the c5 square and still defends the position, but thanks to a nice maneuver Alekhine finishes the game very quick!



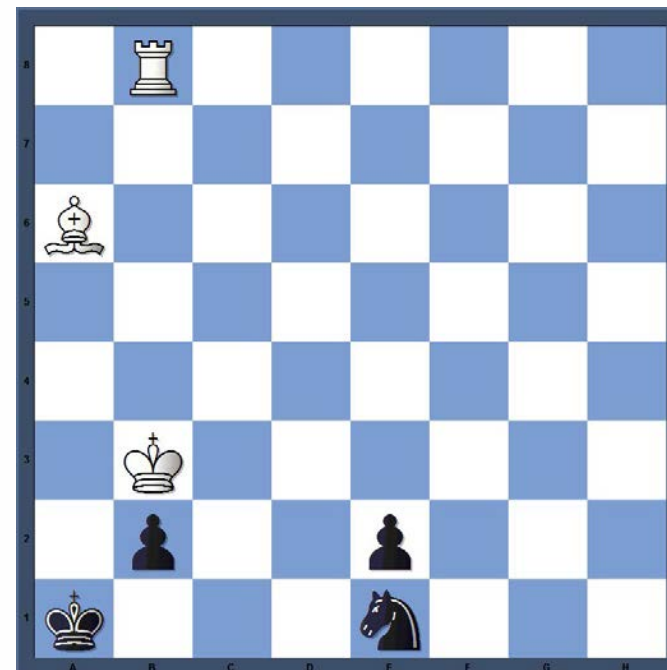
55.♔e4! ♔e7 56.♔d5 I remember when I was a junior player we called this kind of idea "the king in the attack is worth 10 points! ".

56...♙g1 57.♙b4+ ♔d8 58.♔e6 1-0

Surprise section / study

(21) Platov

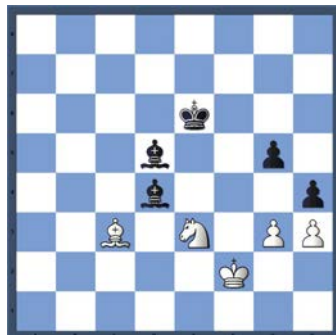
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Solutions

(22) Khartikeyan, M(2497)-Eljanov, P(2719)

Qatar Masters, 2014.11.26



52...♙xe3+! [52...♙xc3? 53.♘xd5 ♔xd5 54.gxh4 gxh4 55.♙g2=; 52...hxg3+? 53.♙xg3 ♙xe3 54.h4=]

53.♙xe3 g4! 54.gxh4 [54.hxg4 54...h3--; 54.♙f2 54...gxh3 55.♙g1 hxg3--+] **54...gxh3** 0-1

(23) Debashis, D(2485)-Moiseenko, A(2701)

Qatar Masters, 2014.11.26



35...♖xh2+!! 36.♙xh2 ♖xf3 0-1 [36...♖xf3 37.exd4 (37.♖d2 37...♙xe3 38.♖xd3 ♙g1+ 39.♙xg1 ♖xd3--+) 37...♖e2+ 38.♙h3 d2--]

(24) Sundararajan, K(2415)-Ivanisevic, I(2643)

Qatar Masters, 2014.11.26

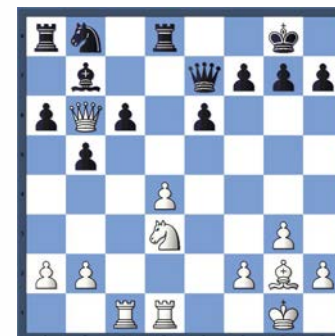


13...e4! 14.♙xg7 [14.♘xe4 14...♙xb2--+]

14...exf3 15.♙xf3 ♙xg7--+

(25) Kryvoruchko, Y(2706)-Hovhanessyan, R(2591)

Qatar Masters, 2014.11.27



21.d5!! cxd5 [21...exd5 22.♖e1 ♖d7 23.♘c5+--]

22.♖c7 ♖d7 23.♖xd7 ♖xd7 24.♘c5 ♖c8 25.♖xb7--+

(26) Sandipan, C(2603)-Eljanov, P(2719)

Qatar Masters, 2014.11.28



36...♖xb6! 37.♖xb6 ♘e2+ 38.♔g2 ♘xc1—+

(27) Gabuzyan, H(2565)-Edouard, R(2659)

Qatar Masters, 2014.11.28



17...♙xc2! 18.♖xc2 ♘f5! —+ 19.♙xf6 exf6 20.f4 ♘e3—+

(28) Fedorchuk, S(2664)-Krush, I(2453)

Qatar Masters, 2014.11.28



45...♖h2+! 0-1 [45...♖h2+ 46.♔xh2 ♘f3+—+; 45...♘f3? 46.♖xf7+! ♔xf7 47.♖f4+ ♔e8 48.♖xf3 ♖b3 49.♖f6]

(29) Seyb, A(2412)-Safarli, E(2628)

Qatar Masters, 2014.11.28



28...♖xf5! 29.gxf5 ♘a3+! 0-1 [29...♘a3+ 30.bxa3 (30.♔a1 30...♖xc2—+) 30...♖c3—+]

(30) Christiansen, J(2310)-L'Ami, E(2618)

Qatar Masters, 2014.11.29



26...♘e3!! [26...fxe6? 27.♘xe6]

27.♙d5 [27.♖a1 27...fxe6 28.fxe3 ♖d2—+; 27.♖xd8 27...♖xd8 28.♖xe5 (28.fxe3 28...fxe6—+) 28...♖d1+ 29.♙f1 ♖xf1#]

27...fxe6 28.♙xe6+ ♔g7—+

(31) Mista, A(2619)-Aravindh, C(2485)

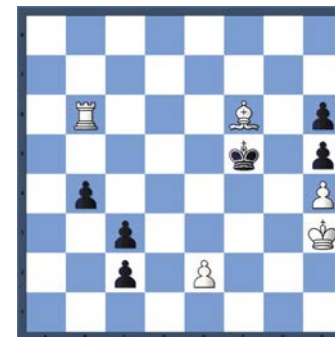
Qatar Masters, 2014.11.30



26...♖d1+! 27.♔f2 [27.♖xd1 27...♙xc7—+]

27...♙xc7 28.♖xc7 ♖xb1—+

(32) Prokes



1.e4+! ♔xe4 2.♖xb4+ ♔f5 3.♖f4+! ♔xf4 4.♙xc3! c1=♙
5.♙d2+! ♙xd2=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

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Editorial Preface

The 2 main events of the week came to an end: The U-16 Olympiad in Gyor and the European Championship in Rapid and Blitz in Wroclaw.

Let's first come to the event in Poland:

In the blitz section nothing and nobody could stop Navara who crushed the field with a result of 19/22 and got the clear first place. The young Polish talent Duda came second with 17/22 and Salgado was 3rd, also with 17/22.

In the rapid section we saw a huge fight for the 1st place, which was finally shared between Duda, Volokitin, Gajewski and Kovalev, all with 9.5/11.

It was a bit of a pity that not many top Grandmasters took part in the event. This might have been because of the prices or maybe because of the World Mind Games, but anyhow this year's event was clearly much weaker than the previous European Rapid and Blitz championships.

Now let's come to the Olympiad-U16:

They started as favourites and won the event, and that is the team from India! In the last few years the Indian talents have been dominating the youth events and it was no different this time. With 18/20 possible points India took another gold medal. The strong team from Russia came second with 17/20 points and the big surprise of the event was the team of Iran, who came third with 16/20. Those standings seem to be quite clear, but if we look at the details, the event was far more exciting and close than it seems:

Russia started with 12/12 and a very important win over India, but surprisingly they lost to Iran, who went on to keep the shared lead with India until the very last round, when they lost to Hungary 1. Meanwhile Russia could not recover and made

another draw, so the 1st place was practically out of reach for them.

After a great start, Hungary 1 got a bit unlucky in a few matches and finally took the 4th place with 14/20, which is still a very good result for the team.

If we take a look at the individual results, it is not a surprise to see that the best result of 8.5/10 goes to Tabatabaei from Iran (with a rating performance of 2685), the 2nd to Aravindh from India with 8/9 (with a performance of 2683) and 3rd to Vavulin from Russia, also with 8/9 and a performance of 2663.

The feedback from the event has been great and it seems to have been a big success, with a professional organisation, good playing conditions and nice side events. Especially the daily best game prize and the birthday cakes that were given to the participants brought a big smile to many of the young faces.

Just like last week, we are commenting the best games from this great youth event. Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

5 best games of the past week

**(1) Moller, Sophus M(2133)
- Cao, Jason(2309) [B94]**

World Youth U16 Olympiad(5.2),
2014.12.16



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are going to see a nice fighting game in the Sicilian, where White is acting a bit too slowly and then getting greedy to win the black queen, which will get him into big trouble. Cao is finishing the game by taking almost all the white pieces. A nice game to watch!

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 As we can see once again, the Najdorf is the dominating opening of the youth championships.

6.♙g5 This one of the most sharp lines, with very long lines. As Black I would advise you to watch the games of Wojtaszek or Vachier-Lagrave, who both play the Najdorf greatly!

6...♘bd7 [6...e6 is of course the main move here. 7.f4 ♖b6 leads to the most critical lines.]

7.f4 ♖c7 [Another interesting option for Black is to play 7...g6]



8.♔e2 There are two different ways of developing the queen, to f3 or to e2. The usual way is 8.Qf3 but 8.Qe2 is more and more coming into fashion. White's idea is to quickly play g4 and Bg2.

8...e6 9.O-O-O b5 This is still a theoretical position.

10.a3 stopping b4.

10...♘b7 11.g4 ♘e7 12.♘g2 Now is the moment for Black to have a thought about what to do next.

12...♖c8!? A good move. To castle kingside is very risky and a move like 12...h6 doesn't make much sense because White often wants to play Bxf6 anyway, so Black uses the moment to improve the position of the rook.



13.♘xf6?! I think White should not give up the bishop without the h6 move being played first. [One idea for White could be

to play 13.f5 provoking Black to play e5 and winning control over the d5 square. 13...e5 14.♘xf6 ♘xf6 15.♘b3 with a very complicated play.; A move like 13.♖he1 looks very normal, to have moves like e5 or even maybe at some good moment Nd5 or Nf5 sacrifices in mind.]

13...♘xf6 14.g5 This was White's idea, but as in all the Sicilians, the black bishop is a very important piece and should not be given away for no reason.

14...♘d7 15.h4 Whites idea is simple, to play h5 and g6 next.

15...♔c4! 16.♔e1 What else to do?! To enter the endgame means to be at most equal and probably worse in the long term, so White decides to try his luck with the queens on the board.



16...b4! Black is playing a perfect game. The very typical and strong b4 move already gets White into quite some trouble. Black is starting the action first!

17.♘f1 It is not easy to give White good advice, but Bf1 looks strange. Why not try and get the bishop to d3?!

17...♔c5 18.♘b3 White uses the moment to put his knight to b3 and keep things together.

18...♔b6 19.axb4 White already doesn't have a choice and must take on b4.

19...♔xb4 Now Black has a lot of different attacking ideas and White actually doesn't have much, so White's position is very dangerous.

20.♔b1 Another inaccurate move by White. [The best move was probably 20.♖d4 20...♔b6 21.♔d2 with a worse, but fighting position.]



20...♘c5! Great play by Black again. Cao perfectly evaluates the queen sacrifice that will give him more than just a compensation.

21.♙b5+ White is going for it. [21.♘xc5 21...♖xc5 just leads to a worse position for White.]

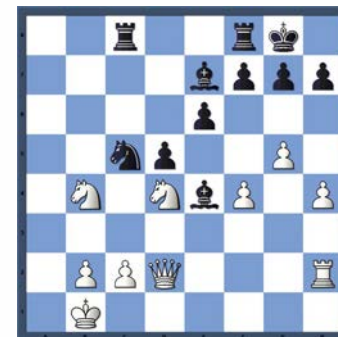
21...axb5 22.♖d4 The black queen is still caught.

22...♔xd4 23.♘xd4 b4 Black has a piece and a rook for the queen, but the e4 pawn is falling and soon White will find himself under huge attack.

24.♘a2 ♙xe4 25.♖h2 The rook on h2 will protect the c2 pawn in the future.

25...d5 26.♘xb4 O-O Black is bringing his last piece into the game. Already very soon we are going to see clear domination of the black pieces.

27.♔d2 [Maybe White's best chance was to play 27.h5 to at least have some threats in the future.]



27...♖a8 This is not the most precise move. [The simple 27...♖c7 with two ideas, to play Ra8-Ra7 or Rfc8, was probably better.]

28.♘d3? After this passive move all is lost for White. [The best way to fight was probably 28.♘bc6 28...♙d6 and 29.♖h3 bringing the rook into the game with the hope to exchange one pair of rooks to make Black's play a bit less effective.]

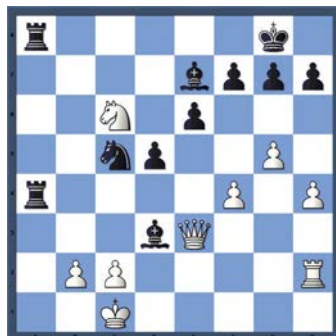
28...♖a4 Black doesn't miss the decisive move! White can't do anything against Rfa8.

29.♔e3 [29.♘c6 29...♖fa8 30.♘xe7+ ♔f8 with a mating attack.]

29...♖fa8 30.♔c1 There is no other way to escape from the mate on a1.

30...♙xd3 and Black starts to take all the pieces.

31.♘c6 [31.cxd3 was of course also losing. 31...♖xd4 32.♔xd4 ♘b3+ and the queen will be taken next.]



31...♙d6 The game is over.

32.cxd3 ♜xf4 All in all a great game by Black! We saw very dynamic play with a great queen sacrifice, which is important to remember for our own games. **0-1**

(2) Goryachkina, Aleksandra(2441) - Tabatabaei, M.amin(2363) [E15]

World Youth U16 Olympiad(7.2),
2014.12.18



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

The match between Russian and Iran was decisive for the final rankings. If the Russians won it, they would probably have been the champions. After the opening we quickly reach a very strange position where Tabatabaei clearly finds the better solutions and later on he feels perfectly comfortable in the tactical phase, which brings him a clean and important win over one of the strongest female players in the world.

1.d4 Finally a game on 1.d4... In youth events 1.e4 is much more played.

1...♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 is one of the most solid lines for Black.

4.g3 ♜a6 5.♚a4 Goryachkina is going for the currently very popular 5.Qa4.

5...♜b7 6.♜g2 c5 We are still in the main line of theory. Now we can see why Black played 4... Ba6, luring the white queen to a4, which would now be better placed on d1.

7.dxc5 Black wanted to play cxd4 next.

7...bxc5 8.O-O ♜e7 Black's idea is to be as solid as possible during the next moves and to try and develop his pieces because later on the great pawn structure would give Black at least an equal position, so White needs to play quickly and actively.

9. ♖c3

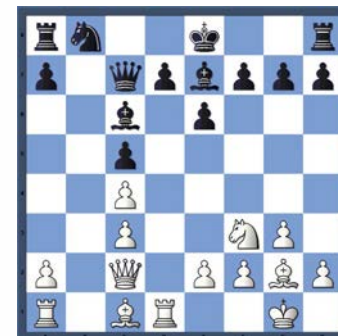


9... ♖e4 is an interesting move. Of course 9...0-0 is more usual. It is often good for Black to exchange the knights, but the question is whether Black has enough time to do it right now...

10. ♖d1 A very risky move! Now White gets a horrible pawn structure. [10. ♖xe4 doesn't lead anywhere. 10... ♖xe4 11. ♖d1 O-O with an equal position.; The best try might have been 10. ♖b3 10... ♖xc3 (10... ♖b6 11. ♖f4! and Black already needs to be quite careful because of the better white development.) 11. ♖xc3 (11. ♖xb7 is bad because after 11... ♖xe2+ 12. ♖h1 ♖c6 Black is going great.) 11...O-O 12. ♖d1 and White maybe keeps some hopes of being a bit better here.]

10... ♖xc3 11. bxc3 ♖c6 is the safest move for Black. White might have wanted to play Ne5 next.

12. ♖c2 ♖c7 The black queen is well placed here, but it gives White the chance for direct play... [12...O-O looks more solid to me.]



13. ♖g5! A very strong move! Now Black needs to take a difficult decision.

13... f6 Black decides to give up his good pawn structure. [Maybe Black could have gone for the very risky looking 13... ♖xg5 14. ♖xg5 ♖xg2 15. ♖xg2 White wants to play Ne4 next. 15...f5 followed by 0-0 and Nc6. Of course Black's position looks a bit dangerous, but maybe White doesn't have anything more than just equality.]

14. ♖f4 Of course now White also provokes Black into playing d6.

14... d6 We are at one of the key moments of the game! If Black managed to play Nd7 and maybe Ne5, his position would be clearly better, so White needs to act quickly!

15. e4?! This is a bad decision, since the e4 move doesn't help White to open the position and it gives Black enough time for development. [15. ♖d2 provoking Black into playing e5 because of the attack on d6. 15...e5 16. ♖e3 The d5 square is weak now, but Black's pawn structure is still very solid. Black's position is probably at least equal here.; The right move seems to be 15. ♖h3! and it is not that simple for Black to defend the e6 pawn in a good way. 15... ♖f7 (15...e5 16. ♖c1

leads to a very unclear position. White will clearly have some play on the white squares.) 16. ♖d2 e5 17. ♘e3 with a great pawn structure but a slightly bad position of the king on f7 for Black. He is probably still doing ok and might even be better.]



15...g5 Of course 15...Nd7 was possible too.

16. ♘e3 ♘d7 17. ♖e2 h5 Black continues winning space and it is very hard to say what to do next for White! In the perfect case Black wants to play maybe Kf7, then exchange some pieces on the b-file and just be much better in the endgame.

18.h4 Looking for play on the kingside is the right plan.

18...g4 Black of course keeps the position closed.

19. ♘e1 ♘e5 What to do next as White?! This is a very difficult question.

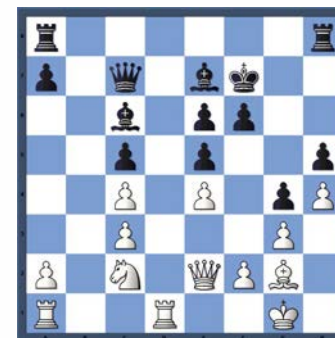
20. ♘f4 I don't thinking giving up the bishop for the knight on e5 is a great decision. [20.f4 doesn't work because after 20...gxf3 21. ♘xf3 ♘g4 it is Black who is going to attack White and not the other way around.; But maybe White should have tried 20. ♘d3!? and now Black would need to find the difficult but very strong 20...♘f3+! (20...♘xc4 would lead to a good position for White: 21. ♘f4 ♘xe3 22. ♖xe3 ♖d7 23. ♘f1! bringing the bishop into the attack via c4.) 21. ♘xf3 gxf3

22. ♖xf3 and the key move is 22...♖b7! with a better position for Black because White doesn't have a defense against Bxe4 next.]

20...♖f7 Simple and good, connecting the rooks.

21. ♘xe5 dxe5 Black's position is clearly better. [I think a better move is 21...fxe5 and Black should not be afraid of 22.f3?! gxf3 23. ♘xf3 ♖ag8 24. ♖f1 ♖e8 with big pressure against the g3 pawn.]

22. ♘c2 White's idea is to bring the knight to e3 and to play f3- a very risky plan! But on the other hand to defend passively is also a very unpleasant decision to make.



22...♖a5! A very nice move! Black starts attacking the white pawns.

23. ♘e3 White is following the plan she started.

23...♖xc3 24. ♖ac1 ♖a3 Now Black just wants to play Rad8 so it forces White to play f3.

25.f3 ♖ab8! Another great move by Black. The threat of playing Rb2 next is very strong.

26. ♖b1 This is clearly the beginning of the end... [26.fxg4 is not any better since after 26...♖b2 27. ♖d2 ♖xd2 28. ♖xd2 the second black rook is getting into the game. 28...♖d8!

followed by Rd3 next, with an almost winning position for Black.; Maybe the best was to play 26.♖c2]

26...♖xb1 27.♖xb1 Black is a pawn up, but the position is still closed and White has some threats on the kingside.

27...♖d8! A very good decision! Black doesn't care about the g4 pawn and brings his rook into the game.

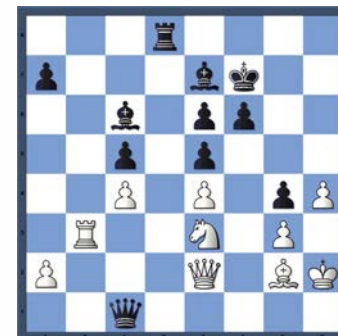
28.fxg4 White needs to take.



28...hxg4 Another solid move by Black. [Much worse is 28...♖d3?! 29.♗f1 and White is fighting!]

29.♖b3 What else to do?! Black has a lot of ideas how to improve the position, for example playing Bf8-Bh6 or trying to reach an endgame. [29.♗f1 wouldn't help since after 29...♖d3! White can't take the g4 pawn: 30.♖xg4 ♖xb1 and of course there is no perpetual check... 31.♖h5+ ♔g7 32.♖g4+ ♔f8 Black is a rook up and easily winning.]

29...♖c1+ 30.♔h2 [Maybe White could have fought a bit harder after 30.♖f1 30...♖xf1+ 31.♔xf1 but of course the position after 31...♖d4 just looks lost.]



30...♗xe4! A small and winning tactic...

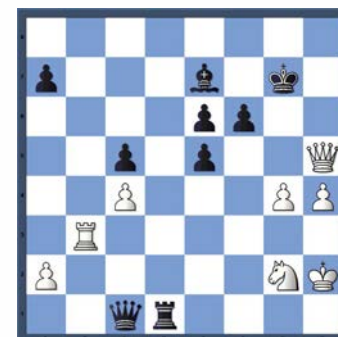
31.♖xg4 White didn't have a choice.

31...♗xg2 Once again there is no perpetual check for White.

32.♖h5+ ♔g7 33.♗xg2 [33.♖g4+ 33...♔h6 and White is running out of checks.]

33...♖d1 The threat is Rh1 mate and there is no defense against it. ..

34.g4



34...e4! Great play until the end. Bd6 will come into the game with a deadly effect. The white queen is trapped on h5, so the game is over. Really fantastic play by Tabatabaei who showed great positional understanding and later on felt very comfortable in the tactical phase! **0-1**

(3) Ghosh, Diptayan(2516)
- Vetoshko, Volodymyr(2424) [E10]

World Youth U16 Olympiad(8.1),
 2014.12.19



GM Csaba Balogh
 Best rating: 2672

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♞f3 c5 4.d5 b5 The Blumenfeld Gambit. A dangerous surprise weapon. It is very rarely seen in tournament practice nowadays, but White must be well prepared to fight for an opening advantage.

5.♙g5 The main reaction. As we will see in the other commented game by me, 5.e4 looks like an extremely dangerous way of handling the opening with White. [5.dxe6 5...fxe6 6.cxb5 d5 is the point of the gambit and Black has built up a very strong center with which he is going to compensate in long term.]

5...b4 There were some recent games for this move, but I believe it is slightly dubious. Black would like to take ground on the queenside and prevents the knight's development to c3, but it takes away the pressure from the central pawns and White is able to further strengthen it. [5...Qa5 was the old main line, but it is more interesting to play 5...exd5 6.cxd5 d6 7.e4 a6 8.a4



It looks very suspicious for Black as he cannot keep his queenside pawn structure. Pushing b4 yields a beautiful place for the knight on c4. However, there is a tactical solution with which Black is able to create counterplay. 8...♙e7! By unpinning the knight, Black attacks the e4 pawn. 9.♙xf6 (9.axb5 9...♞xe4; 9.♞c3 is met by 9...b4 and the e4 is hanging.; 9.♞bd2 9...♞xd5! is very strong as the queen cannot take back anymore on d5.) 9...♙xf6 10.axb5 ♙xb2 restoring the material balance.]

6.e4 d6 7.♙d3 White has a very strong center and he is going to undermine the b4 pawn with a3.

7...♙e7 8.O-O e5 [I think that it is better to keep the tension with 8...O-O



White has a very spectacular tactical blow though: 9.e5!? Black was probably afraid of this and it is the reason for locking the center with 8...e5. 9...♞xd5! The only move! A common motif with the bishops on g5 and e7, we have seen it also in the 5...exd5 line. (The point is after 9...dxe5? 10.d6! ♙xd6 (10...♙xd6 11.♙xf6! gxf6 (11...♙xf6 12.♙xh7+! ♙xh7 13.♙xd6+-) 12.♙e4+-) 11.♙e4 traps the rook!) 10.♙xe7 ♞xe7 11.exd6 ♞ec6 A very interesting position. The question is whether the d6 pawn is weak or strong. After all, I believe that White has the initiative (11...♙xd6? never works. 12.♙xh7+ ♙xh7 13.♙xd6+-) 12.a3! ♙b7 13.axb4 ♞xb4 Otherwise White

protects the passed pawn with c5. 14. ♖c3 The d6 pawn looks rather strong. Black is not in time to capture it. Be4 or Ne4 could be a follow-up with Qd2, Rfd1 ideas.]



9.a3! An important positional move! White must undermine the b4 pawn in order to open the queenside. White has more space thanks to the d5 pawn, but that in itself is not enough; he must open new areas, where he could make use of it.

9...bxa3 [9... ♖a6 looks more natural to me. 10.axb4 ♖xb4 11. ♖c3+= White should be better anyway, but at least Black has a triumph on b4!]

10. ♖xa3 ♖xd5!? The known motif comes back again. It indeed wins a pawn, but the positional disadvantages of this tactical shot are much bigger than the value of the extra pawn. White had foreseen the move, but he was rightly not afraid of it! [10...O-O 11. ♕d2! I like the idea to explode the central pawn structure with b4 a lot, which would be a huge positional achievement for White. Black cannot avoid it by playing a5, because it makes the pawn very weak and White could quickly concentrate some of his pieces on it with Nb5 and Qe1.]

11.cxd5 ♕xg5 12. ♖xg5 ♖xg5 13. ♖c4! Getting the knight to c4 is a huge success for White, but it is more important to take a look at the undeveloped black pieces, which allows White to explode the center. 13... Bh3 can easily be parried by 14.Qh3.

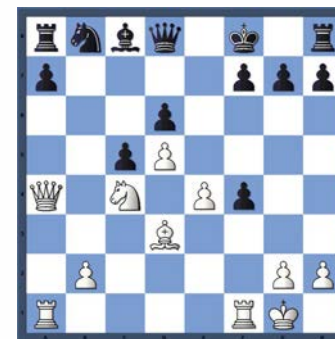
13... ♖d8 The only move! [13... ♖e7 loses to 14. ♖b6!]

14. ♖a4+! Avoiding castling by forcing the black king to move is another achievement for White!

14... ♖f8 [14... ♕d7 can be met by 15. ♖xd6+ ♖e7 16. ♖b3! ♖xd6 17. ♖b7+- wins back the material, Black's structure collapsed and of course his king is also shaky.]

15.f4!? White decides to attack the king! Actually, only this move was the novelty of the game! White did not need any preparation for this, his position looks so nice that he could get it by playing according to his feelings. It is rather strange that the black player has gone for this position, which was already reached once and Black was in serious trouble in a few moves. Perhaps they were not familiar with this game, who knows... [The alternative was 15.b4!? as playing on the queenside was also promising. 15...cxb4 16. ♖fc1 This is probably more precise than the direct recapture. (16. ♖xb4 16... ♖a6 17. ♖xd6+ ♖xd6 18. ♖xd6 ♖c5 Black gets some counterplay.) 16...a5 17. ♖xa5 g6 18. ♖xb4± happened in the game Laznicka-Filippov, Istanbul 2012. White had a big advantage because of the more active pieces, the space advantage and the very weak d6 pawn.]

15...exf4



16.e5!? Very spectacular and human play. White opens all the central lines in order to exert most pressure on the vulnerable

king on f8. [Actually there was nothing wrong with 16.♖xf4 16...♗a6 The ideal defense for Black is to take on c4 followed by installing the knight to Nd7-e5! But of course, there is no time for it. The punishment comes quickly: (Black cannot lock the position with 16...f6 as White plays anyway 17.e5! dxe5 18.♗xe5 with a very strong attack.) 17.e5! ♗xc4



18.e6!! A very effective attack against which Black has no adequate defense. 18...♗xd3 19.♖xf7+ ♔g8 20.♗g4! ♗g6 (20...g6 is refuted by 21.e7 ♗e8 22.♗e6!+-) 21.e7 ♗e8 22.♖f8+ ♗xf8 23.♗e6+ ♗f7 24.exf8=♗+ ♔xf8 25.♖f1+-]

16...♗a6? The final mistake, but the position was very unpleasant anyway. [The only and critical continuation was 16...dxe5 17.♗xe5 g5! Trying to keep the f-file closed. White has many promising resources here again, one of them is 18.♗e4 centralizing the queen and creating the threat of d6! 18...♗b7 19.♗f5! ♗xd5 (19...♗xd5 loses to 20.♗e4!+- deflecting the queen from the f7 square.) 20.♗xf7! ♗xf7 21.♗e4 traps the rook and Black still remains with his very weak king on f8.]



17.♗xd6! The sacrifice calls for itself! All white pieces are going to attack the f7 pawn, while the black ones are still undeveloped...

17...♗xd3 18.♗xf4 f6 19.exf6 gxf6 [Black cannot keep the f-file closed with 19...g6 because of 20.♗h6+ ♔g8 21.f7#]

20.♗h6+ ♔e7 White has several winning moves and the Indian player finds one of them... [20...♔g8 does not change anything, the attack continues to roll: 21.♖xf6 ♗d7 22.♗g5+ ♗g6 23.♖xg6+! hxg6 24.♗xg6+ ♔f8 25.♗f7#]

21.♗b7 [21.♖xf6+- was also just over for Black.]

21...♗f8 22.♗e3+ ♔f7 23.♗xd3 White won back the material and Black immediately gave up this hopeless battle with such a weak king. [23.♗xd3 23...♗d7 24.♗f5+-] **1-0**

**(4) Tabatabaei, M.amin(2363)
- Radovic, Janko(2272) [A16]**World Youth U16 Olympiad(8.2),
2014.12.19GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

I decided to comment this game because I really liked one of the moves in the middlegame...

1.c4 ♘f6 **2.♘c3** d5 **3.cxd5** ♘xd5 **4.g3** A kind of Anti-Gruenfeld setup.

4...g6 **5.♗g2** ♘xc3 **6.bxc3** ♗g7



7.♖b1! This is the point of delaying the development of the g1 knight. White exerts pressure on the b7 pawn and deprives Black from his ideal arrangement of his pieces with c5 and Nc6.

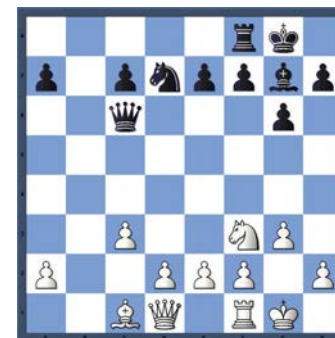
7...0-0 In the spirit of the Gruenfeld! Black sacrifices a pawn for quick development and positional compensation. The expert of this line with Black is GM Li Chao from China, he played some games for this move. [7...c6 and; 7...♘c6 are the other theoretical continuations.]

8.♖xb7! White accepts the challenge and grabs the pawn.

[But not with 8.♗xb7? because of 8...♗xb7 9.♖xb7 ♖d5! with a double attack.]

8...♗xb7 **9.♗xb7** ♘d7 **10.♗xa8** ♖xa8 This is the point! Black pins his hopes to the lack of the light squared bishop. In some opening variations he sometimes even sacrifices an exchange for achieving this and now it only costs a pawn. He has already completed the development, while the white pieces are still in their initial position. He believes it is worth a pawn, but on the other hand White has no weaknesses and if he manages to consolidate in a few moves, Black ends up without compensation. Therefore the next couple of moves are significant.

11.f3 [The alternative is 11.♘f3 when Li Chao plays 11...♖c6! (11...♘e5 is the other option, but Black does not have enough compensation after 12.0-0 ♘xf3+ 13.exf3+=) 12.0-0



12...♖c4! An unpleasant move to deal with! Black attacks the a2 pawn and it is not easy to protect it as the two most natural reactions, 13.Qc2 and 13.Qb3 are both leaving the e2 pawn. 13.♗a3 (13.a3 is met by 13...♘c5 and Rb8 next. White has serious difficulties with finishing the development. The queen must protect the e2 pawn and the movement of the d2 pawn drops the one on c3...) 13...♗f6 and Black wins back the sacrificed pawn on a2 and solves the opening problems.]

11...♖d8 Black creates an x-ray on the d-file. He wants to take on c3 sometimes. [Li Chao had a game with 11...♙d5 12.♙c2 (12.♙b3 is strongly met by 12...♙xb3 13.axb3 a5! followed by Rb8 and Nc5, Black wins back the pawn.) 12...♘e5 13.♘h3 was logical, but it missed a tactical blow: (13.♙f2! must be the critical move and perhaps the prepared improvement of the white player. White plays Nh3 and Kg2 next.) 13...♘xf3+! 14.exf3 ♙e6+ 15.♙f2 ♙xh3 and Black was fine in Tao-Li Chao, Queenstown 2012]

12.♘h3 ♙c8 Black again tries to operate with the x-ray. He wants to play Nb6 next, with a discovery attack on h3 and at the same time attacking the c3 pawn. He also thinks about playing Qa6 at some point, attacking the a2 and e2 pawns. [On 12...♘c5 White has time to consolidate with 13.♘f2 because the threat of 13...♙xc3 is not really a threat, as White could answer with 14.♙c2! ♙d4 15.e3! winning a piece.; After 12...♘b6 White already parries the Bxc3 threat with 13.♙c2]

13.♘f4 [I thought that 13.♘f2 is a safer place for the knight, but the computer agrees with the young Iranian's move.]

13...♘c5 [Black should have reached the game's position by playing 13...♙a6 14.♙c2 ♘c5 depriving White from other possibilities.]

14.♙c2 [14.♙a3! looks very strong and it is not obvious where the knight is going to leave. 14...♙xc3 is not enough 15.♙xc5 ♙xd2+ 16.♙xd2 ♙xd2 17.♙xd2± White consolidates with Nd3 and the 3 pieces are going to dominate the queen.]

14...♙a6 15.d3 This looks a bit careless, because it weakens the c3 pawn.



The critical moment for Black. He has many options and it is quite difficult to make a preference at first sight... [15.O-O was wrong in view of 15...e5 and the e2 pawn falls.; But 15.♙f2!? should have been played and White slowly brings his h1 rook to the game. Black is still a pawn down and it is already unclear where his compensation is.]

15...♙b6 Black prevents O-O and Kf2 at the same time. It sets a tactical trap after 16. Be3, but he misses a hidden resource and he falls into his own trap... [15...♙a5 is met by 16.♙d2 ♙b8 17.O-O and White consolidates.; 15...♘a4 16.c4 also looks inadequate for Black.; 15...♙a4! seems to be the best, although it does not solve all the problems, but at least it wins back the pawn... 16.♙xa4 ♙xc3+ 17.♙d2 ♘xa4 18.♙xc3 ♘xc3 19.♙d2 ♘xa2 20.♙a1 ♘b4 21.♙xa7 White has a small, but undisputable advantage because of his better pawn structure and more active rook, but the win is far away. 21...♙d7]

16.♙e3! White calculates a move further!

16...♘xd3+ Well, it does not work, but otherwise White plays Kf2 and he is simply a pawn up for nothing.

17.♙xd3! Obviously this is not the move Black has missed...

17...♖xd3 18.♗xb6 ♖xc3 Here we are! The bishop is hanging and Black is threatening with Rc1, winning the rook. Kd2 does not work because the c3 is protected, so Black was probably happy at this point, but the next move clears the smile away from his face.



19.♗g1!! It is possible to blunder such an ugly move! White preserves his extra piece!

19...♖c2 [19...♖c1+ 20.♔f2 The king goes to g2 and frees the kingside pieces. Black cannot create any counterplay within two moves... 20...♖a1 21.♔g2 ♖xa2 22.♗f2 e5 23.♗d5 ♖xe2 24.♖c1+- winning the c7 pawn with a technical win.]

20.♗e3! White frees the h1 rook and the extra knight decides the game.

20...♖xa2 21.♔f2 a5 22.♖c1 ♗e5 23.♗d5 a4 24.♗xe7+ ♔g7 25.♗c6 ♗f6 26.♗b4 ♖b2 27.♗d5 1-0

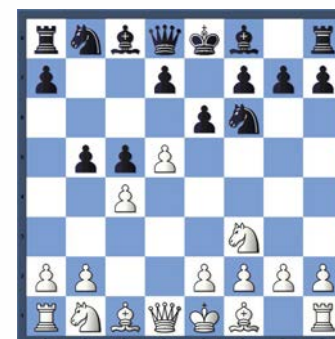
**(5) Jarmula, Lukasz(2307)
- Sibashvili, Giorgi(2387) [E10]**

World Youth U16 Olympiad(8.1),
2014.12.19



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗f3 c5 4.d5 b5 Once again the Blumenfeld Gambit! It looks like it is a very popular weapon in youth tournaments. I must admit that I also employed this variation when I was younger.



5.e4!? A shocking move, but it looks extremely strong! Black wants to sacrifice a pawn to get a very strong center and White replies with a counter sacrifice for quick development!

5...♗xe4 This must be the critical move. [5...bxc4 is simply met by 6.♗c3 followed by taking back on c4.]

6.♗d3 ♗f6 7.O-O! As simple as that! White has sacrificed a pawn and at first sight the compensation is not obvious, but the machine already gives him a significant advantage. There are no direct threats at the moment, but still Black is unable to solve the problems.

7...♗e7 The most logical follow-up. Black should aim at quickly finishing the development.

8. ♖c3! It seems like White is not in a hurry at all, he calmly develops his pieces, ignoring the fact that he is a pawn down.

8...b4 [The drawback of 8...bxc4 9. ♗xc4 is that White is threatening with d6, trapping the bishop and it is not easy at all to parry this threat. 9...exd5 weakens the light squares too much, 10.Nxd5 gives more than enough compensation. 9...d6 is met by 10. ♗b5+ Kf8 would already confirm that something went wrong for Black, but other moves are not better either. 10...♗d7 11.dxe6 fxe6 12. ♖g5! Quickly putting pressure on the e6 weakness. 12...O-O 13. ♖e1 e5 14. ♗c4+]

9. ♖e4 White creates the threat of d6!

9...exd5 Not an easy decision as it deprives Black from castling, but other moves were not better either. [9...♖xe4 10. ♗xe4 f5



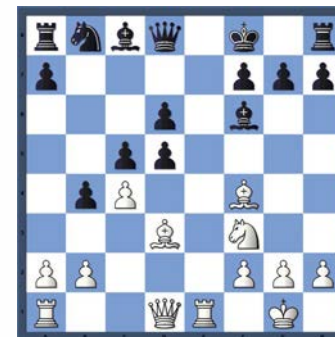
looks decent, but White has the important reply 11. ♖e5! O-O (11...fxe4 12. ♖h5+ g6 13. ♖xg6 hxg6 14. ♖xh8+ ♖f7 15. ♖h7+- wins.) 12. ♗f3 Black cannot hold the h1-a8 diagonal. 12...d6 13.dxe6 dxe5 14. ♗xa8±; Even after 9...d6 the problems are coming along the long diagonal: 10.dxe6! ♗xe6 11. ♖xf6+ ♗xf6 12. ♗e4 wins material.]

10. ♖xf6+ ♗xf6 11. ♖e1+ ♖f8 [11...♗e7 is met by 12. ♗g5! provoking a huge weakening! 12...f6 13. ♗f4 threatening Bd6! 13...O-O 14. ♖h4!+- This is the point of provoking f6. Now

Qh5 and Nf5 are decisive threats against which Black has no adequate defense.]

12. ♗f4! Developing with tempo. The bishop cannot be allowed to occupy the d6 square as that would paralyze the black pieces.

12...d6



13. ♗c2! A very deep and powerful move! The rook on a8 seems to be a permanent problem for Black in this entire game. White is threatening to play Qd5, trapping the rook and 13...d4 is met by 14.Be4!

13...♗b7 The only move. Black must try to cover the long diagonal, but suddenly the problems are coming from another direction. [13...d4 14. ♗e4+-]

14. ♗a4! The other point of 13.Bc2! Suddenly Black's back rank becomes a real target and he has no good way to parry the threats because of the d6 weakness.

14...♗e7 [14...♖d7 15. ♗xd6+ is also bad.]

15. ♖d2!? White makes a useful developing move, connects his rooks and at the same time he prepares the exchange sacrifice on e7, followed by bringing the other rook to e1 and penetrating on e8.

[However it was even stronger to play



15. ♖h4!! Of course it is easy to miss this move, but once the knight occupies the f5 square the game is over. 15... ♗xh4 (15...g6 does not prevent the threat, White still plays 16. ♖f5! gxf5 17. ♗h6+ ♔g8 18. ♗f3!+- and Qg3 wins next.) 16. ♗xd6+! ♔g8 (16... ♗xd6 17. ♗e8#) 17. ♗e8+ ♗xe8 18. ♗xe8+- with decisive material advantage and White keeps on attacking.]

15... ♖d7 [Unfortunately for Black, there is no time to push 15...d4 because of 16. ♗xe7! ♗xe7 17. ♗e1 ♗e4 White has different winning moves here, but the strongest is 18. ♖xd4! cxd4 19. ♗xd4+- and the threats of Rxe4 and Bxd6 are too much for Black.]



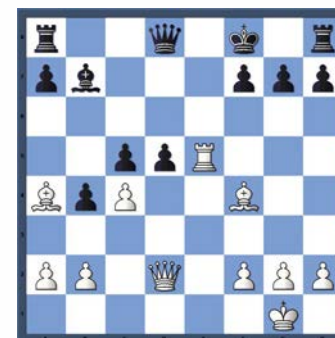
16. ♗xe7!! Excellent intuitions! The young Polish player feels that he should not let his opponent slip away. One cannot

calculate such sacrifices until the end, but must feel that all white pieces are already perfectly placed, while the black rooks are still disconnected and it takes a lot of time until he could get them into the game. There is a lot of tension in the center, but Black is ready to lock the center with d4. One can feel that this is the moment of seizing the initiative with some tactical blow.

16... ♗xe7 17. ♗e1 ♖e5 [17... ♗d8 is even worse and White wins after 18. ♗xd6+ ♔g8 19. ♗f3! ♖f6 20. ♗f4+- simply bringing all the pieces to the attack. Black has no move, the b7 bishop is hanging and Ng5 is coming. 20... ♗a6 21. ♗c6+-]

18. ♖xe5 dxe5 19. ♗xe5 ♗d8 Black tries to protect the back rank. [19... ♗f6 is strongly met by 20. ♗e3!+- and the threat of Re8 is decisive. 20...Bc6 does not work because of 21. Qxc5+, winning the bishop.]

20. cxd5 Not a bad move, but not the best either. [White could have played more directly and won more or less by force:



20. ♗e2! 20...f6 Black could take twice on e8, because after Bd6 he has Kf7. However White continues slowly with 21. ♗e6! threatening Bd6! 21... ♔f7 22. ♗d6!+- and Black cannot parry the Re7 threat! The game is over. This would have been a very nice finish.]

20...f6 Black tries to connect his rooks with Kf7.

21. ♖e8+ ♜xe8 22. ♘e8 ♖xe8 23. d6 In general, the two rooks are superior to the queen, but in this particular position, there are more relevant factors. Black still needs a few moves to activate both of his moves. Meanwhile, the pawn on d6 is very dangerous, threatening to promote with d7 and Bc7. The black pawns on the c5 and b4 are vulnerable. All these facts mean that only White can be better.



23... ♙f7 24.h4 White opens the back rank. [24.d7 right away was premature because of 24... ♖e4! and White cannot promote his pawn because of his weak back rank and Bc7 is met by Rd4!, winning the pawn.; 24.f3! was stronger to get control over the e4 square. Now it is much harder for Black to use his rooks.]

24... ♖e4 25. ♘g3 White frees his queen. Black already seems to consolidate, but the variations prove that he is still in trouble.

25... ♖he8 [25... ♖d4 is met by 26. ♜e2 ♖e8 27. ♜h5+! and the c5 pawn falls.; 25... ♖d8 26.f3 ♖d4 27. ♜e2 threatening on e7 and after 27... ♖e8 28. ♜b5! this time the way to h5 is closed, but the queen penetrates from another direction.]

26. ♙h2 Kind of prophylaxis, but a bit slow. [White could have attacked the weak pawns with 26. ♜c2! 26...c4 27.f3 (Or 27. ♜a4 is also strong.)]

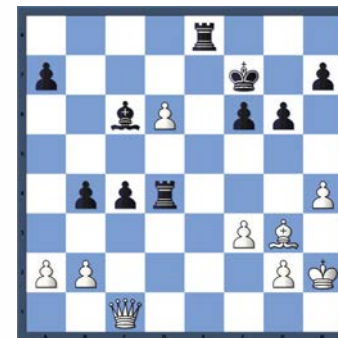
26... ♘c6 Black tries to parry the Qb5 and Qa4 ideas and also to block the d-pawn.

27. ♜d1! A very nice move and the point of the previous Kh2! White had this Qh5+ in mind and he wanted to execute it at any cost.

27...g6 [27...c4 28. ♜h5+ ♙g8 29. ♜c5 wins the b4 pawn.]

28. ♜c1! The profits of provoking g6. White now keeps an eye on the h6 square. The queen is extremely powerful, threatening from all directions with each move.

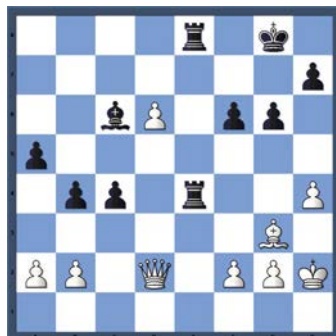
28...c4 29. ♜h6 [White missed a beautiful direct win: 29.f3! The c4 pawn must be protected, so the only move is 29... ♖d4



30. ♜g1!!+- (But not 30. ♘f2? because of 30... ♖xd6 31. ♜xc4+ ♖ee6)]

29... ♙g8 30. ♜d2! The queen is switching directions again and again. This time the b4 is under attack and it supports the d-pawn.

30...a5? The decisive mistake, but the position was difficult anyway. [30... ♖d8 31. ♜xb4 is also bad.]



31.d7! The right moment for advancing the pawn. White correctly calculates that he wins material.

31...♖d8 32.♔d6! ♘xd7 33.♔d5+! ♜e6 34.♘c7! +- And the game is over!

34...♜e8 35.♔xd7 c3 36.bxc3 bxc3 37.♘f4 c2 38.♘h6 ♜6e7 39.♔d5+ ♜e6 40.♔c4 Black resigned! A great opening and a very nice attacking game! **1-0**

Puzzle section

(6) Yakubboev, N(2144)-Korpa, B(2415)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.16

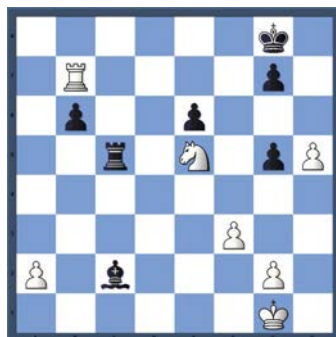
1... =



(7) Theodorou, N(2321)-Dankhazi, A(2237)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.16

1. +-



(8) Tsiros, F(2147)-Marosi, L(2211)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.16

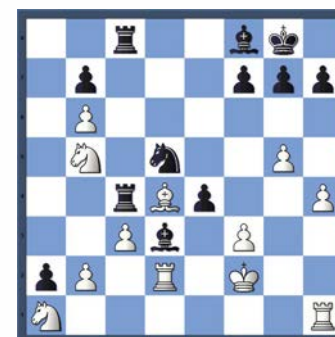
1. +-



(9) Perske, T(2402)-Kozak, A(2307)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.18

1... -+



(10) Bakalchuk, J(2300)-Theodorou, N(2321)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.18

1. +-



(11) Unuk, L(2249)-Acs, M(1969)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.18

1. +-



(12) Korpa, B(2415)-Tutisani, N(2301)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.18

1. +-



(13) Antal, TK(2292)-Ghvamberia, N(2122)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.18

1. +-



(14) Juhasz, A(2268)-Abdusattorova, B(2216)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.18

1. +-



(15) Harazinska, E(2143)-Muha, M(2105)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.18

1. +-



(16) Perske, T(2402)-Abramciu(2204)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.19

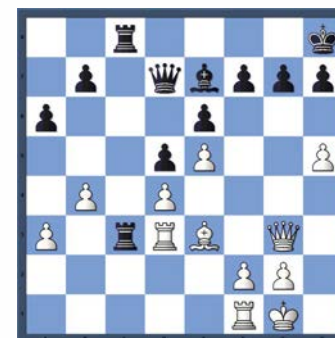
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(17) Grinberg, E(2121)-Juhasz, A(2268)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.20

1. +-



Endgame section

(18) Costachi, Mihnea(2356)
- Maghsoodloo, Parham(2415)

World Youth U16 Olympiad,
2014.12.18



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



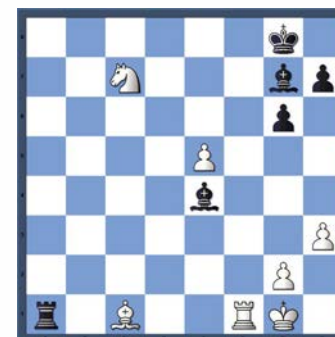
An excellent demonstration for the power of the two bishops. Even with such reduced material, Black manages to convert his advantage.

27...♖a2! Obviously Black must play the most active moves, otherwise White consolidates and holds the draw.

28.♖f2? Probably the decisive blunder. White gets into a fatal pin on the first rank. [The only move was 28.♖e1 although Black keeps his advantage after 28...♖xg2+ 29.♔f1 ♖c2! 30.♘e6! Black is better, but White is fighting hard for the draw.]

28...♖a1! Naturally Black needs the rooks on the board to maintain his winning chances.

29.♖f1



29...♙d3! Sending the rook away from the protected square to avoid the movement of the c1 bishop.

30.♖e1 [30.♖d1 is not better either. 30...♙xe5 31.♘e6 (31.♘d5 also loses to 31...♙e2! 32.♖e1 ♙g3! 33.♖xe2 ♖xc1+--+) 31...♙f5! 32.♘g5 ♙b2--+ wins an exchange!]

30...♙xe5! Making use of the unfortunate placement of the c7 knight.

31.♘d5 [31.♖xe5 31...♖xc1+ 32.♔f2 ♖xc7--+]

31...♙g3! The rook runs out of squares on the back rank, but it defends along the c-file.

32.♖e8+ [32.♖d1 loses instantly to 32...♙e2--+]

32...♔f7 33.♖c8 The rook has more squares on the c-file than on the back rank, but it does not solve the problem of the c1 bishop. White cannot leave the pin with his king, the two bishops are squeezing it to the corner. Black cannot attack the c1 bishop once more, but he can slowly create more and more threats.

33...♔e6 [The direct way to win was



33...♘f5! 34.♞c5 (34.♞c6 loses to 34...♘e4!-+; 34.♞c4 runs into 34...♘e6!-+) 34...♘d6! 35.♞c3 Otherwise Ba3 wins. (35.♞c6 35...♘a3-+) 35...♘e5! and the white rook has no good square to leave. 36.♞c4 (36.♞c5 36...♘d4+--+; 36.♞c6 36...♘e4-+) 36...♘e6-+]

34.♘e3 ♞b1 At the moment, White manages to avoid losing a piece, but he still cannot leave the pin. White is lacking any counterplay, the best he can do is waiting and trying to parry the direct threats of winning the bishop. From a practical point of view, White's position is pretty much hopeless and the game also finishes in few moves.

35.♞c3 ♘e2 Black keeps the king in the corner. It is important to deprive White from the Kf1-e2 possibility.

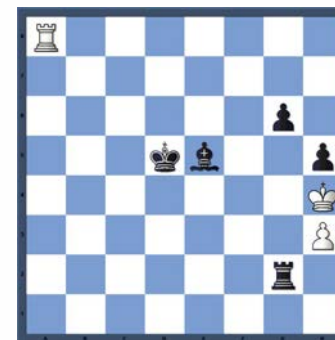
36.♘c4? A blunder, but the position was very difficult anyway. [36.♞c2 36...♘b5 37.♞c8 ♔e5 is also quite hopeless from a practical point of view.]

36...♘xc4 37.♞xc4 ♔d5! Black wins a piece. The rook cannot control the f4 square...

38.♞c8 ♘f4 39.♞h8 ♞xc1+ 40.♔f2 ♞c7 White could have simply resigned here, but the game goes on for a while...

41.♔f3 ♘e5 42.♞a8 ♞c3+ 43.♔g4 h5+ 44.♔g5 ♞g3+

45.♔h4 g5+ [It was not too late to go wrong with 45...♞xg2??



46.♞a5+ ♔e4 47.♞xe5+! ♔xe5= with stalemate!]

46.♔xh5 ♞xg2 White has no chance to trade pawns. h4 is always met by g4.

47.♞a3 [47.♞g8 does not help 47...♘f4 48.h4 ♞h2-+]

47...♔e4 48.♞a4+ ♔f5 49.h4 g4 50.♞b4 g3 51.♞g4 ♘f6 52.♞g8 ♞h2 53.♞g5+ A nice trick, but it does not help. Black is not forced to take the rook.

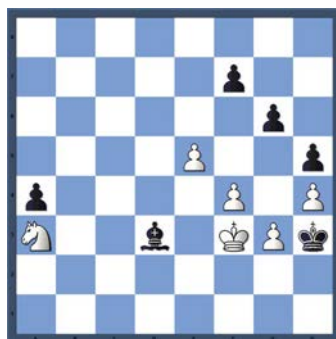
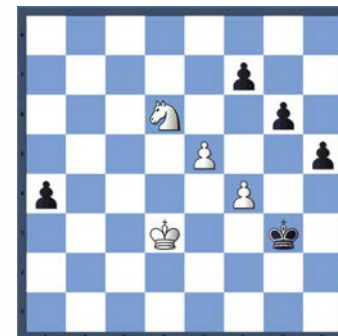
53...♔f4 54.♞g4+ ♔f3 0-1

(19) Vavulin, Maksim(2430)
- Aravindh, Chithambaram
VR(2476)

World Youth U16 Olympiad(5.3),
 2014.12.16



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
 Best rating: 2737



Black clearly managed to outplay his opponent and White finds himself in a very difficult endgame. The a-pawn is fixing the white knight to a3 and the black bishop is a great piece. We should also consider that the h1 square is white, which gives Black some extra winning chances. Black has a couple of winning ideas and the most simple one would be to get to b3 with his king, but as we can see on the result, something will go terribly wrong...

60...♔h2 61.♔f2 The only move. [61.♔e3 was losing on the spot: 61...♔xg3! 62.♔xd3 ♔xh4 The h-pawn will now decide the game. 63.♔c4 ♔g3 64.♔d6

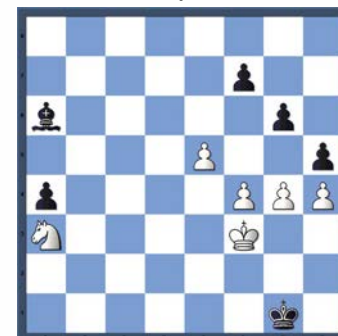
64...a3 Black is just faster. 65.♔c2 a2 66.♔b2 h4 67.♔xf7 h3 68.e6 h2 69.e7 h1=♔ 70.e8=♔ a1=♔+ with mate to follow shortly.]

61...♔a6 Black needs to give White an "extra move" to make him play Kf3 to have Kg1 and this is what Aravindh is doing, but whether this is the right idea we will see in the next couple of moves. Black could have played much safer by just putting his bishop let's say to e6, then playing Kh3-Kg4 and only then try to put the opponent into zugzwang.

62.♔f3 White can't keep the king on f2 for long anyway. [62.♔b1 62...♔c4 63.♔a3 ♔d3 and White has to move the king.]

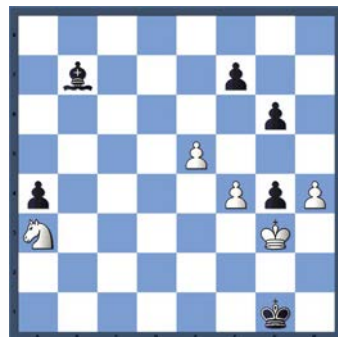
62...♔g1 Black is following his plan.

63.g4 is White's only chance, otherwise the black king will sooner or later reach the b2 square.



63...♙b7+? What a blunder! Black had a lot of different ways of playing for a win! [63...hxg4+ was also a mistake because after 64.♖xg4 ♔f2 White is escaping with only moves: 65.♔g5 White wants to play f5 now. 65...♙c8 66.♖f6 ♙e6 67.f5! ♙xf5 68.♖xf7 ♔g3 Black is going for the h4 pawn, but it is too late. 69.e6! The last exact move! 69...♙xe6+ 70.♖xg6 ♔xh4 71.♖f6 ♙b3 72.♖e5 and the white king is reaching the b2 square, which leads to an easy draw.; The right move was 63...♙c8! 64.gxh5 gxh5 Now the white pawns are blocked for a moment. 65.♖e4 ♔f2 66.f5 ♔g3 67.e6 and the beautiful and not so difficult 67...♙xe6! wins the game! 68.fxe6 fxe6 69.♖e5 ♔xh4 70.♖xe6 ♔g3 71.♖d5 h4 72.♖c4 h3 and Black is winning because the white knight from a3 is not in time to stop the h-pawn.]

64.♖g3 hxg4 and here comes the move that Black missed:

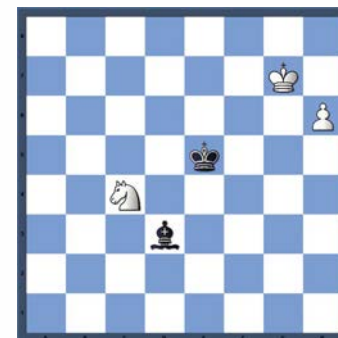


65.f5! Suddenly it is Black who is in danger of losing as it is not that simple to stop the white pawns!

65...gxf5? Another unlucky move... [Black had couple of ways to force a draw here, connected to the idea of sacrificing the bishop: 65...♙c8 66.e6 ♙xe6! 67.fxe6 fxe6 68.♖xg4 ♔h2 and White can't improve his position without giving up the last pawn on h4, so the game is a draw.]

66.h5 The h-pawn is running... How to stop it?!

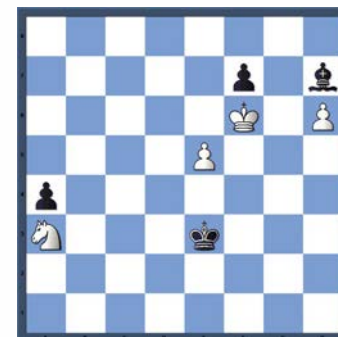
66...♙e4 [66...f4+ would lead to a very complicated, but probably drawn position: 67.♖xf4 ♔f2 forcing White to take the g4 pawn because of the threat of playing g3 next. 68.♖xg4 ♙e4 69.♖g5 ♔e3 70.♖f6 ♔f4 71.h6 ♙d3 White can't take the f7 pawn because of Kxe5, but the white knight is joining the game. 72.♘c4! ♙h7 Black doesn't have anything better than to keep on waiting. 73.♖xf7 Black's position looks lost, but a miracle saves the game: 73...a3! 74.♘xa3 ♖xe5 75.♖g7 ♙d3 76.♘c4+



76...♖f4 The black king is going to g5 and Black starts to wait with his bishop on the b1-h7 diagonal. The position is a draw.]

67.h6 f4+ 68.♖xf4 ♙h7 69.♖xg4 ♔f2 As we can see, we have a similar position as in the line above, but with Black being a sort of tempo down.

70.♖g5 ♔e3 71.♖f6



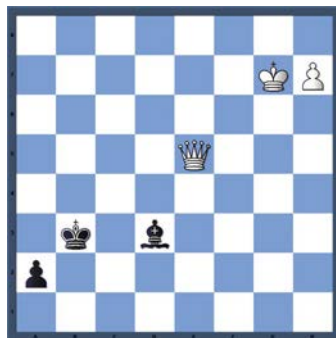
71...♔d4? This move is already a fatal mistake! [71...♔f4 would still have led to a draw! 72.♘c4 ♕e4! and White doesn't have anything better than 73.♔xf7 a3 74.♘xa3 ♔xe5 75.♘c4+ ♔f4 76.♘d6 ♕b1 77.♔f6 ♔g4 78.♘f7 ♔h5 with a draw.]

72.♘b5+! White takes his chance! The trick now is that Black can't play Ke4 or Kd5 because of Nc3+ followed by Nxa4.

72...♔c5 73.♔xf7! White is just faster.

73...♔xb5 74.e6 a3 75.e7 a2 76.e8=♔+ I think this was a good moment to resign, but clearly Black was very upset with the outcome of such a promising endgame.

76...♔b4 77.♔e5 ♔b3 78.♔g7 ♕d3 79.h7

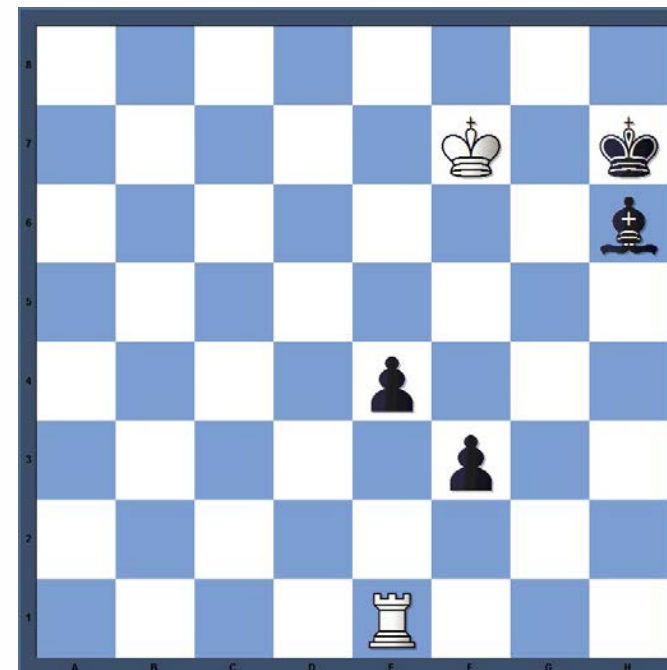


79...a1=♔ 80.♔xa1 We just saw a very interesting endgame where Black was very close to win, then totally lost the control over the position and finally even lost it! **1-0**

Surprise section / study

(20) Prokes

1. =



Solutions

(21) Puccini, J(2188)-Ghosh, D(2516)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.13



30...♖xb1+! [30...♖xb3?? 31.♖d8+ ♕e8 32.♖xe8#]

31.♔xb1 ♕f3! 32.♖d7 ♕xh5 33.♖xe7 ♕d6 0-1 [33...♕d6 34.♖e4 ♖xb3—+]

(22) Karthikeyan, M(2497)-Loh, Z(2075)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.13

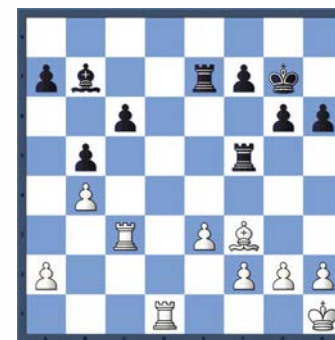


25.♘xh7! +— [25.hxg6 25...fxg6]

25...♖xc2 [25...♔xh7 26.hxg6+ ♔g8 27.♖h7#] **26.♘f6+ 1-0**

(23) Boldoo, E(2093)-Kozak, A(2307)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.13



28...c5!! 29.♕xb7 [29.♖xc5 29...♖xf3! 30.gxf3 ♕xf3+ 31.♔g1 ♕xd1—+]

29...cxb4! 30.♖b3 ♖xb7 31.♖xb4 [31.♔g1 31...a5±] **31...♖xf2±**

(24) Tuncer, T(2210)-Syvalahti, T(1923)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.13



19.♘xe6!! [19.♖a7? 19...♕xg2+! 20.♔xg2 ♖xa7—+]

19...♕xa8 [19...fxe6 20.♕xe6+ ♔h7 21.♖xf8+—]

20.♘xc7 ♕xc7 21.♕xf6 gxf6 22.♕d5+—

(25) Kumaran, B(2316)-Zarubitski, V(2219)

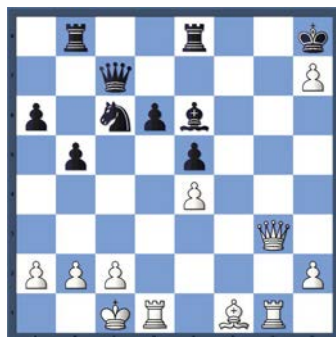
World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.14



21. ♖xg5! fxg5 22. ♜xg5+ ♔f8 [22... ♖f7 23. ♕h5+-] 23. f6! +- ♖e6 24. ♜g7+ ♔e8 25. f7+ ♔d8 26. f8=♜+ ♖xf8 27. ♜xf8+ ♖e8 28. ♜xe8+ ♔xe8 29. ♜f1 ♕e6 30. ♕h5+ ♔d8 31. ♜f8+ 1-0

(26) Tutisani, N(2301)-Bjerre, J(2073)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.14



27. ♜xd6! +- ♜xh7 [27... ♜xd6 28. ♜g7#; 27... ♖d4 28. ♜xe5+-; 27... ♜bd8 28. ♜xc6 (28. ♜xe6 28... ♜xe6 29. ♜g8+ ♜xg8 30. hxg8=♜#) 28... ♜xc6 29. ♜g7#] 28. ♜xc6+-

(27) Asgarizadeh, A(2371)-Ghosh, D(2516)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.14



25... ♖f3+! 26. ♔h1 [26. gxf3 26... ♜xf3+- 27. ♜c2 (27. ♜e2 27... ♜g4+ 28. ♜g2 ♜g3+-) 27... ♜xe3! 28. ♜d2 ♜g4+ 29. ♜g2 ♜g3+-]

26... ♜g4! 0-1

(28) Vrtiakova, A(1866)-Zhang, J(2089)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.14



16... ♕xf3!! 17. ♕xf3 g5!+-

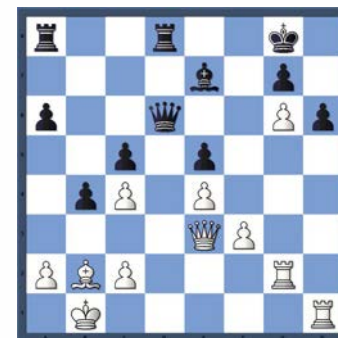
World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.15



37...♔f3 38.♖a8+ [38.♔xd5 38...cxd5-+]

38...♔g7 39.♖xf7+ ♕xf7 40.♖a7+ ♕e8 41.♖a8+ ♕d7
42.♖a7+ ♕c8 43.♖a8+ ♕b7 44.♜b4+ ♕xa8 0-1 [44...♜xa8
45.♜a5+ ♕b7 46.♜b4+ ♕c8—]

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.15



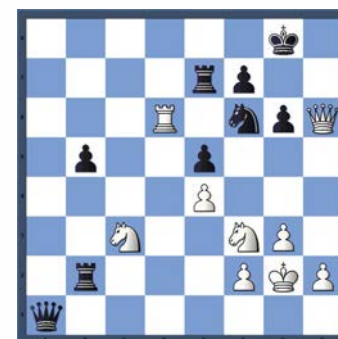
27. ♖xh6! ♜d1+ [27...gxh6 28. ♖xh6 ♜f6 29. ♖h7+ ♔f8 30.g7++-]

28. ♖c1 ♔d4 [28... ♙f6 29. ♖h7+- (29. ♖gh2? 29... gxh6
30. ♙xh6 ♖a7!-+)]

29.♖gh2! 1-0

(31) Pechac, J(2182)-Kosakowski, J(2106)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.15



28...♖xf2+! 29.♔h3 [29.♔xf2 29...♘g4+ 30.♔g2 ♘xh6-+]

29...♔xc3 0-1

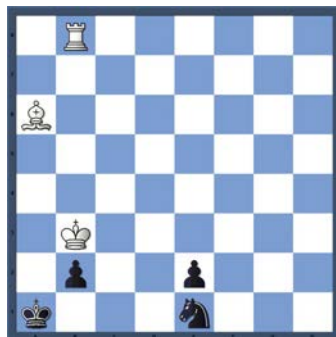
(32) Moller, S(2133)-Tsiros, F(2147)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.15

**19. ♖xe6!** [19. ♖xg7 19... ♖xc3]

19... ♜xe5 [19... ♖xc3 20. ♖xd7+! ♜xd7 21. ♜c5+ ♜c6 22. ♖d7+ ♜b6 (22... ♜xc5 23. ♖d6+ ♜c4 24. ♖f4+-) 23. ♖d6+ ♜a5 24. ♖c7+ ♜b4 25. ♜d3+-; 19... fxe6 20. ♖xg7+ ♜e8 21. ♖xf8+ ♜xf8 22. ♖xc7+-]

20. ♖xg7 1-0 [20. ♖xg7 20... ♜xe6 (20... ♖xc3 21. ♖f6+ ♜e8 22. ♜g7#) 21. ♖f6#]

(33) Platov

1. ♕d3!! [1. ♜c3? 1... ♜d3!-+; 1. ♜a3? 1... ♜c2+-; 1. ♜a4? 1... ♜d3!-+]

1... ♜xd3 2. ♜c2! ♜c1 [2... e1=♖?? 3. ♖a8+-]

3. ♖xb2! [3. ♖a8+? 3... ♜a2-+]

3... e1=♖ 4. ♖b1+! ♜a2 5. ♖a1+!! ♜xa1=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 148

28th of December 2014

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Editorial Preface

With the current issue we are celebrating the 3rd new year with our weekly newsletter and as usual in this issue you will find the "Best of the Best" from the year 2014.

We want to wish you all a happy new year, filled of happiness and joy, and thanks a lot for staying with us in 2014!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

**(1) Salem, A.R. Saleh(2558)
- Ivanisevic, Ivan(2633) [B29]**

Karpos Open 2014(7.7),
2014.04.03



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A brilliant game was played by the young GM from the Arabian Emirates. Ivanisevic is a very creative player and he often wins games like the following one, but this time he is on the suffering side.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 Salem is a 1.d4 player, therefore Black tries to surprise his opponent with a tricky sideline.

3.♘c3 [3.e5 3...♘d5 4.♘c3 is probably White's best reaction.]

3...d5 The consequent continuation. Black could have transposed to a classical Sicilian with 3...Nc6, but the text move follows the idea of leading the opponent to an unexplored territory.

4.e5 d4 4...Ne4 and 4... Nfd7 are also alternatives.



5.♞a4! This is already a novelty and a very strong one. It is quite rare to see one between two GMs right on move 5. In general, this move is against the principles because the knight should not be placed at the rim of the board, but there is a very concrete idea behind it! [5.exf6 happened mainly in the previous games, although Black usually obtained a nicely playable position after 5...dxc3 6.fxg7 cxd2+ 7.♙xd2 ♙xg7]

5...♞fd7 The c5 pawn had to be protected, but this allows the standard sacrifice which completely confuses the development of the black pieces.

6.e6! fxe6 With his sacrifice, White has created a doubled pawn which hardly can be called a real material advantage. White might put big pressure on the e6 pawn with Bc4, Ng5, Qe2 and 0-0 followed by Re1 and Black faces difficulties in completing his development. With his next move, White aims to improve the situation of his misplaced a4 knight.

7.b4! White undermines the d4 pawn and also frees the way for the knight to b2-d3, from where it might either jump to e5 or f4.

7...cxb4 8.♞xd4 An amazing position, which cannot be evaluated on a positional basis. Black has an extra pawn and the a4 knight is still out of the game, but in my opinion White's attacking potential gives him more than enough compensation for the deficits. From a practical point of view, White definitely has the easier game.



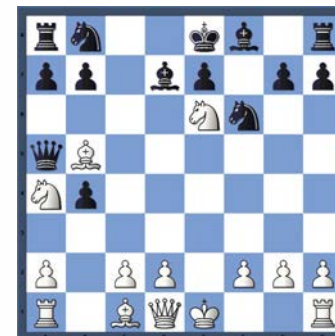
8...Nf6 9. Bb5+ Bd7 A concrete attempt to make use of the misplacement of the a4 knight. [9...Kf7 was more natural at first sight, but White obtains excellent compensation here as well after 10. Nf3 Qa5 11. Qe2 with a nice edge and Black cannot win the a4 knight with 11...a6 in view of 12. Ng5+ Kg8 13. Bc4 wins. 13...Qxg5 14. Qxe6+ Bxe6 15. Bxe6# Not bad... :)]



]

10. Nxe6! Small tactical trick, using the fact the the bishop is pinned. White has restored the material balance.

10...Qa5 This was Black's point but White has a very strong reply to maintain his strong pressure:



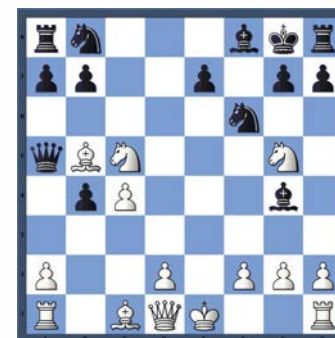
11. c4! Great! White protects his a4 knight and also keeps his bishop on b5 to avoid the unpleasant check on e5. [The harmless 11. Bxd7+ 11...Nxd7 12. Nb2 would have allowed Black to trade the queens after 12...Qe5+ and without the queens on board, there is no more danger anymore for Black.]

11...Kf7 [11...bxc3 is simply met by 12. Nxc3! Bxb5 13. Nxb5+- and the knight cannot be taken in view of Nc7!; 11...Bxb5 12. cxb5+]]

12. Ng5+ Kg8 Black tries to put his king into safety, but on g8 it is hardly any better than it was in the center.

13. Nc5 Finally the knight arrives to the game and it immediately turns out to be an extremely strong piece. [13. Qe2± also looked very strong.]

13...Bg4



14. ♖e8!! The first brilliant move of the firework!

14...g6 There was no other move to avoid mate. The following sacrifice is even missed by the computers. They only find it in big depth or after making the next 3 moves. [14...♗xd1 15. ♖f7#; 14...♞xe8 15. ♔xg4+- is also hopeless for Black.]



15. ♔xg4!! ♞xg4 16. ♖f7+ ♔g7 17. ♞ce6+ ♔f6 [17...♔h6 is met by the calm 18.d4!+- and Black gets mated after the discovered check of Ne4 next move!]



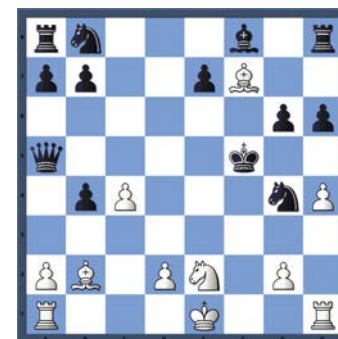
18. f4!! The key move behind the queen sacrifice! Bb2 is coming next and the haunt of the king is starting. White only has one bishop for the queen, but Black cannot prevent the fatal threats. [18. ♖b2+ right away was a mistake in view of 18...♔e5+! 19. ♖xe5+ ♞xe5 and Black is fine.]

18...h6 [18...♞c6 does not make big difference. 19. ♖b2+ ♔f5 and White wins for instance after 20.h3+-]

19. ♖b2+ ♔f5 Here White goes for the most trivial and most human win...

20. ♞d4+ [The machine suggests 20. ♞f3!? 20...♔h7 21. ♞h4+ ♔e4 22. ♖xg6!+- mate.]

20...♔f6 [20...♔xf4 leads to forced mate in many different ways. One of them is 21. ♞e2+ ♔xg5 22.h4+ ♔f5



(22...♔h5 23. ♞f4#) 23.O-O ♔e4 24. ♖xg6+ ♔f5 25. ♖xf5#]

21. ♞b3+ White is satisfied with winning the queen and ending up with an extra piece.

21...e5 22. ♞xa5 ♞c6 [22...hxc5 23. ♖d5+- is totally over.]

23. ♞xc6 bxc6 24. ♖e6 hxc5 25. ♖xg4 The game is over. White has an extra bishop and still continues attacking.

25...gxf4 26. ♖f3 ♖c5 27. ♖xc6 ♔ad8 28. ♖d5 ♔f5 29.d3 What a game!!! 1-0

(2) Fedoseev, Vladimir (2662) - Zvjaginsev, Vadim(2642) [D00]

67th ch-RUS HL 2014(9.3),
2014.06.13



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

We are in the final round of the Russian Higher league. The tournament, where the first 5 players qualify to the Russian Superfinal, where they join to Kramnik, Grischuk, Karjakin and the other top players. The winner of this game had a guaranteed place there, but draw were not enough for them. My good friend Vadim Zvjaginsev manages to win a brilliant tactical game. The game is full of unusual, but beautiful tactical motifs.

1.d4 d5 2.♘f4 White tries to drive the game to less explored territories.

2...♞f6 3.e3 g6 4.c4 An ambitious move. Usually the players who quickly develop their bishop to f4 like to set up a very solid position with c3, but in this game White logically wanted to create complications. Now we reached a Gruenfeld-like position and both sides played in the spirit of this opening and used many typical tactical and positional ideas.

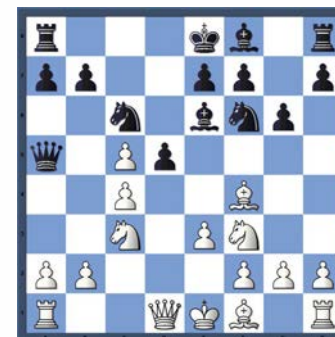


4...c5!? In the spirit of the Gruenfeld to play against the center. [4...♘g7 5.♞c3 would have transposed to a huge main line of the Gruenfeld, but Zvjaginsev himself does not employ this opening, therefore he handles the opening with the typical moves but in the same time he avoids some theoretical discussions.]

5.dxc5 ♞c6 Zvjaginsev consequently continues his idea to avoid transpositions. We have already reached a new position. [However if Black had played 5...♘g7 6.♞c3 we have again transposed to a position with thousands of games...]

6.♞f3 ♘e6 [The most natural and objectively stronger move 6...♘g7! would have been a transposition again after 7.♞c3]

7.♞c3 ♖a5 The most consequent move again, but White can make use of, that the bishop has not developed yet to g7 and the pressure on c3 is that big at the moment. [7...dxc4 was dubious in view of 8.♞g5! White wins the c4 pawn.]



8.♞b3! White attacks the b7 pawn and suddenly it is not easy to deal with this simple threat. Black has no adequate way to protect it, some passive moves like Nd8 obviously does not come into consideration, neither the trade of the queens with Qb4 because White is pawn up. Black is basically forced to do the following intuitive sacrifice.

8...♘g7! 9.♞xb7 O-O! Who says A must say B too. A piece

does not count now, Black must focus on the e1 king, which still needs two tempi to castle kingside and Black should find his counterplay on the c3 square. Ne4 is a very dangerous threat.

10. ♖xc6?! Too greedy! [10. ♖b5! White should have been satisfied with two extra pawns and offered the trade of queens. White would have had the advantage in this case, but who could refrain to a "free" piece on c6...]

10... ♘e4! We have reached the dream of all Gruenfeld players. Such a dynamic position.

11. ♘d4 White tries to close the bishop and prevents the main Bxc3 threat. [On 11. ♘d2 11... ♘xd2 12. ♖xd2 dxc4 is very unpleasant. All diagonals and files are opened on the exposed king. White has nothing better than 13. ♔e2 ♖b4 14. ♖b5 but then Black wins back the material and gets a good position after 14... ♙xc3 15. ♖xb4 ♙xb4]

11... ♘xc3 12. a3! Very nice resource also from White! Black was threatening with different kind of discovered checks with the knight, but all of them could be met by b4! Only one check prevents it, but first Black activates one of his rooks.

12... ♖ac8 13. ♖b7



13... ♘a2+!! What an amazing move, which forces the king

to run! [13... ♘e4+ 14. b4 ♖a4 15. ♖b5+- forces the trade of the queens and White wins.; 13... dxc4 14. ♖b4 ♖xb4 15. axb4+- also with a winning advantage.]

14. ♔d1 [14. b4 could now be met by 14... ♖xa3! this is the point of the unexpected Na2 move to close the rook on a1!]

14... ♖a4+ 15. ♔e1 [15. ♖b3 White obviously would like to trade queens with such a vulnerable king, but it did not work tactically in view of 15... ♖xb3+ 16. ♘xb3 dxc4 17. ♘d4 ♖fd8! The dynamic plays continues even without the queens on board. 18. ♖xa2 c3 19. ♖a1 ♙xd4 20. exd4 ♖xd4+ 21. ♔c2 cxb2 22. ♔xb2 ♖xf4+- Black soon ends up with material advantage.]

15... ♖a5+ Unfortunately Black is forced to repeat moves. [15... dxc4 might look tempting at first sight, but Black does not have enough compensation after 16. ♖xa2! ♙xd4 (16... c3 17. b3) 17. exd4 c3 18. ♖a1 ♖xd4 19. ♖b4!+- and White covers everything.]

16. ♔e2?! Objectively a mistake after which Black is better, but it was impossible to foresee what will be the outcome of the complications.. White should have agreed to the repetition with 16. Kd1, but the tournament situation also forced White to continue this exciting fight.

16... ♖xc5! Grabbing some material and indirectly protecting the a2 knight.

17. ♘xe6 [17. ♖xa2? 17... ♖xc4+ 18. ♔f3 ♖xa2+-]

17... ♖xe6 [17... ♖xc4+ was also strong, but Zvjaginsev did not want to send the king to the kingside, he preferred to keep it in the center... 18. ♔f3 (On 18. ♔e1 Black wins with the pretty blow



18...♙c3+! 19.bxc3 ♖xc3+ 20.♙e2 ♖xa1 21.♘xf8 White is still ahead materially, but there is a forced mate... 21...♙c3+! 22.♙f3 ♖d1+! 23.♙g3 ♘e4+ 24.♙h3 ♖h5#) 18...♖e4+ 19.♙g3 fxe6 with a promising position for Black!]

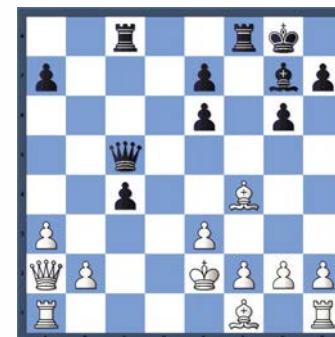
18. ♖b3 White tries to bring back the queen to the defense and also would finally like to take that knight on a2 off the board...



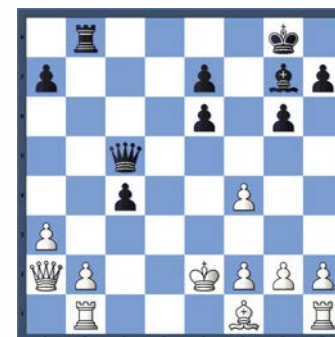
18...dxc4! Excellent reaction! Black sacrifices a piece again, but he locks the white queen to the corner, which gives him more space to build up his attack against the king, which is still standing in the center.

19. ♖xa2 e5!? Zvjaginsev decides to advance his pawn to e4 to squeeze white even more and to avoid defenses like f3-Kf2.

[However Black had an even stronger move, which leads to win in beautiful lines:



19...♖xf4!! Eliminating the defender of the b8 square. 20.exf4 ♖b8! 21.♖b1



21...♖b3!! This would have been just amazing! Black is a full rook down, but he basically caged all white pieces. Black is winning in all lines: 22.h4 Nice idea to bring a defender and exchange an attacker with Rh3, but it is too slow (22.♙e1 trying to free the bishop, but Black does not allow it 22...♖a5+! 23.♙d1 ♖d5+ 24.♙e1 and the winning combination is: 24...♙c3+! 25.bxc3 ♖e4+ 26.♙d2 ♖xb1-+) 22...♖f5 23.♖h3 ♖c2+ 24.♙e1 ♖xh3 25.gxh3



25...c3+! 26.bxc3 ♖xa2—]

20. ♗g3 e4 21. ♖d1 A desperate attempt to hide the king on the queenside, but it is easy to feel, that it should not be successful. However to find its refutation requires enormous play. [Unfortunately for White 21.f3 trying to hide the king with Kf2 and Be2 did not help in view of 21...exf3+ 22.gxf3 ♗h6! 23.f4 e5! is going to be crushing! Black opens all the lines on the king.]

21... ♖fd8+ 22. ♖c2



22... ♗f8!! This is shocking! The idea itself is very nice and logical, Black would like to push c3 with a crushing attack and first he leaves the pin. But why he moves with his king to f8 and why not to h8? Actually only Kf8 was winning and the reason could not be calculated, Zvjaginsev could only believe to his intuition. [22... ♗h8 could have met by exactly

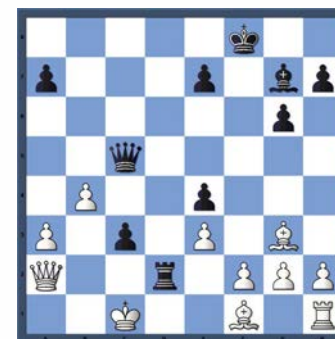
the same moves as White was defending in the game 23. ♖d1! ♖xd1 24. ♖xd1 c3 it looks over, but it is actually not 25.b3! ♖d8+ (25...c2+ 26. ♖c1 ♖c3 seems to be over, but White saves himself with 27. ♗c4! ♖d8 28. ♖xc2! and Black does not have more than perpetual check. 28... ♖a1+ 29. ♖b1=) 26. ♖c1 ♖d2 27.b4! completely unexpected at such attacking pieces, but White survives 27... ♖h5 28. ♖b3 ♖b2 29. ♖a4!!+— And here is the difference! White is threatening with Qe8 mate! This is the reason, why Black had to put his king to f8, to cover the backrank mate! Amazing!]

23. ♖d1 [There was no time for 23. ♗e2 23...c3—+ is over, Rd2 or cxb2 is coming next.]

23... ♖xd1 24. ♖xd1 c3 25.b3! Perfect defensive skills, but it does not help this time. White would like to close the c-file by developing the bishop to c4. [25.bxc3 25... ♖xc3—+ leads to mate soon.; 25.b4 25...c2+ 26. ♖c1 ♖c3]

25... ♖d8+! Only this wins! [25...c2+ 26. ♖c1 ♖c3 looks also very tempting, but it leads only to draw after 27. ♗c4! White is ready to take on c2. 27... ♖d8 28. ♖xc2 ♖a1+ 29. ♖b1 ♖c3+ 30. ♖c2=]

26. ♖c1 ♖d2 27.b4



27... ♖h5!! Zvjaginsev finds again the only way to win! The d1 square is the key in Black's attack.

28. ♖b3 ♜b2! 29. ♘c4 Kind of resignation, but there was nothing better. [And in comparison to the 22...Kh8 line, on 29. ♖a4 there is no threat on e8, so Black has time to play 29... ♖d5!—+; 29. ♖c4 leads to forced mate after the pretty 29... ♜b1+! 30. ♔xb1 ♖d1+ 31. ♔a2 ♖c2+ 32. ♔a1 ♖b2#; 29. ♖d1 29... ♜b1+—+]]

29... ♜xb3 30. ♘xb3 ♖e2 31. ♘c2 ♖a6! The most precise move. Before going to c4, Black first weakens the b4 pawn.

32. a4 ♖c4 33. ♜d1 ♔e8 34. ♜e1 ♖a2 White resigned. What a game!! **0-1**

(3) Shimanov, Aleksandr(2649) - Jobava, Baadur(2716) [D16]

15th ch-EUR Indiv 2014(4.5),
2014.03.06



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We will now face one of the most crazy games I have ever seen. Jobava is famous for being a very creative player and Shimanov is also very good in tactics. The crazy play started on move 12 and went on over 20 moves, which is a very rare fact, because most of the games are decided relatively quickly in the tactical phase. Enjoy this parade of tactics and creativity!!!

1.d4 ♘f6 2. ♘f3 d5 This time Jobava decides for something very solid, which we don't see too often in his games. His usual repertoire is more connected to Benoni or KID structures.

3.c4 c6 4. ♘c3 dxc4 5.a4 So we are in one of the main lines of the Slav.

5... ♘g4 Not the main move, but not a rare one either.

6. ♘e5 ♘h5 7.f3 White's idea is simple: take the bishop h5 out of the game by putting up a pawn-wall with f3-e4. [Lately White is more often trying 7.g3 7...e6 8. ♘g2 ♘b4 9.O-O with maybe a little advantage for White and a much more calm position than in the game.]

7... ♘fd7 This is still theory and in 2009 Shimanov played this position with the white pieces.

8. ♖xc4



8...e5 Now we can see the idea behind 7...Nfd7: to get fast play in the center. In case White would now be in time to play e4 and then Be2-0-0 Black's position would already be quite bad because of the horrible bishop on h5.

9.e4 [Of course not 9.dxe5?? 9... ♖h4+ and the knight on c4 is lost. 10.g3 ♖xc4]

9... ♖h4+ An important check to weaken the white pawn structure.

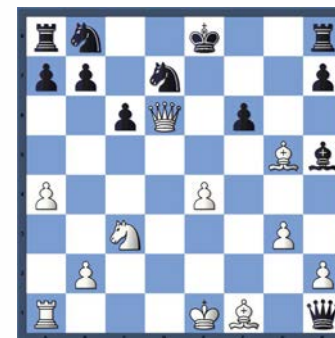
10.g3 ♖f6 And now the d4 and f3 pawns are under attack. As we can see, the position is already getting quite forced.

11.dxe5 ♖xf3!? This move is some sort of novelty on the high level. [In Shimanov's previous game 11... ♖xe5 was played. 12. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 13.g4 ♖g6 14.f4 The black bishop is trapped. 14... ♖f6 15.f5 ♖h4+ 16. ♖d2 Black has some compensation, but White should have a clear advantage here.]

12. ♖d6+ The only move, but a very strong one.

12... ♖e7! And this is probably a novelty prepared by Jobava. What a shocking idea to put the king in front of all the pieces, but things are much more complicated than it seems. [After 12... ♖xd6 Black would lose on the spot after 13. ♖xd6 ♖xh1 and even a full rook up is not helping Black to survive here.

The position is lost by force. 14. ♖g5 f6 15.exf6 gxf6



16. ♖xf6 ♖xf6 17. ♖e6+ ♖f8 18. ♖xf6+ ♖g8 19. ♖d8+ ♖g7 20. ♖g5+ ♖g6 21. ♖e5+ White is totally winning.]

13. ♖b3!? A very tricky move by Shimanov. [The more solid continuation 13. ♖g5+ 13... f6 14.exf6+ gxf6 15. ♖f4 ♖xd1+ 16. ♖xd1 ♖e5 would at most lead to a slightly better endgame for White.]

13... ♖xe5 [Black would be doing bad after 13... ♖c5 14. ♖c4 ♖xh1 15. ♖xc5 and White's attack is clearly crushing. ; But maybe it was time to take the rook: 13... ♖xh1!? 14. ♖xb7 And here comes a very strange, but strong computer move: 14... ♖e6! With very unclear play. Of course White at least has a draw by playing 15.Qb3 Ke7 16.Qb7.]

14. ♖xb7+ ♖f6! No fear! [14... ♖xd6 would also lead to a complicated, but worse position. 15. ♖g1 Threatening to play Be2 next. 15... ♖e6 There are many other moves for Black, but this seems to be the strongest. 16. ♖e2 ♖d3+ 17. ♖d2 ♖f2 18. ♖f1 ♖d4 19. ♖b3+ ♖e7 20. ♖xd3 and only White can be better here.]

15. ♖g1! The best and only move. Black already wanted to play Qxh1.

15... ♖xd6 Black is playing the best. The queen on f3 cannot

be saved anymore, so it is time to get as much compensation for the queen as possible.

16. ♖e2



16... ♜bd7! Strong play! Black is bringing all his pieces into the attack.

17. ♘xf3 ♜c5 Jobava continues playing for the initiative. [Another way to go on was 17... ♜xf3+ 18. ♖f2 ♜fe5 Black has 2 pieces for the queen and quite some attack. 19. ♖b3 Objectively White should be better, but I think Black has quite some practical chances to be back in the game.]

18. ♜d5+ The only move for White!

18... cxd5 Black has to take the knight and let back the white queen into the game. In case of 18... Kg6 19. Nf4 the game would be over.

19. ♖xd5 ♜xf3+ Black has 3 pieces for the queen, which is already a lot, but the bishops on d6 and h5 are hanging and the king on f6 is also badly placed. The position remains very unbalanced and probably favourable to White.

20. ♖f1 [20. ♖f2? is a mistake as after 20... ♜e5! White cannot take on c5 because of Bd4 check.]

20... ♜e5 Once again Jobava plays the most practical move in the position, trying to get the maximum compensation for the

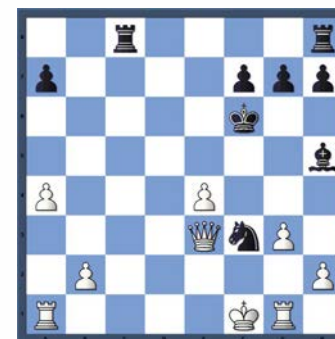
queen.

21. ♖xc5 This move is also forced.

21... ♜ac8 22. ♖f2 A logical move, but now Black is getting very strong play. [22. ♖e3 was probably stronger and after 22... ♜hd8 all the black pieces are in the attack, but it is just not enough. 23. g4! ♜xh2+ 24. ♖e1 And White should win the game because of the huge material advantage.]

22... ♜d4 The game continues being very tricky.

23. ♜e3 ♜xe3 24. ♖xe3



24... ♜xh2+ White is always missing one move to be winning. As long as the white king is under attack the game remains very unclear.

25. ♖g2 [25. ♖e1 doesn't lead anywhere after 25... ♜f3+]

25... ♜c2+ 26. ♖h3 The white king escaped to the h-file, but here White is also in a mating net, what a crazy position!

26... ♜g4+ Jobava continues finding the best practical chances.

27. ♖h4 h5 Finally a move without check, but the white king is caught. Black wants to play Nf3 next with a mate.

28. ♖g5+ The only move. [After 28. ♜gf1+ 28... ♖g6 29. ♖g5+ ♖h7 only Black can be playing for a win.]

28...♔e6 29.♚d5+ ♔e7 Not a mistake, but the black king is going into the wrong direction. [29...♔f6 would probably lead to a draw. 30.♚gf1+ (After 30.♚d6+ 30...♙e6 Black is already better.) 30...♔g6 31.♚xf7+ And here Jobava probably missed the very strong



31...♔h6! and White doesn't have anything better than to force a draw after 32.♚f6+ gxf6 33.♚xf6+]

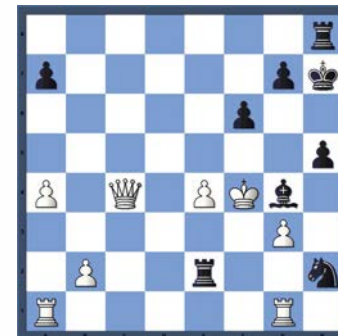
30.♚b7+ ♔f8? This move already gives White what is probably an advantage, but of course during a practical game and with not much time left on the clock it is hard to blame Jobava for such a logical reply. [Black could still save the game after 30...♔f6 31.♚gf1+ ♔g6 32.♚xf7+ ♔h6 and we are back to the line above.]

31.♔g5 The white king finally escapes its trap on h4.

31...f6+ 32.♔f4 ♚e2! Once again Jobava is trying to mate, this time by playing g5.

33.♚b4+ The only move. The position is still very forced.

33...♔g8 34.♚c4+ ♔h7



35.♚xe2! This is the only way for White to go on.

35...♙xe2 36.♚g2 With a double attack on the knight h2 and bishop on e2. After amazing complications we reached an endgame which should be minimally better for White.

36...g5+ Another logical move.

37.♔e3 ♚g4+ To keep the bishop doesn't make sense as the knight is now going to take a very strong position on e5.

38.♔xe2 ♚b8 Another logical move.

39.♔d3! A good move! White is quickly bringing the white king closer to the queenside pawns.

39...a5 And this move probably costs Black the game... [39...♚b4! would put White in quite some trouble. 40.♔c3 Giving up the e4 pawn is probably the best option. 40...♚xe4 41.b4 White should of course be better, but the game is far from over as the black pawns and a very strong knight on e5 would give Black counter chances.]

40.♔c3 ♔g6 41.b3 The time trouble is now over. White is an exchange up and should be winning, even if it is not that easy.

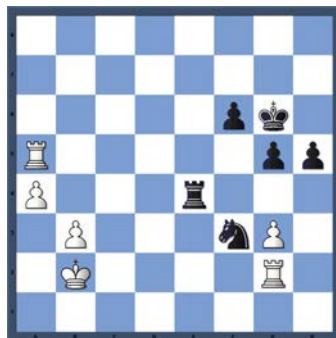
41...♚c8+ 42.♔b2 White continues to stabilize his position.

42...♚e8 43.♚e1 Everything is finally protected and next

White wants to activate the rook from g2.

43...♘e5 44.♖d1! Shimanov continues playing a perfect game. White gives up the e4 pawn but goes for the much more important a5 instead.

44...♘f3 45.♖d5 ♖xe4 46.♖xa5



46...h4? And Jobava misses his final chance... [46...♖g4! with the idea of playing h4 next would have led to a much tougher fight. 47.♖c2 White needs to give up the g3 pawn. 47...♖xg3 48.♖d5! Cutting the f3 knight. White's position should be winning now, but things are still quite tricky from a practical point of view.]

47.gxh4 ♘xh4 48.♖c2 Now White is just must faster and the game finally comes to an end.

48...g4 49.♖a8 ♔f5 50.a5 g3 51.♖g8 Preventing the g-pawn from advancing further.

51...♖e5 52.b4 g2 53.a6 We just saw a really amazing game where both players played almost perfectly in a very very complicated position. Just a few mistakes by Black gave White a chance for a full point. But what an impressive performance by Shimanov, who managed to play an almost perfect game in a crazy position! **1-0**

(4) Savchenko, Boris(2596) - Rapport, Richard(2704) [B07]

Riga Tech Open A 2014(9.1),
2014.08.24



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Both players, Savchenko and Rapport, are playing very creative chess. In many cases both of the opponents are choosing a creative move instead of a practical one, so we are going to see one of the most craziest game I have ever seen. After a total mess from move 14 until 40, the game finally ends in a perpetual check. A really fun game to watch is ahead of us!

1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♘c3 e5 Another game with the Philidor by Rapport.

4.♘f3 exd4 This was a popular line, but lately it has been very rarely played on GM level.

5.♘xd4 ♙e7 6.♙f4 is one of the most sharp moved, but also one of the most central lines.

6...O-O 7.♖d2 White wants to castle queenside as quickly as possible and start the attack on the kingside.

7...d5 and here starts the crazy line!

8.♘db5 This is of course all theory, the next moves for both sides are forced.

8...♙b4 Any other move is bad for Black.

9.O-O-O c6! Of course this is all known, but it is still a nice move by Black.

10. ♖c7



10... ♖c7 Now White needs to choose between 2 moves.

11. ♔d4 I am not sure at all if this is the best square. [11. ♔e3!? is at least an interesting option.]

11... ♗xc3 12. bxc3 ♔e7 and the craziness is starting! Black can't save the rook on a8, but of course he is getting strong compensation. White's king's position is open and the knight on e4 is a monster piece.

13. ♖d3 It is hard to find another defence against Qa3.

13... ♗e6 A very nice move. Black is not only developing the pieces, but also preparing to play c5 next.

14. ♖xa8 c5 As we can easily see, the position is very sharp and very hard to evaluate.

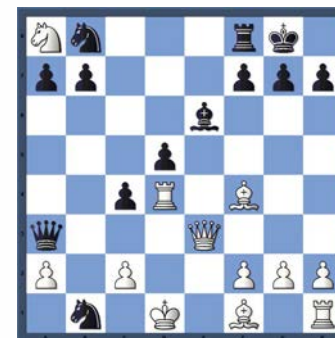
15. ♔e3 [15. ♔a4 is not good since after 15... ♖xf2 White is losing material.]

15... c4 Of course, chasing the rook away from d3 and getting ready to play Qa3.

16. ♖d4 ♔a3+ 17. ♔d1 White didn't have anything better already.

17... ♖xc3+ 18. ♔d2 is also the only move for White. [18. ♔e1 is just bad due to 18... ♖c6! with a double attack on d4 and a8.]

18... ♖b1+ 19. ♔d1 Black can already force a draw after 19... Nc3, but the position is looking very promising and of course you don't need to ask Rapport twice if he wants to play for a win...



19... ♖c6! The strongest move in the position. Black is using the fact that White cannot exchange the queens and wins some material back.

20. ♖c7 [In case of 20. ♔xa3 20... ♖xa3 21. ♖d2 ♖xa8 Black's position should be close to winning.]

20... ♖xd4 21. ♔xd4 If we take a fresh look at the position now, Black is still some material down, but he continues having a strong attack which gives him clearly more than just compensation.

21... ♖c3+ Very logically played, the knight does not belong to b1.

22. ♔d2 ♖e4+ 23. ♔e2 ♔xa2 Black already has 3 pawn for the piece and the white king is still on the run.

24. ♔f3 It seems like White doesn't have anything better.

24... ♔a3+?! What a strange decision by Black. [Much more logical is 24... ♔xc2 Why not take such an important pawn?! 25. ♖xd5 White is trying to at least stay in the game. 25... ♖xd5 26. ♔xd5 and now Black has the very strong and safe 26... ♖e8

Qxf2 is the threat now. 27.♔d4 b5 Black has 3 pawns for the piece, the white pieces are badly placed and the king is on f3, so I think Black's position should be close to winning.]

25.♖e3 ♖e7 and here comes the move that Rapport probably underestimated:

26.♟xc4! Very nice calculation by White and anyhow it is clear that he needed to do something with the bishop on f1.

26...dxc4 also seems to be the best for Black. [26...♖h4 doesn't bring anything since after 27.♔e2 strangely the white king is quite safe.]



27.♟xe4 Wow! What a position. The white king is in the middle of the center, but it seems like there is no mate! [27.♖xe4 was of course losing: 27...♟g4+ 28.♔e3 ♖a3+! 29.♔d4 ♖d8+ with an easily winning position for Black.]

27...g5 An interesting try but this move is too dangerous! There are soooo many interesting moves for Black that it is really hard to choose a continuation, especially during a practical game, where Rapport was definitely thinking that he just must be winning somehow. [After 27...♖f6 28.♖d4! seems to hold things together for White.; Maybe Black could have tried 27...♟g4+ 28.♔d4 ♖b4 29.♟d5 ♖a4 with a very crazy position.]

28.♟g3 A cool and good reply by Savchenko.

28...♖f6 [28...f5+? 29.♔f3 and now it is already White who is winning.]

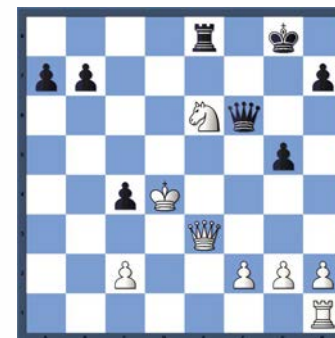
29.♟e5?! A very human reply, but not the best. [29.♖d4 looks very strong. 29...♖f5+ 30.♔e3 ♖xc2 Although White gave the pawn on c2, finally the rook is getting into the game. 31.♖d1 and I think White is already the one that could have big ambitions here.]

29...♖f5+ [After 29...♟f5+ 30.♔d4 ♖d8+ 31.♔c3 ♖e7 32.♖a1 White is clearly better because the king on c3 is actually feeling quite safe.]

30.♔d4 f6 The position remains very sharp, but slowly White is taking over. The white king only needs to reach the c3 square to give White a clear advantage.

31.♟xe6! Savchenko is playing a great game in a complicated position but actually a move like Nxe6 is very logical, as less black pieces mean smaller mating chances.

31...♖e8 32.♟g3? White misses a fantastic win. [32.♟xf6! was leading to a win. 32...♖xf6+



33.♔d5 The king is a strong piece! 33...♖f5+ 34.♔d6 Black is out of checks, which means "game over". The white king on d6 holds everything together... What a funny position!]

32...♖xe6 33.♔f3 ♕xc2 and we are back to a very complicated position...



34.♕xb7! In a very complex position and being short on time, Savchenko continues playing very well. White's position looks extremely dangerous again with the king on d4, but Black doesn't have anything more than just a draw...

34...♔d2+ Black needs to give a check and the move in the game leads to a draw by force. Black doesn't seem to have anything more than that.

35.♖c5 ♕a5+ White also needs to be very careful with the king moves. One mistake and the game could be over immediately.

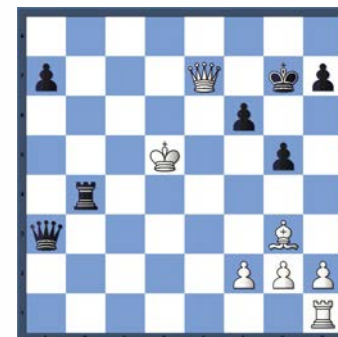
36.♕b5 and now it is White's turn to play for a win... [36.♖d4 36...♕d2+ with a draw.]

36...♕a3+! The right check! Black is forcing White to take the c4 pawn to open the position of the white king even further.

37.♖xc4 ♖e4+ Finally the useless rook on e6 is entering the game.

38.♖d5 ♖b4 Once again the best move. Both players are handling the time pressure perfectly, playing a very high level of chess.

39.♕e8+ ♖g7 40.♕e7+



40...♖g6 So the time trouble is over and the question is, does White have anything more than a perpetual check?!

41.♕e8+ ♖g7 42.♕d7+ Savchenko doesn't find anything and there is just nothing. It is not possible to play for a win with a totally opened king on d5-even with a piece up.

42...♖g6 43.♕e8+ ♖g7 44.♕e7+ ♖g6 45.♕e8+ What a game! 1/2-1/2

David vs. Goliath



Peter Zhdanov
Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this special weekly column we will be looking at the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

22 upsets from last week will be featured in this issue. A 537 rating points gap and a first-move advantage didn't help GM Baryshpolets (2566) against Tagelsir (2029). How did GM Oleksienko (2621) lose to Aliyev (2141) as White? GM Strikovic (2528) was blown off the board in just 19 moves by Barrenechea Bahamonde (2142). The gargantuan encounter FM Gruskovnjak (2357) - Zirkelbach (1920) lasted 121 moves. GM Tkachiev (2629) lost an interesting London Classic simul game to Healey (2111). And many more.

Top-10:

Baryshpolets (2566) - Tagelsir (2029), 0-1, [537](#) points
 Tkachiev (2629) - Healey (2111), 0-1, [518](#) points
 Oleksienko (2621) - Aliyev (2141), 0-1, [480](#) points
 Gruskovnjak (2357) - Zirkelbach (1920), 0-1, [437](#) points
 Vishnu (2463) - Asadli (2033), 0-1, [420](#) points
 Zirkelbach (1920) - Kos (2328), 1-0, [408](#) points

Barrenechea Bahamonde (2142) - Strikovic (2528), 1-0, [386](#) points
 Al-Bashayra (1780) - Pal (1406), 0-1, [374](#) points
 Tomas Falcon (2112) - Liascovich (2473), 1-0, [361](#) points
 Buzeti (2252) - Rifelj (1903), 0-1, [349](#) points

Average gap: 427; White won 3 games, Black won 7 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) will be appreciated.

This week's featured player is Lee Bullock. Here is the message we have received from him:



"I created one of the biggest shocks ever on Monday so just sending you the game for your David vs Goliath Website. I will also email it to you, thanks difference of 575 and I am no junior, 36 years old and playing Chess only 4 years. Did play a bit when little though. Thanks".

Jon Friedland(2089)
- **Lee Bullock(1514) [B22]**

2014.12.08



Peter Zhdanov

1.e4 1...c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 ♖xd5 4.d4 ♜f6 5.♞f3 ♜c6 6.♞e2 cxd4 7.cxd4 e6 8.O-O ♞d7



9.♞e3 ♞d6 10.♞c3 a6 11.♞d2 b5 12.a3 O-O 13.♞fd1 ♞d8 14.♞g5 ♞e7 15.♞ac1 ♞b7 16.♞f4 ♞d5 17.♞xd5 ♞xd5 18.♞xe7 ♞xe7 19.♞c5 ♞d6 20.♞c1 ♞ac8 21.b4 ♞d5 22.♞f1

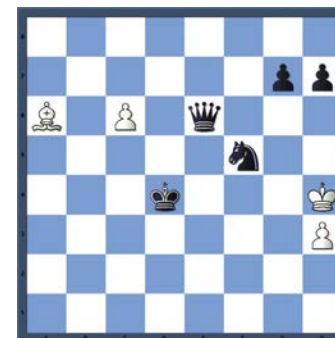


22...♞f6 23.♞e5 ♞e4 24.♞xc8 ♞xc8 25.♞e3 ♞c3 26.♞d3

f5 27.h3 ♞xa3 28.♞c1 ♞c3 29.♞d1 ♞xb4 30.f3 ♞f6 31.♞d7 ♞e7 32.♞c5 ♞c8 33.♞e5 ♞f7 34.♞b8 ♞d8 35.♞f1



35...♞xc5 36.dxc5 ♞xd1 37.♞xc8 ♞d4+ 38.♞h1 ♞h5 39.♞c7+ ♞f6 40.♞h2 ♞e5+ 41.♞xe5+ ♞xe5 42.g4 ♞f4 43.♞g3 ♞d5 44.♞h4 ♞d4 45.c6 b4 46.♞xa6 b3 47.gxf5 b2 48.fxe6 b1=♞ 49.f4 ♞e1+ 50.♞g4 ♞xe6+ 51.f5 ♞e3+ 52.♞h4 ♞xf5+



0-1

Chess Evolution wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May you be on the David's side of the battle more often in 2015 than on the Goliath's side! :)

Puzzle section

(5) Shirov, A(2675)-Dubov, D(2629)

Nutcracker rapid, 2014.12.24

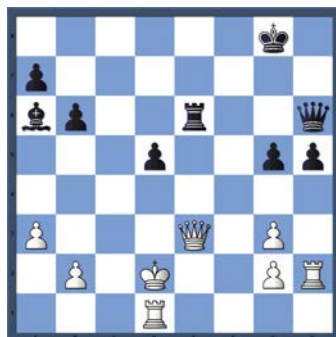
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(6) Dreev, A(2649)-Dubov, D(2629)

Nutcracker rapid, 2014.12.25

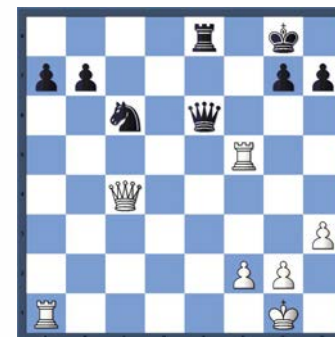
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(7) Oleksienko, M(2621)-Sameir, R(2128)

Al Ain Open, 2014.12.19

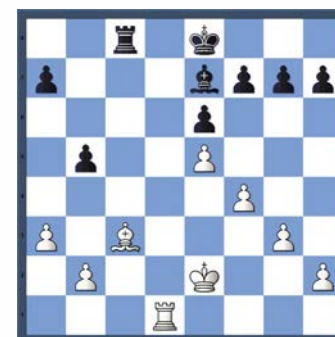
1. +-



(8) Sagar, S(2468)-Kryvoruchko, Y(2671)

Al Ain Open, 2014.12.20

1... ♠



(9) Shankland, S(2642)-Petrosyan, M(2407)

Al Ain Open, 2014.12.20

1. +-



(10) Mammadov, Z(2505)-Abdulla, K(2299)

Al Ain Open, 2014.12.20

1. +-



(11) Gopal, G(2580)-Gagare, S(2411)

Al Ain Open, 2014.12.21

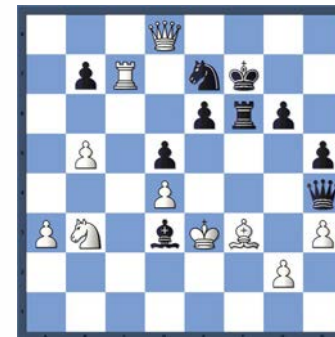
1. +-



(12) Kryvoruchko, Y(2671)-Onischuk, V(2614)

Al Ain Open, 2014.12.22

1... =



(13) Volkov, S(2599)-Mammadov, Z(2505)

Al Ain Open, 2014.12.22

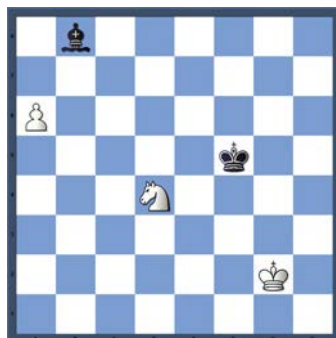
1. +-



(14) Parligras, M(2580)-Mosadeghpour, M(2337)

Al Ain Open, 2014.12.24

1... =



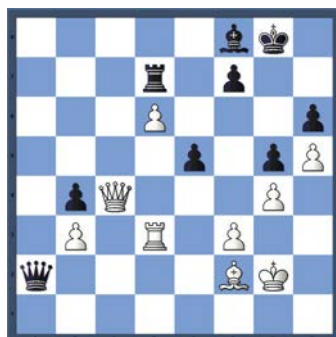
Endgame section

(15) Svidler, Peter(2758)
- Kramnik, Vladimir(2787)

FIDE Candidates,
2014.03.15



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



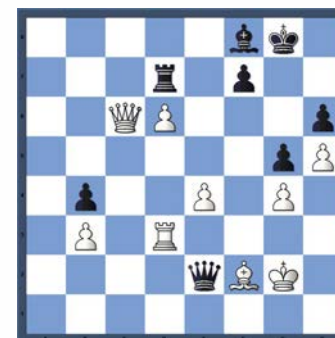
This is not a typical endgame which we usually comment, but an amazing position where in a seemingly hopeless situation Kramnik finds a miraculous defence and saves the game.

41. ♖c6?! is objectively a mistake, but who could blame Svidler for missing the following continuation. White seems to be easily winning, his d-pawn supported by all his pieces seems to be decisive. [White should have been greedy and grab the pawn: 41. ♖xb4! 41... ♖a6 42. ♖d5 ♖xd6 (Keeping the material balance with 42... ♗xd6 is risky due to the pin on the d-file. 43. ♖c4 ♖b7 44. ♖d3+-) 43. ♖xe5± White has an healthy extra pawn and very good chances to win the game.]

41...e4!! The first shocker by Kramnik. Black weakens the pawn structure in order to be able to create counterplay against the white king. [41... ♖d8 42. d7+-; An important detail is that after 41... ♖e2 42. ♖e3! is winning: 42... ♖xd6 43. ♖xd6! ♖xe3 44. ♖xf8+! ♖xf8 45. ♗xe3+-]

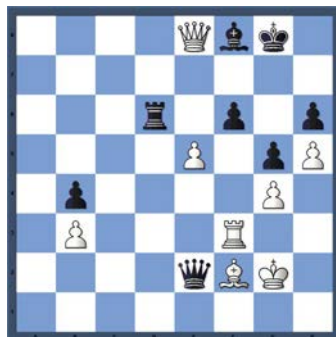
42. fxe4 There was nothing better than accepting the sacrifice, but now the g4 pawn becomes a target. [42. ♖xe4 42... ♖xd6= equalizes.; 42. ♖xd7 42... exd3 43. ♖c8 d2 Black's d-pawn is faster.]

42... ♖e2!



43. ♖f3! Svidler had to give up his strong d-pawn, but suddenly the black king becomes vulnerable after the opening of the f-file. [43. ♖xd7 43... ♖xd3 44. e5 ♖e4+=]

43... ♖xd6 44. ♖e8 f6 45. e5! Svidler had probably foreseen this position long ago and thought that he is going to win soon. However the real cold shower is just about to come. [45. ♖g6+ 45... ♗g7 Black holds.]



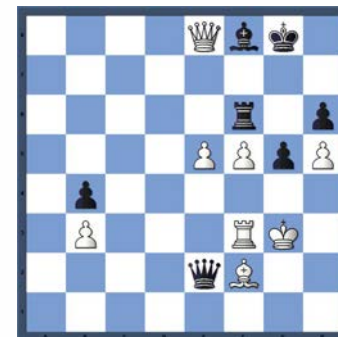
45...f5!! What a brilliant idea, combined with the next move! [The point was that 45...♙xe5 is refuted by 46.♙xe5 fxe5 47.♖xf8+! ♔xf8 48.♕c5 ♔e7 and White has a decisive tempo until the black king leaves the pin... 49.♕xb4! ♔e6 50.♕xd6 ♔xd6 51.♖f3 ♔d5 52.♖e3+- With an easily won pawn endgame with the distant passer. White gives up his b-pawn and collects the e5 and runs faster towards the kingside pawns.; 45...♖a6 46.♙c8+- leaving the pin also wins for White.; 45...♙e4 46.♙g6+! is another important nuance. 46...♙xg6 47.hxg6 fxe5 48.♖xf8+! ♔xf8 49.♕c5+- and the g-pawn promotes.]

46.gxf5 [46.♖xf5? 46...♙xg4+]

46...♖f6!! Just amazing! Another only move by Black and suddenly he is safe. The white king is too exposed to be able to make progress. [46...♙e4 was also tempting, as in comparison to the 45...Qe4 line, White cannot trade queens, but here White wins after 47.e6 ♙g4+ 48.♔h2 ♙xf3 49.♙f7+ White collects all the material with checks! 49...♔h8 50.♙xf8+ ♔h7 51.♙f7+ ♔h8 52.♙f6+ ♔g8 53.♙g6+ ♔h8 54.♙xh6+ ♔g8 55.♙xg5+ ♔h7 And here the winning move is 56.♕h4! ♙e2+ 57.♙g2 ♙xh5 58.♙e4+- and Black has no adequate defence against the march of the pawns. He runs out of checks after Rd2 Kg3.]

47.♔g3 Trying to free the bishop by leaving the pin, but Black

has another only move! The white queen had no good square to leave the pin on the e-file. [47.♙c8 47...♙xe5; 47.♙b8 is met by 47...♖xf5! 48.♖xf5 ♙g4+; 47.e6 47...♙e4 And Black holds in all the lines.]



47...♙e4! A last exact move and Black has nothing to worry about anymore. Qh4 Kg2 Qe4 is threatening. White has no useful move. Somehow all his pieces are immobilized and they are lacking any harmony.

48.♕c5 [48.♙b8 48...♖xf5]

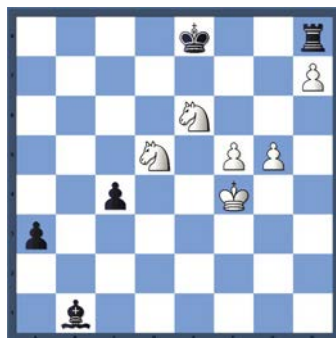
48...♙e1+ 49.♕f2 ♙e4 50.♕c5 ♙e1+ 51.♕f2 What a defence by Kramnik! 1/2-1/2

(16) Naumann, Alexander(2560)
- Jorczik, Julian(2400)

German league,
 2014.10.18

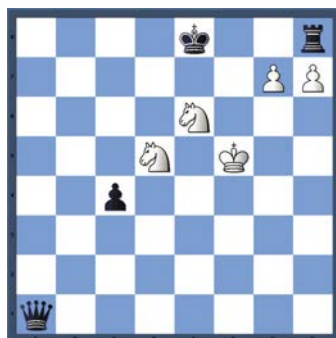


GM Csaba Balogh
 Best rating: 2672

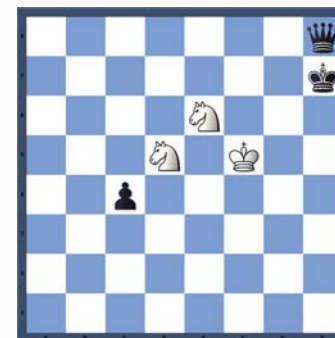


We might think that this position is from a study, but actually it was reached from a game with classical time control... Black plays the most natural move, which changes the objective evaluation...

57...a2? [As the further analysis will tell, Black should have eliminated the pawn first and only then promote his passed pawn. The winning continuation was 57...♙xf5! 58.♙xf5 a2 59.g6 a1=♚ 60.g7



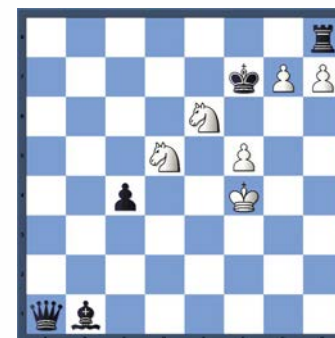
White is threatening to play g8Q, so the right move is 60...♙f7! Black is ready to take on h7, therefore White does not have anything better than to play 61.gxh8=♚ ♚xh8 62.♘g5+ ♙g7 and Black is winning. The last trap that Black should not fall into is 63.♘e6+ ♙h6!-+ (But not 63...♙xh7?)



64.♘f6+! ♙h6 65.♘g4+ and the knights are forcing perpetual check, as 65...♙h5 moves into 66.♘f4+! ♙h4 67.♘g6+)

58.g6 a1=♚ 59.g7 White is threatening g8Q. Black finds the best chance to play for the win.

59...♙f7!



60.f6!! Fantastic!!! I personally would never believe that this is a game and not a study. This last move is the reason why Black should have taken that pawn in the initial position. White has closed the a1-h8 diagonal and he is threatening to

take the rook. Despite the huge material advantage Black has no win, the knights are controlling everything.

60...♖xe6 Here comes the blunder, after which Black is winning again... [60...♖xh7 is met by 61.♘g5+! ♔g8 Otherwise White promotes the g-pawn with check, but now 62.♘e7#! is mate!]

61.gxh8=♚? White had two different ways to draw... [61.g8=♚+ was the difficult way to hold the draw, the idea becomes clear few moves later... 61...♔d6 62.♚xh8 With the king on d6, the game is drawn. 62...♚e5+ 63.♔g4 ♕f5+ 64.♔g5 This is the difference! The bishop is not protected on f5 by the king and Black cannot create a successful mating net. 64...♕xh7+ 65.♔h6=; The easiest draw was 61.♘c7+ 61...♔d7 62.gxh8=♚ ♚d4+ 63.♔g3 ♚e3+ 64.♔g4= and Black does not have more than perpetual check.]

61...♚e5+! 62.♔g4



62...♕f5+! 63.♔f3 Sad, but other moves would have led to a quick mate. [63.♔g5 63...♚g3+ and the bishop is not hanging. 64.♔h5 ♚g4+ 65.♔h6 ♚g6#]

63...♚xd5+ Black now wins thanks to the very effective cooperation of the queen and bishop.

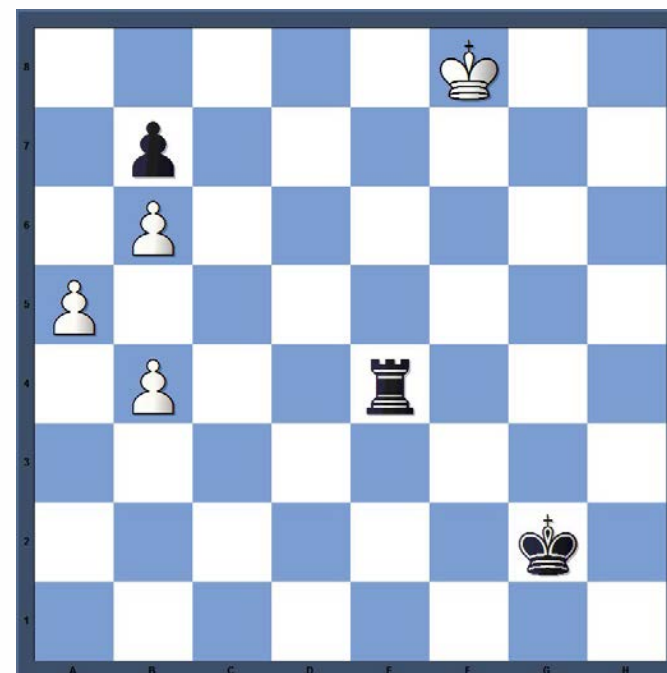
64.♔f2 ♚d4+ 65.♔f3 ♕e4+ 66.♔g3 ♚e3+ 67.♔h4 ♚f2+

68.♔g4 ♕f5+ [White resigned in view of the forthcoming mate: 68...♕f5+ 69.♔h5 ♚h2+ 70.♔g5 ♚g3+ 71.♔h5 ♚g4+ 72.♔h6 ♚g6#] **0-1**

Surprise section / study

(17) Kubbel

1. =



Solutions

(18) Yakubboev, N(2144)-Korpa, B(2415)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.16



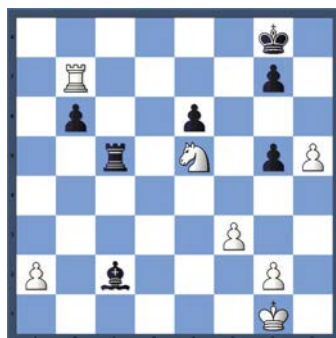
39...♖h1+! [39...♙xe3? 40.♘xf8+-; 39...♚h6? 40.♘xf4 ♖h1+ 41.♙g2 ♚h2+ 42.♙f3+-]

40.♙g2 [40.♙xh1 40...♚h6+]

40...♖h2+ 41.♙g1 ♖h1+ 42.♙g2=

(19) Theodorou, N(2321)-Dankhazi, A(2237)

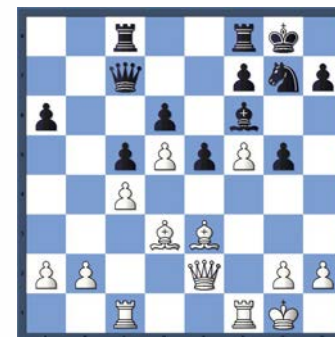
World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.16



35.♖b8+! ♙h7 36.♘f7! g6 37.h6! 1-0

(20) Tsiros, F(2147)-Marosi, L(2211)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.16

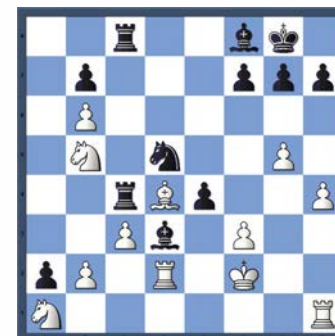


22.♙xg5! ♚e7 [22...♙xg5 23.f6 ♚d8 24.♚e4+-]

23.♙h6+-

(21) Perske, T(2402)-Kozak, A(2307)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.18



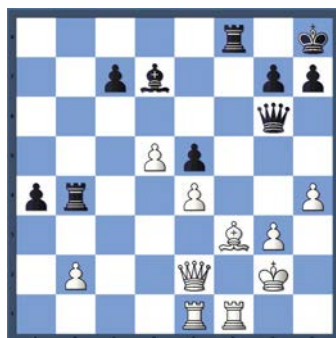
31...♖xd4! 32.♘xd4 e3+ 33.♙e1 exd2+-+

(22) Bakalchuk, J(2300)-Theodorou, N(2321)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.18

**51. ♖f5+! ♕f6** [51... ♙xf5 52. ♖xg8+-; 51... ♖f7 52. ♖h6+-]**52. ♖e5+ ♕g6** [52... ♖f7 53. ♖h6+-]**53. ♖h6!+-****(23) Unuk, L(2249)-Acs, M(1969)**

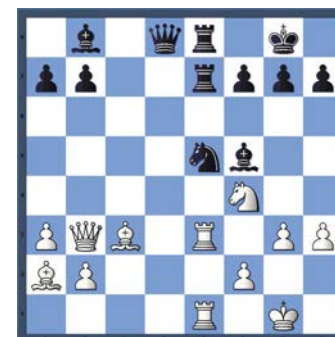
World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.18

**27. ♗g4!! +- ♖fb8** [27... ♖xf1 28. ♖xf1 ♗xg4 29. ♖f8#; 27... ♖bb8 28. ♗xd7+-]**28. ♗xd7! ♖xb2 29. ♖f8+! 1-0** [29. ♖f8+ 29... ♖xf8 30. ♖xb2+-; 29. ♖xb2? 29... ♖xb2+]**(24) Korpa, B(2415)-Tutisani, N(2301)**

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.18

**24. ♖xf7! ♖e8** [24... ♖xb1 25. ♖xb1+-; 24... ♖xf7 25. e6+! ♖xe6 (25... ♖xe6 26. ♖d4+ ♖f7 27. ♖xb3+-) 26. ♖xb3+-]**25. ♖g5+-****(25) Antal, TK(2292)-Ghvamberia, N(2122)**

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.18

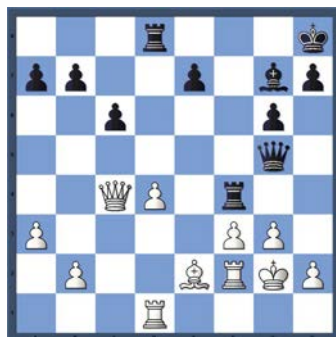
**24. ♖1e2?** [24. ♗xe5! 24... ♗xe5 25. ♖xe5! ♖xe5 26. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 27. ♖xf7+ ♖h8 28. ♖h5! ♖e7 (28... ♖e7 29. ♖g8#) 29. ♖xf5+-]

(26) Juhasz, A(2268)-Abdusattorova, B(2216)

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.18

**24. ♖xe5! ♜xd4** [24... ♜xe5 25. ♜xd8+—]**25. ♜xe8 ♜xc4** [25... ♞xe8 26. ♞xd4+—; 25... ♜d1+ 26. ♜e1!+—]**26. ♜e7 ♜c1+ 27. ♙f1+—****(27) Harazinska, E(2143)-Muha, M(2105)**

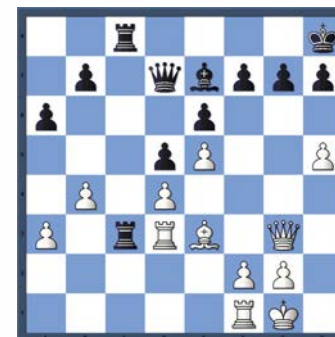
World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.18

**24. h4! ♜xh4 25. f4! ♜xf4 26. ♜xf4+—****(28) Perske, T(2402)-Abramciuc, M(2204)**

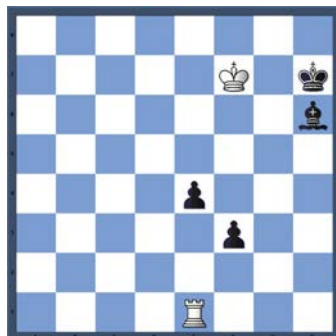
World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.19

**32. ♞xe5! dxe5** [32... fxe5 33. ♙g5+—]**33. ♙xc5+—****(29) Grinberg, E(2121)-Juhasz, A(2268)**

World Youth U16 Olympiad, 2014.12.20

**31. ♙h6! gxh6 32. ♜xc3+—**

(30) Prokes



1. Rf1! e3 2. Rxf3 e2 3. Rg3! e1=K 4. Rg7+! Kh8 5. Rg8+ Kh7
6. Rg7+ Bxg7=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 149

2nd of January 2015

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Editorial Preface

First of all we once again want to wish you a Happy New Year 2015!

Our weekly newsletter is going to experience some changes that we hope will make every issue even more enjoyable:

1) Peter Zhdanov (the husband of Natalia Pogonina and redactor of pogonina.com) will be in charge of the weekly "David vs Goliath" game, which will feature the biggest upset of the week. Chess is a game of pieces and not of "names", so anyone can beat anyone.

2) We are very happy to announce that Alexander Khalifman (former World Champion, fantastic writer, chess books publisher, chess coach, owner of "The Grandmaster Chess School" in St.Petersburg, etc.) is going to share his thoughts on opening theory with us! The new column titled the "The K-Files" are coming up, starting next week.

With all this new material, Csaba and Arkadij are only going to comment the best game of the week instead of the previous two.

Now let's come to the chess:

There were a lot of New Year's opens, but the chess elite was resting, with the exception of Wesley So, who crushed the North American Open with the fantastic score of 8/9.

Your commentator Arkadij also won the Zurich Open with 6.5/7.

Another great result was shown by the young German player Donchenko, who won the strong Groningen Open with 8/9.

Already in 10 days from now we will see the best chess players battle it out in Wijk aan Zee and the line-up includes Carlsen, Caruana, etc...

Until then, we hope you enjoy our comments from the less prestigious events- but not less interesting games!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

2 best games of the past week

**(1) Kurmann, Oliver(2426)
- Naiditsch, Arkadij(2731) [C58]**

38th Zurich Christmas(4.1),
2014.12.28



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are in the 4th round (out of 7) of the Zurich Open, and both my opponent and I are on 3/3. Oliver is a very solid player and has been an IM for many years, but he will probably never become a GM because of his law studies which went successfully and now he is working as a lawyer. To win against a solid IM with the black pieces is always a difficult task, but in the current game I was lucky to get a very complicated position right out of the opening, where my opponent was a full 2 pawns up, but my pieces clearly had the better development and I managed to finish the game with a nice mating attack.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4 ♘f6 I decided to play a slightly more complicated line than 3...Bc5, which often leads to very boring positions.

4.♘g5 Kurmann surprised me with this move, as he usually plays the 4.d3 line. Of course 4. Ng5 is one of the main moves, but now things are very quickly getting complicated.

4...d5 5.exd5 ♘a5 This is also the main move. [After 5...♘xd5? 6.♘xf7! ♔xf7 7.♚f3+ ♔e6 8.♘c3 White gets a deadly attack.]

6.♙b5+ c6 This is also clearly the main move. In a couple of my games I tried 6...Bd7, but I was not too happy with the

outcome of these games.

7.dxc6 bxc6 Now White has the choice between 3 moves: 8.Be2 has been the main line for many years, 8.Qf3 is a very risky decision, but a possible try and 8.Bd3 is the new fashion, which was already played in a couple of games on the highest level.



8.♘d3 This move looks a bit strange because White doesn't have the d3 move with the usual development, but we should not forget that White is a full pawn up.

8...♞d5 9.♞f3 ♘d6 10.O-O There is nothing new until here.

10...O-O [I didn't want to play 10...♞f4 because it is just a line where Black can at most equalize: 11.♞c3 ♞xd3 12.cxd3 O-O 13.♞e4 and White might be a bit better.]

11.♞e1 Black wants to play f5, so White attacks the e5 pawn.

11...♘g4 After some thought, I decided to play this move because it looked very interesting to me. More usual is 11...Re8.

12.h3 A forced move, since Black wanted to play f5 again.

12...♞xf3! It is usually a bad decision to give up the light squared bishop, but I found quite a forced line which I want to play next. [in case of 12...♞h5 13.♞f5 I believe that White's position can be a bit better here.]

13.♞xf3 and here comes the key move behind 12... Bxf3:

13...f5 Of course I can't give White any rest and need to play aggressively, trying to use the bad development of the white pieces.

14.♞xf5 This move is probably a must. [After a passive move like 14.♞f1 14...e4 15.♞d1 I have the nice 15...♞c7! with the idea of playing Qd6 and f4 next. White is under heavy attack.]



14...♞e7! Before playing this move, I had a 30 minutes thought. Black really had a lot of choices and the position is very complicated. [14...g6? was clearly a mistake. 15.♞e6+ ♞g7 and now White has the strong 16.♞xd5! sacrificing the queen! 16...cxd5 (If Black takes the queen, his position is probably close to lost: 16...♞xf3 17.♞xf3 followed by Nc3-d3 and I don't see how Black should survive here.) 17.♞xd5 Things are still not that clear but Black probably doesn't have enough compensation here. 17...e4 doesn't lead anywhere after the cool 18.♞c3 and White is close to winning.; And after 14...♞f6?! 15.♞e4 I couldn't really find a way to continue my attack, maybe just with 15...Qe6, but I was not sure at all if I would have enough compensation here, when White has such a great bishop on e4.; 14...♞c5!? This was the other move I liked during the game. It is hard to say what to do now for

White... Black's threat is simple, to play g6 and put maximum pressure on the f2 square. 15.♖f1 is maybe the best try for White and now Black has a very wide choice of moves, such as 15...Nf4 or 15...Qe7. It is a very complicated position that needs deep analysis.; White will also be better after 14...♗g5?! 15.♕e6+ ♖h8 White wins a tempo with 16.d3 ♗e7 followed by the "usual" queen sacrifice 17.♕xd5 ♖xf3 18.♕xf3 with a much better position for White.]

15.♗e4 My opponent spent almost 45 minutes on this move, but it seems like it is almost losing by force. The question is, does White has anything better?! Black's threat is to play g6 and win a full piece. [15.♘c3 is a possible try. 15...♘xc3 16.♗xc3 ♖xf5 17.♗xa5 but here as well Black's play looks very dangerous.]

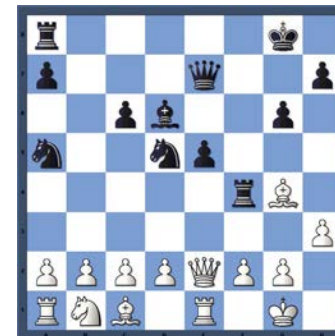


17...♖af8 How to protect the f2 pawn?! 18.♖f1 doesn't solve the problems. Black has a lot of very nice continuations and one of them is 18...♗f7 19.f3 e4 with probably a mating attack for Black.; Another possibility for White is to play 15.♗g4 but now Black is gets direct play with 15...♗f6 16.♕e6+ ♖h8 17.♖f1 And after a simple move like 17...♘f4 once again White's position just looks close to lost. All the black pieces are in the attack and White's development of the queenside is still on "pause".]

15...g6 I of course have to open the f-file.

16.♕g4 [16.♕xg6 is not much better. 16...hxg6 (Black can also continue with 16...♖f4 17.♕xh7+ ♖h8 18.♗g6 ♖f6 19.♗h5 ♗xh7 20.♗xh7+ ♖xh7 and in this endgame Black is clearly better because of White's horrible development.) 17.♗xg6+ ♗g7 18.♗xg7+ (White can't win the piece back with 18.♗xd6? because after 18...♘f4 it is not possible to defend from Qxg2 next.) 18...♖xg7 and we are in an endgame where White has 4 pawns for a piece, which is good, but on the other hand all the pieces are still on the 1st rank, which gives Black enough time to create strong play. Black should be clearly better here.]

16...♖f4 17.♗e2



17...♖af8 I am just playing the most natural moves and it seems like I am already close to winning.

18.♕f3? This move loses by force. [White should have tried 18.d4! and things are still not that simple. 18...♖xf2 19.♗xf2 ♖xf2 20.♖xf2 Now Black has quite a few different ways to continue: 20...h5 (20...e4?! 21.♖g1! and the position is very unclear.) 21.♕f3 ♗h4+ 22.♖f1 exd4 and I think White's position should be very dangerous, but the fight still goes on.]

18...♖xf3! Of course! This move is just impossible to miss.

19.gxf3 ♘f4 20.♗f1 ♗g5+ 21.♖h1 [21.♖h2 leads to the same result. 21...e4 and the bishop on d6 joins the attack. 22.♖xe4 ♘xh3+ 23.♖xh3 ♖xf3#]



21...Kf5 The most simple. The pawns on f3 and h3 are hanging.

22.Ke3 Qxh3 23.Qc3 White is trying to develop the pieces, but it is too late...

23...e4 Once again am choosing the most direct way to finish the game. The threat is to mate with Nxf2 and Qh2.

24.f4 Qxf4+ 25.Kg1 The fight is over, mate in 3 is on the board.



25...Qe2+ 26.Qxe2 Kf2+ and my opponent lets me mate him! :)

27.Kf1 Kh1# I was very happy to win this game and I actually don't know where exactly White went wrong. Clearly the most critical position is after 14...Qe7!, but it still seems to be very hard to play during a practical game. **0-1**

(2) Vitiugov, Nikita(2738) - Kosyrev, Vladimir(2520) [D37]

European Rapid 2014(9.13),
2014.12.21



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Nikita Vitiugov wins a very nice attacking game despite the shortened time control.

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f6 3.Qc3 d5 4.Qf3 dxc4 We have reached the Vienna gambit from a slightly unusual move order. It used to be a very popular opening not so long ago, but recently it has gone out of fashion a bit.

5.e4 Bb4



6.Bxc4!? This pawn sacrifice is considered to be one of the most critical tests of the opening and probably the reason why it disappeared from the highest level. [The main line continues with 6.Bg5 6...c5]

6...Qxe4 7.O-O! Another pawn sacrifice! It is already the logical follow-up after the previous move. White gives up some material for a quick development and active piece play.

7...Qxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 Black should be satisfied with only one

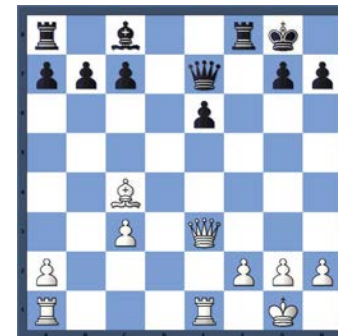
extra pawn and he should aim to consolidate. [It is better not to be too greedy with 8...♙xc3 9.♖b1 White wants to deprive Black from castling with Ba3 and if he castles now Rb3 might be very dangerous with the idea of switching the rook to the kingside after playing Ne5.]

9.♘e5 The main and the most dangerous move, activating the knight and opening the route for the queen to develop to g4.

9...O-O 10.♕e1 This is basically the novelty. I don't know if it was a prepared one or just played over the board, but in any case I don't believe that it improves the main line. [Theory goes with 10.♖g4 10...♘c6 11.♕e1 f5! (Entering the structure 11...♘xe5 12.dxe5 is very risky for Black! The e5 pawn reduces the movement of the black pieces and it gives very strong attacking potential against the king. White is threatening with Bh6 and also intends to bring his pieces to the attack with Re3-g3 or Rh3, followed by Bd3 and sacrifices in front of the king.) 12.♖f3 ♘xe5 13.♕xe5! (13.dxe5 Having the pawn on f5 is a huge difference compared to 11...Nxe5 12.dxe5. White is very far from a succesful attack, as the f5 pawn prevents the main threats.)]

10...♘c6 11.♖f3 This is the real novelty, as there were some games where White transposed to the main lines with 11.Qg4.

11...♙d7 [Black was familiar with the structure 11...♘xe5!? 12.dxe5 that it is very dangerous for him, however the placement of the queen on f3 allows the following defensive resource: 12...f5 13.exf6 ♙xf6 14.♙a3 ♙e7! This is the difference to the 10.Qg4 line. Now the queen is under attack and White cannot play Rad1 with a significant tempo! White still has very strong compensation, but I am not sure if it is going to be enough for more than a draw... 15.♙xe7 ♖xe7 16.♖e3



16...♙d7 Black is ready to give back the e6 pawn and simplify to a balanced endgame, although White can still press a bit with 17.♕ad1 threatening to sacrifice on d7 and Black cannot bring his a8 rook to the game because the a7 pawn is hanging. However after some move like 17...Rf6, I don't believe that Black should lose this game...]

12.♖g3 ♖h8 Leaving from the pin and the Bh6 threat.

13.♙f4! Developments with a tempo are always welcome. The c7 is under attack and White wants to bring his a1 rook into the game.

13...♙d6 [In case of 13...♘xe5 White can already recapture with the bishop, creating a double attack. 14.♙xe5 ♙f6 15.♙xc7 ♖c8 16.♕e3! White has leveled the material and keeps a very strong initiative. He still has good attacking potentials with Bd3, Qf4 and Rh3.]

14.♕ad1! All pieces are playing now! White also prepares for the capture on e5 with the pawn, after which the rook will stay perfectly on the d-file. Nevertheless, there is a potential idea to lift the rook to the 3rd rank.

14...♘e7! A clever move! Black drives a piece to the kingside around his king.

15.♙d3! The bishop stands the best and creates the biggest

threats along the b1-h7 diagonal!

15...♖g6 Black goes for the bishop on f4. [15...f5 leaves Black with a cramped position and deprives him from the chance of exchanging some minor pieces with Ng6.]



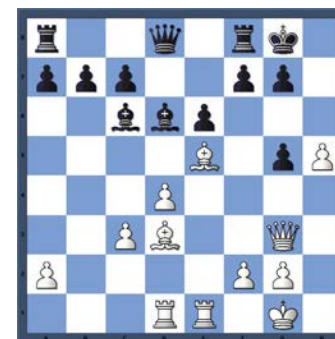
There is no need to hurry for White, he can slowly improve his position with 16.c4! taking ground and restricting the mobility of the black pieces. Black is obliged to suffer in such positions despite his extra pawn.]

16.♗xg6+ hxg6 In many cases, this kind of doubled g-pawns are strengthening the king. The g-file is closed and there are much less potential sacrifices, unless we don't count Bxg6, but it looks also less dangerous. However, there is a very important factor which didn't exist before and that is that the h-file is opened and White has the possibility of driving two of his heavy pieces over there.

17.♕e5! Very well played! Vitiugov feels that keeping the initiative has a bigger importance than restoring the material balance! White is ready to transfer his rook to the h-file through e4 or e3. [After 17.♕xd6 17...cxd6 18.♖xd6 Black forces the trade of the queens with 18...♕a4 19.♖xd8 ♖fxd8= and equalizes.]

17...♗g8 It is understandable that Black wanted to leave

the h-file, but at the same time it allows Re4. [I was trying to improve Black's play with 17...♕c6 but White has a nice attacking position here as well: 18.h4! Exploding the kingside with the use of the h-pawn! 18...♗g8 19.h5 g5



20.h6! The attack is rolling. 20...♕xe5 (20...g6? loses right away to 21.h7+! ♖xh7 22.♖h3+ ♗g8 23.♖h8#; 20...gxh6 is also bad because of 21.♖h3! and Black cannot protect the h6 pawn. 21...♕xe5 22.♖xh6) 21.♖xe5 gxh6 22.f4! and the black king is terribly weak and vulnerable!]

18.♖e4 [18.h4!? was also possible, but I prefer the rook transfer to the h-file.]

18...♖c8 An ugly move, but it is not easy to defend such positions, especially in a rapid game. Black protects the c7 pawn in order to be able to neutralize the threats on the h-file with Be7 and at the same time he prepares to create counterplay with c5! In general this is the right approach against an attack on a side, Black should search for counterplay in the center. [18...♕xe5 19.dxe5 ♕c6 20.♖h4 is also very suspicious.]

19.♖h4 ♕e7 20.♖h3 Seemingly there is nothing on the h-file, because White cannot put another heavy piece there, however this assessment is completely wrong...

20...♙f6 Black parries the sacrifice on g6 by protecting the g7 pawn. [If Black starts his counterplay with 20...c5?



21.♙xg6! leads to a forced win: 21...fxg6 22.♖xg6 ♖f6 (On 22...♙f6 the strongest is the known motif of changing the rook with the queen on the h-file. White executes it by playing 23.♖h7! threatening with Rxg7 and after 23...♙xe5 24.♖h5!+- mate is coming next.) 23.♖h7+ ♗f7 24.dxc5! The best! Suddenly the rook on d1 joins the game and decides the outcome. 24...♖xc5 25.♖h5+ ♗g8 26.♖h8+ ♗f7 27.♖xd8 ♙xd8 White has different wins here, one of them is 28.♖d7+ ♗e8 29.♙xf6 ♗xd7 30.♖d3+ ♖d5 31.♖xd5+ exd5 32.♙xg7+-]



21.♖e1! Very subtle and strong! Vitiugov brings his second rook into the attack.

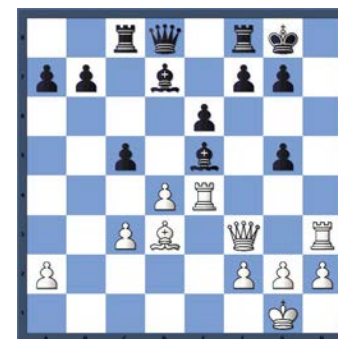
21...c5 Too late! [The only move was 21...♙c6 preventing Re4, but it also deprives Black from his counterplay with c5. White can increase the pressure with 22.♙xf6 ♖xf6 23.♖h4! with the idea of playing Qh3. The only move is 23...♖fd8 24.♖h3 ♗f8 25.♙c4! and the game goes on, but White has a very serious initiative. A mistake by Black could be fatal with such a weak king. A sacrifice on e6 is also hanging in the air. Black's position is very dangerous, for instance trading the strong bishop with 25...Bd5 loses, because after 26. Bxd5, Rh8 is coming next either with mate or it wins the c8 rook.]

22.♖e4! The rook arrives to h4 and decides the game.

22...g5 [22...cxd4 23.♙xf6 ♖xf6 24.♖eh4+-; Freeing the king's route toward the center with 22...♖e8 does not work anymore because of 23.♙xf6 ♖xf6 24.♖eh4 ♗f8 25.♖d6+!+- and the king does not reach the e7 square. Rh8 mates next.]

23.♖f3 Other moves were also winning. White creates the threat of Qh5 and prepares for a very nice finish after Bxe5...

23...♙xe5



24.♖h8+!! finishes the game in style! [24.♖h5 24...f5 remains unclear.]

24...♔xh8 25.♖h4+!! Another rook sacrifice to open the bishop's diagonal! [25.♖h5+?? is wrong because after 25...♔g8 26.♖h4 f5 suddenly Black wins!; Black resigned in view of 25.♖h4+ 25...♔g8 (25...gxh4 26.♖h5+ ♔g8 27.♖h7#) 26.♖h8+! The desperado rook! It forces the king to move to the wrong square. 26...♔xh8 27.♖h5+ ♔g8 28.♖h7#] **1-0**

David vs. Goliath

In this special weekly column we will be looking at the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) will be appreciated.

**(3) Salzgeber, Frank(2175)
- Rapport, Richard(2716) [A65]**

2014.12.26



Peter Zhdanov
Chief Editor
of Pogonina.com

The biggest upset of the week was definitely the loss of the young chess prodigy GM Richard Rapport (2716), who succumbed to Frank Salzberger (2175)!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 d6 3.♘c3 g6 The Pirc Defence is a popular choice among rating favorites who wish to play for a win against a lower-rated opponent with Black. The opening is risky in the strategic sense though and often backfires.

4.e4 ♗g7 5.f3 O-O 6.♗g5 c5 7.d5 h6 8.♗e3 e6 9.♘ge2 exd5 10.cxd5 Black has a reasonably comfortable game here and can play either a6 or Nbd7 as in the game.

10...♖bd7 11.♗g3 h5 12.♙e2 h4 13.♗f1 ♗h7 14.♗d2 f5



15.exf5N Surprisingly, this natural move is a novelty. [15.g3 15...a6 16.a4 ♗d4! Braun (2537) - Thiede (2511), 2007, 1/2-1/2; 15.O-O 15...f4 16.♙f2 ♗e5 17.♙h1 (17.a4 17...♗g5 18.♙h1 ♗gf7→ and Black's attack prevailed in Lapicciarella (2212) - Chetalbashev (2613), 2010, 0-1) 17...a6 18.a4 ♗d7 19.a5 ♖c8 20.♗a4 ♙xa4 21.♙xa4 ♗f6? 22.♙xh4+— Black gave up a pawn for no apparent reason, but White didn't manage to convert it in yet another David vs. Goliath encounter: Djukic (2157) - Nikolov (2552), 2014, 1/2-1/2]

15...gxf5 16.O-O ♗e5 17.♙h1 ♙e7 18.♙f2 ♗g6 19.♖g1 ♗d7 20.a4 ♗f4 21.♙f1



♗h5? [21...♗d4! This move is extremely hard to make for a human since it trades the amazing g7 bishop for a

relatively modest colleague on f2 and creates a weak double pawn on d4. However, this bold exchange seems to be the only good option for Black. 22.♙xd4 cxd4 23.g3 (23.♗b5?! 23...♗h5→; 23.♗e2?? 23...♗d3 0-1) 23...hxg3 24.♖xg3+↗ with a complicated struggle ahead]

22.♙e1 ♙f7 23.♗c4?! [23.♙xh4 23...♖ae8 24.♙c1± Black's compensation for the pawn looks insufficient.]

23...♖ae8 [23...♖fe8 24.♙d1 ♙f6± Black is clearly worse here. The Black queenside is becoming a target.]

24.♙d2



♙xc3? The decisive mistake. [24...♙f6 and if 25.♗b5 (25.♗d3!?) 25...♙xb5 26.axb5 then 26...f4! was Black's last chance to try to confuse White and to spice up the game, for example, 27.♖xa7 ♗g3+ 28.♙xg3 hxg3 29.h3 ♙e7 and Black, although down a pawn, is still in the game.]

25.♙xc3+— ♗g3+ desperation

26.hxg3 hxg3 27.♙xg3 ♙h5+ 28.♙h2 ♖f6 If it was Black's move, the position would be a mate in 3. One tempo is worth the entire kingdom here!

29.g4 ♙h4 30.gxf5+ ♙f7 31.♗xd6+ Black resigned in view of the upcoming mate on g7! **1-0**

Puzzle section

(4) Hawkins, J(2552)-Brustkern, J(2236)

Hastings Open, 2014.12.29

1. +-



(5) Tiviakov, S(2677)-Senders, M(2380)

Groningen Open, 2014.12.22

1. +-



(6) Ma Qun(2621)-Raznikov, D(2494)

Groningen Open, 2014.12.27

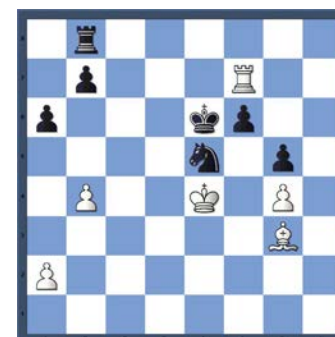
1... -+



(7) Romanov, E(2638)-Martynov, P(2400)

Rilton Cup, 2014.12.28

1. +-



(8) Krasenkow, M(2614)-Bellon Lopez, J(2381)

Rilton Cup, 2014.12.28

1. +-



(9) Zhrebukh, Y(2631)-Shen, V(2410)

Intercollegiate, 2014.12.28

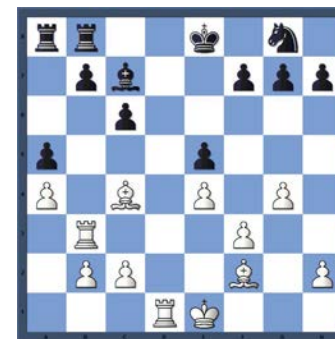
1. +-



(10) Navara, D(2727)-Grossmann, R(2124)

European Rapid Championship, 2014.12.20

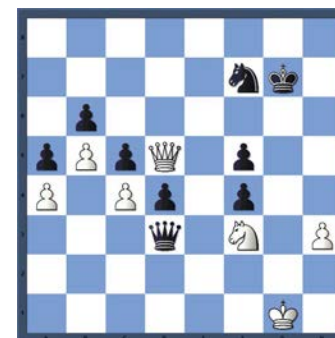
1. +-



(11) Riazantsev, A(2684)-Girya, O(2457)

European Rapid Championship, 2014.12.20

1. +-



(12) Fedorchuk, S(2669)-Socko, M(2470)

European Rapid Championship, 2014.12.20

1. +-



(13) Piorun, K(2517)-Navara, D(2727)

European Rapid Championship, 2014.12.20

1... -+



Endgame section

(14) Morozevich, Alexander(2712)
- Artemiev, Vladislav(2662)

Nutcracker rapid,
2014.12.24



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



47...♖xe2+! 48.♙xe2 g6! White is a pawn up, but he has a very bad pawn structure because it is fixed. He can only create a passed pawn by trading pawns, but reducing the material brings the draw closer for the defending side. The black pawns are fixed on the light squares, which mates the color of the white bishop, but the black king safely protects them. Black holds the draw rather comfortably...

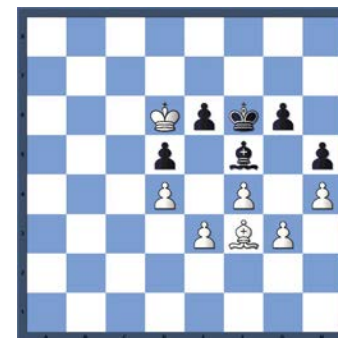
49.g3 ♙b1 50.♖e1 White invades with his king on the queenside. Black cannot avoid it by transferring his own king to d6, because it is forced to guard the pawn on g6 against the potential Bd3 threat, aiming to exchange the bishops.

50...♙e4 51.♖d2 ♙f5 Black patiently waits.

52.♙f3 ♖e7 This move is unnecessary but possible, because White cannot trade the bishops with Bd3 now.

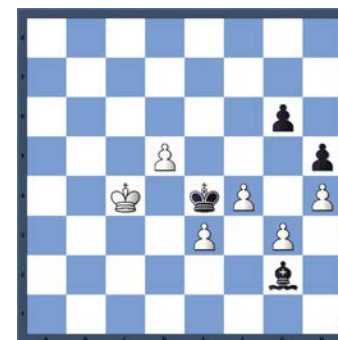
53.♖c3 ♙f6 The king returns to its ideal place and Black continues waiting with his bishop.

54.♖b4 ♙h3 55.♖c5 ♙f5 56.♖d6



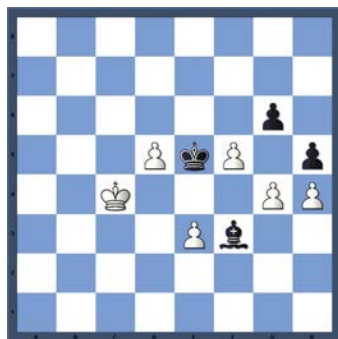
56...♙h3! It is important to wait on the h3-g4-f5 squares to avoid the g4 break. [56...♙d3? allows 57.g4! hxg4 58.♙xg4+- and the e6 pawn is lost.]

57.e4 [The attempt to get 3 pawns for the bishop is rather dangerous: 57.♙xd5? 57...exd5 58.♖xd5 ♙g2+! 59.♖c5 (White gets into zugzwang after 59.e4? 59...♙f3+- and the e4 pawn falls.) 59...♖e6! The white pawns are excellently blockaded. 60.♖c4 otherwise Black goes Kd5. 60...♙d5+! It is important to transfer the bishop to f3 before invading with the king. (The direct 60...♖f5? runs into 61.d5 ♖e4



Everything seems to be under control as the bishop stops the

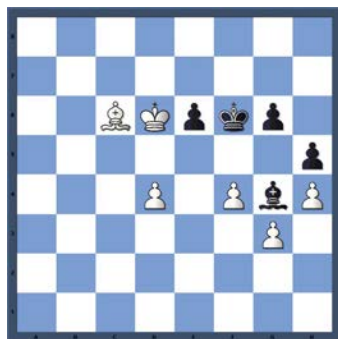
d-pawn from h3, but suddenly 62.g4!! ♖f3 (62...♗h3 63.f5!) 63.f5! keeping the h3-c8 diagonal closed! 63...♔e5! The only move, otherwise Black even loses.



64.d6! An only move also for White! The bishop was threatening to take on d5 with check. 64...♗xd6 65.gxh5 gxh5 66.♔d4= followed by e4-e5 and driving the king to f4-g5. The game ends in a draw!) 61.♔c5 ♖f3 62.♔c4 ♔f5! 63.d5 ♔e4! already works as g4 makes no sense for White. Black wins. 64.d6 ♗g4--]

57...dxe4 58.♗xe4 A pair of pawns has been traded, but White is still very far from creating a passed pawn.

58...♗g4 59.♗c6 Morozevich plays out all his cards! Black must be very careful.



59...♗d1! Artemiev realizes the danger and continues defending precisely! Black must change the diagonal of his bishop. [59...♗h3? Or 59...Bf5 was wrong in view of 60.♗d7! ♗f5 61.♗c8! An important waiting move and after both Bg4 and Bh3, d5 wins! 61...♗g4 62.d5! exd5 63.♗xg4 hxg4 64.♔xd5+-]

60.♗e4 [60.♗d7 60...♗b3!= Black holds!]

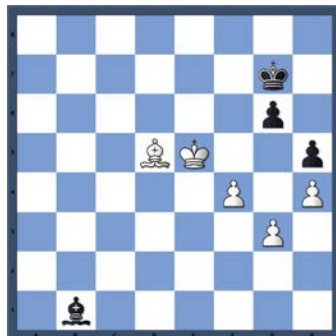
60...♗b3 In comparison to the positions when the d5 and e3 pawns were still on the board, Black had to be careful to not allow g4. However without the pawn on d5, the e6 pawn is safe!

61.♔d7 ♗a4+ 62.♔d8 ♗b5! Black prevents the king's march to h7!

63.♗c2 ♗c6 64.♔c7 ♗b5 65.♗b3 ♔e7 66.♗d1 ♗c4 Black has already showed the right defensive ideas against all the dangerous attempts. It is time to wait for White to make some progress.

67.♗f3 ♗d3 68.♔c6 ♗c2 69.♔c5 ♗d3 70.d5 Morozevich decides to trade one more pawn, but the material is getting reduced again. There was no good way anyway to make some progress.

70...exd5 71.♔d4 ♗b1 72.♔e5 ♔f7 73.♗xd5+ ♔g7 The problem remains the same for White! He is still lacking a passed pawn and the only way to create one is by trading even more pawns...



74. ♖e6 ♜c2 75. f5 gxf5 76. ♖xf5 ♜d1! Of course Black must keep the bishops until the end! White is still missing a passed pawn and after playing g4, Black just takes everything and the pawn endgame is a theoretical draw.

77. ♖e4 ♜h6! It is important to protect the h6 pawn in order to avoid the last trick of Kf4 followed by Bf3!

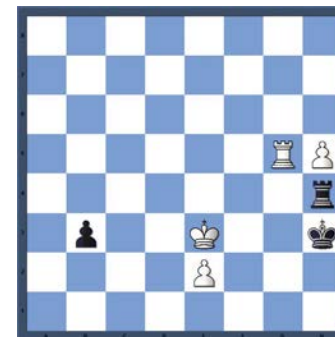
78. ♜f4 ♜a4 79. ♖f3 ♜e8 80. ♜e5 ♜d7 81. ♜f6 ♜c8 82. ♖e4 ♜d7 83. ♖f5 ♜b5 Draw agreed! Nice defense by Black! 1/2-1/2

**(15) Shimanov, Aleksandr(2591)
- Martynov, Pavel(2400)**

44th Rilton Cup 2014-15(4.8),
2014.12.30



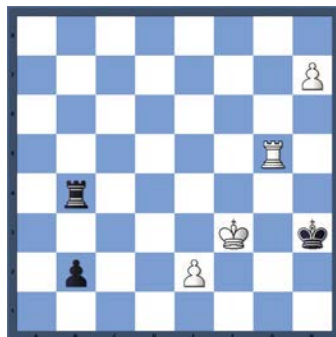
GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



We are in a very interesting rook endgame. White's position feels like it should be winning, but on the other hand in case the black king manages to escape from the h-file, it could just be a draw. Let us take a look at how things will develop.

66. ♜f3! A good move! The white king will disturb the black king from coming back into the game now and White also has many mating ideas. [66. ♜b5? of course doesn't lead anywhere, since after 66... ♜g4! the black king is on the way back to e8, when the position is an easy theoretical draw.]

66... ♜h2?! A very strange move. Black is waiting for the e-pawn to start moving, which can't be good. [Black had an amazing way of making a draw: 66... ♜b4! This kind of move is very hard to find, because now the h-pawn is free to move. 67. ♜g1 is the best try for White. (67.h6 also leads to a draw. 67...b2 68. ♜h5+ (68.h7 is not better:

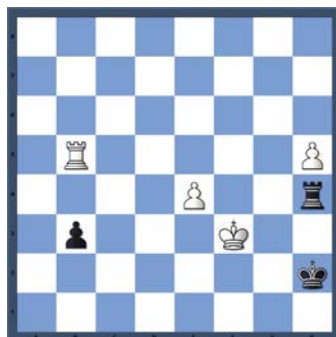


68...Rf8 69.Rb5 Rf7 70.Rxb2 Rf7+ 71.Kg4 Kg4 and again the black king is in time to go back.) 68...Rf8 69.Rb5 Rf7 70.Rxb2 and Black is in time to free his king. 70...Rf6+ 71.Kg4 Kg4 with a not too difficult draw.) 67...Kg4! The black king starts to run back. 68.h6 Now Black needs to find another only move: 68...Rb8! The black rook has to be in time to be placed on h8! 69.h7 Rf8 70.Kf4 threatening mate on h1. 70...Kg5 71.Kf5 and Black saves the game with 71...Kg6 72.Kf6 Rf8+ 73.Kg7 Rb8 with a clear draw.]

67.e4! White is not only preventing Black's idea of playing Rb4, but in many lines it could also be important for the e-pawn to be as advanced as possible.

67...Kg1 This move looks strange again, but there was already nothing better Black could do.

68.Rb5 Kg2 Black's position looks really lost now, but White still needs to be careful!

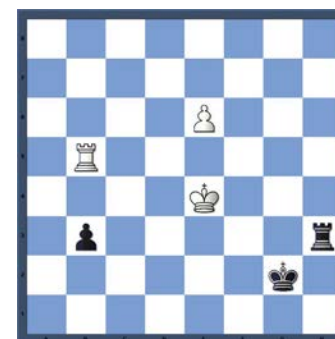


69.e5? What a miscalculation by White! [69.Kg3! was leading to an easy win. White just wants to play Kd4 next. 69...Kg3 70.Rxb3 Rf7 and now White needs to play the strong 71.Rb8! with the idea of Rg8+ to cut the black king by 2 squares from the pawn and in case of 71...Rg5 72.Kd4 followed by Rf8, e5 finishes the game.]

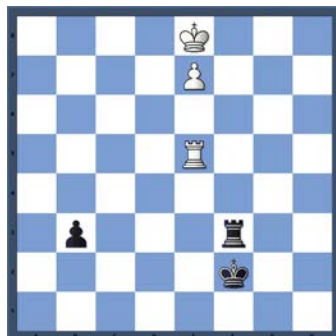
69...Rf7! Black doesn't miss his chance.

70.Kg4 Rf3 Of course the b3 pawn has to be protected.

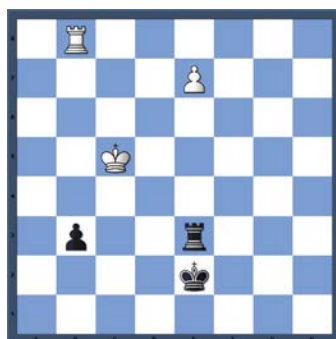
71.e6 Kg2 The black king starts his march to the c2 square!



72.Kd4?! Another unlucky move, after which things are getting easy for Black. [The best try was 72.e7 72...Kg2 73.Kd5 Now the best Black can do is to get the white king to e8. 73...Rf3 74.Kd6 Rf3+ 75.Kg6 Rf3+ 76.Kd7 Rf3+ 77.Kg8 In this very complicated position White's idea is to play Re5+ in many lines, so Black should not cross the e-file with his king and needs to keep on waiting. 77...Rf3 78.Rb8 (Another interesting try for White is 78.Rf5 and Black needs to find



78...♔f1! 79.♔d7 b2 80.e8=♔ (80.♖b5 80...♖d3+ 81.♔e8 ♖d2) 80...b1=♔ and White has no checks, so the position is equal.) 78...♔e2 Now the black king has to start running to the b-pawn to be just in time! 79.♔d7 ♖d3+ 80.♔c6 ♖e3 81.♔d6 ♖d3+ 82.♔c5 ♖e3

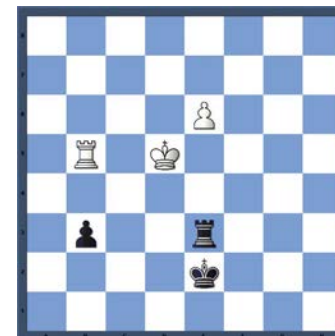


83.e8=♔ White can't improve the position any more. 83...♖xe8 84.♖xe8+ ♔d2 85.♔c4 b2 86.♖b8 ♔c1 Wow, the black king reaches c1 just in time!]

72...♔f2 e7 never works any longer because of Re3.

73.♔c4 ♖e3 forcing the white king to defend the e-pawn.

74.♔d5 ♔e2 and the black king comfortably reaches the c2 square.



75.♔d6 ♔d2 76.e7 ♔c2 The king has reached its final destination and the position is a draw!

77.♖c5+ ♔d2 78.♖d5+ ♔c2 79.♖c5+ ♔d2 We just saw a very interesting endgame with many funny draw ideas and of course this was another great example of how easy it is to miss a winning continuation in a rook endgame! **1/2-1/2**

Clash of the Titans

(16) Tal, Mihail
- Brinck Claussen, Bjorn[D40]

Havana ol (Men) fin-A(4),
1966



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.♘c3 ♘c6 4.e3 e6 5.d4 d5 6.a3 cxd4
Black can also choose not to hurry with any concrete action in the center and simply play a waiting move like [6...a6]

7.exd4 ♙e7 8.♙d3 [8.c5 with the idea to take space on the queenside and improve the position by playing b4. 8...♘e4 Otherwise white will play Bd3. Black should play 0-0-f5-Bf6 next, with counterplay over the center.]

8...0-0 9.0-0 dxc4 10.♙xc4



10...b6 and we have a structure with ab isolated pawn, where White has a few different setups.

11.♙d3 [11.d5 This break in the center doesn't bring White any advantage here: 11...exd5 12.♘xd5 ♘xd5 13.♙xd5 ♙b7 with

Bf6 next and an equal position.]

11...♙b7 12.♖d1 ♜c8 [12...♘a5 13.♙a2 ♘d5 14.♘e4 White keeps more pieces for the attack and thanks to the bad knight on a5 he has a stable advantage.]

13.♙a2 ♜c7 14.♙g5 ♜fd8



15.♜e2 White had to lose some time to play this move.

15...♘d5!? Black is going to change the structure to avoid the d5 break. [15...♘h5? 16.d5+-; 15...♘g4 is a very interesting idea, based on the tactical trick that White cannot play 16.Bxe7 or 16.Bxe6 because of 16...Nxd4! 16.d5 (16.♘b5 16...♘xd4 (16...♜b8 17.♙xe6! works now because the d4 pawn is protected.) 17.♜xd4 ♙xf3 18.♘xc7 ♙xe2 19.♜xd8+ ♙xd8 20.♘xe6 ♙f6 21.♙xf6 ♘xf6 22.♘g5 ♙h5=) 16...♙xg5 17.h3 Not an easy move to see in one's calculation. 17...exd5 18.♘xd5 ♜b8 19.hxg4 ♜e8 20.♜f1 h6 with equal play.]

16.♘xd5 exd5 17.♜d3 ♜d6 18.♙xe7 ♘xe7 19.♜e1 White keeps a symbolic advantage thanks to the bad bishop on b7.

19...♘g6 20.g3 ♜e8 21.h4 Tal is slowly looking for some improvements.

21...♜f6 22.h5 ♘f8 23.♜xe8 ♜xe8 24.♘e5 The first step is done, now White has an active place for his knight.

24...♜g5?! Black wants to get rid of the knight by playing

f6, but this move will create weaknesses around the black king. More solid was for example 24...Re7 with the idea to play Nd7 or [24...♘e6!? threatening Nxd4. 25.♖e1]

25. ♖f3 f6



26. ♘c4! White creates pressure against the d5 pawn. [26.♙xd5+?! leads to equal play after the forced 26...♙xd5 27.♙xd5+ ♖e6 28.♙d8 ♙xh5 and Black is fine.]

26...♖d8 27.♖e1! is the most accurate move. [27.♘e3 27...♘e6↔]

27...♙c8 [27...dxc4 28.♙xb7 ♖xd4 29.♙xa7 ♙xh5 30.♙xb6 White has a huge advantage because of the weak black king and pawn on c4.]

28. ♘e3 ♙e6 29.♖c1↑ And the next step is done. White improved his pieces as much as he could and took control of the c-file.

29...♙f7 30.h6 The h-pawn has no meaning, it is more important to have active pieces and get the rook to the 7th rank. [30.♖c7 30...♘e6 31.♖xa7 ♘xd4 32.♙d1 ♘c6 33.♖b7 ♘e5 34.♖xb6 d4 with some chances for counterplay.]

30...♙xh6 31.♖c7 ♙g5 [31...♘e6 32.♖xa7 ♘xd4 33.♙g4 ♘c6 and in case of Rxf7 Black would answer Ne5!]

32. ♖xa7 ♘g6



33. ♘xd5! +— Not the only winning move, but a very nice one and typical for Tal's style.

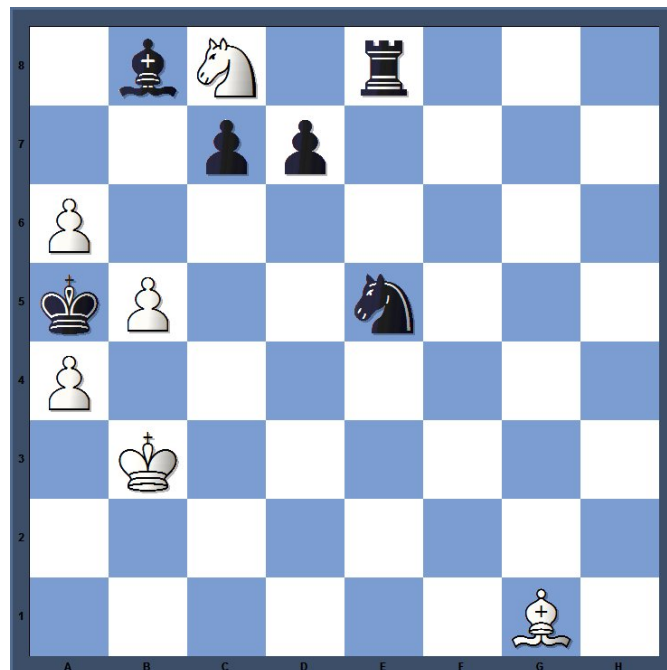
33...♙xd5 34.♖a8 ♙xa2 35.♖xd8+ ♙f7 36.♙c6! An easy but yet very important move, not allowing the black king to escape to a safe place.

36...♘e7 37.♙e8+ ♙e6 38.♖c8 ♙d5 39.♖c3 ♙d7 40.♖e3+ ♙d6 41.♙b8+ ♙c6 42.a4 ♘d5 43.♖e1 ♙d6 44.♖c1+ ♙d7 45.♙c8+ 1-0

Surprise section / study

(17) Kubbel

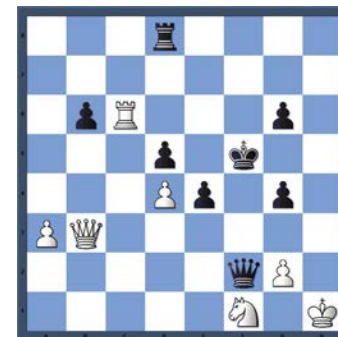
1. +—



Solutions

(18) Shirov, A(2675)-Dubov, D(2629)

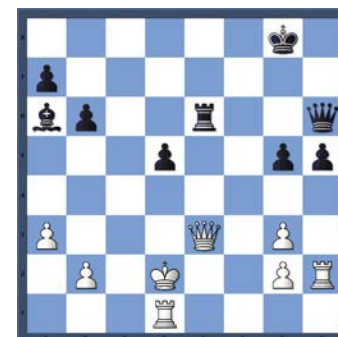
Nutcracker rapid, 2014.12.24



47. ♖e3+? [47. ♖g3+! 47... ♔g5 (47... ♔f4 48. ♖f6+—) 48. ♖xd5+!! ♖xd5 49. ♖xe4+ ♔f4 50. ♖xf2+—] **47... ♔g5—+**

(19) Dreev, A(2649)-Dubov, D(2629)

Nutcracker rapid, 2014.12.25



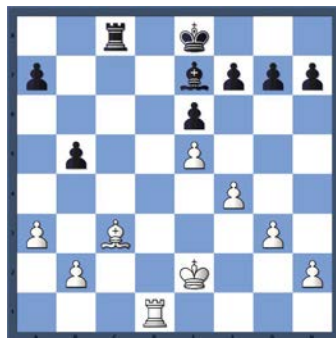
30. ♖xh5! ♖xe3 31. ♖xh6 ♖xg3 [31... ♖e2+ 32. ♔c1+—]
32. ♖d6 [32. ♖g1±]
32... ♖xg2+ 33. ♔c3±

(20) Oleksienko, M(2621)-Sameir, R(2128)

Al Ain Open, 2014.12.19

**31. ♖e1!** 1-0 [31. ♖e1 31... ♗xc4 32. ♖xe8#]**(21) Sagar, S(2468)-Kryvoruchko, Y(2671)**

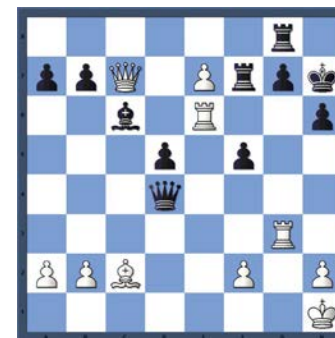
Al Ain Open, 2014.12.20

**24... ♗xa3! 25. bxa3** [25. ♖a1 25... ♗c5+]]**25... ♖xc3+****(22) Shankland, S(2642)-Petrosyan, M(2407)**

Al Ain Open, 2014.12.20

**33. ♗b5!! dxc5** [33... axb5 34. ♗xb5+-]**34. ♗a7 cxd4** [34... ♗d7 35. ♗c3 ♗d6 36. ♗xc8 ♖xc8 37. e5+-]**35. ♗xc6+-****(23) Mammadov, Z(2505)-Abdulla, K(2299)**

Al Ain Open, 2014.12.20

**36. ♖xc6!! ♗xf2** [36... bxc6 37. e8=♗! ♖xe8 (37... ♖xc7 38. ♗g6+ ♗h8 39. ♗xf5+-) 38. ♗xf7 ♖e1+ 39. ♗g2+-]**37. ♖cc3! ♖e8** [37... ♗f1+ 38. ♖g1+-]**38. ♖cf3 ♗e1+ 39. ♖g1+-**

(24) Gopal, G(2580)-Gagare, S(2411)

Al Ain Open, 2014.12.21



25. ♘xh6! gxh6 26. ♖xh6+— ♜xb3 [26... ♖b4 27. ♘xf7+ ♖xf7
28. ♖g5+ ♜h8 (28... ♜f8 29. ♖c8#) 29. ♖xf7+—]

27. axb3+—**(25) Kryvoruchko, Y(2671)-Onischuk, V(2614)**

Al Ain Open, 2014.12.22

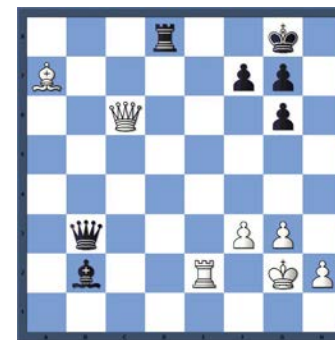


28... ♖xf3+! 29. ♜xf3 [29. gxf3 29... ♘xb5]

29... ♖e4+ 30. ♜f2 ♖e2+= [30... ♖e2+ 31. ♜g3 ♖e3+ 32. ♜h2
♖f4+ 33. ♜h1 ♖f1+=]

(26) Volkov, S(2599)-Mammadov, Z(2505)

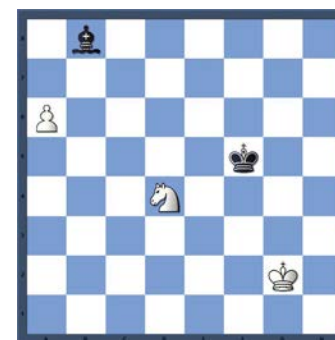
Al Ain Open, 2014.12.22



44. ♖b6! ♖xb6 45. ♘xb6+— 1-0

(27) Parligras, M(2580)-Mosadeghpour, M(2337)

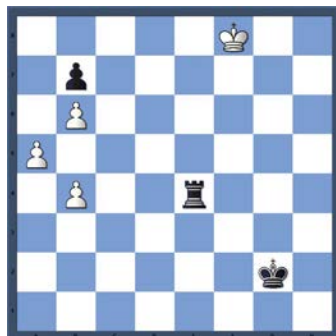
Al Ain Open, 2014.12.24



44... ♜e5? [44... ♜e4!! 45. ♘c6 ♘a7! 46. ♘xa7 ♜d5! = 47. ♘b5
(47. ♘c8 47... ♜c6 48. ♜f3 ♜c7! 49. a7 ♜b7 50. ♜e4 ♜a8 51. ♜d5
♜b7=; 47. ♜f3 47... ♜c5=) 47... ♜c6 48. ♜f3 ♜b6 49. a7 ♜b7=
50. ♜e4 ♜a8 51. ♜d5 ♜b7=]

45. ♘c6+ ♜d6 46. ♘xb8 ♜c7 47. ♘d7! 1-0

(28) Kubbel



1.b5! ♖b4! [1...♙e5 2.a6 ♜xb5 3.a7 ♜a5 4.♙e7 ♙f3 5.♙d6 ♙e4 6.♙c7 ♙d5 7.♙xb7 ♙c5=]

2.♙e7! [2.a6? 2...bxa6-+]

2...♜xb5 3.♙d6! [3.♙d7? 3...♜c5!-+]

3...♜f5 [3...♙f3 4.♙c7=; 3...♜xa5 4.♙c7 ♙f3 5.♙xb7 ♙e4 6.♙c6=]

4.♙c7! ♜f7+ 5.♙b8! ♙f3 6.♙a7! ♙e4 7.a6! ♙d5 [7...bxa6+ 8.♙xa6 ♙d5 9.b7=]

8.axb7 ♙c6 9.♙a8! ♜xb7=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 150

9th of January 2015

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Editorial Preface

A lot of opens came to an end this week and here are some of them:

The 90th Hasting Congress was won by Zhao Jun, with a fantastic score of 8/9. In the 44th Rilton Cup, the 1st place was shared by Hammer and Hillarp Persson, both on 7/9, but Hammer had the better tiebreak.

In the ongoing Australian Open (which is not that strong, but a decent open anyway) Ni Hua is currently showing an amazing result of 7/7, but there are still 4 rounds to go.

In other news, we are starting another new column, "Chess and the City", by WGM Elisabeth Paehtz, the best German female player and current Nr. 26 in the World. You will find her own little introduction inside her first column.

On Saturday the world's best players will start to battle it out in Wijk aan Zee. The A tournament features Carlsen, Caruana, Aronian and many more Super GMS, while the B group, where Navara is the top seed, will also be very interesting to follow. In our next issue our focus will mainly be on this traditional super event!

For now we hope you will enjoy our current issue and of course we would be very happy to hear your opinion about the latest changes to the newsletter.

Best wishes,

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

4 best games of the past week

**(1) Grandelius, Nils(2581)
- Turov, Maxim(2591) [A15]**

44th Rilton Cup 2014-15(4.1),
2014.12.30



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

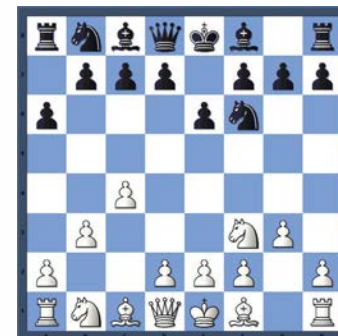
Nils Grandelius is not only famous for his spectacular haircuts, but also for his very attractive chess. He can beat almost any player, but sometimes things can also go horribly wrong for him. This time, the victim of the very aggressive Swedish GM was Maxim Turov. After a very strange opening, Black misses White's play which leads to a mating attack. Grandelius finishes the game in a great manner, not giving Black any chances for survival.

1. ♘f3 Grandelius plays quite a few openings with White.

1... ♘f6 2. c4 e6 3. g3 Usually White plays this move order to avoid some lines in the Catalan or maybe just to provoke Black into not playing d5.

3... a6 This move looks bad, but actually it is not a stupid one. Black wants to play b5 followed by Bb7, winning some space on the queenside.

4. b3 A very rare move and clearly a decision by White just to play a game of chess. [4. ♘c3 4... d5 would lead us to the main positions.]



4...c5 It is hard to say why Black didn't want to start with b5.

5. ♗g2 b5 6. ♘c3 A logical move. Attacking the b5 pawn and maybe provoking Black into playing b4- but is it really that bad for Black to play b4?!

6... ♖b6?! This is quite a careless move. Black should have paid much more attention to the fact that his pieces are still not developed and to White's possible play in the center. [In my opinion Black is doing fine after 6...b4 7. ♘a4 ♗b7 and White has quite a few plans here, but I think Black's simple setup with d6, Nbd7, Be7 and 0-0 would give him comfortable play.]



7.e4! An excellent move by White, using the fact that Black is badly prepared for central play. White's idea is simple, to play e5 next.

7...d6 A solid move, but Black's position is already very risky. [7...♙b7 would lead to a clearly better position for White: 8.e5 ♘g4 and for example after the simple 9.O-O the pawn on e5 can't be won and White's threat of playing h3 next is quite unpleasant.]

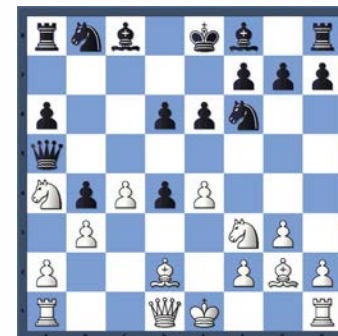
8.d4 Grandelius s exactly with the right approach and this is to use the moment and not give Black any rest!

8...♙a5 Another queen move in an already very risky position doesn't make things better. But it is already not an easy task to find the right moves. [8...♙b7 was probably the most solid move. 9.O-O Black can n ever take the pawn on e4, as it would immediately lead to a deadly attack in the center. 9...cxd4 10.♘xd4 b4 11.♘a4 ♙c7 Of course Black just lost a tempo by playing Qb6 and now Qc7, but still the fight just started. 12.a3! This strong move opens the a-file and gets rid of the strong pawn on b4. White is clearly better but the position is very fighting.]

9.♙d2! Another very good move by White. Nils correctly evaluates the complications after the b4 move, when the e4 pawn can just be taken.

9...b4 10.♘a4 The question is whether Black can take the e4 pawn or not. If not, all of Black's play just looks very bad.

10...cxd4 Turov doesn't take and this is the right decision. [10...♙xe4? leads to a direct loss of material after 11.♘g5! ♙xd2 12.♙xa8 and White is not only an exchange up, but the knight on d2 is also doing very badly... The game would not last for much longer here.]



11.♘xd4 ♙b7 Black finally managed to develop his bishop to b7, but already the position is looking very bad, especially since the queen is horribly placed on a5.

12.O-O! Of course White should not care about the e4 pawn, especially since it is not that difficult to calculate that the pawn can't be taken.

12...♘bd7 [12...♙xe4 loses on the spot: 13.♙e1 and White starts collecting the material.; White is almost winning after 12...♙xe4 13.♙xe4 ♘xe4 14.♙f3 and Black has no good way of defending the knight on e4.]

13.♙e1 White is pl aying a perfect game. Of course it was tempting to play 13.a3 and win the b4 pawn, but the move in the game is even stronger! White does not only want to play a3, but the threat of playing e5 at a good moment could also be deadly for Black.

13...♘c5 Black tries to complicate things, which is usually the best practical chance in a bad position.

14.♙xc5 Simple and strong! Maybe Turov had overlooked White's next move and was happy for a moment here... [14.a3 14...♙cxe4 15.axb4 ♙c7 16.♙e3 and White's position is of course much better, almost close to winning.]

14...dxc5 This move practically loses by force. [Not much better is 14...♖xc5 15.♘c2 is one of the possible continuations for White. 15...a5 16.a3 bxa3 17.♖xa3 and of course Black can never play 17...♙e7? because of 18.e5! ♙xg2 19.exf6 and White is winning a piece.]



15.♘xe6! Clearly White had prepared this move before playing 14.Nxc5. Black's position is falling apart.

15...fxe6 Black needs to take.

16.e5 The bishop on b7 is hanging, so Black's next move is also forced.

16...♙xg2 17.exf6 So what to do now? The bishop on g2 is hanging and the black king is totally open. Things are looking very dark here...

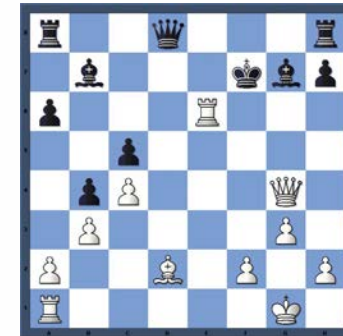
17...♙b7 Turov still hopes to survive White's attack. [Maybe the relatively best move here was 17...O-O-O 18.♖xg2 and now the calm 18...♖b6 to defend the e6 pawn, but of course White has a huge advantage after 19.f7!; 17...♙h3? 18.♖h5+! and the bishop is lost.]

18.♖xe6+ ♙f7 19.fxg7 Once again very practical play by White. Of course there were a lot of good moves here, but the move in the game is very safe! An excellent practical decision.

19...♙xg7 Black has no choice...

20.♖g4 Who cares about the rook on a1 when the black king is on f7!

20...♖d8 Turov is suffering but fighting. [After 20...♙xa1 21.♖f5+ ♙g8 White has a beautiful winning move: 22.♖e7! This calm but deadly move ends the game. White wants to play Qf7 mate or Qe6, the game is over!]

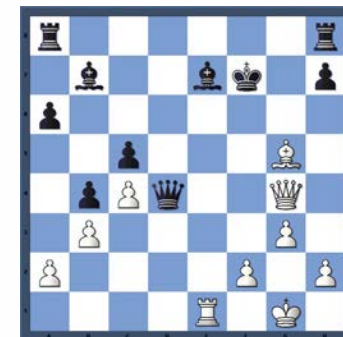


21.♖ae1! Another very nice move by White. There is no reason to hurry with the mate, so White brings an extra piece into the game...

21...♙f8 There is no more hope for Black. All moves are losing.

22.♙g5 White ends the game with a nice little combination:

22...♖d4 23.♖e7+ ♙xe7



24.♖e6+ Of course in case of 24.... Kf8 25.Bh6! ends

the suffering after 25...Ke8 26.Qxe7#! We just saw a clean start-finish win by Grandelius, who played logical and strong moves, supported by good calculation. This is really what we can call a perfect win! **1-0**

**(2) Galyas, Miklos(2428)
- Rodshtein, Maxim(2676) [A09]**

90th Hastings Masters 2014-15(4.2),
2015.01.01



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

My good friend and countryman IM Miklos Galyas wins a nice attacking game against his top GM opponent.

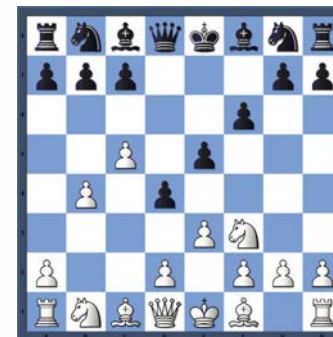
1.♘f3 d5 2.c4 The game starts calmly, but it is getting very wild soon.

2...d4 3.b4 White prepares to attack the advanced pawn with Bb2 and prevents c5.

3...f6 The main theoretical move. Black would like to strengthen his center with e5.

4.e3 White undermines the d4 pawn and would like to take control over the center after recapturing with the f-pawn on e3, followed by d4.

4...e5 5.c5 [5.exd4? is a known theoretical mistake. 5...e4 6.♙e2 ♙e7 7.♘g1 ♘c6 and Black is better.]

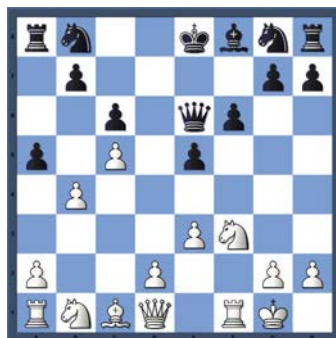


5...♙e7 A dubious novelty.... I think that Rodshtein mixed up something. [The right and the critical move is 5...a5! with very

sharp lines, Arkadij has recently commented the Panjwani-So game in a previous issue.]

6.♘b5+ This is a known move in the critical 5...a5 variation. White provokes the c6 move before occupying the ideal c4 square with the bishop. The idea is to avoid Nc6 and in some lines the d6 square might get vulnerable when a knight arrives to c4. [However in this particular position, I believe it was better to start with 6.♘c4 The point is that after 6...♘e6 7.♘xe6 ♖xe6 8.O-O White is already threatening to take on d4. 8...dxe3 9.fxe3 and d4 is coming next and after e4 White has the very unpleasant intermediate move d5. After provoking c6, this does not work.]

6...c6 7.♘c4 ♘e6 8.♖b3 [Probably it was better to play 8.♘xe6 8...♖xe6 9.O-O dxe3 10.fxe3 followed by Nc3 and d4 at some point. Black still has some problems with finishing the development of the kingside pieces to finally ensure the safety of his king with 0-0. 10...a5 is strongly met by



11.♖b3!+= either wins a huge tempo or trades the queens, which favorably opens the a-file for White.]

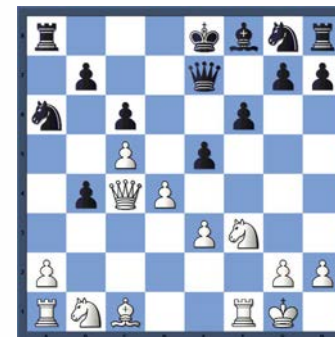
8...♘xc4 9.♖xc4 dxe3 [Black could have solved his problems with 9...♖f7! White cannot really avoid the trade of the queens and the point is that after 10.♖xf7+ (10.♖c2 10...dxe3 11.fxe3 ♖g6) 10...♗xf7 11.exd4 exd4 12.♗xd4 Black wins back

the sacrificed pawn with 12...a5! White cannot consolidate his queenside pawns and the c5 is going to fall.]

10.fxe3 a5?! A standard undermining of the c5 pawn, using the fact that White cannot play a3. However, Black is far behind in development and his king is stuck in the center. Losing two important tempi with a5 and axb4 requires punishment... [10...♖f7 was not the same anymore. 11.♖xf7+ ♗xf7 12.O-O threatening Nxe5. 12...♗e8 13.d4+= and Nc3 next. We can see that in comparison to the 9...Qf7 line, having the inclusion of the dxe3 fxe3 pair of moves strongly improves White's position, because he is able to take control over the center.]

11.O-O! axb4 12.d4! Very well played! White does not pay attention to the queenside, he rather focuses on opening the position somehow.

12...♗a6 [12...e4 trying to close the center does not solve the problems 13.♗fd2 ♗h6 14.♖xb4 White creates the serious threat of Nxe4 because Qxe4 loses to Qxb7. 14...f5 15.♗c4 and Black is in trouble. Now we can see the fruits of provoking c6: the d6 and b6 squares are weak.]



13.a3! A great decision again! White opens the position even more and by eliminating the b4 square he prepares to develop his knight to its ideal square on c3! [13.dxe5 was premature

because of 13...♔xc5]

13...bxa3 14.♖xa3 [14.♙xa3 was also promising with the idea to protect the c5 pawn and threatening to take on e5. 14...e4 15.♘fd2 and Nc3 or Rf4 next looks terrible for Black.]

14...g6 Black finally tries to finish the development, but obviously it is too slow. [14...♘h6 is not better either. 15.♘c3 ♘f7 16.♘e4 and Black cannot really make a move.]

15.♘c3 e4 Black tries to lock the center, but the position screams for a refutation.

16.♘d2 f5 Black actually needs only one move, Nf6, to be consolidating the center and to be fine, but White does not spoil the moment and punishes his opponent for his lack of development.



17.♘dx4! fxe4 18.♘xe4 Nd6 is the threat, which is not easy to deal with...

18...♔d7 [18...♔xe4 loses to 19.♔f7+ ♔d8 20.♔xf8+ 20. Qxb7 also wins on the spot. 20...♔e8 21.♔d6+- and Rf8 next.]

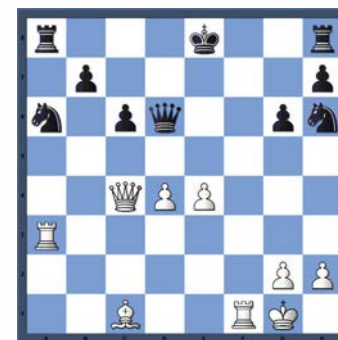
19.♘d6+! Well played yet again! At first sight this is a strange decision because it trades the active knight for the bishop, which has not moved yet, but Galyas correctly foresees that the advancing of the e-pawn will decide the fight.

19...♙xd6 20.cxd6 ♘h6 Black is only two moves away from

solving the problems with Nf7 and 0-0.

21.e4! A very effective way of leading the attack! e5-e6 is coming next. The black king is still in the center. The h6 knight is hanging and the a3 rook is ready to join the game along the 3rd rank.

21...♔xd6 [21...♘f7 also loses after 22.e5 O-O 23.♙h6+- Raf3 and e6 are coming.]



22.♙xh6! The last accurate decision! White calculates perfectly and sacrifices his a3 rook. Black has nothing better than accepting it and hoping not to get mated.

22...♔xa3 23.♔f7+ ♔d8 24.♔xb7! The best again! White prevents the hiding of the king after Kc8.

24...♘c7 [24...♖b8 25.♙g5+ ♔e8 26.♔f7#]

25.♙g5+ ♔d7 26.♔f7+ ♔e6 27.♔xc7! +- It is clear that Black cannot avoid getting mated, the only question is if he could create some counterplay. However the well placed bishop on g5 prevents the Qe3 check after which Ra1 could follow.

27...♔a1+ 28.♔f1! ♔xd4+ 29.♔h1 [Black resigned in view of 29.♔h1 Qe7 is threatening with mate and for instance after 29...♖he8 30.♔xc6+ ♔d6 31.♔f6+- wins.] **1-0**

The K-Files. Accelerated Queen's Indian, 3.f3



GM Alexander Khalifman
FIDE World Chess Champion (1999)
Best rating: 2702

No Name Opening

It's rather confusing but the line 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 b6 really has no name.

It looks like simply nobody has taken it seriously until now... In 2007 Artur Kogan wrote an interesting (quite good, but sometimes more emotional than analytical) article in NIC-SOS where he called it "The Queen's Gruenfeld". Well it makes some sense but in fact there are many lines where the black bishop doesn't even have a chance to be developed to g7. In some others a fianchetto is possible, but definitely not the best. So...Gruenfeld?! Hmm...

Alexei Kornev in his "1.d4 2.c4 Repertoire" called it "Accelerated Queen's Indian". This might be more logical but it is still far from an acknowledged name.

The story began in 1912, when Czech grandmaster Duras played 2...b6 against Teichmann. In 1921 Alekhine played this line no less than 4 times (later he used it successfully in his World Championship match against Bogoljubow).

This was when the NoName opening reached its first peak of popularity (1921 - 1930). The efforts of Reti and Gruenfeld, who used it quite regularly, must of course also be mentioned.

However, as it still happens quite often nowadays, the fashion then changed. The general assessment used to be that after 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.Qc2 White has a comfortable advantage. And then the reputation of this "minor line" stayed stable for more than 70 years. The fact that the NoName opening was used by Fischer, Bronstein and Larsen didn't change anything.

A new era only began in the 21st century. OK, when Vallejo Pons played it twice in 2008 almost nobody paid attention. Everybody knows that Paco likes experiments - so what?! However, in 2011 GMs Vallejo, Ivan Sokolov, Kiril Georgiev, Edouard and some others started playing it on a regular basis with fantastic results. And it was a clear sign that something happened. As a matter of fact, there was no opening bomb in critical lines but some lines were not as forced as it seemed before, some old evaluations were too categorical and so on and so on. The whole situation is fairly standard for well-forgotten lines.

The opening then got some attention from some 2700+ players (Vachier-Lagrave, Harikrishna, Ding Liren) and, finally, in December 2014, it was used by Shakhriyar Mamedyarov as his main weapon against 1.d4 in the Mind Sports blitz tournament. OK, it was only blitz but it was Mamedyarov! He is currently one of the brightest role models for young players all over the world (not only in Azerbaijan) due to his unconventional and aggressive style. So I can easily take the risk to predict that the popularity of the NoName opening will only grow in the nearest future. And then it will maybe finally get a name.

But enough history, it is time to say a couple of words about the plans and ideas. Of course it's rather banal, but Black's main point is to stop e2-e4. If White doesn't pay attention to this fact and just develops his pieces randomly, then quite often Black just doesn't touch his e-pawn and goes for a double fianchetto. If White tries to organize e2-e4 then Black's typical response is d7-d5, with the idea to undermine White's center in Gruenfeld style. In fact, this opening is a real chameleon: the positions after the early phase may be similar to the Queen's Indian (of course!), the Gruenfeld, the Nimzo, the King's Indian, the Benko gambit, the Benoni and even the Queen's gambit (TMB system). So there is at least one definite plus: if you analyze it seriously, your strategic outlook will be widened massively.

And finally here is the necessary disclaimer: I'm not claiming that Black at least equalizes comfortably in all lines! I'm no adman, just a chess player and one that is quite bored of reading various junk, such as "1.e4 h6! - Black is winning!!!". So there are lines where Black faces certain problems and I will only try to describe the situation objectively. My conclusion is that this is fairly new and original branch of the opening theory is quite playable for Black. But you'd better judge for yourself, dear reader.

So, after so many words... Back to the chessboard!

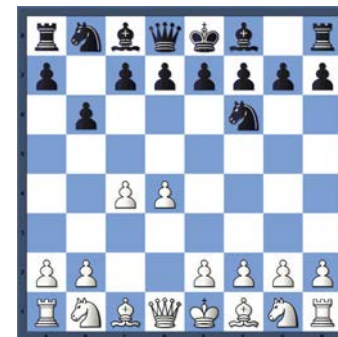
Part 1 Refuting here and now 3.f3, etc.

Part 2 Solid and classical 3.Nf3

Part 3 Good old central setup 3.Nc3

(3) 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 b6 3... [A50]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 b6



3.f3 The only 3rd move (except for the natural 3. Nf3 and 3. Nc3 of course) which must be taken seriously. In fact, Avrukh recommends it in his excellent book as the strongest move. I'm not so sure about it, but the practical strength of this move is absolutely undoubtable. If Black doesn't know how to react properly, he might be in deep trouble very soon. The idea is very simple and natural: to build a strong pawn center. [3.♗g5 definitely doesn't look like an improved version of the Trompovsky. 3...♗b7 4.♗xf6 gxf6 and Black is doing fine as his dark squared bishop will soon be very strong.; 3.d5 If White intends to gain space this way, then he'd better wait for Bb7. 3...e6 4.a3 (4.♘c3 4...♗b4; 4.f3 4...♗c5 5.e4 exd5 6.cxd5 O-O) 4...♗a6 (Of course Black can switch to the 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.d5 line by playing 4...♗b7 5.♘c3 ♗d6 but it's not necessary.) 5.e3 exd5 6.cxd5 ♗xf1 7.♔xf1 g6 8.♘c3 ♗g7 9.g3 O-O 10.♔g2 Vaulin - Ibragimov Maikop 1998 and now 10...c5!? would have led to a comfortable version of the Benoni.]

3...♘c6! In a certain sense this is the only move. The alternatives differ from "very dubious" to "simply bad". [3...c5 4.d5 d6 5.e4 e5 6.♘c3; 3...e5 4.dxe5 ♘h5 5.♘h3; 3...e6 4.e4 d5 5.e5; 3...d5 4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4]

4.♘c3 A necessary preparation move. White is not ready for a pawn advance yet. [After 4.d5 4...♗e5 5.e4 e6 the pawn center is rather shaky. 6.♘c3 ♕b4 7.♙e3 O-O 8.♖c1 c6 9.d6 ♗e8↑Dubov - Vallejo Khanty Mansiysk rapid 2013; 4.e4 4...e5 5.d5 ♗d4 6.♗e2 ♕c5 doesn't look attractive either.]

4...e5 5.d5 ♗e7 [5...♗a5 is recommended by strong engines. However, from a human point of view it looks absolutely mysterious. 6.e4 ♕b4 (6...♗b7 7.a3) 7.♙d2 O-O 8.a3 (8.♙d3 8...♙a6 9.b3 c6 10.♗ge2+=) 8...♙e7 9.♙d3+= Ivanishevic - Jurcik Yerevan 2014 It is still unclear what the black knight is doing on a5.]

6.e4 ♗g6 This is the critical position of the whole line with 3.f3. White has a strong center and a space advantage. Black is slightly better developed and has different possibilities to undermine White's center. Boris Avrukh evaluates this position as slightly better for White, but I believe that it is quite double-edged.



7.♙e3 Just for fun, we can note that this position has already occurred in practice via this different move order: 1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 e5 3. d5 Nce7 4.e4 Ng6 5.Be3 Nf6 6.f3 b6 7.Nc3. [It might be the right moment to look for an improvement. In general White, who has a space advantage, should better avoid exchanging pieces. However, the consequences of

7.♗ge2!? (which was never tested before) 7...♙c5 8.a3 (8.h4!?) 8...a5 (8...O-O 9.b4 ♙e7 10.♙e3 ♗h5 11.g3 a5 12.♖b1 d6) 9.♖b1 O-O 10.b4 axb4 11.axb4 ♙e7 12.♙e3 ♗e8 13.c5 (13.♖d2 13...♗d6) 13...bxc5 14.bxc5 d6 15.c6 f5 are far from clear.]

7...♙c5 8.♖d2 [8.♙xc5 8...bxc5 9.d6 O-O Manolache - Zajarnyi Techirghiol 2000 doesn't look too promising for White, especially when one understands that Black will find the route from g6 to d4, and he will do so quite soon.]

8...d6 9.O-O-O [9.♗ge2 is recommended by Avrukh (the idea is not to define the king's position too early). However, after 9...O-O 10.♗c1 ♗h5 Black has serious counterplay.]

9...a6!? 10.♗ge2 [10.h4 10...h6]

10...♙xe3 11.♖xe3 ♙d7 Black has adequate counterplay. (Sammalvuo - I.Sokolov Porto Carras 2011)

David vs. Goliath



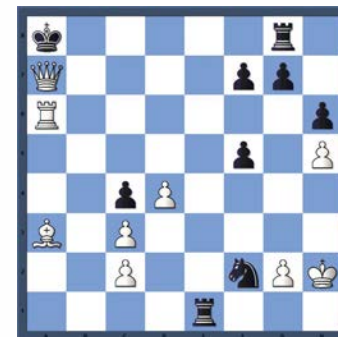
Peter Zhdanov

Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

Let me start this column by making a disclaimer. Last week a technical mistake has occurred during the makeup. As a result, the overview of the upsets, the statistics and the pgn file with the games have been disposed of, thus making my brief annotations the main dish instead of a bonus to the traditional format. While this is not my fault, I still feel like I should apologize to you for what has happened.

Last week has produced relatively few upsets - 18. The highest profile one was FM Shetty (2307) - GM Gareev (2621), 1-0. GM Leonid Milov had a tough time at Zurich (by the way, GM Arkadij Naiditsch won the tournament), which has resulted in two sensational defeats: Lochte (2079) - GM Milov (2484), 1-0 and GM Milov (2484) - Agushi (2143), 0-1. The longest game took a David 64 (chess number!) moves to beat a Goliath: Chiu (2052) - FM Jackson (2356), 1-0. No miniatures this time. The shortest game was De Oliveira (1751) - Miyoshi (2082), 1-0, 26 moves.

A special "hardcore" nomination goes to Chew Lee (1931) - Zelesco (2256), 1-0. The encounter ended with Black getting checkmated - a rare occurrence in modern practice!



Top-10:

Farias (1574) - Moyses Fo. (2115), 1-0, [441](#) points
 Lochte (2079) - Milov (2492), 1-0, [413](#) points
 Rakesh (2123) - Rombaldoni (2505), 1-0, [382](#) points
 Lodici (2312) - Amaro (1936), 0-1, [376](#) points
 Vinoth Kumar (2119) - Deepan (2489), 1-0, [370](#) points
 Ashcar (1676) - Chaves (2040), 1-0, [364](#) points
 Le Roy (2290) - Jackson (1927), 0-1, [363](#) points
 Milov (2492) - Agushi (2143), 0-1, [349](#) points
 De Oliveira (1751) - Miyoshi (2082), 1-0, [331](#) points
 Schwabeneder (2377) - Suta (2049), 0-1, [328](#) points

Average gap: 372; White won 6 games, Black won 4 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) will be appreciated.

Puzzle section

(4) Longson, A(2339)-Vakhidov, J(2502)

Hastings Open, 2014.12.30

1... ♖



(5) Marusenko, P(2194)-Mista, A(2614)

Hastings Open, 2015.01.01

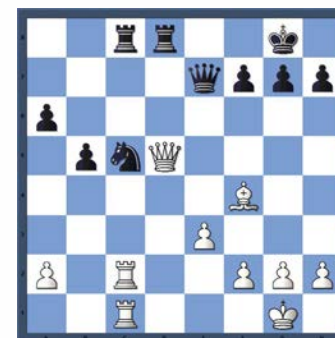
1... -+



(6) Vakhidov, J(2502)-Flear, C(2181)

Hastings Open, 2015.01.02

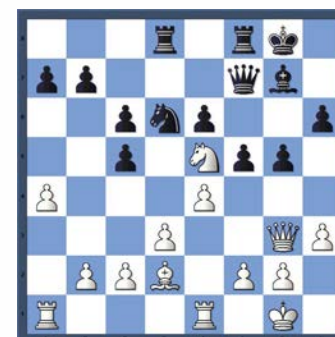
1. +-



(7) David, A(2578)-Ramnath, B(2405)

Chennai Open, 2014.12.31

1... -+



(8) Kumaran, B(2316)-Brunello, S(2573)

Chennai Open, 2015.01.02

1... -+



(9) Meier, G(2640)-Rambaldi, F(2476)

Zurich Open, 2014.12.30

1. +-



(10) Romanov, E(2638)-Bekker Jensen, S(2459)

Rilton Cup, 2015.01.02

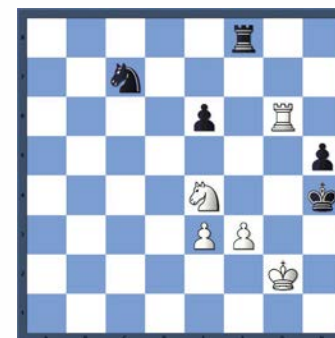
1. ±



(11) Mikhalevski, V(2571)-Smith, A(2479)

Rilton Cup, 2015.01.03

1. +-



(12) Istratescu, A(2627)-Horvath, J(2508)

Donau Open, 2014.12.29

1. +-



(13) So, W(2762)-Batchuluun, T(2525)

North American Open, 2014.12.30

1. +-



Endgame section

(14) Ivanov, Sergey(2559)
- Tari, Aryan(2485)

Rilton Cup,
2015.12.30



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

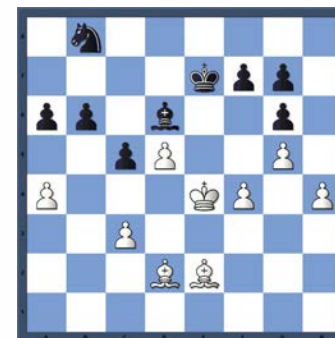


27. ♔xe8+ ♕xe8 A very interesting endgame has been reached. White's overwhelming advantage is undisputable because of the bishop pair and the protected passed pawn on d5! The weakness on a6 is another important factor as it pins the b8 knight to its protection. However, despite the many plusses the win is still far from obvious, because the position is closed and Black might hope for a successful blockade.

28. h4 White has all the time to make these small improvements. Later he might open the position a bit with h5 or rather after playing f5, he could create a passed h-pawn. White could also have activated his king, the only thing he had to take care about is to keep on attacking the a6 pawn in order to avoid Black playing b5, followed by c4 and Nd7.

28... ♖e7 29. ♖f3 In the endgames, the kings belong to the center.

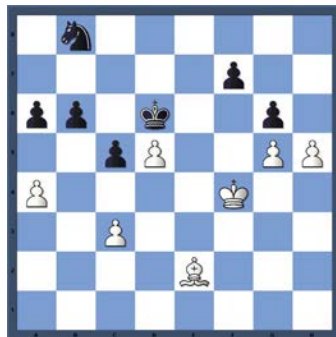
29... ♘d6 30. ♖e4



30... a5? A committing decision. Black would like to use his b8 knight, but he destroys his pawn structure. He fixes all his pawns on dark squares and deprives himself from the potential counterplay of playing b5. [Black should have continued with the waiting policy, starting to play Kf8-e7 and see how White intends to make progress. 30... ♖f8 By feeling, White should be winning, but I did not manage to figure out the method. Another winning attempt is 31.f5 opening the position for the two bishops. (The point of this move is to transfer the bishop to the h3-c8 diagonal. On the direct Bg4, Black could play b5. 31. ♘f1 31... ♖e7 32. c4 ♘d7 By playing Bf1, White has left from the motif of Bg4 f5 gxf6 Nxf6. 33. ♘c3 f5+! Black tries to close the position. (33...f6 34. ♘h3; On 33... ♖f8 34. ♘h3! ♘b8 35. ♘e5!+- White manages to make progress and the d-pawn decides the game.) 34. ♖f3 (34. gxf6+ 34... ♘xf6+ is not clear either.) 34... ♖f7 35. ♘d3 a5 36. h5



Everything seems to go well for White, but after 36...♙c7 followed by waiting with Bd6-c7, I don't see how White could make progress. It is important to keep the knight on d7 to avoid Be5.; 31.c4 frees the b8 knight. 31...♘d7 32.♙c3 f5+! Otherwise Be5 could be unpleasant. 33.gxf6 (33.♙e3 33...a5 34.h5 ♙f7 is the same as the 31.Bf1 line.) 33...♘xf6+ with Kf7 next and Black might hope for survival.) 31...gxf5+ 32.♙xf5 g6+! It is important to include this move, otherwise White creates another passed pawn with h5-h6. 33.♙e4 ♙e7 And again it is not obvious how White could make progress. A very natural try is 34.♙f4 trying to invade with the king through e5. 34...♙xf4 35.♙xf4 ♙d6 36.h5! This is the point! White opens a new front to attack the f7 pawn.

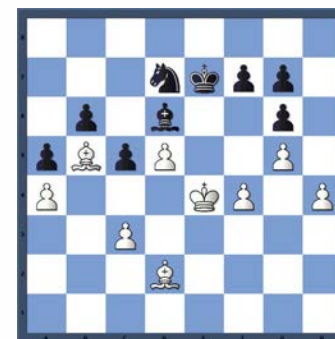


However after 36...♘d7!! It is very important to keep the structure (the pawn on g6) to avoid the penetration of the

white king on f5 or e5. (Black loses after 36...gxh5 37.♙xh5 ♙e7 (37...♙xd5 38.♙xf7+ ♙d6 39.g6 ♙e7 40.♙g5+- The g-pawn promotes soon.) 38.c4 ♘d7 39.♙f5 ♘f8 40.d6+!+- and again White breaks through.) 37.h6 ♘f8 And Black starts to wait with Nh7-f8 and again I don't see how White could make progress. 38.c4 (38.♙xa6 38...♙xd5) 38...a5 Seems like a fortress.]

31.♙b5! White immediately occupies the weakened square.

31...♘d7



32.♙xd7! A perfect decision! The bishop endgame is easily winning after White manages to occupy the a1-h8 diagonal, because he attacks the g7 pawn and at the same time is threatening with Be5.

32...♙xd7 33.c4 ♙e7 [The alternative defense was 33...♙f8 protecting the g7 pawn with the bishop and controlling the c7 square (against Bc3-e5-c7) with the king, but it also fails... 34.♙c3 ♙d6 35.♙e5+ ♙d7 36.♙f3 ♙d8



39. ♖d2+ ♔g4 Black tries to avoid Kf5, but now the h-pawn becomes too strong. [39... ♖xh5 does not change anything. 40. ♖f5 ♜e5 White has many ways to win. A nice one is 41. ♜c1 setting Black into zugzwang. The bishop cannot move and after 41... ♔h4 42. ♜g5+ fxg5 43. ♖xe5 g4 44. d6+- White promotes the pawn with check.]

40. h6 f5+ 41. ♖d3 ♜e5 42. h7 f4 43. ♜c3 Black resigned. **1-0**

37.f5! The decisive break. White either creates a passed pawn or he opens a way for his king to penetrate. 37... ♖d7 (37... gxf5 38.h5+- followed by Kf4-f5 and Black cannot play g6 because of h6.) 38.fxg6 fxg6 39. ♖g4 ♖d8 40.h5+-]

34. ♜c3 f5+ [34... ♖f8 simply loses to 35. ♜e5! ♜xe5 36. ♖xe5 ♖e7 37.d6+ ♖d7 38. ♖d5+-]

35. gxf6+ gxf6



36.f5! The last important move, otherwise Black locks the position with f5. Now the distant passed pawn on the h-file decides the game.

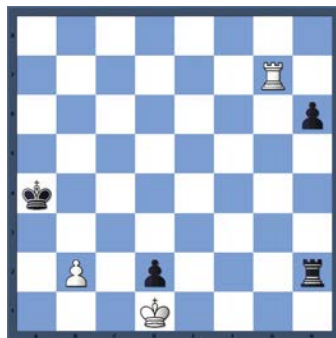
36... ♖f7 37.fxg6+ ♖xg6 38.h5+! ♖g5 [After 38... ♖xh5 39. ♖f5+- we can see the superiority of White's pawn structure. Black has no chance to create a passer and his pawns start to fall one after another.]

(15) Rodshtein, Maxim(2676)
- Arkell, Keith C(2489)

90th Hastings Masters 2014-15(7.2),
2015.01.04



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



We are in a very interesting rook endgame, but already on move 57. Both players are a bit tired and probably don't have too much time, which makes the game even more exciting. At first sight the position looks like a draw. The white king is blocking the d2 pawn, the h-pawn can be stopped by the white rook and of course the b2 pawn gives White some counter chances if the black king would start his walk to support the h-pawn. But things are much more tricky than that and soon we will see why...

57...h5 Black needs to push the h pawn-this is clear

58.♔c2! A good move. It is very important for White not to give Black the chance to play Kb3-Ka2. Not now, but later when the pawn will be on h3.

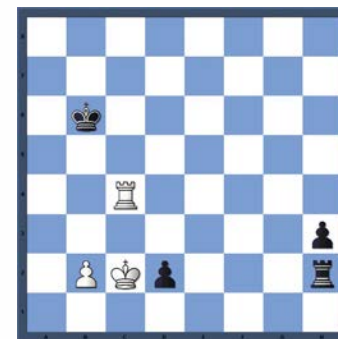
58...♚b5 The black king starts to walk towards the h-pawn.

59.♖c7 White doesn't have anything better than to keep on

waiting anyway, so why not cut the black king off at least for a while.

59...h4 60.♖c8 ♔b6 A slightly strange move. Why not play h3 immediately? But it doesn't really change anything.

61.♖c4 h3 Now Black already wants to play Rf2 followed by h2 with a win, so the white rook needs to take position on the h-file.

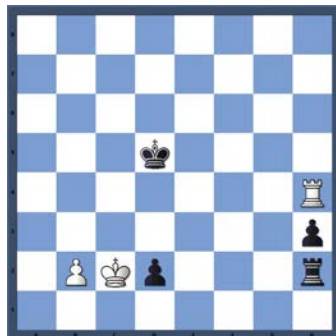


62.♖h4 The only move. [62.♖c3 is losing on the spot. 62...♖h1! Black is showing a very typical idea for many rook endgames. 63.♔xd2 h2 64.♖h3 ♖b1! If White was in time to play Kc2 the position would of course be a total draw. 65.♖xh2 ♖xb2+ 66.♔c3 ♖xh2]

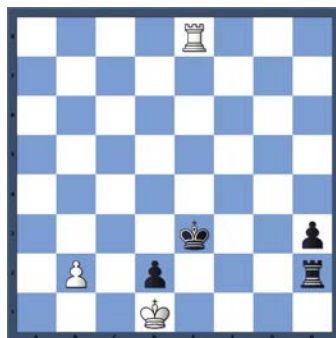
62...♚c5 The black king starts walking to g5.

63.♔d1 White still doesn't have anything better than to keep on waiting. [A very wrong idea is to touch the b2 pawn, which would lead to an immediate end of the game: 63.b4+? 63...♔b5 64.♔d1 and now Black wins exactly with the same idea as we saw before: 64...♖h1+! 65.♔xd2 h2 66.♔c2 Once again if White had enough time to reach the b2 square the position would be a draw, but it is Black to move... 66...♖a1! Now that the b2 pawn is gone, Black has a check on the a2 square. 67.♖xh2 ♖a2+ 68.♔b3 ♖xh2 and Black is winning.]

63...♔d5 64.♔c2



64...♔e5 65.♖h8 White could have waited for the black king to reach the g5 square, but the rook would have to leave the 4th rank anyway, which would allow the black king to reach the position in the game. [After a waiting move like 65.♔d1 65...♔f5 66.♔c2 (White doesn't save the game with the king on d1 either, because now Black is using the other winning idea: 66.♖h8 66...♔f4 67.♖f8+ ♔e3 68.♖e8+ and here comes the difference:

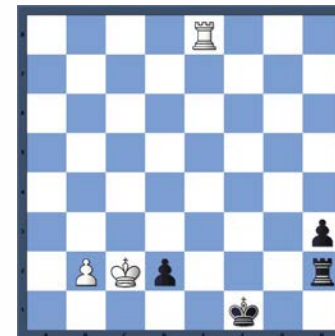


68...♔d3! 69.♖d8+ ♔c4 The black king is going to b3. 70.♖h8 The white rook must go back to h8 and Black is using this for the standard winning idea: 70...♔b3 71.♖h6 ♖h1+ 72.♔xd2 h2 and White can't stop Black from playing Rb1 next. Black is winning.) 66...♔g5 and the white rook would have to go back

to h7 or h8, because in case of 67.♖a4? ♖f2 the game would be over immediately.]

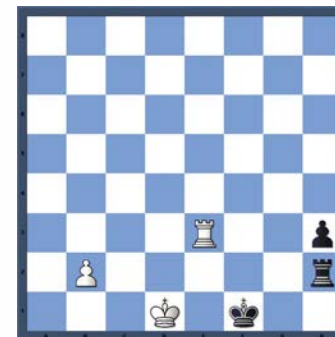
65...♔e4 66.♖e8+ White doesn't have anything better.

66...♔f3 67.♖f8+ ♔e2 68.♖e8+ ♔f1 So there are no more checks and Black wants to play Rf2.



69.♖e3! White uses his only practical chance. [69.♖h8 loses to 69...♔e1 70.♖e8+ ♖e2 followed by d1Q.]

69...♔g2? Black is missing a win, even if it was not that simple to find! [The right move was 69...d1=♖+! 70.♔xd1 and now the very strong



70...♖h1! It is amazing, but White can't save the game here. 71.♔d2 (71.♔c2 71...h2 72.♖h3 ♔g2 and Rf1 next.) 71...♔g2 Black wants to play h2 next. 72.♖e2+ White doesn't have

anything better. 72...♔f3 73.♖e3+ ♔f4! White has no defense against Black's idea of playing h2 followed by Rb1. 74.♖e8 h2 75.♖h8 ♖b1 76.♖xh2 ♖xb2+ 77.♔c3 ♖xh2 and the game is over.]

70.♔xd2? and White returns the favor... [



70.♖d3!! 70...d1=♖+ What else to try? 71.♖xd1 ♖h1 (White easily holds the draw after 71...♔f3+ 72.♔c3 ♖e2 73.b4! The b2 pawn is finally useful. 73...h2 74.♔c4 ♔g2 75.b5 h1=♖ 76.♖xh1 ♔xh1 77.b6 ♖b2 78.♔c5 ♔g2 79.♔c6 ♔f3 80.b7 ♔e4 81.♔c7 with a draw.) 72.♖d2+! Now that the white king is placed on c2, Black doesn't have the usual h2-Rb1 idea. 72...♔g3 73.♖d3+ ♔f4 74.♖d4+ ♔e3 75.♖h4 and the position is a draw.]

70...♖h1 Now we are back to what we already know...

71.♖e8 h2 Black is simply winning. **72.♖h8 ♖b1**



73.♔c3 White tries to get the b-pawn going, but of course it is too late...

73...h1=♖ 74.♖xh1 ♖xh1 In case of 75.b4 Black can win with 75...Rh4! and after 76.b5 Kf3 77.b6 Rh6! So, finally it was a winning endgame for Black, but both players managed to exchange presents. Again we can see how hard it is to play rook endgames well! **0-1**

Chess and the City



WGM Elisabeth Paetz

Best rating: 2493

"Strong minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, weak minds discuss people."

Yes Socrates was a very wise man indeed...

But we do not want to waste our time with useless explanations, people always hear what they want to hear! And this gossip corner will not be abused to spread negative and personal things about people, but to provide you with funny and interesting stories about our life in and outside the chess world.

As we have New Year, and some of you may not have sobered totally down by now, let me start with something less conventional and I truly hope I may be forgiven...

"I'm selfish, impatient and a little insecure. I make mistakes, I am out of control and at times hard to handle. But if you can't handle me at my worst, then you sure as hell don't deserve me at my best." (Marilyn Monroe)

Wish you all an UNFORGETTABLE 2015! :)

Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the "most talented" of them all?

It is well known that chess players often display a broad range of talents especially in fields such as arts and science. However, deciding whose talent is more worthy or impressive is subjective. Examples of multi-talented well-known chess players could be easily drawn from history (to name a few: Philidor, Lasker, Botvinnik and Smyslov), but taking into account living players we can for example cite some accomplished musicians or opera singers such as Emil Sutovsky (bass-baritone), Lajos Portisch (bass-baritone) and Mark Taimanov (concert pianist). These are those I have heard singing myself, but I am sure that the list could go on.

As for other fields, one of the prominent economists of our time happens to be a chess Grandmaster as well, his name being Kenneth Rogoff. He is not an active player nowadays, not surprisingly given that being a Professor at Harvard must not leave too much spare time...

I could also write about scientific talents or other similar skills, but the reader might point out that all these skills are not very useful in everyday life, just like chess.

But what talent could be actually useful in daily life? This reminds me about my flight from Oslo to Tromsø for the 2014 Chess Olympiad. In this flight I not only had the pleasure of being seated next to the charming Woman World Champion Hou Yifan, but also to get lectured on how to greet your chess colleagues in about 10 different languages by the as charming Grandmaster David Navara. Just when I thought to award him the non-official prize of most "everyday life" talented chess grandmasters I happened to come across the following picture...



"Never have I thought that I was the happy possessor of a talent; my sole concern has been to save myself by work and faith." (Jean-Paul Sartre)

Satre's concern was to save himself, but brave "window cleaners" can save women the efforts connected to such dangerous and dull work.

Thus, my female readers will not be surprised that the award of multi-talented player of the year 2015 will go to GM Alexander Ipatov from Lvov. To challenge him for 2016 I encourage all male GMs (and btw. all men in general) to improve their ironing and pamper changing skills :)

Clash of the Titans

(16) Fischer, Robert James
- Weinstein, Raymond Allen[C19]

USA-ch(1),
1960.12.18



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘b4 4.e5 ♘e7 5.a3 ♘xc3+ 6.bxc3 c5



7.a4!? In general this move is very useful but in this concrete position White usually plays other moves: [7.♖g4 7...O-O (7...♖c7 leads to very complex play after 8.♖xg7 ♖g8 9.♖xh7 cxd4 10.♘e2 ♘bc6 11.f4 ♘d7 12.♖d3 dxc3 and Black is looking for a strong initiative on the queenside.) 8.♘d3 f5 (8...♘bc6 9.♖h5 ♘g6 10.♘f3) 9.exf6 ♖xf6 10.♘g5 ♖f7 11.♖h5 g6 12.♖d1 ♘bc6 13.♘f3 and is not easy for White to prove an advantage because of the weak dark squares.; 7.♘f3 7...♖c7 8.h4 This is the alternative plan. White is going to create

some weaknesses on the kingside. 8...b6!? with the idea to exchange bishops. 9.h5 h6 The only move! 10.♘b5+! A strong move which was probably discovered by Fischer. White simply prevents Ba6. 10...♘d7 11.♘d3 ♘a4 An important square for the black bishop. In many lines Black also plays Qa5-Qa4 just to prevent the activation of the white bishop after a4-Ba3. 12.♙f1!?

7...♘bc6 8.♘f3 ♖a5 9.♖d2 White wants to keep the opportunity to develop the bishop to a3 but in my opinion the whole setup looks very artificial. [9.♘d2 9...♘d7∞]

9...♘d7 10.♘d3



10...c4?! I don't like this move. In my opinion Black could equalize after [10...cxd4 11.cxd4 ♖xd2+ 12.♘xd2 (12.♙xd2 12...♘a5 Without the queens on the board the a3-f8 diagonal has no big meaning and Black has good counterplay over the c-file.) 12...♘f5 13.♘xf5 exf5 and only Black can be better here!]

11.♘e2 O-O-O 12.♘a3 f6 13.O-O ♘f5 14.♖fe1 ♘e8 Black is going to activate his pieces. It was also possible to play [14...h5!? 15.♘f1 h4∞]



15.g4! White's only plan is to regroup his pieces and to create pressure on the kingside.

15...♞fe7 16.♟f1 ♟d7 [16...h5 17.exf6 gxf6 18.g5∞(18.♟xe7 18...♞xe7 19.♞xe6 hxg4 20.♞xe7 gxf3 21.♞f4 ♟d7∞) ; 16...f5? 17.♞g5±]

17.♟h3 It is clear what Fischer wants. He could immediately try [17.exf6 17...gxf6 18.g5 ♞hg8 19.♞h1 fxg5 20.♞xg5 ♞f5! In a dynamic position it is important to play very actively. 21.♞xe6 ♟xe6 22.♞xe6 ♞cxd4 23.♟h3! ♞xe6 24.♟xf5 ♞de8 25.♞e1 ♞g6 26.♟xg6 hxg6∞]

17...h6! Black simply prevents White's idea.

18.♟d6



18...♞df8! Black also looks for the best places for his pieces.

19.♞ab1 ♞f7 [19...fxe5 20.♞xe5 ♞xe5 21.dxe5 ♞f7 22.f4 h5!⇒ with the idea to stop the f5 break.; 19...f5 20.gxf5 ♞xf5 An original strategical sacrifice! 21.♟xf8 ♞xf8 22.♟xf5 ♞xf5 and I suppose that because of White's many weaknesses, Black has full compensation.]

20.exf6 gxf6 21.♟g3



21...♞g6 Black prevents the Qf4 threat.

22.♞b5?! The beginning of a strange plan. White should probably create something over the e-file and on the kingside, so the idea to double rooks on the b-file cannot be dangerous for Black.

22...♞a6?! Why not take the a4 pawn immediately? [22...♞xa4 23.♞bb1 ♞a3±]

23.♞eb1 [23.♞c1!? with the idea to activate the queen over Qa3-Qd6. 23...♞xa4 24.♞b2 threatening Ra1.]

23...b6 and the white rooks are stopped very easily.

24.♞c1 ♞xa4 25.♞b2 threatening Ra1.

25...♞a3 26.♞e3 ♞b7 27.♞h4 ♞xh4 28.♟xh4



28...e5?? A huge strategic mistake. Black opens the position and with one move activates all the white pieces!

29.dxe5 fxe5 The decisive mistake! Black lost a good game in just 2 moves! [29...♖e8 30.♗xb6+ (30.♕g2 30...♗xe5 31.♗d2↑ and here White has many attacking targets like d5-h6 and even b6.) 30...axb6 31.♗xb6+ ♔c8 32.e6 ♗xe6 33.g5 ♗a7! preventing the white queen from activating. 34.♕xe6 ♗xb6 35.♗xb6 ♕xe6 36.g6 ♗g7 37.♗xc6+ ♔d7 38.♗a6 ♗xg6+=]

30.♗xb6+! +— and White is winning very quickly now!

30...♔a8 31.♗b5 ♕e6 32.♕g3 e4

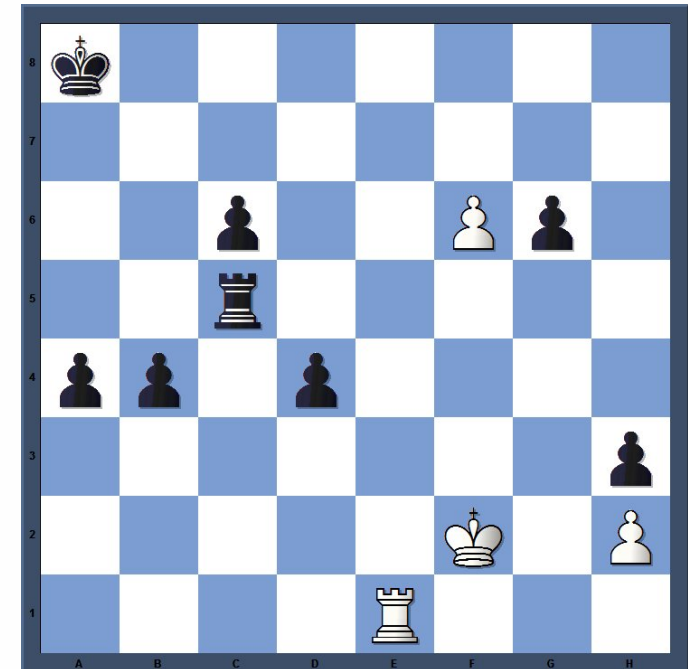


33.♗xh6! 1-0

Surprise section / study

(17) Zepler

1. =



Solutions

(18) Hawkins, J(2552)-Brustkern, J(2236)

Hastings Open, 2014.12.29



19.f4! 1-0 [19.f4 19...♖xg3 20.♗f5 ♖xg2+ 21.♖xg2 ♘xg2 22.♗xe7+ ♔h8 23.♗xg2+-]

(19) Tiviakov, S(2677)-Senders, M(2380)

Groningen Open, 2014.12.22



26.♖g4+! 1-0 [26.♖g4+ 26...♔xf6 (26...♔h7 27.♖h4! ♔g7 28.♖g6+! ♔xg6 29.♖xe7+-) 27.♖h4+ ♔g7 28.♖xe7+-]

(20) Ma Qun(2621)-Raznikov, D(2494)

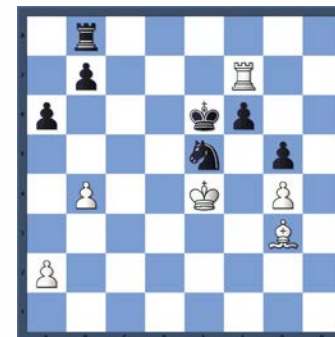
Groningen Open, 2014.12.27



10...♖xb3!! 0-1 [10...♖xb3 11.♖xb3 ♗f3+ 12.♔d1 (12.♔e2 12...♗d4+-) 12...♗xf2+ 13.♔e2 ♗d4+ 14.♔xf2 ♗xb3 15.♖b1 ♗xc1 16.♖xc1 ♗xc5+-]

(21) Romanov, E(2638)-Martynov, P(2400)

Rilton Cup, 2014.12.28



37.♖xf6+! 1-0 [37.♖xf6+ 37...♔xf6 38.♗xe5+ ♔e6 39.♗xb8+-]

(22) Krasenkow, M(2614)-Bellon Lopez, J(2381)

Rilton Cup, 2014.12.28



27. ♘e8+! ♖xe8 28. ♖xh6+—

(23) Zhrebukh, Y(2631)-Shen, V(2410)

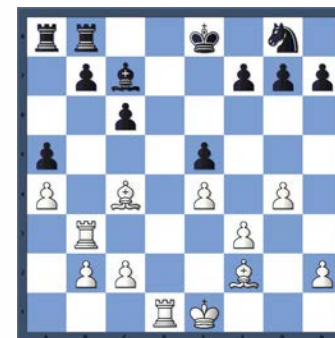
Intercollegiate, 2014.12.28



32. ♖xd4! exd4 33. ♘xd6+ ♔xd6 34. ♔xf5+ ♘f6 35. ♖a7+—

(24) Navara, D(2727)-Grossmann, R(2124)

European Rapid Championship, 2014.12.20



25. ♘xf7+! ♔xf7 26. ♖d7+ ♔g6 27. ♖xc7+—

(25) Riazantsev, A(2684)-Girya, O(2457)

European Rapid Championship, 2014.12.20



47. ♔xf7+! ♔xf7 48. ♘e5+ ♔f6 49. ♘xd3 1-0

(26) Fedorchuk, S(2669)-Socko, M(2470)

European Rapid Championship, 2014.12.20



39. ♖xg6+! ♔g7 [39...hxg6 40. ♕xg6+ ♔g7 41. ♕h7#]

40. ♖xg7+! ♔xg7 41. ♕xh7+ ♔f6 42. ♕f5+! ♔g7 [42...♔e7 43. ♕e6#]

43. ♘e6+! ♔g8 44. ♕g6+ 1-0

(27) Piorun, K(2517)-Navara, D(2727)

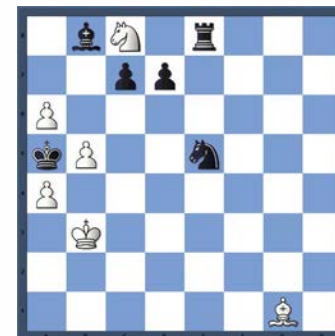
European Rapid Championship, 2014.12.20



16...c4! 17. ♘xe7 [17. ♘xc4 17...♘xa3—+]

17...cxd3 18. ♕xd3 ♕xe7—+

(28) Kubbel



1. ♘b6+!! cxb6 2. a7 ♘xa7 3. ♘d6! ♖b8 4. ♔a3!! ♖c8 [4...♘d3 5. ♘c4#]

5. ♘b7#



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

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Editorial Preface

Wijk aan Zee 2015 has begun! Both the A and the B group are very exciting with a lot of surprises, especially in the A group. Let us take a look at the situation after 5 rounds:

Who would have guessed that Wojtaszek would beat Carlsen and Caruana in a very convincing way, or that Ivanchuk would lead the tournament with a fantastic 4/5. The play of Wesley So and Ding Liren is also both good and stable. The young Chinese players have been doing very well recently, even in the best European tournaments.

These are the good surprises, now let us take a look at the upsets:

Jobava has as usual been playing very attractive chess, but he's on a catastrophic score of 0.5/5!

The same goes to Aronian, who is probably having one of his worst ever performances with 1.5/5. We should not forget that Aronian has already won Wijk aan Zee 4 times!

Caruana, who started to well, had a tough time losing to Wojtaszek on Thursday.

Saric, Hou Yifan and Van Wely are also all having very hard times, but this was more expected, as it is not easy to play against players who are more than 100 points higher rated than you.

In the B group things are also very mixed up, but the favorites are still leading: Navara, Wei Yi (who is only 16-years old but already has an ELO of 2675) and the Dutchman Erwin l'Ami are all on 3.5/5.

A huge surprise was the loss of Jan Timman to Anne Haast.

Very important news is that the price of the newsletter is going to change to 99.88\$ for a yearly subscription, but we are giving all our subscribers the option to renew their subscriptions (when they are going to run out) for the old price of 52.99\$ a year. What you need to do is to send us an email where you prove that you have been our subscriber and we will provide you with a personal bonus code. You can find all the informations on our official website: www.chess-newsletter.com

In the current issue we of course mainly focus our attention on Wijk aan Zee. Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

Two best games of the past week

**(1) Ding, Liren(2732)
- Caruana, Fabiano(2820) [D78]**

77th Tata Steel GpA(1.5),
2015.01.10



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Fabiano Caruana got into a suspicious position by preparation, but some "invisible" mistakes of his strong Chinese rival allowed him to nicely turn the game to his favor.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 Caruana would like to play the Gruenfeld and Ding Liren chooses the g3 system against it.

3.g3 c6 4.♗g2 d5 5.♘f3 ♗g7 6.O-O O-O 7.b3 An ambitious line where White tries to hold the tension in the center. The main move is 7.cxd5. This temporarily weakens the long diagonal and Caruana directly makes use of it.

7...dxc4 8.bxc4 c5 We are still following some theoretical variation with hundreds of games with it.

9.♗b2 ♖b6



10.♖c1 This seems to be the new direction! [Most of the games continued with 10.♖b3 10...♗e4 11.e3 ♗c6 and theory considers it to be fine for Black.]

10...cxd4 11.♗xd4 It is very interesting, that in the first round of the tournament there were two games for this position.

11...♗c6 Caruana follows the recent game of Gelfand. [The other game continued with 11...♗d7 Black prepares to develop the knight to c6 and recapture with the bishop. This seems to me to be a more accurate response than Caruana's choice. 12.♗d2 ♗c6 If Black manages to finish the development he might even get some advantage because of the better pawn structure and the isolated pawn on c4. 13.c5 ♖a6 14.♖c4 ♖xc4 15.♗xc4 ♖fc8 The isolated c-pawn has the advantage of having an opened b-file. White might put some pressure on the b7 pawn, but it does not seem to be enough to achieve an edge... 16.♖ab1 ♖ab8 17.♖fc1 ♗e8 followed by a mass of exchanges and the game became very drawish, Shankland-Wei Yi, Wijk aan Zee Challengers 2015.]

12.♗xc6 bxc6 13.♗d2! This is the ideal development of the knight. It is heading to b3 from where it might potentially jump to c5, a5 or d4 and at the same time it closes the b-file against Black's counterplay with Rb8.

13...♗f5 This is the novelty. I am not sure if it was a prepared one. [The previous game continued with 13...♗g4 14.♗b3! ♗xe2 15.♖e1 ♗d3



16.c5 (I guess Ding Liren wanted to improve his own game by playing 16.♘d4! The idea is to keep the c5 square for the knight. This is quite hard to find over the board, because Black can save his extra pawn, but the activity turns out to be more important. White seems to get an advantage everywhere... 16...♙a6 (On 16...♙c7 17.♙c3 ♘f5 18.♙e5! ♙c8 19.♘a5! If the c6 pawn falls, White gets an indisputable advantage with such active pieces. 19...♘d7 20.♙ab1!± White has more than enough compensation for the pawn. Black cannot really move with any of his pieces. The c6 and e7 pawns are doomed.) 17.♙e3! Very strong computer moves. The complications favor White in all the lines. 17...♘f5 (17...♘xc4? drops the bishop after 18.♘c5 ♙b5 19.♙b1+; 17...♙xc4 is strongly met by 18.♙d2! ♘f5 19.♘a5! ♙c2 20.♙xc2 ♘xc2 21.♘xc6± White wins back the e7 pawn next move and his pieces are going to be dominant. The a1 rook also joins the game with tempo.) 18.♙xe7 ♙fe8 19.♙xe8+ ♙xe8 20.♙c3+= White is better again.) 16...♙a6 17.♙xe7 ♙ae8 Black equalized in the game Ding Liren-Gelfand, Moscow 2014]

14.♘b3 ♙ac8 Black wishes to push c5! which limits the movement of the b3 knight. Afterwards White could forget about the Nd4 or Bd4-Nc5 ideas. It also gets rid of the weakness on c6 and fixes the white pawn on c4, which might potentially become a target like it happened in the game.

[14...♙ad8 was very natural, but it runs into the very strong 15.♘c3! and suddenly it is not easy to deal with the Ba5 and Na5 threats.; However 14...♙fd8! seems to be stronger. The point is that after 15.♘c3 (It also prevents the deep idea of White which he could execute in the game 15.e4? which does not work now because after 15...♘xe4 16.♘xf6 ♘xg2 17.♘xg7 ♘xf1 the f8 rook is not hanging...) 15...a5! works!]



15.e4! Very well played! Gaining space and pushing back the black pieces.

15...♙e6 A forced retreat. The pawn could not be taken either way... [15...♘xe4? drops a piece after 16.♘xg7 ♙xg7 17.g4!; 15...♘xe4? is refuted by 16.♘xf6! ♘xg2 17.♘xg7 ♘xf1 18.♘xf8+— and White ends up with an extra piece.]

16.e5? This is a very natural move, but it is wrong. It further pushes back the black pieces, opens the diagonal of the g2 bishop, closes the one on g7, but somehow it turns out to be a huge weakening of the pawn structure and this becomes the most important positional factor. It is very hard to understand and evaluate the plusses and minuses at first sight, but a few moves later it all becomes clear. [The right move was 16.♙b1! creating a highly unpleasant pin on the b-file with which it is not easy to deal at all... 16...♙a6 (On 16...c5 17.♙a3! is very strong and Black has no good way to protect the c5

pawn.) 17.♘c5! Again the activity is more important than the material! 17...♙xc4 18.♙xc4 ♘xc4 19.♖fc1! ♘e2 (19...♘xa2 does not equalize. 20.♖a1 ♘e6 21.♖xa7



White's pieces are too active. The e7 pawn is hanging, but the main problem is the e6 bishop with which Black cannot do anything. One illustrative line is 21...♖fe8 It seems quite natural to protect the hanging pawn, but it runs into 22.♘xe6 fxe6 23.♘h3! ♔f7 24.e5! ♘d5 25.♖a3! An extremely unpleasant maneuver! Rf3 is coming next and the e6 pawn falls!) 20.♖c2 The light squared bishop does not find its place on the board... 20...♘h5 White has a strong initiative and a pleasant choice. Probably the most accurate is 21.h3 threatening to trap the bishop with g4. Black's reply is forced: 21...g5 22.♘c1! h6 23.♖b7!+= winning back the pawn.]

16...♘d7 17.♖e1 Protecting the e5 pawn. [Knowing what happened in the game, White should have played 17.c5 but it is understandable that Ding Liren did not want to give up the control over the d5 square... 17...♙a6 18.♙e3 ♘d5! followed by e6. Black has no problems.]



17...c5! Finally Black got his free move to push c5 and its effect is even higher than expected. Black has fixed the weakness on c4 and is ready to attack it with Qa6 and Nb6! Suddenly the knight on b3 becomes misplaced, it has no more chance to occupy the d4 or c5 squares.

18.♘d2 Black has a choice between three tempting moves and it is very hard to assess which one is the best.

18...♙a6 Consequently following the plan with Nb6 and putting pressure on the c4 pawn. [It made sense to include 18...♖b8!? 19.♘c3 and only now play 19...♙a6 This way, Black could have avoided what happened in the game.; 18...♙c7!? also looks very strong. 19.f4 ♘b6 20.♙c2 ♖fd8! In this case Black just brings his pieces to their ideal squares. He is going to double his rooks on the d-file and uses the fact that the d2 knight cannot move because it is obliged to defend the c4 weakness. 21.♖ad1 ♖d7 Black has the initiative.]

19.♖e3! Resourceful prophylaxis against Nb6, which is now strongly met by Ra3 and the queen is trapped.

19...♖b8 20.♖a3 [Perhaps it was better to play 20.f4 right away. Nb6 is still met by Ra3 and if Black plays Qb6 White will have an extra tempo compared to the game.]

20...♙b6 21.♖b3 ♙c7 22.f4 ♘b6! After some maneuvering we have reached a similar position to the 18...Qc7 tempting

option. Black is going to play Rbd8 followed by doubling on the d-file. A well-timed undermining of the e5 pawn with f6 is also hanging in the air to bring the g7 bishop to the game.

23. ♖b1 seems to be an inaccuracy. White cannot really do something useful on the b-file. [It looked more natural to play 23. ♔c2 and bring the rook to e1, preparing to the f6 break.]

23... ♖bd8! Black can leave the b-file, as the b6 knight controls it properly. The d-file turns out to be a more relevant file.

24. ♕c3 [24.a4 would have been a consequent follow-up, trying to invade the 7th rank. Although Black is completely fine after 24... ♖d7! 25.a5 ♖a4 and the a5 pawn becomes weak, while the 7th rank is properly secured.]

24... ♔d7 Black is threatening to take on c4 now, as with his last move he prepared to meet the Rb7 counterplay with Qd3! [24...f6!? also looked very good 25.exf6 exf6 and Black plays Qf7 next, increasing the pressure on the c4 pawn.]

25. ♕f1 Not a nice move to make, but White had to do something about the c4 pawn. [25. ♖b5 25... ♔d3 is also much easier to play with black.]

25... ♕f5! 26. ♖a1



26...f6! Here comes the freeing break! There is huge

disharmony between the white pieces. The rooks are cut off from the game. The minor pieces are just protecting each other and the c4 pawn. These are the facts that justify that the opening of the position will favor Black!

27.exf6 Allowing Black to take on e5 and open the f-file for his rook is even worse.

27...exf6 Black is ready to occupy the e-file. Suddenly the white king becomes extremely vulnerable. The move f2-f4 seriously weakens the king's position. Perhaps if White could pull it back to f2 he would not have any serious problem, but now he is in huge trouble.

28. ♖b5 Too slow, but it is difficult to be clever. [28. ♖f3 is not better, as Black has good answers here as well: 28... ♖fe8 (Or 28... ♕e4 followed by Ba8 with potential threats on the long diagonal with Qb7.)]

28... ♖a4! Black picks up the important dark squared bishop after which the opening of the h8-a1 diagonal with f5 turns out to be decisive.

29. ♖b3 [29. ♕a5 is not much better. 29... ♔d4+ 30. ♖h1 ♖de8 with complete domination and the h1 king might get mated very soon, for example after Bd7-c6.]

29... ♖xc3 30. ♔xc3



30...♙e4! Of course! Black occupies one of the long diagonals and prepares to open the other one in the next move with f5! The bishop pair starts to work, there is no way to stop them!

31.f5 Trying to lock the g7 bishop for at least a few moves. [31.♘xc5!? would have been more tricky. 31...♙c6! (It seems like Black wins on the spot with 31...f5 however it spoils the advantage because of 32.♘xd7 ♙xc3 33.♚d1! (33.♘xf8 33...♙d4# would have been the neat point! Quite a pretty mate, we must admit!) 33...♚f7 34.♚b8! and White just holds by miracle.) 32.♘xe4 f5! wins an exchange and the game, but it would have been worth a try and hoping that Black plays 31... f5, since Black is winning anyway in the game.]

31...♙xf5 32.♚e1 [32.♘xc5 32...♙c6–+; 32.♚xc5 32...♙d7–+ and f5 next.]

32...♚fe8 Caruana uses all his pieces!

33.♚xc5 [33.♘xc5 loses to 33...♙c6 White must protect the c5 knight. 34.♚a5 (34.♚xe8+ 34...♚xe8 35.♚a5 ♙h6–+ and Be3 next wins.) 34...♚xe1 35.♙xe1 ♙f3–+]

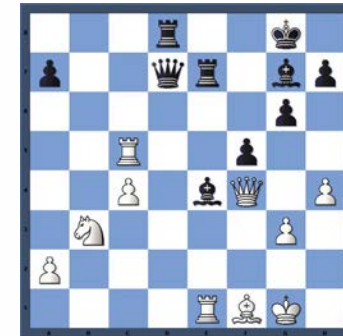


33...♙d7 Black was in some time trouble and quickly plays the most natural move. He is pushing f5 next move and the joining of the bishop to the game decides the outcome. [However, there was a brilliant win with 33...♙xc5+!! 34.♘xc5

f5 and Black wins the queen because Bd4 is a decisive threat. 35.♙e3 (35.♘xe4 35...♙xc3–+; 35.♙a3 35...♙d4+ 36.♚e3 ♙c6–+) 35...♙d4–+]

34.♙c1 f5 35.♙f4 White desperately tries to complicate the matters in Caruana's time trouble. He would like to play Rc7, which gets parried in the simplest way.

35...♚e7 36.h4 Giving air to the king on h2 against checks on the g1-a7 diagonal.



36...a5!! A brilliant finish! Caruana sees that the b3 knight is the key in White's defense, otherwise Bd4 is decisive. Therefore he is threatening to send it away with a4 and both captures on a5 lose material.

37.♚xa5 ♙c3! 38.♚d5 Desperation again! Black has many different wins here, Caruana finds an easy one...

38...♙a7+ 39.♙h2 ♚xd5 40.cxd5 ♙xe1 A great game! It was interesting that this all happened because of the natural 16.e5 move. Sometimes one mistake like this determines the entire game... **0-1**

**(2) Ivanchuk, Vassily(2715)
- Van Wely, Loek(2667) [B45]**

77th Tata Steel GpA(3),
2015.01.12



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



Ivanchuk's games are usually fun to watch, with a lot of interesting ideas and original play, but Van Wely is also a very fighting player who stands by his Sicilian already for many years. Ivanchuk seems to celebrate his comeback in Wijk aan Zee with a fantastic start of 4/5 and we are going to see one of this excellent victories. In the current game the position quickly becoming extremely sharp and complicated, where White clearly has a better overview and with a perfect domination of his pieces he makes Black's play look almost funny. A great game to watch and learn from.

1.e4 c5 As expected, a Sicilian...

2.♘f3 e6 Van Wely used to play the Najdorf more often, but he also often goes for a lot of different versions of the Paulsen or Sheveningen.

3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 d6 A rare move order in the recent games, usually Black goes for 5...Qc7 or 5...a6.

6.♙e3 ♘f6 In case of 7.f3 we would be back to the main lines, but Ivanchuk tries an interesting idea.

7.♙e2!? Lately in the Najdorf it becomes more and more fashionable to put the queen on e2 instead of the usual f4-Qf3. The queen on e2 has the advantage that White has the possibility of playing g4 and Bg2 and at the same time sometimes Nd5 or Nf5 are possible as well.

7...a6 Van Wely continues with the standard set up. Maybe an interesting try for Black could be to play 7... Bd7 and a quick Qa5 and Rc8, trying to save a tempo on the a6 move.

8.O-O-O ♙d7 9.f4 ♖c8 10.♙b1 This is a typical prophylactical move which we see in many different Sicilians.

10...♙c7?! Of course Black could have played 10...Be7 followed by short castle, but usually the queen is nicely placed on c7. On the other hand the Qc7 move is a bit slow, so in the current situation I don't think it was really needed.

11.♘b3 A preparation for the main idea of Qe2: to play g4. [White could have tried to play g4 immediately: 11.g4!? 11...♘xd4 12.♖xd4 and 12...e5! Now we can see why Ivanchuk decided to go back with 11. Nb3. 13.♖d2 ♙xg4 Black is winning a pawn, but things are far from clear. 14.♙g2 and I think Whites has excellent compensation for the pawn.]

11...b5 Once again Black plays a very standard move.

12.g4 Things are getting more direct now. White wants to play g5 next, so Black needs to act quickly.



12...b4?! just doesn't look right... [12...h5 doesn't help since after 13.g5 ♖g4 White has the cool 14.♙g1 with the deadly threat of playing h3 next.; But maybe the calm 12...h6 was the best way to go on.]

13.♘a4 Not only is the pawn on a6 hanging, but White also has another idea of playing Nb6 next.

13...e5? This was of course the idea of Van Wely when he played 12...b4?!, but it just doesn't seem to work out and in general pushing e5 is a wrong approach for Black.

14.g5! Great play by Ivanchuk. The sicilian is a very sharp opening and needs to be played energetically! I guess Black had clearly underestimated the complications we are entering now.

14...♙g4 15.♙g2 Now we can see Ivanchuk's plan.

15...♙xd1 This move is also forced.



16.♙xa6! This is the key move behind 14. g5, which you must see before playing 14.g5! The bishop on d1 is hanging, the knight on f6 as well and the rook on c8, so it is clear that White is getting some material back- but for the moment Ivanchuk is just a full rook down. [Black is doing fine after 16.gxf6? 16...♘d4! with a big pressure on the c2 pawn, with a very unclear position.]

16...♘d7 [16...♘g4 doesn't help because of 17.♙b6! It is very rare that in a Sicilian White is dominating on the queenside so much. 17...♙d7 18.♙xd1 with a winning position for White.]

17.♙xd1 White is only an exchange down and he has a pawn and a great initiative, so it is clear that he is much better.

17...♙a8 A logical move, but probably already almost losing the game. [Probably the best way to fight would have been to play 17...♙b8 but anyhow White has a great position after 18.♙e2! followed by Qc4. We can see a great domination by the white pieces.]

18.♙b5 ♙e7 [18...exf4 didn't help much, because after 19.♙xf4 ♙e7 White has a winning punch with 20.e5! and Black's position is falling apart.]

19.f5! Another very good strategic decision. There is no need for White to rush things, Black has almost no play at all and the idea of playing f6 in the right moment could be deadly.

19...♖b7 Hoping to get rid of the b5 bishop.



20.c4! Ivanchuk is playing great chess, using the fact that Black is not in good shape to play 20...bxc3, so White is securing a great position for the bishop on b5.

20...O-O [20...bxc3 didn't help either. 21.♘xc3 The white knight is taking the perfect d5 square under control. 21...O-O 22.f6 and the game is basically over. 22...♙d8 23.♖xd6 with a totally winning position for White.]

21.f6 White is starting the assault!

21...♙d8 22.♖xd6 and the second black pawn is gone... What an amazing domination by the white pieces! But already in a few moves it will get even worse...

22...♘cb8 23.♖g4 Not the most precise way to end the game, but a very practical move. White is attacking the d7 knight, which has no squares.

23...g6



24.h4 Ivanchuk starts to joke... [Why not take a piece with 24.♙xd7 24...♘xd7 25.♖xd7 ♖a6 26.♘bc5 White doesn't only have a winning position, but even a material advantage. 26...♖xc4 27.♖h3 and I guess the best Black can do is to resign.]

24...h5 Black is sort of fighting.

25.♖f3 and we now have a funny position where Black has no move which would not lead to a direct loss of some material. Amazing!

25...♙c7 Van Wely is still hoping for something...

26.♖xd7 ♘xd7



27.♙xd7 White has 3 pieces and 2 pawns for Black's both

rooks-which is already a material advantage- but the real bad thing is that the white pieces are totally dominating the game.

27...♖ad8 28.♘bc5 It was slowly time to resign, but Black keeps on making moves...

28...♔a8 29.♔d1 The white queen is going to take a great position on d5.

29...♔a7 30.♔d5 ♖a8 Black can practically not move...

31.♘d2 And again Ivanchuk does not hurry, he is going for the b4 pawn! :)

31...♖fd8 32.♘xb4 ♘a5 33.a3 ♔c7 34.♘c3 The second white knight wants to take a nice position on b5.

34...♘xb4 35.axb4 ♔a7 36.♔c2 and of course the white king is perfectly protected by the armada of white pawns and pieces.

36...♖ac8 37.♘b5 What a position!

37...♔a1



38.♘d6 What we can learn from this game is this really nice touch which Ivanchuk showed us with his domination play, and that usually a move like e5 is very wrong in a Sicilian for Black- don't try it in your own games! **1-0**

The K-Files. Accelerated Queen's Indian, 3.Nf3



GM Alexander Khalifman
FIDE World Chess Champion (1999)
Best rating: 2702

GM Alexander Khalifman continues his review of the Queen's Indian Accelerated. Here is a reminder on the contents of the series:

Part I (Issue #150). Refuting here and now 3.f3, etc.

Part II (Issue #151). Solid and classical 3.Nf3

III & IV (Issues #152-153). Good old central setup 3.Nc3

No Name Opening, Part II

(3) 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 b6 3.Nf3 [A50]

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** b6 **3.♞f3** It's a solid classical reaction. White doesn't pay attention to the opponent's move order tricks and invites him to play the Queen's Indian. It's possible, of course, but Black also has some other options.

3...♞b7 [3...e6 - Queen's Indian]

4.g3 The other moves (except 4. Nc3) don't create any problems. [4.e3 4...g6 Once again, Black can switch to Queen's Indian, but double fianchetto is also perfectly OK here. (4...e6) 5.♞c3 ♞g7 6.♞d3 (6.♞e2 6...O-O (6...♞e4!?)

7.O-O d5 8.cxd5 ♞xd5 9.♞d2 ♞d7= Bondarevsky - Taimanov USSR ch 1963) 6...d5 7.cxd5 ♞xd5 8.O-O O-O 9.♞xd5 ♞xd5 10.e4 ♞d7=; 4.♞g5 4...♞e4 nothing is wrong with 4...e6, but Black can play more ambitiously 5.♞h4 h6!? 6.♞c3 ♞xc3 7.bxc3 g5 8.♞g3 d6=; 4.♞c3 - 3.Nc3]

4...g6



In my opinion the only serious alternative to the classical 4...e6 (it's the last moment when Black can return to the Queen's Indian)

[4...e5 played by Alekhine and Botvinnik but... their opponents couldn't use Houdini for the preparation 5.dxe5 ♞g4 6.♞g2 ♞xe5 (6...♞b4+ 7.♞d2 ♞xd2+ 8.♞xd2 ♞xe5 9.O-O) 7.O-O! N Clear improvement on (7.♞bd2 7...♞xf3+ 8.♞xf3 ♞b4+ 9.♞d2 ♞xd2+ 10.♞xd2 O-O is very close to equal (Teichmann - Alekhine Berlin 1921)) 7...♞xc4 (7...♞xf3+ 8.exf3 ♞e7 9.♞c3 O-O 10.♞d5±) 8.♞c3 ♞c6 9.b3 ♞d6 10.e4= and White has a tremendous compensation for the pawn; 4...c5 5.d5 b5 Otherwise it's just an awkward Benoni, and after 5...b5 it's a quite strange Benko gambit. Still I can't believe that Black can afford such dynamic play, wasting time on b7-b6-b5. Not sure if the following lines refute it outright, but... 6.♞g2 g6 (6...bxc4 7.e4! N (the natural 7.♞c3 suddenly turns out to be a waste of time, and after 7...d6 8.O-O ♞bd7

9.e4 g6 10.♖a4 ♘g7 11.e5 ♗xd5 Black is fine) 7...♗xe4 (7...d6 8.O-O ♗bd7 9.♞e1 g6 10.e5±; 7...g6 8.♗c3 ♘g7 9.e5 ♗g4 10.♘f4 O-O 11.O-O d6 12.exd6 exd6 13.♞e1±) 8.O-O ♗f6 (8...d6 9.♞e1 ♗f6 10.♗c3) 9.♘g5 d6 10.♞e1 ♗bd7 11.♗c3 White has a fantastic compensation the natural 11...g6? loses immediately 12.♘xf6 ♗xf6 13.♞a4+ ♗d7 (13...♞d7 14.♗b5+-) 14.♗e4 ♞c7 15.♗f6+ ♞d8 16.♗g5!+-) 7.O-O ♘g7 8.e4! N the same idea 8...♗xe4 9.♞e1 ♗f6 10.♗e5 O-O 11.cxb5± it's definitely not the kind of position Benko players are dreaming about; 4...♘xf3 There is certain logical basis; Black intends to exploit the opponent's compromised pawn structure and to build a solid pawn center c6-d5-e6. However, b7-b6 doesn't belong here. If Black likes to play like this, he should better try something like 1.d4 d6 2.Nf3 Bg4. 5.exf3 e6 6.♘g2 d5 7.O-O ♘e7 8.f4 c6 9.b3 ♗a6 10.♗d2+= quite soon the white knight will arrive to e5 and Black will have to think if it was worth to play b7-b6 only to exchange the light-squared bishop two moves later (Aronian - Lysyj Tromso (rapid) 2013)]

5.♘g2 [5.♗c3!? might be a more practical move order as it reduces Black's opportunities and sets a nice positional trap 5...♘g7 (5...♗e4?! runs into 6.d5 ♗xc3 (in the game Romanishin - Kir.Georgiev Wijk aan Zee 1985 Black was so much upset about his previous move that he played 6...♗f6?! which is, of course, even worse - just losing two tempi 7.e4±) 7.♞d4! after the best 7...f6 8.♞xc3 c6 9.dxc6 ♗xc6 10.♘g2+= things are far from clear but Black's kingside structure is quite ugly) 6.d5 (now 6.♘g2 already can be met by 6...♗e4!?) 6...♗a6 7.♘g2 ♗c5 8.O-O O-O transposing to the main line]

5...♘g7 6.O-O O-O This position happened also in Black games of Carlsen, Grischuk and Morozevich despite none of them has played 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 b6 so far. The reason is simple: the most popular move order to reach the position on the diagram is 1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 b6 3. g3 Bb7 4.Bg2 g6 5.O-O Bg7

6.d4 O-O. So, the following part might be quite useful also for the readers who are skeptical about the concept of NoName opening, but look for a reliable setup against 1.Nf3.



7.d5 In my opinion the only way to fight for something tangible. White gains space and tries to leave the opponent's light-squared bishop passive. The other moves seem to be pretty harmless.

[7.♗c3 The most popular and natural move. However, it never seemed to grant White even a symbolic advantage. 7...♗e4 8.♗xe4 (8.♘d2 8...♗xd2 9.♞xd2 c5 10.d5 d6= Stean - Diesen New York 1977; 8.♞c2 8...♗xc3 9.bxc3 (9.♞xc3 9...c5 10.♘e3 ♘xf3 11.♘xf3 ♗c6=) 9...d6= White's control on the center and pawn weaknesses compensate each other (Lisitsin - Savitsky Leningrad 1934)) 8...♘e4 9.♘e3 (9.d5 9...c6 10.d6 (10.♘h3 10...cxd5 11.♗g5 Varelle - Bordling France 1996 (11.cxd5 11...e6=+) 11...e6! 12.f3 ♘f5 13.g4 ♘f6±) 10...exd6 11.♞xd6 ♗a6= Szmetan - Rodriguez Buenos Aires 1990 ; 9.♘f4 9...c5 (9...d6 - 7.Bf4) 10.♞d2 cxd4 11.♗xd4 ♘xg2 12.♞xg2 ♞c8= Pedersen - Cummings Denmark 1978; 9.♘g5 9...c5 10.♞d2 cxd4 11.♗xd4 ♘xg2 12.♞xg2 ♗c6 (12...d5 13.♞ad1! dxc4 14.♗f5 ♞xd2 15.♗xe7+ ♞h8 16.♞xd2 ♞e8 17.♗d5+= Chatalbashev - Ashwin Albena 2013) 13.♗xc6 dxc6 14.♞ad1 ♞c7 15.♞d7 ♞e5! 16.♞xe7 ♞a5!=) 9...c5 10.♞d2 d6 The easiest way to equalise. 11.♘h6 ♗d7 12.♞fd1 ♗f6 13.♞ac1

♖c7= Radjabov - Kramnik Istanbul 2012; 7.♖c2 is strongly met by 7...c5 8.d5 b5! 9.cxb5 (9.♗c3 9...b4 10.♗d1 d6 11.e4 ♗bd7⇒ Nikolic - I.Sokolov Pula 1991; 9.e4 9...d6) 9...d6 10.e4 a6 looks like a good Benko version for Black, as e2-e4 has only weakened the important square d3. The recent top-level game confirmed this assessment: 11.b6 ♗bd7 12.♗d2 a5 13.♗c3 ♗xb6⇒ Nepomniatschij - Morozevich Russia ch 2014; 7.♞e1 Half-waiting move which is very popular now in a similar Queen's Indian position (with the black bishop on e7). However, here Black has no problems with the useful answer. 7...e6 (7...c5?! 8.d5 b5 is not recommended here: 9.e4 bxc4 (9...d6 10.e5) 10.♗c3± e4-e5 is coming (Yevseev - Pimenov, St.Petersburg 2011)) 8.♗c3 (8.♗g5 8...h6 9.♗xf6 ♖xf6 10.e4 d6=) 8...♗e4 9.♗xe4 ♗xe4 10.♗g5 ♖e8 11.♖d2 d6 12.♗h6 ♗d7= and Black is perfectly safe and solid here (Aronian - Carlsen Saint Louis 2014) ; 7.♗f4 Another small trick which wouldn't threaten Black if he reacts properly 7...d6 (7...c5?! 8.d5 b5 9.d6!) 8.♗c3 (8.d5 8...b5 9.♖b3 ♖c8 10.♖xb5 c6 11.dxc6 ♗xc6 12.♖b3 ♗bd7∞ gives Black excellent compensation as the bishop is misplaced on f4.) 8...♗e4 9.♗xe4 ♗xe4 This position might arise via the move order 7.Nc3 Ne4 8.Nxe4 Bxe4 9.Bf4 d6 (instead 9...c5! equalises immediately). So White avoided 9...c5, but is it such a big achievement?! 10.♖d2 ♗d7 11.♗h6 Guimard - Euwe Groningen 1946 11...♗f6 12.♗xg7 ♗xg7=]

7...♗a6 This is the most natural developing move. [7...b5 would be good if not 8.♖b3! and it's right time for Black to decide if his previous move was a sacrifice or a blunder. 8...♖c8 9.♖xb5 c6 10.dxc6 ♗xc6 11.♗c3 ♞b8 12.♖a4 ♗a6 13.a3 ♗g4 14.c5 and Black doesn't have enough for the pawn (Cheparinov - Salgado Spain 2013); 7...♗e4 is recommended by the engines, but from the human point of view it looks a bit too aggressive 8.♖c2 f5 (8...♗d6 9.e4 e5 10.b4 c6 11.♗bd2+=)

9.♞d1! A recent invention by Caruana. (9.♗bd2 leads to a fairly unclear position after 9...♗d6 10.e4 c6 11.♞d1 cxd5 12.exd5 ♗a6 Fridman - Mainka Senden 2002) 9...c6 (9...♗a6 10.♗d4) 10.♗c3! N A critical move. (10.♗d4 10...cxd5 11.cxd5 ♗xd5 12.♗xf5 Caruana - Robertson Bilbao 2014 could have led to completely unclear position after 12...gxf5 13.♞xd5 e6 14.♞d1 d5 15.♗d2 ♗d7 Black's strong center and active pieces compensate White's bishop pair.) 10...♗xc3 11.bxc3 ♗a6 12.♗d4 ♖c8 13.♞b1+= I like White's position more, but certainly further practical tests are required; 7...e6 8.♗c3 exd5 9.cxd5 ♞e8 10.♗d4 ♗a6 11.♗db5!?+=; 7...c6 8.♗c3 cxd5 9.cxd5 ♗a6 10.e4+= Budo - Alatortsev Leningrad 1932]

8.♗c3 9.♞c5 9.♞e1 The most unpleasant for Black in my opinion. The idea is simple: e2-e4 [9.♖c2 not the best square for the queen as black rook will soon arrive to c8 9...c6! 10.e4 cxd5 11.exd5 e6⇒ Norman - Tiviakov Guernsey 2013; 9.♗d4 the same plan: e2-e4 9...a5!? so this rare prophylactic move is better (9...e5 was played by Grischuk, Tiviakov and Kurnosov, but seems to be inaccurate. 10.♗b3 (10.♗c2!?) 10...d6 (10...♗xb3 11.axb3 a5 12.d6!? is a problem) 11.♗xc5! Very straightforward (but effective) way to proceed. 11...bxc5 12.a3 a5 (12...♗a6 Grischuk - Sargissian Khanty Mansiysk blitz 2013 13.b3 and it's no pleasure to play with the bishop on a6 (if it retreats, then b3-b4 follows)) 13.e4 and White intends to go for a5-pawn with something like a4 Nb5 Qe1 Bd2. Looks quite slow but works...) 10.e4 (10.♗f4 10...e5! this trick is a tactical basis of 9...a5 11.dxe6 (11.♗xe5 11...♗xd5 12.♗xd5 ♗xe5 13.♗xb7 ♗xb7 14.f4 ♗g7 15.e4 ♗c5⇒) 11...fxe6 12.♗xb7 ♗xb7 13.♖d2 ♗c5∞; 10.♗b3 10...♗xb3 11.axb3 d6⇒) 10...e5 11.♗b3 (11.♗db5 11...c6 12.♗a3 cxd5 13.exd5 ♗e8⇒; 11.♗c2 11...♗e8! an important manoeuvre 12.♗e3 ♗d6 13.♖e2 ♖e7∞ planning f7-f5) 11...♗xb3 12.axb3 d6∞ looks like very much playable King's Indian]

9...e6 [9...♘fe4 According to general principles when Black is lacking space piece exchanges are good for him. But in this concrete case it's combined with the massive loss of time and doesn't work properly. 10.♘xe4 ♘xe4 11.♚c2 ♘c5 (11...f5 12.♘g5 ♘d6 13.♙f4 with strong pressure (Ivanchuk - Robson Tromso 2013)) 12.e4 d6 13.♙e3 and it's difficult to create adequate counterplay]

10.e4 d6 11.♚c2 [after the logical 11.♘d4 (Castro - Alvarez Bogota 2014) 11...e5 leads to positions which are quite similar to the 9.Nd4 line.]

11...a5 12.♙g5 h6 13.♙e3 White's position is more pleasant to play, but Black also has some trumps (Sargissian - Vallejo Khanty Mansiysk rapid 2013)

David vs. Goliath



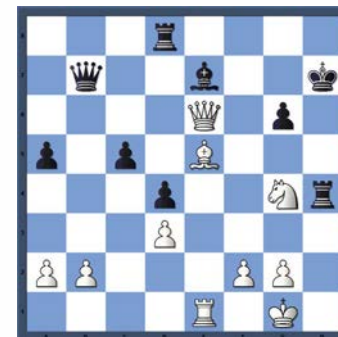
Peter Zhdanov

Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this special weekly column we will be looking at the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week has brought us 23 upsets. The number of moves ranges from 24 in WIM Alexandra Jule (2139) - FM Brice Le Roy (2290) to 73 in FM Peter Constantinou (2284) - Nail Bashirli (1963), 0-1. The highest-profile loss was GM Ivan Popov (2622) - Annirudha Deshpande (2157), 0-1. Elvin Bayramov (2051) has defeated two Goliaths in one week: FM Ulvi Sadikhov (2414) and CM Parvis Gasimov (2517). CM instead of GM is not a misprint: young Parvis (born 2000) has **famously improved his rating by 568 points over a 3-months period!**

The "hardcore" nomination goes to GM Kirill Stupak, who played Kh7 and resigned in the following position against FM Katashuk (2191). As you can see, White can give checkmate in one move with Qf7.



Top-10:

Kravchenko (1777) - Shemeakin (2266), 1-0, **489** points
 Dibusz (1593) - Juhasz (2074), 1-0, **481** points
 Kokeny (2086) - Erseki (1612), 0-1, **474** points
 Bayramov (2051) - Gasimov (2517), 1-0, **466** points
 Popov (2622) - Deshpande (2157), 0-1, **465** points
 Vernacki (2354) - Lukic (1953), 0-1, **401** points
 Badalian (1703) - Pedashenko (2085), 1-0, **382** points
 Eade (1858) - Reilly (2238), 1-0, **380** points
 Sevdemaliev (2505) - Asadli (2127), 0-1, **378** points
 Katashuk (2191) - Stupak (2557), 1-0, **366** points

Average gap: 428; White won 6 games, Black won 4 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to **peter@pogonina.com** for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) will be appreciated.

Puzzle section

(4) Van Wely, L(2667)-Wojtaszek, R(2744)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.11

1. +-



(5) So, W(2762)-Aronian, L(2797)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.12

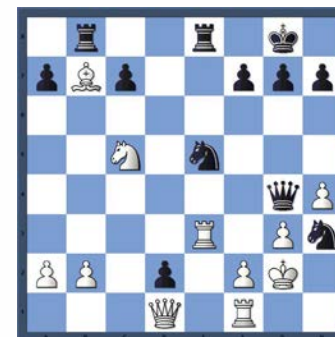
1. +-



(6) Timman, J(2593)-Haast, A(2352)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2015.01.12

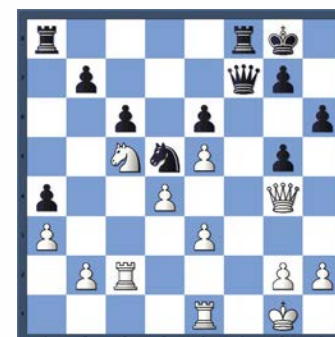
1... -+



(7) Paakkonen, T(2247)-Agrest, E(2590)

Keres memorial rapid, 2015.01.09

1... -+



(8) David, A(2572)-Raja, H(2144)

Parnsvath Open, 2015.01.09

1. +-



(9) Karthikeyan, P(2435)-Gupta, A(2631)

Parnsvath Open, 2015.01.10

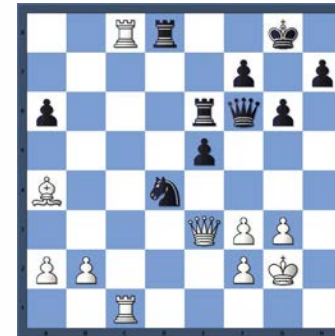
1... -+



(10) Demchenko, A(2611)-Krishna, C(2350)

Parnsvath Open, 2015.01.11

1. +-



(11) Zelcic, R(2535)-Kozul, Z(2631)

Croatian Championship, 2015.01.12

1. +-



(12) Bellia, F(2420)-Turov, M(2591)

Rilton Cup, 2015.01.04

1... -+



(13) Duessel, U(2198)-Iturrizaga, E(2649)

Basel Open, 2015.01.02

1... -+



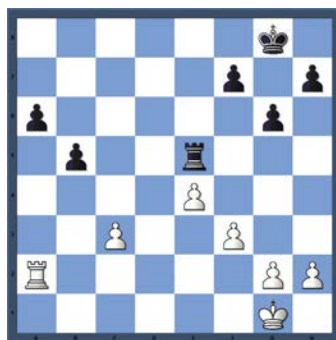
Endgame section

(14) Ivanchuk, Vassily(2715)
- Jobava, Baadur(2727)

Wijk aan Zee,
2015.01.10



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



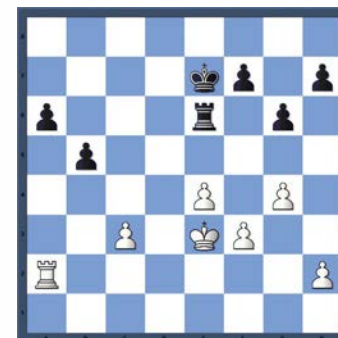
Jobava had an advantage at an earlier stage of the game, but he missed some tactical ideas after which White managed to equalize. Obviously in this 5 against 5 pawns and rook endgame the logical outcome would be a draw, but Black was probably disappointed about the spoiled chances and he continues playing for the win.

33...♖e6 Black pins his hopes to his symbolic edge because of the a6 passed pawn, but this should not be enough to win the game. [Naturally 33...♖c5 34.♖xa6 ♖xc3 35.♖b6 is a dead draw.]

34.♔f2 Both sides activate their king, which is a known principle in most of the endgames.

34...♔f8 35.♔e3 ♔e7 36.g4 White has a pawn majority on the kingside, therefore he advances his pawns there in order

to be able to create a passed pawn later.



36...♔d7 This is the only attempt for Black if he wants to continue playing for the win. He drives his king to b6 to support the advance of the a-pawn. Both players were in severe time trouble, which probably also affected Jobava to play ambitiously. [36...g5 was very logical to stop the advance of the pawns, although it does not change the logical outcome. 37.f4 gxf4+ 38.♔xf4 is still just a dead draw. If Black drives his king to b6, White always gets counterplay against the f7 pawn.]

37.f4 White is ready to push e5, followed by Ke4 and f5!

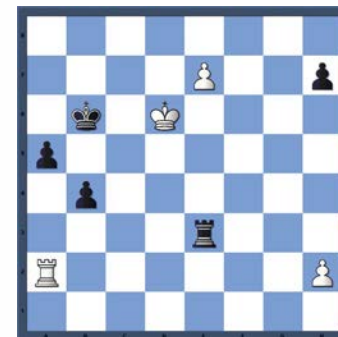
37...♖c6 38.♔d4 ♔c7 Jobava consequently follows his risky plan. Obviously if he keeps his king on e7 the game would end in a draw.

39.f5 ♖c4+ 40.♔d5 The last move before reaching time control! Generally in rook endgames it is very important to defend actively! Passively defending the c3 pawn would have given Black chances after Kb6 and a5. The white king must support his passer in the center. [40.♔e5!? was actually also strong, when Black has nothing better than retreating with 40...♖c6 (40...♔b6? is strongly met by 41.♔f6! ♖xe4 42.♔xf7 and White gets a very strong passed f-pawn in any case. 42...♖xg4 43.f6!)]

40...♔b6 Thanks to Jobava's hard efforts, we have reached a very interesting rook endgame with mutual chances. Although it is already rather White who has better chances. The a-passed pawn is still on a6, while on the other side, White is ready to push e5-e6 and his king is excellently placed to support the further promotion of the pawn. Probably at this point Jobava had also realized that he was overoptimistic about his chances, but it was very difficult to evaluate correctly in time trouble.

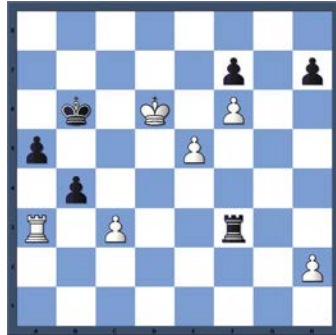


41.♖a3 Ivanchuk decides to protect his c3 pawn as Black cannot avoid e5-e6 anyway. [41.e5 right away was also possible. 41...gxf5 42.gxf5 ♖xc3 43.e6 fxe6+ 44.fxe6 ♖e3 Black has the upper hand here. He intends to give up his rook for the e-pawn and advance his passers with the support of his king. The single rook without the king cannot stop them. However with accurate play White can still hold the draw. 45.♔d6 b4 46.e7 a5



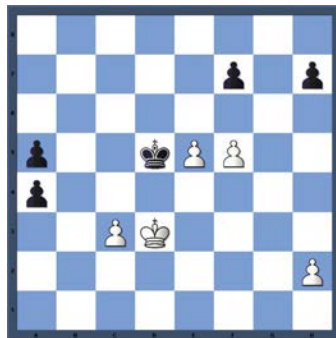
47.♖f2! This is very important! White wants to promote his pawn with his rook with the idea to keep the king closer to the queenside pawns. (47.♔d7? loses to 47...♔b5! 48.e8=♖ ♖xe8 49.♔xe8 a4—+ and the pawns promote more or less automatically.) 47...b3 48.♖f8! The perfect square for the rook, from where it supports his own pawn and also stops the b-pawn because of Rb8. 48...♔b5 (48...a4? is too slow, White wins after 49.e8=♖ ♖xe8 50.♖xe8 ♔b5 51.♔d5 Black cannot advance his pawns, because after a check on the b-file, his king gets squeezed to the a-file and Kc4 wins. 51...♔b4 52.♔d4+—; 48...b2? 49.♖b8+) 49.♖f5+ Another important motif in rook endgames! One can promote his pawns also by closing the key line. 49...♔c4 50.♖e5 ♖xe5 51.♔xe5 b2 52.e8=♖ b1=♖ 53.♖c6+ ♔b3! is the only move to save the queen. 54.♖b5+ ♔c2 55.♖xa5=]

41...a5 42.e5 ♖a4?? A terrible blunder! [42...♖xg4 was also suspicious because of 43.f6! (43.e6 is less accurate, because Black has 43...fxe6+ 44.fxe6 ♔c7! saying stop to the pawn and making a draw after 45.♖xa5 ♖g5+ 46.♔e4 ♔d6 47.♖a6+ ♔e7= 48.♖a7+ ♔xe6 49.♖xh7) ; Black should have played 42...gxf5 43.gxf5 ♖f4 44.f6 ♖f3! A very nice move! Black pins the rook and creates the threat of b4. At the same time he prevents the e6 idea as it is met by Rxf6 e7 Re6! 45.♔d6 b4



White must force a draw here by playing 46.cxb4!! Rxa3 47.bxa5+ e6 is coming after each move. 47...Rxa5 48.e6 fxe6 49.f7 Rf5 50.Qxe6 Rf2 51.Qe7 and the draw is inevitable. 51...Re2+ 52.Qd7 Rf2 53.Qe7=]

43.Rxa4! [Black resigned in view of 43.Rxa4 43...bxa4 44.Qc4! The white king stops the passed pawn. But of course, it is not the end of the story... 44...gxf5 45.gxf5 Qc6 It looks like White is in trouble. He soon gets into zugzwang and needs to move with his king, but then Kd5 wins the e5 pawn. However the truth is different: 46.Qd3! White simply wants to go towards the a-pawns. Black must play 46...Qd5



And here comes the brilliant point! 47.e6! fxe6 48.f6! A very nice breakthrough! Both sides have two passed pawns, but the white ones are promoting faster! 48...Qd6 49.c4! e5 (49...Qd7 loses to 50.c5 Qe8 51.c6+-; 49...a3 50.Qc2+- does

not change anything.) 50.c5+! Qe6 51.c6 a3 52.c7 Qd7 53.f7 a2 54.c8=Q+ Qxc8 55.f8=Q++- The resignation might look a bit premature, but on this level such things belong to the easy-to-calculate category. An undeserved loss for Jobava, but sometimes fighting spirit does not pay off properly.] **1-0**

(15) Saric, Ivan(2666)
- Aronian, Levon(2797)

77th Tata Steel GpA(1),
2015.01.10



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



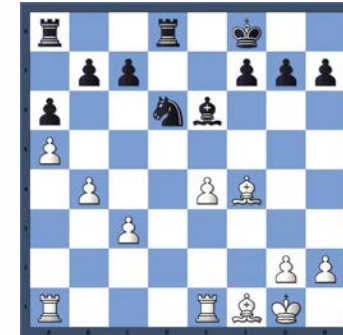
We are in the 1st round of Wijk aan Zee. For Saric it is one of first super tournaments he has participated in, so to immediately play the first round against the World Nr5 in not an easy task. The game reached an endgame already on move 10, where White got a minimal advantage. After a few not very accurate moves, White already has a very pleasant position. Black's pieces are passive and the white knight on c4 is perfectly placed. Still, it is very hard to create real winning chances out of a small edge.

18.f4! A very good decision by Saric. Of course it was possible to play Be3-f3-Rad1 with a small plus here, but Black would be solid too with f6 and maybe have the idea of playing Be7 and Nd6. Now the game is getting a bit more funny.

18...exf4 This move is a must.

19.♖xd6 ♜xd6 20.♗xf4 So White has the bishop pair and more advanced pawns on the queenside. White's idea should be to advance the pawns even more to create some weakness in the black pawn structure and make the bishop pair even more dominant.

20...♗e6 Preventing White from playing c4.



21.♖ad1?! I think this is clearly not the best. White's idea should not be to exchange the rooks, but to play for the c4 push. [The right move was 21.♖ac1! and Black cannot stop White from playing c4. 21...c6 22.c4 and White's advantage got a bit bigger. The next idea could be to play Kf2-Ke3 and maybe Red1. Black's position is very unpleasant here.]

21...♖d7?! A very logical move, but Black misses a nice tactical idea of White. [More solid would have been 21...♖ac8 22.♖d4 h6 with the idea of playing Ke7 next. Black's position is a little worse, but very solid.]

22.c4 Finally the c4 move is played!

22...♖ad8 Black still doesn't see the trick.

23.c5 ♜b5 The position looks like a draw- but only at first sight!



24. Rxd7? What a mistake by White! [What White and Black both missed was 24.c6! A beautiful "little" punch! 24...bxc6 (Of course Black cannot take the rook: 24...Rxd1?? 25.Rxd1 Rxd1 26.cxb7 Rxd8 27.Bxb5 and White is easily winning.) 25.Rc1! Another calm and very strong move. Black can't stop White from playing Rxc6 next and after that the a6 pawn is in big danger. We would clearly see the domination of the bishop pair here.]

24... Bxd7 Black doesn't give White another chance to play the c6 move.

25. Rd1 Bxe8! An accurate move after which the drawn outcome is almost sure because White can't do anything against Black playing Be6 next or Bc6, with the exchange of the rook.

26. Bc4



26... Bxe6 27. Rxd8+ Bxd8 and after the rooks are gone, to just have the bishop pair is not enough to win the game. The position is a draw.

28. Bxb5 axb5 Opposite colored bishops endgames are equal and it is not much fun to play on.

29. c6 bxc6 30. Be3 Bc8 31. Bc5 Bb7 32. Bf2 We just saw how important it is too keep the tension and fight for every resource, even when the position looks simple and very much like a draw. **1/2-1/2**

Chess and the City. Ben Oni.



WGM Elisabeth Paetz

Best rating: 2493

"And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name Ben-Oni"

(which means "son of my sorrow") (Genesis 35:18)

"Whenever I felt in a sorrowful mood and wanted to take refuge from melancholy, I sat over a chess board, for one or two hours according to circumstances. Thus this book came into being, and its name, Ben-Oni "Son of Sadness", should indicate its origin." (Aaron Reinganum)



About one year ago, on the 11th January 2014, the chess world was shocked by the news of the death of GM Vugar Gashimov, who passed away at the early age of 27.

Vugar was one of the most talented players of our time, peaking at number 6 in the world, but above all he was a kind soul, a good friend and a cheerful person.

He made Azeri history by winning the crucial game in the European Team Championship in Novi Sad 2009, which secured the gold medal for his team.

Vugar played his last tournament in Wijk An Zee 2012, before he was diagnosed the cruel disease which plagued him for the rest of his life and finally separated him from chess and his loved ones.

On the board Vugar was known for his daring style as shown by his (successful) efforts to revitalize the Benoni opening. It is a sad coincidence that the name of this opening bears the most distinctive features of his life: an extraordinary creativity and a gloomy fate.

I would dare to say that Vugar was a good friend of mine and I think that this video summarizes the enormous void that his untimely death has left in the hearts of those who had the luck to meet him.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ApWKRXTyEw>

Clash of the Titans

(16) Portisch, Lajos
- Smyslov, Vassily[E15]

Amsterdam Interzonal(8),
1964.05.29



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.c4 ♘f6 2.d4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 4.g3 ♘a6



5.♞a4 is one of the options. White has many other moves:
[5.b3 ; 5.♞c2 ; 5.♞b3]

5...c6 Not the main line. The idea of this move is to transpose to Catalan structures after d5. The most popular move now is [5...♘b7 6.♘g2 c5! Black immediately fights for the center. 7.dxc5 (7.O-O 7...cxd4 8.♘xd4 ♘xg2 9.♞xg2 ♞c8 Black has a good version of the hedgehog structure with less pieces and a badly placed queen on a4. 10.♘c3 ♞b7+ 11.f3 ♘e7 12.e4 O-O 13.♘e3 ♞c8⇐) 7...♘xc5 (7...bxc5 8.♘c3 ♘e7 9.O-O O-O 10.♞d1 d6 11.♘f4) 8.O-O O-O 9.♘c3 ♘e7 10.♞d1 ♘a6 11.♘f4 ♘c5

12.♞c2 ♞c8 and we can find a lot of games in this position where objectively Black should equalize the position after reducing the material by playing Ne4 or pushing d5.]

6.♘c3 ♘e7 7.♘g2 O-O 8.♘f4 Because of the Bxb8 threat Black plays

8...d6!? [8...♞c8 9.O-O d5 10.♘e5 ♞b7 (10...♘xc4 This trick now works because of 11.♘xc4 b5 12.♘xb5 cxb5 13.♞xb5+—) 11.cxd5 cxd5 and now White can try the thematic plan with the idea to take control of the c-file by playing Rfc1 or because of the bad queen on b7 it is possible to break in the center with Re1-e4.]

9.♞c1 ♞c8 10.O-O ♘bd7 11.♞fd1 ♘b7



12.e4+= White has a clearly better position thanks to his space advantage.

12...♘h5 13.♘g5?! It was much better to keep more pieces on the board. [13.♘e3+=]

13...♘xg5 14.♘xg5 ♘hf6 15.♞a3 h6 16.♘f3 [16.♘xe6!? 16...fxe6 17.♞xd6 White has compensation and e5 is coming next.]

16...c5



17. ♖e1?! A very strange move in my opinion. Why not play the logical [17.d5 with the idea to limit the black bishop. The white queen is temporarily out of play but thanks to his space advantage White has a slightly better position.]

17...a6! with the unpleasant idea b5, so White is forced to take on c5.

18. dxc5 dxc5 19. ♖b3 ♖c7 20. f4



20...e5! Black is taking control over the dark squares.

21. ♘d5 [21.f5 21...b5! (21...♘b8 This typical plan of transferring the knight to d4 is too slow here. 22. ♘d5! ♙xd5 23. exd5 ♖d6 24. ♘d3 Nf2-g4-h4 is coming next with an unclear position.)

22. cxb5 c4 with Qb6-Ng4 next and Black has the initiative.]

21... ♙xd5 22. exd5 ♖d6 23. ♘d3 ♖fe8 24. ♖e1 exf4 25. ♘xf4 ♘e5 26. ♖c3



26...b5! Thanks to this tactical trick Black is going to open the b-file and create a weak pawn on c4.

27. b3 [27. cxb5? 27...axb5 28. ♖xc5 ♖xc5+ 29. ♖xc5 ♘f3+--+]

27...bxc4 28. bxc4 ♖ab8 29. a3 ♖e7 30. ♖e2 ♖be8 31. ♖ce1 ♘ed7 [31... ♘fd7!? with the idea Nb6.]

32. ♙h3! White is hoping to activate or to exchange his bad bishop.

32... ♖xe2 33. ♖xe2 ♖xe2 34. ♘xe2 ♖e5 35. ♖d3 [35. ♙xd7 35... ♖xe2! 36. ♙f5 ♖f8 and Black is better thanks to his better pieces.]

35... ♖a1+ 36. ♙f1 ♘g4 [36... ♘e5?! 37. ♖c3 and without the queens, White's chances to save the position are higher.]

37. h3 ♘ge5 38. ♖c3 ♖b1 39. ♘f4 [39. ♘c1!?]



39...♔e4! A strong move! Black puts the queen on the most active square.

40.♖f2 g5 [40...♟b6 just wins the pawn. 41.d6 (41.♙g2 41...♔f5) 41...♟c8+]]

41.♟h5 f5 Black is improving his position.

42.♔b3 [42.♙g2!? 42...♔d4+! is the more accurate move. (42...♔xc4



43.♟f6+! ♟xf6 44.♔xe5 ♔d4+ 45.♔xd4 cxd4 46.♙e2 ♟f7 (46...♟e4 47.g4) 47.♙d3 ♟h5 48.♙xd4 ♟xg3 49.♙e5 and White has counterplay thanks to his active pieces.) 43.♔xd4 cxd4 and White is not able to do anything. Black completely controls the position and after Kf7-Ke7-Kd6 or Kf7-Kg6 he should easily win the game.]

42...♔d4+ 43.♙g2 ♔d2+ 44.♙g1 ♟f7 Black is not in a

hurry. [44...g4 45.♙g2 ♔e1+ 46.♙h2 ♔e2+]]

45.♙g2 ♔e1+ 46.♙f1 ♔d2 47.♙g2 ♔e2 48.g4 f4 [48...fxg4 49.♔b1 ♙e8+ and the black king will escape to c7.]

49.♔b1 White is looking for his chances. Also interesting was [49.d6!? with the idea to activate the pieces somehow. 49...f3 50.♙f1 ♔d2 51.♟g3 ♔xd6 52.♟f5]

49...♔e3+ 50.♙h2 ♔d3 51.♔b7 ♔d2 52.♙g1 f3 53.♙f1 ♔e3+ 54.♙h1 ♔e1 55.♙g1 ♔e3+ 56.♙h1 ♔f2 57.♔b1 ♟g8 [57...♟xc4 58.♔h7+ ♙e8 59.♔g8+ ♙e7+ and Black is winning because the king escapes from the checks.]

58.♔a1 ♟f8 59.d6 ♟f7 Black is just waiting for a mistake and in the worst case Smyslov can always win the d6 pawn.

60.♔d1 ♙e8 61.♟g7+ [61.♔b1]

61...♙d8 62.♔b1 [62.♟f5 62...♟xc4+]]



62...♟xg4! The decisive blow at last!

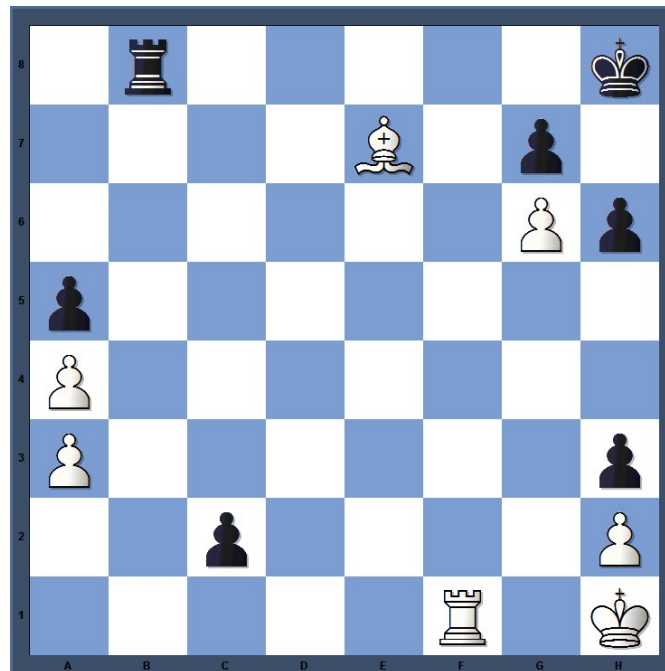
63.hxg4 [63.♟e6+ 63...♙c8+]]

63...♔h4+ 64.♙g1 ♔g3+ and after 65.Kh1 f2 White won't be able to avoid mate. **0-1**

Surprise section / study

(17) Duras

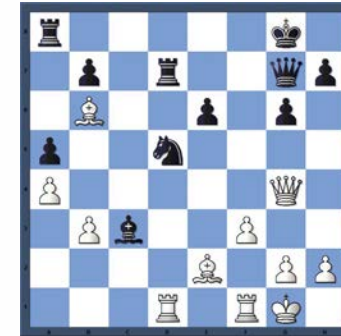
1. =



Solutions

(18) Longson, A(2339)-Vakhidov, J(2502)

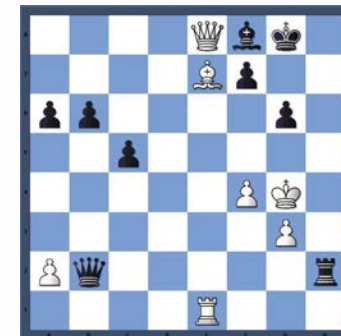
Hastings Open, 2014.12.30



31... ♖xb6! 32. ♙xe6+ ♔h8 33. ♙xb6 ♘d4+ 34. ♖xd4
♙xd4+ 35. ♙xd4+ ♖xd4

(19) Marusenko, P(2194)-Mista, A(2614)

Hastings Open, 2015.01.01



37... f5+! 38. ♔g5 ♖h5+ 39. ♔xg6 ♙g7+! 40. ♔xh5 ♙h6# 0-1
[40... ♙g4#]

(20) Vakhidov, J(2502)-Flear, C(2181)

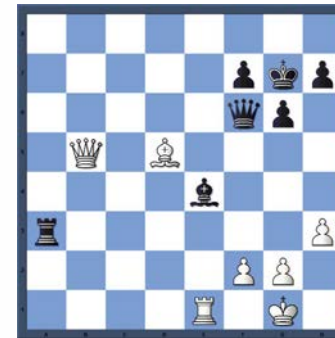
Hastings Open, 2015.01.02

**26. ♘g5!** 1-0 [26. ♘g5 26... ♖xd5 27. ♘xe7+-]**(21) David, A(2578)-Ramnath, B(2405)**

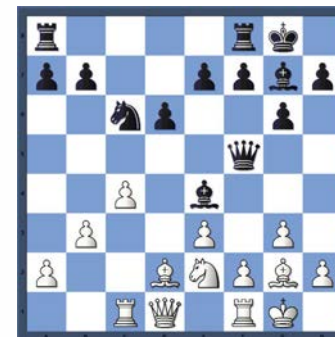
Chennai Open, 2014.12.31

**21...f4! 22. ♖xf7 fxg3 23. ♖xh6+** [23. ♖xd8 23...gxf2+ 24. ♖f1 fxe1=♖+ 25. ♖xe1 ♖xd8+-; 23. ♖xd6 23...gxf2+-]**23...♘xh6+-****(22) Kumaran, B(2316)-Brunello, S(2573)**

Chennai Open, 2015.01.02

**31...♖a1! 32. ♖f1** [32. ♖xa1 32... ♖xa1+ 33. ♖h2 ♖e5+!+-]**32...♖xf1+ 33. ♖xf1 ♖d4!** 0-1 [33... ♖d4 34. ♘xe4 (34. ♘b3 34... ♘d3+-) 34... ♖d1#]**(23) Meier, G(2640)-Rambaldi, F(2476)**

Zurich Open, 2014.12.30

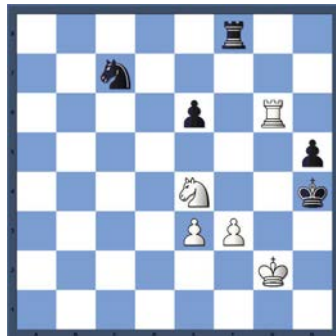
**15.g4! ♖xg4** [15... ♖e6 16. ♖f4 ♖e5 17. ♘c3+-]**16.f3 ♘xf3 17. ♖xf3+-**

(24) Romanov, E(2638)-Bekker Jensen, S(2459)

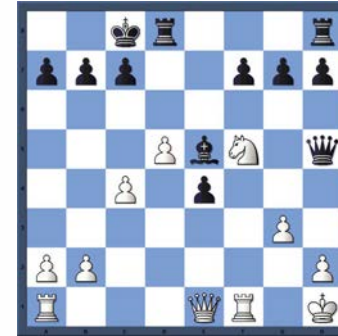
Rilton Cup, 2015.01.02

**32. ♖b5! ♜d2** [32... ♙f5! 33. a4+-]**33. ♙xd7 ♜xf1 34. ♙xf1+-****(25) Mikhalevski, V(2571)-Smith, A(2479)**

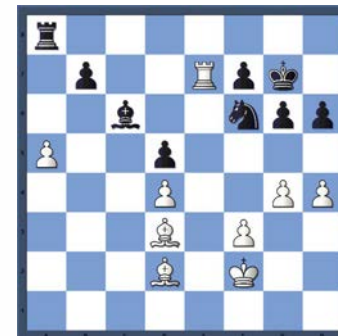
Rilton Cup, 2015.01.03

**55. ♖g3! ♜d5 56. ♖h3# 1-0****(26) Istratescu, A(2627)-Horvath, J(2508)**

Donau Open, 2014.12.29

**22. ♜e7+! ♙b8 23. ♖f5! ♙xg3** [23... ♙g4 24. ♖xe5 ♙f3+ 25. ♙g1+-] **24. ♙xg3+-****(27) So, W(2762)-Batchuluun, T(2525)**

North American Open, 2014.12.30

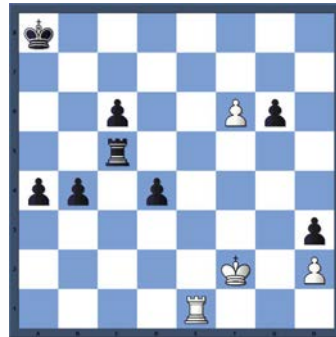
**40. ♙xh6+! ♙xh6 41. ♖xf7 ♙e8** [41... ♜h7 42. f4!+-; 41... ♜g8 42. g5+ ♙h5 43. ♖h7+-]**42. g5+ ♙h5 43. ♖xf6** [43. ♖f8! 43... ♜h7 44. ♙g3!! ♜xf8 45. f4+-]

43...♔xh4 44.f4 [44.♖f8 44...♔xg5 45.♘b5+-]

44...♖xa5 45.♖f8! ♘b5 [45...♘d7 46.♘e2+-]

46.♔f3! 1-0 [46.♔f3 46...♘xd3 47.♖h8#]

(28) Zepler



1.♖h1!! ♖f5+ 2.♔g1! d3 3.f7 d2 4.f8=♔+ ♖xf8=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 152

23rd of January 2015

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Editorial Preface

And of course once again the whole chess world has its eyes on a little Dutch town called Wijk aan Zee.

After a bad start, when he lost to Wojtaszek, Carlsen won 6 games in a row! This is unreal, but it is a fact and he is now leading with a full point advantage and a score of 7.5/10. The 2-3rd places are shared by Vachier-Lagrave and Wesley So, both on 6.5/10. The two young players are playing attractive and fighting chess, which is very nice to watch.

At the end of the cross table we find Jobava, with a catastrophic result of 1.5/10, as well as Saric and Hou Yifan, both on 3/10.

All in all Wijk aan Zee is a very fighting tournament with almost no short draws and a lot of interesting games. A fantastic event to follow!

The B group sees a fight between Wei Yi and Navara, who are both on 8/10, an amazing score! It is going to be very exciting to follow who of those 2 players will qualify for next year's A group.

Now let's come to the upcoming events of the next few weeks:

The Grenke Chess Classics 2015, a round robin featuring Carlsen, Caruana, Aronian, Anand, Adams, Bacrot, Naiditsch and Baramidze are going to start on the 1st of February.

And the huge Gibraltar open, featuring many GMs over 2700, is going to begin already on 26th of January.

So a lot of chess fun is guaranteed in the next week and of course we should enjoy the end of Wijk aan Zee, as maybe some surprises are still to come... We wish you a lot of chess fun with the current issue.

Best wishes,

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

**(1) Caruana, Fabiano(2820)
- Carlsen, Magnus(2862) [B31]**

77th Tata Steel GpA(6.4),
2015.01.16



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A very tough battle between the current World Nr.1 and Nr.2. The World Champion manages to outplay his rival in a very complex middlegame.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 Caruana decides to avoid the open Sicilian and plays the recently popular Rossolimo variation.

3...g6 4.♙xc6 dxc6 In this system, White gives up his bishop pair in order to inflict some damage to the pawn formation. He intends to keep the structure closed to avoid the two bishops starting to work.

5.d3 ♙g7 6.h3 This is basically the initial position, where Black has a wide range of playable setups.

6...♘f6 7.♘c3 b6 8.♙e3



8...e5 This is practically the novelty. Well, to be honest

my personal opinion is that the World Champion mixed up something and this move is a blunder... [I guess, he wanted to go for the line with 8...O-O 9.♙d2 e5]

9.O-O Refusing the challenge... Of course it is easy to understand Caruana's logic, that a sacrifice in the opening played instantly by Carlsen should be sound and he searches for an alternative to continue the game with. [It would be interesting to know what Carlsen had in mind against 9.♘xe5! 9...♘xe4 Otherwise White is just a pawn up.]



10.♙f3! This is the key and suddenly the attack against the f7 pawn is very unpleasant! 10...f5 (10...♙xe5 simply leaves Black in a bad position after 11.♙xe4 f6 12.♙f4 O-O 13.♙xe5 ♖e8 14.O-O ♗xe5 15.♙xc6± without sufficient compensation for the pawn.) 11.♙f4! An important move to retain the advantage. (Black is fine after 11.dxe4 11...♙xe5 12.exf5 O-O 13.♙xc6 ♙xf5 The two bishops are working perfectly now. Black should get back the c2 pawn and equalize.) 11...♘xc3 (11...♙e7 12.dxe4 ♙xe5 13.O-O-O± is just an extra pawn for White.) 12.♙xc6+ ♙d7 13.♘xd7 There are some complications, but White ends up being better in the end. 13...♖c8 14.♙e6+ ♙e7 15.♙xe7+ ♙xe7 16.♙e5! The last important move and White saves his extra pawn. 16...♙xe5 17.♘xe5±; White can also play 9.♙d2 when Black does not have anything better than 9...♙d6 or 9... O-O, but both should

transpose to the normal 8...0-0 variations, therefore I cannot figure out the subtle point of starting with 8...e5. (9...h6 is a common idea in some other lines to prevent the trade of the bishops on h6, but here it does not seem to work because of 10.♘xe5 and after 10...♘xe4 11.♘xe4 ♘xe5 12.♙h6! ♙xb2 13.♚b1 ♙e5 14.0-0 followed by Rfe1 with a very strong attack!) 10.♙h6]

9...0-0 10.a3 A common plan in this variation. White would like to undermine the queenside with b4, which would yield him the upper hand in the center and some pressure on the a-file against the a7 pawn. [10.♘xe5 is already a different story. Black can play 10...♘xe4 and the f7 square is safe, so Qf3 makes no sense. White should take back on e4, but then after Bxe5 the exchanges of the central pawns favor Black, because it opened up the position for the two bishops. 11.♘xc6? does not work since after 11...♘xc3 12.♘xd8 ♘xd1—+ Black takes one more piece.]

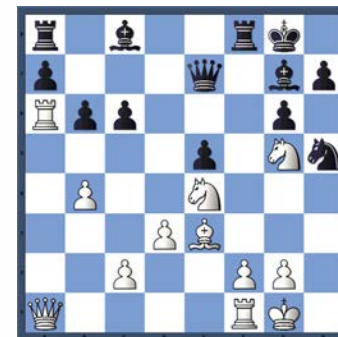
10...♚e7! Preventing b4 and protecting the e5 pawn. [On 10...a5 a known reaction is 11.♘a4! refreshing the positional threat of b4, based on the new weakness on b6. 11...♘d7 parrying b4 by protecting the b6 pawn. 12.♚d2! looking into two directions. It supports b4 and also the trade of the bishops with Bh6.]

11.♚b1 A consequent continuation of the plan. It also made sense to play Qd2 and Bh6.

11...♘h5 Carlsen decides to launch his counterplay on the kingside with f5, making use of the fact that the white queen has gone to the other side of the board. [The prophylactic 11...a5!? also made sense now, because after 12.♘a4 ♘d7 it is not easy to execute the b4 break well and otherwise the queen gets a bit misplaced on b1.]

12.b4 f5 Black goes all in on the kingside! He basically admits

his positional defeat on the queenside and pins all his hopes to his attack against the g1 king. This idea is known in many lines of the King's Indian variation, but on the other hand it is quite atypical for Carlsen's style. [White is better after 12...cxb4 13.axb4 threatening to take on b6. 13...♙e6 14.♚a6 f5 15.♚a1! Refreshing the Bxb6 idea. Black should really do something now on the kingside, but it is unclear how he could break through. 15...fxe4 16.♘xe4 ♙xh3 (16...♚xf3 is promising at first sight, but after 17.gxf3 ♙xh3 18.♚e1 the white pieces seem to cover all the threats. I don't see any adequate counterplay for the exchange.) 17.♘fg5! ♙c8



18.♙xb6! This small combination wins material for White. 18...♙xa6 19.♙c5 White just wants to take on f8 and a6, while after 19...♚b7 20.♘d6!± followed by Qa2 check and Nf7.]

13.bxc5 f4 14.♙d2 bxc5! There was no way back, Black had to destroy his pawn structure on the queenside and hope that the counterplay with g5-g4 will be coming in time. The game becomes extremely sharp now. [Keeping the healthy structure with 14...♚xc5 allows White to enter a clearly better endgame after 15.♚b3+! sending the king a square further from the center. This is quite useful before trading the queens. 15...♙h8 16.♚b4! ♚xb4 17.axb4± with excellent prospects for White. He might double his rooks on the a-file or put pressure on the e5 weakness with let's say Na4 (threatening on b6), Bc3

and Nb2-c4.]

15. ♖b3+ [The alternative was 15. ♘a4 with the idea of getting the queen to c3. Black must launch his counterplay again with 15...g5! 16. ♖b3+ ♔h8 17. ♖c3 (Preventing the g4 idea with 17. ♘h2 is very risky. Black gets a very strong attack after 17...f3! 18. ♘xf3 ♜xf3! 19. gxf3 ♘xh3 20. ♜fe1 ♘f4 The white pieces are driven to the queenside, he can hardly defend his naked king like this. 21. ♜ab1 ♖f6—+ The direct threat is Ne2 followed by Qxf3 with an inevitable mate on g2.) 17...g4 18. hxg4 ♘xg4 and just like in the game, Black gets a very strong attack.]

15... ♘e6 16. ♖a4 Winning the c6 pawn would give a great square for the knight on d5, therefore Black must waste a tempo before launching his attack.

16... ♜ac8 17. ♖a5



17...g5! No choice! Black committed himself to this idea when he accepted getting doubled c-pawns. [The positional alternative was 17...c4 getting rid of one of the weaknesses, but Black is still left with many others. 18. ♘a4! threatening to win an exchange with Bb4, therefore Black must play 18...c5 19. ♘b2 cxd3 20. ♘xd3 and Bc3 is coming next with too much pressure on the e5 pawn.]

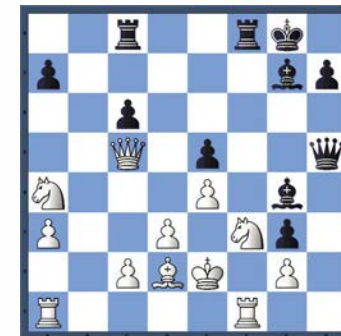
18. ♘a4 [Just like in the 15.Na4 line, preventing g4 with 18. ♘h2 is too slow. Black's attack breaks through after the

following exchange sacrifice: 18...f3! 19. ♘xf3 ♜xf3! 20. gxf3 ♘xh3 21. ♜fe1 g4! 22. fxf4 ♖h4—+ Black is crushing.]

18...g4 19. hxg4 [White could also have started with 19. ♖xc5 The queen is hanging and after the exchange the e6 bishop gets under attack, but after 19...♖f6 we will reach the game by transposition.]

19... ♘xg4 20. ♖xc5 ♖f6 Caruana was already quite down on time and it is really unpleasant to face such an attack.

21. ♘h2 [The alternative was 21. ♜fb1 with the idea to open an escaping route for the king to the center. Black must lead the attack precisely to get enough compensation. 21...♖g6 22. ♔f1 ♘g3+! A spectacular sacrifice, trying to open the f-file for the rooks. 23. ♔e1! Black can force a draw here by playing (White gets mated after 23. fxf3? 23...fxg3 24. ♔e2 ♖h5! 25. ♜f1 It seems like everything is under control, but the truth is...



25...♖h2! 26. ♖g1 ♜xf3! 27. ♜xf3 ♘xf3+ 28. ♔xf3 ♜f8+ 29. ♔e2 (29. ♔g4 29...h5+! 30. ♔g5 ♘f6+! 31. ♔g6 ♖h4—+ Mate is coming soon.) 29...♜f2+ and White must give up his queen to avoid getting mated. 30. ♖xf2 gxf2—+) 23...♘xe4!? 24. ♖c4+ (24. dxe4 24...♖xe4+ 25. ♔d1 ♖xa4 is the point.) 24...♘e6 25. ♖xe4 ♘f5 26. ♖c4+ Both sides are forced to repeat the moves. (26. ♖e2 is too dangerous after 26...♖xg2 Qh1, Bg4 or e4 is coming...) 26...♘e6 27. ♖e4 Black cannot play for more

with 27...♔xg2? because suddenly White saves himself by playing 28.♔e2! ♕d5



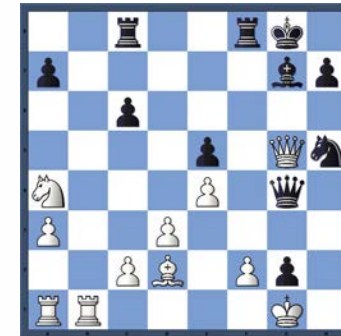
29.♖g1! ♔h3 30.♖xg7+! ♔xg7 31.♔xe5+- Rg1 is coming next and White is the one who mates first.]

21...f3! Carlsen usually plays positional games, but we can see that he plays perfectly even when it comes to tactics.

22.♖xg4 ♔g6 23.♔e7! A nice defense! White drops the queen to g5 to protect the g2 pawn. [23.♖e3 23...♖f4+- White cannot defend against Nxg2 or Ne2 and Qh5 mate.]

23...fxg2 24.♖fb1 ♔xg4 25.♔g5! ♔e2 26.♔e3 The only move again!

26...♔g4 27.♔g5 A very interesting moment! As we can see, Black could repeat moves with Qe2, but of course with such a king on g1 one should think about more. The most natural decision would be to keep the queens on board and trying to mate with Kh8-Rg8 somehow.

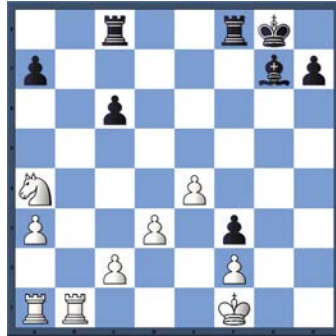


27...♔xg5!? An extremely deep decision! Black decides to not repeat the moves, but to swap the queens off the board. He must evaluate the consequences well, because the material is balanced, he must forget about giving mate and the g2 pawn might fall, the rook might invade on b7 and the knight is also just one move away from an excellent outpost on c5. However Carlsen believes that saving the pawn on g2 with Nf4 will give him chances to continue playing for the win. [It was quite natural to play something like 27...♔f3?! 28.♔xg2 ♔f7 keeping the queens and intending to mate with Kh8-Rg8. However the counterplay comes very fast: 29.♖c5 ♖c7 (29...♔h8 30.♖b7 is also good for White!) 30.♔h1! ♔h8 31.♖g1± White is a pawn up and he seems to consolidate.]

28.♕xg5 ♖f4 29.♕xf4? The decisive mistake. Caruana blunders the 31st move! [White should have parried the Nh3 threat by playing 29.♔h2 Black has the option to force a repetition with 29...♕f6 (Or he can continue pushing with 29...h6 30.♕h4 h5 with the idea of Bf6-Bg3 and h4! White is just in time to play 31.♖g1! ♕f6 32.♕g3 Black must lose a tempo on moving with his king, because after Bxf4 exf4 the g2 pawn is hanging with a check. 32...♔f7 33.♖ae1 and White holds, because he is ready to take on f4 and g2 as the a1 rook is not hanging anymore.) 30.♕h6! It is important to not allow the rook to the h-file. 30...♕g7 31.♕g5]

29...exf4 30.♔xg2 [30.c3? 30...f3—+ followed by Rf4-h4 is over.]

30...f3+ 31.♔f1

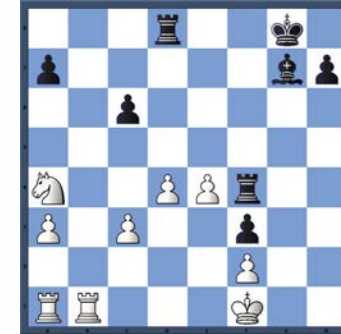


31...♖f4!! An amazing move! Black does not grab the exchange, but saves his bishop to help in different kind of mating ideas against the white king. It is a bit shocking, but White cannot avoid getting mated. [The automatic move for most of the players would have been 31...♙xa1 32.♖xa1 and start to think here. The game is about even, White plays Ke1-d2-e3 and brings his knight back to the game through c5. Rh1 perfectly stops the h-pawn and the e-pawn might give him excellent counterchances. The f3 pawn is also quite weak, or at least it is quite bad for Black to pin one of his rooks to the protection of that pawn..]

32.c3 [The alternative 32.♔e1 does not help. Black prevents the Kd2 idea by playing 32...♞d8!! This is the very subtle point of the previous move and Black continues haunting the king with Rh4! since Kd2 is now met by Rxe4! 33.♘c5 (33.♔d2 33...♞xe4 34.♘c3 ♙h6+ 35.♔d1 ♞h4—+ and mate is coming next! In such positions we can see that the bishop is better than the a1 rook, but still it is very hard to refrain from grabbing the exchange.) 33...♙c3+ 34.♔f1 ♞h4 35.♔g1 ♙h8—+ and Rg8 is coming with mate.]

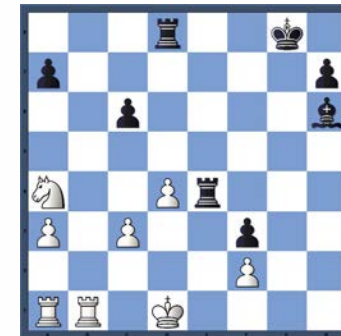
32...♞d8!! The same idea as in the 32.Ke1 line. Black cuts the white king from his escaping route to the center of the board by attacking the d3 pawn.

33.d4 [33.♞d1 loses to 33...♞h4 34.♔e1 (34.♔g1 34...♞d6—+) 34...♙h6!—+ and mate on h1.]



33...♙h6 This is also good enough, but... [An even more beautiful win would have been 33...♙xd4!! 34.cxd4 ♞h4 35.♔e1 (35.♔g1 35...♔h8—+) 35...♞xd4—+ and mate on h1!]

34.♔e1 ♞xe4+ 35.♔d1



35...c5!! Extremely powerful play! One mistake would let the advantage slip away, but the most direct move always deprives White from consolidating and getting his rooks into play. [On the direct 35...♞e2 36.♞b2 holds.]

36.♔c2 [36.♟xc5 is already met by 36...♖e2 and Black penetrates on the 2nd rank. 37.♖b7 ♜de8—+ Rd2 is threatening with mate in 2.]

36...cxd4 37.♔d3 ♜e2 38.c4 [38.cxd4 also loses to 38...♜d2+ 39.♔c3 ♜2xd4 40.♟c5 ♟g7—+ The king is just too weak...]

38...♜xf2 [It was slightly more precise to send the king towards the center first with 38...♜d2+ 39.♔e4 ♜xf2—+]

39.♜d1 [White could have prolonged his loss for a while by trading rooks: 39.♖b2 39...♜xb2 40.♟xb2 but of course the outcome is out of question... 40...♜b8 41.♜g1+ ♟g7 42.♟d1 (42.♔c2 42...♜e8—+) 42...♜b3+—+]

39...♜e2 White resigned! A very exciting game! **0-1**

(2) Aronian, Levon(2797) - Jobava, Baadur(2727) [A56]

77th Tata Steel GpA(9.7),
2015.01.20



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

It has been a very sad tournament for Jobava, who started with a very unlucky loss to Ivanchuk and continued often being too optimistic about positions where a draw would have been the expected result. The tournament has also been going anything but greatly for Aronian, who was on -2 at this point, Anyhow, in the current game White is showing excellent preparation with a long-term mating attack idea and precise play when it came to "taking the point". This game is an excellent example on how to play for "isolation of your opponent's pieces from the main action on the board".

1.d4 ♟f6 2.c4 c5 Jobava likes Benoni structures a lot and has already played a lot of games in them. It is a positionally dangerous opening for Black, but very dynamic and Jobava plays it excellently and has shown good results in it. This time, things will go very badly for Jobava though....

3.d5 g6 There are a lot of move orders as for example Black can start with 3...e6, but Jobava usually goes for 3...g6.

4.♟c3 ♟g7 5.e4 0-0 This move order is a big provocation for White to immediately push 6.e5, but things are very unclear after this move. Black is launching a fast attack with Ne8 and then d6, trying to crush White's center.



6.♗d3 A very safe move and in many lines the bishop is standing perfectly on d3.

6...e6 7.h3 This move might look slightly strange, but h3 is very tricky. In case of exd5 exd5 Black usually continues with d6 and in case the white knight is placed on f3- which is also usual- the h3 move is needed anyway because Black's idea is to play Bg4 and Bxf3.

7...exd5 8.exd5 a6 Jobava does not hurry with the d6 move and tries to threaten the immediate b5 first.

9.a4 A very consequent move. On one hand White is stopping Black's play with b5 but on the other hand a4 gives the b4 square up completely.

9...a5?! Very creative play by Black, but Jobava clearly underestimates the deep idea of White, which we will see already in the next few moves. [9...d6 10.♘f3 would lead to the usual position.]

10.♘ge2! This little move is actually very strong. It is clear that White's play has to be on the kingside, where he has more space and to develop the knight to f3 just doesn't make any sense. Usually the knight must go to f3 because Black plays d6 and Nbd7 with the idea of playing Ne5 next, but now it is obvious that after the a5 move Black is planning to get his knight to b4, so the knight will be perfectly placed on e2.

10...♞a6 Jobava follows his plan.

11.♗g5 This move looks a bit strange to me. Of course it is not a bad one, and the bishop is nicely placed on g5, provoking Black into playing h6 and making a weakness on the kingside, but why not just castle first?!

11...♞b4



12.♗b1 Of course White does not give Black a chance to play Nxd3. The white rook on a1 is looking like it is passively placed, but it can very quickly be activated via a3.

12...b6 In my opinion this is also a move into the wrong direction. Probably 12...d6 would have been a safer option.

13.O-O ♗a6 Jobava tries to provoke the b3 move, after which White would not have the idea of playing Ra3 anymore and the rook would have to stand passively on a1.

14.♞b5 A very logical move.

14...h6 Now White needs to decide whether to go to h4 or stay on the c1-h6 diagonal.

15.♗c1! In my opinion this is another great decision by Aronian. One can ask why not play 15.Be3, but the answer is easy: White is planning Ra3-Rg3 and an attack on the black king. Of course 15.Bh4 would not have been a bad option

either, but to keep the bishop looking at the black king is just too tempting.

15...♙xb5 16.axb5 ♘e8 Black is trying to make use the fact that the d6 move was not played and get the knight there, but again, the black king is now almost without defenders. Another very important key is that the black knight is standing nicely on b4, but all the white pieces are going "around" the knight, making its mission almost useless.

17.♖a3 Here comes the rook!

17...♘d6



18.♖g3! and of course White should not care about the c4 pawn any longer.

18...♘xc4 Considering his tournament position, can we blame Jobava for taking on c4 and risking getting mated? No we can't!

19.♘f4 All white pieces are joining in the attack!

19...♘e5 After this move Black does not even have any practical chances anymore. [The position was probably lost anyway, but it was worth it to try 19...♘xb2 20.♙xb2 (20.♖d2 also seems to be a good move. 20...♘c4 21.♖e2 and White is trying to get a similar position as in the game,

connected to Nh5 ideas. 21...♘e5 (21...♘d6 22.♘h5) 22.♘h5 and White's attack is very strong.; 20.♖g4 doesn't lead anywhere. 20...♖g5! A nice move! 21.♘xg6 ♖xg4 22.♘e7+ ♙h8 23.♖xg4 ♘d3 and the position is very unclear, since the black a-pawn can become very dangerous.) 20...♙xb2 How to continue that attack now?! 21.♖h5 (Another move that leads to very unclear play is 21.♙xg6 21...fxg6 22.♘xg6 ♙g7 and it is hard to say who is better here.) 21...♙g7



22.♘xg6! To see this kind of line from that far is actually not easy at all. 22...fxg6 23.♖xg6 ♖f7 24.♖h7+ ♙f8 and White now has the winning move 25.♙g6! The decisive factor once again is that the black knight on b4 is totally out of the game. 25...♖f6 26.♖e1 and White will mate very soon.]

20.♘h5! Now the game is basically over. The bishop on g7 is Black's main defender, and once it is gone, the position will collapse like a house of cards...

20...♖h4 [After 20...gxh5 21.♙xh6 ♘g6 22.♖xh5 White is winning as he has two ideas in mind, to play Bxg6 or f4-f5.]

21.♘xg7 ♙xg7 22.♖e1 Another nice move. White brings his other rook into the attack.

22...d6 23.♖e4 Black's position is on the verge of being lost.



23...♔d8? After this move the game is over. [A tougher defense would have been 23...♔f6 and now White has a couple of different moves, one of them being 24.♔d2 ♖h8 and now comes the very strong



25.b3! with the idea of playing Bb2 and f4. I don't see many chances for Black to survive the attack.]

24.♔h5 and the game is just over! On 24...Rh8 25.Rxe5 dxe5 26.Bxg6 is just mating. The conclusion of this game is simple: White went around the pretty looking knight on b4 and simply mated Black. A very constructive game from a positional point of view! **1-0**

The K-Files.

Accelerated Queen's Indian, ~~3.f3~~ 3.Nc3



GM Alexander Khalifman
 FIDE World Chess Champion (1999)
 Best rating: 2702

GM Alexander Khalifman continues his review of the Queen's Indian Accelerated. Here is a reminder on the contents of the series:

Part I (Issue #150). Refuting here and now 3.f3, etc.

Part II (Issue #151). Solid and classical 3.Nf3

III & IV (Issues #152-153). Good old central setup 3.Nc3

No Name Opening, Part III

(3) 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 b6 3.Nc3 [A50]

1.d4 ♖f6 **2.c4** b6 **3.** ♘c3 ♙b7 **4.f3** Saemisch-style. This variation is quite dangerous for Black - but not because of what is supposed to be the main line! [4. ♖f3 The most popular and natural developing move. However, it doesn't pretend to refute Black's setup because it's possible to transpose to the Queen's Indian (4...e6). And in my

opinion this is the most reliable way. Enough is enough: the unconventional move order allowed Black to avoid Nimzo, Catalan and the main line of Queen's Indian with 4.g3. The alternatives, of course, do not lose instantly, but leave White with somewhat better prospects. 4...d5 (4...e6! leads to the Queen's Indian 4.Nc3 Bb7 line which is, however, not the subject of this article; 4...g6 5. ♖c2 The most dangerous move in my opinion. Now Black has a choice between unpleasant versions of the Gruenfeld and the King's Indian (5.d5 5... ♙g7 6.e4 d6 (6...O-O was the move order chosen by Shakhriyar Mamedyarov 3 times, but just in blitz... 7.e5 ♘g4 8. ♘g5! is very unpleasant for Black 8... ♖xe5 9.f4 h6 10. ♘h3 ♖ec6 11.dxc6 ♘xc6 12. ♙d3±) 7. ♙d3 (7. ♙e2 7...O-O 8.O-O e6!? 9. ♘d4 ♗e8 10.f3 Wang Hao - Mamedyarov Beijing blitz 2014 10... ♘h5±(10...c6)) 7...O-O 8.O-O e6 (8... ♘a6) 9. ♗e1 ♘bd7 10. ♙g5 h6 11. ♙d2 ♗e8 White has a space advantage, but Black's dynamic resources are not to be underestimated (Aronian - Mamedyarov Beijing blitz 2014); 5.g3 was analysed before in 3.Nf3 section) 5...d5 (5... ♙g7 6.e4 d6 (6...O-O 7. ♙e2 ♘c6 8.O-O) 7. ♙e2 O-O 8.O-O ♘bd7 9. ♗d1 ♗c8 10. ♙f1 What to say?! In my opinion it's a dream version of the Classical King's Indian for White. If somebody feels fine playing it with Black then it's probably better to start with 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 (Wojtaszek - Mamedyarov Beijing blitz 2014)) 6. ♙f4! The smartest choice. In Gruenfeld with Bf4 Black's counterplay is usually connected with the idea c5 dxc5 Qa5. In this "Neo-Gruenfeld" the black queen doesn't come to a5 - so he faces problems. 6... ♙g7 7.e3 O-O Gruenfeld - Reti Moscow 1925 8. ♗d1! N c6 9. ♙e2 ♘bd7 10. ♗b3+= Black's position is solid but quite passive - not exactly what one is aiming for.) 5. ♙g5! Only this active move puts 4...d5 in doubt



5...♖e4 this leads to rather unusual positions, but still is not enough to equalize (5...dxc4 6.e3 (6.e4 6...♗xe4 7.♗xe4 ♗xe4 8.♗xc4 ♗d5) 6...e6 7.♗xc4 ♗e7 8.O-O O-O 9.♖e2 ♗bd7 10.♖fd1+= gives White a very comfortable edge (Fernandez - Caputo Chivilcoy 1987); 5...e6 6.cxd5 exd5 7.♖a4+!? The immediate check seems to be even more promising than (7.e3 7...♗e7 8.♖a4+ c6 9.♗d3 O-O 10.O-O ♗bd7 11.♗e5+= Johnsen - Finjord Denmark 1993) 7...♖d7 (7...♗c6 the bishop is obviously misplaced here 8.♗xf6 ♖xf6 9.♖b3±; 7...♗bd7 8.♗e5±) 8.♗xf6 ♖xa4 9.♗xa4 gxf6 10.e3+= compared to a well-known Carlsbad endgame (1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6. e3 Bf5 7.Qf3 Bg6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.Qxf6 gxf6) here Black's light-squared bishop is much worse on b7 (Ward - Hunt England 2000)) 6.cxd5 ♗xc3 (6...♗xg5?! 7.♗xg5 e6 8.♗xf7! This is big difference with the seemingly similar Gruenfeld line 8...♖xf7 9.dxe6+ ♖xe6 10.e4± with a terribly strong attack (Nikolic - Djuric Bled 1991)) 7.bxc3 ♖xd5 8.g3!? N (8.♖c2 Gelfand - Djuric Yugoslavia 1997 8...♗d7 9.e3 e5!? is less clear) 8...e6 9.♗g2 ♖a5 10.O-O± and White's development lead is an important factor; 4.d5 logical approach. However, concrete lines prove that White is unable to preserve his strong center. Of course, Black has to play precisely. 4...e6 5.a3 This position is also quite important

for the theory of the line 1.d4 e6 2.c4 b6 3. Nc3 Bb7 4.a3 (5.e4 5...♗b4 6.♗d3 (6.e5 6...♗e4 7.♖g4 ♗xc3 8.a3 ♗f8 9.bxc3 ♖e7+) 6...♗xc3+ 7.bxc3 d6 (7...♖e7) 8.♗e2 ♗bd7 9.O-O ♗c5 10.♗g3 O-O White's pawn structure is seriously weakened and his kingside attack chances are rather unclear. Black is not worse at least (Bacrot - Mamedyarov Beijing blitz 2014)) 5...♗d6 Black doesn't have to hurry with exchange on d5 (5...exd5 6.cxd5 ♗d6 7.g3) 6.♗f3 (6.g3 6...♗e5 (6...O-O 7.♗g2) 7.♗d2 (7.♗g2 if White allows to spoil his pawn structure he must forget about the opening advantage 7...♗xc3+ 8.bxc3 O-O 9.♗h3 d6 10.O-O Kalantarian - Degraeve Issy 1995 10...♖e7!?+=) 7...O-O 8.♗g2 ♗a6 9.♗h3 exd5 10.cxd5 c6 11.dxc6 (11.♗f4 11...cxd5 12.♗fxd5 ♗xd5 13.♗xd5 ♗c6 14.♖b3 ♗c7) 11...♗xc6 12.O-O ♖e8 13.♖c1 ♗xg2 14.♗xg2 d5=) 6...O-O 7.g3 (7.♗g5 7...h6 8.♗h4 ♗e7! This nice retreat provides Black good game. 9.♗g3 d6 10.e4 ♗h5 with at least equal chances due to bishops' pair (de la Rocha - Forintos Cattolica 1994); 7.e4 7...exd5 8.exd5 c6 9.♗e2 (9.dxc6 This modest exchange promises White absolutely nothing 9...dxc6 10.♗e2 ♖c7 11.O-O ♗bd7= Bertok - Planinc Zagreb 1972; 9.♗g5 9...h6 10.♗h4 cxd5 11.♗e2 (11.cxd5 11...♖e8+ 12.♗e2 ♗a6 13.O-O - 9. Be2 13...♗c5∞14.♗d4 ♖c8 15.f4 ♗f8) 11...♗e7! and White's compensation for the pawn might be enough only to equalise (Franco Alonso - Edouard Spain 2013)) 9...cxd5 10.cxd5 ♗a6 11.O-O ♖e8 12.♗g5 h6 13.♗h4 ♗c5 Black pieces are active and it's perfectly unclear if the pawn on d5 is strong or weak 14.♗d4 ♗e5 (14...♖c8 15.f4 ♗f8) 15.♗c4 ♖b8 16.f4 ♗xd4+ 17.♖xd4 ♗fe4∞ Knaak - Planinc Warsaw 1979 18.♖ae1) 7...c6 8.♗g2 (8.dxc6 is too shy 8...dxc6 9.♗g2 ♖e7 10.O-O ♗bd7= Gyimesi - Plaskett Gibraltar 2003) 8...cxd5 9.cxd5



9...a6! This tricky move order solves the opening problems. (Both 9...exd5 10.g5+; and 9...xd5 10.g5+ leave Black under some pressure) 10.O-O (The ambitious 10.b5 10...b8 11.d6 is quite risky as well (11.dxe6 11...dxe6=) 11...c5 12.O-O a6 13.c3 d8 14.b4 e4 15.xe4 xe4 16.f4 f6 and the pawn d6 is gone. White will have some compensation of course but it's hard to believe that it will be enough for more than draw) 10...exd5 (10...xd5 is also quite playable 11.xd5 exd5 12.b4 c7 13.b2 e8= White has enough for a pawn but definitely not more (Blake - Galvin email 2012)) 11.h4 c7 12.e4 e5 13.xd5 fxd5 14.exd5 f6= and Black is not worse at least (Zalkind - Birnboim Israel 2013); 4.g5 4...e6 (4...g6 is an interesting alternative 5.f3 d5! this is necessary; otherwise it's just a fairly unpleasant version of King's Indian Saemisch 6.cxd5 (6.xf6 6...xf6 7.cxd5 xd5 8.e4 b7 9.c4 g7 10.ge2 O-O=11.O-O f5 12.exf5 c6 13.fxg6 hxg6) 6...xd5 7.e4 xc3 8.bxc3 g7 9.d2 d6!/? with standard Gruenfeld counterplay (Baetel - Vallejo Plovdiv 2008) 10.c4 c5) 5.e3 (after the active 5.e4 it's White who has to play carefully to maintain the balance 5...h6 6.xf6 xf6 7.f3 (7.a3 7...d6) 7...g5!? looks like a decent version of Trompovsky; 5.f3 leads to a Queen's Indian line where Black is doing well) 5...h6 6.h4 e7) 6.c2 (6.f3 Queen's Indian again) 6...h6 7.h4 c5 8.dxc5 bxc5 9.f3 d6 10.e2 bd7 11.O-O O-O= Karpov - Polugaevsky Bugojno 1980]

4...d5 In a certain sense the only move, Otherwise White gets strong center for free. [4...c6 5.d5 e5 6.e4 e6 7.f4 g6 8.e5 g8 9.f3+= S.Saric - Egorov Novi Sad 2014; 4...e6 5.e4 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.e5 fd7 8.f4 c5 9.f3+= Saemisch - Helling Berlin 1931]

5.cxd5 xd5



6.xd5!? It seems that this exchange (although by far less popular than the traditional 6.e4) is the only way to put Black under pressure. The idea is rather primitive: White keeps the c-file open to create pressure on c7. Looks straightforward but sometimes works with a strong effect. Black has to play very carefully after it. [6.e4 6...xc3 7.bxc3 This is the traditional treatment. White hopes that the strong pawn centre would be enough to provide him better chances. However, Black has different ways to create adequate counterplay. 7...e6 This is the most solid way to play. Some next moves for Black are more or less automatic. (Be7 O-O c5 Nc6, etc.) White has a certain choice (first of all - what to do with his light-squared bishop), but it's unclear if he can achieve something tangible. (7...e5 this leads in many lines to messy positions which are quite far from standard. It seems that everywhere Black has good counterchances 8.dxe5 (8.e3 8...d7 9.c4 D.Gurevich - Peptan Mermaid Beach 1998 9...h4+!? 10.g3 h5 11.h4 f5=; 8.c4 8...exd4 9.cxd4 h4+

10.g3 ♖f6 11.♗b2 ♘c6⇒) 8...♞xd1+ 9.♔xd1 ♘d7 10.♙f4 g6⌘ Debashish - Ikeda Kolkata 2012; 7...g6 The Gruenfeld setup seems to be risky here. However, up to now nobody has managed to refute it. 8.♙e3 (8.♙c4 8...♙g7 9.♘e2 O-O 10.O-O c5 transposes to a Gruenfeld line which is assessed as quite satisfactory for Black (Botvinnik - Smyslov World Championship match (6) 1954)) 8...♙g7 9.♞d2 O-O (9...♞d6 10.♙c4) 10.♞d1 (10.h4 10...c5 (10...h5?! 11.g4 hxg4 12.h5→) 11.h5 (11.d5 11...♞d6) 11...cxd4 12.cxd4 ♘c6 13.♘e2 ♞c8⇒) 10...c5 11.d5 Kozul - Valsecchi Zagreb 2012 11...♘d7!? 12.♙h6 ♙xh6 13.♞xh6 ♞c7∞) 8.♙e3 (8.♙b5+ 8...c6 9.♙a4 ♙e7 10.♘e2 O-O 11.O-O c5; 8.♙c4 8...♙e7 9.♘e2 O-O 10.O-O c5=; 8.♙d3 8...♙e7 9.♘e2 O-O 10.O-O c5) 8...♙e7 9.♙b5+ c6 10.♙d3 (10.♙a4 10...O-O 11.♘e2 c5 12.O-O cxd4 13.cxd4 ♘c6=) 10...O-O 11.♘e2 c5 12.O-O ♘c6 13.♞b1 (13.♞c1 13...♞c8 14.♞d2 ♞d7=) 13...cxd4 14.cxd4 ♘b4 15.♙c4 ♞c8 16.♙b3 ♙a6= Khairullin - Vallejo Khanty Mansiysk rapid 2013]

6...♞xd5 7.e4 ♞d7 I believe this retreat is the most accurate [7...♞d6 the idea to prepare e7-e5 looks tempting, however... 8.♙e3 e5 (8...g6 9.♞c2! ♙g7 10.♞c1 ♙xd4? 11.♞a4+) 9.♘e2 ♞b4+ 10.♞d2 (10.♔f2 10...♞xb2) 10...♞xd2+ (10...♘c6 11.d5 ♞xd2+ 12.♔xd2 O-O-O) 11.♔xd2+= the resulting endgame is not automatically equal: White has a better structure and more active pieces. 11...♙d6 12.♔c2 O-O 13.♞d1 a6 14.d5 ♘d7]

8.♙e3 This move is more or less compulsory. The alternatives usually lead to move transposition. [8.♘e2 8...e6 (8...g6 fianchetto is playable here although not necessary 9.♙e3 ♙g7 10.♘c3 O-O 11.♞d2 ♘c6 12.d5 ♘e5 13.h3 ♞e8⇒) 9.♘c3 ♘c6 (9...♙e7 10.♙e3+=) 10.♙e3 - 8.Be3; 8.♙c4 8...e6 (8...g6 9.♙e3 - 8.Be3) 9.♘e2 (9.♙e3 - 8. Be3) 9...c5 (9...♙b4+ 10.♔f2 (10.♙d2 10...♙xd2+ 11.♞xd2 O-O 12.O-O c5= Euwe - Tartakower Stockholm 1937) 10...O-O 11.♙e3+=) 10.♙e3 - 8.Be3]

8...e6 [8...g6 In this case I wouldn't recommend the Gruenfeld setup. 9.♙c4 ♙g7 10.♘e2 O-O 11.O-O ♘c6 12.♙b5 a6 13.♙a4+= and the pressure becomes extremely unpleasant]

9.♙c4 [9.♘e2 locks the bishop on f1. Black can use it by increasing the pressure on d4. 9...♘c6! N (9...♙b4+ 10.♘c3 O-O 11.a3 ♙xc3+ 12.bxc3+= Korobov - Simonian Kharkov 2007) 10.♘c3 (10.♞a4 10...♙e7 11.♘c3 O-O=) 10...♞d8 11.d5 (11.♙b5 11...a6 12.♙xc6 ♙xc6 13.O-O ♙e7 14.♞c1 O-O=) 11...exd5 12.exd5 ♘b4 13.♙b5 c6 14.dxc6 ♙xc6 15.♞xd7+ ♞xd7 16.♙xc6 ♘xc6 17.♔e2 ♙b4=]

9...c5!? N The point. Black has to improve the pawn structure as soon as possible. [9...♙b4+ 10.♔f2 O-O 11.♘e2 c5 12.dxc5 ♞c7 13.♞d6 ♞xd6 14.cxd6 ♙xd6 15.♞hd1+=; 9...♘c6 10.♘e2 ♘a5 11.♙d3 c5 12.♞d2+= Baron - Nabaty Benasque 2012]

10.♘e2 [in the endgame after 10.dxc5 10...♙xc5 11.♙xc5 bxc5 12.♞xd7+ ♘d7 13.♔f2 ♔e7= Black's better development and more active pieces compensate for the relative weakness of the pawn c5.]

10...cxd4 11.♞xd4 ♙b4+ 12.♔f2 O-O 13.♞xd7 ♘xd7 14.♘d4 ♘e5 Black has to look for a concrete solution. Quiet development would leave him under pressure as the bishop b7 is substantially limited by the White's pawn chain. [14...♞ac8 15.♞ac1 ♞fd8 16.♞hd1 ♘e5 17.♙e2+=]

15.♙e2 f5! Here it is! Seems to work fine.

16.♘xe6 fxe4 17.♘xf8 exf3 18.gxf3 ♞xf8⌘ Black's counterplay is perfectly sufficient to keep the balance.

David vs. Goliath



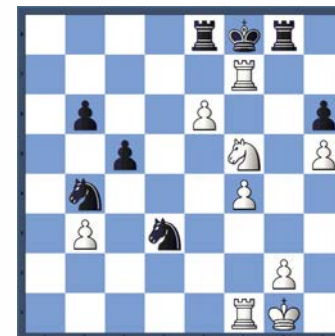
Peter Zhdanov

Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this special column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week has brought us 22 upsets. The number of moves ranges from 20 in Anatoliy V. Andreev (1958) - Nikolay Georgiev (1639), 0-1 to 67 in Wojciech Reza (2212) - GM Kacper Piorun (2523), 1-0. The highest-profile loss was FM Katashuk (2191) - GM Nikita Maiorov (2596), 1-0. The player of the week is Wojciech Reza (2212) from Poland. His recent "victims" include a 2405, a 2523 and a 2567.

The "fatality" nomination goes to Aggelos Moshovakis (1419) for delivering an aesthetically appealing checkmate in the game against Fragiadakis E (1925):



Top-10:

Sideris (2048) - Mirzoev (2554), 1-0, 1-0, **506** points
 Moshovakis (1419) - Fragiadakis (1925), 1-0, **506** points
 Carstens Dobuchak (1816) - Puebla Arredondo (2288), 1-0, **472** points
 Berka (1724) - Volodin (2186), 1-0, **462** points
 Katashuk (2191) - Maiorov (2596), 1-0, **405** points
 Koleva (1666) - Gelemerov (2066), 1-0, **400** points
 Georgantas (1814) - Moshovakis (1419), 0-1, **395** points
 Nunez Donaire (1560) - Riquelme Abuffon (1934), 1-0, **374** points
 Izzat (2424) - Bayramov (2051), 0-1, **373** points
 Reza (2212) - Dragun (2567), 1-0, **355** points

Average gap: 425; White won 8 games, Black won 2 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

The featured player this week is Francisco Restuccia from Argentina. His message (published below) sounds quite modest, while his feat is really impressive: Francisco has defeated none other than ex-Women's World Chess Champion GM Antoaneta Stefanova!

Hello Mr. Zhdanov.

I follow your column in CEWN "David vs. Goliath" and I dare send me an old game, if you think may be interested.

The game is my only "prowess like David" over 25 years to participate in open tournaments. The game started well for me, but at the critical moment I omitted the winning move (37.Qh4). But I could "resist" during the wild and mutual time trouble (both played only 30 seconds of increase since the move 40) and, when the position was heading for a draw, black lost for time.

Thank you for your interest in us, the fans. Best regards.

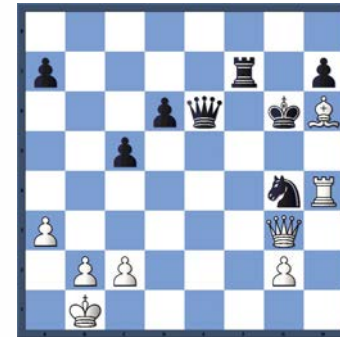
Francisco Restuccia
from Argentina

Restuccia, Francisco(2239)
- Stefanova, Antoaneta(2550) [C22]

34th Mar del Plata Open (Argentina)(5),
2003.04.15

Time control: 90 minutes + 30 seconds per move.

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.♙xd4 ♘c6 4.♙e3 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♗b4 6.♗d2 O-O 7.O-O-O ♖e8 8.♙g3 ♗xe4 9.a3 ♗d6 10.f4 ♖e8 11.♗d3 ♗c5 12.♘f3 d6 13.♖de1 ♖xe1+ 14.♖xe1 ♘e7 15.♘h4 ♗d7 16.♘e4 ♗d4 17.♘f3 ♘xe4 18.♗xe4 ♗f6 19.♘g5 ♗f5 20.♗xf5 ♘xf5 21.♙d3 ♗xg5 22.fxg5 ♘e7 23.♙e4 ♘c6 24.h4 ♙d7 25.h5 ♙e6 26.♙f3 ♘e5 27.♙xb7 ♖f8 28.♗b1 f6 29.h6 fxg5 30.hxg7 ♖f7 31.♗xg5 c5 32.♙e4 ♗xg7 33.♖h1 ♙f5 34.♗h6+ ♗g6 35.♙h4 ♘g4 36.♙g3 ♙e6 37.♖h4 [37.♙h4 ↗ Rh3 – g3+–]



37...♖f1+ 38.♗c1 h5 39.♙d3+ ♖f5 40.♖h3 c4 41.♙d4 ♖f1 42.♙d2 ♙e5 43.♖f3 ♖e1 44.♖f8 ♖e2 45.♙d1 d5 46.♖d8 ♘f6 47.♖h8 ♗g7 48.♖h6 ♖e1 49.♙d2 ♖f1 50.♗a2 c3 51.bxc3 ♘e4 52.♙e3 ♘xc3+ 53.♗b3 ♙xe3 54.♗xe3 d4 55.♖e6 ♘b5 56.♗d2 d3 Black lost by time. 1-0

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) will be appreciated.

Puzzle section

(4) Radjabov, T(2734)-Ding Liren(2732)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.13

1... -+



(5) Vachier-Lagrave, M(2757)-Ding Liren(2732)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.16

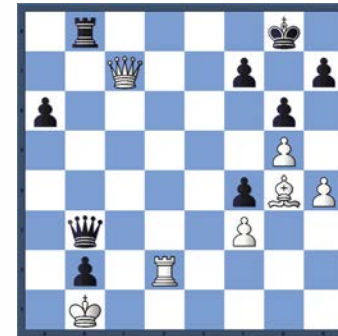
1. +-



(6) Saric, I(2666)-Vachier-Lagrave, M(2757)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.17

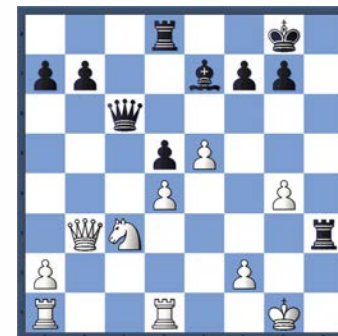
1... -+



(7) Ding Liren(2732)-Saric, I(2666)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.18

1. +-



(8) Haast, A(2352)-Gunina, V(2538)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2015.01.18

1. ±



(9) Navara, D(2729)-Michiels, B(2563)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2015.01.18

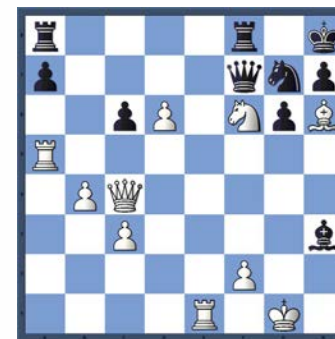
1. +-



(10) Rathnakaran, K(2387)-Gupta, A(2631)

Parnsvath Open, 2015.01.13

1. +-



(11) Leita, R(2636)-Zambrana, O(2465)

Zicosur Open, 2015.01.06

1. ±



(12) Vovk, A(2637)-Neuman, P(2465)

Slovakian league, 2015.01.17

1. ±



(13) Lopukhin, A(2361)-Smirnov, P(2585)

Dvorkovich memorial, 2015.01.19

1... -+



Endgame section

(14) Radjabov, Teimour(2734)
- Wojtaszek, Radoslaw(2744)

Wijk aan Zee,
2015.01.18



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

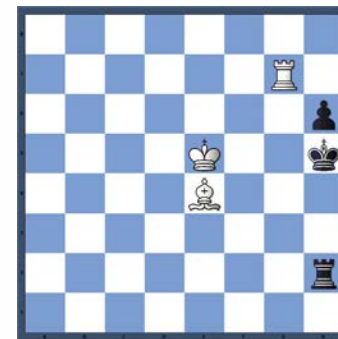


46. ♖f5+! White wins the f7 pawn with check and gains an extra pawn. However the win remains very difficult, because of the opposite colored bishops and the limited material on the board.

46... ♔g7! The correct retreat! [46... ♔g6 is much worse, because it allows White to squeeze the black king to the 8th rank after 47. h5+! ♔g7 48. ♖xf7+ ♔h8 49. ♕d5 with excellent winning chances. The a-pawn is very far advanced and the black king might end up in a mating net.]

47. ♖xf7+ ♔g6 Black might hope for counterplay with Kh5. White cannot push the pawn at once because of Rxc4 followed by Ra4 and otherwise Bg1 blocks its way.

48. ♕d5 ♕g1 49. ♖f1! Radjabov realizes that the direct advance of the a-pawn is premature, therefore he delays this plan and tries to fight against the Kh5 counterplay. [49. a7? leads to a draw after 49... ♕xa7 50. ♖xa7 ♔h5!= (However winning the pawn with 50... ♖h3? loses, because out of the blue White can create a mate net by playing 51. ♔e5! ♖xh4 52. ♕e4+ ♔h5 53. ♖g7! Threatening with Bf3 mate. 53... ♖h2



54. ♕g2! A very unusual motif for trapping the rook! 54... ♔h4 55. ♔f4 ♔h5 (55... h5 56. ♖g6+- is zugzwang. Black must give up his rook and there is no stalemate.) 56. ♕f3+! (But not 56. ♔g3? because of 56... ♖h3+! and suddenly Black survives.) 56... ♔h4 57. ♖h7+- and mate is coming next.)]

49... ♕c5? This turns out to be a serious mistake. When the white king goes to e5, Black will miss the opportunity if checking along the h2-b8 diagonal. We should not blame Wojtaszek for this mistake, as it was very hard to foresee the drawback of this move... [The right move was 49... ♕a7 and the difference is that after 50. ♔e5 ♔h5! works now as Rf4 runs into Bb8!]



50.♔e5! A great move and very easy to blunder! Suddenly the black king finds himself in different kind of mating ideas!

50...♖a3 [50...♔h5 is now refuted by 51.♖f4! This is the reason why Bc5 was wrong, Black does not have Bb8 check. White is threatening with Bf7 mate and the only way to avoid it is to play 51...♔g6 52.♖f6+ ♔h5 (52...♔g7 53.♖c6 ♖e3+ 54.♗e4+- White promotes his a-pawn with the help of Rc7.)



53.♔f4! A highly spectacular haunt against the black king! Bf3 is threatening, followed by Rh6 mate. Actually Black cannot parry this simple idea... 53...♗e3+ 54.♔g3! is the point! White does not need to worry about discovered checks, because he has the Bf3 countercheck-mate in his pocket. 54...♗d4+ 55.♗f3+ ♖xf3+ 56.♖xf3+-;

50...♖e3+ is also bad because of 51.♗e4+ ♔h5 52.♖f4! and Black cannot defend against the threats of Kf6-Bg6 or Kf5-Bf3 mating ideas.]

51.♖f6+ ♔h5 [51...♔g7 is met by 52.♖c6 ♗f2 53.h5! taking control over the g6 square in order to squeeze the black king to the back rank with Rc7. Rg6 might also be decisive sometimes.]

52.♖f4! Very nice play by Radjabov! He again creates the mate threat of Bf7, which forces Black to retreat. The unfortunate placement of the c5 bishop and the a1 rook deprives him from a successful defense.

52...♔g6 [52...♖xa6 53.♗f7+ ♖g6 54.♔f5+-]

53.♖g4+! Finally, White's serious efforts bear their fruits. The black king is forced to run into the corner...

53...♔h7 [53...♔h5 loses to 54.♔f5!+- and the king is trapped! Bf7 wins next.]

54.♗e4+ ♔h8 55.♖g6! The huge advantages of having the king squeezed to h8 are the following: White does not need to worry about counterplay against the h4 pawn with Kh5. He can easily create mating ideas like, Rc6-Kf6-Rc8. The a-pawn is much more dangerous now, as if it reaches the 7th rank, White will always have the option of promoting it with a rook check on the 8th rank.

55...h5 Black decides to fix the pawn on h4 and hopes to win it with Bf2. On the other hand, the h5 pawn becomes much more vulnerable there, as it can be attacked by the bishop. [55...♗e3 is met by 56.h5 ♖a5+ 57.♗d5 It is extremely hard, probably even impossible to defend this position with Black. 57...♖a4 58.♖c6+- and White is threatening to mate after Kf6. If Black tries to prevent it, the a-pawn starts to run...]



56...Bc6! Asking the bishop to choose a diagonal. As we will see, there is no good square for it. The black king always gets into trouble.

56...Bf8 [56...Bf2 loses to 57. Qf6! Bg3 (57...Bxh4+ 58. Qf7+- and mate is coming from h6 or c8.) 58. Bg6 Bf3+ 59. Qg5+-; 56...Be7 57. Qe6 Bxh4 58. Qf7+- with an inevitable mate again.]

57. Qf6! Excellent play by Radjabov! He further squeezes the black king.

57...Qg8 [On 57...Ra1 the easiest is 58. Bd3! +- covering the f1 check and protecting the a6 pawn. Black cannot deal with the threats of Kf7 and Rc8. 58...Ra3 59. Bc8]

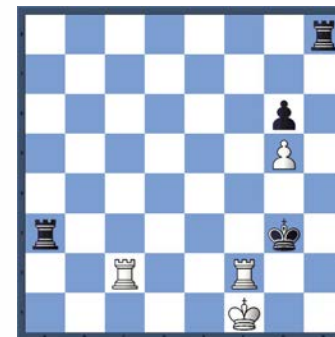
58. Bd5+ Qh7 59. Qf7 [Black resigned in view of 59. Qf7 59...Bb4 (59...Bg7 60. Be4+ Qh8 61. Bc8+-) 60. Be4+ Qh8 61. Bh6# It was fantastic to see how White managed to catch the black king by simply using the light squares and ignoring the dark ones.] **1-0**

(15) Saric, Ivan(2666)
- Van Wely, Loek(2667)

77th Tata Steel GpA(9.1),
2015.01.20



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

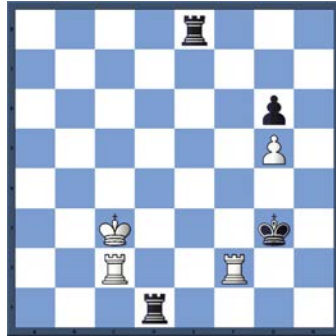


When we look at the current position, it is hard to imagine that White was a clear pawn up and close to winning, but then Saric clearly overpushed in an already equal position and found himself in this double rook endgame. It is still very hard to say if this position is winning or just a draw. In case Black manages to win the g5 pawn and not let the white king take a safe position in front of the pawn, it should be enough for a win. On the other hand "all" White needs to do is to keep his king as close as possible to the g1 square.

80...Ra1+! A very strong move. Black is starting the right plan- to get the white king as far away as possible from the g-pawn.

81. Qe2 Re8+ 82. Qd3 Rd1+ using the fact that White cannot play Rd2.

83.♔c3 [White is just not in time (by one tempo) after 83.♚cd2 83...♚d8+ 84.♔c2 ♚8xd2+ 85.♚xd2 ♚xd2+ 86.♔xd2 ♔f4 87.♔e2 ♔xg5 The white king would need to jump to g3 now to keep the opposition and the draw. 88.♔f3 ♔h4 89.♔g2 ♔g4 90.♔f2 ♔h3 and Black is easily winning.]



83...♚c8+! Another good move. Black is still following the right plan, one rook needs to be exchanged and it is the right moment while the white king is far away from the g1 square.

84.♔b2 ♚xc2+ 85.♔xc2 To take on c2 with the rook of course makes no sense, as the white king has to get to g1 as quickly as possible.

85...♚d5 Black is collecting the g5 pawn. [Entering the pawn endgame would already lead to a draw: 85...♔xf2? 86.♔xd1 ♔f3 87.♔e1 ♔g4 88.♔f2 ♔xg5 89.♔g3 and White is in time.]

86.♚f6! Saric uses his best chance and this is to attack the g6 pawn and try to keep the black rook as passive as possible.

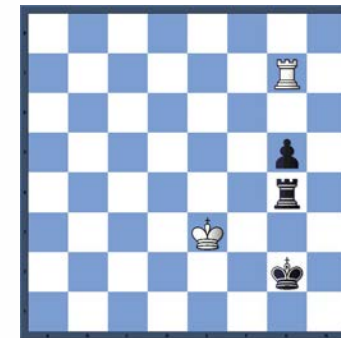
86...♚xg5 87.♔d3 ♚g4 Black is still on the right way. For those who learned rook endgames by heart, it is easy to know that this position is winning! But in case you are new to the position, things are far from obvious.

[87...♔g2 would also lead to a winning position. 88.♔e4 ♚g3 89.♔f4 ♔h3 and Black is winning by bringing his king to h4 and playing g5. 90.♚a6 ♔h4 followed by g5 with a winning position.]

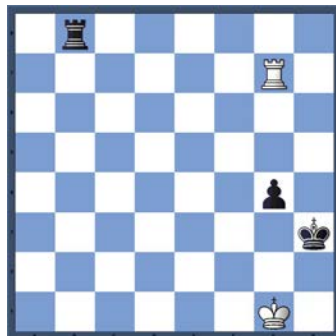
88.♔e3 g5 89.♚g6 So what to do next? If Black could somehow move the rook from g4 without losing the g5 pawn, it would be an easy win, but how to do it...

89...♔g2 This move is not a bad one, but it doesn't change anything.

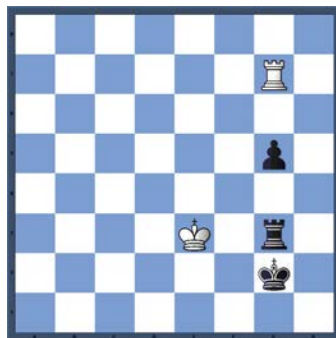
90.♚g7 White keeps on waiting and it is the best he can do.



90...♚g3+?? What a mistake by Loek Van Wely, when the win was so close! [90...♔h3! This strong move put an end to White's hopes... 91.♚h7+ (After 91.♔f2 91...♚g2+ 92.♔f1 g4 Black is entering a theoretically winning position by playing 93.♚h7+ ♔g3 94.♚a7 ♚b2 and Black is winning because White can't defend from Rb1 and Kh2 at the same time.) 91...♚h4 92.♚g7 g4 The black rook on h4 is horribly placed, but White cannot make use of it. 93.♔f2 (93.♔f4 didn't help, because of the nice and tricky 93...♚h8! 94.♚xg4 ♚f8+ 95.♔g5 ♚g8+ and Black is winning the white rook.) 93...♚h8 The black rook is coming back into the game. 94.♔g1 ♚b8



95. ♖g6 White can't do anything better than waiting. 95... ♔g3
 96. ♕f1 ♜b1+ 97. ♔e2 ♜g1! is the most simple way toward
 victory. 98. ♜g8 ♔h2 99. ♔f2 g3+ 100. ♔f3 ♜f1+ 101. ♔e2 ♜f7
 and we are in a theoretically winning position.]



91. ♔e4! White of course happily accepts the present. It is
 funny, but the position is already a draw.

91...g4 [Black also can't do much after 91... ♔h3 92. ♔f5 g4
 93. ♜h7+ ♔g2 94. ♜a7 and there is no way to improve the
 position for Black.]

92. ♜g5 and here as well we can see that Black cannot
 improve his position. In case of 92... Kg1 93. Kf4 leads to an
 immediate draw. A huge upset for the Dutch Van Wely, who is
 usually a very fighting player, but it seems like a lack of energy
 or maybe endgame knowledge clearly cost him half a point
 here... **1/2-1/2**

Chess and the City. Chess superstition, and it's obvious drawbacks...



WGM Elisabeth Pahtz
Best rating: 2493

That sportsmen are especially superstitious should not surprise us at all. Though how it's "practised" in the chess world, especially by men, is enough to make the mind boggle. I am sure no women player dared write about it, maybe because of shame, maybe because she was lucky enough not to experience it directly, who knows...

Why am I writing about this? Well, I thought it's about time!

Let's start with the harmless ways in which chess embraces superstition:

1. "The Winning Pen" The most boring item in our collection, nevertheless be sure it will be dealt with the moment one loses...
2. "Leave it alone", or in other words, don't move anything in your room! From personal belongings to food, chess players have a habit of keeping the status quo at home!
3. Sleep! As a true "German" you better obey the clock! Professional chess players like to make sure their routines are consistent.

4. Sex during a tournament: very serious male GMs may consider it as a huge loss of energy, however some of them take that reason as an excuse to hide their real intentions...

5. Lucky numbers: Even Kasparov strongly believed in lucky numbers during his professional time as a chess player. In his case he always hoped and expected to benefit from the number 13.

The above list is actually quite typical and it is hard to argue with most of the points as they are also seen in many other sports. Before discussing the negative side of superstition in chess, I would like to briefly mention a tournament which I visited about 5 years ago in Moscow. It was a tournament which was played in many different rooms and the phenomenon I observed was that, the closer you got to the rooms of the top boards, the more you could "feel" the change in "atmosphere"(!) Of course one should take into consideration that small rooms combined with lots of people will always leave a lack of oxidation, but the smell.... The smell was something I could honestly never forget, and I was desperately wondering how people could stand it especially if they were involved in a long game!...

The biggest problem in today's chess world is superstition about clothing. The so-called winning shirts/jumpers and socks hit are top of the list here. On underwear I am not in a position to comment since I have never had a chance, nor deeper wish, to test it out, but for the sake of mine and the dear reader's health I'd rather not delve into it on these pages!

"The root of all superstition is that men observe when a thing hits, but not when it misses." (Frances Bacon)

Clash of the Titans

(16) Nimzowitsch, Aaron
- Spielmann, Rudolf[C02]

San Sebastian(12),
1912.03.05



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.♘f3 Of course the main move is [4.c3 4...♙b6 5.♘f3 ♘c6 Black's main idea in this structure is to create pressure on the weak d4 pawn. (5...♙d7 An alternative idea for Black is to exchange the limited bishop over the b5 square.) 6.♙e2 (6.♙d3 6...cxd4 7.cxd4 ♙d7 8.O-O ♘xd4 9.♘xd4 ♙xd4 10.♘c3 with compensation for the pawn.) 6...cxd4 7.cxd4 ♘ge7 8.b3 ♘f5 9.♙b2 ♙e7 10.O-O h5 with Bd7-Rc8-g6-Kf8-Kg7 and Black has no problems at all.]

4...♘c6 [4...cxd4 5.♘xd4 (5.♙d3 The pawn on d4 has no meaning. White plays a similar plan as in the game: 0-0-Re1-Nbd2-Nb3-Bf4.) 5...♘c6 6.♘xc6 bxc6 with this center Black can't be doing badly.]

5.dxc5 Objectively not the best move, but White is looking for a simple set-up. The position could still transpose to the main line after [5.c3]

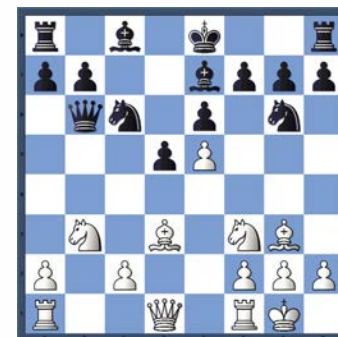
5...♙xc5 6.♙d3 ♘ge7



7.♙f4!? An aggressive decision. White wants to be on time with developing the bishop to support the important e5 square, but after this move Black can win the pawn. [7.O-O 7...♘g6 8.♙e1 ♙c7 Black is very quick with his pressure on the e5 pawn and Bf4 doesn't work anymore. 9.♙xg6 fxg6 10.♙e3 ♙e7 Black keeps the bishop pair, otherwise White would get control over the dark squares. Potential plans for both sides are Nbd2-c4-Rc1 for White and 0-0-h6-g5-Bd7-Be8-Bg6 for Black.]

7...♙b6↔ 8.O-O ♙xb2 9.♘bd2 ♙b6 10.♘b3 White gets better development for the pawn sacrifice. [10.c4!? with the idea to activate the knight over c4 or e4.]

10...♘g6 11.♙g3 ♙e7



12.h4! A typical reaction against the knight on g6.

12...♔b4! Black is not afraid of White's initiative and tries to defend actively. [12...♘f8 13.h5 ♘d7 14.c4 dxc4 15.♙xc4=]

13.a4 White is preparing a trap, but it is too slow. [13.h5 13...♘f4 14.a3 ♔a4 15.h6=]

13...a6?! was not needed as Bb5 was not the threat. Black could have won a second pawn after [13...♘xh4 14.♘xh4 (14.♙xh4 14...♙xh4 15.c3 ♔g4) 14...♙xh4 15.c3 ♔e7+ and two pawns down is too much...]

14.h5 ♘h4 [14...♘f4?? 15.c3 and White wins the piece.]

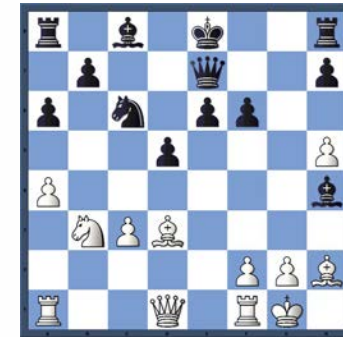
15.♘xh4 ♙xh4 16.c3 ♔e7



17.♙h2?! I don't like this move because the bishop on h2 will be limited. More promising looks [17.♔g4 17...♙xg3 18.♔xg3 g6 19.h6+ and the dark squares are really weak.]

17...f5?! makes no sense. Black opens the position and activates the white pieces. More solid was for example [17...♔d8 with idea to get the bishop back to e7 and then play Bd7-Rc8 etc.]

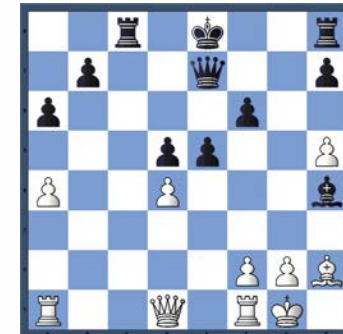
18.exf6 gxf6



19.♘d4! There was nothing to do for the knight on b3.

19...e5 20.♙f5 [20.♘f5 20...♙xf5 21.♙xf5 ♔d8 22.♔b1 with Qb3 next and White has strong pressure over the weak light squares.]

20...♘xd4 21.♙xc8 ♔xc8 22.cxd4



22...O-O! The last call! It was time to escape with the king. [22...e4?? 23.♔g4+–]

23.dxe5 fxe5 24.♔xd5+ ♔f7 Fortunately for Black, White is forced to exchange queens.

25.♔xf7+ [25.♔xe5 25...♙xf2+ 26.♙h1 ♔c5!=]

25...♔xf7 26.♙xe5 ♔f5



27.f4! White advances the pawn and at the same time keeps the bishop on a strong position.

27...Rxb6 28.Rab1 White could also have played [28.Rac1 28...Rxc1 29.Rxc1 Rf5 and Black is on time with protecting the queenside. 30.g4 Rf7 31.Rg2 Rf6 32.Rxf6 Rxf6 33.Rg3 Thanks to his easy possibilities of improving the position with g5-Kg4-f5 etc, White keeps the initiative.]

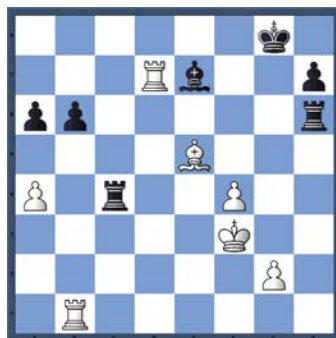
28...Rf7 29.Rf2 [29.Rxb7?? 29...Rc5+--]

29...b6 30.Rf3 The white king slowly becomes a very strong piece.

30...Rb6 31.Rfd1 White improves the position with each move.

31...Rc4! Also a good move! Black defends actively.

32.Rd7



32...Rf7? It was more accurate to avoid the pin by playing [32...Rf8 33.Rb7 Rxa4 34.R7xb6 Rxb6 35.Rxb6 There is not much material left, but thanks to the very active white pieces, the position is very unpleasant for Black. 35...h5!? trying to prevent g4, but then White has 36.Rh6 h4 37.f5→]

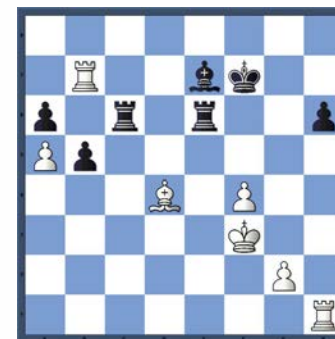
33.a5?! White missed a winning chance: [33.Rf1! 33...Rxa4 34.f5! and Black is losing material: 34...Rf8 35.Rxe7 Rxe7 36.Rg7+--]

33...b5 After this move White has additional ideas of putting pressure on the a6 pawn with Rb7-Rb6. [33...bxa5 34.Rbb7 Black was probably afraid of this move. (34.Rf1) 34...Rf6 35.Rd6 Rce4 and Black is still fighting!]

34.Rf1 Rcc6 35.Rd4?! Again not the most accurate move. White could have limited the black rooks after taking control of the e6 square. [35.f5! 35...Re8 36.Rb7→]

35...Rhe6 36.Rh1 White is trying from the other side.

36...h6 37.Rb7

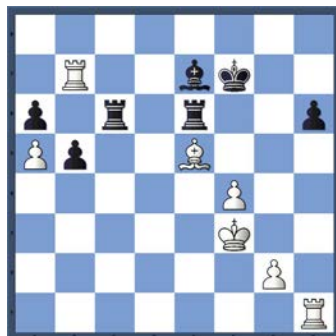


37...Rd6? This move allows White to improve his king, which will be the decisive factor in realizing his advantage. [37...Rc4 38.Rf5 b4→ and White is not able to play Ke4 or Kg4 because of Rxe5.]

38.Rf5 [38.Rf1 38...Rxd4 (38...Rf6 39.Rxe6 Rxe6 40.Rf4+--]

with f5 next.) 39.♖xe7+ ♔g6 40.♖b6 ♖xb6 (40...♖dd6 41.♖eb7 with the idea to get a winning pawn endgame after rook exchanges.) 41.axb6 ♖d6 42.b7 ♖b6 43.♖e6+!+-]

38...♖e6



39.♔e4! White improve the last and most important piece!

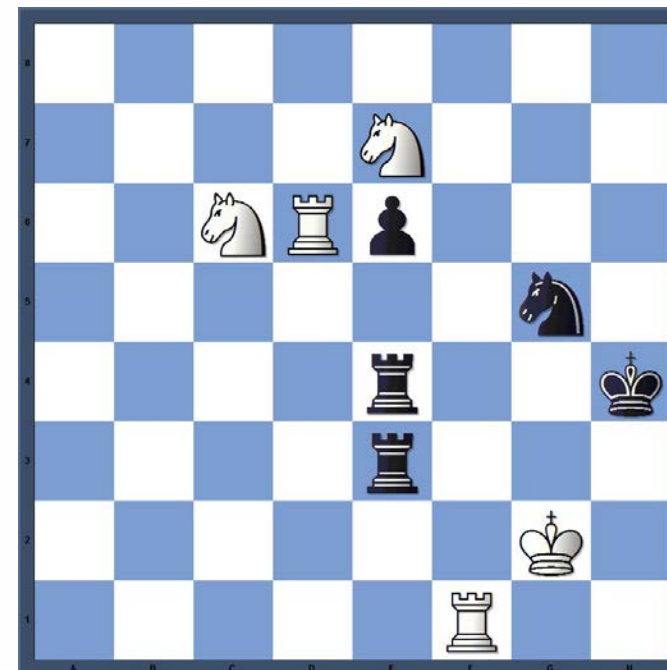
39...♖c4+ 40.♔f5 ♖c5 41.♖d1 b4 42.♖d8! ♖xa5 43.♖f8+!

♔xf8 44.♔xe6 with Rb8 next. 1-0

Surprise section / study

(17) Kaev

1. +-



Solutions

(18) Van Wely, L(2667)-Wojtaszek, R(2744)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.11



38. ♖c1? [38. ♖a6!! 38... ♙xa6 (38... ♙b7 39. ♖c6+-) 39. ♙c7+ ♔g6 40. ♙xd8+- (40. g4!?+-)]

38... ♙e8∞

(19) So, W(2762)-Aronian, L(2797)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.12

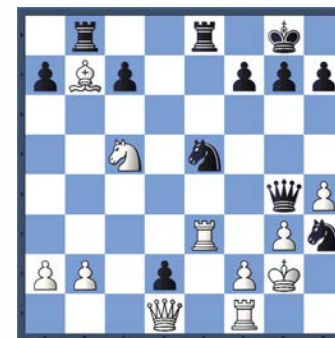


21. ♙h5! g6 22. fxg6! ♙xh3 [22... hxg6 23. ♙xc8+-]

23. gxf7+ ♔d7 24. fxg8=♙+-

(20) Timman, J(2593)-Haast, A(2352)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2015.01.12



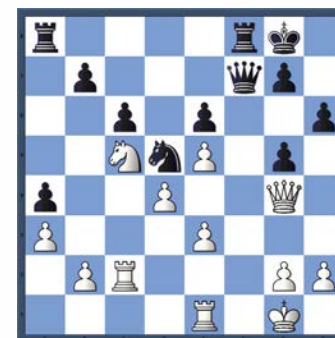
26... ♗xf2! 27. ♙xd2 [27. ♔xf2 27... ♙xd1 28. ♖xd1 ♗g4+-+]

27... ♙h3+! 28. ♔g1 [28. ♔xf2 28... ♗g4+-+]

28... ♗eg4 29. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 30. ♖xf2 ♙xg3+ 0-1 [30... ♙xg3+ 31. ♙g2 ♗xf2 32. ♙xf2 ♖e1+-+]

(21) Paakkonen, T(2247)-Agrest, E(2590)

Keres memorial rapid, 2015.01.09



29... ♗xe3! 0-1 [29... ♗xe3 30. ♖xe3 ♙f1#]

(22) David, A(2572)-Raja, H(2144)

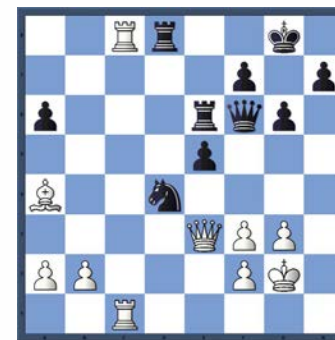
Parnsvath Open, 2015.01.09

**19.g4! ♖e4 20.f3! ♜xd5 [20...♜f4 21.♞g2+—]****21.♞xd5+—****(23) Karthikeyan, P(2435)-Gupta, A(2631)**

Parnsvath Open, 2015.01.10

**31...♞xa3+! 32.bxa3 ♜c2+! 33.♞a1 [33.♜xc2 33...bxc2+—+]****33...♜xa3+! 0-1 [33...♜xa3+ 34.♜xa3 b2+ 35.♜xb2 ♜a8+—+]****(24) Demchenko, A(2611)-Krishna, C(2350)**

Parnsvath Open, 2015.01.11

**29.♜d7! ♜xc8 [29...♜d6 30.♜xd8+ ♜xd8 31.♜c8+—]****30.♜xc8+ ♞g7 31.♜xe6+—****(25) Zelcic, R(2535)-Kozul, Z(2631)**

Croatian Championship, 2015.01.12

**23.♜f6! gxf6 24.♜g3 1-0 [24.♜g3 24...♞f5 25.♜xf5!+—]**

(26) Bellia, F(2420)-Turov, M(2591)

Rilton Cup, 2015.01.04



28...♙b3! 0-1 [28...♙b3 29.♖xc8 ♙xd1+ 30.♙xd1 ♖xc8—+]]

(27) Duessel, U(2198)-Iturrizaga, E(2649)

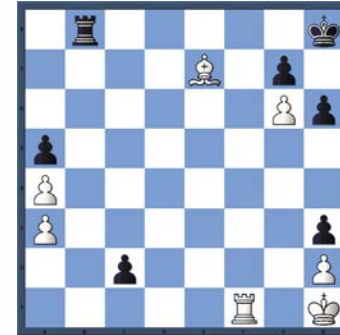
Basel Open, 2015.01.02

[Solutions]



27...♙xf2+! 0-1 [27...♙xf2+ 28.♙xf2 ♙xe4+—+]]

(28) Duras



1.♙c5!! ♖b1 2.♙g1!! ♖xf1= [2...♙g8 3.♖xb1 cxb1=♙=]



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 153

30th of January 2015

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Editorial Preface

The great event in Wijk aan Zee came to an end. As probably expected by many, the winner's name is Magnus Carlsen. After a bad start, Carlsen quickly recovered and with a streak of 6 winning games he practically secured the 1st place.

4 players managed to be as close as possible to the winner, so just half a point behind we find: Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Anish Giri, Wesley So and Ding Liren. All of these players are still under 25! The result of Caruana was a bit strange, as he had a great start but didn't play too well later on and even lost the last game to Vachier-Lagrave with the white pieces, to finish on just 7/13, clearly a result under his expectations.

In the B group the only 15-year old Chinese Wei Yi was just unstoppable! With an amazing score of 10.5/13 he secured his participation in the A group of Wijk aan Zee 2016. Following him by just half a point and also showing a great result is David Navara.

And in 3rd position, with 9/13, we find the American Samuel Shankland.

The Gibraltar Open has begun with some extremely strong GMs participating in it: Topalov, Nakamura, Svidler, Vitiugov, Harikrishna, Hou, Yu Yangyi, Wei Yi, Rapport. And this is just to name a few of them... This amazing field probably makes Gibraltar the strongest open in history, even beating the recent Super Open in Doha (with Kramnik, Giri, Mamedyarov etc).

In the first round there were not many surprises, as the favorites are winning most of their games, but already in a few days we will be able to see the great battles between the rating heavyweight players.

Next Monday the Grenke Chess Classics 2015 is also starting, so the World Champion will be back in action.

In the current issue you will find great games from Wijk aan Zee Super tournament, as well as many interesting news in the other sections.

Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) **Caruana, Fabiano(2820)**
- **Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime(2757)**
[B90]

77th Tata Steel GpA(13.2),
2015.01.25



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

A great preparation with a deep positional pawn sacrifice, followed by great play in the middlegame and an exact finish-this is what Vachier-Lagrave will do to Caruana in the last round of Wijk ann Zee to share the second place. A great game to watch!

1.e4 c5 Vachier-Lagrave is mainly playing the Najdorf.

2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.h3 This silent move is getting more and more popular. Already in the past rounds Caruana played 6.h3 against Hou Yifan and actually did not get much out of the opening. Later on the game went crazy and both had winning chances. The idea of 6.h3 is of course to play g4 next and then Bg2. Of course a move like 6.h3 can't be the reason people would stop playing the Najdorf, but it is a tricky move and it is not that simple for Black to prove that White is not doing better.

6...e5 Of course in case you are a Najdorf player you are playing the e5 move, as in case of a move like e6 we would be back to the Sheveningen, which is of course also a possible choice for Black.

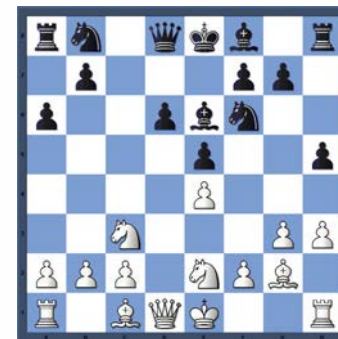
7.♗de2 White wants to play g4 now followed by Bg2 and Ng3, with a clearly better position.

7...h5 and of course Black prevents White from it. We are still in one of the main lines which were often played on a high level.

8.g3 Caruana played this against Hou Yifan and continues playing it. Another main line here is 8.Bg5 followed by f4.

8...♙e6 Sometimes Black can play the position without Be6 and with Nbd7-b5.

9.♙g2



9...♘bd7 Black is not showing for the moment whether he wants to play b5 or not. [In my opinion it is too early for the b5 move: 9...b5 10.a4! A very typical move for this kind of position. 10...b4 11.♘d5 and I think White is slightly better.]

10.a4 Caruana probably wasn't sure if now b5 is already a threat or not. Usually the a4 move is of course the right choice, as White's play is usually on the queenside.

10...♙e7 11.O-O ♖c8 The beginning of a great idea which was clearly Maxime's preparation. Black does not castle, but keeps the idea of h4 and the attack on the white king in mind.

12.♙e3 It is hard to blame Caruana for playing the most natural move, but this move is getting him into trouble... [White could have played the more safe 12.b3 with a very complicated position.]

12...♖b6 Of course a move like Nb6 can only be played with a connection of playing Nc4 or d5 next, otherwise it doesn't make sense.

13.b3 A logical move. White should not let the black knight on c4 and of course a move like 13.Bxb6 would be a big positional mistake.



13...d5! What a great preparation by Black. At first sight this move makes no sense as White is going to be a full pawn up, but if we look a bit more at the position, we can discover that Black will have excellent compensation and actually the position is very hard to play for White.

14.♗xb6 White doesn't have a choice. [After 14.a5 14...d4 Black is just better.; 14.exd5 14...♖bxd5 also leads to a better position for Black.]

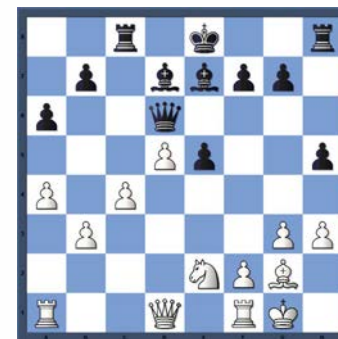
14...♗xb6 15.♖xd5 This is probably also the best move for White. [To leave the knight on c3 under the attack of the c8 rook doesn't make much sense. 15.exd5 15...♗f5 and Black is going to have great play on the c-file.]

15...♖xd5 16.exd5 ♗d7 So let us take a fresh look at the position. White is a clear pawn up but Black has the bishop pair and some chances to create an attack on the kingside. Of course White can't be worse here, but the position is very dynamic and every move counts. White's idea should be to

create play on the queenside as quickly as possible to make use of the extra pawn and Black will try to get his play rolling on the kingside.

17.c4 This move just can't be a bad one.

17...♕d6 Black is putting his queen to the right spot and preparing to play h4 or maybe f5.



18.a5?! The right positional choice, but it is already looking too slow. White should have done something about Black's counter chances on the kingside. [Maybe a move like 18.♕d2 with the idea of playing 18...f5 19.h4 could have been a possible option and the position would have remained very complicated.]

18...f5 Now h4 is already a dangerous threat.

19.♕d3 Another strange-looking move, but it is not that easy to find a move for White. [In case White would try to stop Black's play with 19.h4 19...g5 20.hxg5 h4 I would not like to be White here.]

19...h4 Of course. Black is trying to open the position as much as he can, especially since all the black squares are under the Frenchman's control. It is strange that White has done nothing wrong during the last 3 moves but his position is already very dangerous.

20.g4!? An interesting pawn sacrifice. White is trying to change the dynamic of the game and win control over the white squares. To wait for Black to play hxg3 is not a great option...



20...O-O! Black doesn't care about the g4 pawn g4 and prefers to target the white king's position with all he has. [Maybe Black could have played 20...fxg4 21.♖c3 O-O with probably also a better position for Black, but the move in the game is at least equally strong.]

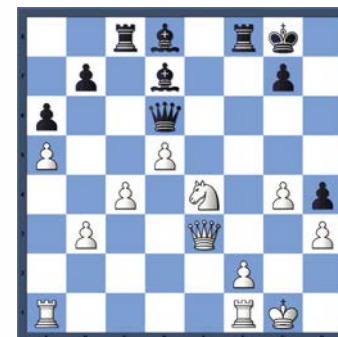
21.♘c3?! and this move is almost losing the game. [White should have gone for the following very dangerous move: 21.gxf5 21...♙xf5 22.♙d2 and of course Black is going to attack the white king hardly, but it is still more or less unclear how the game would end. White's idea could be to just play Kh1-Rg1 and maybe Nc3 later and try to keep things together.]

21...e4! A strong move. Black is getting to White's king over the dark squares.

22.♙e3 ♘d8 Black wants to play Bc7 next, followed by Qh2 with probably just a mate. White is helpless against this simple plan. So Caruana tries entering a bad endgame...

23.♙xe4 A hard move to make, but what else should White have done?! [In case of 23.♖fe1 23...♙c7 24.♙f1 ♙h2 I don't see how White could escape the mate here...]

23...fxe4 24.♘xe4 White has 3 pawns for a piece and a nice knight on e4, but it is clearly not enough to say the position is equal. Black's bishops are controlling the entire board and White has a lot of target points in his structure. Black's advantage is obvious here.



24...♙f4 Another exact move of Black. There is no reason to give White a chance of playing f4.

25.♙xf4 ♖xf4 26.f3 White is trying to fix the pawn structure and to close the position.

26...♙e7 Black is ready to play Rcf8 and also to get a nice position for the bishop on b4.

27.♙f2 Now the game will end quickly. [27.♙g2 was a tougher move, but after 27...♙b4 28.♖f2 Black also has at least a few good plans. One of them is to play Rcf8 followed by Be8-Bg6, kicking out the knight from e4 and the other plan could be to prepare the b6 move in a good moment, to get a play over the b-file. I think Black's position should be close to winning here.]

27...♖cf8 28.♙e3 ♙e8! A strong move which was not really hard to find. Black wants to play Bg6 next.

29.c5 ♙b5 The most accurate move again...

30.b4 [30.♖f2 30...♖xe4+! 31.♙xe4 ♙xc5 and White is

immediately lost.]



30...Rxe4+! A nice way to end the game by force!

31.Kxe4 Re8! Black now has different mating ideas combined with just winning some material. The game is totally over.

32.Kf4 g5+ 33.Kf5 Kf7 with the idea of Bd3 mate next.

34.Re1 Bd3+ 35.Re4



35...Bf6 and mate in the next move! A great game by Vachier-Lagrave where we could see how dangerous the control over the squares can be, even when one is a pawn down. **0-1**

(2) Wei, Yi(2675)

- Haast, Anne(2352) [B48]

77th Tata Steel GpB(12.4),
2015.01.24



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

The winner of the Wijk aan Zee Challengers is the 15-year old Chinese Wei Yi! He was simply crushing through the field. It is worth looking at his brilliant victory in the penultimate round.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Kc7 The recently very popular Sicilian Paulsen variation.

6.Bb3 a6



7.Qf3 A relatively new alternative to the main lines with Qd2 and 0-0-0. The idea is to castle queenside here again and White often intends to play Qg3, offering the trade of queens after which Qxg3 hxg3 improves his pawn structure, opens the h-file for the rook and it usually yields a better and more easy to play endgame.

7...Nxe5 8.Qg3 h5 The young Dutch lady follows the path of her countryman Anish Giri, who played two interesting games with good results in the same tournament, but in the A group.

9.O-O-O h4 10.♖h3 b5 A standard Sicilian game. The black king stands in the center, therefore White launches a central attack with f4-f5 and Black looks for counterplay on the queenside.

11.f4 ♘c4 [11...b4 is a known counterattacking motif, but it makes no sense this time, because after 12.♞a4 the b6 square becomes vulnerable!]

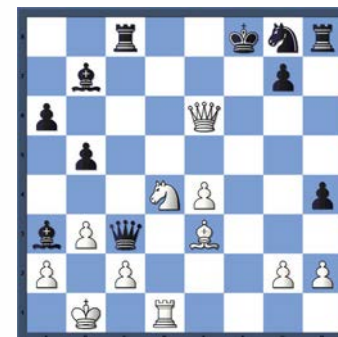
12.♙xc4 ♜xc4 13.f5 White has already arrived, but the e6 pawn is well protected at the moment, he still needs to increase the pressure to execute a blow. It is time to finish the development for Black...

13...♙b7! A typical move in some Sicilian lines. Black delays the development of his kingside and brings his bishop and the a8 rook into the game. [Going for the a2 pawn with 13...b4 14.♞a4 ♜xa2 loses too many tempi. Black gives up the b6 square and the queen alone cannot create any serious threats. 15.♞b6 ♜b8 16.♞b3! Trapping the queen and securing the b6 square for the knight! Black is in trouble... 16...♞f6 17.fxe6 dxe6 18.e5+-]

14.♜hf1 e5! Anne Haast follows Giri's improvement over his own game. [In the first encounter against Radjabov, Giri had played 14...♜c8 and the game finished in a spectacular way: 15.fxe6 (However White could have achieved a very promising position after 15.♞f3! The knight is heading to e5, from where it attacks the two most critical targets on d7 and f7. Probably the only move is 15...f6, but to weaken the e6 square cannot lead to anything good either. 15...♞f6 (15...b4 is too slow 16.♞e5 ♜c7 17.fxe6+- and White is coming faster!) 16.♞e5 ♜c7 17.♞xd7! ♞xd7 18.fxe6+- Black collapses.) 15...dxe6



16.♜xf7 (16.♞f3 16...♞f6 is not the same anymore as in the 15.Nf3 line, because White cannot sacrifice on d7 followed by taking on e6!) 16...♜xf7 17.b3 Deflecting the queen from the e6 square. Fortunately for Black, he has 17...♙a3+! Black frees the f8 square for the king with an intermediate check. 18.♞b1 ♜xc3 19.♜xe6+ ♞f8



White had nothing more than forcing a perpetual check with 20.♜f1+ ♞f6 21.♜xf6+! gx6 22.♜xf6+ ♞g8 23.♜g6+ ♞f8 24.♜f6+ ♞g8 25.♜g6+ ♞f8 26.♜f6+ 1/2 Radjabov-Giri, Wijk aan Zee 2015]

15.♞b3 ♜c7 Black must cover the a5 square. [15...♞f6 Allowing Na5 leads to serious positional problems after 16.♞a5 ♜c7 17.♞xb7 ♜xb7 18.♙g5! White is going to take on f6 and install his knight to d5, which will dominate the entire

game. Black is positionally lost there, while 18...♗xe4 loses tactically to 19.♗xe4 ♖xe4 20.♖fe1+- and the e5 falls.]

16.♔b1 This is Wei Yi's improvement over the Saric-Giri game. Quite a deep idea, which was missed by Black in this game. [Saric played 16.♗g5 when Black had time to play 16...♖c8 17.♖f2 ♗e7! 18.♗xe7 ♔xe7! securing and excellent square for the knight on f6! 19.♖fd2 ♗f6 20.a3 ♖h6! With the idea to drive the king into safety with Kf8-g8. He could not do it with the rook on h8 because White had g4-g5, using the fact that Black cannot take en passant on g3. 21.♖e3 ♔f8 and Black was fine in Saric-Giri, Wijk aan Zee 2015.; The same series of tactical blows with 16.f6 fails right away, because of the hidden point... 16...♗xf6 17.♖xf6 gxf6 18.♗b6 and Black has 18...♗h6+! freeing the f8 square for the king! This is the point of playing 16.Kb1! 19.♔b1 ♖xb6 20.♖xd7+ ♔f8--+]]

16...♖c8? Black fails to recognize the differences and falls into the prepared trap!

[16...b4 was also wrong, because after 17.♗d5 ♗xd5 18.♖xd5 ♗f6 19.♖a5! deprives Black from his counterplay with a5-a4 and White wants to enter a good knight vs. bad bishop position with Bg5 and the d5 square is very weak! 19...♗xe4? tactically fails to 20.♖f3!; However Black should have played 16...♗f6! which was most probably Giri's preparation. He is already threatening to take on e4 and he seems to be doing well. 17.♗d5 It seems like White has nothing better than this, but I believe that if White cannot take with a piece on d5 and he is forced to change the structure with exd5, he cannot hope for an advantage. 17...♗xd5 18.exd5 ♖c8 19.c3 with mutual chances. Black might go for a balanced endgame with Qc4-g4 for instance.]



17.f6!! Opening the h3-c8 diagonal! A series of sacrifices are coming and Black loses because he cannot defend the d7 square.

17...♗xf6 18.♖xf6! Eliminating the defender of the d7 weakness!

18...gxf6 19.♗b6! Deflecting the other defender of the d7 pawn. Bh6 is not a check anymore thanks to 16.Kb1. Black has nothing better than

19...♖c6 20.♗a5! The haunt of the queen continues! The d7 square is still the key!

20...♖e6 21.♗xb7 White has won material. He gained two pieces for the sacrificed rook and all his pieces are standing very well. The knight is soon coming to d5 with decisive threats. Black must try to win back the material with Rb8, otherwise he is lost.

21...♖b8 [If Black includes the trade of the queens 21...♖xh3 22.gxh3 ♖b8 23.♗d6+! saves the piece and guarantees a winning endgame. 23...♗xd6 24.♖xd6+-]

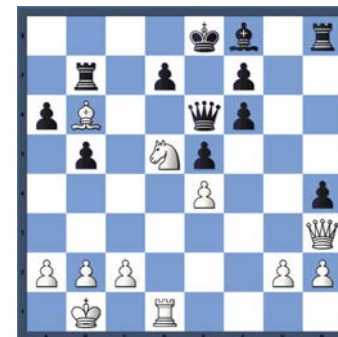


22. ♘d5! This is the only way to victory!

22... ♖xb7 [Black loses in a beautiful way after 22... ♖xb7 23. ♘c7+! ♔e7 White could give a perpetual check with Nd5-c7, but he can play for more with 24. ♙c5+! d6



25. ♖xd6!! As simple as that! Black is more than a queen up, but he cannot avoid getting mated! 25... f5 trying to open an escaping route to f6 does not change anything... (25... ♖xb7 26. ♖d1# is quite a pretty mate!) 26. ♘d5+ ♔e8 27. ♘f6+ ♔e7 28. ♖c6# Another awesome mate!]

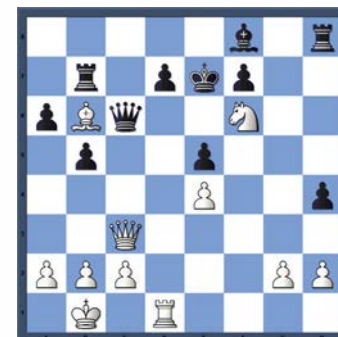


23. ♖c3! The only move to win again! White switches his queen to the queenside and creates the decisive threat of Qc8.

23... ♖c6 Other moves are also losing quickly: [23... ♖b8 24. ♘c7+-; 23... d6 24. ♖c6+ ♖d7 (24... ♖d7 25. ♖c8+-) 25. ♘xf6+-]

24. ♘xf6+! The firework continues!

24... ♔e7 [24... ♖xf6 25. ♖c8+ ♔e7 26. ♙c5+ d6 27. ♖xb7+ ♔e8 28. ♖c6+- and mate is coming in a few moves.]



25. ♙d8+! Not the only, but the most spectacular win!

25... ♔e6 [25... ♔xd8 26. ♖xc6+-]

26. ♖h3#! Mate! What a game! It will be very interesting to see Wei Yi participating in the A-group next year! **1-0**

The K-Files. Queen's Indian Accelerated, 3.Nc3 & Summary



GM Alexander Khalifman
FIDE World Chess Champion (1999)
Best rating: 2702

Brief summary: the NoName opening is, of course, no direct refutation of 1.d4 and no start of a new opening revolution at all. I wouldn't even recommend someone to make it the basis of your opening repertoire. However, it leads to unusual and mostly unexplored positions and might serve you quite well if you use it from time to time as a surprise weapon. So far the way to reach a clear advantage for White is not known.

Important: if you are a true fan of placing the bishop g7 and want to use this opening to reach relatively new Gruenfeld-type positions, then probably it's not worth trying. In most cases the dark-squared bishop fianchetto leads to a stable advantage for White. But a switch to Queen's Indian kind of positions works better. So it might be really poisonous when your opponent plays only Nimzo or Catalan with White.

I'm quite sure that this opening will become more popular in the nearest future and, so I am waiting for the new developments with great interest. The lines which have the best chances to become critical are in my opinion 3.f3, 3.Nc3

Bb7 4.Qc2 d5 5.Bg5 and 3.Nc3 Bb7 4.Qc2 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bd2.

(3) 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 b6 3.Nc3 4.Qc2 [A50]

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** b6 **3.** ♖c3 ♙b7 **4.** ♚c2 The main line of the whole opening since 1921 (Teichmann - Alekhine). For a long time this used to be a serious reason for Black to avoid playing 2...b6. However, modern theory shows that the assessment is far from clear. White's idea is quite simple: e2-e4. At the same time the square f3 is still available for the white knight.

4...d5 Certainly the strongest answer. Black has to fight for the center. [4...e6 was played surprisingly often, although after this the game usually transposes into an extremely dubious Nimzo line (4.Qc2 b6?!) 5.e4 ♙b4 6. ♙d3 c5 7.d5± Rubinstein - Janowski Marienbad 1925 The recent tries to put this evaluation under doubt were not convincing at all 7...b5]

5.cxd5 [5. ♘f3 This move order might be slightly more accurate than 5.cxd5, but in most cases leads to the same positions, so I decided to leave a more popular move as the main line. 5...e6

a) 5...g6 fianchetto is definitely not enough for equal chances here 6. ♙f4 (6.cxd5!? 6... ♘xd5 7. ♙d2 is another attractive line) 6... ♙g7 7.e3+= was analysed already in 4.Nf3 g6 5.Qc2 d5 move order;

b) 5...dxc4 6.e4;

6. ♙g5 (6.cxd5 6...exd5 (6... ♘xd5 is better - see 5.cxd5) 7. ♙g5 ♙e7 8.e3 O-O 9. ♙d3 h6 10. ♙h4 c5 11.O-O+= practice has

confirmed that this version of QGD is very pleasant for White)
6...♙e7 7.e3 (

a) 7.cxd5 ♘xd5 - 5.cxd5;

b) 7.♙xf6 ♙xf6 8.cxd5 exd5 9.g3 (9.e3 9...O-O - 7.e3) 9...O-O
10.♙g2 c5 11.♚d1 ♘a6 12.O-O ♙e7= and Black has no problem
at all (Preuschoff - Schwanbeck Germany 2009))

7...O-O This type of QGD position (when cxd5 exd5 is not
included) is just another story. Black is always able to take
on d5 with the knight and White can't keep the tension in the
centre in his favour. So Black's resources are good enough
to hold the balance. White has tried different ways here, but
without any great achievements 8.♙xf6

a) 8.O-O-O ♘e4 good moment for this typical manoeuvre
9.♙xe7 ♙xe7 10.♘xe4?! dxe4 11.♘d2 f5=+ Bobotsov - Pfleger
Bamberg 1968;

b) 8.cxd5 ♘xd5 9.♙xe7 ♙xe7 10.♘xd5 exd5 - 5.cxd5;

c) 8.♚d1 ♘e4!? 9.♙xe7 ♙xe7 10.♙d3 ♘d7=;

d) 8.♙d3 dxc4 9.♙xc4 c5 10.dxc5 Jianu - Nikolov Skopje 2011
(10.O-O-O 10...cxd4 11.♘xd4 ♙c8↑) 10...♙c7! 11.♙d3 ♙xc5
12.♙xf6 ♙xf6 13.♙xh7+ ♙h8=;

8...♙xf6 9.cxd5 exd5 10.♙d3 (10.O-O-O 10...c5! creating
active counterplay as soon as possible 11.h4 ♘c6 12.g4 cxd4
13.exd4 ♙d6↑ Peev - Radulov Varna 1968) 10...g6 When Black's
dark-squared bishop has no counterpart this move is no
serious weakening 11.O-O Bu - Danielsen Helsingor 2011 (11.h4
11...c5 12.h5 cxd4 (12...c4 13.♙xg6!) 13.exd4 ♘c6∞ Redzepagic
- Stojanovski Struga 1991) 11...c6!? 12.e4 ♘a6=; 5.♙g5!? was
played in less than 10 games, however - with 100% stats for
White and what is even more important it was played by
Botvinnik, Andnd and Mamedyarov. So this move has to be

taken seriously. In fact, it might be very critical. 5...dxc4
(5...♘e4?! is quite typical, but here it simply doesn't work
because of 6.♘xe4 dxe4 7.O-O-O± and the pawn e4 is just
weak; 5...e6 is a solid choice, but after 6.cxd5 exd5 7.e3 ♙e7
8.♙d3 White gets a good version of the Queen's Gambit
(Botvinnik - Chekhover Leningrad 1934))



6.e4!N has not been played yet, but in my opinion it's the only
(but quite dangerous) move which gives White chances for
opening advantage (neither 6.e3 6...a6 7.a4 Salgado - Garcia
Barbera 1997 7...♘bd7! 8.♘f3 b5 9.♙e2 e6∞; nor 6.♚d1 6...h6
7.♙xf6 exf6 8.e4 b5 9.♘xb5 ♙b4+ 10.♘c3 O-O= (Mamedyarov
- Anton Gujarro Qatar 2014) would promise something for
White) 6...a6! of course risky, but the most challenging move

a) immediate 6...♙xd4 7.♘f3 ♙c5 8.♙e3 ♙h5 9.♙xc4∞ looks
too provocative;

b) 6...e6 is rather solid, but not enough to equalize completely
7.♘f3 (7.O-O-O!? might be even stronger) 7...♘c6 (7...b5 8.d5!
h6 9.O-O-O and it's not clear whether Black will be able to
survive the opening phase) 8.♚d1 ♘b4 9.♙b1 ♘d3+ 10.♙xd3
cxd3 11.♙xd3 ♙e7 12.O-O O-O 13.♚fe1+= Annurudha - Kostenko
Tabriz 2014;

7.♙xc4 (7.d5 7...b5 8.♚d1 ♙d6 9.♘f3 ♘bd7 10.a4 h6 11.♙h4
e5 and Black has good counterchances) 7...♙xd4 8.♙d3 e6

9.♘f3 ♖c5 10.a3 h6 11.♙e3 ♗e7∞ looks very dangerous for Black, but still a pawn is pawn. Once more: 4.Qc2 d5 5.Bg5!? is a very serious try which needs more practical tests]

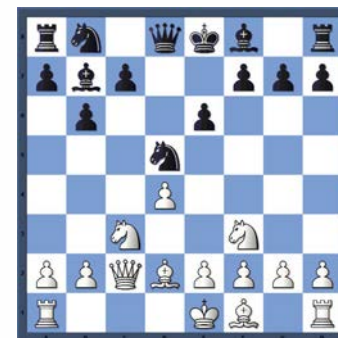
5...♗xd5 6.e4 [6.♘f3 is a good move order to avoid 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 e5. However, we'll see later that there is no special reason for White to avoid it. 6...e6

a) 6...g6 once again not the best moment for Gruenfeld-like play 7.♙d2!? (7.e4 7...♗xc3 8.bxc3 - 6.e4) 7...♙g7 8.e4 ♘f6 Wells - Adorjan Hungary 1995 9.♙c4 O-O 10.O-O+=;

b) 6...♗xc3 is quite playable 7.♗xc3 (7.bxc3 7...e6 (7...g6 8.e4 - 6.e4) 8.e4 - 6.e4) 7...e6 might look good for White as 8.a3 now leads to a well-known position of the Queen's Indian Petrosian and this move doesn't look necessary. But surprisingly it's not so easy to find a more useful move here. 8.a3 (8.♙f4 8...♙d6 9.♙xd6 cxd6=; 8.♙g5 8...♙e7 9.♙xe7 ♗xe7 10.♖c1 c5 11.dxc5 O-O∞) 8...h6= is well-known theory. Black doesn't have any problem;

7.♙g5 (7.e4 7...♗xc3 8.bxc3 transposes to the main line; 7.♙d2 - 6.Bd2) 7...♙e7 8.♙xe7 ♗xe7 9.♗xd5 exd5!? 10.♖c1 Kelecevic - Sahovic Yugoslavia 1980 (10.e3 10...O-O 11.♙d3 g6 12.O-O c5 13.dxc5 bxc5 14.♖ac1 ♖c8= Ragozin - Tartakower Saltsjobaden 1948) 10...c5! 11.dxc5 O-O 12.cxb6 axb6 13.a3 ♘c6 14.e3 d4∞; 6.♙d2 This move was played only once back in 1925. However, its positional basis is very solid. The similar setup has recently become very popular in Queen's Indian and Gruenfeld. Frankly speaking, before studying the NoName opening very seriously I believed that it is... OK, not the formal refutation, but the most dangerous White's weapon. And in fact it is, although I believe that there is a very narrow road for Black to solve the opening problems. 6...e6 (6...♗xc3 7.♙xc3 ♗d5 this kind of blockade is far from perfect 8.♘f3 ♘d7 9.♘d2! ♘f6 10.f3 e6 11.e4 ♗g5 12.♘c4+=; 6...g6 7.e4 ♗xc3

8.♙xc3 ♙g7 9.♘f3 O-O 10.♙c4 ♘d7 11.O-O e6 12.♖ad1 ♗e7 13.♖fe1+= it's definitely not the position Gruenfeld players are dreaming about) 7.♘f3 (7.e4 is not well-prepared yet 7...♘b4 8.♗a4+ ♗d7=; in the stem game White has chosen the modest 7.e3 and after 7...c5 8.dxc5 ♙xc5 9.♗xd5 ♗xd5 10.♘f3 O-O Black is OK (Zabodrocky - Reti Bratislava 1925))



7...♘b4! Black is using the fact that White didn't play a2-a3 in a rather strange, but effective way (now the standard 7...♗xc3 8.♙xc3 ♙e7 9.e4 O-O 10.O-O-O once more leads to the original Queen's Indian Petrosian where White has saved the tempo on a2-a3. In this case it's perfectly obvious that this detail is in White's favour as Black's queenside attack will develop much slower. (10.♖d1 10...♘d7 11.♙d3 ♖c8 12.♗e2 ♘f6; 10.♙c4 10...c5 11.d5 exd5 12.♙xd5 ♙xd5 13.♖d1 ♘c6 14.♖xd5 ♗c8 15.O-O ♗e6) 10...♘d7 11.♙b1 c6 12.h4→) 8.♗a4+ (8.♗b3 8...c5 is more or less the same) 8...♗d7 9.♗b3 (9.♗xd7+ 9...♗xd7 10.♖c1 c5= leads nowhere) 9...c5 10.a3 ♘4c6 black knights are looking weird but it's just temporary 11.dxc5 ♙xc5 12.♖d1 O-O 13.♙f4 ♗e7= and Nb8-d7-f6 with quite satisfactory position; 6.♗xd5 looks strange here 6...♗xd5 7.♘f3 e5!? (the quiet 7...e6 is also fine 8.e3 ♙d6 9.♙d3 ♘d7=) 8.dxe5 ♘c6 9.♙d2 O-O-O∞]

6...♗xc3 7.bxc3 e6 [The tricky 7...e5 was played first by Alekhine in 1921. However, in 2015 it looks rather dubious.

8.♘f3 exd4 9.♙c4 d3 10.♙xd3 (10.♖b3 10...♗f6 11.♘g5 ♙c5) 10...♙c5 11.O-O ♗e7 E.Atalik - Bok Iasi 2014 12.e5! ♙xf3 13.gxf3 ♘d7 14.♙f4!; 7...g6 once again the Gruenfeld setup doesn't solve the opening problems 8.♘f3 (8.h4!? is quite dangerous 8...♙g7 (8...h5 9.♘f3 ♙g7 10.♙c4±; 8...h6 9.h5 g5 10.f4!) 9.h5 e5 (9...O-O 10.hxg6 hxg6 11.♗d3; after 9...♘d7?! 10.h6 ♙f8 11.♙g5± Black's position looks ugly (M.Petrosyan - Jurcik Yerevan 2014)) 10.♘f3 ♘d7 11.♙b5 O-O 12.hxg6 hxg6 13.♙g5 ♗c8 14.♗d2→) 8...♙g7 9.♙b5+ A useful c heck. Black's choice is quite unpleasant: c7-c6 closes the bishop, so the counterplay with e7-e5 is not effective after it, but the knight on d7 will be quite passive. (now 9.h4 9...O-O 10.h5 c5 11.hxg6 hxg6 12.d5 ♘d7 is quite unclear (Korchnoi - van Geffen Dresden 2008)) 9...♘d7 (9...c6 10.♙e2 O-O 11.O-O c5 12.d5+= Jakobsen - Pedersen Denmark 1988) 10.O-O O-O 11.a4! (11.♙f4 11...a6 12.♙d3 Quinteros - Planinc Ljubljana 1973 12...e5! 13.♘xe5 (13.♙g5 13...♗e8) 13...♘xe5 14.♙xe5 ♙xe5 15.dxe5 ♗e7 16.f4 ♗c5+ 17.♗h1 ♗ad8) 11...a6 12.♙e2 e5 13.♙a3 ♗e8 14.d5+=]

8.♘f3 ♙e7 Kingside deve lopment is the top priority. Now 9.a3 would lead to another theoretical position of the Queen's Indian Petrosian. But once again it's perfectly unclear what profit can White get from this extra tempo. That's true, Black doesn't have such wide range of development plans that he has in position with a2-a3 played. But is it such a big problem?! [After 8...♘d7 9.♙d3 c5 the pawn sac 10.d5!? is very annoying 10...exd5 11.exd5 ♙xd5 12.O-O ♙e7 13.♗d1±]

9.♙d3 [9.♙c4 the pluses of this square for the bishop are not clear 9...c5 10.O-O cxd4 11.cxd4 O-O 12.♙b2 ♘c6 13.♗e2 ♗c8 14.♗fd1 ♘a5 15.♙d3 ♙f6∞; 9.♙f4 White tries to meet c7-c5 with d4-d5, but it doesn't promise much 9...O-O 10.♗d1 c5 11.d5 exd5 12.exd5 ♙d6∞; The most popular intermediate check 9.♙b5+ usually leads to the same positions 9...c6

10.♙d3 (10.♙c4 - 9.Bc4) 10...c5 - 9.Bd3]

9...c5 The accurate move order. [9...O-O 10.O-O c5 11.d5! exd5 12.exd5 h6 (12...♗xd5 13.♙xh7+ ♔h8 14.♗e1± Rohde - SOCRATES Boston 1994) 13.c4 ♙f6 14.♗b1± Kruppa - Simonian Kiev 2007]

10.O-O [10.♙b5+ 10...♙c6 11.a4 is an interesting approach which deserves further tests 11...a6 12.♙d3 (12.♙xc6+ 12...♘xc6 13.O-O O-O 14.♗d1 cxd4 15.cxd4 ♗c8=) 12...♙b7 13.O-O cxd4 14.cxd4 ♘c6 15.♗e2 O-O 16.♙b2 ♘b4 17.♙c4 ♗c8∞the black knight is quite annoying (Pashikian - Simonian Gyumri 2008)]

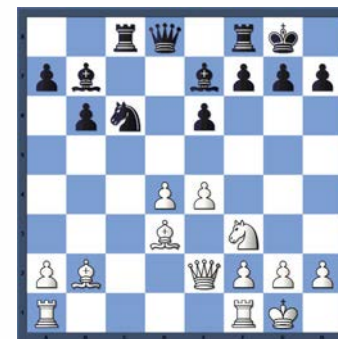
10...cxd4 [10...O-O 11.d5! - 9...O-O]

11.cxd4 O-O 12.♙b2 [Now 12.d5 doesn't work because of 12...♘a6! 13.♙b2 ♗c8 14.♗e2 ♘b4=+]

12...♘c6 Suddenly it turns that a2-a3 is a quite useful move for White.

13.♗e2 [13.a3 13...♗c8 14.♗e2 - 13.Qe2]

13...♗c8



14.♗fd1 [14.d5?! 14...♘b4; 14.♗ac1 14...♙f6 15.♗e3 van Ketel - Erwich Groningen 2001 (15.♙c4 15...♘a5 16.♙b5 ♗xc1 17.♗xc1 ♗b8) 15...♗d7∞and White's center is quite shaky;

Finally 14.a3 leads to one of the important positions for the theory of the Queen's Indian Petrosian. It was quite popular in 1980's and used to be assessed as highly dangerous for Black. However, recent research has proved that it's quite playable, although Black must pay enough attention to White's attacking prospects. 14...♙f6 15.♖ad1 ♘a5 (15...♘xd4? fails to 16.♙xd4 ♙xd4 17.♙b5!± Gelpke - Vogel Eindhoven 1981)
]

14...♘b4 15.♙b1 ♙f6 Clearly better than [15...♙a6 16.♖d2 ♘c6 17.d5↑Roghani - T.Vakhidov Dubai 2004]

16.a3 ♙a6 17.♖d2 ♘c6 18.♙c3 ♙c4∞ Black has enough counterchances.

19.♖c2 [19.♙a2 19...♙xa2 20.♖xa2 ♖d7]

19...g6

David vs. Goliath



Peter Zhdanov
Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this special column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week has brought us only 18 upsets. The number of moves ranges from 14 in Cruz (1963) - FM Matsuura (2289), 1-0 to 74 in Sztokbant (2278) - Goncalves (1945), 0-1. The highest-profile loss was Smolich (2252) - GM Zhigalko A (2584), 1-0.

The "Finish him!" award goes to Patryk Wolaniecki (1473) for wrapping up the game in style vs. Michael Muecke (1829):



27. ♖xg6+ ♔xg6 28. ♔f5X The "blunder of the week" prize

goes to FM Matsuura (2289) for hanging a queen in one move against Cruz (1963):



13...dxc4?? 14. ♕xh7 1-0 Beware the zwischenzug!

Top-10:

De Graaf (1855) - Korolewicz (1388), 0-1, [467](#) points
 Szulic (1367) - Svec (1800), 1-0, [433](#) points
 Korolewicz (1388) - Von Keyserlingk (1779), 1-0, [391](#) points
 Wolaniecki (1473) - Muecke (1829), 1-0, [356](#) points
 Maghsoodloo (2421) - Pilvaieh (2075), 0-1, [346](#) points
 Sztokbant (2278) - Goncalves (1945), 0-1, [333](#) points
 Smolich (2252) - Zhigalko A (2584), 1-0, [332](#) points
 Sa (2026) - Bernardes (1694), 0-1, [332](#) points
 Pottker (2109) - Paveto (2437), 1-0, [328](#) points
 Hamidi (1963) - Firoujza (2291), 1-0, [328](#) points

Average gap: 365; White won 6 games, Black won 4 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) will be appreciated.

Puzzle section

(4) Carlsen, M(2862)-Radjabov, T(2734)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.20

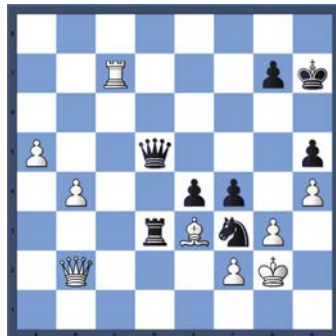
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(5) Caruana, F(2820)-Hou Yifan(2673)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.20

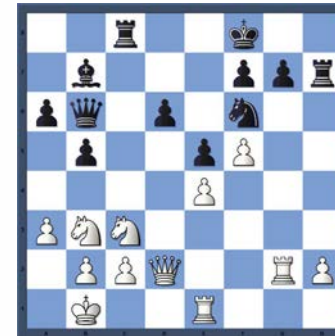
1... =



(6) Saric, I(2666)-Giri, A(2784)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.21

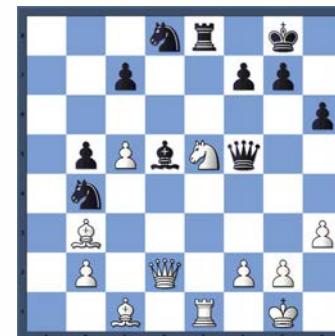
1... ♠



(7) So, W(2762)-Saric, I(2666)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.23

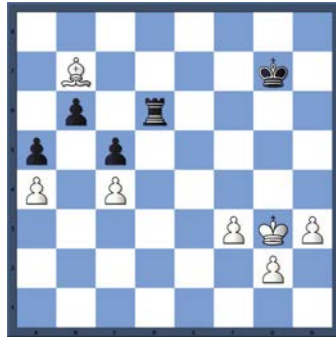
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(8) Wojtaszek, R(2744)-Ding Liren(2732)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.23

1... -+



(9) Vachier-Lagrave, M(2757)-Aronian, L(2797)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.24

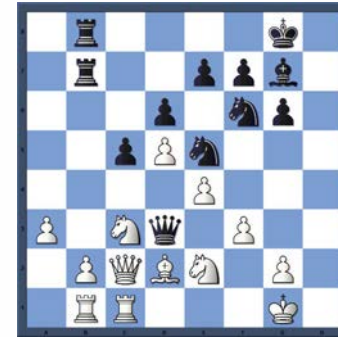
1. =



(10) Jobava, B(2727)-Radjabov, T(2734)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.25

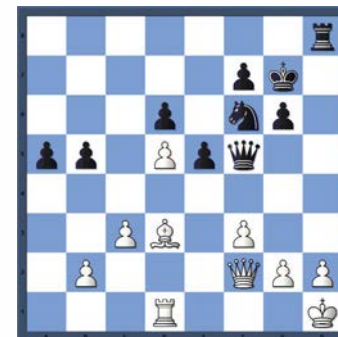
1... -+



(11) Haast, A(2352)-Shankland, S(2652)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2015.01.25

1... -+



(12) Khismatullin, D(2673)-Korneev, O(2591)

Dvorkovich memorial, 2015.01.21

1... -+



(13) Mekhitarian, K(2565)-Umetsubo, C(2311)

Brazilian Championship, 2015.01.20

1. +-



Endgame section

(14) Jobava, Baadur(2727)
- Radjabov, Teimour(2734)

Wijk aan Zee,
2015.01.25



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



Radjabov was dominating the entire game, but after some wrong decisions he ended up in some difficulties and suddenly the white knights have excellent outposts on e4 and c4, attacking the weakness on d6.

45. ♖e4 ♜b2! A clever idea to put the rook to b4, from where it either controls the important c4 square or after the trade he obtains a very dangerous passed b-pawn which yields him counterplay. [45... ♜d3 was another defensive attempt, but it turns out to be inferior after White's precise play... 46. ♖e2! The only way to reach the c4 square with the knight. 46... ♜b3 47. ♖c4 ♜f8

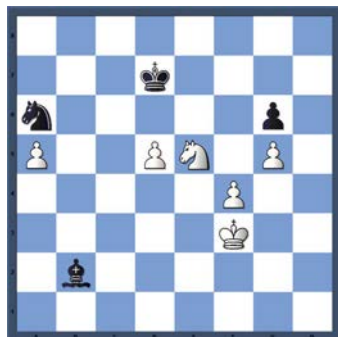


48. ♜a1! with the idea of switching the rook to the kingside and invading along the h-file. An attempt to prevent it is 48... ♜h3 but then 49. ♜b1! ♖b4 50. a6! ♜h2+ The only move! Black tries to stop the pawn with Ra2. (50... ♖xa6 51. ♜b7+ Black finds himself in a mate net.) 51. ♖f2 This is a small achievement for Black. At least one of the active knight was forced to retreat, but the position remains quite bad... 51... ♖xa6 52. ♜b7+ ♖e8 53. ♖f3!± and the knight is coming back to e4!]

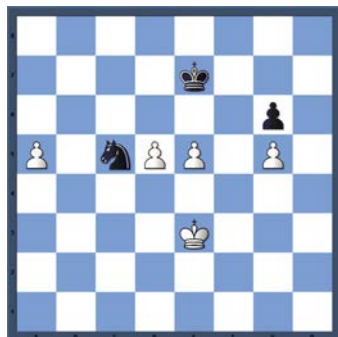
46. ♖c4 ♜b4! Even at the cost of the d6 pawn, Black sticks to his initial idea of creating his passed pawn.

47. ♜xb4 cxb4 48. ♖exd6 b3!? Black decides to give up his f7 pawn as well. This is probably not a mistake, but from a practical point of view 48... f6 seems to be more accurate. [48... f6 It looks natural to trade a pair of pawns. Black was probably afraid of 49. f5!/? White creates a passed pawn, but it proves to be insufficient because after 49... fxe5 50. fxe6 b3 51. ♖f5 b2 52. ♖d2 ♜f6 53. g7 ♜xe7 54. ♖xe7 ♖d6 Black soon eliminates all the pawns. The far advanced b2 pawn restricts the mobility of the white pieces. 55. ♖e4 is strongly met by 55... ♖c5+! and Nb3 next!]

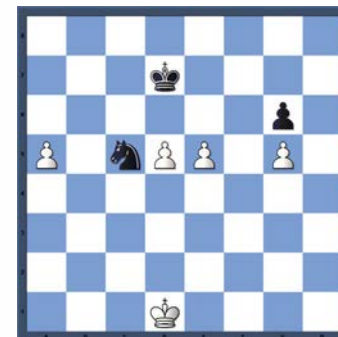
49. ♖xf7 b2 50. ♖xb2 ♜xb2 51. ♖e5+ We have reached the critical moment where Black fails to find the only defense.



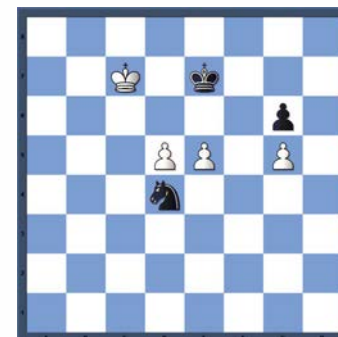
51...Ke7? [Surprisingly, Black could have gone for 51...Kxe5! 52.fxe5 Nc5! 53.Ke3 Ke7



It is quite understandable that Radjabov refused to enter this endgame. The three passed pawn should seemingly bring the victory for White, but the excellent placement of the c5 knight prevents White from making progress. Black simply intends to wait with Kd7-e7 and in case of the advance of one of the central pawns he is going to stay between them. Kd4 and Kd2 runs into Nb3 and the a5 falls. White has two winning attempts left: 54.Ke4 (The other option is 54.Ke2 with the idea to go around with the king and sidestepping the b3 square. Black must defend with 54...Kd7 55.Ke1



55...Na6! Suddenly the white king got too far away from the central pawns and the knight switches direction: 56.Ke2 Nb4 57.d6 Nc6 58.a6 Nxe5! 59.a7 Nc4+ 60.Ke3 Nb6 stops the pawns!) 54...Nb3+ 55.Ke4 White sacrifices his a5 pawn and hopes to promote the central ones with the support of the king. 55...Nxa5+ 56.Ke5 Nb3+ 57.Ke6 Nd4+ 58.Ke7



It seems like everything is going according to White's plan, but actually it is Black who is winning after the shocking: 58...Ne6+!! 59.Ke6 (59.dxe6 59...Kxe6+- Black collects all the pawns.) 59...Nxe5 60.d6+ Ke6 61.d7 Nf7+- wins.; 51...Ke6? did not work right away because of 52.Nc4+! Kxd5 53.Nxb2+-]

52.Nxe6+ Ke6 53.Ne5! The knight cuts the long diagonal and White is ready to advance his g-pawn.

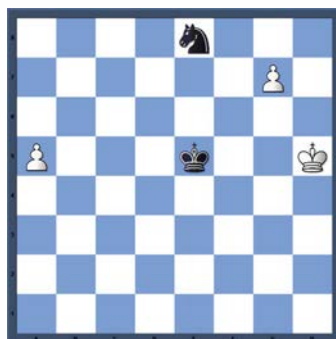
53...♙xe5 [53...♙xd5 is simply refuted by 54.g6 ♔e6 55.g7+- as the knight also controls the f7 square.]

54.fxe5+ ♔xd5 [54...♙xe5 loses nicely to 55.g6! ♔f6 56.d6! ♖b8 57.a6!+- and one of the pawns promote.]

55.g6 ♔e6 56.♙g4 The rest is easy...

56...♖c7 57.♙h5 ♙xe5 58.g7 [58.♙h6+- was also winning on the spot.]

58...♖e8



59.g8=♔! The last accuracy, but of course to calculate such a thing on this level is very easy...

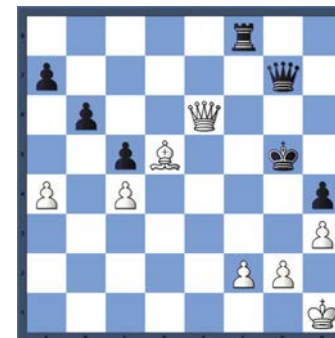
59...♖f6+ 60.♙g5 [Black resigned in view of 60.♙g5 60...♖xg8 61.a6+- and the pawn cannot be stopped.] **1-0**

**(15) Wojtaszek, Radoslaw(2744)
- Ding, Liren(2732)**

77th Tata Steel GpA(11.5),
2015.01.23



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



After a quite turbulent game, we reached this interesting position. It is clear that White is at least equal, but does he have anything more than that?!

47.♔g4+ ♔f6 48.♔e6+ ♔g5 49.♔g4+ ♔f6 So after a few checks, White decides to continue the game.

50.♔xh4+ But now of course the black queen is coming into the game.

50...♙g5 51.♔e4! It is a good choice not to enter the endgame for White. Of course the 3 passed pawns could be very dangerous, but Black could also be very quick with creating a passed pawn on the queenside, and this pawn will run faster than the 3 white pawns.

51...♔e5 52.♔h4+ ♔g5 53.♔e4 ♔e5 and again after repeating the moves once, White tries to play on for a win.

54.♔c2 ♔e1+ A logical move, but maybe Black could have

played 54...Kg7 immediately to keep the queen on e5, but White would continue with 55.g3! followed by Kg2 and the white king would be safe on g2.

55. ♖h2 ♕g7 Ding Liren wants to weaken the white pawn structure as much as possible.



56. f3 It is clearly not a pleasure to play a move like f3, but it was the only way to protect the f2 pawn.

56... ♖e8 Black tries to place the pieces as actively as possible.

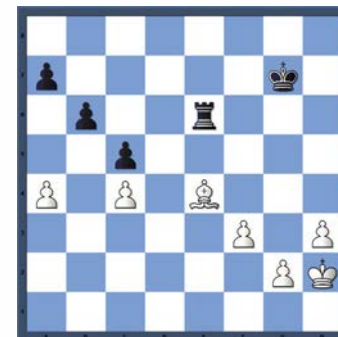
57. ♕f5? This is a serious mistake by White. Wojtaszek clearly underestimates the black chances in the endgame. [Maybe White should just have agreed that the position is around equal and make a draw after 57. ♗e4 57... ♖d8 58. ♗d5 ♖e8]

57... ♕e5+! and here comes the punishment! Ding Liren is perfectly right to enter this endgame where Black's chances are now already better.

58. ♕xe5+ ♖xe5 Black wants to play the simple Re1-Ra1 and attack the a4 pawn.

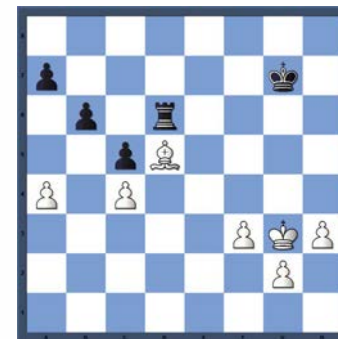
59. ♗e4 A very logical move. White is blocking the rook and preparing to push the kingside pawns.

59... ♖e6! Perfect play by Black! He needs to active the rook as soon as possible.



60. ♕g3 [It would have been worse to play 60.g4 60... ♖d6 61. ♗d5 a6! Not falling for the temptation of taking on d5... (61... ♖xd5? would not win for Black, but lose the game! 62.cxd5 c4 63.d6 ♕f7 64.g5 and the white pawns keep on running! 64...c3 65.d7 ♕e7 66.g6 c2 67.g7 c1=♕ 68.d8=♕+ ♕xd8 69.g8=♕+ with good winning chances for White.) 62.h4 b5 and the black pawns on the queenside are clearly faster than the white pawns on the kingside. Black is winning.]

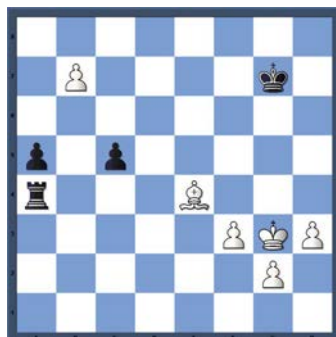
60... ♖d6 61. ♗d5 It seems like White has blocked the black rook and the white king is getting to e5, but Black has something very nice in mind. ..



61... a5!! What a move! Black wants to play b5 next and White can't do anything against this plan. [61...a6 would have been a much worse choice for Black. 62. ♕f4 The white king is in time to stop Black's play. 62...b5 63.axb5 axb5 (Black is not

in time after 63...a5 64.♔e3 a4 65.♔d3 and the white king is easily stopping Black's a-pawn.) 64.♔e5 ♖b6 65.cxb5 ♖xb5 and only White can be better here, but most probably the position is a draw.]

62.♟b7? White has the idea of playing Ba6 and Bb5, holding both the a4 and c4 pawns, but it comes too late... [The best way to continue was 62.♟e4 and now Black has a lot of different options: 62...b5 (62...♖d4 63.♟d5 ♖d2 (63...b5 64.axb5 a4 65.b6 and White seems to be faster.) 64.♟c6 and White is fighting.) 63.cxb5 ♖d4 Black is getting the a4 pawn. 64.b6 ♖xa4 65.b7

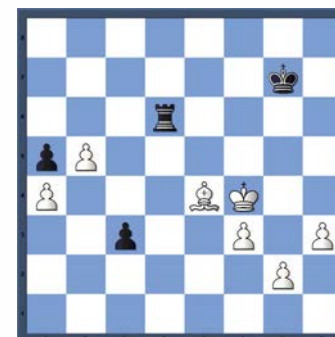


65...♖b4 and here White has the amazing 66.♟c6! preventing Black from playing a4 because of Bxa4 and of course Black is still close to winning, but White can keep on fighting for a draw.]

62...b5 Now Black is creating a passed pawn and White cannot do anything about it...

63.cxb5 c4 64.♟e4 c3 Rd2-c2 is unavoidable.

65.♔f4



65...♖d2 What a sad loss for White, who clearly overpushed in a position where probably the best choice would have been to just make a draw. And clearly great play by Black, with the fantastic idea of playing a5-b5! **0-1**

Chess and the City. Good, Better, Gibraltar!



WGM Elisabeth Paetz
Best rating: 2493

The thirteen edition of what I would call THE most popular Open tournament of all time started just two days ago - Tradewise Gibraltar!

This is not just a tournament, it is one of the strongest Open tournaments of all time and has a very unique character. Besides having a wide range of side events, such as "Master Classes", "Team Blitz events" and the very famous "Battle of the sexes" (which was convincingly won by the weaker sex last year) etc. It is also the only tournament where Women have a double race. Since I am a woman myself, I obviously cannot admit that having a chance for winning a main prize, as well as an exceptionally large women's prize, is actually quite unfair. But it is not a secret in the Men's world that beauty actually HAS ITS PRICE! Over £15000 will be awarded to the highest place female in the Open. Is there any greater confession of love? No!

For me this year is actually quite special and different. For the first time in my life I am not participating as a player, but as live commentator!

GM Simon Williams, alias "Mr. h4", has been providing live commentary on this event for 3 years now, for the first 2 of which he was assisted by Irina Krush. However, this year she preferred to participate again, and the challenge of replacing her was offered to me. The picture below perfectly describes the result of this!



Last but not least I would like to give the following advice to all chess teachers: by all means have your pupils play through and enjoy this round one game, by Nakamura, but insist that they do not try to imitate it, unless they have his talent!

Clash of the Titans

(16) Capablanca, Jose Raul
- Bogoljubov, Efim [A26]

Nottingham, 1936

GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.g3 g6 4.♗g2 ♗g7 5.d3 d6 6.♗d2 White could have played [6.♖b1 immediately.]

6...f5 7.♖b1 We have one of the typical positions in the English opening.

7...♗f6 [7...a5 Generally it is useful for Black to include the a5-a3 moves to open the a-file.]

8.b4 O-O [8...a6!? with the idea to open the a-file. 9.a4 O-O (9...a5!? 10.b5 ♗b4 This idea was used by Spassky.) 10.b5 axb5 11.axb5 ♗e7 transposes to the main plans.]

9.b5 ♗e7

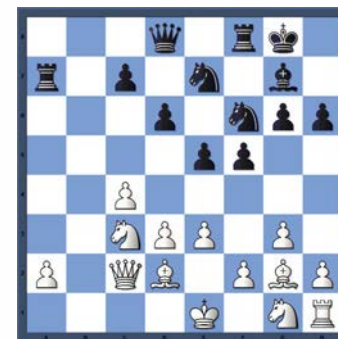


10.♖c2 I'm not sure if this move was needed now.

10...h6 An useful move because Black is usually looking for counterplay on the kingside. A possible plan is g5-f5-Qe8-Qg6 or Ng6 etc...

11.e3 a6!? Black wants to open the a-file.

12.a4 [12.bxa6 This move normally makes no sense because White gets a worse structure, but it must still be checked. 12...♖xa6 with a small trap... 13.♖xb7!? A very interesting strategical sacrifice. (13.♗xb7? 13...♗xb7 14.♖xb7 ♖a8 15.♖b1 ♖b6 16.♖xb6 ♖xh1—) 13...♗xb7 14.♗xb7 ♖a7 15.♗g2



15...c6! A strong plan. Black is going to limit the bishop on g2 and fight for the center at the same time. 16.♗ge2 d5 17.cxd5 cxd5 18.O-O; 12.b6 This is a tricky idea but Black has the simple and strong 12...c6! (12...cxb6? is worse because of 13.♗a4 ♗d7 14.♗xb6! ♗xb6 15.♗a5 and White is much better thanks to the pressure on the b-file.)]

12...c5?! From a strategical point of view this move looks very ugly. The bishop on g2 becomes stronger now and the d5 square is weak. [12...axb5 13.axb5 c6 (13...g5 with the idea to create pressure on the queenside.)]

13.bxa6 [13.♗ge2 13...a5 14.O-O+= White always keeps the opportunity to push b6 and does not allow Black to close the position.]

13...♖xa6



14.♗ge2 [14.♖xb7!? was interesting too. 14...♗c6! Black plays for activity! (14...♗xb7 15.♗xb7 ♖a7 16.♗g2= The a-pawn and a strong bishop give White full compensation.) 15.♖b5 ♗b4 16.♖b1 e4∞ The black pieces become very active and White's problem is the king, which is still stuck in the center.]

14...♗c6 with the idea to bring the knight to b4.

15.♗d5 [15.♗b5 15...e4!? 16.dxe4 ♗xe4 (16...fxe4 17.♗c3! preventing Ne5.) 17.O-O with a slightly better position for White.]

15...♗xd5 16.♗xd5+ ♖h7



17.h4!? An original idea. White temporarily prevents g5. The most simple was [17.O-O+=]

17...♖e8! The queen on e8 helps with the f4 break, protects the knight on c6 and can attack the a4 pawn at some moment.

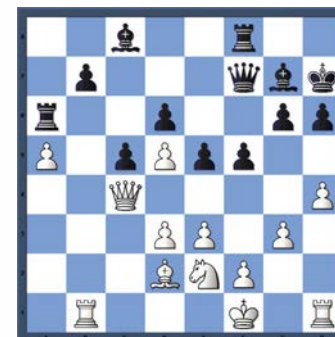
18.♖f1 [18.♗g2 with the idea to avoid Ne7, a plan we will see happening in the game. 18...f4 19.♗e4! f3 20.h5→ (20.♗c3 20...♗b4 21.♖xb4! cxb4 22.♗b5 ♗f5∞) ; 18.♖b5 18...♗a7; 18.O-O 18...g5 19.hxg5 hxg5 20.♖g2∞]

18...♗e7 19.a5 [19.♗xb7?? 19...♗xb7 20.♖xb7 ♖c6→+]

19...♗xd5 20.cxd5 From a strategic point of view the position is very interesting. Black has two bishops but on the other hand a limited rook on a6 and a weak pawn on b7.

20...♖f7 Let's check other ideas: [20...♗f6!? 21.♖c4 ♗d8 22.♖b5 b6 (22...♖f7 23.♖g2 ♖a7 24.♖hb1 g5↔; 22...♗c7 23.♖g2 ♖d8 24.♖hb1 (24.♖a1 24...b6↔) 24...♖a7 25.f4 ♖e8↔) 23.axb6 ♖xb6 (23...♖a1+ 24.♖g2 ♖xh1 25.b7! is an important trick, otherwise Black has Ba6.) 24.♖xb6 ♗xb6 25.♖g2 ♖f7 26.♖b1∞; 20...♖g8 21.♖g2 g5 is also interesting for Black.]

21.♖c4



21...f4!? **22.gxf4** According to the general rules, Black is going to open the position and activate his bishops, especially the light squared one.

22...♙g4 [22...exf4 23.e4 (23.♘xf4 23...♙e5 24.♙c3 and here Black doesn't need to hurry with taking on f4. 24...♙xf4 25.♖xf4 ♖xf4 26.exf4 ♖xf4 27.♖e1↑ and White has the initiative.) 23...f3 24.♘f4 ♖xa5! 25.♘e6 b5→]

23.♖g1 ♙f3 24.e4 exf4 25.♘xf4 [25.♖b5



This move was recommended by Alekhine, but now Black could maybe play 25...♙e5! 26.♖xb7 ♖a7 27.♖xf7+ ♖xf7 and the white pieces are very badly placed.]

25...♙e5 We will see that Black tried to solve his biggest problem of the limited rook on a6 by playing 26...Raa8, but here he missed a good chance... [25...♖xa5! A strong and nice move! 26.♘e6 (26.♖g3 26...b5! 27.♖c2 ♙h5 28.♙e3 ♙e5 29.♘h5 gxh5 30.f4



30...♙xf4! 31.♖f3 ♙xe3 32.♖xf7+ ♖xf7+ and the black pieces dominate the board.) 26...♙e2+ (26...b5 I'm not sure when exactly b5 is most accurate.) 27.♙xe2 ♖xf2+ 28.♙d1 b5 29.♘xf8+ (29.♖b3 29...♖xg1+ 30.♙c2 ♖g2 pinning the bishop.) 29...♙xf8 30.♖xb5 ♖xg1+ 31.♙c2 ♖a1 and the white king is under pressure.]

26.♘e6 ♖aa8 [26...♙e2+ 27.♙xe2 ♖xf2+ 28.♙d1 ♖xg1+ 29.♙c2+→]

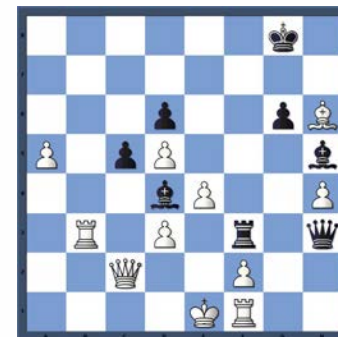


27.♘xf8+? This move is premature! Objectively the knight on e6 can be even stronger than the rook! White could first play [27.♙e3! Simply protecting the f2 pawn and avoiding some tactical threats! 27...♖xa5 (27...♖fb8 28.♙xh6! A nice and unexpected move! 28...♙xh6 29.♖c1++→; 27...♙h5 28.f4!) 28.♘xf8+ ♖xf8 29.♖xb7+ ♙h8 30.♖b1! (30.♙e1 30...♖a1+ 31.♙d2 ♖xg1 32.♖b5 ♙f6! 33.♖b8 ♙d8 34.♖d7 ♙a5+→) 30...♖c8 31.♖b3 with the idea to exchange queens and White should win the game.]

27...♖xf8



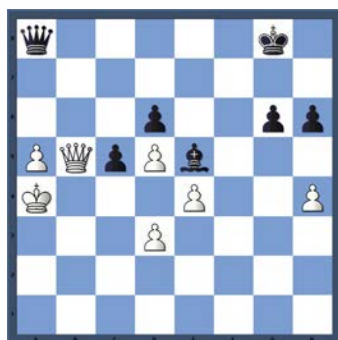
28.♖b5? More accurate was [28.♗e3! and it is not easy for Black to develop his initiative now, for example 28...♗h5 29.♖e1 The idea is to escape with the king. (29.♖c2 The queen is back to defend the weak squares around the king. 29...♖f3 30.♖xb7+ ♖g8! We will see later why this move is more accurate than Kh8. 31.♗xh6 ♖h3+ 32.♖e1 ♖f3!? (32...♖f3!? deserves attention, with the idea Bc3. 33.♖b3 ♗d4 34.♖f1 ♖a8↔35.♖a3? ♖xa5!) 33.♖b3 (33.♖e2 33...♗c3+! just to force White to put the bishop on d2. 34.♗d2 ♗d4 35.♖d1 ♖g3 36.♖xg3 ♖f1+—; 33.a6 33...♖xd3 34.a7 ♗c3+ Now we see why it was more accurate to put the king on g8: White doesn't have Qxc3 check! 35.♗d2 ♖e3+! 36.fxe3 ♖xe3+ 37.♖f1 ♖e2#; 33.♖a4!! I analyzed this complex position without an engine, but with my friend, and there was only one great idea which we missed during our work. This move is just amazing! 33...♗c3+ 34.♖d1 ♖f7+ 35.♖c2 ♖xb7 36.♖xc3±) 33...♗d4 34.♖f1



34...♗e3!! (34...♗xf2+ 35.♖xf2 ♖xf2 36.♖xf2 ♖h1+ (36...♖xh4 is less accurate because of 37.♖b8+ ♖h7 38.♗g5!! A nice trick which immediately gives White a winning position.) 37.♖f1 ♖xh4+ (37...♖g2 38.♖b8+ ♖h7 39.♖f7+ ♖xh6 40.♖h8#) 38.♖d2 ♖h2+ 39.♖c1 ♖a2 40.♖b8+ ♖h7 41.♗d2 ♖a1+ 42.♖b1 ♖a3+ 43.♖c2 ♖a4+ 44.♖b2 ♖b5+ and Black has to fight for a draw.) 35.♗g5 (35.♖b8+ 35...♖h7 36.♖b2 ♗d4—) 35...♗xg5 36.♖b8+ (36.hxg5 36...♖e3+—) 36...♖g7 37.♖b7+ ♖g8 38.♖b8+ with perpetual check.) 29...♖f3 30.♖xb7+ ♖g8 31.♖d2 ♖e2+ 32.♖c1 ♖xf2 33.♗xf2 ♖xf2 34.♖h1 ♖g2 35.♖d1 (35.♖e1 35...♖f2 with a positionally drawn position. Once again we see how important it was to keep the king on g8, as in case king was on h8 White could play the amazing 36. Kb1!! 36...Qxe1+ 37.Qc1 now and after the queens exchange the a6 pawn will be decisive!) 35...♗xd1 (35...♗f4+ 36.♖b1 ♗xd1 37.a6 ♖f1 38.a7 ♗b3+ 39.♖b2 ♗e5+



40.d4!+- What a fantastic line!) 36.♔xd1 ♕f1+ 37.♔c2 ♕e2+ 38.♔b3 The most accurate. (38.♔b1 38...♕d1+ 39.♔a2 ♕a1+ 40.♔b3 and now Black can also take the pawn. 40...♕xa5∞) 38...♕b2+ 39.♔a4 ♕xb7 40.♕b5 ♕a8!



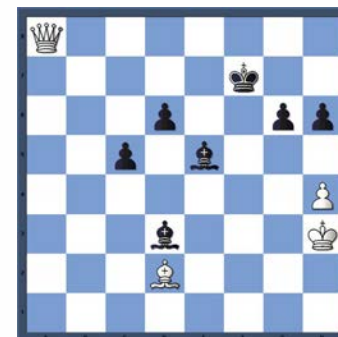
with a difficult to evaluate position. The a-pawn is very dangerous but Black has the defending idea c4-Bd4. You can try to analyze this position yourself if you want!]

28...♕xe4! 29.♕xb7 ♕xd3+ 30.♔g2 ♕e4+ 31.f3 [31.♔h3 is very risky because Black keeps the queens on the board after 31...♕f5+ 32.♔g2 ♕d7! 33.f4 ♕f5 34.♕b3 with very complex play.]

31...♕xf3+ 32.♔h3 ♕xd5 33.♕xf7+ ♕xf7 34.♕g1 ♕e6+ 35.♔g2 ♕f5 [35...♕d5+ Objectively a perpetual check was the best for Black.]

36.a6 White is pinning all his hopes to the a-pawn.

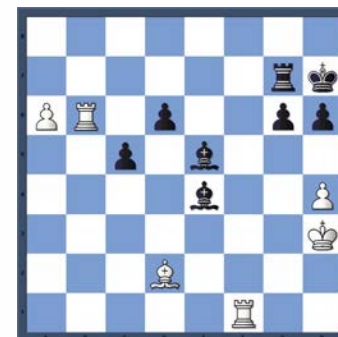
36...♕e4+ 37.♔h3 ♕g7 [37...♕a7 38.♕b7+ (38.♕b6→) 38...♕xb7 39.♕f7+ ♔g8 40.axb7 ♕a3+! 41.♔g2 ♕b3 42.♕e7 ♔f8 43.♕c7 d5 and Black is on time!; 37...♕xf1 leads to a very nice draw: 38.♕xf1 ♕d3 39.♕f7+ ♔g8 40.a7 ♔xf7 41.a8=♕



41...♕f1+ 42.♔g4 ♕e2+ with perpetual check!]

38.♕b6 ♕f5+ 39.♔g2 [39.♕xf5 only leads to a draw: 39...gxf5 40.♕b7 ♕xb7 41.axb7 d5 42.♔g2 ♔g6 43.♔f3 ♕b8! The only move. 44.♕f4 ♕a7 45.b8=♕ ♕xb8 46.♕xb8 ♔h5 and this position should be drawn.]

39...♕e4+ 40.♔h3



40...♕e7? The players were probably in time trouble! Black should have repeated moves. [40...♕f5+=]

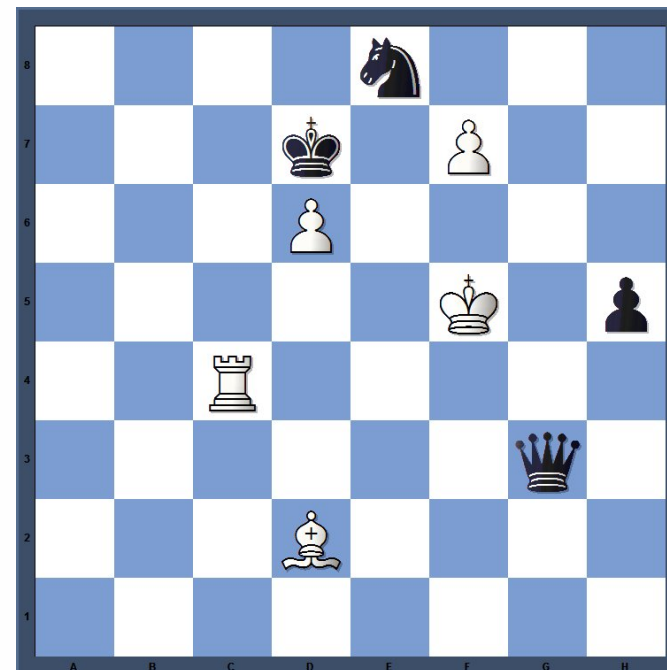
41. ♘f4 leads to a drawish position by force. [41. ♖f8 41...c4 42. ♘f4 c3 43. ♘xe5 dxe5 44. ♔g3 ♜c7 preventing Rc8. 45. ♖f1 c2 with more or less equal chances.; 41. ♖e1! A strong move which could give White winning chances. 41...♘d5 42. ♘f4 and thanks to the a6 pawn White is better.]

41... ♖f7! 42. ♘xe5 ♜xf1 43. ♘xd6 ♜f3+ 44. ♔h2 g5 45. hxg5 hxg5 46. ♘xc5 1/2-1/2

Surprise section / study

(17) Birnov

1. +-



Solutions

(18) Radjabov, T(2734)-Ding Liren(2732)

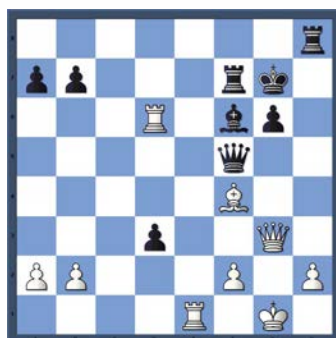
Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.13



40...♖b1+! 0-1 [40...♖b1+ 41.♔xd2 ♜xa2+ 42.♔e3 ♜e1+ 43.♔f4 ♜xf2+--]

(19) Vachier-Lagrave, M(2757)-Ding Liren(2732)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.16

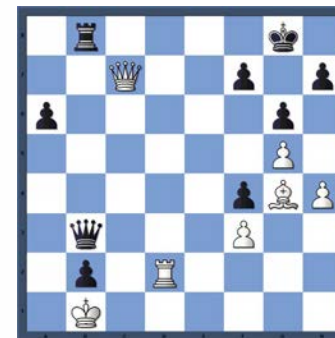


30.♖e5! ♜h3 [30...♙xe5 31.♙xe5+ ♔h7 32.♙xh8 ♔xh8 33.♖xg6+- d2 (33...♜xg6 34.♜xg6 ♖g7 35.♜xg7+ ♔xg7 36.♔f1+-) 34.♜h4+ ♖h7 35.♜d8+]

31.♖ee6 ♜xg3+ 32.hxg3±

(20) Saric, I(2666)-Vachier-Lagrave, M(2757)

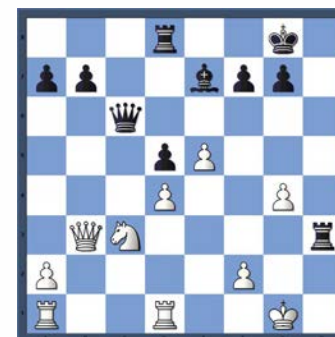
Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.17



32...♜a2+! 0-1 [32...♜a2+ 33.♔xa2 b1=♜+ 34.♔a3 ♜b3#]

(21) Ding Liren(2732)-Saric, I(2666)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.18



27.♘xd5! ♜xd5 [27...♖xb3 28.♘xe7+ ♔f8 29.♘xc6+-; 27...♜h6 28.♘xe7+ ♔f8 29.♜xb7+-]

28.♜xh3+-

(22) Haast, A(2352)-Gunina, V(2538)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2015.01.18



15. ♘f4? ∞ [15. ♖xc6!! 15... ♙xd2 (15... bxc6 16. ♖e6+ ♖d7 (16... ♙b7 17. ♖b3 c5 18. c3+-) 17. ♖xc6+-) 16. ♖g6 ♘f4 17. ♖xg7±]

(23) Navara, D(2729)-Michiels, B(2563)

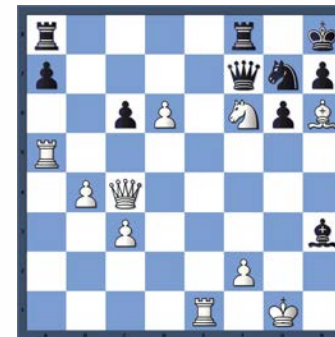
Wijk aan Zee B, 2015.01.18



36. ♖g8+! ♖xg8 37. ♖e5+ ♖g7 38. ♖xg7# 1-0

(24) Rathnakaran, K(2387)-Gupta, A(2631)

Parnsvath Open, 2015.01.13

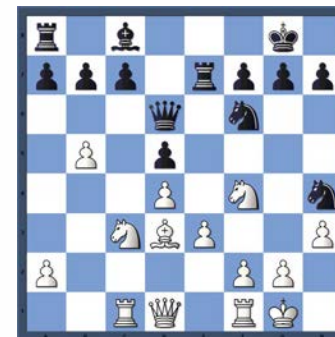


30. ♖e7! ♖xf6 [30... ♖xc4 31. ♘xg7#]

31. ♘xg7+ ♖xg7 32. ♖xg7+-

(25) Leita, R(2636)-Zambrana, O(2465)

Zicosur Open, 2015.01.06



16. ♘fxd5!! ♘xd5 17. ♖h5! ♘f5! [17... ♘f6 18. ♖xh4+-; 17... ♘xc3 18. ♖xh7+ ♙f8 19. ♖h8#]

18. ♘xf5 g6 19. ♖f3 ♘xc3 [19... ♘xe3! 20. fxe3 ♘xf5 21. ♖xb7 ♖ae8 22. ♖d5! ± ♖xe3? 23. ♖xd6 cxd6 24. ♘d5 ♖3e6 25. ♘c7+-] **20. ♘xc8+-**

(26) Vovk, A(2637)-Neuman, P(2465)

Slovakian league, 2015.01.17



25. ♖xh7! ♜xf6 [25... ♜xh7 26. ♜d8+! ♔f7 27. ♜xb6+-; 25... ♔xh7 26. ♜xg6+ ♔h8 27. ♙d3+- (27.g4+- 27... ♖h4 28. ♜h6+ ♔g8 29. ♜e3+-)]

26. ♖xf6+ ♔g7 27. ♖g4±

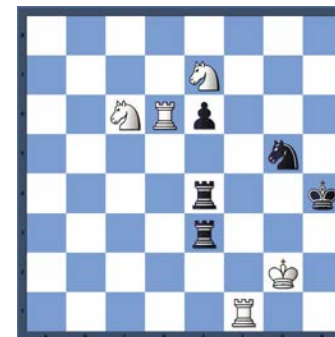
(27) Lopukhin, A(2361)-Smirnov, P(2585)

Dvorkovich memorial, 2015.01.19



47... ♖f4+! 48. ♖xf4 ♜xh2+ 49. ♖h3 ♜xh3# 0-1

(28) Kaev



1. ♖f5+! exf5 2. ♜h6+ ♔g4 3. ♖e5+! ♜xe5 4. ♜f4+! ♔xf4 5. ♜h4#



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 154

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Editorial Preface

And another great week of chess is behind us with 3 major events: the Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival, the Grenke Chess Classics and the Moscow Open.

Let's first come to the finished event in Gibraltar: What was one of the strongest opens in history (with Topalov, Nakamura, Svidler, Vitiugov, Jakovenko, Yu Yangyi and many more players over 2700 ELO) came to an end with the one player who started the tournament with 6/6 and finished on 8.5/10 taking it all, and that was Nakamura. The American didn't play the cleanest chess, but with his great passion and strong fighting spirit he looked for chances until the very end in all his games. A completely deserved tournament victory and Nakamura gets back the title of "best American player", which was briefly taken from him by Wesley So who had a great result in Wijk aan Zee. David Howell took clear second place with 8/10, which was a great surprise and probably his biggest tournament success so far.

Places 3-11 were shared by a group of players on 7.5/10, but on tiebreak the 3rd place went to Hou Yifan, who scored a great performance of 2772. It seems like there is another Judit Polgar on the rise...

In the Grenke Chess Classics only 3 rounds (out of 7) have been played. So far the biggest surprise of the tournament was probably that your commentator Arkadij Naiditsch beat Magnus Carlsen in an marathon 6-hour game (an endgame which you can find in this newsletter). Another upset is the result of Aronian, who had a bad start with 1/3 and even dropped out of the live Top 10 list. And to think that not so long ago Aronian was the clear number 2 with an ELO of 2830!

Moscow Open is a huge event with a lot of different

sections. Let us focus on the main section:

After round 5 Inarkiev is leading with a perfect score of 5/5, followed by Grachev, Nepomniachtchi, Mamedov and many more.

The Spanish number 1 Vallejo is on 4/5 and in a good position to try and catch the leader as soon as possible.

That's all from the major tournament news for the past week. We hope you enjoy our weekly chess material!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) **Baramidze, David (2594)**
- **Naiditsch, Arkadij (2706) [A30]**

3rd GRENKE Chess Classic(4.1),
2015.02.06



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Before this game against my teammate I thought it would be great to get a wild position, as David is a strong player but a lack of practical play is visible in some of his games. He doesn't play too many games and from time to time he makes quite serious miscalculations. After a rare opening setup I was not happy at all with my position, but with the risky move 11.d4 Baramidze got himself into something he doesn't like too much: a crazy position. When things were probably already better for Black, but the position was still very sharp, White just made a huge blunder which cost him the game.

1.c4 This move came as a surprise to me. I had more expected 1.d4 and maybe 1.e4.

1...c5 David clearly also did not expect this, as my main moves on 1.c4 are 1... Nf6 or 1... e5.

2.g3 a set up with g3 is quite popular one

2...c6 3.g2 g6 Black has a lot of different ways to continue, but 3...g6 is a very solid try.

4.f3 g7 5.O-O Now I needed to decide whether to play 5...e5 or not. It is a very central line, where White usually continues with Nc3-Ne1-Nc2-Ne3, covering the d5 square. The position is close to equal but also very boring. I wanted to

have more dynamism in this game.

5...d6 6.Nc3



6...f5?! First I was quite happy with this try, but this move just makes little sense. The pawn is even sometimes better placed on f7. It was better to continue with 6...Nf6 or 6... Bd7 or 6...e5, with very usual play.

7.a3! An excellent reply by White. Of course the idea of b4 is standard, but it is very important not to move the d2 pawn too early, because in case Black goes Nf6 there is always d4.

7...a5 8.Bb1 Once again David is correctly waiting before moving the d2 pawn and prepares for the b4 break.

8...d7 A developing move and I also hope to maybe play a4 at some point.



9.b3! David is showing very deep understanding of the

position! At first sight b3 looks like an average move, but in fact it is a move which made me worry a lot. White's idea now is to play Ne1-Nc2 and b4, with a clear edge for White. What can I do to stop this?!

9...e5 Maybe not the best, but what else to play?! [For some time I was thinking about 9...f6 but White can still play 10.d4! e4 11.fxe4 fxe4 12.g5 fxd4 13.fxe4 and White's position is clearly better here. We can also see how useful the b3 move really is, as the white bishop is going to take a great position on b2.]

10.f5 Forcing my queen to take a passive position on b8.

10...Qb8



11.d4?! This move is really double-edged. There was no reason at all for White to play it. [After the logical 11.fxe1 11...f6 12.c2 O-O (12...d4? 13.cxd4 cxd4 14.fxb7 fxb5 15.fxa8 and White is an exchange up.) 13.b4 I think White's play on the queenside is quite serious and this is a rather unpleasant position for Black.]

11...cxd4 12.e3 Of course the idea to get some play in the center is the right one because of Black's bad development, but Baramidze probably missed my next move.



12...f6! This strong move turns the game around. [For a while I was thinking about 12...d3? but managed to find 13.e4! and because of my horrible development my position will fall apart.; Another option was to play 12...f6 13.fxa7 fxa7 14.exd4 e4 but now White has 15.fxe1 Of course things are not that clear here, but I had the feeling that White was going to continue with d5 and Be3-Nd4 and somehow I did not like my position too much.]

13.exd4?! I don't think this is the best practical choice. [During the game I mainly calculated 13.a4! It is very important to keep a good pawn structure. 13...d3 14.e4 the usual move 14...f6 15.exf5 gxf5 with a very complicated position.]

13...e4 14.f6 There is no better place for the knight.

14...h6 15.fh3 fxb5 16.cxb5 Now we can see why it was so important for White to play 13.a4. I would not have the d5 square for my knight now otherwise.

16...d5 17.f4 White needs to bring the knight into the game.

17...f6 Now it is all about whether I can hold my pawn structure in the center. In case I can, I will be clearly better. [It would be very bad now to be greedy: 17...c3? 18.fxc2 fxb1 19.fxg6 and because of my king's central position, White has

great compensation.]



18.f3!? After a long thought, Baramidze tries a very interesting move. Maybe it is really the best White has already. [In case of a passive move like 18.♖b2 18...♗xf4 19.♕xf4 O-O followed by g5 and d5, Black's pawns will start rolling on the kingside. I would say that White is already in quite some serious trouble.]

18...♗c3 I have to go for the exchange.

19.♖c2 ♕xd4+ It also looks very natural to win the d4 pawn and secure the bishop a great position on e5 for the future.

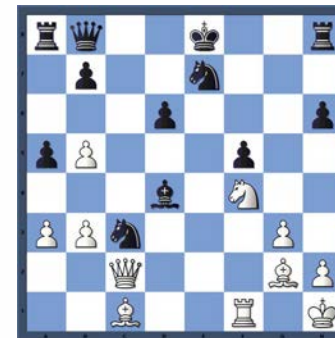
20.♔h1 Now I have 2 options...

20...♗xb1 I was not sure about this move but I hoped that being a rook up should give me some advantage. [Another move was 20...exf3 21.♕xf3 ♗xb1 22.♖xb1 and maybe 22...♖c8 but after 23.♕b2 the position is actually very wild. My king on e8 is experiencing big pressure and the white pieces are quickly joining the game.]

21.fxe4 is exactly the right way to play as White! [21.♖xb1 21...d5 and I think I can already say that Black is better now.; 21.♗e6 doesn't work because of 21...♖c8!]

21...♗c3 I need to keep being a rook up.

22.exf5 gxf5 We are in a funny position. Black is a full rook up, but because of the bad position of the king on e8 and everything sort of hanging, things are much more unclear than they look like at first sight.



23.♗g6?? What a terrible blunder by my opponent... [The right way to go on was 23.♕d2! This silent move is very strong. 23...♕e5 (23...♖c8 leads to a very unclear position. 24.♖d3 ♕e5 25.♖c1 ♖d7 26.♕xc3 ♖c8 and things are very wild...) 24.♕xc3 ♖c7 and maybe I can hope to be a bit better, but the main fight would still be ahead of me.]

23...♗xg6 24.♖xf5 and here comes the move that Baramidze missed:

24...♗e7 It wasn't too hard to find, but it simply wins the game.

25.♖f7+ ♔d8 Now I am already a rook and a piece up, which is just too much...

26.b6 ♖c8 27.♕xh6



27...dxe2 All in all it was an interesting game that came to an abrupt end because of a blunder of by my opponent and which brought me the tournament lead after round 4. **0-1**

**(2) Adhiban, Baskaran (2630)
- Nakamura, Hikaru (2776) [D20]**

Gibraltar Masters 2015(5.1),
2015.01.31



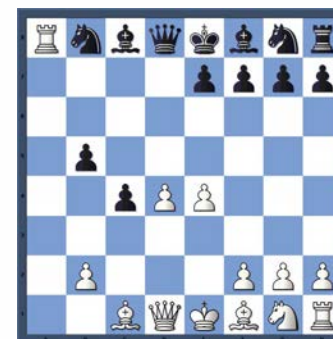
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Nakamura started the Gibraltar Masters with 6/6. Let's see one of his spectacular wins.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 The Queen's Gambit Accepted. Nakamura employs this weapon quite often recently.

3.e4 b5 Thanks to the French GM Romain Edouard, the following very interesting line connected with an exchange sacrifice came to the practice. Theory is just about to develop here. The two main lines are 3...Nf6 and 3... e5.

4.a4 c6 5.dxc3 a6 6.axb5 cxb5 7.dxb5 axb5! 8.Rxa8



8...Rxb7 This is basically the initial position of this variation. At first sight it is not clear what Black has got for the exchange, but things are not easy at all for White. The b5-c4 pawns are restricting the development of the white pieces and Black plans to set the central e4-d4 pawns under big pressure in the next few moves. White can retreat the rook to a2 or a1, actually

there are serious differences between those two. In most of the lines the rook is better placed on a2, but the drawback is that it stands in the Nc6-b4 tempo.

9.♖a1 e6 [On the direct 9...♗xe4 White could quickly undermine the queenside with 10.f3 ♗d5 11.b3!]

10.♘e2 [The alternatives are 10.f3 ; And 10.♘f3 ; 10.b3? now is obviously wrong because of 10...♗b4+ 11.♗d2 c3]

10...♗xe4 11.b3 [11.♘c3 is met by 11...♗c6 12.♗f4 ♘f6 Black already has a pawn for the exchange, a perfect pawn structure and the nice square on d5 for the minor pieces gives him excellent compensation.]

11...♗c6 12.♘c3?! This mistake already passes the advantage the advantage to Black! White tries to use, that the bishop cannot retreat to c6, but after having played b3, the c3 knight has lost it's stability. Black immediately makes use of it. [I have to admit, that I have also analyzed this opening and my preparation concluded, that White should go for 12.bxc4 12...♗b4 13.♘c3 ♘c2+ 14.♖e2 and here Black has nothing better than forcing a draw. He can do it in different ways, one of them is 14...♗xd4+ 15.♖e3



15...♗f6! White has to be careful which piece to take... 16.♗xe4! is the only move and Black has nothing better than (16.♗xd4 is wrong in view of the long and forced line

16...♗g4+ 17.♖xe4 f5+ 18.♖d3 ♘xf2+! 19.♖e3 f4+! 20.♗xf4 ♗c5+ 21.♖f3 (21.♖e2? 21...♗d3+ 22.♖e1 ♗xc3+--+) 21...♗f8+ 16...♗f5+ 17.♖e2 ♘d4+ 18.♖e3= with a repetition.]

12...♗b4! 13.♗d2



13...♗xc3! Very simple refutation of White's whole concept. Black creates an amazing dangerous protected passed pawn with b4-c3. All moves are coming with tempo.

14.♗xc3 b4 15.d5 White tries to complicate the matters, but it ends up badly for him. Other moves were hardly better either... [15.♗b2? is the worst in view of 15...c3 16.♗c1 ♘xd4--; 15.♗d2 15...c3 16.♗e3 ♘ge7+ followed by 0-0 and Nd5 is also great for Black!]

15...bxc3 16.dxc6 ♗xd1+ 17.♖xd1 [17.♗xd1 is not better either, because Black has the very strong intermediate move 17...c2! 18.♗c1 and he can already capture on 18...cxb3 because after 19.c7 ♖d7 simple stops the pawn.]

17...cxb3 Very picturesque position with such pawns for both sides, but the black ones are stronger. We dont meet often with such situations. White has to be careful to not surrender within a couple of moves.



18.c7! [18.♘b5 loses to 18...b2 19.c7+ ♔e7 20.♔e2 ♜f6—+ Black stops the c-pawn, while his own pawns are promoting.]

18...♔d7 19.♖a3! White finds the only way to stop the pawns.

19...b2 20.c8=♖+! White had to sacrifice his own triumph to eliminate the more important one on c3 with check!

20...♔xc8 21.♖xc3+ ♔d7 22.♘d3! There was nothing better again! White recaptures on d3 with check, therefore Black must promote his pawn right away.

22...b1=♖+ 23.♘xb1 ♘xb1 It seems to be all over, Black wins with decisive material advantage, however things are far from clear yet. White retains his chances to save the game by using the temporary misplacement of all black pieces...



24.♖b3! Attacking the bishop with tempo and the rook

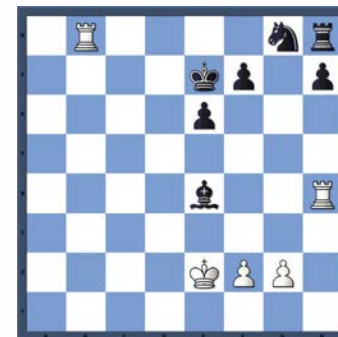
invades to b8 next move, pinning the undeveloped pieces.

24...♘e4 25.♖b8 g5 A clever move! Black opens a path to g7 for his king to defend his pieces. He also keeps the option of defending with h6 and Bh7. [There was no time to grab more pawns with 25...♘xg2 White's counterplay is coming too fast after 26.♖g1 ♘f3+ 27.♔d2 g6 28.♖g3 ♘d5 29.♖c3! and the other rook also arrives to the 8th rank. Black does not have more than draw after 29...e5 30.♖cc8 f6 31.♖d8+ ♔c6 32.♖bc8+ ♔b7 33.♖b8+ ♔c6=]

26.♔e2 ♔e7 Heading to g7.

27.h4 In general it is good to trade pawns for the defensive side. Also the Kf6-g7 plan becomes more shaky now because of the checks on g4. [Black is in time after 27.♖c1 27...♔f6 28.♖cc8 ♔g7+ The knight is saved, but it is still not easy to finish the development. Perhaps something like, Bg6, f6, Bf7, followed by h5-h4-g4 and Rh5 might rescue the black pieces from the cage.]

27...gxh4 28.♖xh4

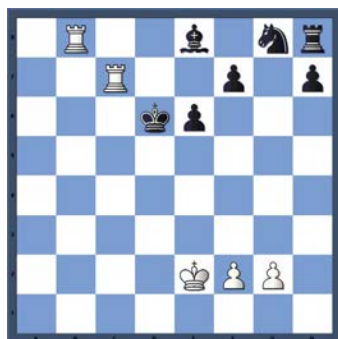


28...♘c6! We should never worry about Nakamura's resourcefulness in unusual position! He intends to rescue his pieces with Be8 and Nf6. [28...♘g6 is less clear because 29.♖c4 ♔f6 30.♖cc8 ♔g7 31.♖e8! preventing the f6-Bf7 idea and it is not obvious how Black could make progress.... Losing

one of the pawns, for instance f6, Rxe6 Bf7 in order to develop the knight next move leaves too limited material on board. Black could hardly win with the 2 minor pieces against the rook with only 2-2 pawns on the board, having them on the same side.]

29. ♖c4 [29. ♖g4 is also met by 29... ♕e8]

29... ♕e8! 30. ♖c7+ ♔d6?! A mistake which could have cost to a half point... [30... ♖f8 should have been played and Nf6 or Ne7 next move.]



31. ♖a7? Spoiling the chance. [It was very difficult to realize over the board, that the b5 square must be under the control of the rooks to avoid Bb5 in some lines! 31. ♖cb7! seems to save the game. Black has nothings better, than 31... ♘f6 (The hidden point is after 31... ♘e7 like it happened in the game, White has 32. ♖d8+! ♕e5 33. ♖bb8! and there is no check on b5, because White captures it with check!) 32. ♖xf7 should secure the draw for White fairly easily.]

31... ♘e7!! Brilliant idea! This is what Nakamura had in mind, when he moved his king to d6! In comparison to the Nf6 move, the f7 pawn is protected now! The hanging pieces are always saved by the tactical motif of Bb5 check.

32. ♖d8+ [32. ♖aa8 moves into 32... ♕b5+! and the bishop cannot be taken.; If White leaves from the b5 check, then

Black has 32. ♕e1 32... ♘c6 33. ♖a6 ♕c7 consolidating.]

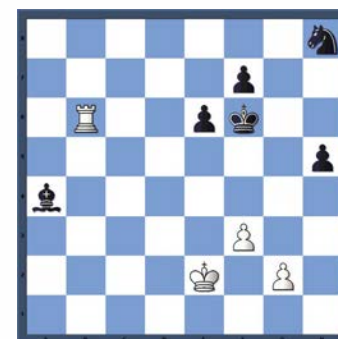
32... ♕e5! 33. ♖b7 Realizing the importance of the b5 square, but it is too late... [33. ♖xe7 runs again into 33... ♕b5+ 34. ♖d3 ♖d8! winning the full rook otherwise White could have saved the rook endgame with 3 vs 2.]

33... ♕f6! Protecting the knight and creating the threat of Bb5 by leaving the 5th rank and avoiding capturing it with check.

34. ♖db8 [The usual problem again, that 34. ♖bb8 allows 34... ♕b5+!; If White leaves from the b5 check with 34. ♕e1 he moves into another tactical motif 34... ♕c6! 35. ♖xh8 ♕xb7 36. ♖xh7 ♕xg2—+]]

34... ♘g6 The rook is protected now and Black is ready to move his bishop.

35. ♖b6 h5 36. f3 ♕a4 37. ♖xh8 ♘xh8 With huge efforts Nakamura successfully rescued his pieces and saved all of his pawns. The rest is just the matter of technique. Black improves his position move by move, he has all the time to make progress...



38. ♕e3 ♘g6 39. ♖a6 ♕b3 40. ♖a5 ♕d5 41. ♖a7 e5 Slowly advancing the pawns.

42. ♖a5 ♕e6 43. ♖b5 h4 Fixing the one on g2. If White manages to trade it with g3 it is also not a disaster. Black

creates a passed pawn from his extra pawn and with the help of the minor pieces he slowly promotes it.

44.♖b1 ♔g5 45.♗b5 f6 46.♗b7 ♘f4 47.♕f2 ♘h5 48.♗b6 ♙f5 49.♗b8 ♙g6 50.♗b4 ♘f4 Black does not need to hurry...

51.♗a4 ♙f7 52.♗a7 ♔g6 53.♗a1 ♙d5 54.♗d1 ♔g5 55.♗d2 f5 [55...f5 White resigned. Let's see some illustrative lines what happens if White tries to resist a bit longer 56.g3 (56.♗d1 56...e4 57.fxe4 ♙xe4—+) 56...hxg3+ 57.♕xg3 and here the easiest plan to win the game seems to be 57...♕f6 58.♕f2 ♕e6 59.♕g3 ♕d6 protecting the bishop in order to free the knight. Black plays Ne6 next move, followed by f4, fixing the weakness on f3 and winning it with Nd4!]

0-1

David vs. Goliath



Peter Zhdanov
Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this special column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week has brought us only 18 upsets - again! Nevertheless, the average gap between the ratings of the winners and the losers is relatively large - 445. The number of moves ranges from 22 in Rodriguez Alvarez (2122) - GM Lalith (2537), 1-0 to 78 in Battaglia (1690) - Gueci (2010), 1-0. The "Goliath of the week" title goes to the formidable-looking GM Denis Khismatullin (2673) who lost two games at the Dvorkovich Memorial. The Davids were FM Andrey Esipenko (2271) and FM Roman Oganisian (2304). In the next column we are expecting annotations to the Esipenko-Khismatullin game by the White player, one of the most promising Russian juniors, and his coach GM Dmitry Kryakvin.

"Check your facts" alert: when going over the latest TWIC I have taken note of two losses by GM Kevin Spraggett in the early rounds of Gibraltar Masters. However, my impression was that this wasn't really the case. After visiting the official site I have discovered that the results were indeed incorrect:

the Canadian GM won both games. Moreover, TWIC #1056 has been trying to convince me that Kevin has played two games against Pedro Godinho Marques in one tournament...In fact, such mistakes are quite widespread, so please make sure to consult the official sources of information when you stumble upon something supernatural. I am practicing what I preach, but occasional errors are inevitable.

Top-10:

Cretnik (2142) - Marn (1446), 0-1, [696](#) points
 Maltsevskiy (1760) - Osoblivi (2272), 1-0, [512](#) points
 Bayramov (2051) - Gasimov (2517), 1-0, [466](#) points
 Galmandakh (2240) - Motylev (2665), 1-0, [425](#) points
 Rodriguez Alvarez (2122) - Lalith (2537), 1-0, [415](#) points
 Drobnic (1915) - Vasiljevic (1507), 0-1, [408](#) points
 Esipenko (2271) - Khismatullin (2673), 1-0, [402](#) points
 Sevdimaliev (2505) - Asadli (2127), 0-1, [378](#) points
 Nemec (1808) - Kersic (2183), 1-0, [375](#) points
 Izzat (2424) - Bayramov (2051), 0-1, [373](#) points

Average gap: 445; White won 6 games, Black won 4 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) will be appreciated.

Puzzle section

(3) Heinemann, J(2160)-Ganguly, S(2595)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.01.27

1... -+



(4) Roiz, M(2592)-Heer, S(2157)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.01.17

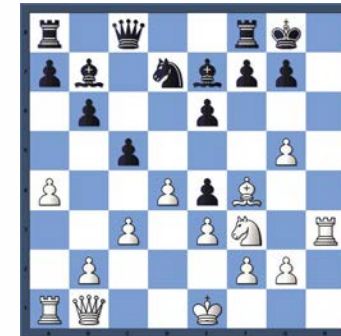
1. +-



(5) Rapport, R(2716)-Tari, A(2487)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.01.28

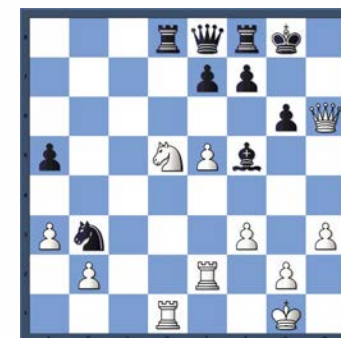
1. +-



(6) Jones, G(2671)-Melia, S(2473)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.01.28

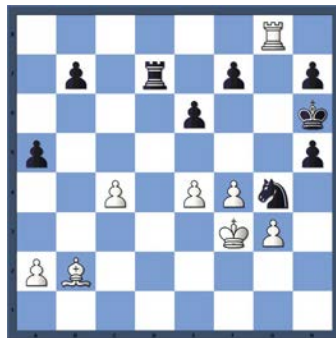
1. +-



(7) Vishnu, P(2463)-Sutovsky, E(2637)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.01.28

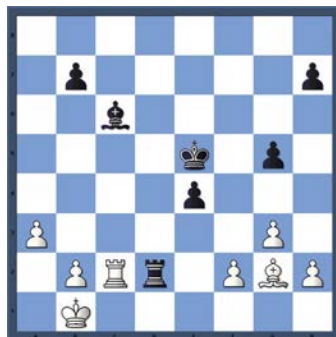
1. +-



(8) Matlakov, M(2695)-Muzychuk, M(2520)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.01.31

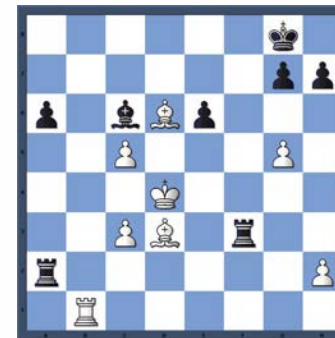
1... -+



(9) Muzychuk, M(2520)-Adhiban, B(2630)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.02.01

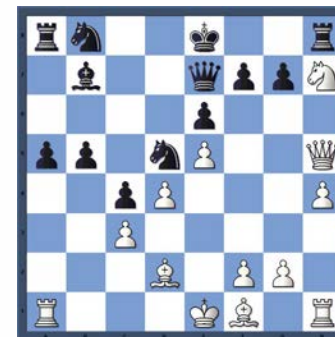
1... -+



(10) Donchenko, A(2511)-Motylev, A(2665)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.02.02

1... -+



(11) Negi, P(2669)-Enkhbat, T(2417)

Chinggis GM, 2015.01.31

1. +-



(12) Szlag, M(2456)-Socko, B(2611)

German league, 2015.02.01

1... -+



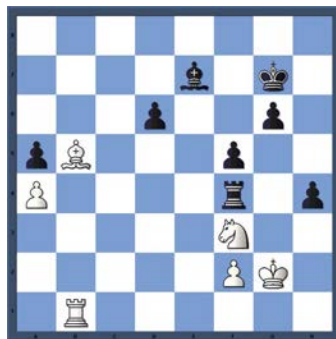
Endgame section

(13) Naiditsch, Arkadij (2706)
- Carlsen, Magnus (2865)

3rd GRENKE Chess Classic(3.3),
2015.02.04



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



After a very turbulent game where I had very good winning chances- which I missed in time trouble- we are looking at an interesting endgame. The first question should be to ask who is better here? Black has 3 pawns for the piece and opposite colored bishops. From a strategical point of view White's position should somehow be better, let's say in case of a rooks exchange it is clear that White will be doing better by attacking the a5 pawn and the other black pawns, but on the other hand in case the black pawns start to move the position should just be a draw.

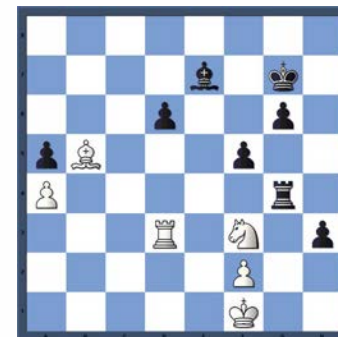
41.♖d1! I am not sure if this was the best move, but I liked the move a lot. My threat is simple, to play Rd4 or Nd4 next.

41...♖g4+ This is probably also the best.

42.♔f1 [In case of 42.♔h3 42...♖f4 I probably I probably don't have anything better than to go back to g2. 43.♔g2 (Of course not 43.♖d3? 43...g5) 43...♖g4+ and we are back in the same position.]

42...h3 I wasn't really sure if this move was really needed for Black. Of course it is great to have a passed pawn on h3, but on the other hand the h3 pawn could become a target and in case Black lost the h3 pawn the position should already be winning for White.

43.♖d3 with the simple idea of playing Nh2 next.



43...♟f6! A very strong move, using the fact that I can't take on d6. Black's idea should basically always be to play g5-g4 and connect the pawn structure, which I should of course avoid.

44.♘h2 I continue my strategy of playing against the h3 pawn. [In case of 44.♖xd6 44...♖f4 45.♖d3 g5 followed by g4 next, I think the position should be a draw.]

44...♖h4 45.♔g1! The beginning of a nice plan. First I need to move my king to free my knight from h2.

45...♟d4 46.♖f3 protecting the f2 pawn and at the same time playing against Black's idea of g5-g4 because now the f5 pawn is going to be hanging.

46...♔f6 47.♞f1 Now that the white king can easily stop the black h-pawn, it is time to bring the knight back into the game.

47...♙e5 48.♞e3 White already has the serious threat of playing Nc4 in a good moment.

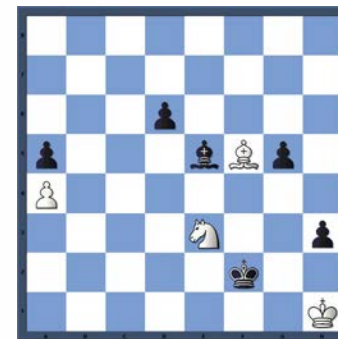
48...♙g5?! The World Champion starts to go into the wrong direction... [Black can't wait any longer and really needs to act fast to prevent me from being in time with the Nc4 move. 48...h2+! Of course it is very risky to put the pawn on h2 as it can now easily be attacked but Black is getting active play for it. 49.♔h1 ♖d4! The black rook will take a great position on d2. 50.♙g2 ♙g5 avoiding all the tricks. 51.♞h3 d5 and of course Black still has a serious fight for equality, but objectively the position should probably be very close to equal.]



49.♔h1! and this is probably the winning move of the game! Calm but deadly... As is often the case in endgames, the silent Kh1 creates the deadly threat of Nc4. [49.♞c4? was premature since after 49...♞g4+ 50.♔h1 Black saves the game with 50...♔h4! defending the h3 pawn. The position should be around equal now.]

49...♙f6?! It is strange that Carlsen didn't seize his best practical chance... [Probably the best practical choice would have been 49...♞f4!? and now White has 3 different options:

50.♞xf4 (It is very hard to say if White can win the position after 50.♞xf4 50...♞xf2 51.♞c4 attacking the e5 bishop and the a5 pawn. 51...♙f4 52.♞xa5 g5 and my feeling tells me that Black should be able to save the game, even if things are still pretty unclear.; 50.♞g3+ 50...♔h4 51.♞xg6 ♞xf2 52.♞h6+ ♙g3 53.♞f1+ ♙g4 54.♞e3+ ♙g3 leads to a forced draw.) 50...♙xf4 and again we are in an endgame where it is very difficult to say if White is winning or not. .. 51.♙e8 There are of course many other possibilities. 51...g5 52.♙d7 We can clearly see how good it is for White that the bishops are not of the same color, as Black can't defend his pawns from a double attack. 52...♙f3 53.♙xf5 ♙xf2



54.♞c4 and once again only an in-depth analysis could clarify whether White really has enough for a full point here.]

50.♞c4 Now the a5 pawn is falling.

50...g5 Black doesn't have anything better than to try and create counterplay as quickly as possible.

51.♞xa5 g4 52.♞d3 f4 and I am in time for

53.♞c4 stopping Black from playing g3 just in time. Here I started to feel that a win over the World Champion was very very close...



53...Rc7 I have to push my a-pawn and avoid the g3 move at the same time. [53...g3 of course didn't work since after 54.fxg3 fxg3 55.♘xe5 g2+ 56.♙h2 White is easily winning.]

54.♘xe5 is maybe not the best, but from a practical point of view it is a very logical move. Now I don't need to care about the unpleasant g3 threat anymore.

54...dxe5 55.a5 It is time to push the pawn.

55...Rc7 The rook must be activated.

56.♖a3 This is a risky move at first sight, but before playing it I calculated the complications until the end and hoped to be right.

56...♖c1+ This is Black's only chance. To wait for a6 and to play Ra7 is clearly not an option because of Bc6-Bb7 and the black rook would be trapped on a7.

57.♙h2

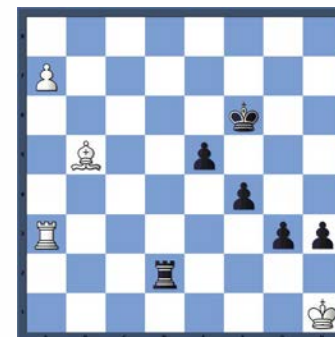


57...♖c2 Black will win the f2 pawn.

58.a6 ♖xf2+ 59.♙h1 Black has a huge armada of pawns advancing but White is just faster.

59...g3 60.a7 The bishop from b5 covers the f1 square.

60...♖d2 [60...♖b2 61.♖a1 wouldn't change anything...]



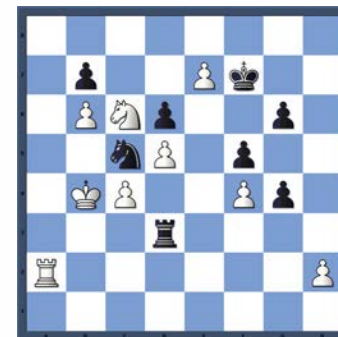
61.♖a1 and the game is over. Black can't stop White from playing a8Q and after a line like 61.... Rh2 62.Kg1 Rg2 63.Kf1 Rf2 64.Ke1 h2 65. a8Q, the queen covers the h1 square. I can tell you guys that there is no better feeling than beating the World Champion in a difficult, 6-hour game! :) **1-0**

**(14) Nyback, Tomi (2603)
- Braun, Arik (2549)**German league,
2015.01.31GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

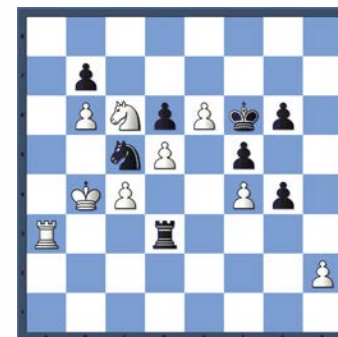
The players have reached a study-like endgame. White has an extra pawn and a huge protected passed pawn on e6, but Black seems to create an unbreakable fortress. The white king is also a bit trapped, sometimes Rb3 check can be unpleasant.

44. ♖c6+! The only one and an excellent attempt to break through! White sacrifices his knight to create even more passed pawns.

44...bxc6? Wrong decision, most probably based on a miscalculation. [Black should have tried to keep the pawn structure with 44...♙f6! 45. ♖a3! my teammate Arik Braun was rightly afraid of this move and White saves himself from the b3 check, the knight endgame is winning and if Black leaves the 3rd rank, White can already invade on a8. (Black must be very careful after 45.e7 45...♖b3+! It is necessary to insert this check before catching the pawn with Kf7. (45...♙f7? right away moves into



46. ♘e5+! The desperado knight continues his journey! 46...dxe5 47. ♙xc5 ♙xe7 48. fxe5+-) 46. ♙a5 ♙f7= and White cannot make progress.) However Black has

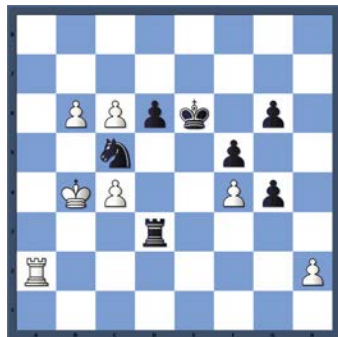


45...♖f3! A great resource! Black keeps the 3rd rank under control and the rook cannot be taken because the f-pawn becomes unstoppable. The game remains unclear after all! (45...♖xa3? loses to 46. ♙xa3 ♘d3 White has other wins too, but a pretty one is 47.e7 ♙f7 48. ♘d8+ ♙xe7 49. ♘xb7 ♘xf4 50. ♘c5! ♙d8 51. ♘e6+! ♘xe6 52. dxe6+- and one of the pawns promote.)]

45.dxc6! White is winning now, but it still requires very good technique! It is very important to keep the rook on a2 to keep control over the a3 square. After the invading of the rook, Black could have the option of Rb3 Ka5 Ra3. [45. ♖a7+ leads only to draw after 45...♙e8 (But not 45...♙f6?? because

of 46.♖f7#) 46.dxc6 (46.♖a8+= White can also give perpetual check.) 46...♖b3+ 47.♔a5 ♖a3+ 48.♔b5 ♖b3+ Black survives with perpetual.]

45...♖b3+ [45...♔xe6 is refuted by



46.♖e2+! An important intermediate check to send the king away from the connected pawns... 46...♔f7 47.c7! And now, when Kd7 does not work anymore, White advances his pawn and in the same time opens a shelter for the king on c6 against the checks... 47...♖b3+ 48.♔a5 ♖a3+ 49.♔b5 ♖b3+ 50.♔c6+--]

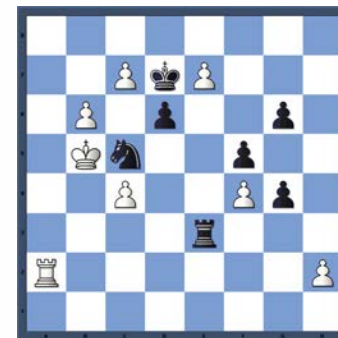
46.♔a5 ♔d8 [The only refutation of 46...♔xe6 is 47.♖e2! pinning the knight and White is ready to advance his passed pawns... 47...♔f6 48.c7+--]

47.c7+! ♔c8



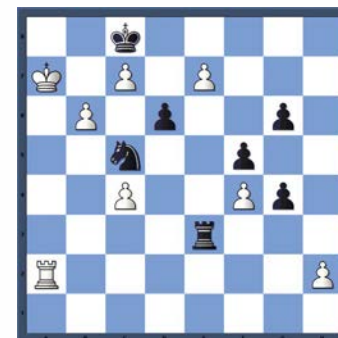
48.e7! Excellent play by White! He lures away the rook from the b-file to rescue his king from the edge of the board!

48...♔b7+ [48...♖e3 loses to 49.♔b5! Threatening with Ra8! 49...♔d7



50.c8=♖+! (But not 50.♖a8?? because of 50...♖b3+ and Ra3 next wins the rook and the game.) 50...♔xc8 51.♔c6! ♔b8 52.♖a7+-- (52.♔xd6 wins as well 52...♔b7+ 53.♔d7 ♔c5+ 54.♔d8 ♔b7+ 55.♔e8+-- White has too many passed pawns.)]

49.♔a6 ♔c5+ 50.♔a7 ♖e3 Black's clever idea to trap the white king with two checks seems to be successful! Kb5 does not work anymore and the e-pawn is also stopped. However Tomi Nyback finds another beautiful motif!

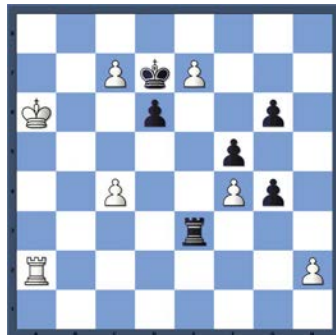


51.b7+! The key is again to rescue the king from the a-file and let the rook penetrate over a8!

51...♟xb7 52.♔b6! ♕d7 [52...♖b3+ 53.♔c6+- is over.]

53.♟xb7 ♖b3+ 54.♔a6 Unfortunately for Black, he cannot take any of the passed pawns...

54...♖e3 Black is already threatening with Kxc7 and Kb6 or Kb7 is met by a check on b3 and the rook goes back to e3. How could White make progress?



55.♖a5!! Another brilliant idea and Black runs out of defensive resources. White intends to play Kb7 because after Rb3 he already has Rb5.

55...♟xc7 [55...♖xe7 loses to 56.♔b7 ♖e8 57.♖d5 other moves are also good. c5 is coming next, while after 57...♖c8 58.♖xd6+!+- wins.]

56.♖e5! This is the point of the previous move and we can also see the reason why White has moved his king to a6 in move 54, to avoid getting mated after Ra3.

56...dxe5 57.e8=♔ The rest is clear!

57...exf4 58.♔xg6 ♖e5 59.c5 ♖d5 60.♔b6+ Black defended resourcefully and tried everything, but White's play was just amazing! **1-0**

Chess and the City. The Battle of the Sexes.



WGM Elisabeth Paehtz

Best rating: 2493

The Battle of the Sexes is THE highlight of the Gibraltar Chess Festival!

It was held for a third time in a row this year, and proves a bitter and merciless fight among the strongest men and women participants of the Master's tournament.

After a bitter defeat of the men's team in 2014 (lead by several-time winner of the Gibraltar Master tournament GM Nigel Short), it was time for revenge and in 2015, the men's team were true to their word.



(The women's winning Team of 2014) (from left to right: Cmilyte, Krush, Hoang, Sachdev, Tournament Organizer Brian Callaghan, Vojinovic, Paehtz, Zhukova)



(Strong but not strong enough - Team of 2014 lead by Team Captain Nigel Short)

Unfortunately, the team of Agdestein, van Kampen, Vachier, Dubov, Ganguly, Rapport back in 2014 turned out not to be competitive enough. Instead, the men sent out a much more serious and stronger team this year; but have a look yourself...



(From left to right: Nakamura, Wei Yi, Cheparinov, Ganguly, Svidler)

And their team captain...



(...Veselin Topalov)

Facing such opponents meant for a very tough upcoming match, so naturally we had to an alternative method of compensation...

Our new Team Captain Antoaneta Stefanova did not lose the moment of opportunity and requested a time bonus of an extra 2 minutes before the start of the fight. Taking into account that sport is involved, high heels could turn out to be a huge disadvantage, but obviously lacking such experience themselves the two male arbiters did not seem to be too convinced!



(Women's team in 2015 (from left to right: M.Muzychuk, Zhukova, Stefanova, Melia, Paehtz, Houska, Dronavalli, Sachdev)

Comparing both teams, I have to honestly admit that our chances were not too great this year, and eventually we had to face a bitter loss of 2,5 - 1,5.

Last but not least my last attempt of "I do not let you push the clock" cheating was applied, but this eventually did not help to change the final result. For more pictures about this great event, you too can have a look yourself at the official webpage of the Tradewise Gibraltar Festival 2015:

www.gibraltarchesscongress.com/photos.htm

www.gibraltarchesscongress.com/photos_js.htm

All pictures are taken by Sophie Triay ©

Clash of the Titans

(15) Nezhmetdinov, Rashid
- Tal, Mihail [B84]

URS-ch29(15),
1961.12.08



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e6 6.♙e2 a6
7.O-O ♚c7 8.f4



8...♘bd7 Black had a few other options to develop the pieces, for example [8...♙e7 9.a4 O-O 10.♚h1 ♘c6 11.♙e3 ♚e8 and the game transposes to the main Sheveningen line.]

9.g4 This is a typical reaction. White very often plays g4 with idea to push g5 and then the knight from f6 needs the d7 square which is now occupied. More accurate was [9.♙f3 White temporarily stops the b5 move and the bishop is useful on f3 anyway. 9...♙e7 10.♚h1 O-O 11.g4 with better version than in the game.]

9...b5 10.a3 [After 10.g5 Black of course plays 10...b4!]

10...♙b7 11.♙f3 ♘c5 12.♚e2



12...e5!? This kind of move is very risk because now the d5 and f5 squares are available to the white knights. More solid was [12...♙e7 13.g5 Now black has the d7 square for the knight! 13...♘fd7 14.b4 Otherwise Black will play Nb6 with good play, when White will need to lose some time to regroup his pieces like Bg2-Rf3-Rh3 to put pressure on the black king after 0-0. 14...♘a4 15.♘xa4 bxa4 16.♙b2 ♚c8∞It is very important to take control of the c-file and the c4 square, otherwise White will play c4-Rac1.; 12...h6 13.g5 hxg5 14.fxg5 ♘fd7 15.b4 ♘e5!? is an interesting idea. Black gets a pawn and the strong e5 square for the piece, with for example this forced variation: 16.bxc5 dxc5 17.♘b3 c4 18.♘d4 ♚d8 19.♙e3 ♙c5 20.♚ad1 ♚b6 21.♚f2 ♚xd4 22.♙xd4 ♘xf3+ 23.♚xf3 ♙xd4+ 24.♚g2 ♚c7 25.♚xf7+ ♚xf7 26.♚xf7 ♚xf7 27.♚xd4 ♙e7 with a better endgame for Black.]

13.♘f5 [13.♘d5 was promising for White as well and after 13...♘xd5 14.exd5↑White gets the useful c6 square.]

13...g6 14.fxe5 [14.♘e3 14...exf4 (14...♙e7 is too slow. 15.g5! ♘fxe4 16.♘ed5+—) 15.♘ed5 ♙xd5 16.exd5+ ♙e7 17.♙xf4 Now the question is whether Black manages to get control over the dark squares in time. 17...O-O 18.g5! limiting the black pieces, stopping a potential Bf6 and forcing Black to put the

knight on e8, not d7. 18...♖e8 19.♗ae1! The black pieces are losing coordination. 19...♙d8 (19...♗a7 20.b4 ♖a4 21.♖xa4 bxa4 22.c4±)



20.♗xe8! ♗xe8 21.♗xe8+ ♖g7 22.♙e3 The bishop joins the attack. 22...♖d7 23.♖e4 with a huge initiative for White.]

14...dxe5 15.♖h6 The idea is clear, White is going to take advantage of the f-file which is weak and put pressure on the f7 pawn.

15...♖e6 A logical move and one of the ideas is to play Nf4 to close the f-file.

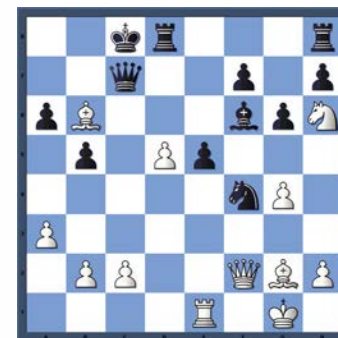
16.♙g2 ♙g7 [16...♖f4!? 17.♙xf4 exf4 18.e5 ♖d5! 19.♖xd5 ♙xd5 20.♙xd5 ♗c5+ 21.♗f2 ♗xd5 22.♗ad1∞]



17.♗xf6!? [17.♖d5 17...♖xd5 (17...♙xd5 18.exd5 ♖d4 19.♗f2

♗xc2 20.♙g5 ♗xf2+ 21.♗xf2 ♙xh6 22.♙xf6 O-O 23.d6 ♗ad8 24.g5 ♙g7 25.♙e7 White is not in a hurry with winning material and thanks to the strong bishops and the d6 pawn White keeps the pressure on.) 18.exd5 ♖d4 19.♗f2 f6 Black solves the problems with the f7 pawn and can escape with the king by castling queenside. The position is very complex.]

17...♙xf6 18.♖d5 ♗d8 [18...♙xd5 19.exd5 ♗b6+ (19...♖d4 20.♗f2 ♗a7 21.♙e3 (21.♗xf6 21...♖f3+ 22.♙f1 ♗g1+—) 21...♙h4 22.♗xh4 ♖f3+ 23.♙xf3 ♗xe3+ 24.♙g2 e4 25.♗f1 exf3+ 26.♗xf3 looks dangerous for Black.) 20.♙e3 (20.♙h1 20...♖d8 protecting the f7 pawn, with an unclear position.) 20...♖f4 21.♗f2 (21.♗e1? 21...♖xg2—) 21...♗c7 22.♗e1 O-O-O 23.♙b6



23...♙h4! 24.♙xc7 ♙xf2+ 25.♙xf2 ♖xc7 26.♖xf7 ♗df8 27.♖xh8 ♖d3+ 28.♙e2 ♖xe1 29.♖xg6 hxg6 30.♙xe1 ♗f4 31.h3 ♖d6 32.♙e2 g5± and Black should win.]

19.♗f2 White follows his plan to put pressure pawn on f7.

19...♖f4 20.♙xf4 exf4



21.e5 White could also play [21.♖xf4 21...♗d4+ (21...♗xd5 22.exd5 ♖b6+ 23.♔h1 O-O-O The king must escape. 24.♗xf7 ♗xb2 25.♖f1 ♖hf8 26.d6! with the idea Qe4 and the black king is still in some trouble. White has a strong attack.) 22.♔h1 ♗xd5 23.exd5 ♖f6 24.♖e4+ (24.♖c7 24...♖a7 25.♖c8+ ♖d8 26.♖e1+ ♖e7 27.♖xe7+ ♔xe7 28.♖b7+ ♖d7 29.d6+ ♔xd6 30.♗xf7+ ♔e7 31.♗xh8 ♗xh8 and being a pawn up will not be enough to win the game.) 24...♖e5 25.♖e1 f6 26.d6! ♖c8 27.♖d1 ♖xe4 28.♗xe4 ♗xb2 29.d7+ ♔e7 30.dxc8=♖ ♖xc8 The extra pawn and the bad knight on h6 give Black good practical chances.]



21...♗xe5?? The decisive mistake. Now the rook is joining the attack! Black should play [21...♗h4 22.♖d4 (22.♖c5 22...♖c8; 22.♗f6+ 22...♖xf6 23.exf6 ♗xf2+ 24.♔xf2 ♗xg2 25.♖e1+ ♔d7!]

26.♖e7+ ♔c6∞) 22...♖f8 stopping the e6 move. 23.♖d1 White has a strong initiative but Black is still in the game.]

22.♖e1 f6 Other moves didn't help either... [22...♗xd5 23.♖xe5+ ♗e6 24.♗c6+ ♔f8 25.♗xa8 ♖d6 (25...♖xa8 26.♖xe6 fxe6 27.♖d4 ♔e7 28.♖g7+ ♔d6 29.♗f7+ ♔d5 30.♖e5+-) 26.♖xf4 ♔g7 27.♗f3 f6 28.♖e4 ♖xf4 29.♖xf4 ♔xh6 (29...♖f8 30.g5+- with the idea Ng4.) 30.♖xf6 ♖e8 31.h4 and White is just a pawn up.; 22...♖d6 23.♖d4 O-O-O 24.♖xe5 ♖hf8 25.g5!± followed by Ng4, with good cooperation between the white pieces.]

23.♗xf6+- White is winning very simply now.

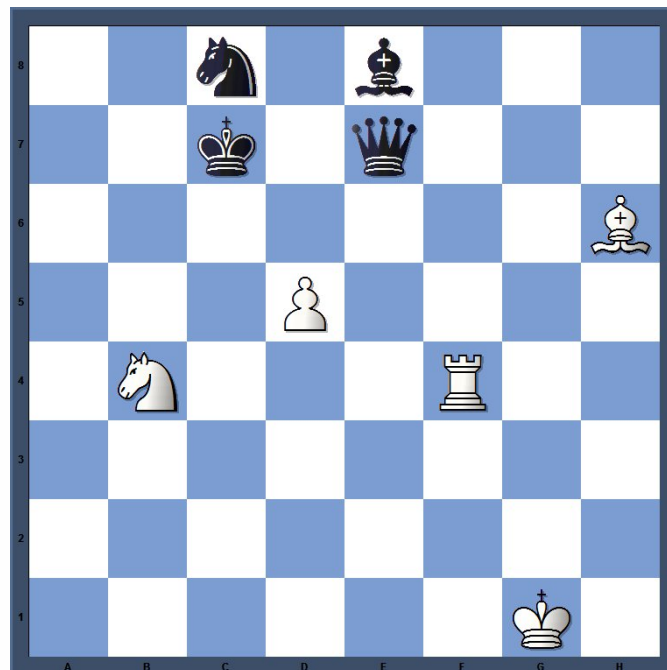
23...♖xf6 24.♖d4 ♔f8 25.♖xe5 ♖d8 [25...♖d8 26.♖e8+ ♔g7 27.♖e7+-]

26.♖f5+ gxf5 27.♖xh8+ ♔e7 28.♖g7+ ♔e6 29.gxf5+ 1-0

Surprise section / study

(16) Sehwers

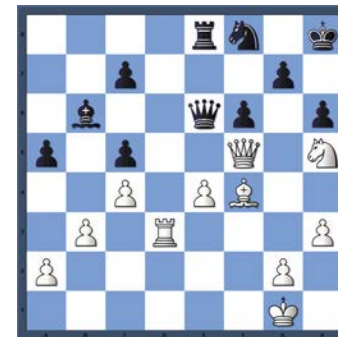
1. =



Solutions

(17) Carlsen, M(2862)-Radjabov, T(2734)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.20



31. ♖xg7! ♔xg7 32. ♕h5! [32. ♖g3+? 32... ♔f7]

32... ♗h7 33. ♘h6+ ♔h8 34. ♕g6! +- ♕g8 [34... ♖g8
35. ♖d8! ♖xd8 36. ♕g7#]

35. ♘g7+! ♕xg7 36. ♕xe8++-

(18) Caruana, F(2820)-Hou Yifan(2673)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.20



45...♖xh4+! 46.gxh4 f3+! 47.♔g3! [47.♔h2 47...♗d6+-+;
 47.♔h3 47...♗e6+! 48.♔h2 ♗d6+-+]
47...♗d6+! 48.♕f4 ♗g6+ 49.♕g5 ♗d6+ 50.♕f4=

(19) Saric, I(2666)-Giri, A(2784)

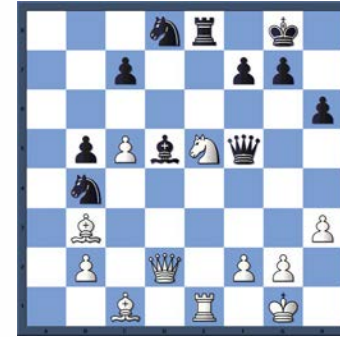
Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.21



30...♖xc3! 31.♗xc3 ♖xe4 32.♗d3 ♖c3+! 33.♗xc3 ♕xg2
34.♗c8+ ♕e7±

(20) So, W(2762)-Saric, I(2666)

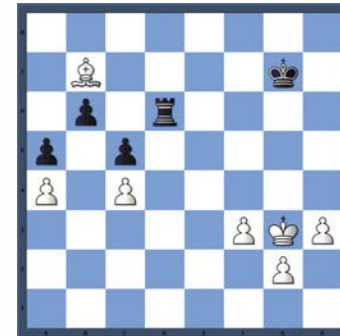
Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.23



24.g4! [24.♕xd5 24...♖xe5 25.♗xb4 ♖xd5]
24...♗f6 25.♕xd5 ♖xd5 [25...♖xe5 26.♗xb4 ♖xd5 27.♖e8+
 ♕h7 28.♗e4+-+]
26.♗xd5+-

(21) Wojtaszek, R(2744)-Ding Liren(2732)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.23



62...b5! 63.cxb5 [63.axb5 63...a4 64.♕e4 a3 65.♕b1 ♖d1+-+]
63...c4 64.♕e4 c3 65.♕f4 ♖d2 0-1 [65...♖d2 66.♕e3 ♖xg2
 67.f4 c2+-+]

(22) Vachier-Lagrave, M(2757)-Aronian, L(2797)

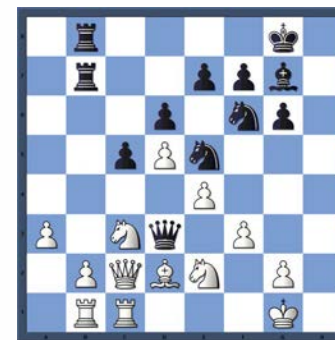
Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.24



33. ♖e4! 1/2 [33. ♖e4 33... ♖xe1 (33... ♖xd4 34. ♖f6+ ♔h8 (34... ♔g7 35. ♖xh5+ gxh5 (35... ♔h6 36. ♖f4+! ♔g7 37. ♖h5+=) 36. ♖g5+ ♔h7 37. ♖xh5+=) 35. ♖g5 ♖d2 36. ♖e3 ♔g7 37. ♖xh5+ ♔g8 38. ♖f6+ ♔g7=; 33... ♖xd4 34. ♖f6+ ♔h8 (34... ♔g7 35. ♖xh5+! ♔h6 36. ♖f4+! ♔g7 37. ♖h5+=) 35. ♖g5 ♖d2 36. ♖e3! ♔g7! 37. ♖xh5+ ♔g8 38. ♖f6+=) 34. ♖f6+ ♔g7 (34... ♔h8 35. ♖g5!) 35. ♖xh5+ gxh5 36. ♖g5+ ♔h7 37. ♖xh5+=]

(23) Jobava, B(2727)-Radjabov, T(2734)

Wijk aan Zee, 2015.01.25



20... ♖xc2? [20... ♖xf3+! 21. gxf3 ♖xf3 22. ♖f1 (22. ♖f4 22... g5! (22... ♖h5!?) 23. ♖g3 (23. ♖h2 23... ♖g4 24. ♖f1 ♖h3—+) 23... ♖g4 24. ♖f1 ♖d4+! 25. ♖xd4 ♖xg3+ 26. ♖g2 ♖xg2+ 27. ♖xg2 ♖e3+ 28. ♖f2 cxd4—+) 22... ♖g4+ 23. ♖f2 ♖h4+ 24. ♖f3 (24. ♖g2 24... ♖g4 25. ♖f4 g5 26. ♖g3 ♖e3+ 27. ♖f2 ♖xg3+ 28. ♖xg3 ♖xc2—+) 24... ♖g4—+ 25. ♖h1 ♖f2+! 26. ♖xg4 f5+! 27. exf5 (27. ♖g5 27... ♖f6+ 28. ♖xg6 ♖g2+ 29. ♖xf5 ♖f8—+ 30. ♖bg1 ♖e5+ 31. ♖e6 ♖f6#) 27... ♖b4+!! 28. axb4 ♖xb4+ 29. ♖f4 (29. ♖e4 29... ♖xe2+—+) 29... ♖g2+! 30. ♖g3 (30. ♖h4 30... ♖f6#) 30... ♖xc2—+]

21. ♖xc2 ♖c4 22. a4∞

(24) Haast, A(2352)-Shankland, S(2652)

Wijk aan Zee B, 2015.01.25



34...♖xh2+! 35.♔xh2 [35.♔g1 35...♗h5--]

35...♘g4+! 36.♔g1 [36.fxg4 36...♗xf2--]

36...♘xf2 37.♔xf2 [37.♙xf5 37...♘d1 38.♙d3 ♘xb2 39.♙xb5 a4--] 37...♗c8

(25) Khismatullin, D(2673)-Korneev, O(2591)

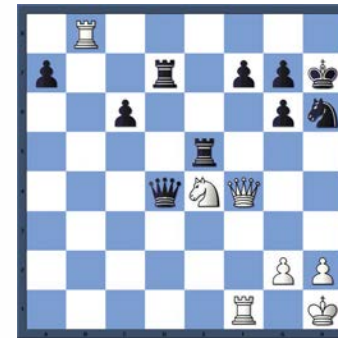
Dvorkovich memorial, 2015.01.21



43...♖dxd6! 44.♗a3 [44.♗f3 44...♖d1--; 44.exd6 44...♖e3! 45.♗d2 ♗xg3+ 46.♔g1 ♖e1+--] 44...♖d1--

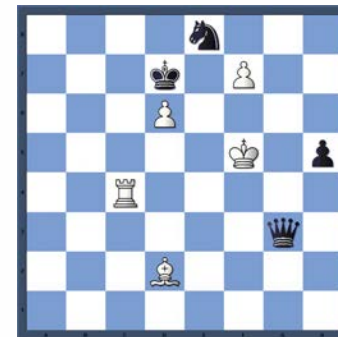
(26) Mekhitarian, K(2565)-Umetsubo, C(2311)

Brazilian Championship, 2015.01.20



30.♗xh6+!! 1-0 [30.♗xh6+ 30...gxh6 (30...♔xh6 31.♖h8#) 31.♘f6+ ♔g7 32.♖g8#]

(27) Birnov



1.f8=♘+! ♔xd6 [1...♔d8 2.♙a5+ ♘c7 3.♙xc7+ ♔e8 4.d7+ ♔f7 5.♙xg3+-]

2.♙b4+! ♔d5 3.♖c5+! ♔d4 [3...♔d6 4.♖c3+ ♔d5 5.♖xg3+-]

4.♘e6+! ♔e3 5.♖c3+ ♔f2 6.♙c5+! ♔g2 7.♘f4+! ♔h2 8.♙g1+! ♗xg1 [8...♔xg1 9.♖xg3+-] 9.♖h3#



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 155

13th of February 2015

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Editorial Preface

Magnus Carlsen wins his second Super Tournament in a row, scoring 4,5/7, the same as your commentator Naiditsch, and winning the tiebreak in the armageddon game with the white pieces. This exciting tiebreak has been analysed for you by Arkadij in the current issue.

The 3rd place was shared by Michael Adams and Fabiano Caruana, both on 4/7. Anand result of 2.5/7. And Aronian's 3.5/7 were both somewhat disappointing.

The Moscow Open was won by Invarkiev with a fantastic 8/9, which brings his ELO very close to 2700. The second place was shared by Korobov, Vallejo, Petrosian and Artemiov, all with 7/9.

The female section was won by Lei Tingjie with 8/9, 2nd place went to Goryachkina Aleksandra and 3rd to Mirzoeva Elmira with 7/8.

In the current issue you will also find the final report on the Gibraltar Open and very exciting articles by Khalifman and Zhdanov!

Already this week we will be able to follow another Super Event in Zurich, with the participation of Carlsen, Caruana, Nakamura, Aronian, Karjakin, and Anand.

Enjoy your "Top GM Secrets Nr 155"!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Six best games of the past week



GM Arkadij Naiditsch

Best rating: 2737

We are in the last round of Grenke Chess Classics 2015. I am on +2 and playing my game with White pieces against Aronian. Magnus Carlsen is having same points and playing White against Bacrot. Half a point behind us is playing Caruana with Black against Baramidze. In case of same points-there is a tiebreak for the first place. I started my game with a save opening where I quickly got a promising position, so after around 3 hours of play, I reached a rook endgame which I though is close to winning. As well the position of Magnus Carlsen been looking very promising against Bacrot. We went into short time trouble where I clearly missed good winning chances which made me very upset, cause I been almost sure that Magnus has meanwhile won his game, but... the World Champion has blundered away his winning position and agreed already shortly after move 40 to a draw. My position still remained a bit better, but it was just a draw, after another hour of trying I had to shake the hand with a draw offer. I been very upset not to win it but felt as well a bit happy about that in worse case I share the places 1-3 and still have my chances in the tiebreak. Caruana been doing very well against Baramidze and it looked like there is going to be a tiebreak with 3 players. After a short press conference, my wife and me desided to have a small snack to have more energy for the upcoming

match against the World Nr1 and World Nr2 and of course had the Caruana game running on our mobile phones. Caruanas game remained a rolercoaster between win and a draw, so finally, after over 6 hours of playing Baramdze held the draw-it ment a match against Magnus Carlsen for the first place. I been very excited and happy to compete with the best in a mini match out of 2 games with time control of 10m plus 2 second per move for the title of Grenke Chess Classics 2015. Meanwhile we had already 20 to 10pm, and the organizers had called me that the match with Carlsen will start at around 10pm. You can imagine, in case Caruana would have won his game how late the tournament might have finished -I would guess not earliar than 2am ! I think many top players are very scared of Magnus, for me it was pure excitement. I am not bad in rapid chess, but I am not good at all in blitz, so I though my best chances are in 10m +2 second rather than in case of 1-1 in blitz wih 5 min +2 second. So, let us take a look how the match would developed.

(1) Carlsen, Magnus (2865)
- Naiditsch, Arkadij (2706) [E11]

3rd GRENKE Classic TB(1),
 2015.02.08

The tiebreak has begun for me with a horrible game! I came out nicely out of opening, but started to make very bad desicion and ended up in totally hopeles endgame where I just had no moves. A terrible loss :)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♙b4+ I like to play 3...Bb4, it is a save line where as Black You dont need to know too much theory

4. ♘bd2 [4. ♙d2 is the other main line]

4...b6 5.a3 Bacrot continued against me with 5.g3 but of course 5.a3 is one of the main moves

5...♙xd2+ 6. ♖xd2 first Qd2 is looking like a strange move, but the White bishop is going to take a nice position on b2

6...O-O 7.e3 ♙b7 in this line it is very important for Black to keep control over the e4 square



8.b4?! I don't think this move is the best, it gives to Black a direct play on the Queen side. Maybe more careful is 8.b3 or 8.Be2

8...a5! I think it is the right plan! [Another typical idea for Black is to play 8...♘e4 9. ♖c2 f5 but I think White is having a better play after 10. ♙b2 followed by Be2 and short castle with the idea of playing Ne1 and f3]

9. ♙b2 axb4 10.axb4 ♘e4 the knight's position on e4 can't be bad

11. ♖c2 ♖xa1+ 12. ♙xa1 now I had a lot of different options how to go on

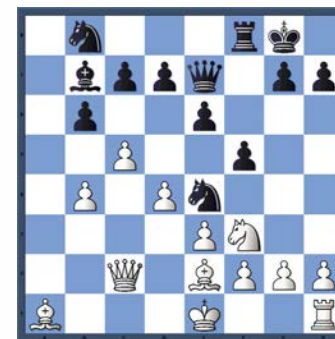
12...♖e7 quite a logical move, it is not that simple for White to defend the b4 pawn in a nice way [but I had a better option 12...♘a6! using the moment that White can't play b5 13. ♙c3

(in case of 13.b5 13...♘b4 14. ♖b3 ♖a8 Black is great) 13...♖e7 and Black's position is a bit better]

13.c5 [maybe White could have tried 13.b5 13...♖b4+ 14. ♘d2 but in a rapid game it is looking like a risky try]

13...f5 very logical, gaining even more control over the e4 square

14. ♙e2 avoiding tricky with Ng5 of Black



14...♘c6 not a bad move, but clearly not the most practical one [14...♙a6 would have been a normal choice. With the exchange of bishops Black is requiring to have a normal position]

15. ♙c3! a very strong move and clearly the best way of defending the b4 pawn

15...bxc5?! I start to play in a wrong direction [much more simple was 15...♖a8 16.O-O ♖e8 with the idea of Ne7-Nd5 and I think position remains around equal]

16.dxc5 White needs to take with the d pawn to have a dangerous practical idea of playing b5 in a good moment

16...♖a8 [my initial idea was to play 16...♘xc3 17. ♖xc3 ♖f6 but I understood that after 18. ♖xf6 gxf6 19.b5 the endgame could be very dangerous for Black]

17.0-0 ♖xc3 What else to play?! To let White keep the bishop pair seemed to me to be a bad option

18.♔xc3 ♕f6?! and another move which maybe costs me already the game

19.♕d2! holding the b4 pawn and same time attacking d7 pawn and threatening the b5 move. Things start to look horrible for me

19...♖d8 what else to play ?!

20.b5 ♖e5 [20...♖e7 is looking as well very bad]

21.♖xe5 ♕xe5 22.c6 and from a promising position after the opening, I am already almost lost

22...♗c8



23.♖d1! another great move by Carlsen, forcing me to play d5 leaving my bishop dead on c8 forever

23...d5 24.♕d4 White is following its strategy

24...♕xd4 25.exd4 ♖f8 26.f4 and my bishop is out of the game. Position is totally lost and the rest doesn't need to be commented any longer. I been wondering after such a game if I can recover in the second one with White?!

26...♖e7 27.♖a1 g6 28.♖f2 ♖d6 29.♖a3 ♖f8 30.h4 ♖e7 31.h5 ♖g8 32.hxg6 hxg6 33.♖h3 g5 34.fxg5 ♖d6 35.♖h6

♖e7 36.♗f3 e5 37.♖h7+ ♖d6 38.dxe5+ ♖c5 39.♖xc7 ♖xb5 40.♗xd5 1-0

**(2) Naiditsch, Arkadij (2706)
- Carlsen, Magnus (2865) [C49]**

3rd GRENKE Classic TB(2),
2015.02.08

I needed to win this game, so all or nothing

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 4.♘c3 Lately I used to play 4 knights in couple of game, it is more tricky than it looks like :)

4...♙b4 one of the most solid moves

5.O-O O-O 6.d3 d6 7.♙g5 ♘e7 Usually Black is taking on c3 before playing Ne7

8.♖e1?! this move I played fast, because in the lines with Bxc3 bxc3 the Re1 move is usual, but now it is making not much sense

8...c6 9.♙a4 to go with the bishop on c4 would mean to get d5 at some moment

9...♘g6 10.♙b3 h6 my bishop has to leave the g5 square

11.♙d2



11...♙g4! excellent move, using that I cant play h3-g4

12.h3 ♙h5 so, the things are horrible pretty bad for me. I need to win the game and my position is looking everything else than good here. The only advantage is, there are a lot of pieces on the board and we are playing a rapid game-so many things can happen

13.g3! I think I am taking a good practical chance. I cant play the immediate g4, but I want to improve my King first to g2 and maybe then to have the idea of playing Rh1 and g4 somewhere [13.g4 13...♘xg4 14.hxg4 ♙xg4 and I can do nothing against Nh4-Qf6 of Black]

13...d5 very logical, but not sure from practical point of view the best choise. Maybe just Qd7 followed by Rae8 been safer for Black

14.♔g2 now Black is having again a lot of different options which is good in a long game, but in rapid sometimes it makes lose a lot of time

14...d4 not sure if this was the best Black could have done. I am still for Qd7

15.♘e2 my knight is going to g1! from where I will be able to play g4 in the future

15...♙xf3+ 16.♔xf3 ♙xd2 17.♚xd2 things are starting to get unclear. In case I will be in time now for Kg2 and f4 I can might be clearly better! My bishop on b3 could became a beast!

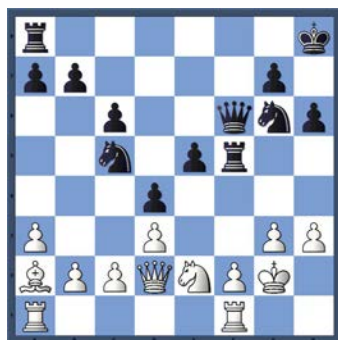


17...♞d7! good move. Black knight is going to c5 to take my bishop away

18.a3 as well a move which is needed [18.♞g2 18...♞c5 and probably White is not worse, but I cant be better eather]

18...♞h8 19.♞g2 ♞c5 20.♞a2 f5 Right now we both had already less than 2 minutes on the clock, and the position is very complicated

21.exf5 ♞xf5 22.♞f1 ♞f6



23.f4! a very good practical choise. Black is very active, but we should not forget how strong the bishop on a2 can became when position will be opened

23...♞f8 24.♞ae1 My oponent started to get really low on time

24...h5 instinctive move which is super logical, idea is playing

h4 next [to a better endgame for White would lead 24...exf4 25.♞xf4 ♞xf4+ 26.♞xf4 ♞xf4 27.♞xf4 ♞xf4 28.gxf4 ♞xf4 29.b4 followed by Re7 and being a pawn down probably I am having a better position]

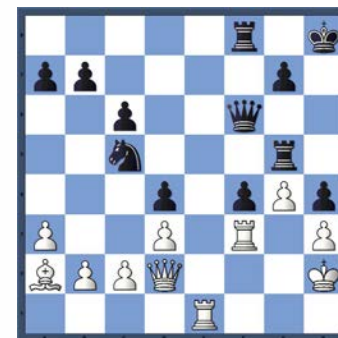
25.♞f3 h4 a very tricky position to play just with under 30 seconds on the clock

26.g4 [26.fxe5 would have been of course stronger]

26...♞xf4+ 27.♞h2 but this has been my original plan

27...♞g5 [we both has missed the Black could play the 27...♞g5! with a very unclear play]

28.♞xf4 exf4



29.b4! I am taking over the game

29...♞d7 30.♞e6 ♞d8 31.♞e1! winning control over the e file and same time attacking the h4 pawn, the game is running on just 2 seconds increament

31...♞b5 32.a4 ♞b6 33.♞e7 I am going for the h4 pawn

33...♞f6 34.♞xh4+ [34.g5 would win the game in one move]

34...♞h7 35.♞e6 and the things are unclear again

35...♞f6 36.♞f5 ♞h6 37.♞e1 ♞d6 38.♞e8+ ♞f8 here we were already just banging the moves



39. ♖e7? a horrible move, but I have almost lost on time :)

39... ♜xe7 40. ♞xe7 ♜xb4 41. ♞e8 ♜f6 42. ♞xf4 and the position is again totally unclear

42... g6 43. g5 ♜f7 44. ♞h4+ ♖g7 45. ♙e4 ♜b2 46. ♖g3 ♜xc2 47. ♜f4 What a crazy game. Still things remain very unclear

47... ♜c5 48. h4 ♜a5 49. ♜xf7+ ♖xf7 50. ♜b8 and White is back on being better

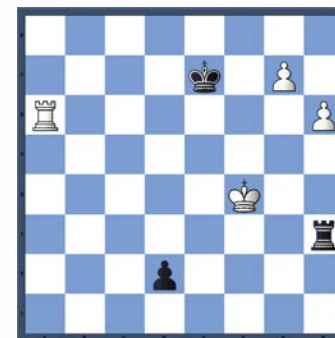
50... b5 51. ♜b7+ ♖e6 52. axb5 cxb5 53. ♖f4 it is actually a very unpleasant position for Black to play with just few second left on the clock, and my situation been quite simple-I needed a win!

53... ♜a2 54. ♜xb5 ♜f2+ 55. ♖g3 ♜e2 56. ♜a5 so slowly I start to collect Blacks material



56... ♞d7 57. ♜a6+ ♖e7 58. ♙xg6 ♞e5 59. ♙e4 ♞xd3 60. ♙xd3 ♜e3+ 61. ♖f4 ♜xd3 62. h5 the pawns are running

62... ♜h3 63. h6 d3 64. ♜xa7+ ♖e6 65. ♜a6+ ♖f7 66. g6+ ♖e7 67. g7 d2



68. g8=♖ And I win this crazy fighting back. I am back into the match with been looking like almost lost for win. 2 blitz games are to come with a control of 5min +2 second per move. Here I though Carlsen should be a big favourite over me knowing his excellent blitz skills, but still I wanted to give the World Champion a good fight **1-0**

(3) Carlsen, Magnus(2865)
- Naiditsch, Arkadij(2706) [E11]

3rd GRENKE Classic TB(3),
 2015.02.09

So I am Black again in the first game of the blitz match

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♗f3** ♚b4+ **4.♗bd2** b6 and we do play the same opening cause I been sure that I could improve my play from the last game

5.e3 Carlsen is switching to other "usual" set up

5...♙b7 **6.♙d3** c5 it is important for Black to play the early c5 and cxd4

7.O-O cxd4 **8.exd4** now the Black bishop from b4 can go back to e7

8...O-O **9.a3** ♙e7 **10.b4** and again I think that to put the pawn on b4 is not the best. The right choise should be b3



10...a5! forsing White into playing b5

11.b5 d5 **12.♙b2** ♗bd7 and now we can see how unlucky is the position of the White bishop on b2

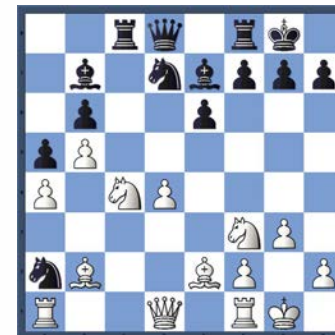
13.a4 ♖c8 **14.♖c1** dxc4 **15.♗xc4** ♗d5 I want to play Nf4 next

16.g3 covering the f4 square but the diagonal a8-h1 is very open now. First I been very happy with my position, and in a normal classical game I guess I would find the right way to continue, but in a blitz game it is important to take a fast desicion, and I didnt want to play N7f6 because of Nfe5. So what else to do?!

16...♗b4 not a bad choise. In case You dont know what to play-attack something!

17.♙e2 of course White cant give up his White squares bishop

17...♗a2 **18.♖a1**



18...♙xf3?! and this move is just a desaster. I totally forgot that White will place his bishop on c6 [18...♗b4 is giving to Black a normal play, maybe White got nothing better than to get back on c1 with his rook]

19.♙xf3 ♖xc4 **20.♖xa2** ♗f6 I need to get my knight on d5 as fast as possible

21.♙c6 ♗d5 first I been very scared to lose the exchange, but then I though that even if somehow White will manage to win the exchnage I will probably have some play because of my great knight ond5

22.♙e2 ♖b4 **23.♖d1** Magnus is bringing his pieces into the game-very logical, but missing my next move



36...Rb4 and the position is a total draw. Well, not a bad game for a blitz one and a clearly good start for me my holding with the Black pieces. The situation is getting more exciting. In case I win my White won I am could be the champion!
1/2-1/2

23...Rb3! it is funny, but White cant catch my rook which keeps on controlling the 3rd rank, and in case the rook cant be caught, I should be doing fine here

24. Kg2 Qd6 I am getting my Queen on b4

25. Rc2 Bb4 26. Bda1 White wants to play Ba3 next

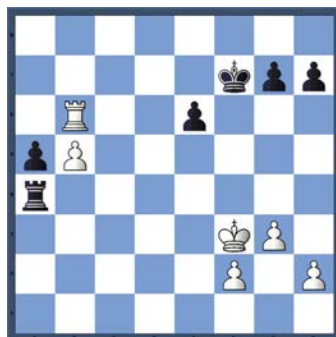
26...Rc8 and I play the save Rc8 calculating that I seem not to lose any material

27. La3 as well it is hard to find anything better for White

27...Qc3 28. Qxc3 Rxc3 and the exchanges are forced

29. Lxd5 Rxa3 30. Rxa3 La3 31. Lxe6 fxe6 32. Rxa3 Rc4 I am winning back the pawn

33. Qf3 Rxd4 34. Rc3 Rxa4 35. Rc6 Qf7 36. Rxb6



(4) Naiditsch, Arkadij (2706)
- Carlsen, Magnus (2865) [C67]

3rd GRENKE Classic TB(4),
2015.02.09

And what a chance I had to win against the great Magnus Carlsen...when I look back now I feel a bit of pity not to have find the right continuation, but if we look at the sercumstances, I should clearly not be. It was already almost midnight, we both been very tired and to play on 2seconds per move is everything else then easy. Another fighting game ended in a draw

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 4.O-O ♘xe4 5.d4 ♘d6
6.♙xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♘f5 8.♙xd8+ ♔xd8 The Berlin
endgame, Magnus loves it and I like it as well

9.c4!? it is a rare move which I already have played couple of
times

9...♔e8 10.♘c3 ♙e6 11.b3 ♙e7 12.♘e4 ♖d8



13.♙b2 all things been pretty normal till here, but my
oponent has spend already quite some time

13...h5 a usual move for Berlin, Black wants to get the rook
out of h8 over the h file

14.♖ad1 b5 what a risky desicion by Black! [I been expectin
more a move like 14...h4 but maybe White is doing a bit better
here after 15.♘fg5 but again it is really hard to say in Berlin
when it is really better and when not]

15.♘fg5 what can be more logical then to attack the e6
bishop!

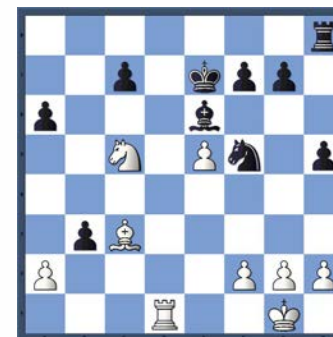
15...♙xg5 16.♘xg5 a6 seems like Magnus has no clear plan
[maybe Black should have tried 16...bxc4 17.♖xd8+ ♔xd8
18.♘xe6+ fxe6 19.bxc4 ♔c8 20.♖d1 ♖d8 21.♖xd8+ ♔xd8 and
I dont know if White do have realistic chances of winning this
position, but what is sure, that Black has to defend here very
well and White is having no chances oflosing]

17.♙c3 c5?! and this is really looking already strange. The
pawn on c5 is just weak

18.♖xd8+ here I started to lose a lot of time not knowing
if I should play Ne4 immediately or later. This was stupid.
Time matters much more in a blitz game then to be perfectly
accurate

18...♔xd8 19.♖d1+ ♔e7 20.♘e4 bxc4 21.♘xc5 so it is easy
to see that White is doing much better here. The knight on f5
is out of game

21...cxb3



22.axb3 [first I thought that I might have the Bb4 but then I found that even after 22...b4 22...c8 the move Bb4 been not useful at all]

22...Rb8 Black is getting the rook into the game

23.b4?! [in any case I should have taken on a6 23.dxa6 23...xb3 24.Rb1 Bb6 25.dxc7 Bb7 and maybe Black got some drawing chances-but in any case White is a clear pawn up]

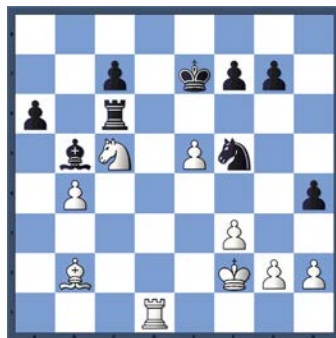
23...Rb6 Now Black's position is relatively safe again. From now on we both had under 1 minute on the clock

24.f1 I try to get my King into the center

24...c4+ 25.e1 b5 26.f3 King will be nicely placed on f2

26...h4 27.f2 c6 maybe Black wants to play somewhere a5

28.b2



28...e8! a very good move on such a short time. Black is planning to get the knight out over the e7 square

29.Rc1 having just few seconds, I decided that it is time to make a draw-and yes, I am not very experienced in playing blitz game, it has been not a great decision. I should have continued with keeping the position the way it is

29...e7 30.b3 I want to force a draw which is going very wrong

30...d5 31.Rxc6 xc6 how to defend the b4 pawn now

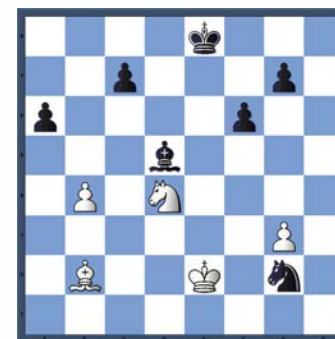
32.a3 what an ugly bishop on a3

32...f4 33.g3?! of course just a blunder

33...d3+ 34.e3 hxg3 35.hxg3 xe5 36.f4 probably I am already close to lost, but as well Magnus is having just some seconds

36...xf3 37.b2 f6 38.d4 e1 [38...e5 and probably nothing would save me any longer]

39.e3 d5 40.e2 g2



41.f2 suddenly the knight on g2 is almost caught

41...d7 42.c3 g6 43.f3 g5 44.xf6 xf3 45.xf3 e1+ 46.e2 securing the drawish outcome

46...c2 47.xg5 xb4 48.f4 and position is probably a draw because I will push my g pawn which will force Black King or Black Knight to get away from the Queen side

48...d5 49.d2 e6 50.d3 f6 51.c1 d5 52.g5 g4 53.c3 c5 54.b3 c6 55.a4 e5 56.a5 b7 57.h6 c6+ 58.a4 c4 59.g4 c8 60.g7 d7 61.f6 e6

62.g5 ♔f5



63.♔a3 my bishop is save on f6 and I can just keep on moving my King

63...♘e5 64.♔b4 a5+ 65.♔c3 a4 66.♙xe5 ♔xe5 67.♔xc4 ♔f5 68.♔b4 ♔xg5 A draw in a game where we both had winning chances. After a 7 hard games in classical chess sometimes it is hard to have a normal look at the blitz games where the ammount of mistakes is just incredibly high, specially when the game is getting tough 1/2-1/2

(5) Carlsen, Magnus (2865)
- Naiditsch, Arkadij (2706) [B91]

3rd GRENKE Classic TB(5),
2015.02.09

And we are in the armagedom game. Magnus made his guess and been lucky to chose the White color. Statistically White is having a great score. We are going to play a 6 min vs 5 min game, where "all I needed to do " is to hold a draw.

1.e4 This time no more 1.d4

1...c5 How to play an armagedom game?! To go for a save opening-which might mean suffering with a minute down and maybe a lost on time, or a fight in an unclear sharp position. I though the second is the right choise

2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6



6.g3 a popular line which I play couple of times myself with White

6...e5 7.♘de2 ♙e7 8.♙g2 O-O 9.O-O ♘bd7 a possible choise but a bit too passive one [9...b5 is probably the better way to go on]

10.a4 b6 11.♘d5! a very good positional desicion to me.

White is getting rid of the knight on c3 to put the other one there

11...♖xd5 12.♔xd5 ♖b8 13.♗c3 ♘f6 14.♔d3



14...♗e6!? quite a tricky move for a blitz game and maybe not a bad one from practical point of view. Can White take on a6?! this made Magnus lose almost a minute of thoughts

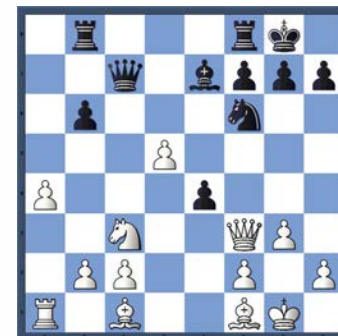
15.♔xa6! very strong play specially for a blitz game. White is sacrificing the exchange to dominate over the White squares

15...♔c7 16.♔e2 this has been the idea of White

16...♗c4 17.♔f3 ♗xf1 18.♗xf1 so I am an up, but in a very unpleasant position. Still I had around 1 minute less on the clock and in case I will do "nothing" White will slowly get the bishop to c4, or maybe play Bg5 and get the knight to d5 and it is not clear where my counterplay should be

18...d5!? of course this move just gives a pawn-but I must do something!

19.exd5 e4



20.♔f5! My oponent is playing a fantastic game keeping all the position closed which makes my moves very hard to play

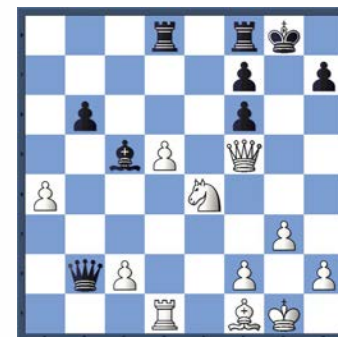
20...♖bd8 21.♗f4 ♔c5 I am trying to get some active play

22.♖d1 ♔b4 the b2 pawn is hanging, but again White is finding the best

23.♗e5! another very very strong move.

23...♗c5? this loses immediately, but I just panicked not knowing what to do next [23...♔xb2 24.♗xe4 is losing as well immediately; maybe relatively the best was to play 23...♗d7 but the position is already clearly lost]

24.♗xf6 gxf6 25.♗xe4 ♔xb2



26.♗d3 White is clearly having a mating attack

26...♖fe8 27.♜xf6+ ♔f8 28.♜xh7+ ♔e7 29.♚e1+ what a position, it remind me a bit on our the first game of tiebreak

29...♔d6 30.♚f4+ ♔xd5 31.♜f6+ ♔c6 32.♜xe8 and it was all over. I have lost the match, felt very pity clearly having my chances in the 4th blitz game, but, I think I made a good fight to the World Champioin and can be very happy with my play. Magnus played a really fantastic armagedom game where we can see the full strenght and why Carlsen because last Year a double World Champion in Rapid and Blitz chess in Dubai. **1-0**

(6) Anand, Viswanathan (2797) - Baramidze, David (2594) [C95]

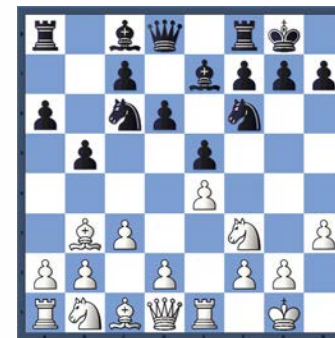
3rd GRENKE Chess Classic(6.4),
2015.02.08



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Vishy Anand was out of form in Baden-Baden, but his win against Baramidze was still very inspiring.

1.e4 e5 2.♜f3 ♜c6 3.♞b5 a6 4.♞a4 ♜f6 5.O-O ♞e7 6.♚e1 b5 7.♞b3 d6 8.c3 O-O 9.h3



9...♜b8 Baramidze sticks to his favorite Ruy Lopez Breyer variation. He does not play any other openings and it makes the preparation very easy for his opponents.

10.d4 ♜bd7 11.♜bd2 ♞b7 12.♞c2 ♚e8 13.♜f1 ♞f8 14.♜g3 White follows the main line by executing the standard knight maneuver to the kingside.

14...g6 15.a4 The old main line has come back into fashion. There was a time when all the Breyer games continued with this 15.a4 move, then suddenly some sidelines like 15.b3 or 15.Bg5 became more popular, but since last year 15.a4 is back to the main focus.

15...♘g7 Baramidze deviates from his previous games with this relatively rare move. [Previously he was following the main line with 15...c5 16.d5 c4 but after his clear-cut defeat against Adams in the Dortmund Supertournament last year - which I have annotated in our newsletter - he decided to stop playing it.]



16.♘d3! The point of the previous 15.a4 move. White puts pressure on the queenside, namely on the b5 pawn, which forces an unfavorable decision for Black. Capturing the a4 pawn significantly weakens the pawn structure, especially the a6 pawn, therefore Black does not have anything better than c6, but it closes the b7 bishop, which was pressing the e4 pawn.

16...c6 17.♘e3 This is Anand's improvement over the previous Baramidze game, but it is not a novelty yet. We can already see the benefit of the Bd3 move, provoking c6, the bishop's most natural development to e3 was not possible before because of exd4 and on cxd4 the e4 was hanging. [Two days before our current game Carlsen played 17.♘g5 hoping to provoke an h6 weakening after which he intended to return to e3 and Qd2 could have come with a tempo, but Black could improve his knight with 17...♖f8 18.♙d2 ♗e6 It turned out to be Black who gained a tempo because of Bg5. 19.♘h6 ♗d7 20.♘c2 ♘xh6 21.♙xh6 ♙f6 22.♖ad1 ♖ad8 and the game was

more or less balanced, although Carlsen managed to outplay his opponent and later won the game... Carlsen-Baramidze, Baden Baden 2015]

17...♙c7 18.♙d2 exd4?! This seems to be a dubious decision to me! Giving up the tension and center so easily usually does not lead to anything good for Black... [Probably the best was 18...♗f8 but White was slightly better after the typical break on the queenside with 19.dxe5 dxe5 20.c4! in Adams-Golod, World Open 2011.; Another standard freeing break is 18...d5 but it does not solve the problems, because of 19.dxe5 ♗xe4 20.♘xe4! A clever move! White realizes that the knight is going to be a much more useful piece on e4 than the bishop. 20...dxe4 21.♗xe4 ♗xe5 22.♗xe5 ♘xe5 23.♗c5+= This is the point and White has a clear edge because of the poor bishop on b7!]

19.cxd4 c5



20.d5 The standard reply again. White locks the b7 bishop and gains some space advantage. There is a pressure again on the b5 pawn, which forces Black to make a committing decision. Pushing b4 leaves him without any counterplay and creates an excellent hole on c4, which will be occupied by the f3 knight, while pushing c4 like it happened in the game gives up the d4 square... [The alternative was 20.axb5 20...axb5

21. ♖xb5 but after Black's correct reaction the position gets too simplified... 21... ♗xe4 22. ♗xe4 ♖xa1 (But not 22... ♖xe4? because of 23. dxc5! and Black cannot take back on c5...) 23. ♖xa1 ♖xe4 24. ♖c1 Perhaps White is still better, but the game is much easier to play.]

20...c4 21. ♖c2 ♖ec8 Black would like to get counterplay with c3. [On 21... ♗c5 attacking the e4 pawn 22. ♖d4 is the strongest and after 22... ♗fd7 23. ♖xg7 ♖xg7 24. h4! (Or 24. ♗d4 is also good.)]

22. axb5 [22. ♖d4 is less clear now, because Black could play 22... ♗e5! 23. ♗xe5 dxe5 24. ♖c3 ♗d7 I still prefer White because of the protected passed pawn and the bad black bishops, but the game is much better.]

22...c3 Black has pinned his hopes to this tactical blow, but Anand had calculated one move further... [22... axb5 is also bad in view of 23. ♗d4! and it is hard to deal with the b5 pawn... 23... ♖a6 looks very ugly, White could strengthen his position with 24. ♖a2± doubling the rooks. It is important that Black is unable to push b4-c3 and otherwise his pawns are rather weak.]

23. bxc3



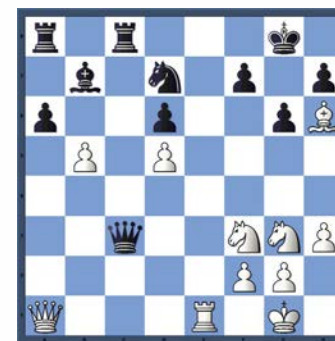
23... ♗xd5 Black continues his initial plan based on this deep tactical idea. He wants to take on Bxc3 then on a1 and the

c2 bishop is hanging behind. However it does not work... [23... ♖xc3 24. ♖d3+- is a healthy extra pawn.]

24. exd5 ♖xc3 25. ♖d1 ♖xa1 [25... ♖xe1 26. ♗xe1+- protects the c2 bishop and leaves White materially ahead.]

26. ♖xa1! Simple and strong! Black is going to miss his dark squared bishop around his king!

26...axb5 An intermediate move, but it does not change the key factors... [26... ♖xc2 loses to 27. ♖h6! ♖c3 (27... f6 28. ♖e7!+-)]



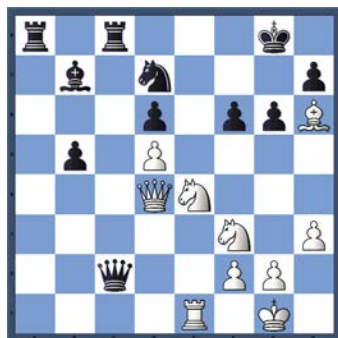
28. ♖e8+! The key move, which had to be foreseen very long ago by Anand. White wins decisive material. 28... ♖xe8 (28... ♗f8 29. ♖xf8+! Another deflection of the c8 rook and Black is already forced to accept it. 29... ♖xf8 30. ♖xc3+-) 29. ♖xc3+-]

27. ♖d4! White is able to hold the long diagonal!

27... ♖c3 is kind of admitting the opponent's great play. [27... ♖xc2 loses to 28. ♖h6 f6 (28... ♖c3 is the same as in the 26... Qxc2 line. 29. ♖e8+! ♗f8 30. ♖xf8+! ♖xf8 31. ♖xc3+-) 29. ♖e7 ♖c4 30. ♖e3! (30. ♖g7+? 30... ♖h8 31. ♗g5? also looks over and beautiful. White is threatening with mate on Nf7. Taking the knight loses to Rxh7 double check followed by Qg7 mate, but Black has a counterblow at his disposal... 31... ♖c1+!]

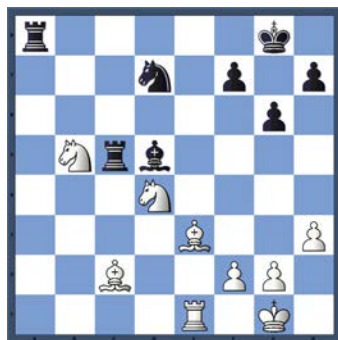
32. ♔h2 ♚xg5!—+ and suddenly Black wins!)]

28. ♖e4! ♚xd4 [28... ♚xc2 again loses to 29. ♗h6 f6



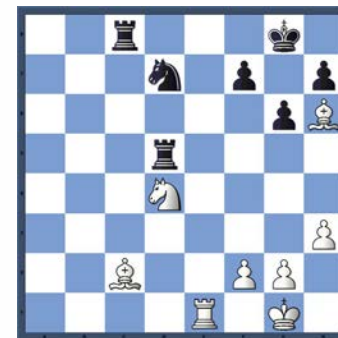
30. ♚xf6!! A brilliant blow! (Actually 30. ♗xf6+ is equally strong. 30... ♗xf6 31. ♚xf6 ♚c7 32. ♚e6+ ♔h8 33. ♚e8+—) 30... ♗xf6 31. ♗xf6+ ♔h8 32. ♚e7 and Black cannot prevent the threatening Rxh7 and Bg7 mates. 32... ♚c1+ 33. ♗xc1 ♚xc1+ 34. ♔h2+—]

29. ♗xd4 ♗xd5 30. ♗xd6 ♚c5 31. ♗6xb5 The game has simplified to this endgame. White has a winning position and the material advantage of two minor pieces against the rook will decide the game in the long term, but it requires patience and some technique...



31... ♚a2 32. ♗h6 Locking the king in order to create some tactical threats.

32... ♚a8 [If Black tries to prevent the back rank mate with 32... ♚c8 33. ♗c3! wins in a pretty way. The knight cannot be taken and after 33... ♚a5 34. ♗xd5 ♚xd5



35. ♗c6! Another nice move and Black cannot avoid the triple fork on e7! 35... ♔h8 (35... ♚xc6 36. ♚e8+ ♗f8 37. ♚xf8#) 36. ♗e7 ♚e8 37. ♗xg6+! is the final point!]

33. ♗d3 ♚d8 34. ♗g5 ♚a8 35. ♗e7 ♚cc8 36. ♗d6 ♚c7 37. ♗4b5 [37. ♗b5 was also possible to pin the black pieces to defend each other.]

37... ♚c6 38. ♗f1 White does not need to hurry, he can slowly improve his position and pieces. In my opinion, the only thing he should be careful about is to not allow the trade of a pair of rooks.

38... ♔g7 39. ♗g4!? With the idea of caging the king with g5. [39. ♗g5+— was also very strong and White invades with his rook to the 7th rank.]

39... f6 40. ♗g5 The human way to play. Anand weakens the black king by removing one of its main guards. [The computer sees a pretty win with 40. ♗d4 40... ♚b6 (40... ♚c7 loses to 41. ♗g2! ♗xg2 42. ♗e6+!—) 41. ♗b5! ♗e5



42. ♖e8+! From a practical point of view, when we have a technical win it is better to avoid going into such complications. The computer calculates everything and sees the win, but for a human brain it is better to avoid such a risk of a blunder given the many hanging pieces... 42... ♖f7 43. ♗xf6! ♜xb5 with the idea of deflecting the d4 knight to give Nf3 check, but White takes another piece: (43... ♖xe7 44. ♗xd5+-) 44. ♜xe5! ♜b1+ 45. ♖h2 ♜h1+ 46. ♖g3 ♜g1+ 47. ♖f4+-]

40... ♜b8 [40... fxg5 41. ♗xg5+- is over, the rook goes to e7 next.]

41. h4 [Another, more forcing win was suggested by the machine: 41. ♜d1! This was already possible to find also for a human... 41... ♗b3 (41... ♜c5 42. ♗f5+! gxf5 43. ♗xc5 ♗xc5 44. ♜xd5+-; 41... ♗e6 42. ♗d4+-)]



42. ♗f5+! gxf5 43. ♜xd7+- It is over, Bd6 is threatening with discovered check, winning the rook.]

41... h5 42. ♗h3 [42. ♜d1! was strong again, with exactly the same motifs as in the 41.Rd1 line.]

42... f5 43. ♗f1 After provoking the f5 move the structure became fixed, so Black cannot hope to reduce the material anymore. Thanks to the f5 and h5 moves the king became more exposed. Anand missed some direct wins, but he significantly improved his position in the last 15 moves.

43... ♖g8 44. ♜d1 ♗f3 45. ♜a1 It would be excellent to occupy the a2-g8 diagonal with the bishop to haunt down the black king.

45... ♗d5 46. f4 ♗c5 47. ♜d1 [47. ♗f6 was another win. White is threatening with Ra7 and for instance after 47... ♗e4 48. ♗xe4 ♗xe4 49. ♗e5 ♜d8 (49... ♜e8 50. ♗d6+-) 50. ♗d4+- wins very soon.]

47... ♗f3 48. ♗c4+ ♖h7 49. ♜f1 [49. ♜a1! was faster. Ra7 is a decisive threat. Black has no adequate defend against it, for instance after 49... ♜a6 50. ♜a6 ♗xa6 51. ♗d4! A double attack on the minor pieces... 51... ♗b7 52. ♗e6 The white pieces are just too well placed. Nf8 is coming next. 52... ♗b4 53. ♗f8+ ♖g7 54. ♗d7 ♜a8 55. ♗xb7+-]

49... ♗e4 50. ♜a1 ♗d3 51. ♗d4 [The last trick White had to be careful about was 51. ♜a7?? 51... ♜xc4! The b5 knight is hanging and Black survives. 52. ♗f6+ ♖g8 53. ♜g7+ is just a draw after 53... ♖f8 54. ♜f7+ ♖g8=; 51. ♗c3+- was winning.]

51... ♜c7 52. ♗xe4 fxe4 Both bishops are hanging, but Anand solves the problem tactically... [52... ♜xe7 53. ♗f6+ ♖g7 54. ♗xd3+-]



53. ♖f6! ♜cb7 [53... ♜xc4 leads to forced mate: 54. ♜a7+ ♔g8 55. ♜g7+ ♔f8 56. ♜e6+ ♔e8 57. ♜e7#; 53... ♜xf4 also loses after 54. ♖e5! and White takes more material. 54... ♜xc4 55. ♖xb8 ♜xd4 56. ♖xf4+-]

54. ♜e6! Now White can even allow the trade of the rooks, because the black king is too vulnerable.

54... ♜b1+ 55. ♜xb1 ♜xb1+ 56. ♔g2 A pretty mate in one move is threatening with Nf8.

56... ♜b8 57. ♔f1! Black ran out of useful moves. The rook must control the f8 square. White simply goes around with his king towards the e4 pawn.

57... ♜c8 58. ♖d5 ♜e8 [58... e3 59. ♔e2+-]

59. ♖e5! The last accurate move! White protects the f4 pawn in order to continue the journey with the king to e2-e3. [It was not too late to go wrong with 59. ♔e2? blundering the idea of 59... ♜xe6! 60. ♖xe6 ♜xf4+]

59... ♜c8 [59... ♜xe5 60. fxe5 ♜c8 61. ♔e2+- is totally hopeless.]

60. ♔e2 ♜c5 61. ♜xc5 ♜xc5 62. ♖xe4 The position has simplified and this kind of material disadvantage is already too much for Black...

62... ♜a5 63. ♔e3 ♜a3+ 64. ♔d4 ♜a5 65. f5+-1-0

The K-Files.

Nimzo 4.e3 0-0 5.Nge2 c6



GM Alexander Khalifman
FIDE World Chess Champion (1999)
Best rating: 2702

(7) Nimzo 4.e3 0-0 5.Nge2 c6 [E46]

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.♗c3** ♙b4 **4.e3** 0-0 **5.♗e2** The Reshevsky system has been quite a poisonous weapon for a long time. Of course, its recent popularity is mostly connected with the game Carlsen - Anand (Moscow 2013) won by White in just 29 moves..

5...c6!? Both the classical 5...d5 and the modern 5...Re8 are solid enough. However, both don't equalise automatically so it's worth trying to look for some alternative. The text was first played back in 1963 but neither this game nor some following did attract much attention. Only after the game Tomashevsky-Zvjaginsev (Moscow 2010) this line became an object of intensive research but the practical material is still not enough for the final conclusions. The main idea of Black is not to meet cxd5 (after d7-d5) with cxd5 (which is possible but not necessary) but to provide the c7 square for his bishop. And it must be said that in most resulting structures it's just a perfect square for this piece. Certainly there is a problem

that White can use Black's 5th "half-move" to gain some space in the center but quite often it proves to be a double-edged weapon as we will see. Finally it must be said that Black has really excellent stats in this line so far. 65% in more than 100 games is really very convincing. Well, to be objective one must add that the average rating of the Black players was 100 points higher than their opponents, but still...



6.a3 ♙a5 **7.b4** Moving too many pawns before completing the development is always fairly responsible but if White plays for an opening advantage he has to do so. The alternatives are rather shy: [7.♖c2 7...d5 8.♗g3 ♗bd7 9.♙e2 (9.cxd5 9...exd5 10.♙d3 ♖e8 11.0-0 ♙c7= Wemmers - Cramling Gibraltar 2014) 9...e5 (9...dxc4 is another move order which usually leads to the same position. 10.♙xc4 e5 11.0-0 exd4 12.exd4 - 9...e5) 10.0-0 exd4 11.exd4 dxc4 (11...♖e8 12.cxd5 ♗xd5! (12...♙xc3 13.bxc3 cxd5 14.♙f4+= 13.♗xd5 cxd5 14.♙f3 ♙b6 (14...♗f6 15.♙g5+= ♙e6 16.♗h5±) 15.♖b3 ♗f8 (15...♙xd4 16.♙xd5+= +=) 16.♙e3 ♙e6=) 12.♙xc4 ♙c7 The black pieces are well-placed for the classical play against IQP. (12...♗b6 13.♙a2 ♗bd5 Sadorra-Narayanan, Queson City 2014 14.♙b1!?! 13.♙g5 (13.♙a2 13...♗b6 14.♙g5 - 13.Bg5) 13...♗b6 (13...h6 14.♙h4 g5?? 15.♖g6+) 14.♙a2 h6 15.♙xf6 (15.♙h4? 15...♖xd4±) 15...♖xf6= Dale - Bluebaum London 2014; 7.♗g3 Trying to develop pieces in a solid way without

defining the queenside pawn structure is premature. 7...d5 (7...c5!? Nc7-c6-c5 might look illogical but it works well: 8.♙e2 (8.d5 8...b5! This Bluemenfeld breakthrough is quite typical for different Nimzo lines. 9.dxe6 fxe6 10.cxb5 ♙b7=Black has nice compensation. It's not too obvious how White would complete his development.; 8.dxc5?! 8...♙xc3+ 9.bxc3 ♖a6=The ruined pawn structure speaks for itself.) 8...d5! (8...cxd4 9.exd4 d5 10.b4 ♙c7 11.c5 (11.♙g5!?) 11...e5 12.♙g5 ♖c6 13.♖h5± ♖xd4 14.♙xf6 gxf6 15.♖xd5±) 9.dxc5 (9.O-O 9...cxd4 10.exd4 dxc4 11.♙xc4 - 7...d5) 9...♙xc3+ 10.bxc3 ♖bd7 11.O-O ♖xc5=) 8.♙d3 (

a) 8.b4 8...♙c7 - 7.b4;

b) 8.♞c2 - 7.Qc2;

c) 8.♙d2 - 7.Bd2;

d) 8.cxd5 8...cxd5N is the easiest way to equalise. (8...exd5 9.♙d3 ♞e8 10.O-O ♖bd7 11.f3 c5 Nyback - Rusev Warsaw 2013 12.♙c2!?+= and Black is under some pressure.) 9.♙d3 ♖c6 10.O-O e5=) 8...dxc4 (8...c5!?) 9.♙xc4 c5 (9...♖bd7 10.O-O e5 is also good enough.) 10.O-O (10.dxc5 10...♙xc3+ 11.bxc3 ♞xd1+ 12.♞xd1 Nagy - Horvath,A Hungary 2013 12...♙d7!?+=) 10...cxd4 11.exd4 (11.♖ce4?! (Wemmers - Tkachiev Gibraltar 2013) This pawn sac is too adventurous. 11...♙b6 12.exd4 ♙xd4=+) 11...♖c6 12.♙e3 ♙b6 and the white knight seems to be misplaced on g3 in this IQP structure (Martynov - Smirnov,P St, Petersburg 2011).; 7.♙d2 7...d5 8.♖g3 ♖bd7 9.cxd5 (9.b4 9...♙c7 10.f4 ♖b6 11.c5 ♖c4 12.♙xc4 dxc4 13.O-O Gonzalez - Ortiz Cuba 2014 13...b6 and Black has enough dynamic resources.) 9...exd5 10.♙d3 ♞e8 11.O-O ♙c7 12.♞c2 ♖f8 13.f3 h5!? and Black's play is already easier (Dubov - Andreikin Russia ch 2012).]

7...♙c7 8.♖g3 White intends to complete his development first. However. Black has enough time to prepare adequate counterplay in the center. [8.d5 is ambitious but not well

enough prepared yet... 8...d6 This modest move might be the most ambitious as the following lines show: (8...exd5 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.g3 ♖c6 11.♙g2 ♙e5 12.O-O d6 (12...♞e8?! 13.f4 ♙xc3 (13...♙c7 14.♖xd5 ♖xd5 15.♙xd5 ♙b6 16.♖c3+=) 14.♖xc3 d4?! 15.exd4 d5 16.f5!+= Ipatov - Yu Yangyi Kocaeli 2013) 13.f4 ♙xc3 14.♖xc3 ♖e7=) 9.♖g3 (

a) 9.e4? 9...a5! 10.b5 (10.♙b2 10...axb4 11.axb4 ♞xa1 12.♙xa1 ♖a6+ 13.♞b3 exd5 14.cxd5 (14.exd5 14...♞e8 and the game is more or less over.) 14...♙b6! (14...cxd5) 15.♖g3 (15.♖f4 15...♙xf2+! 16.♞xf2 ♞b6+ 17.♞e2 (17.♞e1 17...♞e3+ 18.♖fe2 ♖xe4-+) 17...♞e8-+) 15...♖g4 16.♖d1 ♖xb4+ (16...cxd5+)) 10...cxd5 11.cxd5 ♙b6+ 12.♖g3 exd5 13.♙g5 (13.♖xd5 13...♖xd5 14.exd5 ♞e8+ -+) 13...h6 14.♙f4 ♞e8 15.♙e2 dxe4+;

b) 9.g3 (Gu - Nicolas Zapata Al Ain 2013) looks the most natural but after 9...♖bd7! the c4 pawn becomes vulnerable. 10.dxc6 (10.♙g2 10...♖e5 11.dxc6 bxc6 12.♖d4 d5=+) 10...bxc6 11.♖d4 ♙b7 12.♙g2 ♖e5=+) 9...a5!? As we already mentioned, "Moving too many pawns before completing development is always fairly responsible". 10.b5 (10.♙b2 10...exd5 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.♖xd5 ♖xd5 13.♞xd5 axb4 14.axb4 ♞xa1+ 15.♙xa1 ♖c6!) 10...cxd5 11.cxd5 exd5 12.♖xd5 ♖xd5 13.♞xd5 a4! 14.♙e2 ♙e6 15.♞xb7 ♖d7=; 8.♙b2 8...d5 9.♖g3 - 8.Ng3; The most ambitious and critical 8.e4 will be analyzed in part 2.]

8...d5 planning e6-e5.

9.♙b2 [9.f4 preventing e5 and hoping to use the space advantage but due to White's poor development this idea doesn't work properly. 9...♖bd7 10.c5 is logical but... (

a) 10.♙d3 10...a5 (10...dxc4 11.♙xc4 ♖d5 12.♙d2 a5 - 10...a5) 11.♙d2 dxc4 12.♙xc4 ♖d5 White's weaknesses are an important factor. 13.♖ce4 (13.b5 13...♖7b6 14.♙d3 ♖xc3 15.♙xc3 ♖d5 16.♙d2 cxb5 17.♙xb5 ♙d7 18.♙xd7 (18.♞b1 18...♙d6 19.a4 ♙b4+) 18...♞xd7 19.O-O f5!+=) 13...♞e7

14.O-O ♖7b6 15.♗d3 axb4 16.axb4 ♖xa1 17.♞xa1 ♖xb4 White doesn't have enough compensation for the pawn (Vlasenko - Khismatullin Taganrog 2014).;

b) 10.♗e2 10...dxc4 - 10.Bd3)



10...e5! =+ 11.♗e2 A sad necessity... (11.dxe5 11...♖xe5!±; After 11.fxe5 11...♖xe5! 12.dxe5 ♗xe5→ White is in trouble. 13.♗b2 ♖g4 14.♞f3 ♖e8 15.♗e2 ♗xc3+ 16.♗xc3 ♖xe3± Costachi - Doros Romania 2014) 11...exd4 12.exd4 h5! Typical and strong. 13.O-O (13.♖xh5 13...♖xh5 14.♗xh5 ♖e8+ 15.♗e2 a5±; 13.♗xh5 13...♖xh5 14.♖xh5 a5 15.b5 ♖e8+ 16.♖e2 ♖f6 17.♖g3 cxb5 18.O-O b6±) 13...h4 14.♖h5 (14.♖f5 14...♖xc5 15.♖xg7 ♖ce4± Guthrie - Hamitevici London 2013) 14...g6 15.♖xf6+ ♖xf6=+; 9.cxd5 doesn't promise anything. 9...exd5 (9...♖xd5!±; 9...cxd5) 10.♗d3 ♖bd7 11.O-O ♖e8 Lobersil - Roberson London 2014 12.f3 a5 13.b5 c5 14.a4 b6±; 9.c5 9...e5 10.♗e2 Novik - Palliser Finland 2012 10...g6!? 11.O-O h5± and Black's play is quite clear.]

9...♖bd7 10.♗d3 Now Black has a wide choice of attractive options. [10.f4 Once again te tries to prevent e6-e5 but Black also has another possibility to create counterplay: 10...♖b6 A nice positional idea which is typical for the whole variation. 11.c5 ♖c4 12.♗xc4 (12.♗c1?! A strange decision. White will have to exchange on c4 anyway. 12...b6 starting immediate

action in the center. 13.♗xc4 dxc4 14.O-O ♖d5 (14...a5!? 15.b5 ♖d5 16.♖ge2 ♗d7=+) 15.♗d2 (15.♖xd5 15...exd5± Richardson - Grachev London 2013) 15...f5=+ 12...dxc4 13.O-O (13.♖h5 13...♖d5 Berczes - Medvegy Hungary 2013 14.♞f3 ♞h4+ 15.♖g3 b5±) 13...♖d5 14.♞e2 b6± In this unusual structure Black has enough counterchances.; 10.♖c1 is usual for these structures. White tries to save the tempo in case of an exchange on c4. 10...♖e8 and Black does the same. 11.♗e2 (11.♞b3 11...e5! =+ 11...♖b6!? (11...dxc4 12.♗xc4 e5 (12...♖b6!? 13.♗d3 e5 14.dxe5 ♖g4± is also quite good for Black.) 13.♞b3 ♞e7! The most reliable. Now Black has no problem at all as the concrete lines show it's White who has to play accurately to hold the balance. (13...exd4 14.♗xf7+ ♖h8 15.♖d1∞ is somewhat crazy (Duzhakov - Ponkratov Izhevsk 2014).) 14.d5 (

a) 14.♖ce2 14...♖b6 15.dxe5 ♖g4! 16.e6 ♖xc4 17.♖f5 (17.exf7+ 17...♞xf7 18.♞xc4 ♗e6—+) 17...♞xe6 18.♖xg7 ♞d5 19.♞xc4 (19.♖xe8 19...♞d2+ 20.♖f1 ♗e6—+) 19...♞xg2 20.♖xe8 ♞xf2+ 21.♖d2 ♞xe3+ 22.♖e1 ♗e6 23.♖f6+ (23.♞d4 23...♞xd4 24.♗xd4 ♞xe8=+ 25.h3 ♖e5=+) 23...♖xf6 24.♞h4=;

b) 14.O-O 14...exd4 15.exd4 ♖b6=+;

c) 14.♖f5 14...♞f8 15.O-O ♖b6=+ 16.dxe5 ♗xe5 17.♗d3 ♗e6=+ 14...♖b6! 15.dxc6 bxc6 16.♖a4 (16.O-O 16...a5 17.b5 a4 18.♞a2 ♖b8=) 16...♖xa4 17.♞xa4 ♗d7 18.♞a6 (18.♞b3 18...a5 19.O-O axb4 20.axb4 ♖eb8=) 18...♖eb8 19.O-O ♖b6 20.♞a5 ♖b7=) 12.c5 ♖c4 13.♗xc4 dxc4 14.♖ce4?! (14.O-O 14...b5±) 14...♖xe4 15.♖xe4 b5 16.cxb6 axb6 17.♖xc4 ♞d5 18.♞c2 (18.♞g4 18...♖h8± (18...♞xc4?? 19.d5+—; 18...♗d8±)) 18...♗a6 19.♖xc6 ♖ec8± and Black's compensation is clearly more than enough.; 10.♞c2 (Rodshtein - Zontakh. Legnica 2013) White chooses an Anti-Meran setup. But his knight is a bit misplaced on g3 and Black can try to use it immediately.

10...h5!? (10...g4!? is also interesting. 11.g2 (11.O-O-O 11...f6) 11...f5! 11.g3 (11.O-O-O 11...a5 12.b5 h4!) 11...a5 12.b5 (12.O-O 12...g4 13.h3 gxe3 14.fxe3 g3 =+) 12...e5 playing all over the board, which is quite typical for the whole line. Black is at least not worse here.; 10.cxd5 10...exd5 makes little sense with the bishop on b2.]



10...b6!? [10...e5 aiming for IQP structure. This might be the most solid way. 11.O-O (11.cxd5 11...exd4 12.exd4 e8+=+ 13.g2 gxd5 14.gxd5 cxd5 15.O-O b6 16.c1 16...g4 17.f3 g5+=+ (17...d7+=+)) 11...dxc4 12.gxc4 b6 13.d3 exd4 14.exd4 d6 15.c1 e6+=+ (15...h5!?) 16.c2 (16.e1 16...c4 17.a1 b5 =+) 16...c4!+=+ with a nice positional plus.; 10...dxc4 11.gxc4 a5 (11...e5!? ; 11...b6!? 12.d3 e5 13.ce2 a5=) 12.b5 c5!? 13.O-O (13.dxc5 13...xc5=) 13...b6 14.a4 b7=]

11.c5 c4 12.gxc4 [12.c1?! 12...e5+=+]

12...dxc4 13.O-O [13.f4 13...d5 14.d2 b5+=+ 15.O-O It looks like White protected all weaknesses, but what about b4? 15...a5 16.ce4 (16.e4 16...xf4 17.f4 gxf4 18.f4 axb4 19.axb4 xa1+ 20.xa1 xd4+ 21.f2 e5+) 16...axb4 17.axb4 d7 and Black enjoys a comfortable positional advantage. His knight on d5 is rock-solid because Black can always secure its position with f7-f5.; 13.e2 going for the pawn, but Black

gets excellent compensation: 13...b5 14.cxb6 axb6 15.xc4 b7= 16.O-O g4! Once again knight is misplaced on g3. 17.h3? gxe3+]

13...b6 14.e4 bxc5 15.bxc5 b8 16.b1 e5 Finally breaking White's centre. Black is at least not worse.

David vs. Goliath



Peter Zhdanov
Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this special column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week has brought us an incredible number of upsets - 41. However, I have to admit that most of them feature relatively low-rated players. The number of moves ranges from 6 in Akkok (1866) - Celik (1518), 0-1 to 79 in Doven (1503) - Akkok (1866), 1-0.

How does one lose in 6 moves? Here is the answer. I wonder how one can play THAT badly unless the game was not a hoax or something:

Akkok, D (1866) - Celik, Eda (1518) [D00]

Turkish Cup 2015 Manavgat TUR (10.117),
06.02.2015

**1.d4 d5 2.♔d3 ♘f6 3.♘f3 e6 4.♘a3 a6 5.♙g5 c5 6.♔b5+
axb5 0-1**

In terms of high-profile upsets one has to mention GM Jones (2671) - IM Watson (2319), 0-1: those chess writers are good for something! Also, GM Reinderman (2590) succumbed to Van der Put (2201).

Top-10:

Doven (1503) - Uysal (2053), 1-0, [550](#) points
Mikuz (1795) - Trplan (1285), 0-1, [510](#) points
Soysal (2339) - Karaahmetoglu (1837), 0-1, [502](#) points
Sari (1462) - Koksai (1870), 1-0, [408](#) points
Akkok (1866) - Sari (1462), 0-1, [404](#) points
Lokman (1648) - Gyokbulut (2047), 1-0, [399](#) points
Reinderman (2590) - Van der Put (2201), 0-1, [389](#) points
Doven (1503) - Sarikaya (1889), 1-0, [386](#) points
Altunbay (1550) - Kaplan (1935), 1-0, [385](#) points
Kocyigit (1391) - Benk (1774), 1-0, [383](#) points

Average gap: 432; White won 6 games, Black won 4 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

Like I have promised in the previous issue, this column will introduce to you FM Andrey Esipenko.

Reminder: if you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) will be appreciated.



FM Andrey Esipenko. Live rating: 2354. Born March 22, 2002. Titles won in junior chess: European Champion (2012), European vice-Champion (2013), Russian Champion (2014). Absolute champion of Novocherkassk. Most notable results include victories over GM Denis Khismatullin, GM Sanan Sjugirov, GM Ernesto Inarkiev and draws with GM Sergei Tiviakov, GM Pavel Smirnov and ten other grandmasters.

FM Andrey Esipenko and his coach GM Dmitry Kryakvin kindly agreed to annotate Andrey's recent win against GM Denis Khismatullin:

(8) Esipenko, Andrey (2271) - Khismatullin, Denis (2673) [A87]

Vladimir Dvorkovich Mem(7.12),
2015.01.24 [DK]

Good afternoon! My name is Andrey Esipenko. I live in Novocherkassk city of the Rostov region in Russia. However, I am playing for the Anatoly Karpov's Centre (Tyumen), where my clubmates and coach GM Dmitry Kryakvin live. By the way, I admire Karpov's games a lot. At a certain point I have read a few books written by the XII World Champion, which has helped me win the European Junior Championship'12. Other than that I lead the normal life of a 12-year old. I go to school, watch movies, play tournaments and occasionally beat grandmasters. I am specifically grateful to my friends and sponsors from the consulting company A DAN DZO for supporting me in this quest. At the Dvorkovich Memorial in Taganrog in January I was lucky to defeat the future winner of Moscow Open'15 GM Ernesto Inarkiev and the bronze prize winner of the last Russian Superfinal GM Denis Khismatullin.

1.d4 f5

During preparation I have dedicated more attention to the Slav and Nimzo. Nevertheless, the fact that my opponent has won an important game against Pavel Ponkratov in Russian Cup'14 with the Dutch didn't escape my attention. Therefore, I more or less knew the main line of this variation.

2.g3 ♘f6 3.♙g2 g6 4.♘f3 ♙g7 5.O-O O-O 6.c4 d6 7.♘c3 ♖e8 Crossroads. The game Ponkratov - Khismatullin continued [7...c6 8.b3 a5 9.♙b2]

8.d5 a5 9.♘d4 ♘a6 10.b3 ♙d7 11.♖b1 The game Postny - Pruijssers, 2014, continued with [11.♙b2 11...♘c5 12.♖c2 c6 13.♖ad1 ♖c8 14.♖b1 g5 15.a3 ♖h5], but such a twist of events was totally unacceptable to me. After having studied the profile of Khismatullin, I realized that most losses of the eminent

grandmaster come from overlooking a certain tactical shot in a complicated tactical struggle. Hence, I decided to try to put pressure on him as soon as possible.

11...♘c5 12.a3 c6 13.b4 axb4 14.axb4 ♘fe4 15.♗xe4 ♗xe4 16.♙b2 The theory ends here, so both players are on their own. An alternative is [16.♖d3 16...cxd5 17.cxd5 ♖f7 18.♙e3 ♖xd5 19.♗xf5 ♖xd3 20.exd3 ♗c3 21.♗xe7+ ♖f7 22.♖be1 ♙e6 23.♙g5 with sharp play in Mikhalevski - Zhang, 2002.]

16...♖a2 The Dutch is a strange opening. I have no idea what makes people go for such positions with a hole on e6. However, when analyzing with an engine it's not easy to find an advantage for White. That's why 1...f5 is gaining popularity. White has to act quickly here.



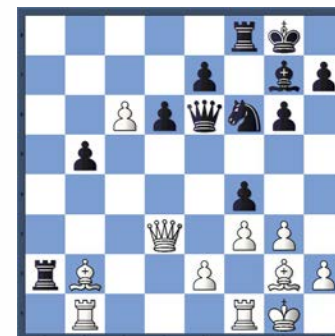
17.c5!? ♖f7! A very strong and cold-blooded move. Any capture of the pawn would give me a long-lasting initiative: [17...cxd5 18.♖b3; 17...dxc5 18.bxc5 ♗xc5 19.♗b3 ♖xb2 20.♖xb2 ♙xb2 21.♗xc5 ♙h8 22.♖a4 ♙f6 23.♖d1] Khismatullin is not in a hurry, just like Kaa from the cartoon about Mowgli. White should do something about the pawn on d5 now; the Rubicon has been crossed.

18.dxc6 bxc6 19.f3 ♗f6 [Very interesting is to sally with the queen - 19...♖c4 After 20.♗xc6 ♙xc6 21.♙xg7 ♖xg7 22.fxe4 ♙xe4 23.♖f4!? d5 we have a position of dynamic equilibrium on the board. The grandmaster is trying to restrain my bishop on g2 and not allowing any simplifications.]



20.b5 cxb5 [I was a bit surprised here, because I have been expecting 20...♗d5 21.♗xc6 (21.bxc6 21...♖xb2 22.♖xb2 dxc5) 21...♗e3 (21...♖xb2 22.♖xd5) 22.♖d3 ♗xf1 23.♙xg7 ♖xg7 24.♙xf1 ♙xc6 25.bxc6 dxc5 26.f4 with such a pawn on c6 White shouldn't lose, but I believed that it was quite logical to transfer the knight to the weak square e3. Now White obtains a serious trump in the form of a powerful passed pawn.]

21.c6 ♙e6 22.♗xe6 ♖xe6 23.♖d3 f4 [Once again, I failed to anticipate this move! The knight is not going to the coveted square. 23...♗d5 24.♖xb5 ♗e3 25.♖fc1 ♖c8 26.♙xg7 ♖xg7 27.♖b2 with a balanced position.] A return sacrifice of a pawn is a responsible step to make, but in the line 24.Qxb5?! Nh5 25.Bxg7 Kxg7 26.g4 Nf6 it is a pain to look at the bishop on g2, while after 24.gxf4 Nh5 25.Bh3 Qxh3 26.Qb3+ e6 27.Qxa2 Nxf4 28.Rf2 Qh4 Black can always repeat moves if he wants to. That's why I had to do something drastic to free my bishop.



24.e4! [24.♖xb5 24...♗h5 25.♟xg7 ♔xg7 26.g4 ♗f6; 24.gxf4 24...♗h5 25.♟h3 ♖xh3 26.♖b3+ e6 27.♖xa2 ♗xf4 28.♚f2 ♖h4]

24...♚c8 [After 24...fxe3 comes 25.♟h3; an equal endgame occurs after 24...fxg3 25.hxg3 ♗h5 26.♟xg7 ♔xg7 27.♖d4+ ♖f6 28.♖xf6+ ♟xf6 29.♟h2 ♚c2 30.f4]

25.♟xf6 [25.♖xb5 25...♗h5 26.♟h3 ♖xh3 27.♖d5+ ♟f8 28.♖xa2 fxg3 29.♟xg7+ ♟xg7]

25...♟xf6 26.♖d5 ♖xd5 27.exd5 Exchange of queens has dramatically changed the situation on the board. The pawn on c6 is very strong; White's bishop will soon paralyze Black's rook; the only resort for Black is that he is keeping an extra footman. **♟d4+ 28.♟h1 ♚a5 29.♚fe1 ♚c7 30.♚e4 ♟c3 31.♟h3 fxg3 32.hxg3**



32...♟f7? [Time trouble. A single mistake spells doom for Black. Maybe Denis didn't like...32...b4 because of 33.♟d7 ♟f8 34.♚f4+ ♟g7 35.♟e6, but the king escapes after 35...h5. Now an unexpected assault of the White rook is winning.]

33.♟e6+ ♟e8 34.♚c4! ♟e1 [Such simple lines as 34...b4 35.♚xc3 bxc3 36.♚b8+; 34...♟f6 35.♚cb4 are easy to calculate, but even the trick in the game doesn't save Black.]

35.♟g2 ♚a2+ 36.♟h3 ♟a5 37.♚xb5 The pawn has been regained. The Black monarch is on the brink of execution.

♟f8 38.♚b8+ ♟g7 39.♚g8+ ♟f6 40.♚f8+ ♟g7 41.♚f7+ ♟h8 42.♚c1 ♚b2 All the roads lead to Rome here, but I have chosen the

most aesthetically attractive one, in my opinion, - White's king is paying a visit to the Black colleague. Gone are the days when the king and the bishop had to vegetate on g1 and g2. Now they are the key factor behind White's upcoming victory.

43.♟g4 ♟d2 44.♚a1 h5+ 45.♟h4 and Black resigned due to **♚b8 46.f4 ♚d8 47.♟g5 ♚g8 48.♟h6 1-0**



Special thanks to Peter Zhdanov for the offer to annotate a game of mine for the Top GM Secrets newsletter. As a conclusion, I would like to add that when you are playing a GM rated nearly 2700, it is vital to have no fear. You can beat anyone as long as you struggle for the initiative with all your might.

Puzzle section

(9) Aronian, L(2777)-Caruana, F(2812)

Baden-Baden, 2015.02.04

1... -+



(10) Anand, V(2797)-Carlsen, M(2865)

Baden-Baden, 2015.02.06

[CEWN]

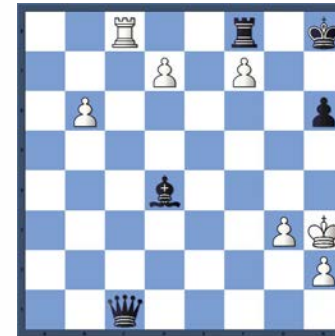
1... -+



(11) Nabaty, T(2579)-Neeloptal, D(2437)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.02.02

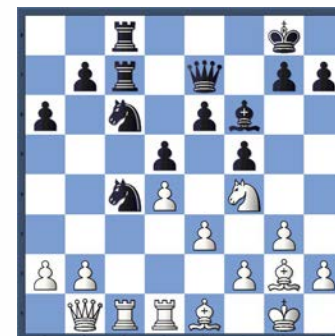
1. +-



(12) Grandelius, N(2602)-Houska, J(2388)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.02.02

1. +-



(13) Sengupta, D(2569)-Bellon Lopez, JM(2370)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.02.02

1. +-



(14) Iturrizaga, E(2649)-Dragne(2344)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.02.03

1. +-



(15) Kuipers, S(2390)-Oparin, G(2551)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.02.03

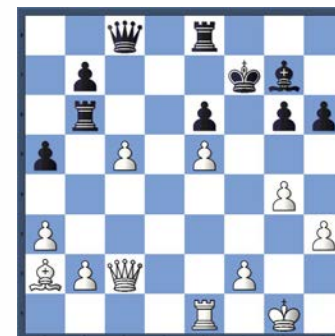
1. +-



(16) Sutovsky, E(2637)-Spragett, K(2538)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.02.04

1. +-



(17) Cheparinov, I(2681)-Adhiban, B(2630)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.02.05

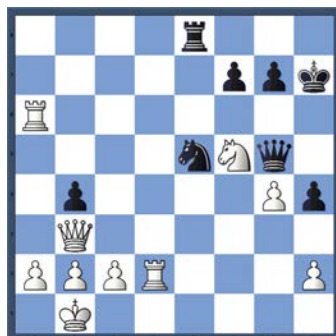
1... -+



(18) Ganguly, S(2595)-Sengupta, D(2569)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.02.05

1... -+



Endgame section

(19) Carlsen, Magnus (2865)
- Baramidze, David (2594)

Grenke Chess Classic,
2015.02.07



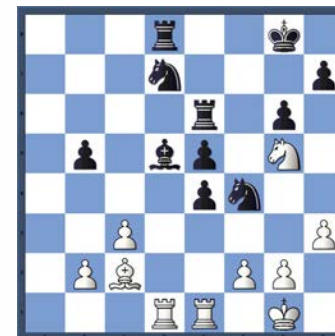
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



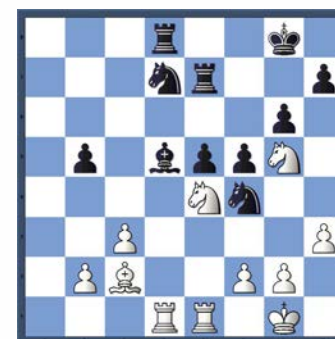
Black seems to be completely fine. He has a nice center and active minor pieces. The only temporary drawback of his position is the misplacement of his e6 rook, however it allows White to grab the advantage with extremely powerful play...

30. ♖f5! Very well played! Actually the position is very concrete and Carlsen starts to use his tactical skills to gain a positional advantage. Suddenly Black faces a difficult problem, he has many moves and none of them seem to be adequate. [Black is slightly better after the simple retreat 30. ♖e2 30... ♖e8 Black consolidates and is ready to overtake the initiative by pushing e4 followed by Ne5-d3.; The reason why the f-knight had to go to g5 can be seen in the line 30. ♖e5 30... ♖e8 31.g3 ♖xh3+! and the f3 knight is hanging.]

30... ♖e7 [A nice tactical point is to meet 30... fxe4 by



31. ♖xd5! ♖xd5 32. ♖xe6 ♖e8 and White wins serious material with 33. ♖b3!+- Black cannot survive the pin on the diagonal.; 30... ♖ee8 moves into 31. ♖d6 ♖e7 32.g3; 30... ♖c6 is similar to the game. White again plays 31.g3!]



31.g3! The main point of the previous move! White uses the fact that the black pieces are tied to defend each other.

31... ♖xe4 [Probably the best defense was 31... fxe4 32.gxf4 ♖b6 33.fxe5 ♖xe5 34. ♖xe4 White has won a pawn, but at least Black managed to keep his active pieces and he might hope for sufficient compensation. 34... ♖g7+=]

32. ♖xe4 fxe4 [32... ♖xh3+ is even worse, because it leaves Black with a horrible structure after 33. ♖xh3 fxe4 34. ♖g5!± White could have recaptured the e4 pawn right away, but it is much better to occupy this excellent square with the knight. Despite the material equality, White can claim a serious advantage because of the two

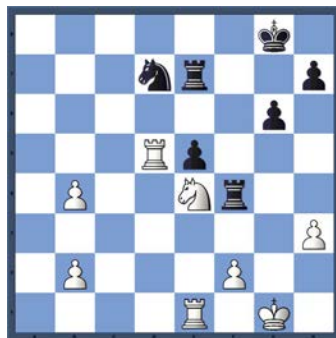
weaknesses on e5 and b5 and the excellent placement of his pieces.]

33.gxf4 ♖f8 [Black loses material after 33...exf4 34.♙xe4! ♜de8 Black was forced to leave the pin on the d-file but it simply costs him a pawn. 35.♙xf4±]

34.♞xe4 ♜xf4 The material is balanced, but the b5 pawn is extremely weak. Carlsen continues the game with extreme precision. It is tempting to go for the pawn directly with Rd5, but it allows Black to create counterplay. He rather fixes the weakness first to be able to win it in better circumstances...



35.b4! Rd5 and Nd6 are real threats now. [35.♙d5 is strongly met by 35...b4! 36.cxb4



36...♞f6! forcing the simplification to a rook endgame, where Black keeps excellent chances to survive. 37.♞xf6+ ♜xf6 38.♙dxe5 ♜xe5 39.♙xe5 ♜f4! It is important not to allow the rook to come behind the b-pawn. For instance Rf3? Re3 followed by Rb3 is over. 40.♙b5

♞g7! It looks clever to leave the back rank to avoid the cutting of the king with Rb7. White cannot avoid losing the b2 pawn anyway. .. 41.♞g2 ♜d4 followed by Rd3 and b3 next move. If White tries to activate his king with Kf3-e4 the dropping of the h3 pawn gives Black strong counterplay with the h-passer.]

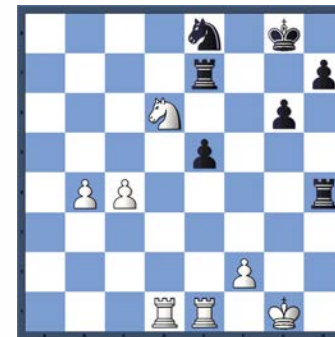
35...♞f6 Baramidze aims for a rook endgame, but Carlsen correctly refuses this option.

36.♞d6! The fall of the b5 pawn creates very dangerous connected passed pawns for White!

36...♜f3 37.♞xb5 ♜xh3 38.c4! The material is still balanced, but the quality of the pawns decides the outcome. The b- and c-pawns start to advance and Black cannot really stop them.

38...♜h4 [38...♜b3 runs into 39.♞d4! and Nc6 next!]

39.♞d6 ♞h5 [On 39...♞e8



40.♙e4! is a key move to save the pawns along the 4th rank. (Sometimes such pawns automatically decide the game, but here White loses one of them... 40.♞xe8? 40...♜xe8 41.♙c1 ♜c8=) 40...♜xe4 41.♞xe4+— and the pawns continue marching.]

40.b5 ♞f4 Black pins his hopes to active counterplay against the exposed king, but he is lacking the pieces to create something serious. White can easily neutralize the threats of the knight and rook.

41.b6 ♜g4+ 42.♞f1 ♜h4 43.f3! Simple and strong. White parries

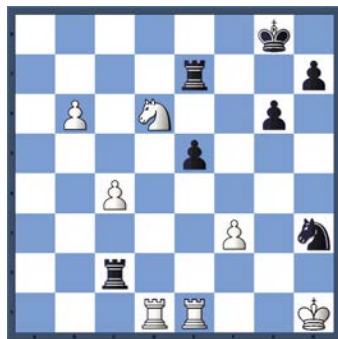
the mate threat.

43...♖h1+ 44.♔f2 ♜h2+ 45.♔g1 [Sacrificing an exchange with 45.♔e3 was also good enough. 45...♘g2+ 46.♔d3 ♘xe1+ 47.♞xe1+- and the passed pawns are unstoppable.]

45...♞c2 Nh3 is threatening now, but White has many convincing winning moves to parry this single threat. [45...♞b2 loses to 46.♞b1 ♘h3+ 47.♔h1 ♘f2+ 48.♔g2+- and there are no more checks.]

46.♔h1 [46.b7? is wrong because of 46...♘h3+ 47.♔h1 (47.♔f1?? 47...♞f2#) 47...♘f2+ 48.♔g1 ♘h3+=]

46...♘h3



47.♘e4! The last exact move! White prevents Nf2 and now the only question that remains is what happens if Black captures the unprotected pawn, but it is also refuted directly...

47...♞xc4 48.♞d8+! ♔g7 49.♞b1! [and Black resigned in view of 49.♞b1 49...♞b7 50.♘d6+- and the pawn promotes. Perfect technique by Carlsen!] **1-0**

Chess and the City. Good Bye Gibraltar



WGM Elisabeth Paehtz
Best rating: 2493

The most amazing open tournament of all time has finally come to an end. It was convincingly won by one of the favorites Hikaru Nakamura with an astonishing score of 8.5 /10.



One of the crucial rounds of the tournament. After losing his last three games vs. Topalov Nakamura was seeking a bloody revenge and eventually managed to succeed.

This did not only secure him a substantial gain of 16 rating points, but he will also regain his place as the highest ranked player of the USA on the next list.

One of the most impressive performances came from the current women's world champion Hou Yifan, she agreed to play despite participating in the well-known tough event in Wijk aan Zee of 13 rounds immediately before. Throughout the tournament she showed great play and was even close to defeating David Howell in the last round to secure herself second place outright. Eventually she finished in 3rd-11th place and was rewarded not only with the first women's prize of over 15000 pounds, but also earning a substantial sum in the main price category.



In order to give more honour to that fantastic open tournament, the team of Chess Evolution and I agreed on a small quiz which give 1 special book reward sent by Chess Evolution to the winner.

But let us start the quiz:

1. How many times has the Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival taken place?
2. Who among the main Organizers has the nickname "the fox"?

3. Which female participant is the strongest rated one playing for the first time in 2015?
4. Which other female participant had to spend some additional days at Gibraltar in 2013 due to a Visa problem?
5. Which two participants at the Gibraltar Festival of 2015 are sponsored by Red Bull?
6. Who is the creator of the Gibraltar Chess Tournament?
7. Which Top Grandmaster is known by the name of "Prince Charming"?
8. Which other Top GM being called "The finest"?
9. What is the favorite move of the commentator Simon Williams (related to the nick name I gave him)?
10. Last but not least, which super GM agreed his participation for 2016?

Please send the answers to the following address (chessnewsletter@yahoo.com) within 2 weeks after the publication of the newsletter. We will draw one winner and reward him/her with a book price, which will be posted to his/her address.

Clash of the Titans

(20) Lutikov, Anatoly S
- Taimanov, Mark E[B48]

URS-ch37(23),
 1969.10.11

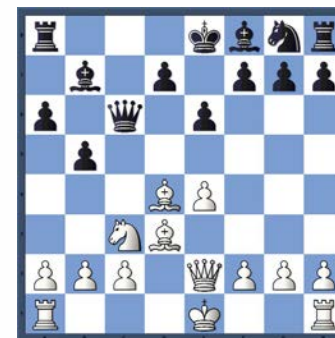


GM Kamil Miton
 Best rating: 2655

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 e6 5.♘c3 ♖c7 6.♙e3 a6 7.♙d3 b5 8.♘xc6 ♖xc6 [8...dxc6 9.a4! ♙b7 (9...♖b8) 10.axb5 cxb5 11.♘xb5→]

9.♙d4?! Probably with the idea to avoid Bc5, but it looks a bit strange. White usually plays for example: [9.O-O 9...♙b7 10.♖e1 with the idea to use some Nd5 tricks. 10...♘f6 11.a3 ♙d6 12.♙d4 e5 13.♙e3 ♙c5 14.♖f3 ♙xe3 15.♖xe3 ♖c5 16.♖f5 ♙f8 17.♖g3 h6∞1/2-1/2 Macieja,B-Anand,V/New Delhi/Teheran 2000/CBM 080 (26)]

9...♙b7 10.♖e2



10...♘e7 This was Taimanov favorite setup in the Sicilian, with a pawn on d7. [10...♘f6 11.♙xf6 gxf6 12.♘d5 O-O-O!]

13. ♖xf6 ♕g7=]

11.f4 b4 The other idea was to bring the knight to c6:
[11... ♖c7 12. ♖f2 (12. ♕e5 12... d6 13. ♕xb5+ ♕c6! → Duda)
12... ♖c6 13. ♕b6 ♖b8∞]

12. ♖b1 ♖g6



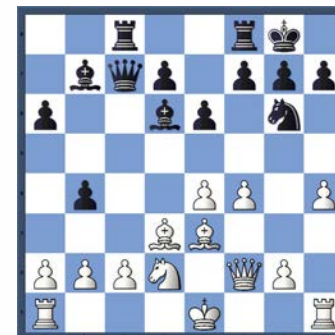
13. ♖f2 White had two other options: [13. ♖f1!? This move looks most logical to me because the rook on f1 is useful; 13.g3 13... e5!? 14.fxe5 ♕c5 15. ♖f2 ♖c8! Milton 16. ♕xc5 ♖xc5 17. ♖xc5 ♖xc5 18.a3 with the idea to create pressure on the queenside, but Black is on time after 18... ♖xe5! 19.axb4?? ♖xd3+ 20.cxd3 ♖c1+ →]

13... ♕d6 14. ♕e3 [14. ♕xg7 14... ♖xf4! 15. ♕xh8 ♖xd3+ 16.cxd3 ♖c1+ →; 14.g3 14... e5=]

14... O-O 15. ♖d2 ♖ac8 looks natural but might not be necessary. An alternative was [15... a5 with the idea to put pressure on the c2 pawn after Ba6.]

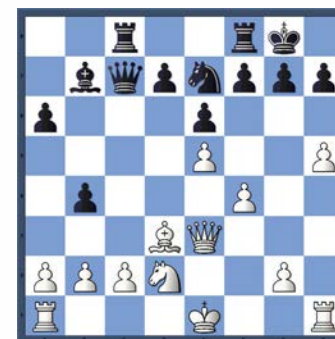
16.h4!? A very aggressive move, but White could put his king into safety after the simple [16.O-O-O∞]

16... ♖c7



17.e5 [17.g3 just to limit the black pieces a bit, but now Black can launch some aggressive play over the center: 17... f5!? Friend 18.O-O-O fxe4 (18... ♖e5 19.fxe5 fxe4 20.exd6 ♖a5 21. ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 22. ♖xe4 ♖xa2 23. ♖hf1+ ♖g8 24. ♖c5±; 18... e5?! 19.exf5 exf4 20. ♕b6!) 19. ♕xe4 (19. ♖xe4 19... ♖e5! 20. ♖xd6 ♖xd3+ 21. ♖xd3 ♕xh1 22. ♖xc8 ♖xc8 23. ♖d4 a5 with for example d5-Be4 next and Black is clearly better.) 19... ♕xe4 20. ♖xe4 ♕e7∞]

17... ♕c5 18.h5 ♕xe3 19. ♖xe3 ♖e7



20. ♖c4 [20. ♖e4 20... ♖f5 21. ♖f2 d6!? Duda (21... f6!? Friend- with the idea to destroy the white center and activate the pieces. 22.exf6 ♕xe4 23. ♕xe4 (23.fxg7 23... ♖xg7 24. ♕xe4 ♖xf4∞) 23... ♖xf6 24.O-O-O ♖c4! → 22.exd6 (22.g4? 22... dxe5

23.gxf5 exf5—+) 22...♖xd6 23.♖xd6 ♖xd6 24.O-O-O ♖c5 and Black doesn't have any problems here.]

20...♖f5 21.♖d2 ♖d5 22.♖e3 [22.♖xf5 22...♖xc4]

22...♖xe3 23.♖xe3 ♖c5 Instead of defending a slightly worse endgame White decides to create some pressure against the black king.

24.♖g3 h6 25.♖h4!?



25...♖g1!? Taimanov accepts the challenge. Objectively better for Black was the simple [25...♖h8 26.♖g4 ♖c4! (26...♖g8) ; 25...f5 26.exf6 ♖xf6 27.♖g4 ♖f7 is also fine for Black.]

26.♖d2 [26.♖e2!? was an interesting alternative. 26...♖xc2+ (26...♖xa1 27.♖g4 ♖h8 28.♖xg7 ♖xc2+ An amazing move! 29.♖xc2

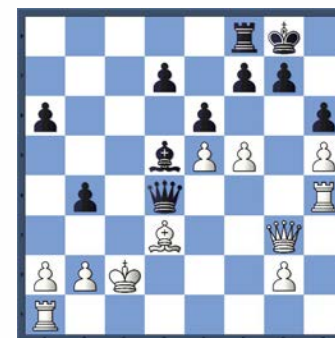


29...♖e4!! We missed this on the board and it was shown to us by the engine. 30.♖xe4 ♖xb2+ 31.♖e3 ♖c1+ 32.♖e2 ♖b2+ 33.♖f1 ♖c1+ 34.♖f2 ♖d2+ and White is not able to avoid perpetual check because after 35.♖g1? ♖d4+; 26...♖xg2+ 27.♖xg2 ♖xg2 28.♖g1 ♖d5 29.♖hg4 g6! 30.hxg6 f5 31.exf6 ♖xf6 32.g7 ♖c4!=+ to avoid Bh7. Black is better because the g7 pawn can be weak.) 27.♖xc2 ♖c4+ 28.♖d2 (28.♖f3 28...♖xa1 29.♖g4 ♖f1+ 30.♖e3 ♖e2+ 31.♖d4 ♖xc2—+) 28...♖d4+ 29.♖c1 ♖g1+ 30.♖d1 ♖c8 31.f5! There is no useful check now, but Black plays 31...♖c5! Duda - to have a check on d5 after Kd2. 32.♖xc4 ♖xc4+ 33.♖d2 exf5 and Black is better.]

26...♖d4? After deep analysis we can objectively say that this is a mistake. Black should have forced the draw after: [26...♖xc2+ 27.♖xc2 ♖d4+ 28.♖d3 ♖f2+ 29.♖d1 (29.♖c1?? 29...♖e1+) 29...♖g1+ with perpetual check.]

27.f5 [27.♖e1 to prevent Be4 but then after 27...f5! 28.exf6 ♖xf6 Black is fine.; 27.♖g4 27...♖e4! 28.♖xg7+ ♖h8+ and the queen and rook are badly placed on the g-file.]

27...♖xc2+ 28.♖xc2



28...b3+ Black could also play [28...♖c8+ 29.♖d1 (29.♖d2 29...♖xb2+ 30.♖e3 ♖xa1 31.f6 ♖c1+ is less accurate. (31...♖g1+ 32.♖e2 ♖xg2+ 33.♖xg2 ♖xg2 34.♖g4 ♖d5 35.♖xg7+ ♖h8 (35...♖f8 36.♖h7+—) 36.♖xf7 ♖xa2 37.♖h7+

♔g8 38.f7+ ♔f8 39.♖h8+-) 32.♔f2 (32.♔e2?? 32...♖g5 33.♖g4 ♖xh5+-) 32...♖d2+ 33.♔g1 (33.♕e2 33...♖g5 34.♖g4 ♖f5+ 35.♖f4 ♖g5=) 33...♖c1+ 34.♔h2 (34.♕f1 34...♖xg2+ 35.♖xg2 ♕xg2 36.♔xg2 gxf6 37.exf6 a5 and it is not easy to evaluate this position.) 34...♖g5 35.♖g4 ♖xh5+ 36.♖h4 ♖g5 37.♖g4=) 29...♖g1+ (29...♖xb2 30.♖b1+-) 30.♖e1 ♖xg2



31.♕e2 (31.♖xb4 31...♕f3+ 32.♕e2 ♖c5→; 31.♖e3!± A perfect place for the queen! We overlooked this defending idea on the board, but it was shown to us by the engine.) 31...♕b3+! or Bxa2!? - Milton 32.axb3 ♖d5+ 33.♖d2 ♖xb3+ 34.♔e1 ♖g3+ 35.♔f1 ♖xh4 36.♕f3∞(36.♖xa6 36...♖c1+! Friend)]

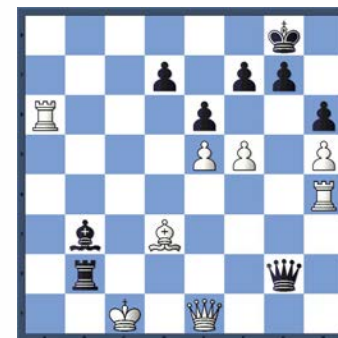
29.♔d1? Lutikov overlooked a winning variation! He could play [29.axb3! 29...♕xb3+ 30.♔d2 (30.♔xb3 30...♖b8+ 31.♔c2 ♖xb2+ 32.♔d1 ♖xa1+→) 30...♖xb2+ 31.♔e3 ♖xa1 32.f6 and now the white king needs to escape from the checks. 32...♖g1+ 33.♔e2 ♖d1+ 34.♔f2 ♖d2+ 35.♔g1 ♖c1+ 36.♕f1 ♖g5 37.♖g4 ♖xh5 38.♖xg7+ ♔h8



The whole line was based on the following amazing move: 39.♖h7+! ♔xh7 40.♖g7#]

29...♖g1+ 30.♖e1 Once again an interesting option was to give the rook: [30.♔d2 30...♖xa1 31.♖g4 (31.f6 31...♖xb2+ 32.♔e1 ♖xg2 33.♖xg2 ♕xg2 34.♖g4 bxa2 35.♖xg7+ ♔h8 36.♖h7+=) 31...♖xb2+ 32.♔d1 ♖a1+ (32...♔h8 33.♖xg7 ♕e4?! Milton 34.♕e4 ♖d4+ 35.♕d3 bxa2 36.♖h7+! ♔xh7 37.f6+ ♖xd3+ 38.♖xd3+ ♔h8 39.♖a3! Otherwise Black would have Rb8.; 32...bxa2 33.♖xg7+ ♔h8 34.♖h7+! nice. 34...♔xh7 35.f6+) 33.♔d2 ♖xa2+ 34.♔e3 ♖xg2 35.♖xg7+ ♔h8 36.♖xg2 ♕xg2 37.♖xg2 exf5 Black has many pawns, but they are quite weak so this should be a draw.]

30...♖xg2 31.♖f1?! [31.axb3! Friend 31...♖xb2 (31...♕xb3+ 32.♔c1 ♖c8+ 33.♔b1 ♖c2 34.♖xa6 ♖xb2+ 35.♔c1



35...♖c2+ 36.♔b1 leads to a nice perpetual check! -Friend)

32.♖c1 ♟xb3+ 33.♟c2 ♖c8 34.♞h2 ♖c5! Duda- Once again the rook is activated over the 5th rank.]

31...♟f3+! 32.♖e1 ♞xb2 33.♞b1 ♞xe5+ 34.♖f2 bxa2 Black grabs a lot of pawns. The position is winning for him but he still needs to play accurate moves.

35.♞e1 ♞f6 36.♖g3

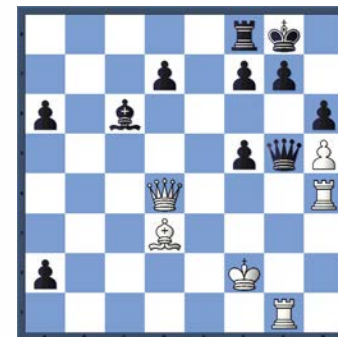


36...♟g2?! looks nice but better was [36...♞g5+ 37.♖h3 ♟d5—+ with the plan to activate the rook over the b-file.]

37.♞g1 [37.♞xg2 37...a1=♞ 38.♞xa1 ♞xa1=+ with chances for White.; 37.♞f2!?]

37...exf5 38.♞d4 [38.♟xf5 38...♟c6 Rb8 is coming and with a weak king and the unpleasant pawn on a2, White's position is very bad.; 38.♞e3 38...♟c6 39.♞d4 ♞b8 40.♞f4 ♞b3 Friend]

38...♞g5+ 39.♖h2 [39.♖f2 was more accurate compared to the game, so that there would be no check on h5. 39...♟c6 (39...♟e4 40.♞hxe4 fxe4 41.♞xe4 and there is no check on h5.) 40.♞g1



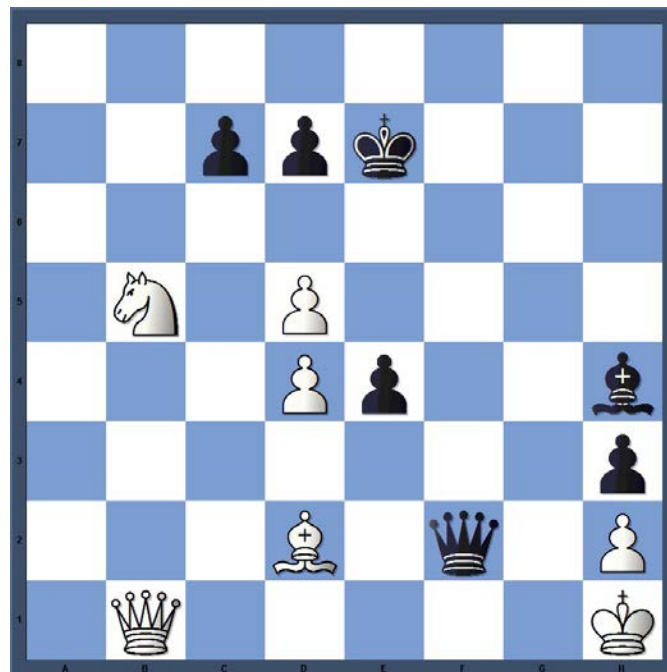
doesn't work because of the nice 40...a1=♞! 41.♞xa1 ♞g2+ 42.♖e1 ♞e8+ 43.♖d1 ♟f3+ 44.♖c1 ♞e1#]

39...♟e4! 40.♞hxe4 fxe4 41.♞xe4 ♞xh5+ 0-1

Surprise section / study

(21) Troitzky

1. =



Solutions

(22) Heinemann, J(2160)-Ganguly, S(2595)

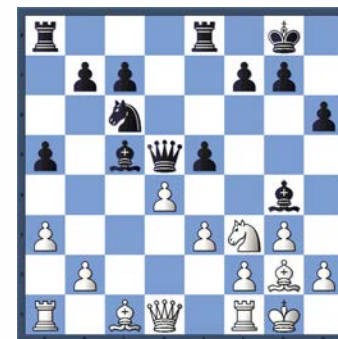
Gibraltar Open, 2015.01.27



25...♖e1+! 26.♖xe1 ♘d4—+

(23) Roiz, M(2592)-Heer, S(2157)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.01.17



13.h3! [13.dxc5 13...♙xd1 14.♖xd1 e4]

13...♙xf3 [13...♙h5 14.g4+—]

14.♙xf3 e4 15.dxc5! ♙xc5 [15...♙xd1 16.♙xd1+—]

16.♙g2+—

(24) Rapport, R(2716)-Tari, A(2487)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.01.28



17.♔d2!! g6 [17...exf3 18.♖h7#; 17...f5 18.g6! ♕e8 19.♖h8+! ♔xh8 20.♖h1+ ♔g8 21.♖h7#; 17...f6 18.g6 ♕e8 19.♖h8+! ♔xh8 20.♖h1+ ♔g8 21.♖h7#]

18.♖h1! f6 19.♖h7! 1-0 [19.♖h7 19...fxg5 (19...♖f7 20.♖h8+ ♔g7 21.♖h6 ♔f6 21.♖xg6+--)]

(25) Jones, G(2671)-Melia, S(2473)

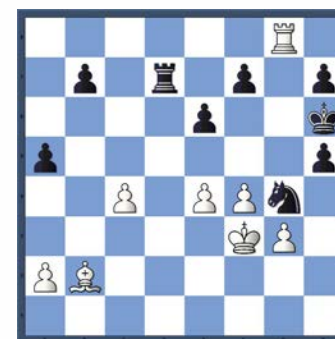
Gibraltar Open, 2015.01.28



26.♘f6+! exf6 27.exf6! ♖xd1+ 28.♔h2 ♖b8+ [28...♖xe2 29.♖g7#] **29.g3** 1-0

(26) Vishnu, P(2463)-Sutovsky, E(2637)

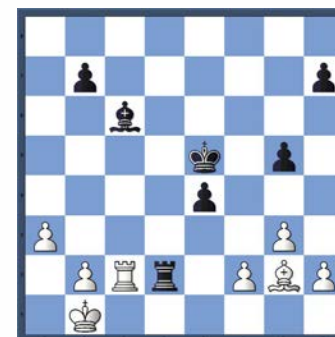
Gibraltar Open, 2015.01.28



32.♕g7+! ♔g6 33.f5+! 1-0 [33.f5+ 33...exf5 34.♕e5+ ♔h6 35.♕f4#]

(27) Matlakov, M(2695)-Muzychuk, M(2520)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.01.31



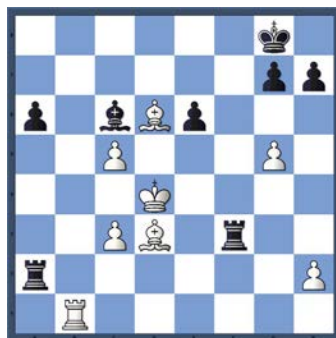
39...e3! 40.♕xc6 [40.fxe3 40...♖xc2 41.♔xc2 ♕xg2--]

40...e2! 41.♖xd2 [41.♖c1 41...♖d1--]

41...e1=♖+ 42.♔c2 bxc6—+ 0-1

(28) Muzychuk, M(2520)-Adhiban, B(2630)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.02.01



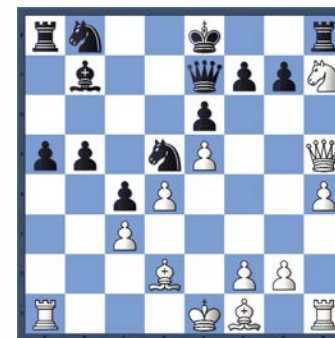
34...e5+!! [34...♖a4+ 35.c4; 34...♖d2?? 35.♖b8+ ♔f7 36.♖f8#]

35.♔c4 [35.♔xe5 35...♖xd3 36.♖b8+ ♔f7 37.♖f8+ ♔g6—+; 35.♔xe5 35...♖d2 36.♖b8+ ♔f7—+]

35...♖a4+ 36.♔b3 ♖xd3—+

(29) Donchenko, A(2511)-Motylev, A(2665)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.02.02



14...♖f8!! **15.♖d1** [15.♔e2 15...♖g8—+; 15.♔xf8 15...♖xh5—+]

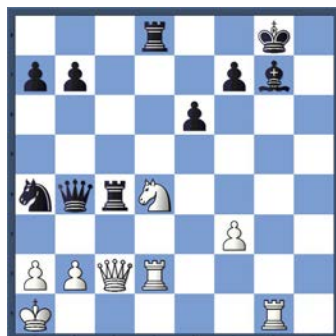
15...♖xh7 16.♔xc4 [16.♖b1 16...♖h8 17.♖xb5+ ♔c6 18.♖xc4 ♖xh4 19.♖xh4 ♖xh4—+]

16...bxc4? [16...♔c7—+]

17.♖b1 ♔d7 18.♖xh7 ♔e7=+

(30) Negi, P(2669)-Enkhbat, T(2417)

Chinggis GM, 2015.01.31



34. ♖xe6!! fxe6 [34... ♖xd2 35. ♖xg7+ ♔h8 36. ♖h7#;
34... ♖xb2+ 35. ♖xb2+-; 34... ♖xd2 35. ♖xg7+ ♔h8 36. ♖h7#;
34... ♖xc2 35. ♖xg7+ ♔h8 36. ♖xd8+-]

35. ♖xd8+ ♔f7 36. ♚g6+ ♔e7 37. ♖e8+ ♔d6 38. ♚xe6+ ♔c5
39. ♖g5+ 1-0

(31) Szelag, M(2456)-Socko, B(2611)

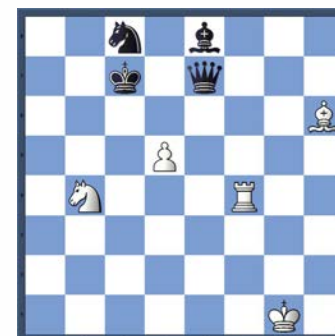
German league, 2015.02.01



20...♔e7!! 21.♔xe7 [21.♔e5 21...f6—+]

21...♖xg2+ 22.♔h1♖g1+!! 23.♔xg1♖g8+ 24.♙g4♖xg4# 0-1

(32) Sehwers



1.d6+! ♔xd6 [1...♘xd6? 2.♘d5+; 1...♔xd6? 2.♙f8]

2. ♖f7+!! ♜xf7 [2... ♔d8? 3. ♙g5+; 2... ♙b8 3. ♙f4; 2... ♔b6 3. ♖f6! ♜xf6 4. ♘d5+]

3. ♖f4! ♔xf4 4. ♘d5+! ♖xd5



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 156

20th of February 2015

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Editorial Preface

And the Zurich Chess Challenge 2015 is already behind us. 6 Top Grandmasters were playing a round robin in blitz, rapid and normal chess.

Anand can celebrate a great comeback, as after not having a great showing in Baden-Baden he managed to consolidate and take clear first place with 3 draws and 2 wins over Nakamura and Aronian. Second place went to Nakamura, who also won 2 games, against Karjakin and Caruana, but he lost to Anand.

In the blitz section Aronian was unstoppable and Vladimir Kramnik was the strongest one in rapid.

In the overall standings, Anand and Nakamura scored the same amount of points, so an armaggedon game was needed to decide the overall winner. Nakamura was Black and a draw would have been enough, but he even managed to win the game in convincing style.

All in all it was a great event to watch and in the current issue you will find some commented games taken from it.

Another super event has begun and that is the FIDE Grand Prix, in which Grischuk, Giri and many other Top Grandmasters are participating.

The biggest surprise so far is the excellent start of Tomashevsky with 3.5/4. His games were a bit strange, as it seems like he only wants to play a calm game and has nothing against a draw, but people keep on trying to look for trouble and Tomashevsky shows no mercy in punishing them.

After round 4 nothing too dramatic has happened, but the fight for the first places is probably going to be between Tomashevsky, Grischuk, Giri and Mamedyarov. A lot of excitement is still awaiting us!

We hope you enjoy the current issue.

With best chess wishes,

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) Jobava, Baadur (2696)
- Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar (2759)
[A01]

Tbilisi FIDE Grand Prix(5),
2015.02.20



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

The latest results of Jobava have been anything but great and after a very bad event in Wijk aan Zee, he continued playing in the same way in the Grand Prix, often going for irrational openings combined with overly aggressive play. This might work in an open tournament, but when you are playing against the best in the world, usually such play is getting punished. Anyhow, in the current game, after a very strange opening, Black got at least equal play, but maybe he wanted too much too quickly and Mamedyarov took a risky decision. The game got very hectic but Black seemed to keep a clear advantage, until Mamedyarov made a blunder which allowed Jobava to get on the top. A funny game to watch...

1.b3 Well...

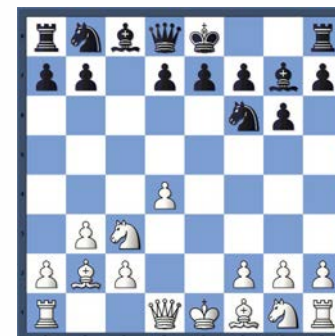
1...f6 2.f3 2...b2 g6 Personally I like this setup for Black a lot.

3.f3 c3 To play 3.Bxf6 is of course not an option. Black would just be better.

3...g7 4.d4 Baadur already played a few games with this setup, which looks very strange to me. What is the idea of putting the bishop on b2 and then playing d4? I don't get it...

4...c5 Black uses the fact that White cannot take on c5 because of Ne4.

5.e3 cxd4 6.exd4



6...d5! A very good move. Now the bishop on b2 is "dead".

7. d2 White is planning to castle queenside- what else to do?!

7...c6 8.O-O-O a5 This move looks a bit too rushed to me. Why not immediately play 8...Bf5 with the idea of just playing O-O and doubling on the c-file. Maybe Qa5 will be a useful move in the future, but maybe not...

9.f3 preparing the g4 push and protecting the e4 square.

9...h5 not allowing g4 and sometimes Bh6 could be a threat.

10.b1 f5 Black wants to play Nb4 next.

11.d3!? A very good practical decision. White decides to sacrifice a pawn and get an active position rather than playing a move like 11.a3?! and be clearly worse after for example O-O followed by Rfc8.

11...xd4?! A very principled move, but there was no reason for Black to play it. [After the simple 11...xd3 12. dxd3 O-O Black's position is at least equal and I would clearly prefer to be Black here.]



12. dge2! Maybe Mamedyarov underestimated this strong answer of White, but on the other hand White had nothing else to play. [In case White would try to recover the pawn with 12. fxf5?! 12... dxf5 13. dxd5 Black has the strong answer 13... cxd5! entering a clearly better endgame. 14. cxd5 dxd5 15. bxd5 fxb2 16. cxb2 dxe3 17. bxd2 d8 and this endgame looks very unpleasant for White.]

12... dxe2 [Another option for Black seems to be 12... fxd3 but now White can play for the initiative after 13. dxd4 fxa6 14. fhe1 All the white pieces are in the game, the black bishop is badly placed on a6 and the position is very unclear.]

13. cxe2



13... d7! An excellent move by Mamedyarov! The black bishop will be passive on d7, but it will hold everything

together. [13... fxd3 14. bxd3 and White is threatening to play Nxd5 next.]

14. fhe1 Typical Jobava! All or nothing... [White could have chosen a safer way by playing 14. f b5!? 14... fxb5 It seems like Black doesn't have anything better. 15. cxb5+ cxb5 16. dxb5 and Black cannot hold the d5 pawn. The position is around equal for example the simple 16... O-O and the game would probably end in a draw in this endgame.]

14... e6 It looks like Black's position is protected, but Jobava of course had something in mind before playing 14. Rhe1.



15. ffxg6!? Not very good, but very inventive play! The position is very crazy now.

15... fxg6 Of course Black has to take the piece.

16. dxd5 This is also the only move.

16... dxd5 17. ffxg7 So, where to put the rook now?! On g8 or h7?

17... ffg8?! Maybe Mamedyarov stopped being serious about the game or maybe he just miscalculated something, but I cannot understand why he didn't go to h7. [It seems like the right choice was 17... fh7! and if White tried to do same as in the game 18. cxe5 Black now has the very strong 18... cf7!! and the black king can escape to g8 after 19. bxd5 cxd5 20. cxf6+

♔g8 and this was all not possible in the game.]

18. ♖e5 is probably White's best chance.

18... ♖xg7? This is already a blunder. Black had several good options here: [A very hard move to play was 18... ♔f7 19. ♖xd5 We are entering a long forced line now. 19... ♖xd5 20. ♖f6+ ♔e8 21. ♖xg6+ ♔d8 22. ♖f7 ♔c7 23. ♖e3! Of course Black always has Rxg7 or other options, but for a human such a position can look very dangerous and unclear.; 18... ♖c7! seems to be very strong. 19. ♖b2 (19.c4 just leads to a lost endgame. 19... ♖xe5 20. ♔xe5 ♘e7 and I don't see any hope for White.) 19... O-O-O! The only move, but it is very strong. 20. ♔e5 ♖a5 and maybe White has some play for the piece, but I think his position should be close to lost in the long-term.]



19. ♖xd5!! Black had clearly missed this counterblow... [19. ♖xg7 was losing on the spot as after 19... ♘c3+ 20. ♔b2 ♘xd1+ 21. ♖xd1 O-O-O White has no compensation at all.]

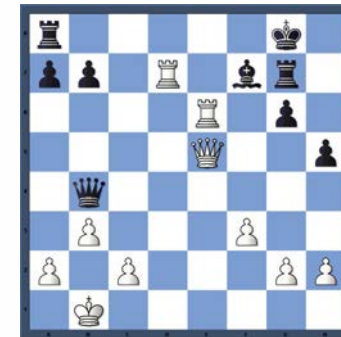
19... ♖b4 controlling the f8 square and keeping an eye on the e1 rook.

20. ♖d6 preventing the black queen to joining the defense.

20... ♔f8 Another only move.

21. ♖ed1 [The very tempting-looking 21. ♖e4 doesn't bring much either. 21... ♖b5 The only move. 22. ♖d4 ♔e8 23. ♖xe6 with a very unclear position.]

21... ♔c6?! Another unlucky decision... [21... ♔e8 looks much tougher. 22. ♖xe6 ♔f7 23. ♖d7 ♔g8 Black wants to play Rf8 next and it seems like everything is okay, but White has the amazing



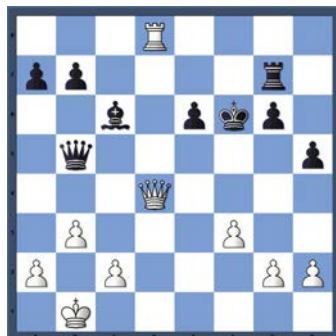
24. ♖xf7! ♔xf7 and again White needs to find 25. ♖d5!! which is very difficult during a practical game. 25... ♔f8 26. ♖e4 and because of his dangerous attack, White has good winning chances.]

22. ♖1d4? and White gifts the game back... [22. ♖d8+ was winning. 22... ♖xd8 23. ♖xd8+ ♔e8 (23... ♔e7 loses to 24. ♖d4; Maybe what both players missed is that after 23... ♔f7 White needed to find 24.c3!! The black queen cannot keep control over both the f8 and f4 squares any longer. 24... ♖e7 25. ♖f4+ ♖f6 26. ♖f8+ ♔xf8 27. ♖xf6+ and White is easily winning.)]

22... ♖b5 The right move.

23. ♖d8+ ♖xd8 24. ♖xd8+ ♔e7 25. ♖d6+ The position seems to be a draw now...

25... ♔f6 26. ♖d4+



26...♔f7?? and Mamedyarov is the last one to blunder. [After the correct 26...♔e7 27.♚d6+ (If White wanted too much with 27.♚h8? Black is winning after 27...e5! 28.♚d8+ ♔e6 and the black king is perfectly safe on e6.) 27...♔f6 and this seems to just be a draw.]

27.♚f4+ Now the game is just over.

27...♔e7 followed by mate with 28.Qf8. A very exciting game, even though it had quite a few mistakes in it, and clearly a very important point for Jobava! **1-0**

(2) Anand, Viswanathan(2797) - Aronian, Levon(2777) [D97]

4th Zurich CC Classical(2.3),
2015.02.15



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Anand has a terrible personal score against Aronian, but in this game he takes a nice revenge. It would be very interesting to know how long his preparation lasted, perhaps it was until he reached a completely winning position. In any case, Vishy wins a very nice game.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 A surprise by Aronian. He only occasionally employs the Gruenfeld defence, but recently everyone faces serious difficulties about how to play for and edge against it...

4.♘f3 ♗g7 5.♚b3 Anand sticks to his amazing preparation, which he did before the World Championship match against Carlsen. He got a very promising position there in this 5.Qb3 system.

5...dxc4 6.♚xc4 O-O 7.e4



7...♘a6 Aronian follows the game against Carlsen and the old main line used in so many games successfully by Kasparov.

However recently all the experts are trying different setups like 7...a6 or 7...Nc6.

8.♘e2 c5 9.d5 e6 10.O-O exd5 11.exd5 The initial position of the 7...Na6 system.

11...♖e8 The other main line is 11...Bf5, but they often transpose to each other.

12.♖d1 The main line, but at the same time the deviation from the Anand-Carlsen WCC game from last year November. White supports his main triumph, the d5 passed pawn, which sometimes becomes extremely strong when it starts to advance. [The Anand-Carlsen game continued with the rare 12.♘g5 Arkadij commented it in detail in a previous issue of our newsletter.]

12...♘f5 Black usually pins his counterplay to the Ne4 move, which opens the diagonal of the g7 bishop, which is often threatening with tactical ideas like Nxc3 followed by Re4 or just the positional plan of a Nd6 retreat. The knight could become the ideal blockader of the passed pawn.

13.d6 Everything is still known with hundreds of games in the database. White has in mind to play Ng5 sometimes or Qb3, attacking the b7 pawn and threatening Bb5 or Bc4.

13...h6! The correct answer. Black has to take control over the g5 square. [Many players have fallen into the opening trap of 13...♗e4 which is strongly met by 14.d7! ♖e7 15.♗xe4 ♖xe4



16.♘g5! We can clearly see the strength of the d7 pawn. White comes out with a big advantage from the complications. One important line is 16...♖xd7 17.♖xd7 ♖xc4 18.♖xb7! ♖a4 19.♖d1± with a big advantage for White. Suddenly the black pieces are poorly placed and the king is getting very vulnerable. One direct threat is Rxa7 because after Rxa7 Rd8 Bf8 Bh6 wins.]

14.♘e3 This is the new direction prepared by Anand. [Almost all the games continued with 14.♘f4 14...♗d7 even such classical ones as Karpov-Kasparov from their World Championship match back in 1987.]

14...♗g4! Aronian tries to point out the drawback of the previous move with the most direct answer. [14...♗e4 is again met by 15.d7! ♖e7 16.♗xe4 ♘xe4 (16...♖xe4 17.♖d5 is too strong! The b7, c5 and a6 are hanging. This is one of the points of the 14.Be3 move, as the e2 bishop is hanging now.) 17.♖d6! and Rad1 next. The d7 pawn paralyzes the black pieces.]

15. ♖f4

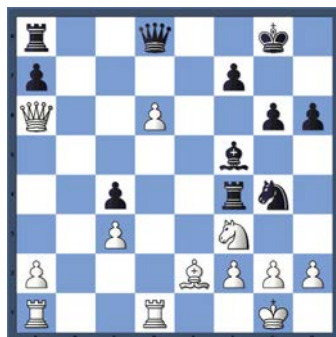


15... ♗xc3! This is the tactical point of the previous knight move! If Black gives up his favorite bishop, there must be serious reason to do it. The point is that the bishop has moved into the Re4 fork. The Gruenfeld players must be good in creativity and very strong in calculation, which in general fits perfectly both Anand's and Aronian's style.

16. bxc3 ♖e4 Black wins a piece, but the game goes on. Obviously Anand had to be prepared for all these things...

17. ♖b5 ♖xf4 18. ♖xb7 Black is a piece up, but his pieces are totally disorganized. He must try to consolidate in the next couple of moves...

18... ♖a4 The human move, indirectly protecting the a6 knight. [The machine shows a brilliant variation, which seems to lead to a forced draw 18...c4!! 19. ♖xa6



19... ♗d3!! 20. ♗xd3 ♖xf3! Of course it is impossible to find these ideas over the board. Black eliminates the main defender of the king and Qh4 is coming next move with a scary attack... 21. gxf3 (21. ♖xc4 21... ♖h4 comes anyway.) 21... ♖h4! There is nothing else left to do for Black, he sacrifices all his pieces... 22. fxf3 ♖xg4+ 23. ♖f1 ♖h3+ 24. ♖e1 White might try to avoid the perpetual check by moving the king towards the center, but he cannot escape from it... 24... ♖e8+ 25. ♗e2 (25. ♖d2?? 25... ♖xd3+ 26. ♖c1 ♖xc3+ 27. ♖b1 ♖b8+—) 25... ♖g4! A subtle move, when Black is a rook and bishop down! It is important to protect to c4 pawn to stop the white queen from joining the defence. 26. f3 ♖g1+ 27. ♖d2 ♖g5+ and White is forced to agree a draw with 28. ♖e1= (28. ♖c2?? loses to 28... ♖xe2+ 29. ♖b1 ♖f5+ and mate on c2!)]

19. d7! This position was clearly part of Anand's preparation. The lines show that in case of Black's perfect reply the game is balanced, but obviously to play such a sharp position over the board is quite impossible for a human, so it is a good practical choice for Anand to opt for this position. Black is still a piece up, but his pieces are misplaced and the d7 pawn keeps many tactical resources at White's disposal. [19. ♗xa6? right away was wrong in view of 19... ♖b8! and White cannot save his a6 bishop. 20. ♖c6 (20. ♖xa7 20... ♖a8—) 20... ♗d7!—+ is the point and the bishop falls.]

19... ♗e4 [The alternative was 19... ♗c7 saving the knight, but White has strong counterplay here as well after 20. h3! ♗f6



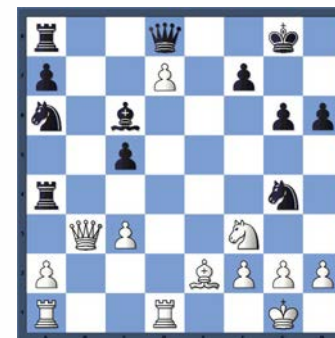
21. ♖e5! creating the threat of Nc6 and Qb3, with a double attack on a4 and f7! 21... ♗xd7 22. ♖xf7! Black must accept the sacrifice. 22... ♔xf7 (Other moves are much worse, for instance 22... ♜f8 23. ♗d6+- wins for White. Too many pieces are hanging. The c7 knight, the f5 bishop and then the d7 knight and also Qb3 check.) 23. ♜b3+ ♔g7 24. ♜xa4+= The position has simplified and White's prospects are better. He is already doing fine materially and the black knights remain disorganized.]

20. ♜b3 ♗c6? A blunder which causes the loss of the game for Black. [The only move was the ugly 20... ♜a5 protecting the pieces on the a-file. 21. ♗d2



attacking many pieces again. The g4, the e4 are hanging directly and Nc4 is threatening to trap the rook. Black

is forced to sacrifice to survive this tension somehow... 21... ♗xg2! Surprisingly Black survives the complications in all the lines. 22. ♗c4 (22. ♗xg4 22... ♜g5; 22. ♔xg2 22... ♜h4) 22... ♜b8 23. ♗xa5 ♜xb3 24. axb3 ♗e5 25. ♔xg2 ♗b8 and Black eliminates the d7 pawn and solves most of his problems. These are all computer lines and it is very hard to understand what is going on for us...]



21. ♜d6! The rook joins the game with decisive power. Black has no good way to deal with the hanging of the c6 bishop because the a4 rook must also be protected. Rxd6 is an additional threat.

21... ♗xd7 [21... c4 22. ♜d1! +- is over. The c6 and the a4 are hanging and after 22... ♗b5 23. ♜d5!+- wins because of the Rxd6 check threat.; 21... ♜b8 22. ♜d1 leads to the same problems as the 21... c4 line. 22... ♜b6 23. ♜xc6! ♜xc6 24. ♜xa4+-]

22. ♜ad1! +- As simple as that! Black cannot solve problems despite his extra piece. Even Qxa4 is a threat.

22... ♜b8 23. ♜xd7 ♜xb3 24. axb3 ♜a2 The material is balanced, but the weakness of the black king and the misplacement of the a6 knight decides the game...

25. ♖c4! ♜f8 **26.** ♜7d6! The final blow! White wins as not just the a6 knight is hanging, but Rxd6-Rxd4 is also in the air.

26... ♔g7 **27.** ♜xa6 ♜xf2 **28.** ♜e1 What a great game by Anand!
1-0

The K-Files.

Nimzo 4.e3 0-0 5.Nge2 c6 8.e4



GM Alexander Khalifman
FIDE World Chess Champion (1999)
Best rating: 2702

(3) Nimzo 4.e3 0-0 5.Nge2 c6 8.e4 [E46]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.e3 O-O 5.♘e2 c6 6.a3 ♙a5 7.b4 ♘c7 8.e4 The most ambitious and dangerously straightforward plan. White is trying to gain as much space as possible. Black has to react very precisely just to avoid full suffocation. However, pawns don't move back and if Black succeeds in undermining the opponent's center, then he can easily regain the initiative. The serious problem I faced analyzing this line is the lack of practical material (just 20 games so far). The same is true about the whole system with 5...c6 but in the other lines the structure is quite usual so it's easier to play, just considering well-known strategical patterns. After 8.e4 the situation becomes completely different so an accurate knowledge is extremely valuable here.



8...d5 This natural move seems to be the best. [8...e5 was not tried yet and there is a good reason for it: 9.dxe5 (9.d5 is good enough to secure some advantage. 9...d6 10.♘g3 - 8...d6) 9...♙xe5 10.f4 Simple and good. 10...♙c7 (10...♙xc3+ 11.♘xc3 a5 12.b5+= (12.♙b2 12...axb4 13.axb4 ♖xa1 14.♙xa1 d6 15.♙e2 ♘a6∞ is less clear.) 12...♘xe4 13.♘xe4 ♖e8 14.♙e2 ♖xe4 15.O-O d6 16.♖d3 ♖e8 17.♙b2 and White has more than enough for the sacrificed pawn.) 11.♘g3 and White will complete the development with a comfortable positional advantage. (11.e5 is too active. 11...♘e8 12.♙b2 d6∞) 11...a5 12.b5 d6 13.♙e2+=; 8...d6 It was a real shock for me to find out that this modest move has so far brought 85% for Black. OK, 10 games is not the most reliable number but still.. . However, it's mostly a coincidence and this massive success has little to do with the opening results. White has a comfortable choice of lines which promise him a nice positional advantage. Maybe not too much, but it is quite pleasant to play. 9.♘g3 This is the best plan. (

a) 9.g3 It was mentioned already in part 1 that a fianchetto combined with b2-b4 always has a certain drawback as the c4 pawn becomes vulnerable. The same is true for this line. 9...e5 10.♙g2 a5 11.♖b1 (11.b5 11...♘bd7 12.O-O exd4 13.♘xd4 ♘e5↗) 11...exd4 12.♘xd4 ♘bd7 13.O-O axb4 14.axb4 ♘e5 x c4 15.♖b3 (15.c5 15...dxc5 16.bxc5 ♖e7 17.f4 Vasilov - Ivanov, S Izhevsk

2010 17...♗g4! 18.♖ce2 ♜xc5⌚) 15...♗b6 16.♖ce2 c5 17.bxc5 ♗xc5=;

b) 9.h3 9...a5 10.b5 e5 11.g4 ♖bd7 12.♗g2 Granda - Ly Pavlodar rapid 2015 12...♖b6!? and once again c4 is a target. 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.c5 ♜xd1+ 15.♙xd1 ♖c4†)

9...a5 (9...e5 doesn't change too much as a7-a5 seems to be useful for Black anyway. 10.♗e2 (10.dxe5 10...dxe5 11.♜c2+=; 10.d5 10...a5 11.♜b1 - 9...a5) 10...exd4 (10...d5?! 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.♗g5± Lercel - Polyakov Krakow 2014) 11.♜xd4 a5 12.♜b1 - 9...a5) 10.♜b1! (10.b5 10...e5 and whatever White plays here, the c5 square gives Black good counterplay. 11.♗e2 (

a) 11.dxe5 11...dxe5 12.♗e3 ♗e6 13.♗e2 ♜xd1+ 14.♜xd1 g6=;

b) 11.d5 11...cxd5 12.cxd5 ♗b6 13.♖a4 (13.♗e2 13...♗d4 14.♗b2 ♖bd7=) 13...♗d4 14.♗b2 ♗xb2 15.♖xb2 ♖bd7= Matheson - Sukandar Queenstown 2012;)

11...exd4 12.♜xd4 ♖bd7 13.♜b1 ♖c5 14.O-O a4 15.♗e3 ♜e8∞ This position is complex, but I believe that Black has enough dynamic resources.) 10...axb4 11.axb4 e5 and now White has a very pleasant choice between 3 options which lead to some positional advantage. The structures are quite different so in my opinion it's just a matter of taste. I would most probably go for 12.d5, but I don't claim that this is the most promising move. 12.d5 (

a) 12.dxe5 12...dxe5 13.♜c2 ♜e7 14.♗e2 ♜d8 15.O-O g6 16.♗g5 ♖a6 17.♜b2+=;

b) 12.♗e2 12...exd4 (12...♗b6 13.♗e3+=; 12...d5 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.♗g5 dxe4 15.d5±) 13.♜xd4 c5 (13...♗g4 14.O-O ♗xe2 15.♖gxe2+=) 14.bxc5 ♖c6 15.♜e3 dxc5 16.O-O ♖d4 17.f4†)

12...♗b6 13.♗e2 ♗d4 This bishop looks stronger than it really is. 14.♗d2 cxd5 (14...♖a6 15.O-O ♗d7 16.♗d3+=;

14...♖bd7 15.O-O ♜e8 Tay - Sukandar Incheon 2013 16.♗d3 ♖f8 17.♖ce2+=) 15.cxd5 ♜b6 16.O-O ♗d7 17.♗d3 ♖g4 18.♗e1 ♜a3 19.♖ce2+=; 8...a5!? I don't see any problem for Black in the main line but still this new move might be a good alternative. Black tries to define the queenside structure before starting action in the center. 9.e5 This is the critical independent line. However, after (

a) 9.b5 9...d6 10.♖g3 e5 is a favorable version of the 8...d6 line.;

b) 9.♜b1 9...axb4 10.axb4 d5 The open a-file is good for Black in another setup. 11.e5 ♖e8 (11...♖fd7!? 12.cxd5 exd5 13.f4 ♜e7) 12.c5 f6 13.f4 - 8...d5;

c) 9.♗g5 9...d6 and it's not clear what the bishop is doing on g5.) 9...axb4 10.exf6 bxc3 11.fxg7 ♜e8 12.♖xc3 d5! 13.♗d3 ♜h4 14.g3 ♜h3 15.♗f1 ♜f5↔Black has nothing to worry about.]

9.e5 The other moves don't create any problem for Black. [9.♗g5 9...h6 10.♗h4 (10.♗xf6 10...♜xf6 Gu - Medina China 2013 11.e5 ♜e7 12.c5 f6⌚) 10...g5 11.♗g3 ♖xe4 12.♖xe4 dxe4 and White has yet to prove that he has enough for the pawn. ; 9.♖g3 9...e5!†and the center opens in Black's favor.; 9.cxd5 Opening the diagonal for the black passive light squared bishop is obviously illogical. 9...exd5 10.e5 and now, besides the two moves which transpose to the main lines, Black has a tricky resource: 10...♖g4!? (10...♖fd7 - 9.e5; 10...♖e8 - 9.e5) 11.h3 ♖h6 12.♗xh6 gxh6 13.f4 f6 14.♜d3 ♜e7 and Black's dynamic resources (a7-a5 first of all) fully compensate the weakened pawn structure. White also has certain problems completing the development. 15.♜c1 (15.♖g3 15...fxe5 16.fxe5 ♖d7 17.♗e2 ♖xe5! This is a typical piece sacrifice in this structure. 18.dxe5 ♗xe5—+) 15...a5 16.b5 fxe5!? (16...a4!?) 17.fxe5 ♜xa3∞]

9...♞f7!? looks a bit ugly but it works. First of all Black is ready to move this knight further to b6 and c4 and if White prevents it with c4-c5 then the typical knight sacrifice on e5 is very interesting in many cases. [Zvjaginsev's 9...♞e8 is also quite playable. The piece sac on e5 is not Black's main idea anymore, but it is still possible in some lines. But the passive knight on e8 might surprisingly soon become active after f7-f6 f2-f4 g7-g5! with the following Ne8-g7-f5. 10.c5 is of course the critical move. (

a) 10.♞g3 was chosen by Tomashevsky in the stem game and it looks quite logical. However, the forced 10...f6 11.f4 a5 12.♞b1 (12.b5 12...fxe5 13.fxe5 ♞d7⇒) 12...axb4 13.axb4 fxe5 14.fxe5 ♞h4 gives Black excellent counterplay as the white king is stuck in the center. 15.♙e3 ♞d7 16.♞h5 ♞xh5 17.♞xh5 ♞a3 18.♙d2 ♞xe5! Even in the endgame this idea might work! 19.dxe5 ♙xe5♞ and despite his extra piece, it's White who has to play accurately to hold the balance. (Tomashevsky - Zvjaginsev Russia ch 2010);

b) 10.cxd5 10...exd5 11.f4 f6 12.g3 g6⇒)

10...f6 11.f4 a5 12.♙e3 (12.♞b1 12...axb4 13.axb4 ♞d7 14.g3 fxe5 15.fxe5 ♞xe5! Once again! 16.dxe5 ♙xe5 17.♞b3 ♞f6 18.♞d1 b6!♞; 12.b5 12...b6⇒) 12...g5! ⇒Black must play aggressively, otherwise the opponent's space advantage will tell. (The quiet 12...b6?! 13.g3 ♞d7 14.♙h3 ♞e7 15.O-O± led to a clear white advantage. (Kotanjian - Rausis Beirut 2014)) 13.g3 axb4 In my opinion it's the perfect moment for this liquidation. (After 13...gxf4 14.gxf4 ♞g7 Khachiyan - Molner USA 2014 15.b5!/? b6 16.♞g1 ♞h8 17.♙h3↑ might be unpleasant for Black, although this position is still very complicated.; 13...♞g7 14.b5!/? gxf4 15.gxf4 - 13...gxf4) 14.axb4 ♞xa1 15.♞xa1 ♞g7♞ In my opinion this is the key position for the whole 9...Ne8 line and it is extremely complicated and hard to assess. I

believe that White's space advantage and Black's active piece counterplay must be somewhat balanced but only practical tests can confirm or deny this.]

10.♞f4 A logical response. White prevents f7-f6 but Black has another (not obvious at all) way to undermine the opponent's center. [10.c5 looks tempting but now the piece sac on e5 works perfectly. Not immediately, of course. 10...a5! 11.♙e3 (11.b5 might be the best, but it looks strange as it allows Black to open queenside even without sacrifices. 11...b6 12.cxb6 ♞xb6=+) 11...axb4 12.axb4 ♞xa1 13.♞xa1 f6 14.f4 fxe5 15.fxe5 ♞a6 16.♞b2 ♞xe5! This is almost the dream version of the typical sacrifice 17.dxe5 ♙xe5♞ and White's position is close to collapsing...; 10.cxd5 10...exd5 (10...cxd5 is playable but slightly worse the other capture. 11.♞f4 ♞c6 12.g3 ♙b6 13.♞ce2+=) 11.f4 was played in 2 games However, after the best 11...♞e7! once again it's White who has to be extremely careful. The knight sacrifice on e5 is in the air in many different lines. (11...a5 Pardo Simon - Aroshidze Barcelona 2013 12.b5+=; 11...♞b6 Greet - Bremner England 2014 12.♞g3 f6 13.♙d3+=) 12.g3 (12.♞g3 12...f6 13.♙e2 fxe5 14.fxe5 ♞xe5!/? 15.dxe5 ♙xe5 16.♙b2 ♞h4♞) 12...f6 13.♙g2 fxe5 14.fxe5 ♞xe5 15.dxe5 ♙xe5 16.♙b2 ♞d7♞]

10...a5 [The immediate 10...c5 is also playable although it seems that opening the a-file first is slightly more accurate. 11.bxc5 ♙a5 12.♙d2 ♞c6 13.♞b5 a6 14.cxd5 exd5 15.♞d6 ♞xd4 16.♙b4♞ is a critical line. Black most probably has enough dynamic resources but knight on d6 is rather annoying.]

11.♞b1 The alternatives don't promise any advantage either. However, it may be the right time for White to reduce his ambitions. [11.♙b2 11...axb4 12.axb4 ♞xa1 13.♙xa1 ♞e7 14.♞b1 ♞a6 15.b5 ♞b4↑; 11.♞a2!/? looks quite artificial but it

might be the safest choice. 11...axb4 12.axb4 ♖xa2 13.♗xa2 c5!
Anyway! 14.bxc5 ♕a5+ 15.♕d2 ♗c6 16.cxd5 ♗xd4 ♖Black has
enough for the pawn, but not more.; 11.b5 11...c5!↑]

11...axb4 12.axb4



12...c5! This is a very important tactical resource which justifies the whole setup. Without this move, White would just be comfortably better.

13.bxc5 [13.dxc5 13...dxc4 14.♕xc4 ♗xe5=+ is just fine for Black]

13...♕a5 14.♕d2 [14.♕b2 14...♗xc5! is another tactical trick.]

14...♗c6 15.cxd5 This is new and not very dangerous for Black. [However, 15.♗b5 might only be dangerous for White. 15...dxc4 (In the game Grotnes - Schmitt diel Gausdal 1992 Black just went too far with 15...♗g5?! 16.♕xa5 ♖xa5 17.♗d2±) 16.♕xc4 (16.♗c2 16...♕xd2+ 17.♗xd2 b6=+) 16...♗xd4! Of course this tactical trick is easy to miss over the board. 17.♗xd4 ♗xe5 18.♗b3 ♗xc4 19.♕xa5 ♗xa5 20.♗xd8 ♖xd8 21.♖a1 e5 22.♗e2 ♕e6 23.♗xa5 ♖a6± and Black wins the piece back.]

15...♗xd4 16.♗b5 ♗xb5 This move was chosen as the main line just to show that Black has everything under control. [In fact the alternative 16...♗xc5!? 17.♗xd4 ♗e4= leads to crazy

complications which might be in Black's favor.]

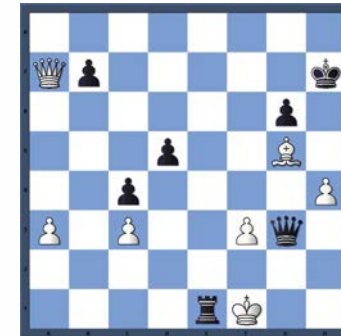
17.♕xb5 exd5 18.O-O ♗xe5 19.♕xa5 ♖xa5 20.♗xd5 ♕f5=
The queenside pawns will be exchanged soon. Game over.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS: At the moment it looks like 5.. .c6 is a perfectly sound way to meet the Reshevsky System. Its positional basis is quite healthy. The most critical line must be 6.a3 Ba5 7. b4 Bc7 8.e4 but as the concrete variations show it's perfectly unclear whose chances are preferable there (especially in the line 8...d5 9.e5 Nfd7). It would be interesting to see how the top-level players would fight with it as so far it didn't happen.

David vs. Goliath



Peter Zhdanov
Chief Editor of Pogonina.com



In this special column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week has brought us an anti-record quantity of upsets - only 12. The number of moves ranges from 25 in GM Akesson (2451) - Winfridsson (2080), 0-1 to 67 in Hamidi (1963) - Sheykhhasani (2337), 1-0. The highest-profile loss was GM Mirzoev (2556) - Asgari (2193), 0-1.

The "desire to win" nomination goes to FM Stefan Beukema (2345) for desperately fighting with White against Rolf Corstenjs (1897) and allowing Black to deliver mate on the board. By pure coincidence, it is also the most shocking upset of the week, featuring a 552 points rating difference:

Top-10:

Al Mousawi (1688) - Al Othman (2240), 1-0, [552](#) points
 Beukema (2345) - Corstjens (1897), 0-1, 1-0, [448](#) points
 Al Othman (2240) - Alamiri (1812), 0-1, [428](#) points
 Papin (2515) - Zeynalov (2121), 0-1, [394](#) points
 Hamidi (1963) - Sheykhhasani (2337), 1-0, [374](#) points
 Horbing (2080) - Brynell (2452), 1-0, [372](#) points
 Stauskas (1971) - Germanavicius (2343), 1-0, [372](#) points
 Akesson (2451) - Winfridsson (2080), 0-1, [371](#) points
 Mirzoev (2556) - Asgari (2193), 0-1, [363](#) points
 Czumbel (1775) - Kiss (2103), 1-0, [328](#) points

Average gap: 400; White won 5 games, Black won 5 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) will be appreciated.

Puzzle section

(4) Nakamura, H(2776)-Karjakin, S(2760)

Zurich, 2015.02.16

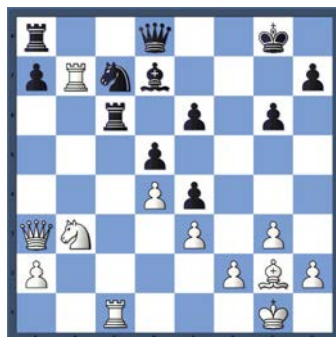
1. +-



(5) Kramnik, V(2783)-Caruana, F(2811)

Zurich blitz, 2015.02.13

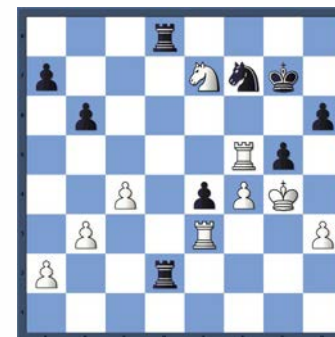
1... ♠



(6) Timman, J(2553)-Nikolic, P(2588)

Noteboom GM, 2015.02.15

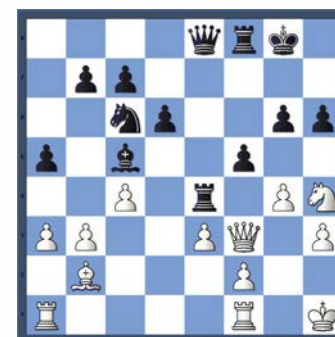
1... -+



(7) Lai, H(2308)-Sprenger, J(2496)

Noteboom Open, 2015.02.15

1. +-



(8) Fridman, D(2648)-Fedorchuk, S(2648)

Noteboom Open, 2015.02.15

1. +-



(9) Socko, B(2611)-Moor, O(2348)

Graz Open, 2015.02.14

1. +-



(10) Predojevic, B(2614)-Elsness, F(2447)

Norwegian league, 2015.02.07

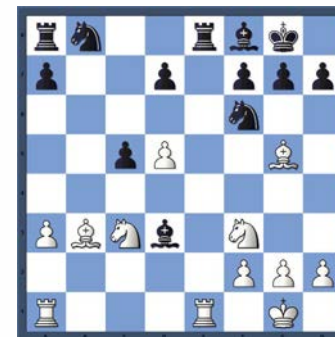
1. +-



(11) Tarlev, K(2557)-Mashmooli, K(2175)

Khazar Open, 2015.02.11

1. +-



(12) Solodovnichenko, Y(2577)-Rydstrom, T(2314)

Vaxjo Open, 2015.02.13

1. +-



(13) Sedlak, N(2558)-Loebler, H(2161)

Graz Open, 2015.02.13

1. +-



Endgame section

(14) Kramnik, Vladimir(2783)
- Nakamura, Hikaru(2776)

Zurich, 2015.02.15

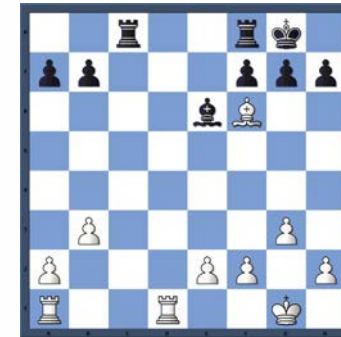


GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



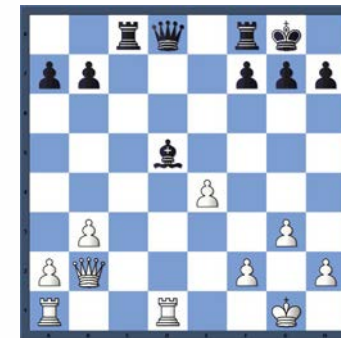
16. ♖xd5! Kramnik finds a nice tactical blow to win material. Black has different ways to continue the game, but in all of them he ends up being materially down. The question is in which one he retains the best drawing chances?! Nakamura shows a perfect solution... [Some positional improvement like 16.e3? with the idea of playing Ne2, trading the dark squared bishops and ending up with an isolated pawn on d5 and a good knight against the poor bishop, which would be perfect for White, but Black counters this with active counterplay... 16...d4! 17.exd4 ♖f3! 18.♖e1 ♜xd4=+ Black grabs the advantage as the bishop pair starts to rule.]

16... ♖xb2! [The alternative was 16... ♜xd5 17.♜xd5 ♖xd5 18.♖xf6 ♖e6



simplifying to a position where Black is a pawn down, but there are opposite colored bishops on the board. As long as White can keep at least a pair of rooks on the board, he will maintain winning chances. In the best case Black can trade only one pair of rooks, therefore he is doomed to long-term suffering.]

17. ♜xb2 ♖xd5 18.e4 This is the point of the temporary piece sacrifice and White wins back the material.



18... ♖xe4! An excellent decision! Nakamura gives up his queen, but the arising rook and bishop endgame against the queen, without a single weakness, guarantees Black a relatively easy draw. [18... ♖c5 would have been wrong in view of 19. ♜d2 White increases the pressure on d5. 19... ♜d6



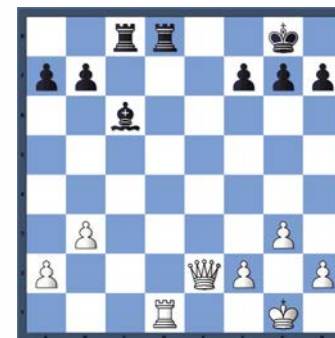
20. **Rxc1!** A subtle move, which leaves White with a healthy extra pawn. White trades the rooks before taking the bishop, using the fact that Black still cannot leave the pin on the d-file. (20. **exd5** 20... **Rd8** is less clear.) 20... **Rxc1** 21. **Qxc1±**

19. Rxd8 Rfxd8 In general I would say that White should aim for trading a pair of rooks, because the black one might get too active within a few moves. White cannot create any weaknesses as after putting the pawn to a6 everything is perfectly protected. The light square bishop is very strong as it not only protects the queenside, but also creates different kind of back rank threats against the king, having it locked to g1.



20. b4 [20. **Rc1??** is a blunder because of 20... **Rxc1+** 21. **Qxc1** **f3!**—+; 20. **Re1** is strongly met by 20... **Rc2!** (20... **f6** is also safe, but why not activate the rook if it works tactically...)]

21. **Qa3** looks like a double attack on e4 and a7, but the point is (21. **Qe5** 21... **f6**) 21... **Re2!** using the weak back rank again and after for instance **Rf1** Black simply plays **a6** and holds with the active pieces.; 20. **Qe2** was perhaps the best attempt. 20... **f6** 21. **Rd1**



We have reached an interesting moment. Should Black trade the rooks or it is better to keep them on the board? Both probably lead to draws, but the easier one seems to be 21... **Re8!** (21... **Rxd1+** 22. **Qxd1** **Re8** 23. **f3** **h5** 24. **Qf2** **g6** 25. **Qd4** **a6** 26. **a4** **Re6** Compared to having 3 rooks on the board, here at least White manages escape with his king, but the win should not be possible. Black has built up the ideal fortress. The bishop is perfectly placed on c6, keeping the queenside pawns together, while the rook and the king will cover the kingside. White might have some attempts to make progress with h3-g4-f4-f5, but with a good defense such tries can easily be neutralized...) 22. **Qg4** **Rc7** with **Rce7** and **h6** next. By having both rooks on board, White's possibilities are much more limited because of the potential counterplay against the white king.]

20...a6 21.a4 Rc4! The draw is getting very close after Black activates his rooks!

22. Re1 [22. **b5** is met by 22... **Rxa4!**]

22...h6! The last safety measure is to open the back rank!

23.♔e5 ♘c6 24.b5 This was the entire idea of Kramnik when he advanced the queenside pawns. He wanted to send the bishop away from the ideal h1-a8 diagonal to make the b7 pawn more vulnerable. However Black is perfectly prepared for these actions and he reaches a draw by force after...

24...♖e8! 25.♔xe8+ [25.♔a1 25...♖xe1+ 26.♔xe1 axb5 27.axb5 ♘xb5= leaves both sides with zero winning chances.]

25...♘xe8 26.♖xe8+ ♔h7 27.♖e7 f6 White cannot even reach a 3 against 2 rook endgame, which would also be a dead draw, but Black has time to save all his pawns...

28.a5 ♖a4 29.♖xb7 ♖xa5 30.b6 Because of the rule that the players cannot agree a draw before move 40, they continued the game with some unnecessary moves...

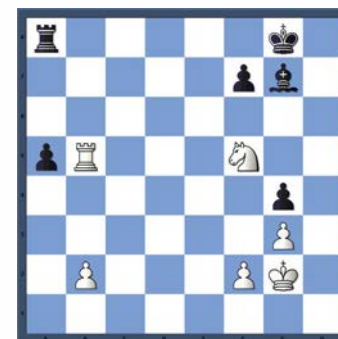
30...♖b5 31.♔f1 a5 32.♔g2 a4 33.h4 h5 34.♖b8 ♔g6 35.b7 a3 36.♖a8 a2 37.♔h3 ♖xb7 38.♖xa2 ♖b3 39.♔g2 ♖b5 40.♖e2 ♖a5 1/2-1/2

**(15) Aronian, Levon(2777)
- Kramnik, Vladimir(2783)**

4th Zurich CC Classical(3.1),
2015.02.16



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



Straight from the opening White had a decent advantage, and he was even very close to winning the game between moves 30 and 40, but Kramnik managed to escape into a clearly worse endgame, but maybe a holdable one.

41.♘e3 Of course the g4 pawn should be taken.

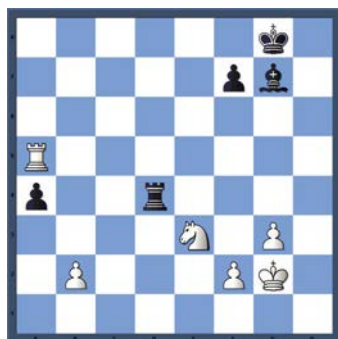
41...a4! A very strong move! The b2 pawn should be fixed.

42.♘xg4 ♖d8! Another great decision by Black. First one could ask himself why play Rd8 at all, but we will already see during the next few moves what Vladimir had in mind. Before that, let us take a look at what would happen in case Black forced the pawn exchange on the queenside. [42...a3 43.bxa3 ♖xa3 Now White has a lot of different options, but let's say White plays 44.♖b7 If we now exchanged the light pieces, of course the rook endgame would be a draw, but the presence of the white knight makes the defense for Black

anything but simple. White wants to put his knight to f5 by just playing Ne3-Nf5, then support it with g4 and maybe f4 and start walking with the king. The position should be a draw, but it is extremely unpleasant to defend such an endgame, which gives White good practical chances to hope for a full point.]

43. ♖a5 It is hard to say if this was an inaccuracy by White, but it looks very logical.

43... ♜d4 44. ♘e3 and now Kramnik's plan is getting visible...



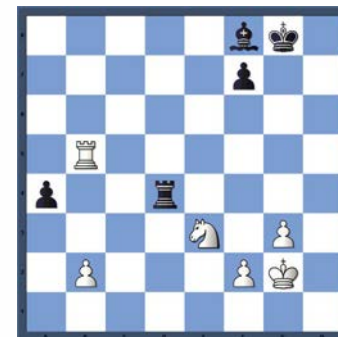
44... ♜d2! Black's main idea is to exchange the light pieces before taking the b2 pawn.

45. ♘f1 What else to play?! [After 45. ♜xa4 45... ♘d4! The white knight has no good square to go to and of course the rook endgame is a simple draw. 46. ♘g4 This is White's best try. 46... f5! and Black is just in time: 47. ♘h6+ ♖h7 48. ♘xf5 ♜xf2+ 49. ♖h3 ♘xb2 and of course to just have the extra g3 pawn is not enough to win the game. The position is an easy draw.]

45... ♜d4 Black defends the a4 pawn and asks White "what's next?".

46. ♜b5 ♘f8 Black continues defending very precisely and the threat now is to play Rb4.

47. ♘e3 It is difficult to find anything better for White.



47... ♜b4 and Black's plan is coming true.

48. ♜g5+ [48. ♜xb4 would lead to a draw. 48... ♘xb4 49. ♘d5 ♘c5 If White could avoid exchanging the a4 pawn against the b2, the position would be winning, but a3 is coming next. 50. ♘c3 a3 51. bxa3 ♘xa3 and this endgame is already not that difficult to hold, but of course White still keeps some minimal winning chances.]

48... ♖h7 49. ♜h5+ ♖g8 50. ♜a5 We are sort of back to the position from which we started, only now Black is already in time to force a drawing endgame.

50... ♜xb2 Now Kramnik takes the pawn, but only because he has the Bc5 move.

51. ♜xa4 ♘c5 and once again the knight is under attack.

52. ♘d1 is the only move to immediately avoid a draw. [52. ♘g4 52... f5 doesn't work for White either.]

52... ♜d2 53. ♜a1 White managed to exchange the queenside pawns, but the cost is a terrible position of the knight on d1. The position is a draw and Kramnik shows us how.

53... ♖g7 54. ♖f1 ♖g6 It is never wrong to bring the king into the action zone.

55. ♜b1 [55. ♖e1 55... ♘b4 doesn't lead anywhere.]



55...f5! The last precise move. The black pawn is excellently placed on f5 and sometimes Black just wants to play f4 and exchange the pawn.

56.♔e1 ♖c2 The white knight is still caught on d1.

57.♖b8 ♔f6 All Black needs to do is keep on waiting.

58.♖h8 ♘b4+ 59.♔f1 and of course Kramnik could have continued with a passive defense, but he finds a forced draw:

59...♖d2 60.♘e3 ♘c5 The knight has no more square.

61.♖h6+ ♔g5 followed by Bxe3, with an easily drawn rook endgame. What we can learn from this endgame is not to hurry with entering a dangerous position, but rather try and reach an easy to defend position. Such things can often save a lot of time and half points. **1/2-1/2**

Chess and the City. To change or not to change, that is the question



WGM Elisabeth Paehtz
Best rating: 2493

Changing federations is also gaining more and more popularity in the chess world. Whether this is because of a change of living place or rather a disappointment with one's own federation or any other personal reasons is eventually of course up to the player. Some years ago FIDE naturally invented "new payment rules" to prevent an inflation of changes, but it did not seem to stop most of the players to get infected with that "life threatening" epidemic.

In this newsletter however I do not want to discuss the new rules, but rather list some recent and crucial examples among famous players who decided to undergo that procedure.

I do not want to judge anyone regarding this matter as I perfectly understand how difficult it is nowadays to make a decent living out of chess. It is not a secret that most changes are usually connected to financial benefits, some to immigration into a new country and some could even be related to political backgrounds, but we do not want to dig any deeper here.

Last year the case of the Ukrainian player Katerina Lagno

made it to the news as the organizing team of the Tromsø Olympiad refused the Russian women team the right to participate as they handed in their team line-up way past the deadline. The reason for that delay was the request of the former top Ukrainian player to change to the Russian Federation.

If I remember correctly, the reason for this delay was a dispute between both federations. You do not need to be a chess expert to understand that the decision of such a great player will eventually weaken the old team and strengthen the new one, and especially in the case of Russia and Ukraine this could be crucial in international team events. I am not sure about the reasons behind her transfer; all I basically know is that one of her parents is actually Russian and the other Ukrainian.

Indirectly connected to this case is another girl from Ukraine, the current top Ukrainian player Anna Muzychuk. If I am not mistaken, she first changed federations from Ukraine to Slovenia in 2003-2004. At that time, I believe the reason for that change was maybe connected to the fact that she was not being selected for the National Ukrainian Women's Team in her teenage years.

Last year she eventually decided to go back to her roots, thus strengthening the Ukrainian Women's team and finally reuniting with her younger sister Mariya, who has been part of the Ukrainian national team since 2010.

In the men's section I believe Alexei Shirov is the most famous example. The number one of Latvia served his country in the chess Olympiads in 1992 and 1994, before moving to Spain and changing to their federation. Like Anna he eventually decided to go back to his roots and has represented Latvia again since 2012.

Since we have mentioned some very famous players, we should not forget to mention the most popular federation as well. The US Chess Federation should be the top federation regarding changes. Almost every year new chess players are moving across the ocean to start a student scholarship and eventually also a new career as an American chess player.

Here we have to name the very famous example of the young and extremely strong Wesley So, who is originally from the Philippines. His case is a good opportunity to introduce the above-mentioned compensational fees. Since he is a player rated over 2700, the amount he was supposed to pay to his old federation was hitting the incredible sum of over 50.000 US-Dollars. The alternative choice is to take a 2-year break from any national or international chess events. Wesley eventually became a member of the American Federation in October 2014.

Last but not least I will get back to our greatest talent of 2014, Alexander Ipatov, alias "the window cleaner". If I am not mistaken, he is the only player who also changed federations two times, but with the difference of always representing someone new. The Grandmaster who was born in Lvov changed from Ukraine to Spain and nowadays represents the Turkish Chess Federation.

Those who I left out I deeply apologize but perhaps your examples have not been heart breaking enough to be remembered by the general chess public.

Clash of the Titans

(16) Averbakh, Yuri L
- Tal, Mihail [A76]

URS-ch25, 1958



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.♗e2 ♗g7 8.♘f3 O-O 9.O-O ♖e8 [9...♗g4 Nowadays this move is the most promising for Black. After exchanging the knight on f3 White will not be able to create the typical e4-e5 break in the center.]

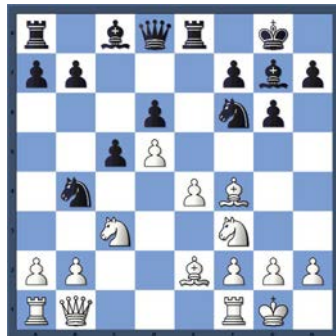
10.♞c2 [10.♘d2 is the main move.]

10...♘a6 [10...♗g4 11.h3 ♗xf3 12.♗xf3 ♘bd7 Black gets control over the important e5 square and now his idea is to get the initiative on the queenside, over b5 or c4-Nc5 etc.]

11.♗f4 [11.a3 11...♘c7⇄]

11...♘b4 Tal stayed true to his style and took the decision to immediately complicate the position.

12.♞b1



12...♘xe4!? Black sacrifices the knight for two central pawns and to activate his pieces. Objectively it is not completely correct but from a practical point of view it is enough. The complex fight based on tactical variations has just begun.

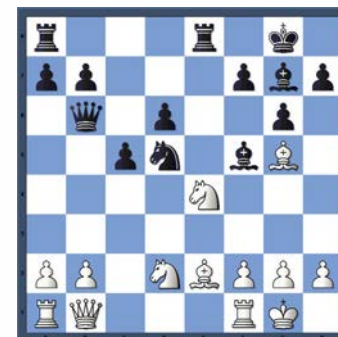
13.♘xe4 ♗f5 14.♘fd2 ♘xd5



15.♗xd6?? Averbakh immediately makes a decisive mistake... In this critical position he had better options: [15.♗g5 is the most logical move, as White escapes with tempo. 15...♞d7 (

a) 15...♞xg5? 16.♘xg5 ♗xb1 17.♗c4! ♗h6 18.♗xd5 ♗xg5 19.♘f3+-;

b) 15...♞b6



16.g4 A logical move, just to solve the problems with the pin.

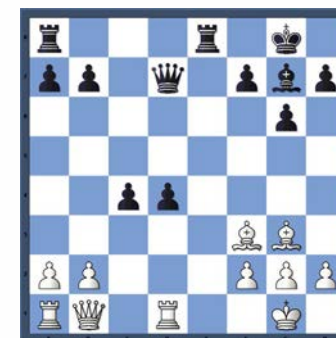
(16. ♖c4 looks promising for White as well. 16... ♗xe4 17. ♖xb6 ♗xb1 18. ♖xd5 ♖xe2 19. ♖axb1 ♖e5 20. ♖f6+ ♔h8 21. f4± and White is a safe piece up.) 16... ♗xe4 17. ♖xe4 ♗xb2 18. ♗c4 ♗xa1 19. ♗xd5 and the white pieces are very active.)

16. ♗d3 (16. ♗f3 16... h6 17. ♗h4 ♖b4 (17... g5?! 18. ♗g3 g4 19. ♗e2 only weakens the black structure.) 18. ♖d1 (18. a3 18... d5 19. axb4 dxe4 20. ♖xe4 cxb4 21. ♖e1∞) 18... g5 19. ♗g3 g4 20. ♖xd6 gxf3 21. ♖xf3∞ White doesn't need to win the exchange as the knight on d6 is very strong.) 16... h6 17. ♗h4 Black is not able to immediately play 17... Nb4 or Nb4 because of the 18. Nf6 trick: Bxf6 and then 19. Bxf5! 17... ♖c6 18. ♗g3 ♖b4 (18... ♖ad8 19. ♖xd6 ♗xd3 20. ♖xd3 ♖xd6 21. ♗xd6 ♖xd6 22. ♖fe1+=)



19. ♖f6+ ♗xf6 20. ♗xf5 gxf5 21. ♖xf5 The black king is a bit weak, which is why the position is completely unclear.; 15. ♗g3 15... ♗h6!?

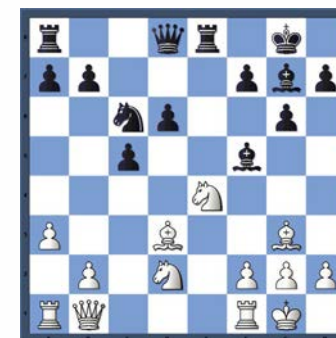
a) 15... ♖f6 16. ♗d3 ♖xe4 17. ♖xe4 c4 18. ♗c2 ♗xe4 19. ♗xe4 d5 20. ♗f3 ♖d7 21. ♖d1 d4



22. b3!± looks very strong! Now Black is not on time with his c4-d3 setup.;

b) 15... ♖d7!? 16. ♗d3 ♖b4 17. ♗xd6 ♖c6 It looks like the white pieces lost coordination.;

c) 15... ♖b4 16. a3 ♖c6 17. ♗xd6 (17. ♗d3



17... c4 A nice idea. 18. ♖xc4 d5 19. ♖cd6 dxe4 20. ♖xe8 exd3 21. ♖xg7 ♖xg7 22. ♖c1 f6 The strong d3 pawn gives Black full compensation.) 17... ♗xe4 18. ♖xe4 ♖xe4 19. ♖xe4 ♖xd6 20. ♖ad1 ♖d4 21. ♗c4 We already saw this kind of position.)

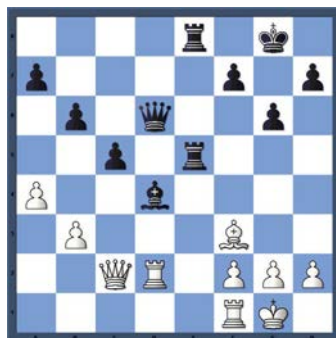
16. ♗b5 (16. f4 16... ♗g7∞) 16... ♗xd2 17. ♗xe8 ♖xe8 18. ♖d1 (18. ♖xd6 18... ♗xb1 19. ♖xe8 ♗d3 20. ♖fd1 ♖xe8 21. ♖xd2 c4∞) 18... ♗xe4 19. ♖xd2 ♖c6 20. f3 ♗f5 21. ♖ad1 ♗e6 with complex play.]

15...♟f6! After this simple move, which was overlooked by Averbakh, Black will win a pawn by force. White probably expected [15...♙xe4 16.♞xe4 ♞xe4 17.♞xe4 ♞xd6 18.♙c4 ♞d8 19.♞ad1 ♙d4 Black has one pawn and a strong bishop for the exchange. Of course White is better but Black has good drawing chances.; 15...♞xd6? 16.♞xd6 ♙xb1 17.♞xe8 ♞xe8 18.♙b5+-]

16.♙f3 ♞xe4 17.♞xe4 ♙xe4 18.♙xe4 ♞xd6+ 19.♞c2 [19.♙xb7 19...♞ab8]

19...♞e7 20.♙f3 ♞ae8 21.♞ad1 ♙d4 22.a4 b6 23.b3 Because of the opposite colored bishops White's idea is to get a structure which doesn't allow Black to take advantage of his extra pawn. The problem for White is that thanks to his active pieces, Black is simply going to play for an attack on the kingside!

23...♞e5 24.♞d2



24...h5! A strong technical move. Black is going to weaken the white king.

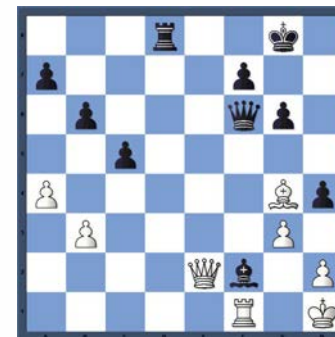
25.♞e2 ♞xe2 26.♙xe2 The exchange of one pair of rooks doesn't help White to avoid trouble.

26...h4 27.♞h1 [27.h3 weakens the h2-b8 diagonal. 27...♞f4 28.♙c4 ♞g7 preventing Qxg6. 29.♞d3 f5 (29...♙e5 30.g3)

30.♞f3 ♞xf3 31.gxf3 ♞f6 32.♞g2 ♞g5 33.♞d1 ♞f4 The black pieces are perfectly placed, but how to improve the position? g5-g4 still does not guarantee a win.]

27...♞f4 28.g3 ♞f6 29.♞d1 ♞d8 30.♙g4 [30.♞d3 30...♞d5+ (30...♙xf2?? 31.♞xf2; 30...♞g7)]

30...♙xf2+- 31.♞e2



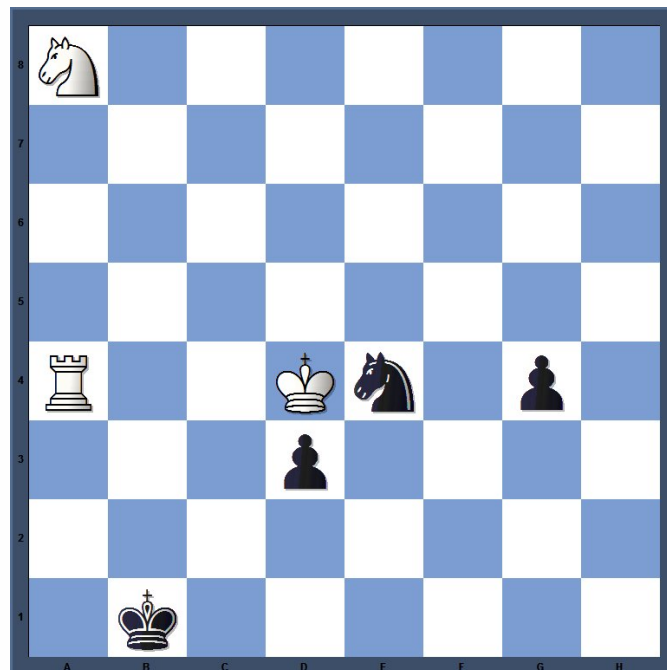
31...♞d2! 32.♞e8+ [32.♞xd2 32...♞c6+]

32...♞g7 33.gxh4 ♞d4 34.♙h3 ♞d3 35.♙g2 ♞d1 0-1

Surprise section / study

(17) Mitrofanov

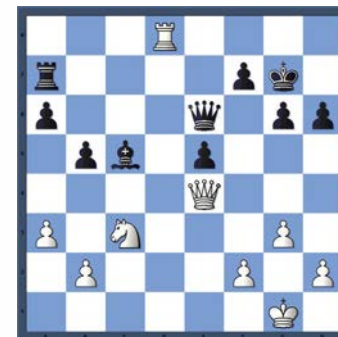
1. +-



Solutions

(18) Aronian, L(2777)-Caruana, F(2812)

Baden-Baden, 2015.02.04

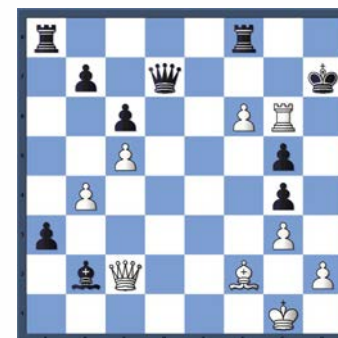


35... ♖xf2+! 36. ♔g2 [36. ♔xf2 36... ♕f6+ 37. ♔g2 ♕xd8—+]

36... ♖b6—+ [36... ♖d4?? 37. ♖xd4! exd4 38. ♕xd4+ ♕f6 39. ♕xa7]

(19) Anand, V(2797)-Carlsen, M(2865)

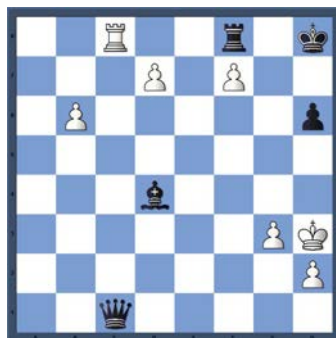
Baden-Baden, 2015.02.06



33... ♕d1+!! 34. ♕xd1 ♖xg6—+ 35. ♕d3+ ♖h6 36. h4 gxh3 0-1

(20) Nabaty, T(2579)-Neeloptal, D(2437)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.02.02



49. ♖xf8+!! [49. ♖xc1 49... ♗xb6 50. ♖c8 ♔g7=]

49... ♔g7 [49... ♔h7 50. ♖h8+! ♗xh8 51. f8=♚+--]

50. ♖g8+ ♔xf7 51. ♖f8+! 1-0 [51. d8=♚? 51... ♚f1+ 52. ♔g4 ♚e2+=; 51. ♖f8+! 51... ♔xf8 (51... ♔g7 52. d8=♚+--) 52. d8=♚+ ♔f7 53. ♚c7+! ♚xc7 54. bxc7+--]

(21) Grandelius, N(2602)-Houska, J(2388)

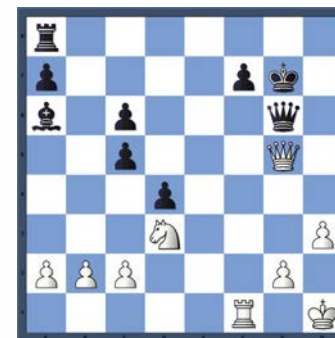
Gibraltar Open, 2015.02.02



21. ♗xd5! exd5 22. ♗xd5+ ♔h8 23. ♖xc4+--

(22) Sengupta, D(2569)-Bellon Lopez, JM(2370)

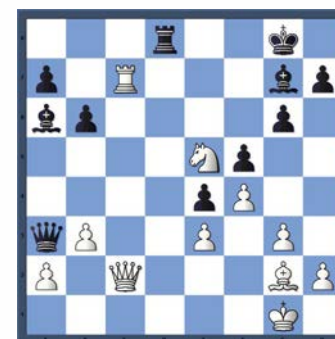
Gibraltar Open, 2015.02.02



31. ♖xf7+! 1-0 [31. ♖xf7+ 31... ♔xf7 32. ♗e5+--]

(23) Iturrizaga, E(2649)-Dragnev, V(2344)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.02.03



23. ♖xg7+! ♔xg7 24. ♚c7+ ♔h6 25. ♗f7+! [25. ♚xd8?? 25... ♚c1+]

25... ♔h5 [25... ♔g7 26. ♗g5+--]

26. g4+! ♔xg4 [26... fxg4 27. ♚e5+ ♔h4 28. ♚g5#]

27. ♗e5+ 1-0 [27. ♗e5+ 27... ♔h5 28. ♚xh7#]

(24) Kuipers, S(2390)-Oparin, G(2551)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.02.03



16.fxe5! dxe5 17.♖xf6! ♕xf6 18.♕xd7+—

(25) Sutovsky, E(2637)-Spragett, K(2538)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.02.04

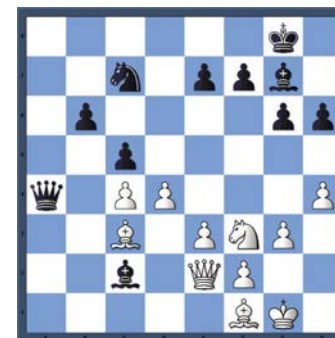


31.♗b1! ♖c6 32.♕xg6+ ♔g8 [32...♔f8 33.♖e3!+—]

33.♖e3! ♖xc5 1-0 [33...♖xc5 34.♖f3 (34.♕h7+ 34...♔f8 35.♖f3+ ♔e7 36.♕xg7+ ♔d8 37.♗g6+—) 34...♖c1+ 35.♔h2 ♖xb1 36.♖f7 ♖h1+ 37.♔xh1 ♖c1+ 38.♔g2 ♖c6+ 39.♔h2+—]

(26) Cheparinov, I(2681)-Adhiban, B(2630)

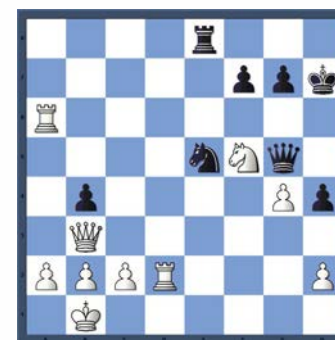
Gibraltar Open, 2015.02.05



34...♗d1! 0-1 [34...♗d1 35.♕b2 ♗xf3—+]

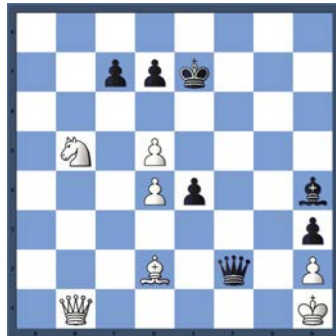
(27) Ganguly, S(2595)-Sengupta, D(2569)

Gibraltar Open, 2015.02.05



32...♗c4!! 0-1 [32...♕xd2 33.a4∞; 32...♗c4 33.♖d1 ♗d2+ 34.♔a1 (34.♖xd2 34...♖e1+—+) 34...♗xb3+ 35.axb3 ♕xg4—+]

(28) Troitzky



- 1. ♖xe4+ ♜d8 2. ♖xh4+!! ♜xh4 3. ♘d6!! cxd6 [3... ♖g4**
4. ♙g5+! ♜xg5 5. ♘f7+-; 3... ♜e7 4. ♙g5! cxd6 5. ♙xe7+ ♜xe7
6. ♜g1 ♜f6 7. ♜f2 ♜f5 8. ♜f3]
4. ♙g5+! ♜xg5=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 157

27th of February 2015

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Editorial Preface

Dear Friends! With the current issue Nr. 157, we celebrate the 4th year of the newsletter! Big thanks to all of you for staying with us and we promise you for the forthcoming year, that we will do our best to provide you with chess satisfaction!

The month of February ends with a surprising result in the FIDE Grand Prix event in Tbilisi.

Evgeny Tomashevsky won the tournament with a 1.5-point lead, which makes him the current Grand Prix leader. With an amazing result of 8/11 and a performance of over 2900, he made a big name for himself with a safe and positional style, combined with a strong sense of punishing the mistakes of his opponents.

Second place went to Jakovenko with 6.5/11 and 3rd to Radjabov with 6/11.

The results of the favorites Grischuk, Giri , Mamedyarov and Vachier-Lagrave was a big surprise, as they didn't really participate in the fight for the first places.

In the currently underway European Individual Championship in Jerusalem, Israel and the top seed Navara continues showing great form and is on 3.5/4. However, the actual leader on 4/4 is Korobov, a very fighting and aggressive player, who was pushing hard in his games and with a bit of luck and help of his opponents is now the deserved leader.

There are also many other top favorites who began their event well and are on 3.5/4 or 3/4. The tournament promises to be very exciting during the next 7 rounds and in the next issue you will be able to find a few of the best games from this event.

For now we hope you enjoy the current issue of Top GM Secrets Nr 157.

With best wishes,

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) Radjabov, Teimour (2731)
- Grischuk, Alexander (2810) [B97]

Tbilisi FIDE Grand Prix(6),
 2015.02.21



GM Csaba Balogh
 Best rating: 2672

A crushing miniature victory by Radjabov over Grischuk. The game is extremely important from theoretical point of view, the variation played in the game was considered to be closed as Black is completely fine, but White's novelty opens a new area...

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 The Sicilian Najdorf. The 6.h3 system is the most popular nowadays, but Radjabov turns back to the previous main line.

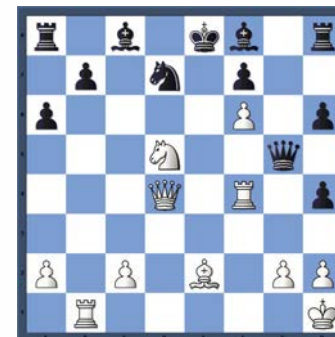
6.♗g5 e6 7.f4 ♖b6 8.♔d2 ♖xb2 The "Poisoned pawn variation" was the petline of Bobby Fischer. Obviously there were a lot of development since then with the help of the computers, but the line is still alive.



9.♖b1 ♔a3 10.e5 h6 [The other main line starts with 10...dxe5 11.fxe5 ♘fd7 12.♘e4 with thousands of games.]

11.♗h4 dxe5 12.fxe5 g5 Black has other options too, but this was considered to be the best by the latest theory.

13.♗g3 A rare move. [Most of the games continued with 13.exf6 13...gxh4 14.♗e2 but the concrete computerish line lead to good positions for Black... 14...♔a5 15.O-O ♘d7 16.♗h1 ♖g5 17.♖f4 e5 18.♘d5 exd4 19.♖xd4



19...♔d8 Theory starts somewhere here with hundreds of games in the database. Arkadij has recently commented in the newsletter the Duda-Wojtaszek game which also went like this.]

13...♗h5 14.♘e4 ♘d7 [We usually reach the game's position from the following moveorder... 14...♖xa2 15.♖b3 ♘d7]

15.♖b3 ♖xa2



16.♗e2 I have found some correspondence game for this

position where the black players have correctly found the right defenses. Without some homepreparation it is quite impossible to play this position over the board, it is not an accident that one of the best players of the World also loses the thread and collapses quickly... [Some dozens of games continued with 16. ♖c3 but Black is considered to be fine after 16... b6 or 16...b5.]

16... ♘c5? After a long think, Grischuk fails to find the best defense. After Radjabov's perfect reaction, this move turned out to be the decisive mistake. [16... ♘xg3 17.hxg3; The critical move is 16... ♖a1+! 17. ♕d1 The h5 knight is not hanging, this is already a big achievement, but of course Black must find further only moves because White is threatening with 0-0... (The point is after 17. ♖f2? 17... ♘xg3! works! 18. ♘xg3 (18. ♖xa1 18... ♘xe4+-; 18.hxg3 18... ♖xh1+-) 18... ♖xd4+= 19. ♖xd4 ♘c5+ Black ends up with material advantage!) 17... ♘c5! Another only move! The computer gives the evaluation of close to winning for Black, but of course in such a sharp position it is easy to find resources for both sides. As we go deeper into the lines, the advantage is slowly evaporating... 18. ♘xc5 ♘xg3! (18... ♘xc5 19. ♘f2 followed by 0-0 looks scary for Black. The h5 knight gets out of the game.) 19.hxg3 ♘xc5 20.c3



Probably Radjabov's analysis have started somewhere around here. It will be interesting to follow the development of this line... White is threatening with 0-0 and Bh5 next. White's position is much easier to play over the board because of the safer king and the attacking potentials, but of course homepreparation and memory are playing the main role in such situations...A possible development of the game is 20... ♖a5 (20...b5 21.0-0 ♖a7 Protecting the f7 pawn against the Bh5 idea 22. ♖h2 I would never want to be Black here despite the machine's support...) 21.0-0 ♖c7 is possible. (21...0-0? runs into 22. ♖d3! and Bc2 next. The king is actually weaker on g8 then on e8.) 22. ♘h5 ♖f8 with mutual chances. Further analysis required.]

17. ♘c3!! A great intermediate move, which wins the h5 knight. Of course, Grischuk has anticipated this move, but he missed something later...

17... ♘xb3 [17... ♖a1+ loses simple to 18. ♖b1 and the h5 falls.]

18. ♘xb3! As simple as that! Two pieces are hanging and there is no check on a1 for Black...

18... ♘b4 [18... ♘xg3 was objectively better, but also quite bad after 19. ♘xa2 ♘xh1 20. ♖f1± and the knight is trapped in the corner.]

19. ♘h5 ♖b2 Grischuk has pinned his hopes to this resource, but it does not save Black...

20.0-0 ♖xc3 [If Black protects his f7 pawn with 20...0-0 White can simple secure his material advantage with 21. ♘e1+- ♘xc3 Black cannot keep the queens on board with such a weak king, but now it runs into different problems... 22. ♖xc3 ♖xc3 23. ♘xc3+- and Bb4 is coming next, winning the f7 pawn and the game.]

21. ♖xf7+ ♔e7



22. ♔f2! This is the key move, which had to be foreseen before 17. Nc3! White manages to save the queen and launches an enormous attack against the naked e7 king. Qf6 is threatening.

22... ♔d7 [22... ♖f8 is met by 23. ♔f6+ ♔d7 White has several wins at his disposal. An easy one is 24. ♖xe6+ ♔c7 25. ♖f7+- followed by e6 next with a crucial discovered check]

23. ♖b6 23.Qf6 was also good, but probably this one finishes the game even faster.

23... ♖f8 24. ♖e1! A subtle retreat and Black resigned as the b4 falls! **1-0**

**(2) Tomashevsky, Evgeny (2716)
- Kasimdzhanov, Rustam (2705)
[E90]**

Tbilisi FIDE Grand Prix(9),
2015.02.25



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Tomashevsky is the man of the hour at the Grand Prix in Tbilisi. Playing very solid, safe, and positionally excellent chess, he is having what is probably the best result of his career. In the current game we will see the power of slow-positional play in quite a sharp position. After the opening it seemed like Black had quite comfortable play, but in fact Kasimdzhanov's position was very dangerous. Step by step White managed to develop all his pieces and take control over the very important white squares, which suddenly made Black resign, when just a couple of moves ago everything seemed to be fine. A really nice game to watch and learn from.

1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 g6 Kasimdzhanov plays a lot of different openings and usually has great preparation, as he was Anand's second for about 6 years.

3. ♖c3 ♖g7 4.e4 d6 5. ♖f3 O-O 6.h3 The King's Indian with 6.h3 is very fashionable nowadays and Tomashevsky very regularly plays this line.

6...e5 7.d5 ♖h5 The most principled line. Black sometimes continues with 7...a5 or 7...Na6 but White's idea of playing g4-Be3 and Nd2 brought great results in the past.

8.g3 f5 Black's idea is simple, to get play in the center as quickly as possible.

9.exf5 gxf5



10. ♖h4!? A very interesting and rather rarely played move.

10... ♖f4 The black knight is going to g6, which is very logical.

11. ♗d2 ♕e7 Black is clearly in his preparation, but I am not sure about this move at all. Maybe the queen's position on e7 is good, but maybe not. For me it is hard to tell why Black did not start with 11...Na6 immediately.

12. ♕c2 ♖a6 A very usual plan for Black.

13.a3!? This is a very interesting move! Now the black knight can never jump to b4, and what is also very important is that in case of Nc5 White always has the b4 push.

13... ♗d7?! and this logical move is maybe already a heavy mistake... [Black should have calculated the following lines better... 13... ♖c5! It is the last chance to place the knight to a good position on c5. 14.O-O-O (14.b4? doesn't work right now, because of the amazing



14...e4!! 15.bxc5 ♖d3+ and now it is already Black who is winning! 16. ♕e2 f4 with a mating attack.) 14...a5 The position is very unclear. It is very important for Black to be in time to secure his knight on c5.]

14.O-O-O ♖h8 15. ♕b1 Both players play prophylactical moves in order to get ready for the action in the center.

15... ♖ae8 16. ♖e1 threatening to play Bxf4.

16... ♕f6 17. ♖g1 Now Black already needs to count with White's gxf4 in a good moment and his main idea of playing c6 or Nc5 doesn't seem to work.

17... ♖g6 Black continues choosing safe moves. [I think that Black should have tried a pawn sacrifice with 17... ♖c5 18.b4 ♖e4 19. ♖xe4 fxe4 20. ♕xe4 c6 and maybe White is still better here, but the position is very very sharp. I think it was a good practical chance to at least fight for 3 results.]

18. ♖xg6+ ♕xg6 [After 18...hxg6 19.h4! White is able to put his bishop to g5 next, with a clearly better position.]



19.f3! Another very strong move. Now a move like Nc5-Ne4 is never possible and White also prepares to start the fight over the light squares with g4.

19...c6 Logical but maybe too slow. [Black clearly should have tried to complicate matters with 19...e4! and even if White has a lot of different moves here, and maybe Black's position is just worse after 20.Bg2, it was still Black's best chance.]

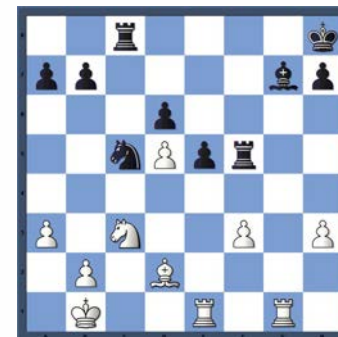
20.g4 The game starts to become a bit sharper...

20...cxd5 21.cxd5 White just wants to play Bd3 and it is very unclear what to do next for Black.

21...Rc8 [21...e4? doesn't work: 22.fxa6 bxa6 23.gxf5 Rxf5 and here comes the typical but great sacrifice: 24.Rxg7! Rg7 25.Rg1+ Kh8 26.Nxe4 followed by Bc3, with a winning position for White.]

22.f3 White is following his plan.

22...Nc5 23.fxf5 fxf5 24.gxf5 Rxf5 25.Rxf5 Rxf5 Let us take a fresh look at the position. Black managed to reach an endgame which seems to be quite unclear, but in fact his position is on the verge of being lost! The g7 bishop is very bad and in case White will be able to place his knight on e4, the game could immediately be over.



26.Rg3! Another great move by White. The idea is to play Reg1 next followed by Be3, chasing the black knight away from c5 to be able to play Ne4.

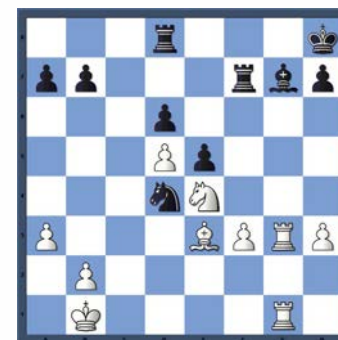
26...Nb3?! Kasimdzhanov is losing the game without a fight... [Black should have tried to play 26...f6 27.Rg1 and now maybe something like 27...a6 avoiding Nb5 and of course Black's position is really bad, but the game still goes on...]

27.f3 Now the white knight is getting to e4.

27...Nd4 28.Ne4 What an amazing domination of the white pieces.

28...Rd8 29.Reg1 It is already impossible to defend the g7 bishop in a nice way...

29...Rf7



30. ♖g5 White will play Bxd4 and Ne6 next and the game will be over. It seems like Tomashevsky has done nothing "too special" to win the game, but in fact his concept was brilliant with a long-term plan of controlling the light squares and of course Black helped to fulfill the plan a bit by playing too passively. **1-0**

The K-Files.

The ancient treasure, shining again or...?



GM Alexander Khalifman
FIDE World Chess Champion (1999)

Best rating: 2702

It's not very often that you start studying some trendy opening line and find out that the first game was played... in 1620(!). In fact I can't remember if something like this happened to me before. But this is the case: 1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 b5 was played in Greco - NN (Italy 1620). However, this fact didn't impress modern players too much: 3...b5 was supposed to be a greedy amateurish move which contradicts the basic opening principles. So the line was a very rare guest in grandmasters (and even in masters) games. The exceptions like Dlugy and Miles could do nothing to change the reputation (both grandmasters were known more for their adventurous style than for their solid opening preparation).

The first appearance of 3...b5 on 2700+ level was very special: it was played in 2006 by Kramnik in his match against Deep Fritz (yes, exactly the game when Vladimir blundered mate in one). But it still looked more like a trick against the computer's opening library (the game transposed to a Slav sideline quite soon and Black solved the opening problems successfully) rather than some analytical breakthrough.

Well, these 2 facts (1620 and mate in one) already make this line remarkable but almost everybody still remained quite skeptical. At this moment it was already clear that Greco's "refutation" 4.a4 c6 5.axb5 cxb5 6.b3 (slightly improved by ECO in the 20th century as 4.a4 c6 5.b3) was not really deadly dangerous, but the new main line 4.a4 c6 5.axb5 cxb5 6.Nc3 (invented by Yermolinsky in 1993) still was a real problem for Black.

The a new era started in March 2014, when the talented German junior Alexander Donchenko played the new and interesting version of the rather typical exchange sacrifice. Annotating the game Adhiban - Nakamura in CEWN 154, Csaba Balogh gives the credit to Romain Edouard but with all respect to the creative French grandmaster, Donchenko played it 2 months earlier. This "new old" exchange sacrifice leads to very fresh, unbalanced and dynamic positions, so in the following months 3...b5 was tested by a group of grandmasters led by Hikaru Nakamura.

The very idea of 3...b5 is quite banal and primitive: Black just defends the gambit pawn. White can't ignore the fact that the c4 pawn disturbs his normal development. So White tries to destroy the opponent's pawn chain and as I already mentioned, he did it with great efficiency until March 2014.

Finally it must be said that this line is quite important for the opening theory nowadays because

- 1) Black is doing quite well recently in the QGA without 3.e4.
- 2) The classical alternatives after 3.e4 seem to be under certain pressure recently.

So let's have a closer look at the concrete lines.

(3) QGA 3.e4 b5 [D20]**1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 b5**

4.a4 In a certain sense this reaction is just necessary. Delaying it gives Black some additional options. [4.b3 is met by the standard reaction 4...e5! 5.dxe5 (5. d3 d6=+; 5.d5 d6 6. c2 Ovod - Madl Germany 2009 6...c5! 7. d3 c6+ 5...cxd1+ 6. cxd1 c5 7. d3 g4=+; 4. d3 Of course Black can play 4...c6 and it is hard to find another move than (Another way is 4...a6 5.a4 b7 transposing to the system 3. Nf3 a6 4.e4 b5 5.a4 Bb7, which is nowadays assessed as fully satisfactory for Black. The following lines confirm it. 6.axb5 (

a) 6.b3 e6 7.bxc4 (7.axb5 axb5 8. Rxa8 a8 9.bxc4 xe4! 10. bd2 Beil - Krnavek Olomouc 1975 10...b4=+) 7...bxc4 8. xc4 (8. d3 b4 9. d2 d6 10.e5 d5 11. c1 dxc3 12. xc3 c5!+= Ivanov,S-Salov,V/S-Peterburg GM 1997) 8...xe4 9.O-O b4! 10. d5 d7=+ Andruet - Semkov Bulgaria 1985;

b) 6. d3 e6 7.axb5 axb5 8. Rxa8 a8 - 6.axb5)

6...axb5 7. Rxa8 a8 8. d3 e6 Giving back the extra pawn and equalizing comfortably. (8...c6 This greedy move is rather risky. 9. g5!? h6 10. h4 b6 (10...d7 11. e2 g5 12. g3 e6 13.O-O) 11. e2 e6 12.O-O Knaak - Chekhov Leipzig 1986

12...b4!?∞) 9. dxb5 (9. g5?! 9...e7 10. xe7 dxe7 11. c2 Riegler - Meister FRG 1990 11...d7!? 12. e2 O-O 13.O-O f5+ 9...xe4 10. xc4 d6 This is the most accurate move order. 11.O-O c6 12. d3 xf3 13. xf3 xd4 White's compensation is enough to hold the dynamical balance, but nothing more.) 5.a4 (5.b3 5...cxb3 6. xb3 d6 7. d2 e6=+ Sondermann - Heinicke Dortmund 2001) ; 4. d3 Now Black can also transpose to the main lines, but he has an independent option which promises good chances. 4...a6 (4...c6 5.a4 - 4.a4) 5.a4 b4 (5...c6 - 4.a4) 6. d2 (6. a2 6...b7 7.f3 e5! 8. xc4 exd4 9. b3 e7+ Gulko - Dlugy Philadelphia 1988; 6. d1 6...b7 7.f3 e5! 8.d5 c6+ Korchnoi - Huebner Cologne rapid 1984; 6. d5 6...e6 7. d3 b7 8.f3 d6=+ Jagstaidt - Delanoy Geneve 2001) 6...e6 7. d3 c5+]

4...c6 [The alternative 4...b7 doesn't impress at all. 5.axb5 xe4 6. d3 b7 7. d3 d6 8. xc4 e6 9.O-O The b5 pawn seriously limits Black's development and is not easy to remove. 9...e7 10. d5 O-O 11. e1 d7 (11...a6 12. dxf7 xf7 13. xe6; 11...c5?! Ribli - Nikolic Reykjavik 1988 12. e3! cxd4 13. xd4±; 11...h8 Bacrot - Lazarev France 1998 12. d3! d7 13. h3→) 12. d6 xc6 13.bxc6 d6 14. a6±]

5.b3 This straightforward attempt to destroy Black's pawn chain is once again well met with the standard reaction [5. d3 leads to a Slav with 3.Nc3 dxc4 4.e4 b5 5.a4, which was extremely popular about 5 years ago (nowadays White mostly tries 4.e3). 5...a6 The modern trend. Black invites the opponent to exchange on b5, thus returning to the main line. The alternatives don't seem to be dangerous. (

a) 5...b4 This is the traditional main move which was played in about 700 games. Today's assessment is that it's quite playable for Black but deep knowledge is required of course;

b) 5...e5? Strangely enough this move was tested on a

serious level a lot of times. However, this move is simply bad and the reason was shown in the very first game. 6.axb5! (6.♘f3 6...exd4 7.♙xd4 ♙xd4 8.♘xd4 b4 9.♘d1 ♙a6+= Kasparov - Huebner Belfort 1988) 6...exd4 7.♙xc4 dxc3 (7...♙e6 8.♙xe6 fxe6 Moller - Enevoldsen Buenos Aires 1939 9.♘ce2 e5 10.f4±) 8.♙xf7+ ♖e7 9.♙b3± Timman - Balshan Jerusalem 1967 9...♙d3 10.bxc3 ♙xe4+ 11.♘e2 ♘f6 12.♙a4±)

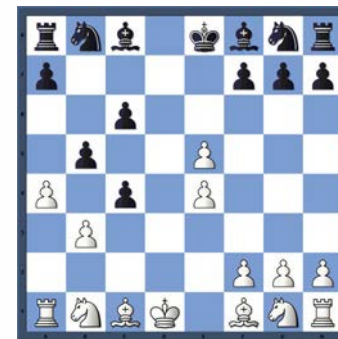
6.♘f3 (6.axb5 6...cxb5 - 5.axb5; 6.♙g5 6...h6 7.♙h4 ♘f6 The important detail here is that the bishop is on c8, so e4-e5-e6 is not a threat yet. 8.axb5 cxb5 9.♘f3 ♙b6∞ White has to prove that his compensation for a pawn is enough.) 6...e6! Practically forcing White to take the exchange. (6...♙b7 7.♙g5!? h6 8.♙h4 Here this anti-Moscow gambit play is quite unpleasant. 8...g5 (8...♙b6 9.♙e2 e6?! 10.♘e5±) 9.♙g3 ♘d7 10.♙e2∞ e6 11.d5 cxd5 12.exd5 exd5 13.♘xd5) 7.axb5 (7.♙g5 7...♙e7 8.♙xe7 ♘xe7 9.axb5 cxb5 10.♘xb5 axb5 11.♙xa8 ♙b7∞) 7...cxb5 8.♘xb5 axb5 9.♙xa8 ♙b7 10.♙a1 - 5.axb5; 5.♘f3 will be examined in Part 2.; The most critical is 5.axb5 - Part 3]

5...e5 [5...♘f6 is playable but not completely enough to equalize. 6.e5 (6.axb5 6...cxb5 7.bxc4 e5 8.♘f3 exd4 9.♙d3) 6...♘d5 7.bxc4 (7.axb5 7...cxb5 8.bxc4 bxc4 9.♙xc4 e6 10.♘f3 - 5.Nf3 e6 6.axb5 cxb5 7.b3) 7...bxc4 8.♙xc4 e6 9.♘f3 ♙a6 10.♘bd2+= and there are still some problems to solve here. (Ledger - Karkanaque Plovdiv 2010)]

6.dxe5! The only critical line. Now it's not so easy for Black to find the best defense over the board. [After 6.♘f3 it's White who has to play accurately. 6...♘f6 (6...exd4!?) 7.axb5 (7.bxc4?! 7...♘xe4 8.♙d3 ♙b4+ 9.♖f1 ♘f6± Goganov - Stevic Aix-les-Bains 2011) 7...♘xe4 8.♙xc4 ♙b4+ 9.♙d2 (9.♖f1 9...0-0∞) 9...♘xd2 10.♘bxd2 exd4 11.♙e2+ ♙e7=; 6.axb5 6...cxb5 (6...♙b4+ 7.♙d2 ♙xd4 8.♙xb4 ♙xa1 9.♙xc4∞); 6.bxc4 6...♘f6! 7.♘f3 - 6.Nf3]

6...♙xd1+ the best [6...♙b4+ 7.♙d2 ♙xd2+ (7...♙c5 8.♘f3; 7...♙d4 8.♙xb4 ♙xa1 9.♙a5! f6 (Agostini - Bologni Italy 1995) is dubious because of 10.♘e2 ♘d7 11.e6 ♘b6 12.♙c3 ♙a2 13.♘d4∞) 8.♙xd2 (8.♘xd2 8...c3 9.♘df3 ♙xd1+ 10.♙xd1 b4+=) 8...♙xd2+ 9.♖xd2 ♘d7 (Parligras - Luther Kozloduy rapid 2013) and now after 10.axb5!? cxb3 11.♘f3+= this unusual structure promises White some advantage: Black's queenside pawns are all weak.; 6...♙a5+ This tactical trick suggested by Houdini doesn't look healthy. 7.♙d2 b4 8.♙xc4 (8.♙f4 8...c3 9.♙c4 ♙c5 10.♘f3 ♙a6) 8...♙xe5 9.♙a2 ♙xe4+ 10.♘e2 ♙xg2 11.♙g1 ♙f3 12.♙g5→and despite the extra pawns, it becomes clear that it's impossible to play a game of chess with a single piece, even if it's the queen.]

7.♙xd1 This complicated endgame (it is probably more to the point to call it a queenless middlegame) is quite difficult to play for both sides. My intuition tells me that Black must have enough counterchances but it's not easy to prove it over the board. However it must be added that both sides have weaknesses, so it's not like White is playing without any risk.



7...♙c5! Development is a top priority. [The natural 7...cxb3 might be inaccurate. 8.axb5 and this structural change works in White's favor. 8...♙c5 (

a) 8...♘d7 9.♘d2 (9.f4 9...cxb5) 9...♘xe5 10.♙b2 ♘g4 11.♘h3+=;

b) 8...cxb5 Wang - Juhasz Budapest 2012 9.♗xb5+ ♕d7 10.♖c3+= and White's lead in development might soon become the most important factor.)

9.♖f3!? (After 9.f4 9...♗h6 10.h3 O-O 11.♖f3 ♜d8+ 12.♖bd2 ♕e3!⇒ Black has good counterplay.) 9...♗xf2 10.♖bd2 cxb5 (10...♖e7 11.♖xb3 O-O 12.♗a3 ♜e8 13.♜c1) 11.♗xb5+ ♕d7 12.♗c4↑ might be a problem. White's pawn structure is destroyed, but his pieces are very active.]

8.♖f3 [8.bxc4 8...b4 This is the key idea. Of course a pawn is a pawn, but the queenside structure now clearly favors Black. 9.f4 Vogel - McPherson corr 2006 9...f6! and Black either destroys the opponent's pawn center or gets the f6 square for his knight; with good compensation in both cases. 10.♖f3 (10.♖d2 10...fxe5 11.fxe5 ♖e7♞; 10.exf6 10...♖xf6 11.♖d2 O-O♞; 10.♗b2 10...fxe5 11.♗xe5 ♖f6 12.♗xf6 gxf6 13.♖d2 ♕e3 14.g3 ♖a6♞) 10...fxe5 11.♖xe5 ♕d4 12.♜a2 ♗xe5 13.fxe5 ♖h6♞; 8.axb5 8...♕d4! 9.♜a5 ♗b6 10.♜a1 ♕d4=]

8...♖e7 and now precise play from both sides leads to equal endgames or just an immediate draw. Sorry, but I don't feel like overloading the text with them. Here is one possible (but not the craziest) line: [There is no time for 8...♗xf2 9.axb5 cxb3 (9...cxb5? is just bad because of 10.♖c3±) 10.♖bd2 transposing to the 7...cxb3 line.]

9.axb5 cxb5 10.♖a3 O-O 11.♖xb5 ♜d8+ 12.♗d2 [12.♖e1 12...cxb3 13.♖c7 ♖bc6 14.♖xa8 ♖b4 15.♗c4 ♖c2+ 16.♖e2 ♖xa1 17.♖c7 ♗g4 18.e6 ♖f8 19.♗b2 ♖c2 20.exf7 ♖d4+ 21.♖f1 ♗xf3 22.gxf3 ♜c8=]

12...cxb3 13.♖c7 ♗g4 14.♜b1 a5! 15.♖xa8 a4 16.♗b5 ♗xf3+ 17.gxf3 ♗b4 18.♗xa4 ♜xd2+ 19.♖c1 ♜c2+ 20.♖d1 ♜d2+=

David vs. Goliath



Peter Zhdanov
Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

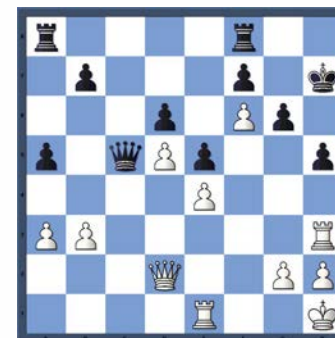
In this special column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week has brought us only 13 upsets. In fact, the initial version of the column also had a few games by GM Tkachiev and GM Fressinet, but those were blitz matches from the French Blitz Chess Championship, not to mention that some of the pgn's look quite ambiguous.

The number of moves ranges from 25 in Grebeniuk (2188) - GM Bernadskiy (2525), 1-0 to 62 in FM Gholami (2325) - Mammadov (1877), 0-1. The highest-profile loss was GM Alekseev (2679) - Kazakovskiy (2354), 0-1, although the final position in the pgn doesn't spell any trouble for White; all I know is that Black did win the game according to the official site.

The "There and back again" nomination goes to FM Parviz Gasimov aka "I have earned 568 rating points over three months". He has become a frequent guest of ours, even though his journey back is slower (K=10) than his way uphill (K=40). This time Gasimov (2497) got checkmated by Ahmadi

(1982) in 30 moves:



Top-10:

Ahmadi (1982) - Gasimov (2497), 1-0, [515](#) points
 Gholami (2325) - Mammadov (1877), 0-1, [448](#) points
 Vorontsov (1727) - Kuba (2164), 1-0, [437](#) points
 Thanki (2061) - Swayams (2480), 1-0, [419](#) points
 Nieto de la Cruz (2178) - Arribas Lopez (2537), 1-0, [359](#) points
 Grebeniuk (2188) - Bernadskiy (2525), 1-0, [337](#) points
 Soozankar (2258) - Gholami Orimi (1925), 0-1, [333](#) points
 Alekseev (2679) - Kazakovskiy (2354), 0-1, [325](#) points
 Ghaffarifar (1882) - Bagheri (2188), 1-0, [306](#) points
 Cao Armillas (2113) - Bento Iglesias (1809), 0-1, [304](#) points

Average gap: 378; White won 6 games, Black won 4 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) will be appreciated.

Puzzle section

(4) Karjakin, S(2760)-Kramnik, V(2783)

Zurich rapid, 2015.02.19

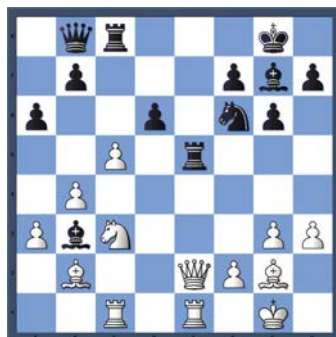
1... -+



(5) Kramnik, V(2783)-Caruana, F(2811)

Zurich rapid, 2015.02.19

1. +-



(6) Markgraf, A(2486)-Zajogin, A(2393)

German league, 2015.02.21

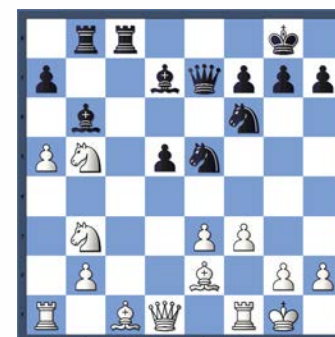
1. +-



(7) Lauber, A(2441)-Brunello, S(2552)

German league, 2015.02.21

1... -+



(8) Li Chao(2711)-Areshchenko, A(2654)

German league, 2015.02.22

1... -+



(9) Saric, I(2678)-Bartel, M(2652)

German league, 2015.02.22

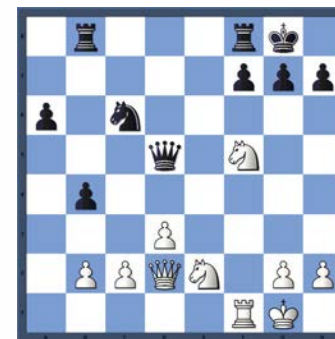
1... -+



(10) Brunello, S(2552)-Gauglitz, G(2394)

German league, 2015.02.22

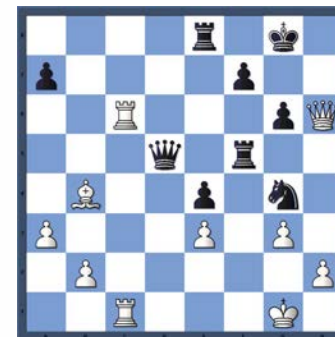
1. +-



(11) Piorun, K(2532)-Bobras, P(2535)

German league, 2015.02.22

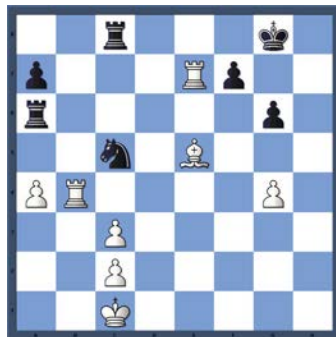
1. +-



(12) Shirov, A(2691)-Zaragatski, I(2472)

German league, 2015.02.22

1. +-



(13) Hoolt, S(2332)-Movsesian, S(2657)

German league, 2015.02.22

1... -+



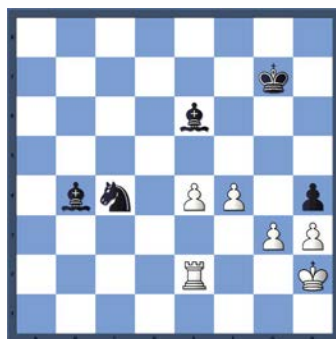
Endgame section

(14) Vachier Lagrave, Maxime (2775)
- Tomashevsky, Evgeny (2716)

Tbilisi GP,
2015.02.23



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



We are facing an unusual endgame. The three minor pieces are known as a worth of a queen and now in an opened position due to the two bishops it is even better. White tries to hold the draw with rook and three pawns. Unfortunately for him the black pieces are in perfect harmony, while the white pawns are vulnerable. Tomashevsky shows excellent technique and collects all the pawns one by one.

39...♞d2! Not the only move, but Black shows the importance in the quality of the pawns. He could have taken on g3 first, but then the king gets closer to the protection of the central pawns. White can grab a fourth pawn now, but the doubled h-pawn cannot be caunted as a healthy pawn and it also divides the pawnchain into two islands which will make them more vulnerable. Nf1 is threatening, White is forced to

take the pawn.

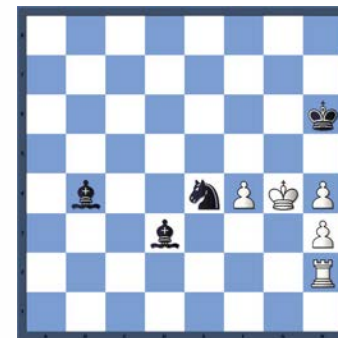
40.gxh4 [40.g4 also drops the e4 pawn as after 40...♞c4+ the rook cannot stay on the e-file because it moves into a knight fork either on f1 or on f3.]

40...♞c4 41.♞g2+ ♔h6 42.♞g3 Vachier knows that he cannot hold his pawns for long, therefore he escapes with his king from the corner where it is threatened by different kind of mating nets. [42.e5 loses quickly to 42...♞f1+ 43.♞g1 ♞c5+ 44.♞h1 ♞d5+ there is no stalemate and after any pawn moves Ne3 wins.]

42...♞f1 Black could have taken on e4 right away, but Tomashevsky tries to trap the rook first.

43.♞h2 ♞d3 Nf1 is the main threat.

44.♞g4 ♞xe4



45.♞f5 White knows that he cannot keep his pawns for long and he goes with his king to the middle of the board where it is going to be the most difficult to deliver the mate.. When the pawns are off the board, Black's winning strategy will be to squeeze the white king to the edge of the board. Black cannot grab any direct benefits from the discovered checks with a knight move.

45...♞d6 The minor pieces are cooperating perfectly.

46.♖g2 ♘h5 It is time to collect another pawn.

47.♖g8 ♘g5+ [47...♙xh4 48.♖h8+ ♔g3 was equally good. There are many different ways to eliminate all the pawns.]

48.♙f6 ♘h7+ 49.♙g7 ♕xf4 50.♖a8 ♕e5+ 51.♙f7 ♙xh4 52.♖a4+ ♔h5 [Of course not 52...♙xh3?? because of 53.♖a3]

53.h4 [On 53.♖a5 Black unpins himself with 53...♘g5+ after which he can already remove his bishop.]

53...♕b2 54.♖f4 ♕c3 55.♙e6 ♕e1 56.♖f3 ♕g6 57.♖f1 The days of the h4 pawn are counted, but Tomashevsky uses a very good practical technique, that he improves his pieces first before he grabs the material. The reason is to avoid the 50 moves draw rule according to which if there is no capture or pawn move throughout 50 moves the game is drawn. Therefore Black starts to squeeze the white king to the edge of the board and takes on h4 a bit later to win some time for the countdown from 50.



57...♕b4 58.♖f4 ♘f8+ 59.♙d5 ♕e7 60.♖f1 ♕c2 61.♖g1 ♕b3+ 62.♙e4 ♘g6 63.♙f5 ♕d8 64.♙e4 ♕e6 65.♖d1 ♕e7 Black is not in hurry now, he can do whatever he wants.

66.♖a1 ♕c8 67.♖a5+ ♙xh4 So the pawn is taken, Black has 50 moves to mate his opponent. I thought the win should be quite trivial, but actually Black must do some efforts to

bring home the full point. We can see the importance of the 2 bishops as well, if Black had two knights and a bishop White could always threaten with sacrificing the rook for the bishop and the game is drawn with single two knights. Now the rook sacrifices for one minor piece never works.

68.♖a1 ♙g5 Black needs to use all his pieces to haunt the white king.

69.♖g1+ ♕g4 70.♖g2 ♕c5 71.♖g3 ♘f4 72.♙e5 ♕f2 73.♖a3 ♕h3 [73...♕f5 is also possible to squeeze one line on the king with Ng6 next move.]

74.♖a5 ♕g2 Tomashevsky decides to control the h1-a8 and g1-a7 diagonals with his bishops and squeeze the king towards e8.

75.♖a3 ♘e2 76.♖a5 ♕g3+ 77.♙e6+ ♙g6 The first success, the king has been pushed one rank closer to the edge and Black is threatening with Nd4 check to squeeze another line.

78.♖a6 [78.♖a4 prevents Nd4, but moves into 78...♕h3+ forcing the king to move to the 7th rank as Kd5 moves into Nc3!]

78...♘d4+ 79.♙e7+ ♙g7 80.♖a1 ♕h3 Black makes progress slowly but surely. He again controls with his bishops the escaping routes of the king.

81.♖h1 ♕g4 82.♖g1 ♘e2 83.♖f1 ♕f4 Bring the pieces closer to each other in order to cooperate more efficiently is another very good strategy!

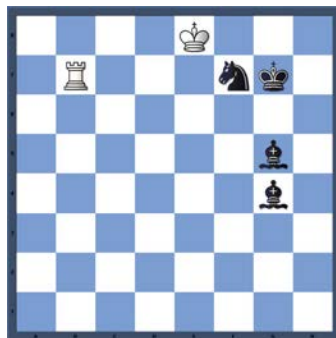
84.♖d1 ♘c3 85.♖d3 [85.♖d4 is met by 85...♕g5+ and Kd6 does not work. 86.♙e8 ♕f5—+]

85...♘e4 [85...♕e5! was easier. White is in a kind of zugzwang. For instance 86.♖d2 loses to 86...♕f6+ 87.♙e8 (87.♙d6 87...♘e4+—) 87...♘b5!—+ with an inevitable mate

on c7 or d6.]

86.♔d8 ♖c5 87.♚d5 ♜e4 [The machine recommends 87...♜b7+ 88.♔e7 ♜c1! with the idea, that White must control the g5 square and if he does it by 89.♚b5 ♜a3+ 90.♔e8 ♜d6+ wins.]

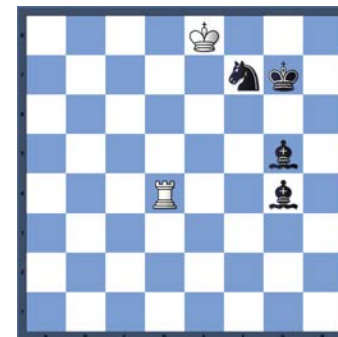
88.♚d3 ♜g5 89.♔e7 [89.♔e8 was slightly more resistant 89...♜f7 90.♚b3 ♜g5 91.♚b7



91...♔g8! threatening with Nd6 mate and the knight cannot be taken because of Bh5. Without the rook it would be a stalemate now, therefore White should try sacrifice his rook... 92.♚b6 ♜f5! Black is threatening now with Ne5 followed by Bg6. Unfortunately Rg6 Bxg6 frees the d7 square for the king, but White can try (92...♜e5?? 93.♚g6+! is a draw!) 93.♚e6 ♜h4! setting White into zugzwang. The rook must control the d6 square, but then he must free the e5. 94.♚h6 Another stalemate trick, but the easiest refutation is (94.♚a6 94...♜e5—+ and Bg6 next.) 94...♜d7+! 95.♔xd7 ♜xh6—+]

89...♜f7 White is getting squeezed more and more. The end is near...

90.♚d4 ♜g5+ 91.♔e8



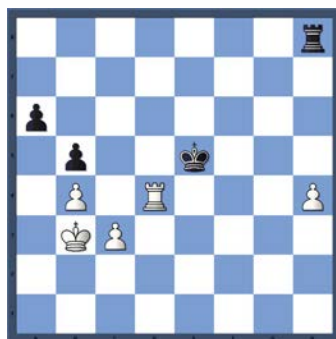
91...♜e5! and White resigned in view of the threatening mate on h5! Very good technique by Tomashevsky who needed only 25 moves to deliver the mate. **0-1**

(15) Mista, Aleksander(2597)
- Erdos, Viktor(2615)

German Bundesliga 2014/15,
2015.02.22



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



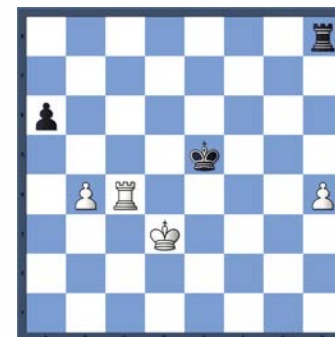
Is this a winning or a drawn endgame?! The answer is hard to tell at first sight... In case White would somehow manage to put his rook behind the h-pawn the position would of course be winning, but right now the black rook is feeling quite free on the h-file and in case the white king would go to g3, the c3 pawn could be under attack.

57. ♖c2! Mista starts with the right move. White needs to bring his king to d3, as on b3 he is just badly placed.

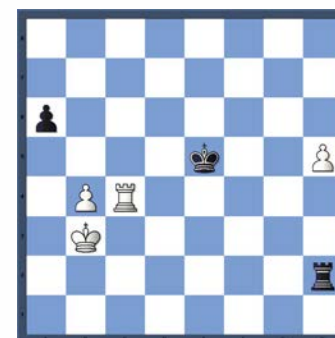
57... ♜h6 Black can't do much, so he needs to keep on waiting.

58. ♕d3 ♕f5? Black allows White a nice trick. [The best chance for Black was to keep waiting on the h-file. 58... ♜h8] Now White has several ideas, but probably the most logical one is to try the same as in the game, as other plans like bringing the king to g3 don't make much sense as Black would put his rook on c8 and king on f5, with good drawing chances.

59. c4 bxc4+ 60. ♜xc4 and now it is very important for Black not to miss the chance of bringing his rook to the h-file to attack the white pawn from behind.



60... ♜d8+! (No better is 60... ♜g8 61. ♜c5+ ♕d6 and now White has the very strong 62. ♜g5 (62. ♜a5 62... ♜g4 is just a draw.) 62... ♜f8 63. h5 with very good winning chances.) 61. ♕c2! preventing the black rook to get to the h-file over the d1 square. (61. ♕c3? would probably lead to a draw. 61... ♜d1 62. h5 ♜h1 63. ♜c5+ ♕d6 and the very active black rook is saving the game: 64. ♜a5 ♕c7 65. ♕d3 ♕b6 66. ♜f5 ♜h4 It seems like White can't win the game any longer... 67. ♕c3 ♜h3+ 68. ♕c4 ♜h4+) 61... ♜g8 and now White is just in time with 62. h5! with the idea to play Rh4. 62... ♜g2+ 63. ♕b3 ♜h2 It seems like the position is close to a draw, but White has a very nice winning move:



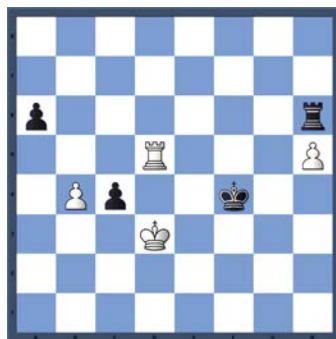
64.♖c6! and Black cannot defend the position any longer.]

59.h5! An excellent move, using the right moment that Black cannot take on h5.

59...♔g5 avoiding Rh4. [A rather easy calculation shows that White is winning after 59...♖xh5? 60.♖d5+ ♔g6 61.♖xh5 ♔xh5 62.♔d4 ♔g5 63.♔c5 ♔f5 64.♔b6 ♔e4 65.♔xa6 ♔d3 66.♔xb5]

60.♖d5+ ♔f4 61.c4 Now the h5 pawn is saved and the black king is cut off on the 4th rank, clearly c4 is the right move.

61...bxc4+



62.♔xc4 All White needs to do now is to get his king to a5 and Black can't stop White from realizing this.

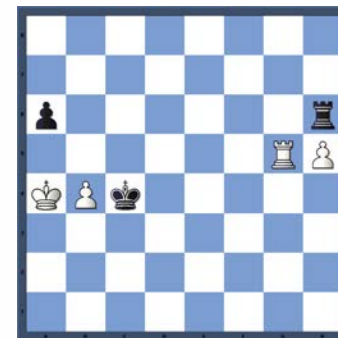
62...♖c6+ 63.♔b3 ♔e4 64.♖c5 very safe play

64...♖h6 Now White has 2 options...

65.♔a4! This is the right choice, as there is no need for White to think about the other tempting idea... [65.♖c4+ 65...♔d5 66.♖h4 Fixing the black rook on h6 looks great, but in fact it is not that useful right now. 66...♔d6 67.♔c4 ♔e5 68.♔c5 ♔f5 and the white king cannot get to the a6 pawn because the rook on h6 has the 6th rank under control.]

65...♔d4 66.♖g5 ♔c4 Once again Mista shows great rook

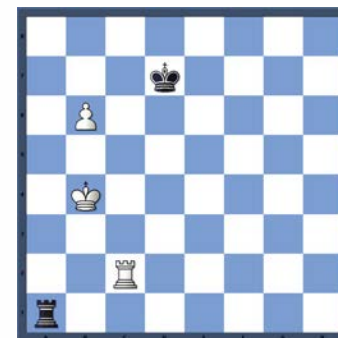
endgame skills!



67.♖g6! ♖xh5 68.♖xa6 Black can't stop White from playing Rc6 and b5, which means his position is just lost.

68...♖h8 69.♖c6+ ♔d5 70.b5 In case Black would have the king on d7 it would be a draw with the famous idea of playing Rc8!, winning the c-file, but now that the king is on d5 Black's position is just hopeless.

70...♖a8+ 71.♔b4 ♖a1 72.♖c2 ♔d6 73.b6 ♔d7



74.♔b5 followed by b7 and Kb6. What a great technique by Mista, even if Erdos made things a bit too easy for White... **1-0**

Chess and the City. This pen is cursed...



WGM Elisabeth Paehtz
Best rating: 2493

Some time ago I remember I was writing an article about superstition. I am myself actually not very superstitious however I tend to exchange the so-called lucky pen once I suffer a loss, especially when it is a bitter one.

Last weekend we played in German Bundesliga in Berlin and I found myself as so often without any writing tool. I asked my team mate David Baramidze if he could help me out. He handed me a black pen and so the story began...

I played on Saturday against an IM from Spain. In the first 4 hours I could say I played a very nice game, outplayed my opponent totally until I found myself in a winning endgame. Probably due to a lack of energy and nervousness I somehow lost control over the game and had to throw in the towel a few hours later. Fortunately my team could still win the match and I did not need to feel guilty but nevertheless sank in sadness and in the "I wanna kill myself mood."



Our team composition last weekend from left to right: Oleg Boguslavskyy, me, Sabino Brunello, Rainer Buhmann, Team captain Blerim Kuci, Ivan Saric, Dennis Wagner, David Baramidze and Richard Rapport

The next morning I returned the pen to David, since obviously I did not plan to give it another try. This time I went for a blue pen and managed to win the game. Our team succeeded in another victory however suffered again a single loss but this time by our team mate Ivan Saric from Croatia. The actual point about this loss was that also Ivan was in need of a pen before the game and again it was David who was so kind to borrow him one - and of course it was the very same pen.

The question I am now wondering about is if this is just a funny (or rather sad) coincidence or if there is really something we could call fate, luck or more often bad luck. Actually I have no idea, but what I know for sure is that this was the very last time to borrow a pen from David, especially when this pen is black and cursed.

In my next newsletter I will reveal the results of the Gibraltar test and after that the team of Chess Evolution should announce a winner, in case there is any...

Clash of the Titans

(16) Capablanca, Jose Raul
- Janowski, Dawid Markelowicz
[D11]

New York Rice prel(3),
1916



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 d5 3.c4 c6 4.♘c3 dxc4 5.e3 [The main move is 5.a4]

5...♗g4 [Nowdays the best reaction is 5...b5]

6.♗xc4 e6 7.h3 ♗h5 8.O-O



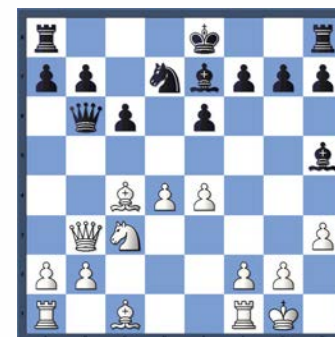
8...♗e7 [8...♘bd7!? to avoid Ne5.]

9.♞b3 This is not the best square for the queen as White had possibilities to create two other setups which give him slightly better positions: [9.g4 9...♗g6 10.♘e5 ♘bd7 11.♘xg6 hxg6 12.♞f3 or; 9.♞e2 with the thematic idea to get a better center after Rd1-e4.]

9...♞b6 [9...♗xf3 10.♞xb7!]

10.♘e5 ♘bd7 [10...♘fd7!? The idea of this move which deserves attention is to save the light-squared bishop. 11.♘d3!?

11.♞xb6?! A bad decision. This exchange improved Black's structure. White should have played [11.g4 11...♗g6 12.♘xg6 hxg6 13.♞g2 ♞c7 14.♗d2 O-O-O 15.♞ac1!→There are no tactical threats on g4 or h3 yet because the king will escape over f3-e2.; 11.♘xd7 11...♘xd7 (11...♞xb3?? 12.♘xf6+; 11...♞xd7? 12.♞c2) 12.e4



12...e5! A typical fight for the center. (12...♞xb3 13.♗xb3 O-O 14.♗e3 Black's position is very solid but on the other hand White has the better center and his idea is to play against the bishop on h5.; 12...♞xd4 13.♗e3 ♞d6 14.♞xb7 O-O



15.♞fd1! ♗xd1 16.♞xd1 ♘c5 17.♞b4 (17.♞xd6 17...♘xb7 18.♞d7

♖a5+ 17...♜ab8 (17...♜b8 18.♜a3 ♜b6 19.b4+–) 18.♜a3 ♜e5 19.f4 ♜h5 20.♙e2 ♜h4 21.♙xc5 ♙xc5+ 22.♜xc5 ♜xb2 23.♜e3 and White is better.) 13.dxe5 (13.d5!?) 13...♙xe5 14.♙e3 ♜xb3 15.♙xb3 f6 (15...♙d3?! 16.g4 ♙g6 17.♜ad1 ♙xb2 18.♜d2±)]

11...axb6 12.♙xd7 White again had the chance to get the advantage of the bishop pair. [12.g4 12...♙g6 13.♙xg6 hxg6 14.♙g2 b5 15.♙e2]

12...♙xd7 13.♙d2 [13.g4 13...♙g6 14.f4 b5 15.♙xb5 cxb5 16.♙xb5+ ♙d8 17.f5 exf5 18.gxf5 ♙h5+]

13...b5= 14.♙d3 [14.♙b3 White's idea now is to take the center and limit the black bishop after f3-e4, so Black plays 14...♙g6 15.a4 (15.f3 15...♙d3!) 15...♙d3 (15...b4 16.♙a2 ♙e4 17.♙xb4? (17.♙e1!) 17...♙xb4 18.♙xb4 ♙d2+ 16.♜fc1 bxa4 (16...♙c4 17.♙xc4 bxc4 18.a5! ♙b4 19.♙e4±) 17.♙xa4 ♜a6 (17...♙c7 18.♙c5 At least White gets some active play here.) 18.♙c5+ ♙xc5 19.♜xa6 (19.dxc5) 19...bxa6! (19...♙xa6 20.dxc5 ♙e4 21.♙e1 f5 22.f3 ♙f6 23.♙g3±) 20.♜xc5 ♜b8 21.♜c3 ♙e4 22.♙c1 ♙d5 and Black is on time, so White is forced to exchange the bishop!]

14...♙g6 15.♙xg6 hxg6 16.♜fc1 ♜a6=+ [16...b4 17.♙e2 ♜a6 18.b3 ♜ha8 19.♜c2 ♜a3 20.♙c1= White can try Rab1-Rbb2-Nd3 next.]

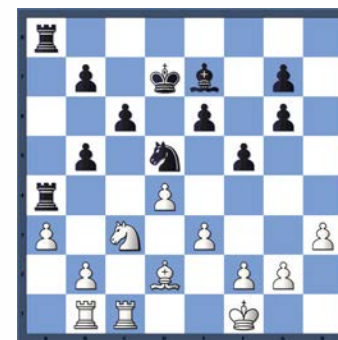
17.a3 ♜ha8



18.♙a2? Another weak move which gives Black the opportunity to blow on a3. [18.♜ab1]

18...♙d5?! Janowski decided not to play [18...♙xa3! 19.bxa3 ♜xa3 20.♜c2 ♙d5 with the idea b4. 21.♜b2 ♙b6 and White's position is very unpleasant because it is hard to solve the problems with the pin.]

19.♜ab1 f5 20.♙f1 ♜a4 21.♙c3



21...♜c4!? A brave decision by Janowski. He is going to sacrifice the exchange to complicate the position.

22.b3 [22.♙e2]

22...♜xc3 23.♙xc3 ♜xa3 24.♙e1 ♙f6 [24...♜a2 25.♜a1 ♜b2 26.♜cb1 ♜c2=]

25.♙e2 e5 26.dxe5 ♙xe5 [26...♜a2+ 27.♙d3 ♙xe5 28.♜c2+=]

27.f4 ♙d6 [27...♙f6 28.g4 b4 It was more logical to keep the bishop on this diagonal.]

28.♙c3 ♜a2+ 29.♙f3 ♙c5 [29...♙a3 30.♜d1±]



30. Rxd1! ♔e6 **31. Rxd3** A nice rook improvement by Capablanca.

31... ♙f8 [31... ♙f7 32. ♙e5+=]

32. ♙e5 b4 Maybe it was not necessary to put the pawn on b4. [32...g5!?]

33. Rxc1? A strange move, which I cannot understand. I think it was more logical to play [33. Rxa1!? to exchange or activate the rook.; Or 33. Rxe1! with the idea to open the position over e4. 33...g5 34. e4 ♘xf4 (34...fxe4+ 35. Rxe4 gxf4 36. ♙xg7+ ♙f7 37. ♙xf8 ♙xf8 38. Rxd5 cxd5 39. Rxf4+ ♙g7 40. Rxb4+-) 35. exf5+ ♙xf5 36. g4+ (36. Rxd7 36... ♙c5) 36... ♙g6 37. ♙xf4 gxf4 38. ♙xf4+-]

33...g5 34. g4 [34. ♙d4!? 34...gxf4 35. exf4 ♖xg2 36. Rxe1+ ♙f7 37. Rxe5 g6? 38. Rxd5+-]

34...g6 35. e4

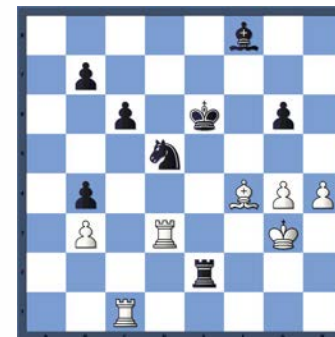


35...fxe4+?! A wrong decision. It was better to keep the e-file closed! [35...fxg4+! 36. hxg4 ♘xf4 37. ♙xf4 gxf4 38. ♙xf4 ♙h6+ (38... Rxa5! A nice move! Black has very good drawish chances as he is controlling the dark squares.) 39. g5 Rf2+ 40. ♙g3 ♙xg5 41. Rxc6+ (41. Rxc5 41... Rxd2) 41...bxc6 42. ♙xf2 and here White has winning chances.]

36. ♙xe4 Rxe2+ [36... Rf2 37. Rf3 Rxe2+ 38. ♙d3 Rf2 39. Rxe1! and White has the initiative.]

37. ♙f3 Rf2 38. ♙g3 Rxe2 [38...gxf4+ 39. ♙xh2 (39. ♙xf4 39... Rxf3+!) 39... ♙xe5 is too optimistic. 40. Rxe1+ ♘e3 41. Rxd7±]

39. h4 gxh4+ [39...gxf4+ 40. ♙xf4



40... Rg2+! 41. ♙f3 ♘xf4 42. ♙xf4?! (better is 42. Rxe1+!±) 42... ♙d6+ 43. Rxd6+ (43. ♙g5 43... ♙e7+!=) 43... ♙xd6 44. Rf1 with complex play but Black is not worse. (44. ♙g5 44...b5±) 44... ♙e6 (44... ♙d5 45. h5 gxh5 46. gxh5 ♙d4 47. h6 Rg8 48. h7 Rf8±) 45. h5 gxh5 46. gxh5 ♙f7 47. h6 ♙g8 and Black is on time.]

40. ♙xh4 ♙e7+ [40... Rf2+ 41. ♙g3 (41. ♙g5?? 41... ♙f7+-) 41... Rxe2 42. ♙f3 Rf2 43. Rxe1 Rf3+ 44. ♙e4 Rf4 and it is not easy to improve White's position.; 40...g5+!? 41. ♙xg5 ♙e7+ 42. ♙h6 The only square, otherwise Black has Rxe5! 42... ♙f8+

43.♔h7 The only square again. 43...♖h2+ (43...♕f7 44.♖h1) 44.♕g8 ♕h6 45.♖xd5!± avoiding the mate threats.]

41.♕g3 g5 42.♕f3 ♖h2 43.♖e1 ♖h3+ 44.♕e4 ♖h4 45.fxg5
White also keeps an advantage after [45.f5+ 45...♕f7



46.♕g3 (46.♖xd5!? A nice and interesting idea! 46...cxd5+ (46...♖xg4+ 47.♕f3+-) 47.♕xd5 ♖xg4 48.♖h1! with the idea to avoid counterplay from the second rank. (48.♖c1 48...♖g2 49.♖c7 ♖d2+ 50.♕d4 ♕f8⇒) 48...♖h4 (48...♕f6 49.♖h7+ ♕g8 50.♖xb7 ♕xe5 51.♕xe5+- The king is going to g6.) 49.♖c1



49...♖h6! The only way to defend is to take control of the 6th rank. (49...♖h3 50.♖c7 ♖d3+ 51.♕e4+- with f6 next.) 50.♖c7 ♕e8 51.♖xb7 g4⇒ 46...♖h3 (46...♖xg4+ 47.♕f3 ♕f6 48.♖e6+- The rook on g4 is dead and Rxf6 coming.) 47.♖g1 (47.♕f3?

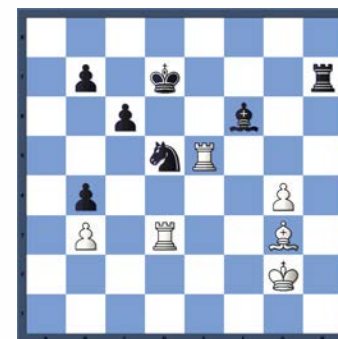
47...♕d6 48.♕g2 ♕f4+ 49.♕xf4 ♖xd3 50.♕xg5 ♖g3+) 47...♕c5 48.♖g2 ♕f6+ 49.♕f3 ♖h1 50.♕e5 and White is clearly better.]

45...♕xg5 [45...♖xg4+ 46.♕f3 ♖xg5 (46...♕f5 47.♖xd5 cxd5 48.♕b8+-) 47.♕f4+ ♕d7 48.♖xe7+-]

46.♕f3 [46.♕g3 46...♖h3 (46...♖xg4+ 47.♕f3+ ♕f5 48.♖e5+-) 47.♖f3 ♕d2 48.♖ef1±]

46...♖h3+ 47.♕g3+ ♕d7 [47...♕f7!? Why not keep the king closer to the g pawn!? 48.♕g2 ♕f4+ 49.♕xf4 ♖xd3 50.♕xg5 ♖xb3 51.♖e7+ ♕g6 52.♕e3 ♖c3 53.♕f3 b5 and I suppose Black shouldn't lose this position.]

48.♕g2 ♖h7 49.♖e5 ♕f6



50.♖exd5+!? An interesting decision. Capablanca changes the character of the position, which from a practical point of view is a typical way of dealing with the position. [50.♖f5 50...♕e6]

50...cxd5 51.♖xd5+ ♕e8 52.♖b5 ♖d7! [52...♕c3 53.♕d6]

53.♖xb4 ♕f7 54.♖b6

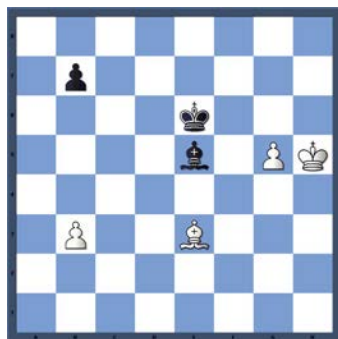


54...♙d4 Janowski nicely regroupes his pieces.

55.♖d6 Both players were probably not sure about the evaluation of the bishop endgame, but objectively it is drawish. [55.♖b5 55...♙g6 56.♙f3 and White can try for a very long time here.]

55...♖xd6 56.♙xd6 ♗g6 57.♙f3 ♙f6 58.♙f4 ♙f7 59.♙e4 ♙e6 60.♙e3 ♙e7 61.g5 ♙d8 62.♙f4 [62.♙d3 62...♙f5 (62...♙d5 63.g6 ♙e6 64.♙d4) 63.♙c4 ♙c7 64.♙c5 ♙d8 65.♙d6 ♙a5 White is trying to attack the b-pawn. 66.♙d7 ♙c3 67.♙c7 b5 68.♙c6 b4 with a similar position as in the game.]

62...♙c7+ 63.♙g4 ♙e5 64.♙h5



64...♙f7 Black cannot allow White to bring his king to h7.

65.♙h6 ♙g8 66.♙b6 Fixing the pawn on b7.

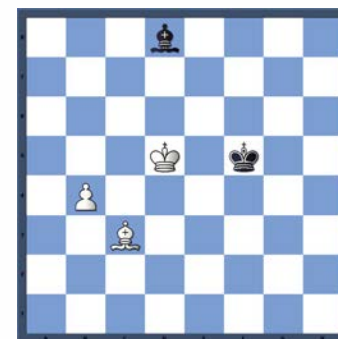
66...♙c3 67.♙g6 ♙d2 68.♙f6 ♙c3+ 69.♙e6 ♙d2 70.g6 ♙c3 71.♙d5 ♙d2 [71...♙g7?? 72.♙d4+-]

72.♙d4 b5! Kc5 was not a threat anyway because of Ba5.

73.♙e4 b4 74.♙e3 ♙c3 75.♙d3 ♙e1 Now to improve the position White is forced to exchange the g- for the b-pawn.

76.♙d2 ♙f2 77.♙e4 ♙c5 78.♙d5 ♙e7 79.♙c4 ♙g7 80.♙xb4 ♙d8 81.♙c3+ ♙xg6 82.b4 ♙f5 [82...♙f7 83.♙d5 ♙e8 is not the correct plan as White is winning now after 84.♙c6 ♙h4 85.b5 ♙f2 (85...♙d8 86.b6 ♙g3 87.b7 ♙e8 88.♙a5 ♙b8 89.♙c7 ♙a7 90.♙b5 ♙d7 91.♙a6+-) 86.♙a5 ♙e3 87.♙b6 ♙d2 88.♙f2 ♙a5 and this diagonal is too short... 89.♙c5 ♙d8 (89...♙d8 90.♙b6+ ♙xb6 91.♙xb6 ♙c8 92.♙a7+-) 90.♙d6+- with Bc7 next.]

83.♙d5

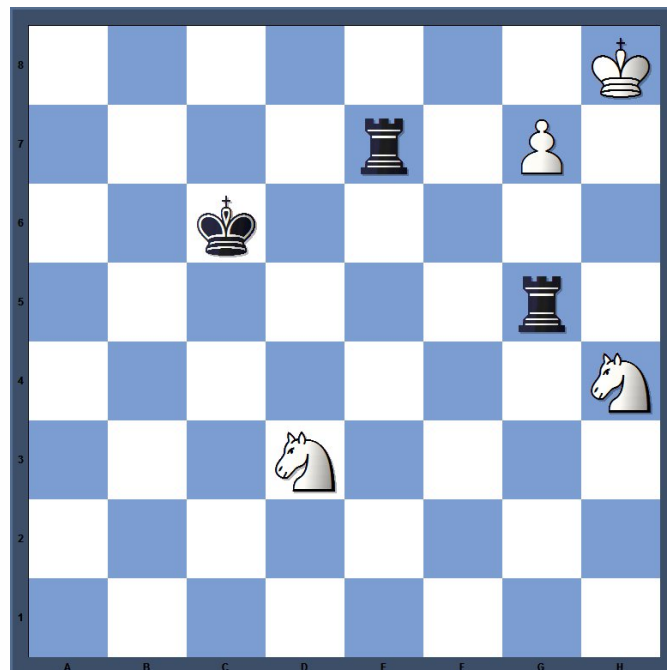


And here in a drawish position Janowski unexpectedly resigned!!! He didn't know the defensive method which half a century later a 17-year old Bobby Fischer used in his game against Taimanov! To get the answer as to how to make a draw you can check the game Taimanov-Fischer, Buenos Aires 1960. **1-0**

Surprise section / study

(17) Roche

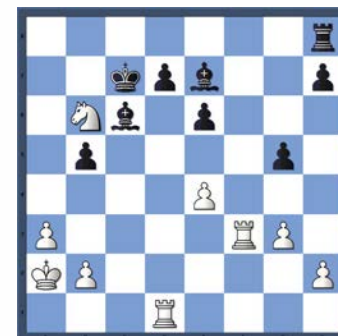
1. =



Solutions

(18) Nakamura, H(2776)-Karjakin, S(2760)

Zurich, 2015.02.16

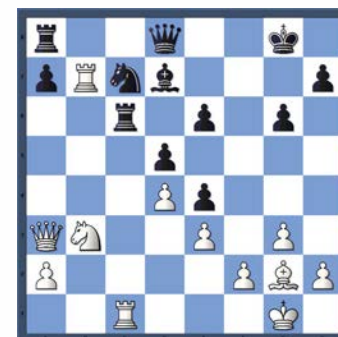


26. ♖xd7! ♜d8 [26... ♙xd7 27. ♜c3+ ♙d8 (27... ♙c6 28. ♜dc1+-) 28. ♜cd3+-]

27. ♜c3! 1-0 [27. ♜c3 27... ♜xd7 28. ♜dc1 ♜d6 29. e5+-]

(19) Kramnik, V(2783)-Caruana, F(2811)

Zurich blitz, 2015.02.13



22... ♖b5!! 23. ♜xc6 [23. ♜b2 23... ♖d6! 24. ♜b4 a5!+-; 23. ♜a4 23... ♜xc1+ 24. ♖xc1 ♜c8+-]

23... ♙xc6 24. ♜xb5 ♙xb5—+

(20) Timman, J(2553)-Nikolic, P(2588)

Noteboom GM, 2015.02.15



41...h5+! 0-1 [41...h5+ 42.♔xh5 (42.♔g3 42...h4+ 43.♔g4 ♖g2+ 44.♔h5 ♜h8#) 42...♜h8+ 43.♔g4 ♖g2+ 44.♜g3 ♜h4#]

(21) Lai, H(2308)-Sprenger, J(2496)

Noteboom Open, 2015.02.15

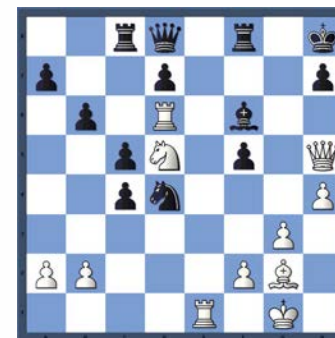


22.♘xg6!! ♜f7 [22...fxg4 23.♞xf8+! ♞xf8 24.♘xf8+-; 22...♞xg6 23.gxf5 ♞xf5 (23...♜xf5 24.♞xe4+-) 24.♜g1+ ♔h7 25.♜g7+-]

23.gxf5+-

(22) Fridman, D(2648)-Fedorchuk, S(2648)

Noteboom Open, 2015.02.15

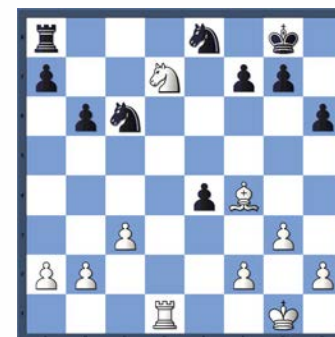


20.♜e7! [20.♜xf6! 20...♜xf6 21.♜e7+- ♞xe7 (21...h6 22.♘xf6 ♞xe7 23.♞xh6+) 22.♘e7]

20...♞xe7 21.♜h6 ♜f7 22.♞xf7 ♞g8 23.♞xe7+-

(23) Socko, B(2611)-Moor, O(2348)

Graz Open, 2015.02.14



28.♘b8!! 1-0 [28.♘b8 28...♘xb8 29.♜d8 ♔f8 30.♞d6+! ♔g8 31.♜xe8+ ♔h7 32.♜xb8+-]

(24) Predojevic, B(2614)-Elsness, F(2447)

Norwegian league, 2015.02.07



49. ♖xf7+! 1-0 [49. ♖xf7+ 49... ♖xf7 50. ♙xf7+! ♔xf7 51. ♖h7+ ♕f6 52. ♖xb7+-]

(25) Tarlev, K(2557)-Mashmooli, K(2175)

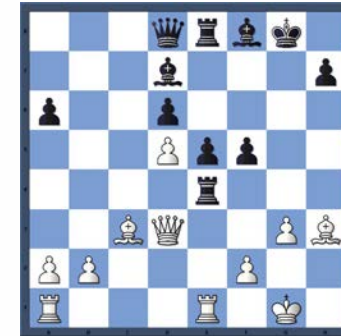
Khazar Open, 2015.02.11



17. ♕xf6! ♖xe1+ 18. ♘xe1! 1-0 [18. ♘xe1 18... gxf6 19. ♘xd3+-]

(26) Solodovnichenko, Y(2577)-Rydstrom, T(2314)

Vaxjo Open, 2015.02.13

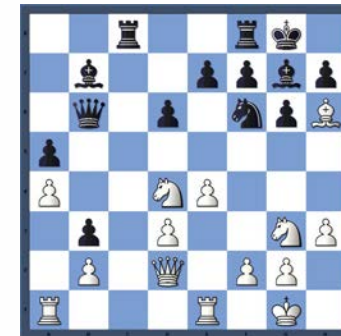


31. ♕xf5! ♕xf5 [31... ♖xe1+ 32. ♖xe1 ♕xf5 33. ♙xf5+-]

32. ♖xe4+-

(27) Sedlak, N(2558)-Loebler, H(2161)

Graz Open, 2015.02.13



18. ♘gf5! gxf5 [18... ♕xh6 19. ♙xh6 gxf5 20. ♘xf5 ♘e8 21. ♘xe7+ ♖h8 22. ♙xf8#]

19. ♙g5 1-0 [19. ♘xf5!?+- ; 19. ♙g5 19... ♘e8 20. ♕xg7 ♘xg7 21. ♘xf5+-]

(28) Mitrofanov



1. ♖b4+! [1. ♖xe4? 1...d2=; 1. ♖xd3? 1... ♘c5+=]

1... ♖c2 2. ♜c4+! [2. ♖xe4? 2...d2=]

2... ♖d2 [2... ♖b2 3. ♖xd3+-]

3. ♖xe4 g3 [3... ♖e2 4. ♘c7! d2 5. ♘d5 d1= ♚ 6. ♘c3+-]

4. ♖f3! g2 5. ♖xg2 ♖e3 [5... ♖e2 6. ♜e4+-]

6. ♜c3!! ♖e2 7. ♘b6! d2 8. ♘c4! d1= ♚ 9. ♜e3#



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 158

6th of March 2015

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Editorial Preface

The 16th Individual European Championship is one round away from the end. After 10 rounds Evgenij Najer leads with the amazing score of 8/10, beating Korobov in round 10 with the white pieces.

The second and third places are shared by David Navara, who is playing a very solid event and showed a few great games like against Nepomniachtchi, and Dennis Khishmatulin, who won a crazy game against Eljanov in round 10.

So we will witness the showdown on Sunday, after a rest day on Saturday.

Meanwhile Alexei Shirov managed to organize an amazingly strong rapid event in Yurmala, Latvia, which starts tomorrow. A lot of GMs will participate in it, with names such as Karjakin, Mamedyarov, Gelfand, the recent Grand Prix winner Tomashevsky and many more.

There is a friendly match between China and India under way, but both teams are not playing even close to their best line-ups.

The traditional open of Capelle-la-Grande 2015 is lead by Kotronias with 6/7. A lot of strong GMs are following him with 5.5/7 and one of them is the top seed of the tournament, Li Chao from China, with an ELO of 2720.

As always we hope you enjoy this week's chess material!

Best wishes,

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) **Nepomniachtchi, Ian (2714)**
- **Howell, David W L (2663) [A29]**

16th ch-EUR Indiv 2015(8.1),
2015.03.04



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Ian Nepomniachtchi is one of the most interesting players in the world. He had tournaments in which he was not spending more than 20 minutes for the whole game, and lately has had a lot of very successful events in normal chess, as well as in rapid and blitz. Usually he is playing original and strange chess, which is not easy to play against, especially since Ian usually pushes his opponents into time trouble. In the current game it seems like Black could reach a normal position out of the opening, but in fact things were very tricky and White clearly kept the better overview over the position, which slowly brought him domination and later on a decisive material advantage.

1.c4 Ian likes to start a lot with the first 1.c4

1...e5 Lately Howell has been showing great results as we can see on his ELO. He is also quite strong in theory, so he picks the very main 1...e5.

2.♖c3 ♜f6 3.♜f3 ♜c6 4.g3 There are a lot of different moves orders and tricky lines here.

4...d5 [4...♙b4 is the other main line.]

5.cxd5 ♜xd5 6.♙g2 ♜b6 This is a very usual move. If we look at the position, we have a line from the Sicilian dragon with

reversed colors.

7.a3 White is quickly trying to make the b4 move work, as in combination with the bishop on g2 the b5 threat will have some value.

7...♙e7 8.b4



8...♙e6 Black is preparing to answer Nd4 after White's b5.

9.O-O a5 It is clear that Black is still in his preparation and of course it is nothing new. Black is forcing White to play b5 to play Nd4.

10.b5 ♜d4 11.♖b1 protecting from Bb3 and threatening to play Nxe5. [Of course White should not play 11.♜xe5? 11...♙b3 12.♙e1 ♜c2 and Black is winning.]

11...♜xf3+ 12.♙xf3 ♖b8 This is a very safe way to protect the b7 pawn, but of course now the rook is passively placed on b8.

13.d3 O-O 14.♙b2 White's idea is clear, to start his play on the queenside, where he has a bit more space, and put pressure against the c7 pawn with Qc2-Rfc1. Black's play should usually be on the kingside.

14...f5 A very logical move.

15.♙g2 I am not sure that this move was really immediately needed, although of course a prophylactical decision like Bg2

is not bad. [15. ♖c2 seems to be the best move here.]

15... ♗d6 Black is overprotecting the c7 pawn and putting his bishop to a slightly more active position.

16. a4 Black would most probably play Qe7 next anyway, so there is no reason to avoid playing a4.

16... ♕e7 [In my opinion maybe it would make sense for Black to put his queen on h5 now: 16... ♕e8 17. ♖c2 ♕h5 and maybe one idea could be to start some attack on the inside with Rf6 next.]

17. ♖c2



17... ♕f7 Clearly a useful move, taking more control of the d5 square and threatening to play Bb3.

18. ♗c1 defending from Bb3 and White is now switching to the idea of playing f4 somewhere. In principle Black's position is looking quite nice, but we should not forget about the b7 pawn which makes the black rook take a passive position on b8.

18... ♗d7 So far Black is playing a good game. The knight is going to take a good position on f6.

19. f4 and White is starting some action.

19... ♖h8?! Black is clearly missing White's idea... [Why not play 19... ♗f6 avoiding all the white tricks. 20. e4 Of

course White has other moves as well, but I guess this was Nepomniachtchi's idea. 20... fxe4 Black of course has a lot of different options too, but here comes the most crazy one. 21. f5 White is trying to reach a positional advantage. 21... ♕h5! 22. fxe6 ♗g4 The threat of playing Qxh2 and Bc5+ makes the piece sacrifice very exciting. The position is very unclear.]

20. fxe5 ♗xe5 and here comes the move that clearly Black has missed:



21. ♗e4! This move is not that hard to find, but very very important. White is now getting one of the black bishops, which will give him a clear positional plus.

21... ♗b4?! The intention of not giving away the dark squared bishop is right, but again Black is missing White's next move... [More solid seems to be 21... ♗d5 to at least try and exchange the g2 bishop. 22. ♗xd6 cxd6 23. e4 gives White a clear plus.]

22. ♗f4! White is not interested in easy solutions and wants to win the game on the spot! [The simple 22. ♗g5 22... ♕e7 23. ♗xe6 ♕xe6 would give White some advantage, but the move in the game is much stronger.]

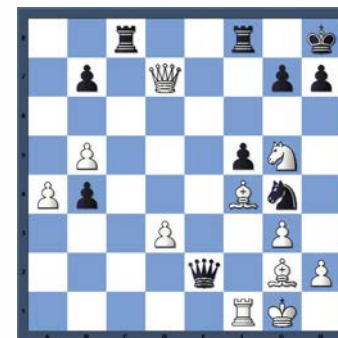
22... ♗g4 The c7 pawn is going to fall and there is not much to do about it, so Howell decides to try his chances in the tactics.

25...♙d7? This move just loses... [The only way to go on was 25...♖xc7 26.♙xc7 and now the very strong 26...♙a2!! with the idea of b3-b2-b1, which is probably what Ian missed when he played 24. Rxb4?!. 27.♙xb8



27...♖bc8!? This move loses without a fight... [Black should at least have tried to create some mess with 27...♖be8!?

28.♗xb7 ♘e3 and of course White is winning here with several moves, but at least there are some practical chances left.]



33...♖h2 34.b7 Black doesn't have any threats at all.

34...♖g4



35.b8=♔ We just saw a great game by White where we have to admit some level difference between the young Russian and the English man. Anyhow, the game showed us a lot of different ideas of the opening and the positional idea of White to maintain the pressure on the b7 pawn as long as possible to disturb the development of the black rook. **1-0**

(2) Vitiugov, Nikita (2735) - Aleksandrov, Aleksej (2603) [D38]

16th ch-EUR Indiv 2015(3.14),
2015.02.26



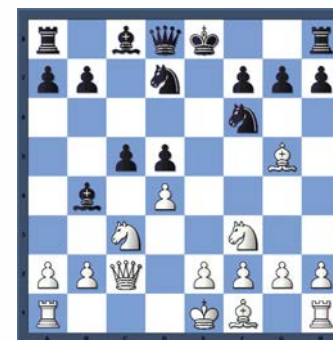
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Nikita Vitiugov won an unusual game, where he decided the outcome of the middlegame with a king march to the middle of the board!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♙b4 Aleksandrov plays his pet line, the Ragozin defense.

5.cxd5 exd5 6.♙g5 ♘bd7 7.♔c2 The most common move by far is 7.e3.

7...c5 [7...h6 8.♙h4 g5 9.♙g3 ♘e4 was played by some top GMs recently.]



8.g3 One of the points of the 7.Qc2 setup. White would like to fianchetto his bishop and get a Tarrash defense structure, where the g2 bishop will push the d5 isolated pawn. The question is if White will have enough time to execute this plan or if Black can create his counterplay within the next few moves... [8.a3 or 8.dxc5 are all more common than the text move, but they are not necessarily better...]

8...h6 Black unpins himself by making use of the previous 8.g3 move. Now the bishop cannot hold the pin because after g5 it cannot return to g3 anymore...

9.♟f4 ♚a5 The novelty. [Just a few months earlier, Aleksandrov played in a rapid game 9...♞e4 10.♟g2 ♞df6 11.O-O O-O



Vitiugov has most probably planned an improvement at this moment: 12.♞xe4! is the computer's recommendation. (Black was doing fine after 12.dxc5 12...♞xc3 13.bxc3 ♟xc5 14.♞ad1 ♚e7= with equality in Bartel, Marta-Aleksandrov, Wroclaw 2014) 12...dxe4 13.♞d2 ♟xd2 (13...cxd4 14.♞xe4 leaves Black with a very weak target on d4.) 14.♚xd2 ♚xd4 (14...cxd4 15.♟e5 wins back the pawn and the two bishops, and especially the very strong dark-squared one guarantees an edge for White.) 15.♚xd4 cxd4 16.♞fd1 ♞d8 17.♟e5+= White wins back the pawn and enters a pleasant endgame with a slight edge. 17...d3? is wrong in view of 18.♟xf6 gxf6 19.♟xe4± winning a pawn.]

10.♟g2 ♞e4 Principled and typical play by Black! He spares an important tempo by delaying castling and quickly puts pressure on the c3 knight as long as the king is on e1.



11.♞c1! An excellent decision in connection with the next move! Black does not really have a choice, if he wants to be consequent he must accept the pawn sacrifice on a2.

11...♚xa2 The queen is not in danger of getting trapped because Black plans to take on c3 followed by trading queens.

12.♞d2! This is the point! White unpins himself and opens the diagonal of the g2 bishop, which starts to put very strong pressure on the d5 pawn.

12...♟xc3 [12...♞xc3 is much worse, because the d5 pawn falls after 13.bxc3 ♚xc2 14.♞xc2 ♟a5 15.♟xd5 winning back the sacrificed pawn and the white pieces remain much more active. Nc4 is coming.]

13.bxc3 ♚xc2 14.♞xc2 Black faces a difficult decision. The e4 knight is hanging and he has many possibilities to deal with it, but all of them have their drawbacks. Taking on d2 seriously strengthens the power of the g2 bishop while the other moves have concrete problems...

14...♞xd2 [14...f5 with the idea of cementing the e4 knight, however White could strongly reply with 15.c4! exploding the fortress of the key knight on e4! 15...♞xd2 (15...cxd4 16.cxd5 ♞df6 17.♟e5+= The bishops start to work effectively.) 16.♚xd2 dxc4 17.♞xc4 cxd4 Despite the fact that White is temporarily two pawns down he is better. The reasons for this are the

extremely well-placed bishop pair, the undeveloped black pieces and weak black pawns, which will start to fall one after another... 18.♖b1 ♘b6 19.♗xd4+= Black still cannot finish the development of the queenside because of the b7 pawn. He is obliged to suffer.; 14...♞df6 is also logical to keep the knight on e4, but White wins back the pawn after 15.♞xe4 ♞xe4 16.f3! ♞f6 17.dxc5+= The bishop will securely guard the c5 pawn from d6 and the one on g2 will be activated later over the f1-a6 diagonal after playing Kf2, Ra1 and e3.]

15.♔xd2! The queens are off, therefore to bring the king to the middle of the board is less risky. It is more important to bring the h1 rook to the game as soon as possible.

15...♞b6 Black decides to defend actively and gives back his extra pawn. [The alternative was 15...cxd4 16.cxd4 ♞b6 but White has more than enough compensation here as well after 17.♖a1 (17.♖c7 also looks good.) 17...O-O 18.♖ca2 a6 19.♔e1! leaving from the c4 check and White intends to attack the b6 knight - the defender of the d5 pawn - with Rb1 after having successfully provoked the a6 move. Black cannot save his pawn because after 19...♞e6 20.♖b2+= the b7 falls and it will give a nice edge for White as the black pawns remain weak and the two bishops continue doing their great job.]

16.dxc5 ♞c4+

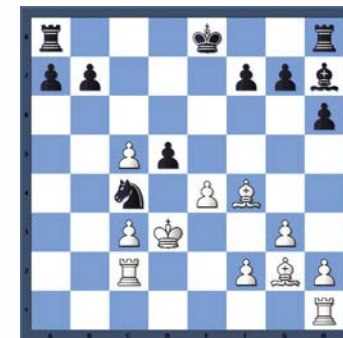


17.♔d3!! The second step of the brave king, which is heading to the middle of the board. It will play a very important role in protecting the c5 pawn and attacking the d5 pawn. Somehow Black is lacking the pieces to be able to create any serious threats against it. [Black is completely fine after the less brave retreat 17.♔c1 17...♞e6 18.♖d1 ♖c8! The c5 is pawn equally weak as the d5 pawn now and it is already Black who has the initiative because after 19.♞xd5 ♖xc5 20.♞xb7 ♖a5 suddenly the white king gets into trouble.]

17...♞f5+ Black tries to haunt down the king with the most direct moves. [Now on 17...♞e6 18.♔d4! is very strong. White wants to take on d5 as the pin with Rd8 can be safely neutralized by e4 or if the knight moves away from c4 the bishop can be placed on d6. The game could continue with 18...♖d8 19.♖a2 a6 20.♖b1 ♖d7 21.♞d6 White has other good options too, but this seems like the best one. He prevents castling and attacks the d5 pawn and after 21...♞xd6 22.cxd6 ♖xd6 23.♖xb7 O-O 24.♖a7± White ends up with an extra pawn.]

18.e4! using the fact that the c4 knight becomes unprotected if Black takes on e4.

18...♞h7



19.♔d4! Of course! Vitiugov leaves from the pin, his rook still

remains in the diagonal, but he is threatening with Re2 or Ra2 and then the d5 pawn simply falls.

19...♖a5 [19...g5 is the other option, but it fails too: 20.♔xd5! The amazing story of the king continues! 20...♖a3 (20...gxf4 21.♔xc4± with an healthy extra pawn for White.) 21.♖a2 ♖b5 (21...gxf4 22.♖xa3±) 22.♔c4!± White saves his material advantage!]

20.♔xd5! The king continues his journey! The reason why it is possible is the placement of the c5 pawn and the d6 bishop which will ensure the safety of the white king against the black rooks, while the minor pieces are not well placed to create adequate counterplay.

20...O-O-O 21.♗d6 b6 Black continues his logical play, but that day nothing worked. He tries to undermine the bishop and prepares to bring back his knight to b7, but White has a strong reply again!

22.♖a1! ♖b7 [22...f6 with the idea of Bg8 check loses to 23.♖xa5! bxa5 24.♖b2!+- and suddenly the black king is the one who gets mated. Bh3, c6 or Kc6 are all deadly threats.]

23.♖xa7 bxc5 24.♗h3+! The easiest!

24...f5 25.e5! With his previous check on h3 White has provoked the closing of the h7 bishop. The rook is not hanging anymore and Black gets mated after Rb2 or Kc6. Black resigned! Despite this very nice victory, I don't recommend to march so bravely with your king, as usually it does not lead to anything good. **1-0**

The K-Files.

QGA 3.e4 b5 4.a4 c6 5.Nf3



GM Alexander Khalifman
FIDE World Chess Champion (1999)
Best rating: 2702

(3) QGA 3.e4 b5 4.a4 c6 5.Nf3 [D21]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 b5 4.a4 c6 5.♖f3 Another shift to a Slav sideline, this time 3.Nf3 dxc4 4.e4 b5 5.a4. This is far less popular than 3.Nc3 dxc4 but there is enough practical material here too. Also here it must be added that in the move order 1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 dxc4 the most dangerous move is 4. e3.

5...e6 The best move. Now the game once again transposes to another line, 1. d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 dxc4 4.e4 b5 5.a4 c6. Black has good chances to hold the balance but he has to play carefully. [5...♗g4 was played by Nakamura (in rapid) but doesn't look very healthy. Black needs this bishop at home because the white squares are rather weak. 6.axb5 cxb5 Markos - Wilhelmsson Copenhagen 1997 7.♖c3! ♔d7 8.d5♗; 5...♖f6 6.axb5 cxb5 7.♖c3 a6 (7...♗b7 8.e5 ♖e4 Sachdev - Danielian, E Moscow 2005 9.e6!?1) 8.e5 ♖d5 9.♖xb5 axb5 This version of the exchange sac is definitely weaker than the main line. 10.♖xa8 ♗b7 11.♖a1 e6 12.♗e2 ♖c6 13.O-O ♖a5 14.♗e3 ♗b6 15.♖d2+= OK, it's not a technical position yet, but Black's compensation is clearly not enough.; 5...♗b7 leads

to interesting complications but doesn't solve the problems. 6.b3! e5 (6...♘f6 7.e5 ♘d5 Bacrot - Dao Thien Hai Batumi rapid 2001 8.e6!↑) 7.axb5 cxb5 8.bxc4 exd4 (8...♙xe4 9.c5±) 9.cxb5 ♘f6 10.♙d3+=; 5...a6?! This seemingly standard move just turns out to be a loss of time. 6.b3! ♘f6 7.axb5 cxb5 8.bxc4 ♙xe4 9.♙d3 ♙b7 10.cxb5±]

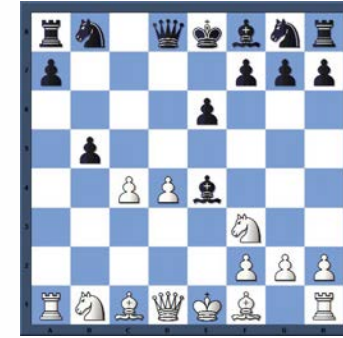
6.axb5 [6.b3 can create problems only for White. 6...♙b4+ 7.♙d2 ♙xd2+ 8.♖xd2 cxb3 restricting the opponent's possibilities. (8...♘f6 usually leads to the same position but also allows 9.e5 (After 9.axb5 9...cxb3 - 8...cxb3) 9...♘e4 10.♖f4 with unclear play.) 9.axb5 ♘f6 10.♘c3 O-O 11.♙d3 Mainka - Loeffler Germany 1994 (11.♘e5 11...♙b7 12.f3 Beliavsky - Bacrot Albert 1999 12...♘fd7! 13.♘xd7 ♘xd7 14.♖b1 c5±) 11...♙b7!? 12.e5 ♘d5 13.♘e4 cxb5 14.♘d6 ♖e7+=; After 6.♘c3 Black can play 6...a6 (Both 6...♙b4; and 6...b4 are also playable but require certain knowledge.)]

6...cxb5 7.b3 This is the most dangerous and critical subvariation. It was tested many times on the top level and it is enough to say that the list of players who played it with Black includes Kasparov, Karpov and Ivanchuk. So it's quite surprising that the most precise defence was played only in a couple of games and remained quite unnoticed.



7...♘f6 The best and safest move in my opinion. [7...♙b7

This is supposed to be the main line. However, in my opinion it leaves Black under certain pressure. 8.bxc4 ♙xe4 (8...bxc4 9.♙xc4 ♙xe4 10.O-O±)



9.♙bd2!? In my opinion this move is more promising than the natural 9.cxb5. (9.cxb5 9...♘f6 10.♙e2 ♙e7 11.O-O ♘bd7! is an important improvement by Rublevsky. (The normal developing move 11...O-O allows White to create strong pressure after 12.♘c3 ♙b7 13.♘e5!↑Anand - Karpov Las Palmas 1996) 12.♘c3 (12.♘bd2 12...♙d5 13.♘c4 ♖c7= Shipov - Vorobiov Moscow 2003) 12...♙b7 13.♘e5 (13.♙f4 13...O-O) 13...♖c7 (13...♙xe5 14.dxe5 ♘d7 15.♙f3↑Tregubov - Yakovich Samara 2000) 14.♘c6 (14.♙f3 14...♖xc3 15.♙xb7 ♖xa1 16.♙xa8 O-O= Bacrot - Kharlov France 2001) 14...♙xc6 (14...♙d6 15.g3 O-O 16.♙f3 a6) 15.bxc6 ♖xc6= and White's initiative is only enough to hold a draw. (Krasenkov - Rublevsky Polanica Zdroj 1998)) 9...♙b4 (The point of White's tricky move order is that after 9...♙b7 10.♖b3! ♘f6 11.♖xb5+ ♖d7 Bareev - Semkov Vrnjacka Banja 1987 12.c5!?± the pawn structure is clearly favorable for White.) 10.cxb5 (10.♙e2 10...bxc4) 10...♘e7 (10...♘f6 11.♙e2 O-O 12.O-O ♙d5 Bocharov - Kotsur Abu Dhabi 2004 13.♖a4!? ♙e7 14.♙a3+=) 11.♙e2 O-O 12.O-O ♙b7 13.♙a3 ♙xa3 14.♖xa3+= The queenside structure b5 vs a7 together with the fact that the b5 pawn is very safe makes Black's task fairly unpleasant.; 7...♙b4+

is close to equal but not exactly. 8.♔d2 ♕xd2+ 9.♖bxd2 ♗c6 10.bxc4 ♖xd4 11.cxb5 and now both 11...♗e7 Bacrot - Lautier Paris rapid 2002 (and 11...♗f6 Dautov - Raetsky Seefeld 1997 12.♗c4 ♗xf3+ 13.gxf3 O-O 14.b6!+=) 12.♖a4 ♗xf3+ 13.♗xf3 O-O 14.♖xd8 ♖xd8 15.♕e2+= leave Black struggling. With an accurate defence he must hold a draw most probably, but defending this kind of position is not easy at all.]

8.bxc4 [8.e5 is only looking for trouble. 8...♗e4 9.bxc4 ♕b4+ 10.♖bd2 (10.♕d2 might be better. 10...♗xd2 11.♖bxd2 ♗c6 12.♕d3 ♗xd4 13.O-O ♕xd2 14.♖xd2 O-O=) 10...♗c6 11.♕d3 ♗c5+= van der Werf - van den Doel Leeuwarden 2001]

8...bxc4!? This rare move solves all the problems. Of course Black will have to play some precise moves afterwards but it's not like suffering in a long endgame. [8...♗xe4 9.c5! A smart trick which is of course underestimated even by the best engines. 9...♕xc5 10.♕xb5+ ♕d7 11.♕xd7+ ♖xd7 12.dxc5 ♖xd1+ 13.♖xd1 ♗xf2+ 14.♖e2 ♗xh1 15.♕f4+= Once again it's easier for Black to hold a draw than to win for White, but is this a good reason to go for such a position right from the opening? (Bacrot - Arencibia Havana 1998)]

9.♕xc4!? This pawn sacrifice is the most dangerous attempt to refute Black's setup. But the following lines show that defensive resources are quite enough. [9.e5 9...♗d5 (9...♗e4 (Cvitan - Lane Cappelle la Grande 1995) is a bit too provocative. 10.♖bd2!? ♕b7 11.♕xc4 ♕b4 12.O-O ♗xd2 13.♕xd2 ♕xd2 14.♖xd2!) 10.♕xc4 ♕b4+ 11.♕d2 (11.♖bd2 11...O-O 12.O-O a5= Le Bourhis - Rausis Creon 1999) 11...a5 12.O-O O-O 13.♕xb4 ♗xb4 14.♗c3 ♕a6= The remaining material leaves White no realistic chance for a kingside attack, so Black has nothing to worry about.; 9.♗c3 may lead to a funny drawish line: 9...♗c6 (9...a5!?) 10.♖a4 ♕d7 11.♖xc4 ♗a5 12.♖a4 ♖b8 13.♕d3 ♗b3 14.♖c4 ♗a5 15.♖a4=]

9...♗xe4 10.O-O ♕e7 11.♖e1 [The direct approach 11.d5 only leads to simplifications after 11...O-O 12.♕a3 (12.♖e1 12...♗f6 13.dxe6 ♕xe6 14.♕xe6 ♖xd1 15.♕xf7+ ♖xf7 16.♖xd1 ♗c6=) 12...♕xa3 13.♖xa3 Yermolinsky - Stefanova Honolulu 1997 13...♗f6 14.dxe6 ♕xe6 15.♕xe6 fxe6=]

11...♗f6 [11...♗d6 12.♕b3 and d4-d5 is a very unpleasant positional threat.]

12.♗e5 O-O 13.♖f3



13...♕b4! An important trick which leads to rather tricky lines but Black is OK everywhere. [After the natural 13...♗d5 14.♗c3 ♗b6 15.♕d3→White has more than enough for the pawn.]

14.♖xa8 [14.♕d2 14...♕xd2 15.♗xd2 ♗d5 16.♗b3 (16.♖ab1 16...a5) 16...♖d6=]

14...♕xe1 15.♖xa7 ♕d7 16.♕d2 [16.♕a3 16...♖e8 17.♖b7 ♗c6! 18.♗xd7 ♕xf2+! 19.♗xf2 ♗g4+ 20.♖g3 ♖g5=]

16...♕xd2 17.♗xd2 ♗c6 18.♖c5 ♖c8 19.♕a6 ♖a8 20.♗b3 ♗e4 21.♖c2 ♗xe5 22.dxe5 ♖b8=

David vs. Goliath



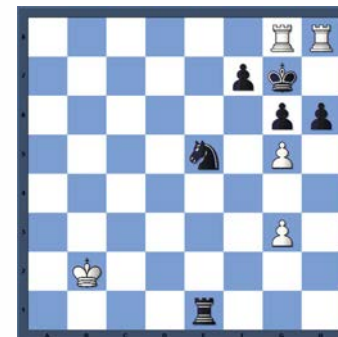
Peter Zhdanov
Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this special column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week has brought us only 13 upsets - again! So far the devil's dozen is a regular visitor of our column.

The number of moves ranges from 19 in Faure (1893) - FM Dijkhuis (2278), 1-0 to 99 in Bochkarev (2076) - GM Bok (2587), 1-0. The highest-profile loss was GM Postny (2647) - IM Birnboim (2347), 0-1. The rating difference is exactly 300 points.

As usual, we pay a special humorous tribute to people who are not afraid to get checkmated. Here's the final position of the Carrozza (1669) - Engl (2034) game:



Top-10:

Bochkarev (2076) - Bok (2587), 1-0, [511](#) points
 Gabison (1760) - Slonimskij (2176), 1-0, [416](#) points
 Tenev (1332) - Iliev (1735), 1-0, [403](#) points
 Leriche (1919) - Saada (2319), 1-0, [400](#) points
 Faure (1893) - Dijkhuis (2278), 1-0, [385](#) points
 Rusek (1798) - Obermayr (2170), 1-0, [372](#) points
 Estremera Panos (2373) - Deues (2007), 0-1, [366](#) points
 Carroza (1669) - Engl (2034), 1-0, [365](#) points
 Levin (1869) - Gershkovich (2227), 1-0, [358](#) points
 Yaniv (1579) - Lukovski (1932), 1-0, [353](#) points

Average gap: 393; White won 9 games, Black won 1 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) will be appreciated.

Puzzle section

(4) Iljiushenok, I(2450)-Eljanov, P(2727)

European Championship, 2015.02.24

1. +-



(5) Potkin, V(2605)-Vaisman, M(2136)

European Championship, 2015.02.24

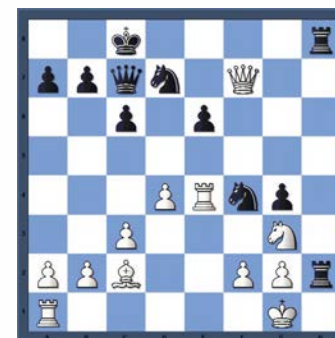
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(6) Berenboym, I(2112)-Hovhanissyan, R(2592)

European Championship, 2015.02.24

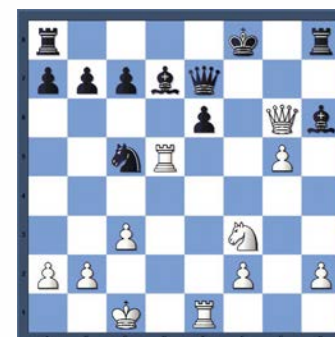
1... -+



(7) Navara, D(2735)-Parligras, M(2583)

European Championship, 2015.02.25

1. +-



(8) Cheparinov, I(2681)-Forster, R(2446)

European Championship, 2015.02.25

1. +-



(9) Moiseenko, A(2695)-Huzman, A(2582)

European Championship, 2015.02.26

1. +-



(10) Nisipeanu, D(2654)-Birnbom, N(2347)

European Championship, 2015.02.26

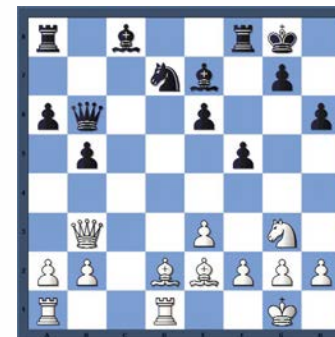
1. +-



(11) Khairullin, I(2629)-Kjartansson, G(2484)

European Championship, 2015.02.27

1. +-



(12) Bartel, M(2631)-Ducarmon, Q(2482)

European Championship, 2015.03.01

1. +-



(13) Martynov, P(2410)-Kovalenko, I(2656)

Cappelle la Grande Open, 2015.02.28

1... -+



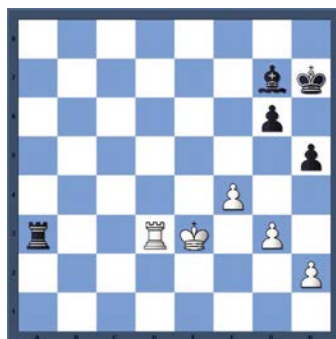
Endgame section

(14) Bukavshin, Ivan (2622)
- Moiseenko, Alexander (2695)

European Championship,
2015.02.27



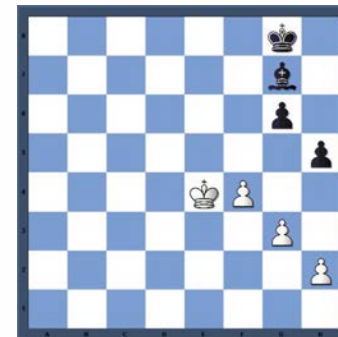
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



Black is a piece up, but the h1 corner square does not fit to the color of the g7 bishop. This makes the win more difficult technically. The question is if Black should trade rooks or not?

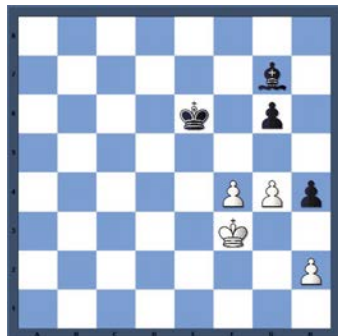
44...♖xd3+? It's amazing, but the game seems to be drawn after this exchange. [Black should have kept the rooks on the board, followed by slowly improving his position by bringing the king to the game... 44...♖a7 45.♖e4 ♖g8 46.h3 ♖f7 followed by Ke6 and Bf6 and start squeezing down the white king. 47.g4 Black could also keep his pawns on the board with h4, but there is an even stronger direct solution as well: 47...♖a4+! 48.♖f3 ♗h6—+ forcing the g5 move, which is a fatal weakening of the pawn structure.]

45.♖xd3 ♖g8 46.♖e4 At first sight Black is completely winning as he simply brings up his king and White is unable to trade pawns because f5 is met by g5 and g4 by h4. However the truth is different...



46...♖f7 47.♖f3 White intends to push g4 as it cannot be taken because after Kxg4 h4-h5 is coming inevitably and trades off the last standing pawn. [Trying to reach the game's position in a different move order by playing 47.f5 fails to do the job, because Black can answer with 47...g5 48.h3 ♖e7! 49.♖d5 (White has no time to play 49.g4 because Black reaches the d6 square with the king. 49...hxd4 50.hxd4 ♖d6—+ and the king goes to e5 next move and soon catches the g4 pawn.) 49...g4! This is the key! Black separates the f5 pawn from the others... 50.hxd4 hxd4 51.♖e4 ♗h6! prevents Kf4! The rest is just a matter of technique. 52.♖e5 ♖f7! 53.f6 Otherwise Black plays Kf6. Now he must prevent Kf5 with 53...♖g6 54.♖e6 ♗g5 55.f7 ♗h6 56.♖e7 ♖f5 57.f8=♖+ ♗xf8+ 58.♖xf8 ♖e4—+ wins.; However 47.h3 is also strong. 47...♖e7 (47...♖f6 48.g4) 48.♖d5 will transpose to the game.]

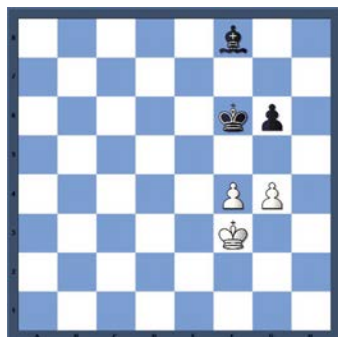
47...♖f6 [47...♖e6 does not work because of 48.g4 h4 (48...hxd4+ 49.♖xd4= and h4-h5 next.; 48...♖d5 49.f5=)



49.f5+! leaves Black with a single h-pawn, which is not winning with the dark squared bishop. 49...gxf5 50.gxf5+ ♖xf5 51.♖g2 and the king goes into the corner and reaches the well-known theoretical draw... 51...♖g4 52.h3+ ♖f4 53.♖h2 ♖f3 54.♖h1 ♖g3 55.♖g1 ♖xh3 56.♖h1= White just passes on g1-h1 and Black cannot squeeze it out from there because it always ends in a stalemate.]

48.h3 [48.g4 48...h4 49.h3 is equally good as it transposes to the game.]

48...♙f8 49.g4 h4 [49...hxg4+ 50.♖xg4! (50.hxg4? also looks good at first sight, but Black wins after some subtle maneuvering:

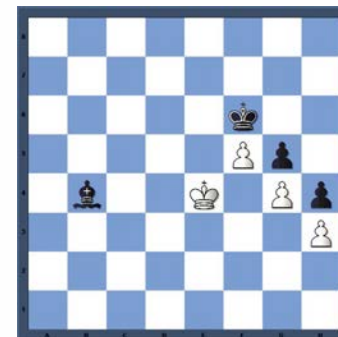


50...♖e7! Black must go around with the king and he must sidestep the f5 check to save his last pawn... 51.♖e4 ♖d6 Compared to the game, Black has reached the 6th rank with

his king and from now on the squeezing goes more or less automatically... 52.♖d4 (52.g5 52...♖e6—+; 52.f5 52...g5—+) 52...♙g7+ 53.♖e4 ♙b2—+ White finds himself in zugzwang. Kd5 is coming next.)]

50.♖e4 [50.f5 50...g5 51.♖e4 is again a transposition to the game.]

50...♙b4 51.f5 g5 White has done a great job since the initial position of our game. He has set all his pawns on light squares where the bishop cannot attack them. Black has managed to save the g-pawn, but surprisingly it is not enough to win. Let's see the reasons...



52.♖d5 White keeps the king in the cage, does not open a path towards the h3 pawn.

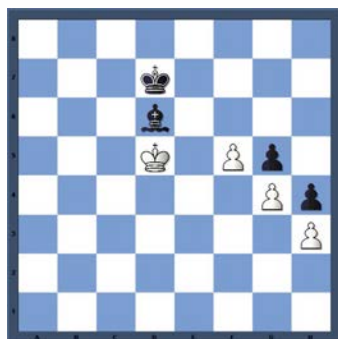
52...♖e7 53.♖c6! It is very important that the king cannot be allowed to d6 or e5! White must always control these two squares and he will hold the draw...

53...♙a3 54.♖d5 ♖d7 55.♖e5 Black would like to go around with his king, but suddenly White finds his counterplay in Kf6! [Let's just demonstrate the win if Black reaches the d6 square with the king: 55.♖e4?? 55...♖d6 56.♖d4 ♙b2+ 57.♖e4 ♙f6—+ The king is forced to retreat and Black gets to the h3 pawn.]

55...♙b2+ The king cannot be allowed to get to f6. [55...♖c6 also leads to a draw after 56.♗f6 ♘c1 57.♗g6 ♖d6 58.f6 ♗e6 59.f7 ♙a3 60.♗xg5=]

56.♗d5 ♙g7 57.♗c5 White has a very easy task. He simply needs to control the d6 and e5 squares...

57...♙e5 58.♗d5 ♙b8 59.♗c5 ♙c7 60.♗d5 ♙d6 Black finally managed to set his opponent into zugzwang, but it is still not enough because suddenly the bishop gets misplaced on d6 as it occupies the king's ideal place...



61.♗e4 ♙f4 [61...♖c6 would be the thematic squeezing, but it allows quick counterplay again: 62.f6! The black king got too far away from the kingside... 62...♗d7 63.♗f5 ♙f4 64.♗g6 ♗e8 65.♗g7 ♙e5 66.♗g6= forces the draw.]

62.♗d5 White occupies the right square again and keeps the black king in his cage, far from the d6 square.

62...♗e7 63.♗c6 ♗f7 64.♗d5 ♗f6 Now Black tries to break through along the e5 square, but White has enough squares for his king to prevent this idea..

65.♗e4 ♙e5 66.♗d5 ♙b2 67.♗e4 ♗f7 68.♗d5 ♗e7 Black tries again along d6, but we already know what happens...

69.♗c5 ♗d7 70.♗d5 ♙f6 71.♗c5 ♙d8 72.♗d5 ♙b6 73.♗e5 ♗e7 74.♗d5 ♙c7 75.♗c5 ♗d7 76.♗d5 ♙d6 We have already

seen this position 16 moves ago...

77.♗e4 ♙a3 78.♗d5 ♗e7 79.♗e5 ♙b2+ 80.♗d5 ♗d7 81.♗c5 ♙e5 82.♗d5 ♙b8 83.♗c5 ♗e7 84.♗d5 ♗f7 85.♗c5 ♗f6 86.♗d5 Black admitted his opponent's brilliant fortress and agreed a draw. This endgame could be very useful to remember... **1/2-1/2**

(15) **Korobov, Anton(2687)**
- **Sutovsky, Emil(2626)**

16th ch-EUR Indiv 2015(7.4),
2015.03.03



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



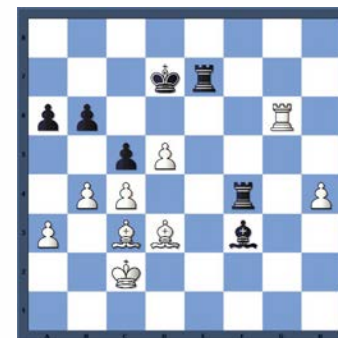
After an interesting game where White missed a clear win in time trouble, we are in a strange endgame. Black is an exchange up, but White has 2 pawns for it and the bishop pair. Is the position equal or does White still keep some winning chances? We will find out during the next moves...

44.♘c3 A very logical move. White puts his bishop to a better square and bxc5 bxc5 and Ba5 could also sometimes be possible in a good moment.

44...♙f3 Black enters a very forced line. [44...♖ef7 was a safer option in my opinion. Now Black wants to exchange the rooks after which the position should just be a draw. 45.♙e1 It seems like there is no other move that White can play to avoid Rf2 next. 45...♖g4 getting the white rook to a passive position on h2. 46.♖h2 and I can't believe that White really has any objective chances to play for a win with such a passive rook

on h2.]

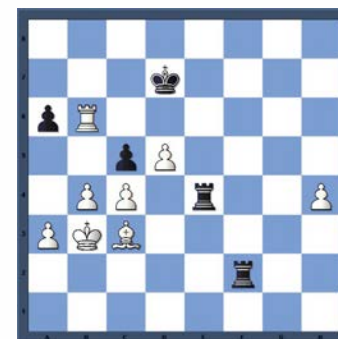
45.♖g6 is probably the best practical chance for White. The position is getting very sharp.



45...♙e4! A very strong move! The white bishop on d3 is sort of controlling a lot of important squares and needs to be exchanged, so the white king gets in big danger, being attack by both black rooks.

46.♙xe4 ♖exe4 47.♖xb6 White already has 3 pawns but now the bishop on c3 gets lost.

47...♖f2+ 48.♙b3 [48.♙d3 is not better since after 48...♖xh4 Black has the double threat of playing Rf3 and Rh3.]



48...♖f3? What a mistake when the draw was that close! Black chooses the wrong rook to put on the 3rd rank.

[48...♖e3! would lead to a draw as it avoids the move in the game. 49.bxc5 ♗ff3 Now we have a similar position to the game, but the white rook is badly placed on b6. 50.♖d6+ White already has to force a draw: (To continue playing for a win would be a dangerous decision for White, since even though the white pawns are very dangerous, Black is a rook up! 50.♖b4 50...♗xc3 51.♗b7+ (51.c6+ 51...♖d6 doesn't lead anywhere for White.) 51...♖c8 52.♗h7 ♗b3+ 53.♖a5 ♗fc3 and maybe the position is still a draw, but White can definitely not win.) 50...♖c7 51.♗c6+ ♖d7]

49.♗f6!! This is what Sutovsky missed and here is the difference to the 48... Re3 line:

49...♗h3? A bad decision usually doesn't come alone... [Black should have tried 49...♗xf6 50.♗xf6 ♗e3+ and now White would have a difficult choice: 51.♖b2 is clearly the best, but a difficult move to find. (The very natural 51.♖a4 leads to an amazing draw: 51...♗e4 52.h5 It seems like there is no way to stop White's h-pawn, but Black has a draw here!

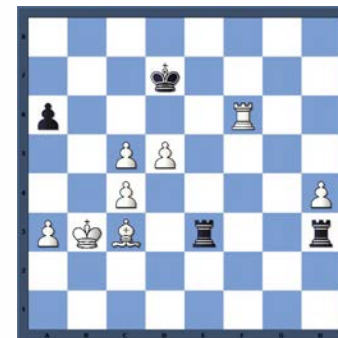


52...♗f4!! winning a decisive tempo by chasing the white bishop from the f6 square. 53.♗g5 ♗xc4 54.h6 cxb4! Black is just in time! 55.axb4 (55.h7 55...bxa3+ 56.♖xa3 ♗c8 57.♗f6

♖d6 with a draw.) 55...♗c3 followed by Rh3 or Kf6 with a draw.) 51...♗f3 52.♗g5 ♖d6 and White keeps good winning chances, but Black is still fighting for a draw.]

50.bxc5 Now the game is over...

50...♗ee3



51.c6+ This is the difference to the rook on b6: Black has no more Kd6 move.

51...♖c7 52.♖b4 ♗xc3 53.♗f7+ The most simple win.

53...♖b8 The white pawns are just too strong.

54.♗f8+ ♖c7? Another move after which Black needs to resign on the spot instead of keeping the game going a bit longer. [It is never too late to resign a game, so Black should have fought on with 54...♖a7! 55.c7 ♖b6 With the idea of mating the white king with the rooks. 56.c8=♖+! Sometimes a promotion to a knight is enough to win the game... 56...♖b7 and of course White has different options here and the position is winning, but Black can still hope for a miracle.]

55.♖c5! Now it is the black king who gets mated...

55...♖hd3



56.d6+ This was an interesting endgame were clearly Black could have done better but White's 49. Rf6!! move was easy to miss. Sutovsky maybe thought that he has a draw with any of the rooks moves. Chess is sometimes a very very exact game!
1-0

Chess and the City. Time to speak "Tacheles"



WGM Elisabeth Pahtz
Best rating: 2493

About 4 weeks ago I published a quiz about the Gibraltar Festival and here come the answers:

1. How many times has the Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival taken place?

This year the Gibraltar Chess Festival celebrated its 13th edition!

2. Who among the main Organizers has the nickname "the fox"?

"The foxy Stu, the foxy Stu makes all the women's wishes come true" - Stuart Conquest is not only well known as "the fox" but also quite popular for supporting Women Chess together with the inventor of the tournament, Brian Callaghan!

3. Which female participant is the strongest rated one playing for the first time in 2015?

Lilit Mkrtchian from Armenia is the strongest rated women player who participated for the very first time in 2015!

4. Which other female participant had to spend some additional days at Gibraltar in 2013 due to a Visa problem?

The Chinese player Ju Wenjun was the "unlucky" one who had to spend some additional time in Gibraltar as she was in need of an English transit visa for her departure. Nowadays she travels through Malaga - I wonder why...:)

5. Which two participants at the Gibraltar Festival of 2015 are sponsored by Red Bull?

If you looked carefully at the pictures you would have seen Hikaru Nakamura with his Red Bull drink during every one of his games. The second "participant" (who was not participating as a player but rather as a broadcaster) is Tania Sachdev, who has been sponsored by the energy drink company for three years now.

6. Who is the creator of the Gibraltar Chess Tournament?

As already mentioned above this is Brian Callaghan!

7. Which Top Grandmaster is known by the name of "Prince Charming"?

Prince Charming was the nickname I gave to the very charming David Howell from England!

8. Which other Top GM being called "The finest"?

"The finest" was actually invented by my colleague Simon Williams and goes to another English Top Grandmaster, Gawain Jones!

9. What is the favorite move of the commentator Simon Williams (related to the nick name I gave him)?

Simon Williams is known as "Mr g4"!

10. Last but not least, which super GM agreed his participation for 2016?

This is no other than the great Vishy Anand!

If anyone answered all answers correctly, he or she will be contacted in the next couple of days. In any case I will let you know about it in my next newsletter.

Last but not least I would like to mention that I was lucky enough to sneak into the Women's World Championship which will start on the 17th of this month. My first opponent will be the Georgian Woman Grandmaster Meri Arabidze. My next newsletters will naturally concentrate on that championship!

Clash of the Titans**(16) Averbakh, Yuri L
- Spassky, Boris V[E74]**

URS-ch23 playoff-1pl(3),
1956



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 ♙g7 5.♙e2 O-O 6.♙g5
Averbakh plays the system which was named after him.

6...c5 7.d5



7...♙a5 [7...b5 leads to Benko structures.; 7...e6 leads to Benoni structures.]

8.♙d2 [8.♙d2 8...a6! A typical move. 9.♘f3 b5↗10.cxb5 axb5 11.♙xb5 ♘xe4! 12.♘xe4 ♙xb5 13.♙xe7 ♖e8—+]

8...a6 9.a4 Compared to the 8.Qd2 line now Black is not able to play b5.

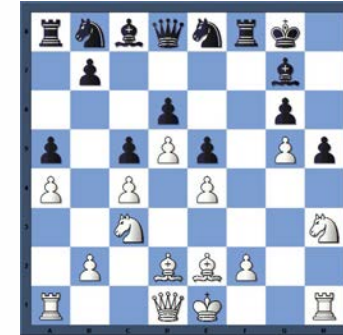
9...e5?! A strange decision. Black have mixed up a few plans. Better was [9...♙c7 with the idea to go back to the

plans with e6. 10. Nf3 (10. Bf4 10... Qa5 11. Qd2 b5 12. cxb5 axb5 13. Bxb5 Bb6) 10...e6 11. dxe6 (11. O-O 11... exd5 12. exd5 (12. cxd5 12... Re8) 12... Bf5 with the idea Ne4 .) 11... Bxe6 (11... $\text{fxe6}!$?) 12. Bf4 Bd8 13. O-O Nc6 14. $\text{Nd5}+=$ and White has the advantage.]



10.g4! A strong and typical move in King's Indian structures. White is going to take space and fight against the thematic f7-f5 plan. At that time ideas like this were not well-known.

10... Ne8 11.h4 f5?! is premature in my opinion. First Black should improve the queen which is very badly placed, far away from the kingside. [11... Qd8 12.h5 and now we can check the original idea, connected with closing the position on both sides: 12...a5!? (12...b6 13.a5! to keep possibilities of playing on the queenside.; 12...g5 13. Nh3 h6 14.a5! Of course, otherwise Black plays a5 with a funny drawish position.) 13. Nh3 Otherwise Black will play g5 and close the position again. (13.g5 13...f5!? 14. exf5 Bxf5 (14... gxf5 and it is not easy for White to create some advantage only on one side.) 15.h6 Bh8 16. f3 e4! $\Rightarrow$) 13...h6?! preparing g5, but after 14. hxg6 fxg6 15.g5 h5



16. Bxh5 ! gxh5 17. Qxh5 Qd7 18. f3 ! preventing Qg4 , White has a strong attack.]

12.h5 The alternative for White was to open the position after [12. gxf5 12... gxf5 13. exf5 (13. Nf3 13... f4 14. Ng5 Nf6 15. Ne6 Bxe6 (15... Bf7 16. Nb5 Qb6 17. $\text{a5}+-$) 16. dxe6 Nc6 with typical complex play.) 13... Bxf5 14. Nf3 XQa5 14... Nf6 (14... h6 to prevent Ng5 but it looks a bit slow. 15. Bg1 Kh7 16. Ne4 ! White is going to take control of the light squares! 16... Qd8 17. Ng3 Bg6 18. h5 $\rightarrow$) 15. Ng5 Qd8 16. Be3 $\rightarrow$ with the idea to play Ne6 at some moment.]

12...f4 Black is trying to close the position but it is already too late. [12... Qd8 13. hxg6 hxg6 14. gxf5 gxf5 15. Nf3 with Qc2 - O-O-O and a simple attack.]

13.g5! Qd8



14. Bg4 ! This move is not just played because the g5 pawn

is hanging, but it is generally good for White in King's Indian structures to exchange the light squared bishops.

14...♖c7 15.♗xc8 ♜xc8 16.♘f3 [16.h6 16...♗h8 17.a5 and because the bishop on h8 is "dead" White is kind of a piece up and the position is simply winning for him.]



16...♘c6! What an amazing move by Spassky! He understood that strategically his position is lost and decides to change the character of the position. [16...♞e8 to keep the option Bf8 after h6 but then 17.hxg6 hxg6 18.♘h4 ♖f7 19.♘xg6!+-]

17.dxc6 bxc6 White is piece up and objectively his position is just winning, but Black gets the opportunity to play over the b-file and Ne6-Nd4 as well.

18.♘h4 ♜e8 [18...♞e6 takes the knight's square.]

19.hxg6 hxg6 20.♞g4 ♜b8 21.♘d1 [21.♘f5? 21...gxf5 22.exf5 ♞d7+-]

21...♘e6 22.♞a3 An original maneuver to join the h-file.

22...♘d4↔

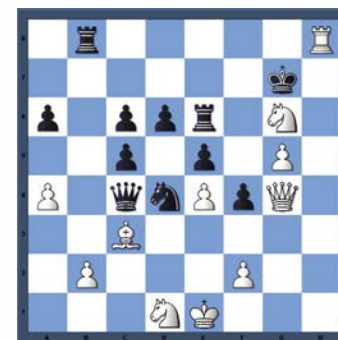


23.♞ah3 ♜f7 24.♗c3 White wants to exchange the strong knight.

24...♞fe8 25.♞3h2 I don't understand this move...

25...♞xc4 26.♘xg6 ♞e6 [26...f3 doesn't help as White mates first: 27.♞h8+ ♗xh8 (27...♖f7 28.♞d7+ ♖xg6 29.♞1h6+ ♗xh6 30.♞xh6+ ♖xg5 31.♞g7+ ♖f4 32.♞h4#) 28.♞xh8+ ♖g7 29.♞d7+ (29.♞h7+ only leads to a draw. 29...♖xh7 30.♞h5+ ♖g7 31.♞h6+ ♖f7 32.♞h7+ ♖e6 33.♞h3+=) 29...♖xg6 30.♞h6+ ♖xg5 31.♞g7+ ♖f4 32.♞h4#]

27.♗xd4? White missed a winning chance after [27.♞h8+! 27...♗xh8 28.♞xh8+ ♖g7 (28...♖f7 29.♗xd4 with the king on g7 White doesn't have this move.)



29.♞h7+! (29.♞xb8 29...f3! and Black is winning because of the weak e2 square! 30.♞b7+ ♖xg6 31.♞f5+ ♘xf5 32.exf5+

♔xg5 33. ♕d2+ ♖f6! —) 29... ♖xh7 and now White is winning by force like in a puzzle: 30. ♖h5+ ♖g7 31. ♖h6+ ♖g8 32. ♖h8+ ♖f7 33. ♖h7+ ♖e8 34. ♖g8+ ♖d7 35. ♖f7+ ♖c8 (35... ♖d8 36. ♕a5+ —)



36. ♖e7+! The queen on c4 is hanging in case of Rxe7. 36... ♖b7 37. ♖d5+ ♖a8 38. ♖c7+ ♖b7 39. ♖xe6+ —]

27... ♖xg6 28. ♖f5 [28. ♖d7 28... cxd4 29. ♖h8+ ♕xh8 30. ♖h7+ ♖f8 31. ♖xg6 (31. ♖xh8+ 31... ♖g8 —) 31... ♖b4+! A very important check to protect the d6 pawn. 32. ♖f1 ♕g7 33. ♖f5+ (33. ♖h7 33... ♖b7 and Black easily defends the position.) 33... ♖e7+ with defensive ideas of Qc4+ Qe6/Qf7.]

28... ♖e6 29. ♖xe6+ ♖xe6 30. ♕c3



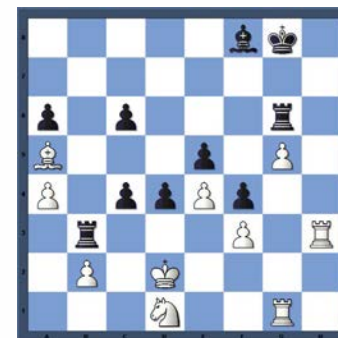
30... d5 31. **f3 ♖b3** Objectively White is winning but Black

still keeps easy practical play, thanks to the strong central pawns and the bad white pieces.

32. ♖h3 [32. ♖d2 32... d4 (32... c4 was more accurate.) 33. ♖d3 White gives back the piece to change the character of the position. 33... dxc3 34. ♖xc3 ♖d6+ 35. ♖c2! (35. ♖c4 is risky. 35... ♖b4+ 36. ♖xc5 ♖dd4 —)]

32... c4 33. ♖d2 ♖g6 34. ♖g1 d4 35. ♕a5 White has a passive knight and rooks and his pawns are also very weak, so it is not easy to improve the position.

35... ♕f8



36. ♖g4 [36. ♕c7 36... ♕b4+ (36... ♖e6 Volodia) 37. ♖c2 d3+ This move is risky because it gives the c3 square away. 38. ♖c1 ♕c5 39. ♖g2 ♕d4 (39... ♕e3+ 40. ♖xe3 fxe3 41. ♕xe5 d2+ 42. ♖c2+ —) 40. ♕a5 ±]

36... ♖d6 [36... ♕b4+ 37. ♕xb4 ♖xb4 38. ♖gh4 White finally gets activity. (38. ♖h6) 38... ♖xg5 39. ♖h8+ ♖f7 40. ♖3h7+ ♖g7 41. ♖xg7+ ♖xg7 42. ♖h5 ♖f6 43. ♖h6+ ♖g5! Volodia. with the idea to bring the king to g3. 44. ♖xc6 ♖h4! ? —]

37. ♖c2 White didn't fall for the trap. .. [37. ♕c7! 37... c3+! 38. bxc3 (38. ♖c2 38... d3+ 39. ♖xb3 c2 —) 38... dxc3+ 39. ♖c2



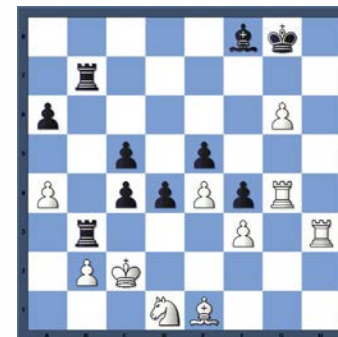
39...♖d3+! 40.♔c1 c2--]

37...♖d7 38.g6 ♖db7 39.♙e1 [39.♖g5 39...♙g7∞; 39.♙d8 with the idea Bf6 but when the white bishop moves away from the e1-a5 diagonal Black gets tactical ideas: 39...d3+ 40.♔c1 (40.♙c1



40...d2+! 41.♙c2 (41.♙xd2 41...♖d7+) 41...♖xb2+ 42.♙xb2 ♖xb2+ 43.♙d1 c3 44.♙e2 ♖b1--+) 40...♖xb2+ 41.♙xb2 ♖xb2+ 42.♙e1 (42.♙c1 42...♙a3--+) 42...c3 43.g7 ♖b1+! 44.♙f2 ♙c5+ 45.♙g2 ♖g1+--]

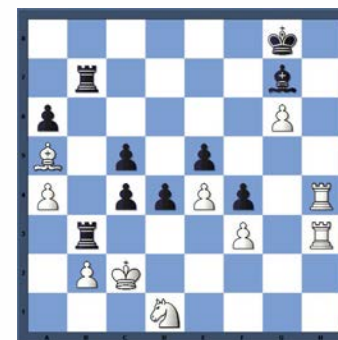
39...c5 Advancing the central pawns and getting possibilities of attacking the g6 pawn from b6 in the future.



40.♖gh4? More accurate was [40.♖g2! with the idea Kc1-Rc2! 40...♖d3 with the idea Rbb3. (40...c3 41.bxc3 ♖a3 42.♙d3 ♖xa4 43.♙b2 ♖a2 44.♖hh2± White gets control over the light squares.) 41.♙f2 (41.♙c3 41...dxc3 42.♙xc3 ♙g7 43.♖g5 ♖e7 44.b3 ♖e3! Volodia 45.bxc4 ♖e2+↗) 41...♖db3 (41...♖e3? 42.♙g4 ♖xe1 43.♙f6+ ♙g7 44.♖h7+ ♙xf6 45.♖xb7+--)]

40...♙g7 Now the white rooks are very limited.

41.♙a5



41...c3! ↑ Black overtakes the initiative.

42.bxc3 ♖a3 43.cxd4 exd4 [43...cxd4!? was the alternative to keep the passive rooks on the h-file.]

44.♖xf4 ♖a2+ [44...c4 45.♖f7! ♖a2+ 46.♙c1 ♖a1+ 47.♙c2= (47.♙d2!?)]

45.♔d3 ♖b1 Black already has the initiative, so now White must play very accurately. The easier option for Black was [45...c4+ 46.♔xc4 ♖xa4+ 47.♔d3 ♖xa5 48.♖f7 ♖b1 49.♖h1 (49.♔c2 49...d3+!)]

46.♖h1



46...♖xa4! Once again Spassky does not hurry with recapturing the piece! He wants to play for activity. [46...♖aa1? 47.♖f5! ♖xd1+ 48.♖xd1 ♖xd1+ 49.♔e2 ♖c1 50.♔d2 ♖c4 51.♔d3 ♖xa4 52.♖xc5 ♖a3+ 53.♔e2±]

47.♔c2?! Probably more accurate was [47.♔d2 47...c4+ 48.♔e2 (48.♔c2 48...d3+) 48...♖a2 49.e5! A strong move which helps White activate his rook with tempo. 49...♔xe5 50.♖e4 c3 51.♔xc3 ♖xd2+ 52.♔xd2 dxc3+ 53.♔c2 ♖xh1 54.♖xe5=]

47...♖b5



48.e5? White could try to save the position after [48.♔c7

48...c4 49.♖f5 (49.e5 49...♖a2+ 50.♔c1 d3—+) 49...♖a2+ 50.♔c1 ♖a1+ (50...d3 51.♖xb5 axb5 52.e5! That's why White should play 48. Bc7, not 48. Bd8. 52...b4 53.♔b1∞) 51.♔c2 (51.♔d2 51...♖bb1) 51...d3+ 52.♔d2 ♔d4! 53.♖xb5 axb5 looks bad for White.]

48...d3+ is the most practical way, but Black could probably win after [48...♔xe5 49.♖e4 c4 50.♖xe5 ♖xe5 51.♔b6 ♖e2+ 52.♔b1 ♖b4+—+ or; 48...♖bxa5 49.e6 c4 50.e7 d3+ 51.♔d2 ♖a2+ and White is losing the e-pawn.]

49.♔xd3 ♖xf4 50.♔c3 ♖xf3+ 51.♔e4 ♖g3



52.♔f4! [52.♔f5 52...♖b1—+]

52...♖xg6 53.♔e3 The tide has turned, but Averbakh also understands that his last chance lies in active play.

53...♖b8 54.♔f5 ♖f8 55.♖h5 Objectively Black should win but we will see that it is not an easy task.

55...♖e8 [55...♔f7 with the idea of activating the king. 56.♔e4 ♔e6 57.♔xg7+! ♖xg7 58.♖h6+ ♔e7 59.♖xa6 with a draw.]

56.♔e4 White is trying to hold the position thanks to his active pieces!

56...♖g1 57.♖h3 ♔f8 [57...a5 58.♔xg7 ♔xg7 59.♔xa5 should

be an easy draw.; 57...♖e1? 58.♙xe1 ♖xe5+ 59.♚f4 ♖xe1 60.♖g3]

58.♚d5 ♖d1+ [58...♖d8+ 59.♘d6 (59.♚e4 59...♖g4+ 60.♚e3 ♚f7 and Black's task is easy here as the king goes to e6.; 59.♚c6 59...♖g6+ 60.♚c7 ♖d1+ The white pieces lost coordination and Black can try to bring the king to e6.) 59...♖d1+ 60.♚xc5 ♙xd6+ 61.exd6 ♖1xd6 (61...♖8xd6--) 62.♖h8+ ♚f7 63.♖xd8 ♖xd8 64.♚b6 ♖d6+ 65.♚b7 ♚e6 66.♙a5 ♚d5 67.♙b6



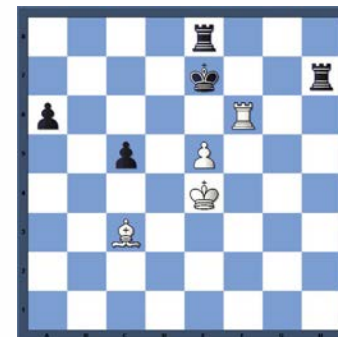
67...♖d7+! 68.♚xa6 ♚c6 White is in zugzwang and not able to bring the king to the a8 corner.]

59.♚e4 ♖c1 60.♚d5 ♖d1+ 61.♚e4 ♖d7 Black has no idea how to convert his material advantage. [61...♚f7 62.♖h7+ ♚e6 63.♖a7+]]

62.♘h6+!? [62.♖g3+ 62...♚f7 63.♖f3 ♚e6 64.♖g3 threatening Rg6.]

62...♙xh6 63.♖xh6 ♖h7 [63...♖a8 64.♖c6=]

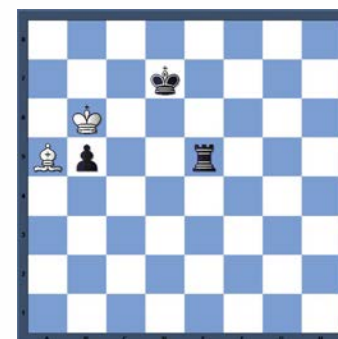
64.♖g6+ ♚f7 65.♖f6+ ♚e7



66.♖c6 White could also make a draw after [66.♖xa6 66...♖h4+ 67.♚d5 ♖d8+ 68.♖d6! (68.♚xc5?? 68...♖c8+ 69.♖c6 ♖xc6+ 70.♚xc6 ♖c4+--+) 68...♖c8 69.♖e6+ (69.e6?? 69...♖h5+ 70.♙e5 ♖d8 71.♖xd8 ♚xd8 72.♚d6 c4--+ The c-pawn will promote.) 69...♚f7 70.♖f6+=]

66...♚d7 67.♖xc5 ♖h6 68.♚d5 ♖b6 69.♙a5 ♖b5 70.♖xb5 axb5 71.e6+ A nice move, but not the only one. [71.♚c5= ; 71.♙b4 71...♖c8 72.e6+ ♚e8 73.♙c5= (73.♙d6?? 73...♖d8 with Rxd6 next.)]

71...♖xe6 72.♚c5 ♖e5+ 73.♚b6



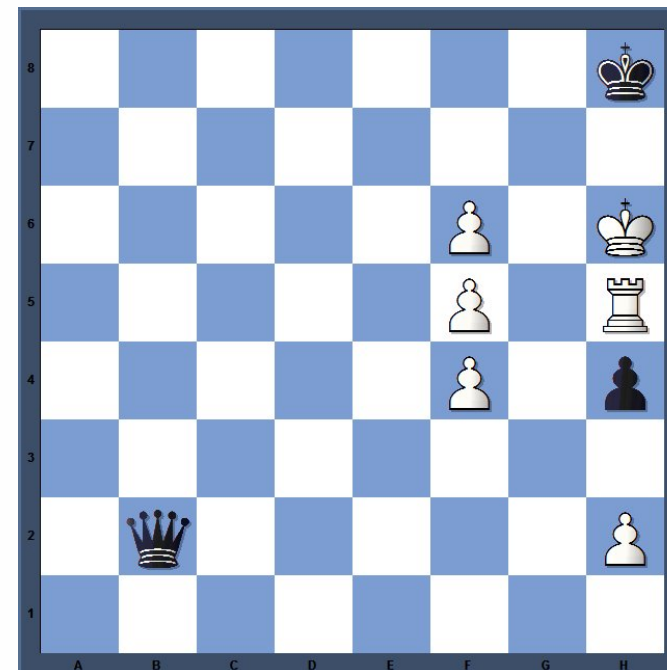
And Black is not able to improve his position without losing the b-pawn, so the position is drawish. What a great game by Aberbakh (who is the oldest alive grandmaster nowadays!) and Boris Spassky. My first coach, the Russian Vladimir

Shiskine, told me that when he worked for the magazine "Sahmatna Nedela" (which doesn't exist anymore) Boris Spassky was the official main editor. One time Volodia asked the former World Champion about this game and Spassky answered "Yes I remember, I was young then and didn't understand chess at all". :-) I think we cannot agree with this! :-) At least he had the necessary skills to change the character of the position... **1/2-1/2**

Surprise section / study

(17) Rumiantsev

1. =



Solutions

(18) Karjakin, S(2760)-Kramnik, V(2783)

Zurich rapid, 2015.02.19



50...f4? [50...Rxc3+!! 51. Qxc3 f4+ 52. Qg4 Rg2+ 53. Qh3 Rg3+! 54. Qh2 Rc3+ 55. Qg2 Rxc1+- 56. Rh8 Rc2+ 57. Qh1 (57. Qh3 57... Qf3+-) 57... Qf3 58. Rg8 f3+- 59. h5 (59. Rf8+ 59... Qg3) 59... Rc1+ 60. Qh2 f4+ 61. Qh3 Rh1#]

51. Re1+ Qd5 52. Qg4 f3 53. Qxf3 fxe1 54. Rh8±

(19) Kramnik, V(2783)-Caruana, F(2811)

Zurich rapid, 2015.02.19

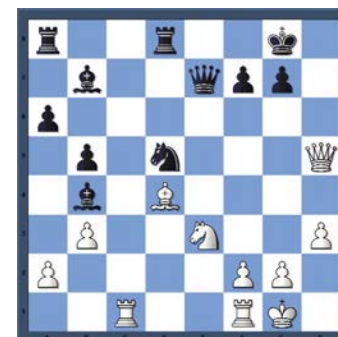


24. fxe4! Rxe4 [24... fxe4 25. fxe5 fxe5 26. Qxe4+-; 24... Re6 25. fxf6! fxf6 26. fxf6+ Rxf6 27. Qb2!+-]

25. fxe4+-

(20) Markgraf, A(2486)-Zajogin, A(2393)

German league, 2015.02.21



29. f6! fxe6 [29... Qxg7 30. f5+-; 29... f6 30. f5 Qe8 31. Qg4+-]

30. Qh8# 1-0

(21) Lauber, A(2441)-Brunello, S(2552)

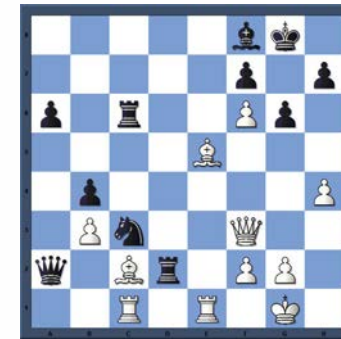
German league, 2015.02.21

**19...Rxc1! 20.Qxc1** [20.Nxc1 20...Exe3+ 21.Kh1 Exb5—+]**20...Nd3!! 21.axb6** [21.Exd3 21...Exe3+ 22.Kh1 Exc1—+;
21.Qc2 21...Qxe3+ 22.Kh1 Qg1+! 23.Rxg1 Nf2#]**21...Nxc1 22.Rfxc1 Qxe3+ 23.Kf1 Exb5 24.Exb5 Qxb3
25.bxa7 Qxb5+ 26.Kg1 Ra8** 0-1**(22) Li Chao(2711)-Areshchenko, A(2654)**

German league, 2015.02.22

**27...Eg5! 28.Exg5 Qxg5 29.Rc7** [29.Qxa2 29...Qxc1+—+;
29.Rb1 29...Qd2—+; 29.Rd1 29...Rd2—+]**29...Ra1+ 30.Ef1 Nc5—+****(23) Saric, I(2678)-Bartel, M(2652)**

German league, 2015.02.22

**34...Rxc2! 35.Qxc6** [35.Rxc2 35...Qxc2 36.Qxc6 Ne2+
37.Rxe2 Qxc6—+] **35...Rxc1!** [35...Ne2+? 36.Rxe2 Rxc6
37.Rxa2] **36.Rxc1 Ne2+ 37.Kh2 Nxc1 38.Qxc1 Qxb3—+****(24) Brunello, S(2552)-Gauglitz, G(2394)**

German league, 2015.02.22

**25.Qg5 Qe5** [25...g6 26.Nh6+ Kg7 27.Qxd5+—]**26.Ned4!! Qxd4+** [26...Nxd4 27.Nh6+ Kh8 28.Qxe5+—;
26...Qf6 27.Qxf6 gxf6 28.Nxc6+—]**27.Nxd4 Nxd4 28.Rf2±** [28.Qc5+—]

(25) Piorun, K(2532)-Bobras, P(2535)

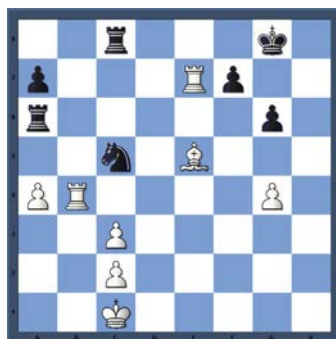
German league, 2015.02.22



30. ♖xg6+! 1-0 [30. ♖xg6+ 30...fxg6 31. ♔xg6+ ♕h8 32. ♔xe8+-]

(26) Shirov, A(2691)-Zaragatski, I(2472)

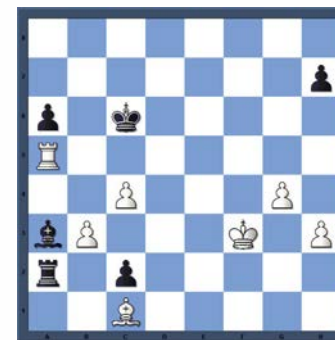
German league, 2015.02.22



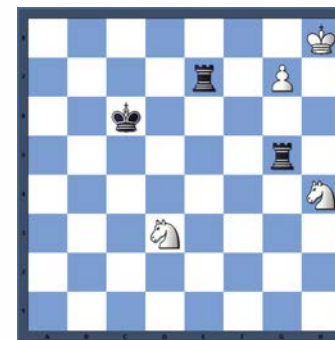
31. ♖c7! 1-0 [31. ♖c7 31...♖xc7 32. ♖b8+ ♕h7 33. ♖h8#]

(27) Hoolt, S(2332)-Movsesian, S(2657)

German league, 2015.02.22



50... ♕xc1! 51. ♖xa2 ♕b2! 52. ♖xa6+ [52. ♖xb2 52...c1=♔+-]
52... ♕b7+-

(28) Roche

1. ♘g6! [1.g8=♔? 1...♖h5+!+-]
1... ♖xg6 2.g8=♘! [2.g8=♔? 2...♖h6+--]
2... ♖e8 3. ♘e5+! ♖xe5 4. ♘e7+! ♖xe7



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

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13th of March 2015

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Editorial Preface

And the winner of the 16th European Individual Chess Championship is Evgeny Najer! The Russian GM was clearly not the favorite with a rating of 2634, but he showed strong and aggressive play and clearly deserved the gold medal with a fantastic score of 8.5/11.

The 2nd place was shared by 3 people: Navara, Bartel and Khismatullin, all with 8/11.

It was a very exciting event with a great fighting last round. In the current issue you will find a few games from the event.

The China-India match ended with a 18-14 victory of China, but again we have to say that both teams didn't play with their best line-ups.

The rapid event "Vladimir Petrov Memorial" was won by Ivanchuk with 9/11. Age doesn't seem to affect the chess legend. 2nd place went to Karjakin and 3rd to Gelfand.

The main organizer of the event, Alexei Shirov, can probably call the tournament a full success, as the average of the Top 10 in the event was higher than the average of the Top 10 in the European Champion which was running at the same time!

In Iceland, the very strong Reykjavik Open has begun, with Mamedyarov, Navara, Eljanov as top seeds. After the first rounds all the favorites are doing well.

The next few weeks seem to be a bit calm when it comes to top chess events, but anyhow there are a lot of opens underway with the participation of Top GMs.

We hope you enjoy the current issue of "Top GM Secrets"!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) Najer, Evgeniy (2634)
- Korobov, Anton (2687) [B29]

16th ch-EUR Indiv 2015(10.1),
2015.03.06



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

The European Champion of 2015 is Evgeny Najer from Russia! He was showing great chess during the entire course of the event! We are in the very important penultimate round, when he manages to beat his Ukrainian rival and takes a half point lead ahead of the field, which held out in the last round...

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 Najer is known to be an excellent theoretician and Korobov tries to lead the game to a less explored territory. However this strategy sometimes backfires, because after White was familiar with the subtleties, Black ended up in an inferior and difficult position...

3.e5 ♘d5 4.♘c3 ♘xc3 [4...e6 is the other main move of this line.]

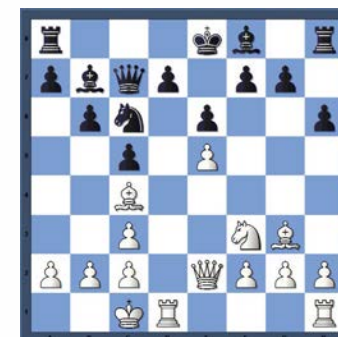
5.dxc3 ♘c6 6.♙f4 The e5 pawn stands perfectly and that is the key of the position! White enjoys some space advantage because of it and it also restricts the mobility of the black pieces. It is not easy to develop them adequately. The bishop is excellently placed on f4 because it prepares the undermining ideas like d6 or f6.



6...e6 7.♙c4 h6 8.♙e2 White wants to castle queenside. Black cannot launch any dangerous attack there and the rook will be ideally placed on the opened d-file. There was no need to prevent g5, because it seriously weakens the structure, White would quickly get a grip on it with h4.

8...♙c7 9.♙g3 A prophylactical move against the space grabbing move f5 to have the bishop protected to enable to take it en passant.

9...b6 10.O-O-O ♙b7 Black continues the development and intends to castle queenside as well.



11.♙d2! Simple and strong! White doubles his rooks on the opened file, puts pressure on the backward d7 pawn and prevents Black's undermining plans with d6 or d5.

11...O-O-O 12.♙hd1 ♙b8 13.♙a6! I like the trade of the light

squared bishops a lot. The black one was well placed on the the long diagonal and it also guards the king, while the white one was not doing much on c4. Another idea to improve could have been Bd3-c4, but Bd3 would have temporarily closed the d-file, which allows Black to free his position with d5 exd6 Bxd6.

13...♘e7 14.h4! Another strong positional move! Quite typical at this pawn structure. White grabs space on the queenside with h4-h5 against which Black cannot defend. h5 would give up the g5 square, while g6 weakens the h6 pawn after Bf4 and Qe3.

14...♖a8 15.♖b1 In the Sicilians it is always useful to place the king to b1. White leaves from the potential Bg5 ideas after pushing h5. It is important to mention that White keeps the tension of the light squared bishops, he invites Black to take on a6 but after Qxa6 he cannot kick out the annoying queen with Qb7 or Qc8 because it costs to the d7 pawn.

15...♔c8 Black forces the exchange, but at least White had won a tempo with his patient play..

16.♘xb7+ ♔xb7



17.h5! Thanks to the advance of the pawn to h5, Black suddenly got two more backward pawns on g7 and f7 (next to the d7), which can be attacked quickly by Qe4-g4-f4.

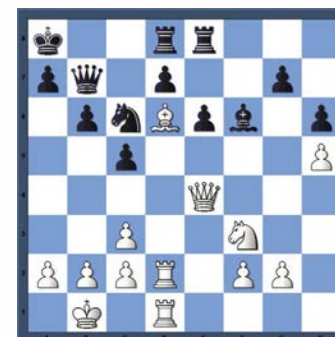
17...♖hg8 18.♔e4 This position is a disaster, especially for such an active player like Korobov. Black is lacking any active plans and he is obliged to suffer without any useful moves..

18...f5 Searching for some counterplay, but it does not change anything about the evaluation of the position. [Waiting with 18...♖b8 would have strongly been met by 19.♔h7! threatening with Rxd7!; Preventing Qh7 with 18...♖h8 A strong plan is 19.♘h4 ♘xh4 20.♔xh4± trading the bishops. Now even the dark squares are vulnerable. White could continue with Qf4 and after Rhf8 Rd3, followed by Nd2-c4-d6 and rook to g3 or f3. Black collapses soon.]

19.exf6 ♘xf6 [19...gxf6 is more logical to build the center, but it has a drawback as well, namely the h6 pawn becomes very weak after 20.♔e3! ♖h8 (20...♘f8 loses nicely to 21.♔xe6!+- using the disconnection of the black rooks.) 21.♘h4!+- and Ng6 next.]

20.♘d6 [20.♘h4!? looked quite strong as well, trading the bishop which keeps the black position together. 20...♘xh4 21.♘xh4±]

20...♖ge8



21.♖d3! Very well played positionally again! White cleans the d2 square for the knight from where it is heading to its final destination of d6.

21...e5 It is very difficult to suggest something clever for Black. In a bad position all moves are bad.

22.a4 [22.♘d2 should have been played right away.]

22...♞e6 [Black could have had a sudden chance to create some complications with 22...♘b4!? although it does not solve the problem, but at least it causes White some headache, that perhaps he has missed this move... 23.♞e3 (On 23.♞xb7+ 23...♙xb7 24.cxb4 e4 is the point and suddenly it is not so clear.) 23...♞xe4 24.♞xe4 ♘c6 25.♘d2± White keeps his big positional advantage. He plays Rg4 and Ne4 next, but trading the queens seems to easen Black's defensive task a bit.]

23.♘d2! ♞de8 24.f3 Najer does not decide yet to install the knight to e4 or c4. One looks better than the other... [24.♘c4 was also possible because 24...♘a5 does not work concretely: 25.♞xb7+! ♘xb7 (25...♙xb7 26.♘xa5+ bxa5 27.♙xc5) 26.♙c7!+- A nice move which wins the d7 pawn!]

24...♘a5



25.b4 A very logical move again! All the white pieces are excellently placed. The position asks for widening the initiative by opening a new front. It is clear that Black is not prepared to treat this problems with his poor rooks on the e-file and the with the bishop on f6. [25.♞d5+- was also very

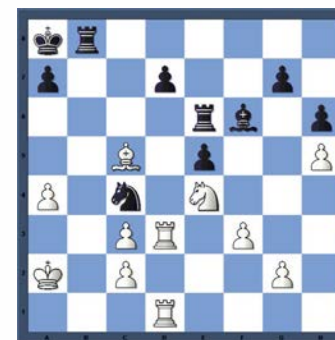
strong to keep the queen on the board and further strengthen the position with Qe2 and Ne4, executing the final blow a bit later.]

25...♞xe4 26.♘xe4 ♘c4 [26...cxb4 27.♙xb4+- wins the d7 pawn.]

27.♙a2! A strong prophylactic move before opening the b-file too prematurely. [27.bxc5?! 27...bxc5 28.♙xc5? would have dramatically changed the position after 28...♞b8+! and suddenly the white king gets under an enormous attack... 29.♙c1 (29.♙a2 loses on the spot to 29...♞b2+ 30.♙a1 ♞a6+-) 29...♞a6± Black overtakes the initiative.]

27...♞c8 Korobov decides to sacrifice a pawn in his cramped position and hopes to find counterplay with his nice knight on c4. [27...cxb4 28.cxb4 followed by Kb3 looks horrible as well.]

28.bxc5 bxc5 29.♙xc5 ♞b8? [The last chance was 29...♞ec6! 30.♙f2 d6 but White retains a big advantage after 31.♞b1± However, Black can at least continue fighting, whereas in the game it was not possible. The extra pawn with the doubled c-pawns are not a decisive advantage yet. White's advantage rather lies in his superior pieces.; 29...♞a6 30.♞xd7 ♞b8 31.♙b4 ♞xa4+ 32.♙b3]



30.♞b1! White trades the active rook which could have created some counterplay and the d7 pawn becomes

undefendable, which means the end of the game. With a single rook and the knight Black is unable to create any serious threats...

30...♖xb1 31.♔xb1 ♖a6 32.♔a2!? Najer does not want to give any chance and frees his king from the back rank. [However there was nothing wrong with 32.♖xd7 32...♖xa4 33.♕f8+-]

32...d6 33.♕xd6 ♖xa4+ 34.♔b3 ♘b6 35.♕f8 ♖a1



36.c4! The last accurate move! White starts to advance his passed pawn and suddenly it is not easy at all to stop it.

36...♖b1+ 37.♔a2 ♖h1 38.c5 ♘c4 39.c6 ♔b8 40.♖c3 Black resigned! [40.♖d7+- was also over.; 40.♖c3 40...♘b6 41.c7+ ♔c8 42.♘d6+ ♔d7 43.c8=♖+ ♘xc8 44.♖xc8!+- (But not 44.♘xc8?? because after 44...e4! 45.♖c4 e3 suddenly it is completely unclear.)] **1-0**

(2) Bartel, Mateusz (2631) - Nepomniachtchi, Ian (2714) [B51]

16th ch-EUR Indiv 2015(11.3),
2015.03.08



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are in the last round of the ECC and both players are on a score of +4 which is enough to qualify for the World Cup, but knowing Bartel and Nepomniachtchi we could be sure we would get a fighting game instead of a short draw. The young Russian was leading the tournament for quite a while, but a loss to Navara dropped him back so he could only fight for the 2nd-3rd placed with a win. To play Bartel is never easy, as we sometimes see the Polish player lose to anyone in 20 moves with White, or he can have great games and win against almost anybody.

1.e4 c5 A sign that it is going to be a fighting game!

2.♘f3 d6 3.♕b5+ Maybe a sign that Bartel is happy with a draw?! 3.Bb5 is counted as a very safe move, but it seems to give Black more or less equal play.

3...♘c6 [3...♕d7 is the main reply here.]

4.O-O ♕d7 5.♖e1 a6 6.♕xc6 is a rather rarely played line, much more popular is 6.Bf1.

6...♕xc6 7.d4 cxd4 8.♘xd4 It is never great to give away a bishop in the Sicilian, but White sort of gained a tempo. Of course according to theory Black is OK here.

8...♕d7 is a very rare move. The usual reply here is 8...Nf6 or 8...Rc8.



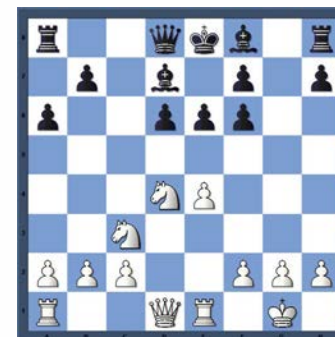
9. ♘g5! A good reply by Bartel! Black can't get the knight from g8 that easily into the game now. [In case White would continue with the simple 9. ♖c3 9... ♗f6 10. ♘g5 Black would be in time now to develop with 10...e6 and his position is very solid.]

9... ♗f6 I am not sure about this move at all. [Maybe Black should have tried something "crazy", which actually would perfectly fit Ian's style. 9...h6 10. ♘h4 g5 11. ♘g3 Of course it looks very dangerous to weaken the pawn structure that much when the king is still on e8 and the pieces are still undeveloped, but Black has the bishop pair, something we should not forget about. 11...h5! The key move! (After the usual 11... ♘g7 12. ♗c3 followed by Nd5 or Nf5 or even e5. White is better.) 12.h3 e5! playing against the g3 bishop. The position is very complicated.]

10. ♘xf6 Of course White takes the chance to give Black a "bad" pawn structure.

10...gxf6 11. ♗c3 We often see this kind of structure in the Rauzer, but somehow now it looks like White is at least a few tempos up. In case Black would manage to develop and maybe castle kingside, things would be fine, but White is very active now and will have direct threats already in couple of moves from now.

11...e6



12. ♕h5! The white queen is perfectly placed on h5, also preventing Black from playing Qa5 himself.

12... ♘g7?! Black is looking for trouble. Now the d6 pawn is also getting weak. [Black could have tried to activate his rook over c5: 12... ♖c8 but White has the very interesting 13. ♗f5!? ♖c5 and the second knight is joining the attack. 14. ♗d5!? None of the knights can be taken and I guess that because of Black's very poor development we could say that White at least has a strong initiative.]

13. ♖ad1 White brings the last piece into the game and the white rooks can always be transported to the nice g3 square over the 3rd rank.

13... ♖c8?! and after this logical move Black's position is just lost! [It is already not that simple to find a "good defense" against White's Nf5, but maybe Black could have tried 13... ♕c7 14. ♖d3 (Whites can also consider playing 14. ♗f5 14...exf5 15.exf5+ ♕f8 16. ♖e7! ♕xe7 17. ♗d5+ ♕d8 18. ♗xc7 ♕xc7 19. ♕xf7 ♖hg8 and we have a strange position, with queen against rook+2 bishops, but both bishops are passive and the black king is still under attack. It is quite sure that White is not worse, but it is hard to tell if he is better!) 14... ♕c5 Black's position is still very dangerous, but at least things are not that clear.]



14. Nf5! Bartel doesn't miss his chance for this typical tactical blow.

14... exf5 Black has no choice but to take on f5.

15. exf5+ Kf8 and here comes the move that Black probably missed:

16. Ne4! White wants to play Nxd6, attacking the f7 pawn and the rook on c8.

16... Kc6 It is already hard to give Black any advice... There is no good way to defend from Nxd6.

17. Nxd6 Kc7 At least Ian found a way not to get mated on the spot.

18. Rxc8 Kxc8 White has a rook and 2 pawns against the black bishop pair, where the g7 bishop is more looking like a pawn. White is clearly close to winning here.

19. Rd4 Kc7 20. Qd1 Rd8 is a deadly threat.

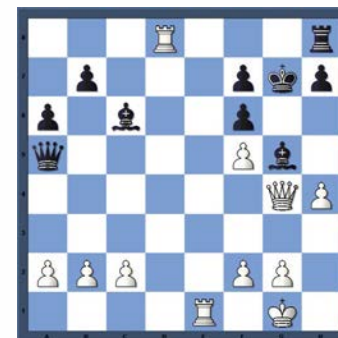
20... Kh6 21. h4! Stopping Black from playing Kg7 because of Qg4 check and the threat of playing Rd8 followed by Qg4.

21... Ka5 Black is looking for chances, attacking the f5 pawn and making the rook on e1 feeling observed.

22. Rd8+ Bartel continues his good play and it is easy to see why, as a win would give him a chance to get a place on the

podium!

22... Kg7 23. Kg4+ Kg5 Now that the bishop on g5 is pinned White is simply collecting the material.



24. Rdd1! So far Bartel played a perfect game! The bishop on g5 can't be rescued and it seems like the game is almost over.

24... h6! I can't say that Black has any chances to save the game, but from a practical point of view this is clearly the best chance. At least the rook from h8 gets into the game and the black king on g7 has a safe position.

25. a3 Bartel continues choosing the most safe moves. Why give the a2 pawn away?! :)

25... Kc7 26. Kg3 protecting the h2 square, just in case.

26... Ka5 and again the f5 pawn is under attack, so White needs to think about what to do next.

27. f4?! From a practical point of view this is clearly a bad decision. The white king's position is getting very open now and there was no reason at all for such risky action. [After a simple move like 27. hxc5 27... hxc5 28. Re7 White is a full exchange up! 28... Kxf5 29. Kb3 Kg6 The black queen is getting to h5 which looks dangerous, but in fact it is just nothing. 30. Rd4 Kh5 31. f3 and Black doesn't have anything more than one check on h1. White is totally winning.]

27...♔c5+ Black is planning a very nice tactical blow...

28.♖e3 Of course it is not pleasant to put the king on the h-file after which hxg5 would already not be a threat anymore.



28...♗xg2! and this is clearly the move Bartel missed. The bishop on g2 can't be taken!

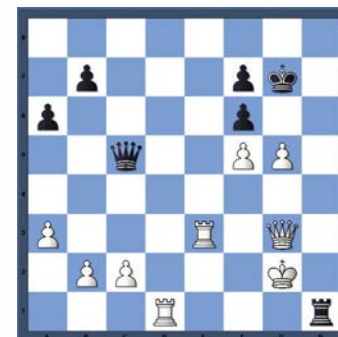
29.fxg5 The bishop on g5 has to be taken sooner or later... [29.♔xg2? 29...♗xc2+ and Black is winning the d1 rook.]

29...hxg5 The g2 bishop is still untouchable.

30.hxg5! Bartel shows great nerves and exact calculation in such an important game! The white king is totally "naked" but the black king is also getting under attack now.

30...♖h1+ It is hard to say if White calculated it all or if he was just a bit lucky, but Black is losing by force now, if White finds the only move... [In case of 30...♗e4 31.gxf6+ ♔xf6 White can enter a winning endgame after 32.♗d6+ ♗xd6 33.♖xd6+ ♔xf5 34.♖d4 and some technique is still needed to win the game, but objectively the position is of course winning.]

31.♔xg2



31...♗c6+ Black is fighting ! [31...♖xd1 32.gxf6+ ♔xf6 33.♗h4+ leads to mate in a couple of moves.]

32.♖f3! The only winning move!

32...♖xd1 [Now Black can't play 32...♗xc2+ because the rook on h1 is hanging. 33.♔xh1]

33.gxf6+ ♔xf6 White is only a pawn up, but now it is Bartel who starts to mate his opponent's king.

34.♗h4+ ♔g7 35.f6+! Once again the only winning move for White! It was not too hard to find this one, but to see all this before playing 30. hxg5 is everything but easy...

35...♔g8 [White is also easily winning after 35...♔g6 36.♗g4+ ♔h6 37.♗g7+ ♔h5 38.♗xf7+]

36.♗g3+ ♔f8 Maybe somebody else would just play 37. Qg7 followed by Qg8 here, with a win of the f-pawn, but not Bartel! He finds a very beautiful mating idea!

37.♗b8+ ♗e8



38.♖h3! Black has no defense against Rh8. What a beautiful mating idea!

38...♞d2+ 39.♚f3 We just saw a great game by Bartel and of course clearly not the best game of Nepomniachtch, who was practically lost after just 14 moves! Anyhow, this win gave Bartel the bronze medal and good prize money, while Nepomniachtchi was very lucky to take one of the last places to qualify for the World Cup 2015 in Baku. So it was actually a happy end for both players! :) **1-0**

The K-Files.

QGA 3.e4 b5 4.a4 c6 5.axb5



GM Alexander Khalifman
FIDE World Chess Champion (1999)

Best rating: 2702

(3) QGA 3.e4 b5 4.a4 c6 5.axb5 [D20]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 b5 4.a4 c6 5.axb5 cxb5 6.♘c3 The main critical line of the whole system was invented by Alex Yermolinsky in 1993. Suddenly the b5 pawn is not so easy to defend. [6.b3 Together with the exchange on b5 this is not dangerous for Black. Even more - in some lines it's quite unclear who is playing for advantage. 6...e5 (6...a5 This move was played already in 1620. It's great to know it but not to repeat. 7.bxc4 b4 8.♘f3 (8.d5 8...e6 is not so clear. Greco - NN Italy 1620) 8...e6 9.c5 ♘f6 10.♘e5!± and Black's passed pawns are not important at all.) 7.bxc4 This move is actually an exchange sacrifice. The quiet and sound alternative is (

a) 7.♘f3 exd4 8.bxc4 (8.♞xd4 8...♙d7 9.bxc4 ♘c6 10.♞d1 ♙b4+ 11.♙d2 ♙xd2+ 12.♘bxd2 b4↔) 8...b4 - 7.bxc4;

b) 7.dxe5 ♞xd1+ (7...♙b4+ 8.♙d2 ♙c5 is recommended by the engines on moderate depth. However. White has the strong response 9.♘c3! b4 10.♘a4 ♙d4 11.♙xc4 ♙xa1 12.♞xa1±) 8.♞xd1 ♘c6 This is why the exchange on b5 was not in time. Black has absolutely no problem now. 9.♘f3 ♙g4

10.bxc4 ♖xe5 11.♗d2 bxc4=;

c) 7.d5?! ♗f6 and somehow there is no convenient way to defend the e4 pawn. 8.♞f3?! Mamedyarov - Nakamura Dubai blitz 2014 (8.f3 Gritus - Becko Slovakia 2010 8...♗xe4!—+) 8...♗c6!! 9.dxc6 ♗g4—+ OK it was only blitz but still it doesn't happen everyday when top grandmaster gets such a bad position with White in just 8 moves.)

7...b4!? In fact this position is a very special one. Frankly speaking I can't remember any other theoretical line where the 7 first moves were played by pawns only!!!



(After 7...♗b4+ 8.♗d2 ♞xd4 9.♗xb4 ♞xa1 Gartner - Vegh Budapest 1997 10.cxb5 White's compensation wouldn't be underestimated but at the same time it's hard to believe it can be enough for more than equal chances because White is not well-developed yet. 10...♗e6 (10...♞d4 11.♞xd4 exd4 12.♗f3) 11.♗f3 ♗d7 12.♗e2 ♞b2∞) 8.♗b2 exd4 9.♗f3 Kasparov - Bankers Trust London simul 1993 and now Black had to find the strong maneuver 9...♗e7! 10.♗d3 ♗ec6 11.♗bd2 a5=]

6...a6! and this is the move which has given a new start to the whole system. Well it must be said that it was played before but not in connection with the correct plan. [6...♗d7 This was the old main line. However, it doesn't look very impressive.

7.d5! In my opinion the most promising way. It's not so easy for Black to complete his development now. (7.♗f3 is the most popular move. But after 7...e6 8.♗e2 ♗f6 (8...♗b4 9.O-O ♗e7 10.d5 O-O 11.dxe6 fxe6 12.♗e5 Thomsen - Cipka corr 2008) 9.O-O ♗b4! (worse is 9...♗e7 10.d5!± Yermolinsky - Zaltsman St.Martin 1993) 10.♗g5 h6 11.♗xf6 ♞xf6 12.♗e5 Tonoian - Guliyev, N Moscow 2012 12...♗xc3 (12...♞d8) 13.bxc3 a6∞ it's quite clear that White has compensation for the pawn but is it enough for an advantage?) 7...a6 (7...e5 gives back the gambit pawn but doesn't solve the problems. 8.dxe6 ♗xe6 (8...fxe6 9.♗xb5! ♗b4+ 10.♗c3± Scharrer - Tennstedt Bad Woerishofen 2013) 9.♞xd8+ ♞xd8 10.♗xb5 ♗b4+ 11.♗d2± and Black's weaknesses are difficult to defend. Wang - Lakdawala Los Angeles 2010) 8.b3! N This is of not a human decision but it doesn't become weaker because of this. (8.♗f3 8...e6 9.♗e2 ♗c5 10.O-O ♗e7∞ is less clear.) 8...b4 (8...e5 9.bxc4 b4 10.♗a4 ♗xa4 11.♞xa4+ ♞d7 12.♞a5 ♗f6 13.♗f3 ♗xe4 14.♗e3±) 9.♗a4 c3 10.♗e3 The protected passer on c3 looks great. However, it doesn't help Black to develop his kingside, and this is a huge problem. Black is already in real trouble as the following lines show. 10...e6 (10...♗xa4 11.♞xa4 e5 12.dxe6 ♞xd1+ 13.♞xd1 fxe6 14.♗f3±; 10...♗f6 11.♗b6 ♞a7 12.♗c4 ♞b7 13.e5±) 11.♗b6 ♞a7 12.♗f3 ♗f6 13.♗e5±; 6...♗b7? is simply bad. 7.♗xb5 ♗xe4 8.♗f4 (8.♞g4 8...♗c6) 8...e5 9.dxe5± Ress - Ovcjak corr 2013 9...♗b4+ 10.♗d2 ♞e7 11.♗c3 ♗c6 (11...♞xe5 12.♞e2+—) 12.♗f3]

7.♗xb5 White has to accept the challenge. The modest positional play doesn't promise anything. [7.d5 7...♗b7 8.♗f3 e6 9.♗g5 ♗f6=+]

7...axb5 8.♞xa8 ♗b7 This idea has already become quite standard, especially after Topalov's spectacular wins in Chebanenko Slav in 2006. However, in that game White's dark-squared bishop was placed on h4 or exchanged. So the

idea Bf8-b4+ was something like a direct threat. Here Black's ideas are rather different and engines are not very optimistic about the compensation. So it took time to understand that this line might be really playable.

9.♖a2!? I wouldn't say it's a clear improvement on the traditional 9.Ra1 but in my opinion this unusual retreat promises a clear advantage for White without serious risks and from a practical point of view it's preferable. The rook looks a bit strange here as it invites the knight to jump to b4 with tempo. However, the Nb8-c6-b4 maneuver is not so universally useful for Black and also White is intending to play b2-b3 as soon as possible after which the rook is quite good on the 2nd rank. This move was never played in OTB chess yet and a few correspondence games couldn't clarify the evaluation so far. [9.♖a1 This natural move was played almost automatically before but it may be not the strongest. 9...e6 The key move which gave a new life to the whole system. (9...♙e4?! was played in the only game where this position happened before 2014. Ammann - Costa Switzerland 1993 However, it is met by the nice tactical refutation 10.f3 ♙d5 11.b3± e6 12.bxc4 bxc4 13.♙xc4! ♙b4+ 14.♖f2 ♙xc4 15.♞a4+ ♗d7 (15...♞d7 16.♞xb4 ♞xd4+ 17.♙e3 ♞xa1 18.♞xb8+ ♗d7 19.♞b7+-) 16.♗e2 ♙xe2 17.♞xb4 ♗e7 18.♖xe2 O-O 19.♙g5 and Black's compensation for the exchange is clearly not enough.) 10.♗e2!? is a very interesting new move by Adhiban although he completely misplayed some next moves. (

a) 10.♗f3 Here the knight doesn't attack the important squares e4 and d5, so Black gets sufficient compensation after 10...♗f6 11.♙e2 (11.e5 11...♙xf3 12.gxf3 ♙b4+ 13.♙d2 ♗d5 is OK for Black as well.) 11...♗xe4 (11...♙b4+ 12.♙d2 ♙xd2+ 13.♞xd2 ♗xe4 Mamedyarov - Kasimzhanov Baku 2014 14.♞e3+= is less accurate in my opinion.) 12.O-O ♗c6 (12...♞d5 13.b3!?) 13.♙e3 ♞d5 Heimann - Godena

Ruzomberok 2014 and now (13...♙b4!?) 14.♗e5!? ♗xe5 15.dxe5 ♗c3 16.♙f3 ♗xd1 17.♙xd5 ♗xe3 18.♙xb7 ♗xf1= leads to a drawish endgame.;

b) 10.f3 The most natural and popular move. 10...♗c6 is more solid and leads to "human" play. (The hyperadventurous 10...f5 leads to big complications. 11.♗h3!? was successfully tried in Shirov - Sulskis Finland 2015 but its consequences are not clear after (

b1) 11.exf5 ♗c6 (11...♗e7 is less accurate. 12.♖a7!? It's a good moment for counter-sacrifice! 12...♞b6 13.♞xb7 ♞xb7 14.fxe6± Gharamian - Cornette Nimes 2014) 12.fxe6 ♗ge7 is absolutely crazy. Despite White's massive material advantage the assessment is far from clear.;

b2) 11.g3!? is another interesting setup. 11...♗c6 (11...fxe4 leads to a long forced line which is quite favorable for White. 12.♙g2 ♗f6 13.fxe4 ♙b4+ 14.♙d2 ♞xd4 15.♙xb4 ♞xb2 16.♙d2 c3 17.♞c1 ♙xe4 18.♙xe4 ♞xd2+ 19.♞xd2 cxd2+ 20.♞xd2 ♗xe4+ 21.♖e3 ♗d6 22.♗f3+=) 12.♗e2 ♗a5 13.♙g2 ♗b3 14.♞b1 ♙b4+ 15.♗c3 ♞b6 and Black has certain compensation for the exchange.)

11...fxe4 12.fxe4 ♗f6 13.♗g5 ♗c6 (13...♙b4+?! was played in the above-mentioned game. 14.♙d2 ♙xd2+ 15.♞xd2 O-O 16.♗xe6 ♞e7 17.♗xf8+-) 14.♗xe6 ♙b4+ 15.♙d2 ♞e7 16.♙xb4 ♗xb4 17.d5 ♗xe4) 11.♗e2 (11.♙e3 wasn't tested yet most probably due to 11...♙b4+ 12.♖f2 f5! 13.d5 f4! 14.♙xf4 ♙c5+ 15.♖e1 (15.♙e3 15...♙xe3+ 16.♖e3 ♞b6+ 17.♖d2 exd5 18.exd5 ♗d4+) 15...exd5 16.♞xd5 ♞b6 and White faces serious problems.) 11...♙b4+! A real improvement played by Edouard. (

b1) 11...♗f6 Now Black doesn't have the important resource f7-f5 so his compensation might disappear step by step. 12.♙e3 ♙b4+ 13.♖f2 O-O 14.b3± Parligras - Thesing Germany

2014;

b2) 11...♖a5 Moving knight to b3 is an interesting positional idea but it turns to be too slow. 12.♗c3 ♕b4 (12...♞b6? is simply bad because of 13.♗xb5! ♞xb5 14.♞a4 ♞xa4 15.♞xa4 ♗c6 16.♕e3 ♕d6 17.♕xc4± and White even managed to lose this endgame in Goganov - Tabatabaei Moscow 2015.) 13.♞f2 ♞b6 14.♕e3 (14.♗xb5 14...♞xb5 15.b3 ♗xb3 16.♞b1 ♞a5 17.♕xc4 ♗xc1 18.♞xc1 ♗e7) 14...♗b3 15.♞a2 ♗e7 16.♗xb5 ♞xb5 17.♞c2 O-O 18.♞xc4 ♞b6 19.♞b5 ♞xb5 20.♕xb5± and although this position is not that bad for Black as in Goga's game it's still very unpleasant.)

12.♕d2 (

b1) 12.♞f2 f5 with the white king on f2 it might be called the typical reaction. 13.exf5 (13.♗f4 13...fxe4 14.♗xe6 ♞d7 15.d5 ♗d8) 13...♗ge7 14.fxe6 ♗f5 and it's rather White who is in danger.;

b2) 12.♗c3 ♞b6 13.d5 ♗d4

12...♗ge7 Still keeping f7-f5 in mind. 13.b3 (13.♕xb4 13...♗xb4 14.♗c3 ♞b6 15.♗xb5 at this moment doesn't promise any advantage. 15...♞xb5 16.♞a4 ♞xa4 17.♞xa4 ♗c2+ 18.♞f2 ♗xd4 19.♕xc4 O-O (19...♗ec6 20.b4) 20.b4 ♞b8 21.♞d1 e5=) 13...O-O 14.bxc4 bxc4 15.♕xb4 leads to the long and forced line shown by GM Deviatkin in his deep annotations to the above-mentioned game. (

b1) In the game Javakhishvili - Edouard Gibraltar 2015 White went clearly wrong with 15.♞f2?! 15...f5! 16.♗f4? ♞xd4+ 17.♕e3 ♞b2+ 18.♕e2 fxe4±;

b2) 15.♞c1!? This tricky move might be critical although it's still unclear what exactly White intends to do to develop his kingside. 15...♞b6 16.♞b1 ♞b8 (16...♕a6 17.♞f2 ♗e5 18.♗f4 ♞xd4+ 19.♕e3 ♞d6 20.♞d1) 17.♞f2 ♕a6∞)

15...♗xb4 16.♗c3 ♗ec6! 17.♕xc4 ♗xd4 18.O-O ♗bc2 19.♗b5 ♗xa1 20.♗xd4 ♞b6 21.♞xa1 ♞a8! 22.♞c3 ♞d8 23.♞d1 e5 24.♞b3 ♞xb3 25.♕xb3 ♞xd4 26.♞xd4 exd4 27.♕c4 ♞f8= and Black will hold this endgame easily.) 10...♕xe4 is the only critical answer. The alternatives don't impress at all. (

a) 10...♗c6 11.d5 exd5 12.exd5 ♗b4 13.♗c3±;

b) 10...♗f6 11.f3 ♕b4+ (11...♗c6 12.♕e3 ♕b4+ 13.♞f2±) 12.♞f2 O-O 13.b3±)

11.♗c3N This is the move to play although its main idea is not so easy. (11.b3 This is good with the rook on a2 but now 11...♗c6! 12.f3 (12.♗c3? 12...♕b4 13.♕d2 ♕xc3 14.♕xc3 b4± and White is already in trouble. Adhiban - Nakamura Gibraltar 2015) 12...♕d5 (12...♗b4 is entertaining but not completely sound. 13.fxe4 ♗d3+ 14.♞d2 ♕b4+ 15.♞e3±) 13.bxc4 bxc4 14.♞a4 ♕b4+ 15.♕d2 ♕d6∞ gives Black reasonable compensation.) 11...♕c6 (11...♕b4 12.♕e2! and Black's compensation is far from enough in all lines. The white knight is perfectly placed on c3 and the other pieces are quite active. 12...♗f6 (

a) 12...♕xg2 13.♞g1 ♕c6 (13...♕e4 14.♞g5!±) 14.♞xg7±;

b) 12...♗e7 13.O-O ♕c6 (13...♕xc3 14.bxc3 O-O 15.♕a3±) 14.♕f3 O-O 15.♕xc6 ♗bxc6 16.♗xb5±)

13.O-O ♕xc3 (13...♕c6 14.♕f3 O-O 15.♕xc6 ♗xc6 16.♗xb5) 14.bxc3 ♗d5 (14...O-O 15.♕g5±) 15.♞d2 O-O (15...b4? 16.cxb4 c3 17.♕b5+) 16.♞e1 ♞c7 17.♕a3±) 12.♕e2! Here this resource is far from obvious. At the first moment it's not so difficult to understand what for White is giving the very important pawn. However, the roles are changing quickly. White's pieces become active and it's now Black's problem how to complete the development. 12...b4 (12...♕b4 - 11...Bb4; After the immediate 12...♕xg2?! 13.♞g1 ♕c6 14.♕f3± Black gets

even bigger problems.; Rejecting the pawn doesn't look good: 12...♙d6 13.♙f3±) 13.♘b1 ♙xg2 14.♖g1 and now wherever the black bishop would retreat White has a strong initiative. The material is about equal but it happens that Black has other problems. 14...♙c6 (14...♙d5 15.♘d2 c3 (15...♘e7 16.♘xc4 g6 17.♘e5±) 16.bxc3 bxc3 17.♙b5+ ♙c6 18.♙xc6+ ♘xc6 19.♘e4± and White is ready for a decisive attack. 19...♘xd4 (19...♖xd4? 20.♖a8+-- 20.♖a4+-- 15.♘d2 c3 (15...♖c7 16.♘xc4 ♖xh2 17.♖f1±) 16.bxc3 bxc3 (16...♘f6 17.♖b3 g6 18.♘f3 ♙d6 19.♙h6±) 17.♘c4 ♘e7 18.♖b3 ♘f5 19.♖xc3 ♖xd4 20.♙b2 ♖xc3+ 21.♙xc3 f6 22.♘e3± Despite the limited remaining material Black still has to solve the development problems. And his chances to do it are not very high.; The counter-sacrifice 9.♖xb8 9...♖xb8 10.f3 e5 11.b3 ♙b4+ 12.♙f2 as seen in Atalik,S - Pancevski Serbia 2014 can't be dangerous for Black after 12...♖d6! 13.bxc4 (13.d5 13...f5±) 13...♙c5↑]

9...e6 At the first moment it's difficult to understand what Black's compensation for the exchange is. White has a healthy structure and the development is about equal. However, then it becomes clear that the compensation is quite serious. It looks like White has to defend the e4 pawn but the only reasonable way to do it (f2-f3) weakens his kingside and doesn't help the pieces to develop. [9...♙xe4?! is not recommended. 10.f3 ♙d5 11.b3! cxb3 12.♙xb5+ ♘d7 13.♖a6±]

10.♘e2! Moving to an absolutely unexplored zone. In fact this move is a good solid practical choice. With the best defense Black can keep drawish chances but most probably nothing more. White just gives the central pawn in order to organize the important breakthrough b2-b3 as soon as possible. [10.f3 White would like to play b3 without giving the important central pawn. So Black has to do something about it. 10...f5!? N might be an improvement. Now

the play becomes totally chaotic. (10...♘c6 11.b3! seems to be the most dangerous. The critical line is (After the natural 11.♘e2 11...♙b4+ 12.♙d2 ♘f6 13.♙xb4 ♘xb4 14.♖a3 O-O 15.♖d2 ♘c6 16.♖a1 ♖b6 17.♖d1 ♖d8=Black gets good compensation.) 11...♙b4+ 12.♙f2 ♙c5 and now White has a choice: 13.bxc4! looks more promising and after (After 13.♘e2 both 13...f5 (and 13...e5 14.bxc4 exd4=Silva - Kerr corr 2002) 14.bxc4 fxe4=lead to absolutely crazy unbalanced positions where Black's counterchances are not to be underestimated.) 13...♙xd4+ 14.♙e1 b4 15.♖a4+= Black has some compensation but it doesn't look enough as his pieces are not perfectly coordinated.) 11.exf5 (11.♘h3 This is quite strong with the rook on a1 but after 11...fxe4 12.fxe4 ♘f6 13.♘g5 ♘c6 14.♘xe6 ♙b4+ 15.♙d2 ♖e7= it becomes clear that the rook's position on a2 also has certain drawbacks. 16.♙xb4? ♘xb4 doesn't work.) 11...♘c6 12.fxe6 We have a really weird position. White has a huge material advantage and it's still hard to understand what for. So it's quite amazing to see how quickly Black's seemingly undeveloped pieces come into play and create dangerous threats. When both sides play the best moves there are some crazy drawish lines but it's rather White who has to play precisely. 12...♘ge7 (Or even 12...♘h6!? 13.♙xh6 gxh6 14.♘e2 ♙b4+ 15.♘c3 ♘xd4=) 13.b3 ♘d5 14.♘e2 ♘cb4 15.bxc4 ♘xa2 16.cxd5 ♙b4+ 17.♙d2 O-O=]

10...♙xe4 This must be the critical move. [10...♘c6 is met by the strong 11.♘c3! (11.f3 - 10.f3) 11...♘xd4 12.♙e3 e5 13.♖a7! ♖d7 14.♙xd4 exd4 15.♖h5! Once again it's White's turn to sacrifice material. He gets very strong initiative for it. 15...dxc3 16.♖e5+ ♘e7 17.bxc3 ♖c6 18.♙e2 ♙c8 19.O-O ♖b6 20.♖a8 ♖c6 21.♖b8±; Black can force the opponent to play f2-f3 with 10...♘f6 11.f3 but now he doesn't have the important resource f7-f5 anymore. 11...♘c6 (11...♙b4+ 12.♙f2 ♘c6 13.b3 O-O 14.bxc4 bxc4 15.♙e3±) 12.b3!? The basic idea. Now

Black can win the exchange back but this leaves White with an extra pawn and a solid position. 12...♖b4 13.♔d2 ♗d3+ (13...♕a5 14.♙f2 ♕e7 15.bxc4 bxc4 16.♗c3 O-O 17.g3±) 14.♔xd3 cxd3 15.♕xd3 ♕b4+ 16.♗c3 O-O 17.♕e2 ♕a5 (17...♕c7 18.♕d2 ♔d8 19.♗xb5 ♕c1+ 20.♕d1 ♕xd2+ 21.♕xd2 ♕c6 22.♕e2 ♕b6 23.O-O±) 18.♕d2 ♕a1+ 19.♗d1 ♕xd2+ 20.♕xd2±]

11.b3 With the rook on a2 it works fine. The annoying construction b5-c4 is finally destroyed. [Here 11.♗c3 11...♕c6 12.♕e2 b4 13.♗b1 ♕xg2 14.♔g1 ♕d5∞ leads nowhere. So as we can see in some lines the rook's position on a2 has serious drawbacks.]

11...♗f6 seems to be the best answer. Black gives the pawn, which leaves him once again a plain exchange down. However, he completes the development and hopes to create some pressure. The alternatives lead to some kind of one-way street where the best Black can hope for is the endgame with 4 pawns vs. 3 pawns on one side and an exchange down. But even this is not guaranteed. [11...♕d5 12.bxc4 ♕xc4 - 11...Bd3; 11...♗c6 is good enough with the rook on a1 but now after 12.bxc4 ♗b4 13.♔d2 bxc4 14.♗c3± the difference becomes clear.; 11...♕d3 12.bxc4 ♕xc4 13.♔a8! This pin is very annoying. Now it's not so easy for Black to exchange the b5 and d4 pawns. (13.♔b2 13...♗f6 14.♗g3 ♕xf1 15.♗xf1 ♗c6 16.♔xb5 ♕b4+ 17.♕d2 ♕xd2+ 18.♗xd2 ♗xd4 19.♔b2 O-O+= Some accuracy is required but objectively this must be a draw.) 13...♗f6 14.♗g3 ♕xf1 15.♗xf1 ♕d6 16.♗e3 O-O 17.O-O ♕c7 18.h3 ♕c6 19.♕f3±; 11...♕b4+ 12.♕d2 ♕xd2+ 13.♔xd2! Once again White is not satisfied with the massive pawn exchange which might happen if he takes on d2 with the queen. (13.♕xd2 13...cxb3 14.♔b2 ♗c6 15.♗c3 ♕c2 16.♕xb5 ♗e7 17.♕a4 O-O 18.♕xb3 ♕xb3 19.♔xb3 ♗xd4 20.♔b2+=) 13...♕a5 (13...♗f6 14.bxc4 bxc4 15.♕a4+ ♗bd7 16.♕xc4±) 14.♕c1 ♕d5 15.♗c3 ♗e7 16.♔a2 ♕b4 17.bxc4 bxc4 18.♕e2

O-O 19.O-O+= Black played all the best moves and is close to exchange the c4 and d4 pawns, which makes his drawish chances fairly reasonable. But... was it worth it?]

12.bxc4 bxc4 [12...♕b4+ 13.♕d2 ♕xd2+ 14.♔xd2 - 11...Bb4+]

13.♕a4+ ♕c6 [13...♗c6 may seem tempting as Black tries to attack pawn d4 as soon as possible. But his piece construction is rather shaky and White can use it with precise play. 14.♔b2! ♕e7 15.f3 (After the most natural 15.♗c3 15...O-O! 16.♗xe4 ♗xe4 17.♕xc6 ♕a5+ 18.♙d1 ♗c3+ 19.♙c2 ♗a4 20.♕xc4 ♕a8! Black gets a strong attack.) 15...♕d5 16.♗c3 and now Black has several opportunities but none of them promises him enough compensation. Of course converting the material advantage into a full point wouldn't be so easy for White but still... 16...♕d7 is probably the best. (

a) 16...O-O 17.♗xd5 exd5 (17...♕xd5 18.♕xc4±) 18.♕xc6 ♕a5+ 19.♙d1 ♕a1 20.♕b5 ♕a3 21.♔b1 ♕xd4+ 22.♕d2 c3 23.♕d3 ♕a4+ 24.♕c2 ♕xc2+ 25.♙xc2 cxd2 26.♙xd2±;

b) 16...♕a5 17.♕xa5 ♗xa5 18.♔b8+ ♕d8 19.♙f2±) 17.♕xc4 ♕xc4 18.♕xc4 O-O 19.♕e3+=]

14.♕xc4 ♕d6 15.♕a3 The dark-squared bishops' exchange is useful for White to limit the opponent's counterplay. [After 15.♗c3 15...O-O 16.f3 e5! 17.dxe5 ♕xe5 18.♕d3 ♕b7 Black's counterplay is quite annoying.]

15...O-O 16.♕xd6 ♕xd6 17.♕c5 ♕xc5 [17...♕d8 18.f3 ♕d5 19.♔b2± and it's not easy to develop adequate counterplay.]

18.dxc5 ♔c8+= Black's chances to save this endgame are good enough but still he has to work for it. SOME CONCLUSIONS Well in general one can use this old line 3.e4 b5 in rapid chess and/or as a surprise weapon but my intuition tells me that it's not 100% correct from a theoretical

point of view. The only problem is the main line but it's really serious. For White players there are two attractive options and both of them still require practical tests. The basic choice is between 9.Ra1 e6 10.Ne2 and 9.Ra2 e6 10. Ne2. Somehow I still doubt which of them must be preferred. Most probably it's a matter of taste. With the rook on a1 White plays for the initiative but any inaccuracy might cost dearly. The second option just oppositely secures him from any strategical risk but in some lines Black's drawing chances are quite high.

David vs. Goliath



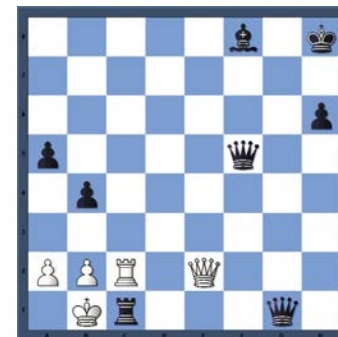
Peter Zhdanov
Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this entertaining column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week has brought us 24 upsets. Finally an improvement in quantity!

The number of moves ranges from 23 in Gorodetzky (2210) - GM Kogan (2555), 1-0 to 75 in Kochavi (1607) - IM Chubar (2066), 1-0. The highest-profile loss was GM Melkumyan (2673) - Kraus (2190), 0-1. In fact, Ohad Kraus (born 1995) defeated yet another strong GM -Vladimir Potkin (2605) - as Black. Westreich (1929) prevailed over GM Mikhalevski (2559) with the Black pieces. Now that's a shocking 630 rating points gap!

IM Sipila (2425) gets a special mention for allowing Pogonian (2124) to brutally checkmate him:



Top-10:

Mikhalevski (2559) - Westreich (1929), 0-1, **630** points
 Melkumyan (2673) - Kraus (2190), 0-1, **483** points
 Kochavi (1607) - Chubar (2066), 1-0, **459** points
 Lindstaedt (1446) - Bruening (1891), 1-0, **445** points
 Kali (2089) - Barnaure (2508), 1-0, **419** points
 Potkin (2605) - Kraus (2190), 0-1, **415** points
 Manakova (2318) - Iliagiev (1926), 0-1, **392** points
 Amellal (1953) - Bellahcene (2436), 1-0, **383** points
 Bengherabi (2145) - Haddouche (2524), 1-0, **379** points
 Kali (2089) - Kanmazalp (2457), 1-0, **368** points

Average gap: 437; White won 6 games, Black won 4 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) will be appreciated.

Puzzle section

(4) Shimanov, A(2594)-Khismatullin, D(2653)

European Championship, 2015.03.03

1... -+



(5) Kryvoruchko, Y(2692)-Dvirnyy, D(2533)

European Championship, 2015.03.03

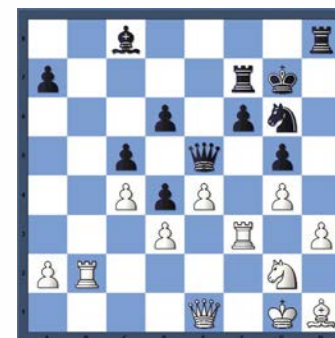
1. +-



(6) Mikhalevski, V(2559)-Grachev, B(2670)

European Championship, 2015.03.03

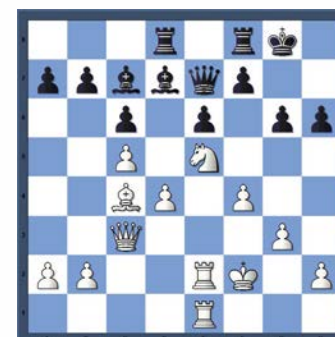
1... -+



(7) Damaso, R(2451)-Bok, B(2587)

European Championship, 2015.03.03

1. +-



(8) Mchedlishvili, M(2586)-Kuzubov, Y(2667)

European Championship, 2015.03.04

1. =



(9) Vovk, Y(2588)-Dreev, A(2643)

European Championship, 2015.03.05

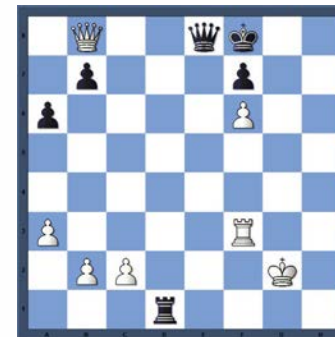
1. +-



(10) Bartel, M(2631)-Nepomniachtchi, I(2714)

European Championship, 2015.03.08

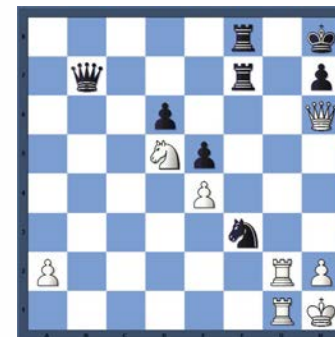
1. +-



(11) Eljanov, P(2727)-Romanov, E(2625)

European Championship, 2015.03.08

1. +-



(12) Melkumyan, H(2673)-Abasov, N(2523)

European Championship, 2015.03.08

1. +-



(13) Rombaldoni, A(2488)-Andriasian, Z(2612)

European Championship, 2015.03.08

1. +-



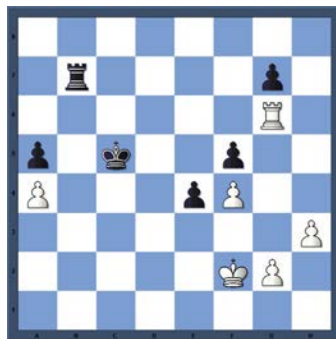
Endgame section

(14) Akopian, Vladimir (2660)
- Ipatov, Alexander (2592)

16th ch-EUR Indiv 2015(11.17),
2015.03.08



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



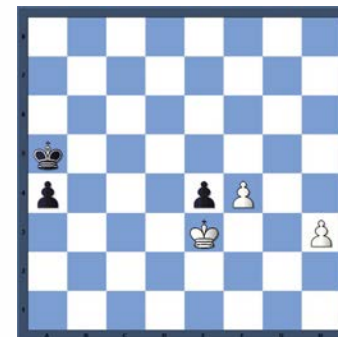
In the current endgame Black is clearly better, even if there are equal pawns on the board. The strong e4 pawn, the weak a4 pawn as well as a very active king give Black good chances for the full point.

51...♔b4! Logical and strong. Getting a passed pawn can't be wrong.

52.g4! An excellent decision by Akopian. White is not only exchanging a pawn, but also making the e4 pawn a weakness. [52.♖g5 52...♖f7 and White will still need to play g4 sooner or later.]

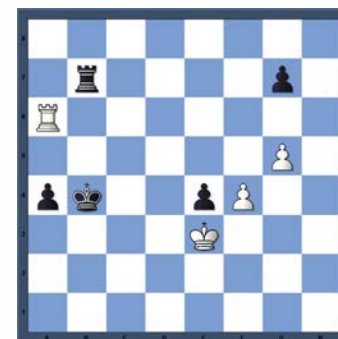
52...fxg4 What else to do?! [To take the pawn on a4 on the spot just leads to a draw: 52...♔xa4 53.gxf5 ♔b3 The a-pawn

is still very strong, but White is in time to save the game. (The idea of being tricky and try to cover the a-file with a rook is not helping much: 53...♔b4 54.f6! White is securing a passed f-pawn. 54...gxf6 55.♖xf6 a4 56.♖a6 ♖b5 57.♔e3 ♖a5 58.♖xa5 ♔xa5



59.f5 and we are entering a drawish queen endgame. 59...a3 60.f6 a2 61.f7 a1=♖ 62.f8=♖ with a draw.) 54.f6! It is very important for White to get rid of the g7 pawn. 54...gxf6 55.♖xf6 a4 56.♖a6 a3 57.♔e3 and the passed f-pawn secures the draw.]

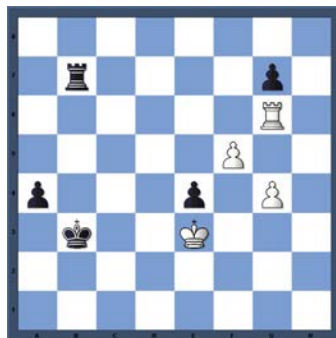
53.hxg4 ♔xa4 54.♔e3 This is not the most exact play, but still enough to make a draw. [White could have won a tempo by first playing 54.♖a6! not allowing Black to immediately play Kb3-a4. 54...♔b4 55.g5 a4 56.♔e3



56...a3 Black doesn't have anything better than trying to push

the a-pawn as far as possible. 57.f5 ♔b3 58.f6 Not giving Black any chance for some tricks. 58...gxf6 59.gxf6 a2 60.♔xe4 and as we can see the game ends in a clear draw: 60...♔b2 61.♔f5 a1=♔ 62.♖xa1 ♔xa1 63.♔e6]

54...♔b3 55.f5 a4

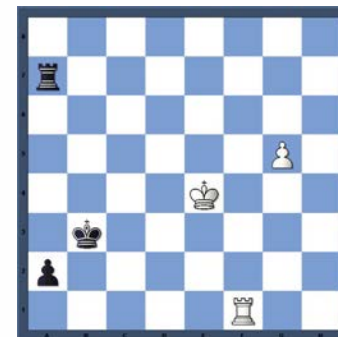


56.f6? What a mistake by Akopian! [56.♖a6 would still lead to a draw. 56...a3 57.g5 a2 58.f6 gxf6 (No better is 58...g6 59.♔xe4 ♔b2 60.♔e5 and Black can even lose the game!! 60...a1=♔ 61.♖xa1 ♔xa1 62.♔e6 and White is winning because Black cannot do anything against the upcoming f7 move!) 59.gxf6 ♖f7 Now all White needs to do is to check the black king. 60.♖b6+ ♔c2 61.♖c6+ ♔b2 62.♖b6+ with a draw.]

56...gxf6 57.♖xf6 a3 Now White is just not in time!

58.g5 ♖a7! The winning move! [A mistake would be to rush with 58...a2? 59.♖a6 ♖b5 Black is trying to attack the g5 pawn. 60.g6 ♖g5 61.♖b6+ (61.♔xe4? of course loses to 61...♖xg6) 61...♔c2 62.♖c6+ ♔b2 63.♖b6+ with a draw again.]

59.♖b6+ [This is probably what Akopian missed. 59.♔xe4 59...a2 60.♖f1 and it seems like the position is a draw, but in fact Black is winning in 1 move!



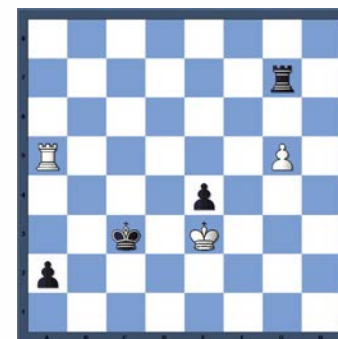
60...♖g7! It is funny, but White has no ways of defending the g5 pawn, except by crossing the f-file with his king. 61.♔f5 ♖f7+ and the f1 rook is getting lost.]

59...♔c4 60.♖b1 White manages to stop the a-pawn, but the position is already lost.

60...♖g7 The most precise move. Black's idea is that in case the white king goes to f4, Black has e3.

61.♖c1+ ♔b3 62.♖b1+ ♔c3 63.♖c1+ ♔b2 64.♖c5 White is trying the already known idea of checking on the b-file and this would work in case the white rook was placed a bit more far than on the 5th rank, but it is not the case because the g5 pawn needs to be protected.

64...a2 65.♖b5+ ♔c3 66.♖a5



66...♔b3 and White cannot continue checking the black king with Rb5 because of Ka4.

67.♔f4 e3 and the e-pawn plays its key role.

68.♖b5+ [68.♔xe3 68...♖xg5 69.♖xg5 a1=♔ and we are entering a theoretically winning position.]

68...♔a4 and there are no more checks...

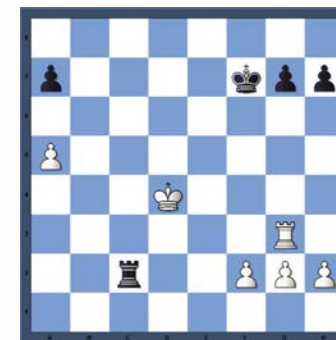
69.♖b8 ♖a7 A sad end for White to lose a drawn position, but once again we could see how complicated rook endgames are and that it is very easy to miss a move which could totally change the evaluation of the position. **0-1**

**(15) Sjugirov, Sanan (2678)
- Lupulescu, Constantin (2626)**

European Championship,
2015.03.05



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



We are in the last move of the time trouble. White is a pawn up, but in rook endgames it is often not enough to win the game, especially when the defensive side has such an active rook like the one on c2!

40.♖b3 A very tricky move to conclude the time pressure. White already had the forthcoming pawn endgame in mind and he keeps the calculation part for after the 40th move, when he receives the extra time... [40.♖f3+ 40...♔e6 White cannot make progress. The rook is passively defending the pawns on the second rank and Black is going to play Ra3 next, restoring the material balance.]

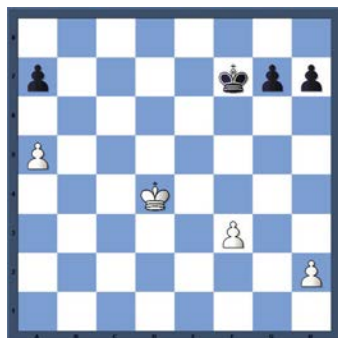
40...♖xf2 [Black could have avoided all the complications by starting with 40...♔f6!? and only after 41.♖b7 (41.♔e3 41...♖c5 forces the white rook to go into passive defense from a3 after which he does not retain any more winning chances...) 41...♖xf2 42.♖xa7 ♖xg2



Eliminating the queenside. This kind of endgames are rather risky for White. Black has enough time to collect the h2 pawn and the rook returns behind the a-pawn. Black starts to push his own pawns afterwards and if White works hard to promote his passer with the support of his king Black will sacrifice his rook at some point and promotes his own pawns because the white king gets too far from them...

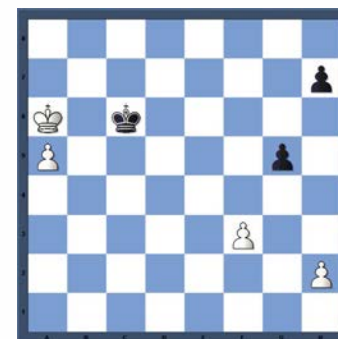
41. Rf3+!? This was the idea of the young Russian GM. He hopes that the more active position of his king (being close to the a7 pawn) will yield him adequate winning chances.

41... Rxf3 42. gxf3 This kind of pawn endgames require poor calculations. Black has numerous ways to continue the game, but some of them lead to a draw and some are losing. Surprisingly the Romanian GM fails to save the game...



42... Ke6 Naturally, Black brings his king closer.

43. Kc5 Kd7?! The first inaccuracy, although the game remains a draw. Black has blocked the way to the a7 pawn and he is in time to protect it against Kb5-a6 with Kc7-b8, but a serious drawback is that he gave up the d5 square from where White can decide later to go towards the queenside or the kingside... [The easiest draw was 43...g5 44. Kc6 and basically all moves are leading to a draw now. The point is that when the white king collects the a-pawn, the black king must squeeze it to the corner from where it cannot escape... One possible move is 44...a6 45. Kb6 Kd6 46. Kxa6 Kc6!]



Locking the king to the a-file from where it cannot escape, therefore the draw is inevitable... 47. Ka7 Kc7 48. a6 h5 49. h3 h4 50. Ka8 Kc8 51. Ka7 Kc7=; 43...Ke5 is the same as 43...g5. 44. Kc6 g5 (Black is too slow with 44...Kf4?? 45. Kb7 The a-pawn is too far advanced, White wins the race with many tempi...) 45. Kb7 Kd6! Changing the direction again! 46. Kxa7 Kc7= with the same draw as in the 43...g5 line.]

44. Kd5! Black most probably forgot about this move and he collapsed right away. He is already facing a difficult calculation problem... [44. Kb5 44...Kc7 45. Ka6 Kb8= is safe for Black. Even if he gets into zugzwang, he can wait with Ka8...]

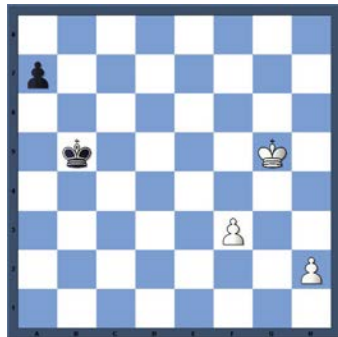
44... Kc7?? The losing mistake, Black fails by one tempo... Let us examine the alternatives. [Waiting with 44...Ke7 was

the best, knowing the fact that losing the a-pawn is not really a threat... 45.♔e5 (45.♔c6 45...g5 46.♔b7 ♔d6 47.♔xa7 ♔c7 is a draw as we already know.) 45...♔d7 46.f4 ♔e7 47.f5 a6 48.♔d5 ♔d7= Black holds the draw by keeping the opposition!; 44...g5? loses after 45.♔e5 ♔c6 46.♔f6 ♔b5 (46...h6 transposes to the game.) 47.♔xg5 White promotes the h-pawn faster.; 44...g6 is another way to hold the draw! Black wins a very important tempo in the pawn race. In order to create a passed pawn White must capture both kingside pawns, while with the pawn on g7 it is enough to take that pawn and he can already advance the f-pawn... 45.f4 ♔c7 46.♔e6 ♔c6 47.♔f6 ♔b5 48.♔g7 ♔xa5 49.♔xh7 ♔b5 50.♔xg6 a5 51.f5 a4 52.f6 a3 53.f7 a2 54.f8=♔ a1=♔ Black will suffer for at least 50 more moves, but with correct defense the game is drawn...]

45.♔e6 ♔b7 46.♔f7 g5 [46...♔a6 is too slow. 47.♔xg7 ♔xa5 48.f4+- Black loses the decisive tempo by freeing the path for the a-pawn...; 46...g6 47.♔g7 ♔a6 48.♔xh7 ♔xa5 49.♔xg6+- transposes to the game...]

47.♔f6 h6 [47...♔a6 48.♔xg5 ♔xa5 49.f4+-]

48.♔g6 ♔a6 49.♔xh6 ♔xa5 50.♔xg5 ♔b5



51.h4! Perhaps Lupulescu forgot about this move, he thought in his pre-calculations that White has to push his f-pawn

when they promote at the same time... [However the point is that after 51.h4 51...a5 52.h5 a4 53.h6 a3 54.h7 a2 55.h8=♔+- White promotes first and at the same time he controls the a1 square.] **1-0**

Chess and the City. La Dolce Vita



WGM Elisabeth Paetz
Best rating: 2493

As I mentioned at the end of my previous newsletter, the Women's World Championship is going to start soon. Therefore, careful preparation is naturally needed, chess wise as well as emotionally. After some extensive chess and sports preparation I decided to spend my last week of "freedom" in my new (since 2012) home city of Rome. Rome is a wonderful, historic city with many sights, great food and sunny weather. This set up is both tempting and ideal, before facing a heart-beating, nervous, lottery-like a knock out system.



In my favorite restaurant "L'Archetto"

However, as a German moving to Italy, this bears several risks, which a true punctual German like myself may easily underestimate. And when we speak about punctuality we get to one of the most crucial aspects about living with Italians: punctuality in Italian "puntualità" is a word which does not seem to exist with many Italian people, or it has a totally different definition. Puntualita could mean everything up to 1-2 hours delay. It took my quite a while to learn this definition with my dearest Italian boyfriend! After a while I realized that everything starting in 20 minutes or more shall be multiplied by three, and anything sooner than that could be delayed by a multiple of 4 or 5. Once I understood this, I realised that there was no longer any point in being upset or fighting over it. But of course, this being Italy, there are other frustrations too. "Bureau crazy" is more appropriate than "bureaucracy" as, in Italy, it is a process which requires nerves, patience and the ability to just accept it. Just yesterday I encountered "bureaucrazy" at its finest while trying to change foreign currency in the city centre.

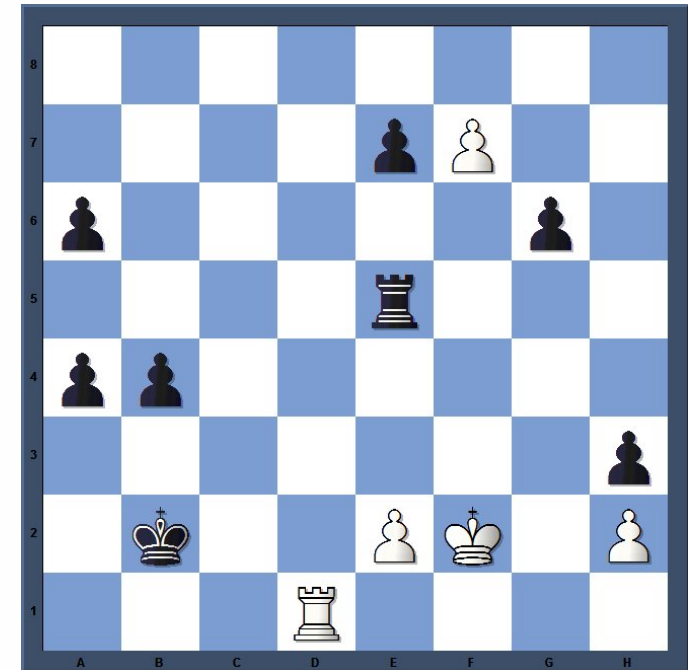
In Germany, for instance, you can enter any bank of your choice and fix this issue in less than 5 min. In Italy you a) need a lot of time to empty your pockets and get rid of all the metal, and b) cannot just change money at any bank you like, but instead only the one you are registered with. So, being a foreigner, the bank option is therefore already lost, since you usually don't like the idea of putting your money in an account abroad. The relief of seeing an exchange office was music to my ear... except... of course I should have been aware of the Italian method of calculation and its surprising drawbacks. The exchange office usually requires a commission of approx.5 percent, which sounded, looking at the window from outside, not that terrible. With great hope and enthusiasm I finally entered the office. But, before

handing over my 140 pounds I decided to ask how much Euros I may expect in exchange. According to my calculation it should be about 140 pounds x 1,3 which is about 180 Euros. The answer of the guy at the office desk was slightly different, and he finally came up with 147 Euros. I just couldn't believe my ears, try as I might to figure out his rate or imagine a dramatic increase on the Euro stock market! Did he really believe I was that dumb? Holding back my anger, I ran out of the office. Even today I am still wondering how they could get away with that sort of robbery! Of course, eventually I must confess that these frustrations make me laugh in a positive way, and it is actually nice to get away from a too-strict, disciplined and boring country like Germany, when compared to a lively and hot tempered one such as this. Italy is a lovely place and always worth a visit. For me it is the very best way to prepare for a chess tournament as you've got everything you may be longing for : warmth, excellent food and very friendly people.

Surprise section / study

(16) Gurgienidze

1. =



Solutions

(17) Iljiushenok, I(2450)-Eljanov, P(2727)

European Championship, 2015.02.24



23. ♖g7!! fxe5 [23... ♖xg7 24. exf6+ ♗xf6 25. ♕xc7+-; 23... ♕xe5 24. ♕h6 ♕e4 25. ♘f5+-]

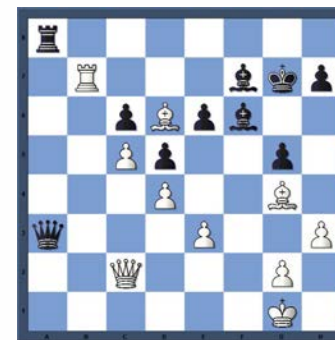
24. ♕h6 ♖xf1+ 25. ♖xf1 ♗b5+ [25... ♕c4+ 26. ♖g1 ♕d3 27. ♖xe7+-]

26. ♖g1? [26. ♖e1!! 26... ♗h4+ (26... ♗d3 27. ♘xe6 ♕b6 28. ♖xh7+ ♗xh7 29. ♕g7#) 27. ♕xh4! ♕xg7 (27... ♖xg7 28. ♘xe6+-) 28. ♕xd8+ ♕g8 29. ♕xg8+ ♖xg8 30. ♘xb5 axb5 31. ♖f2+-]

26... ♗d3 27. ♘xe6 ♕b6+ 28. ♖h1 ♗f8! 29. ♕f6 ♕xe6!↗

(18) Potkin, V(2605)-Vaisman, M(2136)

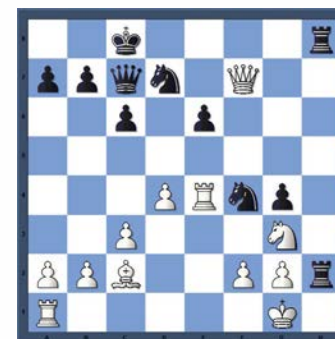
European Championship, 2015.02.24



34. ♖xf7+! 1-0 [34. ♖xf7+ 34... ♖xf7 35. ♕xh7+ ♗g7 36. ♗h5+ ♖f6 37. ♕g6#]

(19) Berenboym, I(2112)-Hovhanissyan, R(2592)

European Championship, 2015.02.24



22... ♗e2+!! 23. ♖xe2 ♖h1+!! 0-1 [23... ♖h1+ 24. ♘xh1 ♕h2+ 25. ♖f1 ♕xh1#]

(20) Navara, D(2735)-Parligras, M(2583)

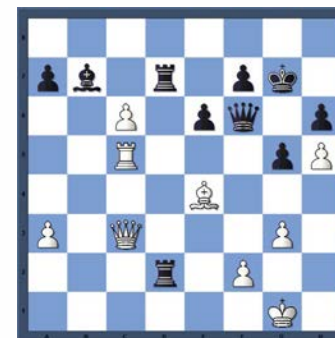
European Championship, 2015.02.25



19. ♖f5+! exf5 20. ♖xe7 ♘xe7 21. ♚f6+ ♘e8 22. ♚xh8+ ♕f8
23. g6+—

(22) Moiseenko, A(2695)-Huzman, A(2582)

European Championship, 2015.02.26



32. ♖xg5+! 1-0 [32. ♖xg5+ 32...hxg5 33.h6+!+—]

(21) Cheparinov, I(2681)-Forster, R(2446)

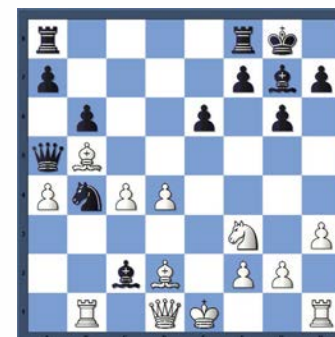
European Championship, 2015.02.25



26. ♖xc7! b5 [26... ♚xc7 27. ♚xd4+ ♘g8 28. ♕xd6+—]
27. ♖xg7 bxa4 28. ♖d7+—

(23) Nisipeanu, D(2654)-Birnbom, N(2347)

European Championship, 2015.02.26



18. ♕xb4! ♕xd1 19. ♘xd1!+— [19. ♕xa5? 19... ♕xf3]

(24) Khairullin, I(2629)-Kjartansson, G(2484)

European Championship, 2015.02.27



19. ♘a5! 1-0 [19. ♘a5 19... ♙xa5 20. ♙xe6+ ♖f7 (20... ♔h7 21. ♙xe7+-) 21. ♘h5!+-]

(26) Martynov, P(2410)-Kovalenko, I(2656)

Cappelle la Grande Open, 2015.02.28



20... ♖xg2+! 21. ♙xg2 ♜f4+! 0-1 [21... ♜f4+ 22. exf4 ♙xc6+-]

(25) Bartel, M(2631)-Ducarmon, Q(2482)

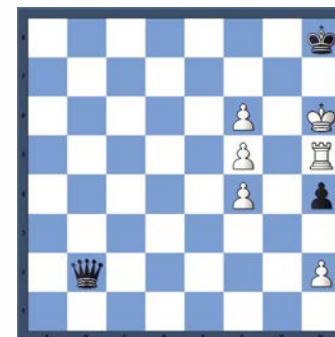
European Championship, 2015.03.01



23. ♜xf7! ♙h5 [23... ♖xf7 24. ♙xa8+-; 23... ♜e7 24. ♜h6+ ♙h8 25. ♙xa8! ♖xa8 26. ♜xg4+-]

24. ♜d8+ 1-0 [24. ♜d8+ 24... ♔h8 25. ♙xa8+-]

(27) Rumiantsev



1. ♙g6+ ♙g8 2. f7+ ♙f8 3. ♖h8+!! ♙xh8 4. f6 h3 5. f5 ♙h4=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 160

20th of March 2015

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Editorial Preface

The surprise winner of the Reykjavik is Erwin l'Ami, who started with an amazing 8.5/9 and won the tournament with a round to spare. This result is clearly the biggest success in his career so far. The 2nd-3rd places were shared by Eljanov and Libiszewski, both with the very good score of 8/10. The results of Mamedyarov, who finished on "only" 7.5/10, and Navara, who finished on 7/10, were both very big surprises. Both players could clearly not be happy about it.

The Women World Cup has begun with all the top females participating, with the notable exception of Hou Yifan.

Most of the favorites have made it to the 2nd round, but there were a few surprises as well. A lot of the matches were decided in the tie-breaks where most of the higher rated players showed better nerves.

Clearly the next matches are going to be even more exciting and not even a single match seems to have a huge favorite.

In the German Bundesliga the club of OSG Baden-Baden is very close to win the 10th consecutive title, as they already have a 2-point advantage over Bremen with just 2 rounds to go.

As usual we hope you enjoy this week's newsletter!

The three lucky winners who will get a chance to play a 2 game blitz match against GM Arkadij Naiditsch are Top GM Secrets subscribers Giovanni Di Girolamo, Sándor Balogh and Walther Leitzke. Congratulations!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) Svidler, Peter (2729)

- Ragger, Markus (2661) [C65]

BL 1415 SG Solingen - OSG Baden
Baden(13.1), 2015.03.15



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

After a disappointing result at the Grand Prix, Peter Svidler is back with a great win against the Austrian Nr1. In a very popular line of the Berlin, Svidler shows great preparation and a very interesting piece sacrifice. The position actually looks very complicated, but under big pressure Black makes a mistake with 22...Nd5? which basically decides the game.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 4.d3 This is one of the main moves besides 4.0-0, but Black actually has a very decent score against it. I can only recall Magnus Carlsen still showing excellent results with White.

4...♙c5 5.c3 avoiding the Nd4 line. [5.0-0 5...♘d4 is the other main line which is counted as very close to equal.]

5...0-0 6.0-0 d6



7.♘bd2 White is preparing 3 different ideas: 1) to play Re1-Nf1-Ng3 2) to play d4 at some point 3) to play b4 followed by Nc4 and exchange the black bishop.

7...♘e7 Ragger also shows that he is well-prepared and goes for what is currently the most solid line. Black's idea is simple, to play Ng6 and then d5 somewhere. The idea of playing c6 followed by Bb6-Bc7 and d5 is quite typical.

8.d4 exd4 9.cxd4 ♙b6 Now White should try to be as solid as possible and Black starts to play against the center.

10.♖e1 Another very logical move. Black often goes for the d5 push and it is helpful to have the rook on e1.

10...♙g4 11.h3 ♙h5 Bxd4 can sometimes be a threat and White can also not play 12.Nf1-Ng3 because of 12...Bxf3 13. Qxf3 and Bxd4.

12.♞b3 White is leaving the pin, but of course the question is what White wants to do next?! Could he want to push e5 or maybe just play Nc4 with idea of playing Nxb6?

12...d5 Black picks the most direct reply. I think another option could be to play 12...Bg6 or 12...Nc6 first.

13.e5 ♘d7 It all looks a bit passive for Black, but in fact the position is very unclear. Black wants to play c5 next and then maybe Nc6 and get great play against the white center.

14.a4!? Svidler played this move very quickly, so I think it must still be his preparation and indeed a move like a4 seems to be at least very interesting! The threat is simply to play a5 next.

14...a6 This is clearly the main reply. [14...c5? 15.a5 and White has a big advantage since Black can't take the a5 pawn because of Bxd7.]

15.♠d3 This is clearly the best place for the bishop, but what is White planning to do after c5?!

15...c5



16.g4!? This very interesting piece sacrifice was clearly Svidler's idea, which started with 14.a4!?. Now things are getting very complicated.

16...c4 I would have done the same. A piece is a piece... [In case of 16...♠g6 17.♠xg6 hxg6 White has the very strong 18.♠g5! with the double idea of playing Qg3-Qh4 and e6. Black's position looks very dangerous.]

17.♠xc4 White still follows his plan. [I think that after 17.♠a3 17...cxd3 18.gxh5 Black seems to get active play with 18...♠c6 19.♠xd3 ♠c8 with the idea of Nb4-Nc2. I think the position is very unclear.]

17...dxc4 18.♠xc4 Black is a piece up for just 2 pawns, but his pieces are quite disorganized.

18...♠g6 Of course Black needs to save his piece.



19.♠g5! A great move which is a must! If White didn't have it, I guess Black would just be better. Now the threat is simple, to win the piece with Nxb6 and Bxe7. Black also needs to pay attention to the fact that White can push e6 at any moment!

19...♠a7 Probably the best move, as other ways of defending seem to be worse.

20.♠a3 White forces Black to open his whole position. [20.♠d6!? also looks very interesting. 20...♠b8 Black has other choices, but we just take a look at one line. 21.e6 seems to be most direct, but White also has many other silent moves, as for example 21.a5!?. 21...♠f6 22.exf7+ ♠xf7 Now the line is pretty forced. 23.♠xf7 ♠xf7 24.♠e5 ♠d5 25.♠xd5 ♠exd5 26.♠xf7 ♠xf7 and probably we could evaluate this endgame as close to equal.]

20...f6 The only move to defend the knight on e7. [20...♠e8 21.♠d6 and White is just winning.]

21.exf6 gxf6 22.♠h6 with a double attack against the f8 rook and the knight on e7.



22...Nxd5?! This logical move probably costs Black the game. [Black should have tried the more strange-looking 22...Nc6 but if we think from a general point of view, this move is not that hard to find, since Black has 2 pieces for a rook, which means that the 2 pieces should attack something of White and with this move we attack the d4 pawn. 23. Qxf8 Nxf8 24. Nd6 and I still believe that Black's position is at least very dangerous, but things are objectively unclear after forexample 24...Kd7 with Rd8 next.]

23. Nd6! White doesn't take back the exchange on f8, but threatens a much more unpleasant move, as after Nxb7 or Qb3 the rook from f8 can still not move anywhere.

23...Kb6?! Black aims to enter an endgame, but it is just lost! [23...Kb8 doesn't help, because for example 24. Nh4!? seems to give White a clear advantage.; But maybe Black should have tried a crazy move like 23...a5!? with the idea of playing N7b6 next and try to keep the knight's position on d5 safe. White is better here, but the position would remain complicated.]

24. a5 This move is too easy to miss.

24...Kb4 25. Kxb4 Nxb4 and here comes the strong

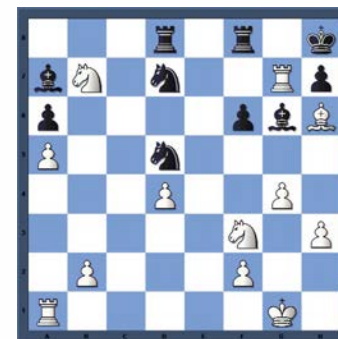
26. Re7! Black's problem is still the very bad coordination of his pieces and we should not forget that even after taking the

rook on f8 White would have a small material advantage.

26...Kad8 27. Nxb7 White already has 3 pawns and both black rooks are hanging. The game is coming to an end...

27...Nd5 A strong knight on d5 is not enough to hold things together.

28. Rg7+ Kh8 In an already winning position, Svidler continues playing great moves.



29. Rxc1! Because Black is still paralyzed, White brings the last piece into the game.

29...Rg8 30. Nxd8 and finally it is time to collect some material.

30...Rxc7 31. Qxg7+ Kxg7 32. Nc6 The bishop on a7 can't be defended so Black has nothing left but to resign. A great game by Svidler! Amazing preparation followed by very nice play and an accurate finish. This is what a perfect win looks like! :)

1-0

**(2) Motylev, Alexander (2680)
- Balogh, Csaba (2658) [A20]**Schachbundesliga,
2015.03.15GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

I managed to win a nice game in the German Bundesliga.

1.c4 A surprise t in the first move. My opponent is a huge theoretician and plays only 1. e4, probably this was the first time in his life when he tried the English opening. The reason should be that in the last two games I lost with Black my opponents were playing 1.c4.

1...e5 2.g3 ♘f6 3.♙g2 c6 4.d4 [4.♘f3 is the other main line.]

4...♙b4+



5.♘c3!? A tricky sideline. This move has always worried me a lot despite having been played only in a few games, therefore I dedicated serious attention to it in my earlier preparations. [Usually the games continue with 5.♙d2 5...♙xd2+ 6.♙xd2 and here Black can choose between 6...d6 (or 6...e4)]

5...♙a5 6.♘f3 The novelty of the game. It is quite rare to see one in the 6th move nowadays. [I mainly focused on the following line: 6.dxe5 6...♙xc3+ 7.bxc3 ♙xc3+ 8.♙d2 ♙xe5 where White has sacrificed a pawn, but he might get very dangerous compensation on the dark squares.]

6...e4 7.♘d2 d5 I was happy that my opponent started to think after this most logical move... [White had only prepared for the greedy 7...♙xc3 8.bxc3 ♙xc3 but he gets more than enough compensation after 9.♙b1 The point is that 9...♙xd4? is wrong because of (9...d5) 10.♙b2 ♙d6 11.♙xf6 ♙xf6 12.♘xe4±]

8.♙c2 White was already afraid of taking twice on c3.

8...O-O 9.O-O ♙g4 It was difficult to judge where the light squared bishop should develop. Be6 and Bf5 also had their points, but I thought it could be annoying to put pressure on the e2 pawn. I thought that White was going to undermine the e4 pawn anyway with f3, but even then the bishop stands well on g4.

10.f3 [10.♘b3 would have been met by 10...♙a6! forcing the decision in the center and keeping an eye on the e2 pawn.]

10...exf3 11.♘xf3 An ambitious, but risky recapture. Ambitious because White would like to grab the initiative by playing quickly Ne5 and risky because if Black manages to parry the direct threats, White might end up with a backward e2 weakness. [Objectively it was better to play 11.exf3 11...♙h5 12.♘b3 ♙a6 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.♙f4 ♘bd7= with a balanced game.]



11...♘bd7! Preventing Ne5 with a useful developing move. [11...dxc4 Giving up the initiative for a pawn was not recommended in view of 12.♘e5 (12.e4 followed by e5 is also possible.) 12...♙e6 13.♘e4 ♘xe4 14.♙xe4 White wins back the pawn and keeps some edge.]

12.cxd5 cxd5 13.h3 [13.♘e5 suggested itself to me, but it did not work directly because of 13...♘xe5 14.dxe5 ♙c5+! Black pins the c3 knight with tempo. 15.♙h1 ♘e4 and Black is fine. Giving up the g2 bishop, leaving the white king so exposed, should not come into consideration.]

13...♙h5 I wanted to keep the pawn structure and consolidate the e4 square with Bg6. [13...♙xf3!? was also very promising. It is illogical to give up the two bishops and strengthen the pawn formation, but the move has a direct point... 14.exf3 ♖ac8 15.♙d2 ♙b6 16.♙e3 (16.♙d3 16...♘e5!) 16...♘e5! and Nc4 is coming next, a move that is not easy to deal with.]

14.♘h4 This is a standard idea in many openings. White would like to grab the bishop pair, but playing g4 is another weakening in front of the king, just as 13.h3 was in the previous move.

14...♖fe8! Fortunately there was time for this improving move. The final goal is to install a knight to e4 and being able

to take back with a piece.

15.g4 ♙g6 16.♘xg6 hxg6 17.♙d2 Threatening to play g5, winning the d5 pawn. [The direct point was 17.g5 runs into the intermediate move 17...♙xc3! after which Black manages to put his knight to e4! 18.bxc3 (18.♙xc3 18...♙xc3 19.bxc3 ♘e4+; 18.gxf6? 18...♙xd4+) 18...♘e4+]]

17...♙b6 Leaving from the pin and provoking another weakening.

18.e3 [There was a small tactical trick that White could not defend the d4 pawn with 18.♙d3 because of 18...♘e5!]

18...♖ac8 Bringing all the pieces into the game. [18...♙xc3 was also good. 19.♙xc3 (19.bxc3 19...♘e4) 19...♘e4 20.♙xe4 ♖xe4 also with an undisputable advantage because of the exposed king and the good knight versus the bad bishop.]

19.♙b3 ♙xc3 20.♙xc3 [20.bxc3 was even worse. The holes on e4 and c4 are going to be occupied by the knights very soon... 20...♙d6! freeing the b6 square for the knight. 21.♙xb7? loses the queen after 21...♖b8 22.♙xa7 ♖a8 23.♙b7 ♖eb8]



20...♙c6! A very important move to keep the queens on the board, which makes the white king more vulnerable and at the same time Black has protected his d5 pawn and prepares

to bring his other knight to b6-c4. [20...♖xe3 would have spoiled the advantage because of 21.g5! ♖xb3 (21...♗e4 22.♖xd5) 22.axb3 ♗e4 23.♖xa7! White restores the material balance and he equalizes.]

21.♗a5!? A clever positional move. White prevents the Nb6-c4 plan and tries to provoke the b6 move, which would deprive Black from his plan of improving the knight. [21.♖ac1 21...♗b6+]]

21...♖a6! Simple and strong! Black needs the b6 square for his knight, therefore he sends away the bishop...

22.♗b4 ♗b6 The d5 pawn is safely protected and the knights are ready to occupy their ideal outposts.

23.♖ac1 ♖xc1 24.♖xc1 ♗c4 A very nice position. I am big fan of the two bishops, but in this particular case, they are clearly dominated by the knights on e4 and c4!

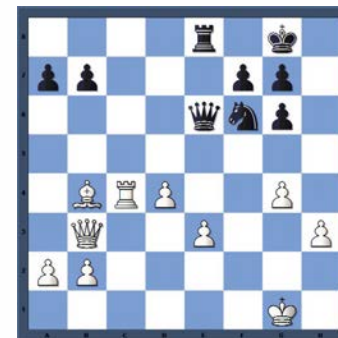
25.♗f1 White aims to get rid of one of the knights, but he leaves his king alone without his main defender.



25...♖e6! A positional pawn sacrifice! Black centralizes his queen and forces the trade of the f1 bishop after which the g1 king becomes heavily vulnerable.

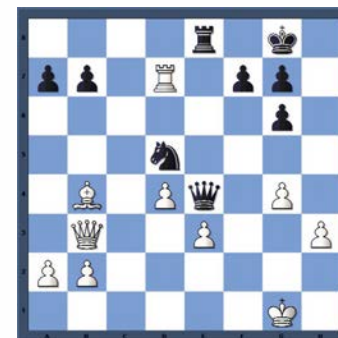
26.♗xc4 dxc4 27.♖xc4 A critical position. Black has various promising options, but only one of them leads to a clear

advantage...



27...♖e4! with the idea of playing Qf3! [27...♗e4 also looked good with the intention of playing either Ng5 or Qf6, but White has the only move 28.♖c1! followed by Rf1 and he is alive.; 27...♗d5 also looked very strong, but White survives after the following tactical blow: 28.♖c5! ♗xb4 29.♖e5! An intermediate move to avoid the loss of the e3 pawn! 29...♖c6 30.♖xb4=; 27...♖d5 28.♖c7 forces the trade of the queens because of the f7 pawn.]

28.♖c7 ♖e6 [28...♗d5 was actually also winning, but it required much more calculation than the text move. 29.♖d7



29...♖f3! is the point and the attack leads to mate with the queen and the rook. 30.♖xd5 (30.♖xd5 30...♖g3+ 31.♗f1 ♖xe3+) 30...♖xe3+ 31.♗g2 ♖e2+ 32.♗g1 (32.♗g3 32...♖e3+

33. ♔h4 ♚f2+ 34. ♔g5 ♚f6#) 32... ♚d1+ 33. ♔h2 ♚e2+ White is forced to sacrifice his queen with Qg2, but of course it is also hopeless... 34. ♔g3 ♚g1+ 35. ♔h4 ♚f2+ 36. ♔g5 ♚f6#]

29. ♙e1 White desperately tries to bring a defender, but it is too late...

29... ♘d5 30. ♚c8+ ♔h7 31. ♙f2 Allowing Nxe3 would have been the end of the game.

31... ♚f3! Refreshing the Nxe3 threat.

32. ♚c2 [32. ♚xb7 32... ♚f6!—+; The best practical chance was 32.e4 32... ♚xe4 33. ♚xb7 but is also loses after (33. ♚g3 33...g5—+) 33... ♚b1+! 34. ♔g2 (34. ♔h2 34... ♚e2—+) 34... ♘f4+ 35. ♔g3 g5! 36. ♚a8 ♚d3+ 37. ♚f3 ♚f1—+ White gets mated.]

32... ♘xe3 33. ♙xe3 ♚xe3 34. ♚f2 ♚d1+ White resigned as he loses his queen after Re1 or Re2 in the next move. **0-1**

David vs. Goliath



Peter Zhdanov
Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this entertaining column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week has brought 32 upsets, providing us plenty of chess content to enjoy.

The number of moves ranges from 22 in Ingason (1880) - Babijczuk (1549), 0-1 to 84 in Baldvinsson (1945) - Niemann (2275), 1-0. The highest-profile loss was FM Bisby (2321) - GM Movsesian (2665), 1-0.

How did White defeat the ex-top 10 super GM?



White to move

A special respect goes to Henrik Carlsen (1986), Magnus Carlsen's father, who defeated FM Dagur Ragnarsson (2347) at Reykjavik Open. Bottom line: don't mess with the Carlsens!

Top-10:

Moller (1806) - Foisor (2279), 1-0, [473](#) points
 Kruglyak (1775) - Mai (1320), 0-1, [455](#) points
 Ragnarsson (1497) - Klausen (1937), 1-0, [440](#) points
 Sigurdsson (1767) - Kristjansson (1335), 0-1, [432](#) points
 Starosciak (1304) - Steingrimsson (1720), 1-0, [416](#) points
 Valdimarsson (1889) - Wahlbom (2278), 1-0, [389](#) points
 Le (2025) - Pham Chuong (2397), 1-0, [372](#) points
 Valtysson (1974) - Loos (2337), 1-0, [363](#) points
 Carlsen (1986) - Ragnarsson (2347), 1-0, [361](#) points
 Bisby (2321) - Movsesian (2665), 1-0, [344](#) points

Average gap: 405; White won 8 games, Black won 2 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

Solution of Bisby-Movsesian: The encounter lasted only two more moves after 30.Nd5! Ra5 31.Bf6 (31.Ne7+ is mate in 5, but the game continuation is good enough as well) 1-0

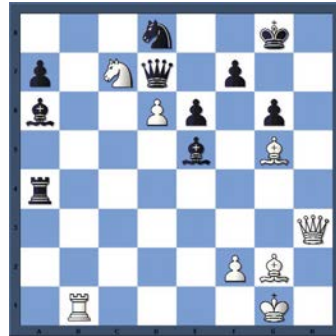
If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) will be appreciated.

Puzzle section

(3) Bisby, D(2321)-Movsesian, S(2665)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.11

1. +-



(4) Ptacnikova, L(2242)-Steingrimsson, H(2530)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.11

1... -+



(5) Hansen, E(2566)-Tjomsland, S(2300)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.11

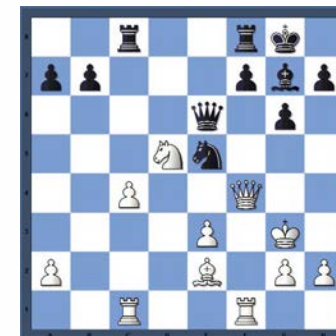
1. +-



(6) Kristinsson, J(2251)-Gao Rui(2533)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.11

1... -+



(7) Navara, D(2736)-Kristjansson, S(2482)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.12

1. +-



(8) Grandelius, N(2603)-Pulvett, D(2434)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.12

1. +-



(9) Sarkar, J(2376)-Rasmussen, A(2532)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.13

1. +-



(10) Christiansen, J(2351)-Rombaldoni, A(2488)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.16

1. +-



(11) Igonin, T(2332)-Aleksandrov, A(2603)

Agzamov memorial, 2015.03.13

1... -+



(12) Vocaturo, D(2590)-Bischoff, K(2504)

German league, 2015.03.15

1. +-



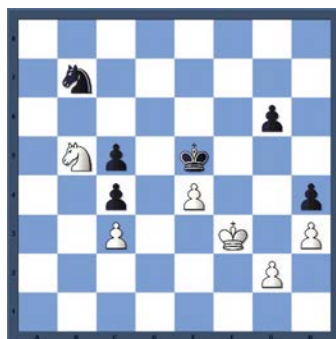
Endgame section

(13) Quesada Perez, Yuniesky (2637)
- Rajdeep, Sarkar (2268)

Kolkata Open,
2015.03.16



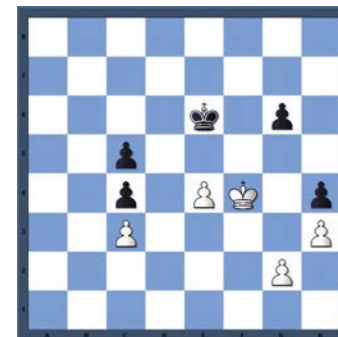
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



The material is balanced, but the doubled c-pawns can hardly be regarded as two healthy pawns, therefore White should have realistic chances to play for an advantage. However the Indian player finds a brilliant idea to save the game... Surprisingly, those c-pawn are going to save the day.

47...♖d6! At first sight, it seems like Black simplifies to a lost pawn endgame...

48.♗xd6 ♖xd6 49.g3 [White is too slow with 49.♖g4 49...♗e5; 49.♗f4 49...♗e6

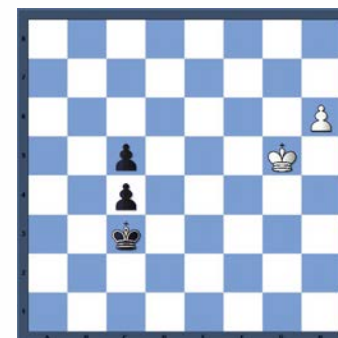


50.g3 (50.e5 50...♗d5! and the g6 pawn gets a key role by preventing White from playing Kf5!)]

49...hxg3 [But not 49...g5? because after 50.gxh4 gxh4 51.♖f4 ♗e6 52.e5 ♗d5 White already has 53.♗f5!+—]

50.♗xg3 g5 A very strange move! Black gives a full tempo and White promotes his pawn first in the race, however it is not enough for the win... [50...♗e5 was actually a much simpler draw, but in this case the game would not make it into our newsletter! :) 51.♖f3 g5 52.♗e3 (52.♗g4 is too slow. 52...♗xe4 53.♗xg5 ♗d3 54.h4 ♗xc3 55.h5 ♗b3 56.h6 c3 57.h7 c2 58.h8=♖ c1=♖+) 52...♗f6= and Ke5 back next holds the draw.]

51.♖g4 ♗e5 52.♗xg5 ♗xe4 53.h4 ♗d3 54.h5 ♗xc3 55.h6



55...♗d2! The only move! [55...♗b3 loses to 56.h7 c3

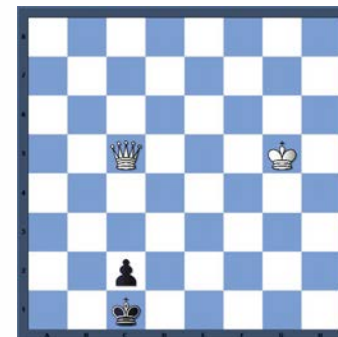
57.h8=♔ c2 58.♔a1+- and the pawns are stopped.; 55...♔b2 56.h7 c3 57.h8=♔+- pins the pawn.]

56.h7 c3 57.h8=♔ c2 Surprisingly, this position is a draw! Without the c5 pawn we would have the famous theoretical draw due to the stalemate idea. This will be shown in the 62.Qxc5 line. One could think that the c5 pawn is actually an ill pawn, which prevents Black from playing for the stalemate motif. However it controls the very important d4 and b4 squares and without those White is unable to squeeze the king to c1 to win time in order to bring the king closer...



58.♔b2 ♔d1 59.♔b3 ♔d2 60.♔a2 ♔d1 61.♔d5+ ♔c1 Finally Black is not threatening to promote his pawn, which gives White a free tempo to improve his king. [61...♔e2 was equally good, as it will lead to the same lines.]

62.♔f4 [62.♔xc5 This is the famous draw. The queen wins against the b2-d2-e2-g2 pawns, however the weaker side holds with the a2-c2-f2-h2 pawns because of some stalemate ideas...



62...♔b2 63.♔b4+ ♔a2 64.♔c3 ♔b1 65.♔b3+ ♔a1!= Not Kc1, after which the king comes closer. The pawn cannot be taken because of the stalemate and the game is drawn...]

62...♔b2 63.♔e5+ ♔b1 64.♔e4 ♔b2 White is simply unable to get that position after 65.Qb3 in the 62. Qxc5 line, where Ka1 Qxc2 is not a stalemate because of the c5 pawn. Without the check on b4, White cannot make progress.

65.♔e2 ♔b1 66.♔b5+ ♔a2 67.♔a4+ ♔b2 White should play Qb4 Ka2 Qc3 Kb1 Qb3, but it simply does not work. Therefore this entire endgame with the c2-c5 pawns is a draw!

68.♔b5+ ♔a2 69.♔c4+ ♔b2 70.♔e2 ♔b1 71.♔d3 ♔b2 72.♔d2 ♔b1 73.♔d3 ♔b2 74.♔b5+ ♔a2 And a draw was agreed! It can be very useful to remember such things. **1/2-1/2**

**(14) Gupta, Abhijeet(2625)
- Abdumalik, Zhansaya(2379)**

Reykjavik Open 2015(9.8),
2015.03.17



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



The young and talented Abdumalik was defending her bad position already for quite a while and it is still unclear if it is a draw or a win for White. The g7 pawn can't be taken and the white a-pawn could also become very dangerous. On the other hand, the material is equal, and "all" Black needs to do is to give up her knight for the 2 pawns to get a draw.

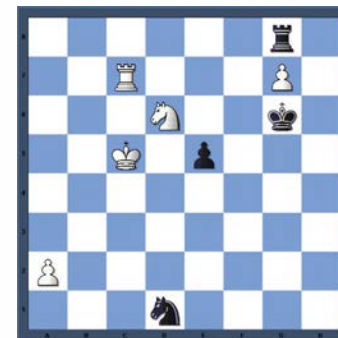
50...♖b2? It is very ical to defend the c4 pawn and at the same time to prevent White from playing a4, but this is a losing move. [A better try was 50...♖f2+ 51.♔d5 ♖d1! This move makes a4 impossible because of the fork on c3. 52.♔xc4 and now Black has time for 52...♔g6! and again the move a4 is not possible because of Nb2. 53.♔b4 ♖b2 with quite some drawing chances.]

51.♔d5? White misses a forced win. [The right choice was 51.♔c6! The threat is to play Nf5 and Black can't take with on

g7. 51...♔xg7 52.♖f5+ and Black is losing material or getting mated on the next move. 52...♔f7 53.♖h6+ with an easy win for White.]

51...♖d1 Black switches back to the right plan.

52.♔xc4 ♔g6 53.♔c5 White is trying to be fast with the a-pawn, a4 is a deadly threat now.



53...♖c3! A strong move, attacking the a2 pawn and at the same time preventing White from playing a4.

54.a3 and Black finally has time to take the g7 pawn.

54...♔xg7 55.♔xg7+ The position is still unclear! As we all known, it is sometimes very difficult for the knight to stop the a- and h-pawns from promoting.

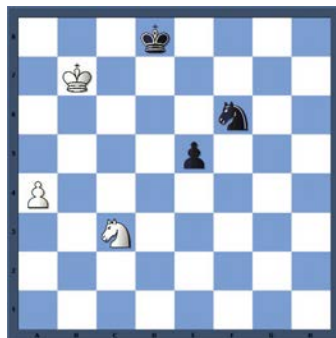
55...♔xg7 56.♔b4 White forces the black knight to move, which could make the a4 move possible.

56...♖d5+?! This move still holds the draw, but Black had a much more precise way of achieving it with accurate calculation. [56...♖a2+! A risky move to play, but everything is working. 57.♔b3 ♖c1+ 58.♔c4 The black knight is out of the game, but the black king is just in time to save it. 58...♔f6 59.a4 ♔e6 60.♖e4 ♔d7 61.a5 ♔c7 and the position is a draw.]

57.♔c4 ♖b6+ 58.♔b5 ♖d5 It seems like White can't improve the position but Gupta finds a way.

59. ♖e4! taking the c3 square under control, so the a-pawn is running.

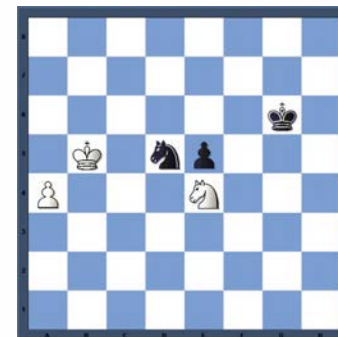
59... ♔g6?! This is the wrong direction. [Much better was 59... ♔f7 60. ♔c6 but now of course Black had to see the saving idea 60... ♜f6! which is not an easy move to find! Of course the pawn endgame is just a draw. 61. ♜c3 ♔e7 62. a4 ♔d8 The black king tries to reach the a8 square. 63. ♔b7 and now again Black needs to find



63... ♜e8! 64. a5 ♜c7 Just in time! Now the position is a draw.]

60. ♔c6! and Black is lost!

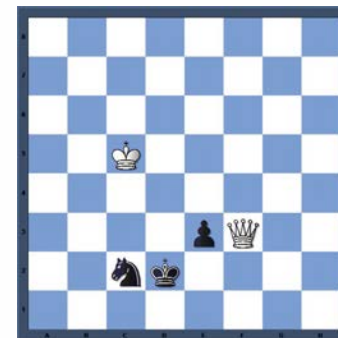
60... ♜e3 This move loses on the spot. [60... ♜f6 was not working any longer because of 61. ♜c3 and there is no way to stop White from playing a4-a5-a6-a7-a8Q.; 60... ♜e7+ was probably the best try, even if it is still losing. 61. ♔d6 ♜c8+ 62. ♔c7! White still needs to do a bit of work. 62... ♜e7 63. a4 ♜d5+ 64. ♔c6 ♜b4+ 65. ♔b5 ♜d5



66. ♔c5 all white moves are pretty natural and not that difficult to find, but Black could still hope for a mistake. 66... ♜c7 67. a5 ♜a6+ 68. ♔b6 ♜b4 69. ♜c3 followed by Kb5 and White is winning.]

61. a4 ♔f5 62. a5 Black can't stop the a-pawn so Zhansaya tries to play against the queen.

62... ♜c2 63. ♔c5 ♔xe4 64. a6 ♔d3 65. a7 e4 66. a8=♔ If the black pawn was on e3 the position would be a draw, but the pawn is only on e4... **66... e3 67. ♔f3 ♔d2**



68. ♔d5+ and in case of 68... Kc3 the finishing move is 69. Qd1 and the black pawn is stopped. A sad end for the only 13-year old girl who was fighting so well and already had a draw on the board but could not calculate precisely enough. Knights endgames are always very tricky, especially when one side has a passed a- or h-pawn. **1-0**

Chess and the City. Sochi



WGM Elisabeth Paetz

Best rating: 2493

Finally the Women's World Championship, in Sochi, has started! I actually didn't expect to participate, as I failed to qualify in either of the last two European Championships. But, as we all know, 'hope springs eternal in the human breast'!

Thanks to the refusal of the current Women's World Champion Hou Yifan, to participate, I stepped in as a reserve player due to my rating. I suppose she declined as she is anyway eligible to play the World Championship Match at the end of the year. Her opponent will be the winner of this championship in Sochi.

It is the fifth time I have flown here, and as far I remember it was almost always connected with problems. Sochi is a region in the caucasian area of Russia, and a very foggy area too. Almost all my flights in the past were therefore cancelled, delayed or even re-directed to Krasnodar, a neighbouring city of Sochi. This time, however, everything went quite smoothly, and we (my coach and I) managed to arrive without any troubles. Sochi is also well-known as a Russian resort. It is quite popular among rich people, and is ideal for swimming in the black sea, or even skiing in the mountains. Our hotel is

actually located in a mountainous area, and a lot of people come here for skiing. I must admit that the venue is the best I have ever seen, for a world championship - nice hotel, excellent food and a very nice and comfortable playing hall.



My first opponent is, as I mentioned before, the Georgian Woman Grandmaster Meri Arabidze. After we tied 1-1 (two draws) in the classical section, we will face a tiebreak tomorrow. For anyone curious, you can have a look at the pairing tree, below.

World Women's Chess Championship Sochi 2015 General Pairings



As the knock-out system is quite thrilling, it is no surprise that there have been some upsets already. Gaponenko beat her stronger rated compatriot, Natalia Zhukova, and Arakhamia Grant beat the former European champion of 2012, Hoang Thrang. In my next newsletter I'll add some pictures from the Championship. Let's hope I'll still be found somewhere on the pairing tree below:)

Clash of the Titans

(15) Smyslov, Vassily
- Petrosian, Tigran V[E15]

URS, 1967



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 ♖f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.g3** ♗b4+ **4.♗d2!?** More popular is [4.♗d2 which leads to many different structures. 4...♞e7 (4...♗e7 5.♗g2 d5 transposes to the Catalan.; 4...c5 5.♗xb4 cxb4 with a solid position for Black as well.; 4...a5 5.♗g2 O-O 6.♗f3 d5 transposes to the Catalan.)]

4...c5 A typical fight for the center. [4...d5 5.♗g2 is more tricky than 5.Nc3. Now 5...dxc4 is not possible because of 6.Qa4! 5...O-O! 6.♞c2!]

5.dxc5 ♗xc5 **6.♗g2** ♖c6 **7.♗gf3** b6 [7...O-O! 8.O-O! d5! fighting for the center. 9.cxd5 (9.a3 9...a5) 9...♗xd5 White should try to get an advantage thanks to the powerful Catalan bishop on g2 but on the other hand the black pieces are very active in the center. (9...exd5 10.♗b3 White has a typical slightly better position.) 10.♞c2 ♗e7 11.a3 ♗d7 with Rc8 next and Black has counterplay.]

8.O-O ♗b7 **9.a3**





14.e4! White must be on time, otherwise Black will play d6-Nbd7-Rc8 with good play. 14...d6 15.e5 dxe5 16.♘xe5 ♙xg2 17.♙xg2± and the c6 square is very weak.]

12.♙b1! The beginning of a great plan which is based on deep strategical understanding.

12...h6 preventing the unpleasant Ng5.

13.♖d1 [13.e4?! 13...d6 with complex play.]

13...♙c7



14.♘e4! Smyslov is going to exchange an important defender.

14...♘xe4 15.♙xe4 f5?! This move seriously weakens the black position. [15...♖fd8 looks more solid. 16.♙g4 ♘f8 17.♖ac1 White is better anyway, but at least Black didn't play

f5.]

16.♙d3 ♖cd8 17.♖ac1 d6



18.♙b3! Smyslov immediately creates pressure against the black structure.

18...♙h7 [18...♘f6 19.c5 (19.♘xf6 19...♖xf6 20.c5 bxc5 21.bxc5 d5 22.e3+=) 19...♘xb2 20.cxd6 ♖xd6 21.♙xb2 ♖xd1+ 22.♖xd1 ♖d8



23.♖c1! and White keeps some advantage because of the weak e5 square.]

19.c5! The white pieces are perfectly placed for concrete action.

19...dxc5 [19...d5!? 20.♙e3 (20.b5 20...♘a5±; 20.cxb6 20...♙xb6 21.e3!? and White is probably better here. A simple

plan can be to play for a blockade on the e5, d4 and c5 squares.) 20...bxc5 21.♖xe6 c4 Then position is complex because White can't play 22.♗xd5?? ♕c8--]

20. ♖xe6 ♖c8



21. ♖b3! Of course the white queen is needed for the attack. [21.♖xc8 21...♕xc8 22.♗xd8 ♗xd8 23.♗e1 with the idea to put pressure over the c-file, but then Black plays 23...♗d4! 24.♕xd4 ♗xd4 25.bxc5 (25.♗d3 25...♕a6!) 25...♕xc5 26.♗d3 ♕a6 27.♗xc5 bxc5 28.e3 ♗d3 Black is on time with his counterplay. 29.♗xc5 ♗xa3 30.♗xf5?? ♗a1+-]

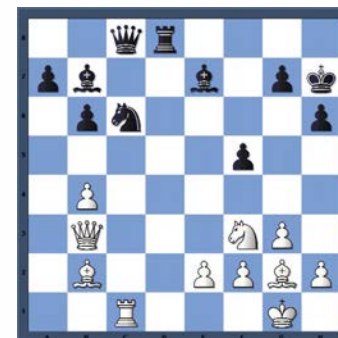
21...♗xd1+ 22. ♖xd1



22...cxb4?! I don't like this move. Why open the c-file and give White active play? Black could have played the solid [22...♖e6 just to prevent Qb3.]

23.axb4 ♗d8 [23...♖e6 24.b5 ♗a5 25.♗d4±; 23...♕xb4 24.♗e5 (24.e4 24...f4! (24...fxe4?? 25.♗g5+! hxc5 26.♖h5+ ♕g8 27.♕xe4+-) ; 24.♗h4!? 24...♕c5 25.♗xc5 bxc5 26.♖d6 ♖e8 It looks like Black should consolidate his position soon.) 24...♕c5 25.♗d3 ♗d8 (25...♗d8 26.♖c2! 26.♗xc5 bxc5 27.♖d6! ♗f7 28.♖xc5 ♖xc5 29.♗xc5 ♕xg2 30.♕xg2 with a very unpleasant endgame for Black.)

24. ♖b3



24...♕xb4? The decisive mistake. Black could still fight after [24...♖d7 25.b5 ♗a5 26.♖f7 ♕c5 27.♖h5→White is clearly better.]

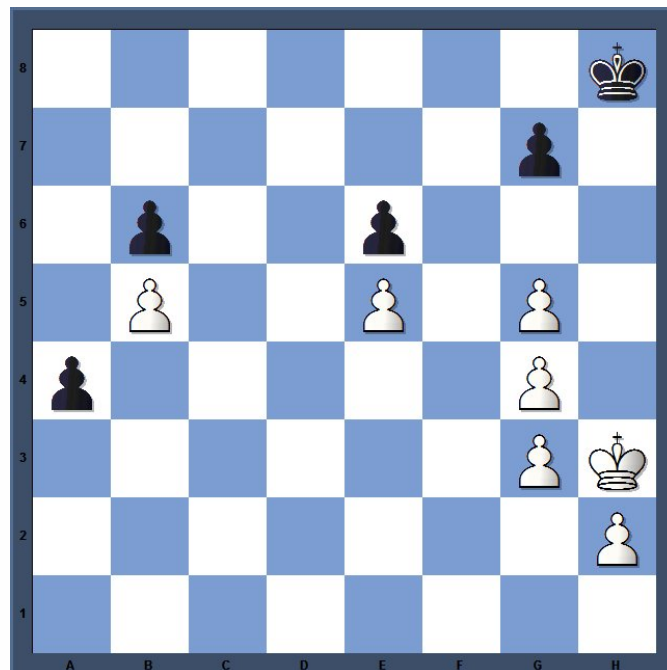
25. ♗h4! The black pieces are too far away from the kingside! White is simply winning because of the weak black king.

25...♕f8 26. ♕h3 1-0

Surprise section / study

(16) Kralin

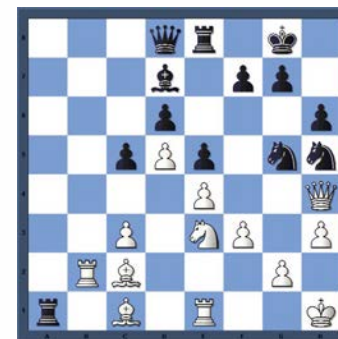
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Solutions

(17) Shimanov, A(2594)-Khismatullin, D(2653)

European Championship, 2015.03.03



32... ♖xe4? [32... ♖xf3!! 33. ♕xd8 (33.gxf3 33... ♕xh4—+; 33. ♕xh5 33... ♖xe1—+) 33... ♖g3#]

33. ♕xd8 ♖eg3+ 34. ♔h2 ♖xd8 35. ♕d2∞

(18) Kryvoruchko, Y(2692)-Dvirnyy, D(2533)

European Championship, 2015.03.03



21. ♖xf6+! ♕xf6 [21... gxf6 22. ♕xe7+—]

22. ♕xf8 ♕xd4 23. ♕b4 ♖xf2 24. ♕xf2 ♕xf2+ 25. ♔xf2+—

(19) Mikhalevski, V(2559)-Grachev, B(2670)

European Championship, 2015.03.03



30...♙xg4! 31.hxg4 ♖h2+ 32.♔f2 ♖xh1—+

(20) Damaso, R(2451)-Bok, B(2587)

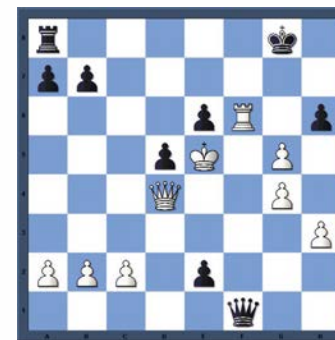
European Championship, 2015.03.03

22.♘xg6! fxg6 23.♖xe6! ♙xe6 24.♖xe6! +- ♖xf4+
[24...♖xe6 25.♙xe6++-]

25.gxf4 ♖h4+ 26.♖g3+-

(21) Mchedlishvili, M(2586)-Kuzubov, Y(2667)

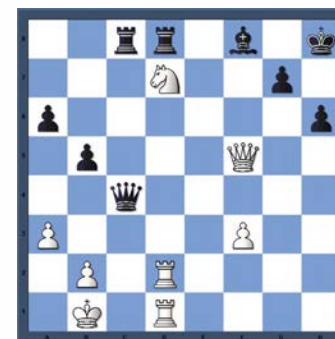
European Championship, 2015.03.04

37.♔d6!! ♖xf6! [37...e1=♖? 38.♖g6+ ♔f7 39.♖g7+ ♔e8
40.♖e7#]

38.♖xf6 e1=♖ 39.♖g6+=

(22) Vovk, Y(2588)-Dreev, A(2643)

European Championship, 2015.03.05

32.♘f6! 1-0 [32.♘f6 32...gxf6 (32...♖xd2 33.♖h7#)
33.♖xd8+-]

(23) Bartel, M(2631)-Nepomniachtchi, I(2714)

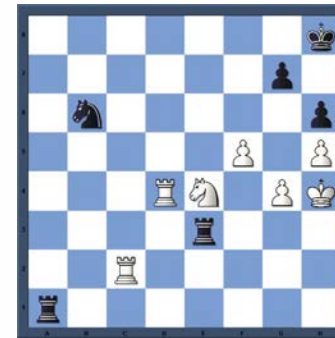
European Championship, 2015.03.08

**38. ♖h3!! ♜d2+** [38... ♙xb8 39. ♖h8#]**39. ♜f3** 1-0**(24) Eljanov, P(2727)-Romanov, E(2625)**

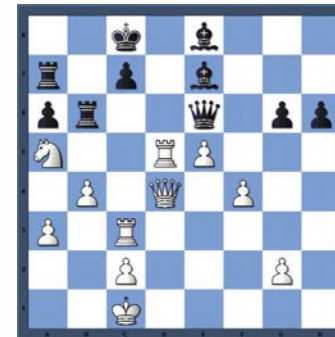
European Championship, 2015.03.08

**37. ♘f6!! ♙xg1** [37... ♜xf6 38. ♙xf6+! ♜xf6 39. ♖g8#]**38. ♘h7! ♜b8** [38... ♜xh7 39. ♙xf8#]**39. ♘f8+ ♜h7 40. ♘h7** 1-0 [40. ♘h7 40... ♙xh7 41. ♙f6+--]**(25) Melkumyan, H(2673)-Abasov, N(2523)**

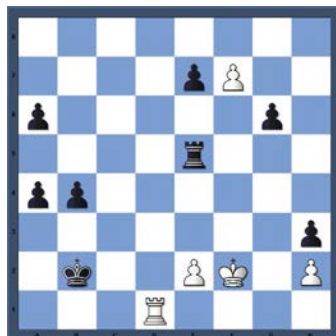
European Championship, 2015.03.08

**52. ♜d8+!** 1-0 [52. ♜d8+ 52... ♙h7 53. ♘f6+! gxf6 54. ♜c7+--]**(26) Rombaldoni, A(2488)-Andriasian, Z(2612)**

European Championship, 2015.03.08

**34. ♜d6! ♙xd6** [34... ♜xd6 35. ♙xa7+--]**35. ♙xb6! ♜a8 36. ♜xc7+!** 1-0 [36. ♜xc7+ 36... ♙xc7 37. ♙xe6+--; 36. ♙b7+-- ; 36. exd6?? 36... ♙e1+ 37. ♙b2 ♙xc3+! 38. ♙xc3 cxb6--]

(27) Gurgenidze



1.e4! [1.f8=Q 1...Rf5+ 2.Qxf5 gxf5--+]

1...Re6! [1...Rxe4?? 2.f8=Q +-]

2.e5! Rxe5 3.Rh1!! Rf5+ 4.Qg1 a3 5.f8=Q a2 6.Qf6+!!
[6.Qg7+? 6...e5--+]

6...Rxf6= [6...e5 7.Qxa6! a1=Q+ 8.Qxa1+ Qxa1=]



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 161

27th of March 2015

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Editorial Preface

The Women's World Cup continues being extremely exciting and we already have the first semi-finalist, Harika Dronovalli. The Indian player won her match 1.5-0.5 against one of the biggest surprises of the tournament, the Georgian Meri Arabidze, who played a really fantastic event, eliminating V. Cmilyte in the previous round.

Mariya Muzychuk won her first game against Koneru, who started the event with straight 6 wins, but lost her second game, so tomorrow we are going to have a very exciting tiebreak. Pogonina lost her first game but managed to win the second one confidently, so she will also play a tiebreak against Zhao Xue. The match between Anna Muzychuk and Pia Cramling ended with two draws. This means that we will see a total of 3 tiebreak matches tomorrow!

The traditional Aeroflot Open is back after a 2-year break, with Mamedyarov and Nepomniachtchi as top seeds. As usual the Top GM group is very strong and the first place qualifies for the super event in Dortmund, so we are back to the same structure as before.

The Polish National Championship is also under way, but of course the non-participation of Wojtaszek makes it much weaker. It is too early for now to say anything about the outcome, but Kacper Piorun had a fantastic start with 3.5/4.

In the current issue, beside our usual columns, we are commenting on a few exciting games from the Women's World Championship knock-out from Sochi.

Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) **Anand, Viswanathan (2797)**
- **Nakamura, Hikaru (2776) [D37]**

4th Zurich CC Classical(4.2),
2015.02.17



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

We always comment the best games of the week, but this time I make an exception. One of our readers had a special request to comment the following Anand-Nakamura game. He called it as a positional masterpiece, with which I fully agree.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♗e7 4.♘f3 ♘f6 Nakamura plays the Queen's Gambit, one of the most solid openings nowadays against 1.d4. He wanted to neutralize Anand's amazing preparation, that he did for his WC match against Carlsen.

5.♗f4 O-O 6.e3 ♘bd7 7.c5 ♗h5 The modern way of dealing with this opening. Black gets rid of the strong f4 bishop in compensation for the space disadvantage on the queenside and the center. [Anand won a game against Carlsen in their match last year more or less out of the opening, where Black chose the other main line: 7...c6 8.♗d3 b6 9.b4 a5 10.a3 ♗a6 11.♗xa6 ♖xa6 12.b5 cxb5 13.c6 ♖c8 14.c7 b4 15.♘b5 I have commented this game in detail in a previous issue of our newsletter. Anand-Carlsen, Sochi 2014]

8.♗d3 ♘xf4 9.exf4 b6 10.b4 White must hold his c5 pawn and the space advantage at any cost, otherwise if he was forced to take on b6, axb6 followed by c5 Black would overtake the initiative.

10...a5 11.a3 c6 Black would like to trade his poor bishop on c8, but Ba6 was not possible right away because of b5 and c6 catching all the pieces on the queenside. There is no time to prevent this positional idea with Qe2, because the a1 rook needs protection.

12.O-O ♖c7 13.g3 ♗a6 We are still following hundreds of games. White has a fragmentary advantage thanks to his space advantage, but Black stands without any weaknesses and around 90% of the games ended in a draw. However as we will see in this game, some small positional inaccuracies might let this invisible edge grow to a significant one.



14.♖e1 Threatening to play f5, but of course it is easy to parry this idea by leaving the pin.

14...♗f6 15.♖g2 This is the novelty, although it does not change the character of the game and the plans employed in the other games remain valid here as well.

15...♗xd3 Nakamura rightly declines the challenge of complicating the game... [At first sight, Anand blundered the tactical idea of 15...bxc5 16.bxc5 ♘xc5 but of course it was all prepared at home... 17.dxc5 ♗xc3]



18. ♖xh7+! White wins back the pawn, but if Black rejects to take the piece both rooks are going to be loose. 18... ♔h8 (18... ♖xh7 19. ♖c2+ ♔g8 20. ♖xc3+= This is a kind of positional dream, where the knight is going to dominate the bishop when it establishes itself on d4 or on e5. The bishop on a6 seems to be nice, but actually it does not do anything and White can simply maneuver with his pieces by ignoring the light squares.) 19. ♘h4! Opening the queen's path to h5. 19... ♕xa1 (19... ♖xh7 20. ♖c2+ ♔g8 21. ♖xc3+= leads to the same as before. White will bring back his knight to the center in two moves.; 19...g6 20. ♕xg6! fxg6 21. ♘xg6+ ♔g7 22. ♘xf8 ♖xf8 23. ♖xe6 is complicated, but the numerous pawns and the exposed king gives more than enough compensation for White.) 20. ♖h5 g6 21. ♕xg6+ ♔g7 22. ♖h7+ ♔f6



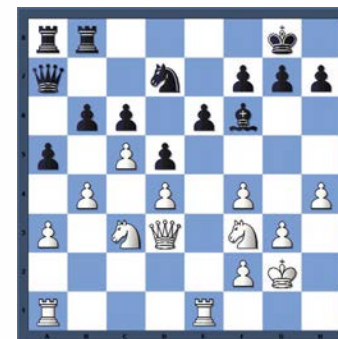
White has a beautiful winning move here: 23. ♕f5!! creating

the threat of Rxe6 and the queen is hanging on c7. 23... ♖ac8 protects the queen. (23... ♖h8 loses to 24. ♖xe6+! fxe6 25. ♖xc7 exf5 26. ♖xc6+- and everything falls.) 24. ♖h6+ ♔e7 25. ♘g6+! fxg6 26. ♖xe6+ ♔d7 (26... ♔d8 27. ♖xf8+-) 27. ♖f6+ gxf5 28. ♖g7+- with mate to follow...]

16. ♖xd3 ♖fb8 Black prepares for the opening of the queenside and he brings his rooks to the open files. [16... ♖a7 serves the same purpose. Black keeps the tension on the queenside and doubles his rooks first before taking on b4 to win the fight for the a-file.]

17.h4 ♖a7 Another way of fighting for the a-file. Black would like to get two rooks for his queen, which is usually considered to be advantageous. [17...h6 was better to avoid the tactical break which could have happened in the game. The reason why h6 is preferable to g6 will be explained after the 18th move.]

18. ♘e2 Anand was familiar with all the ideas, as he clearly deeply studied this type of position. The game perfectly shows the deepness of this move... [However both players seem to have missed a nice tactical blow with



18.f5! The point is that after 18...exf5 19.b5! White actually weakened the d5 pawn with his last two moves! (19. ♖xf5? blunders the small tactic of 19...bxc5 20.bxc5 ♘xc5!) 19... ♖b7

20.bxc6 ♖xc6 21.♖xf5 and the d5 falls, which leads to the collapse of Black's position. 21...bxc5 22.♗xd5 cxd4 23.♖ac1 ♖d6 24.♖c7±]

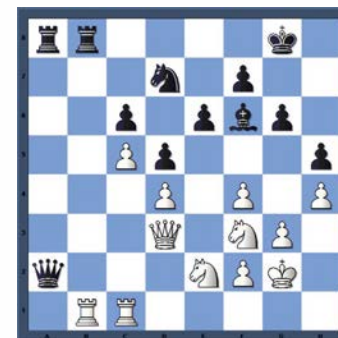


18...g6 This move was criticized by Anand in the post-game analysis. As he explained, this move leaves the d7 knight without a future. It can never come to the game because the white pawns are controlling all its squares. The only path to improve it was through f8-g6-e7-f5, but this does not work anymore. This shows again how familiar the ex-World Champion was with all the nuances. [Therefore Black should have played 18...h6 to keep the g6 square free for the knight.; On the direct 18...axb4 19.axb4 ♖xa1 20.♖xa1 ♖xa1 21.b5! is very strong and White creates a c6 passed pawn, which will cause Black serious headache to deal with.]

19.♖ab1 A standard move in this line! White cannot hold the a-file for long, he allows the queen to invade, but this does not bring much for Black.

19...axb4 20.axb4 ♖a2 21.♖ec1! These are the usual moves in this line to neutralize the invasion of the black rooks. White is threatening to break through over b5 to create a c6-passer now.

21...bxc5 22.bxc5 h5?! It looks natural to fix the structure, but it turns out to be a serious mistake. [Black should have aimed for simplifications with 22...♖xb1 23.♖xb1 ♖b8 White has a symbolic advantage, but I doubt that it could be enough to win the game. Now the knight might join to the game through a6. There is only one weakness on c6, but it should not be enough to create something real.]



23.♗e5! The right moment to change the pawn structure! White takes back with the f4 pawn, which will be followed by Nf4 and thanks to the previous h5 move, there will be very dangerous threats on g6!

23...♗xe5 Black did not want to end up with his poor knight, but the bishop is not better either. Nakamura thought that it would at least save him from the attack with Nf4. [The key line continued with 23...♗xe5 24.fxe5 ♖xb1 25.♖xb1 ♖b8 26.♖xb8+ ♗xb8 but it is not the same as before, because of 27.♗f4! threatening to take on g6 or e6 and if Black tries to strengthen his structure with 27...♖g7



28.g4!! is suddenly a crusher! 28...hxc4 29.h5 g5 (29...gxc4 30.hxc4+ ♔f8 31.♕h7 Black cannot save himself against the two attacking pieces... 31...♖d7 32.♕h8+ ♔e7 33.♖g7 Mate is threatening on e8 and after 33...♖f8 34.♕h4+! ♔d7 35.♕f6+- the f7 pawn falls.) 30.♖xe6+! fxe6 31.♕g6+- and h6 wins. This line was seen by both players and it explains why Nakamura took on e5 with the knight.]

24.fxe5 ♕g7 Black managed to save himself against the Nf4 ideas, but now his queenside becomes much more vulnerable!



25.♖b6! White immediately uses the fact that the knight disappeared from d7! White wins the fight for the b-file with this excellent positional move, because the c6 pawn is under attack and taking on b6 creates a too strong passed pawn which will be supported by the heavy pieces from behind...

25...♖c8 [25...♖xb6 26.cxb6 The c6 pawn is hanging. 26...♕a4 27.b7 ♖b8 28.♖b1±]

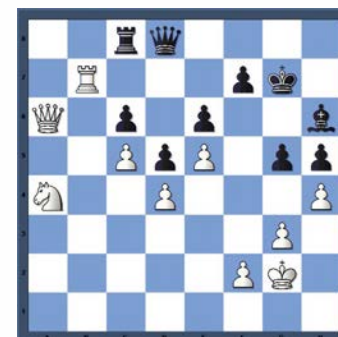
26.♖c3 Anand consequently drives all his pieces to the queenside and focuses on the c6 weakness.

26...♕a7 27.♖cb1 ♕d7 Black goes into passivity with all his pieces, but it was very difficult to suggest anything better. [27...♖ab8 is strongly met by 28.♖a6! ♕c7 29.♖bb6! followed by Na2-b4, putting maximum pressure on the c6 pawn.]

28.♖1b4 In a few moves it all becomes clear! The knight is going to a4-b6.

28...♕h6 29.♖a4! ♕d8 30.♖a6! Vacating the b6 square for the knight and opening the path for the other rook to invade the 7th rank. In the meantime, White keeps an eye on the c6 pawn to tie down the black pieces.

30...♕g7 31.♖b7 ♖xa6 32.♕xa6 g5 The only chance! Black cannot hold the queenside for long, he must try to find counterplay with some desperate attempts. However Anand neutralizes it in a beautiful fashion...



33.♕e2! An excellent positional move, which forces the locking of the kingside.

33...g4 34.♕a6 There is no threat on h4, so the queen returns to its ideal square on a6.

34...♔g8 Nakamura continues resisting resourcefully. He pins his hopes to the Qh7-e4 counterplay, but Anand remains precise...

35.♘b6 ♖f8 36.♘d7 ♔h7 [36...♖a8 loses as well after 37.♖a7! which does not allow any counterplay along the a-file. The queen and knight will collect the c6 pawn anyway. The only hope remains in the counterattack, but it fails by one tempo.. . 37...♖xa7 38.♔xa7 ♔h7 39.♘f6! controls the e4 square. 39...♔d3 40.♔a8! There is no perpetual and Black gets mated. 40...♔f3+ 41.♔g1 ♔d1+ 42.♔h2 ♔g6 43.♔g8+ ♘g7 44.♔h7#]

37.♘xf8 ♔e4+ 38.♔h2 ♔xf8 39.♖b8+ ♔g7 40.♔c8 ♔g6 41.♔h8! 41.Qg8 Bg7 was not clear, but now the rook is coming to g8 and decides the game. A Karpovian game! **1-0**

(2) Koneru, Humpy (2581) - Galliamova, Alisa (2484) [D45]

WCh Women 2015(3.1),
2015.03.23



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

The Women's knock-out World Championship with 64 participants combined almost all the best female players with the exception of the current World Champion Hou Yifan, for who there is actually almost no reason to participate in women events any longer as she has around 100 points more than the Nr2. Koneru, who took a short break from chess because of her marriage and seems to now be back to crush her oponents with extreme confidence. The current game is the first one from the 3rd round. After the opening it seemed like Black got a pleasant position and wanted clearly more than to just "play safe" which brought the game to a complicated stage where Koneru clearly kept a better overview and with strong play decided the game in her favor.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 Alisa Galli amova has been one of the best women players for an extremely long time. Lately she has not been playing many games, but when she is playing we can still see her very good understanding of chess. It is just that from time to time she lacks energy or some miscalculations are preventing her from showing top results.

3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e3 The Slav with 4.e3 is not the most ambitious opening for White but it is an attempt to go for a long-term game without much theory.

4...e6 5.♘f3 ♘bd7 6.♔c2 This is a tricky move in a well-known position. The idea is not to lose a tempo on the

regular 6.Bd3 dxc4.

6...b6 Usually Black plays 6...Bd6, with thousands of games played before.

7.♘d3 ♘b7 8.O-O ♘e7 It is always hard to tell where to place the black bishop, to d6 or e7.

9.b3 The white bishop is going to b2.



9...dxc4!? An interesting move. Black is not trying to be solid with moves like O-O, Rc8 and c5 but starting dynamic play on the spot.

10.bxc4 c5 Of course this move is connected to the idea that otherwise White would just play e4 with a better position.

11.♘e5 A pretty logical move, but I am not sure that this was the best possible way to continue for White. [Maybe White should be not afraid of Bxf3: 11.♖d1 with the direct threat of playing d5 next. 11...♘xf3 12.gxf3 cxd4 13.exd4 O-O Black's position is looking solid. 14.♙e2 In exchange for the bad structure on the kingside White has the bishop pair and nice central pawns. I think that White is better here.]

11...cxd4 Very direct play. [11...O-O was another option.]

12.exd4 ♘xe5 13.dxe5 ♘d7 So now we have a very interesting position. In case Black is able to play Nc5 and maybe O-O it would only be her who could be better, but of

course in case it doesn't work out the black king will remain dangerously placed on e8.

14.♘f4 protecting the e5 pawn and at the same developing a piece, which can't be bad.



14...g5 Black is starting a very risky-looking plan, but this was probably the best choice. [Another option could have been 14...♘c5 15.♘h7 ♙d4 (15...g6 of course loses to 16.♘xg6 fxg6 17.♙xg6+ ♔d7 18.♖ad1+ and White is winning.) 16.♘e2 ♙d7 and Black wants to castle queenside or play Qc6 with some play, but White is probably better here, although the position is far from clear.]

15.♘g3 h5 Black continues hunting the white bishop.

16.h3 h4 17.♘h2 g4!? A very interesting move. [In case of 17...♘c5 18.♘e2 it is hard to say what to do next for Black. To castle kingside looks very dangerous and to castle queenside is simply impossible because White prevents it with Rd1. 18...a6 preventing Nb5. 19.♖ad1 ♙c7 and the position is still complicated, but White should somehow be better position because of the position of the black king on e8.]

18.♘e4?! Now Black is fine. White should have taken the pawn on g4. [To win a pawn is usually a good idea if you don't see a direct loss.. 18.hxg4 18...♘b4! is probably Black's best chance. In case White is in time to play Be4 it is hard to

imagine Black getting any compensation for the pawn. (18...h3 19.♙e4 hxg2 20.♙xg2 The white king is feeling safe on g2. 20...♚c7 21.♙xb7 ♚xb7+ 22.♚e4 and White is clearly much better.) 19.♙e4 White has many other moves, but then Black can play h3 next with strong play on the kingside. 19...♙xc3 20.♙xb7 ♙xa1 21.♚xa1 ♚b8 and maybe White is a bit better but the position is very unclear.]

18...♙xe4 19.♚xe4 gxh3



20.♙b5?! This move was clearly not needed. [20.gxh3 20...♚c8 21.♚fd1 ♚c7 with a fighting position.]

20...♚b8? This move is really hard to explain. The black rook belongs to c8 and not b8. [Why not simply win a pawn?! 20...hxg2 21.♚fd1 ♚c8 Black's position looks very dangerous, but it is probably just fine. 22.♙xa7 ♚c5 and I think it is already White who needs to be careful here.]

21.gxh3 a6?! Another unlucky decision. [Black should have hurried with 21...♙c5 and now no matter where the white queen will go Black should continue with Qd3!, bringing the queen into the game.]

22.♙d6+ ♙xd6 23.exd6 Now Black is already in some trouble. Material is equal but the black king remained in the center. White's advantage is obvious.

23...♚g5+ 24.♙h1 White has a lot of different plans, like dominating on the g-file or trying to push f4-f5.

24...♚c8 25.♚ae1! A strong move! Now f4-f5 is a heavy threat.

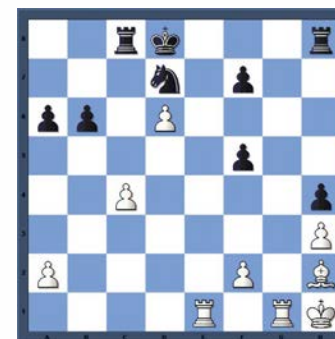
25...♙d8 Black decides to keep her king on d8, which is probably the best choice in the current situation.

26.♚g1 ♚c5 Black attacks the c4 pawn and wants to exchange queens with Qc6.

27.♚f4! Another great move by Koneru, who spots the weakness on f7 which is hard to defend.

27...♚f5 There was no better way to defend the f7 pawn.

28.♚xf5 exf5 Black has exchanged the queens which is very good, but she also destroyed her pawn structure and now the white rooks will be able to enter the 7th rank.



29.♚e7! ♚f8 30.♙f4 The white bishop is going to h6 to chase the black rook from f8.

30...♚xc4?! and it seems like this is already the losing move. [In this difficult position Black should have played the precise 30...♚c6! attacking the d6 pawn. 31.♙h6 ♚h8 32.♚xf7 ♚xd6 of course Black's position is very bad, but the fight for a draw would continue.]

31.♙h6 ♚h8 32.♚xf7 Now that the d6 pawn is alive,

everything is falling apart.

32...♔c8 [It is already too late to try and get the d6 pawn:
32...♖c6 33.♕f4]

33.♖g7 What a domination of the white pieces!

33...♘c5 [33...♖d8 34.♕g5 and it is over.]

34.♕e3 Another accurate move. White does not hurry as she knows that the game is almost over and places her pieces perfectly.

34...♖d8 [34...♘e6 35.♖g6 and the black knight has no more good squares...]

35.♕xc5 ♖xc5



36.♖a7 threatening mate on a8.

36...♔b8 37.♖gb7+ ♔c8 38.d7+ and Black needs to give her rook which means the end. A great game by Koneru! Even if things were looking "simple" her play was really strong and very precise. **1-0**

The K-Files.

Breaking the Symmetry I - 5.e3



GM Alexander Khalifman
FIDE World Chess Champion (1999)

Best rating: 2702

(3) Breaking the Symmetry I - 5.e3 [D71]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 c6 4.♗g2 d5



The symmetrical Gruenfeld is a long-time headache for the players who prefer to fianchetto the kingside bishop against the Gruenfeld and the King's Indian. Black's setup is extremely solid and passed many tests on the highest level. So it seemed that it was hardly possible to find new interesting way for White at the early stage. But Vladimir Kramnik once again proved that nothing is impossible by playing a novelty on move 5(!!!). And not just a novelty, but a completely new and

independent plan. What is even more valuable is the fact that it was played in a very important moment (the penultimate round of London Candidates, London 2013 vs/ Boris Gelfand). In the following period this idea was tested by many top players including Kramnik's archrival Veselin Topalov and just recently by Shakhriyar Mamedyarov but the assessment is still far from clear.

5.e3 White's idea is understandable: he plans to develop the knight to e2 where it doesn't limit the activity of the fianchetto bishop. The drawbacks are also rather obvious: the c4 pawn becomes vulnerable and the important e5 square is not kept under enough control. So what is more important? Black has 2 main answers: just completing the development as if nothing happened (5... Bg7) or immediately accepting the gambit (5... dxc4).

5...♗g7 Development first of all. This is quite solid but maybe not enough to equalize completely. [An ultra-creative move like

a) 5...♗f5 6.♘e2 ♔d7 7.b3 ♗h3 aims for an early kingside attack but is Black's development advanced enough for this? 8.♗xh3 ♔xh3 9.♘f4 ♔f5 10.O-O ♘bd7 11.f3! Suddenly the black queen becomes a target. 11...dxc4 12.bxc4 ♔a5 13.♔b3 e5 14.♘d3 O-O-O (Rodshtein - Nepomniachtchi, Legnica 2013) would lead nowhere if White reacted precisely. 15.♘a3! (15.♘c3!?)

b) 5...b5 trying to define the queenside structure immediately. 6.cxd5 (The less committing 6.b3!? might be an option.; 6.c5 6...e5 is fine for Black.) 6...cxd5 7.♘c3!? (7.♘e2 7...e6 8.♘d2 ♗b7 9.♘b3 ♘bd7 10.♗d2 a5∞ (Loetscher - Krassowizkij, Austria 2014) and White can't use the weakened c5 square so straightforwardly.) 7...a6 (Of course not 7...b4 8.♔a4+) 8.♘ge2 (The ambitious 8.e4 8...dxe4 9.♘xe4 ♘xe4

10.♟xe4 ♖a7∞ doesn't promise anything.) 8...♟b7 9.♞f4 e6 10.♞d3 ♞bd7 11.O-O In this situation the weakened c5 square is quite sensitive. White has certain pressure. After the natural 11...♟d6△12.b4 ♞b6 (12...O-O 13.a4+=) 13.f3+= the e3-e4 idea is quite annoying.;

c) The most critical answer 5...dxc4 will be examined in part 2.]

6.♞e2 O-O 7.O-O The standard moves are played and now Black must do something to develop his queenside.



7...b6 is the most popular move. [

a) 7...dxc4 8.♞a3 ♞bd7 9.♞xc4 transposes to the 5...dxc4 line but it's not the most favorable version for Black.;

b) 7...♞bd7 Dobrov - Khusenkhojaev, Varna 2014. As usual in this structure the black knight is a bit misplaced on d7 when White exchanges pawns on d5. 8.cxd5!? cxd5 9.♞bc3 e6 10.a4 a5 11.b3 b6 12.♟a3 ♖e8 13.♞b5+=;

c) 7...♖e8 8.b3 ♞bd7 See the note from the previous line. 9.cxd5!? (White shouldn't postpone this exchange: 9.♟b2 9...e5 10.cxd5 ♞xd5 11.e4 ♞c7 12.♞c2 Popilski - Aharon, Jerusalem 2015 12...exd4!? 13.♞xd4 ♞e5⇒) 9...cxd5 (9...♞xd5 10.e4 ♞c7 11.♞bc3 e5 12.d5+=) 10.♞bc3 e6 11.a4+=;

d) 7...♟a6 8.b3 (With the knight on a6 it's a different story

and now the exchange doesn't promise much: 8.cxd5 8...cxd5 9.♞bc3 b6 Black has enough time to develop his pieces comfortably and can strongly meet the opponent's action in the center. 10.f3 ♟b7 11.e4 dxe4 12.fxe4 e5 13.d5 ♞e8∞) 8...b5 9.♞d2!? (There is no reason to decentralize the knight. 9.♞a3 Wen - Wan, China 2013 and it becomes obvious after 9...bxc4 10.bxc4 ♞b4⇒) 9...♟f5 10.♞f3+=;

e) 7...e6 8.b3 (Another option is 8.♞d2 8...♞bd7 9.b3 b6 10.♟b2 ♟a6 Davila - Cardenas Carbajal, Panama City 2013 and now 11.♞f4!?+= prevents Black's counterplay in the centre.) 8...♞bd7 9.♞bc3 (after 9.a4 9...e5 10.♟a3 ♖e8 11.cxd5 ♞xd5 12.♞d2 exd4 13.♞xd4 Harikrishna - Salgado Lopez, Doha 2014 13...a5!? 14.♞e4 ♞b4 15.♞d6 ♖e7 16.♞d2 ♞e5= Black is fine.) 9...b6 But the exchange on d5 works once again when the black knight is on d7: 10.cxd5!? (When the white knight is on c3 10.♟a3 10...♖e8 11.♖c1 Edouard - Konopka, Wroclaw 2014 White has to be worried about the c4 pawn all the time. 11...a5!? 12.♞f4 (12.e4 12...♞xe4 13.♞xe4 dxe4 14.♟xe4 ♟b7 15.♞c2 ♞c7=) 12...♟a6 13.♞d3 b5 14.cxb5 cxb5=) 10...exd5 (The other option 10...cxd5 11.♟a3 ♖e8 12.♞b5 ♟a6 13.♞d6 ♖f8 14.e4+= doesn't solve the problems either.) 11.b4 A pawn minority attack is very typical for this structure. 11...♟b7 12.b5 c5 13.♞f4 cxd4 14.exd4+=;

f) 7...a6 8.b3 b5 9.♞bc3 (9.♞d2!? is also interesting.) 9...♟b7 10.♞f4 e6 11.♞d3 ♞bd7 Edouard - Fedorovsky, Munich 2015 and now White would start regrouping his pieces. 12.♟a3!? ♖e8 13.♖c1 ♖c8 14.♖e1 ♟a8△15.cxb5 cxb5 16.♖e2 ♞b6 17.♖ec2+= trying to use the c5 square.;

g) 7...a5 White should try to keep the tension in the center with 8.♞f4!? (Here the exchange 8.cxd5 8...cxd5 9.♞bc3 e6 10.b3 ♟d7 11.♟a3 ♖e8 12.♞d3 ♞a6 13.♖fc1 ♞b4= Zhao Xue - Howell, Auckland 2015 doesn't make much sense since the

black pieces are quite active.) 8...dxc4 9.♘a3 ♘d5 10.♘xc4 ♘xf4 11.gxf4+;

h) 7...♙f5 8.b3 intending 9.Nbc3. (8.♘d2 Le Quang Liem - Troff, Saint Louis 2013 8...♘bd7!? 9.b3△ e5) 8...b5 9.cxb5!? (Otherwise Black has no problems: 9.♘d2 9...♘bd7 10.a4 bxc4 11.bxc4 e5 12.♙a3 ♖e8= Wang Yue - Dominguez, Beijing 2014) 9...cxb5 10.♘bc3 b4 (10...a6 11.♙a3+=) 11.♘a4 ♘bd7 12.♘f4 e6 13.f3+= and the black bishop is not very comfortable on f5.]

8.b3 ♙b7 [Before White puts the knight on c3, attacking c4 doesn't bring the desired results:

a) 8...♙a6 9.♘d2 ♘bd7 10.♙b2 ♖c8 11.♘f4!? (Otherwise Black would prepare e7-e5 in a certain moment. 11.♖c1 11...b5 12.c5 b4 13.a3 bxa3 14.♙xa3 e5= Adhiban - Paragua, Manila 2013; 11.a4 11...♖e8 12.♖e1 e5 13.a5 b5 14.cxd5 ♘xd5 15.♘e4 ♖e7= Bhat - Popilski, Durban 2014) 11...e6 12.♖e1+= with a comfortable positional edge.;

b) 8...a5 9.♘f4 ♙a6 10.♘d2 e6 11.♖e1 (11.a4 was played by Topalov but after 11...♘bd7 12.♙b2 ♖c8 13.♖c1 ♖e7 14.♖c2 ♖fd8 15.♖a1 c5!= Topalov - Kamsky, Thessaloniki 2013 Black was just in time with efficient counterplay.) 11...♘bd7 12.♙b2 (12.♙a3 12...♖e8 13.e4 dxe4 14.♘xe4 ♘xe4 15.♙xe4 ♖c8 16.♖c1 b5=) 12...♖c8 (12...b5 13.♖c1 bxc4 14.bxc4 ♘b6 15.♙f1+=) 13.♖c1 ♖e8 (After 13...♖e7 14.e4 must be considered seriously. 14...dxe4 15.♘xe4 ♘xe4 16.♙xe4+=) 14.♖c2+= Once again Black doesn't have active counterplay and his defensive task is quite unpleasant.]

9.♘bc3 [The active move of the rook pawn is not exactly in time because of 9.a4 9...a5 10.♙a3 ♖e8 11.♘bc3 e6 12.♖c2 Yuffa - Villegas, Pardubice 2014 12...♘a6∞aiming for the b4 outpost.; However if White is worried about the necessity to sacrifice the pawn he can also develop his pieces in a more conservative way: 9.♙b2!? 9...♘bd7 10.♘f4 e6 11.♘d2+=]

9...♘bd7 [If Black tried to use the weakness on c4 by playing 9...♙a6 Topalov would most probably sacrifice this pawn: 10.♙a3 dxc4 11.e4 cxb3 12.♖xb3∞]

10.a4!? [Black is well-developed now and the typical 10.cxd5 10...cxd5 11.♘f4 e6 12.♙a3 (12.♘b5 12...♘e8 13.♙a3 ♙a6 14.♙xf8 ♙xb5 15.♙xg7 ♙xf1 16.♖xf1 ♖xg7=; 12.a4 12...♘e4=) 12...♖e8 13.♘b5 (13.♖c1 13...a6=) 13...♙a6= doesn't promise anything.]

10...♖e8 11.♙a3 e6



12.♖c1 [But now once again the exchange is worth a look: 12.cxd5 12...exd5 (12...cxd5 13.♘b5 ♙f8 14.♖c1+=) 13.b4+=]

12...♙a6 13.♖c2 ♖c8 [Giving up the center doesn't solve the problems: 13...dxc4 14.♙xc6 ♖c8 15.♙g2 cxb3 16.♖xb3 ♙c4 17.♖b2 a6 18.♖fd1 ♖c7 19.♘b1 ♖b8 20.♘ec3+= M. Marin]

14.♖a2 ♙f8 15.♙xf8 ♖xf8 16.♖fd1 ♖e7 17.♘f4+= Topalov - Hammer, Stavanger 2013 Black is certainly under pressure.

David vs. Goliath



Peter Zhdanov
Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this entertaining column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week has brought 26 upsets - not bad at all!

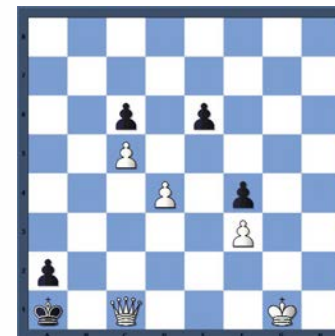
The FM Reichmann (2279) - Bachlerner (1959) encounter turned out to be a 13 move miniature. The Horvath (2013) - IM Moser (2453) game lasted 84 moves.

The highest-profile upset of the week was Lewtak (2301) - GM Kovalenko (2661), 1-0. Another notable victim was GM Ortiz Suarez (2625) who went down against CM Puranik (2264).

Time for the "fatalities", i.e., checkmates on the board. The first one is from Skettos (1428) - Markidou (1783):



The second one is courtesy of Davidsson (1454) - Kruglyak (1775):



Top-10:

Carraro (2099) - Fuentes (1570), 0-1, [529](#) points
 Babijczuk (1549) - Hald (2069), 1-0, [520](#) points
 Lournagaray (1535) - Roman (2006), 1-0, [471](#) points
 Echeguren (1737) - Sanchez Sandoval (2193), 1-0, [456](#) points
 Horvath (2013) - Moser (2453), 1-0, [440](#) points
 Nguyen Dang Hong Phuc (2047) - Padmini (2454), 1-0, [407](#) points
 Skettos (1428) - Zacharoplastis (1801), 1-0, [373](#) points
 Barbosa (2501) - Le Kieu Thien Kim (2138), 0-1, [363](#) points
 Puranik (2264) - Ortiz Suarez (2625), 1-0, [361](#) points
 Lewtak (2301) - Kovalenko (2661), 1-0, [360](#) points

Average gap: 428; White won 8 games, Black won 2 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) will be appreciated.

Puzzle section

(4) Morshedi, A(2221)-Hagen, A(2412)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.16

1. +-



(5) Navara, D(2736)-Danielsen, H(2514)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.18

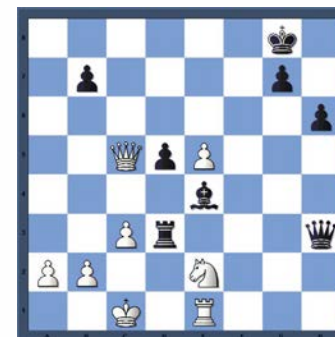
1... -+



(6) Hauge, L(2380)-Rombaldoni, A(2488)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.18

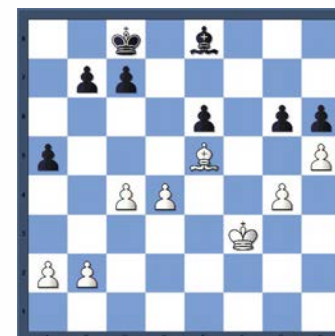
1... -+



(7) Sevian, S(2531)-Iotov, V(2579)

US Teams, 2015.03.17

1. +-



(8) Sevian, S(2531)-Kritz, L(2583)

US Teams, 2015.03.19

1. +-



(9) Guramishvili, S(2367)-Javakhishvili, L(2481)

Wch Women 2015, 2015.03.18

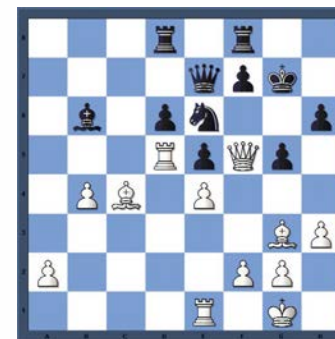
1. ±



(10) Sebag, M(2482)-Pogonina, N(2456)

Wch Women 2015, 2015.03.23

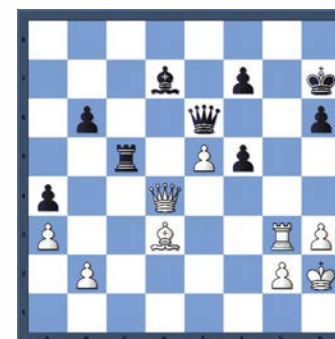
1. +-



(11) Zhao Xue(2527)-Kotenashvili, B(2513)

Wch Women 2015, 2015.03.23

1. +-



(12) Le Quang Liem(2676)-Zhang Zhong(2614)

HD Bank Cup, 2015.03.19

1. +-



(13) Shankland, S(2661)-Hou Yifan(2686)

Hawaii rapid, 2015.03.20

1. +-



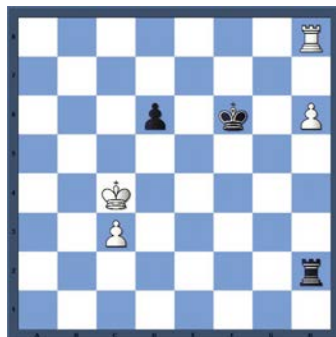
Endgame section

(14) Krush, Irina (2477)
- Milliet, Sophie (2377)

Wch Women 2015,
2015.03.17



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



White is a pawn up but as we know, in rook endgames the defensive side always has a chance to hold, especially in such cases when all the pieces are ideally placed. The king is close to the passed pawn and the rook is behind the pawn and it is ready to counterattack the c3 pawn if the white king goes for the d6. White's only winning attempt could be to trade the h6 pawn for the d6, cut the black king away from the c-pawn and promote it with the help of the king. However with the best defense, Black holds the draw rather comfortably.

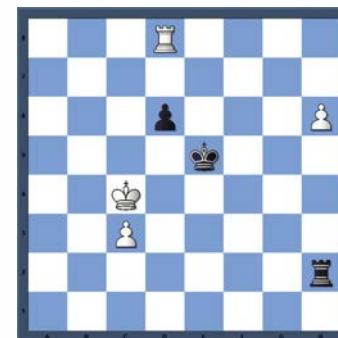
52...♖d2? Black was rightly afraid of the Rd8 idea, but he should have prepared for it in another way. Irina Krush punishes this mistake with very nice technique! [The most natural 52...♗g6 was also the best. Black obviously does not want to take the h6 pawn, because he loses the pawn endgame afterwards, but he frees the rook to protect the d6

and counterattack the c3 pawn. 53.♖g8+ (53.♖d8 53...♖d2 54.♗b5 ♖d3 55.c4 ♖d4= holds easily, as Black can take on h6 next and hurry back to the pawn. White cannot make progress.) 53...♗f7 54.♖g7+ ♗f6 55.♖d7 ♗e6 56.♖h7 ♗f6= 57.♖h8 ♗g6 We have reached our initial position.]

53.♖g8! Cutting the king and threatening to promote the h-pawn. Black is forced to go back to the h-file!

53...♖h2 54.♖d8! A great move! White lures the king away from the h-pawn.

54...♗e5



55.♖h8! Compared to the initial position, the king has gone to e5, getting unprotected against the threatening check after pushing h7!

55...♖h4+ [It is too late to go back because after 55...♗f6 56.h7! ♗g7 (Trying to save the d-pawn with 56...♗e7 loses to the typical trick 57.♖a8!+-) 57.♖d8 ♗xh7 58.♖xd6 the king is too far away from the c-pawn... 58...♗g7 59.♗b5 ♗f7 60.c4 ♗e7 61.c5+- will be the same as the game.]

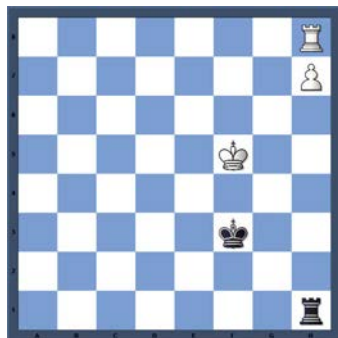
56.♗b5 ♗d5 Black tries to hide the king from the checks in front of the d-pawn. [56...♗f6 is the same as before. White wins after 57.h7 ♗g6 58.♖d8+-]

57.h7 ♖h5 58.♗b6 [The most direct way to win was 58.c4+

58...♔d4+ 59.♔c6 (59.♔b4 is probably the easiest and it transposes to the game.) 59...♖h6 (59...♔xc4 60.♔xd6 ♔d4 61.♔e6 ♔e4 62.♔f6 ♔f4 63.♔g6 ♖g5+ 64.♔h6+- and the rook goes away from h8 next move.)



60.c5! Not necessary (60.Kb5 Rh5 61. Kb4 transposes to the game), but very instructive. White wants to destroy the shelter of the black king. 60...dxc5+ 61.♔b5 ♔c3 Otherwise Rd8 and h8Q. 62.♔xc5 ♖h1 (62...♖h5+ 63.♔d6 ♔d4 64.♔e6 ♔e4 65.♔f6 ♔f4 66.♔g6 ♖g5+ 67.♔h6+-) 63.♔d5 ♔d3 64.♔e5 ♔e3 65.♔f5 ♔f3



How to make progress now? Black hides his king by following his opposition in the same line. Kg6 is met by Rg1 check forcing the king back to the f-file and the rook also returns to h1. 66.♖f8! Nice tactics even with such a limited material on board! 66...♖xh7 67.♔g6+-]

58...♖h6 59.c4+ ♔d4 [Black cannot sacrifice his rook for the h-pawn, because the white king is too close to the d-pawn... 59...♔xc4 60.♖c8+ ♔b4 61.h8=♖ ♖xh8 62.♖xh8+-]

60.♔b5 ♖h5+ 61.♔b4 ♖h1 62.♖d8! Very unfortunate situation for Black. She is forced to take on h7, but then Rxd6 not only takes the pawn with check but also cuts the king away from the c-pawn.

62...♖xh7 63.♖xd6+ ♔e5 64.c5 The rest is easy. Black cannot put up any kind of resistance. White keeps the king cut, advances the pawn slowly and wins with the help of bridge-building at the very end.

64...♖b7+ 65.♔a5 ♖b1 66.♖d2 ♔e6 67.c6 ♔e7 68.c7 ♖c1 69.♔b6 ♖b1+ 70.♔a7 ♖c1 71.♔b7 ♖b1+ 72.♔c8 ♖b3 73.♖e2+ ♔f6 [73...♔f7 Here comes the so called bridge-building with 74.♖e4! ♖b1 75.♔d7 ♖d1+ 76.♔c6 ♖c1+ 77.♔d6 ♖d1+ 78.♔c5 ♖c1+ 79.♖c4+-]

74.♖e8 ♔f7 [74...♖b1 loses to 75.♔d7 ♖d1+ 76.♔c6 ♖c1+ 77.♔b6 ♖b1+ 78.♔a5+- and the king comes in zigzag on the a- and b-files.]

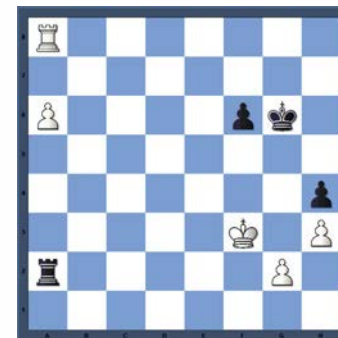
75.♖e4 Black resigned, she did not want to go through the 73...Kf7 line. **1-0**

**(15) Harika, Dronavalli (2492)
- Kosteniuk, Alexandra (2529)**WCh Women 2015(3.3),
2015.03.25GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

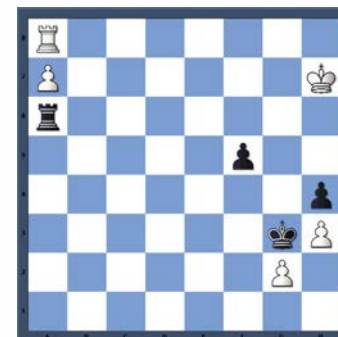
We are in the 3rd round and in the 1st rapid game. Things in the match were quite crazy from the beginning, as first Kosteniuk lost her white game, then recovered with a great win with Black in classical chess. In the current game, things were around equal all game long until Black started to play inaccurately in the rook endgame, so we finally reached this interesting endgame with a pawn up for White. White's idea is pretty simple, to put the rook on a8 and start running to b5 with the king, but it is hard to realize because Black always has Kg5 after White's Ra8. Let us take a look at how things developed in the game.

42...♖a4? The first move into the wrong direction. Black should not have chosen a passive strategy. [42...g6! would have been the correct way to act. Black needs her king to become more active. 43.fxg6 (In case White would try 43.♖e4 43...♖xg2 seems to give Black an easy draw. 44.♖f7 ♖g5

45.♖g7 White is trying to win some tempo but losing the f5 pawn. 45...♖e2+ 46.♖d5 ♖xf5 47.a7 ♖a2 48.♖c6 g5 49.♖b7 ♖f4 and Black is clearly in time to make a draw.) 43...♖xg6 44.♖a8 might be White's best chance. (44.♖e4 44...♖xg2 Now in comparison to the game the f-pawn can start advancing. 45.♖c7 ♖a2 46.a7 f5+ and the f-pawn starts to run. 47.♖d5 f4 48.♖c6 f3 49.♖b7 f2 50.♖c1 ♖b2+ with an easy draw.)



44...♖f5! It is very important for Black to activate his king. 45.♖e3 White's only chance is to run to the a-pawn and hope to be fast enough. (45.a7 leads to a dead drawn position. 45...♖a3+ 46.♖e2 ♖f4 47.♖d2 f5 now White's only chance is to run with his king to h5. 48.♖c2 ♖a1 49.♖b3 ♖a5 50.♖b4 ♖a1 51.♖b5 ♖b1+ 52.♖c6 ♖a1 53.♖d6 ♖a6+ 54.♖e7 ♖a5 55.♖f6 ♖a6+ 56.♖g7 and just when the white king crosses the g-file, the black king can enter the h2 square. 56...♖g3 57.♖h7

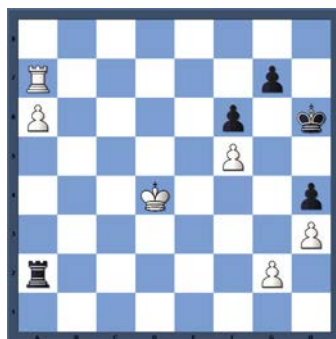


57...♔h2 and once again the position is a dead draw.)
45...♖xg2 46.♔d4 ♜g3 Black wants to collect the h-pawn so White is forced to change the place of her rook. 47.♞c8 ♞a3 48.♞c6 ♔f4 and the black king is going for the h3 pawn. 49.♔c5 ♞xh3 50.♞xf6+ ♔g5 with an immediate draw.]

43.♔e3! The white king starts marching in direction of the a-pawn.

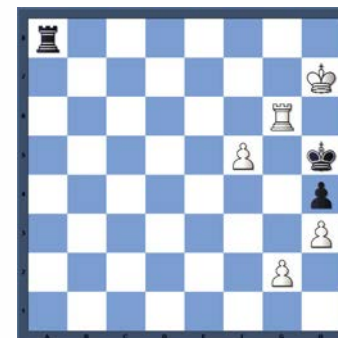
43...♞a2?! Not the best once again... [Once again the right move was 43...g6]

44.♔d4! Harika shows no mercy! Black is in big danger. White's plan of playing Ra8 and getting the king to b5 is becoming a reality.



44...♞xg2?! This is the losing move. Now White is in time to win the game. [Let us take a look at what would happen in case Black would continue waiting... It would lead to crazy complications! 44...♞a1 45.♔c5 ♞a2 (45...♞c1+ is basically the same as 45...Ra2, except that Black has the worse position of the rook on the 1st rank. 46.♔d5 ♞d1+ 47.♔c6 ♞c1+ 48.♔b7 ♞b1+ 49.♔c8! ♞a1 50.♞a8 Another important move!

Now the white king is going to hide on a7. 50...♔g5 51.♔b7 ♞b1+ 52.♔a7 ♔xf5 Black wins the f5 pawn but it is too late. 53.♞b8 followed by Rb2-Kb6-a7 and White is easily winning.) 46.♔b6 ♞b2+ 47.♔c7 ♞c2+ 48.♔b8 (To run to g8 leads to nothing more than a draw: 48.♔d8 48...♞a2 49.♔e8 ♞a1 50.♔f8 ♞a3 51.♔g8 ♞a1 White can't improve her position any longer, so the g7 pawn must be taken. 52.♞xg7 ♞xa6 53.♞g6+ ♔h5 54.♔g7 White is going for the f6 pawn, but Black has a very nice drawing idea: 54...♞a7+ 55.♔xf6 ♞a6+ 56.♔g7 ♞a7+ 57.♔g8 ♞a8+ 58.♔h7 White is 2 pawns up and Black seems to be lost- but no!



58...♞h8+!! 59.♔xh8 with stalemate!) 48...♞a2 49.♞a8 ♔g5 Now Black collects both the f5 and g2 pawns. 50.♔b7 ♞b2+ 51.♔a7 ♔xf5 52.♞b8 ♞xg2 It seems like White should be winning somehow, but how?! 53.♞b4 cutting the black king. (53.♞b5+ 53...♔f4 54.♞b4+ ♔f3 and it is unclear how White can win this position.) 53...♞a2 54.♔b6 g5 55.a7 Black's position is on the verge, but maybe things just work out for her. 55...♔e6! A very important move! White wanted to play Rb5+ and Ra5 and it is also important for Black to keep her king as central as possible to give the white king a "shoulder block".



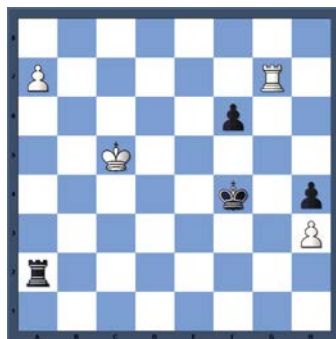
56. **Rb5** (56. **Rc4** 56... **f5** 57. **Rc6+** **Qf7** 58. **Rc5** **Rxa7** 59. **Qxa7** **Qf6** 60. **Qb6** **g4** seems to be a draw as well.) 56... **Rxa7** 57. **Qxa7** **f5** 58. **Qb6** **g4** 59. **Qc5** and Black needs to find the only defence: 59... **Qe5!** keeping the white king away from reaching the f2 square. The position is a draw.]

45. Rc7 Now Black is lost...

45... Ra2 46. a7 The problem is that the black king is still passive on h6!

46... Qg5 47. Rxg7+ Qxf5 48. Qc5 and White has all the time in the world...

48... Qf4

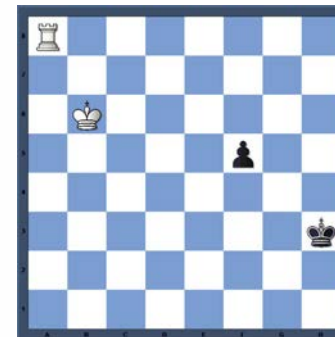


49. Rg4+! Another accurate move! White is securing to get the h4 pawn and can thus be 100% sure to win the game.

49... Qe3 50. Qb6 f5 [50... **Rb2+** 51. **Qa5** **Ra2+** 52. **Ra4** and it is over.]

51. Rxh4 Qf3 52. Rh8 Now of course it is too simple to mess up...

52... Qg3 53. a8=Q Rxa8 54. Rxa8 Qxh3



55. Rf8 and the white king is easily in time to come back to e3 and stop the f-pawn. We can conclude that from the beginning the position should be a draw but Black has to act actively and later on the position might still be a draw but from a practical point of view it is closer to be lost. **1-0**

Chess and the City. One man's meat is another man's poison...



WGM Elisabeth Paetz
Best rating: 2493

This is a phrase which we are pretty much facing at the ongoing Women's World Championship. That chess is compared to other sports is quite cruel in a way that it is much easier to blunder when you are extremely close to a win. However the resulting emotions, relief or joy, can be heartbreaking or euphoric for different people at the same time...

After I already got kicked out of the tournament in round one, I have the pleasure (or some may rather call it a punishment) to comment on the games of my dear colleagues together with GM E. Miroshnichenko from Ukraine.



Only 8 more players are still in the tournament. But let me give you a small summary of the happenings so far.

I would say that the classical games went in a more or less normal way, whereas the tiebreak matches are in some cases even comparable to a horror scenario and the heart attack risk is very high for any coach involved. Daulyte, Hoang Qian and Ushenina are so far the most tragic victims of this tournament. Certain people believe that luck does not exist in chess and that may be actually true to some extent, however missing a game because of a mobile phone setting error is what I would call luck or bad luck, depending from which angle you look at it.

The current situation in this tournament has not left too many surprises so far, apart from one exception. My first round opponent Meri Arabidze is still in the tournament! In her last match she managed to eliminate another favorite, Victory Cmilyte, and she is now facing India's second highest ranked player Harika Dronavalli.

Apart from these two, some of the top favorites are still in the tournament, such as Humpy Koneru, Anna Muzychuk and her younger sister Marya, Zhao Xue and let's not forget one of the strongest woman players of the past decades, Pia Cramling from Sweden.

Impressions of this great championship can be found under:
<http://sochi2015.fide.com/en/component/content/article/132-photo-gallery>

Clash of the Titans

(16) Petrosian, Tigran V
- Reshevsky, Samuel Herman [A47]

Lugano ol (Men) fin-A(6),
1968.10.30



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

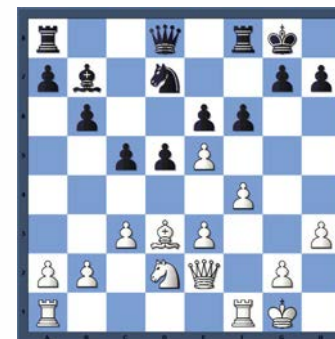
1. ♖f3 ♜f6 2. d4 e6 3. ♙f4 b6 4. e3 ♙b7 5. ♙d3 ♙e7 [5... ♜h5
6. ♙g5]

6. ♜bd2 Petrosian stays true to his style and goes for a simple
setup. [6.h3 A typical move which prevents the bishops'
exchange.]



6... ♜h5 The idea to exchange the bishops is logical. Black
also had other possibilities to develop. For example [6... c5
7. c3 d5 (7... d6 8. O-O ♜bd7 9. e4 a6 10. a4! fixing the weak pawn
on a6. 10... O-O 11. ♙e2 White has a stable advantage as he has
more space.) 8. O-O O-O 9. ♙e2 ♜c6 (9... ♜h5 10. ♙xb8 ♜xb8
11. ♜e5 ♜f6 12. f4 followed by the typical maneuver Rf3-Rh3.)
10. h3 Black needs to start fighting for the important e5 square.

10... ♙d6 (10... ♜d7!? with the idea Bf6-Re8-e5.) 11. ♜e5! ♙c7
(11... ♙xe5 12. ♙xe5 (12. dxe5 12... ♜d7 13. ♜f3 h6 and the bishop
on f4 is limited. I have no idea how to improve White's
position, maybe by playing Kh2-g4-Rg1.) 12... ♜xe5 13. dxe5
♜d7 14. f4 f6



A typical move but it doesn't work. 15. ♙h5! g6 16. ♙xg6 hxg6
17. ♙xg6+ ♙h8 18. ♙h6+ ♙g8 19. ♜f3+-]

7. ♙g3 [7. O-O 7... ♜xf4 8. exf4 This structure makes more sense
when the black pawn is already placed on d5. 8... O-O 9. c3
d6 (9... c5) 10. f5 exf5 11. ♙xf5 ♜d7 12. ♙e4 ♙xe4 13. ♜xe4 d5
14. ♜g3 c6 with equal play.]

7... ♜xg3 8. hxg3 h6 9. ♙e2 White keeps the option of castling
queenside.

9... c5 10. c3 ♜c6 [10... d6 11. g4 ♜d7 12. e4 (12. ♙a6 12... ♙xa6
13. ♙xa6 ♙c8 14. ♙xc8+ ♜xc8 15. g5 and White creates a
weakness on the kingside.) 12... cxd4 13. cxd4 a6 14. a4+= and
White is better because I have no idea what to do with the
black king. Black should probably try to play g6-Kf8-Kg7.]

11. g4 ♙c7 12. a3 This probably means that after cxd4
Petrosian wants to recapture with cxd4. [12. g5 was possible
immediately. 12... cxd4 13. exd4 ♙f4? 14. g3 ♙g4 15. ♜h4+-]

12...d5 [12...g6 13.g5 (13.e4 13...♔f8 14.g5 ♕g7! 15.♖xh6 ♖xh6 16.gxh6+ ♕xh6 17.♘c4 cxd4 18.cxd4 d5 19.exd5 exd5 20.♘e3 ♖d6 It looks that Black solves his problems.) 13...h5 14.♘e4 (14.g4!?) 14...d5 (14...♖d8) 15.♘f6+ ♕xf6 16.gxf6 ♖d8 17.♘e5 ♖xf6 18.♕b5 ♖c8 19.♘xc6 ♕xc6 20.♕xc6+ ♖xc6 21.♖b5 ♕d7 22.a4 ♖a8! A very strong move which prevents the opening of the a-file. 23.a5 (23.dxc5 23...a6) 23...a6⌚]



13.g5! White is creating a weak pawn on the kingside.

13...O-O-O 14.gxh6 ♖xh6 [14...g6 15.g4±]

15.♖xh6 gxh6



16.♕a6! The bishop on b7 was limited but more important was to get rid of the black pair of bishops. [16.O-O-O was less accurate because of 16...c4 17.♕c2 b5 18.e4 a5! 19.exd5 exd5 with b4 next and Black is quick with his counterplay.]

16...f5 [16...c4 17.♕xb7+ ♕xb7 18.e4 b5 19.g3± and the b5-a5 plan is not dangerous for White because the king will stay on g2.]

17.g3 c4 [17...h5!? 18.♕xb7+ ♕xb7 19.O-O-O h4 with the idea to give the pawn but defend a bit more actively. 20.gxh4 ♖h8 21.♖h1 ♕f6 22.♕b1 ♖h6 with c4-b5-a5-Qh7 next.]

18.♕xb7+ ♕xb7



19.♘g1! A very strong move. White is preparing to put pressure against the weak h6 pawn.

19...♕d6 20.♖h5 activating the queen and fixing the h6 pawn, otherwise Black could play Qf7-h5 and try to get rid of it.

20...♖g7 21.♘e2 ♘e7 [21...♖g5 22.♖f7+ ♖e7 23.♖g6±]

22.♘f4 ♕xf4 [22...♖f6 23.♕e2 ♖h8 24.♖h1 ♕c6 25.♖f3 threatening Nxc4. 25...♕d7 26.♖h5 b5 27.♖h1 a5 28.♘f3! with Ng5 ideas at some point.]

23.exf4 ♘g8 24.♖f3 ♕c7 [24...b5 was less accurate because of



25.a4! a6 26.axb5 axb5 27.b3→and the black king is not safe.]

25.O-O-O It would be interesting to know why Petrosian didn't want to keep the king on the kingside. [25.♔f1 25...♟f6 26.♚e2 ♟d7 27.♔g2 ♟e4 28.♟f3 (28.♟xe4 28...fxe4 29.♚h1 ♚f8 and here Black can defend his position.) 28...♚g8 29.♟e5+ ♟d6 30.♚f3 (30.♚h1 30...♟xg3 31.fxg3 ♚xg3+ 32.♔f1 ♚xf4+↗)]

25...♟f6 26.♚e2 ♟d7 27.♚h1 ♟g4 28.♟f3 [28.f3? creating a weakness on g3 and not allowing the knight to transfer to e5. 28...♟f6=]

28...♚e8 29.♔d2 ♚b8 [29...b5!? Black is hoping to get counterplay on the queenside. 30.♔e1 a5 31.♔f1 b4 32.axb4 axb4 33.♔g2! (33.cxb4 33...♔c6! 34.♔g2 ♚a7 preventing Ra1. 35.♟e5+ ♟xe5 36.♚xe5 ♟b5↗) 33...♔c6 34.b3±]

30.♔e1 b5 31.♔f1 a5 32.♔g2 a4?! I somehow don't like this move at all. Maybe Black was afraid that White would open the position on the other side but now he denies himself any chance for counterplay, as the b4 break is not possible anymore. [32...b4? 33.axb4 axb4 34.♚a1→; 32...♔e7 This move seems to be the most logical but now White has the unexpected and very strong



33.♟h4! (33.♟e5 Compared to the game, this idea now leads to a draw. 33...♟xe5 34.♚xe5 ♚xe5 35.fxe5 ♚h8 36.f3 ♔f7 37.g4 fxg4 (37...♔g6=) 38.fxg4 ♔g6 (38...♔g7 39.♚f1 ♚f8 40.♚xf8 ♔xf8 41.♔h3 ♔g7 42.♔h4 ♔g6=) 39.♚f1 ♔g5 40.♔g3 (40.♚f6) 40...b4 This is why Black should keep this possibility. 41.axb4 axb4 42.♚f6 bxc3 43.bxc3 ♚b8 44.♚xe6 ♚b3↗) 33...♔f7 33...Qf6/Qf7/Rf8 was not possible because of 34.f3!. 34.♚e1! (34.f3 34...♟f6 35.♚e5 ♚g8 36.♚c7+ ♔f8) 34...♚b6 35.♟xf5 exf5 36.♚e8+ ♔f6 37.♚d8+↗-])



33.♟e5+! Now Petrosian simplifies to a winning rook endgame.

33...♟xe5 34.♚xe5 ♚xe5 35.fxe5 ♚h8 36.f3! ♔e7 37.g4 fxg4?! Black would have better practical chances after [37...♔f7 At least now the f-file is not open. 38.gxf5 exf5 39.♔g3 h5! 40.♔f4 (40.♔h4 40...♚g8!↗) 40...♔e6



41. ♖h4! (41. ♕g5 41... ♖g8+ with the same trick.; 41. ♖g1 41... h4 42. ♖g6+ ♕f7 43. ♕xf5? ♖h5+--+) 41... ♖h7 42. ♕g5 ♖g7+ 43. ♕xh5 ♖g2 44. ♕h6 ♖xb2 45. ♕g5 ♖b3 46. ♖h6+ ♕e7 47. ♕xf5 ♖xc3 48. ♖h7+ ♕e8 49. f4 and of course White should be faster.]

38. fxg4 ♖g8 [38... ♕f7 39. ♖f1+ ♕g7 40. ♖f6 ♖e8 41. ♕h3 and White is simply winning after Kh4-Kh5.]

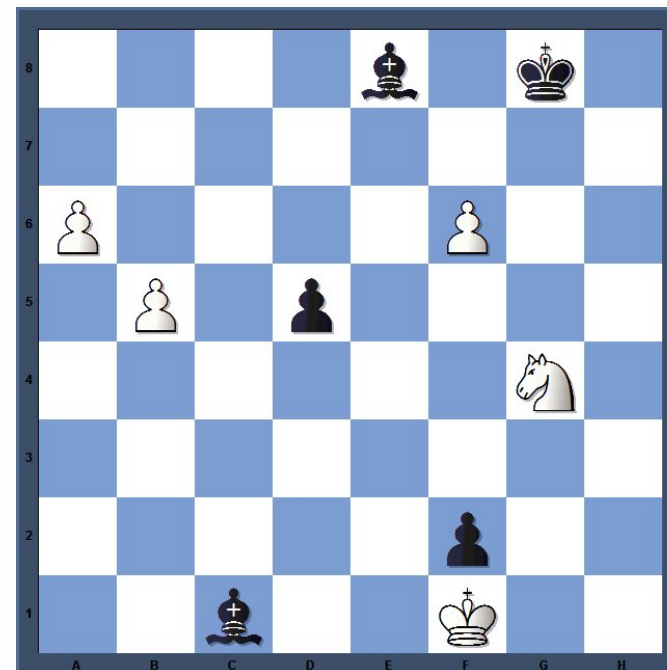
39. ♕h3 ♖f8 40. ♕g3 ♖h8 41. ♕h4 ♖g8 [41... ♖f8 42. ♕h5 ♖f2 43. ♕xh6 ♖xb2 44. g5+--]

42. ♖f1 1-0

Surprise section / study

(17) Bondarenko

1. +-



Solutions

(18) Bisby, D(2321)-Movsesian, S(2665)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.11



30. ♖d5! ♜a5 [30...exd5 31. ♙xd7+-]

31. ♗f6 1-0

(19) Ptacnikova, L(2242)-Steingrimsen, H(2530)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.11



7... ♙c5! 8. c3 e5—+ 0-1

(20) Hansen, E(2566)-Tjomsland, S(2300)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.11

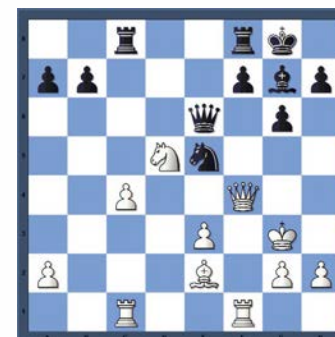


26. ♜xd4! exd4 27. ♜e7! ♜g8 [27... ♗xe7 28. ♙xh7#; 27... ♙d6 28. ♗xg6 fxg6 29. ♙xh7#]

28. ♜xd7+-

(21) Kristinsson, J(2251)-Gao Rui(2533)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.11



22... ♗d3! 0-1 [22... ♗d3 23. ♗xd3 ♗e5—+]

(22) Navara, D(2736)-Kristjansson, S(2482)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.12



27. ♔e7! ♚f5 [27... ♚xe7 28. ♘xe7+-]

28. g4+- 1-0

(23) Grandelius, N(2603)-Pulvett, D(2434)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.12

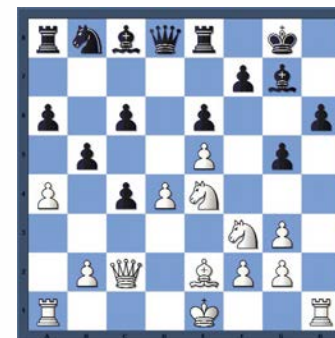


19. ♘g5! fxg5 20. ♚xe6+ ♔h8 [20... ♖f7 21. fxg5 ♖f8
22. ♘c4+-]

21. ♚xe7 gxf4 22. ♚e4+-

(24) Sarkar, J(2376)-Rasmussen, A(2532)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.13

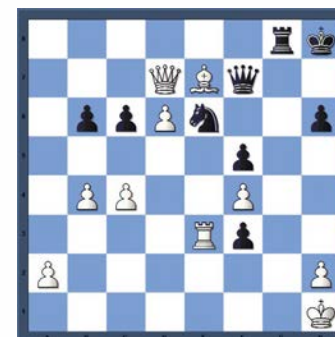


15. ♖xh6! f5 [15... ♘xh6 16. ♘f6+ ♔f8 17. ♚h7+- ♘g7 (17... ♔e7
18. ♘xe8 ♚xe8 19. ♚xh6+-) 18. ♘xg5+- ♘xf6 19. ♚xf7#]

16. ♘f6+ ♔f8 17. ♖g6 1-0

(25) Christiansen, J(2351)-Rombaldoni, A(2488)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.16



32. ♚xe6! ♚xe6 33. ♖xe6 f2 34. ♖xh6+! ♔g7 35. ♔g2! 1-0
[35. ♔g2 35... ♔xh6+ 36. ♔xf2+-]

(26) Igonin, T(2332)-Aleksandrov, A(2603)

Agzamov memorial, 2015.03.13



26...♘d3! 27.♚xe7 [27.♚xd3 27...♚xe1+—+]

27...♚xe7! 28.♚xe7 ♘xf2 29.♚e8+ ♙g7 30.♙xf2 b4—+

(27) Vocaturo, D(2590)-Bischoff, K(2504)

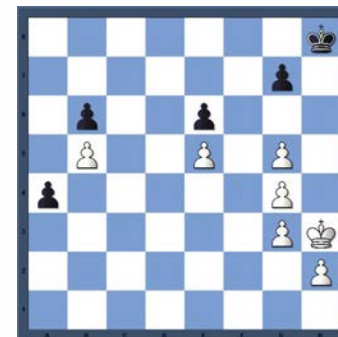
German league, 2015.03.15



15.♘b1!! ♚xc1 [15...♚a2 16.♚f2 ♚a1 17.♘b3+—]

16.♘xc1+—

(28) Kralin



1.g6! a3 2.g5 a2 3.♙g4 a1=♚ 4.♙h5! ♚xe5 [4...♚h1 5.h4=;
4...♚d1+ 5.g4 ♚f3 6.h4=]

5.h4! ♚e1 [5...♚xg3=]

6.g4 ♚xh4+! 7.♙xh4 ♙g8 8.♙g3 ♙f8 9.♙f4 ♙e7 10.♙e5
♙d7 11.♙d4! ♙d6 12.♙e4 e5 13.♙f5! ♙d5=



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Top GM Secrets

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Editorial Preface

The Women's World Championship is coming to an end. The two finalists are Natalija Pogonina from Russia and Mariya Muzychuk from Ukraine. Both players were fighting very hard to reach the final stage of the event. The score is 1.5-0.5 to Muzychuk, but the final consists of 4 classical games. Despite being behind, Natalija Pogonina must still feel confident, since she passed the last three(!) rounds after losing the first game of the match, but she always equalized in the second and went through in the tiebreak.

The very strong Aeroflot Open in Moscow is also coming to its conclusion. Before the last round the sole leader is Ian Nepomniachtchi with the amazing score of 6.5/8. Three young GMs, Ivan Bukavshin, Daniil Dubov and Lu Shanglei are just half a point behind him.

The US Championship has just started. We expect a huge fight for the first place between Hikaru Nakamura and Wesley So. They have already shown their intentions to the field by getting off to a great start with 2/2. However the field is full of very talented young players, who can cause surprises at any moment and obviously one should never forget about the reigning champion, Gata Kamsky.

As usual we wish you a lot of fun with the current issue! Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) **Zvjaginsev, Vadim (2658)**
- **Bok, Benjamin (2587) [C44]**Aeroflot Open A 2015(3.11),
2015.03.29GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Vadim Zvjaginsev was always a very resourceful player with extraordinary imagination in unusual positions. He is also known for his creative opening play...

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.g3 Obviously this move cannot create real problems for Black, it rather aims at avoiding a theoretical battle.

3...♙c5 Black keeps the structure closed. [An alternative is 3...♘f6 attacking the e4 pawn and after 4.Nc3 or 4.d3, d5 leads to a completely different game.]

4.♙g2 d6 5.O-O



5...f5 A highly ambitious move. The point is that in positions with Nf6 and O-O a standard idea is to play something like h6 and Nh7 followed by f5. Black would like to execute this plan,

but in a much better version because he is sparing 2 tempi. The drawback is clearly that Black opens the center too fast, while his king is still in the middle of the board. White has two moves to make use of it, otherwise Black develops with Nf6 and O-O and he is completely fine. [More normal was to finish the development with 5...♘f6 and O-O.]

6.exf5 ♙xf5



7.b4!! A brilliant resource, extremely creative play! Zvjaginsev follows the principle that he must open the center on the king. He wants to play d4, but first he lures one of the minor pieces to b4 in order to make the real plan more effective.

7...♙xb4 It is important to keep the knight on c6 to keep the position together. It protects the e5 square after White plays d4. [The black pieces become much more confused after 7...♘xb4 8.d4! This is a position which is impossible to calculate before 7.b4, one must have the intuition that White's compensation should be more than enough. The following lines seem to confirm it. 8...♘xc2 (8...♙b6 9.dxe5 ♘xc2 10.♘h4! This is a recurring motif in this game. The bishop does not have a square to protect the c2 knight and after 10...♘xa1 11.♘xf5 it is clear that things will end up badly for Black. The king faces an enormous attack and the knight

is also trapped in the corner.; There is a nice line after 8...exd4 9. ♖xd4 ♙xd4 10. ♔xd4 ♘xc2 11. ♔xg7 ♙f6



It all looks perfect for Black. He manages to trade queens and the a1 rook is caught, but suddenly the dark squared bishop becomes a hero. 12. ♙b2! ♔xg7 13. ♙xg7 ♘xa1 14. ♙xa1! taking the knight first and the rook remains trapped on h8.) 9.dxc5 ♘xa1 10. ♙b2 ♘c2 11. ♘h4! The same idea again. The bishop cannot defend the c2 knight anymore. An attempt to replace it with the queen, for instance 11...♔d7 is refuted by 12.c6! bxc6 13. ♘xf5 ♔xf5 14. ♙xc6+--]

8.d4 ♘ge7 Black must focus on quickly finishing the development. [8...exd4 9. ♖xd4]

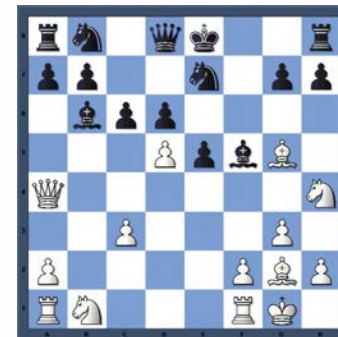
9.c3! It is important to open the diagonal to b3 and a4 for the queen. This is the only way to gain some direct benefits before Black can castle.

9...♙a5 10.d5 [The alternative 10. ♔b3 to prevent castling also looks pretty interesting, although after 10...♔d7 with the idea of Be6 11.dxe5 d5 followed by 0-0, Black seems to be alright.]

10...♘b8 11. ♔a4+ c6 Black saves the piece, but he critically weakens his pawn chain, which allows White to organize his counterplay.

12. ♙g5! Developing with tempo and pinning the knight. Black must delay castling with another move, because White could take on e7 and then on a5.

12...♙b6 13. ♘h4 Very concrete chess! White wants to achieve the maximum as long as the king is still on e8.



13...0-0 Finally Black castles, but losing the light squared bishop is a very sad scenario for him. The power of the g2 bishop increases heavily by this and the pressure on the c6 pawn increases even further. But of course Black is still a pawn up, since the 7th move... [13...♙d7 could have been met by 14. ♔b3! keeping the king in the center. White could strengthen his position with Nd2-c4. 14...c5? locks the position and lets Black castle next move, but this move is a positional disaster after 15. ♘a3! and Nc4. The black pieces and his pawn structure are just terrible.]

14. ♘xf5 ♔xf5 15. ♔h4 The most natural move to keep the annoying pin alive, but perhaps it was not objectively the best. [The simple 15. ♙xe7 15...♔xe7 16. ♘d2 seems to give White a pleasant edge. Black has difficulties with finishing the development of his queenside. The only way to do it is by giving back his extra pawn 16...♘d7 but now he ends up in a worse position after 17.dxc6 bxc6 18. ♔xc6 ♔af8 19. ♘e4+= The e4 knight is extremely strong. It attacks the target on d6 and protects the weakness on f2.]

15...♖f7 16.a4 Another natural positional move! White would like to weaken the light squares with a5-a6. [16.♘d2 16...h6 17.♙xe7 ♖xe7 18.♙xe7 ♖xe7 will lead to more or less to the same as the game after a4. Nc4 is answered by Bc5.]

16...h6 17.♙xe7 ♖xe7 18.♙xe7 ♖xe7 It is a huge relief for Black to finally unpin himself and simplify the position a bit, but the danger is far from over... His queenside is still undeveloped and he is very vulnerable on the light squares.



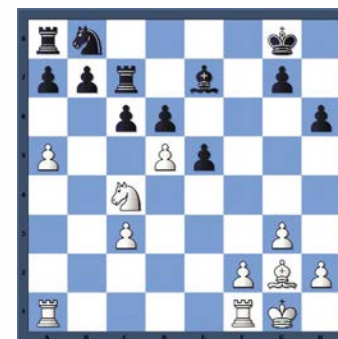
19.a5 ♙d8 Too passive. [Black should have played 19...♙c5 20.♘d2 Black should not suffer anymore and return his extra pawn for further simplifications... (Black was probably afraid of 20.a6 but actually he holds after 20...b6! and on 21.dxc6 ♖c7 Black has just enough time to take on c6 and leave from the pin with his a8 rook.) 20...♘d7! 21.dxc6 bxc6 22.♙xc6 ♖c8 23.♙d5+ ♔f8 24.♘e4 White seems to still be in control, but after 24...♘f6! Black trades the knights and he should be able to hold the draw with the opposite colored bishops.]

20.♘d2! Black has probably underestimated this simple positional move. White delays playing a6, but he intends to improve his position with Nc4, Rfb1 and only in a better moment to push a6. [On the direct 20.a6 Black had planned to reply with 20...c5! which is why he did not put his bishop to c5 in the previous move. White still has very nice compensation

after axb7 Rxb7 and Nd2, but it is not the same as in the 13... Bd7 line, because the position got simplified a lot!]

20...♖c7 Black protects his c6 pawn in order to develop his b8 knight! [20...a6 21.♖fb1 is also unpleasant.]

21.♘c4 ♙e7 Black wants to protect everything, but he blunders a beautiful idea... [21...♘a6 was the only move, although White has a clear plus here as well. 22.♘d6±]



22.♘b6!! This fantastic tactical blow finishes the game right away! The rook is trapped on a8.

22...axb6 23.axb6 ♘a6 [23...♖xa1 24.bxc7+- White promotes to a queen next move.]

24.dxc6 bxc6 25.♖xa6 [Finishing the game in style! Black resigned in view of 25.♖xa6! 25...♖xa6 (25...♖cc8 26.b7!+-) 26.bxc7 ♖a8 27.♖b1+- (Or 27.♙h3+- The 7.b4 and 22. Nb6 moves were really adorable.)] **1-0**

**(2) Pogonina, Natalija (2456)
- Cramling, Pia (2495) [B28]**

WCh Women 2015(5.2),
2015.03.30



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are in the 2nd game of the semi-final of the World Championship in Sochi. Pogonina lost her first game for the 3rd time in a row and needs to win the current game to equalize and play the tie-break tomorrow. It is very difficult to bounce back once after losing the first game, to make it twice is already exceptional, but to manage 3 comebacks just deserves a lot of respect. So let us take a look at how Natalija very confidently made the 3rd comeback a reality!

1.e4 c5 Cramling doesn't pick the safest opening when all she needed was a draw.

2.♘f3 a6 and this move is even harder to understand. Usually we see such openings in opens, during the first rounds, when a stronger player is trying to beat a weaker one.

3.♗e2 A normal move, but the main ones are 3.c4 and 3. c3 which both seem to bring White nice play.

3...e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♗xd4 ♘f6 6.♗c3 and we are back to the main lines.

6...♗b4 Black is going for a very risky line. [6...d6 and we are in the very main position.]

7.e5 Of course! Natalija needs to win so she is going for a very sharp line.

7...♞d5 8.O-O White is sacrificing a pawn to get much better development.

8...♞xc3 9.bxc3



9...♗e7 The safest choice. [The game Giri-Vitiugov continued with 9...♗xc3 10.♗a3! White gives an exchange to keep the black king in the center. 10...♔a5 11.♗d6 The e5 pawn needs to survive. 11...♞c6 12.♞xc6 dxc6 13.f4 ♗xa1 14.♔xa1 Black is an exchange and a pawn up, but White's position is better here! The very dangerous position of the black king and the very bad bishop on c8 give White more than just compensation for the lost material.]

10.♗f4 O-O 11.♔d3 This is nothing new and clearly evaluated as better for White.

11...b6 Black's intention to develop the bishop to b7 is right. [Of course it would be a relieve for Black to be able to play d6, but it just doesn't work: 11...d6? 12.exd6 ♗xd6 13.♞xe6! and White is winning.]

12.♗f3 Quite a logical move, but White also had another alternative: [Why not first play 12.♔g3 with the simple threat of playing Bh6 next. 12...♔h8 13.♗d3 and I think White's play on the kingside could become very dangerous.]

12...♖a7



13.♗e4! In my opinion this is a very strong move. White is weakening Black's pawn structure for the future.

13...g6 [To play 13...h6 14.♖g3 looks too dangerous for Black.]

14.♖fd1 White is bringing all her pieces to the center.

14...♗b7 Black can breathe a bit better after the bishop from c8 has been exchanged.

15.♗xb7 White wants to have the a6 pawn under attack, but maybe it was more simple to play 15.Rab1 with clear pressure.

15...♖xb7 16.♖ab1 White's idea is to prevent Black from playing Nc6 now.

16...♖c8?! A very strange move... [It was much more natural to play 16...♖c7 with the idea of playing Rc8 or Nc6 next. Black's position is almost OK.]

17.a4 A nice positional move. White stops Black from even dreaming about playing b5 one day.

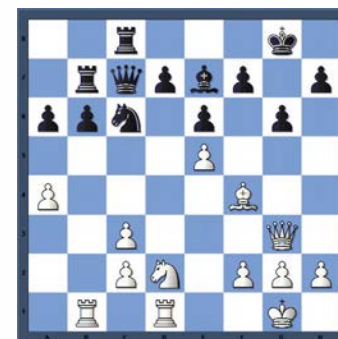
17...♖c5 A natural move, but it allows a great maneuver...

18.♞b3! A very strong move! The white knight is going to take a fantastic position on e4 and now we can see how important the 13.Be4! move was, since the f6 and h6 squares are now very weak.

18...♖c7 19.♞d2 ♞c6 The black knight is out and White has to protect the e5 pawn.

20.♖g3 White continues playing for Ne4. [White could have won a pawn, but I think the position would be very close to a draw after 20.♖xa6 20...♖a7 21.♖b5 ♖a5 and White probably doesn't have anything better than to play 22.♖xb6 ♖xb6 23.♖xb6 ♖xa4 with a slightly better, but close to equal endgame.]

20...♖c8?! Too passive... Black had to look for fast counterplay. [20...b5! would have been the right choice. 21.axb5 ♖xb5 Exchanging one pair of rooks will make the defense a bit more easy. 22.♖xb5 axb5 23.♞e4 ♖a8 24.h4 and White still has some initiative, but Black is on a good way to equalize.]



21.♞e4 ♖d8 Black is trying to go into a passive defense, but it is usually a bad choice...

22.♗g5! Strong and logical! After the exchange of the black bishops the dark squares are becoming even weaker.

22...♗xg5 23.♞xg5 ♞a5 Black is trying to get her knight to c4, but from there it will not help on the kingside either. [White is doing better even after 23...♖c7 24.♖d6 ♞e7 25.♞e4 The domination on the dark squares is really scary!]

24. ♖e4 [24. ♖h4!? was maybe even stronger, provoking Black into playing h5, which could make White's play on the kingside even more efficient. 24...h5 25. ♖f4 ♖e7 26. ♖e4 ♖c4 27. ♖d3 and the black king is in big trouble!]

24... ♖c4 25. ♖d4 The white rook will very soon be able to act on the 4th rank.

25... ♖g7 26. ♖e1 All the white pieces are now in the attack and it is still unclear where Black's counterplay is.

26... h6 defending from a possible Ng5 move or Nf6 and Rh4.

27. h4! Exactly the right answer! White is securing her king from getting mated on the 1st rank somewhere in the future and she is also threatening to play h5 in a good moment.

27... ♖c7 I think this move was made out of despair. Black should have played the immediate 27...b5 and hope not to get mated.

28. f4 Now the e5 pawn is even more secured than it was before.

28... b5 Black's play comes too late...



29. h5! using the fact that Black can't take the a4 pawn.

29... ♖d8 [In case of 29...bxa4 White is winning with the silent move 30. ♖h4! and the game is over because Black has no

decent defense against the upcoming Qf6.]

30. axb5 Now White has all the time in the world again.

30... axb5 31. ♖g4! Pogonina really plays a fantastic game! With this silent move White is preparing the deadly threat of playing Rd3-Rg3 next. Black has no defence against it!

31... ♖e7 Other moves would not help much already.

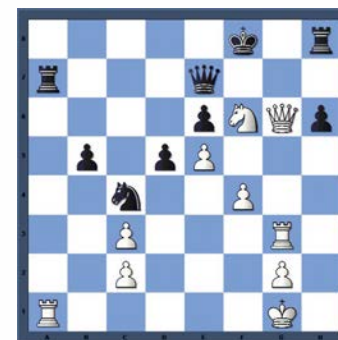
32. ♖d3 Rg3 is coming...

32... ♖g8 33. ♖f6 ♖h8 34. ♖g3 and the g6 pawn can't be protected any longer. The game is over.

34... d5 35. hxg6 fxg6 36. ♖xg6+ ♖f8 White is a pawn up and the black king is under a huge attack. The game will not last much longer.

37. ♖a1! Precision until the end. The threat of Ra8 is finishing the game immediately.

37... ♖a7



38. ♖d7+ and of course Black cannot play 38... Qxd7 because of 39. Qf6 and Qxh8! Pogonina made it real, a 3rd comeback in the mini matches is done! This is really an extraordinary achievement of which Natalija can be very proud. The next day, to make things perfect, she won her rapid match 1. 5-0.5 and went into the final where she will face Marya Muzychuk.

1-0

The K-Files. Breaking the Symmetry II - 5.e3 dxc4



GM Alexander Khalifman
FIDE World Chess Champion (1999)

Best rating: 2702

(3) Breaking the Symmetry II - 5.e3 dxc4 [D71]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 c6 4.♗g2 d5 5.e3 dxc4 Black accepts the sacrificed pawn and it's not easy for White to win it back.



6.♞e2 This is Kramnik's move. Now White is always ready to meet Be6 with Nf4. [However it might happen that the alternative 6.♞d2 invented by Edouard in August 2014 is the most critical line. 6...♗e6 can be played here since the knight can't jump to f4 yet. (

a) 6...c5 Black gives a tempo but pretends to clear the matters in the center as soon as possible. 7.♞xc4 (7.♞gf3

7...♞c6 8.♞xc4 ♗e6 (8...cxd4 is the playable alternative. 9.♞xd4 ♞xd4 10.exd4 ♗g7 11.O-O O-O∞) 9.♞a4 ♗g7 10.♞fe5 ♗d5 11.♞xc6 bxc6 12.O-O Edouard - Gledura, Hastings 2015, and now 12...♞d7!? 13.dxc5 ♞xc5 14.♞c2 ♗xg2 15.♞xg2 ♞d3 16.♞xd3 ♞xd3 17.e4 O-O-O= would allow Black to defend his queenside weaknesses with the king.) 7...cxd4 8.exd4 ♗g7 9.♞e2 O-O 10.O-O ♞c6 11.d5+= with a typical Gruenfeld structure and some edge for White.;

b) 6...b5 7.♞e2 White intends to open the c-file with b2-b3 and obtain good compensation for the pawn. 7...♞d5 (After 7...♗g7 8.b3 cxb3 9.axb3 ♞ White's play is easy.) 8.O-O a5 (8...♗g7 9.b3 c3 10.♞e4 b4 11.a3 ♞a5 12.♞b1 ♞) 9.e4 ♞b6 10.b3 cxb3 11.axb3 ♗g7 Dvirnyy - Salgado Lopez, Jerusalem 2015 12.♞f3!? O-O 13.♗f4=)

7.♞e2 ♗h6 This maneuver is known from some Gruenfeld-Bg5 lines. 8.♞c2 b5 9.O-O O-O 10.b3 cxb3 11.axb3 a5 12.♞f3!? (12.e4 allowed Black to solve his queenside development problems. 12...♞a6! 13.♞xc6 ♗d7 14.♞c2 ♞b4 15.♞b1 ♞c8 16.♞f3 ♗xc1 17.♞xc1 ♞xc1+ 18.♞xc1 ♞c7= Mamedyarov - Navara, Reykjavik 2015) 12...♗f5 (12...♞d5 13.♗d2= The black knight is still sleeping on b8.) 13.♞d1 ♗e4 14.♞c3 ♗d5 15.♞c2=]

6...♞bd7!? The most accurate move order. Black plans to defend the c4 pawn with the knight, thus avoiding the weakening b7-b5. [

a) 6...♞d5?! 7.O-O b5 looks suspicious because of 8.a4! ♗b7 (8...b4 9.e4 ♞c7 10.♗e3 ♗a6 11.♞d2±) 9.b3 cxb3 10.axb5 cxb5 11.♞xb3 ♞d7 (11...a6 12.♞ec3 e6 13.♞xd5 ♗xd5 14.♗xd5 ♞xd5 15.♞xd5 exd5 16.♞c3±) 12.♞bc3 ♞xc3 13.♞xc3 ♗xg2 14.♞xg2 a6 15.♞xb5 ♗g7 16.♞c3± Navara - Hammer, Tromsø 2013;

Immediate b) 6...b5 is more logical but after 7.O-O (7.a4

7...b4 8.a5 ♖a6∞) 7...a5 (7...♙g7 8.a4 b4 9.a5+=; 7...♙b7 8.a4 b4 9.♗d2 ♙a6 10.e4∞; 7...♙a6 8.b3∞) 8.b3 cxb3 9.axb3∞ White has full compensation for the pawn.;

After c) 6...e5 7.O-O (7.dxe5?! 7...♙xd1+ 8.♙xd1 ♗g4±) 7...exd4 8.♗xd4∞ the white pieces only become more active.;

d) 6...♙g7 This was Gelfand's choice in the very first game with 5.e3 6.Ne2. 7.O-O allows Black to return to the plan with Nb8-d7-b6. (7.♗a3!? is more precise. 7...e5 8.♗xc4 exd4 9.♗xd4 O-O 10.O-O ♙e7 (10...♗bd7 11.b3 ♗b6 12.♙a3 ♗xc4 13.bxc4+=) 11.b3 ♗d8 12.♙a3 c5 13.♙e1 ♗a6 14.♙a5 ♗d5 15.♗ad1 ♙g4 16.♗f5 ♙xf5 17.♗xd5 ♗xd5 18.♙xd5+= Greenfeld - Semprun Martinez, London 2014 White's pieces are more active.) 7...O-O (7...♗bd7!? - 6...♗bd7) 8.♗a3 (The other way to attack the pawn 8.♗d2 after 8...b5 only brings White additional problems. 9.a4 (The standard 9.b3 9...cxb3 10.axb3∞ gives White certain compensation.) 9...♗d5 10.axb5 cxb5 11.♗c3 ♙b7 12.♙f3 (12.♗xb5?! 12...♗xe3! 13.fxe3 ♙xg2 14.♙xg2 ♙d5+ 15.♙f3 ♙xb5 16.♗xc4 (16.♙xa8 16...♗c6 17.♗xa7 ♗xa8 18.♗xa8+ ♙f8 19.♗f3 f6=+) 16...♗d7+= Michalik - E. Hansen, Dubai 2014) 12...e6 13.♗xb5 ♙c6 14.♗a3 ♗b6=) 8...♗bd7 (8...♙e6 9.♙c2+=) 9.♗xc4 Now e5 is under firm control. 9...♗b6 (9...♗d5?! only makes things worse. 10.b3 a5 Kukhmazov - Vastrukhin, Voronezh 2014 11.e4 ♗5b6 12.♗e3 e5 13.♙b2± The black knights are obviously misplaced now.) 10.b3!? So this developing move is preferable in my opinion. (The retreat 10.♗a5 allows Black to prepare the freeing e7-e5. 10...♙c7 (10...♗bd7 The other move 11.b4 e5 12.♙b2 ♙e7 13.b5 cxb5 14.♙b3 b4 Gajewski - Aabling Thomsen, Reykjavik 2013 15.a3!+= doesn't bring the desired results as White is far ahead in development.) 11.b4 (11.♙c2 11...e5 12.♙d2 ♗e8∞) 11...e5 12.dxe5 ♙xe5 13.♗d4 So it's better to start the action on the kingside immediately. 13...h5!± (The solid 13...♗e4 14.♙c2 ♗e8 15.♗b1 (15.♙a3 Kramnik - Gelfand, London

2013 15...h5!± M. Krasenkow) 15...♗d5 16.a3 ♙e7 17.♙b2 h5 18.♗bd1 ♗df6 (18...h4? 19.♗dxc6+-) 19.f3 ♗g5 20.e4+= Edouard - Petr, Tromso 2014 gave White some advantage.)) 10...♗e8 (After 10...c5?! 11.♙a3 cxd4 12.♗xd4 ♗xc4 13.bxc4 ♙c7 14.♗c1 a6 15.c5 ♗d8 16.c6± Ding Liren - Ganguly, Doha 2014 Black's position is close to collapse.) 11.e4!? (Otherwise Black is fine. 11.♙b2 11...♗xc4 12.bxc4 e5=; 11.♙a3 11...♗xc4 12.bxc4 e5 13.d5 cxd5 14.cxd5 Zoler - Roiz, Legnica 2013 14...e4±) 11...♗xc4 12.bxc4 e5 (After 12...c5?! 13.e5 ♗d7 14.f4 ♗b6 15.dxc5 ♗xc4 16.♙xd8 ♗xd8 17.♗b1± White's pressure is increasing.) 13.d5+= The strong pawn center gives White some advantage.]

7.O-O [After 7.♗a3 7...♗b6 8.O-O (as 8.♙c2 doesn't work because of 8...e5!? 9.dxe5 ♗g4±) 8...♙g7 we just have a move transposition.]

7...♙g7 This is the critical position (or at least one of them). White has a choice and it's still hard to say which way to go.



8.a4 [After 8.♗a3 8...♗b6 9.♙c2 O-O if White wants to play for an advantage he must play in true gambit style. 10.e4 (In case of 10.♗xc4 10...♙f5 11.♙c3 ♗fd5 12.♙b3 ♙e6 13.♗xb6 ♗f4 14.♙d1 ♗xe2+ 15.♙xe2 axb6= Black has absolutely no problems.) 10...♙e6!? (10...♗e8 is weaker. 11.♗xc4 ♙g4 12.♗a5! ♗d6 13.♗d1+= Potkin - Timman, Wijk aan Zee (B) 2015) 11.♗d1 (11.♗f4?! 11...♙xd4 12.♗xe6 fxe6 13.♗d1 ♙c5=+) 11...♙c8

(11...♖h5∞) 12.♖f4 ♗d8 13.♞e2 ♖e8 14.♙e3 ♖d6∞ White certainly has some pressure for the pawn but it's quite hard to break through.; The situation is about the same after 8.♞c2 8...♖b6 9.e4 O-O (9...e5 is quite risky: 10.dxe5 ♖g4 (After 10...♞d3? 11.exf6!! ♞xc2 12.fxg7 ♗g8 13.♖bc3+- the black queen is trapped after Rd1-d2 or Rd1 Nd4.) 11.♞d1 ♞e7 12.f4 f6 13.exf6 ♙xf6 14.e5 ♙f5 15.♞c3 ♞c5+ Ding Liren - Sethuraman, Hyderabad 2015 16.♞d4! ♖xe5 17.fxe5 ♙xe5 18.♙e3+=) 10.♞d1∞]

8...a5 9.♖a3 ♖b6 10.♞c2 O-O 11.e4 ♖e8 [When the moves a4 a5 are included White doesn't have to meet 11...♙e6 with the prophylactical Rd1. 12.♖f4! ♙c8 (12...♞xd4 13.♙e3 ♞d8 14.♖xe6 fxe6 15.♞ad1 ♞c7 16.♖xc4 ♖xc4 17.♞xc4 ♞c8 18.♙h3±) 13.♞d1 ♖e8 14.♙e3 ♖d6 15.b3!? cxb3 16.♞xb3∞]

12.♖xc4 ♙g4!? But here we see the drawback of including a4 a5. In a similar position without this inclusion (see 8.Na3 Potkin - Timman, Wijk aan Zee (B) 2015) there was a great square on a5 for the white knight. Now it's not available. [12...♖xc4 was played before. 13.♞xc4 e5 Yuffa - Sarana, Taganrog 2014, but after the correct answer 14.dxe5! ♙xe5 15.♙e3 ♙xb2 16.♞ad1 ♞c7 17.♙c5± White could reach a clear advantage.]

13.♙e3 [13.f3 13...♖xc4 14.♞xc4 ♙e6 15.♞d3 ♖d6∞ with good counterplay.]

13...♖xc4 14.♞xc4 ♙xe2 15.♞xe2 ♙xd4 16.♞fd1 e5 [Black also has the more complicated opportunity to play 16...c5 17.e5 ♖g7 18.♞ac1 ♖e6 19.♙h6 ♗e8 20.♙xb7 ♗b8 21.♙c6 ♗xb2 22.♞c2 ♗b6∞]

17.♙xd4 exd4 18.♞c4 ♖g7 19.♙h3 ♞e7 20.♞xd4 ♗fd8 21.♞ad1 ♗xd4 22.♞xd4 ♗e8 23.f3 ♖e6 24.♙xe6 ♞xe6= The chances are equal. SOME CONCLUSIONS Of course the plan with e3 is no refutation of the Symmetrical Gruenfeld.

But it is completely playable and leads to quite fresh and unexplored positions. If Black doesn't accept the sacrifice his position is fairly solid but still a bit worse. If Black accepts the pawn White must be ready to play in gambit style but he has a good positional basis for it. The most critical line which we will probably see in top games in the future seems to be 5... dxc4 6.Nd2!?

David vs. Goliath



Peter Zhdanov
Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this entertaining column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week has brought 19 upsets.

The Puppi Lazo (2022) - IM Dolezal (2457) encounter turned out to be the shortest win - 34 moves.

The Vinal Gutierrez (2100) - Arocena Uria (1692) confrontation lasted 92 moves.

The highest-profile upset of the week was GM Perunovic (2632) - FM Dinev (2317), 0-1.

Recently I have been playing in the PriFO Championship - a qualification event for the Russian Top League. In Round 3 81-year old Viktor Marsak (1944) has defeated Anton Yatsenko (2403). The former has earned 51 rating points in the tournament! This remarkable feat got me thinking once again about how pathetic I and other young guys sound when we start lamenting about aging, health issues, tiredness, etc.

Another upset has occurred on the next board to me. Alexey Smirnov (2492) lost in 19 moves with White against Maxim

Semenov (2072). The Goliath was quite disappointed and has even left the score sheet on the table. I could have taken the piece of paper and copied the notation, but have somehow decided that it would have been inappropriate. Unfortunately, I doubt that the games will make it to the database, because the organizers have been trying to sell printouts of the games to the participants instead of providing everyone with the pgns. This is something I haven't seen in a while.

Top-10:

Farnault (2007) - Andres Gonzales (2515), 1-0, [508](#) points

Bayo Milagro (1996) - Chabanon (2491), 1-0, [495](#) points

Davidsson (1454) - Klausen (1937), 1-0, [483](#) points

Todorovic (2388) - Kuruz (1913), 0-1, [475](#) points

Vaitkevicius (1930) - Butnorious (2377), 1-0, [447](#) points

Puppi Lazo (2022) - Dolezal (2457), 1-0, [435](#) points

Markovski (2011) - Dourerassou (2438), 1-0, [427](#) points

Gountras (2005) - Arsovic (2428), 1-0, [423](#) points

Vinal Gutierrez (2100) - Arocena Uria (1692), 0-1, [408](#) points

Zuloaga Erauskin (1625) - Felizes (2017), 1-0, [392](#) points

Average gap: 449; White won 8 games, Black won 2 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

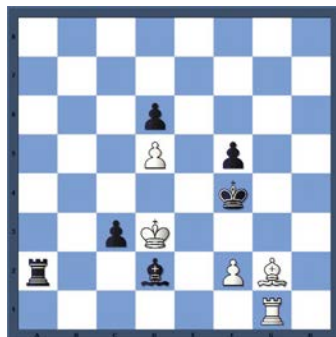
If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) will be appreciated.

Puzzle section

(4) Gundavaa, B(2505)-Dubov, D(2627)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.27

1... -+



(5) Potkin, V(2605)-Tabatabaei, M(2448)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.27

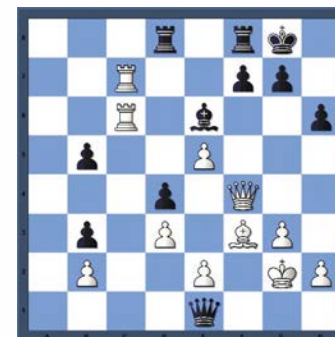
1. +-



(6) Mamedov, R(2658)-Wagner, D(2549)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.28

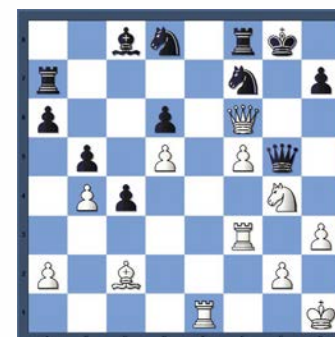
1. +-



(7) Motylev, A(2653)-Mozharov, M(2555)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.28

1. +-



(8) Salem, AR(2603)-Korobkov, P(2423)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.28

1. +-



(9) Savchenko, B(2581)-Predke, A(2530)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.28

1... -+



(10) Korobov, A(2694)-Ponkratov, P(2613)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.30

1. +-



(11) Motylev, A(2653)-Yilmaz, M(2570)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.30

1. +-



(12) Svane, R(2509)-Esen, B(2571)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.30

1. +-



(13) Tran Tuan Minh(2455)-Gundavaa, B(2505)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.30

1... -+



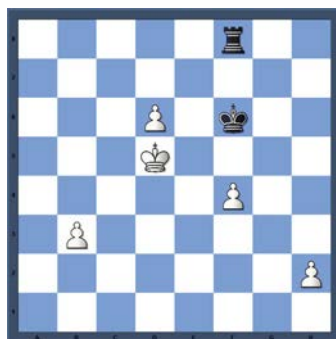
Endgame section

(14) Shimanov, Aleksandr (2594)
- Mamedov, Rauf (2658)

Aeroflot Open,
2015.03.29



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



A very interesting endgame with unbalanced material. White has 4 pawns, but all of them are separated. The most dangerous one is on d6, but it is well blockaded by the rook and the king is also close enough to stop it. After all we could think that Black is winning, and he really is, however one of the most natural moves, which actually happened in the game, spoils the full point.

63...♖b8? The b-pawn is the one which stands the most far away from the black king and it can be supported by the white one, therefore it is very natural to eliminate it. However it allows White to survive... [63...♔f7 was the most natural of the winning moves. Black would like to place his king in front

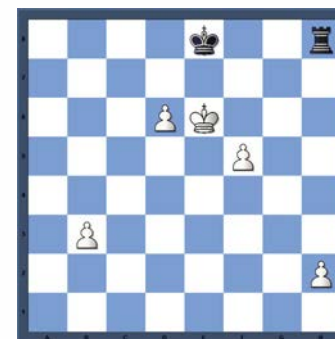
of the d-pawn. Only the 64.f5 line is critical, any other moves are losing quickly... The most tricky attempt is 64.f5! (

a) 64.♔c6 64...♔e8 65.♔c7 ♖f7+! 66.♔c8 (66.♔c6 66...♖xf4+!) 66...♗d7+ wins;

b) 64.d7 is another bad try, as Black easily refutes it by playing 64...♔e7 65.♔c6 ♖xf4 66.♔c7 ♗d4+;

c) 64.b4 is slightly more stubborn, but it also loses fairly easily. Black continues his initial plan with 64...♔e8! 65.b5 ♔d7 66.♔e5 ♖h8 67.f5 ♖xh2 68.f6 ♖h5+! cutting the white king. 69.♔f4 ♖xb5 70.f7 ♖b8+ and Rf8 next wins.)

64...♖b8! (64...♔e8? does not work anymore after pushing the pawn to f5, because the white king can occupy a very active position with 65.♔e6! ♖h8



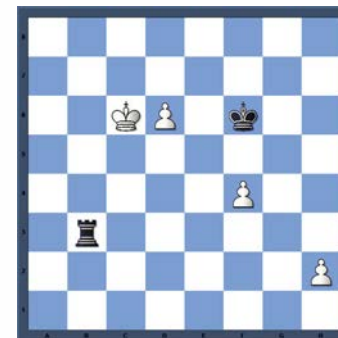
66.f6 ♖xh2 67.f7+ ♔f8 68.d7 ♖d2 Black is stalemated, but White would get into zugzwang. However here comes the role of the b-pawn: 69.b4! White simply wants to advance it and Black has nothing better than to force a draw with 69...♖e2+= giving checks and if the king hides in front of the b-pawn, the rook goes back to d2.) 65.♔c6



Black has only one winning move here and very precise calculation is required to find it! 65...♖c8+! (65...♖xb3? leads to a draw after 66.♔c7! ♜c3+ 67.♔d8! It is very similar to the game. White advances his pawn to d7 and then he starts to push the h-pawn. The rook will be forced to catch it, but it allows the white king to leave from d8... 67...♜h3 68.d7 ♜xh2 (68...♜c3 69.h4=) 69.♔c7 ♜c2+ 70.♔d6! ♜d2+ 71.♔c7 ♔e7 72.f6+!= This is the key and White promotes his pawn.) 66.♔d7 (66.♔b7 66...♜c3 67.b4 ♔e8—+) 66...♜c5! This is very important! Black must eliminate the f5 pawn with the rook in order to avoid the f6 check at the end, which we had seen in the 65...Rxb3 line. We will see that keeping the black king on f7 is another essential factor for winning the game... 67.♔d8 ♜xf5 68.d7 ♜d5!—+ and Ke6 next, or after Kc7, Ke7 wins.]

64.♔c6 ♜xb3 [64...♜c8+ is not the same as before because after 65.♔d7! Black cannot attack the f-pawn with the rook! 65...♜c3 66.f5 It is important to control the e6 square to play Kd8 and advance the d-pawn. 66...♜c5 (66...♜xb3 67.♔d8= and again d7 is coming next with the same ideas which we have already seen in the 63...Kf7 - 65...Rxb3 line.; 66...♔xf5 67.♔e7 ♜e3+ 68.♔f7= and d7 next or after 68...♜d3 69.♔e7=) 67.♔d8 ♜xf5 68.d7 ♜d5 This was the winning plan in the 63...Kf7 line, but here comes the huge difference as to why the black king should stay on f7. White saves the game now by

playing 69.♔e8! ♜e5+ 70.♔f8 ♜d5 71.♔e8=]



65.f5!! Black probably blundered this move when he played 63... Rb8 and White now saves by miracle. The point is that White wants to play Kc7 and d7, when the pawn could be stopped by Rd3 and Ke7. However after pushing the pawn to f5, White will have the opportunity to lure the king away with f6 and promote the d-pawn. [65.♔d7 65...♜f3—+]

65...♜c3+ 66.♔d7! The only move again! [66.♔b7 loses to 66...♜c5! 67.h4 ♜xf5 68.d7 ♔e7—+]

66...♔xf5 [66...♜c5 67.♔d8 ♜xf5 fails again, because the king stands badly on f6. White holds after 68.d7 ♜d5 (68...♔e6 69.♔e8!=) 69.♔e8!=; Trying to correct the mistake and place the king to f7 fails also by one tempo in very unlucky circumstances. 66...♔f7 67.♔d8 There is no time to execute the winning technique, which we had already seen in the 63...Kf7 lines by playing 67...♜c5 68.d7 ♜xf5 69.♔c7 ♜c5+ 70.♔d6! and the rook turns out to be too close. If it was anywhere else on the c-file, he could give a check from below followed by Ke7, but now it does not work...]

67.♔e7! ♜e3+ 68.♔f7 ♜h3 69.d7 ♜h7+ 70.♔e8 ♔e6 The last well-known trick. White cannot promote a queen because of the mate on h8, but...



71.d8=♖+! and the rook against knight is an easy theoretical draw.

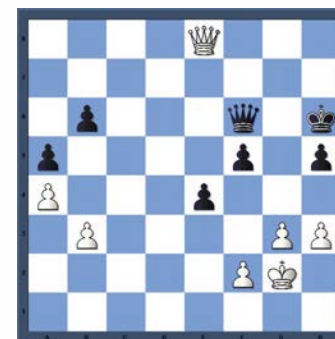
71...♔f6 72.h4 ♖xh4 1/2-1/2

**(15) Harika, Dronavalli (2492)
- Muzychuk, Mariya (2526)**

WCh Women 2015(5.1),
2015.03.31



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



We are in the first rapid game and throughout the game White has been trying to put some pressure. So we finally landed in this queen endgame, which looks close to equal at first sight, but in fact things are looking very bad for Black.

45.h4! A great move! Black is in zugzwang.

45...♔d6 This move loses a pawn, but Black couldn't defend her pawns for much longer anyway. [45...♔g6 also loses a pawn: 46.♔h8+ ♔h7 47.♔f8+! ♔g6 48.♔d6+ and the b6 pawn is lost. 48...♔g7 49.♔xb6 and White has an easily winning position.]

46.♔h8+! Now White is collecting the h5 pawn.

46...♔g6 47.♔g8+ ♔f6 48.♔g5+ ♔e5 49.♔xh5 In the queen endgames the rules are similar to pawn endgames, so almost all positions with a pawn up are winning, but there is of

course a much bigger practical chance for tricks if the queens are still on the board.

49...♔d3 50.♔h8+ Now White will also win the b6 pawn.

50...♙e6 51.♔h6+ ♙f7



52.♔xb6 at the same time protecting the f2 pawn.

52...♔f3+ 53.♙h2 ♔e2 Black has nothing to do but wait.

54.♔e3 ♔d1 55.♔f4 ♙e6 56.♔h6+ ♙e7 57.♔g7+ ♙e6

58.♔g8+ ♙f6 59.♔f8+ ♙e6 60.♔e8+ ♙f6 61.♔c6+ ♙f7

62.♔c7+ ♙g6 After a lot of checks White takes the a5 pawn and everything seems to go smoothly for Harika...

63.♔xa5 ♔xb3 64.♔b5 ♔a2 65.♔b6+ ♙f7



66.a5 If this was not a rapid game I guess Black would just

resign, but here where the stakes are so high-an entry ticket to the final of the WCC- usually resignation comes very late.

66...e3 Exchanging the e-pawn for the a-pawn, which is maybe the best chance for Black to go on.

67.♔xe3 ♔xa5 68.♔f4 ♙g6 All White needs to do now is to push her h-pawn.

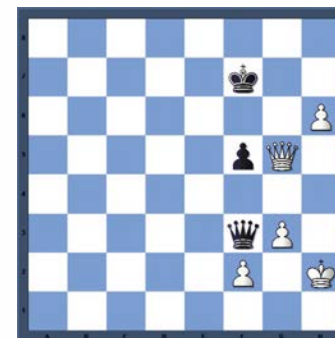
69.♔g5+ ♙f7 70.♔h5+ ♙f6 71.♔h6+ ♙f7 72.h5 ♔c5 73.♔f4 There were more simple ways of winning, but White is trying to be as safe as possible.

73...♙g7 74.♔g5+ ♙f7 75.♙g1 ♔d5 76.♔g6+ [It is hard to say why White did not just play 76.h6]

76...♙e7 77.♔g7+ ♙e8 78.♔g6+ ♙e7 79.♔g5+ ♙f7 80.h6 Finally...

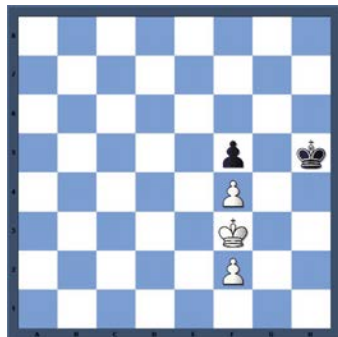
80...♔d1+ 81.♙g2 ♔d5+ 82.♙h2 In a totally lost position, Black is trying her best chance and is at least threatening something...

82...♔f3



83.♔e3?? What a shocking error! White is trying to be more than safe, ultra safe, and suddenly the game is already a draw! [83.♔g7+ would lead to an easy win since after 83...♙e6 White just needed to calculate that after 84.h7 ♔xf2+ 85.♙h3 ♔f1+ 86.♙h4 ♔h1+ 87.♙g5 ♔c1+ 88.♙g6 the white king easily

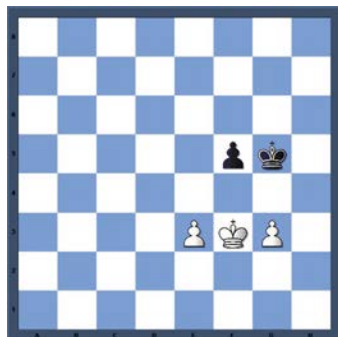
escapes from the checks, so White is winning because of h8Q next.; 83.♔f4 would lead to a winning pawn endgame. 83...♚xf4 84.gxf4 ♔g6 85.♔g3 ♔xh6 86.♔f3 ♔h5 and now White needs to find



87.♔e2! (87.♔e3 87...♔g4 88.f3+ ♔g3 is just a draw.) 87...♔h4 88.♔d3 ♔g4 89.♔e3 ♔h4 90.♔d4 and the pawn endgame is easily winning. 90...♔h3 91.♔e5 ♔g4 92.f3+ ♔xf3 93.♔xf5]

83...♚xe3! What a shock! White is 2 pawns up in a pawn endgame, but the position is a draw.

84.fxe3 ♔g6 85.♔g2 ♔xh6 86.♔f2 ♔h5 87.♔f3 ♔g5



88.♔f2 White just cannot make any progress.

88...♔h5 89.♔g2 ♔g4 90.♔f2 ♔h5 91.♔g1 ♔g5 92.♔h2 ♔h5 93.♔h3 ♔g5 94.♔g2 ♔g4 95.♔f2 ♔h5 96.♔f3 ♔g5

So, what do we learn from this shocking game which maybe cost Harika the WCC title? That it is never too late to make a mistake and it is clearly better to focus once and calculate things until the end than to all the time try and avoid complications, even if the position is winning! **1/2-1/2**

Chess and the City. Miss "Tactics" versus Miss "Come back"



WGM Elisabeth Paehtz

Best rating: 2493

After more than 2 weeks we have eventually reached the final stage! Miss Tactics, alias Marya Muzychuk, versus Miss Come back, alias Natalija Pogonina, will face each other in a match of 4 games for the Women's World Championship title of 2015! The winner of this match will not only be rewarded with 60000 Dollars but will also have the pleasure of a Duel versus the current World Champion, and first ranked women in the world, Hou Yifan from China.

The way to the finals was a long and tough one which both of them mastered perfectly, although in slightly different styles. While Marya shot herself to the final in a very tactical and tricky manner, Natalia went the "you can have the first win" way, which I specially admire as it must be psychological very tough to always come back after losing the first game of a match. Since the quarter finals, Natalja managed to always level the score in game 2 followed by smashing her opponents in the rapid encounters. Her first victim was Marie Sebag, followed by Zhao Xue and finally Pia Cramling.



For Marya it was totally based on tactical superiority. Her first crucial match of this tournament she won in convincing style in the classical encounters versus former Women's World Champion Antoaneta Stefanova. For the semi-finals, however, she had to face probably her toughest opponent - Humpy Koneru from India, who was not only the first seed in this tournament but had a perfect score of 6/6 up to that moment. Frankly speaking, Marya was pretty much outplayed in every single game in that match, except in the area of tactical resourcefulness. Eventually that very important aspect of chess led to her not only knocking out Humpy from the semis, but also her next and last Indian victim, Harika Dronavalli, from the final.



If we take a look at the upcoming match, certain question may arise. Who of these two still has enough energy to go through that final battle? While Natalija "only" played three tiebreaks, Marya only managed to avoid them once, and that was in her match versus Stefanova. The next aspect may be the age advantage. Marya is 8 years younger but I would not say less experienced than Natalija. However, in rapid games I personally think that the younger you are, the better you seem to handle your nerves. For both players it looks to me like they are quite capable of keeping their nerves under control, otherwise they wouldn't be where they are right now. Last but not least remains the "home advantage", which I would say does not really affect chess players in comparison to other sports. However, for Natalija, as a Russian, it should be a little easier psychologically. On the other hand, Marya will have her lovely older sister by her side.



Pictures from the official tournament page: (Eteri Kublashvili, Vladimir Barsky, By B. Dolmatovsky, Anastasya Karlovich)

Clash of the Titans

(16) Keres, Paul
- Fine, Reuben [D41]

Ostend(1), 1937



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1. $\text{g}3$ d5 2. d4 $\text{g}6$ 3. c4 e6 4. $\text{g}c3$ c5 5. cxd5 $\text{g}xd5$ [5...exd5 leads to Tarasch structures.]

6. e4 $\text{g}xc3$ 7. bxc3 cxd4 8. cxd4 $\text{g}b4+$ 9. $\text{g}d2$ $\text{g}xd2+$ 10. $\text{g}xd2$ O-O This system is still interesting. White has an advantage in the center but Black doesn't have any weaknesses and after some exchanges he looks very solid. Arkadij Naiditsch in his game against Vishy Anand proved that is not easy for White to break this system.



11. $\text{g}c4$ [11. $\text{g}c1$ This tricky move recently became very popular. The idea is not to show where the bishop will be develop.]

11... $\text{g}d7$ 12. O-O b6 13. $\text{g}ad1$ $\text{g}b7$ 14. $\text{g}fe1$ Both sides developed their pieces to optimal squares.

14... $\text{g}c8$ In one of my games I tried to play according to the idea which we will see in this game. [14... $\text{g}c7$ 15. $\text{g}b3$ $\text{g}d6$ 16. d5 exd5 (16... $\text{g}c5$? 17. dxe6 $\text{g}xd2$ 18. exf7+!) 17. e5! (17. exd5 to evaluate recapturing on d5 is always difficult as sometimes the d-pawn can be strong, but in many cases it is simply attacked by the black pieces.) 17... $\text{g}c7$ 18. $\text{g}d4$ This is the point, White sacrifices the pawn- even two pawns! It helps him create pressure against the black king. (18. $\text{g}xd5$ 18... $\text{g}xd5$ 19. $\text{g}xd5$ $\text{g}c5$ Here Black has no real problems.) 18... $\text{g}xe5$ 19. $\text{g}f4$ $\text{g}ae8$ (19... f6 20. $\text{g}e6\pm$) 20. $\text{g}a4$



20... b5! A strong move based on good calculation. (20... $\text{g}e7$ 21. $\text{g}f5$ $\text{g}e6$ 22. $\text{g}g3$ g6 (22... f6 23. $\text{g}c1$ and unfortunately the black queen has no square on the 7th rank!) 23. $\text{g}c1$ $\text{g}b8$ 24. $\text{g}d4$ $\text{g}e7$ 25. f4 and Black lost a piece.) 21. $\text{g}xb5$ $\text{g}e7$ 22. $\text{g}f5$ $\text{g}e6$ 23. $\text{g}g3$ g6 24. $\text{g}c1$ $\text{g}b8$ 25. $\text{g}d4$ $\text{g}e7$ 26. $\text{g}f5$ (26. f4 and now compared to the line with a pawn on b6 Black has 26... a6! with counterplay over the g1-a7 diagonal.) 26... $\text{g}e6$ 27. $\text{g}d4$ $\text{g}e7$ 28. $\text{g}f5$ $\text{g}e6$ 1/2-1/2 Miton,K-Volokitin,A/Lublin POL 2009]

15. $\text{g}b3$ White can also play [15. $\text{g}d3$ 15... h6 16. $\text{g}b1$ White is preparing his attack. 16... $\text{g}e8$ 17. $\text{g}e3$ A typical move.

17...♔c7 18.e5 ♘f8 19.♘e1! ♔e7 20.♖g3 ♗h4 21.h3 with the idea Rg4. 21...f5 22.exf6 ♗xf6 23.♘d3 ♖ed8 24.♘f4→and the white pieces are nicely regrouped for the attack. 24...♖c5 25.d5 g5 26.h4 ♖c4 27.♘h5 ♗e5 28.hxg5 ♖xd5 29.♘f6+ 1-0 [Radjabov,T-Van Wely,L/Khanty Mansyisk RUS 2005]

15...♘f6 [15...♗f6 This logical move is preparing Rfd8 and not allowing Qf4, but now White once again has the following thematic idea: 16.d5



16...exd5 (16...e5 Thanks to the strong pawn on d5 and the limited bishop on b7 this structure is usually better for White.) 17.e5! ♗g6 18.♘d4 ♘c5 19.♙c2 ♘e4 20.♗f4 The white pieces get strong activity. 20...f6 21.e6 ♗g5 22.♗xg5 fxg5 23.e7 ♖fe8 24.♙a4 ♖xe7 25.f3 and soon White will convert his advantage of being a piece up. 1-0 [Ding Liren-Jovanic,O/Cappelle-la-Grande FRA 2014 (34)]

16.♗f4 ♗c7 17.♗h4 The white queen is ready to support the attack. [17.♗xc7 17...♖xc7 This endgame is usually very safe for Black. 18.d5 exd5 19.exd5 ♖d7 ♗d5]

17...♖fd8



18.♖e3?! A logical move. White is going to activate the rook over the 3rd rank but he also has another idea... [18.♘g5! 18...h6 Otherwise White would play e5. 19.♘xe6 fxe6 20.♙xe6+ ♔h8 21.♙xc8 ♖xc8 22.f3 White has a rook and two pawns for two pieces but the most important factor is the strong central pawns d5-e4-f3, which will limit the black pieces. 22...♗c2 23.♗f2! just to avoid counterplay against the a2 pawn. White is better.]

18...b5 Black starts creating counterplay on the queenside. [18...h6 19.♘e5→]

19.♖de1 White still had the idea Ng5-Nxe6! [19.♘e5 was probably less accurate. 19...a5 20.♖g3 ♘xe4 (20...♙h8 21.♗g5 ♖g8



When four pieces attack the king, one's intuition usually says

that there should be a fatal blow somewhere! 22. ♖xe6! fxe6 23. ♗g6+ hxg6 24. ♖h3+ ♖h7 25. ♖xh7+ ♔xh7 26. ♖h4# 21. ♖g4 ♗d6 (21...a4 is too slow. 22. ♖h6 g6



23. ♖xg6+! hxg6 24. ♗xg6 fxg6 25. ♖xe6+ ♖f7 26. ♖xg6+-- 22. ♖f6 ♗e8 Not an easy plan to find! Black brings the knight to e8 to protect the g7 pawn. (22... ♗f5 23. ♗xf7!) 23. ♖h6 ♖d5+ and Black manages to avoid getting mated.]

19...a5 20.a4 b4?! This move gives White some important time. More accurate was [20...bxa4 21. ♖xa4 h6 with an unclear position.]

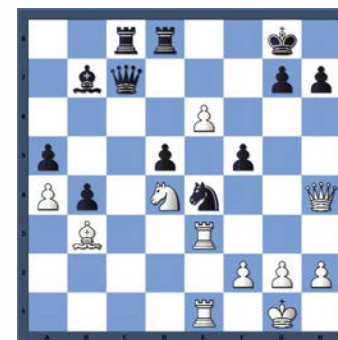


21.d5! All the white pieces are placed well so it is the right moment for the break!

21...exd5 [21...e5 22. ♖g3 followed by the unpleasant maneuver Nh4-Nf5.]

22.e5 Thanks to this typical idea White gets the strong d4 square for the knight and also the d5 pawn disturbs the black pieces from getting active.

22...♗d7 [22... ♗e4 This jump to the center was more logical but Black was probably afraid of 23.e6 (23. ♖xe4 23... dxe4 24. ♗g5 h6 25. ♗xf7 ♖d5--+) 23...f5 (23... fxe6 24. ♖xe4 dxe4 25. ♗g5 h6 26. ♗xe6 ♖c3 27. ♗xd8+ ♖xb3 28. ♗xb7 ♖d5 and now there are problems with the knight, so Black gets practical counterplay. 29. ♖e7 e3 30.f3 (30.fxe3 30... ♖c2--+) 30...b3-- 24. ♗d4



24... ♖e5! (24...g6 25.f3 ♖b6 26. ♗xf5 gxf5 27.fxe4 fxe4 28. ♔h1 ♖xe6 29. ♖xe4+-- 25.e7 ♖e8 26. ♗b5 (26. ♗xf5 26... ♔h8∞) 26... ♖xe7 27.f3 ♔h8 28.fxe4 dxe4 The material is equal but the white pieces are very active.]

23. ♖g5



23... ♗f8? The decisive mistake! Black could have saved the game after [23... h6 24. e6 hxc5 25. exf7+ ♔xf7 26. ♖e7+ ♔g8 27. ♗xg5 ♗c3 28. ♗xd5+ ♗xd5 29. ♗xd5+ ♔h8 30. ♗h5+ ♔g8 31. ♗f7+ ♔h8 32. ♖7e3 and it looks like White is simply winning but after 32... ♗f6 33. ♖h3+ ♗h7 34. ♖xc3 bxc3



the c-pawn is so strong that it gives Black enough counterplay! For example: 35. ♗b3 c2 36. ♖c1 ♖d1+! 37. ♖xd1 c1=♗=+]

24. ♗xh7! The final blow!

24... ♗xh7 [24... ♗g6 25. ♗h5 ♗f4 26. ♗g4 ♔xh7 27. ♗xf4+-]

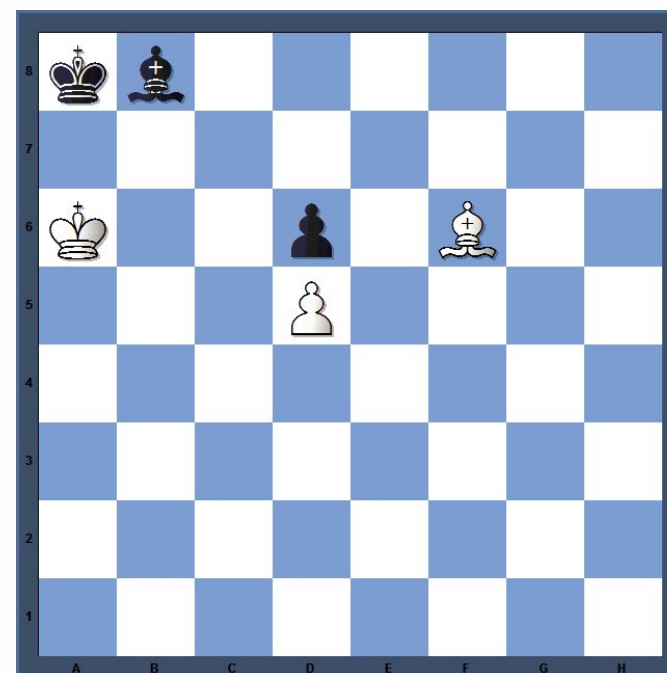
25. ♖h3 ♗c1 26. ♗xh7+ ♔f8 27. ♖e3! and Black has no more counterplay over the first rank.

27... d4 28. ♗h8+ ♔e7 29. ♗xg7 ♖f8 30. ♗f6+ ♔e8 31. e6!
After 31... dxe3 then 32. exf7 Kd7 33. Be6+ White wins the queen. **1-0**

Surprise section / study

(17) Kovalenko

1. +-



Solutions

(18) Morshedi, A(2221)-Hagen, A(2412)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.16



26. ♖xe5! fxe5 27. ♖h4+ ♔e8 28. ♖h5+ ♔d8 29. ♖g5+ ♔e8
30. ♘g7+- 1-0

(19) Navara, D(2736)-Danielsen, H(2514)

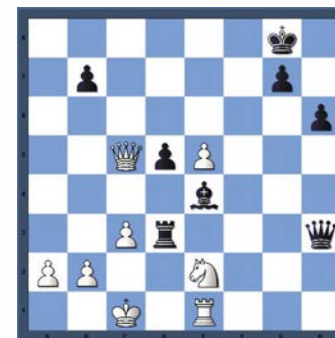
Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.18



25... ♖xg4! 26. f6 [26. hxg4 26... ♖xg4+ 27. ♖g2 ♖xd4+-]
26... ♖xf6 [26... ♗xd4 27. ♖xd4 ♖g3+-]
27. ♗xf6 ♖gxf6 [27... ♗xe3+ 28. ♔g2 ♖gxf6+-]
28. ♗xd7 ♖xd7 29. ♖xc5 ♖xc5+-

(20) Hauge, L(2380)-Rombaldoni, A(2488)

Reykjavik Open, 2015.03.18

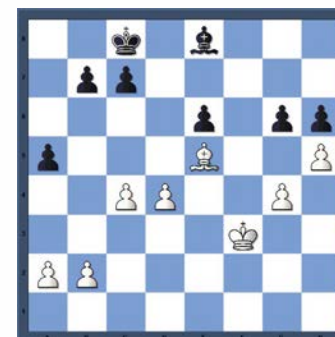


31... ♖d2! 32. ♖c8+ [32. ♔xd2 32... ♖d3+ 33. ♔c1 ♖c2#;
32. ♗d4 32... ♖d3+-]

32... ♖xc8 0-1

(21) Sevian, S(2531)-Iotov, V(2579)

US Teams, 2015.03.17



34. g5! gxh5 35. gxh6 ♗g6 36. ♔f4+- 1-0 [36. ♔f4 36... ♔d7
37. ♔g5 ♗d3 38. ♔f6+-]

(22) Sevan, S(2531)-Kritz, L(2583)

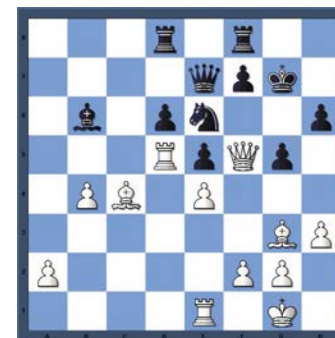
US Teams, 2015.03.19

**25. ♘f5! ♚c7** [25...exf5 26. ♚xe7+-]**26. ♘xg7 ♙xg7 27. ♙d4+ 1-0****(23) Guramishvili, S(2367)-Javakhishvili, L(2481)**

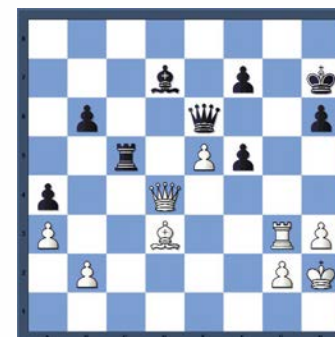
Wch Women 2015, 2015.03.18

**31. ♖xe7! ♜xe7** [31... ♚d6 32. ♖e2±]**32. d6 ♙xc6 33. dxc7 ♜exc7 34. ♖b6±****(24) Sebag, M(2482)-Pogonina, N(2456)**

Wch Women 2015, 2015.03.23

**35. h4?** [35. ♖xd6! 35... ♜xd6 (35... ♚xd6 36. ♙xe5+-)]
36. ♚xe5+ ♙g8 37. ♚xd6+-]**35... ♘d4****(25) Zhao Xue(2527)-Kotenashvili, B(2513)**

Wch Women 2015, 2015.03.23

**45. ♙xf5+! ♚xf5 46. e6 ♚e5** [46... ♙xe6 47. ♚g7#]**47. ♚d3+! 1-0** [47. ♚d3+ 47... ♚f5 48. exd7+-]

(26) Le Quang Liem(2676)-Zhang Zhong(2614)

HD Bank Cup, 2015.03.19



29. ♖xg6!! ♜xg6 [29...fxg6 30. ♖xf8+ ♜xf8 (30...♙xf8 31. ♖h8+ ♙e7 32. ♖xb2+-) 31.d6 ♜d8 (31...♘d5 32.d7+-) 32. ♖g4! ♘e8 33.d7 ♘g7 34. ♖c1!+-]

30. ♖d3! [30. ♖f3? 30...♖b1]

30...♖xb4 [30...♙g7 31. ♖g3 ♖h8 32. ♖xg6+ fxg6 33. ♖f7+ ♙xf7 34. ♖xh8+-] **31. ♖g3+-**

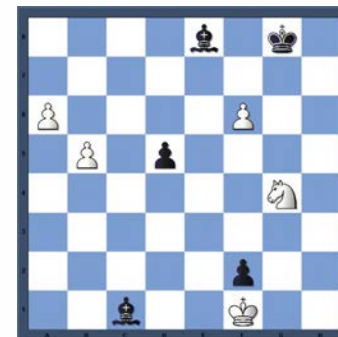
(27) Shankland, S(2661)-Hou Yifan(2686)

Hawaii rapid, 2015.03.20



26.d5! ♖xe1+ 27. ♖xe1 g5 [27...♖xd5 28. ♖e8#]

28.dxc6 gxf4 29.c7 ♖c6 30. ♖e7+- 1-0

(28) Bondarenko

1.f7+! [1.a7 1...♙xb5+ 2. ♙xf2 ♙c6]

1...♙xf7 [1...♙xf7 2.a7+-]

2.a7 ♙e3 3. ♘xe3 ♙xb5+ 4. ♘c4!! ♙c6 [4...♙xc4+ 5. ♙xf2+-]

5. ♘e5+ ♙e6 6. ♘xc6+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 163

10th of April 2015

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Editorial Preface

Mariya Muzychuk from Ukraine is the new Women's World Champion! She could win her final match over 4 normal games against Natalia Pogonina with the score of 2.5-1.5 winning her second game and drawing the other 3. It was a very exciting match to watch and the tension was maintained until the last seconds of the 4th and final game.

We congratulate Mariya on this great achievement, especially considering the fact that the situation in her birth country is everything else than being comfortable.

We also have to underline the great success of Pogonina who could recover 3 times in a row from a loss in the first game, before reaching the final table.

The traditional Aeroflot is back and has a winner as Ian Nepomniachtchi scored 7/9 and showed great fighting play! 2nd place went to Dubov with 7/9 too, but his play was much more "solid". With this great victory Ian has qualified for the Super Tournament in Dortmund, which will take place in June.

In the US Chess Championships Nakamura is leading with 6/8, followed by Robson with 5.5/8. It is strange to see Wesley So on just 4.5/8 after his great results in the past tournaments. But there are still 3 rounds to go and a lot can happen.

In the female group Nemcova is leading with 6.5/8, followed by Krush with 6/8.

In the biggest German open, the Neckar Open, nobody could stop the rush of the Li Chao, who scored a fantastic 8.5/9.

At the moment the Dubai Open is also under way with a lot of strong GMs.

As usual we wish you a lot of chess fun and we can already be excited about two upcoming super events: the super tournament in Shamkir (with Carlsen, Caruana etc) and the World Team Championship in Yerevan.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

**(1) Matlakov, Maxim (2693)
- Bok, Benjamin (2587) [A34]**

Aeroflot Open A 2015(9.11),
2015.04.04



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

The next game demonstrates well the power of the two bishops in an open position!

1. f3 c5 2. c4 f6 3. c3 d5 4. cxd5 xd5 5. d4 xc3 6. bxc3 g6 The game started like an Anti-Gruenfeld, but Matlakov decided to transpose to the main line.

7. e4 The main alternative to avoid the classical main line is 7. e3 with the idea to strengthen the d4 pawn against which Black is going to focus all his pieces.

7... g7 8. e3 a5 9. d2 c6 10. Rb1 The most common move is 10. Rc1, but Matlakov must have his reasons to choose this variation as he is the second of Peter Svidler, one of the biggest Gruenfeld experts.

10... cxd4 [The subtle point of Rb1 is to provoke 10... a6 because of the Rb5 threat of winning a pawn and now White switches his rook to 11. Rc1 overprotecting the c3 pawn in order to push d5. 11... cxd4 12. cxd4 xd2+ 13. xd2 and here the pawn on a6 significantly weakens the queenside pawn structure, especially the hole on b6, which can be occupied by the bishop after pushing d5.]

11. cxd4 O-O 12. d3 g4 Black uses the standard Gruenfeld plans and exerts maximum pressure on the d4 pawn.

13. xa5 [13. xb7? is wrong because of the tactical trick 13... xf3 14. gxf3



14... h5! with a double-attack on f3 and d4. White cannot protect both with 15. e2 because Black takes on d4 anyway: 15... xd4! 16. xd4 fd8+ wins back the piece with excellent prospects.]

13... xa5



14. e2! Without the queens on board, White does not need to worry about getting mated and in general in endgames the king stand better in the center, from where it participates more in the battle.

14...♖ad8 The queens are off, but Black should continue playing in the spirit of the opening and create his counterplay against the center.

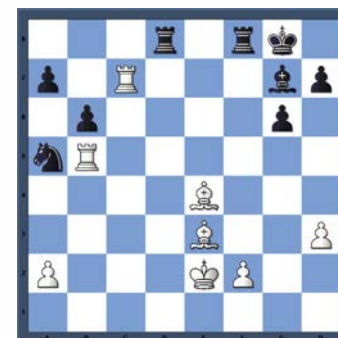
15.d5 f5 Consequent play and the reason why Black put his a-rook to d8. [The other principled alternative was 15...e6 with the same idea of undermining the central pawns. White probably tries to consolidate with 16.♖b5 b6 17.h3 ♘xf3+ 18.♙xf3 playing for a small edge due to the pair of bishops.]

16.♖hc1! White brings his last unemployed piece to the game and tries to lock the a5 knight out of the game by taking the c4 square under control. [16.♘xa7 is premature in view of 16...fxe4 17.♘xe4 ♖a8 18.♘c5 ♘c4 and the counterplay gets too strong.]

16...e6 Black seems to do everything well, or at least his play looks very logical to me.

17.h3 ♘xf3+?! Very strange, but this is wrong. Black completely destroys the center and even temporarily wins a pawn, but somehow the white pieces become too active and dominant. [17...exd5 18.hxg4 fxe4 seems to solve the opening problems. 19.♘xe4 dxe4 20.♘d2 White wins back the pawn and the game becomes drawish.; Or 17...fxe4 18.♘xe4 exd5 should also be completely fine.]

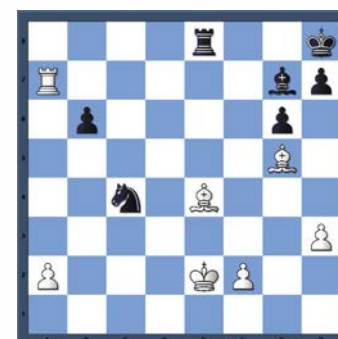
18.gxf3 fxe4 19.fxe4 exd5 20.♖b5! dxe4 21.♘xe4 b6 22.♖c7! Knowing the computer's evaluation and the time consumption of Matlakov, I would not be surprised if this was all analyzed at home. The two bishops are working extremely well, they control the entire board and the active rook on c7 soon restores the material balance, as Black cannot protect his a7 pawn.



22...♖h8 [22...♖f7 drops an exchange after 23.♘d5! ♖xd5 24.♖c8+!; 22...♘d4 It would be another positionally justified decision to trade the bishop pair, but it is tactically refuted by 23.♘d5+]

23.♖d5! Another subtle move! Black has left from the Bd5 check and was intending to play Bd4. White trades a pair of rooks to limit Black's chances for sufficient counterplay. The a7 pawn cannot run away. [23.♖xa7 was premature because it allows the knight to join the game... 23...♘c4]

23...♖fe8 24.♖xa7 ♘c4 25.♖xd8 ♖xd8 26.♘g5 ♖e8



27.♘e7! Restricting the mobility of the black pieces. The bishops are just temporarily pinned, but Bc6 is coming next. There are two very important factors which guarantee White's edge: Black cannot trade any of his minor pieces and there are

pawns on both sides of the board, especially the b6-a2 pair of pawns are playing an important role.

27...♖d6 [27...♙f8 does not work because after some defensive moves the black king finds himself in a mating net... 28.♙f6+ ♔g8 29.♙d3 ♖e5+ 30.♙d4 ♙c5+ 31.♙c3+- and Bd5 is coming next.]

28.♙c6 ♖c8 29.♙xe8 ♖xa7 30.♙d7! Trapping the knight on a7! White cannot win it, but it is enough that the black pieces are tied to defend each other while White can improve his position step by step!? Despite the very limited material on the board I would evaluate White's winning chances to be much better than Black's drawing ones.

30...♙d4 31.f4 ♔g7 32.♙d3 ♙f7 33.♙d8 Obviously White is not interested in trading the bishops.

33...♙f2 34.a4! Black's pieces are totally paralyzed. The knight cannot move. The bishop is forced to protect the b6 weakness. The king is also kind of trapped in a cage.



34...h5 35.♙e4 ♙c5 Black cannot do anything better than waiting with his bishop on the g1-c5 diagonal and watch how White is making progress.

36.h4 [A very nice winning plan was suggested by the computer: 36.♙e5 36...♙e3



37.♙d5! Setting Black into zugzwang! Any of his moves allow a huge improvement for White... Black must control the d6 square, otherwise the king's invasion is decisive. It did not work right away because of Bxf4, but if the bishop moves from e3 it already does the job... 37...♙xf4 (37...♙c5 moves into 38.a5!; 37...♙f2 38.♙d6+-; 37...♙g7 38.♙e6+-) 38.♙xb6 ♙b8 Black is even more busted than before, but it still requires some technique to convert the advantage. One way to win is 39.h4 ♙f6 40.♙d8+ ♙f7 41.a5! Slowly advancing the pawn to a6, meanwhile depriving Black from any kind of counterplay... 41...♙g3 42.♙e6+ ♙g7 43.♙b6 ♙b8 44.♙d7 ♙f6 45.♙d8+ ♙f7 46.a6 Here we are again, but the pawn is a square ahead... 46...♙g3 47.♙b6 ♙b8 48.♙c5! The final part of the plan. White simply trades bishops and traps the a7 knight... 48...♙f6 49.♙d6 ♙xd6 50.♙xd6 ♙g5 51.hxg5+ ♙xg5 52.♙c7 h4 53.♙b6+-]

36...♙f2 37.♙d5 ♙e3 38.♙g5 Kd6-c7 is the threat again. The only way to avoid it is

38...♙c5 39.♙d8 [39.a5 It is strange that White did not advance his pawn to a6. Matlakov chose another way to improve his position...]

39...♘e3 40.♙e5 ♘c5 41.f5 White opens a path towards the h5 pawn.

41...gxf5 [Otherwise 41...♘f2 42.f6+- and Be6 is decisive.]

42.♙xf5 ♘e3



43.♘f6 Here is another zugzwang! Black can only move with his bishop, but it either allows Kg5 or Bd4!

43...♘c5 [43...♘d2 is not better either. 44.♘e6+ ♙f8 45.♘d4 ♘a5 46.♘d5 ♖c8 47.♙g5 is similar to the game.]

44.♘e6+ ♙e8 45.♙g6 ♘e7 [The only move was 45...b5! 46.a5 ♖c6 47.♙xh5 ♖xa5 48.♙g6 ♖c6 49.h5 ♘e3 50.h6 ♘xh6 51.♙xh6]

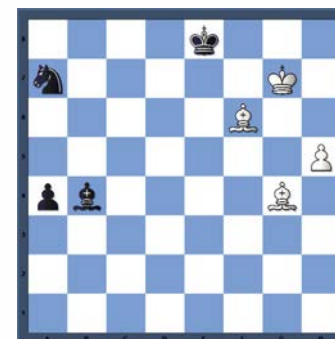


According to the 6 pieces tablebase, in case both sides play the best moves, White mates in 69 moves. As far as I know, two

bishops are winning against the knight, but in case of the best defense, the defensive side can prolong his defeat for more than 50 moves until losing his knight, which will allow him to claim the draw by the 50 moves rule.]

46.♘f7+ ♙d7 47.♙g7! White takes the h5 pawn with the bishop and he keeps the black king away from the h-pawn with his own king.

47...♘b4 48.♘xh5 b5 49.♘g4+ ♙e8 50.h5 bxa4 [50...♘d2 51.a5+-]



51.♘d7+! Not the only win, but definitely a very nice final blow! White deflects the king from the f8 square to avoid h6-Bf8 and sacrificing the bishop. There is no way to stop the h-pawn.

51...♙xd7 52.h6 Black resigned! A great positional performance by Matlakov! **1-0**

**(2) Holt, Conrad (2530)
- Nakamura, Hikaru (2798) [E90]**ch-USA 2015(1.1),
2015.04.01GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are following the US Championships and Nakamura is back. For some years there was not really a concurrent for him, but now that Wesley So is just a few points behind him, the tournament is getting very exciting. Basically before the event probably most of the spectators would think- just like me- that it was going to be a fight between Nakamura and So for the first place, which is why it could be very important to score the best possible results against the "lower rated" opponents in the event. In the current game, Nakamura picks KID, which is not a big surprise, and then the game is getting very sharp. Things were looking everything but great for Black, but Hold could not hold the pressure, chose the wrong track where and got punished with a mating attack.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 Nakamura plays a couple of different openings with Black, but one thing is sure: he clearly plays most of his games for a win, rather than choosing a safe opening where the drawish outcome could be the most probable one.

5.♘f3 O-O 6.h3 This is a very modern line with a lot of games played. The idea of White is simple, to play g4 and stop Black from playing the usual f5 move.

6...e5 7.d5 ♘h5 is one of the main moves for Black.

8.g3 ♘a6 [8...f5 is the other try here.]

9.♘d2!? I like this move a lot. White's ideas are to stop Black from playing f5 immediately because of exf5 and the knight on h5 is hanging and at the same time to prepare to play b4 after Black's Nc5.

9...♔e8 preparing the f5 move.

10.♙e2 chasing the knight back.

10...♘f6 11.h4! Another very good move by White! Holt doesn't wait for Black to play Nd7 and f5, but launches his own play on the kingside, using the fact that the white rook is still on h1.

11...♘d7 Not a pleasant move to play as it lets White push h5, but what else to do?! To play 11...h5 is clearly not a move for a KID player and White still has the positional threat of playing a3-b4-Nb3-Be3 with total domination.

12.h5 Of course!

12...f5 Rather than going for a a passive strategy, Nakamura looks for complications, thus taking into account that he is playing for 3 results and might just lose the game.

13.hxg6 Before taking on f5, White opens the h-file, which is very logical.

13...hxf6 14.exf5 It seems like Black can't take back on f5 and of course this was not his plan anyway.

14...♘f6 This is clearly the best move and it was obviously planned before playing 11...Nd7. [After 14...gxf5 15.♙h5 ♔e7 16.♙g6 White's play on the kingside is very dangerous.; And of course it is always wrong for Black to take with the rook since after 14...♖xf5? 15.♘de4 White's domination is obvious.]

15.fxg6 Why not take another pawn?! Personally I think that to take some material is generally the right decision in case there is nothing concrete to be afraid of. White also had another, more calm option of playing 15.Nb3, blocking the black knight on a6 followed by Bg5 and maybe 0-0-0. I guess White's position should also be clearly better.

15...♔xg6 I am not sure about this move at all. [I think the best practical chance was to play 15...e4!? Anyway this move has to be played sooner or later and Black avoids the strong Nf3. 16.♘f1!? getting the knight to a great position on e3. 16...♔xg6 17.♘e3 White is a clear pawn up but Black has some play after 17...♘c5 and we are in a quite typical position for the KID. White is probably better, but from a practical point of view the position is very complicated and the game is going for 3 results.]



16.♘f3! So far Holt played a perfect game! I guess Nakamura underestimated the strength of the white knight on h4 who will perfectly defend the position of the white king.

16...♘b4 Black tries to put some threats around the c2 square.

17.♘h4 ♔h7 Nc2 is still a dangerous threat.

18.♙f1! A very strong move, avoiding the Nc2 idea and at the same time leaving the white rook on a perfect position on h1. Now White is very close to stabilize his position which would mean being a clear pawn up.

18...♙f5!? Nakamura is also looking for his chances and plays the most unpleasant move for Hold. The game gets very tactical. All black pieces are in the attack, but White's structure continues looking very safe.

19.♙g1 It was a hard decision whether to play Kg2 or Kg1, but why actually to go to g2 where the king can sometimes be checked from e4.

19...♙c2



20.♔d2?! After some fantastic moves Hold starts to "shake". [Why not just play 20.♔f1 with the idea of playing Ng2 next or just Be3. I believe White should be better here.]

20...♖e4 Black's try doesn't lead anywhere because of the great move 21.♗g4! Of course all this is not easy to see and things remain very complicated, but when you play the KID you must be ready for a hard fight.]

20...♖e4 Now the move Ne4 is already much more effective.

21.♖xe4 ♕xe4

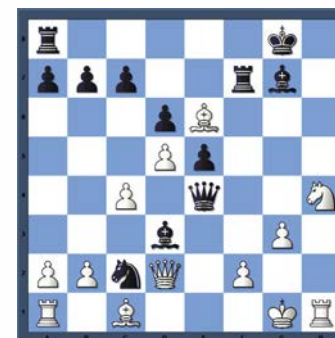


22.♗f1? and this move is already clearly a big mistake based on miscalculation. [White should have continued with 22.♖g2 22...♗d3 23.♗h5 and although White's position looks dangerous at first sight, in fact most of the tactics work for him. Nakamura would not have had an easy time here finding the right way to continue the game.]

22...♗d3! Clearly White blundered this great reply of Black.

23.♗h3 [Holt probably missed that after 23.♕xb4 23...♗xf1 White can't take the f1 bishop because the rook on h1 is hanging.]

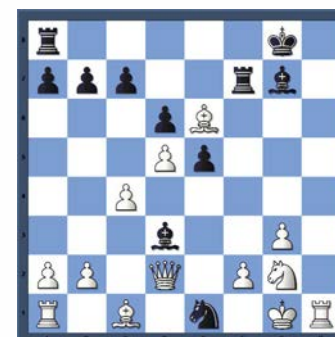
23...♖c2 24.♗e6+ ♕f7 The black knight wants to go to d4 and e1. White's position is already looking just bad!



25.♖f5? A mistake rarely comes alone and this move is just losing. [White could have fought with 25.♕d1 25...♖xa1 26.♗e3 with the idea of playing Qh5 next. Of course now things are looking reversed, and it is already White who needs to be lucky to survive, but there are clearly some practical chances to make things complicated for Black.]

25...♖e1 Black doesn't miss his chance...

26.♖e7+ Nothing helps any longer... [26.♖h4 would lead to a beautiful mate: 26...♕g2+ 27.♖xg2



27...♖f3#]

26...♕f8 27.♖g6+ ♕e8 and White needs to resign as there is no way to defend from Qg2 or Nf3 next. Would it be right to say that Nakamura got a bit lucky- I don't think so.

In fighting chess it is always easy to find a mistake after the game, but during the game things are much more complicated and it is hard to take the right decisions. **0-1**

David vs. Goliath



Peter Zhdanov
Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this entertaining column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week has brought 30 upsets, including a few high-profile ones.

The number of move ranges from 30 in WGM Abrahamyan (2322) - WIM Wang (1901), 0-1 to 76 in FM Dehmelt (2246) - GM Ortiz Suarez (2625), 1-0.

Three more 2600+ GMs have succumbed to amateur players: GM L'Ami (2605) - FM Van Dijk (2273), 0-1; Tabada (2238) - GM Kuzubov (2667), 1-0; FM Saeed (2200) - GM Safarli (2641), 1-0. Also notable is former top-10 GM Epishin (2563)'s loss to Al Hageri (2115).

Especially impressive is the result of the game between IM Chudinovskih (2263) and Mazouz (1595). The stronger player had White and, on paper, was supposed to win his game blindfolded, drunk, in blitz mode and using his left hand only. However, the lower-rated female player prevailed!



Top-10:

Chudinovskih (2263) - Mazouz (1595), 0-1, [668](#) points
 Jarque Megias (1952) - Cifuentes Parada (2461), 1-0, [509](#) points
 Muller (2057) - Zhao Zong Yuan (2558), 1-0, [501](#) points
 Henderson de la Fuente (1753) - Jimenez Almeida (2244), 1-0, [491](#) points
 Torres Fernandez (1916) - Valmana Canto (2390), 1-0, [474](#) points
 Kollari (2110) - Kurecki (1658), 0-1, [452](#) points
 Al Hageri (2115) - Epishin (2563), 1-0, [448](#) points
 Tanev (1366) - Stoyanov (1812), 1-0, [446](#) points
 Saeed (2200) - Safarli (2641), 1-0, [441](#) points
 Tabada (2238) - Kuzubov (2667), 1-0, [429](#) points

Average gap: 486; White won 8 games, Black won 2 games.

Our featured player of the week is [Nicolas Skettos](#) from Cyprus. According to him, he is the author of 5 David vs. Goliath upsets. Below is the most recent one and, by coincidence, the one with the largest rating difference - 432 points. Black misplayed the opening pretty badly, and White converted the extra material rather smoothly:

(1) Skettos Nikolas (1525)

- Abatzidis, Stelios (1957) [B22]

PASYDY OPEN 2015(1)

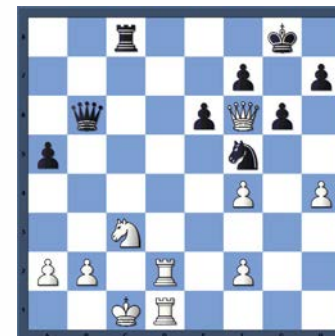
1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 ♖xd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 ♘c6 6.♘f3
♙g4 7.♘c3 ♚d7



8.d5 ♙xf3 9.gxf3 a6 10.dxc6 ♚xc6 11.♚d5 ♚b6 12.♚b3
♚c7 13.♙e3 e6 14.♚b6 ♚b8 15.♙g2 ♙d6 16.f4 ♘f6



17.♙xb7 O-O 18.♙xa8 ♚xa8 19.O-O-O ♙e7 20.♚a7 ♚e8
21.♙c5 ♙xc5 22.♚xc5 ♚b8 23.♚e5 ♚b6 24.♚d4 ♚b7
25.♚hg1 ♙e8 26.♚g3 a5 27.♚dg1 g6 28.h4 ♙g7 29.♚d3 ♙f5
30.♚f6 ♚b6 31.♚d2 ♚c8 32.♚gd1



1-0

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) will be appreciated.

Puzzle section

(3) Idani, P(2496)-Sjugirov, S(2669)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.31

1... -+



(4) Matlakov, M(2693)-Sanal, V(2487)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.31

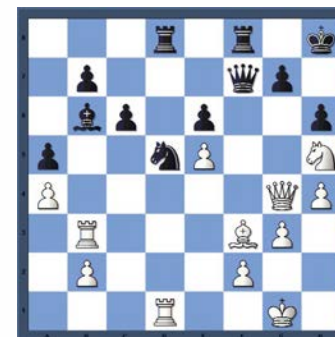
1. +-



(5) Sasikiran, K(2682)-Svetushkin, D(2592)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.04.02

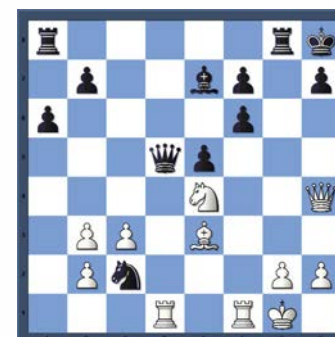
1. +-



(6) Inarkiev, E(2706)-Salem, A.R.(2603)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.04.02

1... -+



(7) Vidity, S(2625)-Swayams, M(2440)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.04.02

1. +-



(8) Grachev, B(2673)-Svetushkin, D(2592)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.04.03

1. +-



(9) Khismatullin, D(2650)-Mamedov, R(2658)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.04.04

1. +-



(10) Fedoseev, V(2674)-Antipov, M(2529)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.04.04

1. +-



(11) Virkud, A(2132)-Krush, I(2477)

US Woman Championship, 2015.04.04

1... -+



(12) Van Wely, L(2665)-Heberla, B(2567)

Doeberl Cup, 2015.04.05

1... -+



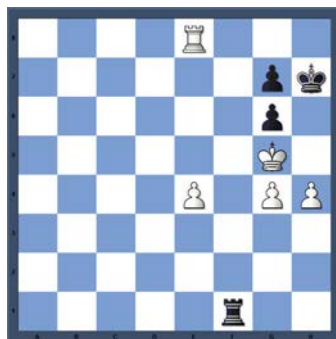
Endgame section

(13) Onischuk, Alexander (2665)
- Kamsky, Gata (2683)

ch-USA 2015(6.3),
2015.04.07



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



This simple looking endgame is actually very complicated. Is it a win or still a draw? We are going to find out during the next moves...

55. ♖d8 White is planning to play Rd3 and Re3 with the idea of pushing the e-pawn, thus freeing the white king from g5. [55.e5? would lead to an immediate draw after 55... ♜f8! 56. ♖e6 ♜e8 and White is losing the e-pawn, which means an easy draw.]

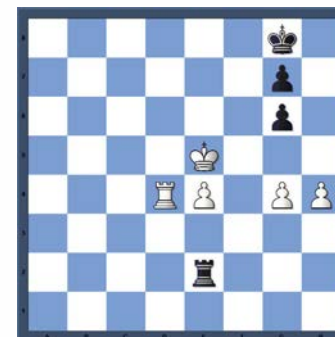
55... ♜e1 [55... ♜f8 56. ♖d6 and the pawn on g6 is hanging.]

56. ♜d4 ♜e2 Black starts the passive defense. [Black can't keep the king on g5. 56... ♜f1 57. ♖d3! Now the threat is Re3.

57... ♜e1 58. ♖f4 and we are back to a similar position as in the game.]

57. ♖f4 The white king is going to take a good position on e5.

57... ♖g8 58. ♖e5



58... ♖f7 Black has nothing better than bringing his king to f7-f8 because to stay passive on h7 would mean that the e-pawn would just march through.

59. ♜d7+ ♖f8 White has done the best he could to place his pieces to perfect positions, but what's next?!

60. ♖d5 A good choice. White is preparing the e5 move after which Ke6 is possible at some point.

60... ♜a2 61. ♖e6 Of course 61.e5 was possible too.

61... ♜a6+ 62. ♜d6 ♜a8 63.e5 ♜b8 So the white pawn is on e5, but still it is quite unclear how to actually win the game.

64. ♜c6! A very good idea! White needs his rook on the c-file to be able to play Kd7 at a good moment and protect from the checks on the a-file with Rc7.

64... ♜d8 65. ♜c7 ♜a8 66. ♖d7 The threat is to play e6 next.



66...Re8! The only defense. White still can't put his pawn to e6.

67.Ke6 [67.e6? would lead to a draw since after 67...Re7+ 68.Ke6 Black just enters the pawn endgame: 68...Rxc7 69.Kxc7 Ke7 with a draw.]

67...Rd8+ 68.Rd7 Ra8 69.Ke5 White has shown no winning plan so far, so Onischuk is going for a second attempt...

69...Ra5+ 70.Ke6 Ra8 We have this position already...

71.Rf7+ Kg8 72.Rc7 Kf8 This one as well.

73.Rc6 Finally White finds the right spot to target the g6 pawn...

73...Rb8? and this move just loses on the spot. [We would be back to a similar position as in the game after 73...Rd8 74.Ra6 Rb8 75.Ke5 White is attacking the g6 pawn but it is only a secondary threat, as the main idea is to finally play e6. 75...Kf7 76.Ra7+ Kf8 77.e6 and we are back to a similar position as in the game.]

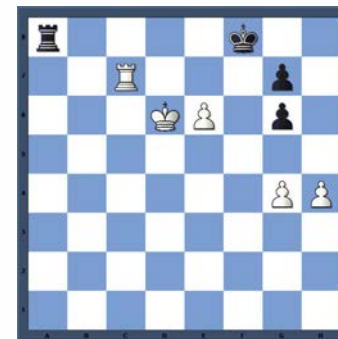
74.Ke5 was not the best. [74.Ke7! was winning on the spot. 74...Re8 trying a similar defensive idea as before, but now White has 75.Re6! The winning move! Protecting the e5 pawn and at the same time winning the g6 pawn. 75...Ra8 76.Rxg6 Ra7+ 77.Ke6 and White is easily winning.]

74...Kf7 75.e6+ So White finally played e6!

75...Kf8 76.Rc7! A good move. The white rook is greatly placed on c7 and soon we will see why.

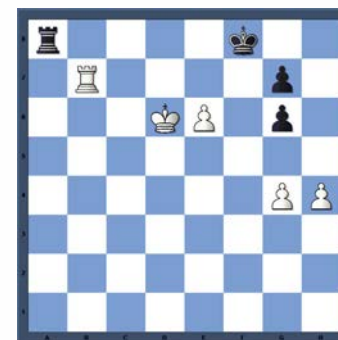
76...Ra8 Black can't do much but keep on waiting.

77.Ke6



77...Rd8+ [77...Rb8 was losing too. 78.Ke7 Re8 79.Rc4! Now there is already nothing Black can do. 79...Re7+ 80.Ke6 Re8 81.Rf4+ The black king is being cut off. 81...Kg8 82.e7 Ra8 and White is easily winning after 83.Ra4!]

78.Rd7 Ra8 79.Rf7+ Kg8 80.Rc7 Kf8 81.Rf7+ Kg8 82.Rb7 Kf8 Onischuk decided to repeat the position a couple of times before going for the correct

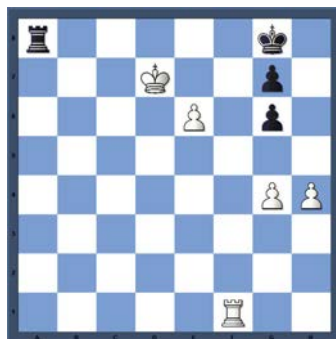


83.Ke7! Re8 and now we do know how White should win and of course Alexander doesn't miss it:

84.♖b1 The right move!

84...♖e7+ 85.♔d6 ♖e8 86.♖f1+ ♔g8 87.♔d7 Just as winning as 87.e7.

87...♖a8



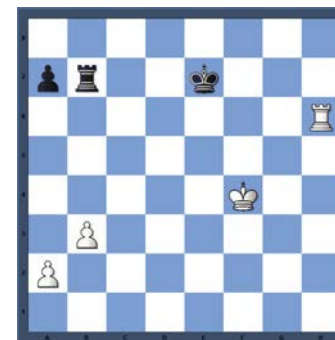
88.♖c1 and Black can't avoid Rc8 next. The e-pawn is a queen. So the conclusion of this endgame is simple: White is winning and the game perfectly showed how. Bring the king to d6, the rook to the 7th rank and play e5-e6 when possible.
1-0

**(14) Rapport, Richard (2709)
- Khalifman, Alexander (2613)**

Aeroflot Open,
2015.04.02



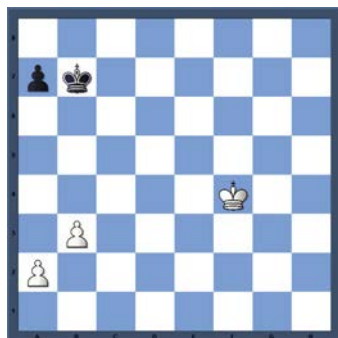
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



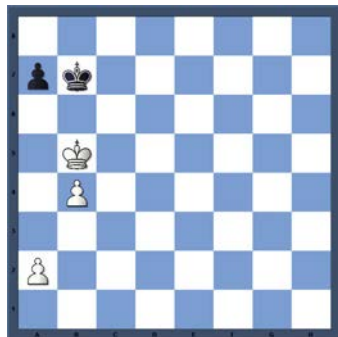
We are facing a very instructive practical endgame, which can be very useful to remember for our own games. The 2 vs 1 rook endgames are fairly easy theoretical draws if the pawns are on the same side. If the black king was on b8 we could speak about this case, however the huge difference is that the black king is far away from the pawn and by approaching towards it he must always count on trading the rooks, thus entering into a seemingly suspicious pawn endgame. Our co-author, the Ex-World Champion Alexander Khalifman, solves this difficult situation by perfect understanding of the position!

48...♔d8!! The most natural move! Black would like to move the rook along the 7th rank and continue the journey with the king towards the a7 pawn to secure the draw. The question is what happens if White forces the trade of the rooks. Black had to evaluate the arising pawn endgame accurately...

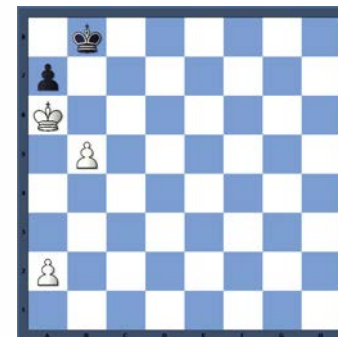
49. ♖h8+ ♕c7 50. ♖h7+ ♕b6 51. ♖xb7+ ♕xb7 This endgame is a draw, but without knowing about it one must be really scared of losing.



52. ♕e5 ♕c6! It is very l to go forward with the king, provoking the a2-a3 move to win a crucial tempo and to avoid getting into zugzwang in some positions. The following 52... Kb8 line demonstrates the point. [52... ♕b8? 53. ♕d6 ♕b7 54. ♕c5 ♕c7 55. ♕b5 ♕b7 56. b4



Here is a zugzwang! Black must allow the white king to occupy the a6 square. 56... ♕b8 (Touching the a-pawn is never good. It just makes the pawn more vulnerable. 56... a6+ 57. ♕c5 ♕c7 (Black cannot force the b-pawn to capture on a5. White wins after 57... a5 58. b5!+—) 58. a4 ♕b7 59. ♕d6 ♕b6 60. a5+ ♕b5 61. ♕c7 ♕xb4 62. ♕b6+— Black misses one tempo to squeeze the king to the a-file.) 57. ♕a6 ♕a8 58. b5 ♕b8



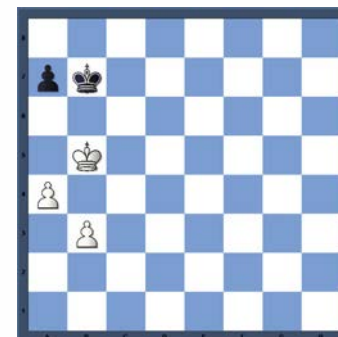
Here we can see the importance of each tempo. If the pawn was on a3, the game would be drawn. However, White wins the crucial tempo with 59. a3! ♕a8 60. a4 ♕b8 61. a5 ♕a8 62. b6 axb6 63. axb6 ♕b8 64. b7!+—]

53. ♕d4 ♕b5 54. a3 [54. ♕c3 54... ♕c5 forces one of the pawns to move if White wants to make progress.]

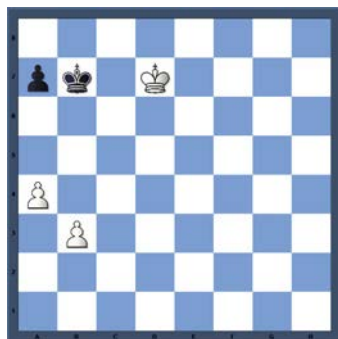
54... ♕b6! Black starts waiting now. He only moves with his a-pawn if it forces a draw. Lets say after 55. b4 a5. Otherwise it is obligatory to keep it on a7 to save the game.

55. ♕d5 [White cannot make progress if he tries frontal opposition: 55. ♕c4 55... ♕c6 56. ♕b4 ♕b6]

55... ♕b5 56. ♕d6 ♕b6 57. a4 ♕b7 58. ♕d7 [58. ♕c5 is another line where we can see the importance of provoking all the white pawn moves... 58... ♕c7 59. ♕b5 ♕b7

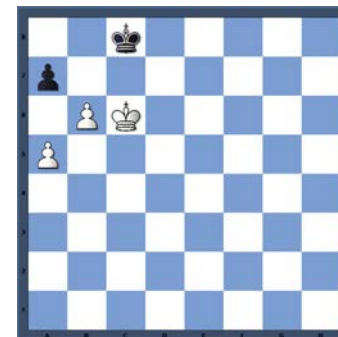


The only thing that Black must calculate here is the position with the white king on a6 and then White advances his pawns to b6 axb6 axb6 and in this situation he should play Ka8! 60.b4 (If 60.♔a5 60...♔b8 61.♔a6 ♔a8 62.b4 ♔b8 63.b5 ♔a8 64.a5 ♔b8 65.b6 axb6 66.axb6 ♔a8= and draw!) 60...♔a8! By accurate calculation we come to the right conclusion! (60...♔b8? loses now, because of 61.♔a6 ♔a8 62.b5 ♔b8 63.a5 ♔a8 64.b6 axb6 65.axb6 ♔b8 66.b7+; 60...♔c7 is also good. It transposes after Ka6 Kb8.) 61.♔a6 ♔b8 62.b5 ♔a8 63.a5 ♔b8 64.b6 axb6 65.axb6 ♔a8!= and Black holds!]



58...♔b8! The only move! Black must prevent the white king from getting behind his pawn! [58...♔b6? loses to 59.♔c8! a5 (59...♔c6 60.♔b8 ♔b6 61.b4+–) 60.♔b8 ♔c5 61.♔b7 ♔b4 62.♔b6 ♔xb3 63.♔xa5 ♔c4 64.♔b6+–]

59.♔c6 [On 59.♔d8 Black only waits with Kb7-b8. 59...♔b7; I just want to demonstrate another drawing idea with the line 59.♔d6 59...♔c8 59...Kb7 is more natural of course, but it is still a draw. 60.♔c6 ♔b8 61.b4 ♔c8 62.b5 ♔b8 63.a5 ♔c8 64.b6



I wanted to reach this position where 64...axb6 65.axb6 Kb8 66. b7 wins again. But Black has two different ways to make a draw: 64...♔b8 (64...a6 is another well-known theoretical draw. Black only waits on the b8-b7 and if necessary c8 squares and White cannot make progress because 65.b7+ ♔b8 66.♔b6 is stalemate!) 65.b7 a6!= and White is forced to stalemate his opponent with Kb6.]

59...♔c8 60.♔c5 ♔c7 61.♔b5 ♔b7 62.♔a5 ♔b8! We already know that Black must calculate if the king should go to a8 or b8. With the white pawn on a3, 62...Ka8 would have been the drawing move!

63.♔b4 [63.♔a6 63...♔a8 64.b4 is the usual draw after 64...♔b8 65.b5 ♔a8 66.a5 ♔b8 67.b6 axb6 68.axb6 ♔a8 69.b7+ ♔b8 70.♔b6=]

63...♔c8 64.♔c5 ♔c7 65.b4 ♔b7 66.♔d6 ♔b6 67.♔d7 ♔b7 68.a5 ♔b8 69.♔c6 ♔c8 70.b5 ♔b8 71.b6 axb6 72.axb6 ♔c8 73.b7+ ♔b8 74.♔b6 A very instructive endgame! **1/2-1/2**

Chess and the City. The 15th Woman World Champion!



WGM Elisabeth Paehtz

Best rating: 2493

After 3.5 weeks the Women's World Championship has finally come to an end. It was won by the 22 year old Marya Muzychuk from the Ukraine. In a match of 4 games "Miss Tactics", alias Marya Muzychuk, managed to prevent "Miss Come back", alias Nataliya Pogonina, from achieving that important final comeback. She beat her Russian opponent convincingly 2.5 :1.5.

The way to the final for both girls was both tough and spectacular. On their way they had to face not only a lot of world class opponents, but also had to endure several nerve thrilling tiebreaks. Some may wonder why big favourites such as Koneru, Ju Wenjun, Anna Muzychuk and even Stefanova failed at early stages. Well, the answer may be that a knock-out system with only 2 games leads to psychology playing a much more dominant role.

If I look back at this tournament and have to pick the player who showed the highest quality of chess, it is without a doubt the top seed and world number 2 Humpy Koneru, from India. She scored 7/8 in her classical matches, gaining substantial

rating points, and yet was eliminated because of several unfortunate tactical black-outs at decisive moments.

The former World Champion Hou Yifan skipped her participation, mainly because she was already committed to play a tournament in Hawai, which, by the way, she succeeded in winning. In autumn this year there will be a match between her and Marya Muzychuk, over 10 games. The place and date has yet to be announced, but rumour has it that it may be in Lvov, the hometown of both Muzychuk sisters.



Some may think that it will be a one-sided affair, but Marya's tactical skills could prove quite a handful for the Chinese Superstar. Time will tell, and with this newsletter we have finally come to an end of Sochi 2015!

Clash of the Titans

(15) Alekhine, Alexander
- Johner, Hans[C79]

Zuerich, 1934



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 d6 5.O-O ♘f6



6.c3 White can also immediately fight for the center with [6.d4!? 6...exd4 (6...b5 7.♙b3 ♘xd4 8.♘xd4 exd4 9.c3 (9.♙xd4 9...c5—+ with c4 next.) 9...dxc3 10.♘xc3 White's compensation is not enough.; 6...♙d7 7.d5 ♘b8 8.♙xd7+ ♘bxd7 9.♙e1 and White didn't lose time for c3-c4.) 7.♘xd4 ♙d7 8.♙xc6 bxc6 9.♘c3 ♙e7 10.♙e1 O-O Thanks to his space advantage and a better structure White has a stable advantage but on the other hand with two bishops Black is very solid. The next plan could be c5-Bc6-Re8-Bf8 etc.]

6...♙d7 7.d4 ♙e7 [7...♘xe4 Without development this looks dangerous for Black, for example after 8.♙e1 ♘f6 9.♙xc6

♙xc6 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.♙xd8+ ♙xd8 12.♘xe5 ♙e4 13.♘d2 (13.f3 13...♙c5+ 14.♙f1 ♙f5! and Black is fine because of the trick with check on d3.) 13...♙e7 14.♘xe4 ♘xe4 15.♙h6! gxh6 16.♙xe4 and the black structure is worse.]

8.d5 ♘b8



9.♙c2?! I don't like this move. Generally in King's Indian structures the exchange of the light squared bishops is useful for White. [9.♙xd7+ 9...♘bxd7 10.♙e1 O-O 11.c4 ♘e8 12.♘c3 g6 with Ng7-f5, but without the bishop on c8 it is harder for Black to create pressure on the kingside.]

9...♙g4 Other plans were also promising for Black: [9...a5 10.h3 O-O 11.c4 ♘a6 12.♘c3 c6 13.♙e3 cxd5 14.cxd5 (14.exd5 This recapture is rare but in some cases interesting. 14...♙c8 15.♘d2 ♘e8 16.a3 f5 17.f3 with very complex play where White is going to play over b4 and Black is looking for the initiative on the kingside.) 14...b5 (14...♙b8 with the typical ideas b5-Rc8-Bd8-Bb6.) 15.♘xe5! dxe5 16.d6 b4 17.dxe7 ♙xe7 18.♘d5↑ and White is better.]

10.c4 ♘bd7 [10...O-O 11.h3 ♙xf3 12.♙xf3 and the main task is to do something with the weakest piece, the bishop on e7. 12...c6 (12...♘e8 13.g3 ♙g5 14.♙xg5 ♙xg5 15.h4 ♙e7 16.♘c3 ♘d7 17.♙g2 Black managed to exchange bishops but White has more space and after Nd1-Ne3 White can nicely prevent

plans with f5.) 13.♙e3 ♘bd7 14.♞d2 knight on d2 should be more flexible. 14...♚b8! followed by the typical maneuver Bd8-Bb6. The position is equal. 15.♖ab1



15...♙d8 16.dxc6 bxc6 17.b4! ♙b6 18.c5±]

11.h3 ♙h5 12.♞c3 O-O 13.g4 ♙g6 [13...♞xg4!? 14.hxg4 ♙xg4 15.♚g2! White needs to hurry with his king evacuation. (15.♚d3?! 15...♞c5 16.♚e3 f5 17.exf5 ♚e8!→) 15...f5 16.exf5 ♚e8 17.♖h1! ♙xf5 18.♙xf5 ♖xf5 19.♖h3 White should consolidate his position.]

14.♚e2 ♞e8 [14...h5!? looks risky. 15.♞e1 (15.g5? 15...♞h7 16.h4 f6±) 15...hxg4 16.hxg4 ♞h7∞ and White needs a lot of time to create an attack over the h-file.; 14...h6 15.♞h4 ♞h7 16.♞f5 ♙g5! 17.♚g2 ♙xc1 18.♖axc1 ♙xf5 19.exf5 ♚h4 and it is not easy for White to improve his position.]

15.♙d2



15...h6 16.♚g2 ♙h7 The beginning of a wrong plan. Black should be looking for counterplay on the queenside. [16...c6∞]

17.♖h1 g5?! Black wants to close the position but this idea is artificial. [17...♙g5 18.♞xg5 hxg5 19.h4! gxh4 20.g5→; 17...c6 was still correct.]

18.h4 f6 19.♞d1 ♖f7 20.♞e3 ♞f8 21.♞f5 [21.h5 is not needed but even here without space Black's position is very unpleasant. 21...♚h8 22.b4 ♖g7 23.♙b3 ♙g8 24.♖hc1 ♞d7 25.♞e1± with Nd3-c5 next.]

21...♙xf5 22.gxf5 [22.exf5± also looks good for White. The next plan could be Be3-Nd2-Ne4 -b4-c5, as well as ideas of playing over the h-file.]

22...♖h7 23.♖ag1 ♞g7 24.♚f1 [24.♙a4!? is an interesting option to prevent Qe8. 24...♞h5? 25.hxg5 hxg5 26.♞xg5+→]

24...♚e8



25.♞h2! ♞h5 Black is also trying to activate his pieces.

26.♞g4 ♞f4 27.♚f3 ♚g7 [27...h5 28.♞xf6+ ♙xf6 29.hxg5→ should be decisive.]

28.hxg5 [28.♙xf4 28...exf4 29.♞xh6 ♖xh6 30.hxg5 ♖xh1 (30...fxg5 31.♖xh6 ♚xh6 32.♚c3! ♚h5 33.♚h8+ ♞h7 34.♚xa8 ♙f6 followed by Be5-g4, with an objectively unclear position

in a practical game.) 31.♖xh1 fxg5 32.♔h3 ♕f6 and the black king will escape.]

28...hxg5 29.♖xh7+ ♖xh7 30.♖h1 ♔h8 31.♖h6 ♔f7 32.♕d1
A good move because at some moment the white bishop can be activated over h5.

32...♖g8



33.♔b3! It is time to play on the other side!

33...b6 [33...♖b8 with the idea to not weaken the light squares but then White plays 34.♕xf4 exf4 35.♖g6 threatening Nh6.]

34.♔a4 ♕f8 [34...a5 35.♔d7+—]

35.♔xa6!? White wins a pawn but now Black gets rid of the bishop, which was the weakest piece, so maybe from a practical point of view it was better to play [35.♖h1 35...a5 36.a3± and the bishop on f8 is still "dead".]

35...♕xh6 36.♖xh6 ♔g7 37.♖xg8 ♔xg8 38.♔c8+ ♖f8 39.♕xf4 An important move, otherwise Black will get counterplay after activating the queen. [39.♔e8 39...♔h8 40.♕xf4 ♔h1+! 41.♔e2 gxf4—]

39...exf4 40.♔e8 taking control over the h5 square to prevent Qh6-Qh1. [40.♕h5!?]

40...g4↪ It looks like Black gets some counterplay.

41.♔h5



41...f3 limiting the bishop, but maybe more promising was [41...g3!? 42.♔g4 ♔xg4 43.♕xg4 gxf2 44.♔xf2 ♖d7! 45.b4 ♖e5 46.♕e2 ♔f7 47.a4 ♔e7 48.a5 bxa5 49.bxa5 ♔d7 and Black is on time! I have no idea who is better now!]

42.♕a4 White is looking for chances to activate his bishop.

42...♖h7 43.♕c2 ♖f8?! This is a typical psychological moment, where for almost the whole game Black defended a very bad position and now when he gets practical chances they don't feel dangerous and he makes a mistake. [43...♔g5 44.♔xg5+ ♖xg5 45.♔g1 ♖h3+ 46.♔h2 ♖xf2 47.♔g3 ♖h3 (47...♖h1+ 48.♔xg4 f2 49.♕d3+—) 48.♔xg4 ♖g5 49.♕d3 ♔f8 50.b4 ♔e7 51.a4 ♔d8 and in case the white king will come to Kh5-Kg6, then Black will play f2 and Nxe4!]



44.e5! A great idea! In the end, the worst piece will deliver the decisive blow!

44...dxe5 [44...fxe5 45.f6 ♖xf6 46.♖xg4+ ♔f7 47.♘e4±]



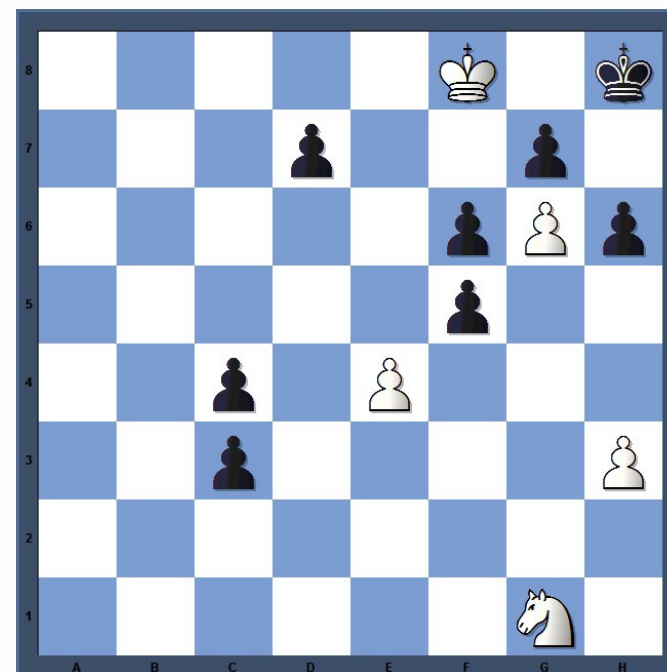
45.d6! c5 [45...cxd6 46.c5! and White sacrifices pawn number three! (But not 46.♘e4 46...♘d7 47.♘d5+ ♔f8∞) 46...d5 47.cxb6 ♖b7 48.♖xg4+ ♔f7 49.♘b3 ♘d7 50.♖xf3 ♘xb6 51.♖h5++-]

46.♘e4 ♖d7 47.♖h6 1-0

Surprise section / study

(16) Mozes

1. +-



Solutions

(17) Gundavaa, B(2505)-Dubov, D(2627)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.27



60...c2! 0-1 [60...c2 61.♔xd2 c1=♚+! 62.♔xc1 ♖a1+ 63.♔d2 ♖xg1+-]

(18) Potkin, V(2605)-Tabatabaei, M(2448)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.27



18.♖xf7!! ♔xf7 19.♚h7! ♔e6 [19...♖e6 20.♖f1+ ♔f6 21.♔xf6 ♖xf6 22.♖xf6+ ♔xf6 23.♚g6+ ♔e7 24.♚xg7+ ♔e8 (24...♔e6

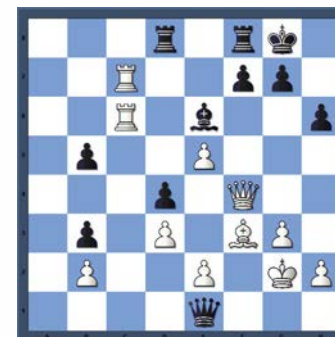
25.♔d5+ ♔d6 26.♔xe5#; 24...♔d8 25.♚f6+ ♔e8 26.♔g6!+-) 25.♔g6!+-]

20.♔f5+- [20.♚g6+ 20...♔f6 21.♔f5+- (21.♚xg7+-)]

20...♔a4 21.♔xc7+! 1-0 [21.♔xc7+ 21...♚xc7 22.♚g6+ ♔f6 23.♔d5#]

(19) Mamedov, R(2658)-Wagner, D(2549)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.28



36.♖xe6! fxe6 37.♚g4 ♖f7 38.♚xe6 ♖f8 39.♖xf7 ♖xf7 40.♚e8+! ♖f8 41.♔d5+! ♔h7 42.♚xf8 ♚xe2+ 43.♚f2 1-0

(20) Motylev, A(2653)-Mozharov, M(2555)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.28



35. ♖h6+! 1-0 [35. ♖h6+ 35... ♔xh6 (35... ♖xh6 36. ♔xg5+-) 36. ♖g3+-]

(21) Salem, AR(2603)-Korobkov, P(2423)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.28

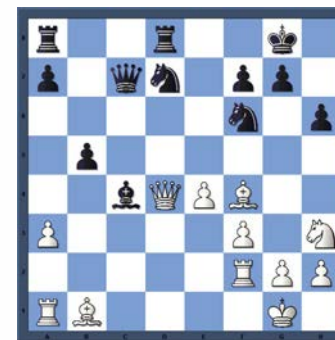


24. ♖xe6! fxe6 25. ♖e5 ♔f6 26. b7 ♖d8 [26... ♖b8 27. ♖g6+ ♔xh7 28. ♖xf8+ ♔g8 29. ♖d7 ♔d8 30. ♖xb8 ♔xb8 31. ♔xc6+-]

27. ♖g6+- 1-0 [27. ♖xc6+-]

(22) Savchenko, B(2581)-Predke, A(2530)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.28



20... ♖e5! 0-1 [20... ♖e5 21. ♖xe5 ♔xe5!? (21... ♖xd4 22. ♖xc7 ♖d1+-) 22. ♔xe5 ♖d1+ 23. ♖f1 ♖xf1#]

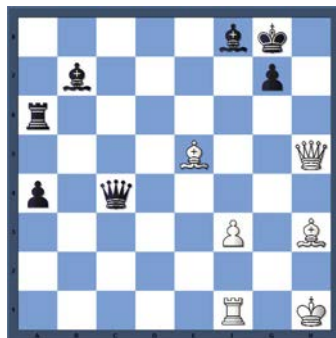
(23) Korobov, A(2694)-Ponkratov, P(2613)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.30



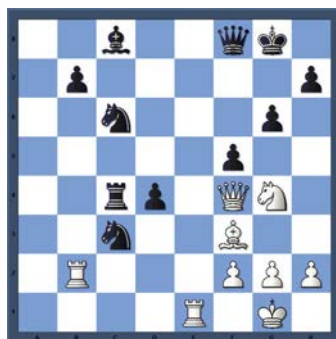
27. ♖xd6! 1-0 [27. ♖xd6 27... ♖xe4 (27... ♖xd6 28. ♖xe7+-) 28. ♔g6#]

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.30



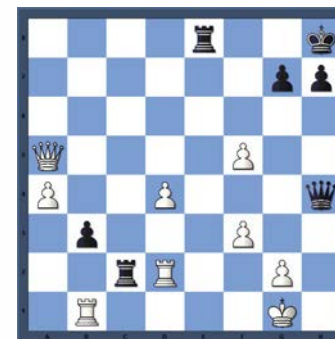
43... ♔h4+ 44. ♖h2+-

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.30

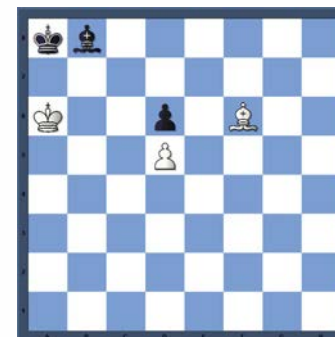


25. ♖e8! ♔xe8 26. ♞f6+ ♚f7 27. ♞xe8+—

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.30



(27) Kovalenko



6. ♖xc7! ♜xc7 7. ♖a7+- [7. ♖a7 7... ♜c8 8. ♜b6 ♜d7 9. ♜b7 ♜d8 10. ♜c6 ♜c8 11. ♜xd6 ♜d8 12. ♜c6 ♜c8 13. d6 ♜d8 14. d7+-]



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 164

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Editorial Preface

First we have some good news for you, from the next issue the super GM and good friend of ours, Etienne Bacrot, is going to join us with his weekly "young and talented" section, commenting on the best game of the week from an U-18 player.

Let's come to the finished events:

The very strong Dubai Open came to an end with 6 players sharing the first place- all with 7/9. The best after tie-break were Solak, Howell and Fedoseev.

Hikaru Nakamura easily won the US Championship with the solid score of 8/11- 5 wins and 6 draws- while Robson came second with 7.5/11. It was a very good tournament for the young US player. 3rd place went to Wesley So with 6.5/11 who lost a total of 4 games, which is more than in the previous 100 games he played!

In the womens' section as expected Irina Krush made her way to the title with 8.5/11, followed by Paikidze and Nemcova on 7.5/11.

Today sees the start of the super tournament in Shamkir, which features Caruana, Giri, So, Anand, Kramnik, Vachier Lagrave, Mamedyarov, Adams and Mamedov. What an amazing line up! We are clearly going to see great games!

In just 3 days from now, the World Team Championship is going to begin in Yerevan and we can also expect a lot of top players to represent their countries. Csaba Balogh, one of your commentators, is participating for the team of Hungary.

As usual we hope you enjoy our weekly online magazine!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) **Fedoseev, Vladimir (2674)**
- Solodovnichenko, Yuri (2584)
[B90]

17th Dubai Chess Open(5.2),
 2015.04.11



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
 Best rating: 2737

One of the best young Russian talents Fedoseev once again shows his good tactical skills. After the opening, the game is quickly getting into a very random position with a lot of different tactical motives. Being a bit greedy, Solodovnichenko is taking a pawn which he should not have taken and is getting under many different pins and threats, eventually just losing the game on the spot.

1. ♖f3 c5 2. e4 and we are back into a Sicilian.

2...d6 3.d4 ♘f6 Sometimes Black uses this move order, but personally I could never understand what he is trying to avoid...

4. ♘c3 [4.dxc5 4... ♘xe4 is considered OK for Black.]

4...cxd4 5. ♘xd4 a6 So we are in a Najdorf.

6.h3 e6 is not the main move but clearly an option. [6...e5 is the very main move.]

7.g4 White takes space on the kingside, which is the idea behind the h3 move.

7... ♘e7 8. ♘g2 ♘fd7 We are still following theory. Black's idea is to put his knight on e5 as quickly as possible.

9. ♘e3 White is preparing to castle queenside, which is also

very typical.

9... ♘e5 planning to play Nc4 next as it is very good for Black to exchange his knight against the e3 bishop if possible.

10. ♖e2 preparing to castle queenside, play f4 and defending from Nc4.



10...b5!? A very risky but maybe good move! [Another risky try was 10...g5 which is a typical idea too, but here it doesn't seem to work. 11.O-O-O ♘bd7 12.h4! breaking Black's pawn structure on the kingside.; 10... ♖c7 seems to be the most normal move.]

11.b3 To play such a move somehow doesn't feel right. [Maybe White could have played 11.f4 11... ♘c4 12.O-O-O and yes, it is pity to give up the e3 bishop, but White's development is clearly compensating for it.]

11... ♘bc6! A good choice! [11... ♖c7 12. ♖d2 would not bring much to Black.]

12.O-O White changes his strategy because it is clearly too risky to castle queenside now. [12. ♘xc6 12... ♘xc6 13.O-O-O ♖a5 is looking risky for White.]

12... ♘xd4 Black is planning an interesting idea. [But after the simple 12...O-O I can't imagine White's position being better here. The b3 move clearly doesn't fit well and Black will

always have good play on the c-file.]

13. ♖xd4



13...g5!? In many Sicilians the idea of playing g5 is very typical, but usually the g5 move is played to stop White from playing f4-g5. Now that White has castled kingside though, the g5 move is not really needed although it still deserves attention. I think that once again simply castling kingside would give Black pleasant play.

14. ♖d2 Quite a tricky move. White is not only preparing to push f4 somewhere, but also planning to get his knight to h5, with a clearly great position.

14... ♖b7 15. ♘e2 h5! Once again Solodovnichenko makes the right choice, as opening the h-file is clearly good for Black who can even think about castling queenside in the future.

16. f3 is probably already the best.

16... ♖h7 A very deep move, but I think it was not really needed. [In case of 16... ♖c7 White could play 17.a4 starting some play on the queenside. Of course Black is not even close to being worse, but the position is very unclear.; 16...hxc4 looks nice, checking with what White is planning to take on g4. 17.fxg4 ♖c6 just defending from a4. In my opinion Black is at least equal here.]

17.c4!? White is trying to open the position to make use of the fact that the rook on h7 might be out of the game. [17.a4 also looks solid for White.]

17...bxc4 18.bxc4 and here comes the first mistake by Black:



18... ♘xc4? There was no reason at all for Black to enter such a dangerous line. [Why not simply play 18...hxc4 19.fxg4 ♖c8 and I don't see how White could use the fact that the black king is placed on e8.]

19. ♖b4! A strong move, double attacking on b7 and c4.

19... ♖c7 20. ♖ac1 White is trying a funny idea. [Another logical move was 20. ♖ab1 20... ♖b8 and Black's position is looking very dangerous, but maybe White doesn't have anything better than being "unclear". 21. ♖fc1 (21. ♖a7 21... ♖a8 22. ♖d4 would lead to a draw.) 21...d5 22. ♖b3 and things are very complicated.]

20...d5 21. ♖b1!? This is what Fedoseev had been planning, now the rook on h7 is hanging!

21... ♖h6 The best move.

22. ♘c3 The position is getting more and more messy. White's pawn down is compensated by the bad position of the black king on e8 and the rook on h6.

22... ♖d8 Not the best move. [Black should have tried

22...♘c5 as exchanging the black bishops is good for Black.
 23.♘xc5 ♖xc5+ 24.♔f2 ♘c6 and things remain very complex, but it is hard to imagine Black being worse here.]

23.exd5 Now the position is getting even more open.



23...♞d2? A blunder... [Black had a strange, but quite powerful move: 23...♞f8!? trying to make the king's position a bit safer. 24.♞d3 exd5 25.♔fe1 White has some play for the pawn, but I think Black is just better here after 25...♘c5 and pawn is a pawn.]

24.♞e4! Clearly this is the move that Solodovnichenko underestimated.

24...♞xb1?! Another mistake... [Black could still have returned with his knight. 24...♞c4 but now White already has moves like 25.f4!? and the fight is very unclear.]

25.♖xc7 Now Black is losing material.

25...♘xd5 The only move.

26.♘e3! An excellent reply. White is threatening to play Rxe7 and Bxg5 or just to win the knight on b1. The game is basically over.

26...♘xe4 27.fxex4 The white threats remain.

27...♘d6 Other moves were not any better.

28.♖xf7 hxf4 This move makes the win too easy for White. [Black could have fought on a bit after 28...♘f4 29.♘xf4 gxf4 30.♖1xf4 ♞c3 but of course White's position is close to winning.]



29.e5! with the deadly threat Bc6. So, another typical game in the Sicilian where things are very unclear until somebody makes a calculation mistake. What is clear from the current game is that a move like b3 is not the right choice to go on for White, while Black's move g5 was interesting even if not needed. **1-0**

(2) Troff, Kayden W (2532) - Nakamura, Hikaru (2798) [A62]

ch-USA 2015(8.1),
2015.04.09



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Nakamura has convincingly won the US Championship. Let's examine one of his victories.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.♘c3 g6
Recently it is extremely hard to win a game, especially with the black pieces because everybody is very well prepared in the openings. Nakamura shows his intention right in the beginning of the game. The Benoni defense is considered to be a bit risky, but very sharp opening and it was exactly what he needed to outplay his young GM opponent.



7.g3 ♗g7 8.♗g2 O-O 9.O-O The initial position of the g3 system. This position arises more often from the King's Indian defense. A huge line with a lot of theory.

9...♖e8 10.♖e1 White wants to occupy the center with e4.

10...a6 Black tries to ground on the queenside, which must be prevented with a4, but it creates some holes in the white camp. These are all standard ideas.

11.a4 ♘bd7 12.e4 ♘g4 Transferring the knight to it's ideal square on e5.

13.♘d2 A typical manoeuvre to drive the knight to c4. If White could play Nc4, Bf4 and a5, he would achieve the maximum of this opening, but of course, Black also has his triumphs. [It is not advisable to occupy the center with the pawns by playing 13.h3 13...♘ge5 14.♘xe5 ♘xe5 The trading of the pair of knights favors Black, as he is lacking of space, therefore the maneuvering with his pieces inside his camp will be more easy. If it was his move, he could play c4, establishing a knight on d3, while after 15.f4 ♘c4! with strong pressure on the h8-a1 diagonal. The g7 bishop is very strong now and if White kicks out the knight with Qd3 for instance, Na5 could come with a new direction to occupy the hole on b3!]

13...♘ge5 14.♗f1 White has to establish control over the d3 and c4 squares to prevent Black's counterplay.



We can see the point why White wants to keep all knights on board. Now the one on e5 is nice, but is threatened by getting trapped by f4! Nakamura plays another typical move, which helps him to keep his knight on e5! [Preventing Nd3 with a developing move is inferior 14.♗c2 is strongly met by 14...c4! preparing to install an annoying knight to d3 15.♗f1 comes too late, because Black gets too big activity after



15...Nc5! The knight cannot take on c4 because of Nf3 and after 16. Bxc4 Bh3! followed by Rc8. All black pieces are standing perfectly which clearly worth the value of a pawn. White cannot play like this.]

14...g5! Black starts his fight for the dark squares on f4 and e5. If it was his move, he would push g4, creating eternal outpost for the knight on e5 by preventing f4 forever.

15.h3 White prevents g4 and would like to push f4 later at some point after some preparation. [15.f4 right away was premature, because the white pieces are not supporting well the center. Black could quickly get his counterplay with 15...gxf4 16.gxf4 Bg6 17.Bf3 (17.Bc4 is strongly met by 17...Bd4+! 18.Bh1 Bf6 with pressure on all the pawns and threatening with Bg4 or Ng4.) 17...Bf6 forcing White to push f5, but it gives up the e5 square.]

15...Bf6 Black continues fighting for the dark squares.

16.Bh5 Troff tries to show the drawback of the g6-g5 move, namely, that it has weakened the h5 and f5 squares. The plan is to drive the c3 knight to f5 through d1-e3. Nakamura was familiar with this positional ideas of the opening and he makes an excellent preparation for this plan.



16...Bh6! With the intention of playing Qg7, Nf6 and g4. The knights are occupying the f6-e5 squares (closing the a1-h8 diagonal), but the bishop finds another great diagonal to stay on! [On the natural 16...h6 to strengthen the g5 pawn, the plan of the game is much more efficient. 17.Bd1! and Ne3 next.]

17.Bd1 White consequently follows his plan.

17...g4?! A tempting move, which was seriously criticized by Nakamura himself. [Black should have followed his initial idea with 17...Bg7! 18.Bd3 Bf6 19.Bd1 g4! and he is doing very well.]

18.Bd3! [Of course not 18.hxg4? because of 18...Bxd2 19.Bxd2 Bf3+ 20.Bg2 Bxd2--]

18...Bxe3 19.Bxe3 Bg7! Freeing the f6 square for the knight. The queen looks kind of trapped on h5, but it finds an unusual way to come back to the game.

20.hxg4 Bxg4 20...Nf6 could be a transposition.



21.♖c3? [It is very deep and hard to foresee, but White should have overprotect his e4 pawn in order to be able to leave the d2 square with his knight and finish the development (ideally Nc4 and Bf4). If Black cannot do anything concrete against it, his position simple becomes much worse. 21.♖e2! The plan executed in the game does not work properly now, because after 21...♟df6 White needs find some artificial moves 22.♙h1! ♜e5 23.♙g2! leaving from the Rh5 threat and intending to play Nc4! 23...♜h5 24.♟f3! White protects everything and Bf4 is coming next. Despite his strange queen on g2, White is much better.]

21...♟df6 22.♙h1



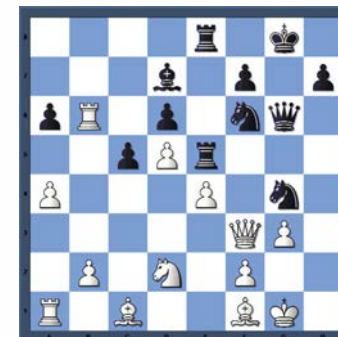
22...♜e5! Very nice attacking idea by Black. He drops his rook to the h-file. In comparison with the 21.Re2 line, White has problems with his e4 pawn and he cannot get his knight

ideally to c4 or f3.

23.♙f3 Leaving from the Rh5 tempo. [Now on 23.♙g2 23...♜h5 and Rh2 is coming next. Nf3 does not work this time because the e4 is hanging.; 23.f3? loses nicely to 23...♜h5 24.♙g2 ♜h2 trapping the queen.]

23...♟d7 Bringing the rest of the pieces to the game! The other rook also arrives to the e-file, putting pressure on the e4 target. [It was easy to go wrong with some premature moves like 23...♙h6? 24.♙g2 Black has moved into different motifs with discovered attack on the queen after jumping away with the knight. 24...♙h5 25.f3! pushes back the black pieces 25...♟h6 26.♟c4 and suddenly Black collapses.]

24.♙d3? A blunder, but it was difficult to play the position. [The critical line was 24.♜b3 but it strongly met by 24...♜ae8! 25.♜xb7 ♙g6! with huge compensation for the sacrificed pawn. All black pieces are standing well. Here is one line to illustrate their power 26.♜b6 attack the d6 pawn, but suddenly after



26...♟f5!! Black gets a very strong attack. 27.exf5 (27.♜xd6 27...♙h5 28.♙g2 ♟xe4) 27...♜xf5 28.♙h1 ♜xf2-- White will be punished for his undeveloped pieces.; It is easy to understand, that White did not want allow the black rook penetrate on the back rank after 24.♟c4 24...♜xe4 25.♟xd6

♖e1 threatening with Rxf1 and Nh2.]

24...♖h6! Nakamura does not let the opportunity slip away and he makes use of his opponent's mistake.

25.♗g2 [25.♗f3 is simple met by 25...♖h5! leaving from the attack and White cannot protect his e4 pawn!]

25...♖h2+ 26.♖f1



26...♗xf2! A well-calculated sacrifice gives Black a winning advantage.

27.♖xf2 ♗h3! 28.♖f1 White is threatening to solve the problems with Qh1, forcing the trade of the queens and preserve his extra piece, but a decisive blow was prepared by Black before sacrificing on f2 a couple of moves ago. [28.♖f3 loses to 28...♗g4+ 29.♖f1 ♖h1+! 30.♖e2 ♖xg2+ 31.♖xg2 ♗xg2+ with material advantage and better position.]



28...♖xe4!! 29.♗xe4 [29.♖h1 refuted nicely by 29...♗g4+ 30.♖f3 ♗xg2+ 31.♖xg2 ♗e5+ 32.♖f2 ♖e2+-- wins the queen.]

29...♗xe4+ 30.♖e3 [The point is after 30.♖f3 30...♖xg3+! 31.♖xe4 ♖e8# is a nice mate in the middle of the board.]

30...♗xg2 31.♖f4 ♗xc3 It is all over now. Even materially Black is ahead, but the main problem is the king on e3, which cannot survive for long.

32.♖g5+ ♖f8 33.bxc3 ♖e8+ 34.♖f2 ♗h1+ White resigned in view of Qg2 mate next move. A very nice win by Nakamura!
0-1

The K-Files.

Blumenfeld Gambit - part 1



GM Alexander Khalifman
FIDE World Chess Champion (1999)

Best rating: 2702

(3) Blumenfeld Gambit - part 1 [E10]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 c5 4.d5 b5!? The Blumenfeld Gambit is a relatively unexplored area in modern opening theory. Generally it is supposed to be rather incorrect but the clear ways to prove this are not perfectly clear.

5.dxe6 The classical approach is that the only way to refute the gambit is to accept it. Of course, this is not an universal truth but in this case it looks quite reasonable. The alternatives (5.Bg5 first of all) are solid enough but after them it's only about some positional advantage. So, why not grab a pawn?!

5...fxe6 6.cxb5 d5



7.♘c3 This move is preparing e2-e4 to undermine Black's pawn center. Until a certain moment in February 2007 it was considered like a refutation of the gambit, until Black found an excellent idea. Or...?! [7.♘f4 An interesting idea. Now White's dark-squared bishop is quite active in the center. However, it might be missing on the queenside, which Black has to prove with precise play. 7...a6 This is the best reaction. Black starts with active play on the queenside immediately. (

a) 7...♘d6 8.♘xd6 (8.e3 doesn't promise much because of 8...♘xf4 (8...O-O (Akimov - Ovechkin Ekaterinburg 2008) allows White to return to the main line.) 9.exf4 a6 10.♘bd2 O-O 11.a4 (11.♘e2 11...axb5 12.♘xb5 ♖b6 13.a4 ♘d7= 14.♘xd7 ♘fxd7) 11...♖c7 12.g3 ♘bd7 13.♘g2 axb5 14.axb5 ♖xa1 15.♖xa1 e5 and Black is just in time. 16.fxe5 ♘xe5 17.O-O ♘xf3+ 18.♘xf3 ♘d7=) 8...♖xd6 9.♘bd2 O-O (9...e5?! 10.e4!± This is in fact White's key idea in this opening.) 10.e3 a6 (10...♘bd7 11.a4! a6 (11...e5 12.e4!) 12.b3 - see 10...a6.) 11.a4 ♘bd7 12.b3!? N White is fighting for a tempo, which is a standard idea in many openings. He is waiting for a6xb5 to take back with his bishop from f1. This approach might seem risky but it works. (12.♘e2 12...axb5 13.axb5 ♖xa1 14.♖xa1 e5 and Black has adequate counterplay. (Delemarre - Peralta Vlissingen 2007)) 12...axb5 (12...h6 trying to prepare e6-e5 and preventing the response e4 dxe4 Ng5. However... 13.♖c1!? White still has useful moves. 13...e5 14.e4 dxe4 15.♘c4+ ♖h8 16.♘h4 ♖d8 17.♘f5 ♖c7 18.O-O ♘f8 19.♘g3 axb5 20.axb5 ♖a5 21.♖c2 ♘e6 22.♖e1 ♘d4 23.♖c1 and White is ready to take on e4, when Black's weaknesses will be really sensitive.) 13.♘xb5 ♘a6 14.♘xa6 ♖xa6 15.♖e2 ♖fb8 16.♖xa6 ♖xa6 17.♖e2+= and Black's compensation is not enough here.;

b) 7...♖a5+?! is dubious because of 8.♘c3! (8.♖d2 8...♖xb5 9.e4 ♖b7 10.exd5 exd5 11.♘c3 ♘e7 12.O-O-O Lindgren - Thoren Ulmel 1997 12...O-O! 13.♘xd5 ♘xd5 14.♘c4

♙e6 15. ♙xb8 ♖axb8 16. ♙xd5 ♙xd5 17. ♖xd5+ ♖xd5 18. ♖xd5 ♙f6 19. b3 c4 20. bxc4 ♖fc8 21. ♗d2 ♖b2 22. ♖e1 ♖xa2 and Black's active counterplay is enough to make a draw.) 8...a6 (8...d4 9. ♖a4 ♖xa4 10. ♗xa4±) 9. ♙d2 ♖b6 10. e4!± Lysyj - Fang China 2014;

c) 7...♙e7 8.e3 O-O 9. ♙e2 a6 Romanko - Schuurman Plovdiv 2008 10. O-O axb5 11. ♙xb5+= and once again Black's compensation is not obvious.)

8.e3



c4!? (8...♖a5+?! (Sokolov, I - Savchenko, B Dubai blitz 2014) is quite senseless now. 9. ♖d2 ♖xd2+ (9...♖b6 10. ♗c3 c4 11. bxa6 ♗xa6 12. ♙e2+= with an extra tempo for White compared to 8...c4.) 10. ♗bxd2 c4 11. b6 ♗bd7 12. ♙e2 ♗xb6 13. O-O and although Black managed to win the sacrificed pawn back White is far ahead in development and ready to undermine the opponent's center.) 9. bxa6 ♙b4+! N An important intermediate check. Now the white knight can't jump to c3 where it belongs. (9...♖b6 10. ♖c1 just to avoid Nb8-a6(c6)-b4 with tempo. (10. ♗bd2 10...♗c6 11. ♖c2 ♙xa6 12. a3 ♙e7 13. ♙e2 ♗d7!± with good counterplay. (Giorgadze - Kacheishvili, Tbilisi 2007)) 10...♙xa6 11. ♙e2 ♙b4+ 12. ♗c3 O-O 13. O-O ♗bd7+= Markus - Wojtaszek, Heraklio 2007) 10. ♗bd2 (10. ♗c3 10...♖a5 11. ♖c2 ♗e4±) 10...O-O 11. ♙e2 ♙xa6 12. O-O

♗bd7± and Black has adequate compensation for the pawn.; 7. ♙g5 Some ideas this move are quite similar to 7. Bf4, but at the same time White prevents 7... a6. However, the bishop's position on g5 has some drawbacks as well and Black is able to find good resources. 7... ♗bd7 This quiet developing move is the best reaction. (

a) 7...h6 doesn't improve the kingside structure for Black. 8. ♙h4 (8. ♙xf6 8...♖xf6 9. ♗c3 ♙b7 10. e3 ♗d7± with good compensation for the pawn. (van Hoolandt - Mehmeti, Tromso 2014); 8. ♙f4!?) 8...♙e7 Evdokimov, Alexander A 2558 - Bocharov, Dmitry 2602. RUS Cup rapid final 2013.0-1 (After 8...♗bd7?! 9. ♖c2 clearly shows the drawbacks of h7-h6. 9...♖a5+ Sjudahl - Popov, V Sweden 2007 10. ♗bd2! ♗f7 11. e3 ♙d6 12. ♙d3 ♖f8 13. O-O±) 9. e3 O-O 10. ♙e2 (10. ♗bd2 (Evdokimov - Bocharov Hanty Mansiysk rapid 2013) is not precise because of 10...a6 11. a4 c4∞) 10...a6 11. O-O axb5 12. ♙xb5 ♙a6 13. ♗c3 ♙xb5 14. ♗xb5 ♗c6 15. a4+= intending b2-b3 and stopping Black's pawn mass. Black doesn't have enough for the pawn.;

b) 7...♖a5+?! is not worth trying as almost always is the case in this opening. 8. ♖d2 ♖b6 (8...♖xb5 9. e4 ♖b4 (9...♖b7 10. exd5 exd5 11. ♙d3 ♙e7 12. O-O O-O 13. ♗c3± and the black pieces are certainly misplaced.) 10. ♖xb4 cxb4 11. exd5 exd5 12. ♗bd2+=) 9. ♙xf6 gxf6 and White has a pleasant choice between and 10. e3 (10. e4!? N 10...dxe4 11. ♗h4 ♗d7 12. ♗c3 ♙b7 13. O-O-O ♗e5 (13...O-O-O 14. ♙c4±) 14. ♙e2 ♙g7 15. f4 exf3 16. ♗xf3 ♖d8 17. ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 18. ♖xd8+ ♗xd8 19. ♗xe5 fxe5 20. ♙f3 ♙xf3 21. gxf3 with a somewhat better endgame.) 10...♗d7 11. ♗c3 f5 12. a4 ♗f6 13. ♙e2 ♙d6 14. O-O ♙d7 15. ♖fd1+= Korchnoi - Vallejo Pons, Gibraltar 2011;

c) 7...♙d6 8.e3 (8.e4 8...♗bd7! = - 7...Nbd7) 8...O-O Mikhalev - Dragnici, Goa 2006 9. ♗c3 ♗bd7 10. ♙e2 ♙b7 11. O-O+= ♙h8!?

Here the prophylaxis is useful. (11...♖e8 12.a4! h6 13.♙xf6 ♗xf6 14.a5 ♜d8 15.a6 ♙a8 16.b6! axb6 17.♖b3±; 11...♖e7 12.♙h4 e5 13.♗d2 e4 14.♗b3+= Now White's dark-squared bishop is cementing his kingside. 14...♙c7 15.♞c1 ♞ad8 16.♗a4! Now Black's pawn center is just a weakness. 16...c4 17.♗d4±; 11...h6N 12.♙h4 g5 13.♙g3 ♙xg3 14.hxg3 ♗g7 15.♖c2 e5 16.♗d2 ♖e7 17.♞ad1 ♞ac8 18.♗a4! e4 19.♖c3!+= and White is clearly better.) 12.a4 ♙c7 13.♙h4 e5 14.♗d2 e4 (14...d4 15.♗ce4±) 15.♗b3 ♗e5 16.♙g3 ♖e7 17.a5±;

d) 7...♙e7 8.e3 O-O (8...♗bd7 9.♗c3 ♙b7 10.♙e2 O-O 11.O-O - 8...O-O) 9.♗c3 ♙b7 10.♙e2 ♗bd7 11.O-O+= intending to move the a-pawn. Black has no clear plan. 11...♖c7 12.a4! e5 13.a5 d4 14.♙c4+ ♗h8 15.♗e2! += ♙xf3 16.gxf3 h6 17.♙xf6 ♞xf6 18.♖d3! ♞af8 19.♖e4 ♞xf3 20.b6! axb6 21.a6+-;

e) 7...a6?! doesn't work here because of 8.e4!±)

8.e3 (8.e4 Of course Black doesn't have to destroy his pawn center. 8...♙d6! N (

a) 8...dxe4?! 9.♗fd2 ♙b7 10.♗c3 ♖c7 11.♗c4 ♗b6 Sjoberg - Ingbrandt Sweden 2012 (11...♙e7 12.♙h4! O-O 13.♙g3± and White is clearly better.) 12.♖b3!±;

b) 8...h6 is premature as the following forced line proves: 9.♙xf6 ♖xf6 10.exd5 ♖xb2 Al Hantouti - Abdel Razik Beirut 2007 11.dxe6! N ♖xa1 12.exd7+ ♙xd7 13.♙c4 O-O-O 14.O-O ♖b2 15.♖d5 ♗c7 16.♗e5 ♙e8 17.♖e4→)

9.♙d3 h6 d5 is not threatening anymore, so now this move works. 10.♙xf6 ♖xf6 11.exd5 exd5 12.O-O O-O (12...♙b7 13.♞e1+ ♗f7∞) 13.♙c4 (13.♙c2 13...♖f7 14.♗c3 ♙b7 15.♖d3 ♗f6∞) 13...dxc4 14.♖d5+ ♞f7 15.♖xa8 ♗b6 16.♖e4 ♙b7∞ is dangerous only for White.) 8...c4!? preparing the annoying Bb4+. 9.♙e2 (9.♗d4 Krejci - Jenc Klatovy 2007 9...♙b4+ 10.♗c3 ♖a5→) 9...♙b4+ 10.♗bd2 (10.♗c3?! 10...♖a5 11.O-O

♙xc3 12.bxc3 ♗e4=) 10...O-O 11.O-O a6 12.bxa6 ♙xa6∞ and Black's counterplay is good enough.; 7.♗bd2 looks a bit passive. Yes, in many lines this square is the best for this knight but here White just defines its position too early. 7...a6! (

a) 7...♖a5?! looks tempting but is met by the strong 8.e4! ♗xe4 9.♙d3 ♗f6 10.♗g5 ♙d6 Bojchev - Dvirnyy, Herceg Novi 2008 and now 11.O-O White could use his development lead. 11...O-O 12.♗de4! A nice tactical surprise! 12...dxe4 13.♗xe4±;

b) 7...♙b7 This "standard" move is just asking for trouble. 8.e4! (8.b3!? is also worth attention.) 8...dxe4 (8...♗xe4? 9.♗xe4 dxe4 10.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 11.♗e5± is fairly bad for Black.) 9.♗g5!? (9.♗e5!+=) 9...♖d5 10.f4! Very strong trick (10.♗h3 10...♗bd7 11.♙c4 ♖f5 12.♗f1 ♗b6→Tovmasian-Vetoshko, Lviv 2012) 10...e3 (10...exf3 11.♗gxf3± Black has many weaknesses.) 11.♗c4 h6 12.♗f3 ♖xd1+ 13.♗xd1+= winning the e3 pawn with a huge advantage.;

c) 7...c4!? deserves attention as well.)

8.e4 (8.bxa6 8...c4! ∞ As we could already see, this resource is very important for the whole opening system. 9.e4 ♗c6 10.♙e2 ♙c5 - see 8.e4.; 8.e3 8...c4! 9.bxa6 ♙d6 10.♙e2 O-O 11.O-O ♙xa6 12.♗b1 ♖c7 13.♗c3 ♗bd7 14.h3 ♗c5∞ with a dream position for Black. All his pieces are on excellent squares.) 8...c4! and Black has no problem at all. It's White now who has to be careful. 9.bxa6 ♗c6! preventing b4 might be a more accurate move order. (9...♙c5 10.♙e2 Rychagov,A - David. Paleochora 2010. (10.b4!?) 10...O-O 11.O-O ♙xa6+= and Black's pawn center is too strong.) 10.♙e2 ♙c5 11.O-O O-O+=; 7.a4 Not the best time for prophylaxis. White must think about his development first. 7...a6! (7...♙d6 was played more often but the immediate action is more convincing.) 8.♗c3 might be the relatively best, although

Black has enough dynamic resources as the following lines show. (8.e3 Rodkin - Rotstein, J Gladenbach 1999 8...c4! forcing White to do something about his b5 pawn. 9.bxa6 (9.♖c3 9...axb5 10.♗xb5 ♖e4! 11.♙e2 ♙b4+ 12.♙d2 ♗xd2 13.♗xd2 ♙d7 (13...♙a5!?) 14.♗c3 O-O 15.O-O ♗a6 16.♗f3 ♗c5=+ and Black is slightly better already.) 9...♗xa6 10.♙e2 ♗c5= and now it's clear that the "prophylactical" move a2-a4 just seriously weakened White's queenside.) 8...axb5 (8...d4 9.♗b1 axb5 10.e3 and Black faces certain problems.) 9.♙f4 (9.♗xb5 9...c4=) 9...bxa4 10.e4 ♙e7 11.exd5 exd5 12.♙b5+ ♙d7= 13.♙xd7+ (13.♗xd5 13...♗xd5 14.♙xd5 ♙xb5 15.♙xa8 O-O!) 13...♙xd7 14.♙xb8 ♗xb8 15.♗e5 ♙d6 16.♙xa4+ ♖f8 17.f4 g6 18.O-O ♖g7=; 7.g3 will be examined in part 2.; 7.e3 - part 2.]

7...♗bd7! This is an important move. The alternatives allow e2-e4 with great effect. [7...♙d6? only helps White to destroy the opponent's center. 8.e4!± Lahav - Romm, Tel Aviv 1989; 7...a6?! 8.e4! d4 (8...♙e7 Bitan - Neelotpal, Dhaka 2009 9.exd5 exd5 10.♙g5 and Black's pawn center transformed into a serious weakness. 10...d4 11.♙xf6 ♙xf6 12.♗e4 O-O 13.♙c4+ ♖h8 14.O-O+=) 9.e5! ♗fd7 (9...♗d5 10.♗xd5 ♙xd5 11.♙c2± Handler - Martinez Caldas Novas 2011; 9...dxc3 10.♙xd8+ ♖xd8 11.exf6 gxf6 12.bxc3± Jovanic - Cebalo, Sibenik 2007) 10.♗e4 ♙b7 11.♗eg5 ♙d5 12.♙d3 ♙e7 Uliashov - Volkov, Ukhta 2009 (12...c4 13.♙xh7 ♙b4+ 14.♖f1+-) 13.O-O±; 7...♙b7 The old main move which was first played by Maroczy in 1922. However, it fails to stop e2-e4. 8.e4! d4 9.e5 ♗fd7 10.♗e2! N A sign of the computer era. This strong move was first played in a Man - Machine game. The point is very logical: White is not afraid of exchanging on f3 as his light-squared bishop will dominate the board after it. 10...♙c7 (10...♙xf3 11.gxf3 ♗xe5 12.♙g2 ♗bd7 13.f4 ♗f7 14.b4!± This is another typical idea for this line. Black is close to collapse.) 11.♗f4 (11.♙c2!?)

11...♗xe5 12.♗xe6 ♙d6 (12...♗xf3+ 13.♙xf3! ♙a5+ 14.♙d2 ♙xd2+ 15.♖xd2 ♙xf3 16.gxf3+- RYBKA - Flores, Santiago 2006) 13.♗xe5 ♙xe6 14.♙f4 ♗d7 15.♙c4 ♙f5 16.♗c6±; 7...♙e7 8.e4! d4 9.♗a4!? This is a quite fresh and promising approach. White is ready to sacrifice his central pawn for some tempi and the possibility to attack the opponent's weakened center. (The standard 9.e5 leads to a fairly unclear endgame after 9...dxc3 10.exf6 ♙xd1+ 11.♖xd1 ♙xf6∞ Neurohr - Migl, Germany 1988) 9...O-O (9...♗xe4 10.♙d3 ♙d5 11.O-O ♗d7 12.♗e1 ♗df6 13.♙c2 ♙b7 14.♙f4 O-O 15.♗e2± Black's central construction is very shaky.) 10.♙d3 ♗bd7 (10...a6 11.b6 ♗bd7 12.♙b3± Miroshnichenko - Jianu, Bucharest 2008) 11.O-O ♗g4 (11...♙b7? 12.♗g5! and e6 is a big problem.) 12.b3 12...♙c7 13.h3 ♗xf3 14.hxg4 ♗f8 15.f4±; 7...d4?! stops e2-e4 but clearly spoils the structure. 8.♗a4 ♙a5+ 9.♙d2 ♙xb5 10.e3± and Black's center is in ruins. (Sadler - Ansell, London 1994)]

8.e4 d4 A very critical moment for this line and maybe for the whole opening. The traditional 9.e5 leads to very sharp play but fails to create problems. So the knight's retreat to a4 (similar to the 7...Be7 line) might be an improvement although it's quite difficult to make any conclusions so far and more practical tests are required.

9.e5 [9.♗a4!? 9...♙b7 (9...♗xe4 10.♙d3 (In the only game played so far Black was OK after 10.b4 10...c4! 11.♙xc4 ♙xb4+ 12.♖f1 ♗df6∞ Karolyi, T - Csiszar, Hungary 2010) 10...♙a5+ 11.♗d2 ♗ef6 12.O-O ♙b7 13.b4! cxb4 14.♗e1 ♙d5 15.♗f3±) 10.♙d3 ♙d6 11.O-O O-O 12.♙e2+= and Black's center is quite unstable.]

9...♗g4 10.♗g5 [10.♗e4 10...♙b7!± An important improvement which was first played in the game Ehlvest - Alekseev, Moscow 2007. (10...♗dx5 11.♗xe5 ♗xe5 12.♙h5+

15...♗f6 16.♗b2 ♔d5=

David vs. Goliath



Peter Zhdanov
Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this entertaining column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week brought us only 11 upsets.

The number of move ranges from 32 in Bergsson (2101) - GM Gretarsson He (2456), 1-0 to 121 in Ahmed (1960) - FM Yousry (2304), 1-0. The latter game featured a rather weird endgame with White having a rook+bishop+two "f" pawns vs Black's two bishops.

The most notable results were GM Zhao Jun (2621) - Zhu Y (2288), 0-1 and FM Saeed (2200) - GM Perunovic (2632), 1-0. Also worth mentioning is the loss of one of the best female chess players in the world GM Valentina Gunina (2528) to an amateur Chinese player Zhu Jiner (1989).

Top-10:

Gunina (2528) - Zhu (1989), 0-1, [539](#) points
 Bergsson (2101) - Gretarsson (2456), 1-0, [455](#) points
 Saeed (2200) - Perunovic (2632), 1-0, [432](#) points
 Kristinsson (2160) - Petursson (2532), 1-0, [372](#) points
 Olafsson (2213) - Eliasson (1858), 0-1, [355](#) points
 Maquieira (1734) - Jaunooby (2183), 1-0, [349](#) points
 Ahmed (1960) - Yousry (2304), 1-0, [344](#) points
 Pavlovic (2478) - Jicman (2137), 0-1, [341](#) points
 Wang (1901) - Melekhina (2235), 1-0, [334](#) points
 Zhao Jun (2621) - Zhu (2288), 0-1, [333](#) points

Average gap: 385; White won 7 games, Black won 3 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) will be appreciated.

Puzzle section

(4) Nakamura, H(2798)-Onischuk, A(2665)

US Championship, 2015.04.12

1. +-



(5) Sevian, S(2531)-Holt, C(2530)

US Championship, 2015.04.12

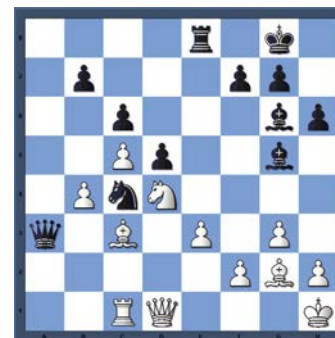
1. +-



(6) Rakhmanov, A(2639)-Abhishkek, K(2343)

Dubai Open, 2015.04.07

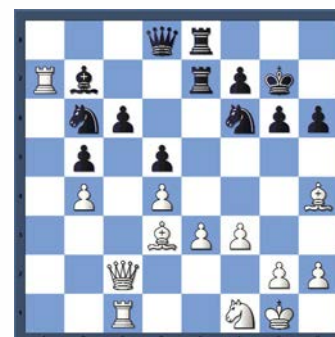
1... -+



(7) Fier, A(2601)-Karavade, E(2405)

Dubai Open, 2015.04.08

1. +-



(8) Karthikeyan, M(2504)-Ivanisevic, I(2638)

Dubai Open, 2015.04.11

1... -+



(9) Mammadov, Z(2470)-Volkov, S(2614)

Dubai Open, 2015.04.11

1. +-



(10) Safarli, E(2641)-Grandelius, N(2603)

Dubai Open, 2015.04.13

1. +-



(11) Pruijssers, R(2511)-Almasi, Z(2695)

German league, 2015.04.11

1... -+



(12) Swiercz, D(2614)-Kraemer, M(2570)

German league, 2015.04.12

1. +-



(13) Nikolic, P(2605)-Baramidze, D(2605)

German league, 2015.04.12

1. +-



Endgame section

(14) Onischuk, Onischuk (2665)
- Naroditsky, Daniel (2633)

US Championship,
2015.04.09



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

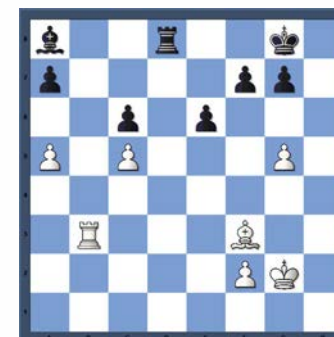


Seemingly Black just survives the difficulties with his a8 bishop, because the d4 pawn is hanging and he is threatening to free his position with e5 or c5. However Onischuk finds a brilliant idea with which he manages to win the game in style...

37.c5!! A positional pawn sacrifice! The key is to lock the bishop to a8 even in the cost of some material. [After some natural move like 37...dxc5 Black holds the draw easily by playing 37...c5 (37...e5 is also possible.) 38.♙xa8 ♖xa8 39.dxc5 ♖xd3 40.♖xd3 ♖c8= He takes on c5 next move and the draw is logical outcome.]

37...♖xd4 38.♖xd4 ♖xd4 39.♖b3! Forcing the black rook back to passivity. The only way to avoid Rb8 and losing the bishop is Rd8.

39...♖d8



40.a6! Excellently played! The bishop is trapped on a8 until the end of the game. Black cannot do anything better, than waiting, while White slowly improves his position.

40...♙f8 41.♙e4! Putting the bishop to a more active square, freeing the king's path towards the center and vacating the 3rd rank for the rook for further maneuvering.

41...f5 Opening the position just hastens the defeat. The only chance would have been to attempt to build a blockade, but it could hardly be succesful. [On 41...♙e7 42.♖h3! is the most precise. White wants to penetrate along the 7th rank after which it is not easy to deal with the g7 pawn. 42...f5 (Black cannot hope for activity, because after 42...♖d4 43.♙f3! the rook is forced to retreat to the 8th rank in view of the threat of Rh8!) 43.gxf6+ ♙xf6 44.♙f3 followed by Ke3 and Rf3-Bg6, with similar ideas to the game, trying to trade rooks and enter into a winning bishop endgame.]

42.gxf6 gxf6 43.♖h3 ♙g8



44.♖d3! The most brutal move! Black is forced to trade rooks, otherwise Rd7 wins in the spot, but the arising endgame is completely hopeless with the dead bishop on a8 despite the healthy extra pawn!

44...♖xd3 45.♗xd3 f5 Black tries to push his defensive line a rank forward. [Keeping the pawn structure and waiting with 45...♖f7 does not change anything. White wins after 46.♗c4 pinning the black king to the e6 pawn, ensuring the penetration of the white king along the kingside. 46...♖e7 47.♖f3 ♖f7 48.♖g4 ♖e7 49.♖h5 ♖f7 50.♗b3+- zugzwang. Kg6 is coming next.]

46.f4 White opens the path for his king to e5!

46...♖g7 47.♖f3 ♖f6 48.♖e3 e5 [48...♖f7 leads to the same after 49.♖d4 ♖f6 50.♗c4+- zugzwang. Ke5 wins next move.]



49.♗c4! Onischuk cuts the black king from the c5 pawn. It is essential for keeping the a8 bishop locked.

49...e4 [49...exf4+ 50.♖xf4 ♖g6 51.♗e6 ♖f6 52.♗c8+- followed by Bb7 wins. Of course there was nothing wrong with taking on f5.]

50.♖d4 [Black resigned in view of getting into zugzwang again... 50.♖d4 50...♖g6 51.♖e5 e3 52.♗e2 and taking on f5 next followed by coming back to collect the e3 pawn as well. Very nice lesson by Onischuk who basically has played this entire endgame with an extra piece.] **1-0**

**(15) Kuzubov, Yuriy (2667)
- Solak, Dragan (2607)**

17th Dubai Chess Open(6.4),
2015.04.11



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



This is the game which brought Solak what is probably one of his biggest successes of his chess career, taking first place at the very strong Dubai Open. Black's position seemed to be close to lost for a long time until this interesting rook endgame appeared. White is a pawn up and Black's pawns look to be in danger, especially the pawn on h6, but, Solak finds a great way to complicate things and even after a few mistakes by his opponent to win the game!

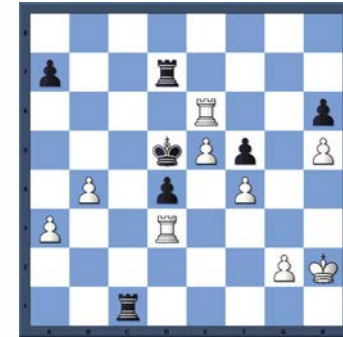
46...d4! Black uses his only chance. The idea of the d4 move is not to push the pawn, but to get the king to the e4 square.

47.♖g6 What can be more logical than to take the e6 pawn?

47...♔c6 Black's only chance.

48.♖xe6+ ♔d5 White is already 2 pawns up, but things are much more complicated than they seem. The black king on

e4 will support the movement of the d-pawn while the white king on h2 is not doing anything.



49.♖e8 Not a bad move, but maybe not the most precise. [Why not continue with 49.♖xh6 49...♔e4 and now White would have to find the very strong 50.♖d6! A nice tactic which gives White a clear advantage. 50...♖xd6 51.exd6 ♖c8 (Black can't stop the white pawn after 51...♔xd3 52.d7) 52.♖d1 ♖d8 Now White has a couple of moves, but I think that after the simple 53.♔g3 ♖xd6 54.♔f2 White's chances to win the game are excellent.]

49...♔e4 The white rook on d3 is under attack and to go back to d2 is not an option because of Ke3.

50.e6! White finds the best move, the e-pawn starts to be dangerous as well.

50...♖g7 and Black also plays the best move. To let White play Rg3 would end up badly for Black.

51.♖d2? This is a serious mistake. [White had to play 51.♖g3 51...♖xg3 52.♔xg3 and now we are in a crazy position! White is a full 2 pawns up and has a strong pawn on e6, but the d4 pawn almost cannot be stopped. Things are very complicated here. 52...♖c7 (Black is losing after 52...♔e3 53.♖f8! and the f5 pawn is falling. 53...♖c7 54.♖xf5 followed by Re5+ with an easy win.) 53.♖d8 (53.♔f2 53...♖c2+ just leads to a draw.) 53...♖e7

54.♖d6 The black rook is blocked on e7, but here comes the king! 54...♔e3 with the simple idea of playing d3-d2-Ke2 and queen. Of course Black can never be better here, but if White is winning or not is really hard to tell, especially in a practical game. White's idea here is to play Kh4 followed by g4.]

51...♔e3 Of course! Winning a clear tempo and getting the white rook to a passive position on b2.

52.♖b2 d3 Now it is already White who is risking to lose the game, as Black just wants to play d2.

53.♖d8 There is no other way to stop Black from playing d2.

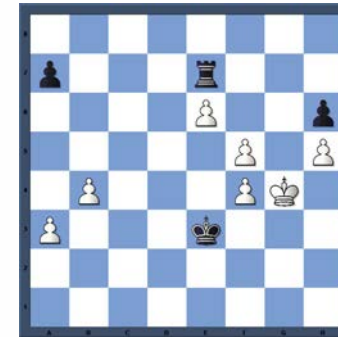
53...♖c2 Offering the rook exchange and attacking the g2 pawn.

54.e7? and White makes another mistake. [

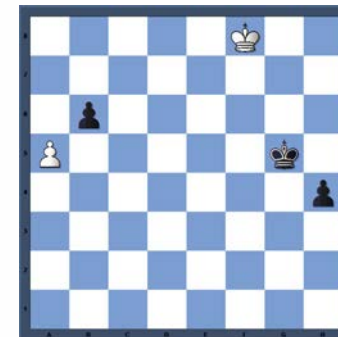


54.♖xc2! This move is just impossible to calculate during a practical game. 54...dxc2 55.♖c8 ♔d2 and here comes the key move: 56.g4!! This is not the hardest part to find, but the position that will appear in a couple of moves is the nut to break. 56...c1=♔ Black doesn't seem to have anything better. (56...♖e7 57.gxf5 leads us back to the main line.; 56...fxg4 57.f5 ♖e7 58.♔g3 Here White is just winning.) 57.♖xc1 ♔xc1 58.gxf5 Now Black has 58...♖e7! and it seems like he managed to stop all the white pawns. The king from c1 also has enough time to

get back to d6 after which the game is over, butno! 59.♔g3 ♔d2 60.♔g4 ♔e3 and



61.f6! The e6 pawn has to be sacrificed. 61...♖xe6 62.♔f5 ♖e4 63.f7 ♖xf4+ 64.♔g6 ♔f3 The black king is going for the h5 pawn. 65.♔g7 ♔g4 66.f8=♔ ♖xf8 67.♔xf8 ♔xh5 68.b5 ♔g5 69.a4 h5 70.a5 h4 71.b6 axb6 and of course



72.a6! getting the h1 square under control. 72...h3 73.a7 h2 74.a8=♔ and White is winning. To calculate this line from the beginning is almost impossible and as we saw just a tempo decides about win or loss.]

54...♖xe7 Now Black has taken the main enemy and the d-pawn is still alive.

55.♖b3 is White's only chance to stop the d3 pawn from moving.

55...♖d2 56.b5? The long-term idea is to play a4-a5 and create a passed pawn, but now Black is winning by force. [White had to play 56.♖d6 with the idea of having Rg6 after Black's Rg7. Black is better here, but White has good chances to survive.]

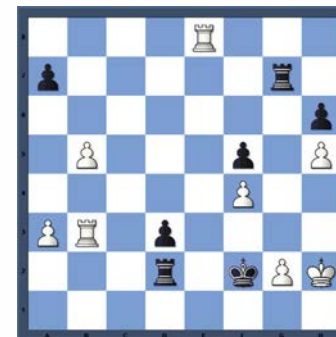
56...♖g7 attacking the g2 pawn which cannot be protected any longer.

57.♗e8+ [White was probably planning to play 57.♔h3 but Black can still take the g2 pawn. 57...♖xg2 58.♖bxd3+ ♖xd3 59.♖xd3+ ♔xd3 60.♔xg2 We are in a pawn endgame where Black is winning.



60...♔c4 61.♔f3 ♔xb5 62.♔e3 and Black has the only 62...♔c4! (62...♔a4? Now it is White who has good winning chances! 63.♔d4 ♔xa3 64.♔e5 ♔b3 65.♔xf5 a5 66.♔g6 a4 67.f5 a3 68.f6 a2 69.f7 a1=♔ 70.f8=♔ and White is pushing for a win.)]

57...♔f2 Now the g2 pawn is falling and White's position is totally lost.



58.b6 ♖xg2+ 59.♔h3 ♖g3+ 60.♔h4 Of course Black could have played Kg2 immediately.

60...♖g4+ 61.♔h3 ♖g3+ 62.♔h4 ♔g2 and White can't stop the mate on h3. A very lucky win by Solak, but we have to admit that he used his practical chances well and the winning decisions for White were anything but easy. Once again we can only see how complicated rook endgames are. **0-1**

Chess and the City. Not all that glitters is gold



WGM Elisabeth Paehtz

Best rating: 2493

German mentality is well known for its precision, punctuality and planning, or, as we call it in our language, "Ordnung". Today was a day where I really wonder what is left from that mentality. I remember some time ago I wrote an article about Italian clichés, about their interpretation of timing, or bureaucracy. Indeed I must confess that this article today is entirely based on frustration, but sometimes the best therapy for overcoming bad emotions is to write about them.

This morning I had a flight from Rome to Munich - so far so good. The day was already spoiled by an extremely early wake up, but that should not lower one's mood as this decision you basically make beforehand, when you choose that particular flight. I arrived at the airport to find the flight would be delayed by 15 minutes, which even sounded quite good by Italian standards! I was relieved that it wasn't worse than that. Those 15 minutes, however, quickly changed into 45, and eventually into 1,5 hours, which assured that my day was to be a "scheisse" one. Arriving in Munich and sprinting to my connecting flight to Hamburg was sure to be hopeless, as Germans never seem to fail when it comes to punctuality. Arriving at the Airberlin desk the kind lady booked me for a

connection 2 hours later, and even made sure that my luggage would also be transferred onto it. After an exhausting day I finally arrived in Hamburg, relieved and happy about my cheerful upcoming evening with friends... Baggage check, bags get claimed, but no sign of mine; people get fewer and fewer, as well as my hopes of spotting my mozzarella and Italian cheese equipped German luggage... Of course this may all sound very familiar to many of you, and if you are a frequent flyer with Air France you would barely bat an eyelid, but by German standards, their "Ordnung" and their pre-check on your schedule really makes you wonder what caused such an incident. Going to 'lost and found,' they assured me that my "dearest love" was left by itself in Munich, and promised me a late evening delivery to an address of my choice. Now it is 10 pm, no luggage, no hint of it, and finally it's time to call it a day...

Clash of the Titans

(16) Botvinnik, Mikhail

- Pomar Salamanca, Arturo [A08]

Varna ol (Men) qual-A(5), 1962



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.g3 d5 2.♘f3 c5 3.♙g2 ♘c6 4.d3 e5 5.O-O and we have a King's Indian with a tempo up.

5...♙d6 6.e4 [6.c4 6...d4 7.e3 leads to Benoni structures.]

6...d4 7.♘bd2 ♘ge7



8.c4 I think this is a strange move. It seems more logical to immediately prepare a plan with f4 or play [8.♘c4 8...♙c7 9.a4 O-O 10.c3 ♙e6 An important move otherwise White will play cxd4-cxd4 and the strong b4! 11.cxd4 cxd4 12.♙d2 (12.b4? 12...♙xc4) 12...a6 13.b4 b5 and Black is better.; 8.♘h4 like in the game without losing time.; 8.♘e1 also with the idea to play f4.]

8...f6 In my opinion it was more accurate to play [8...h6 9.♘e1

(9.♘h4 and compared to the game now Black has the strong 9...g5!) 9...g5! with the typical plan of getting more space and preventing f2-f4. 10.♙f3 with the idea of exchanging bishops over g4, but now comes 10...♙h3! with Qd7 next and Black is on time to avoid Bg4.]

9.♘h4 ♙e6 [9...g5!? 10.♙h5+ ♔d7 11.♙h3+ (11.♘f5 11...♙c7∞) 11...♙c7 12.♙xc8 ♙xc8 13.♘g2 ♙e6 The king is safe on c7 and the position is unclear.]

10.f4



10...exf4 Black could not hurry with this move, for example [10...O-O 11.f5 ♙f7 12.♙f3! A logical idea to exchange the limited bishop. 12...♙h8 (12...♙e8 preventing Bh5, with a6-b5 next.) 13.♙h5 ♙g8 14.♘g6+! ♘xg6 (14...hxg6?? 15.♙xg6 and Black is not able to avoid mate.) 15.fxg6 h6 16.♙g4 and here I think White can try to create an attack on the kingside with Bf5-g4-h4 etc...; 10...♙d7 is more flexible because Black keeps the option of castling queenside. 11.f5 ♙f7 12.♙f3 O-O-O∞]

11.gxf4 ♙c7 [11...♙d7 12.e5! White sacrifices a pawn to activate his pieces. 12...fxe5 13.fxe5 ♘xe5 14.♘e4 O-O-O 15.♙f4↑with initiative.; 11...♙c7 In general it is an interesting idea to get the e5 square after f5, but unfortunately White has 12.♙h5+ with Qxc5 next.]

12.e5! fxe5



13.f5! This is a very famous idea, typical for King's Indian structures, where White gives the pawn in order to activate the bishop and create a blockade on e4.

13...♟f7 14.♞e4 [14.♞g4!? The idea of this move order is to stop 0-0-0 (because of f6) but Black can play 14...e4!? with exactly the same idea! Now Black gives the pawn to activate his pieces and gets an useful square on e5. 15.♞xe4 ♟xh2+ 16.♞h1 ♟e5 17.f6 but the black king is still in the center and White has the initiative.]

14...0-0-0 15.♞g4 ♟b8 16.♞xg7 Thanks to the strong knight on e4 White's advantage is clear, but Black can look for some counterplay because the queen on g7 is not placed safely.

16...♟h5 threatening Be2. [16...♞df8!?]

17.♞f2 [17.♞xd6 was suggested by the engine but exchanging the very strong knight on e4 for a limited bishop is unhuman. 17...♞xd6 18.f6 ♞c8 19.f7 with Bh6 next and it looks like the f-pawn is too strong.]



17...h6 Now the queen will not escape to h6, so it looks like Black is preparing a hunt for the white queen! [17...♞b4!?]

18.♟d2 [18.♞f6 to prevent Rg8 but now comes



18...e4! We already saw this idea. 19.♟xe4 (19.♞xh5 19...e3 20.♞f1 ♞dg8 and the white queen will be mated. 21.♞f7 ♞d8 22.♞f6 ♟e5—+) 19...♞hg8 20.♞xg8 ♞xg8 21.f6 ♞xg7+ 22.fxg7 it is unhuman but the g7 pawn is very dangerous.]

18...♞dg8 19.♞f6 ♞c8 threatening Be7 and the white pieces lost a bit of coordination.

20.♞g6 ♟xg6 21.fxg6



21...dxe7 It looks like even if black won the g6 pawn White should have compensation since he is controlling the light squares.

22.♔f7? looks active but gives Black important tempi. [22.♔f5 22...dxe7 23.♔e2 ♖8e7 24.♔h3 ♖xg6 25.♖xc5 ♕g5! Thanks to this strong move Black gets the active f4 square for the knight.; 22.♔f3! 22...♔xg6 23.♔h1 with compensation, maybe followed by a3-b4 next.]

22...♖d8 23.♔f5 ♕h4 24.♔f3 ♖e7 In three moves the black pieces have been nicely improved.

25.♔h3 ♖xg6 26.♖f6 I suppose that White played this move to avoid Bg5 ideas.

26...♖xf6 27.♔xf6



27...♔e7 [27...e4! From a practical point of view I like this

move. 28.dxe4 ♖c6 and thanks to the pawn sacrifice Black gets three things: a strong blockading square on e5, a strong passed pawn on d4 and the bishop on g2 is limited.; 27...♔g7 28.♔af1 ♖h4∞]

28.♔af1



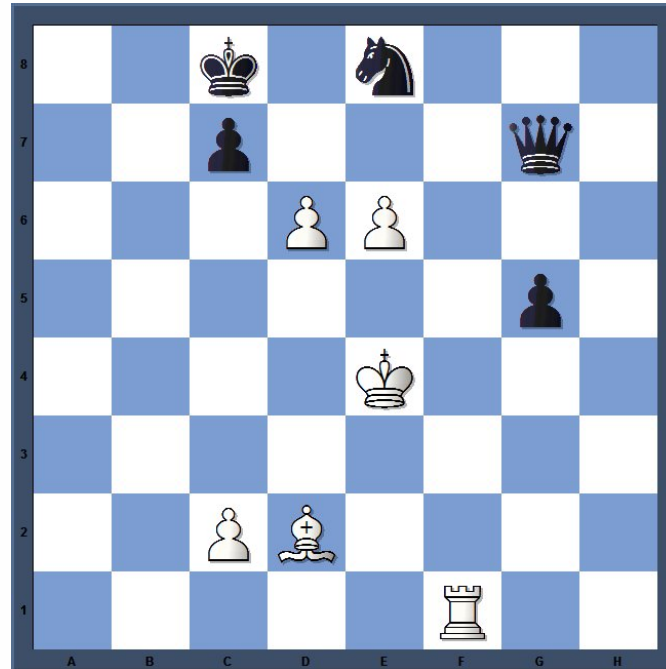
28...♖f4?? What an amazing blunder! It is very strange that Black expected only Bxf4, but now White is winning after an easy tactical trick:

29.♔6xf4! exf4 30.♕xf4+ and the king cannot escape because of Qc8 mate! **1-0**

Surprise section / study

(17) Kralin

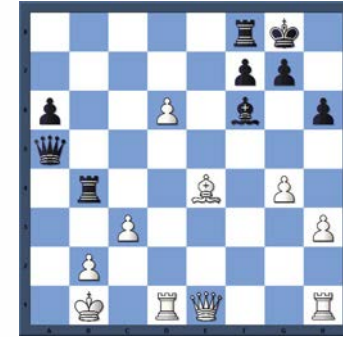
1. +-



Solutions

(18) Idani, P(2496)-Sjugirov, S(2669)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.31

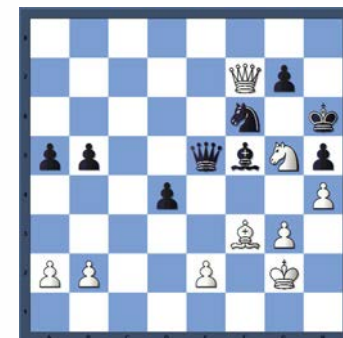


27... ♔a3! 28. ♖h2 [28.cxb4 28... ♔xb2#]

28... ♙xc3 0-1

(19) Matlakov, M(2693)-Sanal, V(2487)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.03.31



41. ♔xh5+! ♘xh5 42. ♘f7+ ♔h7 43. ♘xe5+-

(20) Sasikiran, K(2682)-Svetushkin, D(2592)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.04.02



33. ♖xd5! ♜xd5 [33...cxd5 34. ♖xb6+- ♜xf3 35. ♖xg7#]

34. ♖xb6 [34. ♘f4!?+-]

34... ♖xe5 35. ♘f4+-

(21) Inarkiev, E(2706)-Salem, AR(2603)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.04.02

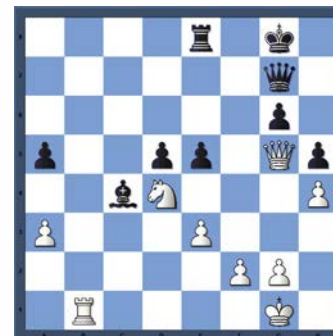


24... ♖xg2+! 25. ♔h1 [25. ♔xg2 25... ♘xe3+ 26. ♔h1 ♘xd1+-]

25... ♖c6! -+ 26. ♙c5 ♙xc5 27. ♖xg2 ♘e3+-+

(22) Vidit, S(2625)-Swayams, M(2440)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.04.02



37. ♖b6! ♙d3 [37...exd4 38. ♖xg6+-; 37... ♔h7 38. ♘f5! gxf5 39. ♖xh5+ ♔g8 40. ♖xe8+-]

38. ♖e6! ♖b8 [38... ♖xe6 39. ♘xe6+-; 38... ♔f7 39. ♖xe8 ♔xe8 40. ♘e6+-] **39. ♖e7!+-**

(23) Grachev, B(2673)-Svetushkin, D(2592)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.04.03



22. ♖b4! ♖e7 [22... ♖c6 23. ♙xg7! ♔xg7 24. ♖g5+ ♔h8 25. ♖f6+ ♔g8 26. ♖g4#]

23. ♖g4! 1-0 [23. ♖g4 23...f6 24. ♙b4+-]

(24) Khismatullin, D(2650)-Mamedov, R(2658)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.04.04



26. ♕f6+! +- ♔g8 [26... ♖xf6 27. ♖f3+ ♔g7 28. ♖xa4+-]

27. ♖d2 1-0 [27. ♕xe5+-]

(25) Fedoseev, V(2674)-Antipov, M(2529)

Aeroflot Open, 2015.04.04



20. ♖xh5! gxh5 21. ♕xf6+ ♔g8 22. ♕xe7+-

(26) Virkud, A(2132)-Krush, I(2477)

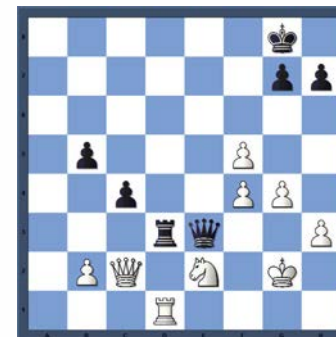
US Woman Championship, 2015.04.04



37... ♖xd4! 38. ♖xd4 ♘b3+ 39. ♔d1 ♕xf3+ 0-1 [39... ♕xf3+ 40. ♔e1 ♘xd4+-]

(27) Van wely, L(2665)-Heberla, B(2567)

Doeberl Cup, 2015.04.05

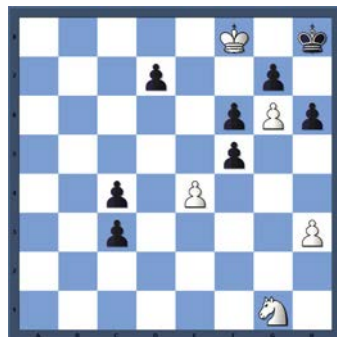


27... ♖e4+! [27... ♖xh3+ 28. ♔g1 ♖xg4+ 29. ♔f2 ♖f3+ 30. ♔g1∞]

28. ♔g1 [28. ♔h2 28... ♖xh3+! 29. ♔xh3 ♖xc2+-]

28... ♖g3+! 29. ♘xg3 ♖xc2+-

(28) Mozes



1.e5! fxe5 [1...c2 2.exf6+-]

2.♘f3! d6 [2...c2 3.♘xe5 c1=♚ 4.♘f7#]

3.h4! c2 4.♘g5! hxg5 [4...c1=♚ 5.♘f7#]

5.h5! c1=♚ 6.h6!+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

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Editorial Preface

And once again Carlsen seems to be unstoppable. After 7 rounds he has scored an amazing 5.5/7 and is a full point ahead of Anand, who with 4.5/7 is also playing an excellent tournament. Third-fourth place is shared by Caruana and So. It has been a very interesting tournament so far with a lot of decisive games and great fighting chess. We are commenting on a few games from this event in our current issue.

In the World Team Championship China and Ukraine are leading with 8/10 (where teams get 2 points for a win and 1 point for a draw), followed by Israel and Cuba with 7/10. Now the question is: where is the Russian team? And the answer is, Russia started with 2 losses, followed by 2 draws and 1 win, which is clearly a very disappointing result.

Hungary, the team of your weekly commentator Csaba Balogh, is doing not that well either with 4/10, but Csaba has a very good 50% score.

In the Women's section Georgia is leading with 9/10, followed by Russia with 8/10 and China with 7/10. As usual, we wish you a lot of chess fun with our current issue!

Best wishes,

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) So, Wesley (2788)
- Giri, Anish (2790) [A10]

Vugar Gashimov Mem 2015(1.5),
2015.04.17



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

A fight between these two youngsters is always very interesting, especially since both players are very different. Giri, who has been on the top already for a couple of years now, is very safe player with HUGE preparation, often playing forced lines with some interesting idea in them. Wesley So is very different. His rise to the Top 10 just came recently after showing amazing results, but his latest tournament, the US Championships, went anything but successfully. Wesley is also usually well-prepared, but he plays much more creative and fighting chess than Giri, often trying to outplay his opponents in unclear position. In the current game, I guess both players were quickly out of the book because of a very strange opening, where So clearly outplayed his opponent and basically rushed through Black's defense lines...

1.c4 g6 Sometimes the move order can be tricky, especially if some player wants to avoid the Gruenfeld.

2.e4 I guess So wants to avoid it...

2...e5 Already on move 2 we are in a rather rare position.

3.d4 Clearly the most logical move! White is fighting for the center.

3...f6 4.dxe5 This is already a very rarely played

continuation. [In most of the top games White continued with 4.f3]

4...xe4 5.d3 b4+ A very logical reply, but maybe not the best. [I think Black could just continue with 5...c5 6.f3 d6 exchanging the e5 pawn. I think the position should be close to equal here.]



6.f1! A great move! Usually it is a bad idea not to castle, but right now White is gaining a few very important tempi to put Black under a lot of pressure.

6...c5 Again the most simple move, but I think it is only the second best. [6...d5!? could lead us to a very crazy position where White has a lot of options, such as 7.f3 or 7.Qc2 or 7.Qe2.]

7.f3 Simple and strong. White wants to continue with Bg5.

7...e6 [In case of 7...xd3 8.Qxd3 Black would try to develop the pieces normally with 8...c6 but White is clearly better after 9.g5 e7 10.xe7 Qxe7 11.c3 followed by Nd5 with a big advantage.]

8.a3 White is preparing to play Nc3.

8...e7 Another unclear decision. Maybe it was better for Black to play Bf8-Bg7 to at least cover the dark squares.

9.c3 The white knight is going to d5, where it will stand

perfectly.

9...d6 Of course the d6 move has to be played, but if we look at Black's first 9 moves, we can wonder if everything went as expected... And it clearly did not.

10.exd6 ♟xd6 11.b4 White is gaining space on the queenside and preparing to play Bb2.

11...♟f8 [Black would also be in a very dangerous position after 11...O-O 12.♟b2 ♞d7 13.h4! Now it is actually very useful for White that the rook is still on h1. 13...♞f6 14.h5 with a very dangerous attack.]

12.♞e2 A creative move. [An easier plan was 12.♟b2 12...♟g7 13.♞c2 O-O 14.♞d1 and White's advantage is clear to see.]

12...♟g7



13.♟g5!? A very interesting approach, especially since Black already made 5 moves with his bishop!

13...♟f6?! and this clearly put Black in a very difficult position. [I think Giri should have continued with 13...f6 and although it looks very ugly, it is still better than 13...Bf6?!. 14.♟d2 O-O 15.h4 This might be what Black was afraid of, but actually he is not doing that badly here. 15...♞c6! with the idea of playing Nd4 or Ne5 next keeps Black alive. The position is better for White, but things are not that clear at all.]

14.♟xf6 ♞xf6 15.♞d2 Now we can see that Black is very undeveloped, as well there are big problems arising on the dark squares.

15...O-O 16.♞e1 White is preparing to play Ne4 next or h4.

16...♞d8 Black wants to play Nf4.



17.♞d1!? Another very interesting move by White! [17.g3 followed by h4 or just Kg2 with a clear advantage.]

17...a5 Black is looking for some counterplay.

18.h4! Exactly the right choice! Black's play on the queenside is very slow, the direct attack on the black king looks really scary and we finally see the rook on h1 coming into action!

18...axb4 19.axb4 ♞d7 Black tries to bring some pieces over to the kingside.

20.h5 ♞f6 21.c5 White is playing for mate and doesn't care about winning some material. [Another option was 21.♞c1 21...♞d6 (21...♞e7 22.♞d5! ♞xd5 23.cxd5 ♞g7 24.hxg6 fxe6 25.♞e1 and Black is just lost because of the open h-file.) 22.hxg6 fxe6 23.♟xg6 ♞f4 24.♟c2 with a clear pawn up in the endgame.]

21...b6 [Maybe Black should have taken a risk and played 21...♞xh5 Now White has a lot of choices. 22.♞xh5 (To a better but yet somewhat unclear position would lead 22.♞h6

22...♖a1! A strong move! 23.♖xa1 ♕xd3+ 24.♗e2 b6! and of course White is clearly better, but Black is fighting.) 22...gxh5 23.♕h6 Now things are forced. 23...f5 24.♗xf5 ♕xd1+ 25.♗xd1 ♖xf5 26.♗e3 ♖a1+ 27.♗e1 and White is also much better here, but having 2 rooks gives Black clear chances in a practical fight.]

22.hxg6 fxg6 23.♕e3 Now Black needs to take care about a lot of different threats!

23...♕e7 The only move.

24.♗c4 A very logical move. The pin on the e-file is forever!

24...bxc5



25.b5! A strong move! White is threatening to play Re1 and it is very unclear how to defend against it.

25...♖b8? Under big pressure Giri makes a mistake. [Black should have tried 25...c6!? and at least the fight is not over. 26.bxc6 ♗a6 getting rid of the nasty bishop on c4. 27.♕e2! but the white queen takes its place! 27...♗xc4 28.♕xc4 and of course White continues being much better, but Black could fight on with 28...♖ac8]

26.♖e1 ♖b6 and here comes the move that Giri probably blundered:

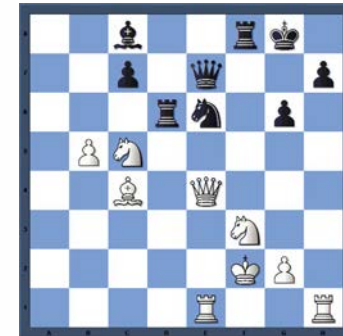
27.♗a4! The white knight is getting to c5 with tempo!

27...♖d6 28.♗xc5 Now there is no way to hold the pressure on e6 any longer.

28...♗g4 Black launches the last attack as there are no chances to hold the piece on e6.

29.♕e4 A very safe and solid move.

29...♗xf2 30.♕xf2



30...♖d2+ One check is all that Black has.

31.♕g3 ♖xf3+ White is a rook up and the knight on e6 is still hanging! A very clean win by So, playing very creatively and not letting the black pieces entering the game.

32.gxf3 1-0

(2) Balogh, Csaba (2655)
- Ortiz Suarez, Isan (2625) [B51]10th World Teams 2015(1.1),
2015.04.19GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

I managed to win a nice game. I must be grateful to my friend and teammate GM Viktor Erdos, who just showed me this line before the game.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♙b5+ ♘d7 I played several games on 4.0-0 and 4.c3, but thanks to Viktor I went for the old main line...

4.d4 cxd4 5.♙xd4 a6 6.♙xd7+ ♙xd7 7.c4 The general idea is to get a slightly more pleasant position due to the space advantage. Black has many different setups here and my opponent chose one of the main ones.

7...e5 [An alternative is 7...♘f6 8.♙g5 e6 9.♘c3 ♙e7 which happened in the first Carlsen-Anand World Championship match in 2013.]

8.♙d3



8...h6 A good prophylactical move if Black just wants to

finish the development with Nf6, Be7 and 0-0. The point is to save the f6 knight to cover the hole on d5, which is the only big minus in Black's position. On the direct Nf6, White could play Bg5 followed by Nc3, taking on f6 at some point and occupying the d5 square with the knight. [8...b5 is the main line, which leads to very sharp positions. Probably my opponent was surprised about my 4. d4 decision and he wanted to avoid my preparation in the complications.]

9.♘c3 ♘f6 10.0-0 ♙e7 11.♙d1 0-0 [11...♙c8 is more circumspect, although I like White's position after 12.b3 0-0 13.a4 followed by Ba3, with pressure on the backward d6 pawn.]

12.c5! A very nice tactical idea, which was suggested by Viktor! From a positional point of view, it is not advisable to trade the c-pawn for e5, as first of all it helps Black to get rid of his weakness on d6 and it also opens the position for the two bishops. However White has something different in mind!

12...dxc5



13.♙xh6! This is the point! White wants to open the g-file before taking on e5 in order to give a discovered check on g3. [If White starts with 13.♘xe5 13...♙e6 14.♙g3 Black could play 14...♙b8! and on 15.Bf4 or 15.♙xh6? ♘h5! works!]

13...♙c7 [Black cannot accept the sacrifice with 13...gxh6

because of 14. ♖xe5 ♗g4 (14... ♗e6 15. ♖g3+- wins the queen now!) 15. ♖g3 ♖b8 16. ♖d5+- (16. h3+- also wins.)]

14. ♗g5! And the positional idea of the entire plan of c5 connected with Bxh6 becomes clear now. White has eliminated the h6 pawn, therefore he can get rid of the f6 knight, which dramatically weakens the d5 square. White is ready to occupy it right away.

14... ♗e6 15. ♗xf6 ♗xf6 16. ♖d5 ♗xd5 17. exd5! White changes the character of the game. The single d-file with the d5 hole would not be enough to seize the initiative, but the well-supported d5 passed pawn will do the job! The difference between the two minor pieces will also become a real factor, as the bishop passively stands behind his own pawns, while the knight might occupy the e4 or c4 squares. We will see in many lines that the missing of the h7 pawn makes the black king very vulnerable!



17... ♖ad8 [17...e4 would be the positional move to bring the bishop to life, but it does not work tactically because of 18. ♖xe4 ♗xb2 19. ♖g5! g6 20. ♖h4+- and Black is in trouble.]

18. ♖d2! Transferring the knight to its ideal outpost. Black cannot create a blockade now on the d6 square with his heavy pieces. [18.d6 It is premature to aim for some direct benefits, because Black has the intermediate move 18...e4!

and suddenly he is alive.]

18... ♗e7 Black dreams about the position where he can play Bd6 and f5-e4, but he lacks one tempo to execute this plan. [18...e4 has the same refutation as before: 19. ♖xe4 ♗xb2 20. ♖g5 g6 21. ♖h3+- and f5 prevents the mate, but allows Ne6.]

19. ♖e4! Supporting the d6 break! The knight is also ready to jump to g5 if the bishop goes to d6.

19... c4 The only move! [19...f5 loses to 20.d6! fxe4 21. ♖c4+- leaving the pin with check and the queen falls.; 19... ♗d6 loses nicely to 20. ♖f6+! gxf6 21. ♖g3+ ♖h7 22. ♖h4+ ♖g7 23. ♖g4+ ♖h7 24. ♖d3+- and Rh3 mate next.; I was hoping that my opponent lays a trap with 19... ♖d7 but it loses to 20.d6! ♗xd6



21. ♖f6+! leads to forced mate after (21. ♖xd6? 21... ♖fd8 would have been Black's idea.) 21... gxf6 22. ♖g3+ ♖h7 23. ♖h4+ ♖g7 24. ♖g4+ ♖h7 25. ♖d3+-]

20. ♖h3! The only way to maintain the advantage! The key is again the h7 square, connected with the sacrifice of d6 Bxd6 Ng5. It looks like quite a simple threat, but actually it is very difficult to deal with it. [The alternative was 20. ♖ac1 but I was afraid of the endgame after 20... cxd3 21. ♖xc7 f5! 22. ♖xe7 fxe4 23. ♖xe5 ♖fe8 24. ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 and despite being a pawn

down, Black should be able to hold.]

20...♖d7 [20...f5 was again strongly met by 21.d6! ♗xd6 22.♗g5 g6 23.♗e6+- winning an exchange.; The only move was 20...♗d7 but it was e that my opponent did not want to suffer in a terrible endgame after 21.d6! ♗xh3 22.gxh3 ♗h4 23.♖ac1 b5 24.♖d5± with a big advantage. The d6 passed pawn is very strong. Nc5 is a threat and the queenside pawns are vulnerable, or White can open a new front with b3 and penetrate with the rook on the c-file.]

21.d6! Being familiar with all the motifs, it was already very easy to calculate the winning line.

21...♖fd8 [21...♗xd6 loses to 22.♗g5!+-; 21...♗d8 is refuted by 22.♖d5! ♗xd6 Now the queen controls the g5 square, but the pin on the d-file is fatal. 23.♖ad1+-]

22.♖d5! White already had a pleasant choice, but I managed to find the most precise way to win. White already threatens to take the queen or the bishop, because there is no back rank problems anymore. [The alternative was 22.♗g4 protecting the d1 rook and threatening to take the queen. The only move is 22...♖xd6 (22...♗xd6 23.♗f6+-) 23.♗xd6 ♗xd6 and this position must be winning, but here Black at least has a pawn for the exchange.]

22...♖xd6 [The point is that after 22...♗xd6 23.♖ad1! Black cannot escape from the pin. Ng5 is coming next, against which Black has no adequate defense since f6 allows Qe6. 23...♗c6 24.♗g5+-; 22...♗c6 23.dxe7 ♗xd5 24.exd8=♗+- wins a piece.]

23.♗xd6 ♖xd6 24.♖xe5 This is the difference to 22.Qg4. Black does not even have a pawn for the exchange. [24.♖ad1 was also winning.]

24...♖h6 [24...♖d3 25.♖e3+-]

25.♖h5! [It was important to not blunder 25.♗e3 25...f6! and suddenly Black is fine... 26.♖xe7 ♗xh2+ 27.♗f1 ♗h1+ 28.♗e2 ♗xa1=]

25...♖xh5 26.♗xh5 g6 27.♗e2 ♗f6 I thought that this endgame is dead won, but it still requires some technique. The black bishop is very active on f6, pushing the b2 pawn and he wants to create a passed pawn with b5-b4-c3. White cannot create any direct threats, therefore he must convert the advantage slowly.

28.♖d1 ♗g7 29.g3 Opening the back rank.

29...♗c6 The black pieces are standing perfectly, they control all the invading squares on the d- and e- files.

30.h4! with the idea to expose the king with h5, or send the bishop away with g4-g5.

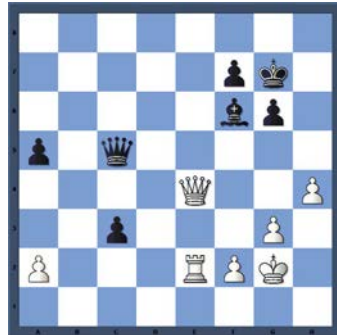
30...b5 31.♖d2 [I think it is very important to not include the 31.a3 31...a5 pair of moves, because after b4-axb4-axb4 the queenside gets eliminated, which might have a relevance in the endgames.; 31.h5 was possible. 31...g5 (31...gxh5 32.♗xh5 ♗xb2 33.♖d8 will be decisive.) 32.♗g4 followed by Rd7 also looks very dangerous.]

31...b4 32.♖c2 I tried to the happenings on the queenside to start my plans on the kingside.

32...c3 33.bxc3 bxc3 34.♗d3 The c-pawn is blockaded, but White needs to activate his pieces to win the game. In the next few moves, White improves his pieces.

34...a5 35.♖e2! ♗c5 36.♗e4 Black has reached the maximum, he cannot improve his position anymore, he can only sit and wait and hope that the presence of the c3 pawn will prevent White from making progress.

36...♔g8 37.♔g2 ♕g7

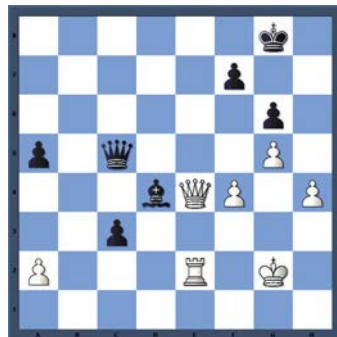


38.g4! White has also done all the necessary preparations and now it is time to decide the game by advancing the kingside pawns, where White is materially ahead.

38...♕g8 [38...♕xh4 loses to 39.♖e5+! ♖xe5 40.♗xe5+- and the rook stops the pawn from c5. Here we can see the importance of keeping the two a-pawns on the board. After the white king goes to d3, he will collect the a5 with the rook.]

39.g5 ♕g7 40.f4! Bringing all the pawns to execute the final break with h5 or f5. The white king is well protected by the heavy pieces, so there is no need to worry about it getting exposed...

40...♗d4



41.h5! The decisive blow! White gives back some material,

but he exposes the king which runs into a deadly attack against the heavy pieces.

41...gxf7 42.g6 ♔g7 43.gxf7 ♕f6 [43...♔xf7 44.♖e8+ ♔g7 45.♗e7+-]

44.♖e8! [Black resigned in view of 44.♖e8 44...♗d5+ (44...♗f8 45.♔h2!+- is the same, Rg2 wins next.) 45.♔h2 ♖xf7 46.♗g2+- wins.] **1-0**

The K-Files. Blumenfeld Gambit - part 2



GM Alexander Khalifman
FIDE World Chess Champion (1999)
Best rating: 2702

(3) Blumenfeld Gambit - part 2 [E10]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗f3 c5 4.d5 b5!? 5.dxe6 fxe6 6.cxb5 d5



7.g3 A fianchetto is very solid against various gambits, first of all because it secures the king's castle position. Here it's solid too. But at the same time it does little to stop Black's pawn center. And what might be even more important is that the b5 pawn is now rather unprotected which means that after the standard a7-a6 White in most cases will have to take on a6 immediately thus opening queenside lines for the opponent. These reasons promise Black good counterplay if he plays precisely.

7...a6! Here this breakthrough is quite necessary so the best way is to start with it. [7...♙b7?! Weakening the e6 pawn at this moment looks extremely dubious. And in fact it is. 8.♙h3! 8...♚b6 (8...a6? Akshat - Huerga, Badalona 2014 9.♘g5 e5 10.e4!+- White's key idea in different Blumenfeld versions (to meet e6-e5 with e4!) works perfectly here.) 9.O-O ♙e7 10.♘g5 ♙c8 A sad confession... 11.♘c3± (11.♚d3±) ; 7...♙d6 Postponing a7-a6 has certain drawbacks as we will see. If Black tries to play without it at all it's even worse. 8.♙g2 (8.♙h3 is quite possible but it's not the way to exploit Black's inaccurate move order. 8...a6!? might also be the most accurate move here. (8...O-O 9.O-O a6 (Banikas - Bayram, Istanbul 2003) allows the interesting complications 10.♘c3!? (10.bxa6 - 7...a6) 10...d4 (10...♚e8 11.e4±) 11.♘g5 dxc3 12.♙xe6+ ♙xe6 13.♘xe6 ♚b6 14.♘xf8 ♙xf8 15.♚b3+ ♙h8 16.bxc3 axb5∞and consequences are far from clear.) 9.♘c3?! (9.bxa6 - 7...a6) 9...d4=+) 8...O-O (8...a6 9.♘c3! is the big difference between this move order and 7...a6! (

a) 9.bxa6 - 7...a6;

b) 9.b6 The idea is similar to a Benko Gambit but here we have a different structure in the center so it doesn't promise anything. Black just wins back the pawn with good play. 9...♘c6 10.O-O Villavicencio - Krivoshey, Spain 2007 10...♚xb6 11.♘c3 preparing e2-e4. 11...♚b8 Necessary prophylaxis. (After 11...O-O 12.e4! White's idea works fine.) 12.e4 d4 13.♚e1! exploiting the bishop's vulnerable position on d6. 13...e5 14.♘d5 ♚d8↔)

9...axb5 (9...d4? is now simply bad because of 10.♘xd4 cxd4 11.♚xd4+-) 10.♘xb5 ♙e7 (10...♚a5+ 11.♘c3 O-O 12.O-O± doesn't promise enough compensation either. Once again: despite various similarities it's not the Benko Gambit and the black queen is often misplaced on a5. (Nedilko -

Wojciechowski, Warsaw 2009)) 11.a4 O-O 12.O-O ♖c6 13.♗f4+= (13.b3!?+= Pacher - Hrabusa, Slovakia 2010)) 9.O-O ♗b7 (

a) 9...a6 10.♖c3 is quite similar to 8...a6 9.Nc3!;

b) 9...♗e7 10.♖bd2N might be even stronger. Black can't do anything against e2-e4 (10.♗g5 gives White a solid advantage after 10...♗b7 (10...h6 11.♗xf6 ♗xf6 12.♖c3 ♗b7 Kukula - Abergel, Wroclaw rapid 2014 13.♖d2 13...♖d7 14.e4 d4 15.e5 ♗xe5 16.♗xb7 dxc3 17.bxc3±) 11.e4! dxe4 12.♖fd2 e3 13.♗xb7 Mueller - Pakhomov, Zaragoza 2013 13...♗xb7 14.♗xf6 ♗xf6 15.fxe3 ♗e5 16.♗xf6 ♗xf6 17.♖c3±) 10...e5 (10...♗b7 - 9...Bb7) 11.♖g5 h6 12.♖de4! dxe4 13.♖xe4 ♖xe4 14.♗xe4+-)

10.♖bd2 Once again White prepares e2-e4 and Black can't do anything against it. First of all because of the annoying b5 pawn. The following lines clearly show why a7-a6 is necessary against the fianchetto setup. 10...♖bd7 (

a) 10...h6?! 11.e4! ♖bd7 (11...dxe4 Burmakin - Salvador, Rome 2007 12.♖h4± and White's advantage is obvious.) 12.♖h4 ♗e8 13.exd5 exd5 14.♖c4! This is one more typical tactical trick which is often used in the Catalan and Queen's Indian. In this structure it brings even greater effect. 14...♗c7 (14...♗f8 15.♗d2) 15.♖f5 and Black's position is extremely unpleasant.;

b) 10...♗e7 11.e4± Hummel - Westerkamp, Groningen 2003) 11.e4! ♗b6 Roski - Gustavsson, Germany 1993 (11...dxe4 12.♖g5 ♗e7 13.♖dxe4±) 12.a4 a6 (12...♗c7 13.exd5 exd5 14.b4! cxb4 15.♗b2 a5 (15...a6 16.a5 ♗xb5 17.♖b3± White has given back the sacrificed pawn and sacrificed one more but Black is in deep trouble because his pieces are terribly misplaced. 17...♗c6 18.♖fd4 ♗d6 19.♖f5 ♗e6 20.♖bd4 ♗f7 21.♗c1 ♗e5 22.f4 ♗xd4+ 23.♗xd4+-) 16.♗c1±) 13.♗h3! (13.♗e1 13...♖g4) 13...♗fe8 14.♗e1+=; 7...♗a5+?! An interesting but

insufficient try. Black doesn't succeed in winning back the pawn and his queen on a5 is far from well-placed. 8.♖c3! The alternatives (which for some strange reasons are quite popular) just give back the pawn and don't create problems. 8...d4 (8...♗b7 9.♗d2 with the obvious threat Nxd5. 9...♗b6 (9...d4 10.♖d5 ♗d8 11.♖xf6+ gxf6 (11...♗xf6 12.♗g2 ♖d7 13.O-O ♗d6 14.b4+- Another typical way to destroy Black's center.) 12.e3± (12.♗h3±)) 10.♗h3! pointing out once again that Black's light-squared bishop should better remain on c8 until a certain moment in this line. Otherwise e6 becomes pretty sensitive. 10...d4 (10...a6? 11.♖a4 ♗xb5 12.O-O± with a huge advantage.) 11.♖a4 ♗xb5 12.♗xe6 ♗a6 13.♗h3 ♗d6 14.O-O O-O 15.♗c1 ♖e4 16.b3±) 9.♗a4! ♗b6 (9...♗xa4 10.♖xa4 ♗b7 (10...♗d7 11.e3±) 11.♗h3 11...e5 12.O-O ♗d6 (12...e4 13.♖g5+-) 13.♖g5 ♖bd7 14.f4! e4 15.♖e6 ♖f7 16.b4!± and the seemingly strong black pawn center falls into ruins at once.) 10.♖b1! ♗b7!? (10...♗d7 11.♖a3 a6 12.♖e5 (12.♗h3!? deserves attention as well.) 12...♗b7 13.♖xd7 ♖bxd7 (The greedy 13...♗xh1 is just bad because of 14.♖xb8 ♗xb8 15.bxa6+ ♖f7 16.♖c4+- ♖d5 17.♖e5+ Lombardy - Formanek, New York 1986) 14.f3 ♗e7 15.♗h3 ♖f7 16.O-O ♗hb8 17.bxa6 ♗xa6 18.♗c2±) 11.♖a3 ♖bd7 12.♗h3! The same idea once again! (12.♖c4 12...♗d8 13.♗g5 ♖b6 14.♖xb6 axb6 15.♗c2 ♗e7 16.♗xf6 ♗xf6 and Black has enough compensation. (Potpara - Antipov, Athens 2012).) 12...a6 It's necessary to do something against the Nc4 threat. 13.O-O ♗e7 14.♖d2! But still... 14...♗d5 15.bxa6 ♗xa6 16.♗c2+= Black's center is blocked. He doesn't have enough for a pawn.]

8.bxa6 [8.♖c3?! 8...axb5 9.♖xb5?? ♗a5+ 10.♖c3 d4+-]

8...♖c6!? In my opinion this is the most flexible move order. The knight belongs here anyway and the best position for the Bf8 is not clear yet. [8...♗xa6?!]



as we have seen already is inaccurate due to 9.♗h3! and Black's development plans are seriously damaged because of the problems with the e6 pawn. 9...♗b6 10.♗b3 ♗xb3 11.axb3 ♗d6 12.♗xe6 ♗d8 13.O-O ♗e8 14.♗f5 ♗xe2 15.♖c3 ♗e7 16.♗d1+- Gupta - Babujian, Yerevan 2006; 8...♗d6 9.♗h3 (9.♗g2 9...O-O 10.O-O ♖c6 - 8...Nc6) 9...O-O 10.O-O ♖c6 11.♖c3 ♗xa6 leads to the 8...Nc6 line but in this situation Black's bishop would be slightly better placed on e7.]

9.♗g2 [9.♗h3



9...♗xa6!? 10.O-O ♗e7! This is the best square for the bishop in this line. (

a) 10...♗d6 This square seems to be the most active but it's kind of an optical illusion as the bishop has little prospects on b8-h2 diagonal and at the same time it's rather vulnerable here (mostly due to Nc3-b5 but also e2-e4 might be the case). 11.♖c3 O-O Zaja - Cebalo, Zagreb 2007 12.a4 (12.b3 12...♗e8 13.♗b2 ♗h5 14.♗g2 d4 15.♖b5 ♗e7 16.♖d2 ♖e5) 12...♗e8 13.♖b5 ♗b8 14.♗e3+= and Black has certain problems as the typical operation 14...♗h5 15.♗g2 ♖g4 16.♗xc5 ♗xf3 faces the cold-blooded response 17.h3!+-;

b) The fresh example from the grandmaster practice was the over-ambitious 10...e5?! 11.♗xc8 ♗xc8 12.♗g5 e4 Korobov - Ponkratov, Moscow 2015 and now 13.♖h4 ♗e7 14.♖c3 d4 15.♗xf6 gxf6 16.♖d5± would have been the most convincing way to underline Black's structural drawbacks.)

11.♖c3 O-O Todorovich - Djokic, Vrnjacka Banja 2012 12.b3 ♗e8 13.♗b2 ♗h5 and Black's kingside initiative becomes quite dangerous in combination with the central pawns being ready to advance. 14.♗g2 d4 15.♖a4 e5 16.h4 h6↑]

9...♗d6 [9...♗e7!? It might happen that the setup with the bishop on e7 and rook on a6 is quite promising also against the traditional fianchetto. However, there is not much practical material for serious conclusions. 10.O-O O-O 11.♖c3 ♗xa6 12.♗g5 (12.♗f4 Toth - Rogers, Reggio Emilia 1984 12...♖h5 13.e3 c4!?)) 12...h6 13.♗xf6 ♗xf6 Anastasian - Hertneck, Baden-Baden 1996]

10.O-O O-O 11.♖c3 The alternatives give Black good chances. [11.b3 The double-fianchetto seems to be quite slow against Black's growing initiative. 11...♗xa6 12.♗b2 ♗e8 This is a less risky and more traditional way to increase the pressure. White's task is not easy here either. (12...e5!? (Stefanova - Muzychuk, A Khanty Mansiysk blitz 2014) and Black's central pawns are ready to force White's pieces to retreat to the last

ranks. The critical line is 13. ♖g5! ♗d4 14. ♖e1 (14.e3 14... ♕e2! 15. ♖c1 ♕xf1 16. ♖xf1 ♗g4 17. ♕xd5+ ♖h8 18. ♗f7+ ♖xf7 19. ♕xf7 ♗f3+ 20. ♖g2 ♖d7±) 14...h6 15. ♕xd4 cxd4 16. ♗e6 ♖b6 17. ♗xf8 ♖xf8∞ and even the computer is not very happy about White's chances despite his huge material advantage. The black pieces are well-coordinated and the central pawns look threatening.) 13. ♖e1 ♖d8 14. ♗bd2 (14. ♖c1?! 14...e5! 15. ♕a3 e4 16. ♗g5 ♗d4 17. ♗c3 ♖h5 18.f4 h6 19. ♗h3 ♕xe2 20. ♖d2 ♕f3 21. ♖f1 ♗g4+ Essing - Odendahl, Germany 2008) 14...e5 The most straightforward way to obtain enough counterchances. (

a) 14... ♕c7!? An interesting maneuver. The black bishop goes to b6 and f2 becomes a real target. 15. ♖c2 ♕b6∞;

b) 14... ♗g4?! was tried successfully in the spectacular game Georgiev, Kir - Nisipeanu, Fuegen 2006. However, this ambitious idea didn't pass the analytical control. 15.h3! (15.e4?! 15...d4! 16.h3 ♗xf2! 17. ♖xf2 ♖g6→) 15... ♗xf2 16. ♖xf2 ♗d4 (16... ♖g6 17.g4! h5 18.gxh5 ♖g3+ 19. ♖g1 ♖xf3 20. ♗xf3 ♖f8 21. ♖f1+→) 17. ♗f1! is the most reliable move. (Jianu - Cioara, Romania 2007) (In the above-mentioned game White could still pretend for an advantage after 17.g4 17...h5 18.g5 ♖f7 19. ♖g1!) 17... ♖g6 (17...e5 18. ♖g1 ♖g6 19. ♖c1 ♖h8 20. ♖d2 ♗xf3+ 21.exf3 ♕xf1 22. ♖xf1 ♖xg3 23.f4+→) 18. ♕xd4 cxd4 19. ♖g1! (19. ♖xd4 19...e5 20. ♖g4 ♕c5+ 21.e3 ♖xg4 22.hxg4 e4∞) 19...e5 20. ♖d2± and the extra piece must play its role finally.)

15.e4 It's absolutely necessary to stop e5-e4 at any cost. 15... ♗b4 (15...d4!? 16. ♕f1! ♕xf1 17. ♖xf1 ♖h5 18. ♗h4 ♖xd1 19. ♖fxd1 ♖a8∞) 16.exd5 ♗d3 This position is extremely complicated. The point is that Black is not hurrying to win the exchange in many cases. 17. ♖c2 (17. ♖b1!? 17... ♗xe1 18. ♖xe1 ♗xd5±) 17... ♖h5! (17... ♗xe1? 18. ♖xe1± Malakhatchko

- Cebalo, Basel 2007) 18. ♗h4 ♗g4 (18... ♕c7 19. ♗c4 ♗xe1 20. ♖xe1 ♗xd5 21. ♗xe5 ♗e3 22.fxe3 ♕xe5 23. ♕xe5 ♖xe5 24. ♕e4∞) 19.f3 ♗gf2 20. ♗c4 ♕xc4 21.bxc4 e4 22.f4 ♖xf4 23. ♖xe4 ♗xe4 24. ♖xd3 ♖xh4 25.gxh4 ♖xh4 26. ♖xe4 ♕xh2+ 27. ♖h1 (27. ♖f1?? 27... ♖f8+→) 27... ♕f4+=; 11. ♕g5 11... ♕xa6 12. ♗c3 - 11.Nc3; 11. ♗bd2 In this line the white knight is badly misplaced because of 11... ♕xa6 12. ♖e1 c4! ∞ and Black's pressure becomes really annoying. The standard 13.e4? runs into (13.b3? A sign of panic. 13...c3 14. ♗b1 ♗e4 15. ♕e3 ♖a5 16. ♖f1 ♕c5 17. ♗e1 ♕xe3 18.fxe3 ♖xf1+ 19. ♖xf1 ♖c5 20. ♗c2 ♖f8+ 21. ♖g1 ♖f2+ 22. ♖h1 ♕xe2 23. ♖e1 ♕d3→ Cernousek - Navara, Prague 2009; 13. ♗b1 might be the relatively best, which tells enough about the value of 11.Nbd2 plan... 13... ♕c5! 13... ♕c5 14.exd5?! Odnorozhenko - Oleksienko, Alushta 2011 (14. ♕h3 14... ♖h8!?±) 14... ♕xf2+! 15. ♖h1 (15. ♖xf2 15... ♗g4+→) 15...exd5→]

11... ♕xa6 12. ♖e1! The only way to create some problems. [12. ♕g5 12...h6 13. ♕xf6 ♖xf6 14. ♗xd5!? doesn't promise any advantage but it might be the right moment to forget about it. (14. ♖c1 14... ♖h8 15.b3 Lputian - Babujian, Yerevan 2008 15...g5!?∞ and Black's pressure is very unpleasant.) 14...exd5 15. ♖xd5+ ♖h8 16. ♖xc6 ♕xe2 17. ♗h4 ♕xf1 18. ♖xf1 Cruz - Santos, Spain 2011 18...g5 19. ♗f5 ♖xf5 20. ♖xd6 ♖f6 21. ♖e7 ♖f7= and it's difficult to avoid the logical drawish outcome for both sides.]



12...♖b8!? **N** This is the new and critical move. Black simply improves his rook's position and at the same time he removes it from the dangerous long diagonal. All moves tested before were not enough because of various tactical tricks. [12...♗e5?! 13.♗g5! ♜e7 14.f4 ♗c4 15.e4+- Perez - Coll, Barcelona 2011; 12...♗g4? 13.♗xd5+- ♜xg3 14.hxg3 exd5 15.♜g5 ♜d7 16.♖c1 h6 17.♜f4 c4 18.♗d4 ♗e7 19.♜h3 g5 20.e3 ♜c8 21.f3 gxf4 22.♜xg4+- Rajkovic - Nestorovic, Belgrade .2007; 12...d4 13.♗g5! ♜d7 14.♗ce4 ♗xe4 15.♗xe4 ♜e7 16.♜g5±; 12...♜c7 13.♜h3 d4!? In true gambit style but... (13...♖ae8 14.♗g5 ♗d8 (14...♜c8 15.e4! promises more than the obvious exchange. (15.♗b5 15...♜b8 16.♗xd6 ♜xd6 17.e4 e5!∞) 15...♗d4 16.♜e3±) 15.e4! h6 16.♗f3 ♗xe4 17.♗xe4 dxe4 18.♗d2+=) 14.♜xe6+ ♗h8 15.♗d5 ♗xd5 16.♜xd5 ♖ae8 Babula - Krejci, Pardubice 2011 17.♗g5!±2 pawns are most probably too much.]

13. ♕g5!? [13. ♖g5 13... ♔e7! (13... ♔d7 is asking for trouble as White's bishop comes to the same diagonal. 14. ♕h3 ♔fe8 15. ♖xd5! 15... ♖xd5 16. ♔xd5 exd5 17. ♕xd7 ♖d4 18. ♕xe8 ♔xe8 19. e3 ♖c2 20. ♕d2+= and the bishop's pair is enough only for some drawing chances here.) 14. e4 (14. ♖xd5 14... exd5 15. ♕xd5+ ♖xd5 16. ♔xd5+ ♔h8 17. ♔xc6 ♕b7∞ is fairly dangerous for White as the black light-squared bishop dominates the important diagonal. Despite the 2 extra pawns

it's White who has to be extremely careful as the following computer line shows. 18. ♖a4 h6 19. ♖h4 ♜e8! 20. ♜h3 ♜e7 21. ♜c4 ♜f6 22. ♜e3 ♜xb2 23. ♜f4 ♜xa1 24. ♜xa1 ♜d8 White played many strong (and far from obvious) moves to reach this position where he is still not perfectly safe although a draw is the most probable result here.) 14...d4 15. ♜d5! (15.e5 is not dangerous here. 15... ♜xe5 16. ♜ce4 ♜xe4 17. ♜xe4 h6⇒) 15... ♜e8 (15...exd5 16.exd5 ♜e5 17.f4+=) 16.b4!? is the most dangerous attempt. 16...d3 17.e5! ♜xe5 (17... ♜xe5 18.bxc5±) 18. ♜c7 ♜xc7! 19. ♜xe6 ♜d4 20. ♜xe8 ♜fxe8∞These weird complications led to an extremely chaotic position which is difficult to play for both sides. Its objective assessment must be about balanced.; The forced sequence 13.e4 13...d4 14.e5 dxc3 15.exf6 cxb2 16. ♜xb2 ♜xb2 17. ♜xe6 ♜xf6 18. ♜xf6 ♜xf6 19. ♜d5+ ♜h8 20. ♜xc6 ♜f8∞gives Black no reasons to worry.]

13...♖e5 Removing the knight from a shaky position, preparing h7-h6 and defending from e2-e4 at once. Not bad for one move! [The immediate 13...h6 is dubious because of 14.♙xf6 ♖xf6 (14...♖xf6 15.e4! (15.♘xd5 15...exd5 16.♖xd5+ ♔h8 17.♖xc6 ♙xg3 18.♖xc5 ♙d6∞) 15...d4 16.e5±) 15.♘xd5! exd5 16.♖xd5+ ♔h8 17.♖xc6± and with the bishop on g2 White's king is well-protected. Black's compensation is not enough.; 13...♖xb2 14.e4!+=]

14. ♖xe5 ♜xe5 With a very complicated position where the strong center and active pieces give Black good compensation for the pawn.

David vs. Goliath



Peter Zhdanov

Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this entertaining column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week brought us just 5 upsets. This is an all-time anti-record.

The number of moves ranges from 27 in IM Plenkovic (2410) - Vukalovic (1954), 0-1 to 59 in Altschuler (2089) - IM Eggleston (2424), 1-0. In fact, 20-year old Jason Altschuler (2089) defeated two experienced IMs in one tournament; the second Goliath was IM Kopylov M (2440). This is quite an achievement for a player of Jason's rating.

Top-5:

Ladisis (1982) - Jovanic (2474), 1-0, [492](#) points
 Plenkovic (2410) - Vukalovic (1954), 0-1, [456](#) points
 Kopylov (2440) - Altschuler (2089), 0-1, [351](#) points
 Altschuler (2089) - Eggleston (2424), 1-0, [335](#) points
 Manjunath (1689) - Martinez Llamas (1998), 1-0, [309](#) points

Average gap: 389; White won 3 games, Black won 2 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

To compensate for the low number of upsets, I decided to annotate a rollercoaster duel between IM Plenkovic (2410) and Vukalovic (1954). Black quickly found himself in a hopeless position, but seized the opportunity to exploit his opponent's carelessness and to turn the tables.

Plenkovic, Z.(2410) - Vukalovic, Z.(1954) [C44]

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d3 I personally believe that people who play such openings deserve to be punished :)

3...♘f6 4.♙e2 d5 5.♘bd2 dxe4 prematurely releasing the tension in the centre [5...♙c5 6.O-O O-O=]

6.dxe4 ♙c5 7.O-O O-O 8.c3



8...a6?! [8...a5= is the main move. The idea is obvious - to grab some space on the queenside and to prevent b4.]

9.b4+= ♙a7 10.♙c2 [10.a4N deserves attention here. For example 10...♙g4 11.h3 ♙h5 (11...♙xf3 12.♙xf3+= White gets two bishops and is clearly better) 12.♙c2 ♖e8 13.♖e1+= with the standard idea Nf1-Ng3]

10...♔e7 [10...♘h5 looks preferable. Yet another standard idea of rerouting the knight to f4.]

11.a4 In this position Black has tried a number of moves

11...♖e8N [11...♙g4 ; 11...b6 ; 11...♖d8 ; 11...♘h5N Maybe Black has to execute the same plan even after losing a tempo on Qe7. What else is there to do?]

12.♘c4 ♙e6 13.♙a3



13...♙xc4? Why give up a bishop? [13...b5! 14.axb5 (14.♘cxe5?! 14...♘xe5 15.♘xe5 ♖d6 16.♘f3 ♘xe4! =+ Black must have overseen this witty resource. Now if 17.♖xe4?! then 17...♙c4 18.♘e5 ♙d5! 19.♖f4 ♖xe5 20.♖xe5 ♗xe5 21.♙f3 ♙xf3 22.gxf3 bxa4+ with a clearly better endgame for Black) 14...axb5 15.♘a5 (15.♘e3?! this natural-looking move runs into 15...♙xe3 16.♙xb5 (16.fxe3 16...♖eb8= in such a closed position White doesn't have any advantage all of a sudden) 16...♙xf2+ 17.♖xf2 ♙d7 and Black is fine) 15...♘xa5 16.bxa5 ♙c5 17.♙b4 ♙d7 White looks better, but it is not so easy to come up with a good plan.]

14.♙xc4± ♘d8 15.♙c1 h6 16.♘h4 ♘h5?! [16...♖d7 with the threat of Qc6 is more resistful]

17.♘f5 ♖f6 18.g3 ♘e6? loses by force [18...♖g6 19.♙h1 ♘e6 20.f3± With such a nice knight on f5 and two bishops White is

enjoying a clear advantage]



19.♖e2? ± [19.♙e2! the knight has nowhere to go! 19...♙h7 20.♙xh5 g6 21.♙f3 ♘g5 22.♙g4 gxf5 23.♙xf5+- White has an extra pawn and a winning position; 19.♖d1!? is also good enough 19...♘hf4 a desperate counterattack 20.gxf4 exf4 21.♖g4 ♖xc3 22.♙xe6 fxe6 23.♘h6+ ♙h7 24.♖a3 ♖f6 25.♖d1 gxf6 26.♖d7+ ♖e7 27.♖xf4+- and it's pretty much over]

19...♖g6



20.♘h4?? Here comes the blunder! [20.♙h1± Prophylaxis is called for]

20...♘g3! It's hard to miss this move. If only the queen was on d1...The David is using his slingshot in an efficient way.

21. ♔f3? Trying to keep the queens on board and to come up with something clever [21. ♖xg6 21... ♗xe2+ 22. ♕xe2 fxg6=+ I guess that White, who had a winning position just a few moves ago, was disgusted with the prospects of having to defend an endgame down a pawn against someone rated 456 points below himself. But this was the only chance to draw or...maybe even to win! :)]

21... ♔xe4! —+ Black is calmly devouring pawns. The Goliath is going down now.

22. ♔xg3 ♔xc4



23. ♕xh6 Maybe White was hoping to get an attack going this way, although I greatly doubt it.

23... ♖ad8 a good centralizing move

24. ♕xg7? all the other options are losing as well

24... ♖d3 25. ♔g2 ♗f4 26. ♔xb7 ♔xg7 One of the multiple winning moves.

27. ♗f5+ ♔h7 What a turnaround! **0-1**

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) is welcomed.

Young & Talented

(4) Wei, Yi (2703)

- Melkumyan, Hrant (2651) [C49]

10th World Teams 2015(4.4),
2015.04.22



GM Etienne Bacrot
Best rating: 2749

In this new column for CEWN I will try to find the most interesting games by strong junior players. Today I decided to comment on one from the 15-year old Chinese Wei Yi who helped his team, the current Olympic champions, to beat Armenia 3,5-0,5!

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♙b5 The four knights is often employed by Wei Yi along with the Italian game.

4...♙b4 [4...♘d4 is my favorite move.; 4...♙c5 5.♘xe5 ♘xe5 6.d4 a6!? is an interesting new option, Wei Yi-Eljanov 2014.]

5.O-O O-O 6.d3 d6 7.♘e2 A new, fashionable and very logical move. The big theory is [7.♙g5 7...♙xc3 8.bxc3 ♙e7 9.♙e1 ♘d8 10.d4 ♘e6 with still more than 500 games played.]

7...♘e7 8.c3 ♙a5 9.♘g3 c6 10.♙a4 ♘g6 11.d4 Normal play for the center. Melkumyan will develop his pieces before going for the counterbreak with d5.

11...♙e8 [11...d5 is a very decent try. 12.♘xe5 ♘xe5 (12...♘xe4 13.♘xg6 hxg6 14.♘xe4 dxe4 was played in Lipke-Pillsbury 1898! 15.♙e1 ♙e8 16.♙f4+=) 13.dxe5 ♘xe4 14.♘xe4 dxe4 15.♙f4 I am still not sure that Black can fully equalize here.]



12.♙c2 h6 13.h3 ♙e6 14.♙e1 ♙c7 [14...b5 was played in Rapport-Jakovenko in Gibraltar this year. 15.♙d2 ♙c7 16.♙c1!? ♙h7 17.a4 a6 18.♘f5 and White has nice attacking possibilities.]

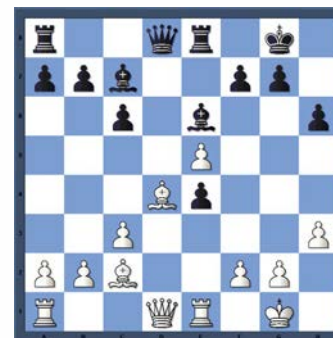
15.♙e3 d5 It is funny that we still have a mirror position after fifteen moves! But with the extra tempo and the fight in the center White logically takes the advantage.

16.♘xe5 [16.exd5 16...♙xd5 17.♙xg6 fxg6 18.♘xe5 ♙xe5 19.dxe5 ♙xe5 seems almost equal.]

16...♘xe5 17.dxe5 ♘xe4 [17...♙xe5 18.f4! ♙c7 19.e5 White has a great advantage.]

18.♘xe4 [18.♙d3 was the other way to play for an edge.]

18...dxe4 19.♙d4



19...♙d5!? There was another tricky defensive possibility: [19...♚g5! 20.♙xe4 ♙xh3 21.f4 ♚g3! with an unclear position because the obvious 22.♖e3? is nicely met: 22...♚xf4 23.gxh3 c5! 24.♙xc5 ♖xe5 and White can't defend the king and save the piece at the same time.]

20.♙xe4 c5 [Of course not 20...♙xe5? 21.♙xe5 ♖xe5 22.♙h7+-]

21.♙xc5 ♖xe5 22.♙xd5 ♖xd5 23.♙d4 ♚d6 [23...♙b6 24.♖e4+=]



24.♚g4 Fearless play! [24.g3 is a more conservative move where White still pushes: 24...♙b6 25.♚f3 ♙xd4 26.cxd4 ♖d8 (26...♖b8!? 27.♖ad1 ♖xd4 28.♖xd4 ♚xd4 29.♖e7 ♚xb2 30.♚xf7+ ♙h8 and it seems like Black might hold.) 27.♖ad1 b6 28.♖e4 White is still a pawn up.]

24...♖g5 25.♚f3 ♚h2+ 26.♙f1 ♚h1+?! It is necessary to exchange White's strong bishop: [26...♙b6! 27.♖ad1 ♙xd4 (27...♚h1+ 28.♙e2 ♚h2 29.♙xb6 axb6 30.♖d7+=) 28.♖xd4 ♚h1+ 29.♙e2 ♚h2! was the best practical chance, since both other moves lead to very unpleasant endgames: (29...♖e8+ 30.♖e4 ♖xe4+ 31.♚xe4 ♚xg2 32.♚xg2 ♖xg2 33.♖d1 ♖g6 34.♖d8+ ♙h7 35.♖d7 ♖b6 36.b4 ♙g6 37.♙d3+=; 29...♚xg2 30.♚xg2 ♖xg2 31.♙f1 ♖h2 32.♖e7 ♖xh3 33.♖f4 ♖f8 34.♖xb7±) 30.♖d7 ♖f8 and because of his slightly unsafe king, White will

need many strong moves to prove an advantage.]

27.♙e2 ♚xg2? enters a lost endgame. There were still some chances after [27...♚h2 followed by Bb6.]

28.♚xg2 ♖xg2 29.♙f3



29...♖h2?? Now the rook gets trapped! [29...♖g5 30.♖e7±]

30.♖e7 ♖xh3+ [30...♖c8 31.♖xc7! ♖xc7 32.♙g3 is another nice final.]

31.♙g4 ♙d6 32.♖d7+- ♖d3 33.♖xd6 ♖e8 34.♖g1 g6 35.♖g3 ♖d2 36.♖e3 ♖f8 37.♖e7 A very clean game by Wei Yi. 1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Banusz, T(2585)-Pourramezanali, A(2432)

Dubai Open, 2015.04.14

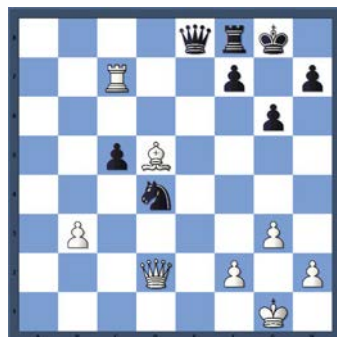
1. +-



(6) Sagar, S(2458)-Mammadzada, G(2336)

Dubai Open, 2015.04.14

1... -+



(7) Ikeda, J(2403)-Dragun, K(2558)

Bangkok Open, 2015.04.14

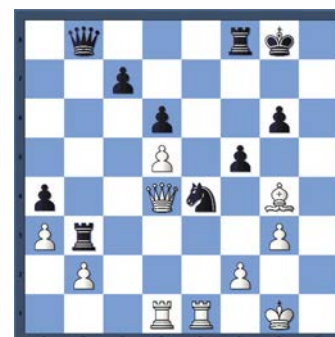
1. +-



(8) Ghosh, D(2512)-Stokke, K(2360)

Bangkok Open, 2015.04.14

1. +-



(9) Swapnil, S(2450)-Illingworth, M(2489)

Bangkok Open, 2015.04.16

1... -+



(10) Bogosavljevic, B(2516)-Antic, D(2457)

Serbian Championship, 2015.04.18

1... -+



(11) Kovacevic, A(2517)-Ratkovic, M(2365)

Serbian Championship, 2015.04.20

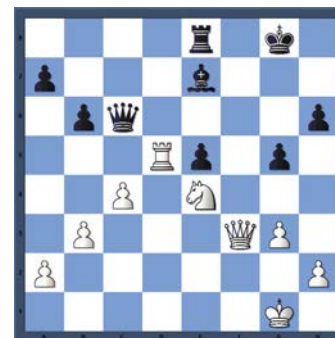
1. +-



(12) Georgiev, K(2623)-Dimov, D(2340)

Bulgarian Championship, 2015.04.18

1. +-



(13) Korneev, O(2600)-Weber, U(2399)

Hofheim Open, 2015.04.11

1. +-



(14) Martian, D(2220)-Nevednichy, V(2559)

Romanian Championship, 2015.04.20

1... -+



Endgame section

(15) Caruana, Fabiano (2802)
- Carlsen, Magnus (2863)

Gashimov memorial,
2015.04.19



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



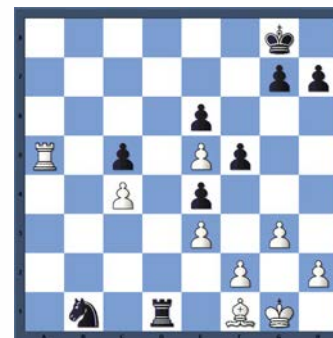
We are facing another example where the World Champion outplays the other top players of the world from a seemingly nothing position. The material is balanced, but the knight is clearly superior to the locked bishop. However Black has his weaknesses on e6 and c5, which should give White enough counterplay to hold the draw.

29. ♖a3 I like this move. White sends the knight to a worse place, because Black was threatening with Rd2 followed by Nd1, winning the f2 pawn. [Trying to do the same with 29. ♖c1 was less accurate, because Black locks the rook as well with 29... ♗a2 30. ♖a1 ♖d2 depriving White from his counterplay on the a-file.]

29... ♗b1 [Now on 29... ♗d1 30. ♕e2= White takes the knight and holds the rook endgame. Black might try to win the c4

pawn, but White attacks the e6 with Ra6 and after Kf7 Ra7 check he goes back to a6 next.]

30. ♖a1? Caruana tries to repeat moves, but he underestimates Carlsen's subtle plan... [White should have played 30. ♖a5 30... ♖d1 This was what White was afraid of, but he has



31. ♖a1! preventing Nd2 by pinning the knight! (31. ♖g2 loses to 31... ♗d2! 32. ♕e2 ♖e1 demonstrates well how bad the white bishop is! It got trapped!) 31... ♗c3 32. ♖a3 ♖c1 33. ♖a8+ ♔f7 34. ♖a7+ forces a draw. Kg6 can be met by Ra6.]

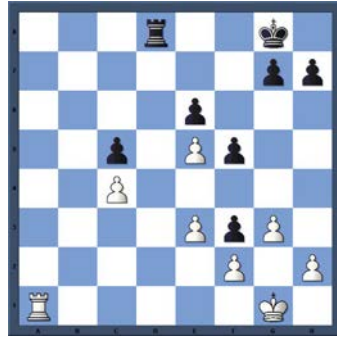
30... ♗d2! The knight is heading to f3 to collect the e5 pawn.

31. ♕e2 Another mistake which already causes too big problems for White. [White should again have tried 31. ♖g2 31... ♗f3 32. ♖a6 still with good chances for a draw.]

31... ♗f3+! 32. ♕xf3 [32. ♖g2 32... ♗xe5 33. ♖a5 ♖c8 is a healthy extra pawn for Black.]

32... exf3 Caruana probably thought that if he managed to trade his poor bishop for the knight the rook endgame must be an easy draw. However changing the pawn structure in Black's favor creates new problems for White. The new key factor is the king on g1, which is squeezed to the back rank thanks to the f3 pawn! White cannot start his counterplay

against the c5 and e6 pawns because of the penetration of the black rook on the d-file.

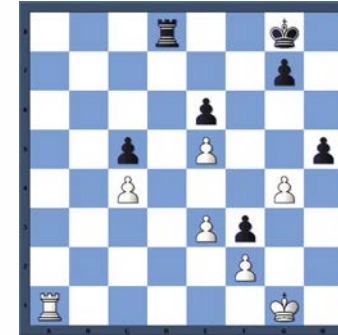


33.h3 Trying to give air to the king. White also plans to play g4, followed by going to the f3 pawn with Kh2-g3. Carlsen prevents this idea with the most natural move.

33...h5! [Activating the rook with 33...♖d2 allows White to free his position with 34.g4! fxg4 35.hxg4 ♜c2 36.♙h2 ♜xf2+ 37.♙g3 ♜c2 38.♙xf3 ♜xc4 Black has won a pawn, but White rescued his king from the cage and launches his counterplay with 39.♜a8+ ♙f7 40.♜a7+=]

34.g4 A clever attempt to rescue the king at the cost of a pawn! [Another defensive attempt, 34.♜a6 also seems to fail after 34...♜d1+ 35.♙h2 ♜f1! 36.♜xe6 ♜xf2+ 37.♙g1 ♜g2+ 38.♙f1 ♜xg3 Black collects all the pawns and his passed pawns are going to be more dangerous than the white ones. 39.♜c6 (39.h4 39...♜g4 Black takes on c4 first and then on h4.) 39...♙f7 40.h4 ♜g4 41.♜xc5 ♜xh4 42.♙f2 g5 43.♙xf3 ♜e4 followed by h4 and g4, which seems to be very bad for White. He is also in some kind of zugzwang as he cannot push his pawns and if he moves with the rook, one of the pawns is falling.]

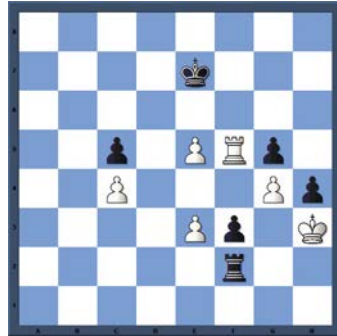
34...fxg4 35.hxg4



35...h4! Excellent play by Carlsen! It is more important to keep the king in a cage by keep controlling the g3 square than gaining a material advantage, but allowing counterplay. [35...hxg4 36.♙h2 ♜d2 37.♙g3 White should hold without difficulties.]

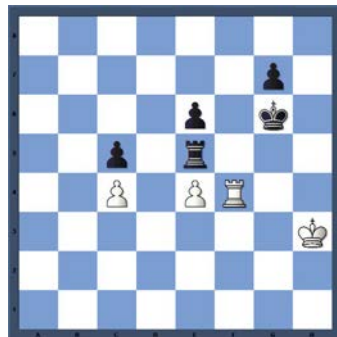
36.♙h2 [White could have tried to avoid getting a protected passed pawn with g5 by playing g5 himself: 36.g5 but it also fails to hold, as the black king joins the game too quickly. 36...♙f7 37.♙h2 ♙g6 38.♙h3 ♙h5! (But not 38...♙xg5 because of 39.♜g1+! getting counterplay again.)]

36...♜d2 I believe that this is the only inaccuracy Carlsen made in this game. [He should have started with 36...g5 and only in a next step activated the rook. 37.♜a6 is met by 37...♜d2 38.♙g1 ♜d1+ 39.♙h2 ♜f1 40.♜xe6 ♜xf2+ 41.♙h3 ♙f7 42.♜f6+ ♙e7 43.♜f5 I tried to hold with active defense, but it is not enough...



43...Rf1! winning an important tempo by threatening with mate on h1! 44.♔h2 ♕c1 45.♖xf3 (45.♖xg5 45...f2→) 45...♖xc4 This is the point. Now the g4 pawn is hanging thanks to the 43...Rf1 move. 46.♔h3 ♕c1 47.♖f5 c4 and the c-pawn runs too fast! 48.♖xg5 c3 49.♖g7+ ♔d8 50.♖g8+ ♔c7 51.♖g7+ ♔c6 52.♖g6+ ♔b5→ White cannot stop the pawn.]

37.♔h3 Missing the opportunity! [The only chance was 37.g5! and compared to the 36.g5 line, the white king is a square closer. 37...♖xf2+ 38.♔h3 ♖g2 39.♔xh4 ♔h7 also looks quite bad for White. Kg6 is coming and the white rook cannot leave the first rank because of f2, but perhaps he can save the game with 40.♖f1! f2 41.e4 ♔g6 42.♔h3 ♖xg5 43.♖xf2 ♖xe5 44.♖f4

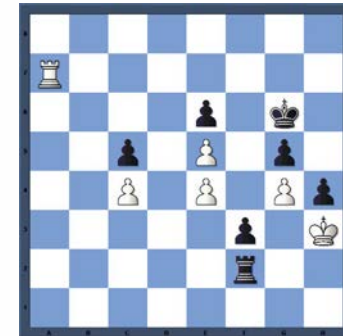


Black is a healthy pawn up, but his rook is passive. White wants to bring his king to f3 to free his rook and if Black goes 44...♖h5+ (44...♖g5 45.♖f8) 45.♔g3 ♖h1 46.♖f8 ♕c1 47.♖c8

♖xc4 48.♔f4! White gets very active with Ke5 next! In most of the rook endgames, the active defense is usually the best, even if it sometimes costs a pawn. I would say the draw is the most probable outcome here.]

37...g5! 38.e4 Setting up a deep trick, but of course Carlsen does not fall for it. [38.♖a6 transposes to the 36...g5 line!]

38...♖d4! collecting all the pawns one by one. [We can see the point of 38.e4 after 38...♖xf2? White has gives up all his moves, his king is stalemated, he only needs to sacrifice his rook. 39.♖a8+ ♔g7 40.♖a7+ ♔g6



41.♖g7+!]=]

39.♖a8+ ♔f7 40.♖a3 [40.♖a7+ does not change the outcome. Black wins in a long, but forced line: 40...♔g6 41.♖e7 ♕d1! 42.♔h2 ♖f1 43.♖xe6+ ♔g7 44.♖f6 ♖xf2+ 45.♔h3 ♖f1 This mate threat is always the key! 46.♔h2 f2 47.♖f5 ♖g1 48.♖xf2 ♖xg4→ The connected passed pawns decide the game. Black wants to take on e4 and Re2 allows Kf7-e6. 49.♖f5 ♔g6 50.♖f6+ ♔h5→]

40...♖xc4 41.♖xf3+ ♔e7 42.♖e3 ♖d4 White has finally eliminated the f3 pawn, but his king is still forced to stay behind the h-pawn. Meanwhile, Black got another passed pawn, which decides the game. White also have difficulties to keep his remaining moves protected...

43.f3 c4 44.♖a3 ♜d3 45.♖a7+ ♔d8 46.♕g2 c3 47.♖a4 c2 [It was even easier to go behind the c-pawn with 47...♜d7! and Rc7 next! 48.♖a8+ ♔c7 49.♖a4 ♕b6--+]]

48.♜c4 ♜d2+ 49.♕h3 ♕d7 50.♜c5 ♜f2 51.f4 [51.♜c3 fails to 51...♜xf3+! --+]]

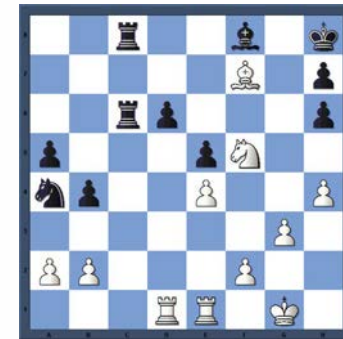
51...♜f3+ 52.♕h2 ♜xf4 [White resigned because of 52...♜xf4 53.♜xc2 ♜xg4--+] The connected passed pawns win automatically. White must stay passive to defend the e-pawns, but it allows driving the black king to h5, from where it will help to promote the pawns. A very instructive and nice endgame by the World Champion.] **0-1**

**(16) Carlsen, Magnus (2863)
- Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime (2765)**

Vugar Gashimov Mem 2015(5.3),
2015.04.21



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



As Carlsen said in the interview, Maxime managed to surprise him already on move 2 with 1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 b5!? but usually it is a bad idea to try and play something "not very solid" against Carlsen, who is great in feeling what is needed in an unclear situation. So White quickly got a clear advantage and with a great positional pawn sacrifice he put Black under a lot of pressure. What we will see right now is already an endgame, which is clearly very bad for Black. Material is equal, but the bishop on f8 is very passive. What we are going to see in the next 20 moves is a perfect conversion of an advantage, without giving any chances to the opponent.

31.♜e2 A very safe and good move. White just protects the b2 pawn and leaves the knight on a4 on a passive position.

31...♜c1 32.♜xc1 ♜xc1+ 33.♕g2 In case Black would somehow manage to exchange another pair of rooks the

position would get closer to a draw, but of course this is only a dream...

33...♖c5 34.b3! A very strong move! Black's ideas was maybe to play a4-b3 and threaten to play Rc2.

34...♖c3 What else to do?! Black keeps on waiting...



35.♔h3! Another great positional move! White improves his king's position which can maybe go to h5 now, or maybe sometime in the future to f5.

35...♖d7 36.♗e6 ♖c5 37.♗d5 ♖d7 Maxime continues to wait.

38.♖e3! Using a small tactic, Magnus transfers his knight to c4 where it will attack both the a5 and d6 pawns.

38...♖f6 39.♗e6 The pawn on e4 can't be taken.

39...♖c5 [39...♖xe4? 40.♖d5 and the game is over.]

40.♖c4 ♔g7 Finally the black king feels a bit more free, but the pawns on a5 and d6 are in big danger.

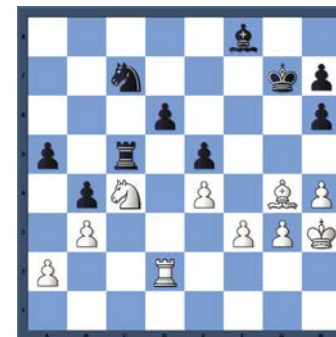
41.f3 Another "small" but very good move. Now that the black rook is not on the 3rd rank anymore, White has all the time in the world to place his pieces perfectly. The easy threat is to play Rd2 next.

41...♖e8 42.♖d2 Now Black needs to be afraid of Bd7 and of

Rd5 after which the pawn on a5 will be lost.

42...♖c7 [A tougher defense was maybe 42...h5 to stop the white king from entering the g4 square for the future.]

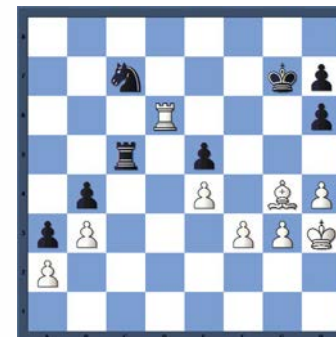
43.♗g4



43...a4?! Black is losing his nerves. [It looks very ugly, but Maxime should have continued with passive defense... 43...♖e8]

44.♖xd6 Now the position is falling apart.

44...♗xd6 45.♖xd6 a3 This was Black's idea, to get to the a2 pawn by threatening Nb5 or Rc2, but once again Carlsen just sees more than his opponent.



46.♗d7! Another very strong move! White doesn't let the

knight jump to b5 and at the same time he threatens to play Bc6 and Rd7, against which Black is just helpless!

46...♖c2 47.♗c6 ♜xa2 Black's last try. [47...♘a6 48.♗d5 ♘c7 49.♗c4 and White is totally dominating the position.]

48.♖d7+ ♔f6 49.♖xc7 ♜c2 Black wants to play Rc1 and a2. Of course it is a very "long term" threat and White is going to stop it easily.

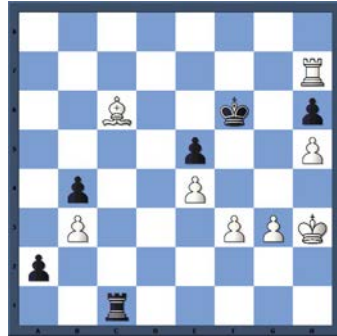
50.♖xh7 First of all Carlsen takes the h7 pawn- why not!

50...♔g6 51.♖c7 ♔f6 and now he finds the right mating plan:

52.h5! Suddenly the black king is in a mating net!

52...♖c1 [52...a2 53.♖a7 ♖xc6 54.♖xa2 leads to a totally lost rook endgame for Black.]

53.♖h7 a2 and after the beautiful



54.♗d5 Black can't avoid getting mated in a couple of moves with Rf7-Kg5 and Rf5 mate. What we saw right now looked so simple and easy, but in fact to play the most accurate move is one of the hardest things in chess and the current World Champion does it perfectly! A great game to learn from. **1-0**

Chess and the City. Size matters...?!



WGM Elisabeth Paetz

Best rating: 2493

Just a few days ago the world was "shocked", or rather amused, by an article by the famous and eloquent GM Nigel Short on the topic of why men are superior at chess. There has, of course, been plenty of discussion on this matter, and it is a topic that never seems to die.

Frankly, I feel quite relieved that we now know that the reason is a simple deficiency in our brain constitution. So, basically we can stop here and start demanding that FIDE totally separates men's chess from women's chess, as we cannot change or influence the biology of our birth. However, this may not be convincing enough, and anyway, separating men's and women's chess will end up financially disastrous, as I doubt there would be enough sponsorship to keep women's chess afloat. Having the smaller brain, or, as Nigel puts it, a "different wiring construction", sounds like a perfect reason, or in my case an excuse, for not being ranked in the top 100.

Whenever a journalist asked me, in former times, why men were so much stronger, I tended to point towards our evolution and physical constitution. Evolution-wise women were usually taking care of the household and family,

while men could explore themselves through hunting and collecting. So basically by nature men were more willing to take risks, leading to greater creative development. I must admit that, while this sounds like total rubbish, it is always nice to have such an excuse rather than admit that you are just a very lazy chess worker.

Have you ever heard of a strong woman player who was capable of working on chess by herself, and, and here comes the main point, doing so effectively? I haven't... The problem with women is simply that they have too many things on their minds, they cannot just focus on 64 squares and 32 pieces and neglect all the other crucial things, such as their appearance, chatting, and shopping and so on... These temptations are indeed far too important to allow us to work on chess for a couple of hours without interruption. So, since we always need to think about something, we inevitably work less effectively, and this may also be a very logical explanation for why we are not often found in the top 100 rankings (except Hou and Polgar, of course).

Anyway, Nigel's explanation has become my all time favourite, because it deflects away from, eg, my laziness holding me back, and puts the blame firmly on these deficiencies which can be proven scientifically. So, whenever we face this sort of question, thanks to Nigel, we finally have an answer! Anyway, as my brain is smaller than the rest of the 'Evolution' team, I have to come to an end now, because I have a million other things swirling around in my head! And, by the way, this may also explain why I only do the writing, whereas the others do the annotations.

Clash of the Titans

(17) Botvinnik, Mikhail
- Kholmov, Ratmir D [D40]

Moscow-chT, 1969



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.c4 ♘f6 **2.♗c3** e6 **3.d4** ♙b4 **4.e3** O-O **5.♙d3** [Another, less popular option is 5.♗e2]

5...d5



6.a3 [6.♗f3 6...c5 (6...b6 7.O-O ♙b7 8.cxd5 exd5 9.a3 ♙d6 10.b4 ♗bd7 11.♖b3 a6 12.a4 The main task for White is to activate the dark-squared bishop after b5-Ba3 or with a plan like Bb2-Ne2-Ng3. Black should try to look for counterplay on the kingside with Qe7-Ne4.) 7.O-O ♗c6 8.a3 ♙xc3 9.bxc3 dxc4 10.♙xc4 ♖c7 with complex strategical play.]

6...♙e7 [6...♙xc3+ 7.bxc3 c5∞]

7.♗f3 dxc4 8.♙xc4 c5 Black is fighting for the center.

9.O-O ♗c6 [9...♗bd7 10.e4! cxd4 11.♗xd4 and White has a typical stable plus thanks to his space advantage and Bxe6!? can also be a threat sometimes now.; 9...a6 leads to Queen's Gambit Accepted positions.]

10.dxc5 [10.♖e2!? ; 10.d5!? 10...exd5 11.♗xd5 ♙e6 (11...♗xd5 12.♙xd5 ♖c7 13.e4 White keeps his strong bishop on d5 and Black needs play accurately to equalize.) 12.♗xf6+ (12.♗xe7+ 12...♖xe7= White needs to lose time to develop the bishop on b2, then Black can limit him after Ne4-f6.) 12...♙xf6 13.♙xe6 fxe6 14.♖c2 ♖d5 Black has the worse structure but thanks to his active pieces he should be able to equalize.]

10...♖xd1 [10...♙xc5]

11.♖xd1 ♙xc5 12.b4 ♙e7 13.♙b2 A symmetrical structure doesn't always mean equal position. Black needs to finish his development first.



13...♙d7 [13...b6 14.e4 A typical move with the idea to get more space. (14.♗b5 14...a5=) 14...♙b7 15.e5 ♗g4 16.♗b5 (16.♖d7 16...♗gxe5! and Black is fine!) 16...♖fd8 17.♗c7 (17.h3 17...♗h6 and the knight will get back into play after Nf5.) 17...♖ac8 18.♗xe6 ♖xd1+ 19.♖xd1 ♗xb4 20.♙b3 ♗d5 21.♗ed4 and White keeps the initiative.]

14.♗e4! White needs to play actively, otherwise after Rd8-Rc8 Black will solve all his problems.

14...♖fd8 [14...♘xe4 15.♖xd7 ♖ad8 (Less accurate is 15...♖fd8 16.♖xb7 ♘d6 17.♙a6!+–) 16.♖xd8 ♖xd8 17.♙b5 ♖c8 18.♖c1 a6 19.♙d3 ♘d6 20.♙f1 with a similar position as in the game.]

15.♘d6 [15.♘xf6+ 15...♙xf6 16.♙xf6 gxf6 and the doubled pawns are not a weakness here. It can only be a weakness in a pawn endgame in case White manages to bring his king to h5. Have a look at the game Cohn-Rubinstein, St Petersburg 1909.]

15...♙c8 [15...♙xd6 16.♖xd6+= and Black will have no time to limit the bishop after f6-e5.]

16.♘xc8 ♖axc8 17.♖xd8+ ♘xd8 18.♖c1 White keeps a stable advantage thanks to the bishop pair.

18...♘d7



19.♙b5! White avoids the bishops' exchange after Bf6.

19...♖xc1+ 20.♙xc1 ♘b6 21.♙f1! In an endgame the king should be an active piece.

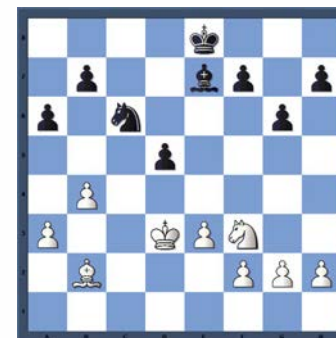
21...a6 22.♙d3 ♘c6 23.♙e4 White brings the bishop to an active diagonal.

23...g6 [23...♙f6 24.♘d2! followed by the unpleasant Nb3.]

24.♙e2 ♙f8 25.♙d3 ♙e8 26.♙b2 ♘d5 [26...♙d7!? with the idea f5. 27.♙xc6+ (27.♘e5+ 27...♘xe5+ 28.♙xe5 ♘d5 and

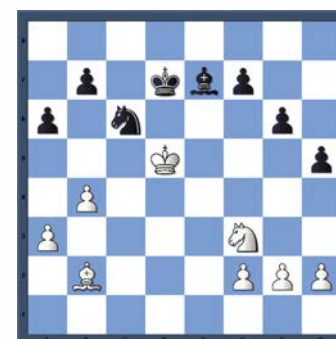
thanks to his strong knight on d5 Black easily holds the position.) 27...♙xc6 28.♘e5+ ♙b5 29.♘xf7 ♙a4! and thanks to his active king Black has counterplay.]

27.♙xd5! exd5



28.e4! It looks very strange to exchange the bishop and isolated pawn but thanks to this operation the white king will become very active.

28...dxe4+ 29.♙xe4 ♙d7 30.♙d5 h5 [30...♙d8 with the idea to get rid of the white king after Ne7.]



31.♙g7! We should know that the bishop endgame is drawish but in the other ones thanks to his active king White has good practical chances.

31...♙d8 [31...♙d6 32.♙f6!]

32. ♖f8 ♜b6 **33.** ♜c5 ♞e7+ [33... ♜d8 34. a4↑]

34. ♞c4 ♜xc5 [34... ♜c7 35. ♜xe7!? ♞xe7 36. ♞c5 with the idea to bring the knight to d5.]

35. ♞xc5 ♞c7 preventing Kb6 but now White plays



36. ♞g5! A strong move which forces Black to make weaknesses.

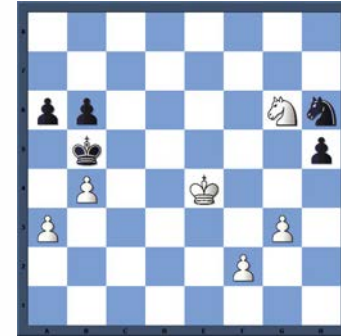
36...f6 37. ♞h7 **f5 38.** h4! fixing the good structure for White.

38...f4 [38...b6+ 39. ♞d4 ♞d6 40. ♞f8!+- and soon Black will be in zugzwang.]

39. ♞f8 **b6+ 40.** ♞d4 ♞f5+ [40...f3 This trick doesn't help Black. 41. g3 ♞f5+ 42. ♞e4 ♞xg3+ 43. ♞xf3+-]

41. ♞e4 ♞xh4 **42.** ♞e6+ ♞c6 **43.** ♞xf4 ♞b5 Black is looking for counterplay.

44. g3 **♞f5 45.** ♞xg6 ♞h6 [45... ♞d6+ 46. ♞d5 ♞e8 47. ♞e5! The same strong idea as in the game! (47. ♞f4 47... ♞a4 48. ♞xh5 ♞xa3 49. g4 a5 50. bxa5 bxa5 51. ♞c4 a4 (51... ♞b2? 52. ♞b5) 52. ♞c3 ♞c7 and Black has some chances to survive.) 47... ♞a4 48. ♞c4! b5 49. ♞a5 ♞xa3 50. ♞c6+-]



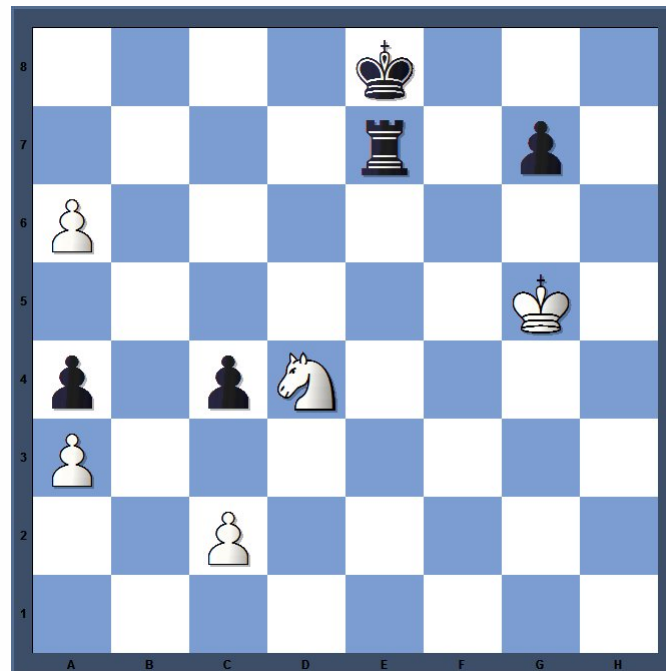
46. ♞e5! ♞a4 **47.** ♞c4 ♞b3 [47...b5 48. ♞a5 ♞xa3 49. ♞c6+- Thanks to this pawn sacrifice White prevents counterplay!]

48. ♞xb6 ♞xa3 **49.** ♞d5 ♞b3 **50.** f4 ♞c4 **51.** ♞c7 ♞xb4 **52.** ♞xa6+ with an easy win for White. 1-0

Surprise section / study

(18) Herbstmann

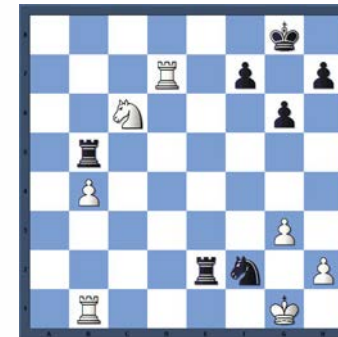
1. +-



Solutions

(19) Nakamura, H(2798)-Onischuk, A(2665)

US Championship, 2015.04.12

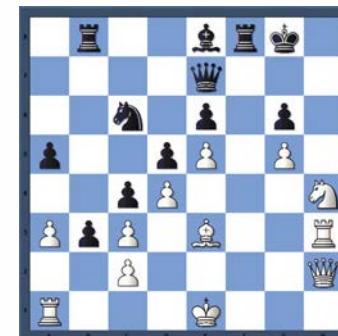


28. ♖d4! ♜h3+ **29. ♔h1** ♜f2+ [29... ♖d2 30. ♖d8+! ♔g7 31. ♜e6+! (31. ♜f5+!) 31... fxe6 32. ♖xd2+-]

30. ♔g2 ♜d1+ [30... ♖d2 31. ♖d8+ ♔g7 32. ♜e6+ fxe6 33. ♖xd2+-] **31. ♜xe2** 1-0

(20) Sevian, S(2531)-Holt, C(2530)

US Championship, 2015.04.12



27. ♔e2? [27. ♜f5!! 27... exf5 (27... ♖xf5 28. ♖h8+ ♔f7 29. ♖h7#)]

28.e6!! (28.♖h8+ 28...♔f7 29.♖h7+ ♕e6) 28...♔g7 (28...♔xe6 29.♖h8+ ♕f7 30.♖h7#) 29.♔d2!! ♖b7 (29...♘d8 30.e7 ♔xe7 31.♖h8+ ♕f7 32.♖h7+ ♕e6 33.♖e5+-) 30.♖h1+-] 27...♔g7∞

(21) Rakhmanov, A(2639)-Abhishkek, K(2343)

Dubai Open, 2015.04.07

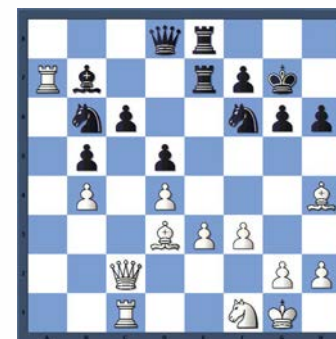


29...♘xe3! 30.fxe3 ♖xe3 31.h4 [31.♔d2 31...♖d3 32.♘f3 ♔xd2 33.♘xd2 ♔xb4 34.♖c2 ♔a4! 35.♖c1 (35.♔c1 35...♖a3+- 36.♖b2 ♖a1 37.♘b1 ♔a3+- (37...♔c4+-)) 35...♔xd1+ 36.♖xd1 ♔h5+-; 31.♔a1 31...♖d3+-]

31...♖d3 32.♔xd3 ♔xd3 —+ 0-1

(22) Fier, A(2601)-Karavade, E(2405)

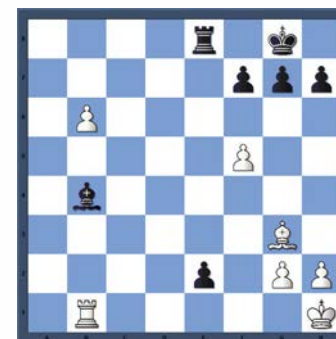
Dubai Open, 2015.04.08



29.♔xf6+! 1-0 [29.♔xf6+ 29...♔xf6 30.♖xb7! ♖xb7 31.♔xc6+ ♔g7 32.♔xb7+-]

(23) Karthikeyan, M(2504)-Ivanisevic, I(2638)

Dubai Open, 2015.04.11



36...e1=♔+! 37.♔xe1 ♔xe1! [37...♖xe1?? 38.♖xe1 ♔xe1 39.b7+-]

38.b7 ♔b4! 39.g3 [39.♖xb4 39...♖e1#]

39...♔d6—+

(24) Mammadov, Z(2470)-Volkov, S(2614)

Dubai Open, 2015.04.11



28. ♖xf5! exf5 29. ♜xh6+! gxh6 [29... ♔g8 30. ♖f6+! gxf6 31. ♜g3#]

30. ♖f6+ ♔h8 31. ♖xd7+-

(25) Safarli, E(2641)-Grandelius, N(2603)

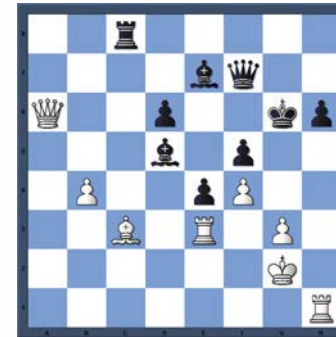
Dubai Open, 2015.04.13



49. ♜f4!! exf4 50. ♜e1! 1-0 [50. ♜e1 50... ♖xc3 51. ♜h7+ ♔f6 52. ♜e7#]

(26) Pruijsers, R(2511)-Almasi, Z(2695)

German league, 2015.04.11



48... ♜xc3! 49. ♜xc3 e3+ 50. ♔h2 ♙xh1 51. ♜xe3 [51. ♔xh1 51... ♜d5+ 52. ♔h2 ♜d2+-]

51... ♙e4+-

(27) Swiercz, D(2614)-Kraemer, M(2570)

German league, 2015.04.12



25. ♜xb6! ♜xb6 26. b4+- a5 27. bxc5 dxc5 28. ♖d5 ♙xd5 29. exd5+-

(28) Nikolic, P(2605)-Baramidze, D(2605)

German league, 2015.04.12



21.0-0! [21.♔f1? 21...♖b2 22.♕d3 ♗exe2! 23.♕xa3 ♖xf2+ 24.♔e1 ♖fe2+=]

21...♖b2 22.♕d3! ♕a5 23.♖fe1 [23.♘d1+-]

23...♕g5+ 24.♔h1 ♖d2 25.f4! ♕xf4 26.♕f3 ♕xd4 27.♘f1± [27.♖ed1!+-]

(29) Kralin

1.d7+ ♔d8 2.♖f8!! ♕xf8 3.♘g5+ ♗f6+ 4.♔e5! ♔e7 5.♔f5! c6 6.c3! c5 7.c4! ♕h8 8.d8=♕+! ♔xd8 9.♘xf6+ ♕xf6+ 10.♔xf6 ♔e8 11.e7 ♔d7 12.♔f7+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 166

1st of May 2015

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Editorial Preface

Two super events and one exceptional match came to an end.

In Shamkir Magnus Carlsen once again showed who the boss is, with an amazing score of 7/9 and a performance of almost 3000 he totally dominated this event. Anand also showed a very good result with 6/9. Caruana and So shared 3-4th place with 5/9.

Let's now come to the Team's World Championship Men: Nothing could stop the Chinese team, who are winning almost any event they are playing. With 15/18 points the Chinese superstars finished 3 points ahead of their main concurrent, the team of Ukraine. The host team of Armenia took 3rd place with 11/18. Russia showed a very disappointing result, with only 10/18. Grischuk could not even win a single game.

In the women's section Georgia scored 17/18 points - an outstanding result! 2nd place went to Russia with a very good score of 15/18 and 3rd place to the ladies from China (who were playing without Hou Yifan) with 11/18.

In the battle of the legends between Kasparov and Short in Saint Louis, it was one-way traffic. Nigel Short was crushed with a score of 8.5-1.5. Well, lately we have been reading a lot of "strange" interviews by the Englishman, but maybe "less talking, more working" should be his on his schedule now.

In the current issue we comment on games from the recent super events in combination with a lot of interesting articles and the usual weekly puzzle section. Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) Adams, Michael (2745)
- Giri, Anish (2790) [B91]

Vugar Gashimov Mem 2015(8.5),
2015.04.25



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Both Adams and Giri didn't have a great run in Shamkir and at the end of the event they managed to score "only" 3.5/9, but in the current game Adams- who is usually a very solid player- showed great attacking chess. After the opening it seemed like White's position was a bit better, but by playing a bit "too slow" Adams gave Giri excellent chances to turn the game, but Giri didn't take them and got under a very heavy attack...

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 I guess this was a little surprise for Adams, since Giri usually plays 2...e6.

3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 So we have one more Najdorf.

6.g3 This is a move that is becoming more and more fashionable.

6...e6 The main move is 6... e5.

7.♘g2 ♘e7 8.O-O O-O 9.a4 White's whole idea is to play a Sheveningen, where he usually plays Be2-Bf3-g4-Bg2, but now the bishop is already on g2 so he could be a sort of tempo up.

9...♘c6 A rather usual setup for Black.

10.♘e3 Also a usual move for White. [Of course Black should

not be afraid of 10.♘xc6 10...bxc6 11.e5 dxe5 12.♘xc6 ♖b8 and Black has excellent play.]



10...♖b8 I am not sure about this move at all. Black's idea is to take on d4 and to play b5, but it leads to a worse position. [10...♘e5 11.♖e2 ♖c7 looks more normal to me.]

11.f4 Now White is already preparing to take on c6 and play e5 at some point.

11...♖c7 A very usual move for Black.

12.♖h1 This prophylactical move is often played in Sicilian positions, but is it really needed now?! I think White's idea should be to play g4 and for that maybe the position of the white king on g1 is even better. [12.g4 didn't work because after 12...♘xd4 13.♘xd4 e5 the g4 pawn is getting lost.; In my opinion the right move was 12.♘b3 followed by g4.]

12...♘d7 13.♘b3 White is preparing the a5 move and the g4 push.

13...b6 directed against White's a5 push. [13...♘b4 14.a5 e5 15.♘b6 ♖c8 16.f5 and White is very solid in the center.; 13...b5 was also premature. 14.axb5 axb5 and White has the strong 15.♖e2! Black has huge problems to defend the b5 pawn.]

14.g4 Of course! White is starting the action on the kingside.

14...h6 A strong reply. Black can't let White play g5 followed by f5.

15.♔e2 attacking the a6 pawn and maybe preparing to play g5 sometime in the future. Now we can see that maybe playing Rb8 was not the best idea.

15...♞b4 A slightly strange move, as it is hard to understand where the black knight is going... [Why not play 15...♞a5 which is a typical move in this kind of pawn structures. 16.g5 hxg5 17.fxg5 ♞h7 18.h4 ♞c4 and I think the position is very unclear.]

16.♞d4 [I think white should have played more directly with 16.g5 16...hxg5 17.fxg5 ♞h7 18.h4 and because of the passive position of the knight on h7 I believe that White is better.]

16...♖bc8 Black is preparing to play Qc4, as the endgames are usually good for Black.



17.♖ad1?! and this move is already too slow. [It was really time for White to play 17.g5 17...hxg5 18.fxg5 ♞h7 19.h4]

17...♔c4 18.♔f3 Of course White avoids the endgame, but now Black has a sudden resource:

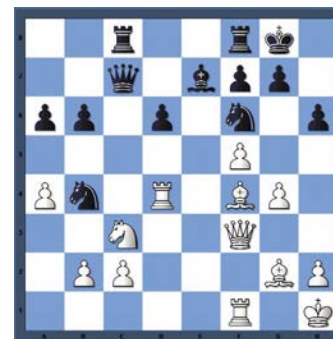
18...e5! A strong reply by Giri. A move like e5 is usually a bad move since it gives away the f5 and d5 squares, but in the current situation it is the right choice.

19.♞f5 ♞xf5 20.exf5 Freeing the bishop from g2.

20...exf4 [Taking the pawn on c2 looks very dangerous: 20...♞xc2 21.g5 and White's attack is just too strong.]

21.♖d4 [After 21.♞xf4 21...d5 the position looks very unclear to me.]

21...♔c7 22.♞xf4



22...♞xc2? A clear mistake, but even from a human point of view it is hard to see the full danger of White's attack. [Black should have tried to play for the d5 push, which is very typical. 22...♔c5 23.♖d2 d5 and the position is very unclear.]

23.♖d2 ♞b4 It seems like Black is a pawn up, but in fact it is White who rules the game.

24.h4! A great move! Black has no decent defense against g5.

24...♞h7 I guess Giri clearly underestimated Adams' next move.



25.g5! The right move since Black can't take the g5 pawn.

25...♔c4 Not a great move, but what else to do?! [In case of 25...hxc5 26.hxc5 ♘xc5 27.♔g3 ♘h7 White has a very simple win: 28.♕f3! activating both rooks and threatening to play Rg1-Rh2 with a deadly mating attack.]

26.f6 Adams is on fire! Black's position is getting destroyed.

26...gxf6 27.gxf6 A logical move but maybe not the simplest one. [White would win very easily after 27.gxh6 27...♔h8 28.♖e1! attacking the e7 bishop. 28...♖fe8 29.♖e4 ♔c5 30.♕e3 ♔a5 31.♕d4 Finishing the game on the spot! White has too many threats like Rxe7 for Black to even have a chance to save the game.]

27...♕xf6 28.♘e4 White's play is simple, he brings all the pieces to the kingside and mates the black king.

28...♕e5 There was already no way for Black to save the game.



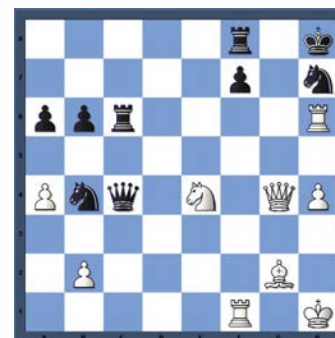
29.♖xd6! Another great move by Adams!

29...♕g7 [After 29...♕xd6 30.♘xd6 ♔c2 31.♕xh6 Black's position is also in ruins.]

30.♕xh6 It is time to collect some more material and to get rid of the lonely defender of the black king.

30...♕xh6 31.♖xh6 The game is totally over.

31...♖c6 32.♔g4+ ♔h8



33.♖xh7+ and in case of 33...Kxh7 34.Nf6 Rxf6 35.Qc4 White would be a queen up. A very nice game by Adams where Black basically lost the game in one move by not playing 22...d5! and instead being a bit greedy and going for the c2 pawn. **1-0**

(2) Kasparov, Garry (2812) - Short, Nigel D (2664) [E11]

Legends Rapid Match 2015(1),
2015.04.25



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Kasparov completely destroyed Short in an exhibition match in Saint Louis. The final score was 8.5-1.5. We examine the first game, where Kasparov was already showing huge domination, but Short could put up tenacious resistance and he survived...

1.d4 e6 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 ♙b4+ The Bogo Indian defense.

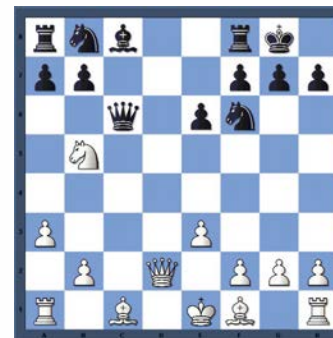
4.♗bd2 This has recently been considered to be the more ambitious answer. White would like to get the bishop pair after a3. The other main line is 4. Bd2.

4...c5 5.a3 ♙xd2+ 6.♚xd2 In the long term, White achieved a positional advantage. The two bishops might guarantee him an edge.

6...cxd4 7.♗xd4 O-O 8.e3 d5 9.cxd5 Kasparov opens the position to make his two bishops more powerful. [Another positionally principled move was played recently by GM Vitiugov: 9.b3 with the idea of developing the bishop to the long diagonal and delaying the movement of the f1 bishop to avoid losing a tempo after dxc4.]

9...♚xd5 10.♗b5 White would happily enter an endgame without queens, but Short rightly keeps them on board and keeps the pressure on the g2 pawn to make the development of the white pieces more difficult.

10...♚c6!



11.f3! A very clever move! White not only closes the pressure on the g2 pawn, but he also prevents the Ne4 tempo in some lines and prepares to push e3-e4, establishing control over the center and the active squares of the f6 knight. He will also be able to develop the c1 bishop ideally to e3 afterwards. Black quickly needs to do something to gain some counterplay.

11...a6 12.♗c3! [It was tempting to retreat the knight with tempo by playing 12.♗d4?! but after 12...♚b6 the knight has no stability on d4. Black attacks it with e5 and it will need to occupy an unfortunate square. 13.♙e2 e5 Nc6 and Rd8 are coming next with tempo.]

12...e5 13.e4 ♗bd7?! This is clearly the mistake which allows White to get an advantage. The idea would be to quickly play Nc5-b3 (and prepare it with Be6 if necessary) or in case of b4-Nb6, Be6 and the c4 square is weak. However Kasparov finds a perfect way to ignore this idea! [Black should have played 13...♙e6! and after the same plan we will see in the game... 14.♚f2 ♙b3! controlling the most valuable open file. 15.♙e2 ♚e6! The black knight should ideally develop to c6 and its final destination is on d4! 16.O-O ♗c6 17.♙e3 ♚fd8= and Black had enough counterplay against the two bishops in the game Gelfand-Andreikin, Moscow 2013.]



14. ♔f2! Kasparov does not weaken his pawn structure with b4 (which also gives up the stability of the c3 knight), but he quickly moves away on the dark squares and ignores the b3 knight.

14... ♘c5 15. ♘e3! ♘b3 16. ♖d1 Very well played! We can see now that the b3 knight is not doing that much and Black had a much better version in the 13. ..Be6 line.

16... ♘e6 17. ♘e2 White has consolidated his position and it is time to finish the development and enjoy the power of the two bishops.

17... ♖fd8 18. O-O+= ♘e8 Black would like to play Nd6-c4, but this maneuver takes some time, which allows White to create different kind of problems...

19. ♔g3! Kasparov provokes a weakness before opening a new battle front. [19.f4! immediately was also very strong. 19...exf4 20. ♔xf4 followed by Bf3 and Nd5 with very active piece play.]

19...f6 20. f4! White has the two bishops and he wants to open the position for them!

20... ♘d4 Short tries to show the drawback of having included the Qg3-f6 move. [20...exf4 21. ♔xf4 would be even better than one move before. Now not only Bf3-Nd5 is threatening,

but also e5 with a very dangerous attack.]

21. ♘h5! White does not give up his bishops and puts more and more pressure on Black's kingside.

21... ♘c4 [According to the computer, the only move to stay in the game was 21... ♔c5! threatening the h5 bishop with an x-ray and stabilizing the very important e5 square. White's advantage is undisputable anyway with the two bishops. He can take twice on e5 followed by Bg5 for instance.]



22. fxe5! Kasparov sacrificed the exchanged without thinking. He feels the domination and the dynamism so well that he knows that the compensation will be more than enough... White gets a pawn for it, all his pieces are standing perfectly, the black king is vulnerable and after the disappearance of the c4 bishop, another great piece comes to the game, as White plays Nd5!

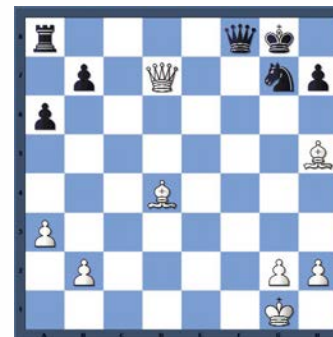
22... ♘xf1 23. ♖xf1 ♔h8 The best defense. Leaving from Nd5-e7 and the pin on the g-file which made the takeback on f6 after Bxe8 and exf6 impossible. [23...fxe5 24. ♔xe5 ♘c2 25. ♘d5+—]

24. ♘d5! A devastating attack is about to break through. Short finds the only way again to avoid immediate resignation and gives back his material advantage...

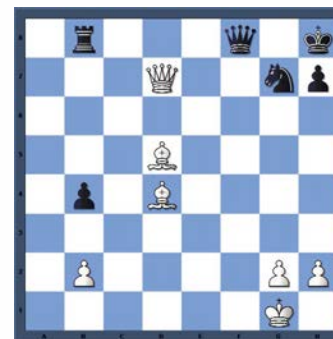
24...♖xd5! 25.exd5 ♖xd5 26.♖f2? This move looked very tempting, but some miraculous defensive resources by Short allow him to survive. [Kasparov pointed out that he should have played 26.♖h4! 26...♗e6 27.exf6 ♗xf6



28.♖xf6! gxf6 29.♖xf6+ ♗g7 (29...♗g8 30.♗f7+-) 30.♗d4! The two bishops are extremely powerful in such positions. In comparison to the game the dark squared bishop is now standing on the long diagonal from where it controls much more squares than from h6. 30...♖g8 The only move. (30...♖g8 31.♗f7+-; 30...♖d7 31.♗f7 ♖g4 32.h3 ♖g3 33.♗e5! and Black cannot save the g7 knight. 33...♖e1+ 34.♗h2+-) 31.♖e7! Black is totally dominated and in danger of getting into zugzwang. Here are some illustrative lines to feel the power of the white pieces: 31...b5 Saving the b-pawn. (31...♖c8 aiming for counterplay. 32.♗g4 32.Qxb7 is also winning. 32...♖c1+ 33.♗f2 ♖c2+ 34.♗f3+- White ran out of checks and Be6 is coming next, deflecting the queen from the g7 knight.; 31...♖f8 White obviously keeps the queens on the board. 32.♖d7 ♗g8



33.♗d1! Sending the king back to the corner after which the advance of the h-pawn will decide the game. 33...♖f7 loses to the small tactical trick 34.♗b3! ♖xb3 35.♖xg7#) 32.♗g4 ♖f8 33.♖d7 White controls all the squares of the rook since Re8 or Rd8 loses to Bxg7 and the winning plan is the following: 33...a5 34.♗e6 b4 35.♗d5 ♖b8 36.axb4 axb4



37.g4! with the idea of g5-h4-h5-h6! and if Black tries to prevent it with 37...h6 38.g5! hxg5 39.♖h3# is mate!]

26...fxe5! Cold-blooded defense. Kasparov could probably not believe to his eyes, that with such pieces and back rank problems he does not have an instant win.

27.♖f8+ [Black's point is that after 27.♗xd4 27...♗f6!! (27...exd4 28.♗f3± and Bxb7 next or Qxd4 would have been good for White.)]

27...♖g8 28.♗e7 ♘f6! The only move again to avoid Rf8.

29.♖xf6! Kasparov finds this brilliant exchange sacrifice again, but this time it does not have the same efficiency as in the 26.Qh4 line. [29.♗xe5 again runs into an intermediate move: 29...♘c6! and Black takes on h5 next with more or less equality.]

29...gxf6 30.♕h6! The game seems to be over, but Black has an only move yet again... [30.♗xf6+? 30...♗g7 is nothing.]

30...♘f5! 31.♗xf6+ ♘g7 Amazing defense by Black!

32.♗xe5 ♖c8 White's pieces are nice, but it is very difficult to make progress. Black is ready to solve the tension on g7 with Rc6. Qf8-c5 is another idea. White is not in danger to lose the game, but the win looks equally far away. Probably the right evaluation is something like dynamic balance.

33.♕f3 Preventing Rc6 but it allows Black to come out from the big squeeze with

33...♗f7! 34.h3 Opening the back rank.

34...b5 35.♕e4 [It was probably better to transfer the bishop to the long diagonal with 35.♕d2 but Black also gets his counterplay here with 35...♗e6 The trade of the queens would solve the problems forever... 36.♗d4 ♗c4 37.♗f6 ♗e6 38.♗f4 ♗c4=]

35...♖e8! Another very nice resource.

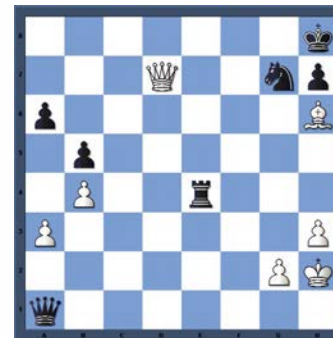
36.♗d4 [36.♕xg7+? is met by 36...♕g8! and only in the next move taking back on g7. Black would have managed to get rid of the bishop pair this way.]

36...♗e7 Further squeezing back the white pieces with Qe5!

37.b4 ♗e5 38.♗d7! White still cannot trade queens, but his compensation is only enough for equality.

38...♗a1+ [38...♖e7 39.♗c8+ ♖e8 also forces the draw.]

39.♕h2 ♖xe4 It is already White who must save the game and he did it by playing [39...♗e5+ also with a draw.]



40.♕xg7+! ♗xg7 41.♗d8+ ♗g8 42.♗f6+ ♗g7 43.♗d8+ ♗g8 Black cannot avoid perpetual check. Draw agreed. An excellent fighting game! **1/2-1/2**

The K-Files. Blumenfeld Gambit - part 3



GM Alexander Khalifman
FIDE World Chess Champion (1999)
Best rating: 2702

(3) Blumenfeld Gambit - part 3 [E10]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 c5 4.d5 b5!? 5.dxe6 fxe6 6.cxb5
Seems like it's the right time to look at Black's alternatives on move 6.

6...d5 [6...a6!? Benko Gambit - style. As we could see in the previous parts this move is an important resource for Black in different kind of Blumenfeld lines. 7.e3! White doesn't want to exchange this pawns on a6 thus helping the opponent to develop pieces. 7...♙e7 (

a) 7...d5 8.b3 ♙d6 - 6...d5;

b) 7...axb5 8.♙xb5 ♙a5+ Very direct reaction. Black tries to use the hanging bishop on b5 to win back the pawn or at least to spoil White's structure. It doesn't work, however. 9.♘c3 ♙a6 (9...♘d5 Bastos - Encarnacao, Portugal 1992 10.♙b1! It's also typical for various gambits. White doesn't mind to give back the pawn as the opponent will waste time for it and then the lead in development might become the most important factor. 10...♘xc3 11.bxc3 ♙xa2 (11...♙xc3+ 12.♘d2±) 12.♙b2 ♙e7 13.c4! O-O 14.♙a1±) 10.♙xa6 (10.♙b3!?

deserves attention as well (Andre - Reizniece, Germany 2006)) 10...♙xa6 Panjwani - Molner, Los Angeles 2011 11.a4 d5 12.e4! Typical and strong 12...dxe4 13.♘b5 ♙c8 14.♘g5±)

8.♘bd2! ♙b7 9.b3 O-O 10.♙b2 ♙e8 11.a4 ♙g6 (Volke - Firman, Germany 2007) This manoeuvre looks tempting but White has a strong answer 12.♙e2! ♙xg2 13.♙g1 ♙h3 14.♙c1 and Black has serious development problems which makes White's attack very dangerous 14...d5? 15.♘g5 ♙f5 16.♘df3+-; 6...♙b7 7.e3 ♙e7 (7...d5 - 6...d5) 8.♘bd2 White is not in hurry to develop his kingside bishop as after the possible a7-a6xb5, he will be able to capture directly from f1 without losing an important tempo. 8...O-O (8...d5 9.b3! It's very important to control e5 square with the bishop on b2. Another point is preventing c5-c4. 9...♙d6 10.♙b2 ♘bd7 - 6...d5) 9.b3! is possibly even stronger (9.♙c2 9...a6 10.b3 axb5 11.♙xb5 ♘a6?! (11...♙b6 might be slightly preferable as it disturbs White's development. However, after 12.a4 ♙a6 13.♙d3 ♘c6 14.♙a3 the compensation doesn't seem to be enough.) 12.O-O ♘b4 13.♙b1 ♙a5 14.♙e2 ♙a8 15.a3! ♘e4 16.♙b2! and the following forced sequence favours White 16...♘xd2 17.♘xd2 ♙xg2 18.axb4 ♙xf1 19.♘xf1 ♙xa1 20.♙xa1! cxb4 21.♘g3 ♙f6 22.♙xf6 ♙xf6 23.♙d3 White's advantage is close to be decisive (Karpov - Rogers, Cap d'Agde rapid 1998)) 9...♘d5 the only way to exploit White's move order 10.♙b2 ♙f6 11.♙c2 a6 (11...♘b4 12.♙b1±) 12.a3 axb5 13.♙xb5 ♙a5 14.♙d3 ♙xb2 15.♙xb2 ♙a6 16.♘e5 d6 17.♘c4± and once again it's totally unclear where is Black's compensation. These lines prove that all tricks without d7-d5 might be refuted rather easily. So at some point d7-d5 is still necessary to play.]

7.e3 For a long time after the classical game Tarrasch - Alekhine, this move was considered to be secondary. However, White has made his mistakes in the later stage of

the game and 7.e3 in my opinion is White's most promising (or at least one of those) reaction to the Blumenfeld Gambit. However it must be connected with the proper setup (actually Be2 b3 Bb2 O-O Nbd2). If White succeeds do this and Black at the same time couldn't create something substantial then White's chances will be clearly better. Of course, the correct move orders are quite important as we will see.



7...♙d6 [7...♙e7!? an interesting idea. Black's counterplay must be connected to e6-e5 first of all and he plans to support it by playing Qd6. However White has enough resources to meet this plan. 8.b3! Important prophylactical move. Delaying the kingside development might seem risky but it has solid positional basis in this situation. 8...♖d6 9.♙b2 ♗bd7 10.♗bd2 ♙b7 11.♖c2 O-O 12.♙e2 (12.♖d1 is conceptual but not the only way for advantage 12...a6 13.a4! still fighting for a tempo 13...axb5 14.♙xb5 ♙a6 15.♗c4 ♖b8 16.♙xa6 ♖xa6 17.♗cd2±) 12...e5 (12...a6 13.O-O axb5 14.♙xb5 ♙a6 15.a4 ♙xb5 16.axb5 ♖b6 17.♖d3 ♖fb8 18.♖xa8 ♖xa8 19.e4 and White is better) 13.♖f5! An important resource (The typical 13.e4 is not universal as we can see 13...♗xe4 14.♗xe4 dxe4 15.♖d1 ♖c7∞ Rudolph - Migl, Germany 2006; 13.♖d1!?) 13...♗e4 (13...♙d8 14.♗xe5 ♙a5 15.O-O-O±) 14.♖h3 ♗xd2 15.♗xd2±; 7...♙b7 In most of the cases it transposes to the main line, but gives White some additional resources 8.b3! The best move order. (

a) 8.♗g5 Trying to use Black's move order 8...♙d6! N This is very strong response. Black sacrifices another pawn but all his pieces become extremely active. (

a1) 8...♖d6 9.♖f3! Strong manoeuvre. The pressure on e6 is increasing. 9...h6 10.♖h3 e5 11.♙e2 ♗bd7 12.♖e6+ ♖xe6 13.♗xe6+=;

a2) 8...♖d7 it stops Qd1-f3-h3 but still rather slow 9.♙e2 (9.♖f3 9...e5∞) 9...♙d6 10.f4!? O-O 11.O-O ♖e7 12.♗c3 ♗bd7 13.e4 h6 14.e5 hxg5 15.exd6 ♖xd6 16.fxg5+=)

9.♗xe6 ♖e7 10.♗g5 O-O 11.♙e2 ♗bd7 12.O-O ♖ad8∞;

b) 8.♗bd2 8...c4!∞ Another important and typical reaction. As b2-b3 is now successfully met by c4-c3 White's pieces look rather uncomfortable. This is the reason for White to reach his dream setup, first playing b2-b3 and only then developing the knight.)

8...♙d6 9.♗bd2 White must be ready to meet e6-e5 with e3-e4 9...O-O 10.♙e2 a6 - 7...Bd6; 7...a6 8.b3 ♙d6 - 7...Bd6]

8.♙e2 At least the most solid way to play. Delaying the kingside development is not fitting to everybody's taste. [8.♗c3?! Of course, it's at least impolite to criticize the great Dr.Tarrasch but in fact this natural move is just a positional mistake. White's main idea is to meet e6-e5 with e3-e4 but with the knight on c3 it usually runs into d5-d4 and leads to undesirable results. 8...♗bd7 9.♙e2 (9.♙d3 9...♙b7 10.e4 (10.♖e2 10...e5↑ and the initiative is on Black's side (Devereaux - Lalic, Swansea 2006)) 10...d4↗ Ligterink - van der Wiel, Hilversum 1985) 9...♖e7 10.O-O O-O 11.b3 ♙b7 and suddenly there is nothing to be done against the following e6-e5-e4. Black is already at least not worse. 12.♙b2 ♖ad8 following the classical masterpiece (12...e5 is already possible 13.♗h4 (13.e4 13...d4± Rosa - Carrascoso, Spain 2003) 13...g6 14.g3 e4

(14...♖ad8) 15.♗g2 g5! 13.♖c2 e5 14.♗fe1 (14.e4 14...d4 That's the big difference with knight on d2) 14...e4 15.♗d2 ♗e5→



Gambit player's dream. All black pieces are active, pawn center is dynamic. All he needs to do is just to prepare the decisive attack. (Tarrasch - Alekhine, Bad Pistyan 1922); 8.♗bd2 As already mentioned this is quite premature because of c5-c4. Another point is that in some lines a7-a6 is stronger now. 8...O-O (8...a6 9.b3 ♗d7?! rather artificial. The bishop simply doesn't belong here. 10.bxa6 ♗xa6 11.♗b2 O-O 12.a3 ♖e7 13.♗e5 ♗b8 14.♗c4! ♗xe5 15.♗cxe5 ♗c6 16.♗d3+=; 8...c4!?) 9.♗e2 (9.b3 (Graf,F - Brustkern, Budapest 2006) runs into 9...e5! 10.e4 ♖a5∞ 11.exd5 e4 12.b4 ♖xb4 13.♖b1 ♖a5→) 9...a6 10.b3 (10.bxa6 10...♗xa6! ∞ 11.O-O ♗b4 12.a3 Tolk - van der Lijn, Netherlands 1993 12...c4!+= Once again! It works perfectly here.) 10...axb5 11.♗xb5 e5! ∞12.e4 c4→; 8.b3!? This is another interesting attempt to build the perfect setup. 8...a6 (8...O-O 9.♗e2 - 8.Be2; 8...e5 9.e4!+=) 9.♗b2 O-O 10.♗bd2!? (10.♗e2 - 8.Be2) 10...♗bd7 Gruenberg - Knaak, Plauen 1980 11.♗e2 Better later than never! (

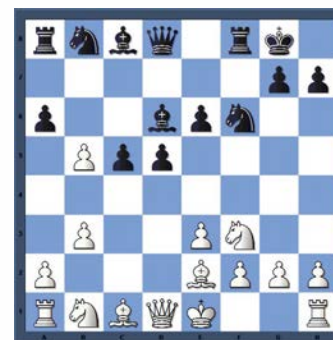
a) 11.a4 This is already too much. 11...e5! (11...♖e7 12.♗e2! (12.bxa6?! 12...e5! 13.e4 c4!∞with good compensation) 12...e5 (12...axb5 only helps White 13.♗xb5+= once again the compensation is very doubtful) 13.e4 c4 14.O-O±) 12.e4 c4!

Very direct and strong. Suddenly White is in real danger. 13.♗e2 (13.♖c2? 13...axb5±; 13.bxc4? 13...dxe4 14.♗g5 ♗b4 shows clearly why the kingside development delay can't be the universal way 15.♗e2 e3! 16.fxe3 ♗g4!-+) 13...♗b4! threatening c4-c3 14.♖c2 (14.♗c1?! 14...dxe4 15.♗xc4+ ♖h8 16.♗g5 ♗c5 17.♗c3 ♗d5! 18.♖h5 ♗f5-+ and Black's threats are much more stronger.) 14...♗b7!↑ and it's White who has to play accurately;

b) 11.bxa6 11...e5 (11...♗xa6 natural but wrong. Now White has time to complete the development. 12.♗xa6 ♖xa6 13.O-O+=) 12.e4 c4! 13.♗e2 (13.exd5 13...e4 14.♗g5 e3! 15.fxe3 ♖e7∞White has a lot of extra pawns, but will they help him?!) 13...♖a5! 14.exd5 c3 15.♗c4 cxb2+ 16.♗xa5 bxa1=♖ 17.♖xa1 ♗b4+ 18.♗d2 ♗xa5∞ and Black has good resources in this crazy position.)

11...axb5 (11...e5 12.e4! c4 now it doesn't work properly. White is just in time to evacuate his king to the safe place. 13.O-O!±) 12.♗xb5 ♖a5 13.a4 ♗a6 14.♗xf6 ♗xf6 15.♗xa6 ♖xa6 16.♖e2+= Black has realistic drawish chances in the resulting endgame but surely not more.]

8...O-O 9.O-O [9.b3 One more ambitious try to reach the perfect setup avoiding the critical line 9.O-O Bb7 10. Nbd2 c4!? 9...a6!? N



This move might be the critical test for White's move order. (

a) 9...e5 Papathanasiou - Bazhenova, Herceg Novi 2006
10.e4! d4 11.O-O! and the pawn on e4 is indirectly protected
11...dxe4? 12.xc4+ h8 13.d5+-;

b) 9...bd7 10.O-O! Until the black bishop has not reached
the b7 square, White doesn't need to play Nbd2 to stop e6-e5.
(10.dbd2 is also possible) 10...e5 11.e4!±;

c) 9...b7 10.dbd2 a6! Of course, this move is much more
promising when Black's knight is still on b8 as bxa6 can be met
by Nb8xa6-b4. 11.O-O (11.bxa6 11...dxa6);

d) 9...e4 10.b2 Cherednichenko - Brustkern, Budapest
2007 10...a6 11.O-O (11.bxa6 is rather inaccurate due to
11...a5+ 12.dbd2 c4 13.O-O! (13.bxc4? 13...xf3!±) 13...c3
14.dxe4 cxb2 15.dxd6 bxa1= 16.a1xa6∞)

11...axb5 12.xb5 a6 13.xa6 xa6 14.a3! e7 15.dbd2
xd2 16.dxd2 db8 17.f4 dc6 18.c2+=) 10.b2 axb5 11.xb5
a5+ 12.c3 de4 13.c2 d4 leads to a long and forced line
with extremely unclear consequences. (13...xc3 14.cxc3+=)
14.exd4 xf3! 15.gxf3 xc3 (15...cxd4 16.fxe4 dxc3 17.O-O a6
18.cxc3 cxc3 19.xc3 xb5 20.f1+= and connected passers
must promise White somewhat better chances.) 16.cxc3
xb5 17.dxc5 f8 18.g1 a7∞ White is doing fine materially,
but Black has serious dynamic resources.]

9...b7 [9...a6 10.d3 This is a kind of exception. After
a7-a6 the knight on c3 is OK because in many lines it has
the important square b5. 10...b7 11.a4 lasman - Turov,
Rethymnon 2010 11...bd7 12.bxa6 xa6 13.xa6 xa6
14.b3+= Black doesn't have enough for a pawn. White's
structure is healthy and the only weakness (b3) is difficult to
attack. 14...a8 15.db5 b8 16.d2 Despite the positional
transformation the basic idea (to meet e5 with e4) is still

valid. 16...e5 (16...e5 17.e4!) 17.b1 b8 18.f4 c7 19.b2±;
9...bd7 10.dbd2 b7 - 9...Bb7]

10.dbd2 [10.b3 It's just wrong here. Black can play e6-e5 and
White doesn't have e3-e4. 10...e5! 11.b2 bd7 12.dbd2 e4
13.h4 Marovic - Bobotsov, Belgrade 1961 13...g6 14.g3 e7;
10.d3?! Nothing has changed compared to the notes above.
The knight is just misplaced here. 10...bd7 11.dg5 (11.b3
11...e7 - 8.Nc3) 11...e7 Incutto - Torres, Buenos Aires 1962
12.a4 ad8 13.a5 c4 14.f4 dc5]

10...c4!? N



An interesting new move. White has managed to castle, but he
didn't have time to reach the perfect setup. The alternatives
allowed White to play b3 and Bb2 with clearly better chances.
[10...bd7 11.b3 e7 (11...e8 12.b2 e5 13.e4 dxe4 14.h4!
(14.dg5 14...g6 only justifies Qd8-e8) 14...c7 15.c1 d8
16.b4!± and the Black centre is destroyed (Karpov - Lobron,
Walldorf rapid 1997)) 12.b2 ad8 (

a) 12...a6 - 10...a6;

b) 12...e5 13.e4! dxe4 14.e1 e3 (14...ad8 15.d2) 15.fxe3
e4 16.d4 c7 17.g3 ad8 18.c2 d5 Lindgren - Holving,
Stockholm 2011 19.f1± Black fails to create any threats;

c) 12...h8 13.c2 e5 14.e4 dxe4 15.dxe4 dxe4 16.d2!

(16.♖e1 16...♗f6 17.g3 ♘d5∞Zhu Chen - Pogonina, Krasnoturinsk 2007) 16...e3 17.fxe3±)

13.♞c2 e5 14.e4! ♘xe4 (14...dxe4 15.♘g5±) 15.♘xe4 dxe4 16.♘d2 e3 17.fxe3 ♞g5 18.♙c4+ ♖h8 19.e4 ♞e3+ 20.♖h1 ♜xf1+ 21.♜xf1 ♗f6 22.♞c3 ♞h6 23.♗f3 ♙xe4 (Fedoseev - Zeller, Marianske Lazne 2011) Black has managed to win back the gambit pawn, but his weaknesses must tell after 24.♙c1! ♞h5 25.♘g5 ♙g6 26.♞e1 preventing any counterplay 26...e4 27.h3±; 10...e5 11.e4!±; 10...a6 11.b3 ♘bd7 (

a) 11...♞e7 Schulze - Landa, Senden 2011 12.♙b2 axb5 13.♙xb5 ♘c6 (13...e5 is as usual met by 14.e4! d4 (14...dxe4 15.♘c4! ♜d8 (15...exf3 16.♞xd6+-) 16.♗fd2±) 15.♞e2 Black's centre is successfully blocked. It's hard for him to create any counterplay.) 14.♙xc6 ♙xc6 15.♙e5 In general in gambits exchanges are favorable to the side which has the material advantage. 15...♞c7 16.♙xd6 ♞xd6 17.♞c2+= It is not so easy to convert the extra pawn, but it doesn't make Black's position really attractive. 17...e5?! 18.♜fc1! ♘d7 19.e4±;

b) 11...axb5 12.♙xb5 e5 13.e4! dxe4 14.♘g5+-)

12.♙b2 ♞e7 13.a4 This is a typical position for the whole system. If Black doesn't try to exploit the drawbacks of this or that in White's move order, but just plays natural moves allowing White to reach the perfect setup, his counterplay will be stopped and a pawn is a pawn after all, (13.bxa6!? 13...♙xa6 14.♙xa6 ♜xa6 15.e4!± (15.a4 is not bad either)) 13...♙c7 (

a) 13...axb5 14.♙xb5 ♜ad8 (14...e5 15.e4±) 15.a5 e5 16.a6 ♙a8 17.e4+- d4 (17...dxe4 18.♘g5+-) 18.♞e2+-;

b) 13...e5 14.e4 (14.bxa6!? 14...♙xa6 15.♙xa6 ♜xa6 16.e4 d4 17.♗e1±) 14.♞c2±)

11.♘b1!? Looks artificial but White has to prepare b2-b3. [11.♘d4 looks active but in fact it only helps the opponent to

bring his pieces to the best squares. 11...♞e7 12.♘b1 ♘bd7 13.♘c3 ♘c5= 14.f4 is probably the best way to stop the direct assault, but now Black gets long-term compensation after (14.b3 14...♗fe4 and Black's attack becomes very dangerous as the following lines prove 15.♘xe4 ♘xe4 16.♙g4 (16.bxc4?? is brilliantly refuted by 16...♙xh2+! 17.♖xh2 ♘xf2 18.♜xf2 ♞h4+ 19.♖g1 ♞xf2+ 20.♖h1 dxc4 21.♗f3 ♙xf3 22.♙xf3 ♜ad8 23.♞g1 ♜xf3! 24.gxf3 ♞xf3+ 25.♖h2 ♜d5+-) 16...♜xf2 17.♙xe6+ ♖h8 18.♜xf2 ♙xh2+ 19.♖f1 (19.♖xh2 19...♞h4+ 20.♖g1 ♞xf2+=) 19...♘xf2 20.♖xf2 ♜f8+ 21.♖e2 ♙g3 22.bxc4 dxc4 23.♙xc4 ♙e4 24.♗f3 ♞f6 25.♙d2 ♞h4 26.♗xh4 ♜f2+ 27.♖e1 ♜f8+=) 14...♖h8 15.b3 ♗fe4 16.♘xe4 ♘xe4= 17.♙g4 trying to stop e6-e5 but anyway... (17.bxc4 17...e5→) 17...e5 18.♗f5 ♜xf5 19.♙xf5 exf4 20.exf4 ♜e8=]

11...♞c7!? Black, however, has to fight against b2-b3 somehow. [11...♘bd7 12.b3! cxb3 13.axb3 ♞e7 (13...e5 14.♙a3!) 14.♙a3! exchanging the most dangerous piece 14...e5 15.♙xd6 ♞xd6 16.♘bd2± There is no compensation at all.; 11...♗e4 It also stops b2-b3 but this version of knight exchange is favourable for White. 12.♘c3 ♘xc3 13.bxc3 ♘d7 14.a4 ♗f6 15.♘d4 ♞e7 16.♙f3 g6 17.a5! and White has a certain advantage in all cases 17...a6 (17...e5 18.a6 exd4 19.axb7 ♞xb7 20.♜a6±; 17...♜ab8 18.a6 ♙a8 19.e4 dxe4 20.♙g4 ♙d5 21.♙e3+=) 18.b6 e5 19.♗c2 e4 20.♙e2 ♞e5 21.g3 ♞xc3 22.♙a3 ♙xa3 23.♜xa3+=; 11...e5 is not so dangerous anymore because after e5-e4 the knight has an excellent square on d4 12.b3±]

12.♘c3 [12.b3 is a bit too provocative 12...c3 13.♞c2 ♗e4 14.a4 ♘d7 15.a5 ♜ac8 16.b6 axb6 17.a6 ♙a8=]

12...♘bd7 13.h3 ♜ac8 [13...e5 14.b3 cxb3 15.♞xb3 ♜ac8 16.♙b2 ♘c5 17.♞d1+=]

14.b3! The best reaction. White gives back the extra pawn, but grabs the initiative.

14...cxb3 15.♗b2 bxa2 16.♖xa2 ♔b6 17.♔a1 ♗b8+= This complicated position is preferable for White as his pieces are more active and Black has some sensitive weakness, although it requires practical testing, of course.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS The Blumenfeld Gambit Accepted is quite playable for Black. Even if I wouldn't dare to call it 100% correct mathematically, it leads to original unbalanced positions and even if White plays the best moves his advantage is far from obvious. Most probably it's not recommended to use as the one and only opening against 1.d4 but as a surprise weapon it might serve you well. The important note: if you would go for it, please remember that this article is not enough. You also have to know what will you do if White doesn't accept the gambit. From White's point of view it's also quite good, because there are still some lines which promise certain advantage. Please pay your attention first of all to 7.e3 and 7.Nc3 (with the idea 7... Nbd7 8.e4 d4 9.Na4!?)

David vs. Goliath



Peter Zhdanov

Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this entertaining column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

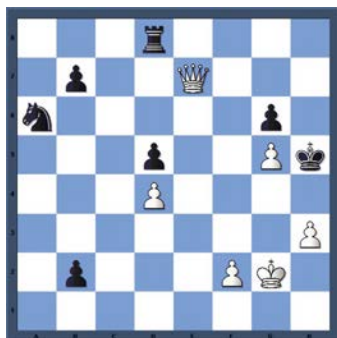
The previous week brought us 19 upsets. Life is getting better again for the Davids!

The number of moves ranges from 19 in Hadjikyriakou (1805) - Fernandez Lopez (2133), 1-0 to 81 in Jouault (1910) - IM Berend (2349), 1-0.



Keep an eye on the 12-year old WFM Turmunkh Munkhzul (1550) from Mongolia. She defeated opponents rated 1934, 1986, 2067 and 2155 in one tournament. Girl power! The good news is that thanks to the K=40 coefficient she should probably quickly obtain an adequate rating. These four games constitute a +147.2 rating points gain.

The winner of the "fatality" nomination is Bramson (1822). He finished off Shaw (2160) in style:



This position is not good enough for a "mate in 3" puzzle, because Qg7 is another solution. The game proceeded 42.f4 b1Q 43.Qh7X. Kudos to Black for allowing this checkmate on board.

Top-10:

Soyolmaa (2067) - Amina (1438), 0-1, [629](#) points
 Munkhzul (1550) - Lkhamsuren (2155), 1-0, [605](#) points
 Munkhzul (1550) - Soyolmaa (2067), 1-0, [517](#) points
 Amina (1438) - Uuriintuya (1934), 1-0, [496](#) points
 Nielsen (2373) - Jouault (1910), 0-1, [463](#) points
 Jouault (1910) - Berend (2349), 1-0, [439](#) points
 Munkhzul (1550) - Sarantungalag (1986), 1-0, [436](#) points
 Ohanov (1879) - Rouffignac (2278), 1-0, [399](#) points

Munkhzul (1550) - Uuriintuya (1934), 1-0, [384](#) points
 Frantz (1920) - Mirimanian (2274), 1-0, [354](#) points

Average gap: 472; White won 8 games, Black won 2 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) is welcomed.

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot
Best rating: 2749

(4) Wei, Yi (2703)

- Rodshtein, Maxim (2667) [C48]

10th World Teams 2015(6.4),
2015.04.25

Second column, second game of the Chinese GM Wei Yi! He played a very interesting game to give an important 2,5-1.5 victory for his team against Israel.

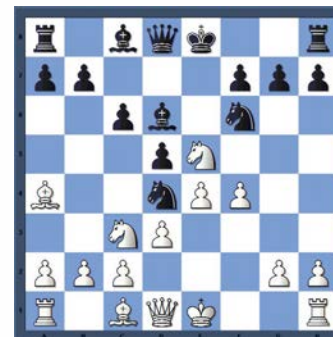
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♗f6 4.♘c3 ♘d4 [4...♙b4 was his opponent's choice in last week's game. Anand said that Wei Yi-Melkumyan inspired him for his opening against Mamedyarov in the Shamkir Gashimov memorial.]

5.♙a4 c6 On impulse of Giri, and now Rodshtein, this move might soon become very popular. [5...♙c5 is Black's long-time favourite move.]

6.♗xe5 [6.d3 6...a5!? A funny move that seems strong for Black. 7.♗xe5 d6 8.♗f3 ♗xf3+ 9.♙xf3 ♙g4 10.♙g3 b5 11.♗xb5 cxb5 12.♙xb5+ ♙d7 13.♙c4 ♗h5 14.♙f3 ♗f6 15.♙g3 ♗h5 with a draw in Vallejo-Giri 2013.]

6...d5 7.d3 [7.exd5 7...♙d6 8.dxc6 O-O Black has great compensation.]

7...♙d6 8.f4



8...♙c5 The bishop moves again but now White can't castle easily. This seemingly strong idea was only used twice in older games.

9.exd5 O-O [9...♗xd5 10.♗e4 ♙h4+ is an additional option.]

10.dxc6 This might look greedy but White needs to take some material to compensate his poor king position.

10...bxc6 11.h3 Losing a tempo for development but controlling the important g4 square. I suspect White's unusual play was part of his opening preparation.

11...♖e8



12.♙d2! A very funny move and the best defense.

12...♗d7 The strong knight should be taken off the board.

13.♔d1 The king somehow finds a safe place. Of course all problems are not solved and now White should find a way to take out his queenside pieces.

13...♟xe5 14.fxe5 ♖xe5 15.♞e1 ♜xe1+ [15...♞e7 looks more natural but 16.♞xe5 ♞xe5 17.♞g5! ♟f5 18.♟f4 ♞e6 19.♟b3 ♟xb3 20.axb3 ♞e8 21.♟d2 followed by Kc1-b1 might be better for White.]

16.♞xe1 ♟f5 17.♞e5 [17.♟e4 17...♟f8=Unnatural and strong. (17...♟b6 18.c3! ♟e6 19.♟c2! White consolidates.) 18.c3?! ♞a5! =+ 19.b3 ♟e6 20.♟xc6 ♜d8+]]



17...♞f8 Black had a much stronger move which only leads to a draw. It is incredible but White's crazy opening is safe! [17...♟b6 18.♟xc6 If it wasn't for this move then Black would simply continue with Qd7 and Re8, with a great attack. 18...♟c7 19.♞c5 (19.♞d5? 19...♞f6 20.♟xa8 ♟g4+ 21.hxg4 ♞f1+ 22.♟d2 ♟f4# would be a dream finish for Black!) 19...♟b6 20.♞d5 (20.♞e5 20...♟c7=) 20...♞f6! This strong idea was probably missed by Rodshtein when he played his 17th move. 21.♟xa8 ♟g4+ 22.hxg4 ♞f1+ 23.♟d2 ♞f2+ 24.♟d1 ♞f1+=]

18.♟xc6! += ♟xc6 19.♞xf5 ♟d4 20.♞f4 [20.♞f1 seems far safer to me.]

20...♞e8 21.♟d2? A logical move, but based on a miscalculation. [21.♟e4 maintains White's clear advantage.]

21...♞e7 Now the evaluation is very unclear, since Black's pieces are working well together.

22.♞g5 [22.♟e4? was Wei Yi's first intention in my opinion but after 22...f5! 23.♟xc5 ♞e2+! 24.♟c1 ♞xg2—+ White can't defend against the fork and back rank mate threats.]

22...♞b7 23.b4 A good try to get out. From here there are many inaccuracies in the game but the players were probably short on time after this opening!

23...♟b6 [23...♟xb4 Taking back some material is also nice.]

24.♞d5 ♞c7



25.♟c1 [25.a4! A great computer move to disturb the bishop's good square on b6. 25...♞d8 26.♞c4 ♞h2 27.♟c1 ♞h1+ 28.♟b2 ♞xg2 29.♟e4+= It's funny that we get the game's position with the useful tempo a4 up for White!]

25...♞d8 [25...♞c8! with the idea Ne2 is strong and leads to an unclear position.]

26.♞c4 ♞g3 27.♟b2 [27.a4! was still a strong move.]

27...♞xg2 28.♟e4 ♞xh3 [28...♟f3 29.♟c3 ♟d4! 30.♞c1 ♞xh3 leads to a wild middlegame.]

29. ♖xf7+ ♔xf7 30. ♘g5+



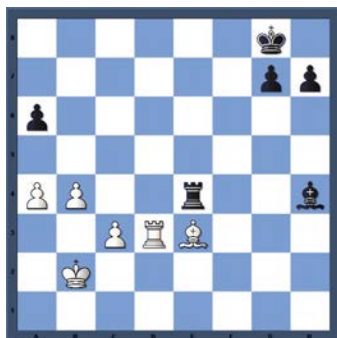
30... ♔g8? [30... ♔g6 is much more natural.]

31. ♘h3 ♘f3 32. ♕f4 ♕d4+? Now White regroups. [32...h6 with the idea g5 was essential.]

33. c3 ♕f6 34. ♘f2 ♕h4? Too many moves by pieces when the passed pawn should have been pushed forward.

35. ♕e3 ♖e8 36. ♘e4 ♘e1 37. ♖d1 a6 38. a4 ♘xd3+ Black takes back material but he is clearly down in the race.

39. ♖xd3 ♖xe4



40. b5 Not the best way to push. [40. ♔b3 40...h5 41. c4 ♕g3 42. b5 axb5 43. cxb5 is an easy win, for example: 43...h4 44. ♕c5 ♖g4 45. a5 h3 46. a6 h2 47. ♖d1]

40... axb5 [40... ♖xa4 41. b6+—]

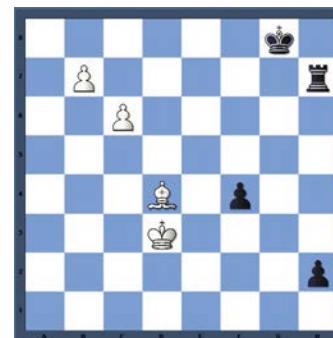
41. axb5 h5 42. ♕d4 ♕g5 43. b6 ♕f4 44. ♖f3 [44. ♖h3 slowing down Black's pawns was the last winning possibility.]

44... g5 After four strange moves the endgame is now unclear.

45. ♔c2 h4 An alternative idea was to bring the king to the queenside. [45... ♖e8 46. ♔d3 ♔f7 Black seems fine and the rook endgame after 47. ♕e3 ♔e6 48. ♕xf4 gxf4 49. ♖xf4 ♔d5 is drawish.]

46. ♔d3 ♖e7! 47. c4 ♖h7 A perfect place for the rook, as it stops White's pawn and helps the h-pawn advance.

48. c5 h3 49. ♖xf4!? gxf4 50. c6 h2 51. b7



51... ♖h3+? A bad luck mistake. Now White has a miraculous win because his king finds a safe place. [51...h1=♖ 52. b8=♖+ ♔f7 53. ♖xf4+ ♔e8 54. ♖b8+ ♔f7 was the most obvious draw.; 51... ♖xb7 is also a draw but it is more complicated to be sure about it over the board. 52. cxb7 h1=♖ 53. b8=♖+ ♔f7 54. ♖c7+ ♔e8 55. ♖c8+ ♔e7! 56. ♕c5+ ♔f6 57. ♖f8+ ♔e6 58. ♖e8+ ♔f5 59. ♖f7+ ♔e5 60. ♕d4+ ♔d6]

52. ♔c4 h1=♖ 53. b8=♖++— The win is not so easy to achieve but Wei Yi displays flawless technique.

53... ♔h7 54. ♖h8+ ♔g6 55. ♖f6+ ♔h5 56. ♖f5+ ♔h6 57. ♖f6+ ♔h5 58. ♖f5+ ♔h6 59. ♖xf4+ ♔g6 60. ♖f6+ ♔h5 61. ♖f5+ ♔h6 62. ♖f4+ ♔g6 63. ♖g4+ ♔h6 64. ♖e6+ ♔h5

65.♖f5+ ♔h6 66.♖f6+ ♔h5 67.c7 ♖c1+ 68.♙c3! ♖h4+ [68...♖xc3+ leads to an easy queens endgame. 69.♖xc3 ♖f1+ 70.♔b4 ♖f4+ 71.♔b3 ♖f7+ 72.♖c4 ♖f3+ 73.♔b4 ♖f8+ 74.♖c5+ Check!]

69.♔d5 ♖d1+ 70.♔c5 ♖g1+ 71.♔b5 ♖b1+ 72.♔c5 ♖g1+ 73.♙d4! ♖c1+ 74.♔b6 ♖b1+ 75.♔a7 ♖a2+ 76.♖a6 ♖f7 77.♖b5+ ♔g6 78.♖b6+ ♔f5 79.♔b8 1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Carlsen, M (2863)-Vachier Lagrave, M(2765)

Gashimov memorial, 2015.04.21

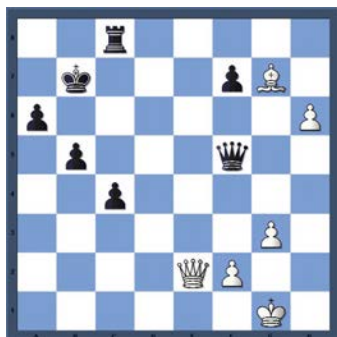
1. +-



(6) Gelfand, B(2747)-Ponomarev, R(2713)

World Teams, 2015.04.22

1. =



(7) Moiseenko, A(2693)-Postny, E(2645)

World Teams, 2015.04.22

1. +-



(8) Yu Yangyi(2724)-Sargissian, G(2668)

World Teams, 2015.04.22

1. +-



(9) Ivanchuk, V(2731)-Yu Yangyi(2724)

World Teams, 2015.04.26

1. +-



(10) Short, N(2664)-Kasparov, G(2812)

Battle of the Legends (blitz), 2015.04.26

1... -+



(11) Kasparov, G(2812)-Short, N(2664)

Battle of the Legends (blitz), 2015.04.26

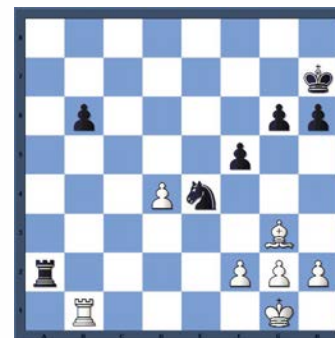
1. +-



(12) Ushenina, A(2486)-Padmini, R(2454)

World Teams Woman, 2015.04.21

1... -+



(13) Gunina, V(2528)-Abdumalik, Z(2369)

World Teams Woman, 2015.04.26

1. +-



(14) Bukavshin, I(2618)-Eliseev, U(2514)

Russian Junior Championship, 2015.04.24

1. +-



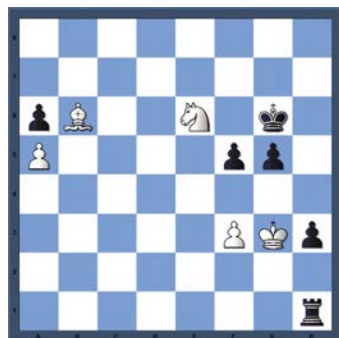
Endgame section

(15) Sethuraman, S.P. (2623)
- Yu, Yangyi (2724)

10th World Teams 2015(9.2),
2015.04.28



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



After a very good game, Yu Yangyi is very close to win the game. It is clear that the black pawns are very dangerous, but still, to win such a position is not an easy task. The Chinese superstar shows us how it is done!

59...f4+ A logical move, but there is much more calculation behind it than it seems!

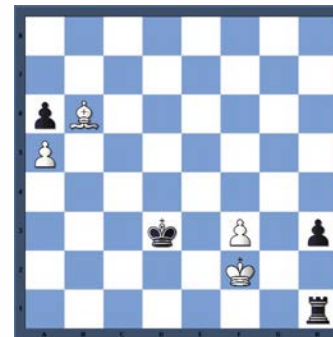
60.♖xf4+ Of course! [60.♖f2 60...h2 61.♖g2 ♜e1 and White could resign on the spot.]

60...gxf4+ 61.♖xf4 So the white king will go to g3 next, so how to improve Black's position?!

61...♔f6! A good choice! The black king is taking a walk to e2 and White can't do anything against it.

62.♖g3 ♔e5 63.♕c7+ ♔d4 64.♕b6+ ♔d3 Black wants to play Ke2 next.

65.♖f2 The best defense and again asking Black "what's next?".

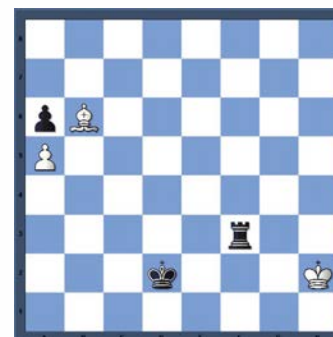


65...h2! Perfect play by Black. The h-pawn is getting exchanged against the white f-pawn, but the thing is that Black keeps the white king in the corner.

66.♖g2 ♜f1 67.♖xh2 ♜xf3 68.♖g1 [After 68.♖g2 68...♖e2 White would be in zugzwang. 69.♕c7 Other moves lead to the same end. 69...♜f7 70.♕b6 ♜g7+ and Black is able to cut the white king on the g-file.]

68...♖d2! Continuing waiting for Kg2.

69.♖h2



69...♖d1! and again White is in zugzwang. Now after 70.Kg1

comes Ke1! and after 71. Kg2 Ke2 and we are back to the position where White can't avoid being cut off on the g-file.

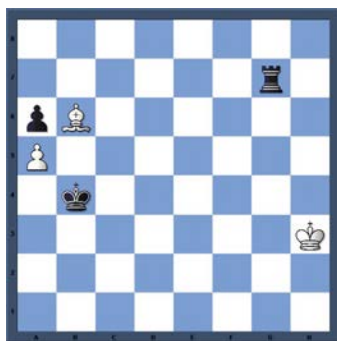
70. ♖c7 Now that White has moved his bishop, Black is in time to cut the white king on the h-file.

70... ♖f7 71. ♖b6 ♖g7 and the job is done! During the next moves we will see why it was so important to have the white king on the h-file.

72. ♖h3 ♖e2 73. ♖h4 ♖d3 The black king is on his way to b4.

74. ♖h3 ♖c4 75. ♖h2 [The same plan would also happen if White would keep his king on h4: 75. ♖h4 75... ♖b4 76. ♖h5 ♖g2 77. ♖h4 ♖a2 78. ♖g4 ♖xa5 79. ♖xa5+ ♖xa5 80. ♖f3 ♖b4 81. ♖e2 ♖b3 82. ♖d2 ♖b2 and White is just not in time! Now we can see how important it was for Black to cut the white king on the h-file.]

75... ♖b4 76. ♖h3



76... ♖g5 and the a5 pawn is lost.

77. ♖h2 ♖xa5 78. ♖xa5+ ♖xa5 79. ♖g3 ♖b4 White is clearly not in time to get back to c1 with his king. What looked so easy was actually great technique from the Chinese player, who found a great winning concept and made it a reality with perfect play. A great job by Yu! **0-1**

(16) Sargissian, Gabriel (2668) - Karjakin, Sergey (2757)

World Teams 2015,
2015.04.26



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



White has a beautiful position. The black pawns are fixed on light squares, where they are targets of the white bishop and they are restricting the movement of the black pieces. Actually all the black pieces are in a cage and only the knight could be activated by driving it to d5, but that would make things even worse, because after Bxd5, White would get a protected passed pawn either on e5 or on c5 and an excellent outpost for the knight on d4 against the poor bishop. This means that Black cannot do anything better than sit and wait. However everything is protected, the opened files are well controlled and White cannot penetrate with his rook, so converting the advantage still requires some efforts. White has all the time for maneuvering and Sargissian finds a very nice way to win the game.

45. ♖e1! White drives his knight to c2 in order to allow access for his rook to d6 and the knight could also jump to d4.

45...♔b7 [45...♖g1 is just seemingly some kind of activity, but after 46.♕f2 the rook must retreat.]

46.♘c2 ♘c7 47.♕f2 White is not in a hurry.

47...♙e8 48.♖d1! ♙d7 [48...♖d7 is strongly met by 49.♖d6!+- followed by Nd4 and the c6 pawn falls. Taking on d6 is hopeless, since after exd6 White breaks in with his king through e5-f6.]

49.♖d3 One more waiting move before starting the action.

49...♕c8 50.♖d6! ♘e8 Black still seems to be in control! He defends his c6 pawn by attacking the rook and if it retreats he also goes back to Nc7 without any achievements for White.



51.♘d4!! This great sacrifice decides the outcome. White gives up his rook, but he gains a protected and far advanced passed pawns in exchange. The black rook still cannot create any counterplay.

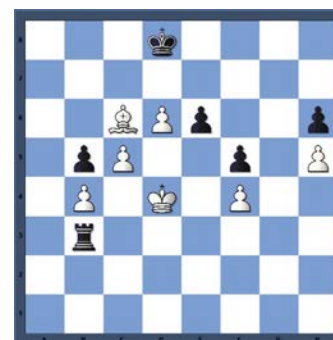
51...♘xd6 52.exd6 ♕d8 [52...♕b7 defends the c6 pawn, but drops b5! 53.♘xb5!+- was the point behind the sacrifice and White returns to d4 followed by pushing b4-b5!]

53.h5! Giving Black no chance! White wants to take on c6 (which does not run away), but it allows the black rook go to g4, attacking both pawns and gaining some counterplay. Therefore Sargissian decides to put it to a protected square.

53...♖g8 Black still cannot do anything better than just waiting.

54.♘xc6+ ♙xc6 55.♙xc6 ♖g4 56.♕e3 Perhaps not the most accurate move, but Sargissian has calculated the line until the end, so there was nothing wrong with it. [56.♕f3 and taking on b5 next would have won automatically without any calculations. 56...♖g1 57.♙xb5 ♖d1 (57...♖b1 58.c6 ♖xb4 59.c7+ ♕c8 60.♙a6+- wins.) 58.♕e3+- controlling the d4 and d2 squares followed by Be2 next, sending the rook away from the d-file and then c6-c7 will already work.]

56...♖g3+ 57.♕d4 ♖b3

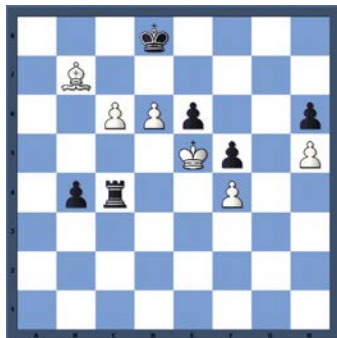


58.♕e5! Well played! The only winning move! [58.♙xb5 allows Black to stay between the pawns after 58...♖xb4+ 59.♙c4 ♕d7! 60.♕c3 ♖b1= and White is not better anymore.]

58...♖xb4 [A tricky defensive attempt would have been 58...♖e3+!? 59.♕f6 ♖e4! but it also loses after 60.♙xe4! (But not 60.♙xb5? because of 60...♖xb4 61.♙a6 ♖a4 and it is not easy to advance the c-pawn, because the bishop always gets attacked. 62.♙b7 allows 62...♕d7! using the unfortunate placement of the bishop, which cannot give an essential check.) 60...fxe4 61.c6 e3 62.c7+ ♕d7 63.c8=♖+! ♕xc8 64.♕e7 e2 65.d7+ ♕b7 66.d8=♖ e1=♖ The queen endgame is hopeless. White eliminates all the pawns. The b5 even falls

with check after 67. ♖d7+ ♔a8 68. ♖c6+ ♔a7 69. ♖c7+ ♔a6
70. ♖a5+ ♔b7 71. ♖xb5+-]

59. ♗b7! ♖c4 60. c6 b4



61. ♔xe6! The last accuracy, which had to be calculated long ago. White promotes his pawn and the bishop is just in time to catch the b-pawn. [Black resigned in view of 61. ♔xe6 61...b3 (61... ♖e4+ 62. ♔d5+-) 62. c7+ ♖xc7 63. dxc7+ ♔xc7 64. ♗d5 b2 65. ♗a2+-] **1-0**

Chess and the City. Trudno skazat...



WGM Elisabeth Pahtz

Best rating: 2493

Whenever you ask a Russian top player a difficult question, he looks at the sky, touches his unshaved skin, looks very smart and comes up with the answer: "hard to say" (trudno skazat)...

There is one question to which any top Russian player may not have a suitable answer: "Why did the Russian men's team lately always fail at any national team competition?!". In the last century they won everything they possibly could have, until 2002 basically. After that the Russian team kept failing although rating-wise they were more than superior every time.

But why?

Some may say that team spirit is more important than individual strength. Some others may claim that the pressure is simply too high for the Russians to succeed... There is a rumor that they only get paid if they win...

If we skip their success in the last team world championship in 2013 it is obvious to say that the performance of the most dominating team (at least by rating) was rather disappointing in every event in the past decades....

When it comes to the question about how important team

spirit is we could come up with a team like Armenia, which managed to win two Olympiads in a row in 2008 and 2010 and remains a unique case....

However you may put this "team spirit performance" in question when you look back at the success of the Hungarian team in 1978, when none of their members would even talk to each other no matter what.... As a German I can also look at the German national men team, which managed to win the European team competition in 2011 although most of their members were not on speaking terms...

In any other sports I would say that team spirit or home advantage plays a decisive role, whereas in chess it doesn't show any constant flow at all....

Taking team spirit and individual strength into account it is hard to say which recipe is the one to succeed... In chess it seems like chance has a lot to do with it.

In this year's team competition China managed to repeat their success from the Olympiad in Tromsø in winning the World team competition as well! Russia however proved to fail again, repeating their disgrace from Tromsø 2014...

That leads me to the conclusion that team spirit or individual strength may certainly play a role, however not a decisive one.

China remains a mystery for us. In former times we thought everything was managed by the officials but now it's allowed to give away even world championship titles- just look at Hou Yifan. So, do THEY have any team spirit? Who knows...

Chess still looks like an individual sport to me, as unsurprisingly everybody is responsible for their own positions...

Clash of the Titans

(17) Janowski, Dawid Markelowicz
- Lasker, Emanuel [C48]

Cambridge Springs(15), 1904



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

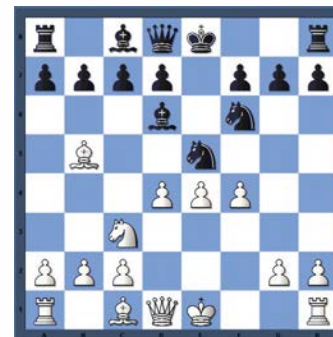
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♗c3 ♗f6 4.♙b5 [4.d4 4...exd4 5.♗xd4 ♙b4 6.♗xc6 bxc6 7.♙d3 d5 8.exd5 cxd5 9.O-O O-O 10.♙g5]

4...♙c5 Instead of this move Black has a few other possibilities: [4...♙b4 5.O-O O-O 6.d3 d6 7.♙g5 ♙xc3 (7...♙g4?? 8.♗d5 ♗d4 9.♗xb4 ♗xb5 10.♗d5 ♗d4 11.♙d2 ♙d7 12.♙xf6 ♙xf3 13.♙g5 ♙g4 14.♗e7+ ♙h8 15.♙xg7#) 8.bxc3 ♙e7 (8...♗e7!?) 9.♙e1 ♗d8 10.d4 and White has a stable advantage thanks to the bishop pair and his better center.; 4...♗d4 leads to very complex play after the pawn sacrifice on e5.; 4...♙d6 is a very solid option. Black going to castle and then play Re8-Bf8.]

5.♗xe5!? [5.O-O 5...O-O 6.d3 d6 7.♗a4]

5...♗xe5 6.d4 ♙d6 [6...♙b4 7.dxe5 ♗xe4 8.♙d4! ♗xc3 9.bxc3 ♙e7 10.♙g4 and is not easy for Black to finish his development, so White keeps the initiative. 10...O-O? 11.♙h6±]

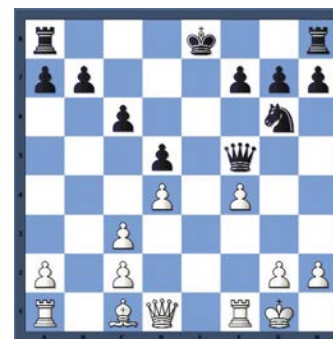
7.f4 [7.dxe5 7...♙xe5 8.O-O O-O 9.♙g5 with the idea f4-e5. 9...h6 10.♙h4 g5 11.♙g3 ♙xc3 12.bxc3 ♗xe4 and it is hard to say if White has enough compensation.]



7...♗g6 8.e5 c6 [8...♙b4 9.exf6 ♙xf6 10.O-O ♙xc3 11.bxc3 O-O Black has no time to play d5-Bf5. 12.f5→]

9.♙c4 [9.exd6 9...cxb5 10.♙e2+ ♙f8 11.f5 ♗h4 12.O-O White has a strong initiative because the black pieces lost coordination.]

9...♙c7 [9...♙b4 10.exf6 ♙xf6 11.O-O d5! Now White is not able to play 12.Bxd5 because of Bxc3! and 12.Bd3 because of Qxd4. (Less accurate is 11...♙xc3?! 12.bxc3 d5 13.♙d3 ♙f5 14.♙xf5 ♙xf5



15.g4! A strong move which stops Black from creating a blockade on the light squares. f5 is coming next.) 12.♙e2 ♙f5 13.g4 ♙xc3 14.bxc3 ♙e4 15.f5 ♗e7 16.♙f4∞]

10.exf6 ♖xf6 11.O-O d5



12.♟xd5! A good practical decision! [12.♟e2 and because of the limited knight on c3 and bishop on c1 only Black can be better here.]

12...cxd5 13.♞xd5 ♖d6 14.♞e2+ ♞e7 [14...♞f8 15.♞xc7 ♞xc7 16.f5→ with f6 next!]

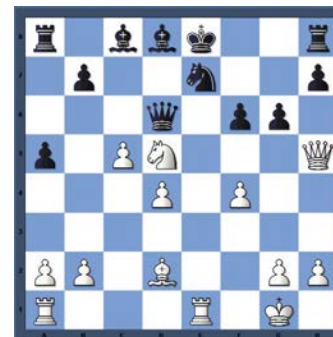
15.♞e1 ♟d8 More active was [15...♟e6!? 16.Nxe7 Kxe7 17.f5 doesn't work now because the h2 pawn will be hanging. 16.♞b5+ ♞f8 17.♞xe7 ♞xe7 18.♞xb7 (18.d5 18...♞d7! 19.♞xb7 ♟b6+→) 18...♞d8 and Black should be better.]

16.c4 f6 Black is going to avoid the pin over the e-file. [16...♞f8]

17.♟d2 a5 preventing Bb4.

18.♞h5+ g6 [18...♞f8 19.f5!∞ with the idea to activate the bishop.]

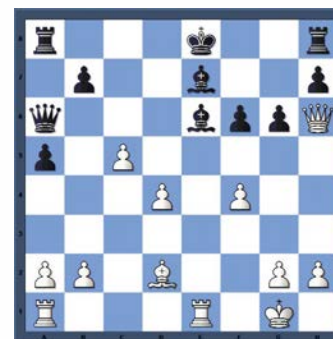
19.c5 [19.♞h6 19...♞f7+]]



19...♞a6? A mistake. The queen should be closer to the black king, which is under pressure. [19...♞c6! 20.♞xe7 ♟xe7 21.♞h6 ♟e6 (21...♞f7 22.♞xe7+!+-) 22.♞g7 ♞d7 23.d5 The last chance. 23...♞xd5 24.♟b4 axb4 25.♞ad1 ♞he8 26.♞xd5+ ♟xd5 and it looks like Black has a decisive advantage.]

20.♞h6 [20.♞xe7+? 20...♟xe7 21.♞c7+ ♞d8→+]

20...♟e6 21.♞xf6+?! White missed a winning chance. [21.♞xe7 21...♟xe7



22.d5! ♟xd5 (22...♟xc5+ 23.♞h1 O-O-O 24.♞xe6 ♞d3 with hope for counterplay. 25.♟xa5 ♞xd5 26.♞g7+-) 23.♞xe7+ ♞xe7 24.♞g7+ ♞e6 25.♞e1+ ♞f5 26.♞e5+! with mate soon.]

21...♔f7 22.♘e4 [22.d5 deserves attention. 22...♘xd5 (22...♙xd5 23.♖xe7+ ♙xe7 24.♘xd5 ♙xc5+ 25.♔h1 ♖d3 26.♙c3 ♖xd5 27.♖g7+ ♔e6 28.♖e1+ ♔d6 29.♖e5 ♖d1+ 30.♖e1 ♖d5 with a draw. 31.♙e5+?? ♔c6 32.♖c7+ ♔b5—+) 23.♘e8! is suggested by the engine. 23...♔xe8 24.f5 and White keeps the initiative.]

22...♘f5 23.♖h3 ♙e7 It looks like Black is taking control of the situation on the board.

24.♙c3 [24.♘g5+!? 24...♙xg5 25.fxg5 ♖c6 (25...♘xd4 26.♖e3 gives White strong pressure over the dark squares.) 26.♙f4 with the idea Be5-g4-Rf1 etc...]

24...♙d5 The black pieces were nicely improved. [24...h5 25.d5 ♙xd5 26.♙xh8 ♖xh8+]]



25.g4! ♘h4 26.♘d6+ ♔f8 [26...♙xd6 27.♖xh4 ♙f8 28.f5∞]

27.♖xe7! Very nice! Janowski found a practical way to maintain the pressure. [27.♖e3!?]

27...♘f3+ 28.♖xf3 ♙xf3 29.♖f7+? The decisive mistake. Janowski wants to activate his bishop but more accurate was [29.♖ae1! 29...♙d5 30.f5 with an amazing position!



Black has a huge material advantage but the white pieces are very active and well coordinated. Thanks to the f6-f7-Rf7 or Bd2-Bh6 threats it is not easy to evaluate who is better.]

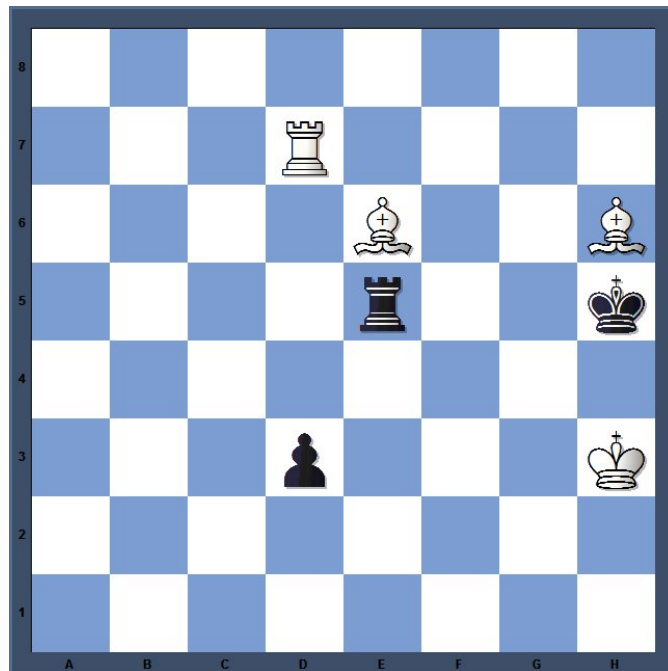
29...♔g8 30.d5 ♙xd5 31.♖g7+ ♔f8—+ The check on g7 didn't bring anything to White, so Black is easily winning now.

32.♖e1 ♖c6 33.b4 ♖d8 34.♙d4 ♖xd6 35.cxd6 ♙h1 0-1

Surprise section / study

(18) Mattison

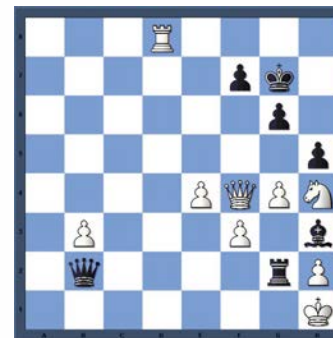
1. +-



Solutions

(19) Banusz, T(2585)-Pourramezanali, A(2432)

Dubai Open, 2015.04.14

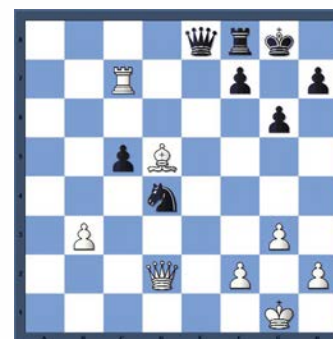


42. ♖f5+! gxf5 [42... ♖h7 43. ♗h6#]

43. ♗g5+ ♖h7 44. ♗xh5+ 1-0 [44. ♗xh5+ 44... ♖g7 45. ♗h8+ ♖g6 46. ♗g8+-]

(20) Sagar, S(2458)-Mammadzada, G(2336)

Dubai Open, 2015.04.14



27... ♗d8! 28. ♗xf7 [28. ♗xc5 28... ♖f3+! 29. ♗xf3 ♗xd2+-]

28... ♗xd5 29. ♗xf8+ ♖xf8+-

(21) Ikeda, J(2403)-Dragun, K(2558)

Bangkok Open, 2015.04.14



34. ♖e6! 1-0 [34. ♖e6 34... ♖e8 (34... fxe6 35. f7+ ♔h8 36. ♕f6++-) 35. ♖h6+-]

(22) Ghosh, D(2512)-Stokke, K(2360)

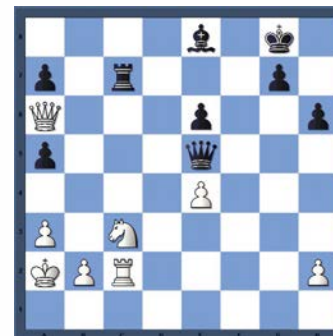
Bangkok Open, 2015.04.14



28. ♖xe4! fxe4 29. ♕e6+ ♔h7 30. ♖g2! +- ♖f5 31. ♕xf5 gxf5 32. ♖f6 1-0

(23) Swapnil, S(2450)-Illingworth, M(2489)

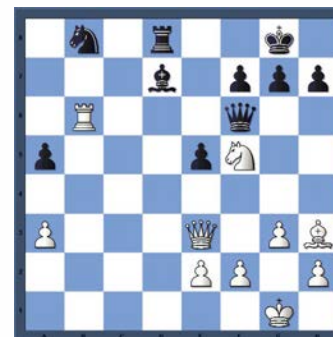
Bangkok Open, 2015.04.16



30... ♕b5! 0-1 [30... ♕b5 31. ♖xa5 (31. ♖xb5 31... ♖xb5 32. ♖xb5 ♖xc2+-) 31... ♕c4+ 32. ♖a1 ♖xa5+-]

(24) Bogosavljevic, B(2516)-Antic, D(2457)

Serbian Championship, 2015.04.18



26... ♕xf5!! 27. ♖xf6 ♕xh3 28. ♖b3 [28. f3 28... ♖d1+ 29. ♖f2 ♖f1#]

28... gxf6+- 29. g4 ♕xg4 30. ♖b6 [30. ♖g3 30... ♖h8! 31. ♖xg4 ♖g8+-]

30... ♖d1+ 31. ♖g2 ♖d7+-

(25) Kovacevic, A(2517)-Ratkovic, M(2365)

Serbian Championship, 2015.04.20



24. ♖e6! 1-0

(26) Georgiev, K(2623)-Dimov, D(2340)

Bulgarian Championship, 2015.04.18

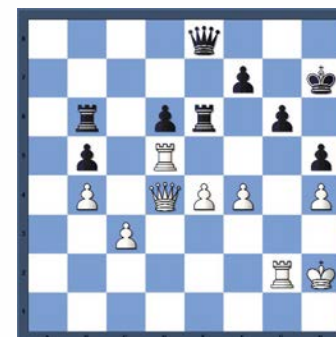


26. ♖d6! ♜a8 [26... ♙xd6 27. ♘f6+ ♚f7 28. ♜xc6+-]

27. ♖g6+ 1-0

(27) Korneev, O(2600)-Weber, U(2399)

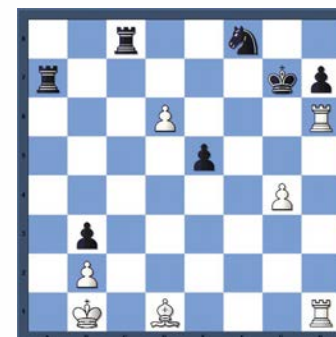
Hofheim Open, 2015.04.11



55. ♖xh5+! 1-0 [55. ♖xh5+ 55... ♗gxh5 56. ♜g7#]

(28) Martian, D(2220)-Nevednichy, V(2559)

Romanian Championship, 2015.04.20



34... ♖a1+! 0-1 [34... ♖a1+ 35. ♚xa1 ♜c1#]

(29) Herbstmann



1. ♘c6! ♖c7 2. a7 ♜c8 3. ♘b8! ♜c5+! 4. ♔g6 ♜a5 5. ♘c6!
 ♜a6 6. ♙xg7! c3 [6... ♙d7 7. ♘b8+-]
 7. ♙g8! +- ♔d7 8. ♘b8+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 167

8th of May 2015

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Editorial Preface

In the very strong Russian Team Championship which was held in Sochi and had only 7 rounds, 1st place was clearly taken by to the team of Sibir (Aronian, Kramnik, Jakovenko, Wang Yue, Korobov, Kokarev, Bocharov, Maletin) with a perfect score of 14 points. In 2nd place followed the team of St.Petersburg with Svidler, Vitiugov, Dominguez, Matlakov, Rodshtein, Khairulin, Fedoseev and Saric.

In the Italian Team Championship first place went to the team of "Obiettivo Risarcimento Padova" with Nakamura, Vachier Lagrave, Bacrot, Fressinet and many more strong GMs.

In the Nakhchivan Open 2015, none of the tops seeds like Kasimdzhanov, Bacrot or Hou Yifan are even close to be in the leading position. After a great start of 5/5, Pantsulaia lost a very promising position to Safarli in round 6, who thus joined him on 5/6.

Kasimdzhanov is just on 4 points and Bacrot and Hou Yifan are both having a very disappointing event with only 3.5/6.

We can expect a very exciting finish for the first price of 10.000\$.

As usual, we wish you a lot of chess fun in the upcoming week!

Best wishes,

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

**(1) Kramnik, Vladimir (2783)
- Svidler, Peter (2729) [A05]**

TCh-RUS Men 2015(2.1),
2015.05.02



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Vladimir Kramnik is clearly one of the best chess players of all times, but lately he started to have some slips in his play. Sometimes he shows amazing results in combination with some blunders in tactical phases. His opening repertoire has also changed and he is playing more aggressively than before, as well as often staying away from very main theoretical lines. One of his main openings nowadays is the Reti, which is not very often played on the top level. Anyhow, in our game, after a somewhat modest opening Kramnik outplays his "team colleague" easily and finishes the game in a little tactical battle. It is great to see Vladimir back in shape!

1. ♘f3 ♘f6 2. g3 Maybe by playing the Reti Kramnik wanted to avoid the main lines of the Gruenfeld, of which Svidler is famously an expert.

2...d5 3. ♕g2 g6 Svidler loves to have his bishop on g7.

4.b3 A very modest approach, but actually this double-fianchetto is trickier than it looks.

4...♕g7 5. ♕b2 c5!? I personally like what Svidler is doing-covering the center. [5...O-O 6.c4 leads to a more calm game.]

6.c4 d4 This is Black's point.

7.b4 White doesn't wait for Black to play Nc6 and immediately launches his play on the queenside.

7...♘fd7 A very solid move. Now it is all about whether Black can keep the pawn on d4 alive or not.

8.O-O



8...♘c6! A strong move which forces White to decide what to do with the pawn on b4.

9.bxc5 Of course White should not play b5 after which Black would get an excellent center. For those who play the Benoni with Black, we have sort of the same thing, just with opposite colors and an extra tempo for White.

9...O-O The pawn on c5 will not run away...

10.d3 ♘xc5 11. ♘bd2 I guess this is the first moment where Black needs to have a deep thought, as there are a lot of options... From a general point of view it would be great to play e5 at some point, but on the other hand White wants to start his action on the queenside by playing Ba3 and Rb1. The bishop on g2 could then become a very dangerous piece.

11...♖b8 Both a very solid and good move. Black is maybe intending to play b6-Bb7 next. We should not forget that the pressure is on White now, as in case Black can develop his pieces nicely, White's position would just be worse.

12. ♘a3 A very normal move. [White should not try to win a pawn after 12. ♘b3?! 12... ♖a4! Of course everything else is good for White. 13. ♘xd4 ♘xd4 14. ♖bxd4 and now Black has a couple of moves, but the most solid seems to be 14... ♖c5 A calm and strong move. Now White needs to give some material back. 15. ♖b3 (15.e3 15...e5 16. ♖b5 ♘xd3 and Black is clearly better.) 15... ♘xa1 16. ♔xa1 ♔c7 The position is still very unclear, but I can hardly believe that being an exchange down White has chances for any advantage.]

12... ♔a5 An interesting move. Black's plan is to play Na4-Nc3. [Black could also have played 12...b6 13. ♖b1 and maybe some solid move like 13... ♔c7 with an unclear position.]

13. ♔c1 White wants to play Nb3 next, so the next moves are sort of forced.

13... ♖a4 14. ♖b3 Now Black needs to decide where to put the queen.

14... ♔c7 looks too passive to me. [Why not put the queen on 14... ♔h5 with the idea of playing Bh3. I think Black is more than fine here.]

15. ♔c2 A solid move.

15... ♘d7 Black is almost fully developed, but Kramnik has a great idea in mind. [15... ♘c3 16.e3]



16. ♖ae1! A fantastic move! White is totally switching the strategy from playing on the queenside to playing on the kingside. The plan is of course to play e3 next and now we can see that from a great knight on a4, Black will find himself with a terrible knight on a4 when the d4 pawn will disappear.

16... ♖fd8?! This move is hard to understand... [Black could have tried to prepare counterplay against White's e3 plan by playing 16... ♖fc8 17.e3 dxe3 18.fxe3 and here comes the point as to why it is so good to have rook on c8: 18...b5! and the game is really messy.]

17.e3 Following the plan.

17... dxe3 [Black can't keep the d4 pawn alive: 17...e5 18. ♖bxd4 with a clearly better position for White.]

18.fxe3 Now White has the big positional threat of playing d4 and basically winning the fight over the center. A move like Ng5 could also be very unpleasant as the black rook on d8 is clearly misplaced.

18... h6 It seems like it is not possible to avoid d4, so at least Black prevents Ng5.

19.d4 ♘f5 As in a Gruenfeld, Svidler is trying to get some play against White's center.

20.e4 ♘g4 Now things are pretty clear: in case White can survive the next few moves, Black will be in big trouble.



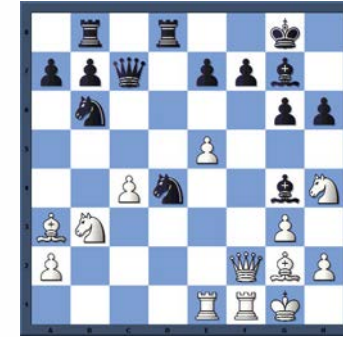
21.e5 Perfect play! Kramnik shuts down the g7 bishop and keeps his center alive.

21...♖b6 The right idea but Black missed White's next move... [Of course Black can't win the d4 pawn because after 21...♙xf3 22.♙xf3 ♖xd4 23.♖xd4 ♙xd4 the knight on a4 is hanging. 24.♙xa4; Svidler should have continued with 21...♙f5 22.♙d2 (In case of 22.♙f2 22...♙d3 Black should be fearless with 23.d5 ♙xf1 24.♙xf1 ♖xe5 25.♖xe5 ♙xe5 26.♙xf7+ ♔h7 with a very unclear position.) 22...♖b6 Now this move is much stronger! 23.♙c3 and White should still be better, but the position is very sharp.]

22.♖h4! Another great move by Kramnik! White is targeting the g6 pawn.

22...♖xd4 Black has no choice but to take on d4.

23.♙f2 White takes no prisoners. [23.♖xd4 would lead to a better endgame. 23...♙xc4 is Black's only chance. 24.♙xc4 ♖xc4 25.♙e4! protecting the d4 knight and attacking the bishop on g4. 25...♖xa3 26.♙xg4 ♙xe5 Black has 3 pawns, but White is doing very well on the kingside. 27.♖df5! and White has a crushing attack, although it is an endgame!]



23...♙xc4? Clearly not the best move. [Black should have tried 23...♖f5 even if the position looks very scary. 24.e6 A powerful move. (24.♙e4 was less clear. 24...h5 25.h3 ♙xe5! 26.♙xe5 ♙xe5 27.hxg4 hxg4 28.♖xf5 ♙xf5 29.♙xf5 gxf5 30.♙xe7 and of course White is clearly better, but Black keeps drawing chances.) 24...fxe6 25.♙xe6 and White's attack is scary!]

24.♙e4! Simple and strong! White is winning a piece.

24...♙e6 [24...♙e2 also loses a piece. 25.♙e1 ♙c3 26.♖xd4 ♙xa3 27.♙4xe2 and White is winning.]

25.♖xd4 ♙d5 Svidler is trying to be tricky, but Kramnik keeps a cool head.



26.♖e6! Another beautiful move by White. The queen on c4 is hanging and Qxf7 is a deadly threat. The game is over.

26...♙xe6 Black doesn't have anything better.

27.♖xc4 ♜xc4 28.♙xe7 White has a queen for a rook, which is too big a material advantage to even give Black any practical chances.

28...♖d2 29.♚xa7 Black's material is disappearing.

29...♙xe5 30.♜f3



30...♙c7 and White can even play the simple 31.Kh1 to be totally winning. A very nice game by Kramnik, who showed a great positional idea with Rae1! and mastered the tactical complications with the precision of a swiss watchmaker! **1-0**

**(2) Aronian, Levon (2770)
- Shoker, Samy (2466) [A42]**

10th World Teams 2015(9.4),
2015.04.28



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Many club players love playing the following very passive opening as Black. However employing it against a top GM is not necessarily a clever idea. Aronian shows a classic example of how to punish your opponent for such play...

1.d4 g6 2.c4 ♙g7 3.e4 White occupies the center with all his pawns to gain a space advantage, while Black just aims at developing his pieces and later tries to bounce back.

3...d6 4.♜c3 e6 [4...♜f6 would be a transposition to the King's Indian defense.]

5.♙e3 ♜e7



6.♚d2 White already shows his intentions. If Black castles kingside, he must face an enormous attack after Bh6 followed by h4-h5!

6...h6 This is the standard reaction. Black would like to preserve his dark squared bishop. Now the h4-h5 plan can be

met by g5, keeping the files closed. The big drawback of this move is the weakness of the h6 pawn, which deprives Black from castling. He usually tries to deal with this problem by executing an artificial castling with Kf8-g8-h7 at a later stage of the game.

7. ♖d3 White completes his development.

7... ♘d7 8. ♗ge2! Aronian already thinks about the further course of the game and he develops his knight to e2 to keep the option of f2-f4-f5, destroying the pawn formation in front of the black king.

8...b6 9.O-O a6 This symmetrical setup is the way how Black likes to organize his development. The last move also prepares the first active move to push c5, which was impossible right away because of Nb5!



10. ♗c2! A clever prophylactic move against c5. White prepares for the opening of the d-file in that case and he removes his d3 bishop from the way. Sometimes he also wants to annoy Black with Ba4, using the fact that he cannot castle kingside since the h6 pawn is still hanging.

10... ♖b8 Well, yes, Black is suffering of a lack of space. He tries to get some activity on the queenside with b5, but Aronian simply prevents this plan...

[10...c5 is premature, because White is better prepared for the opening of the files. 11. ♖ad1 ♗b7 12. ♗a4±]

11.a4 ♗c6 Black wants to enjoy the benefits of provoking a4 and he is heading towards the b4 square with his knight. However, White can simply ignore this fact...

12. ♖ae1! Aronian wants to keep the harmony between his pieces and he is ready to meet Nb4 by Bb1. He could have put his rook to d1 as well, but he believes that from e1 it supports more the f4-f5 plan, as if Black takes on f5 exf5 opens the e-file for the rook.

12... ♗b4 13. ♗b1 c5 Black must do something, he cannot just sit and wait. He still could not castle because of the h6 pawn and the Kf8-g8-h7 plan was too slow, as White would already swipe him off the board with f4-f5.

14.f4 White launches his decisive attack. A small happiness for Black is that the h6 pawn is finally not hanging after castling.

14... ♖c7 [14...cxd4 15. ♗xd4 O-O White wins material with 16. ♗a2! deflecting the knight from the c6 square. 16... ♗xa2 17. ♗c6! ♖c7 18. ♗xb8+- wins an exchange.; 14...O-O 15.f5 also looks terribly strong. The h6 pawn is hanging again. 15... ♗h7 (15...g5 16.h4!± destroys Black's defense.) 16.fxg6+ fxg6 17. ♖xf8 ♗xf8 (17... ♖xf8 18. ♗f4! looking at the g6 and e6 weaknesses. White is ready to open the diagonal with e5! 18...cxd4 19. ♗xe6! This intermediate move wins a pawn as dxe3 does not work because the queen is hanging with check.) 18.dxc5 bxc5



19.e5! Opening the b1-h7 diagonal. All the white pieces are dangerously looking at the h7 king. 19...♙xe5 20.♙xh6±]

15.f5! Obviously the c4 pawn does not count when the king is under such attack.

15...cxd4 16.♙xd4 O-O [16...♙xc4 17.fxe6 fxe6 18.b3 ♔c7 White can choose between dozens of win. One of them is 19.♙cb5 axb5 20.♙xb5 ♔c6 21.♙xd6+ ♔d8 22.♙c1+- and everything is hanging in the black camp.]

17.♙xh6 [17.fxe6 was also winning.]

17...♙xc4 At least the material balance is restored, but there is nothing that could save the black king.

18.♙xg7 ♙xg7



19.♙c1! White had other winning moves, but such ones are

the most demoralizing. Black cannot leave from the pin on the c-file.

19...♙c5 20.♙a2+- White wins decisive material. The game is over. Black continues resisting for few more moves, but there is no hope...

20...♙xa2 21.♙xc5 bxc5 22.fxe6 ♙e5 23.♙f5+ gxf5 24.♙xd6 A convincing crush! **1-0**

David vs. Goliath



Peter Zhdanov
Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this entertaining column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week brought us 16 upsets.

The number of moves ranges from 13 in Toncheva (1299) - Mladenov (1751), 1-0 to 76 in Roman (2006) - IM Pichot (2482), 1-0.

Most of us are particularly interested in seeing super GMs succumb to amateur players. Such upsets are extremely rare, but this time we have two of them to check out. Ex-FIDE World Champion Kasimdzhanov (2712) was dominating the rapid game against Jagodzinski (2273) only to hang a rook in one move and to resign. More instructive is the victory of IM Altini (2410) over GM Vachier-Lagrave (2765). White managed to outplay his formidable adversary and to eventually squeeze the full point out of the game.

A tragicomedy occurred in Beben (2132) vs GM Mista (2597). This is rapid chess, of course, yet still rather unbelievable:



Black to move. After a continuation like 35...Rf8 the game should be level. Instead Black blundered with the pseudo-active 35...Rde8? In reply to 36.Ng4 the GM decided not to give up the exchange by playing 36...Nh5. Is there a problem with this plan? 37.Nh6X happened! This is a mating pattern often seen in tactics books.

Top-10:

Benitez Galeano (1740) - Latorre (2297), 1-0, [557](#) points
Georgiev (1530) - Metev (2066), 1-0, [536](#) points
Abreu (1449) - Belsley (1978), 1-0, [529](#) points
Nelson (2231) - Varney (1746), 0-1, [485](#) points
Roman (2006) - Pichot (2482), 1-0, [476](#) points
Beben (2132) - Mista (2597), 1-0, [465](#) points
Toncheva (1299) - Mladenov (1751), 1-0, [452](#) points
Kasimdzhanov (2712) - Jagodzinski (2273), 0-1, [439](#) points
Repreza Perez (1867) - Diogo (2270), 1-0, [403](#) points
Mustedjeb (1671) - Tonchova (1299), 0-1, [372](#) points

Average gap: 471; White won 7 games, Black won 3 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) is welcomed.

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot

Best rating: 2749

(3) Troff, Kayden W (2532)
- Sevian, Samuel (2531) [A34]

ch-USA 2015(6.4),
2015.04.07

Since I am currently playing a tournament, I prepared an interesting strategical game played in the recent US Championship by two young players, 16-years old and only 14-years old for the eventual winner of the game.

1.c4 Going for the English is not in Troff opening repertoire.

1...♟f6 2.♞c3 c5 Another surprise, as Sevian usually goes for an e5 setup.

3.g3 g6 4.♞g2 ♞g7 5.e3 An interesting small move aimed at playing for the center without letting Black play d5. [5.♟f3 5...d5]

5...O-O 6.♞ge2 e6 A strange but usual move. Black needs be ready to react on an eventual d4 by a later d5.

7.♟f4 White continues playing against d5. [7.d4 7...cxd4 8.exd4 d5 is considered to be equal.]

7...♞c6 8.O-O



8...d6 Not bad but also not the most natural way of playing. I think the best is [8...b6 and some unclear line might continue with 9.d4!? (9.b3 9...♞b7 10.♞b2 d5=) 9...♞b7 10.d5 (10.b3 10...cxd4 11.exd4 d5=) 10...♞a5 11.♞d3 g5! 12.♞fe2 ♞a6 13.b3 (13.e4 13...♞xc4 14.♞c2 ♞g4∞) 13...♞xd5 14.♞d1∞]

9.a3 I would have played the most principled 9.d4 but it is not clear if White has the advantage.

9...♞d7 10.♞b1 [10.b4 is also an option. 10...cxb4 11.axb4 ♞xb4 12.♞a3 a5 13.♞b3∞]

10...a5 11.d3 To continue the development by playing [11.b3 followed by Bb2 and probably d2-d4 in one move looks more logical to me.]

11...♞b8 12.♞b5 An interesting move but White was not forced to give the center. 12.b3 was still good.

12...d5! Black starts a series of strong positional moves.

13.b3 Taking the pawn was of course quite dangerous: [13.cxd5 13...♞xd5 14.♞xd5 exd5 15.♞xd5 ♞e5∞]

13...d4 14.exd4 ♞xd4 15.♞xd4 cxd4 16.b4 axb4 17.axb4



17...b5?! A standard move in this Benoni-like pawn structure but a bad move in this given position. It was much better to first exchange the light-squared bishops with complicated play. [17...♗c6! 18.♖e1 ♗xg2 19.♘xg2 ♘d7= (19...b5 20.♗g5!?)]

18.c5 ♖c7 19.♘e2 I like this move, played against the Bc6 threat. 19.Qf3 was also an option.

19...♘e8? I cannot understand this move, as now the black pieces are extremely uncoordinated. [19...e5 was of course a normal follow-up move. 20.♗g5 (20.f4!?) 20...♗c6 21.♗xf6 ♗xf6 22.♘c1!? ♖b7 23.♗xc6 ♖xc6 24.♘b3 ♖fe8 with a fighting position.]

20.♗b2 e5



21.f4± Logical and strong.

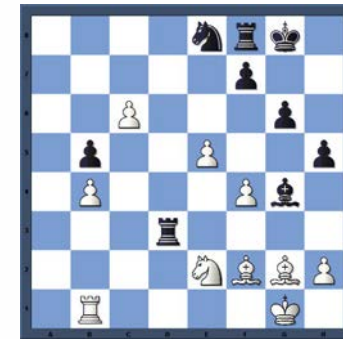
21...♖d8 22.fxe5 ♗g4 Searching for counterplay in a difficult position.

23.♖f4 h5 24.♗xd4!? Another way of playing was [24.♖c2 24...♗xe2 25.♖xe2 ♗xe5 26.♖e4 with no material up but strong pieces.]

24...♗h6 25.♗f2 [25.♖xg4! seems to be a better exchange sacrifice. For example: 25...hxg4 26.♗f2 ♖xe5 27.d4 ♖e7 28.♖d3 ♘c7 29.♘c3 and Black can't avoid the d-pawn push.]

25...♗xf4 26.gxf4 ♖d7 It is already not easy for White to prove a huge advantage.

27.c6 ♖xd3 28.♖xd3 ♖xd3



29.♘g3? Now White loses his whole advantage. It was necessary to play [29.♘d4! 29...♘c7 30.♗f1 ♖c3 31.♗e1 ♖a3 32.♘xb5 ♘xb5 33.♗xb5 ♖fa8 and visually White has all chances but with the best computer moves Black holds.]

29...♘c7 30.♘e4 ♗f3! An important exchange!

31.♘c5 ♖a3 32.♘d7 ♖c8 Black improved all his pieces during the 4-move journey of White's knight and has now taken the advantage.

33.♖c1 ♗xg2 34.♖xg2 ♘d5 35.f5 ♘f4+? Surely missing White's 37th move, as simply taking the pawn would have given Black a big advantage. [35...♘xb4+]]

36. ♖f1 ♘d3?!

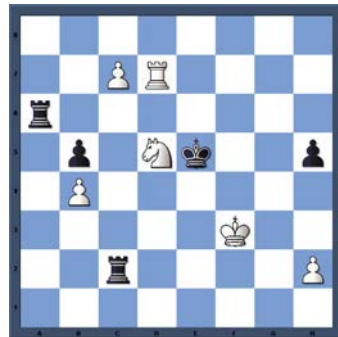


37. ♘b6! Counterattacking!

37... ♖e8 38. ♖d1? [38. ♘d5! would pose Black in front of very big problems. 38... ♖f8! (38... ♘xc1 just loses to 39. ♘f6+ ♖f8 40. ♘c5+ ♖e7 41. c7 ♖a8 42. ♘d5+—) 39. ♖c2!? ♘xf2! 40. ♖xf2 ♖xe5! 41. c7 ♖xf5+ and Black saves himself because White's king cannot escape the checks. 42. ♖e2 ♖e5+=]

38... ♘xf2 39. ♖xf2 ♖c3 40. ♖d6 ♖xe5 Time control has been passed and a tough defensive job awaits White.

41. fxg6 ♖c2+ 42. ♖f3 ♖e6 43. gxf7+ ♖xf7 44. ♖d7+ ♖f6 45. ♘d5+ ♖e5 46. c7 ♖a6 Both players played the best moves so far but now White blunders.



47. ♖g3?? [47. h4 is a very tricky attempt. 47... ♖a8 48. ♖d8

♖a3+ 49. ♘e3 ♖xc7 50. ♖d5+ ♖f6 (50... ♖e6 seems to win but after 51. ♖xb5! ♖cc3 52. ♖b6+! it is difficult to hide from checks! 52... ♖e5 53. ♖b5+ ♖d6 (53... ♖d4 54. ♖d5#) 54. ♖b6+ ♖c7 55. ♖e6=) 51. ♖f5+ ♖g6 52. ♖g5+ ♖f7 53. ♖f4 and the fight continues!]

47... ♖d6 48. ♖d8 ♖xc7! 49. ♘xc7 [49. ♖xd6 49... ♖g7+! With White's king on f3 this important check didn't exist (Rf7+ Rf6!).]

49... ♖xd8—+ Now it is all over even if it took some time for Black to convert his advantage.

50. ♘xb5 ♖f5 51. ♘c7 ♖d3+ 52. ♖f2 ♖b3 53. ♘d5 ♖e5 54. ♘e7 ♖e6 55. ♘c6 ♖d6 56. ♘d4 ♖xb4 57. ♘f3 ♖e6 58. ♖g3 ♖f6 59. ♘h4 ♖g4+ 60. ♖h3 ♖f4 61. ♖g3 ♖g5 62. ♘f3+ ♖f5 63. ♘h4+ ♖e4 64. ♖h3 ♖g4 65. ♘f5 This stalemate trick is not enough!

65... ♖f4! 66. ♘d4 ♖g5 67. ♘f3+ ♖f6 68. ♘h4 ♖a4 69. ♖g3 ♖g5 70. ♘f3+ ♖f5 71. ♘h4+ ♖e4 72. ♘g2 ♖a3+ 73. ♖h4 ♖f3 74. ♘e1+ ♖f2 75. ♖xh5 ♖xe1 76. h4 ♖f2 77. ♖g6 ♖g3 78. h5 ♖g4 79. h6 ♖a6+ 80. ♖g7 ♖g5 81. h7 ♖a7+ 82. ♖g8 ♖g6 83. h8=♘+ ♖f6 0-1

Puzzle section

(4) Movsesian, S(2665)-Adly, A(2589)

World Teams, 2015.04.28

1... -+



(5) Tomashevsky, E(2745)-Rodshtein, M(2654)

World Teams, 2015.04.28

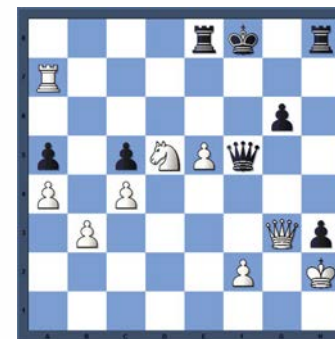
1. +-



(6) Nepomniachtchi, I(2714)-Potapov, P(2471)

Russian league, 2015.05.02

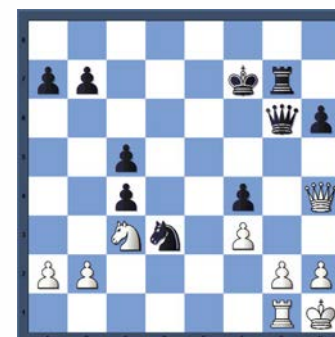
1. +-



(7) Ibragimov, I(2543)-Potapov, A(2394)

Russian league, 2015.05.03

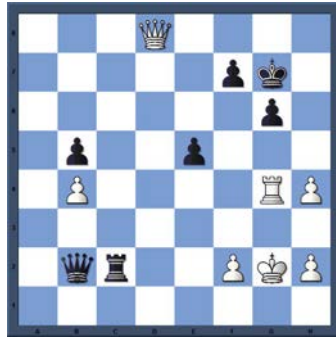
1... -+



(8) Yandemirov, V(2375)-Fedoseev, V(2674)

Russian league, 2015.05.04

1. =



(9) Khismatullin, D(2650)-Savitskiy, S(2330)

Russian league, 2015.05.03

1. +-



(10) Ovod, E(2325)-Gunina, V(2528)

Russian Women league, 2015.05.02

1. +-



(11) Kovalevskaya, E(2438)-Guseva, M(2378)

Russian Women league, 2015.05.03

1. +-



(12) Altini, N(2410)-Vachier Lagrave, M(2765)

Italian league, 2015.05.01

1. +-



(13) Mamedov, R(2658)-Khurtsidze, N(2457)

Nakhchivan Open, 2015.05.04

1. +-



Endgame section

(14) Korobov, Anton (2694)
- Khairullin, Ildar (2630)

Russian league,
2015.05.02



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



This time I have chosen a slightly different game for the endgame section. Although we reach an endgame a few moves later, we should rather consider this example like a tactical clash with unusual resources for both sides which ends in a draw after a dozen of only moves. White seems to be in huge trouble, because he is already 2 pawns down and he is pinned on the d-file. His only triumph, the c6 pawn, is well blockaded. However White survives after

34. ♖xe6! ♜xd1+ 35. ♖xd1 ♜xc4 36. ♖d8+! [36. ♖xc7? simply loses to 36... ♜xc6—+]

36... ♜h7



37. ♘f8+! This intermediate check serves to save the c6 pawn as well as the knight temporarily! [37. ♜xc7? is not enough, because the c-pawn can easily be stopped after 37... ♜xe6 38. ♜b7 ♘d5—+]

37... ♜h6 38. ♜xc7 Black is a pawn up, but the c-pawn is far advanced, which gives White enough compensation. His only chance to win the game is to win the knight!

38... ♜c5+! It is very important now to choose the right square for the king.

39. ♜h1! [The following line shows why the king has to stay on h1! 39. ♜h2? loses to 39... ♜xf8 40. ♜f4+ and now Black can hide his king with 40... ♜h7 because after 41. ♜f5+ ♜g8 42. c7 ♜d6+!—+ wins!]

39... ♜xf8 [39... ♘d5 is the alternative, but Black can hardly be better after 40. ♜xf7 ♜xc6 41. ♘e6 The white pieces are dominating, which gives enough compensation to secure the half point.]

40. ♜f4+ ♜g6! It was again Black's turn to find the only move! [40... ♜h7? loses to 41. ♜f5+! ♜g6 (41... ♜g8 42. c7+— there is no check on d6 now.) 42. ♜xf6 The general rule in queen endgames is that the quality of the pawns is more important than the quantity. Black is a pawn up, but the c6 pawn is the

main factor here. 42...♔c5 43.♚xf7+ ♔h6 44.c7 Black does not even have a perpetual check. 44...h4



45.♚d7! An ideal square for the queen. It supports the c7 pawn and protects the white king from the most important checks... 45...♚c1+ 46.♔h2 ♚f4+ 47.♔g1 ♚c1+ 48.♔f2 ♚c2+ 49.♔e3! ♚c1+ 50.♔e4!+- The king runs through the board and hides somewhere on b7-b8 or d8.]



41.g4! Another great and cold-blooded move! White is a piece and a pawn down and he simply plays g4! He creates the threat of Qf5 followed by g5 against which it is not easy to defend... And the c6 pawn is still there as a huge potential threat!

41...hxc4 42.fxg4 ♚d8 Black did not have anything better. [42...♚c5? loses to 43.♚f5+! An unexpected trade! 43...♚xf5 44.gxf5+ ♔xf5 45.c7+-]

43.♚f5+ ♔h6 44.g5+ ♔h5 45.gxf6+ White has won the piece back, but his king got exposed, which allows Black to give a perpetual.

45...g5! Yet another only move! [45...♔h6 loses to 46.♚d7! ♚xf6 47.♚h3+! ♔g6 48.c7! and Black loses because of the misplacement of his g6 king. It always stands in counterchecks. For instance 48...Qc6 moves into 49.Qg2! Or 48...♚a1+ 49.♔h2!+- and there are no more checks because Qa2, Qb2 or Qe5 are all met by counterchecks.]

46.♚d7 ♚xf6 47.c7 [A draw was agreed in view of 47.c7 47...♚f1+ with perpetual check.; The difference to the 45..Kh6 line is that after 47.♚h3+ 47...♔g6 the g5 pawn gives a shelter to the king and there is no countercheck on g2... 48.c7 ♚c6+ wins the c7 pawn.] **1/2-1/2**

**(15) Shirov, Alexei (2691)
- Kramnik, Vladimir (2783)**TCh-RUS Men 2015(1.1),
2015.05.01GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Shirov is back! After an unlucky year in 2014, getting under 2700 ELO, with this nice win over Kramnik the former world Nr3 is once again in the live +2700 rating list. The game started very calmly with a Berlin with 5.Re1, which is usually a pretty drawish line, but strangely enough, Kramnik misplayed his equal position terribly and found himself in this very bad endgame. White is a clear pawn up and the black king on h8 has no squares, but in case Black manages to exchange the knights, the position might be a draw.

50.a3 A very safe move, as it is good to put the own pawns on the opposite colored squares of the enemy bishop.

50...♔g8 Black keeps on waiting.

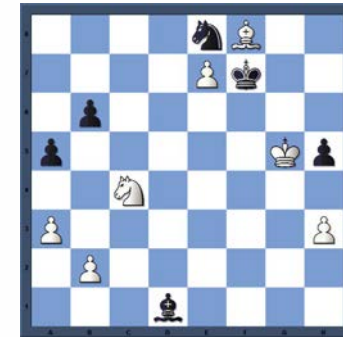
51.♔f4 ♕b3 Now White needs to decide what to do next. It would be great to get the king to d8- it would finish the game in fact- but it seems to be impossible to cross the 5th rank

because the black bishop on b3 controls the a2-g8 diagonal.

52.♔g5 ♕d1 Of course the h5 pawn has to be protected.

53.♖c4 White is immediately going for the b6 pawn, but why be in such a hurry?! [White could have tried to first put his pieces perfectly: 53.h4 fixing the pawn on h5 which could be good for the future. 53...♕e2 54.♔g6 fixing the position of the black king even further. 54...b5 Black has nothing better, as 44...Bd1 45.Nc4 would lead to a similar position as in the game, just in a slightly better version for White. 55.♖c6 a4 56.♖d4 and White is winning a second pawn.]

53...♔f7



54.♖xb6 Black is 2 pawns down, but now the black pieces are more active and the bishop on f8 is very passive. The opposite color bishop endgame might still be a draw though.

54...♖d6 55.♖d5 ♖e4+ 56.♔h4 a4 Black is trying to be as solid as possible and asking White what's next. [If Kramnik only knew that the bishop endgame is lost, he would have played 56...♕f3 but of course his position would still be lost.]

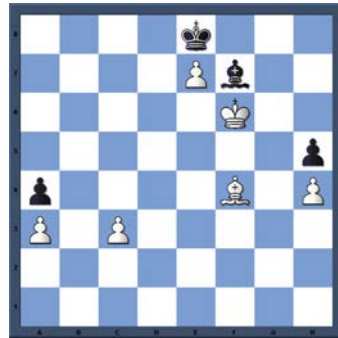
57.♖c3 ♖xc3 Black has no choice.

58.bxc3 ♕e2 Not letting White play c4 immediately.

59. ♖g5 ♜e8 The black king has to be placed on d7, which is its perfect position.

60. h4 ♖d7 [An attempt to keep the bishop on f8 would lead nowhere: 60... ♜f7 61. ♖f5 and the white king moves to d6, after which Bh6-Bg5 will be possible.]

61. ♖f6 ♜c4 62. ♜h6 ♜e8 63. ♜f4 ♜f7



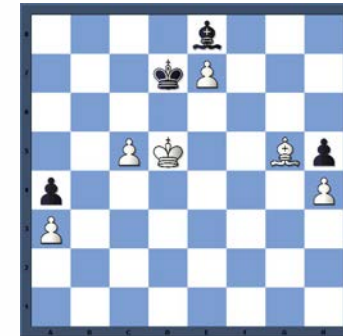
64. ♜g5 ♜b3 65. ♜e5 White is going to play c4.

65... ♜d7 66. ♜d4 ♜f7 67. ♜c5 Before playing c4, why not improve the position of the king?

67... ♜c7 68. c4 ♜e8 69. ♜d5 In case Black could somehow get the position with Bc6 and Kd7 and at the same time not allow White to put his king to b6 and pawn on c5, the position would be a draw, but it is too much to ask for...

69... ♜d7 [Black is also losing after 69... ♜c6+ 70. ♜e6! The white king gets to f8 and the black king is not in time to get to e8. 70... ♜e8 71. ♜f6 followed by Kg7-Kf8 and the game is over.]

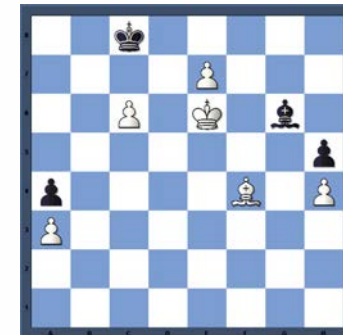
70. c5



70... ♜g6 [Now after 70... ♜c7 71. ♜e6 is the right winning plan. 71... ♜c6 72. ♜e3 and once again Black can't do anything against the idea of Kf6-Kg7-Kf8.]

71. c6+ ♜c7 72. ♜f4+ Now White puts a second pawn on the 7th rank.

72... ♜c8 73. ♜e6



73... ♜f7+ The last check!

74. ♜f6 It is better not to take the poisoned bishop...

74... ♜e8 75. c7 ♜d7 76. ♜g7 A beautifully played endgame by Shirov, with the right evaluation of the opposite colored bishop endgame! **1-0**

Chess and the City. Manger comme un Dieu...



WGM Elisabeth Paetz
Best rating: 2493

France is not only well known for its excellent cuisine but also for its fantastic wines.

However, going to France as a chess player is usually connected to chess and not to abuse of wine and food. But doing both could sometimes be an option too....

Today the Top 12 is going to start in Montpellier. It is a women competition of 12 teams divided into 2 pools - A and B. The two top finishers of both pools will meet for the semi-final and final in the end of June for the French championship title.

The rules in France are very different compared to the German ones and in my opinion they are much more "nationalistic". Whereas a German women team could basically compete with 6 non-Germans, in the French league only one foreigner is allowed. This indicates that the championship itself is weaker, but the support of French players is more important.

My team is the team of Phillidor Mulhouse from Alsace, which managed to finish second last year, mainly blaming me for skipping the two final games. The team consists of me and 3 French girls: Mathilde Choisy, Emma Richard and Salomé Neuhauser. In the first round we will play against Monaco,

with the legend Pia Cramling on top board. When it comes to Pia, I already mentioned that she was my hero in the last world Championship and I am very excited to play against her again.

I will update you about all final results in my next newsletter.

Here are some pictorial impressions of the championship!



My team from left to right: Emma Richard, Mathilde Choisy, myself and Salomé Neuhauser



"Our team captain is not only a GM but also a quite talented chef" Jean Noel Riff alias Jiji

Clash of the Titans

(16) Smyslov, Vassily
- Geller, Efim P[E89]

URS-ch22 playoff-1pl(7), 1955



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 ♖f6 **2.c4** g6 **3.♗c3** ♕g7 **4.e4** d6 **5.f3** O-O **6.♘e3** e5 A typical fight for the center. Nowadays 6...c5 is also popular, which leads to the Benoni structures.

7.♗ge2 [7.d5]

7...c6 A tricky move which forces White to close the center.



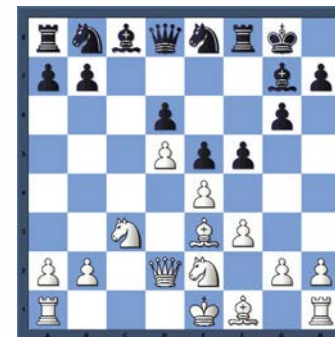
8.d5 [8.♖d2 gives Black the opportunity to get counterplay after 8...exd4 9.♗xd4 d5! The white king is in the center, which is why this action is possible. 10.cxd5 cxd5 11.e5 ♗e8 12.f4 f6! 13.exf6 ♗xf6 14.♘e2 ♗c6 15.O-O ♖e8∞ and the pawn on f4 is badly placed, so Black has counterplay over the e-file.]

8...cxd5 **9.cxd5** ♗e8 Black is preparing the thematic plan

with f7-f5. [9...♗h5?! 10.g4 ♗f4 11.♗xf4 exf4 12.♘xf4 ♖b6 13.♖d2±]

10.♖d2 [10.g4 10...f5 (10...♘h6! A typical trick which helps Black solve the problems with his limited bishop.)]

10...f5



11.h3?! I don't like this move, which looks too slow. [11.O-O-O 11...♗f6 (11...fxe4 12.fxe4 ♘g4?! is not dangerous. 13.h3 ♘xe2 14.♘xe2± and the bishop will be activated over the h3-c8 diagonal.) 12.h3 fxe4 13.fxe4 ♗h5 (13...b5!? Because the e4 pawn is hanging Black can immediately get the initiative on the queenside.) 14.g3! limiting the black pieces. Less accurate is (14.g4 14...♗f4! 15.♗xf4 exf4 16.♘xf4 ♖b6↑ and thanks to this pawn sacrifice Black gets a strong bishop and the useful e5 square for the knight.) 14...♗d7 15.♖b1 ♗c5 16.♘g2 ♘d7 17.♖hf1 with complex play.]

11...♗d7 An interesting alternative for Black was [11...f4 12.♘f2 ♘f6! It is very important for Black to activate the bishop. 13.h4 (13.O-O-O 13...♘h4∞ 14.♘g1?! and the rook on h1 is dead.) 13...♗g7 14.O-O-O ♗h5 In case White plays Kb1-Nc1 Black will answer Ng3.]

12.g3 A rather strange move. Maybe White wanted to play Bg2 but it looks very artificial. More active was [12.O-O-O 12...fxe4 (12...♗df6 13.g4 ♘d7 (13...f4 14.♘f2 ♖f7 15.♖b1 ♘f8 16.♗c1

and White is clearly better thanks to his space advantage.)
 14.exf5 (14.♔b1 14...b5±) 14...gxf5 15.gxf5 ♖xf5 16.♘g3 ♗g6
 17.♗d3 White gets control of the light squares.) 13.fxe4 ♘ef6
 14.g4 b5 (14...♘c5 15.♘g3+=) 15.♘g3 (15.g5 15...b4 16.gxf6 bxc3
 17.♘xc3 ♘xf6∞) 15...a6 16.g5 ♘e8 17.♗e2



and again White has a stable advantage thanks to his space advantage. 17...♖f4!? This kind of idea can be interesting.
 18.♗xf4 exf4 19.♖xf4 ♘e5 with compensation!]



12...♘b6! Usually this is not a good place for the knight but in this case Black has a concrete idea.

13.b3 [13.♗f2!? deserves attention too. 13...♘c4 (13...♗f6 14.h4) 14.♖c1 (14.♖c2 14...♗h6 Xe3) 14...f4 15.g4 (15.b3 15...fxg3! and the f-file is weak now.) 15...♗d7 (15...♘e3



16.h4! (16.♗xe3 16...fxe3 17.♖xe3 ♗f6!±)) 16.h4 ♖c8 17.b3
 ♘e3 18.♗xe3 fxe3 19.♖xe3 ♖a5 with the idea Bf6-Bd8-Bb6
 and Black has full compensation.]

13...f4 Because after 13.b3 the a1-h8 diagonal is weaker Black is able to play this move.

14.gxf4 exf4 15.♗d4 [15.♘xf4 15...♖h4+ 16.♔d1 ♖xf4 17.♗xf4
 ♗xc3—+ This is the point of the 12...Nb6 idea.]



15...♘d7! A strong move, stopping the knight from coming to the useful e5 square.

16.h4 [16.♗xg7 16...♖h4+±]

16...♘e5 17.♗g2 ♗d7 18.♗f2 ♖c8 [18...♘f6?! 19.♘xf4 ♗h6
 20.♗e3]

19.♘d4 White managed to regroup his pieces and is preparing

Bh3, with the idea of exchanging bishops and getting the important e6 square.

19...♖a5 20.♞c1



20...♞c7! A good move. Black improved the last piece which was not placed perfectly, all the while setting a trap! [20...♞f6 21.♞h3!]

21.♞c2 [21.♞h3 doesn't work now because of 21...♞b5!! and Black is winning! 22.♞xd7 ♞xd4+]

21...♞a6 22.O-O ♞c5 [22...♞b4 also looks good. 23.♞ce2 ♞xc2 24.♞xc2 ♞xa2!]

23.♞ce2 [23.♞h1 23...♞cd3 24.♞g1 ♞d8!+]

23...♞xd2 24.♞xd2 It is typical that in case your pieces are placed perfectly then some concrete action comes automatically.



24...♞xe4! [24...♞cd3 25.♞e6+]

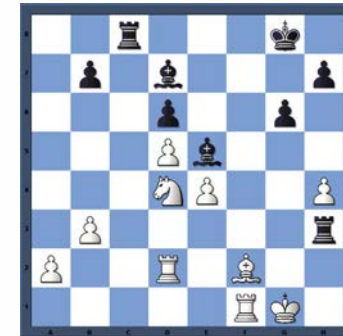
25.fxe4 f3 26.♞xf3 ♞xf3+ [Black could keep more pieces on the board after 26...♞xf3!+]

27.♞xf3 ♞xf3 28.♞xa7 The last practical chance is to grab the pawn. [28.♞d4 28...♞xf1+ 29.♞xf1 ♞h6!+ Of course Black keeps the bishop pair!]

28...♞h3 29.♞f2 White could try to defend the position actively. [29.♞f4 29...♞xh4 30.♞e6 ♞xe4 (30...♞xe6 31.dxe6 ♞g4+ 32.♞h1 ♞e5 33.♞d4+; 30...♞e5 31.♞df2 ♞xe6 32.dxe6 ♞xe4 33.♞f7; 30...♞h6!?) 31.♞xg7 ♞xg7 32.♞d4+ ♞g8 33.♞f6+]

29...♞e5 [29...♞h6!? forcing White to put the rook on b2.]

30.♞d4 [30.♞c1!? might have given White better chances. 30...♞f8 31.♞c7 ♞h2!+]



30...♞g4! A very strong move which allows Black to keep his active bishop, as otherwise White would have played Ne6!

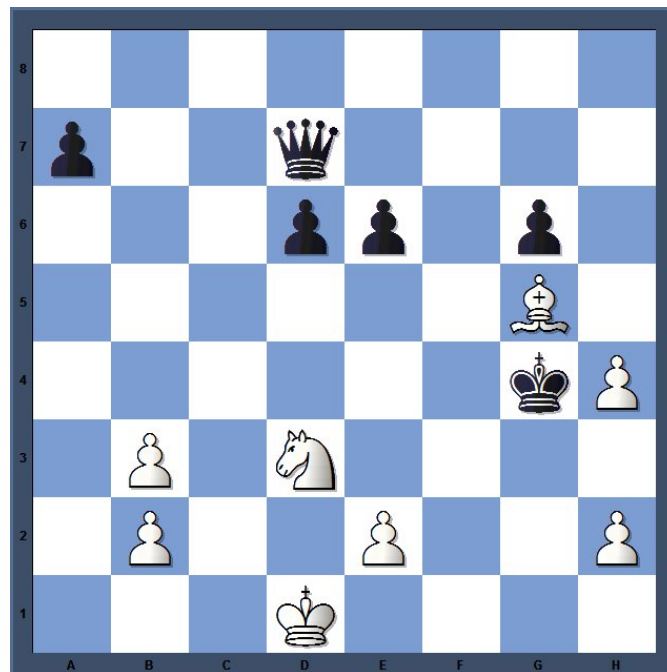
31.♞e1 [31.♞e1 31...♞f4 32.♞b2 ♞h2+]

31...♞e3 32.♞f2 ♞xe4 33.♞e1?! ♞xe1+ 34.♞xe1 ♞c1 Black is winning very easily now after 35.Kf2 Bf6! **0-1**

Surprise section / study

(17) Kubbel

1. +-



Solutions

(18) Carlsen, M(2863)-Vachier Lagrave, M(2765)

Gashimov memorial, 2015.04.21



54. ♖d5! 1-0 [54. ♖d5 54...a1=♚ 55. ♗f7+ (55. ♔g4!?+-) 55...♕g5 56. ♗f5#]

(19) Moiseenko, A(2693)-Postny, E(2645)

World Teams, 2015.04.22



24. ♖d3!! ♖d5 [24... ♖xe5 25. ♖h7+! ♔xh7 26. ♗xd8+-]

25. exf6! ♖xc5 26. ♖e4! ♖d5 [26...gxf6 27. ♗d7 ♖c8 28. ♗d8+-] **27. ♖xd5+-**

(20) Gelfand, B(2747)-Ponomarev, R(2713)

World Teams, 2015.04.22



43.h7! ♔b1+ **44.♔g2** ♚xh7 **45.♚f3+!!** [45.♚e7+ 45...♚c7+-]

45...♚c6 [45...♔b6 46.♘d4+ ♔c7 47.♘e5+ ♔d8 48.♘f6+= ♔e8? 49.♚b7+-]

46.♚xf7+ ♚c7 1/2 [46...♚c7 47.♚d5+ ♔b6 48.♘d4+ ♔a5 49.♘c3+ ♔b6 50.♘d4+=]

(21) Yu Yangyi(2724)-Sargissian, G(2668)

World Teams, 2015.04.22



14.♘h3!! ♚xh3 **15.♚xb7+-** ♘d6 [15...♚e6 16.♘c6+-]

16.♚xf7+ ♔h8 **17.♘xd5!** ♘xe5 [17...♚f8 18.♘xf6!! ♚xf7 (18...gxf6 19.♚d7!+-) 19.♘xf7#]

18.♘xe5 ♚f8 [18...♚d7 19.♘e7!+-]

19.♚b7 ♚ab8 **20.♚xa7 ♚a8** **21.♚b7 ♚ab8** **22.♘f4!+-**

(22) Ivanchuk, V(2731)-Yu Yangyi(2724)

World Teams, 2015.04.26



26.♘a4! ♚xc2 **27.♚xc2 ♚a5** [27...♚d6 28.♘b5+-]

28.b4! ♚xa4 **29.♚xc7+-**

(23) Short, N(2664)-Kasparov, G(2812)

Battle of the Legends (blitz), 2015.04.26



22...♔e1! —+ [22...♖xd1+ 23.♙xd1 ♕xd1+ 24.♖b2 e3? 25.♕a8+ ♖h7 26.♕e4+]

23.♕xa6 [23.♙h5 23...♕xb4+ 24.♘b2 ♖b8—; 23.♕xe4 23...♖xd1+! 24.♙xd1 ♕xe4—; 23.♕c4 23...♖xd1+ 24.♙xd1 ♕xd1+ 25.♖b2 e3—+]

23...♕xb4+ 24.♖c1 [24.♘b2 24...♖b8—+]

24...♕d2+ 25.♖b2 ♖b8+ 26.♙b5 ♕b4+ 27.♖c1 ♖xb5—+

(24) Kasparov, G(2812)-Short, N(2664)

Battle of the Legends (blitz), 2015.04.26



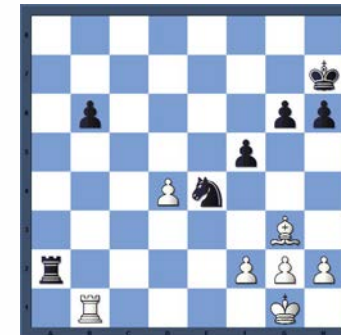
29.♙h6! ♖e2 [29...gxh6 30.♘xh6 ♖e8 31.♕xf7#]

30.♙xg7+ ♖e8 [30...♖xg7 31.♕h6+ ♖g8 32.♘f6#]

31.♘h6 ♘b6 32.♕xf7+ ♖d7 33.♘g5+—

(25) Ushenina, A(2486)-Padmini, R(2454)

World Teams Woman, 2015.04.21



40...f4! 41.f3 [41.♙xf4 41...♘c3 42.♖e1 ♘e2+ 43.♖xe2 ♖a1+—+]

41...♘c3! 42.♖xb6 ♘e2+ 43.♖f1 fxg3—+

(26) Gunina, V(2528)-Abdumalik, Z(2369)

World Teams Woman, 2015.04.26



28. ♖xg6+! 1-0 [28. ♖xg6+ 28...hxg6 29. ♔xf7#]

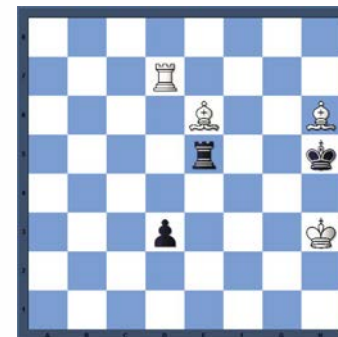
(27) Bukavshin, I(2618)-Eliseev, U(2514)

Russian Junior Championship, 2015.04.24



27. ♖xg6+! ♔xg6 [27...♗xg6 28. ♖xf6+-; 27...hxg6 28. ♔h6#]

28. ♔xf5+-

(28) Mattison

1. ♖d5! ♗xd5 **2. ♗e3!!** ♖g5 [2...d2 3. ♗f7#; 2...♔g6 3. ♗xd5+-]

3. ♗f7+ ♔h6 [3...♖g6 4. ♔h2!! ♔g4 5. ♗xg6+-]

4. ♗e8!! [4. ♔h4 4...♔g7=]

4...d2 5. ♗xd2+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 168

16th of May 2015

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Editorial Preface

The strong open in Nakhchivan had 2 winners and both are from Azerbaijan: Eltaj Safarli and Gadir Guseinov scored 7/9, but Safarli was declared the tournament winner on tiebreak.

The last stage of the FIDE Grand Prix - from where 2 players will qualify for the Candidates tournament that will determine the player who can challenge the current World Champion Magnus Carlsen - has begun in Khanty-Mansiysk. Currently Tomashevsky is leading the Grand Prix standings, which is a bit surprising, followed by Caruana and Nakamura, so this last stage promises to be very exciting. Tomashevsky had the best start with 1.5/2, and it could even have been 2/2 if he had converted a totally winning position against Grischuk. Both Caruana and Nakamura had a slow start with 2 draws.

One of the biggest chess news of the week is clearly the change of Caruana to the US chess federation, for which he is going to play in the next Olympiad in Baku 2016. The US team now has 3 players from the Top 10: Caruana, Nakamura and So, which makes them clear pretenders for the gold medal.

More good news is the fact that our good friend Natalia Pogonina has signed a contract with an application developer from Japan for Chess Heroz. For those of you who like to have chess fun on portable devices, you can find more details on this on the last pages of this newsletter.

This week Alexander Khalifman is taking a break because of his recent playing schedule, but he is already going to be back in the next issue with his usual outstanding opening article!

We hope enjoy your weekly issue of "Top GMs Secrets"!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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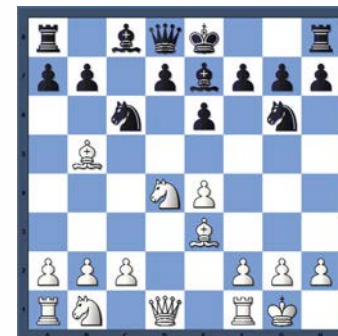
Two best games of the past week

(1) Vachier Lagrave, Maxime (2754)
- Gelfand, Boris (2744) [B30]

KM FIDE GP 2015(1),
2015.05.14



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



The final stage of the Grand Prix series. We expect big fight for the two qualification places to the Candidates tournament. The main contenders are Tomashevsky, Caruana and Nakamura, but Gelfand and Jakovenko also have their chances.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 Gelfand is heading towards his favorite Sicilian Sveshnikov defense, but Vachier Lagrave prefers to play the Rossolimo, the main alternative to avoid the main lines...

3.Nb5 e6 4.O-O Nge7 5.d4 This side line became popular since Caruana beat Gelfand in 2013. The most common moves are 5.Re1, 5.c3, 5.Nc3 or 5.b3.

5...cxd4 6.Nxd4 The character of the game has changed and now it is like an opened Sicilian. However both sides have a misplaced piece, the bishop on b5 is unnatural, since White does not want to take on c6, but the knight on e7 might also look a bit strange, since in most of the Sicilians it belongs to f6.

6...Ng6 7.Ne3 Ne7

8.Ne2! Regrouping of the misplaced bishop! White loses a tempo, but we can say, that the Ne7-g6 manoeuvre also drops a tempo compared to developing it simple to f6. White usually continues with c4, Nc3 aiming for space advantage and he did not want to exclude his bishop from the game by keeping it on b5.

8...O-O 9.Nc3 This is the prepared novelty of Vachier Lagrave. He wants to play a standard Sicilian (not a hedgehog type after 9.c4) and he hopes, that the knight on g6 is going to be misplaced in the future and he could make use of it with the f4-f5 attacking plan.

9...a6 Typical Sicilian move. Black takes control of the b5 square and intends to develop his bishop to the long diagonal with Nxd4 followed by b5-Bb7.

10.a4 Preventing the mentioned plan of Nxd4 and b5.

10...Kc7 11.Nb3 White wanted to play f4, but it did not work tactically. [11.f4 was strongly met by 11...Nc5! Suddenly White cannot really deal with the pin on the a7-g1 diagonal. Black is threatening to take on d4 and then on f4! 12.f5



12...♔e5! is a very nice motif! Black wins a pawn after all. 13.fxg6 hxg6! and Black wins back the sacrificed piece next move.]

11...b6 Another standard Sicilian move. White had the positional threat of pushing a5, squeezing Black on the queenside, therefore he prevents it and intends to develop his bishop to b7.

12.f4 ♘b7 This is the difference between having the knight on g6 and not on f6. With the knight on f6, Black must always count with e5, usually it is better to prevent it with d6, but with the knight on g6, e5 makes no sense because it can be effectively undermined by d6 or f6 and White's center falls apart. The only existing attacking idea is to push f5, but White must prepare for this break, otherwise Black simply installs his knight on e5 and he is doing completely fine.

13.♔d2 [13.f5 is premature because of 13...♞ge5; When I was following this game, I expected 13.♔e1 with the idea of f5 and on Nge5 Qg3, or the other point could be to attack the b6 pawn with Qf2. However this move has a drawback as well, that it leaves the c2 pawn unprotected 13...♞b4! 14.♔d2



14...f5! This is another big difference of having the knight on g6. Black suddenly launches strong counterplay on the long diagonal 15.exf5 ♞h4! and Black overtakes the initiative.]

13...♖ad8! I like this move a lot! The standard placement of this rook in this kind of opened Sicilians is on c8, but Gelfand must adopt his play to the new circumstances with the knight on g6 and he places his rooks to support different kind of central breaks with d5 or f5.

14.♞d3 Creating the hidden threat of Qf2, winning the b6 pawn. Black must react actively.



14...d5! Very well played by Gelfand! Black creates an isolated pawn and also closes his bishop on the long diagonal, but he gets very active pieceplay in exchange.

15.exd5 exd5 16.f5 Vachier Lagrave tries to refute Black's idea tactically. [Blockading the pawn with 16.♘d4 is met by 16...♙c5! followed by Rfe8 with strong pressure on the white pieces.; The most principled move was 16.♞e2



Trying to establish a blockade on the d4 square, keeping the b7 bishop locked. However Black has the very strong reply of 16...d4! a tempting pawn sacrifice with the idea of opening the long diagonal and creating threats against the g2 square. 17.♞bxd4 ♞h4! 18.♞f2 ♙c5 It is clear, that Black has huge compensation for the sacrificed pawn. 19.c3 ♞fe8 All the black pieces are standing perfectly. An illustrative line to demonstrate their power is 20.b4 ♙xd4 21.♙xd4 ♞xd4 22.♞xd4



22...♙xg2! 23.♞xg2 ♞xd4! and Nf3 forks the queen. It does

the job even if White takes on h7 and captures the rook with the queen.]

16...♞ge5



17.f6! ♙xf6 18.♞xf6! This exchange sacrifice was the point behind the last 2 moves. Otherwise White would have weakened his own squares, but now he wants to destroy Black's pawn structure in front of his king.

18...d4!? A very clever practical decision. Instead of accepting the sacrifice and entering into a very shaky position with unclear outcome, Gelfand prefers to simplify the position. After a forced line he ends up with a pawn down, but he gets excellent compensation (and a safe king's position), which will secure the draw. [Let's see, where the complications lead after 18...gxf6 19.♞f2! ♞xd3! (19...♞g4 seems to be strong at first sight, however White has an unpleasant intermediate move after 20.♞h4 ♞xh2+! 21.♞xh2 ♞xh2 this would be the point and Black forks with d4 next move, but White comes first with 22.♙xb6! and two pieces are hanging.) 20.cxd3 d4! White's main threats are on the kingside, but Black must also deal with the Bxb6 threat. (20...♞e5 21.♙xb6) 21.♞e4! (21.♞xd4 21...♞e5 is probably good for Black.) 21...dxe3 22.♞xf6+ ♙g7 (22...♙h8? loses to 23.♞f5 ♙g7 24.♞g5+ ♙h8 25.♞h6+—)



23. ♖h5+! leads to perpetual check. (23. ♕f5? is bad now in view of 23... ♕e5! White has only one check.) 23... ♔g8 (23... ♔g6 also leads to draw after 24. ♕f6+! ♔xh5 25. ♕f5+ ♔h6 26. ♕f6+=) 24. ♖f6+ (24. ♕f6? 24... ♕e5)]

19. ♖xc6! This desperado rook eliminates all the minor pieces. [19. ♖ff1? leads to very bad position after 19... dxe3 20. ♕xe3 ♖xd3 21. cxd3 ♖fe8± The material is balanced, but the black pieces are much better, d3 pawn is isolated and weak and the bishop is going to rule on the long diagonal.]

19... ♖xc6 White seems to end up and exchange down, but he had another tactical idea in mind, which actually gives him the material advantage...

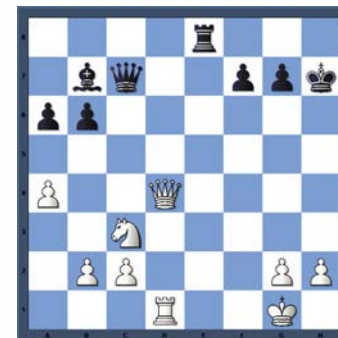


20. ♖xd4! ♖xd4 21. ♕xd4 ♖xd4 22. ♕xh7+! ♔xh7 23. ♕xd4
This is the position which was foreseen long ago by both

players. White is a pawn up, but the bishop on b7 is a monster, clearly dominates the knight on c3.

23... ♖e8 [23... ♖d8 was also possible to occupy the opened file with tempo. Gelfand was probably afraid of losing the e-file, but it is not dangerous at all 24. ♕h4+ ♔g8 25. ♖e1 ♕c5+ 26. ♕f2 ♕b4= with full compensation for the pawn.]

24. ♖d1



24... ♖e6! Very important to treat the position actively, otherwise White might consolidate, trade queens and end up with a healthy extra pawn. It is important for Black to keep all 3 pieces on board to create his threats, he should only trade something if he gets some concrete benefits.

25. ♖d3 ♖g6 26. ♖g3 White eases the pressure on the g2 square. [The alternative was 26. ♖h3+ 26... ♔g8 27. ♖d5 ♕xd5! (27... ♕d6 28. c4! would be fine for White!) 28. ♕xd5 ♖d6! Qa8 is simple met by Rd8. Black gets enough compensation on the opponent's backrank and the c2 pawn. The key line goes with 29. ♕e4 ♕c5+ 30. ♔f1 ♖f6+ 31. ♖f3 ♕g5!= and Black cannot deal with the Qc1 threat, Rxf6 drops the b2 pawn after Qxf6. White does not have a good option to preserve his extra pawn.]

26... ♖xg3 27. ♕h4+ ♔g8 28. hxg3 [The problem of 28. ♕xg3 was 28... ♕c5+! King moves are met by Qf5! and 29. ♕f2 ♕b4!

leads to draw again. 30. ♖d1 ♙xa4 31. ♙xb6 ♙xc2=]

28... ♙c6 29. ♙d8+ ♔h7 30. ♙h4+ ♔g8 31. ♙d8+ ♔h7 32. ♙d3+ ♔g8 33. ♙d8+ Draw agreed! [It was possible to play on with 33. ♙e2 but there was no realistic hopes for an advantage. Black is too active, the bishop is much better than the knight and White cannot focus on making progress on the kingside, because his king and queen are tied to defend the kingside pawns. 33... ♙c5+ 34. ♔h2 g6= with an equal position.] **1/2-1/2**

(2) Dominguez Perez, Leinier (2734) - Jakovenko, Dmitry (2738) [D43]

KM FIDE GP 2015(2),
2015.05.15



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are going to see a very fighting and interesting game. Right from the beginning the position got very sharp and it was hard to evaluate who was actually better. Just when it seemed like Black was taking over, Jakovenko made a clear miscalculation and was mercilessly punished in the tactical battle.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3. ♘f3 d5 4. ♘c3 This is one of the most popular positions in high level chess at the moment and now Black has a lot of moves to choose from.

4...c6 Jakovenko chooses to go back to a Slav. He could also have played a Queen's gambit after 4...Be7, or a Ragozin after 4...Bb4.

5.g3 A very sharp line.

5...dxc4 The most critical move. Now the ideas are simple, Black is trying to hold on to the extra pawn on c4 and White is trying to get good play in the center.

6. ♗g2 ♘bd7 Black is preparing to play b5.

7.a4 This is a very usual way of avoiding b5.

7... ♗b4 This move is played to avoid White's e4 push, because now Black will have Bxc4 and Nxe4.

8.0-0 0-0 9. ♙c2 A very logical move, White is preparing to play e4.

9...♔e7 and black is preparing to answer e4 with e5. Another idea could be to play c5 somewhere, but then the white bishop on g2 would become very strong.

10.a5 White is not only trying to play a6 somewhere to destroy Black's pawn structure, but Ra4 could also be good at some point in the future.



10...e5 [10...a6 was possible too and now White would have to choose between Ra4 and maybe Rd1 e5, and we would be back to the position in the game.]

11.♖d1 A good move! White keeps the pressure in the center. [Another interesting try for White could have been 11.a6!? 11...bxa6 Of course Black has other options, but to let the a6 pawn alive is a dangerous choice. 12.dxe5 ♞xe5 13.♞xe5 ♔xe5 14.♟xc6 but maybe Black is just fine after 14...♟f5! and the position is probably close to equal.]

11...a6 A solid move, but maybe Black could have played a bit more directly. [11...exd4 doesn't look too bad. 12.♞xd4 ♞e5 13.a6 ♖d8 and Black's position is probably a bit worse, but nothing too dramatic.]

12.d5 Let the action begin!

12...♞c5 A very logical move, the black knight is going to b3. [Of course White would be much better after 12...♟xc3?

13.d6! ♔e8 14.bxc3 and the d6 pawn is a beast!; It also didn't make sense for Black to continue with 12...cxd5 13.♞xd5 ♞xd5 14.♖xd5 and White is simply better because the c4 pawn is going to fall very soon.]

13.♟e3 A solid move, but maybe White had a better choice. [Dominguez could have tried to first play d6 in order to avoid Qe8. 13.d6 13...♔e6 (13...♔e8 14.♞a4 and White's advantage seems to be clear.) 14.♟e3 and White's position is very active.]

13...♞b3



14.♖a4 Now we can see how useful the a5 move was.

14...c5 Probably the best move to get an open game! Of course it looks dangerous to have the Bb4 totally out of the game, but the rook on a4 is now passive too.

15.d6 The d-pawn is rolling.

15...♔e8 All Black needs is one move to play Nd4 next.

16.♖xb4! An excellent move! The d6 pawn will compensate the loss of the exchange.

16...cxb4 17.♞d5 ♞xd5 18.♖xd5 What a complicated position. White is a full exchange and a pawn down, but the d6 pawn is extremely strong and White also has the threat of just taking the e5 or c4 pawn, as well as to play Ng5 with some attack on the king.

18...♘d4?! A logical move, but probably not the best. [18...♙a4 19.♘g5 (19.♘xe5 19...♙e6 and of course the position remains very unclear, but Black's chances don't seem to be worse.) 19...g6 20.♙e4 and it is really hard to tell who is in charge here, as it is a material advantage against White's domination!]

19.♙xd4 Yet again I'm not sure this was the best move. [19.♘xd4 looks very logical. 19...exd4 20.♖xd4 Now the c4 pawn is hanging and in case White can take it, it is clear that he will have more than just compensation. 20...♙e6 21.♙xb7 ♙b5 (Black can't save the exchange with 21...♖a7



22.♖h4! with a double attack on a7 and h7.) 22.♙xa8 ♖xa8 and in my opinion White's position is clearly better, although of course Black keeps drawing chances.]

19...exd4 20.♖xd4 Another strange move in my opinion. [Why not take the pawn with the knight and open the g2 bishop?! 20.♘xd4]



20...b3! A good choice. Black is willing to give away both pawns, c4 and b4.

21.♙xc4 ♙e6 Now the b3 pawn could become very dangerous in the future.

22.♙d3 ♙c6 The position remains very complex, but now Black already has the more simple plan of playing Qc2 at some point.

23.♙d2 White continues playing very solid chess.

23...♖ac8?! [Better was 23...♙c2 24.♘g5 ♙b1+ 25.♙f1 ♙d7 with very unclear play.]

24.♘e1?! Both players seem to have missed the d7 move... [24.d7! was the right move. 24...♖cd8 (I guess both players missed the following line: 24...♙c1+ 25.♙f1 ♙xd2 and now White wins with the amazing 26.dxc8=♙!) 25.♘g5 and it is already White who is pushing for a win.]

24...♙c1 Of course! Entering an endgame is a good idea for Black.

25.f4 White's best chance.



25...Kb1?! This move is hard to understand... [After the simple 25...Kxd2 26.Rxd2 Rxc5 Black is better.]

26.Bf2 The white pieces are very safely placed.

26...Rc2? This is already a blunder. [26...Rfd8 leads to a worse, but playable position.]

27.Kb4! A strong move! White wants to play d7 and at the same time Be4.

27...Re8 [27...Kxb2 28.Nxc2 Kxc2 29.d7 and White is easily winning.]

28.Qe4 Black is lost!

28...Qg4 Jakovenko tries his last chance and creates some complications. **29.Nxc2** Perfect play by White.

29...bxc2

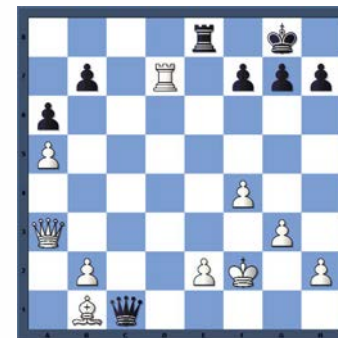


30.Qa4! and this move wins the game. The rook e8 and the pawn on c2 are hanging. The game is over.

30...Kf8 31.d7 Qxd7 [31...Rd8 32.Qb4+ Kg8 33.Qe7+-]

32.Rxd7 c1=Q All the moves were losing anyway...

33.Qa3+ Kg8 34.Qxb1 White is more than just a pawn up since the bishop on b1 is untouchable.



34...g6 [34...Kxb1 35.Qe7 and the game is over.]

35.Qb3 Qc5+ 36.e3 From being an exchange and a pawn down, White finds himself a full piece and a pawn up! All in all a very interesting game with some mistakes, but Jakovenko's 25...Qb1 is really hard to understand... **1-0**

David vs. Goliath



Peter Zhdanov

Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this entertaining column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week brought us 23 upsets.

The number of moves ranges from 24 in Lakat (1802) - Darazs (2197), 1-0 to 103 in GM Khismatullin (2666) - Palchun (2288), 0-1.

The high-profile upsets this week are GM Khismatullin (2666) - Palchun (2288), 0-1, rapid chess; GM Alekseev (2653) - FM Gerasimov (2329), 0-1, blitz; GM Khismatullin (2650) - FM Murtazin (2342), 0-1; GM Romanov (2613) - Beradze (2310), 0-1.

In the "girl power" section Mari Muller (1887) deserves an honorary mention for beating WGM Sabrina Vega Gutierrez (2395) as Black. That's a 508 rating points difference!

A tragicomedy occurred in Normand (1721) - Dandin (2059):



Black to move. White has just played g4. Instead of the normal 36...Qg6 with mutual chances the Goliath went 36...d3?? (I wish more question marks were available) and received a neat checkmate -37.Qh5X.

Top-10:

Benitez Galeano (1740) - Latorre (2297), 1-0, [557](#) points
 Vega Gutierrez (2395) - Muller (1887), 0-1, [508](#) points
 Nelson (2231) - Varney (1746), 0-1, [485](#) points
 Roman (2006) - Pichot (2482), 1-0, [476](#) points
 Nicolas-Manceau (1611) - Richard (2083), 1-0, [472](#) points
 Nikolovski (2356) - Radenkovic (1908), 0-1, [448](#) points
 Radonjic (1928) - Vlatkovic (2361), 1-0, [433](#) points
 Lakat (1802) - Daracz (2197), 1-0, [395](#) points
 Sukovic (1775) - Anicic (2155), 1-0, [380](#) points
 Julien (2101) - Normand (1721), 0-1, [380](#) points

Average gap: 453; White won 6 games, Black won 4 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) is welcomed.

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot

Best rating: 2749

(3) Tari, Aryan (2520)

- Agdestein, Simen (2620) [B04]

Scandinavian Masters 2015(2.3),
2015.05.11

After a first round loss, the 15-year old Norwegian player Aryan Tari needed a win to stay in contention for the only qualifying spot for Stavanger. Simen Agdestein was the country's long-time leader (before the Carlsen era obviously!) and became more and more active again lately.

1.e4 ♖f6 **2.e5** ♘d5 **3.d4** d6 **4.♗f3** c6 Not the most sound move. It seems like Black is trying to avoid his opponent's opening preparation. I think that in Alekhine's defence, Black should fight White's advanced center, so the main moves are 4...Bg4, 4... g6 or 4...dxe5.

5.c4 ♗c7



6.h3 Very safe and positional play but Black's strange start deserves to be refuted. [6.♗c3! is of course the critical move. 6...♗g4 White has two options to take the advantage now. (6...dxe5 7.♗xe5 g6 8.♗e2 ♗g7 9.♗e3 O-O 10.O-O+= White has a great game.) 7.♗e2 A logical development of the pieces. Both black moves now involve a pawn sacrifice but White gets great play. (7.exd6!? 7...exd6 8.h3 ♗h5 9.g4 ♗g6 10.♖b3 b6 (10...♖c8 11.♗h4! simply taking the bishop.) 11.♗g2+=) 7...♗xf3 (7...dxe5 8.♗xe5 ♗xe2 9.♖xe2 ♖xd4 This move should be tried but is refuted. 10.O-O± ♗d7 11.♗xf7! An important blow. 11...♗xf7 12.♖d1 ♖e5 13.♖xd7 ♖xe2 14.♗xe2 White wins a pawn. 14...♖c8 15.♗f4) 8.♗xf3 dxe5 9.d5 e6 10.♖b3 White crushes on the light squares.]

6...dxe5 7.♗xe5 g6 8.♗c3 ♗g7 9.♗f3 White has to retreat, so the position is around equal. [9.♗e3 9...O-O 10.♗e2 is now met by the strong 10...c5!]

9...O-O 10.♗e3



10...b5 Interesting play, but 10... Nd7 and then the central e5 break is still more to my taste.

11.♖d2 ♗a6 [11...bxc4 12.♗xc4 would be slightly better for White.]

12. ♖h6 The right idea. After Black's two queenside moves White logically plays on the kingside, but the best move was [12.h4!! 12...h5 (12...bxc4 13.h5 seems very dangerous.) 13. ♖h6 bxc4



14.g4!! Very nice. It is easy to find this at home with the fast confirmation of the engine but much more difficult to play it over the board. 14...hxc4 15.h5 gxf3 16. ♖xg7 ♖xg7 17.hxc6 ♖h8 18. ♖xh8 ♖xh8 19. ♖f4 White wins back the pawn and continues attacking the opponent's king.]

12...bxc4 13. ♖xg7 [13.h4 is already not that strong here. 13... ♖xh6 14. ♖xh6 f6! is safe.]

13... ♖xg7 14. ♖e5 ♖b5 Black's knight continues its long journey, but a central break was also possible. [14...c5! 15.dxc5 (15.d5 15... ♖d7! 16. ♖c6 ♖e8! and Black is even better.) 15... ♖xd2+ 16. ♖xd2 ♖e6 with a pretty equal endgame.]

15. ♖d1 ♖d6 16. ♖e2 f6 White's strong knight needs to be removed.

17. ♖g4 ♖d7



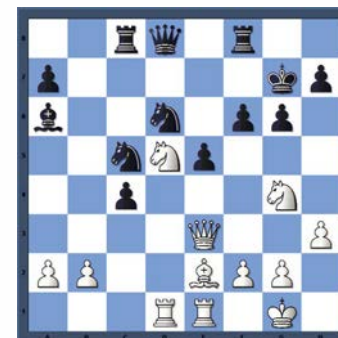
18. 0-0 The last moves were very logical and now the position is very unclear.

18... ♖b8 Black should have chosen a more central regrouping now with [18... ♖b6 followed by Qc7 and Rad8.]

19. ♖fe1 c5? Improving the structure but opening the center files for White's heavy pieces was not Black's wisest decision.

20. dxc5 ♖xc5 21. ♖e3+= ♖c8 22. ♖d5!? [22. ♖f1 Attacking e7 forces 22... ♖d3 23. ♖xd3 cxd3 24. ♖xa7 ♖a8 and any take on e7 would give Black some compensation, but not enough for equality.]

22...e5 [22... ♖f5 23. ♖a3 ♖d6 is maybe better but frankly very difficult to play. 24. ♖f1 e5 25.f4 with a position that only computers might save.]



23. ♖b4!? [23. ♖dxf6! The first miss of this strong move by

White. 23...♖xf6 24.♔d5! ♘d3 25.♙xd3 cxd3 26.♙xe5 ♘f7 27.♖xd8 ♘xe5 28.♖xc8 ♙xc8 29.♘e5 Black has a very nasty endgame to defend.]

23...cxb3 [23...♘f5 gives a defendable but not very enjoyable position. 24.♙a3 ♘d3 25.♙xd3 cxd3 26.♙xa6 ♙xd5 27.♘xf6! ♙d4 28.♘e4 ♙xb4 29.♙xd3 with a slight advantage for White.]

24.♙xa6 ♘xa6 25.♙xa7+ ♘c7 26.♘b6?! Now Black has only moves but equalizes comfortably. Maybe White missed that the exchange on f6 gives him some winning chances. [26.axb3 26...♘b5 27.♙a5 ♘d4 28.♘dxf6+=; 26.♘dxf6 26...♖xf6 27.♘xf6 ♙xf6 28.axb3+= Black has some trouble organizing his pieces and will surely lose his e-pawn.]

26...♖b8 27.♘c4 ♘b5! 28.♙c5 ♘e6! 29.♙e3 ♘bd4 [29...♙c7 30.♘cxe5! The same only move as in the game. 30...fxe5? (30...♘bd4! and we are back to the game.) 31.♔d7+! ♙xd7 32.♙xe5+ and White wins after 32...♙f7 33.♙f6+ ♙g8 34.♘h6#]



30.♘cxe5! The only move. In mutual time pressure, the rest of the game is pretty good.

30...♙c7 31.♖c1 ♙b7 [31...♙d6 32.♘xg6 hxg6 33.♙h6+ ♙g8 34.♙xg6+ ♘g7 35.♘h6+ ♙h8 36.axb3 can be dangerous only for Black.]

32.axb3 ♘f5 33.♙c3 ♖bc8 34.♙f3 ♙xf3 35.♘xf3 Only next two moves might be criticized but probably wouldn't have changed the result.

35...♘f4 [35...♖xc1 36.♖xc1 ♖b8 37.♖c3 ♖b7 followed by Nfd4 is almost a draw.]

36.♖xc8 Agreeing to a draw. White could still have pushed with a rook move like 36.Rcd1.

36...♖xc8 37.g3 ♘xh3+ 38.♙g2 ♘g5 39.♘xg5 fxg5 40.♘e3 ♘xe3+ 41.♖xe3 ♖b8 1/2-1/2

Puzzle section

(4) Murtazin, B(2342)-Potkin, V(2605)

Russian league, 2015.05.05

1... -+



(5) Motylev, A(2653)-Najer, E(2634)

Russian league, 2015.05.06

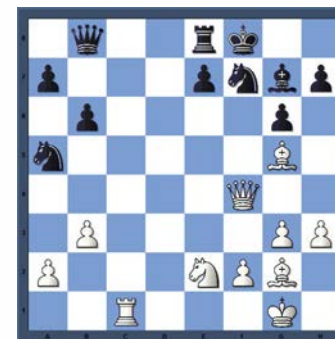
1... -+



(6) Tregubov, P(2617)-Savitskiy, S(2330)

Russian league, 2015.05.06

1. +-



(7) Nepomniachtchi, I(2714)-Sjugirov, S(2669)

Russian league, 2015.05.07

1. +-



(8) Chekhov, S(2486)-Yudin, S(2524)

Russian league, 2015.05.02

1... -+



(9) Chigaev, M(2496)-Iljiushenok, I(2485)

Russian league, 2015.05.03

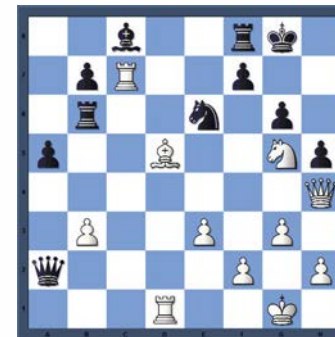
1. +-



(10) Shemeakin, A(2247)-Sarana, A(2461)

Russian league, 2015.05.05

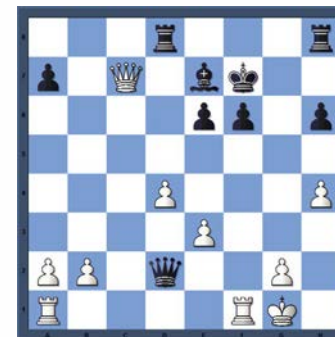
1. +-



(11) Svidler, P(2734)-Potapov, P(2477)

Russian league (rapid), 2015.05.08

1. +-



(12) Dubov, D(2659)-Landa, K(2634)

Russian league (rapid), 2015.05.08

1. +-



(13) Svidler, P(2734)-Malakhov, V(2702)

Russian league (rapid), 2015.05.09

1... ♠



Endgame section

(14) Vachier Lagrave, Maxime (2754)
- Jobava, Baadur (2699)

KM FIDE GP 2015(2),
2015.05.15



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



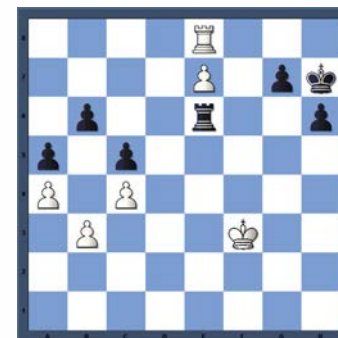
After a very interesting game where both sides had their chances, we finally ended up in an endgame which at first sight looks like it might be winning for Black, but as usual, rook endgames are much more tricky than they seem to be!

48...d1=♔+ [Of course not 48...♖xd6?? 49.♗h8+! ♔xh8 50.e8=♔+ and White is winning.]

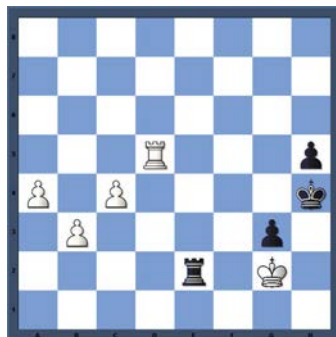
49.♔xd1 ♖xd6+ To go to the c-file or e-file is an easy decision...

50.♔e2 Of course! When the black kingside pawns will start to run, White will need his king to stop them.

50...♖e6+ 51.♔f3 and of course the white king is getting as close as possible to the middle of the board to prevent Black from pushing his pawns.



51...g5 A very difficult decision as now the black king will be cut from the pawns. Black had another interesting option: [51...♔g6! avoiding being cut off on the 6th rank. 52.♖b8 White needs to take the b6 pawn anyway, so why not to it right away?! 52...♖xe7 53.♖xb6+ and again Black has to choose where to go. 53...♔h5 (After 53...♔f5 54.♖b5 ♖e5 55.♖xa5 g5 White holds the position as well. 56.♖a8 g4+ 57.♔f2 h5 and White is in time to get good counterplay by pushing the a-pawn. 58.a5 h4 59.a6 and the game should end up in a draw.) 54.♖b5 g5 Black is trying to move as quickly as possible in direction of queening. 55.♖xc5 ♔h4 56.♖xa5 Now White is a pawn up, but the black pawns are much more advanced, which gives him a clear advantage. 56...g4+ 57.♔f2 h5 and now it is important for White to be extremely accurate to hold the position. 58.♖d5 The white rook is trying to come back to the first rank to help the white king in the defence. 58...g3+ Now there are a lot of different moves for White, but what is clear is that his position is very dangerous. 59.♔g1 ♖e1+ 60.♔g2 ♖e2+



61.♔g1 and actually here Black was winning if he played the logical 61...♔g4 with the idea of playing h4-h3. 62.♖d4+ ♔h3 63.♖d1 h4 64.c5 ♔g4 and White can't stop Black from playing h3-h2-Kh3. What this variation shows us is that in rook endgames it is usually to even give up a pawn in order to maximize the activity of your king.]

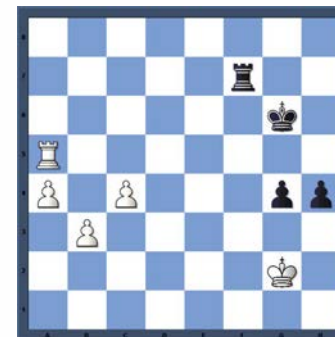
52.♖b8 Of course!

52...♖xe7 53.♖xb6 Now Black's only chance is to push the pawns as far as possible.

53...h5 54.♖c6 ♖f7+ [54...g4+ was not winning either. 55.♔f4 ♖f7+ 56.♔g3 and White is not afraid of Rf3. 56...♖f3+ 57.♔h4 ♖h3+ 58.♔g5 and the saving idea is yet again in having an active king. 58...g3 59.♖c7+ ♔g8 60.♔f6! and Black has nothing more than a draw here.]

55.♔g2 h4 The pawns are running, but White is in time to "clean" the board on the queenside.

56.♖xc5 ♔g6 57.♖xa5 g4 It is already too late for Black to try the Kh5-Kg4 idea.



58.♖a8! A strong move which combines 2 ideas: to check the black king from behind and at the same time support the advance of the a-pawn.

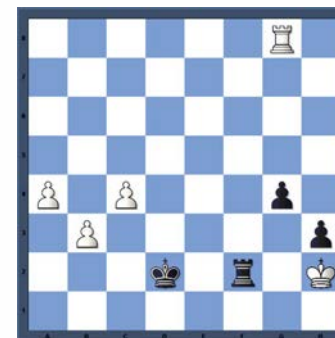
58...♖f3 This move leads to a draw, but Black already didn't have anything better.

59.♖g8+ ♔f5 60.♖f8+ ♔e4 61.♖e8+ Chasing the black king away from the pawns.

61...♔f4 62.♖f8+ ♔e3 63.♖e8+ ♔d2 and now that the black king is 3 squares away, White starts the attack on the pawns.

64.♖g8 Of course other moves would be a draw as well, but this is the most simple one.

64...h3+ 65.♔h2 The black pawns are stopped so the position is just a draw. **65...♖f2+**



66.♔h1 Not falling for Black's last trap... [White could still

have lost after 66.♔g1? 66...♖g2+ 67.♔h1 g3 68.a5 and the black king is just moving to f1. 68...♔e2 White can't do anything against the Kf1 and Rh2 mate threat.]

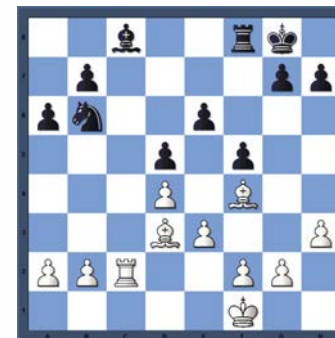
66...♖f1+ 67.♔h2 ♜f2+ 68.♔h1 An interesting draw after a great fighting game and of course a pity for Jobava that he missed quite good winning chances by playing the premature g5 and not Kg6. It would have been very interesting to watch whether Maxime would find a way to hold this difficult rook endgame. **1/2-1/2**

(15) Andreikin, Dmitry (2723) - Potapov, Pavel (2471)

Russian league,
2015.05.06



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



White has a perfect Stonewall. Black is missing his dark squared bishop and he fails to control the h2-b8 diagonal. He is left instead with the typically poor c8 bishop, which has no mobility because of his own pawns. Another very important factor is the rooks on board. White controls the only opened file and invading to the seventh rank is always hanging in the air. All these facts guarantee a huge advantage for White, but the win still requires some technique. Please note how Andreikin improves his position with each move by simple advancing one of his pawns.

27.b3! White restricts the movement of the knight by taking control over the c4 and a4 squares. [White does not achieve anything by the immediate 27.♖c7 because after 27...♘a8! he is forced to retreat on the c-file, since 28.♖e7 is met by 28...♖f7! 29.♖e8+ ♜f8 forcing the trade of the rooks, which seriously increases Black's defensive chances.]

27...♞a8 Black tries to control the c7 square, but of course it is quite a poor place for the knight. [27...♞d7 is already met by 28.♞c7 preventing the trade of rooks with Rc8 by attacking the b7 pawn. 28...♞c6 drops a pawn after 29.♞xa6!]

28.a4! Gaining space and further squeezing the knight. White is threatening with a5-b4, locking the knight forever to the corner.

28...b6 Black temporarily prevents a5, but it does not solve the problems.

29.b4! ♞b7 Black controls all the invading squares on the c-file and he wants to trade off the rooks. However, the a8 knight remains trapped, the only question is if White able to break through on the kingside or not.

30.b5! a5 White has achieved the maximum on the queenside. Black successfully controls all the important squares, but it ties up all his pieces. Therefore it is logical, that White must make progress on the kingside. [30...axb5 31.♞xb5 is even worse, because White is threatening with Bd7 and (31.axb5 is also possible, because White have the option of playing Ra2-a7.) 31...♞c8 loses to 32.♞xc8+ ♞xc8 33.♞c6+- The destiny of the knight comes true.]

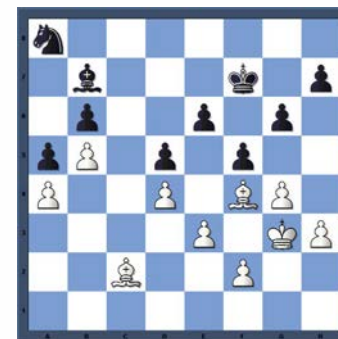


31.g4! g6 The only chance is the keep the position locked. The capture outward the center on g4 seriously improves White's

structure and also opens the position for the two bishops.

32.♞g2! It is time to bring the king into the game. It has a beautiful entrance to the Black's camp along the dark squares.

32...♞f7 [Here was a chance for Black to trade rooks, however as we will see the endgame is completely hopeless after 32...♞c8 33.♞g3 ♞xc2 34.♞xc2 ♞f7]



35.♞h4! There is a clear path for the white king towards the h6 square. Black could only block it with his king, but a bishop check on e5 sends it to wrong square again... 35...♞g7 36.♞e5+ ♞f7 (36...♞h6 37.g5#) 37.♞g5 ♞c8 Black ran out of moves. He can only wait with bishop moves. One of the winning plans for White is 38.♞d1 ♞d7 39.♞f3 Keeping an eye on the d5 pawn in order to threat with gxf5. Black can only take back with the g-pawn then, but it creates new problems... 39...♞c8 40.gxf5 gxf5 41.♞h6 ♞g8 42.♞h5! A new diagonal has opened where White is going to penetrate. 42...♞d7 43.h4 Black is in zugzwang! He is forced to allow the bishop to e8. 43...♞c8 44.♞e8+-]

33.♞g3 ♞h8 Black probably wanted to meet the Kh4-g5-h6 plan by h6, but White sends the rook away.

34.♞e5 ♞g8 35.h4! White continues making progress on the kingside. He is ready to play Kf4-g5-h6, which will force Black

create another weakening with h6. He still does not have anything better than waiting. ..

35...♘c8 36.f3 Another small improvement. White sometimes wants to drop his rook to the h-file, let's say with Kf4, h5-hxg6 and Rh2-h7 is decisive.

36...♘b7 37.♔f4!



37...h6 Otherwise Kg5-h6 wins, but now the black pawn chain has been damaged. White immediately makes use of it.

38.h5! White critically weakens the f5 pawn!

38...g5+ 39.♔g3 ♘c8 [Opening the f-file with 39...fxg4 40.fxg4+- followed by Rf2-f6 is over!]

40.♖c6! After the black structure has lost its stability, White is ready to penetrate along the 6th rank. 41. gxf5 is the direct threat.

40...♘d7 This loses material on the spot, but other moves were equally hopeless. [40...fxg4 41.fxg4 ♘d7 42.♖c2! White has provoked the capture on g4, therefore he retreats with his rook. 42...♖c8 White has many good moves here, one of the wins is 43.♘g6+ ♔g8 (Or 43...♔e7 44.♖xc8 ♘xc8 45.♘g7+- wins.) 44.♖xc8+ ♘xc8 45.♘e8 Black cannot prevent Bc6, trapping the knight. Even after 45...♘b7 46.♘c6! ♘xc6 47.bxc6+- and c7 next wins.]

41.♖d6! ♔e7 42.gxf5 Black resigned! A nice squeezing by Andreikin. **1-0**

Chess and the City. From hell to heaven...



WGM Elisabeth Paetz

Best rating: 2493

The French qualification tournament eventually came to an end and I am happy to announce that my team managed to win it with 8-1 match points. As I mentioned previously, the team competition consisted of 2 pools and the other pool was won by the team of Bischwiller deploying Lela Javakhishvili on the top board. In the upcoming final we initially face the team of Clichy, likely playing with Kosteniuk or Skripchenko on the top board. These developments sound pretty nice, however, I cannot claim to have contributed too much to the overall team result, given that my individual performance was nothing short of disappointing, to put it politely...

It is a common experience for every professional player to have a very unlucky period, and personally I can say that every event after the World Championship held in Sochi was characterized by rather frustrating performances.

Clearly, it is very important to find a way out of this loop, and thus recover from the "bad shape", but unfortunately there is no common recipe which can guarantee success on these matters. My attempt was maybe predictable, in that I went back to Italy...well I must say that I did not do that because I was eager to face again the cultural clash that I

described in a previous article, but more plainly to enjoy the benefits of its wonderful attractions. In particular my latest Italian experience brought me to the beautiful city of Gaeta, in the Lazio region (that is the region of Rome). My mood was immediately boosted by the warm weather, the sunny beaches, the endless sea, some nice wine and unforgettably tasty seafood. In one word, it was paradise. However, whether this state of beatitude will persist and help me achieve a good result in the upcoming European Women's Championship is still to be seen...

What can be said for sure is that chess can be a very cruel, albeit alluring, game, and to face the hardships that it can bring is fundamental to achieve any long-term success.

Below are some pictures of my personal attempt to solve this problem. You are warmly encouraged to seek (and find) your own solutions to this common problem....



The view from our room was breathtaking...



Seawater can wash tears away...



...and bring back a smile :)

Clash of the Titans

(16) Botvinnik, Mikhail
- Goldenov, Boris [A13]

Moscow, 1952



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.♘g2 dxc4 4.♚a4+



4...♚d7!? A very rare move. The main moves are [4...c6 5.♚xc4 b5 6.♚c2 ♘b7 and the evaluation of this setup depends on whether Black manages to push c5 and activate the bishop on b7.; 4...♘d7 5.♚xc4 c5 6.♘f3 ♘gf6 7.♚b3 (7.O-O is less accurate because of 7...b6! and Black is on time with developing the bishop on the most important diagonal in this structure. In case 8.Ne5 there is Nxe5! and the queen is hanging.) 7...♚b8 preparing b6-Bb7. 8.d3 ♘d6 Otherwise White would play Bf4. 9.a4 with Na3-Nc4 next and White has a chance to keep a small advantage.; 4...♘d7 5.♚xc4 ♘c6 6.♘f3+]=]

5.♚xc4 c5 6.♘a3 This way of development is not new. The knight goes to c4 but in case the queen is placed on d7 it deserves attention to launch quick play in the center, for example: [6.♘f3 6...♘c6 (6...b5 7.♘e5! Otherwise Black has Bb7 and is fine.) 7.O-O b6 (7...♘f6 8.♘c3 ♘e7 9.♚d1



9...e5 (9...♘d4 10.♘xd4 cxd4 11.♘b5+—; 9...O-O 10.d4!) 10.e3! White follows the plan! 10...O-O 11.d4 and after the exchanges in the center the white pieces become more active.) 8.d4 ♘b7 9.dxc5 ♘xc5 10.♘c3 ♘f6 11.♚d1 ♚e7 (11...♚c7 12.♘f4 e5 13.♘xe5 ♘xe5 14.♚a4+!) 12.♘g5 with the unpleasant threat Ne4. White keeps the initiative.]

6...♘c6 7.♚b5 a6 Black could have played the interesting [7...♘d4!? 8.♚xd7+ ♘xd7 9.♘xb7 ♚b8 10.♘g2 c4! ♚11.♘f3 ♘xf3+ 12.♘xf3 ♘xa3 13.bxa3 ♘f6 and because he has the control over the b-file Black's position is very good.]

8.♘xc6!? This exchange changes the character of position a bit. White creates weaknesses but at the cost of his strong bishop. [8.♚a4 8...♚b8 preparing b5-Bb7.]

8...bxc6 [8...axb5 9.♘xb5!]

9.♚a4 ♚b8 10.♘f3 [10.♘c4 10...♚b4 11.♚c2 ♚d5—+]

10...f6 A typical move. Black is going to take more space in the center and activate his light squared bishop.

11.d3 [11.♔c2 This move doesn't stop Ne7-Nd5. 11...♘e7! 12.♙xc5 ♘d5 with c5-Bb7 next and Black gets a strong initiative.]

11...♘e7 12.♘c4 e5



13.♙d2! ♘d5 14.♙a5 A good place for the bishop. White can control the b4-d8 squares now and prevents the possible maneuver Nc7-Ne6!

14...♙e7



15.e4! Usually this move can be risky because of the weak pawn on d3 but in this case White's idea is very concrete.

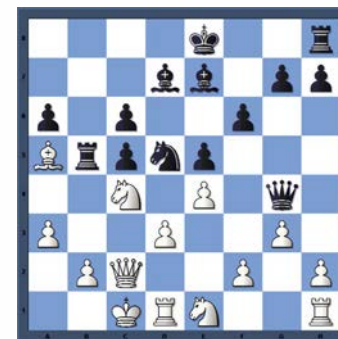
15...♘b4 [15...♘c7 16.♙xc7! ♙xc7 17.♘fd2 and without the knight black is not able to exploit the weaknesses on the d-file. White's strategical advantage is clear.]

16.O-O-O and now the knight on b4 is riskily placed.

16...♙g4 [16...O-O 17.a3 (17.♘b6 17...♙g4 18.♘xc8 ♙xc8 19.♘e1 c4! gives Black counterplay.) 17...♘xd3+ (17...♘d5!? 18.exd5 cxd5 19.♙xd7 ♙xd7 20.♘e3 ♙e6 Black only has a pawn for the piece but from a practical point of view thanks to his strong center, the bishop pair and the pressure over the b-file Black has some compensation.) 18.♙c2 ♙g4 19.♙xd3 ♙xe4 20.♙e1 ♙g6 and Black keeps some initiative over the light squares.]

17.♘e1 ♙d7 18.a3 ♘d5 Black manages to save the knight.

19.♙c2 ♙b5



20.f3 [20.exd5 20...cxd5 21.♘e3 ♙e6 22.♙d2 O-O 23.♙b1 ♙fb8 24.♙c1 ♙b3 25.♙a1 ♙a4 with strong pressure.]

20...♙e6? More accurate was [20...♙h5! and now White is not able to play Ng2 because the pawn is hanging. 21.exd5 (21.g4 doesn't look good because it weakens the f4 square.) 21...cxd5 22.a4 ♙b7 23.♘b6 ♙e6=24.b4 ♙f7! with the idea that after 25.bxc5 Black plays Bxc5! 25.♙b2 c4 with complex play]

21. ♖g2 0-0



22. ♖he1! White nicely improved his pieces and will soon be ready to take on d5!

22... ♖fb8 [22... ♖f7 23.f4 exf4 24.exd5 cxd5 25. ♖xe7 ♖xe7 26. ♖e1 ♕e6 27. ♖xf4 dxc4 28. ♖xe6 ♖f7 29. ♕c3 cxd3 30. ♖xd3 The white pieces are very well coordinated, which is why Black's position is worse.]

23.f4! ♕f8? [23... ♕d6 Maybe it was the last chance to support the e5 pawn. 24.fxe5 fxe5 25.exd5 cxd5 26. ♖f4 (26. ♕c3 26... dxc4 27.dxc4 ♖5b6 28. ♖e3 with a clear advantage for White because of the weaknesses on d5 and e5.) 26... ♖h6 27. ♕c3 exf4 28. ♖xd6 f3+ 29. ♖b1 ♖xd6 30. ♕e5 ♖c6 31. ♕xb8 ♖xb8 and thanks to the pawn on f3 Black is still in the game.]

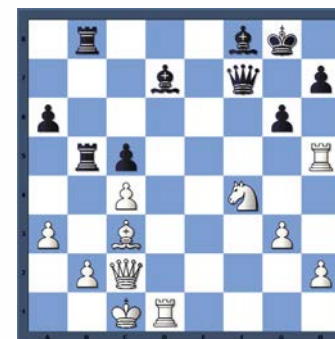
24.fxe5 fxe5 25.exd5 cxd5 26. ♖f4 White is winning very easily now since all of his pieces are very active. [26. ♖xe5 26... ♖c6 27. ♖f4 dxc4 28. ♖xc4+ ♖h8 29. ♕c3 and now the black king is in trouble.]

26... ♖h6 27. ♖xe5 dxc4 [27... ♕g4 28. ♖xd5 ♕xd1 29. ♖xd1 ♖xh2 30. ♖e2 ♖xg3 31. ♕c7+—]

28. ♖h5 ♖f6 29. ♕c3 The most human move. White could also win after [29.dxc4 29... ♖xb2+ (29... ♖xb2 30. ♖xh7+ ♖f7 31. ♖xd7+ ♖e8 32. ♖dd5 ♖b1+ 33. ♖xb1 ♖xb1+ 34. ♖xb1+—)]

30. ♖xb2 ♖xb2 31. ♖xd7 ♖b1+ 32. ♖c2 ♖8b2+ 33. ♖d3 ♖d1+ 34. ♖c3!+—]

29... ♖f7 30.dxc4 g6



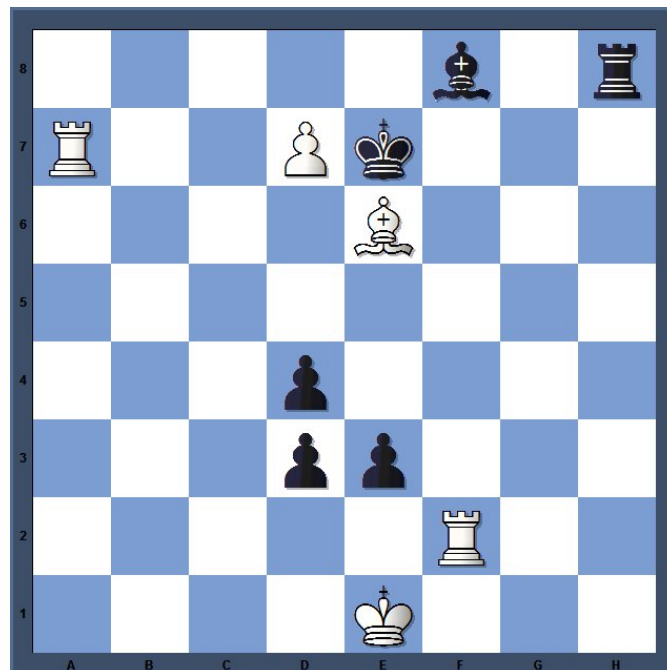
31. ♖xd7! A practical move because this bishop can be activated over f5.

31... ♖xd7 32. ♖xg6 ♖5b6 33. ♖xf8 ♖xf8 34. ♖xh7 ♖g4 1-0

Surprise section / study

(17) Horwitz

1. +-



Solutions

(18) Movsesian, S(2665)-Adly, A(2589)

World Teams, 2015.04.28

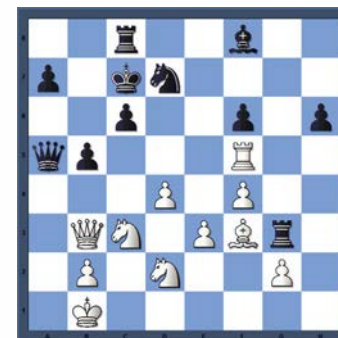


39...♖xh3+! 40.♔g1 [40.gxh3 40...♘g3+! 41.♔g2 ♘e2+!
42.♔f2 ♜xf3#]

40...♙h2+ 41.♔f2 ♙g3+-+

(19) Tomashevsky, E(2745)-Rodshtein, M(2654)

World Teams, 2015.04.28



34.♙xc6! ♜xe3 [34...♔xc6 35.♜xb5+- ♜a6 36.♜c4+ ♔d6
37.♜d5+ ♔e7 38.♜xa6+-]

35.♜xb5 ♜xc3 36.bxc3+- 1-0

(20) Nepomniachtchi, I(2714)-Potapov, P(2471)

Russian league, 2015.05.02

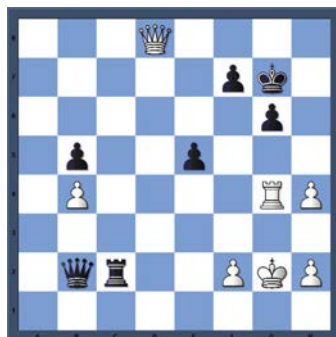


55.e6! ♔xe6 [55...♖xe6 56.♗b8+ ♖e8 57.♗d6+ ♔g8 58.♘f6++-]

56.♗f4+ 1-0 [56.♗f4+ 56...♔g8 (56...♗f5 57.♗d6+ ♔g8 58.♘f6++-) 57.♘f6++-]

(21) Yandemirov, V(2375)-Fedoseev, V(2674)

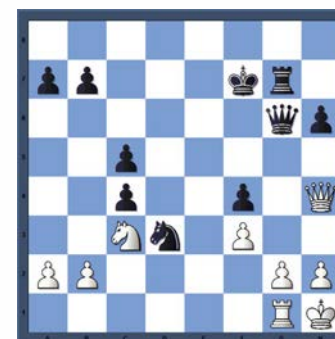
Russian league, 2015.05.04



45.♖xg6+! ♔xg6 1/2 [45...♔xg6 46.♗g5+ ♔h7 47.♗h5+ ♔g7 48.♗g5+ ♔f8 49.♗d8+=; 45...fxg6 46.♗e7+ ♔h6 47.♗g5+ ♔h7 48.♗e7+=]

(22) Ibragimov, I(2543)-Potapov, A(2394)

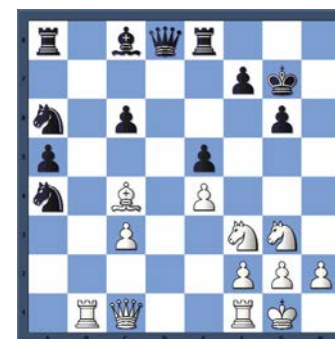
Russian league, 2015.05.03



33...♗g5! 0-1 [33...♗g5 34.♗xg5 ♘f2#]

(23) Khismatullin, D(2650)-Savitskiy, S(2330)

Russian league, 2015.05.03



23.♙xf7!! ♔xf7 **24.♗h6!** ♗f6 [24...♖h8 25.♘g5+ ♔f6 26.♘h5+!+-]

25.♘g5+ ♔e7 26.f4!? [26.♘h7! 26...♗h8 (26...♖h8 27.♘f5+! ♙xf5 28.♖b7+ ♔d8 29.♗d2+ ♔c8 30.♘xf6+-) 27.♗xg6+-]

26...♖h8 27.♘h7+- exf4 28.e5 ♗e6 29.♗g7+-

(24) Ovod, E(2325)-Gunina, V(2528)

Russian Women league, 2015.05.02



30. ♖e3? [30. ♖e2!! 30...fxe4 (30... ♖e7 31. ♖h5 ♖xh8 32.gxh8=♖+-) 31. ♖h5+-]

30... ♖xg7∞

(25) Kovalevskaya, E(2438)-Guseva, M(2378)

Russian Women league, 2015.05.03

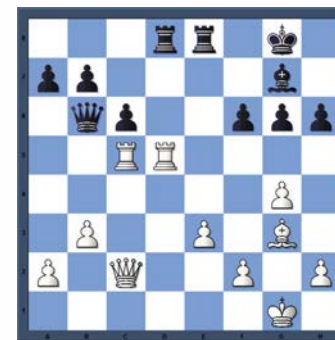


29. ♖xf7! ♜xf7 **30. ♖xe6+** ♖d8 **31. ♖xf7** ♖f8 [31... ♖h8 32. ♜e6+ ♖d7 33. ♜xc7+-]

32. ♜e6+ ♖d7 **33. ♜xf8+** ♖xf8 **34. ♖xd5**+-

(26) Altini, N(2410)-Vachier Lagrave, M(2765)

Italian league, 2015.05.01

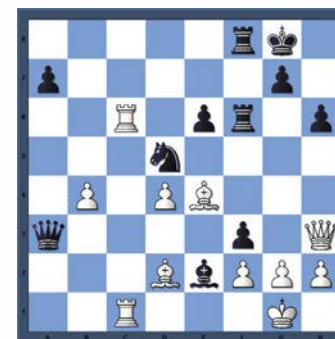


29. ♖xg6!! cxd5 [29... ♖xd5 30. ♖xe8+-]

30. ♖c7! ♖xc7 **31. ♖xc7** ♖c8 **32. ♖f4**+-

(27) Mamedov, R(2658)-Khurtsidze, N(2457)

Nakhchivan Open, 2015.05.04



31. ♖g5!! hxg5 [31... ♖6f7 32. ♖xe6 hxg5 33. ♖xd5+-]

32. ♖h7+ ♖f7 **33. ♖xd5!** exd5 **34. ♖c7+** ♖e8 [34... ♖e6 35. ♖1c6#]

35. ♖xg7 ♖8f7 **36. ♖g8** 1-0 [36. ♖g8 36... ♖f8 37. ♖xd5+-]

(28) Kubbel



1. ♖f2+! ♔f5 [1... ♖h5 2. ♘e4!+-]
 2. e4+! ♔e5 3. ♘g4+! ♔d4 [3... ♖xe4 4. ♘f6++-]
 4. ♙e3+! ♔d3 [4... ♖xe4 5. ♘f6+ ♔xe3 6. ♘xd7+-]
 5. ♙c5!! dxc5 [5... ♖b5 6. ♘f2#; 5... ♖xe4 6. ♘f6++-; 5... ♖f7
 6. ♘f2+ ♖xf2 7. ♙xf2+-]
 6. ♘e5+ ♔xe4+ 7. ♘xd7+-

HEROZ AI x mobile
JAPAN

Natalia Pogonina,
the Vice Women's World Chess Champion, becomes
the official ambassador of "CHESS HEROZ".



Tokyo (HEROZ, Inc.) - HEROZ, Inc. ("HEROZ"), providing mobile applications with Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Natalia Pogonina ("Natalia"), who is the Vice Women's World Chess Champion, have mutually agreed to popularize Chess through a mobile app, "CHESS HEROZ". From here on, Natalia Pogonina will be the official partner of HEROZ.

Natalia is a chess grandmaster and one of the best female chess players in the world. Since 2004 she has been a member of Team Russia and is the reigning Olympic Women's Chess Champion.

AI x mobile as the key concept, HEROZ takes on the challenge in the world stage, providing mobile applications with AI function such as Shogi Wars (Japanese Chess app) and other new apps in various fields. CHESS HEROZ is one new app released in 2014 with the world-class AI function, allowing online match-ups all around the world. Thanks to all chess players, fans and users, CHESS HEROZ has been featured in more than 50 countries, including Russia, US, UK, Germany and India etc, at the Google Play Store and at the App Store.

HEROZ has been impressed by Natalia's charm, wisdom and fighting spirit. She does her best to excel in every chess tournament and to share with people all over the world the joy of playing the game. Natalia, at the same time, also appreciates HEROZ's concept and way of thinking, which is how the agreement has come into effect.

From here on, Natalia will support CHESS HEROZ activities as the official ambassador. She will be online in CHESS HEROZ and look forward to playing with you. Some activities featuring Natalia will be announced in advance so that you can actually challenge her or see her in the app.

■ Natalia's comment



I am thrilled to become the official ambassador of CHESS HEROZ. I really love this app, which enables one to enjoy playing chess against people all over the world. Together we are planning some events, such as BLITZ marathon, so that chess

fans could challenge me to a game during a predetermined period.

■ About Natalia Pogonina

Born on March 9, 1985. A chess grandmaster and one of the best female chess players in the world. Since 2004 she has been a member of Team Russia.

Some of Natalia's main tournament results:

World Women's Chess Championship: silver (2015)

European Women's Chess Championship: bronze (2009)

Russian Women's Chess Superfinal: gold (2012), silver (2010), bronze (2013)

International Women's Chess Olympiad: gold (2014, 2012)

World Women's Team Chess Championship: silver (2015, 2011), bronze (2013)

European Women's Team Chess Championship: gold (2011), silver (2013)

European Women's Chess Club Cup: gold (2011), silver (2013, 2007)

Winner of Moscow Open (2009), Rudenko Memorial (2007), Bykova Memorial (2005), Lvov Young Hopes (2002) and other international chess tournaments.

■ About CHESS HEROZ



CHESS HEROZ is a chess app that provides comfortable, speedy and free online match-ups with the use of world-class AI. With fantastic graphics and clean user interface, it allows players to play with anyone anywhere around the world. It has been featured globally at the Google Play Store and the App Store.

App Name: CHESS HEROZ

Price: free (optional item charging)

Compatibility: iOS 7.0 or after (iPhone or iPad), Android 2.3 or after

Apple AppStore:

<https://itunes.apple.com/app/chess-heroz/id834821134>

Google Play:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=jp.co.heroz.chesshl=ja>

Official web: <http://pr.heroz.jp/chessheroz/>

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[About HEROZ, Inc]

HEROZ is a company providing mobile apps using Artificial Intelligence (AI), which aims at offering services in the world with the concept "Surprising in mind". It keeps on offering services and collaboration activities actively with the key word, AI x mobile.

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Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

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Editorial Preface

Clearly the main event of the week is the last stage of the FIDE Grand Prix in Khanty-Mansisk, from where 2 players will qualify to the Candidates, but there are also two other big events under way.

The very strong Chinese league is currently being played, with all the top Chinese players participating in it. There are a lot of interesting games and a lot of new and very talented players who are more or less unknown to the rest of the world.

In Batumi, the Women's European Championship is under way. After 3 rounds, there are 4 players on 3/3, but what is a bit strange is that none of the big favorites had a 100% start. But anyway, it is just the beginning of the event and things will heat up towards the end.

FIDE GRAND PRIX:

Tomashevsky started as a big favorite to qualify for the Candidates, and actually for him it would probably even have been enough to just finish 50% to qualify, but currently things are running badly for him with, as he is on 2.5/7.

Caruana is stealing the show. He is playing great fighting chess and is the deserved leader with 5/7, which guarantees him a position in the Candidates. The fight for 2nd place is very tough. Maybe it will be Nakamura, who is on 4/7, but Karjakin is also on a very good 4.5/7. Jakovenko also still has his chances in case of a good finish, as he is now on 3.5/7.

And Grischuk also remains in the game, but he needs to start winning, as he is currently on 3/7. Four extremely exciting final rounds await us here!

Until then, enjoy the best moments of the last week!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) **Karjakin, Sergey (2753)**
- **Jobava, Baadur (2699) [C10]**

KM FIDE GP 2015(7.3),
2015.05.21



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



And as usual in Jobava's games the craziness is guaranteed! This time the Georgian Nr 1 chooses the French defense, but a very rare line. The game quickly gets out of control as Jobava sacrifices an exchange. The position is very sharp, but it should be better for White. Not too at ease in the complications, Karjakin goes for an endgame with more or less equal material and this wonderful fighting game ends in a draw. A fun game is awaiting us!

1.e4 Usually Jobava is playing the Caro Cann

1...e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘c6 A rare continuation. Of course 3...Bb4, 3...Nf6 or 3...dxe4 are the 3 main moves.

4.e5 Karjakin closes the center in order to make the knight on c6 look a bit stupid. Black's idea should of course be to play c5 somewhere and now it is just impossible.

4...♞ge7 This move is not that easy to understand. Black does not really want to play Nf5 and now the typical f6 push is not that efficient any longer.

5.♞f3 ♟d7 Black still keeps on waiting.

6.♞e2 A natural move, but a bit slow. [White had the interesting idea 6.h4!? preparing to react with g4 after Black's Nf5.]

6...♞f5 Black sees the moment and wants to exchange his own knight, which is a very natural decision. In a passive position it is usually a good idea to exchange some pieces.

7.♞g3 ♞h4 Of course not 7...Nxg3 because after 8.hxg3 the white rook would come into the game.

8.c3 This move has to be played anyway since the d4 pawn has to be protected.

8...g6!? A very smart move! Black is not letting White play Nh5, where it would fix the black pawn structure.

9.♟f4 Clearly missing Black's next move... [9.♟d2 looks better.]

9...f6! A very inventive and strong move, which only works because the white bishop is on f4.

10.♞xh4 [Of course after 10.exf6 10...♞xf6 Black is just better.; White had the funny try 10.♞h5 but now after 10...fxe5 (10...gxh5 11.♞xh4 and White is winning because Qxh5 is coming.) 11.♞xe5 ♟d6 the position is very unclear.]

10...fxe5 11.♞xg6 What a sharp position!

11...hxg6 12.dxe5 White is a pawn up, but suddenly all the black pieces are in the game.



12...♔h4 Another good move. Black is preparing to castle queenside.

13.♘e2 Another strange decision by Karjakin. [Why not first play 13.♔d2 preventing 0-0-0 and threatening to play Bg5.]

13...0-0-0 A logical move, but maybe Black had an even better continuation. [Black could have put White in front of direct problems after 13...♘g7 14.♘g3 It seems like it is difficult to find another way to defend the e5 pawn. 14...♔e7 15.f4 and now Black continues with the active play with 15...g5! and White's position is very close to falling apart.]

14.♔d2 ♖h5 Jobava continues playing "crazy chess" when it is not really needed. [14...♘e7 looks much more solid, with the idea of playing Rf8 next or maybe now Rh5.]

15.♘g3 White needs to go for it.

15...♔xe5+ This move is already a must after Rh5 was played.

16.♘xe5 ♘xe5 So, what can we say about this position? White is a full exchange up, but the white king is still in the center and the black bishop from f8 will soon come to h6. It is a very hard position to evaluate, but usually having some extra material is a good thing...

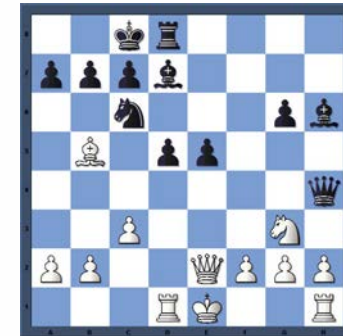
17.♔e3! A very strong move! White is not only attacking the e5 knight but also the a7 pawn, so the black knight has to leave its perfect position on e5.

17...♘c6 18.♘b5 Of course! The exchange of any piece is good for White.

18...♘h6 19.♔e2 So, what to do next for Black?! Jobava shows us!

19...e5! A very strong move! There is no time to waste, Black needs to push all he can into the direction of the white king.

20.♖d1 Once again Karjakin plays the most logical move and it seems like it is very difficult for Black to find a good way of defending the d5 pawn, but again Jobava shows us how creative chess can be...



20...a6! A wonderful move! Black gives another pawn just to keep his center alive!

21.♘xa6 [After 21.♘xc6 21...♘xc6 the position would remain very unclear, since the black bishop pair compensates for being an exchange down.]

21...♘e7 Wonderful play by black. Now the bishop on a6 is already hanging and the d5 pawn is protected. [Of course Black is just losing after 21...bxa6? 22.♔xa6+ ♔b8 23.♖xd5 and White is winning because of the Rb5 threat.]

22.♘b5 Karjakin is trying to choose the safest moves. [Of course the critical line is 22.♘d3 22...e4 23.♘c2 ♘g4!? Black is opening the position of the white king. 24.f3 ♘f4! Another very strong move! The position is very complicated!]

22...c6



23.♙xe5?! Karjakin prefers entering a slightly worse endgame than to remain in the complications.

23...♘f4 [Black could have played 23...cxb5 24.♖d4 ♙g5 25.♙xg5 ♘xg5 and I believe that only Black can be a bit better here.]

24.♖d4 ♘xe5 25.♖xh4 cxb5 So we are in an endgame. Black has 2 pieces for a rook and 2 pawns, so the material is about even, but Black still has the bishop pair, so in case the position remained open, the bishops might dominate the game.

26.O-O Well, it's a bit late for castling... :)

26...♙c7 Black brings his king to the center.

27.♖e1 ♙d6 It is not easy at all for White to find the right move here.

28.♖h7 Maybe a good practical choice! At least the rook on h7 is nicely placed.

28...♘c6 [Black could also have continued with 28...♖e8]

29.♖d1 preparing Ne4.

29...♙e6 30.♖e1 White is trying to repeat the moves and of course this is very logical, especially since Karjakin was not too ambitious during the game.



30...♙d6 and Jobava is also happy with a draw- but why?! [Why not play 30...♙f6 I really cannot imagine Black having any problems here. White needs to be very careful not to let Black play b4, or maybe Bb8 followed by Ne5 and Nc4. I think that Black's position here might be slightly better.]

31.♖d1 ♙e6 32.♖e1 A slightly disappointing draw after such a great fighting game, and of course a lot of credit goes to Jobava for his amazingly creative play! **1/2-1/2**

(2) Nakamura, Hikaru (2799) - Vachier Lagrave, Maxime (2754) [A45]

KM FIDE GP 2015(7),
2015.05.21



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Vachier Lagrave is in a terrible shape in the last stage of the Grand Prix series, but still it does not take anything away from the following very convincing win of Nakamura.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.♙f4** A rare attempt by White to avoid the Gruenfeld defense. To be honest, I am not exactly sure how White wanted to react if Vachier continued playing in Gruenfeld style and fianchettoes his bishop to g7. Nakamura will hopefully show us in the near future in another game...

2...b6 3.c4 ♗b7 4.♘c3 e6 We have reached a Queen's Indian type of structure. A small psychological victory for Nakamura, that he managed to avoid the Gruenfeld.

5.a3 A very useful move. White prevents the most natural developing move Bb4, which would transpose to a kind of Nimzo Indian defense.

5...d5 6.e3 ♗d6



7.♙g5! White pins the knight, but the main idea is to keep the healthy pawn structure. [7.♙xd6 is a positional mistake, because after 7...cxd6 followed by the exchange of the d5 for the c4 pawn, we reach a more or less symmetrical position with completely even chances.; 7.♙g3 was the alternative with the idea to improve the pawn structure with hxg3 in case of the exchange, but the text move looks much more threatening.]

7...h6 [If Black tries to unpin himself with 7...♙e7 8.♙a4+! ♘bd7



White has a typical way to achieve a solid structural advantage with 9.♙xf6! It is important to take on f6 before cxd5 to avoid the knight's recapture... 9...♙xf6 10.cxd5 exd5 11.♙a6!+= This is the key! Without the light squared bishops, the d5 pawn and queenside becomes vulnerable!]

8.♙xf6 White gives up the bishop pair, but he gets big positional benefits in exchange.

8...♙xf6 9.cxd5 A very important follow-up to the previous move! White fixes the structure to limit the movement of the black bishops! Otherwise Black would have taken on c4 and later pushed c5, opening up the position.

9...exd5



10. ♔a4+! A very unpleasant check to deal with! Black has 4 moves, but all of them have a big drawback.

10... ♖f8 A sad response, but it is difficult to suggest something clever...Black does not want to commit any positional mistake on the queenside and he intends to castle kingside artificially with g6-Kg7. [10... ♘d7 allows the trade of the light squared bishops: 11. ♗b5 11.Ba6 is also good, but this is an even better version. 11... ♔e6 12. ♗c6+; 10... ♗c6 11. ♗b5+; 10...c6 This should be the right move positionally. Black strengthens his center and saves his light squared bishop. However it does not work tactically because 11. ♘xd5! wins a pawn!]

11.g3! Another great positional move! Nakamura fianchettoes his bishop and provokes the c6 move, which closes the b7 bishop and allows White to open the game effectively with e4 afterwards... White's plans are clear, but Black cannot really fight against them.

11...c6 12. ♗g2 g6 13. ♘ge2 White finishes the development before executing the break with e4.

13... ♔g7 14.O-O ♔d8 Vachier Lagrave leaves from the e4 dxe4 Nxe4 tempo, but of course it is coming anyway.



15.e4! This is another standard break in various different openings with the same structure. White explodes the center and opens his own bishop, which makes the c6 pawn more vulnerable. Before this move both light squared bishops were locked, but now only the one on b7 remains out of the game.

15...dxe4 16. ♘xe4 I have seen this structure in many games, but with the white bishop on a2 and the e2 knight on f3. That one is also very dangerous for Black, because White is launching a strong attack with Ne5!

16... ♖e8



17. ♖ad1! The start of the next plan! The black queenside is completely undeveloped, while on the other side of the board, all white pieces are ready for the action. In such cases, the further opening of the position with an eventual d5 could be

decisive. As we will see, Nakamura had another tricky move in his mind.

17...♖a6 Black tries to establish a blockade on the d5 square with the Nc7-d5 manoeuvre.

18.♘2c3! Supporting the d5 break!

18...♘c7 [18...♙f8 leaves from the trap which happened in the game, but it has different problems: 19.d5! cxd5 20.♘xd5! ♙xd5 21.♘c3!± White wins back the material with excellent circumstances.]



19.♘c5!! The hidden point of the 17.Rad1 move! The pin on the d-file creates serious problems for Black. Black has no choice, he must accept the sacrifice, but White gains back the material right away.

19...bxc5 [19...♙xc5 is even worse in view of 20.dxc5 ♔e7 21.cxb6 axb6 22.♔d4+- winning the b6 pawn.]

20.dxc5 ♘d5 The only move to at least keep the material balance!

21.cxd6 ♔xd6



22.♘e4! Perfect play by Nakamura! The new target is the extremely poor bishop on b7. White is going to install his knight on c5. [22.♘xd5 22...cxd5 is also better for White. He could double his rooks on the d-file to put pressure on the d5 weakness and also the distant passer on the queenside is a plus. However, the text move is even stronger.]

22...♔e5 23.♔c1! Yet another subtle positional move! White really wants to get his knight to c5 and he avoids any kind of tactical ideas. [On the direct 23.♘c5 Black wanted to easeen his position with 23...♘c3! 24.bxc3 ♔xc5 25.♔d7 White keeps a clear advantage, but there is no reason to easeen Black's defensive task with exchanges.]

23...♘b6 Black wanted to free his a8 rook by sending away the queen from the attack of the a7 square.

24.♔b4 ♔ad8 25.♘c5 The only inaccuracy by White in the entire game. [25.♔ce1! was actual ly even stronger. Black has problems with the pin. If he moves away with the queen, Qc3 could be decisive and after 25...♔d4



26. ♖d6!! is a very nice win! 26... ♖xb4 (26... ♗xd6 27. ♗xd6 ♖xd6 28. ♖xe8+-) 27. ♖xe8+!+- This intermediate check wins decisive material.]

25... ♖d4? A blunder, but Black was much worse anyway. [The only move was 25... ♗a8 but of course White's advantage is undisputable with such a piece on a8.]

26. ♗c3 ♗c8 27. ♖ce1 Black resigned as he loses big material. A great game by Nakamura! **1-0**

The K-Files. Anti-Dutch 2.d3



GM Alexander Khalifman
FIDE World Chess Champion (1999)
Best rating: 2702

(3) Anti-Dutch 2.d3 [A04]

In the last few years we can see the renaissance of the Leningrad Dutch. The list of players who use it on a more or less regular basis is headed by Caruana, Nakamura,, Mamedyarov, Ivanchuk, Svidler, Ponomarev... - enough I guess. So it's no surprise that it quickly comes into fashion on practically all levels. The reasons in my opinion (except the above-mentioned list) are quite clear:

- 1) In most cases it leads to sharp asymmetrical positions
 - 2) Black's play is almost always strategically clear and easy to understand
 - 3) The theory is still not very much developed. This is hard to believe in the 21st century but it is true - just compare it to the Gruenfeld or King's Indian for example
 - 4) The computers quite often clearly misevaluate the resulting positions assuming that f7-f5 is a clear weakening and give White a massive plus without any real reason for it.
- And so on...

It must be added that top players nowadays not only play 1 or 2 main lines with White against the Leningrad Dutch but try almost everything including some obscure sidelines. It's actually exactly what they do against "normal" openings like QGD, Slav, Gruenfeld etc. In my opinion this is clear proof that the status of this opening system has totally changed. But - enough advertising the Leningrad Dutch for Black, especially because it's not the subject of this article. But if someone is quite impressed by what is written above and would like to think about including the Leningrad Dutch in their opening repertoire I can only recommend the new and excellent book by Malaniuk and Marusenko. Kindermann's book on this subject is also a good one but already a bit outdated. This is no surprise - it happens to all good opening books. For some strange reason only bad opening books never get outdated. =)

1. ♘f3 And the subject of this article is some poisonous move order to avoid the Leningrad Dutch. Not something new but still quite unexplored.

1...f5 I have to admit that the move order I would like to offer is not really an universal way to avoid the Leningrad Dutch. Black can also try to play it starting with 1...g6 or 1...d6 (or even 1...c6 - which looks pretty exotic but was still regularly used by GM Anic). In all these cases Black should consider 2.e4 (e2-e4 to avoid the Dutch is possible also on move 1 but that's another story, of course). One more important detail is that after 1.Nf3 f5 2. d4 all these pawn moves are not the main move order (which is certainly 2... Nf6) and thus have some drawbacks. They are not deadly but Black must know exactly what he would do, for instance, in case of

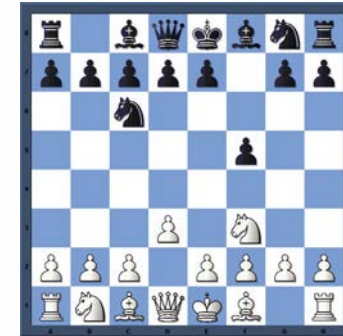


[1...g6 2.d4 f5 3.h4!? (3...c3 3...f6 4.g5 g7 is not so dangerous for Black.) 3...c3!? 4.h5; 1...d6 2.d4 f5 3.c3!? 4.g5 4...bd7 (4...d5!?) 5.♖d3; 1...c6 2.d4 f5 3.f4 In this case Aronian's setup might be quite annoying. 3...f6 4.e3 g6 5.b2 g7 6.d3 d6 7.h3+= Dorfman - Anic, Cannes 1995]

2.d3!? This is the delayed Lisitsin Gambit (also invented by maestro Lisitsin, by the way). The idea is very simple and radical: White prepares e2-e4 to disturb Black's development immediately. [The "normal" Lisitsin gambit is 2.e4 2...fxe4 3.g5 It can also be a good surprise weapon, especially in quick time controls. But beware: now almost everyone who plays Dutch knows how to meet it properly. In fact Black has several ways to good play. The simplest one in my opinion is 3...e5 (The greedy 3...f6 4.d3 exd3? is White's main hope. 5.fxd3 with a huge advantage already. We'll look at this position later as it can also be reached with the move order 2.d3 Nf6 3.e4 fxe4 4.dxe4 Nxe4 5.Bd3 Nf6 6. Ng5.) 4.d3 (4.d4 4...exd4 5.fxe4 4...c6 6.fxc4 Rohde - Castro, Philadelphia 1990 6...d5! 7.♖h5+ g6 8.♖xd5 ♖xd5 9.fxd5 f5= and it's already White who has to play accurately.; 4.fxe4 4...c6 5.f5 f6+= leads to some weird version of the Schliemann Gambit in the Ruy Lopez (with the white knight on b1 instead of f3) where Black is perfectly fine. (Bjarnason - Hjartarson, Reykjavik 1979)) 4...e3 5.fxe3 d5 6.d4 (6.f4 6...exf4 7.fxf4

5.f6 8.fxd6 ♖xd6+= Tolonen - Kiltti, Vasa 1996) 6...exd4 7.♖xd4 4...c6 8.♖h4 Rohde - Palatnik, Philadelphia 1992 (8.f5 8...f6 9.c3 Schmitz - Stock corr 1989 9...d6 10.fxc6+ bxc6=) 8...h6 9.c3 f5 10.♖h5+ g6 11.♖e2 4...xe3 12.♖xe3+ f7=]

2...c6 is one of two critical answers. Black prepares e7-e5.



[2...f6 Quite surprisingly this is the most popular answer even in the 21st century. Not on the high level, of course (but as a matter of fact it was played by Nakamura and Beliavsky). However, in my opinion this move is clearly second-rate. White easily reaches a comfortable advantage in all the lines. 3.e4 Of course Black didn't prevent this move. 3...d6 This is the way to get a Leningrad type position but in fact this is a very dubious version of it. (

a) 3...e5 leads to a rather dubious version of the Latvian Gambit (even when the Latvian Gambit itself is not the most sound opening). 4.fxe5 ♖e7 (4...f5 5.d4± Paavilainen - Pyhala, Helsinki 1988) 5.f3 fxe4 6.dxe4 ♖xe4+ (6...f6 7.f2 c6 8.O-O ♖f7 9.fbd2±) 7.f2 f6+ 8.fbd2 ♖e7 9.O-O O-O 10.a3 f5 11.b4 f6 Rothen - Aaberg, Sweden 1996 12.f2± White is clearly ahead in development and has good attacking chances.;

b) 3...fxe4 4.dxe4 fxe4 (4...e5 5.fxe5 (5.fxc4!?) 5...♖e7

6.♘f3 - 3...e5) 5.♙d3 ♘f6 (5...d5 is relatively the best but the endgame after 6.♙xe4 dxe4 7.♖xd8+ ♔xd8 8.♘g5 ♙e8 9.♘c3+= is very pleasant for White. (Keene - Keogh. Ybbs 1968); 5...♘c5? (Franke - Lange, Germany 1978) just loses instantly due to 6.♘e5! ♘xd3+ 7.cxd3+-) 6.♘g5 This is the dream position of the Lisitsin Gambit. Black has to play precisely to avoid immediate trouble.



6...g6 (6...e5 7.♙xh7+- Geveke - Storm, Germany 1983; 6...c6 7.O-O d6 8.♙xh7 ♘xh7 9.♖h5+ ♔d7 10.♘f7 ♖e8 11.♖g6!± Barle - Titova, Pula 1999; 6...d6 7.♙xh7 ♘xh7 8.♖h5+ ♔d7 9.♘f7 ♖e8 10.♖g4+ e6 11.♘xh8+- Nikolaou - Matakoudis, Greece 1998) 7.h4 d5 (7...d6 8.h5 gxh5 9.♙xh7± Lisitsin - Krogus, Leningrad 1949) 8.h5 ♙g4 9.f3 ♙xh5 10.g4 (10.♘c3!? might be even stronger.) 10...♖d6 11.gxh5 ♙h6 Salgado - Gonzalez, Spain 1999 12.♖d2! ♘xh5 13.♘c3± and the piece must be stronger than 3 pawns here.)

4.exf5 ♙xf5 5.d4 This loss of a tempo doesn't matter as the pawn structure is favorable for White. 5...g6 (5...♘c6 6.d5 ♘b4 7.♘d4 ♖d7 8.c4 c5 9.dxc6 bxc6 10.a3 ♘a6 11.♘xf5 ♖xf5 Dudukin - Korobov, I Russia 2007 12.♙e2±) 6.♙d3 This exchange is always good for White in this structure since e6 is a chronic weakness. 6...♖d7 7.O-O ♙g7 8.♙xf5 ♖xf5 9.c4 O-O 10.♘c3+= This is most probably the best Black can reach after 2...Nf6 but still no dream at all. White has a

nice positional advantage and it's hard to organise adequate counterplay. (Mertanen - Koskinen, Finland 2000); 2...d5 prevents an immediate e2-e4 but that's the only merit of this move. White just gets a very pleasant anti-Stonewall structure and still wants to organise e2-e4 after completing the development. 3.c4!? e6 (

a) After 3...dxc4 4.d4!?± this QGA with the extra move f7-f5 looks really disgusting for Black.;

b) 3...d4 Playing a 4 pawns attack versus the King's Indian with one tempo down is also more than risky. 4.e3 c5 (4...♘c6 5.exd4 ♘xd4 6.♘xd4 ♖xd4 7.♘c3±) 5.exd4 cxd4 6.g3 ♘c6 7.♙g2 e5 8.O-O ♙d6 9.♖e1 and Black just doesn't have time to complete his development. The e5 pawn is very weak. 9...♘f6 (9...♘ge7 10.c5 ♙c7 11.♖b3 ♘a5 12.♖a3±) 10.♘xe5± Rorato - Reginato, Italy 2009;

c) 3...c6 4.♘bd2+=)

4.g3 ♘f6 5.♙g2 c6 6.O-O ♙e7 with the bishop on e7 the plan of playing Nc3-e4 doesn't work properly but White also has another way to prepare e2-e4. (6...♙d6 7.♘c3 O-O 8.e4 dxe4 9.dxe4 e5 (9...♙b4 10.exf5 ♖xd1 exf5 12.♙d2± Vayser - Savchur, corr 2010) 10.♖b3 ♖b6 11.♖c2 fxe4 12.♘g5 ♘a6 13.a3± Me - Ivanov, corr 2009) 7.b3 O-O 8.♙b2 a5 9.a3 ♘a6 10.♘bd2 ♘g4 11.♖c2 ♙f6 12.♙xf6 (12.e4!?) 12...♖xf6 13.d4+= Damljanovic - Moskalenko, Barcelona 2005; 2...g6 Black simply ignores the opponent's intentions. It doesn't seem to be a good idea. 3.e4 fxe4 (3...d6 - 2...d6) 4.dxe4 ♙g7 5.♙c4 e6 6.O-O± Space advantage, development lead and good chances to attack the opponent's weakened king's position - White has almost everything one can dream of. (Bayat - Bourigault, Budapest 2003); 2...d6 is another critical line which will be analyzed in part 2.]

3.d4!? In my opinion only this unusual move first played in

the game Roiz - Wojtaszek, Warsaw 2005, can create certain problems for Black. It looks like White just lost a tempo, which contradicts the basic opening principles. However, now the black knight is quite misplaced on c6 and White intends to win the lost tempo back with d4-d5, gaining some space at the same time. So Black has to do something against this positional threat. [3.e4 is now possible but doesn't bring the desired result after the natural answer 3...e5 4.♘c3 (

a) 4.d4 leads to the well-known Vienna Game position with reversed colors (it's exactly the same as 1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3. f4 d5). This is good enough for equal chances but not more. The main line goes now 4...fxe4 5.♗xe5 ♗f6 and here White has a choice between 6.♙c4 (6.♗c3; 6.♙e2);

b) 4.♙e2 promises nothing after 4...♗f6 5.exf5 d6 is more accurate than (5...d5 6.♗h4 Liemann - Cooke, Dortmund 1993 6...♗d4 7.♙h5+ ♗xh5 8.♙xh5+ ♗d7 9.♙g5 ♙e8 10.♙d1 ♗c6 11.♗d2) 6.♗h4 (6.d4 6...♙xf5=) 6...♙e7 7.♙h5+ ♗xh5 8.♙xh5+ ♗d7 9.♗f3 ♙e8 10.♙g4 ♗d8 and despite the rather strange position of his king and queen, Black is not worse here.;

c) 4.g3 is not dangerous at all after the natural moves 4...fxe4 5.dxe4 ♗f6 6.♙g2 ♙c5 7.O-O O-O 8.♗c3 d6= Demidov - Hauge. Prague 2015)

4...♗f6 5.exf5 (5.♙g5 5...♙b4 6.♙e2 fxe4 7.dxe4 ♙xc3+ 8.bxc3 h6=) 5...d5 6.d4 (6.♗h4 (Hecht - Hollig, Germany 1975) now gives nothing because of 6...d4!? 7.♗e2 ♗d5!) 6...exd4 7.♗xd4 ♗xd4 8.♙xd4 ♙xf5 This position is quite similar to one we will see later in the 2...d6 line, but here the black pawn is on d5 (not d6) and this makes a big difference. 9.♙f4 indirectly defending the c2 pawn. (Ferretti - Cherin, Italy 2006) (9.♙g5 Ambitious but risky. 9...♙xc2 10.♙c1 ♙g6 11.♙xf6 ♙xf6 12.♙e3+ (12.♙xf6 12...gxf6 13.♗xd5 O-O-O) 12...♙e7!

A cold shower... (After 12...♙f7? the nice combination 13.♗xd5! ♙b4+ 14.♗xb4 ♙he8 15.♙c4+ ♙f8 16.O-O! ♙xe3 17.fxe3± brought White a decisive advantage in Taimaniv - Zaichik, Leningrad 1989.) 13.♙xe7+ ♙xe7 14.♗xd5+ ♙d7=+ and White has to defend a very unpleasant endgame.) 9...♙e7 (9...♙xc2? 10.♙c1 ♙f5 11.♗b5±) 10.O-O-O O-O 11.♗xd5 ♗xd5 12.♙xd5+ ♙xd5 13.♙xd5 ♙e6 14.♙e5 ♙xf4 15.♙xe6 ♙g5= and the drawish outcome is very close.]

3...d6 This move was not played often before but in my opinion it is still quite critical for the whole line, especially if Black plans to play the Leningrad Dutch. Now he's always ready to meet d4-d5 with Nc6-e5, and if White chooses a quiet development he will get a Leningrad with Nc6 (not the most solid subvariation, of course), but with an extra tempo for Black, which makes it perfectly playable. Also e7-e5 must be considered at any moment. So in order to reach something tangible White has to find some concrete reaction. [3...e6 This is the most popular answer. Now the game usually transforms into a Stonewall with the extra move Nb8-c6 for Black. Good or...? In fact, I'm not so sure that this extra move is really useful. Of course I know that Botvinnik, Smyslov and Spassky played Nb8-c6 in a normal Stonewall, but still. Now this setup doesn't look flexible enough. One important thing about the resulting positions is that in most cases White would avoid developing his queenside knight to d2. Now d5 is not defended as solidly as it is when Black has a pawn on c6, so in most cases the white knight is good on c3. 4.g3 ♗f6 (4...d5 5.c4 It's necessary to meet d7-d5 with the immediate c2-c4 because otherwise White can have some difficulties preparing this move. (5.♙g2 5...♙b8 6.O-O ♗f6∞) 5...dxc4 6.♙a4 ♙d5 7.♗c3 ♙b4 8.♙d2 ♙xc3 9.bxc3) 5.♙g2 (5.c4 makes Black's life a bit easier. 5...♙b4+ By exchanging his dark-squared bishop Black gains time to castle and prepare e6-e5. 6.♗bd2 (6.♙d2

6...♙xd2+ 7.♚xd2 O-O 8.♙g2 d6 9.O-O e5=) 6...O-O 7.♙g2 d6 8.O-O ♙xd2 9.♙xd2 e5∞) 5...♙e7 (

a) 5...g6 The last attempt to reach a Leningrad type of position which was not tried before. White must react precisely. 6.c4 ♙g7 (6...d6 7.d5 ♘e5 8.♘d4 ♙g7 9.♘c3 O-O 10.♚b3+=) 7.d5! (After the normal 7.♘c3 7...O-O 8.O-O d6 9.d5 ♘e5= Black has good counterplay due to the extra move e7-e6 compared to the usual positions from the Leningrad with 7...Nc6.) 7...♘a5 8.♘a3 seems to be a strange square for the knight but Black's problem is that the knight on a5 is even more misplaced and always in danger. 8...b6 9.O-O O-O 10.♙f4+=;

b) 5...d5 6.c4 is necessary once again - see note to 4...d5. (6.O-O 6...♚b8!? Fressinet - Christiansen, Tromso 2013 (6...b5!? 7.a4 b4 8.c4 bxc3 9.♘xc3 ♚b8) 7.♚d3 (7.b3 7...b5 8.c4 bxc4 9.bxc4 dxc4∞) 7...b5=) 6...dxc4 (6...♚b8 7.b3+=) 7.♚a4+=)

6.O-O O-O 7.c4 d5 (7...d6 8.d5 ♘e5 de Schampheleire - Froeyman, Belgium 2013 9.♚b3+=) 8.b3 (8.cxd5!? This is not the most usual exchange in a normal Stonewall but here it looks interesting as the d5 pawn is not protected enough due to the c6 knight. 8...exd5 9.♘c3+=) 8...♙d7 9.♙b2+=; 3...d5 Now if White plays g3 and Bg2 the game will most probably switch back to the 3...e6 line but he also has a very promising plan which clearly underlines that the advantage of the extra moves Nb8-c6 is very questionable. 4.♙f4 e6 5.e3 ♙d6 6.c4 ♘f6 7.♘c3+= Krasenkov - Moskalenko, Hoogeveen 2013]

4.d5 [4.c4 4...e5 5.d5 ♘ce7∞]

4...♘e5 5.♘c3 White prepares e2-e4 to open the center and make use of his development lead. [5.♘xe5 5...dxe5 6.e4 e6∞ Zaragatski - Nijboer, Holland 2014; 5.c4 5...♘f6 6.♘c3 g6 7.♘xe5 dxe5 8.g3 ♙g7=; 5.♙f4 5...♘g6 6.e3 c6 7.c4 ♘f6 8.♘c3

♘xf4 9.exf4 g6 10.♙d3 ♙g7 11.O-O O-O 12.♚e1 ♚e8 13.♘g5 ♙d7 14.♚c1 cxd5 15.cxd5 ♚a5∞]

5...♘f6 [5...e6 6.e4 exd5 7.exd5 ♚e7 8.♙b5+ c6 9.♙e2 ♘xf3+ 10.gxf3!; 5...♘xf3+ 6.exf3 e5 7.dxe6 ♙xe6 8.♙d3±]

6.e4!? Still! In my opinion it's the only way to prove that 3...d6 doesn't solve the opening problems.

6...fxe4 7.♘xe5 dxe5 8.♙b5+ An important detail. The point of this check is that the black bishop is better on c8 than on d7. [8.♙c4 8...a6 (8...c6!? 9.dxc6 ♚xd1+ 10.♘xd1 bxc6) 9.♙e3 (9.h3 9...b5 10.♙b3 b4) 9...♚d6 10.h3 b5 11.♙b3 ♙b7=]

8...♙d7 9.♙c4 A very interesting new position. Black has an extra pawn and one can't say that his triple pawns are very weak (at least for now). But at the same time he has certain development problems and the white key pawn on d5 seriously limits the opponent's options. I believe that White's compensation is at least enough but certainly practical tests are required.



9...a6 [9...♙f5 10.♙e3 a6 - 9...a6; 9...c6 10.dxc6 ♙xc6 11.♚e2!]

10.♙e3 [It's not the best moment for the prophylactical 10.h3 10...b5 11.♙b3 c5 12.dxc6 ♙xc6=]

10...♙f5 [10...g6 looks more in the spirit of the Leningrad Dutch, but still after 11.h3 ♙g7 12.O-O O-O 13.a4 ♚h8 14.♚e2

h6 15.a5☞White has good compensation and many ways to increase his queenside pressure.; 10...♗g4 11.♔d2 e6 trying to get read of the annoying d5 pawn. But White has the strong answer 12.h3 exd5 13.♘xd5 ♗h5 14.♗g5 ♗e7 15.♗xf6 ♗xf6 16.♔b4↑and suddenly Black's king is very vulnerable.]

11.h3 ♔d6 [11...h5 stopping g4 but White has another resource: 12.♔d2 ♔d6 13.O-O-O O-O-O 14.♘a4☞]

12.g4 ♗g6 13.♔e2☞ and White has fantastic compensation for the pawn.

David vs. Goliath



Peter Zhdanov

Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

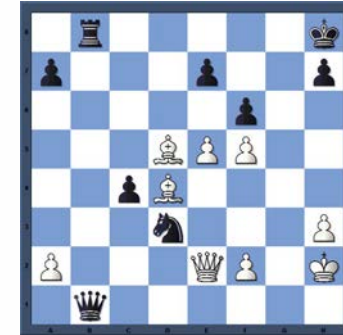
In this entertaining column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week brought us 15 upsets.

The number of moves ranges from 22 in Abrahamsson (1887) - FM Sagit (2360), 1-0 to 62 in Becuwe (2083) - FM Di Nicolantonio (2414), 1-0 and Duessler (2063) - WGM Foisor (2398), 1-0.

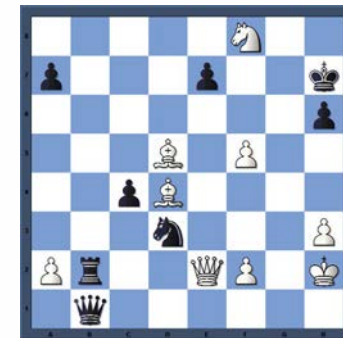
The high-profile encounters that deserve a mention are GM Vovk (2629) - FM Schulz (2300), 0-1 and a blitz game Choukri (2231) - GM Van Wely (2653), 1-0.

A very dramatic and spectacular ending occurred in Persson (1984) - FM Dragicevic (2304), 1-0:



Black to move. 33...♘f4 is simply winning: White has to play 35.♔xc4, but after the multi-purpose move 35...♔xf5 White is toast. What did Dragicevic overlook? Was it some sort of optical blunder, for example, forgetting that after 33...♘f4 34.exf6? ♘xe2 35.f7+ doesn't lead to mate because of the capture on d4? Anyway, the game continued cooperatively with **33...♖b2?? 34.exf6! h6 35.f7+ ♔h7 36.f8♘X**

The final position deserves another diagram:



Top-10:

Abrahamsson (1887) - Sagit (2360), 1-0, [473](#) points
 Declercq (1763) - Frederic (2231), 1-0, [468](#) points
 Mahji (2178) - Billot (1745), 0-1, [433](#) points
 Choukri (2231) - Van Wely (2653), 1-0, [422](#) points
 Troyke (2058) - Meister (2464), 1-0, [406](#) points

Ronneland (2213) - Nilsen (1851), 0-1, [362](#) points
 Leclerq (1545) - Griffon (1907), 1-0, [362](#) points
 Kirst (1781) - Steinbacher (2119), 1-0, [338](#) points
 Lui (1947) - Desbois (1609), 0-1, [338](#) points
 Duessler (2063) - Foisor (2398), 1-0, [335](#) points

Average gap: 394; White won 7 games, Black won 3 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

The featured player of the week is Niclas Emrich. Here is the message I have received from his friend Karlheinz Vogel:

Dear Peter,

first of all I do have to admit that this game was played by a teammate and not by me.

Second to be honest I replaced ELO by the national ranking system DWZ. The difference is 302 DWZ rating points and thus Niclas should have passed the formal qualification.

Although the game is rather short it is definitely not a fake, here are the tournament details:

<http://www.svw.info/referate/dwz/2015/B519-C06-BEM>

it was a precandidate tournament for the local state mastership (the top 3 qualify for the candidate match and from there you may qualify for the master tournament (amateur level).

In order to prove that I do have Niclas' okay in forwarding his game to you I simply copied him cc into this mail as well.

Best regards,

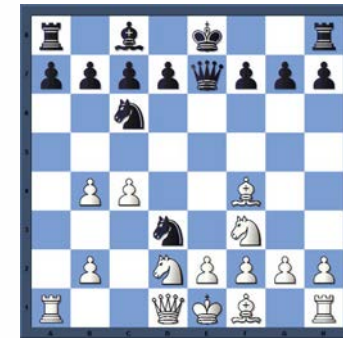
Karlheinz

In the game White succumbed to a cheapo in the Budapest gambit in just 8 moves!

Ottmar Seidler (1608) - Niclas Emrich (1306) [A52]

Bezirkseinzelschach 2015 Steinheim, Bahnhof (5.8),
 10.05.2015

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 ♘g4 4.♘f3 ♘c6 5.♙f4 ♙b4+
 6.♘bd2 ♚e7 7.a3 ♘xe5 8.axb4?? ♘d3 0-1



What does this miniature teach us? First of all, never underestimate your lower-rated opponents. Secondly, club players should be acquainted with such a standard mating finale. For example, there is a well-known trap in the Caro-Kann that goes like this: 1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. ♘c3 dxe4 4. ♘xe4 ♘d7 5. ♚e2 ♘gf6?? (wrong knight) 6. ♘d6X. White was probably not aware of it, or simply too careless to check why Black left the bishop en prise. The main move, of course, is 8. ♘xe5 instead of the greedy capture on b4.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) is welcomed.

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot

Best rating: 2749

(4) Artemiev, Vladislav (2671) - Fedoseev, Vladimir (2683) [A07]

ch-RUS Rapid 2015(9.4),
2015.05.14

Here is a very interesting rapid chess game between young Russian players. Artemiev is 17 and world n4 under 20 and his opponent Fedoseev is more experienced. He is 20 years old, second in the world junior list and his best achievement is third place in the European Championship in 2014.

1. ♖f3 ♜f6 2. g3 The Reti opening is very popular now and Karjakin even had this position on the board four times in a row in the current FIDE Grand-Prix. It is far more complicated than it seems.

2...d5 3. ♗g2 c6 It is very logical to restrict the Bg2. 3...c5 3...g6 and 3...e6 are other usual moves.

4. O-O [4.c4 is the alternative, and the latest game on this theme was just played in the FIDE Grand Prix in Khanty-Mansiysk. 4...♗f5 (4...dxc4 is also possible.) 5.O-O e6 6.cxd5 exd5 7.d3 ♗c5 8.♖b3 ♗b6 9.♜c3 O-O 10.♜a4 White gets the two bishops but the pawn structure is slightly

favorable for Black. Karjakin-Tomashevsky.]

4...♗g4 Since my childhood I preferred this move over 4...Bf5, since if White manages the e4 break they will win a tempo over the bishop.

5.d3 The most principled line. Other possibilities are [5.c4 5...e6 6.♖b3 ♖b6 7.d3; 5.d4 5...e6 6.c4 ♜bd7 7.♜c3 ♗e7 8.♖b3 ♖b6 9.♗e1]

5...♜bd7 6.♖e1 It became fashionable to delay the knight's development of Nd2 thanks to Kramnik's efforts. [6.h3 avoids the maneuver which happened in the game (Be6) but gives Black another option. 6...♗xf3!? (6...♗h5 7.♖e1 e5 8.e4 is an unclear position that White is currently aiming for.) 7.♗xf3 e6 8.♜d2 (8.♗g2 I faced this move and came up with an interesting idea: 8...♗d6 9.e4 ♖c7 10.♖e2 dxe4!? 11.dxe4 h5!?∞ fighting for the black squares. Bricard-Bacrot 2011) 8...♗d6 9.♗g2 ♖c7 10.e4 O-O (10...dxe4 11.♜xe4!?) 11.♖e2 ♗fe8 12.f4 e5∞Artemiev-Bukavshin 1 May 2015. Maybe Artemiev couldn't find an improvement on his recent game.]

6...e5 7.e4 [7.h3 is still not great: 7...♗xf3 8.♗xf3 e4!]

7...dxe4 8.dxe4



8...♗e7!? Quite a rare move. [8...♗c5 9.h3 ♗h5 10.a4 O-O 11.♜bd2 (11.♜h4!?) Kramnik- Vachier-Lagrave April 2015.)

11...♖e8 12.♘c4 (12.♘b3!? 12...♙f8 13.♘h4) 12...♚c7 13.♙d2?! ♘b6 14.♙a5 ♙xf3 15.♙xf3 ♚c8 Black has no problem. Artemiev-Wang Yue 6 may 2015. There is quite a lot of room for improvement over this game.]

9.h3 [9.♘bd2 9...h6!? 10.b3!? might be critical.]

9...♙e6! N The bishop cannot dream about a better square.

10.♘bd2 [10.♘g5? 10...♙c4 just wins an exchange.]

10...h6 11.♚e2 ♚c7 12.b3 ♘h7!? Black uses the fact that he can choose where to castle to start the action on kingside. [12...O-O 13.♙b2 b5 is also perfectly safe.]

13.♘h2 Too ambitious. White should have continued with normal development. [13.♙b2 13...♘g5 14.♙h2 ♘xf3+ 15.♘xf3 O-O= with an equal position.]



13...h5! A great attacking move with the positional threat h4, which would take over the black squares.

14.f4 [14.♚xh5 It is dangerous to take this pawn: 14...O-O-O! 15.♚e2 ♘g5 16.h4 ♘h3+ and soon g5 will be devastating; 14.h4 14...g5!]]

14...g6 Necessary prophylaxis against f5.

15.♙b2 [15.f5 15...gxf5 16.exf5 ♙d5 17.♘e4 ♖g8± even with the e4 square, White has too many problems on the g-file.]

15...O-O-O The king is of course going to the queenside now.



16.♘hf3 ♙f6 The first non-perfect move by Black. He had a great exchange sacrifice possibility: [16...h4! 17.g4 (17.f5 17...gxf5 18.exf5 ♙d5 19.g4 ♖he8 with the strong "e4" threat. 20.♘e4 ♙xe4 21.♚xe4 ♘hf6± followed by e4.) 17...exf4 18.♙xh8 ♖xh8=+ and the small material deficit is more than compensated by the dark squares.]

17.fxe5?! [17.♖ad1 This solid developing move is essential. 17...h4 18.fxe5 ♘xe5 19.♙xe5 ♙xe5 20.♘xe5 ♚xe5 21.gxh4 and White is able to equalize.]

17...♘xe5 18.♘xe5 ♙xe5 19.♙xe5 ♚xe5 20.♚f2



20...♘g5! Fast and strong play by Black, as protecting the a7 pawn would give the opponent time to consolidate. [20...♙b8 21.♖ad1 ♘g5 22.h4 ♘h3+ 23.♙xh3 ♙xh3 24.♖fe1=+]]

21.h4 [21.♘c4 leads to a difficult positional position. 21...♙xc4 22.bxc4 ♖d4!? 23.♞ae1 ♜h7!? and when Black reorganizes his forces he will exploit White's many weaknesses.]

21...♞c3!



22.♘c4! ♙xc4? This move unexpectedly leads to a draw. [22...♘h3+ 23.♙xh3 ♙xh3 24.♞fd1 ♙g4! ♢ An important move to take the d-file. 25.♞f1 ♙e6 26.♞e3 ♞xe3+ 27.♘xe3 ♞d4 28.♞f4 ♞hd8 with a technically winning endgame.]

23.bxc4 ♞d2 24.♞xa7 Black definitely thought this position was winning, and it was indeed not easy to see how White would defend everything with little time in rapid chess.



24...♞xg3 [24...♘xe4 25.♞xf7 There is no direct mate and White has counterplay. 25...♞xg2+ (25...♞xa1+ 26.♙h2+=)]

26.♙xg2 ♞xg3+ 27.♙h1 ♞xh4+ 28.♙g2 ♞g3+ 29.♙h1=; 24...♞xc2 25.♞a8+ ♙c7 26.♞a5+= It looks like Black missed this defense. 26...♙d7 (26...♙b8 27.♞e5+ ♙a7 28.♞a5+=) 27.♞xd2+!]

25.♞a8+ ♙d7 26.♞xb7+ ♙e8 27.♞a8+ ♙e7 28.♞b7+ ♙e8 [28...♙f8? 29.♞b4+]

29.♞c8+ ♙e7 30.♞b7+ ♙e8 31.♞c8+ ♙e7 A great game! In the tournament they both finished in the top ten, with Fedoseev sharing second-fourth place. **1/2-1/2**

Puzzle section

(5) Jobava, B(2699)-Grischuk, A(2780)

Khanty Mansyjsk GP, 2015.05.17

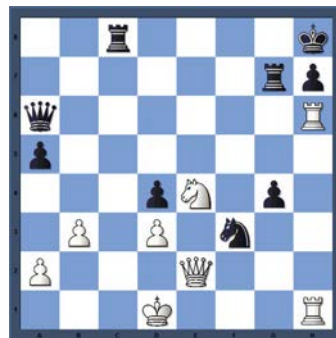
1... =



(6) Agdestein, S(2620)-Hammer, JL(2665)

Scandinavian Masters, 2015.05.12

1... -+



(7) Hammer, JL(2665)-Grandelius, N(2623)

Scandinavian Masters, 2015.05.13

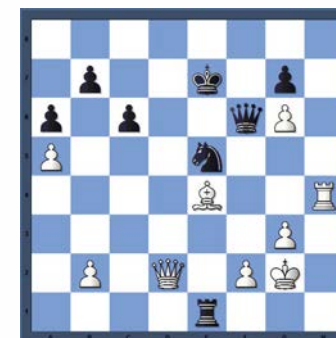
1. +-



(8) Fressinet, L(2712)-Hammer, JL(2665)

Scandinavian Masters rapid, 2015.05.15

1... -+



(9) Matlakov, M(2694)-Popov, I(2648)

Russian Championship rapid, 2015.05.13

1. +-



(10) Paravyan, D(2469)-Demchenko, A(2589)

Russian Championship rapid, 2015.05.13

1. +-



(11) Grachev, B(2666)-Levin, E(2518)

Russian Championship rapid, 2015.05.13

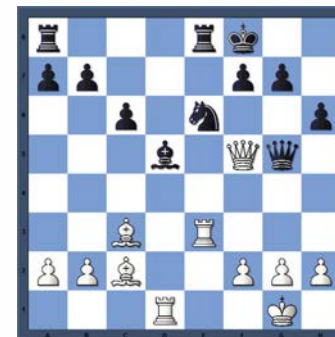
1. +-



(12) Ponkratov, P(2610)-Savchenko, B(2556)

Russian Championship rapid, 2015.05.13

1. +-



(13) Motylev, A(2648)-Shimanov, A(2606)

Russian Championship rapid, 2015.05.14

1. +-



(14) Malakhov, V(2702)-Iskusnyh, S(2465)

Russian rapid Championship, 2015.05.14

1. +-



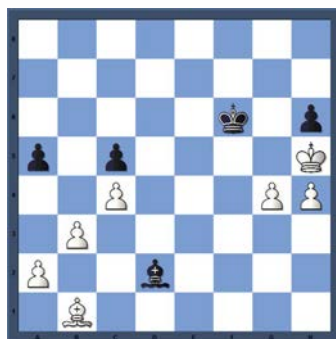
Endgame section

(15) Horvath, Adam (2528)
- Korpa, Bence (2435)

Zalakaros Open,
2015.05.18



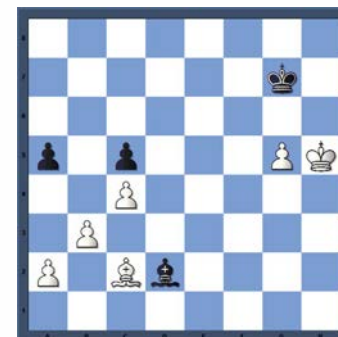
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



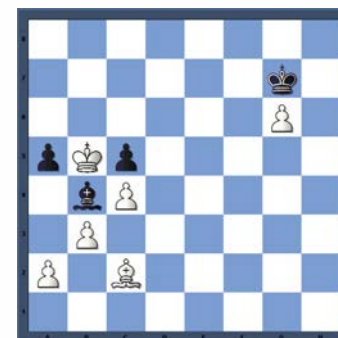
My friend GM Adam Horvath just showed me the following very instructive endgame with opposite colored bishops. White is two pawns up, but Black has created an excellent blockade and he seems to hold the draw. In such situations, the only chance is to create a passed pawn on both sides. It seems to me after all, that with precise play White is able to achieve this goal and his position is objectively winning.

43. ♖c2! This very subtle waiting move sets Black into zugzwang. The point is that to execute the breakthrough on the queenside, White must wait until the d2 bishop leaves its square. [The direct 43.a4 is met by 43... ♖g7 44.g5 hxg5 45.hxg5 ♖b4= and Black just waits with his bishop or king and White cannot make progress.]

43... ♜e3 [If Black wants to keep his bishop on d2 and decides to wait with his king, this causes another kind of problem... 43... ♖g7 White wins now after 44.g5! hxg5 45.hxg5



White has successfully created his passed pawn on the kingside and the next step towards the win is to drive his king over the board to help create the second passer on the queenside... 45... ♜c1 46. ♖g4 ♜d2 47. ♖f5 ♜c1 48.g6 ♜b2 49. ♖e6 ♜a3 50. ♖d5 ♖f6 51. ♖c6 ♖g7 52. ♖b5 ♜b4



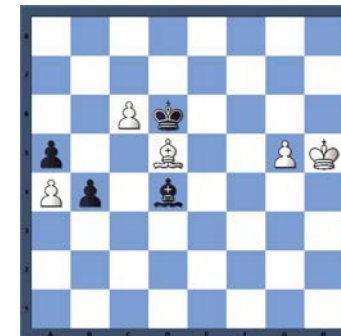
53. ♖a4! This is a very important detail! White had no other way to make progress. 54.a3 is coming in the next move! 53... ♜c3 54.a3 The threat is Kb5, because the bishop cannot occupy the b4 square anymore. 54... ♜b2 55.b4! (Obviously not 55. ♖xa5? because after 55... ♜xa3 there is no way to create a passer.) 55... axb4 56.axb4 cxb4 57. ♖xb4+- The g-pawn

immobilizes the black king and White simply promotes his c-pawn with the help of his king.]

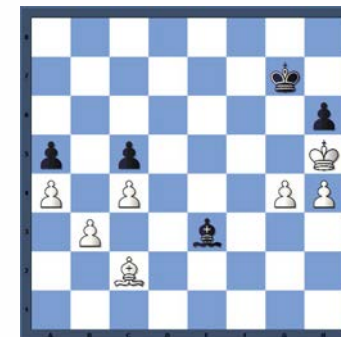


44.a4!! A very strange move at first sight, because it just seems like White fixes the pawn structure on the queenside. However the point is to push b4 next and no matter how Black captures it, White successfully gets his passed pawn.

44...♔g7 [44...♙d2 does not prevent the threat, White anyway plays 45.b4!! This brilliant move uses the fact that the bishop cannot take since the pawn is hanging on h6. 45...cxb4 Other captures are even worse. 46.c5 White lures the king or the bishop to stop the c-pawn, but this will allow him to push g5 at some point. 46...♙e6 47.♙b3+! It is important to not allow the king too close to the pawn. 47...♔d7 48.♙d5! The pawn is temporarily safe from the king. 48...♙e3 (48...b3 loses to 49.♙xb3 ♔c6 50.g5 hxg5 51.hxg5 ♔xc5 52.g6 ♙c3 53.♔h6+- Black cannot stop the g-pawn and the a8 promoting square fits the white bishop.) 49.c6+ ♔d6 50.g5! A small trick, since the bishop is not really hanging. 50...hxg5 51.hxg5 ♙d4



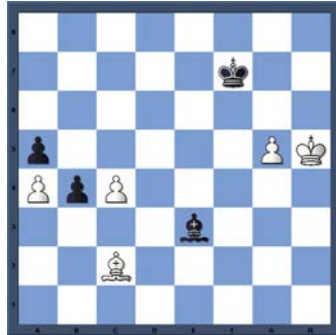
It is very important now, how White makes progress. 52.♔h6!! White is ready to push g6-g7. (The hasty 52.g6 allows Black to stop the pawn with 52...♙g7!= Black exchanges his b-pawn for the c6 with b3 next and holds the draw easily.) 52...♙e3 53.♔g6! This is psychologically the hardest part of the plan. White should win the game by advancing his g-pawn and he temporarily blocks its way with his own king. However the idea is to play Kf6 and push the pawn. White wins by only one tempo in the following line: 53...b3 54.♙xb3 ♔xc6 55.♔f6! ♔d7 56.g6 ♙e8 and if it was Black's move, Bd4 would successfully block the pawn and secure the draw, however after (56...♙d4+ 57.♔f7+- wins.) 57.g7 ♙d4+ 58.♔g6+- White wins.]



45.b4!! The right timing for creating the passed pawn! [45.g5? is met by 45...hxg5 46.hxg5 ♙d2= and Black holds.]

45...cxb4 46.g5! White has successfully created his passed pawns on both sides, but the win still requires some technique...

46...hgx5 47.hgx5 ♖f7



48.♟b3!! Another great move! White is ready to advance his pawn with discovery check. This prevents Black from playing Ke6. [48.♟g4 would have been met by 48...♟e6 and it is much harder to make progress.]

48...♟e7 [48...♟e6 49.c5+!+- transposes to the 44...Bd2 line.]

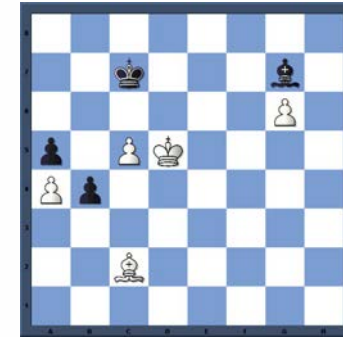
49.♟a2 A waiting move. [49.♟g4 The winning plan is to take the king to the queenside. White could also have done it immediately, but it will later transpose to the game.]

49...♟f8 [49...♟d4 50.♟g6+- followed by Kf5 will again transpose to the game.; 49...♟e6 allows 50.c5++- and again transposes to the 44...Bd2 line.]

50.♟g6! ♟e7 51.♟f5 The plan is to push g6, followed by Ke5-d5, supporting the c-pawn.

51...♟d2 This allows the advance of the c-pawn, but the game was over anyway. [If Black plays for instance 51...♟d4 White wins after 52.♟e4 ♟g7 53.♟d5 ♟d7 54.♟c5+- and Kb5-a5 next.]

52.c5 ♟c3 53.♟e4 ♟d7 54.♟d5 ♟c7 55.♟b3 ♟g7 56.♟c2 ♟f8 57.g6 ♟g7 The rest is already very easy. White simply collects the a5 pawn.



58.♟c4 ♟f6 [Black cannot prevent Kb5 with 58...♟c6 because of 59.♟e4+ ♟c7 60.♟d5!+- A great place for the bishop. It controls both the c6 and b3 squares, therefore White is ready to play Kb5 next.]

59.♟b5 ♟c3 The last trick by Black, but of course, White can delay the capture of the a5 pawn by a move.

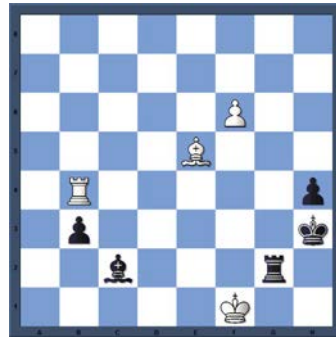
60.♟b3! Black resigned! A third passer after losing the a5 pawn would be already too much to hold! This very instructive endgame shows us how tricky these opposite colored bishops can be. **1-0**

(16) Grischuk, Alexander(2780) - Caruana, Fabiano(2803)

KM FIDE GP 2015(6.6),
2015.05.20

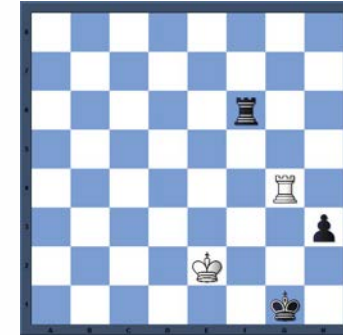


GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



Caruana had been dominating the game for a very long time, but Grischuk was fighting very well and made it difficult for Caruana to score the full point. Currently, Black has passed b- and h-pawns, which gives him excellent winning chances, especially since the white king is also cut off on the 1st rank.

60...♖g5 Caruana is playing in a very practical way. [Black could have transposed into a rook endgame after 60...♗d3+ 61.♔e1 ♖e2+ 62.♔d1 ♖xe5 but now White is in time with 63.♖xb3 and Black can't save the d3 bishop. 63...♖f5 64.♖xd3+ ♔g4 But it is still not that easy to see that it is actually a draw! (64...♔g2 65.♖d2+ ♔g1 66.♖d4 h3 67.♔e2 ♖xf6 68.♖g4+



68...♔h2 and the position is a theoretical draw.) 65.♖d4+! An important move, chasing away the black king as far as possible. 65...♔g5 66.♖d8 ♖xf6 67.♖g8+ Now the white rook starts to check from behind. 67...♔h5 68.♖h8+ ♔g4 69.♖g8+ ♔h3 Now that the black king is cut off on the g-file, we again have an easy theoretical draw. 70.♔e2]

61.♗d4 White keeps on waiting on the a1-h8 diagonal.

61...♔h2 Black of course tries to bring his pawn as close as possible to the h1 square.

62.♗b6 It is not the best idea to move the bishop away from the a1-h8 diagonal. [62.♖b7 62...♖f5+ 63.♔e2 and White keeps on waiting.]

62...h3 A normal move, but maybe Black had a sudden better chance. [62...♖f5+ 63.♔e2 ♔g2! using the fact that White can't take the h4 pawn because of the b2 move. 64.♖g4+ White doesn't have anything better. 64...♔h3 65.♖b4 ♖xf6 66.♗d8 ♖h6 and Black is already 2 pawns up.]

63.♗c7+ ♔h1 It is very hard for White to defend such a position. Maybe it is a draw, but practically it is very hard to hold. Black has a lot of tactical ideas.

64.♖h4 [64.♔e2 Maybe White should have tried and go to b2 with his king.]



64...♙d3+! A very strong move, since now Black will be in time to play b2!

65.♖f2 ♜g2+ 66.♙e3 b2 67.♜b4! Grischuk refuses to give up and pins his hope on the f6 pawn.

67...♙g6 Black needs to stop White from playing f7.

68.♙e5 The b2 pawn is falling, but the h-pawn is almost there.

68...h2 69.f7! and again White finds the only way to continue. [69.♙xb2 was losing on the spot after 69...♙g1 and h1Q next.]

69...♙xf7 70.♙xb2 ♜g5! Perfect play! [70...♙g1 already leads to a draw now. 71.♙e5 and with the f7 move White secured the threat of playing Rb1, so the position is a draw.]

71.♙f2 White cannot let Black play Kg2.



71...♙d5? What a mistake when the victory was so close!

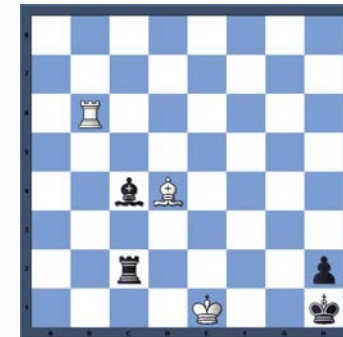
[71...♙g6! was the right move, controlling the b1 square. Black is threatening to play Rg2 next and free his king from h1. White is lost here!]

72.♙d4? After such a tough defense, Grischuk hands back the present! [White could have used the little tactical trick that after 72.♙e5! attacking the h2 pawn and threatening to play Rb1. The position is a draw!]

72...♜g2+ Now Black is back on the winning track.

73.♙f1 ♜c2 White can't keep the black king on h1 any longer.

74.♜b6 ♙c4+ 75.♙e1 and now Black can even choose with which move to finish the game.



75...♜g2 Clearly a safe winning move. Black wants to remove the rook from g2 all the while attacking the white bishop, and then play Kg2. White is hopeless. [Of course a move like 75...♙g2 was winning too. We saw very high level play in an interesting endgame, where both players used their chances very well, and then blundered at the same time...] **0-1**

Chess and the City. Good, better, Georgia!



WGM Elisabeth Paehltz

Best rating: 2493

This year's European Women's Championship is taking place in Chakvi, a small city in Georgia. Georgia has always been well known for its rich chess tradition, boasting famous former stars such as Nona Gaprindashvili, Nana Alexandria and Maia Chiburdanidze. Even nowadays the Georgian women's team is one of the strongest in the world, and they duly took the World Team title just a month ago.

For me personally, however, Georgia is more than just a famous chess country. It is my all-time favorite place when it comes to food and wine. Georgian cuisine is popular for its unique cheese breads, called "Khachapuri", and its meat-filled dumpling "Khinkali". For me these are, of themselves, more than enough reason to stay here for a very very long time.

*Khachapuri Adjaruli and Khachapuri Imeriti**Khinkali**Chicken in walnut sauce*

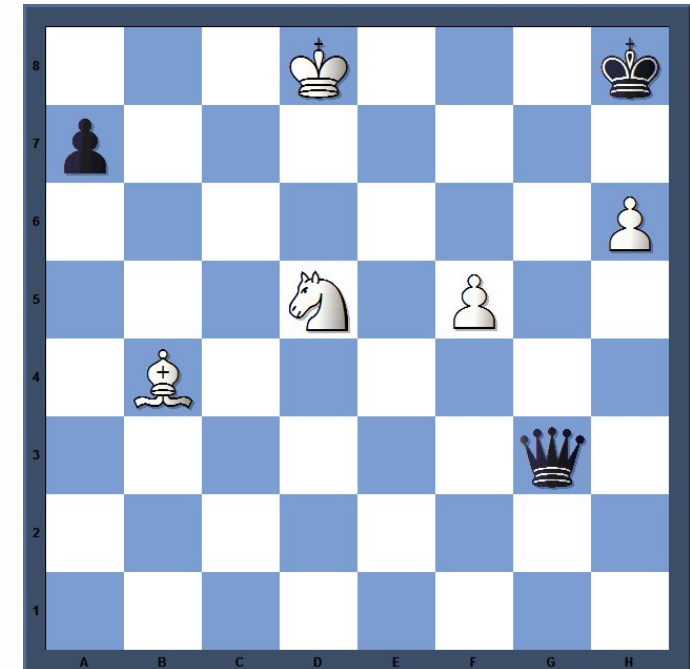
As a true wine lover, Georgia is definitively not a place to miss, and their Saperavi and Kindsmataruli grapes are certainly worth a try! For me the tournament itself has started quite badly, with 1,5 out of 3. It seems that my 'out of sorts' patch is still lingering on, and I am wondering how long I must wait before I snap out of it.... However, I will stay motivated as there are still 8 rounds to go, and nothing is lost yet in respect of a chance to qualify for the upcoming Women's World Championship. All together there are 14 qualifying places available, so that gives me a fair chance of eventually succeeding.



Surprise section / study

(17) Platov

1. +-



Solutions

(18) Murtazin, B(2342)-Potkin, V(2605)

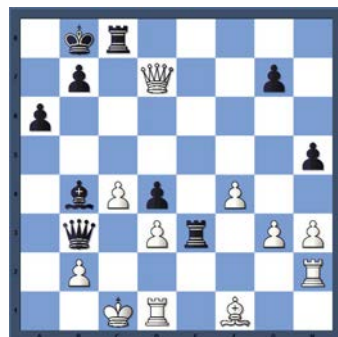
Russian league, 2015.05.05



34...♘d4! 0-1 [34...♘d4 35.♙xd4 ♜e2--+]]

(19) Motylev, A(2653)-Najer, E(2634)

Russian league, 2015.05.06



27...♜xc4+!! 28.dxc4 ♜c3+!! 29.bxc3 [29.♙b1 29...♙xd1+ 30.♙a2 ♜c1--+]]

29...♙a3+ 0-1 [29...♙a3+ 30.♙d2 ♙xc3+ 31.♙e2 ♙e3#]

(20) Tregubov, P(2617)-Savitskiy, S(2330)

Russian league, 2015.05.06



28.♙xe7+! ♙g8 [28...♜xe7 29.♙xb8+-; 28...♙xe7 29.♜c7+ ♙d8 30.♜xf7 ♙xf4 31.♘xf4+- ♜e7 32.♜xg7! ♜xg7 33.♘e6+ ♙e7 34.♘xg7 ♙f7 35.♙d5+ ♙xg7 36.b4+-]

29.♙xb8+- ♜xb8 30.♜c7 1-0

(21) Nepomniachtchi, I(2714)-Sjugirov, S(2669)

Russian league, 2015.05.07



35.♙xd6!! 1-0 [35.♙xd6 35...♜xd6 (35...♙xd6 36.fxg7#) 36.fxg7+ ♙xg7 37.♜f8#]

(22) Chekhov, S(2486)-Yudin, S(2524)

Russian league, 2015.05.02

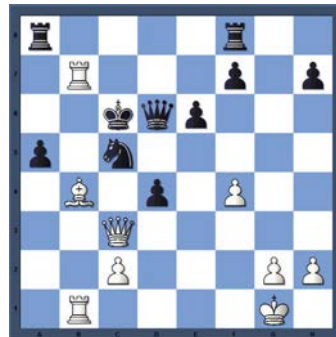


19...♗xg4! 20.♖xg4 f5 21.♘g5+ ♔g8 22.♗c3 [22.♖f3
22...♗xb2+ 23.♖b1 ♗a3+ (23...♗c3+ 24.♖c1 ♖b1+! 25.♖xb1
♖b6+ 26.♖c1 ♖b2#) 24.♖a1 ♖d4+--+]

22...♗xc3—+

(23) Chigaev, M(2496)-Iljiushenok, I(2485)

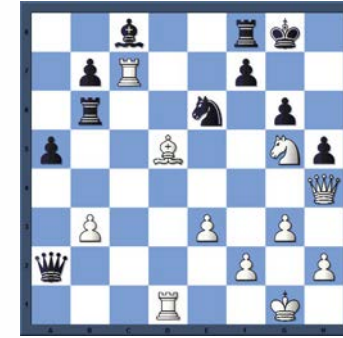
Russian league, 2015.05.03



27.♖b6+!! 1-0 [27.♖b6+ 27...♖xb6 (27...♖c7 28.♗xc5+—)
28.♗xc5+ ♖c6 (28...♖a6 29.♖c4#) 29.♖b6+--+]

(24) Shemeakin, A(2247)-Sarana, A(2461)

Russian league, 2015.05.05



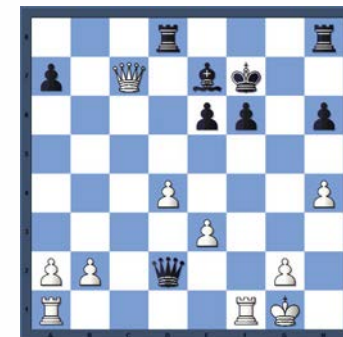
23.♖xc8! ♖xc8 24.♗xe6 fxe6 [24...♖xe6 25.♗xe6 fxe6
26.♖e4+— (26.♖f6+—)]

25.♖e4 [25.♖f4!! 25...♖f8 26.♖c7 ♖xf2+ 27.♖h1+—]

25...♖b2 26.♖xg6+ ♖g7 27.♖xh5±

(25) Svidler, P(2734)-Potapov, P(2477)

Russian league (rapid), 2015.05.08



24.♖xf6+!! ♖xf6 25.♖f1+ ♖g6 26.♖xe7 [26.♖g3+!!
26...♖h5 (26...♗g5 27.h5+! ♖h7 (27...♖xh5 28.♖f3+ ♖g6
(28...♖h4 29.♖h3#) 29.♖f7#) 28.♖c7+ ♖g8 29.♖f7#;

26...♔h7 27.♚f7#) 27.♚f3+ ♔xh4 (27...♔g6 28.♚f7#) 28.♚f4+ ♔h5 29.♚f7+ ♔g5 (29...♔h4 30.♚f4+ ♔g3 31.♚f3+ ♔h4 32.♚h3+ ♔g5 33.♚h5+ ♔g4 34.♚f3#) 30.♚xe7+ ♔h5 31.♚f7+ ♔g5 32.♚f6+ ♔h5 33.g4+ ♔xg4 34.♚f4+ ♔g3 35.♚h4#]

26...♚xe3+ 27.♔h2±

(26) Dubov, D(2659)-Landa, K(2634)

Russian league (rapid), 2015.05.08



20.♕xg7!! ♔xg7 [20...♚xg7 21.♚xe8+-; 20...♚xe1 21.♕xf8+-]

21.♚d4+! [21.♚g5+? 21...♔h8 22.♚f6+ ♔g8=]

21...f6 [21...♔g8 22.♚g4+-]

22.♚g4+ ♔h6 23.♚xd7+-

(27) Svidler, P(2734)-Malakhov, V(2702)

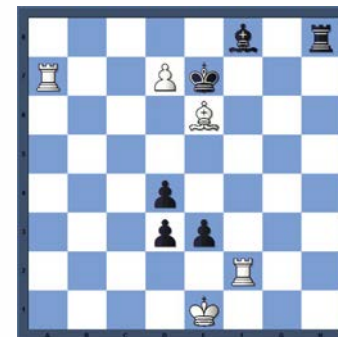
Russian league (rapid), 2015.05.09



15...♖xd4! 16.♕xd7 [16.cxd4 16...♕xb5 17.dxe5 dxe5±; 16.♖xd4 16...exd4 17.♕xd7 dxe3 18.♕xe8 exf2+ 19.♕xf2 ♚xe8±]

16...♖xf3+ 17.♚xf3 ♚xd7±

(28) Horwitz



1.d8=♚+! ♔xd8 2.♚xf8+! ♚xf8 3.♕f7! d2+ [3...♚h8 4.♚a8+-; 3...♔c8 4.♚a8+-]

4.♔e2! d3+ 5.♔d1+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 170

29th of May 2015

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Editorial Preface

The last stage of the FIDE Grand Prix in Khanty-Mansisk decided of the first 2 qualifiers for the next Candidates Tournament - which in turn qualifies to the World Championship match - and these are Caruana and Nakamura. The fight for the 2 places was very tough. Before the tournament Tomashevsky was the clear leader and he only needed to score around +1 to qualify, but after a good start things went badly for him.

Jakovenko also just missed the golden place by half a point, but all in all, Caruana and Nakamura both clearly deserved the qualification spots.

So in the final standings Caruana, Nakamura and Jakovenko all shared the first place with 6.5/11.

In the Chinese Championship, nothing and nobody can stop Wei Yi, who is now leading by a full point as he is on 7.5/10 (out of 11 rounds). Yu Yangui is in second position with 6.5/10 and 3rd is Ding Liren with 6/10. Clearly, the only 15-year old Wei Yi will have a great future and maybe he could even be a real threat to Carlsen, as the young Chinese player is already very close to 2730 ELO.

In the 10th American Continental in Montovideo, Mareco Sandro and Quesada Perez both scored 8.5/11. The 3rd place was shared by a lot of players, but best on tiebreak was Cori Jorge with 8/11.

In the European Women's Championship in Batumi, the leader is Nino Batsiashvili with a fantastic score of 8/9. Zhukova is in second position with 7.5/9, but there are still 2 rounds to go and a surprise might still happen.

The main event of the next week will be the French league, with a lot of 2700+ players participating. The first round is already tomorrow.

As usual, we hope you will enjoy our weekly issue of Top GM secrets!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) **Grischuk, Alexander (2780)**
- **Giri, Anish (2776) [D45]**

KM FIDE GP 2015(10.4),
2015.05.25



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are going to see a very interesting game with a disappointing end, as a draw was agreed in a very unclear position. Both Grischuk and Giri clearly had a disappointing event, but the great fighting spirit never dies!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 A lot of games on the top level start with this move order.

4...c6 We are back in the Slav.

5.e3 ♘bd7 6.♙e2 There are small differences between 6.Bd3 and 6. Be2, but these are nuances.

6...♙d6 7.O-O O-O



8.a4!? Very original play. Knowing that Black's main idea is usually to play e5, Grischuk wants to gain some space on the

queenside first.

8...♙e7 A typical move, but I don't think that it is the best for Black now. [8...b6 with the idea of playing Bb7 next and then c5.; Or maybe even 8...a5 taking the b4 square under control and with the idea to play b6 later on looks like safer moves to me.]

9.a5 Now White often wants to play a6.

9...a6 [Maybe Black should have tried immediately 9...♘e4]

10.♙b3! A strong move! White stops Black from playing e5 too easily, which means that the bishop on c8 will remain very passive.

10...♘e4 [Black could have tried to anyway force things with 10...e5 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.♘xd5 (After 12.♙d2 12...e4 13.♘e1 ♖d8 followed by Nf8-Ng6, the position is unclear.) 12...♘xd5 13.♙xd5 White is a clear pawn up, but Black is winning 2 tempi for development now. 13...♘f6 14.♙a2 ♙e6 but even here White seems to be better after 15.b3 and pawn is a pawn.]

11.♘d2 A very logical move. In case White can get rid of the knight on e4 he is going to be clearly better.

11...f5 This move has to be played. [11...♘xc3 12.bxc3 This kind of position is always better for White.]

12.f4! A very strong move in my opinion. White could have tried many other ideas like Ndx e4 and then f3, but I think Grischuk's play against the bishop on c8 is very smart.

12...♖b8 A prophylactical move, but maybe the direct 12...Ndf6 was a simpler solution.

13.♘dx e4 dx e4 [After 13...fxe4 14.♙d2 gives White a big positional advantage. Black has no play and White can think about playing on both flanks.]

14. ♖d2 Developing before the action starts.



14...g5?! A very aggressive move, but Black is just damaging his own position. [Much more natural was 14...c5 15. ♖a4 cxd4 16. exd4 ♗f6 17. ♗b6 ♕d7 and the position is better for White, but things are far from clear.]

15.g3 A solid move. [White could have won a pawn after 15. fxg5 15... ♖xg5 16. c5 ♕c7 17. ♖xe6+ ♗h8 but Black is going to be fast now with Nf6 and some play on the kingside, which might compensate being a pawn down.]

15...h6 Black is trying to keep his structure together.

16. ♗a4 ♗h7 Preparing to play on the kingside.

17. ♗b6 [Maybe White could even avoid the exchange of knights and first play 17. ♗h1 but probably Black doesn't have anything better than to play Nf6 anyway and we would be back to the position of the game.]

17...♗f6 [Now Black had another opportunity: 17... ♗xb6 18. axb6 c5 but White is probably still better after 19. d5 but again, things are far from clear to me.]

18. ♗h1 ♕d7 19. ♕c3 White's idea is clearly to push d5 at some point, after which Black's position could fall apart.

19...♕e8 Typical play from Black. Bd7-Be8-Bh5 ideas can

often be found in such structures.

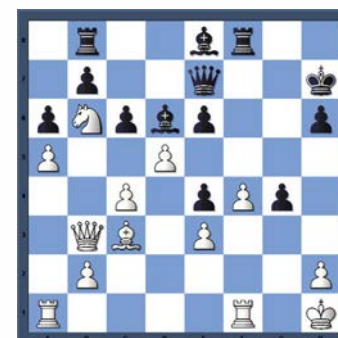
20.d5!? Of course, White should not wait any longer with the action!



20...gxf4 [I think the main move should have been 20...cxd5 and White has a lot of different options here: 21. ♖ad1!? preparing to play cxd5. (In case of the immediate 21. cxd5 21... ♗xd5 22. ♗xd5 exd5 23. ♖xd5 Black has the very strong 23... ♖d8! and the position is very unclear.; 21. ♕xf6 It is clearly a hard decision to give up the dark squared bishop. 21... ♖xf6 22. cxd5 gxf4 23. gxf4 e5 and again the position is far from clear.) 21... ♖d8 22. cxd5 and White has some initiative.]

21.gxf4 ♗g4 A slightly strange decision, since Black is closing his own play! [21... ♖g8 looks more natural.]

22. ♕xg4 fxg4 Black's king's position is very open now.



23. ♖c2? A very strange move. [Why not play 23.c5 23... ♗xc5 24.dxe6 ♖f5 25. ♗e5 and I think it is very clear that White is much better.]

23... ♗g6 Black is back into the game.

24. ♖ad1 ♖bd8 The black king is more or less safe now and the black pieces went around the white knight on b6, which went from being a fantastic knight to a rather useless one.

25. b4 Grischuk keeps on trying to create something.

25... c5 Again I am not sure at all what Giri is doing. [25... cxd5 looks much more natural. 26.cxd5 ♗f5 and Black's position looks very safe.]

26. bxc5 ♗xc5 27. ♖e2 Now White is left with a strong d-pawn.

27... ♗f5 28. ♗e5 ♖g8 Black is preparing to play g3 at some point.

29. ♖g1 and of course White avoids it.

29... ♖f7 30. dxe6 It is a good choice to open the position, although it is a bit of a pity to lose the passed pawn on the d-file.

30... ♗xe6



31. ♗d5! An excellent move, using the fact that Black can't win the pawn on d5.

31... ♗e7 [In case of 31... ♗xd5 32.cxd5 ♖xd5? White is almost winning after 33. ♖c4!]

32. ♖c2 What a strange draw offer! White is clearly better here and it is hard to see where the risk is if he continued playing... This draw offer is also very untypical of Grischuk, who is usually a great fighter. A slightly sad end of the game, but on the other hand we just saw 30 very interesting moves with a lot of different ideas. **1/2-1/2**

(2) Yu Yangyi (2723) - Ding Liren (2757) [C65]

ch-CHN 2015(3.6),
2015.05.20



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

The Chinese players are improving very fast! They are getting stronger and stronger and it is very interesting to follow their National Championship. Let's take a look at two of their highest rated players.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 Ding Liren is considered to be Caro-Kann expert, but it looks like even he is switching to the rock solid Berlin Wall.

4.d3 No Berlin endgame today...

4...♙c5 5.c3 O-O 6.O-O ♖e8 My favorite move as well with both colors, although 6...d6 is more frequently seen.



7.b4 I have seen this tricky move first time by Harikrishna and then I played it myself also as White. The idea is to grab some space on the queenside and to ask the black bishop, which diagonal he wants to choose.

7...♙b6! The correct retreat. Black is sometimes afraid of the pin after Bg5, which would not be so dangerous with the bishop on f8. [7...♙f8 is wrong because of 8.♙c4! and suddenly Black faces some unpleasant problems around the f7 square. Ng5 and Qb3 are threatening. With the bishop on b6, Black could more easily defend with Rf8.]

8.♙c4 Black was threatening with a5, destroying the healthy pawnchain on the queenside. Now he is ready to meet it with b5.

8...d6 [8...h6 is another option, preventing Bg5 and Ng5.]

9.a4 a5 [I had two games, one with both colors on 9...a6 where the idea would be to keep the pawn structure more flexible.]

10.b5 ♘e7 The knight's maneuver to g6 is a typical plan in this opening. That could be followed by Be6, trading the bishops and solving all the problems.

11.♙b3 ♖f8! looks a bit passive, but Black must solve the direct problems. We should check what happens if White tries to get some direct benefits with concrete moves: [11...d5 weakens the squares too much.. . 12.exd5 ♘exd5 13.♖e1 putting pressure on the e5 pawn. Bg5 is another unpleasant threat, pinning both knights. Black is not well prepared to deal with all these ideas.]

12.♘bd2 The standard development. [12.♙g5 is simply met by 12...♘g6 followed by h6, unpinning the knight. 13.♘h4 is the standard move to avoid h6, but Black is completely fine after 13...♘f4; 12.♘g5 is met by



12...♕e8! temporarily running into passivity, but Black sends back the knight with h6, followed by Ng6 and Be6. These Ng5 ideas should be connected with f2-f4, quickly opening the f-file, but now the bishop on b6 prevents this plan.]

12...♖g6 13.d4 White should challenge Black in the center if he wants to fight for an advantage. An even slower plan could be to play Re1, followed by Bf1 and Nc4 or a direct one is to take on e5 followed by Ba3, sending the rook away from the guarding of the f7 pawn.



13...♞h5! Another known plan from many Ruy Lopez lines and Italian openings. Black organizes his counterplay on the kingside with Qf6 and Nf4, which could be even more powerful now because the white pieces are slightly driven to the queenside.

14.dxe5 ♞xe5! A necessary recapture because of concrete

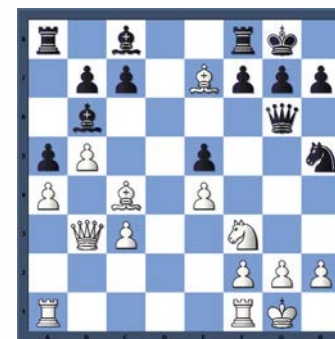
reasons... [14...dxe5 does not work, since after 15.♞a3! the d2 knight is protected.]

15.♞xe5 dxe5 16.♞f3 [White cannot make use of the undeveloped queenside pieces with 16.♞a3? 16...♔xd2 17.♞xf8 ♔xf8 18.♞xf7 The idea could be some quick penetration with Rad1, but Black quickly consolidates with 18...♔g5+]]

16...♔f6! An obvious move! Black protects both the f7 and the e5 pawns and brings his queen into the game, but it required some calculation...

17.♞g5 [17.♞a3 does not make much sense anymore, because the f7 square is well protected. This bishop should rather guard the f4 square. 17...♔e8]

17...♔g6 18.♞e7 This was the whole point behind White's setup. The rook and the e5 pawn are hanging, Black seems to be in deep trouble, however the counterplay is coming veryfast!



18...♞f4! 19.♞h4 [19.g3 is even worse 19...♔xe4! 20.gxf4 ♔xf3 21.♞xf8 ♞h3! and White collapses. 22.♞d5 e4-+]]

19...♔g4 A difficult decision. Black wanted to keep an eye on the g2 square, he is threatening with g5. [However it was even stronger to play 19...♔h5 The point is to overprotect the

f7 pawn in order to save the rook with Re8. 20. ♖xf8 (20.g3 now can be met by 20... ♖e8! 21. ♖a3 ♖h3 It is clear that Black has a crushing attack here. 22. ♖fe1 g5!—+ is game over. Black eliminates the last defender of the white king and is going to mate with Qf3.) 20... ♖xh4 Black simply wants to take on f8 and White has no time to save the bishop because the consequences after 21. ♖a3 are even worse: 21... ♖g4 22.g3 ♖f3 23.gxf4 ♖h3—+]

20.g3 [20. ♖xf8 20... ♖xh4 transposes to the 19... Qh5 line.]

20...g5!? Another very hard moment! Black continues playing on mate with the Qf3-Bh3 plan, but first he needs to capture the knight. [However it was objectively better again to play 20... ♖h3+! 21. ♖g2 (21. ♖h1 21... ♖xf2+ 22. ♖xf2 ♖xf2 23. ♖xf8 ♖xe4+ 24. ♖g2 ♖h3—+) 21... ♖xf2! Qh3 and Qxe4 are decisive threats, therefore White is forced to play 22. ♖xf2 ♖h3+ 23. ♖g1 ♖xf2+ 24. ♖xf2 ♖xh2+ 25. ♖g2 ♖h3 26. ♖g1



And the key move of the line is 26... ♖fd8!! 27. ♖xd8 ♖xd8 The rook joins the attack along the d-file. White does not have adequate defense. An attempt to close the d-file with 28. ♖d5 loses to 28... ♖d6!—+ and Rf6 next wins.]

21. ♖g2 ♖h3+! 22. ♖h1



22...♖f3! Completely squeezing White into the corner at the cost of an exchange. This is something that a human does not start to calculate, but he feels that the compensation will be more than enough.

23. ♖xf8 ♖xf8 24. ♖a2 [Getting rid of the queens with 24. ♖d1 does not solve the problems. White remains busted after 24... ♖g4! 25. ♖xf3 ♖xf3—+ followed by Rd8-d2 with complete domination of the pieces. White is tied up and he has no counterplay at all despite the extra exchange.]

24...♖g4! Developing and keeping the queen on f3 against the Be2 threat.

25. ♖ae1? White does not pay enough attention to the importance of the d-file. [The only move was 25. ♖d2 although the position remains extremely unpleasant to play with White, but at least the game goes on. 25... ♖e8± looks strong with the plan of Kg7 followed by Re7-d7.]

25...♖d8! [The direct 25... ♖xf2+ is premature. 26. ♖xf2 ♖xf2 27. ♖xf2 ♖xf2 28. ♖f1 White gets counterplay on f7. However with the rook on d8, this line does not save White because of Rd2 or Rd1.]

26. ♖e2 [After 26. ♖c2 26... ♜xf2+ works already: 27. ♖xf2 ♖xf2 28. ♖xf2 ♖xf2 29. ♖f1 ♖d2—+ (29... ♖d1—+)]

26... ♜xf2+ 27. ♖g1 [27. ♖xf2 27... ♖xf2 28. ♖f1



Black has two very nice wins here: (28. ♖xg4 28... ♖xa2—+) 28... ♖xe2! The human win. (28... ♖d1! is actually even stronger! 29. ♖xd1 ♖h3—+) 29. ♖xf2 ♖d1+ 30. ♜e1 ♖xf2 White stands in too many motifs. 31. ♖g2 (31. ♖xe2 31... ♖xe1+ 32. ♖xe1 ♖xe1—+) 31... ♖xe1 32. ♖xe2 ♖d2—+]

27... ♖xc3! The last precision! It serves the invasion of the rook to d2!

28. ♖xf2 ♖xf2+ 29. ♖xf2 ♖d2 [White resigned in view of 29... ♖d2 30. ♖b1 ♖f3+ 31. ♖g1 ♖xe2 32. ♖xe2 ♖xe2—+ with 3 extra pawns and a superior bishop.] **0-1**

David vs. Goliath



Peter Zhdanov
Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this entertaining column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week brought us 15 upsets.

The number of moves ranges from 24 in Perez (1543) - Campora (1847), 1-0 to 60 in WGM Daulyte (2402) - WFM Sviridova (2087).

The highest-profile upset of the week was FM Decoster (2303) - GM Fedorchuk (2657), 1-0.

The "fatality" nomination goes to Chamlian (1714) - Garcia la Rosa (2017) for this dramatic finale:



In this double-edged position Black erred with 24...Qg5? and got mated after 25.h4! Nxf1 26.Rxf1 Qh5 27.Qc7+ Kg8 28.Qf7X

Black scored on par with White this week largely due to Mariam Tevzadze (1834)'s feats. She defeated WGM Inga Khurtsilava (2212) and WIM Marina Baraeva (2204) at the European Women's Chess Championship.

In other news: how much time does one need to improve from a 2114 to a 2540 rating? Obviously, most players never make it. GM Mohamad Al-Modiakhi pointed out that it took him 13 years. Meanwhile, 14-year old Jergus Pechac from Slovakia managed to achieve this breakthrough in...one month! Obviously, quite a few upsets happened along the way: [Individual Calculations April 2015 - Pechac, Jergus](#)

Top-10:

Zabystrzan (2321) - Havelka (1805), 0-1, [516](#) points
 Masrhi (1865) - Ahmed (2346), 1-0, [481](#) points
 Bekentayev (1926) - Amanov (2380), 1-0, [454](#) points
 Paveto (2400) - Pereira (1955), 0-1, [445](#) points
 Khurtsilava (2212) - Tevzadze (1834), 0-1, [378](#) points
 Baraeva (2204) - Tevzadze (1834), 0-1, [370](#) points
 Decoster (2303) - Fedorchuk (2657), 1-0, [354](#) points
 Mammadova (1862) - Unuk (2213), 1-0, [351](#) points
 Casas (1834) - Andrade (2177), 1-0, [343](#) points
 Henriquez Villagra (2478) - Michailov (2137), 0-1, [341](#) points

Average gap: 403; White won 5 games, Black won 5 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) is welcomed.

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot

Best rating: 2749

(3) Xiong, Jeffery (2497) - Batista, Lazaro (2684) [C67]

24th Chicago Open(9.1),
2015.05.25

Whatever the quality of the game, I have to show you the win which made Jeffery Xiong a Grandmaster at 14 years old! His triumph in the Chicago open, ahead of 24 GM, also brought him a nice paycheck of 10.000\$!

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 The Berlin is a very safe opening but the strong Cuban, who - like his opponent - was in a must-win situation (since it would bring 5 times more cash than a draw), knew that he would get his chances anyway.

4.O-O ♘xe4 5.d4 ♘d6 6.♙xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♘f5 8.♙xd8+ ♙xd8 9.♖d1+ Not the most played move in this theoretical endgame. White should prefer to put the a1 rook on d1, but at least it forces Black's king to go to the kingside. This week Wei Yi won a very nice game against Ding Liren and later also clinched the Chinese title after [9.h3 9...♙d7 (9...♙e8 10.♘c3 h5 is the most popular and solid line.) 10.♖d1 ♙e7 11.g4 ♘h4 12.♘xh4 ♙xh4 13.♘d2 ♙c8 14.♘f3 ♙e7 15.♖d3 h6 16.♘d4 b6 17.♖f3!? ♙e8 18.♘f5 ♙f8 19.b3 with pressure.]

9...♙e8 10.♘c3 ♘e7 11.h3 ♘g6 A typical knight maneuver to avoid some g4 with the gain of a tempo sometimes.

12.b3 ♙d7 13.♙b2



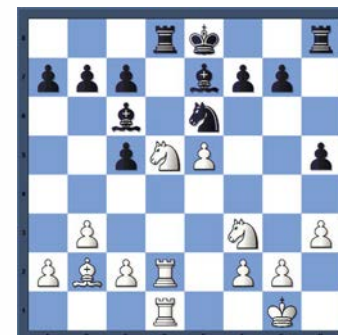
13...♘f4 An interesting concept to go to e6 with the knight. Bruzon's compatriot, Dominguez, also used it during the last FIDE Grand Prix against Caruana.

14.♖d4 [14.♙h2!? 14...♙e7 15.g3 ♘e6 16.♖d3 It is maybe a slight improvement to have the pawn on g3 but the position remains unclear.]

14...♘e6 15.♖d2 ♖d8 16.♖ad1 ♙e7 17.♘e2 c5 Black wants to keep the pieces and avoids Nfd4.

18.♘c3 ♙c6 19.♘d5 White needs his knight on this strong square but it doesn't bring any advantage.

19...h5



20.c4 I think White needs to put his pawn on h4 and later find a way to push his f-pawn. [20.h4]

20...♖d7 [20...h4 is a more precise move order.]

21.♖d3 ♘d8 I would prefer to play h4 and then Kd8-c8.

22.♘d2 h4 23.♘f1 This knight maneuver shows that White doesn't find a plan.

23...♙g5 24.♘h2 ♖h5 25.♘g4 ♔d8 26.♙c3 ♔c8 Black's pieces are all on their best positions and his position is preferable. Now White understands that he can't wait and seeks some pieces exchange.



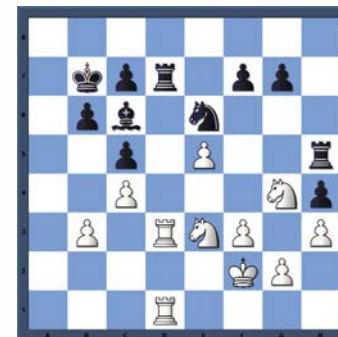
27.♙d2 The problem of this move is that Black's strong knight gets easy access to the d4 square.

27...b6 28.♙xg5 ♖xg5 29.♔h2 A strange move. It was better to start with f3, followed by Kf2.

29...♖h5 30.f3 a5! It is typical to provoke weaknesses on White's queenside.

31.♔g1 a4 32.♔f2 axb3 It was not necessary to hurry with this exchange.

33.axb3 ♔b7 34.♘de3



34...♖e7?! To exchange one rook would make life more difficult for White. [34...♖xd3! 35.♖xd3 ♖h8 gives Black a clear edge. The b3 pawn is difficult to defend and White cannot take the h4 pawn: 36.♘f5 ♖a8! 37.♘xh4 ♖a2+ 38.♔g3 (38.♔f1 38...♘f4 39.♖e3 ♙d7+) 38...g5! 39.♘f5 ♘f4 and Black wins the rook or mates.]

35.♘d5 ♖e8 36.b4! White gets rid of his main weakness.

36...cxb4 [36...♙xd5 37.cxd5 ♘f4 38.♖c3 (38.♖d2!?) 38...cxb4 39.♖c4 ♘g6 40.♖dc1 ♖c8 41.f4 seems ok for White.]

37.♘xb4 ♖hh8 Now that the files are open this rook should also be brought back to the game.

38.♘e3 ♙a4?! Once again, Black should exchange one pair of rooks to keep real winning chances. [38...♘c5 39.♖a3 ♖a8=+ (39...♖xe5?? loses to the nice tactical motif 40.♖a7+!)]

39.♖a1 ♖a8 40.♖da3 Exchanging all rooks would be fine for White.

40...♘c5 41.♘bd5 ♖he8 [41...♖a5 was the last chance for Black to push. 42.♘c3 ♖ha8 43.♘xa4 ♘xa4 44.f4 ♘c5]

42.f4



42...g5? This mistake is probably based on a tactical oversight. The idea behind it is very strange because Black just destroys his kingside when he should play on the other wing. [42...a5 is still a normal move.]

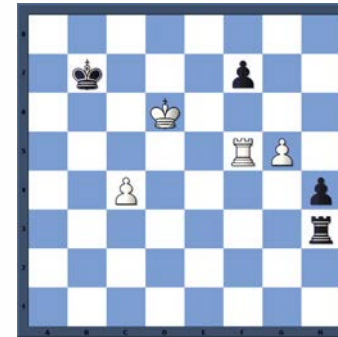
43.fxg5 ♖xe5 44.♘c3 Now it is already Black that should seek equality.

44...♗d3+!? The beginning of tactical lines which lead to a drawn rook ending where Black should be very precise.

45.♙e2 ♜ae8 46.♗xa4 ♜xe3+ 47.♙d2 ♜e2+ 48.♙xd3 ♜8e3+ 49.♙d4 c5+ 50.♗xc5+ bxc5+ 51.♙xc5 ♜xa3 52.♜xa3 ♜xg2 53.♙d6 A very normal move, but another way to pose some defensive problems is [53.♜f3!? 53...♜xg5+ 54.♙d4+=]

53...♜g3 54.♜a5 [54.♜a4 doesn't pose much problems. 54...♜xh3 55.♜b4+ ♙c8 56.c5 ♜e3 57.♜xh4 ♜e6+ 58.♙d5 ♜g6 59.♜h5 ♙d7 60.♙e5 ♙e7=]

54...♜xh3 55.♜f5



55...♜d3+?? A terrible blunder. It was quite easy to achieve a draw with the forced move [55...♜g3! 56.c5 (56.♜xf7+ 56...♙a6 The h- and g-pawns will soon be exchanged and a draw agreed.) 56...h3 57.c6+ ♙b6 58.c7 ♜d3+ 59.♙e7 (59.♙e5 59...♙xc7 60.♜xf7+ ♙d8 61.♜h7 ♙e8=) 59...♙xc7 60.♙xf7 h2=]

56.♙e7 h3 [56...♜g3 57.♙xf7 h3 58.g6 h2 59.♜h5+-]

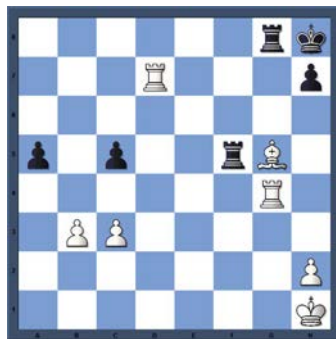
57.♜xf7! h2 58.♜h7 ♜d2 59.g6 ♜f2 60.g7 ♜e2+ 61.♙d6 ♜d2+ 1-0

Puzzle section

(4) Giri, A(2776)-Tomashevsky, E(2749)

Khanty Mansijsk Grand Prix, 2015.05.21

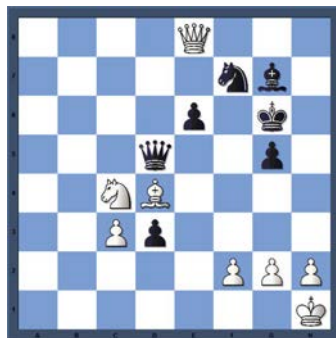
1. +-



(5) Grischuk, A(2780)-Karjakin, S(2753)

Khanty Mansijsk Grand Prix, 2015.05.22

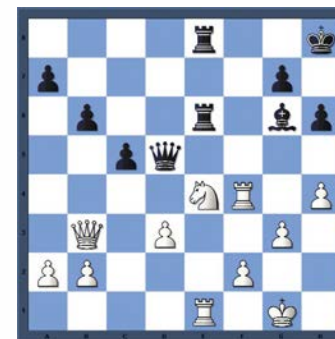
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(6) Caruana, F(2803)-Jakovenko, D(2738)

Khanty Mansijsk Grand Prix, 2015.05.22

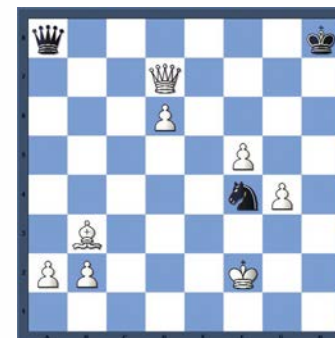
1... -+



(7) Jakovenko, D(2738)-Gelfand, B(2744)

Khanty Mansijsk Grand Prix, 2015.05.24

1... =



(8) Pichot, A(2504)-Granda Zuniga, J(2650)

American Continental, 2015.05.17

1. +-



(9) Granda Zuniga, J(2650)-Hansen, E(2580)

American Continental, 2015.05.24

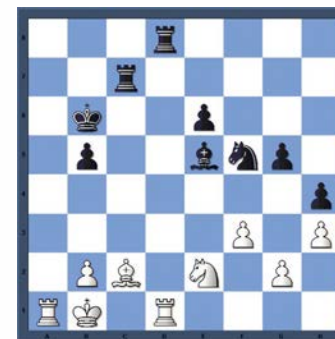
1. +-



(10) Shen, V(2394)-Kamsky, G(2673)

Chicago Open, 2015.05.24

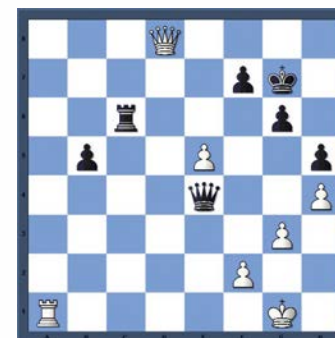
1... -+



(11) Naroditsky, D(2622)-Pancevski, F(2494)

Chicago Open, 2015.05.24

1. +-



(12) Plenkovic, Z(2385)-Kozul, Z(2620)

Croatian Teams, 2015.05.23

1... -+



(13) Zhao Jun(2613)-Lin Chen(2460)

Chinese Championship, 2015.05.25

1. +-



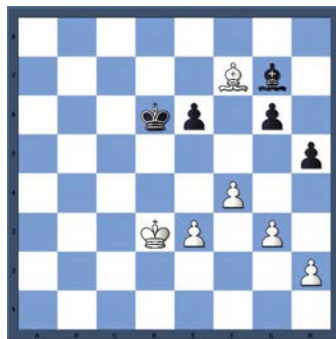
Endgame section

(14) **Tomashevsky, Evgeny (2749)**
- **Dominguez Perez, Leinier (2734)**

KM FIDE GP 2015(8.2),
2015.05.22



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



During the next 50 moves, we will see a great defense of a difficult endgame by Dominguez, who does everything perfectly and gives us a good example on how to play such opposite colored bishop endgames!

47...h4! A great move according to an old rule which says that when you are worse in an endgame, you should try to exchange as many pawns as possible.

48.♟xg6 [After 48.g4 Black reaches a draw by playing 48...g5! 49.fxg5 ♖e7 and all Black needs to do is to keep on moving with his bishop on the diagonal a1-h8. The position is a draw.]

48...h4 49.h4 White is 2 pawns up, but the opposite colored bishop endgame gives Black excellent drawing

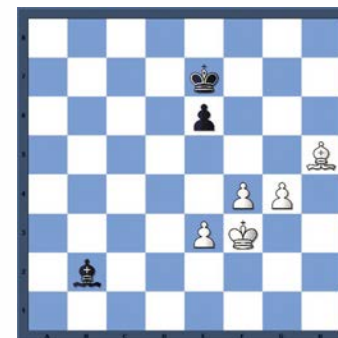
chances. Let's say in case we would exchange the e-pawns, the position would be a theoretical draw.

49...♟b2 Another very good move by Dominguez. The black bishop will take a perfect position on c1 and soon we are going to see why.

50.♖e4 ♖e7 Black is placing his king to f6, even closer to the place of action.

51.♟h5 ♖f6 52.g4 White needs to start pushing the pawns.

52...♖e7 53.♖f3



53...♟c1! Another very good move. Now whenever White is going to put g5 and try to play e4 and Kg4, Black is going to answer with e5.

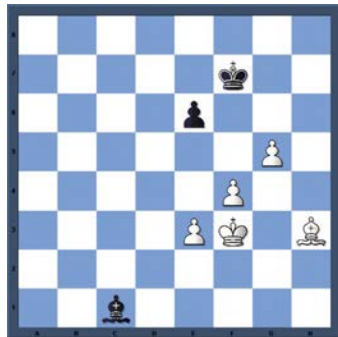
54.♟g6 ♟d2 55.♟c2 ♖f6 56.♟d3 ♟c1 Black keeps on waiting and White doesn't seem to have a winning plan.

57.♟b1 ♟d2 58.♟e4 ♟c1 59.♟c2 ♟d2 60.♟d3 ♟c1 61.♟b5 ♟d2 62.♟d7 ♖e7 63.♟c8 ♖f6 64.♟a6 ♟c1 65.♟c4 ♟d2 66.♟b3 ♟c1 67.♟a2 ♟d2 68.♟c4 ♟c1 69.g5+ Finally Tomashevsky decides to do something.

69...♖e7 But it is still unclear what is next?!

70.♖e2 ♟a3 71.♟b3 ♟c1 72.♖d3 ♟a3 73.♖d2 ♟b4+ 74.♖e2 ♟a3 75.♖d3 ♟c1 76.♟d1 ♖f7 77.♟h5+ ♖e7 78.♖e2

♔f8 79.♔f3 ♕d2 80.♔e4 ♕c1 81.♔d4 ♕b2+ 82.♔d3 ♕c1 83.♔e2 ♔g7 84.♔f3 ♕d2 85.♕g4 ♔f7 86.♕h3 ♕c1 After moving around for a long time and not being able to find any winning plan, White tries his last chance.



87.♕xe6+ [87.e4 leads to an immediate draw since after 87...e5! the g5 pawn is falling.]

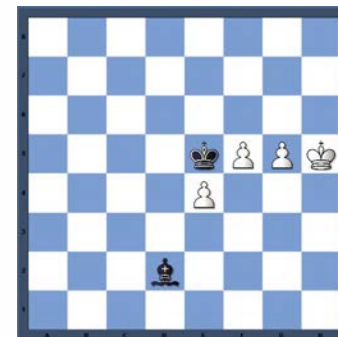
87...♔xe6 88.e4 3 pawns against the bishop looks interesting, but in fact it is nothing but a draw.

88...♕d2 Black correctly keeps on waiting.

89.♔g4 ♕c1 90.♔g3 [In case of 90.f5+ 90...♔e5 is the right way to defend.]

90...♕d2 91.♔f3 ♕c1 92.♔g4 ♕d2 93.f5+ The last chance.

93...♔e5 94.♔h5 [Another try for White could be 94.f6 94...♔e6 95.♔h5 but now Black goes to the other diagonal to keep on waiting. 95...♕c3! 96.♔g6 ♕b2 and White has no further plan to improve the position. 97.♔g7 ♕c3 The only chance is 98.♔g8 but Black still holds easily with 98...♕xf6! 99.gxf6 ♔xf6 followed by Ke5 with a draw.]



94...♔xe4 Black is in time to hold the white pawns.

95.g6 ♕c3 96.♔g5 f6 is a threat, so Black needs to hurry back with his king.

96...♔d5 97.♔h6 [97.f6 97...♔e6 with a draw.]

97...♔e4 The right move as White was threatening to play g7.

98.♔g5 ♔d5 99.f6 There is no more hope.

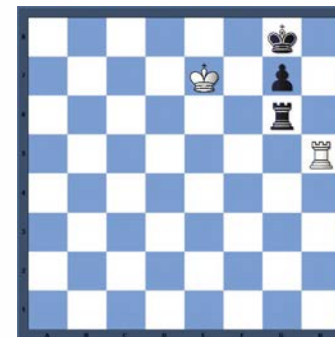
99...♔e6 100.g7 ♕xf6+ 101.♔g6 ♕xg7 Taking the last pawn. What seemed to be so easy was actually great play by Dominguez. A very good example on what to do in similar endgames! **1/2-1/2**

**(15) Jobava, Baadur (2699)
- Nakamura, Hikaru (2799)**Khanty Mansiysk Grand Prix,
2015.05.22GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Black is two pawns up, but the doubled g-pawns should deprive him from realistic winning chances in case of best defense by White. Black should pin his hopes to a well-timed knight exchange, transposing to a rook endgame.

68. ♖xg6? White wins back one of the pawns, but he transposes into a lost, but very instructive rookendgame. [White should have waited for instance with 68. ♖d2 and see how Black intends to make progress. 68... ♖f4 is met by 69. ♖d8+ ♔h7 70. ♖f7! creating a mate net. White should hold.]

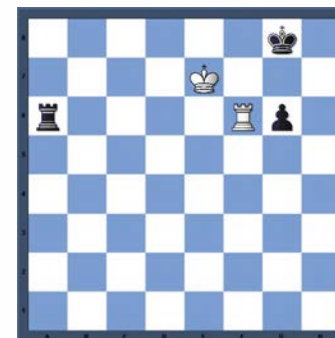
68... ♖xg6 69. ♖xh5 Black is winning here. The reason is the horizontally cut off white king. He cannot pass the rook's rank and Black advances his pawn square by square. Nakamura realizes his advantage with perfect technique.



69... ♖a6! with the idea of playing g6 and Kg7.

70. ♖f5 [70. ♖g5 70...g6 White cannot use his king, Black slowly makes progress like it happened in the game.]

70...g6 71. ♖f6 A clever defensive attempt. White would like to pass the rook's rank with the king by offering the trade of the rooks. The trade leads to an easy theoretical draw, however Black is not forced to do it...



71... ♖a7+! 72. ♔e6 ♔g7! White faces the same problem as before. His rook is misplaced on f6, it stands in the motif of Ra6, therefore he must lose a very important tempo, which allows Black to occupy the ideal position with his rook...

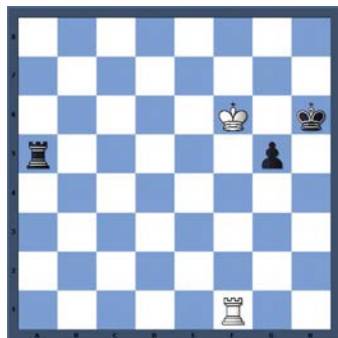
73. ♖f3 [If the rook was somewhere else than f6, then 73. ♔e5 would hold the draw, but now it drops the rook after 73... ♖a5+]

73...♖a5! Nakamura uses the same idea again! We have the same position as before, just all pieces are a rank ahead.

74.♜f7+ [Waiting with 74.♜f2 does not change anything, since Black makes progress with the same motif: 74...g5 and after 75.♜f5 ♖a6+! 76.♙e5 ♙g6—+]

74...♙h6 75.♜f1 The frontal attack is a very important defensive resource in many rook endgame with 1 vs 0 pawn. The idea is to send the black king behind the pawn with checks and then stay in front of the pawn. However it does not help here. [Another defensive attempt is 75.♜f8 75...g5 76.♜h8+ ♙g6 77.♜g8+ ♙h5 78.♜h8+ ♙g4 79.♜h1 ♙f3—+ Black wins easily.]

75...g5 76.♙f6 Creating the mate threat in one move. [76.♜h1+ 76...♙g6 77.♜g1 This is the standard defense with the frontal attack, however with the horizontally cut off king it does not help. Black makes progress with 77...♖a4! and continues with the same method as before.]

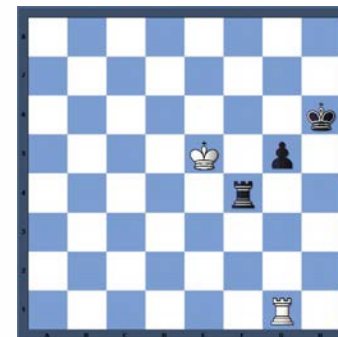


76...♖a4! Black prevents the mate and keeps the king cut horizontally. He is also threatening with Rf4, trading rooks. [76...g4? spoils the advantage because of 77.♜h1+ ♜h5 78.♜g1=]

77.♜h1+ [Preventing Rf4 with 77.♙f5 loses to 77...♙h5! 78.♜h1+ (78.♜f2 78...♙h4—+ followed by g4 wins easily.)

78...♜h4 79.♜f1 Otherwise Rf4 check cuts the king away. 79...♜h3! 80.♜f2 g4 81.♙f4 ♙h4—+ etc...]

77...♜h4 78.♜g1 ♜f4+ 79.♙e5



79...♙g6! Taking control over the f5 and f6 squares. Black again wants to drop his rook to the a-file and avoids Kf6. White cannot prevent it...

80.♜h1 ♖a4 White resigned. He cannot fight against the technique employed by Nakamura. **0-1**

Chess and the City. Good, better, Georgia - Part 2



WGM Elisabeth Pahtz

Best rating: 2493

After 9 tough rounds we have a sole leader and that is Nino Batsiashvili from Georgia, who has the stunning score of 8/9. Mihaela Sandu from Romania had the most incredible start in this tournament, as she seemed unstoppable after 5 rounds with 100 percent. Some of the participants had concerns about her performance and asked the arbiters for action. In round 6 the live transmission of her game against the current leader was cut and she eventually lost in a tough but good game. In round 7 former World Champion Antoaneta Stefanova, who was paired against Sandu, asked the ECU president Zurab Azmaiparashvili for a 15 min delay of all live games. This request was not accepted and Stefanova lost her game after a huge blunder in time trouble. On the free day two letters were published. The first one was officially asking for a delay of all the games and was signed by 32 players. The second letter, which was asking to cut the live transmission in Sandu's game, was not approved. The whole issue about cheating is of course nasty and seems to be a big problem in nowadays' chess society. I can understand that one may worry when some lower rated player comes up with such a performance. The usual measure taken by FIDE nowadays is

a common delay of live transmission but was not practiced in our tournament until round 8. Looking at Sandu's current position, I feel sad and some taste of unfairness about the whole issue. It must also be very hard psychologically to continue playing after you basically get accused by the other players. She lost her last 2 games in a row, yet she is likely to need only one more point to qualify. I bet this will be the last international tournament without precautions regarding this topic. Then at least everybody can play calmly and should not feel anxious in case of a player scoring too well. As for me I managed to win today and recovered from a terrible start to come back to plus 3. There are two more games to go and you will get a final report next week.



Nino Batsiashvili



Elisabeth Pähzt

Clash of the Titans

(16) Lasker, Edward
- Marshall, Frank James[E20]

New York, 1941



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

In this issue I would like to show one of the many games between two American masters. We should note that Edward Lasker was not related to the second World Champion Emanuel.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.g3 O-O 5.♙g2 d5 6.cxd5 A premature move, but that is probably because the Catalan structures after dxc4 were not very well-known yet. [6.♘f3 6...dxc4 7.♘e5 (7.O-O 7...♘c6 and Black's main idea is to push e5 at some moment and equalize in the center.) 7...♘c6! A typical strong move which prevents White from recapturing the c4 pawn and keeps the advantage in the center. If White want to take another pawn on c6 and plays 8.♘xc6 bxc6 9.♙xc6 ♖b8⇐Black gets active play.]

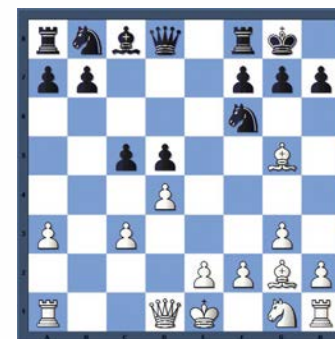
6...exd5 7.♙g5



7...c5 An active move. An alternative was the strong [7...c6! in order to play against bishop on g2, which is placed much worse than on d3 in Carlsbad structures.]

8.a3 This looks a bit slow. More active was to just develop the pieces, for example [8.♘f3 8...h6 (8...♙xc3+ 9.bxc3 ♔a5 10.O-O!↑ and thanks to his quick development White is going to use the power of the two bishops and the central pawns.) 9.♙xf6 ♔xf6 10.O-O ♙e6 11.♖c1 (11.dxc5 11...♙xc3 12.bxc3 ♘d7 Nxc5-Rc8 next with a typical equal position.) 11...♙xc3 12.♖xc3 c4 13.♘e5 with the idea to destroy Black's central pawns after e4 or b3. 13...♘c6 14.♘xc6 bxc6 15.b3 cxb3 16.axb3 ♙d7 17.e3 with equal play.]

8...♙xc3+ 9.bxc3



9...cxd4?! I don't like this move. Black could organize typical counterplay against the c3 pawn. [9...♔a5! 10.♙d2 looks a bit passive. (

a) 10.♙xf6 10...♔xc3+ 11.♔f1 gxf6 12.dxc5 (12.♙xd5 12...♖d8=+) 12...♔xc5 13.♔xd5 ♔xd5 14.♙xd5 ♖d8= and only Black can be better here.;

b) 10.♘f3!? 10...♘e4 (10...♔xc3+ 11.♙d2↑) 11.O-O↑)

10...♘e4 11.♘f3 (11.c4 11...♘xd2 12.♔xd2 ♔xd2+ 13.♔xd2 dxc4! (13...cxd4 14.cxd5 ♖d8 preventing Nf3. 15.♖c1! preparing Nf3.

(15.♔d3!? is a bit risky because there are still many pieces on the board! 15...♙f5+ 16.♙xd4 ♘c6+→) 15...♘d7 16.♘f3 ♘f6 17.♘xd4 ♘xd5 18.e3 and because of the strong knight on d4 and White's more active pieces this endgame should be unpleasant for Black.) 14.dxc5 ♖d8+ 15.♙c3 ♘a6 16.c6 bxc6 17.♘f3 (17.♙xc6 17...♖b8) 17...♘c5→) 11...c4 (

a) 11...♙g4 12.♘e5†;

b) 11...♘c6 12.dxc5 ♖xc5 (12...♘xc3 13.♖c1 d4 14.♘xd4 ♘xd4 15.♙xc3 ♖xc5 16.♖b2) 13.O-O ♘xc3 14.♙xc3 ♖xc3 15.♖xd5 ♙e6)

12.O-O ♘c6 (12...♘xc3 13.♖e1) 13.♖c2 ♖e8 (13...♙f5 14.♘h4!)]

10.cxd4 ♘c6 11.♙xf6 ♖xf6 12.e3+= White has a stable plus because of the isolated pawn on d5.

12...♖e8 13.♘e2



13...♙g4! A good and active setup for Black.

14.O-O [14.♖a2 The idea of this move is to prevent the exchange of the d-pawns. 14...♖ad8 15.O-O h5! A strong and typical move which should help Black to find some counterplay on the kingside.]

14...♙xe2 15.♖xe2 ♘xd4 16.♖d1 Black managed to get rid of the weak pawn but White still keeps a symbolic advantage

thanks to the strong bishop on g2.

16...♘c6 is probably not accurate, since now the knight on c6 and the pawn on b7 will stay under the bishop's pressure. Black could have played [16...♘e6 The idea of this move is to build a more solid b6-Nc5 setup and empty the bishop's diagonal! 17.♖xd5



17...♖e7! (17...♖ab8 18.♖a5! and after 18...a6 it will not be possible to play b6-Nc5.; 17...b6 18.♖xa8 ♖xa8 19.♙xa8 ♘c5 It is clear that the two rooks are stronger than the queen and the b7 pawn can also be a potential weakness.)]

17.♖xd5 ♖ad8 18.♖b5 ♖e7 19.♖ac1 ♖c7



20.♖c4! += A strong move because the white rook is going to play along the 4th rank.

20...g6 [20...♖d6!?]

21. ♖d5 [21.h4!? deserves attention, since this kind of move always improves the position because the idea is to play h5-h6 and weaken the black king.]

21... ♖d6 22. ♖d1 [22. ♖xc6 22... bxc6 (22... ♖xc6 23. ♖d4±) 23. ♖a5 (23. ♖c5 23... ♖xc5 24. ♖xc5 ♖d3=) 23... c5 24. ♖fc1 ♖e7! and one weak pawn on c5 is not enough. 25. ♖xc5? ♖xc5 26. ♖xc5 ♖d1+! 27. ♖g2 ♖e4+; 22. ♖c5 22... ♖e7 23. ♖xc7 ♖xc7 24. ♖xb7 (24. ♖f3 24... b6=) 24... ♖b8 25. ♖b1 ♖f5±]

22... ♖xa3 23. ♖xc6 ♖xd5 [23... bxc6 24. ♖xf7+ ♖xf7 25. ♖c4+



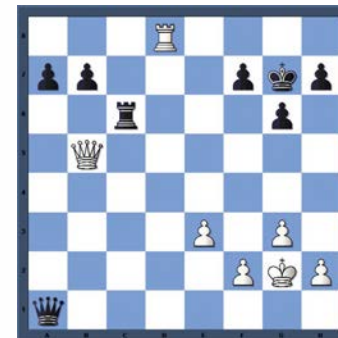
25... ♖d5! (25... ♖g7 26. ♖xd8→) 26. ♖xd5 cxd5 27. ♖xc7+ ♖f6 28. ♖c6+ ♖g7 29. ♖xd5 a5 and the a-pawn gives Black enough counterplay for a draw. The game should end after a perpetual check somewhere.]

24. ♖xd5 ♖a1+? An unnecessary move, as it was more important to control the a3-f8 diagonal. [24... ♖xc6 25. ♖d8+ (25. ♖xb7 25... ♖f6=) 25... ♖g7 26. ♖e5+ ♖f6! and Black is fine. 27.g4 ♖c1+ 28. ♖g2 ♖c6+±]

25. ♖g2 ♖xc6? The decisive mistake. Black could still fight after [25... bxc6 26. ♖d8+ ♖g7 27. ♖c5 h5 28. ♖f8+ ♖h7 29. ♖g8+! otherwise Black would play Qg7! 29... ♖h6 30. ♖d4! preventing Qg7 and threatening Qh8-Rg4. 30... f5 31. ♖h8+ ♖h7 32. ♖f8+ ♖g7 33. ♖d8 ♖a2 34. ♖h8+ (34. ♖d7 34... ♖g8!) 34... ♖h7 35. ♖e5! and White is not winning by force but he

keeps the initiative.]

26. ♖d8+ ♖g7

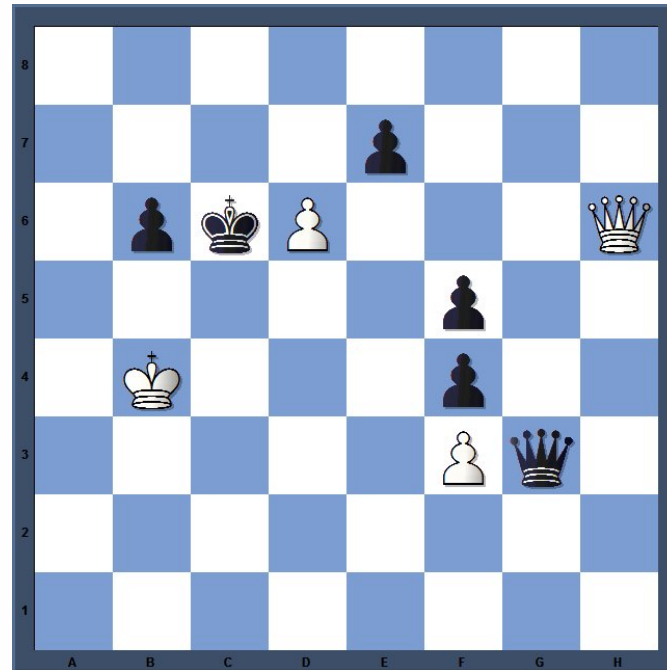


27. ♖b4! +— ♖c3 28. ♖f8+ ♖f6 29. ♖d4! ♖g5 30. h4+ ♖h5 31. ♖d5+ and after 31... f5 White mates with 32. Rxf5 gxf5 33. Qxf5 Kh6 34. Qg5. 1-0

Surprise section / study

(17) Kubbel

1. +—



Solutions

(18) Jobava, B(2699)-Grischuk, A(2780)

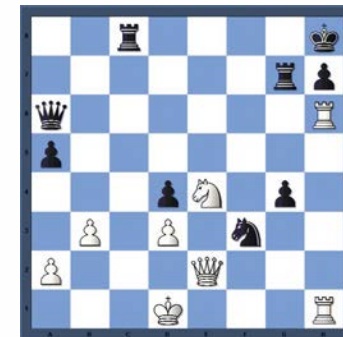
Khanty Mansyjsk GP, 2015.05.17



17...♖xg2+! 18.♔xg2 ♕g3+ 19.♔h1 ♕xh3+ 20.♔g1 ♕g3+
21.♔h1 ♕h3+ 22.♔g1 ♕g3+ 23.♔h1 ♕h3+ 1/2

(19) Agdestein, S(2620)-Hammer, JL(2665)

Scandinavian Masters, 2015.05.12



45...♖gc7! 46.♘c5 [46.♖xa6 46...♖c1#; 46.♕b2
46...♕xd3+—]

46...♕xh6! 47.♖xh6 ♖xc5 48.♖xh7+ [48.♕b2 48...♖c1+
49.♕xc1 ♖xc1+ 50.♔xc1 g3—] 48...♔xh7 49.♕e4+ ♔h8—+

(20) Hammer, JL(2665)-Grandelius, N(2623)

Scandinavian Masters, 2015.05.13



28. ♖xf7+! ♔g7 [28... ♖xf7 29. ♕xe5+-; 28... ♖xf7 29. ♖d5+- (29. ♘g5+ 29... ♖g7 30. ♘h3+-)]

29. ♕h6+ [29. ♕d5+-]

29... ♖xf7 30. ♘g5+ ♕e8 31. ♘h3+-

(21) Fressinet, L(2712)-Hammer, JL(2665)

Scandinavian Masters rapid, 2015.05.15



42... ♖xe4 43. ♖h8 [43. ♖xe4 43... ♖f3+ 44. ♖g1 ♖xe4+-]

43... ♖f3+-+

(22) Matlakov, M(2694)-Popov, I(2648)

Russian Championship rapid, 2015.05.13



28. ♕h6!! ♘h7 **29. gxf7!** 1-0 [29. gxf7 29... f6 (29... ♕xh6 30. h8=♖#) 30. h8=♖+-]

(23) Paravyan, D(2469)-Demchenko, A(2589)

Russian Championship rapid, 2015.05.13



22. ♖xd6! ♖g7 [22... ♖xd6 23. ♘f7+ ♖g7 24. ♘xd6+-]

23. ♖b6 h6 24. ♘gf3+-

(24) Grachev, B(2666)-Levin, E(2518)

Russian Championship rapid, 2015.05.13



30.g4! ♖b5 [30...♙xe3 31.gxf5 ♜xd4 32.♜xg6+!+-; 30...♙xg4 31.♜xg6+!+-; 30...♙d3 31.f5+-]

31.gxf5 ♜xd5 32.f6 1-0

(25) Ponkratov, P(2610)-Savchenko, B(2556)

Russian Championship rapid, 2015.05.13



26.♙xd5!! cxd5 27.♙b4+ ♗e7 [27...♙g8 28.♜h7#]

28.♜h7!+- [28.♜xg5 28...hxg5 29.♙h3+-]

(26) Motylev, A(2648)-Shimanov, A(2606)

Russian Championship rapid, 2015.05.14

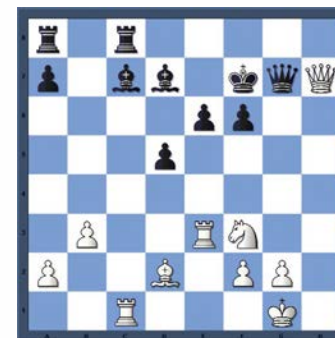


13.♙xh7+! ♔h8 [13...♙xh7 14.♙g5+ ♙g8 (14...♙g6 15.♜d3+ ♙f5 16.♜h3+-) 15.♜h5 ♙xc2 16.f5!+-]

14.♙d3+- [14.♙g5+-]

(27) Malakhov, V(2702)-Iskusnyh, S(2465)

Russian rapid Championship, 2015.05.14



26.♙xc7!! ♜xh7 [26...♙xc7 27.♙e5+! fxe5 (27...♙f8 28.♙b4+-) 28.♙f3+-]

27.♙xd7+ ♙g6 28.♙e5+! [28.♙xh7 28...♙xh7 29.♙xe6+-]

28...fxe5 29.♙g3+ ♙f5 30.♙xh7+-

(28) Platov



1. ♖c3+! ♔g8 2. h7+! ♔xh7 3. ♜f6+ ♔h6 [3... ♔h8 4. ♜e4+ +—]

4. ♖d2+! ♚g5 [4... ♔g7 5. ♜h5+ +—]

5. ♖e3!! a5 [5... ♚xe3 6. ♜g4+ ♔g5 7. ♜xe3 +—]

6. ♔d7!! ♚xe3 [6... a4 7. ♖xg5+ ♔xg5 8. ♔e6 a3 9. ♜e4+ ♔f4 10. ♜c3 +—]

7. ♜g4+ ♔g5 8. ♜xe3 ♔f6 [8... a4 9. ♔e6 a3 10. f6 a2 11. ♜c2 +—]

9. ♔d6! a4 10. ♔d5! a3 11. ♔e4! a2 12. ♜c2 +—



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 171

5th of June 2015

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Editorial Preface

From the World's top events there is only one to be written about, and that is the French Team Championship, where a lot of top chess players are playing, such as for example So, Giri, Jakovenko, Wojtaszek, Vachier Lagrave and many more. As usual the very strong team from Clichy (So, Jakovenko, Vachier Lagrave, Fressinet...) defends the title but this time the team of Bischwiller (Giri, Naiditsch, Bacrot, Edouard, Ragger...) is a very serious competitor. Both teams managed to win the first 5 rounds and in the 6th it came to the direct encounter, where Bischwiller managed to decide the match in its favor with wins from Giri and Bacrot, while Skripchenko scored Clichy's only win.

In the current issue you will find the best games from the French league, combined with a lot of other interesting chess material!

Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) Jakovenko, Dmitry (2738)
- Cornette, Matthieu (2590) [B31]

TCh-FRA Top 12 2015(1.3),
2015.05.30



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are going to see a long line of theory, where according to the computer Black is fine, but in practical play it is almost impossible to find the right moves. A very good example on the fact that human understanding can still beat a computer preparation! Big credit of course goes to Jakovenko, who showed with very convincing play what the dangers are in such a risky line.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 g6 Cornette is usually very well-prepared and doesn't just play some "random" lines.

4.♙xc6 bxc6 [4...dxc6 5.d3 ♙g7 6.h3 is the main line here.]

5.O-O ♙g7 6.♖e1 the main move. White is not trying to play c3-d4 immediately but waiting for Black to decide where the knight is going from g8.

6...♘f6 [6...♘h6 is another possible line, but it seems like White is a bit better after 7.c3 O-O 8.h3 d6 9.d4+ =]

7.e5 ♘d5 8.c4 Now we see that the move Re1 was very useful and White can immediately play c4.

8...♘c7 9.d4 cxd4 10.♙xd4 O-O This is of course all still theory.

11.♙h4 White wants to exchange the bishop with Bh6 next.

11...f6 The main move for Black, because in case he would let White play Bh6 then after Nc3-Ne4-Rad1 his position would be clearly better.



12.♘c3 Jakovenko chooses the most direct line. [An easier try for White is 12.exf6 12...exf6 13.♙d2 preparing to play Bc3, with a small plus for White.; It is too early for 12.♙h6?! 12...g5 13.♙h5 ♘e6 and Black is threatening to play Nf4 next.]

12...♘e6 13.♘e4 White is giving the e5 pawn in exchange for a strong initiative on the kingside.

13...fxe5 This move is also a must. We are in quite a forced position.

14.♘fg5 ♘xg5 15.♙xg5 We are still following theory.

15...♙b6 Black is going for the b2 pawn. White can't take on e7 on the spot because of Rf4.

16.c5 fixing the bishop on c8. We are still in a more or less known position.

16...♙xb2 17.♖ad1 Now White finally wants to take on e7.

17...♙xa2 Cornette played everything very quickly until here, so it seems to be his preparation.

18.♙xe7 Now that Rf4 is not that dangerous any longer, White is taking the e7 pawn.

18...♖f4 19.♔g3 So we are in the first critical position. It is clear that White will try to mate on the kingside and that Black will try to push the a-pawn. The position is very dynamic.

19...a5 Cornette is immediately launching his play. [In case Black would try to get rid of the knight on e4 with 19...♖c2 a simple move like 20.f3 looks very solid. White's idea would remain to play Bg5 or maybe the direct h4-h5.]

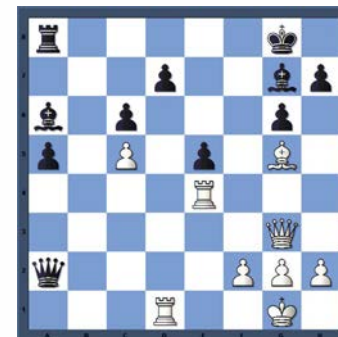
20.♘g5 Asking Black a difficult question.



20...♖xe4 [After 20...♖f8 21.h4 a4 22.h5 White's attack looks very dangerous, not to say winning... 22...a3 23.hxg6 hxg6 24.♖d6 and all the white pieces are mating the black king!]

21.♖xe4 Now White is an exchange up but in case Black would manage to hold on the kingside, the a-pawn and the bishop pair would give him enough compensation.

21...♘a6 Cornette is trying to transfer his bishop from c8 to d5; a very logical decision, but it costs him a lot of time. [It would end up badly for Black to go for the c5 pawn: 21...♖c2 22.♖de1 ♖xc5 and White is winning with 23.♖xe5! ♘xe5 24.♖xe5 and as we know, the attack is only getting stronger when there are opposite colored bishops on the boards. White must be winning here.]



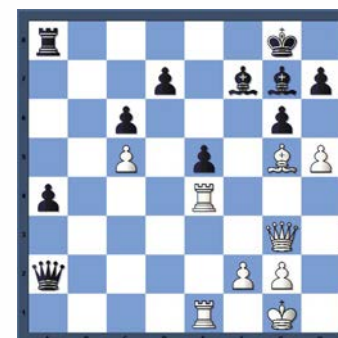
22.h4! A strong move! White does not only want to break Black's pawn structure with h4, but he also creates an escape square for the white king in case there will be opportunity to play Rxe5.

22...♘c4 Black is trying to get the bishop back into defense.

23.♖de1 Another good move. Now White is really considering to take on e5.

23...♘f7 [After 23...♘d5 White has 24.♖xe5! ♘xe5 25.♖xe5 Now the deadly threat is Bh6 next. 25...♖f8 and after the cool 26.f3 Black can't do anything against the upcoming Bh6.; It also seems to be too late for 23...a4 24.h5 and I don't see how Black can hold this position.]

24.h5 a4 The black pawn is only 3 squares away from a1, so White needs to act fast!



25.h6!! A great move by Jakovenko. It looks strange to close the position where you are attacking, but White has a deep idea in mind!

25...♟h8? Missing White's next move... [Black should have tried 25...♟f8 but now White can even continue with the simple 26.♟f6 a3 27.♟xe5 controlling the a1 square. 27...♟xh6 28.♞f3 threatening to play Qf6 next. Black's position is clearly very bad.]

26.♞h4 This is what White had planned before playing 25.h6!! Black cannot stop White from playing Bf6next!

26...♟d5 Probably the only move.

27.♞b4 Bf6 is still a threat.

27...♞c2 [After 27...a3 28.♞eb1! would just end the game. (28.♟f6 would be a mistake now since after 28...♞d2! Black would be back in the game.) 28...♞f8 29.♞b8 and White will mate in the next moves.]

28.♟f6 g5 [28...♞f5 doesn't help either. 29.♟xh8 ♟xh8 30.♞xa4 and it is only matter of time until Black will resign.]

29.♟xg5 The most simple.

29...a3



30.♞g4 The white rook is switching from b4 to g4. The game

is over.

30...♟f7 31.♟d8! The last exact move!

31...♞xc5 32.♞h5+ and mate will follow in a couple of moves. A great game by Jakovenko, smartly using the bad position of the black king and of course a very strange preparation by Black, who deliberately went for a line which just seems to be close to lost! **1-0**

(2) So, Wesley (2778)
- Vazquez Igarza, Renier (2606)
[C42]

TCh-FRA Top 12 2015(3.2),
2015.06.01



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

The World Nr.6 Wesley So is playing in the French league. His next game has a calm start in the Petroff defense, but suddenly it turns out to be a tactical struggle.

1.e4 e5 2.f3 f6 The Petroff defense went out of the fashion after Kramnik and Gelfand stopped playing it, but of course it remains a rock-solid opening.

3.fxe5 d6 4.f3 xe4 5.d4 The main move. Interestingly, a few days after this game, So himself deviated from this game and played the currently most popular 5.Nc3 variation against Iordachescu.

5...d5 6.f3 d6 [6...c6 7.O-O e7 is the main line.]

7.O-O O-O 8.c4 c6 9.e1 Wesley So is hard worker and very strong theoretician, there is a reason behind each of his opening choices. [The other main line starts with 9.c2 9...a6 10.a3 g4 11.e5 xe5 12.dxe5 ac5 13.f3 xd3 14.xd3 c5 15.d4 b3 16.xg4 xa1 17.h6 g6 with hundreds of games and big complications.]

9...f5 10.c2 d7 A rare move by Black. I don't know if it was prepared or found over the board. [Most of the games continue with 10...a6 11.a3 g6 12.c5 b8 Keeping the c7 square free for the knight. 13.c3 f5



A big positional fight starts for the squares. Black has consolidated the light squares, while White is going to establish control over the dark ones with 14.e2 c7 15.f4 e8 16.h4 with a complex game.]

11.c3 df6 This looks healthy than the 10...Na6 line at first sight, because Black does not give up the dark squares with f5. However, the truth is that Black also lacks the control over the e4 square and White immediately makes use of it.

12.e5! With the idea of winning a piece with f3, because after Nxc3 Bxf5 the knight is trapped on c3.

12...g6 13.xg6



13...xh2+ [A similar game was won by Ivanchuk, which continued with 13...fxg6 14.xe4! (Here again 14.xe4 is wrong because after 14...dxe4 15.xe4 g4! is coming with

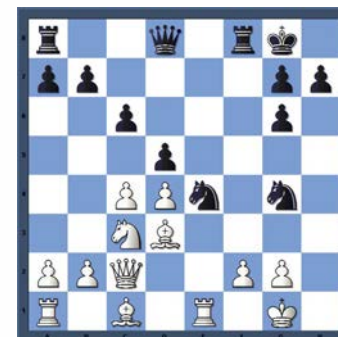
big power. White should have a knight on e4 to have the f2 pawn protected.) 14...♙xh2+ (14...dxe4 15.♘xe4 ♘g4 is not dangerous now, as White can simply play 16.h3±) 15.♙xh2 ♘g4+



16.♙g3! Ivanchuk has no fear. He is two pieces up and those will grant enough safety for the king... 16...♖xf2 (16...dxe4 17.♙xg4+- and the king comes back in the next moves.) 17.♖e2 ♖f1 18.♘xd5! Not the only win, but the best one according to the computer. 18...cxd5 19.♙xd5+ ♙h8 20.♙xg4 ♖h1 (Black has only two checks because after 20...♙d7+ 21.♙g3 ♙c7+ 22.♖e5!+- saves everything!) 21.♙e4 (21.♙f3+- is also winning with the idea to hide the king behind the d-pawn.) 21...♖h4+ 22.♙g3 ♖xe4 23.♖xe4 White ended up with a winning material advantage. Black resigned a few moves later. 23...g5 24.♙d2 ♙f6 25.♖ae1 ♖f8 26.♙b4 1-0, Ivanchuk -Frolyanov, Yerevan 2004. Wesley So was probably familiar with this game.]

14.♙xh2 ♘g4+ 15.♙g1 In comparison to the Ivanchuk game, White cannot go to g3, but this one is also completely fine.

15...fxg6



16.♙xe4! It is very important to have a knight on e4 again as it defends the kingside much better than the bishop. [After 16.♘xe4 16...♙h4! is also already good for Black. For instance after 17.♙g5 ♙h2+ 18.♙f1 dxe4 19.♙xe4 ♖ae8!+- too many pieces are attacking the white king.]

16...♙h4 [16...dxe4 17.♖xe4 White is ready to give back some material on g4. (17.g3 is also good with the idea of preventing Qh4!) 17...♖xf2 18.♙d1+- wins.; 16...♖xf2 is simply met by 17.♖e2!+- forcing exchanges, which clearly favors the side with a material advantage.]

17.♙f3! Calm defense, but on the other hand it is very logical as White wants to get rid of the attacking knight on g4! White is ready for a king journey towards the center.

17...♙h2+ 18.♙f1 ♖ae8 The logical follow-up! Black cuts the king's escaping route. However Wesley So keeps his mind cold and continues defending tenaciously... [18...♙h1+ 19.♙e2 ♖ae8+ brings nothing as White has 20.♙e3+-]

19. ♖xe8 ♖xe8



20. ♘e4! This line's closing idea brings White the full point. White was two pieces up, so he can easily sacrifice back one and he refreshes his emergency exit for his king on e2. [But not 20. ♘e3? because of 20... ♖xe3! and suddenly Black wins: 21. fxe3 ♘xe3+—+]]

20... ♖h1+ [20... dxe4 21. ♘xg4+— is over.]

21. ♔e2 ♖g1 Desperation! [21... ♘f6 does not change anything. White wins for instance after 22. ♘e3 ♖xa1 23. ♘xf6+ gxf6 24. ♖b3+—; 21... dxe4 22. ♘xg4 ♖xg2 was probably the most tenacious, although White wins after 23. ♘d7 ♖f3+ 24. ♔e1 ♖e7 (24... ♖h1+ 25. ♔d2+—) 25. ♘c8+— The two extra piece should ensure the victory after some precise moves...]

22. cxd5 cxd5 23. ♘xg4 ♖xe4+ 24. ♔f3+— White ran out of checks and he enjoys two extra pieces. The game is over.

24... h5 25. ♘e6+! A small tactical trick.

25... ♔h7 [25... ♖xe6 loses to 26. ♖c8+ ♔f7 27. ♖d7+ ♖e7 28. ♖xe7+! ♔xe7 29. ♘g5+—]

26. ♖c8 [Black resigned as after 26. ♖c8 26... ♖d1+ 27. ♔g3 h4+ 28. ♔h2 the king comes back behind his shelter and Black gets mated on g8!] **1-0**

David vs. Goliath



Peter Zhdanov
Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this entertaining column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week brought us 21 upsets. It is time to celebrate the 100th edition of the David vs. Goliath series. In fact, it is only the 24th column for Top GM Secrets and #100 overall.

The number of moves ranges from 20 in Koci (1703) - Zurawicki (1138), 0-1 to 74 in IM Moussard (2444) - GM Wojtaszek (2746), 1-0. The latter is also the highest-profile upset of the week.

I feel sorry for Oputic (1930) who blundered a queen in one move against Tomic (1333):



18...Qxg2?? 19.Bh5+ and White won a few moves later.

Top-10:

Tomic (1333) - Oputic (1930), 1-0, [597](#) points
Koci (1703) - Zurawicki (1138), 0-1, [565](#) points
Elmejbri (1841) - Ahmed (2346), 1-0, [505](#) points
Sulkowski (1238) - Christensen (1700), 1-0, [462](#) points
Orzechowski (1372) - Cervenka (1825), 1-0, [453](#) points
Walter F (2134) - Walter T (1709), 0-1, [425](#) points
Fejzic (1690) - Lakovic (2110), 1-0, [420](#) points
Galuszka (1454) - Szmek (1873), 1-0, [419](#) points
Bar (2110) - Strikovic (2526), 1-0, [416](#) points
Drino (1774) - Karup (2156), 1-0, [382](#) points

Average gap: 464; White won 8 games, Black won 2 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) is welcomed.

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot
Best rating: 2749

(3) Donchenko, Alexander (2570) - Dorfman, Iossif (2574) [A15]

TCh-FRA Top 12 2015(1.1),
2015.05.30

Alexander Donchenko is a 17-year old from Germany who is having a great chess year and is fastly improving (he was 2511 on the January list). Here he was a little lucky to beat the experienced coach Iossif Dorfman in the French league.

1.c4 ♘f6 2.g3 c6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♙g2 g6 Two weeks ago I analyzed the Reti opening with 4...Bg4 and this time we have the version with g6.

5.b3 White can transpose to a g3 Grunfeld by playing d4 but it is not the idea of starting with 1.c4.

5...♙g7 6.♙b2 O-O 7.O-O ♙g4 This year I played 7...a5! here.

8.d3 The main move. [8.d4 Since it is not usual to play Bg4 with a pawn on d4 this move makes sense, but maybe Black can go 8...♖c8!?!; 8.h3 is also a possibility but I think Black is fine after 8...♙xf3 9.♙xf3 ♘bd7 10.d4 ♘e4=]

8...♘bd7



9.♘bd2 From a theoretical point of view I think White should take the bishop so h3 at any moment should be analyzed more deeply. [9.h3 9...♙xf3 10.♙xf3 e5!? It seems like in this game Black played for this move. 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.♘c3 ♘b8!? The knight should go to the good c6 square. Black has the center to compensate for the bishop pair.]

9...♖e8 10.♘e5?! After this move Black has no problems at all. [10.h3 10...♙xf3 11.♘xf3 e5 is the point behind Black's 9th move. 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.♖c1 with complicated play.]

10...♘xe5 11.♙xe5 ♖d7 It is very logical to improve the position of the g4 bishop.

12.♖e1 [12.♘f3 12...♙h3 13.♖c2 ♙xg2 14.♖xg2 ♘g4=]

12...♙h3 13.♙h1 I would not avoid the exchange, as it is too late to seek an advantage.

13...♘g4 14.♙xg7 ♖xg7



15.d4 Black was ready to take the center with e5.

15...dxc4!? There are many ways to play and Dorfman chooses the most active one. The position seems easier to play with Black but is around equal.

16.♖xc4 ♜ad8 17.e3 e5 18.f3 This ugly-looking move is forced.

18...b5



19.♘a5? It was time to exchange some pieces, as now Black has a great piece sacrifice. [19.♘xe5 19...♘xe5 20.dxe5 ♜xe5 21.♞xd7 ♜xd7 At first it might seem like this endgame is better for Black, but his pawn structure on the queenside is bad. White needs to play a few precise moves to equalize. 22.f4 ♜c5 (22...♜e6 23.♞f2 ♘g4 24.♘f3=) 23.♜ac1 ♜xc1 24.♜xc1 ♜d2

25.♘xc6 b4 26.♜a1 a5 27.a3 ♜d3 28.axb4 axb4 29.e4 ♜xb3 30.♞f2= followed by Bd5.]

19...♞c7? Black misses his chance, probably missing White's strong 21th move. [19...♘xe3! With all the pieces well placed, it is logical that an advantage should be found. 20.♜xe3 exd4 21.♜d3 (21.♜xe8 21...♜xe8 22.♞d3 ♘f5 23.♞d2 d3—+ The passed pawn is too strong for White's uncoordinated pieces.) 21...♞c7 22.b4 c5+ White's position is horrible to play.]

20.b4 ♘f6 21.♞c1! Strangely enough, everything is fine again.



21...♜c8? Not a great defensive move. [21...exd4 gives equality. 22.♘xc6 ♜c8 (22...dxe3 23.♘xd8 ♞xd8 24.♘g2 ♘g2 25.♞xg2 ♞d4 26.♜b1+=) 23.♘xd4 ♞xc1 24.♜exc1 ♜xc1+ 25.♜xc1 ♜xe3 26.♘xb5 ♘d5= Black will regain the pawn thanks to his active pieces.]

22.dxe5 ♜xe5 23.f4+= The bishop on h1 is much stronger than a few moves ago!

23...♜e6 [23...♜ee8 was more precise in order not to be chased by White's knight with tempo.]

24.♘b3 ♘e4 25.♞c2 ♘d6 Not the best maneuver, seeing as the c4 square is clearly not equivalent to the c5 one.



26. d4? Positional way of playing been much better, [26. c5 26... e7 27. c3+ g8 28. a4 with a great position for White.]

26... e8 27. xc6? This move activates Black's pieces, but after 27. a4 White would still have an advantage.

27... e7 Black wants to attack the e3 pawn in case of 28. Qf3, but there was an even stronger maneuver: [27... b8 28. f3 b6 with full compensation over the board. 29. g4 is of course scary but Black has many possibilities, for example: 29... c4 30. ad1 (30. xh3?? 30... xe3 and Black wins.) 30... cd8]

28. d5 [28. f3 28... c3=]

28... a6? is too slow. Black would have been fine after [28... f6 29. ad1 c4]

29. c6! c7



30. a4± Suddenly White is a pawn up and has good pieces.

30... e6 31. d4+ g8 32. axb5 xb5 33. c5 b7

34. ec1 f5 It is strange to provoke White into improving his pawn structure. 34... Rc7 was more stubborn.



35. e5? [35. e4 35... g4 36. e5±]

35... b8? An exchange of tactical mistakes... [35... e4 was a logical continuation after Bf5! 36. xe4 xe4 37. xc8 xe3+ 38. f1 xc8 39. xc8+ g7 White has a material advantage but it is impossible to win with his bad king.]

36. c6+— Now it is all over.

36... a7 [36... f6 37. e4! e6 38. f3+—]

37. xa6 c7 38. b5 ec8 39. b6 trapping the queen! **1-0**

Puzzle section

(4) Demuth, A(2515)-Doettling, F(2588)

French league, 2015.05.30

1. +-



(5) Bedouin, X(2336)-Vaisser, A(2530)

French league, 2015.05.30

1. +-



(6) Feller, S(2626)-Navara, D(2751)

French league, 2015.05.30

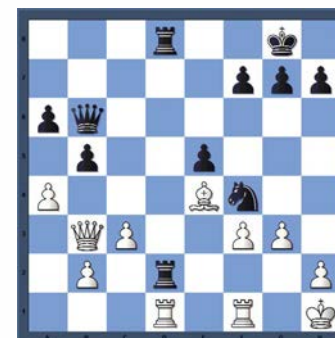
1... -+



(7) De Seroux, C(2115)-Benmesbah, N(2199)

French league, 2015.05.31

1... -+



(8) Duda, J(2610)-Feller, S(2626)

French league, 2015.05.31

1. +-



(9) Bauer, C(2624)-Navara, D(2751)

French league, 2015.06.01

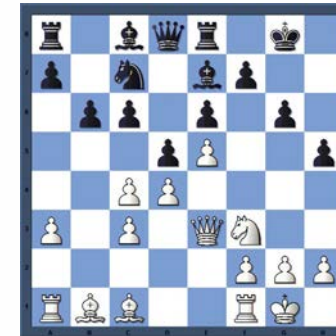
1. +-



(10) Duda, J(2610)-Idler, B(2401)

French league, 2015.06.01

1. +-



(11) Lenderman, A(2636)-Matamoros Franco, O(2525)

American Continental, 2015.05.22

1... -+



(12) Lupulescu, C(2635)-Miron, L(2481)

Iasi Open, 2015.06.01

1... -+



(13) Nenkov, L(2217)-Spasov, V(2554)

Bulgarian Championship, 2015.05.31

1... -+



Endgame section

(14) So, Wesley (2778)
- Edouard, Romain (2627)

TCh-FRA Top 12 2015(6.2),
2015.06.04



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



In the critical match between the 2 strongest teams, Edouard showed great defensive skills, as he had a very unpleasant endgame since an early stage of the game. Right now, things are still looking dangerous for Black. The white king is almost in the center and the black king is sort of cut by the pawn on f4, while the pawns on a6 and c4 could become potential targets.

34. ♖e3 White wants to bring his king to d4.

34... ♜b3+! A very good decision. Black is forcing the exchange of a pawn, but the position remains very dangerous.

35. ♕d4 c3 36. bxc3 ♜xa3 White is clearly better, but the a-pawn could become the game saver.

37. c4 a5 The best move again. There is no need to lose

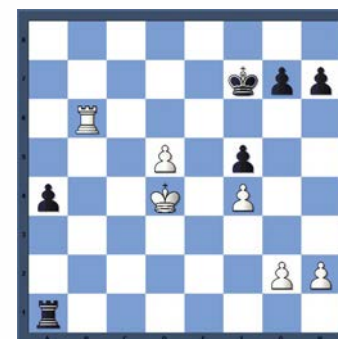
time for Ra1-Rc1 or similar things. Black needs to hope to be fast enough to get the a-pawn as close to possible to the promotion square.

38. ♙d5 a4 39. ♜b2 White wants to play Rb6 next.

39... ♙xd5 The exchange of bishops is forced.

40. cxd5 ♜a1 Black is preparing to check the white king from behind.

41. ♜b6+ ♕f7



42. ♕e5 White's position is still better and Black remains under pressure.

42... a3! Another great move by Romain who is defending the endgame perfectly. Black should not care about losing the f-pawn, but the idea should be to exchange the a-pawn against the d-pawn, which would leave a drawish rook endgame with 3 vs 2 pawns on the same side.

43. ♜a6 [43. ♜b7+ also leads to a draw: 43... ♕g6 44. ♕d6 a2 45. ♜a7 ♕h5 and White has no idea to improve the position.]

43... a2 Black reached what he started with 37...a5.

44. ♕xf5 g6+ The most accurate move. [Of course Black could immediately have gone for 44... ♜d1 45. ♜a7+ ♕g8 46. ♜xa2 ♜xd5+ 47. ♕e6 but now a bit more accuracy would be needed

to hold. 47...♖d8 48.♔e7 ♜f8! The only move. (48...♖b8? 49.♜d2! and Black can't avoid the exchange of rooks, which would lead to a lost pawn endgame.) 49.g3 (In case of 49.♜d2 Black would save the game with 49...♜f7+!) 49...g6 and White even has some practical chances here, although the game should end in a draw.]

45.♔g4 h6 Another very accurate move by Black! White can't avoid Rd1 next.

46.g3 ♔g7 [Of course the direct 46...♜d1 47.♜xa2 ♜xd5 would lead to a drawish endgame as well.]



47.♜a7+ ♔f6 48.♜a6+ ♔g7 49.♜a8 ♔f7 50.♜a5 ♔g7 51.♜a6 ♜d1 So finally Black decides to put an end to "playing around" and takes the d5 pawn.

52.♜xa2 h5+ Fixing the structure is always a good option if you are defending a worse position.

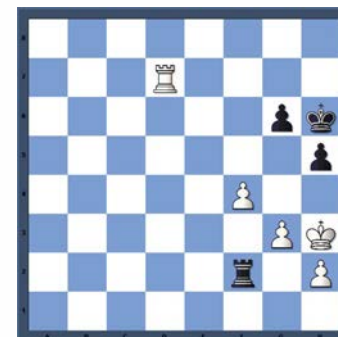
53.♔h4 ♜xd5 and this position is an easy draw.

54.♜a7+ ♔h6 55.♜a6 ♜d2 [Of course 55...♔g7 would also be good enough for a draw.]

56.♔h3 ♜f2 Now White doesn't even have theoretical threats any longer.

57.♜a7 ♜b2 58.♜e7 ♜a2 59.♜e6 ♜f2 60.♜d6 ♔g7 61.♔h4

♔h6 62.♔h3 ♔g7 63.♜d7+ ♔h6



64.♜f7 As we can see, So doesn't even find ways of trying something.

64...♜a2 65.♜e7 ♜b2 66.♜e1 ♜a2 67.♜b1 ♜c2 68.♜b6 ♜f2 69.♜e6 ♔g7 70.♔h4 ♔h6 71.h3 White finally plays h3, but it doesn't help much.

71...♜f1 Black just keeps on waiting.

72.♜f6 ♜f2 73.♜f8 ♜f3 74.♜f6 We just saw a perfect defense of an unpleasant endgame by Edouard. What is very important to learn from this game is that in a position where the opponent's king is much better placed, it is necessary to find an active plan instead of keep on waiting and of course the very typical play with the a-pawn, which secured the drawish outcome! **1/2-1/2**

(15) Gajewski, Grzegorz (2648)
- Fedorchuk, Sergey A. (2657)

French league,
2015.05.30



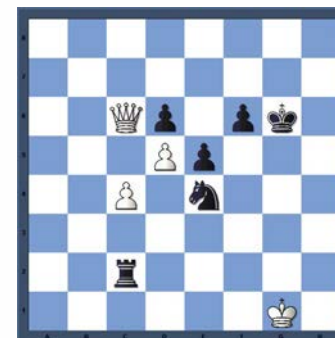
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



We have an endgame with unbalanced material. Black has a rook, knight and a pawn for the queen. In general we could consider it as equal to the queen, but of course the correct evaluation should be drawn according to the concrete position. The key factor here is the passed pawns. White cannot create one after Black successfully protects d6, while Black has the f6-e5 connected passers which are going to advance soon. White could pin his hopes to perpetual check, but the knight provides very good shelter for the king.

44...♙e4! 45.♙xe4+ ♘xe4 The d6 pawn is safe. White has no chance to break through with c5. The next step to make progress is to push the central pawns. The white king is also badly placed, cut from everything on its own back rank.

46.♔c6



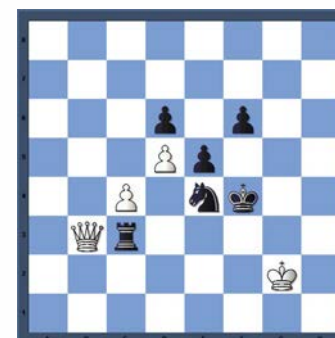
46...♔g5! Black can go ahead with his king without fear. A queen alone cannot create any serious threats. Another possible plan is simply to go towards the c4 pawn and capture it with the rook.

47.♖a4 White sends the well-placed rook away in order to either ease the pressure on the c4 pawn or to get his king out from the first rank.

47...♖c1+ 48.♔g2 ♔f4! The white king is still trapped after the activation of the black one. Black is ready to push his f-pawn.

49.♖b3 Hoping for perpetual with the check on f3, but Black prevents it with another prophylactic move.

49...♖c3! 50.♖b1? This loses quickly, but other moves were not much better either. [



Let's say 50. ♖a2 50...f5 (Now on 50... ♖g3+ White could avoid getting squeezed to the h-file and play 51. ♔f1 although his position remains very bad. 51...f5+ 51. ♖e2 ♖g3+ 52. ♔f1 ♖e3 53. ♖d1 The only move, otherwise White loses his queen. (53. ♖a2? 53... ♖g3+ 54. ♔g1 ♖e1+ 55. ♔f2 ♖e2+) 53... ♔g3 followed by f4-f3. Black should win the game without too many difficulties.)

50... ♖g3+! The king gets trapped again and this already turns out to be decisive.

51. ♔h1 [51. ♔f1? 51... ♖d2+—; 51. ♔h2 51... ♖g5! 52. ♖c1+ ♔g4 There are no more checks and Nf3-Rg1 mates or wins the queen. 53.c5 ♖f3+ 54. ♔h1 ♖h3+ 55. ♔g2 ♖h2+ 56. ♔f1 ♖h1+—]

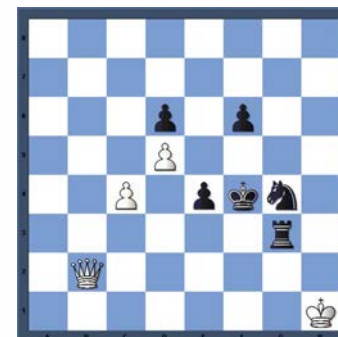
51... ♖f2+ 52. ♔h2 e4! Perfect technique by Fedorchuk! The queen is hopeless to create any counterplay.

53. ♖b2 [53. ♖f1 53...e3 54.c5 might give some hopes, but White finds himself in a mating net after



54... ♔f3! 55.cxd6 ♖g8—+ and the mate is coming on h1, White cannot avoid it.]

53... ♖g4+ 54. ♔h1



54... ♔f3! The black pieces are in perfect harmony! They protect each other and at the same time they create decisive threats against the white king. Nf2 followed by Rg2 is threatening with mate in two. White can only give a few checks before resigning.

55. ♖b3+ e3 56. ♖d1+ e2 57. ♖d3+ ♔f2 Black cannot play Nf2 anymore, but he has created enough other threats instead. Rh3, Rg1 and e1Q are all hanging in the air...

58. ♖d4+ [58. ♖f5+ 58... ♖f3 59. ♖xg4 e1=♖+—]

58... ♔f1 [White resigned in view of the countercheck 58... ♔f1 59. ♖f4+ ♖f2+! and White cannot hope for stalemate because of his c4 pawn.] **0-1**

Chess and the City. Good, Better, Georgia Final III



WGM Elisabeth Paetz
Best rating: 2493

After over 2 weeks of tough battles, the European Women's Championship finally came to an end. However, it was not won by the long-time leader Nino Batsiashvili, from Georgia, but by Natalia Zhukova, from the Ukraine.



She not only managed to beat her toughest challenger in their direct encounter, but also convincingly outplayed each of her last 5 opponents. She scored 9,5/11 to regain the title she won back in 1999 in Batumi.

For me, personally, it is amazing to witness how many victories, of late, have been earned by Ukrainians! It started with the World title of Anna Ushenina, in 2012, followed by Mariya Muzychuk in 2015, and only a short time after that, the European title, by Natalia Zhukova. Furthermore, their strongest player, Anna Muzychuk, is a hot candidate to follow in their footsteps.

If we speak about justice, maybe we cannot speak of coincidence, in pointing out all the latest developments in the political conflict, and the pain the Ukrainian citizens in the East of the country have to suffer from. Maybe it is a form of reaction, but it is more likely that all of these women I've listed are simply very strong players!

'Justice' is a word, by the way, which could also be understood in a different context - viz, when we remember the goings on in this Championship. In my last newsletter I mentioned the case of Rumanian player Mihaela Sandu. Perhaps she just started the tournament too well, and eventually became a victim - or rather, *the* victim of the tournament. After both letters were published, she was not able to continue at the same level, and bitterly lost all 4 remaining rounds.

This case will not be forgotten, and it should teach all of us that certain things are better handled in a more sensitive and discrete way. Paranoia was rife, and 'witch hunting', as it was so "nicely" described on certain blogs, may be just what the resulting action was. I can't, and anyway don't want to, judge this matter, but what I can say for sure is that it crossed a

line that should never have been crossed. In court we call it 'benefit of the doubt', and as long nothing is proven or can be proven afterwards, only apology is left. Just like when we play chess, we know that moving quickly, rather than thinking first, can often lead to blundering.

Clash of the Titans

**(16) Evans, Larry Melvyn
- Tal, Mihail [B43]**

Amsterdam Interzonal(16),
1964.06.10



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.♗c3 a6 4.♕e2 I don't know why White is waiting with d2-d4. [4.d4 4...cxd4 5.♗xd4 leads to main positions.]

4...b5 [4...d5 5.exd5 exd5 6.d4 c4 7.O-O and White should take the advantage thanks to his better development.]

5.d4 cxd4 6.♗xd4



6...♕b7 7.a3 It is clear that White prevents b4 but in many Sicilian positions a2-a3 is a bit slow. Maybe an alternative idea is just to sacrifice the pawn for active play. [7.O-O!? 7...b4 8.♗a4 ♕xe4 (8...♖a5 9.c4 ♕xe4 10.♕f3 ♗f6 11.♖e1 d5 12.♕g5 The white pieces are very active, for example 12...♕xf3 13.♖xf3 ♖xa4 14.♕xf6 gxf6 15.♗xe6 fxe6 16.♖xe6+--)] 9.♕f3

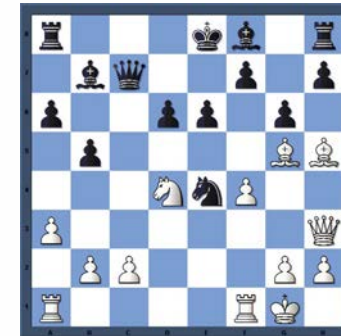
xf3 10. ♖xf3 d5 11. ♖e1 ♘f6 12. ♗g5 ♘bd7 13. ♘xe6 (13. ♖ad1) 13...fxe6 14. ♖xe6+ ♖f7 15. ♖ae1→With only a pawn for the piece, but is not easy to play for Black.]

7... ♖c7 8. O-O ♘f6 9. ♖d3 [9. ♗f3 9... ♗d6 or even 9...d6 and the bishop is not placed perfectly on f3.]

9...d6 10. ♗g5 ♘bd7



11. ♖e3 Another move I don't like. In Sicilians White should play more dynamicly, even at the cost of some material! [11.f4 11... ♘c5 (11... ♗e7! The most solid option is to just finish the development. 12.f5 e5 13. ♘b3 and the knight on b3 is very far from the important d5 square, so Black is fine here.) 12. ♖h3 A useful place for the queen, which now supports the sacrifice on e6. (12. ♖e3 12... ♘cxe4 13. ♘xe4 ♘xe4 14.f5 ♘xg5 (14...e5 15. ♘e6! is one of the typical sacrifices. 15...fxe6 16. ♗h5+ ♖d7 17.fxe6+ ♖c8 18. ♖f7+-) 15. ♖xg5 ♖c5! with counterplay. (15...e5 16. ♘e6!) 16.c3 e5 17. ♖ae1 ♗e7 18. ♖xg7 O-O-O) 12... ♘cxe4 13. ♘xe4 ♘xe4 (13... ♗xe4 14. ♗xf6 gxf6 15. ♗h5 O-O-O (15... ♖e7 16. ♗xf7!) 16.a4→ (16. ♘xe6 16...fxe6 17. ♖xe6+ ♖b8 18. ♖xe4 ♖c5+-) 16...d5! A typical answer because activity is the most important factor! 17.axb5 ♗c5 18.c3 ♖hg8∞) 14. ♗h5 g6



15. ♗xg6! fxg6 16. ♘xe6 (16. ♖xe6+ 16... ♗e7 17. ♖ae1 d5 18.f5 ♖d6 Exchanging the most dangerous piece. 19. ♗xe7 ♖xe7 20. ♖b6 O-O It looks like the king is safe, so Black is better now.) 16... ♖b6+ 17. ♖h1 with complex play. 17... ♘f2+?? doesn't work because of 18. ♖xf2 ♖xf2 19. ♘c7+ ♖f7 20. ♖e6+ ♖g7 21. ♗f6+ ♖h6 22. ♖h3+-]

11... ♗e7 12. ♖ad1 O-O 13.f4 ♖ac8



14.g4?! White is mixing too many plans and setups. This move can not be good. [14. ♖h1!? is almost always a useful prophylactic move. 14... ♘c5 (14... ♘b6 15. ♖h3 with ideas of Bd3 or Rd3-Rg3. Sometimes Nxe6 is working as well, so as we said before the h3 square is good for the white queen. 15... ♘c4 (15... ♘xe4 16. ♘xe4 ♗xe4 17. ♘xe6! ♗xg2+ 18. ♖xg2 fxe6 19. ♖xe6+ ♖f7∞) 16. ♗xc4 bxc4 Now the b7 bishop can become

a very strong piece. (16...♖xc4? 17.e5+-) 17.f5 e5 18.♟xf6 ♟xf6 19.♞de2∞ An interesting position from a strategical point of view, which is not easy to evaluate. White should easily take control over the d-file but Black can look for counterplay over the b-file.) 15.f5 (15.e5 15...dxe5 16.fxe5 ♞d5 17.♞xd5 ♟xd5 18.♟xe7 ♖xe7 With no problems for Black.) 15...e5 (15...♞cxe4 16.♞xe4 ♞xe4 17.♟xe7 ♖xe7 18.fxe6 fxe6 19.♟g4 ♟h8 20.♟xe6 ♖ce8=) 16.♟xf6 ♟xf6 17.♞f3 ♖fd8 18.♖d2 (18.♞d5 18...♟xd5 19.♖xd5 ♞a4!±)



18...d5! A typical reaction. Black needs to activate his pieces! 19.exd5 e4±]

14...♞b6 [14...h6 15.♟xf6 (15.♟h4 15...♞xg4) 15...♟xf6 16.g5 hxc5 17.fxc5 ♟e5=+ and it looks like White doesn't have any chance to create any pressure over the h-file.]

15.♟xf6 ♟xf6 16.g5 ♟xd4 [16...♟e7 17.f5 e5 18.♞b3 d5!±again the same important idea.]

17.♖xd4 [17.♖xd4 17...♖fd8=+]

17...e5! =+ Because of the weak king on g1 only Black can be looking for an advantage here.

18.♖d2 exf4 19.♖xf4 ♖fe8 20.♖f2 preventing d5.

20...♖e7 [20...♖e5 21.h4 ♖ce8 with the idea to open the position a bit more after d5 at some moment.]

21.h4 ♞c4 22.♟xc4 ♖xc4 23.♖d4 A good decision. White is going to exchange the active rook on c4.

23...♖ec8 24.♖xc4 ♖xc4



25.♖a7! White is looking for his chances.

25...♖d7 26.♞f2 [26.♞d5 26...♖xc2± and White doesn't have any tricks.]

26...d5! A logical move.

27.♞xd5 ♖xc2+ 28.♞g3 ♖c8 Securing the 8th rank.

29.♖f6 White nicely activates the rook. [29.h5 White is going to push h6 and create weaknesses around the black king. 29...♖d8 30.♖f5∞]

29...♖a8 Black manages to get rid of the unpleasant queen on a7, but now the black rook will be less active. [29...♖c4!±]

30.♖c5 ♖d8 31.♖b6 ♟xd5 [31...♟c8 32.♞e7+ ♟h8 33.♞xc8 ♖xc8 (33...♖d3+=) 34.♖d6 ♖a7∞Black must keep the queens on the board.]

32.exd5 ♖f5 33.♖d6 [33.♖d4 and Black has no time to activate the rook since the d-pawn is very strong! 33...♖e8 34.d6∞]

33...♖d3+ 34.♞g2 ♖c2+ 35.♞g3 ♖b3+ 36.♞f4 ♖e8



37. ♖b8?? What a blunder! Now White is losing the rook by force! [37. ♕e7! preventing Qe3 and now Black doesn't have anything better than perpetual check: 37... ♖c8?! 38. ♖c6↑]

37... ♕e3+ 38. ♖g4 f5+! 39. gxf6 h5+ A nice trick!

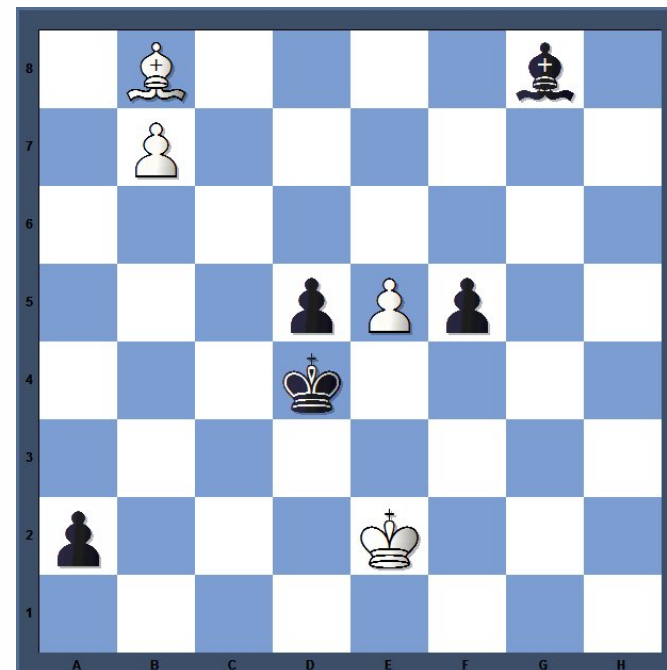
40. ♖xh5 ♕f3+ 41. ♖g5 ♕xf6+ [41... ♕g2+ 42. ♖f5 g6+ 43. ♖f4 ♕h2+ 44. ♖g5 ♕xd6 45. ♖xe8+ ♖f7 46. ♖e7+ ♖f8 47. ♖xg6 ♕xd5 also leads to a winning position.]

42. ♕xf6 gxf6+ 43. ♖xf6 ♖xb8+— 44. d6 ♖f8 45. h5 ♖b7 46. ♖e6 ♖h7 47. ♖d5 ♖e8 48. ♖c6 ♖d8 0-1

Surprise section / study

(17) Platov

1. +-



Solutions

(18) Giri, A(2776)-Tomashevsky, E(2749)

Khanty Mansijsk Grand Prix, 2015.05.21



58.♖d5! 1-0 [58.♖d5 58...♖xd5 59.♙f6+—; 58.h4? 58...h6∞]

(19) Grischuk, A(2780)-Karjakin, S(2753)

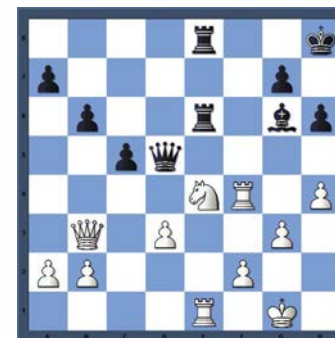
Khanty Mansijsk Grand Prix, 2015.05.22



40.♙g8! 1-0 [40.♙g8 40...♙xc4 (40...e5 41.♘xe5+ ♘xe5 42.♙xd5+—) 41.♙xg7+ ♔f5 42.♙xf7+—]

(20) Caruana, F(2803)-Jakovenko, D(2738)

Khanty Mansijsk Grand Prix, 2015.05.22

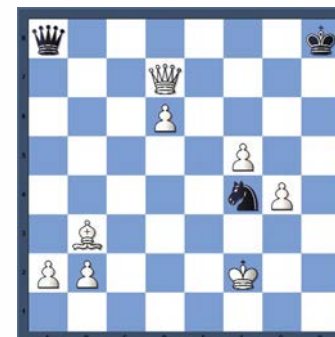


36...c4! 37.♙c3 [37.dxc4 37...♙a5!—+]

37...cxd3 38.f3 ♙xe4 39.fxe4 ♖xe4 40.♖exe4 ♖xe4—+

(21) Jakovenko, D(2738)-Gelfand, B(2744)

Khanty Mansijsk Grand Prix, 2015.05.24



49...♙g2+! 50.♔e3 ♘d5+! 51.♔d4 [51.♙xd5 51...♙d2+!=]

51...♙f2+ 52.♔xd5 ♙d4+! 53.♔xd4 1/2

(22) Pichot, A(2504)-Granda Zuniga, J(2650)

American Continental, 2015.05.17



16. ♖xb5! 1-0 [16. ♖xb5 16... ♖c5 (16... ♗xb5 17. ♘a4 ♗b8 18. ♘xd7+-) 17. ♘c4±]

(23) Granda Zuniga, J(2650)-Hansen, E(2580)

American Continental, 2015.05.24



26. ♗a4! ♖xa5 [26... ♖c8 27. ♖c1 ♖e7 28. ♖xc8+ ♖xc8 29. ♗e8+ ♖g7 30. ♗xc8+-]

27. ♗xe8+ ♖g7 28. ♖c1+-

(24) Shen, V(2394)-Kamsky, G(2673)

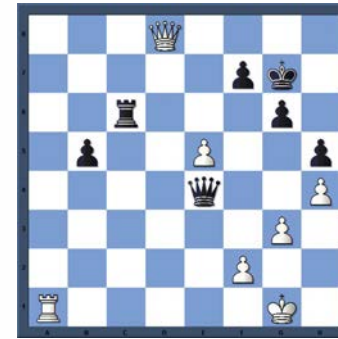
Chicago Open, 2015.05.24



37... ♖xc2! 0-1 [37... ♖xc2 38. ♖xd8 (38. ♖xc2 38... ♖e3+-) 38... ♖xb2+ 39. ♖c1 ♖xe2+-]

(25) Naroditsky, D(2622)-Pancevski, F(2494)

Chicago Open, 2015.05.24



40.e6!! +- ♖c3 [40... ♖xe6 41. ♖a8 ♗e1+ 42. ♖g2 ♗e4+ 43. ♖h2+-; 40... ♗xe6 41. ♖a8 ♖c1+ 42. ♖h2+-]

41.exf7 ♖xg3+ 42.fxg3 ♗e3+ 43. ♖f1 ♗f3+ 44. ♖e1 ♗e3+ 45. ♖d1 ♗b3+ 46. ♖d2 ♗b2+ 47. ♖d3 ♗b3+ 48. ♖d4 ♗c4+ 49. ♖e5+-

(26) Plenkovic, Z(2385)-Kozul, Z(2620)

Croatian Teams, 2015.05.23



30...♖a2!! 31.♖xa1 ♖xa1! -+ **32.♔f1** [32.♖b3 32...♖xe1+ 33.♔f1 ♔h3-+]

32...♔d1 0-1

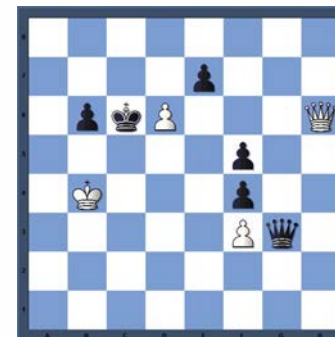
(27) Zhao Jun(2613)-Lin Chen(2460)

Chinese Championship, 2015.05.25



27.g5! +- ♗xg5 28.♗xg5 ♖xc3 29.♖a2+-

(28) Kubbel



1.♖e6! exd6 2.♖c8+ ♔d5 3.♖xf5+ ♔c6 [3...♔d4 4.♖e4#]
4.♖c8+ ♔d5 5.♖e8!! ♖xf3 [5...♖f2 6.♖e4#]
6.♖a8+ ♔e5 7.♖xf3+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

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Editorial Preface

And the team of Bischwiller is the new French Champion with a perfect score of 33 points (3 points for a win). 2nd place went to the team from Clichy (30 points) and 3rd to Bois-Colombes. It is the second title for the Sponsor "Grenke Group" after winning the German Bundesliga for the 10th time.

That is everything from big events of the past week, but already in a couple of days the Super Tournament in Norway begins, with the participation of Carlsen, Caruana and many more of the world's best players. It is going to be a very exciting event since it is the first tournament of the "Grand Chess Tour", which will consist of a total of 3 super events (Norway, Saint Louis and London).

We can expect a lot of fighting games and you will definitely find a few of them analyzed in the next issue of your weekly chess magazine.

For now, enjoy the best moments of the French Team Championship, combined with a range of interesting articles!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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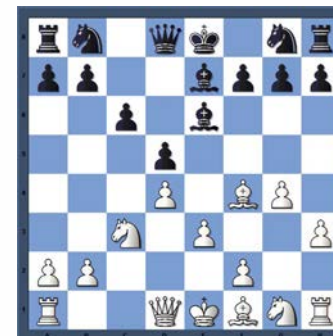
Two best games of the past week

(1) **Fier, Alexandr (2632)**
- Feller, Sebastien (2626) [D31]

TCh-FRA Top 12 2015(4.5),
 2015.06.02



GM Csaba Balogh
 Best rating: 2672



A very nice attacking game by Alexander Fier!

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bc7 Black would like to play the Queen's Gambit declined, but in this moveorder White has an extra option at his disposal.

4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bf4 c6 6.e3 Bf5 7.g4!? This is the point of keeping the knight back on g1. White takes ground on the kingside and asks the bishop which diagonal he wants to choose. On the other hand, Black hopes that this move might turn out to be weakening of which of he later make use. This move was introduced by Botvinnik more than 50 years ago.

7...Be6 8.h3 White wants to develop his bishop to d3, consolidating the important b1-h7 diagonal followed by Nf3-e5. Later he intends to castle queenside and then the g4-h3 pair of moves are rather grabbing space, than weakening the structure. [8.h4 with the idea of h5 is the other option for White. The pawn should not be taken, because after Qb3, Black must be serious weakening on the queenside as he cannot play anymore Qb6 because of the hanging bishop on h4.]

8...Nd7 9.Bd3 Nb6 The latest ent of the theory shows Black should drive first his knight to b6 from where it can often jump to c4. It also prepares for the potential e4 break, because Black could occupy the d5 square then. Trade the dark squared bishops on d6 and decide the development of the g8 knight only after making all these preparations.

10.Nf3 Bd6 11.Bxd6 Bxd6 12.Qc2 Ne7 [In my opinion, Black should start with 12...O-O-O!? and Kb8 next, because now the manoeuvre executed perfectly in the game with 13.Nb5 makes no sense, as Black has 13...Bb4+]

13.O-O-O It is already difficult how Black should play. He cannot castle kingside, keeping the king in the center is also bad, but O-O-O happened in the game is not so good as before...

13...O-O-O 14.Nb5! Bxd7 Black tries to use the fact, that the pawn on a7 cannot be taken because the knight gets trapped. However things are a bit different... [14...Bb8 is better, but it is not much fun either start to run with the king after 15.Qc5 Qd7 16.Nc3 White is better again.]

15.Ne5! Bringing the knight to a central square with tempo is always welcomed.

15...♔e8 16.♚c5! [16.♘xa7+! leads to the same with transposition.]

16...♚b8



17.♘xa7! There is no way back! White must accept the challenge and go for the complications, otherwise Black pushes back the pieces with f6 and he is completely fine.

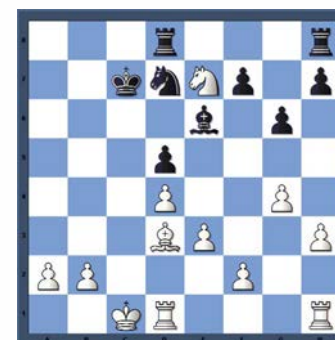
17...♘d7 [17...♔xa7 18.♚a5+ ♚b8 19.♚xb6± wins a healthy pawn.; 17...f6 18.♚xb6 fxe5 hoping that the knight remains trapped on a7, however White could save it with a small tactical trick 19.♘b5! cxb5 20.♚xe6±]



18.♘axc6+!! White destroys all the kingside pawns. He gets 3 pawns for the sacrificed piece and the black king gets exposed against which White launches a very strong attack within few moves! [18.♘xd7+ 18...♚xd7 is already good for

Black. He is already threatening with Qd6 Qb6 Qc7 haunting the queen which cannot be traded because the knight gets lost. ; 18.♚xe7 could be another brilliant tactical blow, but it is less strong because of 18...♘xe5! (On 18...♚xe7 19.♘axc6+! transposes to the line below...) 19.♚xe8 ♘xd3+! intermediate move leaves the knight trapped on a7!]

18...♘xc6 [18...bxc6 is strongly met by 19.♚xe7! ♚xe7 (Now on 19...♘xe5 White has 20.♚b4+!+- and taking back on e5!) 20.♘xc6+ ♚c7 21.♘e7 g6



The knight looks still trapped on e7, however the truth is 22.♘f5! saves the knight because after 22...gxf5 23.gxf5+- the bishop gets suddenly trapped!]

19.♚d6+! A very important check with the point of taking the c6 pawn with check!

19...♔a8 Only move! [19...♔a7 is even worse because 20.♘xc6+ bxc6 21.♚c7+ ♔a8 22.♘a6 ♚b8 23.♚d3! and Black gets mated! For instance 23...♚d8 24.♘b7+ ♚xb7 25.♚a3+--]

20.♘xc6 bxc6 21.♚xc6+ ♚b8 [21...♔a7 loses quickly to 22.♚c7+ ♔a8 23.♘b5!+-]

22.♚d6+ ♚b7 23.♚a6+ [The fastest way to the victory was 23.♘a6+! 23...♔a7 24.♘b5! ♚c8+ 25.♔b1 and Rd3 is coming

next against which Black is hopeless. 25...♔f8 just delays the Rd3 threat 26.♚a6+ ♔b8 27.♖d3+- and Black gets mated soon.]

23...♔b8 24.♚b5+ ♔c7 [On 24...♔a7 Fier has probably wanted to play 25.♔b1 bringing to rook into the attack along the c1 square 25...♘b8 26.♚a5+ ♔b7 27.♖c1 ♖c8 28.♖xc8 ♚xc8 29.♖c1+- The game will not last long.]

25.♔b1! It is clear, that Black cannot hold for long after the rook goes to c1, but Black continues defending tenaciously.

25...♖b8 [An attempt to close the c-file with 25...♘b6 26.♖c1+ ♘c4 fails in view of 27.♚a5+! and the king has no good square to leave. 27...♔b8 (27...♔b7 28.♖xc4! dxc4 29.♙e4+ ♔c8 30.♚c5+ ♔d7 (30...♔b8 31.♚b6+ ♔c8 32.♚b7#) 31.♙c6+-; On 27...♔d7 the easiest is 28.♙xc4 dxc4 29.d5+-; 27...♔d6



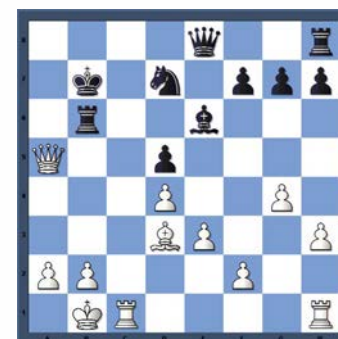
loses nicely to 28.♖xc4! dxc4 29.♚c5+ ♔d7 30.♙c2! ♖a8 Otherwise Ba4 is decisive and now 31.d5!+- wins. After white takes on e6 he will be winning even materially, but the rook is coming to d1 which is even more important.) 28.♖xc4! dxc4 29.♚b6+ ♔c8 (29...♔a8 30.♙e4+ ♙d5 31.♚a5+ ♔b8 32.♙xd5+-) 30.♖c1! +- Black cannot defend. The most tenacious way to prolong the defeat is 30...♚a4 but after 31.b3! ♚a8 32.♙xc4 ♙xc4 33.♖xc4+ ♔d7 34.♖c7+ ♔e8



35.♚b5+! ♔f8 36.♚f5! A calm move after which the mate can be avoided only by losing big material 36...♚d5 (36...f6 37.♚e6+-) 37.♚xd5 ♖xd5 38.♖c8+- entering to the rook endgame with 4 extra pawns.]

26.♚a5+ ♖b6 [On 26...♘b6 27.♖c1+ ♔d8 28.♚a7 ♘d7 29.♖c7 ♔e7 30.f4! and Black collapses after f5 in the next move!]

27.♖c1+ ♔b7 [27...♔d8 28.♖c6+-; 27...♔d6 28.♚a3+-]



28.♙a6+!! ♖xa6 [Black should have played 28...♔b8 after which White can choose between two good options. One is the direct 29.♖c8+ (And the other, more human is 29.♖c3!+- bringing all the remaining pieces to the attack!) 29...♚xc8 30.♙xc8 ♖xc8 31.♖c1 ♖xc1+ 32.♔xc1+- The computer considers this endgame to be completely winning with the

3 pawns, especially with the two connected ones on the queenside, but I am not sure if it going to be such an easy task to convert. Also the psychological advantage is on Black's side, that he managed to avoid getting mated. Therefore I would prefer the 29.Rc3 line!]

29.♖c7+ ♔b8 30.♙xa6 ♕xc7 31.♖c1+ ♘c5 [31...♔d8 32.♖c8+ ♔e7 33.♙a3+ ♔f6 34.♖xe8 ♖xe8



35.♙d6+- This is obviously just materially the same position like in the 28...Kb8 29.Rc8 line. Now the black pieces are totally disharmonized, White only needs to advance the a- and b-pawn and they will promote automatically.]

32.♖xc5+ ♔d8 33.♙d6+ ♘d7 [33...♙d7 34.♙b8+ ♔e7 35.♙xh8+- is also over.]



34.♖b5! A calm finish to the end of the game. Black gets

mated, he can only give a desperate check on e4...

34...♙e4+ 35.♔c1! Of course not to a1, as it changes the game with 360 degrees because of Qh1! Now Qh1 Kd2 and no more checks. **1-0**

(2) So, Wesley(2778) - Fedorchuk, Sergey A(2657) [A27]

TCh-FRA Top 12 2015(10.1),
2015.06.08



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

There has been some controversy around Wesley So lately. By playing great fighting chess, his rise to the Top 10 was very quick, but the story at the US Championship where he got a 0 for taking notes didn't just bring him fans. Anyhow, until the current game So was showing a very good result at the French league. Shortly after the opening, the position got crazy and very complicated. It seemed like White managed to outplay his opponent, but Black always kept dangerous play around the white king and taking advantage of a mistake by So, Fedorchuk finally mated the white king with a nice but not too difficult combination. A very interesting game to watch.

1.c4 So likes to start with 1.c4.

1...e5 2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.♘f3 ♙c5 Black rarely chooses this move order. It is much more popular to play 3...Nf6.

4.a3 Threatening to play b4. a3 is often a very useful move anyway.

4...d6 A solid reply. [After 4...♘f6 5.b4 ♙d4 6.♙b2 White will play e3 next and get the bishop pair.; But it might have been interesting for Black to continue with 4...a6 5.b4 ♙a7 and the game might transpose to known positions.]

5.b4 Of course!

5...♙b6



6.e3! A strong move! White is playing against the b6 bishop which is stupid now. If we look at this position, White actually has a very good Sicilian.

6...♙g4?! I don't like this move. [I think 6...♘f6 was more solid. 7.d4 exd4 8.exd4 a5 A very typical move. 9.b5 ♘e7 and White is just a bit better.]

7.h3 A good move, asking Black where the bishop is going.

7...♙h5 8.g4 So far So played a very logical and good game.

8...♙g6 Black's play is a bit funny with this double bishop development... :)

9.d4! White continues playing strong chess. The center belongs to White now and the position of the black bishop on b6 is getting worse and worse.

9...exd4 10.exd4 a6 is almost the only move to escape losing the bishop after c5.

11.♙g2 White is playing a perfect game. Before starting the final action, So brings all his pieces into the game and the bishop's position on g2 is clearly just great.

11...h5 Black is looking for counterplay.

12.O-O A good move, but it is a bit risky. [White could just have continued with 12.g5 closing the h-file. 12...♘ge7 13.O-O O-O

14.c5 and the domination in the center should give White a clear plus.]

12...hgx4 13.hxg4 Black has opened the h-file, which could potentially be dangerous for White, but the bishop on g2 is a great defender so White has no reasons to worry too much.

13...♖d7 A very logical move, attacking the only weakness of White's position, the g4 pawn.

14.♖e1+ ♔f8 The black king would have gone to f8 anyway.



15.c5 A very logical move. Now that all the white pieces are perfectly placed, it is time to start some action.

15...♙a7 The only move. [The endgame after 15...dxc5 16.dxc5 ♖xd1 17.♖xd1 ♙a7 18.♙f4 is almost winning for White.]

16.d5 It is pity play such a move, which might free the bishop from a7. On the other hand, White is really dominating the center, so from a practical point of view it is hard to stop yourself from playing d5. [16.g5 would give White quite a big advantage.]

16...♘ce7 17.♖d4 Defending the c5 pawn and the g4 pawn.

17...♖d8?! A very slow move. [Black should have hurried with 17...♘f6 Fedorchuk maybe did not see what he could do after 18.♙g5 but Black has 18...♘eg8! and of course White is better, but the g4 pawn is in serious trouble.]

18.♙b2 All the white pieces are out.

18...f6 There was already no other move. [18...♘f6 didn't work because of



19.♖xe7! ♖xe7 20.cxd6 and the bishop on a7 is hanging!]

19.♖f4 White wants to play Nd4-Ne6 or Ng5-Ne6. [But he could have tried the direct 19.g5 19...dxc5 20.bxc5 ♙h5 (20...♘xd5? doesn't work because after 21.♘xd5 ♖xd5 22.♘e5! White is just winning.) 21.gxf6 ♘xf6 22.♘g5 and I cannot imagine White's attack not being enough for a serious advantage.]

19...♘h6 is Black's only hope. [19...dxc5 20.♘g5 ♙f7 21.♘e6+ ♙xe6 22.dxe6 ♖e8 23.♖xc7+-]



20.g5 So is still playing the good moves to put maximum

pressure on Black's position. [White could have won an exchange after 20.♖d4 20...♙xg4 21.♗e6+ ♔f7 22.♗xd8+ ♚xd8 but now because the white pawn is on d5 and not on d4, the bishop from a7 is becoming a dangerous piece. 23.♕c1! (The endgame after 23.♙xg4 23...♗xg4 is not that clear at all!) 23...♕f5! with the idea of playing Ng6 next and White might be better, but things are pretty unclear.]

20...♙g4 Black hopes to escape into an endgame.

21.♙d2?! A logical, but White should not have avoided the endgame. [21.♖d4 was better. 21...♙xf4 22.♗e6+ ♔f7 23.♗xf4 Now White's threat is to play Rxe7 and Nxc6. 23...♗hf5 24.gxf6 gxf6 25.♗e4! and Black's position seems to fall apart.]

21...♗f7 The black knight is going to e5 to block White's attack a bit.

22.gxf6 gxf6



23.♙d4?! This move is really strange. White just avoided the exchange of queens and now loses a clear tempo to achieve it! [23.♖d4 leads to very unclear play. 23...♗e5 24.♗e6+ ♔f7 25.♗xd8+ ♚xd8 The usual exchange sacrifice by Black. 26.♙d1! ♙g5 and the position is really unclear.; But White had a strong alternative: 23.♙e2! Avoiding the Ne5 move for a moment and attacking the e7 knight 23...♗f5 24.♗e4 ♚e8

25.♗d4 with an obviously better endgame for White.]

23...♗e5 24.♙xg4 ♗xg4 and now the game is totally open! Black is targeting the kingside and the pawn on f2.

25.♗d4 ♔f7 [25...dxc5 26.bxc5 ♔f7 was another possible move.]

26.♗e6



26...♚dg8! An excellent move! Fedorchuk doesn't care about the c7 pawn, but fixes the white king on g1.

27.♗xc7 So is still hoping to be better when actually his position is already in big danger. [Maybe it was a good moment for White to start defending with 27.♗e2]

27...♗e5 The threat of playing Nf3 is in the air and a move like Nd3 could also be very unpleasant.

28.cxd6 ♗c8! Another excellent move by Black. [It is too early for 28...♗f3+? 29.♕xf3 ♕e4+ 30.♔f1 ♕xf3 because the knight on e7 is hanging with check. 31.♚xe7+ ♔g6 32.♔e1 and the white king escapes.]

29.d7?? Having followed a wrong path for a couple of moves, So blunders a pretty mate... [The only way for White to go on was 29.♚xe5 29...fxe5 30.d7 but Black's position still looks clearly better after 30...♗b6! winning the d7 pawn. Things are

still far from clear in a practical game, for example after 31.d6 and White keeps an open fight in a worse position.]

29...♘f3+ Black doesn't miss his chance.

30.♔f1 [30.♙xf3 also leads to mate. 30...♙e4+ 31.♔f1 ♙xf3 and there is no defense against Rh1 mate.]

30...♙d3+ 31.♖e2 and here comes the last pretty move of the game:



31...♖h1+! To call it deserved win by black would be a bit unfair because White was really dominating most of the game, but Black showed good fighting spirit. He defended a difficult position and used his chances very well when the game started to change. As Carlsen once said: "I don't care if my opponent played a great game". **0-1**

The K-Files. Sicilian 3.Bb5+



GM Alexander Khalifman
FIDE World Chess Champion (1999)
Best rating: 2702

(3) Sicilian 3.Bb5+ [B51]

The "strange" bishop retreat - part 1.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♙b5+ ♘c6 This opening system has a very solid reputation. It was played with Black by many strong players with good results. One of its advantages is that Black players who play both Sicilians with 2...d6 and 2...Nc6 don't have to study two different systems in case of 3.Bb5. White has tried different plans looking for an advantage but none of them were too convincing. And then...



4.O-O ♗d7 The alternatives look dubious here. [4...♗f6 5.e5

dx e5 6.♗xe5 ♖c7 7.♖f3 ♗d7 8.♙xc6 ♗xc6 9.♗xc6 ♖xc6 10.♖xc6+ bxc6 11.♗a3+= with a very nice structural advantage in the endgame Georgiev.Kr - Piket, Corfu 1990.; 4...♙g4 5.h3 ♗h5 6.c3 ♗f6 (6...♖b6 7.♗a3+=) 7.d4 a6 8.♙xc6+ bxc6 9.♖a4 ♖b6 10.dxc5± Boleslavsky - Petrosian, Gagra 1953 and the natural answer 10...♖xc5 fails to 11.♗d4]

5.♚e1 The accurate move order. [After 5.c3 5...a6 6.♙c4 b5 the main idea doesn't work.]

5...♗f6 [5...a6 This move order has become popular recently. However, it doesn't stop our plan. 6.♙c4!? Now Black has different ways to dealy the natural developing move Ng8-f6 which transposes to the main line but none of them seems to be enough to equalize completely. (6.♙xc6 6...♙xc6 7.d4 cxd4 8.♗xd4 is White's main reaction where the clear road to equal chances is also not shown yet.) 6...e6 (

a) 6...♗e5? just gives a pawn for nothing after 7.♗xe5 dx e5 8.♖h5± Gurgenidze - Karolyi, Tbilisi 1986;

b) 6...b5 7.♙f1 e5 (7...♗f6 8.c3 - 5...Nf6) 8.c3 ♙g4 This solid move stops d2-d4 but costs the bishop pair. (8...g5!? Nowadays this move is more or less standard in similar positions but here it doesn't reach its main goal (to stop d2-d4). 9.a4 An important intermediate move. White tries to define the queenside structure first. (9.d4 9...g4 10.d5 ♗a5 (10...gxf3 11.dxc6 ♙xc6 12.♖xf3±) 11.♗fd2 h5± is less clear) 9...g4 (9...b4 10.d4 g4 11.d5 ♗a5 12.♗fd2±) 10.axb5 axb5 11.♖xa8 ♖xa8 12.♗h4 b4 13.♗f5± and Black has too many weaknesses everywhere) 9.h3 (9.a4 9...b4 10.h3 ♙xf3 11.♖xf3 ♗f6∞) 9...♙xf3 (9...♙h5 10.g4 ♙g6 11.d4±) 10.♖xf3 ♙e7 11.♗a3 ♗f6 12.♗c2 O-O 13.♗e3+= with a solid long-term advantage;

c) 6...e5 7.c3 ♙g4 8.h3 ♙h5 9.d4 cxd4 10.g4 ♙g6 11.cxd4+= White is ahead on development and Black can hardly use the

opponent's weakened kingside.;

d) 6...♘f6 7.c3 - 5...Nf6)

7.c3 ♘e5 This is in my opinion the most interesting attempt to avoid the main line but still White is slightly better here. (7...g6 8.d4 ♙g7 9.d5 ♘a5 10.♙f1± Gurgennidze - Chatebashvili, Tbilisi 2001) 8.♙e2 (After 8.♘xe5 8...dxe5 9.d4 cxd4 10.cxd4 ♖c8 11.♙b3 exd4 the fact that the knight is still on g8 works in Black's favor: White doesn't have the important resource e4-e5. 12.♖xd4 ♙c6=) 8...♘f6 9.d4 ♘g6 10.♙d3 (10.e5 is premature due to 10...dxe5 11.dxe5 ♘g4=+ and the e5 pawn is just weak.) 10...♙e7 11.e5 dxe5 12.dxe5 Now it's another story. 12...♘d5 (12...♘g4 13.h3 ♘h6 14.♙xh6 gxh6 15.♙e4±) 13.g3 ♙b5 14.♙c2↑ and White's space advantage promises him somewhat better chances.]

6.c3 a6 Now it is already necessary. Black has to do something about d2-d4.



This is in fact the critical position of the whole variation. For a long time the discussion was going around two logical bishop retreats - to a4 and f1 (the gambit line 7.Bxc6 bxc6 8.d4 is rather tricky but not really dangerous for Black). Both have their merits and drawbacks but in both lines there are lines which are quite OK for Black. At least I think so. As I mentioned already before the whole line for Black is attractive

for lazy players who don't want to study different setups against 2...Nc6 3.Bb5 and 2...d6 3.Bb5+ in Sicilian - this is my case. But then at some moment really strange move attracted my attention... [The quiet development. like 6...g6 gives White clear advantage after 7.d4 cxd4 (7...♙g7 8.dxc5 dxc5 9.e5 ♘g4 (9...♘xe5? This pawn is poisoned 10.♘xe5 ♙xb5 11.♖b3+-) 10.♙f4 ♙xe5 Now this pawn is not poisoned like one move before but still not tasty at all. 11.♘xe5 ♘gxe5 12.♘a3= with great compensation (Glek - Kupreichik, Germany 1998)) 8.cxd4 ♙g7 9.♘c3 O-O 10.h3+= with a typical position where Black has no compensation for White's strong pawn center and space advantage (De Greif - Ramirez. Columbia 1958)]

7.♙c4!? ... And more and more I looked at the resulting lines less and less I liked it for Black. Well, in this case it's not about being crushed in 20 moves (although everything might happen as we will see later) but it looks like everywhere White is comfortably better after the opening phase. Maybe it's too early to come with some strong conclusions as the variation is not analysed well enough till now (only 20 games in Megabase) but still... The idea is fairly simple: White claims that in many lines bishop is better on c4 than let's say on f1 (the cooperative line 7..e5? 8.Ng5 is first what comes to mind). But then why did I call this move : "strange"? Mainly because of

7...b5 gaining space with tempo looks perfectly logical. So it's no surprise that more than 50% of grandmasters who played this position with Black have chosen this move. However, the sad truth about it is that ifirst of all it seriously weakens the queenside structure and after Bf1 and a4 Black faces serious problems just immediately. [

7...♘e5 This move is already rather standard for the whole 3.Bb5+ system. Black hopes that firm control in the center will

compensate a little structural defect. In many cases it's true but here White has strong concrete answer. 8.♖xe5 (8.♙e2 8...♗g6!?⇒) 8...dxe5 9.d4! and it turns that White is better prepared to open the center. 9...cxd4 10.cxd4 ♖c7 this is relatively best but still the following complications work fine for White (

a) 10...♞c8 11.♙b3 exd4 12.e5 ♗g8 13.♙g5!?± looks ugly for Black;

b) 10...♞b6 Smart tactical trick which meets very strong reaction 11.h3! ♞xd4 (11...exd4 12.e5 ♗g8 13.e6! ♙xe6 14.♙xe6 fxe6 15.♞a4+ ♞c6 16.♞xd4♞) 12.♞b3 e6 13.♞xb7 ♞a7 14.♞xa7 ♞xa7 15.♙e3± and White is much better here due to better development and queenside pawn majority.)

11.♙b3 e6 (11...exd4 12.e5 ♗g4 13.♞xd4±) 12.dxe5 ♞xe5 13.♗d2 ♞d4 14.e5 ♗g4 15.♞e2 ♙b5 16.♙c4 ♙xc4 17.♗xc4 ♞c8 18.♗d6+ ♙xd6 19.exd6 ♗f6 20.♞d1 ♞c4 21.♞f3 O-O 22.♙g5± and the pawn is very strong on d6;

7...e6 8.d4 b5 9.♙f1 - 7...b5;

7...g6 Ignoring White plans to build strong pawn center doesn't promise anything good here is well. 8.d4 cxd4 (8...♙g7 9.e5 dxe5 10.dxe5 ♗g4 11.♙f4±) 9.cxd4 ♙g7 (9...♙g4 10.♞b3 e6 Kapp - Mlecnik, Laguna 1996 (10...d5 11.♙xd5 ♗xd5 12.exd5 ♗a5 13.♞d3±) 11.♞xb7 ♗a5 12.♞b4 ♙xf3 13.gxf3 ♗xc4 14.♞xc4 ♞d7 15.♗c3 ♙g7 16.♞a4±) 10.e5 dxe5 11.dxe5 ♗g4 12.♙f4 ♙e6 13.♗bd2!+=;

7...♞c7 Verspecht - Werner, Belgium 2004 8.d4 e5 9.d5 ♗e7 10.a4+=;

7...♙g4 will be analysed in part;

7...e5? 8.♗g5±]

8.♙f1 e5 Now the game develops very similar to some Ruy

Lopez lines (what is also not attractive for many @pure Sicilian players). But the big difference is white bishop on f1 (instead of c2) and this difference clearly favours White as b5 becomes the target. [

a) 8...♙g4?! is logical/ Black fights for square d4. But at the same time when queen side light squares are seriously weakened Black just needs the bishop here - not on g4. So if Black's previous move might be treated as some inaccuracy this one turns to be a serious mistake. The following lines confirm this assessment. 9.a4 (9.d4 9...cxd4 10.cxd4 e5 11.d5 ♗d4 12.a4) 9...b4 10.d4 cxd4 11.cxd4 e6 (11...e5 looks consistent but after 12.d5 ♗d4 13.♙e3± Black's queenside is in ruins. The important point is that White wouldn't be afraid of weakening his kingside structure. Black lacks time and piece coordination to use it (Baklan - Mamedov, R Turkey 2014)) 12.d5 ♗e5 Sutovsky - Mchedlishvili Baku 2011 and now the simple 13.♗bd2 ♙e7 14.h3 ♙h5 15.dxe6 fxe6 16.♞b3± would bring White clear advantage;

b) 8...e6 9.d4 cxd4 10.cxd4 ♙e7 and now White faces an important choice 11.d5!? this is more dangerous (The normal developing move 11.♗c3 meets strong reaction 11...b4 12.♗e2 (12.♗a4 12...♞a5) 12...♗xe4 13.d5 exd5 14.♗f4 ♗f6 15.♗xd5 ♗xd5 16.♞xd5 O-O 17.♙f4 ♗e5! 18.♗xe5 dxe5 19.♙xe5 ♙b5 and Black must be able to hold rather easily) 11...♗e5 12.♗xe5 dxe5 13.d6! Yet another pawn sac. 13...♙f8 14.a4 b4 15.♗d2 ♙xd6 16.♗c4 ♙c7 17.♗d6+ ♞e7 18.♗c4 Smart trick to leave Black king in the center. White's compensation here is even stronger than it might seem. 18...♙c6 (18...♞e8 19.♙e3 ♞f8 20.♗b6 ♙xb6 21.♞d6+ ♞g8 22.♙xb6±) 19.♞c2 ♞b8 20.♙e3 ♗xe4 21.♙d3 ♗f6 22.♙c5+ ♞e8 23.♞ad1♞;

c) 8...♗e5 When this knight doesn't attack white bishop it makes less sense. White just continues his play. The

knights' exchange itself doesn't help Black too much. 9.d4 ♖xf3+ 10.♔xf3 e5 11.a4! It's not easy for Black to complete development as 11...♙e7 just gives a pawn 12.axb5 axb5 13.♖xa8 ♖xa8 14.dxe5 dxe5 15.♗g3±;

d) 8...g6 Here once again the pawn centre provides White pleasant positional advantage. 9.d4 cxd4 (9...♙g7 10.e5±) 10.cxd4 ♙g7 11.a4 (11.e5 11...dxe5 12.dxe5 ♖g4 13.♙f4 ♙e6 14.♖bd2+=) 11...b4 12.♖bd2 O-O 13.h3+=]

9.a4 It's very useful to define queenside structure as soon as possible.

9...b4 Guerra - Ceschia Venice 2012 [9...♖b8 if Black tries to protect this pawn and keep control over c4 it really doesn't help after the natural 10.axb5 axb5 11.♖a3 b4 12.♖c4± and White's pressure is only increasing; 9...bxa4 This capture is considered to be certain concession in Ruy Lopez structure but the whole situation is not very much attractive already 10.♖xa4 a5 11.d4 (11.d3 is more quiet choice 11...♙e7 12.♖bd2 O-O 13.♖c4 ♖c7 14.g3+= also with some positional advantage; c4 is an excellent square for the knight.) 11...cxd4 12.cxd4 ♙e7 13.♖c3 O-O 14.♙b5+= Now Black has good square b4 for his knight bit everything else is in White's favour.]

10.d4! N Quite important: White doesn't have to waste time for h3 because Bg4 is not dangerous in any line.



10...♙e7 Black has different options to define the central pawn structure here but none of them looks fully satisfactory. Most of the following lines have one common point: white knight arrives from b1 to c4 and becomes the real force. It might be a bit early to speak about White's big advantage but the opening results clearly favours him and his play is much easier. [10...bxc3 11.bxc3 ♙e7 12.dxc5 (12.♖a3!? looks risky but actually may be even stronger. 12...cxd4 13.cxd4 ♙g4 14.d5 ♖d4 15.♙e3 ♖xf3+ 16.gxf3 ♙h5 17.♖c4 O-O 18.a5 ♖d7 19.♙h3!) 12...dxc5 13.♖bd2 ♖c7 14.♖c4 ♙e6 15.a5! ♙xc4?! 16.♙xc4 ♖xa5? 17.♖a4+-; 10...cxd4 11.cxd4 ♙e7 (11...exd4 12.♖bd2 ♙e7 13.♖b3 O-O 14.♖bxd4 d5 15.e5 ♖e4 16.♙e3+=; 11...♙g4 12.dxe5 ♖xe5 13.♖bd2+=) 12.♖bd2 O-O 13.dxe5 ♖xe5 14.♖xe5 dxe5 15.♖c4 ♖c7 16.♙e3 ♙c5 17.♖c1 ♙xe3 18.♖xe3 ♖b6 19.♖c4 ♖e6 20.a5+= It might seem like Black manages to reach something with minor pieces exchanges. But in fact his position is still extremely unpleasant because of numerous weaknesses. Once again: Nc4 is a monster.]

11.dxc5 dxc5 12.cxb4 cxb4 13.♖bd2 O-O 14.♖c4 ♖c7 15.♙e3+= and Rc1 on the next move. Black is under pressure.

15...♖xe4? 16.♙b6+-

David vs. Goliath



Peter Zhdanov
Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this entertaining column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

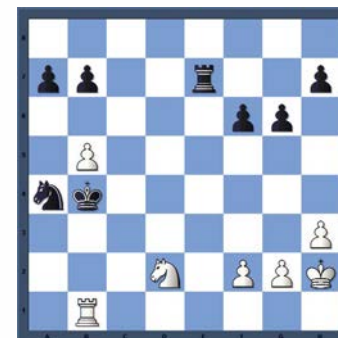
The previous week brought us 27 upsets.

The number of moves ranges from 16 in IM Bogdanovic (2268) - Sinanovic (1930), 0-1 to 78 in FM Ahmed (2346) - Sharabaty (1884), 0-1.

We didn't get to see many high-profile upsets this time. A game worth mentioning is Rosmuller (2142) -GM Pruijssers (2507), 1-0.

One of the greatest upsets ever happened in Bryn (2071) - Tomic (1333). This is a 738 rating points difference! To be honest, it is not clear from the final position how Black prevailed. Still, the official site confirms the result, so we can be sure that the upset did occur.

Over the course of my chess career I have won a couple of games as the "David", but decided that including them into the column would be classified as unsolicited bragging. On the contrary, here is a fresh example of how terribly one can fail as a "Goliath".



I have outplayed my young opponent in the endgame. By this point the game is a technical win, so I was expecting to put my king on b6 and to devour another pawn a few moves later. After the disastrous move 45...Ka5?? (instead of the obvious Kc5 -+) White quickly played 46.Nc4X and pressed the clock. Somewhat dumbfounded, I smiled helplessly and asked "It is mate, right?". "Yes!", replied the kid. It requires a lot of love for the game and a strong will to recover after such inexplicable blunders. To be honest, after this misfortune I was considering to quit tournament chess altogether.

In fact, quite a few of this week's upsets hail from Nezhmetdinov Memorial. On one of the adjacent boards next to mine the following finale took place:



Shkalikova (1737) wrapped up the game against Martynyuk (2078) with 18.Qc4+ e6 19.Qc3 Kf7 20.Qf6+ Ke8 21.Ng7X

Top-10:

Bryn (2071) - Tomic (1333), 0-1, [738](#) points
 Orysenko (1560) - Gilyazitdinov (2067), 1-0, [507](#) points
 Ahmed (2346) - Sharabaty (1884), 0-1, [462](#) points
 Abdulla (2498) - Sammed Jaykumar (2071), 0-1, [427](#) points
 Himanshu (2420) - Sa (2003), 0-1, [417](#) points
 Ambartsumova (2331) - Tukaeva (1922), 0-1, [409](#) points
 Orysenko (1560) - Mischeryakov (1945), 1-0, [385](#) points
 Rosmuller (2142) - Pruijssers (2507), 1-0, [365](#) points
 Van Dael (1701) - Koudinov (2065), 1-0, [364](#) points
 Bylino (2067) - Khlopushin (1724), 0-1, [343](#) points

Average gap: 442; White won 4 games, Black won 6 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) is welcomed.

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot

Best rating: 2749

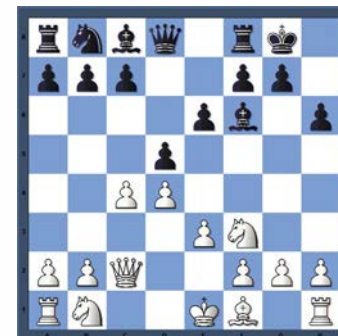
(4) Jakovenko, Dmitry (2738)
- Bacrot, Etienne (2704) [D30]TCh-FRA Top 12 2015(6.5),
2015.06.04

For once I will change the theme of my column, which is analysing a junior game. I will show you one of my very few but important successes, which helped my team Bischwiller to win 2-1 against Clichy and eventually become French team champion!

1. ♖f3 d5 This day I switched back to the Queen's Gambit, since I had too much of King's Indians lately.

2.d4 ♗f6 3.c4 e6 4. ♘g5 ♙e7 5. ♔c2 Going for an unusual move order.

5...h6 6. ♘xf6 ♘xf6 7.e3 O-O I started to think around here, and I didn't like the immediate [7...c5 8.cxd5 cxd4 9. ♘b5+! It appears this was played recently in Nakamura-Adams London 2014 and White had the edge. I of course saw the game but couldn't remember exactly how it went.]



8.h4 Played instantly. 8.Nc3 would simply turn back into a usual Queen's Gambit with Bxf6.

8...g6 I thought a long time about it and played the usual solid move to save the kingside by answering Bg7 to g4. White's play on the flank might induce play in the center but [8...c5 9.g4! cxd4 10.g5 seems really awful for Black over the board!]

9. ♗c3 c6 10.O-O-O A normal move. It is funny that if White now plays [10.h5 10...g5 we got a position that I quickly checked during the last FIDE Grand Prix while I followed the Nakamura-Svidler game, which came from a totally different opening: 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.h4 c6 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bxf6 Bxf6 8.h5 g5 9.e3 e6 10.Qc2 a6?! If 10...0-0 was played it would transpose to the same exact position! Back then I let the computer think a little about it and he couldn't find a good plan for White.]

10...♗d7 11. ♖b1 White started to think around here so at least I was safe from huge preparation. Here I think the most principled move is [11.e4 11...♘g7 with very complex play.]

11...♘g7 12. ♘d3



12...a6 I decided to stick to the same strategy all game to slightly improve my position and wait for a good moment to use the bishop pair. The opening position should help White make use of his development advantage. Another option is [12...dxc4 13.♟xc4 ♚e7∞]

13.cxd5!? [13.e4 runs into 13...dxc4! 14.♟xc4 b5 followed by c5, with great play for Black.]

13...cxd5 [13...exd5 14.h5 g5 15.♞e2 didn't appeal to me as after Ng3 White takes control of the important f5 square.]

14.e4 A logical opening of the position. [14.♞e2 14...b5∞]

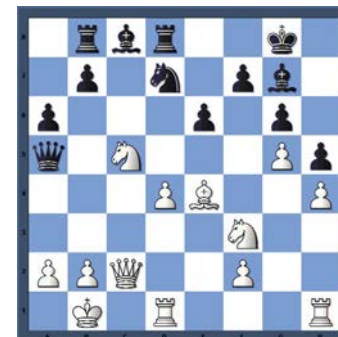
14...dxe4 15.♟xe4 [15.♞xe4 15...b5=+]

15...♞b6 Another safe move. Now I am ready to easily meet the d4-d5 break. My plan is Rd8 Nf6 (or Nf8) Bd7-e8 Rac8. One of the other interesting options is [15...♞f6 16.♞e5 ♟d7!? 17.♟xb7 ♞b8 18.♟xa6 ♞a5 with compensation.]

16.g4 A good move. White will take the f6 square for my knight and improve his dark squares position.

16...♞d8 17.♞a4 ♞a5 18.g5 h5 19.♞c5 [19.a3 19...♞b8 20.b4 ♞b5 21.♞c7 ♞f8 22.♞c3 ♞b6 23.♞xb6 ♞xb6∞]

19...♞b8



20.♞e5? This is a big mistake. Black's pieces are quite restricted so he cannot make use of his positional and two bishops advantage. Play might continue with [20.♞b3 20...♞b4 21.♞he1 ♞f8 (21...♞b6 22.♞e5 ♞d5∞) 22.♞e5 ♟d7 23.♞c5 ♞a4∞]

20...♞xc5 21.♞c4 ♞b4 Finally an active move. I calculated it until the 24th move and decided it was stronger than [21...♞c7 22.dxc5 ♟d7=+ which is also clearly in Black's favor.]

22.dxc5 [22.a3 22...♞xc4! 23.♞xc4 ♞xe4— The pieces are much stronger than the queen here.]

22...♟d7 23.♞d6 [23.♞b6 23...♟xb2! 24.♞xd7 ♟e5+ 25.♞b3 (25.♟c1 25...♟f4+—) 25...♞xe4+∞]

23...♟a4 24.b3



24...b6! Not the only way but the most forced and best one.

25. ♖c4 Entering a lost endgame. [25. ♗xf7 might give more practical chances. 25... ♕xf7 26. c6 ♜d4 27. c7 ♜c8 28. ♖b7 ♖d7+]]

25... bxc5 26. ♖xb4 ♜xb4—+ Two bishop s and a pawn up should be enough but even then, under time pressure, I gave some saving chances!

27. f3 ♖d4 [27... ♖f8! is a very strong computer move which didn't cross my mind. 28. ♗b7 (28. ♗c4 28... ♜xd1+ 29. ♜xd1 ♜xc4 30. bxa4 ♜xa4—+) 28... ♜xd1+ 29. ♜xd1 c4—+]]

28. ♗b7 ♜c8 29. ♕c2 ♖d7 30. ♗a5 ♜b5 31. ♗c4 ♜cb8 [31... ♜bb8 Considering the chance I gave in the game, this option was better!]

32. ♜d3 ♕f8



33. ♗d6! Aasty surprise! I have to save the rook now!

33... ♜5b6 34. ♗c4 ♜b5 [34... ♜b4 is the other choice but after 35. a3 ♜xc4+ 36. bxc4 ♖a4+ 37. ♕c1 ♖e5 38. ♕d2 ♖f4+ 39. ♕c3 ♕e7 40. ♜g1+ it is not so easy for Black to improve. 40... ♜b3+ 41. ♕c2+ There is no lethal check.]

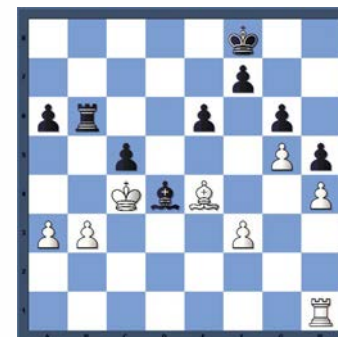
35. ♗d6 ♜b4 36. a3 ♜4b6 37. ♗c4 ♜b5 38. ♗d6 ♜5b6 39. ♗c4 ♖b5 After maneuvering to get closer to move 40 I need to play this move.



40. ♗xb6 It is very natural to go for opposite colored bishop endgame but maybe the other possibility is more tenacious: [40. ♜xd4 40... cxd4 41. ♗xb6 ♜xb6 42. ♜d1 e5 43. ♜e1 ♕g7 followed by f6 and Black has good chances to convert the extra pawn.]

40... ♖xd3+ 41. ♕xd3?! To save the game White should try to transfer his king to the kingside to protect his weak pawns. [41. ♖xd3 41... ♜xb6 42. ♖c4 ♜d6 43. ♕d2 ♖f2+ (43... ♖b2+ 44. ♕e2 ♖xa3?! 45. ♜a1 ♖b4 46. ♜xa6 ♜d2+ 47. ♕e3 ♜h2 48. ♜a8+ ♕g7 49. ♜a7!=) 44. ♕e2 ♖g3+]]

41... ♜xb6 42. ♕c4



42... ♖e3—+ Now it seems clear that Black is winning thanks to the extra pawn, the active pieces and the big weakness of the h4 pawn. I will slowly improve the position until I win extra material.

43.♖h2 ♔e7 44.♞e2 ♘c1 45.♞a2 ♘f4 46.♞g2 ♜b8 47.♘c2
♘c1 48.a4 ♘a3 49.♘e4 ♞d8 50.♛c3 ♘b4+ 51.♛c2 ♞d4
52.♞e2 a5 53.♛c1 ♔d7 54.♛c2 ♔d6 55.♛c1 c4 56.bxc4
♞xc4+ 57.♛d1 ♞d4+ 58.♛c2 ♛e7 White is not able to defend
the a4 pawn after Bd6, so he resigned. 0-1

Puzzle section

(5) Duda, J(2610)-Dorfman, J(2574)

French league, 2015.06.02

1. +-



(6) Ider, B(2401)-Vaisser, A(2530)

French league, 2015.06.02

1. =



(7) Duda, J(2610)-Baklan, A(2632)

French league, 2015.06.03

[CEWN]

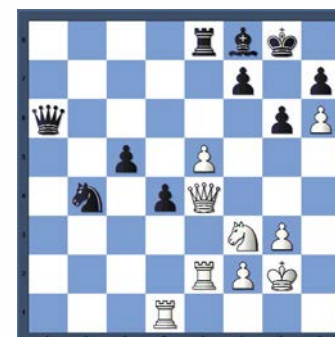
1. +-



(8) Postny, E(2630)-Fedorchuk, S(2657)

French league, 2015.06.03

1... -+



(9) Navara, D(2751)-Fier, A(2632)

French league, 2015.06.03

1. =



(10) Duda, J(2610)-Flear, G(2460)

French league, 2015.06.04

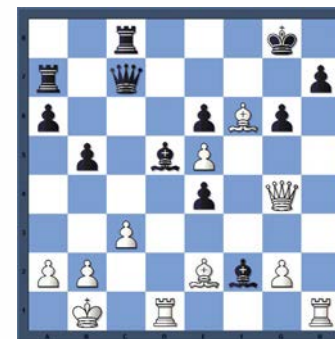
1. +-



(11) Salgado Lopez, I(2616)-Demuth, A(2515)

French league, 2015.06.04

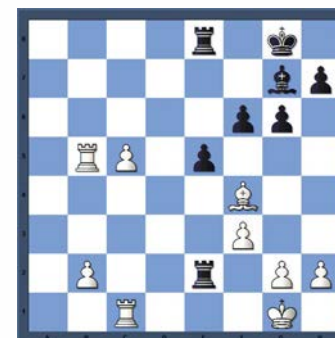
1. +-



(12) Gajewski, G(2648)-Postny, E(2630)

French league, 2015.06.04

1. +-



(13) Solodovnichenko, Y(2592)-Milliet, S(2369)

French league, 2015.06.04

1. +-



(14) Fressinet, L(2712)-Tranchant, S(2275)

French league, 2015.06.06

1. +-



Endgame section

(15) Apicella, Manuel (2510)
- Koch, Jean-Rene (2452)

French league,
2015.06.08



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



Without the rooks, the bishop and knight vs the bishop is an obvious draw. White does not even have the slightest winning chance there. The story is different with a pair of rooks on board. The objective evaluation should be still draw, but White retains excellent practical chances because of different kind of mating nets. In the game, Black makes some inaccuracies and White gets what he wants...

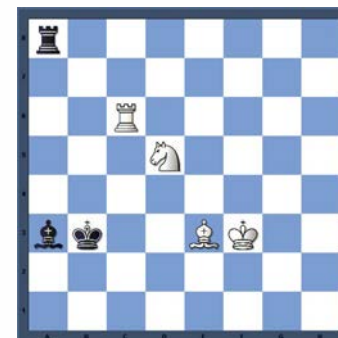
56. ♖h6+ A good practical idea could be to try for 50 moves and if Black defends perfectly then trade off the knight for the black bishop and try for another 50 moves with the rook and bishop vs the rook. In our current chess, making our opponent as tired as possible is an important factor.

56... ♔d5 57. ♘c3+ ♔c4 58. ♖c6+ White squeezes the king to the edge of the board. This is clearly the right idea to create

successful mating nets.

58... ♔b3 [Black cannot stay in the middle of the board with 58... ♔d3? because of 59. ♘d5+- with the multiply threats of Rc3, Nf4 and Nxe7.]

59. ♘d5 ♙a3

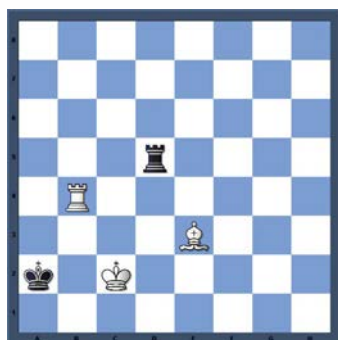


60. ♔e4! Very good technique by White! He brings all his pieces closer to the opponent's king. Black is getting squeezed and defending is getting more and more tricky with each move. The idea is to play Kd3 followed by Rb6 check forcing the king to go to the a-file. It is very strange, but I already don't see a draw for Black!

60... ♖d8 Logical, Black stops the Kd3 plan. [Another defense is 60... ♖e8+ 61. ♔d3 ♖d8 62. ♖b6+ ♔a4 The point is Kc4 is met by Rc8 and the king is forced to retreat. White needs to make some unwanted move, however it does not change the outcome... 63. ♔d4! ♖c8 64. ♙g5! Controlling the d8 square and using the fact, that the rook cannot be taken after Bc5 check because the knight forks the rook. 64... ♙c5+ 65. ♔d3 ♔a5 (65... ♖g8 loses to 66. ♘c3+ ♔a5 (66... ♔a3 67. ♙c1#) 67. ♖b5+ ♔a6 68. ♖xc5+-) 66. ♙d2+ ♔a4



67. ♖b1 Black is lost again. There are too many threats around the king. He cannot move his rook, because Kc4 decides, while the bishop must control the b6 square. Not too many legal moves are left, one of them is 67... ♗f2 but it moves into another motif... 68. ♘c3+ ♔a5 69. ♘e4+-; Another attempt is 60... ♖b8 trying to control the b-file to avoid getting a check, but it also does not help for long 61. ♔d3 ♗b4 62. ♖c1! White gives the wished check from behind. 62... ♖d8 63. ♖b1+ ♔a2 64. ♖xb4 ♖xd5+ 65. ♔c2



The following endgame is winning, because the black king is trapped! It still requires good technique. 65... ♔a3 66. ♖c4 White is threatening with mate in two moves, therefore the only move is to send the rook into passivity to the a-file. 66... ♖a5 67. ♗c5+ ♔a2 68. ♗d6 White slowly makes progress, but taking away the possible squares from the black rook on

the a-file... 68... ♖a6 69. ♖c5 ♖a4 70. ♖c6 ♖a8 71. ♗b4! Black is getting squeezed. A possible finish is 71... ♔a1 72. ♗c3+ ♔a2 73. ♖d6+- and Black has no defense against Rd1-a1!]

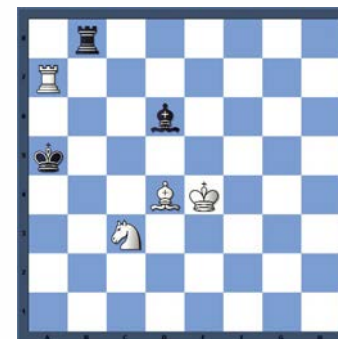
61. ♗d4 ♗f8 62. ♖b6+ ♔a3 63. ♖b7! Putting the pieces to light squares to ignore the black bishop is another sign of the good technique.

63... ♔a4 64. ♗b2 [White should have asked the rook where does it want to go 64. ♗f6! 64... ♖e8+ (64... ♖d6 is the only way to avoid Kd3-c4, but it moves into 65. ♘b6+!+- and Nc4 check wins the rook!) 65. ♔d3+- A possible finish is: 65... ♔a3 66. ♗b2+! ♔a4 67. ♔c4 ♖c8+ 68. ♘c7!+- and the king is trapped again!]

64... ♗d6 65. ♗d4 ♖b8 Black tries to get the b-file for his king, but it does not solve the problems... [On 65... ♗f8 White already wanted to play 66. ♗f6!]

66. ♘c3+ ♔a5 Otherwise Nb5 wins the bishop.

67. ♖a7+



67... ♔b4 68. ♔d3! Taking control over the c4 square! Black temporarily controls the b-file and the b7 check, but it only delays the problems...

68... ♗f8 69. ♖a4+ ♔b3 70. ♖a1! and Black gets squeezed again to the edge of the board!

70...♙b4 There is already no salvation for Black. All the moves are losing on the spot.. . [70...♙a3 71.♖b1+ ♙b2 72.♘d1+-; 70...♖d8 71.♖b1+ ♔a3 72.♙c2 ♖xd4 73.♖b3#; 70...♙d6 71.♖b1+ ♔a3 72.♙c5+ ♙xc5 73.♖xb8+-]

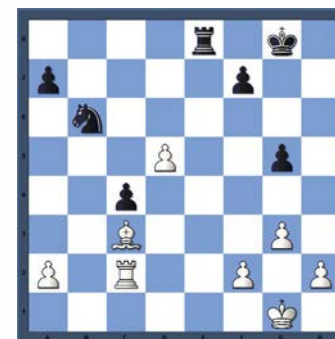
71.♖b1+ ♔a3 72.♙c2! ♙xc3 73.♙c5+! An unpleasant intermediate check and Black resigned because his rook falls next move. Very interesting endgame. After all, I don't wish to anyone to end up in such endgame, it looks practically impossible to hold over the board. **1-0**

(16) Postny, Evgeny(2630)
- **Dorfman, Iossif(2574)**

TCh-FRA Top 12 2015(10.2),
2015.06.08



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



White was better all game long and managed to reach this very promising endgame. Postny perfectly converts it into a full point.

42.d6 A very logical move and probably the best. White wants to play Ba5 or Bf6 next to support the movement of the pawn.

42...f5 [42...♖d8 is not much better. 43.♖d2 ♖d7 44.♙f6 and the g5 pawn is getting lost, which means game over in the long term.]

43.♙a5 ♖d8 What else to do?! [In case of 43...♖e4 44.♖d2 White wants to play d7. 44...♘d7 45.♖d5 and Black's position is just lost.]



44.♖xc4! A good move. There is no reason for White to enter a rook endgame on the spot.

44...♖xd6 45.♖c7 The rook is perfectly placed on c7.

45...g4 [In case Black would try to save the a7 pawn by playing 45...a6 a calm move like 46.h3! is just deadly. White will slowly get to attack the g5-a6 pawns and it will be impossible to defend them. Another idea could be to play h4 in a good moment.]

46.♔g2 A very safe move, but White should have taken the a7 pawn. [Why not play 46.♖xa7 46...♘c4 47.♔g2 and Black doesn't have enough time to play Nd2-Nf3-Rd1, which is easy to see!]

46...a6 47.♙xb6! A nice move. White correctly evaluates that this endgame is winning.

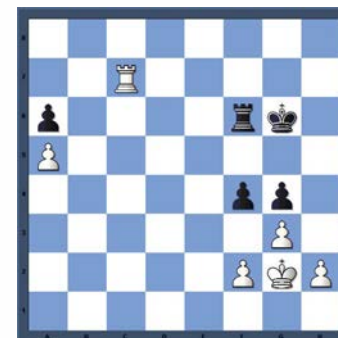
47...♖xb6 48.♖c5 fixing the black rook on f6.

48...♖f6 49.a4! Another accurate move. Before taking actions on the kingside, Postny wants to play a5 followed by Rc7-Rb7-Rb6, winning the a6 pawn.

49...♔g7 50.a5 ♙g6 Black wants to free the rook from f6, but White is in time.

51.♖c7 The threat is now to play Rb7-Rb6, offering the exchange of rooks which would lead to an easily winning pawn endgame for White.

51...f4 Once again Black is taking his only chance.



52.gxf4 White needs to take otherwise Black would push f3.

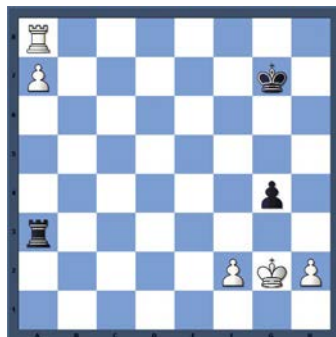
52...♖xf4 53.♖c6+ and the a6 pawn is falling.

53...♔g5 54.♖xa6 ♖a4 For those who know it, this is an easily winning rook endgame. but for those who don't it can be very unclear.

55.♖a8! The absolutely correct plan. In case White would exchange the f-pawn against the g-pawn the position would be a draw and the same goes for the exchange of the a-pawn against the g-pawn, which would also be a theoretical draw.

55...♖a3 Black can only keep on waiting.

56.a6 ♙g6 57.a7 ♙g7 and what now?



58.h3!! Exactly! White sacrifices the h-pawn to get a passed f-pawn. All that White then needs to do is to push the f-pawn to f6, after which Black will need to play Kf7 and then Rh8 Rxa7 and Rh7+ wins the black rook. This is a typical winning idea in rook endgames, so Dorfman decided that enough was enough and resigned. Very nice endgame technique by Postny! **1-0**

Chess and the City. Injustice to one is a threat to all...



WGM Elisabeth Paetz
Best rating: 2493

is the slogan the ACP (association of chess professionals) has chosen. ACP is a non-profit organisation which was founded in 2003 for improving the life of chess professionals and particularly in financial and legal aspects. During the relatively few years from its foundation, ACP managed to organize and co-organize several tournaments totalling a budget in excess of million Euros.

The president of ACP - Israeli Emil Sutovsky- is a strong Grandmaster himself and a good singer either. Thanks to his efforts, and to the efforts of the ACP team, the association could not only collect members all over the world, but also convince world class players to join.



I am choosing the results of ACP as my topic of this weeks' newsletter as players often forget how important, and difficult, it is to find sponsors, organize tournaments and support professional chess. I, and my female colleagues at the European Women Chess Championship, recently had a first hand experience of the positive aspects of the ACP organization.

After the main tournament, ACP collaborated with the Georgian Organisers to raise the prize fund of the European Rapid Championship managing to attract more strong players in joining the event. In addition to the participants already present at the main event in Chakvi, players of the caliber of Alexandra Kosteniuk and Valentina Gunina decided to come all the way from Russia to participate to the rapid event. After a three-day battle and 11 rounds, these very two players topped the event and collected the first two places.

Who said that practising before rapid games is the best way to go?!:) Sometimes perhaps a temporary break from chess is the key to success. Despite the trip from Russia, Valentina and Alexandra displayed an excellent shape and managed to keep at the minimum the nightmare of all blitz players, the blunder...



Clash of the Titans

(17) Rubinstein, Akiba
- Tartakower, Saviely[E10]

Teplitz-Schoenau(10),
1922.10.12



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

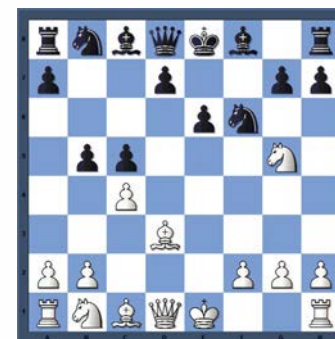
1.d4 e6 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 c5 4.d5 b5 This opening is called the Blumenfeld Gambit.



5.e4!? An interesting idea discovered so many years ago! Instead of accepting the sacrifice White is going to develop his pieces very quickly. The alternative is [5.dxe6 5...fxe6 6.cxb5 d5 7.g3 This should be the best setup for White. 7...♙d6 8.♙g2 O-O 9.O-O ♙b7 Black has strong central pawns for the pawn. 10.♘bd2 One of White's ideas can be to destroy the black structure after e4. 10...♘bd7 11.b3 ♙e7 12.♙b2 with complex play.]

5...♘xe4 6.dxe6 Premature. Nowadays theory says that more [6.♙d3 is more accurate. 6...♘d6 (6...♘f6 7.O-O↑ and White's initiative is based on his strong development.) 7.cxb5 a6 (7...exd5 8.O-O ♙e7 9.♘c3 ♙b7 10.♙e1 and Black is not able to escape with the king. 10...O-O because of 11.♘xd5! ♙xd5 12.♙xh7+ ♙xh7 13.♙xd5+-) 8.b6 The best move to keep the initiative. 8...♙b7 9.♘c3 ♙e7 10.O-O ♙xb6 11.♙e1 O-O 12.♙f4↑]

6...fxe6 7.♙d3 ♘f6 8.♘g5



8...♙e7?! preventing the Bxh7 idea but this is not a perfect place for the queen. [8...bxc4 9.♙xh7 ♙c7 (9...♘xh7? 10.♙h5+ ♙e7 11.♙f4! not allowing the black king to escape. 11...♙e8 12.♙d6+-) 10.♙g6+ ♙e7 11.h4 ♙b7 12.♙f1 ♘c6 with an unclear position.; 8...♙c7!?∞]

9.cxb5 [9.♙xh7?! 9...♙xh7 10.♘xh7 ♘xh7 11.♙h5+ g6 12.♙xg6+ ♙f7 13.♙xf7+ ♙xf7 14.cxb5 ♙b7 with a clearly better position for Black.]

9...d5 10.O-O g6 and Black has to lose more time to develop the pieces because the queen is placed on e7.

11.♙e1 ♙g7



12.♔e2?! An important moment, where White took the wrong decision. Rubinstein should still focus on developing his pieces instead of hurrying with grabbing the e6 pawn. [12.♘c3! 12...O-O 13.♕f4 h6 (13...a6 14.b6 ♘c6 15.♖c1 All the white pieces are in the game.) 14.♘f3 g5 15.♕g3 ♕b7 16.h4→ This position looks very unpleasant for Black.]

12...c4 13.♕c2 [13.♘xe6? 13...♕xe6 14.♖xe6 ♖xe6 15.♖xe6+ ♗f7; 13.♕xc4 13...dxc4 14.♖xc4 O-O 15.♘c3 h6 16.♘xe6 ♖f7 and Black is fine.]

13...O-O 14.♘xe6 Winning the e6 pawn cost White too much time, so now Black gets the initiative.

14...♖e8 [14...♕xe6 15.♖xe6+ ♖xe6 16.♖xe6 ♘bd7 All of White's queenside is still undeveloped. 17.♘d2 ♖ae8 18.♖xe8 ♖xe8 19.♘f3 d4!]

15.♘f4 [15.♘d4 with the idea to create a blockade on the d4 square. 15...♖c5 (15...♖b4 16.♕e3 ♖xb2 17.♘d2 ♘g4 18.♘xc4! dxc4 19.♖xc4+ ♗h8 20.♕e4+-) 16.♕e3 ♘g4! Black immediately attacks the d4 square. 17.♘e6 ♖d6 18.♖xg4 ♕xe6+]]

15...♖f7! [15...♖b4 is bad because of the following trap: 16.♖xe8+ ♘xe8 17.♖xe8+ ♗f7 18.♘d5! and the white pieces get nice coordination. 18...♖xb5 19.♖e7+ ♗f8 20.♘bc3 ♕xc3 21.♕h6+-]

16.♖f1



16...a6! A typical move which helps activate the black pieces.

17.♖xe8+ ♘xe8 18.♘c3 [18.♕d1!? 18...axb5 19.♘xd5 ♕b7 20.♘bc3 ♘c6 and thanks to his more active pieces Black has compensation.]

18...♕b7 [18...♕xc3?! is not a logical move. 19.bxc3 axb5 20.♕e3± and White is better because of the weak dark squares.]

19.♖e1 [19.♕d1 White could try to activate the limited bishop. 19...axb5 (19...d4 20.♕g4! ♗h8 21.♕e6 ♖f8 22.♖xc4 dxc3 23.♘xg6+ hxg6 24.♖h4+-) 20.♕g4 ♖a6 21.♘b5 ♘f6]]

19...d4



20.♘e4?! The idea of activating the pieces is correct but

Rubinstein could do it more accurately and first exchange his bad bishop, for example with [20.♙e4! 20...♙xe4 21.♘xe4 (21.♙xe4 21...♖a7 22.♘cd5 axb5 23.♙d2 ♘d6+) 21...axb5 22.♘g5 ♙d7 23.♘d5! ♖a7 24.♙f4 ♘a6 (24...♘c6 25.♘b6+)]



25.a4!⇒activating the last piece, the rook on a1.]

20...axb5 21.♘g5 ♙d7 22.♘fe6 [22.♘xg6!? with hope for some practical chances. 22...hxg6 (22...♘c6!? An interesting idea. Black just doesn't care about the kingside and plays over the center. 23.♘f4 d3 24.♙d1 ♘d4→) 23.♙xg6 ♘f6 24.♙f7+ ♙f8 (24...♙h8?? 25.f3+- and Qh4 is coming.)]

22...♘a6 23.♙f4 d3+ and the black pawns are very unpleasant.

24.♙d1



24...h6! A very good move, forcing exchanges and making the position more stable. [24...♙xb2]

25.♘xg7 ♘xg7 26.♘f3 ♖e8! 27.♙a5 White is hoping for some counterplay but the d3 pawn decides the outcome of this game.

27...g5 28.♙e3 [28.♙d2 28...g4 29.♘h4 ♙e7! 30.♘g6 ♙e4 31.♘h4 ♘c5+-]

28...♘f5 29.♙b6 [29.a4 29...b4! stopping the white pieces from activating. 30.♘e5 ♙d5 31.♙xd5+ ♙xd5+-]

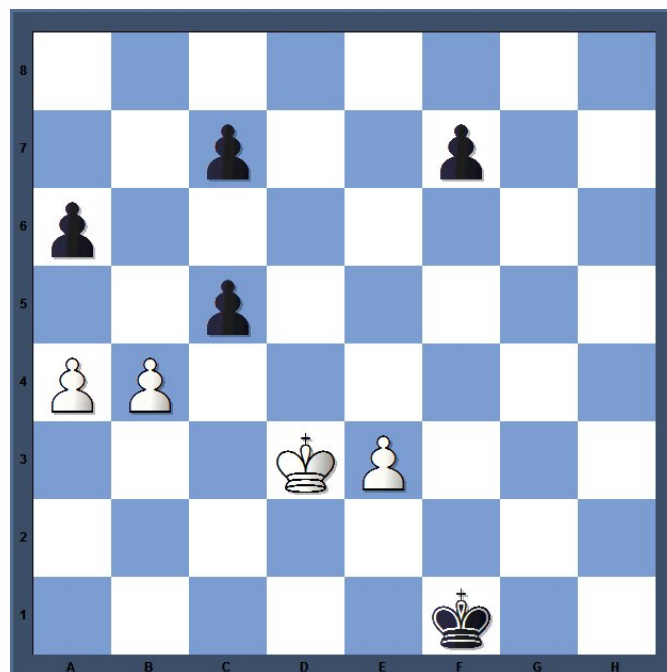
29...♖e6 30.♙a7 ♙e7 31.♖c1 [31.♙d2 31...g4+-]

31...♘xe3 0-1

Surprise section / study

(18) Riester

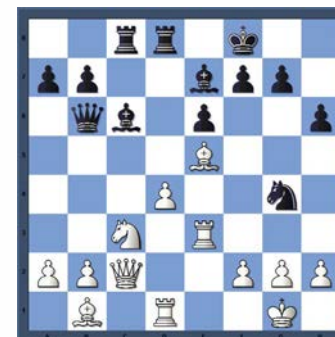
1. +—



Solutions

(19) Demuth, A(2515)-Doettling, F(2588)

French league, 2015.05.30



21. ♖xg7+!! [21. ♖h7 21... ♕f6!]

21... ♕xg7 22. ♖h7+ ♕f6 23. ♖xe6+? [23. ♕e4! /3 23... ♖xd4 (23... ♗xe3 24. ♖xh6#) 24. ♖xd4 ♖xd4 25. ♖f3+ ♕e5 26. ♖g7+! ♕f6 (26... ♗f6 27. ♖g3#) 27. ♖xg4 ♕d6 28. ♖d3+—]

23... ♕xe6 24. ♖f5+ ♕d6∞

(20) Bedouin, X(2336)-Vaisser, A(2530)

French league, 2015.05.30



23. ♘xd5+! ♔f8 [23... ♘xd5 24. ♘xd5! ♖xd5 25. ♖xd5 ♙xd5 26. ♖d1! ♙xb3 27. ♖xd8+ ♔f7 28. axb3+-]

24. ♘g8! ♘xg8 [24... ♙c7 25. ♖xd8+ ♙xd8 26. ♖xe5! ♖xe5 27. ♙f7#] **25. ♖xd6+-**

(21) Feller, S(2626)-Navara, D(2751)

French league, 2015.05.30



14... ♘xc4! **15. ♙xc4** [15. ♘xc4 15... ♘e4+-]

15... ♘xf3+-

(22) De Seroux, C(2115)-Benmesbah, N(2199)

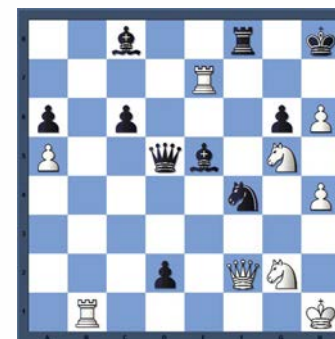
French league, 2015.05.31



27... ♙f2! 0-1 [27... ♙f2 28. ♖xf2 ♖xd1+-]

(23) Duda, J(2610)-Feller, S(2626)

French league, 2015.05.31

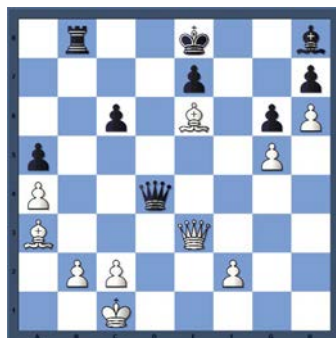


51. ♖xe5!! ♙xe5 [51...d1=♙+ 52. ♖xd1 ♙xd1+ 53. ♖e1+-]

52. ♙a7! 1-0

(24) Bauer, C(2624)-Navara, D(2751)

French league, 2015.06.01



30. ♖f3? [30. ♕f7+! 30... ♖xf7 (30... ♖d7 31. ♖xe7+ ♖c8 32. ♕e6+--)] 31. ♖xe7+ ♖g8 32. ♖e6#]

30...c5!∞**(25) Duda, J(2610)-Idler, B(2401)**

French league, 2015.06.01



18. ♕xg6! fxg6 19. ♖h6! +- ♖f8 [19... ♕f8 20. ♖xg6+ ♕g7 21. ♕h6 ♖e7 22. ♕g5+-]

20. ♖xg6+ ♖h8 21. ♖xh5+ ♖g8 22. ♕h6 1-0**(26) Lenderman, A(2636)-Matamoros Franco, O(2525)**

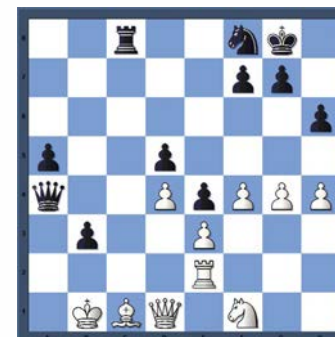
American Continental, 2015.05.22



25... ♖h3! 26. ♕e2 [26. ♖xg8 26... ♖xe3+--]

26... ♕xe4 0-1**(27) Lupulescu, C(2635)-Miron, L(2481)**

Iasi Open, 2015.06.01



33...b2! 0-1 [33...b2 34. ♖xa4 (34. ♖xb2 34... ♖xd1--)] 34...bxc1=♖+--]

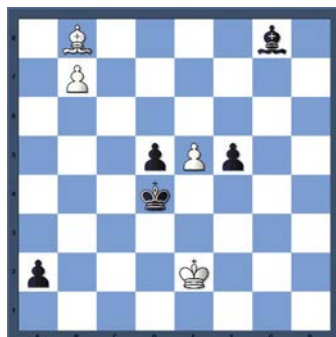
(28) Nenkov, L(2217)-Spasov, V(2554)

Bulgarian Championship, 2015.05.31



34...♖h2+! 35.♙xh2 ♜xf2+ 36.♙h1 ♜h6+ 0-1

(29) Platov



1.♙a7+! ♙e4 2.♙d4! [2.b8=♜ 2...a1=♜ 3.♜b4+ d4!]

2...♙xd4 3.b8=♜ a1=♜ 4.♜b4+! ♙xe5 5.♜e7+ ♙f4
[5...♙e6 6.♜g7+-; 5...♙d4 6.♜f6+-]

6.♜h4+! ♙e5 7.♜h8+! ♙e6 8.♜xa1+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 173

19th of June 2015

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Editorial Preface

This week is full of chess events! The super tournament in Stavanger, the Capablanca Memorial in Cuba and the match between So and Navara.

Let us start with the past events:

1) A mini-match consisting of 4 classical games between So and Navara was held in the Czech Republic. In all 4 games So had a better position and managed to win the match very convincingly with 3-1.

2) In Cuba, where the 2 best Cubans (Dominguez and Bruzon) are playing alongside 4 foreigners, the lead belongs to the very strong Yu Yangiy with 3.5/4. The Chinese player seems to be unstoppable!

3) But clearly the main event of the week is the Stavanger tournament with Carlsen, Caruana, Anand, Topalov and many more top players.

After 4 rounds, clearly the biggest surprise of the event is that Carlsen has 0.5 points out of 4! In the first round, Carlsen had played a great game and when it seemed like the win was close, he lost on time on move 60, thinking that there was additional time coming, but there was not! It seems like he did not manage to recover from this terrible blow and keeps on losing his games.

The leader of the tournament is Topalov with a fantastic 3.5/4. In second position we find Nakamura with 3/4 and Carlsen is last with 0.5/4.

In the current issue, we focus on the freshest games and analyze the best moments of the super event in Stavanger! We hope you enjoy the issue of Top GM Secrets Nr173!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) Dominguez Perez, Leinier (2746)
- Yu, Yangyi (2715) [E10]

50th Capablanca Mem Elite(3.2),
2015.06.17



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Yu Yangyi is one of the Chinese superstars that are on the rise. He was in the winning Olympiad team, won the very strong Qatar Open and many other top events, all the while just being 21 years old. In the Capablanca Memorial, he is once again showing fantastic chess and had an almost perfect start with 3.5/ 4 points. In the current game, Dominguez risks a lot in the opening and gets a slightly worse position. Playing really great chess, Yu makes the most out of his position and manages to catch Dominguez' queen, which brings him the full point on the spot! A great game awaits us!

1.d4 As usual Dominguez starts the game with 1.d4. The Cuban Nr1 is a very safe player who likes to play slightly better positions with minimal risk.

1...♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.g3 Another Catalan...

4...♙b4+ 5.♙d2 ♙e7 This is one of the main lines. Black's idea behind playing Bb4 first to provoke Bd2 is that the d2 square is usually perfect for the knight and not the bishop.

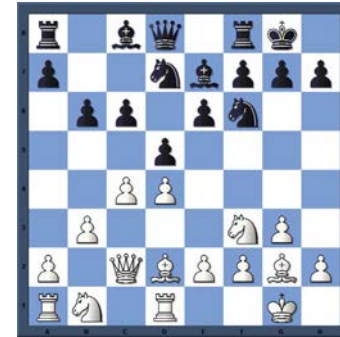
6.♙g2 O-O 7.O-O c6 8.♙c2 ♘bd7 Nothing new so far...

9.♖d1 Usually Black's main idea is to play c5 somewhere, so

White is prophylactically putting the rook on d1.

9...b6 Another typical move.

10.b3



10...a5!? An interesting approach. Black doesn't play the standard Bb7 and c5, but tries to maybe even take over the game by putting the bishop on a6 and then to play Rc8 and c5.

11.♙f4 ♙a6 12.♘e5 Maybe a bit premature... [More normal is 12.♘bd2 12...♖c8 13.e4 with maybe a minimally better position for White.]

12...♖c8 Black is ready to play c5.

13.e4?! What a strange decision to give up the g2 bishop... [13.♘xd7 13...♙xd7 14.♘d2 c5 just leads to an equal position.]

13...♘xe5 is probably not the best. [13...♘e4!? looks very strong. 14.♙xe4 dxe4 15.♙xe4 and now the interesting 15...g5! 16.♙e3 f5 and I think Black's play is very dangerous.]

14.♙xe5?! [White should have continued with 14.dxe5 14...♘d7 15.exd5 cxd5 16.♘c3! dxc4 17.♘e4 with probably enough counterplay for the pawn.]

14...♘xe4 Now Black is going to have the bishop pair.

15. ♖xe4 dxe4 16. ♔xe4



16...f6! An excellent move by Yu! Black is not going for the standard c5 push -which is not that easy to play because of White's d5, with a probably equal position- but for e5, followed by a regrouping idea on the kingside.

17. ♖f4 e5 18. ♖e3 white wants to play Nc3 after which position is equal

18...c5! Yu is showing extremely good understanding of the position.

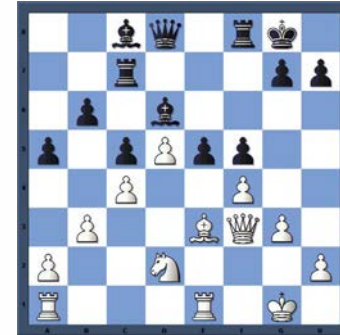
19.d5 The only move.

19...♗d6 Now Black is going to proceed with f5 and then with Rc7 and Bc8, bringing all the pieces to the kingside.

20.f4 Dominguez is trying to block as much as he can.

20...f5 21. ♔f3 ♖c7 Black needs to bring the bishop to c8.

22. ♖d2 ♗c8 23. ♖e1



23...g5!? An interesting approach! [23...e4 was a simpler move. 24. ♔g2 ♖cf7 followed by Bd7 and then h6-Rg8, preparing to play g5. In that case it would have been a game for 2 results.]

24.fxe5 is probably the best. [It looks very risky for White to play 24.fxg5 24...f4 25. ♖f2 because of the beautiful 25...e4! (After 25...♔xg5 26. ♖e4 ♔g6 27. ♔c3 White is fine.) 26. ♖xe4 fxg3 27. ♖f6+ ♖xf6 28.gxf6 gxf2+ 29. ♔xf2 ♖f7 and Black is clearly better.]

24...♗xe5 25. ♖ad1 ♗d6! Another fantastic move by Black in my opinion. It is clear that the d-pawn has to be blocked, but it looks very tempting to just play Bg7, h6 and then Qd6. In fact, I think the black bishop is perfectly placed on d6 and supports Black's main idea, which is to play f4 at some point.

26. ♖f2 ♔f6 27. ♔h5 White is trying to be as solid as possible.

27...♖g7 Black is also bringing all his pieces to the kingside.

28. ♖e8 The right decision. White should try to exchange as many pieces as possible.

28...♗d7 29. ♖xf8+ ♔xf8 Black's advantage is slowly increasing.

30.♖e1 h6 A nice prophylactical move, but h6 might be needed anyway.



31.a4 Dominguez continues playing for survival and tries to close the position.

31...♖f7 Black improves the position to the maximum before starting the action on the kingside.

32.♔g2 ♕g7 [It is too early for 32...g4 33.♗e3 ♔g7 34.♘f1 followed by Bd2 and White is fighting, although Black is still clearly better.]

33.♖e2?! A very careless move... [White should have been much more careful with his queen on h5... 33.♖f3 but of course Black is much better and it would have been a long road for Dominguez to finally draw this game.]



33...g4! The perfect moment to play g4 as White doesn't have

the usual Be3!

34.♗e3? This move loses on the spot. [White should have defended with 34.♖e1 34...♖e7 35.♘f1 and he has a horrible position but is still fighting.]

34...♖e7! The game is over... White probably missed Black's next move.

35.♔f1 ♖e5! [35...♗e8? of course doesn't work since after 36.♗xh6+! ♖xh6 37.♖xe7+ ♗xe7 38.♖xe8 the position is about equal.]

36.♗f4 Everything else loses as well. White has no defense against f4.

36...♖xe2 37.♔xe2 ♗xf4 38.gxf4



38...♔f8! Black's next move is Be8 after which the queen on h5 is caught! It is very rare in chess to be able to catch a full queen. What can we say about this game?! We just witnessed perfect play by Yu, who showed great positional understanding and great tactical skills when needed! **0-1**

**(2) Caruana, Fabiano (2805)
- Carlsen, Magnus (2876) [C67]**Norway Chess(2),
2015.06.17GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

After the scandalous loss of Carlsen in the first round by being forfeited on time in a winning position, he ran into another painful defeat, this time getting completely outplayed by Caruana in his favorite Berlin.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♘f6 4.O-O ♘xe4 5.d4 ♘d6 6.♙xc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 ♘f5 8.♙xd8+ ♔xd8 9.h3 Recently Caruana is the only one player in the World, who can always show something against the rock-solid Berlin Wall! Most of the others just aim to get a playable position and avoid theory after 4.d3.

9...h6 10.♖d1+ ♔e8 11.♘c3 ♘e7



12.b3 Caruana's improvement on their previous encounter earlier this year. That game and also the game Caruana-Dominguez continued with 12.Bf4, but both ended in a relatively easy draw. This time he gives a try to develop the bishop to the other diagonal.

12...♙f5 This move in the Berlin is always double-edged. Firstly, it is always nice to develop the bishop to an active square, but it also has the drawback that after the next pair of moves, the black bishop leaves the important c8-h3 diagonal, which makes the breakthrough of e5-e6 more effective and more easy to achieve. [The main move is 12...♘g6 which should be countered by 13.♘e2! (The direct 13.♙b2 allows the standard regrouping of the pieces with 13...♘f4! and the knight ends up on e6, when the position is considered to already be fine for Black!)]

13.♘d4 ♙h7 14.♙b2 ♖d8 Black brings one of his rooks into the game, which is usually an important factor, but he still needs to work to do something with the one on h8. Black cannot go for the c2 pawn with c5, because the b5 square needs to be controlled.



15.♘ce2 The real novelty and a prepared one as Caruana played it instantly. A multi-purpose move: he removes the knight from the long diagonal in order to make to e6 break more effective, he wants to place his pawn on c4 to take ground on the queenside and to take control over the d5 square and last but not the least, he wants to play Nf4, supporting even more the e6 break and after opening the diagonal jumping to h5, putting pressure on the g7 pawn. [The previous game continued with 15.e6 which is logical, but

looks premature as exf7 Kxf7 is not a real threat yet. Somehow it allows Black to finish the development more comfortably. 15...♖c8 (15...♖d5 was also possible...) 16.♗ce2 ♕d6 17.c4 ♗e7 with mutual chances in the game Polgar-Howell, Warsaw 2013.]

15...♖d5 Black tries to activate his knight before White could play c4. [In general the exchange of the knights favors Black, therefore 15...♖f5 was a logical move, although it is met by the very strong 16.♖f3! keeping the pieces on the board and g4 next sends the knight back to its previous position.]

16.c4 ♖b4 17.♖f4 Caruana still plays without thinking, showing great preparation again.

17...♖g8?! Not a happy decision. Black was afraid of developing his bishop because after the e6 push the g7 pawn might get weak. [However it still looks much more natural to play 17...♕c5 18.e6 (18.g4 18...♕xd4 19.♖xd4 Otherwise Nc2 wins material. 19...♖e7 Black connects his rooks and seems to the fine.) 18...♖e7! Connecting the rooks. If White does not have something concrete, then Black is going to hold.]



18.g4! Securing the excellent f5 outpost for the knight! Bc5 is already met by Nf5!

18...♖a6?! Another sad decision, showing that Carlsen was very disappointed about his position. He tries to maneuver

his knight to e6, but it simply costs too much time. [Perhaps it was still better to play something like 18...♕e7 with the idea of Bg5, although I don't like Black's position.]

19.♖f5! White improves his position with each move!

19...♖c5 20.♖xd8+ [It was possible to keep the black king in the center with 20.♖g2!? because the plan of 20...♖e6 does not seem to give equality after 21.♖xe6 fxe6 22.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 23.♖d1+ ♖e8 24.♖d4 ♖f7 25.♖e2+= It is not easy to deal with the d-file and Nf4, threatening the e6 pawn at the same time.]

20...♖xd8 21.♖d1+ ♖c8



22.♕a3! Another excellent positional move by Caruana, which had to be foreseen before taking on d8. The critical tactical line which was tested in the game favors White. Otherwise White just wants to get rid of the dark squared bishops, leaving Black without his bishop pair in an inferior structure. Black does not really have a useful move, while White can improve his position with Kg2 for instance...

22...♖e6 [In similar positions, I was faced with the idea of 22...♕xf5 23.gxf5 g6 but it does not seem to solve the problems after the simple 24.fxg6 (24.f6 24...g5 followed by Ne6 is not easy.) 24...fxg6 25.♖g2+=]

23. ♖xe6! ♟xa3 [The key is that (and this is perhaps what Carlsen missed in his pre-calculations) 23...fxe6 loses to



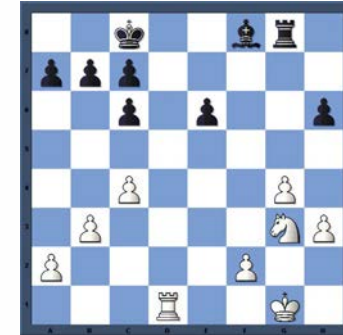
24. ♟e7!! and the game is suddenly over! It is easy to miss such moves!]

24. ♖exg7 ♟f8 The problem is Black is not threatening to play Bxg7 because of Ne7 Kb8 Nxg8 and mate on d8!

25. e6! Saving the knight again by using a tactical motif!

25... ♟xf5 [25...fxe6 26. ♖xe6 ♟xf5 27. ♖d8# was the point this time!]

26. ♖xf5 fxe6 27. ♖g3 The material is balanced, but the game is over from a positional point of view! Black has a useless extra pawn on the queenside, which cannot be used because of the doubled c-pawns. On the other side of the board, White has the pawn majority and a much more healthy structure, which will be converted easily with the support of the white pieces. Black cannot create any counterplay, he must watch how White continues improving his position move by move.

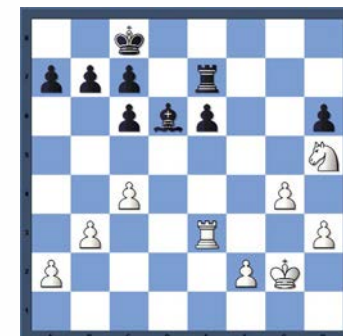


27... ♟e7 28. ♖g2 The next plan could be Nh5, f4, Kf3-e4, with total domination. Exchanging the rooks on d8 leads to a hopeless endgame for Black and otherwise he must defend without his king...

28... ♖f8 29. ♖d3 Nh5 was also possible, but Caruana knows that the endgame is winning, therefore he wants to play Rf3 and if Black avoids the exchange he invades on f7!

29... ♖f7 30. ♖h5 ♟d6 31. ♖f3 ♖h7 The sad plan of Black to avoid the exchange and at the same time prevent the penetration on the 7th rank, but of course White is winning anyway.

32. ♖e3 ♖e7 A dream position to play against anyone, but of course to have it against the World Champion is an extra pleasure! White can play on and his position wins by itself...



33.f4+- ♖a3 34.♔f3 ♜b2 35.♞e2 ♜c3 36.g5 White had other winning plans too, but he wants to create connected g- and h- passers.

36...♔d7 37.♜g4 ♞e8 38.♞g3 Opening the way for the h-pawn.

38...♞h8 39.h4 b6 40.h5 c5 41.g6 The game is over. Black cannot fight against the protected passed pawn on g6. White pushes f5 next and if the knight occupies the ideal f5 square it will perfectly support the progress on the kingside...

41...♞e8 42.f5 exf5+ 43.♜f4 ♞h8 [43...♞xe2 44.♞xe2+- is the tactical point and Black cannot stop the pawn with Ke6, because the bishop is hanging.]

44.♞xf5 ♜f6 45.♞g2 Black resigned as g7 is coming next and Bg5 is met by Rxc5! A very nice and convincing win by Caruana and an usual feeling for the World Champion to start a tournament with 0/2. **1-0**

The K-Files. Sicilian 3.Bb5+



GM Alexander Khalifman
FIDE World Chess Champion (1999)
Best rating: 2702

(3) Sicilian 3.Bb5+ [B51]

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♙b5+ ♘c6 4.O-O ♙d7 5.♖e1 ♘f6 6.c3 a6 7.♙c4!? ♙g4 In my opinion this is the only critical line. My intuition tells me that if Black is able to equalize somehow after 7.Bc4 then he must start with this move.

8.d4 This is the only way to proceed. The basic idea of White's play is that he is almost never afraid to take on f3 with the pawn. In most cases the kingside weakening is only an optical illusion because the black pieces are not active enough to create some real threats there. [The "solid" 8.h3 8...♙xf3 9.♖xf3 ♘e5 10.♖e2 ♘xc4 11.♖xc4 e6= gives White absolutely nothing (Solak - Ibrayev, Calvia 2004)]

8...cxd4 This is the main answer. The alternatives don't make life easier. [

a) 8...e6 9.d5 ♘e5 (9...♙xf3 10.gxf3 This sharp line might be even more promising than (the solid 10.♖xf3 10...♘e5 11.♖e2 ♘xc4 12.♖xc4+= which is also enough for some positional advantage.) 10...♘e5 (10...exd5?! 11.exd5+ ♘e7 (Bartel - Bu Biel 2013) is quite dubious first of all because of 12.b4!? cxb4

13.♙b3! ↑ and the following lines prove that it's very difficult for Black to do something with his misplaced pieces: 13...g6 (13...♖d7 14.♖d4 O-O-O 15.cxb4±) 14.♙g5 ♙g7 15.♖d4 O-O 16.♙xf6 ♘f5 17.♙xd8 ♘xd4 18.cxd4 ♖fxd8 (18...♙xd4 19.♙c7 ♙xa1 20.♙xd6±) 19.♘d2 ♙xd4 20.♖ad1 ♙c3 21.♖e2±) 11.♙f1 and the complications are always in White's favor. 11...exd5 (11...g5 12.♙xg5 ♖g8 13.f4 h6 14.♙g2 hxg5 15.fxe5 dxe5 16.dxe6 fxe6 17.♘d2+=) 12.f4 ♘fg4 This aggressive attempt looks very dangerous at first, but White has enough resources. (12...♘g6 13.e5 dxe5 14.fxe5±) 13.h3 ♖h4 14.♖e2 ♘f3+ 15.♙g2 O-O-O 16.♙xf3 dxe4+ 17.♙g2 d5 18.hxg4 ♖d6 19.♖e3 ♖h6 20.♙xa6±) 10.♙e2 ♙xf3 11.♙xf3 Now it's better to choose the solid capture as (11.gxf3 11...exd5 12.exd5 ♙e7∞ is far from clear.) 11...♘xf3+ (11...♙e7 12.♙e2 O-O 13.f4 ♘ed7 14.dxe6 fxe6 15.a4+= and White has the bishop pair and a better pawn structure.) 12.♖xf3 ♙e7 (12...exd5 13.exd5+ ♙e7 14.♙f4 O-O 15.♘d2+=) 13.dxe6 fxe6 14.♘d2 O-O 15.♖h3 pointing at the weak point of Black's structure. 15...♖d7 16.e5 ♘d5 17.exd6 ♘f4 18.♖g4+= with a long-term positional advantage.;

b) 8...♙xf3 9.gxf3 e5 and now White has a choice: (9...cxd4 10.cxd4 - 8...cxd4; 9...e6 10.d5 - 8...e6) 10.d5 The most promising move in my opinion. On the next move White plays f3-f4 and the black pieces are not placed properly to establish a dark-squares blockade. (

b1) 10.♙e3 When cxd4 cxd4 is not included this move is a bit inaccurate. The problem is that on the next move White will have to define the structure in the center anyway and in this case the bishop on e3 is not very useful. 10...♙e7 11.d5 ♘b8 12.♘d2 ♘h5 13.a4 ♘d7 14.♙f1 ♙g5∞;

b2) 10.dxc5 The solid option 10...dxc5 11.♖xd8+ (11.♘a3 11...♖c7 12.f4 ♙d6 13.f5 Baklan- Jakubiec Bad Wiessee 2011 13...O-O∞) 11...♖xd8 12.♙f1 ♙e7 13.♘a3 ♘h5 14.♘c4 ♘f4

15. ♖e3+ is quite pleasant to play with White. The main idea is to exchange on f4 at the most convenient moment. However, Black's defensive resources shouldn't be underestimated.)

10... ♖e7 (10... ♖b8 11.f4 ♖bd7 12. ♖f1 ♖e7 13.fxe5 ♖xe5 14.f4 ♖g6 15.a4 O-O 16. ♖a3 ♖e8 17. ♖d2+)=) 11.f4 Hamidullin - Dolbnia Moscow 2008 11... ♖g6 12.fxe5 dxe5 13. ♖f1 ♖e7 14.a4 O-O 15.a5 ♖e8 (15... ♖d7 16. ♖h5+)=) 16. ♖e3 ♖c8 17. ♖d2 ♖g5 18. ♖g4 ♖xe3 19.fxe3+;

c) 8...b5 This is not better than 7...b5 and only weakens the queenside structure. 9. ♖e2!? (9. ♖d5!?) 9... ♖xe4?! 10.a4±;

d) 8...♖c8 just too artificial. After 9.e5 dxe5 10. ♖b3 e6 11. ♖xe5± White is clearly better as 11... ♖a5 fails to 12. ♖a4+ b5 13. ♖xb5+ axb5 14. ♖xb5+ ♖e7 15.dxc5+]

9.cxd4 ♖xf3 [

a) 9...e5 looks logical. Black tries to fight for the center. But White has a very strong answer: 10. ♖e3! and now White is ready to play d4-d5. Black has different ways to define the structure but none of them promises him equal chances. (The natural 10.d5 gives nothing after 10... ♖d4 11. ♖bd2 ♖c8 (11... ♖e7 is also playable. 12.h3 ♖h5 13.g4 ♖xf3+ 14. ♖xf3 ♖g6∞) 12. ♖d3 ♖e7 13.h3 ♖h5 and Black has good counterchances. (13... ♖xf3+ 14. ♖xf3 ♖xf3 15. ♖xf3 ♖d7 16. ♖g4+= Bartel - Ter Sahakyan Yerevan 2014) 14.g4? is only looking for trouble. 14... ♖xg4! 15. ♖xd4 (15.hxg4 15... ♖xg4 16. ♖g2 O-O+) 15... ♖xf2 16. ♖b5+ axb5 17. ♖xh5 exd4+) 10...exd4 (10... ♖e7 11.d5 ♖d4 12. ♖xd4 exd4 13. ♖xd4 ♖xf3 14.gxf3 ♖h5 15.e5 O-O 16. ♖c3±; 10... ♖xf3 This exchange now and on the next moves only transposes to the 9...Bxf3 line. 11.gxf3 - 9...Bxf3; 10... ♖xe4 11. ♖d5 ♖f6 12. ♖xc6+ bxc6 13.dxe5 dxe5 14. ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 15. ♖xe5±) 11. ♖xd4 ♖xd4 (11... ♖e7 12. ♖c3 O-O 13. ♖e3 ♖e8 14. ♖c1+= ♖f8 15. ♖b3±) 12. ♖xd4 ♖e7 13. ♖c3 O-O 14. ♖e3+= and the bishops' pair

doesn't fully compensate the weakness on d6. All white pieces are active.;

b) 9...e6 (Podoba - Nikolova Split 2012) is once again met with the standard 10.d5 ♖e5 (10... ♖xf3 only makes things worse after 11.gxf3 ♖e5 (11... ♖a5 12. ♖d3± Lasic - Kinez Velika Gorica 2007) 12. ♖b3±) 11. ♖e2 ♖xf3 12. ♖xf3 ♖xf3+ 13. ♖xf3+= with a very nice advantage.;

c) 9...♖c8 is an interesting alternative, which was not tested yet. The problem is that White has a lot of possibilities here. OK, it's a problem for both sides .



10. ♖e3 is very promising too. Frankly speaking, I don't know which bishop move deserves to be the main line here. It's more or less a matter of taste. (

c1) 10.d5 doesn't promise much if Black reacts properly. 10... ♖xf3 11.gxf3 ♖e5 12. ♖e2 g5 A very important idea. The dark squares blockade in the center suddenly becomes real. 13. ♖h1 h6 14.f4 ♖g6!? (14...gxf4 15. ♖xf4 h5 16. ♖c3 ♖g6 17. ♖g5 ♖h6 18. ♖xh6 ♖xh6 19. ♖d2 ♖h8 20.f4!) 15.f5 ♖f4 16. ♖xf4 gxf4 17. ♖c3 ♖d7∞;

c2) 10. ♖c3 is also not really dangerous. 10...e5 11.d5 (11. ♖b3 leads to a tricky forced line with a perpetual check in the end: 11... ♖a5 12. ♖xf7+ ♖e7 13. ♖d5+ ♖xf7 14. ♖g5+ ♖e8 15. ♖g3 ♖c6 16.dxe5 dxe5 17. ♖xf6+ gxf6 18. ♖xg4 fxf5 19. ♖d1

♖d4 20.♙h5+ ♔d7 21.♙g4+ ♔e8=) 11...♗d4 12.♙f1 g6! The best way. Only when the black bishop is on the long diagonal the knight on d4 is both safe and strong. 13.♙e3 ♙xf3 14.gxf3 ♙g7∞;

c3) 10.♙e2!? Not the most obvious, but a very interesting move. White plans to play d4-d5 at the most convenient moment. 10...d5 The critical answer, of course. (10...♗xe4? runs into standard the trap 11.d5+-; 10...e5 11.d5 ♙xf3 12.♙xf3 ♗d4 13.♗c3+=) 11.exd5 (11.e5 11...♗e4=) 11...♗xd5 12.h3 An important nuance. (12.♗c3 12...e6 13.♙b3 ♙b4 14.♙g5 ♙a5∞) 12...♙h5 (12...♙f5 13.♙c4 ♗cb4 (13...e6 14.♙xd5 ♙xd5 15.♗c3±; 13...♙xb1 14.♙xb1 e6 15.♗g5!↑) 14.♙xd5 ♗xd5 15.♗c3 ♗xc3 (15...e6? 16.♙a4+±) 16.bxc3 ♙xc3 17.♙d2 ♙c8 18.♙b3↑) 13.♗c3 e6 14.♙b3 ♙xf3 (14...♙b4 15.♙g5 ♙a5 16.g4 This is the reason why 12.h3 was absolutely necessary. 16...♙g6 17.♗xd5 ♙xd5 18.♙c4±) 15.♙xf3 ♗xc3 16.bxc3 ♗a5 17.♙d1 ♙d6 18.d5 e5 19.♙g4↑ and White's initiative is quite dangerous.)

10...e6 (

c1) 10...♗xe4 Here it's not so obvious why this pawn is poisoned. In fact it's not but still White has a way to an advantage. 11.♙b3 (11.♙xf7+ A smart tactical trick. However, it leads to a very unclear position. 11...♙xf7 12.♗g5+ ♗xg5 13.♙xg4 h6 14.f4 ♗h7 15.d5 ♗f6 (15...♗b4 16.f5) 16.♙e6+ ♙g6 17.dxc6 ♙xc6∞) 11...e6 12.♙xb7 Straightforward but good enough. 12...♗a5 (12...d5 13.♙xa6 ♗d6 14.♙b3 ♙a8 (14...♙b8 15.♙a4 ♙d7 16.♗bd2±) 15.♙b5 ♗xb5 16.♙xb5 ♙d7 17.♙c1±) 13.♙xe4 ♙xf3 (13...♙f5 enters a long forced line which leads to the endgame where White's big material advantage doesn't win automatically but still... 14.♙xf5 exf5 15.♙g5+ ♙e7 16.♙xe7 ♙xe7 17.♙f1 ♙xe1 ♙c1 19.♗d3 ♙d1 20.♗b4 ♙c1 21.g3 O-O 22.♙g2 ♙e8 23.♙xa6 ♙b8 24.♗d3

♙d1 25.♙f3±) 14.♙xf3 ♗xc4 15.d5 e5 16.♙c1 ♗xe3 17.♙xe3 ♙e7 18.♙c6 O-O 19.♗c3+=;

c2) 10...g6 11.♗bd2 ♙g7 12.♙d3 O-O 13.h3 ♙xf3 14.♗xf3+= with a solid long-term advantage due to the bishop pair and strong pawn center. 14...♗d7 15.♙e2 ♙a5 (15...d5 16.e5 e6 17.♙c1) 16.a3 e5 17.d5 ♗d4 18.♗xd4 exd4 19.♙xd4 ♙xd4 20.♙xd4 ♙c2 21.♙d3 ♙d2 22.♙e2±)

11.d5 and once again White has the upper hand in all lines. His advantage is not huge but very stable. (11.♗c3 11...♙xf3 12.gxf3 d5∞) 11...exd5 (11...♗e5 12.♙e2 ♙xf3 13.♙xf3 ♙e7 (13...exd5 14.exd5 ♗xf3+ 15.♙xf3 ♙e7 16.♗c3 O-O 17.♙ad1+=) 14.♙e2 O-O 15.dxe6 fxe6 16.♙b3+=) 12.♙xd5 (12.exd5 12...♙xf3 13.gxf3 ♗e5 14.♙f1 ♙e7∞) 12...♗xd5 13.exd5 ♗e5 14.♗bd2 ♙e7 15.♙b3 ♙xf3 16.♗xf3 ♗xf3+ 17.gxf3 ♙d7 (17...O-O 18.♙xb7 ♙g5 19.♙xa6 ♙f6 20.♙e2+=) 18.♙g5 f6 19.♙d2+=;

d) The major difference with 7.Bf1 line is that now 9...d5 doesn't work at all: 10.exd5 ♗a5 (10...♗xd5 11.♗c3±) 11.♙e2 ♗xd5 12.♗c3±;

e) 9...g6 is too slow. 10.♙b3 e6 11.♙xb7 ♗a5 12.♙b4±]

10.gxf3 g6!? This is most probably the critical line for the whole variation with 7. Bc4. It seems to me that White has a slight advantage anyway but the resulting positions are quite complicated and both sides have their own trumps. [10...e5 A logical move but it doesn't lead to the desired result. 11.♙e3 This is a very important idea which justifies the whole line. White is not afraid of the double exchange on d4 because after this all his pieces will become active. (11.d5 11...♗d4 12.♙f1 g6∞ is quite unclear. The knight on d4 is very strong and with the black bishop on g7 its position is quite stable.)



11...exd4 Now Black has to do something about a possible d4-d5. (

a) 11...♖c8 12.dxe5 dxe5 (12...♗xe5 13.♕f1±) 13.♖b3†;

b) 11...♕e7 12.d5 When the black bishop is not on the long diagonal the knight on d4 is not so strong anymore. 12...♗d4 13.♕f1 is stronger than the greedy (13.♕xd4 13...exd4 14.♖xd4 Smerdon - Hall England 2014 14...O-O 13...O-O (13...g5 This attempt to stop f3-f4 only creates new weaknesses. 14.♗a3 O-O 15.♕xd4 exd4 16.♗c2± and the knight goes to f5.) 14.f4 ♖c8 (14...♖b6 15.♗d2 ♖xb2 16.♖b1 ♖c3 17.♖xb7±) 15.♗c3+= and the knight on d4 is really shaky. Black has to do something about the positional threat fxe5 dxe5 f4.;

c) The fianchetto attempt c) 11...g6 doesn't work here because of the very direct reaction 12.♖b3 (Now 12.d5 12...♗d4 13.♕xd4 exd4 14.♖xd4 ♕g7∞ is quite satisfactory for Black.) 12...♖d7 13.dxe5 dxe5 (13...♗xe5 14.♕e2±) 14.♗c3 ♗a5 15.♖b6! ♗xc4 16.♖xf6 ♖g8 17.♖h4 ♗xe3 18.♖xe3±)

12.♕xd4 ♗xd4 13.♖xd4 ♕e7 14.♗c3 (The attempt to prevent Black from castling kingside doesn't work: 14.e5 14...dxe5 15.♖xe5 ♖c8 16.♗a3 ♖f8±) 14...O-O 15.♖ad1+= Despite the weakened kingside White's pressure in the center is very unpleasant. In some lines he can also use the g-file to launch a kingside attack himself.; 10...e6?! 11.d5 - 9. ..e6; 10...d5

doesn't work again because Black doesn't have enough control over the key d5 square. 11.exd5 ♗xd5 (11...♗a5 12.♕f1 ♗xd5 13.♗c3±) 12.♗c3 ♗xc3 (12...♗b6 13.♕b3 ♖xd4 14.♕e3 ♖xd1 15.♖exd1 (15.♖axd1 15...♗d7) 15...♗d7 16.♕xf7+ ♖xf7 17.♖xd7±) 13.bxc3 e6 14.d5 ♗a5 15.♕f1 ♕e7 16.dxe6 ♖xd1 17.exf7+ ♖xf7 18.♖xd1±]



11.♗c3 Precise move order is very important here. White is waiting for Bg7 to avoid a dark-squares blockade which is possible after the immediate 11.d5 Ne5 12. Be2(f1) g5!? [

a) 11.f4 allows typical counterplay: 11...e5!? 12.d5 ♗d4 13.♕e3 ♗h5±;

b) 11.♖b3?! With the exchange on f3 included there is a big difference! 11...e6 12.♖xb7 ♗xd4±;

c) 11.♕e3 Another half-waiting move which is less flexible in my opinion. 11...♕g7 12.d5 ♗e5 13.♕e2 (13.♕f1 13...O-O 14.f4 ♗eg4∞ This is exactly why the 11.Be3 move order is not the best.) 13...♖c8 14.♗d2 O-O∞ and the assessment is unclear. White has certain pluses but his knight is rather passive on d2 and the opponent's counterplay with e7-e6 shouldn't be underestimated. 15.f4 (15.b4 15...e6) 15...♗ed7 16.b4 e5 17.dxe6 fxe6 18.♖b3 d5 19.♖ad1 ♖h8∞;

d) 11.d5 This is White's key idea. However, this move order has a serious drawback. 11...♗e5 12.♕e2 (12.♕f1 12...g5!

is even more dangerous here than with the bishop on e2 because g5-g4 is always in the air. 13.♔h1 (13.♕xg5 13...♖g8 14.f4 ♕h6) 13...g4 14.f4 ♖f3 15.♖e3 h5) 12...g5! That's it! White's center is blocked and now it's quite questionable if he can find a good active plan. 13.♔h1 (13.♕xg5? 13...♖g8 14.f4 ♖ed7) 13...h6 14.♖a3 Moving the knight to f5 is logical but it takes a long time. (14.f4 14...♖g6 15.fxg5 hxg5 16.♕xg5 ♕h6; 14.♗b3 14...♖h5 15.♗xb7 ♕g7) 14...♗d7 15.♖c2 ♕g7 16.♖d4 ♖h5 17.♖f5 ♕f6 Black's counterplay on the dark squares is strong enough.]

11...♕g7 [If Black prefers to wait too with 11...♖c8 then White also has a useful move: 12.♕f1 ♕g7 (12...d5 13.♗b3! with the idea 13...♖xd4 14.♗a4+ ♖c6 15.exd5 ♖xd5 16.♖d1 e6 17.♖xd5 exd5 18.♖e1+ ♕e7 19.♕h6→ is much more unpleasant.) 13.d5 - 11...Bg7]

12.d5 [12.f4 doesn't bring anything after 12...e5⇒13.dxe5 dxe5 14.fxe5 ♖xe5]

12...♖e5 [12...♖a5 Well, there is some rational idea to avoid f3-f4 with tempo but such decentralization has some drawbacks as well. 13.♕f1 ♖c8 14.♕h3 ♖d7 15.♖b1+=]

13.♕f1 The right square. There are 2 important points: 1) the bishop gets the important h3 square 2) f3-f4 and e4-e5 is a threat now. [13.♕e2 13...♖c8 14.♗b3 ♖fd7]

13...O-O [13...♖c8 looks logical but White has a strong and straightforward response: 14.f4 ♖c4 15.e5! dxe5 16.fxe5 ♖d7 17.f4 O-O (17...♗b6+ 18.♔h1 ♖xb2 19.♗e2!±) 18.♔h1! It might look rather risky but in fact White's pawn center is very strong.]

14.f4 ♖ed7 15.♕e3 ♖c8 16.♖b1+= This is the critical position. Its assessment is not 100% clear but I believe White has better chances here. His space advantage and the bishop pair must

be more important factors than a slightly compromised pawn structure.

SOME CONCLUSIONS: Of course 7.Bc4 doesn't pretend to be a clear refutation of the whole opening system but at the current moment it looks quite dangerous and the way to equalize for Black is far from clear. Another merit of 7.Bc4 is that the theory of this line is not developed as deeply as in the other subvariations. The problem is of course that in many lines White has to play with a weakened kingside structure but nowadays it's almost a common point. If White wants to reach something more than a safe symbolical advantage he has to take certain risks. What can I recommend to the players who play this line with Black?! Well, it might be worth trying to take a closer look at the lines 9...Rc8 and 9...Bxf3 10.gxf3 g6 (the main line actually). Perhaps some of my evaluations may be rather subjective. If you'll fail to find something inspiring in these lines then it's probably time to think about some reliable alternatives on move 3.

David vs. Goliath



Peter Zhdanov
Chief Editor of Pogonina.com

In this entertaining column we are reviewing the most unexpected results that occurred last week. Players usually face opponents of a similar level. Considerably less frequent are situations when a significantly lower-rated player succeeds in beating a much stronger adversary.

The previous week brought us only 9 upsets.

The number of moves ranges from 23 in Mrdjen (1942) - GM Drazic (2468), 1-0 to 59 in Belova (1993) - FM Puzko (2306), 1-0.

The highest-profile upset was FM Lomasov (2305) - GM Bukavshin (2647), 1-0. The decisive petite combination deserves a diagram.



24.Bg7+ Kxg7 25.Rg4+ Kf8 26.Qd5 1-0

Yet another summer tragicomedy occurred in Mrdjen (1942) vs. GM Drazic (2468):



Black has a winning position, but White plays 22.Ng5 and provokes the opponent into committing a huge blunder with 22...h6?? ("let's kick the knight away!"), which is exactly what happens. Black probably forgets that h7 is no longer defended after this move. As a result, the game ends with 23.Qh7X. This is actually a rather rare case of a GM blundering mate in one.

Top-9:

Mrjdgen (1942) - Drazic (2468), 1-0, [526](#) points
 Sorokin (2396) - Mingatin (1957), 0-1, [439](#) points
 Abdumalik (2393) - Kahramanova (2035), 0-1, [358](#) points
 Lomasov (2305) - Bukavshin (2647), 1-0, [342](#) points
 Spence (2246) - Blasco (1925), 0-1, [321](#) points
 Belova (1993) - Puzko (2306), 1-0, [313](#) points
 Shapiro (2249) - Tarlev (2554), 1-0, [305](#) points
 Lintchevski (2557) - Aminov (2255), 0-1, [302](#) points
 Kuipers (2409) - Kharitonov (2107), 0-1, [302](#) points

Average gap: 356; White won 4 games, Black won 5 games.

You can view all the games in the accompanying pgn file.

If you have ever won a game against someone rated 300 points or above yourself, please send it to peter@pogonina.com for publication. Any additional information (a photo, annotations, etc.) is welcomed.

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot
Best rating: 2749

**(4) Sosa, Tomas ARG. (2385)
- Pichot, Alan (2492) [B82]**

19th Copa Mercosur 2015(4.6),
2015.06.07

Alan Pichot is a 17-year old player from Argentina and the current under 16 World Champion. This week he took 3rd place in a closed tournament in Buenos Aires.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 a6 This aggressive line is Pichot main weapon.

5.♙d3 [5.c4 5...♘f6 6.♘c3 ♙b4 7.♚d3 was Carlsen's choice in the match against Anand.]

5...♚b6 6.♘b3 ♚c7 The queen goes to the most natural square after annoying White's knight. **7.♘c3 ♘f6 8.f4 d6**



9.♚f3 In the game White chose an aggressive approach, but maybe it makes more sense to start kingside actions and then decide where to put the queen. On f3 it will be quite exposed.

9...♘bd7 A normal plan. The other one is [9...b5 10.g4 ♙b7 11.g5 ♘fd7 and then Black can choose between Nb6 Nb8-d7 or Nc6.]

10.g4 h6 A necessary move now that the d7 square is occupied.

11.♙e3 [11.h4 11...h5! 12.g5 ♘g4 13.g6 ♘c5 is also very sharp.]

11...b5 12.O-O-O [12.e5 is always countered by 12...♙b7; 12.a3 is a logical prophylactic move that White chose not to play in the game.]

12...♙b7



13.♖he1 White puts everything in the center but it is quite difficult to break.

13...b4 14.♘e2 ♖c8 The immediate center break is not good: [14...d5 15.e5 d4 16.♚h3 dxe3 17.exf6 ♘xf6 18.g5 ♘d5 19.g6 and White becomes strong on the light squares.]

15.♘g3 ♙e7 16.h4 [16.♚e2 is interesting, followed by h4-g5.]



16...g5!? It is an unclear choice between this move and 16...d5.

17.hxg5?! An automatic move but it is possible to keep more tension: [17.♔b1 17...gxf4 It is normal to take the e5 square. (17...d5 18.♘d4∞; 17...gxh4 18.♘h5 ♘xh5 19.gxh5 ♖g8 20.♙f2 with a fight.) 18.♙xf4 ♖g8 19.g5 hxg5 20.hxg5 ♘h7 21.g6 ♖xg6 22.♖h1 with a balanced position.]

17...hxg5 18.♖f1? If White wants to play a slow move then 18.Kb1 is clearly better and more sharp is 18.Nh5!?

18...♖g8 Even stronger is [18...d5! 19.♘d4 (19.exd5 19...♘xd5 20.♘e4 ♘xe3 21.♖xe3 gxf4 The two bishops and the dark squares give Black a huge advantage.) 19...gxf4 20.♙xf4 e5 The complications are in Black's advantage. 21.g5 exf4 22.gxf6 ♙xf6 23.♘gf5 ♘e5 24.♖e2 ♘xd3+ 25.♖xd3 dxe4+]]

19.♔b1



19...gxf4! Throughout the game and especially in this position all of Black's pieces are on the best squares and even the king is safe in the center! That is the reason why the complications are in his favor. Having said that, you still need good calculation to play this move.

20.♙xf4 ♘xg4 21.♙xd6 The only chance.

21...♘de5! 22.♙xc7 ♘xf3 23.♙f4 ♘gh2! What a funny knights' position!



24.♘a5? Losing big material and the game on the spot. [24.♖f2 24...♙h4+; 24.♖h1 is the only move. 24...e5 25.♘f1! exf4 26.♘xh2 ♘e5 with some saving chances, but the two bishops and the strong knight on e5 should prevail.]

24...♘xf1 25.♘xf1 [25.♖xf1 25...e5-+]]

25...♖g4 The last precise move.

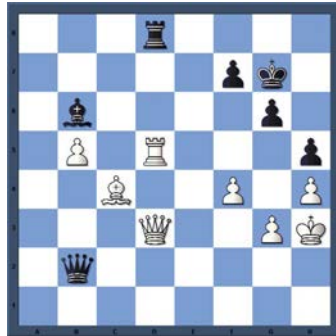
26.♙h6 ♙xe4 27.♙xa6 ♙xc2+ 28.♔c1 ♖c5 29.♘b7 ♙xd1+ 30.♔xd1 ♖d5+ 31.♔c1 ♙g5+ 0-1

Puzzle section

(5) Topalov, V(2798)-Caruana, F(2805)

Norway blitz, 2015.06.15

1... -+



(6) Grischuk, A(2781)-Topalov, V(2798)

Norway blitz, 2015.06.15

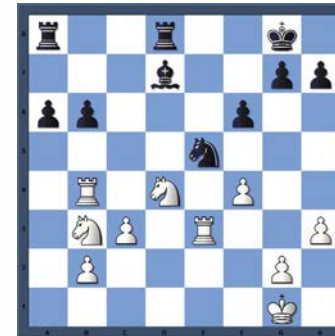
1... -+



(7) Topalov, V(2798)-Aronian, L(2785)

Norway blitz, 2015.06.15

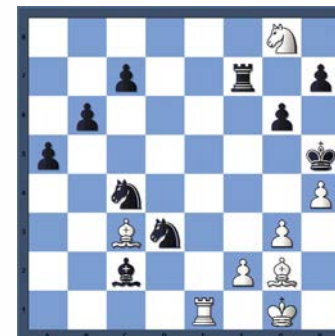
1... -+



(8) Vachier Lagrave, M(2723)-Hammer, J(2677)

Norway blitz, 2015.06.15

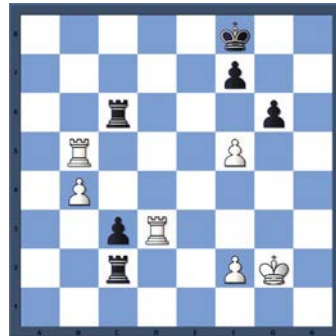
1. +-



(9) Giri, A(2773)-Carlsen, M(2876)

Norway blitz, 2015.06.15

1... -+



(10) Giri, A(2773)-Grishuk, A(2781)

Norway blitz, 2015.06.15

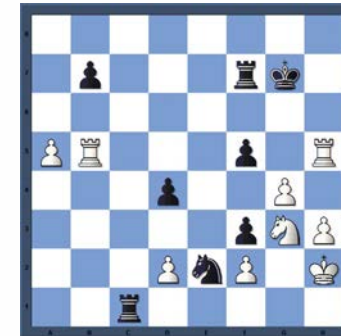
1... -+



(11) Grishuk, A(2781)-Vachier Lagrave, M(2723)

Norway blitz, 2015.06.15

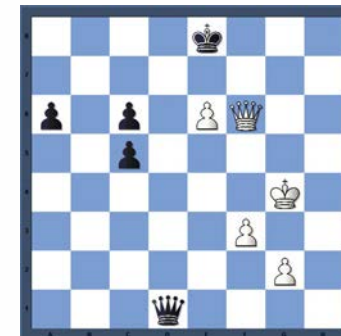
1... =



(12) Anand, V(2804)-Carlsen, M(2876)

Norway blitz, 2015.06.15

1... -+



(13) Caruana, F(2805)-Giri, A(2773)

Norway blitz, 2015.06.15

1. +-



(14) Caruana, F(2805)-Giri, A(2773)

Norway blitz, 2015.06.15

1. =



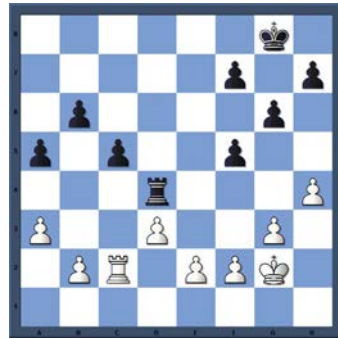
Endgame section

(15) Nakamura, Hikaru (2802)
- Caruana, Fabiano (2805)

3rd Norway Chess 2015(3),
2015.06.18



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



After a fantastic win over Carlsen in the Berlin endgame, it seems like Caruana can be called the "God of endgames" but in this game he shows us the total opposite. In the current position, we can see that the game should end in a draw. The position is equal, all pawns are equal and there doesn't seem to be much to play for...

30...♔g7 The black king is going towards the center, which is very logical.

31.♖c3 White is preparing to play Rb3 at some point or e3, with the idea of playing a4 later and fix the black pawns.

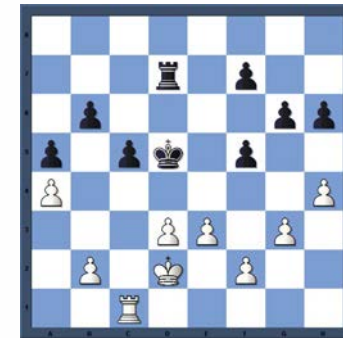
31...♔f6 32.e3 ♖d6 33.♔f3 White is also bringing his king to the center.

33...♔e5 34.a4 Fixing the pawn structure.

34...♔d5 35.♔e2 White probably wants to put his king to c3 to free his rook, but that is only enough for a draw, not to play for a full point.

35...♖d7 36.♔d2 h6 Black keeps on waiting, which is normal. I guess most of the spectators already fixed this game as a draw.

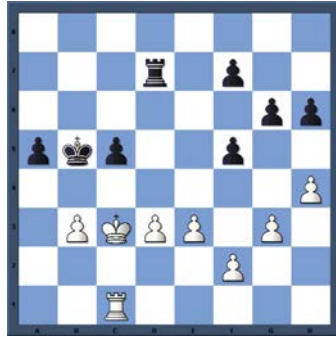
37.♖c1



37...♔c6?! The first move in the wrong direction. Why move the king away from the center...

38.♔c3 b5?! This is already a very strange move. I can't find any reason for Black to take such drastic measures. [38...♔d5 and I think the position is still just a draw.]

39.axb5+ ♔xb5 40.b3 Now Black has 2 weak pawns on a5 and c5. White could try the idea of bringing the rook to f4 now, by playing Ra1-Ra4-Rf4 and then maybe something with e4, but of course Black still has excellent chances for a draw.

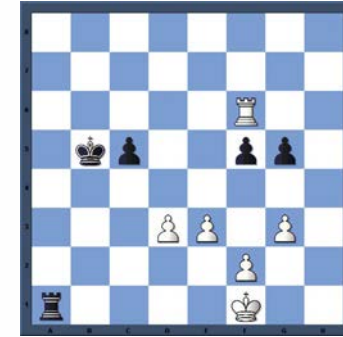


40...g5? This is already a heavy mistake! Why give White the only open file?! It is hard to understand what was going on with Caruana during the last 3-4 moves, since usually the World Nr2 plays excellently in endgames.

41.hxg5 hxg5 42.♖h1! Of course White takes over the h-file. Suddenly Black's position is already very difficult! White is ready to attack all the black pawns and the idea of playing Rh8-Rb8+ and then Kc4 could be very unpleasant for Black. Objectively I would say that Black's position is maybe already lost!

42...♜a7! A great defensive idea by Caruana. Black wants to play a4 at some point, get rid of the weak pawn and later try to get the king back to the kingside.

43.♜h7 White is trying to stop Black from playing a4, but does it really do the job?! [White could also play 43.♜h5 43...f6 44.♜h6 Quite a similar try as in the game... 44...a4! A very strong move. Black should not try to be passive, but rather look for direct counterplay. 45.bxa4+ (45.♜xf6 45...a3) 45...♜xa4 46.♜xf6 ♜a3+ The white king has to move back. 47.♚d2 (The position after 47.♚b2 47...♜xd3 48.♜xf5 ♚b4 is just equal because of the very active black pieces.) 47...♜a2+ 48.♚e1 ♜a1+ Black keeps on checking. 49.♚e2 ♜a2+ 50.♚f1 ♜a1+



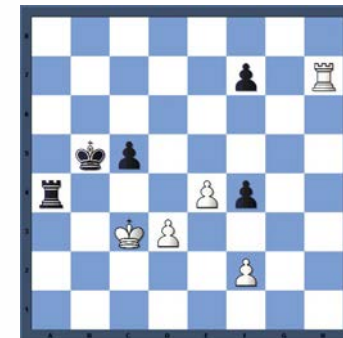
51.♚g2 and now that the white king is far away, Black is going for the d3 pawn. 51...♜d1 with very good drawing chances for Black.]

43...f4?! I don't think this is the best try. [Black should still have gone for 43...a4! 44.bxa4+ ♜xa4 45.♜xf7 ♜a3+ and as we saw in the line above, the position is closer to a draw than to a win.]

44.gxf4! The best move in my opinion. [44.exf4 44...gxf4 45.g4 was also possible, but in comparison to the game, White's pawns are not all connected, which might give Black better surviving chances.]

44...gxf4 45.e4 The pawn on f4 will be lost in any case.

45...a4 Better late than never... **46.bxa4+ ♜xa4**



47.♜xf7 Black is in big danger but the fight still goes on.

47...♖a3+ 48.♔d2 ♜a2+ 49.♔e1 ♜a3 is the best try. [In case of 49...♙b4 50.♜xf4 ♙c3 51.♜f3 ♙d4 52.♜e3 White's position seems to be winning because of the Kf2-Kg2 maneuver.]

50.♔e2 ♜a2+ This move doesn't leave Black much hope... [Black could keep a bit more hope after 50...c4 51.dxc4+ ♙xc4 52.♜xf4 ♙d4 but White is winning here too after 53.♜h4 ♜b3 54.♔f1 followed by Kg2-f3-Kg3, with an easy win.]

51.♔f3 ♜d2 Black is hoping to win the d3 pawn, but it just doesn't work.

52.♜d7! Of course defending the d3 pawn.

52...♙c6 53.♜d5 and Black is actually in some sort of zugzwang.



53...♙b6 and the e-pawn is unstoppable. [After 53...♜c2 White is winning with 54.d4! cxd4 55.♜xd4 followed by Rd8-Rf8-Rxf4, with an easily winning position.]

54.e5! ♙c6 55.♜d8 [55.e6 55...♙xd5 56.e7 ♜xd3+ 57.♔e2 was also winning for White.]

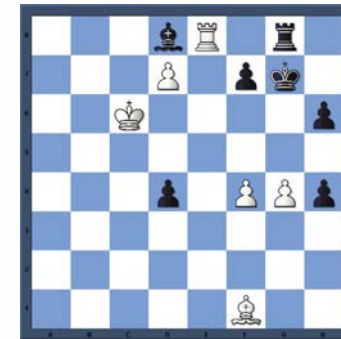
55...♙c7 56.♜d6! Putting Black in a similar zugzwang as on the last move. White is of course totally winning. A very unpleasant defeat for Caruana, who collapsed in just 4 moves in a totally equal endgame. However, Nakamura perfectly took his chances and finally got the full point. **1-0**

(16) Hammer, Jon Ludvig (2677) - Vachier Lagrave, Maxime (2723)

Norway Chess,
2015.06.17

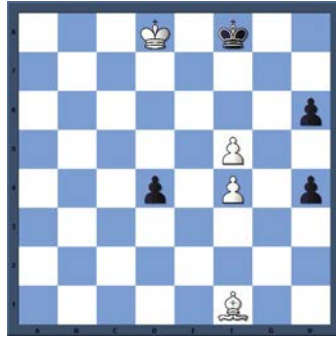


GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



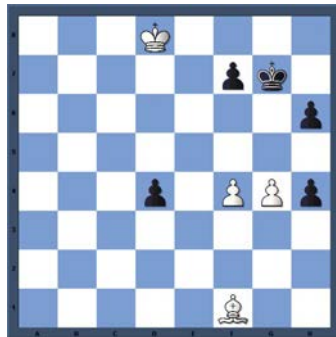
A very interesting endgame. At first sight White has very good winning chances, because Black is paralyzed by the d7 pawn and the bishop on f1 excellently blocks the two passed pawns on h4 and d4. However it is not easy to find a final break through, since Black always has his resources.

44.♜xd8!? A clever way to promote the pawn. Hammer eliminates the main blockader and promotes with the help of the king. [Another winning attempt is 44.♙b7 but it fails to 44...f5! using the fact that the white king goes too far from the kingside. Black breaks the pawn chain with this sacrifice. 45.gxf5 ♜f8 46.♙c8 ♙a5 47.d8=♚? already loses after 47...♙xd8 48.♜xf8 (48.♙xd8 48...♜xe8+ 49.♙xe8 ♙f6!—+ Black either collects all the pawns and promotes his own and if White protects f5 with the bishop it gives free way to one of the passed pawns. The white king got too far away from the action...) 48...♙xf8 49.♙xd8



49...h5! The doubled h-pawns look completely harmless, but actually the backward one is going to decide the game in Black's favor... 50.♔d7 h3! Black sacrifices one pawn in order to let the other one run... 51.♙xh3 d3 52.♙f1 d2 53.♙e2 h4—+ and the white king is too far to stop the passers. Black soon promotes one of the pawns.]

44...♖xd8 45.♔c7 ♖f8 46.d8=♔ ♖xd8 47.♔xd8



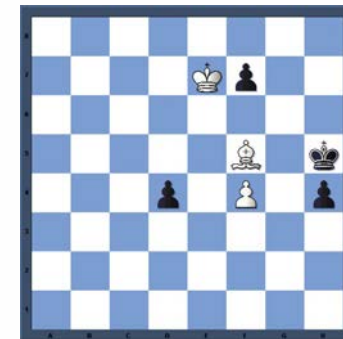
47...h5! A great move and actually the only one which avoids losing! The point is the same as before. Black sacrifices one of his pawns in order to break the pawn chain. [47...f5? with the same idea as in the 44. Kb7 line. Black would like to place his king on the f-file, block the pawns and let his own ones run, but he fails because after 48.♙e7!+— the white f-pawn is going to be fastest!; The breakthrough with 47...h3? makes no

sense, White just takes and stops the other pawn. 48.♙xh3 d3 49.♙f1 d2 50.♙e2+—]

48.gxh5! is also White's only move! [48.g5? might look tempting at first, but it runs into the same problems as in the 44. Kb7 line. Black wins by the same motif... 48...h3! 49.♙xh3 d3 50.♙f1 d2 51.♙e2 h4 52.f5 h3 53.♙e7 h2—+]

48...♙h6 49.♙e7 ♙xh5 50.♙e2+ Otherwise Black goes Kg4, while 50.f5 will happen later in the game.

50...♙h6 [There was nothing wrong with 50...♙g6 Black is threatening with Kf5 or h3, therefore White must play 51.♙d3+ ♙h5 52.♙f5 The only attempt to stop h3 and Kg4, if White does not want to force a repetition with Be2...]



52...h3! leads to the elimination of all the material by force! 53.♙xh3 d3 54.♙f5 d2 55.♙c2 ♙g4 56.f5 d1=♔ 57.♙xd1+ ♙xf5=]

51.♙f1 [51.♙xf7? loses by one tempo after 51...h3 52.f5 h2 53.♙f3 d3 54.f6 d2—+ and Black promotes his pawns before White could go Ke7 and f7-f8Q with check.]

51...♙h5 52.f5 Hammer keeps on playing for a win, but there is simply no way...

52...♙g4 53.f6 h3 54.♙xh3+ [54.♙xf7 also leads to a draw after 54...h2 55.♙g2 d3 56.♙g7 d2 57.f7 d1=♔ 58.f8=♔

h1=♔=]

54...♔xh3 55.♔xf7 d3 56.♔g7 d2 57.f7 d1=♔ 58.f8=♔ The game is drawn. An interesting endgame! The players quickly traded queens to keep only two kings on the board...

58...♔g4+ 59.♔f7 ♔f5+ 60.♔e7 ♔xf8+ 61.♔xf8 1/2-1/2

Chess and the City. Mitropa Cup 2015



WGM Elisabeth Paetz
Best rating: 2493

The Mitropa Cup is a team event (Open and Women) that takes place every year. Compared to the European team championship, it is restricted to 10 countries (Italy, Slovenia, Slovakia, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Hungary, France, Czech Republic and Croatia) which are all located in the middle of Europe. For me it is the very first time I take part in this event and I feel especially honored to be allowed to play for the men's team. However, it is not the first time in German history that a woman played in the Open competition. Exactly 20 years ago, Ketino Kachiani played her first National Team event for Germany at the Mitropa Cup. Our team composition this year is a mix of youth and experience. The top boards in our team are held by the two "princes", Matthias Bluebaum and Dennis Wagner, followed by IM Andreas Heimann and myself. The women's team only consists of 2 boards and with Sarah Hoolt and Judith Fuchs we have two very experienced players representing our country this year.

After 5 rounds the host team of Austria leads the event with a 100 percent match score, including a sad victory over Germany today. In the women's section the Hungarian team is leading with 9-1 match points.

As for my personal score, I was quite happy until today's game. With 3 out of 5 I am playing more or less according to my rating, but of course I feel a bit upset since I had started with 2.5/3.

This year's Mitropa Cup takes place in Mayrhofen, a small town in the Tyrolean part of Austria, which is surrounded by beautiful mountains and fresh air.

Below you can find some impressions of this beautiful event from this year:



Our match today versus Austria with Bluebaum-Ragger on the top board



Judith Fuchs - the second board of the Women's team



Tournament Hall

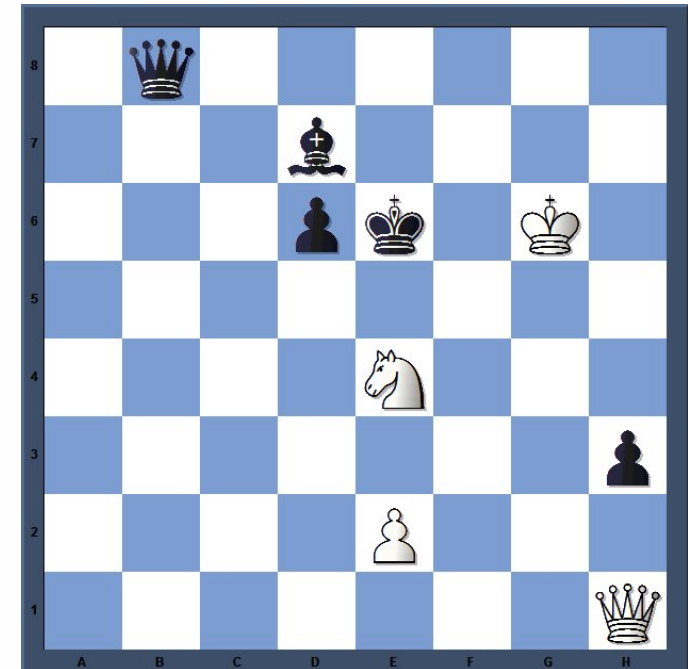


Tournament Hall with Germany in the front

Surprise section / study

(17) Troitzky

1. +-



Solutions

(18) Duda, J(2610)-Dorfman, J(2574)

French league, 2015.06.02



45. ♖xg4! 1-0 [45. ♖xg4 45... ♖xg4 46. a7+-]

(19) Ider, B(2401)-Vaisser, A(2530)

French league, 2015.06.02

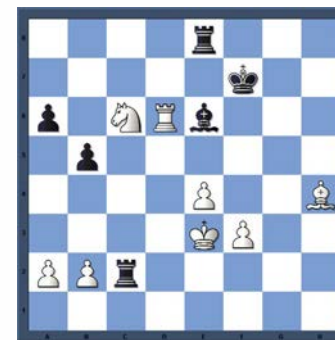


37. ♘c5!! ♖f5 [37... dxc5 38. ♖xe5+ ♔f7 39. ♖c7=]

38. ♙g4! ♖f4 39. g3! ♖xg3 40. ♖xg3 ♙xg3 41. ♘xd7 c3
42. ♙d1=

(20) Duda, J(2610)-Baklan, A(2632)

French league, 2015.06.03



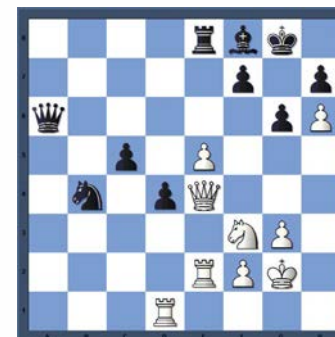
33. ♖xe6! [33. ♘d8+ 33... ♖xd8 34. ♖xd8 ♖xb2+=]

33... ♖xe6 [33... ♙xe6 34. ♘d4++-]

34. ♘d8+ ♙g8 35. ♘xe6+-

(21) Postny, E(2630)-Fedorchuk, S(2657)

French league, 2015.06.03



34... f5! 0-1 [34... f5 35. ♖f4 (35. exf6 35... ♖xe4+-)
35... ♖xe2+-]

(22) Navara, D(2751)-Fier, A(2632)

French league, 2015.06.03



34. ♖g8+! ♜xg8 35. ♚h4+ ♚h7 36. ♚f6+ ♚g7 [36... ♜g7
37. ♚xd8+ ♚g8 38. ♚h4+ ♜h7 39. ♚f6+=]

37. ♚h4+ 1/2

(23) Duda, J(2610)-Flear, G(2460)

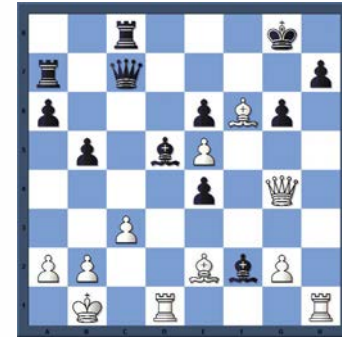
French league, 2015.06.04



36. ♘xg7! ♙xg7 37. ♜g3+ ♙h8 38. ♘xf6 ♜xf6 39. ♜xf6+-

(24) Salgado Lopez, I(2616)-Demuth, A(2515)

French league, 2015.06.04



27. ♜xd5! exd5 28. ♚e6+ ♙f8 [28... ♚f7 29. ♚xc8+-]

29. ♙g5! [29. ♜xh7!? 29... ♚xh7 30. ♚xc8+ ♙f7 31. ♙g4+-]

29... ♚c6 [29... ♙g7 30. ♙h6+ ♙h8 31. ♚f6+ ♙g8 32. ♙g4+-]

30. ♙h6+ 1-0 [30. ♙h6+ 30... ♜g7 31. ♙xg7+ ♙xg7 32. ♚e7+-]

(25) Gajewski, G(2648)-Postny, E(2630)

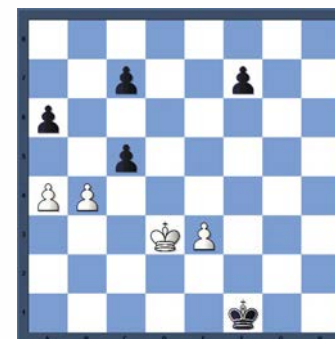
French league, 2015.06.04

**35. ♖e3!!** [35.c6 35...exf4 36.c7 ♖c8!]**35... ♖xe3 36.c6 ♖h6** [36... ♖c8 37.c7 ♖f7 38.♖f2 ♖d3 39.♖b8+—] **37.c7 ♖f7 38.♖b8** 1-0**(26) Solodovnichenko, Y(2592)-Milliet, S(2369)**

French league, 2015.06.04

**28. ♖e6+!** [28.♖h3? 28... ♖xf5; 28.♖xh4? 28... ♖xg2#]**28... ♖xe6** [28... ♖g7 29.♖e5+—]**29. ♖xh4 ♖de8 30.f3+—****(27) Fressinet, L(2712)-Tranchant, S(2275)**

French league, 2015.06.06

**17. ♖xd8!** 1-0 [17.♖xd8 17... ♖xd8 18.♖c7! ♖xc7 (18... ♖d7 19.♖xa6+—) 19.♖xe7+ ♖g8 20.♖xd8+—]**(28) Riester****1.b5! a5** [1...axb5 2.a5+—]**2.e4! ♖f2 3.♖c4 ♖e3 4.e5! ♖e4 5.♖xc5 ♖xe5 6.♖c6 f5 7.♖xc7 f4 8.b6 f3 9.b7 f2 10.b8=♖ f1=♖ 11.♖b5+! ♖xb5 12.axb5 a4 13.b6 a3 14.b7 a2 15.b8=♖ a1=♖ 16.♖h8+!+—**



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

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Editorial Preface

The main event of the week, the Norway Chess Stavanger 2015, came to an end. The tournament had a lot of surprises, like the first round loss on time of Carlsen against Topalov or the outcome of the game Hammer-Carlsen.

Veselin Topalov, who has recently only played very few tournaments, came clear first with 6.5/9. Anand and Nakamura, who both had a great tournament, shared second place with 6/9. Carlsen only came 8th with 3.5/9, which is clearly his biggest upset in classical chess since he became World Number 1.

In the traditional 50th edition of the Capablanca Memorial nobody could stop Yu Yangyi who finished clear first with 7/10. In second position we find Andreikin and Eljanov, both with 5.5/10.

The B group was won by Kunin with 6/9.

Another few top events are also underway, like the 10th Edmonton International or the Russian higher league.

In a couple of days already the Super tournament in Dortmund and the Super tournament in Biel are going to start.

In the current issue we focus our attention on the Stavanger tournament! Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) **Anand, Viswanathan (2804)**
- Vachier Lagrave, Maxime (2723)
[B90]

3rd Norway Chess 2015(6.2),
 2015.06.22



GM Csaba Balogh
 Best rating: 2672

Anand wins the next game with a brilliant combination, which is too hard even for the computers!

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘f6 5.♗c3 a6 Vachier Lagrave plays his favorite Sicilian Najdorf variation and Anand replies with one of the most fashionable answer...

6.h3 e6 This probably came as a surprise. The Frenchman usually plays 6...e5, also a few rounds before the current game against Caruana he chose that option.

7.g4



7...h6 The game has transposed now to the Sicilian Keres variation, which was considered to be better for White, but of course the newest computers are showing good and playable options for Black here as well.

8.♕g2 ♗c6 9.♕e3 White usually aims for castling queenside in this line (after Qe2), but Black manages to avoid this idea... [9.♗xc6 9...bxc6 10.e5 seems to create direct problems, but Black has 10...♗d5! and he is fine.]

9...♕e7 10.f4 Intending Qe2 and 0-0-0. [After the direct 10.♖e2 Black quickly comes with his typical counterplay 10...♗xd4 11.♕xd4 e5! This is the reason why White usually starts with 10.f4. 12.♕e3 ♕e6 13.O-O-O ♖c8∞Preparing for the standard Sicilian exchange sacrifice on c3 or just playing Qa5 increasing the attacking chances.]

10...♗d7! This is the point behind Black's play. White does not have enough time for playing Qe2 or Qd2 because of the unpleasant check on h4! White therefore castles kingside, but this gives a different character to the game.



11.O-O We could say, that it is risky to castle this direction after having advanced all the pawns in front of the king, however the black king cannot stay for long in the center, castling queenside is even more dangerous, therefore he will castle kingside as well, but then the advance of the kingside pawns are rather giving attacking potentials, than weakening the king.

11...♗xd4 Black needs to exchange the knights in order to fianchetto his bishop to b7. [If Black starts in the other

move order, 11...O-O Vachier Lagrave most probably wanted to avoid the new direction of some games, which continued with 12.♘ce2!? and White could take back with the knight on d4.]

12. ♖xd4 O-O Black had to waste a tempo on protecting the g7 pawn.

13. ♕d2! Another strong prophylactic move against b5 and White also retreats his queen from the center to leave from all the kind of attacks. Anand probably was already thinking about the sacrifices on h6, which later decided the game on his favor. Now on b5, White could push e5, because he has left from the dxe5 tempo, while the queen was standing on d4.

13... ♖b8 Black is finally able to push b5. All these moves are typical to many Sicilian lines. Another known idea in such positions is to regroup the bishop to d4 by including the Ba7-Ra8 pair of moves, however the bishop stands better now on e3 because it is ready for the sacrifices on h6 and it does not stay in the e5 tempo, after which black could win the dark squares for the minor pieces.



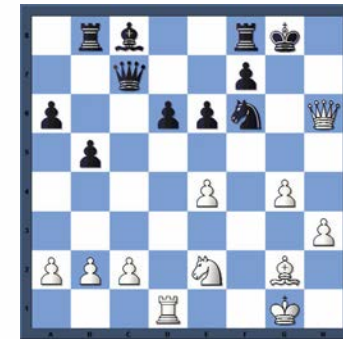
14. ♘e2 b5 15. ♖ad1! Anand brings all his pieces to the game. Who could guess, that this rook on d1 will very soon decide the outcome of this game?!

15... ♖c7 A known idea in the Sicilians, that Black retains his

bishop on c8 to keep his e6 pawn and the d7 knight protected. In case of 15...Bb7, White could either try e5, using that the d7 knight is not protected or to push f5, followed by putting pressure on the e6 pawn with Nf4.

16.f5 White reveals his cards about sacrificing on h6, but Black does not believe in it and completely ignores it. At the beginning correctly...

16... ♘f6 17. ♘g3 White brings another attacker. After taking twice on h6, White might threaten with g5 and Nh5. [The direct 17.♙xh6 only leads to draw 17...gxh6 18.♖xh6 Black has other moves as well, but the most forcing one is 18...♗h7 Black wants to play Bg5, therefore the only move is 19.f6! ♙xf6 20.♖xf6 ♘xf6



21.♖g5+! (Black defends successfully after 21.♖xf6 21...♖c5+ 22.♗h1 ♖e5!) 21...♗h7 22.♖h4+ draw with perpetual check as Kg6? does not work in view of Nf4! 22...♗g7 23.♖g5+=[

17... ♙b7 [Trying to use the x-ray on the g3 knight with 17...d5? runs into 18.e5! ♖xe5 19.♙f4 and the b8 rook falls.]

18. ♗h1 The last preparation to the sacrifice! White leaves from the potential checks on the dark squares. [The immediate 18.♙xh6 shows perfectly, why 18.Kh1 is so useful 18...gxh6 19.♖xh6 White is threatening with g5 and Nh5. The only move is 19...d5! and the brilliant tactics played in the

game only leads to draw now. .. 20.g5 ♖xg3 21.♖d3 Black has some other options too, but the easiest is 21...♗c5+ 22.♔h1 ♜xe4 23.♖xg3 ♜xg3+ 24.♔h2 ♗d6 and White must move into perpetual check... 25.♔g1 ♗c5+ 26.♔h2=]

18...♖bd8? Black still ignores the sacrifice, but this time he should not have done it. His plan was to push d5 and he also left from the motif of e5 Qxe5 Bf4 and the rook is hanging on b8. [Black should have strengthen his kingside with 18...♔h7! when it is not obvious how White should make progress in the attack. On the other hand, Black is coming with Rad8 and d5!]



19.♗xh6! The sacrifice itself suggests itself. White has based all of his moves on this idea, but the follow-up is extremely difficult to find and to calculate beforehand...

19...gxf6 20.♖xh6 d5! Black thought, that the sacrifice is unsound as he has the usual central break and White will have nothing more than perpetual check. However, Anand has prepared a deep surprise...



21.g5!! The second blow, but it all fails without the next move... [Perhaps, Vachier Lagrave has expected 21.e5 21...♖xe5 22.♖g5+ ♔h8 23.♖h4+ when the draw is inevitable with 23...♔g8 (23...♜h7 loses to 24.♖xe7 ♖xg3 25.♖xb7+-) 24.♖g5+=]

21...♖xg3



22.♖d3!! Black is two pieces up, but this intermediate move kills all his hopes. The point is to send the queen into wrong place before taking on f6. On the direct 22.gxf6 Bd6 wins for Black as he mates on h2 and in the same time the queen covers the g7 square...

22...♘h5? Black misses the final point! [The only move was 22...♘xe4! White must continue his extremely powerful play with 23.f6! ♕xf6 (Another key line is 23...♙xg5 24.♙xg5+ ♘xg5 25.fxe7 ♖d7

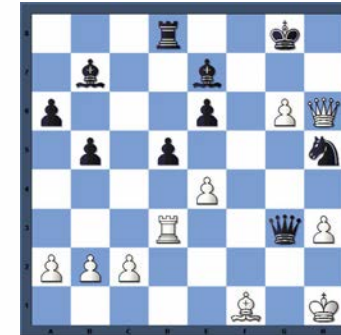


26.♖g3!! Taking on f8 would remove the king from the danger zone and Black could get strong compensation for the exchange. However now he gets mated... 26...♖xe7 27.♖xg5+ ♔h8 28.♖f6! Driving the king to wrong square to avoid the defense of f5-Rh7... 28...♔h7 29.♖f4! ♔h6 30.♖g3! Temporary retreating but now mate is coming... 30...♔h5 31.♕f3+ ♔h6 32.♖h4#) 24.♕xe4! dxe4 25.♖xg3 ♕g7 26.♙h4 e3+ 27.♔g1 e2 28.♖e1+- Black only has two bishops for the queen, which is clearly not enough compensation.; 22...♙e5 loses to 23.gxf6 ♕xf6 24.♖f4! ♕g7 25.♖g3+- all the heavy pieces are in the attack.]



23.g6!! The only winning move, which was most probably missed by Black! [23.♖xg3 leads to a draw after 23...♘xg3+ 24.♔h2 ♕d6 25.♔g1 ♕c5+=]

23...fxg6 24.fxg6 ♖xf1+ 25.♕xf1 And Black has no defense against the threatening mates after Qh7. He must give up his queen for free...



25...♘f6 [25...♙f4 26.♙h7+ ♔f8 27.♙h8#; 25...♙e5 26.♙h7+ ♔f8 27.♙f7#]

26.♖xg3 The game is over! Black continues resisting for a few more moves.

26...dxe4 27.♕e2 e3+ 28.♔g1 ♕c5 29.♔f1 A beautiful and very long combination by Anand! **1-0**

**(2) Hammer, Jon Ludvig (2677)
- Carlsen, Magnus (2876) [D30]**

3rd Norway Chess 2015(9),
2015.06.25



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



It has been a horrible tournament for Carlsen but after a very bad start Magnus seemed to recover a bit with a few wins, but in the last round turned against him again. We are going to see a game between the World number 1 and his second. Psychologically I can't imagine Hammer's situation... How to play against your boss? Against somebody who you helped become World Champion, accompanied to so many events and who you see is having a horrible event. Anyhow, we are going to see a strange game where Carlsen clearly is out of shape and Hammer keeps taking advantage of his mistakes.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 a6 Well, what to say about such an opening!? It seems like Carlsen is joking with his second, but it turned out to be a bad idea...

4.♙g5! I think it is a great move! Hammer wants to play a good version of the Queen's Gambit.

4...f6?! This is already more shocking than funny. After such a horrible move White's advantage is very clear.

5.♙d2 I would like to know if Hammer was more laughing or more nervous about the beginning of the game.

5...dxc4 to give the f6 move an idea

6.e3 A good and solid move! [6.e4 would be a bit careless because after 6...♘c6! Black is back in the game.]

6...♘c6 After this move White's advantage is clearly very big. [It was maybe a slightly better try to hold on to the c4 pawn: 6...b5 7.a4 A standard move. 7...♙b7 8.axb5 axb5 9.♖xa8 ♙xa8 10.b3 and White clearly has a safe and nice advantage.]

7.♙xc4 ♙d6 Now we can rly see that because of the big damage done to Black's pawn structure White is doing very well.

8.e4 I don't know if e4 was really needed. [White could have continued with the simple 8.♘c3 8...♘ge7 and going for the bishop pair with 9.♘e4 followed by Nxd6.]

8...♘ge7 9.O-O O-O Black wants to play Kh8 and e5 somewhere and f5 move could also be possible at some point.

10.♖b3 Hammer puts maximum pressure on the e6 pawn.

10...♙h8 After this move Black enters a very unpleasant endgame. [Another try to hold on to the e6 pawn was 10...♖d7 but after the simple 11.a4 avoiding Black's b5, White is clearly much better.]

11.♙xe6 Hammer evaluates the situation correctly.

11...♙xh2+ The only move.

12.♙xh2 [Of course not 12.♘xh2? 12...♘xd4 and Black is winning.]

12...♔d6+ 13.♕h1 ♜xe6 Black won the piece back but the white pawns in the center mean that White is still a lot better.

14.d5 ♜g8 black is trying to remain solid.

15.♔a3! A strong move! Black's only chance to get counterplay is to start something on the kingside because of the missing pawn on the h-file, but since Hammer is forcing the queen exchange now, in the endgame the slightly open position of the white king will not matter any longer.

15...♔xa3 16.♞xa3 ♞a7 Black is forced to go back and hope to be able to play c6 later.



17.♜b4 Hammer continues playing well and solidly! The bishop on b4 is well-placed.

17...♞fe8 18.♞ac1 ♞ac8 Carlsen is still hoping to play c6 somewhere.

19.♞d4 Another white piece is taking a good position.

19...f5 It is maybe the best practical decision to unbalance the position.

20.f3 White continues keeping the strong center under control.

20...fxe4 21.fxe4 ♞g6 Attacking the only weakness of White's position, the e4 pawn.

22.♞f5?! Hammer enters the complications, which was absolutely not needed! [After a simple move like 22.♞fe1 White would keep a decent advantage. The black knight on a7 is in a bad position, the bishop on g8 as well and White keeps the idea of playing Nf5-Bc3 in mind.; But the seemingly logical move 22.♞ce1? would be a mistake because of 22...c5! and Black is back!]

22...♞xe4 23.♜c3 The g7 pawn can't be protected, so Black needs to decide between moving the h-pawn and playing Bxd5.

23...♜xd5?! It is hard to say if this is just a blunder ... [Black would keep fighting after 23...h6 24.♜xg7+ ♔h7 25.♜d4 b6 From a human point of view, Black's position looks very scary, but in fact maybe most of White's advantage has vanished. I guess Carlsen would not lose this position to anybody any longer.]

24.♜xg7+ ♔g8 25.♜d4 Attacking a7 and threatening Nh6 mate.

25...♞xd4 Black is forced to give the exchange.

26.♞xd4 Being an exchange up gives White a close to winning long-term advantage.

26...♜xa2 Well, Carlsen has nothing to lose so of course he takes the a2 pawn is very risky, but in case Black would keep on playing normal moves, White would slowly exchange the pieces and the exchange up would be enough for a full point.



27.b3! A perfect answer! The a2 bishop is going to be taken.

27...♖d8 This move leads to a fast end. [Black could have fought harder after 27...c5 28.♖f2 cxd4 29.♖xc8+ ♘xc8 30.♖xa2 and Black's chances to make a draw are small, but the fight still goes on. 30...♘f8 Setting a little trap... 31.♘c4 (White could fall into the trap after 31.♖d2 31...♘e6 32.♘c2 ♘d6! and the d4 pawn can't be taken because of Ne4!) 31...♘e6 32.g3 followed by Kg2 and slowly White is going to win the d4 pawn and it is going to be almost impossible for Black to keep the h7 and b7 pawns alive. The rook is much stronger in such endgames where the fight is going on on both flanks.]

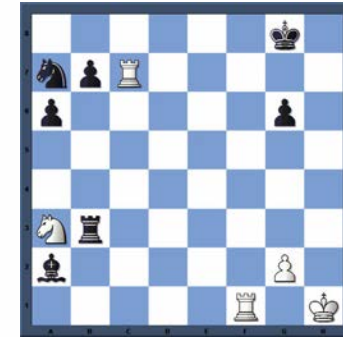
28.♘e6 ♖d2 29.♖c3 A good move because White just wants to play Rg3 next, but there was another option. [The forced line 29.♖xc7 29...♙xb3 30.♖g7+ ♔h8 31.♖ff7 was not that easy to see, but possible to calculate until the very end. 31...♙xe6 32.♖xh7+ ♔g8 33.♖hg7+ ♔h8 34.♖xb7 with a double attack on the Na7 and g6. White is totally winning.]

29...♖e2 30.♘f4 [30.♖f6! was leading to an even faster win. 30...♘c6 31.♖cf3 and the mate on f8 is unavoidable.]

30...♖b2 Carlsen keeps on looking for practical chances.

31.♘xg6 hxg6 32.♖xc7 Black's position is simply lost.

32...♖xb3 [After 32...♘c6 33.♖xb7 ♖xb3 White can even choose an easy winning way like 34.♖xb3 ♙xb3 35.♖f6 ♘e5 36.♖xa6 and the win would only be a matter of time.]



33.♖d1! Hammer shows no mercy...

33...♘c6 34.♖dd7 and the mate on c8 is unavoidable! Well, what to say after such a game... We rarely see Carlsen not playing at his level, missing a lot of chances and giving so many to his opponents. I am curious to see if Hammer will remain Carlsen's second after beating his boss in the last round! :) **1-0**

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot

Best rating: 2749

(3) Bluebaum, Matthias (2600) - Bailet, Pierre(2518) [E92]

Mitropa Cup 2015(9.3),
2015.06.22

The German player Matthias Bluebaum is only 18 years old and just crossed the 2600 barrier. He is currently the 13th player in the world under 20 rankings. This game doesn't belong to his best achievements but is very interesting, also thanks to his French opponent.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6 5.♘f3 O-O 6.♙e2 e5 7.♙e3 exd4 Black rarely opens the center this way in King's Indian, but here it works thanks to the bishop on e3. 7....Ng4 is the "closed" alternative.

8.♘xd4 ♖e8 9.f3 c6



10.♙f2 A necessary retreat. There is a nasty surprise after the most logical move: [10.♖d2 10...d5 11.exd5 cxd5 12.O-O ♘c6 13.c5 ♗xe3! with great compensation, as in the Karpov-Kasparov World Championship Match 1990.]

10...d5 11.exd5 cxd5 12.O-O ♘c6 13.c5 ♘h5 Very normal other possibilities are 13...Bf8 or 13...Re5.

14.♖d2 ♙e5 15.g3 ♘g7 The knight has done its job of weakening White's king and is back to fight for central squares.

16.♗fd1 ♙f5 Quite a new move. [16...♙e6 was the main theoretical move for a long time.]



17.♗ac1!? Finishing the developpement. The alternatives are: [17.♘db5 is nicely met by 17...d4 18.♘xd4 ♙xd4 19.♙xd4 ♙c2!! An unexpected move which solves all the problems. 20.♖xc2 ♘xd4 21.♖a4 ♘xe2+ 22.♘xe2 ♖g5 Black wins back the pawn and got full equality in Kovalyov-Van Kampen 2014.; 17.♙f1 looks good but Black equalizes after the following forced sequence: 17...♙xd4 18.♙xd4 ♘e6 19.♙f2 d4 20.♘b5 ♘g5 21.♙g2 ♘e5 22.♘xd4 ♖xd4 23.♖xd4 ♘exf3+ 24.♙h1 ♘xd4 25.♙xd4 ♙g4; 17.♘xf5!/? might also be checked by theoretical players. 17...♘xf5 18.f4 Some research is needed to find out if White has the advantage.]

17...♙xd4!? Black needs to play very concretely in this

opening because of his bad pawn structure. He sacrifices his dark squared bishop but somehow frees his pieces.

18. ♖xd4 ♘e6 19. ♙f2 d4 20. ♘b5

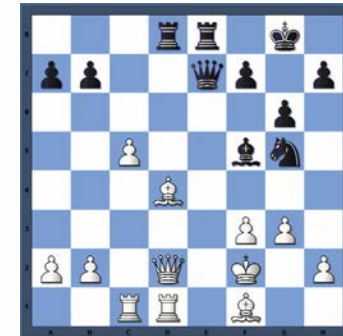


20... ♘g5?! Maybe this is not the best move but it is very interesting over the board and other moves lead to slightly worse endgames. [20... ♖d5 21. g4 (21. ♘d6 21... ♘g5∞) 21... ♙xg4 22. fxg4 ♘g5 23. ♖c3! ♖e5 24. ♘xd4 ♘xd4 25. ♙xd4 ♖xe2 26. ♖xe2 ♖xe2 27. ♖e3 ♖c2 28. ♙c3 ♘e6 29. ♖e5 White somehow pushes in this endgame.; 20... d3 21. ♙xd3 ♘g5 22. ♙e2 ♖xd2 23. ♖xd2 ♙d3! 24. ♙xd3! ♘xf3+ 25. ♖g2 ♘xd2 26. ♖d1 ♘e4 27. ♘c7 ♘xf2 28. ♖xf2 and again White has a slightly better endgame.]

21. ♘xd4 ♘xd4 22. ♙xd4 ♖e7 23. ♖f2 [23. h4!? seems to be the best practical decision and now White fights for only two results, win or draw. 23... ♖xe2 is the best defensive option. (23... ♘e6 24. ♙f2 ♘xc5 25. ♙b5 ♖ad8 26. ♖h6 and with two nice bishops White has a clear lead.; 23... ♘h3+ 24. ♖f1+-) 24. ♖xe2 ♖xe2 25. hxg5±]

23... ♖ad8 24. ♙f1 [24. ♙b5 was the last chance to play for an advantage but Black has two moves that lead to a fighting game: 24... ♙e4 (24... ♙d7!? 25. ♖e1 (25. ♙xd7 25... ♖xd7 26. ♖e1 ♘e6∞) 25... ♙xb5! 26. ♖xe7 ♖xe7∞) 25. ♖c3 ♙xf3 26. ♖e1 ♙e4! (26... ♘e4+ 27. ♖xf3!) 27. ♙h8! (27. ♙xe8 27... ♖e6!∞) 27... f6

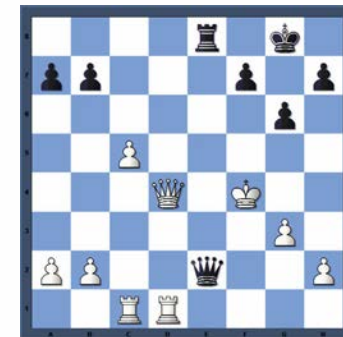
28. ♙xf6 ♖f7 29. ♙xe8 ♖xe8 with some compensation.]



24... ♙e4! All black pieces are on the best squares and now this move puts great pressure.

25. ♙g2? A bad mistake, missing the tactic. 25. Qe3 or 25. f4 might hold for White.

25... ♙xf3! 26. ♙xf3 ♘xf3 27. ♖xf3 ♖xd4!! 28. ♖xd4 ♖e2+ 29. ♖f4



29... h6! It's funny, but White can't save this.

30. h4 [30. ♖e1 30... g5+ 31. ♖f5 ♖f3+ 32. ♖f4 ♖d5+ 33. ♖g4 h5+! winning big material.]

30... h5 31. ♖g5 ♖e7+?? [31... ♖h7 Taking away the h6 square from White's king simply mates. Black for sure missed one of the two nice tactics and settled for a draw. A lucky escape!]

32.♖e1 (32.♖f1 32...♗e5+! 33.♔f6 ♖f5+ 34.♖xf5 ♕e6+ 35.♔g5
♕xf5#) 32...f6+! 33.♔xf6 ♖f8+ followed by Rf5 mate.]

32. ♖f6 ♕e3+ 33. ♖f4 ♕e7+ 34. ♖f6 ♕e3+ 1/2-1/2

Puzzle section

(4) Dominguez, L(2746)-Yu Yangyi(2715)

Capablanca memorial, 2015.06.17

1... -+



(5) Cordova, E(2609)-Miton, K(2604)

Capablanca memorial B, 2015.06.15

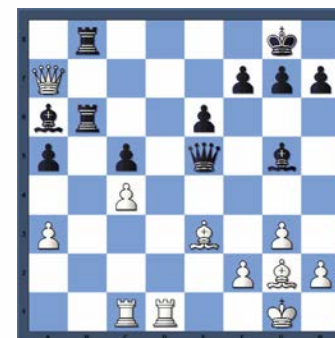
1... -+



(6) Cordova, E(2609)-Hevia, A(2535)

Capablanca memorial B, 2015.06.19

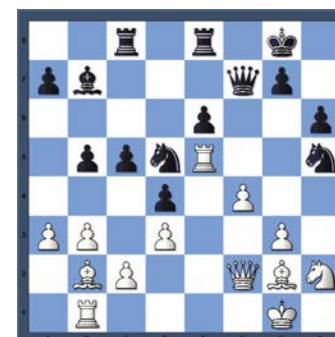
1. +-



(7) Bocharov, I(2472)-Bukavshin, I(2647)

Russian Higher League, 2015.06.22

1... -+



(8) Korobov, A(2698)-Nadanian, A(2380)

Asrian memorial, 2015.06.17

1... -+



(9) Hambardzumian, Y(2322)-Khismatullin, D(2646)

Asrian memorial, 2015.06.17

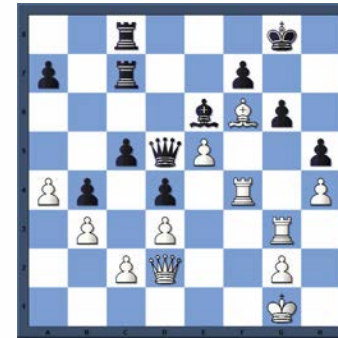
1... -+



(10) Petrosyan, T(2423)-Gaboyan, S(2153)

Asrian memorial, 2015.06.17

1. +-



(11) Baghdasaryan, V(2402)-Oleksienko, M(2629)

Asrian memorial, 2015.06.18

1. +-



(12) Ter Sahakyan, S(2586)-Harutyunian, T(2472)

Asrian memorial, 2015.06.25

1. +-



(13) Ilyashev, Y(2128)-Mikaelyan, A(2437)

Asrian memorial, 2015.06.19

1... -+



Endgame section

(14) Carlsen, Magnus (2876)
- Nakamura, Hikaru (2802)

Norway Chess,
2015.06.22



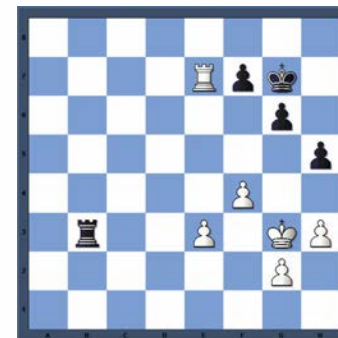
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



In the following endgame Nakamura shows the right technique of holding the 4 vs 3 rook endgame when the pawns are on the same side. It is very important that in the earlier stage of the game, he has already built up the best defending pawn formation (h5-g6-f7). White can only make progress by advancing his pawns, but this will lead to the trade of the pawns and all the simplifications brings the draw closer for the defending side.

45...♖b2+ 46.♔f3 ♜b3 Black basically just waits, he has nothing to do. At the same time Nakamura pays attention to preventing the advance of the e-pawn.

47.♖a7 ♜c3 48.♜e7 ♜b3 49.♔g3 Carlsen now tries to bring his king to h4 and later to g5, followed by damaging the pawn structure with g4-f5. Even after this the game was drawn, but it was much easier to prevent all these ideas by attacking the g2 pawn...

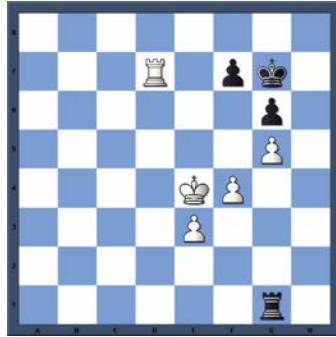


49...♜b2! 50.♔f3 White admits that he cannot make progress without pushing g4...

50...♜b3 51.g4 hxg4+ 52.hxg4 There are only 5 pawns on the board, but the main problem for White is still that the advance of his pawns will lead to further exchanges...

52...♜b1 Black could also wait on the 3rd rank, but Nakamura changes his strategy after the g4 move. He is going to harass the white king with checks from behind and attack the g4 pawn, trying to fix the structure.

53.♜d7 ♜f1+ 54.♔e4 ♜g1 55.g5 Another development of the game. After the g5 push, White has only two plans to make progress. The f5 move always leads to further exchanges, therefore Black should not fight against it. The only dangerous plan could be e4-e5-e6 and Black focuses his attention on preventing this idea...



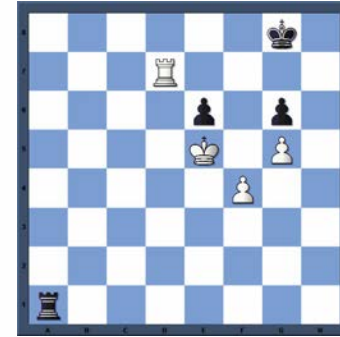
55...♖a1 Black again wants to confuse his opponent in executing his plan by giving checks from the side...

56.♔e5 ♜a3 57.e4 ♜a5+ 58.♔d6 ♜a6+ 59.♔e5 ♜a5+ 60.♜d5 ♜a4 61.♜c5 [61.f5 leads to an immediate draw after 61...gxf5 62.exf5 (62.♔xf5 62...♜a1=) 62...♜g4=]

61...♜a1 62.♜c2 ♜f1 63.♜c7 ♜e1 The game is a dead draw. Both players go around for some time, before Carlsen starts his final winning attempt.

64.♜a7 ♜g1 65.♜a4 ♜f1 66.♜a6 ♜e1 67.♔d4 ♜d1+ 68.♔e3 ♜e1+ 69.♔f3 ♜f1+ 70.♔g3 ♜e1 71.e5 A new change of the structure. White now remains with the hope of pushing e6 when the king is pinned on the 7th rank. Obviously Black has many effective ways to avoid this idea...

71...♜e3+ 72.♔f2 ♜b3 73.♜d6 ♜a3 74.♜d8 ♜c3 75.♔e2 ♜a3 76.♜d3 ♜a1 77.♔e3 ♜e1+ 78.♔d4 ♜f1 79.♔e4 ♜a1 80.♜d7 ♜a4+ [White has no winning chances at all. The following variation shows it well. If Black leaves from the pin with 80...♔g8 White might hope for 81.e6 Of course Black could immediately make a draw with Re1, but let's say he does not have this option and plays 81...fxe6 82.♔e5 This could be White's only hope. He invades with his king along f6, collects the g6 pawn and the g5 pawn gives him a shelter against the checks. However the game is still a draw after



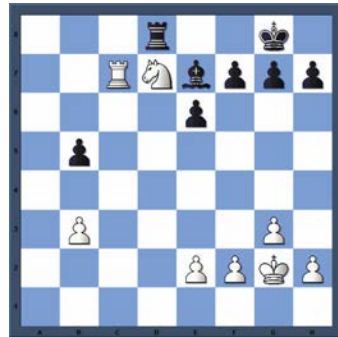
82...♜f1 83.♔f6 ♜xf4+ 84.♔xg6 ♜f8!= In case of the g- and h-pawns, even the passive defense with the rook on the 8th rank yields a safe draw. Black does not even need his e-pawn, that position is an easy theoretical draw. He just moves with his rook along the 8th rank and in case of a check on g7, he goes to h8.]

81.♜d4 ♜a5 82.♜c4 ♔f8 83.♜c8+ ♔g7 84.♜c7 ♔f8 85.♔d4 ♜a4+ 86.♜c4 ♜a5 87.♜c8+ ♔g7 88.e6 The very last try, but of course it cannot lead to anything serious from White's point of view...

88...fxe6 89.♜c5 ♜a7 Black obviously keeps the rooks on the board.

90.♔e5 ♜f7 91.♜c4 ♜f5+ 92.♔xe6 ♔g8 The white king is cut from the f4 pawn and the rook is obliged to protect the f4 pawn. Black only waits with Kg7-g8, therefore the draw is inevitable and even Carlsen admits that he has no more hopes for the win...

93.♜c8+ ♔g7 94.♜c7+ ♔g8 95.♜c8+ ♔g7 We can see that in case of good defense, White has no winning chance in the 4 vs 3 rook endgames. **1/2-1/2**

**(15) Giri, Anish (2773)
- Topalov, Veselin (2798)**3rd Norway Chess 2015(8),
2015.06.24GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

This calm-looking endgame is much trickier than it seems. Many young players don't remember the greatest Catalan player of all times, Ulf Anderson, who was famous for his perfect endgame technique and the knight in the current position on d7 could be just like from his games! In fact he was more famous for having similar endgames with the knight on c6 more often.

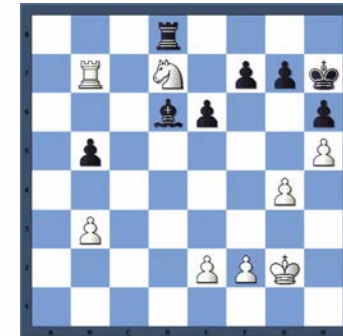
33.♖b7 A good move! Now the black rook from d8 doesn't have any moves and White might threaten to play Nb8 or Ne5, winning the b5 pawn.

33...♘d6 A logical move, preventing White's knight moves.

34.g4 An interesting moment. White clearly has to start pushing his pawns, but with which one to start?! To play e4 but maybe then Black is able to play e5. Or maybe to play f4 with the idea of playing e4-e5. Giri chooses the g4 move

and actually this looks like a very good choice to me! The black pawns are fixed and White just wants to gain some space during the next moves.

34...h5?! Not the best in my opinion since it is always very dangerous in an endgame to give a pawn for free, even if it weakens the opponent's pawns structure. [34...h6 looks safer. 35.h4 ♖h7 36.h5 and now Black should play the very important



36...g6! 37.♘f6+ ♖g7 38.♘e4 gxh5 39.gxh5 b4 40.♘xd6 ♖xd6 41.♖xb4 ♖d5 and Black's chances to make a draw in this rook endgame are not bad. But again, the position is really unpleasant!]

35.gxh5! A good choice. Of course White doesn't give Black the chance of exchanging pawns so easily, which is always good for the defending side.

35...♖h7 36.b4! Perfect play! Maybe this is the move that Topalov had underestimated.

36...♘xb4 [36...♖h6 37.♘c5 also leads to a very unpleasant endgame with a pawn down for Black.]

37.♘e5 Now the f7 pawn is falling.

37...♖d5 [Of course 37...f6? is not possible since after 38.♘c6 White is winning material.]

38. ♖xf7 ♜xh5 **39.f4** White continues playing a great game! Now the white knight will go to g5 and the e6 and b5 pawns will be under attack.



39...♖g6 A possible move but Black maybe had another chance to fight for an escape. [39...♜d2 but this move is almost impossible to find over the board. 40.♖g5+ ♖g6 41.♖xe6 Black's position looks lost, but after 41...♜h4! it is not that easy for White to prove that the position is winning.]

40.♖e5+ ♖h7 41.♖f7 ♖g6 42.♖e5+ ♖h7 After repeating a couple of times, White of course continues the fight.

43.♖f3



43...♜f5 [After 43...♖g6 44.e4 looks very strong.]

44.♖g5+ ♖h6 45.♖f3 The white pieces are perfectly placed and this is a real problem for Black. If he was in time

to exchange a pawn or maybe enter a rook endgame, the position would most probably be a draw, but it is simply impossible!

45...♜d2 [After 45...e5 46.♖f7+ ♖h7 47.♖xe5 the position is probably lost.]

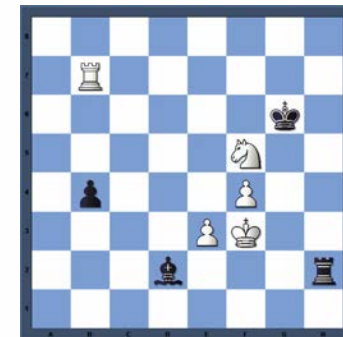
46.e3 The e6 pawn is going to fall.

46...b4 There is already no way of saving the pawn...

47.♖xe6 ♜h5 Black is trying to get some play. [In case of a passive defense like 47...♜c3 White is winning with 48.e4 ♜h5 49.e5 and the g7 pawn is going to fall.]

48.♖xg7 ♜xh2 49.♖f5+ Now we can evaluate this position as winning for White.

49...♖g6



50.♖e7+ The most human and simple, White is winning the b4 pawn. [50.e4 was good as well.]

50...♖f6 51.♖d5+ ♖e6 52.♖e4 The most simple. The king is a strong piece in an endgame.

52...♜h3 Preventing Nxh4.

53.♜b6+ ♖d7 54.♖d3 The b4 pawn is lost and so are Black's chances to hold a draw.

54...♙c1 55.♖xb4 ♔d6



56.♔d4 and Toplaov resigned without any further fight since White is totally winning. We just witnessed great endgame technique by Giri who used his chances very well and especially the unusual idea of 36.b4! is something we should remember from this game. **1-0**

Chess and the City. Host team wins Mitropa Cup 2015



WGM Elisabeth Paetz

Best rating: 2493

Austria did not only manage to organize a beautiful and professional tournament, their team in the Open section also won the championship convincingly with 15-3 match points. For Austria's highest rated player Markus Ragger it was sort of the first time he was competing in such an event and his team's victory was mainly based on the fact that together with GM David Shengelia they showed clear dominance on the top boards.

Silver went to the young Slovakian team which was able to overtake Germany by winning their last 4 matches.

The third place for Germany is definitively not what we have expected beforehand. However, the whole tournament went a bit unfortunately after the upsetting but well-deserved defeat against the hosts.

In the women's competition it was a similar one-man-show with the Hungarian Ladies. Ticia Gara was the top scorer of their, with an impressive result of 6/6. Second place went to Italy who won most of the Mitropa Cups in previous years. The

well-known trio of Zimina, Sedina and Brunello was however not able to deliver a serious fight for top place this time. Slovakia managed to get another medal (bronze) with their women team and their overall success was maybe based on their captain Eva Repkova - the only female captain in the entire tournament. Tenderness and care are psychological aspects which one may easily underestimate but in their case it clearly paid off!

For the German girls Sarah Hoolt and Judith Fuchs things went less favorably. They lost their Bronze medal in the very last moment by losing a bitter match against Austria II 2-0.

All in all, as already mentioned, for Germany things did not go the way we would have wanted or expected and it is actually hard to say why. On a personal note, it was the very first time I participated in the Mitropa Cup and my personal performance was not such a great support for higher goals. In team events it is however usually the unit of the entire team which makes the difference and somehow we were not able to find our real shape in that event.



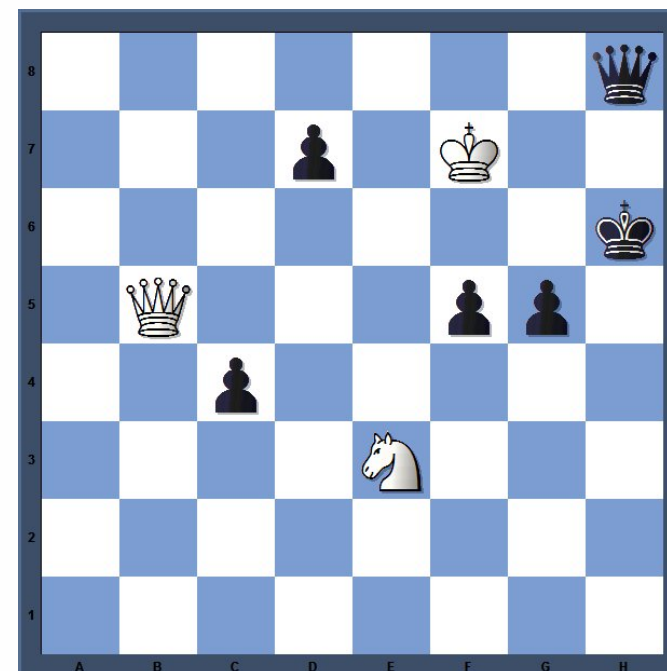


The Austrian team (pictures by the Austrian Chess Federation)

Surprise section / study

(16) Prokes

1. +-



Solutions

(17) Topalov, V(2798)-Caruana, F(2805)

Norway blitz, 2015.06.15



50...♙g1! 0-1 [50...♙g1 51.♖xd8 (51.♙d2 51...♙xd2 52.♖xd2 ♖xd2—) 51...♙h2#]

(18) Grischuk, A(2781)-Topalov, V(2798)

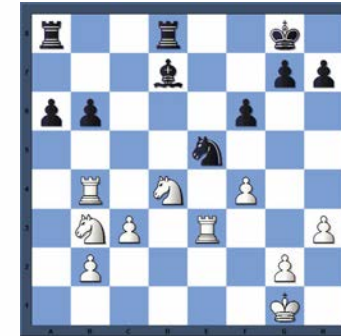
Norway blitz, 2015.06.15



37...♘xe2! 0-1 [37...♘xe2 38.♙xc6 ♘xd4+ 39.♙e3 ♘xc6—+]

(19) Topalov, V(2798)-Aronian, L(2785)

Norway blitz, 2015.06.15

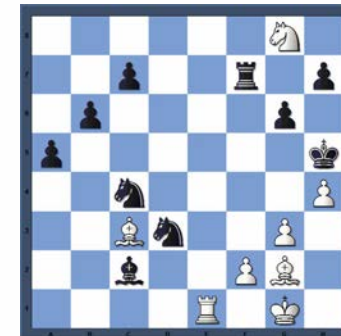


23...a5! 24.fxe5 [24.♖xb6 24...♘c4—+]

24...axb4 25.exf6 bxc3 26.bxc3 gxf6—+

(20) Vachier Lagrave, M(2723)-Hammer, J(2677)

Norway blitz, 2015.06.15

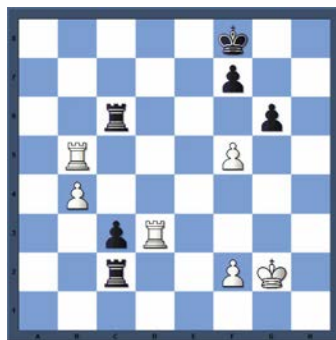


31.♖e7! ♖xf2 [31...♖xe7 32.♙f3#]

32.♙h3+— h6 33.♖h7 1-0

(21) Giri, A(2773)-Carlsen, M(2876)

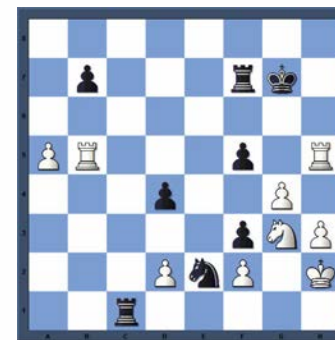
Norway blitz, 2015.06.15

**44...gxf5?** [44...Rxf2+! 45.Kxf2 c2-+]**45.Rc5=****(22) Giri, A(2773)-Grishuk, A(2781)**

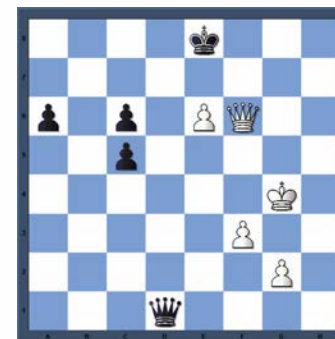
Norway blitz, 2015.06.15

**34...Rbb1?** [34...Kh3! 35.Rxb2 (35.Rxa7 35...Rxf2 36.Kxf2 Rxf1+-) 35...Rxf1#]**35.Kg2 Khd5+ 36.Kh3∞****(23) Grishuk, A(2781)-Vachier Lagrave, M(2723)**

Norway blitz, 2015.06.15

**46...Rg1! 47.Qxf5+ Rxf5! 48.Rhxf5 Rg2+ 49.Kh1 Rg1+ 50.Kh2 Rg2+ 51.Kh1 1/2****(24) Anand, V(2804)-Carlsen, M(2876)**

Norway blitz, 2015.06.15

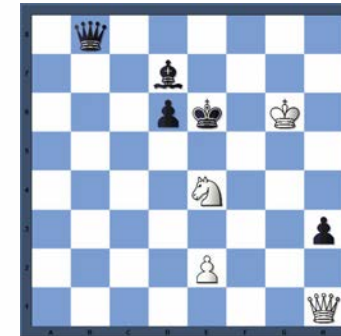
**44...Kd4+! -+ 45.Kf5** [45.Kxd4 45...cxd4 46.Kf4 a5 47.Qe4 c5 48.g4 a4 49.Qd3 a3 50.Qc2 d3+-+]**45...Kxf6+ 46.Kxf6 c4 47.g4 c3 48.g5 c2 0-1**

(25) Caruana, F(2805)-Giri, A(2773)

Norway blitz, 2015.06.15

**26. ♘h6+!! gxf6 27. ♖g3+ ♔h8** [27... ♕g7 28. ♕xh6+-]**28. ♖xf7** [28. ♕d4+ 28... ♖e5 29. ♖xf7+-]**28... ♖b4 29. ♖ef1! ♕d8 30. ♘c3** [30. ♖xh7+ 30... ♔xh7 31. ♖f7+ ♔h8 32. ♖g6+-]**30... ♕e6****(26) Caruana, F(2805)-Giri, A(2773)**

Norway blitz, 2015.06.15

**37. ♕xg7+?** [37. ♔g1!! 37... ♖xd6 (37... ♔g8 38. ♕xg7 ♖xg7 39. ♖e5!) 38. ♕xg7+ ♖xg7 39. ♖xd6=] **37... ♖xg7** 0-1**(27) Troitzky****1. ♘c5+!! dxc5 2. ♖xh3+ ♔e7** [2... ♔d6 3. ♖g3+-; 2... ♔d5 3. ♖f3+! ♔e6 (3... ♔d4 4. ♖d3+ ♔e5 5. ♖g3+-; 3... ♔c4 4. ♖d3+ ♔b4 5. ♖b1+-) 4. ♖f5+ ♔e7 (4... ♔d6 5. ♖f4+-) 5. ♖f6+ ♔e8 6. ♖h8+-]**3. ♖h4+ ♔e6** [3... ♔f8 4. ♖h8+-]**4. ♖f6+ ♔d5 5. ♖f3+ ♔e6 6. ♖f5+ ♔e7 7. ♖f6+ ♔e8 8. ♖h8+ ♔e7 9. ♖xb8**



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 175

3rd of July 2015

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Editorial Preface

A lot of big chess events are under way, but let us start with the traditional round robin in Dortmund, the "Dortmunder Schachtage".

After a long time, another women chess player (the previous one was Polgar Judith) finally joined the world's best chess players and this is Hou Yifan. After 5 rounds she has 2 points. She only lost one game to Kramnik and made 4 draws, which is clearly not a bad result!

Nisipeanu and Caruana are sharing the first place with 3.5/5. Then comes Kramnik with 3 points. The last 2 rounds of Dortmund are clearly going to be the very fighting because everything is still possible for the top 3 places in the event.

What is a bit strange for such a top tournament is the very small amount of draws! For example Kramnik has won 3 games and lost 2, but of course this is very good news for the spectators.

Your weekly commentator Arkadij Naiditsch has 2.5/5 points.

In the Chinese Island Hainan a very strong round robin is also under way, with all the best Chinese players and the two foreigners Bruzon and Sasikiran.

The 2nd Porticcio Open in Corsica had 2 winners, Areshchenko and Laznicka, both with the very good result of 7.5/9. From the top French players Fressinet scored 7 points and Bacrot, who lost his last game, only 6.5/9.

In the Russian higher league 3 players came equal first with 6.5/9: Artemiev, Motylev and Bukavshin.

In other news, we are proud to announce that Adrian Mikhalthishin, a Senior FIDE Trainer, joins us with his column "Golden Knowledge".

We would like to warmly welcome Adrian and hope that you will enjoy the exercises from one of the World's best trainers!

Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) **Nisipeanu, Liviu-Dieter (2654)**
- **So, Wesley (2778) [B23]**

43rd GM 2015(1.4),
2015.06.27



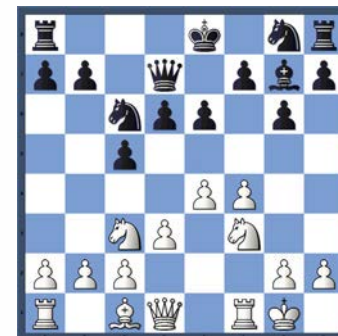
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Nisipeanu has managed to surprise the extremely well prepared Wesley So with a tricky sideline in the Sicilian defense, which brought him a very nice victory.

1.e4 c5 2.♘c3 d6 3.f4 Not the main line, but if someone plays the Sicilian, that must also know about the sidelines like this. Of course, So was also familiar with the beginning of the theory...

3...g6 4.♗f3 ♟g7 5.♟b5+ [The main move and by far more common is 5.♟c4 but here Black has enough time to arrange the ideal development of his pieces with 5...♗c6 6.d3 e6 7.O-O ♗ge7 and 0-0 next showed by Gelfand and Karjakin in some games.]

5...♟d7 6.♟xd7+ ♚xd7 7.O-O ♗c6 8.d3 e6 In comparison to the lines in the 5. Bc4 variation, White is a tempo ahead in the development (the knight is not yet on e7), which allows him the following option.



9.f5!? ♗ge7 Black wants to play like in the other lines, but he must deal with some unexpected concrete ideas. [I believe, the strongest reply is 9...exf5 (with the bish op on c4 this usually does not work, because of the pressure on the f7 pawn) 10.exf5 O-O-O (10...♚xf5? does not work in view of 11.♗g5!; 10...gxf5?! destroys his own pawn structure. White gets strong compensation after 11.♗h4 ♗ge7 12.♚h5)]

10.fxe6 fxe6 11.♗g5! This is the difference! Black is missing one tempo (not castled yet) and he must face some unexpected problems on the f7 and e6 squares. White is ready to create problems with Qg4, Rf7 and Nf7, Black tries to prevent all these ideas with one move...

11...♗e5? Wesley So probably misses the next tactical blow... [The right move seems to be 11...h6! 12.♗f7 ♚h7! A very concrete line is about to come. The outcome of the f7 knight will decide the game, White either creates decisive threats or it gets trapped... (12...♚f8 13.♗xh6 the knight escapes.) 13.♗b5! White prevents the concrete Bd4 check after which the knight was falling and attacks the d6 in the same time. 13...♗c8 Black protects everything for now, but White creates new threats...

14. ♔g4! The pawn on g6 has become unprotected and White immediately makes use of it. 14... ♖e6! Only move, but now the b5 knight is hanging. White must continue pushing with the most active moves: 15.e5! ♕xb5 16. ♖xd6+ ♖xd6 17.exd6



The knight cannot be saved, because Black loses even more if he drops the g6 pawn with check. The game seems to be over, however Black saves himself with 17... ♕d7! 18.dxe7 ♕d4+! 19. ♕xd4 ♖xd4+ 20. ♖h1 ♖xe7= and the game is balanced!]



12. ♖b5!! This beautiful move was missed or underestimated by So. White starts dancing with his knights and somehow Black is unable to deal with them. The main threat is to take Nxe6 because then none of the knights can be taken because of the other checks the queen with Nc7!

12... ♕xb5 [12...h6? just strengthens the main threat, White wins on the spot after 13. ♖xe6!; A very logical defend would be to evacuate the king from the center. The point is after Nxa7 Kb8 the knight gets trapped, however White has the very strong move at his disposal: 12...O-O-O 13.d4! ♕xb5 (13...cxd4 14. ♖xd4 and the e6 pawn cannot be protected!) 14.dxe5 dxe5 destroys the future of the g7 bishop. White soon wins back the sacrificed pawn he ends up with a winning advantage... (14... ♖xe5 15. ♖f7 wins material. 15... ♖hf8 16. ♖g5+-) 15. ♕g4 ♖hf8 16. ♖e3+-]

13. ♖xe6 White wins back the minor piece, as he is threatening with Nc7 and Nxg7 in the same time.

13... ♕d7 Black has pinned his hopes to this move! He hopes, that the knight on g7 gets trapped and he will have enough time to capture it.

14. ♖xg7 h5 Black had two ideas in mind. He prevents the Bh6 resource of safely guarding the piece and he creates an additional threat of attacking the knight to Rag8 with Rh7. White must continue acting directly! [In case of 14... ♖hg8 15.a4! just like in the game, White sends the queen away from the b2 square in order to protect the knight with Bh6! 15... ♕b6 16.a5 ♕b5 17.c4 ♕c6 (Black cannot keep the pressure on the b2 pawn anymore with 17... ♕b4? 18. ♖a4+- traps the queen.) 18. ♖h6+- without being able to win the knight, Black is just lost.]

15.a4 White wants to develop his c1 bishop and he does want to worry about the fall of his b2 pawn.

15... ♕b6 16.a5 ♕b5 17.c4! The b2 pawn cannot be attacked anymore...

17... ♕c6 [17... ♕b4 18. ♖a4+-]



18.b4!? Stylish move, but it is not the only move to get a decisive advantage. On the other hand it is very logical, White wants to destroy the pawn structure and explode the center, while the black king stands on d7. He either lures a central pawn to b4 after which the knight e5 loses its outpost or he takes on c5 with similar consequences. White believes, that the two moves until Black grabs the knight on g7 will be enough to execute the plans. [18.♕f4!? is also very strong, but the point is different... 18...♖ag8 19.d4! (19.♕xe5? 19...dxe5 20.♖f7 is too slow, Black wins the piece with 20...♖h7) 19...♗xc4 (19...cxd4 20.♖xd4+- The black cannot hold his e5 knight.) 20.d5! ♖b5 21.♗e6+- White not only saves his knight, but he manages to place it on an excellent square from where it completely paralyzes the black pieces.]

18...♖h7 [On 18...cxb4 19.d4 ♗xc4 20.♕g5+- Black quickly collapses.]

19.bxc5 ♖xg7 [19...dxc5 leads again to the opening of the position and a quick defeat after 20.d4!+-]



20.♖f6! This was the key, which had to be foreseen by Nisipeanu before choosing the 18.b4 variation! White puts further pressure on the d6 pawn and Qxc5 cannot be taken as it gives back the piece after d4! Otherwise Black must set all his pieces into passivity to not collapse immediately because of the Rxd6 threat.

20...♗c8 A sad decision. Black preserves his extra piece, but he basically lost his a8 rook and c8 knight... [20...♖xc5+ 21.d4 ♖xc4 22.dxe5+-]

21.d4! Nisipeanu continues playing the most direct and highly energetic moves with which he swaps off his opponent from the board.

21...♗g4 [21...♗xc4 22.♖b3+- is also over, the knight is trapped!; I tried 21...♖xe4 22.dxe5 ♖xe5 but the machine quickly finished me with the following variation: 23.♖a4+ ♔c7 24.♖f3 The bishop is coming soon to the game though f4 or e3. 24...♖xc5+ 25.♕e3 ♖c6 26.♖a3 Black is still a pawn up, but his pieces are totally disorganized. He cannot survive for long... 26...♗e7 27.c5! d5 28.♕f4+ ♔d7 29.♕e5 ♖h7 30.♖f6+- and the game is over.]

22.♖f3 ♕xe4 [Another unsuccessful defensive attempt is 22...dxc5 23.h3! We can see the strength of the white center. The cover all the important squares, therefore Black does not have a good way to save his knight... 23...♖d6 24.hxg4 ♕xd4+ 25.♗e3 ♕xd1+ 26.♖xd1+ Black manages to trade queens, but his king does get out of the danger! 26...♖e6 (26...♖c6 27.♖f6+-) 27.♖f8 Looks like a deadly pin, but Black can still resist with 27...♘b6



28.♗h6! However after this great move, the game turns into a completely winning rook endgame after... 28...♖xf8 29.♗xg7 ♖g8 30.axb6 ♖xg7 31.bxa7 ♖g8 32.♖a1 ♖a8 33.gxh5 gxh5 34.♖f2+-]

23.h3 White wins back the material by trapping the knight and he retains all the previous advantages by keeping all the poor black pieces and the vulnerable king in the center...

23...dxc5 24.dxc5+ ♖e8 [On 24...♖c7 White has different kind of wins, but probably the easiest one is 25.♗f4+ ♘e5 26.♖d5! ♕xd5 27.cxd5 ♖e7 28.♖e1+-]

25.hxg4 ♘e7 White has various ways to win. The rest is just the matter of taste...

26.♖f1 Threatening with Rf8!

26...♖g8 [26...♖d7 27.♗b2 ♖gg8 28.♖e1+-]

27.♗b2 [27.♗g5+- is equally strong.]

27...hxg4 28.♖e1 [Black resigned in view of 28.♖e1 28...♕xe1 29.♕xe1 gxf3 30.♗f6+- A nice win, which was mainly thanked to the one-game opening idea. However if Black reacts correctly it does not bring anything.] **1-0**

(2) So, Wesley(2778)
- Naiditsch, Arkadij(2722) [D37]

43rd GM 2015(3.3),
2015.06.30



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are in the 3rd round of the traditional tournament "Dortmunder Schachtage" and as usual the tournament has a great and interesting line-up. For me it was the first game against the very talented young player from Philippines, who changed his federation to American and is already in the Top 10. I have to say that to play against Wesley is everything but pleasant. He bangs the clock, caught non-stop and plays the moves instantly without writing the move of the opponent down. Well, a lot of young players behave very badly at the board these days and I am sure that the incident of Wesley So during the US Championship where he got a 0 for writing strange things on his scoresheet will not be the last time he breaks the ethic chess rules.

1.d4 It is not easy to guess the first move of So, since he plays everything.

1...♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♘bd7 In my first round game against Kramnik I chose to play my favorite 4...c5 Tarash, but I had a strong feeling that something unpleasant was waiting for me there, so I switched to the Queens Gambit.

5.e3 Clearly not the most ambitious but a very possible way of playing. The main at the moment is 5.Bf4.

5...♞e7 There are as well a lot of different possibilities to develop pieces for Black, but I usually like a solid setup in the opening.

6.b3 Now that the bishop can't get to f4 or g5, of course White develops to b2.

6...O-O 7.♞b2 b6 8.♞d3 ♞b7



9.♔c2! A well-known move, but it is still important to know this. White doesn't take too early on cxd5 because of Nxd5 and with the move Qc2 now Nxd5 will not be possible any longer because the h7 pawn is hanging.

9...c5 [To continue with 9...dxc4 10.bxc4 c5 11.d5 usually leads to a better position for White.]

10.cxd5 exd5 I am forced to take exd5 and now my bishop on b7 is a bit "stupid".

11.O-O a6 Before playing 11...a6 I thought for a long time. There are a lot of different setups for the black pieces and I needed to choose one. [If I was Peter Leko I would clearly go for 11...cxd4 12.♘xd4 g6 and try to hold this very safe but clearly worse position.]

12.♞fd1 ♔e8 I wanted to put my bishop on d6, but I need to be careful with White's e4 push first. [12...♞d6 seems premature since after 13.e4! it is clearly White who will benefit from the open center.]

13.♖ac1 ♘d6 14.♙f5 An interesting try. [It would have been more usual for White to play 14.♘e2 14...♚e7 15.♘g3 White wants to enter the f5 square. 15...g6 Of course the a1-h8 diagonal is a bit opened, but Black's position also has its pluses. Things are very complicated here.]

14...♖c8 I continue playing very safe moves and develop my pieces.

15.dxc5 Usually White should not give up the center without a concrete idea, but maybe So was afraid of my c4 push next. [A very typical move for White could have been 15.♚b1 and now I need to decide to play something "normal" like 15...Rc7 or to try and enter the complications with 15...c4 16.bxc4 dxc4 17.e4 (17.d5 17...g6)]

15...bxc5 16.♚d3 So far my opponent was playing very quickly. [16.♙xd7 is of course not dangerous for Black. 16...♚xd7 17.♘a4 d4 (17...♚e7 is good as well.) 18.♙b6 and here comes the very beautiful blow which I saw during the game:



18...♙xh2+! 19.♘xh2 ♚c6 and Black is better.]



16...♖c7 I continue keeping things safe.

17.♘a4 To play with or against hanging central pawns is always a very difficult task. Both sides have a lot of ideas and a lot of tactical motifs which need to always be taken into account.

17...♚e7 I managed to protect my center which is very good news.

18.♚c3 Another move which was played very quickly by So. It is logical to bring the queen to a5, but how to play such a move without spending at least a bit of time calculating the resources of your opponent?! [Maybe White should have continued with a prophylactical move like 18.h3 but I think it is already Black who can hope to get a better position. 18...g6 19.♙xd7 ♘xd7 and I think the position is about dynamically equal.]



18...d4! A very strong move which completely turns the game around.

19.exd4 ♘xf3 I was playing against the weak 1st rank. [19...♞d5 would also lead to a very unclear position. 20.♞e1 ♞d8 21.♞f1 ♞f4 and I was totally unsure during the game about who is actually better here.]

20.♞xf3 cxd4 This was my idea. Of course White has the bishop pair, but the 1st rank is very weak and the knight on a4 is totally out of the game.

21.♞a1? A really shocking reply! [21.g3 would lead to a normal position. 21...♞e5 22.♞g2 ♞xc1 23.♞xc1 g6 24.♞b1 and maybe Black is only a tiny bit better after 24...♞b8 with the idea of putting a lot of pressure on the f2 pawn by playing Ba7. White's problem of the horrible position of the knight on a4 is still unsolved.; Of course White can't exchange the rooks because of the mate: 21.♞xc7 21...♞e1+ 22.♞xe1 ♞xe1#]

21...♞e5 The black pieces keep on coming!

22.♞h3 White's position is already very difficult.

22...g6 23.♞d3 Here because I spent of a lot of thinking between the moves 12-20 I had only 20 minutes left on the clock and So about an hour, but what really surprised me during the game was that he was always playing his move instantly without even writing down my move. Well, in any case it did not go too well for him...

23...♞d5 White is in a huge danger.



24.♞xd4? Another bad move by White... [24.♞f1 24...♞f4 25.♞g3 White's position looks lost, but it is still playable. 25...♞ed3 26.♞f3 with a big advantage for Black, but nothing too dramatic has happened.]

24...♞xd3 Because I didn't have too much time left, I played this move quickly and missed a direct win. [24...♞f4 25.♞h6 and now comes the move that I missed: 25...♞f6!! with the idea of playing Bf8 next, catching the white queen. Just beautiful!]

25.♞xd3 ♞f4 26.♞xa6? and this move just loses on the spot in many different ways. [White's best chance was 26.♞f3 26...♞e2+ 27.♞f1 and now Black has a few options, but the most simple one is 27...♞xd4 28.♞xd4 ♞e5 29.♞e4 ♞xa1 30.♞xe7 ♞c1+ 31.♞e2 ♞xe7+ and White's position should be close to lost with such an open king and the knight on a4.]

26...♞g5 A safe move. [Another easy win was 26...♞e2+ 27.♞f1 ♞xd4 28.♞xd4 ♞c2 and White is totally lost. 29.♞xd6 ♞h4! with the double threat of taking on h2 and f2. The game is over.]

27.g3 [In case of 27.♞f1 27...♞e2+ 28.♞h1 Black is winning after 28...♞xh2! 29.♞xh2 ♞h4#]

27...♘e2+ 28.♔f1



28...♔g4 I had another 5 different moves to end the game as well. My threat is simple, to play Qh3 next.

29.♕e3 ♖xe3 [29...♔f3 was maybe a bit more accurate.]

30.♔a8+ ♔g7 31.♖xd6 [White can't take the rook: 31.fxe3 31...♖c2! All the black pieces are attacking the lonely white king. 32.♔g2 ♔f5+ 33.♔e1 ♕b4+ and Black will mate during the next few moves.]

31...♖e4 Safe and solid. Now the white king is fighting against the whole black army alone!

32.♔g2 ♕f4+ 33.♔g1 ♕h3+ 34.♔g2 ♖c2 The f2 pawn is going to fall.

35.♖f1 ♕f4+ Of course many other options would have been good enough, but this is a pretty one. 36.♔g1



36...♔f3 and after 37.gxf4 I have 37... ♖xf2 38.♖xf2 and ♖e1. I was very happy after the game to beat a Top 10 player with Black with such a nice mating attack. 0-1

Puzzle section

(3) Topalov, V(2798)-Caruana, F(2805)

Norway Chess, 2015.06.23

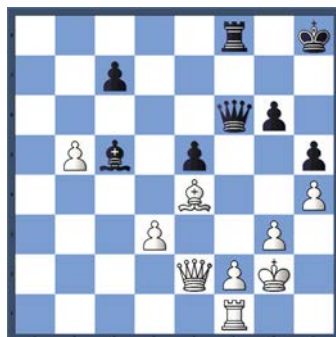
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(4) Anand, V(2804)-Hammer, J(2677)

Norway Chess, 2015.06.24

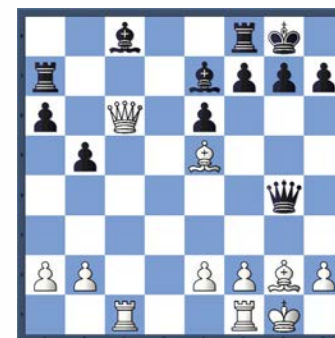
1. +-



(5) Ortiz Suarez, I(2572)-Gonzalez Vidal, Y(2550)

Capablanca memorial B, 2015.06.25

1. +-



(6) Ivanchuk, V(2733)-Matras Clement, A(2269)

Edmonton GM, 2015.06.24

1. +-



(7) Haessel, D(2180)-Harikrishna, P(2733)

Edmonton GM, 2015.06.24

1... -+



(8) Shankland, S(2656)-Pechenkin, V(2314)

Edmonton GM, 2015.06.25

1. +-



(9) Hambleton, A(2446)-Ganguly, S(2625)

Edmonton GM, 2015.06.27

1... -+



(10) Kobalia, M(2623)-Fedoseev, V(2674)

Russian Higher league, 2015.06.23

1. +-



(11) Shimanov, A(2606)-Alekseev, E(2651)

Russian Higher league, 2015.06.24

1... -+



(12) Riazantsev, A(2658)-Chekhov, S(2476)

Russian Higher league, 2015.06.24

1. +-



Endgame section

(13) Ponkratov, Pavel (2610)
- Dubov, Daniil (2661)

Russian Higher league,
2015.06.28



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



Black manages to convert his advantage into full point with perfect technique. It is clear, that the connected c- and b-passed pawns supported with the bishop worth more than an exchange. The d-pawn cannot be promoted and it's days are counted, but still the win requires some work...

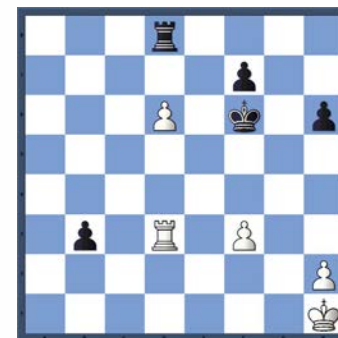
45...♖d8! Black needs to eliminate the d-pawn and only then he could focus on his own triumphs. [45...♖b8 46.d7 and Black cannot advance his b-pawn...]

46.♖d2 Only move. White indirectly protects his pawn.

46...♔g6! Making use of the drawback of the previous move.

The black king is not cut anymore therefore he quickly brings it to the game. [It is too early to play 46...♖xd6 47.♖xc4! this is the point of 46.Rd2! 47...♖b6 (47...♔xc4 48.♖xd6 is not the same as the game, because the black king is very far from the b-pawn and b2 runs into Rb6. White is suddenly better here.) 48.♖xd3 b2 49.♖d1 b1=♔ 50.♖xb1 ♖xb1+ 51.♔g2=]

47.d7 [A key line is 47.♖c3 White wants to give back the exchange. 47...♔f6! 48.♖cxd3 cxd3 49.♖xd3



49...♖b8! Both sides have a strong passed pawn, but the difference is that the black king is close enough to join to the game and to stop the d-pawn, while the white one is not only too far but also stands on the first rank to make the promotion happen with check... 50.d7 b2 51.♖d1 ♔e7! 52.♔g2 Black must find one more prophylactic move to win the game... 52...♔d8 and Black already prepared to promote his pawn... (52...b1=♔? is too early because of the intermediate move 53.d8=♔+! ♖xd8 54.♖xb1=) 53.♖b1 ♔xd7—+]

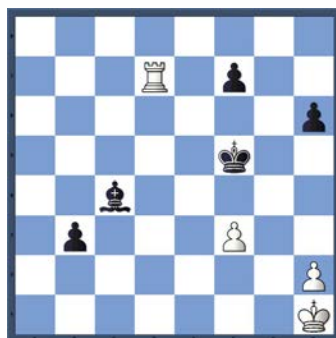
47...♔f5! Black wants to play Ke5-d4 after which the pawns are promoting automatically. The only move is to try to give back the exchange...

48. ♖c3



48... ♖xd7! Compared to the position after 46.Rd2, Black already gives up his rook for the c-pawn, because he has brought his king out from the cage and it is ready to support the b-pawn... [48... ♖e5 leads to draw after 49. ♖dxd3 cxd3 50. ♖xd3 b2 51. ♖b3=]

49. ♖xc4 ♗xc4 50. ♖xd7



50... ♖e5! This is the point! Black wants to play Bd5 which is threatening with the b2 win right away and it also opens the path for the king to penetrate along the Kd4-c3...

51. f4+ [51. ♖g2 51... ♗d5 52. ♖d8 ♖d4 Black is ready to push b2... 53. ♖b8 ♖c3—+ and b2 next because Rc8 is met by Bc4!]

51... ♖e4! Of course the most important is to get the bishop

to d5 and to play Kd4 afterwards... [51... ♖xf4 is a blunder, but it also leads to draw after 52. ♖d4+ ♖e3 53. ♖xc4 ♖d3=]

52. ♖g2 ♗d5 53. ♖d6 b2 54. ♖b6 ♖d3+ 55. ♖g3 ♖c3 55...Kc2 leads to the same. Black wants to play Bb3 in both cases, therefore White cannot win any more tempi, he must give up his rook right away.

56. ♖xb2 ♖xb2 57. ♖g4 ♖c3! Black cannot save his h-pawn, but the f7 remains on board. He quickly brings back his king to the kingside to conclude the win...

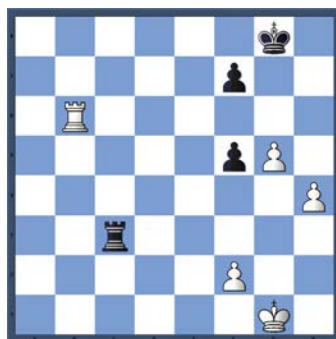
58. ♖h5 ♗d4 59. ♖xh6 ♖e4 60. ♖g5 f5 [White resigned in view of 60...f5 61.h4 ♗f7 62. ♖f6 ♗h5 63. ♖g5 ♗e8 setting White into zugzwang... 64.h5 ♗xh5 65. ♖xh5 ♖xf4—+] **0-1**

**(14) Bacrot, Etienne (2695)
- Sethuraman, S.P. (2623)**

2nd Porticcio Open 2015(6.1),
2015.06.30



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



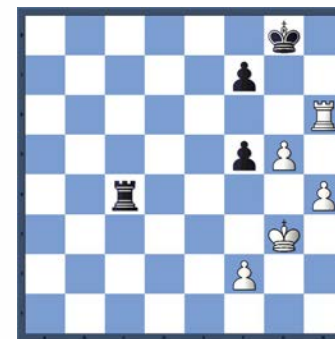
White has been putting big pressure all game long, but Black managed to escape into this rook endgame a pawn down. If the black pawn from f5 was placed on g6, the position would just be a draw, but because of the weakness of Black's pawn structure, White's chances for a full point are quite realistic.

44...♖c4! A good move. Black forces the white rook to take a very passive position.

45.♖h6 There is no other way to save the h4 pawn. [The position after 45.♖f6 45...♖xh4 46.♖xf5 is just a theoretical draw.]

45...♔g7? Black does not feel the danger. [The idea to save the game is to not let White play f3. 45...♖f4! 46.♔g2 (46.♔f1 46...♔g7 Black just keeps on waiting. 47.♔e2 ♖e4+ 48.♔f3 Now that there is no more f3 threat, Black continues keeping the rook on the 4th rank. 48...♖g4 and White can't improve his

position.) 46...♖g4+! Not giving White a chance of playing f3 again. 47.♔f3 ♖c4 48.♔g3



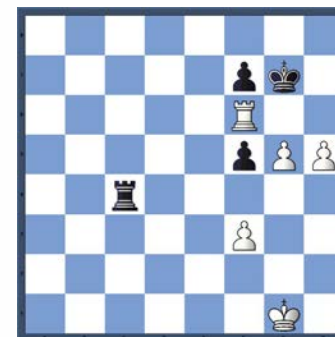
48...♖g4+! 49.♔h3 ♖f4 and so on. The position is a draw.]

46.f3! Of course Etienne doesn't miss his chance! Now White just wants to bring his king to g3 to free the rook from h6.

46...♖c2 [Black is also losing after 46...f6 47.♖xf6 ♖xh4 48.♖xf5 ♔g6 49.♖d5]

47.♖f6 Forcing the black rook to leave the 2nd rank.

47...♖c4 48.h5 and the white pawns keep on moving.



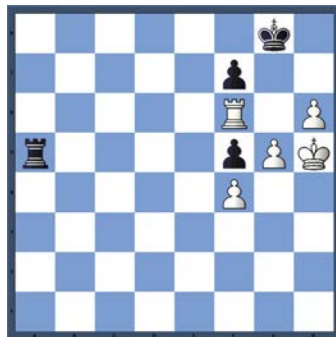
48...♖c5 [48...f4 doesn't help. 49.h6+ ♔g8 50.♖f5! Defending against Rc5. Now all White needs to do is to play Kg2-Kh3-Kg4 and it is game over.]

49.h6+ ♔g8 50.f4 White is careful until the very end! [Of course not 50.♔g2? 50...f4! and suddenly there is no way to defend the g5 pawn and the position is a draw!]

50...♖a5 Black can't do anything but to keep on waiting.

51.♔f2 ♜b5 52.♔g3 The white king is going to h5.

52...♖a5 53.♔h4 ♜b5 54.♔h5 ♖a5 and here comes the last stage of the winning plan:

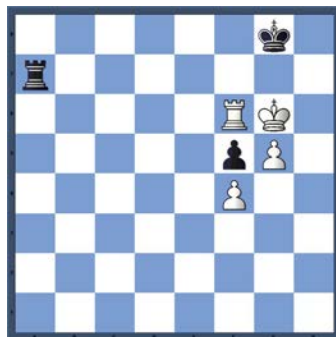


55.h7+! White doesn't exchange his pawns, which would be bad, but enters the g6 square with his king!

55...♔xh7 56.♖xf7+ ♔g8 57.♔g6 The game is totally over!

57...♖a6+ 58.♖f6 There is no way for Black to save the f5 pawn.

58...♖a7



59.♖c6 We just saw perfect play from White in this not so simple rook endgame and once again what a great example on how complicated rook endgames are, where a small detail like the position of a pawn on f2 or f3 can decide about the outcome of the game. **1-0**

Golden knowledge. The famous rook trick



GM Adrian Mikhachishin
Best rating: 2551

Rook endgames are most common in chess and every player has to know theoretical basic positions as well as typical plans. In rook endings there are quite a few additional special tactical maneuvers which are frequently misplayed. But we study not just on great examples. Mistakes are extremely instructive too and even the world's greatest and strongest grandmasters are not immune to them.

I) Typical rook tactics

(15) Vyzmanavin, Alexey - Lerner, Konstantin Z

URS-ch51, 1984



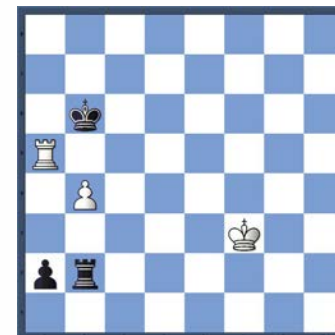
74. ♖c2 ♜a3 75. ♖d2?? [Incredible, but it was necessary to go back here! 75. ♖b2= 75... ♜g3 76. ♖c2 ♖d5 77. ♖d2 ♜a3 78. ♖e2 h2 79. ♖f2]

75...h2 76. ♖e2 ♜a1! Forcing the white rook to come to the same rank as the king.

77. ♜xh2 ♜a2+ 0-1

(16) Varga, Zoltan - Groetz, Harald

Austria, 2007



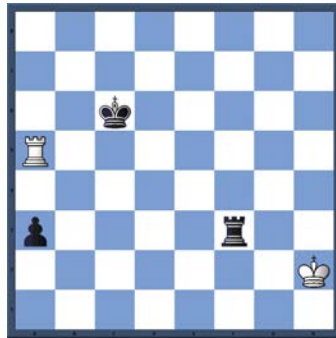
It is very strange that classical knowledge from great players is not studied by all others!

77... ♜b3+ 78. ♖e2?? It is incredible that an experienced GM made such a mistake against a much weaker player! [There were two easy drawish options 78. ♖g2 ; 78. ♖f2 78... ♜h3 79. ♖g2]

78... ♜h3 79. ♖d2 ♜h1 80. ♜xa2 ♜h2+ 0-1

(17) Noritsyn, N. - Babula, V.

Khanty-Mansiysk RUS, 2010

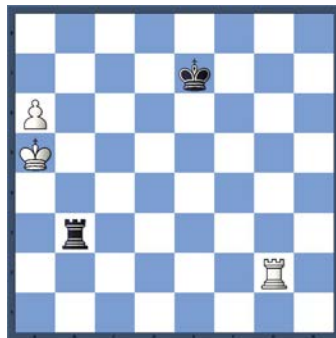


57. ♖g2 ♜b3 58. ♖f2 ♜h3 59. ♖e2?? [Correct was 59. ♖g2 as in the first example 59... ♜b3 60. ♖f2 ♖b6 61. ♜a8 ♖b5 62. ♖e2 ♖b4 63. ♖d2 ♜b2+ 64. ♖c1 ♖b3 65. ♜b8+ ♖a2 66. ♜c8! transposing into a famous draw position.]

59...a2 60. ♖d2 ♜h1 0-1

(18) Fischer, R. - Benko, P.

New York, 1959



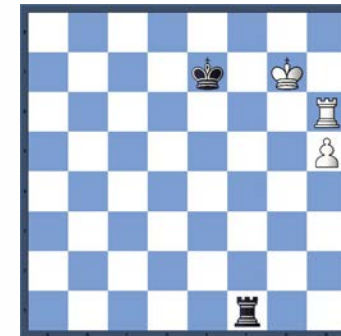
58... ♜a3+ [58... ♖d7 59. a7 ♖c7 (59... ♜a3+ 60. ♖b4 ♜a1 61. ♜g8 ♜xa7 62. ♜g7+) 60. ♜g7+]]

59. ♖b6 ♜b3+ 60. ♖c5 ♜a3 61. a7! ♖e6 [Trying to avoid our maneuver 61... ♖d7 62. ♜g8 ♜xa7 63. ♜g7+]]

62. ♜g7 ♜a1 63. ♖c6 ♜a2 64. ♖b7 ♜b2+ 65. ♖c8 ♜a2 66. ♖b8 ♜b2+ 67. ♜b7 ♜h2 68. a8=♜ ♜h8+ 69. ♖a7 1-0

(19) Zhao Xue - Stefanova, Antoaneta

4th WGP 2014, 2014.04.11



With the modern time control of 30 seconds increment big mistakes in the endgames are quite usual.

64. ♜a6 ♜f7+ 65. ♖g6 ♜f1 66. ♜a7+ ♖f8?? [The simple way to draw was 66... ♖e6 67. h6 ♜g1+ 68. ♖h7 ♜g2 69. ♜g7 ♜h2=]

67. ♜a8+ ♖e7 68. h6 ♜g1+ 69. ♖f5 ♜f1+ 70. ♖e5 ♜h1 71. h7! ♜xh7 72. ♜a7+ 1-0

(20) Glavina Rossi, P. - Oms Pallisse, J.

Zaragoza ESP, 2010

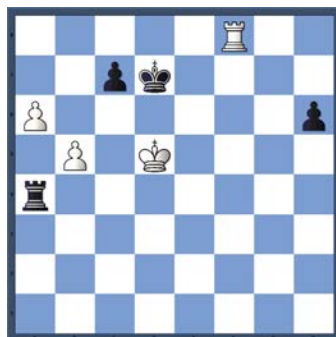


Sometimes the idea of this maneuver is conducted on an open file after a few pawn sacrifices.

36.g4+! hxg4 37.fxg4+ ♔xg4 38.h5! ♔g5 39.hxg6 1-0

(21) Shirov, A. - Kramnik, V.

Beograd, 1999



59.♖a8 [Shirov could immediately play 59.b6 59...♖a5+ (59...cxb6 60.a7; 59...c6+ 60.♔e5 ♖a5+ 61.♔f6 ♖xa6 62.b7) 60.♔c4 ♖a4+ 61.♔b5]

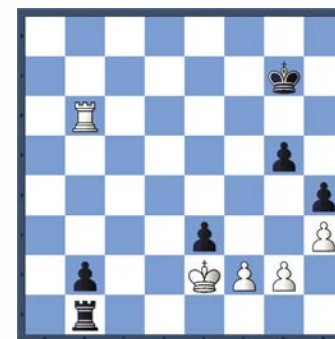
59...♖a1 [59...h5 did not help. 60.a7 h4 61.b6]

60.a7 ♖d1+ 61.♔e4 ♖e1+ 62.♔f3 ♖a1 63.b6! Finally!

63...cxb6 64.♖h8 1-0

(22) Martinovic, Sl - Dumpor, A.

Novi Becej, 1986



1...g4! 2.hxg4 Black's idea was to take on f2, then play h4- h3 and after the capture opening the second rank and then play Rh1, completing the maneuver.

2...h3! 3.gxh3! exf2 Mission completed!

4.♖b7+ [4.♔xf2 4...♖h1]

4...♔f6 5.♖b6+ ♔e5 6.♖b5+ ♔d4 7.♔xf2 ♖h1 8.♔g3 b1=♔ 9.♖xb1 ♖xb1 10.♔f4 ♔d5 11.h4 ♖f1+ 12.♔g5 ♔e6 13.♔g6 ♖f6+ [A bit easier win was after 13...♖f4]

14.♔g7 ♖f7+ 15.♔g8 ♖a7! 0-1

(23) Stohl, I. - Korchnoi, V.

Tilburg, 1993



80...♙xf7 [Much more stubborn was 80...♖d8 81.♖h7 ♙f6 82.a7 ♙g6 83.f8=♚! ♖xf8 84.♖b7 ♖a8 85.♙d2 ♙f6 86.♙c3 ♙e6 87.♙c4 ♙d6 88.♙b5+-]

81.♖h8! +- [81.a7? 81...♖d8=]

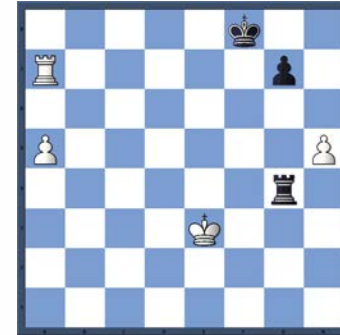
81...♙g7 [81...♖a3 82.a7 ♖xa7 83.♖h7+]

82.a7 ♙xh8 83.a8=♚+ ♙g7 84.♚b7+ ♙f8 85.♚b4+! ♙g7 86.♚g4+ ♙f6 87.♚f4+ ♙g7 88.♚g5+ ♙h8 89.♚h6+ ♙g8 90.♚g6+ ♙h8 91.♚xd3 ♙g7 92.♚d6 ♙h8 93.♙e2 ♙g7 94.♚e6 ♙h8 95.♙f3 ♙g7 96.♙f4 ♙h8 97.♙g5 ♙g7 98.♚e7+ 1-0

(24) Polugaevsky, L. - Parma, B.

Soviet Union, 1965

Sometimes even on the top level the tragedies and comedies are happening. White's plan is to come to the classical position after opening the seventh rank.



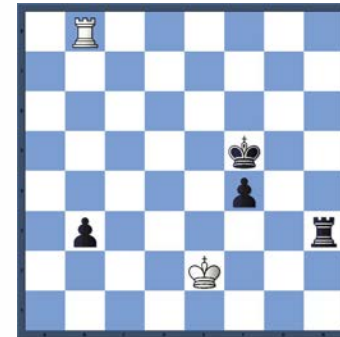
60.a6 ♖a4 61.♖a8+ ♙f7 62.a7 ♖a5 63.h6 and Black resigned as he just saw the forced capture on h6 and the rook check. But in chess capture is not obligatory!!

63...♙g6! [63...gxh6 64.♖h8]

64.♙d4 ♙h7!! and Black could achieve a draw! **1-0**

(25) Bernstein, Ossip - Smyslov, Vassily

Groningen, 1946

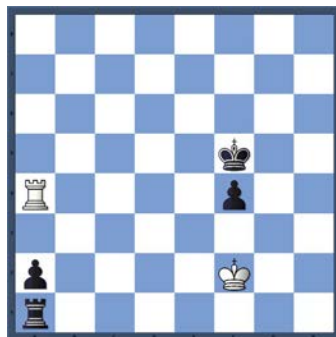


59...b2?? Here a young future World champion tries to immediately conduct the maneuver but he falls into a stalemate! [Easy win was after 59...♙e4 60.♖b4+ ♙d5 61.♖xf4 ♖h1 (61...b2 62.♖f1 ♙c4 63.♙d2 ♙b3+-) 62.♖b4 b2+-] **60.♖xb2! ♙g4** [60...♖h2+ 61.♙f3 ♖xb2= Stalemate]

61.♙f1 1/2-1/2

(26) Gunina, Valentina - Ziaziulkina, Nastassia

Rijeka, 2010



Black didn't study her classics obviously!

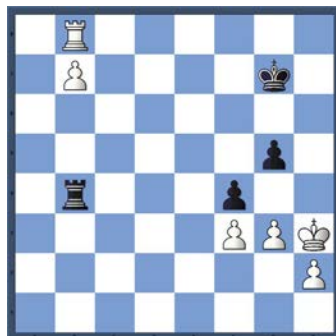
74...♖h1?? [It was necessary to know Smyslov's mistake we saw earlier! 74...♕e5 75.♖a8 f3]

75.♖xa2! ♖h2+ 76.♕f3 ♖h3+ [Just now Black saw the stalemate after 76...♖xa2]

77.♕g2 ♕g4 78.♖a8 ♖b3 79.♖g8+ ♕f5 80.♖f8+ ♕e4 81.♖e8+ ♕d4 82.♕f2 ♖e3 83.♖d8+ ♕e4 84.♖e8+ ♕d4 1/2-1/2

(27) Volkevich - Fishbein

Moscow, 1958

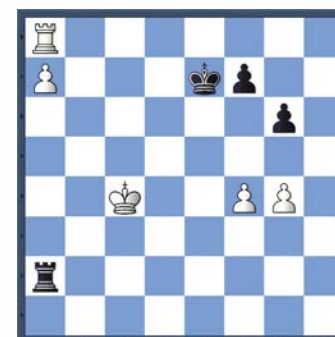


1...fxg3 2.hxg3?? White intended to win by moving the f-pawn forward but overlooked simple tactics! [Winning was 2.♕xg3 2...♕h7 3.h4! gxh4+ 4.♕h3 and just now is it possible to move the f-pawn to f6.]

2...g4+!! 3.fxg4 and a draw was agreed as White can't reach a main theoretical position. Everybody has to remember that winning are f- and e-pawns, while g- and h-pawns are a draw! This is the rule to remember. **1/2-1/2**

(28) Evelev, A. - Mikljeva, A.

Moscow, 1993



In most practical situations the seventh rank is not available for checks. So it is necessary to open one if it is possible!

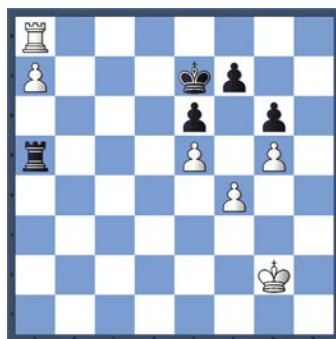
1.♕c5? [Chess is timing, as great Robert Fischer used to say. 1.g5! 1...♖a1 2.f5! gxf5 3.g6 sacrificing two pawns to clear the seventh rank! 3...♕f6 4.gxf7 ♕xf7 5.♖h8]

1...♕f6! If the king will be transferred to g7 then our maneuver here is not possible.

2.♕b6 ♖b2+ 3.♕c7 ♖c2+ 4.♕d7 ♖a2 1/2-1/2

(29) Vistaneckis, I. - Sardarov, A.

USSR, 1961



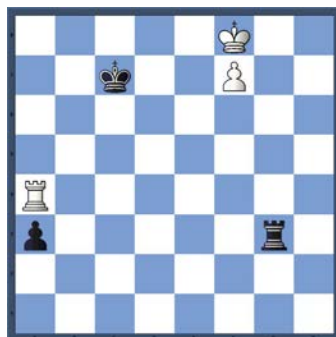
To open the seventh rank now it is necessary to sacrifice three pawns! Just one remark- with the king on g7 it does not work!

1.f5!! exf5 [1...gxf5 2.g6 fxg6 3.♖h8]

2.e6 ♖a4 3.exf7 ♔xf7 4.♖h8 1-0

(30) Kopajev=N

Shakhmaty v SSSR, 1949



The greatest rook endings specialist in history, Nikolay Kopaeve, made a nice study with this idea. He was the real

author of the classical Averbakh manual on rook endgames!

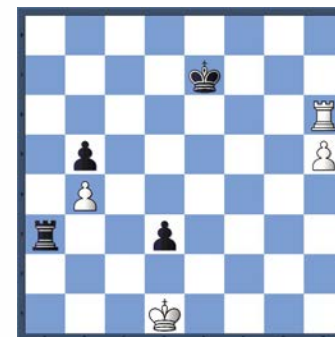
1.♔e7 ♖e3+ 2.♔f6 ♖f3+ 3.♔e6 ♖e3+ [3...♔c6 4.♖a6+! ♔c7 5.♖xa3]

4.♔d5! ♖f3 [Another defense did not work: 4...♖d3+ 5.♔e4 ♖d8 6.♔e5]

5.♖xa3 ♖f1 6.♖a8! ♖xf7 7.♖a7+ 1-0

(31) Vasiukov, Evgeni - Dzindzichashvili, Roman

Baku, 1972



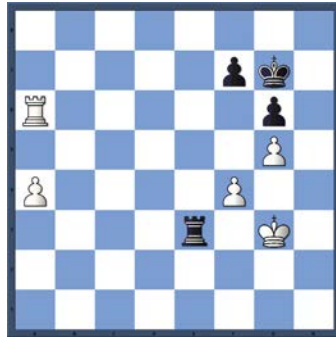
Here this maneuver doesn't win directly but prepares transposing into a winning pawn endgame.

58.♖b6 ♖a2 59.h6 ♖h2 60.h7! ♔f7 61.♖b8 ♖xh7 62.♖b7+ ♔g6 63.♖xh7 ♔xh7 64.♔d2 The pawn ending is winning for White as the black king is too far.

64...♔g6 65.♔xd3 ♔f5 66.♔d4 ♔e6 67.♔c5 ♔d7 68.♔xb5 ♔c7 69.♔a6 1-0

(32) Giri, Anish - Ponomarev, Ruslan

Dortmund SuperGM 39th, 2011.07.28



Now here are a few examples from the practical use from modern players. The players know this maneuver and include it in their plans.

56. ♖f2 ♜a3 57. ♜a7 ♖f8 58. a5 ♖e8 59. a6 ♖f8 60. ♖e2 ♖e8
 [60... ♖g7 61. ♖d2 ♜a4 62. ♖c3 ♜xf4 63. ♜d7 ♜a4 64. a7+- - Black has no moves on the kingside and White's king goes forward.]

61. ♜a8+ ♖d7 62. a7 ♖c6 [Our maneuver was possible after 62... ♖e7 63. f5 gxf5 64. g6 ♖f6 65. gxf7 ♖xf7 66. ♜h8]

63. ♜c8+ ♖b7 64. ♜f8 1-0

(33) Safarli, Eltaj - Nikolaidis, Ioannis

ETCC 2011



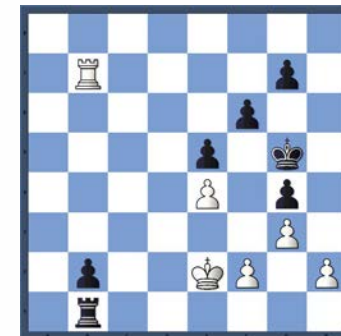
57. f4! From this move it is clear what position White is going to enter!

57... ♜d2 58. fxe5 hxe5 59. ♜b8 ♜d3 60. b4 ♜b3 61. b5 ♖f6 62. b6 ♖g6 63. f3! Preventing g5-g4 and after that White will play h3-h4.

63... ♖g7 64. b7 ♜b4 65. h4 g4 66. f4 1-0

(34) Stany, G. - Oleksienko, M.

5th Kolkata Open, 2012.12.13



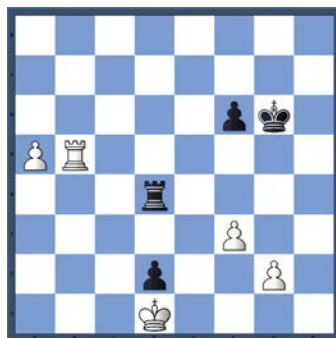
46... g6 Black's plan is to open the second rank.

47. ♜b6 f5 48. ♜b5 fxe4 49. ♜xe5+ ♖f6 50. ♜b5 e3! 51. fxe3
 [51. ♜b8 51... exf2 52. ♖xf2 ♜h1]

51... ♜h1 0-1

(35) Peralta, Fe - Bukavshin, I.

XXVIII Festival des Jeux 2014, 2014.03.02



52.♖b8! White gets his rook to a8, moves his pawn to a7 and then creates a passed pawn on the f-file. [After 52.g4? 52...♖d3 53.a6 ♖a3! 54.♖b6 ♖xf3 55.♔xd2 ♖g3 Black should be OK.]

52...♖a4 53.♖a8 ♖a2 [Did not work 53...♖a1+ 54.♔xd2 ♖a2+ 55.♔c3 ♖xg2 56.♖g8+]]

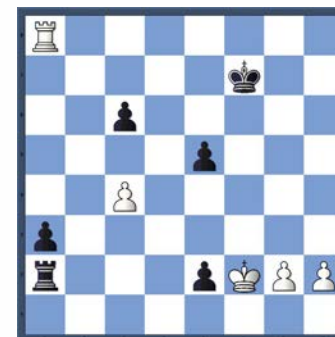
54.g4 ♔g5 55.a6 ♔f4 [After 55...♔g6 56.a7 ♔g7 57.f4 ♔h7 White plays 58.f5 followed by g4-g5 and f5-f6.]

56.a7 ♔xf3 57.g5! fxg5 58.♖f8+ ♔g2 59.a8=♔+ ♖xa8 60.♖xa8 g4 61.♔xd2 g3 62.♔e2 ♔h1 63.♖a1+ 1-0

II) Exercises

(36) Smirin, Ilia - Kasparov, Garry

Yerevan, 1996

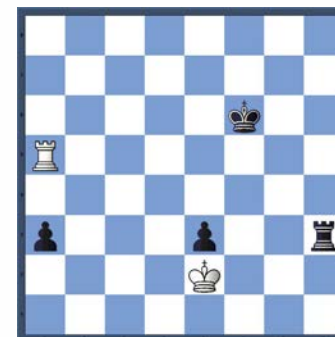


The World Champion conducts this maneuver easily and quickly:

39...♖a1! 40.♔xe2 a2 41.♔f2 e4 42.h4 e3+ 0-1

(37) Scheichel, Herbert - Sax, Gyula

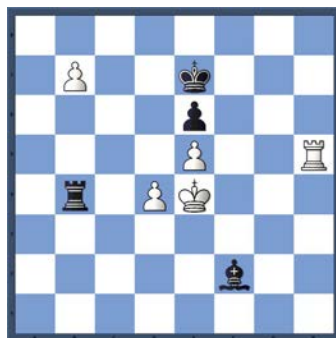
WchT U26 prel-2 20th, 1974.07.17



59...a2! 60.♔d3 e2+! 61.♔xe2 ♖h1 62.♖xa2 ♖h2+ 0-1

(38) Radziejewicz, I. - Kadziolka, B.

Poland, 2004

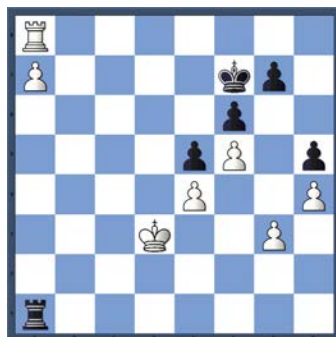


1. ♖h7+? [Easily winning was the same trick: 1. ♖h8 1... ♖xb7 2. ♖h7+]

1... ♔d8 2. ♔d3 ♕xd4 3. b8=♚+ ♖xb8 4. ♔xd4 ♖b5

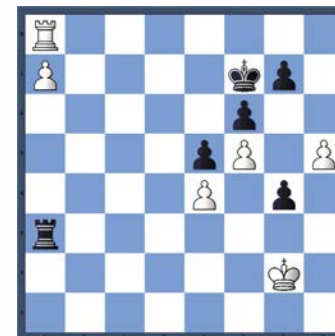
(39) Stevic, Hrvoje - Nishant, Malhotra

16th Dubai Open 2014, 2014.04.07



52. g4! hxg4 [Or 52... ♖a3+ 53. ♔c2 hxg4 54. ♔d2 ♖a4 55. h5+-]

53. ♔e2 ♖a2+ 54. ♔f1 ♖a1+ 55. ♔g2 ♖a3 56. h5



White threatens to play h5-h6 and after ...gxh6, Rh8! Rxa7, Rh7+ is winning. Black has no defense simply.

56... ♖a2+ 57. ♔g3 ♖a3+ 58. ♔xg4 ♖a1 59. h6 1-0

Chess and the City. A dangerous game



WGM Elisabeth Paetz
Best rating: 2493

This being a chess newsletter the reader may reasonably think the headline must refer to some brilliant tactical encounter, or to the time control of the recent Norway Chess... However I must disappoint you, today's topic is politics. Well, more specifically the impact of politics on chess, and namely the cancellation of one of my favorite yearly events, the Greek Chess League. As the most informed readers should already have guessed, the League was cancelled due to the turmoil prompted by the decision to hold a referendum on Sunday... The reader may of course object that the tournament was cancelled due to the hard stance of the IMF, or due to Germany or...well whatever, the League was cancelled and instead of writing to you from the beach in Patras, I'm roasting in Rome with 35 degrees and no air conditioning.

Well, before getting angry letters to the Editor pointing out the hardship of the Greek pensioners, or the historical moment that the whole of Europe is facing, I must state that I am aware of these problems. However, it is my belief that to understand such historical events one must start from an individual, personal, perspective which allows to avoid the all so common mistake to reduce them to numbers or to

some generic tearful description. It is clear to me, from my experiences in the League, that most Greek people are cheerful, lively and hospitable, especially towards foreign visitors and that they are far away from the descriptions of lazy welfare stealers that some press (alas, also German press) has tried to portray. I will never forget my first U-18 World Championship title, which I won in Greece in 2002, and just for this, maybe selfish but all too human memory, I feel very attached to this country. All the same, I don't think that the majority of Greeks perceive the Germans as panzer driving mustached financial vampires...

All in all, I hope that soon the only battles in Greece will be fought on the chess board, and that the political and social situation will return to normal. However, there are some reasons to think that unfortunately the worst has not yet come for Greece. Thus, we as chess players can only hope that the upcoming World Youth Chess Championship, scheduled for October in Porto Carras will take place normally and contribute to set a positive example for all, this will be one of the best chances to teach the outer world that Gens Una Sumus.

Clash of the Titans

(40) Petrosian, Tigran V
- Olafsson, Fridrik [D03]

Stockholm Interzonal(1),
1962.01.27



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.♟f3** e6 **3.♙g5** [3.g3 3...b5!?!]

3...c5! I like this move. Black immediately fights for the center.

4.e3 [4.c3]

4...♞b6 A development move with tempo.

5.♞c1 [5.♟bd2!? This pawn sacrifice deserves attention.
5...♞xb2 6.♙d3 d5 7.c4 and White has compensation thanks to his better development.]

5...♟c6 **6.c3** ♟e4 **7.♙h4** [7.♙f4]

7...d5 **8.♟bd2**



8...f5!? An important moment in the game. The f7-f5 move supports the knight on e4 but on the other hand the black structure is weaker now. The alternative was [8...♟xd2 9.♞xd2 ♙d6 10.♙d3 O-O 11.♙g3 ♞d8 (11...♙xg3?! gives White the opportunity to get an attack. 12.hxg3 h6 13.g4→) 12.O-O b6 Black's plan is Bb7-Qe7-e5, so White needs to play actively. 13.e4 ♙xg3 (13...cxd4 14.e5 dxc3 15.♞c2 ♙c5 16.♙h7+ ♟h8 17.♙d3 ♟b4 18.♞xc3 ♟xd3 19.♞xd3 a5 with a complex position.) 14.hxg3 cxd4 15.cxd4 dxe4 16.♙xe4 ♙b7 17.♞c2 ♟b4 (17...h6 18.♙xc6 ♞c8 19.♟e5 ♞xd4 20.♞fe1+-) 18.♙h7+ ♟h8 19.♞d2 ♟xh7 20.♞xb4 ♙xf3 21.gxf3 ♞d5 with good chances for Black to make a draw.; 8...♙d6?! 9.♟xe4 dxe4 10.♟d2 f5 11.♟c4 ♞c7 12.♟xd6+ ♞xd6 13.♙g3 ♞e7 14.♙e2 O-O 15.O-O e5 16.dxe5 ♟xe5 17.c4 with Qc3 next. White is clearly better because of the strong dark squared bishop.]

9.♟xe4?! is premature. White should have finished his development first. [9.♙d3 9...♙d6 10.♙g3 ♟xg3 11.hxg3 c4! (11...♞c7 12.dxc5 ♙xc5 13.c4↑ A typical idea.) 12.♙c2 ♞c7 Black takes space and now White is not able to destroy Black's structure because after 13.b3 b5 14.a4 Black has 14...b4!; 9.♙e2 9...♙d6 10.O-O O-O 11.dxc5 ♙xc5 12.♟b3 (12.c4 12...♙xe3!) 12...♙d6 13.c4! and White is slightly better here.]

9...fxe4 **10.♟d2 cxd4** **11.exd4** [11.cxd4 11...♙d7 gives Black a strong initiative on the queenside.]

11...♙d6 **12.♙e2** [12.f3 The idea of this move is to improve the white pieces a bit. 12...O-O! My intuition tells me that development should be decisive. (12...exf3 is worse. 13.♟xf3 O-O 14.♙f2! preventing e5. 14...♞c7 15.♞d2 e5 16.dxe5 ♟xe5 17.♞xd5+ ♟h8 18.O-O-O±) 13.fxe4



13...e5! 14.exd5 exd4 15.dxc6 ♖g4→and the white king is in trouble.]

12...O-O 13.O-O ♜f4 14.♜g3 A logical exchange for White. [14.♞c2? 14...♞c7! with the double threats Bxh2 and Nxd4.]

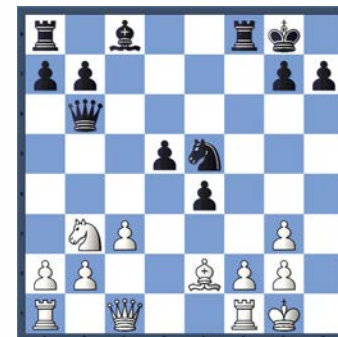
14...e5 15.dxe5



15...♜xg3! An important move order. Less accurate was [15...♜xe5 16.♜xf4 ♜xf4 17.♜c4 ♞f6 18.♜xe5 ♞xe5 19.♞e3 and without the knights Black has no attack. White can slowly prepare pressure against the d5 pawn, for example with Rd1-Rd2-Bd1-Bb3 etc.]

16.hxg3 ♜xe5 [16...e3 17.♜f3 exf2+ 18.♞xf2 ♜xe5 19.♜d4 ♞xf2 20.♞xf2 with an equal position.]

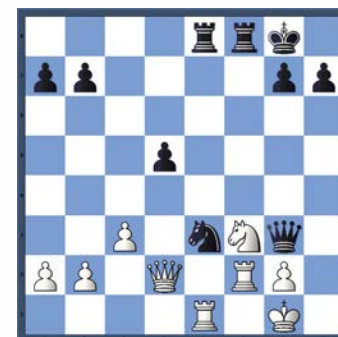
17.♜b3



17...♜g4! Black is going to win the important g4 square for his knight.

18.♞d1 ♜xe2 19.♞xe2 ♞g6! Black launches a decisive attack!

20.♜d4 ♞ae8! Bringing the last piece into play and not allowing White to play f3. [20...♜g4 was also good enough. 21.f3 exf3 22.♜xf3 (22.gxf3 22...♜e3! 23.♞xe3 ♞xg3+ 24.♞h1 ♞f4—; 22.♞xf3 22...♞fe8!—) 22...♞ae8 23.♞d2 ♜e3 24.♞f2 (24.♞fe1 24...♞xf3—) 24...♞xg3 25.♞e1



25...♜xg2! 26.♞xe8 ♜h4+ 27.♞h1 ♞xe8 28.♞xd5+ ♞h8 29.♞f7 ♞h3+ 30.♞g1 ♜xf3+ 31.♞xf3 ♞c8±]

21.♞b5 [21.♜c2 with the idea of playing 22.Ne3 after 21...Ng4,

but Black has other options to improve his position, for example 21...♖f5! with the idea Rh5-Qh6.]

21...♘g4! 22.f3 ♘e3 23.g4 a6!? We will see the point of this move a bit later. [23...♗xf1 24.♔xd5+ ♕h8 25.♖xf1 exf3 26.gxf3 and thanks to strong knight on d4 White can continue the fight but the position is very hard for him.; 23...h5!?→]

24.♔xb7 exf3 25.♖xf3 ♖xf3 26.gxf3 [26.♗xf3 26...♔xg4 27.♗e1 ♖f8—+]

26...♔d6! —+ Now we understand why Black played 23...a6, the rook is not hanging.

27.♗e2 ♗c4 28.♖e1



28...♔c5+?! The first mistake. Black could simply win after [28...♗e5 29.♗d4 (29.♕g2 29...♗d3—+; 29.♖f1 29...♗d3—+) 29...♗xf3+ 30.♗xf3 ♔g3+—+]

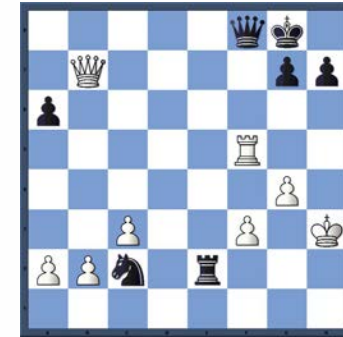
29.♕g2 ♗e3+? looks logical but it is clear that Black overlooked counterplay. The best move in this position was [29...♔d6! 30.♔b4 (30.♔b3 30...♖b8) 30...♗e3+ 31.♕g1 ♔xb4 32.cxb4 ♗c2 33.♕f2 ♗xe1 34.♕xe1 ♖e3 35.♕f2 ♖d3—+]

30.♕h3 ♗c2 [30...♖f8 31.♗d4 ♔d6 32.♖xe3 ♔h6+ 33.♕g2 ♔xe3 34.♔xd5+ ♕h8∞]

31.♖d1 ♖xe2 32.♖xd5↔ and unexpectedly because of the

weak back rank White gets enough counterplay for a draw.

32...♔f8 33.♖f5!



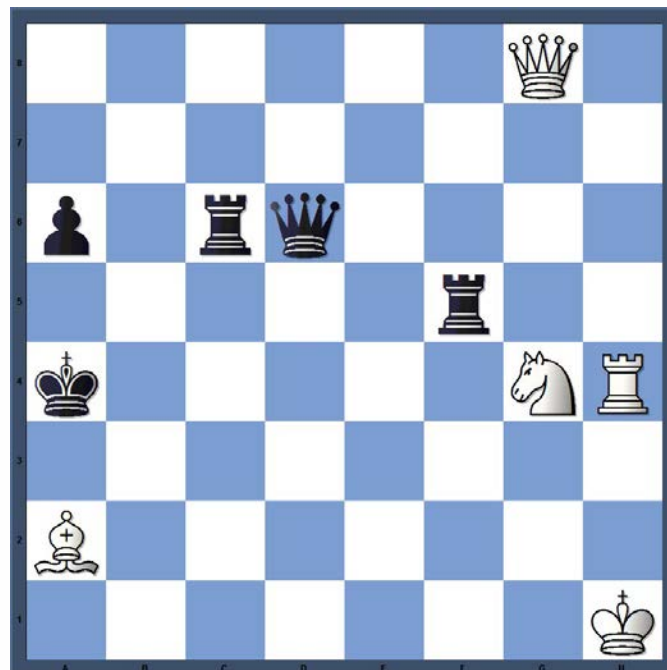
33...♔d8?? An amazing blunder. Black should not lose in one move but play [33...♔e7 34.♔d5+ ♔e6 35.♔d8+ ♔e8 36.♔d5+ repeating moves or 36...♕h8 37.♔d6 ♖e7 (37...♕g8 38.♔d5=) 38.♔f4 ♕g8 39.♔c4+ ♖f7 (39...♕h8 40.♔f4=) 40.♖xf7 ♔xf7 41.♔c8+ ♔f8 42.♔e6+ ♕h8 43.♔e2∞]

34.♔f7+ with mate on f8 to follow. **1-0**

Surprise section / study

(41) Pogosiants

1. +-



Solutions

(42) Dominguez, L(2746)-Yu Yangyi(2715)

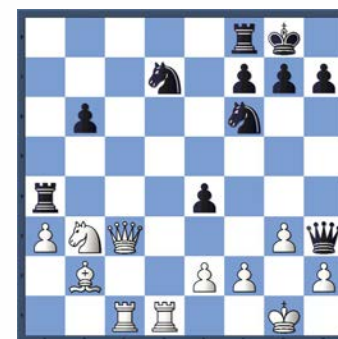
Capablanca memorial, 2015.06.17



38...♔f8!! 0-1 [38...♔f8 39.h3 ♕e8--]

(43) Cordova, E(2609)-Miton, K(2604)

Capablanca memorial B, 2015.06.15



23...♖c4!! 24.♘d2 [24.♙xc4 24...♘g4-- 25.♙xe4 ♙xh2+ 26.♔f1 ♙xf2#]

24...♖xc3--+

(44) Cordova, E(2609)-Hevia, A(2535)

Capablanca memorial B, 2015.06.19



28. ♘f4!! ♘xf4 29. ♖xb6! 1-0 [29. ♖xb6 29... ♖xb6 (29... ♘xc7 30. ♖d8+ ♖xd8 31. ♖xd8#) 30. ♖d8#]

(45) Bocharov, I(2472)-Bukavshin, I(2647)

Russian Higher League, 2015.06.22



34... ♗hxf4! 35. gxf4 ♗xf4—+ 36. ♖g3 [36. ♘xb7 36... ♗h3+—+; 36. ♘f1 36... ♖g6+—+]
36... ♗xg2—+

(46) Korobov, A(2698)-Nadanian, A(2380)

Asrian memorial, 2015.06.17



29... ♗xg2!! 30. ♖xg2 [30. ♖xg2 30... ♗xf3+ 31. ♖h1 ♗xe1 32. ♖xe1 ♖xb5—+; 30. ♘xg5 30... ♗xe1 31. ♖xe1 ♖xg5+—+]

30... ♗xf3! 31. ♘xh6 ♗xe1+ 32. ♖xe1 ♖d5+! 33. ♖g1 ♖xa2—+ 34. ♘c1 ♖c4—+

(47) Hambardzumian, Y(2322)-Khismatullin, D(2646)

Asrian memorial, 2015.06.17



25... ♖g6!! —+ 26. ♖d2 [26. ♖xd7+ 26... ♖xd7 27. ♗xb6+ ♘xb6 28. ♖c4 ♘e4!—+; 26. ♗xb6 26... ♖h6+ 27. ♘h5 ♖xh5#]

26... ♖d4! 0-1 [26... ♖d4 27. ♖xd4 ♘xd4!—+]

(48) Petrosyan, T(2423)-Gaboyan, S(2153)

Asrian memorial, 2015.06.17



32. ♖f5! ♕f8 [32... ♗xf5 33. ♖h6+—]

33. ♖xh5! ♕e8 [33... gxh5 34. ♖g8+! ♕xg8 35. ♖h6+—]

34. ♖h7+—

(49) Baghdasaryan, V(2402)-Oleksienko, M(2629)

Asrian memorial, 2015.06.18



21. ♖h7+! 1-0 [21. ♖h7+ 21... ♕xh7 22. ♖f7+ ♕h6 23. ♖h1+—+]

(50) Ter Sahakyan, S(2586)-Harutyunian, T(2472)

Asrian memorial, 2015.06.25



29. ♖e6+!! [29. ♖xd6? 29... ♖f1+! 30. ♕h2 ♖xd6+]

29... ♕h7 [29... ♖xe6 30. ♖xd8+ ♖f8 31. ♖xf8+ ♕xf8 32. ♖xe6+—]

30. ♖xd6 ♖f1+ 31. ♕h2+—

(51) Ilyashev, Y(2128)-Mikaelyan, A(2437)

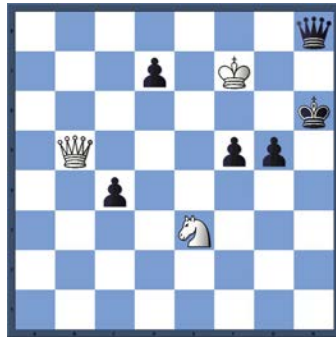
Asrian memorial, 2015.06.19



26... ♗f3+! 27. gxf3 exf3 28. ♖b2 [28. ♗f4 28... ♖xb1+—+]

28... ♖g5+ 29. ♗g3 hxg3—+

(52) Prokes



1. ♖g4+! fxg4 2. ♜b6+! ♔h5 [2... ♔h7 3. ♜g6#; 2...d6
3. ♜xd6+ ♔h5 4. ♜h2#]
3. ♜b1!! +- g3 4. ♜h1+ ♔g4 5. ♜xh8



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 176

10th of July 2015

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Editorial Preface

And the winner of Dortmunder Schachtage is once again Caruana. The World Nr2 had a bad start with only 0.5/2 but he won the last 5 games and took clear first place with 5.5/7. Wesley So and Nisipeanu finished 2nd and 3rd, both with 4/7.

A very interesting event is still under way at the Chinese Island Hainan, with the best Chinese players participating. We saw many exciting, fighting and fantastic games. Wang Yue leads with a fantastic score of 6.5/8, followed by Ni Hua with 5.5/8 and in 3rd position we find Ding Liren with 5/8. There is still one round to be played.

Another top event is the Dutch Championship with Anish Giri, who started with 2/3.

The 43rd Annual World Open also saw the participation of a lot of Top GMs. The first place was shared by 8 players who all finished on 7/9. Best on tiebreak were Rauf Mamedov, Ilja Smirin and Alexander Ipatov.

That's all for this week's events and we can already look forward to the upcoming Super tournament in Biel which starts on the 20th July.

Until then, enjoy your current issue of Top GMs Secrets Nr176.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) Wei, Yi (2724)

- Bruzon Batista, Lazaro (2669)

[B40]

6th Hainan Danzhou GM(2.4),
2015.07.03GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

An immortal game was played by the 16-year old Chinese talent, Wei Yi! He crushes his Cuban opponent with some beautiful and shocking sacrifices.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.♘c3 White chooses this unusual move order before playing the main 3.d4 to avoid some theoretical lines.

3...a6 4.♙e2 ♘c6 Black is ready to play Nd4 in case of 5.0-0, therefore there is no time to waste on opening the center.

5.d4 cxd4 6.♘xd4 ♚c7 We have transposed now to the Sicilian Taimanov variation and soon it turns to the Sheveningen variation...

7.0-0 ♘f6 8.♙e3 ♙e7 9.f4 d6 10.♙h1 0-0 The starting position of the Sheveningen. The old main line used to be the move 11.Qe1, which happened in the game. After some time the 11.a4 alternative has become the most common line and now in the last years the fashion has come back to the old move thanks to the computers, which found some very interesting ideas for White.



11.♙e1 White drops his queen to the kingside to obtain different kind of attacking potentials.

11...♘xd4 12.♙xd4 b5 The point of 11.a4 would have been to prevent this typical idea.

13.♙g3 ♙b7 [On the direct 13...b4 14.e5! is very strong 14...dxe5 15.♙xe5 and the knight is coming to e4!]

14.a3 Black has various of options here. The latest development of the theory gives a first sight mysterious plan and Bruzon follows it...

14...♖ad8 15.♖ae1 White brings all his pieces to the game.

15...♖d7 16.♙d3 ♙d8 A sideline. Black leaves from the e5 dxe5 Bxe5 tempo.



[The most popular move is 16...♖e8 preparing for a

counterplay with e5, however the new idea of the computer 17.a4! seems to create some difficulties for Black. Both players were definitely familiar with the new ideas and Bruzon decided to deviate from this line.]

17. ♖h3! Using the fact, that the queen has gone from c7, when Black could solve his problems with e5 (in the 16...Re8 line)! White has created the threat of e5 dxe5 fxe5 Rxd4 exf6 and Black faces problems on h7 square. Therefore he must ensure the safety of his h7 pawn.

17...g6 18.f5! The standard drawback of the g6 move. White opens the f-file now. With the pawn on g7 this move is usually not dangerous because of the central break with e5 Be3 and d5, but now Bh6 or Bg5 are much stronger.

18...e5 19. ♕e3 ♖e8 We are still following some games, but here comes the novelty. Despite all this could be known from practical games, I believe that Wei Yi finds all the forthcoming brilliant ideas over the board...It is not a home preparation.

20.fxg6 hxg6



21. ♘d5! Wei Yi starts the firework with this move! He has no retreat after this sacrifice, otherwise he is just losing material. He obviously could not calculate all the lines until the end - as it is impossible -, but he had to have the intuition, that he has enough resources to finish the attack after the black king

goes towards the center.

21... ♘xd5 [21... ♕xd5 22.exd5 ♘xd5 is much worse. The bishop on d5 could be a much better defender as it protects the f7. Now the same tactics works quite smoothly 23. ♖xf7! ♕xf7 24. ♖h7+ ♖e6 25. ♕xg6! White creates many different mate threats. The most important ones are Qf7 and Bf5 followed by Qg6 mate. Black should try to cover the squares on the f-file with (25. ♖xg6+? comes to the mind at first to continue the attack with check, but Black is safe after 25... ♘f6!) 25... ♖f8 but it does not help in view of 26. ♖h3+! ♕f6 27. ♕e4+- and Black has no defense against the mates. Qh6, Rf1 or Qf5-Qg6-Qh7 is a forced mate.]



22. ♖xf7!! The point of the previous move! White has deflected the knight from f6 in order to start the hunt of the black king! The only thing which makes the sacrifice easier to execute is the fact, that White always has a draw with perpetual check at his disposal, therefore White can go ahead, calculate the lines when they appear on the board and in the worst case if he does not see anything just make a draw...but of course, the main goal is to mate the black king.

22... ♕xf7 23. ♖h7+ ♖e6 Here is a moment when White could force a draw with 24.Qh3, but Wei Yi thinks much deeper and continues searching for mate.

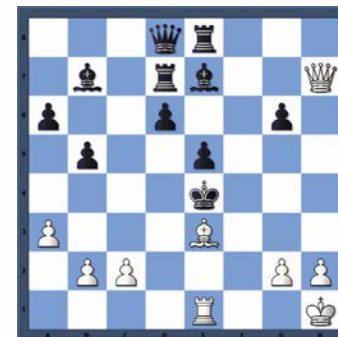
24.exd5+! White gains back some material and eliminates the knight which could have become an important defender if it returns to f6.

24...♔xd5 Black tries to run away with his king to c6-c7. [24...♙xd5 is similar to the 21...Bxd5 line. White must be precise with 25.♙xg6! (25.♚xg6+? is not enough again 25...♙f6 26.♙f5+ ♔e7 and Black saves himself.) 25...♙xg2+ (25...♚f8 allows forced mate after 26.♚h3+ ♔f6 27.♚f1+ ♔xg6 28.♚h6#) 26.♔xg2 d5 Black opens a free way for his king towards the queenside, but he already gave back too much material and he loses even more after 27.♚f7+ ♔d6 28.♚xe8+--]



25.♙e4+!! Another brilliant sacrifice! White prevents the hide of the black king to c6-c7 and lures it further more to his own camp to catch it with his remaining pieces.

25...♔xe4 Black has no choice, he must continue his journey. [25...♔c4 loses quickly to 26.♚f7+ d5 27.♚f1#]



26.♚f7!! What an amazing follow up! After sacrificing many pieces, White comes up with a silent move! The point is to stop the black king running back the d5-c6-c7 and creates different kind of mate in one threats, such as Qf3 or any bishop move with discovered mate along the g1-a7 diagonal. [However it was even more forcing to play 26.c4!! a computer move, which is extremely hard to find over the board. It has the same idea as the game, White prevents the Kd5-c6-c7 defending plan and his has a special hidden point, which can be seen if Black takes on c4. The point if 26. c4 can be seen after 26...bxc4 (26...♔d3 Black tries to gain some benefits of the c4 move and makes an attempt to hide his king. However it is not succesful. 27.♚xg6+! ♙e4 (27...e4



28.♚g4! White is a rook and a bishop down, but the most important factor is the king on d3, therefore he must

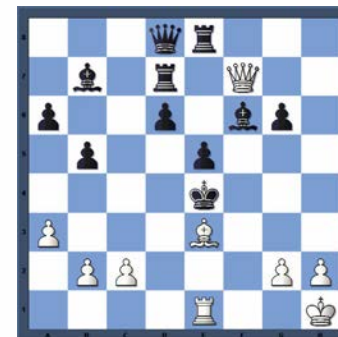
focus on creating new and more threatening mate threats in each move... 28...♔xc4 29.♖c1+ ♔b3 (29...♔d5 30.♕f5#) 30.♕d1+ ♔xb2 31.♖b1+ ♔xa3 32.♕b3#; 27...♔xc4 28.♖c1+ ♔d5 29.♖d1+ ♔c6 30.♕c2#!)



28.♖d1+! ♔c2 29.♕xe4+ White sacrifices even his rook and mates with only two of his pieces. The black ones are still in their initial position and they cannot take part in the defense. 29...♔xd1 30.♕d3+ ♔e1 31.♕d2+ ♔f1 32.♕d1#) 27.♕xg6+ ♔d5 28.♕f7+! ♔e4 (And now after 28...♔c6 29.♕xc4#! is mate, which would not be so with the black pawn on b5! This is the reason of pushing 26.c4.) 29.♕xc4+ ♔f5 30.♖f1+ ♔g6 31.♕f7#; 26.♕xg6+? is too slow, Black runs away with 26...♔d5 27.♕f7+ ♔c6—+; White could win the queen with 26.♕b6+? 26...♔d5 27.♕xd8 ♖exd8—+ but Black already got too much material, after he hides his king in the next 2 moves he is already winning.]

26...♕f6 Only move! [26...♖f8 prevents Qf3, but allows all the bishop moves, for instance 27.♕g1#]

27.♕d2+ ♔d4 28.♕e3+ ♔e4 White again has a draw by perpetual check, but Wei Yi finds a subtle way to play for more!



29.♕b3!! Keeping the cold-blooded style. Black has closed the f-file, successfully excluded the queen from the attack, but as it is the longest ranged piece, it can quickly join back to the haunt of the black king. The new mate in one threat is Qd3. Black has only one move to avoid it.

29...♔f5 30.♖f1+! Of course, White's only chance is to keep the king outside from the camp and try to catch it while it is running through the board.

30...♔g4



31.♕d3! We are already used to this kind of silent moves. Despite the huge material disadvantage, White is not in rush to finish the game, because Black does not have any counterplay, he can only hope for consolidating, but for this he would need much better placed pieces.

31...♙xg2+ Black decides to give back some material and try to bring the queen to the defend along the long diagonal with tempo. [31...♖h5 loses to 32.♙e2+ ♖h4 33.♖f3!! ♙xf3 34.♙xf3+- and Black is unable to defend the mate in one with Qh3!; 31...♖g7 also loses to 32.♙e2+ ♖h4

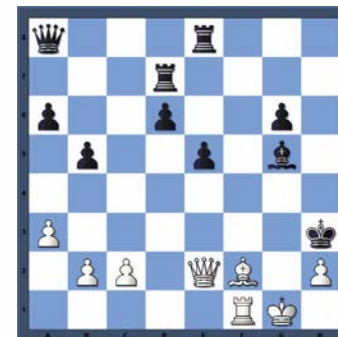


33.h3!! White always creates new concrete threats. Black has to defend against Qd7 now. 33...♙d7 34.♖h2! Another subtle move! Black has only one move to avoid getting mated with g3! 34...♙xg2 35.♙xg2 White does not have a concrete threat, but still Black has no defense. The f6 is hanging followed by mate on g5 and one possible finish of the game could be 35...♙d8 36.♙f2+ ♖h5 37.♙f3+ ♖h4 38.♖g1+- and Bf2 or Rg4 next wins.]

32.♖xg2 ♙a8+ 33.♖g1 ♙g5 Bruzon continues defend stubbornly, but it does not help this time!

34.♙e2+! [It was still possible to go wrong with the logical 34.♙xg6 Black holds after 34...♖g8!]

34...♖h4 35.♙f2+ ♖h3



36.♙e1! A final blow and a last subtle move! White opens the f-rank in order to allow his rook joining to the mating attack. Rf3 is the threat! [Black resigned in view of 36.♙e1! 36...♖f8 (36...♙a7+ 37.♖h1 ♙a8+ 38.♖f3+ ♖g4 39.♙g2+ ♖h5 40.♖h3+-; 36...e4 defends Rf3, but closes the long diagonal 37.♙g2#) 37.♖xf8 ♙xf8 38.♙g2# What an amazing game by the 16-year old Chinese super talent, Wei Yi!] **1-0**

**(2) Nisipeanu, Liviu-Dieter (2654)
- Caruana, Fabiano (2805) [C52]**

43rd GM 2015(7.1),
2015.07.05



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are in the last round of Dortmund and Caruana is leading the event with a half point lead over Nisipeanu. Both players were a bit lucky throughout the tournament and both players are very fighting ones. We should not forget that Livu-Dieter, who is now playing for Germany, was European Individual Champion and is capable of beating higher rating players, especially with the white pieces. In the current game, I guess Nisipeanu did not know the line Caruana chose too well. Black equalized quickly, then outplayed him in the endgame and finished the game with a great tactical combination which gave Caruana a totally deserved tournament victory!

1.e4 Nisipeanu plays a lot of different lines in the opening.

1...e5 2.f3 c6 3.f4 And Italian game, which probably means that White was afraid of Caruana's Berlin...

3...f5 4.b4 is not played too often on the top level, but clearly deserves attention.

4...fxb4 5.c3 f5 is quite a rare reply. [Currently the main move is 5...f7]

6.d4 White is trying to open the position as much as possible and this is clearly the idea of the Evans Gambit!

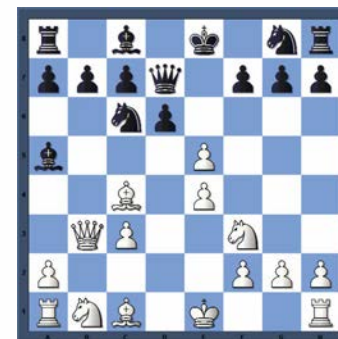
6...d6 Black is trying to keep the e5 pawn alive.

7.f3 [Of course White can't win the piece by playing 7.d5 7...f7 8.f4+ because of 8...c6 and the queen on d8

protects the a5 bishop.]

7...f7 The f7 pawn needs to be protected.

8.dxe5



8...f6! A strong move! Black wants to play Na5 next and take the c4 bishop. [White would get a strong initiative after 8...f6 9.f6 dxe5 10.O-O followed by Rd1 next.]

9.a4 is probably not the best. White's idea is to put pressure on the b6 bishop with the a5 threat somewhere, but it is just a bit slow. [9.f6? looks more interesting. 9...dxe5 (9...f6 10.f7 cxc4 11.fxc4 and White gets some play thanks to his great knight on c4.) 10.f5 with a very unclear position.]

9...f5 Of course Black is going for the c4 bishop.

10.f7 cxc4 11.fxc4 f7 A very solid and good move. In case Black manages to finish his development White's position will simply be worse.

12.f3 Not the best move again. [Maybe White could have continued with 12.a5 12...f5 13.exd6 cxd6 14.f6 with the idea of playing Nb3 next. Of course Black has very comfortable play but the position is probably still around equal.]

12...O-O [Black could also have chosen to play 12...d5 13.exd5 (13.f7 13...f6 and the Nf4 move is a serious threat.)

13...♔xd5 and because of the control of the light squares, his position looks very nice.]

13.0-0 ♖e8 Caruana wants to play Ng6 next.

14.exd6 White is trying to win the d6 pawn, but it is harder than it seems...

14...cxd6 15.♖d1 The d6 pawn can't be protected, but Black has another idea:



15...♔c6! A strong move! Caruana feels that the endgame will be at least equal, not to say better for him...

16.♘bd2 [After 16.♔xc6 16...♘xc6 the d6 pawn still can't be taken because now Rxe4 would win the pawn back.]

16...♙e6! Caruana continues playing a perfect game and sacrifices the d6 pawn to get all his pieces into the game.

17.♔xc6 ♘xc6 18.♙xd6 ♖ad8 The black pieces are dominating the board!

19.♙b4 [19.♙a3 19...♖d3 and White will not be able to hold on for a long time on the d-file or not to lose the c3 pawn.; 19.e5 19...f6! and again the bishop pair will give Black better play, even being a pawn down...]

19...♖d3 Black just wants to double on the d-file.

20.a5 ♙c7



21.♘f1 Nisipeanu decides to give back the extra pawn. [In case White would have tried to hang on to the pawn with 21.♖db1 21...♙f4 22.♘f1 ♙c4 the domination of the black pieces would have made it very hard for White to play on.]

21...♖xd1 22.♖xd1 ♘xa5 So Black has won the pawn back and still has the bishop pair, which means that he is clearly better.

23.♘d4 ♘c4 A solid move. [Black could also have continued with 23...♙d7 24.♘f5 (Of course White can't win a piece by playing 24.♙xa5 24...♙xa5 25.♘b3 ♙g4 26.f3 ♙b6+ because Black is almost winning with the bishop pair and an extra pawn.) 24...♙xf5 25.exf5 ♘c4 26.♖d7 ♖c8 with a clearly better position for Black.]

24.♘xe6 ♖xe6 Black kept his advantage because of the a-pawn, which is ready to move forward.

25.♖d7 ♖c6 Black keeps solid and in case White doesn't do anything special the a5 move will be almost deadly.

26. ♖g3



26...g6 Another very good move by Black, cutting the options of the white knight. [26...a5? would have been a huge mistake since after 27. ♖f5! White is just in time! 27...axb4 28. ♖e7+ ♕f8 29. ♖xc6 bxc6 30. ♖xc7 bxc3 31. ♖xc6 c2 32. ♖xc4 and White is in time to stop the c-pawn.]

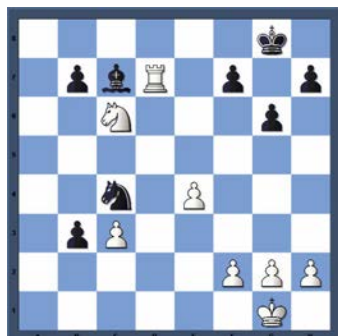
27. ♖e2 The white knight is going to d4, but it doesn't help any longer...

27...a5! A great finish to a perfect game by Caruana!

28. ♖d4 [White could have fought longer after 28. ♖e7 28...a4 29. ♖d4 ♖e5 30. ♖xc6 ♖xd7 but the a-pawn gives Black a huge advantage.]

28...axb4 This is a move that Caruana had planned before playing a5. White cannot catch the b-pawn!

29. ♖xc6 b3



30. ♖xc7 [30. ♖e7+ 30... ♕f8 31. ♖xc7 ♖d6 and there is no way to stop Black from playing b2-b1Q.]

30...♖d6 and yet again White is not in time to stop the b-pawn from promoting. A really great win by Caruana in such an important game for the first place! **0-1**

The K-Files.

French 7...cxd4 & Qb6



GM Alexander Khalifman
FIDE World Chess Champion (1999)
Best rating: 2702

(3) French 7...cxd4 Qb6 [C11]

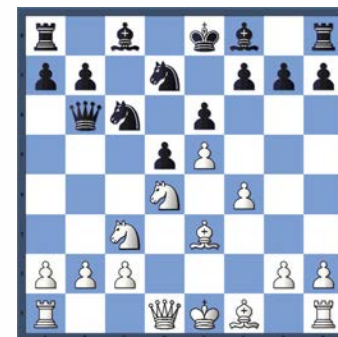
We are going to have a look at the French Poisoned Pawn line.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♗f6 4.e5 ♘fd7 5.f4 c5 6.♗f3 ♘c6 7.♕e3 This is one of the most important positions for the theory of the French Defense. Of course both sides have enough possibilities to avoid it during previous moves but still the assessment of this line has a critical value. Black has some playable alternatives now (first of all 7...a6 and 7...Be7) but they all seem to lead to rather quiet play with slightly better chances for White. Here we will look at the most direct approach.

7...cxd4 [7...♖b6 8.♗a4 ♖a5+ 9.c3 is a completely different story of course.; 7...♕e7 ; 7...a6]

8.♗xd4 ♖b6!? That's it. This active and provocative move leads to the French Poisoned Pawn line. Its first peak of popularity happened between 1987 and 1995 when it was used by Korchnoi, Ehlvest, Dolmatov, Dreev etc. But then as it happens quite often it disappeared from grandmaster practice with the assessment "too risky". However, for today's

opening theory this assessment means almost nothing and there is no surprise that after Nakamura played it twice in 2011 the variation returned under the spotlight and many new details were found since that moment. Black's idea is fairly simple: he attacks the pawn and increases the pressure on the important point d4. In fact, if White wants to fight for an advantage he has to sacrifice the pawn and take some risks as well. But first we will look at what happens if White doesn't feel this way.



9.a3 White protects the pawn b2 indirectly. This trick is well-known in different opening lines, the first one which comes to mind is the Najdorf Poisoned Pawn. [

a) **9.♕b5?!** is just dubious. True, White played a developing move and protected the pawn but all this means nothing compared to the fact that after the natural answer 9...a6 White will have to give the bishop pair and improve the opponent's pawn structure. 10.♕xc6 (10.♕e2? 10...♖xb2+; 10.♗a4 10...♖a5+ 11.♕d2 ♖c7 12.♕xc6 bxc6 13.O-O c5 14.♗f3 ♖c6 15.c3 a5=+ Thiede - Zinn, Schkopau 1955) 10...bxc6 11.♗a4 (11.♖c1? 11...c5 12.♗b3 d4 13.♗a4 ♖c6--+ Darini - Khodadadi, Kerman 2013) 11...♖a5+ 12.c3 c5 13.♗f3 ♕b7 As it often happens in this line the white knight on a4 is clearly misplaced. 14.♗xc5 This exchange operation is the lesser evil but it doesn't solve all the problems. (14.O-O 14...♕c6 15.b3 ♕xa4 16.bxa4 ♖xc3+

Fecko - Panko, Slovakia 2009) 14...♖xc5 15.b4 ♖a3 16.bxc5 ♕xc5 17.♖d2 ♕xe3 18.♖xe3 ♖c8 19.♖c1 ♕c6=+ White's pawn structure is in ruins. The strong knight on d4 gives him good drawing chances but definitely not more.;

b) 9.♖a4 In a certain sense this move is just a draw offer. 9...♖a5+ 10.♖c3 Now Black can simply repeat the position but if he's not satisfied with a draw and (or) doesn't want to give the opponent a second chance there is a playable alternative (although in my opinion it is not enough to equalize completely): (10.c3?! is not a good idea because after 10...♖xd4 White loses at least a pawn for no real compensation. 11.♕xd4 creates more problems but still doesn't help: (11.b4?! 11...♕xb4 12.♕xd4 (12.cxb4 12...♖xb4+ 13.♕d2 ♖e7 14.♕d3 (14.♖b1 14...♖c6 15.♕b5 O-O ♖ Nassar - Oknayan, Beirut 2014; 14.a3 14...♖f5 15.g3 a5 16.♕d3 Lengyel - Kovacs, Hungary 2004 16...b6 ♖) 14...♖c6 15.O-O b6!? (There is no reason to exchange the Na4: 15...♖c5?! 16.♖xc5 ♖xc5+ 17.♖h1 ♕d7 18.♖c1 ♖Short - Korchnoi, Brussels (blitz) 1987) 16.♖g4 f5 17.♖h5+ ♖f7 18.♖h4 O-O ♖ Rosic - Nikolenko, Pula 1990) 12...♕e7 13.♖b1 (13.♕d3 13...b5 14.♖b2 ♕c5 15.O-O ♖xc3 ♖ Heymann - Stangl, Germany 1999; 13.♖b3 13...b6 14.♖b5 ♖xb5 15.♕xb5 O-O 16.O-O Lebrun - Chaudagne, France 1999 16...♖b8! ♖) 13...O-O 14.♕d3 (Essler - Boehm, Oberhof 2010) and now the typical maneuver 14...♖b8!? 15.O-O ♕d7 16.♖b2 ♖c6 ♖ underlines the fact that there is no compensation at all.) 11...b5 12.♖c5 (12.b4 12...♖xa4+; 12.♕xb5 12...♖xb5+; 12.♕d3 12...bxa4+;) 12...♖xc5!? (As we could see in above-mentioned game Short - Korchnoi the dark-squared bishop is an important piece here. 12...♕xc5 13.b4 ♕xb4 14.cxb4 ♖xb4+ 15.♖d2 ♖xd2+ 16.♖xd2 ♖Domankusic - Opacak, Croatia 2005) 13.b4 ♖c7! (There is no reason to be greedy: 13...♖b6?! 14.a4 bxa4 15.bxc5 ♕xc5 16.♖b1! ♖c7 17.♕b5+ ♕d7 18.♕xd7+

♖xd7 19.♖xa4+ ♖Moller - Thomsen, Copenhagen 2000) 14.♕xc5 (14.bxc5 K. Bodnaruk - D. Mihailov, St Petersburg 2014 14...♕d7 ♖) 14...♕xc5 15.♕xb5+ ♖e7 16.bxc5 ♖xc5=+ Hashemi - Karimi, Rasht 2013 White managed to hold the material balance but clearly not for long.) 10...♕b4 (10...♖b6 = 8...Qb6) 11.♖b3!? (11.♖b5?! 11...a6 12.♖d6+ ♕xd6 13.exd6 ♖b4 ♖ Heinicke - Grube, Dortmund 2001; 11.♖e2 11...O-O 12.a3 ♕xc3+ 13.♖xc3 f6! 14.exf6 ♖xf6! 15.♕e2 ♖? A. Artemiyev - Rybakov, Zhukovsky 2007 15...d4! 16.♕xd4 ♖d8+; 11.♖f2 11...♕xc3 12.bxc3 ♖c5 ♖ Bader - Steyer, Bad Zwesten 2001; 11.♖d2 11...♖c5!? Black can prepare the exchange on c3 at a more convenient moment. 12.♕d3 ♖a4 13.♖b3 ♕xc3 14.♖xa5 ♕xd2+ 15.♕xd2 ♖xa5 16.♕xa5 ♖xb2 17.♕b5+ ♕d7 18.♕xd7+ ♖xd7 19.♖b1 ♖c4 20.♖xb7+ (Jovchev - Panajotov, Sunny Beach 2006) and Black solves all problems with 20...♖c8! 21.♖c7+ ♖b8 22.♖c5 ♖c8 23.♖b5+ ♖b6=) 11...♖c7! The most solid move. (11...♕xc3+ is quite risky. 12.bxc3 ♖xc3+ (More solid is 12...♖c7 13.♕d3 ♖a5 14.♕d4! (Plume - Dzenis, corr. 2013) gives White a comfortable advantage.) 13.♕d2 ♖b2 14.a4! and suddenly the black queen is in danger. 14...♖b6 (14...a6 15.h4 a5 16.c3 b6 17.♖h3 ♖c5 18.♖xc5 bxc5 19.♖b1 ♖a2 20.♕b5 ♕d7 21.♖c1+ ♖ Hauser - Zholob, corr. 2012) 15.♕d3 ♖c4 16.O-O h6 (16...O-O 17.♕xc4 dxc4 18.♕c1 ♖c3 19.♖f3 ♖b4 20.♕a3 ♖b6+ 21.♕c5+ ♖) 17.a5 ♖b8 18.♕xc4 dxc4 19.♕c1 ♖c3 20.♖f3 1-0 Hauser - Hipfl, corr. 2013) 12.♕e2 (12.♕d3 (Slamenik - Carbonell Bofill, corr. 2010) is met by the tactical response 12...d4!? 13.♖xd4 ♖dxe5! 14.♕e2 (14.fxe5 14...♖xe5 15.♖e2 ♖xd4 16.♕xd4 ♖xd4 17.O-O-O ♖f4+ 18.♖b1 O-O ♖; 14.O-O 14...♖xd3 15.♖xd3 O-O=) 14...♖g6 15.O-O O-O=; 12.♕d2 12...a6 13.♖g4 O-O 14.♕d3 Tritschler - Papapostolou, Bad Schussenried 1994 14...♖c5!? 15.♖xc5 ♕xc5 16.O-O-O ♖b4 17.♕e2 b5 ♖) 12...O-O 13.O-O ♕xc3 14.bxc3+= (Sherwood - Wittal, corr. 2006) promises White some advantage since his kingside attack prospects are more important than the

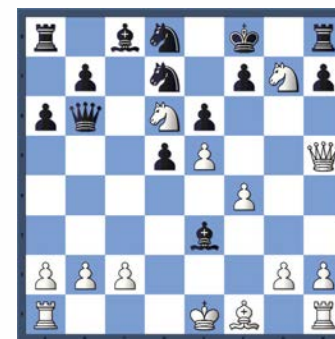
weakened pawn structure.;

c) 9. dcb5 This aggressive move is not dangerous at all. Black has a comfortable choice between dynamic play with mutual chances and a forced draw. 9...a6



Now White must be accurate to force a draw. (After 9... $\text{c5!?$ 10.c3 a6 (10... dxd4 11.cxd4+=; 10...O-O 11.b4 dxd4 12. dxd4 = Nunn - B. Zueger, Thessaloniki 1988) 11.b4! Black has to react properly so 11... dxb4! is necessary and after (the natural 11...axb5?! is only looking for trouble after 12.bxc5 xc5 13. d5! xc3+ 14. d2 b2 15. b1! xa2 16. d6+ f8 17. xb5 with excellent compensation. 17...g6 18.O-O a7+ (18... g7 19.f5! exf5 Tseshkovsky - Dreev, St Peterburg 1993 20. xc6! bxc6 21. c3 (/1) 21... a7+ 22. h1+- V. Tseshkovsky) 19. h1 Blossl - Skopetz, corr. 1994) 12. b1 c2+ (12...axb5 13.cxb4 dxd4 14. dxd4 a6 15. d3 b6 16. g4 ± Macieja - Ehrenfeucht, Warszawa 1994) 13. xc2 axb5 14. xb5 c7 the position is fairly unclear. 15. d3 is strongly met with 15... dxd4 16. dxd4 c5! and Black shouldn't be afraid of 17. b5+ d7 18. xc5 xc5 19. xd7+ xd7 20. xb7+ c6! ↗) 10. d5 c5 11. bd6+ (11. xc5?! was played a couple of times by the strong players but in fact brings White into trouble: 11... dxc5 12. bd6+ (12. dxcg7+ 12... f8 13. h5 de4!+- R. Byrne; E. Mednis) 12... f8 13. h5 (13. dxc8 13... xc8 14. d6 de4!

15. dxe4 dxe4±; 13. d4 13... b4+ 14.c3 xb2 15. dxc6 xc3+ 16. f2 bxc6± Beckemeier - Blauert, Dortmund 1995; 13. d3 13... xb2 14. b1 c3+ 15. d2 xd2+ 16. xd2 Getz - Groffen, Caleta 2011 16...g5!-+) 13... d8 14. dxcg7 (14. d4 14... b4+! 15.c3 xb2 16. d1 xc3+ 17. f2 d7 18. e2 a4+- R. Byrne; E. Mednis; 14. d3 14... xb2 15. d1 Joentausta - Pursiainen, Lahti 2000 15... b4+-) 14... b4+! The key intermediate check. (14... xcg7? 15. g5+ f8 16. h6+ e7 17. f6+ d7 18. hx8 b4+ 19.c3 xb2 20. b5+! axb5 21.O-O± Nunn - B. Zueger, Nuremberg (active) 1990) 15.c3 xb2 16. d1 (16. h6 16... xa1+ 17. e2 e7 18. f6+ d7+- R. Byrne; E. Mednis) 16... xc3+ 17. d2 h6! -+ 18. ge8 (18. h4 18... xcg7 19. f6+ h7 20. dxf7 xd2+! 21. xd2 de4+- R. Byrne; E. Mednis) 18... de4! (0-1 Huebner - Korchnoi, San Francisco 1995) 19. e2 (19. dxe4 19...dxe4+- /3) 19... $\text{e7!?$ 20. dxc8+ xc8 21. d6 dxd6 22. exd6+ xd6+- R. Byrne; E. Mednis) 11... f8 12. h5 d8 (12... dxc5?? 13.fxe5 dxe5 14. g5! exf5 15. xc5+- Sharma - Kostenko, Macau 1996) 13. dxcg7 xe3!



and White has only the choice between different perpetuals (13... xcg7? leads to the aforementioned game Nunn - Zueger. 14. g5+ f8 15. xc5 dxc5 16. h6+ e7 (16... g8 17. de8+-) 17. f6++-) 14. dxe6+ (14. h6 14... f2+ 15. d1 e7 16. dxf5+ exf5 17. dxf5+ e8 18. d6+ e7 1/2-1/2 Haika

- Appel, corr. 1997) 14...fxe6 (14...♔e7? 15.♖g5+ f6 16.♖g7+ ♔xe6 17.♕e2!+-) 15.♖e8+ (15.♖h6+ 15...♔g8 16.♖g5+ ♔f8= B. Lengyel - B. Zueger, Budapest 1994) 15...♔g7 16.♖e7+ ♔g8 17.♖g5+ ♔f8 18.♖h6+ ♔g8 19.♖g5+ ♔f8 20.♖h6+ ♔g8 1/2-1/2 Andreikin - Vitiugov, Tyumen 2012;

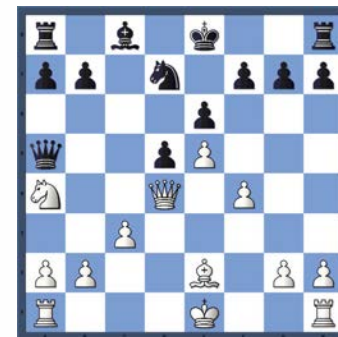
d) 9.♖b1 The direct defence of the pawn has absolutely no merits comparing to indirect one (9.a3). Actually the only reason to look at this is that it happened once in Alekhine's simul game (although with move order 7...Qb6 8.Rb1 cxd4 9.Nxd4) 9...♕c5 10.♖a4 (10.♖ce2?! this is antipositional and leads into trouble 10...O-O! it's necessary to prepare f7-f6 (10...f6?! 11.b4! ♕xd4 12.♖xd4 fxe5 13.♖f5 d4 14.♖d6+ ♔e7 15.♖c4 ♖c7 16.♕f2 exf4 17.b5 ♖d8 18.♖xd4± Kopczynski - Olszewski, Kolobrzeg 2001) 11.c3 (11.♖d2 Kickert - Zier, Willingen 2005 11...f6! 12.exf6 ♖xf6 13.c3 e5+-; 11.a3 11...f6 12.b4 ♕xd4 13.♖xd4 fxe5 Fuchs - Schott, Schleswig Holstein 1989) 11...f6! 12.exf6 ♖xf6 13.g3 e5 14.fxe5 ♖dxe5 15.♕g2 ♕g4 16.♕xd5+ ♔h8→ Fox - Heyden, Wolfsberg 2004; 10.♖cb5 10...O-O!? (the natural 10...a6 (Andreikin - Nakhapetiane, Serpukhov 1999) is playable too 11.b4!? axb5 12.bxc5 ♖a5+!? 13.♖d2 b4 14.♖b3 ♖c7∞) 11.c3 a6 12.b4 axb5 13.bxc5 ♖xc5 14.♖d2 ♖a3 15.♕xb5 (Ling - Amann, corr. 2006) and now the temporary pawn sacrifice 15...♖c5!? 16.♖xc6 bxc6 17.♕xc6 ♖e4 18.♖b2 ♖a5 19.♕b6 ♖a6= gives Black comfortable play) 10...♖a5+ 11.c3 (11.♖c3 11...♖xd4 the simplest (of course, Black can repeat position 11...♖b6 ; however, the greedy 11...♕b4?! 12.♖b3 ♖xa2 Molnar - Szunyogh, Hungary 2006 13.♕b5!∞can't be recommended) 12.♕xd4 ♖b4 13.♕xc5 ♖xc5 14.♖f3 O-O 15.♖f2 b6=) 11...♕xd4 12.♕xd4 ♖xd4 13.♖xd4 (after 13.b4 13...♖f3+ 14.♔f2 (Howard - Dyce, England 1997) the most logical answer is 14...♖c7!? 15.♖xf3 ♖c6= forcing White to play weakening b4-b5 as 16.♖b2△? f6± is even worse)



13...b6! but this is typical and good. Now it's White who has to be careful to hold the balance (13...b5?! 14.♖c5 ♖xa2 Such pawn grab is extremely risky especially when your opponent is great attacking genius 15.♕d3 O-O (15...a6 16.O-O ♖a5 17.f5 ♖b6 18.b4 ♖xc5 19.bxc5 ♖c6 20.c4! bxc4 21.♖b6 ♖c7 22.♕c2 O-O 23.f6 g6 24.♖f3 ♔h8 25.♖h3 1-0 Alekhine - Petrovic, Belgrade (simultan) 1931) 16.O-O ♖a5 Van Gils - Offringa, Hengelo 1996 (after 16...♖xc5 17.♖xc5↑(Brenk - Guenzler, Germany 1997) there is very annoying threat 18.Bxh7+) 17.b4 ♖b6 18.f5∞) 14.♕e2!? (immediate 14.♖b4 14...♖xb4 15.cxb4 (Esonboeva - Muminova, Tashkent 2011) leaves Black with better pawn structure what could be used with 15...g5!? 16.g3 ♔e7 17.♕b5 ♖g8 18.♔e2 f6=+) 14...♕a6 15.♖b4 ♖xb4 16.cxb4 ♕xe2 17.♔xe2 g5=+;

e) 9.♕e2!? For some strange reason this move has the best stats. But the way to equalise is rather clear. 9...♕c5 (9...♖xb2?! Here this pawn is really poisoned even when the reason is not perfectly obvious but 10.♖db5! N is quite convincing reason for Black to refrain from grabbing pawn b2 (The practice has seen only 10.♖cb5 but after the best answer 10...♕c5! the consequences are far from clear (10...♖xd4 11.♖c7+ ♔d8 12.♕xd4 ♕b4+ 13.♔f1+- Kobese - Delgado Palomeque, Naval Moral 1999; 10...♖b4+ 11.♕d2 ♖c5 12.♖c7+ ♔d8 13.♖b3+- Stets - Gazik, Hlohovec 1998;

10...♙b4+ 11.♚f1 O-O 12.♜xc6 bxc6 13.♙d4 ♖xa1 14.♙xa1 cxb5 15.♙xb5± Degoirat - Galli, Porticcio 2007) 11.♜xc6 (11.♜b1 11...♖xa2 12.♜c7+ ♙d8 13.♜dxe6+ fxe6 14.♜xe6+ ♙e8 15.♜xg7+ ♙f7 16.♙h5+ ♙e7 17.♜f5+ ♙d8 18.O-O) 11...bxc6 12.♜b1 (12.♙xc5 12...cxb5 13.♙d4 ♖a3∞) 12...♖xa2 13.♜a1 ♖b2 14.♜c7+ ♙d8 15.♙xc5 ♖c3+ 16.♙f1 ♙xc7 17.♙d4 ♖b4 18.c3) 10...♖b4 11.♙d2 ♙d8 12.♜b1 (12.♜xd5 12...♖e4 13.♜dc3 ♖xg2 14.♙f3 ♖h3 15.♜e4±) 12...♖e7 13.♜d6±) 10.♜a4 ♖a5+ 11.c3 (11.♜c3 11...♜xd4 (11...♖b6 repeats position, of course) 12.♙xd4 ♖b4 13.♙xc5 ♜xc5 14.O-O ♙d7 15.♜f3 ♜c8 16.♜b1 ♜a4= Comp "Deep Junior 10" - Comp "Glaurung 2.1", CEGT 2008) 11...♜xd4! this is the way to play (Now the standard capture 11...♙xd4 12.♙xd4 ♜xd4 is not accurate because of 13.b4!? (13.♖xd4 - 11...Nxd4) 13...♜f3+ 14.♙xf3 ♖c7 15.♖d4 and Black faces certain problems 15...O-O De Firmian - Chernin, Wijk aan Zee 1986 (the solid 15...b5 16.♜b2 a5 17.♙e2 ♙a6 (17...axb4 18.cxb4 ♙a6 E. Alekseev - Fridman, Beer Sheva 2013 19.a4+=) 18.a4 ♖b7 (Comp "Zappa Mexico" - Comp "Loop 13.6", CCRL 2007) still leaves White chance to break through 19.c4! bxc4 20.b5 ♙xb5 21.axb5 ♖xb5 22.♜a4+=) 16.c4!? using the chance 16...♖xc4 (16...dxc4 17.♜c1+=) 17.♖xc4 dxc4 18.O-O-O) 12.♙xd4 (now 12.b4? simply doesn't work because of 12...♙xb4 13.cxb4 ♖xb4+ 14.♙d2 ♖e7±; 12.♜xc5 leads to positions with opposite-coloured bishops where White is not better at all 12...♜xe2 13.♖xe2 ♜xc5 14.b4 ♖a4 (14...♖a6 15.♙xc5 ♖xe2+ 16.♙xe2 Larino Nieto - Herraiz Hidalgo, Las Palmas 2012 16...b6 17.♙d6 ♙a6+=) 15.bxc5 (15.♙xc5 15...b6 16.♙d6 ♙a6 17.♖d2 O-O-O) 15...O-O 16.O-O b6= Contos - Hladecek, corr. 2009) 12...♙xd4 13.♖xd4



13...b6! Immediately preparing Ba6 (13...O-O is less accurate as it allows White to castle and to avoid the bishops' exchange. 14.O-O b6 15.♙d1 (15.b3 15...♜c5= Ramus - Raessler, corr. 2006) 15...♙a6 16.b4!? (16.♜f3 looks tempting but after 16...♙b5 17.b4 ♖a6 18.♜b2 Black is able to exchange the bishops 18...♙e2! 19.♙xe2 (19.♜h3 Pierna Chamorro - Carbonell Bofill, Murcia 1997 19...♙xd1 20.♜xd1 f6±) 19...♖xe2 20.c4 f6 21.♖c3 (21.cxd5? 21...fxe5!±; 21.♜f2 21...fxe5! 22.♜xe2 exd4+=; 21.exf6 21...♜xf6∞ Vera Gonzalez Quevedo - Borges Mateos, Havana 1987) 21...d4! (21...fxe5?? 22.♜e1 d4 23.♖c1+-) 22.♖xd4 fxe5 23.♖c3 ♖e4 24.♜e1 ♖c6 25.fxe5 ♜xf3 26.♖xf3 (26.gxf3 26...♜f8) 26...♖xf3 27.gxf3 ♜f8 28.♙f2 ♜f4∞Vaclav - Siviero, corr. 2001) 16...♖b5 17.♜f3 ♖c4 (17...♖c6 18.♜b2 ♖c7 19.a4 ♜ac8 20.♙c2 g6 21.♜e1+= Sherzer - Vigh, Hungary 1995) 18.♜b2!? (if White avoids exchanging queens then Black has enough counterchances after 18.♖e3 18...f6 19.♜b2 ♖c7 20.exf6 ♜xf6 21.♙b3 ♜af8 22.♜e1 ♙h8∞N. Mitkov - O. Danielian, Leningrad 1991; 18.♖f2 18...f6 19.♜b2 ♖c7 20.exf6 ♜xf6 21.♖d4 ♜e4±E. Alekseev - Lintchevski, St Petersburg (active) 2014) 18...♖xd4+ 19.cxd4 ♜fc8 20.a4 ♙b7 21.a5 bxa5 22.♜xa5 ♜c1 23.♙f2 a6 24.♜fa3+= and Black is under certain pressure) 14.♙d1 (14.O-O allowing bishops' exchange 14...♙a6 (14...♜c5 is not effective due to 15.b4 ♖xa4 16.bxc5 ♖xd4+ 17.cxd4 bxc5 18.dxc5 ♙d7 19.♜ab1+= (Hein - Wornath, Darmstadt 1996) and Black still

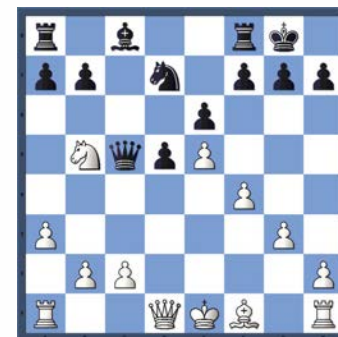
has to work hard) 15. ♖xa6 ♗xa6 16.f5 (16.b3 16...b5 17. ♖b2 ♗b6 18. ♖d3 ♗c8 19. ♖h1 ♖c5 20. ♖xc5 ♗xc5 21.f5 ♗xd4 22.cxd4 O-O= Baer - Krause, corr. 2007) 16...O-O 17.b3 (ambitious 17.f6 17...gxf6 18.exf6 ♖h8 19.b3 ♗g8 20.c4 b5 21.cxb5 ♗xb5 22. ♗ac1 ♗e2 23. ♗f2 ♗h5∞ (Scuderi - Palladino, corr. 2011) is fine for Black) 17...b5 18. ♖c5 (18. ♖b2 18...♗a5 19.a4 ♗fc8 20. ♗f3 ♗b6 21.axb5 ♗xb5 22.fxe6 fxe6 23. ♗xa7 ♗xa7 24. ♗xa7 ♖xe5 25. ♗f1 ♗b8= Comp "Shredder 10" - Comp "SmarThink 1.10", INTEL_CORE2_DUO 2007) 18...♖xc5 19. ♗xc5 ♗fc8= Sherzer - I. Almasi, Hungary 1995) 14...♖a6 15.b4 ♗b5 16. ♖b2 ♗c6 necessary because of the threat a2-a4. Now Black has enough counterchances in all lines: 17. ♖a4 (17. ♖f2 17...♗c8 18. ♗c1 O-O 19. ♗e1 f6 20. ♖g1 fxe5 21.fxe5 ♗f7= Aseev - Dreev, Frunze 1988; 17.a4 17...♗c7 18.b5 (18. ♖f3 18...♗c8 19. ♖d2 O-O 20. ♗he1 N. Mitkov - Paredes Galan, Lalin 1994 20...f6!+=) 18...♖b7 19.O-O O-O 20. ♗c1 a6 21. ♖d3 axb5 22.axb5 ♖c5= Guerra Mendez - Buchenau, Sitges 2013) 17...♖b5!? (17...♗c7 is less convincing 18. ♖f2 ♗c8 19. ♗ac1∞ N. Mitkov - Shmeliov, Las Vegas 2007) 18. ♖xb5 ♗xb5 19.a4 ♗c6 20.c4 a5 21.cxd5 (21.b5 21...♗c5=) 21...♗xd5 22. ♗xd5 exd5 23. ♗d1 axb4 24. ♗xd5 ♖c5 25. ♗d6 ♖xa4 26. ♖xa4 ♗xa4 27.O-O ♖e7 28. ♗xb6 ♗d8=;

f) The main and most dangerous move 9. ♗d2 will be examined in part]

9...♖c5 [9...♗xb2?? 10. ♖a4+- is just too obvious]

10. ♖a4 This is certainly not the best square for the knight but the alternatives don't impress either. [10.b4? just loses material after 10...♖xd4 11. ♖a4 Dembo - Zatonskih, Beijing (blitz) 2011 11...♖xa1 12. ♖xb6 ♖c3+! 13. ♖d2 ♖xd2+ 14. ♗xd2 ♖xb6+-; 10. ♖ce2?! 10...♗xb2± Adrien - Amigues, Fourmies 2010 ; 10. ♖cb5 is the only reasonable alternative to the main line but still it promises nothing after 10...♖xd4!? 11. ♖xd4

(11. ♖xd4?! 11...♗xb2±) 11...O-O 12. ♖xc5 (White doesn't have time to develop quietly 12. ♖d3?! 12...♖xd4 13. ♖xd4 Dueball - Smejkal, Raach 1969 13...f6! 14. ♗h5 f5±; 12.b4 was played most often but it also creates new weaknesses. 12...♖xd4 13. ♗xd4 Black has some ways to good play, the simplest is (13. ♖xd4?! 13...f6±) 13...a5!? 14. ♗b1 due to poor development White has to give a-file (14. ♗d1 14...axb4 15.axb4 ♗xd4 16. ♖xd4 ♖b6 17. ♖d3 ♖d7 18. ♖d2 ♗a4 19. ♗b1 ♗c8= Saric - Martinovic, Plitvicka Jezera 2013; 14. ♗xb6 14...♖xb6 15. ♖c7 ♗a7 16. ♖b5 ♗a8 17. ♖c7 ♗a7 1/2-1/2 Magem Badals - Vallejo Pons, El Sauzal 2010) 14...axb4 15.axb4 f6 16. ♗xb6 (16.exf6 16...♗xd4 17. ♖xd4 ♖xf6 18. ♖d3 ♖e4 19.g3 g5 20. ♗f1 gxf4 21.gxf4 ♖c3 22. ♗c1 ♖a2= Carrión Lava - Mesquita Jr., corr. 2012) 16...♖xb6 17. ♖d3 ♖d7 18. ♖d6 (Schmaltz - Krassowizkij, Germany 2014) and now the most reliable way to equalise is 18...fxe5!? 19.fxe5 ♗a2 20. ♖xb7 ♖c4 21. ♖xc4 dxc4 22. ♖c5 ♗xc2 23. ♖xd7 ♗ff2=) 12...♗xc5!? N aiming for f7-f6 is more logical (The practice has seen only 12...♖xc5 but after 13. ♗d4! ♖d7 14. ♖d6 f6 15. ♖e2! (15.b4 15...♖a4 16. ♗xb6 ♖xb6 17. ♖d3 ♗ab8 18. ♗f1 ♖c8 19. ♖xc8 ♗bxc8= Fleck - Seyb, Augsburg 1984) 15...fxe5 16.fxe5 ♖c6 (16...♖a4 17.O-O-O+= Macieja - Gradalski, Suwalki 1999) 17. ♗d1!+= White still has some pressure) 13.g3 (13. ♗d4 13...♗xc2±; 13. ♗d2 13...f6 14.exf6 ♖xf6 15. ♖d3 ♖e4 16. ♖xe4 ♗xb5!±; 13. ♖d4 13...♗b6! 14. ♗b1 f6!±; 13. ♖e2 13...f6∞ B. Macieja)



13...f6 14.exf6 ♖xf6 15.♔d4 (15.♙d3? 15...e5! 16.fxe5 ♖e4—+ B. Maciej) 15...♔xc2 16.♙d3 ♔g2 17.O-O-O ♙d7 18.♖d6= White has certain compensation for the pawn but not more]

10...♔a5+ 11.c3 [11.♖c3 11...♔b6 is usual picture already; 11.b4 11...♔xa4 12.bxc5 leads to absolutely drawish endgame (12.♙b5?! this exchange operation is ambitious and... bad. 12...♙xd4! (Black has no reason to panic 12...♙xb4+? 13.♔f2 ♔a5 14.axb4= with strong initiative 14...♔xb4? 15.♔b1+— Al Rufe - Jalaluldeen, Sulaymaniyah 2012) 13.♙xa4 ♙xe3 14.♔f3 d4! natural and strong (14...♙b6 15.c4= is fairly unclear (Rivera Kuzawka - Delgado Palomeque, Mondariz 1999)) 15.c3 ♖b6 16.cxd4 ♖d5+ and black pieces are clearly stronger than white queen (Cipka - Glinz corr 2007)) 12...♔a5+ 13.♔d2 ♔xd2+ 14.♔xd2 ♖xc5 15.♖xc6 ♖e4+ 16.♔c1 bxc6 17.♙d3 O-O 18.♙xe4 dxe4 19.♔b1 ♔d8 20.♔b4= Kritz - Bora, Richardson 2014]

11...♙xd4 Now this is an accurate move order [11...♖xd4?! is wrong because of 12.b4! ♔d8 13.♙xd4 ♙e7 14.♙b5+= Welsch - Kleine, corr. 2000]

12.♙xd4 [After 12.b4? the queen costs too much 12...♔xa4! (12...♙xc3+ 13.♖xc3 ♔d8 14.♖b5 O-O 15.♙d3= Castellanos Mendoza - Cerezo Gaston, Spain 2008) 13.♔xa4 ♙xc3+ (13...♙xe3 14.g3 O-O 15.♙d3 f6+ Boll - Rakhorst, corr. 1983) 14.♔f2 (14.♙d2 14...♙xa1 15.♙d3 ♙d4!—+ Santo Roman - Mercier, Ales 1984) 14...♙xa1 15.♙b5 ♙d4 16.♙xc6 ♙xe3+ 17.♔xe3 bxc6 18.♔xc6 ♔b8—+]

12...♖xd4 13.♔xd4 White has nominally good bishop vs. bad one. But b6Ba6 is an idea and also Na4 is badly misplaced. So Black has nothing to worry about. [After 13.b4 Black has very strong resource 13...♖f3+ 14.♔f2 (14.gxf3?! 14...♔d8 15.h4 O-O 16.♔d4 f6 17.♔f2 fxe5 18.fxe5 ♔e8 19.♔e1 ♔h5+ Lein - Nei, Kharkov 1967) 14...♔c7 15.♔xf3 Lederer - Goldt, corr. 1986

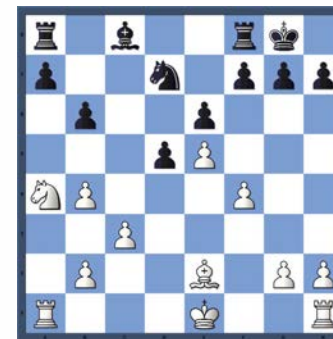
15...a6!? 16.♔e3 (16.♙d3 16...b5 17.♖b2 ♔xc3 18.♔hb1 g5+ 16...f6—and White can be only worse after all.]

13...O-O!? The interesting ambitious move. Black prepares f7-f6 and intends to exchange queens on his terms (or maybe even to avoid it) [The traditional main line 13...b6 14.♔b4 ♔xb4 15.axb4 ♔e7!? (/5) 16.♙b5 ♙b7= (Nunn - Ehlvest, Reykjavik 1988) is also perfectly playable foe Black.]

14.♙e2 [14.♔b4 Without b7-b6 played this move makes little sense 14...♔c7 15.♙b5 (There is also a tricky trap 15.♙d3? 15...b5! 16.♙xb5 ♔b8—+ Weng - Huber, Germany 1992) 15...b6 16.♔d4 ♖c5 17.♖xc5 bxc5 18.♔d2 ♔b8=+ Vl. Andreev - Aliferenko, Yuzhny 2011; 14.♙d3 14...b6 15.♔b4 (15.O-O 15...♙a6 16.♙xa6 ♔xa6 17.b3 (Zemlianukhina - Fukson, Kazan 2000) is just careless due to 17...♔fc8! ↑ 18.♔f3△? b5 19.♖b2 ♖c5—+) 15...♔xb4 16.axb4 (Szalanczy - Vigh, Budapest 1991) and it's Black who starts the active play with 16...g5!? 17.g3 f6 18.exf6 gxf4 19.gxf4 ♔xf6=+]

14...b6 15.♔b4 [15.♙d1 15...♔b5 16.b4 f6=+ (Torre - Dizdar, Saint John 1988) and suddenly White faces serious development problems]

15...♔xb4 16.axb4



g5!? [16...f6 is also possible 17.♙g4 ♔f7 18.exf6 ♖xf6 19.♖xb6 axb6 20.♔xa8 ♖xg4 21.O-O ♙d7= Rihtaric - Rummyantsev, corr.

2011]

17.fxg5 ♔**b7** **18.b3** ♞**xe5**∞ (Nowakowski - B. Ivanov, corr. 2011) and Black is definitely not worse.

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot

Best rating: 2749

(4) Harmon-Vellotti, L. (2430)
- Chandra, A. (2495) [A40]US junior championship(1),
2015.07.07

This week's best game of a junior player is clearly Wei Yi-Bruzon which is already analyzed by Csaba. So I found some interesting game from the US Junior Championship. At the time of writing, the 16-year old Chandra Akshat is leading with 2/2.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 The Grunfeld is quite famous among US juniors these days.

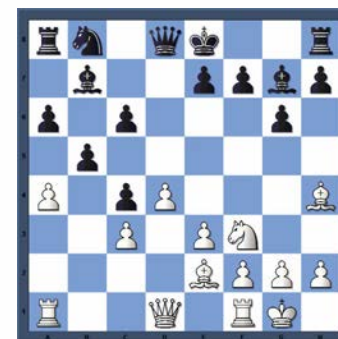
4.♘f3 ♗g7 5.♗g5 ♘e4 6.♗h4 6.Bf4 is the main move while 6.cxd5 almost disappeared from practice.

6...♗xc3 7.bxc3 dxc4 8.e3 A few months ago Harmon-Vellotti against Troff tried [8.♖a4+ 8...c6 9.♖xc4 ♖a5 10.e3 ♘a6 11.♖b3 but here it seems Black gets a good endgame after 11...♘c5! 12.♖b4 ♖xb4 13.cxb4 ♘e4 14.♗d3 ♘d6=]

8...b5 9.a4 c6 10.♗e2 I feel this is best move order, but 10.Qb1 and 10.Nd2 also exist.

10...a6 A normal consolidating move. 10....Nd7 might give White extra possibilities.

11.O-O ♗b7?! This move should be delayed, 11....Nd7 is much better. [11...♘d7!? 12.♘d2 O-O!? (12...♗b7 is back to the game all the while avoiding the nasty 12.Qb1!)]



12.♘d2 Missing a good opportunity. [12.♖b1! 12...♖c8 (12...♘d7 13.♗xc4+=) 13.♖b4 f6 (13...O-O 14.♗xe7 ♖e8 15.♗d6+=) 14.♗g3 ♘d7 15.♖fb1 ♘b6 16.♘d2 with very strong compensation for the pawn.]

12...♘d7 13.♗f3 ♖c8 [13...O-O 14.♖b1 ♖b8∞ is an interesting alternative.]

14.♖b1 f6 15.♗g4 Provoking further weaknesses in Black's camp. [15.♖b2 15...O-O 16.♖fb1 might also be good for White.]

15...f5 16.♗f3 is good in case you find the antidote to Black's next move. Somewhat more human is [16.♗e2!? 16...e5 17.♗xc4! bxc4 18.♘xc4 and it is clear that White will get the advantage after this sacrifice.]

16...e5



17. ♖b4?! This move permits Black to regroup. But the good move was extremely difficult to find. [17.axb5! 17...axb5 18. ♘xc4!! You cannot calculate the consequences of such a sacrifice but it looks promising. 18...bxc4 19. ♖b4 ♕f6! (19...♕f8 20. ♖xc4 ♘b6 21. ♖b3 ♘d5 22.c4±) 20. ♕xf6 ♘xf6 21.dxe5 with great compensation.]

17...♕f8 18. ♖b2 ♕d6 It is now clear that Black is better.

19. ♖fb1 [19.e4 19...O-O 20.exf5 gxf5 21. ♕g3 ♖c7=+]

19...e4! 20. ♕e2 ♖b8 21.f3 Trying to open the position is essential since Black is a pawn up!

21...exf3 22. ♕xf3 ♖c7 It is difficult to comment on Black's last moves, they are simply logical and strong.

23.axb5 cxb5 [23...axb5 24. ♖a7 ♘b6 25.h3 O-O 26.e4 White gets counterplay.]

24. ♕xb7 ♖xb7



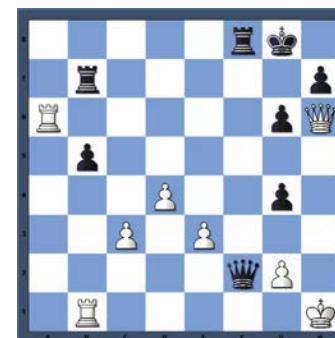
25. ♖xa6 It is dangerous to give a pawn around the king. White would get better saving chances if he played 25.h3 followed by 26.e4.

25...♕xh2+ 26. ♖h1 O-O 27. ♖a3 I don't know what to suggest... The position is very difficult to play with White, for example: [27. ♘xc4 27...♕g3 28. ♕xg3 ♖xg3 29. ♘d2 ♘f6! 30. ♘f3 ♘e4 with very strong black pieces.]

27...♕g3! 28. ♕xg3 ♖xg3 29. ♘xc4 I would try to go for an endgame even if Black is a clean pawn up. [29. ♖d6!? 29...♖xd6 30. ♖xd6 ♘f6+]]

29...♘f6 30. ♘e5 ♘g4 31. ♘xg4 simply loses but the toughest defense is also not enjoyable: [31. ♘f3 31...♘xe3 32. ♖a2+ ♖g7+ with a pawn up and the attack.]

31...fxg4 32. ♖d6 ♖h4+ 33. ♖h2 ♖f2 34. ♖h6 [34. ♖g1 is not mate but loses too many pawns: 34...♖g3 35. ♖h2 ♖xe3 36. ♖e5 ♖xc3—+]



34...g3! 35. ♖g1 ♖bf7 White resigned in view of Qxg1 or Rf5 with mating threats. Black's play was very neat, with the exception of some imprecisions in the opening. **0-1**

Puzzle section

(5) Kramnik, V(2783)-Nepomniachtchi, I(2720)

Dortmund, 2015.06.30

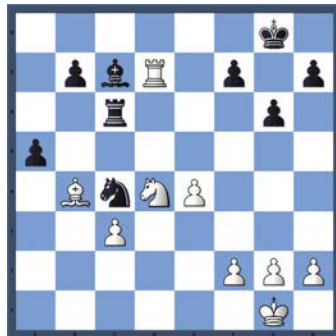
1. +-



(6) Nisipeanu, D(2654)-Caruana, F(2805)

Dortmund, 2015.07.05

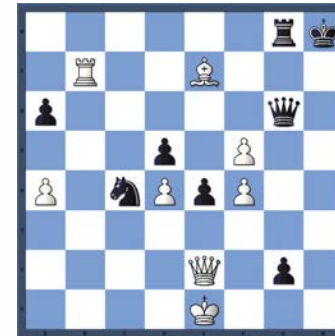
1... -+



(7) Ovod, E(2313)-Mirzoeva, E(2233)

Russian Higher league (W), 2015.06.30

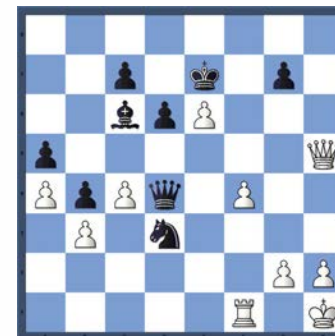
1. +-



(8) Savina, A(2422)-Ovod, E(2313)

Russian Higher league (W), 2015.07.01

1... -+



(9) Ofitserian, B(2306)-Levin, E(2519)

Polugaevsky memorial, 2015.07.04

1... -+



(10) Van Kampen, R(2609)-Van Wely, L(2647)

Dutch Championship, 2015.07.06

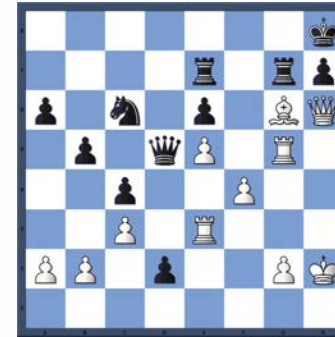
1... -+



(11) Giri, A(2791)-Pruijssers, R(2507)

Dutch Championship, 2015.07.06

1. +-



(12) Laznicka, V(2657)-Sethuraman, S(2623)

Porticcio Open, 2015.07.01

1. +-



(13) Areshchenko, A(2656)-Terrioux, K(2440)

Porticcio Open, 2015.07.02

1. +-



(14) Smirin, I(2663)-Nikhilesh, K(2235)

World Open, 2015.07.01

1. +-



Endgame section

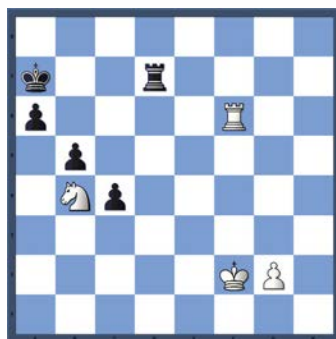
(15) So, Wesley (2778)
- Kramnik, Vladimir (2783)

43rd GM 2015(7.2),
2015.07.05

37th Zurich Christmas 2013(2.1),
2013.12.27



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



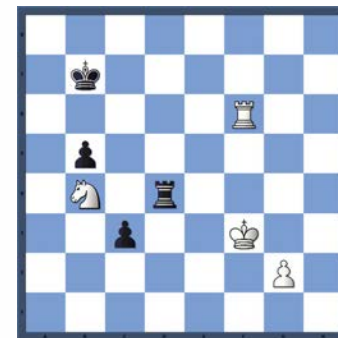
We are in the last round of Dortmund and Kramnik is fighting for the 2nd place. For most of the game he had a better position, but maybe he played too hastily for a win and got this unpleasant endgame where Black is already in quite some danger to lose.

54...♖d2+ A good move. Black places the rook to a good square. All Black needs to do is to exchange his 3 pawns for the g2 pawn, but this is not that simple to achieve.

55.♕f3 is clearly the best try.

55...a5?! Kramnik misses a forced draw. And even if it looks dangerous from a human point of view, with exact calculation

it is very possible to see it... [55...♕b7 Black gives away the a6 pawn but the c-pawn is becoming very hard to stop. 56.♖xa6 c3 57.♖b4 (57.♖c5+ 57...♕c7 and White can't do anything to stop Black from playing c2 with a draw.) 57...♖d4



58.♖c2 It seems like White managed to bring his knight back home, but it just doesn't help. 58...♖d2 59.♖e3 c2 and the position is a draw.]

56.♖a6+ [56.♖c6+ 56...♕b6 is good for Black.]

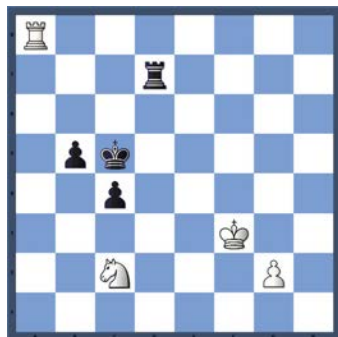
56...♕b7 57.♖xa5 ♕b6 The position still looks like a draw, the black pieces are active and the king is getting to help the b5 pawn to move by playing Kc5.

58.♖a2! White is playing great chess, looking for only chances to fight for a win. [58.♖a8 would lead to a draw after 58...♕c5 59.♖a6+ ♕b6]

58...♖d7?! Another inaccurate move by Black... [Kramnik should have moved just one square further... 58...♖d8 59.g4 ♕c5 60.♖a6+ ♕b6 61.g5 c3 and the active c-pawn should secure the drawish outcome.]

59.♖a8! Another very strong move. Now the white rook and knight make it impossible for the black pawns to move forward.

59...♕c5 60.♖c2 The black pawns are stopped.



60...Rc7?! Yet another unlucky move by Kramnik... [Black's chances to make a draw were still good after 60...Rf7+ 61.Ke2 Re7+ 62.Kd2 Rd7+ 63.Kc1 and now that the white king has gone far away, Black should start attacking the g2 pawn: 63...Rg7 64.Ne3 and of course White has some practical chances to win here, but Black's chances are at least not worse to make a draw.]

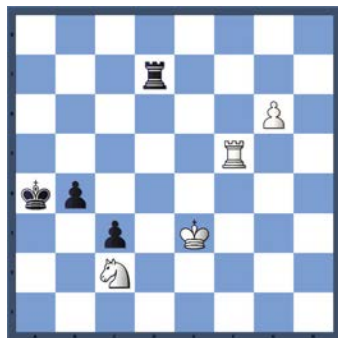
61.Rf8! And the game is basically over. White's threat of playing Rf5 is deadly...

61...c3 62.Rf5+ Kb6 [62...Kc4 63.Ne3+ Kb4 64.Nd5+ and Black loses his rook because of its unlucky position on c7.]

63.g4 Ka5 64.g5 Ka4 Black simply doesn't have any threats.

65.Ke3 A very safe decision. White also brings his king to help the pieces now that the g-pawn is not in danger to get lost.

65...Rd7 66.g6 b4



67.Rf4 and the b4 pawn is gone...

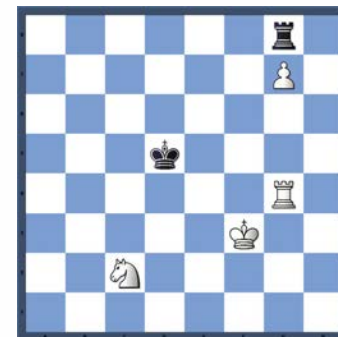
67...Kb3 68.Nxb4 I guess the only reason Kramnik did not resign here is that he was feeling very angry about misplaying the nice position he had so badly...

68...Re7+ 69.Re4 Rg7 [An easy line to calculate is 69...Re4+ 70.Kxe4 Kxb4 71.Kd3! Kb3 72.g7 c2 73.g8=Q+ and White queens with check.]

70.Rg4 Now the white king will go to h6, so Black is hopeless.

70...Re7+ 71.Kf3 Rg7 72.Nc6 So transfers his knight to d4, which was not really needed but almost any move is already winning.

72...Rg8 73.g7 c2 74.Nd4+ Kc4 75.Nxc2+ Kd5 and of course White is in time to stop the black king from getting to f7.



76.Rg6 followed by Kg4 next. A very sad end of the game for Kramnik, who really had his chances during the middle game and basically lost a drawish endgame. But it is a great example for us on how knight and rook work together to stop the opponent's pawns from running further. **1-0**

**(16) Wang Yue (2716)
- Ding Liren (2749)**Hainan Danzhou GM,
2015.07.06GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

In this position, Wang Yue simplifies the game to a very instructive opposite colored bishop endgame. He perfectly foresees and evaluates the consequences .

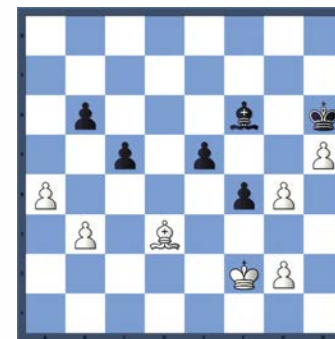
45. ♖d6+! This forces the exchange of the queen. [45. ♖xb6+ 45... ♗f6 46. ♖xc5 should be also winning, but of course with the queens on board, Black might always hope for salvation. If the bishop endgame is winning, then there is no reason to allow counterchances...]

45... ♗f6 Only chance! [45... ♗f6 loses now to 46. ♖f8+! ♗g7



47. ♗f5! and Black has only two checks and then he gets mated on g6... 47... ♖e1+ 48. ♗f1 ♖e3+ 49. ♗h1+—]

46. ♖xf6+! ♗xf6 **47. ♗f2** At first sight the game is drawn, because the connected passed pawns on the kingside are fixed and perfectly blockaded by the king, while the black bishop could successfully protect the queenside. However, Wang Yue sees the position much more deeply...

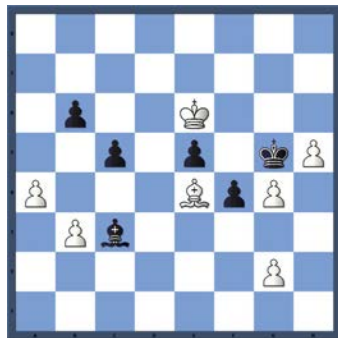


47... ♗h4+ Black prepares to defend his b6 pawn from a5 with the bishop. That looks completely safe. [The diagonal is too short if Black wants to do the same from d8-c7. Black quickly gets into zugzwang after 47... ♗g5 48. ♗f3 ♗e7 49. ♗e2 ♗d8 50. ♗e4 ♗f6 51. ♗f3 White does the same preparation like in the game. He settles his bishop to f3 from where it not only blocks the e5 pawn, but also defends the g4. It gives free way to the king to attack the b6... 51... ♗g7 52. ♗d5 ♗f6 53. ♗c6 ♗d8 54. ♗d7 ♗f6 55. ♗c7+— and the pawn is lost.]

48. ♗f3 ♗g5 49. ♗e2! White preserves all his pawns and prepares to centralize his king.

49... ♗e1 50. ♗e4 ♗c3 51. ♗f3 ♗b4 Well, Black believes, that the e5 pawn does not make much difference, which is actually true from the matter of the outcome... [51... ♗d4 52. ♗d5 ♗c3 53. ♗e4! Using the fact, that the g4 pawn cannot be taken because the h-pawn queens. Suddenly Black finds himself

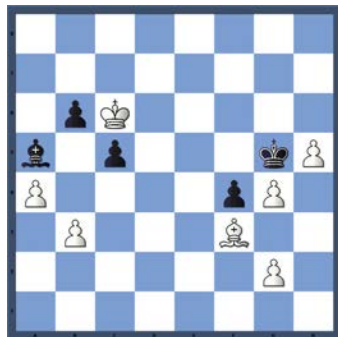
in zugzwang. If the bishop moves and it keeps the e5 pawn protected, Kc6 is going to win the one on b6. He could only play then 53...♔h6 but it loses to 54.♔e6! Threatening with Kf6 and pushing the g-pawn... 54...♔g5



55.h6! is the point and the reason why Black gave up his e5 pawn. Now the bishop cannot take part in stopping the g-pawn... 55...♔xh6 56.♔f6+- and the g-pawn promotes automatically.]

52.♔xe5 The appearance of the e5 pawn does not change the strategy of the defense. The kingside pawns are still blockaded and the b6 pawn can be still defended with Ba5...

52...♗c3+ 53.♔d5 ♗d2 54.♔c6 ♗a5



It looks like the game is drawn, because Black just starts waiting with Kh6-g5 or if the white king approaches the

kingside, it frees the black bishop to move. However here comes the brilliant idea, which was foreseen by Wang Yue before trading the queens...

55.♗d1!! ♔h6 56.b4!! cxb4 [56...♗xb4 57.♔xb6+- is over, since the a-pawn promotes.]

57.♗b3! This is the point! The black bishop is trapped and suddenly Black finds himself in zugzwang! He can only move with his king now, but after...

57...♔g5 58.♔d5 [58.♔d5 Black resigned because the king goes towards f6 and promotes the g-pawn. 58...♔h6 59.♔e6 ♔g5 60.♔e5 At some point Black is forced to sacrifice his b6-pawn to free his bishop, but then 60...b5 61.axb5 and the white king goes back to support the b-pawn. White wins!] **1-0**

Golden knowledge



GM Adrian Mikhalchishin
FIDE Trainers Commission Chairman

I) Fighting against the queen with the rook

(17) 1

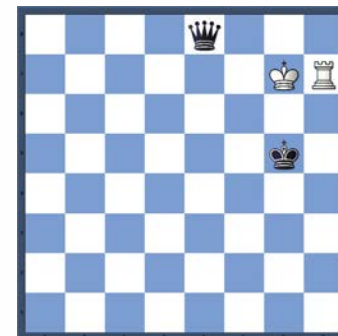


The simplest way in such cases is to transfer the move to the opponent, as he will be in zugzwang. It is something like a queen triangulation, similar to the king triangulation in pawns endings.

1. ♔d5+ The simplest way to win most of this kind of position is to lose a tempo-to give opponent possibility to destroy its coordination of the pieces. Simply-zugzwang.

1... ♕h8 2. ♔h1+ ♕g8 3. ♔h5! ♖a7 4. ♔d5+ ♕h8 5. ♔h1+ ♕g8 6. ♔g1+ 1-0

(18) Svidler - Gelfand

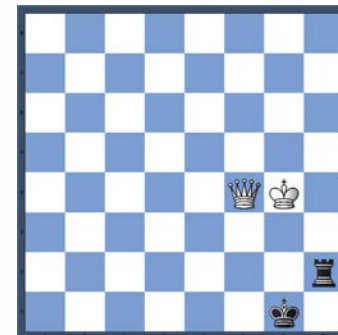


1... ♔c8 2. ♕f7 ♔d8 3. ♖g7+ [We get to the known position after 3. ♕g7 3... ♔e8]

3... ♕f5 4. ♖h7 ♔d7+ 5. ♕g8 ♔e8+ 6. ♕g7 ♕g5 This zugzwang is the simplest way to win, as in the previous example. It is the most instructive method which has to be known and applied on every level. **1-0**

(19) Morozevich, A. - Jakovenko, D.

Pamplona ESP, 2006



104. ♔d4+ [104. ♔e5! Setting Black in zugzwang and keeping control over the important h2 square. 104... ♖f2 105. ♕g3 ♖g2+ 106. ♕h3 is easily winning.]

104...♔g2 105.♚d3 [105.♚e5 Once again, but when in modern games with 30 second increment the player goes in the wrong direction, only the opponent's mistake can help him.]

105...♔g1 106.♚e3+ ♔f1 107.♚c1+ ♔f2 108.♚d2+ ♔g1 109.♚e1+ ♔g2 110.♚g3+ [110.♚e5]

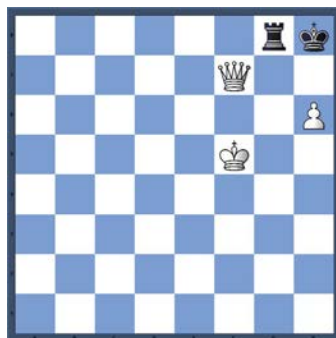
110...♔h1 111.♔f3?? [It was necessary to play 111.♚e5]

111...♖f2+! and the rook becomes untouchable.

112.♔e3 ♖e2+ 113.♔d3 ♖d2+ 114.♔xd2 1/2-1/2

(20) Szablewski, M. - Radjabov, T.

EU-ch U10, 1996



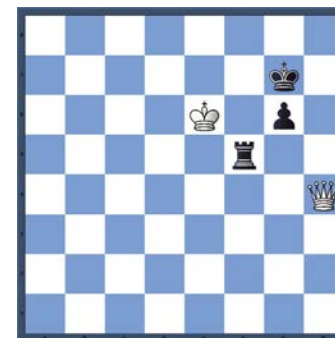
Sometimes the players cannot win with just queen against rook, but even with an additional pawn! The most frequently underestimated defence in all type of queens endings is the stalemate motif.

114.h7?? [114.♚e7 was winning as there is no more stalemate defense.]

114...♖g5+ 115.♔e4 ♖g4+ 116.♔d5 ♖g5+ 117.♔e6 1/2-1/2

(21) Beliavsky, A. - Boersma, P.

Tilburg, 1993

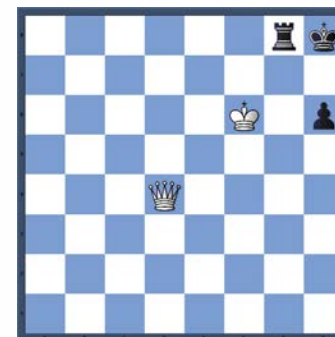


72...♔g8?? A terrible mistake. Much better would be the drawn continuation [72...♖f8]

73.♚h6 1-0

(22) Penrose, J. - Hartston, W.

Great Britain (ch), 1970



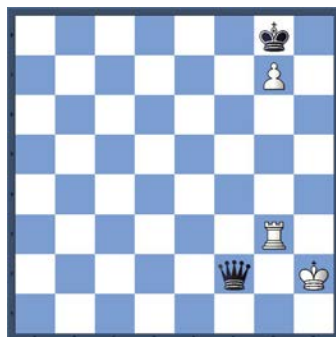
1...♔h7? A typical mistake, made in many games. Correct was to keep the opponent's king far from the 7th rank. [1...♖g7!=]

2. ♔f7+— ♚g5 3. ♛f6 ♚g8 4. ♛e6 ♚g5 [4... ♚g7+ 5. ♔f8 ♚g5
6. ♛e7+ ♔h8 7. ♛f7!+—]

5. ♔f8 h5 6. ♛f7+ ♔h6 7. ♛f6+ ♚g6 8. ♛f4+ ♔h7 9. ♛e5!
♔h6 10. ♔f7 h4 11. ♛e4! 1-0

(23) Jaszczuk, B. - Gniot, T.

Szczecin, 1949

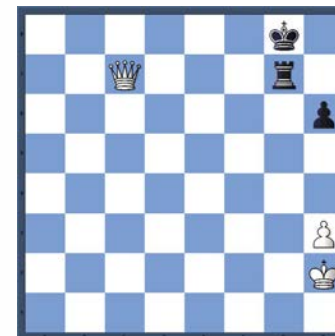


1. ♔h3?? [1. ♔h1! In such cases it is necessary to use self-stalemate motifs.]

1... ♛d2 2. ♚g4 ♛d7 3. ♔h4 ♛d3 4. ♚g5 ♛d8 5. ♔h5 ♛d4
6. ♚g6 ♛e3 7. ♔g4 ♛e4+ 8. ♔h5 ♛e8 9. ♔h6 ♛e5 10. ♚g5
♛h2+ 11. ♔g6 ♛h7+ 12. ♔f6 ♛e4 13. ♚g6 ♛f4+ 14. ♔e6
♛f7+ 0-1

(24) Stefansson, H. - Bjarnason, S.

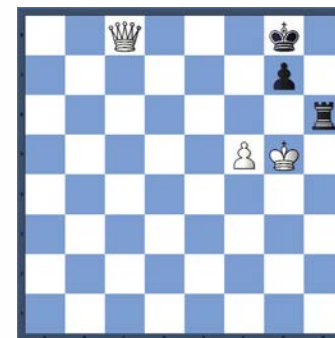
ISL-ch, 2002.08.29



The position is drawn since the king is cut off.

57. ♛c8+ ♔h7 58. h4 ♚g6 59. ♛f5 ♔g7 60. ♔h3 ♚g1 61. ♛c5
♚g6 62. ♛e5+ ♔g8 63. ♛f5 ♚g7 64. ♛e5 ♔h7 65. ♛e4+
♔h8 66. ♔h2 ♔g8 67. ♛e6+ ♔h7 68. ♔h3 ♚g8 1/2-1/2

(25)



In many cases the only way to win is to find a favorable transposition into a pawn ending.

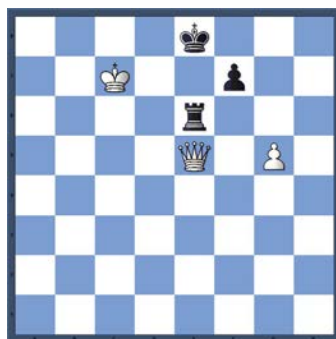
1... ♔f7 [Does not help 1... ♔h7 2. ♔f4 ♚f6 3. ♔e5 ♚h6 4. ♛e6!!
♔h8 5. ♔d6]

2. ♛d8 ♚f6 [2... ♚h3 3. f6 is winning.]

3. ♛xf6+! gxf6+ 4. ♔h6

(26) Pismenny, A. - Shwarz, B.

Moscov, 1968



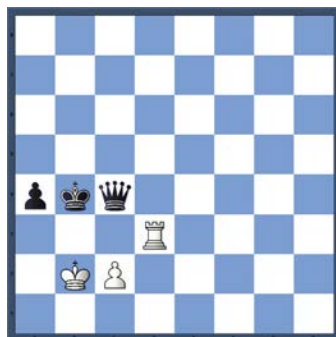
Here is the same main (and only!) idea to win this endgame: to transpose into a winning pawn ending.

1. ♔f6!! ♕f8 2. ♔d8 [It is strange that the well-known ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CHESS ENDGAMES does not show the following mate: 2. ♔h8+ 2... ♕e7 3. ♔d8#]

2... ♕g8 3. ♕d7 ♖e1 4. g6 1-0

(27) Timman, J. - Nunn, J.

Wijk aan Zee , 1982



Here we see another very important practical ending.

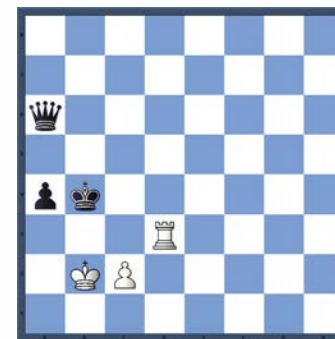
68... ♔e4 69. ♕a2?? [According to the analysis of Grigorjev from 1917, correct is 69. ♖a3=]

69... a3 70. ♕b1 [70. ♖b3+ did not help: 70... ♕c4 71. ♕b1 a2+]

70... ♔e1+ 71. ♕a2 ♖c1 72. ♖b3+ ♕a4 0-1

(28) Rogulj, B. - Andres, M.

Jugoslavija , 1968



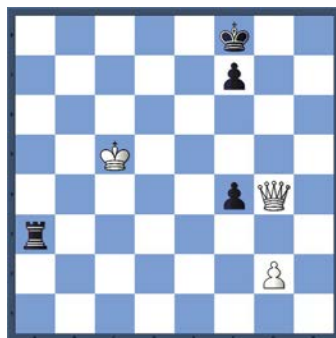
1. ♖f3? [The correct defense is 1. ♖a3! As it was stated before it is necessary to stop a4-a3. 1... ♔f6+ 2. ♕a2 ♖h6 3. ♕b2! ♔h1 4. ♖d3 ♖a8 5. ♖a3!=]

1... a3+! 2. ♕a2 ♖c4+ 3. ♖b3+ ♕a4 4. ♕a1 a2 [Wrong was 4... ♖xc2 because of the classical stalemate defence, which has to be known by every player: 5. ♖xa3+ ♕b4 6. ♖b3+ ♕c4 7. ♖b4+ ♕d3 8. ♖b3+ ♕d2 9. ♖b2]

5. ♖b2 ♖f1+ 6. ♕xa2 ♖c1! Once again the winning method is through zugzwang. **0-1**

(29) Akopian, V. - Djukic, Z.

Niska Banja , 1991



When the exact position is not reached there are very interesting and instructive options to prevent it.

1. ♖h4!! []+- [1. ♖xf4? 1... ♖a6=]

1... ♖g3 [1... ♖g7 2. ♖g5+ ♖f8 3. ♖d8+ ♖g7 4. ♖d4+! ♖g8 5. ♖d6 ♖a6+ (5... ♖e3 6. ♖xf4 ♖e6+ 7. ♖d7+-) 6. ♖d7 ♖g6 7. ♖d5! ♖g7 (7... ♖g3 8. ♖e7! ♖e3+ 9. ♖f6 ♖e6+ 10. ♖xe6 fxe6 11. ♖xe6+-) 8. ♖e5+ ♖g8 (8... ♖h7 9. ♖xf4 ♖xg2 10. ♖e7+-) 9. ♖e7! ♖xg2 10. ♖b8+-]

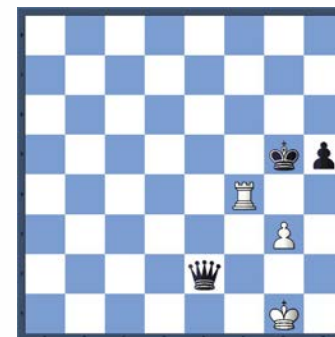
2. ♖h8+! ♖g8 3. ♖h6+ ♖g7 4. ♖d6! ♖g8 5. ♖e7 ♖g6 [5... f5+ 6. ♖f6+-; 5... ♖xg2 6. ♖f8+ ♖h7 7. ♖xf7+-]

6. ♖f8+ ♖h7 7. ♖xf7+! [7. ♖xf7 7... f3! 8. g4! (8. gxf3? 8... ♖f6+!=; 8. ♖c5? 8... ♖g7+ 9. ♖f6 fxf6=) 8... f2 9. ♖e7+-]

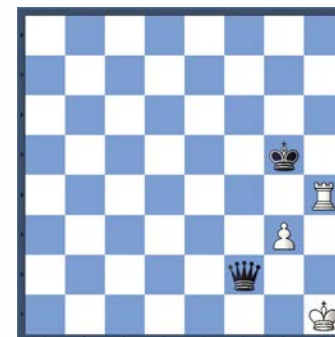
7... ♖g7 8. ♖f6 1-0

(30) Kotov, Al - Pachman, L.

Moscow-Prague, 1946



79...h4?? [The correct theoretical way would be 79... ♖c2! 80. ♖h1 ♖d2 (Even now some players managed to make mistakes: 80...h4? 81. ♖xh4 ♖f2

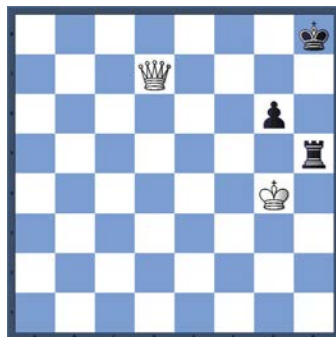


82. ♖g4+!! (or Jana Krivec way: 82. ♖f4 82... ♖xg3 83. ♖f5+ ♖g6 84. ♖f6+) 81. ♖g1 ♖e2 82. ♖h1 h4! 83. ♖xh4 ♖f1+ 84. ♖h2 ♖f2+ 85. ♖h3 ♖g1 is winning.]

80. ♖xh4 ♖f3 81. ♖h2 ♖d1+ 82. ♖g2 ♖d5+ 83. ♖f2 ♖d2+ 84. ♖g1 ♖e1+ 85. ♖g2 ♖e2+ 86. ♖g1 ♖f3 87. ♖f2 ♖d1+ 88. ♖g2 ♖e1 89. ♖f4 ♖e2+ 1/2-1/2

(31) Zaric, V. - Feher, S.

Yugoslavia, 1994



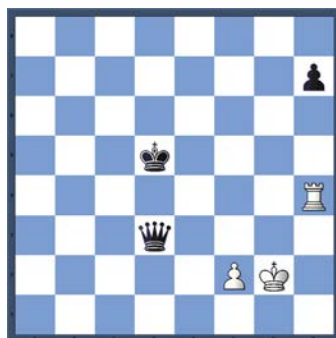
66. ♔f7 ♚h1?? [66... ♚g5+!! Sometimes people know, sometimes not!]

67. ♕g5? [Better was 67. ♔f2 67... ♕g7 68. ♔a7+]

67... ♚g1+ 68. ♕h6 ♚h1+ 69. ♕xg6 ♚g1+ 70. ♕h5 ♚h1+ 71. ♕g4 ♚g1+ 72. ♕h3 ♚h1+ 73. ♕g2 ♚g1+ 1/2-1/2

(32) Averbakh, Y. - Bondarevsky, I.

URS-ch16, 1948



60... ♕e6? [It was necessary to immediately attack the

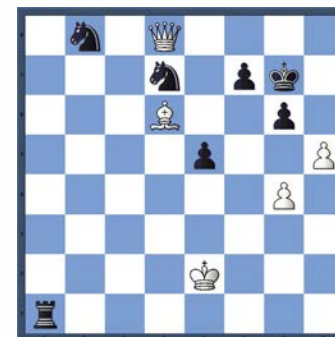
opponent's king: 60... ♔g6+ 61. ♕h2 ♔f5 62. ♕g3 ♔e5+ 63. ♕f3 (or 63. ♕h3 63... ♔g5 64. ♚g4 ♔f5 65. ♕g3 h5 66. ♚h4 ♔g5+ 67. ♕h3 ♔g1 68. ♚xh5+ ♕e4 is winning.) 63... ♔g5 64. ♚h3 ♕d4 65. ♚g3 ♔d5+ 66. ♕e2 ♔h1 and the h7 pawn will come like an express.]

61. ♚h3 ♔e4+ 62. ♕h2 ♕f6 63. ♚e3 ♔d5 64. ♚g3 h5 65. ♚e3 ♕g5 66. ♚g3+ ♕f4 67. ♚e3 h4 68. ♚h3 ♔b7 and we once again have the Grigorjev position.

69. ♚e3 ♕g4 70. ♚h3 ♔b1 71. ♕g2 ♔h7 72. ♕h2 ♔c7+ 73. ♕g2 ♔c2 74. ♚e3 1/2-1/2

(33) Kuzmin, G. - Polugaevsky, L.

USSR , 1975



Now let us check how top players transpose into this concrete ending:

42... ♚a6!! 43. ♕xb8? [43. ♔e7!± was still keeping the advantage.]

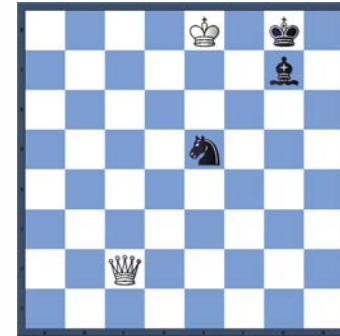
43... ♚xb8 44. ♔xb8 gxf5 45. ♔xe5+ ♕g8 46. ♔b8+ [46. ♔xf5 leads to a dead draw after 46... ♚e6+]

46... ♕g7 47. ♔b2+ ♕g8 48. gxf5 and now we have the position from the Grigorjev analysis.

48...♖e6+ 49.♔f3 ♕h7 50.♔g4 ♖h6 51.♔g5 ♖e6 52.♜h2
♖h6 53.♜f4 ♕g7 54.♜xf7+ 1/2-1/2

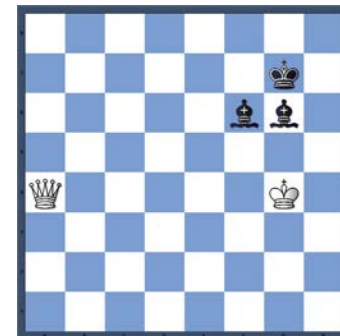
II) Fighting against the queen with minor pieces

(34) 3



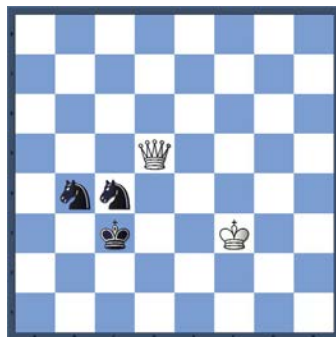
Here is one of the most important fortressess. The black pieces maintain an unbreakable zone around the king.

(35) 4



Two bishops don't allow the opponent's queen to mate.

(36) 2



Two knights, when placed close to the own king, also keep a draw.

1. ♔d1 ♘d2+ 2. ♔e2 ♘b3 3. ♔e1+ ♔c4 4. ♔h4+ ♔c3 5. ♔f6+ ♘d4+ 6. ♔f2 ♘d5 1/2-1/2

Chess and the City.

A look says more than a thousand words...



WGM Elisabeth Paetz
Best rating: 2493



Picture taken from the official website of the French Chess Federation

Being a captain of a women team brings not only a huge responsibility, but also requires steady nerves, a thick skin and, most importantly, the ability to stay calm whatever happens, whenever needed. Obviously, these traits are not given by birth, and usually it takes ages, sometimes a lifetime of practice to acquire them. Thus, unsurprisingly, most wise men throw in the towel much earlier, and these are the ones I would call clever...

On the other hand, the "tough - believers", who we can unceremoniously call the masochists, see a life goal in leading a women team. From my own experience of being a national team member for more than a decade, after every team event the tough-believers experience real physical consequences (increased hair loss and quicker aging in general...), and on top of that they always need some extra vacations or, in the worst scenario, some psychological support. I guess this is well-known to all chess players and should not come as a surprise to those who have witnessed or played in team events which include a women section.

But let us take a practical example, which can illustrate the physical suffering of these poor idealistic creatures...What do we see in this picture? Yep, on the surface we can spot that it is a women's match between former World Champion Alexandra Kosteniuk and myself. However, this is not really relevant here and should not be the focus of the reader's attention. The crucial part here is the facial expressions. But to fully understand the pain of the poor bystanders I must give you some information about the importance of the particular match shown in the picture. My team "Philidor Mulhouse" was down 2-1 against the team of "Clichy" and in case I could manage to win the game we would level the score, and, more importantly, proceed to the final of the Top 12 French Women's Team Championship. This is because the win on the top board would also count as a tie-break according to the French regulation.

Now, strengthened by this knowledge, we can finally understand the drama that is unfolding. First we can name our Team Captain "Jiji" alias GM Jean Noel Riff (the guy in the black Nike polo), who does not seem too confident about the actual outcome of the game. This or he was chewing a lemon. Since he is only in his mid 30s he still has plenty of time to

realize how hard the job that he has chosen is. Somewhere behind him, in the red shirt, is GM Pavel Tregubov, seriously worried and looking dangerously close to a heart attack. Apparently, even an experienced team captain like Pavel has not yet learnt the hard lesson that women teams must be only met for cocktails and not for training them...

Clash of the Titans

(37) Kupreichik, Viktor D
- Tal, Mihail [B82]

Sochi schev, 1970



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘c6 5.♗c3 [In this move order White had the additional opportunity to play a Maroczy structure. 5.c4]

5...♗f6 6.♕c4 [Nowdays a more popular weapon against the Rauser is 6.♕g5]

6...♞b6 A very concrete move. White needs to decide what to do with the knight. The alternativewas [6...e6 7.♕e3 and White can play a very sharp line called Velimirovich Attack, with Qe2-0-0-g4.]



7.♗b3 [7.♗db5 7...a6 8.♕e3 ♞a5 9.♗d4 e6 10.O-O ♕e7 11.♕b3 (11.f4 11...O-O and White anyway has to lose time for Bb3. 12.f5?? ♞c5 13.♕b3 e5--+) 11...O-O 12.f4 ♕d7 13.f5 A

typical plan to activate the bishop on b3. 13...♗xd4 14.♕xd4 exf5 15.exf5 ♕c6 16.♞d3 ♞ae8 with the idea to exchange the strong bishop on d4 after Nd7-Bf6 or Bd8-Bb6. This line doesn't bring White any advantage.; 7.♕e3 7...♞xb2 8.♗db5 ♞b4 9.♞e2 ♞a5 10.♕d2 ♞d8 11.♗d5 ♗xd5 12.exd5 ♗e5 and White doesn't have full compensation for the pawn.; 7.♗xc6 7...bxc6 8.O-O should not be dangerous since Black can develop the pieces over g6-Bg7 or e6-Be7.]

7...e6 8.♕e3 Black lost time for Qb6-Qc7, but in exchange the white knight is not placed on the central d4 square.

8...♞c7 9.f4 a6 White is preparing to put pressure on the kingside and Black does the same on the queenside.

10.♕d3 b5 11.a3 [11.♞f3 11...b4 12.♗e2 (12.♗a4 12...♞b8) 12...♕b7 13.c4 bxc3 wasn't necessary. 14.♗xc3 ♕e7 15.O-O ♗b4 (15...O-O 16.♞ac1) 16.♕b1 d5! and Black takes the initiative.]

11...♕e7 12.♞f3 ♕b7



13.O-O [13.g4 13...d5 (13...b4 14.axb4 ♗xb4 15.g5 ♗d7 and because the white king looks weak, Black is fine.) 14.exd5 exd5 15.♗d4 (15.g5 15...d4!) 15...O-O and Black will get counterplay on the e4 square. 16.g5 ♗xd4 17.♕xd4 ♗e4 and even if Black lost the pawn he would have compensation because of the weak white king.]

13...♖c8 14.♗ae1 [14.♖g3 14...g6 15.♗ae1 (15.f5 15...gxf5 16.exf5 ♗g8 and White has problems with the g2 square.) 15...h5↔Black can keep his king in the center and I have no idea how to break his position. One of Black's ideas could be to play h4-h3 to weaken the h1-a8 diagonal.]

14...O-O [14...h5!? with the same idea as in the previous comment.]

15.♖h3 After Black castled, White has more attacking ideas...

15...b4



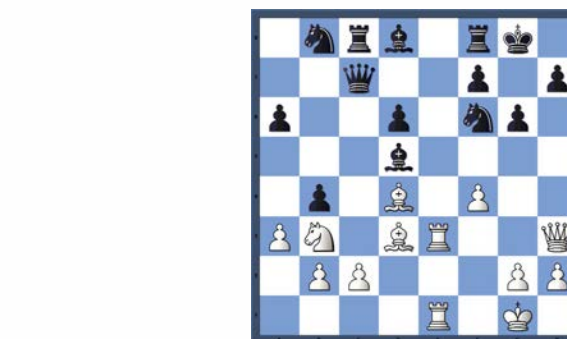
16.♘d5!? An interesting idea. Kupreichik going to play in Tal style! [16.axb4 16...♙xb4↔and Black will eliminate the important bishop on d3.]

16...exd5 17.exd5 ♘b8 The best answer because Black is going to support the knight on f6 after Nbd7.

18.♙d4 g6 [18...h6? 19.♙xf6 ♙xf6 20.♖f5+↔]

19.♗f3 A logical move. White activates the rook.

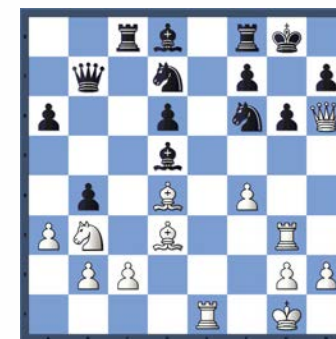
19...♙xd5 20.♗fe3 ♙d8



21.♖h4 With the trap that now Black is not able to move the knight from f6 because of the well-known tactical motif Qxh7! and Rh3-Rh8 mate. [21.♖h6 21...♘c6! An important move. Black needs to hurry with taking out the strong bishop on d4. 22.♙xf6 ♙xf6 23.♗h3 ♗fe8↔+ and with the bishop on f6 Black is safe.]

21...♘bd7 [21...♘h5 22.♖xh5!+↔]

22.♖h6 ♖b7 23.♗g3



23...♘c5? A mistake! Black should quickly eliminate the d4 bishop. [23...♙b6! 24.♙xg6 (24.f5 24...♘e5 Controlling the g6 square!) 24...♙xd4+ 25.♘xd4 fxg6 26.♗xg6+ hxg6 27.♖xg6+ ♙h8 28.♖h6+ White has no bishop on d4 and Black is able to play the simple 28...♘h7↔+]

24.♘xc5 dxc5 [24...♗xc5 25.f5! ♗c7 Trying to protect the

position over the 7th rank. 26.♔h4 ♖e7 27.♗f1 ♖e5! Closing the dangerous diagonal. 28.fxg6 fxg6 29.♙xg6 ♖h8 and Black should hold the position.]

25.f5



25...cxd4?? The decisive mistake! Black could hold the position after the logical [25...♖c7! 26.fxg6 fxg6 27.♙xc5 ♙e7 (27...♗g7!? 28.♙xf8 ♖xf8∞) 28.♗xg6+ (28.♗xe7 28...♗xe7 29.♙xg6 ♖e1+ 30.♖f2 ♖g4+ 31.♖xe1 ♖xh6 32.♙h5+ ♗g7 33.♗xg7+ ♖xg7 34.♙xf8+ ♖xf8 35.axb4 ♙xg2—+) 28...hxg6 29.♗xg6+ ♖h8 30.♗h6+ ♖g8=]

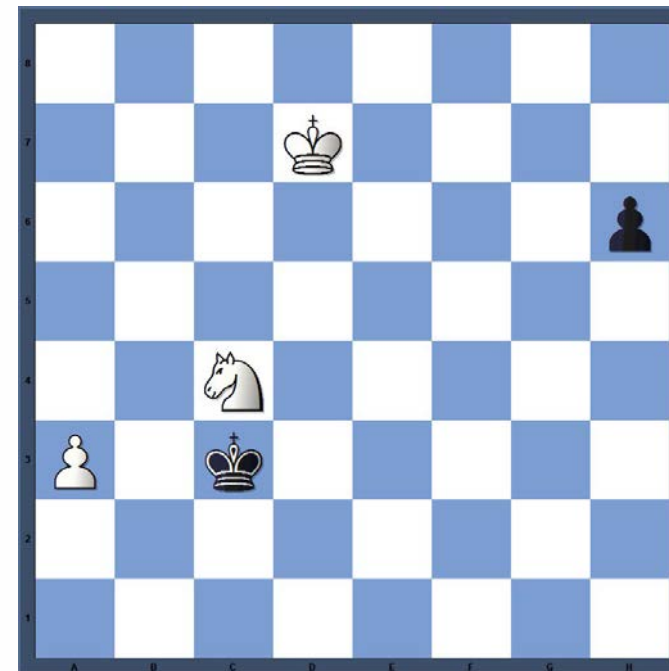
26.fxg6 fxg6 27.♙xg6! +- ♖h8 28.♗xf8+ ♖g8 29.♙f5 White is now winning in many ways...

29...♖b8 30.♖e8 ♗f7 31.♖h3 1-0

Surprise section / study

(38) Shikril

1. +-



Solutions

(39) Topalov, V(2798)-Caruana, F(2805)

Norway Chess, 2015.06.23



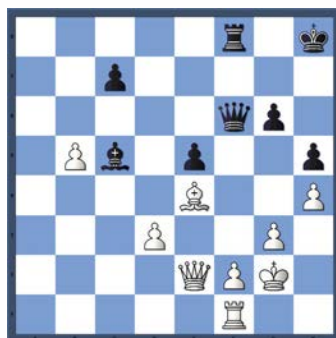
38. ♖e6+! fxe6 39. ♖c7+ ♔f6 40. ♖d8+! ♔f7 [40... ♖e7?? 41. ♖f8#]

41. ♖d7+ ♔f8 [41... ♖e7? 42. d6+--]

42. ♖d8+ ♔f7 43. ♖d7+ ♔f8 44. ♖d8+ 1/2

(40) Anand, V(2804)-Hammer, J(2677)

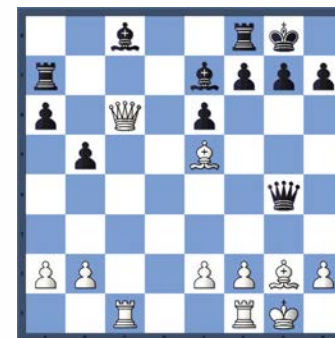
Norway Chess, 2015.06.24



34. ♕xg6! ♖xg6 35. ♖xe5+ ♔g8 36. ♖xc5 1-0

(41) Ortiz Suarez, I(2572)-Gonzalez Vidal, Y(2550)

Capablanca memorial B, 2015.06.25

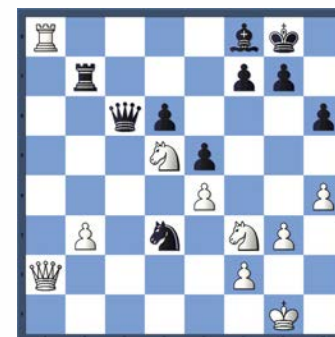


23. ♖xc8! f6 [23... ♖xc8 24. ♖xc8+ ♕f8 25. ♕d6 h6 26. ♕xf8 ♔h7 27. e3+--]

24. h3 ♖f5 25. ♕b8 ♖xc8 26. ♖xc8+ ♔f7 27. ♕xa7+--

(42) Ivanchuk, V(2733)-Matras Clement, A(2269)

Edmonton GM, 2015.06.24



37. ♖xf8+! 1-0 [37. ♖xf8+ 37... ♔xf8 38. ♖a8+ ♖e8 39. ♖xb7+--]

(43) Haessel, D(2180)-Harikrishna, P(2733)

Edmonton GM, 2015.06.24



32...♖xg3+! 33.♔xg3 ♕g5+ 34.♔f3 [34.♔f2 34...♖h2+--+]
34...♖h3+ 35.♔f2 [35.♔e2 35...♖h2+ 36.♖f2 ♖xf2+ 37.♔xf2
 ♖f6+ 38.♔e2 ♖xc3--+]
35...♖g3+ 36.♔e2 ♖h2+ 37.♔f1 ♖g2+ 38.♔e1 ♖h1+ 0-1

(44) Shankland, S(2656)-Pechenkin, V(2314)

Edmonton GM, 2015.06.25

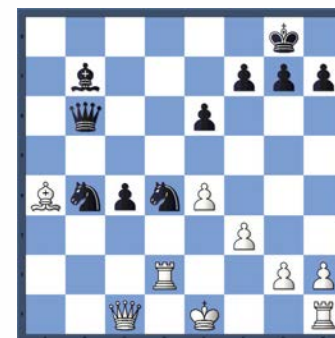


25.♟xe5! ♖g5 [25...dxe5 26.♖xf6! ♖xe2 27.♖xf8+ ♖xf8
 28.♟xe2+--; 25...♖xe2 26.♟g6+ ♔g8 (26...♟h7 27.♟xf8+--+)
 27.♟xe2+--]

26.h4 1-0 [26.h4 26...♖xh4 (26...♖g3 27.♖a3+--) 27.♟g6+--+]

(45) Hambleton, A(2446)-Ganguly, S(2625)

Edmonton GM, 2015.06.27



23...♟xf3+! 24.gxf3 [24.♔e2 24...♟xd2 25.♖xd2 ♟d3--+]
24...♖e3+ 25.♔f1 [25.♔d1 25...♖xf3+ 26.♖e2 ♟d3 27.♖c3
 (27.♖xc4 27...♟b2+--+) 27...♖xh1+ 28.♔d2 ♟a6--+]
**25...♖xf3+ 26.♔g1 ♖e3+ 27.♔f1 ♖f3+ 28.♔g1 ♖e3+
 29.♔f1 ♟d3! --+ 30.h4** [30.♖d1 30...♖f4+ 31.♔g1 ♖xe4--+]
**30...♖f4+ 31.♔g1 ♖e3+ 32.♔f1 c3 33.♖hh2 ♟a6 34.♖he2
 ♖xe2+ 0-1** [34...♖xe2+ 35.♔xe2 ♟xc1+ 36.♔d1 cxd2--+]

(46) Kobalia, M(2623)-Fedoseev, V(2674)

Russian Higher league, 2015.06.23



28.♖xf5+! ♟xf5 29.♖e8# 1-0

(47) Shimanov, A(2606)-Alekseev, E(2651)

Russian Higher league, 2015.06.24



22...Rxf2+! 23.Rxf2 e3+ 24.Rf3 d1e1+! 25.g3 [25.g1 25...dxf3+ 26.exf3 Rxf3+-]

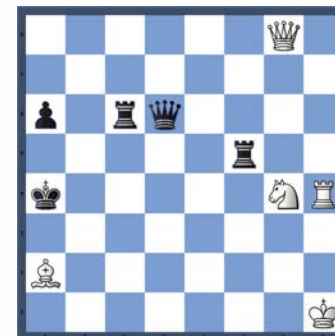
25...Re4 0-1 [25...Re4 26.Rf4 Rg2+ 27.g4 Rxe2+ 28.g5 Rxe3+-]

(48) Riazantsev, A(2658)-Chekhov, S(2476)

Russian Higher league, 2015.06.24



19.Rxc6! Rxc6 20.d1e7+ Kh8 21.dxc6+-

(49) Pogosiants

1.d1e5+! Ka5 [1...Ka3 2.Rb3#; 1...Kb5 2.Rb3+ Kc5 3.Rb4#]

2.Rd8+!! Kb5 [2...Rxd8 3.dxc6+ Kb6 4.dxd8+-]

3.fxc4+! Rxc4 [3...Kc5 4.Ra5#; 3...Kb4 4.fxd5+-]

4.Ra5+!! [4.Rxd6 4...Rxe4+ 5.g1 Rhh5=]

4...Ka5 5.dxc4+ Kb5 6.dxd6+ Kc5 7.dxf5+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 177

17th of July 2015

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Editorial Preface

The main event of the week is clearly the match between Russia and China, with both a men's and women's match. Both teams are young, fighting and very much want to win this prestigious match.

After 3 rounds, the Chinese men have a slight advantage and in the ladies match the Russians are in the lead for the moment.

Another interesting match, which also takes place in China, is being played between Ding Liren (the Chinese super star) and Boris Gelfand. Here the first 2 games ended in a draw.

In Warsaw the very strong Najdorf Memorial, an open tournament, is underway and in Georgia the 10th Nana Aleksandria Cup is being played.

Next week the super tournament in Biel starts and we will be focusing our attention on this event in the next newsletter.

For now we wish hope you enjoy this week's issue!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) Matlakov, Maxim (2691)
- Lu, Shanglei (2595) [D30]

China-Russia Match 2015(1.3),
2015.07.15



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

The match between China and Russia is always very interesting one. Despite both being young teams that show great fighting games, they have completely different styles of play. The Russians usually play positionally and have big theoretical knowledge, while the Chinese have a much more tactical style, fighting until the very end and with sometimes rare opening setups. In the current game Matlakov demonstrates amazing positional play which gives him a full point in just 30 moves-which is a very rare thing against a Chinese opponent...

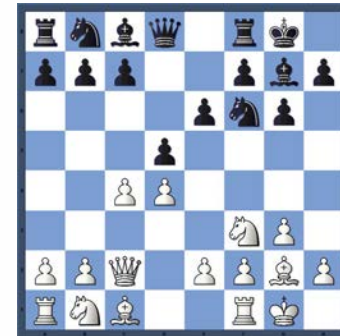
1.d4 It is a bit strange, but most of the young Russian players start their games with 1.d4.

1...d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.g3 We have a Catalan.

4...g6 A very rare set up, but it is not that stupid.

5.♗g2 ♗g7 Black's idea in this line is to put maximum pressure on the d4 pawn.

6.O-O O-O 7.♖c2 A very nice move in my opinion. White is preparing to play Rd1 to fix the only problematic piece in his position.



7...♘c6 It is written in every book that you should not put your knight in front of the c-pawn, but in the current situation Black is planning to put his knight on e7.

8.♞d1 a5 Black is planning to play Ne7-b6 and get the bishop to a6.

9.a3 A very solid reply. [Another idea of Black could have been visible after 9.♘e5 9...♘b4! It is quite rare to put the knight on b4, but in this case Black is aiming for fast play in the center. 10.♞b3 c5 11.dxc5 ♞c7 With an unclear position.]

9...♘e7 [If Black tried to fix White's pawn structure with 9...a4 10.♘e5 looks very strong now.]

10.♘c3 This is clearly the best position for the white knight.

10...b6 [It is very dangerous for Black to take the pawn on c4: 10...dxc4 11.e4 and both black knights are badly placed.]

11.♗f4 White had many other interesting setups, as for example to play Bg5 with the idea of the e4 push or to put the knight on e5. In my opinion this 5...g6 setup at least looks a bit strange for Black.

11...♗b7 A logical move but it leads to a clearly worse position. Maybe Black should have tried 11...dxc4 to at least change the course of the game.



12.cxd5! A very smart move!

12...exd5 [In case of 12...fxd5 13.dxd5 dxd5 it is usually great for Black to exchange one pair of knights, but now White is in time to get a better position with 14.g5! winning an important tempo to play e4 next and Black is not in time with Rc8-c5.]

13.Rac1 Now we are in a more or less typical position, where White is clearly better because of the bad position of the black bishop on b7 and the weakness of the c6 square, which will be visible very soon. Usually in such structures it is much better for Black to have the bishop on e6 and the pawn on b7.

13...Ne8 14.b4 Very standard play by Matlakov but White also had another very interesting option: [14.Qb3 The goal is simply to put maximum pressure on d5 and wait for a good moment to play Nb5 or Na4-Nc5. 14...Nd6 In case Black doesn't play Nd6, then why was Ne8 needed... 15.gxd6 cxd6 16.Ne1 With the idea of playing Nd3-Nf4. It is going to be very hard for Black to defend the d5 pawn, so White clearly has a big advantage.]

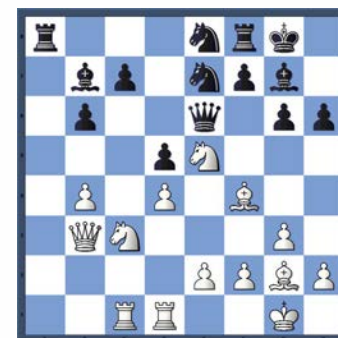
14...axb4 15.axb4 Qd7 A very dangerous move, as now White often has Ne5 with tempo. [Another option for Black was to play 15...Nd6 16.gxd6 Qxd6 This looks very dangerous for Black, but maybe it was the best chance to play on.

17.Nb5 Qxb4 18.Qxc7 Qa6 19.Rb1 The lines are quite forced here. 19...Qa5 20.Nd6 Qxe2 21.Qxe7 Qxd1 22.Rxd1 and of course White is much better here, but Black might have some chances for a draw.]

16.Qb3 Another very solid move. The queen takes a nice position on b3.

16...h6 Black can't do much anyway and Lu is preparing to play g5 at some point.

17.Ne5 Qe6 Whites position is great, but how to break through?!



18.b5 Now things are getting forced. [A good option was to play 18.h4 stopping g5 and intending to play b5 next, with full domination.]

18...g5 is Black's only chance to break free. [18...Nd6 19.Nc6 gives White a nice advantage.]

19.gd2 Nd6 Now the white bishop on d2 is not so well placed.

20.Nc6 Qxc6 Black should not give up the bishop pair... [It was more logical to play 20...Nxc6 21.bxc6 Qxc6 22.gxd5 (22.Nxd5 22...Qa4) 22...gxd5 23.Qxd5 b5 Whites position looks better, but I am not sure if the advantage is so significant.]

21.bxc6 ♖a5? This is already a clear mistake. [21...♗xd4 Black had to go for a worse endgame after 22.♘xd5 ♘xd5 23.♙xd5 ♙xd5 24.♗xd5 ♖fd8 and of course White is clearly better, but Black's position remains very solid and hard to break.]

22.e3 Now White is of course not giving Black another chance to get the d4 pawn.

22...♖fa8



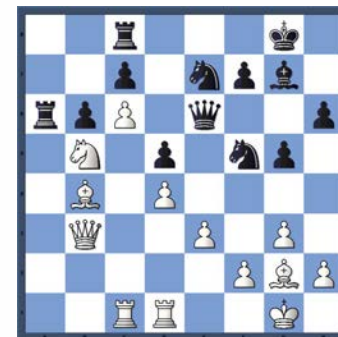
23.♘b1! A great move! White wants to activate the d2 bishop over b4.

23...♖5a6 24.♗b4 Suddenly Black's position is almost lost! White wants to play Nc3 next and win the d5 pawn.

24...♘df5 In a bad position there are no good moves, but Lu chooses a painful death... [24...♗f8 would have been a bit more stubborn. 25.♘c3 ♘e4 26.♘xe4 dxe4 But here as well White can choose between an endgame with a pawn up and a simple crush in the center with 27.d5 and Black's position is very bad.]

25.♘c3 The white knight is going to b5.

25...♖d8 26.♘b5 ♖c8 The c7 pawn is protected, but it doesn't solve all of Black's problems.



27.♗h3! The winning move! There is no protection against Bxe7 any longer.

27...h5 All the moves were losing at this stage.

28.♗xe7 g4 29.♗f1 Preparing Nxc7.

29...♘xe7 30.♘xc7 followed by Bxa6. A really nice game by Matlakov who played safe and good moves, which brought him a winning position. **1-0**

**(2) Volokitin, Andrei (2654)
- Zhigalko, Andrey (2574) [B32]**

Najdorf Mem Open A 2015(4.2),
2015.07.13



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A very sharp Sicilian game. White seemed to have the advantage and the upper hand, but with a great intuitive sacrifice in the middlegame, Black managed to take over the initiative and turned the game in his favor.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♕b6 The Grivas variation. It is not so common on the highest level, but in open tournaments it is always popular to lead the game onto some less explored, sharp territories.

5.♘b3 ♗f6 6.♗c3 e6



7.♕e2 Volokitin chooses the most interesting setup as usual with opposite side castling.

7...♗b4 8.♗d2 O-O 9.a3 ♗xc3 A rare and in my opinion dubious move. [Black should rather go for the main line with 9...♗e7 when the lines continue with 10.e5 (10.O-O-O 10...d5) 10...♗d5 11.♗xd5 exd5 followed by d6, getting rid of the doubled pawns.]

10.♗xc3 e5 11.O-O-O



11...a5 This is the new direction. There were some fresh games with it, but it should not be good for Black. He gave up the bishop pair, created many holes in his camp (b5, d6) and the position of his pieces, especially the undeveloped c8 bishop, does not justify all these weaknesses.

12.g4 The standard attacking method. Both sides start advancing their pawns in front of the opponent's king. [12.f4



also looks very promising at first sight, trying to open the long diagonal and damage the pawn structure after taking on f6, however Black has the following unexpected blow: 12...d5! using the fact that after Bg4 White does not have f4 anymore. 13.♗xd5 ♗xd5 14.exd5 ♗d4 15.♕xe5 ♗xb3+ 16.cxb3 f6 With mutual chances.]

12...d6 13.g5 ♘e8 14.f4 Volokitin is a dynamic player and he wants to squeeze the black pieces completely with f5, while taking on f4 just temporarily wins a pawn, but it opens the diagonal of the c3 bishop and vacates the d4 square for the knight. [However the computer recommends 14.♖g1 14...♙e6 15.♚e3! ♚xe3+ 16.fxe3 with a clear advantage in the endgame. The black queenside is vulnerable while the doubled e-pawns cannot be attacked, they rather control the important central squares.]

14...♙e6! Black could not allow closing all his pieces with f5. [14...exf4 15.♚f3 ♚e3+ 16.♚xe3 fxe3 17.♖g1! followed by winning back the pawn with Rg3, with a clear advantage in the endgame.; If Black includes 14...a4 15.♘d2 before grabbing the pawn on f4 to avoid the knight going to d4 15...exf4 suddenly the knight appears on other good squares: 16.♘c4 ♚c7 17.♚f2 and the plan is Nb6-d5, or after taking on f4, Ne3-d5!]

15.f5! A pawn sacrifice for the superior structure!

15...♙xb3 16.cxb3 ♖c8! Black feels that his best chance is to stay active! It is more important than grabbing pawns. [16...♚xb3 is met by 17.♚b5! ♚xb5 18.♙xb5 and despite the extra pawn, the endgame is terrible for Black. White can strengthen his position however he wants and at the same time Black cannot move with his pieces.]

17.♚c4? This is the mistake which leads to the turn of the game... [17.♚b5 should have been played. White was probably afraid of 17...♚xb5 18.♙xb5 ♘d4 but he keeps an advantage after 19.♙d7! ♖c7 20.♙xe8 ♖xe8 21.♙b1 ♘xb3 22.♖xd6+=; If Black leaves from the Nd4 threat with 17.♙b1 17...♚xb3 is stronger as Qb5 does not work anymore because the d1 rook has to be protected.]



17...d5!! It is possible to miss such moves! Black frees his position and he is ready to bring his knight to the excellent outpost on d6!

18.exd5 [18.♖xd5? drops an exchange after 18...♙e7!; 18.♚xd5? is strongly met by 18...♖d8 19.♚c4 ♖xd1+ 20.♙xd1 ♘d6! 21.♚d3 ♖d8 and suddenly all the black pieces are extremely actively placed, while the white ones have completely lost their coordination.]

18...♘d6 19.♚e2 [19.♚d3 does not allow Nd4 with tempo, but moves into 19...♘b4! 20.axb4 axb4 and after taking on c3, the opening files in front of the white king will decide the game. We can clearly see now the difference between the great knight on d6 and the poor bishop on f1!]

19...♘d4 20.♚xe5



20...♖xc3+!! This kind of sacrifices belong to such combinations, which cannot be calculated until the end, but Black must feel intuitively that after damaging the queenside structure he must have enough compensation against the king with such knights and heavy pieces. Black also prevented the potential mate on g7.

21.bxc3 ♜xb3+ 22.♔c2 ♜e8! Everything comes with tempo! All the white pieces are undeveloped.

23.♞f4 ♜e4 24.♞g3 ♜e3 25.♞f4 Black has played a perfect game since the pawn sacrifice with 17...d5. He also feels correctly that he must have more than a repetition with Re4-e3, but he fails to find the right way of strengthening the attack.



25...♜e4 [25...♞c5! was the strongest move, but Black should have foreseen some deep ideas before making this move... 26.♜d3 ♜f3!! This is the key! Black drives his rook to a protected square before taking on a3! (26...♞xa3 looks strong with the idea of Qa2 mate, but White has 27.♜b1!+- and suddenly all the black pieces are hanging.) 27.♞e5 (27.♞xf3 27...♜d4+-+ wins.) 27...♞xa3 28.♜b1 ♜c5! and the e3 rook is not hanging anymore, so the attack breaks through... 29.♞xd6 ♞a4+! 30.♔c1 ♜xd3+ 31.♔d2 ♞a2+ 32.♔d1 ♜f2+ 33.♔e1 ♜e3+ 34.♔f1 ♞e2+ 35.♔g1 ♜h3#]

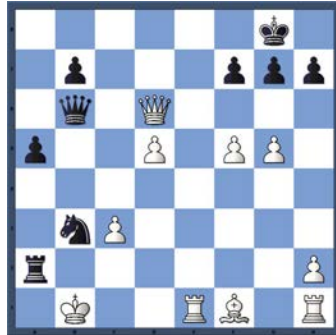
26.♞g3 ♜a4!? Black correctly avoids the repetition!

27.♜e1? White tries to use the weak back rank with Qxd6, but Black is coming first... [The machine shows a miraculous survival after 27.♞g1! 27...♜c5 28.♜b1 ♞c7 29.♜b5! ♜xb5 30.♜xb5 ♜xa3 31.♞e3! Both sides need to play precisely, otherwise they get into trouble... 31...♜e4! 32.♔b2! ♞xc3+ 33.♞xc3 ♜xc3 34.♜e1 ♜c5 35.♜xe4 ♜xb5+ 36.♔c3 ♔f8 37.d6 ♜d5 38.♜e7 ♜xd6 39.♜xb7 After dozens of only moves for both sides, we have reached an endgame with an extra pawn for Black, but the activity of the white rook and pawns should enable him to hold the draw comfortably.]

27...♜xa3! 28.♞xd6 ♜a2+ 29.♔b1 [Perhaps White initially wanted to play 29.♔d3 but he missed



29...♜c1+! deflecting the rook! 30.♜xc1 (30.♔c4 30...♜a4+ 31.♞b4 ♜xb4+ 32.cxb4 ♞xb4#) 30...♞xd6+-; 29.♔d1 29...♜d2#]



29...♞d2+! A great finish, which leads to a forced mate!

30.♔xa2 ♜b3+ 31.♔a1 ♜xc3+ 32.♔a2 ♜c2+ [White resigned in view of the mate in the next move: 32...♜c2+ 33.♔a3 (33.♔a1 33...♞b3#) 33...♜b3# White is two rooks up, but the mate takes it all!] **0-1**

The K-Files. Breaking the Symmetry II - 5.e3 dxc4



GM Alexander Khalifman
FIDE World Chess Champion (1999)

Best rating: 2702

(3) Breaking the Symmetry II - 5.e3 dxc4 [D71]

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 c6 4.♗g2 d5 5.e3 dxc4 Black accepts the gambit pawn and it's not easy for White to win it back.



6.♗e2 This is Kramnik's move, Now White is always ready to meet black bishop on e6 with Nf4. [However it might happen that the alternative 6.♗d2 invented by Edouard in August 2014 is the most critical line 6...♗e6 since knight can't jump to f4 yet (

a) 6...c5 Black gives a tempo but pretends to clear the matters in the centre as soon as possible, 7.♗xc4 (7.♗gf3

7...♗c6 8.♗xc4 ♗e6 (8...cxd4 is the playable alternative 9.♗xd4 ♗xd4 10.exd4 ♗g7 11.O-O O-O) 9.♖a4 ♗g7 10.♗fe5 ♗d5 11.♗xc6 bxc6 12.O-O Edouard - Gledura, Hastings 2015, and now 12...♗d7!? 13.dxc5 ♗xc5 14.♖c2 ♗xg2 15.♖xg2 ♖d3 16.♖xd3 ♗xd3 17.e4 O-O-O= would allow Black to defend his queenside weaknesses with the king,) 7...cxd4 8.exd4 ♗g7 9.♗e2 O-O 10.O-O ♗c6 11.d5+= with the typical Gruenfeld structure and some edge for White;

b) 6...b5 7.♗e2 White intends to open c-file with b2-b3 and obtain the good compensation for a pawn, 7...♗d5 (after 7...♗g7 8.b3 cxb3 9.axb3 ♖White's play is easy) 8.O-O a5 (8...♗g7 9.b3 c3 10.♗e4 b4 11.a3 ♖a5 12.♖b1) 9.e4 ♗b6 10.b3 cxb3 11.axb3 ♗g7 Dvirnyy - Salgado Lopez, Jerusalem 2015 12.♗f3!? O-O 13.♗f4) 12.♗f3!? O-O 13.♗f4) 12.♗f3!? O-O 13.♗f4)

7.♗e2 ♗h6 prevented. This manoeuvre is known from some Gruenfeld-Bg5 lines, 8.♖c2 b5 9.O-O O-O 10.b3 cxb3 11.axb3 a5 12.♗f3!? (12.e4 allowed Black to solve queenside development problem 12...♗a6! 13.♖xc6 ♗d7 14.♖c2 ♗b4 15.♖b1 ♖c8 16.♗f3 ♗xc1 17.♖xc1 ♖xc1+ 18.♗xc1 ♖c7= Mamedyarov - Navara, Reykjavik 2015) 12...♗f5 (12...♗d5 13.♗d2 ♖ Black knight is still sleeping on b8,) 13.♖d1 ♗e4 14.♗c3 ♗d5 15.♖c2)

6...♗bd7!? The most accurate move order. Black plans to defend the gambit pawn with the knight avoiding weakening b7-b5, [

A) 6...♗d5?! 7.O-O b5 looks suspicious because of 8.a4! ♗b7 (8...b4 9.e4 ♗c7 10.♗e3 ♗a6 11.♗d2±) 9.b3 cxb3 10.axb5 cxb5 11.♖xb3 ♖d7 (11...a6 12.♗ec3 e6 13.♗xd5 ♗xd5 14.♗xd5 ♖xd5 15.♖xd5 exd5 16.♗c3±) 12.♗bc3 ♗xc3 13.♗xc3 ♗xg2 14.♖xg2 a6 15.♗xb5 ♗g7 16.♗c3± Navara - Hammer, Tromsø 2013;

B) Immediate 6...b5 is more logical but after 7.O-O (7.a4

7...b4 8.a5 ♖a6∞) 7...a5 (7...♙g7 8.a4 b4 9.a5+=; 7...♙b7 8.a4 b4 9.♗d2 ♙a6 10.e4∞; 7...♙a6 8.b3∞) 8.b3 cxb3 9.axb3∞ White has full compensation for a pawn;

C) After 6...e5 7.O-O (7.dxe5?! 7...♙xd1+ 8.♙xd1 ♗g4±) 7...exd4 8.♗xd4∞ white are pieces only become more active;

D) 6...♙g7 This was Gelfand's choice in the very first game with 5.e3 6.Ne2, 7.O-O Allows Black to return to the plan with Nb8-d7-b6 (7.♗a3!? is more precise 7...e5 8.♗xc4 exd4 9.♗xd4 O-O 10.O-O ♙e7 (10...♗bd7 11.b3 ♗b6 12.♙a3 ♗xc4 13.bxc4+=) 11.b3 ♗d8 12.♙a3 c5 13.♙e1 ♗a6 14.♙a5 ♗d5 15.♗ad1 ♙g4 16.♗f5 ♙xf5 17.♗xd5 ♗xd5 18.♙xd5+= Greenfeld - Semprun Martinez, London 2014 White's pieces are more active.) 7...O-O (7...♗bd7!? - 6...Nbd7) 8.♗a3 (The other way to attack the pawn 8.♗d2 after 8...b5 only brings White the additional problems 9.a4 (The standard 9.b3 9...cxb3 10.axb3∞ gives White certain compensation., of course.) 9...♗d5 10.axb5 cxb5 11.♗c3 ♙b7 12.♙f3 (12.♗xb5?! 12...♗xe3! 13.fxe3 ♙xg2 14.♙xg2 ♙d5+ 15.♙f3 ♙xb5 16.♗xc4 (16.♙xa8 16...♗c6 17.♗xa7 ♗xa8 18.♗xa8+ ♙f8 19.♗f3 f6=+) 16...♗d7+= Michalik - E. Hansen, Dubai 2014) 12...e6 13.♗xb5 ♙c6 14.♗a3 ♗b6=) 8...♗bd7 (8...♙e6 9.♙c2+=) 9.♗xc4 Now e5 is under firm control. 9...♗b6 (9...♗d5?! makes things only worse 10.b3 a5 Kukhmazov - Vastrukhin, Voronezh 2014 11.e4 ♗5b6 12.♗e3 e5 13.♙b2± Black knights are obviously misplaced now.) 10.b3!? so this developing move is preferable in my opinion (the retreat 10.♗a5 allows Black to prepare freeing e7-e5 10...♙c7 (The other method 10...♗bd7 11.b4 e5 12.♙b2 ♙e7 13.b5 cxb5 14.♙b3 b4 Gajewski - Aabling Thomsen, Reykjavik 2013 15.a3!+= doesn't bring the desired results as White is far ahead in development.) 11.b4 (11.♙c2 11...e5 12.♙d2 ♗e8∞) 11...e5 12.dxe5 ♙xe5 13.♗d4 so it's better to start the action on the kingside immediately 13...h5!± (the solid 13...♗e4 14.♙c2 ♗e8 15.♗b1 (15.♙a3 Kramnik -

Gelfand, London 2013 15...h5!± M. Krasenkow) 15...♗d5 16.a3 ♙e7 17.♙b2 h5 18.♗bd1 ♗df6 (18...h4? 19.♗dxc6+-) 19.f3 ♗g5 20.e4+= Edouard - Petr, Tromso 2014 gave White some advantage)) 10...♗e8 (After 10...c5?! 11.♙a3 cxd4 12.♗xd4 ♗xc4 13.bxc4 ♙c7 14.♗c1 a6 15.c5 ♗d8 16.c6± Ding Liren - Ganguly, Doha 2014 Black's position is close to collapse.) 11.e4!? (Otherwise Black is doing fine 11.♙b2 11...♗xc4 12.bxc4 e5=; 11.♙a3 11...♗xc4 12.bxc4 e5 13.d5 cxd5 14.cxd5 Zoler - Roiz, Legnica 2013 14...e4±) 11...♗xc4 12.bxc4 e5 (After 12...c5?! 13.e5 ♗d7 14.f4 ♗b6 15.dxc5 ♗xc4 16.♙xd8 ♗xd8 17.♗b1± White's pressure is increasing) 13.d5+= The strong pawn centre gives White some advantage.]

7.O-O [After 7.♗a3 7...♗b6 8.O-O (as 8.♙c2 doesn't work because of 8...e5!? 9.dxe5 ♗g4±) 8...♙g7 it's just move transposition]

7...♙g7 This is a critical position (or at least one of them). White has a choice and it's still hard to say which way he would go.



8.a4 [After 8.♗a3 8...♗b6 9.♙c2 O-O if White wants to play for advantage he must play in gambit style 10.e4 (in case of 10.♗xc4 10...♙f5 11.♙c3 ♗fd5 12.♙b3 ♙e6 13.♗xb6 ♗f4 14.♙d1 ♗xe2+ 15.♙xe2 axb6= Black has absolutely no problem) 10...♙e6!? (10...♗e8 is weaker: 11.♗xc4 ♙g4 12.♗a5!

♖d6 13.♚d1+= Potkin - Timman, Wijk aan Zee (B) 2015) 11.♚d1 (11.♗f4?! 11...♚xd4 12.♗xe6 fxe6 13.♚d1 ♚c5=+) 11...♚c8 (11...♗h5∞) 12.♗f4 ♚d8 13.♚e2 ♗e8 14.♗e3 ♗d6∞ White certainly has some pressure for the pawn but it's quite hard to break through.; The situation is about the same (compensation for the pawn) after 8.♚c2 8...♗b6 9.e4 O-O (9...e5 is quite risky: 10.dxe5 ♗g4 (after 10...♚d3? 11.exf6!! ♚xc2 12.fxg7 ♚g8 13.♗bc3+- Black queen is trapped: Rd1-d2 or Rd1 Nd4) 11.♚d1 ♚e7 12.f4 f6 13.exf6 ♗xf6 14.e5 ♗f5 15.♚c3 ♚c5+ Ding Liren - Sethuraman, Hyderabad 2015 16.♚d4! ♗xe5 17.fxe5 ♗xe5 18.♗e3+=) 10.♚d1∞]

8...a5 9.♗a3 ♗b6 10.♚c2 O-O 11.e4 ♗e8 [When the moves a4 a5 are included White doesn't have to meet 11...♗e6 with prophylactical Rd1 12.♗f4! ♗c8 (12...♚xd4 13.♗e3 ♚d8 14.♗xe6 fxe6 15.♚ad1 ♚c7 16.♗xc4 ♗xc4 17.♚xc4 ♚c8 18.♗h3±) 13.♚d1 ♗e8 14.♗e3 ♗d6 15.b3!? cxb3 16.♚xb3∞]

12.♗xc4 ♗g4!? But here we see the drawback of including a4 a5. In the similar position without them (see 8.Na3 Potkin - Timman, Wijk aan Zee (B) 2015) there was a great square a5 for white knight. Now it's not available. [12...♗xc4 was played before 13.♚xc4 e5 Yuffa - Sarana, Taganrog 2014, but after the correct answer 14.dxe5! ♗xe5 15.♗e3 ♗xb2 16.♚ad1 ♚c7 17.♗c5± White could reach the clear advantage.]

13.♗e3 [13.f3 13...♗xc4 14.♚xc4 ♗e6 15.♚d3 ♗d6∞ with good counterplay]

13...♗xc4 14.♚xc4 ♗xe2 15.♚xe2 ♗xd4 16.♚fd1 e5 [Black also has more complicated opportunity 16...c5 17.e5 ♗g7 18.♚ac1 ♗e6 19.♗h6 ♚e8 20.♗xb7 ♚b8 21.♗c6 ♚xb2 22.♚c2 ♚b6∞]

17.♗xd4 exd4 18.♚c4 ♗g7 19.♗h3 ♚e7 20.♚xd4 ♚fd8 21.♚ad1 ♚xd4 22.♚xd4 ♚e8 23.f3 ♗e6 24.♗xe6 ♚xe6=
The chances are equal.

SOME CONCLUSIONS Of course the plan with e3 is no refutation of Symmetrical Gruenfeld. But it's completely playable and leads to quite fresh unexplored positions. If Black doesn't accept the gambit his position is fairly solid but still a bit worse, If Black accepts the pawn White must be ready to play in gambit style but he has the good positional basis for it. The most critical line which we will probably see in top games in the future seems to be 5... dxc4 6.Nd2!?

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot

Best rating: 2749

(4) Chandra, Akshat (2495)
- Shen, Arthur (2339) [C77]

US junior championship(8),
2015.07.14

I will again comment on a game of the new US junior champion, who was the early leader last week. Here in round 8 both players were sharing first place with 5.5/7, while Jeffery Xiong was half a point behind them.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.O-O ♙e7 6.d3 b5 7.♙b3 d6 8.a3 O-O 9.♘c3 This line is very fashionable in the Spanish at the moment.



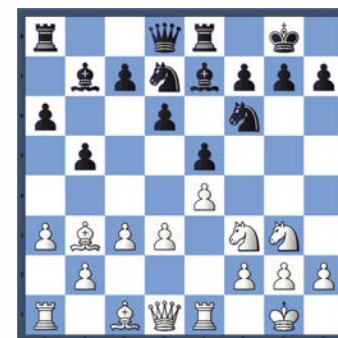
9...♗b8 Wesley So introduced this Breyer style move in January.

10.♗e2!? A natural novelty. Caruana tried 10.a4 with no success and Anand played a very famous game with 10.Ng5 against So in Shamkir, where Black was definitely ready for it.

10...♗bd7 11.♗g3 ♙b7 I don't think this is the best reaction. I feel that [11...♗c5 12.♙a2 ♙e6 13.♙xe6 ♗xe6 14.c3 c5 15.d4] is the critical position to assess after 10.Ne2.]

12.♖e1 A strange move. I would go for the bishop with 12.Nf5, with a slight advantage.

12...♖e8 13.c3



13...♙f8 An interesting pawn sacrifice. Also playable is [13...h6 14.d4! ♙f8 15.♙c2 c5 16.d5 c4 with an usual Spanish structure.]

14.♗g5!? is the only way to play for an advantage.

14...d5 15.exd5 ♗c5 Of course the pawn is untouchable: [15...♙xd5 16.♙xd5 ♗xd5 17.♙h5+-]

16.c4 c6 The alternative is to first take the bishop: [16...♗xb3 17.♙xb3 c6 18.dxc6 ♙xc6 19.♙c2 (19.cxb5 19...♙d5 20.♙a4?! axb5 21.♙xb5?? ♖a5 and the queen is trapped!) 19...♙d7 with an unclear position.]

17. dxc6 ♟xc6



18. ♟c2 A very passive move, but White has to cope with the defense of the backward pawn. [18. ♟a2!? to keep an eye on f7 is nicely met by 18...b4! 19.d4 (19.axb4 19...♟xd3 20.c5 ♜a7=+) 19...b3∞with an unbalanced position.]

18...h6 19. ♟f3 [19.cxb5 was a much safer move. 19...♟xb5 20. ♟5e4 ♜c8 Black should have enough play to equalize.]

19...e4? Black was probably counting on 20.dxe4 bxc4 and missed White's easy next move. After [19...bxc4 20.dxc4 ♜c7 with the idea Rad8-e4 Black has full compensation.]

20.cxb5! += exf3 [20...axb5 21.dxe4 White is simply a clean pawn up but Black would have better saving chances than in the game.]

21.bxc6 ♜xe1+ 22. ♜xe1 fxg2?! [22...♜c8 to eliminate White's strong pawn was the only move.]



23. ♟e3± White's king is very safe and the conversion of the material advantage is easy.

23...♟g4 Not the best move but it is always difficult to play bad positions.

24.d4! White is not afraid of walking up with the king.

24...♜h4 25. ♜xg2 ♟e6 26. ♟f5 ♜e8 [26...♜xh2+ 27. ♟f3 ♟xe3 28. ♜xe3 ♟g5+ 29. ♟e2 and the checks stop! 29...♟d6 30. ♜h1 ♜g2 31. ♟e4+- The endgame will be quite difficult for Black!]

27. ♟xg4 The most easy move, after which White is completely winning.

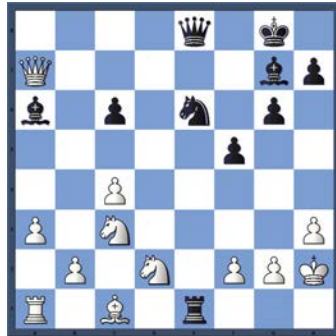
27...♜xg4 28. ♜d1 ♟f4+ 29. ♟h1 ♜h4 30. ♜f3 ♟d3 31. ♟f5 ♜d8 32. ♜g1 ♟h7 33. ♟xh6 ♜xe3 34.fxe3 After this fine win, Chandra managed to win a difficult last game with Black to become the new US under 20 champion. Xiong took silver and Shen bronze. 1-0

Puzzle section

(5) Wang Chen(2521)-Wei Yi(2724)

Danzhou GM, 2015.07.10

1... -+



(6) Levin, E(2519)-Ozolin, M(2384)

Polugaevsky memorial, 2015.07.07

1... -+



(7) Yuffa, D(2474)-Alekseenko, K(2513)

Polugaevsky memorial, 2015.07.10

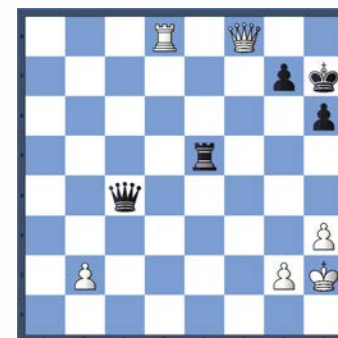
1... -+



(8) Bok, B(2562)-Pruijssers, R(2507)

Dutch Championship, 2015.07.10

1. +-



(9) Ernst, S(2545)-Giri, A(2791)

Dutch Championship, 2015.07.10

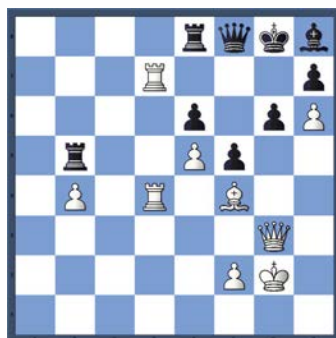
1... -+



(10) Vidit, S(2643)-Artemiev, V(2660)

Lake Sevan, 2015.07.13

1. +-



(11) Mickiewicz, P(2356)-Safarli, E(2649)

Najdorf memorial, 2015.07.10

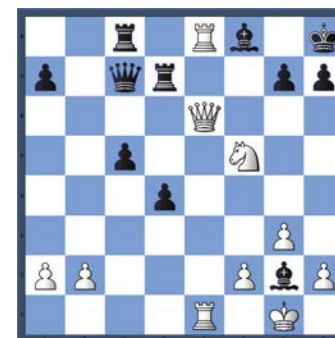
1... -+



(12) Cheparinov, I(2683)-Bjornsson, S(2327)

Najdorf memorial, 2015.07.11

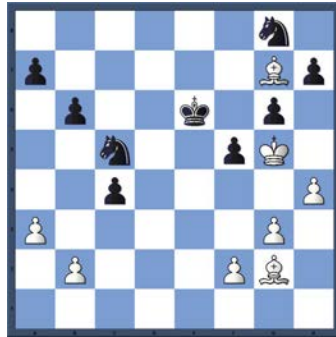
1. +-



(13) Bromberger, S(2556)-Volokitin, A(2654)

Najdorf memorial, 2015.07.12

1... -+



(14) Lomasov, S(2305)-Bukavshin, I(2647)

Voronezh Masters, 2015.07.12

1. +-



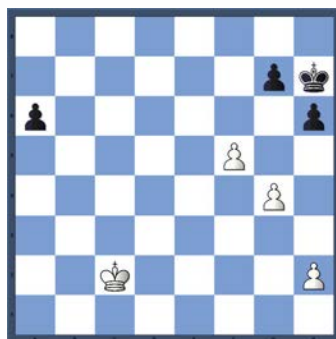
Endgame section

(15) Oganian, Miran (2370)
- Mokshanov, Alexey (2458)

Polugaevsky memorial,
2015.07.10



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

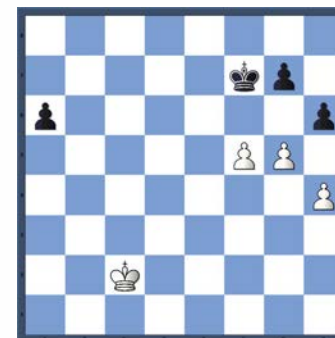


A very instructive pawn endgame. The principle says that in pawn endgames the distant passed pawns play an extremely important role and usually the side that has them has the advantage. This is the case in our example as well. The white king is forced to go far away towards the a6 pawn and at the same time Black could try to gain some benefits on the kingside.

55...♔g8! It is clear that Black must collect the pawns with his king, therefore he goes around with his king despite it costing some time...

56.h4! The only move! [56.♔b3 56...♔f7 57.♔b4 ♔f6 58.♔a5 ♔g5 wins easily. The white king is too far away from the action... 59.h3 ♔h4 60.♔xa6 ♔xh3--+]]

56...♔f7 57.g5 White tries to force some exchanges, which would lead him closer to the draw. If Black takes on g5, White takes back, followed by f6, securing the draw. Black must keep all his pawns on the board to continue playing for the win!



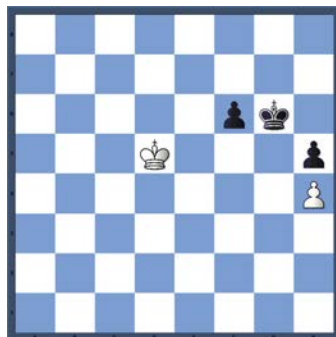
57...h5! 58.♔c3 ♔e7 59.♔b4 Sooner or later White must go in this direction. If he waits on c4-d4, Black lures the king away with a5 anyway...

59...♔d6 60.♔a5 ♔e5 61.f6 Otherwise Black takes all the pawns.

61...gxf6 62.g6 [62.gxf6 loses by just one tempo: 62...♔xf6 63.♔xa6 ♔f5 64.♔b5 ♔g4 65.♔c4 ♔xh4 66.♔d3 ♔g3 67.♔e2 ♔g2! and the white king does not get into the corner to secure the draw. He should have reached the f1 square.]

62...♔e6! Black comes back with his king and collects the g6 pawn. He soon ends up with an extra pawn, but it still remains very instructive!

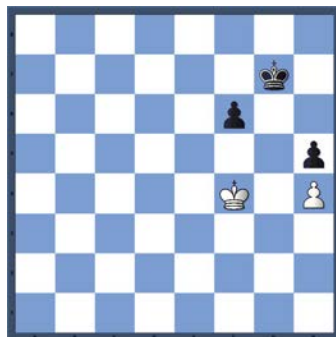
63.♔xa6 ♔e7 64.♔b5 ♔f8 65.♔c5 ♔g7 66.♔d5 ♔xg6



67.♔e4! These positions are very tricky and easy to misevaluate. Black is winning here, but it requires good technique. The key is the mutual zugzwang position when the kings are on f7 and on f5. Black must transfer his king to e6 in order to be able to push f5 (the direct f5 is met by Ke5 with an immediate draw). However he must exclude the f7 square from his way, he must only go there if White plays Kf5. [67.♔e6 leads to the mutual zugzwang position more quickly. 67...♔g7 68.♔f5 ♔f7 later transposes to the game...]

67...♔g7! Not the shortest, but the right path towards e6.

68.♔f4

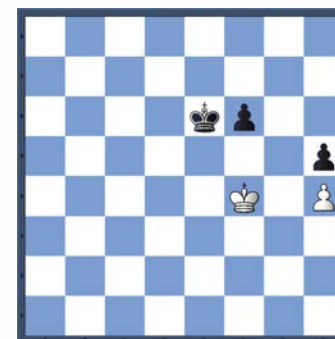


68...♔f8! After Black found the deep ideas in this simple looking endgame he executes the plan correctly. [68...♔f7 69.♔f5 forces the king to go back to g7 with repetition.]

69.♔e4 ♔e7 70.♔f5 [70.♔f4 is already met by 70...♔e6 71.♔e4 f5+ 72.♔f4 ♔f6—+ followed by Ke5, f4, etc, with an automatic win.]

70...♔f7! Here we are! The mutual zugzwang, but White is on move, therefore Black reaches the e6 square next move with his king. If it was his move Ke7 would allow Kg6.

71.♔e4 ♔e6 72.♔f4



72...f5! It is already possible to advance the extra pawn, because collecting the h5 pawn takes too much time.

73.♔g5 ♔e5 74.♔xh5 ♔f6! The most principled win, squeezing the white king to the corner. This makes the pawn race more easily winning for Black. [However 74...f4 75.♔g4 ♔e4 also wins despite the pawns promoting at the same time... 76.h5 f3 77.h6 f2 78.h7 f1=♔ 79.h8=♔ ♔g2+!—+ and Black wins the queen next move with a check on the h-file.]

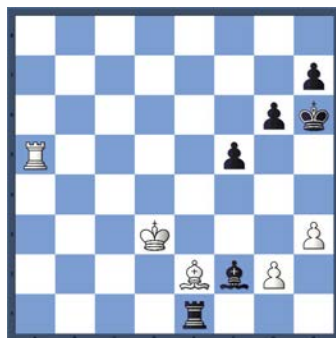
75.♔h6 f4 76.h5 f3 77.♔h7 f2 78.h6 ♔f7 79.♔h8 f1=♔ 80.h7 ♔a1# 0-1

**(16) Gelfand, Boris (2751)
- Ding, Liren (2749)**

Ding Liren - Gelfand 2015(1),
2015.07.16



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



This is the first game of the match between Gelfand and the only 21-year old Ding Liren. After very sharp play in the first half of the game, where Ding Liren chose his favorite KID, the game finally led to this opposite colored bishop endgame, which is definitely a draw, but the defense is much more difficult than it looks like. Let's take a look at how things will develop.

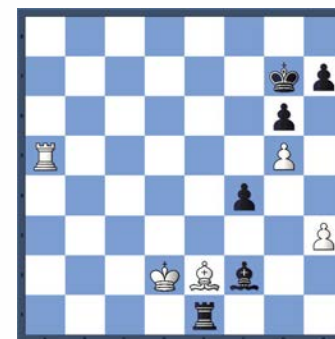
52.g4?! A very risky move which needs very precise calculation. [White could have continued with a passive defense after 52.♕f3 52...♖g5 but now Black will try to play h5 and then g5-g4 at some moment. White's plan should be to keep on waiting and to try to prevent Black's main plan. The exchange of rooks would of course lead to an immediate draw, but in apractical game is it very unpleasant to defend such an endgame because Black can keep on playing practically

forever with no risk and White will be forced to defend precisely for a long time to sign the draw.]

52...f4 Of course Black doesn't exchange the pawns, since every exchange is good for the defending side.

53.g5+ ♖g7 The black king has been hunted back, but the g5 pawn is now a potential target and the passed f-pawn could also become dangerous.

54.♖d2 What else to do?! [54.♕g4 54...f3! and it is not easy to see how White can stop the f-pawn from moving.]



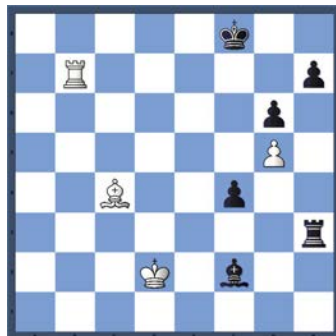
54...♖h1! A very nice move. Black is attacking the h3 pawn and at the same time threatening to play Be1 and win the a5 rook.

55.♖b5 ♕e1+ Before taking the h3 pawn, Ding Liren repeats the moves.

56.♖d1 ♕f2+ 57.♖d2 ♖xh3 So Black is already two pawns up and the g5 pawn remains a potential target. The only minus of Black's position is the king on g7.

58.♕c4 White wants to play Rb8 next, with the threat of Rg8 mate.

58...♕h4 Not the best move. [58...♖f8! seems stronger, with the idea of playing Ke7-Kd6, which would solve the only problem of Black's position. 59.♖b7

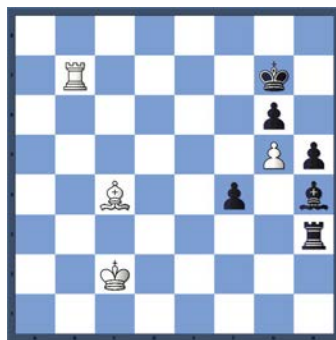


59...h4! and White can't play 60.♖xh7? because after 60...♗e1+ Black wins the rook and with it the game.]

59.♖c2! Great defense by Gelfand, who makes things as difficult as he can for Black. Now Rb7 is already a serious threat.

59...h5 This move almost leads to a forced draw. [Black could have tried to play a funny position after 59...♗xg5 60.♖xg5 h5 The black pawns look very dangerous. 61.♖d2 White needs to hurry back. 61...♖h6 and Black would keep some winning chances, although the position should be a draw with a good play by White.]

60.♖b7+ Now the f-pawn is falling.



60...♖f8 [60...♖h8 61.♖b8+ ♖g7 62.♖b7+ does not improve things much for Black.]

61.♖f7+ ♖e8 62.♖xf4 ♗xg5 If Black could remain two pawns up he would just be winning, but the problem is that the g6 pawn cannot be protected.

63.♖f1 White wants to play Bf7 next and Black can't do anything about it.

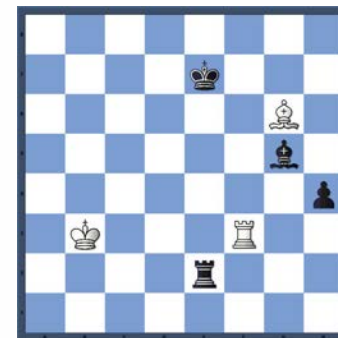
63...♖h2+ 64.♖b3 The safest square for the white king.

64...♖e7 Black couldn't stop Bf7 or Bd3...

65.♗d3 and the g6 pawn is gone.

65...h4 66.♗xg6 Now all White needs to do to secure the draw is to exchange his bishop against the h-pawn and this is easy, but to defend the position R+B vs R is not that easy and Black would keep some practical chances for a full point.

66...♖e2 67.♖f3 Not giving Black any chances of playing h3-h2.



67...♖e3+ and Ding gives up the fight for a full point. Personally I think it is a bit too early even if the position is of course a draw. Black could have played on for a while by first bringing the bishop to g3 and then trying to somehow get to play Rh2 and h3 in a good moment. White would still need to be careful. So, we saw a fighting draw in an interesting opposite colored bishop endgame where White first played very riskily with g4 and then Black did not use all his winning chances. **1/2-1/2**

Golden knowledge. QUEEN against PIECES



GM Adrian Mikhalchishin
FIDE Trainers Commission Chairman

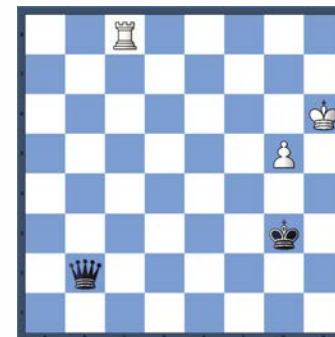
As we know, an extremely instructive method of studying endgames is to analyze the mistakes of the greats of the game. Why is this instructive? In the middle game, in a normal position there are usually a few playable moves, which it is possible to rank from the strongest until the fifth strongest. Or in modern, computer slang, from 0.60 until 0.10 let's say. In endgames we usually have two options: a correct and a wrong one. And this can explain a huge quantity of mistakes in modern practice, even on the highest level. The path is narrow in endgames and sometimes even top players can slip, especially with the modern time control with increments. Such time pressure demands better (or I can even say more automatic) endgame knowledge.

Every player must know basic endgame positions and needs to have knowledge of methods used in endgames.

Queen against pieces endgames have a few important theoretical positions in which it is important to have the correct knowledge.

(17) Djingirova, E.-Dworakowska, J.

Istanbul TUR, 2003



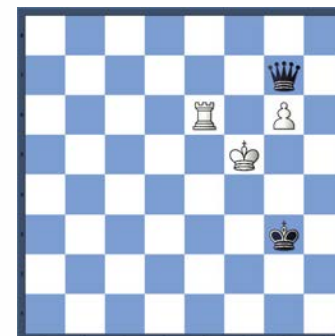
In some cases the rook can be supported by the pawn, which is in reality a passed pawn. If the pawn runs for promotion, then it can be done very quickly. The king also has to be as close as possible to the rook and the pawn..

90. ♖f8? [90.g6 was correct- the function of the passed pawn is to go forward!]

90... ♔g4 91.g6 ♚h2+ 92. ♔g7 ♚g5 93. ♖g8 ♚c7+ 94. ♔h8 ♔h6 95.g7 ♚f7 0-1

(18) Zuidema, C.-Hort, V.

Oerebro, 1966

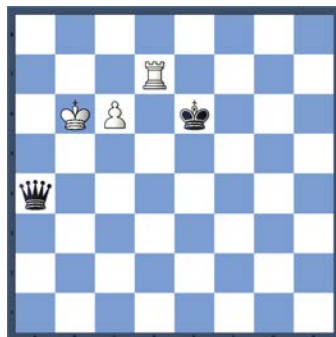


93.♔g5? [93.♖f6 was threatening to come to f7 and then to push the pawn.]

93...♖d4 94.♖f6 ♖e3+ 95.♔f5 ♔h4 96.♖e6 ♖g5+ 97.♔e4 ♔g4 98.♔d4 ♔f3 99.♔c4 ♖f5 100.♖c6 ♖e5 101.♔b4 ♔e3 102.♖c3+ ♔d2 103.♖c6 ♔d3 104.♔a4 ♖d5 105.♖b6 ♔c3
Very instructive technique of pushing both white pieces far away from the pawn! **0-1**

(19) Jaffe, C.-Chajes, O.

Karlsbad, 1911

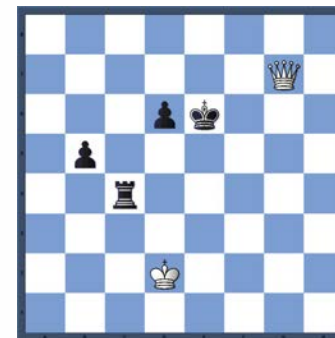


75.♖d8?? [75.♔b7 was enough for a draw: 75...♖b5+ 76.♔c7 ♖a6 77.♖d6+ ♔e5 78.♔d7]

75...♖b4+ 76.♔c7 ♖a5+ 77.♔c8 ♖a7 78.♖d1 ♖a4 79.♖c1 ♔d6 80.♔b7 ♖b5+ 81.♔c8 ♖a6+ 82.♔b8 ♖b6+ 83.♔a8 ♔c7 0-1

(20) Tukmakov, V.-Ornstein, A.

Thessaloniki (ol) , 1984



59.♔d3? Now the black king comes to its pawns and saves the draw. The only possibility was [59.♖b7! 59...♖c5 60.♔d3 ♖e5 61.♔c3 trying to keep both pawns under control and not allowing the opponent's king to come to help the most dangerous one.]

59...♔d5! = 60.♖b7+ ♔c5 61.♖c7+ ♔b4 62.♖xd6+ ♔b3 63.♖a6 ♔b4 64.♖a1 ♖c8 65.♖e1+ ♔a4 66.♔d4 ♖c4+ 67.♔d5 ♖c8 This is a theoretical draw since the white king can't help attacking the black pawn.

68.♖e7 ♖c4 69.♖a7+ ♔b4 70.♖a6 ♖c5+ 71.♔d4 ♖c4+ 72.♔d5 ♖c5+ 73.♔d6 ♖c4 74.♔d7 ♖c1 75.♖d6+ ♔a4 76.♖f4+ ♖c4 77.♖f1 ♔b4 78.♖a1 ♖c5 79.♖b2+ ♔a4 80.♖a1+ ♔b4 81.♖e1+ ♔a4 82.♖d1+ ♔a5 83.♖a1+ ♔b4 84.♖b2+ ♔a4 1/2-1/2

(21) Galkin, A.-Timofeev, A.

Russia, 2005



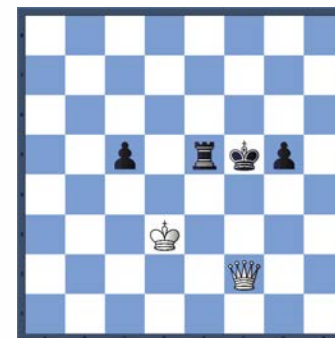
51. ♖f5? [It was necessary to come closer to the pawn with the king. With the g- or b-pawns it is a draw not only with the pawn on the second or third rank, but even with the pawn on the fourth rank, when a normally placed king and rook secure the draw. 51. ♖f2 51... ♜d1 52. ♖g3 ♜g1+ 53. ♖h3! ♜e3+ 54. ♖h4 ♜f2+ 55. ♖h3]

51... ♜h1! 52. ♖f2 ♜h2+ 53. ♖f3 ♜h3+ 54. ♖f2 Because Qe3 mate would follow after Kf4 White has to give up his only hope, the g4 pawn...

54... ♜xg4 55. ♖f3 ♖e4 56. ♖e3+ ♖f4 57. ♖d3 ♜h4+ 58. ♖e2 ♜h2+ 59. ♖d1 ♜b2 60. ♖e1 ♜c2 61. ♖d2 ♜c1+ 62. ♖e2 ♖e4 63. ♖d8 ♜c4+ 64. ♖d1 ♜a4+ 65. ♖e2 ♜b5+ 66. ♖d1 ♖e3 67. ♖c2 ♜c6+ 68. ♖d1 ♜b6 69. ♖c8 ♜b1+ 0-1

(22) Gelfand, B.-Ivanchuk, V.

Belgrade Investbank, 1995



77... ♖e6? [The right move was 77... ♖g4!? 78. ♜f6 ♖d5+ 79. ♖e3 ♖d4=]

78. ♜f3 ♖d6 79. ♖c4 ♖e6 80. ♖b5 ♖f5 [80... ♖d6 Endspiel-CD 81. ♜f7 ♖d5? 82. ♜f6+ ♖d7 83. ♜c6++-]

81. ♜h3 ♖f6 [81... ♖e5 82. ♖xc5 ♖f4+ 83. ♖d4+-]

82. ♜h6+ ♖f7 If the rook and king lose contact, that is a serious problem. [82... ♖e5 83. ♖xc5+- g4!? (83... ♖f4+ 84. ♖d6! +- CD (84. ♖d4 Gelfand:!, CD: ? 84... ♖g3 85. ♖e3 ♖f3+ 86. ♖e2 g4= CD3) 84... ♖g4 85. ♜e6 ♖f4 86. ♜d7 ♖g4 87. ♖e7 ♖f4 88. ♖e6 ♖g4 89. ♜d1+ ♖f3 90. ♖e5 ♖g3 91. ♜g1+ ♖h4 92. ♜h2+ ♖g4 93. ♜g2+ ♖g3 94. ♜e4+ ♖h3 95. ♜e2 g4 96. ♖f4 ♖f3+ 97. ♖g5 ♖g3 98. ♜f2 ♖f3 99. ♜h4+- CD3; 83... ♖e4+ 84. ♖d6 g4 85. ♜g6 ♖f4 86. ♖e6 ♖e5+ 87. ♖f6 ♖a5 (87... ♖e3 88. ♜f5+ ♖g3 89. ♖g5+-) 88. ♜d3+-) 84. ♜g6+- (84. ♜e3+ 84... ♖f6+ 85. ♖d6 (85. ♖d4 85... ♖f3 (85... ♖g6= CD3) 86. ♜e5+ (86. ♜h6+ 86... ♖f5 87. ♜h5+ ♖f4 (87... ♖f6 88. ♜xg4+-) 88. ♜e5#) 86... ♖g6 87. ♖e4 ♖h6) 85... ♖f3△ (85... ♖g6!= CD3) 86. ♜h6+ ♖f5 87. ♜e6+)]

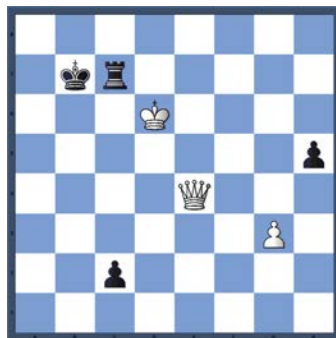
83. ♖c4 ♖e5 84. ♖d3 ♖e7 85. ♜g6 ♖d5+ 86. ♖e4 ♖d4+

87.♔e5 ♕d7 88.♖b6 ♜f4 89.♖e6+ ♔c7 90.♖d6+ ♔c8
91.♖xc5+ Black has no chance to save the game.

91...♕d7 92.♖d6+ ♔c8 93.♖g6 1-0

(23) Tzermiadianos, A.-Inarkiev, E.

EU-ch 4th, 2003



66...♕a7? [The correct defense was 66...♕b6 67.♖b4+ ♔a6]

67.♕xc7 c1=♖+ 68.♖c6!! Incredible! White transposes into a pawn ending! But this endgame is simply lost for Black!

68...♖xc6+ 69.♕xc6 ♔b8 [Not better is 69...♔a6 70.♕d6 ♕b5 71.♕e5 ♔c4 72.♕f5 ♔d4 73.♕g5 ♔e4 74.♕xh5 ♕f3 75.g4+-]

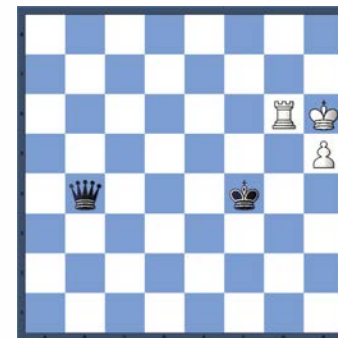
70.♕d7 [The same was 70.♕d5 70...♔c7 71.♕e5 ♔d7 72.♕f6 h4 73.gxh4 ♕e8 74.♕g7+-]

70...♕b7 71.♕e7 ♕c6 72.♕f6 ♔d7 73.♕g5 ♔e6 [73...h4 did not help either: 74.♕xh4 ♕e6 75.♕g5]

74.♕xh5 ♕f6 75.g4 ♕f7 76.♕h6 ♕g8 77.g5 ♔h8 78.g6 1-0

(24) Qin, Kanying-Peptan, C.-I.

Moscow (ol) , 1994



1...♖f8+! It is necessary to force the black king into an unpleasant situation. [1...♕f5? 2.♕h7! (2.♜g5+? 2...♕f6 3.♜g6+ ♕f7 4.♜g7+ ♕f8 5.♕h7 (/ h6=) 5...♖e4+ 6.♕h6 ♖e5!-+)]

2.♕h7 [2.♜g7 2...♕e5! (2...♕f5? 3.♕h7 / h6=) 3.♕h7 ♖f5+ 4.♕h6 ♖d3! (4...♕f6? 5.♜f7+!=; 4...♕e6? 5.♜g6+= ♕f7△ 6.♜g7+ ♕f8? 7.♜g8+!) 5.♜g6 (5.♕g5 5...♕e6 6.h6 ♖e3+ 7.♕h5 ♕f6-+) 5...♖h3! 6.♜g5+ (6.♕g5 6...♖e3+-) 6...♕f6 7.♜g6+ ♕f7 8.♜g7+ ♕f8 9.♜g6 ♖h4! (9...♕f5? 10.♜g8+!=) 10.♜g5 ♖f4 11.♕g6 ♖f7+ 12.♕h6 ♖f6+ 13.♜g6 ♖e5!-+ (.)]

2...♖f7+ 3.♕h6 [3.♕h8 3...♖f5-+]

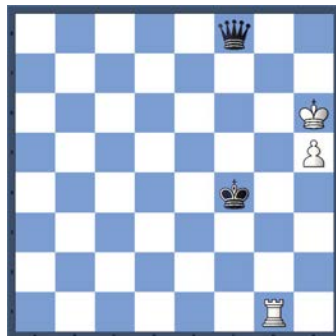
3...♖f5 [3...♕f5 doesn't lead anywhere: 4.♜g5+ ♕f6 5.♜g6+]

4.♜g1 ♖f8+

[Now simpler was the difficult move 4...♖h3! (/ Kf5) 5.♜g5 ♖h4 6.♜g6 ♕f5-+]

5.♕h7 ♖f7+ 6.♕h6 ♖d5 7.♜g6 [7.♜f1+ 7...♕g4 8.♜g1+ ♕h4-+]

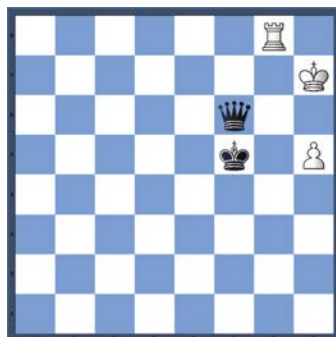
7...♖e5!? [Similar as to what was written before, there was an easy way here with 7...♖h1! / Kf5-+]



8...Rg8 9...Kh7 [9...Rg6? 9...Kh8# #]

9...Rf7+ 10...Kh6 Rf6+ [Of course not falling for the stalemate! 10...Rxf8? =]

11...Kh7 Kh5? [Once again easier was 11...Rf5+ 12...Kh6 Kh3! -+]



12...Rg1? [Now White could have activated her passed pawn: 12.h6! 12...Re7+ 13.Rg7 Re4 14.Rg8 Kh6+ 15.Kh8 Kh4 16.Kh7! = (16.h7? 16...Rd4! -+)]

12...Rf7+ 13...Kh6 Rf8+? [13...Rb7! was the difficult move that was winning here. 14.Rg5+ (14.Rf1+ 14...Kg4 15.Rg1+ Kh4 -+) 14...Kf4! 15.Rg6 Rh1! / Kf5 -+]

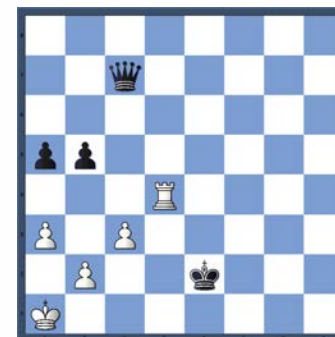
14...Kh7 Re7+? [14...Rf7+ 15.Kh6 Rb7! -+ 16.Rf1+ Kg4 17.Rg1+ Kh4 it is the point, as the queen controls the h1 square.]

15...Kh6?? [To a drawish set up leads 15...Rg7 / h6=]

15...Re3+ This example shows how difficult for both sides it is to play these endings with rook and passed pawn. **0-1**

(25) Dimitrov, V.-Lautier, J.

Adelaide, 1988



Here is very instructive endgame on how to get a winning position against rook and pawn.

48...Ra7! 49...Ka2 [49...b1 did not help: 49...b4! 50.axb4 Rh7+!! (50...axb4 51.Re4+! Kh3 52.Rd4+=) 51.Ka2 axb4 52.Rxb4 Kh2 -+]

49...b4! 50.axb4 axb4+ 51.Kb3 bxc3 52.Kxc3 [52.bxc3 would lead to a theoretically lost position.]

52...Rc5+ 53.Rc4 Re3+ 54.Kb4 Kh2 The white king is in the front of its own pawn. The only chance to draw would be to try to play b4 and to move the pawn forward like in Tukmakov-Ornstein.

55.Rc3 Rb6+ 56.Ka3 Ra6+ 57.Kb3 Ra5 58.Rc2+ Kh1 59.Rc3 Kh2 60.Rc2+ Kh1 61.Rc3 Ra6! (.)

62.Kb4 Ra2! This move forces the pawn to move forward.

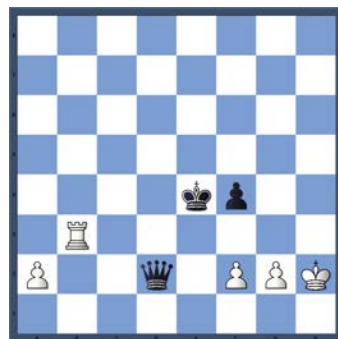
63.b3 ♖a6 64.♞c4 ♔d2 65.♞c5 ♖b6+ 66.♞b5 ♖d4+ 67.♔a5 ♖a7+! 68.♔b4 ♔c2! Now the king finally comes from behind.

69.♔c4 ♔b2 70.♔d5 [70.♔b4 70...♞c7-+]

70...♞c7! 71.♞b4 ♔a2! 72.♞b5 ♔a3 0-1

(26) Zueger, B.-Kindermann, S.

Muenchen , 1989



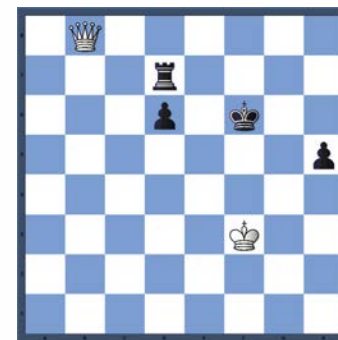
1.f3+? A wrong evaluation of the fortress which was built and it finds itself destroyed. The only possibility was to keep a pawn ready to go forward. [1.a3! [] 1...♞xf2 2.♞f3 ♖e3 (2...♞xf3 3.gxf3+ ♔xf3 4.a4=) 3.♞h3 ♔d3 4.♞f3 (4.a4? 4...♔e4) 4...♔d2 5.♞h3 ♔e2 6.♞f3 ♖e5 7.a4!? (7.♔g1=) 7...♞e3 8.a5= (8.♞xe3+△? 8...fxe3 9.a5 ♔f2 10.a6 e2 11.a7 e1=♞ 12.a8=♞ ♖e5+ / Qh5#)]

1...♔d4 2.♔g1 ♖e1+! [It was necessary to avoid the other fortress: 2...♞xa2 3.♞b4+ / Re4=]

3.♔h2 ♖a1! 4.♞b4+ ♔e3 5.♞e4+ ♔f2 6.♔h3 ♖g7 0-1

(27) Mikhalechishin, A.-Krivoshey, S.

Bled , 1999



It is very instructive how White starts to attack his opponent's pawns one by one.

61.♞f8+ ♔e6 62.♔e4 ♞f7 63.♞e8+ ♞e7 64.♞c8+ [The game would become much more complicated after 64.♞xh5 64...♔d7+ 65.♔d4]

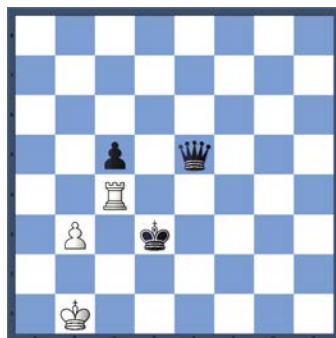
64...♔f6+ 65.♔d5 White wants to win the d-pawn first.

65...♞e5+ 66.♔xd6 ♞f5 67.♞h8+ ♔g5 68.♔e6 ♞f3 69.♞e5+ ♔g4 70.♞e4+ ♔g3 71.♞g6+ ♔f2 [71...♔h4 would take longer. 72.♔e5 ♞f8 73.♞e4+ ♔g3 74.♞e3+ ♔h4 75.♞e1+ ♔h3 76.♞h1+ ♔g4 77.♞g2+ ♔h4 78.♞d5 ♞e8+ 79.♔f4 ♞f8+ 80.♔e3 ♞e8+ 81.♔d2 ♞f8 82.♞d4+ ♔h3 83.♞d7+ ♔g3 84.♞d6+ ♞f4 85.♔e3]

72.♞xh5 ♞b3 73.♞h2+ ♔e1 74.♔d5 ♞b7 75.♔d4 ♞d7+ 76.♔c3 ♞f7 77.♞h4+ 1-0

(28) Yanofsky, D.-Sosonko, G.

Haifa (ol) , 1976



In such situations once again the winning method is just to find the correct transposition into a pawn ending.

1...♔d4! 2.♖c2 [2...♖xd4+ 2...cxd4 / Ke2—+]

2...♔g1+ 3.♙b2 ♕d4 Black's plan is to transfer the king to the other side, around his pawn.

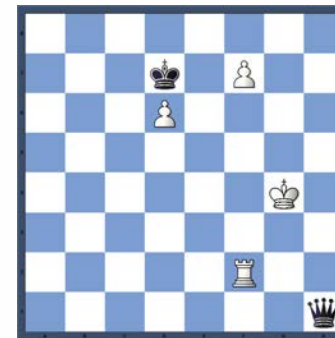
4.♖d2+ ♙e5 5.♖c2 ♙d5 6.♙a2 ♙c6 7.♙b2 [7.b4 does not work because of 7...♔g8+ 8.♙b2 c4—+]

7...♙b5 8.♖c4 ♔f2+ 9.♙b1 ♔e2! 10.♖c2 [10.♙c1 10...♔a2—+]

10...♔d3 11.♙b2 ♔d4+! 12.♙b1 ♙b4! 13.♖c4+ ♙xb3! is the correct transposition, not [13...♔xc4? 14.bxc4 ♙xc4 15.♙c2=] **0-1**

(29) Radziejewicz, I.-Kosintseva, N.

15th European Team Championshi, 2005

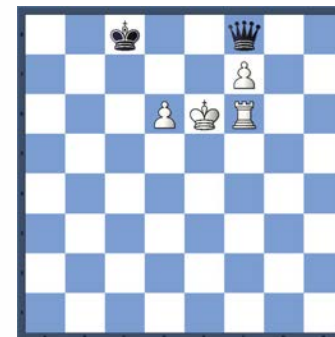


58...♔g1+ 59.♙f3 ♔g7 60.♙e2 Passive defense is usually wrong in chess. An active queen would secure the draw.

60...♔f8? [60...♔b2+ 61.♙f1 ♔c1+ 62.♙g2 ♔g5+ 63.♙f3 ♔f5+]

61.♖f6! Now the rook protects both pawns and the white king can try to get closer to his passed pawns.

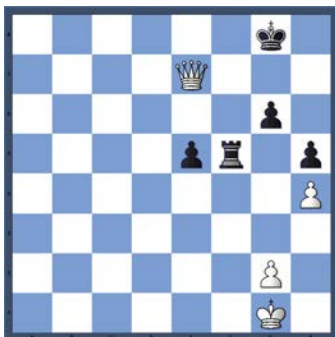
61...♙c6 62.♙f3 ♙d7 63.♙f4 ♙c6 64.♙f5 ♙d7 65.♙g6 ♙c6 66.♙f5 ♙d7 67.♙e5 ♙c8 68.♙e6



68...♙d8? [68...♙b7 leads to a draw. 69.♙d7 ♙b6 70.♖f3 ♙c5 71.♖f5+ ♙b6] **69.♖g6 1-0**

(30) Stein, L.-Hennings, A.

Kislovodsk, 1972



Black keeps a zone around his pawns and king. White will find a fantastic method in order to destroy Black's defensive setup.

5.g3! ♖h8 6.g4!! hxg4 7.h5!! gxh5 [7...♖xh5 8.♗f7+- wins the key g6 pawn.]

8.♗e6 ♖f3 9.♗xe5+ ♖g8 10.♗g5+ ♖f8 11.♗xh5 ♖f7 12.♗h8+ ♖e7 13.♖g2 1-0

(31) Karpov, A.-Istratescu, A.

Bucuresti (m), 2005

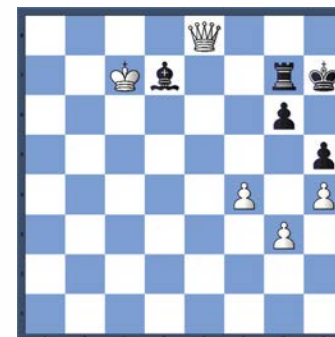


59...♖g8?? [59...♖g7= ; 59...♖g1= ; 59...♖g8=]

60.♗e6+ ♖h7 61.♖f7 ♖g8 62.♗f5+ ♖h8 63.♗e5+ ♖h7 64.♗e6 [64.♗e6 64...♖g5 65.♖f8 h5 (65...♖g1 66.♗e4+) 66.♗f6 ♖g6 67.♗e5 ♖h6 68.♖f7 h4 69.♗e4] **1-0**

(32) Rittner, H.-Thiele, M.

corr , 1970



Here White's only chance to win is to transpose into a winning pawn ending, but Black has to be very careful and technical!

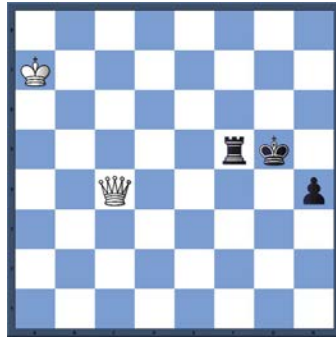
10.♗xd7 ♖g8!! Preparing to get the opposition.

11.♖d6 ♖xd7+ 12.♖xd7 ♖f7 1/2-1/2

(33) Kaidanov, Gregory S(2629)-Galkin, Alexander(2568)

Moscow, 2003

Inf 87/418



88...h3 89.♔e4 ♚f4 90.♔e5+ [90.♔e1 90...♚h4 91.♔g3+ ♚h5 92.♔h2 ♚g4 93.♚b6 ♚h5 94.♚c6 ♚g5 95.♚d6 ♚f5 96.♚e6 ♚f1 97.♚e5 ♚e1+ 98.♚d4 ♚e7 99.♚d3 ♚e1 100.♔f2 ♚b1 101.♚e4 ♚b4+ 102.♚e5 ♚b5+ 103.♚f6 ♚b3 104.♔d4+ ♚g3 105.♔g1+ ♚f4 106.♔g5+ ♚f3 107.♔d5+ ♚f2 108.♔xb3 h2=]

90...♚g4 91.♔e2+ ♚g3 92.♔e1+ ♚g2 93.♔e2+ 1/2-1/2

Chess and the City. The unbearable lightness of aging



WGM Elisabeth Paehtz

Best rating: 2493

Turning thirty this January was not a particularly shocking experience for me. I celebrated, enjoyed nice food, pretended to be a bit upset (you are supposed to show some melancholy for the lost youth on such occasions), got cheered up by friends who pretended to believe that I was a bit upset, and that was it. Just a nice party and life goes on, after all at thirty you are by no means old, and libraries are full of books explaining how life starts at 50-60 or some even more daring numbers. That's what I thought, until last week began. Yes, last week changed my life perspective and in particular my perspective on age. And the worst part is that nothing astonishing happened, nothing tragic or catastrophic, it all started with an innocent looking invitation. I approached a 15-year old friend of mine and asked her, "I have some time to spend in Rome, would you like to come and visit me, you could see the city and we could hang around together, do some sports, shopping etc." Imagine my surprise when shopping turned into exhausting marathons, hanging out together meant walking for 8 hours a day under the burning sun and "some sports" meant following a schedule that would have been more appropriate for Olympic athletes.

Well, at least that's how it felt to me, but not to my young friend who was always full of energy and ready for more walks, more exercises, more stairs. Since she is not the secret daughter of Usain Bolt and, as far as I know, does not plan to join the SAS, it can only mean one thing: I'm old. Well, at least compared to her. I guess it's not rocket science to understand that 15 years of difference matter, but to FEEL it...to feel it brings disappointment to a higher level. Now, the last part of the article should be devoted to the explanation of the benefits of being 15 years older, for example I should convince the readers that I have become wiser with time. But that would be an outright lie, and I try to not lie too often to you. Thus I will simply close the article with a picture of me as a kid, a rather lame choice, but then maybe this is the main advantage of being older, I have my own newsletter and I can fill it as I like! :)



Clash of the Titans

(35) Petrosian, Tigran V
- Suetin, Alexey S [E94]

URS-chT(1), 1954



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.c4 ♖f6 **2.♗c3** g6 **3.e4** d6 [3...e5!? 4.♗f3 ♗c6 5.d4 exd4 6.♗xd4 ♕g7 7.♗c2! (7.♕e3 7...♗g4 with the same idea as in the Maroczy. 8.♖xg4 ♗xd4 9.♖d1 c5 with his strong knight on d4 Black cannot be worse.) 7...O-O 8.♕e2 ♖e8 9.f3 White keeps an advantage thanks to his space advantage. Black is not able to execute his main plan with c6-d5.]

4.d4 ♕g7 **5.♕e2** O-O **6.♗f3** [6.♕g5 is the Averbakh line.]

6...e5 **7.d5** This line is called after Petrosian. Nowadays more popular is [7.O-O 7...♗c6 8.d5 ♗e7 White has a few plans here but the basic one is to advance the pawns on the queenside. Of course Black's main idea is to play f7-f5.]



7...♗bd7 **8.O-O** ♗c5 **9.♖c2** a5 Securing the knight on c5.

10.♕g5 A typical move in many KID lines. White provokes h6, which can be a weakness.

10...h6 **11.♕e3** ♗fd7 [11...♗g4 This move looks more active. 12.♕xc5 (12.♕d2 12...f5↗ with Nf6 next and the important e4 square is not well controlled by White.) 12...dxc5 13.h3 ♗f6 14.♗xe5 ♗xd5 15.cxd5 ♕xe5 16.f4 ♕d4+ 17.♖h1 With a complex position where it seems that with the strong bishop Black should be fine, but on the other hand White has strong central pawns.]

12.♗d2 f5 **13.exf5** [13.f3 13...f4 (13...♕f6!? 14.♕xh6 ♖f7 and the h-file can be useful for the attack!) 14.♕f2 ♕f6 It is a typical idea to exchange the limited bishop. 15.♖h1 (15.b3 15...♕h4 16.a3 ♕xf2+ 17.♖xf2 ♗f6 18.b4 ♗a6 19.♖b2 c5 20.dxc6 bxc6 and Black is fine.) 15...♕h4 16.♕g1 ♕g3 (16...♗f6 17.b3 ♗h5 18.♖fb1 and now the following knight sacrifice is dangerous: 18...♗g3+ 19.hxg3 ♕xg3 20.♗f1!) 17.b3 ♖h4 18.a3 ♗f6 19.b4 ♗h5 20.♖fc1 axb4 21.axb4 ♖xa1 22.♖xa1 ♗a6 White can't play 23.♖b1?



because of 23...♗xb4! 24.♖xb4 ♕xh2 25.♕xh2 ♗g3+ 26.♖g1 ♗xe2+ 27.♗xe2 ♖e1+ 28.♗f1 ♖xb4—+]

13...gxf5 **14.f4** White also could try [14.f3 14...♗f6 to improve his pieces with Bd7-Qe7-Rae8 etc. (14...♖h4 15.♗b5 Xc7) 15.a3 (15.♗b3 15...b6=) 15...a4 16.♕xc5 dxc5 17.♗xa4 b6 18.♗c3 ♗e8! With great compensation.]

14...exf4 Black wants to control the useful e5 square for his knight. [14...e4 also leads to unclear play. 15.♔h1 ♘f6 16.b3 (16.♙d4? with the idea Nd1-Ne3, but it loses to 16...♘xd5 17.♙xg7 ♘b4+) 16...♙d7 17.a3 ♘e8 18.b4 ♙f6 Black is on time with his counterplay. 19.♖ac1 axb4 20.axb4 ♘a4=]

15.♙xf4 [15.♖xf4 15...♘e5 16.♖af1 ♙e7 and the rooks don't do anything on the f-file.]

15...♘e5 16.♖ae1 ♙d7 17.♘f3 ♙f6 18.♙d2 Both players improve their pieces.

18...♖ae8?! looks logical but is not accurate. Black could reduce the material after [18...♘xf3+ 19.♖xf3 (19.♙xf3 19...♙d4+ 20.♔h1 ♙xd2 21.♙xd2 ♘d3 (21...♖ae8=) 22.♖e7 ♘e5) 19...♘e4 (19...♙d4+ 20.♙xd4 ♙xd4+ 21.♔f1) 20.♙c2 ♖ae8 looks fine for Black.]



19.♘xe5! It is time to change the structure a bit.

19...dxe5 20.♙e3 b6 My first intuition told me that thanks to the well-placed pieces and central pawns Black should be completely fine here, but after thinking about it a bit longer I realized it is not easy to find a plan. In case Black moves one of the pawns then the f4 or e4 square will be weak! White can improve his position by creating pressure against the f5 pawn.

21.♙h5 ♖e7 22.♙d1 White could also keep the bishop on h5

to paralyze the black rooks. [22.♔h1 22...♙d6 23.♖e2 ♔h8 24.♖ef2+=]

22...♙d6 23.♙c2 ♖ef7 [23...e4 24.♖f2 ♙e5 25.g3 ♖f6 26.♖ef1 with Ne2-Nf4 next, but Black could try h5-h4.]

24.♔h1 ♖a8 And indeed, Black has no idea what to do.

25.♖e2 ♙f8 26.♖ef2 True to his style, Petrosian placed all his pieces perfectly.

26...♘b7



27.♙e2! The queen is going to h5.

27...♘d6 28.c5 bxc5 29.♙xc5 ♖b8 30.b3 ♙c8 [30...e4 31.♙e3 a4 32.♘e2 (32.bxa4 32...♘c4!) 32...axb3 33.♙xb3 The knight is going to e6. Black's position is very difficult.]

31.♙h5 ♙a6



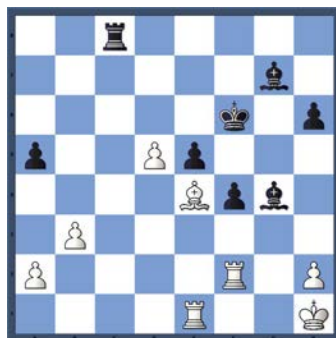
32.g4! It is time to crush Black's position!

32...f4 33.♖e1 It looks like Petrosian sometimes tried to be too accurate! :) He takes control of the e4 square instead of mating with [33.g5! 33...e4 (33...♖f5 34.♙xf5 ♜xf5 35.♖g1; 33...hgx5 34.♙g6 ♖f6 35.♖h7+ ♙f8 36.♜e4+-) 34.gxh6 (34.♜xe4± is simpler to see.) 34...♙xc3 35.♖g6+ ♙h8 36.♙xd6 ♖xd6 37.♖xf7 ♖f8 38.♖xf8+ ♖xf8 39.♖xf4 ♖d6 40.♙xe4 With a winning position, but of course it was not possible to see this line during the game.]

33...♖c8 34.♙xd6? More accurate was [34.♖g6 34...♙xg4 35.♖xe5 f3 36.♖h7+ ♙f8 37.♙g6 and Black will not survive.; 34.♖g1 is also good, with g5 next.]

34...cxd6 [34...♙xg4 35.♙h7+ (35.♖g6 35...cxd6 36.♜e4 ♙f5 37.♖xf7+ ♙xf7 38.♜xd6+ ♙f6 39.♜xc8 ♖xc8 40.♙xf5 ♙xf5 and it looks like Black is better here!) 35...♙h7 36.♖xf7 cxd6 37.♜e4 ♖b7 38.♜f6+ ♙h8 39.♖e8+ ♖xe8 40.♜xe8 ♙f8 With a good position for Black.]

35.♙g6 [35.♜e4 35...♙xg4 (35...♙e8) 36.♖xf7+ ♙xf7 37.♜xd6+ ♙f6 38.♜xc8 ♖xc8 39.♙e4

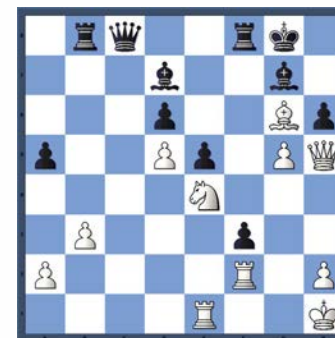


39...♙f8! Activating the bishop and stopping the pawn. (39...♙f5 40.♖d2 ♙xe4+ 41.♖xe4 ♙f5 42.♖c4 ♖d8 43.d6 e4 44.♖d5+-) 40.♖g2 ♙f5 41.♙xf5 ♙xf5 42.♖g8 ♖b8! Preventing d6. Black has good practical counterplay.]

35...♖f8 36.♜e4 f3? I suppose that both players were in time

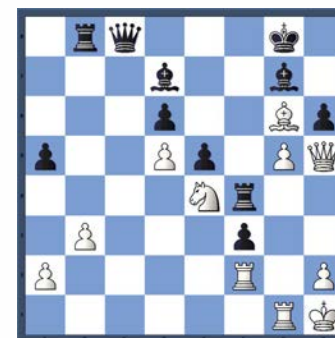
trouble here. Suetin was probably afraid to open the g-file but he should have taken the pawn on g4! [36...♙xg4 37.♖h4 f3 38.♜xd6 (38.♖g1 38...♖f4-) 38...♖d7 39.♜c4 ♖f4 and I don't know who is better here.]

37.g5



37...♖f4? [37...♙g4 38.♖h4 ♖f4 39.gxh6 ♖d8 40.♜g5 (40.♖xd8+ 40...♖xd8 41.hxg7 ♙xg7) 40...♙f6 41.h7+ ♙g7 42.♖g1 ♙xg5 43.h8=♖+ ♖xh8 44.♖xg5 ♖d8 (44...♖h6 45.♖e7+-) 45.♖xg4 ♖xg5 46.♖xg5 ♙f6 47.♖g3 e4 48.♙xe4 ♖xe4 49.♖xf3+ ♙e5 50.♖g5+ ♙d4 and thanks to his active king Black keeps some drawing chances.]

38.♖g1?? [38.gxh6 38...♙g4 39.♖g5+-]



38...♙f5?? Black missed the last opportunity to escape! [Black had to play 38...♙g4! 39.♖h4 (39.♙f7+ 39...♙h8

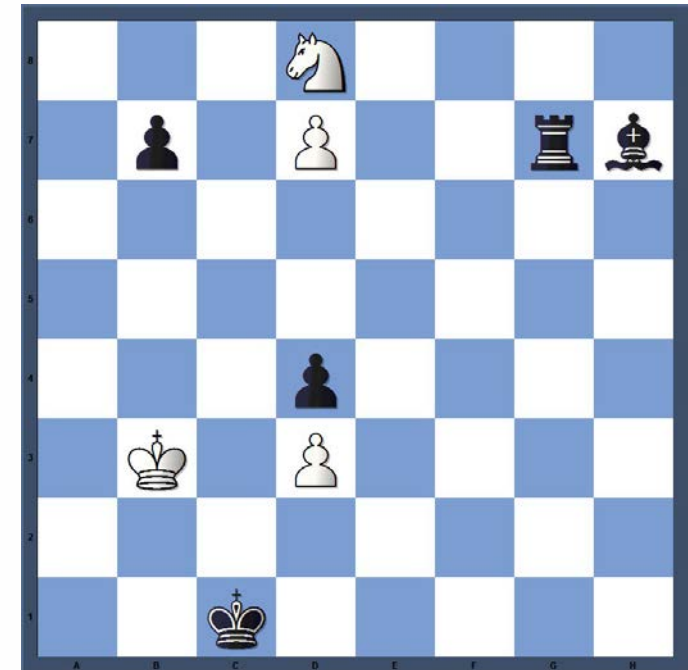
40.gxh6 ♘xh5 41.hxg7+ ♔h7 42.g8=♖+ ♖xg8 43.♙xg8+ ♖xg8 44.♖xg8 ♙xg8 45.♘xd6 ♖d4⌚) 39...♙h3 40.♖g3 ♖g4 (40...♙g2+ 41.♖fxg2 fxg2+ 42.♖xg2 ♔h8 43.♘xd6 ♖f8 44.♘e4 ♖b6 45.d6 ♖b4⌚) 41.♖xg4 ♙xg4 42.gxh6 ♙xh6 43.♙h5 ♔h8 44.♙xg4 ♖b7∞]

39.gxh6 ♙xe4 40.♙xe4 1-0

Surprise section / study

(36) Bent

1. =



Solutions

(37) Kramnik, V(2783)-Nepomniachtchi, I(2720)

Dortmund, 2015.06.30



47. ♖b7! ♜c3 [47... ♜xb6 48. ♖xd1+-; 47... ♖e6 48. ♜d8+ ♖f6 49. ♖f7#]

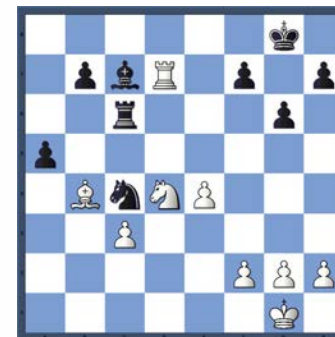
48. ♜d8! [48. f4! 48... ♕b8 (48... ♕d4 49. ♜d8!+-) 49. ♖xd1 ♜xd1 50. ♜d7+ ♖e6 51. ♜xb8+-]

48...g5 [48... ♖xd7 49. ♜xd7+ ♖g7 50. ♜xe5+-]

49. ♖xd1 ♜xd1 50. ♜d7+ ♖e7 51. ♜xe5 ♖xd8 52. hxc5+-

(38) Nisipeanu, D(2654)-Caruana, F(2805)

Dortmund, 2015.07.05

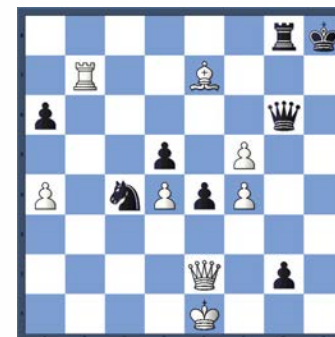


28...axb4!! 29. ♜xc6 b3! 30. ♖xc7 [30. ♜e7+ 30... ♖f8 31. ♖xc7 ♜d6+-]

30...♜d6!! 0-1 [30... ♜d6 31. ♜d4 (31. ♖d7 31...b2+-) 31...b2+-]

(39) Ovod, E(2313)-Mirzoeva, E(2233)

Russian Higher league (W), 2015.06.30



48. ♕f6+!! ♖g7 [48... ♖xf6 49. ♖h5+-]

49. ♖b8! ♖h7 50. fxc6+ ♖xc6 [50... ♖xc6 51. ♖h8#] **51. ♖xc6+-**

(40) Savina, A(2422)-Ovod, E(2313)

Russian Higher league (W), 2015.07.01



34...♗f2+! 35.♖xf2 [35.♔g1 35...♗h3+ 36.♔h1 ♖g1+ 37.♖xg1 ♗f2#]

35...♖a1+! 0-1

(41) Ofitserian, B(2306)-Levin, E(2519)

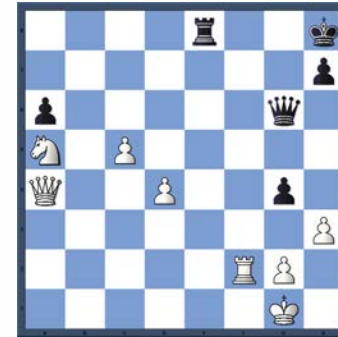
Polugaevsky memorial, 2015.07.04



25...♖xc4! 26.♖xc4 ♗xf3 27.♗xf3 ♖xf3—+

(42) Van Kampen, R(2609)-Van Wely, L(2647)

Dutch Championship, 2015.07.06



48...♖e1+! 49.♖f1 [49.♔h2 49...g3#]

49...gxh3! 50.♖c6 [50.♖xe1 50...♖xg2#]

50...♖xf1+! 51.♔h2 [51.♔xf1 51...♖xc6 52.♗xc6 h2—+]

51...♖xg2+ [51...♖g7—+] 52.♖xg2 hxg2 53.♔xg2 ♖d1—+

(43) Laznicka, V(2657)-Sethuraman, S(2623)

Porticcio Open, 2015.07.01



26.♗e4! ♗xe4 [26...♖xe4 27.♖xd7 ♗xd7 28.♖xe4+—; 26...g6 27.♖f6+—] **27.♖xd7+—**

(44) Giri, A(2791)-Pruijssers, R(2507)

Dutch Championship, 2015.07.06



35. ♖eg3!! [35. ♖h3 35... d1=♚ 36. ♕xh7 ♚xg2+!! 37. ♖xg2 (37. ♖xg2 37... ♚e2+=) 37... ♖xg2+ 38. ♖xg2 ♚e2+]

35... ♚d8 [35... d1=♚ 36. ♕xh7! ♖xg5 37. ♕c2+ ♖g8 38. ♚xg5+ ♖f7 39. ♚g8#]

36. ♕c2 [36. ♕e8!! 36... ♖xg5 (36... ♚xe8 37. ♖xg7+-; 36... ♚c7 37. ♚f6! ♖g8 38. ♕h5+-) 37. ♚f8+-]

36... ♚f8? [36... ♖xg5 37. ♚xg5 ♚f8∞]

37. ♖xg7 ♖xg7 38. ♖xg7 ♚xg7 39. ♚xe6+-

(45) Areshchenko, A(2656)-Terrioux, K(2440)

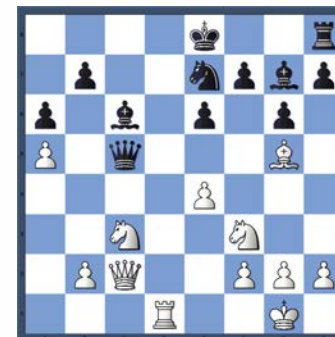
Porticcio Open, 2015.07.02



31. ♖d6! 1-0 [31. ♖d6 31... ♚f3 (31... ♗xd6 32. cxd6+ ♖f7 33. ♖xd8+-) 32. ♖b3+-]

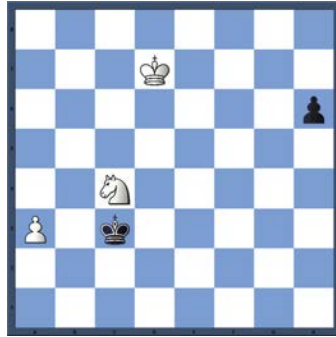
(46) Smirin, I(2663)-Nikhilesh, K(2235)

World Open, 2015.07.01



18. ♗d5! 1-0 [18. ♗d5 18... ♚xc2 19. ♗c7+ ♖f8 20. ♖d8+ ♕e8 21. ♖xe8#]

(47) Shikril



1. Nxb2!! h5 [1... Qxb2 2. a4 h5 3. a5 h4 4. a6 h3 5. a7 h2 6. a8=Q+-]

2. a4! Qb4 [2... h4 3. a5 h3 4. a6 h2 5. Nd1+! Qd2 (5... Qb4 6. Nf2+-) 6. Nf2 Qe2 7. Nh1 Qf1 8. a7+-]

3. Qc6! h4 4. Qb6! h3 5. a5! h2 6. Nd3+ Qc3 7. Nf2+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 178

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Editorial Preface

A lot of action on the chess board could be witnessed during the past week, but let us start with the finished events:

The match between Boris Gelfand and Ding Liren in China ended in a deserved 3-1 victory for the Chinese superstar.

The friendly match between China and Russian ended in a 14-11 victory in the men's section and a dominant 15-10 score in the women's, both in favor of the Chinese. The Chinese also won the blitz leg.

After a clear domination by the Chinese players in team events in the past years the question is coming up if some other team will able to compete against the Chinese machine in the next Olympiad in Baku!

The traditional Najdorf Memorial was won by Igor Kovalenko with a fantastic score of 8/9.

The Dutch National Championship was "as usual" won by Giri with 5.5/7.

Currently the super tournament of Biel is under way with a lot of decisive games and great fighting chess! If you have some free time, don't miss the games!

As usual, the current issue of Top GM Secrets brings you very colorful chess material from the recent top events combined with many other interesting sections. Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) **Matlakov, Maxim (2691)**
- **Wei, Yi (2724) [D85]**

China-Russia Match 2015(5.3),
2015.07.20



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We will see another great game by Matlakov, where he crushes the lately so strong playing Wei Yi. After the opening White manages to quickly put a lot of pressure on Black's position and later on to totally dominate the game, even making Black resign in a position with equal material. A very nice game to watch. Enjoy!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 This time the game enters the very main Gruenfeld.

4.cxd5 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♘g7 7.♔a4+ This is a relatively rare line, the very main being 7.Nf3.

7...♔d7 The main idea of 7.Qa4 is to avoid the c5 push for a couple of moves, which White needs to complete his development.

8.♘b5 Of course not exchanging the queens! If the queens are gone from the board, Black usually has an excellent endgame.

8...c6 9.♘e2 O-O Black wants to play c5.

10.♔a3 and White is preventing it.

10...b6 Yet again preparing the c5 push.

11.♘f3



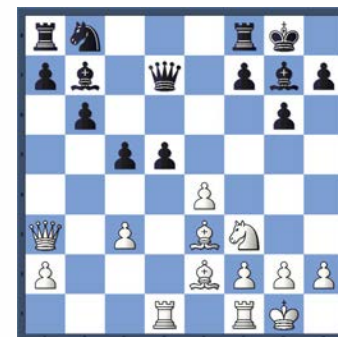
11...♘b7 Maybe Wei Yi didn't choose the best move order. [To me it seems like Black is fine after 11...c5 12.O-O (12.d5 12...e6 Here we have a position which is close to the game but in a much better version for Black.) 12...cxd4 13.cxd4 ♘b7 and I believe the position is a very fighting one, but should be close to equal.]

12.O-O c5 So Black finally pushes c5, but White has an excellent counter measure up his sleeve...

13.d5! Perfect play! The black bishop on b7 is getting blocked now and the knight from b8 is having serious trouble getting into the game.

13...e6 14.♘e3 Another good move, preparing to play Rad1, bringing the last piece into the action.

14...exd5 15.♔ad1



15...d4?! In my opinion this is at least a very risky decision. [I think Black could have continued with 15...♔d6 16.exd5 ♘d7 and this quite typical position should be evaluated as minimally better for White.]

16.cxd4 ♙xe4 17.dxc5 Now that the center is fully opened it is extremely important that White's development is much better than Black's one, so White has some time to create a few threats- and this is what Matlakov is going to do...

17...♚b7 This is probably the best position for the black queen.

18.♖fe1! A silent but very unpleasant move for Black! White does not hurry to force things immediately, but is threatening to play Ng5 now, after which Bxg2 will not be possible any longer because of f3, and the rook on e1 could often be a useful piece. [18.♖d6 was another nice possibility.]

18...♞d7 The knight is finally out.



19.♙a6! Another great move by White to destabilize the position of the black pieces.

19...♚c7 [Not better is 19...♚c6 20.♖d6 ♚c7 21.c6 and White is clearly better.]

20.♙b5 Using the fact that Black can't take the c5 pawn.

20...♞f6 [20...♞xc5? loses a piece after 21.♙xc5 bxc5

22.♖xe4; Black could also have tried a tricky move like 20...♙f5 21.c6 but here White is also clearly better after 21...a6 22.♙a4 b5 23.cxd7 bxa4 24.♖d2 and the d7 pawn gives White a big plus.]

21.♙d4 Black is suddenly in big trouble!

21...♙f5 What else to do?! To play 21...Bxf3 22. Qxf3 and give White the bishop pair and a strong c-pawn is a very unpleasant option...

22.c6 It is very nice to see how the white pieces are dominating the center.

22...a6 23.♙e5 A nice "zwischenzug" which allows White not to worry about the c6 pawn.

23...♚c8 24.♙a4 b5 25.♙b3



25...a5 Wei Yi is still hoping to escape by creating some threats on the queenside. [25...♚xc6 26.♖d6 and the f6 knight is gone.]

26.♚b2! Another safe and strong move by White!

26...a4 [26...♞h5 would lead to a total domination of the white pieces: 27.♙xg7 ♞xg7 28.♖e7 a4 29.♙d5 with a winning position for White.]

27.♙xf6 ♙xf6 28.♚xf6 axb3 29.axb3 ♙c2 Black is

equalizing the material, but not saving the game. The white queen and knight make for an excellent combination to mate the black king...

30. ♖d7 ♗xb3



31.h4! Maxim shows no mercy. The simple threat of playing h5-h6 is deadly.

31...♖a6 32.♗e5 The c6 pawn is saved and Black is completely paralyzed. A really beautiful positional win by White and another example of how dangerous it is to play without the center and with a worse development, especially when the position is very opened. **1-0**

(2) Rapport, Richard (2671) - Adams, Michael (2740) [C36]

48th Biel GM 2015(2.1),
2015.07.21



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Richard Rapport continues playing in his highly entertaining style- even against the World's best players. Adams takes up the challenge and they play a very interesting game...

1.e4 e5 2.f4 The King's Gambit! We can say that we had to wait for 2 moves for the first sacrifice, but of course this opening must be taken very seriously, as World Champions have employed it successfully in the past.

2...exf4 3.♗f3 d5 Black has many options, but this is given as an easy equalizer by the theory.

4.exd5 ♗f6 5.♗e2 This already had to come as a surprise for Black and must have been a home preparation by White! The two main moves are Bb5 and Bc4.

5...♗xd5 6.c4 White wants to build a huge center with c4-d4 and later win back the material with Bxf4. If he manages to do all this he will reach a stable advantage.

6...♗e7 Black had many other options at his disposal. Adams wants to retain his extra pawn by driving his knight to g6.

7.♗c3 This is the official novelty. 7.d4 was played in all the games before. It could still be a transposition if White plays d4 next, but Rapport had something else in mind (or in his preparation).

7...♖g6



8.h4!? Wow! I am not so sure about the objective strength of this move. Of course it is nice to send back the knight with h5, however Black also has his answers and later this move could rather be a weakening, as it might be difficult to hide the white king.

8...♗e7 The most natural reply. Developing and giving the knight a good square to go to after h5. [The alternative was the simple 8...h5!? preventing h5 and consolidating the nice g4 square for the bishop.]

9.h5 ♖h4 10.♗d5! At least White is very consequent! He does not count the pawns, but he rather aims for active piece play and quick development.

10...♗c6! Adams also knows that developing his minor pieces is more important than grabbing some pawns... [10...♗xg2+ is met by 11.♗f2 ♖h4 12.d4 and the g2 pawn does not count that much now.]

11.d4



11...♗xg2+! The huge difference to the previous line is that Black can favorably exchange some pieces one3!

12.♗f1! Rapport feels the dynamism very well! [12.♗f2 is more logical, but less strong because after 12...♗e3! 13.♗xe3 fxe3+ 14.♗xe3 Black has a free move to play 14...♗f6! and now the d5 move can be met by Ne5! Black is a pawn up and he has nothing direct to fear.]

12...♗e3+ 13.♗xe3 fxe3 14.d5! It is clear that without the e5 square Black must do something artificial, but of course he will still be a pawn up even after White takes on e3!

14...♗b4 15.a3 ♗a6 The knight is temporarily on the edge of the board, but it might quickly come back through c5!

16.♗xe3 White has achieved some compensation. He has some lead in development, his pieces are standing well and he is ready to explode the kingside with h6. However a pawn is a pawn and Black has no structural weaknesses.

16...0-0



17. ♖c2! White keeps an eye on the h7 square. If it was his move he would play Bd3 and suddenly it is not easy to deal with the h7 pawn. g6 opens the h-file and provokes dangerous sacrifices on g6. h6 again fixes the pawn structure and White might have very dangerous attacking ideas connected with Rg1-Bxh6 or Bd4. The third reply would be f5, but this is very bad positionally as it locks his own pieces, especially the bishop on c8, and gives up the e6 square. Therefore Adams decides to prevent this Bd3 idea with a developing move.

17... ♘g4 A very natural move, but it also has the drawback that Rapport immediately points out with his next moves...

18.h6! g6



19. ♖c3! ♘f6 [19...f6 is very ugly, but Black should have

played like this. Qd7 and Rae8 are coming next.]

20. ♘d4! This is the point and suddenly White creates threats on the g7 square. The only natural move of taking on d4 does not work because after Qxd4 the g4 bishop falls.

20... ♘e7! Cold-blooded and strong, but of course it allows a repetition unless Black wants to play on with 19...f6.

21.c5 Rapport likes playing with the initiative, refuses the repetition and takes further ground in the center. In the meantime he completely excludes the a6 knight from the game. The drawback is that the d5 pawn loses its stability. [However it was stronger to bring the rook into the game with 21. ♖e1! 21... ♖e8 (21... ♖d7 22. ♘g2 threatens with Ne5! It is not easy to suggest a good move for Black.) 22. ♘e5! ♘xe2+ 23. ♖xe2



with very strong compensation for the pawn. The problem is that Black could neutralize the g7 square with Bf8, but it leaves the f6 square unprotected after Ng4!]

21... ♖e8! Calm defense again! Black wants to put his bishop on f8 to not worry about the g7 mate anymore and he also activates his rook. [21... ♖xd5 was bad in view of 22. ♘f2! with the threat of Qg7 mate and after 22...f6 23. ♘c4! wins the queen.]

22.c6 ♘f8!? Black opens the e-file for the rook. He is ready to take on d5 after which the sacrifices on e2 might already work. After the the white king is naked, crushing sacrifices around it should not be such a big surprise. [The machine suggests and likes Black after 22...b5!? with the idea of 23.♘xb5 ♖xd5 counter-attacking the f3 knight.]

23.cxb7 ♖b8 24.♘xa6 Taking the knight "for free", but this is objectively a mistake. [White should have played 24.♘g7! after which the repetition is forced. 24...♘c5 (24...♘d6? 25.♘xa6 already wins a piece for nothing.) 25.♘d4 (25.♘xa6? 25...♖xd5 is still too strong.) 25...♘f8=]

24...♖xd5 25.♔f2 [25.♘e2 is strongly met by 25...♖xe2! 26.♔xe2 ♘xf3+ 27.♖xf3 ♖xd4 Black is an exchange down, but he is going to have 2 pawns for it after taking one of the b-pawns. 28.♖ab1 ♖b6!± with Rxb7 next. Black overtakes the initiative since his king is already safe and the f8 bishop protects everything, while the white one in the center of the board will get under the attack of the heavy pieces.]

25...♘xf3 26.♘c4



26...♖e2+?! Very pretty, but wrong! This move leads to a forced repetition. [Black could maintain his advantage after 26...♖e4! 27.♖ae1 ♖f4 The only move to avoid big problems is 28.♘xf7+! ♖xf7 29.♖xf3 but Black ends up with an extra

pawn after 29...♖xe1 30.♖xe1 c5 31.♘e3 ♖xb7± The win is still doubtful because White is active and he might transpose to a drawish rook endgame, but of course the extra pawn will guarantee a long suffering for White.]

27.♘xe2 ♘xh1



28.♖xh1! Deflecting the queen from the d4 bishop. Perhaps Adams missed or underestimated these exchange sacrifices, which seem completely unsound at first sight, but together with the following move they are very strong!

28...♖xh1 29.♖xc7! White creates the threats of Qe5 and the rook is also under attack! Suddenly it is Black who needs to find the right moves to force a draw!

29...♖h4+! [29...♖xb7 is met by 30.♖e5! f6 31.♘c4+ ♖f7 32.♖e6→and it is clear that something has gone wrong for Black.; 29...♖e8 is bad in view of 30.b8=♖ and the two queens protect everything. Black does not even have a perpetual check. 30...♖h4+ 31.♔f1 ♖h1+ 32.♘g1+--]

30.♔f1! [White also cannot play for more with 30.♔g2 30.Ke3 drops the h6 pawn with check... 30...♖e4+! 31.♘f3 ♖xb7! and White does not have Qe5!]

30...♖h1+ 31.♔f2 ♖h4+ 32.♔f1 ♖h1+ 33.♔f2 A great fighting game that was not without mistakes, but of course in such a sharp position it is impossible to play perfectly. **1/2-1/2**

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot

Best rating: 2749

(3) Salem, AR. (2615)

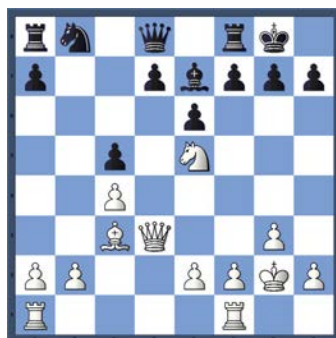
- Duda, Jan Krzysztof (2632) [E18]

Martuni(6),
2015.07.17

Duda just won the Lake Sevan tournament in Armenia. The 17-year old Polish grandmaster, 7th on the FIDE list under 20, is on a rush after winning 22 rating points in the French league in June. Here he wins against the best UAE player.

1.d4 ♘f6 **2.c4** e6 **3.** ♘f3 b6 **4.g3** ♙b7 **5.** ♙g2 ♙e7 With Black Duda usually chooses slow openings, on this day the Queen's Indian.

6. ♘c3 ♘e4 **7.** ♙d2 ♙f6 **8.O-O** O-O **9.** ♘e5 ♘xc3 **10.** ♙xc3 ♙xg2 **11.** ♙xg2 c5 **12.dxc5** bxc5 **13.** ♙d6 ♙e7!? This is quite a dangerous choice in this very important theoretical position. 13...Qb6 is the usual move.

14. ♙d3

14...f6 Damaging the structure a bit, but Black needs to chase the knight from e5. [14...d6 15. ♙f3 ♘d7 16. ♘c6 ♙e8 17. ♙fd1+=]

15. ♙f3 Very tempting but not the best. White might be slightly better after the simple 15.Nf3.

15... ♙c7 **16. ♙xa8!?** is logical after White's 15th move but 16.Nd3 was still a better move.

16... ♘c6 **17. ♙xf8+**

17... ♙xf8 At first I thought that White should be better but it is difficult to make the two rooks work together and the white king is also a bit weak, so Black quickly uses his queen's strength.

18. ♘xc6 looks good but Black's next move proves to be very strong. [18. ♘f3 18...d5 19.e3 looks good but after (19.cxd5 19...exd5 20.e3 ♙e7 and Black is better.) 19...dxc4! White has some problems on the light squares, for example: 20. ♘d2 ♙d7 21. ♙fd1 ♙d5+ 22. ♙g1 h5! with unclear play.]

18... ♙xc6+ **19.f3** is unfortunately forced, since after [19. ♙g1 19... ♙e4! 20. ♙fd1 d6 Black wins a pawn without opening the lines.]

19... ♙a6! **20.b3 d5!** I tried hard to find a convenient defense for White but the position is very tough.



21.e3 It is understandable that White wants to prevent d4, but this move also weakens his king. The alternatives were [21.♖fd1 21...d4! (21...dxc4 22.♔f1 should be fine for White.) 22.♘d2 e5 23.e4 Avoiding the e4 break. 23...♘d6 followed by Bc7-a5 and White might hold the position, or not!; 21.cxd5 is strongly met by the following forced line: 21...♙xe2+ 22.♖f2 ♙e3 23.♘d2 ♙d4 24.♖e1 exd5 25.♖e8 ♔f7! 26.♖d8 c4! 27.bxc4 ♘c5! 28.♘e1 ♙xc4+]]

21...dxc4 22.♔f2 ♙a3 is maybe the best move again. Black simply improves all his pieces and maintains White's rooks in defense. [22...e5!? is also a possibility in order to have the e4 break at some point.]

23.♖fb1 ♘d6

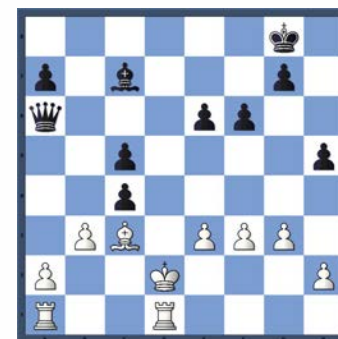


24.♔e1 An ugly move but what to do!

24...h5 I like such moves, improving the position when your opponent has no good ideas.

25.♔d2 ♙a6 White protected the bishop to threaten bxc4 and managed to push back the queen but now his king is in the center.

26.♖d1 ♘c7 27.♔c2 It was not better to go back to the kingside: [

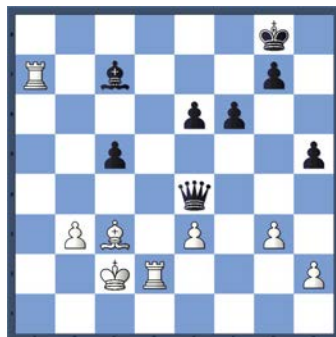


27.♔e1 27...♙b7 28.♔e2 ♙b5 29.bxc4 ♙xc4+ 30.♖d3 h4!—+]]

27...cxb3+? The first inaccurate move after the opening! Some more slow moves to improve the position would have done the job. [27...♔h7!? works because White cannot play actively: 28.♖d7 ♘d6! 29.♘xf6 cxb3+ 30.axb3 ♙e2+ and the white king has no safe place. 31.♔b1 ♙d1+ 32.♔b2 ♘e5+! 33.♘e5 ♙xd7 is one of the winning lines.]

28.axb3 ♙e2+ 29.♖d2 ♙xf3 30.♖xa7 White finally gets some activity!

30...♔e4+



31.♖d3?? [White almost had the draw: 31.♔b2 31...♗e5 (31...♖c6 32.♖a4 and it would be difficult to improve the position for Black.) 32.♖dd7! ♗xc3+ 33.♔xc3 ♖xe3+ 34.♔c4=]

31...c4! A very strong move. The black bishop joins the attack and White cannot connect the rooks on the 7th rank.

32.bxc4 ♗b6! 33.♖d7 White's pieces are uncoordinated and his position is lost. [33.♖e7 33...e5 34.♔d2 ♔h7!—+; 33.♖a4 33...♗xe3—+]

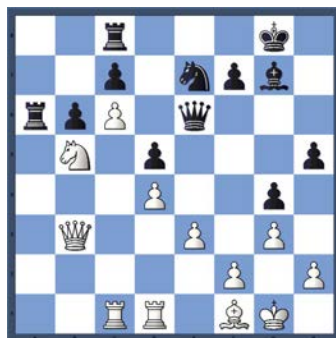
33...♖xc4 34.♔d1 e5 35.♗d2 ♔h7 36.♔e1 ♖e4 37.♔d1 ♗d4 38.♖7xd4 exd4 39.♖xd4 ♖f3+ 40.♔c2 ♖e2 One more pawn is doomed, so White resigned. After this nice game Duda finished with 3 draws to take clear first place in this strong young GM tournament. **0-1**

Puzzle section

(4) Matlakov, M(2691)-Lu Shanglei(2595)

China-Russia match, 2015.07.15

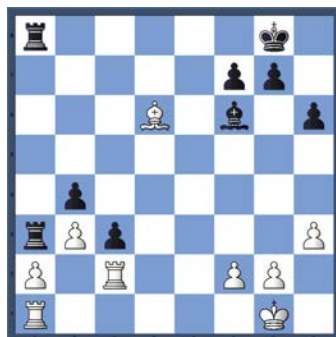
1. +-



(5) Huang Qian(2457)-Pogonina, N(2465)

China-Russia match, 2015.07.15

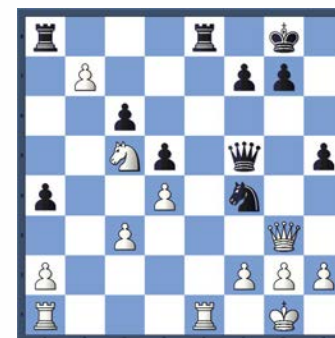
1... -+



(6) Ding Yixin(2439)-Kashlinskaya, A(2432)

China-Russia match, 2015.07.16

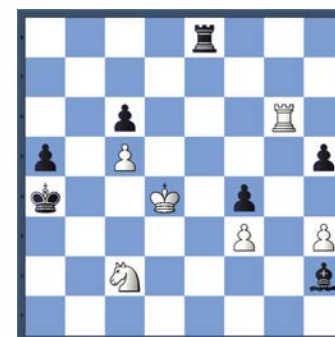
1... -+



(7) Sevian, S(2578)-Hovhanissyan, R(2611)

Lake Sevan, 2015.07.14

1. +-



(8) Artemiev, V(2660)-Petrosian, T(2630)

Lake Sevan, 2015.07.16

1... -+



(9) Swiercz, D(2634)-Czerwonski, A(2375)

Najdorf memorial, 2015.07.15

1. +-



(10) Olszewski, M(2562)-Chomczyk, M(2165)

Najdorf memorial, 2015.07.15

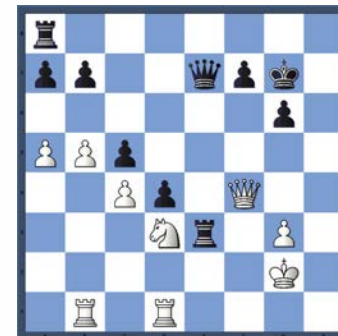
1. +-



(11) Markowski, T(2574)-Mista, A(2585)

Najdorf memorial, 2015.07.16

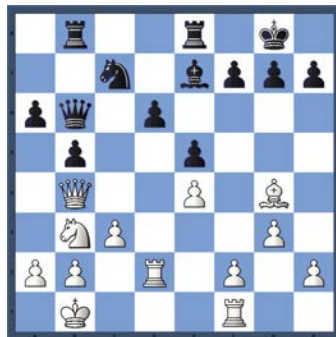
1... -+



(12) Mista, A(2585)-Cheparinov, I(2683)

Najdorf memorial, 2015.07.17

1... -+



(13) Dragun, K(2586)-Bilguun, S(2361)

Najdorf memorial, 2015.07.18

1. +-



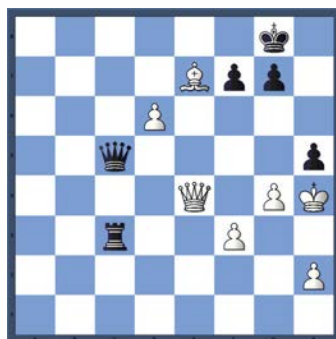
Endgame section

(14) Petrosian, Tigran (2630)
- Ter Sahakyan, Samvel (2593)

Lake Sevan,
2015.07.17

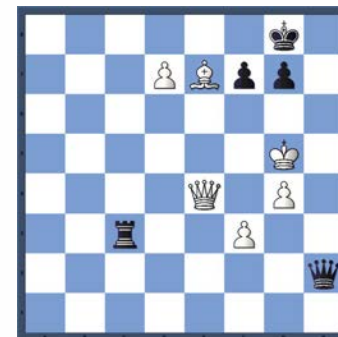


GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



At first sight it looks like White is in big trouble because he is an exchange down and his king is under a mating attack. The question is if the d6 pawn gives him enough counterplay to save the game or not?! I guess both players were already in time trouble, but White still manages to find a beautiful way for salvation.

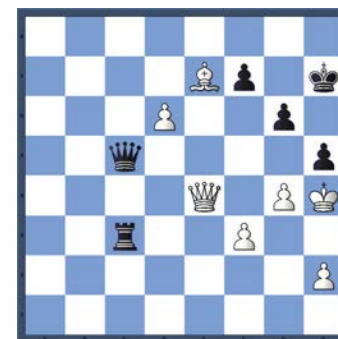
48. ♖a8+! [The immediate 48.d7 loses to 48... ♜f2+ 49. ♔g5 (49. ♔xh5 49... ♜xh2+ 50. ♔g5 (50. ♔h4 50... g6+ 51. ♔g5 ♜c5+-- and the bishop falls with mate.)



50... ♜c5+!! deflects the bishop and forces mate: 51. ♔xc5 ♜h6+ 52. ♔f5 ♜f6#) 49... ♜d2+! and compared to the game the f6 square is not free for the king, which means the loss of the d7 pawn... 50. ♔h4 ♜xh2+ 51. ♔g5 ♜d2+ 52. ♔h4 ♜xd7--]

48... ♔h7 49. ♜e4+! White provokes g6, which becomes a very important factor in the later stage of the game!

49... g6



50.d7! It is a kind of all or nothing move. It is impossible to foresee all the consequences, but at the same time White had to go all in and pin all his hopes to this move, because it is clear that with such a king he cannot survive for long, he must create some direct threats. White wants to promote his queen, therefore Black also has no time to waste...

50...♔f2+ 51.♔g5 ♕d2+ 52.♔f6! We can see the point of forcing the g6 move now!

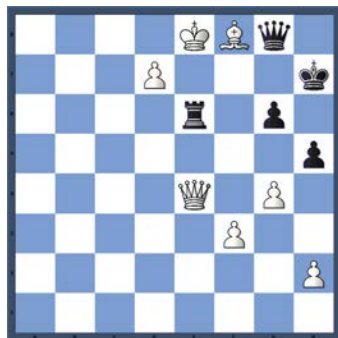
52...♖c6+!? A very nice idea indeed, but unfortunately it does not help. The rook cannot be taken because of mate in one. [The other winning attempt is 52...♔xd7 53.♔xf7 Qxg6 threatens with mate now... 53...♔d3! (Surprisingly 53...♖c6? loses because suddenly the black king becomes the one who gets mated after 54.♔e5!+-) 54.♔xd3 ♖xd3 55.gxh5 ♖xf3+ 56.♔e6 gxh5 57.h4! ♔g6 58.♔d5! ♔f5 59.♔d4!= We have reached a famous theoretical draw. The point is that Black cannot cut the white king with one more line which would be essential for the win. White just waits with Bd8-e7-g5 and if he can, he plays Ke3. The winning method would be to sacrifice the rook for the h4 pawn, but he needs two moves for this (Rh3 and Kg4), but it allows Ke4 and in case of Rxh4 Bxh4 Kxh4 Kf3 the game is drawn because the white king is in time to squeeze his opponent to the h-file. By being cut with one more file, this would already work for Black.]

53.♔xf7 [53.♔xc6? 53...♔f4# is a nice motif!]

53...♔a2+ [53...♔xd7? loses again to 54.♔e5!+-]

54.♔e8 [54.♔f8? 54...♔g8# is another pretty mate!]

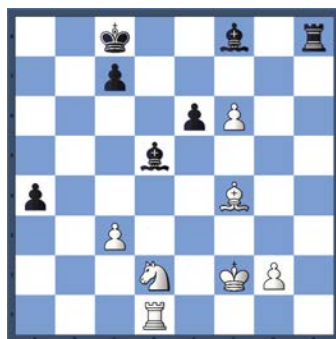
54...♔g8+ 55.♔f8 ♖e6+ White lost his queen and it seems like the game is over. However, there can be miracles in chess...



56.♔xe6! ♔xe6+ 57.♔e7 Despite being a queen up, Black cannot win. The pawn on d7 is too strong.

57...♔g8+ [The only winning attempt is 57...♔c6 but White locks the king into the corner with 58.g5! ♔g8 (58...h4 59.♔f6 ♔g8 60.♔e7= forces Black to give a perpetual.) 59.h4 ♔b5 60.♔f6= and again Ke7 is coming next and Black cannot do anything better than draw with his extraqueen!]

58.♔f8 ♔e6+ 59.♔e7 ♔g8+ 60.♔f8 ♔e6+ 1/2-1/2

**(15) Navara, David (2724)
- Rapport, Richard (2671)**48th Biel GM 2015(3.3),
2015.07.22GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are in a very interesting endgame which appeared after a fighting game where White was a bit better throughout the game, but then it got extremely complicated. Right now White is a clear pawn up, but the a-pawn is very dangerous and the bishop pair also gives Black good chances to be perfectly fine. The position is very sharp.

34...♖g8 Good and logical! The black rook is getting into the game- attacking the g2 pawn and wanting to play Rg6 with an unpleasant attack on the passed f6 pawn.

35.g3 Not the best move. [The position would remain more playable after 35.♖f3 35...♖g6 36.♕e5 a3 37.f7 and Black is probably better, but the position remains practically unclear.]

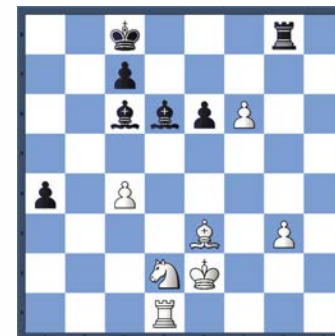
35...♕c5+ Not a bad move, but why not win the f6 pawn?! [35...♖g6 was very logical. 36.♕e5 and here comes the difference to the aforementioned line: 36...♖g5! 37.♕f4

♖f5 and the f6 pawn is gone, leaving Black with a heavy advantage.]

36.♕e3 ♕d6 [It would be wrong for Black to play 36...♕xe3+?! 37.♖xe3 ♖xg3+ 38.♖e2 and the position is probably a draw because of White's next moves, c4 and Rf1.]

37.c4 ♕c6 [Of course Black can't take the g3 pawn: 37...♕xg3+? 38.♖e2 ♕c6 39.♖g1 and it is already White who is winning.]

38.♖e2 White can't keep the g3 pawn alive. [After 38.♕f4 38...e5 39.♕e3 Black is winning the f6 pawn with 39...♖g6]



38...a3? Black should have cared more about winning some material... [The simple 38...♖xg3 would keep Black's position clearly better.]

39.f7 Now the f-pawn is becoming dangerous.

39...♖xg3 Black continues playing very riskily without any reason. [After 39...♖f8 40.♖f1 a2 41.♕d4 White would keep good drawing chances.]

40.♖e4! Navara manages the time trouble perfectly and now it is already Black who should be careful.

40...♖g2+ This is quite a mistake even it is hard to blame Rapport for being in time trouble on the 40th move. [Black had to find a very difficult way to a draw: 40...♕xe4 41.♖xd6

♖f3 42.♜xe6 Black's position looks lost but in fact it is a draw!
42...♜xf7 43.♜xe4 a2 44.♙d4



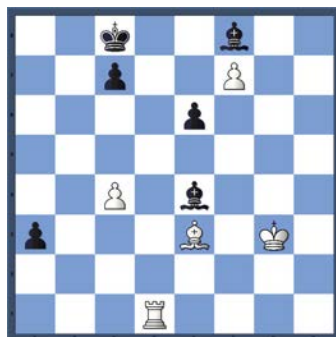
44...♜h7 and strangely although he is a clear piece up White cannot convert his advantage because of Black's threat of playing Rh1 or winning the c4 pawn.]

41.♙f1 Now Black will be an exchange down.

41...♙f8 The only move.

42.♙xg2 ♙xe4+ Black still keeps some hopes for a draw because of the strong a-pawn and in case he would manage to win the f7 pawn it would be very unclear if the position is winning or a draw.

43.♙g3 White wants to play Bd4 and Kf4.



43...e5! An excellent move!

44.♙g5 Threatening to play Rd8.

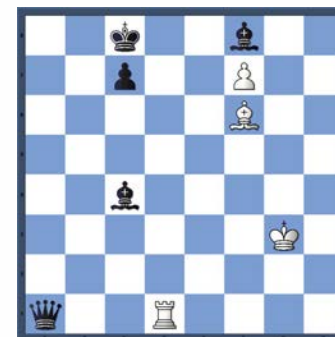
44...a2 45.♙f6 White is winning the e5 pawn and at the same time he wants to protect the a1-h8 diagonal.

45...♙d3? and this is the losing move. [Black could have tried to save the game after 45...c5! 46.♙xe5 ♙c2! chasing the white rook from the d-file to play Kd7 next. 47.♜c1 ♙g6 48.♜f1 ♙d7 and Black has excellent drawing chances.]

46.♙xe5 Now the game is over...

46...♙xc4 The threat of playing Rd8 is deadly.

47.♙f6 a1=♚



48.♜d8+ followed by Bxa1 and White is winning. The conclusion of this very interesting endgame is that the bishop pair has huge power and even after blundering on the moves 38-40 Black maintained very good drawing chances. He just should have fought a bit harder! **1-0**

Golden knowledge. QUEEN ENDINGS - passed pawn problem

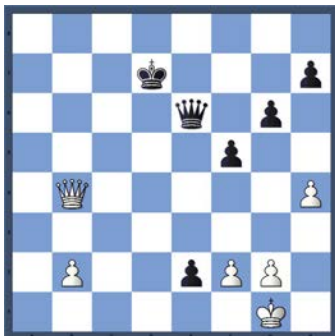


GM Adrian Mikhalchishin
FIDE Trainers Commission Chairman

Queen endings are not like other endgames - here we don't have precise basic positions, except in situations with queen against pawns. But there are still a few important factors, like the role of the passed pawn, the position of the queen, the activity and safety of the king, as well as different tactical motifs, as queens are terribly powerful pieces. We will see what the importance of each characteristic is.

(16) Boruchovsky, A. - Sanal, V.

European U18, 2015



We have a classical endgame with a distant passed pawn,

where Black's main task is to force the opponent's queen into a passive position on e1.

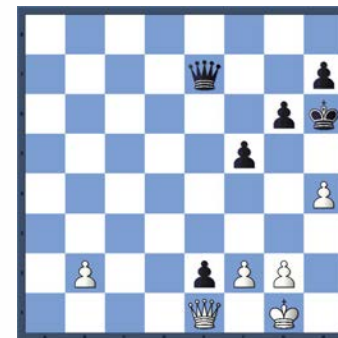
46. ♖d4+ Other tries for perpetual don't work here: [46. ♖b7+ 46... ♜e8 47. ♖b8+ ♜f7 48. ♖b7+ ♜f6; 46. ♖e1 46... ♜e4 47. g3 f4 48. gxf4 ♜d3 49. f3 ♜xf3 50. b4 ♜e6 51. b5 ♜f5 52. ♜h2 ♜e3 53. b6 ♜g4 54. b7 ♜h3+ 55. ♜g1 ♜g3+ 56. ♜xg3+ ♜xg3 57. b8=♜ e1=♜#]

46... ♜d6 47. ♜g7+ ♜e7 48. ♜d4+ ♜e6 49. ♜c4+ ♜f6 50. ♜c3+ ♜f7 [It is not too late to fall for the following simple trap: 50... ♜e5?? 51. ♜xe5+ ♜xe5 52. f4+! ♜d4 (52... ♜xf4 53. ♜f2 e1=♜+ 54. ♜xe1 ♜e3 55. b3 (55. b4 55... ♜d4 56. ♜f2 ♜c4 57. ♜e3 ♜xb4 58. ♜f4 ♜c5 59. ♜g5 ♜d6 (59... ♜d4 60. ♜h6 ♜e3 61. ♜xh7 ♜f2 62. ♜xg6 ♜xg2 63. ♜xf5) 60. ♜h6 ♜e6 61. ♜xh7 ♜f7 62. g3 ♜f6 63. ♜g8 g5 64. h5)) 53. ♜f2 ♜d3 54. ♜e1]

51. ♜c4+ White still tries to provoke his opponent. A primitive blockade of the pawn would be simply and slowly refuted: [51. ♜e1 51... ♜e4 52. g3 f4 53. gxf4 ♜d3 54. f3 ♜xf3]

51... ♜g7 52. ♜c3+ [The other check is not better: 52. ♜d4+ 52... ♜h6 53. ♜f4+ g5 54. hxg5+ ♜g6]

52... ♜h6 53. ♜e1



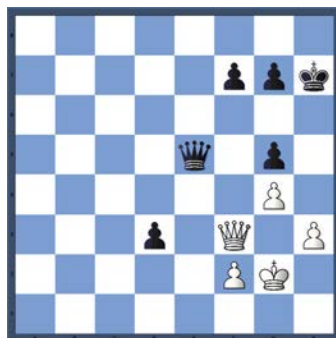
53... ♜e4 54. g3 ♜h5 55. ♜h2 h6 Black wants to secure his

king against some mating ideas like Qe1-c1-g5. [Black could also have won after 55...♖d3 56.♖c1 h6 57.b3 ♖d1 58.♖e3 e1=♖]

56.b4 ♖d3 57.♖h1 ♖c3! A very instructive example where the difference of activity of both queens is remarkable. **0-1**

(17) Romanishin, O.-Karpov, A.

Moscow, 1983



45...♖b5!! In this Soviet Championship I was one of Anatoly Karpov's trainers. This extremely strong move was found after many hours of analysis! [45...♖d4 was wrong in light of 46.♖f5+ ♔g8 (46...♔h6 47.♖xf7) 47.♖c8+]

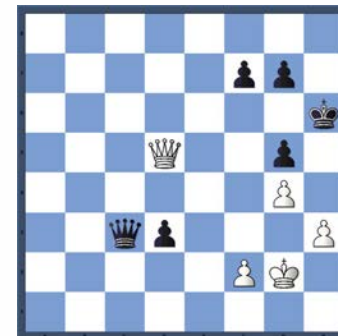
46.♖e4+ [46.♖xf7 immediately loses to 46...d2—+ 47.♖f3 ♖b1]

46...♔h6 47.♖d4 ♖c6+ 48.♔g3 ♖c7+! [48...♖c2? was premature: 49.♖d7 d2 50.♖xf7 ♖c3+ 51.♔h2 ♖e5+ 52.♔g2]

49.♔g2 ♖c2 50.♖e4 [Now the previous defensive idea does not work: 50.♖d5 50...d2 51.♖xf7 ♖c6+ 52.♔g3 ♔h7—+]

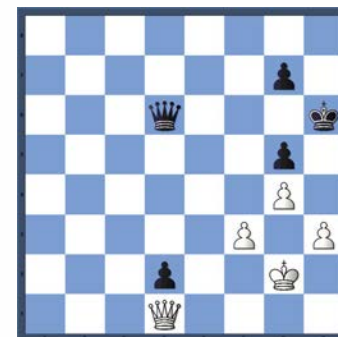
50...♖c3 51.♖d5 [51.h4 According to Karpov, this desperate counter attack would not save the game: 51...gxh4 52.♖f5 g6 (52...♖c6+ 53.f3 ♖g6 54.♖d5 f5 55.♔h3) 53.♖xf7 ♖c6+ 54.♔h2 (54.f3 54...♔g5 55.♔h3 ♖d6 56.f4+ ♖xf4 57.♖e7+

♔h6 58.♖xh4+ ♔g7 59.♖e7+ ♖f7—+) 54...♔g5—+; Or 51.♖e3 51...♖c6+ 52.♖f3 ♖d7 53.♖d1 d2 54.f3 ♖d3]



51...d2 52.♖xf7 ♖c6+ 53.f3 [After 53.♔h2 Black needs to find the following precise win: 53...♔h7! 54.♖f5+ ♖g6 55.♖d7 ♖c2 56.♖e8 (56.♖f7 56...♖c8 57.♖d5 ♖c7+ 58.♔g2 ♖c2 59.♖f7 ♖c6+—+) 56...♖c7+ 57.♔g2 g6—+]

53...♔h7 54.♖b3 ♖d6 55.♖c2+ ♔h6 56.♖d1 The white queen is finally limited to a poor defensive position and Karpov easily improves his position.



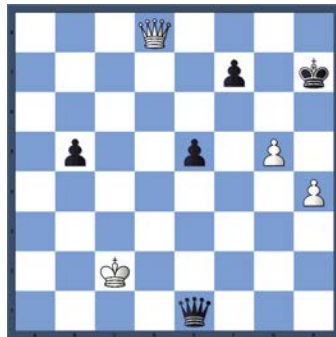
56...♖d3 57.♔f2 ♔g6 58.♔g2 ♔f7 59.♔f2 ♔f8 [As in the previous game, it is necessary to simply be careful and not to allow some stupid check. 59...♔e6 60.♖e2+]

60.♔g2 ♔e7 61.♔f2 ♔d6 62.♔g2 ♔c5 White cannot stop the black king from coming to b2 and then Qd3-c2 finally

clears the way for the passed pawn. Great technique! **0-1**

(18) Mikhalechishin, A. - Gufeld, E.

Nikolaev, 1981

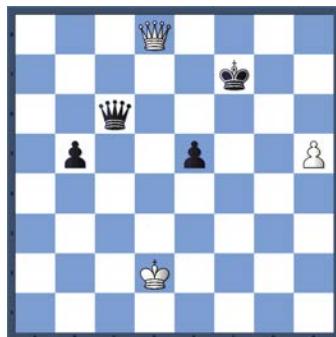


46.g6+! Using a tactical motif to open the black king and create different perpetual possibilities.

46...♔g7 [46...♔xg6 47.♚g5+ ♔h7 48.♚h5+ ♔g7 49.♚g5+ ♔f8 50.♚d8+ was one of such cases.]

47.gxf7 ♚e2+ 48.♔c1 ♔xf7 49.h5! White pushes his passed pawn as quickly as possible. He is ready to exchange his h-pawn against Black's b-pawn. Endings with a central pawn are not dangerous for the defending side as his king is close to the pawn.

49...♚c4+ 50.♔d2 ♚c6



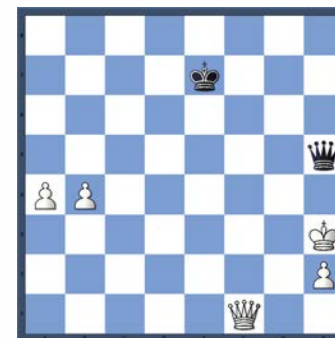
51.♚h8! It is necessary to try and push the pawn anyway.

51...♚d5+ 52.♔c3 ♚c4+ 53.♔b2 ♚d4+ 54.♔b3 ♚a4+ 55.♔b2 ♚b4+ 56.♔a2 ♚d2+ 57.♔b3 ♚d3+ 58.♔b4 [58.♔b2 was possible, but White tries to attack the b5 pawn.]

58...♚c4+ 59.♔a5 ♚a4+ 60.♔b6 b4 61.h6 and Black can't play for a win as the white pawn is much more advanced. **1/2-1/2**

(19) Gutman, L. - Bellon Lopez, J.

Bruxelles II, 1987



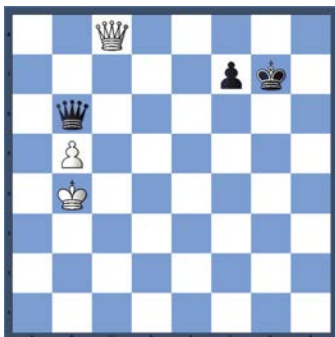
In many cases the queen can attack the opponent's king non-stop:

7.♔g3 ♚g5+ 8.♔f3 ♚f5+ 9.♔e2 [White cannot avoid the perpetual even with three extra pawns: 9.♔g2 9...♚g4+ 10.♔h1 ♚e4+ 11.♔g1 ♚xb4= (11...♚g4+=)]

9...♚e4+ 10.♔d2 ♚xb4+ 11.♔e3 ♚xa4 1/2-1/2

(20) Gulko, B. - Gurevich, D.

USA, 1994



Even with equal pawns there is some difference. There are pawns which are supported much better by the king and queen on their way to glory.

51. ♖c5! ♜e6 52. b6 ♜e4+ 53. ♜c4 ♜b1+ 54. ♖c5 White's plan is to come forward with the king and then try and promote the pawn.

54... ♜f5+ 55. ♜d5 ♜c8+ 56. ♖b5 ♜e8+ 57. ♖a6 ♜a4+ 58. ♖b7 f6? The black king is relatively safe from the opponent's queen's checks, so it was necessary to simply keep the position, with some chances for a perpetual.

59. ♖b8 ♜f4+ [59... ♜e8+ was met by 60. ♖c7]

60. ♖c8 ♜c1+ 61. ♖d8 ♜f4

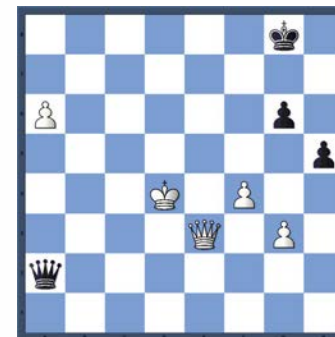


62. b7 The next step is achieved!

62... ♜b8+ 63. ♖d7 ♜g6 64. ♜e4+ ♜g5 65. ♜e3+ ♜g4 66. ♜d4+ ♜g5 67. ♜c5+ 1-0

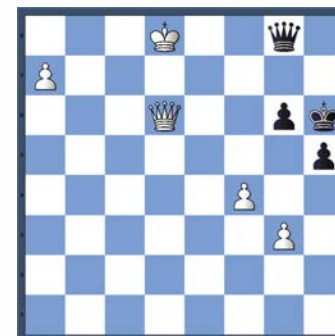
(21) Dlugy, Maxim - Benjamin, Joel

USA, 1988



62. ♜d3 ♜g7 63. ♖c5 ♜a5+ 64. ♖c6 The king comes closer to his passed pawn, which is the best strategy in queen endings.

64... ♖h6 65. ♜b5 ♜c3+ 66. ♜c5 ♜f6+ 67. ♜d6 ♜f5 68. a7 ♜e4+ 69. ♖c7 ♜c4+ 70. ♖d8 ♜g8+



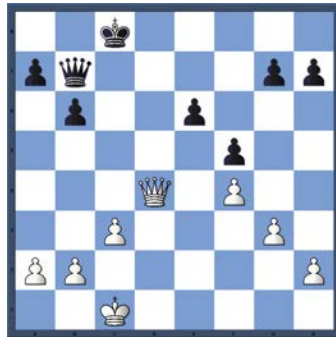
71. ♖e7! ♜a8 [71... ♜g7+ did not help: 72. ♖e8 ♜xa7 73. ♜f8+

♔g7 (73...♔h7 74.♚f7+) 74.♚xg7+ ♔xg7 75.♔e7 ♔h7 76.♔f7 ♔h6 77.♔g8 g5 78.f5]

72.♚d4 ♚b7+ 73.♚d7 ♚b4+ 74.♔f7 ♚c4+ 75.♔f8 ♚c5+ 76.♔g8 1-0

(22) Maroczy, G.-Betbeder Matibet, L.

Hamburg ol (Men), 1930



Here we will see how to create a passed pawn by exploiting a pawn majority on one flank.

23.♔c2 ♚a6 24.a4 ♚b7 25.♔b3 h5 26.♚d6 ♚f7 27.♔a3 ♔b7 28.h4 a5 29.b4 axb4+ 30.cxb4 ♚g6 31.♚d7+ ♔b8 32.♚d3 ♚f6 33.♔b3 ♚a1



34.a5! In order to create a passed pawn, the help of the queen is needed!

34...bxa5 35.♚b5+ ♔c8 36.♚c6+ ♔b8 37.♚b6+ ♔c8 38.♚xe6+ ♔d8 39.♚d5+ ♔e7 40.bxa5 ♚b1+ 41.♔a4 Now starts the second part of the plan- the king comes to help his pawn.

41...g6 42.a6 ♚a1+ 43.♔b5 ♚b2+ 44.♔c6 ♚f6+ 45.♔c7 ♚c3+ 46.♚c6 ♚e3 47.♔c8 1-0

Chess and the City. Are marriages among professional chess players healthy?



WGM Elisabeth Paehtz

Best rating: 2493

To marry someone from the same "field" always bears a certain risk. At chess this may even lead to terrible arguments, as compared to other sports there is no separation of sexes in most of the tournaments. Therefore the chance of actually facing your own husband or wife at the chess board during a tournament is not too low. The key question in that moment however is how to handle such a fate once it happens?

Most married couples I know would likely agree on a quick draw and solve that "issue" peacefully. But what if the difference of both partners is more than just a couple of rating points? And how are you going to prepare against each other when sharing a double room during the tournament?! Blackmailing him with sexual refusal is among those alternatives some women may funnily consider. But honestly the situation is much trickier than one may expect here.

I remember a hilarious article from Alina l'Ami about her experience playing her husband GM Erwin l'Ami at an open tournament not too long ago. In their case the rating difference is over 200 rating points, which naturally causes

some nasty side effects such as losing a couple of rating points and maybe dropping an important half a point for the overall result.

The good news about their story is that even though Erwin eventually dared to kick his dearest wife over the board they are still happily married.

Fortunately for me I only once had the "pleasure" of facing a "GM-boyfriend" during a round robin tournament in Germany. The awful discussions and fights it caused made me rather believe that marriages among two professional chess players of similar strength or let's say a rating difference not higher than 100 points for sure cannot be totally healthy. As for my part, I never wanted to have a repetition of that period even though eventually he believed to be "merciful" by offering a draw.

One of the main things I learned from that experience is that objectivity in that moment is out of the topic. Higher rated husbands automatically believe that being stronger or higher rated is a 100 percent safe bet. Unfortunately playing each other is just one of many problems professional chess couples have to deal with during their active times. Who would watch the kids and who is allowed to play is just another topic to mention here.

In any case there is quite a long list of happily married and strong chess players nowadays, which eventually makes me believe that there is no clear answer to the head line topic. It all actually just depends.

To finish this topic of, let me give you the top three of the strongest chess couples of today's chess society:

- 1: Grischuk - Zhukova
- 2: Peter Heine Nielsen - Victoria Cmilyte
- 3: Fressinet - Skripchenko

Clash of the Titans

(23) Botvinnik, Mikhail
- Pachman, Ludek[A07]

Leipzig ol (Men) fin-A(8),
1960.11.04



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.g3 d5 2.♘f3 g6!? One of many setups for Black. Nowadays the most popular is [2...c6 3.♗g2 ♗g4]

3.♗g2 ♗g7 4.O-O [4.d4 4...♘f6 5.O-O O-O 6.c4 leads to the Gruenfeld.]

4...e5 5.d3 ♘e7 6.♘bd2 O-O 7.e4



7...d4!? Black decided to close the center immediately. The alternative was [7...♘bc6 Now if White plays 8.Re1 then d4 seems to be strong because the rook is placed on e1. 8.exd5 (8.c3 8...a5 is typical to avoid b4.) 8...♘xd5 9.♘c4 h6 10.♖e1 ♖e8 11.♗d2 ♗f5!? with the idea of pushing e4 at some moment. The position is equal.]

8.a4 f6 Black is preparing Be6. Also interesting- with the same idea- was [8...h6 9.♘h4 (9.♘e1 9...♘bc6 10.f4 f5! and the black

pieces are better placed for this fight.) 9...♘bc6 (9...g5 doesn't work here because the b7 pawn is hanging. 10.♘f5 ♘xf5 11.exf5 ♗xf5 12.♗xb7 ♘d7 13.♗g2 White is better, but taking the rook looked dangerous.) 10.f4 exf4 11.gxf4 g5! (11...f5∞) 12.fxg5 hxg5 13.♘f5 Both sides trol important squares. White keeps a strong knight on f5 but Black is going to create a blockade on e5 and f4. 13...♘g6 14.♘f3 g4↗]

9.♘h4 ♗e6 10.f4 ♘d7



11.f5!? Another plan also deserves attention: [11.♘hf3! 11...♖h8 (11...h6 12.f5!? A typical pawn sacrifice. 12...gxf5 13.♘h4 fxe4 14.dxe4 (14.♗xe4 There is no time for a blockade because of 14...f5↗) ; 11...♗h6 12.♘c4→) 12.fxe5 ♘xe5! (12...fxe5 13.♘g5 ♗g8 14.♗h3 with Ne6 next.) 13.♘xe5 fxe5 14.♘f3 h6 and only Black can be better thanks to his space advantage.]

11...♗f7 12.fxg6 [12.g4 12...♗h6! A strong strategic move. If Black manages to exchange the limited bishop then his position will be very good.]

12...hgx6 13.♗h3 White activates his bishop. [13.♘df3!? with the idea of playing g4-g5.]

13...♘c5 [13...♗h6! 14.♗xd7 (14.♖g4! → 14...♗e8) 14...♖xd7 15.♖xf6 ♗e3+ 16.♖h1 g5 17.♘f5 ♘xf5 18.♖xf5 ♗e6 19.g4 ♗xf5 20.exf5



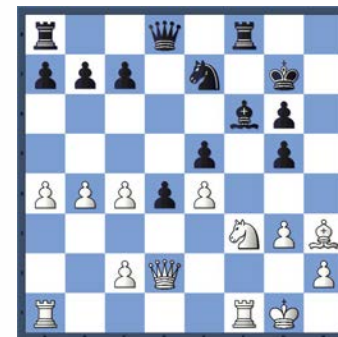
20...fxg5! Otherwise White will block the position after Ne4 and get the advantage. 21.fxg5 f7 Now Black will be able to break the position after e4. 22.fxg5 c6+ 23.g1 h8!—+]

14.b4 e6 15.c4 g5

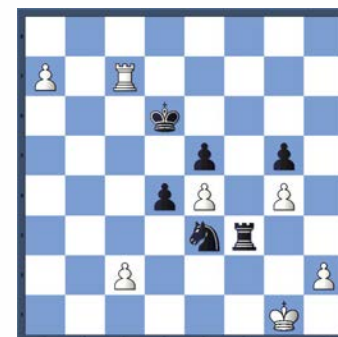


16.fxg5! This move was not forced, but the idea is very concrete. [16.fg2 16...fxc4 (16...a6 17.fxe5!; 16...e6 17.b5 with Ba3 next.) 17.dxc4 d7 18.fxd3 and White should be better because of the weak light squares.; 16.fg4!?]

16...fxg5 17.f3 fxc4 18.dxc4 f6 19.f2 g7



20.fxe1! This shows the deep understanding of Botvinnik. For him it was more important to improve the knight (Nd3-Nc5-Ne6) than to allow Black to get rid of the limited bishop. [20.fxg5 20...fxg5 21.fxg5 c6 22.fxd8 (22.fxd2 22...a5) 22...fxd8 23.fxf8 (More accurate is 23.fab1) 23...fxf8 24.fb1 There is an interesting variation after 24...a5 (24...f3! 25.f1 f3 26.a5 f4) 25.bxa5 fxa5 26.f5 fxc4 27.fxb7 f3 (27...f7? 28.f6) 28.fxc7+ f6 29.a5 g5 30.f5 (30.g4 30...f3 31.fg2 (31.a6 31...fxh3 32.a7 f3 33.fxc6+ (33.h3 33...f1+ 34.fh2 f1—+) 33...f7 34.fxc7+ f6 35.fxc6+ f7 36.fxc7+ f6



37.fxc6+ f7!—+ and there is no perpetual check.) 31...f4 32.a6 fxg4 33.a7 fxg2+ 34.fh1 f2 35.h3 f1+ 36.fh2 f1—+ 30...fxf5 31.exf5 fxf5 32.a6 e4 33.a7 fa5 34.h4 gxh4 35.gxh4 d3 36.cxd3 exd3 37.f2 d2 38.f2 fa2=; 20.a5!]

20...a5 Black is trying to get control of the dark squares.

21.♖d3 b6 Preventing Nc5.

22.c5 ♜c6 [22...axb4 23.♞xb4 ♜a5 24.♞ab1±]

23.b5 ♜b4 24.♜xb4 axb4 25.cxb6 [25.♞xb4 25...♙e7]

25...cxb6 26.♞xb4 Black is looking for drawing chances in an opposite colored bishops position.

26...♙e7 In my opinion the idea to create counterplay over the c-file looks interesting. [26...♞a7 with Rc7 next.; 26...♞c7]

27.♞c4 ♙c5 28.♙g2 ♞d6 29.♙e6 White improves his bishop.

29...♞xf1 30.♞xf1 ♞f8 31.♞xf8 ♞xf8 32.♞d5 ♙h6 33.♙g4 ♞d6 [33...d3 34.♞xd3 ♞f2+ 35.♙h3± and the white king is safe.]

34.♙f3 ♙g7 35.♞xd6 [35.♙e2?! 35...♞xd5 36.exd5 e4!=]

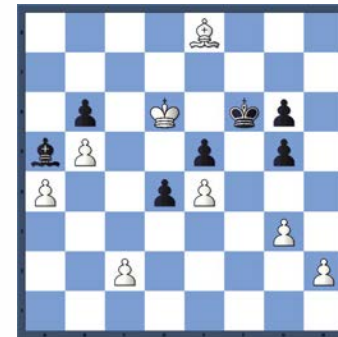
35...♙xd6



36.♙e2! and because of the weak pawn on g6 White is winning in this endgame.

36...♙b4 37.♙d3 ♙f6 38.♙c4 ♙e1 39.♙d5 ♙b4 40.♙d7 ♙e1 41.♙e8 ♙c3 [41...g4 42.♙d7+-; 41...♙d2 Let's analyze

this endgame a bit. It looks like Black managed to defend all the weak pawns at the same time. I suppose that the main winning idea is to sacrifice the bishop. 42.♙c6 ♙a5 43.♙c7 ♙g7 The only move. 44.♙d6 ♙f6 (44...♙c3 45.♙e6+-)



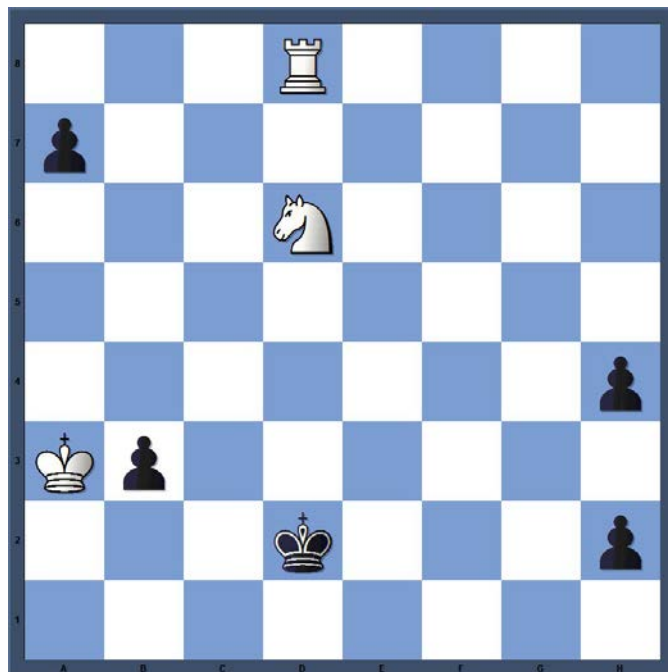
45.♙xg6! This is the point! 45...♙xg6 46.♙xe5 ♙c3 47.♙d5 ♙f7 48.♙c6 (48.h4 48...g4 with Be1 next.) 48...♙a5 49.♙d7 with the idea to promote the e-pawn. 49...♙f6 50.♙d6 ♙b4+ 51.♙d5 ♙c3 52.e5+ ♙e7 53.h4 g4 54.h5 ♙d2 55.a5! (55.h6 55...♙xh6 56.a5 bxa5 57.b6 ♙d8! and Black is on time! 58.e6 ♙f8 59.♙c6 ♙c8+-) 55...♙xa5 (55...bxa5 56.b6 ♙d8 57.e6 ♙g5 58.h6! and it is impossible to catch the three pawns!) 56.h6 ♙f8 57.e6 ♙b4 58.♙c6 ♙c5 59.♙d7 ♙b4 60.h7 ♙g7 61.e7 ♙xe7 62.♙xe7 ♙xh7 63.♙f6+-]

42.♙c6 1-0

Surprise section / study

(24) Reti

1. +-



Solutions

(25) Wang Chen(2521)-Wei Yi(2724)

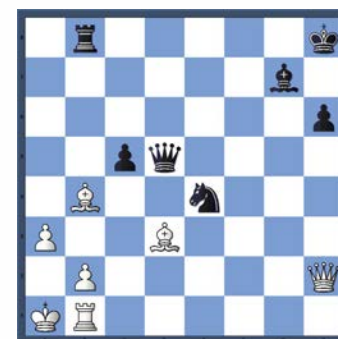
Danzhou GM, 2015.07.10



26...♔d4! 27. ♕xa6 ♖b8+! 28.g3 ♘xf2 0-1

(26) Levin, E(2519)-Ozolin, M(2384)

Polugaevsky memorial, 2015.07.07



56...♖xb4! 0-1 [56...♖xb4 57.axb4 ♕a8+--+]

(27) Yuffa, D(2474)-Alekseenko, K(2513)

Polugaevsky memorial, 2015.07.10



35...♙b2! 0-1 [35...♙b2 36.♙xb2 ♖d1+-+]]

(28) Bok, B(2562)-Pruijssers, R(2507)

Dutch Championship, 2015.07.10



42.♙h8+! ♔g6 **43.♖d6+** ♔h5 [43...♖e6 44.♙e8+ ♔f6 45.♖xe6+ ♙xe6 46.♙xe6+ ♔xe6 47.♔g3+-]]

44.g4+ [44.♖xh6+-]]

44...♔h4 [44...♔g5 45.♙d8+ ♔f4 46.♖d4+-]]

45.♖xh6+-

(29) Ernst, S(2545)-Giri, A(2791)

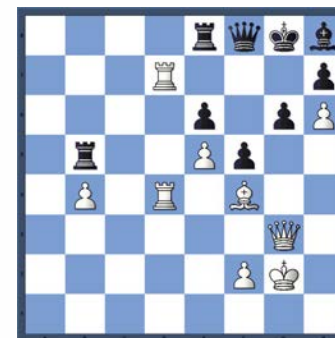
Dutch Championship, 2015.07.10



31...g5! 0-1 [31...g5 32.♙e7+ ♖xe7 33.♙xe7 ♙h4#]]

(30) Vidit, S(2643)-Artemiev, V(2660)

Lake Sevan, 2015.07.13



45.♙xg6+! 1-0 [45.♙xg6+ 45...hxg6 46.h7#]]

(31) Mickiewicz, P(2356)-Safarli, E(2649)

Najdorf memorial, 2015.07.10



17...♙xh3! 18.gxh3 ♖d3! —+ 19.♙xc6 bxc6 20.♚a7 ♚d7
21.♘g5 [21.♚e3 21...♙xh3 22.♘e1 ♚g4+—]

21...♖xh3 22.f3 ♖g3+ 0-1

(32) Cheparinov, I(2683)-Bjornsson, S(2327)

Najdorf memorial, 2015.07.11



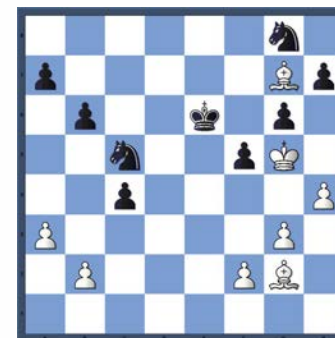
26.♘h6!! ♙d5 [26...gxh6 27.♚f6+ ♖g7 28.♚xf8+—]

27.♚f5! ♙f7 [27...♚d6 28.♖xc8+—]

28.♖xc8 ♚xc8 29.♘xf7+— ♙g8 30.♚e6 1-0

(33) Bromberger, S(2556)-Volokitin, A(2654)

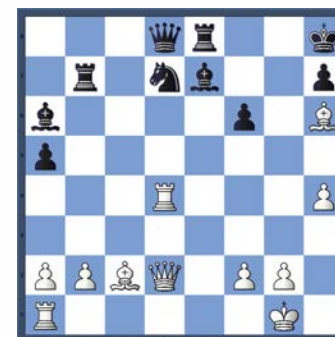
Najdorf memorial, 2015.07.12



40...♙f7! 41.♙h6 ♘e6# 0-1

(34) Lomasov, S(2305)-Bukavshin, I(2647)

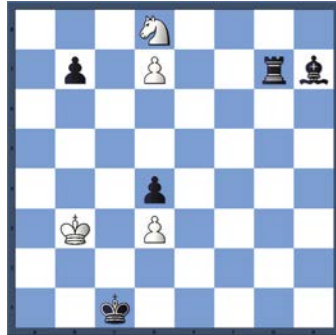
Voronezh Masters, 2015.07.12



24.♙g7+!! ♙xg7 25.♖g4+ ♙f8 [25...♙f7 26.♚d5+ ♙f8
27.♚g8#; 25...♙h8 26.♚h6+—]

26.♚d5 1-0

(35) Bent



1. ♖f7! ♜g8 2. d8=♚ ♜xd8 3. ♖xd8 ♙xd3 4. ♖xb7 ♙c2+!
5. ♚a2! d3 6. ♚a1!! d2 7. ♖a5! d1=♚ 8. ♖b3+! ♙xb3=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 179

31st of July 2015

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Editorial Preface

The Biel super tournament came to an end. It was a great and fighting event, with a lot of very interesting fights until the very end.

The winner is Maxime Vachier-Lagrave with 6.5/10. Second place goes to Wojtaszek with 6/10 and places 3-4 were shared by Adams and Navara.

The tournament was a big disaster for Rapport, who finished on a very poor 2/10.

In the open section Sutovsky came first with 7.5/9, while second place was shared by 6 people, the best of whom on tiebreak was Solak and 3rd position went to Bok.

The Leiden Open was won by David Howell with a fantastic 8.5/9.

In the Politiken Cup everything is still unclear after 8 rounds, but the best players are leading.

An interesting match is going on in China, once again between the Russians and the Chinese in a knock-out system, where if one player wins, he stays against the next opponent. At the moment Karjakin is crushing the Chinese men, as he won 3 matches in a row, so there are only two Chinese left against the full Russian team.

We hope you enjoy issue Nr 179!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Best game of the past week

(1) Vachier Lagrave, Maxime (2731)
- Adams, Michael (2740) [C89]

48th Biel GM 2015(8),
2015.07.28



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

An important theoretical battle in the Marshall defense. Vachier-Lagrave manages to get the advantage of the two bishops, which he manages to convert into a full point.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.O-O ♙e7 6.♖e1
The old main line with 6.Re1 has started to come back into fashion because there were already too many games for the 6.d3 line and people know which directions to choose against it.

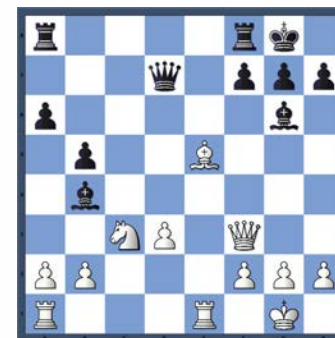
6...b5 7.♙b3 O-O 8.c3 d5 The Marshall Gambit. The main reason why White started to play 6.d3.



9.exd5 ♘xd5 10.♘xe5 ♘xe5 11.♖xe5 c6 12.d3 The alternative and the old main line is 12. d4.

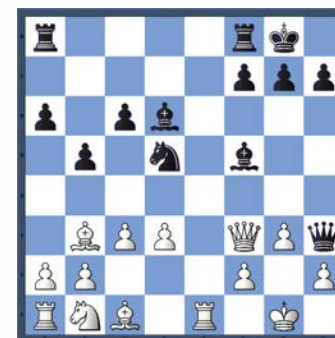
12...♙d6 13.♖e1 ♙f5 14.♙f3 ♙h4 [Carlsen probably wanted

to avoid the theoretical discussions and played the rare
14...♙g6 15.♙xd5 cxd5 16.♙f4 d4 17.cxd4 ♙b4 18.♘c3 ♙xd4
19.♙e5 ♙d7



It looks like a typical compensation with the two bishops, however Anand found the brilliant 20.♘d5!! f6 (With the idea of 20...♙xe1 21.♘f6+! gxf6 22.♙xf6+-) 21.♘xb4 fxe5 22.♙d5+ ♙xd5 23.♘xd5 ♙xd3 24.♖xe5± With a healthy extra pawn for White in the Anand-Carlsen, Shamkir 2015 game.]

15.g3 ♙h3



16.♙e3 This is the new development of the theory! White gives back the material advantage, but he quickly finishes the development and aims for a positional advantage. [Most of the games continue with 16.♙xd5 16...cxd5 17.♙xd5 ♖ad8 18.♙g2 ♙xg2+ 19.♙xg2 ♙xd3 and this endgame is considered to be a relatively easy draw despite the pawn down.]

16...♙xd3 17.♘d2 ♚f5 18.♙d4 ♖ae8 The new move! [Adams himself as White had a game for this position. That game also continued with 18...♖fe8 19.a4 h6 20.♙g2 ♚xf3+ 21.♙xf3 just like our game. The difference of having the a8 rook on e8 will be seen in the following move...]

19.♙g2 h6 20.a4 ♚xf3+ 21.♙xf3 ♖e6!? This is the point of playing Rae8. First of all Black now takes back on e6 with check and also after axb5 his rook is not pinned on the a-file.

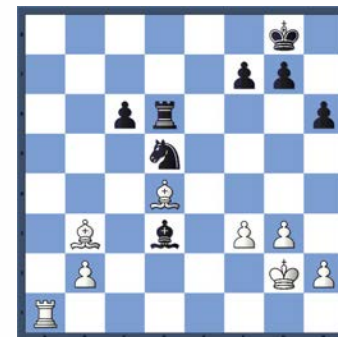
22.axb5 axb5 23.♙g2 White prepares to take on e6 followed by Ra6 and he leaves from the check after fxe6! [An important line is 23.♖xe6 23...fxe6+ 24.♙g2 c5! 25.♖a6 ♖d8! and Black holds his central pawns and pieces together and closes the light squared bishop with c4 next move.]

23...♖fe8 [Black could now play 23...♖xe1 24.♖xe1 and in the endgame it is definitely more useful to have the king on g2 rather than on f3, but White keeps some initiative after playing Ne4 next move.]

24.♖xe6 ♖xe6 25.c4! The only way to activate the knight now. More and more pieces are getting traded off, but the game still goes on and Black still needs to solve some problems.

25...bxc4 26.♘xc4 ♙e4+? A very strange check after which Black loses the two bishops and ends up in an inferior endgame. [Black should have saved his bishop with 26...♙c7 and the game should soon end in a draw.]

27.f3 ♙d3 28.♘xd6 ♖xd6 Of course the material is very limited, but still the bishop pair is the bishop pair. We already know from Karpov's games that this kind of advantage might become very unpleasant. Black is threatening with Nf4, therefore White removes his king from the check.



29.♙f2! += There is no concrete way of forcing further exchanges, which means that White will be able to create new threats and torture Black in the long term.

29...♖d7 30.♖a3! White is threatening to win a piece after taking on d5 and on d3. He is asking the bishop to choose a diagonal. Its ideal place would be on d5, but of course it requires very long maneuvering. Black would like to ensure the safety of the c6 pawn by putting his bishop to b5, therefore removing it on the b1-h7 diagonal is also not principled.

30...♘c7 [30...♙b5?? allows an unexpected forced mate after 31.♖a8+ ♙h7 32.♙c2+ g6 33.♖h8#]

31.♙e3 ♘d5 32.♙c5! Of course White does not want to repeat, he can play for a win without risking anything. In an open position, the two bishops can always avoid exchanges and force repetitions.

32...f6 Black wants to give his king some air and bring it to f7. Later it gets stuck because of this move, but it is not easy to suggest something, White keeps the initiative of the two bishops in any case.

33.♙a4 ♙b5 34.♙c2! The c6 pawn is safe now, but the b5 bishop got a bit out of the game. White focuses his pieces on the kingside.

34...♖c7 [It was logical to play 34...♔f7 to avoid Bg6, but White retains his advantage after 35.♕f5 ♖b7 Black needs to avoid a check on the 7th rank. (35...♖c7? nicely loses to 36.♕d6 ♖b7 37.♕c8! The rook loses all its squares on the 7th rank, so it is forced to give free way to the white one... 37...♖b6 38.♖a7+ ♔g8 (38...♔g6 39.♕f8+-) 39.♕e6+ ♔h8 40.♕f8+-) 36.♕c8 ♖c7 37.♖a8 The threat is Bd6. It is getting more and more unpleasant.]

35.♕g6! ♖a6 Adams wanted to avoid the penetration on the a-file with Ra7, but this also sends the knight out of the game. [35...♖d2+ 36.♔e1 ♖e2+ (36...♖xb2? 37.♖a7+- wins because of the weak back rank.) 37.♔d1 ♖a6 38.♕d6 ♖xh2 39.♖e3 creates new problems.]

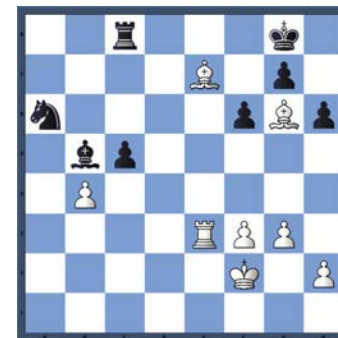


36.♖e3! The a-file is finally closed but there are other opened files, which the white rook is ready to occupy and create threats on the back rank. Suddenly both black minor pieces are getting out of the game.

36...♖d8 37.♕e7 ♖c8 38.b4 White lays a trap and Adams falls into it. This move provokes c5, which seemingly leads to the complete elimination of the queenside, which would definitely bring Black closer to the draw. However this move loses concretely... [White could have also squeezed with 38.h4!? 38...♖c7 Black quickly brings back his knight to the

center, but it is strongly met by 39.♕d6! ♖d5 40.♖a3!± Black successfully controls the e7 square and the invading along the e-file, but now again White returns to the a-file! It is extremely unpleasant to defend such a position!]

38...c5 [38...♖c7 39.♕d6 ♖d5 40.♖a3± also looks terrible. White invades on a7 and advances all his pawns on the queenside. Black can only sit and wait.]



39.♕f5! Black suddenly has problems with the c5 pawn.

39...♖c6 [The other option 39...♖c7 also loses after 40.♕d6! ♖c6 41.♖e8+ ♔f7 42.♖f8# What an unusual mate!]

40.♕d7! White wins material and the game is over!

40...cxb4 [40...♖b6 41.bxc5+-]

41.♕xc6 ♕xc6 42.♖e6 Black resigned! An excellent job by the two bishops. **1-0**

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot

Best rating: 2749

(2) Wagner, Dennis (2569)

- Brkic, Ante (2607) [E04]

48th Biel Master Open(6.9),
2015.07.25

1.d4 The 18-year old Dennis Wagner is number 18 in the world under 20 standings. He just finished the Biel open by sharing a very honorable 2-7th place and continues improving his rating. Here is a very clean game he won mid tournament.

1...♖f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.g3 dxc4 5.♙g2 ♙b4+ 6.♙d2 a5



7.a3!? This is a new way to counter the rare line Black employed against the Catalan.

7...♙xd2+ [7...♙e7 8.♙a4+ ♙d7 9.♙xc4 should be slightly better for White, as the a5 pawn is oddly placed.]

8.♘bd2 b5 9.b3 White is in no rush of winning back the sacrificed pawn and simply continues with his development.

9...cxb3 10.♙xb3 c6 The position becomes a bit cramped after this but the alternative is also not great: [10...♙a6 11.O-O O-O 12.♙b2 ♘bd7 13.♘e5! After this important move the tactics work for White. 13...♘xe5 14.♙xa8 ♘d3 15.♙c3! ♘xf2 16.♙g2±]

11.O-O O-O 12.♖fc1 ♙b7



13.♙b2 This position occurs for the 4th time and after this game the score is 4-0!

13...♘a6? N It seems clear that Black was surprised in the opening and doesn't choose the best defense. [13...♘bd7 14.♘e1! e5! (14...♘b6 15.♙xc6 ♙xc6 16.♖xc6 ♖b8 17.♙xb5 ♙xd4 18.♘b3 and White will win the a5 pawn. Giri-Fridman 2015.)]

14.♘e5 Logical and strong. The c6 pawn falls and it is difficult for Black to save his queenside.

14...♘d5 15.♘xc6 ♙xc6 16.♖xc6 b4 [16...♙b8 17.♘b3 ♘ac7 18.e4 ♘e7 19.♖c2± White has the c-file and a strong outpost for the knight on c5, so defense is very difficult.]

17. axb4 ♖axb4



18. ♖c5 Increasing the pressure. The knights are not very stable with the weakness on a5 and the possible e4 push.

18...a4 19. ♖c4 ♖a5? It was about time to say goodbye to the a-pawn by playing 19...Rb8 and trying to regroup. Now White wins big material by force. [19...♖b8 20. ♖a3]

20. e4! ♖d3 [20...a3 21. ♖b3 ♖fb8 22. exd5 ♖xd5 23. ♖c2 Black has no compensation for the piece.]

21. ♖c2 ♖5b4 [21...♖3b4 22. ♖b1+-]

22. ♖c3 e5 23. ♖f1! Simply grabbing the material.

23...exd4 24. ♖xd4 ♖ad8 [24...♖fd8 was just a little more testing: 25. ♖xd3 ♖xd4 26. ♖xd4 ♖d8 27. ♖xa4! ♖xd4 28. ♖xa5 g6 29. ♖c4 ♖xd2 30. ♖a7 with an easy win.]

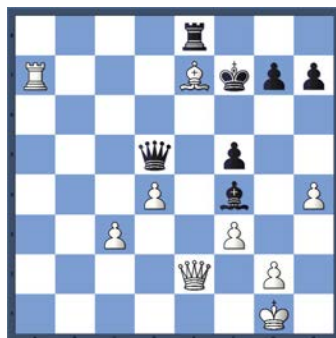
25. ♖xd3 A strong move following a strong opening brings Wagner a nice point against his solid Croatian opponent. **1-0**

Puzzle section

(3) Adams, M(2740)-Eljanov, P(2723)

Biel, 2015.07.23

1... -+



(4) Yilmaz, M(2582)-Ludwig, P(2228)

Biel Open, 2015.07.20

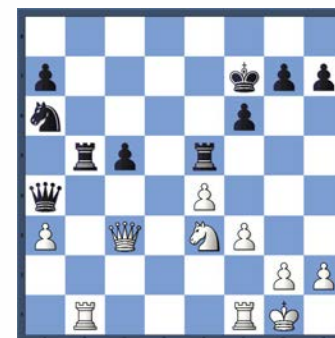
1. +-



(5) Rakhmanov, A(2626)-Sjodahl, P(2425)

Politiken Cup, 2015.07.27

1. +-



(6) Haubro, M(2382)-Maze, S(2575)

Politiken Cup, 2015.07.27

1. +-



(7) Verstraeten, R(2312)-Shankland, S(2656)

Politiken Cup, 2015.07.27

1... ♠



(8) Warakomska, A(2274)-Movsesian, S(2653)

Czech Open, 2015.07.24

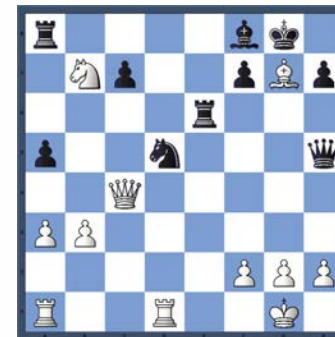
1... --+



(9) Fuchs, F(2250)-Boruchovsky, A(2539)

Czech Open, 2015.07.24

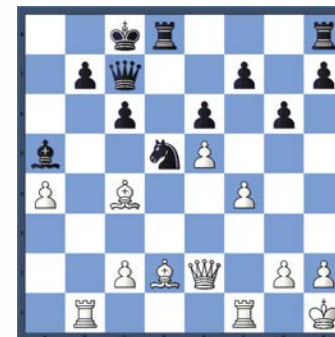
1... --+



(10) Predke, A(2537)-Smid, M(2250)

Czech Open, 2015.07.24

1. +-



(11) Kochetkova, Y(2309)-Westerberg, J(2452)

Czech Open, 2015.07.25

1... -+



(12) Tkachiev, V(2661)-Loiseau, Q(2429)

Andorra Open, 2015.07.21

1. +-



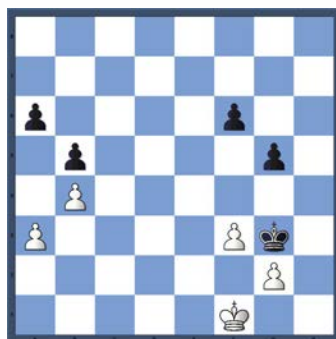
Endgame section

(13) Hillarp Persson, Tiger (2563)
- Ragger, Markus (2688)

Politiken Cup,
2015.07.28



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



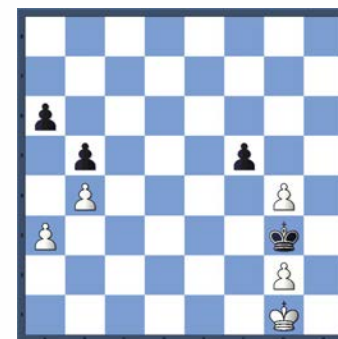
We might think that pawn endgames are very easy, but as we will see they are difficult even for good grandmasters. It is clear that Black has the upper hand in this position because his king is more active, but the question is if it is enough to win the game?! White only waits with Kg1-f1 and Black has different attempts to seize the initiative...

41...f5 This move perfectly serves all attempts of making progress. Sooner or later Black had to play this move.

42.♔g1 g4 [Running to the queenside with 42...♔f4 also fails because White is in time to block the king with 43.♔f2 ♔e5 44.♔e3 ♔d5 45.♔d3 f4 White gets into zugzwang, but the good position of the f3 pawn prevents the black's king penetration back on the kingside. 46.♔c3!=; 42...f4 43.♔f1

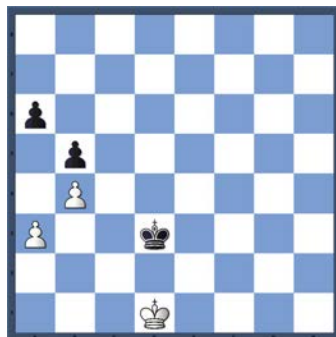
♔h2 brings nothing because White simply waits with 44.♔f2 ♔h1 45.♔f1=]

43.fxg4



43...♔xg4 This is in general the winning method. Black temporarily gives up the activity of his king, but thanks to a zugzwang, it soon goes back to g3, followed by advancing the f-pawn, which opens the path towards the a3-b4 pawns... [43...fxg4 44.♔f1 ♔h2?? with the idea of pushing g3, but of course White plays 45.♔f2! first and suddenly Black is in trouble.]

44.♔f2 f4 [White resigned here! An amazing story, because the game is drawn! Hillarp Persson was sure that Black plays Kg3 and f3 and collects the a3-b4 pawns with his king, but he forgot about a saving motif! 44...f4 45.♔g1 ♔g3 (Keeping the queenside pawns on the board also fails because after 45...♔f5 46.♔f2 ♔e4 47.♔e2 ♔d4 48.♔f3 Black must turn back with 48...♔e5= (Because White wins the pawn race after 48...♔c3?? 49.♔xf4 ♔b3 50.g4 ♔xa3 51.g5+-)) 46.♔f1 f3 47.gxf3 ♔xf3 48.♔e1 ♔e3 49.♔d1 ♔d3



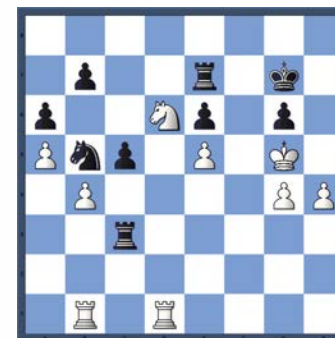
It seems to be over, but actually White saves the game with 50.a4!! using the fact that the number of the a-pawns does not matter if the white king reaches the corner. 50...bxa4 (50...♔c3 51.axb5 axb5 52.♔c1 ♔xb4 53.♔b2!= White holds the opposition and the draw!) 51.♔c1 ♔c3 52.♔b1 ♔xb4 53.♔a2=] **0-1**

(14) Eljanov, Pavel (2723)
- Wojtaszek, Radoslaw (2733)

48th Biel GM 2015(8.1),
 2015.07.28



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
 Best rating: 2737



White was pushing all game long and it seemed like the win could be very close. White's king position on g5 is fantastic and the idea of getting the rook to f6 could end the game at any moment. But Black still has some drawing chances because of the equality of the material.

64.♖f1?! Quite an inaccuracy, even if it is a very logical move. [64.♖dc1! was the winning move. 64...cxb4 (64...♖xc1 leads to a hopeless endgame. 65.♖xc1 cxb4 66.♗xb5 axb5 67.♖c5 followed by Rxb5 and Black can simply resign.) 65.♖xc3 bxc3 and now White had to see the very strong 66.♖c1! Black can't protect the c3 pawn. 66...♗d4 (66...♗xd6 67.exd6 ♖d7 68.♖xc3 ♖xd6 69.♖c7+ followed by Kxg6 and White is winning.; 66...♖c7? 67.♗e8+) 67.♖xc3 ♗c6 Now it is easy to see that White is much better, but how to end the game?! 68.h5! Protecting the e5 pawn through tactics. The white king will

penetrate to f6. 68...gxh5 69.gxh5 ♖xe5 70.h6+ ♔h7 71.♔f6 and White is winning material.]

64...♗d4 Black takes his chance!

65.bxc5 The right move. [65.♖f6 would lead to a very complicated position. 65...♗f3+ 66.♖xf3 ♖xf3 67.bxc5 ♖e3 and it is hard to say who is better here.]

65...♖xc5



66.♖be1?! and again White misses the best continuation. [66.♗e8+! This beautiful move would lead to a winning position. 66...♔g8 (66...♖xe8 loses to 67.♖xb7+ ♔g8 68.♖ff7 and White will mate in the next couple of moves.) 67.♔h6!! The king is the strongest piece in endgames! :) 67...♖xe8 68.♖xb7 and although he's a piece up, Black can't hold the position. The threat of playing ♖ff7 is deadly. White is winning here.]

66...♗c6 The e5 pawn is falling.

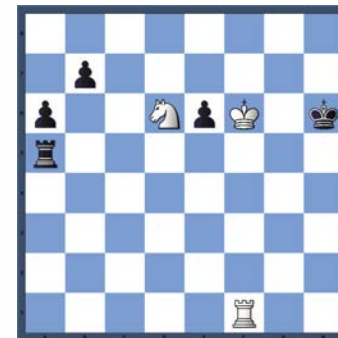
67.h5 White's last hope is the h-pawn.

67...gxh5 Of course Black is trying to simplify the position as much as possible.

68.gxh5 ♗xe5 The position remains very tactical. The black king is in big danger.

69.h6+ Winning the f6 square for the white king.

69...♔h7 70.♔f6 [70.♖xe5 is not enough for the win since after 70...♖xe5+ 71.♔f6 Black is in time to take the last pawn. 71...♖xa5 72.♔xe7 ♔xh6 73.♔f6 There is still some mating net around the black king, but he escapes.]



73...♔h5! and we are looking at a theoretically drawn endgame.]

70...♗c6 The only move yet again. [70...♗g6? 71.♗e4! and the threat of playing Ng5 next is deadly.]

71.♖c1 [Now it is already not enough for White to play 71.♗e4 71...♖xa5 (71...♖h5 would lead to a very dangerous position. 72.♗g5+ ♔xh6 73.♖g1! and because the a5 pawn is still there, White keeps some winning chances.) 72.♗g5+ and 72...♖xg5! 73.♔xg5 e5! With the threat of playing e4 and Re5. White is better but Black's chances to draw are good.]

71...♖xa5 Black takes the last white pawn.

72.♖g1 Eljanov is trying all his chances. [72.♖xc6 72...bxc6 73.♔xe7 ♔xh6 would also lead to a draw.]

72...♖h5 Simple and logical. If Black is able to win the h6 pawn, the position will definitely be a draw.

73. ♖xc6



73...♔d7! The only move. [73...bxc6? was not enough for a draw since after 74. ♕xe7 ♖xh6 although the h6 pawn is gone, the black king remains in the mating net. 75. ♖f7 ♖h3 76. ♗e4 Followed by Nf6 with mate during the next moves.]

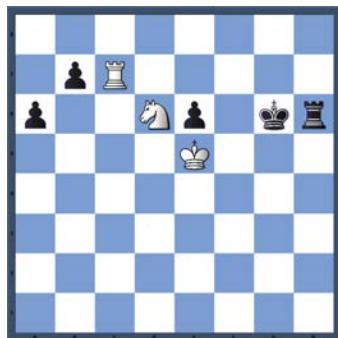
74. ♖c8 [White is not winning after 74. ♕xe6 74...bxc6 75. ♕xd7 ♖xh6 76. ♕e7 and Black is in time with 76...♖g6! Freeing the black king from the h-file.]

74...♖xh6+ 75. ♕e5 If White could keep both rooks on the board, the position might be winning, but it is impossible.

75...♖g7! The best move, leaving White no choice but to exchange one pair of rooks.

76. ♖xg7+ [76. ♖e1 would lead to more or less the same: 76...♖h5+ 77. ♕xe6 ♖h6+ 78. ♕d5 ♖g5+ 79. ♖e5 ♖xe5+ 80. ♕xe5 and the position is a draw.]

76...♕xg7 77. ♖c7+ ♕g6



78. ♖xb7 White will slowly win all the black pawns, but it does not matter any longer. The defence with R+N vs R is quite simple and Wojtaszek masters it easily. The rest of the game needs no comments, it is just a good example for those who need to repeat how to hold such a theoretically drawn position.

78...♖h1 79. ♖e7 ♖e1+ 80. ♗e4 a5 81. ♖xe6+ ♕f7 82. ♖a6 a4 83. ♖xa4 ♕e7 84. ♖a7+ ♕e8 85. ♕d5 ♕f8 86. ♖b7 ♕e8 87. ♗d6+ ♕f8 88. ♗f5 ♖e2 89. ♕d6 ♖e1 90. ♗g7 ♖d1+ 91. ♕e6 ♖e1+ 92. ♕f6 ♖f1+ 93. ♗f5 ♕e8 94. ♖a7 ♕d8 95. ♕e6 ♖e1+ 96. ♕d5 ♖d1+ 97. ♗d4 ♕e8 98. ♖h7 ♕f8 99. ♕e5 ♖e1+ 100. ♕f6 ♖f1+ 101. ♗f5 ♕e8 1/2-1/2

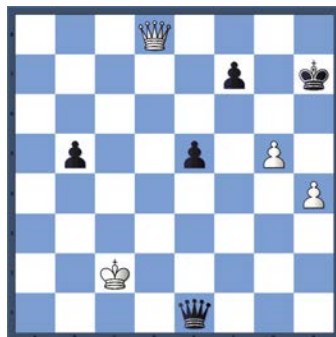
Golden knowledge



GM Adrian Mikhalchishin
FIDE Trainers Commission Chairman

(15) Mikhalchishin, A.-Gufeld, E.

Nikolaev, 1981



As it was mentioned in the previous part, the main task in queen endings is to create a passed pawn. An own passed pawn can compensate huge material deficits.

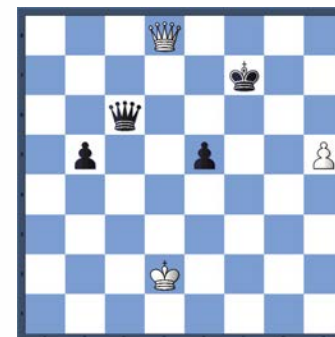
46.g6+! Exploiting tactics to open the black king and to create different possibilities for a perpetual.

46...♔g7 [46...♔xg6 47.♚g5+ ♔h7 48.♚h5+ ♔g7 49.♚g5+ ♔f8 50.♚d8+ was one of such cases.]

47.gxf7 ♚e2+ 48.♔c1 ♔xf7 49.h5! White pushes his passed pawn as fast as possible. He is ready to exchange his h-pawn

for Black's b-pawn. Endings with central pawn are not dangerous for the defending side as his king is close to the pawn.

49...♚c4+ 50.♔d2 ♚c6



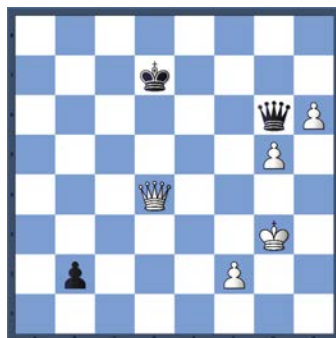
51.♚h8! It is necessary to try and push the pawn anyway.

51...♚d5+ 52.♔c3 ♚c4+ 53.♔b2 ♚d4+ 54.♔b3 ♚a4+ 55.♔b2 ♚b4+ 56.♔a2 ♚d2+ 57.♔b3 ♚d3+ 58.♔b4 [58.♔b2 was possible, but White tries to attack the b5 pawn.]

58...♚c4+ 59.♔a5 ♚a4+ 60.♔b6 ♚b4 61.h6 and Black can't play for win as the white pawn is much more advanced.
1/2-1/2

(16) Topalov, V.-Anand, V.

San Luis, 2005



72...♔e6 [Despite White's material advantage, Black could defend this position. 72...♚d6+! 73.♚xd6+ ♔xd6 74.h7 b1=♚ 75.h8=♚ ♚g1+ 76.♔f3 ♚d1+!! (76...♚xg5 77.♚d4+ ♔c6 78.♚c4+ ♔b6 79.♚f7!+-) 77.♔f4 ♚d2+ 78.♔f5 ♚d3+=]

73.♚xb2 [73.♚c4+ 73...♔d7 74.♚d5+ (74.♚b5+ 74...♔e7 75.♚e5+ ♔d7 76.h7 b1=♚ 77.h8=♚ ♚g1+ 78.♔f4 ♚xf2+ 79.♔g4 ♚g2+ 80.♔f4 ♚f2+=) 74...♚d6+=]

73...♚xg5+ 74.♔f3 ♚h5+ 75.♔e4 ♚f5+? [The correct application of the mechanism was 75...♚g6+ 76.♔f4 ♚xh6+=]

76.♔e3 ♚g5+? [Once again, it was better to play 76...♚h3+! 77.♔d4 ♚g4+ 78.♔d3 ♚f5+]

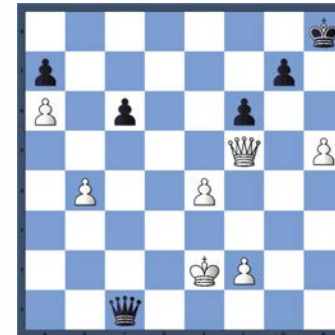
77.f4+- ♚g3+ 78.♔e4 ♚e1+ 79.♔f3 ♚f1+ 80.♔g3 ♚g1+ 81.♚g2 ♚b1! 82.♚c6+ ♔f7 83.♚d7+ ♔f6 84.♚g7+ ♔e6 85.♚e5+ [Here it was possible to transpose to a theoretical position: 85.f5+! +- 85...♚xf5△ 86.h7 ♚d3+ 87.♔h4]

85...♔f7 86.♚h5+ ♔f6 87.♚g5+ ♔f7 88.♚h5+ ♔f6 89.♚h4+ ♔f7 90.h7? [Now White falls under the mechanism of perpetual. He should have played 90.♚g4! 90...♚e1+ 91.♔g2 ♚c3 92.♚f5+ ♔g8 93.♔f2!]

90...♚e1+! 91.♔g4 ♚d1+= 92.♔g5 ♚d8+ 93.♔h5 ♚d5+! 94.♚g5 ♚h1+ 95.♚h4 ♚d5+ 96.♔g4 ♚d1+ 97.♔g3 ♚e1+ 1/2-1/2

(17) Mikhalchishin, A.-Cvetkovic, S.

Trnava II, 1988



1.h6!! The main task at the moment is to expose the opponent's king.

1...♚c4+ [After 1...♚xh6 2.♚c8+ ♔h7 3.♚xc6± the pawns are becoming unstoppable.]

2.♔f3 ♚xa6 [Slightly better would be 2...♚xb4 3.hxg7+ ♔xg7 4.♚d7+ ♔g6 5.♚xc6±]

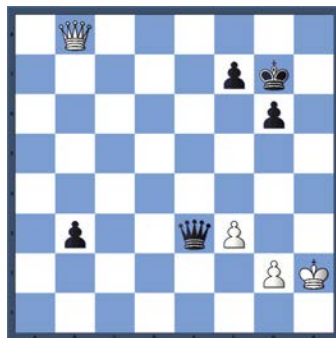
3.e5!! Another blow with the same idea- to open the king or to create an own strong passed pawn on the e-file. [3.♚g6 3...♚d3+ 4.♔g2 ♚d7 5.hxg7+ ♚xg7 6.♚xg7+ ♔xg7 7.f4 ♔f7=]

3...♚a3+ [or 3...gxh6 4.♚xf6+ ♔h7 5.♚f5+ ♔g7 6.♚d7+ ♔g6 7.e6+-]

4.♔g2 ♚xb4 5.exf6! gxh6 6.♚c8+ ♔h7 7.♚d7+ ♔g6 8.♚g7+ ♔h5 9.f7 [9.f7 9...♚e4+ 10.♔h2 ♚f4+ 11.♔g1 ♚c1+ 12.♔g2+-] **1-0**

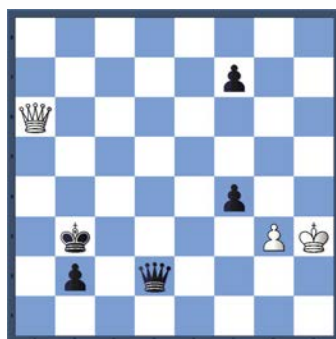
(18) Shneider, A.-Agzamov, G.

URS-ch FL, 1982



42. ♖b4 g5 43. ♖b5 ♕f4+ 44. g3 ♖d2+ 45. ♔h3 b2 46. f4 gxf4 47. ♖g5+ ♔f8 48. ♖c5+ ♔e8 As always in such cases, the king has to join the own passed pawn. The journey seems to be long and impossible, but it almost always works in the end!

49. ♖e5+ ♔d7 50. ♖h5 ♔c7 51. ♖c5+ ♔b7 52. ♖b5+ ♔a7 53. ♖c5+ ♔a6 54. ♖c6+ ♔a5 55. ♖c5+ ♔a6 56. ♖c6+ ♔a5 57. ♖c5+ ♔a4 58. ♖c4+ ♔a3 59. ♖a6+ ♔b3

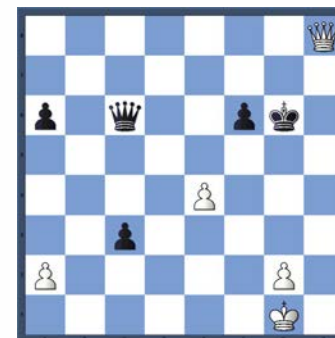


Mission practically completed!

60. ♖b7+ ♖b4 61. ♖xf7+ ♔a3 62. ♖a7+ ♖a4 63. ♖c5+ ♔a2 64. ♖d5+ ♖b3 0-1

(19) Hoi, C.-Mikhalchishin, A.

Budapest, 1989



40. ♖g8+ ♔h6 41. ♔h2 [Wrong was 41. ♖h8+ 41... ♔g5 42. ♖g7+ ♔f4 and the white pawns are in danger.]

41... ♖xe4 42. ♖d8 ♖c6 43. ♖f8+ ♔g6 44. ♖g8+ ♔h6 45. ♖h8+ ♔g6 46. ♖g8+ ♔f5 As it was said before, the main plan in such positions is to come with the king to the own passed pawn.

47. ♖g7 ♔e5 48. ♖e7+ ♔d4 49. ♖d8+ ♔e3 50. ♖e7+ ♔f2 51. ♖a7+ ♔f1 52. ♖g1+ ♔e2 There are no more checks and it is now possible to advance the c-pawn.

53. ♖d4 c2 54. ♖g4+ ♔d2 55. ♖d4+ ♔e2 56. ♖g4+ ♔d3 57. ♖g3+ ♔d2 58. ♖f4+ ♔c3 It is not so easy, but it is still necessary to go around.

59. ♖c1 ♖d6+ 60. ♔h3 ♖d3+ 61. g3 ♖d7+ 62. g4



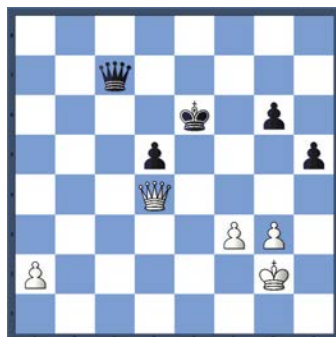
62...♔d4! A very strong centralizing move of the queen.

63.♔g3 ♕e5+ 64.♔h3 a5 65.a4 [White had no useful moves, for example 65.♔g2 65...♔d3 66.♕f1+ ♕e2+ 67.♕xe2+ ♔xe2 was also losing.]

65...♔b3 66.♔g2 ♕b2 67.♕e3+ ♔a2 0-1

(20) Taimanov, M.-Gligoric, S.

Santa Fe, 1960



White's passed pawn is clearly more dangerous than Black's, plus White's queen is much better placed in the center. It is necessary to first stop Black's planned check on c2.

50.♕d3 ♔f6 [50...♕g7 51.a4± ♕b2+ 52.♔h3 ♕f6 leads nowhere.]

51.♕xd5± ♕c2+ 52.♔h3 ♕c1? [Bad was 52...♕c8+? 53.♔h4!; It was necessary to at least try and create some threats with 52...g5!±]

53.♕d4+ ♔e6 [53...♔f7 54.♕f4+--]

54.♕e4+ ♔d7 55.♔h4! The king is ready to penetrate Black's position.

55...♕d2 56.♕e5! This pawn sacrifice prepares the king breakthrough. [Of course not 56.a4? 56...♕h2+]

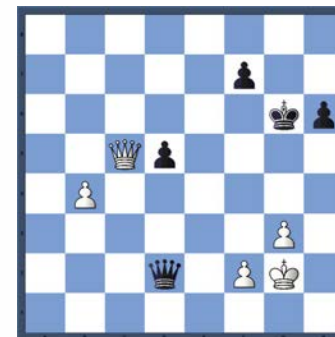
56...♕xa2 57.♔g5 ♕f2 58.♕f4 ♕b6 59.♕f7+ ♔c8 60.♕xg6+— ♕d8+ [Or 60...♕e3+ 61.♔xh5 ♕xf3+ 62.♕g4+]

61.♔xh5 ♕d5+ 62.♔h4 ♔b8 [It was not possible to get one pawn back, because of the pawn ending: 62...♕xf3 63.♕g4+--]

63.♕g5 ♕d1 64.♕f4+ ♔a7 65.♕e3+ ♔a6 66.g4 ♕d6 67.f4 ♕h6+ 68.♔g3 ♔b5 69.♕d3+ ♔a4 70.g5 1-0

(21) Nikolic, Pr-Seirawan, Y.

Wijk aan Zee, 1995



48...d4? It looks like it is the natural move to push this passed pawn, but the black king is not very well placed, so it was necessary to try and weaken the white pawn defense. And

to centralize the own queen, which was enough to save the game. [48...♖d3 49.b5 ♖e4+ 50.♔h2 d4 51.b6 d3=]

49.b5 d3 50.♖d6+ f6? [Better was 50...♔g7 51.♖d4+ ♔g6 52.b6± ♖e2△(52...♖c2△? 53.♖e4+) 53.♖c4! but White still keeps winning chances, as the black pawn and queen are not well coordinated.]

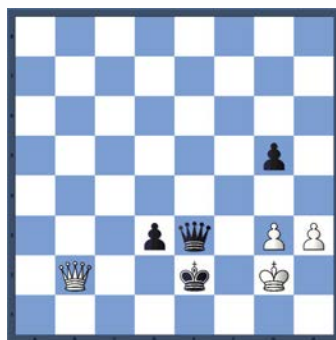
51.♖d5 ♖e2 52.♖g8+ ♔f5 53.♖c4! ♖c2 [The pawn endgame is lost: 53...♖e4+ 54.♖xe4+ ♔xe4 55.♔f1 ♔d4 56.♔e1+—]

54.♖d5+! +— ♔g6 55.b6 ♖b1 [After 55...d2 56.♖g8+ ♔h5 (56...♔f5 57.♖h7+) 57.♔h3! the black king is in a mating net.]

56.b7 d2 57.♖g8+ ♔h5 58.♖f7+ ♔g5 59.f4+! ♔g4 60.♖e6+ ♔h5 61.b8=♖! 1-0

(22) Romanishin, O.-Akopian, V.

Linares , 1996



52...♖d2 [In such cases it is premature to push the pawn: 52...d2? 53.♖b5+ ♖d3 54.♖e5+ ♔d1 55.♖a1+ ♔c2 56.♖a2+ ♔c3 (56...♔c1 57.♖a1+ ♖b1 58.♖c3+ ♔d1 59.♖f3+=) 57.♖a3+ ♔d4 58.♖a7+= With a perpetual.]

53.♖f6! [The best square for the queen. Other moves were much weaker: 53.♖e5+ 53...♔d1+—+; 53.♖b7 53...♔e3+—+]

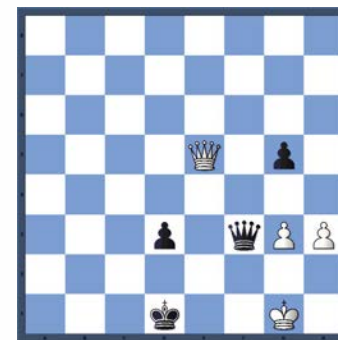
53...♔d1+ The best move, as others were giving White good drawing chances. [53...♔e1+ 54.♔g1 ♖e3+ 55.♔g2 ♖e2+ 56.♔g1 d2 57.♖a1+! d1=♔ (57...d1=♖ 58.♖a5+=) 58.♖a5+ ♖d2 59.♖xd2+ ♔xd2 60.h4!≠; 53...♔e3+ 54.♔g1 ♖d1+ 55.♔g2 ♖e2+ 56.♔g1 ♖f3! 57.♖xg5+ ♔e2 58.♖b5 ♖xg3+—+]

54.♔f1 ♖e1+ 55.♔g2 ♖e4+ 56.♔f2 ♔c2 57.♖f7! [Weaker was 57.♖a6 57...♖e2+ 58.♔g1 ♖f3—+]

57...♖d4+ 58.♔g2 ♖e4+ [Once more premature was 58...d2 59.♖f5+! ♖d3 60.♖c5+ ♖c3 61.♖f5+ ♔c1 62.♖xg5=]

59.♔f2 ♖e2+ 60.♔g1 ♖e3+ 61.♔g2 ♔d1 62.♖b3+ ♔e2 63.♖b2+ ♖d2 64.♖d4? [A strange move, as it was possible to obtain the previous position after 64.♖f6 This just shows that the defense is extremely difficult.]

64...♔d1+ 65.♔g1 ♖e1+ 66.♔g2 ♖e2+ 67.♔g1 ♖f3! 68.♖e5

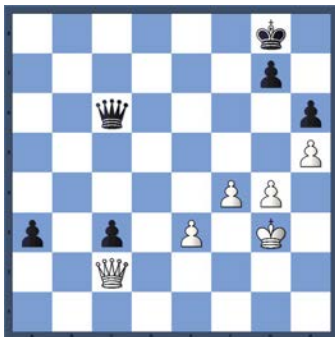


68...g4!! [It is funny, but pushing the passed pawn was wrong again: 68...d2? 69.♖xg5 ♖e4 (69...♔e2 70.♖b5+ ♖d3 71.♖h5+=) 70.♔f2 ♖e2+ 71.♔g1 ♔e1 72.♖f4!≠]

69.hxg4 d2⊖ 70.g5 ♔c2 71.♖c5+ ♖c3 72.♖f5+ ♔b2 73.♖f2 ♔b1 74.♖f5+ ♖c2 0-1

(23) Mikhalchishin, A.-Aronian, L.

Calvia , 2004



53...♞c4! Black has to try and push his own pawns as fast as possible. White can try to create some threats against the black king, but Black's play is far more real.

54.♞g6 a2 55.♞e8+ ♔h7 56.g5 [It was not possible to get a perpetual: 56.♞g6+ 56...♔h8 57.♞e8+ ♞g8—+]

56...♞g8 [Simpler was 56...hxg5!—+]

57.♞a4



57...♔h8! A good prophylactic move to avoid any check from c2.

58.gxh6 c2! 59.♞a3 ♔h7! Preparing the exit of the queen to c4.

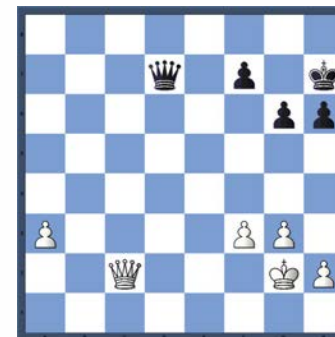
60.♞c3 g6! A small tactical idea.

61.♔f2 ♔xh6 62.hxg6 ♞g7 63.♞c5 The last try to create some threats, but they are easily refuted.

63...♞f6 64.g7 ♔xg7 65.♞c7+ ♔h6 0-1

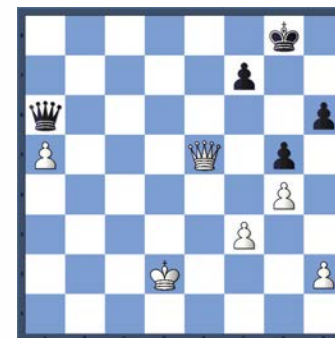
(24) Alekhine, A.-Reshevsky, S.

AVRO, 1938



It is not always possible to win simply- in many cases the weaker side can block the passed pawn.

44.♞a2 ♔g8 45.a4 ♞c6 46.a5 ♞a6 47.g4 g5 48.♔f2 ♞d6 49.♔f1 ♞a6+ 50.♔g2 ♔g7 51.♞b2+ ♔g8 52.♞b8+ ♔g7 53.♞e5+ ♔g8 54.♔f2 ♞a7+ 55.♔e2 ♞a6+ 56.♔d2



56...♞c4! It is very important to activate the black queen

since now there are threats of perpetual.

**57. ♖f5 ♜d4+ 58. ♔e2 ♜b2+ 59. ♔d3 ♜b3+ 60. ♔e2 ♜b2+
1/2-1/2**

Chess and the City. On the trail of Emanuel Lasker



WGM Elisabeth Paehtz

Best rating: 2493

In 1891 the upcoming World Champion Emanuel Lasker left for England because in that country it was possible to make a living from chess. In those times London counted as the chess capital in the world. Nowadays it is actually possible to make a living from chess even in non-chess-enthusiastic countries such as Germany, but Azerbaijan will surely be an improvement...

Why do I actually write this? Our strongest German player of all times, Arkadij Naiditsch, recently became a member of the Azeri National team. He was the only German ever to reach 2700+ and also the key player for winning the first Gold Medal at the European Team Championship in Porto Carras in 2011 since 1939.

Azerbaijan, as a member of the former USSR, is quite a chess loving country nowadays, especially with a sponsor like "Socar Energy", a company which is one of the most potent chess sponsors worldwide.



Picture by Fiona Steil-Antoni

Just like Lasker, Arkadij was never really in good terms with the German chess federation and eventually decided to leave us for a better perspective of his chess career, which certainly awaits him in a country like Azerbaijan.

After one of the most famous Azeri players, Vugar Gashimov, sadly passed away in 2014, the Azeri team was certainly weakened and this may just be one of the reasons for hunting a world class player such as Arkadij Naiditsch, who recently managed to beat the World Champion Magnus Carlsen twice. Another reason is certainly the fact that the next Chess Olympiad will be staged in Baku in 2016.

Rumor also has it that the initial idea of the Azeris was to hire world number two Fabiano Caruana, who however decided to play for the USA, where he spent most of his childhood.

Last but not least Emanuel Lasker became World Champion three years after he left Germany for London. So let's see what happens to Arkadij in 2018 - which will funnily also be the 150 birthday of Emanuel Lasker.

Clash of the Titans

(25) Pachman, Ludek
- Fischer, Robert James [E51]

Santiago(6), 1959



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.d4 d5 4.e3 A rare and quiet move. More popular are moves like [4.♘c3 ; and 4.g3]

4...♘c6 This is not a perfect place for the knight. Black had better plans, connected with c7-c5.



5.♘c3 [5.b3!? with the plan Bb2-Nbd2-Bd3-O-O etc.]

5...♗b4 The position transposes to a structure from the Ragozin Qa4+ line where White didn't lose time for Qa4-Qc2. [5...♗d6!? This is the only way to fight for the center. 6.cxd5 (6.♗e2 6...dxc4 7.♗xc4 O-O 8.O-O e5 and now Black is fine.) 6...exd5 7.♗d3 O-O (7...♗g4 8.♖b3) 8.O-O ♘e7 9.♖c2 Temporarily preventing Bf5.

9...a6 10.b3 g6 11.♗b2 ♗f5 12.♘e2 ♖e8 13.♘g3 ♗xd3 14.♖xd3 and without the light squared bishops the position should be equal.]

6.♗d2 [6.a3!? 6...♗xc3+ 7.bxc3 ♘a5! Otherwise White would play cxd5 and c4 next, with two bishops and a strong center. 8.cxd5 exd5 9.♗d3 O-O 10.♘e5 (10.O-O 10...♗g4 with the idea Bh5-Bg6.) 10...c5 11.O-O ♖e8 12.a4∞]

6...O-O 7.a3 ♗xc3 8.♗xc3 ♘e4 9.♖c2



9...a5 A typical move to prevent b4, taking space and preparing for the bishop to develop on a6. The alternative was more solid but a bit passive: [9...♘xc3 10.♖xc3 ♘e7 Improving the bad knight is obligatory. 11.♖c1! (11.♗d3 11...b6 12.e4 (12.O-O 12...dxc4 13.♗xc4 ♗b7=) 12...c5!? 13.dxc5 dxc4 14.♗xc4 bxc5 15.O-O ♗b7 and the black structure should be not a big problem, so the position is close to equal.) 11...dxc4 (11...b6 12.c5!?↑) 12.♖xc4 c6 13.♗d3 b6 14.O-O ♗b7 15.♗e4 ♖d6 16.♘e5 and White keeps some pressure.]

10.b3 b6 11.♗b2 White lost some time but saved the bishop.

11...♗a6 [11...♗b7 12.♗d3 ♘e7 13.O-O h6 14.b4 With a clear advantage for White.]

12.♗d3 f5 13.♖c1 ♖c8 14.O-O



14...Rf6! The rook joins the attack and protects the knight on c6. It looks to me like this is the only plan which can create some practical problems, otherwise White's position will be much better from a strategical point of view.

15...Rfd1 [15...cxd3 16...Rxd3 exd5 (16...Rxd5 17...Rc4 and after the queens exchange White will keep a stable advantage thanks to the pressure over the c-file and the weak e5 square.) 17...dxe5 18.dxe5 Rf6 19.f3 (19.b4 19...axb4 20.axb4 c6 21.f3 (21.b5 21...c5 22.Rcd1 Rf6 23.Rxd5+ Rf8 24.h3 Rg6 25.e6 Rg5 26.g4) 21...Rf6 22.h3 (22.fxe4 22...Rf6 23.Rf2 fxe4) 22...d3 23.Rfd1 Rf6 24.Ra3 Rf6 25.Rd6 and because the black pieces are badly placed White has good compensation.) 19...dxc5 20.Rxf5 dxb3 21.Rcd1 (21.e6!?) 21...c6 22.Rc2 dxc5 23.e4]]

15...Rf6 16...Rf1 White's idea is put the bishop on g2 to stop the attack.

16...g5! [16...d3 17...d1 It is important for White to keep the knight.; 16...d1 17.g3 (17...d1 17...d3 18.f3 Rf6 19.h3 dxe5 20.dxe5 Rg3 21.fxe4 Rf6 22.Rf3) 17...Rf6 and Black is looking for his chances over the light squares, for example with a4 or dxc4 and Bb7 next.]

17.cxd5



17...g4? Following the plan but too optimistic... Interesting variations could happen after [17...Rxf1! 18.Rxc6 (18.Rxf1 18...exd5 19.dxe5 dxe5 20.dxe5 g4! (20...c6 21.f3; 20...Rf6 21.Rc6) 21.f3 gxf3 22.gxf3 Rg6 23.fxe4 Rg5 24.exd5 Rg1+ 25.Rf2 Rg2+ 26.Rf1=) 18...Rf6 19.Rf6 (19.d1 19...dxf2! 20.dxf2 dxd1 21.Rxd1 Rf6 22.Rf6 exd5) 19...g4 20.Rg1 gxf3+ 21.Rxf3+ Rf7 22.dxe6+ Rf6 23.Rb7 Rf6 24.Rxc7+ Rxc7 25.Rxc7+ Rf7 26.Rc4+ Rf6 27.Rc7+]

18.Rxa6 gxf3 19.gxf3 [19.g3 19...exd5 20.Rxc8 Rxc8 White has a material advantage but his pieces are very limited and Black has a strong attack. 21.Rd3 Rf8 22.Rb5 Rf8! 23.Rxd5 Rf6!! 24.Rf6 Rf5+ 25.Rf1 Rf6+ and the knight on c6 controls the e5 and d8 squares.]

19...Rf6 20.Rf1? White is going to escape with the king but more easily winning was [20.Rf1! 20...Rf6 21.Rf1+ Rf8 22.Rf2+ and the white king is safe!]

20...Rf6 21.fxe4 A logical decision but maybe not the best. White had a difficult choice as to which piece to take. [21.Rxc8 21...Rf6 (21...Rf6 22.Rf2+ 23.Rf2 d3 dxe5+ 24.dxe5 dxc5+ 25.Rf4 Rf6 26.Rd4 Rxc2+ 27.Rxc2+) 22.Rf6+ Rf8 23.Rf2 Rf6 24.Rf3 Rxc2 25.Rxc2 Rf6 26.dxc6 d3 27.Rf4 dxd1 28.Rxd1 and again White has too many pieces.]

21...♖f8 The rook comes into play.

22.e5? White wants to avoid opening the f-file but more accurate was [22.♖d2! A very hard move to find for a human being. 22...fxe4 (22...f4 23.f3! This is the point of putting the rook on d2. 23...♖h3 24.♖h2 ♖xf3+ 25.♔e2 fxe3 (25...♖xe3+ 26.♔f1 ♖f3+ and now it is possible to play 27.♖f2+—) 26.♖xc6 ♖g3 27.♖xe6+ ♖8f7 28.♖c8+ ♖f8 29.♖xc7 ♖f2+ 30.♔d3+—; 22...♖g2+ 23.♔e1 ♖h1+ (23...fxe4 24.♔f1 ♖h1 25.♖c4+— White is on time.) 24.♔e2 fxe4 25.♖xh1 ♖xf2+ 26.♔e1 ♖xd2 27.♖xd2 ♖xh1+ 28.♔f1+—) 23.♖xe4 exd5



24.♖xd5+! ♖xd5 25.♔c4 ♖e7 26.e4!+—; 22.♔e1]

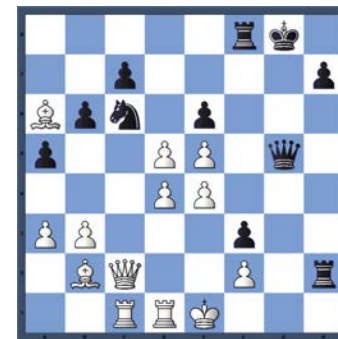
22...f4



23.e4?? It looks logical not to open the f-file but this move is already a big mistake. [23.♖xc6 23...♖h5! and the white

king will not escape. Black is winning! 24.♖xe6+ ♔h8 25.♔e1 ♖f3—; 23.♔e2! was the last call for escape. 23...♖xf2+ (23...fxe3 24.♖xc6+—) 24.♔xf2 fxe3+ 25.♔e2 ♖f2+ 26.♔d3 ♖b4+! 27.axb4 ♖g6+ 28.♔c3 ♖xc2+ 29.♖xc2 axb4+ 30.♔xb4 ♖xc2 31.♖g1+ ♔f8! With a complex position. White must be careful because his pieces are not coordinated.]

23...f3 24.♔e1



24...♖g1+?? This huge mistake changed the result of the game! Black should not lose control over the d2 square because White doesn't have any useful move anyway. For example [24...exd5 25.♔f1 (25.exd5 25...♖e7+—) 25...♖g1+— Threatening Qxf1.]

25.♔d2 ♖xf2+ 26.♔c3 The king has escaped and the knight is hanging, so White is winning now.

26...♖g3 [26...♖h4]

27.♖d3+— exd5 28.♖g1! Forcing the exchange of the active rook.

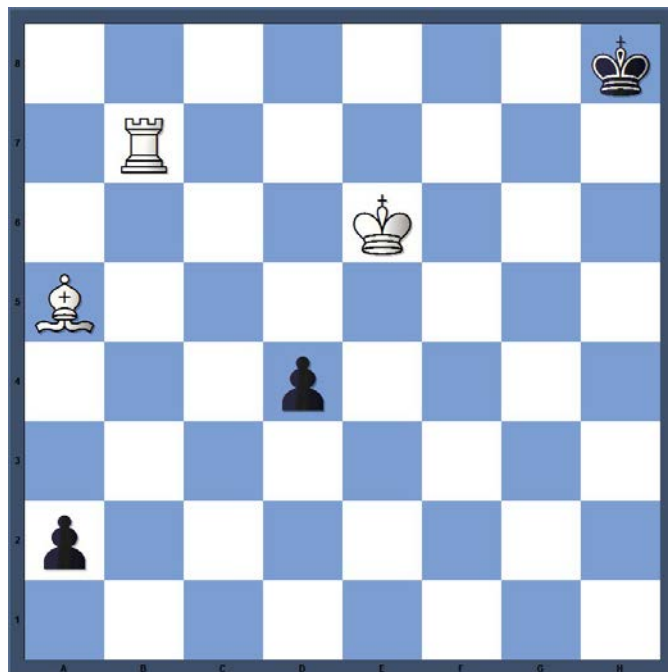
28...♖g2 29.♖xg2 ♖xg2 30.♖f1! Another exchange, which is the most practical way to convert a winning position.

30...dxe4 31.♖xg2+ fxg2 32.♖g1 ♖f2 33.♔c4+ ♔f8 34.♔d5 ♖f3+ 35.♔c4 b5+ 36.♔c5 ♖e7 37.♖xg2 ♖xd5 38.♔xd5 ♖xb3 39.♔xe4 b4 40.axb4 axb4 1-0

Surprise section / study

(26) Kondratiev

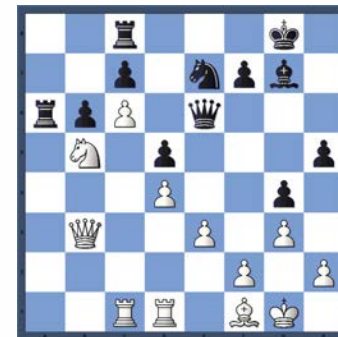
1. +-



Solutions

(27) Matlakov, M(2691)-Lu Shanglei(2595)

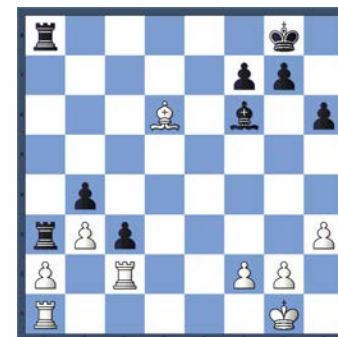
China-Russia match, 2015.07.15



30. ♖xc7! 1-0 [30. ♖xc7 30... ♖xc7 31. ♗xa6+-]

(28) Huang Qian(2457)-Pogonina, N(2465)

China-Russia match, 2015.07.15



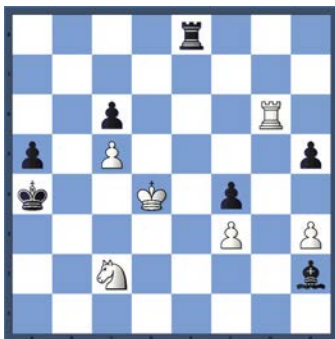
32... ♖xb3! 33. axb3 ♖xa1+ 34. ♖h2 ♖b1! 35. ♗xb4 ♗e5+
36. g3 ♖b2+-

(29) Ding Yixin(2439)-Kashlinskaya, A(2432)

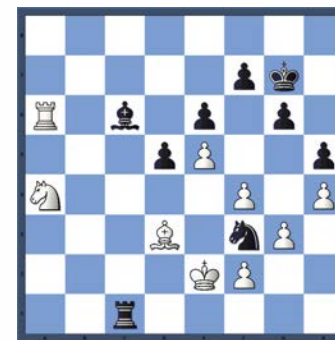
China-Russia match, 2015.07.16

**27...♖xe1+! 28.♖xe1 ♜e2+! 29.♔h1 [29.♖xe2 29...♚b1+—+]****29...♞xg3+!—+****(30) Sevan, S(2578)-Hovhanissyan, R(2611)**

Lake Sevan, 2015.07.14

**54.♖g2! ♜d8+ [54...♞g3 55.♔c4! +- ♜b8 56.♖g1+-]****55.♔c4 ♜d1 56.♖xh2+-****(31) Artemiev, V(2660)-Petrosian, T(2630)**

Lake Sevan, 2015.07.16

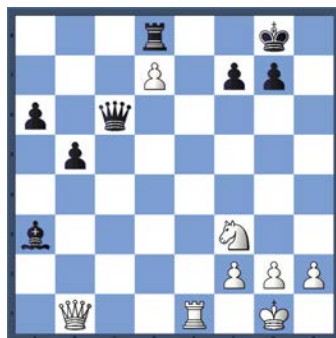
**40...d4! 41.♖xc6 [41.♞b2 41...♖e1#]****41...♞g1+! 42.♔d2 ♜xc6—+****(32) Swiercz, D(2634)-Czerwonski, A(2375)**

Najdorf memorial, 2015.07.15

**18.♙xd6! ♚xd6 19.e5 1-0**

(33) Olszewski, M(2562)-Chomczyk, M(2165)

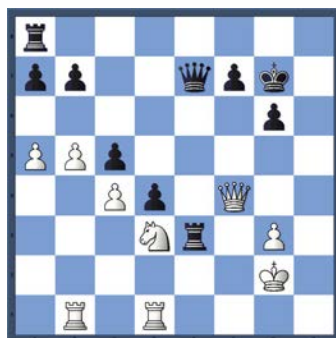
Najdorf memorial, 2015.07.15



30. ♖g5! g6 31. ♖b3! ♖f6 [31... ♖xd7 32. ♖xa3+-]
32. ♖xa3 ♖xg5 33. ♖e8+ ♔h7 [33... ♔g7 34. ♖f8+ ♔f6
 35. ♖e7+-]
34. ♖h3+ 1-0 [34. ♖h3+ 34... ♔g7 35. ♖h8#]

(34) Markowski, T(2574)-Mista, A(2585)

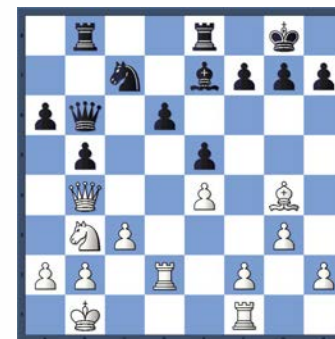
Najdorf memorial, 2015.07.16



33... ♖xd3! 0-1 [33... ♖xd3 34. ♖xd3 ♖e2+ 35. ♖f2 ♖xd3+-]

(35) Mista, A(2585)-Cheparinov, I(2683)

Najdorf memorial, 2015.07.17



27... a5!! 28. ♖xa5 [28. ♖xa5 28... d5+-]
28... ♖b7! 29. ♕d1 [29. ♕f3 29... ♖a8 30. ♖b4 ♖a4+-]
29... ♖a8 30. ♖b4 d5! 31. ♖c5 ♖a7+-

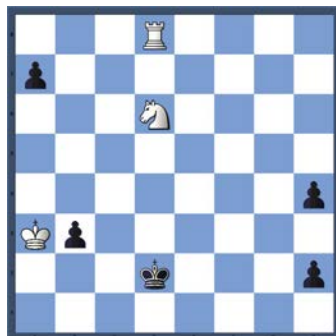
(36) Dragun, K(2586)-Bilguun, S(2361)

Najdorf memorial, 2015.07.18



16. ♕xe4! ♖xe4 [16... ♕xe4 17. ♕xf6 ♕xf6 18. ♖xe4+-]
17. ♖cd5! ♕xd5 18. ♖xd5 ♖xc4 19. ♖ac1!! ♖xd5 [19... ♖xe2
 20. ♖xc8+ ♔d7 (20... ♕d8 21. ♖xd8#) 21. ♖xb6#]
20. ♖xc8+ ♔d7 21. ♖xh8+-

(37) Reti



1. ♖e8!! [1. ♘e4+ 1... ♔e3]

1...h1=♚ 2. ♘e4+! ♔c1 [2... ♔e2 3. ♘g3+-; 2... ♔d3 3. ♘f2+-]

3. ♖c8+! ♚b1 [3... ♔d1 4. ♘f2+-]

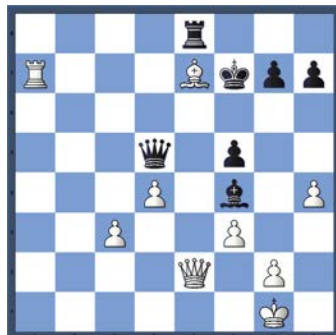
4. ♘d2+! ♔a1 **5. ♘xb3+** ♚b1 **6. ♘d2+** ♔a1 **7. ♖c2!!** ♚h3+ [7... ♔d5 8. ♖c1#]

8. ♘b3+ ♚b1 **9. ♖b2#**

Solutions

(30) Adams, M(2740)-Eljanov, P(2723)

Biel, 2015.07.23



48...♙b8! —+ 49.♚a2 ♜xa2 50.♞xa2 ♙g3 0-1

(31) Yilmaz, M(2582)-Ludwig, P(2228)

Biel Open, 2015.07.20



21.g4! gxf4 [21...♞h3 22.♙xg5+—]

22.gxh5+—

(32) Rakhmanov, A(2626)-Sjodahl, P(2425)

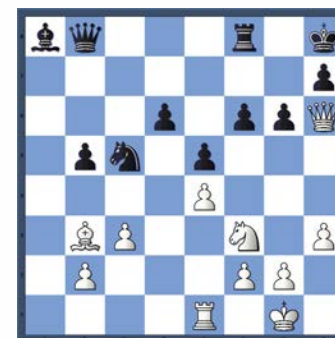
Politiken Cup, 2015.07.27



27.♞c4+!! ♜xc4 28.♘xc4 1-0 [28.♘xc4 28...♞xb1 29.♘xe5+ fxe5 30.♞xb1+—]

(33) Haubro, M(2382)-Maze, S(2575)

Politiken Cup, 2015.07.27



28.♘h4!! ♘xb3 [28...♞e8 29.♘xg6+! ♞xg6 30.♞xf8+—]

29.♘xg6+ ♙g8 30.♞e3!! +— ♞f7 [30...hxg6 31.♞xg6+ ♙h8 32.♞h5+ ♙g8 33.♞g3#]

31.♞g3 ♞e8 32.♘xe5+ [32.♘f8+! 32...♙h8 33.♘xh7! +— ♞xh7 34.♞xf6+ ♞g7 35.♞xg7#] 32...♙h8 33.♘xf7+—

(34) Verstraeten, R(2312)-Shankland, S(2656)

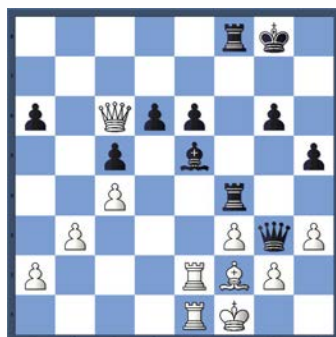
Politiken Cup, 2015.07.27



13...♘dc5!! 14.dxc5 ♘xc5 15.♚d2 ♚xb5±

(35) Warakomska, A(2274)-Movsesian, S(2653)

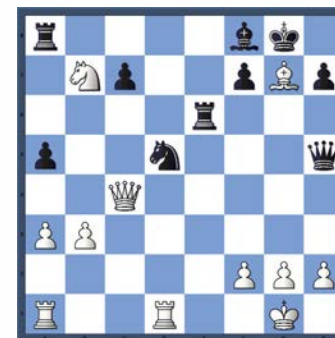
Czech Open, 2015.07.24



36...♖xf3! 37.gxf3 ♚xh3+ 38.♔g1 ♜h2+ 39.♔h1 ♜g3+
40.♔g1 ♚h2+ 41.♔f1 ♚h1+ 42.♜g1 ♖xf3+ 0-1

(36) Fuchs, F(2250)-Boruchovsky, A(2539)

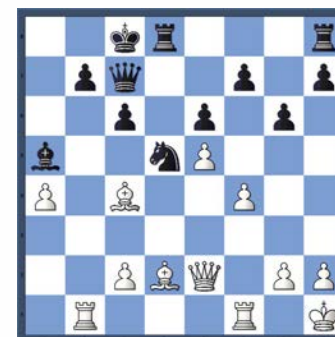
Czech Open, 2015.07.24



24...♘b6! 25.♚xc7 ♜xg7—+

(37) Predke, A(2537)-Smid, M(2250)

Czech Open, 2015.07.24



21.♜a6! ♜b6 [21...bxa6 22.♚xa6+ ♔d7 23.♜xa5+—;
21...♜xd2 22.♖xb7+—]

22.c4+— 1-0

(38) Kochetkova, Y(2309)-Westerberg, J(2452)

Czech Open, 2015.07.25



28...♔g3? [28...♖xh3! 29.gxh3 ♔g3+ 30.♔h1 ♔xh3+ 31.♔g1 ♔g3+ 32.♔h1 ♖xf2! 33.♖xf2 ♖xf2+-]

29.♖d3∞

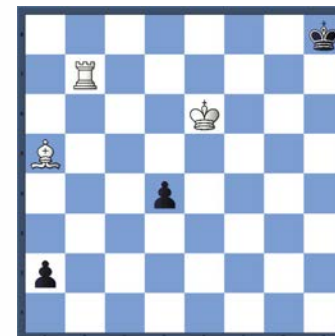
(39) Tkachiev, V(2661)-Loiseau, Q(2429)

Andorra Open, 2015.07.21



29.♔xc4! 1-0 [29.♔xc4 29...♖xd8 30.♔h4+ ♔g8 31.♔xd8+-]

(40) Kondratiev



1.♖c7! a1=♔ 2.♖e5+ ♔g8 3.♖g7+! ♔f8 4.♖g2!! ♔e1 [4...♔a6+ 5.♖d6+ ♔e8 6.♖g8#]

5.♖b2!! [5.♖a2? 5...♔e4!]

5...♔g8 6.♖h2!+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

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Editorial Preface

A lot of opens have been taking place, but the strongest one was probably the Politiken Cup. After a big fight and a strangely quiet and peaceful last round, a total of 10 players shared first place. The best on tiebreak was Markus Ragger, followed by Nisipeanu and Hammer.

Another big open is under way in Vlissingen, but here just 7 rounds out of 9 have been played and all the favorites are on the top, so the last 2 rounds will be decisive.

The Turkish league is also under way, with top players like So, Mamedyarov and Harikrishna are taking part.

In the British Chess Championship where David Howell was the clear favorite, after 10 out of 11 rounds four people are in the lead: Howell, Pert, Gormally and Hawkins. It is going to be a very exciting last round!

Very soon we will be able to watch the extremely strong Russian Super Final amongst men and women.

We hope you enjoy the games and articles from the current issue!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) Williams, Simon K(2426)
- Howell, David W L(2698) [E11]

102nd ch-GBR 2015(4.3),
2015.07.30



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We should not look at the rating of Simon Williams, who is a much stronger player than he often shows. Simon is famous for his ultra aggressive style and a lot of great victories with bright combinations. I still remember his fantastic win over Boris Gelfand with the black pieces in the Stonewall. In the current game, it seemed like Simon was once again going to crush a much higher rated opponent, but things went differently. In a very promising position White just wanted to play too prettily, which led to the loss of more and more material and finally resignation. A sad end to a very beautiful game.

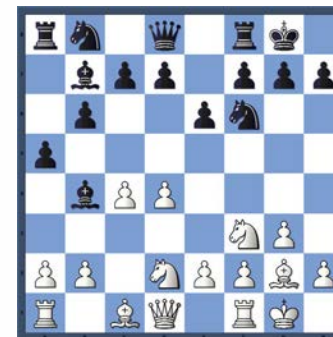
1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♙b4+ I like to play 3...Bb4 as well

4.♗bd2 Another option is 4.Bd2, which seems to be considered the main move.

4...b6 5.g3 [Black's idea is visible after 5.a3 5...♙xd2+ 6.♙xd2 ♙b7 White has the bishop pair, but Black is very solid with a great bishop on b7. It is a slightly passive line but for those who don't like forced lines and like to keep the game calm, this is clearly not a bad choice.]

5...♙b7 6.♙g2 0-0 7.0-0 White is trying to save a tempo on playing a3.

7...a5 The main move. Black is waiting for a3 to take on d2, while a5 is clearly a useful move.



8.♘b1!? I like this move, even if I would probably never play it. Usually White continues with 8.Qc2. The idea of the move in the game is simple, to get the knight to a much better square on c3 and there is also the direct threat to play c5 and catch the bishop on b4.

8...♙e7 A logical move. [White's idea is visible after 8...h6 9.c5! a4 The only move to save the bishop. 10.a3 and White wins the a4 pawn.]

9.♙e1 White continues keeping his ideas "uncovered", which is smart! [9.♘c3 doesn't lead anywhere since after 9...♗e4! the exchange of the knights is very important for Black here. He should never allow White to play d5 or e4.]

9...♙c8 This move is a bit too deep for me... [9...♗a6 looks much more natural.]

10.d5! A very strong move! White sacrifices a pawn -which is quite typical in this kind of structures- but this move still clearly came as a surprise for Black.

10...exd5 Black needs to take the pawn because if he doesn't, White will play e4.

11.cxd5 With which piece to take now?!

11...♙xd5 [It would make no difference to play 11...♘xd5 12.e4 ♘f6 since we are back to the position of the game.]

12.e4 Of course!



12...♙xe4?! and what Howell does here is just incredibly risky to say the least! [Black should have continued with 12...♙b7 13.e5 ♘d5 and of course Black's position looks very risky, but White still needs to prove that there is some compensation for the pawn. 14.♘g5! A strong move! White is going for the black king. 14...♙b4 (14...♙xg5 15.♙xg5 ♘b4 and now White has the very strong 16.♙f6! and Black is in big danger.) 15.♘e4 ♘a6 With a very fighting position.]

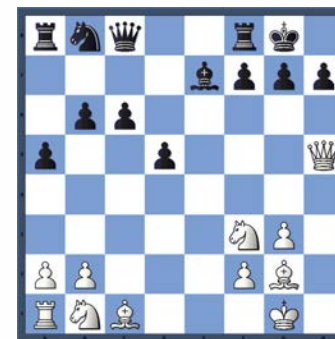
13.♖xe4 Not a bad move, but there was no need for it at all. [After the simpler 13.♘c3 13...d5 14.♘xe4 dxe4 15.♘g5 White wins back the e4 pawn and clearly has more than just compensation.]

13...♙xe4 14.♙d5 The rook on a8 is hanging.

14...♙xg3 15.hxg3 So Black has 3 pawns and a rook for White's 3 pieces, an interesting constellation. White's idea is clear, to get the pieces in the attack on the black king, while Black should try to reach a solid position or even an endgame in the best case.

15...c6 Howell black the Bg2, which is logical.

16.♙h5 d5



17.♙h3 I am not sure if this move was really needed. [White could also have continued with 17.♘c3 17...♘d7 18.♘d4 followed by Nf5, with very unclear play.]

17...♙b7 The black queen has a passive position on b7, but it will still play a very important role.

18.♙f5?! Now White is trying to rush things... [The position would still have been unclear after 18.♘c3]

18...g6 The only move.

19.♙h6 White wants to play Ng5 next.

19...♖e8! A very strong defensive move! Black's idea is to play Bf8 next, chasing the white queen away from h6. [Of course not 19...gxf5?? 20.♘g5 ♙xg5 21.♙xg5+ ♔h8 22.♙f6+ ♔g8 23.♙h6 and Black cannot avoid being mated on g7.]



20. ♖g5? This is already a self-destruction. White had to move his bishop back.

20... ♗xg5 21. ♗xg5 Maybe Simon missed Black's next move...

21... f6! The queen from b7 controls the 7th rank, which gives White no mating chances. The game is basically over.

22. ♗xg6 [22. ♗xf6 doesn't help either since after 22... ♔f7 White is losing another piece.]

22... ♖e1+ It is difficult to attack with the knight on b1 and rook on a1.

23. ♔g2 fxg5 A very safe move. White has no threats.

24. ♖d2 To die with a smile is Williams' choice here...

24... ♖xa1 All Black needs to do now is to bring the a8 rook into the game.

25. ♗f5 ♖a6 26. ♖f3 ♔g7 White simply has no threats...

27. ♔xc6



27... ♖f8 Well, what to say about such a spectacular game where Black just won by taking all the material for free. It is a big pity for White not to have used his chances and of course we need to give Howell credit for staying cool and playing very rational moves. **0-1**

(2) Karjakin, Sergey(2753) - Ni Hua(2703) [C42]

CHN-RUS Super Go 2015(3.1),
2015.07.31



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Ni Hua introduced a strong novelty in the opening, equalized completely, but he failed to find the right follow-up and ended up in trouble.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 The rock-solid Petroff defense still comes back to the practice from time to time, even on the highest level. It got a bit forgotten since Kramnik and Gelfand stopped playing it.

3.♗xe5 d6 4.♘f3 ♗xe4 5.d4 The main line, however recently 5.Nc3 was played more often.

5...d5 6.♘d3 ♗c6 7.O-O ♘e7 8.♗c3 A tricky sideline. Black must know exactly how to react, otherwise he might quickly get into a difficult situation. [The huge main line goes with 8.c4 8...♗b4 9.♘e2 O-O 10.♗c3 ♘f5 11.a3 ♗xc3 12.bxc3 ♗c6 13.♞e1 ♞e8 14.cxd5 ♞xd5 15.♘f4 ♞ac8 We can call this the starting position of this line, with thousands of games.]

8...♘f5 9.♞e1 ♗xc3 10.bxc3 ♘xd3 11.♞xd3 O-O



12.♞e2!? A useful and waiting move at the same time! The general idea is to fight for the e-file by doubling the rooks on it. White wants to develop the bishop to f4, followed by Rae1. The most natural moves to counter this are running into problems... [On the direct 12.♘f4 Black equalizes with 12...♘d6! 13.♗g5 g6 14.♞h3 h5 and Black is safe.]

12...a6! As we will see in the 12...Re8 line, the control of the b5 square is very important. [On 12...♞e8 13.♘f4! White intends to play Rae1. If Black moves away with his bishop, the c7 pawn falls after taking on e8. 13...♘d6 This thematic move it is met by 14.♞xe8+ ♞xe8 15.♘xd6 cxd6 16.♞b5!+= with a double attack on b7 and d5.; After 12...♘d6 to anticipate Bf4, White has 13.♗g5! g6 14.♞h3 h5



15.g4! This is the point! In comparison to the 12.Bf4 line, the bishop is not hanging on f4 and White is not forced to trade pieces. Now the attack is getting very dangerous. 15...♘e7 is strongly met by 16.♞h4!→]

13.♘f4 ♞d7 14.♞ae1



14...Rae8! This is the new idea, which seems to solve the opening problems! Instead of Bd6, which never works tactically somehow, Black wants to fight for the e-file with Bd8. It protects the c7 pawn and prevents Ng5 at the same time. To get rid of some heavy pieces is more important than to trade the dark squared bishops.

15.c4 Karjakin admits that he cannot gain any concrete benefits, therefore he also gets rid of his long-term structural weakness on c3.

15...dxc4 16.♟xc4 ♘d6? The most natural move, but this causes all the further problems. White gets the advantage with some very concrete and direct moves. [There was nothing wrong with 16...♘d8 ; However probably the strongest was 16...b5! 17.♟d3 h6! neutralizing the g5 square first and trading the bishops on d6 next move. White cannot make use of the tempo as d5 with the idea of Ne5 allows Nb4 and the d5 pawn falls. (17...♘d6? did not work immediately because of 18.♞g5! g6 19.♞e4 with problems on the f6 square.) 18.c3 ♘d6=]

17.♞xe8 ♞xe8 18.♞xe8+ ♟xe8 19.♞xd6 cxd6 Black was probably satisfied with the outcome and he expected a quick draw, but unpleasant surprises are awaiting him.



20.d5! If the back rank was opened with h6, all would be perfectly fine, but now Black's choices are limited.

20...♞e7 [20...♞e5 21.♞xe5 Black cannot recapture with the queen and otherwise the d-pawn gets too strong... 21...dxe5 22.d6+-]

21.♟c7! Somehow the white back rank seems to be equally weak, but the f3 knight covers the e1 mate and Black has no access to the other squares.

21...♞xd5 22.♟xb7 White wins the a6 pawn. [22.♟xd6 22...♞c3= was equal.]

22...♞c3 23.♟xa6 White ended up with an extra pawn, but to convert it still requires good technique.

23...♟b8 24.g3! White has done the last step by opening the back rank before realizing his advantage.

24...h6 The long awaited move, Black also had to open the back rank.



25.a4! An excellent technical move! Karjakin correctly evaluates that the advance of the a-pawn is more important than the saving the extra pawn! [White could have saved the c2 pawn with 25.♔g2 but then Black blocks the a-pawn with 25...♚b4! and making progress is a much more difficult task than in the game.]

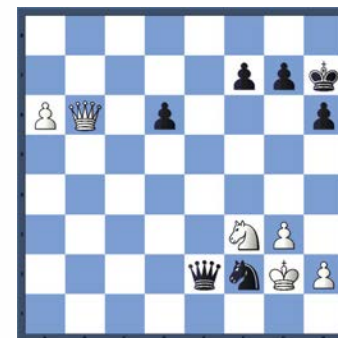
25...♚b1+ 26.♔g2 ♚xc2 The material is balanced again, but the difference between the two passed pawns (a4 and d6) decides the outcome. Black has no chance to compete with his d6 pawn, so his only hope lays in some kind of attack against the king and the f2 pawn. However White has enough resources to defend against it.

27.♚c8+! It is very useful to pin the knight before advancing the pawn, because Black must lose an important tempo on moving with the queen.

27...♔h7 28.a5 ♚b2 [Black cannot try to stop the pawn with 28...♚d3 29.a6 ♘b5 since White simply promotes it after 30.♚b7+–]

29.♚c6! An important prophylactic move to anticipate Black's counter ideas... [Black saves himself after the hasty 29.a6? 29...♘d1! 30.♚f5+ ♔g8= and White should give perpetual check with Qc8 because if he defends his f2 pawn by removing his f3 knight, that allows Ne3!]

29...d5 [Now on 29...♘d1 30.♚b6! is a perfect square for the queen. It protects the king and supports the a-pawn at the same time. 30...♚e2 31.a6 ♘xf2]



32.♘g1! An important intermediate move to avoid the technical problems! White gets the f7 pawn, after which the win is already out of question... 32...♚a2 33.♚xf2 ♚xa6 34.♚xf7!+– was the point behind 32.Ng1!]

30.♚b6 ♚a2 [Somewhat more tenacious was 30...♚b5 White has other winning moves as well, but the following line demonstrates well, why they say that knight endgames are similar to pawn endgames in the evaluation. 31.♚xb5 ♘xb5 White has the distant passed pawn, therefore he has the winning chances... 32.♘e5 ♔g8 33.♘c6 ♘c7 34.♔f3 ♔f8 35.♔e3 ♔e8 36.♔d4 ♔d7 37.♔c5!+– and Nb4 next wins.]

31.a6 ♘e4 32.a7 The pawn is only one square away from promotion. White cannot support it with the queen, because it must stay with the f2 pawn, but the knight on f3 is free to do anything. **32...g5 33.♘e5 ♔g7 34.♘d3** The f2 pawn is protected, so White can play Qb7 next.

34...d4 35.♚xd4+ ♘f6 36.♘c5 [Black resigned in view of 36.♘c5 36...♚xa7 (36...♔g6 37.♘e4+–) 37.♘e6+! fxe6 38.♚xa7+– Black made only one mistake with 16...Bd6, but it was enough to lose the game.] **1-0**

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot

Best rating: 2749

(3) **Naroditsky, Daniel (2622)**
- **Schmidt, Kresten (2254) [B30]**

Politiken Cup 2015(3.8),
2015.07.26

The 19-year old Daniel Naroditsky from America is 10th in the FIDE juniors list. Here are two fine games he won at the Politiken Cup.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 e6 4.0-0



4...♗a5 This funny try will be refuted that day. [4...♗ge7 is the usual move in the Rossolimo.]

5.d4 a6 6.♙e2 cxd4 7.♗xd4 ♖c7 8.c4! The strong key move.

8...♗xc4 If he doesn't play this, Black will simply have a bad version of the Hedgehog.

9.♙xc4 Normal play for development. The slow move also would have given an advantage [9.♖c2 9...b5 10.a4 ♙c5 11.axb5 ♙xd4 12.♖xc4 ♖xc4 13.♙xc4 a5 14.♖d1 With a clearly a better endgame.]

9...♖xc4



10.♗c3± ♙b4 Let's have a look at other defensive tries: [10...♖c7 Getting back with the queen is losing because of the following typical sacrifice: 11.♖e1! ♙e7 12.♗f5! exf5 13.♗d5 and there is no defense.; 10...♗f6 11.♙f4 followed by Rc1 is also hopeless.]

11.♙e3 The d4 knight should be defended!

11...♙xc3 12.♖c1 ♖xa2 [12...♖c7 13.♖xc3 ♖d8 was a more solid option but it is understandable that Black takes material in a bad position.]

13.♖xc3 ♖a5



14. ♖g4 Provoking more weaknesses on the kingside.

14... ♗e5 15. f4 [15. ♘f3 is a more trivial win: 15...h5 16. ♘xe5 hxe4 17. ♘c4 Black can't avoid huge material losses. 17... ♘e7 18. ♘b6 ♖b8 19. ♕f4+-]

15...h5 16. ♗f3 ♗a5 17. ♖fc1 [17. ♗g3 Attacking g7 is also fine. 17...g6 18. f5+-]

17... ♘e7 18. ♖c5 ♗d8 19. ♖xh5 Taking back a pawn and opening new lines for the attack.

19... ♖g8 20. ♖h7 b6 21. ♗g3 ♖f8



22. f5! +- Black cannot survive with all those pieces on the last rank.

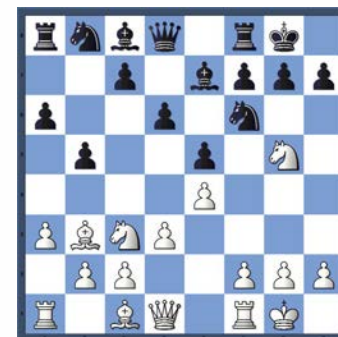
22... ♕b7 23. fxe6 dxe6 24. ♖f1 ♗d7 25. ♗e5 ♘g6 26. ♘xe6+ ♖e7 27. ♕g5+ With mate to follow soon. 1-0

(4) Tan, Justin (2417)

- Naroditsky, Daniel (2622) [C84]

Politiken Cup 2015(4.6),
2015.07.27

1.e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♕b5 a6 4. ♕a4 ♘f6 5.O-O ♕e7 6.d3 b5 7. ♕b3 d6 8.a3 O-O 9. ♘c3 ♘b8 10. ♘g5 We had the interesting 10.Ne2 in a previous column from the game Shen-Chandra. Here White plays like Anand.



10...h6 A good improvement! It is clear that the American juniors are doing a good job in the openings. [10... ♘c6 11. ♕a2 ♘d4 12. ♘e2 ♘xe2+ 13. ♗xe2 h6 14.f4 Anand-So Shamkir 2015.]

11.f4 [11. ♘h3 with a later f4 is also a possibility, but I don't think it can bring an advantage.]

11...hxe4! [11...exf4 seems good but White has the strong move 12. ♘f3! g5 13.h4 ♕g4 14.hxe4 hxe4 15.g3! The black king will soon be in trouble. 15... ♘c6 16.gxf4 ♘d4 17. ♕e3 With a crazy position which should be in White's favor.]

12.fxe4 ♘g4! [12... ♕g4 runs into a mating attack: 13. ♗e1 ♘fd7 14. ♗h4 ♕e6 15. ♖f3±]



13...f5? Not the best move after Black's strong opening play. [13.h3 is the most obvious move. Black equalizes comfortably after 13...g5 14.hxg4 gxc1 15.fxc1 e6!=; 13.f2 Defending g5 before catching the g4 knight. But Black has a fine defense: 13...c6 14.h3 d7 15.hxg4 c5 16.a2 e6 and Black will get his knight to e6 and win back the pawn.; 13.g6 is met by counterblow 13...d5! 14.d4! fxg6 With crazy complications.]

13...fx5 14.exf5 g5 15.f5 g4 16.fxc1 17.fxc1 looks tempting but White is not fast enough to get enough compensation.

16...d7 17.f1 c6 [17...f6 is the most obvious move, but maybe Black didn't want to allow 18.f4 d7 19.f6!?]

18.f3 f6



19.f4? Now it is all easy. White should have tried [19.g5 19...d5 20.g3 e8 21.f5 f6 22.d1 (22.f3 22...h6)]

19...b6+ 20.h1 d4 21.g5 g4 22.d2 d5—+ Black easily converted his big material advantage.

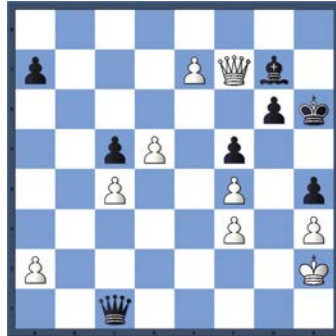
23.d1 e4 24.e3 f4 25.g3 f5 26.f4 d4 27.f1 e3 28.f1 f8 29.g2 ad8 30.h3 d5 31.xd5 xd5 32.g4 f6 33.f3 c5 34.c3 e2 35.g3 dxc3 36.bxc3 xc3 37.e4 c1 0-1

Puzzle section

(5) Moiseenko, A(2710)-Fier, A(2628)

Biel Open, 2015.07.27

1. =



(6) Wagner, D(2569)-Adhiban, B(2627)

Biel Open, 2015.07.28

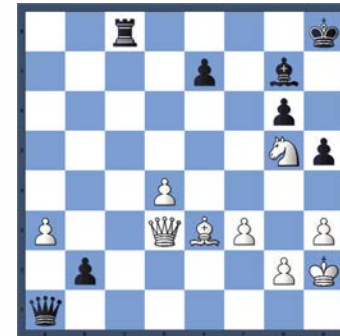
1... -+



(7) Gharamian, T(2649)-Nezad, H(2405)

Biel Open, 2015.07.29

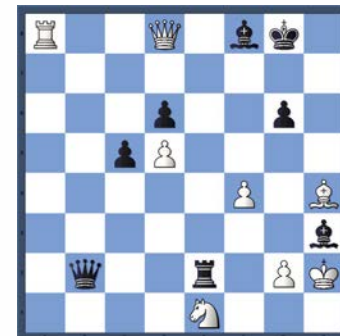
1. =



(8) Bogner, S(2544)-Ivanisevic, I(2662)

Biel Open, 2015.07.29

1... =



(9) Bartel, M(2631)-Esen, B(2567)

Biel Open, 2015.07.29

1. +-



(10) Wirig, A(2511)-Wagner, D(2569)

Biel Open, 2015.07.29

1... -+



(11) Wagner, D(2569)-Dragun, K(2586)

Biel Open, 2015.07.30

1. +-



(12) Ivanisevic, I(2662)-Zoler, D(2498)

Biel Open, 2015.07.30

1. +-



(13) Bartel, M(2631)-Wagner, D(2569)

Biel Open, 2015.07.31

1. =



(14) Adhiban, B(2627)-Solak, D(2622)

Biel Open, 2015.07.31

1. ±



Endgame section

(15) Ding Liren (2749)
- Karjakin, Sergey (2753)

CHN-RUS Super Go,
2015.07.30

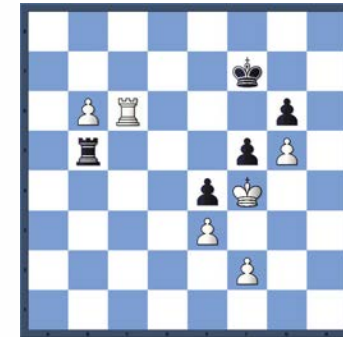


GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



This game is from the Armageddon part of the match, when White starts the game with more time, but Black only needs a draw to go through to the next round. Probably both players were very short on time. I don't want to criticize anyone because of the following endgame, it is just very interesting to analyze it in detail. White is a pawn up, but Black wants to restore the material balance with Rg4.

60. ♖c7+?! A mistake, although the game remains winning. [White should have played 60.b5! ignoring the g5 pawn. It leads to a very easy win: 60... ♖g4+ (60... ♖b1 61.b6 ♖b5



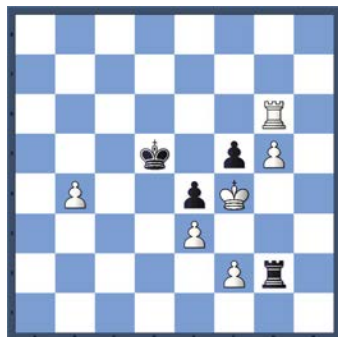
Black temporarily prevents the advance of the b-pawn and stops Ke5, but White easily sets him into zugzwang with 62. ♖d6! and if the rook moves, Ke5 wins, while after 62... ♔g7 63. ♖d7+!+- Black does not have Ke6 anymore and now b7 followed by Rc7-c8 wins.) 61. ♔e5 ♖xg5 62. ♔d6+- and White automatically promotes his b-pawn.]

60... ♔e6 Black suddenly threatens to mate in one move on g4!

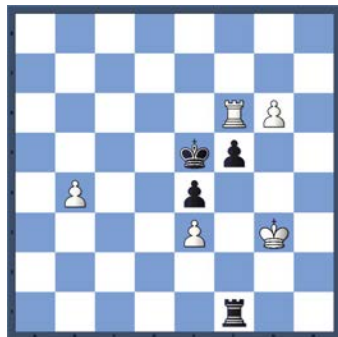
61. ♖c6+ Ding Liren zes that he was winning after 60.b5. He tries to repeat moves, but Karjakin finds a clever way to retain more drawing chances!

61... ♔d5! Seemingly giving up the g6 pawn is equal to resignation, but Black gets his counterchances.

62. ♖c5+? A blunder which could have cost the full point. [It is interesting to analyze what happens after 62. ♖xg6! 62... ♖g2! (62... ♖f1? fails to 63. ♔g3!+- and the white king escapes from the cage.)



63.f3! The first key move! White gives free way to the g-pawn. (63.gxf5 only leads to a draw after 63...xf2+ 64.g4 g2+ Black gives checks until the king comes back to the 3rd rank and then he takes the e3 pawn with check. 65.h4 h2+ 66.g3 e2 and the e-pawn gives Black enough counterplay to save the game.) 63...xf2+ 64.g3 f1 (If Black goes for the second pawn with 64...f3+ 65.h4 xe3 he gives too much time to advance the g-pawn. It is important that Black must lose another tempo to go behind it, but it turns out to be too much... 66.g6 e1 67.g7 h1+ (67...g1 loses to 68.f5+! e6 69.g5!+-) 68.g5 g1+ 69.h6+- Rg6 is threatening with promoting the pawn and Rxg7 Kxg7 also wins for White!) 65.g6 e5 (65...g1+ 66.f4+- f1+ 67.g5+-)



66.g2! A very important intermediate move and actually the only winning one! White prevents Rg1 with tempo!

66...xf6 (66...c1 67.g7! c8 68.f8+-) 67.xf1 xg6 68.b5+- and the king is not in the square of the b-pawn.]

62...e6? [Suddenly Black was winning after 62...d6! because of the mate threat on g4! White has only one move to avoid it, but it leads to a lost endgame... 63.f3 f1! 64.g3 xf3+ 65.h4 xe3+- and the connected passed pawns decide the outcome.]

63.f3 White should have played 63.Rc6 again, but it is already a draw by threefold repetition, which is equal to losing in the armageddon game.

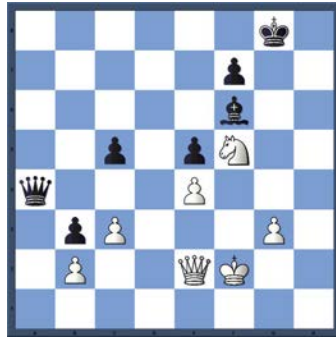
63...exf3 [Black could have won with 63...f1!+-]

64.xf3 fxg5 Black won back the pawn and the game is drawn. The b-pawn is not advanced far enough to gain any benefits from it.

65.f1 Going behind the passed pawn is a good strategy in general, but it does not help now.

65...g4 66.f1 d6 67.b5 c7 68.b6+ b7= White cannot make progress, the rest is easy...

69.f5 e4 70.f2 e6 71.f4 e4+ 72.g5 xe3 73.xg6 e6+ 74.xf5 xb6 75.xb6+ xb6 1/2-1/2

**(16) Gormally, Daniel W (2484)
- Hawkins, Jonathan (2554)**102nd ch-GBR 2015(6.2),
2015.08.01GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Gormally was playing a very nice positional game, where the knight was dominating the bishop. In the current position, White is still much better. As we know, queen+knight is a great combination for making threats and the bishop on f6 has no real potential. But still, the material is equal, which of course makes the win quite difficult.

51. ♖g4+! A good move! White is correctly aiming for an endgame, where the knight will dominate the bishop.

51... ♕f8 52. ♖h6 Threatening Qg8.

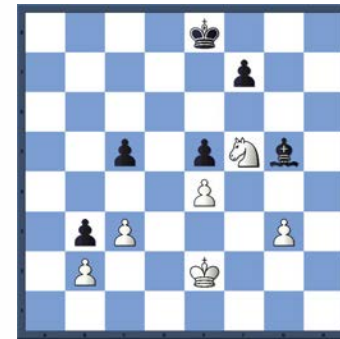
52... ♕e8 Black has no choice.

53. ♖g8+ ♕e7 54. ♖f5+ Bringing back the knight before exchanging the queens with tempo.

54... ♕d7 55. ♖xe8+ [White would also have kept a clear advantage after 55. ♖g4]

55... ♕xe8 56. ♕e2 Another very solid and good move. [White could also have tried to play 56. ♖d6+ but now Black has 56... ♕d7! and taking on f7 is not possible, but luckily White has another plan: 57. ♖c4 (57. ♖xf7 57... ♕e6 58. ♖h6 ♕g5 59. ♖f5 ♕c1 and White is losing the b2 pawn, which gives Black a draw.) 57... ♕e6 58. ♖a5 and White is winning the b3 pawn again.]

56... ♕g5 This move loses a pawn, but Black didn't have anything better, as in case of passive play White would just go for Kd3-Kc4 and Kxb3.



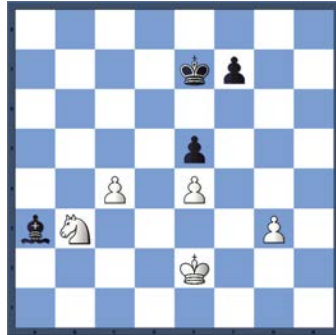
57. ♖d6+ Now this is already the right choice. White is winning a pawn.

57... ♕e7 Black is fighting! [57... ♕d7 was losing on the spot: 58. ♖xf7 ♕c1 59. ♖xe5+ ♕e6 60. ♖c4 White is in time to collect the two black pawns and protect b2.]

58. ♖b7 ♕c1 Black needs to go for the b2 pawn.

59. ♖xc5 ♕xb2 60. c4 A very solid move. But why not 60. Kd3?! The answer is, Gormally's idea is to get his king to f5, which is clearly its best place, and then slowly take the other two black pawns.

60... ♕a3 61. ♖xb3

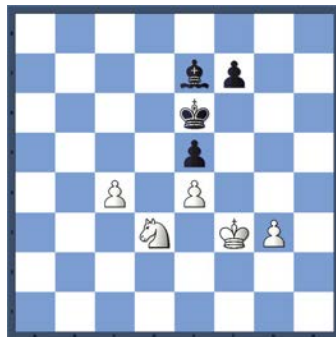


61...♔d6?! Black doesn't feel what is soon going to happen... [61...♔e6! was the only way to fight on. Black is threatening to play f5 and exchange one pawn, which could be very important in the fight for a draw. 62.♔f3 f5 and now White has a great maneuver which ends the game: 63.exf5+ ♔xf5 64.♞d2! The white knight is going to take a superior position on e4, from where he controls both flanks and helps playing c5 and g5. Black can't save the game any longer.]

62.♔f3 The white king is going to f5.

62...♞b4 63.♞c1 Bringing the knight to d3 was not needed, but isn't bad either.

63...♔e6 64.♞d3 ♞e7



65.g4?? After such a great game, what a terrible mistake! [White was easily winning after 65.♔g4 since now the black king can never move away from e6. 65...♞f8 66.c5 ♞e7 67.c6 ♞d6 and here comes the killer move: 68.♞b2! ♞c5 69.♞c4 White is totally dominating the position and has a lot of different ways to end the game.]

65...f6 Right now White's hopes can only be on the queenside because the kingside is blocked, which gives Black a chance to bring his king from e6 to c6.

66.c5 Played too quickly again. White should have brought his king to d3 first and get the knight somewhere to f5, keeping good practical chances to play a very long game where the opponent can make a mistake.

66...♞d8? And Black returns the favor... [Hawkins should have played 66...♔d7 with the very simple idea of playing Kc6 and Bxc5 with a draw. 67.g5 fxg5 68.♞xe5+ ♔e6 69.♞d3 ♞d8 Black starts to keep on waiting. 70.♔g4 ♞e7 and I don't see how White can win this position.]

67.♔e2 White tries to bring his king to c4.

67...♞a5? This is the final mistake. [Black could have fought much harder after 67...♔d7! 68.♞b4 This is already the only move to avoid an instant draw. (68.♔d2 68...♔c6 69.♔c3 and Black reaches a draw with 69...♔b5 since White can't improve his position any longer.) 68...♞e7 69.c6+ ♔d6 70.♔d3 and White is probably still winning, but things are far from clear.]

68.♞c1! Now it is all over since the white king reaches c4.

68...♔d7 69.♔d3 ♔c6



70.♔c4 Now all White needs to do is to get his knight to b4, then put his king to d5 and it is done.

70...♙c7 71.♞d3 ♙d8 72.♞b4+ followed by Kd5, with a totally winning position. We just saw an interesting endgame and domination of a knight over the bishop. And once again, even in a winning position it is never too late to slip and lose half a point... **1-0**

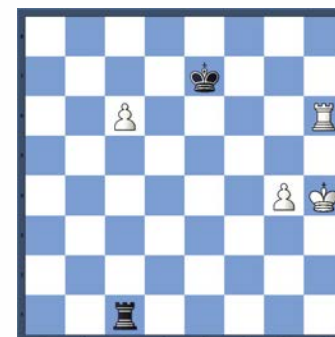
Golden knowledge



GM Adrian Mikhachishin
FIDE Trainers Commission Chairman

(17) Lomineishvili, Maia(2364)-Galliamova, Alisa(2478)

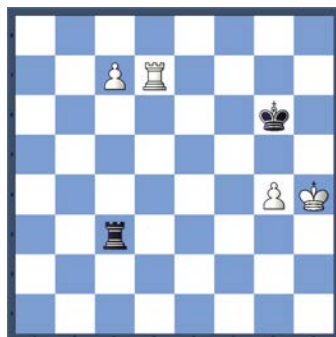
ewcc-2015, 2015



Endgames are still a very big problem, even for top women players.

79.c7?? It is incredible, but the position that will appear now is drawn despite White's two extra pawns. There were a few easy ways for the win, but the move in the game seemed to be the simplest! [79.g5 ; 79.♔h5 79...♚h1+ 80.♔g5 ♚c1 81.c7 ♚c5+ 82.♔h4 ♚c3 83.g5]

79...♔f7 80.♖h7+ ♔g6 81.♖d7 ♖c3!

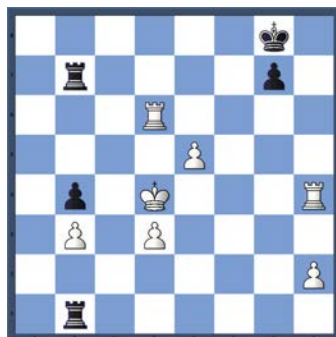


This cutting king move obviously underlines the helpless position of White's rook.

82.♖e7 ♔f6 83.♖h7 ♔g6 84.♖d7 ♔f6 85.♖d6+ ♔g7 86.♖d7+ ♔f6 87.g5+ ♔g6 88.♖d6+ ♔g7 89.♖d7+ ♔g6 90.♔g4 ♖c4+ 91.♔f3 ♔xg5 92.♔e3 ♔f6 93.♔d3 ♔e6 94.♖h7 ♖c1 95.♔d4 ♔d6 96.♔e4 1/2-1/2

(18) Ovod, Evgenija(2320)-Galliamova, Alisa(2478)

ewcc-2015, 2015



It is very difficult to believe that White lost this position with two extra pawns! Alisa was very lucky in this tournament.

61.♔d5 [61.e6 61...♔f8 62.♖g4 ♔e7 63.♖xg7+ ♔xd6 64.♖xb7 ♔xe6 65.♖xb4 with a very simple win.]

61...♖xb3 62.♖d8+ ♔f7 63.♔c6 [A very instructive line is 63.e6+ 63...♔e7 64.♖g8 ♔f6 (64...♖b5+ 65.♔c4) 65.♖f8+ ♔g6 66.♖g4+ ♔h7 67.d4 ♖c3 68.♖e4 ♖b5+ 69.♔d6 ♖b6+ 70.♔e5 ♖b7 71.d5 b3 72.♖f1 b2 73.♖h4+ ♔g8 74.♖f8+! ♔xf8 75.♖h8+ ♔e7 76.d6#]

63...♖e7 64.♖f4+ ♔g6 65.d4 [More precise was 65.♔d6 65...♖b7 66.♖g4+ ♔h7 67.d4]

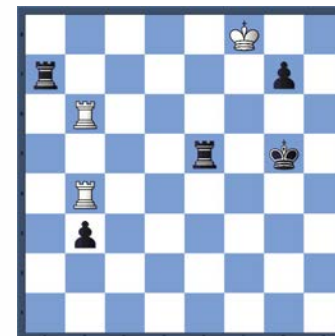
65...♖c3+ 66.♔d6 ♖a7 67.♖b8 b3 68.♖b6 ♔g5 69.♖f8 [Better was 69.♖f1]

69...♖d3 70.h4+? [Now winning was 70.♖b4 70...b2 71.♖xb2 ♖xd4+ 72.♔c6 ♖c4+ 73.♔d5 ♖g4 74.♖e2]

70...♔xh4 71.d5 ♖a5 The white pawns are in danger now.

72.♔e7 ♖dxd5 73.♖f4+ [The best chance for a draw with a pawn down(!) was 73.e6]

73...♔g5 74.♖fb4 ♖xe5+ 75.♔f7 ♖a7+ 76.♔f8



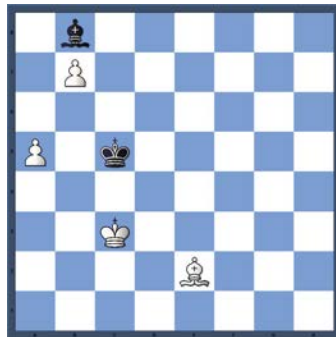
76...♖c5! Suddenly mating threats appear.

77.♖b8 ♔h5 78.♖xb3 g5 The white king is terribly placed, so there is no real stopping the black pawn!

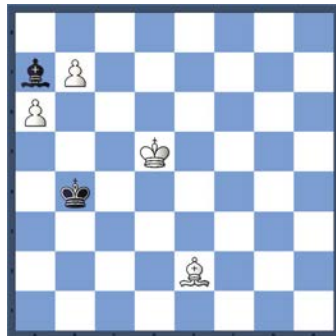
79.♖b1 g4 80.♖h1+ ♔g5 81.♔g8 ♖ac7 82.♖b3 ♖d5 83.♖b8

88. ♖g8 ♜cd7 89. ♜hg6 ♔h1 90. ♜h6+ ♜h2 91. ♜xh2+ ♔xh2
92. ♜g6 g2 93. ♜h6+ ♔g1 94. ♜f6 ♜d3 95. ♔g7 ♔h2 0-1

ewcc-2015, 2015

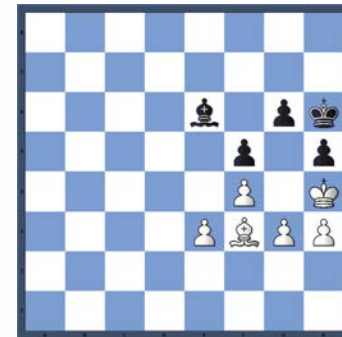


93.a6 ♖b8 94.♔d4 ♖a7+ 95.♔d5



95...♔a5 96.♔c6 ♖b8 97.♗f1 1-0

ewcc-2015, 2015



81.♟d3 ♜c8 82.♞e2 g3 83.♞f3 ♞d7 84.♞g2? [An unclear way to the win was 84.♔xg3 84...♞e8 85.e5 ♞b5 86.♞e4 ♞c4 87.♔h4 ♞a2]



84...♙c8? [Black had the chance to draw again here: 84...g5+ 85.fxg5+ ♖g6 86.♙f3 ♙c6]

85.e5 ♙e6 86.♙h3 ♙d5 [86...g5+ This chance is never ending! 87.fxg5+ ♖g6 88.♙f1 ♙f5]

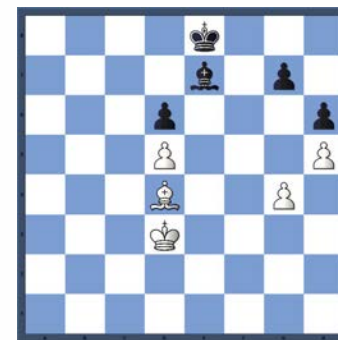
87.♖xg3 ♖g7 88.♖h4 ♖f7 [Now it is impossible to block the g5 square: 88...♖h6 89.♙d7 ♙c4 90.e6]

89.♖g5 ♙e4 90.♖h6 ♙d3 91.♙g4 ♙e4 92.♖g5 ♙d3 93.♙d1 ♙e4 94.♙b3+ ♖g7 95.♙c4 ♙c6? [It was necessary to know the famous Centurini position: 95...♙c2 96.e6 ♙f5 97.e7 ♙d7 98.♙d5 ♙a4 99.f5 gxf5 100.♖xf5 ♙b5 101.♖e6 ♙a4 102.♖d6 ♖f6 103.♙e6 ♙e8]

96.♙d3 ♙e8 97.e6 With zugzwang! **1-0**

(21) Savina, Anastasia(2417)-Gvetadze, Sofio(2319)

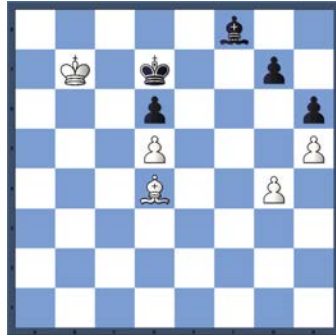
Chakvi, 2015



83...♙f8? [This is a very instructive endgame on the theme of why it is not recommended to defend passively. [It was obligatory to remove as many pawns as possible from the dark squares: 83...♖f7 84.♖c4 (84.♖e4 84...g6 85.♙e3 ♙f8 86.♙f4 ♖f6=) 84...g6 85.♖b5 gxh5 86.gxh5 ♙g5 87.♖c6 ♖e7 88.♙c3 ♙h4 89.♙d2 ♙g5 90.♙b4 ♙f4 91.♙a3 ♖f6 92.♙xd6 ♙d2 93.♙c7 ♙b4 94.♙b6 ♖g5 95.♙c5 ♙d2 96.d6 ♖xh5 97.d7 ♙g5 98.♖c7 ♖g6 99.♖c8 h5 100.♙b6 h4 101.♙d8 ♙xd8 102.♖xd8 h3=]

84.♖c4 ♖d7 [Now it was already too late for the same plan: 84...♖f7 85.♖b5 g6 86.♖c6 gxh5 87.gxh5 ♖e7 88.♙b2 ♖f7 89.♙a3 ♖f6 90.♙xd6 ♙g7 91.♙c5 ♖f5 92.d6 ♖g4 93.d7 ♙f6 94.♖c7 ♖xh5 95.♖c8 ♖g4 96.♙b6 h5 97.♙d8 ♙c3 98.♙e7 ♙a5 99.♙d6 and there is no defense against Bg7.]

85.♖b5 ♖c7 86.♖a6 ♖c8 87.♖b6 ♖d7 88.♖b7



88...♔e8 [Black is in zugzwang and the following pawn sacrifice does not help: 88...♗e7 89.♗xg7 ♗g5 90.♗c3 ♗e3 and the winning plan is that White's king returns to the kingside. 91.♔a6 ♗g5 92.♔b5 92...♔e7 93.♔c4 ♔f7 (93...♗f6 94.♗xf6+ ♔xf6 95.♔b5+—) 94.♔d3 ♗f4 95.♔e4 ♗g5 96.♗d4 ♗e7 97.♗e3 ♗f8 98.♔f5 ♗g7 99.♗d2 ♗f8 100.♗f4+—]

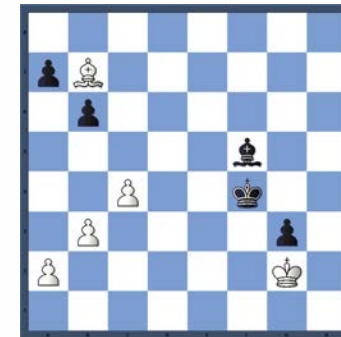
89.♔c6 ♔f7 [No big difference is 89...♔d8 90.♗b6+ ♔e8 91.♗c7 ♗e7 92.♗xd6 ♗h4 93.♗c7]

90.♔d7 g6 [Now the activation with 90...♗e7 is too late: 91.♗xg7 ♗g5 92.♗b2 ♗f4 93.♗a3 ♔f6 94.♗xd6+—]

91.hxg6+ ♔xg6 92.♔e8 ♗g7 93.♗xg7 ♔xg7 94.♔e7 ♔g6 95.♔xd6 ♔g5 96.♔e5 ♔xg4 97.d6 h5 98.d7 h4 99.d8=♔h3 100.♔d1+ ♔g3 101.♔h1 1-0

(22) Daulyte, Deimante(2402)-Sviridova, Vlada(2087)

Chakvi, 2015



Of course in some games high technique was demonstrated too.

49...♗b1! Creating a weakness before giving the decisive check. [The immediate 49...♗e4+? only leads to a draw after 50.♗xe4 ♔xe4 51.♔xg3 ♔d4 52.♔f4 a5 53.♔f5 ♔c3 54.♔e4 ♔b2 55.♔d5 ♔xa2 56.♔c6 ♔xb3 57.♔xb6 a4 58.c5=]

50.a3 ♗e4+ Now this transposition into a pawn ending is the quickest win. [50...♗a2 51.b4 ♗xc4 52.a4 ♗d3 53.♔g1 ♗e4 54.♗c8 a5 wins too, but takes longer.]

51.♗xe4 ♔xe4 52.b4 [52.♔xg3 does not help either, as it is met by 52...♔d4 (52...♔d3? 53.♔f4 ♔c3 54.♔e5 ♔xb3 55.♔d5 ♔xa3 56.c5 bxc5 57.♔xc5 a5 58.♔c4=) 53.♔f4 a5! 54.b4 axb4 55.axb4 ♔xc4+—]

52...♔d4 53.c5 bxc5 54.bxc5 ♔xc5 55.♔xg3 ♔b5 56.♔f3



56...♔a4! [A mistake was still possible: 56...a5?? 57.♔e2 ♔a4 58.♔d2 ♔xa3 59.♔c3 and the white king is in time!]

57.♔e3 ♔xa3 58.♔d4 ♔b3 59.♔d3 a5 60.♔d2 ♔b2 0-1

(23) Stefanova, Antoaneta(2512)-Sviridova, Vlada(2087)

ewcc-2015, 2015



44.♖c5+ [Simpler was 44.a5 44...♔g4 45.a6 ♔xg3 46.♖b8 ♔xh4 47.♖b7 ♖d1 48.♖xa7 and White is a pawn down, but her pawns are much more advanced!]

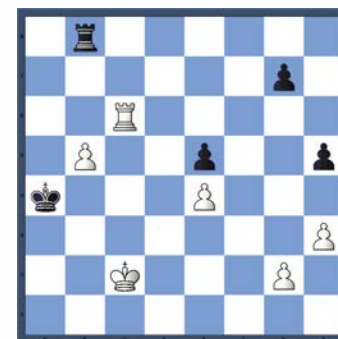
44...♔e4 45.♔b4 f6 46.♔a5 [Now the following direct line just leads to a draw: 46.a5 46...♔f3 47.♖c3+ ♔g4 48.b6 axb6 49.axb6 g5 50.♔c5 gxh4 51.gxh4 f5 52.♔c6 ♖d8 53.b7 ♔xh4 54.♔b6 ♖b8]

46...♔f3 47.♖c3+ ♔g4 48.♔a6 g5 This counterattack allows Black to save the game.

49.hxg5 fxg5 50.a5 h4 51.gxh4 gxh4 52.b6 axb6 53.axb6 h3 54.b7 ♖xb7 55.♔xb7 h2 56.♖c1 ♔g3 57.♔c6 ♔g2 58.♔d5 1/2-1/2

(24) Zaksaitė, Salomeja(2203)-Daulyte, Deimante(2402)

ewcc-2015, 2015



47.b6? [It was much better to prevent the activation of the black king with 47.♔d3 47...♔xb5 48.♖e6 ♖d8+ 49.♔e3 ♔c4 50.♖xe5 h4 51.♖g5]

47...♔b5 48.♖e6 ♖xb6 49.♖xe5+ ♔c4 50.♖xh5 ♖g6 51.g4 ♔d4 52.e5 ♖c6+ 53.♔d2 g6 54.♖g5 ♔e4! White has two extra pawns, but Black's king activity and the strange white rook allow a draw here.

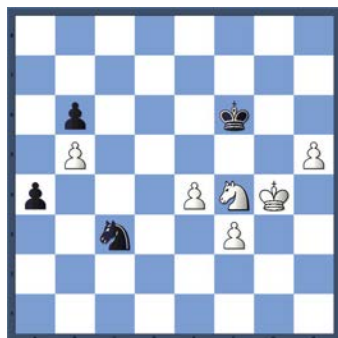


55.h4 ♖d4 [More logical was 55...♖a6 56.h5 gxh5 57.gxh5 ♖f4 58.♖g6 ♖a2+ 59.♖d3 ♖xe5]

56.♖d1 ♖e4 57.♖e2 ♖c2+ 58.♖d1 ♖c6 59.♖d2 ♖d4 60.h5 gxh5 61.gxh5 ♖e6 62.♖g6 ♖xe5 63.♖xe6+ ♖xe6 1/2-1/2

(25) Khomeriki, Nino(2228)-Gavasheli, Ana(2122)

ewcc-2015, 2015



It is difficult not to win with such a material advantage...

62.h6 ♖xb5 63.e5+ ♖f7 64.e6+ [64.♖h5 64...♖c7 65.e6+ ♖f6 66.e7 ♖e8 67.♖d5+ ♖f7 68.h7 ♖g7 69.h8=♖+ ♖xh8 70.♖g6 a3 71.♖b4 ♖d6 72.f4 b5 73.f5]

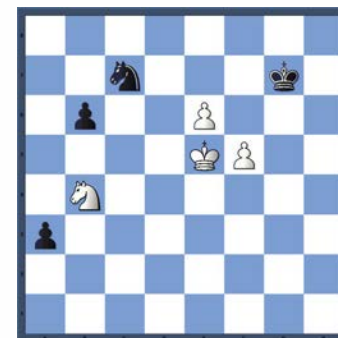
64...♖g8 65.♖d5 [A classical mating attack was possible

here: 65.♖g5 65...a3 66.♖g6 a2 67.e7 ♖d6 68.h7+ ♖h8 69.e8=♖+ ♖xe8 70.♖h6 a1=♖ 71.♖g6#]

65...a3 66.♖b4 [Or 66.e7 66...♖d6 67.♖c3 ♖h7 68.♖g5]

66...♖c7 67.♖f5? [Why not 67.e7]

67...♖h7 68.f4 ♖xh6 69.♖e5 ♖g7 70.f5

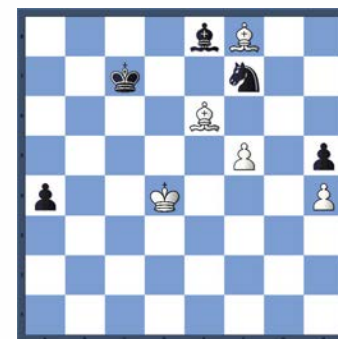


70...♖e8! Now the pawns are equal and the white ones are blocked!

71.♖a2 b5 72.♖b4 ♖f6 73.♖d6 ♖f8 74.♖c5 ♖e8 75.♖xb5 ♖d6+ 76.♖c6 ♖xf5 77.♖d7 ♖e7 78.♖a2 ♖f5 1/2-1/2

(26) Ozturk, Kubra(2235)-Gaboyan, Susanna(2153)

ewcc-2015, 2015



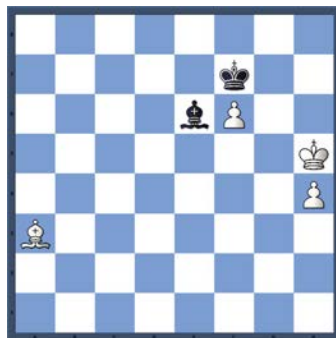
57.♖e7? White overlooked a simple exchanging maneuver...

[White has the bishop pair, a huge space advantage and slowly winning was 57. ♖c5 57... ♜b7 58. ♙d6 a3 59. ♙d5+ ♜c8 60. ♙f4 ♜d8 61. ♙c1]

57... ♜d8! One of the bishops is exchanged and now it is an easy draw.

58. ♖e5 ♜xe6 59. ♖xe6 ♙d7+ 60. ♖f6 a3 [60... ♜c6]

61. ♙xa3 ♜d8 62. ♖g6 ♜e8 63. f6 ♙e6 64. ♖xh5 ♜f7

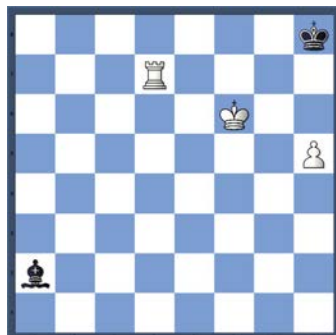


White has two extra pawns, but with opposite colored bishops it is a dead draw!

65. ♜g5 ♙b3 66. h5 1/2-1/2

(27) Santeramo, Alessia(2118)-Folkova, Martina(2134)

Chakvi, 2015



This position demands simple but automatic knowledge and a technical performance from both sides.

68. ♜g6 [A classical winning line here was 68. ♜d8+ 68... ♙g8 69. h6 ♜h7 70. ♜d7+ ♜h8 (70... ♖xh6 71. ♜d1) 71. ♜g6 ♙b3 72. h7]

68... ♙b1+ 69. ♜h6 ♙a2? [The only way for a draw was to escape from the corner with 69... ♜g8 70. ♜g7+ ♜f8]

70. ♜b7 ♙c4 71. ♜b8+ ♙g8 72. ♜g5 ♜h7 73. ♜b7+ ♜h8 74. h6 ♙c4 [74... ♙h7 did not help: 75. ♜b8+ ♙g8 76. ♜f6 ♜h7 77. ♜b7+ ♜h8 78. ♜g6]

75. h7 ♙d5 76. ♜c7 ♙f7 77. ♜h6 ♙e8 78. ♜b7 1-0

(28) Osmanodja, Filiz(2352)-Khurtsilava, Inga(2212)

ewcc-2015, 2015



55...g5! Black starts creating an unbreakable fortress.

56. ♜e2 ♜c4! Now is following the correct transfer of the rook to the important f4 square, from where it will put strong pressure on the f3 pawn.

57. ♜ee3 ♜b4 58. ♜a6 ♜f4 59. ♜b6 ♜c4 60. ♜b8 ♜f4 61. ♜c8 ♜d4 62. ♜c7 ♜d1? It was necessary to stick to the f3 pawn.

[62...♖f4]

63.♖d7 ♖d4 64.♖d6+ ♔g7 65.♖e5! White starts an attack and Black destroyed his own fortress!

65...f6 66.♖e7+ ♔g6 67.♖dd7 f5 68.♖d6+ ♗e6 69.♖dxe6#
What a disaster! **1-0**

Chess and the City. Where does the buck stop?



WGM Elisabeth Paehtz
Best rating: 2493

The former US President Truman used to keep the phrase "the buck stops here" on his desk to signify that he took final responsibility for his decisions. However, in recent events at the European Women's Chess Championship it is difficult to understand where the buck actually stopped.

It has been more than a few months, and this topic might have gone into hibernation for most of us - except for the Romanian WGM Mihaela Sandu. But before digging into the details, let me give you an overview of the actual event.

This year's European Women's Championship was held in Chakvi, Georgia, and was indeed a special one. We may even claim that it made history, not only for the outstanding performance of its winner Natalia Zhukova from Ukraine, but rather for the incidents which overshadowed the tournament. "Gens Una Sumus" is the FIDE slogan which embraces our chess community. We are indeed a family, but sometimes perhaps a dysfunctional one...

Despite not being personally involved in the quarrel, I would like to try and summarize the events for the chess community without judging the parties involved, leaving this burden to the readers instead.

Before the start of the tournament I was told that the chief

arbiter requested a 15 minutes delay of live transmission, which the organizers eventually did not approve. They probably did not believe in any problems, which is logical if we consider that we have never heard of any scandals in women's competitions before. Delaying live games also seems to require more sophisticated software, which the organizers considered important.

The whole story became an issue after 5 rounds when Mihaela Sandu, rated 2300, was the sole leader with a 100 percent score. A couple of players then went to the arbiter and ECU president Azmaiparashvili and asked for cautious measures. Remembering the recent cheating scandals in India and Dubai, one may not be surprised that some players start getting paranoid if someone unexpectedly shows up with 5/5. In round 6 the live transmission of the game between Sandu and the Georgian player Batsiashvili was interrupted during the first 3 hours of play until the organizers were able to fix this "obvious technical problem of transmission". Funnily enough there was indeed a technical problem, but on board 2 between Savina and Gyria. In that game the arbiter tried to fix the cables after each move, whereas the first board game remained totally neglected despite its "transmission problems". I suppose that the game on board one was interrupted on purpose until the organizers realized that Sandu was simply playing a good game.

In a later interview the Vice-European Champion Nino Batsiashvili even stated that she was informed prior to her game that the live transmission would be stopped!

<http://chess-news.ru/node/19194>

Eventually Sandu lost that game and some players may have seen this result as evidence which worsened the whole situation. In round 7 Sandu was paired against Stefanova and the latter approached Azmaiparashvili to ask for a

general delay of 15 minutes for the rest of the tournament. For Stefanova it was most important to end the paranoia. According to her, Azmai promised to take steps in that direction by either delaying all the games or stopping the broadcast of that particular one. However nothing was changed and Azmai later claimed that he never promised anything.

Round 8 was what we may call the crucial one as it changed the fate of the entire tournament. Before that round there was a free day and Natalia Zhukova, the next opponent of Sandu, tried to convince both the arbiter and Azmai to implement the delay. As we know, the arbiter wanted this procedure before the beginning of the event, but nobody could ever have imagined the devastating outcome of not doing so.

Azmai denied the request of Zhukova and informed her that he would not do anything without official documents, which for the Ukrainian eventually meant composing two letters. The second letter was for her a sort of insurance in case the request to delay the transmission would once again be denied. Two letters were written, signatures collected, and eventually handed to the chief arbiter. The organizers and the arbiter decided to display those letters at the hotel lobby before the start of round 8, as well as informing all players about them. The chief arbiter announced that the first letter was approved and all the games from round 8 onwards would start with a delay of 15 minutes, while the second letter was not accepted by the organization. It was not hard for Mihalea to understand that both letters were probably connected to her performance, and, as I was told, she saw them for the first time after that particular round.

After that Sandu lost all her remaining games and this is where we now stand! But there is one question which remains: Where does the buck stop?

As a player myself, I can empathize with all the parties

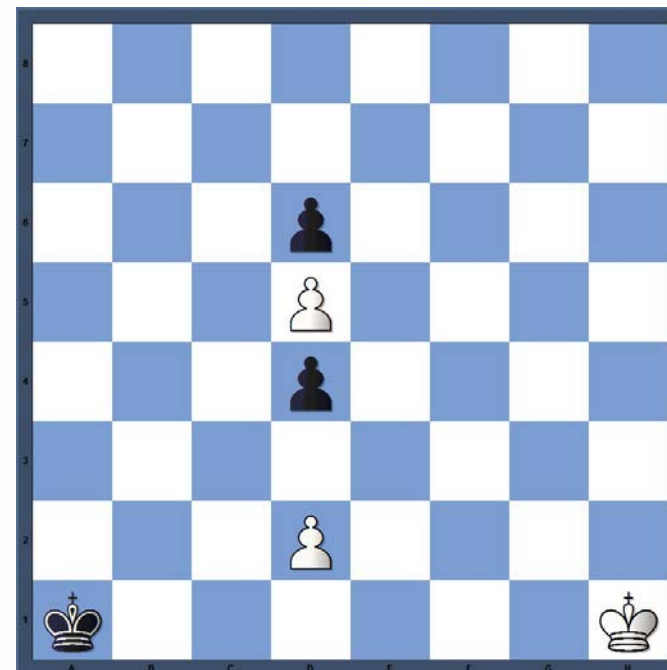
involved, but I would also certainly have lost all my remaining games if I had been the target of that letter. The whole situation was very unfortunate and went beyond certain limits, especially taking into account how long we have all known each other in the beautiful world of chess.

Until today I have not heard of any official statement neither from ECU nor the anti-cheating-commission at FIDE. I remember of course that I mentioned this incident in one of my previous newsletters during the actual event; however I decided to give it another shot, as this case cannot be considered closed yet.

Surprise section / study

(29) Jarmonov

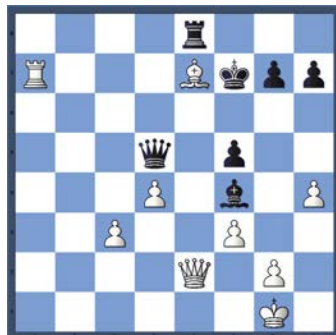
1. =



Solutions

(30) Adams, M(2740)-Eljanov, P(2723)

Biel, 2015.07.23



48...♙b8! —+ 49.♚a2 ♜xa2 50.♞xa2 ♙g3 0-1

(31) Yilmaz, M(2582)-Ludwig, P(2228)

Biel Open, 2015.07.20



21.g4! gxf4 [21...♞h3 22.♙xg5+—]

22.gxh5+—

(32) Rakhmanov, A(2626)-Sjodahl, P(2425)

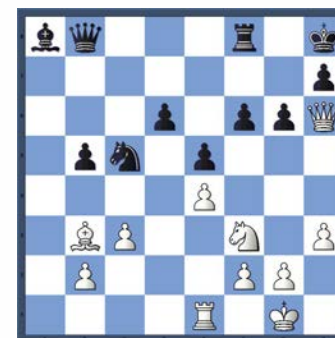
Politiken Cup, 2015.07.27



27.♞c4+!! ♜xc4 28.♘xc4 1-0 [28.♘xc4 28...♞xb1 29.♘xe5+ fxe5 30.♞xb1+—]

(33) Haubro, M(2382)-Maze, S(2575)

Politiken Cup, 2015.07.27



28.♘h4!! ♘xb3 [28...♞e8 29.♘xg6+! ♞xg6 30.♞xf8+—]

29.♘xg6+ ♙g8 30.♞e3!! +— ♞f7 [30...hxg6 31.♞xg6+ ♙h8 32.♞h5+ ♙g8 33.♞g3#]

31.♞g3 ♞e8 32.♘xe5+ [32.♘f8+! 32...♙h8 33.♘xh7! +— ♞xh7 34.♞xf6+ ♞g7 35.♞xg7#] 32...♙h8 33.♘xf7+—

(34) Verstraeten, R(2312)-Shankland, S(2656)

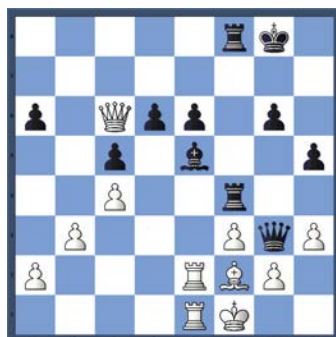
Politiken Cup, 2015.07.27



13...♘dc5!! 14.dxc5 ♘xc5 15.♔d2 ♔xb5±

(35) Warakomska, A(2274)-Movsesian, S(2653)

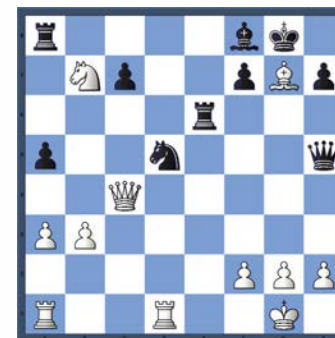
Czech Open, 2015.07.24



36...♖xf3! 37.gxf3 ♕xh3+ 38.♔g1 ♘h2+ 39.♔h1 ♘g3+
40.♔g1 ♕h2+ 41.♔f1 ♕h1+ 42.♘g1 ♖xf3+ 0-1

(36) Fuchs, F(2250)-Boruchovsky, A(2539)

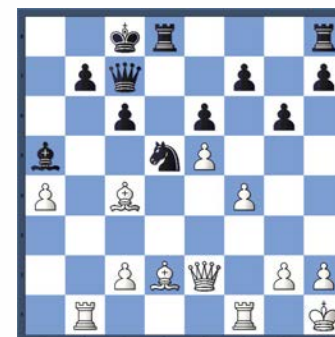
Czech Open, 2015.07.24



24...♘b6! 25.♔xc7 ♘xg7—+

(37) Predke, A(2537)-Smid, M(2250)

Czech Open, 2015.07.24



21.♘a6! ♘b6 [21...bxa6 22.♔xa6+ ♔d7 23.♘xa5+—;
21...♘xd2 22.♖xb7+—]

22.c4+— 1-0

(38) Kochetkova, Y(2309)-Westerberg, J(2452)

Czech Open, 2015.07.25



28...♔g3? [28...♖xh3! 29.gxh3 ♔g3+ 30.♕h1 ♔xh3+ 31.♕g1 ♔g3+ 32.♕h1 ♖xf2! 33.♖xf2 ♕xf2+-]

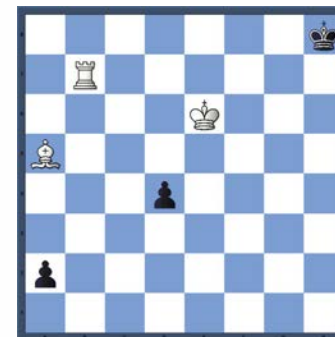
29.♖d3∞

(39) Tkachiev, V(2661)-Loiseau, Q(2429)

Andorra Open, 2015.07.21



29.♔xc4! 1-0 [29.♔xc4 29...♖xd8 30.♔h4+ ♕g8 31.♔xd8++-]

(40) Kondratiev

1.♕c7! a1=♔ **2.♕e5+** ♕g8 **3.♖g7+!** ♕f8 **4.♖g2!!** ♔e1 [4...♔a6+ 5.♕d6+ ♕e8 6.♖g8#]

5.♖b2!! [5.♖a2? 5...♔e4!]

5...♕g8 6.♖h2!+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 181

14th of August 2015

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Editorial Preface

The main event of the week is clearly the Russian Chess Championship. After 6 rounds there are 3 leaders: Vitiugov, Tomashevsky and very surprisingly the young Artemiev. These three players all have 4/6. In the women's section Goryachkina and Kosteniuk are leading with 4.5/6.

In the mini match out of 4 games between Li Chao and Leko in Leko's hometown Szeged, the first game ended in a draw.

There is also a surprising leader in the French Championship (that takes place without the participation of Fressinet and Vachier-Lagrave) and this is Jean-Marc Degraeve with 4.5/6.

The Turkish team Championship is still under way, with 2 rounds to go (out of a total of 13 rounds).

Already very soon we can expect the publication of the pairings for the World Cup in Baku, which starts on the 11th September. It seems like almost every top player in the world is going to participate in this event and the fight will be extremely tough for the 2 golden tickets which qualify to the Candidates tournament.

That's it from the main events of the current week. Enjoy the material and the analyses from the recent tournaments!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) So, Wesley (2779)
- Volkov, Sergey (2589) [C11]

TCh-TUR Super League 2015(2.1),
2015.08.05



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

It is quite unusual that a top player appears in a league, but a Turkish team invited Wesley So to show his class. He beats his experienced GM opponent in style.

1.e4 e6 Volkov only plays the French defense, so it is not so difficult to prepare against him.

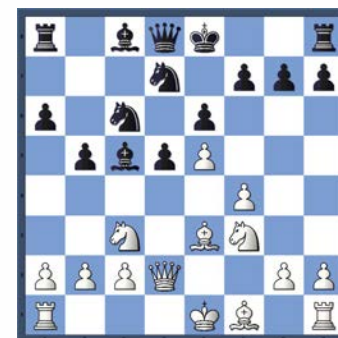
2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e5 Wesley So follows a good practical strategy, that he goes for the recently most popular and sharpest line, where a dubious old line might be refuted with the strongest computer analysis.

4...♗fd7 5.f4 c5 6.♗f3 ♗c6 7.♕e3 The initial position of this line. Black has various options here. Volkov chooses one of the main lines.

7...a6 7... cxd4, 7...Qb6 and 7...Be7 are the alternatives.

8.♖d2 b5 9.dxc5 [9.a3 is the other option.; A well-known mistake is 9.O-O-O? because Black closes the queenside with 9...c4 and launches a terrible attack with b4!]

9...♕xc5



10.♕d3! The new direction! All the top players are going for this line recently. White plays for the ideal arrangement of the pieces with Ne2-d4. [The old theory went with 10.♕xc5 10...♗xc5 11.♖f2 ♖b6 12.♕d3 b4! 13.♗e2 a5 followed by Ba6, trading the bad french bishop. Hundreds of games have been played, but the latest theory considers it to be equal.]

10...♖b6 [The tactical justification of the line is 10...d4 11.♗xd4! ♗xd4 12.♗e4! and Black is in trouble.]

11.♕f2! White wants to keep the option of castling kingside, which would not be possible after taking on c5.

11...♕b7 [11...b4 12.♗a4 ♕xf2+ 13.♖xf2 ♖xf2+ 14.♗xf2+= White opens the queenside with Rhc1 and c3 and the endgame with the d4 square is typically better for him.]

12.O-O ♖c8 13.♖ae1 White activates his last unemployed piece! At the same time he protects the e5 pawn and prepares for an attack with f5!

13...g6 This is the novelty. Hardly a prepared one. The move itself is logical, an attempt to avoid f5, but it runs into tactical problems.



14.f5!! A beautiful move! The breakthrough is coming anyway! The black king stands in the center, therefore White opens the files in front of it even at the cost of a piece! An important detail is that Black has just played Rc8, which prevents him from castling queenside, which could solve his problems after accepting the sacrifice on f5.

14...gxf5 15.♙xf5! ♙xf2+ [Black cannot accept the piece, because the attack becomes too strong after 15...exf5 16.e6! (16.♘xd5 looks even stronger, however Black has the brilliant



16...♘d4!! with the idea of 17.♘xb6? ♘xf3+ 18.gxf3 ♖g8+ 19.♔h1 ♙xf3#) 16...♘f6 (16...fxe6 is even worse, Black loses after 17.♖xe6+ ♔d8 18.♗g5+ ♔c7 19.♘xd5+- wins the queen.) 17.♘xd5 ♙xf2+ 18.♖xf2 ♘xd5 19.exf7+ ♔xf7 20.♗xd5+- White is crushing!]

16.♖xf2 ♘a5 Black tries to strengthen his d5 square against the potential knight sacrifices.

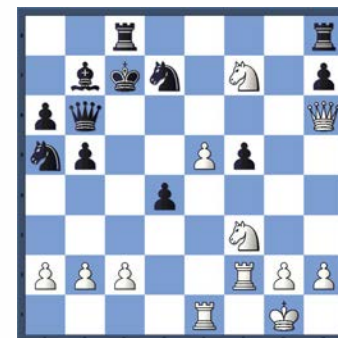
17.♗h6! After White has found 14.f5, the moves are already suggesting themselves. White does not count the hanging piece, but focuses all his forces on the attack!

17...d4 [17...exf5 18.e6!+- is still devastating!]

18.♘e4 exf5 Black knows that he cannot survive, so he tries his best practical chance to accept the material and hope for a blunder after which he might preserve it in the future. However Wesley So leads the attack precisely and collects the full point. [18...♙xe4 19.♙xe4+- is also hopeless. Ng5 or Qg7 is coming next.]

19.♘d6+ ♔d8 [19...♔e7 20.♗g5+ ♔f8 21.♗xf5+- is also over.]

20.♘xf7+ ♔c7 Black wants to run away, but he misses one move to get to b8-a8.



21.e6! Attacking the knight and creating the more important threat of Qf4 against which Black has no adequate defense!

21...♙xf3 22.♗f4+ ♔b7 23.exd7+- Black resigned as all his pieces are hanging. White takes on f3 with check and then grabs one of the rooks, followed by promoting his d-pawn soon. **1-0**

(2) Bukavshin, Ivan (2655)
- Lysyj, Igor (2673) [E53]68th ch-RUS 2015(1),
2015.08.09GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are going to watch a fantastic game, with a lot sacrifices, great positional play and very precise defence by Black. What is also worth mentioning is that the game is just perfect. Both player played it extremely well, having full control over the situation and making the right decisions in very complicated positions!

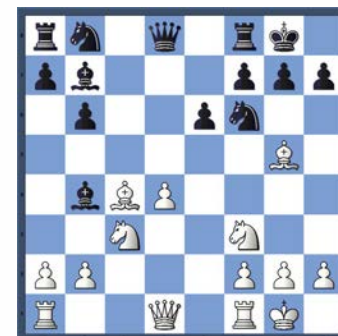
1.d4 e6 The move order in the game is not important, as the game anyway gets back into the main line of Nimzovich. Sometimes Black starts with 1...e6 on 1.d4, but only in case he feels well-prepared in the French, which could appear after 2.e4. In this is the case, Lysyj even wrote a book on the French defence.

2.c4 f6 3.f3 c3 b4 4.e3 is one of the oldest and still most popular lines.

4...O-O 5.f3 d5 6.f3 c5 7.O-O This is the very main position and now Black has a wide range of continuations.

7...cxd4 has clearly been the most popular line lately. [For a long time the most played was 7...c6 8.a3 fxc3 9.bxc3 dxc4 10.fxc4 c7 which is still not out of fashion and we can find games of for example Topalov in it.]

8.exd4 dxc4 9.fxc4 b6 Black's idea is simple, to quickly get the bishop to b7 and later on put maximum pressure on the d4 pawn.

10.fg5 fb7

11.f5 is one of the most aggressive continuations. The game is getting very sharp now.

11...h6 It is usually a good idea for Black to include the h6-Bh4 moves before doing something, to secure the king's position a bit more.

12.fh4 fd7 Black is immediately fighting against the knight on e5, which is clearly the best thing to do.

13.fxf7!? This is the beginning of a very interesting position. [Of course it is not dangerous for Black to play 13.fxd7 13...fxd7 14.fxf6 gxf6 since in such structures only White is at risk of getting a worse position.]

13...xf7 is clearly the most principled move. [After 13...xf7 14.fxe6 we have a position which is difficult to evaluate, but White should not be worse. The 2 pawns for the 2 pieces vs rook should give White an edge, but on the other hand Black's pieces are very well placed and could compensate the slight material disadvantage.]

14.fxe6+ White continues with the sacrifices, but it is already needed.

14...xe6 15.b3+ f5 The only move yet again.

16.c2+ e6 [Of course Black can't counter with 16...e4

17. ♖xe4 ♖xe4 since White is winning the queen after 18. ♕xd8]

17. ♖b3+ ♔f5 18. ♖c2+ ♔e6 After repeating the moves twice, White continues to play for a win.

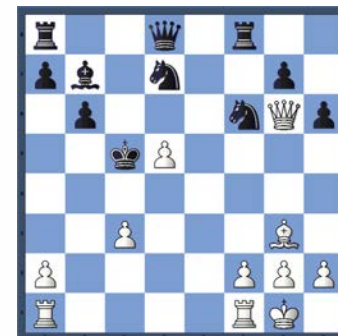
19. ♖g6!? A very cool move! White is 2 pieces down but the black king is in big danger. The direct threat is Rfe1 and after Kd6 White would have Bg3.



19... ♕xc3! The strongest response. Black not only exchanges a piece- which is great as he is 2 pieces up and has an open king- but also protects for a second time the e1 square. [Let us take a look at an example line: 19... ♕d5 20. ♖fe1+ ♔d6 and now White catches the black king on d6 and doesn't give a chance to escape with Kc6-Kb7: 21. ♖ac1!? With a lot of different mating threats.]

20. bxc3 and now Black really has a very wide range of moves, because it seems like White doesn't have any direct threats.

20... ♖e8! Another excellent decision by Lysyj. [20... ♕e4? 21. ♖fe1 and Black loses a full piece after 21... ♔d6 22. ♖xe4 With a strong attack.; The game could also be very interesting after 20... ♔d6 21. ♕g3+ ♔c6 and now White has the very strong 22.d5+! ♔c5 (22... ♕xd5 23. ♖f5+ leads to mate: 23... ♔c6 24. ♖e6+ ♔b5 25. a4+ ♔a5 26. ♖c4)

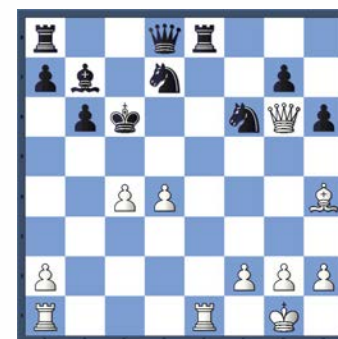


23.c4!! To find such an amazing move is extremely hard over the board. The idea is to force the black king to take the c4 pawn, after which the c-file opens. 23...b5 24. ♖ab1 and it seems that White's attack is deadly! What a crazy position!]

21. ♖fe1+ ♔d5 The right move. [21... ♔d6 was losing as after 22. ♖g3+ the queen is getting back into the game. 22... ♔c6 23.d5+ ♔c5 24.c4 and White will mate soon.]

22. c4+ White needs to do something fast!

22... ♔c6 The best move once again. [White is mating after 22... ♕xc4 23. ♖c2+ ♔d5 24. ♖f5+]



23. ♖g3! An excellent move. White continues threatening to play d5 and now another idea is to just give a check on f3 at some point. [23. ♖xg7 is almost losing for White. 23... ♕a6! Freeing the b7 square for the king. 24.d5+ ♔c7 and although

Black remains with a big material advantage, things are still not that clear.]

23...♖xe1+ Probably the only move again. [23...♘a6 was losing on the spot: 24.♚f3+! ♔c7 25.♙g3+ ♔c8 26.♚xa8+]

24.♖xe1 What a shocking position. White just has 3 pieces left on the board and he is 2 pieces down- but still things are very unclear! This is a very rare case in chess.

24...♚g8 The only move. White threatened to mate in one by playing Re6.

25.♖c1 A very strange move, but maybe the best one! White wants to play d5. [25.d5+ was losing: 25...♘xd5 26.cxd5+ ♚xd5; 25.♚f3+ didn't work either: 25...♔c7 26.♙g3+ ♔c8 27.♚f4 ♚d8; But maybe an interesting choice was 25.♙xf6 25...♘xf6 26.♖e7 and it seems that the game would end in a draw after 26...♖c8 27.♚f3+ ♔d6 28.♚a3+ ♔c6 29.♚f3+ What a beautiful perpetual check !]

25...♘c5! Perfect play! [25...♘a6 would still lead to a dangerous position. 26.♚f3+ ♔d6 27.♖e1! Cutting the king's escape route.]

26.dxc5



26...♚e6 Another only move. [White is winning after 26...bxc5? 27.♚f3+ This line is very forced. 27...♔c7 28.♙g3+

♔c8 29.♚f5+ ♘d7 30.♚f4 ♚d8 31.♖e1 With the deadly threat of playing Re8. The game is over.]

27.♚xg7 Why not take a pawn if possible. Now White already has 3 pawns for the piece and his attack is still alive.

27...♘d7 Black is trying to consolidate.

28.♙g3 Defending against the Rg8 idea and at the same time putting the black king under pressure.

28...♖g8 The black pieces are finally out.

29.♚c3 White wants to play Re1 next. [29.♚b2 would lead to a very interesting position. 29...♘a6 30.cxb6 axb6 and it is very hard to tell who is better here, but maybe Bukavshin thought that it could become a bit dangerous with Black somehow going for the g2 pawn with h5 or playing Bb7 and Qc6.]

29...♘xc5 30.♖e1 Can Black stabilize the position to get the full point?

30...♚f5 [After 30...♚f7 31.♚d4! looks very strong and Black already needs to give the exchange in order to avoid being worse. 31...♖xg3 32.hxg3 and I think White is clearly better here.]



31.♖e7 Threatening mate on c7.

31... ♔b1+ **32.** ♖e1 ♗f5 **33.** ♖e7 A repetition of moves!

33... ♔b1+ [The last chance for Black was to play 33... ♘d7 and it is really difficult to say who is better here... The black king is really dangerously placed but it is also hard for White to find a way to continue the attack. It is a very complicated position!]

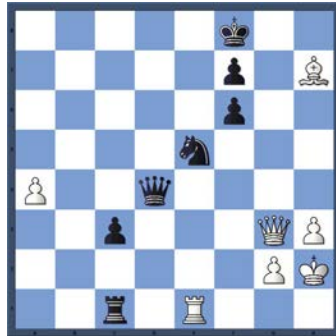
34. ♖e1 Why do such great fighting games usually end with a "boring" draw?! :) **1/2-1/2**

Puzzle section

(3) Guseva, M(2431)-Girya, O(2487)

Russian Woman Championship, 2015.08.10

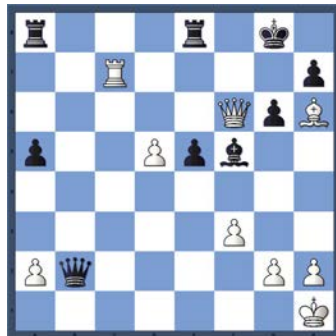
1... -+



(4) Edouard, R(2634)-Degraeve, JM(2551)

French Championship, 2015.08.10

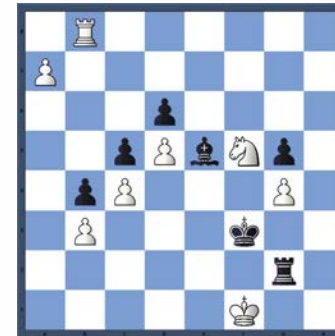
1... -+



(5) Howell, D(2712)-Gormally, D(2485)

British Championship, 2015.07.29

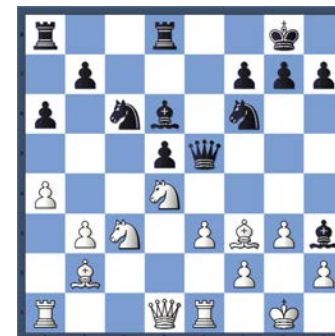
1... -+



(6) Arkell, K(2488)-Summerscale, A(2416)

British Championship, 2015.08.04

1. +-



(7) Gao Rui(2528)-Le Quang Liem(2699)

Asian Continental, 2015.08.04

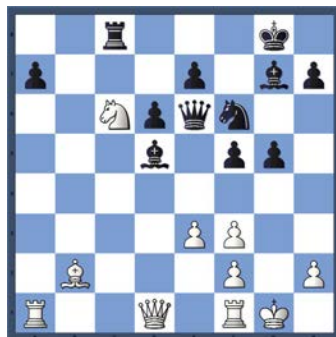
1... -+



(8) Gupta, A(2619)-Dzhumaev, M(2493)

Asian Continental, 2015.08.04

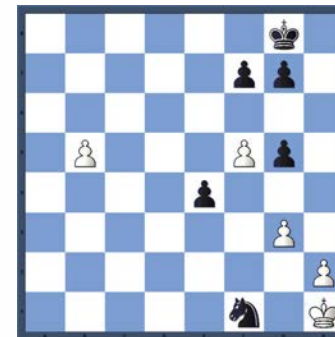
1. +-



(9) Nguyen Ngoc Trungson(2662)-Salem, A(2595)

Asian Continental, 2015.08.09

1... -+



(10) Sethuraman, S(2635)-Khusnutdinov, R(2510)

Asian Continental, 2015.08.09

1. +-



(11) Van Wely, L(2654)-Van Foreest, J(2519)

Vlissingen Open, 2015.08.04

1. +-



(12) Harutyunian, T(2472)-Cori, J(2635)

Badalona Open, 2015.08.08

1. +-



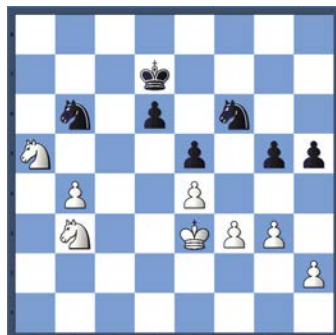
Endgame section

(13) Khairullin, Ildar (2662)
- Dubov, Daniil (2654)

68th ch-RUS 2015(1),
2015.08.09



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



White was better all game long and now we are in a double knight endgame where he is a pawn up. Usually knight endgames should be evaluated similarly to pawn endgames, so an extra pawn normally gives a very good chance to win the game. In the current position however, things are far from easy. Black wants to exchange the pawns and the double knights are giving to him some extra chances for escape because in case of a blank board it is not possible to mate the black king with just 2 knights.

41. ♖d2 Black would play d5 next anyway, so White is bringing the knight a bit closer to the center.

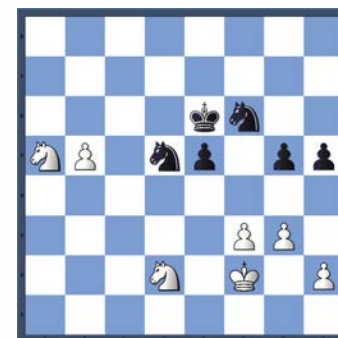
41...d5 Of course ! Exchanges of pawns is what is needed!

42.b5 A logical move as the white pawn will probably be better placed on b5 than on b4 for the future.

42...♔e6 The black king is getting closer to the center and maybe Black wants to play g4 next.

43.exd5+ ♜bxd5+ A very strange response in my opinion. [I think it was more logical to play 43...♔xd5 with the easy plan of playing Kc5 next. 44.♜c6 Attacking the e5 pawn. 44...♜bd7 and Black continues threatening to play Kc5. Of course the position remains very complicated, but I think Black's chances to make a draw are reasonable.]

44.♔f2 [White could have tried to go into a different direction: 44.♔d3 but Black would do the same thing- try to exchange all the pawns. 44...g4 45.fxg4 ♜xg4 46.h4 ♜f2+ 47.♔e2 ♜g4 and it is not easy for White to improve.]



44...g4?! Black rushes things too much. [Maybe it was better to play 44...♜b6 with the same idea as before, to bring the king to c5. 45.♜ac4 ♜xc4 46.♜xc4 ♔d5 47.♜e3+ ♔c5 and Black has good drawing chances.]

45.♜ac4 The knight from a5 is finally back in the game.

45...gxf3 46.♔xf3 All black needs to do is to take White's 3 pawns, but that is a very difficult task.

46...♜d7 47.♜e4 The white knights are perfectly placed.

47...♖e7 Black is looking for some play.

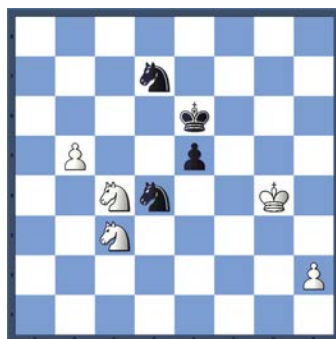
48.♗c3?! There was no reason at all to let the black knight out to d4. [48.♗e3! would paralyze the black pieces. Now White would have all the time in the world to create another passed pawn on the kingside.]

48...♗f5 The knight is back in the game.

49.g4? This is a very serious mistake. The idea to create a passed h-pawn is correct, but right now it just doesn't work! [White should have continued with 49.b6 49...♗d4+ 50.♖f2 with good winning chances.]

49...♗d4+ [After 49...hxg4+ 50.♖xg4 ♗f6+ White has the strong 51.♖g5!]

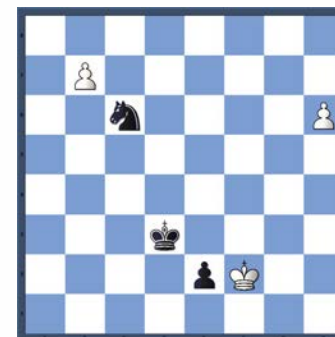
50.♖g3 hxg4 51.♖xg4



51...♗f6+ Suddenly the passively placed black pieces are in perfect harmony.

52.♖g3 ♗f5+? and Black gives back the favor, probably based on a miscalculation of the following long line: [52...♗d5 The beginning of a forced line. 53.♗xd5 ♖xd5 54.b6 (Not better is 54.♗a3 54...♖c5 55.h4 e4 56.♖f4 and Black makes an easy draw with 56...e3 57.♖xe3 ♗f5+ followed by Nxh4.) 54...♖xc4 55.b7 To make the following calculation is not that simple, but possible... 55...♗c6 56.h4 e4 57.h5 e3 58.h6 e2

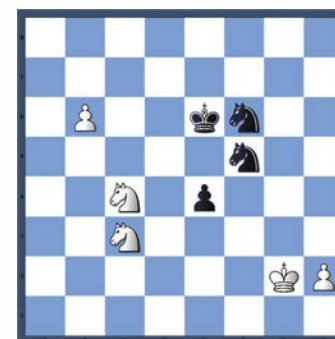
59.♖f2 ♖d3



60.b8=♖ ♗xb8 61.♖e1 ♗c6 62.h7 ♗d4 63.h8=♖ ♗c2+ and Black is just in time!]

53.♖g2 e4 Black's chances for a draw are still very good. Give up one knight for the b-pawn and one for the h-pawn and it is done! :)

54.b6 White pushes the passed pawn, but that probably just makes things easier for Black. [White had a tricky move like 54.h3!? to prevent Black from playing Ng4 in the future. 54...♖d7 55.♖f2 followed by Ne3 somewhere, with still some practical chances of winning the game.]



54...♖d7 Now the black king is getting very close.

55.♗a5 The only move to avoid Kc6.

55...♔c8 A very safe move with the threat of playing Nd7 next.

56.♘b5 White doesn't have anything better.

56...♞d7 57.♞a7+ [57.b7+ 57...♔b8 followed by Nc5 and Nxb7 with a draw.]

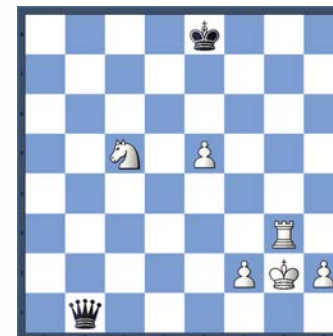
57...♔b8 58.♞7c6+ ♔c8 59.♞a7+ ♔b8 60.♞7c6+ and White finds no way to improve the position- and there was indeed no way to improve it already! Well, this was an endgame with a lot of mistakes but we had to admit that the starting position was very complicated. **1/2-1/2**

**(14) Karjakin, Sergey (2753)
- Khismatullin, Denis (2642)**

Russian Championship,
2015.08.09



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



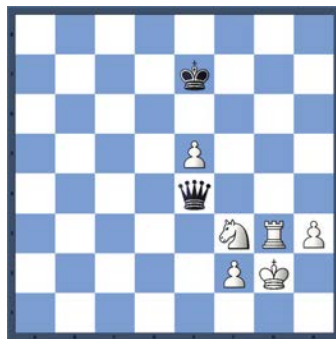
A very interesting question is as to how one would evaluate the following endgame. It is clear that the pieces with the pawns are stronger than the queen, but the question is, if Black is able to create any counterplay, does he have realistic drawing chances after the pawn gets advanced? White must advance his pawns sooner or later to make progress, but then the white king gets exposed and Black will have more checks- but will it be enough to save the game?! After all, I came to the conclusion that White is winning. Karjakin realizes his advantage with perfect technique. He has all the time to prepare for any kind of progress and Black cannot fight against the pawns in the long term... Let's see how it looks like in practice.

54...♔c2 55.♞d3 ♔c6+ 56.♔g1 White does not want to move his f-pawn yet, because it allows checks on the 2nd rank. He rather moves his h-pawn and hides his king on g2 or h2 according to the circumstances.

56...♔e4 57.h3 ♔e7 58.♖e3! It is time to regroup the pieces. The knight could support the pawns better and at the same time give the king shelter against the checks.

58...♔d5 59.♘e1! The knight should be somewhere around the king!

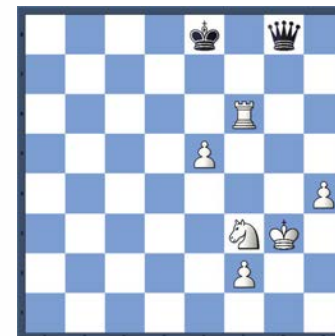
59...♔d1 60.♔h2 ♔b1 61.♔g2 ♔g6+ 62.♖g3 ♔e4+ 63.♘f3! In the last 5 moves, the only change that White has made in his position is to drive the knight from d3 to f3. However this seemingly irrelevant transfer allows many new plans for White! In the next few moves it all becomes clear.



63...♔f8 64.♖g4! ♔f5 65.♔g3! We can see now the excellent position of the f3 knight. Black cannot even give a check and White is ready to advance his h-pawn.

65...♔b1 66.h4 ♔h7 Black prevents the further advance of the h-pawn. White does not want to touch his e-pawn either, therefore a new regrouping of his pieces is needed in order to make progress.

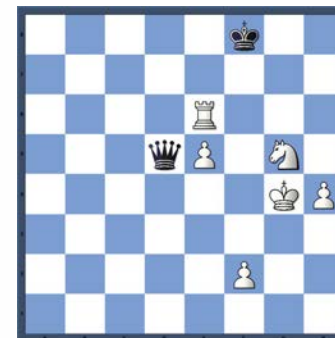
67.♖f4+ ♔e8 68.♖f6! ♔g8+



69.♘g5! White keeps everything protected. Only the e5 pawn is "alone", but it is also indirectly protected by Re6.

69...♔b3+ 70.♔g4 ♔d5 [Black quickly runs out of checks after 70...♔d1+ 71.f3 ♔g1+ 72.♔h5+- which is similar to the game.]

71.♖e6+ ♔f8



72.♔h5! Suddenly the white king goes to g6 or h6 and it will not only be protected from the checks, but also creates different kind of mating nets, such as Kg6, Nh7 and Re8 mate.

72...♔d4 73.f4! Bringing another defender against the checks! The pawn cannot be taken because of Rf6!

73...♔d1+ 74.♔g6 White threatens to play Nh7 and Re8 now. The only way to prevent it is to pin the knight.

74...♔g4 75.h5 It is clear that the game is over. White only needs to be careful to avoid stalemate ideas.

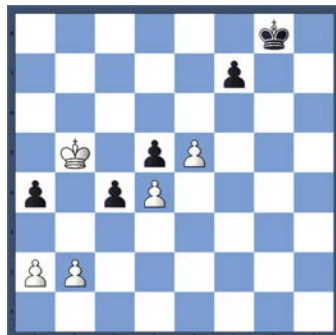
75...♔g1 76.h6 ♔g2 77.♖f6+! After White sends the king to the e-file, he has no more hopes for stalemate. [Black resigned in view of 77.♖f6+ 77...♔e7 78.h7 ♔h2 79.♔g7+— It was instructive how hopeless Black was with his queen!] **1-0**

Golden knowledge



GM Adrian Mikhalchishin
FIDE Trainers Commission Chairman

(15) Ex-1

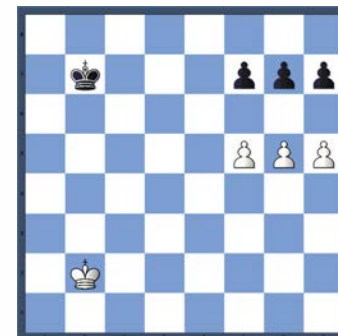


A break is one of the most important methods in endgames. Sometimes there is no other possibility to create a passed pawn, so it is necessary to sacrifice. This method is used mostly in pawn endings, but we want to show that it is also frequently used in other types of endgames.

1...a3! The simplest break! With the help of this pawn sacrifice, Black clears the way for his own c-pawn, which becomes unstoppable.

2.bxa3 c3 0-1

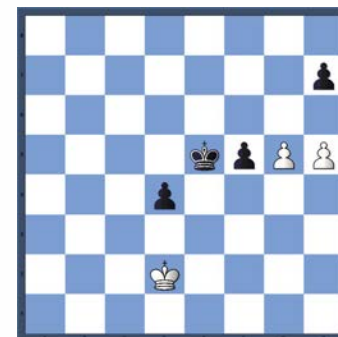
(16) EX-2



This is the oldest example of direct pawns break. We must mention that if it was Black's move, 1..g6 would stop this dangerous maneuver.

1.g6! hxg6 2.f6! gxf6 3.h6 1-0

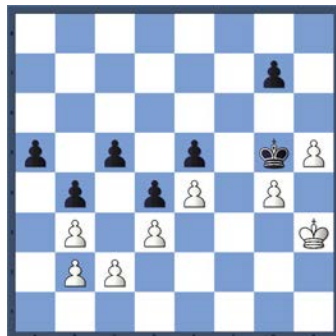
(17) EX-3



1.h6! Here we have a preparation for the break since it is necessary to control the f6 square longer.

1...♔e6 2.g6! 1-0

(18) EX-4



1...c4! 2.dxc4 [Things are simple after 2.bxc4 2...a4]
2...a4 3.bxa4 b3! 4.cxb3 d3 0-1

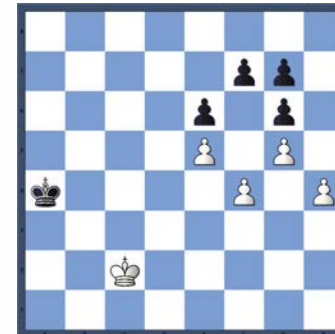
(19) EX-5



1...c3! 2.bxc3 b3! We can call this a long break or delayed break.

3.axb3 a3 0-1

(20) EX-6

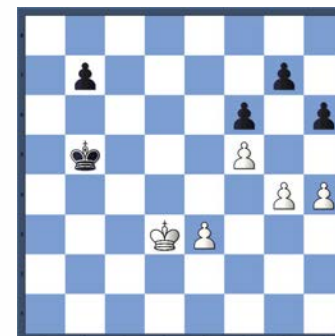


1.f5!! exf5 [Another kind of break works after 1...♔b5 2.f6 gxf6 3.exf6 ♔c6 4.h5 gxh5 5.g6 fxg6 6.f7]

2.h5! gxh5 3.g6! fxg6 4.e6 Finally everything was sacrificed, but the last pawn is on its way to the top. **1-0**

(21) Awerbah, Y.-Bebchuk, E.

Moscow, 1961



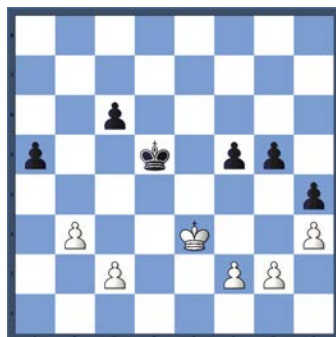
1.e4 ♔c6 2.e5! Black has a dangerous passed pawn so White has to try and create a passed pawn immediately.

2...fxe5 3.g5 hxg5 [3...♔d7 doesn't help since after 4.f6 ♔e6 5.fxg7 ♔f7 6.gxh6 b5 7.♔e4 b4 8.♔d3 the white king successfully wins both black pawns.]

4.f6 gxf6 5.h5 White gave all his pawns, but the last one is unstoppable. **1-0**

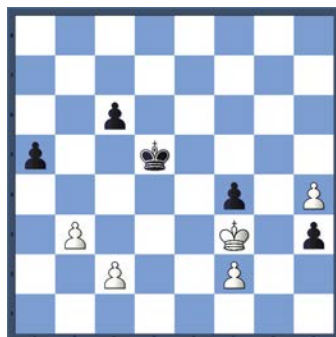
(22) Cekro, E.-Arhangelsky, B.

Esent, 2002



1.g3? [1.f4 1...g4 2.♔d3 was correct.]

1...g4! 2.gxh4 gxh3 3.♔f3 f4!

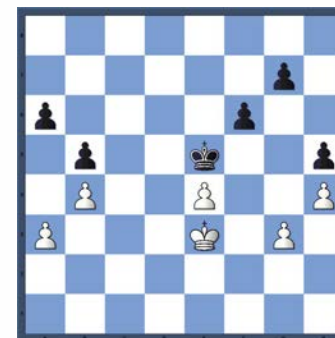


Creating a typical box for the opponent's king.

4.h5 ♕e5 Now the king stops White's pawn and it is time to resign. **0-1**

(23) Welling-Eingorn

Bad Wiesee, 2006



1...g5?? This typical mistake happened in hundreds of games on different levels. Here the strong GM Eingorn did not know the typical blow and a very unpleasant break reverts the evaluation of the position.

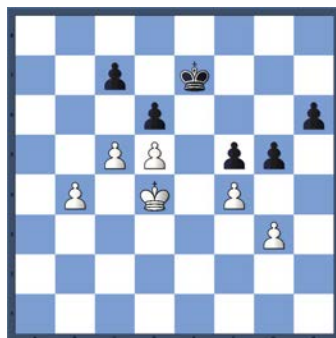
2.g4!! hxg4 [2...gxh4 makes no big difference. 3.gxh5 ♕e6 (3...f5 4.h6 ♕f6 5.e5+ ♕g6 6.e6 and White is winning.) 4.♔f4 ♕f7 5.♔g4 and losing the h4 pawn means the end for Black.]

3.h5 f5 4.h6 f4+ 5.♔f2 ♕f6 6.e5+! With the same idea as before: the black king can't fight with two such powerful pawns.

6...♕g6 7.e6 1-0

(24) Camacho, G.-Hernandez, A.

Cuba, 1995

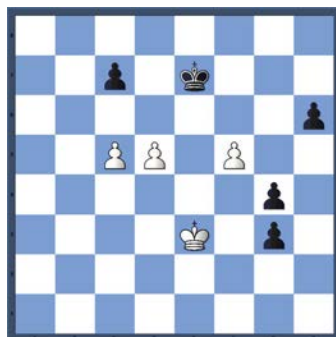


This case seems to be much more complicated, but the win is very similar.

1.g4!! fxg4 [1...gxf4 2.gxf5+—]

2.f5 dxc5+ [Other options don't help: 2...♔f6 3.cxd6 cxd6 4.b5+—; 2...g3 3.♔e3 g4 4.c6 h5 5.b5 h4 6.♔e2!+—]

3.bxc5 g3 4.♔e3 g4

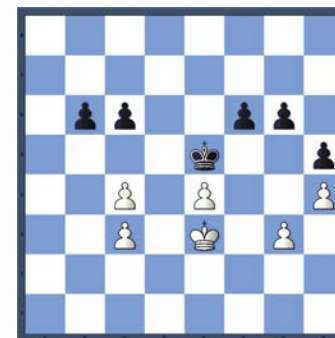


5.c6!! [Just not 5.d6+? 5...cxd6 6.c6 d5!=]

5...h5 6.f6+ ♕xf6 7.d6 1-0

(25) Koch, Ju-De Dovitiis, A.

Argentina , 2005



A slightly similar position to the previous one, but here Black prevents the break in a very technical way.

1...♔d6! [1...g5? 2.g4!! hxg4 (2...gxh4 3.gxh5 h3 4.♔f2 f5 5.h6 ♔f6 6.exf5+—) 3.h5 ♔e6 (3...f5 4.h6 f4+ 5.♔f2 ♔f6 6.e5+ ♔g6 7.e6+—) 4.♔f2 ♔f7 5.♔g3 ♔g7 6.♔xg4 ♔h6 7.c5! (7.♔f5 7...♔xh5 8.♔xf6 g4 9.e5 g3 10.e6 g2 11.e7 g1=♔ 12.e8=♔+ ♔h4 13.♔h8+ ♔g3 14.♔g7+ ♔f2 15.♔xg1+ ♔xg1 16.♔e5 ♔f2 17.♔d6 ♔e3=) 7...b5 (7...bxc5 8.c4 ♔g7 9.e5! fxe5 10.♔xg5+—) 8.♔f5 ♔xh5 9.♔xf6 g4 10.e5 g3 11.e6 g2 12.e7 g1=♔ 13.e8=♔+ ♔h4 14.♔h8+ ♔g3 15.♔g7+ ♔f2 16.♔xg1+ ♔xg1 17.♔e5 ♔f2 18.♔d6 ♔e3 19.♔xc6+—]

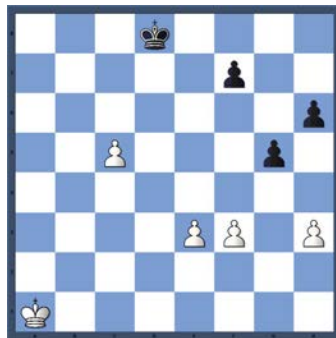
2.♔d4? [It was possible to keep the balance with 2.♔e2 2...♔e6 3.♔f2! (3.♔f3 3...g5 4.♔e2 gxh4 5.gxh4 ♔e5 6.♔e3 f5 7.exf5 ♔xf5 8.♔f3 c5) 3...g5 (3...b5 4.cxb5 cxb5 5.♔e3 ♔e5 6.♔f3 g5 7.♔e3 gxh4 8.gxh4)]

2...g5 3.c5+ bxc5+ 4.♔d3 [Or 4.♔c4 4...♔e5 5.♔xc5 gxh4 6.gxh4 ♔xe4 7.♔xc6 f5 8.♔d6 f4+—]

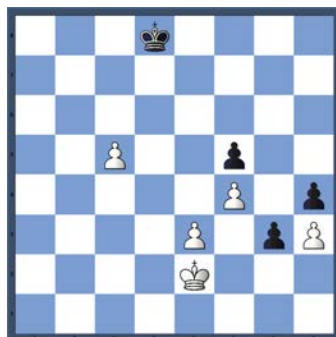
4...♔e5 5.♔c4 gxh4 6.gxh4 ♔xe4 7.♔xc5 f5—+

(26) Bronstein, D.

Shakhmaty Moskva, 1967



1. ♖b2 f5 2. ♖c3 h5 3. ♖d3! h4 4. f4! g4 5. ♖e2 g3 [5... ♖d7 6. hxg4 fxg4 7. f5]

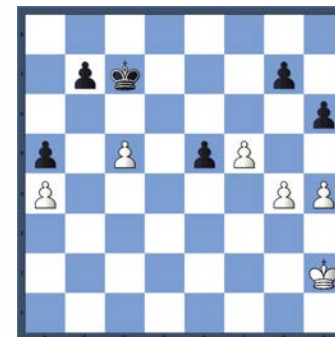


6. e4! This break has the idea to create two passed pawns with a bigger distance between them than the black pair!

6... fxe4 7. f5 1-0

(27) Kupreichik, V.-Marjanovic, S.

USSR - Jugoslavija , 1979



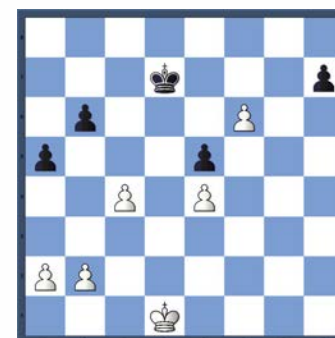
40... ♖c6 41. g5 White has a dangerous pawn majority on this flank.

41... hxg5 [41... ♖xc5 42. f6 gxf6 43. gxh6 and the h-pawn will promote.]

42. f6! gxf6 43. h5 and once the h-pawn is unstoppable. It cost a few pawns, but it paid in the end. 1-0

(28) Baramidze, D.-Khamrakulov, I.

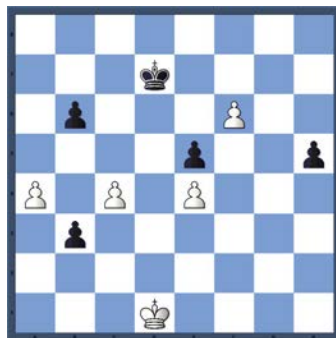
Dresden, 2008



39.a3 a4 [Or 39...♔e6 40.b4 axb4 (40...♔xf6 41.c5 bxc5 42.bxa5 ♔e6 43.a6) 41.axb4 ♔xf6 42.♔e2 ♔e6 43.♔f3 ♔f6 44.♔g4 ♔g6 45.♔h4 ♔f6 46.♔h5]

40.b4! axb3 41.a4! White doesn't care about the material, his idea is to create two passed pawns.

41...h5

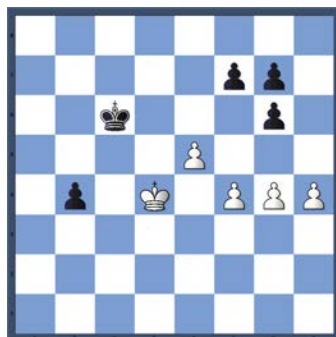


42.c5! Now White creates two very distant passed pawns. The Russians call them in a funny way: TROUSERS!

42...bxc5 43.a5 h4 44.f7 ♔e7 45.f8=♔+ ♔xf8 46.a6 and the pawn promotes with check. **1-0**

(29) Mamedyarov, S.-Sokolov, I.

Essent



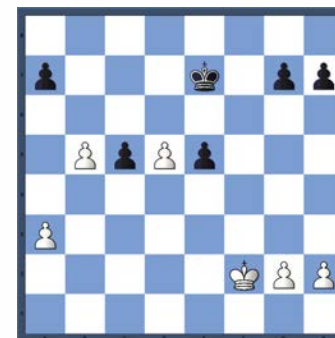
This is a much more complicated case because Black has his own dangerous passed pawn.

1.f5! b3 2.♔c3 gxf5 [After 2...♔d5 3.e6 fxe6 4.fxg6 ♔e5 5.h5 the white king starts to capture the black pawns and Black can't do anything about it.]

3.gxf5 ♔d5 4.e6! fxe6 5.f6! gxf6 6.h5! and with the sacrifice White managed to block the opponent's king's way to h8! **1-0**

(30) Guliev, S.-Tukmakov, V.

Nikolaev, 1993

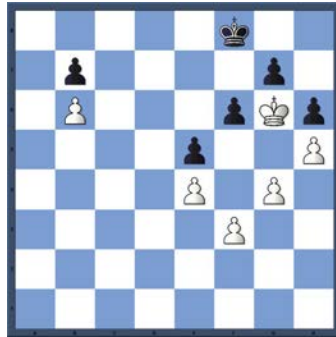


33.♔e3? [Chess is all about timing, as used to say the great Robert Fischer. It is useful to improve the position of the king, but it is even more important to use the power and dynamism of the passed pawns. 33.a4! 33...♔d6 34.a5 c4 35.a6! ♔c5 36.d6 ♔xd6 37.b6+--]

33...♔d6 34.♔e4 c4 35.a4 c3 36.♔d3 ♔xd5 37.♔xc3 ♔c5 Black will use the e5 pawn to deflect the opponent's king and will win both pawns on the queenside, creating new a passed pawn on the a-file. **0-1**

(31) Chatalbashev, B.-Tratar, M.

20th TCh-CRO 1b, 2011



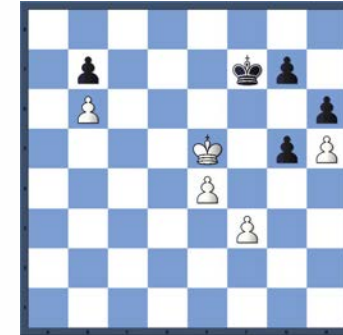
It is necessary to play a decisive move immediately here!

55.g5!! [55.♔h7? 55...♕f7 56.♔h8 ♕f8= and; 55.♕f5 55...♕f7 56.f4 exf4 57.♕xf4 ♕e6 58.♕f3 ♕e5 59.♕e3= are indeed dead draws.]

55...fxg5?! [55...hxg5!? is more complicated: 56.h6 The breakthrough continues. 56...gxh6 57.♕xf6 ♕e8 58.♕g6! (Of course not 58.♕xe5? 58...h5 59.♕f5 h4 60.♕g4 ♕e7 61.f4 gxf4 62.♕xh4 ♕d6 63.♕g4 ♕c5 64.♕xf4 ♕xb6=) 58...♕d7 (58...♕e7 59.♕xh6 ♕f6 60.♕h5+-) 59.♕xh6 ♕c6 60.♕xg5 ♕xb6 61.♕f5 ♕c5 62.♕xe5 b5 63.♕f4!? is more logical than the other winning option. (63.f4?! 63...b4 64.f5 b3 65.f6 b2 66.f7 b1=♔ 67.f8=♔+ ♕c4 68.♔d6 mates in 52 moves according to the tablebase.) 63...♕d4 (63...b4 64.♕e3 ♕c4 65.♕d2+-) 64.e5 ♕d5 65.♕f5 b4 66.e6 ♕d6 (66...b3 67.e7 b2 68.e8=♔ b1=♔+ 69.♔e4+-) 67.♕f6 b3 68.e7 b2 69.e8=♔ b1=♔ 70.♔e7+ ♕d5 71.♔e5+ ♕c6 72.♔e4+-]

56.♕f5 ♕f7 57.♕xe5

57...g6 [57...♕e7 does not help either: 58.♕f5 ♕f7 59.e5 ♕e7 60.♕g6 ♕e6 61.♕xg7 ♕xe5 62.♕xh6 ♕f6 63.♕h7 ♕f7 64.h6+-]

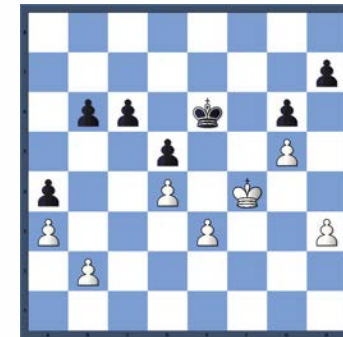


58.hxg6+ ♕xg6 59.♕d6 ♕f7 [59...h5 60.e5 h4 61.e6 h3 62.e7 ♕f7 63.♕d7 h2 64.e8=♔+-]

60.e5 1-0

(32) Vilela De Acuna, J.-Garcia Palermo, C.

Bayamo, 1983



1...c5! 2.h4 [2.dxc5 2...bxc5+-; 2.♕g4 2...c4 3.♕f4 b5 4.e4 b4!+-]

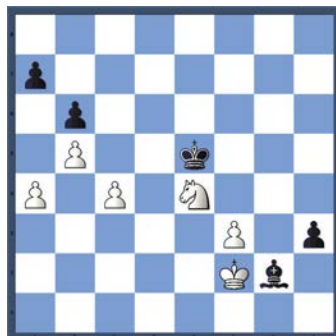
2...♕d6! [Wrong was 2...c4? 3.e4 b5 (3...dxe4? 4.♕xe4 b5 5.d5+ ♕d6 6.♕d4+-) 4.e5! b4 5.♕e3 c3 6.♕d3! cxb2 7.♕c2 bxa3 8.♕b1 ♕d7 9.♕c2 ♕c6 10.♕b1 ♕b6 11.♕c2 ♕b5 12.♕b1 ♕c4 13.♕c2!=]

3.♔f3 c4! 4.♔f4 [Other options are not better: 4.e4 4...dxe4+ 5.♔xe4 b5 6.d5 b4! 7.axb4 c3 8.♔d3 cxb2 9.♔c2 a3—+; 4.♔e2 4...♔e6—+]]

4...b5 5.e4 dxe4 6.♔xe4 b4 7.axb4 c3 8.♔d3 cxb2 9.♔c2 a3 10.b5 ♔d5! [10...♔d5 11.♔b1 (11.b6 11...♔c6—+) 11...♔c4! 12.b6 ♔b3—+] **0-1**

(33) Shirov, A.-Akopian, V.

Oakham YM, 1992



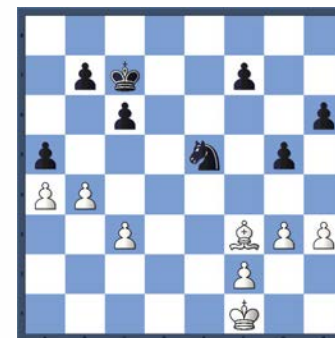
53...♕xf3? is the wrong transposition into a pawn endgame as Black overlooked the break... [After 53...♔e6 Black still had drawing chances.]

54.♔xf3 h2 55.♔g2 ♔xe4 56.c5 ♔d5 [56...bxc5 Ftacnik 57.a5 ♔d5 (57...c4 58.b6+—) 58.a6! c4 59.b6 c3 60.bxa7 h1=♔+ 61.♔xh1 c2 62.a8=♔+—]]

57.c6 ♔d6 58.♔xh2 ♔c7 59.♔g3 ♔d6 60.♔f4 ♔e6 61.♔e4 ♔d6 62.♔f5 1-0

(34) Tzermiadianos, A.-Iuldachev, S.

Al ain, 2012



34.♔e2?? White did not see the break in the pawn ending, but it was not so easy to find the best way to keep the balance here. [34.♕e4]

34...♖xf3 35.♔xf3 b5! This is the move White missed when playing 34.Be2??.

36.♔e4 bxa4 37.♔d3 axb4 38.cxb4 ♔b6 0-1

Chess and the City. Li La Lueneburg



WGM Elisabeth Paehtz
Best rating: 2493

Finally the time has come to play again. In less than two days a rather huge open tournament is going to start in the small but very beautiful town of Lueneburg.

The tournament will consists of 4 events, two round robin tournaments (IM and GM) in the morning and two open tournaments (A and B) in the afternoon. I will participate in the GM round robin event where I hypothetically get the chance to achieve a GM norm. The average of my tournament will be about 2450 and the two strongest participants are GM Ovsejevitch Sergei and IM Andreas Heimann. The latter just recently played with me at the Mitropa Cup in Austria where he was the top scorer of our team. With a rating of over 2550 he is not only likely to be the strongest IM in Germany but also the hottest candidate for a GM norm.



Lueneburg is famous for its beautiful half timbered houses...

Besides that I hardly remember a chess event in Germany (except of course the German National Women Championship) where so many national women players take part. With Sarah Hoolt, Judith Fuchs, Melanie Ohme and myself we have almost the entire national team playing. However, we are funnily divided among 3 events. Melanie will participate in the IM round robin tournament whereas Judith and Sarah will go for the A-open in the afternoon.

Some players, who cannot get enough, will play the round robin as well as the open in the afternoon, but I am not ambitious enough or simply too lazy for such things...



... and its old and historical city center along the river "Ilmenau"

Clash of the Titans

(35) Chigorin, Mikhail
- Tarrasch, Siegbert [C00]

St Petersburg m(4), 1893



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655
& GM J.K Duda

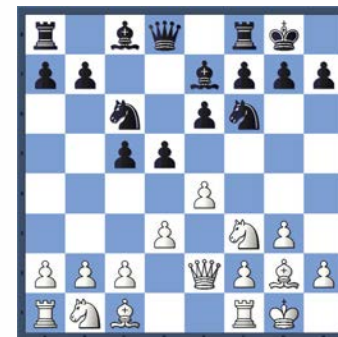
1.e4 e6 2.♖e2!? This was Chigorin's pattern, discovered by himself. The main idea behind this move is to forbid d5.

2...c5 3.g3 ♘c6 4.♘f3 ♕e7!? This is an interesting try to play d5 and later recapture with the pawn.

5.♗g2 [5.e5!/? is an interesting way to disturb Black's development, but inconsistent with the way of thinking of the old masters. 5...f6 (5...d6 6.exd6 ♖xd6 7.♗g2 ♘f6 8.O-O O-O 9.♘a3+= The queen stands poorly on d6 because of Nc4 or Bf4.) 6.♗g2 fxe5 7.♘xe5 ♘d4 8.♖h5+ g6 9.♖d1 (9.♘g6 9...♘f6) 9...d6 10.♘c4 ♗f6!/? (10...♘f6 11.O-O e5 (11...O-O 12.c3 ♘f5 13.d4 cxd4 14.cxd4+=) 12.♘e3 (12.♘c3 12...♗g4 13.f3 ♗e6 14.d3 O-O 15.f4 e4) 12...O-O 13.♘c3 ♖h8 14.♘cd5 ♘xd5 15.♘xd5 ♗g5 16.b4!) 11.O-O ♘e7 12.♘c3 d5 13.♘e3 O-O∞]

5...d5 6.d3 [6.e5 6...♘h6! and the knight finds its own home.; 6.exd5 6...exd5 The queen on e2 stands badly because it is hard to play d4 any longer.]

6...♘f6 7.O-O O-O



8.♘c3?! Personally I don't like this move: the knight has no clear future and it freezes White's potential counterplay on the queenside. We cannot criticize Chigorin though: the game was played in the late years of the XIX century, and chess was not as developed as today. On the other hand his plan is quite simple: he wanted to develop the pieces as soon as possible and just see what happens. [8.e5 8...♘d7 9.c4 is the modern way: let's check some variations which we had a look at without an engine: 9...b6 10.cxd5 (10.♘c3 10...d4 11.♘e4 ♗b7 12.♗f4 ♖c7 13.♖fe1 (13.♘f6+ 13...gxf6 14.exf6 ♗d6 15.♘xd4 ♘xf6 16.♘b5 ♗xf4 17.♘xc7 ♗xc7+ Three pieces seem to be much stronger than the white queen.) 13...♘cxe5 14.♘xe5 ♘xe5 15.♘d2 (15.♘xc5!/? 15...bxc5 16.♗xe5 ♖d7 17.♖g4 g6=) 15...♗xg2 16.♗xe5 ♖c6 17.♖g4 f6 18.f3 ♗xf3 19.♘xf3 fxe5 20.♘xe5 ♖d6+= and the white knight cannot compensate for the missing pawn.) 10...exd5 11.♘c3 d4 12.♘d5 ♗b7 13.e6 Here some crazy variations appear: 13...fxe6 (13...♘f6?! 14.♘g5 ♘xd5 15.exf7+ ♖h8 (15...♖xf7 16.♘xf7 ♖xf7 17.♖h5+-) 16.♘h7 ♖xf7 17.♖e6 (17.♖h5 17...g6 18.♘g5+ gxh5 19.♘xf7+ ♖g7 20.♘xd8 ♖xd8+ 17...♖xh7 18.♗xd5 ♖f6 19.♖h3+ ♖h6 20.♗e4+-) 14.♘f4! (14.♖xe6+ 14...♖h8 15.♗f4 (15.♘xd4?? 15...♘xd4 16.♖xe7 ♗xd5 17.♖xd8 ♘e2+-) 15...♗f6=) 14...♖e8 15.♘xe6 ♗f6 seems to be better. (15...♗d6?! 16.♘fg5 h6 (16...♘f6 17.♖e1

and the rook is lost.) 17. ♖d5 ♘a5 (17... ♖h8 18. ♘xf8!+—) 18. ♘xg7+ (18. ♘c7+!? 18... ♖xd5 19. ♘xe8 ♖xe8 20. ♘e4 c4 with some practical compensation.) 18... ♖xg7 19. ♘e6+ ♖h8 20. ♖xb7 ♘xb7 21. ♖xh6 ♖f7 22. ♖ae1→) 16. ♖e1 ♖f7 17. ♘fg5 ♖e7 (17... ♖xg5 18. ♘xg5 ♖e7 19. ♖d5+ ♖h8 20. ♘f7+ ♖xf7 21. ♖xf7 ♖xe2 22. ♖xe2 ♘ce5 23. ♖f4!± The rook is coming to the 7th rank.) 18. ♖d5 ♖h8 19. ♖e4 (19. ♖g4!?) 19... ♘f8 20. ♖f4↑ with complex play.]

8...a6 is quite slow, but planned: Black wants to invade the queenside with a pawn phalanx. [8... ♘d4 9. ♘xd4 cxd4 10. ♘d1 dxe4 11. dxe4 e5]

9. ♖g5!? This move shows Chigorin's skills: he is provoking Black to play h6 in order to use it as a weakening after a potential g4-g5. It seems unreal, but the game shows that at this time everything could happen! ;-)

9...h6 10. ♖f4 b5 11. ♖fe1 d4 [11... ♖b7 was also possible, to keep the center tense. 12. exd5 ♘xd5 (12... exd5 13. d4 c4 (13... cxd4 14. ♘xd4) 14. ♖ad1) 13. ♘xd5 ♖xd5!? 14. ♘e5 ♖xg2+! (14... ♘d4)]

12. ♘d1 Now the knight is really passive, but it's quite likely it will come to play via f2.

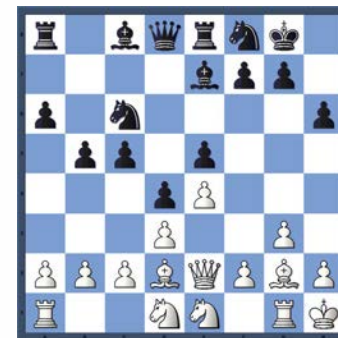
12... ♘d7 Black is gaining space.

13. ♖h1 ♖e8 [13... ♖b7 14. ♘g1! ♖h8 15. ♖d2 f5 16. f4]

14. ♖g1 Chigorin's plan is quite clear now. He wants to attack on the kingside, like Steinitz before him. It's obvious that Black's counterattack will come quicker, as he is better prepared, but on the other hand White's attack is more dangerous, because it is targeted on the black king.

14...e5 [14... ♖b7 with idea to be flexible. 15. g4 e5 16. ♖g3 g5!?± and White has no attack anymore.]

15. ♖d2 ♘f8 16. ♘e1 Although the white pieces occupy the two last lines, this setup isn't senseless as he wants to attack with the pawns. Now Tarrash makes some mistakes and loses several tempi:



16... ♘e6?! 17. f4 ♖b7 18. f5 ♘g5 19. ♘f2 ♖c8 20. ♖h5 [20. h4 20... ♘h7 21. ♘f3 looks more natural, but what does White want to do in the future?]

20... ♘h7 [20... c4 is maybe more precise.]

21. ♘f3 c4 22. ♖f1!? The Russian corrects the worst piece - the light squared bishop. Now he is ready to push the g-pawn forward.

22... cxd3 [22... ♖b4 is a classical attempt to exchange the bad bishop, but Black can play this anytime.]

23. cxd3 [23. ♖xd3! Finally the bad bishop has its own function and the c-file is covered. I think in this case White's attack would be crushing.]

23... ♘g5 [23... ♖b4]

24. ♖xg5!? A dynamic move. White gives his excellent bishop in order to get some tempi to prepare the attack. Now the game sharpens.

24... ♖xg5 25. ♘g4 ♖f8 [25... ♖e3! 26. ♖g2 f6 was the way to block White's attack. Now it becomes very strong.]

26.♟e2 ♟f6?! According to the computer this is a blunder. Black loses too much time. On the other hand it is hard to suggest anything better, but the computer prefers Rc7. [26...♟e3]

27.h4?! Too slow. White had better to play [27.♞af1! to improve his last piece. Black is already in deep trouble: 27...♟b4 28.♟xf6 (28.a3!?) 28...gxf6 (28...♞xf6 29.g4 and Black is about to lose.) 29.♞xh6+ ♟e7 30.♞d2 ♞d6 31.♟d1! and White has an overwhelming advantage, for example after 31...♟xa2 32.♟b3 ♟b4 33.g4→]

27...♞d6 [27...♟b4! With counterplay!]

28.♟f2?! Again too slow. White could attack instantly: [28.♟xf6 28...♞xf6 29.g4 ♞d6 30.g5 and it is hard to believe that Black can escape from this terrible position.]

28...♟e7!? Good defence! Black is using the fact that the king on h1 and bishop on b7 are on the same diagonal. [28...♟d8 is the main computer defence, although after 29.♞af1 f6 30.♟xh6 White grabs a pawn for nothing.]



29.♞af1? [29.♟xf6! is the correct move order to get the queen to f6. Once again White's attack is very strong now. 29...♞xf6 30.♞af1 (30.♟g4?? 30...♞xf5!) 30...♟g8 31.g4! (31.♟g4?! 31...♞d6 32.f6?? g6→) 31...♞d6 32.g5→]

29...♟g8! ♢ Now Black overtakes the initiative. On the kingside White's attack has been burst, and on the other side Black is dominating.

30.♟d1 Chigorin is improving his bishop, but in fact it is only temporary.

30...♞c7 31.♟b3 ♞ec8 32.♟f2 ♟d8 33.♞e2 a5 34.♟f3 a4 35.♟d1 Did I not say it?!



35...♟c6 [35...♞c1 36.g4 For the computer everything it is clear, but for a human it is not. White has some counterplay which might be very dangerous in the nearest future. Now both sides are regrouping their forces.]

36.g4 f6 37.♟h3 ♟e8 38.♞h2 [38.g5!?

38...♟f7 39.a3 ♟b3 40.♟f2 [40.g5!?

40...♟xd1 41.♟xd1 ♞c2 42.♞g3 b4 43.axb4 ♞a6 [43...♞xb4!?

44.♟f2 [44.g5 The computer thinks it is better to give up the d3 pawn rather than this one on b2, as the a-pawn might be very dangerous.]

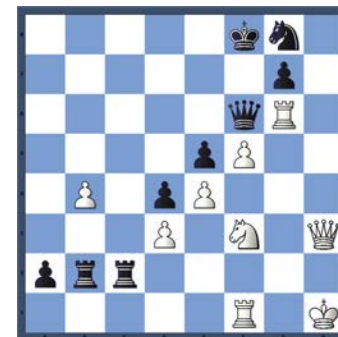
44...♞xb2 45.g5 hxg5 46.hxg5 ♞cc2 47.♟g4 Now White has plenty of counterplay and I think it is harder to play this position with Black, even though he has a small edge.



47...♔d6? [47...fxg5! is the computer's suggestion, although it looks rather shaky. In my own opinion the most logical attempt is to play for my own asset;; 47...a3!? White has to play very creatively to hold the balance: 48.b5! with the idea to disrupt the communication in the black camp. 48...♖xb5 Not the only move, but a quite logical one. 49.♔h4 ♜bb2 50.♔h8! fxg5 51.f6 ♜xf6 52.♜xf6 gxf6 53.♖xg5 fxg5 54.♜d2+!! It is very important to switch Black's rooks off from play for a moment. 54...♔e8 (54...♔e7?? 55.♔g7+! ♔d6 56.♔g6+ ♔c5 57.♔xa6+--) 55.♔xg8+ ♔d7 56.♖f7+ ♔c6 57.♖f6+ ♔b7 58.♔d5+! (58.♖xa6? 58...♖c1+ 59.♔g2 ♖xd2+ 60.♔g3 ♖xd3+ 61.♔g4 ♔xa6--) 58...♖c6 (58...♔c6!?) 59.♔d7+ ♖c7 60.♔d5+ ♔c6!? is the last try to win the game, but an unsuccessful one: 61.♖xc6 ♖xc6 62.♜c4 a2 63.♜a5+ ♔b6 64.♔xc6+ ♔xa5 65.♔c5+ ♔a4 66.♔c4+ ♔a3 67.♔a6+ ♔b4 68.♔c4+= and it is a perpetual. I guess even today's top grandmasters would have problems to find all the moves on either side. That is a computer!!!]

48.gxf6 ♜xf6 49.♔h3! A very strong move! White is improving the position of his queen.

49...a3 50.♜xf6 ♔xf6 51.♖g6 a2! Both players have been playing their best chess. This is the critical moment of the game.



52.♖xf6?? Aaouhhh!!! The most natural move in the position, but what a blunder it is. Now White is dead lost. [52.♜g5!! An amazing move, missed by both players!! White doesn't take the poor black lady and instead improves his own knight! The computer thinks it is equal here, but everything could happen between these players: 52...♔e8! (52...♔e7) 53.♖xf6 gxf6 54.♔h7 ♜e7 55.♔h8+ ♔d7 56.♜f7! (56.♜e6 only leads to a draw: 56...♖c8! 57.♔xf6 ♖b1 58.♜c5+ ♖xc5 59.♔e6+ ♔e8 60.♔xa2 ♖xf1+ 61.♔g2 ♖cc1 62.♔e6=) 56...♔c7! 57.b5 ♔b6 and according to the computer it is level. What an incredible position!]

52...gxf6—+ Now White is lost, because the black king is sheltered enough and the rooks and the a-pawn are too powerful.

53.♖d1 ♖b1 54.♔f1 ♖cb2 55.♜d2!? The last try, but it is not enough.

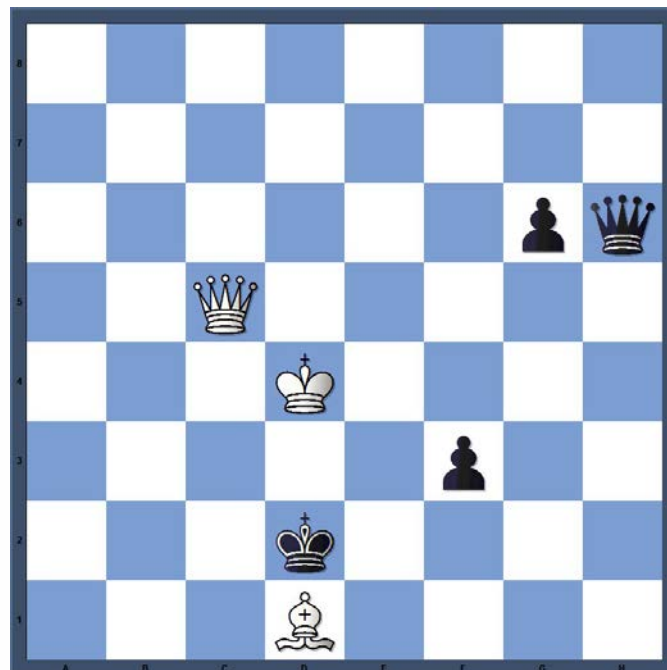
55...♖xd1 56.♔xd1 ♖xd2 57.♔c1 [57.♔a1 57...♖c2!? 58.b5 ♔e7 59.b6 ♔d6 60.b7 ♔c7 and White is out of good moves.]

57...♖xd3! 58.♔g2 ♖c3 59.♔a1 ♖c2+ 60.♔f3 d3 61.♔d1 ♖b2 62.♔a4 d2 White resigns. What a fighting game! 0-1

Surprise section / study

(36) Mann

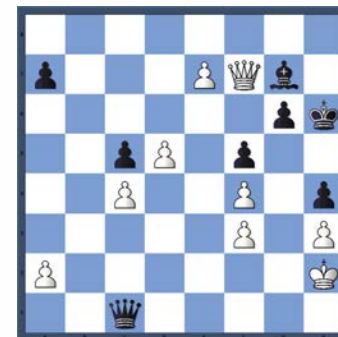
1. +-



Solutions

(37) Moiseenko, A(2710)-Fier, A(2628)

Biel Open, 2015.07.27



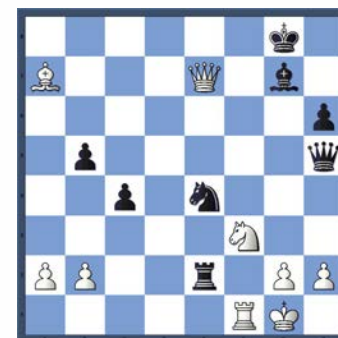
45. ♔xg6+!! [45.e8=♔? 45... ♔xf4+ 46. ♔g2 ♔g3+ 47. ♔f1 ♔xf3+ 48. ♔g1 ♔d4+--]

45... ♔xg6 46.e8=♔+ ♔h7 [46... ♔h6 47. ♔e6+=]

47. ♔h5+ ♔g8 48. ♔e8+ ♔h7 49. ♔h5+ ♔g8 50. ♔e8+ 1/2

(38) Wagner, D(2569)-Adhiban, B(2627)

Biel Open, 2015.07.28



35... ♔g3! 36. ♔d8+ ♔e8! 37. ♔d2 ♔xf1--+

(39) Gharamian, T(2649)-Nezad, H(2405)

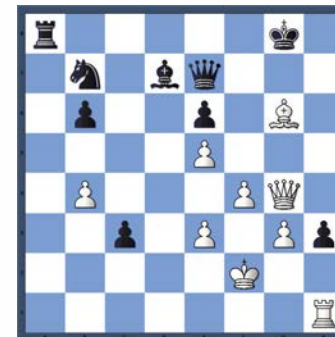
Biel Open, 2015.07.29

**39. ♖xg6!** [39. ♘f7+? 39... ♔g8 40. ♖xg6 ♜f8!—+]**39...b1=♚! 40. ♘f7+ ♔g8 41. ♘h6+! ♔h8** [41... ♔f8??
42. ♖f7#] **42. ♘f7+ 1/2****(40) Bogner, S(2544)-Ivanisevic, I(2662)**

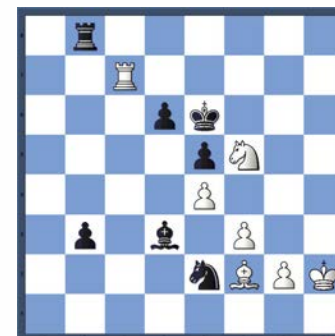
Biel Open, 2015.07.29

**43... ♜xg2+! 44. ♔xh3 ♜h2+ 45. ♔g3 ♜f2+! 46. ♔g4 ♜e2+!**
47. ♔g3 [47. ♘f3?? 47... ♖g2+ 48. ♔g3 ♜h3+ 49. ♔g5 ♜f5#]
47... ♖f2+ 48. ♔g4 ♜e2+ 1/2**(41) Bartel, M(2631)-Esen, B(2567)**

Biel Open, 2015.07.29

**32. ♔h7+!!** [32. ♜xh3 32... ♖g7]**32... ♔h8 33. ♖xh3+— ♖g7 34. ♔f5+ ♔g8 35. ♔xe6+ ♔xe6**
36. ♖xe6+ ♔f8 [36... ♖f7 37. ♜h8+!—] **37. ♜h5+—****(42) Wirig, A(2511)-Wagner, D(2569)**

Biel Open, 2015.07.29

**39... ♜h8+!** [39...b2? 40. ♜e7+ ♔f6 41. ♔h4+ ♔g6 42. ♜g7+
♔h5 43.g4#]**40. ♔h4 ♜xh4+! 41. ♘xh4 b2 42. ♜b7 b1=♚ 43. ♜xb1**
♔xb1—+

(43) Wagner, D(2569)-Dragun, K(2586)

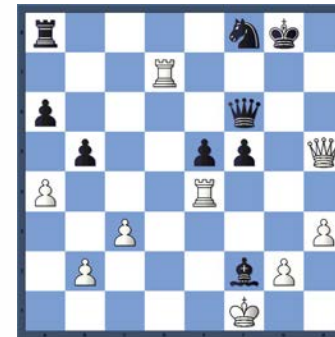
Biel Open, 2015.07.30

**46. ♖xg7! ♜xg7** [46... ♜xf2 47. ♜h8#]**47. ♜g3! ♜xg3+ 48. ♖xg3 ♜8c3+ 49. ♜f3** 1-0**(44) Ivanisevic, I(2662)-Zoler, D(2498)**

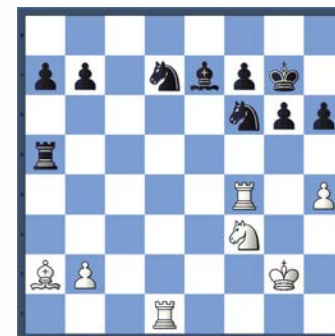
Biel Open, 2015.07.30

**25. ♘g6!! ♜c7** [25... fxg6 26. ♜xe6 ♜f7 27. ♜xf6+-]**26. ♖xf6! ♜xf6 27. ♜d7 ♜c5 28. ♘e7+- ♖g7 29. ♜g4+ ♜g5 30. ♜xg5+ hxg5 31. ♘xc8 ♖xc8 32. ♜c7** 1-0**(45) Bartel, M(2631)-Wagner, D(2569)**

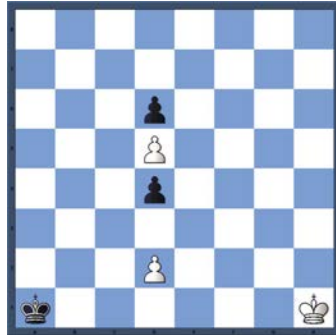
Biel Open, 2015.07.31

**31. ♜xe5! ♜xe5! 32. ♜f7+ ♖h8 33. ♜e7!** [33. ♜h5+=]**33... ♜g3! = 34. ♜xf5 ♖e3 35. ♜h5+ ♖g8 36. ♜d5+ ♖h8 37. ♜h5+ ♖g8 38. ♜f7+ ♖h8 39. ♜f6+ ♖g8 40. ♜f7+** 1/2**(46) Adhiban, B(2627)-Solak, D(2622)**

Biel Open, 2015.07.31

**28. ♜xd7! ♘xd7 29. ♜xf7+ ♖h8 30. ♖e6! ♖xh4** [30... ♘f8 31. ♜xe7 ♘xe6 32. ♜xe6±] **31. ♘h4 ♜g5+****32. ♖h3 ♘c5 33. ♖a2± ♜h5 34. ♜f8+ ♖g7 35. ♜f7+ ♖h8 36. ♖g4! ♜g5+ 37. ♖f3 a5 38. ♜c7 b6 39. ♖f7** 1-0

(47) Jarmonov



1. ♖g2 ♜b2 2. ♖f3 ♜b3 [2... ♖c2?? 3. ♖e4 ♜xd2
 4. ♖xd4+- ♜e2 5. ♖e4 ♜d2 6. ♖f5+-]
3. ♖f4! [3. ♖e4? 3... ♖c4-+]
3... ♖b4 [3... ♖c4 4. ♖e4 d3 5. ♖e3 ♜xd5 6. ♖xd3=]
4. d3! [4. ♖f5 4... ♜c5 5. ♖e4 ♜c4-+]
4... ♖b3 5. ♖f5! ♜c2! 6. ♖e6! [6. ♖e4 6... ♜c3-+]
6... ♖xd3 7. ♖xd6 ♜c4 [7... ♖e4 8. ♖e6! d3 9. d6 d2 10. d7
 d1= ♜ 11. ♖e7=]
8. ♖c6! d3 9. d6 d2 10. d7 d1= ♜ 11. ♖c7=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

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21st of August 2015

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Editorial Preface

A spectacular week of chess is behind us, but let us start with the main events:

The new and fully deserved Russian Champion is Evgeny Tomashevsky who showed great play and finished on 7.5/11. Second place went to Karjakin who was not doing too much himself, but happily accepted the presents and scored 7/11. 3rd place went to Vitiugov with 6.5/11.

In the women's section the new Russian super talent- the only 16-year old Goryachkina- dominated the event with 8/11, while 2nd and 3rd places were shared by Kosteniuk and Bodnaruk with 7/11.

Christian Bauer is the new French Champion. He won a very dramatic tiebreak match against Gharamian as they had both finished on 7.5/11. The big favourite of the tournament Etienne Bacrot took the 3rd position with 7/11.

In the women's section nobody could stop Almira Skripchenko, who scored a fantastic 9/11.

The matches against the Chinese players are always tough and Leko had to experience it once again. His match out of 6 games ended with 4 draws and 2 wins for Li Chao.

In another 6 games match between Ragger and Mamedyarov, after 3 games the score is 2.5-0.5 for Mamedyarov, which is clearly not a surprise.

In the Spanish team Championship the team of Solvay (with Harikrishna, Abdihan, Ganguly...) finished clear first.

Already very soon we can be very excited about the start of the 3rd Sinquefeld Cup, with all the leading top chess players including Carlsen, Nakamura, Caruana etc...

Until then, enjoy the current issue of your weekly chess magazine.

Best wishes,

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar (2735) - Ragger, Markus (2694) [C69]

Mamedyarov vs Ragger(1),
2015.08.17



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are in the first round of the match organised in Vienna between Mamedyarov and Markus Ragger, the Austrian Number 1. With 2694 ELO, Ragger is at his peak and is clearly motivated to break the 2700 ELO barrier. But on the other hand to play a much more experienced and probably stronger opponent is never easy. In the current game Mamedyarov, who usually plays very sharply, is going for an endgame which seems to be very close to equal. With one inaccurate move Ragger blunders a very beautiful break which is perfectly executed by White. A nice game to watch!

1.e4 Usually Mamedyarov prefers to start with 1.d4.

1...e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 No Berlin...

4.♙xc6 The exchange Spanish is not played that often on the top level, but clearly deserves attention.

4...dxc6 5.O-O f6 An old fashioned move, but a very solid one. [At the moment Black more often plays 5...♞f6 6.d4 exd4 7.♙g5 ♞d6 8.♘xd4 with complex positions.]

6.d4 exd4 [6...♙g4 is the other main line.]

7.♘xd4 c5



8.♘b3 This is quite a rare move and for a good reason... White did not show any good results in it. [8.♘e2 This line which is often played by Mamedyarov's compatriot Radjabov leads to a similar idea as in the game. 8...♞xd1 9.♞xd1 ♙d7 10.♙e3 O-O-O 11.♘bc3 b6 12.a4 but Black also seems to be doing fine here after 12...♞e8 13.♞d2 ♙c6 14.♞ad1 ♘e7 and the position is very complex.]

8...♞xd1 9.♞xd1 ♙g4! A good move. Black provokes White into playing f3 to make a weakness for later and this will happen when Black can play c4-Bc5 and the king on g1 is pinned.

10.f3 ♙e6?! A very strange decision in my opinion. The main line continues with Bd7, which Ragger has already played and I think it should clearly be the best for Black. [10...♙d7 11.♙f4 O-O-O 12.♘c3 c4 13.♘a5 ♙c5+ Now we can see how useful the Bg4 move was. 14.♙h1 b5 15.♘d5 ♘e7 16.♙xc7 ♘xd5 17.♙xd8 ♘e3 18.♘b7 ♘xd1 19.♘xc5 ♘f2+ 20.♙g1 ♘xe4 21.fxe4 ♞xd8 with an equal endgame in Guseinov-Ragger 2013.]

11.♘c3 White gives Black the chance to play Bd6. [Another interesting option could have been 11.♙f4 not giving Black the chance to castle queenside and at the same time attacking the c7 pawn. 11...c4 12.♘d4 (12.♘a5 doesn't work because of

12...b6! 13.♖c6 ♗c5+ 14.♔f1 ♗d7 15.♗d4 O-O-O and Black is perfectly fine.) 12...O-O-O 13.♗c3 ♗c5 14.♗e3 Now it seems like Black needs to give up the bishop. 14...♗xd4 (In case of 14...♗f7 15.♗f5! ♗xe3+ 16.♗xe3 White manages to exchange the dark bishops and reaches a slightly better endgame.) 15.♔xd4 ♔xd4 16.♗xd4 ♗e7 17.♔f2 and because of the better pawn structure White should be a little bit better here even if it is of course not much.]

11...♗d6 12.♗e3 b6 Black wants to castle queenside with a good position. In this type of endgame it is very important for White to exchange one bishop.



13.a4! A good choice and actually the only one logical move, since after any other passive move Black would castle queenside.

13...a5 Ragger is going for a slightly worse endgame. [More fighting was 13...O-O-O 14.a5 ♔b7 (Black would need to suffer for a draw after 14...♗xb3 15.cxb3 b5 16.♔ac1 and the c5 pawn is weak.) 15.e5! This beautiful move probably gives White some edge at the end of a long forced line: 15...♗e7 16.♔xd8 ♗xd8 17.♗xc5 ♗xb3 18.♗f8! A difficult move to find! 18...♗h6 19.♗xg7 ♔g8 20.♗xh6 and White is probably better.]

14.♗b5 The d6 bishop has to be taken.

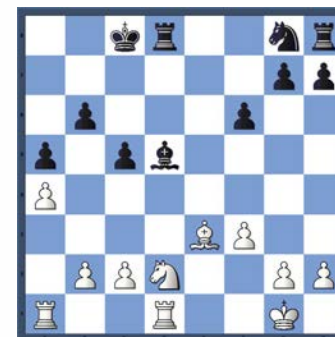
14...O-O-O 15.♗xd6+ [Mamedyarov probably didn't like

15.♔d2 15...♗e7 and Black keeps the bishops.]

15...cxd6 16.♗d2 A very logical move again. White wants to choose between playing c4 next or maybe try the plan with c3-b4 or maybe just play Nf1, double on the d-file and then play Ne3. [16.♗f4 16...d5]

16...d5?! In my opinion this is a serious mistake, probably based on White's 18th move, which Ragger clearly missed. [16...♗e7 looks very solid and now Black really wants to play d5. 17.c4 f5 This position might be a bit better for White, but in case of good defense Black should be able to hold this endgame.]

17.exd5 ♗xd5? This is already a serious blunder... [17...♔xd5 would lead to an unpleasant position. 18.♔e1 ♗f7 and maybe White can just continue with 19.♗f4 wanting to play Nc4 or Ne4. Black's position is very dangerous, but not lost.]



18.b4!! What a beautiful push! Suddenly Black's position is falling apart.

18...axb4 Black doesn't have a choice.

19.a5 bxa5 and this move probably just loses. [Tougher would have been 19...♗e7 20.axb6 ♗c6 21.♗xc5 and the endgame is very difficult to save for Black, but the opposite colored bishops give him some theoretical chances for a draw.]

20. ♖xc5 The black knight can't reach the nice c6 square any longer.

20... ♗h6 21. ♖xa5 ♖he8 Another unlucky move by Ragger who seems to be very nervous. Usually the Austrian Number 1 is a very safe player. [21... ♖b7 would lead to more of a fight. 22. ♖xb4 ♖d5 But we have to admit that in the long run this position should also be lost...]



22. ♖b6! Not missing the tactical blow.

22... ♖d6 [Ragger had probably missed that after 22... ♖d7 White anyway has 23. ♗c4! ♖xc4 24. ♖c5+ ♖b7 25. ♖xd7+ ♖xb6 26. ♖xc4 with a winning position.]

23. ♗c4 There is already nothing left to do for Black...

23... ♖xc4 [23... ♖c6 24. ♖a8+ also wins on the spot.]

24. ♖xd6 ♖e1+ 25. ♖f2 ♖e2+ 26. ♖g3 and of course Black's position is just hopeless. A very nice win by White even if Black made it too easy... Anyhow, Mamedyarov gave us a good lecture on that we should never relax too early, as the blow can come at any moment! **1-0**

(2) Vitiugov, Nikita (2719) - Dubov, Daniil (2654) [D17]

68th ch-RUS 2015(9),
2015.08.18



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

We are facing a great fighting game with many unusual and beautiful tactical motifs.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3. ♗f3 ♗f6 4. ♗c3 dxc4 The initial position of the Slav defense.

5.a4 ♖f5 6. ♗e5 ♗bd7 7. ♗xc4 ♗b6 8. ♗e5 a5 Black has many other theoretical lines at his disposal. I personally also like to employ this opening. It has both many sharp and many positional lines, depending on how White plays now.

9.g3 ♗fd7 Quite a rare move, but it has been tried recently by some very strong grandmasters. In general the exchange of the active knight on e5 is good for Black and a standard idea in this opening. [The main line goes with 9...e6 10. ♖g2 ♖b4 11.O-O O-O 12.e3 h6 with a complex fight with all the pieces on the board.]

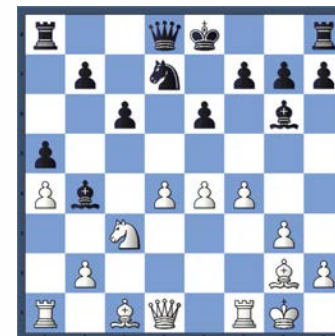
10. ♗xd7 ♗xd7 However this is more or less new. Black would like to free his position with e5. However it could not come as a surprise to Vitiugov, because Dubov played exactly the same two days earlier against Tomashevsky and he equalized very easily. [Most of the games continue with 10... ♖xd7 11.e4 ♖h3 12. ♖xh3 ♖xh3 13. ♖b3 ♖a6 with an unusual game. White cannot castle kingside, but he ties up the black pieces on the b6 square. Black tries to untie them with e6-Bb4, but White also has many resources.]



11.e4 [That game continued with 11.♘g2 11...e5 12.d5 ♘c5! 13.O-O O-O Black sacrifices a pawn for activity. 14.♗e4 Tomashevsky decided to avoid the complications but it led to quick simplifications... (If White accepts the pawn with 14.dxc6 14...bxc6 15.♘xc6 ♖c8 16.♘g2 ♗b6 all the black pieces are standing perfectly. It is very important to mention the pawn structure on the queenside. If the white pawn was on a2, then I am not sure if the compensation would be satisfactory. However now the structure is fixed, the one pawn on a5 blocks the two white ones and Black has an extremely useful outpost on b4, which could be used by the bishop.) 14...♘xe4 15.♘xe4 ♗f6 16.♘g5 cxd5 17.♘xf6 ♖xf6 18.♖xd5 ♗e7 19.♖ac1 b6 20.♖fd1 ♖ad8 and the players agreed a draw soon in Tomashevsky-Dubov, Chita 2015.]

11...♘g6 12.f4 White prevents the e5 break and intends to obtain a powerful center.

12...e6 13.♘g2 ♘b4 14.O-O White already threatens to trap the bishop with f5.



14...f6! This is the novelty. Most probably a prepared one as it is given as the best by the computers. A typical move of the variation. The g6 bishop often gets out of the game while now Black wants to bring it back to f7 and the other point is to support the e5 break.

15.♘e3 O-O Black finishes the development and slowly prepares for the e5 break. White directly tries to gain some benefits before Black can execute his plans.

16.♗a2 ♘e7 17.♖b3 A double attack on e6 and b7. It looks very strong as it wins a pawn, however Black gets compensation...

17...♘f7 It is clear that the e6 pawn is more important than the one on b7. Also the queen on b7 gets into tactical motifs. There is no concrete way to trap it, but still it gets into the danger zone.

18.♖xb7 c5 This central blow mainly aims to get the c5 square for the minor pieces. Black also threatens to restore the material balance with Rb8-b2 as the c6 pawn is not hanging anymore.

19.e5 [The alternative was 19.d5 but then Black replies with 19...♖b8 20.♖a6 exd5 21.exd5 ♖xb2 and White cannot trap the bishop with d6, because the a2 knight is hanging. Black could play Re8 next, freeing the f8 square for the bishop.]

19...♖b8 20.♔a7! It is important to control the c5 square, otherwise White can quickly get into trouble. The bishop on g2 works well now on the long diagonal, White does not need to worry about trapping the queen. [20.♔a6 is strongly met by 20...cxd4 21.♙xd4 ♘c5! and losing the dark squared bishop creates huge problems for White. 22.♔c4 ♘b3 23.♖ad1 ♘xd4 24.♖xd4 ♔b6 25.♙h1 ♖fc8 26.♔d3 ♔xb2—+ Black wins the a2 knight in this more or less forced line.]

20...cxd4 21.♙xd4 The best chance to fight for an advantage. [White would like to bring back his queen to consolidate his position, but it does not work concretely because Black wins back the sacrificed pawn with 21.♔xd4 21...fxe5 22.fxe5 ♙c5 23.♔c3 ♙xe3+ 24.♔xe3 ♖xb2 and Black is fine.]

21...fxe5 22.fxe5 White seems to have full control over the position. He is a pawn up, his bishops control all the important squares on the queenside. He is threatening g with Rad1, creating decisive threats against the d7 knight. However Black comes up with unexpected tactical resources and creates enough counterplay to save the game!



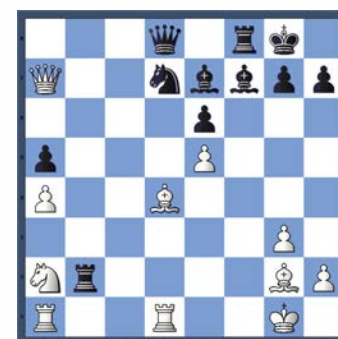
22...♖xb2! The first tactical blow! The rook cannot be taken because Bc5 wins the queen.

23.♖fd1 Of course it would be better to place the other rook on d1, but it has to protect the a2 knight. White is already

threatening to take the rook because after Bc5 Qxc5 the d8 queen is also hanging, leaving White with an extra piece after the simplifications. White also plans to play Be3 and the d7 knight is in trouble because of the pin on the d-file. [23.♙xb2? 23...♙c5+; 23.♙c6 also looked strong, but Black saves himself with another unexpected tactical blow:



23...♙c5!! 24.♙xc5 ♘xc5 25.♔xc5 ♔d2 26.♖f2 White seems to defend everything, but Black wins back the piece with 26...♔xf2+! 27.♔xf2 ♖xf2 28.♙xf2 ♙e8+! 29.♙f3 ♙h5 and Black is better.]



23...♖xg2+! Another great shot! White destroys the main defender of the king, however his pieces seemingly do not stay actively enough to guarantee compensation. However, chess is strange and the attack starts to roll!

24. ♖xg2 ♕h5! 25. ♕e3 It seems to be over! White gives up his rook, but the d7 knight cannot be defended afterwards... [25. ♖d3? allows 25... ♖xe5!; 25. ♖f1 is beautifully refuted by 25... ♖xe5! 26. ♕xe5 (26. ♖xf8+ 26... ♕xf8 27. ♕xe5 ♖d5+ 28. ♖h3 ♖f3! will be the same as the 26. Bxe5 line.) 26... ♖d5+ 27. ♖h3



Kg1 was losing to Bc5, but now the king gets into mating net after 27... ♖e4! and White gets mated. 28. ♖xf8+ ♕xf8 29. ♕f4 ♕f3! Threatening with Qf5 after controlling the g2 square 30. ♖xa5 ♕g2+ 31. ♖g4 ♕e7—+ and Qf3 or Qe2 is going to be mate soon.]

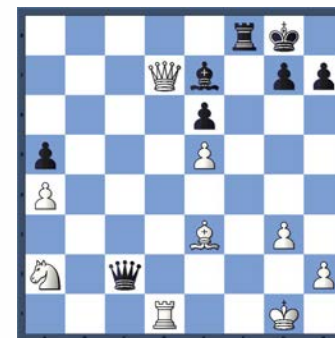
25... ♕xd1 26. ♖xd1



26... ♖c8! Black sacrifices a piece again, but he activates his queen to create counterplay.

27. ♖xd7 ♖c2+ White does not have an adequate response here. Black always has something.

28. ♖g1 [28. ♖d2 is met by 28... ♖e4+ 29. ♖g1 ♖d8! 30. ♖xd8+ (30. ♕d4 30... ♕c5!) 30... ♕xd8 31. ♖xd8+ ♖f7 White is temporarily doing well materially, but his pieces are disorganized. The queen dominates the board and gives Black the initiative!; 28. ♖h3 28... ♖f5+]



28... ♕g5! The final blow, another piece sacrifice! White must agree to a draw by allowing perpetual check.

29. ♕xg5 [29. ♕a7 29... ♖xa2 wins back the piece and protects the e6 pawn at the same time.; 29. ♖xe6+? leaves the d1 rook unprotected. White is in trouble after 29... ♖h8]

29... ♖f2+ 30. ♖h1 ♖f3+ 31. ♖g1 ♖f2+ 32. ♖h1 ♖f3+ 33. ♖g1 A nice save by Black! A good example on how if we stay tactically sharp we can save difficult positions! **1/2-1/2**

Puzzle section

(3) Artemiev, V(2671)-Motylev, A(2658)

Russian Championship, 2015.08.11

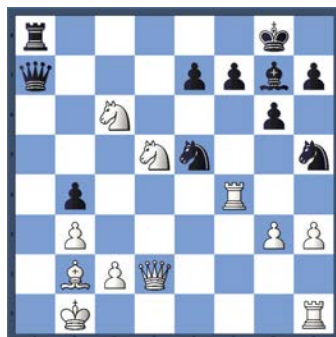
1. +-



(4) Svidler, P(2739)-Khismatullin, D(2642)

Russian Championship, 2015.08.12

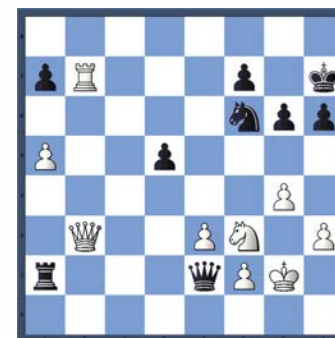
1... -+



(5) Bukavshin, I(2655)-Khairullin, I(2662)

Russian Championship, 2015.08.13

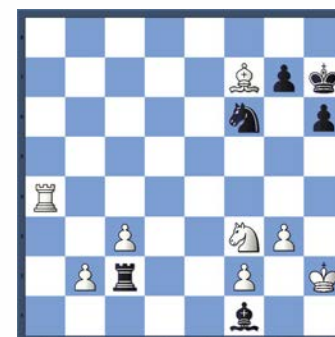
1. +-



(6) Svidler, P(2739)-Lysyj, I(2673)

Russian Championship, 2015.08.14

1. +-



(7) Lysyj, I(2673)-Vitiugov, N(2719)

Russian Championship, 2015.08.16

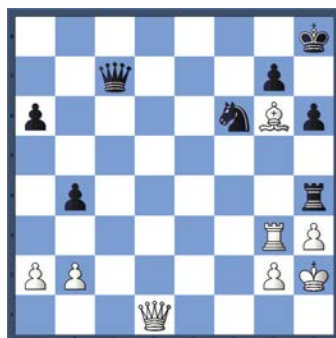
1... =



(8) Savina, A(2429)-Gunina, V(2531)

Russian Woman Championship, 2015.08.11

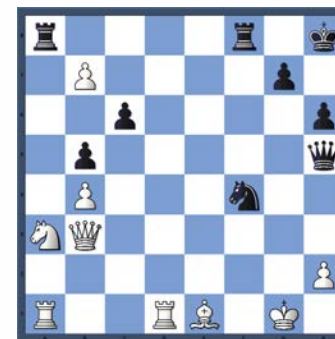
1... -+



(9) Pogonina, N(2460)-Kosteniuk, A(2526)

Russian Woman Championship, 2015.08.12

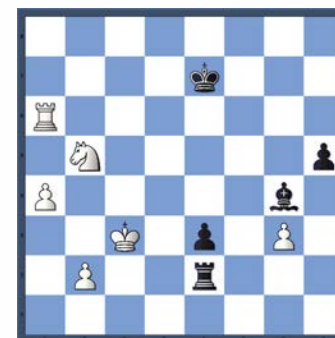
1... -+



(10) Girya, O(2487)-Kashlinskaya, A(2441)

Russian Woman Championship, 2015.08.13

1... -+



(11) Gharamian, T(2644)-Istratescu, A(2619)

French Championship, 2015.08.11

1. +-



(12) Edouard, R(2634)-Cornette, M(2586)

French Championship, 2015.08.17

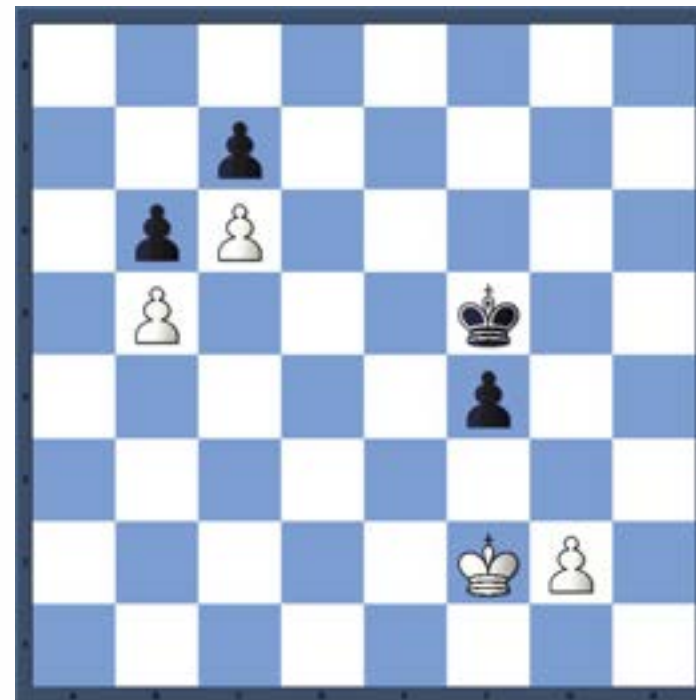
1. +-



Surprise section / study

(39) Neumann

+ -



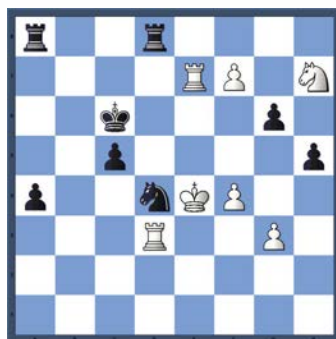
Endgame section

(13) Li Chao (2748)
- Peter Leko (2714)

Leko - Li Chao(5),
2015.08.19



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



We are in the 5th game of the match and Li Chao is leading 3-1 with only 2 rounds to go, so Leko needs a win. Both players didn't have much time on the clock and what we are going to see during the next moves is one of the most exciting endgames I have ever seen! There are mistakes on both sides- yes, but the endgame is extremely complex and hard to calculate until the end. Enjoy the show!

61. ♖e5? This is clearly a mistake based on miscalculation... [White absolutely needs to stop the a-pawn from moving, so the very logical solution would have been to play 61. ♖d2! 61... a3 62. ♖a2 and the danger of playing f8Q keeps White's chances for a full point alive.; Not a bad move, but a bit too early would be 61. f8=♚ 61... ♖xf8 62. ♗xf8 ♖xf8 The black

knight has a great position on d4 and keeps things together. 63. ♖a3 It seems like the a4 pawn is not that easy to defend, but Black has 63... ♗b5! and White can't take on a4 because of Nc3+ so he needs to go back. 64. ♖a1 with a very complex position, but I think that White doesn't risk much here.]

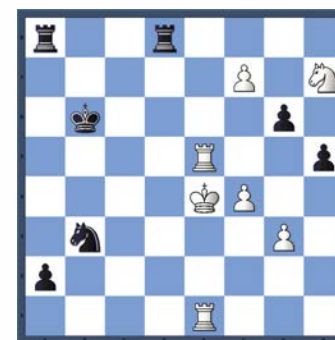
61... a3! Of course! The black pawn has to run!

62. ♖c3 Li Chao continues what he started, and this is to go for the c5 pawn.

62... a2 63. ♖cxc5+ ♗b6 64. ♖c1 The c5 pawn is gone, but the a2 pawn is almost a queen!

64... ♗b3! Simple and good!

65. ♖e1



65... ♗d2+ Leko plays the best move again. [65... a1=♚ 66. ♖xa1 ♗xa1 67. ♖e6+ ♗c5 68. ♖xg6 followed by f8Q after which White would easily win the h5 pawn and thus lead the game to an easy draw.]

66. ♗e3 The king has no other square...

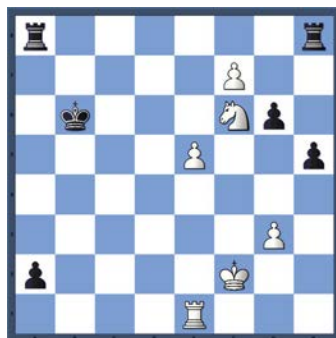
66... ♗c4+?! Although very tempting, this is not the best move. [Black could have won the game with 66... ♗b1! and the threat of a1Q is deadly. 67. ♖e6+ ♗b5 The black king is going to a3 to escape from the checks. 68. ♖e7 ♗a4 (Of course not falling into the trap: 68... a1=♚?? 69. ♖xb1+! ♚xb1 70. ♖b7+=)]

69.f8=♔ ♖xf8 70.♘xf8 a1=♔ with an easily winning position for Black.]

67.♔f2 ♘xe5 68.fxe5 Black seems to be completely winning, but in fact things are not simple at all! The white threat of playing e5-e6-e7 gives good drawing chances.

68...♖h8?! This move already leads to a forced draw... [Black could still have won the game with 68...a1=♔ 69.♖xa1 ♖xa1 70.e6 (White is not in time with 70.f8=♔ 70...♖xf8+ 71.♘xf8 g5! It is extremely important for Black to keep the pawns. 72.♘h7 g4 73.♘f6 ♖a5! The only winning move! 74.♘h5 ♖xe5 75.♘f4 ♔c6 with an easily winning endgame.) 70...♖a7! Not an easy move to find in time trouble... 71.f8=♔ ♖xf8+ 72.♘xf8 g5 73.♘d7+ ♔c6 and Black is winning.]

69.♘f6! The right choice. Now things are very forced.



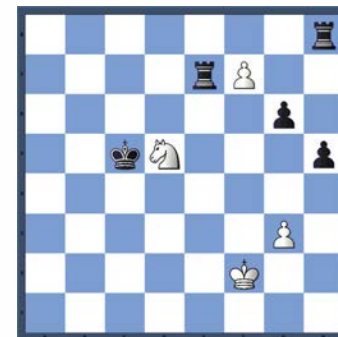
69...a1=♔ Leko already didn't have a choice.

70.♖xa1 ♖xa1 71.e6 The white pawns are running!

71...♖a7 This is the only way to stop e7, but it doesn't help.

72.e7! Of course!

72...♖xe7 73.♘d5+ ♔c5



74.♘xe7 The difference to the other lines is that Black can't save the g-pawn any longer.

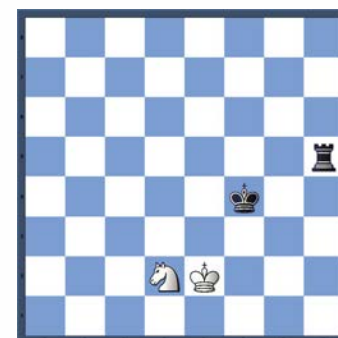
74...♖f8 75.♘xg6 ♖xf7+ 76.♘f4 To make a draw White needs to get the h5 pawn and he is in time for that!

76...♔d4 77.♔g2 The h5 pawn is hanging and if Black would protect it with a move like Rf5, White would just go Kh3-Kh4 and Nxh5. The position is a draw!

77...h4 78.♘e6+ The most simple, but White also had other moves.

78...♔e3 79.gxh4 The last black pawn is gone, so the position is an easy draw.

79...♖f6 80.♘g5 ♔f4 81.♔f2 ♖h6 82.♘f3 ♖a6 83.♘d2 ♖a3 84.♔e2 ♖h3 85.h5 ♖xh5



86.♔d3 To defend rook vs knight is really not difficult and the last 10 moves don't need any comments...

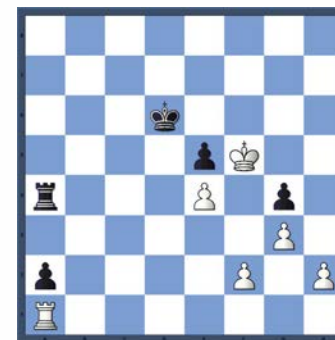
86...♖d5+ 87.♔c3 ♜d8 88.♘c4 ♔e4 89.♘d2+ ♔e3 90.♘c4+ ♔e2 91.♘b6 ♔e3 92.♘c4+ ♔e4 93.♘d2+ ♔d5 94.♔d3 ♜h8 95.♔e3 ♜h3+ 96.♘f3 ♜xf3+ 97.♔xf3 ♔e5 A tragic end of the game for Peter Leko who was so close to get the full point, but how beautifully Li Chao saved the game with the two passed pawns was really great to watch! **1/2-1/2**

**(14) Jakovenko, Dmitry (2759)
- Vitiugov, Nikita (2719)**

Russian Championship,
2015.08.13



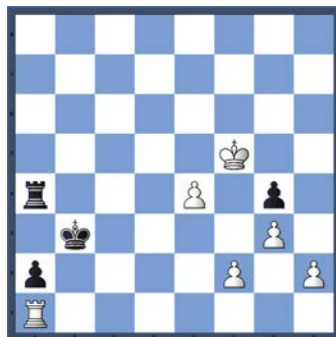
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



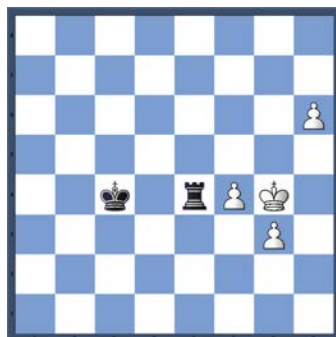
This is a very interesting rook endgame to study. White is a pawn up and he is going to win another one, because with his last move (Kg5-f5) he set Black into zugzwang. If he moves with his rook the g4 pawn is en prise, since e4 will not be hanging anymore, while if the king moves e5 falls. Despite this fact, Black has a huge triumph on a2, which compensates for the material deficit.

71...♔c5! Black must support his a2 pawn with his king. He gives up all his pawns on the kingside and a very interesting race starts with the many pawns against the rook.

72.♔xe5 ♔c4 73.♔f5 ♔b3



74.e5 White decided not to waste time on collecting the last remaining black pawn on the kingside and pushes his passed pawn instead. [However it is interesting to analyse 74.♔xg4!? 74...♚xe4+ 75.f4 ♔b2 76.♚xa2+ (It would definitely be useful to lure the black king one square away to a1 instead of a2, but in this case Black does not need to promote his pawn at once, but could play 76.♚f1 76...♚c4!= forcing a draw by repetition with Rc1 next move. Rf2 would be the only mov, but Black then plays Rc2.) 76...♔xa2 77.h4 The black rook alone cannot stop the pawns, he must hurry back with his king. 77...♔b3 78.h5 ♔c4 79.h6

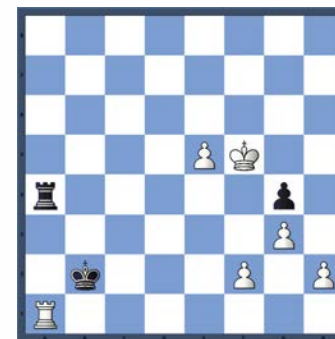


We have reached the critical position. Black needs to find the only move to save the game. The key is if the h-pawn reaches the 7th rank, Black loses his counterplay with his rook. Therefore the only move is 79...♚e8! (79...♔d5? loses because

of 80.h7 ♚e8 81.♔f5! shouldering the black king to net get closer towards the pawns. 81...♔d6 82.g4 ♔e7 83.♔g6+- and White wins.) 80.♔h5 ♚h8! This is the point! Black keeps the h-pawn on the 6th rank and wins time to get his king closer! (80...♔d5? loses again to 81.h7! ♔e6 82.♔g6+- followed by advancing the g- and f-pawns.) 81.g4 (81.♔g6 drops the g-pawn. 81...♚g8+=) 81...♔d5 82.g5 (82.♔g6 82...♚g8+= The checks force the king to go back to h5.) 82...♔e6 83.g6 (83.♔g6 83...♚g8+=) 83...♔f6 The black king arrived just in time. White cannot advance both of his pawns, because the g7 square is under control. 84.f5 Trying to lure the king with a sacrifice, but of course Black does not need to take it... 84...♚c8 85.h7 ♔g7 86.♔g5 ♚c5= 87.♔g4=]

74...♔b2 75.♚e1 a1=♚ [There was no time for the trick we have seen in the 74.Kxg4 line: 75...♚c4? because the white pawn is far enough advanced as well: 76.e6! ♚c1 77.♚xc1 ♔xc1 78.e7+-]

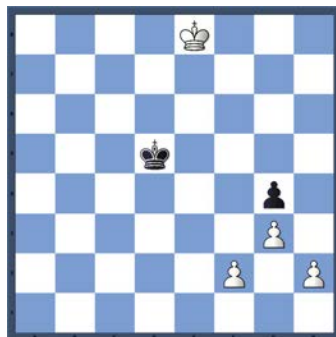
76.♚xa1



76...♚xa1! Leaving the g4 pawn unprotected, but it is more important to have the king a square closer to the pawns. One tempo could be decisive in such endgames!

77.♔xg4 [77.e6 does not change the outcome. 77...♔c3 78.e7 ♚e1 79.♔f6 ♚e2 This is the simplest draw. (However

79...♔d4 also holds very instructively: 80.♕f7 ♔d5 81.e8=♖
♖xe8 82.♕xe8



82...♕e6!= A very nice motif! The black king squeezes his opposition to the 8th rank and White cannot create a passed pawn despite being two pawns up.) 80.♕f7 ♖xf2+=]

77...♕c3 78.f4 ♔d4 There is no time to waste, Black must rush back with his king!

79.h4 ♔d5 80.♕f5 White tries to prevent Ke6. [80.h5 also leads to a draw after 80...♕e6 81.♕g5 ♖a8 although White has to fight for it with 82.f5+! ♕xe5 83.♕g6 ♖g8+ 84.♕f7 ♖xg3 85.h6=]



80...♖a8! Black wants to send away the king from f5 to have Ke6 next move.

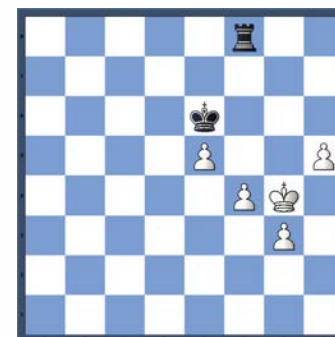
81.♕f6 [81.h5 transposes to the game later.]

81...♖a6+ White does not achieve anything by going to the 7th or the 8th rank, because he has no shelter against the side checks of the rook.

82.♕f5 ♖a8 83.h5 White decides to avoid a repetition, but he does not have realistic winning chances.

83...♖f8+ 84.♕g4 [84.♕g6 was a safer way to the draw: 84...♖g8+ 85.♕f7 ♖xg3 86.e6 ♖f3 87.e7 ♖xf4+=]

84...♕e6 The black king has arrived. The pawns are not far advanced. It is suddenly White who needs to fight for a draw. Jakovenko finds the way to achieve it.



85.♕f3! [85.h6? 85...♖g8+ 86.♕h5 (86.♕h4 86...♕f5--+) 86...♖xg3 87.h7 Black uses the unfortunate situation of the king, that the pawn cannot be promoted because of the check on the h-file. 87...♕f7! 88.♕h4 ♖g1--+]

85...♖a8 86.g4 The pawns are successfully stopped, but Black cannot win them. There are too many of them...

86...♖a3+ 87.♕g2 ♔d5 88.h6 ♕e6 [The only possible winning attempt was 88...♕e4 but it also fails because of 89.g5 and Black does not have enough time to capture the f-pawn, because after h7 followed by g6 the pawns promote. 89...♕f5 90.♕f2 and Black just waits with Kg2-f2. (An instructive mistake is 90.♕h2? which loses to 90...♕g4!]

and White cannot push his h- or g-pawn because of Rh3!) 90...♖a4 91.♔g3 ♜c4 92.♔h3! There is no trick like in the 90.Kh2 Kg4 line! 92...♜c3+ 93.♔g2 ♜b3 94.♔f2!= Holding the draw! Black cannot make progress.]

89.♔h2 ♜b3 90.♔g2 ♜a3 91.♔h2= 1/2-1/2

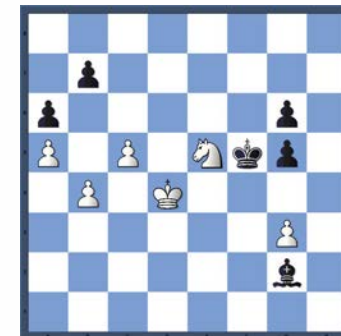
Golden knowledge



GM Adrian Mikhachishin
FIDE Trainers Commission Chairman

(15) Yagupov, Igor - Mukhametov, Eldar

RUS, 1995



In pawn endgames the subject of break is clear, but when other pieces are on the board it becomes much more complicated. It is true that sometimes it is still possible to transpose into a pawn endgame later, but generally there are much more complicated developments.

62.b5! axb5 63.c6! bxc6 64.♔c5! Now the king blocks the opponent's bishop and the a-pawn is ready to run.

64...b4 65.a6 b3 66.♘c4 ♕f1 67.a7 ♕xc4 68.a8=♚ b2
69.♚b7 1-0

(16) Lu Shanglei-Ji Dan

China, 2010



39.f5+! gxf5 40.g5 White obtained a dangerous passed pawn and has a strong position of the King. So it was time for the pawn sacrifice.

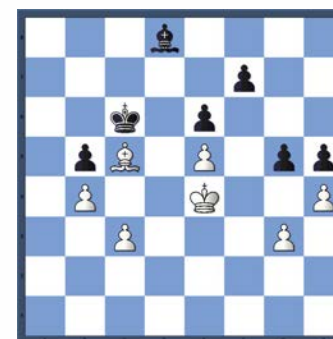
40...hxc5 41.hxc5 c5 A desperate try, as all normal moves are losing easily. [41...♖d6 42.g6 ♖e6 43.g7 ♕f7 44.♖f4 ♖f6 45.♘xf7 ♖xf7 46.♖xf5 ♖xg7 47.♖e6 ♖g6 48.♖d6 ♖f5 49.♖xc6 ♖e4 50.♖c5! wins after this typical zugzwang maneuver.]

42.bxc5 b4 43.♘d3! Stopping the opponent's counterplay, as the knight will block the f5 pawn.

43...b3 44.♘f4+ ♖d7 45.♖d2 1-0

(17) Zorigt, Z.-Korzin, B.

Budva, 1963



1.g4!! The creation of a passed pawn is now very easy.

1...gxf4 2.gxf4 ♕g5 3.♕f8 h3 4.♖f3 ♖d5 5.h6? [Correct was the natural 5.♕g7]

5...♕xh6? [Black could make a draw in the pawn ending: 5...♖xe5 6.♕g7+ ♕f6 7.♖g3 ♖f5 8.♖xh3 ♖g6 9.♕xf6 ♖xf6 10.♖g4 ♖g6 11.♖f4 ♖xh6 12.c4 bxc4 13.b5 e5+ 14.♖e3 f5 15.b6 f4+ 16.♖e2 c3 17.b7 f3+]]

6.♕xh6 ♖xe5 7.♕g7+ ♖d5 8.♖g3 f5 9.♖xh3 e5 10.♖g3 ♖e4 11.♕h8 f4+ 12.♖g4 f3 13.♖g3 1-0

(18) Kovcan, V.-Antal, P.

Hungary, 1995

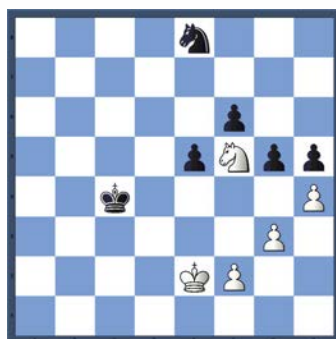


1.h5!! fxg5 [After 1...♙xe3 2.h6 gxh6 3.g6+- promotes.]

2.♙xb6 ♖xb6 3.h6! gxh6 4.f6 1-0

(19) Kosteniuk, A.-Polgar, Ju

Moscow RUS, 2009

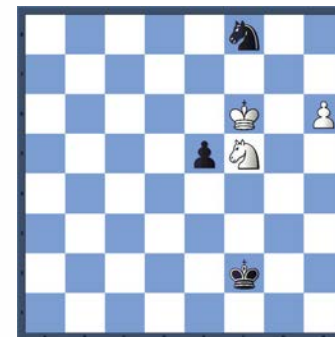


63.g4! A great break!

63...♜c7 [63...gxh4 64.gxh5 h3 65.♙f1 h2 66.♙g2 ♜c7 67.h6 ♜e6 68.h7 ♜f4+ 69.♙xh2 ♜g6 70.♙g3+-]

64.gxh5 ♜e6 65.h6 ♜f8 66.hxg5 fxg5 67.♙f3 ♙d3 68.♙g4 ♙e2 69.♙xg5 [69.f3 was better and simpler.]

69...♙xf2 70.♙f6? [70.♜d6 70...♙f3 71.♙f5 was correct.]

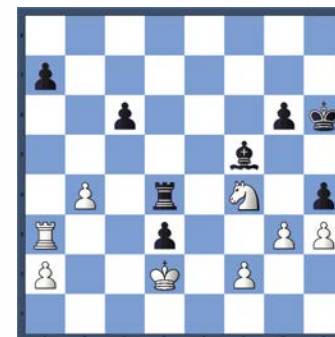


70...e4? [70...♙f3 71.♙xe5 ♜h7 was holding the draw.]

71.♙f7 ♜h7 72.♙g6 ♜f8+ 73.♙g7 ♜e6+ 74.♙f6 ♜f8 75.♜d4 e3 76.♙g7 ♜e6+ 77.♜xe6 e2 78.♜f4 1-0

(20) Hoang Thi Bao Tram-Majdan, J.

Dresden GER, 2008



46...g5! With this sacrifice of the important passed pawn, Black prepares to create a new one on the far side with another sacrifice.

47. ♖xd3 g4! **48.** hxg4 h3 **49.** gxf5 h2 **50.** ♔e3 ♜d7 [50...♜d8 was a bit simpler.]

51. ♖e5 h1=♚ **52.** ♜c3 [52. ♖xd7 did not help because of 52...♚c1+]

52... ♚e1+ 0-1

(21) Aronian, L.-Svidler, P.

Moscow RUS, 2009



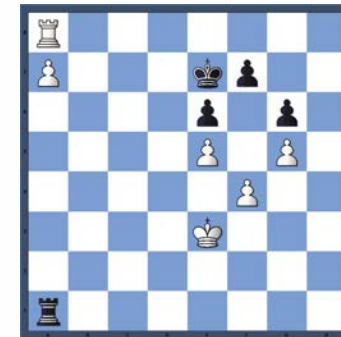
39...a3! 40.bxa3 [Or here is the break after the piece sacrifice: 40.b3 40...♖xb3+! 41.axb3 a2]

40...b3! This break can only be stopped with an exchange sacrifice.

41.axb3 ♖xb3+ 42.♔c3 ♖xd4 43.♔xd4 ♜a8 44.♖d3 ♜xa3 45.c5 dxc5+ 46.♖xc5 ♜xf3 47.♖e4 ♔e7 48.♔c5 ♜e3 0-1

(22) Vistanekis, I.-Sardarov, E.

USSR, 1963



1.f5!! Here White uses the break not to create a passed pawn, but to open the 7th rank.

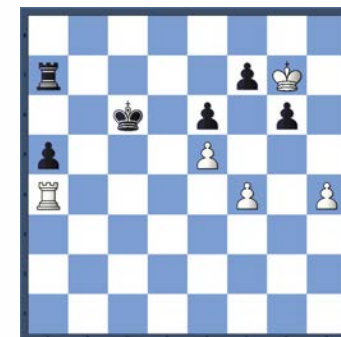
1...exf5 [1...gxf5 2.g6 fxg6 3.♜h8]

2.e6 fxe6 [2...♜a6 3.exf7 ♔xf7 4.♜h8]

3.♜h8 1-0

(23) Lasker, E.-Levenfish, G.

Moscow, 1925



49.♔f6? [It was necessary to try and conduct the break as

soon as possible: 49.f5 49...exf5 50.e6 fxe6+ 51.♔xg6 ♔b5 52.♚a1 f4 53.h5 e5 54.h6 e4 55.♔f5 f3 56.♔xe4 f2 57.♔e3 ♚h7 58.♔xf2 ♚xh6 59.♔e2 ♚d6 60.♚d1! Destroying the cutting of the king and obtaining a theoretically drawn position.]

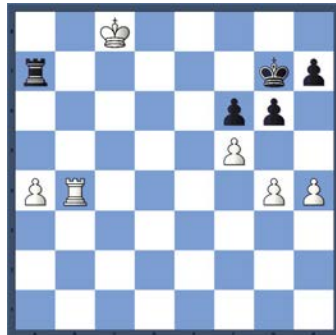
49...♔b5 50.♚a1 a4 51.f5 Better late than never... But it is too late!

51...exf5 52.e6 fxe6 53.♔xg6 f4 54.h5 f3 55.h6 e5 56.♚e1 [56.♔f5 56...f2 57.♔xe5 ♚h7 58.♚f1 ♚xh6 59.♚xf2 a3 and Black is winning.]

56...a3 57.♚xe5+ ♔c4 58.♚e1 a2 59.h7 ♚a8 60.♔g7 f2 61.♚a1 ♔b3 62.♚f1 a1=♔+ 63.♚xa1 ♚xa1 0-1

(24) Stein, L.-Vaganian, R.

Vrnjacka Banja, 1971

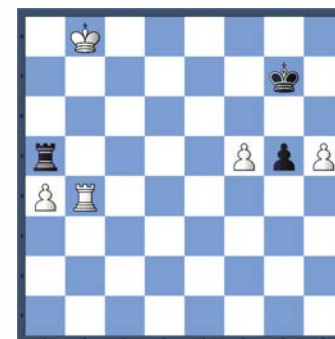


With two powerful pawn moves Black creates an important passed pawn.

1...h5! 2.gxh5 [2...fxg6 2...hxg4 3.♚xg4 f5=]

2...g5!! [2...gxf5? would be wrong in view of 3.♔b8 ♚a5 4.♔b7 ♔h6 5.♔b6 ♚a8 6.a5 ♚b8+ 7.♔c5 ♚a8 8.♚a4 ♔xh5 9.♔b6!+-]

3.♔b8 ♚a5 4.hxg5 fxg5

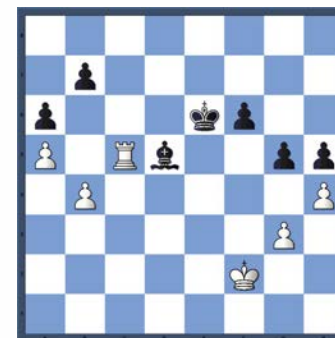


5.♚b7+ [5.♔b7 5...♔f6 6.♔b6 ♚a8 7.a5 ♚b8+ 8.♔c5 ♚xb4!=]

5...♔h6 6.f6 ♚xa4 1/2-1/2

(25) Carlsen, M.-Wang Yue

Bazna, 2010



46.g4! The creation of passed pawns sometimes demands sacrifices...

46...hxg4 47.h5 ♚e4 48.♚c7! Now the ook is ready to support the passed pawn.

48...f5 49.h6 f4 50.h7 g3+ 51.♔e1 f3 52.h8=♔ f2+ 53.♔e2 ♚d3+ 54.♔e3 1-0

(26) Filip, M.-Mozhny, M.

Chechoslovakia, 1977

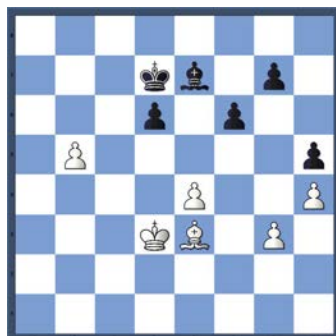


1...b5!! The only and last chance, since after [1...axb4 2. ♖xb4 / Be1-f2-b6= White will transpose into a endgame with the bishop of the wrong corner color.]

2.bxa5 bxa4 3.a6 ♖c6 4.♗b4 ♗b6 5.♖xh4 ♖b5 6.♗a3 ♖xa6 7.♖g3 ♖b5 8.♖f3 ♗c5 9.♗c1 ♖c4 10.♖e2 ♖b3 [/ Bd4-b2-+] 0-1

(27) Bacrot, E.-Fedorchuk, S.

Bundesliga 2006-7, 2006



49...g5? Black does not want to suffer in a slightly worse endgame. [49...♗d8 50. ♖c4 ♗a5 51. ♖d5]

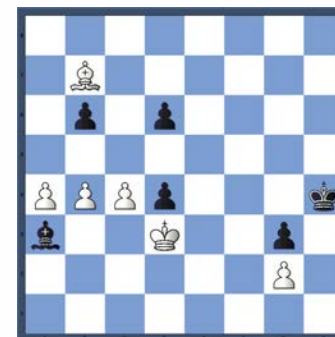
50.g4! Even here this break is possible.

50...gxh4 [Or 50...hxc4 51.h5 ♗f8 52. ♖e2 ♗h6 53.♗d4 ♗g7 54. ♖f2]

51.gxh5 h3 52. ♗g1 ♖e6 53.b6 ♖d7 54.h6 ♗f8 55.h7 ♗g7 56. ♖e3 f5 57.exf5 d5 58. ♖f4 d4 59.b7 ♖c7 60. ♖g5 1-0

(28) Sjugirov, S.-Blomqvist, E.

Chotowa POL, 2010



48.a5 bxa5 49.c5!! A great move! The creation of a passed pawn is the most important task here.

49...dxc5 50.bxa5 c4+ 51. ♖xc4 ♗d6 52. ♖xd4 And Black has no defence against the white king transfer to b7, winning the bishop. **1-0**

(29) Averbakh, Y.-Korchnoi, V.

Yerevan, 1965



36...g4! Taking the first chance to create a passed pawn.

37.hxg4 h3 38.♔c2 [38.f3 38...h2 39.♘f2 a5--]

38...♖c4+! 39.♔d2 ♖c1!! A typical blockade of the first rank to prevent Rb1. **0-1**

(30) Fressinet, L.-Grandelius, N.

Malmo SWE, 2014

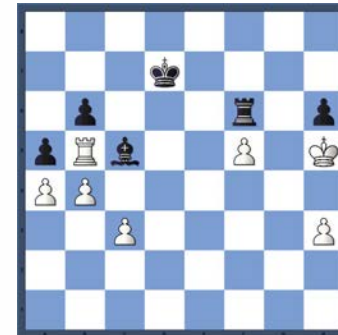


45.b5! axb5 46.a6 The a6 pawn decides the game!

46...♖d8+ 47.♔c6 b4 48.♔b7 b3 49.♖c3 1-0

(31) Akobian, V.-Wang, P.

Los Angeles 88e/5, 2003

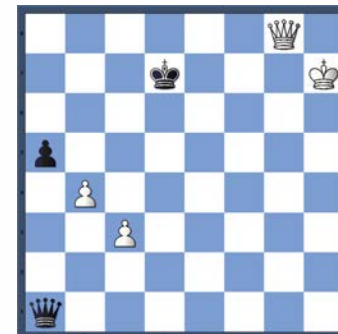


1...♖xf5+!! 2.♔g6 [2.♔xh6? 2...♙e3+--; 2.♔g4? 2...♖g5+--]

2...♖g5+ 3.♔xh6 ♙e3! 4.♖xg5 b5! The white king is pinned and Black creates a passed pawn.

5.h4 [Other moves didn't help: 5.♔g6 5...♙xg5 6.♔xg5 bxa4--; 5.bxa5 5...bxa4 6.a6 ♔c7--]

5...bxa4 6.♔h7 ♙xg5 7.hxg5 a3 8.g6 a2 9.g7 a1=♔ 10.g8=♔



Black exchanges queens now and the last passed pawn decides the game.

10...♔h1+ 11.♔g7 ♔g2+ 12.♔h7 ♔xg8+ 13.♔xg8 a4 0-1

(32) Svidler, P.-Dominguez Perez, L.

Moscow RUS, 2009



36.b5! ♖xa5 This move is forced, as other captures lose faster. [36...axb5 37.c6 bxc6 38.a6 and the pawn is unstoppable.]

37.c6 axb5 38.cxd7 ♔f7



Now White just has to be careful when realizing his extra piece.

39.♔f1 ♔e6 40.♖f4+ ♔xd7 41.♖xg6 b4 42.♔e2 b3 43.♖f4
♔d6 44.f3 exf3+ 45.♔xf3 ♖b6 46.♖b2 ♖c5 47.♖d3 ♖g1
48.♖c1 b5 49.♖xb3 ♔d5 50.♖d2 b4 51.♔f4 ♔e6 52.♖f3
♖c5 53.♖d4+ ♔d5 54.♖xf5 ♔c4 55.g4 ♔d3 56.h4 b3 57.h5
♔c2 58.♖e5 ♔d3 59.♖g7 ♖b4 60.♔f3 ♖a5 61.♖d6 ♖c3 1-0

Chess and the City. The worst tournament of my life....



WGM Elisabeth Paetz
Best rating: 2493

No it is not about the place, not about the people (ok maybe my opponents just play outstandingly), nor about the conditions - in fact they are all just great!

It is just me, who likely forgot how to move the pieces. As I mentioned in my last newsletter I am currently playing a GM round robin tournament in the very beautiful but small city of Lüneburg, in the northern part of Germany.

But let us not get distracted from the main issue here - I lost 4 in a row and as far as my slowly fainting memory serves, it is the very first time this happens to me. Usually one says that "the first time" can be full of surprises, excitement or adventures, but we are not talking about, well, you know what I mean... Losing 4 games in a row is simply painful! The Russian chess school suggests throwing in a draw after a double loss, but they never explain what to do if your opponent just does not agree...

My opponents never agreed until today! I finally managed to draw in round 6! Being too scared of a refusal I even dared to offer in the very early stage of the game to be sure my position

is still stable enough.

The biggest problem about such a series is that you are not only losing hope, but also confidence. This eventually affects your play and decisions during the game.

Anyhow there is actually nothing to advice in such situations but the will to survive and strike back. There are 3 rounds to go and a dream of mainly damage compensation.

The tournament is currently led by Andreas, who is probably the strongest IM in the world, especially if he finishes the tournament the same style he has begun it.

For those who are interested in the tournament or want to participate next year, you can find all information at <http://www.vmcg-schachfestival.de/>

Clash of the Titans

(33) Euwe, Max
- Krause, Orla Hermann[A80]

London ol (Men)(5),
1927.07.21



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.♘f3 f5 2.g3 d6 3.d4 ♘c6 This move order is very rare. Black wants to play e5 very quickly. The main line is [3...♘f6 4.♗g2 g6 5.O-O ♗g7 6.c4 O-O 7.♘c3 and now Black has a few plans, like 7...Nc6 or 7...Qe8, but the most solid and best one is 7...c6 with many complex possibilities from both sides.]

4.d5 The most logical to prevent e5. [4.♗g2 also deserves attention. 4...e5 5.dxe5 dxe5 6.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 7.♘c3 ♘f6 (7...e4 8.♘g5! with f3 next.) 8.♗g5 and White has the initiative thanks to his better development. One of the typical ideas here can be to break the center with e4.; 4.♗f4!? with the idea to play d5 a bit later.]

4...♘e5 5.♘d4 [5.♘xe5 5...dxe5 6.♗g2 ♘f6 7.O-O e6 8.c4 (8.dxe6 8...♖xd1 9.♖xd1 c6 with good play for Black.) 8...exd5 9.cxd5 ♗d6 10.♘d2! (10.♘c3 10...a6 XNc3) 10...O-O 11.♘c4 f4⇒Black should have counterplay on the kingside.]



5...c5! A concrete move. Let's check what would happen if Black developed his pieces as usual: [5...♘f6 6.♗g2 g6 7.O-O ♗g7 8.♘c3 O-O 9.e4! Black has problems with the e6 square. 9...fxe4 10.♘xe4 ♗g4 (10...♘d5 11.♘g5+-) 11.♘xf6+ ♗xf6 12.f3 ♗d7 13.f4±]

6.dxc6 [6.♘e6 6...♗xe6 7.dxe6 ♖c8 8.♗g2 ♖b8 9.♗d5 (9.♘c3 9...♖xe6 10.♘d5 ♖d7+ and White doesn't have any compensation.) 9...♘f6 10.c4 g6 11.♘c3 ♗g7 12.O-O O-O∞]

6...♘xc6 [6...bxc6 7.♗g2 with f4 next.]

7.♗g2 ♗d7 8.O-O



8...e5 Black is fighting for the center. The alternative was [8...♘f6 9.c4 g6 10.♘c3 ♗g7 11.♘c2 (11.b3 11...♘e4 12.♘xe4 ♗xd4+-) 11...O-O 12.b3 ♖a5 (12...♘e4 13.♘xe4 ♗xa1

14. ♖xa1 fxe4 15. ♔d5+ 13. ♕d2 (13. ♕b2 13... ♖e4 14. ♖xe4 ♕xb2) 13... ♔b6∞]

9. ♖f3 The knight on f3 is not fighting for the weak d5 square but this is still the best option. [9. ♖xc6?! improves the black center. 9... bxc6 10. c4 ♖f6 11. ♖c3 ♕e7 12. ♕g5 O-O (12... ♔c7 13. ♖b5 ♔b8 14. ♕xf6 gxf6 15. ♖c3 ♔xb2 16. ♔d3 e4∞; 12... ♔b8 13. ♔a4 e4∞) 13. ♕xf6 ♔xf6 (13... ♕xf6 14. ♔xd6 e4 15. ♔ad1 ♔f7 16. ♖a4+=) 14. ♖d5 ♔f8 15. ♖xe7+ ♔xe7 16. ♔a4 e4 17. ♔fd1 f4±; 9. ♖b5 with the idea of playing according to the Sveshinkov System. 9... ♕e6 10. ♖1c3 a6 11. ♖a3 ♖f6 12. ♕g5 ♕e7 13. ♕xf6 ♕xf6 14. ♖d5 O-O 15. ♖c4 e4 16. c3 (16. ♖xf6+ 16... ♔xf6 17. ♖xd6 ♔ad8±) 16... b5 17. ♖ce3 ♕e5 Black is better, f4 will come soon.]

9... ♖f6 10. ♖c3 ♕e6 With the idea to take control over the d5 square, but this move is a bit slow and now White can take advantage of his better development. Let's check some other options: [10... e4 11. ♖g5 (11. ♖d4 11... d5! 12. ♖b3 (12. ♕g5 12... ♕e7+=) 12... ♕e6 13. ♖b5 ♕e7 14. ♖5d4 ♔d7 Black is better thanks to his space advantage and the limited bishop on g2.) 11... ♕e7 (11... h6 12. ♖h3 g5 13. f3! The knight will come back to play via f2. White is better because of the weak black structure.)



12. ♖h3! (12. f3 12... d5! 13. ♖xd5 (13. ♖h3 13... d4±) 13... ♖xd5

14. ♔xd5 ♕xg5 15. ♕xg5 ♔xg5 16. fxe4 O-O-O±) 12... ♕e6 13. ♖f4 ♕f7 14. ♖fd5! White is doing everything to avoid d5! 14... O-O 15. ♕f4; 10... ♕e7 A very solid move. 11. ♖d5 (If white tries to use the same idea as in the game 11. e4 11... fxe4 12. ♖g5 ♕g4± then Black is a tempo up!) 11... ♕e6 (11... O-O 12. ♖xe7+ (12. ♖xf6+ 12... ♕xf6 13. ♔xd6 e4↑) 12... ♔xe7 13. b3 d5 (13... ♔ad8 14. ♕a3 ♕c8 15. c4 f4∞) 14. e3 (14. ♕b2 14... d4=) 14... ♔ad8 15. ♕b2 ♕c8 White has the bishop pair, but Black has a strong center, so the position is unclear.) 12. ♖g5 ♕xd5 13. ♕xd5 ♖xd5 14. ♖e6 ♔d7 15. ♔xd5 ♕f6 16. ♔d1 with the trap 16... Ke7 17. Nc5! and I have no idea if the knight on e6 is strong or weak.]



11. e4! [11. ♕g5 is too slow. 11... d5 (11... ♕e7=) 12. ♕xf6 gxf6 (12... ♔xf6 13. ♖xd5 ♕xd5 14. ♔xd5 e4 15. ♔ad1 (15. ♖h4 15... g6 16. f3∞) 15... ♔d8 16. ♔b5 exf3 17. ♕xf3 and it looks like White has a strong initiative.) 13. e3! with the idea Nh4-Qh5-Rad1. 13... ♕b4 with the idea Qd7-Ne7-O-O-O. The position is unclear.]

11... fxe4 12. ♖g5 ♕g4 Black could give back the pawn and try to finish his development after [12... ♕f5!? 13. ♖gxe4 (13. ♖d5 13... ♖d4 14. ♖xf6+ gxf6 15. ♖xe4 d5±) 13... ♖xe4 14. ♖xe4 d5 (14... ♕e7 15. c4! O-O 16. ♕e3 ♔d7 and White has a stable advantage.) 15. ♖c3 d4 16. ♖e4 ♕e7 17. c3 ♔d7 (17... dxc3 18. bxc3 (18. ♔b3 18... ♖d4 19. ♔xb7 ♔b8; 18. ♔a4 18... ♔d4)

18...♖xd1 19.♗xd1 ♗d8 20.♕e3 b6 With an equal endgame.)
18.♖b3 ♕e6 19.♖b5 O-O= 20.♘c5 ♕xc5 21.♖xc5 ♕h3
(21...♗ad8 22.♕g5; 21...h6! White's idea is to look for the
initiative on the light squares.) 22.♖d5+! ♖xd5 23.♕xd5+
♗h8 24.♗e1 and without queens White has chances to prove
the advantage of the two bishops.]

13.f3 exf3 14.♕xf3 ♕xf3 [14...♖d7 15.♘d5 ♕xf3 16.♖xf3
transpose to the game.]

15.♖xf3 ♖d7 16.♘d5



16...♕e7?! This is another moment where Black could give
the pawn back but immediately solve the practical problems.
[16...O-O-O 17.♘xf6 (17.♕e3 17...h6! Solving all the tensions.
18.♘xf6 gxf6 19.♘e4 d5 20.♘xf6 ♖e6=) 17...gxf6 18.♖xf6 ♕e7
Black is fine. (18...d5 19.♘f7 ♕c5+ 20.♖g2 ♗hf8 21.♕h6±)
19.♖e6 ♖xe6 20.♘xe6 ♗d8]

17.♘e6! Now the black king will stay in the center.

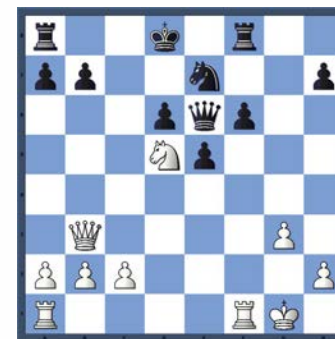
17...♕d8 18.♘xd8 [18.♘xg7+ 18...♖xg7 19.♘xf6+ ♕xf6
20.♖xf6 ♖xf6 21.♗xf6 and White is better thanks to the
pressure over the 6th rank and the f-file. 21...♖e7 22.♕g5]

18...♖xd8 19.♕g5 A good move. White maintains the tension.
[19.♘xf6 19...gxf6 20.♖xf6+ ♖c7 21.♕h6]

19...♗f8 20.♖a3 Threatening Nb6. [20.♖h5± looks very

unpleasant for Black.]

20...♖e6 21.♖b3 [21.♗ad1 21...♖d7±; 21.♘b6 21...♗b8
22.♗ad1 ♖c7 23.♕xf6 gxf6 24.♘d5+ ♖d7 25.c3 White's idea
is very simple: play Rd2-Rfd1 and win because of the weak
black king. 25...f5 Black is looking for counterplay. 26.♗d2 f4
27.♗fd1 fxg3



28.♘b6+ (28.♘f4 was probably also winning. 28...gxf2+
29.♖h1 ♖f5 30.♖xd6+ ♖c8 31.♘e6 ♖f3+ 32.♗g2 ♗f7 33.♖d8+
♘xd8 34.♗xd8#) 28...♖c7 29.♗xd6 gxf2+ 30.♖h1 (30.♖xh2
30...♗f2+ 31.♖g3 ♗g8+ 32.♖xf2 ♖f5+ and Black should mate.)
30...♖g4 31.♘d5+! (31.♗d7+ 31...♖xb6 32.♖b3+ ♖a6 33.♖a3+
♘a5 White doesn't even have a draw! 34.♗1d6+ b6--)
31...♖c8 32.♘e7+ ♖c7 (32...♘xe7 33.♖c5+ ♘c6 34.♗xc6+
bxc6 35.♖xc6#) 33.♗xc6+ bxc6 34.♖d6+ ♖b6 35.♖xc6+ ♖a5
36.♗d5+--]

21...♘e7 [21...♗b8 22.♘xf6 ♖xb3 23.♘e4+--]

22.♕xf6 [22.♗ad1 22...♘exd5 23.♖xb7 ♘b6 (23...♘c7 24.♖c6
d5 25.♖xe6 ♘xe6 26.♗xd5+ ♖c7 27.♗xe5 ♘xg5 28.♗xg5
g6±) 24.♖xg7 (24.♖c6 24...♖e7--+) 24...♘d7 and Black is
well coordinated. 25.♕xf6+ ♗xf6 26.♖h8+ ♖e8 27.♖xe8+
♖xe8 28.♗xf6 ♘xf6 29.♗xd6 ♖e7 30.♗a6 ♗d8 31.♗xa7+
♖e6± Black is very active.]

22...gxf6



23.♖ad1 It is logical that White wants to keep the queens on the board but after [23.♘xf6 I think the endgame should be easily winning. 23...♙xb3 (23...♖xf6 24.♙xe6 ♖xe6 25.♖f8+--) 24.axb3 h6 (24...♖f7 25.♖ad1 ♘c8 26.♘d5±) 25.♘d5 (25.♘g4±) 25...♖xf1+ 26.♖xf1 ♔d7 27.♖f7 ♔e6 28.♖xe7+ ♔xd5 29.♖xb7 ♔e4 30.♔f2 d5 and as usual the point of counterplay is active play.]

23...♘xd5 24.♖xd5 b6 25.♖fd1 ♔e7 26.♙d3 e4?! This move saves the pawn but creates weaknesses. Now the black structure is worse. [26...♖ad8 27.♙xh7+ ♖f7 28.♙h4! with the idea to not let Black play f5-f4 too easily.]

27.♙d4 ♖ad8



28.a4! with idea to create additional weaknesses.

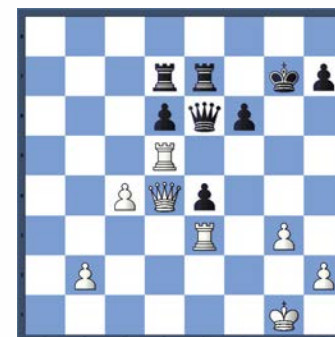
28...♖f7?! is too slow. [28...f5 29.♙g7+ (29.a5 29...f4! 30.♙g7+ ♖f7 31.♙g5+ ♖f6± and gxf4 doesn't work.) 29...♖f7 30.♙g5+ ♖f6∞]

29.a5 ♔f8 [29...f5 30.axb6 axb6 31.♙xb6 f4 It is too late now... 32.♙xd8+! ♔xd8 33.♖xd6+ ♙xd6 34.♖xd6+ ♔e7 35.♖d4+--]

30.axb6 axb6 31.♙xb6 ♖fd7 32.♙d4 ♔g7 The king is safe now but Black lost the pawn and time, so now White's position is much better.

33.♖e1± ♖e8 34.c4 ♖ee7 Preventing c5.

35.♖e3



35...♔f7 A very passive move. Black should at least try to create some counterplay. [35...♖a7! Why not activate the pieces? 36.♖e1 (36.♖xd6 36...♖a1+ 37.♔g2 ♙f5; 36.b4 36...♖a2 37.♖xd6 ♙f5±) 36...♖a6 and at least Black improved the rook.]

36.b4 f5 37.b5 ♙f6 38.♙d2! ♔e8 [38...♖a7 39.♖xd6 ♙a1+ 40.♖e1+--]

39.♖a3 and finally the a-file is useful for White!

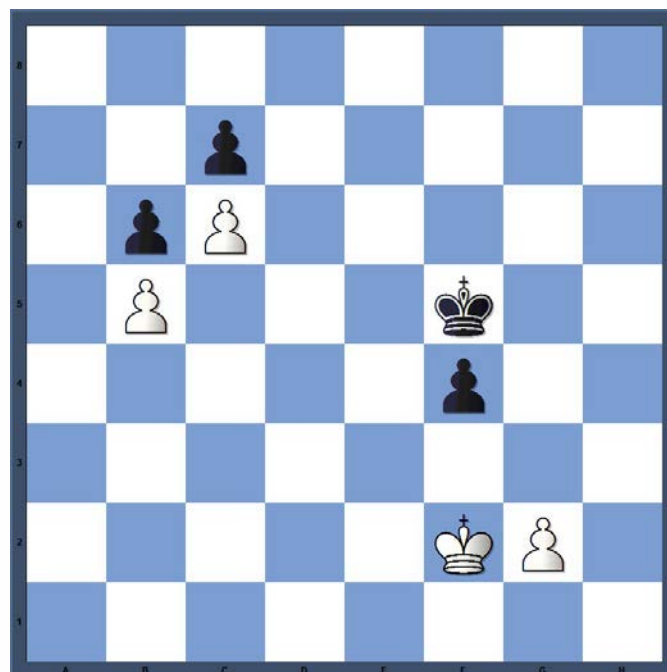
39...♖e5 [39...e3 40.♖xe3 ♙a1+ 41.♔g2 ♖xe3 42.♙xe3+ ♖e7 43.♙d2+--]

40.b6+-- ♖xd5 41.♙xd5 ♙b2 42.♙e6+ ♔f8 43.♖a8+ 1-0

Surprise section / study

(34) Neumann

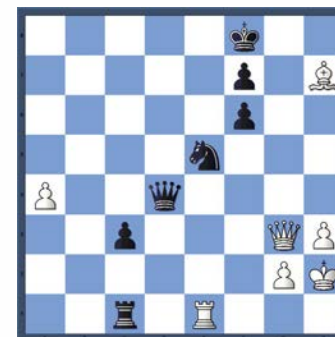
1. +-



Solutions

(35) Guseva, M(2431)-Girya, O(2487)

Russian Woman Championship, 2015.08.10

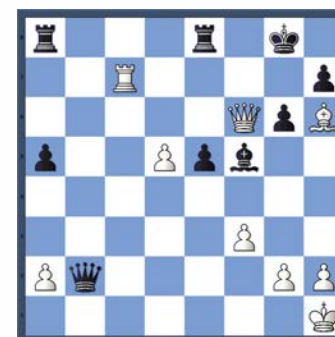


50... ♖f3+!! 51. ♔xf3 [51. gxf3 51... ♔d2+-+]

51... ♖xe1-+

(36) Edouard, R(2634)-Degraeve, JM(2551)

French Championship, 2015.08.10

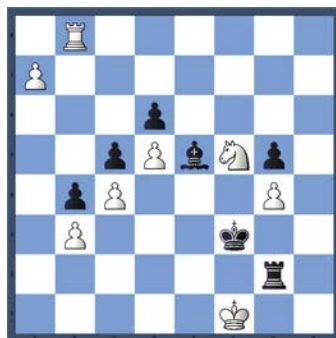


38... ♔b1+! 39. ♕c1 [39. ♖c1 39... ♔b7-+]

39... ♕d7!-+

(37) Howell, D(2712)-Gormally, D(2485)

British Championship, 2015.07.29



**119...R

h2** [119...Rc2! 120. Qh4+ (120. Qe1 120...Rc1+ 121. Qd2 Qf4+! 122. Qd3 Rc3#) 120...gxh4 121. Rf8+ Qe3 122. a8=Q h3!-+]

120. Qg1 1/2

(38) Arkell, K(2488)-Summerscale, A(2416)

British Championship, 2015.08.04

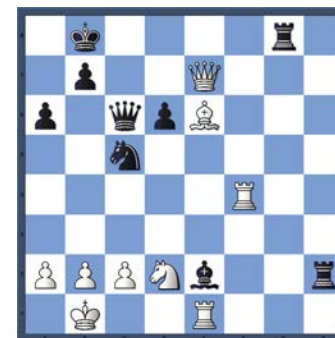


16. Qxd5! Qxd4 [16... Qxd5 17. Qxc6 Qxb2 18. Qxd8+-]

17. Qxd4 Qe6 18. Qxf6+ gxf6 19. Qxb7+-

(39) Gao Rui(2528)-Le Quang Liem(2699)

Asian Continental, 2015.08.04



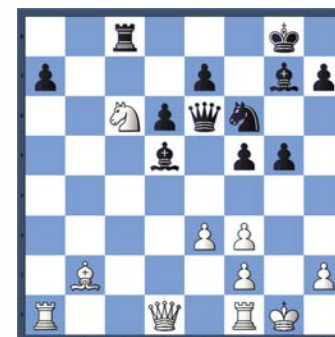
**31...R

h1?** [31... Re8! 32. Rf8 Rxf8 33. Qxf8+ Qa7-+ 34. Qb3 Rh1! 35. Qf2 Qg2!!-+]

32. Qf1 ∞

(40) Gupta, A(2619)-Dzhumaev, M(2493)

Asian Continental, 2015.08.04

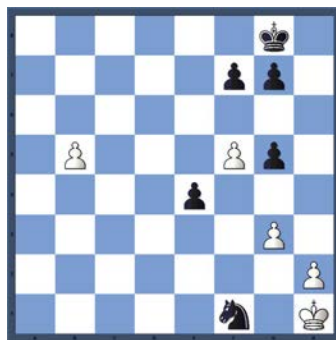


27. Qxe7+! Qxe7 28. Qxf6 Qf7 [28... Qxf6 29. Qxd5+-]

29. Qxg7+-

(41) Nguyen Ngoc Trungson(2662)-Salem, A(2595)

Asian Continental, 2015.08.09



42...e3! 43.♔g2 [43.b6 43...e2 44.b7 e1=♚ 45.b8=♚+ ♔h7+-]

43...e2! 44.♔f2 ♖xh2! 45.b6 ♖g4+ 46.♔xe2 ♖e5 47.b7 ♖c6+-

(42) Sethuraman, S(2635)-Khusnutdinov, R(2510)

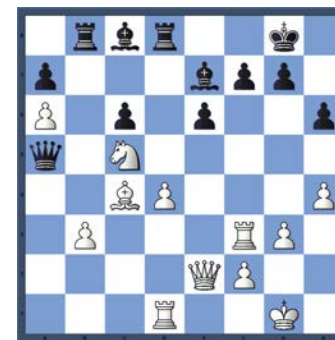
Asian Continental, 2015.08.09



38.♖e5! 1-0 [38.♖e5 38...♖c4 39.♖xf5! ♚xf5 40.♗d3+-]

(43) Van Wely, L(2654)-Van Foreest, J(2519)

Vlissingen Open, 2015.08.04



38.♖xe6! fxe6 [38...♗xe6 39.♗xe6 ♗f6 40.♗c4+-]

39.♗xe6+ ♗xe6 [39...♔h8 40.♗xc8 ♖bxc8 41.♚xe7+-]

40.♚xe6+ ♔h8 41.♚xe7+-

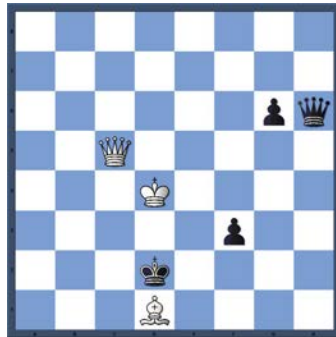
(44) Harutyunian, T(2472)-Cori, J(2635)

Badalona Open, 2015.08.08



27.♖xd6! ♖xd6 28.♚xe5 ♚d8 29.g5+-

(45) Mann



1. ♔a5+!! ♕xd1 [1... ♖c1 2. ♔d3+-]
2. ♔d3! ♕c1 3. ♕a4+ ♖e1 4. ♕h4+ ♔f2 [4... ♖f1 5. ♕h1+-]
5. ♕e4+! ♖f1 6. ♕h1#



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

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Editorial Preface

5 rounds have passed in the 3rd edition of the Sinquefield Cup and we find Aronian and Carlsen on top with 3.5/5. Carlsen started into the event with a loss to Topalov with White and was in big trouble in the second game against Caruana, but luck was once again on the side of the World Champion who won the game on the 40th move after an incredible 1-move blunder by Caruana.

Topalov had a perfect start with 2/2 but after drawing 2 games, he lost the 5th game, in a very complicated fight against Caruana.

Aronian is playing cunning chess with fantastic preparation and is deservedly sharing first place.

We can be sure that we will see great fighting chess in the next 4 rounds, which will decide the winner of what is probably the strongest event of the year.

In the current issue we focus our attention mainly on this super tournament.

A lot of other smaller tournaments are also under way, such as the Spanish Individual Championship, the Rubinshtein Open or the Serbian Individual Championship.

For the first time two Chinese players have entered the top 15 in the World! Ding Liren is currently the World Number 7 while Li Chao is Number 14, and we can be sure that these two talented players will even further improve their rankings.

The pairings for the World Cup 2015 in Baku are official and the event begins on the 11th September. The first 2 places qualify for the Candidates tournament, so this is clearly an event to watch out for on the calendar!

We hope you enjoy the current issue of Top GM secrets!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) **Carlsen, Magnus (2853)**
- **Topalov, Veselin (2816) [B51]**

3rd Sinquefeld Cup 2015(1.1),
2015.08.23



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

And the history is repeating. Already in Stavenger we saw the pairing Carlsen-Topalov in the first round- where Carlsen lost on time(!) in a winning position. In the current game, things developed very differently. Topalov managed to surprise Carlsen very early with the aggressive 7...g5. Carlsen, after thinking for a long time, went for a very aggressive line. He sacrificed a piece for the attack, which led nowhere after great defensive play by Topalov. From move 30 the players were in quite serious time trouble and when it was over, Carlsen had nothing else left than to resign.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♙b5+ Carlsen likes this move a lot. He had great results in this line, beating a lot of top players, like Anand for example.

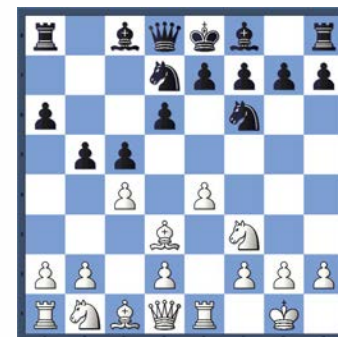
3...♞d7 is probably the most aggressive reply. The most played move is 3...Bd7.

4.O-O [4.d4 is probably the most played move in the position.]

4...♞f6 5.♞e1 a6 6.♙d3 A strange-looking move, but nothing new. White is planning to play c3-Bc2 and d4. [The other possible line is 6.♙f1 6...b6 7.d4 cxd4 8.♞xd4 ♙b7 9.f3 and White is trying to reach a hedgehog system with a tempo

down, which doesn't matter much.]

6...b5 7.c4 We are in a position with almost no games played in it, but, there is one game Carlsen-Nakamura from the 2014 Zurich Rapid.



7...g5! I think this is a great reply and it is clear that this move was nothing new to Topalov. [7...♞e5 8.♙f1 ♞xc4 9.a4 ♙d7 10.d4 cxd4 11.♞xd4 followed in the game Carlsen-Nakamura, with a slightly better position for White.]

8.♞xg5 is clearly one of the most critical moves in the position. [Another one is 8.cxb5 8...g4 9.♞h4 (9.e5 9...dxe5 10.♞g5 ♙g7 with a very unbalanced game.) 9...♞e5 (9...e6 10.♞c3 ♙h6 11.♙e2 ♙g5 and now White has the great 12.d4 ♙xh4 13.g3 Winning back the piece and clearly keeping some advantage.) 10.♙e2 e6 11.♞c3 followed by d4 and maybe White can hope for some advantage.]

8...♞e5 Black is going for the c4 pawn.

9.♙e2 bxc4 We are looking at a very complex position. The black king will most probably remain in the center, but for that Black has a great knight on e5 and will clearly develop some play on the kingside. The white bishop on c1 is also very passive for now. White should try to play actively and open the position as much as possible and as soon as possible.

10. ♖a3 Carlsen is going for the c4 pawn, but it looks a bit too slow. [Probably it is too early for 10.f4 10... ♖d3 and the white king is even more vulnerable than before.; But very interesting is 10.d4!? 10...cxd3 11. ♕xd3 with the easy plan of playing Nc3 and starting some play in the center. The position is very complex.]

10... ♖g8 Simple and strong. White needs to decide what to do with the knight on g5.



11. ♖xc4?! I think that this piece sacrifice is a mistake. [The best move was probably 11.d4 11...cxd3 12. ♕xd3 but of course the white knight is already not that nicely placed on a3 as he could have been on c3. 12...h6 13. ♖f3 ♖xd3 14. ♖xd3 d5 and I think only Black can be playing for an advantage here.]

11... ♖xc4 The piece has to be taken.

12.d4 This was White's plan.

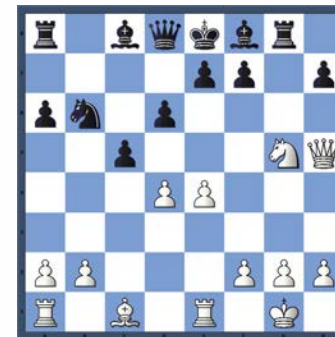
12... ♖b6 A very solid move. [A serious mistake would be to play 12...h6? 13. ♖xf7! ♖xf7 14. ♕xc4+ and White's attack is very dangerous.]

13. ♕h5 Carlsen was clearly going for this move before playing 11.Nxc4?!. [The endgame after 13.dxc5 13...dxc5 14. ♖xd8+

♖xd8 15. ♖xf7+ ♖e8 is clearly better for Black. Two pawns are not enough for a full piece.]

13... ♖xh5 The most principled and again Topalov's calculation is not letting him down.

14. ♖xh5 Now Black has several options.



14... ♖g7 Probably not the most accurate move. [To a clearly better position for Black leads 14... ♖g6 15. ♖xh7 (15.dxc5 15...dxc5 16. ♖xh7 ♖g7 17. ♖h8 ♖d4 and Black is much better.) 15... ♖g7 16. ♖h8 cxd4 17. ♖h7 ♖xh7 18. ♖xh7 e5 and Black has a clear advantage.; Playing the simple 14... ♖xg5 15. ♕xg5 cxd4 should also give Black some edge.]

15. ♖xh7 Carlsen is trying his chances.

15... ♖d7?! Another unlucky move by Topalov, giving White serious chances to make things very unclear. [I think the position after 15... ♕g4 16. ♖h6 ♖xh7 17. ♖xh7 cxd4 should be better for Black.]

16.dxc5 White is opening the position even more.

16...dxc5



17.e5? What a present by Carlsen... [Clearly both players misevaluated the position after 17. ♖xf8 17... ♔h3 18. ♔xh3 ♕xh3 19.g3 At first sight it seems like Black is going to win the knight on f8 somehow, but in fact it is really hard to do. White is two pawns up and wants to play Bh6 next. 19... ♖g8 20. ♗h7 f6 Trying to isolate the knight and threatening to play Rh8 next. 21.e5 ♖h8 22. ♗xf6+ exf6 23.exf6+ ♔f7 24. ♕g5 With a very complex position.]

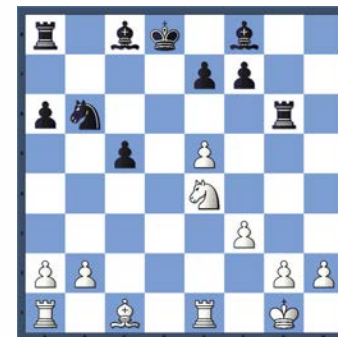
17... ♔c6! The right choice! The g2 pawn is hanging and at the same time Black wants to play Qg6 next. This move probably came as a surprise for Carlsen.

18.f3 [Not better is 18. ♗f6+ 18... ♔d8 19. ♗e4 ♕e6 and all the black pieces are in the game, so Black should be close to winning.]

18... ♔g6 Of course you don't need to think long before going for the exchange of queens.

19. ♗f6+ ♔d8 There are no more checks left and that means that White doesn't have a choice but to enter a lost endgame.

20. ♔xg6 ♖xg6 21. ♗e4 White still has some hopes as long as the black king is on d8 and maybe there is a chance to grab the c5 pawn.



21... ♕b7 A very solid move, developing a piece and at the same time protecting the c5 pawn because of Bxf3.

22.h4 Carlsen starts looking for chances on the kingside.

22... ♖c8 Another very accurate move. Black is slowly bringing his pieces into the game.

23.h5 ♖g8 24. ♕d2 Ba5 is a threat now.

24... ♗c4 Black wants to exchange some pieces.

25. ♕c3 ♕h6 Black's pieces are now all in play.

26. ♖ad1+ ♔e8 The black king is feeling very safe on e8.

27. ♖d3 ♕f4! A strong move! White has big trouble defending the e5 pawn.

28. ♗f2 ♕c6 Black is preparing to play Bb5 somewhere.

29. ♗h3 is clearly not the best, but it is hard to give White any advice. [Maybe to a bigger fight would lead 29.g4 with the idea of playing Kg2 next and dreaming of playing Nh3, but of course all that would not change much, since Black would remain a piece up and with a clearly winning position in the long run.]

29... ♕g3 30. ♖e2 ♕b5 White's pieces are totally hopeless.

31. ♖d1 ♕c6 Being short on time, Topalov decided to repeat

the moves once. [31...♖b6 32.♞c2 ♞h8 and there is no way to defend from Rxf5.]

32.♜f2 Carlsen doesn't repeat the moves, which is not because White is playing for a win, but he is looking for chances before move 40, where both players will get an extra hour.



32...♙xe5! The decisive blow! Even when he doesn't have much time, Topalov doesn't miss such tactics.

33.♜g4 [After 33.♞xe5 33...♜xe5 34.♙xe5 ♙xf3 White can basically resign because Rxf2 is coming next.; 33.♙xe5 33...♙xf3 is over as well.]

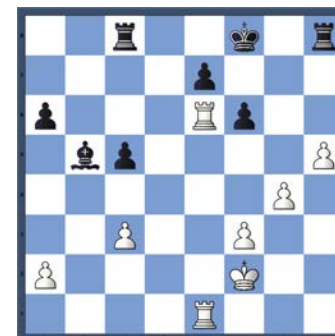
33...♙xc3 34.bxc3 ♖f8 Now White only has a pawn for a piece. The end of the game is near.

35.♖f2 ♞h8 Topalov continues playing very solidly.

36.♜e5 ♜xe5 37.♞xe5 ♙e8 Everything is protected.

38.g4 f6 39.♞e6 ♙b5 There is only one more move to make to reach time control.

40.♞de1



40...♞c7 White can't even attack anything and the time trouble is over. Black's position is totally winning so Carlsen takes the only right decision and this is to resign this very unpleasant game for him. Another great victory by Topalov over Carlsen, who clearly was very emotional during the current game and didn't play on his usual level. **0-1**

**(2) So, Wesley (2779)
- Aronian, Levon (2765) [E20]**3rd Sinquefeld Cup 2015(4.3),
2015.08.26GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Levon Aronian had a bad period, he has dropped a lot of ratings, but his form and great style seem to be back as the following nice victory shows.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.f3 The Nimzo with 4.f3 is a clear sign that White also wants to win this game. Most of its lines lead to unusual and sharp positions.

4...c5 5.d5 O-O 6.e4 d6 A recent approach by Black to deal with this opening. He allows his opponent to occupy and to build a strong center with his pawns, but he wants to create counterplay by using his lead in development. The structure might remind us of the Saemisch system of the King's Indian defense, with the difference that the bishop stands on b4 instead of g7 now.



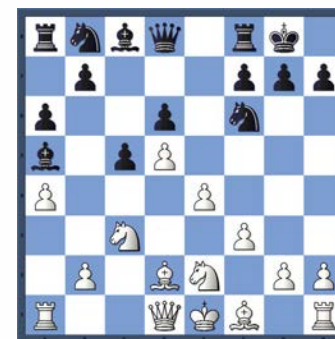
7.♘e2 a6 Black immediately wants to undermine the center with b5.

8.a4 White prevents b5, but it also has the drawback that it

weakens the dark squares on the queenside.

8...♙a5! A very nice idea! Black again prepares for the b5 break! The point of the last move was to temporarily close the a-file and to create a pin between the two rooks. b5 did not work before as White could simply take it with axb5, but with the bishop on a5, Black wants to take back with axb5 and he threatens to win a rook with Bxc3 check. White's next move serves to prevent this idea by avoiding Bxc3 check at the end and then the a8 rook is hanging.

9.♙d2 exd5 10.cxd5



10...♞h5! White successfully prevented the concrete ideas on the queenside, therefore Black switches to the other flank. By moving to h5 with the knight, Black sometimes opens the possibility of Qh4. This is especially strong if White wants to finish the development by removing his knight from e2. Another idea is to open the lines in front of the central king with f5.

11.g3 Due to the Qh4 check, White had no other way to complete the development than g3-Bg2 and 0-0.

11...♞d7 12.♙g2 b5! Black uses the last moment to execute this break and gain space on the queenside. Otherwise White castles in the next move and there will be no Bxd2 check to open the a-file.

13.g4 White wants to push back the knight to f6 with tempo with the idea of playing Ng3, which would also vacate the ideal e2 retreating square for the c3 knight after getting attacked by b4. However, Black has a strong intermediate move... [White should not be too materialistic with 13.axb5 13...axb5 14.♖xb5 because it lets the white king run to the middle of the board. There are too many pieces left for Black to create some dangerous compensation. 14...♗xd2+ 15.♔xd2 ♗a6 followed by Qb6 next.; 13.O-O was the alternative, but in this case Black's counterplay comes very quickly too! 13...b4 14.♗b1 ♗b6! with the idea of playing c4 check Nc5-b3 or Nd3, while after 15.♗e3 a5 followed by Ba6 looks very strong.]

13...b4! 14.♗b1 [White could win a pawn with 14.gxh5 but it ruins his structure and also lets the initiative pass to Black. 14...bxc3 15.bxc3 ♖h4+ 16.♗g3 ♗e5 With very strong compensation for the pawn!]

14...♖h4+ 15.♔f1



15...♗e5! Great play by Aronian! He wants to sacrifice a piece to launch a devastating attack against the f1 king and the temporarily immobilized white pieces.

16.♗e1 [16.gxh5 is strongly met by 16...f5! Opening the lines in front of the king. White can hardly survive such an attack,

especially with such discoordinated pieces.]

16...♖f6! This double attack on g4 and f3 forces White to accept the sacrifice on h5. [Actually 16...♖e7!? 17.gxh5 f5 was also possible, but the text move is even stronger.]

17.gxh5 ♗xf3 18.♗f2 The only move for White to unpin himself on the f-file.

18...♗g4 Developing and pinning the e2 knight at the same time. Black is threatening to play Nd4! [Black could also play 18...♖xb2!? 19.♗xf3 ♖xa1 20.♔g2 f5 but Aronian prefers to keep his active pieces on the board instead of gaining back some material.]

19.♖c1 [19.h3 19...♗xh5 does not solve any problems. Black is still threatening with Nd4 and White cannot unpin himself with 20.♗g3? because it allows 20...♗h2+! 21.♖xh2 ♗xd1+]



19...♗d4! An amazingly strong move! Black changes one of his big triumph for another one. He trades his strong knight, but it turns out to be a more important factor that it also opens the c-file, where his rooks are going to invade very soon. White is forced to trade knights because of the Nb3 threat.

20.♗xd4 cxd4 21.e5 [The beautiful key line goes with 21.♗d2 Trying to finish the development. 21...♖ac8 22.♖b1

d3! Otherwise White consolidates with Qd3, but now the diagonals are opening... 23. ♖xd3 ♜xb2 24. ♕d4



24... ♖c3! 25. ♕xc3 bxc3 With a double attack on two white pieces. The capture of any of them would be fatal from White's point of view and after 26. ♖b1 c2!! is the point and Black wins! 27. ♖xb2 c1=♚+ 28. ♔f2 ♜xb2--+]]

21...dxe5 22. ♘d2 In comparison to the 21.Nd2 line, White gets the e4 square for his knight and also closes the f6-b2 diagonal, which was the key resource for Black after pushing d3. On the other hand, it gave Black another pawn, even if he just plays slowly and removes his queen, followed by pushing f5-e4, the compensation looks to be very strong. But of course, Aronian continues playing the most direct and active moves.

22...♖ac8 23. ♜b1

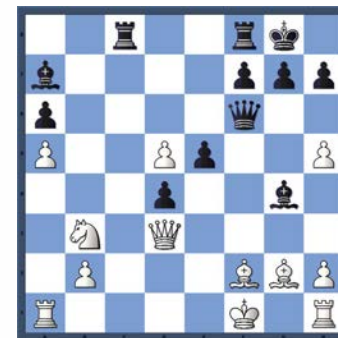


23...b3! lures the knight from e4 by sacrificing another pawn. Black is ready to invade on c2, so White is yet again forced to accept the sacrifice.

24. ♘xb3 [24. ♘e4 24... ♜f4 and Rc2 next is decisive.]

24...♕b6 [Perhaps it was even stronger to play 24...d3!? 25. ♖xd3 (25. ♘xa5 25... ♖c2 26. ♜e1 ♖e2--+) 25... ♕b6 26. ♜d2 e4! Threatening to crush with e3! Black wins in all the lines: 27. ♕xe4 (27. ♔g1 27...e3 28. ♕xe3 ♖c2! 29. ♜xc2 ♕xe3+--+) 27... ♖fe8--+]]

25.a5 ♕a7 26. ♔g1 White leaves from the pin on the f-file, but it just prevents the concrete problems after d3! Black has other ways at his disposal to strengthen his position. [26. ♜d3 is nicely refuted by



26... ♖c2! 27. ♜xc2 d3! wins the queen as 28. ♜d2 loses to 28... ♕e2+-- and mate on f2.]

26...♕f5! 27. ♕e4 [27. ♜e1 27...e4!--+ The central pawns supported by the pieces are swapping White away!; 27. ♜d1 27... ♕c2--+ wins back the piece and collects the full point!]

27...♔g5+ 28.♚f1



28...♔f4! [A very nice last move in the style of the entire game! White resigned in view of 28...♔f4 29.♙xf5 d3 30.♔e1 ♖c2—+ With decisive problems around the f2 square.] **0-1**

Puzzle section

(3) Aronian, L(2765)-Caruana, F(2808)

Sinquefield Cup, 2015.08.23

1. +-



(4) Giri, A(2793)-Grischuk, A(2771)

Sinquefield Cup, 2015.08.23

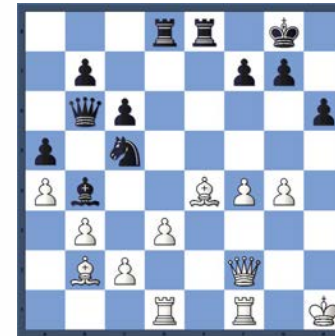
1. +-



(5) Dubov, D(2654)-Motylev, A(2658)

Russian Championship, 2015.08.20

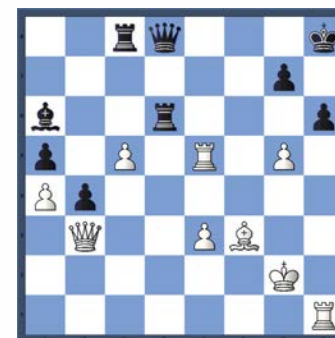
1... ♠



(6) Goryachkina, A(2474)-Pogonina, N(2460)

Russian Woman Championship, 2015.08.19

1... -+



(7) Istratescu, A(2619)-Degraeve, JM(2551)

French Championship, 2015.08.20

1. +-



(8) Swiercz, D(2617)-Antonio, V(2255)

Abu Dhabi Masters, 2015.08.23

1. +-



(9) Kryvoruchko, Y(2697)-Vaibhav, S(2552)

Abu Dhabi Masters, 2015.08.24

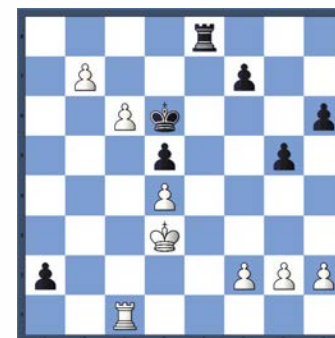
1. +-



(10) Fridman, D(2639)-Svane, R(2531)

German Masters, 2015.08.21

1. +-



(11) Svetushkin, D(2580)-Ganguly, S(2631)

Spanish league, 2015.08.21

1. +-



(12) Zhao Jun(2621)-Wei Yi(2706)

Chinese league, 2015.08.21

1... -+



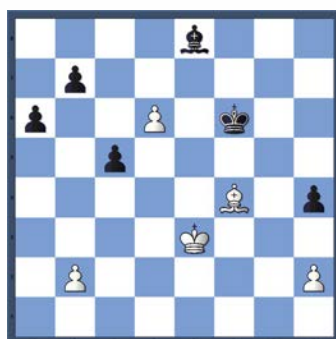
Endgame section

(13) Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime (2731)
- Nakamura, Hikaru (2814)

3rd Sinquefeld Cup,
2015.08.26



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



Black is a pawn up, but there are opposite colored bishops on the board and we know that this sometimes makes it possible to save positions with even bigger material imbalance. The extra pawn is ideally placed, because the d6 passed pawn is well blockaded, while on the queenside Black has a three against one situation, which could give him realistic winning chances if he could create connected passed pawns with the help of the king. However, at the last move before time control, White comes up with a clever sacrifice...

40.d7! The key is to get access to the pawns and by attacking them with the bishop White will be able to create a successful blockade!

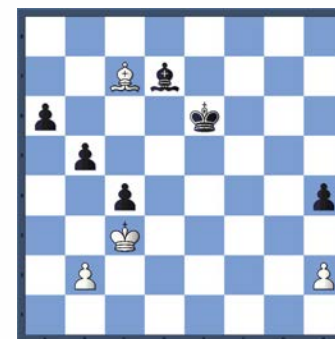
40...xd7 41.d6! This was the point and Black is forced to push his c-pawn, which allows Kd4. Black just did not have

enough time to ensure the flexibility of his pawns with Ke6-d5 at the initial position.

41...c4 [41...b6 does not make any difference. White can force the advance of the c-pawn by attacking the pawns. 42.dxc7 b5 43.dxb6 c4 44.cxd4 is basically the same as the game.]

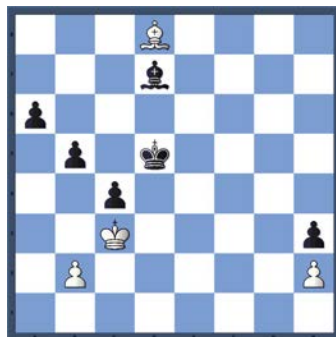
42.cxd4 b5 43.cxc3 cxe6 [43...a5 would be a good move if the c4 was protected and Black could push b4 next. However now after 44.dxc7 Black is forced to play 44...a4 which allows another blockade, by simply occupying the f8-a3 diagonal with the bishop.]

44.dxc7



44...Kd5 Black tries to play Kc5 and b4, which would probably be enough for the win, because his pawns win back their mobility, but of course White can simply defend against this plan.

45.d8 h3 [On 45...c5 White should not be greedy by capturing the h4 pawn, but he prevents the advance of the b-pawn with 46.dxe7+ Kb6 47.d8+=]



46.b4!? was not necessary, but White simplifies the position and builds a fortress on the dark squares (b4-a5), which makes the win impossible for Black.

46...cxb3 47.♔xb3 ♕c5 Otherwise White goes Kb4.

48.♘e7+! ♔b6 Otherwise White plays Kb4 again and establishes a blockade on the a5-b4 squares.

49.♘d8+ ♕c5 [49...♔c6 50.♔b4 is a dead draw, as White only waits with his bishop and the h2 pawn can also be easily protected by the bishop.]

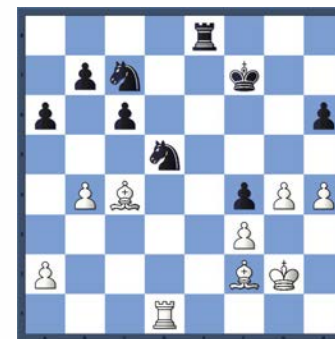
50.♘e7+ ♔b6 51.♘d8+ 1/2-1/2

(14) Topalov, Veselin (2816) - Nakamura, Hikaru (2814)

3rd Sinquefeld Cup 2015(2.1),
2015.08.24



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



We are in the second round and Topalov once again shows his great class. With a wonderful win in the first round over Magnus Carlsen, Topalov was clearly going for nothing less than a full point in this much better endgame for him. The bishop pair is dominating the board and the 3 vs 2 pawns situation on the kingside is clearly very positive for White, but Black's position is still very solid and the material is equal. Let us take a look at the very nice technique of the current World Number 2.

44.h5! A great move! White not only fixes the black pawn on h6, but as we will see later on he is planning to put the king to h4 and play g5, which will create a passed h-pawn as well as probably win the f4 pawn.

44...♔f6 A solid move. Black cannot do anything active anyway.

45. ♔h3 The white king is going to the right position.

45...b5 This is maybe practically Black's only chance. White already wanted to play Bh4 followed by g5 and Kg4 at a good moment.

46. ♕d4+ ♖g5 I think this is the most logical move, even if it gives White the chance to end the game on the spot.

[In case of 46...♖f7 47. ♕b3 White would continue to dominate the position and probably next to follow is g5. 47...♖e2 48.g5! A very strong move. 48...hxg5 49. ♖c1 and the game is close to over.]



47. ♕xd5?! White still has a big advantage, but Topalov missed a very nice win here... [47. ♕b3 47...♖e2 (After 47...♖xb4 48. ♕f2! ♖f6 49. ♕h4+ ♖e5 White had to see 50. ♕f7! and the game is over because of the huge amount of threats to the black king. In case the black rook will move away from the e-file, the deadly Re1+ will follow.) 48. ♖c1! ♖e6 49. ♖c5 and Black is totally paralyzed, so White is winning.]

47...♖xd5 48. ♖c1 ♖e6 White's pawn structure is much better and the black pawns on the queenside are blocked, but how to proceed?!

49. ♖c5 ♖d6 Black keeps on waiting.

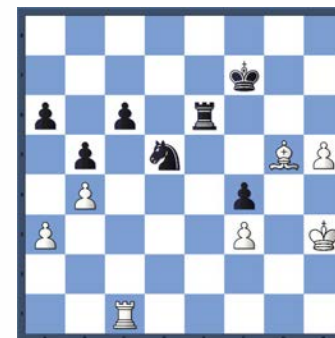
50. ♕g7 ♖e6 51. ♕d4 ♖d6 52. a3 After repeating the moves

once, White improves his position a bit by protecting the b4 pawn for the future.

52...♖e6 53. ♖c1 So we came back to the position from which we started and it is clear that White will try the plan with Bf2-Bh4 next.

53...♖e7 54. ♕f2 ♖f6 55. ♕h4+ ♖f7 56.g5 A very logical move. White is creating a passed h-pawn and freeing the g3 square for the king.

56...hxg5 57. ♕xg5 ♖d5



58. ♖g4 Black really can't do much but wait. It is clear that the f4 pawn is going to fall, but maybe Nakamura was still hoping to get some chances in the rook endgame!? As we know, the h+f pawns in the rook endgame is a draw in most cases.

58...♖g7 59. ♕xf4 ♖xf4 60. ♖xf4 So we have reached a rook endgame and if Black was able to trade the 3 pawns against the white a- and b-pawns, the position would be a theoretical draw- but it is just impossible. The position of the white rook on c1 is very active, keeping the black rook passive on the 6th rank.

60...♖d6 61. ♖c3! Wonderful technique by Topalov. There is absolutely no need to hurry with the play on the kingside. First it is important to avoid Black's play with Rd3.

61...♔f6 62.♔g4 White wants to play f4 followed by Rh3 and advancing the h-pawn.

62...a5 is maybe Black's last practical chance. To keep on waiting makes no sense any longer.

63.bxa5 It is never bad to take a pawn...

63...♖d4+ 64.f4 ♖a4 The black rook is finally active, but it just too late.

65.♖xc6+ ♔g7 66.a6! The last precise move of the game. 3 passed pawns are just too many to even dream about a draw any longer.

66...♖xa3 67.f5 b4 68.f6+ The white pawns are just too fast.

68...♔f7 69.h6 ♔g6



70.♖c8 The poor king is trying to stop all the white pawns at the same time, but it is impossible.

70...b3 [70...♖xa6 71.h7 ♔xh7 72.f7 and White is promoting next move.]

71.♖g8+ A lot of other moves would win as well.

71...♔f7 72.h7 ♖a4+ 73.♔f3 All in all ally impressive technique by Topalov, not giving Nakamura any chances for survival. In my opinion to be good in endgames a player must have these 3 attributes: patience, precise calculation

and good nerves. **1-0**

Golden knowledge. Rook and pawn against bishop



GM Adrian Mikhalchishin
FIDE Trainers Commission Chairman

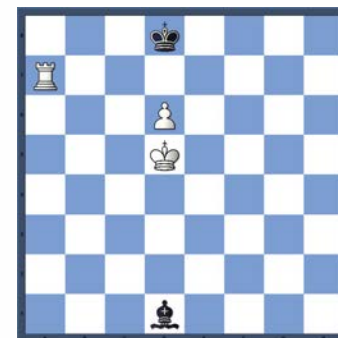
Theoretical knowledge is required when we play different kind of endgames. Rook and pawn against bishop seems to be easy business because of the great material advantage. But even here there are precise recommendations about how to handle such endings. There are three kinds of positions here:

- A) With central pawns
- B) With bishop and knight pawns
- C) With rook pawns

Everywhere there are different technical methods. The first part will be about central pawn. As usual, even the top players don't know the exact technique!

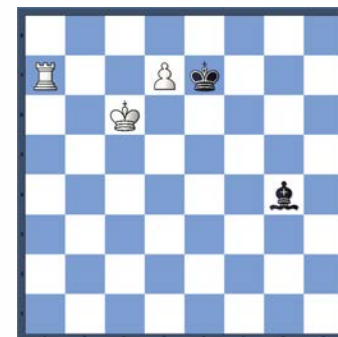
(15) Tomashevsky, E.-Movsesian, S.

Tsaghkadzor ARM, 2015



102.d7?? is premature. Tomashevsky had to prepare this move by improving his rook. The ideal position would be with the rook on the fourth rank. In this case the opponent's bishop will be cut off and unable to attack the d7 pawn. [It was necessary to prepare d7 with 102.♔e6 102...♟g4+ 103.♔e5 ♟e2 104.♚f7 ♟g4 (104...♟c4 105.♚f4 ♟a2 106.♚a4 ♟b3 107.♚b4 ♟a2 108.♚b8+ ♔d7 109.♚b7+ ♔d8 110.d7 ♔e7 111.♚b2 ♟e6 (111...♟c4 112.♚d2 ♔d8 113.♔d6 ♟b5 114.♚h2 ♟xd7 115.♚h8+ ♟e8 116.♚g8) 112.d8=♚+) 105.♚f4 ♟d1 (105...♟h3 106.♚h4 ♟f1 107.♔e6) 106.d7! ♔e7 107.♚d4]

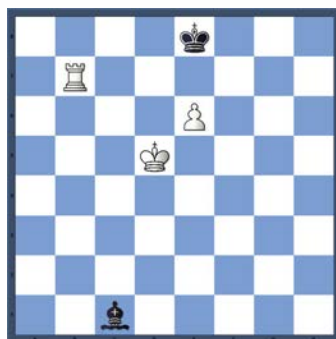
102...♔e7! 103.♔c6 ♟g4 Now the white rook is stuck to protecting the d7 pawn. This is the key method of defence in this type of positions.



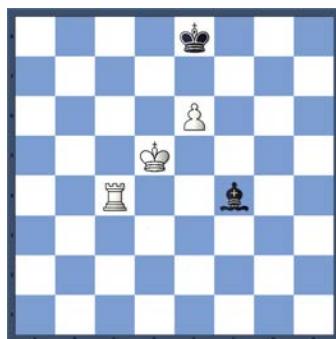
104.♖b7 ♗f5 105.♖c7 ♗g4 106.♖a7 ♗f5 107.♖b7 ♗g4
108.♖c7 ♗f5 109.♖a7 ♗g4 110.♔d5 ♗xd7 111.♔e5 ♔e8
112.♔d6 ♗f5 1/2-1/2

(16) Wojtaszek, R.-Malakhov, V.

Vladimir Petrov Memorial op, 2013



149.e7? This obvious and wrong move was played so many times! It is necessary to use automatic knowledge here: the rook on the fourth rank does the job! [149.♖c7 149...♗e3 150.♖c3 ♗d2 151.♖c2 ♗f4 152.♖c4



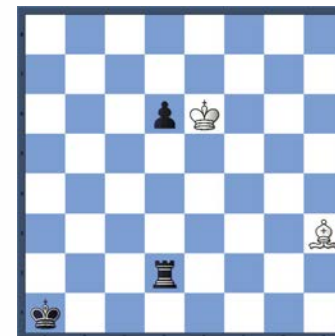
152...♗g3 (152...♗h6 153.♔d6 ♗f8+ 154.e7! ♗xe7+ 155.♔e6 ♔d8 156.♖d4+ ♔e8 157.♖a4) 153.♖g4 ♗h2 154.♖g8+ ♔e7

155.♖g7+ ♔e8 156.e7 ♔d7 157.♖g2 ♗f4 158.♖e2 ♔e8 159.♔e6 ♗g5 160.♖a2; 149.♖b1 149...♗d2 150.♖b2 ♗c1 151.♖c2]

149...♔f7 150.♔d6 ♗a3+ 151.♔d7 ♗xe7 152.♖b1 ♗a3 153.♖f1+ ♔g6 154.♔e6 ♔g5 155.♔e5 ♗b2+ 156.♔e4 ♗c3 157.♖f3 ♗b2 158.♖f5+ ♔g6 159.♔f4 ♗f6 160.♖b5 ♗d4 1/2-1/2

(17) Cernousek, L.-Rasik, V.

Brno GM, 2004



63.♗g4! Trying to transfer the bishop to d5 via f3 and win the pawn.

63...d5 64.♗f3 d4 65.♔d5 ♔b2? [It was necessary to hurry with 65...d3! 66.♔d4 ♖f2! 67.♗h5 ♖f5 (67...d2 68.♔e3 ♖f5 69.♗d1 ♖d5 70.♔f4 ♔b2) 68.♗d1 ♖f1 69.♗h5 d2]

66.♔c4! Bodycheck! The opponent's king has to be prevented from protecting the pawn.

66...♔c2 67.♗e4+ d3 [67...♔d1 68.♗d3]

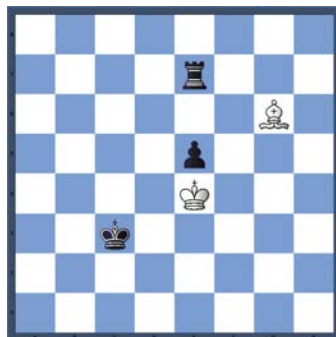
68.♔d4 ♖d1 69.♗f5 Now the black pieces are pinned to protecting the passed pawn. This is a typical defensive position.



69...♔b3 70.♙xd3 ♔b4 71.♔e3 ♔c3 72.♙f5 ♖e1+ 73.♔f4
 ♔d4 74.♔g5 ♔e5 75.♙c2 ♖c1 76.♙d3 ♖c3 77.♙b1 ♖g3+
 78.♔h6 ♔f6 79.♔h7 ♖g7+ 80.♔h8 ♖b7 81.♙c2 ♔f7
 82.♙d3 ♖b4 83.♙c2 ♖h4+ 84.♙h7 ♖g4 85.♙b1 ♖g8+
 86.♔h7 ♖g1 87.♙a2+ ♔f6 88.♙b3 ♖h1+ 89.♔g8 ♖b1
 1/2-1/2

(18) Nepomniachtchi, I.-Bogosavljevic, B.

World Youth Stars 1st, 2003



64.♔d5! Preventing Kc4-c5-d6 and threatening Kd6.

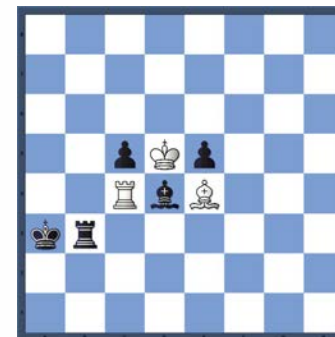
64...♖g7 65.♙f5 ♖e7 66.♙g6 [No difference makes 66.♔d6
 66...♖e8 67.♔d5]

66...♔d2 67.♔d6 ♖g7 68.♙f5 ♔e3 69.♔xe5 ♖a7 70.♙g6

♖a5+ 71.♔f6 ♔f4 72.♙h7 ♖a6+ 73.♔g7 ♔g5 74.♙g8 1/2-1/2

(19) Frois, A.-Rocha, S.

Loures2, 1996

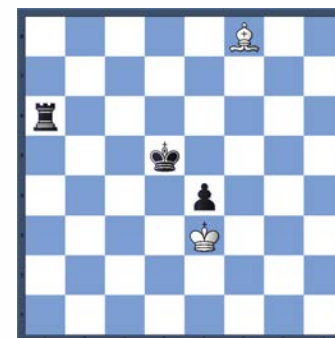


Here is a correct and very instructive transposition into a drawn endgame.

68.♖xc5! ♙xc5 69.♔xc5 ♔b2 70.♔d6 ♖b5 71.♙d5! ♔c3
 72.♔xe5 ♖xd5+ 1/2-1/2

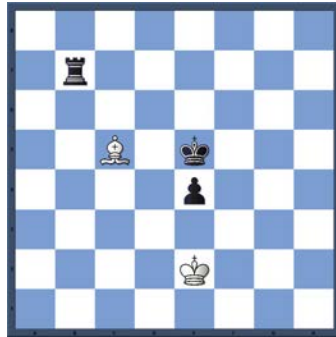
(20) Arakelian, A.-Kudrin, S.

Yerevan (open) , 1996



14.♙g7 ♖a3+ 15.♔e2 ♔e6 16.♙d4 ♔f5 17.♙b6 ♖b3 18.♙c5

♔e5 19.♙e7 ♖b7 20.♙h4? [Better, but not saving the game, was 20.♙c5]

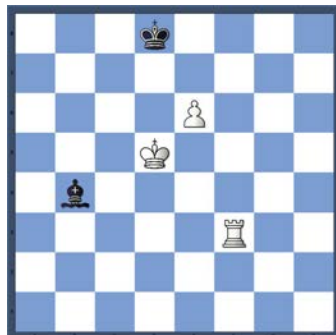


20...♔d5 21.♙g1 ♖b1 22.♙f2 (22.♙e3 22...♖b2+ 23.♔e1 ♔c4; 22.♙a7 22...♖b2+ 23.♔e3 ♖b7!) 22...♖b2+ 23.♔e3 ♖b3+ 24.♔e2 ♖h3 25.♙b6 ♖h6 26.♙a7 ♖h2+ 27.♔e3 ♖b2 and suddenly the bishop is in trouble. Black is threatening to play Rb7! 28.♔f4 ♖b3 29.♙e3 ♖d3 30.♙b6 ♖f3+ 31.♔g4 ♔c4 The white king is cut off now and the black king comes to d3, so Black is easily winning.]

20...♔f4 0-1

(21) Portisch, L.-Ftacnik, L.

Wijk aan Zee , 1985



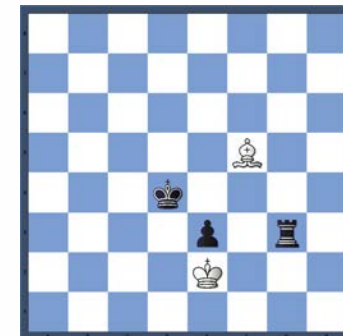
Absolutely flawless technique was demonstrated in this classic.

64.♖f7 ♔e8 65.♖b7 ♙e1 66.♔e5! In this type of position the king has to come to f5.

66...♙g3+ 67.♔f5 ♙h4 68.♖b4! ♙e1 69.♖e4 ♙f2 70.e7 ♙c5 71.♔e6 ♙xe7 72.♖a4 1-0

(22) Dreev, A.-Hracek, Z.

EU-ch U21, 1989



57.♙e6 There is no defence in this position. [57.♙d7 57...♖g2+ 58.♔f1 ♖g7 59.♙b5 ♖b7 60.♙a6 ♖b6 61.♙e2 ♖b1+ 62.♔g2 ♔c3]

57...♖g2+ 58.♔e1 e2! 59.♔d2 ♖g7! 60.♙h3 ♖e7 61.♔e1 ♔e3 62.♙f5 ♖f7 0-1

(23) Planinec, A.-Grigorian, K.

URS-YUG, 1965



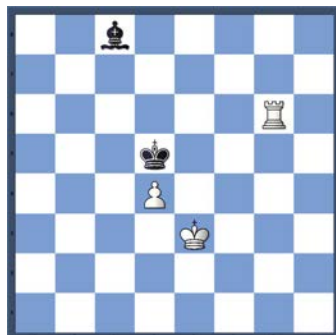
Now we will see the starting position of this kind of endgame. Simple technique was demonstrated here.

61. ♖g5 ♘c8 62. ♔f4 [It is necessary to remember this classical drawn position here (which is possible a rank up or down)! 62. ♔e4 62... ♘b7+ 63. d5? ♔c5=]

62... ♘e6 [62... ♘b7 63. ♖g8 ♘h1 (It is necessary to remember the powerful tool of transposing into a winning pawn endgame. 63... ♘c6 64. ♖g6+ ♔d5 65. ♖xc6 ♔xc6 66. ♔e5 ♔d7 67. ♔d5) 64. ♖g6+ ♔d5 65. ♔e3 ♔c4 66. ♖g5 ♘d5 67. ♖e5 ♘h1 68. ♖c5+ and the king is cut off.]

63. ♖g6 [A cheap trick was 63. ♔e4 63... ♘f7 64. d5 ♔c5]

63... ♔d5 64. ♔e3 ♘c8



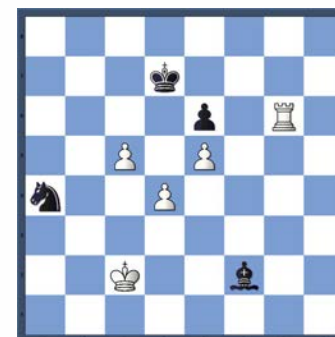
65. ♖g8 ♘b7 [65... ♘d7 66. ♖d8 ♔e6 67. ♔e4 ♘c6+ 68. d5+ ♔e7 69. ♖h8]

66. ♖d8+ ♔c6 [Or 66... ♔e6 67. ♔d3 ♘a6+ 68. ♔e4 ♘b7+ 69. d5+ ♔e7 70. ♖b8]

67. ♖b8 1-0

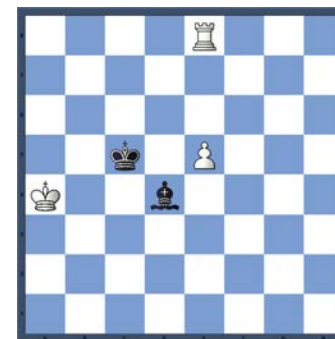
(24) Kjartansson, G.-Hammes, M.

Budapest FS07 GM, 2007



60. ♔b3? [60. c6+ 60... ♔xc6 61. ♖xe6+ ♔b5 62. ♔d3 ♘h4 63. ♖g6 ♘b2+ 64. ♔e4]

60... ♘xd4! 61. ♔xa4 ♔c6! 62. ♖xe6+ ♔xc5 63. ♖e8



63... ♔d5 64. e6 ♘f6! and there is no defence as White loses the pawn after Kd6 and Be7.

65.♔b5 ♕d6 66.♔c4 ♘e7 67.♔d4 ♕xe6 68.♔e4 ♕d6
69.♕f5 ♕d7 70.♖a8 ♕c6 71.♕e6 ♘b4 72.♖c8+ ♕b7 73.♖c1
♘a5 74.♕d5 ♘c7 75.♖c2 ♘d8 76.♕d6 ♘h4 77.♖b2+ ♕a8
78.♖b3 ♘f2 79.♕c7 ♘a7 80.♖b4 ♘f2 81.♖a4+ ♘a7 82.♕c6
♕b8 83.♖b4+ ♕a8 84.♖a4 ♕b8 85.♖h4 ♕a8 86.♖h8+
♘b8 87.♖d8 ♕a7 88.♖d7+ ♕a8 89.♕b5 ♘a7 90.♕a6 ♘b8
91.♖b7 ♘f4 92.♖f7 ♘g3 93.♕b6 ♘b8 94.♖f3 ♘a7+ 95.♕c6
♘b8 96.♖b3 ♘a7 97.♖a3 1/2-1/2

(25) Kavutskiy, K.-Wang, P.

Southern California-ch, 2010



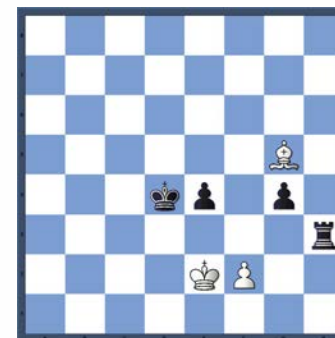
79.♖b6? [It is necessary to bring the king as soon as possible! 79.♕c2 79...♘a1 (79...♘d4 80.♕d3 ♘g1 81.♖b1 ♘h2 82.♖e1 ♕e7 83.♕c4 ♘f4 84.♕d5) 80.♖a5 ♘d4 81.♕d3 ♘g1 82.♖e5 ♕e7 83.♕c4 Achieving this theoretical position, which demands another technique.]

79...♘e5! 80.♕d2 ♕e7 81.♕d3 ♘d6 The classical cutting maneuver is conducted and the pawn is lost. Draw!

82.♕e4 ♕xe6 1/2-1/2

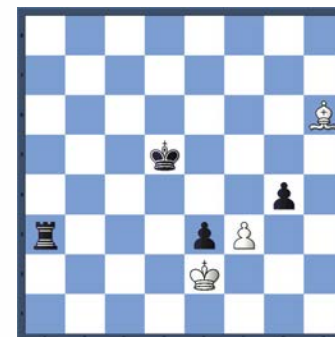
(26) Mikhalevski, V.-Wiersma, E.

Dieren op, 1999



79...♖b3 80.♘h6 ♖a3 81.♘g7+ ♕d5 82.♘h6 e3! The simplest way. [82...g3 leads to a theoretical position. 83.fxf3 ♖xg3]

83.f3 [83.♘xe3 loses on the spot since after 83...♕e4 84.♘g5 ♖a2+ 85.♕e1 ♕f3 86.♘h4 ♖a1+ 87.♕d2 ♖f1 88.♘g3 ♖xf2+ Black transposes into a winning pawn endgame: 89.♘xf2 ♕xf2]



83...gxf3+?? [Demonstrating completely wrong knowledge of the theoretical position into which he transposed! Easily winning was 83...g3 84.♘xe3 ♖a1 85.f4 g2]

84.♕xf3 ♕d4 85.♘g5 ♖b3 86.♘h6 e2+ 1/2-1/2

Chess and the City. All is well that ends well



WGM Elisabeth Paehtz

Best rating: 2493

The worst tournament of my life finally came to an end. After performing my personal record of two "short castles" in a row, I could dare to say "even a blind hen sometimes finds a grain"! I even managed to find two grains and scored 2,5 points out of the 3 remaining games. Personally I could not say I was too unhappy with that experience however it was painful and sad at the same time. Losing or playing bad is something every chess player needs to face in their lives, but to return and change the fate was eventually a feeling of pride and respect to myself.

Our strongest IM from Germany Andreas Heimann - as well as likely the strongest IM from the Netherlands, Jorden van Foreest - both achieved their GM norms with 6,5/9. The latter therefore needed to score 3/3 out of his three last games, while his performance in the open probably therefore had to suffer a bit. Playing 18 games would not be my cup of tea, but true chess lovers or addicted ones may see that differently.

I can strongly recommend the tournament itself as it is organized in a very nice hotel with an even nicer "salt sea bath thermae", and not to forget an unbelievable caring group of

organizers who did their utmost to fulfill everyone's dreams and wishes.

My next tournaments will start in less than a month and until then I hope I can succeed to find back to my old shape.

Clash of the Titans

(27) Alekhine, Alexander
- Bogoljubow, Efim [C46]

Dresden(7), 1936



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♘c3 g6!? The more solid option is [3...♘f6]

4.d4 Black immediately takes ground in the center. The alternative is [4.♗c4 4...♗g7 5.a3 d6 6.d3 ♘f6 7.h3 O-O 8.O-O+=]

4...exd4 5.♘d5!? White is playing for the initiative. [5.♘xd4 would also bring an advantage. 5...♗g7 6.♗e3 ♘f6 7.♖d2 O-O 8.O-O-O ♖e8 9.f3 followed by a typical attacking plan with g4-h4, like in the Dragon System.]

5...♗g7



6.♗g5 ♘ce7 The only move. Black prepares c6 to get rid of the unpleasant knight from d5. [6...♘ge7 7.♘xd4! With a nice tricky line after 7...♗xd4 8.♖xd4 ♘xd4 9.♘f6+ ♖f8 10.♗h6#]

7.e5 White still tries to keep the initiative and doesn't hurry with recapturing the pawn on d4. [7.♘xd4 7...c6 8.♘xe7 (8.♘c3∞) 8...♘xe7 9.♖d2 h6 10.♗h4 d5! 11.O-O-O O-O 12.exd5 g5 13.♗g3 ♖xd5⇐]

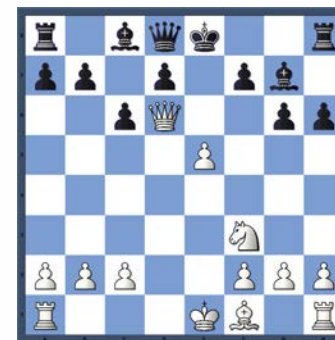
7...h6 is logical in order to solve the problem with the pin. [7...d6!? 8.♘f6+ ♖f8 9.♘xg8 (9.♖xd4 9...h6) 9...♖xg8 10.♖xd4 h6!? (10...♖e8 11.O-O-O ♘c6 12.♖a4→ dxe5? 13.♖d8!+→) 11.♗f6 ♗xf6 12.exf6 ♘c6 13.♖f4→ and the black king can be weak.]

8.♗xe7 ♘xe7 9.♖xd4 ♘xd5 [9...♘c6!? 10.♖f4 This is probably the best place for the queen. (10.♖e3 10...O-O⇐ followed by Re8 next.) 10...O-O 11.O-O-O d6 12.♘f6+ ♖h8⇐ and the white pieces lose coordination.]

10.♖xd5 Thanks to the pawn on e5 White has more space but on the other hand Black has the potentially strong bishop pair.

10...c6 [10...O-O!? 11.O-O-O d6 An interesting idea to play for the attack. 12.exd6 ♗e6 13.♖a5 (13.♖xb7 13...♖b8 14.dxc7 ♖xd1+) 13...♖f6 14.c3 cxd6 (14...b6!? 15.♖a4 c5 and the d-pawn should be lost.)]

11.♖d6 Now Black's main task is to develop the bishop from c8.



11...♗f8! Let's check some other possibilities: [11...♖a5+

12.c3 ♖d8 is an original idea. 13.♗c4 ♜e8 14.♗xf7 (14.O-O 14...♗xe5 15.♘xe5 ♜xe5 16.♜d2 d5 The king goes to c7, where it should be safe.) 14...♗xe5 15.♜xg6 (15.♘xe5 15...♜xe5+ 16.♜xe5 ♜xe5+ 17.♖f1 (17.♖d2 17...♜f5) 17...b6 (17...g5 18.h4 g4∞) 18.♗xg6 ♗a6+ 19.♖g1 ♜e2 20.♜b1 ♖c7 With good compensation.) 15...♗xc3+ 16.♖f1 ♜b5+ 17.♖g1 ♗xb2 (17...♜xb2 18.♜b1) 18.♜b1 ♜e7∞; 11...♜e7 12.O-O-O ♜xd6 13.♜xd6 (13.exd6 13...b5 14.a4 a6!∞ Preventing the bishop development to c4.) 13...♖e7 (13...b5 14.g3 With the idea Bh3-Rad1.) 14.♗c4 Bxe5 is not a threat. 14...♜e8 15.♜e1 ♖f8 16.♜e4!+- with the idea Rf4.]

12.♜d4! [12.♜d2 12...d5! This is why White put the queen on d4.]

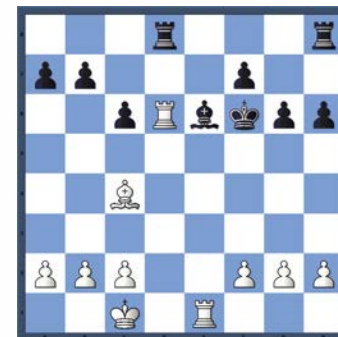
12...♜b6! Without the queens Black's position will be safer.

13.O-O-O ♜xd4 14.♘xd4 [14.♜xd4 14...♗c5 15.♜d2∞]

14...d5! 15.exd6 [15.c4 White is trying to get an advantage thanks to his more active pieces. 15...♗g4 (15...dxc4 16.♗xc4 ♗c5 17.e6 fxe6 18.♘xe6 ♗xe6 19.♜he1!→) 16.f3 ♗d7 17.cxd5 cxd5 18.♘b5 White's idea is to play against the weak d5 pawn. (18.♗b5 18...♜c8+ 19.♖b1 ♗c5=) 18...♜c8+ 19.♖b1 ♗c5 (19...a6 20.♘c3 ♗e6 21.♘xd5 ♗xd5 22.♜xd5 ♜c5 23.♜xc5 ♗xc5 24.♗c4 ♖e7 25.♗d5±) 20.♜xd5 ♗e6 21.♘d6+ ♗xd6 22.♜xd6 ♖e7 It looks like Black will be in time with counterplay.]

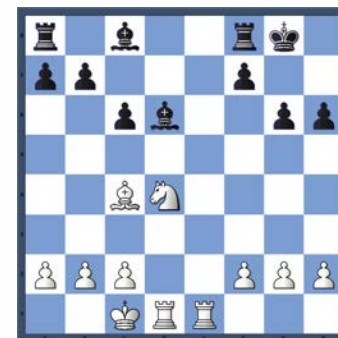
15...♗xd6 16.♗c4 White's initiative is based on active pieces Black has a huge problem with his bishop on c8. [16.♘xc6?? 16...♗f4+]

16...O-O [16...♖e7 The idea to keep the king on f6 looks risky. 17.♜he1+ ♖f6 18.♘e6 (18.♜d3!?→) 18...♗xh2 (18...♗xe6 19.♜xd6 ♜ad8



20.♜xe6+! fxe6 21.♜xe6+ ♖f5 22.♜e7↑ White will grab a lot of pawns.) 19.♘c5 ♗f4+ 20.♖b1 ♗f5 21.♘xb7 ♜he8∞]

17.♜he1



17...♗g4! Black is losing time but provoking weaknesses which will help him to solve the problem with developing the light squared bishop in the future.

18.f3 ♗c8 [18...♗d7 19.♘e2!+- Controlling the f4 square!]

19.g3 ♗c5 20.♘b3 [20.♜e5 20...♗d6 (20...♗b6) 21.♘xc6 (21.♜e2!?) 21...♗xe5 22.♘xe5 ♖g7 and Black doesn't have enough compensation.]

20...♗b6 21.♘d2! White's idea is to bring the knight to d6. [21.♜e7 looks very logical. 21...♖g7! (21...♗d8 22.♜xf7! ♗g5+ 23.f4 ♜xf7 24.fxg5 ♗g4 25.♜f1+-) 22.♜d6



reverting Kf6. 22...♖b8! (22...♙d8 23.♖xd8 ♖xd8 24.♖xf7+ ♙h8 25.♘c5 With a huge initiative.) 23.♙d3 ♙g8 Preventing Rxc6. The white pieces look very active but I have no idea how to improve the position... 24.♙xg6 fxg6 25.♖xg6+ ♙h8 26.♖xh6+ ♙g8 27.♖g6+ ♙h8=]

21...♙h3 [21...♙f5 22.g4]

22.♘e4 [22.♖e7 is premature. 22...♖ab8 23.♘e4 ♖bd8! With unexpected counterplay over the first rank. 24.♖e1 (24.♘d6 24...♙c5 25.♙xf7+ ♙h8 and the white pieces lost coordination.) 24...♙c8 25.♘f6+ ♙g7 26.♘e8+ ♙g8=]

22...♙a5 23.c3 ♖ad8 24.♘d6 b5?! In my opinion there was no need for this weakening. [24...♖d7 25.♘e8!? (25.♘xf7 not works 25...♖dxf7 26.♖e7 ♙g7--)]

25.♙b3 ♖d7 [25...♙c7? 26.♘xf7 ♖xd1+ 27.♙xd1 ♖xf7 28.♖e7+--]

26.♘e8 ♖xd1+ 27.♙xd1 The knight on e8 paralyzes the rook and king but Black can easily solve this problem.

27...♙g2 [27...♙e6 leads to a draw. 28.♙xe6 ♖xe8 29.♙d7 ♖xe1+ 30.♙xe1 b4=]

28.♘f6+ ♙g7 29.♘e8+ ♙h8 Black is playing for a win.

30.♙c2! [30.f4 30...c5 With the idea c4 and White doesn't

have Bd5.]

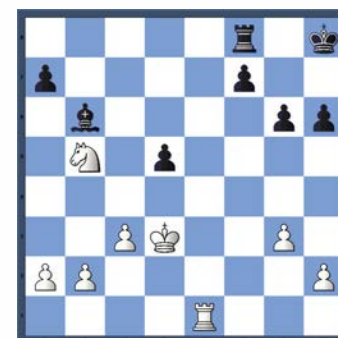
30...♙xf3 31.♘d6



31...♙d5? A serious mistake. Black should keep the strong bishop pair! For example [31...♙g7 32.♖e7 ♙f6 33.♖xa7 ♙b6 With Bg1 next and Black has no problems.]

32.♙xd5 cxd5 33.♘xb5 [33.♖e7 also looks promising for White. 33...a6 (33...♙b6 34.♘xb5 ♙g1 35.h3 ♙g7 36.♘c7 ♖d8 37.♘e6+ ♙f6 38.♖xf7+ ♙xf7 39.♘xd8+ ♙f6 40.♙d3±) 34.♘xf7+ ♙g7 35.♘d6+ (35.♘e5+ 35...♙f6 36.♘c6 ♖c8--+) 35...♙f6 (35...♙g8 36.♖a7 ♖f2+ 37.♙b3 ♖xh2 38.♖xa6 ♙c7 39.♘xb5 ♙xg3 40.♖xg6+) 36.♖a7 ♙g5 37.♖xa6 ♙c7 38.♘xb5 ♙e5 With some hope to create counterplay on the kingside.]

33...♙b6 34.♙d3 Thanks to his more active king and the control over the e-file, White's advantage is clear.



34...♔g7 [34...f5!? Only active defense can give some practical chances. 35.♖e7 g5 (35...f4 36.gxf4 ♖xf4 37.♘xa7 ♖h4↗) 36.♘xa7 (36.♔e2 36...f4 37.gxf4 ♖xf4!↗) 36...f4 37.gxf4 gxf4 38.♘b5 (38.♔e2 38...f3+ 39.♔f1 ♖g8--+) 38...f3 39.♖e1 f2 40.♖f1 ♖f3+ 41.♔e2 ♖e3+ 42.♔d2 (42.♔xf2 42...♖xc3+) 42...♖h3 43.a4 ♖xh2 44.b4±]

35.b4 [35.♖e7 35...♔f6 36.♖d7 ♔e6 37.♖b7 ♕g1 38.h3 ♕f2 39.g4 ♔e5 40.♘xa7 (40.♔e2 With Kf3 next to prevent Kf4.) 40...♔f4 41.♘c6 ♔g3 42.a4 ♔xh3 43.a5 and it looks like White is faster.]

35...♖d8 [35...♔f6 Preventing Re7. 36.a4 a6 37.♘d4 h5 38.a5 ♕c7 39.♘b3 h4 Hoping to activate the rook.]

36.a4 a6 37.♘d4 ♖d6 [37...♔f6 38.a5 ♕c7 39.♘b3 ♕d6 40.♘c5 ♕xc5 41.bxc5 The black king is cut and White's position is easily winning.]

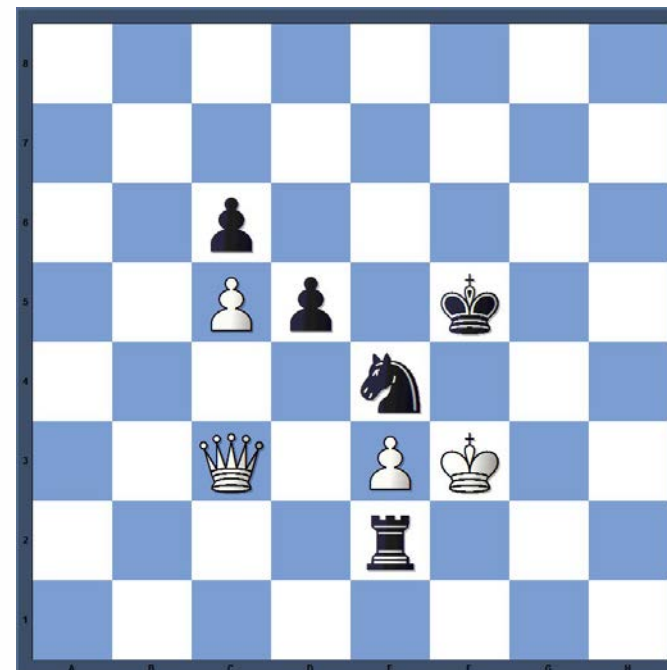
38.♖e8! +- h5 39.♖a8 ♖f6 40.♖xa6 ♕xd4 41.♖xf6 ♕xf6 42.a5 ♕e5 [42...♕d8 43.♔d4 f5 44.♔xd5 g5 45.c4+-]

43.b5 h4 44.a6 1-0

Surprise section / study

(28) Bouwmeester

1. =



Solutions

(29) Artemiev, V(2671)-Motylev, A(2658)

Russian Championship, 2015.08.11



21. ♖xd4! ♗h2+ [21...cxd4 22. ♕xe6+ ♖g7 23. ♘d5! +- ♘xd5 24. ♗xd8 ♖xd8 25. ♕g4+ ♖f8 26. ♕xd4+-]

22. ♖xh2 ♕xd4 23. ♕xe6+ ♖g7 24. ♘e2! 1-0 [24. ♘e2 24...♕d8 25. ♘f4+-]

(30) Svidler, P(2739)-Lysyj, I(2673)

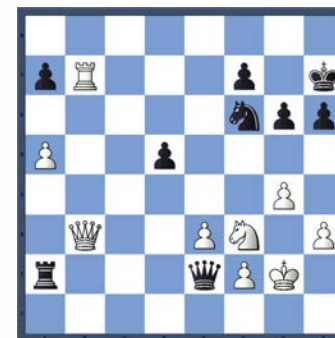
Russian Championship, 2015.08.14



41. ♘e5! 1-0 [41. ♘e5 41...♖xf2+ (41...♖xb2 42. ♗g6+ ♖h8 43. ♖a8+ ♘g8 44. ♘f7#) 42. ♖g1+-]

(31) Bukavshin, I(2655)-Khairullin, I(2662)

Russian Championship, 2015.08.13



56. ♘d2!! ♖g8 [56...♖xd2 57. ♖xf7+ ♖g8 58. ♖xf6+-]

57. ♕xa2+- [57. ♖b8+ 57...♖g7 58. ♕xa2+-]

57... ♘e4 58. ♖xf7!+-

(32) Svidler, P(2739)-Khismatullin, D(2642)

Russian Championship, 2015.08.12



26... ♕a2+! 27. ♖c1 ♕a1+! [27...♕xb2+ 28. ♖xb2 ♘d3+ 29. ♖b1 ♖a1#]

28. ♗xa1 ♖xa1+ 29. ♖b2 ♘c4# 0-1 [29...♘d3#]

(33) Lysyj, I(2673)-Vitiugov, N(2719)

Russian Championship, 2015.08.16



40...♖xe3! 41.♔xe3 1/2 [41.♔xe3 41...♜b3+ 42.♔f2 ♜c2+ 43.♔g3 ♜d3+ 44.♔h4 ♜f3=]

(34) Savina, A(2429)-Gunina, V(2531)

Russian Woman Championship, 2015.08.11

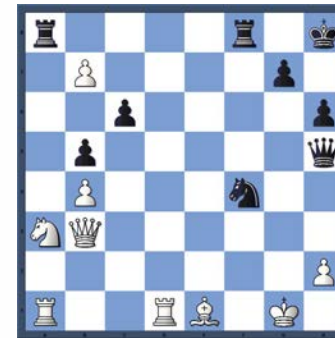


34...♖g4+! 35.♜xg4 [35.♔h1 35...♖f2+-+; 35.♔g1 35...♜c5+ 36.♔h1 ♖f2+-+]

35...♜xg4 36.hxg4 ♜d6—+

(35) Pogonina, N(2460)-Kosteniuk, A(2526)

Russian Woman Championship, 2015.08.12



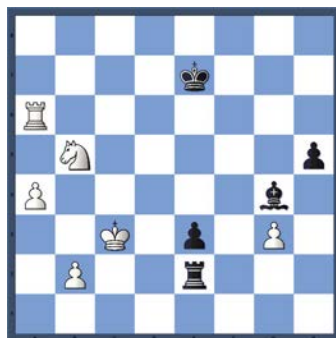
38...♜g4+! 39.♜g3 [39.♔g3 39...♖h3+ 40.♔g2 ♜f2+ 41.♔h1 ♜e4+-+]

39...♖e2+ 40.♔g2 ♜e4+! 41.♔h3 ♜f5+! 42.♜g4 [42.♔g2 42...♜f1#]

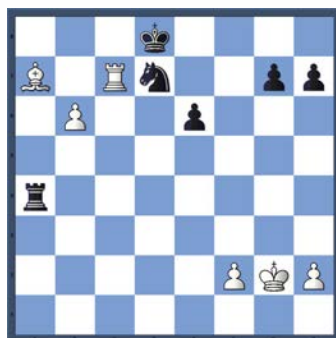
42...♜f1+ 0-1 [42...♜f1+ 43.♔h4 (43.♜g2 43...♖f4+-+) 43...g5+ 44.♔h5 ♜f7+ 45.♔xh6 ♜h7+ 46.♔xg5 ♜g8+ 47.♔f6 ♜af8+-+]

(36) Girya, O(2487)-Kashlinskaya, A(2441)

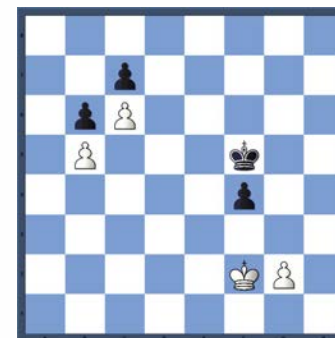
Russian Woman Championship, 2015.08.13

**44...♖xb2!! 45.♖a7+ [45.♙xb2 45...e2-+]****45...♙f6 46.♖a6+ ♔e5 47.♘d4 e2 48.♙xb2 [48.♘xe2 48...♖xe2-+]****48...♙xd4! 0-1 [48...e1=♚? 49.♖e6+! ♔xe6 50.♘f3+]****(37) Gharamian, T(2644)-Istratescu, A(2619)**

French Championship, 2015.08.11

**30.♖xd7+! ♔xd7 31.b7!+- 1-0****(38) Edouard, R(2634)-Cornette, M(2586)**

French Championship, 2015.08.17

**34.♚f5! 1-0 [34.♚f5 34...♔xf6 (34...♖xf1+ 35.♚xf1 ♚xe3 36.♖f8+! ♔xf8 37.♚f7+ ♔h8 38.♚h7#) 35.♚e6+! ♔g7 (35...♔h8 36.♚xf6+ ♔g8 37.♚f7+ ♔h8 38.♚h7#) 36.♚f7+ ♔h8 37.♚h7#]****(39) Neumann****1.♔f3 ♔e5 2.♔g4 ♔e4 3.♔g5 ♔e5 4.♔g6 ♔e6 5.♔g7 ♔e7 6.♔g8 ♔e8 7.♔h7! ♔f7 8.♔h6 ♔f6 9.♔h5 ♔f5 10.♔h4! ♔e4 11.♔g4 ♔e5 12.♔g5 ♔e4 13.♔f6+-**



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 184

4th of September 2015

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Editorial Preface

The 3rd Sinquefield Cup was won by Aronian, who played very solidly and deserved the clear first place with 6/9. Second placed was shared by 4 players: Carlsen, Giri, Nakamura and Vachier-Lagrave, all with 5/9. In the interview Carlsen was very unhappy about his result and the level of play, the same as Caruana who let slip away a lot of promising positions and "only" scored 3.5/9.

The very strong Abu Dhabi Open had 5 winners, all with 7 points. Best after tiebreak was Grandelius Nils, who admitted that it was his biggest success ever. Kravtsiv, Jobava, Areschenko and Rapport were the other co-winners.

The Spanish Champion is Vallejo Pons, who was the clear favorite for the title and had a start-finish victory.

Kasper Piorun won the Barcelona Open with the great score of 8.5/10 2nd-3rd places were shared by Edouard Romain and Daniel Vocaturo, both with 8/10.

In just a week from now, the FIDE World Cup will start in Baku. Most of the players are deep in the preparation because the pairings were already published. The next week is quite calm, but then the excitement will start.

For now we wish you a great weekend.

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) Caruana, Fabiano (2808)
- So, Wesley (2779) [A15]

3rd Sinquefeld Cup 2015(9.5),
2015.09.01



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

It was clearly not the tournament of Caruana or So, as both players missed a lot of chances in the previous games and were ranked on the lower end of the crosstable. Anyhow, the game we are going to see is a very exciting one. From the opening Caruana managed to get a big attack on So's king and a huge advantage, but he missed the best continuation in the tactical calculations. The game then became very unclear and finally ended up in a draw.

1. ♘f3 ♘f6 2. c4 To guess Caruana's openings is a difficult task. Fabiano is very well-prepared and plays both 1.e4 and 1.d4.

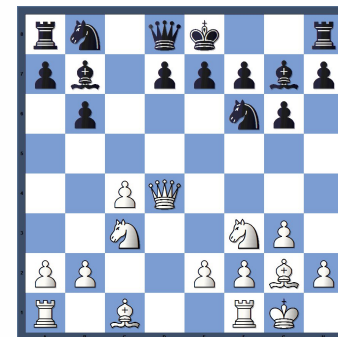
2...b6 3.g3 c5 In the current position there are a lot of different move orders and many different positions depending on who wants to reach what...

4. ♗g2 The system with g3 and Bg2 is one of the most popular ones.

4...♗b7 5.O-O g6 [5...e6 is the other main possibility.]

6.d4 cxd4 7. ♖xd4 The line with Qxd4 is a very tricky one. White's idea is simple, to get the queen to h4 in a good moment and to play Bh6 followed by Ng5, with attack.

7...♗g7 8. ♘c3



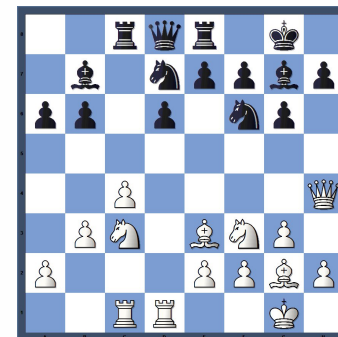
8...d6 Of course all this has been played many times before.

9. ♗e3 ♘bd7 10. ♖ac1 ♖c8 Black is trying to delay the short castle to avoid Qh4-Bh6. In the current position after Qh4 Black always has h6.

11.b3 a6 12. ♖fd1 Now that Black doesn't have any more useful moves, So castles.

12...O-O 13. ♖h4 and of course Caruana is going for the main idea of the whole line.

13...♖e8 Very logical. In case White could exchange the dark squared bishops, White's position should be a bit better, so Black is preparing to play Bh8 after Bh6.



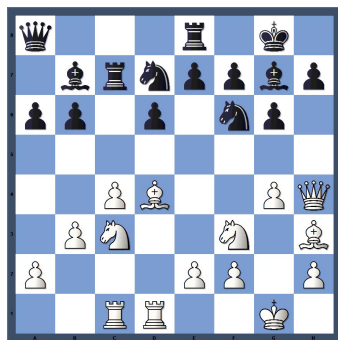
14. ♗h3! An excellent move with multiple ideas. First of all White is not afraid of Bxf3 exf3 which would just lead to a

better position for White. Now he can move the knight from f3 without exchanging the white squared bishops, which is good, and the rook on c8 is also sort of pinned.

14...♖c7 15.g4 and here comes Caruana! White's idea is simply to play g5 next.

15...♚a8 A very logical reply, even if the queen is out of play on a8, but now Black is prepared to answer g5 with Ne4.

16.♙d4 White wants to finally play g5 and exchange the bishops, which would weaken the position of the black king a lot. [In case of 16.g5 16...♞e4 17.♞a4 b5 things are looking very unclear.]



16...h6?! Here I have to disagree with So. This move just looks too dangerous to me. [16...b5!? Maybe Black could have tried to complicate things after 17.g5 ♞h5 18.♙xg7 ♞xg7 but maybe even here White can keep some advantage by playing 19.♞d5 ♙xd5 20.cxd5 and it is still not that simple to achieve equality for Black.; Black is almost losing after 16...♙xf3? 17.exf3 ♚xf3 18.g5 ♞h5 19.♞d5 with very strong play for the pawn.]

17.g5 Of course there is no reason to hesitate about playing g5.

17...hxg5 18.♞xg5 Now Black must always be careful about

the h7 square. This is a very unpleasant position in a practical game.

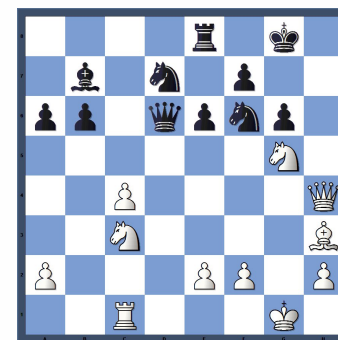
18...e6 After this move White gets a clear target, the d6 pawn, but Black was clearly very afraid of the upcoming Nd5 move. [In case of a passive move like 18...♚d8 19.♞d5 ♙xd5 20.cxd5 White's position is clearly much better.]

19.♙e3! Great play by White! The d6 pawn is in serious trouble.

19...♚b8 20.♙f4 Another good move by White. [A big mistake would be 20.♖xd6? 20...♖xc4 21.♚xc4 ♙xd6 and Black is fine.]

20...♙f8? This is just a blunder... [The only way to go on was 20...e5 21.♙e3 ♙f8 with a bad position.]

21.♖xd6? and White gives back the present... [Of course Caruana saw 21.♙xd6 21...♙xd6 22.♖xd6 ♖xc4 23.bxc4 ♙xd6 but here he clearly missed the winning move



24.♚h8+! A very nice combination! 24...♚xh8 25.♞xf7+ ♙g7 26.♞xd6 With a winning endgame for White.]

21...e5 Now the position is really complex.

22.♖xd7 exf4 The threats around the black king are still not gone, but a little less dangerous.

23. ♖cd1 Caruana wants to keep the d-file for himself.

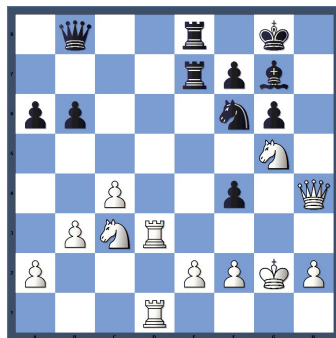
23... ♗g7? Another mistake... [Much stronger was 23... ♔g7! with the idea of moving the bishop from f8 and playing Rh8.]

24. ♖7d3?! Caruana missed two much stronger options: [White could have gone for the very complicated 24. ♘xf7 24... ♖xd7 25. ♗xd7 ♔xf7 26. ♗xe8+ ♔xe8 27. ♗g5 ♔f7 28. ♖d4 with a clearly better position, even if things are not that clear here from a practical point of view.; Much simpler was 24. ♖7d6 24... ♗a8 25. ♗xf4 Why not just win a full pawn?! White is clearly better here.]

24... ♖ce7 and although White is still a pawn up, things are very unclear in this position.

25. ♗g2 Very logical. The exchange of bishops will help White to gain control of the white squares and the bishop on h3 has done his job.

25... ♗xg2 26. ♔xg2



26... ♘h5! So is back in the game.

27. ♘d5 Caruana finds nothing better than to give up the e2 pawn, which is actually not a bad decision at all.

27... ♖xe2 28. ♗g4 The white queen is going to take place on f3, which is a nice square for the queen.

28... ♖d6 29. ♗f3 ♗c5 30. ♖3d2 As we can see, the position is really complicated and hard to play for both players.

30... ♖2e5 A good choice. Black wants to control the e-file and then the exchange of rooks would make things easier for White.

31. h4 b5 In case the knight on d5 could be chased away, Black would already be better!

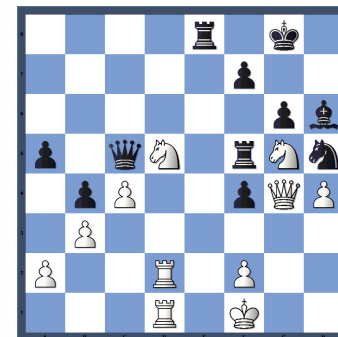
32. ♖c2 The pawn on c4 has to be defended.

32... b4 33. ♖cd2 Both players were already in time trouble.

33... a5 34. ♗g4 Caruana just keeps on waiting.

34... ♗h6 35. ♔f1 Both players are trying to make solid moves.

35... ♖f5 I think this is not the most logical. [Why not simply play 35... ♗xg5 36. hxg5 ♖f5 with the easy threat of playing Re5 next. The g5 pawn could be in danger.]



36. ♘f3 Now the rook on f5 is sort isolated.

36... ♗g7 37. ♗g2 A slightly strange move in my opinion, but White probably just wanted to make a safe move without changing much before the 40th move.

37... a4 38. ♖d3 ♗a5 Black is trying to annoy White a bit with the idea of playing axb3 axb3 and Qa3 somewhere.

39. ♘g5 axb3 40. axb3 ♙f8 So the time trouble is over and it is time to think things over.

41. ♚f3 The queen clearly belongs to f3.

41... ♙c5 42. ♘e4 The knight is well-placed on e4 too.

42... ♚g7 Black keeps on waiting.

43. ♘xc5 and Caruana finds nothing better than to exchange the knight. After this move we should evaluate the position as equal. Black just wanted to play Rfe5 and back to controlling the e-file, which gives him enough counterplay.

43... ♚xc5 44. ♖d4 Can White win the the f4 pawn?!

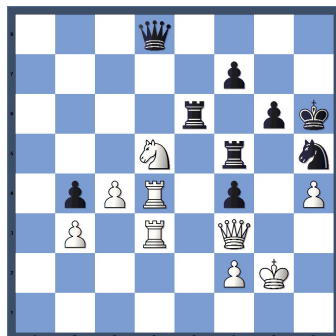
44... ♚h6 Black just keeps on waiting...

45. ♚d3 [Of course White cannot play 45. ♘xf4?? 45... ♚e5 since the knight on f4 is just gone.]

45... ♚h7 46. ♚f3 ♖e6 Could it be that So decided to play for a win?! Well maybe, but maybe he just liked the position of the black rook better on e6 than on e8.

47. ♚g1 ♚a5 48. ♚g2 Now it is Caruana who keeps on doing "nothing".

48... ♚h6 49. ♖1d3 ♚d8



50. ♚g4 and because both players showed no ideas of how to

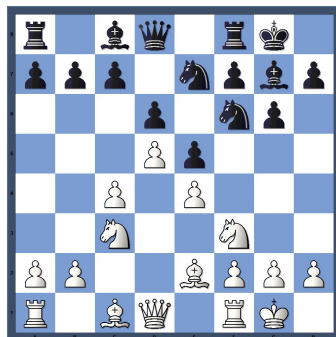
improve their position, the game ended with a draw offer. We just saw a very interesting game where White clearly missed a lot of very promising chances. **1/2-1/2**

**(2) So, Wesley (2779)
- Nakamura, Hikaru (2814) [E99]**3rd Sinquefeld Cup 2015(6.4),
2015.08.29GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

A brilliant attacking game by Nakamura! We don't often see a top GM getting mated with the king on g6 whilst all pieces are still on the board.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♗g7 The King's Indian defense! A clear sign that Nakamura wants to win this game, despite having the black pieces.

4.e4 d6 5.♘f3 O-O 6.♗e2 e5 7.O-O ♘c6 8.d5 ♘e7 The initial position of the classical main line. White has a wide range of choice here, all of them with huge theory. His plans are mainly connected to the queenside, while Black soon launches an attack on the kingside with f5.



9.♘e1 The old main line. White drives his knight to d3 from where it supports the queenside break with c5 and also allows to stabilize the center with f3 against the f5 plans. [9.b4 recently became the most common line.]

9...♘d7 10.f3 By starting with the 10.f3 or 10.Be3 move order (in comparison to 10.Nd3), White successfully transfers his bishop to the g1-a7 diagonal, from where it increases pressure on the queenside and also vacates the c1 square for the heavy pieces.

10...f5 11.♗e3 f4 12.♗f2 g5 A typical King's Indian game. White soon executes the c5 break, while Black focuses all his pieces to the kingside for an attack. There are still thousands of games in the databases for this position.

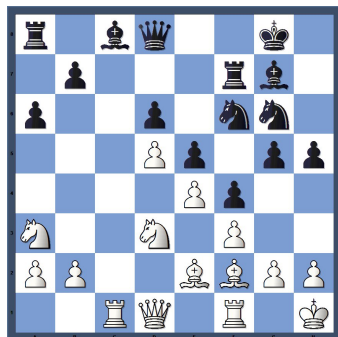
13.♘d3 [Wesley So had a game last year for 13.♖c1 and; he also tried 13.g4 which is another strategy. White tries to lock the kingside first (possibly with h4-h5) before continuing the queenside actions. Nakamura was definitely prepared against all ideas.]

13...♘g6 14.c5 ♘f6 The black pieces are going towards the kingside. He soon prepares for the break with g4.

15.♖c1 ♖f7! A standard multifunctional move in the King's Indian. Black protects the critical c7 square against the cxd6 cxd6 Nb5 idea and at the same time he prepares to strengthen his kingside attack by transferring his rook to g7 (after Bh6).

16.♔h1 h5 17.cxd6 cxd6 18.♘b5 We can see now the point of 15. ..Rf7! White would threaten with Nc7 and the a7 pawn is hanging, as well as the positional threat of installing the knight to e6 after which Black's attack has much less potentials.

18...a6 19.♘a3



19...b5! We are still following theory, but Black's last move is instructive anyway. The question was to weaken the c6 square or to allow Nc4-b6?! The key idea is that Black needs his light squared bishop for a succesfull attack. First of all it supports g4 and secondly without the bishop White could defend perfectly with g4-Bg1-g3-h3, however with the bishop on c8, Black always has the sacrifices on h3 at his disposal. Therefore it becomes clear that giving up the c6 square has smaller value than allowing the knight to jump to b6.

20.♖c6 White would like to lure the bishop to b7, because the bishop clearly belongs to the c8-h3 diagonal. Bd7 does not work because of the d6 pawn and White wants to triple on the c-file with Qc2 and Rc1.

20...g4 21.♔c2 ♕f8! Another strong positional move! White was ready to bring his rook to c1 and suddenly Black cannot do anything with his bishop on c8! However now after Qf8, he can play Bd7 as the d6 pawn is already defended.

22.♖c1 ♕d7 23.♖c7 ♕h6 [Another possible plan was 23...h4!? just like in the game. Black wants to push h3 and g3, destroying the kingside structure. The concrete question is 24.fxg4 That is also the reason why Nakamura started with 23...Bh6, to push f3 now. 24...♗xe4 25.♕f3 ♗g5 If White could consolidate the e4 square with his knight or somehow use the

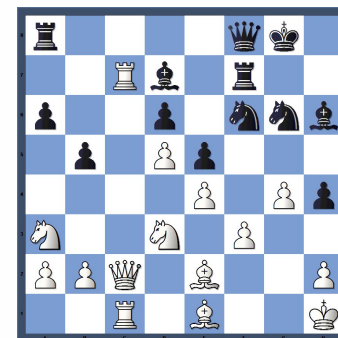
c2-g6 diagonal with his queen, he could be more than fine, but the d3 knight is standing poorly. Black seems to be doing well.]

24.♕e1 h4! This is the right way to continue the attack! Black wants to explode the kingside with h3! If he had started with g3, then White would have played h3 followed by Bf1, strengthening all the pawns on the kingside.

25.fxg4 [25.♕b4 25...h3! 26.gxh3 g3! This looks like the most effective way to open the lines in front of the king. Bxh3 and Nh4 are coming next. 27.♕f1 a5 Black has to send the bishop away from b4, because the direct Nh4 runs into Nxe5. 28.♕e1 ♗h4→; 25.♗b4 is also met by 25...h3! 26.gxh3 g3! Nh4 is coming next combined with Bxh3 and it looks extremely dangerous from White's point of view.]

25...f3! [25...♗xg4? loses to 26.♖xd7; 25...♕xg4 allows exchanges, which helps White to survive the attack and positionally he is better on the queenside. 26.♖xf7 ♕xf7 27.♕xg4 ♗xg4 28.♕c7]

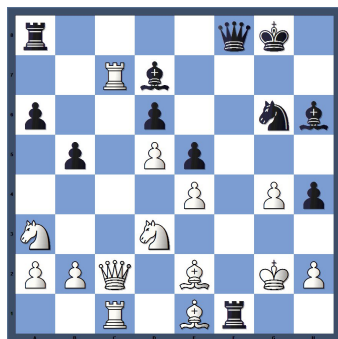
26.gxf3



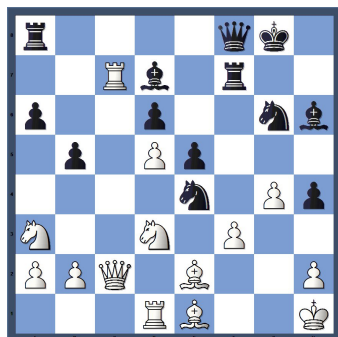
26...♗xe4!! Nakamura had correctly foreseen this move and its consequences two moves earlier, when he started to sacrifice his pawns. The concrete line shows that the attack is extremely strong and White is probably in deep trouble. The

threat is Rxf3, completely destroying the defenders around the king. [26...♙xc1? 27.♚xc1 would let the initiative pass to White! Black needs the King's Indian bishop to break through with the attack, while the rook is not doing anything temporarily on c1.]

27.♖d1 [27.fxe4 is similar to the game. 27...♖f1+! 28.♙g2



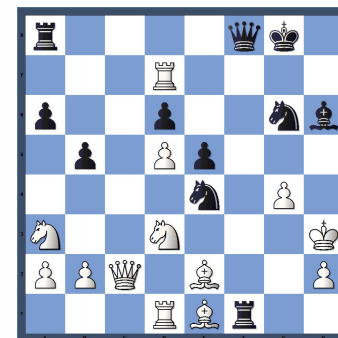
28...♙e3!! This is the key move just like it happened later in the game! Black threatens with mate after h3 or Rg1! 29.♙xf1 h3+! 30.♙g3 ♚xf1 and White has no adequate defense against the mate! Bf4 is the direct mate threat, but Black also could play Rf8 next. 31.♖xd7 ♙f4+ 32.♘xf4 exf4# Unusual mate!; 27.♖xd7 is also met by 27...♖xf3! 28.♙xf3 ♚xf3+ 29.♚g2 (29.♙g1 29...h3—+ Be3 comes next and after anything moves to f2, there is mate on g2!) 29...♚xd3—+ The c1 rook is hanging and Nf4 or h3 is coming next.]



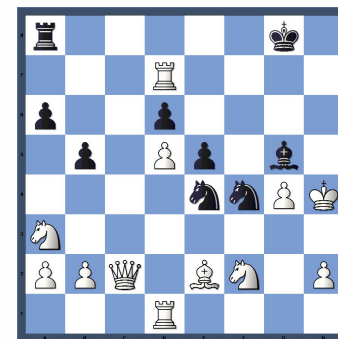
27...♖xf3! Nakamura calculates correctly! It is easy to feel that with so many pieces around the king the attack should break through!

28.♖xd7 [28.♙xf3 28...♚xf3+ 29.♙g1 h3!—+ Just like in the 27.Rxd7 line, Be3 is coming next, followed by mate on g2!]

28...♖f1+! **29.♙g2 ♙e3!** [29...h3+! was even stronger according to the computers, having in mind the following amazing mate: 30.♙xh3

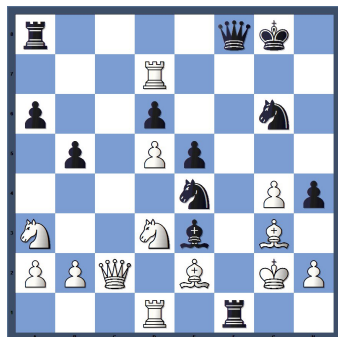


30...♖f2!! 31.♙xf2 ♚xf2!! 32.♘xf2 (32.♖f1 32...♘g5#) 32...♘f4+ 33.♙h4 ♙g5#



It would have been shocking to finish the game like this!]

30.♙g3 [30.♙xf1 leads to forced mate after 30...h3+ 31.♙xh3 ♚f3+ 32.♙g3 ♘g5#]



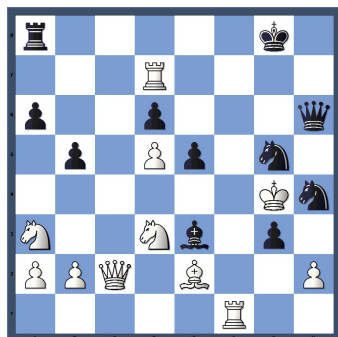
30...hxc3! Nakamura leads the attack precisely! He frees the h4 square for the knight! White cannot create any counterplay against the g8 king and he is lacking coordination between his pieces to organize any kind of defense.

31.♖xf1 ♜h4+ 32.♔h3 [32.♔h1 32...g2#]

32...♚h6! White cannot unpin himself on the h-file! It is clear that the story should soon end in mate!

33.g5 [On 33.hxc3 the fastest mate is 33...♜g5+ 34.♔h2 ♜hf3+ 35.♔g2 ♚h2#]

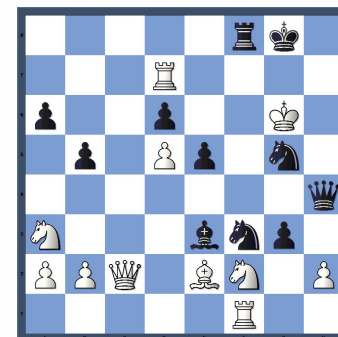
33...♜xg5+ 34.♔g4



34...♜hf3! Another great sacrifice! Black threatens with Qh3 mate in one move and also to further haunt the king with Qh4!

35.♜f2 [35.♜xf3 35...♚h3#]

35...♚h4+ 36.♔f5 ♜f8+ 37.♔g6



Well, of course Black has many good moves against such king on g6, but Nakamura finishes the game in style!

37...♜f6+! 38.♔xf6 ♜e4+ 39.♔g6 [39.♔f5 could have prolonged the game by a move: 39...♚f4+ 40.♔e6 ♚f6#]

39...♚g5# WOW! 0-1

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot

Best rating: 2749

(3) Rapport, Richard (2671)
- Sandipan, Chanda (2585) [C02]

Abu Dhabi(5),
 2015.08.26

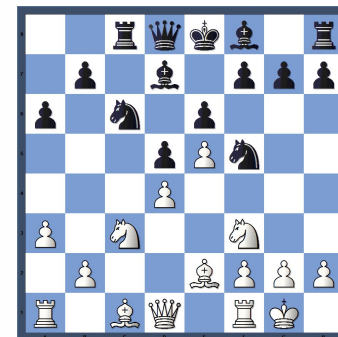
The 19-year old Richard Rapport is 3rd on the Junior FIDE list. He is having a difficult chess year but it seems like he is coming back, as he shared first place in the strong Abu Dhabi open.

1.♖f3 e6 2.e4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 ♘c6 5.d4 An unusual move order to get the French advance.

5...♙d7 6.♙e2 cxd4 Not the most popular but quite a sound way to play.

7.cxd4 ♘ge7 8.♘c3 ♘f5 9.O-O ♚c8 A good move. Chanda knows this position well. [9...♙e7 10.♙d3! g6 (10...♘fxd4 is not possible: 11.♘xd4 ♘xd4 12.♚g4!±) 11.♙xf5 gxf5 12.♙f4+= ♘a5 13.b3 ♚c8 14.♚c1 ♚g8 15.♚d2 b5 16.♘e2 followed by the knight march to h5, which gave White a huge advantage in Sandipan-Belezky Bundesliga 2014.]

10.a3 a6 Another useful slow move. 10...Qb6 11.Na4 or 10...Be7 11. Bd3 is better for White.



11.♚b1 An interesting novelty, provoking the queen to go to b6 before playing Be3. [11.♙e3 11...♙e7 12.♙d3 ♘xe3 13.fxe3 O-O is the usual way to play and Black goes f5 next, with an unclear position.]

11...h6 I don't really like this move because it weakens the white squares around the future logical place of the king. [11...♚b6 is the main move. 12.♙e3 (12.♘a4 12...♚a7!∞ The square was cleared by 10...a6!) 12...♙e7 13.♙d3 ♘xe3 14.fxe3∞ and one of Rapport's ideas behind 11.Rb1 might be 14...O-O 15.♘a4!? ♚a7 16.♘c5 ♙xc5 17.♙xh7+ ♚h8 18.♙c2]

12.♙h1 Same strategy!

12...b5 [12...♚b6 is even met by 13.g4! ♘fxd4? 14.♙e3+–]

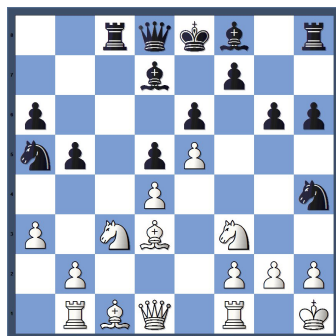
13.♙e3 Enough prophylaxis, it is time to play!

13...♘a5 [13...♙e7 14.♙d3 ♘xe3 15.fxe3 O-O 16.♚e2 f5 17.exf6 ♚xf6 18.e4 looks slightly better for White.]

14.♙d3 g6? This is very strange. Black was forced to take the bishop: [14...♘xe3 15.fxe3 ♙xa3 (15...♙e7 is also playable.) 16.♚e1 (16.♘xd5 16...exd5 17.bxa3 ♘c4∞) 16...♙b4 17.♚g3 O-O 18.♘e2 with compensation.]

15.♙c1! The best move, but even 15.Bxf5 should be better for White.

15...♖h4



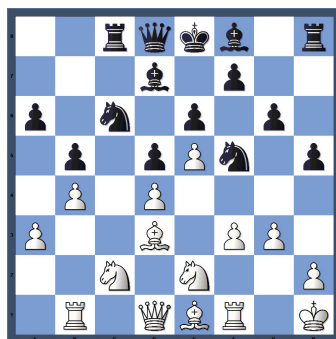
16.♗e1+= Since there is no more pressure on d4, White regroups before pushing with his space advantage.

16...♗c4 17.♗e2 ♗f5 [17...a5 followed by a4 to save the c4 square for the knight was a better idea.]

18.♗c2 ♗a5 doesn't look great, but b3 was coming anyway.

19.♗d2 ♗c6 20.b4 White took control over the entire board.

20...♚h4 21.♗e1 h5 22.f3 ♚d8 23.g3

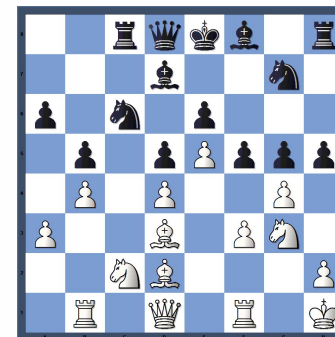


23...g5 Black cannot wait. A move like [23...f6 might give practical chances: 24.f4 (24.g4 24...hxg4 25.fxg4 fxe5 26.gxf5 gxf5 27.dxe5 ♗xe5 28.♗g3+=) 24...♗g7 25.♗f2 O-O+= White has a nice choice between two knight transfers: Nc1-b3-c5 or Ne1-f3.]

24.g4 ♗g7 [24...♗h4 25.♗g3±]

25.♗g3 f5! is the crazy idea behind 23....g5!

26.♗d2 [26.gxf5 26...exf5 (26...♗xf5 27.♗xf5 exf5 28.♚e2 ♗e6 29.a4±) 27.f4 h4 28.♗e2 g4 29.♗e3 ♗e6 is better for White, but with a fighting position.]



26...h4? The losing move. Now Black can't close the kingside. It was necessary to play [26...f4! 27.♗xh5 (27.♗e2 27...♚f7 is more pleasant for White but playable.) 27...♗xh5 28.♗g6+ (28.gxh5 28...♗e7∞ followed by Kf8-Be8.) 28...♚e7 29.♗xh5 ♗e8 30.♗xe8 ♚xe8+= Black invested a pawn but got rid of the bad pieces and closed the kingside. A long fight is ahead.]

27.♗e2 ♗e7 [27...f4 is not possible because of 28.♗g6+ ♚e7 29.♗xf4+-]

28.f4! +- The position becomes open and White's light pieces clearly surpass their counterparts. The black king is also in big trouble.

28...fxg4 is obviously not the best defense but it is already too late anyway.

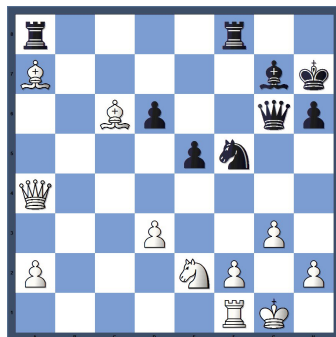
29.♗g6+ ♚f8 30.fxg5+ ♗f5 31.♗f4 ♚g7 32.♚xg4 ♗xe5 33.dxe5 ♚xc2 34.♗xe6+ ♗xe6 35.♗xf5 ♚xd2 36.♗xe6 ♚f8 37.♚h5 and fast mate is unavoidable. 1-0

Puzzle section

(4) Gabuzyan, H(2593)-Jobava, B(2664)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2015.08.25

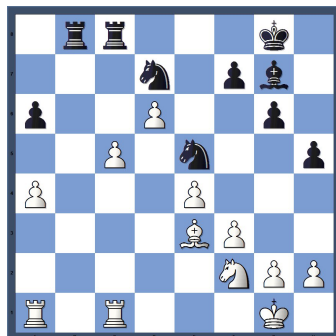
1... -+



(5) Gupta, A(2619)-Belous, V(2566)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2015.08.25

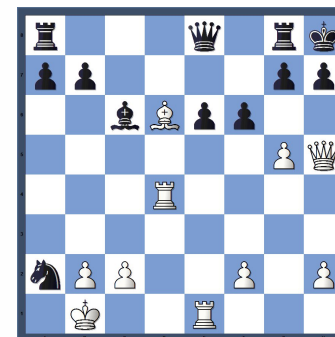
1... -+



(6) Onischuk, V(2618)-Harika, D(2509)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2015.08.25

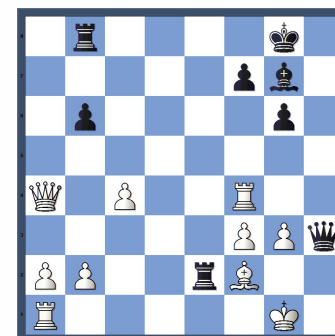
1. +-



(7) Rohan, A(2389)-Gupta, A(2619)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2015.08.25

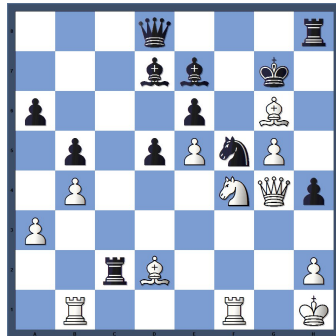
1... -+



(8) Rapport, R(2671)-Sandipan, C(2585)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2015.08.26

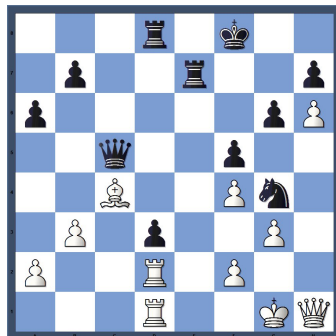
1. +-



(9) Gabuzyan, H(2593)-Areshchenko, A(2661)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2015.08.26

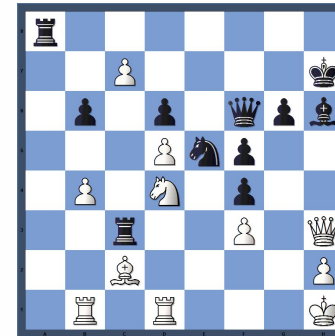
1... -+



(10) Areshchenko, A(2661)-Salem, A(2595)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2015.08.27

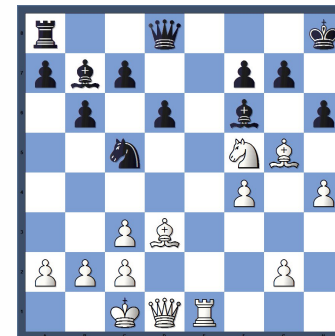
1. +-



(11) Kryvoruchko, Y(2697)-Romanov, E(2586)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2015.08.27

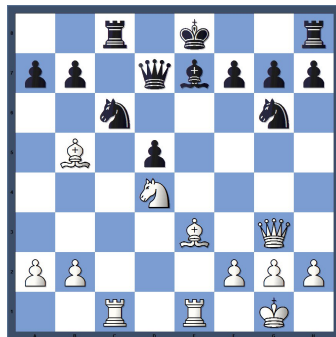
1. +-



(12) Akopian, V(2647)-Sumets, A(2596)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2015.08.27

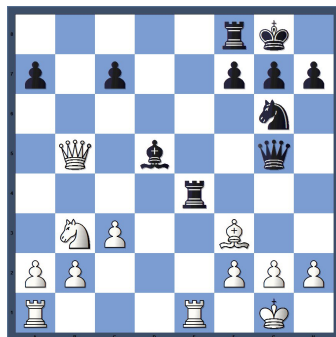
1. +-



(13) Kulkarni, R(2368)-Papp, G(2601)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2015.08.27

1... -+



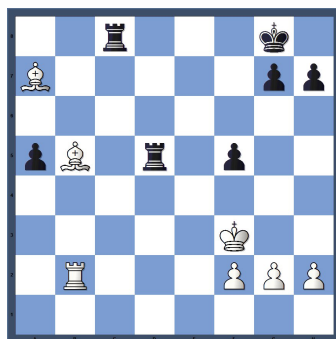
Endgame section

(14) Carlsen, Magnus (2853)
- Nakamura, Hikaru (2814)

Sinquefield Cup,
2015.08.31



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



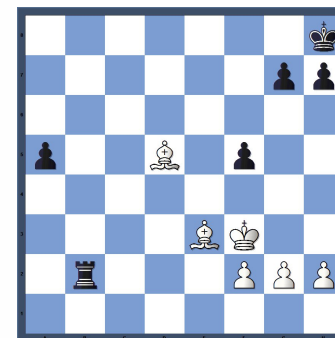
We are facing an amazing mistake by the World Champion. Black is more or less fine materially, but the power of the two bishops in such endgames should give White a technically winning position. However- as is typical in many kind of endgames- the attacking side needs some extra material to be able to create new weaknesses and let the two bishops work with full power and automatically decide the outcome. All the circumstances are given in the present case as White's rook will be able to cooperate with the bishops. However Carlsen makes a horrible positional mistake which allows Nakamura to trade a pair of rooks.

39. ♖e3?? Carlsen obviously knew that he needed the rooks for the win, but some kind of chess blindness deprived him from seeing Black's easy next move... [Any other moves, for

instance **39. ♖a4** followed by **Be3** and the rook penetration on the b-file should give White a winning advantage. He could also improve his pawn structure with **h4-g3** before making progress. Black should collapse fairly soon.]

39... ♜b8! Black moves into the pin, but there is no check which could win the rook. White has nothing better than simplifying the position with

40. ♖c4 ♜xb2 41. ♖xd5+ ♔h8 We have reached another interesting endgame to think about. The a-pawn is not advanced far enough and White can block it with precise play, but the question is rather if he has enough material left on the board to win the game?!



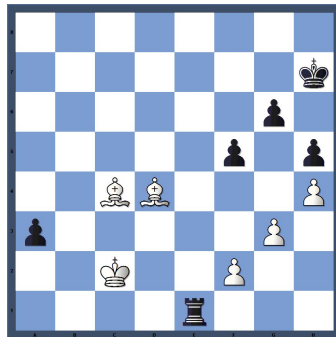
42. ♖d4 ♜b1 43. ♔e2 The king must hurry towards the queenside to stop the passed pawn.

43... a4 44. g3 a3 45. ♔d2 We can see how strong the two bishops are. They control all the important squares, but the problem is how to make progress?!

45... h5 46. h4 ♔h7 Black improves his structure and rescues his king from its squeezed situation in the corner.

47. ♖c4 g6 48. ♔c2 ♜e1 Black always has some kind of tactical idea in mind. As long as the bishop was on d5, he was always keeping an eye on the d1 square to penetrate with his rook.

Now with the bishop on c4 Re4 is in the air. For instance 49.Kb3 is a blunder in view of a2! 50.Ka2 Re4! As long as Black ties the pieces to the a-pawn, he tries to get rid of some pawns on the kingside with f4.

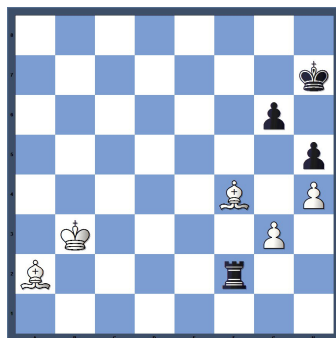


49.Ke3 White avoids this Re4 idea and seemingly prevents f4! However

49...f4! still works and it forces further simplifications!

50.Ke4 [50.gxf4 50...Kh1 is not what White wants.]

50...a2 51.Kea2 Re2+ 52.Kb3 Rxf2 The danger of the a-pawn is gone, but Black successfully traded his f-pawn, further reducing the material. He has only one weakness/target left, the pawn on g6, but he can easily ensure its safety with the king and rook.



53.Ke1 Re2 54.Kc4 Kg7 55.Kd5 Re1 56.Kc2 Re2 57.Kd3 Re1 58.Ke4 White has all the time to try and improve his position, but in the critical situation when he is already close to the g6 pawn, he will be unable to make progress.

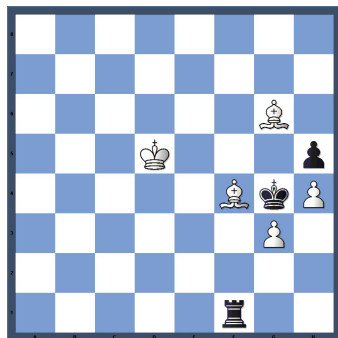
58...Rd1+ 59.Ke5 Re1 60.Kd2 Re2 61.Kc3 Kh6 62.Kb4 Rf2 Black only needs to care about his g6 pawn. Pinning or attacking one of the bishops, attacking the g3 pawn or simply preventing the king's movement to f6 are all possible defenses.

63.Kc5 Rf1 64.Kb4 Rf2 65.Ke7 Rf1 66.Kf6 Rg1 67.Kg5+ Kg7 68.Kf4 Re1 Black has a very easy defensive task. Carlsen tries everything, but his advantage is not enough to win.

69.Kd5 Rd1+ 70.Ke6 Re1 71.Ke5 Re2 72.Kd5 Re1 73.Kd3 Kh7 74.Kd4 Kg7 75.Ke3 Ra1 76.Ke4 Ra4+ 77.Kf3 Ra3 78.Kb5 Rb3 79.Ke8 Rb1 80.Kc6 Rb4 81.Kd2 Rb6 82.Kc3+ Kh6 83.Kd5 Rb1 84.Kf4 Rf1+ 85.Ke5 Rg1 86.Kd2+ Kg7 87.Kf4 Re1+ 88.Kd6 [88.Ke4 We have already seen this position 20 moves ago and he could not make progress anyway. The text move however allows Black to activate his king and force further simplifications.]

88...Kf6 89.Kf3 Kf5 90.Kd5 Rf1 91.Ke4+ Kg4! Nakamura calculates the forced draw, otherwise he could also have gone back to f6 and hold the fortress.

92. ♖xg6



92... ♖xf4! 93. gxf4 ♔xf4! and White cannot save his h4 pawn.

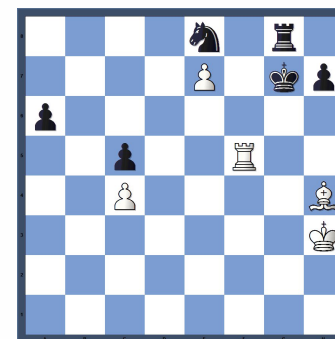
94. ♖xh5 ♔g3 95. ♖d1 ♔xh4 1/2-1/2

(15) Nakamura, Hikaru (2814)
- Grischuk, Alexander (2771)

3rd Sinquefeld Cup 2015(9.4),
2015.09.01



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



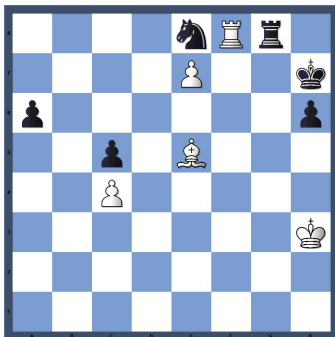
We are in the last round and Nakamura really needs a full point to share 2nd place. After a very fighting game where Grischuk also had his chances, we are in an endgame which is clearly much better for White. The e7 pawn is very dangerous and the black pieces are very passively placed. During the next moves, we will see a beautiful realization by Nakamura, with a very nice final position where Black simply doesn't have any moves left to make!

63. ♖g3! A very strong move. The bishop will cut the options of the black knight on e8 and at the same time White wants to put his rook on f8 to stop the black rook from moving as well.

63...h6 Black is preparing to put the king on h7 to defend from Rf8.

64. ♖e5+ ♔h7 65. ♖f7+ Winning a tempo. The white rook belongs to f8 anyway.

65...♔g6 66.♚f8 ♔h7 So White has reached almost everything he could, but what next?! If it wasn't for the a6 pawn, a move like Kh4 would just finish the game, but for now White needs an idea about how to continue next.



67.♘f4! Nakamura manages his winning position very precisely. White is going for all the black pawns.

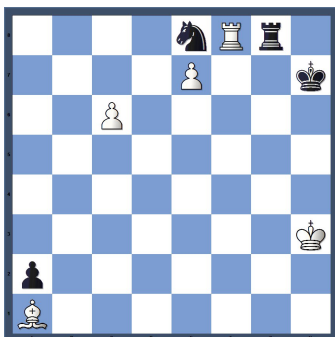
67...a5 68.♘xh6 One pawn is gone.

68...a4 69.♘e3 a3 70.♘xc5 And another one...

70...a2 71.♘d4 It is now already White who is a pawn up and Black still can't do anything.

71...♞c7 72.♘a1 ♞e8 All Black can do is to move his knight to c7 and back to e8.

73.c5 ♞c7 74.c6 ♞e8 White has improved the position of the pawn, but how to finish the game?!



75.♔h4! Just beautiful! The last white piece which was out of the game is getting the decisive role.

75...♞c7 76.♔h5 Rf7 is a deadly threat and Black has no defense.

76...♞e8 77.c7 A very beautiful finishing position of an exciting game. With this win Nakamura also got back to the 2nd live rating position in the world. **1-0**

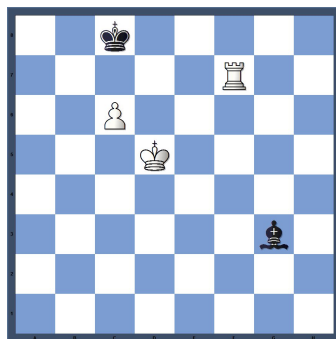
Golden knowledge. Rook and pawn against bishop - part II



GM Adrian Mikhalchishin
FIDE Trainers Commission Chairman

(16) Ravnik, F.-Znidaric, A.

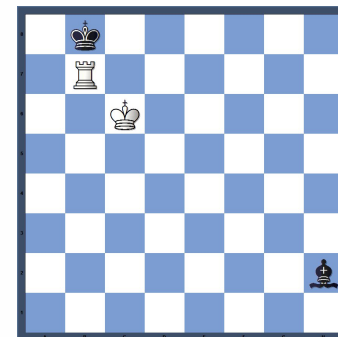
Slovenija, 2011



The young generation knows some theoretical positions, but not all!

95.c7?? The same mistake as in the Tomashevsky game!

95...♔b7! 96.♔c5 ♕xc7 97.♔b5 ♔b8 98.♔c6 ♕h2 99.♖b7+

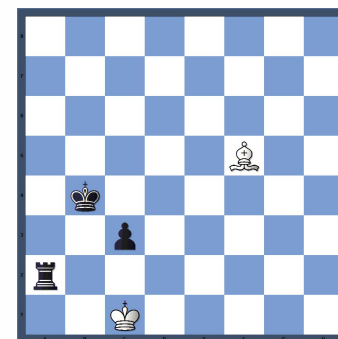


99...♔c8?? It is not sufficient to know that a certain position is draw- it is necessary to know how to do it! The king in the white corner was an easy theoretical draw here.

100.♖h7 ♕e5 101.♖e7 ♕f6 102.♖e8+ ♕d8 103.♖g8 1-0

(17) Doroshkevich, V.-Taimanov, M.

Rostov, 1971



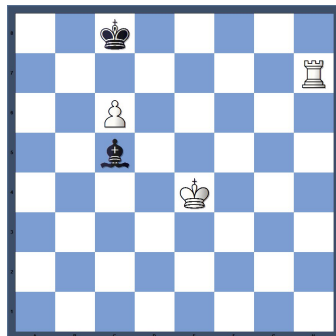
A completely different story happened in this classical game. This pawn is an important theoretical draw and is frequently seen in practice. Black tried his last chance...

1...c2 and White resigned! But a similar maneuver as in the previous game,

2.♔d2 ♚b3 3.♙g6 was an easy draw! 0-1

(18) De Firmian, N.-Georgiev, K.

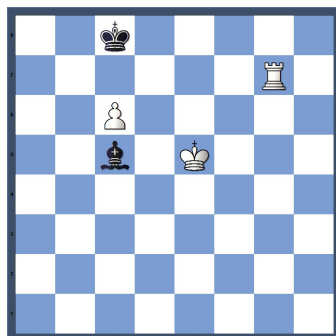
Nis, 1981



Some experienced Grandmasters demonstrated bad knowledge of handling this drawn position!

53...♙b6? [Correct was the simple 53...♙d6 54.♔d5 ♙f4 55.c7 ♚b7!]=]

54.♔d5 ♙f2 55.♖g7 ♙e3 56.♔e5 ♙c5?? [The correct position for the bishop was 56...♙d2 57.c7 ♚b7 58.♔d5 ♙f4]



57.c7! +- ♙b4 58.♖f7 ♙a5 [58...♔b7 did not help since after

59.♔e6 ♔c8 60.♖h7 ♙a3 61.♔d5 ♔b7 62.♖h3 ♙e7 63.♔e6 the king comes to d7.]

59.♔d6 ♔b7 60.♖g7 ♙b6 61.c8=♚+ and Black resigned in view of

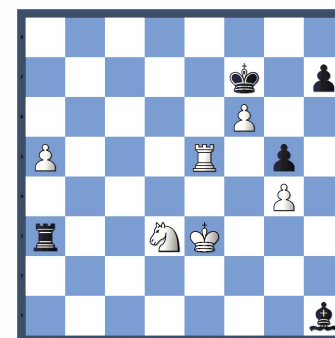
61...♔xc8 62.♔c6 ♙a5 63.♖g8+ ♙d8 64.♖e8 1-0

(19) Szabo, L.-Botvinnik, M.

Budapest, 1952

Now let us see how this positional draw is used in practice, even in top games.

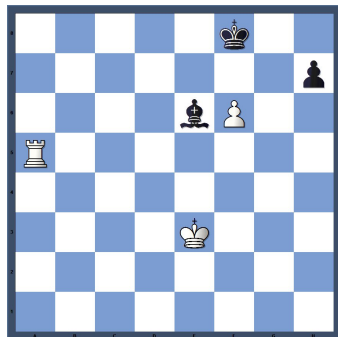
1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.g3 ♘f6 4.♙g2 ♙e7 5.♘f3 d5 6.O-O O-O 7.b3 c6 8.♙a3 ♘bd7 9.♚c1 ♘e4 10.♘bd2 ♙xa3 11.♚xa3 b6 12.♖ac1 ♙b7 13.♖fd1 ♚f6 14.cxd5 exd5 15.♘e1 a5 16.♘df3 f4 17.♘d3 fxg3 18.hxg3 ♖ae8 19.♖c2 ♚h6 20.♚c1 ♚d6 21.♙h3 ♖f6 22.♔g2 c5 23.♙xd7 ♚xd7 24.♘fe5 ♚d6 25.f4 cxd4 26.♖c7 ♘c5 27.♖xc5 bxc5 28.♚xc5 ♚xc5 29.♘xc5 ♙a8 30.♖xd4 ♖c8 31.♘cd3 ♖c2 32.♖a4 ♖xe2+ 33.♔f3 ♖c2 34.♖xa5 ♖f8 35.♔e3 d4+ 36.♔xd4 ♖d8+ 37.♔e3 ♖g2 38.g4 ♖c2 39.b4 ♙d5 40.a4 ♙h1 41.♖a7 ♖a2 42.b5 ♖a3 43.a5 g5 44.f5 ♖d5 45.♖e7 ♖xb5 46.f6 ♖xe5+ 47.♖xe5 ♔f7



Now Botvinnik goes for a forced line to reach the theoretical

position:

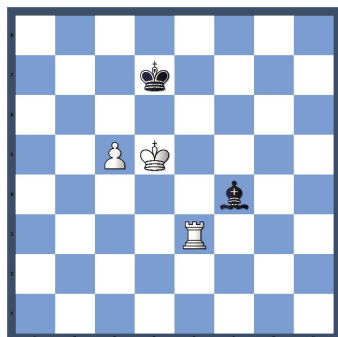
48.♖f5 ♘b7 49.♔d2 ♘c8 50.♞e5+ ♔f8 51.♞xg5 ♜xa5
52.♞d7+ ♘xd7 53.♞xa5 ♘xg4 54.♔e3 ♘e6 The desired
position is finally reached and the h7 pawn is not important.



55.♔f4 ♘c4 56.♞a7 h5 57.♔g5 h4 58.♔xh4 ♘b3 59.♔g5
♘c4 60.♞c7 ♘a2 61.♞c1 ♘d5 62.♔f5 ♔f7 63.♔e5 ♘b3
64.♞c7+ ♔f8 65.♞b7 ♘c4 66.♞b4 ♘a2 67.♔f5 ♘d5 68.♔g6
♘f7+ 69.♔g5 ♘d5 70.♞h4 ♘b3 71.♞h8+ ♔f7 72.♞h7+ ♔f8
73.f7 ♔e7 74.♔g6 ♘c4 75.♞g7 ♘b3 76.f8=♞+ ♔xf8 77.♔f6
♔e8 78.♞e7+ ♔d8 1/2-1/2

(20) Timoshenko, G.-Rogozenko, D.

Cappelle la Grande , 1998

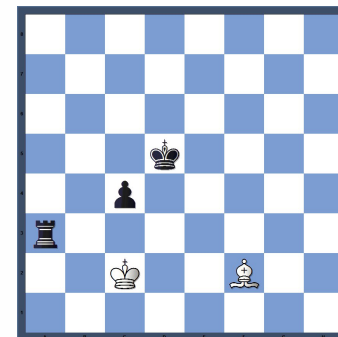


When the pawn did not reach the sixth rank, the win is very simple as the king comes to the sixth rank himself!

63.♞h3 ♔c8 64.♔c6 ♔b8 65.♞h8+ ♔a7 66.♞h7+ ♔b8
67.♔b6 ♔c8 68.♞h8+ 1-0

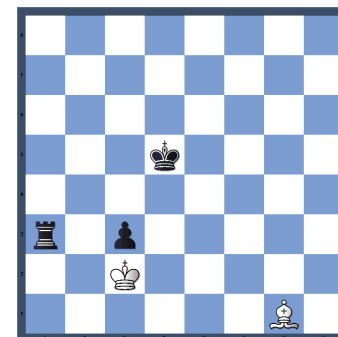
(21) Dao, Thien Hai-Rohl Montes, J.

Elista ol (Men), 1998



Now it is the other bishop and the position has to be winning without problems too. But even strong players are not able to win such positions.

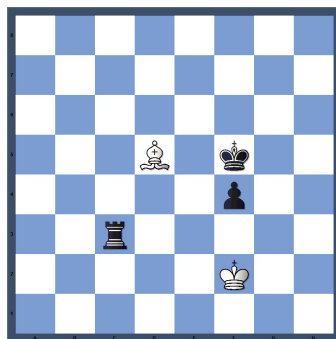
87.♘b6 ♜a6 88.♘g1 ♜a2+ 89.♔c3 ♜a3+ 90.♔c2 c3?
remature... Not the first time, not the last one...



91. ♖d3! ♜a1 92. ♙e3 ♜e1 93. ♙b6 ♜c1 94. ♙e3 ♜e1 95. ♙b6 ♜b1 96. ♙a5 ♜b3 97. ♙xc3 ♜a3 98. ♖d2 ♖c4 99. ♙g7 and it is time to agree a draw. 1/2-1/2

(22) Okhotnik, V.-Cvetkovic, Sr

Satu Mare , 1985

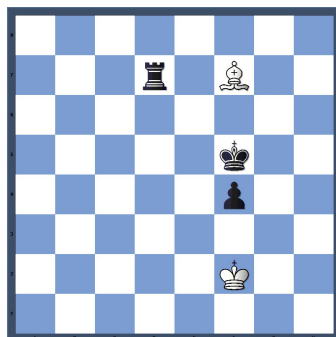


Now we can show the correct technique.

2... ♜c5 3. ♙g8 [3. ♙b3 3... ♖e4+; 3. ♙f3 3... ♜c2+ 4. ♙e2 ♖e4+; 3. ♙b7 3... ♜c2+ 4. ♖f3 ♜c3+ 5. ♖f2 ♖g4+; 3. ♙f7!]

3... ♜c8 [Simpler was 3... ♜c2+! 4. ♖f3 ♜c3+ 5. ♖f2 f3! 6. ♖g3 ♖e4 7. ♙f7 f2+ 8. ♖g2 ♖e3]

4. ♙d5 ♜d8 5. ♙f7 ♜d7

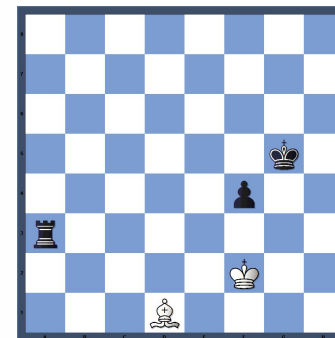


6. ♙h5 [White has so many options here, but every one of them is losing: 6. ♙g8 6... ♖e4+; 6. ♙c4 6... ♖e4+; 6. ♙b3 6... ♜d2+; 6. ♙a2!? 6... ♖e5! (6... ♜d2+ 7. ♖f3 ♜xa2?) 7. ♙b1 (7. ♙g8 7... ♖e4+; 7. ♙c4 7... ♖e4+; 7. ♙b3 7... ♜d2+; 7. ♖f3 7... ♜d3+; 7... ♜d6! 8. ♖f3 (8. ♙h7 8... ♜h6! 9. ♙b1 ♜b6 10. ♙h7 ♜b2+ 11. ♖f3 ♜b3+ 12. ♖f2 f3! 13. ♖g3 ♜b7+) 8... ♜h6! 9. ♖f2 ♜b6 10. ♙h7 ♜b2+ 11. ♖f3 ♜b3+ 12. ♖f2 f3! 13. ♖g3 ♜b7 14. ♙c2 (14. ♙d3 14... ♖d4 / Ke3+) 14... f2! (14... ♜f7! 15. ♖f2 ♖f4 16. ♙d1 ♖g4 17. ♙c2 ♜b7+) 15. ♖g2 ♖f4 / Ke3+]

6... ♜h7 7. ♙d1 [7. ♙e8 7... ♖g4+]

7... ♜h2+ 8. ♖f3 ♜a2 9. ♙c2+! Trying a stalemate chance. [9. ♙e2 9... ♜a3+ 10. ♖f2 ♖e4+]

9... ♖g5 10. ♙d1 ♜a3+ 11. ♖f2



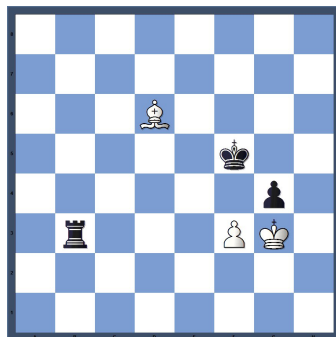
11... ♖h4!! 12. ♙e2 [12. ♖g2 12... ♜d3! Controlling the d-file. 13. ♙a4 ♖g4+]

12... ♜a2 13. ♖f3 ♜xe2! Now it is time to transfer into a pawn ending, according to Capablanca's rule.

14. ♖xe2 ♖g3 0-1

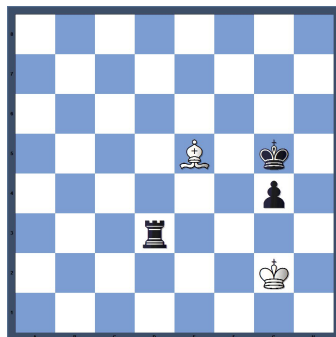
(23) Miladinovic, I.-Beliaevsky, A.

Ohrid, 2001



But when there are multiple choices, even great players sometimes mix up winning and drawish positions. Knowledge of precise theoretical positions is the key instrument for all players.

1...gxf3? [Correct was 1...Rxf3+ 2. Kg2 Rxd3 3. Qc7 (3. Qf8 3...g3 4. Qh3 Qf4) 3...Qg5! As in previous examples, the right position of the king just wins! 4. Qe5 (4. Qg3 4...Rd2+ 5. Qf1 Qf5 / Ke4)

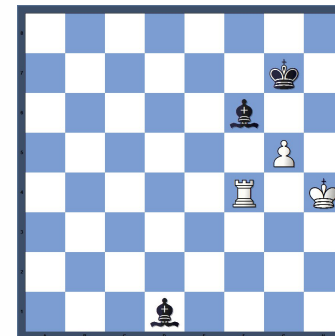


4...Rd5! 5. Qc7 (5. Qc3 5...Qf4; 5. Qg7 5...Rd2+ 6. Qg3 Rxd3+ 7. Qg2 g3! / Kg4) 5...Rd2+ 6. Qg3 Rxd3+ 7. Qg2 Qh4 8. Qa5 g3]

2. Qc5 Qe4 3. Qf2 Rxc3 4. Qa7 Rxc2+ 5. Qf1 Rxc6 6. Qf2 1/2-1/2

(24) Beliaevsky, A.-Haba, P.

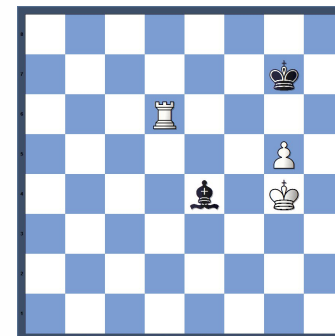
Koszalin, 1998



It is very strange that such a great player decided correctly a few years before this game!

65. Rxf6 [After 65.gxf6+? the game is just a draw: 65...Qf7 66. Qg5 Qb3 67. Rb4 Qd5 68. Rb5 Qc4 69. Rb7+ Qf8 70. Qg6 Qd3+]

65...Qe2 66. Qg3 Qd3 67. Qf4 Qb1 68. Rd6 Qc2 69. Qg4 Qe4



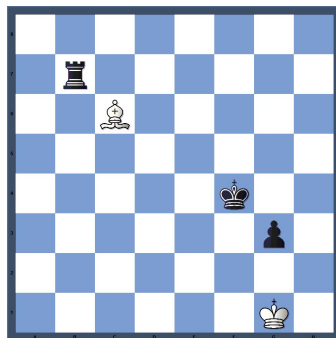
70. Rd4! As in all similar cases, the rook has to be placed

on the fourth rank- from where it cuts the opponent's bishop maximally.

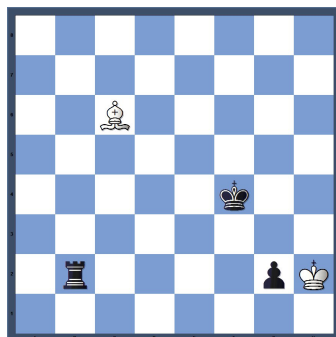
70...♙c2 71.♖d7+ ♔g6 72.♖d6+ ♔g7 73.♙h5 1-0

(25) Bednarski, J.-Hecht, H.-J.

Wijk aan Zee II , 1973



9...♖b1+ 10.♙g2 ♖b2+ 11.♙g1 g2! 12.♙h2 With the knight pawn this maneuver doesn't save the game.



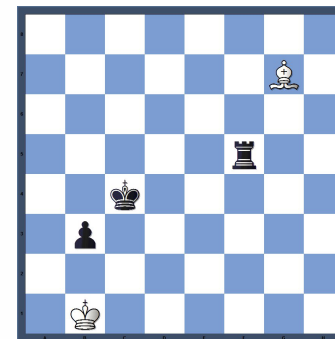
12...♖b6 [There are a few other ways here, like cutting the king and transposing into a famous winning position with rook against bishop. 12...♖f2 13.♙d5 g1=♔+ 14.♙xg1 ♙g3 15.♙b7 ♖b2 16.♙e4 ♖e2 17.♙d3 ♖e1+ 18.♙f1 ♖c1]

13.♙xg2 [13.♙d5 13...♖g6—+]

13...♖h6+ 14.♙g1 ♙g3 0-1

(26) Kovalev, V.-Dubov, D.

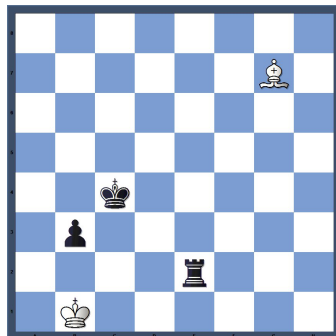
EICC 2015 Jerusalem, 2015



80...♙b4 81.♙d4 ♖f4 [A simpler technique was 81...♖h5 82.♙b2 ♖h2+ 83.♙b1 b2 84.♙a2 ♖c2! Preparing a cage for the king. 85.♙e5 b1=♔+ 86.♙xb1 ♙b3 87.♙b8 ♖c8 88.♙a7 ♖a8 89.♙b6 ♖a6 90.♙e3 ♖e6 Completing the winning plan.]

82.♙e5 ♖e4 83.♙g7 ♖f4 84.♙e5 ♖f5 85.♙d4 ♙a3 86.♙b2+ ♙a4 87.♙d4 ♙b4 88.♙b2 ♖f1 89.♙c3+ ♙c4 90.♙e5 ♖f2+ 91.♙b1 ♙b5 [91...b2 92.♙a2 ♖c2]

92.♙d4 ♖g2 93.♙f6 ♖e2 94.♙g7 ♙b4 95.♙f8+ ♙c4 96.♙g7



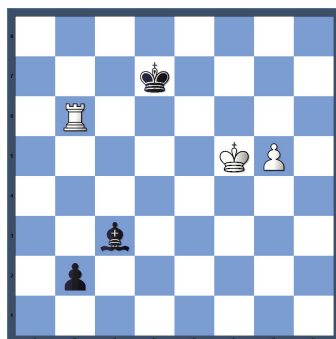
96...b2 Finally!

97.♔a2 ♖g2 [The black player did not know the direct way here! 97...♖c2 98.♙f6 b1=♚+ 99.♙xb1 ♔b3]

98.♙f6 ♖h2 99.♙e5 ♖f2 100.♙g7 ♔d3 101.♙b1 ♖f7 102.♙e5 ♖b7 103.♙f6 ♔c4 104.♙xb2 ♔b3 105.♙e5 ♖e7 106.♙g3 ♖e3 107.♙f2 ♖f3 0-1

(27) Bruzon, L.-Fridman, D.

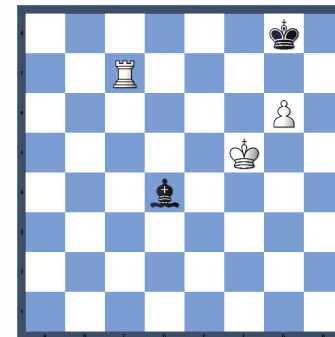
36th Olympiad, 2004



79.♙e4 ♔c7 80.♖b3 ♔d6 81.♙d3 ♙e5 82.♙c2 ♔e6 83.♖f3 ♙d4 84.♖f1 ♙e5 85.g6 ♙f6 86.♙b1 ♔e7 87.♖f3 ♔e6 [Better was 87...♙d4 88.♖f7+ ♔e8 (88...♙e6 89.♖b7 ♙e5 90.g7) 89.♙c2 ♙e5 90.♖f1 ♙d4 and it is still not easy to win.]

88.♖b3 ♔f5 89.♖g3 ♙g7 90.♖g2 ♔f4 [Better was 90...♙e6]

91.♖xb2 ♔g5 92.♖g2+ ♔h6 93.♙c2 ♙f6 94.♙d3 ♔g7 95.♙e4 ♙c3 96.♔f5 ♙a1 97.♖d2 ♙c3 98.♖d7+ ♔g8 99.♙e6 ♙b2 100.♖d3 ♔g7 101.♙f5 ♔g8 102.♖b3 ♙d4 103.♙g5 ♙e5 104.♖e3 ♙b2 105.♖e8+ ♔g7 106.♙f5 ♙c3 107.♖d8 ♙b2 108.♖d7+ ♔g8 109.♖c7 ♙d4



110.g7 This move was finally found as it was the last chance for White! We saw poor knowledge of main positions in the endgame even among top players!!

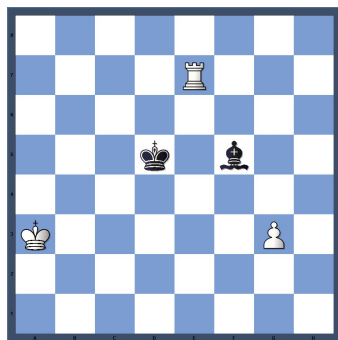
110...♙h7 111.♙e6 ♔g8 [111...♙xg7 112.♙f5 (112.♙f7) 112...♙h6]

112.♖b7 ♙c3 113.♙f5 ♔h7 114.♖f7 ♙d4 115.g8=♚+ ♔xg8 116.♙g6 ♙g1 117.♖f1 ♙h2 118.♖h1 ♙g3 119.♖h3 ♙d6 [119...♙f2 120.♖h2 (120.♖c3 120...♙f8 121.♖f3+) 120...♙g3 121.♖g2]

120.♖d3 ♙e7 121.♖c3 1-0

(28) Timofeev, A.-Inarkiev, E.

Moscow RUS, 2008



This is a good example on how to break a blockade of the pawn at an early stage.

101. ♖b4 ♗e6 102. ♖c3 ♖e5 103. ♖d3 ♖f6 104. ♖a7 ♖g5 105. ♖e3 ♖f5 106. ♖f3 ♗d5+ 107. ♖f2 ♗e6 108. ♖a5+ ♖g4 109. ♖c5 ♗b3 [109... ♗d7 110. ♖c4+ ♖g5 111. ♖f3]

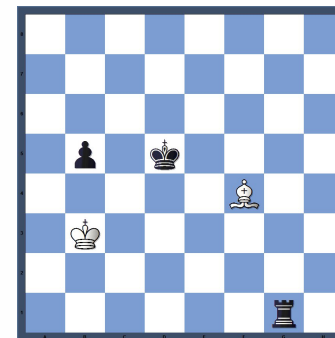
110. ♖e5 ♗g8 [110... ♗c2 111. ♖b5 ♗d1 112. ♖b1 ♗c2 113. ♖b4+ ♖g5 114. g4 ♖h4 115. ♖f3 ♗d1+ 116. ♖f4 ♗xg4 117. ♖b8]

111. ♖e4+ ♖g5 112. g4 ♖h4 As we mentioned before, this typical move does not save the game because of the mate threats in the end.

113. ♖e3 ♖g5 114. ♖d4 ♗e6 115. ♖f3 ♖h4 116. ♖f4! ♗xg4 117. ♖d8 1-0

(29) Ilincic, Z.-Korchnoi, V.

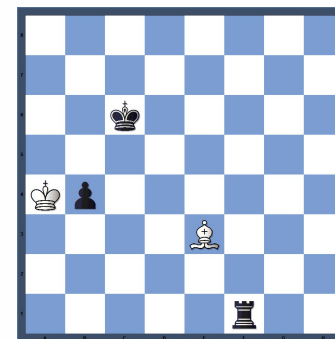
GM, 2008



77. ♗d2 ♖g4 78. ♗e1 ♖e4 79. ♗f2 ♖f4 [79...b4 80. ♗g1 ♖c6 81. ♖a4 ♖e1 82. ♗f2 ♖b1]

80. ♗a7 ♖c6 81. ♗g1 b4! The same as in previous annotations.

82. ♖a4 ♖f1 83. ♗e3



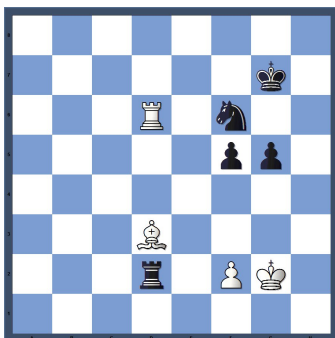
83...b3 [Or 83... ♖b1]

84. ♖a3 ♖d5 85. ♖b2 ♖c4 86. ♗h6 ♖f2+ 87. ♖b1 b2! Great player know this maneuver very well!

88. ♖a2 ♖c3 89. ♗g7+ ♖c2 90. ♗xb2 ♖f8 0-1

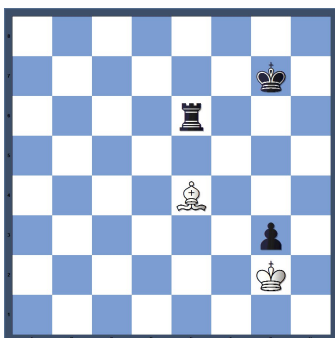
(30) Suetin, A.-Smejkal, J.

Sochi , 1973



59.♔g1!! Here White tries to get a drawish endgame.
[59.♔f3? 59...♚g4!±; 59.♔f1 59...♚g4! 60.♔e1 ♜xf2 61.♞d4!
♞f3! 62.♙xf5 ♞xf5 63.♞xg4 ♔g6!-+]

59...g4 60.♔f1 f4 61.♔e1 ♞a2 62.♞d4! g3 63.fxg3 fxg3
64.♔f1 ♞d2 65.♞d6 ♚e4 66.♙xe4! = ♞xd6 67.♔g2 ♞e6

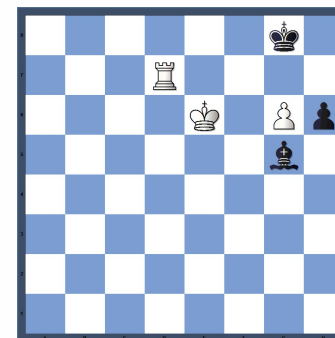


68.♙f5 Now White is able to win the passed pawn with the
typical rook cut.

68...♞e3 69.♙g4! ♔f6 70.♙f3 ♔g5 71.♔xg3 ♞b3 72.♔f2
♔f4 73.♙a8 ♞b2+ 74.♔f1 1/2-1/2

(31) Khalifman, A.-Leko, P.

Budapest (m/3) , 2000



54...♙h4 [Another way was 54...♙e3 55.♞h7 ♙d2 56.g7
♙g5! =]

55.♞h7 ♙g5 56.g7! h5! The only chance to save the game
here is to use one's own passed pawn with stalemate defense.

57.♞xh5 ♙f6! This move saves the game!

58.♞h3 ♙xg7 59.♔e7 ♙b2 60.♞b3 ♙d4 61.♞d3 ♙b2
62.♞g3+ ♔h7 63.♔e6 ♔h6 64.♔f5 ♔h7 65.♞g6 ♙c3
66.♔g5 ♙b2 67.♔h5 ♙c3 68.♞g2 ♙d4 69.♞d2 ♙c3 70.♞c2
♙a1 71.♞c7+ ♔g8 72.♞d7 1/2-1/2

Chess and the City. Interview with GM Sergei Tiviakov



WGM Elisabeth Paetz
Best rating: 2493

Sergei is one of the leading Dutch players and a well-known GM in the chess arena. Many active players regard him as a guru on all topics related to the Scandinavian defense and the Alapin variation of the Sicilian. Moreover, amateurs who look for entertaining tournaments in exotic locations can surely benefit from reading his colorful reports, which never lack in beautiful pictures. Today he is a welcome guest in my home here in Erfurt, and I took the chance to ask him a few questions:

E: You have travelled the world, and have probably been to Germany hundreds of times. Which city or Land has impressed you most?

S: I think Hamburg impressed me most, where I also spent most of the time in Germany. In Germany I played only a few tournaments, mostly in Neustadt an der WeinstraSse, which is rather small and not too exciting but has good vineyards. In Hamburg I saw a lot as I usually go there to record DVDs for Chessbase.

E: You are well-known as a globetrotter. Which is the weirdest place, or situation, you have found yourself in?

Sergey: Once I went to China and there I drank the blood of the snake and turtles and another very interesting experience was to go caving in Mexico and Iran.

E: Did not you catch any food poisoning from drinking blood from such animals?

Sergey: Luckily not from drinking blood from snakes and turtles but food poisoning happens quite often in poor countries with bad hygiene.

E: In 1994 was the last time you played for the Russian National team. Nowadays they are objectively the strongest chess nation in the world. However, they haven't won any Olympic gold medal for more than a decade. Do you have an explanation as to why?

Sergey: The level of chess has increased dramatically in the last years and in any tournament or round or concrete game anything can happen. On paper a weaker player can beat any stronger player. So there is nothing surprising in that.

E: But if we look at Armenia for instance, they won the Chess Olympiad 3 times in the last 10 years, so there should be some explanation for their success. Also statistically Russia should have won at least one gold medal after their last victory in Bled 2002.

Sergey: It also depends on the status of chess in the society and the recognition that you get for victories. Although the status of chess is high in Russia, it cannot be compared with the status of chess in the Caucasus, where the victors in the team tournaments are treated like national heroes. So the players have much higher motivation to win the team tournaments and also you have to take into account that all Russian players are already acknowledged players with high status. So they do not even try to perform above their

expectations.

E: Since 1999 you are an official member of the Dutch national team. If you compare both teams regarding mentality, discipline and team spirit, what are the biggest differences?

Sergey: There is not any pressure on the Dutch team to fight for the medals because it is quite difficult to be on equal terms with teams like Russia for example. In a certain sense our team is an amateur team and for Russia every result besides the first place is considered a huge disappointment.

E: How do you evaluate or see the current political situation in Russia?

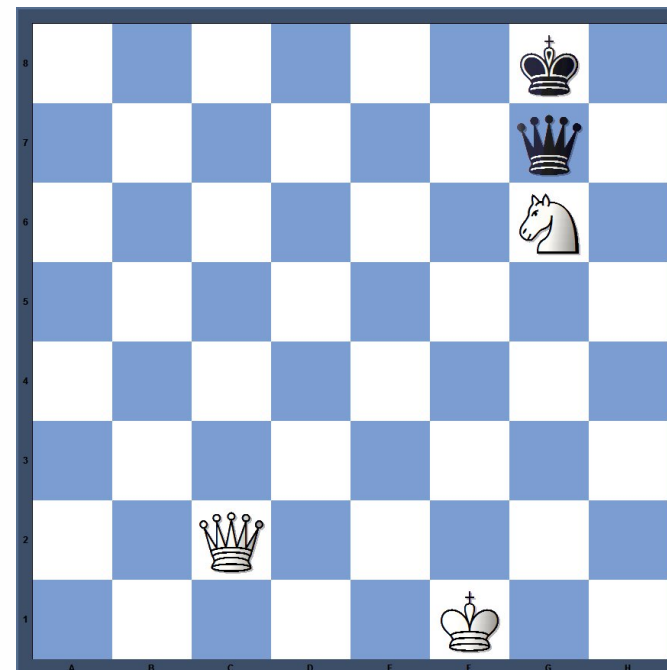
Sergey: Because of the unjust sanctions of the United States and the European Union the economical situation in Russia has become much worse than before. Also the fall of the oil price contributed to that. But I hope that the European Union will sooner or later understand that the sanctions should be abolished and gradually the economical situation will improve.

E: Thank you for the interview.

Surprise section / study

(32) Chekhover

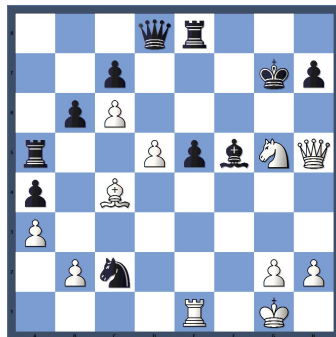
1. +-



Solutions

(33) Aronian, L(2765)-Caruana, F(2808)

Sinquefield Cup, 2015.08.23



28. ♖f1!! [28. ♖f7+ 28... ♔h6! 29. ♖xf5 ♖xg5 30. ♖xc2∞]

28... ♖f6 [28... ♗g6 29. ♖f7+! ♔g8 30. ♖h6 ♗xf7 31. ♖xh7+ ♔f8 32. ♖xf7#]

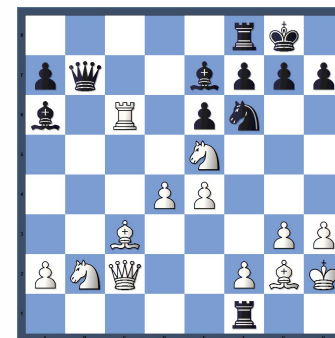
29. ♘e6+ [29. ♖xf5! 29... ♖xf5 30. ♘e6+ ♔f6 (30... ♖xe6 31. ♖xf5+-) 31. ♖xe8+-]

29... ♖xe6 30. ♖xf5 ♖g6 31. dxe6 [31. ♖g5+-]

31... ♖xh5 32. ♖xh5+- ♘d4 33. e7 ♖a8 34. ♖xe5 ♖e8 35. ♖e4 ♘f5 36. ♗e6 ♘d6 37. ♗d7 ♘xe4 38. ♗xe8 ♔f6 39. ♗g6 1-0

(34) Giri, A(2793)-Grishuk, A(2771)

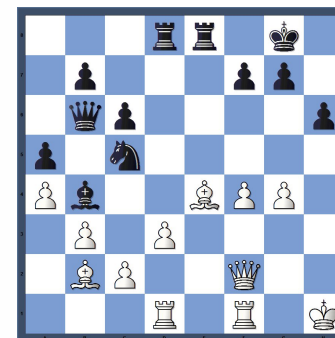
Sinquefield Cup, 2015.08.23



29. ♖xa6! ♖xa6 30. ♘bc4!+-

(35) Dubov, D(2654)-Motylev, A(2658)

Russian Championship, 2015.08.20

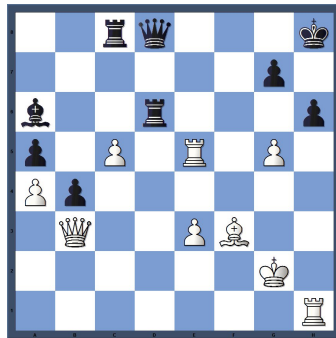


25... ♘xa4! 26. ♖xb6 [26. bxa4 26... ♖xf2 27. ♖xf2 ♖xe4!±]

26... ♘xb6±

(36) Goryachkina, A(2474)-Pogonina, N(2460)

Russian Woman Championship, 2015.08.19

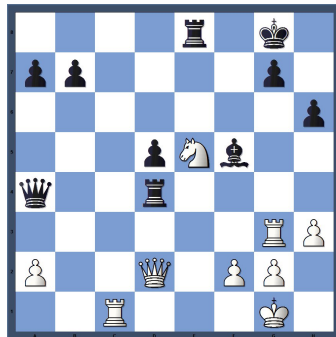


33...♖d2+? [33...♖xc5!! 34.♖xc5 ♖d2+ 35.♔g3 (35.♔g1 35...♗d6!-+; 35.♔h3 35...♗f8!-+) 35...♗d6+ 36.♔h4 ♗xc5-+]

34.♔g3 ♖xc5 35.♗e6!∞

(37) Istratescu, A(2619)-Degraeve, JM(2551)

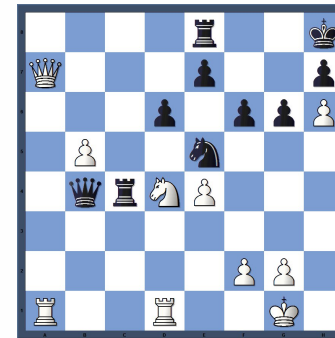
French Championship, 2015.08.20



30.♖c7! 1-0 [30.♗xh6+-; 30.♖c7 30...♖xd2 31.♖cxg7+ ♔f8 (31...♔h8 32.♔f7#) 32.♖f7#]

(38) Swiercz, D(2617)-Antonio, V(2255)

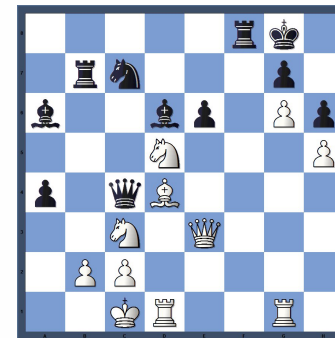
Abu Dhabi Masters, 2015.08.23



31.♗xe7! 1-0 [31.♗xe7 31...♖xe7 32.♖a8+-]

(39) Kryvoruchko, Y(2697)-Vaibhav, S(2552)

Abu Dhabi Masters, 2015.08.24

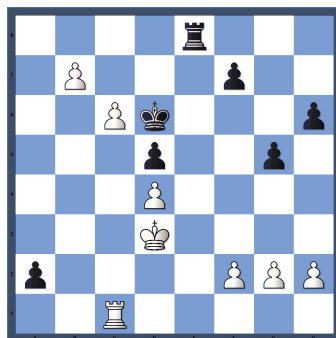


30.♔f6+!! gxf6 [30...♖xf6 31.♔xf6 gxf6 (31...♔f4 32.♖d8+-) 32.♖xd6+-]

31.g7 ♖f7 32.♗xh6+-

(40) Fridman, D(2639)-Svane, R(2531)

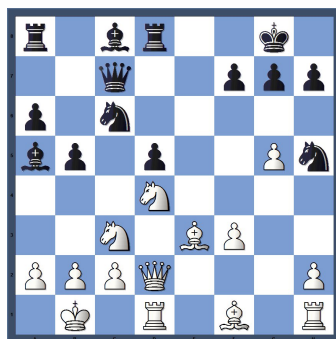
German Masters, 2015.08.21



47.c7! a1=♔ 48.c8=♘+! ♖xc8 49.bxc8=♘+- 1-0
 [49.bxc8=♔+-]

(41) Svetushkin, D(2580)-Ganguly, S(2631)

Spanish league, 2015.08.21

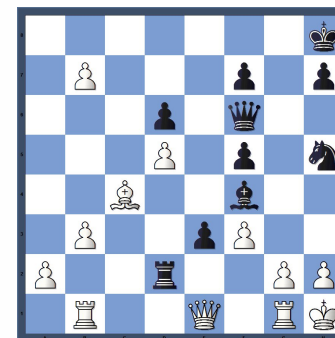


16.♘xc6! ♔xc6 17.♘xd5!! ♖xd5 [17...♘xd2 18.♘e7+ ♔f8
 19.♘xc6+-]

18.♔xd5 ♔xd5 19.♖xd5+-

(42) Zhao Jun(2621)-Wei Yi(2706)

Chinese league, 2015.08.21

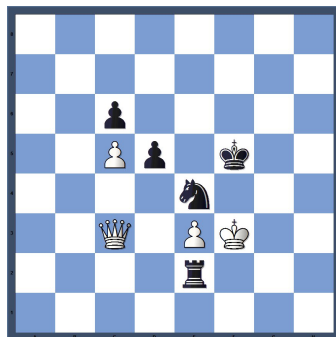


34...♘g3+!! 35.♔xg3 [35.hxg3 35...♔h6#]

35...♘xg3 36.b8=♔+ ♔g7+- 37.h3 ♔h4! 38.♖gd1 [38.♔e8
 38...♔xh3+ 39.gxh3 ♖h2#]

38...♘f4!! 39.♖xd2 ♔g3! 40.♔g1 ♔h2+ 41.♔f1 ♔h1+ 0-1
 [41...♔h1+ 42.♔e2 ♔xg2+ 43.♔d3 ♔xd2#]

(43) Bouwmeester



1. ♖b2!! [1. ♖c2 1... ♗d2! -+ 2. ♖b2 ♘g5+ 3. ♖g3 ♗xb2 -+]

1... ♗d2 [1... ♗f2+ 2. ♖xf2 ♘xf2 3. ♖xf2 ♖e4 4. ♖e2 d4 5. exd4 ♖xd4 6. ♖d2 ♖xc5 7. ♖c3=; 1... ♗xb2=]

2. ♖c2! ♖g5 [2... ♖e6 3. ♖a4=]

3. ♖b2!!=



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 185

11th of September 2015

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Editorial Preface

It is now all about the World Cup 2015 in Baku, with an amazingly strong line-up (just 3 players from the Top 20 are missing: Carlsen, Anand and Li Chao).

Just one round has been played and we already have a lot of surprises. Grischuk, Giri and Gelfand started with just a draw and Dominguez even lost the first game of the match!

Of course the rating favorites managed to win most of their games, but in some match-ups the rating difference was just too huge for the underdog to put up a fight.

The most interesting fights are in the middle of the field, where players with more or less the same rating are competing against each other.

Many Chinese players have done very well by winning the first rounds game, such as Lu Sheilong against Moiseenko or Wen Yan against Kovolenko and we are not speaking about the "Top Chinese" players like Ding Liren, Yu Yanyui or Wei Yi.

The other event of interest this week is the World Junior Championship in Khanty-Mansiysk. After 9 rounds in the Open section the Polish player Jan Krzysztof Duda is leading the event with 7/9. In the girls section Zhansaya Abdumalik is showing no mercy and is on 8/9. A total of 13 rounds will be played.

We hope you all enjoy following the World Cup and we can definitely look forward to some exciting games and especially tie-breaks, where nerves play an important role!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) Wojtaszek, Radoslaw (2746)
- Jakubowski, Krzysztof (2562)
[E04]

TCh-POL Ekstraliga 2015(6.3),
2015.09.06



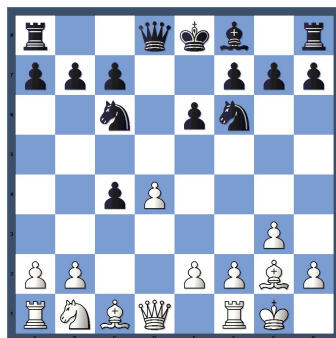
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

Radoslaw Wojtaszek introduces a strong novelty against a recently popular line of the Catalan opening, which seems to create real difficulties for Black.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.g3 Not the standard moveorder, but we have reached the initial position of the Catalan opening by transposition.

4...dxc4 5.♗g2 ♕d7 Quite an unlogical move I must say. Black gives up his light squared bishop and gives complete control on the long diagonal to the one on g2 for winning some tempi in the development.

6.♞e5! ♖c6 7.♞xc6 ♞xc6 8.0-0



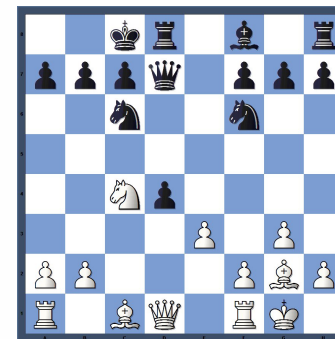
Black is temporarily up a pawn, but the one on c4 will not last

for long. The d4 pawn should not be taken, because Qxd4 drops material after Bxc6 intermediate check, while Nxd4 ruins his own pawn structure after taking on b7.

8...♞d7 9.e3 0-0-0 This is the idea of the entire setup of Black. It looks scary to castle in the long diagonal, but it takes time to organize the attack and meanwhile Black aims to create counterplay either with h5-h4 or in the center with e5. Obviously after some calm development with Be7 and 0-0, White simple wins back the c4 pawn and gets a comfortable advantage thanks to the g2 bishop.

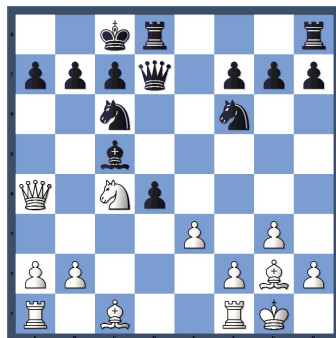
10.♞d2 [The alternative is 10.♞a4 after which Black plays 10...♞d5 11.♞xc4 h5 followed by h4 and f5 (consolidating the outpost of the d5 knight) and g5-Qh7. Looks slow, but actually White is also far away with his attack.]

10...e5 11.♞xc4 exd4



12.♞a4! This is basically the novelty against which it is not easy to find a proper reaction as Black. [The highest level game continued with 12.exd4 12...♞e6 13.♞a4 ♞xd4 14.b3 Black seems to be in trouble, because Be3 is coming with tempo and the attack seems to be decisive, but he has 14...♞e4! 15.♗b2 ♞c5 traps the queen 16.♞xc6 bxc6 17.♗xd4 ♞e4 18.♞ae1 f5 19.f3 ♞d5 and Black was just in time to consolidate in Giri-Harikrishna, Biel 2014.]

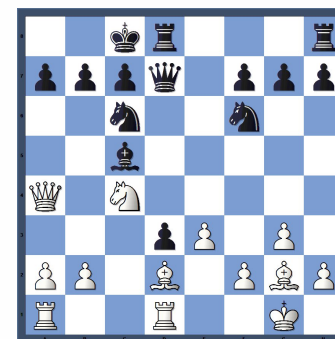
12...d3 Black solves the tension in the center, but it also gives free hand to build an attack for White. Black is a pawn up, but with queens in board, White has a very strong compensation against the king on c8. The power of the g2 bishop is getting more sensible. [The most natural move to me was 12...♙c5 developing, protecting the a7 pawn and threatening with dxe3 as White would prefer to take this back with the bishop. However, most probably the preparation of Wojtaszek has continued with



13.b4! sacrificing another pawn in order to open the b-file, making the b7 square more vulnerable with the bishop on g2. 13...♟xb4 14.♞b3 I tried different defenses, but none of them turned out to be adequate. 14...♞e6 (14...dxe3 15.♙xe3 ♙xe3 16.fxe3 c5 17.a3 ♟c6 (17...♞d3 18.♞a4 ♞xc4 19.axb4→The lines are opening and the black king is getting weaker in each move. He cannot last for long.) 18.♞ab1→ looks also more than dangerous.) 15.♙a3 b5 is a concrete line, but Black fails to trade queens, which would solve his problems... 16.♙xb4 ♙xb4 (16...bxc4 17.♞a3 ♙xb4 18.♞xb4±) 17.♞xb4 ♞xc4 18.♞a3 ♞a4 19.♞c5→with full compensation for the pawns against such a weak king.]

13.♞d1 [Actually, I don't see anything wrong with 13.b4! The pawn cannot be taken and otherwise White pushes b5 next and the a7 pawn is hanging.]

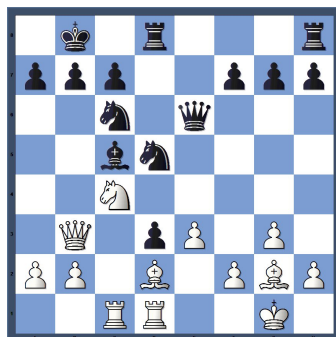
13...♙c5 14.♙d2! Simple and strong. White does not need to hurry with finding compensation for the pawn. He slowly wants to bring his rook to c1 or sometimes to play b4-b5 with tempo, increasing the pressure on the queenside.



14...♟d5 [I tried 14...♞b8 but White has a comfortable choice here between 15.♙xc6 simplification to a favorable endgame... (Or 15.b4 15...♙b6 16.b5 ♟e7 17.♙c3± looks also very strong. The white pieces are just too active and he soon wins back the d3 pawn.) 15...♞xc6 16.♞xc6 bxc6 17.b4 ♙b6 18.a4! It is important to send the bishop first to a7 because of the following line 18...a6 19.a5 ♙a7 20.♟e5 ♞d5 21.♟xc6+ ♟b7 22.♟xa7 ♟xa7 23.♙c3± and Bd4 next followed by taking on d3 leaves White with an extra pawn.]

15.♞ac1 ♟b8 16.♞b3 [It seemed to be even stronger to play 16.♟a5 16...♙b6 (The tactical point is, Black cannot trade the pieces with 16...♟xa5 because he loses a piece after 17.♞xd7 ♞xd7 18.♞xc5+- doubleattack.) 17.♟xc6+ bxc6 18.♙c3± and Black is in big positional trouble. White wins back the pawn next move and he keeps all the structural and strategical advantages he had before.]

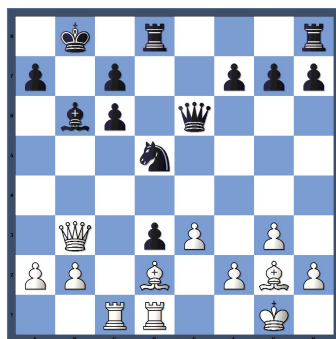
16...♔e6



17.♘e5 White could not increase the pressure anymore, it was time to gain some concrete benefits.

17...♙b6 [If 17...♘xe5 18.♖xc5 c6 19.e4 seems to win a piece on the spot, because after trading the queens the e5 is hanging, but Black has 19...♔d6! 20.♖a5! ♘c7 If the knight goes some other place, Rxe5 Qxe5 Bf4 wins. 21.♙b4 ♗f6 22.f4 ♘g4 23.♙c5 and again Black ends up in trouble. 23...a6 24.♗b6+—]

18.♘xc6+ bxc6



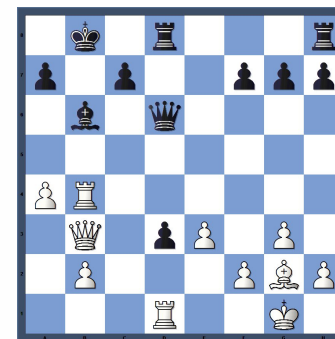
19.♖c4! A subtle move! White again continues his previous strategy to increase the pressure as much as possible instead of trying to do something concrete. The threat is to play Rdc1 or a4-a5. [On the direct 19.a4 Black could play 19...a5 getting

the b4 square for the knight and after 20.♙xa5 ♘xe3! creates counterplay. The rook on c4 prevents also this tactical idea.]

19...c5 [19...♔a8 20.♖dc1+—]

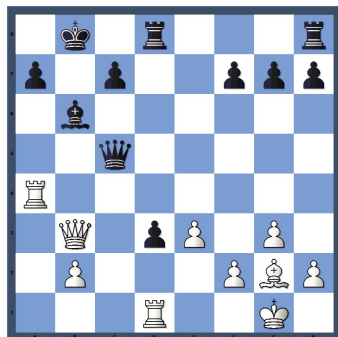
20.♖e4 ♗d6 21.a4! The story is not the same anymore as it was 2 moves before. Black has no tricks after 21...a5 22.Bxa5 and otherwise White traps the bishop with a5 next move. The only move to delay it was

21...♘b4 22.♙xb4 cxb4 23.♖xb4 White just restored the material balance, but his position is completely winning. The principle says, that in case of opposite colored bishops, the side is better who is more active. The black bishop on b6 is not doing anything, the e3 pawn is safely protected, the d3 pawn is well blockaded, while on the other side, the b8 king is naked and is under the attack of all the white pieces. a5 is the concrete threat.



23...♗c5 [23...a5 24.♖b5 and Black has no defense against Rxa5, even after 24...♔a7 25.♖xa5+ works 25...♙xa5 26.♗b7#]

24.♖b5 [Another pretty win was 24.a5 demonstrates well how vulnerable the black king in reality is 24...♗xa5 25.♖a4 ♗c5



26. ♖xa7! ♙xa7 27. ♖a1+-- and mate either on a8 or on b7.]

24... ♖c2 25.a5 wins the piece. All the white pieces are protected each other.

25...c6 26. ♖b4 Black resigned. [Another stylish way to win was 26. ♖xb6+ 26...axb6 27. ♖xb6+ ♙c8 28. ♕h3+ ♖d7 29.a6! ♖xd1+ 30. ♙g2+- and Black has no defense against a7 or Qb7xd7.] **1-0**

(2) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar (2736) - Idani, Pouya (2569) [D05]

FIDE World Cup 2015(1.19),
2015.09.13



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are in the first knock-out match of the World Cup 2015 in Baku. Everyone has the same goal, to get into the Final, which would guarantee the participation in the Candidates Tournament. In the first round a lot of matches have a clear favorite, but in a 2 games match anything can happen, which is why it is extremely important to start well and Mamedyarov is doing it the right way. We are going to see a clear domination in understanding and precise finishing by the Azeri Super GM. A very nice game to take notes from.

1.d4 d5 2. ♘f3 ♘f6 3.e3 Hard to call this move a "preparation" but on the other it is quite common for a strong player to try and avoid the preparation of the "weaker" one in order not to run into some deep analyses where the strenght of play would not matter any longer.

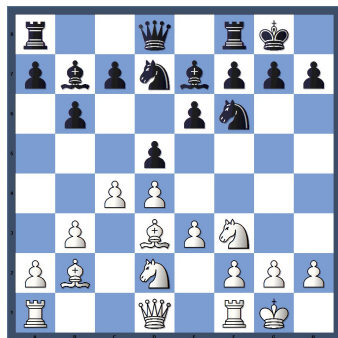
3...e6 Black could have continued with 3...Bf5 or just 3...c6 but Idani was probably not ready to play the Slav defense which would appear after 4.c4.

4. ♕d3 ♕e7 A slightly strange move order. Usually Black chooses to play 4...c5 and then to see where to put the bishop, on e7 or d6. Usually it is a better idea to keep the bishop on d6 in connection with Nbd7 and on e7 in connection with c5-Nc6.

5.b3 b6 Black keep s on copying White's moves. which will give White a small opening plus- something that should not happen in a normal case after a move like 3.e3.

6. ♖b2 ♜b7 7. ♘bd2 ♙bd7 In my opinion Black should have tried the c5 move and then Nc6, which is a better setup.

8. O-O O-O 9. c4 Now White has some opening advantage.



9... ♗e4 and this is another very risky move for Black. In the future Idani's idea is clearly to play f5, but it will weaken a lot of squares and give White some tactical motifs.

10. ♖c1 The rook clearly belongs to the c-file.

10... ♜d6 Why play Be7 in case you want to play Bd6 later?! This is not a good idea.

11. ♕c2 White wants to provoke Black into playing f5 and then put some more pressure on the c-file.

11... f5 The provocation has worked.

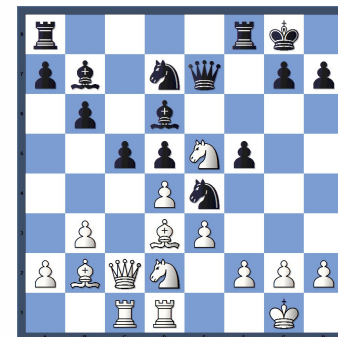
12. ♖fd1 A very solid move, but maybe not the best. [12.cxd5! looks very logical. 12... exd5 13. ♗e5 Putting Black under a lot of pressure. 13... ♕e7 14. ♘df3 Black can never take on e5 because of the weak c7 pawn and White is just planning to play Nc6 or Bb5 next. It is clear that White should be clearly better here.]

12... ♕e7 The queen is well placed on e7.

13. cxd5 exd5 14. ♗e5 This is clearly White's main idea, but now we can see that a move like Rfd1 is not really useful- for

now at least.

14... c5? This is already a blunder. [Black should have tried to just be solid with 14... ♖ac8 15. ♘df3 (Of course White can't play 15. ♗c6? since after 15... ♖xh2+! it is already him who is losing. 16. ♔xh2 ♕h4+ 17. ♔g1 ♕xf2+) 15... c5 With a better position for White, but the fight has just begun.]

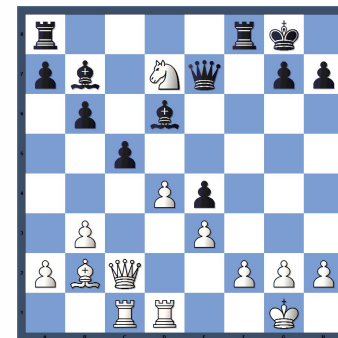


15. ♗xe4!! Mamedyarov doesn't miss his chance to almost finish the game.

15... fxe4 16. ♖xe4! This was White's idea. Now we can see how useful the rook on d1 is.

16... dxe4 Black has no choice.

17. ♗xd7



17... ♕xd7? After this move Black's hopes are all gone. [The

only move was 17...♖f5 but after 18.dxc5 bxc5 19.♖c4+ ♔h8 and the exchange sacrifice 20.♖xd6 ♖xd6 21.♘xc5 Black is also in deep trouble. White has 2 pawns for the exchange and the bishop on b2 is a beast. Black still has some chances to fight, but White is clearly better.]

18.dxc5 ♕xh2+ [Not better is 18...bxc5 19.♕e5 and Black can't defend the d6 bishop in a nice way. 19...♖f6 20.♕xf6 gxf6 21.♖xc5 ♖d8 22.♖xa7 White has 3 pawns for the rook vs 2 black bishops, which gives White a totally winning position.]

19.♔xh2 ♖c7+ 20.♔g1 ♖ac8 Black is hoping to escape into an opposite colored bishop endgame, but it is only possible in theory.

21.♖c4+ ♖f7 22.cxb6 Very simple and strong.

22...♖xb6 [In case of 22...♖xc4 23.♖xc4 ♖xc4 24.bxc4 axb6 25.♖d8+ ♖f8 26.♖d6 White would collect the b6 pawn and just be 2 pawns up in a winning endgame.]

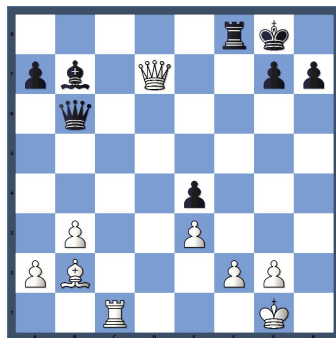
23.♖a4 With the idea of playing Bd4 at some point and win the a7 pawn.

23...♖cf8 Attacking the f2 pawn.

24.♖d7 Exchanging one pair of rooks.

24...♖xd7 [24...♖xf2 25.♖xg7+ ♔h8 26.♖xb7+ and the game is over.]

25.♖xd7



25...♖f7 One of Black's main problems still remains- the very bad bishop on b7 against the great white bishop on b2.

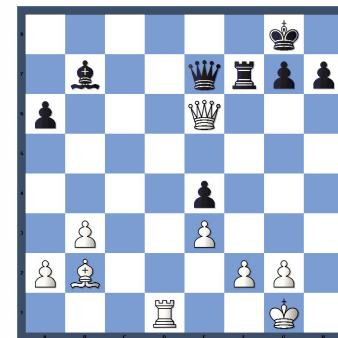
26.♖e8+ ♖f8 27.♖a4 Now of course White is already threatening to play Bd4 and win the a7 pawn.

27...a6 28.♖c4+ ♖f7 In case of 28... Kh8 White would win with 29.Qc7!, attacking the g7 pawn.

29.♖d1 The c8 square is protected by the bishop on b7, so White is going for the d8 one.

29...♖c7 30.♖e6 Of course not exchanging the queens.

30...♖e7 and in a bad position Idani blunders again. [30...h6 31.♖d6 would keep the game alive for a couple of more moves, but the result would probably be the same.]



31.♕a3! It is all over. Of course Black can't play 31...Qxe6 because of 32.Rd8 Rf8 and 33.Rxf8 mate. A great start for Mamedyarov into the World Cup in his home country Azerbaijan. **1-0**

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot
Best rating: 2749

(3) Duda, Jan Krzysztof (2645)
- **Gordievsky, Dmitry (2511) [B51]**

World Junior Open 2015(5.2),
2015.09.06

Here is one more game by the 17-year old Jan-Krzysztof Duda, the top seed and current leader of the World Junior Championship held in Khanty-Mansiysk.

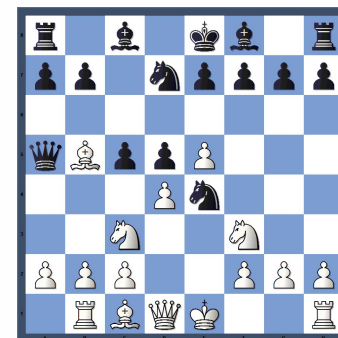
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♙b5+ Some years ago this was mostly a drawish line but since the reply 3...Bd7 experiences some difficulty it became more fashionable lately.

3...♘d7 4.d4 ♘f6 5.e5 A rare move. 5.Nc3 or 5.O-O are considered to be the main lines.

5...♙a5+ [5...cxd4 seems to be the best answer. 6.exf6 (6.O-O 6...dxe5 7.♘xe5 a6=; 6.♙xd4 6...dxe5 7.♘xe5 a6∞) 6...♙a5+ 7.♙d2 ♙xb5 8.fxe7 ♙xe7 9.♘xd4 ♙e5+ 10.♙e3 O-O The bishop pair should compensate for the isolated pawn.]

6.♘c3 ♘e4 7.♖b1! This improvement has already been played. [7.♙d2 7...♘xc3 8.♙xd7+ ♙xd7 9.♙xc3 ♙a6 Anand-Gelfand 2012.]

7...d5?! [7...cxd4 8.♙xd4 ♘xc3 9.bxc3 ♙xa2 10.♖b2 ♙e6 11.O-O With a great initiative for the small material investment.; 7...a6 8.♙xd7+ ♙xd7 9.O-O d5 10.♘xd5 e6 11.♙e1!± Naroditsky-Molner 2014]

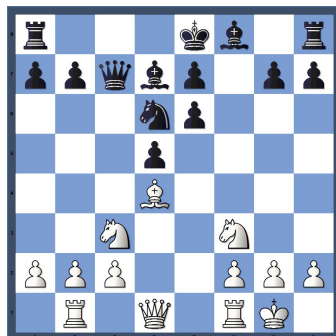


8.e6! A great sacrifice to disturb Black's development.

8...fxe6 9.O-O ♘d6 The best practical move. [9...a6 10.♙xd7+ ♙xd7 11.♘xe4 dxe4 12.♘e5 cxd4 13.♘xd7 ♙xd7 14.♙xd4+ is just winning for White.]

10.♙xd7+ The most logical and human way, taking the black squares but somehow letting the opponent go out with his pieces. The engine clearly prefers [10.♙e2 For example: 10...♘xb5 (10...a6 11.♙a4! b5 12.dxc5 bxa4 13.cxd6±) 11.♙xb5 ♙xb5 (11...♙c7 12.♙e2 cxd4 13.♘b5±) 12.♘xb5 ♙f7 13.♘c7 ♖b8 14.♖e1 cxd4 15.♘xe6]

10...♙xd7 11.dxc5 ♙xc5 12.♙e3 ♙c7 13.♙d4+=



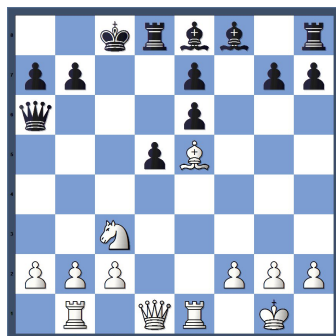
13...O-O-O I cant understand this move. It is clear that for the moment Black's king is much safer in the center and White's task would be much more complicated if his opponent would try to go out with his kingside pieces, for example: [13...♖g8 14.♞e1 g6 15.♘e5 ♘h6 16.♙d4 ♙c4 and it is not easy to crack Black's position.]

14.♞e1± ♘f5 [14...♙b8 would be the logical follow-up, but the simple 15.♘g5 wins material.]

15.♘e5 ♙b6 We can see that Black's king is in big danger.

16.♘d4 It is a good idea to exchange the only semi-active black piece.

16...♘xd4 17.♘xd4 ♙a6 18.♘e5 ♘e8 [18...b6 Trying to improve the king's position on b7 was better even if the position is very difficult.]



19.b4+— The most aggressive and expeditive way. I would probably choose [19.♞e3 followed by Ne2 and if 19...d4 20.♞d3!+—]

19...d4 20.b5 ♙a5 21.♘xd4 The more solid 21.Ne2 was winning as well.

21...e5 22.♞xe5 e6 23.♙g4 With material up and the attack, White is of course completely winning.

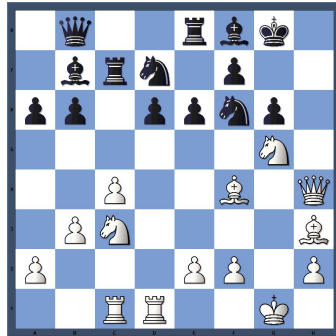
23...♙a3 24.♞e3 ♙a5 25.♙xe6+ ♘d7 26.♙c4+ ♙b8 27.♘e5+ ♙a8 28.♘d5 ♞c8 29.♘c7+ ♙b8 30.♞d3 Black's f8 bishop had no chance to go out since the strong 8.e6! move.
1-0

Puzzle section

(4) Caruana, F(2808)-So, W(2779)

Sinquefield CUP, 2015.09.01

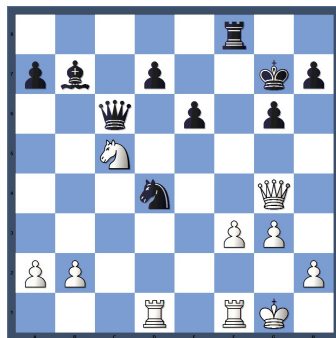
1. +-



(5) Leiva, G(2400)-Bluebaum, M(2580)

World Juniors, 2015.09.07

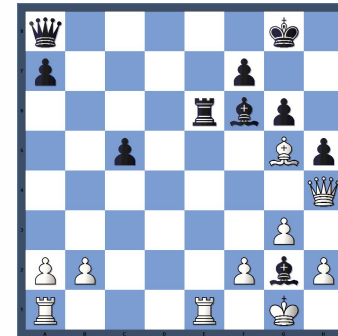
1... -+



(6) Dubov, D(2661)-Savchenko, B(2567)

Moscow blitz, 2015.09.06

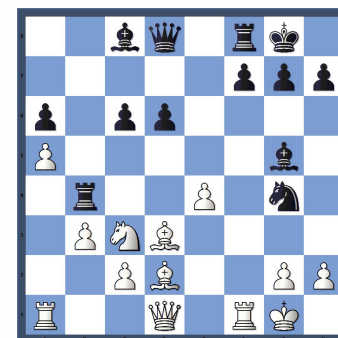
1... -+



(7) Oparin, G(2569)-Andreikin, D(2720)

Moscow blitz, 2015.09.06

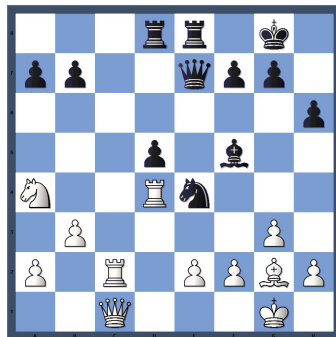
1... -+



(8) Mozharov, M(2573)-Zvjaginsev, V(2660)

Moscow blitz, 2015.09.06

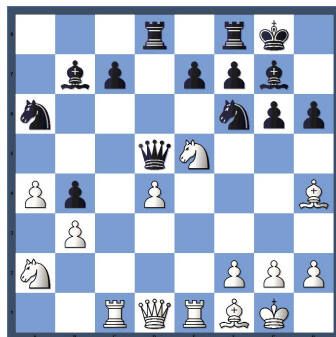
1... -+



(9) Zvjaginsev, V(2660)-Dubov, D(2661)

Moscow blitz, 2015.09.06

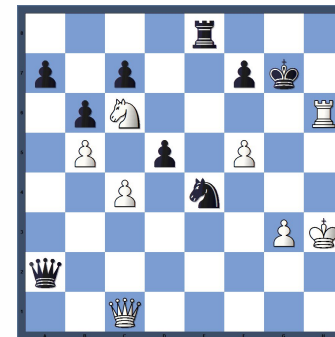
1. +-



(10) Inarkiev, E(2660)-Mozharov, M(2573)

Moscow blitz, 2015.09.06

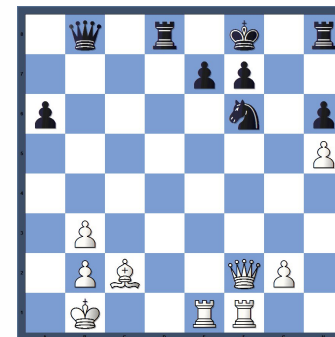
1. +-



(11) Dubov, D(2661)-Malakhov, V(2694)

Moscow blitz, 2015.09.06

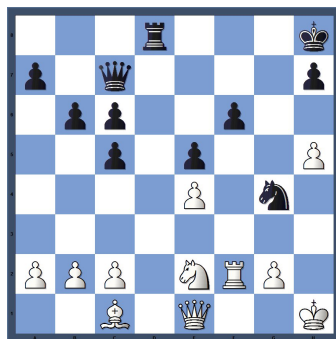
1. +-



(12) Najer, E(2658)-Savchenko, B(2567)

Moscow blitz, 2015.09.06

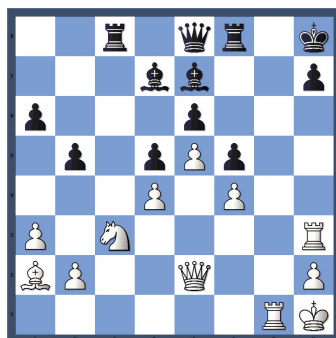
1... -+



(13) Navara, D(2751)-Matuszewski, M(2463)

Polish league, 2015.09.05

1. +-



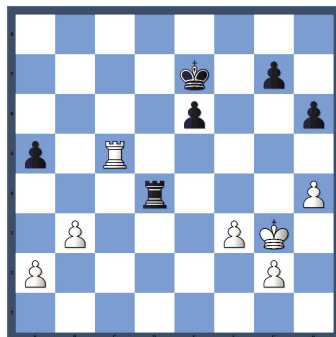
Endgame section

(14) Navara, David (2728)
- Nabaty, Tamir (2597)

FIDE World Cup 2015(1.25),
2015.09.13



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



White was putting pressure right away from the opening and finally ended up being a pawn up in a rook endgame, but the limited number of pawns give Black good drawing chances. Let us take a look at a great defense by Tamir Nabaty.

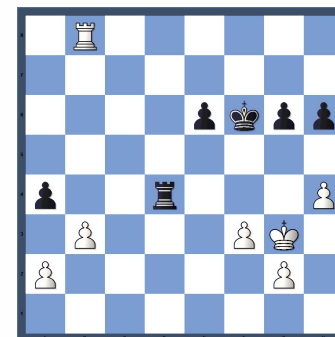
32...a4 A good start, the a-pawn has to be exchanged.

33.♖b5 White wants to force Black into playing axb3 axb3, after which the rook endgame might be winning because of the idea of putting the rook to b8, pawn to b6 and start running with the king to the b6 pawn. [If White would start with 33.h5 33...axb3 34.axb3 ♖b4! would put the white rook on a passive position. 35.♖c3 ♖b5 with good chances to make a draw.]

33...g6! Very nicely played! Black should not allow White to play h5 and for the future the pawn structure of g6-h5 can be good.

34.♖b8 A solid move by Navara. There are no direct threats but the white rook is nicely placed on b8.

34...♔f6 An extremely risky move. [34...♔f7 is looking much safer, not allowing Rf8+.]



35.♖f8+! White is taking his chance.

35...♔e5 The only move, since in case of Kg7 White would just go Rf4 and the game would be over.

36.bxa4 ♖xa4 37.f4+ White has to try this move. Now the a2 pawn is of course getting lost, but Navara is hoping to collect some pawns on the kingside.

37...♔e4 38.♖f6 The g6 pawn is lost for sure!

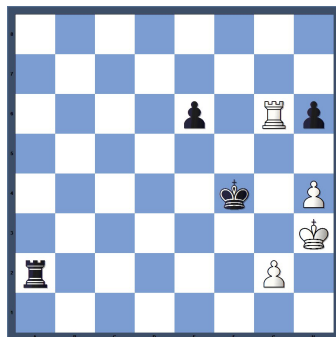
38...♖a3+! An important check! Before taking the a2 pawn BBlack is chasing away the white king to h2.

39.♔h2 ♖xa2 40.♖xg6 White doesn't have a better move.

40...♔xf4 Now the big question is, can White take the pawn on h6 and hope to win the game?

41.♔h3 This is probably the best try. [In case of 41.♖xh6 41...♔g4! secures the draw. 42.♖h8 e5 43.h5 ♔g5 44.h6 ♔g6

and the black king stops the h-pawn while the e-pawn will start advancing. The position is a draw.]



41...h5 Nabaty continues defending perfectly.

42.g3+ ♖e4 43.♗xe6+ [43.♗g5 also leads to a draw. 43...♖f3! 44.♗xh5 ♗a1 and because there is no check on the f-file the position is just a draw. 45.♖h2 ♗a2+ 46.♖h3 ♗a1]

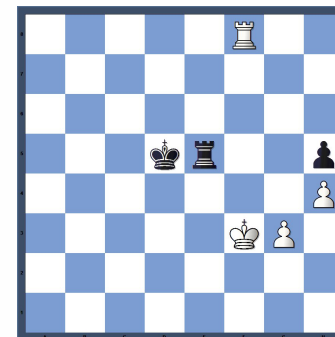
43...♖d4 Black is planning to protect the pawn on h5 by keeping the rook on the 5th rank.

44.♗g6 ♗a5 45.♗e6 [45.♗g5 didn't help since after 45...♗e5 46.♗xe5 ♖xe5 47.♖g2 ♖e4 48.♖f2 ♖e5 49.♖f3 ♖f5 the pawn endgame is just a draw.]

45...♗e5 Black keeps on waiting.

46.♗a6 ♗b5 47.♗e6 ♖d5 48.♗e3 ♖d4 49.♗e1 ♗a5 50.♖g2 White's only hope is to get his king to f4.

50...♗e5 51.♗f1 ♖d5 52.♗f6 ♗e6 53.♗f8 ♗e5 54.♖f3



54...♖e6 Even having the king on f3 doesn't help...

55.♖f4 ♗a5 56.♗h8 ♗f5+ The last precise move to secure the draw.

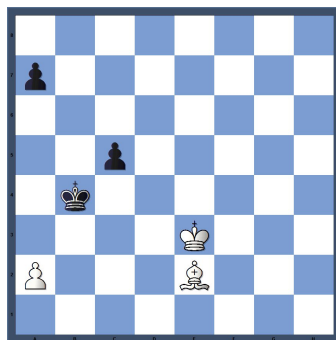
57.♖e4 We just saw a great defense by Black, almost not giving White any winning chances! **1/2-1/2**

(15) Czebe, Attila (2439)
- Derakhshani, Dorsa (2192)

Abu Dhabi Open,
2015.08.25

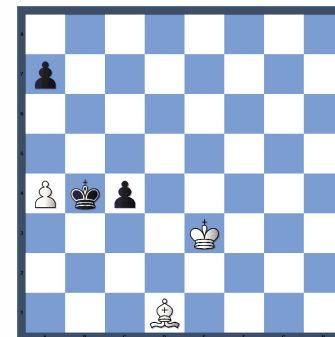


GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



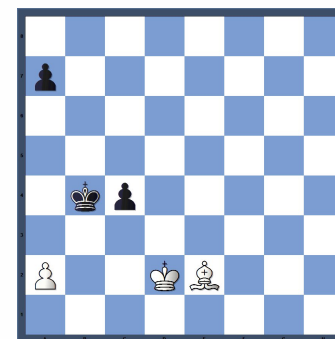
My friend showed me his instructive and study-like endgame he just played. At first sight, White is completely winning as he has the light squared bishop which fits to the a8 square. He also can easily protect the pawn on a2 and the c5 passed pawn can be easily stopped with the king. We could ask, what is the problem then with the win?! However chess is a very tricky game, White has only one winning move here.

46.♔d2? The game is drawn after this most natural move. [The winning plan was 46.♘d1! the key is to get the pawn to a4 to avoid the stalemate idea, which occurred later in the game! 46...c4 (46...♔a3 47.♘b3 ♔b4 48.♔d3+- wins as the black pawn did not reach the c3 square. White simply waits with his bishop and soon Black finds himself in zugzwang.) 47.a4!



The rest is already easy. White only needs to get closer with his king to the c-pawn and he can get it by putting his opponent into zugzwang. 47...♔c3 Trying to block the king's path towards the pawn, but Black cannot hold his position for long. (47...c3 48.♔d3+-) 48.♔e2 ♔b2 Otherwise White creates zugzwang with Ke3-e2 49.♔d2 c3+ 50.♔d3+-]

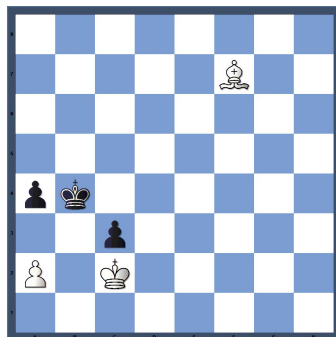
46...c4! The game is drawn now! The black pawn reaches the c3 square and White cannot get his pawn to a4. We will soon realize the point...



47.♔c2 c3 48.♘a6 White has already realized the problems and he tries to block the a-pawn, but it does not help anymore. Black sends away the bishop...

48...♔a5 49.♘c8 ♔b4 50.♘d7 ♔a3 51.♘e6 ♔b4 [I guess the players did not agree yet to draw, but it does not change

the evaluation. White cannot make progress because of the following idea... 51...♔b4 52.♘f7 a5 53.♙e6 a4 54.♘f7



54...♔a3!! This is the point! Black has squeezed himself to the a-file, therefore the pawn on c3 cannot be taken because of the stalemate! From now on Black just plays the moves Kb4-a3 and the story will never change. White cannot make progress as the bishop must defend the a2 pawn and the king must stay in front of the c3 pawn. The game is drawn! 55.♙xc3=] **1/2-1/2**

Golden knowledge

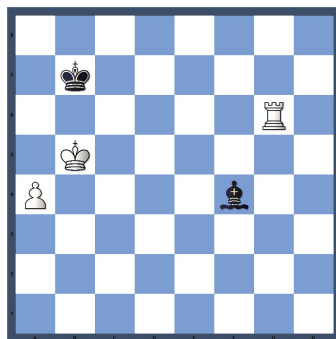


GM Adrian Mikhachishin
FIDE Trainers Commission Chairman

The most complicated win in this endgame is with the a- or h-pawn. Even top players sometimes don't remember the correct maneuver. The main method is still the sacrifice of the pawn and creation of a mating net in one case (with one color of bishop) and careful cutting of the opponent's king, using a smart tactical maneuver which has to be well remembered.

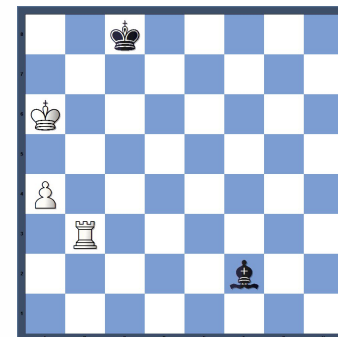
(16) Hansen, L.-Romanishin, O.

Altensteig, 1993



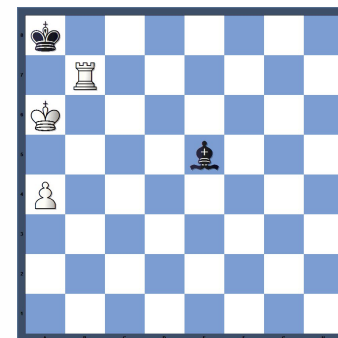
Let's see the correct classical winning way in this position where thousands of mistakes were committed.

63. ♖g7+ ♔a8 [63... ♖b8 64. ♖a6 / 65. Rb7 Kc8 66. Kb6 64... ♕e3 65. ♖b7+ ♖c8 (65... ♖a8 66. a5 as in the game.) 66. ♖b3! ♕f2(66... ♕d4 67. ♖b5 / Kc4; 66... ♖c7 67. ♖c3+ transferring to the next variation.)



67. ♖c3+! ♖b8 68. ♖f3! ♕g1 (68... ♕d4 69. ♖b3+ ♖c7 70. ♖b5 / Kc4; 68... ♕c5 69. ♖b3+ ♖c7 (69... ♖a8 70. a5 as in the game.) 70. ♖c3 ♖d6 71. a5) 69. ♖b3+ ♖c7 (69... ♖a8 70. a5) 70. ♖b7+ ♖c8 (70... ♖c6 71. ♖b1 ♕e3 72. ♖b3 ♕d4 73. ♖b4 / Rc4, Kb5) 71. ♖b5! ♕e3 72. ♖a5 / Kb4-c4 72... ♕d2+ 73. ♖b6 ♖b8 74. ♖e5! Preventing the check and White is easily winning.]

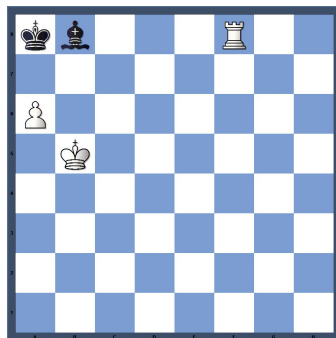
64. ♖a6 ♕e5 65. ♖a7+ ♖b8 66. ♖b7+ ♖a8 [66... ♖c8 67. ♖b6 ♕d4+ 68. ♖c6 ♕c3 69. ♖b5 (69. a5 69... ♕xa5 70. ♖a7)]



67. a5 The theoretical winning position is reached!

67...♙f4 68.♖f7 ♘e5 69.♖f8+ ♙b8 70.♔b5 ♚a7 71.♖f7+
♚a8 72.a6 ♙a7 [72...♙e5 73.a7]

73.♖f8+ ♙b8



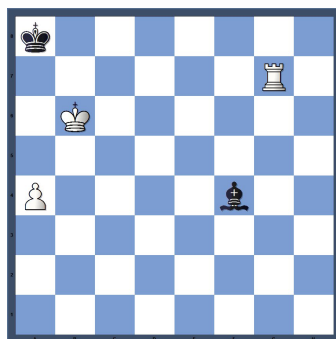
74.♔a5! Now the universal triangle maneuver is performed.

74...♚a7 75.♖f7+ ♚a8 76.♔b6 ♙e5 77.a7 1-0

(17) Gritsayeva, O.-Gaponenko, I.

UKR-ch 72nd (Women), 2012

[Mueller,Karsten]



67.a5? Now the position is only drawn. With a pawn on a4 White always wins on the other hand. [67.♖a7+ 67...♚b8 68.♖e7 (68.♖f7?! would of course be very bad technique, but still wins. I just want to illustrate the difference with

a pawn on a4. Now White's king can use the a5-square: 68...♙e3+ 69.♚a6 ♙d4 70.♖b7+ ♚c8 71.♖b5 ♚c7 72.♖b3 ♙f2 73.♚a5 ♙e1+ (73...♙g1 74.♖b5+-) 74.♚b5 ♚b7 (74...♙f2 75.♚c4+-) 75.♖f3 The rook dominates the bishop. 75...♙h4 76.a5 ♙g5 77.a6+ ♚a7 78.♖f7+ ♚a8 79.a7 ♙e3 80.♚a6+-; Moves mentioned before are winning but the most technical is as in the previous game. 68.♖b7+) 68...♚a8 69.a5 ♙h2 70.♖a7+ ♚b8 71.♖g7 71...♚a8 72.a6 ♙e5 73.♖a7+ ♚b8 74.♖d7 74...♚a8 75.a7 ♙d4+ 76.♚a6 ♙b6 77.♖e7 ♙d8 78.♖g7 ♙c7 79.♖g8+ ♙d8 80.♖xd8#]

67...♙e3+ 68.♚a6 ♙f4? [The king must escape from the corner immediately with 68...♚b8!=]

69.♖f7 ♙h2 70.♖a7+ ♚b8 71.♖h7? This allows the bishop to reach the all important g1-a7 diagonal and misses the last chance to win with [71.♖g7 71...♙f4 72.♖b7+ ♚a8 73.♖e7 ♙g3 74.♖e8+ ♙b8 75.♚b5 ♚b7 76.a6+ ♚a7 77.♖e7+ ♚a8 78.♚b6 ♙g3 79.a7+-]

71...♙g1!

72.♖h8+ ♚c7 73.♖h1 ♙e3 74.♖h3 ♙f2 75.♖f3 ♙g1 76.♖c3+ ♚b8 77.♖b3+ ♚c8 Black must stay active with her king to defend the fortress. [77...♚a8? loses to loses to 78.♖g3 ♙h2 79.♖g8+ ♙b8 80.♚b5 ♚b7 81.a6+ ♚a7 82.♖g7+ ♚a8 83.♚b6 ♙f4 84.♖a7+ (84.a7 is also possible immediately.) 84...♚b8 85.♖e7 ♚a8 86.a7 ♙e3+ 87.♚a6+-]

78.♖b7 ♙d4 79.♖e7 ♚b8 80.♚b5 ♙f2 81.♚c6 ♚a8 82.a6 ♙g1 83.♖b7 ♙f2 84.♚b5 ♙e3 85.♖e7 ♙f2 86.♖g7 ♙e3 87.♚c6 ♙f2 88.♖g8+ ♚a7 89.♖g7+ ♚a8 [However, not Nicht aber 89...♚xa6?? 90.♖g2 ♙b6 91.♖a2+ ♙a5 92.♖a1+-]

90.♖g2 ♙e3 91.♖e2 ♙g1 92.♚b5 ♙d4 93.♖e7 ♙f2 94.a7 ♙xa7 95.♚a6 ♙b8 96.♚b6 A good try.

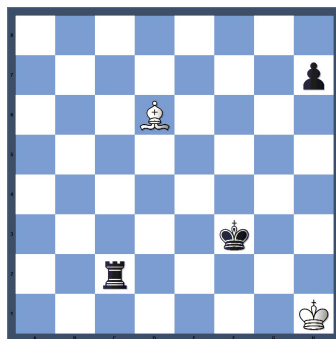
96...♙g3 [Of course not 96...♙d6?? 97.♖a7+ ♚b8 98.♖d7+-]

97. ♖a7+ ♔b8 98. ♖f7 [98. ♖g7 98... ♕f2+=]

98... ♔a8 99. ♖f3 ♕h2 100. ♖f8+ ♕b8 101. ♖f1 ♕e5 102. ♖d1
♕f4 103. ♖d3 ♕h2 104. ♖h3 ♕e5 105. ♖h5 ♕f4 106. ♖h8+
♕b8 107. ♔c6 ♔a7 108. ♖h7+ ♔a8 1/2-1/2

(18) Khenkin, I.-Bartel, M.

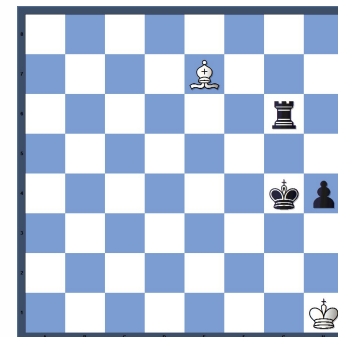
Bundesliga , 2012



82. ♕e5 h5 83. ♕b8 This is a tricky endgame. In order to win, Black must smoke out the enemy king from h1 and then get his own king out of h3. That can't be done with the pawn on h4, so Black must not push his pawn too soon!

83... ♔g4 84. ♕d6 ♔h3 85. ♔g1 ♖g2+ 86. ♔f1 [With the black king on h3 the corner is no longer safe for the white king:
86. ♔h1? 86... ♖d2 87. ♕c5 h4 88. ♕e3 ♖d1+ 89. ♕g1 ♔g4
90. ♔h2 h3 91. ♕e3 ♖d3 92. ♕g1 ♖d2+ 93. ♔h1 ♔g3 94. ♕c5 h2]

86... h4?? After this move Black can't win any longer.
[86... ♖g8! 87. ♔f2 ♔h4 88. ♕c7 (88. ♕e7+ 88... ♔g4 89. ♔g1
(89. ♕d6 89... ♔f5 90. ♔f3 h4; 89. ♔g2 89... ♖g6! 90. ♔h1 h4

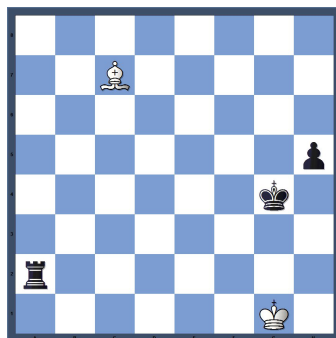


Now it's OK to push the pawn - Black should just make sure that the bishop does not get back to the b8-h2 diagonal.
91. ♕c5 h3 92. ♕a7 ♖g8! 93. ♕c5 ♖d8 94. ♕b4 ♖d3 95. ♔g1 ♖d4
96. ♕c3 ♖e4 97. ♔h1 ♖e2+-) 89... ♔h3+ 90. ♔f1 ♖g6 91. ♕c5
♔h2 92. ♕d4 ♖g5+-; 88. ♔f3 88... ♖g4 89. ♕f4 (89. ♔f2 89... ♔g5
) 89... ♔h3 90. ♕d6 ♖g6 91. ♕e5 ♖g5 92. ♕d6 ♖f5+-) 88... ♖g6!
89. ♔f3 ♖c6 90. ♕e5 ♖c2 91. ♕d4 ♖d2 92. ♕a1 ♔h3+-]

87. ♕c7 ♖g3 88. ♔f2 ♖g2+ 89. ♔f1 ♖g3 90. ♔f2 ♖c3 91. ♕b8
♖c1 92. ♕e5 ♖c8 93. ♕d6 ♖g8 94. ♕c7 ♖g6 95. ♕b8 ♔g4
96. ♔g2 ♖c6 97. ♕e5 ♖c2+ 98. ♔g1 ♔f3 99. ♕b8 ♖g2+
100. ♔h1 ♖g8 101. ♕c7 ♖c8 102. ♕d6 ♖c2 103. ♕b8 ♖c6
104. ♔h2 ♖c1 105. ♕d6 ♔g4 106. ♕b8 ♖c2+ 107. ♔g1 ♔h3
108. ♕d6 ♖c6 109. ♕b8 ♖f6 110. ♕c7 ♖f8 111. ♕d6 ♖c8
112. ♔f2 ♖g8 113. ♕c7 ♖g6 114. ♕b8 ♖g3 115. ♕d6 ♖g2+
116. ♔f1 ♖d2 117. ♕c7 ♖d7 118. ♕b8 ♖e7 119. ♕d6 ♖e8
120. ♕c7 ♖f8+ 121. ♔g1 ♖c8 122. ♕d6 ♖c6 123. ♕b8 ♖b6
124. ♕c7 ♖a6 125. ♕b8 ♖c6 126. ♔f2 ♔g4 127. ♔g2 ♖c1
128. ♕d6 h3+ 129. ♔h2 ♔f3 130. ♕e5 ♖c2+ 131. ♔h1 ♔g4
132. ♕b8 ♔f5 133. ♕d6 ♔g4 134. ♕b8 h2 135. ♕xh2 ♔h3
136. ♕g1 ♖c1 1/2-1/2

(19) Corrales Jimenez, F.-Mulyar, M.

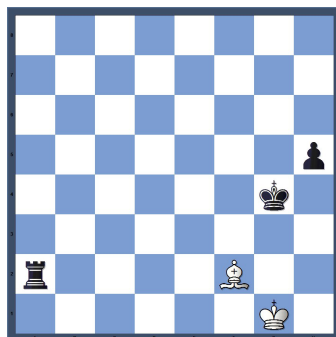
US op 114th, 2013



80...♔h3 81.♕d6 ♖g2+ 82.♔f1 ♖g5 83.♕c7 ♖g7 84.♕d6
 ♔h4 85.♔f2 ♔g5 86.♔g2 ♖d7 87.♕e5 ♔g4 88.♔g1 h4
 89.♔h2 ♖d2+ 90.♔g1 ♔h3 91.♔f1 ♖g2 92.♕d6 ♖g6
 93.♕c7 ♔g4 94.♔g2 ♖c6 95.♕e5 ♖c2+ 96.♔g1 ♖c1+
 97.♔g2 h3+ 98.♔h2 ♖c2+ 99.♔h1 ♔f3 100.♕d6 ♖c1+
 101.♔h2 ♖c6 102.♕e5 ♖c2+ 103.♔h1 ♔g4 104.♕d6 ♖c6
 105.♕e5 ♖c1+ 106.♔h2 ♖c2+ 107.♔h1 ♔f3 108.♕d6 ♖c1+
 109.♔h2 ♖c2+ 110.♔h1 1/2-1/2

(20) Euwe, M.-Hromadka, K.

Bad Pistyan Breyer Memorial-A, 1922



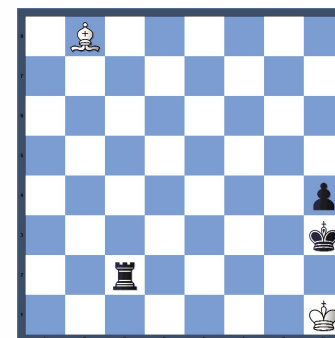
61...h4?? [The simple winning way was 61...♔h3 62.♕d4
 ♖g2+ 63.♔f1 (63.♔h1 63...h4) 63...♔g3 64.♕e5+ ♔f3 65.♕f6
 h4 66.♕xh4 ♖h2 67.♕f2 ♖h1+ 68.♕g1 ♔g3]

62.♕d4 ♔h3 63.♕e5 ♖g2+ 64.♔f1 1/2-1/2

(21) Fraczek, D.-Leniart, A.

POL-chT, 2009

[Mueller,Karsten]



84.♕a7? [84.♔g1 and White cannot be driven out of his
 fortress. The king remains on f1, f2 or g2 and the bishop on
 the b8-he diagonal.]

84...♖h2+ [84...♖c1+ 85.♕g1 ♔g4 wins more quickly.]

85.♔g1 ♖a2? This allows White to get back into the drawing
 fortress. [The winning procedure was: 85...♖g2+ 86.♔h1 ♖b2
 87.♕c5 ♖b1+ 88.♕g1 ♔g4 89.♔g2 h3+ 90.♔h2 ♖b2+ 91.♔h1
 ♔g3 92.♕d4 ♖h2+ 93.♔g1 ♖e2 94.♔h1 h2 95.♕e5+ ♔h3
 96.♕g3 ♖d2 97.♕e1 ♖b2--]

86.♕b8 ♖a1+ 87.♔f2 ♖a8 88.♕c7 ♖g8 89.♔f1 ♖g3 90.♔f2
 [Of course not 90.♕xg3?? 90...hxg3 91.♔g1 g2 92.♔f2 ♔h2--]

90...♖g7 91.♕d6 ♖g8 92.♔f1 ♖g6 93.♕e5? [93.♕c7=]

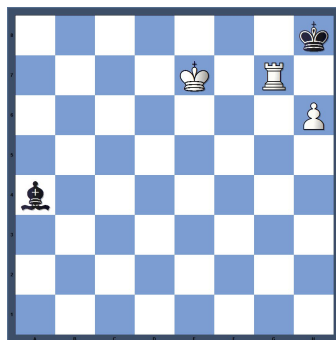
93...♔g4! 94.♕c7 [94.♔g2 94...♔f5+-- shows why the

bishop is unfavourably posted on e5.]

94...♔f3 0-1

(22) Vancura

1924



In this kind of position it is necessary to know that if the black bishop will come on the diagonal b1-h7 then it will be a draw! So White has to try to prevent it and to play h6-h7 with the king on g5 (h5).

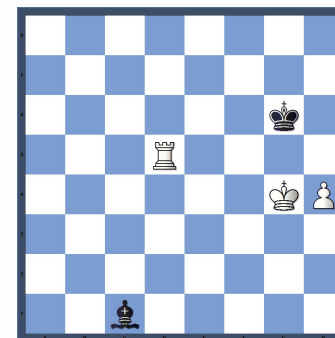
1.♖g2 ♘d1 [1...♙b5 2.♖d2 ♘c6 3.♖d4 ♔h7 4.♔f6]

2.♖d2! [2.♔f6 2...♙f3 3.♖d2 ♘e4 and on this diagonal it is a draw!]

2...♙f3 3.♖d4! ♔h7 4.♔f6 ♘c6 5.♔g5 ♘e8 6.♖e4 ♙b5 7.♖e7+ ♔h8 8.h7!

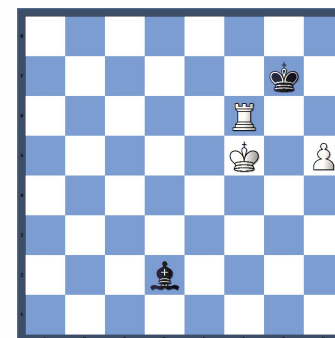
(23) Tal, M.-Zhidkov, V.

URS-ch40, 1972



With the bishop of the corner color the business is easy. It is necessary to sacrifice the pawn correctly and not to allow the opponent's king out.

84.♖d6+ ♔g7 85.h5 ♘e3 86.♖g6+ ♔h7 87.♖f6 ♔g7 88.♔f5 ♘d2



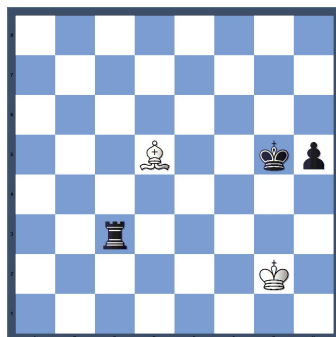
89.h6+! ♘xh6 [89...♔h7 90.♖g6 ♘e3 91.♖g7+ ♔xh6 92.♖g6+ ♔h7 (92...♔h5 93.♖g3 ♙f2 94.♖h3+ ♘h4 95.♖h2) 93.♔f6 ♘d4+ 94.♔f7 With the classical win.]

90.♖g6+! ♔h7 91.♔f6 ♘e3 92.♔f7 Now the king is cut off and the win is easy.

92...♙a7 93.♖a6 ♘b8 94.♖a8 ♘c7 95.♖c8 ♘f4 96.♖c4
♘g5 97.♖c3 1-0

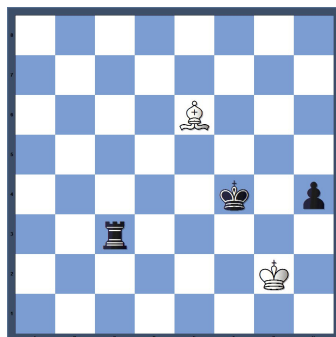
(24) Swinkels, R.-Hachijan, A.

Dieren op, 2010



Now let us see how young strong players are completing these techniques.

65...♙g4 66.♘e6+ ♙f4 67.♘f7 h4 68.♘e6

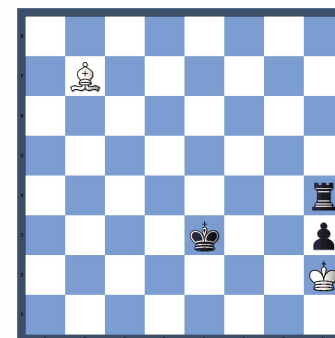


68...♖g3+ [Correct was transposing to Tal's game: 68...h3+
69.♙h2 ♖g3 70.♘d5 (70.♘d7 70...♖g2+ 71.♙xh3 ♖g3+ 72.♙h2
(72.♙h4 72...♖g7) 72...♙f3 73.♘c6+ ♙f2) 70...♙g4 71.♘e6+
♙h4 72.♘d5 ♖d3]

69.♙h2 ♙f3 70.♘d5+ ♙f2 71.♘e6 ♙f3 72.♘d5+ ♙g4
73.♘e6+ ♙h5 74.♘f7+ ♙g5 75.♘e6 ♖e3 76.♘d7 ♙f4
77.♘c8 ♖g3 1/2-1/2

(25) Timman

1972

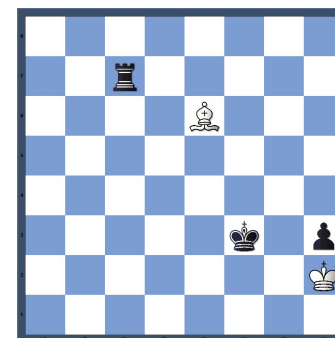


Not every position is won here- a great case found by Jan Timman.

1.♘c8 ♖h8 2.♘g4 ♙f4 3.♘d7 [3.♘xh3 3...♙f3]

3...♖d8 4.♘e6! [4.♘xh3? 4...♖d2+ 5.♘g2 ♙g4 6.♙g1 ♙g3]

4...♖d6 5.♘c8 ♖d3 6.♘e6 ♖c3 7.♘d7 ♖c7 8.♘e6 ♙f3

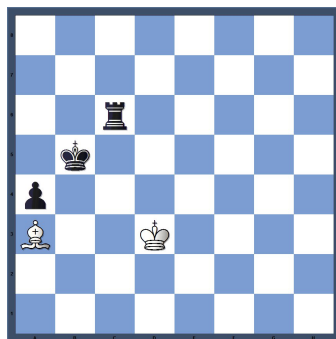


9.♙f5 [9.♙d5+? 9...♖g4 10.♙e6+ ♖h4 11.♙xh3 ♜c2+ 12.♙g2 ♖g4]

9...♜e7 10.♙c8 ♜e8 11.♙d7 ♜f8 12.♙e6 ♜d8 13.♙f5 ♜d2+ 14.♖xh3 ♜d5 15.♙g4+=

(26) Jurek, J.-Marek, M.

Olomouc IM 2014, 2014



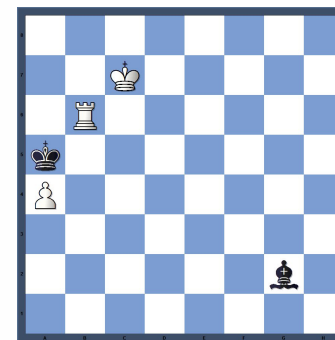
52...♜h6 53.♖c3 ♜h3+ 54.♖b2 ♖c4 55.♙f8 ♜f3 [Once more Tal's game is an example: 55...a3+ 56.♖a2 ♜b3 57.♙g7 (57.♙d6 57...♜b2+ 58.♖xa3 ♜b3+ 59.♖a4 ♜b6) 57...♖b4]

56.♙e7 ♖b5 57.♖a2 a3? 58.♙xa3 Now it is a draw!

58...♖a4 59.♙d6 ♜f2+ 60.♖b1 ♖b3 61.♖c1 ♖c3 62.♙e5+ ♖d3 63.♙g7 ♜c2+ 64.♖b1 ♜c7 65.♙f6 ♜b7+ 66.♖c1 ♜b3 67.♙e5 ♜c3+ 68.♙xc3 ♖xc3 1/2-1/2

(27) Can, E.-Mchedlishvili, M.

EU-chT (Men) 18th, 2011



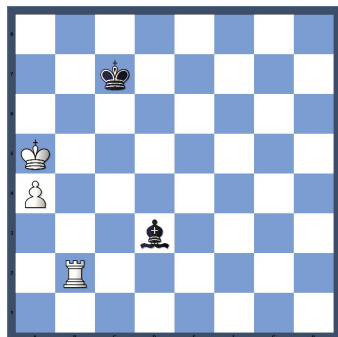
This endgame is won with very precise play.

86.♜b2 ♙f3 87.♜a2 ♙d5 88.♜a1 ♙f7 [88...♙b3 89.♖c6 ♙xa4+ 90.♖c5]

89.♖c6 ♙e8+ 90.♖c5 ♙f7 91.♜a3 [A slightly shorter way was 91.♜f1 91...♙h5 92.♜f2 ♙d1 (92...♖xa4 93.♖c4 ♖a3 94.♖c3 ♙d1 95.♜f1 ♙b3 96.♜a1+ ♙a2 97.♖c2) 93.♖c4 ♙g4 94.♜f4 ♙e6+ 95.♖c3 ♙g8 96.♜f8 ♙e6 97.♜a8+ ♖b6 98.♖b4 Coming to Tal's position.]

91...♙e6 92.♜e3 ♙g4 93.♜e7 ♖a6 94.♖b4 ♙f5 95.♜f7 ♙g4 96.♜f6+ ♖b7 97.♖a5 ♙e2 98.♜b6+ ♖c7 [98...♖a7 99.♜e6 ♙d1 100.♜e7+ ♖b8 101.♖b5]

99.♜b2 ♙f1 100.♜b1 ♙d3 101.♜d1 ♙e2 102.♜d2 ♙f1 103.♜b2 ♙d3

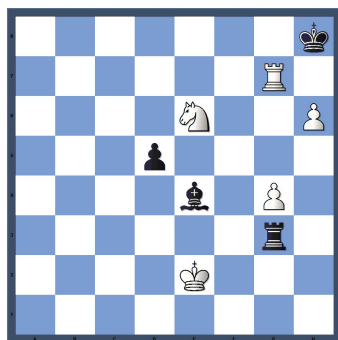


104. ♖b4! ♔c6 [The idea behind all this preparation is this:
104... ♖b7 105. ♖c3+]

105. ♖c3 ♕f1 106. ♖d4 1-0

(28) Estremera Panos, S.-Sedina, E.

Genova , 2004



Here is a practical example of achieving the right draw in a theoretical position.

1... ♖xg4! [1... ♕f3+? 2. ♖f2 ♖h3 (2... ♖xg4 3. ♖xf3 ♖h4 4. ♖g6 ♖h7 5. ♖f8+) 3. ♖e7 ♕xg4 4. ♖e8+ ♖h7 5. ♖g5+ ♖g6 6. ♖g8+ ♖xh6 7. ♖xh3+--]

2. ♖xg4 [2. ♖g5 2... ♖xg5 3. ♖xg5 d4]

2... ♕f5 3. ♖a4 [3. ♖d4 3... ♕xe6 4. ♖f3 ♖h7]

3... ♕xe6 4. ♖e3 d4+ 5. ♖f4 [5. ♖xd4 5... ♖h7 6. ♖f4 ♕b3 7. ♖g5 ♕c2 The bishop came to the right diagonal and now it is a draw!]

5... d3 6. ♖g5 d2 7. ♖d4 ♕a2! 8. ♖d8+ ♖h7 9. ♖xd2 ♕b1
Mission completed.

10. ♖d7+ ♖h8 11. ♖b7 ♕c2 12. h7 ♕xh7 13. ♖h6 ♕g8 14. ♖b8
1/2-1/2

Chess and the City. German Wedding Traditions



WGM Elisabeth Paetz
Best rating: 2493



Well the headline says it all - I just got married about a week ago. However I did not plan to focus my newsletter entirely on the most beautiful day of my life, but rather on some traditions which are common to my country. Before I introduce them to you, I shall add that I actually married a chess player, (former Italian national player Iart Luca Shytaj), remembering that in a previous newsletter of mine I listed

the pros and cons regarding that issue. Fortunately I still consider myself lucky that he is not an active player anymore, but a professional researcher into infectious diseases, and thus there is no danger of facing each other over the board or getting into any fights connected with chess - at least that is my belief. But let's get back to the traditional games of a German wedding, chiefly wood cutting!



The idea of the game is that the newly-married couple proves that they can master hard physical exercises together and can be ready for any tasks in future. Moreover the cutting also represents an equal balance of both partners in the marriage, as the cutting only works when both partners alternately pull and push. The next game (and here I want to mention that I was the faster one ?) is cutting half each of a heart-shape out of a bed sheet to represent team work. This way the couple shows again that they can master a task together. Basically a similar meaning, the only difference being that here speed actually matters and you may tease your beloved about how hopeless he is. ? Besides all that, the event was full of chess players from all over the world, and I am very happy and thankful that almost all my most important chess friends were able to join me on the precious day.



Elisabeth Paehtz

I just wanted to add a brief perspective as one of Elisabeth's close friends. The whole day was beautifully and thoughtfully organised. I say 'thoughtfully' because every guest was given a role to play in the festivities, and Lizzy went to some lengths to describe how she got to know each of us - more embarrassing for some than others... ? I'll finish by wishing the couple a wonderful, fulfilling and happy future together.

Keith Arkell

Clash of the Titans

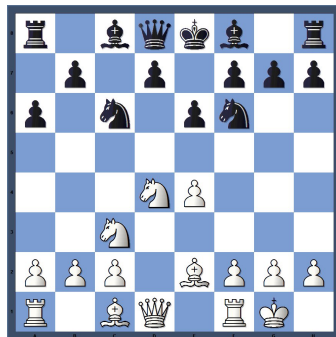
(29) Blackburne, Joseph Henry
- Bird, Henry Edward[B46]

Vienna 1st(8),
1882.05.19



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.♙c3 ♘c6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♘xd4 a6 6.♙e2
[6.♘xc6 6...bxc6 7.♙d3 d5 8.O-O]
6...♙f6 7.O-O



7...d5 It is too early to fight for the center. Nowadays we know that the main moves are [7...♙c7 and; 7...d6]

8.exd5 ♘xd5 9.♙xd5 [9.♘xc6 9...bxc6 10.♙e4! and thanks to his better structure White has a typical stable advantage.]

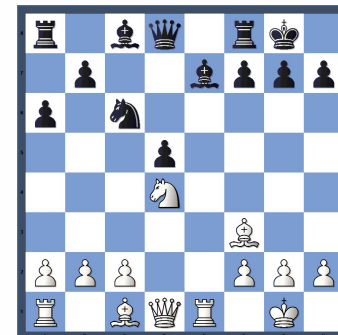
9...exd5 Objectively better was [9...♘xd4 10.♙xd4 ♙xd5 11.♙xd5 exd5 Let's check how White can develop pressure against the weak d5 pawn. 12.♖d1 (12.♙f3 12...♙e6 13.c4 O-O-O 14.cxd5 ♙xd5 15.♙g5 f6 16.♖fc1+ ♔b8 17.♙xf6 (17.♙f4+ 17...♙d6=) 17...gxf6 18.♖d1 ♙xf3 19.♖xd8+ ♔c7 20.♖xf8 ♖xf8

21.gxf3 ♖d8= and being a pawn up has no meaning here.) 12...♙e6 13.♙f3 O-O-O 14.♙e3 ♙d6 15.♖d2 ♙e5 16.c3 ♖d7 17.♖ad1 ♖hd8 18.♙b6 ♙c7 19.♙d4 Black managed to hold the weak pawn, but the position is very unpleasant for him.]

10.♙f3 White gets a huge advantage thanks to his better development.

10...♙e7 11.♖e1 Another way which could also bring White a pawn up was [11.c4!± In my opinion this move was more accurate.]

11...O-O



12.♙xd5! ♙xd5 13.♘xc6 ♙xc6 [13...♙xd1 14.♙xe7+--]

14.♖xe7 ♙e6?! Black is trying to maybe catch the rook, but more active was [14...♙f5! 15.♙f4 (15.c3 is too slow, since now the first rank is weak! 15...♖ad8 16.♙e2 ♙e4! ♖ 17.f3? ♙c5+--+) 15...♙xc2 16.♙d2 ♙e4 (16...♖ad8 17.♙b4 ♖d7 18.♖ae1 ♖xe7 19.♖xe7 ♖e8? 20.♙xb7+=) 17.♖c1 ♙g6 18.♙g3 ♙c6 and Black is very solid.]

15.♙f4 ♖fd8 16.♙e2 ♙d5 [16...♖ac8 looks more logical, with the threats of Kf8 or Qxc2. 17.♖d1 (17.c3 17...♙f8!) 17...♖xd1+ 18.♙xd1 h6 Now the pawns on a2 and c2 are hanging. 19.a3 ♙e4=]

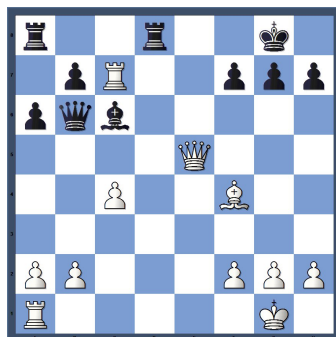
17.♖c7 ♙f6?! [17...♙g6 18.♙g3 ♖dc8 19.♖xc8+ (19.♙e7

19...♖xc7 20.♗xc7 ♗e4 21.f3 ♗d4+ 19...♖xc8 20.♗d2 (20.c3 20...♙xa2!) 20...♗f5 21.♗a5 h6 22.c3+= (22.♖d1 22...♖xc2=)]

18.♗e5 [18.♙e5 18...♗g6 19.f4 This kind of move usually cannot be good because now the h1-a8 diagonal is weaker. 19...f6=]

18...♗b6 Black is losing time because of the queen jumping without any sense.

19.c4 ♙c6? [19...♙e6 20.b3±]



20.♗f5?? White could simply win after [20.♙e3 20...♗b4 21.♙d4 ♗f8 (21...f6 22.♖xg7+--) 22.♙c5 ♗e8 23.♖e7+--]

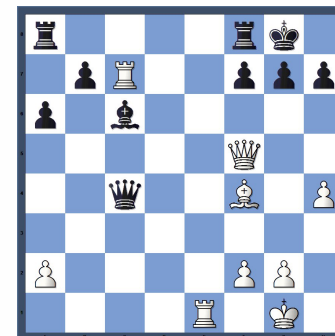
20...♗xb2 21.♖b1 ♗d4 So many years ago chess was very sharp game, which is maybe why Black didn't play more solidly. [21...♗f6 22.♗xf6 gxf6 White should have no time to create an attack after Rb3-Bh6 because of the weak back rank.]

22.h4 A typical move for development initiative. White avoids mates on the first rank and prepares h5-h6, which can create additional weak squares. [22.♗xf7+ 22...♙h8 White needs to avoid Rf8 and Qd1 threats now. 23.♗e7 ♖e8 (23...♗d1+ 24.♗e1 ♗xe1+ 25.♖xe1 ♖d7! should also be enough. 26.♖xd7 ♙xd7 27.f3 (27.♖e7 27...♖e8=) 27...♖e8 28.♖d1 ♙c6 White is pawn up, but because of his bad structure Black should make

a draw.) 24.♗g5 ♖e6! Great! Black not only solves the problem with the weakness on g7 but he gets counterplay against g2!]

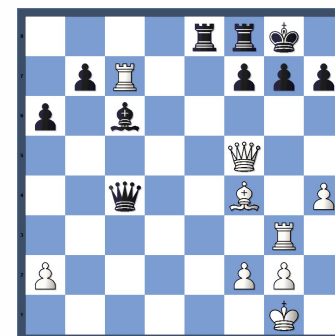
22...♖f8 [Easier was 22...♗xc4 23.♖xb7 ♗d5 24.♗xd5 ♙xd5=]

23.♖e1 ♗xc4



24.♖e3 Nice! An additional piece joins the attack. I am impressed by the chess understanding so many years ago. [24.♗g5!? with the idea Be5. 24...♗d3 25.♖e6 Avoiding Qg6. 25...h6 26.♖xh6 ♖ae8 Preventing Be5 and preparing counterplay over the first rank. The position is very complex.]

24...♖ae8 25.♖g3



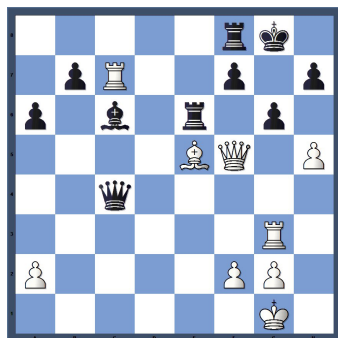
25...♖e6?? A big blunder. Black should have played

[25...♖e1+ 26.♔h2 g6 Black will probably be first with his attack since Qf1 is coming.]

26.h5?? Once again White missed an easy win... [26.♖xg7+! 26...♔xg7 27.♖g4+ ♔h8 28.♕e5+ ♖xe5 29.♖xc4+- Black has no chance to create a fortress.]

26...g6 [26...♖e1+ 27.♔h2 ♖f1 28.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 29.h6+- With mate to follow.; 26...♖d4!? This is a good place for the queen to control the important a1-h8 diagonal.]

27.♕e5 [27.hxg6 27...fxg6 (27...hxg6 28.♕e5 ♖c1+ 29.♔h2 ♖h6+ 30.♔g1=) 28.♖g7+ ♔xg7 29.♕h6+ ♔xh6 30.♖xf8+ ♔h5 31.♖h3+ ♔g5 32.♖g3+ ♔h5 33.f4 ♖d4+ 34.♔h2 ♖f6 35.♖g5+ ♖xg5 36.fxg5 ♔xg5= Black is not worse here.]



27...♖d5? Decisive mistake, black could save position after queen exchange [27...♖e4! now white is force to exchange queens, maybe black didnt see after 28.hxg6 ♖e1+! this important check 29.♔h2 ♖xe5 30.gxf7+ ♔h8+- and rook rook is pin! white is not able to play Rg8]

28.f4+- ♖d1+ [28...♖e4 Now it is too late... 29.hxg6 ♖xg6 (29...hxg6 30.♖xe6+-) 30.♖xg6+ hxg6 31.♖h3+-]

29.♔h2 ♖d5 30.hxg6 hxg6 31.♖h3 ♖xe5 [31...♖xe5 32.♖xg6+!+-]

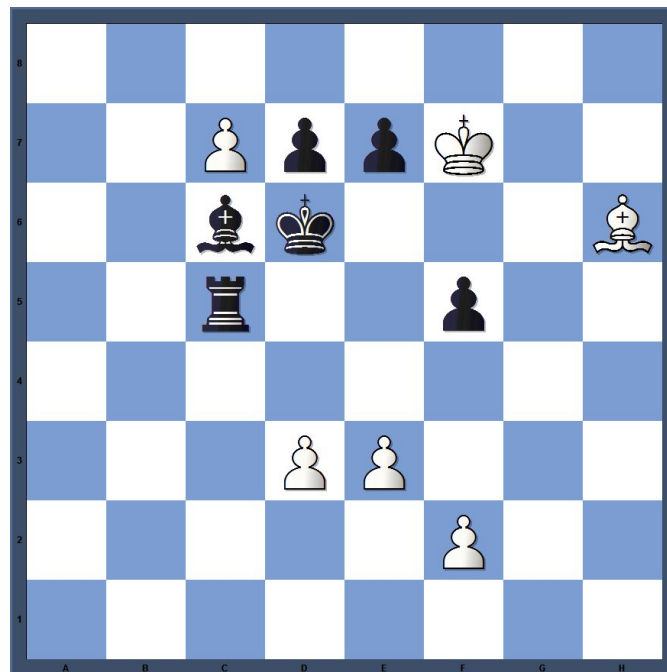
32.fxe5 ♔g7 33.♖xe6 An interesting fighting game! Of

course both players didn't see strong moves in many important moments but the general play and understanding of how to develop an initiative was on a high level. **1-0**

Surprise section / study

(30) Bondarenko

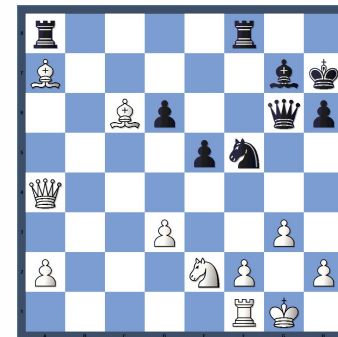
1. +—



Solutions

(31) Gabuzyan, H(2593)-Jobava, B(2664)

Abu Dhabi Open, 2015.08.25

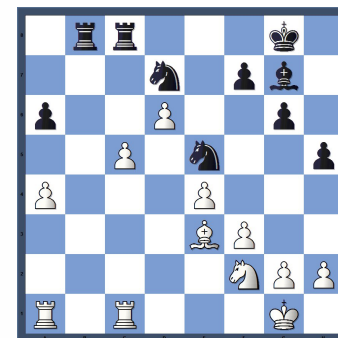


25...♔f7! 26.♙xa8 ♖xa8 27.f4 [27.♔e4 27...d5! 28.♔f3
♖xa7—+]

27...♖xa7—+

(32) Gupta, A(2619)-Belous, V(2566)

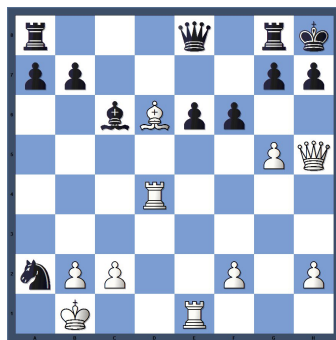
Abu Dhabi Open, 2015.08.25



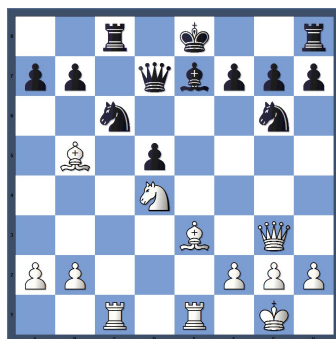
26...♘c4! 27.♖xc4 ♙xa1—+

(33) Onischuk, V(2618)-Harika, D(2509)

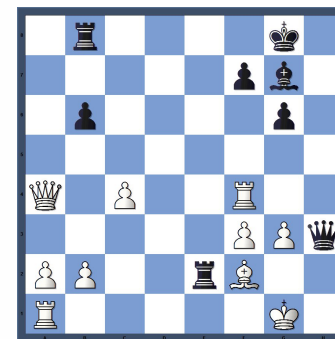
Abu Dhabi Open, 2015.08.25

**24.g6! h6** [24...♖xg6 25.♖xg6 hxg6 26.♞h4#]**25.♟f4! e5** [25...♖f8 26.♞xe6+- ♞e8 27.♞xe8 ♟xe8 (27...♖xe8 28.♟xh6+-) 28.♟d6+-]**26.♟xh6! ♟f3 27.♟xg7+ ♟xg7 28.♖h7+ ♟f8 29.♞d7+-****(34) Akopian, V(2647)-Sumets, A(2596)**

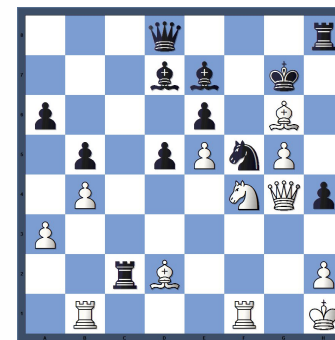
Abu Dhabi Open, 2015.08.27

**18.♟xc6 bxc6 19.♞xc6! ♞xc6 20.♖b8+ 1-0** [20.♖b8+ 20...♟d8 21.♟g5+ ♟f8 22.♟xc6+-]**(35) Rohan, A(2389)-Gupta, A(2619)**

Abu Dhabi Open, 2015.08.25

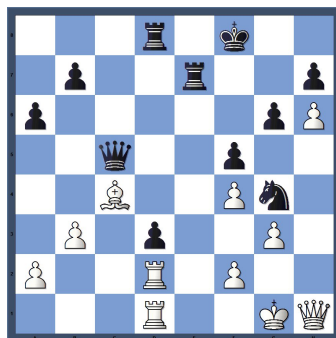
**25...♞xf2! 26.♟xf2 ♖h2+ 27.♟e3 b5! 28.cxb5 ♞e8+ 29.♞e4 ♟h6+! 30.♟d4** [30.f4 30...♖xg3+ 31.♟e2 ♖g2+ 32.♟e3 (32.♟d3 32...♖f3+-) 32...♟xf4+! 33.♟xf4 ♖f2+ 34.♟g4 ♖f5+ 35.♟g3 ♞xe4 36.♖a8+ ♟g7+-]**30...♖d2+ 31.♟c5 ♞c8+ 0-1** [31...♞c8+ 32.♟b6 ♖d6+ 33.♟a5 ♞a8#]**(36) Rapport, R(2671)-Sandipan, C(2585)**

Abu Dhabi Open, 2015.08.26

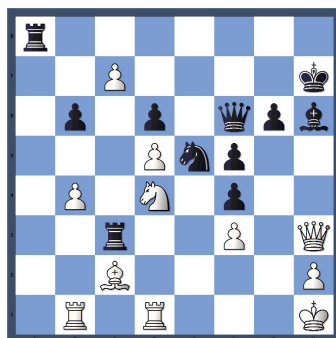
**34.♟xe6+! ♟xe6 35.♟xf5 ♞xd2 36.♟xe6+- ♞f8 37.♖h5 1-0**

(37) Gabuzyan, H(2593)-Areshchenko, A(2661)

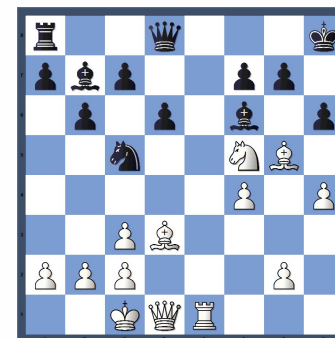
Abu Dhabi Open, 2015.08.26

**39...b5! 40.♙xd3 ♖xd3! 41.♚a8+ [41.♖xd3 41...♚xf2#]****41...♙f7 42.♚h8 ♖xg3+ 43.♙h1 [43.♙f1 43...♙h2#]****43...♚c6+ 0-1****(38) Areshchenko, A(2661)-Salem, A(2595)**

Abu Dhabi Open, 2015.08.27

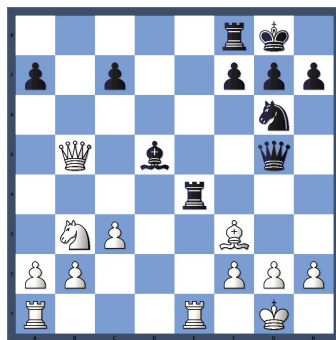
**39.♙xf5!! ♖xc2 [39...gxf5 40.♙xf5+ ♙g7 41.♖g1+ ♙f8 42.♖bc1!?+-]****40.♙xh6 ♙g7 41.♖bc1! ♖xc1 [41...♖aa2 42.c8=♚ ♖xh2+ 43.♚xh2 ♖xh2+ 44.♙xh2 ♚h4+ 45.♚h3+-]****42.♖xc1+- ♙d3 43.♙g4 ♚g5 44.c8=♚ ♖xc8 45.♖xc8 1-0****(39) Kryvoruchko, Y(2697)-Romanov, E(2586)**

Abu Dhabi Open, 2015.08.27

**19.♙xh6!! ♙xd3+ [19...gxh6 20.♖e8+! ♚xe8 21.♙xf6+ ♙g8 22.♚g4+ ♙f8 23.♚g7#]****20.♚xd3! ♚d7 [20...gxh6 21.♖e8+ ♚xe8 22.♙xf6+ ♙g8 23.♚g3+ ♙h7 24.♚g7#]****21.♙xf6+-**

(40) Kulkarni, R(2368)-Papp, G(2601)

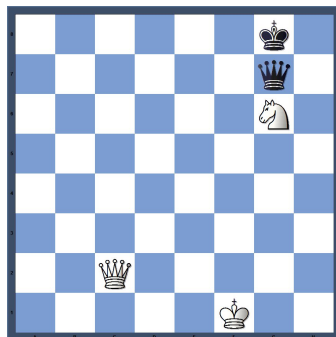
Abu Dhabi Open, 2015.08.27



17...♘e5!! 18.♙xe4 ♙xe4 19.♚f1 [19.♖xe4 19...♘f3+ 20.♔h1 ♚xb5--+]]

19...♘f3+ 20.♔h1 ♚f4! 0-1 [20...♚f4 21.gxf3 (21.g3 21...♘xe1+--+) 21...♚xf3+ 22.♔g1 ♚h1#]

(41) Chekhover



1.♚c8+! ♔h7 [1...♔f7 2.♘h8+! ♔e7 3.♚c7+ ♔f6 4.♚c3+--]

2.♘f8+! ♔h8 [2...♔h6 3.♚h3+ ♔g5 4.♘e6+--]

3.♘e6+ ♚g8 4.♚c3+! ♔h7 5.♚f6!+-



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 186

18th of September 2015

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Editorial Preface

The World Cup 2015 in Baku has reached the 4th round and a lot of top players have left the tournament. Already in the first round Gelfand, Kasimdzhanov and Kamsky -3 former World Cup winners- lost their matched. In the 3rd round big favorites as Grischuk, Kramnik have left the tournament. Especially Kramnik can blame himself a lot for not winning a totally won position in the first rapid game against Andreikin (in the last World Cup these two played in the final!). The match between Nakamura and Nepomniachtchi went all the way to the armaggedon, but in the end Nakamura managed to win the gam. However, Nepomniachtchi made an appeal because Nakamura used both hands when castling, which is illegal in chess. It is going to be very interesting which decision the appeal's committee will take.

The other favorites like Caruana and Giri made it into the 4th round quite easily.

From the 6 Azeri players only one has made it and that is Mamedyarov who won his first 3 matches quite easily and now has to face Caruana. Radjabov lost to Svidler after losing his 2nd rapid game.

The 4th round is going to be very exciting as there are no more big favorites left in any match.

In the current issue we of course focus our attention on the World Cup! Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) Karjakin, Sergey (2762)
- Yu, Yangyi (2721) [B45]

FIDE World Cup 2015(3.11),
2015.09.17



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Karjakin is the fear of the Chinese players. Not so long ago, he won all alone in the friendly match between Russian and China against the 4 best Chinese players in a row! In the current game we are going to see a long theoretical line which ends up very badly for Yu Yangyi. White managed to consolidate and easily converted his advantage.

1.e4 Karjakin is one of the few players at the top who keeps on playing mainly 1.e4.

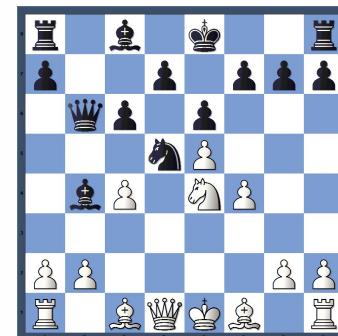
1...c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 ♘f6 The Chinese player clearly wanted to surprise Karjakin by choosing this quite rarely played line. Karjakin is usually very well prepared with deep analyses in the openings he plays.

6.♘xc6 bxc6 7.e5 ♘d5 8.♘e4 We are in the main position where Black has a few moves to choose from.

8...♚c7 The main idea is to provoke the f4 move and then to play Qb6, not letting the white king castle that easily.

9.f4 ♚b6 10.c4 This is also the main move. Strategically White's position is clearly better because of the terrible bishop on c8 and because of the hole on d6, so Black's only chance lies in dynamic play.

10...♙b4+ There is still nothing new...



11.♚e2! A well-known, but still pretty move. The white king is actually quite happy on e2.

11...f5 Black tries to open the position.

12.exf6 ♘xf6 13.♙e3 Winning a tempo for development. So far both players were playing very quickly.

13...♚d8 [In case of 13...♚c7 14.♘xf6+ gxf6 15.♚f2 White's position should be clearly better because of the Qh5 threat and it is the black king who is in trouble.]

14.♘d6+ White is going for the bishop pair, which is a good decision.

14...♙xd6 [14...♚e7 would also lead to a better position for White. 15.c5 ♘d5 16.♚d4 and the great knight on d6 does the job.]

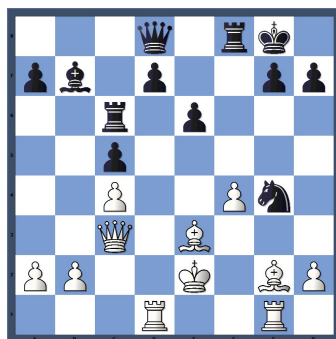
15.♚xd6 ♙b7 It seems like Yu Yangyi wanted to reach the current position, which seems very strange to me. White has the bishop pair and a much better structure. It is hard to imagine that the bad position of the white king on e2 compensates for all the minuses of Black's position. I think White is clearly better here.

16.♞d1 ♞c8 Black wants to play c5 to activate the bishop.

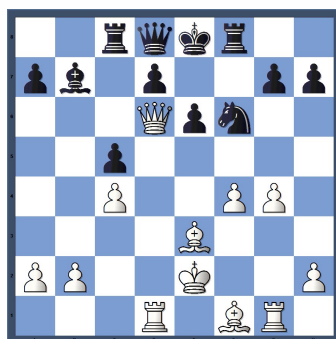
17.g4! A very strong move by Karjakin who is not wasting any time but starting with the direct action. We can see that the white king on e2 is actually not in any danger.

17...c5 18.♖g1 White wants to play g5 or f5 or even Bg2.

18...♞f8?! I can't imagine this being the right decision. [Black should have continued with the very forced 18...♞c6 19.♞e5 O-O At least the black king is safe now. 20.♗g2 (20.g5 20...♞h5 21.♗h3 d6 22.♞xe6+ ♔h8 and Black's play could be dangerous.) 20...♞xg4 21.♞c3 After the nice



21...d5! the position is very concrete but White is probably better after 22.♞xd5! exd5 23.♗xd5+ ♔h8 24.♗xc6 ♗xc6 25.♞xg4 ♞d7 26.h3 but because of the opposite colored bishops it is unclear if White's pawn up is enough to win the game. The white king is very open.]



19.f5! Great play! Now it is White who is crushing in the center. [White could also have reached a better endgame after the calm 19.♗g2 19...♗xg2 20.♞xg2 ♞b6 21.♞xb6 axb6 22.♞f3 with some advantage.]

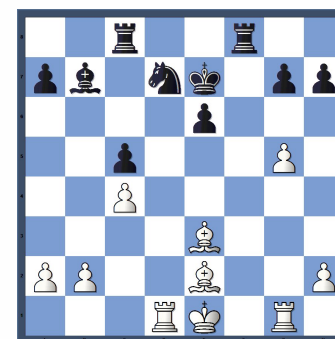
19...♞b6?! But now Black enters a very bad endgame... In my opinion Yu should have looked for his chances in more dynamic play. [19...♞e4 Now things are pretty forced again. 20.♞e5 ♞f6 21.♞xf6 ♞xf6 White has the bishop pair but it is not that easy to make use of. 22.♗g2 exf5 23.gxf5 ♞xf5 and it is unclear if White can put some serious problems, but Black's position remains quite dangerous.]

20.fxe6 dxe6 21.g5 Black's pawn structure is horrible.

21...♞d5 It seems like there is nothing better for Black.

22.♞xb6 ♞xb6 23.♞e1 Now White can breathe freely. The queens are gone and he remains with the bishop pair and a great pawn structure, which gives him a big advantage. [23.♞d3 was possible as well.]

23...♞d7 24.♗e2 ♞e7?! Black misses White's next move. [Better was 24...♞e5 25.♞f1 ♞f5 and Black keeps on fighting.]



25.♞d3! A very strong move. The rook is going to take a great position on a3, attacking the black a-pawn.

25...♙e4 26.♖a3 ♜c7 27.♚d2 Now that the black pieces are focused on defending the weak pawns, White improves his king's position.

27...e5 28.♖f1 The exchange of rooks is good for White.

28...♖b8 29.♚c3 What a domination of the white pieces. Even with equal material on the board, White is almost winning here.

29...♖b6 30.♖d1 White wants to put pressure on the c5 pawn by playing Ra5 and Bg3.

30...♖bc6 31.♙g4 Following the plan...

31...♘b6 32.♖a5 It is already hard to find a move for Black.

32...g6 33.b3 A nice move, even if 33.Re1 was probably stronger. There is no need to rush things here, as Black is hopelessly busy with protecting the c5 pawn for the rest of the game.

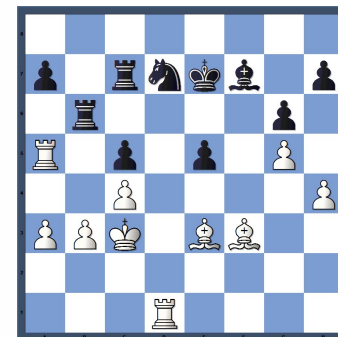
33...♙f5 Getting the knight back to d7.

34.♙e2 ♘d7 35.a3 Now Karjakin is pretending to prepare b4, which he might really play somewhere, but of course White has a lot of other options as well.

35...♙e6 36.h4 ♙f7 and Yu Yangyi blunders, which is very rare for a Chinese player! But maybe it is just a sign he had no more hopes of saving the game. [36...♖b6 would have been the way for longer suffering.]

37.♙f3! Precision until the end! Black cannot save the c5 pawn any longer.

37...♖b6 [37...♖d6 is also hopeless after 38.♖xd6 ♚xd6 39.♖a6+ ♚e7 40.♙g4]



38.♖xd7+ Too easy to miss...

38...♚xd7 39.♙xc5 The black rook has no squares to go and the a7 pawn is falling. The game is over.

39...e4 40.♙g4+ The time control is reached and now Sergey would get an extra 30 minutes to convert his winning position. A great game and an important victory for the Russian prodigy who thus entered the 4th round of the World Cup 2015 in Baku.
1-0

(2) Adams, Michael (2742)
- Laznicka, Viktor (2676) [B46]

FIDE World Cup 2015(2.15),
 2015.09.15



GM Csaba Balogh
 Best rating: 2672

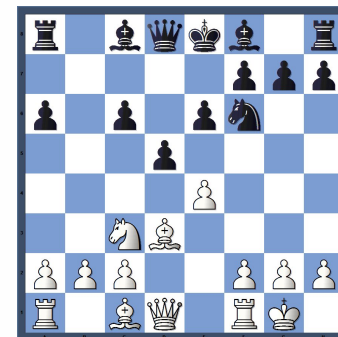
A dramatic fight in the second round between Adams and Laznicka. In general they are both very solid players, but the first draw they made was in the 7th game of the match. Before somebody always took the lead, but the other successfully leveled the score. At the very end, Adams won the Armageddon game and passed to the next round, but now let us see how convincingly he bounced back after losing the first - normal timecontrol - game.

1.e4 c5 Laznicka's main repertoire is the Caro-Kan defense, but almost everybody prepared some surprises to the World Cup.

2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 ♘c6 5.♗c3 a6 The Taimanov Sicilian.

6.♗xc6 The drawback of the 5...a6 moveorder. [By starting with 5...a6 compared to the most popular and most common 5...Qc7, Black wants to anticipate the sharpest line with opposite side castling. Now after 6.♗e3 6...♗f6 7.♖d2 ♗b4 8.f3 d5 9.a3 ♖a5! This is the point! Black saved an important tempo to play Qa5 in one move and a6 is very useful. Black is considered to be fine at the end of the theoretical lines.]

6...bxc6 7.♗d3 d5 8.O-O ♗f6 This is the moment, where White has to choose between several setups and plans. Adams seemed to be extremely well prepared and plays a rare, but rather problematic line from Black's point of view.

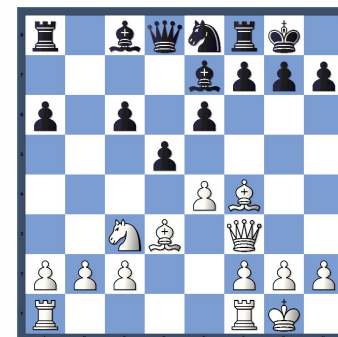


9.♖f3 [9.♖e1 9...♗e7 10.e5 ♘d7 11.♖g4 is the main line.]

9...♗e7 10.♖g3 O-O 11.♗h6 White forces the f6 knight to a more possible place before occupying the ideal square with his bishop.

11...♗e8 12.♗f4 Black was threatening to win a piece with Bh4 Qg4 e5 and the queen cannot keep any longer the pin on the g-file.

12...♗h4 13.♖f3 ♗e7 A standard plan in this opening to send away the queen from g3 even in a cost of a tempo. To be honest, I am not sure if Black really needs it, perhaps he could try 12...Nf6.



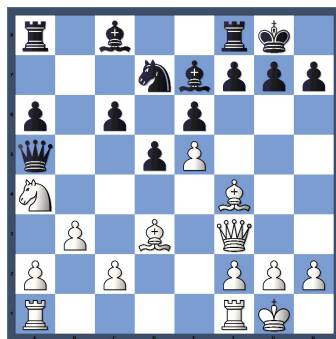
14.♗a4! This is the novelty! The most common plan in this structure, but somehow in this particular position it was not played yet. The move has two ideas behind it, White keeps an

eye on the weakened dark squares on b6 and c5, but it is more important to initiate favorable changes in the center and on the queenside with c2-c4!

14...♘f6 15.b3 A necessary preparation to the c4 break. White has to strengthen his knight on a4. [On the direct 15.c4 Black has a strong tactical reply 15...♙a5! 16.b3 e5! pushing d4 next move with a favorable structure. In case of d4, White should always be able to play e5 himself. The pawn cannot be taken now 17.♙xe5? as it loses a piece after 17...dxe4]

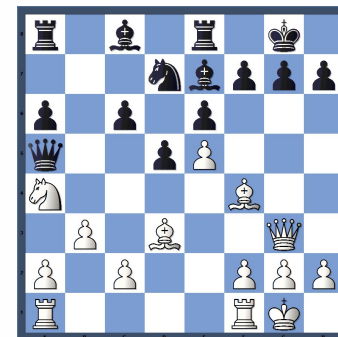
15...♙a5 Black parries the c4 idea by refreshing the e5 positional threat. However White changes his plan now and the queen gets a bit misplaced on a5. [White does not need to worry, that he loses the bishop pair after 15...dxe4 16.♙xe4 ♘xe4 17.♙xe4+= because Black has seriously damaged his own pawnstructure. He quickly comes with Rd1 and creates problems on the dark squares. This could be good for Black if he could play Bb7 and c5, but now it takes too much time to execute it.]

16.e5! ♘d7



17.♙g3! This is very unpleasant now! White is threatening again with Bh6 and Black does not have Bh4 at his disposal.

17...♖e8 Black wants to strengthen the g7 pawn with Bf8.



18.h4!? White once again uses the fact, that the black queen is away from d8. He creates serious potential attacking chances by advancing the pawn towards h5. There will be a concrete threat as well to play Bh6 and after Bf8 Bxg7 Bxg7 h6 wins.

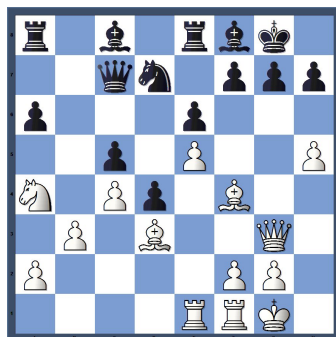
18...c5 19.c4! Adams employs the standard plan again! By playing c5, Black was threatening with c4, sending away the bishop from the ideal diagonal. On the other hand, the d5 square is weakened and White immediately attack it with c4, forces Black to make a serious decision. 19... dxc4 20.Bxc4 would again damage Black's structure, he should not allow cxd5 exd5, because after the white pawn majority on the kingside creates dangerous attacking threats, such as e6 or Bh6 followed by f4-f5. Therefore Laznicka decided to close the center with

19...d4 Black creates a protected passed pawn which could be an excellent triumph in all the endgames, but of course it is very far away until Black could trade some pieces, especially queens. White has gained two important light squares with the changing of the pawn structure. He could later use the e4 square with his bishop and drive his knight back to d3 through b2.

20.h5 ♙c7 Black prevents Bh6 by attacking the e5 pawn. [20...♙b7 loses to 21.♙h6 ♙f8 22.♙xg7 ♙xg7 23.h6+-]

21.♖ae1! Bringing another piece to the attack and refreshing the Bh6 threat. [21.♗h6 did not work in view of 21...♞xe5 22.f4 ♞e3+! (But not 22...♞f6? because of 23.♗g5! traps the queen.)]

21...♗f8



22.♗g5! It is getting more and more dangerous. Adams frees the path of the f-pawn. White only needs two moves f4-f5 and suddenly new lines are opening in front of the black king. The structure is closed, Black should principally open the position somehow against the attack, but he is unable to do it. He can only try to defend somehow, but he does not have enough time to organize it.

22...g6 23.f4 ♗g7 Black would like to strengthen his kingside with Nf8, but of course by playing g6, allowing White to open the h-file, he faces new problems...

24.♞h4 ♗b7



25.♞f2! A spectacular attacking move! White drops his rook to h1!

25...♞f8 [25...♞c6 is met by 26.♗e4+- preventing the counterplay on the long diagonal.; 25...♗f8 defends the h7 square against Rh1, but it allows 26.♗f6! threatening to take on g7 followed by Qf6, h6 and mate on g7. 26...♗xf6 27.exf6+- and again the queen soon appears on h6.]

26.♞h1 f5 A desperate attempt to run away with Kf7 and Rg8, but White comes first with

27.hxg6 hxg6 28.♞h7+ ♞f7 29.♞h6! Black resigned! A very nice attacking game by Adams! **1-0**

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot

Best rating: 2749

(3) Antipov, M2. (2538)

- Van Foreest, Jorden (2541) [C50]

World Junior Open 2015(8.3),
2015.09.10

Mikhail Antipov is the new Junior Champion! The 18-year old Russian won the title with 10/13, ahead of Duda on the third (!!) tie-break. He showed interesting chess but was also very lucky in a few games, especially when he won the last one from a totally lost position. Champions also need it! In round 8 he produced a brilliant attack:

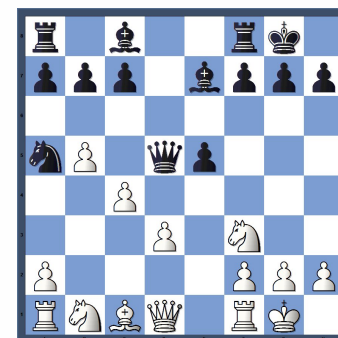
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4 The new champion is not very aggressive in his opening choices, here he goes for the Italian.

3...♘f6 4.d3 ♙c5 5.O-O O-O 6.c3 [6.♘bd2 is a better move order, introduced by Radjabov, with the idea to meet 6...d5 with (6...d6 is normal.) 7.exd5 ♘xd5 8.♘e4! With some advantage in Giri-Bacrot 2011.]

6...d5 [6...d6 is still the more popular move.]

7.exd5 ♘xd5 8.b4 This is not very good. 8.a4 and 8.Nbd2 lead to an unclear game.

8...♙e7 9.b5 ♘a5 10.♙xd5 ♙xd5 11.c4



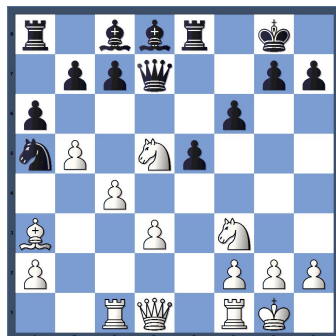
11...♙d7 This is a well-known sacrifice, since of course defending the pawn with 11.Qe6 is not great.

12.♘c3 A novelty that doesn't change the evaluation, Black has no opening problem. [12.♙d2 12...e4 13.♙xa5 exf3 14.♙xf3 a6 Black is better since the files will open quickly. Vallejo and Fressinet played this already.]

12...f6 A logical reaction over the board, but it might be even better to first play [12...b6!? The complications seem to be in Black's favor: 13.♘xe5!? ♙d4 14.♘d5 ♙d6 15.♘f3 ♙xa1 16.♙c2 c6! 17.♘c3 cxb5 18.cxb5 ♙f5 19.♙d2 ♙xf1+ 20.♘xf1 ♖ac8=+]

13.♘d5 ♙d8 14.♙a3 White develops quickly but it doesn't bring anything for the moment. Black has the better structure and two bishops.

14...♖e8 15.♖c1 a6!? It seems like White has no good solution to this question, but... [15...c6 would drive away the knight but give it another strong square on c5. 16.bxc6 bxc6 17.♘c3∞ followed by Ne4.]



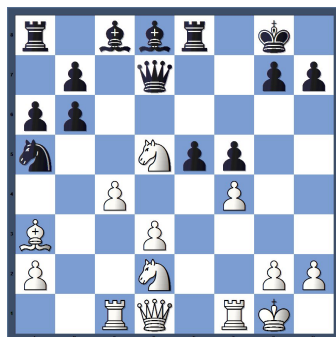
16.b6! A nice reaction!

16...cxb6 [16...c6!? 17.♘e3 ♙xb6 18.c5 ♙c7 19.♚a4 with unclear play, since the knight on a5 is not in great shape.]

17.♘d2 Thanks to the pawn sacrifice White improved the position of the knight on d5 and tries to reach d6 with the other one.

17...f5 Weakening the position, but Ne4 has to be stopped.

18.f4! The black pieces are strangely placed for the moment so White acts very quickly.

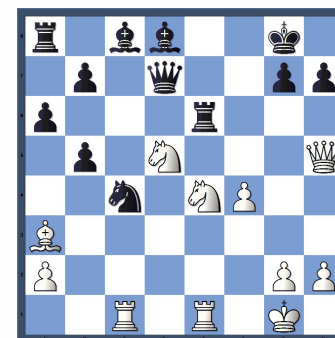


18...e4? I was even thinking about not putting an interrogation mark since it is a very logical move. The best way to play is [18...b5 19.fxe5 bxc4 20.dxc4 b5 21.♙d6 ♙b7 With unclear play.; on 18...exf4 19.♚f3 b5 20.♖ce1 and White has great activity.]

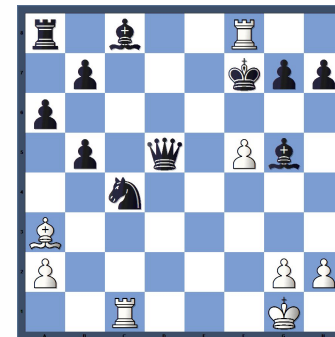
19.♖e1 White only plays good developing moves.

19...b5 20.dxe4 fxe4? The losing move, but it was very easy to miss White's tactic. [20...♚f7 needs to be played to continue the fight.]

21.♘xe4 ♘xc4 22.♚h5 ♖e6 Black was definitely counting on this defensive move but he missed the following beautiful sequence:



23.f5!! ♚xd5 24.♘g5!! ♙xg5 25.♚e8+ ♖xe8 26.♖xe8+ ♙f7 27.♖f8#



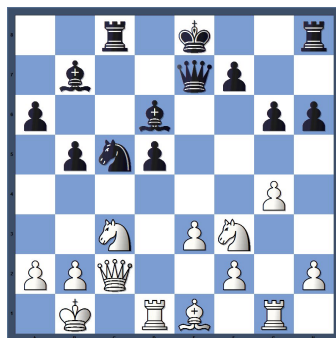
1-0

Puzzle section

(4) Cori, D(2419)-Kramnik, V(2777)

World Cup, 2015.09.11

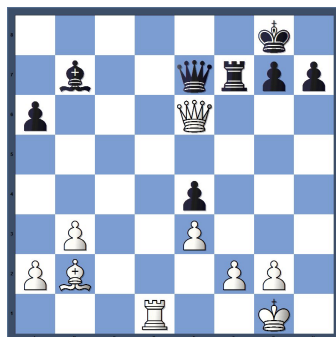
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(5) Mamedyarov, S(2736)-Idani, P(2569)

World Cup, 2015.09.11

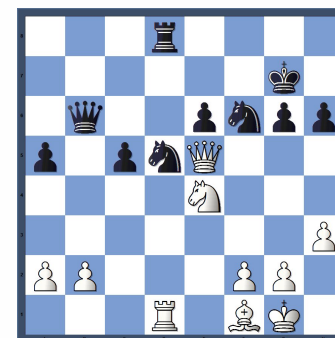
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(6) Nguyen Ngoc Truongso(2634)-Kempinski, R(2637)

World Cup, 2015.09.11

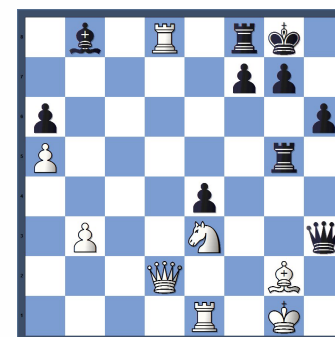
1. +-



(7) Espinosa Veloz, E(2495)-Karjakin, S(2762)

World Cup, 2015.09.12

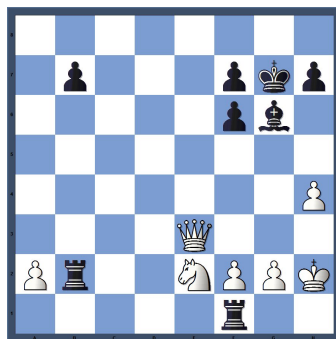
1... -+



(8) Perunovic, M(2614)-Wang Hao(2712)

World Cup, 2015.09.12

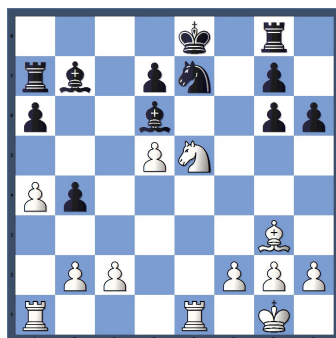
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(9) Guseinov, G(2634)-Matlakov, M(2689)

World Cup tiebreak, 2015.09.13

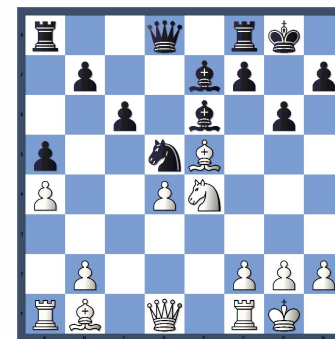
1. +-



(10) Iljushenok, I(2491)-Jakovenko, D(2748)

World Cup tiebreak, 2015.09.13

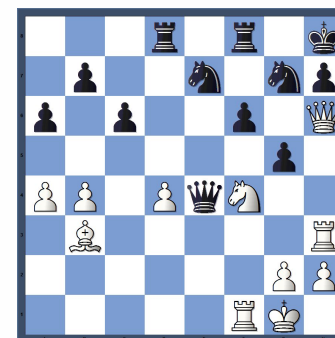
1... -+



(11) Ding Liren(2782)-Inarkiev, E(2660)

World Cup, 2015.09.14

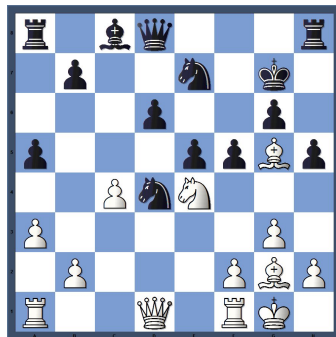
1. +-



(12) So, W(2773)-Balogh, C(2659)

World Cup, 2015.09.15

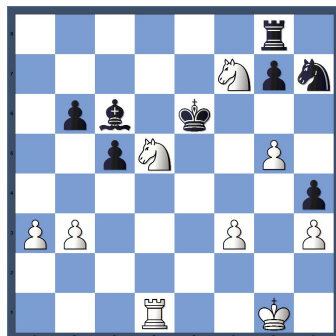
1. +-



(13) Sethuraman, S(2640)-Harikrishna, P(2737)

World Cup, 2015.09.15

1. +-



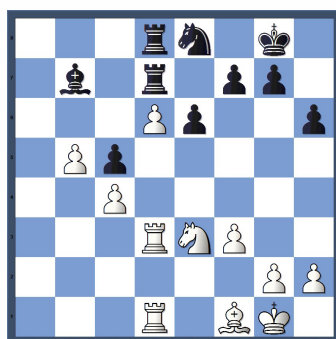
Endgame section

(14) Wojtaszek, Radoslaw (2741)
- Lalith, Babu M.R. (2557)

FIDE World Cup,
2015.09.12



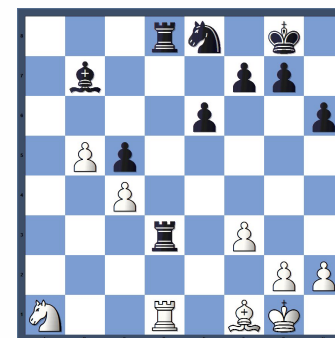
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



Black is just about to win back the pawn on d6 and restore the material balance. However, it is not enough for equalizing positionally, because the b5 protected passed pawn still gives White a nice edge. The question is how should White improve his position? Wojtaszek finds a subtle positional maneuver to increase his advantage.

34. ♖c2!! The knight is heading to a1-b3 from where it not only attacks the weakness on c5, but also prepares to support the b5 passed pawn with Na5.

34... ♜xd6 [34... ♜xd6 is also met by 35. ♖a1! ♜xd3

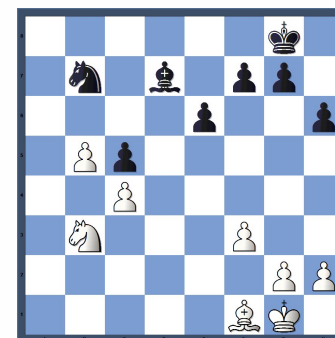


36. ♕xd3!± (36. ♜xd3? is a mistake because it allows Black to build a blockade with 36... ♜xd3 37. ♕xd3 ♜f6! 38. ♖b3 ♜d7 defending the c5 pawn and blocking the passed pawn on b6. Black brings his king to d6 and he saves the game.)]

35. ♜a1! White has already found the right plan, he only needs to execute it properly.

35... ♕c8 The only way to save the c5 pawn was to protect the rook in order to be able to play Nb7.

36. ♖b3 ♜b7 37. ♜xd7 ♜xd7 38. ♜xd7 ♕xd7 White has accomplished the first task by driving the knight to b3. What to do next?

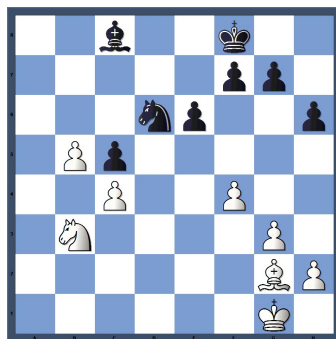


39. f4! The knight on b7 protects the c5 pawn, but it does not have stability. White needs to transfer his bishop to the long diagonal before Black can reach the d6 square with his

king to replace his knight from defending the c5 pawn. 39.Bd3 would have been met by f5, but now White wants to play either Be2-f3 or g3-Bg2.

39...♔f8 40.g3 ♙c8 [Black is just missing one tempo to reach the d6 square.... 40...♔e7 41.♙g2 ♘d6 42.b6 ♙c8 43.♘xc5+-]

41.♙g2 ♘d6 Otherwise Bxb7 and Nxc5 is hopeless.



42.♘a5! The last accuracy! White does not exchange his c5 pawn for the one on c4, but helps promote his passed pawn. Black cannot stop it.

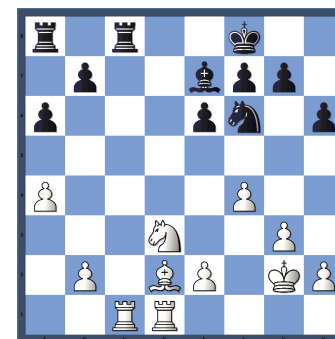
42...♔e7 43.b6 Black resigned! It was very instructive to see how Wojtaszek increased his advantage move by move with a straightforward plan. **1-0**

**(15) Giri, Anish (2793)
- Leko, Peter (2707)**

FIDE World Cup 2015(3.4),
2015.09.18



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



Many players tend to evaluate an equal endgame as a draw, which is a big mistake. An equal endgame means nothing else than an equal position, which could as well appear in any random situation during the game and the current game is a great example. It seems like White is at most slightly better in this endgame and Leko is a great defender, but even he went down under the pressure Giri was creating. A great game to follow and to learn from in this very typical Catalan endgame.

25.♔f3 White is not in a hurry and brings his king closer to the center, where the action is clearly going to take place.

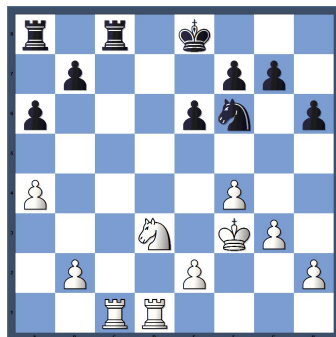
25...♘d7 A solid move. Black wants to put his bishop on f6.

26.♙e3 ♔e8 This is also the correct move. The black king has to come closer to the center. [The exchange of the a-pawn is usually good, but not now. 26...b5 27.axb5 axb5 28.♖xc8+ ♖xc8 29.♗a1 and White takes control, with the easy threat of

playing Ra7 and Rb7. The black b-pawn might get in trouble.]

27. ♖d4 ♜f6 Leko continues defending very solidly and the exchange of bishops brings the draw even closer.

28. ♜xf6 ♞xf6



29. ♞e5! A nice move! In case Black could play Nd7 and Ke7 the position would probably already be very close to equal.

29... ♖e7 30. e4 White puts some pressure with the little material left on the board. His plan is clearly to push the pawn to win some space.

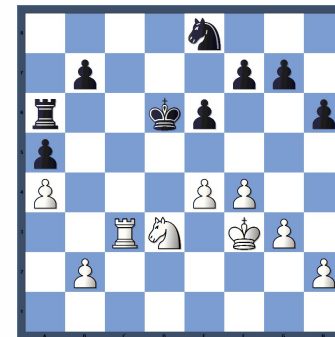
30... ♜xc1 31. ♜xc1 ♞e8! A strong defensive move! Black wants to get rid of the knight with the f6 push.

32. ♞d3 a5?! The first move when Leko starts to go wrong. In my opinion he should have continued with passive defense. [The right way to go on was 32... ♜d8! with the idea of exchanging rooks. 33. ♖e3 ♜d7 34. a5 (In case of 34. ♜c8 34... ♜c7 35. ♜xc7+ ♞xc7 36. ♖d4 b6 the position would be very close to a draw.) 34... f6 and Black can choose to play Nd6 next or Kd8. Of course White can continue pushing but his winning chances are not very big.]

33. ♜c5 A nice move, checking what Black is going to do next.

33... ♖d6 34. ♜c3 And as we can see, Black is already in big trouble! White wants to play Rb3 with a very unpleasant attack on the b7 pawn.

34... ♜a6 Another unlucky decision by Leko. A mistake never comes alone... Black should have continued with 34... f6.



35. e5+! Giri doesn't miss his chance! Now White is going to have a fantastic knight on c5.

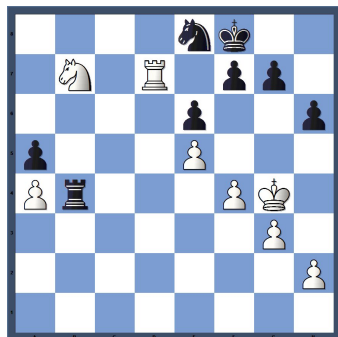
35... ♖e7 36. ♞c5 The black rook has to get to a passive position on b6 and protect the b7 pawn.

36... ♜b6 37. ♜d3 Rd7 is unavoidable.

37... ♜xb2 38. ♜d7+ ♖f8 39. ♞xb7 and it is already unclear if White's position is winning or not and just 14 moves earlier it looked like an endgame where many would expect players to agree to a draw.

39... ♜b3+ 40. ♖g4 A nice move. White is going to need his king in the near future.

40... ♜b4 Other moves would lead to more or less the same.



41. ♖d8! Giri continues playing excellently. The pawn on f7 is falling.

41... ♔g8 42. ♖e7 Now it is all over as the black knight has no squares...

42... ♜f5+ 43. ♔h5 The last trick did not work for Leko.

43... ♔h7 44. ♖xe8 and White is just a full piece up.

44... ♖b2 45. h3 ♜h2 46. ♔h4 With this win Giri proceeded to the 4th round of the World Cup in Baku 2015 and Leko had to take his ticket home. A very instructive endgame! **1-0**

Golden knowledge. Centralization of the queen

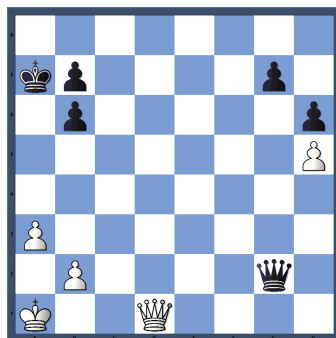


GM Adrian Mikhalchishin
FIDE Trainers Commission Chairman

As we have already seen, in queen endings two very important factors are the safety of the king and the possibility of penetrating the opponent's position. At the same time the role of the queen is also extremely important. The queen attacks the opponent's pawns and king and supports the own passed pawn. For these purposes the position of the queen is very important and the best solution is usually the centralization of the queen.

(16) Schoeneberg, M.-Vukic, M.

Ybbs, 1968



1... ♖e4! Total centralization and doubled pawns can in many cases create a safe haven for the king.

2. ♖f1 g6! This is the most important part of the plan: to create an own passed pawn.

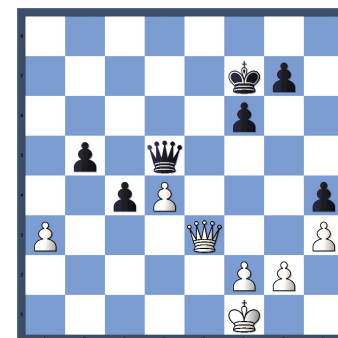
3. hxg6 ♖xg6 4. ♖f4 [4. ♖b5 4... ♖g1+ 5. ♔a2 ♖g4 6. a4 ♖g5 and then finally starting pushing the own pawn.]

4... ♖g5 5. ♖a4+ ♖a5 6. ♖h4 h5 7. ♖e4 [7. ♖c4 7... ♖e5!]

7... ♖b5! 8. ♖f4 ♖d7 9. ♖e4 ♖g4! 0-1

(17) Ballon-Mikhalchishin

Bern, 1995



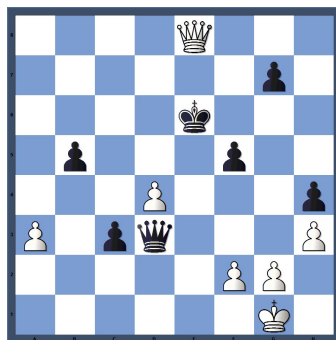
41... ♖f5! Black's task is to penetrate White's position with the queen and in coordination with it to try and push forward the passed pawn on c4.

42. ♔g1 [42. ♔e1 would allow an unfavorable transposition into a pawn ending, because of the strong protected c4 pawn. 42... ♖e6]

42... ♖d3! Another typical speculation with the useful pawn ends for Black. White has to avoid it and then Black's passed pawn will be ready to move forward.

43. ♖f4 c3 44. ♗g4 Trying to start the mechanism of perpetual, which is broken by the opponent on the next move.

44... f5! 45. ♗h5+ ♔e6 46. ♗e8+

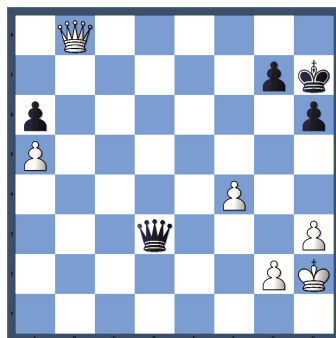


46... ♔d5! Simple and effective. This is the most typical plan of exploitation of the passed pawn.

47. ♗e5+ ♔c4 48. ♗c5+ ♔b3 49. d5 c2 50. ♔h2 ♗c4! 0-1

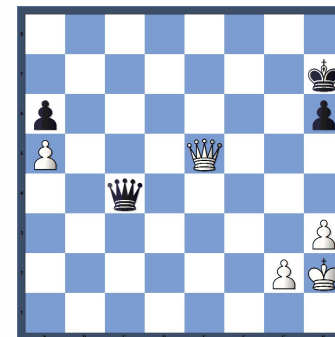
(18) Minev, N.-Chaprazov, I.

BUL-ch, 1965



39. ♗e5! ♔h8 40. f5 White tries to open the opponent's king position.

40... ♔h7 41. f6 gxf6 42. ♗xf6 ♗c4 43. ♗e5

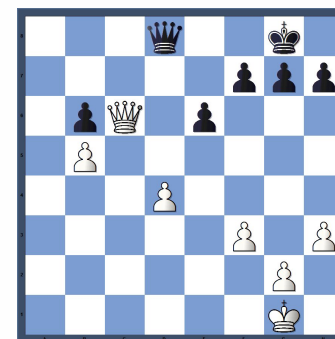


43... ♗d3 44. h4 ♗c4 45. ♔h3 ♗d3+ 46. ♔h2 ♗c4 47. ♗f5+ ♔h8 48. ♔h3 ♗c3+ 49. g3 ♗c4 50. h5 ♗c6 51. ♗e5+ ♔g8 52. ♗d4 ♗b5 53. ♗g4+ ♔h8 54. ♗c8+ ♔g7 55. ♗c7+ ♔g8 56. ♗d8+ ♔f7 57. ♗c7+ ♔g8 58. g4 White opens his king, but he uses the typical idea of marching his king deep into his opponent's position.

58... ♗f1+ 59. ♔g3 ♗d3+ 60. ♔f4 ♗d2+ 61. ♔e4 ♗e2+ 62. ♔f5 ♗f3+ 63. ♗f4 ♗c6 64. ♗e4 ♗c5+ 65. ♗e5 ♗f2+ 66. ♗f4 ♗c5+ 67. ♔g6 ♗c6+ 68. ♗f6 1-0

(19) Lisitsin, G.-Capablanca, J.

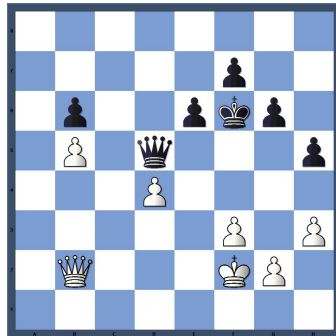
Moscow, 1935



42. ♗c4 The white queen is better centralized at the moment,

but it has to protect the isolated pawn. Black has to try and remove the white queen from this strong position.

42...h5 43.♔h1 g6 44.♔g1 ♔g7 45.♔f1 ♔d6 46.♔g1 ♔f4
47.♔c3 ♔h7 48.♔f1 ♔f5 49.♔c4 ♔g7 50.♔f2 ♔g5 51.♔e2
♔f6 52.♔b2 ♔d5

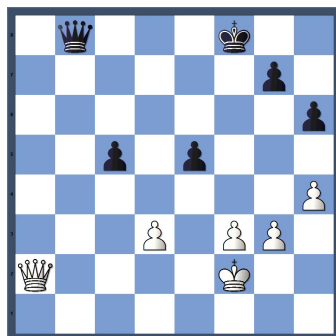


Finally the black queen dominates the board.

53.♔e3 e5 54.f4 exf4+ 55.♔xf4 ♔e6 56.h4 f6 57.♔e3 ♔c4
58.g3 g5 59.hxg5 fxg5 60.♔h2 ♔b3+ 61.♔e4 g4 62.♔e2
♔xg3 63.♔c4+ ♔e7 64.♔c8 ♔f3+ 65.♔e5 ♔f6+ 66.♔d5
♔d6+ 0-1

(20) Romanovsky, P.-Stahlberg, G.

Moscow, 1935

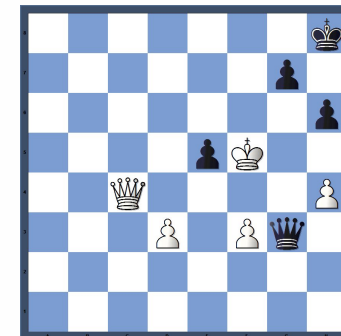


49.♔d5! The powerfully placed queen attacks both black pawns and stops the king's activation.

49...♔b2+ [Passive defense is deadly for Black: 49...♔c7
50.♔e3 ♔e7 51.♔e4 ♔f6 52.h5]

50.♔e3 ♔c1+ 51.♔e2 White is not sure yet, but two moves later the king decides to go forward.

51...♔c2+ 52.♔e3 ♔c1+ 53.♔e4 ♔e1+ 54.♔f5 ♔xg3
55.♔xc5+ ♔g8 56.♔c4+ ♔h8



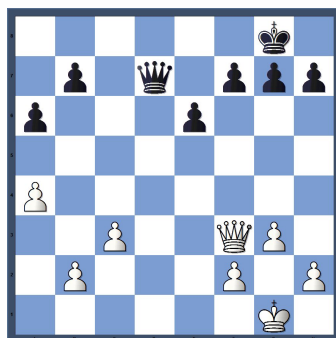
57.♔g4! [57.♔e4 This centralization was good too.]

57...♔e1? [57...♔h2 promised more defensive chances.
58.♔e4 ♔g8]

58.♔g6 ♔c1 59.♔d7 ♔g1+ 60.♔f7 ♔h7 61.♔f5+ g6
62.♔d7 1-0

(21) McDonald, N.-Csom, I.

Elekes Memorial, 1996

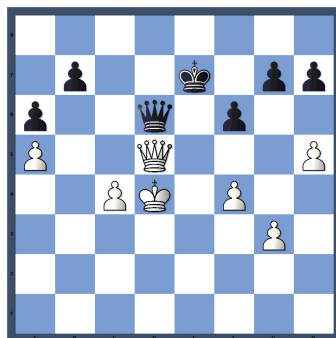


28.a5 f6 29.c4 ♔f8 30.♚e4! Putting the queen on the most central position.

30...♚d1+ 31.♔g2 ♚b3 [Keeping passive defense will be deadly sooner or later: 31...♚d7 32.b3 (32.♚xh7 32...♚c6+) 32...g6 33.h4 ♔f7 34.g4 f5 35.♚f4 ♚e7 36.g5 ♚d7 37.♚e5]

32.♚xe6 ♚xb2 33.h4 ♚b4 34.h5 ♚e7 35.♚d5 ♚c7 36.f4 ♚c6 37.♔f3 Now both sides are trying to get a good pawn ending.

37...♔e7 38.♔e4 ♚e6+ 39.♔d4 ♚d6 40.♔e4 ♚e6+ 41.♔d4 ♚d6



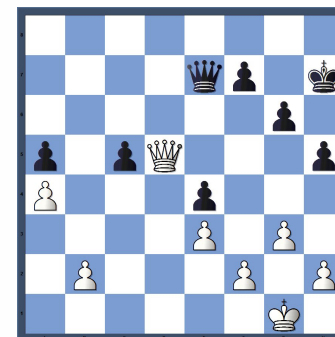
42.f5! ♚b8? [The best defense was 42...b5 43.cxb5 axb5

44.♚xd6+ ♔xd6 45.a6 ♔c6 46.a7 ♔b7 47.♔c5 ♔xa7 48.♔xb5 ♔b7 49.♔c5 ♔c7]

43.♚e6+ ♔f8 44.♔d5 ♚a8 45.c5! Black is close to running out of useful moves. **1-0**

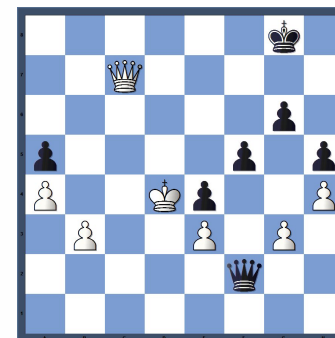
(22) Gufeld, E.-Mineev, N.

Sofia, 1967



White's strong queen controls the board. Now it is possible for the white king to try and come to c4, attacking the black pawns.

1.♔f1 f5 2.h4 ♚c7 3.♔e2 ♚b6 4.♚f7+ ♔h6 5.b3 ♚d6 6.♚c4 ♔h7 7.♔e1 ♚b6 8.♚b5 ♚c7 9.♔d2 ♚e5 10.♔c2 ♚a1 11.♚xc5 ♚a2+ 12.♔c3 ♚xf2 13.♚c7+ ♔g8 14.♔d4

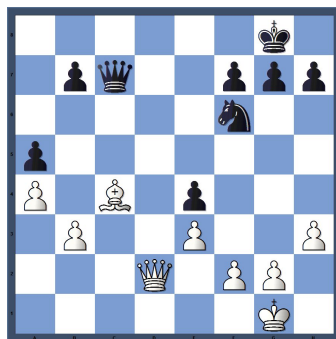


14...♚b2+ [14...♚d2+ 15.♔e5 ♚xe3 16.♔f6]

15. ♖c3 ♜f2 16. ♜xa5 ♜xg3 17. ♜d8+ ♔h7 18. a5 ♜e1
 19. ♜b6 f4 20. ♜c7+ ♔g8 21. a6 ♜d2+ [21... ♜xe3+ 22. ♔e5]
 22. ♔e5 ♜b2+ 23. ♔e6 ♜xb3+ 24. ♔f6 ♜b2+ 25. ♜e5 1-0

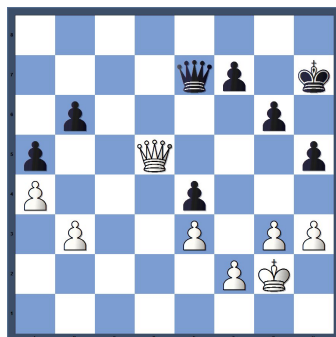
(23) Levenfish, G.-Alatortsev, V.

URS-ch16, 1948



26. ♜d4 The beginning of the centralization.

26...b6 27. ♔f1 h5 28. g3 ♔h7 29. ♙d5 ♜e7 30. ♔g2 ♞xd5
 31. ♜xd5 g6

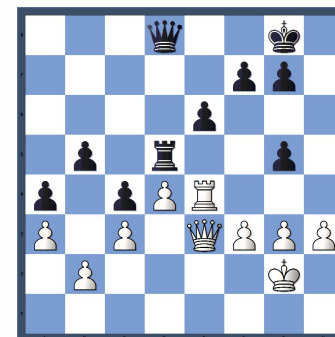


32. g4! With such a strong queen position it is necessary to try and create some weakness in the opponent's position.

32...hxg4 33. hxg4 f6 34. ♜c6 ♜b4 35. ♜xf6 ♜xb3
 36. ♜e7+ ♔h6 37. ♜xe4 b5 38. ♜f4+ ♔h7 39. ♜c7+ ♔h6
 40. ♔g3 ♜b4 41. ♜e5 ♔h7 42. ♜xb5 ♜xb5 43. axb5 a4
 44. b6 a3 45. b7 a2 46. b8=♜ a1=♜ 47. ♜c7+ ♔h6 48. ♜f4+
 g5 49. ♜d4 ♜g1+ 50. ♔f3 ♜h1+ 51. ♔e2 ♜c6 52. ♜h8+ ♔g6
 53. ♜h5+ ♔f6 54. ♜h6+ 1-0

(24) Spassky, B.-Reshevsky, S.

Amsterdam Interzonal, 1964

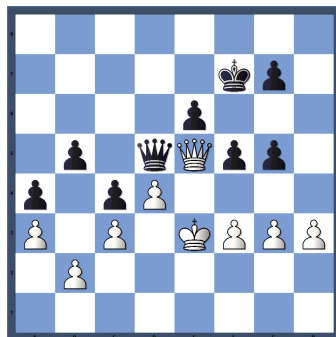


38. ♙e5! White starts to press the black pieces. The main idea is to attack the weaknesses on b5 and g5. And the most important plan is to occupy the central e5 square with the queen.

38...♞xe5 39. ♜xe5 ♜d5 Black cannot protect both weaknesses in another way, but now White can prepare the correct transposition into a pawn ending.

40. ♔f2! ♔h7 41. ♔e3 ♔g6 42. ♜e4+! Weakening the black pawn structure.

42...f5 43. ♜e5! ♔f7



44. ♖b8 ♔f6 45. ♚f8+ ♔g6 46. ♚e7 ♚c6 47. ♔f2 ♚d5
 48. h4 g4 49. ♚g5+ ♔f7 50. fxg4 ♚e4 51. gxf5 ♚c2+ 52. ♔e3
 ♚c1+ 53. ♔e4 ♚e1+ 54. ♚e3 exf5+ 55. ♔f4 ♚b1 56. ♚e2 g6
 and Black resigned because the position is absolutely lost after

57. d5 1-0

Chess and the City. Two is better



WGM Elisabeth Paetz

Best rating: 2493

Two is always better than one and that is why I decided to get married again! :) Well obviously to the same guy, but in a different country with different traditions and mentalities. My husband's roots are Albanian and for that reason our second wedding will take place in Tirana, the capital of Albania, in just under 2 weeks. Getting wed to someone means that you do not only marry him, but also his parents, family, relatives and probably a bunch of his friends too!

For me this is a special challenge since my parents in law, my parents and my lazy self have no real common language and that often leads to unavoidable misunderstandings, escape plans or even surprising head shakes. The most amazing thing I have discovered so far involves the communication between our mothers. In speaking to each other, one uses German and the other Italian, and they handle this so well that one might think that they have invented an entirely new language which only the 2 of them understand!

I am really looking forward to this second marriage ceremony, after the first one was a mixture of delays (naturally my husband, being a true Italian citizen, always finds creative new ways of being late - even on the day of our first wedding

ceremony!), overzealous party makers and a follow up illness which knocked me out for another 10 days afterwards. This time however I've decided to be clever. My dearly beloved's best friends will not be under the same roof, nor a room next door, nor will they get the opportunity of extensive wine imbibing the night beforehand! Also, I've made sure that the most fervent of these won't be there this time to indulge their excesses! :) Last but not least I am really happy that I'll soon be repeating this experience, and even happier that the last segment of my best friends - those who could not make it to Germany - will get to come to Albania. Pictures, stories and gossip will follow in my next newsletter.

Clash of the Titans

(25) Zukertort, Johannes Hermann
- Blackburne, Joseph Henry [A25]

London m(14), 1887



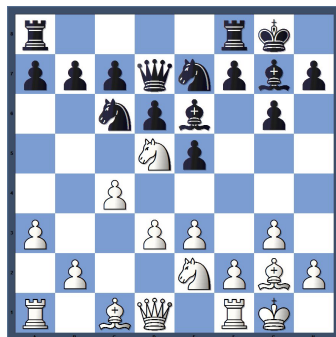
GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.c4 e5 2.e3 ♘c6 3.a3 Nowadays we can say that White's idea is to play a Paulsen System with a tempo up.

3...g6 The best recation. Black prefers development over g6 where the move a3 is less need than after a plan with d5.

4.♘c3 ♕g7 5.g3 ♘ge7 6.♕g2 d6 7.♘ge2 ♕e6 8.♘d5 The only move, otherwise Black play d5 and the connection with the e3-g3 moves will be very bad for White.

8...O-O 9.d3 ♖d7 10.O-O



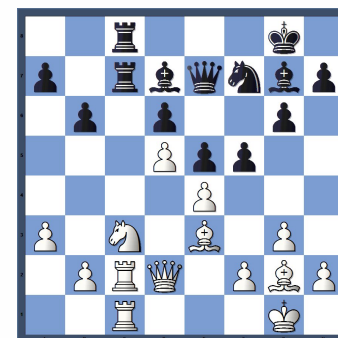
10...♘d8! It is hard to believe that this main idea was known so many years ago! Black is going to get rid of the knight from d5. Sometimes is possible to first play [10...♘c8!? and then

Nd8-c6. 11.d4 ♘d8 12.b3 c6 13.♘dc3 f5∞]

11.d4 c6 12.♘xe7+ ♖xe7 13.d5 [13.b3 13...exd4 (13...f5∞) 14.♘xd4 (14.exd4 14...d5!) 14...d5 (14...c5 15.♘xe6! and the rook on f8 is also hanging. White is clearly better thanks to the strong bishop on g2.) 15.cxd5 (15.♘xe6 15...♘xe6 16.♖b1 dxc4 17.bxc4 ♘c5 Because the white bishops are very limited Black doesn't have any problems.) 15...♕xd5 16.♕xd5 cxd5 17.♕b2 ♘e6 Black is ready to fight for the important d4 square. 18.♖d2 ♘g5↗ The weak light squares give Black good opportunities for counterplay.]

13...cxd5 14.cxd5 ♕d7 15.e4 f5 16.♕e3 ♘f7 17.♖d2 b6 Preparing Rc8. A more original idea was the following pawn sacrifice: [17...f4 18.gxf4 exf4 19.♕xf4 g5! (19...♘e5 20.♕g5 ♖f7 21.f4 ♘c4 22.♖d3 ♘xb2 23.♖b3↑ and the black pieces lost a bit of coordination.) 20.♕e3 g4 with Ne5 next. Black has nice compensation.]

18.♖ac1 ♖ac8 19.♘c3 ♖c7 20.♖c2 ♖fc8 21.♖fc1



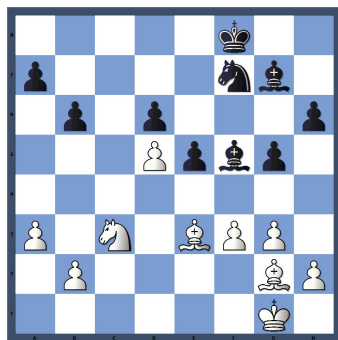
21...h6 looks logical to improve the position. Black can still use the idea with the pawn sacrifice after f4 or play [21...♖f8 with the idea Bh6 to exchange the typical bad bishop on g7.]

22.f3 g5 23.exf5 [23.♕f1!? with the idea to get control over the c-file after Ba6-Nb5.]

23...♙xf5 24.♘e4 ♖f8 [24...♗xc2 25.♗xc2 ♗xc2 26.♗xc2 h5 and g4 next with the idea to weaken the e4 square and try to activate the pieces over g5-h6.]

25.♗xc7 [25.♗c6!? 25...♗xc6 26.dxc6 ♙e6!⇒Preparing d5 and it is hard to say if the c6 pawn will be strong or weak.]

25...♗xc7 26.♗xc7 ♖xc7 27.♖c3 ♖xc3 28.♘xc3



28...♙d7 Avoiding Nb5.

29.♙f1! and White keeps a plus thanks to the better pieces and potential pressure against the pawns on the queenside.

29...♖e7 30.♖f2 ♖d8 It looks logical to bring the king to the queenside. Another idea was to play h5-g4-Bh6.

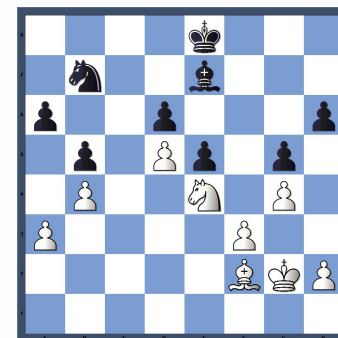
31.♙d3 [31.♘b5 31...♙xb5 32.♙xb5 e4!⇒and the black pieces get activated.]

31...♖c7 32.♙g6 ♘d8 [32...♘h8 33.♙h5±]

33.b4 a6 34.♖e2 b5 35.g4 The character of the position is closed but the black pieces are very limited (Bg7 and Nd8), which is why White keeps a stable advantage.

35...♘b7 36.♖d3 [36.♙f2 36...♙f6! The only move. (36...♖d8 37.h4 ♖e7 38.hxg5 hxg5 39.♘e4 ♙f6 40.♙e3+—; 36...e4!? with the idea to find some counterplay. 37.♘xe4 ♙b2 38.♙e1 ♙xa3 39.♙c3 a5! 40.bxa5 b4 41.♙g7 (41.a6 41...bxc3 42.a7

c2) 41...♘a5 42.♙xh6 b3 43.♙xg5 b2 44.♘d2±) 37.♘e4 ♙e7 38.♖f1 ♖d8 39.♖g2 ♙e8 40.♙xe8 ♖xe8



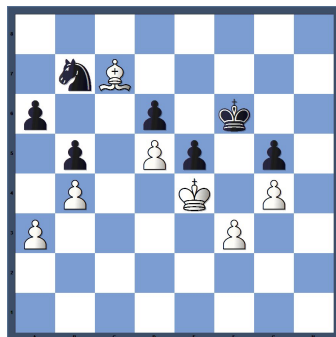
41.h4 (41.♘g3 41...♙f8 42.♘f5 ♖f7 43.♙b6) 41...♘d8! (41...gxh4 42.♖h3 ♖f7 (42...♙g5 43.♘xg5 hxg5 44.♙e3) 43.♙xh4 ♙xh4 44.♖xh4 ♖g6 45.g5 hxg5+ 46.♖g4 ♖h6 47.♘xg5 ♘d8 48.♘e4 ♘f7 49.♖f5+—) 42.♙e3 ♘f7 Black is on time!]

36...♖d8 37.♘e4 ♖e7 38.♙b6 Black is paralyzed but this is not enough for White to win the game, he will need to find a way to create some pawn weaknesses.

38...♙f8 39.♙f2 ♙g7 40.h4 ♙f6 41.hxg5 [41.♙e3 41...gxh4 42.♙xh6 h3⇒]

41...♙xg5 42.♘xg5 hxg5 White managed to create a weak pawn on g5 but on the other hand Black got rid of the limited bishop.

43.♖e4 ♖f6 44.♙h7 ♙e8 45.♙f5 ♙g6 46.♙b6? White missed a nice winning idea: [46.♙xg6 46...♖xg6 47.♙b6 ♖f6 48.♙c7

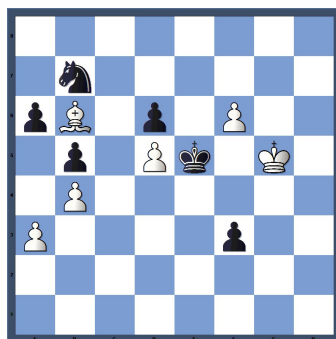


48...♔g6 It looks like Black can build a fortress but after 49.♙xd6! ♜xd6+ 50.♙xe5 ♜f7+ 51.♙e6 the d-pawn will decide the game in White's favor.]

46...♙xf5+ 47.gxf5 ♙f7 Now White is not able to improve his position and objectively it is a draw.

48.f4?! A very optimistic idea.

48...gxf4 [48...exf4 49.♙f3 ♙f6 50.♙g4 ♙e5! (50...f3 51.♙d4+--)] 51.♙xg5 f3 52.f6

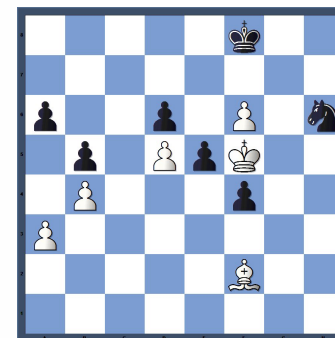


52...♜d8! and Black holds the position.]

49.♙f3 ♙e8 50.♙g4 ♜d8 51.f6 ♜f7 52.♙f5 ♙f8 53.♙f2 ♙g8 54.♙e6 ♙f8 [54...e4 55.♙d4! (55.♙f5 55...e3 56.♙g1 e2 57.♙f2 ♜e5 58.♙xf4 ♜d3+--)] 55...e3 56.♙e7 e2 57.♙f2 f3 Probably with a positional draw because the f6 pawn stops the knight from helping promote the black pawns.]

55.♙f5 ♙g8 56.♙e6 ♙f8 57.♙f5 ♜d8 58.♙b6 ♜f7 59.♙f2 Both sides have no idea how to improve their position.

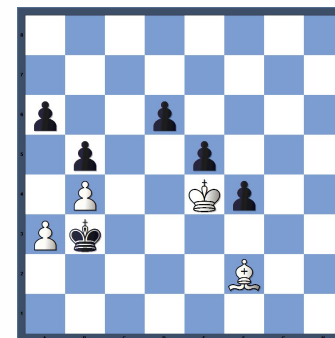
59...♙e8 60.♙h4 ♙f8 61.♙f2 ♜h6+



62.♙g5? A mistake... [62.♙g6 62...♜f7= (62...♜g4 63.♙b6 f3 64.f7 f2 65.♙c7+--)]

62...♙f7! A strong move! Now the white king is out of play and the two passed pawns supported by the black king will easily win against the bishop.

63.♙xh6 ♙xf6 64.♙h5 ♙f5 65.♙a7 [65.♙h4 leads to similar lines as in the game: 65...e4 (65...♙e4 66.♙g4 ♙xd5 67.♙f5 ♙c4 68.♙e4 ♙b3



69.♙c5! This nice trick helps White to escape with a draw!) 66.♙h3 e3 67.♙h4 ♙e4 68.♙g2 f3+ 69.♙f1 ♙xd5 70.♙g3 ♙c4

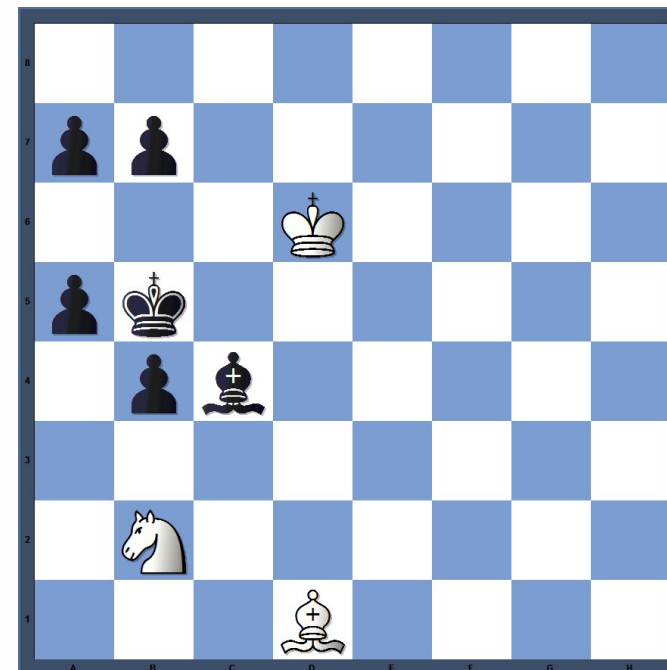
71.♙xd6 ♖b3 72.♙f4 ♖xa3 73.♙xe3 ♖xb4 74.♖f2 ♖c3 and it looks like the white pieces are too far to stop the black pawns.]

65...e4 66.♖h4 e3—+ 67.♖h3 ♖e4 68.♖g2 f3+ 69.♖g3 f2 70.♖g2 ♖d3 0-1

Surprise section / study

(26) Grzeban

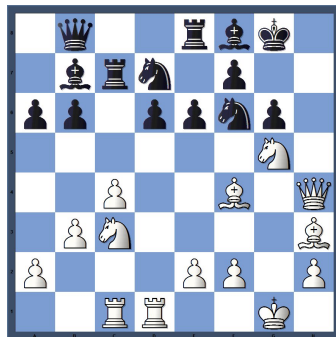
1. +—



Solutions

(27) Caruana, F(2808)-So, W(2779)

Sinquefield CUP, 2015.09.01

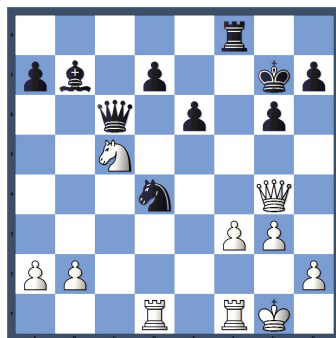


21. ♖xd6? [21. ♘xd6! 21... ♘xd6 22. ♖xd6 ♖xc4 23. bxc4 ♙xd6
24. ♙h8+!! ♜xh8 25. ♘xf7+ ♜g7 26. ♘xd6+—]

21...e5!∞

(28) Leiva, G(2400)-Bluebaum, M(2580)

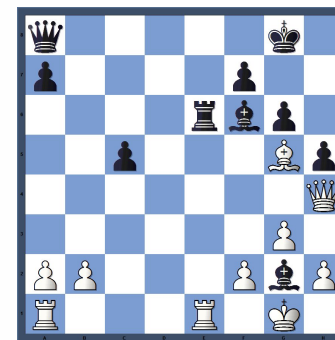
World Juniors, 2015.09.07



24... ♘xf3+! 25. ♖xf3 ♙xc5+!—+ 0-1

(29) Dubov, D(2661)-Savchenko, B(2567)

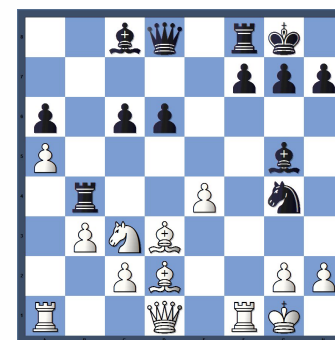
Moscow blitz, 2015.09.06



30... ♘h1! 31. ♙h3 ♖xe1+ 32. ♖xe1 ♘g5—+

(30) Oparin, G(2569)-Andreikin, D(2720)

Moscow blitz, 2015.09.06

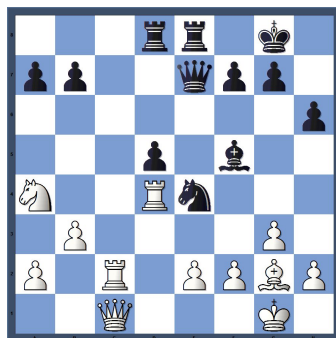


17... ♘e3+! 18. ♘xe3 [18. ♜h1 18... ♙h4 19. h3 ♙g3! 20. hxg4
♙h4#]

18... ♘xe3 19. ♙d2 ♘xf1—+

(31) Mozharov, M(2573)-Zvjaginsev, V(2660)

Moscow blitz, 2015.09.06



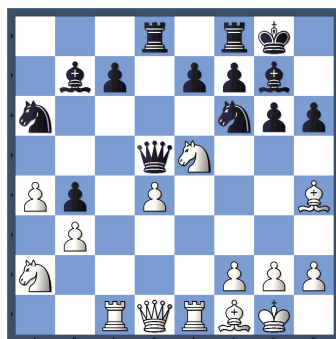
22...♘xf2! 23.♞c7 [23.♔xf2 23...♙xc2 24.♞xc2 ♜e3+ 25.♔f1 ♜xd4+-]

23...♞xe2+- 24.♞f4 [24.♞d2 24...♘h3+! 25.♙xh3 ♜e3+ 26.♔g2 ♜e4+ 27.♔g1 ♙xh3+-]

24...♘h3+-+

(32) Zvjaginsev, V(2660)-Dubov, D(2661)

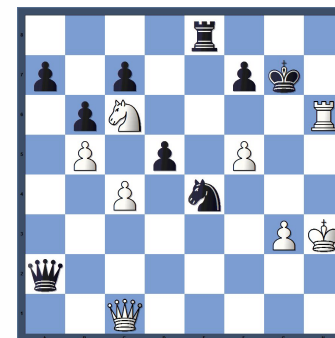
Moscow blitz, 2015.09.06



19.♘xg6!! ♔h7 [19...♞fe8 20.♘xe7+ ♞xe7 21.♞xe7+-; 19...fxg6 20.♙c4+-] **20.♘xf8+-**

(33) Inarkiev, E(2660)-Mozharov, M(2573)

Moscow blitz, 2015.09.06

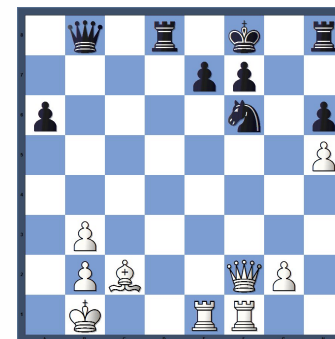


36.f6+! ♔g8 [36...♘xf6 37.♞g5+-]

37.♞h8+! 1-0 [37.♞h8+ 37...♔xh8 38.♞h6+ ♔g8 39.♞g7#]

(34) Dubov, D(2661)-Malakhov, V(2694)

Moscow blitz, 2015.09.06

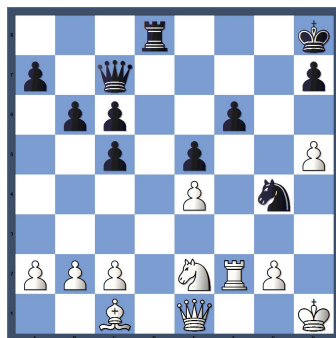


32.♞xe7! ♞d6 [32...♔xe7 33.♞xf6+-]

33.♞fe1+-

(35) Najer, E(2658)-Savchenko, B(2567)

Moscow blitz, 2015.09.06

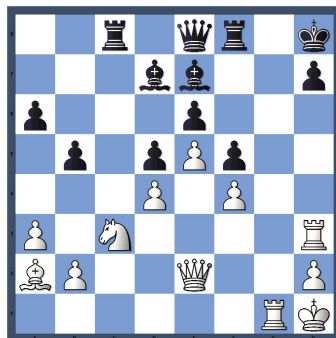


26...♖d1! 27.♖f1 [27.♙xd1 27...♘xf2+ 28.♔g1 ♘xd1—+] 27...♖xe1—+

27...♖xe1—+

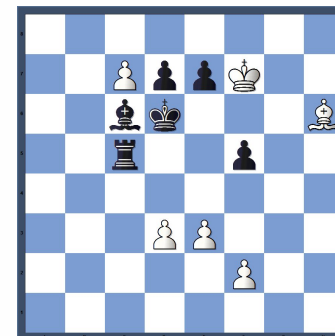
(36) Navara, D(2751)-Matuszewski, M(2463)

Polish league, 2015.09.05



30.♖xh7+! ♔xh7 31.♙g2! 1-0 [31.♙g2 31...♖g8 (31...♗g5 32.♙xg5+-) 32.♙h3+-]

(37) Bondarenko



1.♗f4+! e5 2.♗xe5+! ♔xe5 3.c8=♙! ♗d5+ 4.♔e7 ♖xc8 5.f4#



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 187

25th of September 2015

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Editorial Preface

The FIDE World Cup in Baku slowly coming to the final stage. 4 players qualified for the Semi-Finals and these are Anish Giri, Pavel Eljanov and the two Russians Sergey Karjakin and Peter Svidler.

Karjakin is playing Eljanov and Giri is playing Svidler. Clearly the hero of the event is Pavel Eljanov. He started the event with 6 wins in classical chess, then made 2 draws and in the 1/4 finals he easily beat Nakamura with 1.5-0.5. I cannot remember such an outstanding result by any player during the World Cup event.

Giri has also been playing very well throughout the whole event, sometimes winning in classical games, sometimes in rapid, and generally showing very smart and practical play. Svidler had a lot of tough matches but always managed to consolidate in the most important moment and to get into the next round.

Karjakin is clearly the luckiest guy of the event, as already in the second round he was very close to get eliminated by Onischuk after his loss in the first game, but somehow he managed to get back in the match and win it in the tiebreaks. His matches against Andreikin and Mamedyarov were also anything but easy.

The final matches of the World Cup are going to be very exciting and we wish everyone great fun watching it!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) **Giri, Anish (2793)**
- **Wojtaszek, Radoslaw (2741) [A18]**

FIDE World Cup 2015(4.3),
2015.09.22



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are in the first game of the tie-break, which has the time control of 25 min + 10 seconds per move. It is a very long rapid game which often has almost the same quality as a classical game of chess. Giri clearly tricks his opponent into a position which he doesn't know well out of the opening and later on crushes the black chances for survival with a nice mating attack.

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 White often uses this move order against players who don't like to play 1.c4 e5 or 1.c4 c5.

2...e6 3.e4 This is the key behind this move order. Wojtaszek mainly plays the Nimzovich and now he cannot get it.

3...d5 4.cxd5 This is a quite recent development, before White was usually playing 4.e5 d4 etc.

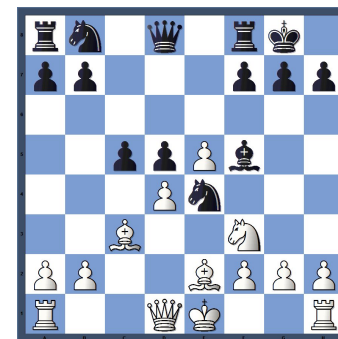
4...exd5 5.e5 ♘e4 6.♘f3 ♙f5 Both players are clearly very well-prepared, as a move like 6...Bf5 is not an easy move to play during a practical game.

7.d4 ♙b4 Black is winning a tempo and develops the bishop.

8.♙d2 ♙xc3 9.♙xc3 O-O Such a position is very difficult to evaluate. On one hand White has the better center and a bit more space, but on the other hand the black pieces are nicely

developed and there are ideas of c5 or f6 pushes. I would say that here White is just a bit better.

10.♙e2 c5 A very logical move.



11.dxc5 The right choice. [11.O-O 11...c4 followed by Nc6 and b5-b4, with great play for Black.]

11...♘xc3 Now the exc hange is forced, otherwise the white bishop would take a superior position on d4.

12.bxc3 ♙e4 White would put his knight to d4 anyway, so Black is preventing it for one move.

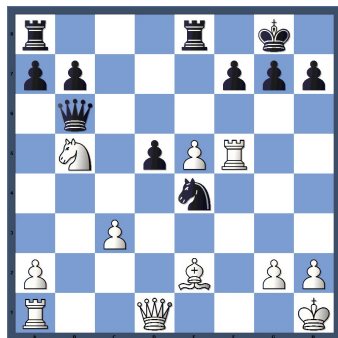
13.O-O ♘d7 14.♘d4 ♘xc5 It is hard to say if White is still better here or if Black fully equalized. It is clear that Black's play should be against the c3 pawn, by playing Rc8-Qa5, and White should do something on the kingside where he has more space.

15.f3 ♙g6 16.♘b5 Very logical play. White covered the e4 square with f3 and now he is trying to get his knight to d6.

16...♙e8 17.f4 Not the most accurate move. [Maybe White should have continued with 17.♙d4 17...♘e6 18.♙e3 and now f4-f5 is really a dangerous threat.]

17...♙e4? A big mistake. [Black should have continued with 17...♘e4 using the fact that White doesn't have anything but an equal position after playing f5. 18.f5 ♙b6+ 19.♙h1 ♙xf5

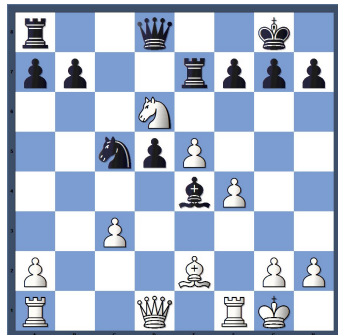
20. ♖xf5 and here comes the move that Black has probably overseen:



20... ♖xe5! Now the position is a forced draw. 21. ♕f1 ♖xf5 22. ♕xf5 ♘f2+ 23. ♙g1 ♘h3+ 24. ♙h1 ♘f2+]

18. ♘d6 Now the white knight on d6 is a monster.

18... ♖e7



19. c4! A very nice move. It is important not to let the black pieces consolidate.

19... dxc4 20. ♕xc4 The white pieces are dominating the game and now the pawn on f7 is also in trouble.

20... ♕c6 21. ♕c2 Giri continues increasing the pressure by making solid and good moves! Now Bxf7 is a threat.

21... ♘e6 22. ♖ad1 Bringing the last inactive piece into the game.

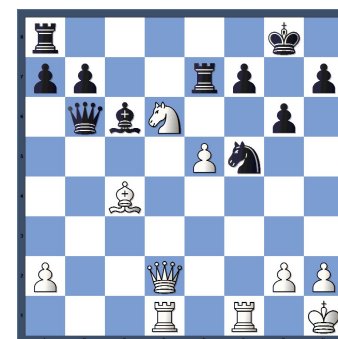
22... ♕b6+ 23. ♙h1 White's position is winning even if he has no material advantage. The threat of playing f5 is just deadly.

23... g6 This move doesn't really help.

24. f5 Of course!

24... ♘d4 25. ♕d2 The game is over now...

25... ♘xf5

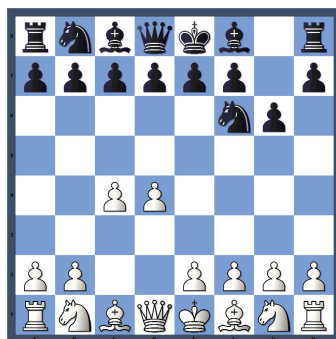


26. ♖xf5 The last accurate move.

26... gxf5 27. ♘xf5 and Black cannot do anything against Qg5 next. It seems like White did nothing special to win this game, but in fact such "easy" play is sometimes the hardest thing to do. 1-0

**(2) Mamedyarov, Shakhriyar (2736)
- Caruana, Fabiano (2808) [E60]**FIDE World Cup 2015(4.1),
2015.09.20GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

One of the favorites, Fabiano Caruana was eliminated by Mamedyarov. The local super GM won the first game of the match in a very nice and convincing attacking game.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6

3.♗g5!? A very rare move on the highest level, although it is a clever attempt to confuse a Gruenfeld player. White wants to avoid the 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Ne4 main line of the Gruenfeld defence!

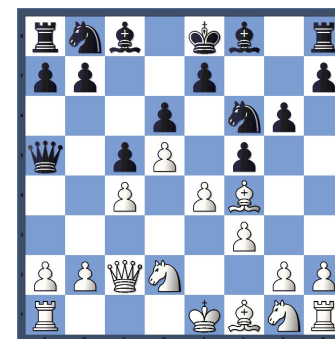
3...♞e4 [3...♗g7 is the most natural move, but then White plays 4.♞c3 and Black either allows e4 and plays a King's Indian, which was definitely not the idea of a Gruenfeld player, or plays 4...d5 but then he could not play 4. ..Ne4 instead of 4...Bg7.]

4.♗f4 Jumping to with the knight before the white knight has developed to c3 allows White to occupy the center with f3-e4. Black must try to challenge the center anyway.

4...c5 5.♞c2! White is familiar with the subtleties of the opening. [5.f3 was less accurate in view of 5...♞a5+! 6.♞d2 ♞xd2 7.♗xd2 ♞b6! and the b2 pawn is under attack. That is the reason of playing 5.Qc2.]

5...♞a5+ 6.♞d2 f5 [Now on 6...♞xd2 7.♗xd2 ♞b6 White has a pleasant choice between 8.dxc5 (and 8.d5 which is also better for him due to the nice center after e4.) 8...♞xc5 9.♗c3 Provoking some unwanted weakening in the pawn structure with f6 or e5.]

7.f3! Forcing the active knight to make a decision. It either retreats or takes on d2, but in both cases White will be able to build a strong center with d5-e4.

7...♞f6 8.d5 d6 9.e4

9...♞a6! Nice prophylaxis against White's main idea... [Black was rightly afraid of 9...♗g7 10.exf5 ♗xf5 11.♗d3! with tempo, because Black is not really willing to trade the light squared bishops after playing f5, because he loses the control over the e6 square, which could be occupied quickly by the g1 knight. With the knight on a6, this idea obviously does not work because of Nb4.]

10.♞e2! A known idea from the King's Indian Saemisch defense. The knight cannot develop to its most natural square on f3, but it goes to c3 from where it supports the central

pawns. Black is going to undermine them with e6 or b5 and then the knight on c3 could become very useful.

10...fxe4 Caruana decides to release the tension in the center, since the g1 knight cannot develop to f3 anymore.

11.fxe4 ♟g7 12.♞c3 O-O 13.♟e2 White quickly wants to finish the development with O-O after which he could conclude the opening stage of the game with a slight edge thanks to his strong center. Black must quickly try to make use of the temporary loose position of the f4 bishop and try to gain some benefits from the pin on the f-file.

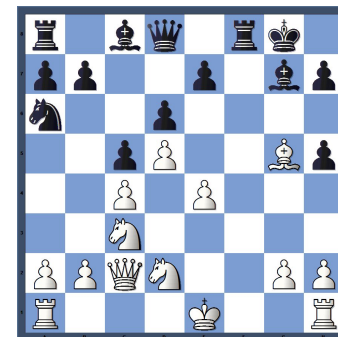
13...♞h5?! Caruana comes to the right conclusion, but executes it in a wrong version. [It was probably much stronger to play 13...♞g4! 14.O-O (14.♟g5 14...♟d4 White is missing one important tempo to find safety for his king.) 14...♟d4+ 15.♞h1 ♞f2+ 16.♞xf2 ♟xf2 17.♟h6 Followed by Nf3, with compensation for the exchange, but it is doubtful if it could be also enough for an advantage... Black might even consider giving back the material but completing the development with 17...♟d7 18.♟xf8 ♞xf8 Black cannot be worse here with the two bishops.]

14.♟g5! [14.♟e3 14...♞f4 was Black's idea and if White plays 15.O-O ♞xe2+ 16.♞xe2 ♞xf1+ the a2 pawn is hanging, while after 17.♞xf1 b5!+= Black grabs the initiative.]

14...♞d8 is too passive. Black admits the mistake of his previous move. [14...♞f4 would have been consequent after the previous move, but it also fails to equalize. White plays 15.O-O! ♞xe2+ (On 15...♟xc3 16.♟xf4+= protects the knight on d2.) 16.♞xe2 ♞xf1+ 17.♞xf1 ♞xa2 18.♞c3+= followed by taking on e7 next move.; 14...♟d4 also fails to create enough counterplay, because after 15.♟xh5 gxh5 16.♞f3! Qd2 is coming next, forcing back the bishop from its active position. Then White could already castle kingside, the e7 pawn starts

to hang and the damaged situation of the black kingside will also start to tell after Bh6.]

15.♟xh5 gxh5



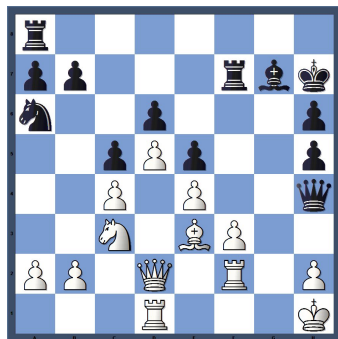
16.♞f3! The opening stage of the game has clearly finished in favor of White! The only problem of his position was his uncastled king, but it is going to be solved now. At the same time he achieved many advantages, such as having a strong center, keeping the strong dark squared bishop and damaging the opponent's kingside. He has potential attacking chances with Qd2-Bh6 or transferring the knight to the kingside through Ne2-g3 or Nf4.

16...h6 17.♟e3 ♟g4 18.O-O e6 19.♞d2! ♞h7 20.♞ad1! An excellent positional move, forcing Black to decide what he wants to do in the center by increasing the pressure on the d6 pawn.

20...e5 This had to be a very sad moment for Caruana. He definitely wanted to avoid playing this move, which closes the center and his dark squared bishop. The game becomes static, where Black remains without counterplay. [20...exd5 was met by 21.♞xd5! winning the d6 pawn. Although it probably would still have been preferable to try and compensate a pawn down in an opened position rather than suffer in a cramped one with passive pieces.]

21.♖f2! The center is fixed, the d1 rook has already done its job. It is time to activate it by doubling on the f-file.

21...♘c7 [This was the last moment for Black to trade on f3, however it is not obvious to him this exchange favors him.
21...♙xf3 22.gxf3 ♔h4 23.♙h1 ♖f7



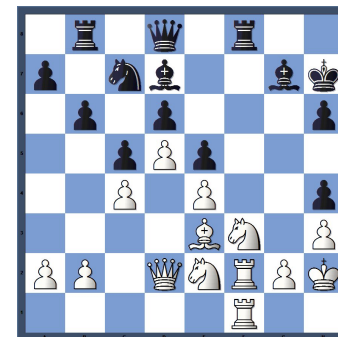
24.♘e2! followed by Ng3-f5, paralyzing Black with a single knight on f5 and clearly using the fact that the g6 pawn was lured to h5 before.]

22.♖df1 ♖b8 23.h3 ♙d7 Black needs this bishop to try and keep his position together. [23...♙xf3 24.♖xf3 ♖xf3 25.♖xf3+- is hopeless positionally. White can easily focus all his pieces to the kingside and Rf5 or Ne2-g3 are coming next.]

24.♘e2! Mamedyarov is extremely strong in attacking chess. He drives his knight to g3. Black must prevent it, but he can only do it temporarily.

24...h4 25.♙h2! Preparing for the opening of the kingside.

25...b6 Another sad decision, but it was difficult to be clever. [25...b5 is rather leading to suicide after 26.b4! cxb4 27.c5!+- Black just destroys himself on both sides of the board.]



26.g3! By undermining the h4 pawn, White opens the path for his knight towards the kingside. All his pieces are perfectly focused for a successful attack, while the black ones are disorganized and not well organized to defend properly. Black also lacks the space for the movement of his pieces.

26...hxc3+ 27.♘xg3 Black cannot hold all the squares. Nh5 is coming next and if he prevents it with Be8 then the knight goes to f5, while in case of Qe8 the h4 square becomes free to play Nh4-f5. In all the cases, the knight's arrival is decisive!

27...♖g8 [27...♔e8 28.♘h4+-]

28.♘h5 ♘e8 [28...♙f8 for instance loses to 29.♘f6+ ♖xf6 30.♘g5+-; 28...♙h8 29.♙xh6+-]

29.♘xg7 ♘xg7 30.♙xh6 The game is over. White has won material and he continues attacking.

30...♘h5 31.♘g5+ ♙g6 32.♖g1 From now on all the moves are just winning for White. Mamedyarov finishes the game in style.

32...♔e7 33.♘f7+ ♙h7 34.♙g5 ♔e8 35.♔e2 ♘g7 36.♖f6 ♖f8 37.♖h6+ ♙g8 38.♙f6 ♖xf7 39.♔h5 and Rh8 is mate in the next move! **1-0**

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot
Best rating: 2749

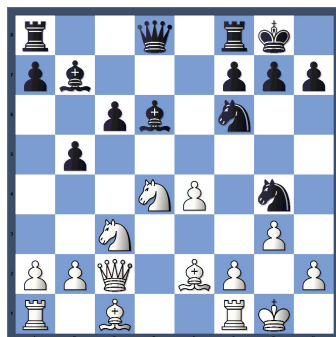
(3) Bluebaum, Matthias (2580)
- **Loiseau, Quentin (2419) [D46]**

World Junior Open 2015(5.8),
2015.09.06

Back to the World Juniors, here is the game between the 18 year-old Bluebaum, who took bronze in Khanty, and my compatriot Loiseau, who played excellently in Khanty and finished in 4th place.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 e6 5.e3 ♘bd7 6.♚c2 ♕d6 7.♕d3 O-O 8.O-O dxc4 9.♕xc4 b5 10.♕e2 This is an ant line of the Meran. This retreat became more fashionable than 10.Bd3, which I use to play.

10...♕b7 11.e4 e5 12.dxe5 ♘xe5 13.♘d4 ♘eg4 14.g3

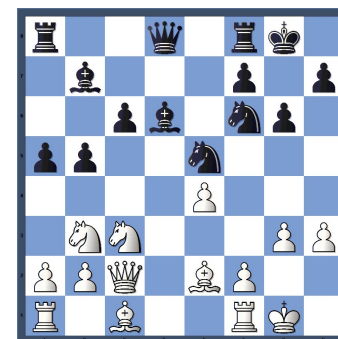


14...g6 A rare move. [14...♕xg3 15.hxg3 ♚xd4 16.♚d1 ♚xd1 17.♚xd1 leads to an unbalanced endgame where White is pushing.; 14...♕c5!? 15.♘f5 ♚e8 16.♕f4 ♚b6 17.♚g2 ♘xf2 18.e5 was very complex in Giri-Shirov 2014.]

15.♘b3 A good novelty. [15.h3 15...♘xf2 16.♚xf2 ♕xg3 17.♕e3 ♕xf2+ 18.♕xf2 ♚e8 with an unclear position. Barbot-Gozzoly 2014]

15...a5 [15...♚e8 16.h3 b4 might be checked as well.]

16.h3 ♘e5

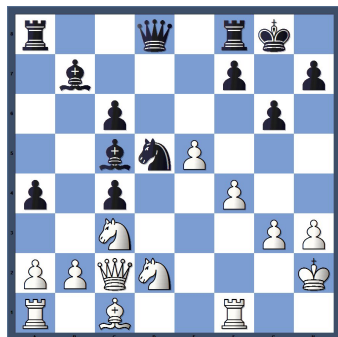


17.f4!? Entering the forced lines. White could have chosen a positional way as well: [17.♚d1 17...♚e7 18.♕g5 a4 19.♘d4 ♚fd8∞; 17.♕h6 I prefer this move. 17...♚e8 18.♚ad1 a4 19.♘d2 and I think White should be able to claim an advantage in this line.]

17...♘c4 [After 17...a4 18.♘d2 ♘ed7 19.e5 ♘xe5 20.fxe5 ♕xe5 21.♘de4 Black definitely doesn't have enough for the sacrificed piece.]

18.e5 a4 Freeing the c5 square.

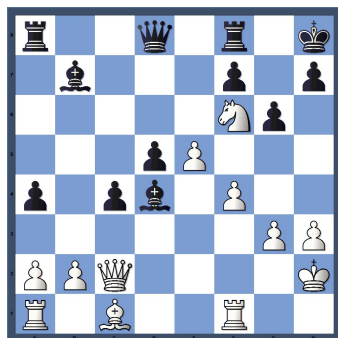
19.♕xc4 bxc4 20.♘d2 ♕c5+ 21.♚h2 ♘d5



22. ♖de4 Going for the attack. [Of course after 22. ♖xc4 22... ♖xc3 23. bxc3 ♖a6 Black has good compensation.]

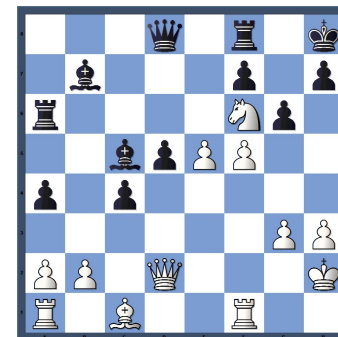
22... ♖d4? Very risky and wrong. The f6 square should be defended: [22... ♖e7! 23. f5 ♖c8 (23... a3 is also an option.) 24. f6 (24. fxg6 24... fxg6 25. ♖h6 ♖f5 White's attack is over.; 24. ♖h6 24... ♖xf5∞) 24... ♖b4 25. ♖d2 (25. ♖d2? 25... ♖e8±) 25... ♖d7 with unclear play.]

23. ♖xd5 cxd5 24. ♖f6+ ♖h8



25. ♖d2!! A very strong move, heading to h6 with tempo.

25... ♖b6? [25... ♖c5 would maintain some hope thanks to the following great defensive idea: 26. f5 ♖e8 (26... ♖a6 is deadly met by



27. b4!! A prophylactic move! (27. ♖h6 27... ♖xf6 28. ♖g5 ♖b6!! lets black escape; 27. ♖xh7 This human move leads to a better position for White, but with counterplay. 27... gxf5 28. ♖xf8 d4) 27... ♖e7 (27... axb3 28. ♖h6 ♖xf6 29. ♖g5+- is completely lost.) 28. ♖b2 ♖xf6 29. exf6 gxf5 30. ♖d4 and Black will be destroyed on the dark squares.) 27. ♖xe8 (27. ♖h6 27... ♖xf6!! Again this strong queen sacrifice to attack the king. 28. exf6 ♖e2+ 29. ♖f2 ♖xf2+ 30. ♖g1 ♖xf5+ 31. ♖e3 ♖f8=+) 27... ♖xe8 28. ♖e2± Somehow the material advantage should prevail.]

26. ♖d7 ♖a7 [26... c3 27. bxc3 ♖b5 28. ♖a3+-]

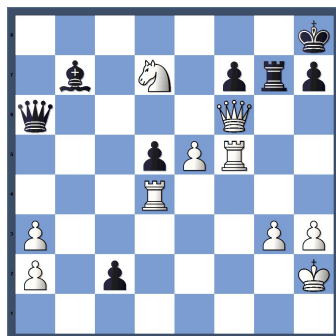
27. f5+- Black is under big attack and will soon also have a huge material deficit.

27... ♖g8 28. ♖h6 gxf5 29. ♖f6+ ♖g7 30. ♖h6 ♖g8 31. ♖xf5 ♖a6 32. ♖xg7+ ♖xg7 33. ♖d1 The last piece joins the action.

33... a3 [33... ♖xb2 34. ♖xa6 ♖xa6 35. ♖xd5+- with an hopeless endgame.]

34. bxa3 c3!? Black finds some counterplay.

35. ♖xd4 c2



36. ♖f1 is good enough but it was more precise and prettier to finish the game with [36.e6! 36...c1=♚ (36...♙xe6 37. ♙xe6 fxe6 38. ♖f8+ ♖g8 39. ♖f1+-) 37. ♙d8+ ♖g8 38. ♙xg8+ ♙xg8 39.exf7+]

36... ♙e2+ 37. ♙h1 ♙a6 38. ♙d8+ White is just winning some time on the clock.

38... ♖g8 39. ♙f6+ ♖g7 40. ♖df4 d4 [40... ♙d3 is also lost: 41. ♙c5 ♙h5 42. ♙g2 ♙xf1+ 43. ♖xf1 ♙d1 (43... ♙e2+ 44. ♙f2) 44. ♙b3+-]

41. ♙d8+ ♖g8 42. ♙f6+ ♖g7 43. ♙c5! It is all over...

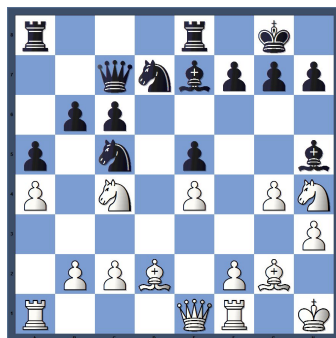
43... ♙c4 44. ♙d8+ ♖g8 45. ♙f6+ ♖g7 46. ♙d8+ ♖g8 47. ♙xd4 ♖xg3 48.e6+ f6 49. ♙xf6+ ♖g7 50. ♙f8+ ♖g8 51. ♙xg8+ ♙xg8 52. ♖g1+ ♙h8 53. ♖f8# 1-0

Puzzle section

(4) Giri, A(2793)-Motylev, A(2649)

World Cup tiebreak, 2015.09.16

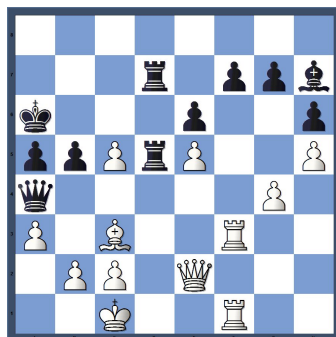
1. +-



(5) Adams, M(2742)-Laznicka, V(2676)

World Cup tiebreak, 2015.09.16

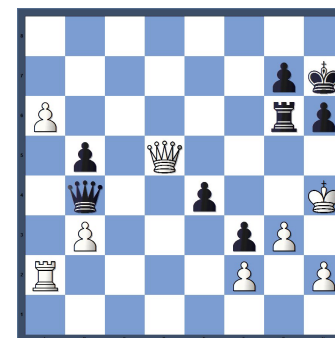
1... -+



(6) Grischuk, A(2771)-Eljanov, P(2717)

World Cup, 2015.09.17

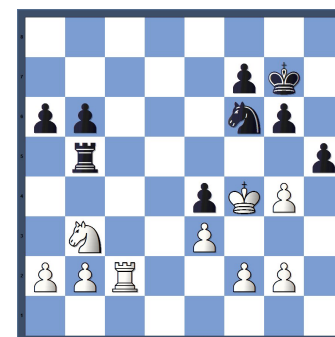
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(7) Le Quang Liem(2697)-So, W(2773)

World Cup tiebreak, 2015.09.19

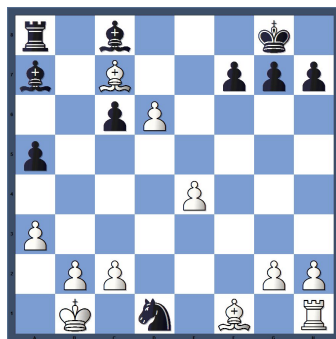
1... -+



(8) Andreikin, D(2720)-Kramnik, V(2777)

World Cup tiebreak, 2015.09.19

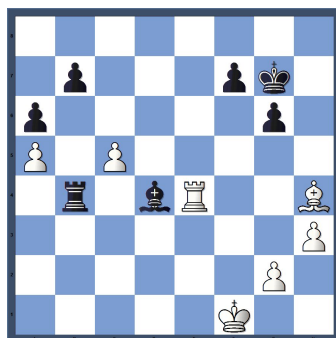
1. ±



(9) Nakamura, H(2814)-Nepomniachtchi, I(2705)

World Cup tiebreak, 2015.09.19

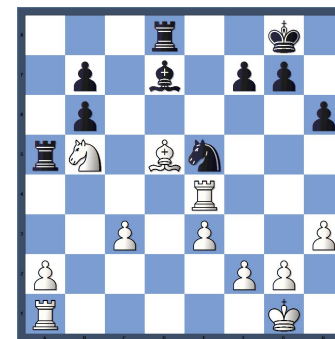
1. +-



(10) So, W(2773)-Vachier-Lagrave, M(2744)

World Cup, 2015.09.21

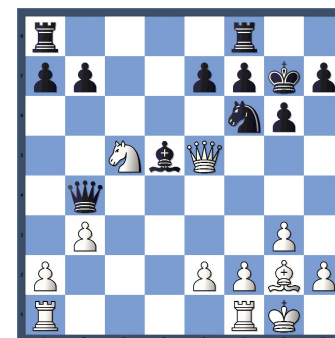
1... ♠



(11) Meier, G(2656)-Reich, T(2406)

German league, 2015.09.18

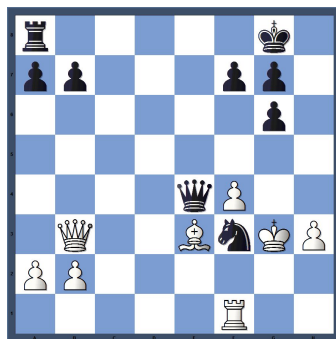
1. +-



(12) Wagner, D(2579)-Shirov, A(2712)

German league, 2015.09.19

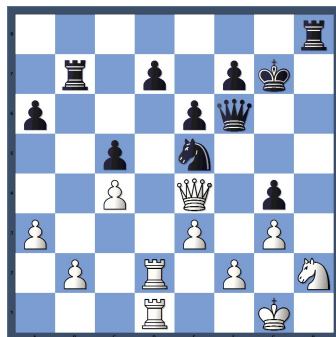
1... -+



(13) Jaracz, P(2503)-Cornette, M(2591)

German league, 2015.09.20

1... -+



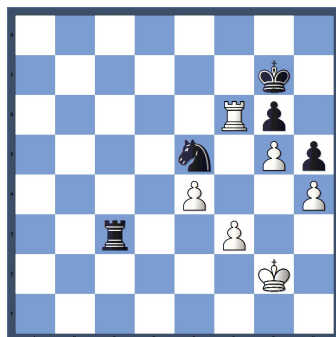
Endgame section

(14) So, Wesley (2773)
- Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime (2744)

FIDE World Cup 2015,
2015.09.21



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



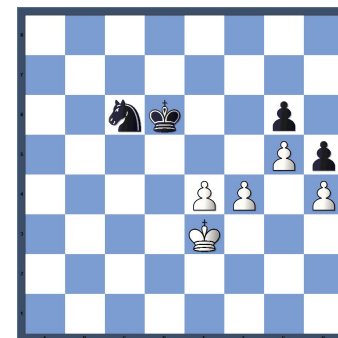
We are facing a very interesting endgame. Black is a piece up, but he has only two pawns left against the four. However they are ideally placed, White can only exchange one pair of pawn with f5, but the h5 remains on board.

47...♖c6! A difficult decision! Vachier-Lagrave correctly evaluates that forcing the trade of the rooks leads to a winning endgame, but it requires very subtle technique.

48.♙xc6 White has no choice. [48.f4? opens the king's position and allows Black access to the h4 pawn after 48...♖c2+! 49.♖g3 ♖c3+ 50.♖g2 ♜f3--+]]

48...♜xc6 49.f4 White could have brought his king to e3 first, but he has to play f3-f4 at some point anyway and it is always going to be a transposition.

49...♖f7 50.♖f3 ♖e6 51.♖e3 ♖d6



52.♖d2! White finds the most tenacious defense! He correctly realizes that the position with the white king on d3 and the black one on c5 is a zugzwang, therefore he sidesteps this square. [On 52.♖d3 52...♖c5 White cannot touch his pawns, because e5 gives the f5 square for the knight, while f5 allows the knight to occupy e5. 53.♖e3 (The king can never go too far from the h4 pawn, because it loses to 53.♖c3 53...♜d4-- and Nf3 next.) 53...♖c4 White is in zugzwang again. The king goes to d4... 54.f5 ♜e5 55.♖f4 ♖d4 56.fxg6 ♜xg6+ 57.♖f5 ♜xh4-- White has no access to the h5 pawn because of his own pawn on g5.]

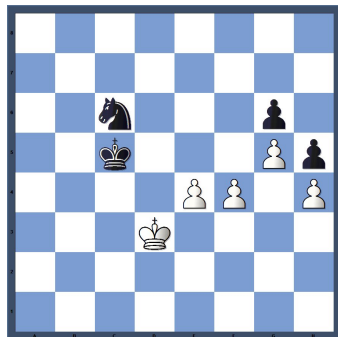
52...♖c5 53.♖d3 ♖b4 The most natural move. Black tries to squeeze the king, however it does not bring success. A few moves later, Black already finds the right path towards the win.

54.♖d2! White continues defending perfectly. We have already seen that White is lost if it is his move with the kings on e3 and c4, therefore he tries to give the move to his opponent. [54.♖e3 54...♖c4-- See the line 52.Kd3.; 54.f5 loses to 54...♖c5 55.fxg6 ♜e5+--]

54...♖c4 55.♖e3 ♖c5! Black admits his mistake and searches for another plan... [The thematic way to squeeze the

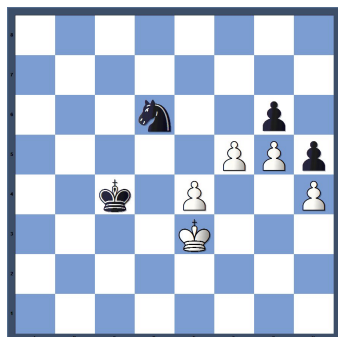
king was 55...♔c3 however it allows White to push 56.e5! and the point is that whenever White plays e5, Black should be able to play Kd5, otherwise the white king gets to e4. 56...♔c4 57.♕e4 ♖e7 Otherwise White plays f5. 58.e6 ♔c5 59.♕e5 ♔c6 60.♕f6 ♔d6 61.♕f7 Black is in zugzwang and loses his g6 pawn.]

56.♕d3



56...♞d8! Black realized that with the knight on c6, he cannot make progress. The question is where to drive the knight before starting the same squeezing technique like it happened unsuccessfully before...

57.♕e3 ♞f7 58.♕d3 ♞d6 This is the ideal placement of the knight! White's rescue with e5 like it happened in the 55... Kc3 line does not work anymore. The only saving attempt remains to push f5. **59.♕e3 ♔c4 60.f5**

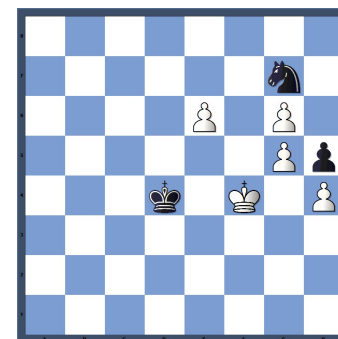


60...♞e8!! The only winning move, which was correctly foreseen by Vachier-Lagrave. The point is that the knight stands between the white pawns in any case. If he takes on g6, the knight goes to g7 while in case of f6, Nc7-e6 creates a perfect blockade. White will have no access to the h5 pawn and the black king will collect all the pawns one by one. [60...gxf5 spoils the win after 61.♕f4! fxe4 62.g6 ♞e8 63.♕xe4 and the king goes to the h5 pawn. 63...♞g7 64.♕e5 Kf6 is coming next.]

61.fxg6 [61.f6 61...♞c7 62.♕f4 ♔d4—+; 61.♕f4 61...♔d4—+]

61...♞g7 62.e5 Another clever attempt, but today nothing helps, Black simply plays the endgame perfectly. [If White decides to stay with 62.♕f4 62...♔d4 63.♕f3 ♕e5 64.♕e3 the winning method is the following: 64...♞e6 65.♕f3 ♞d4+ 66.♕e3 ♞c6 67.g7 ♞e7 After provoking g7, the black king gets access to it. Another important factor is the fixed situation of the h4 pawn. Black can attack it in one move with Ng6. 68.♕f3 ♕e6 69.♕f4 (69.g6 69...♕f6—+) 69...♞g6+ 70.♕g3 ♕f7—+ After taking on g7, Black goes for the e4 pawn and collects the rest as well.]

62...♔d5 63.♕f4 ♔d4 64.e6



64...♔d5! The last accuracy! The path of the white king had to be blockaded, the knight must stay on g7. [64...♞xe6+?

65.♔f5 ♖g7+ 66.♔f6]

65.e7 ♔e6 66.♔e4 ♔xe7 67.♔e5 ♔e8 68.♔d5 [68.♔f6 68...♔f8 White must retreat. 69.♔e5 ♔e7 transposes to the game.]

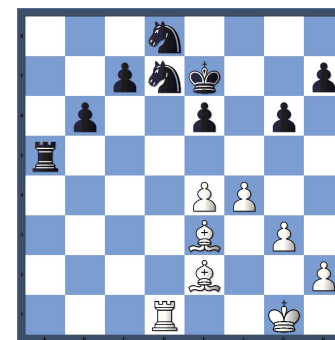
68...♔d7 [White resigned in view of 68...♔d7 69.♔e5 ♔e7 70.♔d5 (70.♔e4 70...♔e6 71.♔f4 ♖f5—+) 70...♖f5 and Black takes on h4 as the king stops the g-pawn. With this nice endgame victory, Vachier-Lagrave eliminated Wesley So and advanced to the final 8 players.] **0-1**

**(15) Wei, Yi (2734)
- Svidler, Peter (2727)**

FIDE World Cup 2015(5.6),
2015.09.25



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



Svidler was dominating this match throughout all the games, but in the first 5 games he could not reach more than a draw. With the crucial win which we are going to see, the Russian progressed into the semi-final of the World Cup.

41.f5!? An interesting choice! It is clear that White is fighting for a draw, but the bishop pair is very strong so Wei Yi clearly has good chances to reach it. With the f5 move, the Chinese player decides to open the position even more and exchanges some of the pawns.

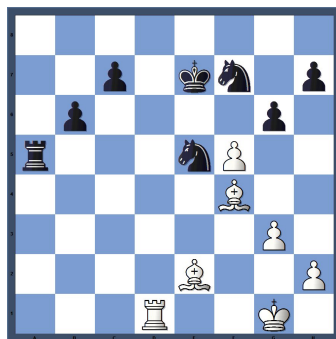
41...exf5 42.exf5 [Another interesting option was 42.♕g5+ 42...♔e8 and now maybe the slightly strange looking move 43.♕c4!? (43.exf5 43...♖xf5 and Black is holding things together.) 43...♖c6 (We can see White's threat after 43...fxe4? 44.♕xd8 ♔xd8 45.♕e6 and the knight is lost.) 44.♕f7+ ♔xf7 45.♖xd7+ ♔e6 46.♖xc7 ♖e5 47.exf5+ ♔xf5 48.♕f4 and

because of the little material left on the board, White has decent chances to save the game into a draw.]

42...♖f7 Black is defending against Bg5+.

43.♗f4 Attacking the c7 pawn.

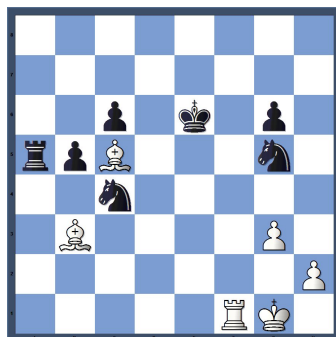
43...♖de5 It is very important for Black to keep both connected pawns alive, as one would clearly not be enough to win the game.



44.♖c1 [More logical was 44.fxg6 44...hxg6 45.h4 Trying to exchange another pawn by playing h5.]

44...c6 45.♗e3 b5 Black continues to do everything he can to keep both passed pawns alive.

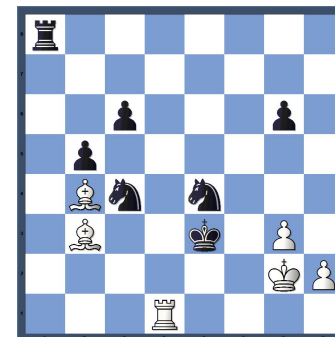
46.♗c5+ ♖f6 47.fxg6 hxg6 48.♖f1+ ♖e6 49.♗d1 ♖g5 The knight will be out of the game for some time on g5. [49...♖d6 followed by Ndc4 looks more solid.] **50.♗b3+ ♖c4**



51.♖g2? This is a big mistake... [51.♗b4! would lead to a draw as in many lines the bishop on c5 is under attack. 51...♖a7 52.h4 The black knight has no good squares. 52...♖e4 53.♖e1 ♖d5 54.♖d1+ ♖e5 55.♖e1 and Black doesn't have anything better than to agree to a draw.]

51...♖a8 52.♗b4 ♖e4 53.♖e1 ♖d5 The black king is starting his march into the white defenses.

54.♖d1+ ♖e5 55.♖e1 ♖d4 56.♖d1+ ♖e3



57.♖c1? After this move all of White's hopes are gone. [White would still keep some chances after 57.♖e1+ 57...♖d3 58.♖d1+ ♖cd2 and 59.♗f7 The g6 pawn is under attack. 59...♖c2 60.♖e1 ♖a4 61.♗f8 and it is still unclear if the position is winning or not...]

57...c5! Svidler doesn't miss his chance to get into the semi-final!

58.♖e1+ ♖d4 59.♖d1+ ♖e5 The black pawns are rolling!

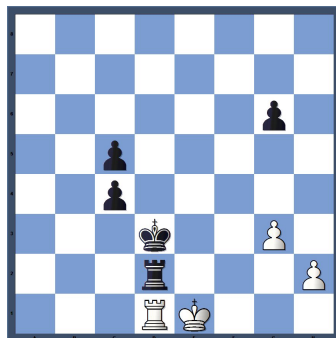
60.♗xc4 bxc4 61.♗e1 ♖a3 There is no more hope for White, as Black wants to play Rd3 followed by c3 and Kd4 next.

62.♖f1 ♖a2 To cut the king on the first rank is always a good idea! [62...♖d3 63.♖e2 ♖d4 would also be enough to win the game.]

63.♖c1 ♖d4 64.♖d1+ ♖e3 White is just hopeless against the

upcoming c3 move.

65. ♖c1 ♔d3 66. ♖d1+ ♘d2+ 67. ♙xd2 ♖xd2 68. ♔e1



68...c3 A very nice win by Svidler, but also a big pity for the just 16-year old Wei Yi who played a great event with a lot of tough matches! **0-1**

Golden knowledge. Drawing in winning positions



GM Adrian Mikhalchishin
FIDE Trainers Commission Chairman

In chess loss of control is a typical thing, especially during or after time trouble. Sometimes players resign in a drawn position as they don't know the theoretical way to achieve the draw. It mostly happens in endgames, but there are many cases of offering draws in winning positions.

The reasons are

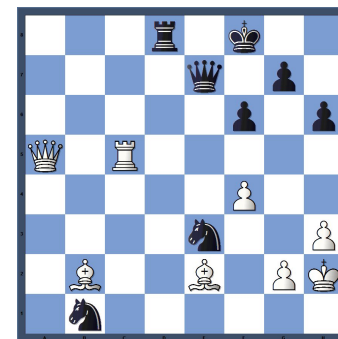
- 1) Bad knowledge of theoretical maneuvers
- 2) Overlooking tactical ways of realization
- 3) Wrong calculation of some lines

Let us take a look at some of the most interesting and typical cases.

(16) Gelfand, Boris-Henriquez Villagra, Cristobal

FIDE World Cup 2015, 2015

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 ♗g4 5.h3 ♗xf3 6.♔xf3 e6
7.♘c3 ♘bd7 8.♗d3 ♗b4 9.O-O O-O 10.♖d1 ♖e8 11.♗e2
♗e7 12.♗c2 dxc4 13.♗xc4 ♘b6 14.♗f1 e5 15.dxe5 ♗xe5
16.♘e2 ♘bd5 17.♘d4 ♖ad8 18.♘f3 ♗e7 19.a3 ♗a5 20.♗d2
♗b6 21.♗c4 ♖d7 22.♗e1 ♖ed8 23.♖d3 ♘e4 24.♖ad1 h6
25.b4 a6 26.♗b3 ♘ef6 27.a4 ♗a7 28.b5 axb5 29.axb5
♗c5 30.♘d4 ♗xd4 31.♖xd4 ♖a8 32.♗e2 ♖c7 33.♗f3 ♖cc8
34.♖c1 ♗e6 35.♗d2 ♖ab8 36.bxc6 bxc6 37.♗c2 ♘e7
38.♖c4 ♖b7 39.♗b4 ♘ed5 40.♗d2 ♖bc7 41.♖a1 ♘b6
42.♖c5 ♘bd7 43.♖ca5 ♘e5 44.♗e2 c5 45.♖a6 ♖c6 46.f4
♘ed7 47.♗c4 ♖xa6 48.♖xa6 ♗e8 49.♖a7 ♖d8 50.♖h2
♗e7 51.♗b3 ♖f8 52.♗b7 ♖b8 53.♗c6 ♖b6 54.♖a8+
♘e8 55.♗f3 ♖b8 56.♖a7 ♘d6 57.♗d5 ♘b5 58.♖a5 ♘f6
59.♗c6 ♘c7 60.♗c3 ♘e6 61.♗e5 ♖c8 62.♗b7 ♖d8 63.♗a6
♘g5 64.♗c6 ♘ge4 65.♗e2 ♗d7 66.♗b6 ♘d5 67.♗b3
f6 68.♗b2 ♗c7 69.♖b5 ♘d2 70.♗a3 ♗e7 71.♖xc5 ♘b1
72.♗a5 ♘xe3



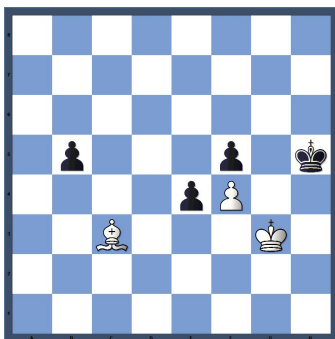
Here such a great player like Boris Gelfand agreed a draw, but he was easily obtaining winning chances after

73.♖c1 1/2-1/2

(17) Petrovs, Vladimirs-Keres, Paul

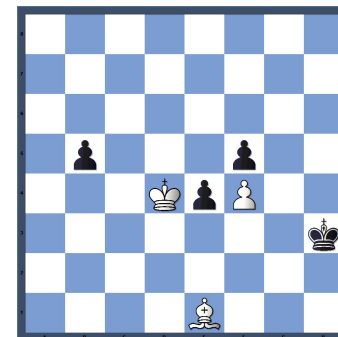
Munich ol (Men)(8), 1936

1.d4 e6 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.c4 d5 4.♙g5 ♙b4+ 5.♘bd2 dxc4
 6.♚a4+ ♘c6 7.♘e5 ♙d7 8.♘xc6 ♙xd2+ 9.♙xd2 ♙xc6
 10.♚xc4 ♘e4 11.♙f4 ♚f6 12.♙e3 ♘d6 13.♚c3 ♘f5 14.♙f4
 ♘xd4 15.e3 ♘b5 16.♚xf6 gxf6 17.a4 ♘d6 18.b4 e5 19.♙g3
 ♘f5 20.♚a3 h5 21.f3 h4 22.♙f2 h3 23.b5 hxg2 24.♙xg2 ♙d7
 25.f4 ♘d6 26.♙g3 e4 27.♚c3 a6 28.bxa6 ♚xa6 29.♚xc7 ♚c6
 30.♚xc6 ♙xc6 31.a5 ♚h5 32.O-O ♚xa5 33.♙e1 ♚a2 34.♙c3
 ♘f5 35.♚f2 ♚a3 36.♙xf6 ♚xe3 37.h4 ♘d7 38.h5 ♙e6
 39.♙b2 ♘h6 40.♙c1 ♚e1+ 41.♚f1 ♚xf1+ 42.♙xf1 f5 43.♙b2
 ♘g4 44.♙c4+ ♙d5 45.♙b5 ♙e7 46.♙a3+ ♙f7 47.♙g2
 ♘e3+ 48.♙f2 ♘d1+ 49.♙e1 ♘c3 50.♙d7 ♙e6 51.♙xe6+
 ♙xe6 52.h6 ♙f7 53.♙b2 ♙g6 54.♙xc3 ♙xh6 55.♙f2 ♙h5
 56.♙g3 b5



Here the Latvian Grandmaster agreed a draw, but by using simple zugzwang he would have won the game easily!

57.♙b4 ♙g6 58.♙f2 ♙h5 59.♙e3 ♙g4 60.♙e1 ♙h3 61.♙d4



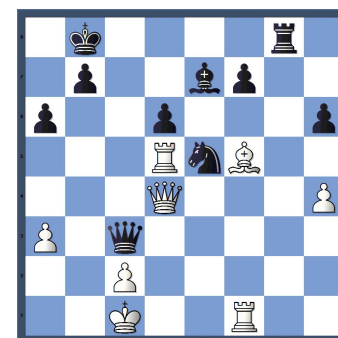
61...♙g2 [Not better is 61...♙g4 62.♙e5 e3 63.♙a5 e2 64.♙d2
 ♙f3 65.♙xf5 ♙f2 66.♙e4 e1=♚+ 67.♙xe1+ ♙xe1 68.♙d4 ♙d2
 69.f5 b4 70.♙c4]

62.♙e5 ♙f1 63.♙a5 ♙e2 64.♙xf5 e3 65.♙e4 1/2-1/2

(18) Smyslov, Vassily-Benko, Pal C

Candidates Tournament(4), 1959

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙g5
 e6 7.f4 h6 8.♙h4 ♚b6 9.a3 ♘c6 10.♙f2 ♚c7 11.♚f3 ♙e7
 12.O-O-O ♙d7 13.g4 g5 14.♘xc6 ♙xc6 15.h4 gxf4 16.♚xf4
 O-O-O 17.♙g3 ♚dg8 18.♙h3 ♚h7 19.♚hf1 ♚hg7 20.♚d3
 ♘xg4 21.♘d5 exd5 22.exd5 ♙xd5 23.♚xd5 ♙b8 24.♙e1
 ♘e5 25.♙c3 ♚g3 26.♙f5 ♚xc3 27.bxc3 ♚xc3 28.♚d4



Benko was as usual in terrible time trouble and agreed a draw in an absolutely terrific attacking position.

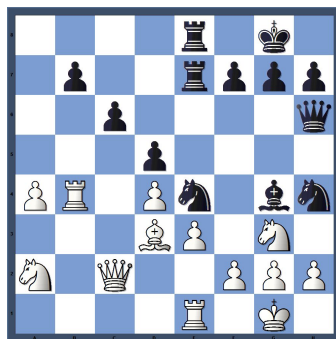
28...♖xa3+ 29.♔b1 [Even worse is 29.♖b2 29...♖xb2+ 30.♗xb2 ♜c4+ 31.♔b3 ♜e3]

29...♖g3 30.♖f4 ♖b3+ 31.cxb3 ♖xb3+ 32.♔c1 ♖xd5 With a huge material advantage. 1/2-1/2

(19) Petrosian, Tigran V-Fuchs, Reinhart

Yerevan(6), 1965

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♘f3 e6 5.♖b3 ♗e7 6.♗f4 O-O 7.e3 ♘bd7 8.cxd5 exd5 9.♗d3 ♖e8 10.O-O ♘f8 11.a4 a5 12.♖c2 ♘g6 13.♗g3 ♗d6 14.♗xd6 ♖xd6 15.♖fe1 ♗d7 16.♖ab1 ♖e7 17.♘a2 ♖ae8 18.b4 axb4 19.♖xb4 ♗g4 20.♘d2 ♘e4 21.♘f1 ♘h4 22.♘g3 ♖h6



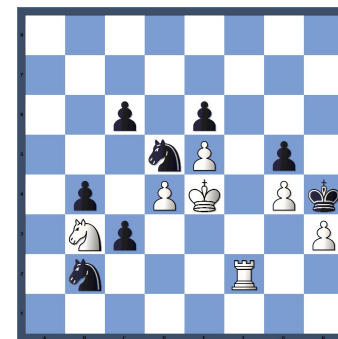
Here Petrosian offered a draw (which was accepted) in a view of his opponent's powerful attack. But the attack was really easy to conduct.

23.f4 ♗f3 24.♗f1 g5 and White's position will be destroyed very soon. 1/2-1/2

(20) Nisipeanu, Liviu Dieter-Balogh, Csaba

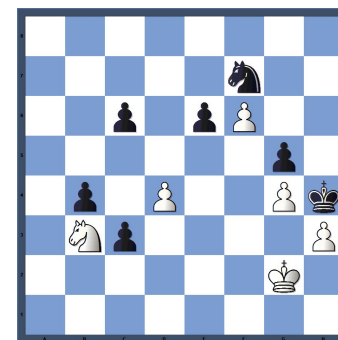
Heviz Palace, 2008

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 ♗g4 5.h3 ♗xf3 6.♖xf3 e6 7.♘c3 ♗b4 8.♗d3 ♘bd7 9.O-O O-O 10.♖d1 ♖e7 11.♖e2 ♖ad8 12.a3 dxc4 13.♗xh7+ ♘xh7 14.axb4 ♖xb4 15.♖xa7 ♖a8 16.♖xa8 ♖xa8 17.e4 ♖a1 18.♗h2 b5 19.e5 ♘b6 20.♘e4 ♘d5 21.♖g4 ♖xc1 22.♖xc1 ♖xb2 23.♖d1 c3 24.♖c2 b4 25.♘c5 ♖xc2 26.♖xc2 ♘f8 27.g3 ♘d7 28.♘b3 f6 29.f4 ♘f7 30.♖f2 ♘g6 31.g4 fxe5 32.fxe5 ♘7b6 33.♘g3 ♘c4 34.♘f3 ♘g5 35.♘e4 ♘h4 36.♘d3 ♘b2+ 37.♘e4 g5



Here a draw was agreed, but the win was fantastic:

38.♖f6 ♘xf6+ 39.exf6 ♘c4 40.♘f3 ♘d6 41.♘g2!! ♘f7



42.d5!! [Another way is 42.♘c1 42...c2 43.♘e2 b3 44.♘g1

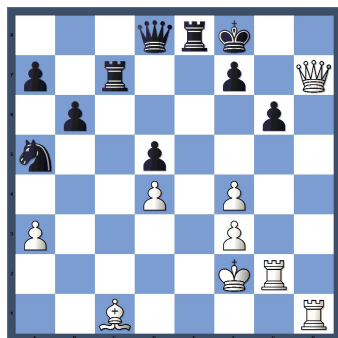
c1=♔ 45.♘f3#]

42...cxd5 43.♘d4 ♖e5 44.f7! c2 45.f8=♔ c1=♔ 46.♔h6# 1/2-1/2

(21) Diez del Corral, Jesus-Ljubojevic, Ljubomir

Las Palmas, 1973

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.a3 ♙xc3+ 5.bxc3 c5 6.f3 d5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.e3 O-O 9.♙d3 b6 10.♘e2 ♖e8 11.O-O ♙a6 12.♖a2 ♙xd3 13.♔xd3 ♘c6 14.♘f4 ♖c8 15.♖e2 ♖c7 16.g4 h6 17.h4 ♘a5 18.♖g2 cxd4 19.cxd4 ♘h7 20.g5 hxg5 21.hxg5 ♘xg5 22.♙f2 ♘e6 23.♖h1 ♘xf4 24.♔h7+ ♙f8 25.exf4 g6

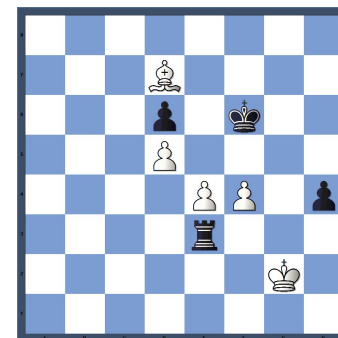


Here Ljubojevic offered a draw (which was accepted!) as he saw his opponent's killing attack...

26.♖xg6 fxg6 27.♔xg6 ♖f7 28.♖h8+ ♙e7 29.f5 ♖xh8 30.♙g5+ ♙e8 31.♙xd8 1/2-1/2

(22) Averbakh, Y.-Podgaets, M.

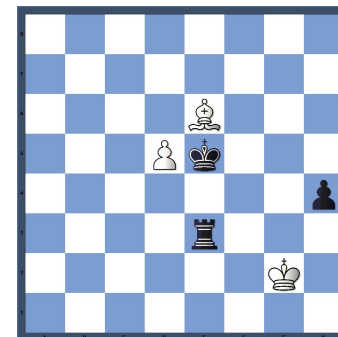
USSR (ch), 1969



There are especially many cases of not seeing a win in the endgame, even on the top level!

1.e5+? [White could make a draw in a correct way here after 1.♙f5! 1...♖g3+ 2.♙f2 ♖d3 3.♙e6 h3 4.♙g1! ♖e3 5.e5+! dxe5 6.fxe5+ ♙xe5 7.♙h2 ♙f4 8.♙xh3 ♖e2+ 9.♙g2 ♙g4 10.d6 ♖d2 11.d7 ♙h4 12.♙g1 ♙g3 13.♙f1=]

1...dxe5 2.fxe5+ ♙xe5 3.♙e6



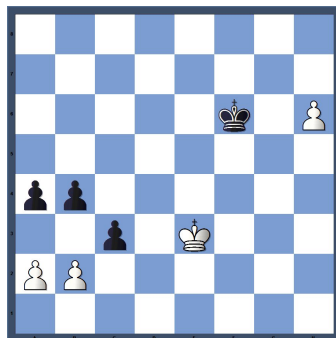
Here Black agreed draw in an easily winning situation! [3.♙e6 3...♙f4 4.♙h2 ♖e2+ 5.♙h3 ♙g5 6.♙c8 ♖b2! 7.♙d7 ♖c2 8.♙e6 ♖d2! Now White is in zugzwang and is forced or

to give up his pawn or to leave the attack of the h4 pawn.
9.♙f7 ♖d3+ 10.♙h2 h3 11.♙e6 ♙h4 Creating a mating net
after Rd2.] 1/2-1/2

(23) Malisauskas, V.-Laurusas, T.

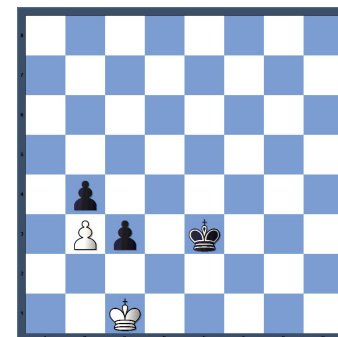
Litva 2014

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.e3 ♙f5 5.♘c3 e6 6.♘h4 ♙g6
7.♘xg6 hxg6 8.♙d3 ♘bd7 9.♙d2 ♙e7 10.♞e2 ♞c7 11.h3
a6 12.cxd5 ♘xd5 13.O-O O-O 14.♞ac1 ♘xc3 15.♙xc3 e5
16.dxe5 ♘xe5 17.♙c2 ♙f6 18.♞fd1 ♞ad8 19.♙b3 ♞xd1+
20.♞xd1 ♞d8 21.♞xd8+ ♞xd8 22.♞c2 ♞d3 23.♙d4 ♞xc2
24.♙xc2 ♘d7 25.♙xf6 ♘xf6 26.f4 ♙f8 27.♙f2 ♙e7 28.e4
♘d7 29.♙e3 f6 30.e5 fxe5 31.♙xg6 exf4+ 32.♙xf4 ♙f6
33.♙c2 a5 34.h4 ♘c5 35.g4 ♘e6+ 36.♙e4 ♘c5+ 37.♙f3
♙e5 38.g5 b5 39.h5 ♘e6 40.♙g4 c5 41.h6 gxh6 42.gxh6
♙f6 43.♙e4 c4 44.♙f3 ♘c5 45.♙e3 b4 46.♙d4 [46.♙d5+]=
46...♘xe4 47.♙xe4?? [47.♙xc4=]
47...a4 48.♙e3 c3



It is strange, but here Black offered a draw in a won position!
He had a classical breakthrough maneuver though... [48...c3
49.bxc3 (49.b3 49...axb3 50.axb3 ♙g6 51.♙d3 ♙xh6 52.♙e3

♙g5 53.♙d3 ♙f4 54.♙c2 ♙e3 55.♙c1

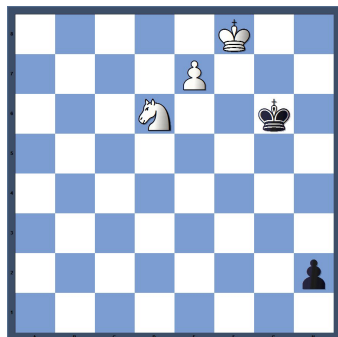


55...c2! (55...♙d3 56.♙d1 c2+ 57.♙c1 ♙c3 Stalemate!)
56.♙xc2 ♙e2 and Black wins the b3 pawn with an outflanking
maneuver.) 49...b3 50.axb3 a3] 1/2-1/2

(24) Palmer, B.-Jessel, S.

Irish Championship, 2014

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.♙d3 ♙d6 5.♘c3 c6 6.♘f3
♘f6 7.♙g5 O-O 8.O-O ♙g4 9.h3 ♙h5 10.g4 ♙g6 11.♘e5
♞b6 12.♙xg6 fxg6 13.♞d3 ♘bd7 14.♘d7 ♘xd7 15.♞ae1
♞f7 16.♞e6 ♞c7 17.♙g2 ♘f8 18.♞e2 ♙f4 19.♙h4 g5 20.♙g3
♘g6 21.♞fe1 ♞af8 22.♞e8 ♙d6 23.♞xf8+ ♞xf8 24.♘d1
♘h4+ 25.♙xh4 gxh4 26.♞e6 ♞d7 27.♞e2 ♙b8 28.♞e3
♞c7 29.♞e6+ ♙h8 30.♞e5 g6 31.♞e7 ♞f7 32.♞xh4 ♞d7
33.♞e2 ♙g8 34.f3 ♙c7 35.♞e1 ♙g7 36.♘f2 ♞d6 37.♞e5
♞f6 38.♞e2 ♙xe5 39.dxe5 ♞e6 40.♘d3 b6 41.f4 d4
42.♞e4 c5 43.b3 ♞c7 44.f5 gxf5 45.gxf5 ♞c6 46.♙f3 c4
47.♘b4 ♞xe4+ 48.♙xe4 cxb3 49.cxb3 a5 50.♘d5 ♞c2
51.♘xb6 ♞xa2 52.♘c4 a4 53.bxa4 ♞xa4 54.♙xd4 ♞a1
55.♙d5 ♞h1 56.♙e6 ♞xh3 57.f6+ ♙g6 58.f7 ♞f3 59.♘d6 h5
60.♙e7 h4 61.f8=♞ ♞xf8 62.♙xf8 h3 63.e6 h2 64.e7

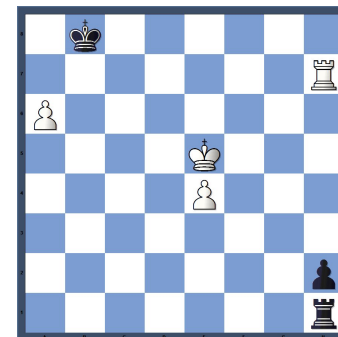


For some reason White rushed to offer a draw! But he is practically forcefully mating after [64.e7 64...h1=♔ 65.e8=♔+ ♕g5 66.♔e5+ ♕g4 67.♔f5+ ♕g3 68.♔e4+ ♕g2 69.♔f2+ ♕h3 70.♔g3#] 1/2-1/2

(25) Levin, Naum-Sakharov, Yuri

UKR-ch, 1964

1.c4 c6 2.e4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.cxd5 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6 6.d4 ♙g7 7.♘f3 O-O 8.♙c4 ♘bd7 9.O-O ♘b6 10.♙b3 ♘fxd5 11.♖e1 ♙e6 12.♘g5 ♙f5 13.♔f3 ♘b4 14.g4 ♘c2 15.gxf5 ♘xa1 16.♔h3 h6 17.♘xf7 ♖xf7 18.♙xf7+ ♕xf7 19.fxg6+ ♕xg6 20.♔e6+ ♕h7 21.♔e4+ ♕h8 22.♙e3 ♔g8 23.♕h1 ♔h7 24.♖xa1 ♔xe4+ 25.♘xe4 ♖c8 26.♘c5 ♘d5 27.♖c1 e5 28.dxe5 ♘xe3 29.fxe3 ♙xe5 30.b3 ♙b2 31.♖b1 ♙a3 32.♘xb7 ♖c2 33.♘a5 ♙d6 34.a4 ♖xh2+ 35.♕g1 ♖c2 36.♘c4 ♙c5 37.♖d1 ♖c3 38.♖d8+ ♕g7 39.♕f2 ♖xb3 40.♖d5 ♙e7 41.♖d7 ♕f6 42.♖xa7 ♖b4 43.♘e5 ♕xe5 44.♖xe7+ ♕d6 45.♖a7 h5 46.♕f3 ♕c6 47.e4 ♕b6 48.♖a8 ♕b7 49.♖a5 ♕c6 50.♖a8 ♕b7 51.♖a5 ♕c6 52.♕f4 h4 53.♕f5 h3 54.♖a6+ ♖b6 55.♖a8 ♖b1 56.♖c8+ ♕d7 57.♖h8 ♖h1 58.♖h7+ ♕c6 59.♖h6+ ♕b7 60.a5 h2 61.♕e5 ♕a7 62.a6 ♕a8 63.♖h7 ♕b8

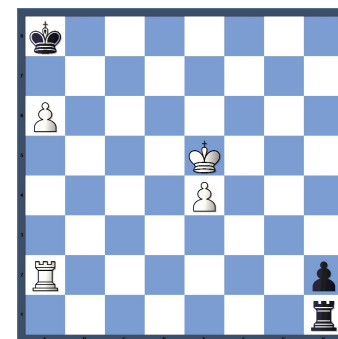


Very strong players (both trainers of National Youth and Olympiad teams!) agreed a draw here. But White had a famous win here:

64.♖b7+ ♕a8 [64...♕c8 65.♖b2 ♖a1 66.♖xh2 ♖xa6 67.♖d2 The win is easy here since the black king is cut.]

65.♖b2 ♕a7 66.♖a2! A very important move, winning a tempo.

66...♕a8



67.♖f2! Protecting the king from first rank checks on the f-file.

67...♕a7 68.♕f5 [68.♕f6? 68...♖e1]

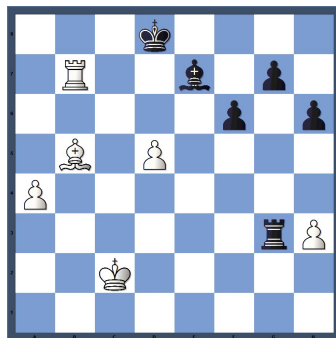
68...♕xa6 69.e5 ♕b7 70.♕f6 ♕c7 71.e6 ♕d8 [71...♕d6 72.e7 ♖e1 73.♖d2+ ♕c7 74.♖xh2 ♖f1+ 75.♕e6 ♖e1+ 76.♕f7 ♖f1+ 77.♕e8]

72.♔f7 ♖e1 73.♚d2+ ♕c7 74.♚xh2 1/2-1/2

(26) Gufeld, Eduard-Dorfman, Josif D

URS-ch FL43, 1975

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6 6.♙g5
e6 7.♚d2 ♙e7 8.O-O-O O-O 9.f4 h6 10.♙h4 e5 11.♘f5
♙xf5 12.exf5 exf4 13.♔b1 d5 14.♙xf6 ♙xf6 15.♘xd5 ♙e5
16.♙c4 b5 17.♙xb5 ♚b8 18.c4 ♘d4 19.♚he1 f6 20.♙a4
♘xf5 21.♙b3 ♘e3 22.♘xe3 ♚xd2 23.♚xd2 fxe3 24.♚d5
♚fd8 25.♚xe3 ♚xd5 26.cxd5 ♔f7 27.h3 ♚b4 28.♚e2 ♔e7
29.♚c2 ♚d4 30.a4 ♚d3 31.♔a2 a5 32.♚c5 ♚d2 33.♚xa5
♙xb2 34.♚a7+ ♔d8 35.♚b7 ♚xg2 36.♙c4 ♙e5+ 37.♔a3
♙d6+ 38.♔b3 ♚g3+ 39.♔c2 ♙e7 40.♙b5



The famous GM Eduard Gufeld completed time control and suddenly offered a draw in a practically winning position!

40...♙c5 41.d6 ♙xd6 42.♚d7+ ♔c8 43.♚xd6 ♚xh3 44.♚e6
h5 45.♚e8+ ♔c7 46.♚e7+ ♔b6 47.♚xg7 was winning easily.
1/2-1/2

Chess and the City. Where the eagles dare... Part I



WGM Elisabeth Paetz

Best rating: 2493

In my previous newsletter I already mentioned that my next trip would lead me to the country of eagles - Albania.

As you know the connection between me and Albania is not strictly chess related, but connected with my freshly wed husband, who happened to be born in Tirana, the capital of the country. The driving force to my new trip to Albania is indeed my second marriage, (un)surprisingly to the same guy. However as is the case with every chess professional, the royal game is always sneaking in my activities and I can proudly say that the average rating of my guests will around 2400.

It is also relieving that adding my rating or that of my husband would not lower this average...

That said, already from the first day, the main difference between the German and the Albanian wedding struck me immediately. The German wedding had a schedule based on specific times, whereas the Albanian one has a schedule based on...parts of the day. For example, what in Germany would be an appointment with Herr and Frau XY at 10am becomes in Albania a meeting with some friends or relatives

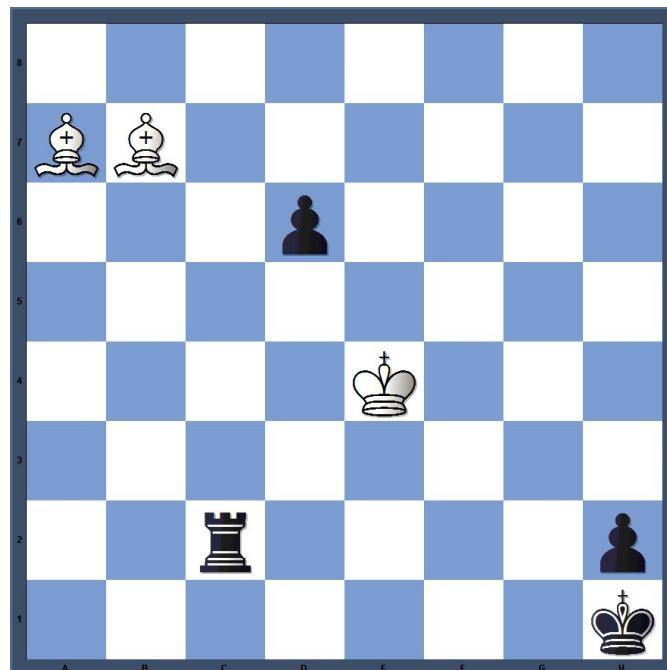
in the morning, and mind you, the definition of morning can easily include early afternoon as well. Fortunately, I got a very tough training in Italy to be able to cope with the shock. The second difference is orientation. In Germany the most important information needed to move from point A to point B is the address of the latter. In Albania the address is mostly useless and you should better know the names of some arbitrarily "important" bars or clubs in the surroundings which will be precious to eventually guide your driver to the right destination. This lesson came after the severe mistake of entrusting a taxi driver only with the name of our hotel and its address. This lack of clarity on our part resulted in a 20 min trip for a 500 meters distance (it was raining heavily and going by foot was not an option). After several stops accompanied by harsh insults profused by our driver against random passerbies (including a policeman) "guilty" of not knowing themselves the route to the hotel, we finally managed by pure chance to complete this titanic mission. To underline our mistake the driver also tried to charge us with an extra fee, maybe because we had forced him to insult more people than he expected for the evening.

So the take home message from my first day in Tirana is - get to know the names of the pubs and clubs in the surroundings quickly- and while studying the pubs give a try to the qofte and dhalles, they are delicious!

Surprise section / study

(27) Mandler

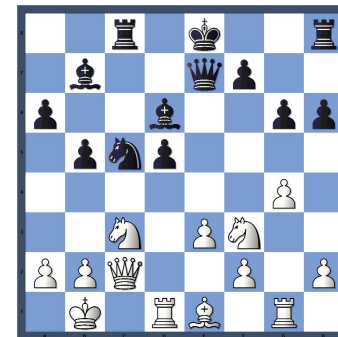
1. +—



Solutions

(28) Cori, D(2419)-Kramnik, V(2777)

World Cup, 2015.09.11

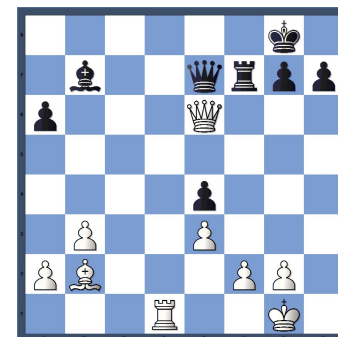


17...d4! 18.exd4 [18.♘xd4 18...b4! 19.♘ce2 ♙e4—+]

18...♙xf3 19.dxc5 ♙xd1 20.♙xd1 ♖xc5—+

(29) Mamedyarov, S(2736)-Idani, P(2569)

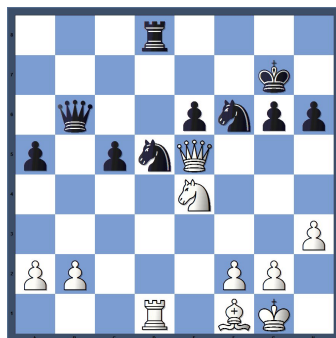
World Cup, 2015.09.11



31.♙a3!! 1-0 [31.♙a3 31...♙xe6 (31...♙xa3 32.♖d8+—) 32.♖d8+ ♖f8 33.♖xf8#]

(30) Nguyen Ngoc Truongso(2634)-Kempinski, R(2637)

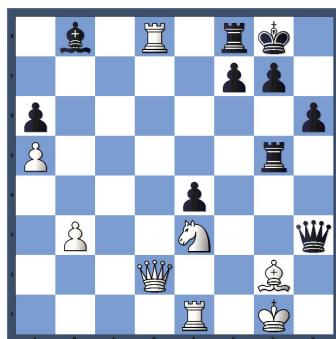
World Cup, 2015.09.11



31. ♖xd5! 1-0 [31. ♖xd5 31...exd5 (31...♖xd5 32. ♖xf6+--)]
32. ♖e7+--]

(31) Espinosa Veloz, E(2495)-Karjakin, S(2762)

World Cup, 2015.09.12



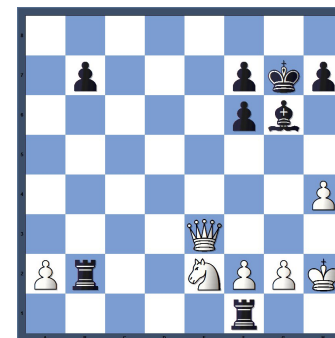
42... ♖xg2+!! 43. ♖xg2 [43. ♖xg2 43... ♖xg2+ 44. ♖xg2
♖xd8--]

43... ♖h2+! 44. ♖f1 [44. ♖h1 44... ♖c7+--]

44... ♖f3+ 45. ♖f2 ♖xf2+ 46. ♖xf2 ♖xd8-- 0-1

(32) Perunovic, M(2614)-Wang Hao(2712)

World Cup, 2015.09.12

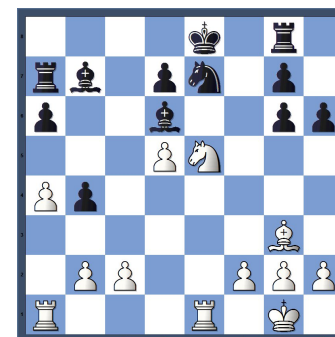


32. h5! ♖xh5 [32... ♖b1 33. h6+ ♖g6 (33... ♖f8 34. ♖a3+--)]
34. g4+--]

33. ♖g3 ♖fxf2 34. ♖xh5+ ♖g6 35. ♖f4+ ♖g7 36. a3+--

(33) Guseinov, G(2634)-Matlakov, M(2689)

World Cup tiebreak, 2015.09.13

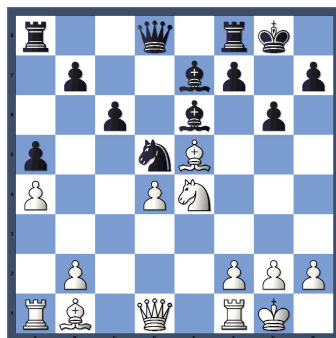


21. ♖c6!! ♖xg3 [21... dxc6 22. ♖xd6 ♖a8 23. ♖c5! ♖d7
24. d6+--]

22. ♖xe7+ ♖f8 23. ♖xd7+-- 1-0

(34) Iljushenok, I(2491)-Jakovenko, D(2748)

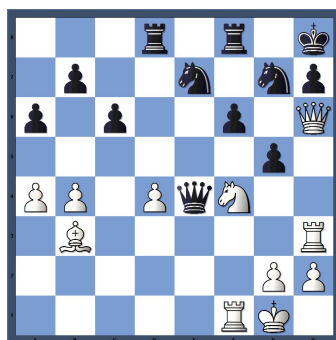
World Cup tiebreak, 2015.09.13



17...f6! 18.♘g3 f5! 19.♞c5 ♘xc5 20.dxc5 f4—+

(35) Ding Liren(2782)-Inarkiev, E(2660)

World Cup, 2015.09.14

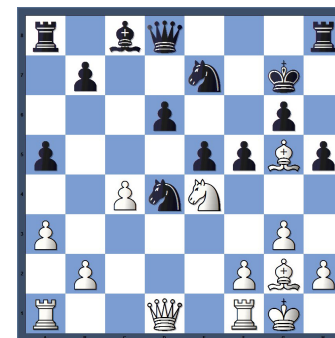


30.♘c2!! ♜xc2 31.♞d3! ♞g8 [31...♜xd3 32.♜xd3+—]

32.♜xh7+ ♞f7 33.♞e5+! ♞e6 34.♜xc2+—

(36) So, W(2773)-Balogh, C(2659)

World Cup, 2015.09.15



17.♘f6+! ♞f7 18.f4!! [18.♘h8? 18...fxe4]

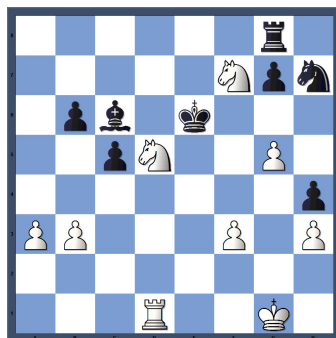
18...fxe4 19.fxe5 ♞f3+ [19...♜b6 20.e6+! ♞xe6+ 21.♘d4+—;
19...♞df5 20.♘h8 ♜xh8 21.exd6+— ♞c6 22.d7+—]

20.♘xf3 exf3 21.♘h8! ♜b6+ [21...♜xh8 22.exd6 ♞f5
(22...♘g4 23.dxe7 f2+ 24.♜xf2+—) 23.d7+—]

22.♞f2 ♘g4 23.exd6+—

(37) Sethuraman, S(2640)-Harikrishna, P(2737)

World Cup, 2015.09.15

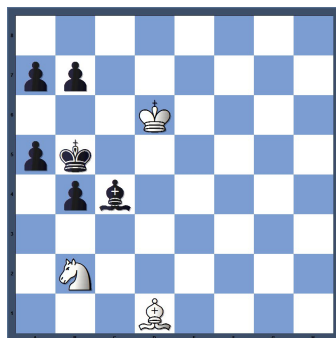


38.g6! ♖f6 [38...♖f8 39.♖d8++-]

39.♖xf6 gxf6 [39...♖xf6 40.♖d6++-]

40.♖d8++-

(38) Grzeban



1.♗a4+! ♔a6 **2.♖xc4 b5** **3.♖c6! bxa4** [3...bxc4 4.♗b5#]

4.♖b2!! [4.♖e5 4...a3 5.♖d3 a4=]

4...a3 5.♖a4! b3 6.♖c5#



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 188

2nd of October 2015

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Editorial Preface

After more than 20 days of high level and very exciting chess, we are finally in the final of the FIDE World Cup 2015 in Baku. The finalists are Sergey Karjakin and Peter Svidler. Both Russian players are from the current national team, but from two very different generations. Peter is close to 40 and Sergey is just in his middle 20s.

Both qualified with hard fights, but especially Karjakin's match against Eljanov was a test of nerves.

Who is now the favorite to win the World Cup?! It is hard to say... Karjakin is younger but seems to be very tired, and Svidler already has a lot of experience of being in the final and even winning it once.

Now that we know that Svidler started the mini match out of 4 games with a nice victory, his chances are clearly better to make the needed 1.5 points in the next 3 games to get the title and the nice prize money of 120.000\$ as a winner.

Both players were definitely also relieved after getting into the final stage because it guarantees them qualification for the Candidates Tournament in 2016.

Anyhow, we can expect Karjakin to do all he can to come back in the match during the next 3 games!

There are a few other big events starting soon, like the Poker Stars Isle of Man tournament (which begins on Saturday) or the FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championship in Berlin, which is to begin on the 9th of October.

For now we hope you enjoy the current issue of Top GM Secrets!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) **Svidler, Peter (2727)**
- **Karjakin, Sergey (2762) [A08]**

FIDE World Cup 2015(7.1),
2015.10.01



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

We are in the final of the World Cup 2015 in Baku and we see a fight between 2 Russian players who are already very happy because of the qualification for the Candidates and a nice prize money that is awaiting both of them. But still, to win a World Cup is something very special so we can expect a huge fight. The mini match is out of 4 classical games, and in case of a tie, tiebreaks will be played in shorter time controls. But let's come to the current game. After a rather unambitious opening Black seemed to have comfortable play, but in fact the position was very tricky. With very dynamic play Svidler managed to put a lot of pressure in the center and in the end the game very quickly ended in his favour. We are going to see a very nice and clean win by Svidler.

1.♖f3 ♜f6 2.g3 Svidler is one of the few players who still enjoys playing the Reti with White. But Karjakin is also very experienced in it and even plays it from time to time himself.

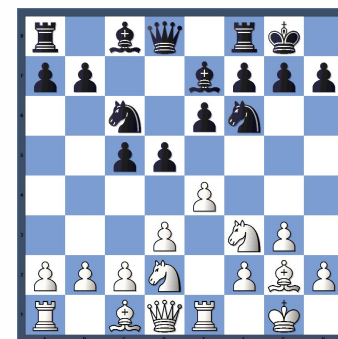
2...d5 3.♗g2 e6 This modest 3...e6 is just a try to get into a Catalan over a different move order. Other main moves are 3...Bg4 or 3...g6.

4.O-O ♜e7 5.d3 [5.d4 5...O-O 6.c4 and we are back into the Catalan.]

5...O-O 6.♘bd2 White is preparing to play e4.

6...c5 7.e4 ♜c6 This position is also nothing new. It appears more often after 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 and 3.d3 after which White develops the bishop on g2 and we are back to the current position.

8.♝e1 Quite a tricky move by Svidler, who is waiting to see what Black is going to do next. [The usually more often played 8.e5 8...♘d7 9.♝e1 b5 leads to a very unclear fight, where White is playing with a Nf1-h4-N1h2-Ng4 plan and Black is starting the rush on the queenside.]



8...b5!? An interesting reply! [In case Black would hurry to reload the center with 8...dxe4 9.dxe4 e5 White would keep some advantage, playing some sort of KID with a few tempos up. 10.♘c4 ♜c7 11.♘e3 With nice play for White.]

9.exd5 ♜xd5 I'm not sure that this is the best move. [9...exd5 looks more solid and actually there were many games in this position where White did not manage to get anything out of the opening.]

10.♘e4 A slightly strange move in my opinion. [I think White could have tried to be better after 10.c4 10...bxc4 11.dxc4 ♜b6 12.b3 (It is too early for 12.♘e5 12...♘xe5 13.♗xa8 ♜d3 and it is Black who is playing for an advantage now.) 12...♜c7 13.♗b2 and because of his better pawn structure I see White

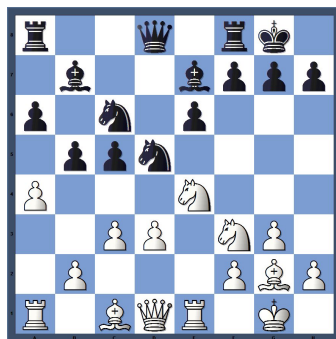
as favorite here.]

10...♟b7 Now Black is fully developed and I don't see any reason why White should be having any opening advantage here.

11.c3 A move like c3 is clearly a prophylactical choice to cover the b4 and d4 squares in the future.

11...a6 looks very solid, but is a bit passive. [Why not play 11...♞b6 with the idea of putting a rook on d8.]

12.a4



12...b4?! This is an inaccuracy. Karjakin doesn't feel the danger that is in this position. [An easy move like 12...h6 would guarantee Black comfortable play.]

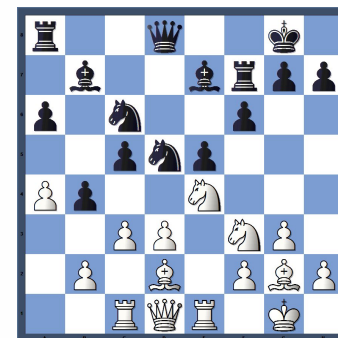
13.♟g5! An excellent move! Svidler feels that Black's center is starting to shake.. . White's idea is simply to create play on the c-file by playing Rc1.

13...f6 Another very risky choice. [More solid was 13...h6 14.♟xe7 ♞xe7 15.♞c1 bxc3 16.bxc3 ♞ab8 and maybe White is already a bit better, but Black's position is still very solid.]

14.♟d2 e5 15.♞c1 Now Black needs to be very careful! Svidler is not only planning to play cxb4 somewhere, but also Qb3 or d4. This is often the problem of having an advanced pawns in

the center: it is great in case it is possible to keep them solid, but it can be a big problem when everything is falling apart.

15...♞f7 looks like a solid move, but Black probably had better options to prepare against the d4 push.



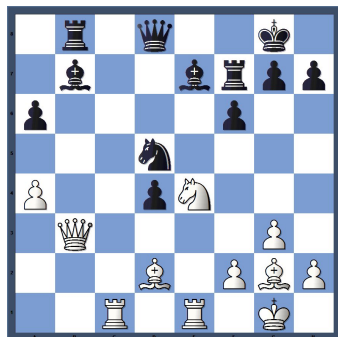
16.d4! Here we go!

16...bxc3 Now that the b-file is opened, the bishop on b7 is going to "hand" all the way. [It was better for black to keep the b-file shut. 16...cxd4 17.cxd4 exd4 But still White's position is clearly very promising. 18.♟c5 ♟xc5 19.♞xc5 With nice play for White.]

17.bxc3 cxd4 18.cxd4 ♟xd4 [Not better was 18...exd4 19.♞b3 (19.♟c5 19...♟xc5 20.♞xc5 ♞d6 21.♞xd5 ♞xd5 22.♟g5 also looks very interesting for White.) 19...♞b8 20.♟fg5! A small but pretty tactic. 20...fxg5 21.♟c5 and it seems like Black's position is just falling apart.]

19.♟xd4 exd4 20.♞b3 Now we can see how nicely coordinated the white pieces are and that Black is in big trouble.

20...♞b8 Not a nice move to make- but what else to play?!



[In case of 20...♔d7 21.♖c4! this simple attack on d4 is just deadly. 21...f5 22.♖b1 and it is hard to see how Black should hold here...]

21.♖b1! A great move by Svidler! The pin on the b-file will now stay forever.

21...♔d7 22.♖ec1 Peter is playing moves like 22. Rec1 almost instantly, feeling that it is the right choice- and in fact it is probably the strongest move White can play in this position. Black has no good defence against the upcoming Nc5.

22...♔e6 This move is losing, but the position is close to being lost already anyway.

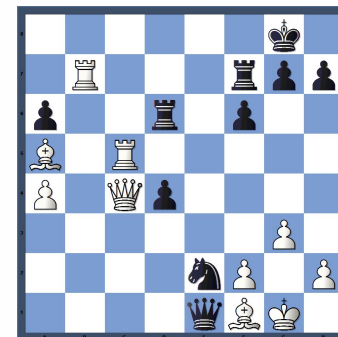
23.♘c5 Of course!

23...♙xc5 24.♖xc5 ♖d8 The knight on d5 was hanging.

25.♙a5 ♖d6 26.♔c4 and now Rxb7 is the threat. The game is over.

26...♘c3 White is a full piece up now. [26...♙a8 of course doesn't help: 27.♖b8+ ♖f8 28.♖xf8+ ♔xf8 29.♖c8+ followed by Rxa8.]

27.♖xb7 ♔e1+ 28.♙f1 ♘e2+



29.♔xe2 and being 2 pieces down Karjakin decided it was time to stop the suffering. A nice dynamic win by Svidler which came almost out of nowhere, and a great example of how a position can turn from a very safe one into an almost losing one with just a few "normal" moves. **1-0**

(2) Giri, Anish (2793) - Svidler, Peter (2727) [C92]

FIDE World Cup 2015(6.1),
2015.09.29



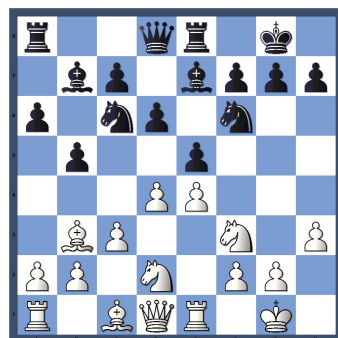
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

We are in the semifinals of the World Cup. Giri was showing outstanding performance throughout the entire tournament with the white pieces and he had huge confidence to outplay Peter Svidler in the extremely complex Ruy Lopez middlegame. However, Svidler turned out to be the one, who is more familiar with the ideas and he successfully organized his counterplay on the queenside, before the attack could have broken through...

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.O-O ♙e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♙b3 O-O 8.c3 d6 9.h3 The old main lines of the Ruy Lopez are recently slightly disappeared from the highest level, but hopefully some games like this one will bring it back to the practice.

9...♙b7 10.d4 ♖e8 The so-called Zaitsev variation.

11.♘bd2



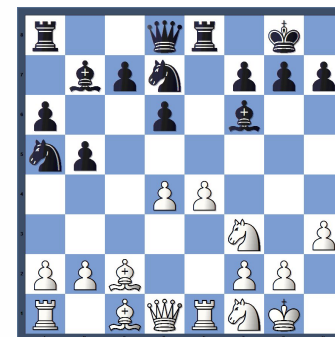
11...exd4 This is the modern development of the theory. Such

moves in the past has never come into consideration, because everybody respected the center (rightly so). However the computers are changing the general understanding and after making such an antipositional move, they start to defend Black's position. As we will see, we soon reach an unbalanced middlegame, where both sides have their chances to outplay the opponent. [11...♙f8 is the beginning of the old main lines, where White has a wide range of choice.]

12.cxd4 ♘d7 After giving up the center, Black is forced to put pressure on the d4 pawn as soon as possible, otherwise the exd4 move makes no sense at all.

13.♘f1 White accomplishes the standard Spanish manoeuvre.

13...♘a5 14.♙c2 ♙f6 Black is going to push c5 next move forcing some action in the center. He either takes on d4 after which all his pieces start to participate in the game or White pushes typically d5 (closing the b7 bishop and grabs space advantage), but it gives up the e5 square, opens the diagonal of the dark squared bishop and allows the a5 knight to join into the game. This is the concrete point of this new setup with 11...exd4.

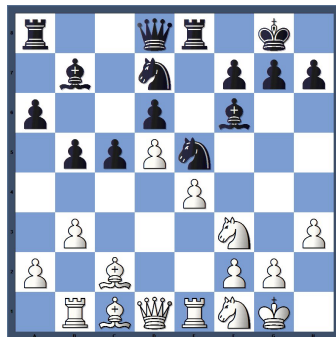


15.♖b1 Played by Giri without thinking. A common plan in the Spanish. White prepares to push d5 after c5 and intends the shut out the a5 knight from the game with b3. The

alternatives are: [15.♘g3 15...g6 Black prevents Nh5 first and will follow his plan with c5 next.; 15.♘h2 is perhaps the most natural with the idea of playing Ng4 and now on g6 in comparison to the 15.Ng3 line, he has Ng4 Bg7 Nh6! at his disposal. However Black finds his counterplay here as well with 15...c5 16.♘g4 cxd4 17.♗xd4 ♙xd4 18.♙xd4 ♖c8 with a very concrete position, but practice shows, that Black gets strong counterplay in all lines.; Just a few month before Svidler already employed this opening. That game continued with 15.♙f4 15...♗f8 16.♘g3 ♗e6 17.♙d2 ♗c4 18.♙c3 c5 again with counterplay.]

15...c5 16.d5 ♗c4! A necessary manoeuvre, otherwise the knight is going to suffer in the entire game at the edge of the board after b3.

17.b3 ♗ce5



18.♗h2 We are still following some games. Only one pair of pawns are traded and the position is full of subtle plans for both sides. The last move is another typical and principled plan. White has space advantage and should aim for keeping the pieces on board. By exchanging pieces he would give more options for maneuvering.

18...♗g6 19.♗g3 ♙c8 Black improves his worst piece. After the structure got fixed in the center, the b7 bishop got out

of the game. In the last 2 moves, White was heading with his knights towards g4 and f5 and Black anticipates this plan by preparing to take one of them. [19...♙g5 was also in the spirit of the position. Black eases his position by trading pieces and in the same time he tries to establish control over the dark squares. 20.♗f5 ♙xc1 21.♖xc1 ♗f6 Bc8 next with counterplay.]

20.♖f1 Somehow White gets confused from this point. He has several plans at his disposal. Now he intends to launch an attack with f4, but then in the next moves he switches to other ideas without being in harmony with each other. [On 20.♗f5 20...♗b6 just like in the game. The knight supports well the counterplay on the queenside from b6.]

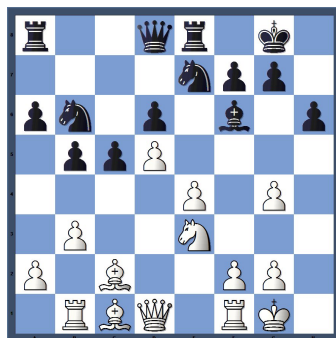
20...♗b6 21.♗g4 [On 21.f4 21...b4! followed by a5-a4 and sometimes even Ba6. Actually the white center looks very dangerous, but it is difficult to make progress with it, because Black controls perfectly the e5 break, while f5 allows the knight to occupy an excellent outpost on e5.]

21...♙xg4 22.hxg4 h6 Preventing g5 just in case. It was not threatening yet, I believe Black could have also started with b4-a5, but the move is useful anyway.

23.♗f5 [After h6, I thought a plan with f4-g5 could be more dangerous, but White cannot do it at once, because of Bd4 check followed by Qh4. If he prepares with 23.♙e3 Black can simply continue his plan with 23...b4 24.f4 a5 a bit strange, but actually it is similar to the 21.f4 b4 line, that it all looks beautiful for White, but how to make progress with the attack?!!]

23...♗e7! Well, it is better to get rid of such knights. [On 23...b4 White was probably intending to play 24.g3 followed by Kg2, Rh1 and some sacrifices on h6.]

24. ♖e3



24...b4! Black just starts his counterplay on the queenside, but within few moves he will be already there. At first sight, this a5-a4 plan does not even look dangerous, but the opening of the a-file gives many extra options for Black. White cannot oppose on the a-file, because the f6 bishop controls the long diagonal.

25.g3 a5 26. ♖g2 a4 27.bxa4 I don't like this move, because it opens the a-file anyway and it just helps the b6 knight enter to the game through a4-c3. [Even after 27. ♖h1 27...axb3 28.axb3 ♖a2 Black seems to be fine, maybe even more than that.]

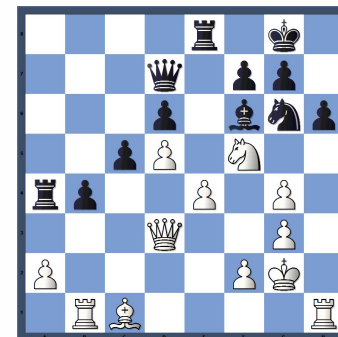
27...♖d7 Black wins back the pawn.

28.♖d3 White pinned his hopes to this move, he is threatening with e5 and a decisive check on h7, but Black simple prevents it...

28...♗g6! The b1-h7 diagonal is safe! The concrete threats are parried and Black is coming with Na4-c3.

29.♗f5 ♗xa4 30.♗xa4 Otherwise Nc3, but by giving up his light squared bishop, White loses a huge potential attacker.

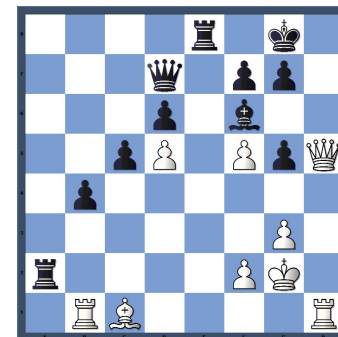
30...♖xa4 31.♖h1



31...♗e7! Yet again! Just like in the 23rd move, Black wants to get rid of the f5 knight. He had to leave for a while until White was threatening with e5, but after the light squared bishop is gone, Black can initiate the favorable exchanges again. [On 31...♖xa2 32.g5! hxg5 33.♖f3 was the plan.]

32.g5 Kind of desperation! White has already lost the fight positionally, his only chance is to find a break through on the kingside. [32.♖f3 32...♗xf5 33.gxf5 ♖xa2 34.♖g4 ♖f8 Black simple walks away. White cannot create any serious threats.]

32...hxg5 33.♗e3 [If White tries 33.♖f3 33...♗xf5 34.exf5 ♖xa2 35.♖h5



35...♖xf2+! wins in a nice way (The simple 35...♖f8—+ is also good. White has only one check.) 36.♖xf2 ♖xf5+ 37.♗f4 (37.♗g2 37...♖c2+ 38.♗f1 ♖d3+ 39.♗g2 ♖e2+ 40.♗h3 ♖f5+

41. ♖g4 ♗h7+—+) 37... ♖c2+ and the b1 rook falls with check.
38. ♖f3 ♗e2#]

33... ♖xa2 Black is already materially ahead. He keeps all his positional triumphs he had before and White is very far from any threats. The game is basically over.

34. ♕d2 [34.e5 just drops further material, because after 34... ♕xe5 35. ♖h7+ ♖f8 36. ♖h8+ ♗g8—+ Black is completely safe!]

34... ♗g6 35. ♗f5 ♗e5 36. ♖e2 g6 37. ♗h6+ ♖g7 38. ♗f5+ ♖g8 Completing the timetrouble.

39. ♗h6+ ♖g7 40. ♗f5+ gxf5 41. ♖h5 ♗g6 White resigned as he soon runs out of checks! Very impressive victory and understanding by Svidler! **0-1**

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot

Best rating: 2749

(3) Wei Yi (2734)

- Svidler, Peter (2727) [A01]

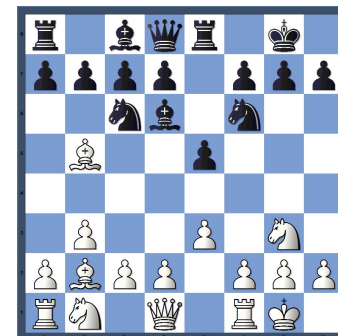
FIDE World Cup 2015(5.6),
2015.09.25

Wei Yi won many unclear matches in the World Cup and was stopped in the quarter finals by Svidler, losing the first game where he had some advantage after 5 difficult draws.

1.b3 The Chinese prodigy had problems in the openings in this match, so he correctly decided to change his first move.

1...e5 2.♘b2 ♘c6 3.e3 ♘f6 4.♘b5 ♘d6 5.♘e2 [5.♘a3 is more popular but Black has many good weapons at his disposal.]

5...O-O 6.O-O ♖e8 Changing from the game Wei Yi-Karjakin, where Black played 6...a6. **7.♘g3**



7...a6 I don't think this is precise here. [7...♘f8 is more logical and if White wants to fight for an advantage, an interesting sequence is: 8.f4 exf4 9.♖xf4 ♘e5! 10.♖f5 a6! 11.♘xe5 ♖xe5 12.♖xe5 axb5♖ With full compensation thanks to the oddly placed rook.]

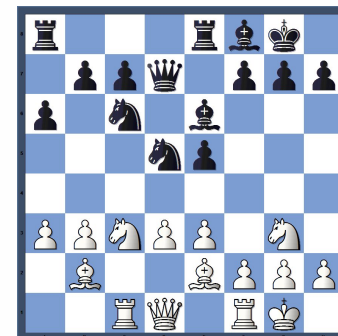
8.♘e2 ♘f8 [8...b5!?]

9.c4! The white pieces are nicely placed for this move.

9...d5 10.cxd5 ♘xd5 11.♘c3 ♘e6 12.♖c1 ♘db4?! Not an easy position to play in a rapid time control. I would fight for the e4 square with: [12...♘xc3!? 13.♘xc3 f5∞]

13.d3 ♖d7 Here it seems necessary to fight for the control of c5 by playing [13...a5!? 14.a3 ♘a6]

14.a3 ♘d5

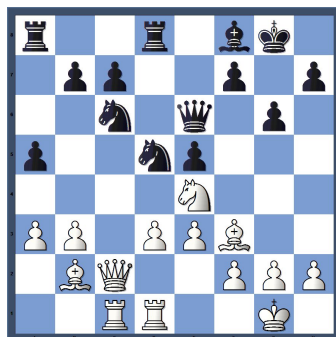


15.♘ce4+= White simply takes the bishop pair after the loss

of two tempi by his opponent.

15...a5 16.♘g5 ♘b6 17.♗xe6 ♜xe6 18.♙g4 ♜d6 19.♜c2 ♘d5 This knight just moved too many times!

20.♞fd1± ♞ed8 21.♙f3 g6 22.♘e4 ♜e6

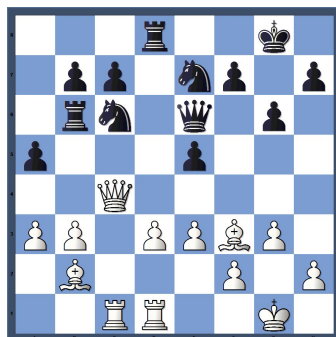


23.♘c5?! White should keep the pressure and not go for the second bishop. Some improving moves like Qc4, g3, Kg2, h4 and waiting for a good opportunity to open the position was better.

23...♙xc5 24.♜xc5 ♞a6! This strong rook maneuver, putting some pressure on the b3 pawn as well as parrying the Qb5 threat was probably missed by White.

25.♜c4 ♞b6 26.g3?! A prophylactic move. Instead, 26.Ba1 followed by Rb1 was needed.

26...♘de7!



27.♜xe6 Losing all the remaining edge, but the only way to keep an advantage was too difficult to find with little time on the clock. [27.♞c3!! += and if Black tries to repeat moves with 27...♘d5 28.♞c2 ♘de7 29.d4! is strong now that the bishop on b2 is protected by the rook.]

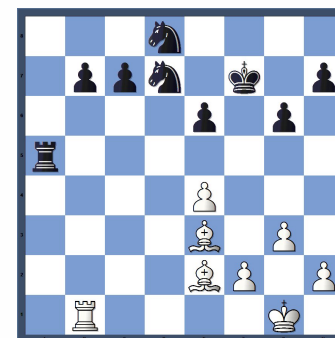
27...fxe6∞ 28.b4 [28.♙xc6 28...♘xc6 29.♞c3 e4! is very ok for Black.]

28...axb4 29.axb4 ♘d5 30.♙c3 ♞d7 31.d4 [31.♙xd5 is the other way to play for equality.]

31...exd4 [31...♘xc3!? It is maybe a good idea to swap one bishop. 32.♞xc3 ♘xb4 33.dxe5 ♞xd1+ 34.♙xd1 ♘d5 35.♞c1 c6 The passed pawns should ensure Black's advantage.]

32.♙xd4 ♞xb4 33.♙c5?! The wrong diagonal. The bishop would be better placed on a1.

33...♞a4 34.♙e2 ♞a5 35.e4 ♘f6 36.♞xd7 ♘xd7 37.♙e3 ♙f7+= 38.♞b1 ♘d8 [38...b6 immediately is more logical.]

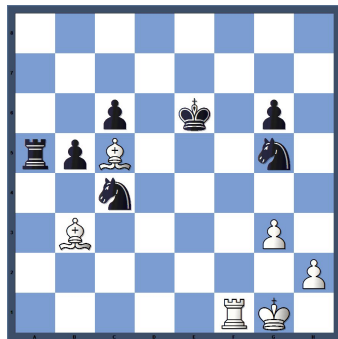


39.f4 On the verge of collapsing, White chooses the right path and goes for opening the position.

39...b6 40.♞d1 ♙e7 41.f5! exf5 42.exf5 ♘f7 43.♙f4 ♘de5 44.♞c1 White is provoking the pawns to advance. Much more natural is [44.fxg6 44...hxg6 45.h4 with good drawing chances.]

44...c6 45.♙e3 b5 46.♙c5+ ♚f6 47.fxg6 hxg6 48.♖f1+ ♚e6 49.♙d1 ♜g5? The rook should be improved first. 49....Ra8 would have given Black a big advantage.

50.♙b3+ ♜c4



51.♚g2? Missing the chance: [51.♙b4! 51...♖a8 52.♖e1+ Black has some problems now to stop the checks: 52...♚d5 53.♖d1+ ♚e5 54.♖e1+ ♚d4 (54...♜e4? 55.♙c2+-) 55.♖d1+ ♚e4 56.♖e1+ ♜e3 A try not to repeat moves. 57.♚f2! ♜h3+ 58.♚e2 and somehow the black pieces completely lost coordination.]

51...♖a8 More precise is [51...♜e4 52.♖e1 ♚d5+ is almost over.]

52.♙b4 [52.♙c2! 52...♚d5 53.♙f2! was still a fight.]

52...♜e4+ Now the black moves play themselves.

53.♖e1 ♚d5 54.♖d1+ ♚e5 55.♖e1 ♚d4 56.♖d1+ ♚e3 57.♖c1? Strange. If White had continued with checks Black would have needed to be precise to conclude the game: [57.♖e1+ 57...♚d3 58.♖d1+ ♜cd2 59.♙f7 c5!? 60.♙xd2 ♜xd2 61.♙xg6+ ♚e2 62.♙h5+ ♚e3+ Black pawns should be faster than White's.]

57...c5—+ It is all over now.

58.♖e1+ ♚d4 59.♖d1+ ♚e5 60.♙xc4 bxc4 61.♙e1 ♖a3

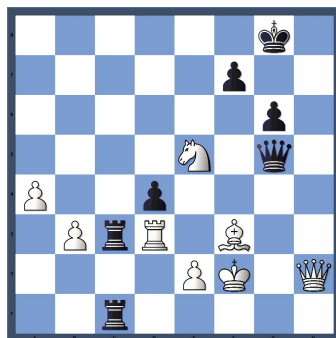
62.♚f1 ♖a2 63.♖c1 ♚d4 64.♖d1+ ♚e3 65.♖c1 ♚d3 66.♖d1+ ♜d2+ 67.♙xd2 ♖xd2 68.♚e1 c3 The junior is eliminated after a tense fight. **0-1**

Puzzle section

(4) Karjakin, S(2762)-Andreikin, D(2720)

World Cup tiebreak, 2015.09.22

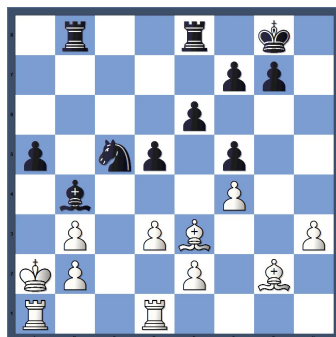
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(5) Morozevich, A(2711)-Bologan, V(2607)

Poikovsky, 2015.09.28

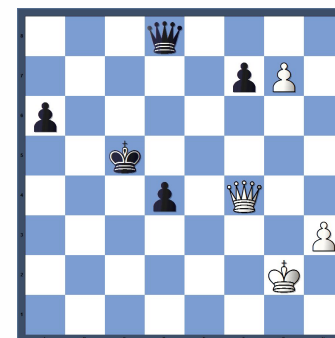
1... -+



(6) Sutovsky, E(2635)-Khismatullin, D(2651)

Poikovsky, 2015.09.28

1. +-



(7) Greenfeld, A(2535)-Koop, T(2407)

Gutman Jubilee, 2015.09.23

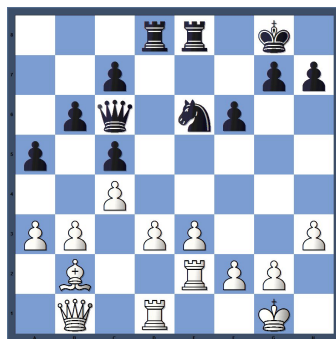
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(8) Meijers, V(2463)-Greenfeld, A(2535)

Gutman Jubilee, 2015.09.24

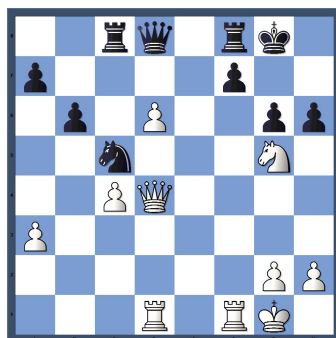
1... -+



(9) Harika, D(2508)-Karpatchev, A(2469)

Gutman Jubilee, 2015.09.25

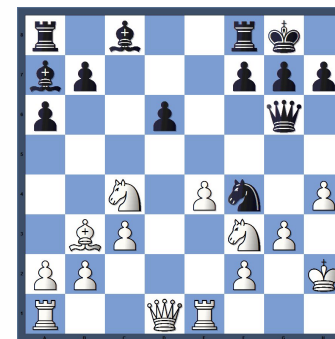
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(10) Pap, M(2488)-Greenfeld, A(2535)

Gutman Jubilee, 2015.09.28

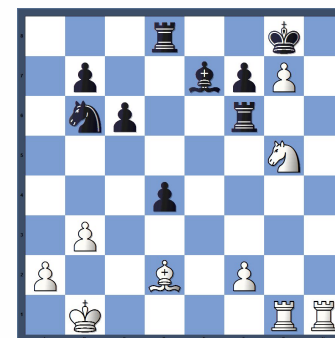
1... -+



(11) Berg, E(2567)-Livner, A(2336)

Vasteras Open, 2015.09.26

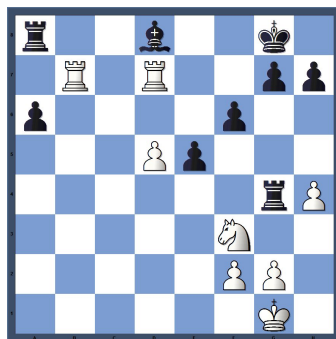
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(12) Tikkanen, H(2509)-Ernst, T(2336)

Vasteras Open, 2015.09.26

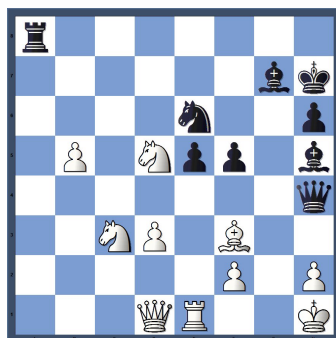
1. +-



(13) Kotanjan, T(2495)-Volkov, S(2589)

Beirut Open, 2015.09.27

1... -+



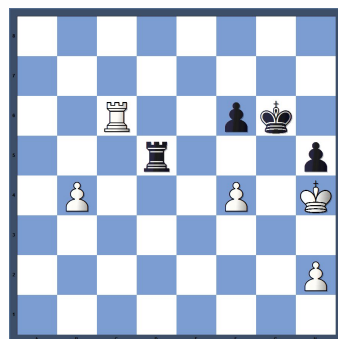
Endgame section

(14) Giri, Anish (2793)
- Vachier-Lagrave, Maxime (2744)

World Cup 2015,
2015.09.25



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

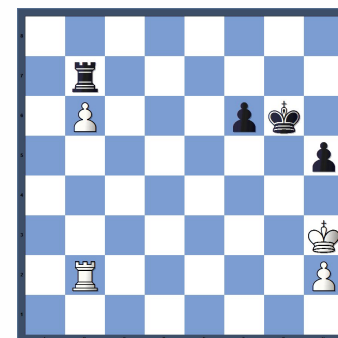


We are facing a very interesting rook endgame. At first sight, despite the pawn down, Black should hold the draw rather comfortably because of his active pieces and the vulnerable positions of the white pawns. However Giri plays the entire endgame with great resourcefulness, he explores all his chances and manages to convert his advantage.

47.♖c2! Giri follows the very important principle, that in rook endgames the rook should stay behind the passed pawn! This is true for both sides, if it was Black's move, he should also quickly go behind the b-pawn. [47.♖c4 allows 47...♗d2 48.h3 ♗b2 and Black is too active, White cannot make any progress.]

47...♗b5! Not the best place for the rook, but Black could not avoid Rb2 whereafter the pawn must be blockaded. [Black

could have restored the material balance with 47...♗d4 but it lets the pawn run too far after 48.♗b2 ♗xf4+ 49.♕h3 ♗e4 50.b5 ♗e7 51.b6 ♗b7

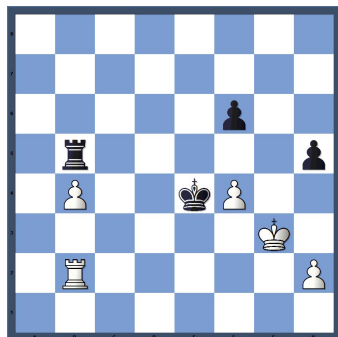


52.♕h4 We can see the reason why they say, activity in the rook endgames play a key factor. Despite the limited material, Black seems to be hopeless... 52...♕h6 53.♗b5 ♕g6 54.h3 Black is in zugzwang. He either loses his h5 pawn with check or plays 54...f5 but it allows 55.♕g3+- followed by h4 and Kf4.]

48.♗b2 ♕f5 Vachier-Lagrave tries to defend actively, in general this is the right idea!

49.♕g3! White temporarily switches to passivity, but the f-pawn had to be protected. [49.♕xh5 gives Black an f-passed pawn, which will always ensure adequate counterplay. 49...♕xf4+ 50.♕h4 f5=]

49...♕e4 [Black cannot trade his h-pawn for the f, as White is not forced to grab it. Actually it just helps White, because the king wanted to go to c4 anyway. 49...h4+ 50.♕f3]

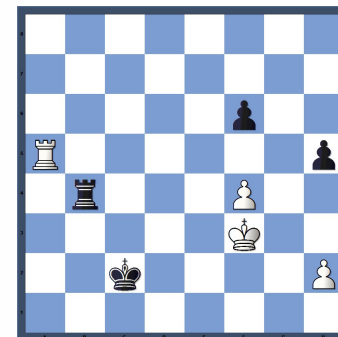


50.♖b1! Another very clever move by Giri! It gives the move to Black, who again finds himself in a sort of zugzwang. He cannot move his rook as it lets the b-pawn advance and all the other options have a drawback as well. In general, it is very good practical idea to ask ourselves, what would our opponent do if it was his move. We can find many zugzwangs like this.

50...♔d3 [Black still cannot trade his h-pawn for the f4, because 50...h4+ is met by 51.♔g4 and the h-pawn just becomes weak.; 50...f5 with the idea of pushing h4 now is strongly met by 51.♖e1+! ♔d4 52.♔h4 and the black king is cut.]

51.♔f3 ♔c2 Black could not find anything better, than capturing the b-pawn by sending away the rook, but in the same time his king gets too far from the kingside. There will be none to defend the f6-h5 pawns.

52.♖a1! ♖xb4 53.♖a5! We have reached another scenario within our rook endgame. If Black could get back his king, let's say to g7 he could hold the draw even without his pawns, as it is known, that f- and h-pawn in rook endgames is a theoretical draw. However the problem is, that the king is too far and it is going to be cut along the 5th or the 6th rank.

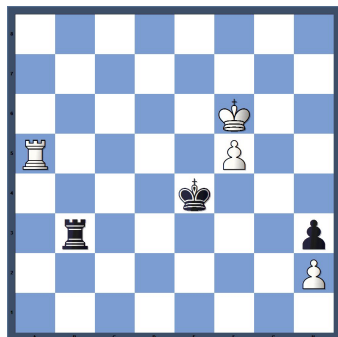


53...♖b3+ [53...h4 looks bad as well 54.♔g4 ♔d3 55.♖a6 and the pawns start to fall.]

54.♔e4 h4 [The critical line would have started with 54...♖h3 55.♖a2+! ♔b3 56.♖f2 ♔c3 57.♔f5 ♔d3 58.♔xf6 ♔e3 59.♖f1 ♖xh2 60.f5 It is very ult to judge, wether this endgame is drawn or winning for White. Actually in a practical game, I would say Black's is in big trouble, but perhaps Black could save this endgame somehow?! 60...h4 (60...♔e2 61.♖a1 ♔f3 62.♔g5 h4 63.f6+- wins.) 61.♔e5! h3 62.f6 and White is winning, because the king is cut along the f-file, he cannot go to support the h-pawn. 62...♖a2 63.f7 ♖a8 64.f8=♔ ♖xf8 65.♖xf8 and Black cannot play Kf3 to ensure the draw... 65...h2 66.♖h8+-]

55.♔f5 ♔d3 [55...♖b6 56.♖a3 ♔d2 57.♖h3 was also bad.]

56.♔xf6 ♔e4 57.f5 h3 Black pins his counterplay to the h2 pawn, but White is able to protect it with his rook and support his f-pawn in the same time.



58.♖a4+ ♔f3 59.♔g5 ♜b5 [59...♔g2 60.♜a2+- followed by pushing the f-pawn.; 59...♜b2 60.f6+- and Black has no time to grab the h2 pawn.]

60.♜a2 ♜b4 [60...♔e4 is met by 61.♔g6! as the pawn cannot be taken. 61...♜xf5 62.♜a4+-]

61.f6 The rest is easy...

61...♜g4+ 62.♔f5 ♜f4+ [62...♜g2 63.♜a3+- wins the h3 pawn.]

63.♔e6 ♜e4+ 64.♔d6 ♜d4+ 65.♔e7 ♜e4+ 66.♔f8 ♜b4 67.f7 ♜f4 68.♜b2 ♜a4 69.♜b6! [The last accuracy! White wins the bridge building method, Black has no time to collect the h2 pawn. Black resigned in view of the following lines: 69.♜b6! 69...♔g2 70.♔g7 ♜a7 (70...♜g4+ 71.♜g6+-; 70...♜f4 71.♜f6+-) 71.♜b2+ ♔g1 72.♔g8+- Great endgame by Giri! My feeling says, that Black should have been able to hold the draw somehow, but it is difficult to suggest where he should have improved his play...] **1-0**

Golden knowledge. Bishop against Knight, inventive fight



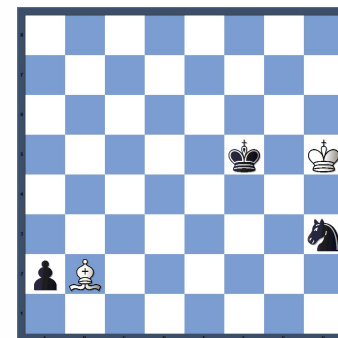
GM Adrian Mikhalchishin
FIDE Trainers Commission Chairman

In chess we have many cases of great Bishop versus Knight fights. There a lot of different, but very typical cases. Many of them are connected to different blockading themes and many are devoted to fighting for the promotion of the pawn. Of course we first have to study what our great predecessors from the 19th century did in this certain area. Then we can check how this knowledge is used in practice by modern players. We see here that with the modern time control with 30 seconds increment, there are a lot of wrong decisions in classical situations.

And my recommendation is simple: study as many typical endgame positions as possible to be ready to handle them in semi-automatic mode during the game!

(15) Gashimov, Vugar-Ponomariov, Ruslan

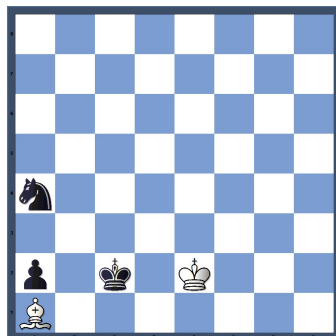
FIDE World Cup 2011



In chess we have some legendary classical endings, which are appearing from time to time and in such cases top players have to demonstrate knowledge of classics. Nowadays it is more difficult, as we have special time control without adjournments and 30 sec increment. For this reason the importance of studying endgames is obvious. It is interesting to see one recent example of how a top player found a classical maneuver. And if you still have this question- do they know it or do they try to find it during the game? We used to call this process many years ago: to reinvent the bicycle! This position was analyzed 150 years ago!

82.♔h4 ♘f4 83.♖g3 ♕e4 84.♙a1 ♘d3 85.♖g2 ♕e3 86.♖g3 ♘c5 87.♖g2 ♕e2 88.♖g3 ♘a4 Black built the perfect Harwitz position and can proceed with the king to c1 according to the Chekhover maneuver!

89.♖g2 ♘b6 90.♖g3 ♘c4 91.♖g2 ♘e3+ 92.♖g3 ♘d1 93.♖g2 ♕e3 94.♖g3 ♕d2 95.♖f3 ♕d3 96.♖f4 ♕c2 97.♖e4 ♘b2 98.♖e3 ♘a4! 99.♖e2

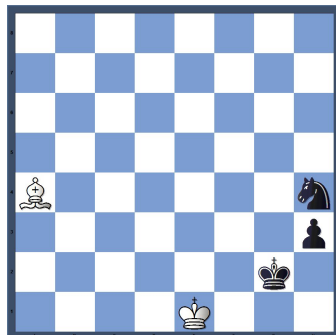


99...♔c1! Yes, this is the exact position from Chekhover's study, which was first found by Horwitz. Now it is easy.

100.♔d3 ♕b1 101.♔d2 ♖b2 102.♔c3 ♕xa1 103.♔c2 ♖d3 0-1

(16) Loyd, S.

The Chess Monthly, 1860

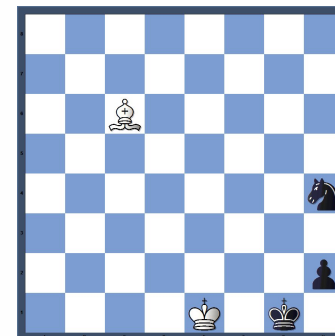


Incredibly the first time this position appeared was in the analysis of this great composer and it was well before Harwitz!

1.♔d7 [1.♔c6+? 1...♔g1 2.♔h1? ♕xh1 3.♔f1 ♕h2 4.♔f2 ♖g6 5.♔f1 ♕g3 6.♔g1 ♖e5 7.♔h1 ♖g4 8.♔g1 h2+ 9.♔h1 ♖f2#]

1...h2 [1...♖f3+ 2.♔e2 ♖d4+ 3.♔e3 h2]

2.♔c6+ ♕g1 [2...♖f3+ 3.♔e2 h1=♔ 4.♔xf3+]

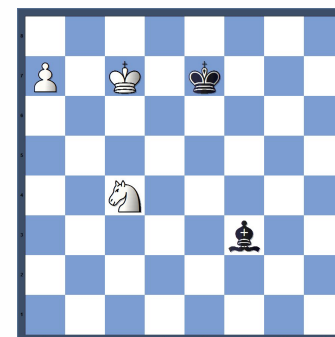


3.♔h1!! ♕xh1 [3...♖g2+ 4.♔e2 ♖f4+ 5.♔e1]

4.♔f2! The idea has to be conducted correctly. There is always room for wrong decisions. [4.♔f1? 4...♖f3 5.♔f2 ♖d2] **1/2-1/2**

(17) Chekhover, V.

1939

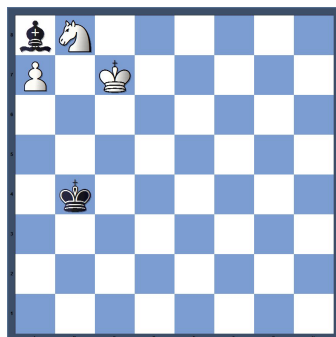


1.♖a5 ♔a8 2.♔c8!! This was found by Harwitz many years ago. There were no endgame databases, so such eminent composers repeated old findings!

2...♔e8 3.♖c4 ♔e7 4.♔b8 ♔d8 5.♖a5 ♔d7 6.♖b7 ♔c6 7.♔xa8 ♔c7 8.♖d6 Exactly, as performed by Ponomarev!! **1-0**

(18) Horwitz, B.

The Chess Monthly @2, 1885

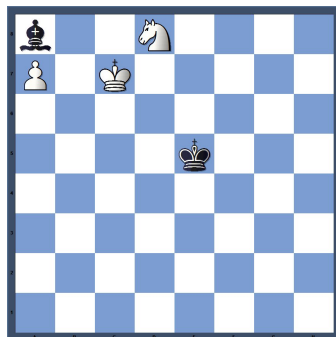


1. ♖b6! ♜c4 [1... ♜a4 2. ♘c6 ♜b3 3. ♘a5+ ♜b4 4. ♘b7 ♜c4 5. ♜c7 ♜d5 6. ♜b8]

2. ♘a6 ♜d4 [2... ♜f3 3. ♘c5 ♜a8 4. ♘b7 ♜d5 5. ♜c7 ♜e6 6. ♘a5 ♜e7 Study Chekhover- it is just a sideline of Gorwitz!]

3. ♘c7 [3. ♘c5! 3... ♜d5 4. ♘b7 ♜e6 5. ♜c7]

3... ♜g2 4. ♘e6+ ♜e5 5. ♘d8 ♜a8 6. ♜c7



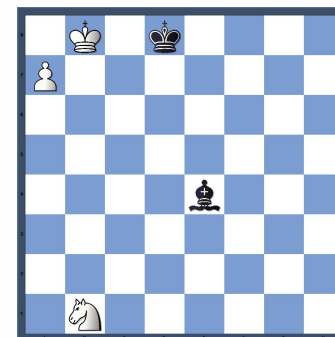
6... ♜d5! 7. ♘b7 [7. ♜b8? 7... ♜d6! 8. ♜xa8 ♜c7]

7... ♜e6 8. ♘a5 ♜e7 9. ♜c8 ♜e8 10. ♘c4! ♜e7 11. ♜b8 ♜d8 12. ♘a5 ♜d7 13. ♘b7! ♜c6 14. ♜xa8 ♜c7 15. ♘d6 and it is

Chekhover! 1-0

(19) Harwitz, B.

1885

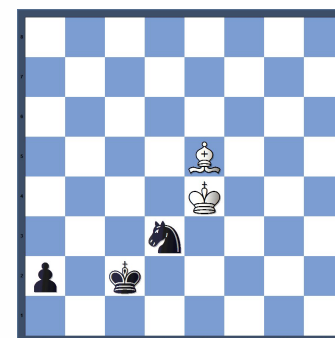


When the white king is not on c8, then the winning maneuver doesn't exist!

1. ♘c3 ♜a8 2. ♘a4 ♜g2 3. ♘c5 ♜a8 4. ♘b7+ ♜d7 5. ♜xa8 ♜c8 1/2-1/2

(20) Lehmann, Heinz-Stephan, Werner

FRG-ch 02nd, 1953



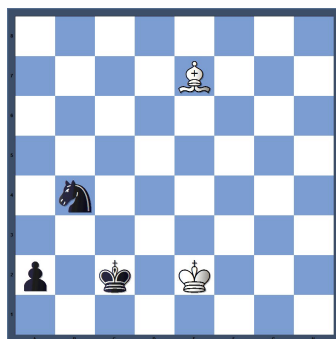
The after-war generation was not very precise in endgames and in a German magazine this was considered as a DRAW! It was written that everybody has to know how to play such endings! But Ernst Gottschalk from Braunschweig wrote a letter about this mistake. Then there were some long discussions, during which the old analysis of Harwitz was remembered.

1. ♖a1 ♜b2?? [The way to win is simple as classics found it: 1... ♜c5+ 2. ♖e3 ♜b1 3. ♖h8 ♜a4]

2. ♖e3 ♜b1 3. ♖d2 ♜xa1 4. ♖c1 ♜d3+ 5. ♖c2 1/2-1/2

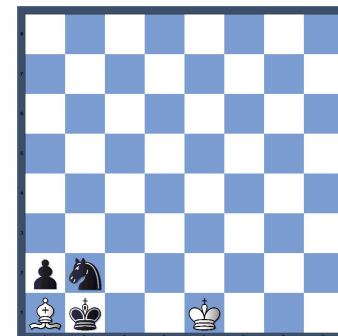
(21) Stein, Leonid-Dorfman, Josif

USSR , 1970



/ There are funny annotations by the legendary Yugoslavian IM Rudolf Maric. First it seems that he does not know which Dorfman plays- it was not GM Josif but the weaker player Cicero, and Maric is also not aware of Horwitz' analysis!

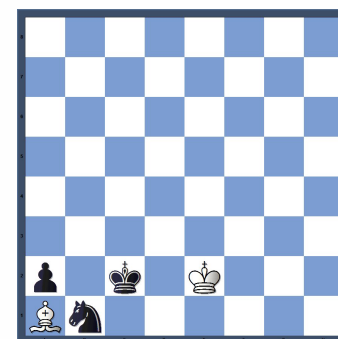
1. ♖f6 ♜d3 2. ♖a1! ♜b2 3. ♖e1 ♜b1 [3... ♜a4 4. ♖e2 ♜c1 5. ♖e1 ♜c5 6. ♖e2 ♜b1 7. ♖d1 ♜d3 8. ♖d2 ♜b2 Nunn, but it is known from Horwitz to Chekhov!]



4. ♖d2! = ♜xa1 5. ♖c1! ♜c4 6. ♖c2 1/2-1/2

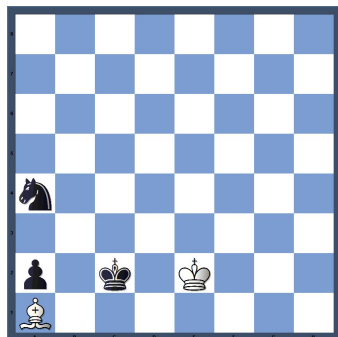
(22) Sakaev, K.-Sunye Neto, J.

Sao Paulo , 1991



But the young generation was not better and the same mistakes were repeated!

1... ♜c3+ 2. ♖e3 ♜a4! 3. ♖e2 [A similar win will be achieved after 3. ♖d4 3... ♜b1 4. ♖d3 ♜c5+! 5. ♖c3 (5. ♖d2 5... ♜b3+--+) 5... ♜xa1 6. ♖c2 ♜d3--+]



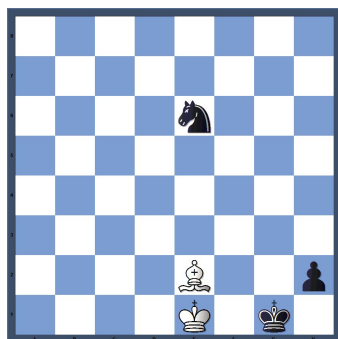
3...♖b2? [One of the best young GMs of the 90s did not know the correct way... 3...♖c1! 4.♖e1 (4.♖d3 4...♖b1 5.♖d2 ♖b2⊙) 4...♖c5 5.♖e2 (5.♖g7 5...♖d3+ 6.♖e2 ♖b2--+) 5...♖b1 6.♖d1 (6.♖d2 6...♖b3+--; 6.♖g7 6...♖a4--+) 6...♖d3 7.♖d2 ♖b2 8.♖c3 ♖xa1 9.♖c2 ♖d3--+]]

4.♖e3 ♖b1?? 5.♖d2= Now it is a draw!

5...♖c4+ 6.♖d1 ♖a5 7.♖g7 ♖b3 8.♖f6 ♖c5 9.♖g7 ♖d3 10.♖a1 ♖b4 11.♖g7 ♖c2 12.♖d2 ♖a3 13.♖d1 ♖c4 14.♖a1 ♖e3+ 15.♖d2 1/2-1/2

(23) Gerbaus

1920



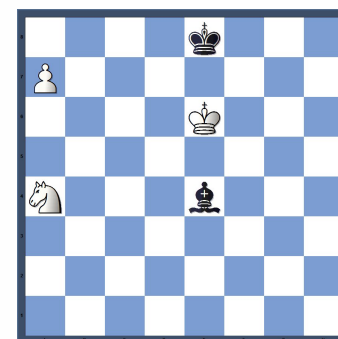
Few chess players were accidentally developing the same

idea in very concrete situations, forgetting about the invention and the inventor. Everything was known before, but the position was published!

1.♖f3 ♖f4 2.♖h1 ♖g2+ 3.♖e2 ♖h4 4.♖e1 ♖f5 5.♖a8 ♖h4 6.♖h1 1/2-1/2

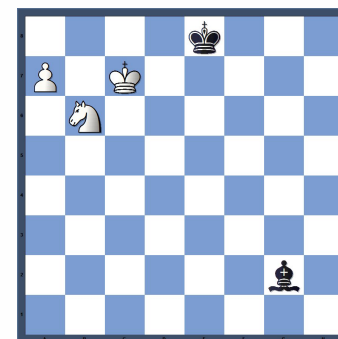
(24) Prokop, F.

1.p Ceskoslovensky Sach#251 @2, 1930



There were a few brilliant old studies on this subject.

1.♖e5! ♖a8 2.♖b6 ♖b7 3.♖e6! ♖d8 4.♖d6 ♖e8 5.♖c7 ♖g2



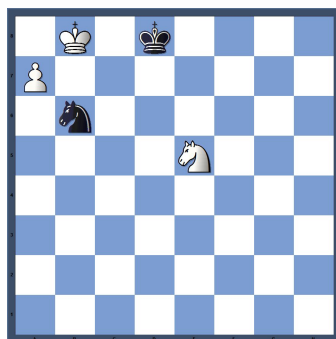
6.♖c8! [A second solution was found here, which by no

means reduces the educational value of Prokop's work.
6. ♖c4! 6... ♔e7 7. ♖c8 ♜f3 8. ♜a5 ♜a8 9. ♖c7 ♔e6 10. ♜b7
♔e7 11. ♜d8 ♔e8 12. ♜e6 ♔e7 13. ♜d4 ♔e8 14. ♜f5!]

**6... ♜a8! 7. ♖b8 ♔d8 8. ♜d6! ♔d7 9. ♜b7! ♖c6 10. ♖xa8
♔c7 11. ♜d6 1-0**

(25) Gufeld, Eduard-Smyslov, Vasily

Moscow, 1966



It is very funny that a slightly similar idea happened in this knight endgame...

1... ♜a8 2. ♖b7! [2. ♖xa8 2... ♔c7! (But not the wrongly recommended by Gufeld 2... ♖c8 since after 3. ♜f7 ♔c7 4. ♜d6 is winning, as in our main examples.)]

2... ♜c7 3. ♜c4 ♜a8 [3... ♔d7 4. ♜e3 ♔d6 (4... ♔d8 5. ♜d5 ♜a8 6. ♖c6) 5. ♜d5]

4. ♜e3 ♜c7 5. ♜d5 ♜a8 6. ♖c6!! 1-0

Chess and the City. Where the eagles dare - Part II



WGM Elisabeth Paetz
Best rating: 2493

I'm happy to say that for the second time my "old" husband did not hesitate to marry me once again. The marriage itself certainly went more smoothly than our Albanian-style taxi trip, which I mentioned in my previous newsletter. However, without any obstacles, there would be no unforgettable moments! And again this time there were moments when I just wanted to beam myself onto another planet. Naively I imagined there would not be anything stressful as the entire wedding was organized by my husband's large family, but this is to overlook the proverb "too many cooks spoil the broth". And not only that, but I got involuntarily roped into the prolonged preparations thanks to my dear mother in law. Any hope of being left alone in our hotel room was rudely interrupted by constant demands from her from dawn 'till dusk, which were announced by my husband's ringtone of Mozart's Turkish march, which rather reminded me of a Russian invasion!

Unfortunately, this was just the tip of the iceberg. Albanian weddings are very traditional, and this leads us to my next

crisis - the Albanian wedding outfit.



It was a big fight to actually choose the long beige coat, which is not actually typical for the Tirana region. The initial "skirt" I was supposed to wear reminded me of a huge white balloon which would require just the lightest of puffs to make me fly away. It's hard to say whether it was the Albanian outfit or my first Albanian hairdresser's visit which brought me nearer to a heart attack! It's hard to describe the shock I got when I looked at myself for the first time after an hour of hair and make-up. However many times I opened and shut my eyes, the image wouldn't go away. I barely recognized the creature that was glaring back at me, horrified. Despite the cost being double, maybe his family should have made it clear that I was not attending a vampire show, but instead my own wedding!



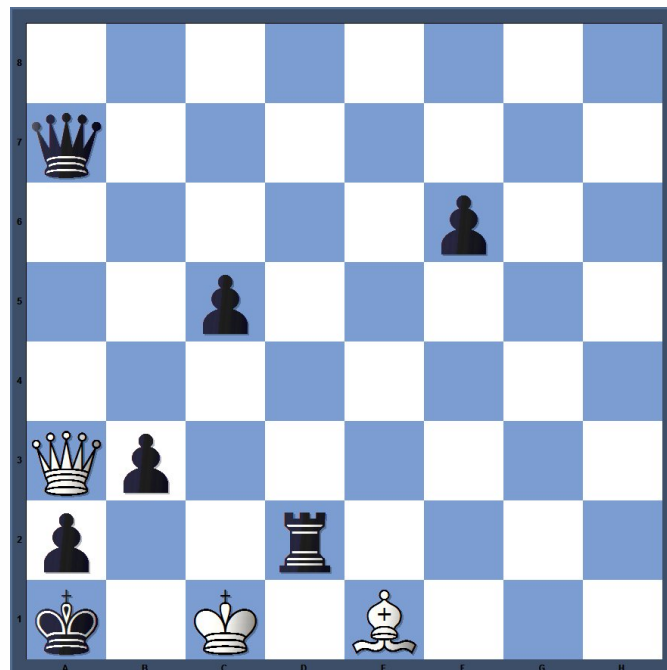
Keith and I at my German wedding

Anyway, apart from looking like another person, and being forced into some old and historical dress which at least did not turn out to make me fly, I had a wonderful day! Comparing the two weddings I would even dare to say that the Albanian one was more to my taste, as the whole atmosphere seemed more Eastern style, as opposed to the more modern German wedding. The make-up however was not for nothing, as I may use it to scare off my opponents over the chess board! :) P.S. It is time to give a special thank you again to my dear friend Keith Arkell, who transforms my articles into something which sounds less "Germenglish" and a bit more English.

Surprise section / study

(26) Pogosiants

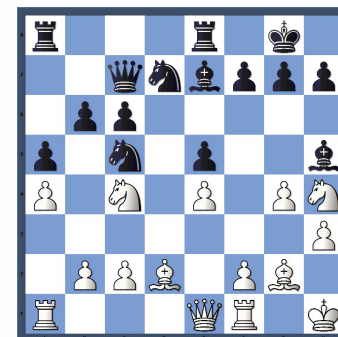
1. +—



Solutions

(27) Giri, A(2793)-Motylev, A(2649)

World Cup tiebreak, 2015.09.16



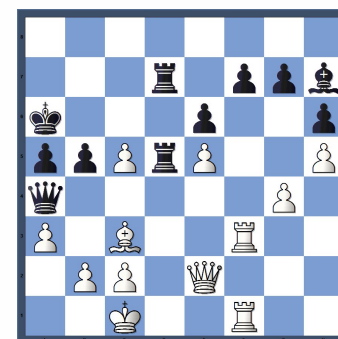
17.f4! b5 [17...♙xh4 18.♚xh4 ♙g6 19.f5+—; 17...♙g6 18.f5+—]

18.axb5 cxb5 19.♘e3 [19.♘xa5+—]

19...♚d8 20.♘hf5 exf4 21.♘d5 ♙g6 22.♙xa5 ♖xa5 23.♘dx7+—

(28) Adams, M(2742)-Laznicka, V(2676)

World Cup tiebreak, 2015.09.16



28...♖d2! 29.♚xd2 ♖xd2 30.♙xd2 ♚xc2+ [30...b4 31.axb4

axb4 32.♘d4 ♖xc2+ 33.♔e1 (33.♔e3 33...♖e4+—) 33...♖c1+
34.♔e2 (34.♔f2 34...♖d2+—) 34...♖c4+—]

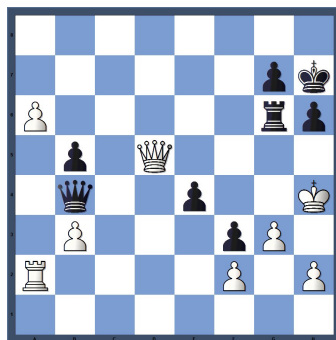
31.♔e3 ♘e4 [31...b4!—+]

32.♖xf7 ♖d3+ 33.♔f2 ♖c2+ [33...b4!—+]

34.♔e3 ♖d3+ 35.♔f2 ♖c2+ 36.♔e3 ♖d3+? 1/2

(29) Grischuk, A(2771)-Eljanov, P(2717)

World Cup, 2015.09.17

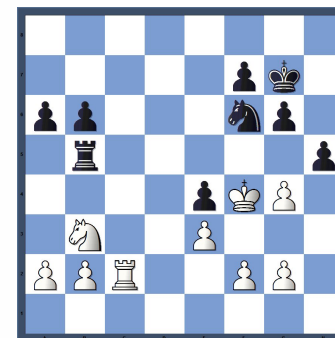


39.♔h3? [39.♖f5! 39...♖xb3 (39...e3+ 40.♔h5+—; 39...♖e7+
40.♔h5+—) 40.♖a5 ♖b4 41.♔h5 ♖xa5 42.♖xg6+ ♔h8
43.♖e8+ ♔h7 44.♖xe4+ ♔h8 45.♖b7+—]

39...♖g5—+

(30) Le Quang Lie(2697)-So, W(2773)

World Cup tiebreak, 2015.09.19

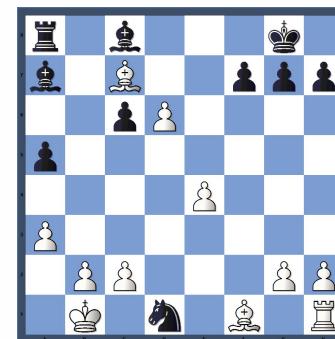


31...h4! 32.♘c5 [32.g5 32...♖f5#; 32.♘d4 32...g5#]

32...♖xc5—+

(31) Andreikin, D(2720)-Kramnik, V(2777)

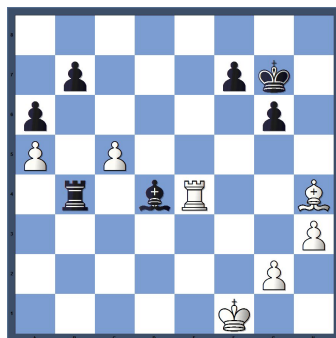
World Cup tiebreak, 2015.09.19



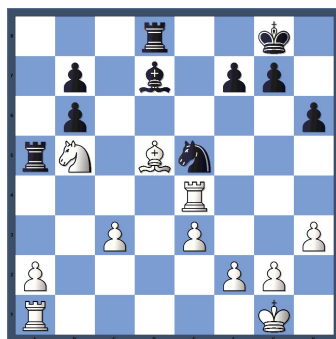
19.♘a6!! ♘xa6 20.♖xd1 ♘c5 21.a4 ♘e2 22.♖d2 ♘f1 23.g3
f6 24.d7 ♘e7 25.d8=♖+ ♘xd8 26.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 27.♘xd8
♔f7 28.♘xa5+—

(32) Nakamura, H(2814)-Nepomniachtchi, I(2705)

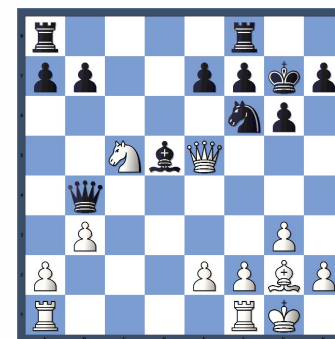
World Cup tiebreak, 2015.09.19

**52. ♖e1!! ♜c4 53. ♜xd4! ♜xc5** [53... ♜xd4 54. ♖c3+-]**54. ♜d6** 1-0**(33) So, W(2773)-Vachier-Lagrave, M(2744)**

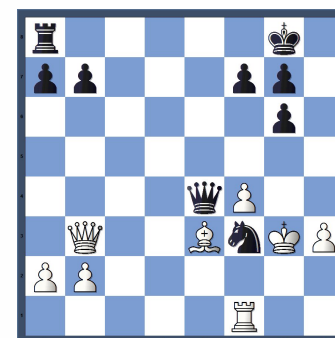
World Cup, 2015.09.21

**23... ♖g6!! 24. ♖xf7+** [24.c4 24... ♖xb5 25.cxb5 ♜xd5-+; 24. ♖c7 24... ♜c8-+]**24... ♖xf7 25. ♖d6+ ♖g8 26. ♖xb7 ♖c6! 27. ♜d4** [27. ♖xa5 27... ♖xe4-+]**27... ♜xd4 28. ♖xa5 ♜d6** ½**(34) Meier, G(2656)-Reich, T(2406)**

German league, 2015.09.18

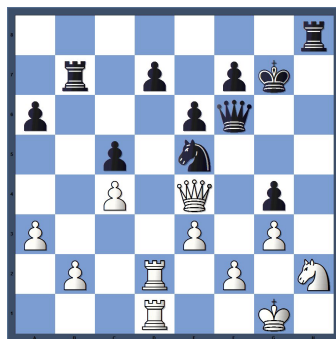
**17. ♜xe7! ♖g8** [17... ♖xg2 18. ♖e6+ ♖g8 19. ♜xb4+-]**18. ♜xf6 ♖xg2 19. ♖e6 fxe6 20. ♜xe6+-****(35) Wagner, D(2579)-Shirov, A(2712)**

German league, 2015.09.19

**27... ♖h4!! 28. ♖xh4 ♜d8! 29. ♖c1** [29. ♜d1 29... ♜xd1 30. ♜xd1 ♜xe3-+; 29. ♜e1 29... g5+ 30. ♖xg5 (30. ♖g3 30... ♜d3-+) 30... ♜d6-+]**29... g5+! -+ 30. ♖h5 ♜d3 31. ♜b5 ♜e2+ 32. ♖xg5 ♜g2+** 0-1

(36) Jaracz, P(2503)-Cornette, M(2591)

German league, 2015.09.20

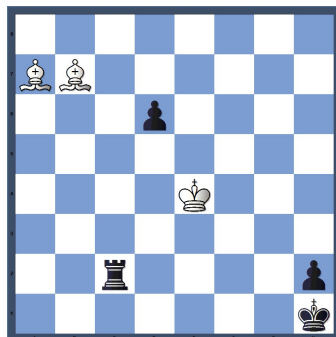


28...♖xh2! 29.♔xh2 [29.♕xb7 29...♘f3+ 30.♔f1 (30.♕xf3 30...gxf3 31.♔xh2 ♕h6+ 32.♔g1 ♕h3—+) 30...♘xd2+ 31.♖xd2 d5! —+ 32.cxd5 ♕f3—+]

29...♕h6+ 30.♔g1 [30.♔g2 30...♕h3+ 31.♔g1 ♘f3+ 32.♕xf3 gxf3—+]

30...♘f3+ 31.♔f1 ♕h1+ 32.♔e2 ♘g1+!! 33.♔d3 [33.♖xg1 33...♕xe4—+] **33...♖b3+ 0-1**

(37) Mandler



1.♔d3+! ♖g2 2.♕f3! d5 3.♕f2! d4 4.♔e2! d3+ 5.♔f1! d2 6.♕xg2#



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 189

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Editorial Preface

And the winner of the World Cup is Sergey Karjakin! He showed amazing stability and self-control, defending very bad positions again and again and fighting on in seemingly hopeless situations! We can learn a lot from such great fighting spirit!

The final match between Svidler and Karjakin was a very special one. Svidler started with a nice win with White and continued with a very lucky win with Black, where Karjakin was pushing all game long and simply blundered a piece. Now it was a must for Karjakin to win the next 2 games to come back and get into the tiebreak, but how to win a game with Black against somebody as solid as Svidler!?

So, in game 3 the position was quite calm until Karjakin did the only thing he had to do, to push for all or nothing, and it looked as if it was clearly going to be nothing... Svidler had around 5 different ways to win and many more to draw the game, but after blundering move after move he finally "managed" to lose. What a drama! In the 4th game Karjakin made his way to the full point in a long endgame where he was better all the time and finally managed to win- a very nice game to watch.

The tiebreak was similarly dramatic, win-lose-lose-win etc... It was clear that both players were totally exhausted and fighting from the last drop of energy.

In the end, the really "lucky" winner was Karjakin but he did absolutely the best he could, fighting until the very end and taking all the chances he could get. Many congratulations to the once youngest GM in the World!

Svidler also played a great event and can't be too unhappy as he qualified for the Candidates and won a nice amount of money. Congratulations to him too, even if I guess he will be

not able to forget the final day for at least a few weeks, since the victory was incredibly close.

The other big event that is underway is the Isle of Man International Chess Tournament, sponsored by Pokerstars. After 8 rounds, Harikrishna is leading with 6.5/8, followed by a big group of players on 6/8. The last round is going to be very exciting and is definitely worth following.

The World Blitz and Rapid is about to begin with an amazing line-up. Carlsen is the top seed of this spectacular event, which is held in Berlin.

The Millionaire Chess Open is also underway and the Top 3 US Grandmasters are playing: Nakamura, Caruana and So. But actually there are only 5 players over 2700 ELO and then the list of GMs is dropping rapidly.

These are a lot of events for just one week but clearly the main excitement is going to be seen in Berlin. Enjoy!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Best game of the past week

(1) **Svidler, Peter (2727)**
 - **Karjakin, Sergey (2762) [B53]**

FIDE World Cup 2015(7.3),
 2015.10.03



GM Csaba Balogh
 Best rating: 2672

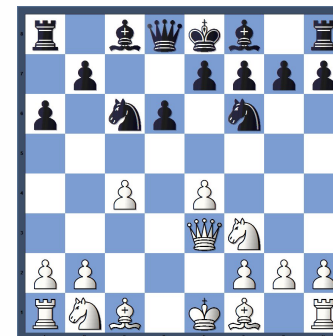
We are in the third round of the World Cup final. Svidler leads 2-0 and he only needs a draw to win the championship. He played a perfect tournament until this point, but a terrible blunder in this game has brought back Karjakin into the match...It is fair to add, that the tournament was already in progress since almost a month, both players were extremely exhausted which has ruined the quality of their games. Their main aim has been already fulfilled by reaching the final and by this qualifying to the Candidates tournament next year.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♙xd4 Svidler wants to avoid the sharp lines of the Najdorf.

4...a6 [The other option is **4...♘c6 5.♙b5 ♘d7 6.♙d3** followed by **c4**. It leads to the same structure and similar positions like in the game.]

5.c4 This is the point of this setup. White takes space advantage by occupying the center with the pawns. It usually leads to a positional game, where Black has to be accurate to maintain the balance. But of course, draw was not an acceptable result for Karjakin.

5...♘c6 6.♙e3 ♘f6



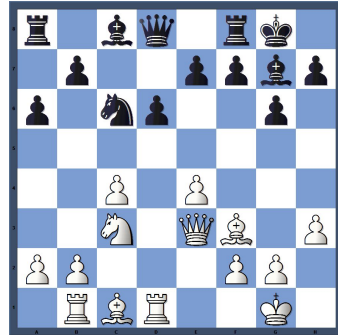
7.h3 A very useful move to avoid sometimes the disturbing of the queen with **Ng4** and also to prevent a dark square strategy of Black, by fianchettoing his bishop to **g7** and play **Bg4**, trade the knight on **f3** and **Nd7**, playing for the **d4-c5-e5** squares.

7...g6 8.♘c3 ♘g7 9.♙e2 ♘d7 Black has to play on the dark squares, using the only drawback of the strong white center.

10.♖b1 Standard plan in this opening. White already thinks about the ideal development of the **c1** bishop. It should go to **b2** (the queen occupies the other diagonal anyway) to oppose the strong one **g7**. White is going to play **b3** but for this he needs to leave the long diagonal with his rook. [On the direct **10.b3** Black could overtake the initiative with **10...♙b6**]

10...♘de5 11.O-O O-O 12.♖d1 White takes the **d4** square under control and intends to create a weakness with **c5** or just finishing the development with **b3-Bb2**. A very safe a solid position, it is just a dream when you only need to make a draw.

12...♘xf3+ 13.♙xf3

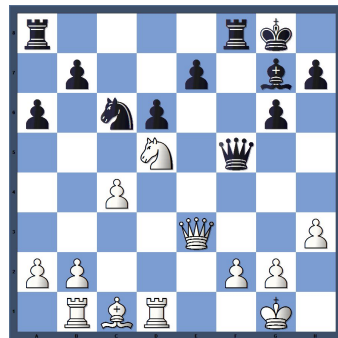


13...f5! Even objectively it is the best, but considering the match situation it is the only chance. Black must play actively to find some counterplay, otherwise he ends up in a long term positional suffering after b3-Bb2. [13...d5 14.♘e2 ♘e6 15.b3+= followed by Bb2 and at some point jump Nd5, with a riskless and comfortable advantage.]

14.exf5 ♘xf5 15.♘e4 ♖d7 16.♘d5! White still wants to develop his bishop to b2, but it did not work tactically. [16.b3? would have dropped material after 16...♘xc3! 17.♘xf5 ♖xf5 18.♖xc3 ♖xb1]

16...♖e6! Prevents Nb6 and forces actions in the center.

17.♘xf5 ♖xf5



18.♘d2! Finally the bishop is on the way to trade the g7. With

the knight on c3 this move did not come into consideration, because it allows Bd4, but now everything is under control.

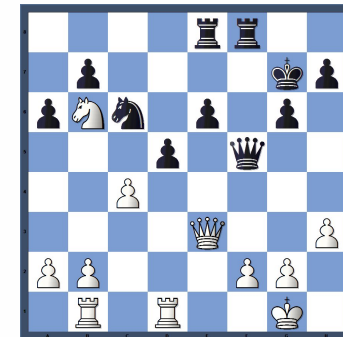
18...♖ae8 [18...♘d4? loses to 19.♖xd4! or 19.Nxe7 is also good. 19...♘xd4 20.♘xe7+ wins a pawn.]

19.♘c3 The position is getting simplified. White has no weaknesses, Svidler had all the reasons to be satisfied.

19...e6! Black uses the moment, that the knight has to be misplaced a bit. Bxg7 does not work because of the intermediate move exd5 and otherwise the knight cannot retreat to a safe square (e3 or c3), has to get a bit out from the game.

20.♘b6 d5! Very well played! Karjakin wants to create a passed pawn with d4, which could let him to grab the initiative. A critical moment for White, it is easy to lose the thread now. He must pay special attention to his knight on b6, but Svidler manages to deal with it... [After the passive 20...♖d8 21.♖e1+= and Rbd1 next, White occupies both opened files and puts pressure on the backward pawns.]

21.♘xg7 ♖xg7



22.♖c5! Strong reaction! White allows d4, but only in a cost of exchanging the queens, which leads to a drawish endgame. [It was tempting to initiate further simplifications,

but Svidler correctly avoided it, because 22.cxd5?! 22...exd5 23.♔d2 d4! Suddenly all the black pieces are very active (after the exchange on d5, the e8 rook also takes part in the battle). If White could put back his knight to d3, then of course there could be nothing to worry about, but now the knight still does not find it's place on the board. 24.♔e1 (24.♘c4 24...♔f6=+ and Rfe6 next. White has problems with the knight.) 24...♔xe1+ 25.♔xe1 ♔b5± illustrates the problem of the b6 knight.]

22...♔f6 This is the moment when the game gets a bit weird. Karjakin could not play "normal" moves because they lead to draw, he has to adopt some strange ideas to confuse his opponent and create some tricks. This is obviously very risky and not recommended strategy in general, but the match situation showed, that draw or loss is equal to Karjakin. [If the score of the match was level, then the game would have most probably continued with 22...d4 23.♔xf5 ♔xf5 (23...gxf5 24.f4! prevents e5 to connect the black pawns.) 24.b4 e5 25.f3 with a balanced endgame. White could slowly regroup his knight to a4-c5 and d3 or e4.]

23.b4! White activates his b1 rook by opening the b-file with b5. [The greedy 23.cxd5 23...exd5 24.♘xd5 allows 24...♔e2! and suddenly White has some problems. This was the trick of 22...Rf6.]

23...♘e5 Trying to create complications, but Black does not have enough pieces to get a serious one.

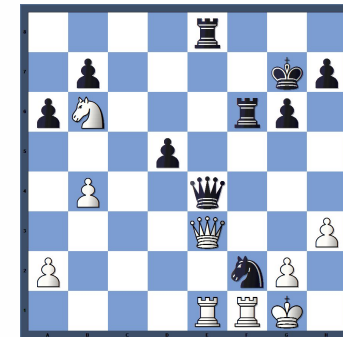
24.cxd5 ♘d3 25.♔e3 ♘xf2? A mistake, committed again because of the must-win situation. Black had to keep the queens on the board. [The right move was 25...♔xf2+ 26.♔xf2 ♘xf2 27.♔e1 but then the draw is inevitable. 27...♘d3=]

26.♔f1 ♔e4 Sad, but nothing else to do, otherwise Black loses a piece.

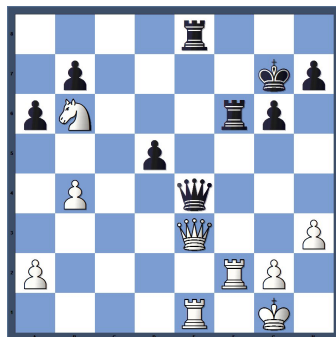
27.♔be1 It is respectable, that Svidler wants to play the best moves and plays for win even in a situation when he could practically force a draw with [27.♔xe4 27...♘xe4 28.♔xf6 ♔xf6 29.♔e1 and draw will be agreed soon.]

27...exd5!? Another very clever trick by Black. Objectively it loses, but this gives the biggest chance for White to go wrong. [Objectively the best was 27...♔ef8 28.♔xe4 ♘xe4 29.♔xf6 ♘xf6 30.dxe6 and try to save this endgame somehow.]

28.♔xf2? A mistake which spoils the win, but the draw remains still in the hand... [



The winning move was 28.♔c3! 28...♔f5 (28...♔f4 29.♘xd5! all the pieces are hanging and tactics does not work for Black. 29...♘xh3+ 30.gxh3 ♔g5+ 31.♔h2+--) 29.♔xe8 ♘xh3+ 30.♔h2! ♔xf1 31.♘xd5+-- and game over. Black soon runs out of checks. On this level, it is not so difficult to calculate such line, but of course the high stake, the tension and the pressure affects the player's decision. 31...♔g1+ 32.♔xh3 ♔h1+ 33.♔g3+--]



28...♔h4! Another great trap! It is very nice how resourcefully Karjakin managed to create tricks from a dry position. It also brought it's fruits at the end. [28...♖xf2 loses to 29.♔xe4+--]

29.♔d2?? A terrible blunder, based on an oversight in the next move... [The only move was 29.♔xe8 which leads to draw after 29...♔xf2+ 30.♔h2 ♔xb6 (30...♖xb6 31.♖e7+ ♔h6 32.♔g8= forces Black to give perpetual with Qf4-c1.) 31.♖e7+ ♔h6 and White can decide how to make a draw. 32.♖d7 intending to play Qg8, which was not possible immediately because of Qd6. (32.♔d7 is also good. 32...♔d6+ 33.♔g1 ♔xd7 34.♖xd7 White wins back the pawn and they can agree to draw.) 32...♔xb4 33.♔g8= and Black again has to give perpetual check.]

29...♖xf2 30.♔c3+ Svidler thought, that next move he takes on e8 and then he checks the f2 rook with Qe3. However the shocking surprise arrived... [30.♔xf2 30...♖xe1+--]

30...d4 and suddenly White has to resign. Chess is a cruel game. **0-1**

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot

Best rating: 2749

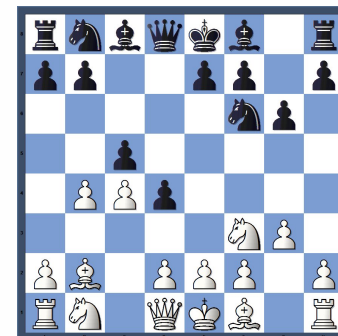
(2) Rambaldi, Francesco (2547)
- Naiditsch, Arkadij (2682) [A05]

PokerStars IoM Masters(4.5),
2015.10.06

16-year old Francesco Rambaldi missed the podium in the recent World Junior Championship by losing the last round from an absolutely winning position. Here I will comment a game he lost against Arkadij, but no doubt I will soon be checking one of his victories again.

1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.g3 g6 3.b3 d5 4.♙b2 It is maybe early to develop the bishop on b2 as the game will show. [4.♙g2 4...♙g7 (4...c5!?) 5.♙b2 c5 6.c4 d4 7.b4∞ was played in Kramnik-Svidler 2015.]

4...c5 5.c4 d4 6.b4 We get into some kind of reversed Benko opening.

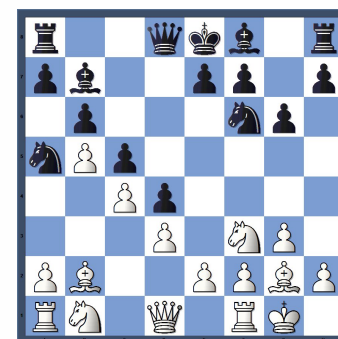


6...♘c6! A strong novelty. Black wants to fix the situation on the queenside. 6...Bg7 was played in many games.

7.b5 [7.bxc5 7...e5 8.d3 e4!? (8...♙xc5) 9.dxe4 ♘xe4 10.♙g2 ♙g7 seems ok for Black.]

7...♘a5 The knight on the rim, which is quite unusual in this structure, is Black's only drawback.

8.d3 b6 9.♙g2 ♙b7 10.O-O White should protect the g2 bishop. [10.♙c1 is met by 10...e5!]



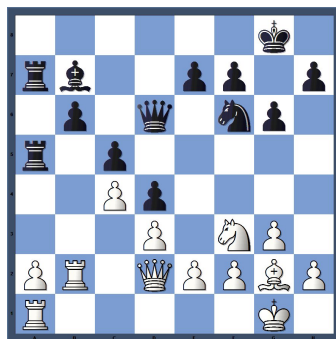
10...♙h6!? This is an interesting way to play against Bc1-d2 idea. 10...a6 is also possible.

11.♗c1 It is normal to exchange the bishops. On b2 White's bishop was against a wall on d4. [11.♘bd2 11...a6∞]

11...♗xc1 12.♖xc1 ♖d6 13.♘bd2 [13.♖h6!? was maybe a better way: 13...♘g4 14.♖g7 ♖f6 15.♖xf6 ♘xf6 with a roughly equal endgame.]

13...a6 14.bxa6?! A strange decision which alters the structure in a bad way. 14.a4 was necessary.

14...♖xa6=+ 15.♘b3 O-O 16.♘xa5 ♖xa5 17.♖d2 ♖fa8 18.♗fb1 ♖8a7 19.♗b2



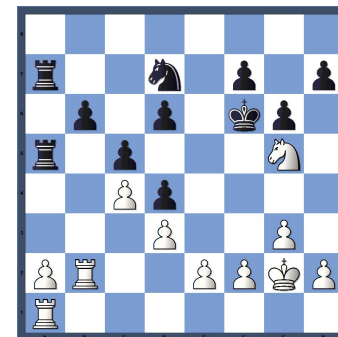
19...♖g7?! After logical developing moves from both side, Black gives a strong opportunity to White. 19. ...e5 is normal with a little advantage.

20.♖f4! White doesn't miss the chance to exchange queens.

20...♘d7 [20...♖xf4 21.gxf4 ♘h5 22.♘e5∞]

21.♖xd6 exd6 22.♘g5 Exchanging bishops also brings White closer to equality.

22...♗xg2 23.♖xg2 ♖f6



24.♘h7+ To play such a risky move you need to be very exact with calculation. [24.♘e4+ 24...♖e7 25.g4 is the normal way to play with a probable draw.]

24...♖f5 25.e4+?? The lone knight is now lost, as is the game. White had an incredible and unique way to salvation: [25.h4 25...f6 26.♖h3! g5 (26...♘e5 27.♘f8 ♖f7 28.g4+ (28.f4!?) 28...♘xg4 29.♘xg6=) 27.hxg5 fxg5 28.f4! gxf4 29.gxf4 and when Black takes on f4, Rf1-Nf8 comes with equality.]

25...dxe3 26.fxe3 g5! 27.h4 gxh4 28.gxh4 f6 29.h5 ♖a8! Arkadij is very precise and White has no chance to save the game.

30.♗f2+ ♖e6 31.♗af1 ♖xa2—+ This move was probably missed by White when he played 25.e4.

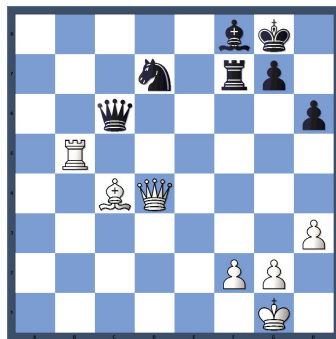
32.♖xa2 ♖xa2+ 33.♖h3 ♖a8 34.♖g1 ♖f7 35.h6 ♖g8 36.♖xg8 ♖xg8 37.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 38.♖g3 ♖h7 39.♖f4 ♖g6 40.d4 d5 41.cxd5 ♘xd5+ 42.♖e4 c4 0-1

Puzzle section

(3) Karjakin, S(2762)-Svidler, P(2727)

World Cup, 2015.10.02

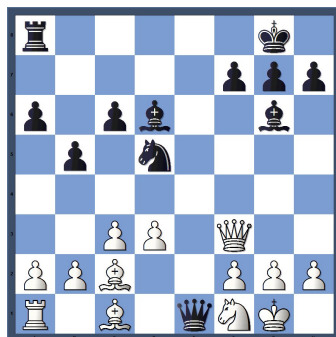
1... -+



(4) Karjakin, S(2762)-Svidler, P(2727)

World Cup tiebreak, 2015.10.05

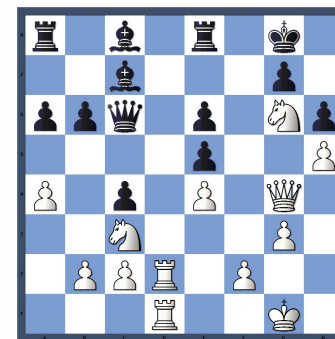
1... -+



(5) Shirov, A(2712)-Laznicka, V(2676)

Poikovsky, 2015.10.01

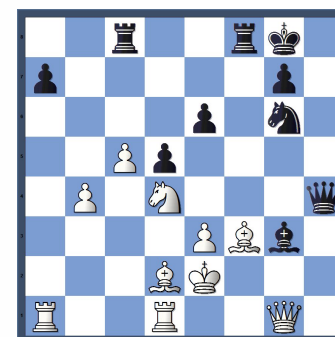
1. +-



(6) Laznicka, V(2676)-Khismatullin, D(2651)

Poikovsky, 2015.10.03

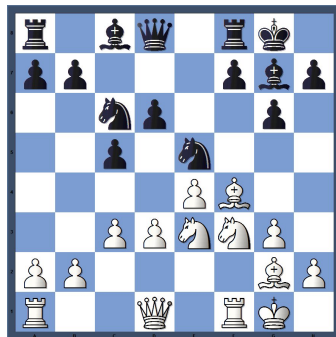
1... -+



(7) Morozevich, A(2711)-Sutovsky, A(2635)

Poikovsky, 2015.10.03

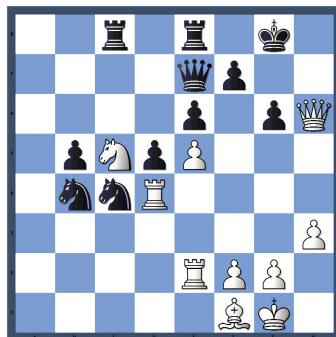
1... -+



(8) Naiditsch, A(2682)-Koop, T(2407)

Isle of Man, 2015.10.03

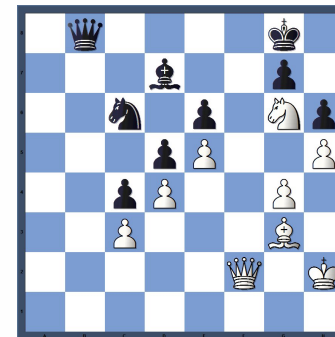
1. +-



(9) Jones, G(2623)-Berry, N(2355)

Isle of Man, 2015.10.03

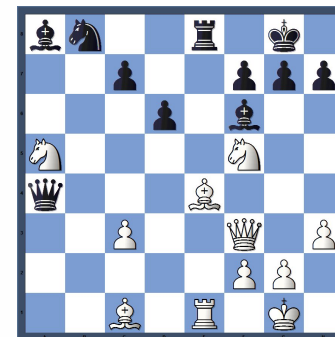
1. +-



(10) Harikrishna, P(2737)-Vishnu, P(2503)

Isle of Man, 2015.10.04

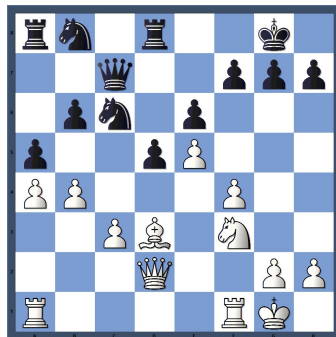
1. +-



(11) Short, N(2678)-Nakar, E(2463)

Isle of Man, 2015.10.04

1. +-



(12) Rusev, K(2558)-Hracek, Z(2613)

Croatian league, 2015.10.04

1. +-



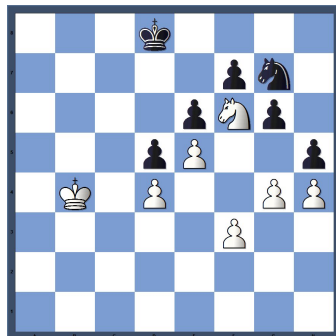
Endgame section

(13) Naiditsch, Arkadij (2682)
- Granda Zuniga, Julio E (2667)

PokerStars IoM Masters(5.3),
2015.10.07



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

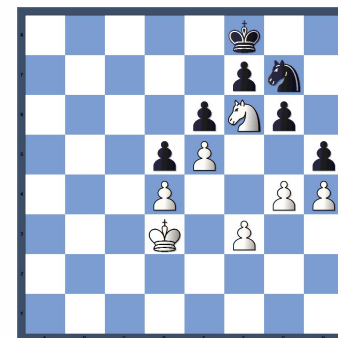


After a very long fight I thought I finally had very good winning chances. The knight on g7 can't move because the h5 pawn is going to fall, and all I need to do is to get my king to g5 to win the game. All logical, but Granda Zuniga finds an amazing way to draw this position!

62...♔e7 The correct move, the black king is going to f8. [Of course White is just faster after 62...g5? 63.gxh5 gxh4 64.h6 and h7-h8Q is unstoppable.]

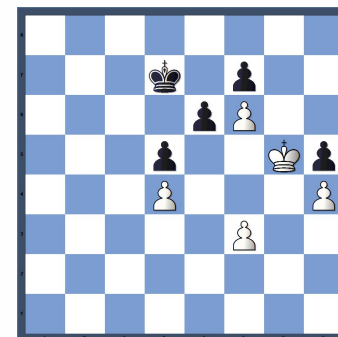
63.♔c3 ♕f8 [It is too early for 63...♖e8 64.gxh5! A pretty winning idea! 64...♖xf6 65.exf6+ ♔xf6 66.h6! and Black obviously has to move his king after which h7 just wins the game.]

64.♕d3 My next moves are clear, to play Ke2-f4-g5.



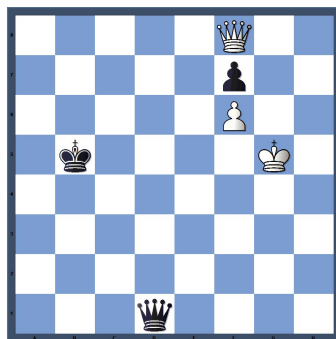
64...♖e8! Exactly the right timing! This move is not that difficult to find because of the simple reason that Black has no other chance, but what is shocking is that all pawn endgames are drawn here! But here I had another, better option: [Of course g5 still doesn't work because of 64...g5 65.♖h7+]

65.♖xe8 [The better try was to go for a queen endgame with an extra f-pawn, which appears in many moves from now, but is forced: 65.♕e3 65...♖xf6 66.exf6 ♔e8 67.♔f4 ♕d7 68.gxh5 gxh5 Now White has 2 choices: 69.♕e5 (A big mistake would be 69.♕g5



69...e5! A small but nice tactic! 70.dxe5 ♕e6 71.♔f4 d4 and the position is immediately a draw after 72.♕e4 d3 73.♕xd3 ♕xe5) 69...♕c7! The only move, since Black must have Kc6

after White's f4. 70.f4 ♖c6 71.f5 exf5 72.♙xf5 ♖b5 Again the only move for Black. The king is going for the d-pawn. (White is winning after 72...♙d6 73.♙g5 ♖e6 74.♙xh5 ♙xf6! and the winning move is 75.♙h6 ♙f5 76.♙g7 ♙g4 77.♙xf7 ♙xh4 78.♙e6) 73.♙g5 ♖c4 The next moves are forced. 74.♙xh5 ♙xd4 75.♙g5 ♖c5 76.h5 d4 77.h6 d3 78.h7 d2 79.h8=♚ d1=♚ Both players got a queen, but White is winning the f-pawn now. 80.♚f8+ ♖b5



81.♚xf7 and objectively this position should be a draw, but to draw this queen endgame is a very hard task to manage, so I would keep some practical chances for a full point.]

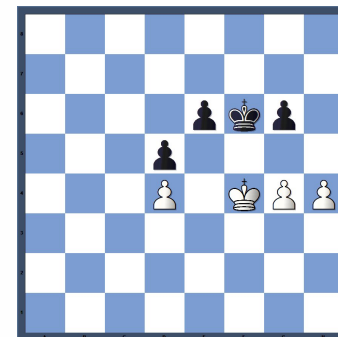
65...♙xe8 66.♙e3 ♙e7 [66...hgx4 67.fxg4 ♙e7 would lead to the same.]

67.♙f4 [67.gxh5 67...gxh5 68.♙f4 f6 and the position is a draw.]

67...hgx4 The only move again! [67...f6 loses to 68.exf6+ ♙xf6 69.g5+ ♙f7 70.♙e5 ♙e7 I now have an extra tempo with 71.f4 and my king is entering Black's position.]

68.fxg4 f6 Surely Black can't let the white king go to g5.

69.exf6+ ♙xf6 Now I have 2 choices, but both only lead to a draw.

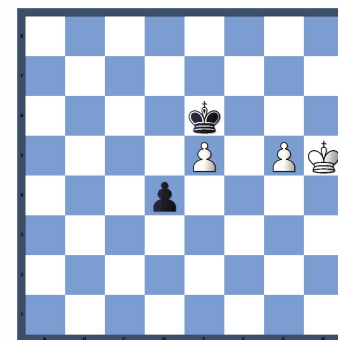


70.g5+ [Another try is 70.h5 70...g5+ 71.♙e3 but Black keeps the draw by exchanging the e-pawn: 71...e5 72.dxe5+ ♙xe5 73.♙d3 ♙f6 74.♙d4 ♙e6 and I can't improve my position any longer, only by pushing the h-pawn: 75.h6 ♙f6 76.♙xd5 ♙g6 77.♙e6 ♙xh6 78.♙f6 ♙h7 79.♙xg5 ♙g7 with a well-known draw.]

70...♙f7 71.♙g4 I want to play h5, after which the game would be over, but again my opponent finds the only moves.

71...e5! The only right way!

72.dxe5 d4! The only move that saves the game! [It was easy to go wrong with 72...♙e6 73.h5! and now White is just in time: 73...gxh5+ 74.♙xh5 d4



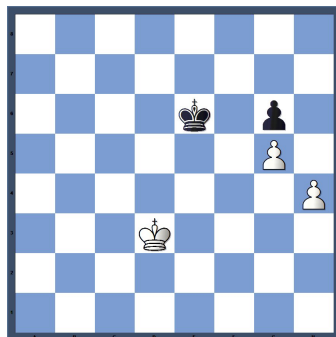
75.g6 d3 76.g7 ♙f7 77.♙h6 ♙g8 78.e6 d2 79.e7 ♙f7 80.g8=♚+ ♙xg8 81.e8=♚#]

73. ♖f3 I need to go back to catch the pawn.

73... ♖e6 74. ♖e4 d3 75. ♖xd3 ♖xe5 76. ♖e3 and of course this position is nothing but a draw.

76... ♖f5 77. ♖f3 ♖e6 78. ♖f4 ♖f7 This is still the only move to make a draw here... But of course it is too easy to miss. [78... ♖d6 would be a big mistake since after 79. ♖g4 ♖e6 80. h5 gxh5+ 81. ♖xh5 ♖f7 82. ♖h6 the arising pawn endgame is already winning for White.]

79. ♖f3 ♖e7 80. ♖e3 ♖d7 81. ♖d3 ♖e6



82. ♖e4 The rest of the moves don't need any comments, the position is a dead draw.

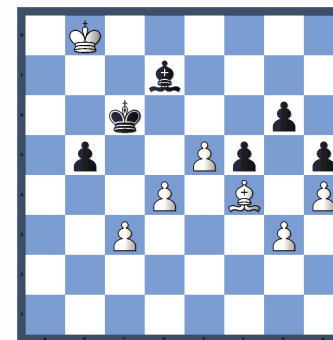
82... ♖d6 83. ♖f3 ♖e7 84. ♖g4 ♖f7 85. ♖g3 ♖e7 86. ♖f4 ♖e6 87. ♖g4 ♖f7 88. h5 gxh5+ 89. ♖xh5 ♖g7 90. g6 ♖g8 91. ♖h6 ♖h8 92. g7+ ♖g8 93. ♖g6 Well, it is difficult to be happy after such a game, where I was soooo close to the win, but on the other hand my opponent defended greatly and that all the pawn endgames are drawish is just amazing!
1/2-1/2

**(14) Karjakin, Sergey (2762)
- Svidler, Peter (2727)**

FIDE World Cup 2015 (7.5),
2015.10.05



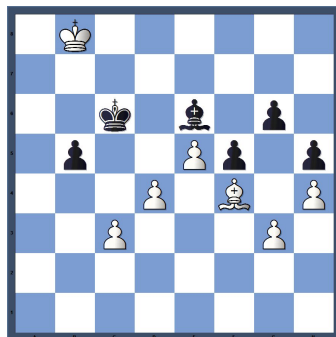
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672



We have reached a study-like endgame with opposite colored bishops. White is a pawn up, but it seems like Black has successfully built up an unbreakable blockade. He just moves Be6-d7 and White cannot do anything, because his king cannot pass the 8th rank. However the truth is different. Both players had less than a minute on the clock, but Karjakin found a brilliant idea with which he could continue fighting on and it seems like, even objectively his position is winning. The only existing idea is to sacrifice pawn with d5 Kxd5 and Kc7, but then Black plays Ke6 keeping the blockade. The key is, White can give the move to black with a triangulation and he finds himself in zugzwang.

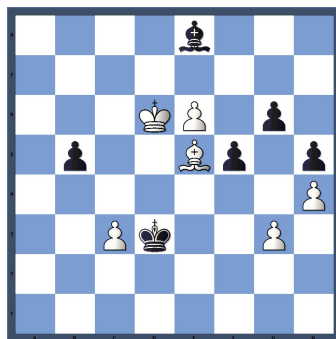
77. ♗g5! ♗e6 78. ♗h6! ♗d7 79. ♗f4! Here we are! It is Black to move now and he has nothing other move than Be6.

79...♙e6



80.d5+!! This is the fantastic idea! White gives up his material advantage, but he gets access with his king to the kingside pawns. The difference with the bishop on e6 is after Kxd5 Kc7 Black cannot block the way with Ke6!

80...♙xd5 [The alternative was 80...♙xd5 81.♙c7 The unfortunate placement of the black pawns allows the king to march towards f6 and collect the g6 and h5 pawns. Black cannot protect the latter one, because the e5 passed pawn must be blockaded and it occupies both of his pieces. 81...♙c4 running towards the c-pawn does not save Black... 82.♙d6 ♙g8 (82...♙f7 also loses after 83.e6 ♙e8 84.♙e5 ♙d3



85.♙e7 ♙c6 86.♙d8 ♙e4 87.♙f4 ♙d3 88.e7 ♙xc3 89.e8=♙ ♙xe8 90.♙xe8+— White gives up his bishop for the b-pawn

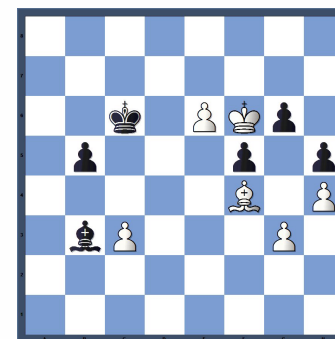
and takes all the kingside with his king.) 83.e6 ♙xc3 84.♙e5 b4 85.♙f6 ♙xe6 86.♙xe6 b3 87.♙f6+— and the same story as in the 82...Bf7 line.]

81.♙c8! Black cannot prevent Kd8-e7-f6 or if he allows White just advances his e-pawn.

81...♙b3 82.♙d8 ♙c4 Svidler decides to wait. [Active defense does not help either 82...♙d5 83.♙e7 ♙c4 84.♙f7 ♙xc3+ 85.♙xg6 b4 86.♙xh5 ♙c4 87.♙g6 b3 88.♙c1+— and the white passed pawns decide the outcome.]

83.♙e7 ♙b3 84.e6 [84.♙f6 84...♙d7 85.♙xg6 ♙e6 86.♙xh5 should be also winning.]

84...♙c4 85.♙f6 ♙b3



86.♙c1! White drives his bishop to a3 in order to push e7, placing it to a protected square and then the king is free to take on g6 and h5, gaining another passed pawn. [86.♙g5 was also good with the same purpose.]

86...♙c4 87.♙a3 ♙b3 88.e7 ♙d7 89.♙xg6 [Black resigned in view of 89.♙xg6 89...♙e8 (There is no time for 89...♙d7 90.♙f7) 90.♙xh5 ♙f7 91.♙g5 ♙e6 92.h5 ♙d7 93.h6+— and Black is unable to create a blockade.] **1-0**

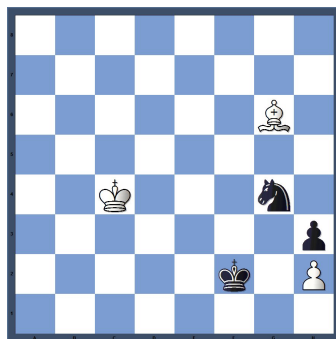
Golden knowledge



GM Adrian Mikhachishin
FIDE Trainers Commission Chairman

(15) De Feijter, C.

Tijdschrift v.d. KNSB#114 @3, 1936



But there were some wrong positions too!

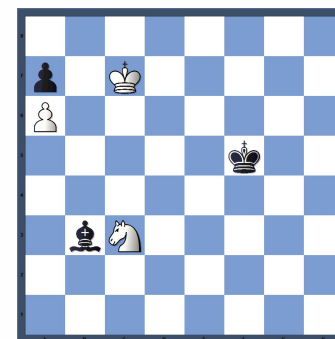
1. ♖c3! ♜xh2 2. ♜f5 ♜g4! 3. ♖d2! h2 4. ♜e4 ♜e3 5. ♜h1! ♜f5! 6. ♜b7 ♖f1 7. ♜a8 ♜h4 8. ♜h1 ♜g2 9. ♖d1 ♖f2 10. ♖d2 ♜e3! 11. ♖d3 ♜f5 12. ♖d2 [Or 12. ♜d5 12... ♖g1 13. ♖e2 ♜h4 14. ♜e4 ♜g2]

12... ♖g1 13. ♖e1 ♜h4 14. ♖e2 ♜g2 15. ♖f3 ♜e3?? [The simple win is 15... ♖xh1! 16. ♖f2 ♜e3]

16. ♖xe3 ♖xh1 17. ♖f2 1/2-1/2

(16) De Feijter, C.

Tijdschrift v.d. KNSB#114 c @2, 1936



1. ♜b5 ♖f6! 2. ♜xa7 ♜c4 3. ♜b5! ♖e7! [3... ♜xb5 4. a7]

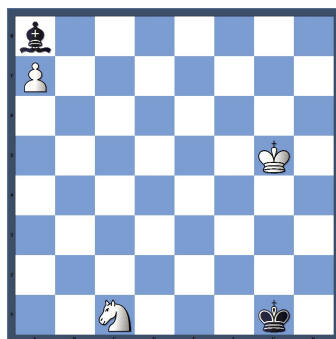
4. a7 ♜d5 5. ♜d6 ♜a8! 6. ♜c4! ♜d5 7. ♖c8 [7. ♜a5! cook RB 7... ♜a8 8. ♖c8]

7... ♜e4 8. ♜a5 ♜a8 9. ♜b7 [9. ♖c7! cook JP 9... ♖e8 10. ♜c4 ♖e7 11. ♖b8 ♖d8 12. ♜a5 ♖d7 13. ♜b7]

9... ♖e8 10. ♜d6+ ♖e7 11. ♖c7 ♖e6 12. ♜c4 ♖e7 13. ♖b8 ♖d8 14. ♜a5 ♖d7 15. ♜b7 ♖c6 16. ♖xa8 ♖c7 17. ♜d6 1-0

(17) Nunn, John

Secrets of Minor-Piece Endings#120 ce, 1995



GM John Nunn in his excellent book developed the subject in his excellent book and said what is probably the last word in the theory of this position (not in practice!). For every payer it will be extremely instructive just to follow and to enjoy John Nunn's findings!

1.♖f5! [1.♖f4? 1...♖f2! 2.♖e5 (2.♘b3 2...♖e2! 3.♘c5 ♖d2! 4.♖e5 ♖c3! 5.♘a4+ ♖b4 6.♘b6 ♖c5) 2...♖e3! 3.♖d6 ♖d4! 4.♖c7 ♖c5 5.♘d3+ ♖b5]

1...♖f2 [1...♖g2 2.♖e6 ♖f3 3.♖d7 ♖e4 4.♖c7 ♖e5 (4...♖d5 5.♘b3! ♖e6 6.♘a5) 5.♘b3!; 1...♖f1 2.♖e6]

2.♖f4! ♖e1 [2...♙h1 3.♖e5 ♖e3 4.♘b3! ♖d3 5.♘a5! ♖c3 (5...♙a8 6.♖d6! ♖d4 7.♖c7) 6.♖d6! ♙a8 7.♖c7 ♖b4 8.♖b8]

3.♖e3! [3.♖e5? 3...♖d2! 4.♘b3+ ♖c3 5.♘d4 ♖c4; 3.♘b3? 3...♖e2 4.♘c5 ♖d2! 5.♖e5 ♖c3!]

3...♖d1 [3...♖f1 4.♘b3 ♖g2 5.♖d4 ♖f3 6.♖c5 ♖e4 7.♖d6 ♖f5 (7...♖d3 8.♖c7) 8.♖c7 ♖e6 9.♘a5; 3...♙b7 4.♖d4 ♖d2 5.♘b3+ ♖c2 6.♘a5 ♙a8 7.♖c5 ♖c3 8.♖b6 ♖d4 9.♖c7; 3...♙h1 4.♖d4 ♖d2 5.♘b3+ ♖c2 6.♘a5]

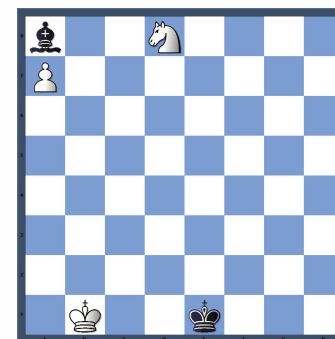
4.♘d3 ♖c2 [4...♙b7 5.♖d4 ♖d2 6.♘c5 ♙a8 7.♘b3+ ♖c2

8.♘a5]

5.♖d4! ♖b3 6.♖c5! ♖a4 7.♖b6! ♖b3 8.♘e5 ♖b4 9.♘c6+ ♖c4 10.♘a5+ ♖d5 11.♖c7 1-0

(18) Nunn, John

Secrets of Minor-Piece Endings#121 ce, 1995



1.♖c1! [1.♖c2? 1...♖e2! 2.♖c3 ♖e3! 3.♖c4 ♖e4! 4.♖c5 (4.♘f7 4...♖f5! 5.♖c5 ♖e6) 4...♖e5! 5.♖b6 (5.♘c6+ 5...♖e6!) 5...♖d6!]

1...♖f2 [1...♖e2 2.♖c2!; 1...♙h1 2.♖c2 ♖e2 3.♖c3 ♖e3 4.♖c4 ♖f4 5.♖c5 ♙a8 6.♖d6; 1...♙d5 2.♖c2 ♖e2 3.♖c3 ♖e3 4.♖b4 ♖d4 5.♖b5! ♙a8 6.♖b6!]

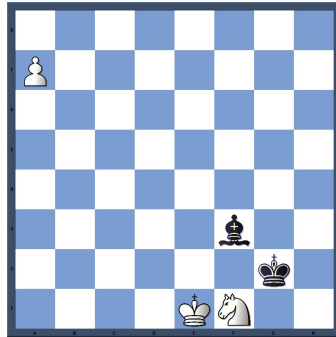
2.♖b2! [2.♖d2? 2...♖f3! 3.♖d3 ♖f4! 4.♖d4 ♖f5! 5.♖c5 ♖e5!]

2...♖e2 3.♖c2! ♖f3 [3...♖f2 4.♖b3 ♖f3 5.♖b4! ♖f4 6.♖b5! ♖f5 7.♖b6!]

4.♖b3! ♖e3 5.♖c3! ♖f4 6.♖b4! ♖e4 7.♖c4! ♖f5 8.♖b5! ♖e5 9.♖c5! ♖f6 10.♖d6 1-0

(19) Nunn, John

Secrets of Minor-Piece Endings#122 ce, 1995



1...♙a8 [1...♖g1 2.♜e3 ♔h2 3.♖d2 ♖g3 4.♙d3 ♙f4 5.♙d4! ♙a8 (5...♙b7 6.♜c4) 6.♜d5+! ♙f5 7.♜c7! ♙b7 8.♙c5 ♙e5 9.♙b6 ♙h1 10.♜b5 ♙e6 11.♙c7!]

2.♙e2! ♙f3+ [2...♙e4 3.♙e3]

3.♙e3! ♙a8 [3...♙b7 4.♜d2 ♖g3 5.♜c4 ♖g4 6.♙d4 ♖g5 7.♙c5 ♙f6 8.♜a5 ♙a8 9.♙d6; 3...♙c6 4.♜d2 ♖g3 5.♜c4 ♙h1 6.♙d4 ♙f4 7.♙c5 ♙f5 8.♙d6]

4.♜d2! ♖g3 5.♜c4! [5.♙d4? 5...♙f4! 6.♙c5 ♙e5]

5...♙g4 6.♜b6! [6.♜d6? 6...♙g5! 7.♙d4 ♙f6! 8.♙c5 ♙e6; 6.♙d4? 6...♙f5! 7.♙c5 ♙e6!]

6...♙b7 7.♜c8! ♙a8 [7...♙h1 8.♜d6 ♙a8 9.♙d4 ♙f4 10.♙c5 ♙e5 11.♜b5 ♙h1 12.♙b6; 7...♙g5 8.♙d4! ♙f6 9.♙c5! ♙e6 10.♙b6!]

8.♜e7! [8.♜d6? 8...♙g5! 9.♙d4 ♙f6]

8...♙g5 9.♙d4! ♙f6 10.♜d5+! ♙f5 [10...♙f7 11.♙c5! ♙b7 12.♜b4 ♙e6 13.♙b6!]

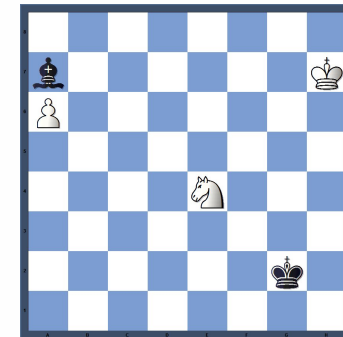
11.♜c7! [11.♙c5? 11...♙e5! 12.♜c7 ♙h1 13.♜b5 ♙e6!]

11...♙b7 [11...♙c6 12.♙c5! ♙b7 13.♙d6]

12.♙c5! ♙e5 13.♙b6 ♙h1 14.♜b5 1-0

(20) Nunn, John

Secrets of Minor-Piece Endings#123 ce, 1995



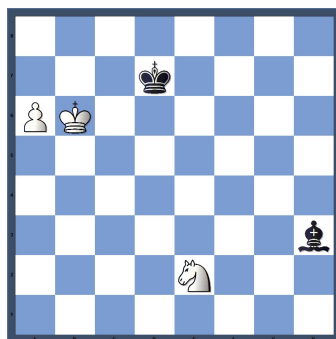
1.♙g6! 1...♙f3 [1...♙f1 2.♙f5 ♙e2 3.♙e6!]

2.♙f5! ♙e2 3.♙e6! [3.♙f4? 3...♙d3 4.♙e5 ♙c4]

3...♙e3 4.♙e5! ♙e2 5.♙d6! ♙d3 6.♙d5! ♙c2 7.♙c6 ♙b3 8.♙b5! ♙a3 9.♜d6 ♙b3 10.♜c8 ♙b8 11.♙b6 ♙b4 12.♙b7 ♙b5 13.♜e7 ♙a5 14.♜c6+ 1-0

(21) Nunn, John

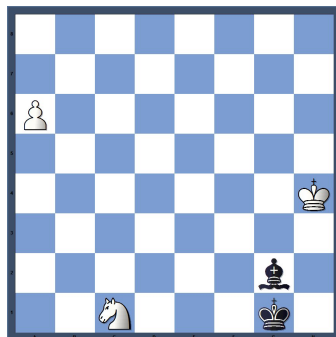
Secrets of Minor-Piece Endings#128 ce, 1995



- 1. ♖f4! ♜g4** [1... ♜f5 2. ♗d5! ♜e4 3. ♗f6+]
2. ♗d3! ♜h3 [2... ♖c8 3. ♗e5! ♜h3 4. a7 ♜g2 5. ♗c6!]
3. ♗e5+! ♖d6 4. ♗c4+! ♖d7 5. ♗e3! 1-0

(22) Nunn, John

Secrets of Minor-Piece Endings#129 ce, 1995



- 1. ♖g4!** [1. ♖g3? 1... ♖f1! (1... ♜a8? 2. ♖f4! ♖f2 3. a7!) 2. a7 (2. ♖g4 2... ♖e1!) 2... ♜a8! 3. ♖f4 ♖f2!; 1. ♗d3? 1... ♜a8 2. ♖g3 ♖f1! 3. ♖f4 ♖e2! 4. ♗c5 ♖d2! 5. ♖e5 ♖c3! 6. ♖d6 ♖b4;

1. ♖g5? 1... ♖f1! (1... ♖f2 2. ♖f4) 2. ♖f4 (2. ♖f5 2... ♖e1? 3. ♗d3+ (3. ♖e5 3... ♖d2! 4. ♗b3+ ♖c3 5. ♗c5 ♜a8) 3... ♖d2! 4. ♗f4 ♜a8) 2... ♖f2! 3. ♖e5 (3. a7 3... ♜a8!; 3. ♗d3+ 3... ♖e2! 4. ♗c5 ♖d2!) 3... ♖e3! 4. ♗b3 (4. ♖d6 4... ♖d4!) 4... ♖d3! 5. ♗c5+ ♖c4 6. ♗e4 ♖d3!]

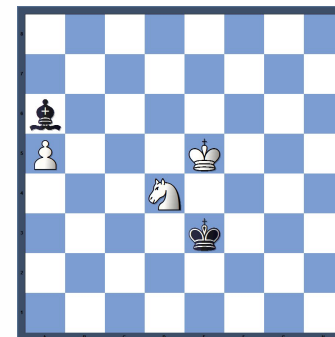
- 1... ♖f2** [1... ♖f1 2. ♖g3! ♜a8 (2... ♜h1 3. ♖f4!) 3. ♖f4! ♖e1 (3... ♖f2 4. a7!) 4. ♖e3! ♖d1 5. ♗d3 ♖c2 6. ♖d4! ♖b3 7. ♖c5! ♖a4 (7... ♖c3 8. ♗b4 ♖b3 9. ♗c6 ♖a4 10. ♖b6) 8. ♖b6! ♖b3 9. ♗c5+ ♖b4 10. ♗b7 ♖c4 11. ♖c6 ♖b4 (11... ♖d4 12. ♖c7) 12. ♖c7; 1... ♜a8 2. ♖f4 ♖f2 3. a7!]

- 2. ♖f4! ♜f3** [2... ♜c6 3. ♖e5 ♖e3 4. ♖d6 ♜a8 5. ♗b3 ♖d3 6. ♗a5 ♖d4 7. ♗b7; 2... ♜h1 3. ♖e5 ♖e3 4. ♗b3! ♖d3 5. ♗c5+! ♖c4 6. ♗e4! ♖d3 7. ♗f2+; 2... ♖e1 3. ♖e3! ♜a8 4. ♗d3+]

- 3. ♗d3+ ♖e2 4. ♗c5 ♜a8 5. ♖e5! ♖e3 6. ♖d6 ♖d4 7. ♗b7! ♖c4 8. ♖c6! ♖b4 9. a7 ♖c4 10. ♖c7 1-0**

(23) Nunn, John

Secrets of Minor-Piece Endings#134 ce, 1995



- 1... ♜b7** [1... ♜c4 2. ♗f5+ ♖f3 (2... ♖d3 3. ♗d6! ♜a6 4. ♖d5! ♖e3 5. ♖c6 ♖d4 6. ♖b6! ♜f1 7. ♗b5+!) 3. ♗d6 ♜a6 4. ♖d5! ♖f4 5. ♖c6! ♖e5 6. ♗b5 ♜c8 7. ♖c7 ♜a6 8. ♖b6! ♜c8 9. ♗c3!;

1...♙f1 2.♖d5! ♙a6 3.♖c5 ♙c8 4.♜c2+ ♖d3 5.♜b4+ ♖c3
6.♜d5+ ♖b3 7.♖b6; 1...♙c8 2.♖d5 ♖f4 3.♜e6+ ♖e3 4.♜c5
♙h3 5.a6 ♙f1 6.a7! ♙g2+ 7.♖e5 (7.♖d6? 7...♖d4!) 7...♙a8
8.♜d7 ♖d3 9.♜b6 ♙b7 10.♖d6; 1...♖d3 2.♖d5! ♖e3]

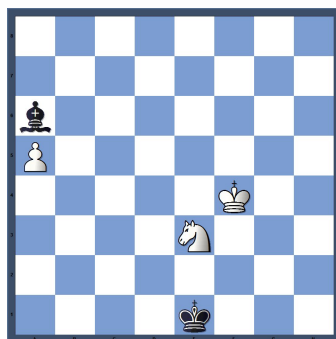
2.♜e6! [2.♜b3? 2...♙g2! (2...♙f3? 3.♖d6! ♙e2 4.♖c5 ♖e4
5.♜d4! ♙f1 (5...♙a6 6.♖b6 ♙f1 7.♜b5! ♖d5 8.a6!) 6.♜b5!)
3.♖d6 (3.a6 3...♖d3!) 3...♙f1! 4.♖c5 ♖f4! 5.♜d4 ♖e5 6.♜b5
♖e6 7.a6 ♖d7]

2...♙a6 [2...♙f3 3.♖d6 ♙e2 4.♖c6 ♖e4 5.♜c7! ♖d4 6.♖b6
♖e5 7.♜b5! ♙f1 8.a6; 2...♙g2 3.a6 ♖d2 4.♜f4 ♙a8 5.♖d4
♖c2 6.♖c4 ♖b2 7.♜d5 ♖a3 8.♜b6 ♙c6 9.♖c5; 2...♖d2
3.♖d6 ♙a6 4.♜c7 ♙f1 5.♖c5 ♖e3 6.♜b5]

3.♖d5! ♙b7+ 4.♖d6 ♙a6 5.♜c7 ♙f1 6.♖c6 ♖d4 7.♜b5+!
♖c4 8.a6 ♙g2+ 9.♖b6! ♖d5 10.a7 1-0

(24) Nunn, John

Secrets of Minor-Piece Endings#135 ce, 1995



1.♖e5! [1.♖e4? 1...♖e2! 2.♖d4 (2.♜d5? 2...♖d2! 3.♖d4 ♖c2!
4.♖c5 ♖b3! 5.♖b6 ♙f1 6.♜c7 ♖b4) 2...♖f3 3.♜d5 ♖g4 4.♜b4
♙b5! 5.♖c5 ♙f1 6.♜d5 ♖g5 7.♜c3 ♖f6 8.♜b5 ♖e7]

1...♖e2 2.♖e4! ♖e1 [2...♙d3+ 3.♖d4! ♙a6 4.♜d5 ♖f3;

2...♙b7+ 3.♜d5! (3.♖d4? 3...♖f3! 4.♜d5 ♖g4! 5.♖c5 (5.♖e5
5...♙a6! 6.♜c7 ♙f1 7.♖d6 ♖f5 8.♖c6 ♖f6 9.♖b6 ♖e7)
5...♖f5! 6.♜b4 ♖e6 7.♖b6 ♙g2 8.a6 ♖d7) 3...♙a6 (3...♖f2
4.♖d4 ♖f3 5.♜b4) 4.♜c7 ♙b7+ 5.♖d4 ♖f3 6.♖c5 ♖f4 7.♖b6
♙c8 8.♜d5+ ♖e5 9.♜c3]

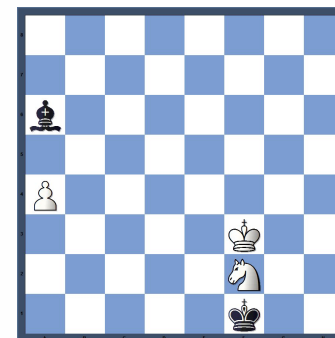
3.♖d5! [3.♖d4? 3...♖d2! 4.♜d5 ♖c2! 5.♜b4+ ♖b3 6.♜xa6
♖a4]

3...♖d2 4.♖d4! ♖e2 [4...♙e2 5.♜c4+!; 4...♙b5 5.♜c4+ ♖d1
6.♖c5 ♙a6 7.♜d6; 4...♙b7 5.♜c4+ ♖d1 6.♖c5 ♙a6 7.♜d6]

5.♜d5! ♖f3 6.♜c7! ♙c8 7.♜b5 ♖f4 8.♖d5! ♙a6 9.♖c6
♖e5 10.♖b6! ♙c8 11.♜c3! 1-0

(25) Nunn, John

Secrets of Minor-Piece Endings#139 ce, 1995



1...♖g1 [1...♙c4 2.♜e4! ♖e1 (2...♖g1 3.a5) 3.♖e3! ♖d1
4.♖d4! ♙a6 5.♖c5 ♖e2 6.a5 ♖e3 7.♖b6 ♙f1 8.♜d6 ♖d4
9.♜b5+! ♖d5 10.a6! ♖e6 11.a7; 1...♙e2+ 2.♖e3! ♙a6 3.♜d3
♖g2 4.♜c5 ♙c4 5.♖d4 ♙f1 6.♜d3 ♖f3 7.a5! ♖g4 8.a6 ♖f5
9.a7! ♙g2 10.♖c5! ♙a8 11.♖b6! ♖e4 12.♜c5+ ♖d5 13.♜b7;
1...♖e1 2.♖e3! ♙b7 3.a5 ♙a6 4.♜d3+! ♖d1 5.♜b4! ♙b5
6.♖d4! ♖c1 7.♖c5 ♙f1 8.♜d5 ♖b2 9.♜e3 ♙a6 10.♖b4! ♖c1

11. ♖c4 ♖c2 12. ♖d6 ♖e2 (12... ♖d3 13. ♖c5) 13. ♖b5 ♖d3 14. a6 ♖e3 15. a7 ♖f3 16. ♖c5]

2. ♖e4! ♖h2 [2... ♖f1 3. a5 ♖h2 4. ♖e3! ♖h3 5. ♖f2+! ♖h4 6. ♖d3! ♖g5 7. a6! ♖f5 8. ♖d4!]

3. ♖c5! ♖f1 4. ♖f2! [4. ♖e4? 4... ♖g3 5. ♖d3 ♖g2+! 6. ♖e5 ♖c6 7. a5 ♖b5! 8. ♖d4 ♖g4]

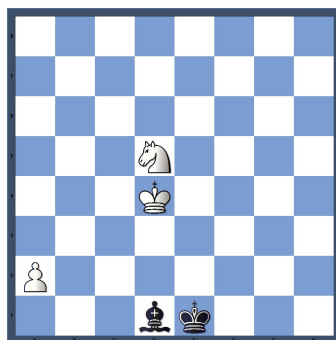
4... ♖c4 5. ♖e3! ♖g3 6. ♖d4! ♖e2 [6... ♖f1 7. ♖d3! ♖g4 8. a5! ♖f5 9. a6! ♖f6 10. a7! ♖g2 11. ♖f4! ♖a8 12. ♖d5+! ♖f7 13. ♖c5! ♖b7 14. ♖b4 ♖e6 15. ♖b6! ♖a8 16. ♖c7!]

7. ♖d3! ♖g4 8. a5! ♖f5 9. a6! ♖f3 10. ♖c5! ♖e4 [10... ♖e6 11. ♖b6! ♖e7 12. ♖e5 ♖g2 13. ♖c7! ♖a8 14. a7]

11. ♖f2! ♖g2 12. ♖d6! ♖f1 13. a7! ♖g2 14. ♖d3 1-0

(26) Nunn, John

Secrets of Minor-Piece Endings#140 ce, 1995



1. ♖c3! [1. ♖e3? 1... ♖a4! 2. ♖c3 ♖e8]

1... ♖c2 [1... ♖g4 2. a4 ♖f2 3. a5 ♖c8 4. ♖e4+ ♖f3 5. ♖c5 ♖f4 6. ♖d5!]

2. ♖e3! ♖f1 [2... ♖f5 3. a4! ♖c8 4. ♖d4 ♖d2 5. ♖e4+ ♖c2 6. ♖c4! ♖a6+ (6... ♖b7 7. ♖d6 ♖g2 8. a5 ♖f1+ 9. ♖b4! ♖e2

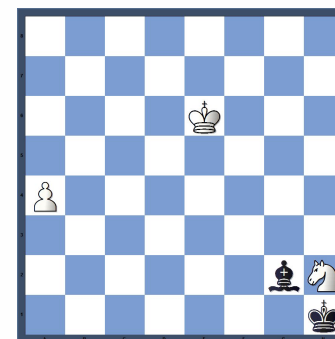
10. ♖b5) 7. ♖b4! ♖f1 8. a5! ♖e2 9. ♖d6]

3. ♖d2! ♖f5 4. a4! ♖f2 5. a5! ♖f3 [5... ♖c8 6. ♖d3! ♖f3 7. ♖d4 ♖f4 8. ♖c5! ♖e5 9. ♖b6!]

6. a6! ♖c8 7. a7! ♖b7 8. ♖d3! ♖f4 9. ♖d4! ♖f5 10. ♖c5! ♖e6 11. ♖b6! ♖g2 12. ♖c7! 1-0

(27) Nunn, John

Secrets of Minor-Piece Endings#140 ce, 1995



1. ♖g4! ♖h3 [1... ♖b7 2. ♖e3! ♖h2 3. a5 ♖g3 4. ♖d5 ♖f3 5. ♖e5 ♖a6 6. ♖c7 ♖c8 (6... ♖f1 7. ♖d5 ♖f4 8. ♖c6! ♖g2+ 9. ♖b6 ♖e5 10. ♖b5! ♖e6 11. ♖c7! ♖f1 12. a6! ♖e7 13. a7!) 7. ♖d6 ♖e4 8. ♖e6 ♖d3 9. ♖c5+! ♖d4 (9... ♖c4 10. ♖c6!) 10. ♖c6! ♖h3 (10... ♖c4 11. ♖b7) 11. a6! ♖f1 12. a7! ♖g2+ 13. ♖b6 ♖a8 14. ♖b7]

2. ♖f5! ♖f1 [2... ♖g2 3. ♖f4! ♖g1 4. a5 ♖f1 5. ♖e5 ♖e2 6. ♖e3 ♖f2 7. ♖d5 ♖f3 8. ♖d6 ♖g4 9. ♖c6 ♖f5 10. ♖c3! ♖a6 11. ♖b5! ♖e5 12. ♖b6! ♖c8 13. ♖c3!]

3. ♖f4! ♖e2 [3... ♖a6 4. ♖g3! ♖g1 5. ♖e3! ♖c8 6. ♖d5! ♖a6 7. a5 ♖b7 8. ♖b4 ♖f1 9. ♖f4! ♖e2 10. ♖e5! ♖e3 11. ♖d6! ♖d4 12. ♖c6+! ♖e4 13. ♖a7 ♖a6 14. ♖c6! ♖e5 15. ♖b5! ♖c8 16. ♖c7 ♖a6 17. ♖b6! ♖c8 18. ♖c3!]

4. ♖g3! ♖g1 5. ♖e3! ♖a6 [5... ♖d3 6. a5 ♖a6 7. ♖d5]

6.♘d5! ♙b7 [6...♙c4 7.♘c3 ♖f1 8.♖f3! ♗e1 9.♖e3! ♙f1
10.a5! ♙a6 11.♘d5 ♖d1 12.♘b4!]

7.♘c3! [7.♘b4? 7...♖f1! 8.♖f4 ♗e2! 9.♖e5 ♖d2]

**7...♖f1 8.♖f4! ♗f2 9.a5! ♗e1 10.♖e3! ♙a6 11.♘d5
♖d1 12.♘b4! ♙b5 13.♖d4! ♖c1 14.♖c5 ♙f1 15.♘d5
♖b2 16.♘e3 ♙a6 17.♖b4! ♖c1 18.♘c4 ♖c2 19.♘d6 ♙e2
20.♘b5 ♖d3 21.a6 ♖e3 22.a7 ♙f3 23.♖c5 ♖f4 24.♖d6
♙h1 25.♖c7 ♖e5 26.♘d6 ♙a8 27.♘c4+ ♖e6 28.♖b8 ♙g2
29.♘a5 ♖d7 30.♘b7 1-0**

Chess and the City. How can a GM cope with a "4-some"?



WGM Elisabeth Paetz
Best rating: 2493

As you already remember the name from previous newsletters, my right hand, or work slave, or simply my wannabe English teacher, GM Keith Arkell has a pretty rough or some may even call it paradise kind of time here at the Isle of Man Poker star tournament, which by the way is the strongest open tournament to ever be held in the British Isles. Well what is so special about him, but being honoured to be a common English editor slave? He just played his 4th women in a row and I decided to take this unique opportunity (I don't remember any GM facing 4 women in a row in an open tournament) to get an exclusive interview from him.

E: Keith, how does it feel to face 4 women consecutively in an open tournament?

K: There was a time in my past when I felt very uncomfortable playing against women players. Instead of feeling competitively towards them, I felt almost chivalrous. As condescending as this sounds, I felt almost smugly superior to any female player I ever faced.

E: Doesn't it sound a little arrogant?

K: Well in 1987 when I played 12-year old Judith Polgar, I learned that my smugness was completely misplaced.

E: Did you actually manage to lose to her even as a kid?

K: To be honest, she completely outplayed me from start to finish...

E: So how come after such an experience you can even dare to feel superior nowadays?

K: First of all, clearly Judith is exceptional, and secondly my psychological make-up predisposes me to placing the female on a pedestal to which she is in reality unworthy. This is my psychological dichotomy. When they are in reality worthy of placing on a pedestal, then I face a conflict.

E: Does it influence your performance whether she is attractive to you or not?

K: Very much so. If she is attractive to me I have to make a strong endeavour to fight against the feeling that I am unworthy to sit opposite her. My natural inclination is to offer myself to her as a slave...

E: And yet you scored 3 out of 4... And objectively all 4 of them are actually quite beautiful, at least to my taste.

K: There was a time when I was scoring very badly against women players. For example I lost twice against Harriet Hunt, twice against Ketevan Arakhamia and twice against Irina Krush. But at some moment, I had to overcome my natural masochism, divorce myself from this sexual aspect of my personality and just fight as a professional chess player. From this moment onwards I have scored against women as I should do according to my strength.

E.: Do you believe you are unique amongst English GMs in overcoming this problem?

K: Yes! Because as far as I am aware I am the only masochist amongst us! If you want to dig deeper into the subject of human sexuality regarding chess, maybe the next person to ask is my good friend, Sexologist Dr. Nigel Short! :)



Keith Arkell is an English chess grandmaster and recent European and World Senior (50+) Champion.

Clash of the Titans

(28) Harrwitz, Daniel
- Morphy, Paul [D35]

Paris m1(1), 1858



GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♙f4 a6 5.e3 [5...cxd5 5...♗xd5! (5...exd5 6.e3 The a6 move is not very useful now and forces Black to play over c5, which leads to a position with an isolated pawn.) 6.♗xd5 ♖xd5 7.a3 c5 with easy equalization.]

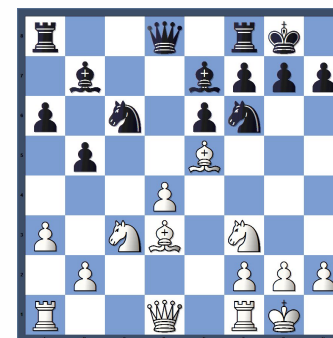
5...c5 6.♗f3 ♘c6 7.a3 A typical waiting move. 7. Rc1 was also possible. This is amazing understanding considering this game was played so many years ago!

7...cxd4 [7...♙e7 8.dxc5 ♙xc5 9.♖c2 with Rd1 next and White keeps the initiative.]

8.exd4 dxc4 [8...♙e7 with the idea to wait for the Bf1 to move, but White gets the additional option to play 9.c5 but then 9...♗e4! is a typical plan for counterplay. 10.♙d3 (10.♗a4 10...g5 Trying to get the b8 square for the rook.) 10...♗xc3 (10...f5!?) 11.bxc3 b6! Otherwise White will play Rb1, with pressure over the b-file. 12.cxb6 ♖xb6 13.O-O O-O=]

9.♙xc4 b5 10.♙d3 ♙b7 [10...♗xd4 11.♗xd4 ♖xd4 12.♙xb5+-; 10...b4 11.axb4 ♗xb4 It looks like Black takes control of the d5 square but 12.♙b5+! ♙d7 13.♙xd7+ ♖xd7 14.♗e5 ♖b7 15.♖a4+ ♗d7 16.O-O and d5 next should crush the black position.]

11.O-O ♙e7 12.♙e5 O-O



13.♖e2 [13.♙xf6 13...♙xf6 14.♙e4 White is too slow for the d5 break. (14.d5 14...exd5 15.♗xd5 ♙xb2+) 14...♖b8 15.♖d3 g6 16.♖ad1 ♗e7=]

13...♗d5 [13...♗xe5 14.dxe5 ♙xf3 (14...♗d7 15.♙e4) 15.♖xf3 ♗d7 16.♖ad1 ♖a7= (16...♗xe5 17.♙xh7+)]

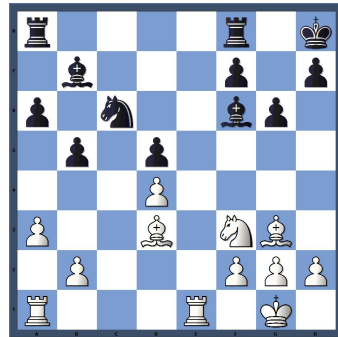
14.♙g3 [14.♗xd5 14...♖xd5 15.♙e4 ♗xd4!]

14...♗h8 I have no idea why Black played this move because White could play 15.Qe4 anyway.

15.♖fe1 [15.♖e4 15...f5? (15...♗f6 16.♖h4!→ A typical queen transfer into the attack.) 16.♖xe6 ♗xc3 17.bxc3 f4 18.♖e4+-]

15...♙f6 [15...g6 Avoiding a change of structure, like in the game. 16.♗xd5 (16.♖e4 16...♗xc3 17.bxc3 ♗a5 18.♖g4 ♙xf3! Without the knight, White's pressure is not enough. 19.♖xf3 ♙f6 20.♙c7 ♖xc7 21.♖xf6+ ♗g8∞; 16.♗e4!? Playing against the weak c5 square.) 16...♖xd5 17.♙e4 ♖d7 18.♖ad1 d5 is coming soon. White has a strong initiative.]

16.♖e4 g6 17.♗xd5 ♖xd5 18.♖xd5 exd5



19. ♖e5 White has a stable advantage thanks to his better structure and the limited bishop on b7.

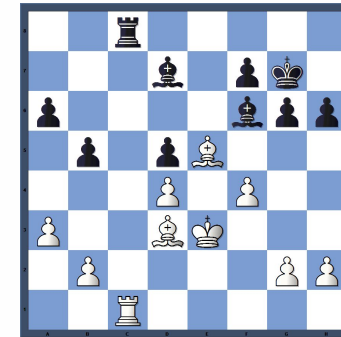
19... ♖ad8 [19... ♖xd4 20. ♖d7]

20. ♖xc6 is premature. White could have played [20. ♖ac1! 20... ♖xe5 (20... ♖xd4 21. ♖c7; 20... ♖xe5 21. dxe5± The dark squares are too weak.) 21. dxe5 ♖g7 22. ♖c7 and because of the strong rook on the 7th rank, things look very bad for Black.]

20... ♖xc6 21. ♖ac1 ♖c8 22. ♖d6 ♖g8 [22... ♖fd8 23. ♖e7 ♖xe7 24. ♖xe7 ♖d7 25. ♖xc6! +- ♖xc6 26. ♖xd7 ♖c1+ 27. ♖f1]

23. ♖e5 ♖g7 24. f4 ♖d7 25. ♖f2 h6 This looks like Black is just losing time, but it is not easy to find the correct way. [25... ♖xc1 26. ♖xc1 ♖c8 27. ♖c5! ♖xe5 (27... ♖xc5 28. dxc5 ♖xe5 29. fxe5 d4 30. ♖f3 ♖c6+ 31. ♖e4+-) 28. fxe5 ♖e6 and compared to the game Black is a tempo up, since h6 is not needed.; 25... ♖f5 26. ♖xf5 gxf5 27. ♖c5 Sometimes just one weak square can create huge problems.]

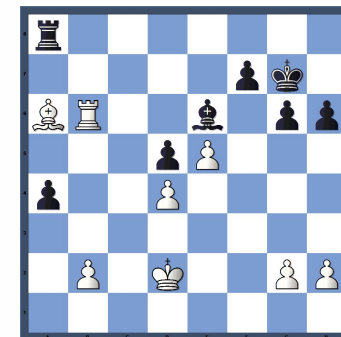
26. ♖e3 ♖xc1 27. ♖xc1 ♖c8



28. ♖c5! ♖xe5 29. fxe5 ♖e6 30. a4 [30. ♖xc8 30... ♖xc8 31. ♖d2 ♖d7! 32. ♖c3 a5= on time; 30. ♖d2 with the idea to improve the king and I have no idea how to defend this position. 30... ♖xc5 (30... ♖f8 31. ♖c3 ♖e7 32. ♖b4+-) 31. dxc5 ♖f8 (31... d4 32. ♖e4) 32. ♖c3 ♖e7 33. ♖b4+-]

30... bxa4 31. ♖xa6 ♖b8 32. ♖b5 ♖d8 Once again Black is losing time. Why not play [32... ♖a8 33. ♖b7 (33. ♖b6 33... ♖c8⇒) 33... ♖b8 34. ♖c6 ♖c8 35. ♖xd5 ♖xd5 36. ♖xd5 ♖b8⇒]

33. ♖b6 ♖a8 34. ♖d2

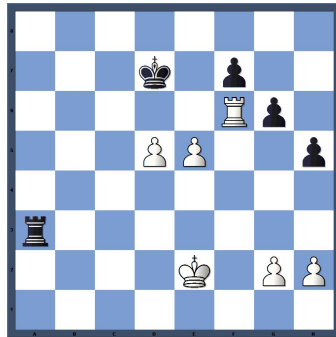


34... ♖c8 Usually the biggest chance to get counterplay is in rook endgames. [34... ♖f8 35. ♖c3 ♖e7 36. ♖b4 ♖d7 37. ♖xa4 ♖c7 38. ♖a5+-; 34... ♖a7! looks promising for Black. How to improve the white position now? 35. ♖c3 ♖c7+ 36. ♖b4

$\text{Rc2} \leftrightarrow 37. \text{Qxa4 R} \times \text{g2} \infty]$

35. Qxc8 Rxc8 36. Rb5 Ra8 37. Rxd5 a3 38. bxa3 Rxa3 39. Rc5 Qf8 40. Qe2± Qe7 41. d5 Qd7 [41... Ra2+ 42. Qf3 Ra3+ 43. Qf4 Ra4+ 44. Qe3 Ra3+ 45. Qd4 Ra2 and now the d-pawn should decide the game. 46. Rc7+ Qe8 47. d6 Rxc2 48. Re7+ Qf8 49. Ra7 Qe8 50. Qd5 Rd2+ 51. Qc6 Rc2+ 52. Qb6 Rxc2 53. Re7+ Qf8 54. Qc7+—]

42. Rc6 h5 43. Rf6



43... Qe7? [43... Qe8 The white king is cut and that is why it is not easy to improve the position. 44. e6 (44. d6 44... Ra5!) 44... fxe6 45. dxe6 (45. Rxe6+ 45... Qf7 46. Re3 Ra2+ 47. Qf3 Rd2=) 45... g5 46. Rf5 Ra2+ 47. Qf3 g4+ 48. Qf4 Rxc2 49. Rxc2 Qe7 50. Qf5 Rf2+ 51. Qxc4 Qxe6=]

44. d6+ Qe8 45. e6 fxe6 46. Rxe6+ Qf7 47. d7! +— This is why 43... .Ke8 was more accurate.

47... Ra8 48. Rd6 Qe7 49. Rxc6 Qxd7 Now the black king is too far and the h-pawn will be lost soon.

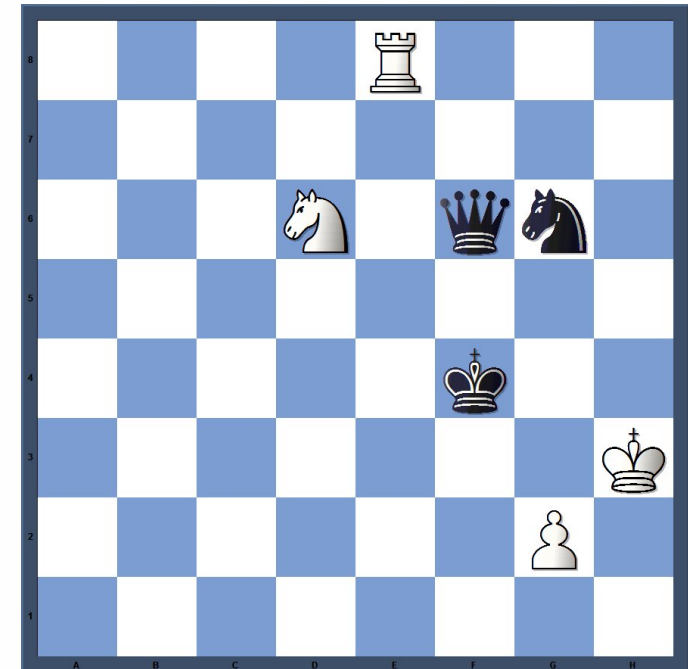
50. Rg5 Rh8 [50... h4 51. Qf3 Ra2 52. Rh5 Ra4 53. Re5 Ra2 54. Re2 Rxe2 55. Qxe2 Qe6 56. Qf3 Qf5 57. h3 Qg5 58. Qe4+—]

51. Qf3 Qe6 52. Qg3 h4+ 53. Qg4 h3 54. g3 Qf6 55. Rh5 Deutsche Schachzeitung 1858, p. 462 **1-0**

Surprise section / study

(29) Pogosiants

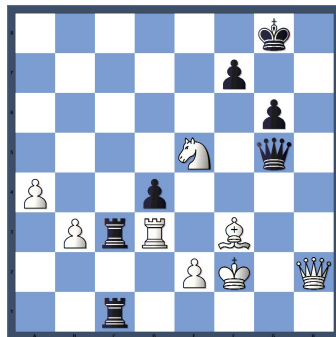
1. =



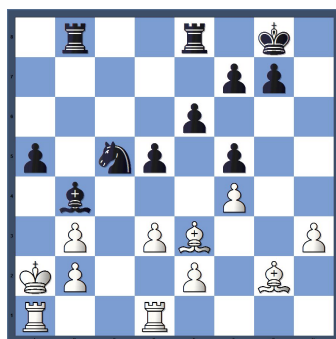
Solutions

(30) Karjakin, S(2762)-Andreikin, D(2720)

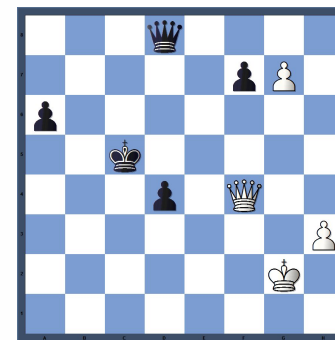
World Cup tiebreak, 2015.09.22

**44. ♖h8+!! ♔xh8 45. ♘xf7+ ♔g7 46. ♘xg5+-****(31) Morozevich, A(2711)-Bologan, V(2607)**

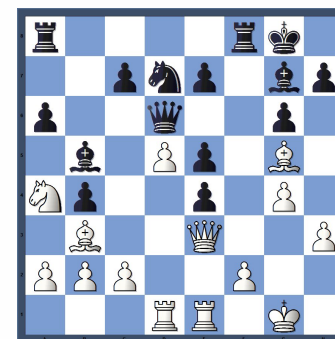
Poikovsky, 2015.09.28

**26... ♞xb3! 27. ♖ab1** [27. ♔xb3 27... ♜c5+ 28. ♔c2 ♜xe3+-]**27... ♜d6+-****(32) Sutovsky, E(2635)-Khismatullin, D(2651)**

Poikovsky, 2015.09.28

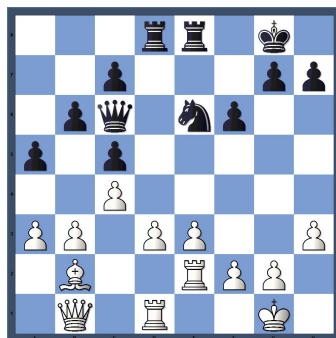
**44. ♖g3!** 1-0 [44. ♖g3 44... ♖g8 (44... ♖d5+ 45. ♔g1+-) 45. ♖a3+! ♔c4 46. ♖f8+-]**(33) Greenfeld, A(2535)-Koop, T(2407)**

Gutman Jubilee, 2015.09.23

**20. ♜xe7!** 1-0 [20. ♜xe7 20... ♖xe7 21. d6+-]

(34) Meijers, V(2463)-Greenfeld, A(2535)

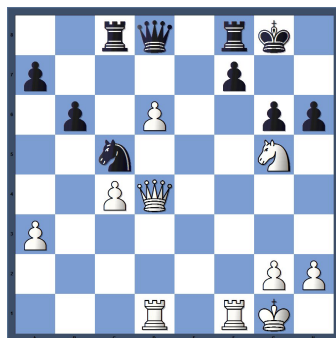
Gutman Jubilee, 2015.09.24



22...♘f4! 23.exf4 ♖xe2—+

(35) Harika, D(2508)-Karpatchev, A(2469)

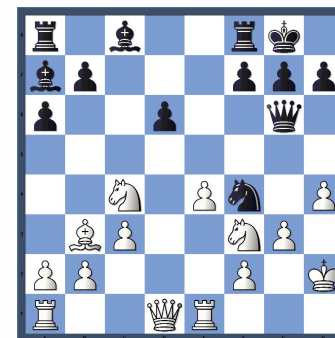
Gutman Jubilee, 2015.09.25



30.♘xf7! ♜xf7 31.♜xf7 ♘xf7 32.♜f1+ ♔g8 33.♞d5+! ♔h8
34.♞d4+ ♔g8 35.♞d5+ ♔h8 36.♜f7! 1-0

(36) Pap, M(2488)-Greenfeld, A(2535)

Gutman Jubilee, 2015.09.28

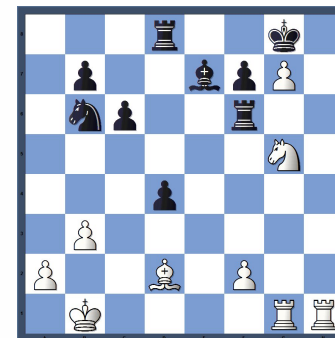


18...♙xf2! 19.♜g1 [19.gxf4 19...♞g3+ 20.♔h1 ♙g4—+]

19...♞g4—+

(37) Berg, E(2567)-Livner, A(2336)

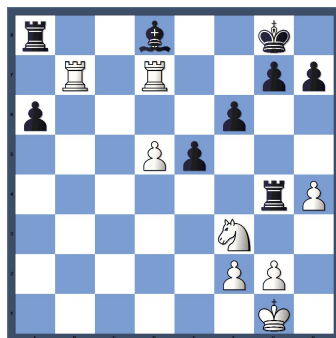
Vasteras Open, 2015.09.26



29.♘e6! 1-0 [29.♘e6 29...fxe6 30.♜h8+ ♔f7 31.♜xd8 ♙xd8
32.g8=♞++—]

(38) Tikkanen, H(2509)-Ernst, T(2336)

Vasteras Open, 2015.09.26

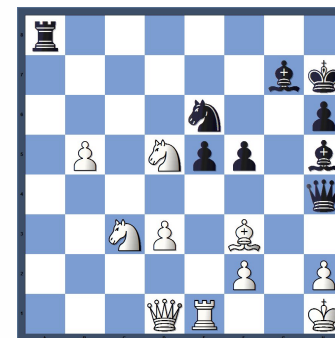


34. ♘g5!! ♖xh4 [34...fxg5 35. ♖xg7+ ♔h8 (35...♔f8 36. ♖bf7+ ♔e8 37. d6!+-) 36. ♖xh7+ ♔g8 37. ♖bg7+ ♔f8 38. h5! +- ♕f6 (38...♖c8 39. g3! (39. h6? 39...♖c1+ 40. ♔h2 ♖h4+ 41. ♔g3 ♖xh6) 39...♖c7 40. ♖xc7 ♕xc7 41. ♖xc7+-) 39. ♖g6 ♖f4 (39...♕d8 40. g3+-) 40. h6+- (40. g3 40...♖f5 41. ♖xf6+ ♖xf6 42. ♖h8+) 40...♖e8 41. g3 ♖f5 42. ♖c7+-]

35. ♖xg7+ ♔h8 36. ♖gf7 ♕a5 37. ♘xh7+-

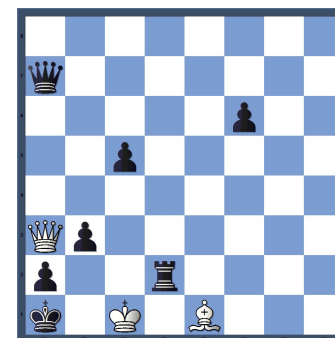
(39) Kotanjian, T(2495)-Volkov, S(2589)

Beirut Open, 2015.09.27



31... ♖a1! 32. ♕xh5 [32. ♖xa1 32...♕xf3+ 33. ♔g1 ♖g4+ 34. ♔f1 ♖g2#]

32... ♖xd1 33. ♕xd1 ♖xf2 0-1

(40) Pogosiants

1. ♖b2+!! ♖xb2 2. ♕c3 ♖a3 3. ♕xf6! c4 4. ♕c3! ♖b4 5. ♕xb2#



Chess **Evolution**

Top GM Secrets

Issue 190

16th of October 2015

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Editorial Preface

It has been an amazing week of chess, with a lot going on at the highest level.

Let us start with the biggest event, the World Championship in Rapid and Blitz in Berlin.

Rapid: For the second year in a row it is Magnus Carlsen who seems to just be unstoppable and wins by a full point margin, ahead of 3 players on 10.5/15: Nepomniachtchi, Radjabov and Dominguez.

Blitz: In the blitz Carlsen was also leading the event, but things went wrong and he lost 3 games in a row. After that Vachier Lagrave took the lead with a full 2 points advantage, but there was no luck for him either, as he lost 2 games in a row. Finally, the winner was Grischuk, who had a fantastic finish and ended up on a great score of 15.5/21. Second place was shared by Vachier Lagrave and Kramnik, both with 15/21. It was an amazing event with great fighting chess and suspense until the very last second! Clearly it makes a lot of sense to download the games and take a look at the crucial moments!

The Millionaire Open was won by Nakamura, who had a tough event, but again and again he showed great fighting qualities and his final match against Le Quang Liem was actually the easiest part of the event for him. This victory brings Nakamura a nice amount of 100.000\$ and another trophy.

In the PokerStars Isle of Man Tournament, 3 people shared first place, all with 7/9: Harikrishna, Fressinet and Sargissian.

Already on Sunday the European Club Cup will begin in Skopje and most of the top players will participate in it, so this is clearly another event to follow online!

For now we hope you enjoy the current issue!

Arkadij Naiditsch & Csaba Balogh

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Two best games of the past week

(1) **Grischuk, Alexander (2774)**
- **Adhiban, Baskaran (2674) [A45]**

World Rapid 2015(1.2),
2015.10.10



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737

Grischuk is clearly one of the best players in the world, and especially so in rapid and blitz, which he proved once again by winning the blitz event. In the rapid things didn't go too well for him, although he showed great and exciting chess. In the current game, things are getting very interesting already from the beginning. White later on sacrificed a piece for the attack and managed to mate the black king in beautiful style. A great game to just enjoy the beauty of chess!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♙f4 Lately we could see a few games by Grischuk playing this slightly strange opening, but he is showing great results in it, beating Anand in it in classical chess not that long ago for example.

2...c5 Adhiban is going for one of the most forced lines possible, but of course Black also has calm moves like 2...g6 or 2...d5.

3.e3 ♖b6 This is Black's idea, to directly disturb White in the development by attacking the b2 pawn.

4.♘c3 We are still following theory. White gives up the b2 pawn.

4...♖xb2 5.♘ge2 An interesting move. [5.♘b5 5...♘d5 is the main line.]

5...♖b6 After taking the b2 pawn, the black queen is going back to hide on d8. [Maybe Black had another interesting choice: 5...d6!? with a very complicated position.]

6.♖b1 ♖d8 7.dxc5 The material is equal and White has much better development, but on the other hand White's pawn structure is really bad, so White will need to act dynamically.

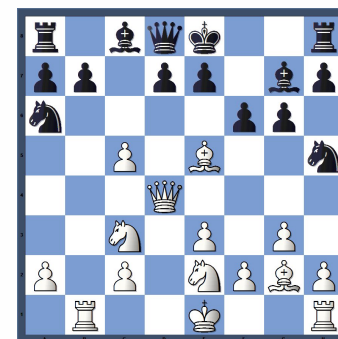
7...g6 8.g3 To put the bishop on g2 is nice of course, as the b7 pawn will always be under attack.

8...♘a6 9.♖d4 The c5 pawn needs to be protected.

9...♙g7 10.♙g2 Grischuk is going for the piece sacrifice!

10...♘h5 is Black's best choice. If he would not try to fight, White's position would be clearly better.

11.♙e5 f6 The bishop has no moves, but it doesn't matter!



12.♙f4 Strong play!

12...e5 13.♖c4 exf4 14.exf4 Grischuk is going for a big fight. [14.♙xb7! seems to have been stronger. 14...♙xb7 15.♖xb7 ♘c7 16.g4 Trapping the knight on h5.]

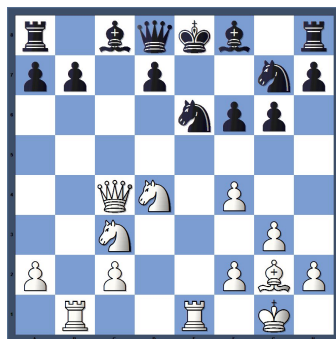
14...♙f8! Adhiban is also playing a good game. Black can't castle so something needs to be done. By playing Bf8 Black not only attacks the c5 pawn, but also brings the bishop to e7 if needed.

15.0-0 ♖xc5 A normal move for rapid chess, but it was better to take the c5 pawn with the bishop. [15...♖b8 16.♘d4 ♗xc5 Black's position is still very dangerous, but it seems like White doesn't have anything immediate.]

16.♘d4 White only has a pawn for the piece, but because of his excellent development and great position of his pieces Black is in trouble!

16...♘g7 The second knight joins the defense.

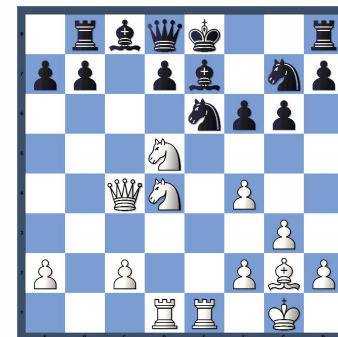
17.♖fe1+ ♘ce6



18.♘d5 All the white pieces are in the attack, but Grischuk once again doesn't take on b7, which would have been the strongest move. [The simple 18.♗xb7 18...♗xb7 19.♘xe6 ♘xe6 20.♖xb7 ♗e7 21.♘d5 would have put big problems in front of Black and it seems like the idea of playing Rxe6 is hard to defend against.]

18...♖b8 19.♖bd1 The last piece joins the attack.

19...♗e7 This is a mistake, as now White has a direct blow! [A crazy move like 19...♔f7! would keep the game alive. It is hard to see how White can win something directly and a piece up is a piece up...]

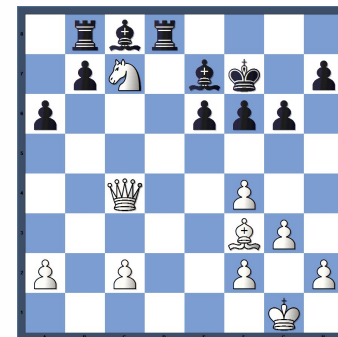


20.♘xe6! The beginning of a small, but nice combination.

20...♘xe6 21.♖xe6 dxe6 22.♘c7+ ♔f7 23.♖xd8 ♖xd8 The material is now more or less balanced, but Black still has problems with the king.

24.♗f3 Defending from Rd1 check and threatening to play f5, but now Black is in time to defend from this threat. [White could have tried 24.f5 24...♖d1+ 25.♗f1 gxf5 26.♖e2 and Qh5 check is very unpleasant.]

24...a6 Black doesn't feel the danger. [24...f5 would have been the right choice to defend, and the position is very unclear.]



25.f5! White is starting to crush.

25...b5 26.♖b3 ♖b6 This move just loses on the spot. [26...gxf5 would lead to a bad, but fighting position. 27.♗h5+

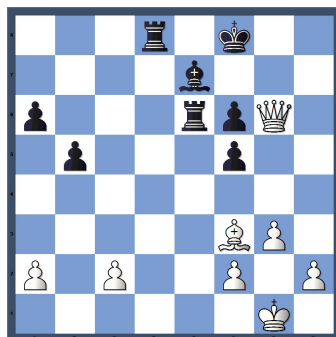
♔g7 28. ♖xe6+ ♗xe6 29. ♔xe6 ♗f8 and of course White's chances to win the game are good, but things are far from over, especially in rapid chess.]

27. ♔e3! A great move. The white queen is getting transferred from b3 to h6!

27... ♖bd6 28. ♔h6 and the game is over. Black cannot defend against Qxh7.

28... exf5 29. ♔xh7+ ♔f8 30. ♔xg6 All the pawns are falling and Bh5 is a deadly threat.

30... ♗e6 31. ♖xe6+ ♖xe6



32. ♗h5 There is no way to defend from Qf7 mate! A nice game by Grischuk, showing great feeling for the position and the active pieces! **1-0**

(2) Nakamura, Hikaru (2816) - So, Wo (2760) [A18]

Millionaire TB Final 2015(3),
2015.10.12



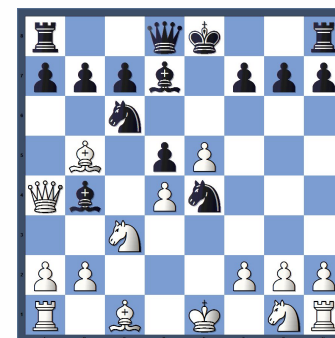
GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

The qualifier stage of the 2nd Millionaire Chess tournament was very exciting. 3 players qualified with 6 points and there was a 9-player tiebreak for the 4th and final place with 5.5 points, including the three top seeds, Nakamura, Caruana and Wesley So. This is already the last game of the tiebreak, where with a brilliant victory Nakamura secured his place in the Final Four!

1.c4 ♗f6 2. ♖c3 e6 3.e4 A dangerous weapon against the players who want to employ the Nimzo Indian defense.

3...d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.e5 ♗e4 6.d4 Theory is just about to develop here, there are not too many games played in the database so far.

6... ♖c6 [Most of the games continue with 6... ♗b4 although I prefer White's chances even here after 7. ♔a4+ ♖c6 8. ♗b5 ♗d7

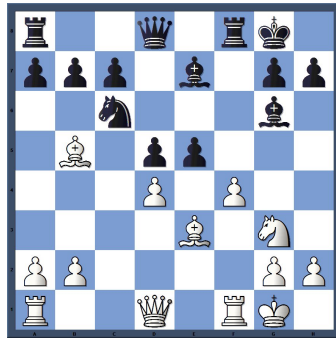


9. ♗e2+= followed by 0-0. White's structure looks more

healthy. Black should undermine the center either with c5 or with f6, but the c6 knight or the weakness of the d5 pawn prevents him from executing these plans properly.]

7. ♖b5 ♗e7 8. ♘ge2 0-0 9. 0-0 ♜f5 We have already reached a new position without any games in the database. It is quite rare on the highest level, that such things occur after only 9 moves.

10. ♜e3 ♘a5 Black has in mind to explode the center with c5 or to play Nc4. [10...f6 seemed more principle to me, but it also fails to equalize: 11. ♘xe4 ♜xe4 12. ♘g3 ♜g6 (12...fxe5 leads to worse positions everywhere: 13. ♘xe4 dxe4 14. ♖b3+ ♔h8 15. ♜xc6 bxc6 (15...exd4 16. ♖ad1 bxc6 17. ♖xd4 ♜d6 18. ♖xe4+= with an obvious long-term advantage because of the ruined pawn structure on the queenside.) 16.dxe5± Black is clearly worse because of his damaged pawn structure.) 13.f4 fxe5

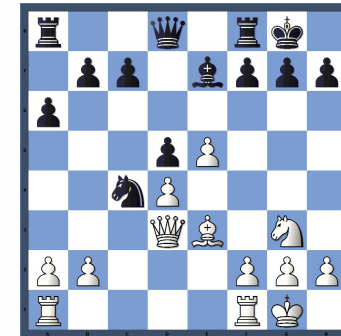


14.dxe5! White breaks the symmetry in his own favor. A very dangerous queenside attack with f5-e6 or f5-f6 is in the air. Black should play Ne7-f5 to be fine, but his pieces do not allow it.]

11. ♘xe4 ♜xe4 12. ♘g3 a6 13. ♜d3 Nakamura evaluates that his potential attack with f4-f5 is stronger after trading the light squared bishops. [Actually it was quite a pleasant choice for White, because 13. ♜e2!? also looks very promising. 13... ♜g6

14.f4 f5 (14...f6 15.f5 ♜e8 16.e6 This protected passed pawn on e6 cannot lead to anything good from Black's point of view.) 15. ♖c1± with a clear positional advantage thanks to the space advantage, the protected passed pawn on e5 and the superior pieces.]

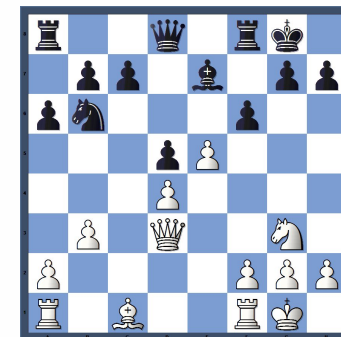
13... ♜xd3 14. ♖xd3 ♘c4



15. ♜c1! White saves his bishop for the future. It might have serious attacking potential, because the knight can go to h5 or f5 and if Black sends it away with g6, he must always deal with Bh6!

15...f6 [Perhaps it was a better try to defend with 15... ♖d7 putting the queen to e6 and in case of f4, Black could play f5!]

16.b3 ♘b6



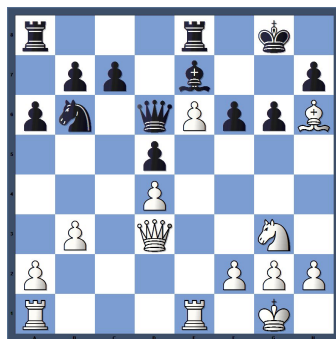
17.e6! This pawn completely paralyzes the black pieces! He is

not in time to quickly attack it and otherwise it is soon going to be defended securely by the f-pawn.

17...♔d6 [Another defensive attempt was 17...♔d6 18.f4 ♘c8 building a blockade, but it just solves the direct problems. In the long term, Black cannot coordinate his heavy pieces, while White slowly builds his attack. 19.f5 ♘e7 20.♘h5±]

18.♖e1 g6 Nf5 had to be prevented.

19.♘h6 ♖fe8

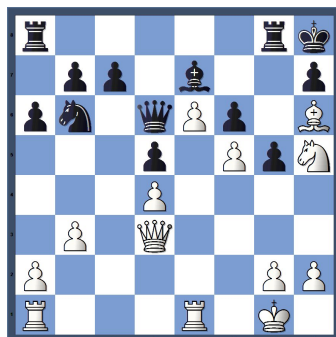


20.f4! f5 is coming next, using the fact that Black cannot play f5 followed by Bf6 himself because of a tactical refutation...

20...♔h8 [20...f5 loses to 21.♘xf5! gxf5 22.♔g3+- and mate on g7.]

21.f5 g5 22.♘h5! The attack is rolling! White is threatening to play Bg7xf6!

22...♖g8



23.h4! Nakamura does not waste time until Black slightly consolidates. He immediately opens the kingside to break through with his attack.

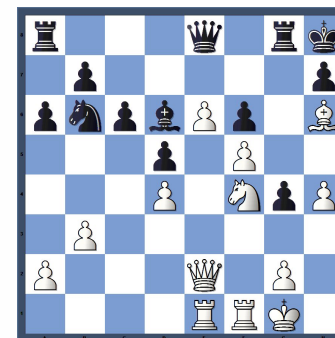
23...g4 [23...gxh4 24.♔h3+- and Black cannot use the opening of the g-file. All the squares are perfectly controlled by the white pieces.]

24.♖f1! Freeing the e1 square for the other ook and also intending to attack the g4 pawn with Rf4 and Qe2!

24...♔d8 25.♔e2! Rf4 is the direct threat!

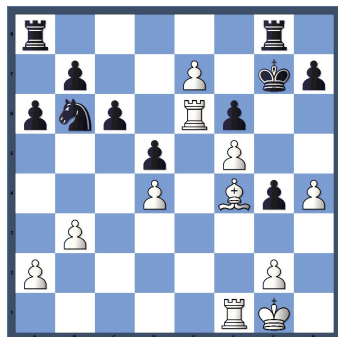
25...♔e8 26.♘f4 ♔d6 27.♖ae1! Bringing the last unemployed piece to the game!

27...c6 Black protects his d5 pawn in order to transfer his knight to c8-e7, but it is too slow. The penetration is coming now!



28.e7! Qe6 is coming next!

28...♘c8 [There is no time for 28...♔f7 followed by Rae8, because White is coming faster with 29.♔e6! ♔xe6 30.♖xe6 and the f6 pawn falls. 30...♔xf4 31.♔xf4 ♔g7 (31...♖ae8 32.♖xf6 ♖xe7 33.♔e5+- wins. Black cannot escape from the deadly pin. 33...♘d7 34.♖e6+)]

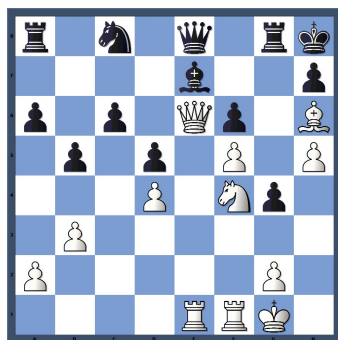


32.♔c7! Quite an unusual trapping of the knight! 32...♘d7
33.♖d6!+- shows well the power of the e7 pawn, which completely discoordinates the black pieces.]

29.♔e6 [29.♔f8+- was also quite spectacular and strong.]

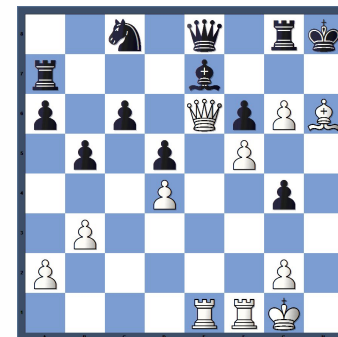
29...♔xe7 30.h5!! Preparation for the final break!

30...b5 Black tries defending with Ra7, which could be followed by Nd6-e4, but it is already too slow.



31.♘g6+!! The point of the previous move! White sacrifices a piece in order to open the h-file. A rook arrives there soon and Black will have no defense against the mates.

31...hxg6 32.hxg6 ♖a7



33.♔f2! The final part of the h5-Ng6-hxg6 idea. Rh1 is coming next and Black has no defense despite his extra piece. They are completely tied up and paralyzed.

33...g3+ 34.♔f3 ♖xg6 Desperation, but it was over anyway.

35.fxg6 ♔xg6 36.♔xc8+ ♔h7 37.♖h1 Black resigned! A great attacking game by Nakamura! 1-0

Young & Talented



GM Etienne Bacrot

Best rating: 2749

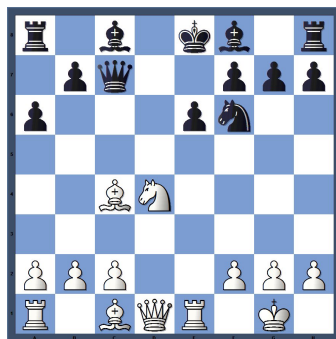
(3) Fedoseev, Vladimir3 (2659)

- Vovk, Yuri (2617) [C07]

World Rapid 2015(4.30), 2015.10.10

The World Rapid in Berlin was no great success for junior players (for me neither!). Here is a nice attacking game played by Fedoseev, who took 21st place.

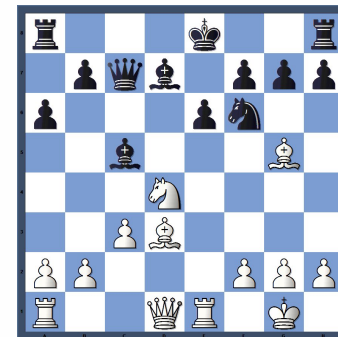
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 c5 4.♘gf3 cxd4 5.exd5 ♙xd5 6.♙c4 ♙d6 7.O-O ♘f6 8.♘b3 ♘c6 9.♘bxd4 ♘xd4 10.♘xd4 a6 11.♞e1 ♞c7



12.♙d3!? Quite a rare move in this topical position of the 3.Nd2 french. 12.Bb3 is more often played.

12...♙c5 Maybe not the best reaction: [12...♙d6!? is more solid. 13.g3 (13.♘f5 13...♙xh2+ 14.♙h1 ♙f8 15.g3 exf5 16.♙xh2 h5 seems fine for Black.) 13...O-O 14.♙g5 ♙e7 15.♞e2 h6 16.♙f4 ♙d6 17.♙xd6 ♙xd6 18.♞ad1 ♞d8 19.♘f3 Black is not far from equality. Harikrishna-Lenderman Gibraltar 2015]

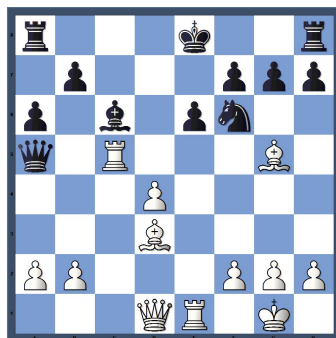
13.c3 ♙d7 14.♙g5 [14.♞f3 14...♙xd4 15.cxd4 ♙c6=]



14...♙xd4 Quite logical even if White's pieces look strong. [14...O-O-O is the risky top choice of the computer as Black has difficulty to castle kingside. But after 15.b4!? ♙d6 16.b5!? I doubt Black can defend, especially in rapid time control.]

15.cxd4 ♙c6 16.♞c1 ♞a5?! A dangerous journey that will be nicely refuted. The backward move [16...♞d8!? gives more saving chances: 17.♙e4 (17.♞c5 17...♞xd4 18.♞xe6+ fxe6 19.♙g6+ hxg6 20.♞xd4 ♞d8 21.♙xf6 ♞xd4=) 17...♙xe4 18.♞xe4 ♞d5 19.♞e5 ♞d7 20.♙xf6 gxf6 21.♞ec5 ♞d8+=]

17. ♖c5!



17... ♙xa2? loses to an easy tactic... [17... ♙b4 18. ♖c1 ♖d8 19. ♘xa6!? ♙xd4 20. ♘f1±]

18. ♘xf6 gxf6 19. d5 ♘xd5 [19... ♘d7 20. dxe6 ♘xe6 21. ♘c4 is no better way to end the game from Black's point of view.]

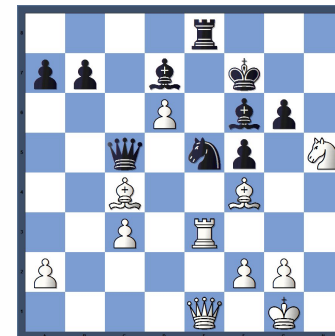
20. ♘b1! Take the piece and continue the attack!

20... ♙xb2 21. ♖xd5 ♖c8 22. h3 h6 23. ♖d7 ♙b5 24. ♖xe6+ White concludes with an easy forced mate:

24... fxe6 25. ♘g6+ ♔f8 26. ♖d6+ ♔g8 27. ♖xe6+ 1-0

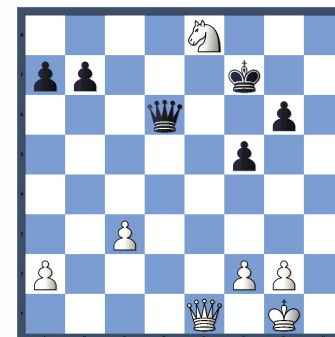
(4) Bacrot, Etienne (2697)
- Fedoseev, Vladimir3 (2659) [D87]

World Rapid 2015(5.9),
2015.10.10



30... ♘xc4! With a few seconds left on the clock Fedoseev found this great saving idea. [30... ♙xc4 31. ♘xf6 is hopeless for Black.] 31. ♖xe8 ♘xe8 32. ♘xf6 ♘xd6! 33. ♘xd6?! [33. ♘e5 is just slightly better for White.]

33... ♙xd6 34. ♘xe8



34... ♙d7 A nice trap! Black wins back the piece and achieves a draw.

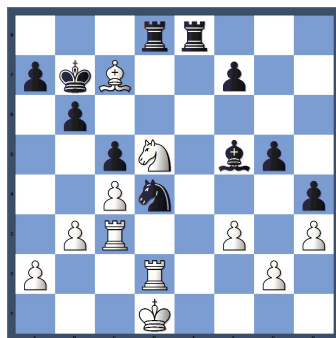
35. ♙e5 ♙xe8 36. ♙d5+ ♔f6 37. ♙d4+ ♙e5 38. ♙xa7 ♙xc3 39. ♙b6+ ♔g5 40. ♙xb7 1/2-1/2

Puzzle section

(5) Swiercz, D(2620)-Kryvoruchko, Y(2710)

World Rapid Championship, 2015.10.10

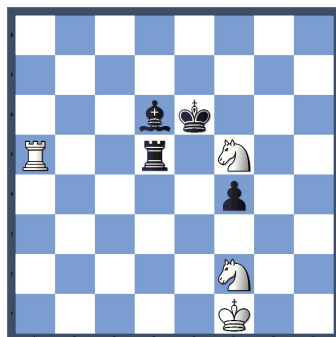
1... -+



(6) Vidity, S(2651)-Volokitin, A(2639)

World Rapid Championship, 2015.10.10

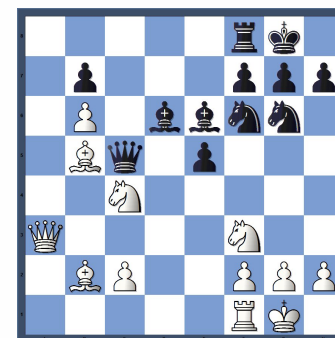
1. +-



(7) Sanal, V(2501)-Ganguly, S(2652)

World Rapid Championship, 2015.10.10

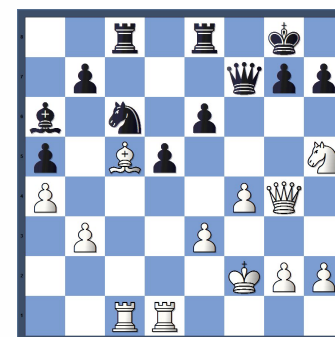
1... -+



(8) Eljanov, P(2717)-Korobov, A(2700)

World Rapid Championship, 2015.10.10

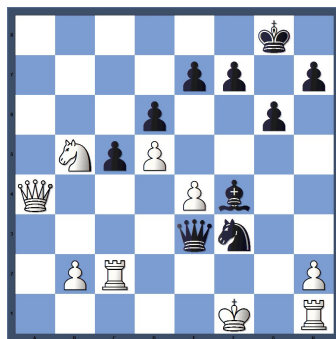
1... -+



(9) Korobov, A(2700)-Guseinov, G(2634)

World Rapid Championship, 2015.10.11

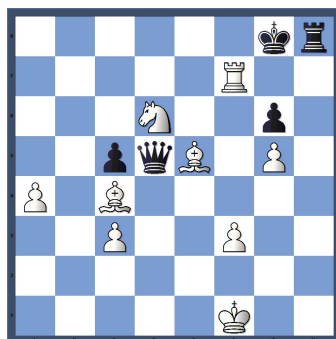
1... -+



(10) Ponkratov, P(2604)-Bacrot, E(2697)

World Rapid Championship, 2015.10.11

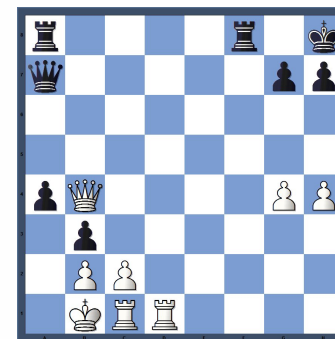
1... =



(11) Grigoriants, S(2603)-Andreikin, D(2720)

World Rapid Championship, 2015.10.11

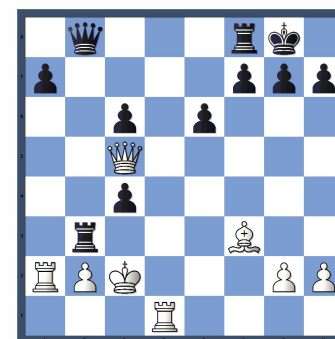
1... -+



(12) Vovk, Y(2617)-Vitiugov, N(2725)

World Rapid Championship, 2015.10.11

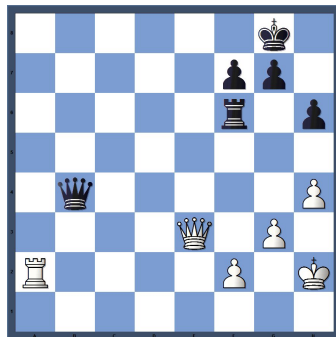
1... -+



(13) Savchenko, B(2567)-Grischuk, A(2774)

World Rapid Championship, 2015.10.11

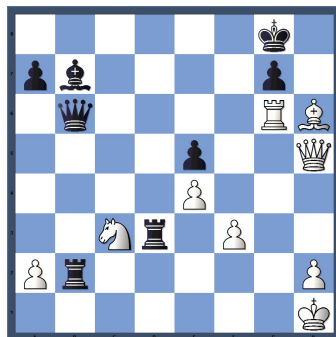
1. +-



(14) Ivanisevic, I(2653)-Kravtsov, M(2621)

World Rapid Championship, 2015.10.12

1... -+



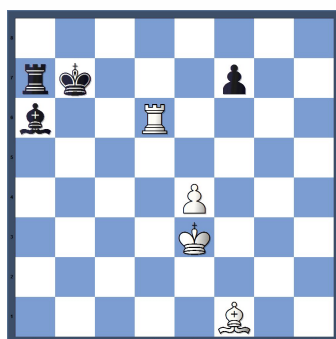
Endgame section

(15) Dubov, Daniil (2661)
- Grischuk, Alexander (2774)

World rapid Championship,
2015.10.12



GM Csaba Balogh
Best rating: 2672

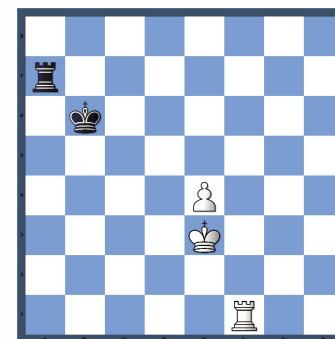


We are facing a very instructive rook endgame, where the young russian talent Daniil Dubov wins with perfect technique, despite the most tenacious resistance of Alexander Grischuk.

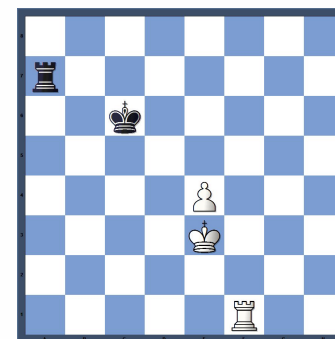
57. ♖f6! The unfortunate placement of the black pieces prevents him from saving his f7 pawn. [57. ♗xa6+ is not enough. 57... ♖xa6 58. ♖xa6 ♗xa6 59. ♗d4 the black king comes towards the e4 pawn in time. 59... ♗b5 60. ♗d5 ♗b4 61. ♗d6 ♗c4 62. ♗e7 ♗d4=]

57... ♗xf1 58. ♖xf7+ ♗b6 59. ♖xf1 Here we are! The key of this endgame is the bad position of the black king. First of all, it has no chance to get in front of the e-pawn - which would result in an immediate draw - it will be cut either vertically or horizontally by the white rook. It still would not be a problem

if it was placed on the other side of the board. A well-known defense in such endgames is to have the king on the shorter side of the pawn and giving checks with the rook from the longer side (here, king on g7 and rook checks along the a-file). However, the black king is on the wrong side, which allows checks with the rook only from the shorter side, but it is too close to the king and Black runs out of checks too fast. We see all the details very soon.



59... ♖e7 Grischuk tries to defend with the frontal attack. As long as the white pawn has not passed the half of the board, often this defense gives the only salvation. [On 59... ♗c5 an important move is 60. ♖d1! to cut the king along the d-file.; 59... ♗c6



It is very important to find the right move for the win here: **60. ♖f6+!** (60. ♖d1? does not work now because of 60... ♖d7!

and the king gets in front of the pawn because the pawn endgame is drawn. 61.♖xd7 ♔xd7 62.♔f4 ♔e6=) 60...♔c5 61.♔f4+- and the cut along the 6th rank deprives Black from reaching the defensive position.]

60.♖c1! Cutting the king with two lines from the pawn. [60.♔d4 60...♔c7 leads to a draw, because White cannot cut the king along the d-file.]

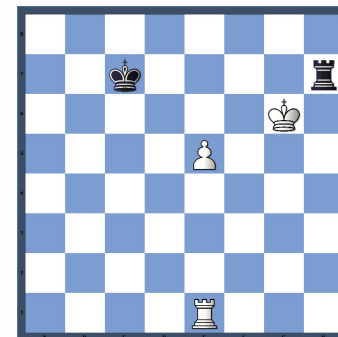
60...♖e8 This should be the ideal placement of the frontal attack. The rook should be on the 8th rank to be able to give as many checks when the white king leaves from behind the pawn to support its advance. The black king should be on b6 or b5; the point being that often the only way to make progress is Rc4, defending the e4 pawn and then going forward with the king. However, now Rc4 is met by Kb5 and the rook must come back. Still the game is won, because the black king is on the wrong side of the board. [60...♖c7 does not work now, because the pawn endgame is winning after 61.♖xc7 ♔xc7 62.♔f4 ♔d6 63.♔f5! ♔e7 64.♔e5!+- and White gets the opposition!]

61.♔f4! ♖f8+ 62.♔e5 ♖e8+ 63.♔f5 ♖f8+ 64.♔e6 Gaining some time.

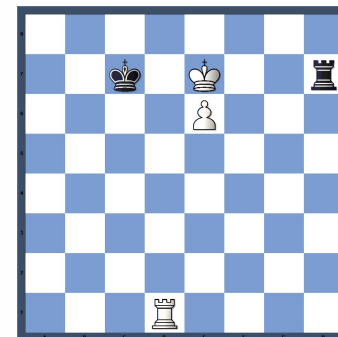
64...♖e8+ 65.♔f5 ♖f8+ 66.♔g6! ♖e8 This is the method of the frontal defense, but it does not help now.

67.♖e1! ♔c7 The king can finally come closer, but it is not enough to save the game now.

68.♔f7 ♖e5 [68...♖h8 leads to the same as in the game 69.e5 ♖h7+ (69...♔d8 70.♖d1+ ♔c7 71.e6+-) 70.♔g6



Here we can see the reason why the rook should give the checks on the longer side of the board. If he could continue giving checks, that would lure the white king one file to the right, which would already allow Re7 and the black king goes to d8-e8 and saves the game. However, there are no more checks now... 70...♖h2 71.♖d1! Cutting the king again and the pawn advances soon. 71...♖g2+ 72.♔f7 ♖f2+ 73.♔e7 We soon reach the bridge-building position. 73...♖h2 74.e6 ♖h7+



75.♔f6 and again Black has the same problem! The rook is on the wrong side, therefore he runs out of checks. If the black king was on g7 and the rook could give a check on a7, then the game would be drawn. 75...♖h6+ 76.♔f7 ♖h7+ 77.♔g6+-]

69.♔f6 ♖h5 70.♖d1! [But not 70.e5? because of 70...♔d7!]=]

70...♖h6+ 71.♔g5 The 68...Rh8 line has already shown us Black's problems!

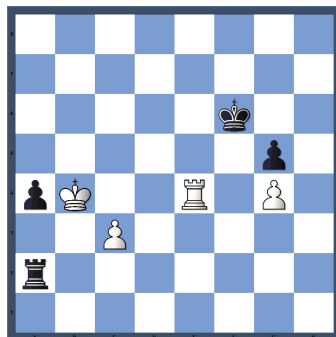
71...♖e6 72.♔f5 ♜h6 73.e5 ♜h5+ 74.♔f6 ♜h6+ 75.♔f7 ♜h7+ 76.♔g6 ♜e7 77.♔f6 ♜h7 78.e6 ♜h6+ 79.♔f7 ♜h7+ 80.♔g6 Black resigned! A very instructive rook endgame and it is useful to remember its defensive and attacking ideas, as these are quite common in practice! 1-0

(16) Carlsen, Magnus (2850)
- Ivanchuk, Vassily (2726)

World Rapid 2015(12.1),
2015.10.12



GM Arkadij Naiditsch
Best rating: 2737



We are in a very interesting rook endgame and Carlsen shows once again how well he can handle them! The material is equal, but it is not easy for Black to defend the a-pawn and in case it is going to fall, the position might just be lost. The black king is also cut along the e-file, but still... All black needs to do is to get one of the white pawns to achieve a draw.

50...♜c2 A normal move, Black keeps on waiting.

51.♜c4 Now a4 is hanging.

51...♜a2 Black continues waiting.

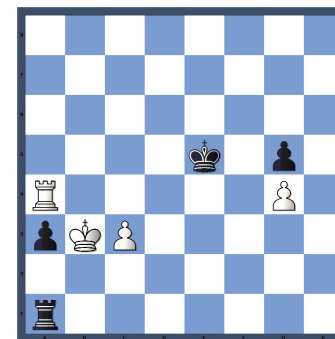
52.♔b5 This is White's best try.

52...a3 The first inaccurate decision. Black could have kept the passive strategy with 52...Ra3!, asking White what's next.

53.♔b4 Now the white king is getting to b3 and the black rook is even more passive.

53...♔e5! The right move! Black activates his king, although the a-pawn is going to fall now.

54.♔b3 ♜a1 55.♜a4 The question is whether Rxa3 is a threat or if the pawn endgame is just a draw?!



55...♜c1! Another good decision by Ivanchuk! White can't take the a3 pawn with the king because the c3 pawn would fall, so there is no other choice for Carlsen but to let the black king pass the 4th rank.

56.♜xa3 ♔f4 57.♜a4+ ♔f3 Now it is clear that Black's target is the g4 pawn.

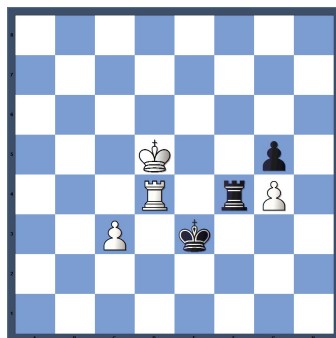
58.♜d4 White wants to play c4 next.

58...♔e3?! Black miscalculates the pawn endgame, as he only had very little time on the clock. [58...♜g1! would have led to a direct draw: 59.c4 ♜xg4 60.♜xg4 ♔xg4 61.c5 ♔f5 62.♔b4 g4 63.c6 ♔e6 64.♔b5 g3 65.♔a6 g2 66.c7 g1=♜ 67.c8=♜+]]

59. ♖b4 ♜f1 Black has another plan and that is to get the rook to f4.

60. ♖c5 ♜f4 This is the wrong plan. [The tricky 60... ♜c1 would lead to a draw: 61.c4 and now the black rook is getting to the 8th rank. 61... ♜a1 62. ♖d5 ♜a8 63. ♜e4+ ♖f3 and White can only free the rook from e4 by losing the g4 pawn, which would mean a draw.]

61. ♖d5

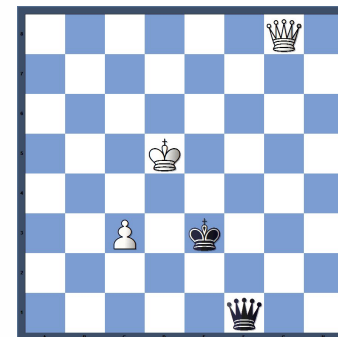


61... ♖f3? Black misses the only clear way to a draw... [61... ♜f8 with a similar idea as in the line before would still keep a draw, even if Black needs to be very careful.]

62. ♜xf4+! Carlsen doesn't miss his chance... The queen endgame that is going to appear is going to be very difficult to hold for Black.

62... ♜xf4 [Of course Black is not in time with 62... ♖xf4 63.c4 ♖xg4 64.c5 ♖f3 65.c6 and White is faster.]

63.g5 ♖e3 64.g6 f3 65.g7 f2 66.g8=♜ f1=♜ So from a rook endgame we got a queen endgame with an extra c-pawn for White, which is very hard to hold for Black.



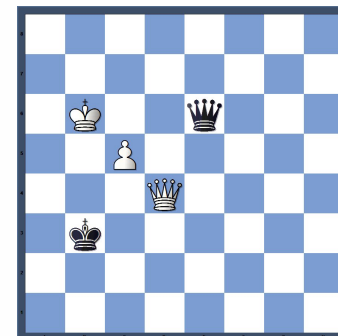
67. ♜e6+! A very important check. Usually Black should keep his king on h3-h2 and try to give as many checks as possible, but now the black king is going to be stuck in the wrong side of the board.

67... ♖d2 68.c4 ♖c3 69. ♜e3+ ♖b4 70. ♜b6+ ♖c3 71. ♜d4+ ♖b3 72.c5 The c-pawn starts to advance. It is almost impossible to give the right checks in a rapid game.

72... ♜f7+ [72... ♜b5 would have been the right way to proceed.]

73. ♖c6 ♜e6+ 74. ♖b7 Black is running out of checks, which means the game is over.

74... ♜e7+ 75. ♖b6 ♜e6+



76.c6 and Black resigned because there is nothing to do

against Kb7 followed by c7. The position would be a draw only with the black king on h3-h2-g2, and even then it is very hard to achieve it. So, another drawish endgame which was quite easily won by the stronger side, which shows us once again how tricky rook endgames are! **1-0**

Golden knowledge. THE ROLE OF CLASSICS



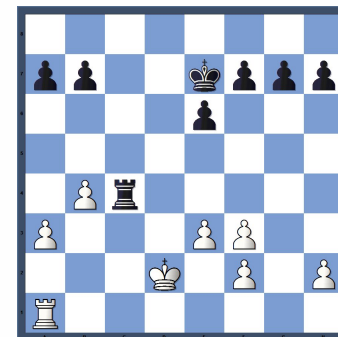
GM Adrian Mikhalchishin
FIDE Trainers Commission Chairman

Recently I spoke to the great trainer GM Lev Psakhis and he told me that he has huge problems finding good and proper examples for his exercises in modern games. True, I had the same experience, as the best and most instructive examples are usually found in older classical games. Everybody used this knowledge later. Here I want to present how one old and great idea of Akiba Rubinstein was used by other great guys and how these old ideas can be used in a wrong way too!

(17) Cohn, Erich-Rubinstein, Akiba

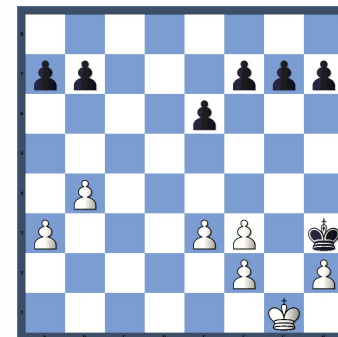
St Petersburg, 1909

1.d4 d5 2.♘f3 c5 3.c4 dxc4 4.dxc5 ♔xd1+ 5.♔xd1 ♘c6 6.e3 ♘g4 7.♘xc4 e6 8.a3 ♘xc5 9.b4 ♘d6 10.♘b2 ♘f6 11.♘d2 ♔e7 12.♔e2 ♘e5 13.♘xe5 ♘xe5 14.♖hc1 ♖ac8 15.♘b3 ♖hd8 16.♘c4 ♘xc4 17.♖xc4 ♖xc4 18.♘xc4 ♘e4 19.♔e1 ♘xf3 20.gxf3 ♘d6 21.♘e2 ♖c8 22.♔d2 ♘c4+ 23.♘xc4 ♖xc4



24.♖c1?? Such transpositions into pawn endgames are completely wrong. In most cases in chess it is the most natural defence in rook endgames! [White could easily stop Black's rook activity with 24.♖g1 24...g6 25.f4]

24...♖xc1 25.♔xc1 ♔f6 26.♔d2 ♔g5 27.♔e2 ♔h4 28.♔f1 ♔h3 29.♔g1



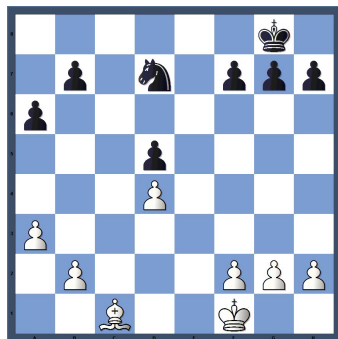
And from this moment onwards starts the great plan of Rubinstein: to exchange all pawns on the kingside and then come to the queenside and win the white pawns.

29...e5 30.♔h1 b5 31.♔g1 f5 32.♔h1 g5 33.♔g1 h5 34.♔h1 g4 35.e4 fxe4 36.fxe4 h4 37.♔g1 g3 38.hxg3 hxg3 0-1

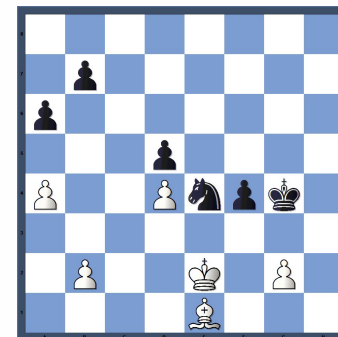
(18) Saidy, Anthony Fred-Fischer, Robert James

USA-ch, 1964

1.c4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 e6 6.♘db5
 ♙b4 7.a3 ♙xc3+ 8.♘xc3 d5 9.e3 O-O 10.cxd5 exd5 11.♙e2
 ♙f5 12.♘b5 ♚b6 13.O-O a6 14.♘d4 ♘xd4 15.♚xd4 ♚xd4
 16.exd4 ♖ac8 17.♙d1 ♙c2 18.♙e3 ♙xd1 19.♖fxd1 ♖c2
 20.♖d2 ♖fc8 21.♖xc2 ♖xc2 22.♖c1 ♖xc1+ 23.♙xc1 ♘d7
 24.♙f1 From this moment onwards one of the greatest
 players in history starts with a great knight transfer to the
 ideal square.



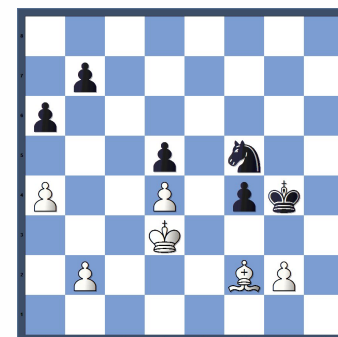
24...♘f8! 25.♙e2 ♘e6 26.♙d3 h5 27.♙e3 ♙h7 28.f3 ♙g6
 29.a4 ♙f5 30.♙e2 g5 31.♙f2 ♘d8 32.♙d2 ♙g6 33.♙e3
 ♘e6 34.♙d3 ♙f5 35.♙e3 f6 36.♙e2 ♙g6 37.♙d3 f5 38.♙e2
 f4 39.♙f2 ♘g7 40.h3 ♘f5 41.♙d3 g4 42.hxg4 hxg4 43.fxg4
 ♘h6 44.♙e1 ♘xg4 45.♙d2 ♙f5 46.♙e1 ♘f6 47.♙h4 ♘e4
 48.♙e1 ♙g4 49.♙e2



49...♘g3+! Here Fischer demonstrated his knowledge about
 the Rubinstein method.

50.♙d3 [This position appeared after 50.♙xg3 50...♙xg3
 51.♙f1 f3 52.gxf3 ♙xf3 53.♙e1 ♙e3]

50...♘f5 51.♙f2



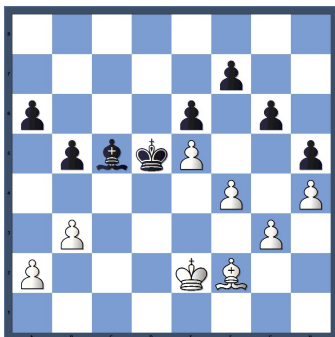
51...♘h4! 52.a5 [The Rubinstein position could appear once
 more after 52.♙xh4 52...♙xh4 53.♙e2 ♙g3 54.♙f1 f3]

52...♘xg2 53.♙c3 ♙f3 54.♙g1 ♙e2 55.♙h2 f3 56.♙g3
 ♘e3 0-1

(19) Sveshnikov, Evgeny-Kasparov, Garry

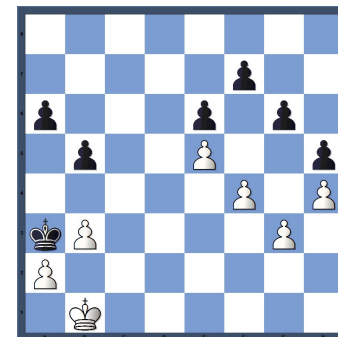
URS-ch47, 1979

1.e4 c5 2.c3 ♘f6 3.e5 ♘d5 4.d4 cxd4 5.♗f3 ♘c6 6.cxd4 d6 7.♙c4 ♗b6 8.♙b5 dxe5 9.♗xe5 ♙d7 10.♗c3 ♗xe5 11.dxe5 ♙xb5 12.♗xb5 ♖xd1+ 13.♙xd1 ♗d5 14.♙e2 a6 15.♖d1 O-O-O 16.♗a3 e6 17.♗c4 ♙e7 18.♙d2 b6 19.g3 ♙b7 20.♗e3 ♗c7 21.♗c4 ♖d4 22.♖ac1 ♗d5 23.f3 ♖c8 24.♗e3 ♗xe3 25.♙xe3 ♖xd1 26.♖xd1 ♖c2+ 27.♖d2 ♖xd2+ 28.♙xd2 ♙c6 29.f4 b5 30.♙d3 ♙d5 31.h4 h5 32.♙f2 ♙b4 33.b3 g6 34.♙e2 ♙c5



35.♙xc5?? An absolutely wrong exchange, although it seemed to be logical. But there is no win for Black after the following simple retreat [35.♙e1 The black king cannot penetrate White's position! Unbelievable!]

35...♙xc5 36.♙d3 ♙b4 37.♙c2 ♙a3 38.♙b1



38...a5 39.♙a1 a4 40.bxa4 ♙xa4 41.♙b1 [41.♙b2 41...b4 42.♙c2 ♙a3 43.♙b1 b3 44.axb3 ♙xb3 45.♙c1 ♙c3 46.♙d1 ♙d3 47.♙e1 ♙e3 48.♙f1 ♙f3]

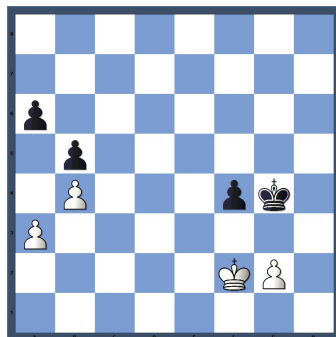
41...♙a3 42.♙a1 b4 43.♙b1 b3 0-1

(20) Hillarp Persson, Tiger-Ragger, Markus

Politiken Cup 2015, 2015

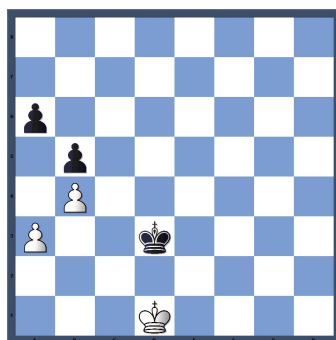
Hillarp Persson is a very interesting player, who has lately also become a trainer and author. He is a real servant of Caissa. And he knows a lot, but sometimes too much knowledge can lead to some strange decisions!

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 d5 4.cxd5 ♗xd5 5.e4 ♗b6 6.♗c3 ♙g7 7.♙e3 O-O 8.♖d2 ♗c6 9.O-O-O ♖d6 10.♗b5 ♖d7 11.♙b1 ♖d8 12.d5 a6 13.♗c3 ♖e8 14.♖c1 ♗a5 15.h4 e6 16.♙f4 ♖e7 17.h5 exd5 18.hxg6 hxg6 19.♙g5 f6 20.♙h6 ♙e6 21.♗ge2 dxe4 22.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 23.♙xg7 ♖xg7 24.♗f4 ♙f7 25.♗xe4 ♗ac4 26.♙xc4 ♗xc4 27.♖d1 ♖xd1 28.♖xd1 ♗d6 29.♗xd6 cxd6 30.♖xd6 g5 31.♖d8+ ♖f8 32.♖xf8+ ♙xf8 33.♗e2 ♙e7 34.♙c2 ♙d6 35.a3 ♙c4 36.♗c3 ♙e5 37.♙d2 ♙f4 38.♗e2+ ♙xe2 39.♙xe2 ♙g3 40.♙f1 b5 41.b4 f5 42.♙g1 g4 43.fxg4 ♙xg4 44.♙f2 f4



White resigned here, based on the knowledge of two classical games! But there is a small difference here!

45. ♔g1 f3 46. ♔f1 ♔g3 47. gxf3 ♔xf3 48. ♔e1 ♔e3 49. ♔d1 ♔d3



50. a4!! This pawn sacrifice is the saving possibility!

50... ♔c3 51. axb5 axb5 52. ♔c1 ♔xb4 53. ♔b2 With a theoretical draw! **0-1**

Chess and the City. From one island to the other



WGM Elisabeth Paehtz

Best rating: 2493

The strongest tournament ever to be held in the British Isles, at the Isle of Man, finally came to an end. The tournament winner turned out to be Harikrishna, the well-known Indian grandmaster, and incidentally, one of my closest friends. This, coupled with my good personal result, made the tournament successful for me. Looking back at this year, I can even claim this to be my most (perhaps the only) succesful tournament so far. However, there was no time to rest and enjoy this good feeling, since I had to immediately travel to an even stronger event, the "Checkmate" show-round robin event held in the island of Gozo, Malta. This event draws its inspiration from a successful TV show held by the BBC in the 80's, involving a very strong lot of players (5 men and 5 women) and a lot of TV broadcasting, which is quite unusual for chess players. The first impression was pleasant since I managed to get a professional make-up and hairstyle right before the game. Likely this joy was not shared by my men colleagues, which may explain my unexpected first round victory. I had relied on my husband to provide more insight into the island

surroundings, but, as my readers already know he is not only Italian by nationality, but also by character and it is taking his time to stroll around. So you may expect some more info on the very last day (hour?) of the tournament. Well, maybe never at all! :)

Last but not least, some of my friends claim that upon marriage you are supposed to lose about 50 rating points, in my case the loss preceded the marriage so perhaps I will avoid this dark fate and just take the opposite direction (that is gaining points, not divorcing). Time will tell, stay tuned for the updates! Here is one snapshot from one of the many beautiful landscapes of the island. The picture is kindly provided by Irina Krush.



Clash of the Titans

(21) Seirawan, Yasser
- Tal, Mihail [D46]

Candidates Tournament(14),
1985



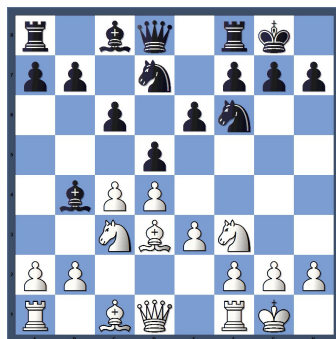
GM Kamil Miton
Best rating: 2655

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♘c3 c6 5.e3 [5.♙g5]

5...♘bd7 6.♙d3 [6.♖c2 Anti-Meran]

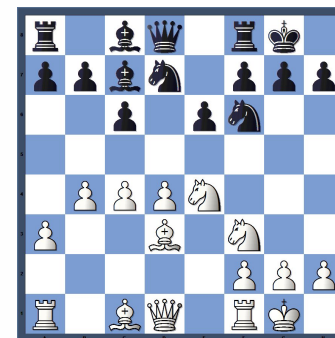
6...♙b4 Developing the bishop on this square is a rare choice. [6...dxc4 7.♙xc4 b5 8.♙d3 leads to the main positions. Now Black has a choice between three plans: 8...a6, 8...Bb7, and the recently most popular 8... Bd6.]

7.0-0 0-0



8.♙d2 White is not able to play e4, which is why it is necessary to get rid of the bishop from b4. The alternative was [8.a3 8...♙xc3 (8...♙a5 9.b4 ♙c7 10.e4 (10.♙b2 looks logical but now Black gets typical counterplay in the center after 10...e5! 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.dxe5 (12.e4 12...dxe4 13.♘xe4 ♘xe4 14.♙xe4

♘f6↑) 12...♘xe5 13.♘xe5 (13.♙e2 13...♘c4=) 13...♙xe5↔ and White should not have enough time to build a blockade on the d4 square. Black wants to exchange the isolated pawn by playing d4 and he also keeps ideas with the bishop sacrifice on h2.) 10...dxe4 11.♘xe4



11...b5!? An interesting idea to get control of the d5 square. (11...♘xe4 12.♙xe4 ♘f6 13.♙g5±) 12.♘xf6+ (12.cxb5 12...cxb5 13.♘xf6+ (13.♘c5 13...a5!↔) 13...♘xf6 14.♙xb5 ♙b7 With good practical compensation.) 12...♘xf6 13.♘e5 bxc4 14.♙xc4 ♘d5 Otherwise Bg5 can be unpleasant. 15.♘xc6 ♖d6 16.♘e5 (16.♙xd5 16...exd5 17.♘e5 f6 18.♘f3 ♙g4→) 16...♙b7↗ 9.bxc3 ♘b6 Black is trying to take control of the light squares. (9...b6 10.cxd5 cxd5 11.c4 ♙a6 12.cxd5 ♙xd3 13.♖xd3 and now in both cases White gets a stable advantage thanks to his better structure. 13...exd5 (13...♘xd5 14.e4) 14.a4) 10.c5 White has a few promising options here. (10.a4 10...♘xc4 11.♙xc4 dxc4 12.♘e5 ♖d5 13.f3±; 10.♘e5 10...♘fd7 11.♘xd7 ♖xd7 12.c5 ♘c4 13.♙xc4 (13.e4 13...b6 14.cxb6 axb6 15.♙xc4 dxc4 16.a4) 13...dxc4 14.♖e2 b5 15.e4 f6 16.♙f4 The strong bishop on d6 will paralyze the black rooks, so White is better.) 10...♘c4 (10...♘bd7 11.c4 b6 12.cxb6 axb6 13.♙b2 ♙a6 14.♘d2 and White keeps an advantage thanks to the bishop pair.) 11.♙xc4 dxc4 12.♘e5 b6 13.cxb6 (13.♘xc6 13...♖c7 14.♘e5 bxc5 15.a4 cxd4 16.cxd4 ♙a6 17.♙a3 ♖fc8↑) 13...axb6 14.♘xc6 ♖c7 15.♘e5

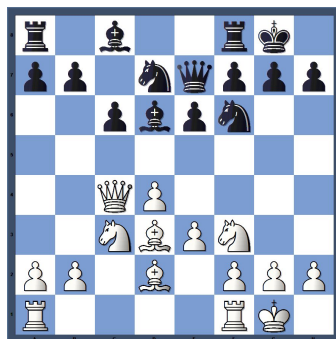
♖d5 16.♙d2 f6 17.♗f3 b5 18.e4 ♖b6 and Black has some compensation.]

8...♞e7 But not [8...b6?? 9.♗xd5! ♗xd5 10.cxd5 ♙xd2 11.dxe6+—]

9.♞b3 [9.a3 9...♙d6 10.c5?! ♙c7 11.♞e1 e5! 12.e4 exd4 13.exd5 ♞xc5 14.b4 ♞d6±]

9...dxc4 [9...♙d6 was also possible because the bishop on d2 and queen on b3 are not perfectly placed.]

10.♞xc4 ♙d6



11.♗e4 [11.e4 11...e5 12.dxe5 ♗xe5 13.♗xe5 ♞xe5 14.f4 ♞c5+ 15.♙h1 ♞xc4 16.♙xc4 ♙b4 Without queens this structure is safe for Black.]

11...♗xe4 12.♙xe4 e5 [12...♗f6 13.♙c2 c5 14.e4!; 12...c5!? is another way to fight for the center.]

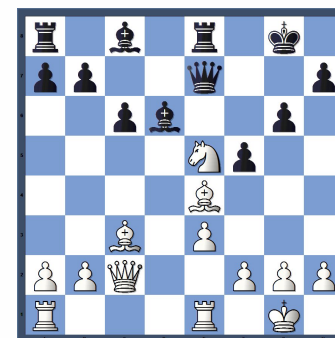
13.♞c2 g6 [13...♗f6 14.dxe5 ♙xe5 15.♗xe5 ♞xe5 16.♙d3 with a clear advantage for White.; 13...h6!? 14.♙c3 exd4 15.♗xd4 ♗f6 16.♙f5 with the idea to get the useful f5 square for the knight. 16...g6 weakens the black king a bit. (16...♗d5 17.♙xc8 ♗xc3 18.♙xb7!) 17.♙d3!? (17.♙xc8 17...♞axc8 18.b3) 17...♙d7 (17...♗d5? 18.♙xg6 fxg6 19.♞xg6+ ♞g7 20.♞xd6 ♙h3 21.♞g3+—) 18.♞ad1∞]

14.♙c3 ♞e8 [14...exd4!? 15.exd4 (15.♗xd4 15...♗f6=)

15...♗f6 16.♞fe1 ♗xe4! (16...♞c7 17.d5→) 17.♞xe4 ♞c7 looks dangerous but Black is on time. 18.♞d2 ♙e6! 19.♞h6 ♙d5 20.♗g5 f6]

15.♞fe1 f5 16.dxe5 [16.♙d3 16...e4 17.♙c4+ ♙f8! Avoiding the bishop c3 activation. (17...♙g7 18.d5+ ♗f6 19.♗d4 cxd5 (19...c5 20.♗b5 ♙b8 21.d6 ♙xd6 22.♗xd6 ♞xd6 23.♞ad1 White has more than compensation.) 20.♙xd5 ♙h6 21.♙b3±) 18.♗d2 ♗b6↑ with Be6 next and a typical blockade on d5.]

16...♗xe5 17.♗xe5

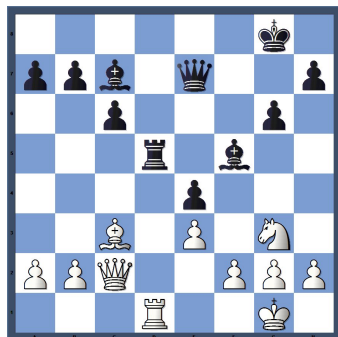


17...fxe4! [17...♙xe5 18.♙f3 with b4-b5 next and White has a stable advantage.]

18.♗c4 ♙c7 19.♗d2! Otherwise Black was ready to play the very unpleasant Qh4!

19...♙f5 20.♗f1 ♞ad8 [20...h5!? with the idea to play h4, thus preventing Ng3. 21.♗g3 ♙d7 (21...h4 22.♗xf5 gxf5 23.♞e2 ♞f7→ also looks good for Black.) 22.♞ad1 ♞ad8 (22...h4 23.♗xe4) 23.f3! (23.♞b3+ 23...♙e6 24.♞xb7 h4 and Black is winning because of the Bxh2 trick.) 23...♙xg3 24.hxg3 ♙f5=]

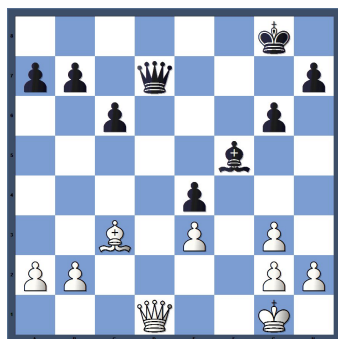
21.♗g3 ♞d5 22.♞ad1 ♞ed8 23.♞xd5 ♞xd5 24.♞d1



24...fxg3?! Personally I don't like this move, because I think it is too early to exchange this bishop. Why not play the solid [24...Qd7 25.Qb3 b6! is the simplest. (25...Le6 26.Qe1! (26.Qxd5 26...Qxd5 27.Qxb7 Qd1+ 28.f1 Lc4 29.Qc8+ Ld8+) 26...Qd2 27.Qxb7 (27.Lxe4 27...Lxh2+! 28.Kh1 Lxb3 29.Lf6+ Kf7 30.Lxd7 Qxd7=) 27...Qxf2 28.Qa6 Lxg3 29.hxg3± The black king is weak.) 26.Qxd5 Qxd5 27.Qxd5+ cxd5=]

25.fxg3! is better than another recaptures on g3 because White will be able to improve his position by playing h3-g4 or Qf2-Qf6 and the king will also be safe on h2.

25...Qxd1+ 26.Qxd1 Qd7



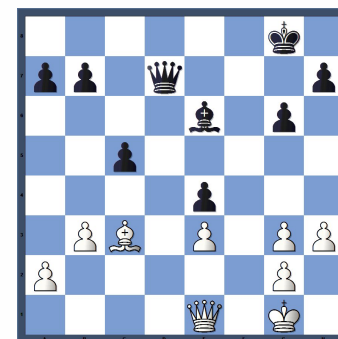
27.Qe1! White is playing for the win.

27...Le6 Improving the bishop.

28.b3 [28.a3 28...Lb3 with the idea of playing Qd1 and getting an equal position.]

28...c5 It is logical to put the pawns on dark squares. I also thought about the idea of bringing the king to b7 to make him safe, for example: [28...Qf7 29.Qf2+ Ke8 30.h3 (30.Qf6 30...Qd1+) 30...Qf7! (30...b6 31.Qf6 Qf7 32.Qe5!→) 31.Qd2 Qd7=]

29.h3



29...b5? It seems very logical to push b4-c4 and reduce the material but this move has the huge disadvantage that it weakens the queenside a lot! In fact this was probably the decisive mistake! [29...Qd3 30.Le5 Kf7 (30...Qd5 31.Lb2 Qd3 32.Qf2→) 31.Qf2+ Ke8 32.Qf6 Qxe3+ 33.Kh2→ and Black lost coordination.; 29...b6 looks most solid! 30.Qf1 Qf7 31.Qb5 Qd7=]

30.Qf1 b4 31.Le5 Qd8 [31...Qf7 32.Qb5± The black pawns are very weak now.]

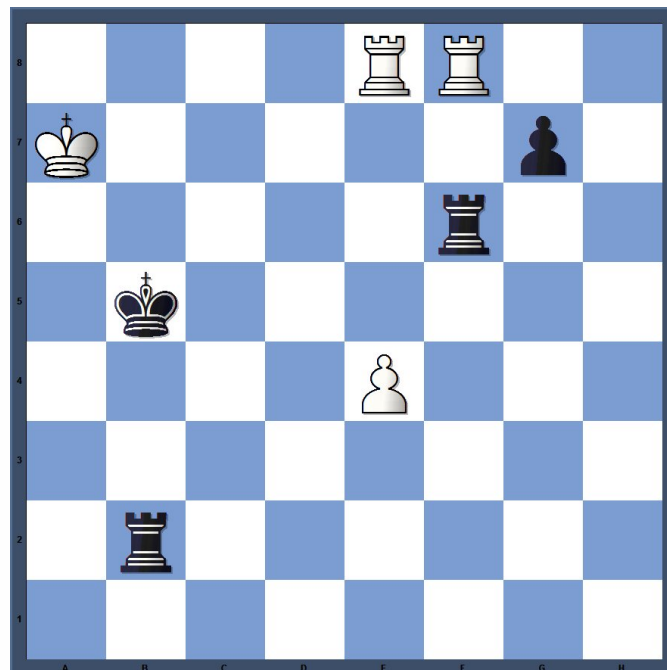
32.Qb5 Qc8 33.Kh2± There are just too many weaknesses to hold this position.

33...Ld5 34.Ld6 a6 35.Qa5 Kf7 36.Lxc5 Qc6 37.Qxb4+— Le6 38.Ld4 h5 39.Qb8 Ke7 40.Qe5 Qd5 41.Qf6+ 1-0

Surprise section / study

(22) Fritz

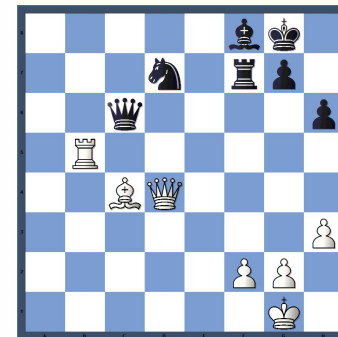
1. +-



Solutions

(23) Karjakin, S(2762)-Svidler, P(2727)

World Cup, 2015.10.02

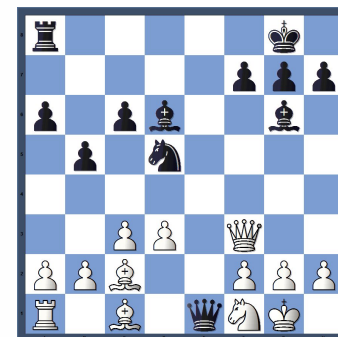


37...♔h8! 38.♖d5 [38.♙xf7 38...♙xb5+-]

38...♘b6 0-1

(24) Karjakin, S(2762)-Svidler, P(2727)

World Cup tiebreak, 2015.10.05

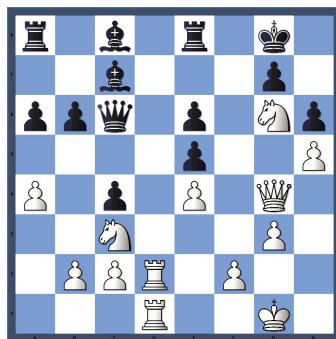


18...b4? [18...♘xc3!! 19.bxc3 ♙xc3+-]

19.c4

(25) Shirov, A(2712)-Laznicka, V(2676)

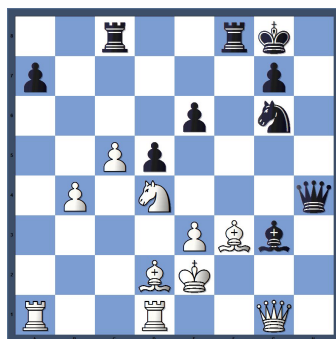
Poikovsky, 2015.10.01



36.♖d8! ♜xd8 37.♖xd8! 1-0 [37.♖xd8 37...♖xd8 (37...♜b7 38.♜e7+-; 37...♞h7 38.♜xe5+-) 38.♜e7+ ♞f7 39.♜xc6+-]

(26) Laznicka, V(2676)-Khismatullin, D(2651)

Poikovsky, 2015.10.03

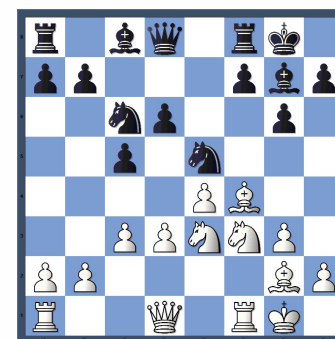


31...♖xf3! 32.♜e1 [32.♜xf3 32...♞c4#; 32.♞xf3 32...♜e5+ 33.♞g2 (33.♞e2 33...♞g4+-) 33...♞g4!+-; 32.♖f1 32...♖xf1 33.♖xf1 ♞h5+ 34.♜f3 (34.♞d3 34...♜e5+ 35.♞c3 ♞g6+-) 34...♞g4+-] **32...♜e5! 33.♖ac1** [33.♜xf3 33...♞c4+-]

33...♜xe1 34.♖xe1 ♖g3—+

(27) Morozevich, A(2711)-Sutovsky, A(2635)

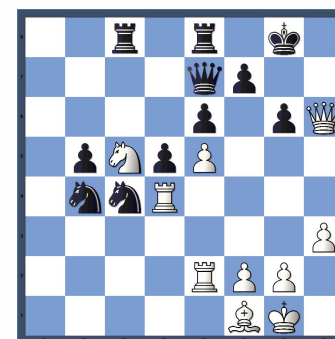
Poikovsky, 2015.10.03



12...♜xf3+! 13.♞xf3 g5!—+

(28) Naiditsch, A(2682)-Koop, T(2407)

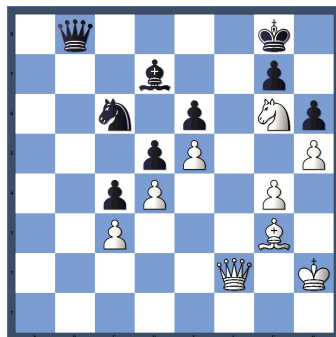
Isle of Man, 2015.10.03



34.♜d7! 1-0 [34.♜d7 34...♞xd7 35.♖h4+-; 34.♖h4? 34...♞xh4 35.♞xh4 ♖xc5∞]

(29) Jones, G(2623)-Berry, N(2355)

Isle of Man, 2015.10.03

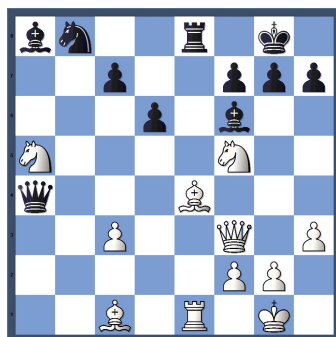


36.g5!! hxg5 37.h6! ♖e8 [37...gxh6 38.♗f6+—]

38.♗f8+!! ♜xf8 39.h7+ ♔xh7 40.♘xf8+ 1-0 [40.♘xf8+ 40...♔g8 41.♘xd7+—]

(30) Harikrishna, P(2737)-Vishnu, P(2503)

Isle of Man, 2015.10.04



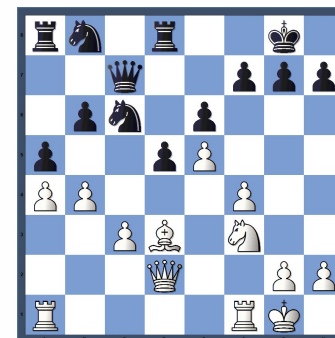
23.♘c4!! [23.♘h6+ 23...♔f8!; 23.♘xd6 23...cxd6 24.♘h7+ ♔xh7 25.♗h5+ ♔g8 26.♜xe8+ ♜xe8]

23...♗xc4 24.♘xd6!! cxd6 25.♘h7+! ♔f8 [25...♔xh7 26.♗h5+ ♔g8 27.♜xe8#]

26.♜xe8+ ♔xe8 27.♗xa8+—

(31) Short, N(2678)-Nakar, E(2463)

Isle of Man, 2015.10.04

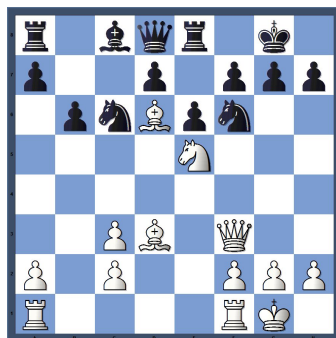


20.♘xh7+! ♔xh7 21.♘g5+ ♔g8 22.♗d3! ♔f8 [22...g6 23.♗h3+—]

23.♗h7 ♘e7 24.♗h8+ ♘g8 25.f5+—

(32) Rusev, K(2558)-Hracek, Z(2613)

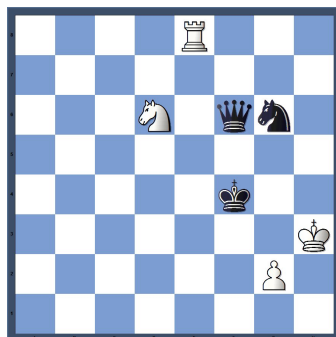
Croatian league, 2015.10.04



14. ♖xh7+!! ♔xh7 [14... ♜xh7 15. ♕xf7+ ♔h8 16. ♜g6#]

15. ♜xf7+—

(33) Pogosiants



1. ♖e4+! ♔g5 2. ♖e5+!! ♔h6 [2... ♕xe5 3. ♜f7+=; 2... ♜xe5 3. ♜e4+=]

3. ♖h5+!! ♔xh5 [3... ♔g7 4. ♜e8+]

4. g4+! ♔h6 [4... ♔g5 5. ♜e4+]

5. g5+! ♔xg5 [5... ♕xg5 6. ♜f7+ ♔h5 7. ♜xg5]

6. ♜e4+ ♔f5 7. ♜xf6=